

|   |
|---|
| <b>Building/ Site Name:</b><br><b>Former names:</b> |
| <b>Hitching Post</b>                                |
| <b>Address:</b>                                     |
| NE corner of Grey and Te Aroha Streets              |

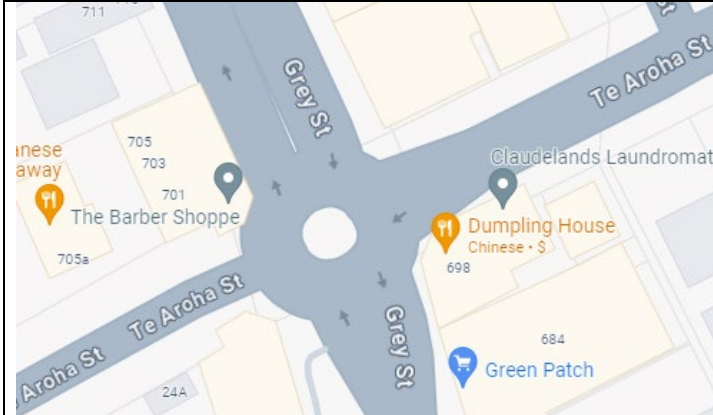


The hitching post set into a corner niche of the general store. 17 September 2023.



Plaque on plinth.

**Location in city map**



The hitching post is on the north-east corner of Grey and Te Aroha Streets. Google Maps 2024

|   |
|---|
| <b>District Plan Reference/ category:</b>                         |
|   |
| <b>Legal Description:</b>   |
| Road reserve; Part Lot 4 DP 3726                                  |
| <b>Zoning:</b>  |
|   |
| <b>Listed Heritage New Zealand/ NZAA Site/ Scheduled with HCC</b> |
| No  |

|   |
|---|
| <b>Date/s of construction</b>                           |
| Unknown 1864 -1920                                      |
| <b>Architect /Designer/ Engineer/Builder:</b>           |
| Unknown   |
| <b>Building type/s &amp; Current use</b>                |
| Street furniture/ Hitching post, Historic relic         |
| <b>Visible materials &amp; Heritage Fabric if known</b> |
| Timber, iron  |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Proposed Extent</b>   |
| The extent is the hitching post and its plinth, including the plaque (purple overlay). |
|     |
| <b>Associated Places</b>   |
| Hitching post corner of Grey and Clyde Streets (WHG 075)                               |

**Commented [L1]:** Extent changed to adopt HCC recommendation

**Historical Background**

Early photographs of Grey Street-Heaphy Terrace show several hitching posts along the edge of the footpaths and roads. Many patrons would have travelled on horseback or in a horse-drawn vehicle and used hitching posts to secure their horses.

Hitching posts became redundant with the advent of motorised transport and most of the posts were removed.

This post was recorded as being outside Gadd's store or further along the footpath nearby, but moved in the early 1950s to the current location outside what has been a busy street corner since the development of Claudelands in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Kirikiriroa railway station was nearby. Two hitching posts can be seen in front of the store close to the road in the 1920s photograph HCL\_10448 (see below).



Claudelands Shopping Centre c.1920s. HCL\_10448

**PROPOSED HERITAGE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (Revised November 2023)****8-1.1 Rankings of Significance**

Rankings for built heritage places listed in Schedule 8A have been established as follows.

**Plan Ranking A:** Built heritage places of outstanding heritage significance locally, regionally or nationally.

**Plan Ranking B:** Built heritage places of high heritage significance locally, regionally or nationally.

*The below scale represents the levels of significance against which built heritage places shall be considered for inclusion on Schedule 8A.*

- *Outstanding significance.*
- *High significance.*
- *Medium significance.*
- *Low significance.*
- *None/No significance.*
- *Un-assessed significance.*

*The heritage significance of built heritage places has been assessed based on evaluation against the following individual heritage criteria. A place must meet one or more of the criteria at the level of "High" significance or above to be eligible for inclusion within Schedule 8A.*

*While a place only has to meet one of the criteria, in practice it will usually satisfy multiple criteria. The evaluation criteria are not weighted or hierarchical. There is no correct number or combination of values required to determine overall significance.*

A comparative analysis has been included, where possible, noting that there is no Waikato Regional Heritage Inventory, and limited recent Heritage New Zealand Listings.

**8-1.2 Heritage Assessment Criteria**

**a. Historic Qualities**

The place or area is directly associated with, or has a direct relationship to, an important person, group, institution, event or activity, or reflects important aspects of local, regional or national history, including development and settlement patterns, transportation routes and social or economic trends.

The Historic Place has a direct association with or relationship to an activity that is of historical significance to Hamilton and the Waikato. Hitching posts were essential for people travelling into town on horseback or with horse-drawn vehicles, for tethering the horse while shopping or transacting business or socialising. Hamilton was the centre for commercial activities in the Waikato from 1864.

The Historic Place is associated with broad patterns of local history, including development and settlement patterns, early or important transportation routes, social or economic trends and activities. Claudelands developed in the late 1890s to 1920s when horse transport was still common.

In the 1980s there were four historic hitching posts extant in Hamilton, recorded by Rose Young of Waikato Art Museum.<sup>1</sup> Only one other now remains, on the corner of Grey and Clyde Streets (proposed as WHG 075).

