

## Bernera Homestead Statement of Significance

<b>Heritage Place:</b>	Bernera Homestead	<b>PS ref no:</b>	HO256
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### What is significant?

Bernera Homestead at 88 Olliers Road, Mount Rowan, is significant. It was initially part of an approximately 73 - acre (29.5 ha) farm and constructed for Norman Roderick Macleod, a successful stock/station agent and auctioneer, and his wife Elizabeth Margaret Oswald (née Scott) in c. 1881.

The significance of Bernera Homestead is attributed to its original form and fabric, namely its principal hipped - roofed footprint and secondary gabled wing, slate tiles, all chimneys, bracketed eaves cornice, return skillion verandah (excluding replacement supports and concrete deck), walls of red brick and rendered plinth, pilasters, and fenestration, including main entrance (six-panelled door with sidelights and fanlight, coloured, and timber-framed double-hung sashes/basalt sills).

The early Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) tree to the southeast of the residence is also significant.

Non-original elements, including the rear skillion wing and fencing, are not significant.

### How is it significant?

Bernera Homestead is of historical (Criterion A) and aesthetic (Criterion E) significance to the City of Ballarat.

### Why is it significant?

Bernera Homestead is of historical significance as an important early 1880s middle-class residence in Mount Rowan and, more broadly, the rural hinterland of Ballarat. It is illustrative of late 19th-century farming activities in the locality, a period in which Mount Rowan was consolidating as a rural area on the periphery of the urban centre of Ballarat. (Criterion A)

Benera Homestead is of aesthetic significance as a generally intact and handsome late Victorian-period brick villa in a neoclassical design mode, which is more unusual for the municipality. The residence's sparing highly considered use of ornamentation is of note, with those selected elements – the striking chimney pair with arched central 'cut outs', pilasters, bracketed eaves cornice, and French doors in the façade – expressive of cultivated urban decorum. The generous garden setting of the place, including the early Monterey Cypress tree, is evocative of the rural origins of the place. (Criterion E)

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**Primary source**

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RBA Architects & Conservation Consultants, 'Benera Homestead, Citation, August 2024

This document is an incorporated document in the Ballarat Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*