
The Chalet



26622 The Chalet

Location

Tyers Street 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: » Significant as a dramatic use of architecture to express and deal with an historical and social issue. Dominates the streetscape.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chalet

Tyers Street

This building has state significance for its architectural and historical interest as a custom-built sanatorium, one of a number built in the late 1940s in Victorian country towns as part of an important and successful Australia-wide campaign to eradicate tuberculosis after the Second World War. Constructed c1947 from designs by the Public

Works Department of Victoria, ([i]) the Chalet shows a European influence, its use of the rare Expressionist style reflecting similar sanatoria designs on the Continent of the 1920s. It is a classic expression of the architectural principle that form follows function. The northerly orientation and semi-open porch were specifically designed to maximise winter sunlight. The construction of the Hamilton Chalet illustrates the town's role within the Western District as a major provider of regional health services.

The Federal Government's concern about the prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) in the community led to a campaign which involved mass X-rays and the construction of chalet sanatoria in capital cities and regional centres. In December 1948 it was reported that 14,000 people had been X-rayed in the Western District. ([ii]) Hamilton was among the earliest country towns to construct a chalet sanatorium, PWD drawings held in Hamilton (former Glenelg District) Base Hospital archives date from August 1943. Later PWD mechanical drawings are dated 1945 and show the Chalet as it is now. ([iii]) A custom-built chalet at Horsham opened in 1948 is reputedly of similar design. ([iv]) Following the success of the anti-TB campaign, these chalets were handed over to local hospital boards. Hamilton District Base Hospital, the current owner of the Chalet, plans to convert it into a physiotherapy clinic.

The building survives remarkably and significantly intact. It is in fair condition. The Chalet dominates the streetscape with its siting. The planting associated with The Chalet confirms its European origins.

[i] Conversation with Hamilton (former Glenelg District) Base Hospital Committee spokesperson; early sketch, PWD of Victoria, dated 19 August 1943 held in hospital archives and later PWD mechanical drawing dated 1945.

[ii] *Argus*, 23 January 1947, 5 July 1947, 16 December 1948.

[iii] The 1943 sketch, although somewhat different from the present building, is identifiably the same.

[iv] *Argus*, 16 March 1948, 1 May 1948; Brooke and Finch, *A Story Of Horsham*, pp 119-120 (with illustration of the Horsham Chalet)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1947,
Hermes Number	26622
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

MATERIALS:

Roof: »corrugated AC sheet

Walls: »rendered brick

Dressings: »cement render

Plinth: »cement render

Windows: »timber fixed

Paving: »concrete

Other: »fly wire screens steel framing for side windows

Physical Description 2

NOTABLE FEATURES:»Dramatic form associated with function; orientation and materials.

Integrity

INTEGRITY:E

CONDITION:X

Historical Australian Themes

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Health: State/Regional/Local

Health: Sanatorium/Hospital

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/>