
Alexandra (College) House



26644 Alexandra (College)
House

Location

Milton Street and Brown Street HAMILTON, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Overlay Numbers

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

SIGNIFICANCE: »Built as the girls' equivalent of the Hamilton and Western District College to a design by the leading Melbourne architects, Ellerker & Kilburn. Key building in streetscape

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Alexandra College
Milton Street/Brown Street

The original home of the Alexandra College for Ladies is of regional significance both for its historical associations and for its architecture. The College opened in 1872 and moved into this building in 1874, with the intention of providing excellent instruction to the young ladies of both town and country. It has historical importance as a high quality Western District Girls' College attended by the daughters of leading regional townspeople and the rural gentry. It provided a secondary education for a privileged few at a time when the state system only catered for a primary education. ([i])

The College was amalgamated with its brother school, the Hamilton and Western District College in 1962. The Boys' College had been taken over by the Presbyterian Church in 1954. Both original buildings were designed by the leading Melbourne architect, W H Elleker. As with Hamilton College, their original design was never completed with the end pavilions and their bay windows being replaced by smaller wings. Alexandra College was described as "Early Italian" in style and this is suggested in the full original design with its tower, bracketed eaves, aedicule windows and picturesque position. The English born William Henry Ellerker trained in Melbourne under Messrs Kemp, Knight and Kerr, one of the most important early architectural firms. ([ii]) The eminence of their private and commercial clients, shows how well connected and successful Elleker and his later partner E G Kilburn became. ([iii])

The building was disposed of by the Presbyterian Church in 1972 at first being used as offices and then as the Alexandra House Reception Rooms. ([iv]) The building has been compromised both by unsympathetic additions and alterations and by the construction of flats in the former front garden. It is in fair condition. This, more than any other single incident, triggered a concern about the lack of conservation planning controls in Hamilton and lead to the present study.

[i] Garden, D, *Hamilton*, pp 90, 91; *The First 100 Years*, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, 1954, (unpaginated); *Vision and Realisation*, vol II, p 132.

[ii] The front door of Hamilton College should be compared with Knight & Kerr's Mannerist entrance to D'Estaville, 7 Barry St, Kew Of 1858.

[iii] Sutherland, A, *Victoria & Its Metropolis*, Vol 11B, p 516.

[iv] Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, p 238.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1874,
Architect/Designer	Ellerker & Kilburn,
Hermes Number	26644
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

MATERIALS:

Roof: »slate?

Walls: »rendered brick

Dressings: »cement render

Plinth: »rock face bluestone

Windows: »4 pane dhs

Paving: »gravel

Other: »dressed bluestone steps timber bracketed eaves cast iron downpipes

Physical Description 2

NOTABLE FEATURES:»blank foundation stone; proposed tower never built nor the northern half of the building.

Integrity

INTEGRITY:F

CONDITION:F

Historical Australian Themes

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Education: Girls' education

The Role of Women: Girls' education

Religion: Presbyterianism

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/>