Messenger City: MORE than 70 city buildings are set to be added to the local heritage list despite 58 owners opposing their inclusion.

Alice Higgins
City MessengerOCTOBER 11, 201210:53AM



Grundy's Shoe Shop owner Brenton Whittenbury has objected to his property being heritage listed. Picture: Noelle Bobrige Source: adelaidenow

MORE than 70 city buildings are set to be added to the local heritage list despite 58 owners opposing the inclusion of their properties.

A City Council committee last week endorsed 77 properties for local heritage listing, including a range of pubs, churches, houses and shops.

The buildings, including the Union Hotel on Waymouth St, the former Wests Cinema on Hindley St and St Stephen's Church Hall on Wakefield St, were endorsed for local heritage listing despite 58 property owners raising objections.

They cited a raft of reasons they did not want their property added to the list, including claims it would limit

the options for developing their site and reduce its market value.

The City Messenger reported in April the State Government had added the properties to an interim list while the council consulted with property owners.

The list, which was expected to be endorsed at this week's council meeting, will now be sent to Planning Minister John Rau for approval.

Objectors can choose to be heard by the independent Local Heritage Advisory Committee which advises Mr Rau. Grundy's Shoes owner Brenton Whittenbury objected to his Rundle St property being included on the list.

The bluestone building was built in 1886 before an art deco facade was added in 1940.

"By heritage listing the facade, it is guaranteeing the building in its original form will never be seen," Mr Whittenbury said.

"It seems crazy to put a heritage listing on a facade that covers up the actual heritage building."

Property Council of SA executive director Nathan Paine said the council had not released studies detailing the economic impact heritage listing would have on the properties.

"We feel that the process that was undertaken creating the list was fundamentally flawed," Mr Paine said. National Trust of SA president David Beaumont said the 77 properties met the criteria for heritage listing. "I'm sure individual property owners will have their own reasons (for objecting) but there is a wider responsibility to the community," Mr Beaumont told the City Messenger.

Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood said it was important the buildings were protected.

"While it might be a disadvantage for individual owners, it is an overall advantage to the city moving forward," Mr Yarwood said.

"It is an asset for tourism, making the city more attractive and enticing more people to the city."

What do you think of the city's heritage listing regime? Go to adelaidenow.com.au/local to have your say.