

BUILDING TITLE: Hamilton Post Office **BUILDING ADDRESS:** 57 Gray St
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: A || B |X| C || D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:** Post Office
DESIGNATION: HBR Reg No File # AHC File # NT File # 2736 Class |X| Rec ||
CONSERVATION AREA: Gray St Commercial **LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE:** 1 || 2 |X| 3 ||
STYLE: Italianate

- CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:**
1. 1861. (timber on another site)
2. 1864 (2 storey bluestone, demolished)
3. 1875-78. (P.W.D)
4.
5.

Sources:
1. Garden, D, *Hamilton*, pp 87-88;
Baker, R, '122 Years of Post Office Service of Hamilton' pp 4-6, undated.
2. Ibid.
3. Baker, p 7; NT (Vic) File No. 2736;
Trethowan, B, *The P.W.D. in Vic 1851-1900*

MATERIALS:

Roof:
Walls: rendered brick
Dressings: cement render
Plinth: bluestone
Windows: timber dhs
Paving: terrazzo
Other:

SURVEY DATE: 7/3/91 **NEG FILE:** 2/10 **REPORTER:** TFH

INTEGRITY: E || G |X| F || P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** Tower which is a landmark, distinctive formal architecture, grandest building in Gray Street.

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

SIGNIFICANCE: Focus for official communication in town, this is one of the most important public buildings in Hamilton and its formal architecture makes the point well.

ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Appropriate:	Rec	Inappropriate:	Rec
terrazzo paving in loggia		sanblasted bluestone plinth	
public seating in street		wired glass in front windows	S
various changes for boxes etc		concrete tiles on roof	O
		joinery removed from loggia	O

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

SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS: Post Office land to Commonwealth of Australia 1.2.01
ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS: P.W.D. (C H E Blackmann)
TITLE: CA 14 Sect 8

Australia Post present owner

COUNCIL COMPUTER # 10814.005 **MORE INFO OVER** | | **HAMDS44**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hamilton Post Office
57 Gray Street

Constructed between 1875 and 1878, the Hamilton Post Office has architectural interest as an example of a large colonial Post Office with a hipped roof and colonnades. It has four arches in its colonnade compared to the five at Beechworth (1869) and the three at Horsham (1878), similar post office buildings. ⁽ⁱ⁾ The architect has used extremely formal architecture to reinforce the message that this is the most important public building in the town.

The Hamilton Post Office which was designed by the Public Works Department architect, C H E Blackmann, was planned as a combined post and telegraph office, land office and sub treasury. ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ It has historical significance for its associations with the early history of communications in the Hamilton district. It replaced two earlier post office buildings, an 1861 timber building and a bluestone two-storey post and telegraph office on the site of the present building, which opened in February 1864. This building fell into disrepair, was pulled down, and the material used by Sigismund Jacoby for the construction of his residence, St Ronan's, in Dryden Street. ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ A tower was added to the Hamilton Post Office in 1890 and there were alterations in 1907, 1925, 1948 and 1965. The 1907 alterations included a new entrance arch and counter. ^(iv) Further alterations include the loss of the original loggia joinery. The building is in excellent condition and is a landmark for Hamilton, complementing the adjacent Hamilton Club and former Mechanics Institute. The streetscape only lacks the former town hall to be complete.

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Communications: Postal & Telegraph.
Government institutions: Federal & Post Office

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Beechworth Post Office (1869)
Horsham Post Office (1878)
St Ronan's, Dryden Street

REFERENCES

Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, 1984.
Trethowan, Bruce, *The Public Works Department in Victoria 1851-1900*, Research Report, 1975
National Trust of Australia (Vic), File No. 2736.
Baker, Derek, *122 Years Of Post Office Service At Hamilton*, manuscript not dated.

FOOTNOTES

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- i Trethowan, pp 94-95 (with illustration); Garden, D, *Hamilton*, p 87-88; Baker, pp 4-6.
ii Ibid.
iii Ibid.
iv Ibid.; Baker, p 7; National Trust File No. 2736.