
Homesaver Dept Store



26557 Homesaver Dept Store

Location

121 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: Formerly Miller's Department Store, this site has always been a main element in the commercial section of Gray St and a local landmark. The *avant garde* Melbourne architects, Seabrook and Fildes were responsible for the Scullion's shops as well. The island showcases are special.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Homesaver, formerly Miller's Department Store
121 Gray Street

This building has local significance as an earlier shop completely rebuilt and remodelled for A Miller and Co in 1937 by the *avant garde* Melbourne architects, Seabrooke and Fildes. Just at this time they designed the revolutionary MacRobertson Girls High School in South Melbourne. They also designed the Scullion's shops at 196 Gray Street as well as many other projects. An illustration of the remodelled Miller's store appeared in the *Royal Victorian Institute of Architects Journal* of May 1937 and in the *Argus* of 25 November 1937. ([i]) It was built by the prolific local builder with whom they were closely associated, Reg Williams. Fildes gave Williams the design and specification of a house, 355 Gray Street, as a wedding present. ([ii]) The architects used their favourite motif, a glass brick tower, to give a vertical punctuation to the design. Hamilton Sewerage Authority plans show an early (1937?) plan of the building with stables at the rear and a record of alterations and additions for Thomas and Taylor, A Miller and Co, in 1962 and 1975. ([iii])

Miller's Store was the largest in Hamilton, in a key commercial location and promoted itself vigorously as the best place to shop. The G J Coles store, next door, was Miller's main rival. It used the architects' rendering of the shop for years afterwards, reflecting its "moderne" approach to retailing. For some time the building was used by Permewans and later became a Homesaver store. It is now vacant. The building has been little altered except for superficial changes and is significantly intact. It is in good condition.

[i] *Argus*, 25 Nov 1937, *RVIAJ* May 1937 (71)

[ii] Conversation with Mrs Peg Christie, Reg Williams' daughter, 16 May 1991.

[iii] HSA DP 15 (1937?, 1962,1975) for Miller's Store.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1937,
Architect/Designer	Seabrook & Fildes,
Other Names	formerly Miller's Dept Store,
Hermes Number	26557
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

MATERIALS:

Roof: corrugated iron

Walls: rendered brick

Dressings: cement render/tiles

Plinth: tiles

Windows: nickle

Paving: terrazzo

Other: pressed metal of verandah & soffit

NOTABLE FEATURES:

Shop fronts with original island display cases. Verandah soffit and lights are also original.

Historical Australian Themes

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1930s

Tertiary Industry: Retailing/Department Stores

Integrity

Integrity: G

Physical Conditions

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/>