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# Hamilton High School



26670 Hamilton High School

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## Location

Mt Baimbridge Road 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:** » The first secondary school in Hamilton and the region. Typical of its period architecturally.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hamilton High School  
Mt Baimbridge Road

This building has local significance for its architecture and for its historical associations. Architecturally it is of interest as a standard design, more or less, for state high schools of the period. Historically it is important because it was the first state secondary school in the Hamilton region. Before 1912 the state had provided primary education only. ([i]) In 1916 the Higher Elementary School became a full High School. The first Head

Master was Mr J F Hill and it was housed in the Infants School in the Gray Street State School grounds. ([ii]) Hill was primarily responsible for the High School's establishment and it later operated in the upper floor of Strahan's in Gray Street. In 1915 the Hamilton and District High School was proclaimed and the new building was opened on 5 May, 1922. ([iii]) In 1924 there were 198 pupils. ([iv]) Hamilton High School is also significant for introducing technical education to the district in 1934. A technical block was built at the High School in 1953, at which time it was recognised as a 'Multi-Purpose High School'. By 1960 there were 850 pupils. A new technical wing was built on the other side of Mt Baimbridge Road in 1958 which became the nucleus of the new Technical School which opened in May 1961. ([v])

The original building is typical for its time in form, details and materials. The main staircase is a particularly dramatic element. Original drawings survive at the school. The building represents the most advanced planning at the time and strives to maximise space, light and structure. There have been many extensions and additions. The more important of these are the classrooms for technical training, the gymnasium and the C S Alexander Assembly Hall, named in honour of the former Head Master. The original building remains relatively intact and is in good condition. It is a dominant building in this part of Hamilton.

[i] *Vision And Realisation*, Vol 2, p 132.

[ii] Garden, D, *Hamilton*, p 194.

[iii] *Ibid* and *Vision And Realisation*, loc cit.

[iv] Garden, p 224.

[v] *Ibid*.

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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        | 1921, 1928, 1934, 1949, 1951, 1958,   |
| Hermes Number             | 26670   |
| Property Number           |   |

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## Physical Description 1

### **MATERIALS:**

**Roof:** » unglazed terracotta

**Walls:** » red brick

**Dressings:** » cement render

**Plinth:** » red brick

**Windows:** » 12 pane dhs

**Paving:** » concrete

**Other:** » rough cast panels

## Physical Description 2

**NOTABLE FEATURES:** » Central entrance motif, elongated windows

## Integrity

**INTEGRITY: E**  
**CONDITION: E**

## **Historical Australian Themes**

### **ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES**

Evolution of the town: 1920s - 1960s

Education: Secondary & Technical

*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/>*