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# Napier Club



26499 Napier Club

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## Location

34 Thompson St 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:** »An Ussher and Kemp design and rather old fashioned for the time, this is nonetheless one of the most distinguished houses in Hamilton from the twentieth century.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Napier Club  
34 Thompson Street

Formerly known as Eildon, this house has state significance for its architectural quality and its key position. Its

has historical associations with Dr David Laidlaw (1870-1925), Medical Superintendent at the Hamilton Hospital and son of David Laidlaw (1831-1931), the Scottish saddler who became one of the town's most prominent citizens. ([i]) Its was associated from 1939 with the Napier Club formed in 1921 as a women's version of the Hamilton Club. ([ii]) The former residence and surgery was built for Dr David Laidlaw in 1904 from the designs of the notable architects, Ussher & Kemp and is a distinctive example of an asymmetrical picturesque two-storey house with the principal gables kept to the first floor eaves line. It is notable for the clear and bold expression of its form and details, especially the external representation of the internal spaces as axial gabled forms, the strong, vertical half-timbering, and the impressive chimneys with wedge caps and brick straps. One of the finest smaller designs in red brick and Marseilles tiles from the partnership of Ussher & Kemp, ([iii]) it was purchased by the Napier Club in 1939. ([iv]) The house remains significantly intact and is in excellent condition. The building acts as a keystone in the precinct around the Botanical Gardens.

[i] Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, pp 60, 154, 172, 215, 223.

[ii] Ibid., p 223; McIntyre, AJ & JJ, *Country Towns of Victoria*, Melbourne, 1944, p 182; National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File No. 5367.

[iii] Ibid.

[iv] Ibid.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1904, 1934,
Architect/Designer	Ussher & Kemp,
Hermes Number	26499
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

### MATERIALS:

**Roof:** »terra cotta roof tiles

**Walls:** »red brick & stucco

**Dressings:** »stucco

**Plinth:** »red brick

**Windows:** »timber casement

**Paving:** »

Other: »half timbered gables and bays

coloured glass clerestories

**NOTABLE FEATURES:**»architectural quality and key position

### Historical Australian Themes

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1900s, 1920s-1940s

Health: Doctors

## **Integrity**

Integrity: E Conditions: E

*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/>*