
Hamilton Botanic Gardens

Location

French Street, Thompson Street, Martin Street and Kennedy Street, HAMILTON VIC 3300 - Property No G13112

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

National

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 2, 2004

Hamilton Botanic Gardens, set aside in 1850-51, first planted by William Ferguson in 1870 and then developed from 1881 according to a design of William Guilfoyle, is significant:

- as one of the most intact examples in Australia of a nineteenth century provincial botanic garden, a garden type best exemplified by the collection of such gardens created in colonial Victoria. Typical characteristics of provincial botanic gardens found at Hamilton include perimeter plantings of conifers, plantings of specimen trees, shrubberies, areas of intensive horticultural interest, a lake, and a location in proximity to a township developed during the nineteenth century;
- as an early example of William Guilfoyle's design, exemplifying his ideas about planting which were being actively implemented in his sweeping redevelopment of Mueller's design of Melbourne's botanic gardens;
- for its collection of plants, characteristic of late nineteenth century Victorian gardens as well as representative of more specialised plant groups befitting the scientific role of a botanic garden;
- for its retention of important garden structures, most notably the Thompson Memorial Fountain, decorative fence and entrance gates;
- historically, as one of four known pre-gold rush botanic garden sites set aside in the Port Phillip District of New South Wales, and amongst the earliest provincial botanic gardens set aside in Australia;
- for the manner in which the garden and surrounding streetscapes combine to produce a significant late nineteenth and early twentieth century precinct, with views into the gardens and vistas to intact building stock looking from the gardens;

- for its retention of zoological elements, which illustrate the nineteenth century fashion for menageries.

Hermes Number 70248

Property Number

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/>