Hawthorn Farm Statement of Significance

August 2026

HERITAGE PLACE: Hawthorn Farm **PS ref no: HO253**

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. The brick outbuilding was likely constructed 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 and rough-hewn basalt, and openings with margins (excluding aluminium frames) including those concealed under the enclosed verandah, and
- Brick outbuilding: gabled roof (excluding cladding), corbelled parapet, chimney, brick walls in varying bond (Flemish to the front and garden wall to the other elevations), and timber-framed openings (timber ledge brace door and square window), and basalt threshold.

The Dutch elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*) south-east of the house is also significant.

Non-original fabric, including the enclosed bullnose front verandah and the rear skillion wing of the residence, and all other outbuildings and plantings, are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Hawthorn Farm at 134 Gillies Road, Mount Rowan is of historical (Criterion A) and representative (Criterion D) significance to the City of Ballarat.

Why is it significant?

Hawthorn Farm at 134 Gillies Road, Mount Rowan is of historical significance as an early example of a farmstead complex in the municipality. The homestead is the earliest known building to survive in the Mount

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Rowan locality. It is illustrative of the area's emergence as an agricultural locality during the mid-Victorian period. The use of basalt is also reflective of a phase of domestic construction in the region that was not widespread and chiefly restricted to the mid- to-late 19th century. The small brick outbuilding, along with Dutch elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*), augment the understanding of the place as a longstanding rural complex, of which relatively few survive in Ballarat. (Criterion A)

Hawthorn Farm is of representative significance as a mostly intact ensemble of mid-to-late 19th-century rural buildings along with an early specimen tree (Dutch elm), which collectively are evocative of a Victorian-era farmstead. The homestead's symmetrical form and use of rough-hewn and dressed basalt is a good example of its type, despite the addition/enclosure of the front verandah. The brick outbuilding is highly articulated for such as modest-scaled structure by way of its corbelled parapets to the end walls and lively brickwork, such that it is an unusually expressive example. (Criterion D)

Primary source

RBA Architects & Conservation Consultants, Hawthorn Farm, Citation, February 2026