

**BUILDING TITLE:** Hamilton Court House      **BUILDING ADDRESS:** 15 Martin St  
**LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:** A ||      B |X|      C ||      D ||      E ||      **BUILDING TYPE:** court house  
**DESIGNATION:** HBR Reg No      File #      AHC File #      NT File #      Class ||      Rec ||  
**CONSERVATION AREA:** Botanic Gardens      **LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE:**      1 ||      2 |X|      3 ||  
**STYLE:** Romanesque (loosely)

**CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:**

1. 1882 (May)
2. 1882 (July) alt'ns & add'ns
3. 1883 (major extensions)
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

**Sources:**

1. *Argus*, 6 May 1882  
(PWD tender notice)
2. *Argus*, 28 July 1882 (tender accepted,  
Robert Carter, 1978 pounds)
3. *Garden, D, Hamilton*, p 119.

**MATERIALS:**

**Roof:** corrugated iron  
**Walls:** rendered brick  
**Dressings:** cement render  
**Plinth:** cement render  
**Windows:** timber double hung sash  
**Paving:** asphalt/concrete  
**Other:**

**SURVEY DATE:** 8/ 3/91      **NEG FILE:** 3/4      **REPORTER:** tfh

**INTEGRITY:** E |X|      G ||      F ||      P ||      **NOTABLE FEATURES:** picturesque massing and arcaded porch

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

**SIGNIFICANCE:** Key building in the administrative complex, the court house represents authority through its architecture and location near the police buildings.

**ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:**

<b>Appropriate:</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Inappropriate:</b>	<b>Rec</b>
none apparent		security doors	R

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

<b>SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS:</b>	<b>ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS:</b>	<b>TITLE:</b>
Gazettal 48/1694 RS 6146 Law Dept	Public Works Department	Sec      C A 11 Court House Reserve
		M A & H R Robertson present owners
<b>COUNCIL COMPUTER #</b> 11442.001	<b>MORE INFO OVER</b>  X	<b>HAMDS025</b>

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hamilton Court House  
15 Martin Street

This building, which replaced an earlier building on the site, <sup>(i)</sup> and was constructed by the Public Works Department in 1882-83, <sup>(ii)</sup> has regional significance as a key building in the administrative complex and for its architectural interest as one of the larger Western District Court Houses. With its picturesque massing and arcaded porch, the Hamilton Court House is comparable in style to the Maryborough and Castlemaine Court Houses (1877), designed by the office of John H Marsden, the PWD architect in charge of the Western District. Marsden's office also produced the Carlton Court House (with S E Bindley) in 1887, and, also with Bindley, the Dunolly, Collingwood and Elsternwick Post Offices (1890). The elaborate Geelong Post Office, also of 1890, was probably designed by J H Brabin. <sup>(iii)</sup> The building remains significantly intact and in excellent condition.

### ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1880s  
Government institutions: Law

### ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS

Maryborough Court House  
(also Post Office, 1877)  
Castlemaine Court House (1877)

### REFERENCES

*Argus*, 6 May 1882, 28 July 1882.  
*Hamilton Police and Court House Reserve*, File RS 359.  
Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, p 117.  
Trethowan, Bruce, 'The Public Works Department of Victoria 1851-1900', Research Report, University of Melbourne.

### FOOTNOTES

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- <sup>i</sup> *Hamilton Police and Court House Reserve*, surveyed by N Thornley, 21 November 1872, RS 359.  
<sup>ii</sup> *Argus*, 6 May 1882 (tender notice), 28 July 1882 (alterations and additions); Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, p 117 (major extensions).  
<sup>iii</sup> Trethowan, Bruce, 'The Public Works Department of Victoria 1851-1900', Research Report, University of Melbourne, 1975, pp 104-6.