

CONTEXT

Town Hall Gardens and Environs, Ballarat East Conservation Management Plan

Prepared for the City of Ballarat

October 2020



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Report Register

The following report register documents the development and issue of the report entitled Town Hall Gardens and Environs, Ballarat East—Conservation Management Plan undertaken by Context in accordance with its quality management system.

Job No.	Issue No.	Notes/Description	Issue Date
2598	1	Draft Report	10 July 2020
2598	2	Final Report	22 October 2020

Quality Assurance

The report has been reviewed and approved for issue in accordance with the Context quality assurance policy and procedures.

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Context acknowledges the Wadawurrung as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the Town Hall Gardens and Environs is located and pays respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the history and life of this site and wider region.

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Context

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

The City of Ballarat engaged Context in April 2020 to prepare a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs, Ballarat East. This CMP outlines opportunities and challenges as well as aspirations for the place, policies for the conservation of heritage values, and an implementation plan. It is the first CMP prepared for the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs, Ballarat East and builds upon an earlier heritage assessment prepared by Context for the site in June 2018.

1.2 Study area

The study area includes the former Eastern Town Hall Gardens; the cluster of buildings managed by Ballarat Group Training (BGT) at 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat East; the former School of Mines, Ballarat (Horticultural School); Britannia Reserve; Specimen Vale; and parcels of land owned or managed by Ballarat City Council that connect or intersect with these places (see Figure 1.1).

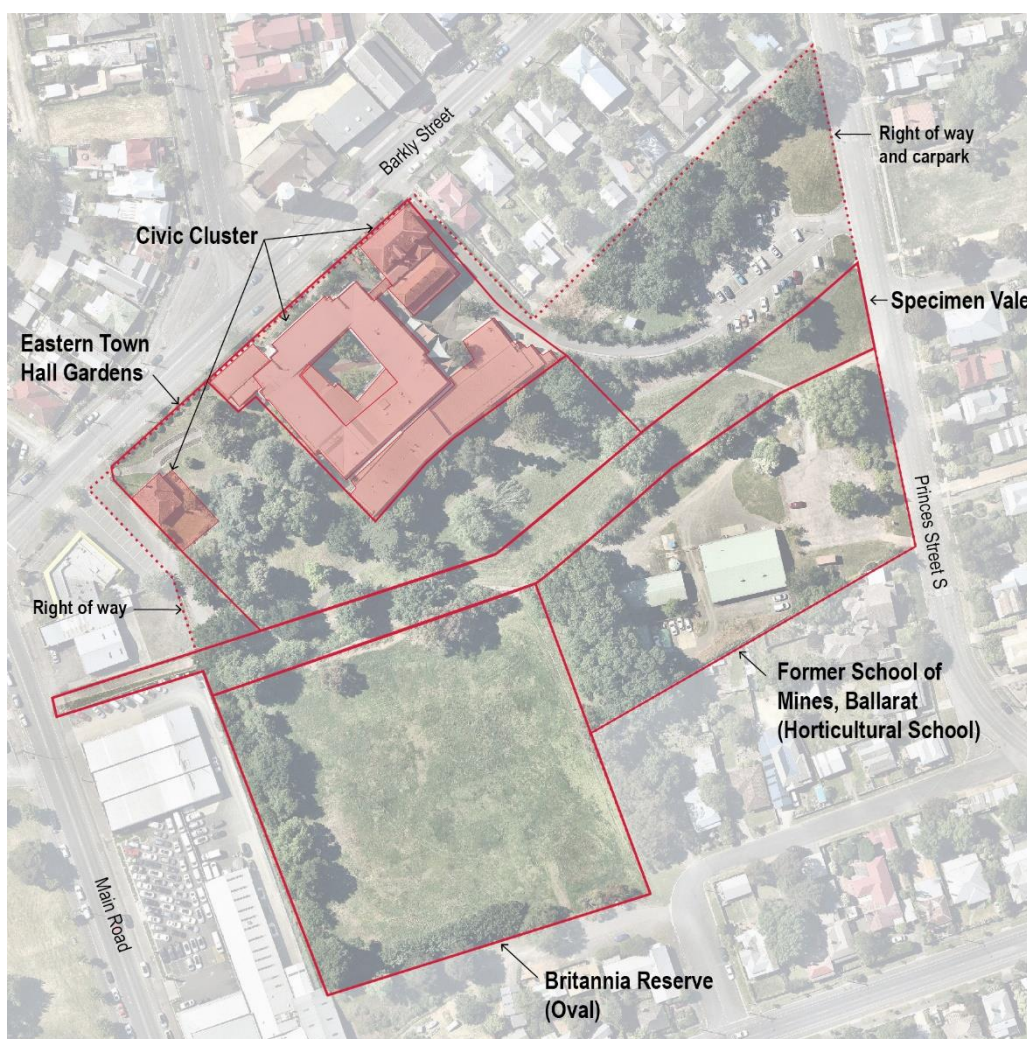


Figure 1.1 Study area and street boundaries, showing the site and component parts. (Source: Nearmap with Context overlay)

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The study area comprises different buildings and parcels of land that have different and overlapping land use histories and relationships. These different parts are inter-connected and a large proportion of the landscape spaces are now publicly accessible, but this has not always been the case. The different parts, as defined in Figure 1.1, provide the structure for more detailed analysis, assessment and policy for the place as a whole.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the project are:

- to develop a deeper understanding of the heritage values of the place as a whole;
- to provide policy that will guide management and conservation of the heritage values of the place as a whole; and
- to provide a framework for future landscape works aimed at enhancing transmission of heritage values and enriching the experience of the place.

The aims of the CMP are to provide the City of Ballarat with a practicable document to guide forward planning and actions. The CMP includes:

- detailed historical research and analysis to enable a deeper understanding of the place;
- informed assessment of the place and its component elements to identify heritage significance;
- state and local heritage values and requirements for on-going management;
- identification of opportunities and constraints; and
- policy and recommendations to direct the management, conservation and interpretation of the place.

1.4 Statutory context

1.4.1 Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity

The subject site is identified as part of an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity, as shown in the map below (see Figure 1.2).

1.4.2 Heritage Overlay

Three heritage precincts included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Ballarat Planning Scheme intersect and overlap with the study area:

- Ballarat East Civic Precinct (HO178)
- Eureka Street Heritage Precinct (HO179)
- Creeks and River Channels Precinct (HO172)

The precincts and their relationship to the study area are shown in the map below (see Figure 1.3).

The former Ballarat East Free Library is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Ballarat Planning Scheme as an individually significant place (HO9). The place is included in the map below at Figure 1.3.

1.4.3 Victorian Heritage Register

The former Ballarat East Free Library is registered on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR H1493). The place is included in the map below (see Figure 1.3).

1.4.4 National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

The following places within the study area are registered by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria):

- Former Ballarat East Free Library (B1059)
- 'Ornamental Gateway and remains of the cast iron fence' associated with the former Town Hall Gardens and Free Library (B2691)
- *Cedrus atlantica* f. *glauca* (Blue Atlas Cedar) in the former Town Hall Gardens (T11307)
- The pair of *Abies pinsapo* (Spanish Fir) in the former Town Hall Gardens (T11328).

The National Trust Register is non-statutory, however it can provide an indication of social value.

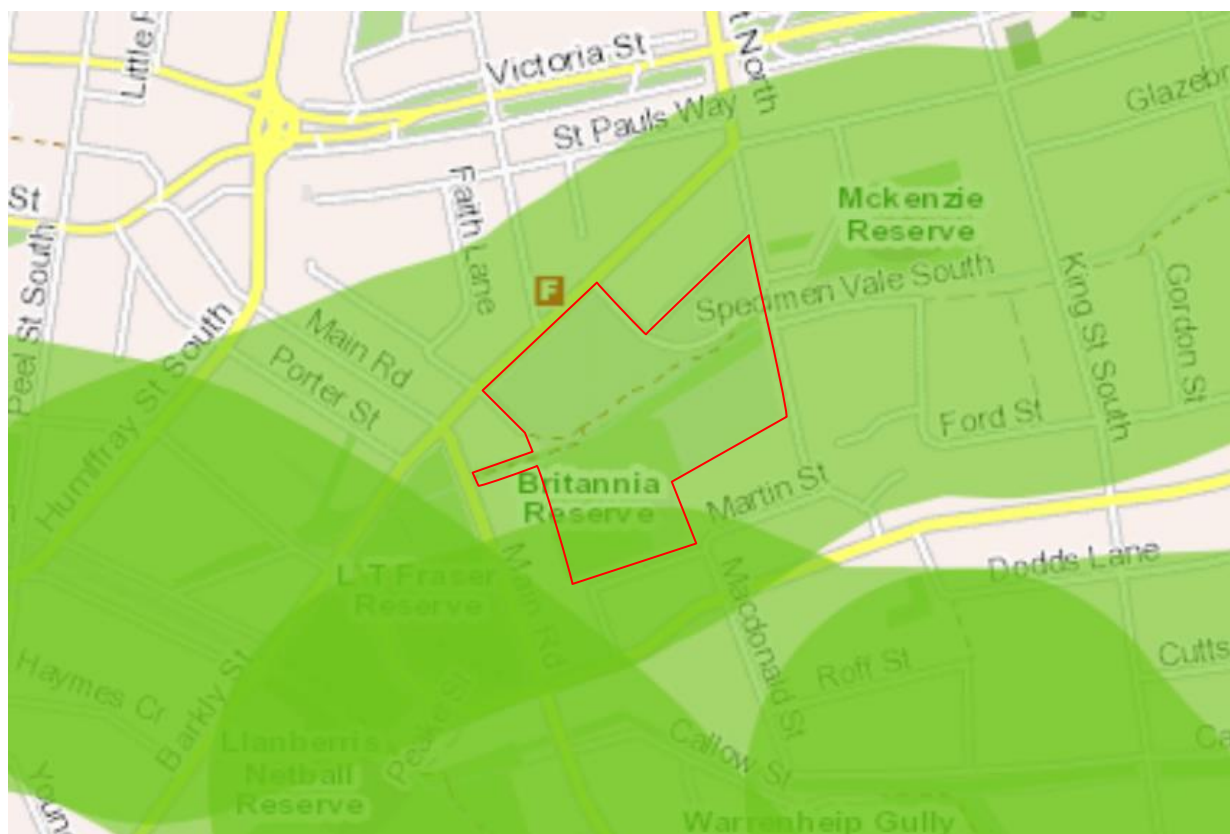


Figure 1.2 The shaded green denotes areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity. The study area is outlined in red. (Source: Aboriginal Victoria, ACHRIS)

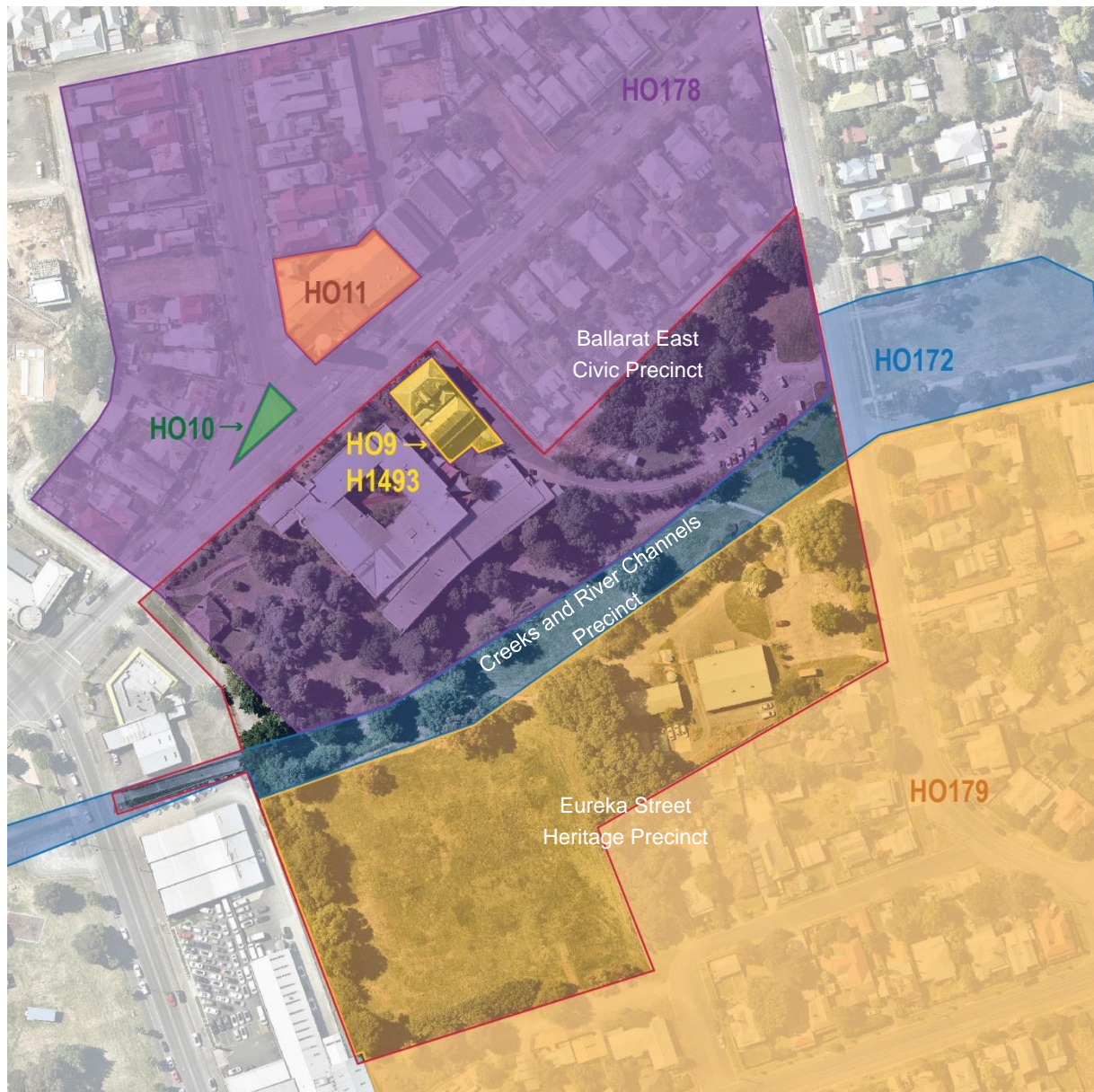


Figure 1.3 Heritage precinct and individual heritage place boundaries overlaid onto the study area boundary (outlined in red).
(Source: Nearmap base image, with Context overlay)

1.5 Methodology

1.5.1 Principles and guidelines

The CMP has been prepared in accordance with the principles and guidelines of the Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter* (2013) and its associated Practice Notes. Guidelines for the preparation of conservation management plans have also been utilised, including *The Conservation Plan* by James Semple Kerr for the National Trust of Australia (NSW) (Seventh (partly revised) edition, 2013), and *Conservation Management Plans: Managing Heritage Places – A Guide*, prepared by Context for the Heritage Council of Victoria (2010).

1.5.2 Previous work

This CMP builds on a body of existing research and documentation about the site and its wider context as part of Ballarat East. Considerable knowledge has also accumulated over the last twenty years about the Aboriginal history and significance of the wider area of which the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens and Environs are a part.

The 'Former Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens Heritage Assessment' (2018) prepared for the City of Ballarat by Context has provided an additional source of information.

1.6 Consultation

Preparation of the CMP included the following stakeholder engagement:

- Preliminary onsite meeting with City of Ballarat Heritage Advisor – Strategic Projects and BGT CEO (2 April 2020)
- Onsite meeting with City of Ballarat Heritage Advisor – Strategic Projects and BGT CEO (15 May 2020)
- Correspondence with City of Ballarat Heritage Advisor – Strategic Projects.

1.7 Limitations

The focus of the CMP is the cultural landscape aspects of the place, including gardens and grounds, plantings, circulation patterns, spatial relationships, fencing, paths, trees and garden beds. The CMP does not assess individual buildings in detail or their condition. Individual buildings are addressed as part of the overall landscape.

An archaeological assessment has not been undertaken as part of this CMP. Traditional Owner organisations and representatives, including Wathaurong Aboriginal Corporation Traditional Owners, have not been consulted for this project.

The scope of the project did not include consultation to assess community associations with the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs or to assess social significance. It is understood that consultation will be carried out by the City of Ballarat as part of future planning for the site.

Due to social isolation and lockdown restrictions and closure of non-essential service providers associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the report has been prepared with limited access to non-digitised resource material held at public libraries, archives and historical societies.

The Reserve files for Ballarat East Town Hall Reserve (Reserve files Rs 6128 and Rs 6129) were examined at DELWP offices in Ballarat. Subsequent restrictions on access to the Reserve files due to COVID-19 precautions meant that additional research questions could not be further investigated.

Only limited research was possible in relation to the landscape works that were carried out from the late 1960s using resources already in hand. There may be information of relevance in the Reserve files or in the landscape architect's personal archive. It is recommended that this aspect of the place history be followed up in the future.

1.8 Terminology

1.8.1 Burra Charter definitions

This report follows *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013*, in its use of the following terms and definitions:

Place means site, area, building or other work, group of buildings or other works together with associated contents and surroundings. Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a *place* so as to retain its *cultural significance*. It includes *maintenance* and may according to circumstance include *preservation*, *restoration*, *reconstruction* and *adaptation* and will be commonly a combination of more than one of these.

Fabric means all the physical material of the *place*. N.B. It may also include living material such as trees and other plants.

Maintenance means the continuous protective care of the *fabric*, contents and setting of a *place*, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves *restoration* or *reconstruction* and it should be treated accordingly.

Preservation means maintaining the *fabric* of a *place* in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

Restoration means returning the existing *fabric* of a *place* to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

Reconstruction means returning a *place* as nearly as possible to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of materials (new or old) into the *fabric*. This is not to be confused with either re-creation or conjectural reconstruction which are outside the scope of this Charter.

Adaptation means modifying a place to suit proposed *compatible uses*.

Compatible use means a use which involves no change to the *culturally significant fabric*, changes which are substantially reversible, or changes which require minimum impact.

Setting means the immediate and extended environment of a *place* that is part of or contributes to its *cultural significance* and distinctive character.

Associations mean the connections that exist between people and a *place*.

Meanings denote what a *place* signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses to people.

Interpretation means all the ways of presenting the *cultural significance* of a *place*.

1.8.2 Other key terms

The following words have specific meanings in a heritage context. They are used in this report in accordance with the explanations provided in the Heritage Council of Victoria document, 'The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines' (2014).

Class (in relation to a class of cultural place): generally refers to a sub-category of a broad place type, such as 'WWI memorials' (within the broad 'war memorials' place type) or 'grammar schools' (within the broad 'schools' place type). A class is generally defined by a specific purpose or use, era, design characteristic, construction technique, materials used or some other recognisable quality. A class should

be readily discernible as a sub-category of a broad place type and should not be narrowed by multiple qualifiers (for example, timber constructed, Edwardian era, rural theatres).

Intactness: refers to the degree to which a place or object retains its significant fabric. Note: Intactness should not be confused with condition—a place may be highly intact but the fabric may be in a very fragile condition.

Integrity: refers to the degree to which the heritage values of the place or object are still evident and can be understood and appreciated (for example, the degree to which the original design or use of a place or object can still be discerned). If considerable change to a place or object has occurred (through encroaching development, changes to the fabric, physical deterioration of the fabric etc) the significant values may not be readily identifiable, and the place or object may have low-level integrity. N.B. that integrity can suffer from the effects of development and/or neglect.

1.8.3 Botanical nomenclature

Botanical names are italicised, and common plant names appear in roman type throughout this report. Spelling of plant names and nomenclature have not been corrected or updated when quoted directly from historical or other sources.

1.8.4 Style and grammar

This CMP adopts the Commonwealth of Australia *Style Manual for Authors, Editors and Printers* (2002) as its primary reference guide for style and grammar.

1.9 Authorship

This CMP has been prepared by the Context project team, comprising:

- Kim Robert, Associate – Heritage architect and Project Director;
- Dr Christina Dyson, Senior Associate – Heritage landscape specialist and Project Manager;
- Dr Helen Doyle, Associate – Senior historian;
- Rosalie Mickan, Consultant;
- Juliet Berry, Graduate Consultant.

All images are provided by Context (photographs taken in June 2018 and April–May 2020) unless stated otherwise.

1.10 Acknowledgements

The project team acknowledges the assistance of the following people in the preparation of this Conservation Management Plan:

- John Dyke, Heritage Advisor – Strategic Projects, City of Ballarat;
- Graham McMahon (CEO), and Julie Butler from BGT Jobs and Training;
- Janette Hogdson, Historic Places Branch, DELWP;
- Alex Jamali and Matthew Lee, Land and Built Environment, Grampians Region, DELWP;
- Paul Greig, Ballarat;

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- John Beetham, Arborist, who prepared the Eastern Town Hall Gardens Tree Survey, May-June 2018.

1.11 Acronyms and abbreviations

The following acronyms and abbreviations are used in this report:

BGT	Ballarat Group Training
CHMP	Cultural Heritage Management Plan
CMP	Conservation Management Plan
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
HERMES	Heritage Management Electronic System
HO	Heritage Overlay
HUL	Historic Urban Landscape
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
n.d.	no date
PROV	Public Record Office Victoria
Rs	Reserve
SLV	State Library Victoria
SMB	School of Mines, Ballarat
VGG	<i>Victorian Government Gazette</i>
VHR	Victorian Heritage Register
VPRS	Victorian Public Record Series

2.0 History

2.1 Introduction

This section provides an overview of the history of Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs, Ballarat East, tracing the layers that make up its story of change over time and form an important historic urban landscape within the wider City of Ballarat. It seeks to understand the place from a range of different perspectives: as Aboriginal Country; as the site of significant gold-mining endeavours in the 1850s; as a site for the administration of local government, a place of local police operations, and a place that was important in the development of civic identity; as a public garden that reflected the importance of horticultural endeavours and helped to transform the unsightly mining landscape into a place of beauty; and as the site of educational, library and community uses through the twentieth century and into the early twenty-first century.

This section provides a chronology of development of the study area and environs in terms of the events that have contributed to the evolution of its physical form and character.

2.2 Timeline of events and developments at the site

DATE	DEVELOPMENTS
50,000BP	Aboriginal occupation of the area.
1838	Pastoral occupation of the area.
1851	Colony of Victoria established; gold discovered at Ballarat East; great influx of prospective miners.
1852	Proclamation of the township of Ballarat.
1854	The Eureka rebellion takes place at Ballarat East.
1855	Ballarat is proclaimed a municipality.
1857	Ballarat East is declared a municipality.
1858	Call for designs for the Ballarat East municipal complex.
1859	Foundation of the Ballarat Horticultural Society.
1860	Architect D.C. Cuthbert designs the Ballarat East Town Hall with Police Court. The first section (the Police Court) is completed by May 1860.
1861	The foundation stone for the Town Hall is laid.
1862	A site of 2 acres, 3 perches, is temporarily reserved at Ballarat East for municipal purposes.
1862	The main section of the Ballarat East Town Hall (the administrative offices) is completed.
1864	Contract for forming the reserve and desire to 'proceed at once' with planting the site and fencing.
1865	The Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens laid out over one and a half acres with gravel paths and beds formed.
1867–68	Ballarat East Free Library is built.
1868	Ferdinand Mueller donates plants to the Town Hall Gardens.

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DATE	DEVELOPMENTS
1870	Donations to the Gardens from Mueller, Daniel Bunce and Thomas Lang. The site at Ballarat East is permanently reserved for Town Hall purposes.
c.1871	A pair of ornamental fountains installed at the Gardens.
1871	The population of Ballarat reaches almost 50,000 people, with people from many parts of the world.
1872	Government grant for fencing received by East Ballarat municipal council. The Borough of Ballarat East is elevated to a Town.
1877–78	East Ballarat Police Station built between the Town Hall and the Free Library
1880	A large hall and storerooms were added to the rear of Free Library building.
1881	Palisade fence erected along Barkly Street with bluestone base. Visit of Prince George and Prince Henry, sons of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert; ceremonial tree-planting takes place at the Gardens.
1883	A fernery is erected in the Gardens.
1891	Glasshouse erected in the Gardens.
1890s	John Smith Edwards succeeds Daniel Laidlaw as curator of the Gardens. Decline of gold-mining at Ballarat.
1897	The Ballarat East Town Hall and Gardens are decorated for the Queen's Jubilee.
1898	Visit of delegates of the Federal Convention to Ballarat East, including Alfred Deakin.
1900	New entrance gates are installed and a platform erected in the Gardens in readiness for the royal visit.
1901	Federation and the first Federal Parliament in Melbourne. Royal visit of the Duke and Duchess of York and associated ceremonial tree-planting. By this time, a School of Arts was operating in the Free Library building.
1918	Closure of all mines in Ballarat.
1921	The municipalities of Ballarat East and Ballarat merge to become the City of Ballarat. The Ballarat East Town Hall building becomes obsolete. Ballarat Girls High School uses some rooms in the former Town Hall complex.
1927	Ballarat Teachers' Training College is established at the former Ballarat East Town Hall building.
1933	Lease ends for Ballarat Teachers' Training College; portion of the building to be used as the Ballarat East Baby Health Centre.
1937	Ballarat Girls High School operates more classes from the former Ballarat East Town Hall.
1938	New building for Ballarat East Baby Health Centre is erected within the Town Hall Gardens.
1946	The former Town Hall building and former police station building are demolished to make way for a new Ballarat Girls High School.

DATE	DEVELOPMENTS
1949	Site for a smaller 'public gardens' is reserved on the site of the former Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens. Regulations for the Gardens are published. The collection of books at the Free Library become part of the collection of a branch library of the Ballarat Municipal Library.
1951–54	New Ballarat Girls High School building erected on site of former Town Hall.
1954	Queen Elizabeth II visits Ballarat.
1960–61	Museum of the Ballarat Historical Society established on upper floor of the Free Library building.
1969	Landscape architect Ronald Rayment commissioned to prepare plans to develop three acres of the study area as a public area.
1973	Ballarat East Free Library closes.
1977	Ballarat Girls High School vacate the site.
1983; 1987	Ballarat School of Mines occupies the site.
1994	Federation University established, subsuming a College of Advanced Education and a little later the Ballarat School of Mines and Industries.
1998	Ballarat School of Mines leave the site.
1998	Ballarat Secondary College occupy the site.
2000	Ballarat Secondary College Barkly Senior Campus opens after extensive renovations to existing buildings and construction of a new building.
2016	Closure of Ballarat Secondary College Barkly Campus.
2019	Rejuvenation of site as Barkly Square, with BGT Jobs and Training the lead tenant.

2.3 Contextual history

2.3.1 Pre-settlement landscape

Ballarat East forms part of a topographically diverse landscape that extends east of the Yarrowee River. The Yarrowee River flows in a south-westerly direction through Ballarat, along a prominent escarpment that delineates the western volcanic plain to the west from the uplands in the east.¹ The escarpment aligns closely with the boundary of what is now known as Ballarat West and Ballarat East. The uplands have a rugged and varied character, comprising undulating hills, plateaus, fertile valleys, and granite intrusions which have steeply sloping peaks and ridges.¹

The subject site has an underlying substrata of Ordovician shales and fine-grained sandstone and high level basaltic gravels separated by the recent alluvial bed that follows the course of the Specimen Vale Creek (see Figure 2.1). A rich thin golden strike of slates, known as the Indicator, traverses the Ballarat East belt of lodes.¹ Earlier confluent streams issued from eastern Ballarat in one lead and passed under the plateau into the lead that had come down from the western side of the range at Golden Point.²

The Yarrowee River originates at the hills at Gong Gong, passing through Ballarat before its confluence with the Leigh River. It originally followed a more serpentine course that has been progressively altered from 1851.³ Its main tributaries within the Ballarat City area are the Canadian Creek, Gnarr Creek, Redan Creek, Specimen Vale Creek, and the waterway along Warrenheip Gully. There were three permanent waterholes within Ballarat; one at the junction of the Gong Gong and the Yarrowee; another where the Yarrowee bends under the ranges by Humffray Street north; and the third was near Golden Point.¹ Another large permanent waterhole was the Wendouree wetlands to the west of Ballarat.

There was a variety of plant and animal life in the area. The tree cover was made up of wattles, gums and sheoaks, with wattle abundant in the area east of Lydiard Street. The spurs at Golden Point, Bakery, Specimen and Sinclair's Hills were once densely timbered.⁴ There was also ti tree and other shrubs, as well as native grasses and reeds along the waterways. The Yarrowee River roughly aligns with the escarpment that delineates the hilly land in the east from the basaltic plateau of western Ballarat. This escarpment was once clothed in indigenous grasses and trees that were 'green and gold' in the spring time.⁵ A map of the early 1850s shows that there were also a number of 'grassy flats' on the Ballarat East goldfields.⁶ Kangaroos populated the area, particularly in the land now comprising Main and Bridge streets. Emus, the wombats and dingos were also plentiful.⁷

¹ Planisphere 2013, 'DPCD South West Victoria Landscape Assessment Study', prepared for the Department of Planning and Community Development, p. 23.

² William Bramwell Withers 1887, *The History of Ballarat: From the first pastoral settlement to the present time*, F.W. Niven & Co., Ballarat.

³ Victorian Heritage Database (VHD), 'Creeks and Channels Heritage Precinct', City of Ballarat HO172, accessed online 2 July 2020.

⁴ Ballarat Centenary Celebrations of State Education in Victoria Committee 1974, *Ruffians Attempted to Carry of the School Tent: A history of State education in Ballarat*, Ballarat Times, Ballarat, pp. 73–74.

⁵ Withers 1887.

⁶ See Weston Bate 1978, *Lucky City: The first generation at Ballarat, 1851–1901*. Melbourne University Press, Carlton, p. 69.

⁷ Withers 1887.

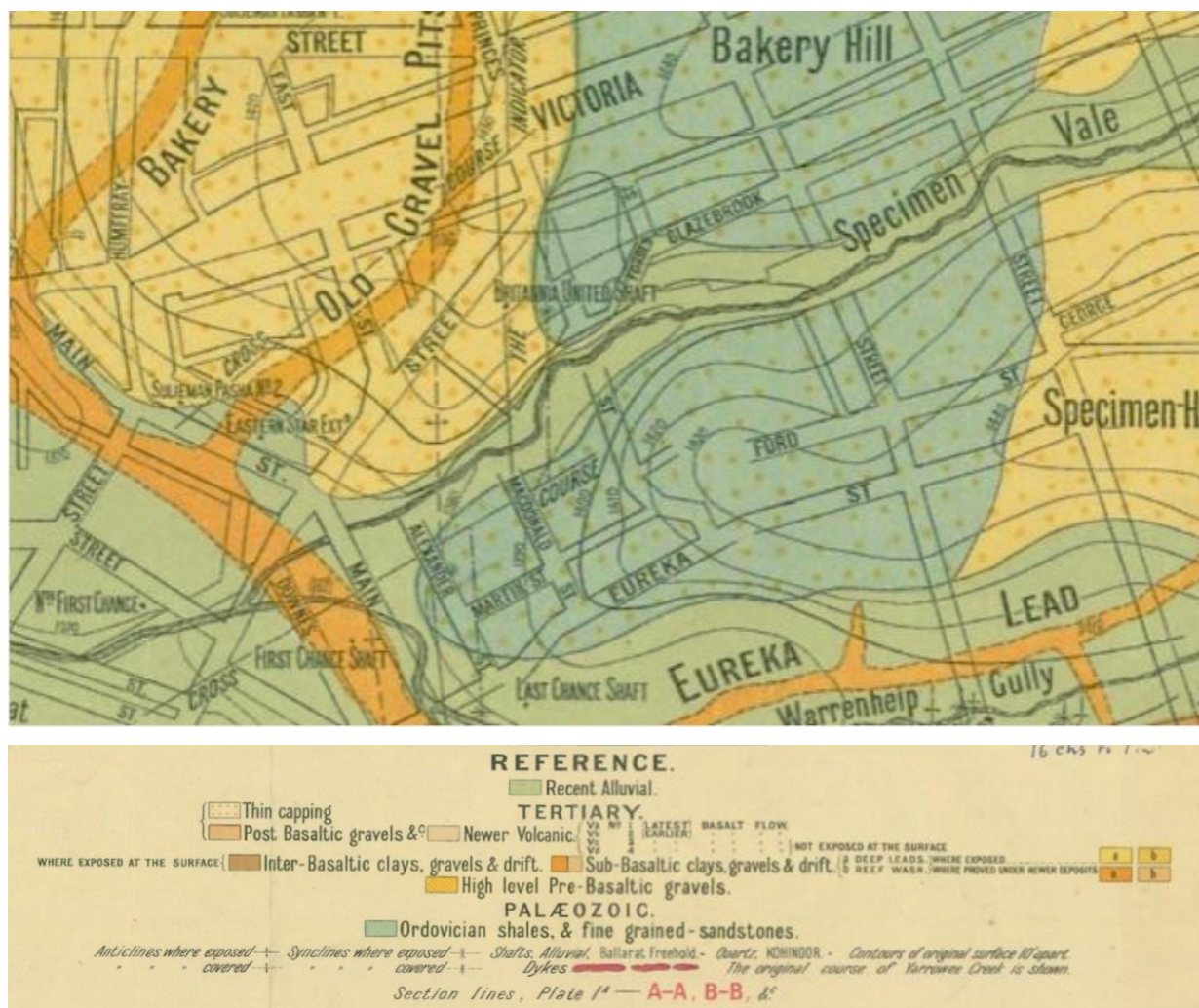


Figure 2.1 Detail of Ballarat Gold Field Map, enlarged from Geological and Topographical Survey, 1917, by W. Baragwanath, Geological Survey of Victoria. (Source: State Library Victoria)

Aboriginal people have occupied the Ballarat area for at least 50,000 years. At the time of British settlement of the Port Phillip District (Victoria), the Ballarat area, as it came to be known, was occupied by the Wadawurrung (also known as Wathaurung/Watha Wurrung), who were one of the five tribes of the Kulin Nation. In Wadawurrung Dreamtime stories, the ancestor creator Bunjil gave life to the Wadawurrung people at *Kareet Bareet*, a place now known as Black Hill, near Gordon. The area, once thickly forested, had rich volcanic soils, which is why the Wadawurrung are known as the red soil people.⁸ In Aboriginal culture, the subject land forms part of an interconnected landscape known as country. Within this context, the history considers the pre-settlement landscape of Ballarat more broadly. Surveyor W.S. Urquhart used interpretations of Aboriginal words for place names when he surveyed the land, including 'Wendouree', 'Yarrowee' and 'Ballaarat', the latter meaning 'a place to rest'.⁹

At the time of settlement, the Wadawurrung language group comprised 25 clans, all of which adhered to a patrilineal moiety system that has two ancestral creator beings, *Bunjil* (the eaglehawk) and *Waa* (the

⁸ Byron Powell 2020, 'Places of Wadawurrung Dreaming: This Place': <https://www.indigenous.gov.au/news-and-media/stories/places-wadawurrung-dreaming-place>

⁹ Ballarat & District Genealogical Society n.d., Ballarat History, accessed online 1 July 2020, <https://www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au/>

Context

crow or raven). Some clans intermarried and traded with the Gulidjan, Djab wurrung, Djargurd wurrung and Djadja wurrung.

Before the impact of settlement and the goldrush, the area of Ballarat was resource rich, with multiple creeks as well as the larger Yarrowee River, which had a plentiful supply of blackfish.¹⁰ The Wendouree wetlands were also an important Aboriginal camping area, and were probably a source of short-finned eel. The uplands east of the Yarrowee River would have afforded extensive views of the western volcanic plains. A description of Ballarat published in 1887 illustrates the changing landscape and intersections between settler Aboriginal life in the early contact period:

*What is now the boroughs of Ballarat, Ballarat East, and Sebastopol, was then a pleasantly picturesque pastoral country. Mount and range, and table land, gullies and creeks and grassy slopes, here black and dense forest, there only sprinkled with trees, and yonder showing clear reaches of grass, made up the general landscape. A pastoral quiet reigned everywhere. Over the whole expanse there was nothing of civilisation but a few pastoral settlers and their retinue—the occasional flock of nibbling sheep, or groups of cattle browsing in the broad herbage ... Aborigines built their mia-mias about Wendouree, the kangaroo leaped unharmed down the ranges, and fed upon the green slopes and flats where the Yarrowee rolled its clear water along its winding course down the valley.*¹¹

Aboriginal people were deeply impacted by colonisation through the dispossession of their country, the ravages of disease, and frontier violence, and the fragmentation of culture and language. First dispossessed of their land by squatters and the imposition of British colonial law, the surge in growth and expansion brought on by the discovery of gold further displaced Aboriginal people, drastically changing their way of life and the country on which they lived. There was conflict between settlers and Aboriginal people on pastoral stations and on the goldfields. Acts of violence and killings were a harsh reality, with several massacres taking place in western Victoria during the early settlement period. The earliest known killing of an Aboriginal person by the British in western Victoria occurred in 1803 on Wadawurrung country.¹²

While many Aboriginal people were displaced by mining activity, recent research shows that Aboriginal people, especially those whose country was rich in alluvial gold, remained in the area.¹³ They were often instrumental in the discovery of new goldfields, including those at Ballarat East.¹⁴ Fred Cahir's *Black Gold* (2012) examines the extent to which the gold rush impacted upon the Aboriginal population of the area—he notes that the effects ranged from 'the incorporation of gold into creation stories, seeking gold as independent prospectors, and actively avoiding the social dislocation and environmental degradation that the gold rushes heralded'.¹⁵ Aboriginal people worked alongside non-Indigenous people in mining operations while maintaining their traditional culture. There was also movement of Aboriginal people into the area from elsewhere during this period, including from Victoria, as well as Tasmania, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia.¹⁶ Aboriginal men from various parts of Victoria who were

¹⁰ H.J. Stacpoole 1971, *Gold at Ballarat*, chapter 1.

¹¹ Withers 1887.

¹² Ian D. Clark 1995, *Scars in the Landscape: A register of massacre sites in Western Victoria, 1803–1859*, Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra, p. 172.

¹³ Fred Cahir 2012, *Black Gold: Aboriginal People on the goldfields of Victoria, 1850–1870*, Australia National University E Press, Canberra, p. 1.

¹⁴ Cahir 2012, pp. 224–225.

¹⁵ Cahir 2012, p. 3.

¹⁶ Cahir 2012, p. 1.

recruited as Native Police came to Ballarat in 1851 to assist the Gold Commissioner in keeping order; their responsibilities included guarding and escorting the gold coach.¹⁷



Figure 2.2 A sketch of the main road, East Ballarat, c.1850s, which includes the depiction of Aboriginal people (left). (Source: National Library of Australia)

2.3.2 The mining landscape

Gold was found by settlers in a number of places across central Victoria in the 1840s, but it was Governor La Trobe's offer of a reward in 1851 (not long after the separation of Victoria from NSW) that provided encouragement for dedicated searching. Gold was discovered in a gully near Buninyong, south of Ballarat, in August 1851. The first finds in Ballarat were made at Ballarat East later that year. Subsequent discoveries ignited the start of a tumultuous decade of gold discovery and gold mining in the area. Gold prospectors from all over the world flocked to the Ballarat diggings, some bringing their families with them. The diggers, as they were known, were largely immigrants from England, Scotland and Ireland, but also from the United States, Canada, Germany, France, Italy and China.

In the early 1850s the place was transformed—and crowded with tents, people, mining apparatus and makeshift stores and shanties. There was little fresh water and poor sanitation. Life was rough and the diggers at Ballarat East often drew the attention of the police with their unruly behaviour. The diggers became increasingly aggrieved at their treatment by the police, particularly the stringent requirement of the police commissioner that all diggers carried a mining license which came with an expensive fee. Discontent had been building for some time before the miners, led by Irishman Peter Lalor, held a monster meeting on Bakery Hill, Ballarat East, in 1854. Here, the flag of the Southern Cross was flown for the first time and diggers vowed to fight the authorities for more reasonable conditions. The events of the Eureka rebellion which followed have become a symbol of the birth of democracy in Victoria. An armed attack on the stockade by troopers before sunrise on Sunday morning, 3 December 1854, resulted in the deaths of over 30 miners. These events helped shape the future of Ballarat East.

Ballarat East, which incorporated Bakery Hill, Black Hill, Eureka, and Specimen Hill, remained a busy mining area through the 1850s. There was a quartz-crushing operation at Black Hill and the area was dotted with innumerable mine shafts, whims and poppet heads. Many miners struck payable gold, but the majority did not make their fortune. Surpassing all discoveries, however, was the enormous 'Welcome Nugget' extracted by miners at Bakery Hill in 1858, which was the envy of the world.

¹⁷ Marie Hansen Fels 1988, *Good Men and True*, Melbourne University Press, Carlton, pp. 212–220; see also Cahir 2012.

Context

The intense mining activity left an unsightly, pockmarked landscape that was littered with mining debris and reshaped by mullock heaps. Trees were felled to clear the way for mining. The waterways, which included Eureka Creek and Specimen Vale Creek, were worked intensively by prospectors seeking alluvial gold and within a short time were turned to sludge. Early views of the area in the 1850s and 1860s show a scene of desecration. Mining transformed the landscape into a ruinous scene—hillsides were ravaged, every inch of ground was worked over and was stripped bare of trees and vegetation, creeks were turned into sludge channels or were dammed and replaced with timber water races; the dry creek beds were then dug up in the search for gold.

The layout of the Ballarat East settlement developed in response to working and living patterns rather than being planned and managed, and as such took shape in a haphazard manner. The narrow streets that evolved as part of the mining landscape of the 1850s followed the irregular early tracks of the bullockies rather than the straight lines favoured by the surveyor. Stores, hotels and dwellings developed along Main Street, Victoria Street and Barkly Street. However whereas Ballarat West developed into an orderly, well laid out city, defined by broad streets and fine buildings, Ballarat East remained less refined and less prosperous. The streets were muddy and unmade, and street life was chaotic. Unrefined social behaviour appeared to reflect the disordered nature of the settlement. With shanties, brothels and gambling dens confined to Ballarat East, as well as the Chinese camp at Golden Point, Ballarat West assumed moral superiority.¹⁸ Attitudes to the Chinese were shaped by the racial prejudice of the period, and the presence of a large Chinese population at Ballarat East contributed to what were regarded as the social ills of the area in the 1850s. The Chinese presence continued to characterise Ballarat East, where Chinese stores and restaurants were established.¹⁹ Over time, the Chinese at Ballarat would gain respect through their role in society and politics.

Ordering and controlling the physical landscape of the diggings accompanied and reflected a broader desire to calm the social chaos caused by gold. The impetus for a separate municipality at Ballarat East, with a separate town hall, emerged in part from the grievances that had led to the Eureka rebellion. The community of Ballarat East saw itself as distinct from Ballarat West and sought to manage their own affairs.

2.3.3 Establishing civic order: Developing the Ballarat East Town Hall and Gardens

The first sale of allotments in Ballarat East had commenced in 1856.²⁰ Residential and commercial growth took place in an organic and ad hoc manner, following along the spines of the main roads. Mining activity dominated the locality and surrounded the settlement, with large areas of Crown land occupied under mining leases. By the late 1850s, the residents of Ballarat East sought to improve their local environs through better road-making, infrastructure and overall planning, and improved civic order. While the municipality of Ballarat had been established in 1855, the residents of Ballarat East did not feel sufficiently well represented and this led to agitation for a separate municipality. The new municipality of Ballarat East was proclaimed on 5 May 1857 and a site for a council reserve was proposed in September of that year. Weston Bate, historian of Ballarat, declared that there was 'no more difficult municipal birth than that of Ballarat East'.²¹

¹⁸ Bate 1978.

¹⁹ Richard Everist (ed.) 2006, *The Traveller's Guide to the Goldfields*, Best Shot! Publications, Torquay, p. 119.

²⁰ Withers 1887.

²¹ Bate 1978, p. 183.

The Municipal Council of Ballarat East officially applied for a site on Barkly Street on 8 May 1858. A signed petition from the inhabitants residing on the land that was sought to be obtained by the municipal council as the site of a town hall, was sent to the Governor, Sir Henry Barkly that year.²² Ambitious plans for municipal offices were proposed in 1858, comprising town hall, police court, library and museum, but the cost proved too exorbitant.²³ Proposals to reserve nearby land for markets (in the area now known as Britannia Reserve) were criticised as ‘most objectionable’, due to being mined over, and the ‘depository for the mullock or fluid mud from the miners washing places in the surrounding neighbourhood’.²⁴

The area of the reserve was 2 acres, 3 roods, 0 perches.²⁵ The site was bounded by Barkly Street on the northwest and what was left of the Specimen Vale Creek on the southeast, which was marked as a ‘sludge channel reserve’ (see Plan of 1862, in Figure 2.6 above). The boundaries of the reserve on the northeast and the southwest were each marked by a right-of-way.

The coveted site in Barkly Street was granted for town hall purposes but the land needed some improvement before municipal offices could be built. In 1860, there were a number of small buildings on the site, facing Barkly Street, most likely dwellings or commercial premises. As this area remained Crown land at this time, the buildings on the site were not permanent in nature. There was also a timber Wesleyan church had also been built on the site, which appears on a plan of 1861 (see Figures 2.3 and 2.4).²⁶

²² Ballarat East Town Hall site, Crown Reserves Correspondence, VPRS 242/P0, unit 320, item C76445.

²³ Bate 1978, p. 181.

²⁴ Ballarat East Town Hall site, Crown Reserves Correspondence, VPRS 242/P0, unit 320, item C76445.

²⁵ ‘Plan Shewing Reserve for Municipal Purposes, Ballarat East’, surveyed by Capt Webster, 20 October 1862, VPRS 4771, P0002, item 15, Ballarat and Ballarat East Town Allotment Survey Plans, PROV.

²⁶ Withers 1887.

