

BUILDING TITLE: Grand Central Hotel **BUILDING ADDRESS:** 141 Gray St
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: A || B || C |X| D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:** hotel
DESIGNATION: HBR Reg No File # AHC File # NT File # Class || Rec ||
CONSERVATION AREA: Gray St Commercial **LEVEL OF STREETSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE:** 1 || 2 |X| 3 ||
STYLE: International (new facade)

CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:

1. 1865-66 (Criterion)
2. 1921 (Caledonian)
3. 1938 (Grand Central Hotel refaced)
- 4.

Sources:

- 1 Garden, D, Hamilton, p 83 and Hamilton Spectator, 3/11/66, 2/10/67
- 2 Garden, D, Hamilton, p 221 and Hamilton Spectator, 11/10/21, 18/10/21, Aust Arch Index for Hammond
- 3 Age, 6/9/1938 for S & F

MATERIALS:

Roof:

Walls: dark brown brick
Dressings: pebble faced concrete
Plinth:
Windows: aluminium
Paving: terrazzo/marble chips
Other: timber doors

SURVEY DATE: 7/3/91 **NEG FILE:** 2/22 **REPORTER:** TFH

INTEGRITY: E || G || F |X| P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** Horizontal band of windows.

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

SIGNIFICANCE: A keystone in Gray St streetscape. One of the oldest surviving hotels in Hamilton.

ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Appropriate:	Rec	Inappropriate:	Rec
		awnings	R
		doors and windows	O

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

SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS:

land to E.Fowler 8.09.52
EH Patterson, owner in 1921 rebuilding

ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS:

Frank Hammond, architect, 1921

Seabrooke & Fildes, architects, 1938

TITLE:

Sec C A
4 14

COUNCIL COMPUTER #

MORE INFO OVER |X|

HAMDS063

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Grand Central Hotel (former Criterion Hotel)
141 Gray Street

This building has local significance for its architectural interest as an early 1865-66 hotel called then the Criterion, ⁽ⁱ⁾ remodelled in 1921, and again in 1938 by the architects, Seabrooke & Fildes when it had its present name. ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ The building has historical associations with E H Patterson (c1883-1942), one of Hamilton's leading townsmen in the 1920s and 30s. A bricklayer by trade, Patterson arrived in Hamilton in 1926 and set up his own construction business. He was a councillor and a substantial property owner. ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ He subdivided the well known Bewsall Estate, ran Patterson's Town Hall Pictures from mid 1932 until 1940, and in 1921, remodelled the Caledonian Hotel and renamed it the Grand Central Hotel ^(iv). The architect for this work was Frank Hammond. The architects of the 1938 remodelling, Seabrooke & Fildes ^(v), remodelled several other Gray Street buildings including the George and Argyle Arms Hotels and, most importantly, the former Miller's Department Store (now Homesaver) at 121 Gray Street, in 1937. ^(vi)

This is one of the simplest of the Seabrooke and Fildes designs in Hamilton. It has since been changed again, with the alteration of the doors and windows and by the addition of canvas awnings. The hotel is relatively intact and in good condition. The Grand Central is a keystone in the streetscape of Gray Street.

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1860s. 1920s. 1930s.
Tertiary Industry: hotels
Notable men and women: E H Patterson

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Argyle Arms Hotel, 235 Gray Street
The George Hotel, 213 Gray Street
former Miller's Department Store, 121 Gray Street
Scullions, 196 Gray Street

REFERENCES

Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, North Melbourne, 1984.
Hamilton Spectator, 3 November 1866, 11 October 1921, 18 October 1921; *Age*, 25 November 1937, 6 September 1938 (RVIA press cuttings 1938-39).
RVIAJ, May 1937.

FOOTNOTES

-
- ⁱ Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, p 83; *Hamilton Spectator*, 3 November 1866.
ⁱⁱ *Hamilton Spectator*, 11 October 1921, 18 October 1921; *Age*, 6 September, 1988.
ⁱⁱⁱ Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, pp 199, 200, 220 and 223.
^{iv} Ibid. Frank Hammond may have been the 1921 architect. (Vernon. in *Australian Architects Index* under Hammond).
^v *Age*, 6 September 1938 (RVIA press cuttings 1938-39).
^{vi} Ibid., 25 November 1937; *RVIAJ*, May 1937.