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# The Manor House



26567 The Manor House

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## Location

4 Dryden 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:** Built in 1862 for J McSheehy, engineer Dundas Roads Board, this house has also been occupied by several local doctors until 1930 and is notable for its elegant architecture and as a landmark.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Manor House  
4 Dryden St

The Manor House is of regional significance for its association with various owners, for the simple elegance of its architecture and as a landmark. It was built in 1862, according to the date scratched into one of the quoins, for

John McSheehy, the first engineer with the Dundas Roads Board and later Borough ([i]), who may have designed the building. ([ii]) It seems that he never lived there but was forced to sell to his mortgagor, Samuel Pratt Winter Cooke of Murndal. ([iii]) It was occupied for several decades by Hamilton doctors including Dr J.R. Wylie in the 1870s ([iv]), Dr Arthur Bennett, a Hamilton mayor, from 1887 to 1930 ([v]) and Dr R. W. Brown in the 1960s. ([vi]) Two brothers, retired pastoralists, first John and later Donald McLellan, lived there. ([vii])

This noteworthy mid-Victorian era house of substantial scale has importance as the best example in Hamilton of a popular domestic style of the 1860s. ([viii]) It was very well built. The house uses several materials which are notable, such as slate for the roof and Grampians (Mt Sturgeon) sandstone for the quoins. ([ix]) The tall French doors opening out to the verandah and the view are especially fine not having any vertical subdivisions. Particularly interesting is the chance to compare the original timber verandah with the cast iron verandah. Most unusually for Hamilton in the nineteenth, the house is set at an angle to the street to maximise its aspect. The house remains significantly intact and is in excellent condition. It is one of the key components in its streetscape. The garden includes an important *Magnolia grandiflora*, Bull Bay.

[i] *Hamilton Spectator*, 11 November 1865. Advt. for sale of property, National Trust of Aust (Vic), File No 2140.

[ii] The original drawings are said to be held by the Hamilton Historical Society but cannot be found.

[iii] Conversation with present owners quoting old law title details.

[iv] Garden D, *Hamilton*, p 92.

[v] Ibid, p 123 and National Estate Citation.

[vi] HSA DP 887.

[vii] Garden, p 120.

[viii] National Estate Citation.

[ix] Knight, R, *Windows to Yesterday*, p 29.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1862, 1965, 1969,
Hermes Number	26567
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

### MATERIALS:

**Roof:** slate

**Walls:** rock face bluestone

**Dressings:** timber or cement render

**Plinth:** bluestone

**Windows:** timber French doors

**Paving:** gravel (remnants of asphalt)  
Other: original (?) timber verandah on  
Dryden St side and cast iron verandah  
on Market Place side;  
Grampians sandstone quoins

**NOTABLE FEATURES:** surviving timber verandah; French doors; Grampians (Mt Sturgeon) sandstone quoins;  
rare use of slate; cellar.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

### ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Government Institutions: Local/Municipal

Professions: Doctors

Health: Doctors

Squatting: Pastoralists

## **Integrity**

Integrity: E

## **Physical Conditions**

Conditions: E

*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/>*