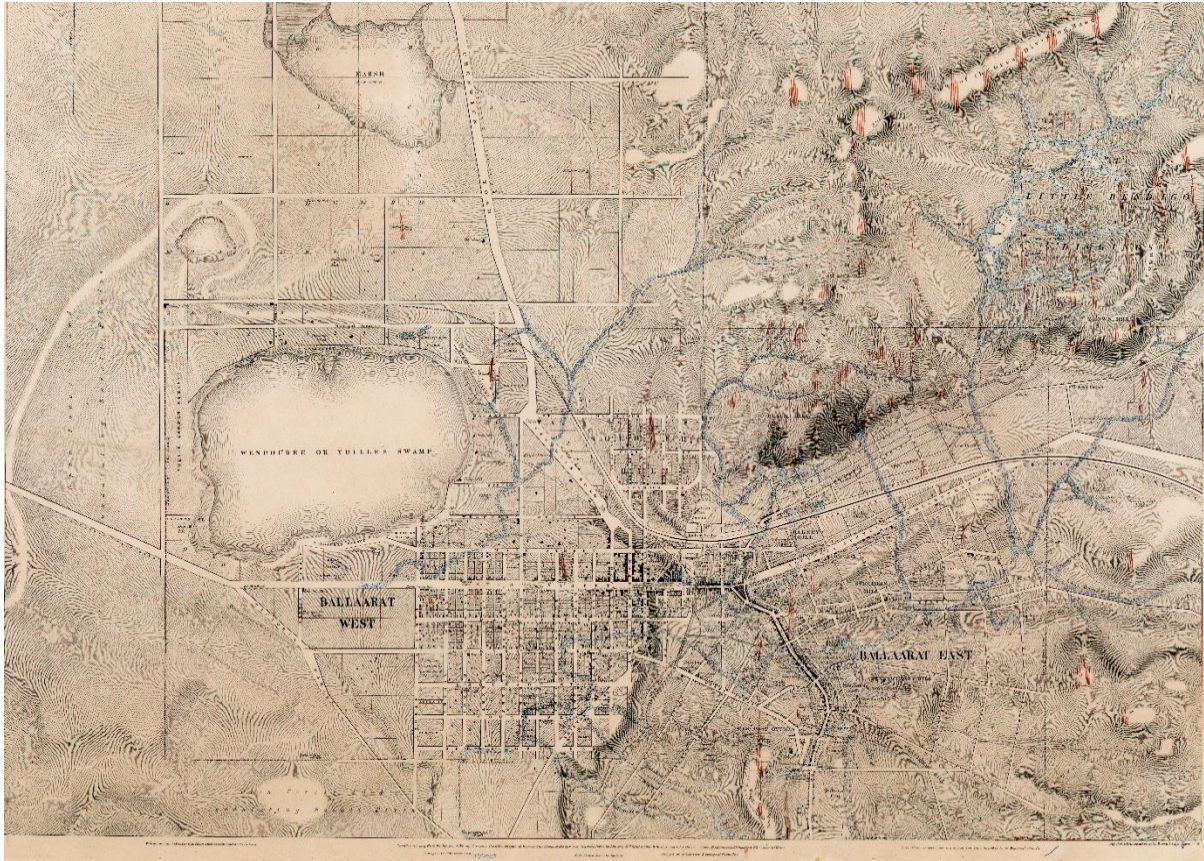


Figure 2.3 1861 map of 'Ballarat Gold Field No. 1', compiled and drawn from the surveys of mining surveyors Davidson, Fitzpatrick & Cowan, Victorian Mines Department. (Source: Maps Collection, State Library Victoria)

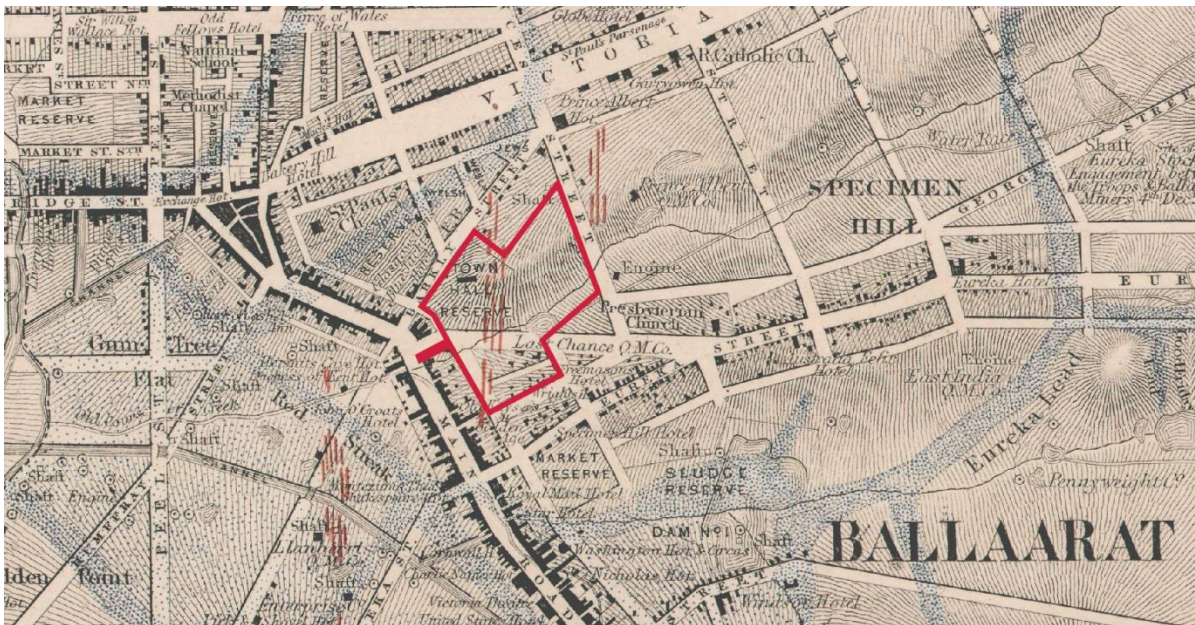


Figure 2.4 Detail of 1861 map of 'Ballarat Gold Field No. 1', compiled and drawn from the surveys of mining surveyors Davidson, Fitzpatrick & Cowan, Victorian Mines Department, with the Town Hall Reserve visible within the study area boundary (outlined in red). Note the dense concentrations of buildings lining the spines of main roads entering Ballarat from the east: Bridge Street, Main Street and Victoria Street. Barkly Street appears sparsely developed, with a handful of buildings along its southern side. (Source: Maps Collection, State Library Victoria)

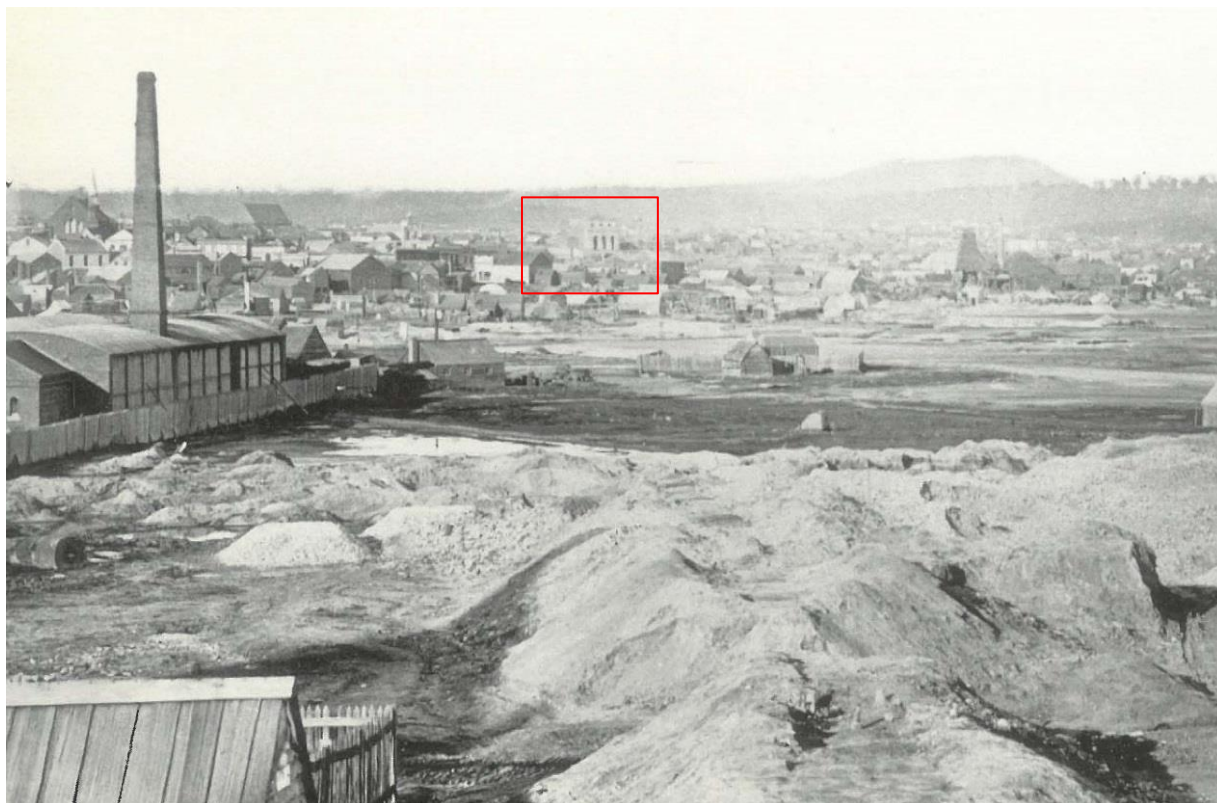


Figure 2.5 Detail from a panorama of Ballarat East, taken from the School of Mines building on Lydiard Street South, shows the first section of the Town Hall completed in 1861. (Source: Reid & Chisholm 1989, *Ballaarat Golden City: A pictorial history*, p. 11)

The first government building on the site, the Ballarat East Police Court, was erected in 1860-61, followed by the Ballarat East Town Hall in 1861-62, which incorporated the original police court structure. The police court and the new town hall were erected by building contractors Irving, Glover and Co. On completion in 1862, the building comprised the offices of the town clerk, town surveyor and rate collector on the ground floor, and the council room and the chairman's offices on the upper floor.²⁷ The cost of furnishings and fittings for the new building was included in the Ballarat East municipal accounts in the second half of 1862.²⁸ The buildings were designed by Irish-born architect Charles Davenport Cuthbert. Cuthbert had emigrated to Victoria with his wife and three children in 1857 and the Ballarat City Council had commissioned him for works at the Ballarat Gaol shortly after his arrival.²⁹ His other buildings include the Town Hall, Ballarat West (c.1860s); Craig's Royal Hotel, Ballarat (1862); the Ballarat Hospital (1862 and new wing, 1866); the nave of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church (1862) and St Peter's Church of England (1864). Between 1866 and 1870 Cuthbert was a councillor of both Ballarat East and Ballarat West.³⁰

²⁷ *Ballarat Star*, 28 April 1860, p 3; *Ballarat Star*, 3 December 1861, p. 2.

²⁸ *VGG*, 13 February 1863, p. 386.

²⁹ 'Cuthbert, Charles Davenport', Dictionary of Irish Architects 1720–1940, Irish Architectural Archive, <https://www.dia.ie/architects>.

³⁰ Withers 1887, p. 155.

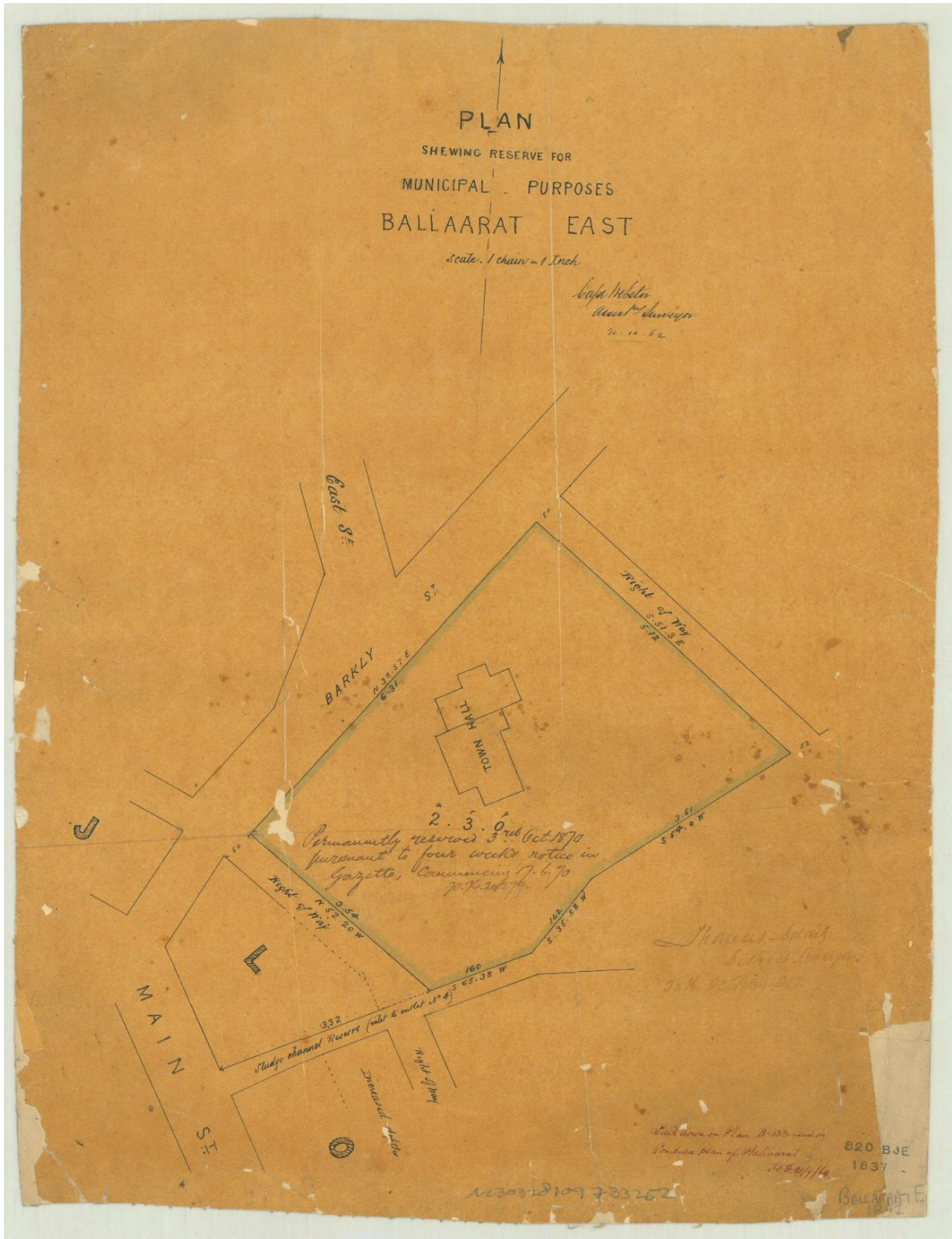


Figure 2.6 Extract from 'Plan Shewing Reserve for Municipal Purposes Ballaarat East', Capt. Webster, Assistant Surveyor, 1862, proposed by the Department of Crown Lands and Survey. Note the reserve is bounded on two sides by a right-of-way. (Source: Maps Collection, State Library Victoria)

Although the subject area had been set aside for municipal purposes and built upon in 1861, the land was not reserved as a site for a Town Hall until 13 November 1862.³¹ In correspondence to the Board of Land and Works, the municipal council expressed its intent to make further improvements to the site temporarily reserved for the Town Hall in 1862, and requested the removal of the last inhabitant from their premises on the site (which had a valuation of £30).³² These premises—erected on Crown land, most likely under a lease arrangement—would have been impermanent and most likely insubstantial dwellings.

The new municipality planned a public garden on the site to ornament the new buildings. The need for public places of recreation and beauty was critical in Ballarat East, which was a sprawling mining area. There was a strong desire to remediate and transform the ruinous landscape of mining. From the 1860s, across the Victorian goldfields, former mining areas were reserved and developed as public parks and gardens as a means of obliterating the unpleasant sights of mining, the mine tailings, mullock heaps, potholes, the impressions left by circuit workings and other scars on the landscape left by mining activity.³³

The Town Hall Gardens were laid out over one and a half acres in c.1863–64.³⁴ At this time the reserve ground was composed of gravel and mullock heaps.³⁵ The work of filling in holes, most likely associated with earlier mining activity on the site, was carried out in the first half of 1863.³⁶ The contractor responsible for forming the Ballarat East Town Hall Reserve was behind the scheduled completion of the work and in July 1864, the East Ballarat Town Council determined to give the contractor notice that the fines would be retained.³⁷ By August, progress with laying out the garden had been made, and a description of the development of the Gardens that month details the substantial conversion of the grounds underway:

*The conversion of the manure-depot-like waste in front of the Ballarat East Town Hall into ornamental gardens is fast coming about. The ground has been formed, and manure and black soil are now being thrown down in readiness for the gardener proper, whose task it will be to lay out the beds, borders, and paths, which together will make a very pretty place of the late hideous wilderness of holes, hills, and debris. A broad level terrace in front of the hall will be approached by a wide flight of stone steps leading from the gardens, and another flight of steps will afford access from Barkly street to the terrace. This latter approach will always be open, but gates will close the other approaches. A handsome fence will enclose the gardens, running along the edge of the terrace and the boundaries of the gardens all round. Large carriage-way gates will be erected at the bottom in the right-of way, and side gates for the admission, of pedestrians will also be erected, the Barkly street side of the fence being painted in bronze color. The whole improvements when finished, will be a very pleasant addition to the attractions of the Eastern borough.*³⁸

³¹ Ballarat East Town Hall Site, Crown Reserves Correspondence, VPRS 242/P0, unit 320, item C76445.

³² Ballarat East Town Hall Site, Crown Reserves Correspondence, VPRS 242/P0, unit 320, item C76445.

³³ Helen Doyle 2005, 'Australia Infelix: Making history in a settled landscape', PhD thesis, Monash University, pp. 234–35, citing Roper 'Inventing Traditions in Goldfields Society: Public rituals and townbuilding in Sandhurst, 1867–1885', PhD thesis, Department of History, Monash University, 1986.

³⁴ *Leader*, 9 January 1875, p. 9.

³⁵ *Leader*, 9 January 1875, p. 9.

³⁶ *VGG*, 4 August 1863, p. 1709.

³⁷ *Ballarat Star*, 27 July 1864, p. 2

³⁸ *Ballarat Star*, 1 August 1864, p. 2.

Context

The area to the north of the town hall reserve was subdivided for residential development in 1865 (see Figure 2.8).



Figure 2.7 The first stage of the Ballarat East Town Hall was completed in 1861, photographed by Solomon & Bardwell photographers. (Source: State Library Victoria, Accession No. H26069). This part of the scheme was retained when the Town Hall was completed some years later, but a new façade covered part of the original structure.

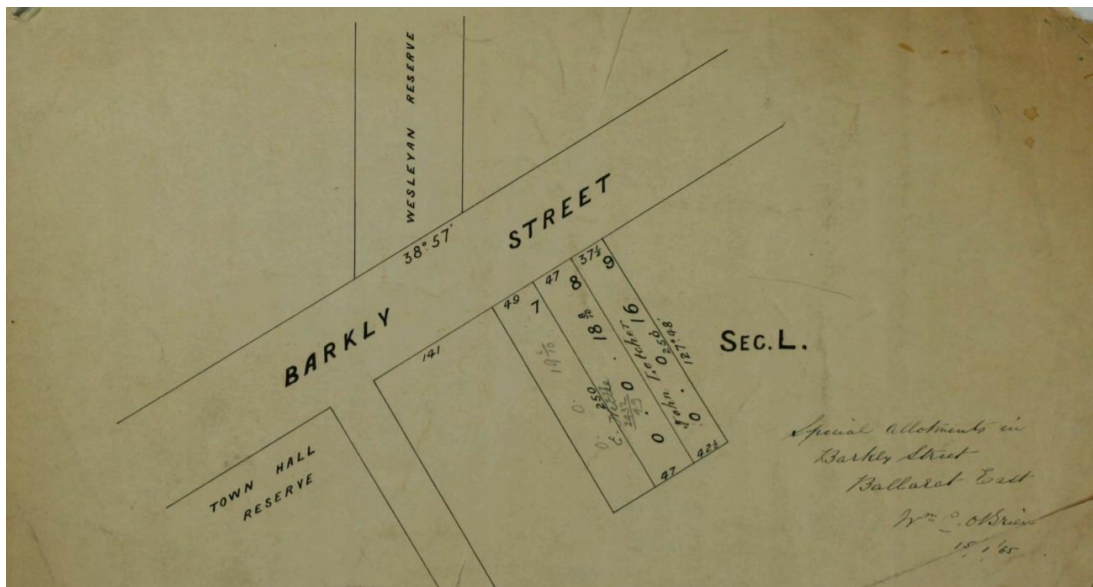


Figure 2.8 Three town allotments subdivided on land north-west of the Town Hall Reserve, northeast of the right-of-way. Plan showing 'Special allotments in Barkly Street, Ballarat East', signed Wm P O'Brien, 15.1.65. Lots 7, 8 and 9. (Source: Ballarat and Ballarat East Town Allotment Survey Plans, Special Allotments in Barkly Street, Ballarat East, VPRS 4771, P1, Unit 35, PROV)

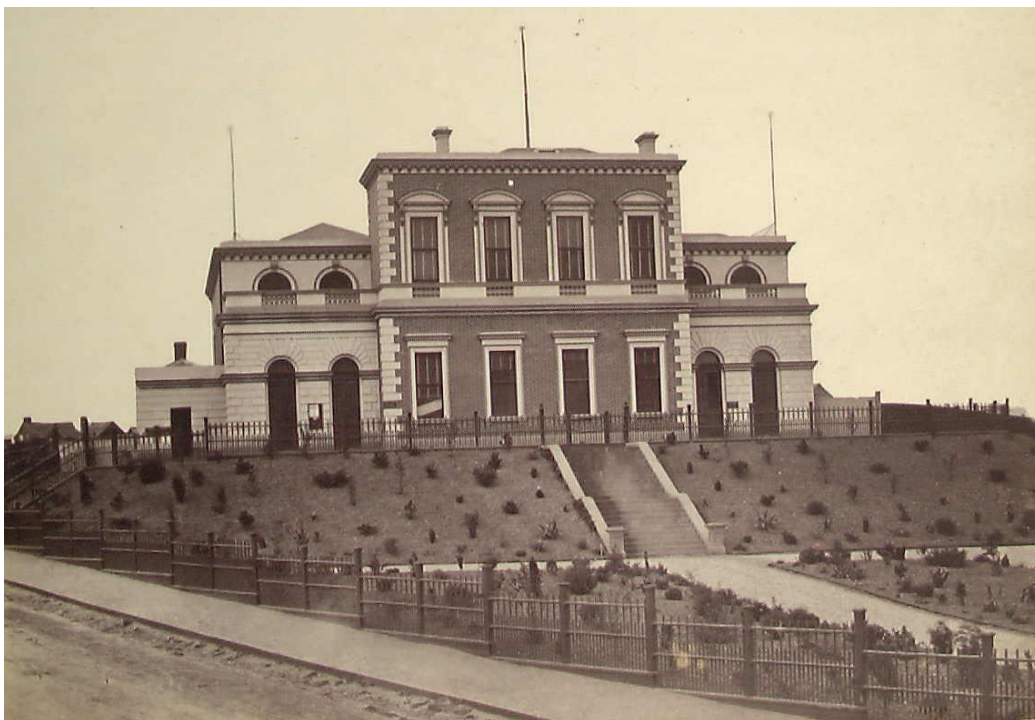


Figure 2.9. Photograph by Archibald Vincent Smith, showing the Town Hall Gardens in the early stages of establishment, including its timber fence, suggesting this image was taken c.1865. The entry pathway from the present-day gateway to the steps up to the town hall terrace remains extant. The small single-storey room on the far left is possibly the police lock-up, which would have adjoined the police court. (Source: State Library Victoria, Accession no. H1773)

By May 1865, the local newspaper reported that the gardens had been laid out and planted:

The ornamental ground in front of the Eastern Town Hall looks extremely well at present. The flowers and shrubs planted several months ago are thriving admirably, and give the place an appearance of comfort and elegance that it never possessed before. The ground has been well laid out, and the walks and borders appear to be in 'apple-pie' order.³⁹

The Gardens were an irregular shape laid out to a largely geometric design (but were oriented at an angle to Barkly Street). A main path led from the entrance gates to the steps leading to the Town Hall; a cross path extended across the foot of the mound. Two additional paths were formed parallel to the main path. There was an internal pathway around the perimeter of the Gardens. Access into the Gardens appears to have been only from Barkly Street and from the Town Hall. Plants were established around the perimeter, which were likely to have matured to screen and separate the garden from the surrounding buildings and the channel and the working mines, that were considered eyesores and did not conform to the civic identity for Ballarat East (see Figure 2.10). By this time, an open palisade fence had been erected along the Barkly Street boundary. Solid fences had been erected along the south-west and south-east boundaries. Already, by 1868, the Gardens provided residents with much-needed relief from the surrounding mining activity:

The Town-hall garden in Ballarat East is a pretty little oasis of leafy beauty and health in the midst of ugly wastes of sludge, mullock, and back slums, unpleasant both to sight and smell.⁴⁰

³⁹ *Ballarat Star*, 6 May 1865, p. 2.

⁴⁰ *Ballarat Star*, 3 March 1868, p. 2.



Figure 2.10 The gardens visible in the foreground of an 1867 panoramic photograph of Ballarat taken from the tower at the Ballarat East Fire Station. Note plants. (Source: Maxwell S. Harris and Jennifer J. Burrell 1998, *Panoramas of Ballarat*, p. 5)

In addition to its role as a centre of the local government area of East Ballarat, the new town hall and its gardens also provided a venue for civic and community events. A urinal had been installed by 1866, but this proved a nuisance.⁴¹ There was some criticism through the 1870s that the Gardens were locked and that members of the public were required to obtain a key from the town hall in order to gain access. The local council determined that the risk of damage and theft of plants was too great to allow the Gardens to be freely accessible.

A second substantial building, the Ballarat East Free Library, was built on the municipal reserve between 1867 and 1868 to the design of local engineer and honorary architect of the Borough of Ballarat East, Christian Hermann Ohlfsen-Bagge.⁴² The foundation stone was laid in 1867 and the building was officially opened on 1 January 1869. Both of these honours were entrusted to Sir Redmond Barry, who took a great interest in the Ballarat East Free Library. Barry was the founder of the Public Library in Melbourne and served as a judge of a circuit court at the Ballarat East Police Court.⁴³ The top floor accommodated a large public library of 6000 volumes, while downstairs there was a billiard room, a newspaper room and a meeting room.⁴⁴

⁴¹ *Ballarat Star*, 16 March 1866, p. 2.

⁴² Hermes record for Former Ballarat East Free Library, 25-29 Barkly Street, Ballarat East (HO9), City of Ballarat, accessed online 18 June 2020.

⁴³ Hermes record for Former Ballarat East Free Library, 25-29 Barkly Street, Ballarat East (HO9), City of Ballarat, accessed online 18 June 2020. The address delivered by Sir Redmond Barry as part of the official opening was later published (Sir Redmond Barry 1869, *Address on the Opening of the Free Public Library of Ballarat East*, H.T. Dwight, Melbourne).

⁴⁴ Pam Baragwanath and Ken James 2015, *These Walls Speak Volumes: A history of mechanics institutes in Victoria*, p. 50.

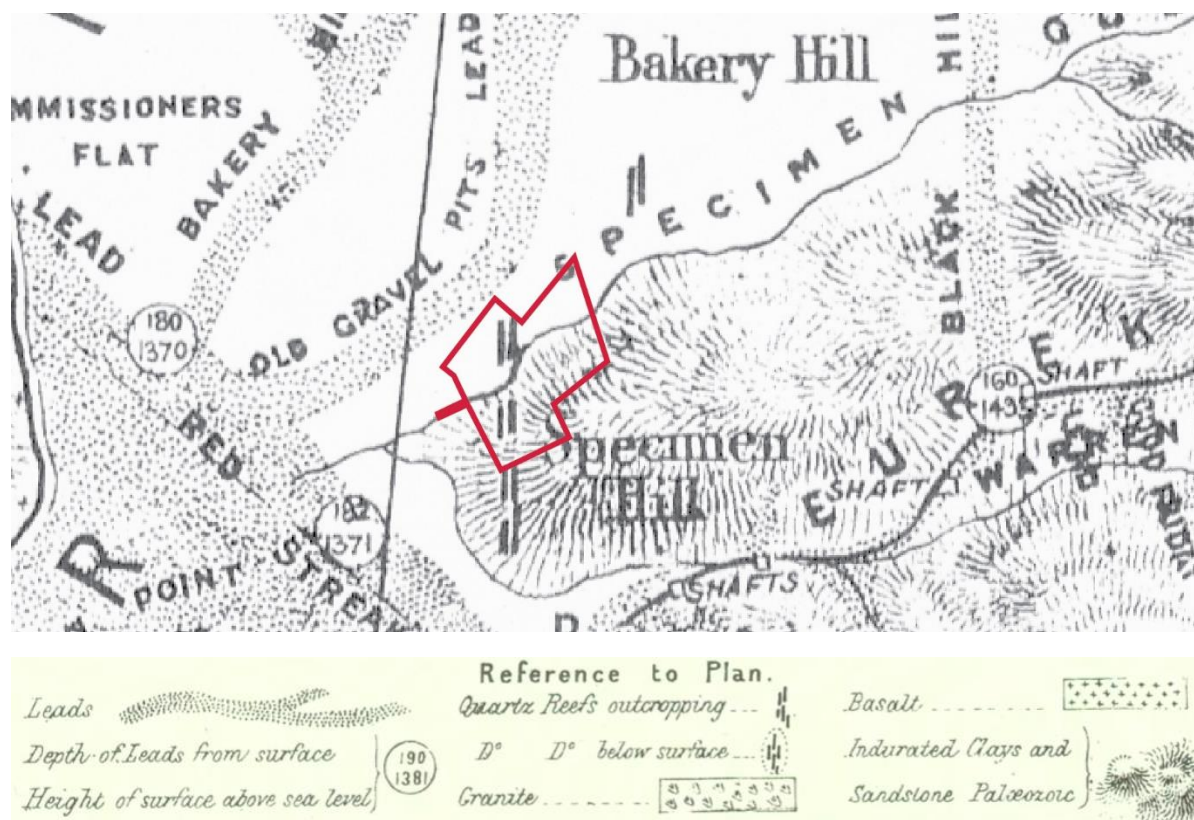


Figure 2.11 Detail of Specimen Gully and geological formation of Ballarat East, from Gold fields, Ballarat 1868. Drawn on stone by E. Gilks, from information supplied by Mining Surveyors Cowan and Davidson. (Source: Map Collection, State Library Victoria)

The Ballarat East Free Library was amongst the earliest of Ballarat's social and educational institutions. It had been established on another site several years earlier, in 1862. Once it was accommodated in its purpose-built premises in Barkly Street, the library built up an outstanding collection. The building also served as a focal point for technical education: the school of design was founded there in 1870, and this developed to become the Ballarat East branch of the Ballarat School of Mines in the 1900s. The building reflects the great importance placed on education in Victoria's goldfields towns, including technical education, and on the prevailing ethos of self-improvement.

The Ballarat East Free Library is an early local example of the Gothic Revival style, articulated in polychromatic and pointed brickwork, which survives substantially intact with a number of fine interiors including the spiral staircase, the original library, the hall and the pine-lined rear rooms. The construction of the front section of the Barkly Street was undertaken between 1867 and 1868. The library's interior design and supervision as carried out by J.J. Lorenz. The builders were Boulton and Fyfe and the interiors were completed by Fly Brothers. By 1887, a timber hall was erected at the rear of the Free Library, which had been part of Ohlfsen-Bagge's original design.

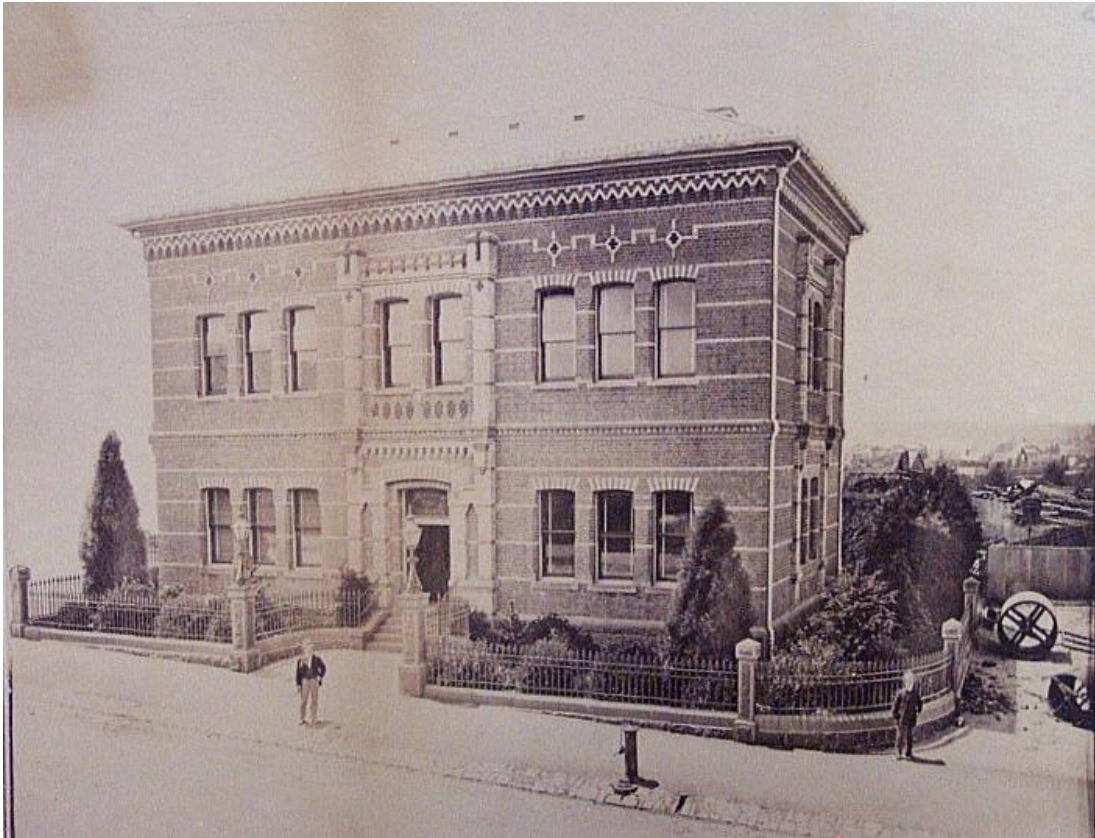


Figure 2.12 Photograph of the Ballarat East Free Library, c.1870–72, framed by low shrubs and two conifers, probably Bhutan Cypress (*Cupressus torulosa*). (Source: Ballarat Historical Society, ref. no. 208.80)



Figure 2.13 Undated (c.1900-1920s) photograph showing the rear timber section of the Free Library, built c1887 (Source: Jacobs Lewis Vines 1981, *Ballarat: A guide to buildings and areas 1851–1940*, p. 83)

The Gardens continued to be developed. Plants were supplied to the Town Hall Gardens in 1870 by Ferdinand Mueller, director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne; Daniel Bunce, curator of the Geelong Botanic Gardens; and local nurseryman Thomas Lang, supplied plants to the Town Hall Gardens in 1870.⁴⁵ Mueller distributed plants to the Ballarat East Borough Council in 1868 and again in 1870, when 1039 plants were provided.⁴⁶ This distribution included '44 sp. Sds' that may have been destined for the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens or the Ballarat Water Commission for which the Ballarat East Borough Council and Laidlaw were also responsible, as well as for street tree plantings.⁴⁷ Notable Ballarat horticulturalist and nurseryman William Elliott also provided plant stock to the Town Hall Gardens in the 1860s. He later described the 'magnificent specimens' in the Gardens and noted that he had raised these as seedlings and provided them to the council for the municipal reserve.⁴⁸



Figure 2.14 East Ballarat Town Hall and Gardens in 1870 photographed by William Bardwell, showing what appears to be a flagpole erected to the right of the image. Note that there are also three flagpoles atop the town hall building. The fence shown here was replaced in 1881 by the extant iron palisade on stone foundations. (Source: State Library Victoria, Accession no. H1616)

⁴⁵ *Ballarat Star*, 19 May 1869, p. 4.

⁴⁶ Sarah Maroske and Andrew May 1993, 'Public Conferment from the Melbourne Botanic Garden 1870', *Australian Garden History* 4 (4), p. 9.

⁴⁷ Maroske and May 1993, p. 12.

⁴⁸ *Leader*, 24 November 1888, p. 14; see Richard Aitken 2002, 'Elliott, William (1813–1897)', in Richard Aitken and Michael Looker (eds), *The Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, pp. 199–200.

Context

The site was permanently reserved for ‘Town Hall purposes’ in 1870 and by c.1870 the construction of the Ballarat East Town Hall was fully complete, and the surrounding Town Hall Gardens were thriving.⁴⁹ The permanent reservation of the site would have provided the incentive for more substantial improvements to be made. The Gardens were well established by the early 1870s, ornamented with a pair of fountains and a fishpond stocked with goldfish that featured a water fountain—both enabled by the provision of a reliable local water supply. There was a rich diversity of plants and gravelled paths lined with floral beds.⁵⁰ The Gardens presented a colourful floral display in the springtime, as noted in 1872:

The Eastern Town Hall Gardens are well worthy [sic] a visit at this season of the year, when the trees and shrubs are looking their best, and many of the flowers are in full bloom. Roses, gladioli, rhododendrons, pinks, geraniums fuchsias, and other varieties are now charming the eye and pleasing the senses with their color [sic] and perfume.⁵¹

Visiting the Gardens the following year, the Governor of Victoria, George Bowen, ‘paid a well-merited compliment to the curator on perceiving so many rare and valuable trees and shrubs in such blooming condition’.⁵² Situated at such close proximity to the dust, machinery and noise of operating gold mines and the surrounding mullock heaps and bare treeless ground, the Town Hall Gardens presented a scene of remarkable contrast.



Figure 2.15 Detail from the Ballarat Parish Plan, dated 11 October 1871, showing extent of the Town Hall Reserve (2 acres, 3 rods), Specimen Vale Creek, and additional allotments on north-east side of right-of-way. (Source: Ballarat Parish Plan 1871, VPRS 8168, P2, Item 62, Historic Plan Collection, PROV)

⁴⁹ Ballarat East Town Hall site, Crown Reserves Correspondence, VPRS 242/P0, unit 320, item C76445; VGG, 17 June 1870, p. 878.

⁵⁰ *Weekly Times*, 23 December 1871, p. 6.

⁵¹ *Ballarat Courier*, 22 November 1872, p. 2.

⁵² *Ballarat Courier*, 27 May 1873, p. 2.

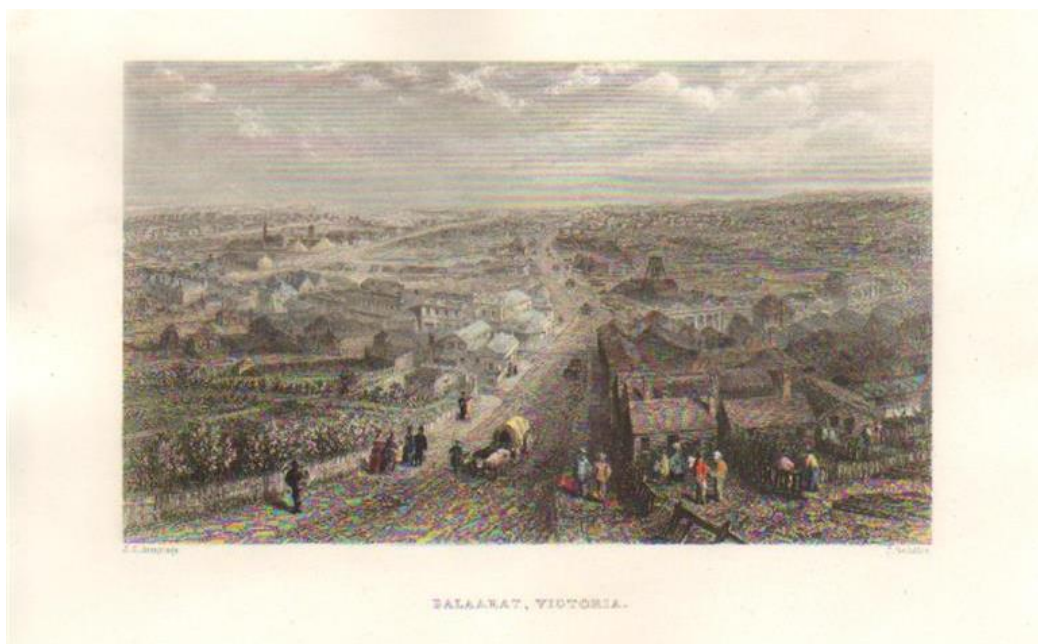


Figure 2.16 Print based on a section from a panoramic photograph taken from the Ballarat Fire Station Tower in Barkly Street in 1868. The view looks along Barkly Street to Mount Pleasant, with Sovereign Hill on the left and Main Road visible in the middle ground. In the immediate foreground, to the left, the fence and low, hedge-like planting in the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens are visible. Lithographic print, c.1873, by J.C. Armytage & J. Saddler. (Source: Museums Victoria: Ballarat & Queen's Anglican Grammar School Collection, Object registration: 9717)



Figure 2.17. A hand-drawn and hand-coloured paper plan relating to the Endeavour Quartz Mining Co. shows tenements along Main Road and Eureka Street, south of Barkly Street and abutting the southern boundary of the Town Hall Reserve. (Source: Federation University Australian Historical Collection, Object registration: 03472)



Figure 2.18 Sketch of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens c.1881-90, showing the new fence along Barkly Street that was erected in 1881. The plants depicted include conifers (possibly Araucarias or cedars, and Bhutan Cypressses) as well as possibly Cordylines, Dracenas or Chinese Windmill Palms (*Trachycarpus fortunei*). The police building and Free Library are visible to the left of the Town Hall. A small gabled building is visible to the right, which may be the fernery, and there are two fountains visible. (Source: Central Highlands Regional Library, Photo no. 268)



Figure 2.19 Sketch of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens, c.1881-90, which is similar to the image immediately above, but showing more of the Free Library building. This also shows various conifers (possibly two Araucarias, or cedars, and Bhutan Cypressses, as well as possibly Aloes, Cordylines, Dracenas or Chinese Windmill Palms (*Trachycarpus fortunei*)). A small gabled building is visible to the right, which may be the glasshouse, and there are two fountains visible. (Source: Central Highlands Regional Library, Photo no. 365)

The gardens flourished under the direction of Daniel Laidlaw, who was the first superintendent of Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens. Laidlaw had learnt his trade in Edinburgh before moving to Ballarat, where he resided for sixty-two years.⁵³ He established the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and worked as gardener for the Ballarat East municipality for over thirty years. He was also a founding member of the Ballarat Horticultural Society and member of the Old Colonists' Association.⁵⁴ On his death in 1915, obituaries for Laidlaw described him as one of Ballarat's pioneer gardeners and noted his involvement planting the first plantations of the Ballarat Water Commission and the Town Hall Gardens.⁵⁵

An article published in the *Leader* in 1875, probably penned by local horticulturist William Elliott, commended the Gardens and provided a detailed account of the individual plants, including a number of tall-growing trees, and the other ornamental elements, including a pair of fountains and a fishpond with an additional fountain:

These gardens are probably the best kept public gardens in the colony. Though small in extent they contain a collection of the best trees and shrubs in cultivation. An acre and a half was laid out and planted in 1863, and though the design was not of first-class character or well adapted for the situation, a capital assortment of trees and shrubs were chosen and planted with ceremony by the mayor and councillors. The permanent trees were allowed sufficient space for their development and the interspaces were filled with shrubs, which have been duly removed out of the way of the permanent specimens as the latter extended themselves, so that they are now perfect in outline, and most of them are exceedingly handsome. Among the finest are a Deodar, 25 feet high, a picture of gracefulness; an exceedingly well-shaped plant of the Atlas Cedar, 21 feet; some handsome plants of Cupressus torulosa, of which the variety majestica excels the others in stateliness and beauty; Abies grandis, 13 feet high, a model of symmetry; Pinus insignis, 40 feet; P. radiata, 30 feet; Wellingtonia, 20 feet; Leichardtia Macleayana, 12 feet; Juniperus communis; 10 ½ feet; others worthy of naming are Araucaria imbricata and Cunninghamii, Thuja Lobbi, T. Meldensia, Thujopsis borealis, the remarkable Aralia crassifolia, 14 feet; and some vigorous specimens of hollies. The Town Hall stands on a considerably higher level than the garden; in front of the building is a broad terrace, from which a bank slopes down to the level of the ground below, with an entrance and flight of steps in the centre. This bank is well planted with shrubs, chiefly evergreen, mostly of dwarf habit, with taller growing sorts interspersed, forming a handsome mass, and producing a striking effect. The balustrades are covered with ivy; among the dwarf shrubs are Genista tinctorial [indistinct], very beautiful when in flower; Escallonia, rubra and macrantha, Prostanthera spinulosa, Pyracantha, Cotoneaster microphylla, Juniperus squamata, Pyrus japonica, Vinca major; with these are contrasted Dracenas, hollies, besides Portugal and common laurels, which flourish exceedingly; American aloes, a pair of which have a capital effect, one on each side of the steps near the bottom; equally appropriate are a pair of upright Junipers higher up the bank. A pair of fountains are placed, without regard to taste or propriety, towards each end of the slope, half hidden among the shrubs. The boundaries, for the sake of hiding the surrounding buildings, required to be very close; they were planted with poplars, oaks, elms, chestnuts, planes, willows intermixed, all of which do well in the climate of Ballarat. The walks are edged with rosemary, and the borders are well filled with roses and other flowering shrubs as well as herbaceous plants. A large expenditure was required in the making of the garden, the original surface being composed of gravel and mullock. It was necessary to introduce a large quantity of soil, and, as usual, in such cases, the work was bungled, until put into the hands of Mr. Daniel Laidlaw, the superintendent of the town gardens, who speedily effected the necessary improvements, and has brought the garden to its present admirable condition; the remainder of the reserve is being improved and planted year by year, on a better design than that of the original portion. In it is a pretty fountain and basin, in which multitudes of

⁵³ *Ballarat Courier*, 18 March 1915, p. 1.

⁵⁴ *Evening Echo*, 19 March 1915, p. 2.

⁵⁵ *Ballarat Courier*, 18 March 1915, p. 1.

Context

gold-fish are bred and distributed to the citizens who fancy such things. The fertility of the soil is maintained by annual dressings of road-scrappings. Several other reserves are maintained from the borough funds.⁵⁶



Figure 2.20 Town Hall, Ballarat East, c.1880s. Note the visible top section of a fountain in the middle foreground, to the right of the steps, and possibly the *Araucaria imbricata* tree (Monkey Puzzle, now *Araucaria araucana*) noted in 1875, at the left-hand edge of the image. The clipped edges to the walks were noted in 1875 to be rosemary. Photograph by John Henry Harvey. (Source: State Library Victoria: J.H. Harvey collection, Accession no.: H92.150/412)

The third government building erected on the Town Hall Reserve was a free-standing, double-storey East Ballarat police station that was erected by the borough council in 1877-78, and was situated between the Free Library and the Town Hall (see Figure 2.21, and Figures 2.18, 2.19, 2.25, 2.28 and 2.41).⁵⁷ This replaced an earlier single-storey building that had been used for the purpose.

⁵⁶ *Leader*, 9 January 1875, p. 9.

⁵⁷ VGG, 28 December 1877 p. 2458; newspaper article, 1878.



Figure 2.21 Outside the Ballarat East Police Station, Town Hall Reserve, c.1907. (Source: Ballarat Historical Society ref. no. 625.79)

2.3.4 Ongoing mining operations

Gold-mining operations, which had commenced at Ballarat East in 1851, continued to dominate the appearance of Ballarat East and the lives of its residents. Mining had occurred along the Specimen Vale Creek, including in what would later become the Town Hall Reserve, and this activity continued subsequent to site being set aside for municipal purposes.

Disputes between the mining companies and the borough council regarding mining operations on and in close proximity to the Town Hall reserve continued for several decades. The Endeavour Quartz Mining Company lodged an objection with the Borough Council in 1870, claiming that the reserve would interfere with the mining operations of the company:

We, the Company had been in possession of a portion of the ground to be used for mining purposes at Specimen Hill, Ballarat East, since 1859 and had since been carrying out mining operations and erected extensive mining machinery at their site. They claimed that the interference would cause a great pecuniary loss to the Company. and noted that the safety of the Town Hall or any buildings on the Reserve may be compromised by mining activity. They requested that... Upon the issue of the Crown grant, the Borough Council would compensate the Endeavour Quartz Mining Company.⁵⁸

The Britannia Mine and the Last Chance Mine continued to occupy part of the reserve under mining claims. Correspondence between Parliament House and the Commissioner of Lands & Survey details a dispute between the Borough Council of Ballarat East and the Britannia Mining Co. in 1872.⁵⁹ The dispute resolved in the Town Council offering to compensate Britannia for 'loss sustained' upon the issue

⁵⁸ Correspondence, 1870, Crown Reserves Correspondence, Ballarat East Town Hall site, VPRS 242/P0, unit 320, item C76445.

⁵⁹ Correspondence, 1872, Crown Reserves Correspondence, Ballarat East Town Hall site, VPRS 242/P0, unit 320, item C76445.

