WELLINGTON LOCAL HISTORY & MUSEUM SOCIETY
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Press Release

CTC plaque restored to The Squirrel

A Cyclists' Touring Club (CTC) plaque which was on the front of The Squirrel in Fore Street for over 75 years has been reinstated. The two-foot diameter cast-iron black and white sign went missing when the brick building was rendered and painted in the 1970s. However, last summer it was offered to Wellington Local History & Museum Society by Mrs Bowerman who had retrieved it many years ago, but now wanted it to go back home. The Society has in its collection a picture, taken around 1900, in which the plaque can be seen in its original position - just to the right of the hanging sign. Research revealed that the plaque's original colours would have been black and white - so it was cleaned and primed professionally before being painted by a Museum volunteer.

The District Council, who own the building, were contacted about the plaque's reinstatement; both the Building Surveyor and the Conservation Officer were pleased with the idea and at the end of April the DLO put the plaque back in its original position.

What makes this plaque particularly significant is that it includes the legend 'Headquarters'. The *www.wingedwheels.info* website lists only 8 plaques with this wording known to exist in public view anywhere in the country.

Colin Spackman - Hon Curator

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