

BUILDING TITLE: St Mary's School (formerly the Academy) **BUILDING ADDRESS:** Cnr Pope & Collins Streets
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: A || B || C |X| D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:** detached house
DESIGNATION: HBR Reg No File # AHC File # NT File # Class || Rec ||
CONSERVATION AREA: St Ronan's **LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE:** 1 || 2 || 3 |X|
STYLE: Gothic Revival (Collegiate)

CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:

1. 1874
2. 1882
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Sources:

- 1 Garden, Don, Hamilton, pp 89-90
- 2 Ibid

MATERIALS:

Roof: concrete shingles
Walls: polychrome brick
Dressings: cement render
Plinth: bluestone
Windows: timber dhs
Paving: asphalt
Other: timber and cast iron verandah

SURVEY DATE: 17/5/91 **NEG FILE:** 8/12 **REPORTER:** tfh

INTEGRITY: E || G |X| F || P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** use of polychrome brick

CONDITION: E |X| G || F || P ||

SIGNIFICANCE: One of the more important schools in the district and associated with significant people. Of special interest for its rare use of polychrome brickwork.

ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Appropriate:	Rec	Inappropriate:	Rec
		roof replaced with concrete shingles	0

O=reinstate original design S=reinstate sympathetic alternative R=remove RAM=remove by approved method

SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS:

land to Donald Cameron, 6/10/51

ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS:

TITLE:

Sec **CA**
1 11

Loreto Sisters, owners 1905
St Mary's Catholic Parish

COUNCIL COMPUTER #

MORE INFO OVER |X|

HAMDS132

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St Mary's School (formerly the Academy)
Corner Pope & Collins Street

This building has local significance for its architectural interest and for its historical importance as a major educational institution in the Hamilton district during the last century when it became a serious rival to the notable Hamilton and Western District Boys' College founded in 1871. The earliest section of the Academy dates from 1874 with additions in 1882 when it was reopened. ⁽ⁱ⁾

The founder of the Academy was James Begg (1842-1911), a Scot educated at Glasgow University who had the support of leading Hamiltonians such as G H Mott and W Skene. By 1890 the Academy was the largest of Hamilton's three private colleges and was recognised for its high educational standard. Its success was relatively brief for it closed in 1900, the building becoming a private residence which, in 1905, was taken over by the Loreto Sisters as a convent and convent school. In 1925 it became known as St Mary's. ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾

The building is of interest architecturally for its use of the Gothic Revival style, considered appropriate for scholastic buildings because of traditional associations between education and the Church, and for its use of polychrome brickwork, an important material in the style. Polychromy was all the rage in Melbourne at the time but this is a relatively subdued example. The building is significantly intact and is in excellent condition. It is an important element in the St Ronan's streetscape, especially for its domestic scale and detailing.

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Education: Private & Secondary.
Religion: Presbyterianism & Roman Catholicism

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Hamilton and Western District Boys' College
Alexandra College for Girls
St Mary's Church, Hall and Convent, corner of
Lonsdale & Dinwoodie Streets

SOURCES

Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, North Melbourne, 1984
Hamilton Spectator, 1882
Australasian, 1906

FOOTNOTES

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- ⁱ Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, pp 89-90; *Hamilton Spectator*, 13 April 1882, 11 November 1882.
ⁱⁱ Ibid and Garden, p 152; *Australasian*, 14 April 1906 (illustration).