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# Hamilton Post Office



26535 Hamilton Post Office

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## Location

57 Gray St HAMILTON, Southern Grampians Shire

## Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

## Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

**SIGNIFICANCE:** Focus for official communication in town, this is one of the most important public buildings in Hamilton and its formal architecture makes the point well.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hamilton Post Office

57 Gray Street

Constructed between 1875 and 1878, the Hamilton Post Office has architectural interest as an example of a large colonial Post Office with a hipped roof and colonnades. It has four arches in its colonnade compared to the five at Beechworth (1869) and the three at Horsham (1878), similar post office buildings. ([i]) The architect has used

extremely formal architecture to reinforce the message that this is the most important public building in the town.

The Hamilton Post Office which was designed by the Public Works Department architect, C H E Blackmann, was planned as a combined post and telegraph office, land office and sub treasury. ([ii]) It has historical significance for its associations with the early history of communications in the Hamilton district. It replaced two earlier post office buildings, an 1861 timber building and a bluestone two-storey post and telegraph office on the site of the present building, which opened in February 1864. This building fell into disrepair, was pulled down, and the material used by Sigismund Jacoby for the construction of his residence, St Ronan's, in Dryden Street. ([iii]) A tower was added to the Hamilton Post Office in 1890 and there were alterations in 1907, 1925, 1948 and 1965. The 1907 alterations included a new entrance arch and counter. ([iv]) Further alterations include the loss of the original loggia joinery. the building is in excellent condition and is a landmark for Hamilton, complementing the adjacent Hamilton Club and former Mechanics Institute. The streetscape only lacks the former town hall to be complete.

[i] Trethowan, pp 94-95 (with illustration); Garden, D, *Hamilton*, p 87-88; Baker, pp 4-6.

[ii] Ibid.

[iii] Ibid.

[iv] Ibid.; Baker, p 7; National Trust File No. 2736.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1861, 1864, 1875,
Hermes Number	26535
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

### MATERIALS:

**Roof:**

**Walls:** rendered brick

**Dressings:** cement render

**Plinth:** bluestone

**Windows:** timber dhs

**Paving:** terrazzo

**NOTABLE FEATURES:** Tower which is a landmark, distinctive formal architecture, grandest building in Gray Street.

## Historical Australian Themes

### ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Communications: Postal & Telegraph

Government institutions: Federal & Post Office

## **Integrity**

Integrity: G

## **Physical Conditions**

Conditions: G

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*