

BUILDING TITLE: Napier Club **BUILDING ADDRESS:** 34 Thompson St
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: A |X| B || C || D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:** detached house
DESIGNATION: HBR Reg No File # AHC File # 015351 NT File # 5367 Class |X| Rec ||
CONSERVATION AREA: Botanic Gardens **LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE:** 1 || 2 |X| 3 ||
STYLE: Federation/Queen Anne

CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:

1. 1904
2. 1934 (Napier Club)
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Sources:

1. National Trust, File No. 5367
2. Garden, Don, Hamilton, p 223.

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

SURVEY DATE: 9/3/91 **NEG FILE:** 3/15 **REPORTER:** tfh

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

NOTABLE FEATURES: architectural quality and key position

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.

ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Appropriate:	Rec	Inappropriate:	Rec
		front fence & gate	O

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

SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS:

ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS:

TITLE:

Land to Acheson French, 6/10/51

Ussher & Kemp

CA	Sect
1	6

Dr David Laidlaw (1st owner/occupier)
Napier Club (1939 present owner)

COUNCIL COMPUTER # 10601.0003

MORE INFO OVER |X|

HAMDS034

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. It 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⁾ It 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.

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

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

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Hamilton Club, 30 Gray Street.
Hewlett House, 36 Gray Street.
The Gables, 69 French Street
Myrniong, Hensley Park Road

REFERENCES

Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, North Melbourne, 1984.
McIntyre, AJ & JJ, *Country Towns of Victoria*, Melbourne, 1944
National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File No. 5367.

FOOTNOTES

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- 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.