
Hamilton Spectator Office



26554 Hamilton Spectator
Office

Location

59-61 Gray St HAMILTON, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

SIGNIFICANCE: Home of the *Hamilton Spectator*, the building uses the Conservative Classical style of architecture to appear dignified, stable and thoroughly respectable - like a bank.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Office of *Hamilton Spectator*
59 Gray Street

This building has local significance as the office of one of the most powerful social and political influences in the Hamilton district, beginning as a liberal, protectionist journal and, from the 1870s, favouring a more conservative, free trade view. Constructed in 1873, ([i]) this Gray Street building has historical importance for its associations with George Robinson (c1824-1896), publisher and printer, who founded the *Hamilton Spectator* in 1860, ([ii]) and with his partner and editor from the early 1870s George H Mott (c1832-1906) formerly proprietor of the Albury newspaper, the *Border Post*. Under Mott's influence the newspaper followed a more conservative course. ([iii]) Mott was associated with another significance Hamilton building, Kilora, at 45 Kennedy Street; the first section was built for Mott in 1871-72. ([iv])

The building uses the Conservative Classical style of architecture to appear dignified, stable and thoroughly respectable - like a bank. The arch to the right of the facade was probably over a doorway. The main windows have probably been altered to accommodate newly available plate glass. The building has been extended at the rear. Otherwise the building is relatively intact externally and it is in good condition.

[i] *Hamilton Rate Book* 1873, No. 175 (shop and printing office, NAV 100 pounds), 1876, No. 181 (offices of *Spectator*, NAV110 pounds), 1877, No. 173 (brick offices of *Hamilton Spectator*, NAV 100 pounds); *Hamilton Spectator*, 11 January 1873.

[ii] Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, p 74.

[iii] *Ibid.*, p 75-76.

[iv] *Hamilton Rate Book* 1871, No. 252 (house, NAV 8 pounds), 1872, No. 244 (house allot. NAV 50 pounds).

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| Heritage Study/Consultant | Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991; |
| Construction dates | 1873, |
| Hermes Number | 26554 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Description 1

MATERIALS:

Roof: tray decking

Walls: brick, tuck pointed

Dressings: cement render

Plinth: rock faced & dressed brick

Windows: timber

Paving:

Other:

NOTABLE FEATURES:

Strong arcading including one smaller arch possibly a former doorway.

Historical Australian Themes

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1860s, 1870s

Communications: Newspapers

Notable men and women

Integrity

Integrity: F

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/>