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# Urquhart's Restaurant



26546 Urquhart's Restaurant

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## Location

58 Gray St HAMILTON, Southern Grampians Shire

## Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

## Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

**SIGNIFICANCE:** Unusual architectural detailing in the windows and parapet. Also for its historical associations with notable locals.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Urquhart's Restaurant  
58 Gray Street

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

combination of Mannerist and Gothic details. 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 c1907 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. ([iv])

The building has lost its original verandah and shop front but otherwise remains substantially intact. It is in good condition. Along with its neighbours it is a significant part of the streetscape as one of a group of three.

[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).

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|---------------------------|---|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991; |
| Construction dates        | 1891,   |
| Hermes Number             | 26546   |
| Property Number           |   |

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## Physical Description 1

### MATERIALS:

**Roof:** corrugated iron

**Walls:** rendered brick

**Dressings:** cement render

**Plinth:**

**Windows:** timber dhs/alum shopfrnt

**Paving:** none

Other: plain brick on side and rear

**NOTABLE FEATURES:**Four paned double hung sash windows which are elongated and the pediment with a missing bottom chord.

### Historical Australian Themes

**ASSOCIATED HISTORICAL THEMES**

Evolution of the Town: 1890s, 1900s

Professions: solicitors

**Integrity**

Integrity: G

**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/>*