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# Hamilton & Western District College



26645 Hamilton &  
Western District College

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## Location

Chaucer Street 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:** »Significant as the best example the architects', Elleker & Kilburn, work in Hamilton but also as the educational focus of both the town and the country. Landmark building with its tower.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hamilton and Western District College  
Chaucer St

Of state significance, the Hamilton and Western District College is the most important of the three private schools in Hamilton. It was set up to and still serves not just the town but much of the Western District for both primary and secondary education. This is reflected in the names of the directors and trustees who have run the school

since 1870. ([i]) The school has had a close connection with the Presbyterian Church again reflecting the strong Scottish background of many people in the Western District but is now non-denominational. From the beginning the school strived for excellence which was recognized as early as 1888. ([ii])

The College has amalgamated with its sister school, Alexandra College. Both original buildings were designed by the leading Melbourne architects, W H Elleker. As with Alexandra College, their original design was never completed with the end pavilions and their bay windows being replaced by smaller wings. The former was described as "Early Italian" in style and this is suggested in the detailing of the Hamilton College not so much in the facade as the side wings. The English born William Henry Elleker trained in Melbourne under Messrs Kemp, Knight and Kerr, one of the most important early architectural firms. ([iii]) The eminence of their private and commercial clients, shows how well connected and successful Elleker and his later partner E G Kilburn became. ([iv])

The school has been extended and altered sympathetically. It remains significantly intact and in excellent condition. It is a landmark building for Hamilton. ([v])[i] Garden, D, *Hamilton*, p 90.

## FOOTNOTES

[ii] *Victoria & Its Metropolis*, Vol 11A, p 58.

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

[iv] *Victoria & Its Metropolis*, Vol 11B, p 516.

[v] Its tower more than any other vantage point has always been popular with photographers.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1871,
Architect/Designer	Ellerker, William H,
Hermes Number	26645
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

### MATERIALS:

**Roof:** »corrugated iron

**Walls:** »rendered & face brick

**Dressings:** »cement render

**Plinth:** »rock face bluestone

**Windows:** »timber dhs

**Paving:** »asphalt

**Other:** »timber bracketed eaves timber gables on side wings

## Physical Description 2

**NOTABLE FEATURES:**»Mannerist pediment over front door and tower with bellcast roof.

## Integrity

INTEGRITY: E

CONDITION: E

## **Historical Australian Themes**

### **ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES**

Education: Primary and secondary schools

Religion: Presbyterianism

Squatting: Pastoralists

Evolution of the Town: 1870s - 1990s

*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/>*