

BUILDING TITLE: Thomsons Stores **BUILDING ADDRESS:** 140 Gray St
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: A || B |X| C || D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:**
DESIGNATION: HBR Reg No File # AHC File # NT File # Class || Rec ||
CONSERVATION AREA: Gray St Commercial **LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE:** 1 || 2 |X| 3 ||
STYLE: Late Victorian

CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:

1. 1866 (iron store)
2. c1872 (present stone building)
- 3.
- 4.
5. 1983-4 (rear sold to Woolworths)
- 6.

Sources:

- 1 *Hamilton Rate Book* 1866 No 89
- 2 *Ibid*, 1872 No 95

5 HSA DP No 220, 221

MATERIALS:

Roof: corrugated iron
Walls: brick render/face
Dressings: cement render
Plinth: tiles
Windows: timber dhs
Paving: pirelli rubber
Other: modern shopfronts

SURVEY DATE: 7/3/91 **NEG FILE:** 12/16,17 **REPORTER:** TFH

INTEGRITY: E || G || F |X| P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** Stilted arches of windows.

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

SIGNIFICANCE: Major keystone building in Gray St streetscape. Strong retailing interests and the longest running department store in Hamilton which has service the region since 1866.

ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Appropriate:	Rec	Inappropriate:	Rec
		verandah	O
		shopfronts	S

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

SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS:	ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS:	TITLE:
land to W Smith, 8/9/52		Sec 5 C A 5,6(part)
	John Thomson & Co, owners 1939 Thomsons Plaza, owner 1990	
COUNCIL COMPUTER #	MORE INFO OVER X	HAMDS062

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Thomson's Store
140 Gray Street

This building has regional significance as one of the earliest large stores in Hamilton and beyond, described in 1893 as having 'the most extensive wholesale and retail trade in the west, supplying every requisite for household, farm or station.'⁽ⁱ⁾ The building has historical importance for its associations with the Thomson family, Scots who came to Victoria in 1852 and settled in Hamilton, soon becoming prominent in town affairs.⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ Thomson's iron store was established on its present site in 1866 or earlier⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ and was replaced in 1872 by a stone store,^(iv) which forms part of the present building. Thomson's is a key building in the Gray Street streetscape. The store expanded in the 1870s, 1880s and later^(v). In 1937 John Thomson & Co. became a public company.^(vi) More recently, in 1983-84 an area behind Thomson's was acquired by Woolworth's and a large supermarket and several specialty shops were erected.^(vii)

The existing facade probably dates from the 1880-s expansion. From that time it remains substantially intact. The original verandah was wooden and appears in many early photographs of the street. The present verandah is quite recent. The building is in good condition and is a keystone in the streetscape of Gray Street .

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1860s - 1890s
Tertiary Industry: Department Stores
Notable men and women: Thomson family

ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS

Former Temperance Hall, 77 Kennedy Street
13 Gray Street, home of Martha Thomson
Former Miller's Store, 121 Gray Street
Coles Fossey Store, 117 Gray Street

REFERENCES

Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, North Melbourne, 1984.
Illustrated Australian News, 1 December 1893.
Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, pp 71-72.
Hamilton Rate Books
HSA DP No. 220-1 (1939).
HSA DP No. 220-1 (1990).

FOOTNOTES

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- i *Illustrated Australian News*, 1 December 1893.
ii *Garden, Don, Hamilton*, pp 71-72.
iii *Hamilton Rate Book 1866*, No. 89 (Iron store, NAV 180 pounds).
iv *Ibid*, 1872, No. 95 (NAV doubled), 1877, No. 106 (stone store, residence etc., NAV 300 pounds).
v *Garden, Don, Hamilton*, p 72.
vi *Ibid.*, p 213; HSA DP No. 220-1 (1939).
vii *Ibid.*, p 230, HSA DP No. 220-1 (1990).