

## Hawthorn Park Statement of Significance

<b>Heritage Place:</b>	Hawthorn Park	<b>PS ref no:</b>	HO254
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### What is significant?

Hawthorn Park at 112 Olliers Road, Mount Rowan, is significant. It was constructed as a homestead on an initially larger agricultural holding on behalf of a moneyed businessman and farmer, George Ronald, in 1881. The prolific Ballarat-based architect Henry Richard Caselli was responsible for the design.

The significance of Hawthorn Park is attributed to its original form and fabric, namely its principal hipped roof section (slate tiles) and rear attached crenelated parapeted (unpainted render) bays with skillion wing (short-sheeted corrugated sheeting), bracketed eaves cornice and string course (moulded bricks), bichromatic brickwork (red and cream), all chimneys (inclusive of the Federation period eastern replacement), return conclave verandah with cast-iron open columns, frieze, and brackets, and fenestration (six-panelled front door/sidelights and timber-framed double-hung sashes).

The modest, skillion-roofed timber structure with a red brick chimney to the rear of the homestead is an early and significant outbuilding at the place.

The pair of Italian cypresses (*Cupressus sempervirens*) flanking the entrance to the western drive are early surviving plantings and are significant to the place.

Non-original or heavily modified elements, including the northern extension of the rear skillion wing, are not significant.

### How is it significant?

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

### Why is it significant?

Hawthorn Park is of historical significance as an exemplar of a high-class late Victorian-period homestead in rural Ballarat. It is a key illustration of agricultural development during this era in the area and a noteworthy

residential example of the manifold output of the prominent late 19th-century Ballarat architect Henry R. Caselli. The original purpose of the skillion-roofed timber outbuilding with a chimney at the rear of the homestead is not known, but it is an early structure at the place that reflects its formative functioning as a farm complex. (Criterion A)

Hawthorn Park is of aesthetic significance as a generally intact and bold instance of a late Victorian -period architect- designed villa, distinguished by its lively bichromatic brickwork and unusually expressive rear secondary wing, which features rendered crenellated side bays. The contrast of the residence's pronounced underlying symmetry and classicised proportions with its conspicuously florid cast-iron ornamentation is purposefully striking, imparting a sense of grandeur to the frontage commensurate with its status as an affluent country seat. The pair of Italian cypresses on either side of the entrance to the original western drive are early plantings that contribute to the sense of arrival at Hawthorn Park, which is further augmented by its generous garden setting. (Criterion E)

**Primary source**

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