

Victorian Heritage Database Report

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355 Gray Street

Location

355 Gray Street and (corner of Elva Avenue) HAMILTON, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

SIGNIFICANCE: Â» Built for a member of the Ansett team and designed by Seabrooke and Fildes.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Interwar Bungalow

355 Gray Street

This 1940s house on the corner of Elva Avenue and Gray Street, has local significance for its architectural interest as a building designed by the award winning firm of architects, Seabrooke and Fildes, who designed the former Uren's Pharmacy, the Williams Building and Scullions, all in Gray Street, and who were associated with the remodelling of the former Miller's Department Store at 121 Gray Street and three Gray Street hotels. All of these were built by the local builder, Reginald Williams. ([i]) Hamilton Sewerage Authority Drainage Plan dated 20 February 1941 confirms Williams Pty Ltd's involvement. ([ii]) Reg Williams, who was born in Coleraine to a Welsh father, came from a family which included several generations of builders. He constructed many of Hamilton's houses and commercial buildings including Fleetwood at 21 Gray Street and Nos 2, 4, 5, 12, 14 & 16 Skene Street. ([iii]) According to Williams' daughter, Mrs Christie, the partner Fildes designed 355 Gray Street as a wedding present for Jimmy Andrew who worked for Reg Ansett at a time when the Ansett transport empire was being established. ([iv]) Ansett owned and occupied 12 Learmonth Street.

The house is innovative, at least by Hamilton's standards, in its L-shaped plan and for various details such as the port hole and corner windows. It is significantly intact and in excellent condition. Only one other house in Hamilton is known to have been designed by Seabrooke and Fildes, that at 13 Carmichael Street.

[i] HSA DP No. 1197 (dated 20 Feb 1941, for J Andrew, Elva Avenue).

[ii] See Footnote 1.

[iii] Conversation with Mrs Christie, 16 May 1991. See research into Scullions, 196 Gray Street and Fleetwood, 21 Gray Street. The attribution to Williams of Fleetwood has not been confirmed by other sources nor is it a Seabrooke & Fildes design.

[iv] Mrs Christie. See Garden, D, *Hamilton*, p 208 & ff.

Hermes Number 26661

Property Number

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 data owner.

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