



**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:** Two story with hip roof. Concrete steps with pipe railings lead up to hip roof front porch, extending across three-fifths of facade. Porch half-wall and porch base covered with simple drop siding. Four squared half columns are placed along porch facade. Door is paneled with a large light. Storm door. Windows are double hung wood sash, one-over-one. Storm windows. Light gray simple drop siding. Door and window surrounds, corner boards, columns, foundation and steps are medium gray. Red composition shingle roof. Hip roof dormer with gray cedar shingle walls on north slope has two sliding single lights in metal frames.

Landscaped with lawn. Two low trees and gravel in parking area. Large rocks line edge of side driveway. Chain link fence around backyard.

One car garage with alley access. Garage has hip roof with red composition shingles, white simple drop siding and door now covered over with plywood panels.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (include photographs showing each side of building and any associated buildings)

Film roll no.: 18

Negative no.: 6

Photographer: Carolyn Howard

Location of negatives: City Of Grand Junction

**CONSTRUCTION HISTORY** (include description and dates of major additions, alterations, or demolitions): Additional construction or modifications not noted on Assessor's Records.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND** (discuss important persons and events associated with this building): The first owner/occupant of the house, constructed ca. 1910, was George M. Sills. The house is significant due to its connection to its next two occupants/owners, Walter D. Hirons and Judge Adair Hotchkiss. Hirons, Walter G.: Birth: 10 May 1870, Epworth, IA; Death: 10 July 1937

Married: Mary Elizabeth Tawney; Children: Rufus, Robert and William; Education: University of Iowa.

Hotchkiss, Adair: Born: 6 Sept. 1887; Died: 12 Jan. 1972 Married: Ethel Bear, 1 Aug. 1915. Children: Norman Brandeis Hotchkiss, Mrs. Willis S. Moss, Mrs. Thomas A. Sullivan. Education: Delta, CO schools; CO Agricultural and Mechanical College; University of Michigan.

915 Grand Avenue is historically significant locally because of its association with Walter G. Hirons (1914-1926) and (ca. 1926-1978) with Adair Hotchkiss.

Walter G. Hirons, a well-known Colorado educator and Grand Junction City Councilman, moved to Grand Junction in 1909. He taught for two years at Whittier School (7th and Rood), and then served as principal of Hawthorne School. In 1918, when R. E. Tope was made superintendent of schools, Hirons was selected principal of Grand Junction High School, a post he held for 18 years.

Hirons was elected to the City Council in 1922, serving 1922-1925, and 1929-1933. From 1922-1924, he was president of the Council and ex-officio mayor of Grand Junction. He also served for 15 years as secretary-treasurer of the western division of the Colorado Education Association. At one time he also shared extensive livestock holdings with his father-in-law and son, Rufus. Hirons served as a member of the Goodwill Industries Board, and was also active in three Masonic organizations.

Judge Hotchkiss, a prominent Western Colorado jurist and member of the Democratic Party, was the son of Enos T. Hotchkiss, for whom the town was named. He moved to Grand Junction after he was elected attorney of the Seventh Judicial District, a position he held from 1925-1929. From 1931-1933, 1937-1961, he served on the Mesa County bench. He was active in the Mesa County Bar Association, Methodist Church, and Masonic Lodge. His wife, Ethel, lived in the house until 1978. Between terms as judge, he practiced law with his son.

**INFORMATION SOURCES** (be specific): Plat map, Appraisal Card, Lot and Block Book, Grand Junction City Directories, 1981 Historic Survey of Grand Junction, Obituary Index, Grand Junction Daily Sentinel Newspaper, 13 Jan 1972; 10 Jul 1937.

Museum of Western Colorado Research Library: "Who's Who in Colorado," (1938); Grand Junction City Collection.

**SIGNIFICANCE** (check appropriate categories)

**Architectural significance:**

- represents the work of a master  
 possess high artistic value  
 represents a type, period, or method of construction

**National Register eligibility:**

Individual  yes  no

Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Area(s) of significance: Architecture; Education; Law; Politics; Government

**Historical significance:**

- associated with significant person(s)  
 associated with significant event  
 associated with a pattern of events  
 contributes to an historic district

Contributes to a potential district:

yes  no  
District name:

**THEME(s):**

Period of significance: 1910;  
1914-1926;1926-1941

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (briefly justify the significance checked above):** A very plain, utilitarian example of a large Prairie Box style house makes minimal use of ornamentation. However, the house should be considered for the National Register due to its connection to two former occupants, educator **Walter D. Hiron** and Judge **Adair Hotchkiss**.

Hiron, for many years a teacher and principal, was one of the best-known educators in the state, serving for 15 years as the secretary-treasurer of the western division of the Colorado Education Association. He was also a former city councilman and mayor of Grand Junction.

Adair Hotchkiss was a prominent Western Colorado jurist. He served as attorney for the Seventh Judicial District for four years and on the Mesa County bench for over 16 years.

**INVENTORY COMPLETED BY:** Museum Group Staff

**DATE:** 3/29/96

**AFFILIATION:** Museum of Western Colorado

**PHONE:** (970) 241-9117

**ADDRESS:** PO Box 20000-5020, Grand Junction, Colorado 81502-5020

**PROJECT NAME:** Grand Junction Historic Resources Survey, Phase 2



915 Grand Ave.  
Grand Junction, Mesa Co, CO  
2945-144-03-977  
SME7855

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Roll 17 Frame 10  
View N Dir SE  
SME7855



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