

BUILDING TITLE: Alexandra (College) House **BUILDING ADDRESS:** Milton Street/Brown Street
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: A || B |X| C || D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:** school
DESIGNATION: HBR Reg No File # 60 0630 4 **AHC File #** **NT File #** **Class** || **Rec** ||
CONSERVATION AREA: Melville Oval **LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE:** 1 || 2 || 3 |X|
STYLE: Conservative Classical ("Early Italian")

CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:

1. 1874
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Sources:

1. *Australasian Sketcher*, 11/7/1874
and Garden, D, Hamilton, p 91.

MATERIALS:

Roof: slate?
Walls: rendered brick
Dressings: cement render
Plinth: rock face bluestone
Windows: 4 pane dhs
Paving: gravel
Other: dressed bluestone steps
timber bracketed eaves
cast iron downpipes

SURVEY DATE: 3/ 5/ 91 **NEG FILE:** 5/13-17 **REPORTER:** tfh

INTEGRITY: E || G || F |X| P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** blank foundation stone; proposed tower never built nor the northern half of the building.

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

SIGNIFICANCE: Built as the girls' equivalent of the Hamilton and Western District College to a design by the leading Melbourne architects, Ellerker & Kilburn. Key building in streetscape.

ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Appropriate: **Rec** **Inappropriate:** **Rec**
several unsympathetic additions which should be removed; seriously compromised the new flats development in former front garden

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

SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS: land sold to J Allan (14) 19/6/66,
to M McKenna (13A) 9/10/71
ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS: Ellerker & Kilburn
TITLE: **Sec** **CA**
49 13A,13B,14
to Alexandra College Co (13B) 25/8/73
Alexandra College Co

COUNCIL COMPUTER #

MORE INFO OVER |X|

HAMDS103

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Alexandra College
Milton Street/Brown Street

The original home of the Alexandra College for Ladies is of regional significance both for its historical associations and for its architecture. The College opened in 1872 and moved into this building in 1874, with the intention of providing excellent instruction to the young ladies of both town and country. It has historical importance as a high quality Western District Girls' College attended by the daughters of leading regional townspeople and the rural gentry. It provided a secondary education for a privileged few at a time when the state system only catered for a primary education. ⁽ⁱ⁾

The College was amalgamated with its brother school, the Hamilton and Western District College in 1962. The Boys' College had been taken over by the Presbyterian Church in 1954. Both original buildings were designed by the leading Melbourne architect, W H Elleker. As with Hamilton College, their original design was never completed with the end pavilions and their bay windows being replaced by smaller wings. Alexandra College was described as "Early Italian" in style and this is suggested in the full original design with its tower, bracketed eaves, aedicule windows and picturesque position. The English born William Henry Elleker trained in Melbourne under Messrs Kemp, Knight and Kerr, one of the most important early architectural firms. ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ The eminence of their private and commercial clients, shows how well connected and successful Elleker and his later partner E G Kilburn became. ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾

The building was disposed of by the Presbyterian Church in 1972 at first being used as offices and then as the Alexandra House Reception Rooms. ^(iv) The building has been compromised both by unsympathetic additions and alterations and by the construction of flats in the former front garden. It is in fair condition. This, more than any other single incident, triggered a concern about the lack of conservation planning controls in Hamilton and lead to the present study.

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Education: Girls' education
The Role of Women: Girls' education
Religion: Presbyterianism

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Hamilton & Western District College (same architects)

REFERENCES

Garden, D, *Hamilton*, North Melbourne, 1984
Sutherland, A, *Victoria & Its Metropolis*, Vol 11A & B, Melbourne 1888 and reprinted.
The First 100 Years, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, 1954, (unpaginated)
Vision and Realisation, vol II, p 132.
Dept of Planning & Housing Files No 60 1553 4 and No 60 0630 4.

FOOTNOTES

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- ⁱ Garden, D, *Hamilton*, pp 90, 91; *The First 100 Years*, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, 1954, (unpaginated); *Vision and Realisation*, vol II, p 132.
ⁱⁱ The front door of Hamilton College should be compared with Knight & Kerr's Mannerist entrance to D'Estaville, 7 Barry St, Kew Of 1858.
ⁱⁱⁱ Sutherland, A, *Victoria & Its Metropolis*, Vol 11B, p 516.
^{iv} Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, p 238.