Bernera Homestead Statement of Significance

August 2026

HERITAGE PLACE: Bernera Homestead **PS ref no: HO256**

What is significant?



Bernera Homestead at 88 Olliers Road, Mount Rowan, is significant. It was initially constructed for Norman Roderick Macleod, a successful stock/station agent and auctioneer, and his wife Elizabeth Margaret Oswald (née Scott) circa 1880/by 1881.

The significant elements of the Bernera Homestead relate to its original form and building fabric, including:

- principal U-shaped, hip roof and two chimneys with central arched opening, with bracketed cornice,
- walls of red brick and rendered or basalt plinth, with pilasters,
- return skillion verandah (excluding non-original supports and deck),
- symmetrical façade with central entrance with six-panelled door with sidelights and fanlight and flanking French doors,
- timber-framed, double-hung sash windows with basalt sills to south elevation (unconfirmed to north),
- narrow brick wing to the rear with a gabled roof and broad chimney.

Non-original or altered elements are not significant which include: the corrugated sheet metal roof cladding to the house; large, fixed pane window to the rear of the south elevation; the rear attached skillion wing; and all planting and fencing.

How is it significant?

Bernera Homestead at 88 Olliers Road, Mount Rowan is of historical (Criterion A), representative (Criterion D), and aesthetic (Criterion E) significance to the City of Ballarat.

Bernera Homestead Statement of Significance (continued) PS ref no: HO256

Why is it significant?

Bernera Homestead at 88 Olliers Road, Mount Rowan is of historical significance as a substantial circa 1880 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 the locality was consolidating as a farming area on the periphery of the urban centre of Ballarat. (Criterion A)

Bernera Homestead at 88 Olliers Road, Mount Rowan is of significance as a fine and substantially intact representative example of a Victorian brick homestead. It displays typical characteristics of the Victorian period, including hipped roof, brick chimneys with rendered capping, return verandah, symmetrical principal elevation, classical detailing, central entrance and flanking timber-framed French doors. 88 Olliers Road is highly legible as a restrained classically inspired Victorian homestead in the City of Ballarat (Criterion D).

Bernera Homestead is of aesthetic significance as a mostly intact and distinguished example of a late Victorian-period brick villa in a restrained classical design mode. The sparing and subtle articulation is of note, in particular the striking chimney pair with central arch, pilasters, bracketed eaves, cornice, and French doors to the façade, as well as the distinctive profile to the chimney of the southern gabled wing. (Criterion E)

Primary source

RBA Architects & Conservation Consultants, Bernera Homestead, Citation, August 2026