

BUILDING TITLE: Hamilton Spectator Office **BUILDING ADDRESS:** 59-61 Gray St
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: A || B || C |X| D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:** Commercial Office
DESIGNATION: HBR Reg No File # AHC File # NT File # Class || Rec ||
CONSERVATION AREA: Gray St Commercial **LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE:** 1 || 2 || 3 ||
STYLE: Conservative Classical

CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:

1. 1873
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Sources:

1. *Hamilton Rate Book* 1873, No 175
Hamilton Spectator, 11 January 1873.

MATERIALS:

Roof: tray decking
Walls: brick, tuck pointed
Dressings: cement render
Plinth: rock faced & dressed brick
Windows: timber
Paving:
Other:

SURVEY DATE: 7/3/91 **NEG FILE:** 2/11 **REPORTER:** TH

INTEGRITY: E || G || F |X| P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** Strong arcading including one smaller arch possibly a former doorway.

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

SIGNIFICANCE: Home of the *Hamilton Spectator*, the building uses the Conservative Classical style of architecture to appear dignified, stable and thoroughly respectable - like a bank.

ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Appropriate:	Rec	Inappropriate:	Rec
		painted brick work	RAM
		windows tampered with	O
		roof replaced	O

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

SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS:

land to D Cameron Sr 20.05.52
George Robinson, founding editor (1st owner)

ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS:

TITLE:

C A Sect
13 8

George Mott, partner and editor (1870s)
Hamilton Spectator Partnership present owner

COUNCIL COMPUTER # 10813.0049

MORE INFO OVER |X|

HAMDS055

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Office of *Hamilton Spectator*
59 Gray Street

This building has local significance as the office of one of the most powerful social and political influences in the Hamilton district, beginning as a liberal, protectionist journal and, from the 1870s, favouring a more conservative, free trade view. Constructed in 1873, ⁽ⁱ⁾ this Gray Street building has historical importance for its associations with George Robinson (c1824-1896), publisher and printer, who founded the *Hamilton Spectator* in 1860, ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ and with his partner and editor from the early 1870s George H Mott (c1832-1906) formerly proprietor of the Albury newspaper, the *Border Post*. Under Mott's influence the newspaper followed a more conservative course. ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ Mott was associated with another significance Hamilton building, Kilorra, at 45 Kennedy Street; the first section was built for Mott in 1871-72. ^(iv)

The building uses the Conservative Classical style of architecture to appear dignified, stable and thoroughly respectable - like a bank. The arch to the right of the facade was probably over a doorway. The main windows have probably been altered to accommodate newly available plate glass. The building has been extended at the rear. Otherwise the building is relatively intact externally and it is in good condition.

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town:
Communications:
Notable men and women.

ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS

1860s, 1870s Kilorra, 45 Kennedy Street. (1871)
Newspapers.

REFERENCES

Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, 1984.
Hamilton Rate Books.

FOOTNOTES

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- ⁱ *Hamilton Rate Book* 1873, No. 175 (shop and printing office, NAV 100 pounds), 1876, No. 181 (offices of *Spectator*, NAV110 pounds), 1877, No. 173 (brick offices of *Hamilton Spectator*, NAV 100 pounds); *Hamilton Spectator*, 11 January 1873.
- ⁱⁱ Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, p 74.
- ⁱⁱⁱ *Ibid.*, p 75-76.
- ^{iv} *Hamilton Rate Book 1871*, No. 252 (house, NAV 8 pounds), 1872, No. 244 (house allot. NAV 50 pounds).