**Level of significance** High

<sup>1</sup> Hitching Posts Vertical File 7, Hamilton City Libraries

**b. Physical /Aesthetic/Architectural Qualities**

The place or area is a notable or representative example of:  
 (i) A significant development period or activity; and/or  
 (ii) Distinctive or special attributes of an aesthetic or functional nature; and/or  
 (iii) The work of a notable architect, designer, engineer or builder.

The hitching post is one of only two such posts surviving in Hamilton. It is of a simple standard design, a solid 4x6 inch timber post now set in concrete. The posts had a metal ring near the top for tying a horse’s reins to. The post measures 150x95mm and is 915mm high above the concrete base.

**Level of significance** Medium

**Commented [L2]:** Altered from High

**c. Context Qualities**

The place or area is an important landmark or feature or contributes to or is associated with a wider historical theme, traditional, or cultural context, or physical setting.

While not in its original position on the edge of the road, the post is set facing the corner of the Grey St-Te Aroha St intersection in front of a grocery store, outside a grocery store as it had been when erected.

**Level of significance** Medium

**d. Technological Qualities**

The place or area shows a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular time, is directly associated with scientific or technical innovations or achievements or is associated with scientific “break-through”. The place uses unique or uncommon building materials, or demonstrates an innovative method

of construction, or is an early example of the use of a particular building technique.

**Level of significance** Low

**e. Archaeological Qualities**  
 The potential of the place or area to define or expand knowledge of earlier human occupation, activities or events through investigation using archaeological methods, or to provide evidence to address archaeological research questions. For example, but not limited to: The place or area is registered by Heritage New Zealand for its archaeological values or is recorded by the New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme, or is an 'archaeological site' as defined by the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

**Level of significance** Unknown

**f. Cultural Qualities**  
 The place or area is important or significant:  
 (i) As a focus of cultural sentiment; and/or  
 (ii) As a context for community identity or sense of place, and provides evidence of social, cultural or historical continuity; and/or  
 (iii) For having symbolic or commemorative significance to people who use or have used it, or to the descendants of such people. The place or area has a high degree of interpretative potential to increase understanding of past lifestyles or events.

The hitching post has sentimental value in being a reminder of the early days of Hamilton as a European settlement and before the days of motorised transport. Its integrity is high though not quite in its original location. It is a feature of the Claudelands commercial centre.

**Level of significance** Medium

**g. Scientific Qualities**  
 The potential for the place or area to contribute scientific information about how the natural environment has influenced, events, phases or activities related to development.

**Level of significance** None

**Comparative Analysis**

- No other hitching posts are scheduled in Hamilton, but another hitching post exists and has been proposed by WHG 075.

**Commented [L3]:** Altered from High/moderate

**SUMMARY TABLE OF HERITAGE QUALITIES**

The place is considered to have heritage significance in relation to the following criteria:

| Heritage Criteria                             | Significance Level |
|---|--------------------|
| a Historic Qualities                          | High - Local       |
| b Physical/Aesthetic/ Architectural Qualities | Medium             |
| c Context Qualities                           | Medium - Local     |
| d Technological Qualities                     | Low                |
| e Archaeological Qualities                    | None               |
| f Cultural Qualities                          | Medium             |
| g Scientific Qualities                        | None               |

| STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:   |
|--|
| Late 19th century post for hitching horses outside business premises. One of only two remaining in Hamilton. It is a rare surviving artefact. It has been retained and re-erected almost in its original position outside a grocery store. |

| RECOMMENDATION   |
|--|
| <p>Scheduling as B ranking under criteria a and b high local significance.</p> <p>The item is in moderate condition, but shortened. It has been placed in concrete but is in a vulnerable situation. It is recommended that the condition is urgently assessed, and measured drawings and an archival record is completed. The historic item should be urgently moved to the Waikato Museum for conserving. A replica should be installed at the site.</p> <p>The hitching post meets the threshold in the PDP for scheduling as a Rank B built heritage place.</p> <p>It is recommended that the place is included in Appendix 8A based on the following heritage qualities/values:</p> <p>a) Historic Qualities</p> <p><i>Associated items are noted:</i></p> <p><i>Proposed extent (setting) is shown on Extent map</i></p> |
| <p><b>Overall Level of Heritage significance</b><br/>High</p>  |

Commented [L4]: Additional sentence

**Sources for information:**

Williams, Lyn "A Thematic Review of the History of Hamilton", a technical report for Hamilton City Council (Draft) 2021

Gibbons, PJ *Astride the River; a History of Hamilton* 1977

Smith, Betty Laloli *Next Stop .... Claudelands* 2002

Commented [L5]: Additional reference

**References:**

**Form prepared:** 20 09 2023 (proposed revised criteria 2022) and/or

**Revised Form prepared:** 02 07 2024 (proposed revised criteria 2023)

**Surveyor/ Researcher:** Lyn Williams, Laura Kellaway

**Reviewer:**

**Site visits:** yes

*Notes:*

*Places have been viewed from the public domain, and using on line resources, unless otherwise stated. Where an on-site visit was undertaken, agreed with the owner, it is recorded below.*

*Interiors have not been assessed or condition of buildings.*

*Records have been retrieved where possible.*