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# The Gables



26581 The Gables

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## Location

69 French Street HAMILTON, Southern Grampians Shire

## Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

## Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

**SIGNIFICANCE:** »Notwithstanding the verandah, a very English version of the Federation style, the house was probably designed by Walter Butler. It has important associations with leading townsmen.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gables

69 French Street

This building has regional significance for its architectural interest as a fine example of the Queen Anne style house and for its historical associations with Harold Learmonth (1863-1933) of Peter Learmonth & Co., stock and station agents and auctioneers, a prominent Hamilton townsman and mayor. ([i]) It was probably designed by the

leading society architect, Walter Butler. He was active in the area at this time and associated with the Learmonth. ([ii]) The house is an important foil to both Eildon, now the Napier Club building, designed by Ussher and Kemp in 1904 and Myrniong, designed by Butler (or Henry Kemp) in 1906. All three architects were closely associated. ([iii]) Notwithstanding the verandah, it is a very English version of the Federation style and hints at the Arts and Crafts movement in its detailing.

The Gables, built in 1908, ([iv]) replaced an earlier timber house on the site owned at first by Sigismund Jacoby, storekeeper, and by Learmonth in 1890. ([v]) Learmonth's brother-in-law, Dr David Laidlaw, Medical Superintendent at the Hamilton Hospital, built his mansion Eildon, around the corner at 34 Thompson Street, in 1904. The house remains significantly intact and is in good condition. Being the largest residence in this part of French Street it plays a critical part in the streetscape. It also has an important relationship with the Botanic gardens opposite. ([vi])

[i] Garden, D, *Hamilton*, pp 120, 129, 130, 172, 173, 213.

[ii] He designed Myrniong and extensions to Murndal in 1906.

[iii] ADB, Vol 7, p 510-11 and Vol 9, p 562-63.

[iv] *Hamilton Rate Book*, 1908, No. 317 (house, NAV 85 pounds)

[v] Ibid., 1888, No. 252 (wooden house, NAV 48 pounds), 1890, No. 232 (wooden house, NAV 48 pounds).

[vi] Walter Butler was a landscape architect and, having designed an important garden at Myrniong, may have done so at The Gables.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1908,
Architect/Designer	Butler, Walter Richmond, Kemp, Henry H,
Hermes Number	26581
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

### MATERIALS:

**Roof:** »unglazed terra cotta tiles

**Walls:** »red brick & roughcast render

**Dressings:** »cement render

**Plinth:** »red brick

**Windows:** »timber casement 8 paned

**Paving:** »gravel

**Other:** »half timbered gables

## **Integrity**

INTEGRITY:E

CONDITION:G

## **Historical Australian Themes**

### **ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES**

Evolution of the Town: 1900s

Squatting: Grazing

Primary Industry: Stock and station agents

Tertiary Industry: Auctioneers

Government institutions: municipal

*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/>*