

**BUILDING TITLE:** St Luke's Lutheran Church      **BUILDING ADDRESS:** Ballarat Road, cnr of Hillers Lane  
**LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:** A ||      B ||      C |X|      D ||      E ||      **BUILDING TYPE:** church  
**DESIGNATION:** HBR Reg No      File #      AHC File #      NT File # 2269 Class || Rec |X|  
**CONSERVATION AREA:** outside      **LEVEL OF STREETSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE:**      1 ||      2 ||      3 ||  
**STYLE:** Gothis Revival (naive)

**CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:**

1. 1861
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

**Sources:**

1 Garden, D, Hamilton, p 83 and  
National Trust File No 2269.

**MATERIALS:**

**Roof:** corrugated iron  
**Walls:** red brick  
**Dressings:** cement render  
**Plinth:** bluestone  
**Windows:** timber dhs & fixed  
**Paving:**  
**Other:** timber crosses

**SURVEY DATE:** 16/5/91      **NEG FILE:** 10/3      **REPORTER:** tfh

**INTEGRITY:** E |      G |X|      F ||      P ||      **NOTABLE FEATURES:** Naive Gothic detailing and simple form  
**CONDITION:** E |      G |X|      F ||      P ||

**SIGNIFICANCE:** One of the oldest Lutheran churches in the state and an important building at the entrance to the city.

**ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Appropriate:**      Rec      **Inappropriate:**      Rec  
none apparent

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

**SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS:**      **ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS:**      **TITLE:**  
originally outside town boundaries           Sec      CA

COUNCIL COMPUTER #

MORE INFO OVER |X|

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St Luke's Lutheran Church  
Ballarat Road (corner of Hiller Lane)

Built on land originally outside the city's boundaries, St Luke's is of local historic and architectural significance for its naive Gothic Revival style and its associations with the early Lutheran community. It was built in 1861 which makes it one of the oldest Lutheran churches in the state and it was probably designed within the congregation. <sup>(i)</sup> One of the earliest and probably the most important incumbent was Pastor C G Hiller from 1865 to 1917. He lived nearby in his cottage on the opposite side of Hiller Lane. <sup>(ii)</sup> Although nominally "Evangelical" this congregation appears to have been a different sect from the mainstream Evangelical Lutherans from Hochkirch (Tarrington) and Tabor. <sup>(iii)</sup> By the 1870s and 1880s the congregation had declined so much from further migration to the Wimmera that there was only one service per month. <sup>(iv)</sup> The church went further into decline with the resolution of religious differences between the sects and the establishment of a town congregation in 1939. <sup>(v)</sup>

The form and detailing are very simple with the only suggestions of the Gothic style being in the buttresses and pointed windows. The materials are also very plain but the church was soundly built, is still substantially intact and is in good condition. It can be compared with the Baptist Church in Collins Street, Hamilton and the Seventh Day Adventist Church in King Street, Hamilton. The church is now part of a folk history museum.

The adjacent old buildings relocated to the site do not form part of the significance of St Luke's Lutheran Church.

### ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Religion: Lutheranism  
Immigration: German  
Evolution of the Town: 1860s

### ASSOCIATED HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tarrington (Hochkirch)  
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Martin Street  
Pastor Hiller's House, Hiller Lane  
Baptist Church, Collins Street  
Seventh Day Adventist Church, King Street

### REFERENCES

Garden, D, Hamilton, North Melbourne, 1984.  
National Trust File No 2269.

### FOOTNOTES

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- <sup>i</sup> Garden, D, *Hamilton*, p 83 and National Trust File No 2269 which states that the church at Thomastown predates this by about five years.  
<sup>ii</sup> The coyyage is outside the City of Hamilton, Hiller lane being the present boundary.  
<sup>iii</sup> Garden, loc cit.  
<sup>iv</sup> Garden, p 149.  
<sup>v</sup> Garden, p 222.