Context

of the Crown grant.⁶⁰ The Specimen Vale Creek channel on the south side of the Eastern Town Hall was heavily congested in 1877. Local residents were concerned that the channel, which was 'full of sand or sludge', would overflow after heavy rains causing flooding to nearby houses.⁶¹ One resident claimed that residents had 'suffered severely before' and suggested that Council, having neglected to maintain the channel, should compensate the residents for damages in the event of flooding.⁶²



Figure 2.22 Oil painting of the New Britannia Company workings at Ballarat East, c.1896, showing the poppet head and chimney tower. The poppet head is flying a blue flag with the words 'BRITANNIA'. Railroad tracks lead from the poppet head in several directions. (Source: Sovereign Hill and Gold Museum: online collection, Object no. 6.0478)

At Specimen Vale Creek, there were informal channel crossings (timber planks) set out at frequent intervals before the drainage channel (Specimen Vale) was covered over later in the twentieth century (see Figure 2.23).

The Britannia Mining Co. Pty Ltd, which bordered the Town Hall Gardens on its western side, continued its operations through the second half of the nineteenth century on a site it occupied under a mining lease. In the 1870s the Britannia Mining Co. was engaged in a long-running boundary dispute with the Ballarat East Borough Council regarding a misappropriation of land of 'over one rood in dimension' that had been part of its leasehold, and sought compensation for this loss.⁶³ The company had a battery situated in Barkly Street, which had commenced operations in March of 1887, and this was reportedly very noisy.⁶⁴ In 1878 a terrible accident occurred at the Britannia Mine, described as being located behind the Free Library. Two men were killed in a mine shaft accident while a third was fatally injured.⁶⁵

By the 1890s, mining was in decline and in 1918 the goldmines in Ballarat had ceased operating.⁶⁶

⁶⁰ Correspondence, 1872, Crown Reserves Correspondence, Ballarat East Town Hall site, VPRS 242/P0, unit 320, item C76445.

⁶¹ *Ballarat Star*, 16 November 1877, p. 2.

⁶² *Ballarat Star*, 16 November 1877, p. 2.

⁶³ *Ballarat Star*, 8 November 1872, p. 2.

⁶⁴ J. Reid and J. Chisholm 1989, *Ballarat Golden City: A pictorial history*, Joval, Bacchus Marsh.

⁶⁵ *Avoca Mail*, 1 October 1878, p. 2.

⁶⁶ 'Ballarat City', Victorian Places, <https://www.victorianplaces.com.au/>, accessed 28 June 2020.



Figure 2.23 Detail of photograph of the site in 1867, showing multiple crossings over Specimen Vale Creek that were made of timber planks, including at the end of the right-of-way. Note that on the left-hand side of the image can be seen the level ground on the opposite side of Specimen Vale Creek, in the area that is now Britannia Reserve. (Source: Maxwell S. Harris and Burrell, Jennifer J. Burrell 1998, *Panoramas of Ballarat*, p. 5)

Mining operations had wider impacts on the local environment. There were ongoing problems with Specimen Vale Creek flooding in wet weather and impacting on, or threatening to impact upon, the municipal reserve. A great storm in 1904 caused the channel of Specimen Vale Creek to become congested with silt and run-off from the Britannia Mine. It was reported that ‘All the water channels in Ballarat East were running bankers soon after the commencement of the storm, and within half an hour the ordinary drains were overflowing and the water making its own channels in every direction ... The channel running down behind the Town Hall Gardens and past the Britannia United Mine was filled up, and a large quantity of sand and silt was sent down the creek.’⁶⁷ The same year, the Ballarat Progress Association was founded. The Association brought together a group of traders who published *Beautiful Ballarat*, an annual publication that sought to promote new industries and tourism in the area as mining declined.⁶⁸

The unsanitary and unmaintained Specimen Vale Creek remained an ongoing problem to the residents of Ballarat East. Proposals were made to straighten and pitch Specimen Vale Creek in 1902.⁶⁹ Ballarat East residents complained that the municipal council had neglected to maintain the channel. One article, published in 1914, painted a vivid picture of the condition of the waterway and how it was regarded by local residents:

Running parallel with Victoria Street on the south, and a very short distance from it, is a trickling watercourse known as Specimen Vale Creek. It carries the drainage of the high lands and runs westerly through Princess, King and Otway streets, filtering into the dam at the back of the Britannia mine. This sewer, gutter, or whatever it may be termed, has outlived its attractive mining name, and is now a specimen of what is possible in a municipality which spends its monies on making a show in the front gardens, while the back premises are such that if it were under the control of a private individual. A prosecution under the health laws would possibly follow, Specimen Vale Creek is a positive disgrace to Ballarat East. ... The creek is a receptacle for dead animals and other debris, and its filthy slimy bed is nothing less than a breeding place for fevers etc.’⁷⁰

⁶⁷ *Ballarat Star*, Thursday 21 January 1904, p. 1.

⁶⁸ Weston Bate 1993, *Life After Gold: Twentieth-century Ballarat*, Melbourne University Press at the Miegunyah Press, Carlton.

⁶⁹ *Ballarat Star*, 24 April 1902, p. 2.

⁷⁰ *Evening Echo* (Ballarat), 12 February 1914, p. 4.

2.3.5 The heyday of the Ballarat East civic precinct

In 1872, Ballarat East was elevated from a borough to a town.⁷¹ Through the 1870s, 1880s and 1890s, the East Ballarat Town Hall Reserve served as a mark of pride for the local area. The Ballarat Town Hall, which was larger and more grandiose, was situated only a short distance away. East Ballarat nevertheless attracted a number of notable visitors and prided itself on its other public buildings, including its fire tower and its Free Library of 6000 volumes, which was considered superior to the public library at Ballarat.⁷²

The Eastern Town Hall Gardens also attracted a number of notable visitors from the 1880s through to the early 1900s. In addition to visits from well known writers and journalists, including the Vagabond, the Ballarat East Town Hall and its Gardens were visited by British royalty, Chinese dignitaries, Japanese seamen, and other notable guests. In 1881, two young sons of Queen Victoria—Prince Albert and Prince George—visited Ballarat during their visit to Australia as midshipmen aboard the training vessel *Bacchante*. During their visit, they planted two cedars at the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens.⁷³



Figure 2.24 Barkly Street, Ballarat East, c.1873, showing the gardens on the left behind a paling fence, populated by maturing conically shaped trees that are indicative of conifers. (Source: State Library Victoria, Accession No. H92.353/26)

⁷¹ Robert P. Whitworth (ed.) 1879, *Baillieres Victorian Gazetteer*, Baillieres, Melbourne, p. 23.

⁷² Michael Cannon (ed.) 1981, *Vagabond Country*, p. 193; Baragwanath and James 2015, p. 50.

⁷³ *Ballarat Star*, 14 May 1901, p. 1.



Figure 2.25 Photograph taken in 1882 shows the Town Hall and Gardens with the extant cast iron palisade fence, which had been recently erected. The police station is visible to the left of the Town Hall. (Source: Reid and Chisholm 1989, *Ballaarat Golden City: A pictorial history*, p. 25)



Figure 2.26 Fred Kruger, photograph titled 'View of East Ballarat East as seen from the School of Mines, Ballarat', c.1882. (Source: State Library Victoria, Accession No. H39614/37)

Context

In 1887 Chinese Commissioners General Wong Yung Ho and Consul-General U Tsing visited Ballarat during an official visit to Australia. A banquet was hosted at the library hall at Barkly Street to welcome the high commissioners.⁷⁴ It is likely that the library hall refers to the timber hall attached at the rear of the library building. The event was attended by over 100 people, mostly notable figures from Ballarat's diverse multicultural communities, including the Mayor of Ballarat East (Mr Russell), the Mayor of the City (Mr T.H. Thompson), Rabbi I.M. Goldreich, and Mr Kong Meng Junior, son of prominent Chinese merchant and respected Melbourne businessman Louis Kong Meng.⁷⁵ Laidlaw decorated the library hall with coloured flags, flowers and evergreens, 'giving the place quite a charming appearance'.⁷⁶ The commissioners' visit to Ballarat was well received and attracted widespread media coverage for the positive and uniting effect it had upon the town. Before their departure, Rabbi Goldreich made a speech stating that he was 'glad to observe the brotherly feeling existing between the different creeds and people present' and that 'it augured well for the advance of the nations'.⁷⁷ This was the first such visit by Chinese ambassadors to Australia.



Figure 2.27 Chinese Commissioners General Wong Yung Ho and Consul-General U Tsing during their visit to Sydney in 1887. (Source: State Library of New South Wales: Freeman Studio, Sydney, photographic portraits, c. 1890–1929 collection, Call no. ON 219)

The Town Hall Gardens had reached maturity by the late 1880s and 1890s, and continued to attract favourable comment. By this time, a fernery and a glasshouse had been erected in the Gardens. Mention of two blackbirds being kept at the Gardens for breeding suggests that there was also possibly an aviary or enclosure of some kind.⁷⁸ The establishment and development of the reserve as a notable public garden was achieved under the expert curatorship of Daniel Laidlaw. Ballarat horticulturalist William Elliott commended Laidlaw's management in 1888:

Most of the other conifers [in addition to Radiata Pine] thrive well. Of these there are some magnificent specimens ... planted in the Town Hall garden, Ballarat East, by the various councillors of the borough some 30 years ago, these

⁷⁴ *Ballarat Star*, 16 June 1887 p. 4.

⁷⁵ *Sydney Mail and NSW Advertiser*, 27 October 1888, p. 870.

⁷⁶ *Ballarat Star*, 16 June 1887 p. 4.

⁷⁷ *Ballarat Star*, 16 June 1887 p. 4.

⁷⁸ *Ballarat Star*, 15 September 1883, p. 4.

however, owe much to the excellent management of Mr Daniel Laidlaw, the borough gardener, who has planted and carefully super-intended all the street trees in the borough, as well as the elder of those in the Water Reserves.⁷⁹

In April 1891 a glasshouse was erected in the Gardens.⁸⁰ In 1895 a new water supply service was laid and several trees were removed in the Gardens to make space for the growth of flowers, suggesting that some trees were overshadowing the beds.⁸¹



Figure 2.28 Sketch from the *Illustrated Australian News*, 1892, depicting the Town Hall and Gardens, and also showing the Ballarat East Free Library and Police Station. (Source: State Library Victoria, Accession No. IAN05/11/92/20)

⁷⁹ *Leader*, 24 November 1888, p. 14.

⁸⁰ Doug Bradby (ed.) 1998, 'The Barkly Street Site: A brief history: An investigation by VCE History students', Ballarat Secondary College, November 1998, no page numbers.

⁸¹ *Ballarat Star*, 17 August 1895, p. 4.



Figure 2.29 Photograph, c.1895, showing a path in the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens with mature Cordylines and understorey shrubs within a rockery, surrounding a fishpond with a water fountain. (Source: Ballarat Historical Society; the same image appears in *Guide to Picturesque Ballarat*, c.1896)

The Ballarat East municipality demonstrated its loyalty to the British crown on a number of occasions. As early as 1867 a visit to Ballarat by Prince Alfred prompted an evening procession from Ballarat East to central Ballarat. For the Queen's jubilee in 1897 the town hall and gardens were suitably decorated with fairy lights and a 'tasteful arch of evergreens' was erected at the main entrance. The town hall was topped with an illuminated display and Chinese lanterns were hung from the trees on Barkly Street.⁸² In 1901 the Duke and Duchess of York, George and Mary, visited Victoria to open the first Federal Parliament at the Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne. Ballarat was included on the royal itinerary and significant planning and beautification works were underway in preparation for the royal visit. New ornamental entrance gates costing £75 and a bandstand on brick foundations were erected in the Eastern Town Hall Gardens in readiness for the occasion.⁸³ In addition, a grandstand was erected in front of the Town Hall to be used by school children who would be singing for the royal visit.⁸⁴

⁸² *Ballarat Star*, 22 June 1897, p. 4.

⁸³ *Ballarat Star*, 23 August 1900, p. 1; *Ballarat Star*, 24 April 1901, p. 2.

⁸⁴ *Ballarat Star*, 2 May 1901, p. 6

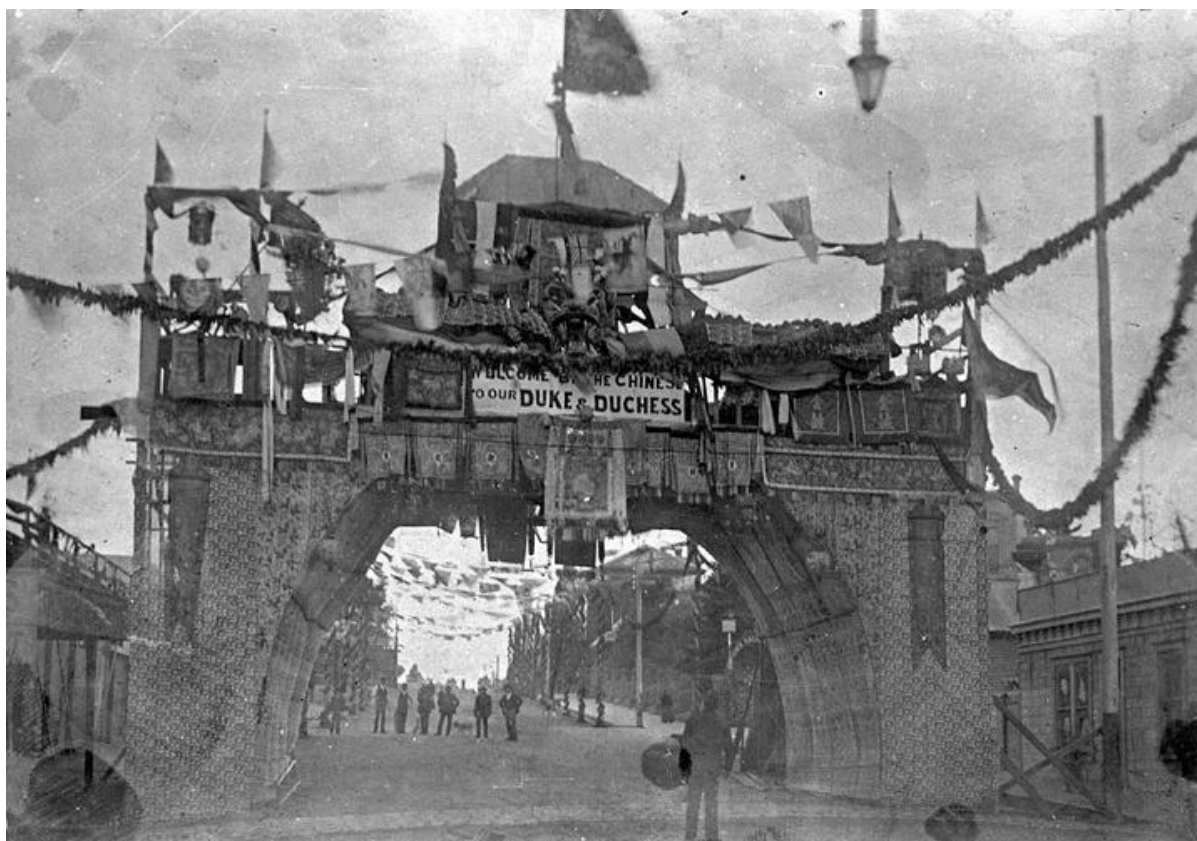


Figure 2.30 Decorated Chinese Arch on Barkly Street at the crossing with Main Street, Ballarat East, erected in 1901 for the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York. A sign at the top of the arch reads 'Welcome ... [from? *illeg.*] ... the Chinese to our Duke and Duchess'. The Town Hall Gardens are visible in the distance through the arch on the right. (Source: Museums Victoria, Item no. MM 1582)

The East Ballarat Borough Council also discussed proposed works to be undertaken, including tree planting in various streets and improvements needed to roads in different wards in Ballarat East.⁸⁵ On their visit a cavalcade led the royal visitors' carriage through the town towards the Town Hall Gardens where they were formally received. The royal visitors passed through Bridge Street and Main Street, which were richly decorated with bowers of evergreens and floral festoons. As the convoy turned from Main Road into Barkly Street, they crossed through an impressive archway that had been constructed by East Ballarat's Chinese community in honour of the visit. As Chinese residents welcomed the Duke and Duchess, crowds of locals thronged along Barkly Street to glimpse the procession.⁸⁶

Arriving earlier than expected, the royal visitors were met several moments later by local councillors and Mayor James Pearce, who invited the Duke and Duchess to inspect the trees planted by the Duke of York's late brother during the princes' visit in 1881. The royal guests were then escorted to the top of the gardens where a floral planting arrangement read 'Welcome to T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of York'. The Duke and Duchess each planted a tree to commemorate the occasion and consented to

⁸⁵ *Ballarat Star*, 23 August 1900, p. 1; *Ballarat Star*, 24 April 1901, p. 2.

⁸⁶ *Ballarat Star*, 14 May 1901, p. 1.

Context

having their photograph taken with the Governor-General, the Right Honourable John Adrian Louis Hope.⁸⁷



Figure 2.31 Reception of His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, Lord Hopetoun, and his wife Lady Hopetoun at the Ballarat East Town Hall, 1890. (Source: State Library Victoria: Accession no. H96.160/1934)



Figure 2.32 Dignitaries and guests photographed at the steps of the East Ballarat Town Hall on the occasion of the royal visit of 1901. (Source: Ballarat Historical Society, ref. 597.81)

Early in the twentieth century, the Ballarat Progress Association worked hard to achieve the amalgamation of the town (Ballarat East) and the city (Ballarat West).⁸⁸ Bate, referring to the 1910s, notes that 'there were no planning rules and until mining, with its disruption of all geographic logic, was finished, there could be no clear guide to industrial location'.⁸⁹ Consequently, in locations like Ballarat

⁸⁷ *Ballarat Star*, 14 May 1901, p. 1.

⁸⁸ Bate 1993, p. 7.

⁸⁹ Bate 1993, p. 7.

East, offensive smells from a bone mill, for example, were apparent to occupants of houses in Victoria Street, which was a desirable residential location in Ballarat East.

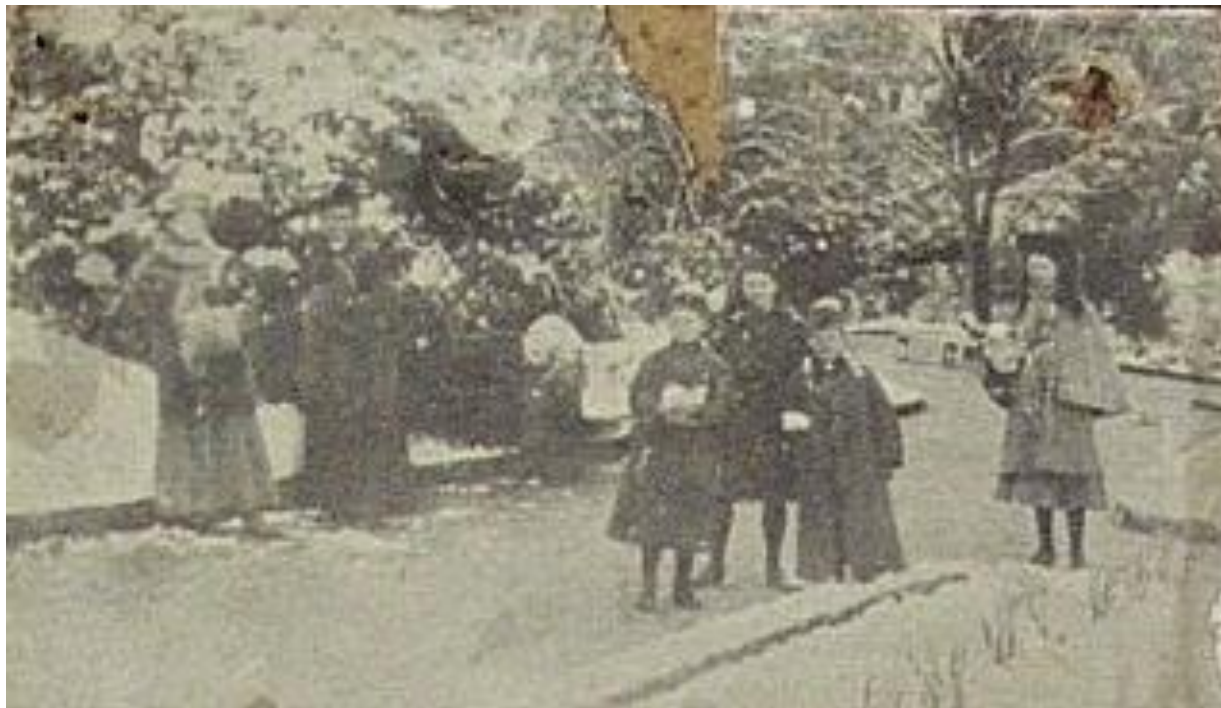


Figure 2.33 Snowfall at Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens, c.1906. (Source: Ballarat Historical Society, ref. no. 229.90)



Figure 2.34 Man in Eastern Town Hall Gardens, 1907, showing the main path, surfaced with gravel and lined with floral beds. (Source: *Leader*, 21 December 1907, p. 31)

2.3.6 Amalgamation of the Borough of Ballarat East with Ballarat

The decline of gold-mining in Ballarat significantly impacted Ballarat East, which lost 15 per cent of its population between 1911 and 1921.⁹⁰ By comparison, Ballarat West lost less than 4 per cent of its population within the same time period.⁹¹ The economic and social impacts of the decline in mining encouraged the formation of organisations that sought to improve Ballarat. The Greater Ballarat Movement (established 1910) campaigned for the amalgamation of the two municipalities, 'as a fruitful unity in the fight for survival' in the aftermath of mining and as part of the efforts to discover new industries, promote old ones, and resist the centralising power and the attractive pull of the metropolis of Melbourne. The Greater Ballarat Movement suggested that municipal rivalry in Ballarat was beleaguering its business community.⁹² The Forward Ballarat Movement (established 1916) sought to expand business in Ballarat and attracted membership from manufacturers and professionals.⁹³ Both the Forward Ballarat Movement and the Greater Ballarat Movement organisations were represented in a political expression of their goals. Events, such as the inaugural 'Back to Ballarat' in 1917 and the 'welcome home' event for Ballarat's returning soldiers (held in 1919) helped to unify Ballarat's two municipal communities, and issues in common such as deficiencies in public health and sewerage helped to break down old loyalties and unify the formerly separate communities of East and West Ballarat.⁹⁴

In 1920 Ballarat (West) and Ballarat East municipalities amalgamated to form Greater Ballarat. Former Mayor of Ballarat East, Jim Pittard 'organised a series of functions at Ballarat East to say farewell to a municipal identity that incorporated the earliest phase of Ballarat's urban history'.⁹⁵ To mark the occasion, an amalgamation ceremony was held on 24 May 1921 at the Sturt Street – Grenville Street corner, near the municipal boundary.⁹⁶

While industrial expansion occurred mainly in the north and west of Ballarat, the congested nature of Ballarat East meant that there were little new prospects for new industry. Ballarat East was left with its declining or abandoned gold mines. There were no laws that required restoration of the land after mining, and as a result, mining activity left behind a degraded and scarred landscape. Improvement works were gradually undertaken. In the 1920s the finance committee of the Ballarat City Council appointed Mr Sandy to supervise improvement works at Black Hill Creek and Specimen Vale Creek. A government grant of £5250 supported these works on the condition that the Council provide an equal sum.⁹⁷ Construction of an underground sewage system throughout Ballarat commenced. From this time, the channel system (which includes Specimen Vale) was solely used for the drainage of stormwater. Formerly the channel system was also a drainage channel for raw sewage and polluting effluent from the hospital, surrounding factories and mills, and other industrial sites.⁹⁸

⁹⁰ Bate 1993, p. 32.

⁹¹ Bate 1993, p. 32.

⁹² Bate 1993, p. 29.

⁹³ Bate 1993, p. 29.

⁹⁴ Bate 1993, p. 29.

⁹⁵ Bate 1993, pp. 112–113.

⁹⁶ Bate 1993, p. 114.

⁹⁷ *Argus*, 16 August 1924, p. 20.

⁹⁸ David Rowe and Wendy Jacobs 2006, 'City of Ballarat Heritage Precincts Study', Part A, Volume 2, July 2006, p. 110.



Figure 2.35 Ballarat East Town Hall and Gardens, c.1923, taken from *Guide to Ballarat the Beautiful*. Note the fountain and the gabled building to the right of the Town Hall, which may have been the glasshouse or fernery. The police station is visible on the far left. (Source: Victorian Collections: Federation University Australia Historical Collection, Object registration: 01603).



Figure 2.36 Rose Series postcard showing a view in the Town Hall Gardens, Ballarat East, c.1920-54. This shows ivy, floral display beds bordering the main path, and clipped shrubs. (Source: State Library Victoria, Accession no. H32492/2450)



Figure 2.37 Detail from Rose postcard showing the northwest corner of the Town Hall Gardens, c.1920s-30s. The right-of-way visible at the foot of the Gardens appears to be quite narrow. (See also Appendix B for a larger reproduction of this photograph. (Source: Gold Museum)



Figure 2.38 'East Ballarat from the Fire Tower', 1924, showing the entrance corner of the Gardens with a pair of pines. The trees may be the commemorative pair of Spanish Fir trees (*Abies pinsapo* 'Glauca') (Trees 2 and 3), originally planted in 1881 or 1901, later replanted). (Source: *Weekly Times*, 19 July 1924, p. 42)



Figure 2.39 Former Ballarat East Town Hall showing pathway and clipped shrubs, 1929. (Source: Federation University Australian Historical Collection, Object registration no. M15014)



Figure 2.40 Students of Ballarat Teachers' Training College at the Barkly Street gates outside the Ballarat East Town Hall, c.1931. (Source: Federation University Australia Historical Collection, online, object no. 13016)

With the two Ballarat municipal offices amalgamated, the Ballarat East Town Hall and Police Court was available for other uses. In 1925, the police court was occupied by the local branch of the Australian Natives' Association.⁹⁹ The Ballarat Teachers Training College was established following the Victorian State Government and the State Education Department decision to establish two provincial teachers' colleges, at Ballarat and Bendigo. On 4 May 1926, Mr W.H. Ellwood (Principal), Miss A. Bouchier, and Mr A.B. Jones, welcomed the first enrolment of 61 students to undertake the one-year course. In 1927 the College moved to the former Ballarat East Town Hall in Barkly Street, which was remodelled for their use. In December 1931 the Barkly Street facility was closed. All students were transferred to Melbourne on the direction of the Education Inquiry Board, which argued that the financial savings from its closure

⁹⁹ *Smith's Weekly*, 7 February 1925, p. 23.

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would outweigh the costs otherwise involved in retaining the provincial college.¹⁰⁰ Ballarat district parliamentarians made representations against the closure, but with no success.¹⁰¹ In 1946 Ballarat Teachers' Training College reopened in a new location at the Dana Street State School.

Ballarat City Council began unemployment relief works on behalf of the Public Works Department, along Specimen Vale from 1931. the forming of a large semicircular channel, with either flagstone, old tramway pitchers, or concrete-lined bases and concrete lined walls. The final section of Specimen Vale (between Barkly and Steinfeld streets) was completed in 1936.¹⁰²



Figure 2.41 Former Ballarat East Town Hall, viewed from Barkly Street, 1933. (Source: Federation University Australian Historical Collection)

The City of Ballarat and the Victorian Education Department lodged a lease agreement for the Old Town Hall buildings. The agreement allowed the Department at a yearly rental of £1, 'on condition that the buildings are kept in a thorough state of repair by the Department and water and sewerage rates to be borne by the Department'.¹⁰³

¹⁰⁰ *Age*, 6 January 1932, p. 10.

¹⁰¹ Victorian Collections, 'Ballarat Teachers College Graduation Record Book', Federation University Australia Historical Collection: Object registration no. 00973, accessed online 2 July 2020, <https://victoriancollections.net.au/>; *Age*, 6 January 1932, p. 10.

¹⁰² Rowe and Jacobs 2006, p. 109; *Age*, 24 March 1936, p. 16.

¹⁰³ Ballarat East Town Hall site, Crown Reserves Correspondence, VPRS 242/P0, unit 320, item C76445 (PROV).



Figure 2.42 Detail from aerial photograph showing the subject site in 1934. (Source: Geoscience Australia, Map sheet: SJ54-8, Film: MAP2803)

In 1933 the Education Department did not seek to undertake a renewal of their lease of the former town hall for use as a teachers' training college. The building was, at this time, 'in excellent condition, as the result of some £4000 having been expended upon it in remodelling and equipment.'¹⁰⁴ The same year,

¹⁰⁴ *Age*, 11 May 1933 p. 3.

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the Baby Health Centre made a proposal to the council that its services could be accommodated within the recently vacated former town hall building.¹⁰⁵ From 1937 the girls' school used part of the building.¹⁰⁶ In 1936 after a conference between representatives of the Baby Health Centre, the Mayor of Ballarat (Councillor J. Pryor) and a sub-committee of the city council, it was decided that a site should be granted in the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens on which to erect a new baby health centre for Ballarat East.¹⁰⁷ After tenders were let in 1937, there was some concern from Ballarat City Council when the government announced that local municipalities would be solely responsible for the maintenance costs of baby health centres.¹⁰⁸ Construction started that year to a design by the Public Works Department but was delayed by difficulty of getting delivery of steel-framed windows.¹⁰⁹ The architect is unknown but it was possibly the work of the Chief Architect of the Public Works Department, Percy Everett.

The new Ballarat East Baby Health Centre was officially opened in 1938 by Lady Huntingfield, wife of the Governor of Victoria, in the presence of a large gathering. The building was 'set in the charming surroundings of the old Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens with its outlook on the green lawns, splendid trees, and colourful flower pots.'¹¹⁰



Figure 2.43 Sketch showing proposed plans for the acquisition of buildings, c.1943. Note the Public Library and Police Station are indicated in blue. (Source: Public Records Office Victoria: VPRS 242/P0 Unit 320)

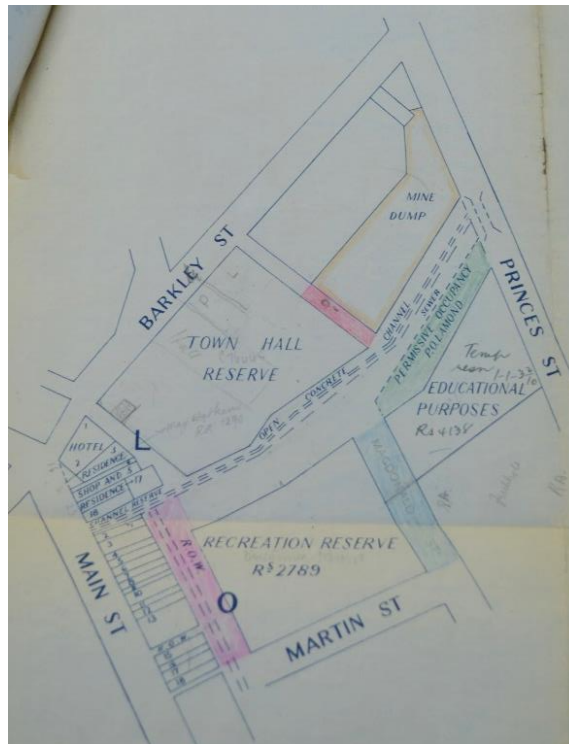


Figure 2.44 Sketch showing areas proposed to be acquired for educational purposes, c.1940s. (Source: Ballarat East Town Hall Reserve file, Rs 6128 and Rs 6129, DELWP)

¹⁰⁵ *Age*, 7 March 1933, p. 14; *Age* 11 May 1933, p. 3.

¹⁰⁶ Les Blake 1973, *Vision and Realisation*, vol. 2, Victorian Government Printer, Melbourne, p. 858.

¹⁰⁷ *Argus*, 30 September 1936, p. 10.

¹⁰⁸ *Age*, 3 June 1937, p. 14.

¹⁰⁹ *Age*, 2 October 1937, p. 16.

¹¹⁰ *Age*, 10 March 1938, p. 14.

In 1943 the Education Department proposed to erect a new building for a girls' secondary school on the site of the Town Hall. The proposal also suggested that the Department acquire the library hall and the police station as part of the proposed school site.¹¹¹ The above sketch accompanied correspondence between the Department of Education and the Department of Lands and Survey, and shows the approximate locations of the buildings to be acquired.¹¹² In 1948, the *Ballarat Land Act 1947* was enacted, allowing the revocation of the reservation for Town Hall purposes, which meant that new girls' school could be erected on the site.¹¹³ The Town Hall was subsequently demolished, and the site made ready for the proposed Ballarat Girls School building.¹¹⁴ The former police station was also demolished around this time. An area of 1 acre, 2 roods and just over 16 perches of the Town Hall Gardens was retained and gazetted as a 'Public Gardens Reserve' in 1943.¹¹⁵

The Public Works Department accepted W.G. Feary and Sons' tender of £43,518 for the construction of the new Ballarat Girls High School building in Barkly Street in 1949.¹¹⁶ Construction of the building started in 1951 and was completed in 1954.¹¹⁷ The Education Department requested exclusive use of the Britannia Reserve as recreation grounds for the girls school as early as 1945 and the site was reserved as such the following year.¹¹⁸ At this time, the ground of the Britannia Reserve was described as 'Mining slum with some surface soil. Flat grassed (used as recreation ground)'.¹¹⁹ Slum in this context is likely to mean sludge, mining effluent that consisted of volumes of sand, gravel and silt-laden water.¹²⁰

After the erection of the school, public access to the reserve was no longer permitted (see Figure 2.47). The school was one of several schools in Victoria that were erected or extended in the early 1950s by the Public Works Department to ease overcrowding in the immediate postwar period.¹²¹

¹¹¹ *Age*, 20 November 1943, p. 3; Ballarat East Town Hall Site, Crown Reserves Correspondence, VPRS 242/P0, unit 320, item C76445, PROV.

¹¹² Ballarat East Town Hall site, Crown Reserves Correspondence, VPRS 242/P0, unit 320, item C76445.

¹¹³ Ballarat East Town Hall site, Crown Reserves Correspondence, VPRS 242/P0, unit 320, item C76445.

¹¹⁴ Ballarat Historical Society, Schools collection, Catalogue No. 102.81, accessed online 29 June 2020, www.ballarathistoricalsociety.com.

¹¹⁵ Crown Lands and Survey, Ballarat East Township Plan, held PROV.

¹¹⁶ *Age*, 4 August 1949, p. 6.

¹¹⁷ Blake 1973, vol. 2, p. 858.

¹¹⁸ *Age*, 31 January 1945, p. 3. VGG, 1946, p. 2823.

¹¹⁹ Plan of Allotment, Reserve for Educational Purposes, dated December 1945, Rs 6129.

¹²⁰ Susan Lawrence and Peter Davies 2019, *Sludge: Disaster on Victoria's goldfields*, La Trobe University Press in conjunction with Black Inc., Carlton.

¹²¹ *Age*, 10 June 1953, p. 5.

Context

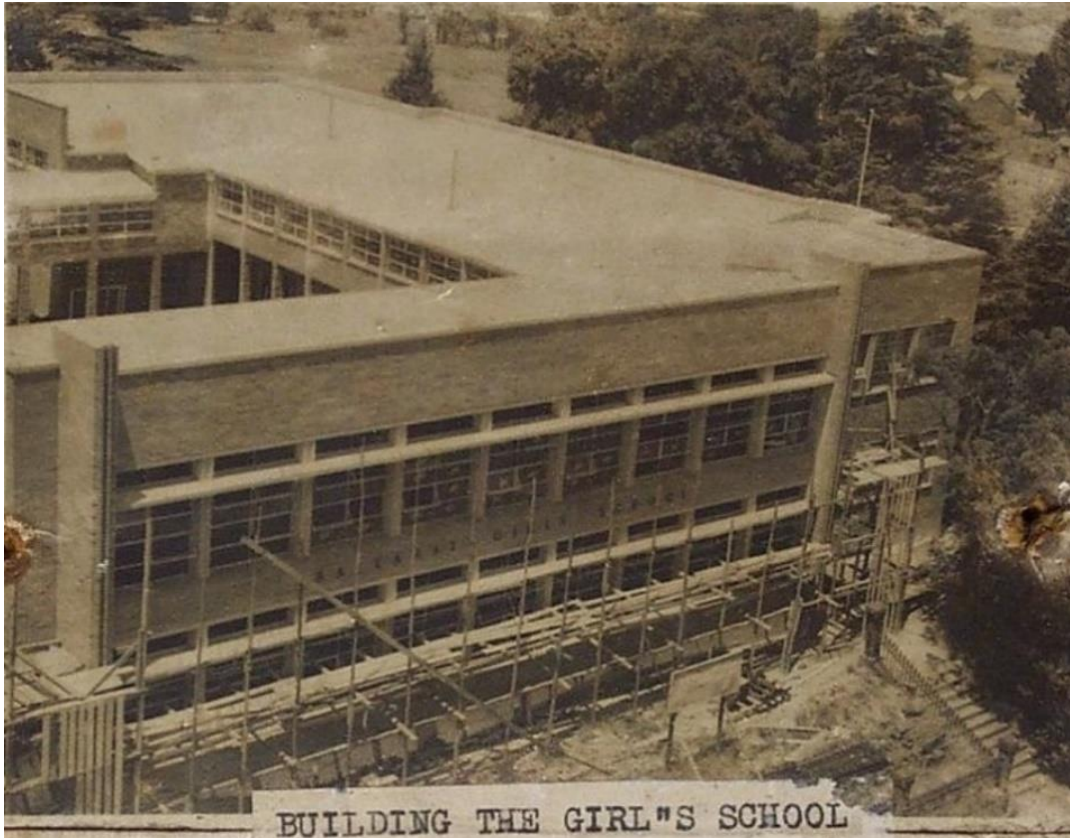


Figure 2.45 Photograph showing the Ballarat Girls High School under construction 1954-55, noting the front fence, gateposts and stairs built for the former Town Hall remain intact along Barkly Street. (Source: Ballarat Historical Society: Schools collection, catalogue no. 043.80)



Figure 2.46 Photograph showing the Ballarat Girls High School shortly after construction in 1955, next to the Ballarat Free Library. (Source: Ballarat Historical Society: Schools collection, catalogue no. 043.80)



Figure 2.47 Photograph showing new signage and restrictions at Britannia Reserve that was erected following the construction of the Ballarat Girls High School, 1956. (Source: Ballarat Historical Society: Schools collection, catalogue no. 498.79)



Figure 2.48 Stone edging in the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens, n.d., c.1960s-70s. (Source: Ballarat Historical Society)



Figure 2.49 Aerial photograph showing the subject site in 1957. (Source: Geoscience Australia, Film: VIC1253A)

In 1959 Ballarat City Council granted the Ballarat Girls' High School a ten-year lease for the library building.¹²²

Permanent decking was installed over Specimen Vale channel in the late-twentieth century. An earlier substructure may remain underneath.¹²³

In 1968 The Ballarat City Council agreed, in principle, to revoking part of the Ballarat East Gardens adjacent to the Ballarat Girls High School to be used for school purposes.¹²⁴ The annexation of the gardens from the girls' school reassured residents who had expressed concern that the gardens would be 'desecrated' if the School were to proceed with proposed plans to construct a multi-purpose hall at the site.¹²⁵ Melbourne landscape architect Ron Rayment was commissioned by Ballarat City Council to prepare plans for the development of three acres of land in the area bounded by Main, Eureka and Barkly streets as a public area. Following negotiations between the Council and the Education Department at this time, the school gained occupancy of most of the gardens (a larger area than the Eastern Town Hall Gardens).¹²⁶ A small parcel of land fronting Princes Street South was excluded from the area transferred to the school, occupied at that time by a building used by the Ballarat Highland Pipe Band as club rooms.¹²⁷

2.3.7 Developments since the 1970s

The Ballarat East Free Library officially closed in 1973.¹²⁸ The Ballarat School of Mines proposed to the Ballarat City Council that they occupy and manage the Ballarat East Free Library as a School of Traditional Crafts in 1980.¹²⁹ The proposal included maintaining the building in optimal condition.¹³⁰ In 1983 the land formally occupied by the Ballarat East Free Library in Barkly Street was gazetted as a reserve for educational purposes and allocated to the Ballarat School of Mines. The Ballarat School of Mines undertook extensive renovations and repairs to the former Library building, which reopened in 1987 as the Management Training Centre of the Ballarat School of Mines.¹³¹ The School of Mines used the existing buildings on the portion of the site facing Barkly Street as teaching areas for courses such as commerce, computer studies and hairdressing, and established a horticulture school at the rear of the site.¹³²

The Ballarat Girls High School closed in 1977.

¹²² Federation University Australia, Former Ballarat East Library, accessed 20 May 2020, <https://federation.edu.au/>.

¹²³ Rowe 2006, p. 109.

¹²⁴ Federation University Australia, Former Ballarat East Library, accessed 20 May 2020, <https://federation.edu.au/>.

¹²⁵ *Ballarat Courier*, 5 June 1969, p. 19.

¹²⁶ *Ballarat Courier*, 5 June 1969, p. 19.

¹²⁷ Correspondence, Lands Department Office, 26 August 1971, Rs 2789.

¹²⁸ Hermes record for Former Ballarat East Free Library, 25-29 Barkly Street, Ballarat East (HO9).

¹²⁹ Federation University Australia, *Former Ballarat East Library*.

¹³⁰ Federation University Australia, *Former Ballarat East Library*.

¹³¹ Federation University Australia, *Former Ballarat East Library*.

¹³² Cox Sanderson Ness 1998, 'Ballarat Secondary College Master Plan Report Cost Plan A', prepared for Ballarat Secondary College.

Context



Figure 2.50 The School of Mines, Ballarat, Ballarat East campus. Barkly Street frontage, c.1980s. (Source: Federation University: Australian Historical Collection, object no. M9428-1)



Figure 2.51 Ballarat School of Mines, Ballarat East campus. Barkly Street frontage, c.1980s. (Source: Federation University: Australian Historical Collection, object no. M9428-2)



Figure 2.52 Ballarat School of Mines, Ballarat East Campus, c.1988. (Source: Federation University Australian Historical Collection, M19106IMG_1192_Victorian Collections)

In the 1990s the site became Ballarat Secondary College senior school following a merger of Midlands, East and Wendouree secondary colleges and the closure of Midlands' Norman Street site.¹³³

The Ballarat Secondary College Barkly Senior Campus officially opened in 2000 after a six million dollar renovation to several pre-existing buildings, including the former Ballarat East Free Library and the former Ballarat Girls High School that had, by this time, fallen into a derelict state. A new building was constructed by S.J. Weir Pty Ltd builders to the design of Cox Sanderson Ness Architects. Funding was jointly provided by the Commonwealth and Victorian governments.¹³⁴

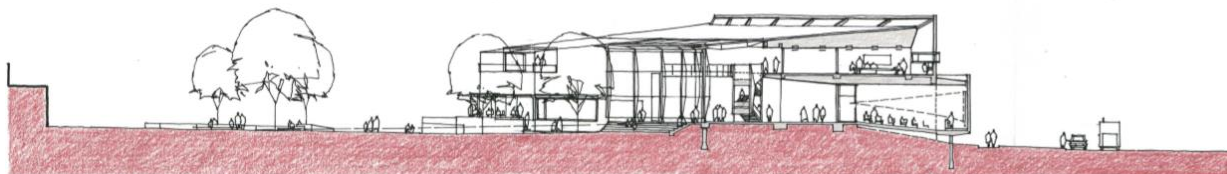


Figure 2.53 Architectural sketch of the Ballarat Secondary College building, 1998. Section through the building. (Source: Cox Architecture)

¹³³ *Ballarat Courier*, 14 December 2016, accessed online 26 May 2020, <https://www.thecourier.com.au/>.

¹³⁴ *Ballarat Courier*, 14 December 2016.

Context

Dwindling enrolment numbers led to the closure of the Barkly Senior Campus in 2016.¹³⁵ The Department of Education took over the site following its vacation by Ballarat Secondary College. In 2018 the Department of Education awarded BGT the lease of the former Ballarat Secondary College Barkly Campus site on a five-year agreement. The lease agreement required the tenant take responsibility of maintenance of the site and preservation of its historic buildings.¹³⁶ The site had sat dormant for two years and was rejuvenated as Barkly Square when it officially re-opened in 2019. Barkly Square operates on a cost-sharing model for smaller community and education-oriented tenants.¹³⁷ Current sub-tenants include the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council, Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services, Ballarat Whole Foods Collective and the YMCA Ballarat.

The Ballarat Veterans Assistance Centre opened at the former Baby Health Centre building in 2019. The centre was established from a partnership between the Vietnam Veterans Association Australia's Ballarat sub-branch, the Military Brotherhood, a military motorcycle club with a local sub-branch, and Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Servicemen and Women's Association of Victoria in Ballarat.¹³⁸

2.4 Historical themes and key uses for the study area

Drawing on the historical narrative above, a number of historical themes and key uses have been identified that relate to the history and development of the study area. A description of each theme is given below with the relevant time periods to which each theme relates. These historical themes are a tool in determining the historical significance of the place.

Historical themes and key uses	Description of theme	Relevant time periods
Living on Aboriginal Country	Aboriginal people have occupied the Ballarat area for tens of thousands of years. Their rich culture is reliant and integrated with the land and water, and their resources, and the sky	50,000 years BP
Gold-mining	Gold-mining commenced at Ballarat East, including the study area, in 1851. Mining operations included alluvial mining and quartz crushing.	1851+
Erasing and transforming the mining landscape	Tidying up and reshaping the landscape for purpose of new reservation. Containing Specimen Vale Creek. Reclamation of land from the Britannia Reserve and the School of Mines, Ballarat	c.1862+ c.1940s
Establishing a civic identity	Ballarat East Town Hall and Gardens (1862), Ballarat East Free Library (1867-68) and Ballarat East Police Station (1877-78) were important buildings that helped to develop local civic identity in Ballarat East. The formation of the municipality in 1857 and events such as royal visits to the site, concerts and other public events also reinforced a sense of civic identity.	1862-63+

¹³⁵ *Ballarat Courier*, 14 December 2016.

¹³⁶ *Ballarat Courier*, 15 September 2018, accessed online 26 May 2020, <https://www.thecourier.com.au/>

¹³⁷ *Ballarat Courier*, 15 September 2018.

¹³⁸ *Ballarat Courier*, 13 August 2019.

