
The George Hotel



26507 The George Hotel

Location

205-221 Gray St HAMILTON, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

SIGNIFICANCE: Keystone building in the streetscape which has undergone many alterations, the most significant of which were the 1938 alterations designed by Seabrook & Fildes, prominent Melbourne architects.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

George Hotel
213 Gray Street

This building has local significance for its associations with the early history of brewing and hotels in Hamilton, and particularly with Charles Haferhorn, publican and brewer. It was opened as the Grange Family Hotel in 1883 by Haferhorn, who, in the 1860s, ran the Grange Brewery in Gray Street and, in the 1870s, hotels at Balmoral and Coleraine. He died in 1884. ([i]) Nearly closed in 1919 on account of its dilapidated condition, the building became known as the George Hotel during the 1920s. ([ii]) It enjoyed a major refurbishment under the ownership of Mrs J F Burge in 1938 with a new facade by the prominent Melbourne architects, Seabrook and Fildes who were very active in Hamilton between the wars. Their favourite motif, a strongly vertical glass brick tower has been covered over by enamelled sheet metal. The design has been seriously compromised by other unsympathetic alterations. Their renovations at the Argyle Arms Hotel at 235 Gray Street survive better. Motel unit extensions were made in 1965-66. ([iii]) Nonetheless, the building still acts as a keystone in the Gray Street streetscape for its size and scale.

[i] Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, pp 130-131; *Hamilton Spectator*, 12 August 1882, 4 January 1882, 11 October 1884 and 16 October 1884.

[ii] Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, p 221.

[iii] *HSA DP* No. 125, designed by G W Kearnot.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1883, 1920, 1938, 1965,
Architect/Designer	Seabrook & Fildes,
Hermes Number	26507
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

MATERIALS:

Roof: corr'ed iron?

Walls: brick

Dressings: cement render

Plinth: brick

Windows: aluminium

Paving:

Other: enamelled steel sign

NOTABLE FEATURES: Enamelled steel sign over glass block tower from Seabrook & Fildes alterations.

Historical Australian Themes

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1880s, 1920s, 1960s

Secondary Industry: Breweries

Tertiary Industry: Hotels & Motels

Integrity

Integrity: F Conditions: G

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>