

Old Grandstand



26642 Old Grandstand

Location

Melville Oval and Corner Milton Street and Market Place 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: »Principle centre for active recreation in Hamilton,; memorial to W H Melville, Hamilton's leading citizen at the time and one of its most distinguished in its history.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Grandstand
Melville Oval

The Melville Oval grandstand is of local significance for its historical associations with various sports and recreational pursuits and for the elegance of its Edwardian architecture. A Band Rotunda, since relocated to the Botanic Gardens, once stood beside it. The low lying area north-west of Lonsdale Street was originally reserved for market purposes when it was thought that Lonsdale street would be Hamilton's commercial centre. By 1902

there were moves to beautify the area and use it for recreation. Led by W H Melville then Hamilton's leading citizen, this push was thwarted until the death of its main opponent, Cr R S Bree. ([i]) Frank Hammond the Town Clerk and Engineer was probably responsible for the design. The development of the oval was significant because the City of Hamilton had to take out a considerable loan to fund the works. Melville Oval, named after its generous champion, was opened in 1909 by the Hon J Murray, Premier of Victoria. ([ii])

The oval and the grandstand have been in constant use ever since. The surrounding plantings and the various ornaments including the memorial gates are important landscape elements which support the grandstand, now the major building in the reserve. Melville Oval is a focus for the City of Hamilton and is the centre for the Conservation Area surrounding it.

The grandstand has been refurbished and additions at the back now include a small function area. ([iii]) The building is substantially intact and in good condition. The removal of the Band Rotunda and alterations to the fabric of the Grandstand have diminished the integrity of the complex.

[i] Garden, D, *Hamilton*, p 181.

[ii] Australian Heritage Commission, File No. 014523.

[iii] Ibid. The grandstand was rejected for addition to the Register of the national Estate in May 1990.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1909,
Architect/Designer	Hammond, Frank,
Hermes Number	26642
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

MATERIALS:

Roof: »corrugated iron

Walls: »corrugated iron

Dressings: »timber

Plinth: »none

Windows: »timber dhs & casements

Paving: »asphalt and gravel

Other: »cast iron balcony and brackets timber benches and stairs

Physical Description 2

NOTABLE FEATURES: »use of corrugated iron for walls; elegant forms achieved with roof

Integrity

INTEGRITY: E

CONDITION: E

Historical Australian Themes

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Recreation: Active sports

Passive sports

Evolution of the Town: 1900s

Notable Men & Women: W H Melville

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/>