Historical themes and key uses	Description of theme	Relevant time periods
Administering justice	The Ballarat East Town Hall complex included a local Ballarat East Police Court (1860-61) and the Ballarat East Police Station (1877-78); there was also most likely a lock-up of some kind on the site.	1862-63–present
Developing public parks and gardens	The Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens were developed from c.1863 as a setting for the town hall and a place of civic ornamentation, horticultural excellence and public recreation.	1863–present
Providing education	Ballarat East Free Library was used as School of Design from 1870, and later became the Ballarat East branch of the Ballarat School of Mines. Ballarat East Town Hall was used as a teaching facility by the Ballarat Teachers College from 1927 and also by the Girls High School from the 1930s. The Eastern Town Hall and Ballarat East Police Station were demolished in 1946 to make way for a new Ballarat Girls High School, which opened in 1955.	1870+
Providing community services	Ballarat East Town Hall and Gardens Ballarat East Free Library Ballarat Historical Society Museum c.1960-61	1862+ 1867-68+ 1960+
Public health and welfare	Ballarat East Baby Health Centre (operating within the Town Hall) Ballarat East Baby Health Centre (new purpose-built building)	1933+; 1938+

2.5 Biographies of associated individuals and organisations

2.5.1 Daniel Laidlaw (1821–1915)

Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1821, Daniel Laidlaw was the son of gardener John Laidlaw. It is likely that he received his early training in Scotland where there was a fine tradition of horticulture and where many of the leading gardeners, plantsmen and horticulturists in colonial Victoria had originated.¹³⁹ Daniel Laidlaw arrived in Melbourne in 1853 and soon moved to Ballarat where he became a pioneer of horticulture. A founding member of the Ballarat Horticultural Society, he was a member of an influential and active circle of skilled gardeners and plantsmen in Ballarat. In the employ of the Ballarat East Town Council, he took on the role of curator of the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens in the early- to mid 1860s and was responsible for establishing the garden. He was also responsible for the other public reserves in the municipality and oversaw street tree planting in Ballarat East, and the planting of the Ballarat (East) Water Reserves. Laidlaw remained curator of the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens until the early 1890s.¹⁴⁰

2.5.2 Daniel Bunce (1812–1872)

English-born Daniel Bunce was something of an enigmatic figure, who made various unfounded claims about his past and his credentials, but who ultimately made a positive contribution to the development of horticulture in colonial Victoria. He had operated a nursery in Hobart, Van Diemen's Land, in the mid-1830s but decided to settle at the newly established settlement at Port Phillip in 1839. He was a man of wide interests; he was a keen naturalist and explorer, being a member of Ludwig Leichhardt's 1847 expedition. Bunce was also a rare scholar of the languages and culture of the Aboriginal people in nineteenth-century Victoria, and published *The Languages of the Aborigines* (1851). Bunce was appointed director of the Geelong Botanic Gardens in 1857. He laid out a plan for this large site, which included a well-stocked nursery, and became a generous supplier of young plants to many public and private gardens in Geelong and the wider Western District, and the central goldfields, including the Eastern Town Hall Gardens in 1870. Bunce designed the layouts for the Colac Botanic Gardens in 1868 and the Camperdown Botanic Gardens in 1869 and supplied plants for both; both these gardens have since been largely remodelled.¹⁴¹

2.5.3 Ferdinand von Mueller (1825–1896)

Ferdinand Mueller, born and educated in the German state of Meckleberg came to Melbourne in 1852 and was appointed Government Botanist for Victoria the following year. He took over as curator of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens in 1857. Mueller introduced many new species to Victoria and was an active supporter of the acclimatisation movement. He also travelled widely and identified and categorised many indigenous plants. Mueller was an intrepid correspondent and managed an extraordinary distribution program of plants and seeds to public gardens, schools, churches and public buildings, various societies and other grateful recipients, that extended not just across Victoria, but throughout Australia and

¹³⁹ Richard Aitken 2002, 'Scotland', in Aitken and Looker (eds) 2002, pp. 540–541.

¹⁴⁰ Findagrave.com; *Ballarat Courier*, 18 March 1915, p. 1.

¹⁴¹ George Jones, 'Bunce, Daniel (1812–1872)', in Aitken and Looker (eds) 2002, pp. 113–14; Paul Fox 2005, *Clearings: Six colonial landscapes and their gardens*, Miegunyah Press, Carlton, pp. 63–97; Context 2016, 'Camperdown Botanic Gardens & Arboretum Conservation Management Plan', prepared for the Shire of Corangamite.

overseas. In 1868 and 1870, Mueller is known to have donated plants to the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens. In 1871 Mueller was stood down as Director in favour of William Guilfoyle.¹⁴²

2.5.4 John Smith Edwards (c.1854–1934)

John Smith Edwards was curator of the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens from c.1890 to the 1920s and a significant local horticultural figure in Ballarat. He took over as curator of the Town Hall Gardens in the early 1890s, succeeding Daniel Laidlaw. Like Laidlaw, he was an active member of the Ballarat Horticultural Society. In the 1890s and early 1900s Edwards routinely exhibited a collection of pot plants to high praise at the annual Ballarat Horticultural Society's Show. Edwards made a special feature of chrysanthemums at the Town Hall Gardens, building up a significant collection of these flowers, and attracting great praise for his impressive display each April. Edwards was given official recognition for his work when a street in Ballarat East was named after him.¹⁴³

2.5.5 Thomas Lang (1815–1896)

Thomas Lang, of Thomas Lang & Co., was a prominent early nurseryman of Ballarat. Born in the West Indies, he was educated in Scotland where he trained to be a nurseryman. He arrived in Ballarat in 1855 and by 1857 had established a nursery on the Yarrowee Creek. He was a founding member of the Ballarat Horticultural Society, formed in 1859. Lang is known to have supplied plants to the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens in 1869 and it is suggested that he had also supplied plants in previous years.¹⁴⁴

2.5.6 William Elliott (1813–1897)

A contemporary of Thomas Lang, William Elliott was a prominent early nurseryman and horticulturalist of Ballarat. Born in England, he immigrated to Victoria and arrived in Ballarat in the early 1850s. He was a founding member of the Ballarat Horticultural Society, which was formed in 1859. Elliott reared seedlings that he later provided as early plant stock for the Town Hall Gardens. He later served as the horticultural editor of the Melbourne *Leader*.¹⁴⁵

2.5.7 Ronald Rayment (b. 1930)

Melbourne-based landscape architect Ronald Rayment headed the landscape architecture course at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.¹⁴⁶ Rayment was a practising architect before becoming an active landscape architect in the mid-1960s.¹⁴⁷ In 1969, the *Ballarat Courier* reported that Melbourne landscape architect Ron Rayment had 'been commissioned to prepare plans for the development of the three acres as a public area'. The purchase by the council of an area of land larger than the Eastern Town Hall Gardens was noted as underway at that time.¹⁴⁸ In 1971 Rayment was a member of the

¹⁴² Sara Maroske 2002, 'Mueller, Ferdinand Jacob Heinrich von (1825–1896)', in Aitken and Looker (eds) 2002, pp. 423–24.

¹⁴³ Various newspaper reports, 1890s–1920s.

¹⁴⁴ Barney Hutton 2002, 'Lang, Thomas (1815–1896)', in Aitken and Looker (eds) 2002, pp. 359–60; *Victorian Agricultural and Horticultural Gazette*, vol. IV, no. 40, 21 June 1860, p. 4.

¹⁴⁵ Richard Aitken 2002, 'Elliott, William (1813–1897)', in Aitken and Looker (eds) 2002, pp. 199–200.

¹⁴⁶ Catherin Bull 2002, *New Conversations with an Old Landscape: Landscape architecture in contemporary Australia*, The Images Publishing Group, Mulgrave, p. 115.

¹⁴⁷ Andrew Saniga 2012, *Making Landscape Architecture in Australia*, NewSouth Publishing, Sydney, p.89.

¹⁴⁸ 'Historic Ballarat East Gardens won't be desecrated', *Ballarat Courier*, 5 June 1969, p. 19.

Context

Australian Institute of Landscape Architects' Council.¹⁴⁹ He worked in partnership with noted landscape designer Ellis Stones in 1970-71 for about 18 months as Stones and Rayment Landscape Architects. One of the firm's clients was Merchant Builders Pty Ltd. They also prepared a master plan and landscape design for Croydon Town Park at the Shire of Croydon Municipal Offices. University of Melbourne Landscape architecture Associate Professor Andrew Saniga has observed that the firm produced designs that 'demonstrated community-inspired landscape architecture in a civic context'.¹⁵⁰ Later, operating as Rayment & Associates, he was involved in the design of the Melbourne University South Lawn, Parkville, in association with Loder & Bayley, and Bryce Mortlock; this was completed in 1974.¹⁵¹ Ellis Stones was responsible for a part of the project's design. In 1981, the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (Victorian Chapter) judged the South Lawn a dramatic example of the transformative power of the designed urban landscape.¹⁵² In 1977, Rayment & Associates was engaged by the Country Roads Board to landscape the first stage of the Eastern Freeway, Melbourne.¹⁵³

2.5.8 Ballarat Horticultural Society

The Ballarat Horticultural Society was established in 1859 with prominent early members including Thomas Lang, William Elliott, Daniel Laidlaw and Robert Longley. Lang, Elliott and Laidlaw had connections with the Eastern Town Hall Gardens: Lang and Elliott as prominent early nurserymen of Ballarat who are known to have supplied plants to the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens in the 1860s, and Laidlaw as curator of the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens from the mid-1860s until the 1890s. Laidlaw was responsible for establishing the garden.

The Ballarat Horticultural Society supported the development of public gardens in Ballarat and street tree planting. The society flourished through the nineteenth century, holding an annual exhibition that drew interest and entries from across Victoria. It is claimed to be oldest continuously operating horticultural society in Victoria.¹⁵⁴

¹⁴⁹ Saniga 2012, p. 182.

¹⁵⁰ Andrew Saniga 2014, 'Cranks, Caves and Campfires: Ellis Stones' utopian vision for a suburban landscape architecture' in *UHPH 14: Landscape and ecologies of urban and planning history*, April 2014, pp. 715–728.

¹⁵¹ Saniga 2012, p. 88; Australian Institute of Landscape Architects n.d., 'Melbourne University South Lawn' online https://www.aila.org.au/AILAWeb/Chapters/VIC/VIC_Landscape_Architecture.aspx Date accessed 2 July 2020.

¹⁵² Saniga 2012, p. 266.

¹⁵³ Saniga 2012, p. 187.

¹⁵⁴ Michael Taffe 2014, 'Growing a Garden City: Ballarat Horticultural Society 1859–2009'; various newspaper reports, 1850s+.

3.0 Description and analysis

The study area comprises different parcels of land and buildings which have different and overlapping land use histories and relationships. The parts are inter-connected and a large proportion of landscape spaces are now publicly accessible, but this has not always been the case.

Section 3.0 is structured according to key areas defined in this CMP as follows:

- Civic cluster
- Eastern Town Hall Gardens
- Specimen Vale
- Britannia Reserve
- School of Mines
- Other landscape areas.

The areas have been defined according to the predominant historical themes and land use histories they embody.

Each sub-section provides a map of the area, a photographic description, and an analysis of the area and its component parts.

3.1 Civic cluster



Figure 3.1 Civic cluster area.

Dates	Use and development
1857	Ballarat East proclaimed a municipality.
1861	Site for the Ballarat East Town Hall selected at the southern end of what appears to be a promontory before the land drops steeply down to Specimen Vale. This natural landform may have been retained or enhanced to create the terraced landform on which the building was sited. The natural landform and/or a desire to take advantage of views from the high ground may have influenced the site of the building, set at an angle to Barkly Street.
1860-61	First section (police court) of the Ballarat East Town Hall designed and erected.
1861-62	Remainder of the Ballarat East Town Hall completed.
c.1863-65	The Town Hall Gardens are laid out, comprising an area of one and a half acres.

Dates	Use and development
c.1870	Extension to the Ballarat East Town Hall completed.
1867-68	Free Library constructed.
1877-78	Police station constructed; located between the Free Library and the Ballarat East Town Hall.
1880	Hall to the rear of the Free Library completed.
1911	Alterations and additions made to the Ballarat East Town Hall.
1919	'Welcome home' ceremony held in honour of soldiers of Ballarat East.
1921	Ballarat East Town Hall and police court are no longer needed due to amalgamation with Ballarat.
1927	Use of the Ballarat East Town Hall by Ballarat Teachers College.
1933	Ballarat East Baby Health Centre service operates from Town Hall.
1938	New building for Ballarat East Baby Health Centre officially opened. (Garden setting introduced after 1957.)
1949	The former Ballarat East Library becomes a branch of the Ballarat Municipal Library
1955	Ballarat East Town Hall and Police station building to the west of the Free Library demolished, and new Ballarat Girls High School constructed on the site.
1960-61	Free Library used by the Ballarat Historical Society as a historical museum.
1973	Free Library officially closed.
1977	The Ballarat Girls High School vacated the site, merging with the Ballarat Technical School to become Mt Clear Technical High School.
1983	School of Mines Ballarat take over the former Ballarat Girls High School building.
1987	Former Free Library reopened as the Management Training Centre of School of Mines Ballarat.
1998-2000	Extension to the (then) Ballarat Secondary College designed by Cox Sanderson Ness Architects.
2018	The Department of Education awarded Ballarat Group Training (BGT) the lease of the former Ballarat Secondary College Barkly Campus.
2019	The group of buildings comprising the former Free Library, the former Ballarat Girls High School.
2019	Ballarat Veterans Assistance Centre opened at the former Baby Health Centre building.

3.1.1 Former Ballarat East Town Hall

The former Ballarat East Town Hall was designed in 1860 or 1861 by Irish-born architect Charles Davenport Cuthbert in the Renaissance Revival style.

The two-storey town hall was built in two main stages with its northern wing completed in 1861 (Figure 3.2), and its central and southern wing completed between 1865 and 1867 (Figure 3.3). The town hall occupied the central section while the police court adjoined the building on its northern side.

The town hall was dramatically positioned on an elevated terrace overlooking the lower Gardens to the east. The main façade of the building was set at an oblique angle to Barkly Street, establishing a primary relationship with the Gardens by way of the grand staircase located on axis to its central bay. Elevated above the Gardens in this way, the siting, as much as the architectural expression of the former Ballarat East Town Hall, reflected its stylistic connections with the Renaissance Revival.

The eastern façade of the town hall addressing the garden was symmetrically arranged about a wider and grander central bay with two lower height flanking bays to the north and south. The plan form, however, did not reflect the same symmetrical formal arrangement. Instead, the building's planning betrayed the staged nature of the building's construction. The main space of the hall was located in the earliest, (northern) wing of the building instead, as might be expected, in its central bay. The corresponding southern bay of the building, while mirroring the northern bay in its presentation to the Gardens, had the depth of a single room. To the rear of this was the courtyard to located to the southeast of the town hall.

Aerial photographs taken in 1934 indicate that, in addition to the police station building that was constructed to the east in c.1878, the town hall was serviced by ancillary structures, possibly stables and other outbuildings, which were arranged to the south and east of this courtyard.



Figure 3.2 The northern wing of the Ballarat East Town Hall constructed 1861, photographed by Solomon & Bardwell, c.1862. (Source: State Library Victoria, Accession No. H26069).

This first wing of the building was a two-storey building with an eastern elevation that featured three round-head, arched doorways set façade articulated with smooth-faced rustication at ground level. The upper level had three round head arched doorways set within a smooth wall plane that accessed a balcony that overlooked the Gardens. Part of this façade, including the arch to the right (south) was built over when the second stage of the town hall was completed in c.1865-67. The north face of the building viewed obliquely in this photograph was possibly connected with the function of the police court. It was of a more utilitarian appearance and along with the single-storey volume adjoining it remained unclad at this time. This is indicative of the priority placed on the presentation of the building within its elevated setting over the Gardens to the east rather than its direct presentation to Barkly Street to the north.



Figure 3.3. The Ballarat East Town Hall in c.1865, showing the second stage of works completed during this period. This photograph shows the impressive siting of the completed building on its elevated terrace above the Gardens and the grand steps that connected them. The steps from Barkly Street up to the terrace which remain in the contemporary context as a tangible reminder of the former town hall are located to the left of the image. The symmetrical main façade with its wide projecting central bay features quoining, four windows with crossheads at ground floor level and four windows with segmental arch pediments at first floor level. The northern wing of the building built c.1862 was mirrored by the southern wing in elevation but not in plan. Behind the face of the northern wing was the main internal space of the building while behind the façade of the southern wing the building was built to the depth of one room. Photograph by Archibald Vincent Smith. (Source: State Library Victoria, Accession no. H1773)

Alterations and additions were made in 1911, predominately to the eastern and southern parts of the building. The building was adapted internally in 1927 to accommodate the Ballarat Teachers College.

The town hall and the police station to its east were demolished in 1946 to make way for the construction of Ballarat Girls High School. Remnant fabric associated with the town hall building includes the front steps in Barkly Street that formerly led up to the elevated terrace around the town hall (Figures 3.4 and 3.5) and the mound to the west of the Gardens that was integral to the building's impressive garden setting.



Figure 3.4 Remnant bluestone stairs in Barkly Street associated with the former Ballarat East Town Hall viewed from the north. This photograph shows the termination of these stairs by the entry ramp and landscaping introduced as part of the 1998–2000 alterations and additions to the former Ballarat Girls High School designed by Cox Sanderson Ness Architects. (May 2020)



Figure 3.5 Palisade fencing to the west of the former Ballarat East Town Hall Barkly Street stairs. The fence is set on a bluestone plinth between rusticated bluestone piers, each with a pyramidal capping stone. (May 2020)

3.1.2 Former Ballarat East Free Library

The former Ballarat East Free Library is located at 25-29 Barkly Street to the eastern end of the civic buildings cluster. It comprises three conjoined built components: the main two-storey brick library building facing Barkly Street, a lower height two-storey section and a hall to the rear (Figure 3.6).



Figure 3.6 Contemporary aerial photograph of the former Free Library showing the different components of the Free Library building. The front section fronting Barkly Street (1867–68) with its east-west running hip roof and dormer to the rear is highlighted in red. The middle, or link section of the building, is highlighted in green. The eastern section of the link with its M-shaped hipped roof appears to be contemporary with the front section of the building. Evidence from historical aerial photographs of the site indicate that the western section of the link (highlighted yellow) appears to have been constructed at some time after 1957. The hall to the rear with its large hipped roof lantern is highlighted in blue. (Source: Nearmap, 2020. Annotations by Context)

The front section of the building comprises the original Ballarat East Free Library, constructed between 1867 and 1868, which is a handsome two-storey, palazzo-type, polychrome brick building. It has a hipped slate-clad roof, red face brick walls that incorporates decorative cream brick banding, elaborate brick detailing and bluestone foundations.

The former Free Library has a shallow setback to Barkly Street comprising a fenced courtyard garden and the adjoining driveway to the east. A photograph dated c.1870–72 shows symmetrically placed conifers and shrubs planted along the front of the building.



Figure 3.7 Former Ballarat East Free Library (1867–68), viewed from Barkly Street (north). The front garden contains mature cordyline and more contemporary shrubs and has an iron palisade fence set on bluestone plinths framed by bluestone piers. A central wrought iron gate arch marks the entry to the site. (May 2020)



Figure 3.8 Former Ballarat East Free Library and rear hall (c.1887), viewed from Barkly Street (northeast). The iron palisade and bluestone pier fence continues around the corner to the east to the depth of the front section of the building. (May 2020)



Figure 3.9 Detail of pipe and wrought iron entry arch, former Ballarat East Free Library. (May 2020)

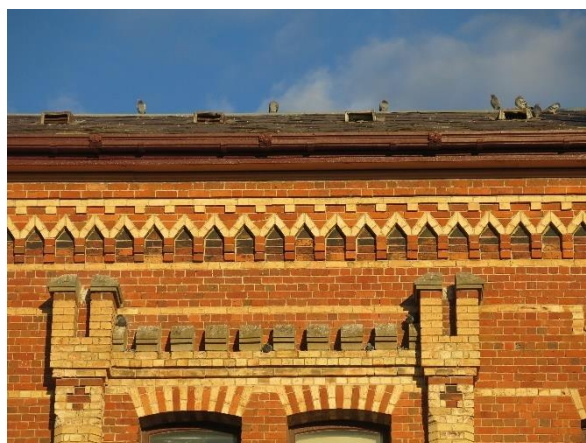


Figure 3.10 Former Ballarat East Free Library, showing the castellated head-framing detail capped with bluestone, central windows and the polychrome brick detailing to the segmental arch heads, faceted pilasters with capitals decorated with crosses and the lower section of the cornice which features a distinctive polychrome corbel table. (May 2020)

The front (north) elevation facing Barkly Street is symmetrically arranged around a central entry that is surmounted by a pair of segmental arch windows (Figures 3.7 and 3.8). This central bay of the façade is framed by a pair of raised and faceted cream brick pilasters that carry a castellated head framing detail capped with bluestone (Figure 3.10). Raised faux brick balustrading is located below sill height of the first-floor windows, giving the impression of a balcony. At ground floor the entry doors are framed by a second raised set of pilasters that carry a segmental arch that visually reinforces the segmental arch of the door head. Either side of the central bay groupings of three matching window openings are located at both ground and first floor. All windows are timber framed and double hung. They have bluestone sills, with those to the ground floor windows being deeper than those to the upper floor. The central window to the ground floor of the western bay has been glazed in lead-light glass to commemorate the 1862–

Context

1912 Jubilee of the building, referred to as the 'Ballarat Public Library'. The east and west elevations of this original Free Library feature a set paired windows to each floor which are framed by pilasters and a castellated head framing detail that matches the central bay of the Barkly Street elevation of the building. Blind windows are located in the upper bay of the east elevation (Figure 3.8).



Figure 3.11 View of hall to the rear of former Free Library from driveway to east. Between the hall and the original Free Library fronting Barkly Street is the utilitarian red brick façade of the eastern end of the link. Damage to bricks to the lower section of this wall indicates that an earlier addition has been removed. The east elevation of the hall has weatherboard cladding extensively replaced at the time of the 1998–2000 alterations and additions to the (then) former Ballarat Secondary College. The single-storey store attached to the hall was also added as part of these works. (May 2020)



Figure 3.12 Detail, west elevation of former Free Library showing glass bridge connection to western end of the link section of the building introduced by Cox Sanderson Ness Architects as part of the 1998–2000 alterations and additions to the (then) former Ballarat Secondary College. Note that changes made to this section of the Free Library between 1957 and time of the 1998–2000 alterations and additions have sought to match the western facades of the link and hall with the original Free Library through the use of cream brick detailing to the red brick walls. (May 2020)



Figure 3.13 Rear (south) elevation of the rear hall showing clerestory windows, entrance doors, and weatherboard cladding to the east and south facades. A birch is located in the courtyard to the south. Eastern façade of the former Ballarat Girls High School is to the left. (June 2020)



Figure 3.14 View of the Free Library and rear hall (right) and former Ballarat Girls High School (left) from the south. Note timber weatherboard cladding to south elevation of hall and banded brick elevation to west. Ballarat East Fire Station can be seen in the background. (June 2020)

Immediately to the rear the original former Free Library is a building of brick construction that provides a link to the hall to the rear. It has a composite hip roof that is lower than the front section of the building facing Barkly Street. This roof comprises two parts. To its eastern end is a slate clad, M-shaped hip roof with twin ridges running north–south. This part of the building corresponds with a plain red face brick wall to the east of the building that is notably utilitarian compared to the fine detailing of the front section of the Free Library (Figure 3.11). The section of roof to the western end of this mid-section of the building has a corrugated iron hipped roof with a ridge that runs east–west. This roof is concealed between a parapeted brick façade to the west that is banded with cream bricks to match the front section of the Library. A glazed link connects this section of the building with the Former Ballarat Girls High School at second floor level (Figure 3.12).

To the rear of this link section is the former Free Library hall, which was constructed later than the original Free Library building, but prior to 1887. The hall has a large lantern roof, clerestory windows to the north and south and elaborate timber trusses to the interior. It has a large stained-glass window to the east and a smaller window to the west. Two doors are located to its southern face. The east and south elevations of the building are clad in weatherboard. The Cox Sanderson and Ness masterplan drawings of the 1998-2000 alterations and additions to the (then) former Ballarat Secondary College indicate this cladding was repaired/extensively replaced at the time of these works.

A comparison of aerial photographs from 1934, 1957 and 2020 indicates that a number of changes have occurred to the rear sections of the former Free Library building. These changes are illustrated in the photographic details below (Figures 3.15 to 3.17).



Figure 3.15 Aerial photograph from 1934 showing an attached hip-roof addition to the rear (south) of the former Free Library hall.



Figure 3.16 Aerial photograph from 1957 showing that the addition to the rear of the hall seen in the 1934 photograph appears to have been demolished. A detached hip-roofed building is now located to the south and an L-shaped roof form wraps from the eastern end of the hall to the south of the detached building.

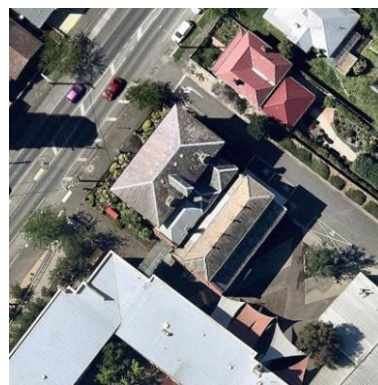


Figure 3.17 The roof form of the western section of the link between the front section of the Free Library and the hall has been altered since the time of the 1957 photograph. The earlier roof form (aligned with the western wall of the original Free Library in 1957) has been replaced by a new built form that projects to the west beyond the western façade of the front section of the Free Library. Drawings by Cox Sanderson Ness produced in 1998 indicate this component was existing by this time.

3.1.3 Former Baby Health Centre

The former Ballarat East Baby Health Centre, situated in the northwest corner of the former Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens, was built in 1938. It was designed by the Public Works Department, of which Percy Everett was the chief architect at the time. From 1933, prior to the completion and formal opening of the building in 1938, the local baby health service operated from the Ballarat East Town Hall.

The Baby Health Centre is a simple cream brick building with a terracotta tile hip roof. The 'front' elevation of the building faces the Gardens to the east. In this regard it is similar to the former Ballarat East Town Hall which prioritised an aesthetic relationship to the Gardens rather than to Barkly Street. This east elevation has a projecting bay to its northern end with distinctive horizontal brickwork banding. An entrance door and multi-paned steel window are located in this bay. Single brick chimneys with stepped capping are located to the north and south faces of the building.



Figure 3.18 Former cream brick and terracotta hip-roofed Baby Health Centre building (1938) located at the northwest corner of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens. (May 2020)



Figure 3.19 Former Baby Health Centre, showing the projecting bay to the north end of its east elevation. Note the distinctive brick banding, entrance door, multipaned steel windows with brick sills and chimneys with stepped capping.



Figure 3.20 West elevation of the former Baby Health Centre. Note small steel-framed windows and rear exit door with no landing. (May 2020)



Figure 3.21 North elevation of the former Baby Health Centre showing three small steel-framed windows with brick sills and solid course lintels, central chimney with stepped capping detail, services to west and centralised sign (recent). Note small flagpole to the left. (May 2020)



Figure 3.22 Pipe and wire fencing and double gates to the northeast corner of the former Baby Health Centre yard. The garden area of the Baby Health Centre was added/fenced after 1957. (May 2020)



Figure 3.23 Distant view of south elevation of the former Baby Health Centre viewed from the southwest corner of the former Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens. Note single steel-framed window and chimney. (May 2020)



Figure 3.24 East elevation of the former Baby Health Centre viewed from the Gardens to the east. (June 2020)



Figure 3.25 Southwest corner of the former Baby Health Centre yard showing remnant palisade fence to west intersecting with the pipe and wire fence to the southern boundary of the yard. (May 2020)

3.1.4 Former Ballarat Girls High School and former Ballarat Secondary College extension

The former Ballarat Girls High School was a Public Works Department project that was designed by 1949 and completed in 1954. The building is an altered, but strong and highly legible example, of postwar Functionalist architecture not common in Ballarat. With its clear design composition and emphatic horizontal and vertical elements, the building shows the influence of Percy Everett who was chief architect at the Public Works Department between 1934 and 1953.

The original school building has a broadly square plan form arranged about a central square quadrangle. The two-storey building has warm yellow face brick walls to its perimeter and quadrangle elevations. Parapets with a crisp white capping detail conceal flat roofs. The remaining visible external elevations have stepped façades.

Context

The north and east elevations have a broad centralised projecting bay. To the west, over-looking the Gardens, a similar projecting bay is offset slightly to the north. To either end of the northwest elevation facing Barkly Street this bay is terminated by a sharp vertical fin that projects beyond parapet height. An original entry door is located at the eastern end of this bay that is accessed via a concrete landing with distinctive wrap around steps (Figure 3.29). Vertical fenestration above and to the west echo the vertical emphasis of the fin that signals the entry. The fenestration to the central and eastern bays is arranged in horizontal bands at each floor level, contrasting with the vertical emphasis of the entry. The central bay is abutted to the west by the 1998-2000 additions to the school building discussed below.

To the east elevation the central projecting bay is unadorned by the comparable detail but the projecting bay to west elevation overlooking the Gardens is bracketed by a main entrance with a rectangular flat roofed concrete surmounted by vertical windows to the north (Figure 3.30), and by ground floor and first floor port-hole windows to the south (Figure 3.31). The entrance has a concrete landing and steps that access the shallow terrace that runs the length of the bay (Figure 3.32). Alterations to the concrete landing and steps indicate that previously this was a wraparound stair similar the intact one to the north elevation. This entrance, which connects internally with a stairwell and a main corridor running east–west along the north side of the quadrangle, aligns with the entry pathway from the Garden gate. Prior to its alteration the stair would have connected to the longer flight of stairs leading down into the Gardens that can be glimpsed beneath the tree canopies of the 1957 aerial photograph (Figure 2.44). A second, less prominent, entry door with a rounded flat roof canopy is located to the south of the projecting bay. This has concrete landing and two steps leading to a path that leads to the Gardens (Figure 3.32). Like the north elevation, both east and west elevations feature horizontal bands of windows with brick sills and evenly spaced white birds-beak structural uprights dividing the multipaned windows. Some of these are original windows and some have been replaced.



Figure 3.26 1955 former Ballarat Girls High School building. Note ramp to entrance between the 1955 School and the 2000 additions carried out to the (then) Ballarat Secondary College (right) in 2000. The line of birches and landscaping appear to be recent additions associated with the 2000 works. (July 2019)



Figure 3.27 1955 former Ballarat Girls High School building (left) and 1998–2000 extension to the (then) Ballarat Secondary College (right).



Figure 3.28 Entry, northwest corner of 1955 former Ballarat Girls High School building. Note vertical emphasis, front steps, concrete canopy and birches. (May 2020)



Figure 3.29 Entry steps, northwest corner of 1955 former Ballarat Girls High School building. (May 2020)



Figure 3.30 Entry, north end of west elevation of former Ballarat Girls High School. Note stepped profile, vertical composition, rectangular, flat-roofed concrete canopy and concrete landing, and steps with non-original utilitarian pipe balustrade. (May 2020)



Figure 3.31 West elevation west elevation of former Ballarat Girls High School looking north. Note porthole windows, emphatically horizontal window alignment, path with concrete pavers, timber bench seats, mature cedar (left) and recently planted maples (*Acer* sp.) to the timber-edged garden bed alongside the wall. (May 2020)



Figure 3.32 Altered concrete stairs to north entry of west elevations of former Ballarat Girls High School. (May 2020)



Figure 3.33 Secondary entry to south of projecting bay of west elevation with rounded, flat-roofed concrete canopy, concrete steps and landing. (May 2020)

In 1998-2000, significant alterations and additions were completed to the former Ballarat Girls High School to the design of Cox Sanderson Ness Architects to create a new campus for the Ballarat Secondary College. They comprise three main extensions to the built form of the original School building.

The first of these extensions is located to the western corner of the former School building on Barkly Street to (Figure 3.34 – Figure 3.35). Located on the edge of the mound between the former School and the Gardens, this addition comprises a two-storey, boxy built form with flat roof concealed behind parapet walls. It is set forward of the former School and is raised on an exposed steel sub framing structure highlighted as a feature with its red painted finish. The extension has a concrete end wall to the east. Walls to the north and west are clad in aluminium panels with the south end of the west elevation and the south elevation clad in corrugated Colorbond cladding. With this addition a new main entrance was created hard up against the fin of the projecting northern bay of the former Ballarat Girls High School. A concrete ramp located in the setback to Barkly Street was installed, becoming the main access route to this entry. While the 1998 Cox drawings indicate that the Barkly Street stairs associated with the former Ballarat East Town Hall were initially intended to be retained as the main access route from the street into the building, this did not occur. The old Ballarat East Town Hall Barkly Street stairs terminate in the garden bed in front of the ramp.

The second extension involves infilling part of the quadrangle area of the original building – involved an angled insertion to its south and west sides. The alteration to the quadrangle retained much of the original structure in this area, specifically the regularly spaced brick piers around the perimeter (Figure 3.44, Figure 3.45, Figure 3.47). New landscaping including radial paving, fixed furniture, garden beds and *Ginkgo bilboa* plantings were introduced as part of these changes (Figure 3.46).

The third extension to the former School building is the largest of the three and is located to the original building. Like the addition to the northwest of the building it has an exposed steel subframe that lifts it above the slope that falls away steeply to Specimen Vale to the south. It is a single-storey, flat-roofed structure to its eastern end, increasing to two storeys to the west. Its walls are clad with corrugated Colorbond cladding with aluminium panel cladding to its two-storey western end. It has horizontal strip

windows and one larger area of full height windows near the centre. At the time of inspection, some of the windows to the east of the south elevation had been broken and boarded up. Walls in this area had been graffitied. A fire stair is located to the juncture between this extension and the west façade of the former school (Figure 3.40).

In addition to the main extensions, a glazed bridge was created between the former school and the Free Library. The 1998 drawings indicate that an enclosed link was initially also proposed at ground level. This would have further obstructed views to the Ballarat East Fire Station tower to the north and may have been deleted to reduce heritage impacts in this regard.

While the 1998–2000 additions obstruct some views and historical spatial relationships between the mound that formed the setting of the former Ballarat East Town Hall and the former Ballarat Girls High School and the Gardens to the west and to the south, the architectural interventions are reasonably well considered. The additions are clearly located and distinguished from the original school building and some care has been taken to retain the prevailing form and fabric of the earlier building, as might be expected of an architectural firm of the calibre of Cox Sanderson and Ness.

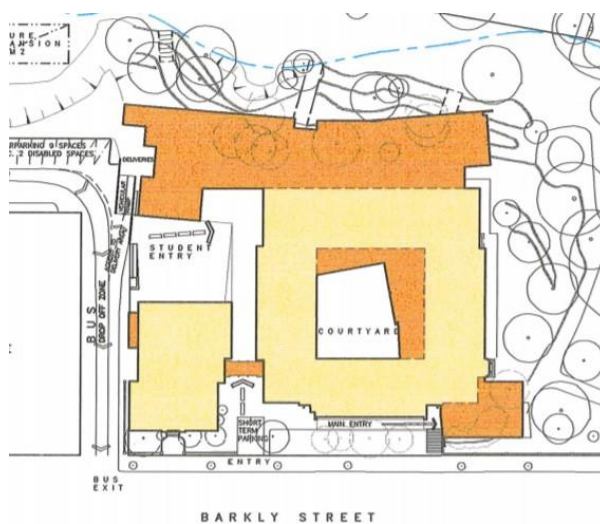


Figure 3.34 Detail, Site Plan (SK-07) Ballarat Secondary College, 1998. (Source: Cox Architecture)



Figure 3.35 Detail, Ground Floor Plan (SK-01) Ballarat Secondary College, 1998. (Source: Cox Architecture)

Context



Figure 3.36 Detail, north elevation of the former Ballarat Girls High School at its intersection with the 1998–2000 extension to the Ballarat Secondary College. Note top of Garden fence/Barkly Street old town hall stairs in foreground, *Cordyline australis* poking out above bluestone pier, and foliage of birch tree in front of the former school façade. (May 2020)



Figure 3.37 Birches and contemporary landscaping along Barkly Street in front of former Ballarat Girls High School and 1998–2000 entry ramp (foreground), former Ballarat East Town Hall and the projecting 1998–2000 extension to the Ballarat Secondary College (background). (May 2020)



Figure 3.38 Northwest 1998–2000 extension to the Ballarat Secondary College viewed from the west. Note former Ballarat East Town Hall Garden fence in the foreground. (May 2020)



Figure 3.39 Undercroft of the northwest 1998–2000 extension to the Ballarat Secondary College. Edge of Gardens (right). (May 2020)



Figure 3.40 Juncture between west elevation of the former Ballarat Girls High School (left) and 1998–2000 extension to the Ballarat Secondary College (right). (May 2020)



Figure 3.41 Detail of the southern elevation of 1998–2000 extensions to the Ballarat Secondary College. Concrete stairs associated with former Ballarat Girls High School era in the foreground. (May 2020)

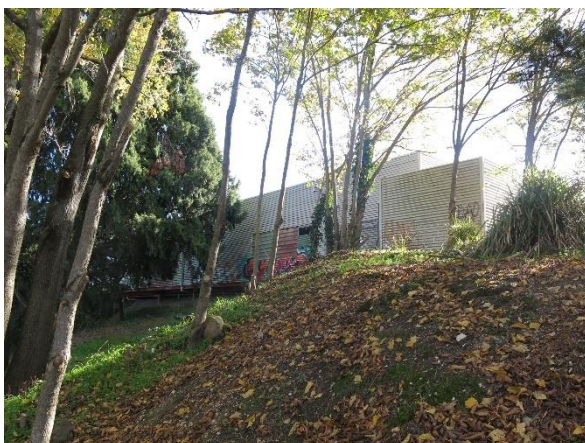


Figure 3.42 East end of southern elevation of 1998–2000 extensions to the Ballarat Secondary College. Elm suckers and Lomandra in foreground. (May 2020)



Figure 3.43 Part of southern elevation of 1998–2000 extensions to the Ballarat Secondary College viewed from Specimen Vale. Note terracing, ivy, acanthus, cordylines (midground) and Specimen Vale path in foreground. (May 2020)

3.1.5 Courtyard and interiors



Figure 3.44 Former Ballarat Girls High School quadrangle, looking north with intact original walls to the north and east. Note 1998-2000 extensions to the Ballarat Secondary College (left) and landscaping associated with these extensions including radial paving pattern, raised planters, fixed and loose furniture and *Ginkgo biloba*. (May 2020)

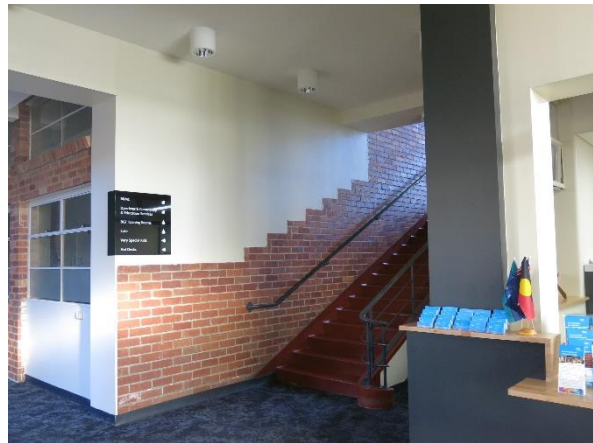


Figure 3.45 Barkly Street foyer, former Ballarat Girls High School showing original internal brickwork, stairs and balustrade. Note windows to left that have been interrupted by new bulkhead. (May 2020)



Figure 3.46 1998-2000 extensions to the Ballarat Secondary College within the former Ballarat Girls High School quadrangle, looking west. Note landscaping associated with these extensions including radial paving pattern, raised planters, fixed furniture and *Ginkgo biloba*. (May 2020)



Figure 3.47 Internal corridor, former Ballarat Girls High School showing original exposed brickwork and ceilings and fit-out associated with the 1998-2000 extensions to the Ballarat Secondary College. (May 2020)

3.2 Eastern Town Hall Gardens



Figure 3.48 Eastern Town Hall Gardens area.

Dates	Use and development
1851–61	Ballarat East is occupied by miners under mining claims; the site also has some buildings, including a timber church.
1857	Ballarat East proclaimed a municipality.
1860	Site for municipal town hall selected at the southern end of what appears to be a promontory before the land drops steeply down to Specimen Vale. This natural landform may have been retained or enhanced to create the terraced landform on which the building was sited. The natural landform and/or a desire to take advantage of views from the high ground may have influenced the site of the building, set at an angle to Barkly Street.
1860-61	First section of town hall building completed (the police court).

Context

Dates	Use and development
1860s90s	Daniel Laidlaw is curator of the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens
1863	The garden was laid out, one and a half acres.
1863	The municipal reserve is enclosed with a timber fence.
1865	The ground for the Gardens was improved in readiness for planting, transforming what was described in the <i>Ballarat Star</i> as previously being a 'hideous wilderness of holes, hills, and debris' (1 August 1865, p.2)..
c.1865	<p>Mixed plants maturing. Evenly spaced to fill sloped mound. Gardenesque appearance.</p> <p>Timber palisade fence along Barkly Street perimeter, along both sides of entry steps off Barkly Street, and along the top of the Town Hall terrace.</p> <p>Grand flight of stone steps from the Gardens to the Town Hall terrace. Centrally placed in relation to the Town Hall building. Pair of mid-height plinths at base.</p> <p>Pathway (gravel surface) along base of mound. Steps link into pathway extension that leads to corner entrance.</p> <p>Pathway layout defines large garden beds. Planted in similar style to slope of the mound.</p>
1867	<p>Solid fence to southwest and southeast borders – also solid fence along front of Town Hall [check]. Garden beds delineate perimeter with inset perimeter pathway along southwest and southeast. Grid like pathway network (except entry pathway that is angled from corner entry to town hall steps). Garden beds edged with fine dark edging fabric of small non-spreading groundcover or very low hedge.</p> <p>Plants maturing, including trees in perimeter garden beds.</p>
By 1870	Plants on the sloped mound appear to be maturing, mostly shrubs, vine or creeper growing either side of the Town Hall steps, an Aloe is visible.
1871	Flowering shrubs (including Roses) are established and blooming.
1871	Gravel walks, with beds and borders.
1871	A pair of ornamental fountains had been installed as well as a fishpond with an additional fountain.
1875	The Gardens includes a number of established trees, among them 14 different conifer species were noted.
1878	Mining accident occurred at a mine shaft of the Britannia Mine Co. that was located behind the Free Library. Three miners were killed and third was badly injured, probably fatally.
1870s-80s	The Town Hall Gardens are locked during the day, but access is permitted upon request and key is provided at the town hall
c. 1880s	<p>Slope of mound includes substantial/large shrubs. Low banister completely covered in creeper (ivy?), beds within the garden appear to be edged in low clipped hedge. Planting in garden beds appears to include bulbs and plantings requiring stakes. Garden bed planting is dense and multilayered. One maturing conifer visible. Otherwise mostly small, medium and large mixed shrubs.</p> <p>By this time, the Town Hall Gardens had a fernery, and possibly an aviary or bird enclosure. The small gabled building visible in early photos is possibly the fernery.</p>
1881	<p>Cast iron palisade on bluestone base with bluestone piers replaces earlier timber palisade along Barkly Street, both sides of entry steps off Barkly Street, along top of Town Hall terrace.</p> <p>Ceremonial planting by visiting British royalty, Prince Albert and Prince George. (This was possibly a pair of Spanish Fir trees, which may have been replaced because initial plantings were not successful.)</p>
c1882	Fountain visible on or near mound from Barkly Street.

Dates	Use and development
	Planting along Barkly Street is mostly large shrubs on mounded earth (not linear or hedged). One Cordyline visible in frame of 1882 photograph at top of steps off Barkly Street.
1883	A fernery is erected in the Gardens.
1888	Conifers in the Gardens reported to include 'magnificent specimens'.
1891	A glasshouse is erected in the Gardens.
1892	Conifer and maturing shrubs depicted along Barkly Street boundary of the Gardens.
c.1890s-1920s	John Smith Edwards is curator of the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens.
1895	Water supply laid; several trees removed to make space (and light?) for growth of flowers. Garden included tall Cordylines, around the fishpond (with simple central water foundation) which was framed with lower shrubs. Sign is visible.
1900	New decorative gates erected in the Gardens, in preparation for 1901 visit by the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, who are visiting Melbourne to open the first federal parliament. (Present-day decorative gates and arch with lettering are captured in image at Figure 2.35.)
c.1920s	Gardens contains at least three tall conifers, deciduous trees, lawn with pebble delineated patterns, low clipped edging to paths. One strappy leafed shrub observed.
1933	Fountain is visible in the Gardens from Barkly Street. No hedging inside palisade fence. Ballarat East Baby Health Centre operates from Town Hall building. Use of the Town Hall by Ballarat Teachers' Training College
1938	New Baby Health Centre building erected (no garden setting until after 1957).
1955	Town Hall demolished, and new Ballarat Girls High School constructed on the site. Palisade fence along top of the Town Hall terrace and section along Barkly Street in front of the school building removed. Three sets of stairs associated with the Ballarat Girls High School added to the Garden slopes to the north of Specimen Vale.
1957	Aerial photograph suggests garden is largely lawn and mature trees. No hedging along Barkly Street boundary. Entry pathway from corner gateway remains. Pathway curves around Baby Health Centre and lower slopes of the garden and up the southeast part of the garden along Specimen Vale (no longer extant). Steps from Town Hall terrace into the Gardens may have been removed at this time, or as part of the c.1969–70 landscaping works.
c.1960s-70s	Unsealed pathway surfaces and stone-edged pathways.
	Changes to the Gardens since c.1933–57: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rockeries/stone edging along beds and entry pathway from corner gateway • Rose gardens • Hedge planting along Barkly Street boundary. • Predominance of lawn. • Trees at the top of the former Town Hall terrace • Native shrubs on the sloped mound.

Context

Dates	Use and development
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden setting introduced to Baby Health Centre. • Palisade fence on concrete base at rear of Baby Health Centre. • Loss of perimeter pathway around base of gardens and curving into Specimen Vale. • Loss of fountains • Loss of fernery and glasshouse • Loss of signage



Figure 3.49 View towards Eastern Town Hall Gardens and gateway from the southwest. Sections of c.1882 palisade and 1900 ornamental gates. A Chinese Windmill Palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) can be seen in the middle distance.



Figure 3.50 Pathway into the Gardens from main entry gates. The orientation of this pathway, historic evidence and analysis of the physical site suggests this pathway originally led from the gate to the base of the steps that linked the Gardens with the Town Hall terrace.



Figure 3.51 Entry pathway viewed from the Eastern Town Hall Gardens entry gates, looking towards pair of mature Blue-leaved Spanish Fir trees (*Abies pinsapo* 'Glauca') (Trees 2-3).



Figure 3.52 The Eastern Town Hall Gardens contain several mature specimen trees set in lawn, including the significant Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca') (Tree 14).



Figure 3.53 Detail of garden bed edging, Barkly Street boundary.



Figure 3.54 View into the Gardens from inside the main gate.



Figure 3.55 Remnant terracing and steps (1 of 3 sets) up to former Town Hall terrace. Access to the upper terrace and building is no longer possible, since additions were made to the 1955 school building. (May 2020)



Figure 3.56 Detail of remnant steps, partially concealed by grass and organic debris. (May 2020)



Figure 3.57 Terracing with stone and rough rendered retaining walls, and steps (2 of 3 sets). Stairs no longer provide access to school building. (May 2020)



Figure 3.58 Detail of steps (2 of 3 sets). (May 2020)

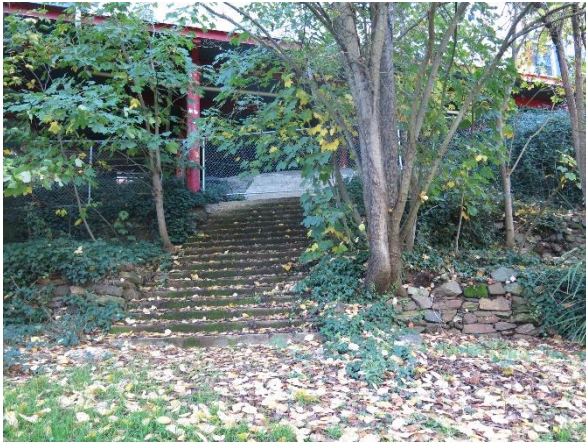


Figure 3.59 Terracing with stone and vegetation covered retaining walls, and steps (3 of 3 sets). (May 2020)



Figure 3.60 Detail of steps (3 of 3 sets) with leaf litter. (May 2020)



Figure 3.61 Seat inset into a purposeful niche in lower retaining wall. A date for the seat in this location is not known although it shows signs of age. The tapered seat back suggests this seat could have once formed a segment in a circular seat arranged around the base of a tree and may have been re-used in this location. (May 2020)



Figure 3.62 Remnant 'amphitheatre' structure with stone sides. The purpose of this structure is not known. (June 2018)

3.2.1 Trees

Trees in the gardens are of mixed ages, but as the tree survey carried out by John Beetham in May-June 2018 indicates, the collection of trees contains a number of mature specimens – including 10 mature conifers – which date from one of two key planting periods in the Gardens' history as the Town Hall Gardens:

- 1860s–1890s: from the Gardens' establishment and through the era that Daniel Laidlaw was curator, employed by Ballarat East Town Council (130+ years);
- 1890s–1920: through the era that John Smith Edwards was curator, employed by Ballarat East Town Council (100-130 years).

