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# Gallery and Regional Library



26674 Sth Gramps Page 025

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## Location

Brown Street 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:** »Part of the Municipal complex, the building has significance for its cultural associations as well as for its architecture.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Art Gallery

Brown Street

This public building has regional significance as an illustration of the leading role played by Hamilton in recent years in the cultural life of the region. In recognition of the increasing importance of this aspect of Western District life, Hamilton Council had a major involvement in the construction of the combined regional art gallery and library

in Brown Street, which opened in late 1961. ([1]) It was designed by the Melbourne architect, Douglas D Alexandra, B. Arch., and a lecturer in design in the University of Melbourne's Architecture School, a second floor was added to the gallery in 1973. ([2])

Hamilton Council's involvement in the Fine Arts began in 1957 when H B Shaw, a Kiama grazier, died and bequeathed his collection of works of art to the Council and 6,000 pounds towards the cost of a building to house it. The Foresters Hall next to the Town Hall was demolished to make way for the new building, which was jointly funded by the Shires of Dundas, Glenelg and Wannon. The gallery won the patronage of the wealthier grazier interests in the Western District and it now boasts an unusually rich collection for a provincial gallery. ([3])

The building is significantly intact and in excellent condition. It is a major component in the Gray Street Commercial area and particularly the municipal precinct.

[1] Garden, D, *Hamilton*, pp 231, 243.

[2] *Who's Who of Hamilton and districts*, unpaginated. Includes 'A Tribute To The Architect'. Alexandra graduated in 1949 and it was noted he was born in Shepparton and had a particular interest in civic architecture. The journal's cover showed a model of 'the proposed new art gallery and library titled 'A Cultural Dream Come True!'

[3] Ibid.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1961, 1973,
Architect/Designer	Davidson, Alexander,
Hermes Number	26674
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

### **MATERIALS:**

**Roof:** »tray deck?

**Walls:** »red brick

**Dressings:** »steel

**Plinth:** »none

**Windows:** »aluminium

**Paving:** »red brick/

**Other:** »

## Physical Description 2

**NOTABLE FEATURES:**»Use of the International style.

## Integrity

INTEGRITY: E

CONDITION: E

## Historical Australian Themes

### **ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEME:**

Evolution of the Town: 1960s - 1970s

Sport & Recreation: art gallery & library

Pastoralism: graziers

*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/>*