

BUILDING TITLE: The Chalet **BUILDING ADDRESS:** Tyers Street
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: A |X| B || C || D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:** Hospital
DESIGNATION: HBR Reg No File # AHC File # NT File # Class || Rec ||
CONSERVATION AREA: Hospital Hill **LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE:** 1 || 2 || 3 ||
STYLE: Expressionist

CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:

1. 1947
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Sources:

1 original dwgs held by Hospital &
Argus, 23 January 1947

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

SURVEY DATE: 5/4/1991 **NEG FILE:** / **REPORTER:** tfh

INTEGRITY: E |X| G || F || P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** Dramatic form associated with function;
orientation and materials.

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

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

ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Appropriate: Rec **Inappropriate:** Rec
none apparent

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

SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS: land to Hospital Reserve (Permanent) **ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS:** PWD **TITLE:** Sec CA
Gazettal 73/1268 Hospital Reserve (Perm)

Hamilton Base Hospital

COUNCIL COMPUTER #

MORE INFO OVER |X|

HAMDS083

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.

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Health: State/Regional/Local
Health: Sanitorium/Hospital

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Former Horsham Chalet
Hamilton Base Hospital complex

REFERENCES

Argus, 1947, 1948
Hamilton (former Glenelg District) Base Hospital Archives
Brooke, Brian & Finch, Alan, *A Story Of Horsham*, A Municipal Century, City of Horsham, 1982.
Conversations with: Spokesperson, Hamilton Base Hospital Committee
Ms Wendy Jacobs, conservation architect, Ballarat

FOOTNOTES

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- 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)