The two periods are defined as key because they correlate with the development of the Gardens by the Ballarat East Town Council and the function of the Gardens in connection with the Ballarat East Town

Hall. With the amalgamation of the Ballarat East and Ballarat municipalities to form Greater Ballarat in 1920, the function of the Town Hall and its Gardens changed.

It is known from newspaper articles in 1871 and 1875 that the early Town Hall Gardens contained a number of established trees, many of which were conifers (14 different conifers were noted in the Gardens in 1875).¹⁵⁵ While not all of these have survived, the Gardens in the present day contains 12 conifers (mixed species), 10 of which are estimated to be around 130+ years old (therefore planted c.1860s–1890s, during the Laidlaw era) or 100–130 years old (therefore planted c.1890s–1920, possibly during the Edwards era).

Table 3.1 Trees listed in an 1875 newspaper article in the *Leader*.

Trees mentioned in 1875 newspaper (and height in 1875)	Current botanical names 2018 (common name in brackets)	Ref. No of species still extant in the Gardens – all are now 100-130 or 130+ years
Deodar (25 feet)	<i>Cedrus deodara</i> ('Deodar or Himalayan Cedar')	Tree 025
Atlas Cedar (21 feet)	<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> Glauca Group ('Blue Atlas Cedar') ¹⁵⁶	Tree 014
Cupressus torulosa	<i>Cupressus torulosa</i> ('Bhutan Cypress')	Tree 038
Abies grandis (13 feet)	<i>Abies grandis</i> ('Giant Fir') – no longer growing	
Pinus insignis (40 feet)	Synonym of <i>Pinus radiata</i>	
P. radiata (30 feet)	<i>Pinus radiata</i> – no longer growing	
Wellingtonia (20 feet)	<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i> – no longer growing ¹⁵⁷	
Leichardtia Macleayana (12 feet)	<i>Callitris macleayana</i> – no longer growing	
Juniperus communis (10 ½ feet)	<i>Juniperus communis</i> – no longer growing	
Araucaria imbricata	Synonym of <i>Araucaria araucana</i> ('Monkey Puzzle') (see Figure 2.20) – no longer growing	
A. Cunninghamii	<i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> ('Hoop Pine')	Tree 036
Thuja Lobbi	<i>Thuja plicata</i> ('Western Red Cedar') – no longer growing	
T. Meldensia	<i>Platycladus orientalis</i> ('Bookleaf Cypress') – no longer growing	
Thujopsis borealis	<i>Cupressus nootkatensis</i> ('Nootka Cypress') – no longer growing	
Aralia crassifolia (14 feet)	<i>Pseudopanax crassifolius</i> ("Lancewood") – no longer growing	
some vigorous specimens of hollies	One <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> 'Argentea-marginata' ('Variegated Common Holly') and two <i>Ilex x altaclarensis</i> ('Highclere Holly')	Trees 005, 006 and 011 respectively

¹⁵⁵ *Weekly Times*, 23 December 1871, p. 6; *Leader*, 9 January 1875, p. 9.

¹⁵⁶ This species was available in Victoria from 1864 (Brookes and Barley 2009, p. 36).

¹⁵⁷ This species was available from Thomas Lang's Ballarat nursery, who imported it in 1860 (*Victorian Agricultural and Horticultural Gazette*, vol. IV, no. 39, 21 May 1860, p. 43).

Context

Other plants that were planted the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and the wider study area that are mentioned or depicted in documentary sources are listed in Section 4.3 (Table 4.1).

3.2.2 Perimeter fence and entrance gates

The reserve was enclosed with a timber fence in the early 1860s and this was replaced in 1881 with a palisade fence set on a bluestone base. Sections of the 1881 fence along and extending off Barkly Street remain. Each section is shown in the following images.



Figure 3.63 Remaining section of early palisade fence on bluestone base with bluestone piers with rusticated panels (section on opposite of the steps is no longer extant).



Figure 3.64 First section of Barkly Street fencing. Two arrowheads of palisade are lost.



Figure 3.65 Second section of Barkly Street fencing, small chips to edges at joints.



Figure 3.66 Third section of Barkly Street fencing. Some cracking to foundation top. One arrowhead of palisade lost.



Figure 3.67 Fourth section of Barkly Street fencing. Some lifting of bluestone base. One arrowhead of palisade is lost.



Figure 3.68 Fifth section of Barkly Street fencing. Moss and lichen growth on the farthest base stone.



Figure 3.69 Sixth section of Barkly Street fencing. Fine cracking to nearest base stone. One arrowhead of palisade lost.



Figure 3.70 Seventh section of Barkly Street fencing. One arrow head of palisade lost.



Figure 3.71 Eighth section of Barkly Street fencing. Some bird droppings and some staining from rusted palisade bases.



Figure 3.72 Ninth section of Barkly Street fencing. Some lifting and staining of bluestone base.

Context



Figure 3.73 Section of palisade to the lane. These piers, including to the gate piers, do not have pyramidal capping.



Figure 3.74 Section of lightweight palisade-like fencing infill on concrete base at the Baby Health Centre.



Figure 3.75 Lightweight palisade-like fencing on concrete base at rear of the Baby Health Centre. This style of fencing continues along boundary of garden with laneway.



Figure 3.76 Lightweight palisade-like fencing on concrete base at rear of the Baby Health Centre and junction with steel pipe and cyclone wire fencing to the Baby Health Centre garden.



Figure 3.77 1900 entry gates to the 'Eastern Town Hall Gardens'. With no pyramidal capping evident, it is possible that the gate piers were originally intended to support lamps, such as those at the Free Library entry gates. In c.1923 the gate piers appear the same as now (see Figures 2.12 and 2.35).



Figure 3.78 Reverse side of entry gates from inside the garden.

3.3 Specimen Vale



Figure 3.79 Specimen Vale area, which loosely follows the original alignment of Specimen Vale Creek and follows the alignment of the now covered, former 'open concrete channel' which formed a drain along the valley through which Specimen Vale Creek originally flowed.

Dates	Use and development
c.1851	The Specimen Vale Creek followed its natural waterway before the advent of gold-mining, when it was altered. Geology, geomorphology and course of the original creek. It is possible that the name 'Specimen Vale', given to the area by the miners, refers to early success in finding specimens of gold.
By 1861	A water race was constructed along the basin of the Specimen Vale Creek, which crossed the natural creek line and terminated within the study area, potentially somewhere near the northern boundary of Britannia Reserve. Specimen Vale remained largely unsettled, with settlement concentrated around Main Street, Eureka Street and Barkly Street.

Dates	Use and development
By 1867	A crossing/bridge was made over Specimen Vale Creek making an extension of the right-of-way to the southeast (extension is no longer extant) (refer Figure 2.23).
1867	Specimen Vale fenced off from civic precinct, namely the Town Hall Gardens.
1868	The name 'Specimen Gully' marked on an 1868 map, showing the geological formation of Ballarat East.
1871	Plan shows what appears to resemble a natural course for Specimen Vale Creek
1877	Creek channel reported to be heavily congested with sand or sludge. Overflowed in heavy rains.
1902	Proposals made to straighten and pitch Specimen Vale Creek.
1914	Reports of unsanitary and unmaintained condition.
c.1924	Specimen Vale Creek channeled to provide for stormwater drainage.
1931-36	Employment relief works to form a large semi-circular channel. Section within the study area was concrete lined.
Late 20thC	Permanent decking installed over Specimen Vale channel.
c.1969–70	Specimen Vale re-landscaped as a public area, with works also to the Town Hall Gardens and carpark area within the study area At Princes Street South end of Specimen Vale. Further research required into connections with landscape architect Ron Rayment (b.1930) and landscape designer Ellis Stones (1895–1975).



Figure 3.80 View west within Specimen Vale. The willows as specimen trees in the lawn are defining landscape elements, with mixed mature conifers (borrowed landscape of the Town Hall Gardens) and deciduous oaks at the margins and Main Street end. (May 2020)



Figure 3.81 View to Specimen Vale from Eastern Town Hall Gardens.

Context



Figure 3.82 Specimen Vale and meandering serpentine pathway that links Princes Street South and Main Street (with c2000s additions to 1955 school building visible behind the trees).



Figure 3.83 Specimen Vale (looking east) from elevated ground of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens.



Figure 3.84 Eastern end of pedestrian pathway into Specimen Vale from Princes Street South.



Figure 3.85 Pedestrian pathway through Specimen Vale, framed by a pair of Simon's Poplars (*Populus simonii*) – Trees 45 and 46.



Figure 3.86 Narrow entry path to Specimen Vale from Main Road (view towards Main Road entry).



Figure 3.87 Narrow entry path to Specimen Vale from Main Road (view looking towards Main Road entry).



Figure 3.88 Steps to Britannia Reserve from Specimen Vale. Note steep embankment.

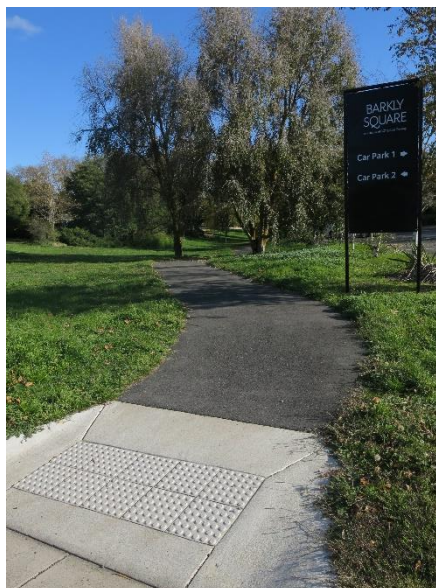


Figure 3.89 Entry to Specimen Vale from Princes Street South.



Figure 3.90 Wayfinding post, Specimen Vale.



Figure 3.91 Remnant concrete structure. Purpose unknown.

It is possible that the landscaping of the Specimen Vale Creek area, and adjoining carpark area (on the site of the former 'Mine Dump' and the adjoining edge of the former School of Mines Ballarat site) was the three-acre area designed in 1969 by landscape architect Ronald Rayment. The stonework and banks of Australian native planting resemble the work of prominent landscape designer Ellis Stones, with whom Rayment worked in partnership for a brief period in 1970–71. Whereas elsewhere areas of mass planting and limited species choice have a different character. Rayment's landscape architecture, in particular the South Lawn, Melbourne University, has been recognised for its ability to unify disparate landscape areas, and the landscape of Specimen Vale and adjoining areas of land express this character.

3.4 Britannia Reserve (Oval)



Figure 3.92 Britannia Reserve area.

Dates	Use and development
c.1851+	Occupied by gold-mining activity
1861	Shows this part of the study area, south of Specimen Vale Creek cut through by a road (named Last Chance QM Co.) and a cluster of buildings lining small streets laid out in a grid pattern. In this area is a dam or circular impression at the termination of a water race.
1867	Photograph taken from the Ballarat East Fire Tower showing the foot of the Gardens and Specimen Vale Creek with a crossing, shows the area that is now Britannia Reserve as ground level with the creek edge.
1868	Geological survey shows this area south of Specimen Gully as comprising Quartz Reef outcroppings and/or 'Indurated Clays and Sandstone Palaeozoic', indicating use or identified potential for mining activity.

Dates	Use and development
1934	Aerial photograph from this date shows the area to be heavily degraded, with strong evidence of mining activity. Land appears to be level at this stage – with diagonal wear tracks through.
c.1940-45 (1946)	Land was reserved for 'educational purposes' with the adjoining School of Mines, Ballarat site (Rs 2789). In 1945, the ground of the Britannia Reserve was described as 'Mining slum with some surface soil. Flat grassed (used as recreation ground)'. Steep embankments define the northwest, southwest and part of the southeast edges of Britannia Reserve which may have been formed by sludge from mining. (Rs 6129)
1956	Signage introduced to Britannia Reserve, outlining its exclusive use by the girls' secondary school. Known as Britannia Reserve by this date. Naming provides link to earlier Britannia United Mine.
By 1957	No visible traces of mining activity. Nearby mining companies included Britannia United Mine and Last Chance Q.M. Co.
1957	Aerial photograph of this date shows level grassed reserve has been created. The borders are planted with evenly spaced trees – it is presumed that these include the elms still extant on site. Ground level may have been raised by this time, to create the reserve for recreation on land previously used for mining. The ground level of the reserve sits well above the creek level with a short and very steep gradient between. Archaeological investigation required to determine if this edge is constructed or natural.
c.1957	L-shaped footpath linking Britannia Reserve to Specimen Vale with squared kerbing may have been introduced at about this time.
c.1969-70	The mature willow (<i>Salix</i> sp.) (Tree 44) may be part of the same landscaping works commissioned by 1969. Other willows of a similar size also occur within Specimen Vale (may have been added as part of the c.1969–70 commissioned landscape works – not confirmed).



Figure 3.93 View looking northeast across Britannia Reserve. (May 2020)



Figure 3.94 Bank of Dutch Elms along boundary of Britannia Reserve with former School of Mines sheds visible behind. (June 2018)

Context



Figure 3.96 L-shaped graded pathway linking Britannia Reserve to Specimen Vale, this appears to date from the c.1950-60s and would have been associated with school use. (June 2018)



Figure 3.97 Britannia Reserve from top of L-shaped pathway (June 2018)

3.5 School of Mines, Ballarat (horticultural school)



Figure 3.98 Former School of Mines, Ballarat (Horticultural School).

Dates	Use and development
1851+	The general area was occupied by gold-mining activity
1868	Geological survey shows the area as comprising Quartz Reef outcroppings, indicating use or potential for mining activity.
1934	Aerial photograph from this date shows the area to be heavily degraded, with strong evidence of mining activity.
c.1940-45 (1946)	Land was reserved for 'educational purposes' (Rs 4238), with adjoining land at Britannia Reserve (Rs 2789). In 1945, the ground was described as 'Mining Slum, uneven surface'. A steep bank defines the northwest boundary with Specimen Vale. (Rs 6129)
1957	Aerial photograph of this date shows long no longer used for mining. Fenced. No buildings. Beginning to re-vegetate.

Context

Dates	Use and development
c.1969-70	The mature willow (<i>Salix</i> sp.) (Tree 44) may be part of the same landscaping works commissioned by 1969. Other willows of a similar size also occur within Specimen Vale (thought to have been added as part of the c.1969–70 commissioned landscape works).
c.1969	Landscaping on border with Specimen Vale discussed in Specimen Vale area.
1983 (1987?)	School of Mines Ballarat established – build dates for present-day sheds and ornamental landscaping are uncertain. Possibly date from the late c1980s when three acres of the study area were to be landscaped as public areas. Further research required. Maturity and style of the extant planting is suggestive of c.1970-80s.



Figure 3.99 Princes Street South frontage to former School of Mines area. (June 2018)



Figure 3.100 Princes Street South frontage to former School of Mines area, showing planting at street frontage of different conical cypress trees and juniper. (June 2018)



Figure 3.101 Mature Plane tree (*Platanus* sp.) (not included in tree data) with ivy clad trunks. (June 2018)



Figure 3.102 Building set back from Princes Street South frontages (built date after 1957). Set being large concrete paved area (possibly used for parking, basketball). (May 2020)



Figure 3.103 Paved area at School of Mines site looking across Specimen Vale to the carpark within the study area.



Figure 3.104 Mature Willow (*Salix* sp.) (Tree 44). (June 2018)

3.6 Other landscape areas



Figure 3.105 Other landscape areas. (Source: Nearmap with Context overlay)

Other landscape areas include the roadways within the study area and the carpark and surrounds in the northeast part of the study area. These areas are addressed separately as they are not as directly linked to the historical themes. The areas include:

- the carpark area and landscaping in the northeast of the study area, near Princes Street South;
- the roadway adjacent to the northeast wall of the former Free Library, which leads into the carpark area; and
- the roadway southwest of the Ballarat East Baby Health Centre.

Key attributes of the areas are shown in the images and captions below.



Figure 3.106 Princes Street South entry to carpark area.



Figure 3.107 Carpark looking southwest into Specimen Vale.



Figure 3.108 Sloped northern edge of the carpark area. This area has recently undergone works to clear weeds. This area may have been landscaped in c.1969–70. Formerly described as Mine Dump and Stone Dump.



Figure 3.109 Sloped northern edge of the carpark area. The remnant escarpment still apparent in this area appears to reflect the former natural location of a bend in the Specimen Vale Creek.



Figure 3.110 Continuation of the right-of-way off Barkly Street to the carpark and Princes Street South. The planting is simple lawn edged with White Birch and a 'hedge' of *Lomandra longifolia* or *L. hystrix*. This area may have been landscaped in c.1969–70.



Figure 3.111 Continuation of the right-of-way off Barkly Street, with simple pipe fencing, asphalt pathway, linear planting of White Birch and native shrubs, including *Lomandra*. This area may have been landscaped in c.1969–70.

Context



Figure 3.112 Right-of-way into the study area off Barkly Street. The right-of-way was laid out c.1857–58 (see Figure 2.6) and leads to the carpark area. It has a simple asphalt surface and concrete kerbing and guttering. Landscaping along the northern side is recent.



Figure 3.113 Border between the former Free Library and the right-of-way, noting the continuation of the palisade fence on a higher bluestone base and cordylines from the Barkly Street frontage of the study area.



Figure 3.114 Right-of-way adjacent to the southwest boundary of the Baby Health Centre and Eastern Town Hall Gardens and to rear of properties with frontages to Main Street. It was laid out c.1857–58 (see Figure 2.6). The right-of-way provides access to a pedestrian link into the Specimen Vale Creek pathway and access into the Eastern Town Hall Gardens.



Figure 3.115 Right-of-way adjacent to the southwest boundary of the Baby Health Centre and Eastern Town Hall Gardens and to rear of properties with frontages to Main Street. Fencing to the adjoining properties is visible on the right-hand side of the image. The image was taken looking from the Specimen Vale Creek pathway.

4.0 Analysis

4.1 Site development and circulation patterns

Analysis of the building development patterns and circulation across the site was undertaken comparing maps, photographs and historical aerial imagery from 1934 and 1957.

The following three diagrams show the arrangement of buildings, access, circulation routes and site features in three key periods of development:

- 1860s–1934;
- 1934–1957; and
- post-2000.

Patterns of circulation into, through and around the study area have changed over time. During the establishment of the Ballarat East civic precinct and during its heyday, access to the civic cluster including the Eastern Town Hall Gardens was primarily off Barkly Street, with a stair that linked the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and the Town Hall terrace. The siting and orientation of the former Town Hall would have ensured the Town Hall was a prominent landmark with outward views to the west.

At least until 1934, the civic cluster and Eastern Town Hall Gardens were fenced off from Specimen Vale Creek and gully and the areas then still used for mining. There was a pathway from the main entrance gate around the western and southern edges of the Gardens (set in from the boundaries of the Gardens).

With the 1955 construction of the Ballarat Girls High School, it is understood that the stair linking the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and the Town Hall terrace was removed. Three additional stairs were created that linked the low ground of the southern arm of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and the 1955 school building.

By 1957, by which time the Ballarat Girls High School had replaced the Town Hall building and Britannia Reserve had been rehabilitated as a recreational ground for school use, a pathway was made that crossed the Specimen Vale Creek and linked the Civic cluster and Garden areas to the reserve. Until at least 1957, the Baby Health Centre addressed and was accessed directly from the Gardens.

After 1969, circulation patterns are thought likely to have been reconfigured to better unify the parts of the study area. At this time, the pathway from the main entrance gate to the Gardens around the western and southern edges of the Gardens is suspected to have been removed. The pathway and associated movement through Specimen Vale from Princes Street South to Main Street may have been introduced at this time.

With the 2000 additions to the 1955 school building, the function of the stairs on the southern side of the school building was lost (although the stairs remain in situ).

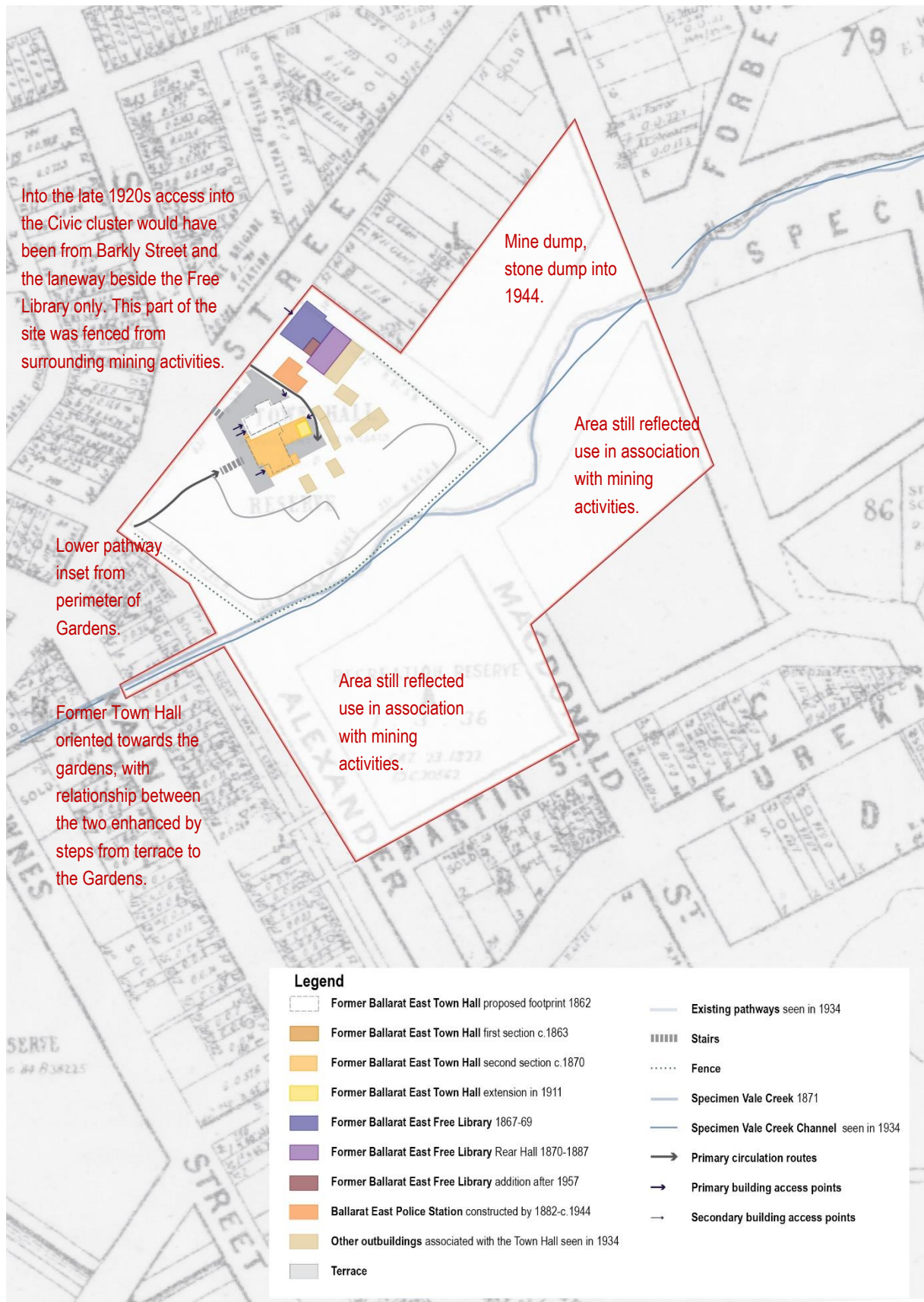


Figure 4.1. This diagram shows the evolution of the civic landscape and Ballarat East Town Hall overlaid on a 1928 map.



Figure 4.2. This diagram shows the development of site buildings associated with the provision of education and health with a 1957 aerial underlay.

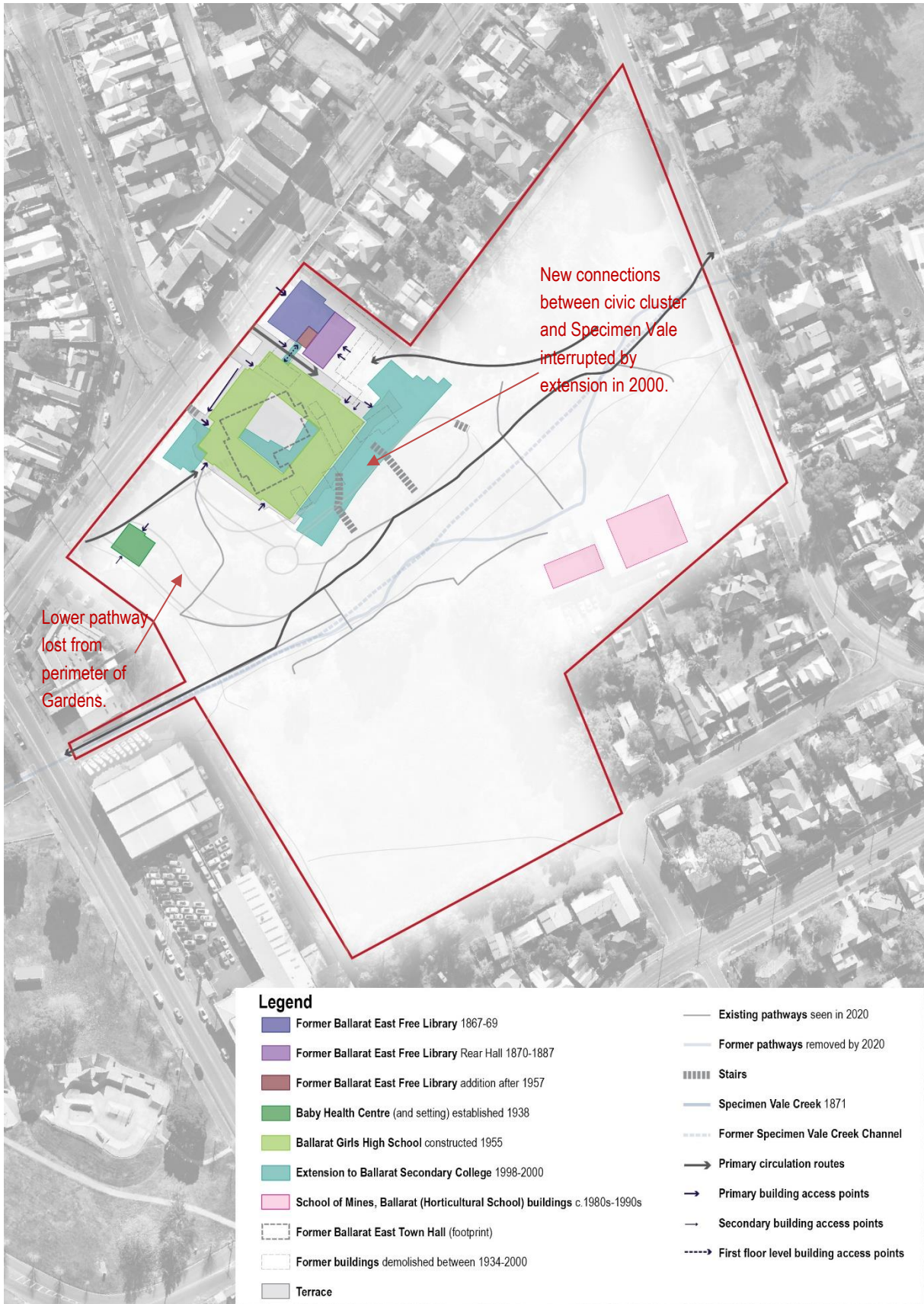


Figure 4.3. This diagram shows the development of site buildings since 2000 with a 2020 aerial underlay.

4.2 Thematic overlays

The following thematic overlays show the connections and overlap of key themes as they have acted across, and marked, the landscape over time.

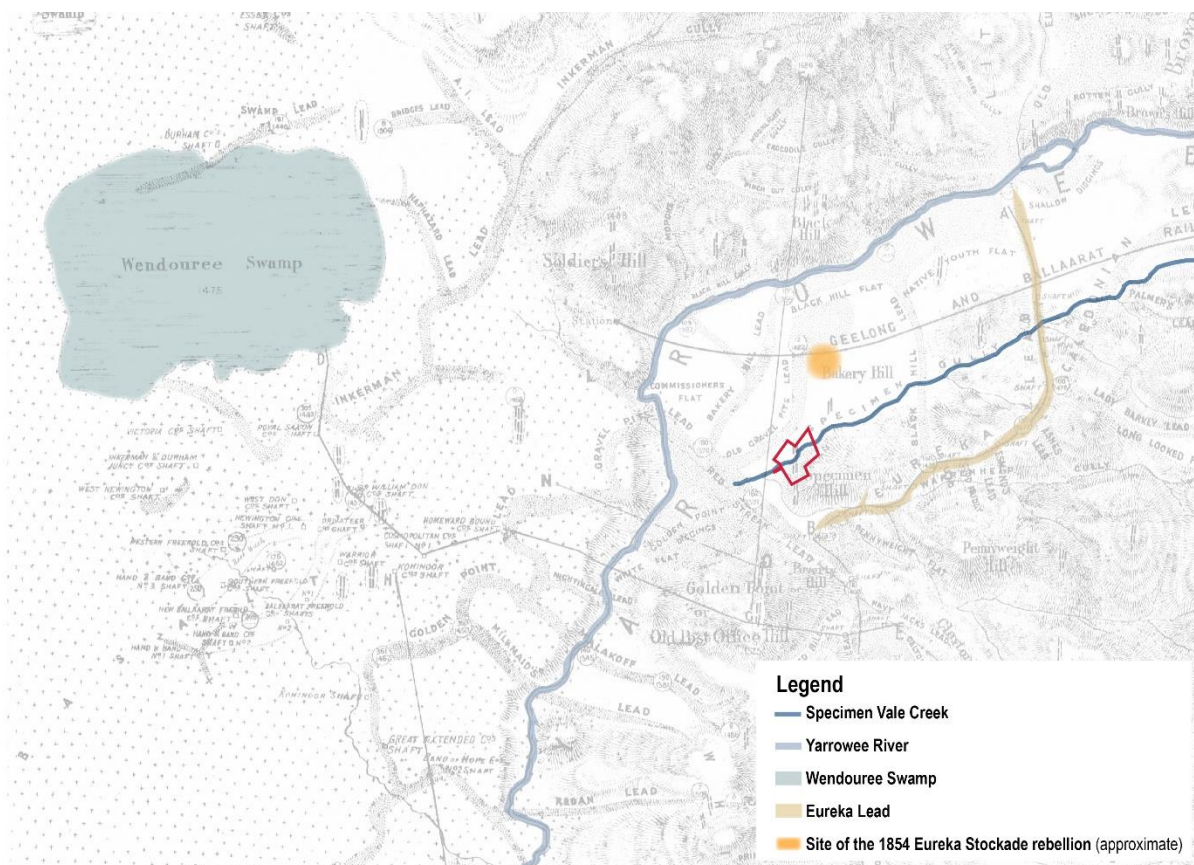


Figure 4.4 This diagram shows the site and how it sits within the broader topographic and historic landscape. Key water bodies have been highlighted. Circled area shows the approximate location of the National heritage listed site of the 1854 Eureka Stockade rebellion.

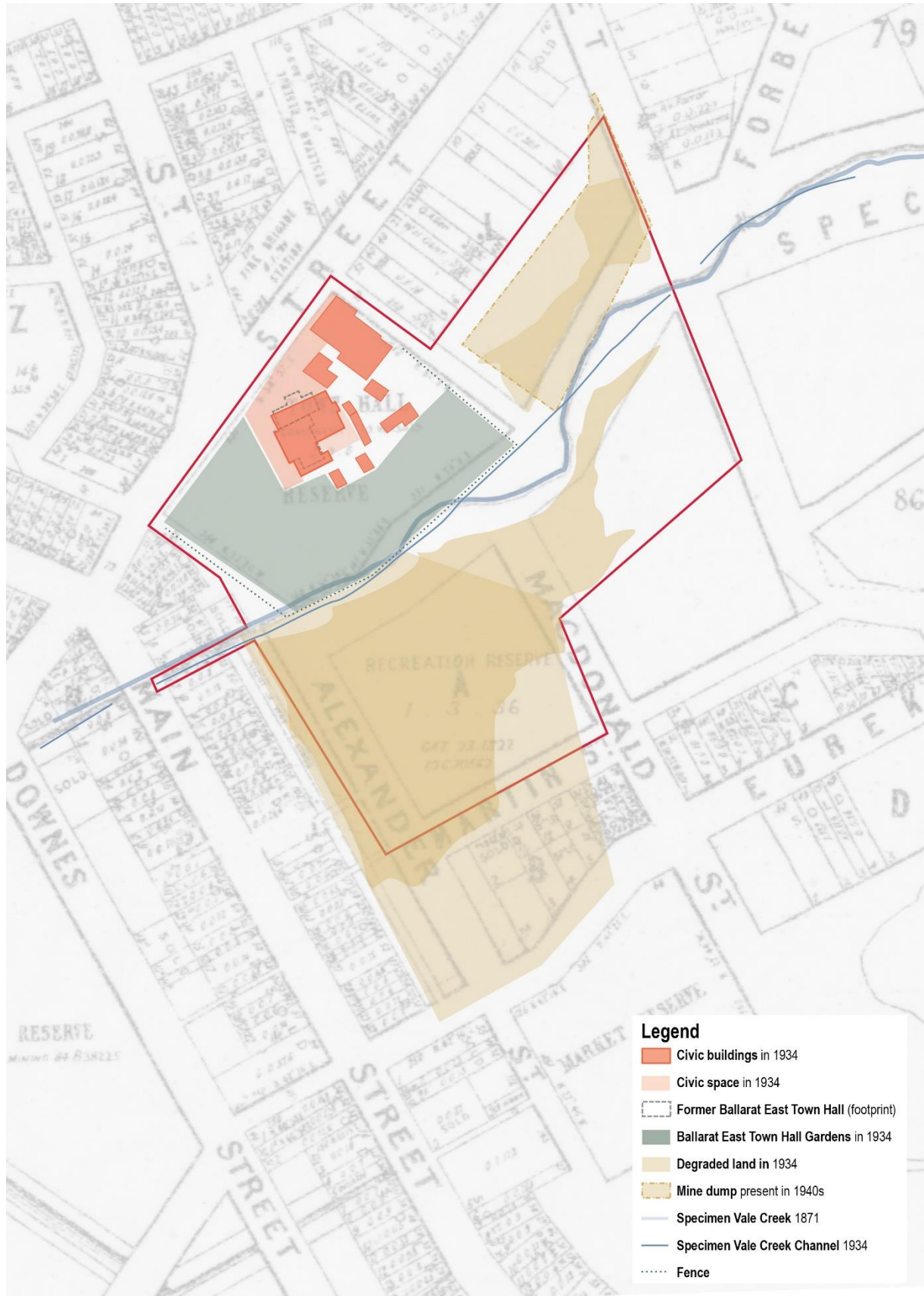


Figure 4.6 This diagram shows key themes across the site during the period when it was developing as a civic landscape.

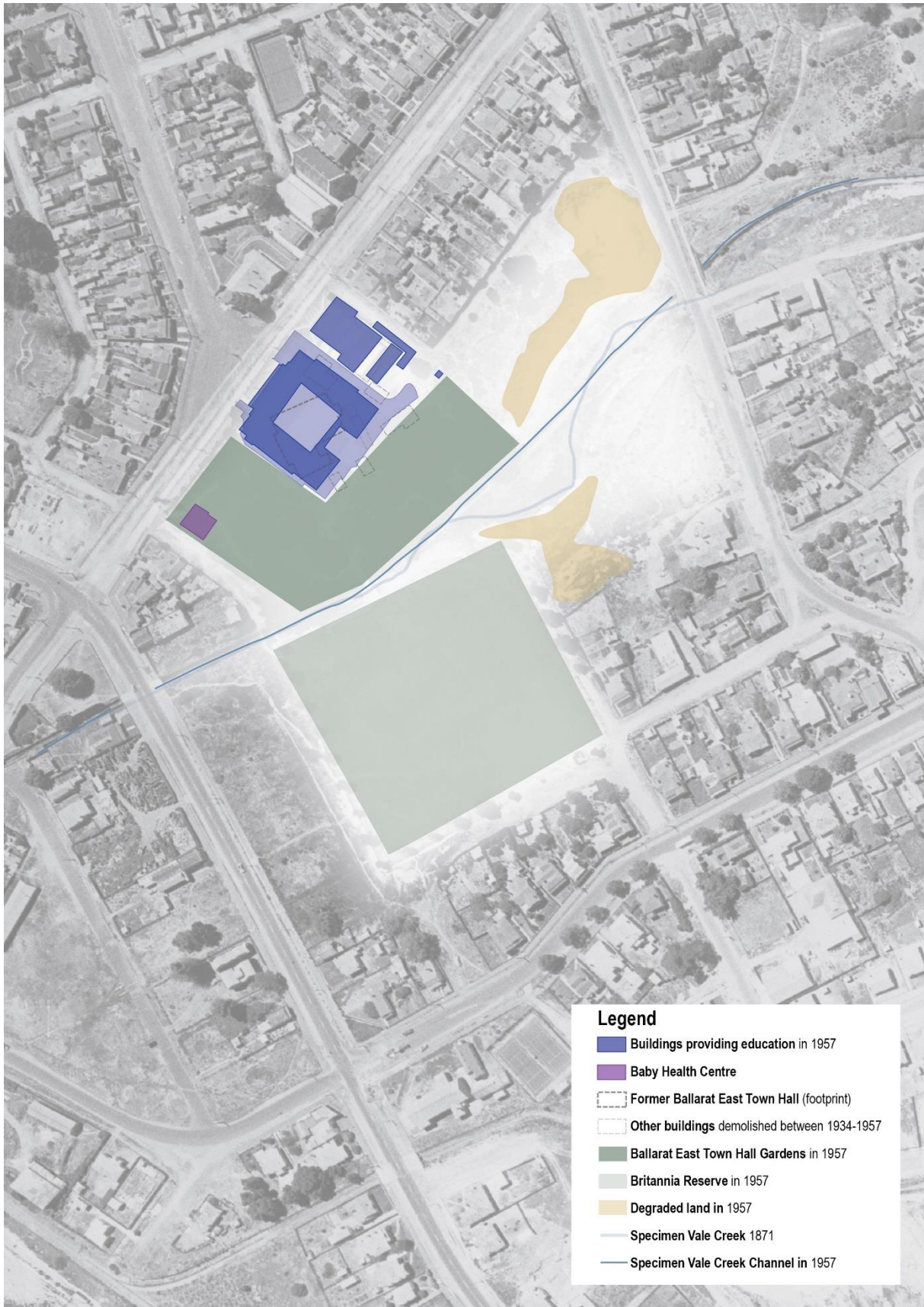


Figure 4.7 This diagram shows key themes across the site when it was being developed as an educational precinct.



Figure 4.8 This diagram shows key themes across the site in the post-2000 period. The three green-shaded areas denote areas used for recreation.



Figure 4.9 Areas of archaeological sensitivity that have research potential for their ability to contribute to understanding the site and its layered land use history.

- **Orange** indicates early pathways and steps within the Eastern Town Hall Gardens.
- **Purple** indicates the steeply sloped natural and/or moulded landform and remnant terrace at the top, on which the former Ballarat East Town Hall was sited.
- **Blue** indicates research potential associated with the geology, geomorphology, alignment of the original creek, the later concrete channel (now covered), and former crossings.
- **Green** indicates potential for evidence of gold mining activity, in particular subsurface evidence in the fill, understood to be sludge, or mining slum. The green area of Britannia Reserve sits 1-2m above the mid-nineteenth century ground level and an earlier intended street pattern.
- **Pink** indicates potential for subsurface evidence of the early street pattern.
- **Yellow** indicates potential for evidence of the natural landform and subsurface evidence associated with mining activity, name the use of this area as a mine dump, or stone dump.
- **Red** indicates the 'amphitheatre' formation in the landscape which may be associated with mining activity. This requires further research.

4.3 Plants observed in historical records

A detailed understanding of species planted in the Town Hall Gardens has been obtained from historical sources. The following table lists plants mentioned and observed in documentary sources. Where possible, the planting type and location within the study area is noted. The date of the source in which the plant or planting is mentioned or depicted is also noted.

Table 4.1 Plants mentioned or observed in documentary records.

Planting type, location in study area	Botanical/common name	Date of mention or depiction
	Wattles	Pre-settlement
	Gums	Pre-settlement
	Sheoaks	Pre-settlement
	Ti tree	Pre-settlement
Along waterways	Native grasses	Pre-settlement
Along waterways	Reeds	Pre-settlement
Acorns provided to the Ballarat East 'council reserve'	Oak	1865
Low shrubs along Barkly Street boundary fence of Eastern Town Hall Gardens	Not possible to determine	1868
Specimen trees, symmetrically placed, Free Library's front and side gardens	<i>Cupressus torulosa</i>	c.1870-72
Small clipped shrubs, Free Library's front and side gardens	Not possible to determine	c.1870-72
On the terrace, Town Hall Gardens	Rhododendrons	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	Conifers and deciduous trees	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	Abies	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	Pinus	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	Yew	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	<i>Thuja aurea</i>	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	Variegated white cedar	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	Holly, the euonymus	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	<i>Wellingtonia gigantea</i>	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	<i>Pinus insignis</i>	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	<i>Araucaria imbricata</i>	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	<i>Picea grandis</i> (silver fir of California)	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	<i>Cedrus Atlantica</i> or silver cedar	1871

Context

Planting type, location in study area	Botanical/common name	Date of mention or depiction
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	Cedrus deodara or Indian cedar	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	Pittosporums (various)	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	hollies	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	Viburnum tinus (launstinus)	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	Thuja Lobbi	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	Platanus orientalis (oriental plane)	1871
Lower side of ground, Town Hall Gardens	Weeping willows	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	Deutzia gracilis	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	Acabra	1871
Not specified, Town Hall Gardens	Ceanothus divaricatus	1871
Shrubs, Town Hall Gardens	Rhododendrons, laburnums, roses, jasmines, hibiscus, lantanas, Pampas grass (Gynerium), erica, bambusa, barberries, acacias, veronicas, spiraeas	1871
On the terrace leading to stone steps, Town Hall Gardens	Irish ivy	1871
On the slope, Town Hall Gardens	creeping juniper	1871
Beds, Town Hall Gardens	pansies	1871
Beds, Town Hall Gardens	carnations	1871
Flowering shrubs and bulbs	Roses, gladioli, rhododendrons, pinks, geraniums fuchsias, and other varieties	1872
Shrub, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	<i>Genista tinctorial</i>	1875
Shrub, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	<i>Escallonia rubra</i>	1875
Shrub, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	<i>Escallonia macrantha</i>	1875
Shrub, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	<i>Prostanthera spinulosa</i>	1875
Shrub, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	<i>Pyracantha</i>	1875
Shrub, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	<i>Cotoneaster microphylla</i>	1875
Upright junipers, higher up the bank, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	<i>Juniperus squamata</i>	1875
Shrub, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	<i>Pyrus japonica</i>	1875
Shrub, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	<i>Vinca major</i>	1875
Shrub, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	Dracenas	1875
Shrub, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	Hollies	1875

Planting type, location in study area	Botanical/common name	Date of mention or depiction
Shrubs, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	Portugal and common laurels	1875
Boundaries, closely planted, intermixed (to hide surrounding buildings)	poplars, oaks, elms, chestnuts, planes, willows	1875
Each side of the steps, at the bottom, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	American aloes	1875
Clipped, fine leafed, low edging to walks, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	Rosemary	1875
Borders, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	Roses, flowering shrubs, herbaceous plants	1875
Specimen planting, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	Araucarias	c.1881-1890
Specimen planting, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	Cedars	c.1881-1890
Specimen planting, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	Cordylines	c.1881-1890
Specimen planting, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	Dracenas	c.1881-1890
Specimen planting, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	Chinese Windmill Palm (<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>)	c.1881-1890
Fernery plants and hot house plants, Fernery and Hot House, former Ballarat East Town Hall setting	Not possible to determine	c.1881-1890
Specimen planting, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	<i>Araucaria imbricata</i> (Monkey Puzzle, now <i>A. Araucana</i>)	c.1880s
Fernery plants, Fernery, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	Ferns; 'several choice specimens of camellias and azaleas'	1883
Specimen planting, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	Presence of 'other conifers' (ie in addition to Radiata Pine)	1888
Floral displays, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	Chrysanthemums	1894, 1895
Regular spacing, around small pond, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	Cordylines	c.1895
Large clipped shrubs on mound, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	Not possible to determine	1890, 1901
Ivy, growing thickly on balustrades of steps to Town Hall terrace	Not possible to determine	1875, 1890, 1901
Strappy leafed plants, specimen shrubs	Not possible to determine	c.1920-54

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Planting type, location in study area	Botanical/common name	Date of mention or depiction
Pair of conifers (firs?) at gateway entry, Eastern Town Hall Gardens	Not possible to determine	c.1920-54, 1929
Large clipped shrubs	Not possible to determine	1929
Green lawns, Baby Health Centre	Not possible to determine	1938
Colourful flower pots, Baby Health Centre	Not possible to determine	1938
Specimen trees, front setting of SMB	White or Silver Birch, Sheoak	c.1980s

5.0 Significance

5.1 Introduction

The Significance section is structured to achieve two main objectives:

- To set out the significance of the place according to the individual parts (including those individual places and precincts recognised on the VHR and HO) and tie these understandings of significance to the physical place by identifying which elements or attributes demonstrate those values (with differing degrees of strength / to be defined using relative significance rankings). This part relies and builds on existing Statements of Significance and the preliminary assessment of significance in the Context study of the Former Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens (July 2018).
- To develop an understanding of the significance of the place as a whole (the study area), drawing on the analysis in the previous section (Section 4.0) and identifying the elements or attributes that strongly support that understanding of significance, or that have the potential to strongly support the values embodied by the place as a whole. Consideration of the significance of the study area as a whole relies on new analysis and assessment carried out for this CMP.

Understanding these two main areas of cultural heritage significance of the place as a whole and its components is a critical step in the development of policies and actions to guide the future management of a place, including future works to enhance the transmission of those values.

Formally defined in *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013*, cultural significance means the historic, aesthetic, scientific, social or spiritual value of a place for past, present and future generations. The process of assessing cultural heritage significance, at State and local levels, is a rigorous and objective one that is guided by the principles of The Burra Charter.

Cultural heritage significance is assessed through a process that usually includes:

- gathering information or evidence about a place, its history and its community associations;
- looking carefully at the place to understand how it has developed and changed over time;
- considering the evidence against specific criteria; and
- preparing a statement of significance that succinctly captures why the place is significant, and its relative significance.

In accordance with Planning Practice Note 1 'Applying the Heritage Overlay' (August 2018), the following recognised heritage criteria are used for the assessment of the heritage value of the place:

Criterion A	Importance in the course, or pattern, of our cultural or natural history (historical significance).
Criterion B	Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).
Criterion C	Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history (research potential).
Criterion D	Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).
Criterion E	Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).

Criterion F	Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).
Criterion G	Strong or special association with a particular present-day community of cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance).
Criterion H	Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).

