BUILDING TITLE: Hamilton Botanic Gardens	BUILDIN	G ADDRESS: Fre	nch, Kenne	dy, Marti	n & Thomps	on Streets
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: A X B	C	D E	BU	ILDING TY	PE: variou	S
DESIGNATION: HBR Reg No File #60 0972 F		C File # 00374	4 NT	File #36	74 Class	Rec X
CONSERVATION AREA: Botanic Gardens LEVEL (SCAPE SIGNIFI	CANCE:	1	2 X	
STYLE: various				1 1	•	1 11
CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:						
1. from 1870 (gardens)						
2. c1881 (present plan)						
3. c1870 (cottage)						
4. 1904 & 1989 (rotunda)						
5. 1917 (fountain)						
6.						
Sources:						
1 P Watts, <i>Historic Gardens of</i>						
Victoria, p 54 and the original						
plan held by the City of Hamilton						
MATERIALS:						
Roof:						
Walls:						
Dressings:						
Plinth:						
Windows:						
Paving:						
Other:						
	SURVEY	DATE: 15/5/9	91 NEG I	FILE: 8/3	5 & 36	REPORTER: tfh
INTEGRITY: E X G F P					taker's co	
	-				rotunda a	
				ntings an		
CONDITION: E X G F P			PIG	11011190 411	a	
SIGNIFICANCE: Established by von Mueller,	designe	d by Ferguson	and then b	v Guilfov	le and dev	eloped over
many years this is one of the most important						
significant and notable trees as well as type				II IIABCIAI	ia. comca	iiib mairy
ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:	prear ga.	eden reactive	ana worns.			
Appropriate:	Rec	Inappropriate	•			Rec
Appropriace.	Rec	парргоргтасе	•			Nec
none required		none apparent				
		iioiio oippoiloiio				
O=reinstate original design S=reinstate syn	mpathetio	c alternative	R=remove	RAM=remo	ve by appr	oved method
SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS:	ARCHITE	CTS/BUILDERS:			TITLE	:
Reserve for Public Gardens, gaz 65.937		Ferguson			Sec	CA
Dept of Conservation & Environment		Guilfoyle			eserve for	
with the City of Hamilto		Carroyro		10		Gardens
with the city of namified	J-1					Caraciib

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hamilton Botanic Gardens French, Kennedy, Martin & Thompson Streets

The Hamilton Botanic Gardens, planned in 1850-51, first planted by William Ferguson in 1870 and then developed from 1881 according to a design of William Guilfoyle, have state significance as one of the most intact examples in Australia of a nineteenth century provincial botanic garden. It is an early example of Guilfoyle's design, exemplifying his ideas about planting which were drawn form Edward La Trobe Bateman and were being actively implemented in his sweeping redevelopment of von Mueller's design of Melbourne's Botanic Gardens. Historically it is one of the four known pre-gold rush botanic garden sites set aside in the Port Phillip District of New South Wales. The gardens are important also as part of a significant late 19th and early 20th century precinct and for the retention of zoological elements, which illustrate the past fashion for menangeries. (1)

Important garden structures in the Hamilton Botanic Gardens include the caretaker's cottage, the Thomson Memorial Fountain, the band rotunda, and the French Street gates. The cottage probably dates from 1870 and apparently was moved from a nearby site within the gardens. (ii) It is a typical cottage ornee. fountain commemorates John Thomson, MLA for Dundas 1892-1914, who died in 1917 when the fountain was erected. John was the son of James Thomson, the wealthy pastoralist who built the large mansion, Monivae, The rotunda has historical importance as a reminder of a distinctive form of popular entertainment in the late 19th and early 20th century. The rotunda was moved to the gardens recently from Melville Oval. With the grandstand it has associations with W H Melville, the developer, and Frank Hammond, town clerk and engineer, who played key roles in the conversion in 1904-9 of the former Market Square into Melville Park, or Melville Oval, as it is now known. (iv)

The gardens contain many significant and notable trees as well as traditional garden works some of which survive although altered from the original design by Ferguson. The gardens are significantly intact and are in excellent condition. They are critical to the streetscape of the area.

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Sport & Recreation: Passive - botanic gardens Eildon, 34 Thompson Street Government Institutions:State and municipal Kilora, 45 Kennedy Street The Gables, 69 French Street Squatting: Pastoral industry

Former Police magistrates House, 24 Thompson Street

SOURCES

Australian Heritage Commission Files, Nos 003744 and 014523. Trust Newsletter, July 1977, Dec 1990. Dept of Planning & Housing Files, Nos 60 0972 F (general), 60 0629 B (gate) and 60 0079 B (rotunda). Watts, P, Historic Gardens of Victoria. Garden, D, Hamilton, North Melbourne, 1984. Hamilton Spectator 29/10/1881, 25-27/1/1883, 22/11/1883. Illustrated Australian News, 1/12/1883.

Note also that the Hamilton Botanic Gardens are presently the subject of a detailed report by Nigel Lewis and Richard Aitken with Francene Gilfedder for the City of Hamilton.

FOOTNOTES

Peter Watts, Historic Gardens of Victoria, p 54, AHC File No 003744; Illustrated Australian News, 1/12/1883; Hamilton Spectator 29/10/1881, 25-27/1/1883, 22/11/1883; Garden, D, Hamilton, pp 40-74; Trust Newsletter, July 1977, Dec 1990.

An early 1870s birdseye view of the town shows it in the western corner.

iii Garden, pp 104, 138, 139; Trust Newsletter, July 1977 (6).

AHC File No 014523, Garden, pp 180-2; Hamilton Spectator 30/6/1904, 19/11/1904, 23/8/1909, Oct 1909.