

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** LUTHERAN MANSE (FORMER)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** 8 Hiller Lane HAMILTON

**STUDY NUMBER:** 390

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

**OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE:** PASTOR HILLER'S HOUSE

**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** part 13 **SECTION:** 4 **PARISH:** PARISH OF HAMILTON SOUTH

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 432K M10; VicRoads 231 M8; located on the east side of Hiller Lane about .5kms north of the Glenelg Highway and facing west.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Lutheran Manse (Former), 8 Hiller Lane, South Hamilton

**Image Date:** 15/05/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the all the building, but excluding the interiors, and all of the land.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The bluestone building comprises a ground floor of four main rooms with a standard symmetrical plan about a front and a rear hall. There is an attic storey completely enclosed within the steep roof and lit by small windows in the end gables. Dormer windows appear to have been introduced later. The simple timber verandah has been modified but retains its shingles. Importantly, there is a central chimney breast in the rear hall, positioned similarly to those in the vernacular houses of the Barossa Valley. The building is in good condition. There is a large old Peppercorn tree, *Schinus molle* at the side of the drive, which probably dates from the construction date of the house.

## **HISTORY:**

Pastor C W Schurmann arrived in the Hamilton district in 1854 and an Evangelical Lutheran congregation was soon established at "South" Hamilton, about a mile east of the township. The first building was a pug and timber framed church with a thatched roof. This would have been similar to the first residences built by Lutherans, some of which still survive. Michael Deutscher had purchased the land, allotment 3 of section 1 of the Parish of South Hamilton comprising some 81 acres in 1854 and ten acres was subdivided from it for the purpose. In 1855 Oscar Muller was called to become the first teacher using the primitive church as a classroom. Johann Rentsch purchased allotment 13 of section 4 of the Parish of South Hamilton from the Crown in the mid-1850s, the land on which the Manse was built. It comprised about 31 acres. From 1865 to 1917, the pastor was C G Hiller. The present house probably dates from the time of his calling. Although called an 'Evangelical' Lutheran Church, according to Don Garden, the congregation at Lutherans in south-eastern Australia in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries were seriously divided by doctrinal differences (Phillips in Lewis, 14-5). The personality of leaders seems to have influenced allegiances as well. There was a schism in 1846. The congregations in the Hamilton district continued to look to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of South Australian led by Pastor Fritzsche Lobethal. Pastor Schurmann had died at Bethany in the Barossa Valley attending a Synod in 1893. The other Lutherans in Victoria were further divided but came together as the General Synod of 1876 only to split in 1884. The Lutheran Church Federation was formed in 1920 but still did not include the Hamilton congregations. It was not until 1966 that the two streams came together as the Lutheran Church of Australia

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South Hamilton appears to have been slightly different in its principles and doctrine from those at Tabor and Hochkirk, the stronger congregations by size (Garden, 149). The South Hamilton congregation began to decline "because of a drift of some of the Lutheran population to the Wimmera in the 1870s and 1880s" reducing the services held there by Pastor Hiller to one a month (Garden, 149). Eventually, a new church was established (in a temporary hall) at the corner of Martin and Thompson Streets, Hamilton and its pre-eminence was confirmed when an even larger building was erected there in 1958. The former manse was no longer needed, the land was subdivided and sold.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life  
8.6 Worshipping  
8.6.1 Worshipping together  
8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions  
8.6.4 Making places for worship  
8.12 Living in and around Australian homes  
8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

## **CONDITION:**

Very good

## **INTEGRITY:**

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Good degree of integrity.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The former Lutheran Manse at 8 Hiller Lane, South Hamilton was probably built for Pastor C G Hiller when he was called to the congregation in 1865. Notwithstanding a decline in membership due to immigration into the Wimmera, he remained the congregation's pastor until 1917, some thirteen years longer than his colleague and predecessor, Pastor C W Schurmann at Hochkirk. The bluestone building comprises a ground floor of four main rooms with a standard symmetrical plan about a front and a rear hall. There is an attic storey completely enclosed within the steep roof and lit by small windows in the end gables. Dormer windows appear to have been introduced later. The simple timber verandah has been modified but retains its shingles. Importantly, there is a central chimney breast in the rear hall, positioned similarly to those in the vernacular houses of the Barossa Valley. The building is in good condition. The original 31 acres is now much reduced, the present allotment being a standard house block. There is a large old Peppercorn tree, Schinus molle at the side of the drive, which probably dates from the beginning of the house.

How is it significant?

The former Lutheran Parsonage, 8 Hiller Lane is of historical and architectural significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The former Lutheran Parsonage, 8 Hiller Lane is of historical significance as the oldest surviving of several Lutheran parsonages in the Shire (possibly one of the oldest in Victoria) and particularly for its association with Pastor C G Hiller.

It is of architectural significance for its traditional form, probably derived from German vernacular residential buildings.

## COMPARISON:

388 Bethlehem Lutheran Church Complex, Tabor Road, Tabor

382 St Michael's Lutheran Church Complex, Hamilton Highway, Tarrington

**ASSESSED BY:** tfh

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

10-Feb-03

## EXISTING LISTINGS:

## HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

## REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Don Garden	Hamilton, A Western District History	1984	83, 149, 222, 231
Walter Phillips, in Miles Lewis, ed.	Victorian Churches, their origins, their story & their architecture	1991	14 & 15