5.2 Existing assessments of significance

5.2.1 Ballarat East Civic Precinct (HO178)

The Statement of Significance for the Ballarat East Civic Precinct is:

The Precinct has historical importance for its association with the discovery of gold in the early 1850s and for its close relationship with the early development of Main Road, recognized as the commercial centre of the alluvial and deep lead mining area by 1853-1854. The profits generated from the sale of services and goods from the many commercial and retail ventures stretched along the length of Main Road from Bridge Street in the north Report generated 02/07/20 through to Golden Point in the south were often reinvested among small co-operatives of miners. This helped to facilitate the commercial cooperation between miners and storekeepers that was so crucial while exploration of the Ballarat goldfields continued. It also created an integrated social and commercial system that helped to create the municipal framework of early East Ballarat.

The Precinct has historical importance for its association with the early development of East Ballarat as a municipality, with a separate political and social identity from West Ballarat. In spite of the many difficulties associated with its development on the main alluvial diggings site, in February 1857 sale of frontages (freehold land) in Main Road provided the basis for ratepayer to elect a local government and form the municipality of Ballarat East in 1857. Plans began shortly afterwards for a collection of civic and cultural buildings in Barkly Street off Main Road including a Town Hall, Police Court, Mechanics Institute, Museum and Public Library.

The Precinct has historical importance for its substantially intact physical evidence, scarce examples of the now defunct transient mining development along Main Road which because of its flood prone, low lying ground made it a most unsuitable site for a permanent commercial centre. The priority given to alluvial and deep lead mining interests in this area helps to explain the distinctive street pattern through the Ballarat East Civic precinct. Streets and lanes developed organically from the main arteries and the urban pattern is in stark contrast to the formal surveyed grid layout of Ballarat West. (Criterion A)

The Precinct is recognised and highly valued by the local community for civic, religious and educational reasons. Collectively, the civic buildings surviving in East Ballarat are symbols of the way in which the residents of East Ballarat developed and indeed, cultivated a separate municipal, political and social identity from the township above on the plateau. (Criterion G)

The Precinct is architecturally important for its association with the location of the new civic centre and municipality of East Ballarat, which was built on one of the highest points in the area with commanding views over much of mining activity in Yarrowee creek below. The new town hall (1861, demolished 1949) with its later formal botanic garden glasshouse and fernery was a symbol of order and civilization in contrast with the ad hoc transient nature of life on the diggings. The associated civic buildings incorporated the full range of facilities symbolic of cultivated European society in the nineteenth century inclusive of a museum and library for education and self-improvement and a police court as an instrument of law and order. Contemporary maps show that the site was one of few locations left relatively untouched by direct mining works such as the nearby shafts of the Britannia United Shaft, Eastern Star Extension and Sulieman Pasha No. 2 mining sites. Although the Town Hall was demolished in 1949, other buildings in the civic

precinct remain. These include 1867 the Ballarat East Free Library (1867) and the Ballarat Fire Station and brick tower (1864-67) which has historical significance as one of the few remaining examples of nineteenth century fire stations. Other buildings include the Wesleyan Methodist Church and the Jewish Synagogue, hall and Rabbi's residences which are among the oldest buildings in the Precinct, constructed in 1860 and 1861 respectively. The Precinct is architecturally important for it demonstrates many original and intact architectural design qualities associated with the residential, civic, and cultural/community development of the area between the 1850s and the late 1930s. While civic and cultural life was the primary function of buildings within this precinct, scattered pockets of residential buildings developed from the late 1850s onwards. The eastern end of Barkly Street was constructed within the vicinity of the Gravel Pits Lead and the Fire Brigade Reef while there was also shallow alluvial mining activity in the surrounding area. The cottages provided accommodation for miners. The precinct still contains scattered examples of very early cottages, possibly built under the provisions of the Miner's Right. By 1866, Crown sales of small residential allotments with frontages of between 26 feet and approximately 75 feet had taken place along East and Barkly Streets. The Precinct also contains examples of later Victorian style housing constructed towards the latter part of the nineteenth century when mining was becoming a less dominant force within East Ballarat. Similarly, there are a number of examples of buildings erected from the turn of the century to the end of the inter-war period, as the area developed more structured residential pockets alongside the early civic and cultural buildings.

The Precinct has aesthetic significance as a 19th century gold mining townscape which demonstrates important visual qualities that reflect the historical, cultural and architectural development of the Precinct, and contribute to the setting of Ballarat. These qualities are substantially demonstrated by the significant urban foci, notably the Synagogue and associated Canary Island Pine, which form an important focus to arrival at the eastern edge of the Precinct; the Ballarat Fire station, which due to its position on high ground at the divergence of two streets and its imposing tower, forms a dramatic landmark on the skyline and can be seen from many vantage points both within and outside of the precinct; the strong streetscape elements of the former Wesleyan Methodist complex of buildings, which includes the Church, the hall, and the former parsonage; the strong streetscape element of the former East Ballarat Free Library with its associated original fence; the original fencing, entrance gates and the mature exotic trees to the former Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens, which provide a scenic garden focus along Barkly Street at the western edge of the Precinct; the original large cast-iron gas lamp in the centre of the Barkly Street and East Street South intersection; and the significant visual connections between all of the above-mentioned buildings and significant streetscape elements, and their juxtaposition with the pockets of intact and generally well-maintained residential buildings. (Criterion D)

The Precinct is of importance for contributing to a history of the infrastructure development of Ballarat East, as identified by the significantly intact bluestone channels, gutters and kerbs, and the asphalt footpaths. (Criterion C)¹⁵⁸

Drawing from the Statement of Significance, key components within the study area that contribute to the significance of HO178 are:

- The evidence it provides of the discovery of gold in the early 1850s and for its close relationship with the early development of Main Road, recognised as the commercial centre of the alluvial and deep lead mining area by 1853-54. The strongest evidence is provided by Specimen Vale, Britannia Reserve and the landform of the former 'mine dump' area (now a carpark).
- The evidence it provides of the early development of East Ballarat as a municipality, with a separate political and social identity from West Ballarat. This is most clearly evidenced by the Former Free Library, the mound on which the former Town Hall was built, the Eastern Town Hall Gardens, the gateways and iron palisade fence on bluestone base along Barkly Street and the sections of palisade that wrap around the corners.

¹⁵⁸ Victorian Heritage Database, Ballarat East Civic Precinct HO178.

Context

- The buildings (remnant evidence of the Town Hall with Police Court, Police Station – lost, and the former Free Library and Hall) that are part of a larger collection of civic and cultural buildings in Barkly Street off Main Road, including a Town Hall, Police Court, Mechanics Institute, Museum and Public Library.
- The intersecting lanes and rights of way that are part of the distinctive street pattern throughout the Ballarat East Civic precinct. Streets and lanes developed organically from the main arteries and the urban pattern is in stark contrast to the formal surveyed grid layout of Ballarat West.
- Social value for civic and educational reasons. Within the study this would include remnant evidence of the Town Hall and the former Free Library and Hall, Eastern Town Hall Gardens, the gates and iron palisade fencing on blue stone base, and the Ballarat Girls High School.
- The civic buildings, the Eastern Town Hall Gardens, the gates and iron palisade fencing on blue stone base remain and the former Free Library remain as symbols of order and civilisation (civic order, self-improvement, education, symbolic of cultivated European society) which contrasted with the ad hoc transient nature of life on the diggings.
- In their naming and/or associations, Specimen Vale, Britannia Reserve and the carpark area (formerly a 'mine dump' and referred to as a 'stone dump' in 1944), as areas substantially altered by mining works, historically stood in contrast to the civic precinct character.
- The strong streetscape element of the former East Ballarat Free Library with its associated original fence; the original fencing, entrance gates and the mature exotic trees to the former Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens, which provide a scenic garden focus along Barkly Street at the western edge of the Precinct, contribute important aesthetic/visual qualities to the precinct.
- Any bluestone gutters, kerbs or channels within the study are significant to the precinct as evidence of infrastructure development in Ballarat.

5.2.2 Eureka Street Heritage Precinct (HO179)

The Statement of Significance for the Eureka Street Heritage Precinct is:

The Precinct is associated with the discovery of gold in the early 1850s, in particular the alluvial and quartz mining of the Eureka and Black Hill Leads. It is significant because it provides the historical context and setting for Eureka Stockade Garden which is included on the National Heritage List for its association with Eureka Stockade rebellion. "The gold miners' revolt against the goldfield administration, and particularly the loss of life (33 miners and 5 soldiers) resulting from the insurrection, is a major event in Australia's political and social history. While there is little above ground evidence of the event that took place at Ballarat and while the exact location is not agreed upon, Eureka Stockade Gardens is important for its association with this uncommon and highly significant event in the nation's past." The precinct is significant because of its potential to yield archaeological evidence of the rebellion in 1854 and the likelihood of underground deposits or artifacts associated with Eureka, participants of the battle who traversed the area and the associated Eureka Lead, and other auriferous deposits being worked by the miners at the time of the revolt..

Eureka Street, the early winding road that runs through the precinct along a ridgeline between the valleys of two separate waterways, Specimen Vale and Warrenheip Creeks, is historically important as the main track to Melbourne, built at the commencement of Victoria's world famous gold rushes. The creek banks as well as the undulating hillsides were subject to extensive and long-running mining activities. The subsequent layout of many of the other roads in a partly distorted grid pattern is important as it illustrates attempts by bureaucracy to introduce a formal urban plan over the chaos and haphazard development of the area that was dominant by mining for many years on both the alluvial flats and the quartz-rich hills.

The Precinct is of further historical significance for demonstrating the influence of mining activities on the early subdivision of the surveyed sections. Settlement clustered around the Leads, in particular the Irish community was strongly identified with the Eureka Lead, although at the time of the rebellion the miners were represented by over 16 different nationalities. Most of the allotments were laid out by private selection under Miner's Right leases resulting in many irregularly shaped blocks of land. The more regularly shaped, government surveyed allotments can predominantly be seen along the east end of Eureka Street. After the rebellion the general area was still used for mining for some years, and in a piecemeal fashion, then housing development with early haphazard timber buildings being later replaced with new buildings that aligned the road reserves. (Criterion A)

The Precinct is important for its heterogeneous mixture of substantially intact residential buildings of varying styles which were constructed from the late 1850s to 1940s/50s, and which are distributed almost equally throughout the Precinct. Although constructed in different eras, the residences tend to be similar in scale, of a small size and simple form with dominant chimneys. There is an important collection of early small Victorian cottages and vernacular styled timber miners cottages scattered throughout the Precinct, which reinforces the visually dominant historic mining character of the area and its historical context with Eureka Stockade. Some larger villas are located on Eureka and George Streets. There are in addition several small shops distributed the length of Eureka Street or located on corner sites, often built in conjunction with their residences. Only a small number of commercial, industrial and cultural community buildings were constructed from the 1860s onwards. These include the Town & City Mission and the former Eureka Street state school No 1071 which has a dominant position, as well as the former Farmer's Ham & Bacon Factory and galvanized corrugated iron factory building associated with the former Cowley's Eureka Iron Works. The eastern boundary of the Precinct was marked by an 19th century Chinese village and large Orphanage. (Criteria D and E)

The Precinct demonstrates important visual qualities that reflect the historical, cultural and architectural development of the Precinct that contribute to its early gold mining character. The visual qualities include a variety of significant urban landmarks and focal points, some of which can be seen from outside of the Precinct. They particularly comprise the Town and City Mission building, the former Ballarat (Eureka Street) State School No.1071, Montrose Cottage at 111 Eureka Street; the former school; the various small shops along Eureka Street; the main buildings of the former Farmer's Ham and Bacon Factory, and the galvanised corrugated iron factory building associated with the former Cowley's Eureka Iron Works in Rodier Street. There are a number of vantage points throughout the precinct afforded by the steep topographical character of Specimen Vale Creek that runs through the centre of the Precinct. From the upper banks of the Creek unexpected picturesque views of the haphazard collection of small cottages with distinctive chimneys can be seen, including the row of mature oak trees on the east side of Joseph Street; and the Britannia Reserve with its perimeter plantings of mature trees, predominantly elms.

Other important aesthetic qualities include the complex views across and through the precinct to other parts of Ballarat including to Black Hill and Mount Warrenheip, to Specimen Vale Creek and Warrenheip Gully Channels. Other important vistas and view corridors link the area with the former civic area of the municipality of Ballarat East, and to the adjacent Eureka Centre and historic reserve, which commemorates the Eureka Stockade Rebellion. There are also important views within the Precinct along north and south axis roads across the undulating topography, to the rear of many of the houses and other buildings within the Precinct, and additional truncated internal views up to and along Eureka Street which meanders along a distinctive ridgeline on the south side of the precinct.

The important historic visual qualities of the Precinct are also enhanced by the gravel/grass road shoulders and turf nature strips or footpaths; by the stretches of unmade roads; and by private gardens with mature canopy trees. Together with the variously treed and landscaped areas of open public, private and recreational land they provide the precinct with a less urbanised setting of considerable variety. Furthermore, the visual qualities of the Precinct are specially enhanced by the retention of much of its original engineering infrastructure, particularly as identified by the numerous stretches of bluestone or brick spoon drains, and bluestone or brick kerbing. (Criteria D and E)

The Precinct is recognised and highly valued by the local community for its association with mining the Eureka Lead, one of the best yielding leads in Ballarat, and the Eureka Rebellion. The Eureka Rebellion as an historical event and the

Context

associated rebel miners' Southern Cross flag, have become symbols for democracy in Australia. The event is ingrained in Australian culture through literature, art, poetry, film and also marked by the local commemoration ceremony, the Eureka Dawn Lantern Walk which is staged each year on Sedition Sunday. The area is significant for its association with the 1855 Commission of Inquiry into the Goldfields set up to investigate the Eureka uprising. In consequence the gold license system was replaced by the annual Miner's Rights which was introduced throughout Australia, giving miner's voting and residential rights. Furthermore, the area has strong links with Peter Lalor, the leader of the rebellion, who by the end of 1855 was elected to the Victorian parliament. The area is socially significant for ongoing residential, commercial, social, educational, industrial and recreational functions. (Criterion G)

The Precinct is important for contributing to the history of the development of the infrastructure of this area of East Ballarat, particularly as identified by the extensive network of significantly intact bluestone and brick spoon drains, gutters and kerbs. The later examples of short span integrated concrete kerbs and spoon gutters, and the asphalt and early concrete footpaths demonstrates how much of the area was left undeveloped for long periods of time due to the impact of mining in the area. (Criteria C and F)¹⁵⁹

Drawing from the Statement of Significance, key components within the study area that contribute to the significance of HO179 are:

- The study area boundary and complex pattern of parcels of land, which are the legacy of the subdivision pattern and road layout in a partly distorted grid pattern which are important as they illustrate attempts by bureaucracy to introduce a formal urban plan over the chaos and haphazard development of the area that was dominant by mining for many years on both the alluvial flats and the quartz-rich hills.
- The study area boundary and complex pattern and irregular angles of the parcels of land, demonstrate the influence of mining activities on the early subdivision of the surveyed sections.
- The sections of the study area with a steep topographical character of Specimen Vale Creek. Unexpected and complex views from the higher vantage points within the study area along the margins of the Specimen Vale Creek are part of the aesthetic significance of the Precinct.
- Britannia Reserve with its perimeter plantings of mature trees, predominantly elms, also contributes to the significance of the Precinct.
- Any early bluestone and brick spoon drains, gutters and kerbs, later examples of short span integrated concrete kerbs and spoon gutters, and the asphalt and early concrete footpaths would also be significant. Evidence of this is thought only likely to remain in the Eastern Town Hall Gardens, and the entries off Barkly Street.

5.2.3 Creeks and River Channels Precinct (HO172)

The Statement of Significance for the Creeks and River Channels Precinct is:

The substantially intact network of many lineal kilometres of timber, bluestone, brick, and concrete lined channels, along with the associated bluestone and brick culverts, associated bridges with wrought iron or steel lattice girder balustrades and bluestone abutments, wing walls, piers and parapets, and the associated early concrete or steel lattice girder footbridges demonstrate important visual qualities that are integrally associated with the urban cultural landscape of Ballarat city. Views along, across, and/or adjacent to almost every part of this network can be gained from innumerable vantage points throughout the city, and are particularly noticeable as one traverses the many bridges that cross the channels. The conspicuous bluestone parapet walls to the many culverts also form notable

¹⁵⁹ Victorian Heritage Database, Eureka Street Heritage Precinct HO179.

features along the edges of many city streets. The distinctive brick ventilation shaft at the intersection of Creswick Road and Doveton Street North is also aesthetically significant and is an important urban landmark. The extensive network of channels and associated structures is also a cultural landscape within itself and as such is unique in the State of Victoria. (Criteria D and G)

The transformation from the 1860s to the 1930s of many natural waterways into the present network of channels and associated structures by the two municipalities of Ballarat East and West was a direct result of gold mining activities, which formed the basis for the establishment and development of Ballarat from the early 1850s, as well as the impetus to the development and growth of Victoria in conjunction with other goldfields. The present courses of the channels demonstrate the urgent need at a very early date to repair the damage done by gold mining activities to the natural drainage lines of the creeks, which led to the formation of lined sludge channels. The subsequent permanent lining of the channels demonstrates the need of a growing city to establish an infrastructure of durable engineering works for sanitary and stormwater drainage requirements and to mitigate flooding. The variety of structural materials used also provide a rare example, over an extensive area, of the historical development in the use of materials and technology for this type of engineering infrastructure, and of the excellence of traditional craftsmanship. (Criteria A, B, D and F)¹⁶⁰

Drawing from the Statement of Significance, key components within the study area that contribute to the significance of HO172 are:

- The (now below ground) concrete channel within Specimen Vale, as part of the network of many lineal kilometres of timber, bluestone, brick, and concrete lined channels, which is an important part of the urban cultural landscape of Ballarat city.
- The landscape and topography of Specimen Vale which retains traces and evidence (above and below ground) of the transformation from the 1860s to 1930s of many natural waterways in the present network of channels by the two municipalities (Ballarat East and West) as a direct result of gold mining activities. The concrete channel (below ground) represents the early identified need to repair the damage to the natural drainage lines of the creeks, with subsequent works including closing the channel providing evidence of durable infrastructure works for sanitary and stormwater drainage requirements.

5.2.4 Former Ballarat East Free Library (VHR H1493)

The VHR Statement of Significance for the former Ballarat East Free Library is:

The Former Ballarat East Free Library is of significance for architectural, historical and social reasons. Established in 1862 it was amongst the earliest of Ballarat's social and educational institutions and when housed in its own building in Barkly Street built up an outstanding collection. It served as a focal point for educational purposes; the school of design founded there in 1870 advancing to become the Ballarat East branch of the school of mines in the 1900s. The library was officially closed in 1973. The building is of architectural importance as an early example of the polychromatic gothic revival style which survives substantially intact with a number of fine interiors including the spiral staircase, the original library, the hall and the pine-lined rear rooms. The construction of the front section of the Barkly Street was done in 1867 to 1869. The exterior design was by the engineer of the Borough of Ballarat East, CC [sic] Ohlfsen-Bagge, who acted as honorary architect and the interior design and supervision was carried out by JJ Lorenz. The builders were Boulton and Fyfe and the interiors were completed by Fly Brothers; all at a cost of £3 14s. Ohlfsen-Bagge's original design included a hall at the rear which was built some time before 1887. Historically the building is the last remaining structure of the earlier public buildings associated with the Borough of East Ballarat. The structure is a landmark due to its prominent siting and is of streetscape importance in conjunction with Ballarat East Fire Station opposite.

¹⁶⁰ Victorian Heritage Database, Creeks and River Channels Precinct HO172.

Context

The former Ballarat East Free Library is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Ballarat Planning Scheme as an individually significant place (HO9) and is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR H1493).

The 'former Ballarat East Free Library' was classified by the National Trust in 1998, as significant at the State level. The Statement of Significance is as follows:

An imposing but unusual design using coloured brick-work to define separate highly individual elements of the facade. The building is the only known work of the architect C Ohlfsen Bagge, and dates from 1867. At that date it represents an early use of coloured brick-work in Victoria.

The foundation stone was laid by Sir Redmond Barry in February, 1867.¹⁶¹

5.2.5 Eastern Town Hall Gardens

The significance of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens is drawn from the previous analysis and assessment of significance outlined in the Context Heritage Assessment report (2018):

The Eastern Town Hall Gardens, Barkly Street, Ballarat East, are significant as a remnant of the original Town Hall Gardens that were created from the mid-nineteenth century as an important part of the Ballarat East civic precinct and setting to the former Town Hall in East Ballarat. The Gardens are significant historically as evidence of the early development of East Ballarat as a municipality. They are important for the key role they played from the mid-nineteenth century to the 1920s as part of a suite of developments in the new municipality of Ballarat East intended to symbolise an ordered, civilised, self-improving and prosperous society. Planting and design elements that remain from the Gardens' early development from the 1860s and as a municipal garden managed by the municipality of Ballarat East to 1920 are significant.

The Eastern Town Hall Gardens are significant for their association with notable figures in the early development of horticulture in Ballarat and in Victoria, including Geelong Botanic Gardens director (from c.1857) Daniel Bunce (1812–1872), Melbourne Botanic Gardens director (from 1857) Ferdinand Mueller (1825–1896), prominent Ballarat horticulturalist and Eastern Town Hall Gardens curator Daniel Laidlaw (1821–1915), prominent early Ballarat nurserymen Thomas Lang (1815–1896) and William Elliott (1813–1897), and prominent Ballarat horticultural figure and Eastern Town Hall Gardens curator John Smith Edwards (c.1854–1934).

The Eastern Town Hall Gardens are significant as part of a network of public gardens in Ballarat, created from the mid-nineteenth century, that represent Ballarat's proud associations with horticulture and as a 'City of Gardens'.

The Eastern Town Hall Gardens, created from the early 1860s, are significant as the earliest surviving example of a town hall gardens in Victoria. Town hall gardens were established in a number of towns and suburbs from the mid to late nineteenth century.

The significance of some mature trees is recognised by their inclusion on the National Trust's Significant Tree Register (non-statutory).

¹⁶¹ National Trust of Australia (Vic.), file number B1059.

Relative significance of trees within the Gardens:

- Exceptional – Mature Trees on the National Trust Significant Tree Register
- Significant – all other trees ranked Category 8 (100 – 130 years) and Category 9 (130+ years)
- Contributory – other plants in the Gardens that are species noted in historical evidence as being planted in the gardens (ivy, hollies, for example)

The significance of the boundary fence is also recognised by its inclusion on the National Trust Register (non-Statutory).

Significant elements include:

- Barkly Street boundary palisade fence, stone piers and foundations (along Barkly Street between the two rights-of-way and including the sections that extend into the rights-of way, and up the remnant former Town Hall steps off Barkly Street)
- steps off Barkly Street that originally provided access from Barkly Street to the former Town Hall site
- potential archaeological evidence of the original steps from the Gardens to the former Town Hall, up the west face of the mound (existence not confirmed); this should be further investigated
- gateway and wrought iron gates to the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens
- gateway to the Ballarat East Free Library
- moulded landform of the mound and terracing
- alignment of pathway from entry gates to pair of Spanish Fir trees
- alignment of pathway at the base of the mound
- ivy and holly plantings on the moulded mound; these need to pruning and ongoing management
- Ballarat East Free Library and rear hall, at 25–29 Barkly Street, Ballarat East (HO9 Ballarat East Civic Precinct)
- ‘amphitheatre’ at base of mound, Specimen Vale side, is potentially significant. Origin and purpose have not been confirmed. Further research required.

The ‘Ornamental Gateway and remains of the cast iron fence’ at the Ballarat East Gardens [sic] were classified by the National Trust in 1970 as significant at the local level. The Statement of Significance is as follows:

*Cast iron fence and ornamental gateway. Site of Ballarat's first Town Hall.*¹⁶²

The *Cedrus atlantica* f. *glauca* (Blue Atlas Cedar) in the former Town Hall Gardens is recognised as having regional significance. The Statement of Significance is as follows:

*Contribution to the landscape. Originally part of the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens, this is a lovely old tree, possibly 120 years old (1982) Cedrus atlantica is native to the Atlas Mountains of Algeria and Morocco.*¹⁶³

¹⁶² National Trust of Australia (Vic.), file number B2691.

¹⁶³ National Trust of Australia (Vic.), file number T11307.

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The pair of *Abies pinsapo* (Spanish Fir) in the former Town Hall Gardens are recognised as having regional significance. The Statement of Significance is as follows:

These trees are two commemorative plantings growing either side of the stone steps next to the former Ballarat East Town Hall (demolished). The trees were planted in 1901 by the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York. Abies pinsapo is a species of fir native to southern Spain and northern Morocco. Located on embankment south-east of Library Building.¹⁶⁴

5.3 Significance of the study area

The place as a whole has historical significance for its ability to tell different components of Ballarat's and Ballarat East's natural, land use and social history. It provides evidence of many of the values embodied in the three heritage precincts that intersect with the study area; The Ballarat East Civic Precinct (HO178), the Eureka Street Heritage Precinct (HO179), and the Creeks and River Channels Precinct (HO172).

The study area contains subtle traces and potential sub-surface evidence of earlier natural landforms in the dramatic topography around Specimen Vale, land degradation from mining including two areas that sit above mining slum (Britannia Reserve and the former School of Mines Ballarat), and evidence of successive attempts to control the flow, supply and drainage of water. It provides evidence of industry; efforts to promote civil society and to establish civic identity; of providing for education and encouraging self-improvement; and of attempts to rehabilitate the land.

The study area consists of different buildings and parcels of land which have different and overlapping land-use histories. From the mid-nineteenth century, the various parts were defined by contrast, between the symbols of order and civilisation (civic order, self-improvement, education, symbolic of cultivated European society) and the ad hoc transient nature of life on the diggings and degraded landscapes and waterway and reclaimed land that resulted. The civic areas were separated from the mining areas, mine dumps and polluted waterway by fences and through a distinctive landscape character. The areas that comprise the study area have, since the c.1970s, become interconnected and a large proportion of the landscape spaces are publicly accessible, but from the mid-nineteenth century up until the 1960s this was not the case.

Significant themes embodied by the present-day study area continue the themes of education and, in a reduced way, civic function, alongside recreation and land rehabilitation. The recent layers overlay previous historic layers of land use and natural history and in some areas appear to have erased the past. Subsurface evidence may reveal evidence of the natural landscape and landforms, pre-settlement land use, mining-related land degradation and reclamation.

Those historical themes that are significant but invisible or only subtly represented have strong potential to be transmitted through a range of interpretive initiatives that could include landscape design.

5.4 Relative significance: areas and elements

This section takes the attributes described above in relation to existing statements of significance (Section 5.2) and the buildings and other elements within each area (identified in Section 3.0 and analysed in Section 4.0) and ascribes to each a relative significance ranking. This ranking is determined

¹⁶⁴ National Trust of Australia (Vic.), file number T11328.

by the strength of each area, building and elements to support or contribute to the significant values and themes embodied by the place as a whole.

Understanding the cultural heritage significance of the components of the place—tangible and intangible—is a critical step in the development of policies and actions to guide future management, including future works to enhance the transmission of those significant values and themes.

The relative significance rankings developed for this CMP are as follows:

1. **Exceptional cultural significance** for historic, aesthetic, scientific, social or spiritual values. Elements of exceptional significance are those that play a crucial role in supporting the significance of the place.
2. **High cultural significance.** Elements that play an important role in strengthening and supporting the significance of the place and its parts.
3. **Moderate cultural significance.** Elements of lesser cultural significance that play a moderate role in supporting the significance of the place.
4. **Low cultural significance.** Elements that retain only minor significance. They may play a minor role in supporting the significance of the place.
5. **No significance.** Elements that have no significance, some of which may be considered intrusive (that is, they obscure rather than support the significance of the place).

Relative significance is assessed below, area by area.

5.4.1 Civic cluster

Attribute or element	Significance / historical theme	Relative significance
Attributes from existing understandings of significance that relate to the broader area		
Former Free Library (including Hall to the rear and garden setting)	Establishing a civic identity	VHR H1493 and part of the Ballarat East Civic Precinct (HO178)
Elements		
Former Free Library	Education and self-improvement Establishing a civic identity	Exceptional
Former Free Library setting Mature Cordylines and garden setting to front of former Free Library building	Establishing a civic identity	Exceptional Exceptional
Hall to rear of Free Library	Education and self-improvement Establishing a civic identity	Exceptional
Rear courtyard to Hall and 1955 school building: White Birch trees (possibly from c.1969-70 design) Seats Paving	Education Land rehabilitation	No significance, but open space enables appreciation of other significant buildings Potential significance No significance No significance

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Attribute or element	Significance / historical theme	Relative significance
Former Ballarat Girls High School (1955)	Education	High*
Landscape treatment to Barkly Street frontage of 1995 school building		No significance
Additions to 1955 school building	Education	Moderate*
Former Town Hall terrace	Natural landscape Establishing civic identity	Exceptional
Cast iron palisade fencing on bluestone base, gateways, corner gates, steps off Barkly Street (c1900)	Establishing civic identity	Exceptional
Steps – flight off Barkly Street to site of former Town Hall	Establishing civic identity	Exceptional
Steps – flight off Barkly Street to Free Library doorway	Establishing civic identity	Exceptional
Baby Health Centre – use	Building communities	High
Baby Health Centre – building	Building communities Establishing civic identity	High*
Baby Health Centre – garden setting (added after 1957)	Building communities Establishing civic identity	Moderate
Baby Health Centre – fence (pipe and cyclone wire) (added after 1957)	Building communities Establishing civic identity	Moderate
Baby Health Centre – sections of palisade fence on concrete base		Low
Baby Health Centre – tradition of fenced garden	Building communities Establishing civic identity	Moderate
Baby Health Centre – plantings Mature <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> Lawn	Building communities Establishing civic identity	Moderate Moderate
Baby Health Centre – concrete paving	Building communities	Moderate
Lost elements		
Former Town Hall and associated outbuildings	Establishing civic identity	Lost
Former Police Station to east of Town Hall	Establishing civic identity Establishing civic order	Lost
Former early extensions to Free Library, including storerooms	Establishing civic identity	Lost

Attribute or element	Significance / historical theme	Relative significance
Former decorative gas lamps that were attached to the front gateposts of Free Library	Establishing civic identity	Lost
Urinal (1866)	Public health and welfare	Lost
Flagstaffs (various)	Establishing civic identity	Lost
Community uses – library, historical museum, School of Mines	Establishing civic identity	Lost

* This is an indicative ranking as these elements have not been subject to a detailed heritage assessment.

5.4.2 Eastern Town Hall Gardens

Attribute or element	Significance / historical theme	Relative significance
Attributes from existing understandings of significance		
Evidence of early development of East Ballarat as a municipality: Gardens, mound, mature trees, c.1882 palisade fencing, bluestone base, bluestone piers, early steps off Barkly Street (to former Town Hall terrace and former Free Library entry and corner ornamental gateway, lettering, and gates.	Establishing civic identity	Part of the Ballarat East Civic Precinct (HO178)
Contribution to strong streetscape character and identity of the civic precinct: Gardens, mound, mature trees, c.1882 palisade fencing, bluestone base, bluestone piers, early steps off Barkly Street (to former Town Hall terrace and former Free Library entry) and corner ornamental gateway, lettering, and gates.	Establishing civic identity	Part of the Ballarat East Civic Precinct (HO178)
Elements		
Moulded landform or enhanced/reinforced mound on which the former Town Hall stood (now 1955 school building) Remnant terrace at the top.	Establishing civic identity Developing parks and gardens	High (archaeological) High
Pathway from corner entry gate pair of Spanish Fir trees and base of mound. Remnant pathway at foot of mound. Pathway surfaces.	Establishing civic identity Developing parks and gardens	Exceptional Exceptional Little to no significance.

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Attribute or element	Significance / historical theme	Relative significance
1881 cast iron palisade fence, bluestone piers and foundations (Barkly Street between the two rights-of-way and including the sections that extend into the rights-of way, and up one side of steps to the former Town Hall off Barkly Street), gateway to former Free Library.	Establishing civic identity Developing parks and gardens	Exceptional
1900 ornamental corner gateway, gates and lettering 'Eastern Town Hall Gardens'.	Establishing civic identity Developing parks and gardens	Exceptional
Steps off Barkly Street to former Town Hall.	Establishing civic identity Developing parks and gardens	Exceptional
Steps off Barkly Street to former Free Library	Establishing civic identity Developing parks and gardens	Exceptional
Mature trees listed on the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Significant Tree Register: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Cedrus atlantica</i> f. <i>glauca</i> (Blue Atlas Cedar), before 1875 pair of <i>Abies pinsapo</i> (Spanish Fir), c.1881 	Developing parks and gardens Horticultural excellence	Exceptional
Mature trees estimated to date from 100-130 years and 130+ years ago (refer Appendix A)	Developing parks and gardens Horticultural excellence	Exceptional
Other plant species noted or visible in historical evidence (ivy, hollies, cordylines, <i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>)	Developing parks and gardens Horticultural excellence	High
Seat set into stone retaining wall (may be early, given the purposeful niche in the retaining wall)	Developing parks and gardens	High to moderate.
Changes to the Gardens since c.1933-57.	Developing parks and gardens	Moderate to no significance
High proportion of coniferous trees, diverse species.	Developing parks and gardens Horticultural excellence	High
Lost elements		
Relationship between the building atop the mound and the Eastern Town Hall Gardens.	Establishing civic identity Developing parks and gardens	Lost

Attribute or element	Significance / historical theme	Relative significance
Steps - up face of sloped mound to Town Hall terrace, aligned with pathway from corner entry gates	Establishing a civic identity	Archaeological
Landscape character that represents horticultural excellence	Establishing a civic identity Horticultural excellence	Partially lost (trees remain)
Much of the earlier pathway network, including pathway from corner gateway around base of the Gardens linking into Specimen Vale, and large planted out garden beds.	Developing parks and gardens Horticultural excellence	Lost
A sense of the edge of the Gardens, which were originally screened/enclosed from Specimen Vale.	Developing parks and gardens Horticultural excellence	Partially lost (trees remain)
Pair of ornamental fountains, visible near the mound and Barkly Street boundary, in 1882 and 1933. Simple jet fountain (1895) in fishpond (by 1871). Sound of water.	Developing parks and gardens	Lost
Signage – single sign on a post near the corner entrance, visible in early photos, c.1900s.	Developing parks and gardens	Lost
Fence separating the Town Hall from the Town Hall Gardens (1883)	Developing parks and gardens	Lost
Fernery (1883)	Developing parks and gardens	Lost
Shelter sheds (for pot plants) (1883)	Developing parks and gardens	Lost
Possible aviary or enclosure for birds (1883)	Developing parks and gardens	Lost
Glasshouse (1891)	Developing parks and gardens	Lost

5.4.3 Specimen Vale

Attribute or element	Significance / historical theme	Relative significance
Attributes from existing understandings of significance		
Part of the network of many lineal kilometres of timber, bluestone, brick and concrete lined channels, with is an important part of the urban cultural landscape of Ballarat city.	Gold mining Civic infrastructure	Part of the Creeks and River Channels Precinct (HO172)

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Attribute or element	Significance / historical theme	Relative significance
Landscape and topography of Specimen Vale – evidence retained of the transformation from the 1860s to 1930s of many natural waterways by the municipality as a direct result of gold mining activities.	Gold mining Land degradation Land rehabilitation	Part of the Creeks and River Channels Precinct (HO172)
Elements		
Landscape and topography of Specimen Vale (remnants)	Natural landscape	High
Subsurface concrete lined drainage channel	Gold mining Land rehabilitation	High
Landscaping of c.1969–70 to create three acres for the study area into public areas.	Land rehabilitation Developing parks and gardens	Moderate to high
Lost/erased elements		
Geology, geomorphology, alignment of original creek	Natural landscape	Archaeological
Creek and creek ecology	Natural landscape	Lost
Water and natural resources for living on country; original vegetation	Aboriginal landscape	Lost
Crossings	Gold mining	Archaeological
Landscape character of Specimen Vale during gold mining era, associated with extraction, exploitation of resources, and land degradation	Gold mining Land degradation	Lost
Separation from civic precinct	Gold mining	Lost
Visibility of waterway, and of concrete drainage channel	Natural landscape Public health and welfare	Archaeological

5.4.4 Britannia Reserve

Attribute or element	Significance / historical theme	Relative significance
Attributes from existing understandings of significance		
Britannia Reserve	Part of the formal urban plan laid over the chaos and haphazard development of the area that was dominated by mining for many years on both the alluvial flats and the quartz-rich hills.	Part of Eureka Street Heritage Precinct (HO179)

Elements		
Britannia Reserve	Gold mining	High
Subsurface evidence in the fill beneath the reserve ground surface, which comprises mining slum (aka sludge).	Gold-mining	High
Britannia Reserve	Land rehabilitation and erasure Education Recreation	Moderate
'Britannia Reserve' name	Provides a link to previous gold mining activity at the site and in Ballarat East.	Moderate
Perimeter planting of mature trees, predominantly elms	Land rehabilitation	High
L-shaped pathway linking Britannia Reserve to Specimen Vale	Education – demonstrates linkage between Ballarat Girls' School and the Reserve. Recreation	Moderate
Lost elements		
Natural landform – altered landscape profile of the reserve (high, above Specimen Vale Creek)	Natural landscape Gold mining Land rehabilitation	Archaeological
1861 streets, including Last Chance Quartz Mining Co. street, finer grained grid pattern of streets, early buildings. (Links to still evident right-of-way at the base of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens – see 5.4.6.)	Gold mining Early settlement	Lost
Evidence of gold mining activity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traces remain in the naming of the Reserve: Britannia United and Last Chance Quartz Mining Co. Subsurface evidence in the fill, understood to be mining slum, or sludge, which is mining effluent. 	Gold mining Land degradation	Archaeological Archaeological
Use in association with the school on Barkly Street	Education	Lost

5.4.5 Former School of Mines, Ballarat (Horticultural School)

Attribute or element	Significance / historical theme	Relative significance
Attributes from existing understandings of significance		
Site area of Former School of Mines	Part of the formal urban plan laid over the chaos and haphazard development of the area that was dominated by mining for many years on both the alluvial flats and the quartz-rich hills.	Part of Eureka Street Heritage Precinct (HO179)
Elements		
Subsurface evidence of gold mining, described in 1945 as Mining Slum (Rs 6129)	Gold mining	High (archaeological)
Building and sheds Use of the site for horticulture and landscape related training	Horticultural excellence Education	Low to no significance Moderate
Ornamental planting along Princes Street South frontage	Land rehabilitation Horticultural excellence	Moderate
Paved parking area	Education	Low to no significance
Tree 44 <i>Salix</i> sp. (Willow)	Land rehabilitation	Moderate
Tree 47 <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> (Chinese Elm)	Education Land rehabilitation	Low
Mature conifers and shrubs on Princes Street South boundary	Education Land rehabilitation	Low
Lost elements		
Former use as horticultural school for the School of Mines, Ballarat	Horticultural excellence	Lost
Mining landscape Mine shaft of the Britannica Mining Co. (fl. 1870s)	Gold mining Land degradation Gold mining	Archaeological Lost Archaeological

5.4.6 Other landscape areas

Attribute or element	Significance / historical theme	Relative significance
Attributes from existing understandings of significance		
Road reserve adjacent to former Baby Health Centre	Part of the distinctive street pattern throughout the Ballarat East Civic precinct	HO178
Right-of-way beside former Free Library (section off Barkly Street)	Part of the distinctive street pattern throughout the Ballarat East Civic precinct	HO178
Elements		
Carpark use	Relates to educational use	
Carpark area, curved drive and embankment, and c.1969–70 landscaping	Developing parks and gardens Land rehabilitation Education	Potential significance. To be confirmed (further research for potential links to c.1969-70 landscape works)
Right-of-way (southwest boundary of Eastern Town Hall Gardens and to rear of properties with frontages to Main Street)	Part of the Ballarat East street pattern and drainage system, as laid out in c.1857–58.	High
Expanse of right of way that extends beyond the early/original alignment of the right of way.		No significance
Lost elements		
'Mine dump' or 'stone dump' (at site of carpark and embankment)	Gold mining Land degradation	Archaeological Lost

6.0 Opportunities and constraints

6.1 Obligations arising from significance

The Ballarat Town East Town Hall Gardens and Environs statement of significance identifies the cultural and natural heritage values of the place, including its tangible attributes (spatial organisation, designed elements and landscape) and its intangible attributes (experiences, use and connections of various communities).

The site's tangible and intangible attributes embody, record and reflect historical and social developments in Ballarat. Section 4 describes what and how the Ballarat Town East Town Hall Gardens and Environs is significant and discusses its heritage values as recognised on a local level.

The heritage values of the place give rise to a range of constraints and opportunities, the most fundamental of which is to ensure that the heritage values are conserved and managed for present and future generations.

The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013, the Burra Charter

The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013, the Burra Charter, provides the policy basis for management of the heritage values of Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs. A fundamental aspect of the Charter is that decision-making is guided by significance.

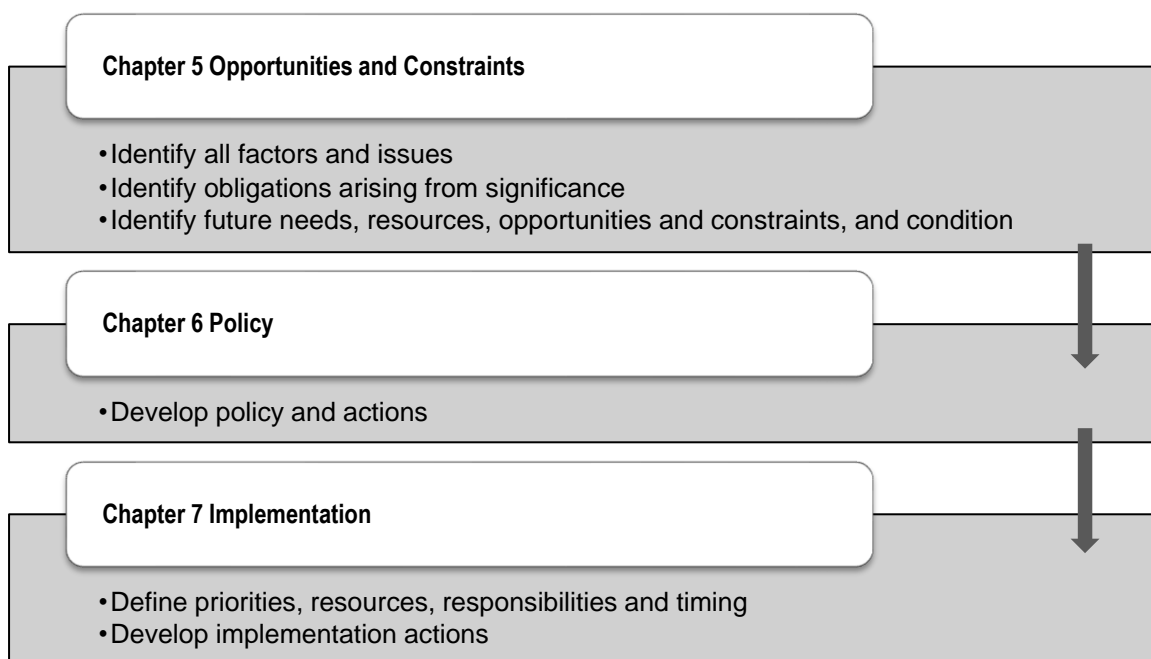


Figure 6.1 The final stages of the CMP. (Source: Guide to CMPs, Heritage Council of Victoria)

6.1.1 Acknowledging change

The Eastern Town Hall Gardens and environs have been subject to waves of development and transformation. This has resulted in a layered landscape comprising elements and landscape forms representing different periods and uses. The site has also been subject to processes of erasure and rehabilitation that have contributed to its complexity and the distinct and sometimes overlapping

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interfaces between its different elements. This is most apparent in the remnant traces that indicate former developments, such as the Barkly Street steps, the mounded landform where the former town hall building was sited, the gully through which ran Specimen Vale Creek, and the raised and levelled ground on the southeast side of Specimen Vale (Britannia Reserve and the School of Mines site).

The key phases of development generally reflect the different uses of the site and their associated themes. This includes the Aboriginal occupation of the pre- and post-settlement landscape, the degradation of the land from mining activity, and the subsequent rehabilitation and cultivation of the landscape as a civic centre. During this period the first permanent structures were built, including the Town Hall building and the former Free Library, and the gardens established. Under the management of the Department of Education, the site was extended, paths were realigned and the former Ballarat Girls High School was constructed, retaining and incorporating elements of the former town hall building, including the Barkly Street steps, palisade fencing and the moulded landform. The introduction of community services left its own imprint on the site, notably in the Baby Health Centre and later its fenced garden setting. More recently, the Ballarat Secondary College extension has introduced another layer that intersects prominently with the site's earlier components.

The layers of development and change accumulated throughout its history are part of the significance of the place. The variation of styles in the buildings, as well as in the landforms and plantings, reflects important aspects of Ballarat's and Ballarat East's development more broadly.

Individual components of the site demonstrate diverse themes. The design and layout of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens reflects the influence of nineteenth-century British ideals of civic identity and society. Twentieth-century modifications show a focus on expansion and development to accommodate and provide education and community services. The intangible elements of the site, and residual tangible elements that have been obscured or modified, allude to the site's Aboriginal and pre-settlement, and mining history.

6.1.2 Tolerance for change

Tolerance for change applied to the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs is used to identify the extent to which the heritage values/significance of the place and key attributes are able to tolerate change without adversely impacting the nature or degree of heritage values/significance and contribution to the values of the site overall. *Change* in this context refers generally to development, major works, new uses, adaptive re-use or conservation works. It does not refer to maintenance.

Table 6.1. Comparison between significance and tolerance for change.

Significance	Tolerance for change
Exceptional	Low
High	Low
Moderate	Moderate
Low	High
None	High

The tolerance for change levels are tied directly to the relative significance rankings established in Section 5.4 of the CMP.

6.2 Legislation and management framework

This section sets out the heritage, legislative and strategic framework that inform the development of policy for the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs. It identifies opportunities and risks to cultural heritage values and addresses the obligations arising from significance. It anticipates changing needs and requirements for the place, and any risks associated with potential change. It sets out the aspirations for the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs into the future.

6.2.1 Areas of management



Figure 6.2 Council's area of management responsibilities delineated within red lines. The small rectangular parcel of land fronting Princes Street South was excluded from the land the school gained occupancy of in the early 1970s. It was occupied at that time by club rooms of the Ballarat Highland Pipe Band (Rs 2789). (Source: Context overlay on Nearmap)

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The City of Ballarat is responsible for the Specimen Vale Creek corridor from Main Road to Princes Street South, the road reserve off Barkly Street and former Baby Health Centre and attached garden near the main gate.

BGT is the head tenant at the site now known as Barkly Square and is responsible for the management and maintenance of the balance of the study area.

6.2.2 Site management and operations

Funding and resources

The City of Ballarat receives grant funding from the Commonwealth and Victorian governments as well as funding by levying municipal rates. They are responsible for funding the maintenance and operations within its area of management.

BGT receives annual funding from the Commonwealth and Victorian governments as well as receiving funding through enrolment fees.

Ticketed cultural events held within the Gardens and Environs are intended to receive an additional source of revenue that can contribute to maintenance costs.

Maintenance

Maintenance is fundamental to conservation. Council and BGT is each responsible for creating and implementing maintenance programs within their respective areas of management. Since becoming the head tenant of the site, BGT have undertaken extensive repair and renewal works to bring the civic cluster buildings up to Occupational Health and Safety standards.

The Multicultural Council, the subtenants of the former Ballarat East Free Library, are currently undertaking repair works under the direction of their own heritage architect. An important consideration is who is ultimately responsible for the maintenance of the heritage buildings, the subtenants, head tenant or the owner. A matrix determining levels of responsibility could be created to provide clear guidance on the responsibilities for different stakeholders and managers.

