

Gray St Gallery



26538 Gray St Gallery

Location

54 Gray St 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 -

SIGNIFICANCE: This building is of interest for its rare cantilevered balcony and the contribution that it makes to the streetscape. It was also the office of the architect, Frank hammond, one of Hamilton's most important citizens.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Shops
54 Gray Street

This shop has local significance for its architectural interest which lies in its late Victorian Classical style and its

rare surviving overhanging balcony. It also has historical associations with a number of well known Hamilton townsmen, including solicitors, a local architect and auctioneer. In the 1890s the buildings were associated with Louis Horwitz (1858-1919), who, after a brilliant beginning as Hamilton's youngest Mayor (at age 24), in the 1890s became the centre of a local financial scandal. ([i]) A wine shop on the site was owned at first by Horwitz and at the turn of the century by Myer Silberberg of Melbourne. ([ii]) By about 1907 the property was owned by another wealthy Hamilton solicitor, John B Westacott (1868-1944), who also became Mayor of Hamilton. ([iii]) Westacott extended the buildings c1908, letting offices to George Holgate (auctioneer), Horace Destree (accountant), and Frank Hammond (architect), who designed many of Hamilton's most prestigious buildings about the turn of the century. ([iv])

The ground floor shop window and door have been altered unsympathetically but otherwise the building survives well and is in good condition. It makes an important contribution to the streetscape.

[i] Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, pp 122, 173, and 185.

[ii] *Hamilton Rate Book 1894*, No. 249 (Thomas Tucker, owner/occupier); 1900, No. 248 (Horwitz owner, wine shop, NAV 45 pounds); 1905, No. 275 (M Silberberg, owner, wine shop, NAV 56 pounds).

[iii] Ibid., 1907, No. 284 (J B Westacott, owner, shop and dwelling, NAV 55 pounds); Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, p 173.

[iv] *Hamilton Rate Book 1908*, No. 292-295 (J B Westacott, offices, NAV 75 pounds).

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1890, 1908,
Architect/Designer	Hammond, Frank,
Hermes Number	26538
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

MATERIALS:

Roof: corrugated iron

Walls: face brick (partly painted)

Dressings: cement render

Plinth: tiled brick

Windows: timber dhs

Paving: encaustic tiles in doorway

Other: timber and cast iron

balcony

NOTABLE FEATURES: Overhanging balcony (rare anywhere and this is the only one surviving in Hamilton)

Historical Australian Themes

ASSOCIATED HISTORICAL THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1890s. 1900s

Professions: solicitors

Government institutions: municipal

Integrity

Integrity: F

Physical Conditions

Conditions: G

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/>