
Dundas Shire Offices & Hall (third)



26651 Dundas Shire Offices
& Hall (third)

Location

1 Market Place 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 -

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dundas Shire Offices and Hall (third)
Market Place

The Dundas Shire Offices and Hall are of regional significance for its architectural interest and for its historical associations with the Dundas Shire, which, like the Hamilton township, was originally part of the Portland Road District and then the Dundas Road District. The Dundas Road Board was proclaimed in 1857. (i) The first offices, designed by J S Jenkins, were opened in 1864 on the reserve at the corner of Pope and Dryden Streets but these were burnt down in 1876. (ii) The replacement built by the insurance company was condemned by the Board of Health in 1890. Its replacement was built in 1892, (iii) at a time when most of Victoria and certainly

Melbourne was suffering from a grievous depression. The building has been much altered. The foundation stone of the third hall, designed by the Shire's Engineer, J d'A Moynan, was laid 2 June 1892. Moynan was Shire Engineer from 1888- 1901. ([iv])

The building is an interesting exercise in the fashionable Queen Ann style and uses all of the usual forms, materials and devices. Of particular interest are the pressed and glazed tiles in the pair of prominent gables, the timber detiling of the porch, and an early use of pressed metal over the bay windows simulating shingles. The cast iron newel posts are oversized, another typical trend at this time. Rather old fashioned is the polychrome brick detailing at the rear. The building, almost certainly influenced by illustrated books or journals from England, may have been designed "in house". It shows a special sophistication remarkable for the time and the place. It survives significantly intact and in excellent condition. With its siting it is an important contributor to the streetscape.

[i] Garden, D, *Hamilton*, p 66. The municipality of Hamilton, an island in the shire, was gazetted in 1859.

[ii] Ibid, p 68 & 111; *Dundas Shire Centenary 1863-1963*, pp 22-23. Includes illustrations of 1st Shire Hall (p 21) and present Shire Hall (p 22)

[iii] Ibid.

[iv] Ibid and Garden, p 175.

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| Heritage Study/Consultant | Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991; |
| Construction dates | 1864, 1877, 1892, |
| Architect/Designer | Moynan, J d'A, |
| Hermes Number | 26651 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Description 1

MATERIALS:

Roof: »corrugated iron

Walls: »tuck pointed red brick

Dressings: »cement render

Plinth: »dressed bluestone

Windows: »timber double hung sash

Paving: »concrete or brick

Other: »pressed metal roof to bays; "Murano" glass in windows; cream brick details at rear; timber verandah; massive cast iron newel posts pressed & glazed tiles

Physical Description 2

NOTABLE FEATURES: »combination of materials all associated with the Queen Ann/Federation period.

Integrity

INTEGRITY: E

CONDITION: E

Historical Australian Themes

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1890s

Government institutions: Local

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/>