There is an opportunity for Council and BGT to adopt a collaborative and integrated approach to maintenance programming. The garden area of the site has been used by the BGT landscape gardening program and students have undertaken clean up and maintenance of this area as part of their training. BGT have applied for a grant for the upkeep of the gardens and the funding of a gardener. Council, who share responsibility of the site, could provide coordination by appointing a centre manager. There is potential to incorporate heritage principles into landscape training courses to the mutual benefit of trainees and site managers.

Improvements works are required for the road reserve and the Specimen Vale path, between the main part of the site and Main Road and their interface with the East Ballarat Town Hall Gardens. Carpark upgrades are required.

Vandalism is reported to be relatively low. Before the place was occupied by BGT, continual repair of windows was required. This has decreased dramatically since the building has been occupied.

Environmental and climate change issues

The landscape design and plantings at the former Town Hall Gardens were chosen to reflect planting traditions and trends based on historical climate observations, but they will exist in a future climate that

is different (that is, warmer and drier) from the past. They will be impacted not only by a changed climate, but also by a change in availability of different resources (namely water and maintenance inputs) to support those plantings. These are both issues faced by managers of most historic gardens already, relative to the environments in which historic gardens were established. Environmental considerations including water shortages, changing frost regimes, increased hot days and more drought, and more extreme weather events such as extreme downpours now need to be considered in selection of plantings, the conservation of water resources and other landscape issues. Climate change is highly likely to impact on many plants including significant trees and mass plantings more suited to temperate conditions. This requires risk management and long-term planning to achieve a more sustainable landscape that is overall less resource intensive. Furthermore, increased temperatures and extreme weather events will affect buildings through increased risk of flooding and fire, increased maintenance costs, and the need to retrofit buildings to adapt to a warmer climate. Where specific trees, rare plants, plant groupings and the nineteenth and early twentieth century landscape aesthetic in the former Town Hall Gardens have been assessed as culturally significant, all steps necessary for their continued survival should be put in place, and a tailored 'future-proofing' management plan developed to ensure this. This will consider plant selection but not in isolation from methods for harvesting and retaining moisture and nutrients in the soil and ensuring plant selection in this regard does not impinge on important aesthetic qualities and heritage values.

The Specimen Vale corridor is prone to flooding. Flash flooding occurs relatively often in and around Ballarat and is likely to increase with climate change. As well as causing damage to plant roots and waterway banks, flooding can be dangerous and lead to road closures. Care must be taken to ensure that effective drainage systems are emplaced and kept clear of debris. Development of an emergency plan providing direction for what to do in the event of a flood would help mitigate risks.

6.2.3 Relevant local and state legislation

Planning and Environment Act 1987

The Act establishes the framework for the planning, use, development and protection of land and the structure for implementation of Local Government Planning Schemes. The City of Ballarat Planning Scheme provides for several overlays that are relevant to the Eastern Town Hall Garden and Environs, Ballarat East study area.

The overlays include:

- Former Ballarat East Free Library (HO9)
- Creeks and River Channels Precinct (HO172)
- Ballarat East Civic Precinct (HO178)
- Eureka Street Heritage Precinct (HO179)

The purpose of the heritage overlay is to conserve and enhance heritage places of natural and cultural significance, to conserve those elements that contribute to the significance of heritage place, and to ensure that development does not adversely affect the significance.

Victorian Heritage Act 2017

The Former Ballarat East Free Library is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register (H1493) and administered through the *Heritage Act 2017*. Any works will require either a permit or a permit exemption

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from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria. Applications for an exemption or a permit are assessed in accordance with the provisions of the *Heritage Act*.

Pursuant to the Regulations, the Heritage Council may waive fees for certain activities. Request for exemption or waiver of fees under r25 or r26 of the Heritage Regulations 2017.

Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018

In Victoria, all Aboriginal cultural heritage is protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (the Act). This Act makes provisions for the assessment of potential impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and provides the mechanisms for obtaining consents to disturb Aboriginal cultural heritage. Under this Act, it is an offence to harm or carry out an activity that has the potential to disturb Aboriginal places without proper authorities under Section 27 and 28 Division 1 of the Act (and the associated Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018).

Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs is located in an area of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity. While it is exempt from requirements for a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) under Regulation 46(3) of the Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018, it is recommended, in line with best practice, that any work that is identified under the Regulations as a high impact activity, is preceded by a voluntary CHMP.

6.3 Guidelines, strategies and proposed works

Best practice heritage guidelines that apply to the management of all cultural heritage places such as the Ballarat Town East Town Hall Garden and Environs include

- The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013.
- Conservation Management Plans: Managing Heritage Places – A Guide, Heritage Council of Victoria (2010).
- Landscapes of cultural heritage significance: Assessment Guidelines, Heritage Council of Victoria (February 2015).

The City of Ballarat also has its own strategic framework that guides the management of the places within its care. These are listed in the table below with commentary provided on how the reports align with the heritage values identified for the study area, the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs.

Table 6.2 Selected reports that form part of the City of Ballarat’s strategic framework and their alignment with heritage

Year	Title and author	Impact on the gardens and environs and heritage considerations/suggested integration
2013	Ballarat and UNESCO’s historic urban landscape approach, City of Ballarat	The Former Eastern Town Hall Gardens do not receive specific mention in this report. The report notes that a specific local area plan for Ballarat East will be developed adopting the HUL approach (the Ballarat East Local Area Plan that was completed in 2019). Gardens and parks are referred to broadly as a valued component in Ballarat’s historic landscape. Gardens and open spaces are referenced in section 2.1, Our

		<p>City's Story So Far. The network of gardens and reserves in Ballarat are identified as contributing to the 'garden city' and promoting a feeling of spaciousness and closeness to the forest and open country amongst the community.</p> <p>Parks and botanic gardens are also identified in Appendix 2 World Heritage Bid for an Internationally Significant Region. Under the subsection 'A diverse and distinctive region', the planting of grand parks and botanical gardens is considered to represent the grandeur of the gold rush period, as well as the desire to recreate a sense of British civilisation in the colony. These values are reflected in the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and the Civic Cluster parts of the study area.</p>
2017-2030	Our People, Culture & Place: a plan to sustain Ballarat's heritage 2017–2030, City of Ballarat	The plan recognises heritage as being of critical importance to the Ballarat community and the city's future. The plan's underpinning philosophy and the strategies and actions align with and would support the best-practice conservation of the study area and provide a platform for a positive future for the place where change is appropriately managed.
2018-2022	Tree Management Plan 2018–2022, City of Ballarat	<p>The Tree Management Plan (TMP) recognises rare and significant trees throughout Ballarat including in its botanic gardens and parks and the multi-faceted benefits these provide the City.</p> <p>The Related Documents section of the TMP (p. 11) includes conservation management plans for other significant gardens in Ballarat. There is no listing for the Eastern Town Hall Gardens or Specimen Vale in the Related Documents section of the TMP.</p> <p>Guidelines for Tree Protection and Tree Maintenance provide a suitable framework in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards.</p> <p>Inspection Frequencies are tabled depending on an established hierarchy category. It is not clear if or where the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs sits within the hierarchy categories. Given the historic collection of significant trees and public use of the gardens, it would be advisable to ensure an inspection frequency appropriate to trees of exceptional and high historical significance.</p>
	Ballarat Strategy: Our Vision for 2040, City of Ballarat	<p>Heritage figures strongly in the Ballarat Strategy.</p> <p>Relevant to the Eastern Town Hall Gardens, the Strategy acknowledges the need to understand heritage and local cultural heritage values to guide management of the environment in the face of change:</p>

Context

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A renewed recognition of the importance of the environment, and the vital role it plays in enriching our lives and providing for a robust economy, are altering the value we place on the natural world. Better understanding of heritage and local cultural values are transforming the way we manage change. Now is the time to recognise this transition and set a path for the future.
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6.4 Aspirations

6.4.1 City of Ballarat

As one of the key stakeholders for the site, the City of Ballarat have developed specific goals relating to its area of management as well as more broadly for the site.

- Work with BGT and the Barkly Square tenants, plus local community members, to acknowledge and celebrate the significant values of the site through management action on the ground or through interpretation.
- To manage and enhance Council's assets.
- To see coordinated management and public use of the wider landscape area not in Council's ownership (former School of Mines site/Britannia Reserve) subject to BGT/State Government consideration.

Developing an action plan for the site is a priority on Council's Community Grant Program for the next three years.

6.4.2 BGT Jobs and Training

BGT is responsible for the management of large sections of the site, including the former Ballarat Girls High School building, the Ballarat Secondary College Building and the former Ballarat East Free Library. BGT's Training coordinator (Julie Butler) identified one of BGT's aspirations to utilise the site for TAFE Horticultural and Landscape Construction courses.

The BGT Jobs + Training Annual Development Report (2019) defines BGT's vision for the site, to:

- provide opportunities for collaboration and social connectedness to increase educational opportunities and pathways to employment and strengthen community ties.

While the report does not provide specific reference to the heritage or landscape qualities to the site, it identifies strengthening its community ties as an objective to achieving that vision.

6.5 Consultation with stakeholders

This CMP draws on consultation undertaken for the Ballarat East Local Area Plan (2019). The subject area was considered a key component of the 'Civic Heart' of Ballarat East.

6.5.1 Tenancies

Tenant occupancies at the subject site are primarily organisations offering services in employment, industry training and community.

Current tenancies include: Altitec Australia; Ballarat Community Radio (Voice FM); Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council; Ballarat Wholefoods Collective; Centre for Multicultural Youth; Cops 'N' Kids; Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services; Djirra Aboriginal Legal Services; Noah's Ark Inc.; The Salvation Army (The Men's Shed); Toy Library; Very Special Kids; the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA); and the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, Ballarat sub-branch.

There is opportunity for coordination across the tenants to achieve a program of community events. Many of the tenancies provide outreach and community/education services that may be used and/or received by diverse groups across Ballarat. There is potential for collaboration between tenancies to bring together diverse communities and promote awareness of the services and resources at Barkly Square.

6.5.2 Tourism

In 2020 The City of Ballarat appointed TRC Tourism Pty Ltd (TRC) to develop a Traveller Experience Plan (TEP), that will focus on creating memorable visitor experiences that reflect Ballarat's unique character. The Plan will give direction for strengthening Ballarat's visitor economy. While Ballarat has been a key tourism destination in Victoria, it has not grown at a satisfactory rate in comparison to regional state averages in recent years.

Through a program of cultural events, interpretation and promotion, public awareness and appreciation of the Town Hall Gardens and Environs can be enhanced, leading to increased visitor numbers. As an open public garden, there is high potential for activation of the site and opportunities for tourism. Cultural events may also cater to local residents and include community and recreation programs, such as market stalls, yoga sessions and open-air cinema screenings.

6.5.3 Access and amenity

The gardens and environs are open to the public. Significant sections of the gardens and environs are not easily navigated. Steep elevations and descents along Specimen Vale Creek and the Britannia Reserve, as well as the numerous stairs situated around the site, limit access for people with mobility impairment.

Several car parks within the study area offer parking for tenants and visitors.

Toilet and lighting amenities are concentrated around the former library, girls high school and secondary college buildings on the Barkly Street portion of the site. Along the western and southern portions of the site there is limited lighting.

Increased visitors to and usage of the site may require improvements to the amenities in the area. The facilities at the former Ballarat Secondary College could be utilised and made accessible for key events held at the gardens.

6.5.4 Utilisation of existing structures

Structures at the site are well utilised by tenant occupants. BGT leases out several of the spaces on temporary venue hire arrangements to the groups noted above under Tenancies (see Section 6.5.1).

7.0 Policy

7.1 Conservation principles

Defining a conservation policy for Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs, Ballarat East, requires recognition of all aspects of significance (defined in Section 5.0) and balancing of the constraints and opportunities summarised in Section 6.0.

The Burra Charter provides conservation principles for conserving heritage places and values and these have been considered in establishing policy.

The following principles provide the basis for the Eastern Town Hall Garden and Environs conservation policy.

- Recognise all aspects of cultural heritage significance.
- Conserve and manage the study area with authenticity and integrity.
- Recognise the different heritage values and relative significance of elements.
- Integrate conservation processes into all the activities associated with place management.
- Acknowledge heritage is part of the future planning and management of the place.
- Engage in dialogue with the communities who value the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs about future plans for the place.

7.2 Managing the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs

7.2.1 Statutory obligations

The study area addressed in this CMP, referred to as Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs, is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Ballarat Planning Scheme but not as an individual place. Rather, it is included within three adjoining heritage precincts:

- Ballarat East Civic Precinct (HO178)
- Eureka Street Heritage Precinct (HO179)
- Creeks and River Channels Precinct (HO172)

Excluded from the Heritage Overlays is the short section of laneway off Barkly Street, coincident with the southwestern boundary of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens (and Baby Health Centre). (Refer to Figure 1.3.)

The City of Ballarat is the responsible authority for issuing planning permits for these precincts.

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* links the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage in Victoria with planning and land development processes and may be triggered by specific actions. Aboriginal cultural heritage management is addressed below in 7.2.5 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management.

City of Ballarat heritage policy

Works to the parts of the study area within HO178, HO179 and HO172 require a Planning Permit for activities listed under Clause 43.01-1 of the Ballarat Planning Scheme.

A permit is required to:

- *Subdivide land.*
- *Demolish or remove a building.*
- *Construct a building or construct or carry out works...*
- *Externally alter a building by structural work, rendering, sandblasting or in any other way.*
- *Construct or display a sign.*
- *Externally paint a building if the schedule to this overlay specifies the heritage place as one where external paint controls apply.*
- *Externally paint an unpainted surface.*
- *Externally paint a building if the painting constitutes an advertisement.*
- *Internally alter a building if the schedule to this overlay specifies the heritage place as one where internal alteration controls apply.*
- *Carry out works, repairs and routine maintenance which change the appearance of a heritage place or which are not undertaken to the same details, specifications and materials.*
- *Remove, destroy or lop a tree if the schedule to this overlay specifies the heritage place as one where tree controls apply. This does not apply:*
 - *To any action which is necessary to keep the whole or any part of a tree clear of an electric line provided the action is carried out in accordance with a code of practice prepared under Section 86 of the Electricity Safety Act 1998.*
 - *If the tree presents an immediate risk of personal injury or damage to property.*

Tree Controls apply for all three Heritage Overlays.

Applying for a permit

It is recommended that any proposed works be discussed with a Council Planning officer prior to making a permit application. Discussing proposed works will assist in answering any questions and aid decisions regarding works to the place. An application for pre-application advice can be made on the City of Ballarat website.

Planning Permit applications can also be made online. Details regarding the planning process and preparing and submitting an application can be found on the Council website

Vicsmart is a fast planning assessment process for simple and eligible proposals. The eligibility criteria are outlined in Clause 43.01-1 of the Planning Scheme but should be confirmed with a Council planning officer prior to a submission being made.

Heritage Victoria permit policy

The Ballarat East Free Library and its immediate setting is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register. Under the *Heritage Act 2017* anything that alters a listed place or object requires a permit including:

- building repairs, extensions, constructions, interior works
- demolition or relocation of buildings and structures, changes of colour schemes and signage
- subdivision and construction of new buildings
- works to registered trees and gardens that are not regular maintenance works
- excavations at registered archaeological sites or damage or alteration to an archaeological artefact
- relocation, repair and conservation treatment of objects.

Applying for a permit

The Permit Policy assists with determinations when making applications for works to a place. The extent of registration protects the whole place. Alterations the Free Library require a Heritage Permit unless the activity is listed as permit exempt, in which case a formal permit exemption should be acquired from Heritage Victoria

It is recommended that any proposed works be discussed with an officer of Heritage Victoria as part of a formal pre-application request prior to making a permit application. Discussing proposed works will assist in answering any questions and aid decisions regarding works to the place.

The addition of new structures to the place will impact upon its cultural heritage significance and will require a permit. The purpose of this requirement is not to prevent any further development on this site, but to enable control of possible detrimental impacts on heritage significance. If a new building or structure does not present an undue impact on the cultural heritage significance of the place, Heritage Victoria may issue a permit exemption under s.92 (3) of the *Heritage Act* at the request of the owner.

Details regarding process for requesting a pre-application meeting with Heritage Victoria and heritage permit applications can be found on the Heritage Victoria website.

Permit exemption policy

Under the *Heritage Act* 2017 certain permit exemptions are permitted and these are drafted to be unique to the place.

Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Heritage Victoria will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act 2017. A person proposing to undertake minor works may submit a permit exemption application to Heritage Victoria. If Heritage Victoria is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the Permits Team at Heritage Victoria be contacted.

If the repairs are minor in nature and the materials being removed are being replaced with materials of the same composition and profiles a permit may not be required and an exemption can be obtained from Heritage Victoria. The aim of repair work should be to retain as much as possible of the historic material.

The documentation required to be submitted is similar to that required for a planning permit. Drawings, photographs of the existing conditions, plans and schedules submitted should also be accompanied by a heritage impact statement.

Context

Heritage Victoria's Permit exemption guidelines prepared by Heritage Victoria (2017) are included at Appendix C. Heritage Victoria's guideline *Works and Alterations to Registered Heritage Places and Objects* (2007) is included at Appendix B.

Details regarding permit exemption applications can be found on the Heritage Victoria website.

7.2.2 Decision-making processes

Policy 7.2.2

Decision making processes should incorporate good heritage management in addition to the statutory processes. These include:

- a) Consulting with the communities of interest where changes are proposed
- b) Carrying out heritage impact assessment prior to undertaking works that may affect the cultural heritage significance of the study area and the recognised values of the three heritage precincts protected under Schedule 43.01 heritage overlays.
- c) Adhering to policies in the CMP for ensuring significant values are protected and conserved.

For areas within the management responsibility of the BGT decision-making processes should incorporate good heritage management in addition to the statutory processes. These include:

- d) Consulting with the communities of interest where changes are proposed;
- e) Carrying out heritage impact assessment prior to undertaking works;
- f) Adhering to policies in the CMP for ensuring significant values are protected and conserved.

7.2.3 Monitoring and review

The aim of these policies is to ensure that conservation continues to be an integral part of the planning, development and management of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs. Conservation of heritage significance should be central to future decisions about the place.

Policy 7.2.3

- a) Ensure this CMP is used as the principal guiding document for the conservation, management and enhancement of the cultural heritage values of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs and its significant elements.
- b) Formally adopt this CMP and integrate it with other asset management strategies.
- c) Make the CMP accessible to those responsible for all aspects of management, planning, care and use of the place.
- d) Make the CMP available for public reference or research purposes on request.
- e) Review the CMP for currency and effectiveness on a regular basis to ensure heritage values are properly conserved.
- f) Undertake a review every 5-10 years, or sooner if there has been a significant change of circumstances regarding the planning or management of the place.

7.2.4 Policy arising from significance

The Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs has historically been a place of change, responding to functional requirements and to community needs and changing expectations. Currently there are opportunities to enhance the design cohesion and amenity of the former Town Hall Gardens and improve transmission of the heritage significance of the place as a whole. Such opportunities may prompt plans for areas or elements that result in changes to areas of elements of the site.

Ordinarily, conservation of elements and attributes of exceptional and high significance should take precedence. However, it is acknowledged that in specific circumstances competing factors such as other state and local policies, risk, climate change or site activation may call for a different approach.

Policy 7.2.4

- a) The relative cultural heritage significance of the components of the place (assessed in Section 5.4 of this CMP) should be used to guide decisions about the appropriateness and extent of proposed changes within the study area. The indicators of relative significance include *Exceptional, High, Moderate, Low* and *None*. The *tolerance for change* is described as *Low, Moderate* and *High*. The relationship between relative significance and tolerance for change levels are shown in Table 6.1 and listed in Policy 7.2.4 c (see Section 6.1.2).
- b) Relative degrees of significance may lead to different conservation actions across the study area, in the different areas, and to the different elements.
- c) Relative levels of significance may give rise to different levels of tolerance for change.
 - i. Elements of exceptional significance have a low tolerance for change.
 - ii. Elements of high significance have a low tolerance for change.
 - iii. Elements of moderate significance have a moderate tolerance for change.
 - iv. Elements of low significance have a high tolerance for change.
 - v. Elements of no significance have a high tolerance for change.
- d) However, a cautious approach is needed, as understanding of cultural significance may change over time.
- e) For areas and elements of **Exceptional and High significance**, direct conservation processes toward the retention or recovery of significance. This may include one or more of the following actions:
 - i. Reconstruction of landscape features or plantings related to the primary period of significance (reconstruction of buildings is not recommended)
 - ii. Removal of elements of no significance to recover significance
 - iii. Maintenance
 - iv. Interpretation
 - v. Retention of associations and meanings
 - vi. Limited adaptive reuse

Context

- f) For areas and elements of **Moderate significance**, consider a wider range of conservation processes that could include adaptive re-use or change including:
 - i. Maintenance
 - ii. Limited adaptive use
 - iii. Retaining associations and meanings
- g) For areas and elements of **low to no significance**, conservation processes could include a wider range of adaptive re-use or change including:
 - i. Adaptive re-use
 - ii. Removal.

7.2.5 Aboriginal cultural heritage management

For the Wathawurrung people, the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs occupies their traditional Country.

A basic search of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Registry Information System map shows that the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs is within an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity.

Policy 7.2.5

- a) Investigate Aboriginal associations with the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs and the land on which the study area is located as part of future planning for the site.
- b) Ensure Aboriginal associations with the site are considered in the development of an Interpretation Strategy for the site.
- c) Use a cautious approach when managing potential impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- d) Undertake a due diligence investigation to determine the potential for Aboriginal cultural heritage to be impacted by any proposed future use.
- e) Use the due diligence investigation to guide the process of implementing a voluntary Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) as best practice, in discussion with Aboriginal Victoria as to the most appropriate approach, or determine whether a Cultural Heritage Permit (CHP) may be appropriate.

7.2.6 Appropriate qualifications, skills and experience

The use of appropriately skilled and experienced professionals is a principle of best practice heritage management and is explicitly encouraged by the Burra Charter (Article 4 Knowledge, skills and techniques). The Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs is likely to require input from a range of disciplinary and trade areas. Sourcing of such input should be managed with a view to the heritage significance of the place.

Policy 7.2.6

- a) Ensure Council staff and BGT personnel, students and external contractors and consultants, responsible for or engaged in the management and maintenance of the buildings and grounds have an appreciation of its heritage significance.

- b) Ensure external contractors and consultants engaged to carry out works, management or and are appropriately qualified to carry out the works required.
- c) Ensure that those responsible for the onsite care, control and management of the buildings and grounds of Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs have an appreciation of and access to information about the history, heritage significance, landscape and asset management requirements of the place.
- d) Consider incorporating training regarding heritage conservation and landscape design into the training of BGT students as part of their coursework.
- e) Ensure that all personnel, contractors and professionals engaged in works that have the potential to impact on the heritage significance of the site are appropriately qualified in their relevant fields and have demonstrated knowledge and experience working with heritage places, landscape and fabric, or (in the case of students) have suitable supervision from qualified individuals.
- f) Ensure that all personnel, contractors and professionals engaged in works that have the potential to impact on the heritage significance of the site are appropriately qualified in their relevant fields and have demonstrated knowledge and experience working with heritage places, landscape and fabric, or (in the case of students) have suitable supervision from qualified individuals.
- g) Ensure appropriately skilled practitioners are called upon in a timely manner to assist in planning, problem solving, and the design, documentation, supervision and management of conservation works.

7.3 Natural landscape

The geology and underlying landforms are important factors that have shaped the cultural landscape of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs and influenced the land use history of both the study area and the wider area of Ballarat East.

The present-day landform appears likely to retain remnants of the natural topography and historically modified landforms. Aspects of the natural topography are indicated by the gully formation of Specimen Vale, the high ground on which the Civic Cluster is sited, and potentially the area of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens. The study area has been substantially modified through gold mining activities, channelling then sealing Specimen Vale Creek, building and garden making works and landscaping.

The topographical variation across the site is quite marked, in particular the high, level terrace on which the former Ballarat Girls High School building sits (formerly the site of the Ballarat East Town Hall), which has steep sides in parts, the gully through which the Specimen Vale Creek once visibly flowed, and the level change between Specimen Vale to Britannia Reserve. There is also a level change in the north of the carpark which may reflect a former course of the creek.

While it is apparent that the industry and civic place making and educational activity within the study area since the 1850s has had a profound impact on the natural landscape and natural landform, the extent of modification is less apparent. Questions remain about the mound on which the former Town Hall was constructed (is it natural or modified? And, if modified, to what extent?), the original alignment of Specimen Vale Creek, and about the ground level of the Britannia Reserve and SMB sites. Documentary evidence suggests the underlying landform of Britannia Reserve and the site of the former SMB (horticultural school) is reclaimed and built up land on a base of mining slum, also known as sludge.

Context

Sub-surface investigations or tests have potential to reveal information and enhance understanding about these aspects of the study area's natural and cultural landscape history.

Policy 7.3

- a) Investigate and interpret the pre-gold rush natural hydrology, ecology and land use of Specimen Vale Creek and study area context.
- b) Investigate the extent to which the landform of the study area has been modified, in particular in the following areas: the Town Hall mound, the reclaimed areas of mining slum (Britannia Reserve and former SMB horticultural school area), and the channelling then covering of Specimen Vale Creek.
- c) Retain, conserve and interpret remnant sections of pre-gold rush landforms, hydrology, creeks, or other natural elements, if revealed during investigations.
- d) Consider planting locally indigenous flora within the Specimen Vale area, Britannia Reserve edges/embankments, the former School of Mines, Ballarat area, and other landscape areas – in select locations and subject to assessment of heritage impacts – to interpret the previous natural and pre-settlement landscape (see also Policy 7.2.5).
- e) Interpret the exploitation of natural resources related to the study area, including those related to its geology and the use of water, and the impacts these have had on the natural landscape.

7.4 Cultural landscape

7.4.1 Archaeology

The archaeological resources and potential of the study area have not been fully investigated for this CMP. However, correlation of documentary records of the study area with site observations strongly suggests there may be areas within the study area that are archaeologically sensitive. These have the potential to yield further information about the site and its layered land use history.

The location of areas considered to have potential archaeological sensitivity with research potential is shown in the maps in Section 4.2 (Figure 4.9).

Policy 7.4.1

- a) Recognise the capacity of the archaeological resources to contribute to understanding the site and to provide a key evidence base – for decision making and for interpretation – in planning and management processes.
- b) Carry out investigation of the areas within the site with potential archaeological sensitivity as a priority, or early in the planning stages for proposed works or any development with potential to disturb those areas.
- c) Use the findings of the archaeological investigations to inform everyday management of the place, in particular of the gardens, as well as to inform future landscape design proposals and interpretation.
- d) Site, design and manage new development, works and maintenance activities to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on archaeological resources.

7.4.2 Circulation patterns and spatial relationships

Some historic pathways, rights of way, steps and routes within and through the study area are no longer extant. Others are no longer in regular use. Still others are known to have existed from documentary sources or may be revealed through archaeological investigations. These historic circulation patterns have potential to enhance understanding of how the parts of the study area were once segregated or linked, how the different parts of the study area functioned, and how circulation patterns and relationships between the areas and elements have evolved over time in accordance with changing land use.

Policy 7.4.2

- a) Retain and interpret early and significant pathways, rights of way, steps or circulation patterns.
- b) Restore or interpret early pathways, roads, rights of way, steps and circulation patterns that are no longer extant.
- c) Avoid introduction of new pathways unless it can be demonstrated that they follow the alignment of or interpret earlier significant pathways, rights of way, steps or circulation patterns.
- d) Interpret the historic boundaries of the different land parcels.
- e) Interpret the separation of civic functions and mining and industrial activity, the latter which continued into the early 1900s and of which there remained traces into the 1950s.
- f) Develop conservation guidelines for the conservation and stabilisation of the iron palisade fence and stone base.
- g) Restore or interpret the visual and spatial relationship between the upper terrace of the Civic cluster and the Town Hall Gardens.
- h) Restore and/or interpret the landmark qualities and outward views to the west from the former Town Hall and upper terrace.

7.4.3 Land use

The historical themes outlined in Section 2.0 of this CMP and linked to Significance in Section 5.4, reflect the different uses and many layers of use of the study area. These have changed over time with some uses no longer practiced and other historic patterns of use continued.

Policy 7.4.3

- a) Maintain and encourage the continued use of the study area for education, public open space in connection with civic purposes or health and welfare services.
- b) Avoid uses that would harm the cultural heritage significance of the VHR listed Free Library, the Heritage Overlay precincts, the areas and elements within the study area, and potential archaeological resources.

7.4.4 New development

Policy 7.4.4

- a) New landscape elements should be designed to respect and enhance transmission of (and not detract from) the heritage significance of the study area, and of the significance of the VHR listed Free Library and the three Heritage Overlay precincts.

Context

- b) New buildings in the landscape should generally be avoided. New buildings may be appropriate where adverse impacts on cultural heritage significance can be avoided.
- c) In accordance with the Burra Charter principles (Article 22) and Practice Note for 'New Work', 'new work should be readily identifiable as such but must respect and have minimal impact on the cultural significance of the place'.¹

7.4.5 Trees and significant vegetation

Policy 7.4.5

- a) Retain and conserve vegetation of exceptional and high significance (refer to Policy for individual areas and elements in Section 7.5, and Appendix A).
- b) Manage the trees within the study area in accordance with the City of Ballarat Tree Management Plan 2018-2022.
- c) Assess the mature trees of exceptional and high significance within the study area to determine appropriate management regimes and inspection frequencies in accordance with hierarchy categories in Appendix A of the City of Ballarat Tree Management Plan 2018-2022.
- d) Investigate and assess the significance of the vegetation introduced as part of the c.1969–70 landscape design works.
- e) Ensure management and maintenance of trees, and work around trees and on trees are carried out in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards:
 - i. AS 4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites
 - ii. AS 4373-2007 Pruning of amenity trees.
- f) Replace trees that are of exceptional and high significance for their design, historical or aesthetic values, or as landmark plantings – like with like – when they become senescent, diseased, dead or unsafe. In specific circumstances a like-for-like approach to replanting may not be possible or appropriate. If so, refer to Planting Criteria in Policy 7.4.5 h.
- g) Plant replacement trees in a location as close as possible to the original. The location for replacement trees should also ensure optimal soil and environmental conditions for proper establishment and growth and that physical impacts on other significant trees or fabric are avoided.
- h) **Planting Criteria (general).** For replacement and new planting, the following criteria (listed in order of most preferred to least preferred) should inform selection of appropriate species:
 - i. Species included in the 1871 and 1875 lists of trees established in the Gardens (refer Table 3.1 and Appendix B) or observed in other sources (refer Table 4.1); or,
 - ii. Species with similar form and aesthetic characteristics as the original; and
 - iii. A species available in Victoria at the time the original species was planted (preferred); or
 - iv. A species available in cultivation at the time the original species was planted (less preferable).

- v. Modern cultivars should be avoided.

7.4.6 Weed management

Some plants identified as growing in the Eastern Town Hall Gardens in historic photographs (such as ivy), and other plants elsewhere in the study area (*Schinus molle*, *Salix babylonica*, for example) were planted with design intent but may now be identified as environmental weeds. It should be recognised that what constitutes an environmental weed varies according to the area in which they are found. The weediness of some plants can be successfully managed.

Ordinarily, conservation of elements and attributes of exceptional and high significance should take precedence, as outlined in Policy 7.2.4. However, it is acknowledged that in specific circumstances competing factors such as weediness may call for a different approach if appropriate management resources for this problem are not available.

Policy 7.4.6

- a) Develop a weed management plan that gives appropriate weighting to vegetation of exceptional and high cultural heritage significance.
- b) Weed removal and other site maintenance, in particular on the terraced slopes around the 1955 school building and at the edges of Specimen Vale, should be carried out with caution to ensure damage to hidden features or potential archaeological resources are avoided or minimised.

7.5 Areas and elements

7.5.1 Civic cluster

Policy 7.5.1

- a) Conduct a full heritage assessment of the former Ballarat Girls High School and Baby Health Care Centre to confirm the indicative heritage assessment provided in Section 5.4.1.
- b) Conserve historical spatial relationships, entry points and circulation patterns associated with the historical use of the Ballarat East Free Library, former Ballarat Girls High School and former Baby Health Centre, and enhance their understanding through interpretation.
- c) Conserve the independent identity and character of the Ballarat East Free Library, former Ballarat Girls High School and former Baby Health Care Centre, ensuring that this is not obscured by any new development of the place.
- d) Conserve the Free Library, former Ballarat Girls High School and former Baby Health Centre building through general maintenance and active conservation processes.
- e) Identify the main issues of future maintenance needs for the buildings within the site and develop a maintenance schedule.
- f) Ensure conservation works are focused on conservation and maintenance of fabric and/or reconstruction of missing or altered architectural detail where supported by appropriate evidence.
- g) Ensure any the planning for any proposed changes to the buildings is undertaken with guidance from a heritage consultant and with reference to this CMP.

7.5.2 Eastern Town Hall Gardens

Policy 7.5.2

- a) Retain and enhance the visibility of the mound. Investigate the structure of the mound to better understand if it is natural or a partially natural and reinforced/moulded landform.
- b) Retain and conserve elements of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens that provide strong evidence of the early development of Ballarat East as a municipality, in particular the Gardens, mound, mature trees, palisade fencing of 1881 (with bluestone base and bluestone piers), early steps off Barkly Street (to former Town Hall terrace and former Free Library entry) and corner ornamental gateway, with ornamental lettering, and entrance gates.
- c) Seek to enhance the contribution of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens to the historical character of the streetscape and the historical identity of the civic precinct.
- d) Investigate the potential for historical archaeology in the vicinity of the mound and the original steps from the Gardens up to the former Town Hall terrace.
- e) Explore options for evidence-based planting within the Eastern Town Hall Gardens that interprets the Gardens during its establishment (1860s) and heyday (1860s–1890s and 1890s to 1920), when managed by the former municipality of Ballarat East.
- f) Explore options for interpreting through landscape or planting design (or reconstruction, if there is adequate evidence) the original steps that linked the Gardens and the former Town Hall terrace, to help transmit the original relationship between the building above and the ornamental gardens below.
- g) Explore options for reconstruction or interpretation of some of the lost elements, where sufficient evidence is available. This may include fountains, the fernery, glasshouse, for example.
- h) **Planting principles:** The following principles should inform selection of new or replacement trees and shrubs for the Eastern Town Hall Gardens area:
 - i. Include trees and shrubs;
 - ii. Achieve a high proportion of conifers of mixed genera and species;
 - iii. Include large canopy trees;
 - iv. Use the Planting Criteria in Policy 7.4.5 h to guide selection of appropriate species;
 - v. Select shrubs of mixed species and scales and foliage textures, to achieve a planting character that is dense, multi-level and diverse;
 - vi. Select and arrange plants to reflect an overall rich and diverse planting character of horticultural sophistication.
- i) Explore options for reconnecting the school building that replaced the Ballarat East Town Hall to the external terrace and to the gardens (by reinstating use of the existing openings).
- j) Explore options for reintroducing the pathway from corner gateway around base of the gardens linking into Specimen Vale.

- k) Explore options for interpreting (through landscape or planting design) the original extent / edge of the Gardens at the interface with Specimen Vale and the right-of-way.
- l) Retain and manage to a high standard the trees of exceptional and high significance.
- m) No development should encroach into the structural root zone of trees of exceptional significance.
- n) Changes to the Gardens since c.1933-57 may be retained or removed if there is community support and if this would enable implementation of projects that would help to interpret the former character of the Gardens in its heyday and managed by the former Ballarat East municipality.

7.5.3 Specimen Vale

Policy 7.5.3

- a) Interpret the geology, geomorphology and landform of Specimen Vale. Investigate the natural drainage patterns and pre-European settlement landform.
- b) Explore options for interpreting (through landscape or planting design) the course and ecology of the original waterway.
- c) Investigate Aboriginal connections to Specimen Vale Creek.
- d) Explore options for interpreting (through landscape or planting design) the range of resources provided by Specimen Vale Creek and its water across a range of the themes embodied by the study area.
- e) Explore options for interpreting (through landscape or planting design) the early extent / edge of Specimen Vale and adjacent mining landscapes with the civic precinct.
- f) Interpret the late-nineteenth century channel crossings.
- g) Retain and interpret the concrete lined channel. Consider revealing a selected section of the channel.
- h) Investigate the c.1969–70 landscape development of Specimen Vale (with the Town Hall Gardens and carpark and edge of the School of Mines site) for potential connections to influential landscape architect Ronald Rayment and significant landscape designer Ellis Stones. The willows, birch trees, bank of native landscaping and boulders, serpentine pathway, and lawn may date from this time. These elements need to be better understood to help inform decision-making about how to manage them into the future.

7.5.4 Britannia Reserve

Policy 7.5.4

- a) Retain Britannia Reserve, which is identified as having high significance.
- b) Retain the name of the reserve, Britannia Reserve, which through the name links the area to early historic use of this part of the study area for gold mining.
- c) Retain and conserve the perimeter plantings of elms (of high significance), which indicate the rehabilitation of this part of the study area in the 1940s for a new use, for educational purposes.

Context

- d) Investigate the landform of the reserve in particular the steep drop to Specimen Vale. Determine whether the ground level elevated above Specimen Vale is natural or constructed (landfill, remoulded from on-site spoil?).
- e) Retain or remove and replace L-shaped concrete pathway linking reserve and Specimen Vale.
- f) Interpret the rehabilitation and repurposing of this part of the study area for educational purposes and then recreation. Interpret the layers that the present-day landscape has erased, including the natural landscape, the Aboriginal landscape, early settlement patterns in Ballarat East, gold mining, earlier street patterns, land use and land degradation.

7.5.5 Former School of Mines, Ballarat

Policy 7.5.5

- a) Carry out further research to understand and confirm the history and significance of this area.
- b) Continued use for educational purposes is appropriate to the historic land use of this area. Use for horticultural or landscape related training should be encouraged.
- c) Retain and interpret ornamental planting along Princes Street South frontage, as possible evidence of experimental planting as part of horticultural training or showcase planting associated with the SMB.
- d) Elements of low to no significance may be removed.
- e) Interpret the historical themes that relate to this area but which have been lost or erased by later layers of development and land use.

7.5.6 Other landscape areas

Policy 7.5.6

- a) Retain and conserve the early rights of way to the boundaries of their c.1850s-1862 layout.
- b) Interpret the historical themes that relate to this area, but which have been lost or erased by later layers of development and land use.
- c) Investigate the c.1969-70 landscape development of the other landscape areas (with the Town Hall Gardens and carpark and edge of the School of Mines site) for potential connections to influential landscape architect Ronald Rayment and significant landscape designer Ellis Stones. The willows, birches, bank of native landscaping and boulders, serpentine pathway, and lawn may date from this time. These elements need to be better understood to help inform decision-making about how to manage them into the future.
- d) Refer to policies in Policy 7.4.1 Archaeology for the areas with potential for archaeological sensitivity.

7.6 Experiencing the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs

This section provides policy to guide how heritage values should be managed to enhance the visitor's experience and understanding of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs. It offers direction to ensure that community and cultural connections to the place are recognised and supported through the

communication and conservation of heritage values. Effective interpretation, tourism and wayfinding models can increase the number of visitors to a place and help retain heritage significance.

The following principles provide the basis for the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs interpretation and experience policy:

- Acknowledge the different and overlapping layers of use and associations.
- Ensure that interpretation gives appropriate weighting to different themes based on significance.
- Reveal aspects of erasure (lost elements, both tangible and intangible) through interpretation.
- Include partly erased themes associated with important cultural groups, such as Aboriginal and Chinese histories.
- Involve and engage associated communities (including Aboriginal and Chinese communities) to develop a future interpretation plan.
- Use archaeology to inform interpretation.

7.6.1 Sustaining community and cultural connections

The multiple and overlapping historical themes and uses of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs have fostered diverse attachments and connections to the place. Sustaining community and cultural connections is an important aspect to retaining and recognising composite heritage values. Specific community and cultural groups may identify with particular parts of the place and some but not all associated themes. Considered as a whole, the Eastern Town Hall Gardens study area can convey different components of Ballarat's and Ballarat East's natural history, Aboriginal history, land use history and broader social history.

Policy 7.6.1

- a) Recognise the strong community attachment to the Eastern Town Hall Gardens by local and wider communities, including specific cultural groups with long associations with Eastern Town Hall Gardens. These include:
 - i. attachment to and responsibility for the care of traditional Country for Wadawurrung people.
 - ii. as part of the Ballarat East diggings for Ballarat people and Victorians more broadly.
 - iii. as a place where Ballarat East's civic identity was formed for the people in Ballarat East as well as Ballarat's Chinese community.
 - iv. as a place of education and training for past and present students and teachers; also as a place for girls' public education.
 - v. as a place offering maternal care and welfare for former staff and mothers.
 - vi. as a place to engage with other community groups and receive support for current users of the place.
- b) Encourage associated communities to visit and actively care for the parts of Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs of greatest significance to them.

Context

- c) Support community connections and participation in cultural activities at the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs by continuing to allow access to the gardens and Britannia Reserve, and allowing access to key buildings and spaces (such as the former Girls School, the former Ballarat East Free Library) for events and tours.
- d) Provide suitable visitor amenities (e.g. way-finding, access to water, shelter, toilet facilities, seating) to encourage visitation.
- e) Seek opportunities to work with the Traditional Owners, the Wadawurrung, in activities designed to recognise and care for Country.
- f) Encourage the creation of a program of events to bring different communities and cultural groups together.

Engaging with communities

- g) Establish a register of communities and cultural groups with connections to the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs.
- h) Identify the nature of their connections and the specific areas or features that are of most significance to them.
- i) Use the register to maintain regular contact, and to ensure that the City of Ballarat and BGT Groups and Training can consult effectively when change is mooted.
- j) Consult broadly and openly on proposals with the potential to impact on heritage values of importance to associated communities and cultural groups.
- k) Use a variety of methods to inform and engage associated communities and stakeholder groups on the management of heritage values at Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs.
- l) Consider and consult with the local community and other interested parties when contemplating change and development.
- m) Encourage and support the establishment of a friends of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens group as a way of engaging the wider community and special interest groups in the management of important heritage values.

7.6.2 Interpreting the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs

Heritage interpretation is an essential element of heritage conservation that enriches the way in which a heritage place is experienced. Heritage interpretation is as important as authentic restoration and regular maintenance. The interpretation of a heritage place contributes to the recognition, enjoyment and understanding of, and engagement with, a place's values and significance. Interpretation can be creative and diverse. While its fundamental purpose is to inform and educate, it can also challenge and question. James Semple Kerr's Conservation Plan, which provides guidance for heritage practice in Australia, considers the essence of effective interpretation:

Interpretation is about the ways places can be represented to entertain and excite the interest of users and visitors. The presentation can relate to the way the place is, and has been, used, seen, heard, touched, smelt and tasted as well as the many techniques for giving impact to evocative stories and meanings. The art lies in a full understanding of significance and opportunities, and in choosing the combination of strategies and techniques appropriate to the

*particular place. Solutions chosen should retain the character and ambience of the place and be capable of continued maintenance and future development.*¹⁶⁵

There are a range of methods for presenting interpretation, including digital formats (websites and downloadable apps); static forms (signage, built structures, public art); and ephemeral forms (performances and events). While traditional forms of interpretation generally rely on signage, public art installations and walking tours, contemporary approaches to interpretation can include sound and light installations, theatre and dance performances, and landscape design. Different approaches to interpretation should be selected and developed based on their appropriateness and suitability to the significance of the place, and their capacity to convey the associated themes, storylines and values effectively.

With its rich and layered history, the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs provides significant opportunities for interpretation. A key aspect to the history of the place is the different and overlapping land use histories, and the changing physical shape of the site set against the dramatic and complex social development of Ballarat East. Interpretation should encourage an understanding and appreciation of the multiple historical themes, and should communicate both the ways these themes are interconnected and the ways in which they contrast. The process of erasure and removal at the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs has resulted in elements being obscured or lost. Heritage interpretation can reveal hidden or subtly represented themes through interpretive initiatives.

Both the individual component parts of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and the place as a whole have heritage importance and draw community interest. Interpretation may take many forms, and these are best explored through an interpretative strategy or plan.

Policy 7.6.2

- a) Develop and implement an Interpretation Strategy for the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs.
- b) Explore a range of opportunities for interpretation. Opportunities may include:
 - i. Undertaking an oral history project or series of projects to capture the past experiences of and contemporary connections with the place.
 - ii. Developing an online history and heritage hub.
 - iii. Building an online community mapping resource where individual stories may be added.
 - iv. Developing a digital guide to the former Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs that assists people's orientation and understanding of the place, possibly accessible through smartphones.
 - v. Publishing the material in Section 2 of this Conservation Management Plan for a wider readership.
 - vi. Using landscape design to indicate and interpret the layered nature of the lost landscapes, and lost or obscured attributes and elements, such as: the steps off Barkly Street (leading to the site of the former Town Hall); as well as the steps to the Free Library doorway); the former Town Hall terrace and moulded landform and the lost steps from the Gardens to the Town Hall terrace; earlier path networks, the original alignment of Specimen Vale Creek and the earlier edge of the gardens along Specimen Vale.

¹⁶⁵ Kerr 2013, pp. 43-44.

Context

- vii. Considering the use of existing structures and elements to provide interpretive information. Buildings of high interpretive potential include the former Free Library and rear hall, the former Ballarat Girls High School and the Baby Health Centre. Lost and obscured elements can also have high interpretive potential.
 - viii. Integrating Aboriginal stories and associations with the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and environs and its pre-settlement landscape in interpretation concepts and activities.
 - ix. Consider the use of innovative, ephemeral and creative means for telling the stories of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs, these may include music, dramatic performances, sound and light installations, and off-site interpretation events.
- c) Promote an understanding of the historic separation of and connections between the place's different uses and themes through interpretation.
 - d) Acknowledge the layered and sometimes contrasting histories and associations of the place.
 - e) Ensure interpretation interventions do not compromise the heritage values and significant fabric of the place.
 - f) Interpretation proposals should be assessed for any possible heritage impacts on the significance of the place.

7.6.3 Wayfinding

Wayfinding for people in the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs is important, as is providing information to locate and identify significant areas and elements. This is ideally achieved in both subtle and direct ways. In addition to signage and information, the landscape itself and maintaining key views within the landscape may also assist in orienting people.

Policy 7.6.3

- a) Integrate wayfinding and interpretation within the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs. Wayfinding strategies and signage could be integrated into an Interpretation Strategy for the place.
- b) Prepare a signage policy and standard design across the former Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs as part of the Interpretation Strategy. Signage could seek to improve the study area's identity and transmission of its values.
- c) Consider the way in which soft and hard landscaping may form part of the wayfinding strategy.
- d) Ensure any new signage is introduced in consideration of the sensitive aesthetic context of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs.
- e) Ensure new signage is installed in a planned in a coordinated way.
- f) Remove redundant signs as any new signage is introduced.

7.6.4 Tourism and recreational use

The City of Ballarat regards tourism as a key part of Ballarat's economic future. This comes with both heritage benefits and risks that need to be managed. The careful management of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs in this regard will be required to ensure its sustainable use for tourism and public engagement in the long term.

Policy 7.6.4

- a) Use tourism and visitor engagement as an opportunity to transmit heritage values and promote an experience enhanced by improved understanding of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs. Ensure such engagement is premised on an improved understanding of the various narratives and their connections within the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs.
- b) Ensure changes to facilitate increased tourist and recreational use of the site are carefully considered and do not compromise the heritage values of the place.
- c) Ensure strategies to mitigate increased pressures on the place and its fabric are formulated proactively and resources allocated to additional maintenance and repairs as necessary.
- d) Monitor the impacts of increased public use and tourism with a view to mitigation of heritage impacts.
- e) Monitor and project visitor numbers and the type of visitors to the site – local or non-local – and develop strategies accordingly.

