

Hawthorn Farm Statement of Significance

Heritage Place:	Hawthorn Farm	PS ref no:	HO253
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What is significant?

Hawthorn Farm at 134 Gillies Road, Mount Rowan, is significant. The basalt residence was built between 1854 and 1857 for Edward and Letitia Williamson. It served as the homestead for a once far larger mixed farming property. The brick building, believed to be a former creamery, was built during the late 19th century.

The significance of the place is attributed to the original form and fabric of the two buildings:

- Homestead: hipped roof (excluding cladding), walls of coursed squared basalt rubble, and openings (excluding aluminium frames), and
- Creamery: gabled roof (excluding cladding), chimney, polychromatic brick walls, and openings (timber ledge brace door and double-hung sash).

The Dutch elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) and the pear (*Pyrus sp.*) tree at place are significant plantings.

Non-original fabric, including the enclosed bullnose front verandah at the residence and the rear skillion wing are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Hawthorn Farm is of historical (Criterion A) and aesthetic (Criterion E) significance to the City of Ballarat.

Why is it significant?

Hawthorn Farm is of historical significance as a particularly early example of a farmstead complex in the municipality. The homestead is the earliest known building to survive in the Mount Rowan locality. It is illustrative of the area's emergence as an agricultural locality in the mid-Victorian period. The use of basalt is also reflective of a phase of domestic construction in the region that was never widespread and chiefly restricted to the mid -to-late 19th century. The presence of the small-scale outbuilding, believed to be a former creamery, along with the mature cultural plantings, underlies the legibility of the place as a longstanding rural complex, of which relatively few survive in Ballarat. (Criterion A)

Hawthorn Farm is of aesthetic significance as a fairly intact ensemble of mid-to-late 19th-century rural buildings and early specimen trees, which collectively are highly evocative of a Victorian-era farmstead. The homestead and outbuilding are both architecturally distinctive, with the dwelling's robust form and use of basalt a good example of its type despite the likely addition of the front verandah. The former creamery, endowed with fine proportions and lively brickwork, is a highly intact and unusually expressive example of a rural manufacturing building for the municipality. Their spatial and visual relationship to each other and Gillies Road, as well as the nearby venerable Dutch elm and pear tree, imparts a strong and evolved picturesque quality. The Dutch elm is a particularly visually notable planting. (Criterion E)

Primary source

RBA Architects & Conservation Consultants, 'Hawthorn Farm, 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*