



Samuel Haywood Mirams was born on 28 August 1837 in Minster, Kent. The son of a clergyman, he was educated at private schools before taking up employment at an architect's office in London. When he was 19 the family emigrated to Australia, where his father became rector of the Congregational Church in Collins Street, Melbourne.

Mirams worked for several years for the firm Purchas and Swyer, architects and engineers.

In 1862 he came to New Zealand. For two years he worked as a draughtsman and assistant engineer for the Otago Provincial Government, and for a further two years as an architect and engineer in private practice. He was appointed City Surveyor in 1866 and in 1878 he formulated a drainage scheme which became the basis of Dunedin's sewerage system. From 1880 he was in charge of the water supply systems at Silverstream and Ross Creek. As well as overseeing the grading and finishing of most of the city's streets. Mirams was responsible for establishing and maintaining cemeteries, recreational reserves and reserves for leasing, the supervision of buildings and the administration of city by-laws, particularly in relation to property. He is perhaps best known for the developments associated with the town belt.

Mirams retired for health reasons in 1901. On his death at Dunedin on 10 October 1911, it was said that he had 'left the city a very noble monument of the services he rendered it'. He had been widely respected for his 'exceedingly suave and courteous manner' and 'unobtrusive disposition'. With his wife Matilda he had a family of seven boys and four girls.

He is buried in Dunedin's Northern Cemetery.