
Williams Building



26553 Williams Building

Location

91-95 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: Designed by Seabrook and Fildes and built by Reg Williams, this is a keystone building in the streetscapes of both Gray and Thompson Streets. Originally built for Williams The Shoeman.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Williams Building
91-95 Gray Street

This shop and office building has local significance for its architectural interest as the original Williams The Shoeman store and offices constructed in the late 1930s by the Hamilton builder, Reginald Williams, from the

designs of the notable architects, Seabrooke and Fildes. ([i]) This architectural firm was associated with the designs for the former Uren's Pharmacy diagonally opposite in 1940, Scullions, 196 Gray Street in 1938, the remodelling, in 1937, of the former Miller's Department Store at 121 Gray Street and the remodelling of the Argyle Arms and George Hotels. ([ii]) The building is another of the firm's successful exercises in massing, taking full advantage of the corner site. Unlike the stylish Pharmacy it does not use a curved corner. It uses innovative materials such as steel windows, textured bricks, terrazzo, nickel plated shop windows and Vitrolite glass facings from America. It lacks but does not need the glass block tower found in their other work relying instead on the carved brick sculpture and the panel of brickwork above the office entrance. Fildes gave Williams the design and specification of a house, 355 Gray Street, for a wedding present.

The building is significantly intact and in excellent condition. It is a keystone building in the streetscape of both Gray and Thompson Street commanding, as it does, over their intersection.

[i] Conversation with Mrs Christie, Reg Williams' daughter, 16 May 1991; *HSA DP No. 283 (Drainage Plan, Uren's Pharmacy, dated 24 February, 1939)*.

[ii] *RVI AJ*, May 1937, p 72; *Argus*, 25 November 1937.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1940, 1990,
Hermes Number	26553
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

MATERIALS:

Roof:

Walls: face brick

Dressings: cement render

Plinth: tiles

Windows: steel first floor windows

Paving: terrazzo steps?

Other: nickel plated shop windows

Vitrolite facings

black glazed tiles

NOTABLE FEATURES: Sculptured brick figure and use of innovative materials

Historical Australian Themes

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1930s

Tertiary Industry: Shoe retailing

Integrity

Integrity: G

Physical Conditions

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/>