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# Thomsons Stores



26564 Thomsons Stores

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## Location

140 Gray St HAMILTON, Southern Grampians Shire

## Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

## Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

**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.

## 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 .

[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).

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1866, 1872, 1983,
Hermes Number	26564
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

### MATERIALS:

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

**NOTABLE FEATURES:** Stilted arches of windows.

## Historical Australian Themes

**ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES**

Evolution of the Town: 1860s - 1890s

Tertiary Industry: Department Stores

Notable men and women: Thomson family

**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/>*