

**BUILDING TITLE:** Argyle Arms Hotel **BUILDING ADDRESS:** 235 Gray Street

**LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:** A || B |X| C || D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:**

**DESIGNATION:** HBR Reg No File # AHC File # NT File # Class || Rec ||

**CONSERVATION AREA:** Gray St Commercial **LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE:** 1 || 2 || 3 |X|

**STYLE:** Moderne (new facade)

**CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:**

1. 1864 (original)
- 2.
3. 1930s (new facade)
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

**Sources:**

1 Hamilton Spectator, 17/9/1864  
and Garden, D, Hamilton, p 83

**MATERIALS:**

**Roof:**

**Walls:** rendered brick

**Dressings:** cement render

**Plinth:** glazed tiles

**Windows:** fixed plate glass

**Paving:** red brick

**Other:** terrazzo steps  
metal awning  
stainless steel doors

**SURVEY DATE:** 17/5/91 **NEG FILE:** 8/12 **REPORTER:** tfh

**INTEGRITY:** E |X| G || F || P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** stainless steel trimmings, glazed tiles on walls and lettering on awning

**CONDITION:** E |X| G || F || P ||

**SIGNIFICANCE:** One of the oldest hotels in Hamilton and with a stylish new facade from the 1930s, reworked by the important Melbourne architects, Seabrook & Fildes. Key position at entrance to Gray Street commercial area.

**ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:**

<b>Appropriate:</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Inappropriate:</b>	<b>Rec</b>
former colour scheme		one door partly bricked up	R

O=reinstate original design S=reinstate sympathetic alternative R=remove RAM=remove by approved method

<b>SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS:</b>	<b>ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS:</b>	<b>TITLE:</b>
land to Donald Cameron, 6/10/51	Seabrook & Fildes, architects ?	
		<b>Sec</b> <b>CA</b>
		1 11

**COUNCIL COMPUTER #** **MORE INFO OVER** |X| **HAMDS126**

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Argyle Arms Hotel  
235 Gray Street

This building has local historic and architectural significance as a rare surviving 1860s hotel, inns being amongst the earliest structures erected in the Grange township which predated the founding of the Hamilton municipality. The Argyle Arms Hotel, which dates from 1864, <sup>(i)</sup> was one of a number of new hotels opened in Gray Street, the commercial and service centre, in that decade. During the 1860s both churches and hotels multiplied rapidly in this period of consolidation and growth. <sup>(ii)</sup> During the shearers' strikes of the late 1880s, there was a camp of union men opposite the Argyle Arms Hotel, who gave the `scabs' who came into Hamilton a hard time. <sup>(iii)</sup>

In the early twentieth century this hotel was completely modernised with a new facade designed by the leading Melbourne architects, Seabrook and Fildes. The builder for the renovation was Reg Williams. <sup>(iv)</sup> The firm renovated the George and Grand Central Hotels as well but the Argyle Arms was the most stylish and is the best preserved. The firm designed and remodelled many other significant buildings in Gray Street. The Argyle Arms survives significantly intact and in excellent condition. It is a key element in the streetscape being at the entrance to the Gray Street commercial area.

### ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution Of The Town: 1860s  
Pastoral Industry: Shearers

### ASSOCIATED HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Grand Central Hotel, Gray Street  
The George Hotel, Gray Street  
Scullions, Gray Street  
Millers Department Store, Gray Street

### REFERENCES

Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, 1984.  
*Hamilton Spectator*, 17 September 1864, 31 July 1888.

### FOOTNOTES

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<sup>i</sup> *Hamilton Spectator*, 17 September 1864; Garden, p 83.

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid., and pp 147, 198.

<sup>iii</sup> *Hamilton Spectator*, 31 July 1888.

<sup>iv</sup> The precise date in the 1930s is not known. The attribution to Seabrook and Fildes is by Mrs Peg Christie, daughter of Reg Williams.