
Gas Holder



27212 Gas Holder

Location

Cnr Craig Street and Kennedy 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 -

SIGNIFICANCE: Very rare surviving gas holder or gasometer.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gas Holder (or gasometer)
Cnr Craig/Kennedy Streets

This 1870s gas holder, which survives on the Gas & Fuel Corporation site in Craig Street, has state significance as a substantially intact and rare survivor. There are almost no other surviving examples of these industrial structures, which were once common throughout metropolitan Melbourne and in major Victorian country towns. By 1985 the North Melbourne Gas Holder was the only one surviving in the metropolitan area. One survives at

Bendigo and other country gas holders may survive at Horsham, Warrnambool and Ararat. (i) The Hamilton gas holder dates from October 1877 when the Hamilton Gas Company called for tenders. (ii) Work began at the end of 1877 and the town was first lit by gas on 11 May 1878. (iii) The provision of gas and street lighting represented a major step forward in municipal development.

Hamilton was slower in obtaining gas lighting than other Victorian country towns of similar size such as Dylesford, Kyneton, Stawell and Warrnambool. The Hamilton Gas Company was floated in February 1877 with the journalist, G H Mott, as chairman. Directors included Sigismund Jacoby, Isaac Routledge, W Thomson, and T Walker. Thomas Bowman, from the Warrnambool Gas Company, designed the works and became the manager. (iv)

The structure is thoroughly functional in style and form, remains significantly intact and is in good condition. It was once supported by a complex of brick buildings but all of these have been demolished.

FOOTNOTES

i National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File No. 3756.

ii *Argus*, 16 October 1877, p 3 (tender notice).

iii Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, pp 97-98.

iv Ibid.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1877,
Hermes Number	27212
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS: Thomas Bowman

MATERIALS:

Roof: plate metal

Walls: plate metal

Dressings: cast iron frame

Plinth: concrete?

Windows: none

Paving: concrete

Other:

NOTABLE FEATURES: form and function

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

Historical Australian Themes

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Primary Industry: Gas

Evolution of the Town: 1870s

Notable men & Women: G H Mott (Chairman) Sigismund Jacoby Isaac Routledge W Thomson T Walker

Integrity

INTEGRITY: E

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/>