
St Mary's School



27211 St Mary's School

Location

Cnr Pope Street and Collins Street 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 -

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St Mary's School (formerly the Academy) Corner Pope & Collins Street This building has local significance for its architectural interest and for its historical importance as a major educational institution in the Hamilton district during the last century when it became a serious rival to the notable Hamilton and Western District Boys' College founded in 1871. The earliest section of the Academy dates from 1874 with additions in 1882 when it was reopened. (i)

The founder of the Academy was James Begg (1842-1911), a Scot educated at Glasgow University who had the support of leading Hamiltonians such as G H Mott and W Skene. By 1890 the Academy was the largest of Hamilton's three private colleges and was recognised for its high educational standard. Its success was relatively brief for it closed in 1900, the building becoming a private residence which, in 1905, was taken over by the Loreto

Sisters as a convent and convent school. In 1925 it became known as St Mary's. (ii)

The building is of interest architecturally for its use of the Gothic Revival style, considered appropriate for scholastic buildings because of traditional associations between education and the Church, and for its use of polychrome brickwork, an important material in the style. Polychromy was all the rage in Melbourne at the time but this is a relatively subdued example. The building is significantly intact and is in excellent condition. It is an important element in the St Ronan's streetscape, especially for its domestic scale and detailing.

SIGNIFICANCE: One of the more important schools in the district and associated with significant people. Of special interest for its rare use of polychrome brickwork.

FOOTNOTES

i Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, pp 89-90; *Hamilton Spectator*, 13 April 1882, 11 November 1882.

ii Ibid and Garden, p 152; *Australasian*, 14 April 1906 (illustration).

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1874, 1882,
Other Names	formerly the Academy,
Hermes Number	27211
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

MATERIALS:

Roof: concrete shingles

Walls: polychrome brick

Dressings: cement render

Plinth: bluestone

Windows: timber dhs

Paving: asphalt

Other: timber and cast iron verandah

NOTABLE FEATURES: use of polychrome brick

LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE: 1 || 2 || 3 |X|

Historical Australian Themes

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Education: Private & Secondary.

Religion: Presbyterianism & Roman Catholicism

Integrity

INTEGRITY: G

Physical Conditions

CONDITION: E

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/>