

**BUILDING TITLE:** Old Grandstand **BUILDING ADDRESS:** Melville Oval (Corner Milton Street & Market Place)  
**LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:** A || B || C |X| D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:** grandstand  
**DESIGNATION:** HBR Reg No File # AHC File # 014523 NT File # 3673 Class |X| Rec ||  
**CONSERVATION AREA:** Melville Oval **LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE:** 1 || 2 || 3 |X|  
**STYLE:** Edwardian

**CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:**

1. c1909
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

**Sources:**

1. Garden, D, *Hamilton*, p 182 and  
National Estate Citation

**MATERIALS:**

**Roof:** corrugated iron  
**Walls:** corrugated iron  
**Dressings:** timber  
**Plinth:** none  
**Windows:** timber dhs & casements  
**Paving:** asphalt and gravel  
**Other:** cast iron balcony and brackets  
timber benches and stairs

**SURVEY DATE:** 4/5/91 **NEG FILE:** 5/7-10 **REPORTER:** tfh

**INTEGRITY:** E |X| G || F || P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** use of corrugated iron for walls; elegant forms acheived with roof

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

**SIGNIFICANCE:** Principle centre for active recreation in Hamilton,; memorial to W H Melville, Hamilton's leading citizen at the time and one of its most distinguished in its history.

**ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Appropriate:** Rec **Inappropriate:** Rec  
renovation in 1980s none  
corrugated iron should not be painted

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

**SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS:** City of Hamilton **ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS:** Frank Hammond ? **TITLE:** CA Sec  
former Market Reserve

COUNCIL COMPUTER #

MORE INFO OVER |X|

HAMDS102

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Grandstand  
Melville Oval

The Melville Oval grandstand is of local significance for its historical associations with various sports and recreational pursuits and for the elegance of its Edwardian architecture. A Band Rotunda, since relocated to the Botanic Gardens, once stood beside it. The low lying area north-west of Lonsdale Street was originally reserved for market purposes when it was thought that Lonsdale street would be Hamilton's commercial centre. By 1902 there were moves to beautify the area and use it for recreation. Led by W H Melville then Hamilton's leading citizen, this push was thwarted until the death of its main opponent, Cr R S Bree. <sup>(i)</sup> Frank Hammond the Town Clerk and Engineer was probably responsible for the design. The development of the oval was significant because the City of Hamilton had to take out a considerable loan to fund the works. Melville Oval, named after its generous champion, was opened in 1909 by the Hon J Murray, Premier of Victoria. <sup>(ii)</sup>

The oval and the grandstand have been in constant use ever since. The surrounding plantings and the various ornaments including the memorial gates are important landscape elements which support the grandstand, now the major building in the reserve. Melville Oval is a focus for the City of Hamilton and is the centre for the Conservation Area surrounding it.

The grandstand has been refurbished and additions at the back now include a small function area. <sup>(iii)</sup> The building is substantially intact and in good condition. The removal of the Band Rotunda and alterations to the fabric of the Grandstand have diminished the integrity of the complex.

### ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Recreation:                      Active sports  
    Passive sports  
Evolution of the Town: 1900s  
Notable Men & Women: W H Melville

### ASSOCIATED HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Band rotunda (moved to Botanic Gardens)  
Boer War Memorial (moved to cnr Market & Milton Sts)

### REFERENCES

Garden, D, *Hamilton*, North Melbourne, 1984  
Australian Heritage Commission, File No. 014523.

### FOOTNOTES

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- <sup>i</sup> Garden, D, *Hamilton*, p 181.  
<sup>ii</sup> Australian Heritage Commission, File No. 014523.  
<sup>iii</sup> Ibid. The grandstand was rejected for addition to the Register of the national Estate in May 1990.