
Hamilton Town Hall



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Location

Brown 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: Focus for the municipal administration of Hamilton during the twentieth century and designed (both 1910 and 1960) by the Town and City Engineer.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hamilton Town Hall

Brown Street

The original Hamilton Town Hall was located between the Post Office and the Mechanics Institute in Gray Street.

(i) Around the turn of the century it was decided to relocate the hall and offices and the Town Engineer, Frank Hammond, designed a remarkable new building, only the hall of which survives. He was an architect with a prolific local practice and the town hall design gives many clues to his other work. (ii) The design was an idiosyncratic version of the classicism revival style of the time. It combined Byzantine, Baroque, Mannerist, and

Queen Anne details. (iii) The foyer and offices were replaced by a mundane version of the International style in the early 1960s again designed by the City Engineer, H W Terrell. The loss of both town halls has been called a double blow to the heritage of Hamilton.

The Hamilton Town Hall is of regional significance for its historical associations. It has been the focus for the municipal administration of Hamilton during the twentieth century. There can be no doubt about its importance as the venue for a wide range of uses. It has been the scene of many public functions. For many years it was used as one of the town's cinemas. The interior of the hall is presently undergoing an extensive alteration and conversion to a sloped auditorium. Despite the major changes the Town Hall remains relatively intact and in good condition. It is a critical part of the streetscape and relates well to the Regional Art Gallery and Library next door.

FOOTNOTES

i The Hamilton Historical Society holds copies of the original drawings.

ii At least on stylistic grounds this design is the key which allows the attribution of most of the architecture built in Hamilton from that period to Frank Hammond. One of the more interesting attributions would be 18 McIntyre Street (or 33 French Street) for which the architect is not known.

iii The Hamilton Historical Society holds several photographs of the building and there are many postcards of it held by the State Library.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1910, 1960,
Architect/Designer	Hammond, F,
Hermes Number	27239
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

MATERIALS: Original Hall

Roof: corrugated iron

Walls: red brick

Dressings: cement render

Plinth: bluestone

Windows: timber

Paving: asphalt/concrete

Other:

NOTABLE FEATURES:

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

STYLE: Edwardian/International

Historical Australian Themes

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Administration: local government

Evolution of the Town: 1900s

Sport and Recreation: Cinema, balls, elections
Notable Men and Women: Frank Hammond

Integrity

Integrity: F

Physical Conditions

Conditions: 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/>