
Tops to Tails



26530 Tops to Tails

Location

157-159 Gray St and Eastside of McGuigar Lane 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: Early building in Gray Street which was always used for commercial purposes. Owned by EW Stapylton Bree, a leading merchant and public figure. Later shop window by Gill.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Tops to Tails
157 Gray Street

This building has local significance for its architectural interest as an early Gray Street shop with a 1920s Gill shopfront and for its possible historical associations with the merchants R S Bree and A T Dickens. A rate book

search suggests that the shop may date from the late 1870s when Bree & Dickens owned stone stores and an office in Crown Allotments 12 & 13, Section 4, in Gray Street. ([i]) In 1865, Bree (1839-1907) from Cornwall, became the manager of S G Henty's Warrayure property and in 1871 married his daughter, Annie Henty. ([ii]) The site of No. 157 Gray Street was owned by S G Henty in 1852. A 1938 drainage plan confirms that the front portion of No. 157 Gray Street was stone with brick additions at the rear. ([iii]) Bree came to Hamilton in 1872, purchased an auctioneer's business, and became a leading townsman. He was a councillor, Mayor, and he owned the substantial Bewsall property. ([iv]) His partner, Arthur Tennyson Dickens, was the son of the celebrated author, Charles Dickens. ([v]) The owner of the property in the 1930s was G Strangio. ([vi])

The building shows a restrained Classicism in its architecture. It must have had a two storey verandah ([vii]) which has been replaced by the Council's standard 1960s cantilever design. The 1920s shopfront has suffered only superficial changes. The building is in fair condition.

[i] *Hamilton Rate Book 1877*, No. 69,; 1887, No. 90 (office, NAV 40 pounds).

[ii] Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, p 72.

[iii] *HSA DP* No. 8, for G Strangio. A verandah, now removed, is shown on the front of the building.

[iv] Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, pp 72-74.

[v] *Ibid.*, p 73.

[vi] *HSA DP* No.8, for G Strangio; The builder of the additions may have been Reg Williams. A conversation with Williams' daughter, Mrs Christie, on 16 May 1991, referred to work for Strangio, but alluded to another Hamilton building, Scullions, at 196 Gray Street.

[vii] This appears in early photographs but indistinctly. See note 3 above.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1877, 1920,
Hermes Number	26530
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

MATERIALS:

Roof: corrugated iron

Walls: rendered brick

Dressings: cement render

Plinth: glazed green tiles

Windows: nickle/plate glass

Paving:

Other: aluminium windows at first floor

NOTABLE FEATURES: Middle window originally French doors to verandah but now missing.

Historical Australian Themes

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Secondary Industry: Merchants & Auctioneers.

Integrity

Integrity: F

Physical Conditions

Conditions: F

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/>