
St Ronan's Precinct Hamilton



City of Hamilton Conservation
Study 1991

Location

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 -

The St Ronan's area is of local significance for both its architecture and its historic associations. It includes an important collection of buildings ranging in date from the earliest period of Hamilton's settlement to the interwar period and gardens which compliment the significance of the individual buildings. The planting and domestic scale of the St Ronan's area are critical and promote, with the topography, an important view to and from the centre of Hamilton

Heritage Study/Consultant Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;

Hermes Number 24248

Property Number

Physical Description 1

The focus for the St Ronan's area is the house of that name at 5 Dryden Street. The large house has brooded over the town since the 1860s and once enjoyed a much larger garden. It sits on the rise above the Shire Hall and Offices. There are several other notable houses and the character of the area is predominantly domestic. The gardens of the houses, while typical of their various periods, are of a high standard. The best garden which still enjoys its original layout and probably some of the first plantings is The Bungalow, 6 Dryden Street. ([1]) It has the notable *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican or Washington Palm, the highest in Hamilton.

The three other notable trees in the St Ronan's area are the *Magnolia grandiflora*, Bull Bay, at the Manor House, 4 Dryden Street; the *Waterhousea floribunda*, Weeping Myrtle, at St Ronan's, 5 Dryden Street; and the *Crataegus X lavallei*, French Hawthorn, at 7 Dryden Street in the rear garden.

The early garden at 32 Collins Street was once well developed and maximised the slope behind the house. Several old *Quercus robur*, English Oaks, close the view at the rear. There are the remnants of an orchard at one side and there may have a vegetable garden on the other side. The gardens associated with the other early buildings in the St Ronan's area have been mostly lost.

The most important road through this area is Pope Street, the main road to the west. It is now a divided highway with plantings typical of the late 1960s reflecting the fashion for natives at that time. Dryden Street is the principle residential street and is planted *Lagunaria pattersonia*, Cow Itch Tree on the north side and *Prunus serrulata*, Flowering Cherry on the south side. The former is a traditional street tree but the latter reflects the push to make Hamilton the "Floral Town" in the post Second World War period. They are out of scale and out of period. Collins Street is planted with *Photinia serrulata*, Chinese Hawthorn, and *Crataegus laevigata*, English Hawthorn, both of which are small trees but these are well formed and, if a small street tree is required, the *Photinia* provides a good model.

Throughout the area the footpaths and gutters are concrete dating from the post Second World War period. There are narrow nature strips. The most important view from the St Ronan's area is across the former Market Reserve which is now the Melville Oval. The view east along Collins Street is soon terminated but the view west is good and looks out across the valley of the Grange Burn and over agricultural land to windbreak trees on the horizon.

[1] The present owners hold a photograph of the house which must have been taken soon after its construction and which shows the original garden being laid out.

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/>