

BUILDING TITLE: Homesaver, formerly Miller's Dept Store **BUILDING ADDRESS:** 121 Gray St
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: A || B || C |X| 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 |X| 3 ||
STYLE: Moderne

CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:

- 1.
- 2.
3. 1937 (remodelled)
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Sources:

3. *Argus*, 25 Nov 37
and *RVIAJ* May 1937 (71)

MATERIALS:

Roof: corrugated iron
Walls: rendered brick
Dressings: cement render/tiles
Plinth: tiles
Windows: nickle
Paving: terrazzo
Other: pressed metal of verandah & soffit

SURVEY DATE: 7/3/91 **NEG FILE:** 2/20 **REPORTER:** TFH

INTEGRITY: E || G |X| F || P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** Shop fronts with original island display cases. Verandah soffit and lights are also original.

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

SIGNIFICANCE: Formerly Miller's Department Store, this site has always been a main element in the commercial section of Gray St and a local landmark. The *avant garde* Melbourne architects, Seabrook and Fildes were responsible for the Scullion's shops as well. The island showcases are special.

ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Appropriate:	Rec	Inappropriate:	Rec
		tiles on plinth	S
		paint on tiles of pediment	RAM

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

SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS: land to I G Robertson 20/5/52
ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS: Seabrook & Fildes, 1937 remodelling4
TITLE: Sec C A

A Miller & Co, owner 1937

COUNCIL COMPUTER #

MORE INFO OVER |X|

HAMDS057

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Homesaver, formerly Miller's Department Store
121 Gray Street

This building has local significance as an earlier shop completely rebuilt and remodelled for A Miller and Co in 1937 by the *avant garde* Melbourne architects, Seabrooke and Fildes. Just at this time they designed the revolutionary MacRobertson Girls High School in South Melbourne. They also designed the Scullion's shops at 196 Gray Street as well as many other projects. An illustration of the remodelled Miller's store appeared in the *Royal Victorian Institute of Architects Journal* of May 1937 and in the *Argus* of 25 November 1937. ⁽ⁱ⁾ It was built by the prolific local builder with whom they were closely associated, Reg Williams. Fildes gave Williams the design and specification of a house, 355 Gray Street, as a wedding present. ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ The architects used their favourite motif, a glass brick tower, to give a vertical punctuation to the design. Hamilton Sewerage Authority plans show an early (1937?) plan of the building with stables at the rear and a record of alterations and additions for Thomas and Taylor, A Miller and Co, in 1962 and 1975. ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾

Miller's Store was the largest in Hamilton, in a key commercial location and promoted itself vigorously as the best place to shop. The G J Coles store, next door, was Miller's main rival. It used the architects' rendering of the shop for years afterwards, reflecting its "moderne" approach to retailing. For some time the building was used by Permewans and later became a Homesaver store. It is now vacant. The building has been little altered except for superficial changes and is significantly intact. It is in good condition.

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1930s
Tertiary Industry: Retailing/Department Stores

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC BUILDINGS

MacRobertson Girls High School, South Melbourne
Scullions, 196 Gray Street
George Hotel, 213 Gray Street
Argyle Arms Hotel, 235 Gray Street
Williams Building, 91-95 Gray Street
Former Uren's Pharmacy, 90 Gray Street
House, 355 Gray Street

REFERENCES

Argus, 25 Nov 1937 (RVIA Press Cuttings 1937-38)
RVIAJ May 1937 (71) illustration - perspective
HSA DP 15

FOOTNOTES

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- ⁱ *Argus*, 25 Nov 1937, *RVIAJ* May 1937 (71)
ⁱⁱ Conversation with Mrs Peg Christie, Reg Williams' daughter, 16 May 1991.
ⁱⁱⁱ HSA DP 15 (1937?, 1962,1975) for Miller's Store.