

BUILDING TITLE: Gray St Gallery **BUILDING ADDRESS:** 54 Gray St
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: A || B || C |X| D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:**
DESIGNATION: HBR Reg No File # AHC File # NT File # Class || Rec ||
CONSERVATION AREA: Gray St Commercial **LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE:** 1 || 2 |X| 3 ||
STYLE: Late Victorian Classical

CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:

1. 1890s (wine shop on site)
2. 1908 (offices let to tenants)
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Sources:

- 1 *Hamilton Rate Book* 1894 No 249
- 2 *Ibid* 1908 Nos 292-295

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

SURVEY DATE: 7/3/91 **NEG FILE:** 2/7 **REPORTER:** TFH

INTEGRITY: E || G || F |X| P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** Overhanging balcony (rare anywhere and this is the only one surviving in Hamilton)

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

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.

ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Appropriate:	Rec	Inappropriate:	Rec
		painted brick	RAM
		silver foil on windows	R
		shop front	S

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

SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS:	ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS:	TITLE:
land to J.McConachy, 8.9.52	Frank Hammond, architect?	Sec C A
L Horwitz, owner 1890s		9 5
	John B Westacott, solicitor, c1907	

COUNCIL COMPUTER #

MORE INFO OVER |X|

HAMDS047

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.

ASSOCIATED HISTORICAL THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1890s. 1900s.
Professions: solicitors
Government institutions:municipal.

ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS

Lyndhurst, 4 McIntyre Street,
(designed by F Hammond for
solicitor, Saxon H Palmer)
Mechanics' Institute, 47 Gray Street
(1903 additions by F Hammond)
58 Gray Street

REFERENCES

Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, North Melbourne, 1984.
Hamilton Rate Books

FOOTNOTES

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- 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).