

The Falls Hotel

The Falls Hotel is an important historical building for Waitakere City. Unused and largely forgotten the hotel sat at the back of the shops on the corner of Great North Road and Railside Avenue. The building was gifted to the people of the city and a trust formed which set about restoring it.

1. Create a timeline for the history of the Falls Hotel from 1850 – 1988.

Do you think it would have been cheaper to restore the building or build a new one?

2. Why should we restore and or retain historic buildings?

In a group brainstorm the reasons for and against. Look at the arguments you have come up with. Discuss them together and try to reach a decision. Compare your reasons and conclusion with another group. Did you agree or disagree?

3. Are there any other old buildings around Waitakere City that should be restored?

The old New Lynn Hotel is still standing on Great North Road. It has also suffered from neglect and more recently a fire. Should it be restored? (There is a relevant WL cutting attached.)

Write a paragraph arguing for or against the restoration of this or another old building in the city.

Can you think of any buildings built in the last 20 years that might become historic buildings that a future generation will want to retain?

4. Imagine you are a citizen of Waitakere in 2100 and write a report arguing for the restoration of an example of late 20th Century architecture.