

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: HAMILTON SOUTH LUTHERAN CEMETERY

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Chatsworth Road HAMILTON

STUDY NUMBER: 354

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 1 **SECTION:** III **PARISH:** PARISH OF HAMILTON SOUTH

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 432K N11; VicRoads 73 B5; located on the south side of the Hamilton-Chatsworth Road immediately east of the intersection of the Hamilton Highway and the Glenelg Highway.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Lutheran Cemetery, Hamilton Chatsworth Road, Hamilton South

Image Date:

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the cemetery reserve, including all of the buildings, tombstones and burials.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Hamilton South Lutheran Cemetery is located on the south side of the Chatsworth Road, about six kilometres east of the centre of Hamilton. The cemetery is roughly square ten acre parcel of land with about 1,000 burials and tombstones. The cemetery is defined by simple wire fencing on three sides, with a cyclone mesh fence and simple gates defining the entrance on the southern side of Chatsworth Road. There is a row of evenly spaced Bhutan Cypress (*Cupressus torulosa*) planted along the fence inside the cemetery, which are in excellent condition.

HISTORY:

The passing of the English Metropolitan Internments Act granted the Board of Health in London to provide burial grounds. This seems to have influenced legislation in the Australian colonies. Cemeteries were usually developed in association with particular churches or as a result of public meetings of concerned citizens. "In 1854, an 'Act for the Establishment and Management of Cemeteries in the Colony of Victoria' was passed by the Victorian Government forming the basis of cemetery management as we know it today. The Government had the power to appoint and remove trustees and lend or pay money for the establishment of cemeteries. The trustees were charged with the responsibilities to construct structures and avenues; impose rules and regulations to manage and protect the cemeteries; allow ministers of religion free access and religious denominations to build mortuary chapels; have the right to veto and remove inappropriate vaults and monuments; and to keep accounts and statements" (Sagazio, 13). The passing of the 'Municipal Institutions Establishment Act' in 1854 became the basis of Victoria's local government. Local councils were given control over amenities including roads, bridges, streets, sanitation and public health. The 'Public Health Act' was also passed in 1854 and it was envisaged that local councils would also have the responsibility for management of public cemeteries. "Under the provisions of the Public Health Act 1889 the Minister for Health and the Department of Public Health became responsible for the management of cemeteries and the responsibility has remained within the Health portfolio since that time" (ibid., 15).

Most small suburban and country cemeteries were simple in layout with graves in straight lines in either a grid or a design of winding paths. The latter was an influence from English cemetery design, particularly from John Claudius Loudon, and to a lesser extent American cemetery design, from such landscape garden designers as Calvert and Vaux. Plantings were typically those with a funereal iconography such as *Cupressus funebris*, *C. sempervirens*, various *Pinus* species, Laurels, Yews and Junipers. Their common quality was their evergreen and sombre foliage. In special cases trees, shrubs or minor plants were planted with specific association for the deceased. Cemeteries were subdivided into sections according to the major Christian denominations. In rare cases there were also sections for non-Christians, such as the Jews.

The land (Allotment 1, Section 3, Parish of South Hamilton) on which the South Hamilton Lutheran Cemetery now stands, was first purchased from the Crown in June 1853 by Michael Deutscher. Two acres was transferred by Deutscher to the Trustees of the Lutheran congregation, viz., Pastor Clamor Wilhelm Schurmann, Michael Deutscher, Christian Gotthelf Petschel and Johann Huf, on 14 October 1853. On 4 August 1854 the whole of the Allotment was transferred to the Trustees after the final payment for the land was received. (Huf, 2003, 41)

According to Huf (59), the first Lutheran Church at South Hamilton was located on the site of the present cemetery. This was described by Pastor Schurmann in 1854 as "...a little church or school, built of wood and clay, with a thatched roof; a modest dwelling, 28 feet long by 16 feet wide, good enough for a start, and also large enough for the present..." (Schurmann, in Huf, 59). When Maria Pipkorn died in 1855, she was buried in the church yard, following German tradition. The second burial, was that of Maria Zieschang, was conducted two years later, in 1857. Since this time the area has been used for Lutheran burials. The church quickly became too small, and in 1857 a new church was built closer to the large Lutheran community at Hochkirch (Tarrington) (ibid.).

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THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 9: Marking the phases of life

9.7 Dying

9.7.1 Dealing with human remains

9.7.3 Remembering the dead

CONDITION:

Very good condition.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The South Hamilton Lutheran Cemetery, located the south side of Chatsworth Road, near Hamilton is a rare example of a single denominational cemetery. The cemetery reflects the early Lutheran history and settlement of The Grange, later known as Hamilton. The cemetery stands where the original South Hamilton Lutheran Church stood, built in 1854 by the earliest Lutheran families to settle the area. The cemetery is set on a roughly square ten acre allotment on the boundary of the City of Hamilton, and contains roughly about 1000 burials. The cemetery has a variety of monuments, most simple and unpretentious. The layout is on a simple grid, and there is a row planting of Bhutan Cypress (*Cupressus torulosa*) along the boundary fence which fronts Chatsworth Road. The Cemetery continues to be used as a burial place, and is maintained in very good condition. It retains a very high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The South Hamilton Lutheran Cemetery is of historical and social significance to the Lutheran community and the Southern Grampians Shire.

What is significant?

The South Hamilton Lutheran Cemetery is of historical significance as an enduring record of those who have lived and died in the community, as a reflection of passing phases, ways of life and death, particular events, and as documentary evidence. It is of particular historical interest as an early expression of the strength of the Lutheran communities in the Hamilton district, and the families who settled at The Grange in the 1850s.

The Cemetery is of social significance for reflecting the customs and tastes of the community, for reflecting different religious values, and for reflecting different economic and social status. It is also important as a place of passive recreation. Of particular social significance is the absence of people from other denominations being buried in the cemetery. It is a rare surviving example of a single denomination burial ground. This is a physical representation of the close knit Lutheran community in the Hamilton area in the nineteenth century.

COMPARISON:

353 Gnadenthal Cemetery, Day's Lane, Penshurst

388 Bethlehem Lutheran Church Complex, Tabor Road, Tabor

066 Zion Lutheran Church Complex, Byaduk Lutheran Church Road, Byaduk

ASSESSED BY: tfh & aen

ASSESSMENT DATE:

25-Oct-02

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

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No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Celestina Sagazio, ed.	Cemeteries, Our Heritage	1992	
Don Garden	Hamilton A Western District History	1984	111
Edna E. Nagorecka	The Mibus Family in Australia 1847 -1985; Johann and Dorothea Mibus	1985	22
Elizabeth (Betty) Huf	Huf: 150 Years in Australia 1847 - 1997	1997	59
Elizabeth Huf	Courage Patience and Persistence-150 Years of German Settlement in Western Victoria	2003	