

BUILDING TITLE:
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: A || B || C |X| D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:** detached house
DESIGNATION: HBR Reg No File # AHC File # NT File # Class || Rec ||
CONSERVATION AREA: Botanical Gardens **LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE:** 1 || 2 |X| 3 ||
STYLE: Colonial

CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:

- 1.
2. 1873
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Sources:

1. *Hamilton Rate Book 1873*, No. 146.

MATERIALS:

Roof: corrugated iron
Walls: Hamilton brick
Dressings: timber
Plinth: brick
Windows: timber double hung sash
Paving: gravel/coloured concrete
Other: timber pergola

SURVEY DATE: 9/3/91 **NEG FILE:** 3/14 **REPORTER:** tfh

INTEGRITY: E || G || F |X| P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** 19th century garden layout and rockery works

CONDITION: E || G |X| F || P ||

SIGNIFICANCE: This house is significant as the home of the first Police Magistrate, its architecture and its 19th century garden adjacent to and associated with the Botanical Gardens.

ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Appropriate:	Rec	Inappropriate:	Rec
		pergola replacing verandah (part)	O

O=reinstate original design S=reinstate sympathetic alternative R=remove RAM=remove by approved method

SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS:	ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS:	TITLE:
land to G D Hutchison, 26 September 1853 JP Hamilton, Police Magistrate, first owner		Sec C A 6 pt17/19 Nathan Thornley, surveyor, tenant, 1875 Thomas Laidlaw, auctioneer, owner, 1912 JF & PV Edmonds, present owner
COUNCIL COMPUTER # 10619.0026	MORE INFO OVER X	HAMDS033

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Residence
24 Thompson Street

This house has local significance for its architectural interest as an elegantly detailed brick house with a substantially intact 19th century garden and for its historical associations with J P Hamilton (1827-84), Hamilton Police Magistrate, who lived there from 1873 until his death, ⁽ⁱ⁾ except for one year, 1875, when it was occupied by Nathan Thornley, surveyor. ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ It has associations in the present century with Thomas Laidlaw, a well known Hamilton auctioneer. ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ At first, in 1873, J P Hamilton's property was recorded as a house (NAV 100 pounds) but was identified in 1875-76 as house and stable with an NAV of 120 pounds, and in 1877 as a brick house and paddocks (NAV 140 pounds). ^(iv) Although J P Hamilton was amongst the leading public servants dismissed by the Berry Ministry on 'Black Thursday' in January of 1878, ^(v) he continued to own and occupy his Thompson Street home. His widow, Agnes, became the owner in 1885 and by the turn of the century, it was tenanted by Mary Learmonth, widow. ^(vi)

The integrity of the house has been somewhat compromised by the partial replacement of the verandah. It is in good condition. The original layout of the garden has been changed however there is a number of trees which indicate a more extensive garden. Notable are the *Acer opalus*, *Morus nigra*, *Acer campestre*, Field Maple *Euonymus europaeus*, Spindle Bush and a large *Quercus palustris*, Pin Oak. This garden, being opposite the Botanic Gardens, appears to have benefitted in plant selection especially in the association of the *Acer opalus* and *Acer campestre* to the impressive *Acer velutinum* directly opposite in the Gardens and now on the Significant Tree Register.

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town. 1870-80s/1900s.
Government institutions. Local. Police.
Notable men and women.
Industry. Auctioneers.

ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS

46 Martin Street
(occupied by Police in
1880s, 1890s.
9 Thompson Street
(new policeman's residence 1947)
13 Thompson Street
(new police station c1956.)

REFERENCES

Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, North Melbourne, 1984.
Hamilton Rate Books.

FOOTNOTES

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- i *Hamilton Rate Book 1873*, No. 146; 1885, No. 169; *Garden, Don, Hamilton*, pp 79, 88-89.
ii *Hamilton Rate Book 1875*, No. 147.
iii *Ibid.*, 1912, No. 233.
iv *Ibid.*, 1873, No. 146; 1876, No. 150; 1877, No. 132.
v *Garden, Don, Hamilton*, p 79.
vi *Hamilton Rate Book 1885*, No. 169; 1905, No. 218.