

BUILDING TITLE: Hamilton High School **BUILDING ADDRESS:** Mt Baimbridge Road
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: A || B || C |X| D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:** School
DESIGNATION: HBR Reg No File # AHC File # NT File # Class || Rec ||
CONSERVATION AREA: outside **LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE:** 1 || 2 || 3 ||
STYLE: classical

CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:

1. 1921 (main building)
2. 1928 (cookery & woodwork)
3. 1934 (technical additions)
- 4.
5. 1949 (gymnasium)
6. 1951 & 3 (prefab classrooms)
7. 1958 (C S Alexander Hall)

Sources:

- 1 PWD Plans at school and date on the parapet over the main door
- 1 - 7 *Vision & Realisation*, Vol 2

MATERIALS:

Roof: unglazed terracotta
Walls: red brick
Dressings: cement render
Plinth: red brick
Windows: 12 pane dhs
Paving: concrete
Other: rough cast panels

SURVEY DATE: 17/05/1991 **NEG FILE:** 07/34 **REPORTER:** sk

INTEGRITY: E |X| G || F || P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** Central entrance motif, elongated windows

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

SIGNIFICANCE: The first secondary school in Hamilton and the region. Typical of its period architecturally.

ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Appropriate: Rec Inappropriate: Rec
Addition of further classrooms
none apparent

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

SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS: land to High School Site
Gazettal 23 - 539, RS 2770
ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS: PWD Vic
TITLE: Sec CA
High School Site
Education Department as the
Hamilton High School
COUNCIL COMPUTER # **MORE INFO OVER** |X| **HAMDS118**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hamilton High School
Mt Baimbridge Road

This building has local significance for its architecture and for its historical associations. Architecturally it is of interest as a standard design, more or less, for state high schools of the period. Historically it is important because it was the first state secondary school in the Hamilton region. Before 1912 the state had provided primary education only. ⁽ⁱ⁾ In 1916 the Higher Elementary School became a full High School. The first Head Master was Mr J F Hill and it was housed in the Infants School in the Gray Street State School grounds. ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ Hill was primarily responsible for the High School's establishment and it later operated in the upper floor of Strahan's in Gray Street. In 1915 the Hamilton and District High School was proclaimed and the new building was opened on 5 May, 1922. ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ In 1924 there were 198 pupils. ^(iv) Hamilton High School is also significant for introducing technical education to the district in 1934. A technical block was built at the High School in 1953, at which time it was recognised as a 'Multi-Purpose High School'. By 1960 there were 850 pupils. A new technical wing was built on the other side of Mt Baimbridge Road in 1958 which became the nucleus of the new Technical School which opened in May 1961. ^(v)

The original building is typical for its time in form, details and materials. The main staircase is a particularly dramatic element. Original drawings survive at the school. The building represents the most advanced planning at the time and strives to maximise space, light and structure. There have been many extensions and additions. The more important of these are the classrooms for technical training, the gymnasium and the C S Alexander Assembly Hall, named in honour of the former Head Master. The original building remains relatively intact and is in good condition. It is a dominant building in this part of Hamilton.

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the town: 1920s - 1960s
Education: Secondary & Technical

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Hamilton Technical School, Mt Baimbridge Road.
Hamilton & Western District College, Chaucer St
Alexandra College, Milton Street
Monivae College, Ballarat Road
Hamilton Primary School SS 295, Gray Street
North Hamilton Primary School SS 2035, Andrews St

REFERENCES

Education Department, *Vision And Realisation*, Vol 2
Garden, D, *Hamilton*, North Melbourne, 1984.

FOOTNOTES

-
- i *Vision And Realisation*, Vol 2, p 132.
ii Garden, D, *Hamilton*, p 194.
iii Ibid and *Vision And Realisation*, loc cit.
iv Garden, p 224.
v Ibid.