Basalt Remnant Statement of Significance

August 2026

HERITAGE PLACE: Basalt Remnant **PS ref no: HO252**

What is significant?



The basalt remnant at 15 Sims Road, Mount Rowan, is significant. It likely is (or relates to) the rear western bay of the homestead built during late 1860 to early 1861 for the Scottish immigrants Archibald and Beatrice M. Chalmers. The prominent Ballarat-based architect Henry R. Caselli was responsible for the design, however, the section was converted to an outbuilding during the mid-20th century.

The significant elements relate to its original form and fabric:

- hip roof form (metal cladding is not original),
- extant brick chimney, may be at least partly original,
- walls of squared basalt blocks with a roughhewn finish, ashlar lintels, and remnant white tuck-pointing,
- three, full height openings to the west elevation (excluding the doors and louvres).

The components of the basalt remnant which are not significant include the internal brick east wall, the exposed rafter ends to the hip roof, the doors and louvres to three doorways to the west elevation. The brick addition to the north and timber addition to the east are also not significant.

All other buildings and plantings in its vicinity are not significant.

How is it significant?

The basalt remnant at 15 Sims Road, Mount Rowan is of historical (Criterion A) and representative (Criterion D) significance to the City of Ballarat.

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Why is it significant?

The basalt remnant at 15 Sims Road, Mount Rowan is of historical significance as being the remaining part of a mid- Victorian period basalt residence in the hinterland of Ballarat, of which relatively few survive. It is illustrative of the emergence of Mount Rowan as an agricultural locality in the late 1850s/early 1860s and also has associations with the Chalmers family who established the place and owned it for over half a century. (Criterion A)

The basalt remnant is of representative significance as being part of a mid-Victorian period rural residence, though it has been adapted to an outbuilding. The symmetrical pattern of three full-height openings to the west elevation is of note. The use of local basalt (bluestone) is reflective of a phase of construction in the region that was chiefly restricted to the mid-19th century and of which there are few remains. (Criterion D)

Primary source

RBA Architects & Conservation Consultants, Basalt Remnant, Citation, February 2026