
Former Bank



27229 Former Bank

Location

58-60 Thompson Street HAMILTON, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

SIGNIFICANCE: One of the very early banks in Hamilton and important as an element in the streetscape with its neighbours

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Former Bank

58-60 Thompson Street

This building has local significance for its architecture and historical associations. It was built on land originally sold by the crown at auction in 1852 to a J Hutchison. (i) This was probably John Hutcheson (c1819-70) who, with his brother George, was an early miller in Hamilton. (ii) Hutcheson also bought the block next door and may have lived in the townhouse which survives there. The bank was built in the early 1860s or even the 1850s and it appears to have been occupied by the Bank of Victoria or the Colonial Bank. (iii) It represents the first stage of

banking in the town and is more humble than those which date from the next decades. The building has the standard plan and form of early banks with two entrances, one for the chamber at the front and one for the residence at the rear. It was most important that the bank manager lived on the premises. The Conservative Classical style was used to create a sense of reliability and respectability in the bank's depositors. The facade which has the simplest of classical detailing is slightly asymmetrical.

The building has long been used as offices both for the Lands Department and for various professionals. Now one section is occupied by the Medici Hair Salon and the other is vacant. The building remains significantly intact and is in good condition. Like several of its neighbours it represents the expansion of the Gray Street commercial area into surrounding streets. It is an important element within the streetscape, especially with its neighbour at 56 Thompson Street and in contrast to Roxburgh House, 64 Thompson Street.

FOOTNOTES

i *Township of Hamilton Parish Plan*. No other spelling mistakes have been found in the Parish Plan but the authors are confident that this is John Hutcheson. Alternatively the difference in spelling may be Garden's.

ii Garden, D, *Hamilton*, p 48-49.

iii It has not been possible to corroborate this with the Rate Books but this building seems to have preceeded the bank built at 131 Gray Street in 1867.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1860,
Hermes Number	27229
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

MATERIALS:

Roof: corrugated iron

Walls: rendered brick

Dressings: cement render

Plinth: rockface bluestone

Windows: timber dhs

Paving: none

Other: cast iron downpipes

NOTABLE FEATURES: separate entries

LEVEL OF STREETSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE: 1 || 2 |X| 3 ||

STYLE: Conservative Classical

Historical Australian Themes

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1860s

Tertiary Industry: Banking

Integrity

Integrity: E

Physical Conditions

Conditions: E

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>