

BUILDING TITLE: Hamilton Club **BUILDING ADDRESS:** 41 Gray St
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: A |X| B || C || D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:** clubrooms
DESIGNATION: HBR Reg No File # AHC File # NT File # 3672 Class |X| Rec ||
CONSERVATION AREA: Gray St Commercial **LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE:** 1 || 2 |X| 3 ||
STYLE: Roman Revival

CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:

1. 1878-79
2. extensions to the east (1956)
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Sources:

1. Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, p 83, 84;
Hamilton Spectator, 14/1/79, 7/6/79,
22/7/79; *Argus*, 9/10/78 (tender notice).
2. N Trust (Vic), File No 3672.

MATERIALS:

Roof: slate
Walls: rendered stone & brick
Dressings: cement render
Plinth: cement render
Windows: timber dhs
Paving:
Other: cast iron
balconettes
bluestone steps

SURVEY DATE: 7/3/91 **NEG FILE:** 2/1&2 **REPORTER:** TFH

INTEGRITY: E |X| G || F || P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** Quality of classical detailing include tripartite windows, frieze and obelisks.

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

SIGNIFICANCE: Hamilton Club is the social focus of the squatters, professionals and merchants of the city. Its architecture represents formality, dignity and respectability.

ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Appropriate:	Rec	Inappropriate:	Rec
none apparent		none apparent	
extension to the east?			

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

SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS:	ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS:	TITLE:
land to T Smith 6/10/51	Smith & Johnson	CA Sect
Hamilton Club Trustees		18 (part) 8

Hamilton Mens Club present owners

COUNCIL COMPUTER # 10818.0054

MORE INFO OVER |X|

HAMDS045

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hamilton Club
41 Gray Street

This building has regional significance as the social focus of the squatters, professionals and merchants of the Hamilton district. Designed in 1878 by the notable architects, Smith & Johnson, ⁽ⁱ⁾ it has architectural interest for the quality of its classical detailing, including tripartite windows, frieze and obelisks. It has historical importance for its associations with the Hamilton Club, which was formed in 1875 and met at first in rented rooms at the Commercial Hotel. The aim was to provide relaxation and entertainment for leading townsmen and a place where pastoralists and other gentlemen could stay. ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ According to an 1895 *Victorian Tourists' Guide*, it was 'frequented by the best of the Western District folks.' ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ The first stage of the building, completed in 1879, cost 3,000 pounds. ^(iv) Additions were made to the east side of the building in 1956. ^(v) The building is significantly intact and in excellent condition. It is a key building in the streetscape of Gray Street being on the corner at the entrance to the commercial area. It is complimented by the adjacent former Mechanics Institute and the Post Office. Its architectural style can be compared with the early 20th Century facade of the Masonic Temple in Lonsdale Street.

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1870s
Sport & Recreation: Clubs

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Warrnambool Club (architectural association)
Napier Club (historical associations)
Masonic Temple, Lonsdale Street

REFERENCES

Argus, 9 October 1878.
Australasian, 2 May 1903 (illustration)
Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, North Melbourne, 1984.
National Trust of Australia (Vic), File No. 3672, *Trust Newsletter*, July 1977..
Hamilton Rate Books.
Hamilton Spectator, 13 July 1878, 14 January 1879, 22 July 1879.
IAN, 3 October 1878.
The Victorian Tourists' Guide, Melbourne, 1895.

FOOTNOTES

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- ⁱ *Argus*, 9 October 1878, p 3 (tender notice); *IAN*, 3 October 1878 (171, illustration - perspective).
ⁱⁱ Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, pp 83, 84; *Australasian*, 2 May 1903 (illustration).
ⁱⁱⁱ *The Victorian Tourists' Guide*, Melbourne, 1895, p 108.
^{iv} Garden, p 86.
^v National Trust of Australia (Vic), File No. 3672.