Hawthorn Park Statement of Significance

August 2026

HERITAGE PLACE: Hawthorn Park **PS ref no: HO254**

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 businessman and farmer, George Ronald, in 1881. The Ballarat-based architect Henry Richard Caselli was responsible for the design.

The significant elements of the residence at Hawthorn Park relate to its original symmetrical form and building fabric, including:

- principal hipped roof section, clad in slate, and bracketed frieze with stringcourse,
- bi-chromatic brickwork, red with cream quoining,
- three original chimneys with bi-chromatic brickwork and rendered caps,
- rear crenelated parapeted bays with unpainted render and traditional short-sized corrugated sheeting to the skillion roof,
- return concave verandah with cast-iron open columns, frieze, and brackets,
- six-panelled front door with sidelights,
- timber-framed double-hung sash windows.

The pair of Italian cypresses (*Cupressus sempervirens*) flanking the entrance to the western drive are also significant.

Hathorn Park Statement of Significance (continued) PS ref no: HO254

Non-original or heavily altered elements are not significant including all outbuildings and the enclosure of the rear verandah and red brick chimney to rear/north-east.

How is it significant?

Hawthorn Park is at 112 Olliers Road, Mount Rowan, of historical (Criterion A), representative (Criterion D), and aesthetic (Criterion E) significance to the City of Ballarat.

Why is it significant?

Hawthorn Park at 112 Olliers Road, Mount Rowan is of historical significance as an exemplar of a high-class late Victorian-period homestead in rural Ballarat. It is a key illustration of rural development during this era in the area and a noteworthy residential example of the output of the prominent late 19th-century Ballarat architect Henry R. Caselli. (Criterion A)

Hawthorn Park at 112 Olliers Road, Mount Rowan is of significance as a fine and highly intact representative example of a Victorian brick homestead. It displays typical characteristics of the Italianate style of the Victorian period, including a hipped, slate-clad roof, tall decorative brick chimneys with rendered capping, return verandah with decorative cast iron details, symmetrical principal elevation, central entrance and timber framed sash windows. 112 Olliers Road is highly legible as a Victorian Italianate-style homestead in the City of Ballarat (Criterion D).

Hawthorn Park is of aesthetic significance as a generally intact and bold example of a late Victorian-period architect-designed villa, distinguished by its lively bi-chromatic brickwork and crenulated rear bays. The residence's pronounced symmetry and classicised detailing behind the intricate cast-iron ornamentation is 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 ample garden setting. (Criterion E)

Primary source

RBA Architects & Conservation Consultants, Hawthorn Park, Citation, July 2026