

Grand Central Hotel



26565 Grand Central Hotel

Location

141 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: A keystone in Gray St streetscape. One of the oldest surviving hotels in Hamilton.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Grand Central Hotel (former Criterion Hotel)
141 Gray Street

This building has local significance for its architectural interest as an early 1865-66 hotel called then the Criterion, ([i]) remodelled in 1921, and again in 1938 by the architects, Seabrooke & Fildes when it had its present name. ([ii]) The building has historical associations with E H Patterson (c1883-1942), one of Hamilton's leading

townsmen in the 1920s and 30s. A bricklayer by trade, Patterson arrived in Hamilton in 1926 and set up his own construction business. He was a councillor and a substantial property owner. ([iii]) He subdivided the well known Bewssall Estate, ran Patterson's Town Hall Pictures from mid 1932 until 1940, and in 1921, remodelled the Caledonian Hotel and renamed it the Grand Central Hotel ([iv]). The architect for this work was Frank Hammond. The architects of the 1938 remodelling, Seabrooke & Fildes ([v]), remodelled several other Gray Street buildings including the George and Argyle Arms Hotels and, most importantly, the former Miller's Department Store (now Homesaver) at 121 Gray Street, in 1937. ([vi])

This is one of the simplest of the Seabrooke and Fildes designs in Hamilton. It has since been changed again, with the alteration of the doors and windows and by the addition of canvas awnings. The hotel is relatively intact and in good condition. The Grand Central is a keystone in the streetscape of Gray Street.

[i] Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, p 83; *Hamilton Spectator*, 3 November 1866.

[ii] *Hamilton Spectator*, 11 October 1921, 18 October 1921; *Age*, 6 September, 1988.

[iii] Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, pp 199, 200, 220 and 223.

[iv] Ibid. Frank Hammond may have been the 1921 architect. (Vernon. in *Australian Architects Index* under Hammond).

[v] *Age*, 6 September 1938 (RVIA press cuttings 1938-39).

[vi] Ibid., 25 November 1937; *RVIAJ*, May 1937.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1865, 1921, 1938,
Architect/Designer	Hammond, Frank, Seabrook & Fildes,
Hermes Number	26565
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

MATERIALS:

Roof:

Walls: dark brown brick

Dressings: pebble faced concrete

Plinth:

Windows: aluminium

Paving: terrazzo/marble chips

Other: timber doors

NOTABLE FEATURES: Horizontal band of windows

Historical Australian Themes

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1860s. 1920s. 1930s

Tertiary Industry: hotels

Notable men and women: E H Patterson

Integrity

Integrity: F

Physical Conditions

Conditions: F

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/>