

**BUILDING TITLE:** Red Cross Centre **BUILDING ADDRESS:** 56 Grey St  
**LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:** A || B || C |X| D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:** shop  
**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:** Mannerist

**CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:**

1. 1908
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

**Sources:**

1. parapet
2. *Hamilton Rate Book 1908*, No. 292

**MATERIALS:**

**Roof:** corrugated iron  
**Walls:** rendered brick  
**Dressings:** cement render  
**Plinth:** tiled brick  
**Windows:** aluminium  
**Paving:**  
**Other:** tiled walls

**SURVEY DATE:** 7/3/91 **NEG FILE:** 2/8 **REPORTER:** TFH

**INTEGRITY:** E || G || F |X| P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** Mannerist pediment and parapet.

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

**SIGNIFICANCE:** Part of a significant group of three shops.

**ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Appropriate:** Rec **Inappropriate:** Rec  
aluminium shopfront S

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

**SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS:**

land to J McConachy, 8/9/52  
L Horwitz (1890s)

**ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS:**

Frank Hammond, architect?

**TITLE:**

Sec C A  
9 5

John B Westacott, solicitor (c1907)  
Australian Red Cross HQ present owner

**COUNCIL COMPUTER #** 10905/0006

**MORE INFO OVER** ||

**HAMDS048**

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Red Cross Centre  
56 Gray Street

This shop has local significance for its architectural interest as part of a group of three quite different shops all dating from about the turn of the century. 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. <sup>(i)</sup> A wine shop on the site was owned at first by Horwitz and at the turn of the century by Myer Silberberg of Melbourne. <sup>(ii)</sup> By c1907 the property was owned by another wealthy Hamilton solicitor, John B Westacott (1868-1944), who also became Mayor of Hamilton. <sup>(iii)</sup> 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. <sup>(iv)</sup>

There is ever reason to presume that Frank Hammond was the architect of this shop having his office next door and being particularly active in Hamilton at this time. The use of Mannerist detailing is *avant garde* for him, usually relying on more conventional detailing. The shop has lost its original door and window. It remains substantially intact otherwise and in good condition. With its neighbours it contributes to the streetscape.

### ASSOCIATED HISTORICAL THEMES

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

### ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS

4 McIntyre Street,  
(designed by F Hammond for  
solicitor, Saxon H Palmer)  
Mechanics' Institute, 47 Gray Street  
(1903 additions by F Hammond)  
Gray Street Gallery, 54 Gray Street  
Urquhart's Restaurant, 58 Gray Street

### REFERENCES

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

### FOOTNOTES

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- <sup>i</sup> Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, pp 122, 173, and 185.  
<sup>ii</sup> *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).  
<sup>iii</sup> *Ibid.*, 1907, No. 284 (J B Westacott, owner, shop and dwelling, NAV 55 pounds); Garden, Don, *Hamilton*, p 173.  
<sup>iv</sup> *Hamilton Rate Book 1908*, No. 292-295 (J B Westacott, offices, NAV 75 pounds).