8.0 Implementation

8.1 Introduction

The policy in the previous section (Section 7.0) forms part of the framework to guide management and conservation of the heritage values of the study area and its areas and elements.

The CMP has also identified some areas for further research or investigation that are yet to be carried out, but which will also form an important part of our understanding of the history and significance of the study area. The findings of any further research and investigation are equally critical to the framework for future landscape work.

This section sets out the areas for further research and investigation which should be carried out before development of design proposals for future landscape works. The findings should inform design proposals for future landscape works. These should be aimed at enhancing transmission of the stories and heritage values of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs and enriching community experience of the place.

8.2 Key projects

The projects listed below include those that are considered important for long-term sustainability and care of the heritage place. It is expected that they will require the City of Ballarat to work in consultation with community and other stakeholders.

Priorities are assigned in accordance with recommended sequencing of actions:

- **Priority 1:** actions recommended to be carried out before development of landscape design proposals for future landscape works.
- **Priority 2:** actions to be carried out following resolution of Priority 1 actions.
- **Priority 3:** actions to conserve and enhance transmission of the heritage values of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs.
- **Priority 4:** actions to be carried out within 2-3 years. These actions are not contingent on completion of Priority 1 to 3 actions.

8.2.1 Heritage planning actions

The following actions are intended to support the management of the heritage values of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs and associated heritage resources.

Table 8.1. Heritage planning actions

Policy No.	Projects	Resources	Priority
Conservation principles 7.1	Engage in dialogue with the communities who value the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs about future plans for the place	City of Ballarat	Priority 2
Policy 7.3	Investigate and interpret the pre-gold rush natural hydrology, ecology and land use of Specimen Vale Creek and the study area context	Archaeologist and landscape heritage consultant	Priority 1

Context

Policy No.	Projects	Resources	Priority
Policies 7.2.5, 7.4 and 7.5	Undertake a due diligence investigation to determine the potential for Aboriginal cultural heritage to be impacted by any proposed future use. Investigate Aboriginal connections to the study area.	Heritage consultant with experience in local Aboriginal history, archaeology and cultural heritage.	Priority 1
Policies 7.5.2, 7.5.3, 7.5.5 and 7.5.6	Investigate the c.1969-70 landscape development of Specimen Vale (with the Town Hall Gardens and carpark and edge of the School of Mines site) for potential connections to influential landscape architect Ron Rayment and significant landscape designer Ellis Stones. If the connection is confirmed, assess significance.	Landscape heritage consultant Landscape heritage consultant	Priority 1a Priority 1b
Policy 7.5.5	Further research to understand the history and significance of the School of Mines, Ballarat part of the study area.	Historian/heritage consultant	Priority 4
Policy 7.4.1, 7.5.2	Investigate the structure of the mound (former Town Hall terrace) to better understand if it is natural or a partially natural and reinforced/moulded landform.	Archaeologist	Priority 1
Policy 7.4.1, 7.5.2	Investigate the potential for archaeological evidence of the original steps from the Gardens to the former Town Hall terrace, the mound to Specimen Vale and its associations with the Town Hall, and the 'amphitheatre' at the base of the mound to Specimen Vale.	Archaeologist	Priority 1
Policy 7.4.1, 7.5.3, 7.5.4	Investigate the landform of Britannia Reserve in particular the steep drop to Specimen Vale. Determine whether the ground level elevated above Specimen Vale is natural or constructed (landfill, remoulded from on-site spoil or sludge).	Archaeologist	Priority 1
Policy 7.5.1	Conduct a heritage assessment of the former Ballarat Girls High School and Baby Health Centre.	Heritage consultant	Priority 4
Policy 7.4.5	Include the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs CMP in the list of related documents in the next iteration of the City of Ballarat Tree Management Plan 2018-2022.	City of Ballarat	Priority 4
Policy 7.4.5	Assess the mature trees of exceptional and high significance within the study area to determine appropriate management regimes and inspection frequencies in accordance with hierarchy categories in Appendix A of the City of Ballarat Tree Management Plan 2018-2022	City of Ballarat	Priority 4

Policy No.	Projects	Resources	Priority
	Develop a landscape proposal for the Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens and Environs that will conserve and enhance the transmission of identified heritage values holistically.	City of Ballarat	Priority 3

8.2.2 Heritage conservation actions

The following projects are focused on recommended conservation activities within the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs study area.

Table 8.2. Heritage conservation actions

Policy No.	Projects	Resources	Priority
Policy 7.4.2	Develop conservation guidelines for the conservation and stabilisation of the iron palisade fence and stone base.	Appropriately experienced conservation practitioner	Priority 4
Policy 7.5.1	Identify the main issues of future maintenance needs for the buildings within the site and develop a maintenance schedule.	City of Ballarat	Priority 3
Policy 7.4.6	Develop a weed management plan that gives appropriate weighting to vegetation in the Eastern Town Hall Gardens and Environs area of exceptional and high cultural heritage significance.	City of Ballarat	Priority 1

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Walking Tours – Ballarat.

Appendix A – Tree survey and numbered plan prepared by John Beetham

A tree survey with accompanying numbered plan was prepared for the Eastern Town Hall Gardens by arborist John Beetham in May–June 2018.

The survey reveals that the Eastern Town Hall Gardens retains a significant collection of established and mature conifers of different species. Many of these were planted during two key periods in the Gardens' history when it was managed by two successive curators employed by the Ballarat East Town Council, each employed as curator for a long duration of about 30 years. The survey is included in the following pages.

Table A.1 Key to the symbols and abbreviations used in the Tree Survey (see following pages).

Symbol	Further detail/explanation
Green	Denotes a conifer or Ginkgo
Ref No:	See plan of property (Figure A.1)
CHECK (Y):	Confirm identification and / or correct nomenclature
AGE (in years):	1 = 1 to 5 2 = 5 to 10 3 = 10 to 20 4 = 20 to 30 5 = 30 to 50 6 = 50 to 80 7 = 80 to 100 8 = 100 to 130 9 = 130+
Condition:	D = Dead E = Excellent G = Good P = Poor R = removed
PLH	Plant Habit
S	Shrub
T	Tree
D / E	Deciduous / Evergreen
PLT	Plant Type
C	Conifer or Ginkgo
CY	Cycad

Context

Symbol	Further detail/explanation
F	Fern
M	Monocotyledon
PM	Palm
SIG	Significant Tree
*	Existing on the National Trusts of Australia Register
\$	Suggested
COMM (Y)	Commemorative planting
R & E	Rare and Endangered according to the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature): CR =Critically Endangered EN = Endangered EW = Extinct in the Wild EX = Extinct LC = Least Concern NT = Near Threatened VU = Vulnerable
NAT (#)	Australian Native
BOTANICAL NAME:	Highlighted in purple is exiting registered significant tree Highlighted in blue is proposed significant tree
H x W (metres)	Height x Width
DBH (metres)	Trunk diameter @ 1.4m above ground
HSPEC (Y)	Herbarium specimen taken and (dry) pressed
PHOTO (Y)	Photo taken (Digital or Slide)
MTE (Y)	Tree Maintenance required: #1 = Remove dead wood #2 = Remove lower limbs and / or suckers and / or ivy #3 = Canopy reduction #4 = Remove entirely
COMMENTS:	Specific details etc

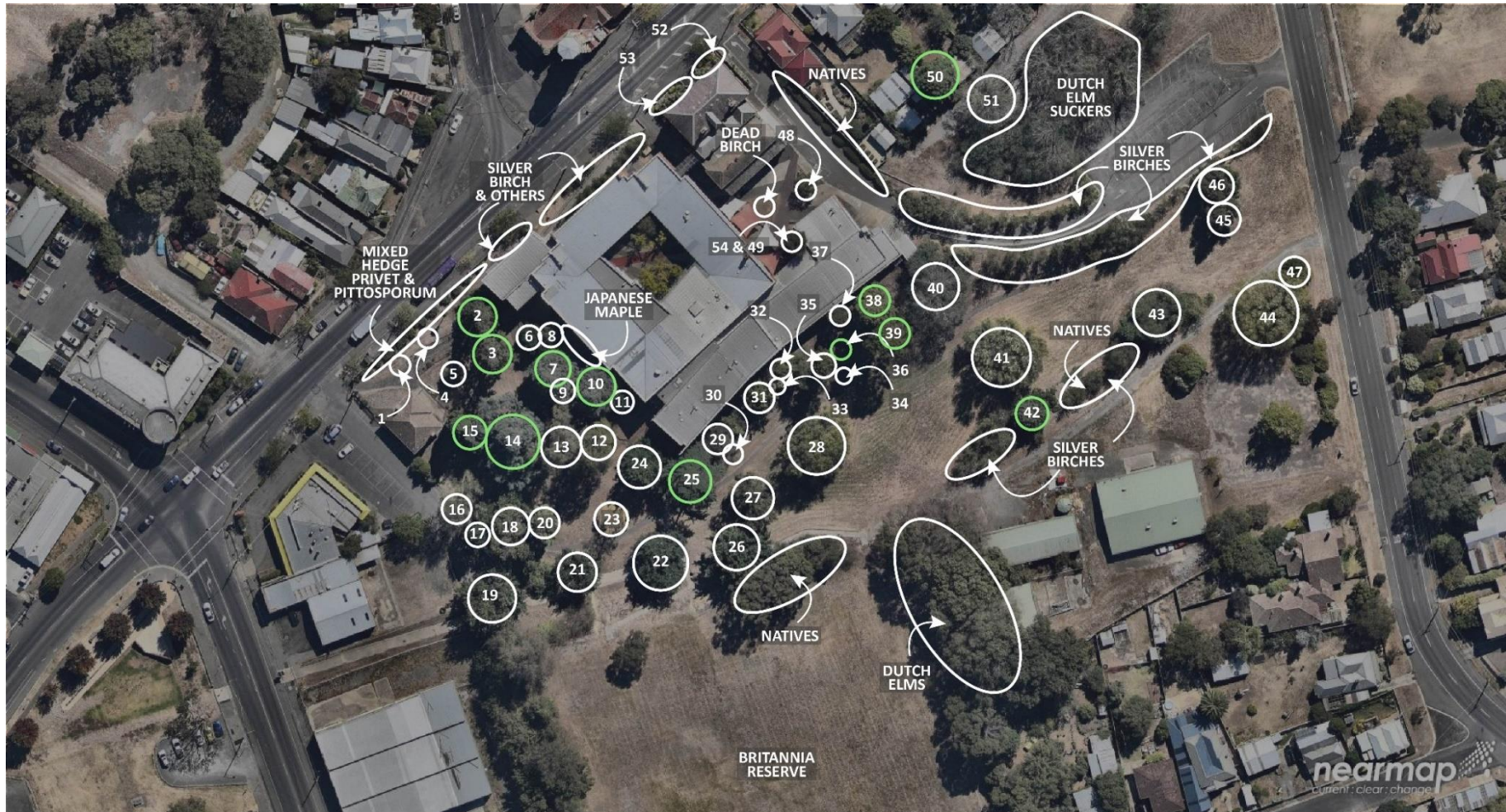


Figure A.1 Numbered tree survey plan of Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens, prepared by John Beetham. The trees are indicated by a green circle if they are a conifer or Ginkgo. (Survey date: May-June 2018)

GARD CODE	REF NO	CHECK	AGE	CON	PLH	D/E	PLT	SIG	COMM	R&E	NAT	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY NAME	NATURAL DISTRIBUTION	H X W	DBH	HSPEC	PHOTO	MT#1	MT#2	MT#3	MT#4	COMMENTS
ETHG	001		8	G	T	E	PM					<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>	Chinese Windmill (or Chusan) Palm	Arecaceae	ASIA-temperate - China (N.C. - Shaanxi & S.E. - Anhui) & ASIA-tropical - Indo-China (Myanmar(N))	9.0 x 2.0	0.20		Y					Classic late 19 th Century planting - available from G.Brunning & Son's St Kilda Nursery in Melbourne (Vic) from 1873
ETHG	002	Y	8	G	T	E	C	#	Y	EN		<i>Abies pinsapo</i> 'Glauca'	Blue-leaved Spanish (or Hedgehog) Fir	Pinaceae	GARDEN ORIGIN	30.0 x 11.0	0.90	Y	Y	Y				Listed on the National Trusts of Australia Significant Trees database (as T11328 on the National Trust (Victoria) Database Twinning trunks See Hort Flora for details on cultivar
ETHG	003	Y	8	G	T	E	C	#	Y	EN		<i>Abies pinsapo</i> 'Glauca'	Blue-leaved Spanish (or Hedgehog) Fir	Pinaceae	GARDEN ORIGIN	29.0 x 14.0	0.80	Y	Y					Listed on the National Trusts of Australia Significant Trees database (as T11328 on the National Trust (Victoria) Database Multi-trunked (x 4) See Hort Flora for details on cultivar (McLeod #8753)
ETHG	004		6	P	T	E						<i>Rhododendron</i> cv.	Rhododendron	Ericaceae	GARDEN ORIGIN	N/A	N/A	Y					Y	Suggest removal
ETHG	005		9	G	T	E						<i>Ilex aquifolium</i> 'Argenteamarginata'	Variiegated Common Holly	Aquifoliaceae	GARDEN ORIGIN	7.0 x 5.0	0.25	Y	Y					Reverting foliage noted - best to remove
ETHG	006		9	G	T	E						<i>Ilex x altaclarensis</i>	Highclere Holly	Aquifoliaceae	GARDEN ORIGIN	10.0 x 10.0	1.10	Y	Y					Multi-trunked (x 6) (McLeod #8757)
ETHG	007		9	E	T	E	C			EN		<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> Glauca Group	Blue Atlas Cedar	Pinaceae	GARDEN ORIGIN	25.0 x 12.0	0.80	Y	Y					Twinning trunks @ 7.0m (McLeod #8758)
ETHG	008		6	P	T	E						<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>	Tarata or Lemonwood	Pittosporaceae	AUSTRALASIA - New Zealand (North & South Is)	N/A	N/A						Y	Suggest removal
ETHG	009	Y	8	P	T	E					#	<i>Brachychiton x roseus</i> subsp. <i>roseus</i>	Hybrid Flame Tree	Sterculiaceae	GARDEN ORIGIN	10.0 x 8.0	0.30	Y	Y	Y				(McLeod #8759)
ETHG	010		8	E	T	E	C			EN		<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> Glauca Group	Blue Atlas Cedar	Pinaceae	GARDEN ORIGIN	21.0 x 15.0		Y	Y					(McLeod #8760)
ETHG	011		9	G	T	E						<i>Ilex x altaclarensis</i>	Highclere Holly	Aquifoliaceae	GARDEN ORIGIN	12.0 x 10.0	0.80	Y	Y					(McLeod #8761)
ETHG	012	Y	8	E	T	D		\$				<i>Tilia x europaea</i>	Common Lime	Tiliaceae	GARDEN ORIGIN	30.0 x 16.0	1.00	Y						A fine specimen

GARD CODE	REF NO	CHECK	AGE	CON	PLH	D/E	PLT	SIG	COMM	R&E	NAT	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY NAME	NATURAL DISTRIBUTION	H X W	DBH	HSPEC	PHOTO	MT#1	MT#2	MT#3	MT#4	COMMENTS
																								perhaps worthy of nomination for the National Trusts of Australia Significant Trees database
ETHG	013	Y	8	P	T	D						<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch Elm	Ulmaceae	GARDEN ORIGIN				Y					Obvious older removal of side trunk & branches
ETHG	014		9	E	T	E	C	*			EN	<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> Glauca Group	Blue Atlas Cedar	Pinaceae	GARDEN ORIGIN	27.0 x 27.0	1.85	Y	Y					Listed on the National Trusts of Australia Significant Trees database (as T11307 on the National Trust (Victoria) Database (McLeod #8755)
ETHG	015	Y	5	G	T	E	C					<i>Cupressus torulosa</i> 'Arctic Green'	Upright Bhutan Cypress	Cupressaceae	GARDEN ORIGIN	22.0 x 7.0	0.70	Y	Y					Possibly this cultivar (introduced into the nursery trade in 1972), compared with the true species on site (#038) (McLeod #8754)
ETHG	016	Y	6	P	T	D						<i>Populus</i> sp.	Poplar	Salicaceae		22.0 x 17.0	1.50		Y			Y	Multi-trunked (x 4) - suggest removal (McLeod #8766)	
ETHG	017	Y	6	P	T	D/E						<i>Quercus</i> sp.	Oak	Fagaceae		16.0 x 9.0	0.60	Y	Y					A one-sided, hemmed in specimen – will need acorns to make positive ID (McLeod #8767)
ETHG	018		6	P	T	D						<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin Oak	Fagaceae	NORTHERN AMERICA - Eastern Canada (Ontario) & N.C. U.S.A., N.E. U.S.A. & S.E. U.S.A.	26.0 x 23.0	0.70		Y	Y	Y			Very poor specimen that needs a lot of work in branch reduction (McLeod #8768)
ETHG	019		6	G	T	D						<i>Quercus robur</i>	English Oak	Fagaceae	ASIA-temperate - Western (Turkey) & EUROPE - Eastern (Northwest European Russia), Middle, Northern, Southeastern & Southwestern	20.0 x 20.0	0.80		Y					A fine twin-trunked specimen (McLeod #8770)

GARD CODE	REF NO	CHECK	AGE	CON	PLH	D/E	PLT	SIG	COMM	R&E	NAT	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY NAME	NATURAL DISTRIBUTION	H X W	DBH	HSPEC	PHOTO	MT#1	MT#2	MT#3	MT#4	COMMENTS
ETHG	020		8	E	T	E		\$			#	Lagunaria patersonia subsp. patersonia	Cow-itch Tree, Norfolk Island Hibiscus or Pyramid Tree	Malvaceae	AUSTRALASIA - Australia (Norfolk Islands - Lord Howe & Norfolk Is)	22.0 x 9.0	1.15	Y	Y	Y				A fine (twin-trunked) specimen perhaps worthy of nomination for the National Trusts of Australia Significant Trees database - typical species favoured by William Guilfoyle (McLeod #8765)
ETHG	021		6	G	T	D						<i>Quercus robur</i>	English Oak	Fagaceae	ASIA-temperate - Western (Turkey) & EUROPE - Eastern (Northwest European Russia), Middle, Northern, Southeastern & Southwestern	18.0 x 18.0	0.60	Y		Y				(McLeod #8769)
ETHG	022	Y	6	G	T	D						<i>Quercus robur</i>	English Oak	Fagaceae	ASIA-temperate - Western (Turkey) & EUROPE - Eastern (Northwest European Russia), Middle, Northern, Southeastern & Southwestern	19.0 x 17.0	0.60	Y						Slightly larger more lobed leaves (McLeod #8771)
ETHG	023		6	G	T	D						<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> 'Aurea'	Golden Ash	Oleaceae	GARDEN ORIGIN	16.0 x 12.0	0.43	Y						See Hort Flora for comments on F.e. 'Jaspidea' (McLeod #8764)
ETHG	024		6	G	T	D						<i>Quercus robur</i>	English Oak	Fagaceae	ASIA-temperate - Western (Turkey) & EUROPE - Eastern (Northwest European Russia), Middle, Northern, Southeastern & Southwestern	20.0 x 20.0	0.50	Y		Y				Remove ivy (McLeod #8763)
ETHG	025		9	G	T	E	C			LC		<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Deodar or Himalayan Cedar	Pinaceae	ASIA-temperate - Western (Afghanistan (N.E.)) & China (F.S.W. Tibet) & ASIA-tropical - Indian Subcontinent (India (Himachal Pradesh & Uttar	23.0 x 19.0	1.00	Y	Y				Some rotting of bark at base on south side - monitor (McLeod #8774)	

GARD CODE	REF NO	CHECK	AGE	CON	PLH	D/E	PLT	SIG	COMM	R&E	NAT	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY NAME	NATURAL DISTRIBUTION	H X W	DBH	HSPEC	PHOTO	MT#1	MT#2	MT#3	MT#4	COMMENTS
															Pradesh), Jammu-Kashmir, Nepal, & Pakistan (F.N.))									
ETHG	026	Y	6	G	T	D						<i>Quercus robur</i>	English Oak	Fagaceae	ASIA-temperate - Western (Turkey) & EUROPE - Eastern (Northwest European Russia), Middle, Northern, Southeastern & Southwestern	23.0 x 27.0	0.70	Y	Y	Y				Possible hybrid with <i>Q.canariensis</i> ("Algerian Oak")
ETHG	027		6	E	T	D						<i>Salix babylonica</i>	Weeping Willow	Salicaceae	ASIA-temperate - China & Eastern Asia (Taiwan)	24.0 x 22.0	1.00	Y						Twin-trunked specimen - widespread through China's Administrative Divisions (McLeod #8773)
ETHG	028	Y	6	G	T	D						<i>Salix</i> sp.	Willow	Salicaceae		23.0 x 18.0	0.90	Y						Multi-trunked (x 3) - will need catkins to make positive ID (McLeod #8779)
ETHG	029		6	P	T	D						<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch Elm	Ulmaceae	GARDEN ORIGIN	18.0 x 13.0	0.70	Y				Y	Probably an older multi-trunked sucker - suggest removal	
ETHG	030		6	P	T	E	M					<i>Cordyline australis</i>	Ti or New Zealand Cabbage Tree	Asparagaceae	AUSTRALASIA - New Zealand (N, S & Stewart Is.)	9.0 x 5.0	0.70	Y						Remnant specimen(s) - 7 trunks
ETHG	031	Y	8	P	T	E					#	<i>Brachychiton x roseus</i> subsp. <i>roseus</i>	Hybrid Flame Tree	Sterculiaceae	GARDEN ORIGIN	19.0 x 11.0	1.20	Y						Typical genus favoured by William Guilfoyle
ETHG	032		8	E	T	E						<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>	Karaka or New Zealand Laurel	Corynocarpaceae	AUSTRALASIA - New Zealand (Chatham, North, South & Stewart Is.)	10.0 x 10.0	1.20	Y	Y					Multi-trunked (x 6) - signature William Guilfoyle species
ETHG	033		6	P	T	E	M					<i>Cordyline australis</i>	Ti or New Zealand Cabbage Tree	Asparagaceae	AUSTRALASIA - New Zealand (N, S & Stewart Is.)	8.0 x 1.5	N/A	Y						Remnant specimen(s)
ETHG	034		6	P	T	E	M					<i>Cordyline australis</i>	Ti or New Zealand Cabbage Tree	Asparagaceae	AUSTRALASIA - New Zealand (N, S & Stewart Is.)	5.0 x 1.0	N/A	Y						Remnant specimen(s)
ETHG	035	Y	8	P	T	E						<i>Schinus molle</i>	Pepper Tree	Anacardiaceae	SOUTHERN AMERICA - Brazil (F.S.), Southern South America	21.0 x 17.0	0.55	Y	Y					Hort Flora adopts <i>S.ariera</i> (McLeod #8777)

GARD CODE	REF NO	CHECK	AGE	CON	PLH	D/E	PLT	SIG	COMM	R&E	NAT	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY NAME	NATURAL DISTRIBUTION	H X W	DBH	HSPEC	PHOTO	MT#1	MT#2	MT#3	MT#4	COMMENTS
															(Argentina (N.E.), Chile (N), Paraguay & Uruguay) & Western South America (Bolivia & Peru)									
ETHG	036		9	G	T	E	C	\$		LC	#	<i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i>	Hoop Pine	Araucariaceae	ASIA-tropical - Papuaia (New Guinea - Irian Jaya & Papua New Guinea) & AUSTRALASIA - Australia (NSW (N.E.) & QLD (E))	35.0 x 8.0	0.70	Y	Y	Y			A fine, almost conical shaped specimen perhaps worthy of nomination for the National Trusts of Australia Significant Trees database – signature William Guilfoyle species (McLeod #8778)	
ETHG	037		3	G	T	E					#	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood	Mimosaceae	AUSTRALASIA - Australia (NSW (E), QLD (F.E.), SA (S.E.), TAS & VIC)	12.0 x 8.0	0.30	Y				Y	Suggest removal	
ETHG	038		9	G	T	E	C	\$	LC			<i>Cupressus torulosa</i>	Bhutan Cypress	Cupressaceae	ASIA-temperate - China (E & S Tibet) & ASIA-tropical - Indian Subcontinent (India (Himachal Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh), Nepal & West Himalaya (Jammu-Kashmir))	27.0 x 9.0	0.80	Y	Y	Y	Y	Remove ivy - signature William Guilfoyle species (McLeod #8781)		
ETHG	039		9	E	T	E	C	\$		LC	#	<i>Araucaria bidwillii</i>	Bunya Pine	Araucariaceae	AUSTRALASIA - Australia (QLD (S.E. - Gympie & N.E. - Mt Molloy))	25.0 x 13.0	1.10	Y	Y	Y			Signature William Guilfoyle species (McLeod #8780)	
ETHG	040		6	G	T	D						<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch Elm	Ulmaceae	GARDEN ORIGIN	20.0 x 15.0	1.30	Y	Y				Multi-trunked (x 3) (McLeod #8782)	
ETHG	041	Y	6	G	T	D						<i>Salix</i> sp.	Willow	Salicaceae		24.0 x 20.0	1.80	Y	Y	Y			Multi-trunked (x 6) - will need catkins to make positive ID	
ETHG	042		3	E	T	E	C			LC		<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Deodar or Himalayan Cedar	Pinaceae	ASIA-temperate - Western (Afghanistan (N.E.)) & China (F.S.W. Tibet) & ASIA-tropical - Indian Subcontinent	10.0 x 12.0	1.50	Y					Multi-trunked (x 6) - newer planting (McLeod #8785)	

GARD CODE	REF NO	CHECK	AGE	CON	PLH	D/E	PLT	SIG	COMM	R&E	NAT	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY NAME	NATURAL DISTRIBUTION	H X W	DBH	HSPEC	PHOTO	MT#1	MT#2	MT#3	MT#4	COMMENTS
															(India (Himachal Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh), Jammu-Kashmir, Nepal, & Pakistan (F.N.))									
ETHG	043	Y	3	G	T	E					#	<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	Black Wattle	Mimosaceae	AUSTRALASIA - Australia - NSW (S.E.), SA (F.S.E.), TAS (E) & VIC (S)	14.0 x 12.0	1.20	Y						Similar to <i>A.dealbata</i> but foliage is more green than blue (McLeod #8784)
ETHG	044	Y	6	E	T	D						<i>Salix</i> sp.	Willow	Salicaceae		25.0 x 28.0	2.00	Y						Dominant multi-trunked (\pm x 9) specimen (McLeod 8793)
ETHG	045	Y	5	G	T	D						<i>Populus simonii</i>	Simon's Poplar	Salicaceae	ASIA-temperate - China (Inner Mongolia, Manchuria, N.C., S.C. & S.E.) & Mongolia	14.5 x 9.0	0.30	Y				Y	Suggest removal See Flora of China for Natural Distribution details (McLeod #8787)	
ETHG	046	Y	5	G	T	D						<i>Populus simonii</i>	Simon's Poplar	Salicaceae	ASIA-temperate - China (Inner Mongolia, Manchuria, N.C., S.C. & S.E.) & Mongolia	16.0 x 12.0	0.80	Y				Y	Suggest removal Multi-trunked (x 5) See Flora of China for Natural Distribution details (McLeod #8786)	
ETHG	047		3	P	T	D/E						<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chinese Elm	Ulmaceae	ASIA-temperate - China (N & S.C. & S.E.) & Eastern Asia (Japan (Honshu, Kyushu & Nansei-shoto), Korea (S) & Taiwan) & ASIA-tropical - Indo-China (Vietnam)	8.0 x 8.0	N/A	Y				Y	Suggest removal May have been a single specimen - now a thicket	
ETHG	048	Y	3	E	T	D						<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	Betulaceae	ASIA-temperate - China (Xinjiang), Eastern Asia (Japan (Hokkaido) & Korea (N)), Middle (Kazakhstan), Mongolia, Russian Far East, Siberia & Western (Iran, Iraq & Turkey) & EUROPE	10.0 x 8.0	0.20	Y					Multi-trunked (\pm x 5) @ 1.6m above ground level - particularly white barked specimen - will need leaves to make positive ID	

GARD CODE	REF NO	CHECK	AGE	CON	PLH	D/E	PLT	SIG	COMM	R&E	NAT	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY NAME	NATURAL DISTRIBUTION	H X W	DBH	HSPEC	PHOTO	MT#1	MT#2	MT#3	MT#4	COMMENTS
ETHG	049		3	G	T	E						<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i>	Red Ironbark	Myrtaceae	AUSTRALASIA - Australia (NSW (E), QLD (F.S.E.) & VIC (C, N.C., N.E., S.E. & S.W.))	13.0 x 9.0	0.45	Y						(McLeod #8792)
ETHG	050		8	G	T	E	C			EN		<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	California or Coast Redwood	Cupressaceae	NORTHERN AMERICA - N.W. U.S.A. (Oregon (S.W.)) & S.W. U.S.A. (California (N.W. & W.C.))	25.0 x 9.0	1.20 (±)	Y						Perhaps outside the "brief" but still an important element in the surrounding historic landscape - note tapering trunk
ETHG	051		8	G	T	D						<i>Ulmus x hollandica</i>	Dutch Elm	Ulmaceae	GARDEN ORIGIN	24.0 x 20.0	1.50	Y						Perhaps outside the "brief" but still an important element in the surrounding historic landscape - multi-trunked (± x 3)
ETHG	052		6	P	T	E	M					<i>Cordyline australis</i>	Ti or New Zealand Cabbage Tree	Asparagaceae	AUSTRALASIA - New Zealand (N, S & Stewart Is.)	8.0 x 4.0	N/A	Y						Remnant specimen(s)
ETHG	053		6	P	T	E	M					<i>Cordyline australis</i>	Ti or New Zealand Cabbage Tree	Asparagaceae	AUSTRALASIA - New Zealand (N, S & Stewart Is.)	8.0 x 4.0	N/A	Y						Remnant specimen(s)
ETHG	054		3	G	T	E						<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i>	Red Ironbark	Myrtaceae	AUSTRALASIA - Australia (NSW (E), QLD (F.S.E.) & VIC (C, N.C., N.E., S.E. & S.W.))	13.0 x 7.0	0.33	Y						

Appendix B – Selected primary sources

The following two primary sources are included for reference purposes:

- *Weekly Times* article, 23 December 1871, p. 6. The article provides an evocative description of the character of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens in 1871.
- The Rose Series photograph showing a portion of the Eastern Town Hall Gardens in the c.1920s-30s is reproduced here at a larger size than was possible in the body of the report (see Figure 3.36). The high resolution of this image enables a clearer understanding of the richness and diversity of the plantings in the Gardens. (Source: Gold Museum)

THE GARDEN.

TREE-PLANTING AT BALLARAT.

No. IV.

TOWN-HALL RESERVE.

Having arrived at the handsome entrance to these grounds, we took a quick survey of all around. The bright and shining evergreens delighted us with their freshness, the handsome gravel walks and the beds and borders presented a neat and trim appearance too seldom seen in public grounds. The Town-hall itself is a goodly building, and stands upon an eminence, the approach from the grounds being by a spacious flight of stone steps, bounded on the right and left by a handsome terrace, which is clothed with splendid shrubs and ornamental plants, arranged in a most pleasing manner, two fountains, one on each side, materially adding to the effect. The whole reserve is laid out with most excellent taste, and contains a rich and valuable collection of trees and shrubs of the best families. On the terrace we remarked some capital specimen rhododendrons, which being in full bloom, displayed their great value as decorative plants. There are numerous single specimens of conifers and deciduous trees, (the principal combinations being within view of the hall windows), at once evincing how suitable they are, when well arranged together, for producing a striking display and a rich glow of colour, at the same time the utmost harmony is kept up, and a characteristic expression given to the whole reserve. Here can be noted the softest shades of silver grey, as witnessed in the *Abies* family, the warm green of the *Pinus* tribe, the yellow tints of the golden-striped yew, the *Thuja aurea*, the variegated white cedar, and the many beautiful forms of variegation met with in the holly, the *enonymus*, and similar plants,

the noisy, the enonymus, and similar plants, affording almost every gradation of tint, from the deepest green to a rich golden yellow and silver grey, the whole producing a pictorial effect of the highest class. Here we found the *Wellingtonia gigantea*, 15ft. in height, and of splendid shape and excellent colour. The noble *Pinus insignis*, towering above all others, being between 20ft. and 30ft. in height. Of *Araucaria imbricata* there are beautifully furnished well grown plants. The lovely *Picea grandis*, that ever charming silver fir of California, is succeeding admirably. The erect growing and noble *Cedrus Atlantica*, or silver cedar, stands fully 15ft. in height, displaying its great beauty and adaptability. Its twin sister, *Cedrus deodara*, or the Indian cedar, with graceful drooping branches, is thriving equally well. The different varieties of *Pittosporums*, including the well-known *eugenioides*, *nigrescens*, *crassifolium*, and others figure here with considerable effect. Elegant specimens of various hollies, both green and variegated, have an aristocratic appearance, and are growing with great vigour. The *Viburnum tinus*, commonly known as the *lauristinus*, is represented by fine specimens. Some very beautiful single plants of good size of *Thujopsis borealis* are here; they have an excellent effect, and have made luxuriant growth. *Thuja Lobbi* also deserves especial mention, being very elegant and in fine health. *Platanus orientalis*, the oriental plane, is very noble, and grows with a will. On the lower side of the ground large specimen weeping willows give a cool and inviting appearance to that part. Amongst flowering shrubs, particularly noticeable are *Weigela amabilis* and *rosea*, the plants being a mass of bloom, and very effective. The charming *Deutzia gracilis*, *scabra*, and others, contrasting beautifully with the *Weigelas*, and, at the same time, blooming profusely. The valuable *Ceanothus divaricatus*, with its shining green leaves, pale blue flowers, and delicious perfume, was looking all we could wish. *Rhododendrons*, *laburnums*, roses, red and white thorns, jasmines, *hibiscus*, *lantanas*, the pampas grass (*Gynerium*), *quercus*, *bambusa*, *barbarrica*, *sessilis*, *varonica*

cus, laurels, the pampas grass (*Cynodon*),
ericas, bambusa, barberries, acacias, veronicas,
spiraeas, and many other excellent flowering
shrubs were one and all thriving luxuriantly, and
in the best of trim. The sides of the flight of
stone steps leading up the terrace are covered
with Irish ivy, which, being kept well trained,
has a cool and handsome effect; while on the
slope are planted such things as the creeping
juniper, which, contrasted with the upright
sort and other shrubs, produce an appro-
priate and pleasing effect. As we are
"nothing if not critical," we must say that
the disposition of the walks was not exactly
what we should have liked. On the upper
part of the reserve we found some fine borders of
fancy pansies, which, being in full bloom, looked
very lovely, the distinct markings of some of the
varieties being very elegant. Other beds were
edged with carnations of different colours. We
also found a nice little reserve of plants for
supplying vacancies, etc., the whole of which
were evidently tended with great care and skill.
The Ballarat Council certainly deserve great credit
for the evident interest they have taken in pro-
moting planting and gardening, which speaks
volumes for their taste and forethought. It is
also fortunate that they are so ably seconded by
so experienced and skilful a gardener and
forester as Mr. D. Laidlaw, who has
charge of all the extensive reserves belong-
ing to the Council, and to whom much
credit is due. Indeed it would be difficult
to find any piece of ground, either public or
private, in Victoria, more skilfully managed than
the Town-hall reserve. It would be well were
there more such energetic and practical foresters
in this colony, there would then be a better chance
of some real present good being effected, while
the time to come would not be forgotten.

The Ballarat Water Committee having thus
far carried out the planting of their reserves, com-
menced in so spirited a manner by their first chair-
man, Mr. Andrew Anderson, they have now the
nucleus of a large and valuable collection of trees in
their hands, backed up with excellent soil and a most
suitable climate, requiring only a sufficiency of

suitable climate, requiring only a sufficiency of labour to secure proper care and attention, when the trees will assuredly in future years repay them tenfold for all their care, and, at the same time, be a lasting monument of their sound good sense and wise forethought. We have thus endeavoured to give a brief sketch of the contents of these excellent and extensive reserves, and although we have but skimmed over them, we trust enough has been said to show their present and future importance. We therefore leave you — our Ballarat friends — in the enjoyable society of your handsome trees and pretty walks, reminding you only once again to tend them with all due care and interest, and then, as surely as day follows night, you will rejoice to see a healthy, successful, and profitable

forest around you. Then again, why should not those who will hereafter have charge of these and similar plantings be from their youth instructed in that happiest and most useful of all sciences, horticulture and arboriculture? What art can be better worth learning than that of making our homes beautiful, and of providing ourselves with a never failing supply of that great desideratum — timber, an abundance of which is almost as necessary to the inhabitants of a city as their daily food.

We are far from having exhausted the tree-planting of Ballarat, both councils having evidently gone into it with spirit. There are several other reserves in Ballarat East, which we were unable to visit, and in the city are the Botanical Garden and other reserves, besides a great extent of street planting, which, we need not say, has been well done, if we mention that such things as *Deodars* and *Pinus insignis* are used for the purpose. Much also has been effected by private enterprise, assisted, in some cases, by the council, in street planting, while the planting in private gardens is so extensive as to render Ballarat the most umbrageous town we have seen in the colony. We trust at some not far distant period to have an opportunity of inspecting and reporting upon the

opportunity of inspecting and reporting upon the remainder of the arboricultural beauties of the far-famed city and borough of Ballarat.



Appendix C – Works and Alterations to Registered Heritage Places and Objects

Heritage Council of Victoria, Information Leaflet: Works and Alterations to Registered Heritage Places and Objects, Heritage Council of Victoria, 2007.



Policy Guideline for Heritage Permit Exemptions

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING PERMIT EXEMPTIONS UNDER SECTION 92 AND 49 OF THE HERITAGE ACT 2017

Adopted 18 September 2017

1. Purpose


- 1.1. This guideline is intended to provide guidance as to the matters that should be considered by the Executive Director or the Heritage Council of Victoria (the Heritage Council) in determining that a permit is not required for particular works or activities in relation to a place or object included in the Victorian Heritage Register.
- 1.2. This guideline is intended to assist:
 - Owners of a place or object entered in the Victorian Heritage Register submitting a permit exemption request to the Executive Director.
 - Heritage Victoria staff assessing a permit exemption application in relation to a place or object included in the Victorian Heritage Register.
 - The Heritage Council in determining categories of works or activities which may be undertaken without the need for a permit.

2. Relevant Legislation

- 2.1. Heritage Victoria has primary responsibility for administering the *Heritage Act 2017* which governs the identification and management of places and objects of State-level cultural heritage significance.
- 2.2. Section 92(1) of the *Heritage Act 2017* provides that the Heritage Council, on the recommendation of the Executive Director, may determine categories of works or activities which may be undertaken in relation to any registered place, registered object or class of registered place or registered object without a permit under this Part.
- 2.3. Section 92(3) of the *Heritage Act 2017* provides that the Executive Director, on the application of the owner of a registered place or registered object, may determine that a permit is not required for particular works or activities in relation to the registered place or registered object.
- 2.4. Section 92(5) of the *Heritage Act 2017* provides that the Heritage Council or the Executive Director must not make a determination in relation to any works or activities if they consider the works or activities may harm the cultural heritage significance of the registered place or registered object.
- 2.5. Section 49(3) of the *Heritage Act 2017* provides that categories of works or activities exempt from permit requirement can be specified when a place or object is included in the Heritage Register if the Heritage Council considers that the cultural heritage significance of the place or object would not be harmed.

3. Criteria for Consideration of a Permit Exemption

- 3.1. The general intent is to provide a permit exemption where the works will not harm the cultural heritage significance of a place or object.



3.2. A permit exemption will be issued in the following circumstances on receipt of sufficient detail, unless considered inappropriate by the Executive Director:

- The works are to the interiors of buildings constructed since the place was included in the Victorian Heritage Register or to the interiors of recognised non-significant buildings.
- The works are to the exterior of buildings constructed since the place was included in the Victorian Heritage Register or to the exterior of recognised non-significant buildings, are minor in nature and will not be detrimental to the setting and/or views of the place.
- The works will be for a short, temporary period and will not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place or object.
- The works relate to conservation of a place or object.
- Routine maintenance activities which will not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place or object.
- The introduction or replacement of services such as cabling, pipes or fire services provided there is no harm to heritage fabric including views of the place.
- The removal of dead, diseased or dangerous trees provided an arborist report is submitted verifying the condition of the tree.
- Works of a routine nature for operational purposes which will not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place or object. For example, the replacement of non-significant shelving and shop fittings within a retail establishment or the renewal of watering systems, gravel surfaces and directional signage within a public garden.
- Any other instance where the Executive Director is satisfied the works will not harm the heritage fabric or heritage significance of the place or object.

3.3. A permit exemption may be issued by the Executive Director if he or she is satisfied the works will not harm the heritage fabric or heritage significance of the place or object.

3.4. The potential for more substantial works to be declared permit exempt may occur where the heritage place covers a large area and the works will have no detrimental impacts on the setting of the place or the works occur in an area considerably altered from its original state. Examples of this could be the construction of a machinery shed on a farm where it is placed some distance from the heritage buildings and other significant features or the construction of an out building to the rear of a house where it forms part of a heritage place which is a residential precinct.

3.5. Permit exemptions may be of a one-off nature or if appropriate can relate to ongoing works. An example of an ongoing permit exemption might be the ability to undertake internal retail fit-outs to a heritage building, within specified parameters, to allow for a change of tenants.

3.6. In all instances, the applicant must provide sufficient documentation to Heritage Victoria to enable a proper assessment of the proposed works, including a conservation management plan where relevant.

Things to note

- Exempted works or activities should be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the registered place or registered object. If other previously hidden original or inaccessible details of the object or place are uncovered, any works that may affect such items should immediately cease and Heritage Victoria notified.
- All works should cease and Heritage Victoria immediately notified if historical archaeological artefacts or deposits are discovered during any excavation or subsurface works.

Appendix D – Heritage Permit Exemptions policy guideline

Heritage Victoria, Policy Guideline for Heritage Permit Exemptions: Matters to be considered in determining a permit exemptions under Section 92 and 49 of the Heritage Act 2017 (Adopted 18 September 2017)

Works and Alterations to Registered Heritage Places and Objects



The successful renovation of Melbourne's GPO

This Information Leaflet introduces the process of managing change for heritage places and objects. It should be read alongside the information sheet 'Instructions for completing an Application for Permit to Carry Out Works or Activities to a Heritage Place or Object', which contains more detailed information.

The Victorian Heritage Register contains places and objects which have been assessed as having state-wide heritage significance to Victoria. To adapt to the demands of modern life and its commercial realities these places may need to be altered. Heritage Victoria's (HV) aim is to help owners to manage this change by allowing appropriate alterations while ensuring that places' important features and heritage significance are respected and protected. Over 95% of applications result in a permit being granted for works.

Who manages this change?

Under the *Heritage Act 1995*, one of the Executive Director's roles is to manage the Victorian Heritage Register. This includes granting permits for appropriate changes to registered places. Heritage Victoria administers the Act, and is the contact and information point for applications and permits. The Heritage Council of Victoria, an independent statutory authority, is the appeal body.

What changes require a permit?

Anything which alters the place or object including:

- building repairs, extensions, constructions, interior works, demolition or relocation of buildings and structures, changes of colour schemes and signage
- subdivision and construction of new buildings and garden structures such as fences or decks, pathways and driveways, and changes of materials
- works to registered trees and gardens which are not regular maintenance works
- excavations at registered archaeological sites or damage or alteration to an archaeological artefact
- relocation, repair and conservation treatment of objects.

Do you need a permit for minor repairs?

If the repairs are minor in nature and the materials you are removing are being replaced with materials of the same composition and profile you may not require a permit and can seek an exemption from the Executive Director. The basic aim of repair work should be to retain as much as possible of

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Left:
A number of changes
have been successfully
completed at Alton.

Right:
Repairing a heritage wall
at Barker's Creek.



the historic material. In specific cases, such as the treatment of original and important paintwork inside a building, early advice must be sought from Heritage Victoria as the works may alter or diminish the significance of the place.

Are there any exemptions from the need to obtain a permit?

In some instances where the change proposed is minor in nature and will not impact on the heritage significance of the place or object a permit exemption may be possible. To ascertain whether your proposed works could be considered permit exempt, contact HV providing details of the work proposed.

Permit exemptions often cover all the normal maintenance and upkeep issues faced by owners. Common exemptions include interior painting, carpeting, and refurbishment of kitchens and bathrooms. In some cases, particularly where a conservation or master plan exists, developments that might include extensive changes to heritage places can be exempted. It is important to check with HV first to see if the work can be declared permit exempt.

There may be established permit exemptions already in place for your registered property or object. These may have been issued at, or after

the time of registration. Contact HV to see if a permit exemption already exists for your property or object. Where a permit exemption already exists there is no need to check with HV before proceeding with the works.

Who can apply?

The applicant must be the owner or legal occupant of the registered place and the owner's consent is always required on the application. A professional advisor or tenant may be listed as the contact person on the application. In cases where alterations or changes are proposed, it is recommended that applicants employ a professional advisor with experience in heritage conservation. For major changes, pre-application discussions with HV officers are encouraged.

Is local government involved?

Yes. All applications for permits to registered places are referred to the local government authority for comments and consultation.

How much will a permit cost?

A published schedule of fees for permits is available from Heritage Victoria. For conservation works such as repair, restoration and reconstruction, the fee is waived; and for pensioners who carry out works to their own home, there is no payment of fees.



Through a process of negotiation and permits, the History of Transport Mural has been restored and relocated within the new Southern Cross Station redevelopment.

*Image by Peter Glenane
Photography courtesy of SCSA.*

What needs to be submitted?

The documentation required is similar to that required for a planning permit. Contact Heritage Victoria for more detailed information to assist you in making an application. In broad terms you should include:

- a completed permit application form signed by the applicant and owner
- three copies of drawings (plans, elevations and sections) setting out the proposed alterations
- a drawing and/or photographs showing existing conditions
- the schedule of the proposed works
- details of proposed colours and finishes or conservation treatment
- a heritage impact statement.

You may also need to include:

- a statement of the anticipated condition at the site following any excavation
- reasons for carrying out any excavation or damage to an archaeological object or artefact.

A permit application form and associated brochures to assist in the preparation of a permit application can be downloaded from www.heritage.vic.gov.au.

How long will the process take?

Permits must be processed by the Executive Director within 60 days unless an extension

is granted by the Heritage Council. Previous experience has shown that most minor matters are dealt with in less than 30 days.

Are permit applications advertised?

If the Executive Director believes the proposed application may have a detrimental effect on the place, the owner is required to advertise the proposal in a local newspaper, as specified by Heritage Victoria. Unless the property is in an isolated location, a sign, or signs at the site are also usually required. The Executive Director will make the application available at the office of Heritage Victoria and/or a regional location. Interested parties are invited to comment and make representations for 14 days from the date of advertising.

What happens next?

If the Executive Director can determine the matter on the information supplied in the application, a permit is likely to be issued. If the application is contentious and submissions have been received from other parties, the applicant and the other parties will usually be invited to discuss aspects of the application before a determination is made. The process of discussion is kept as informal as possible. Written material supplied must be accurate, factually correct and unambiguous.

What criteria does the Executive Director use when considering a permit application?

The Executive Director must consider:

- how the proposal would affect the significance of the place or object
- whether rejection of the proposal would affect the reasonable and economic use of the registered place or object, or cause undue financial hardship to the owner
- the extent to which the proposal would affect the cultural heritage significance of any adjacent or neighbouring property that is protected under a Heritage Overlay in a planning scheme, or is in the Victorian Heritage Register
- any submissions received as a result of advertising
- any matter relevant to the conservation of the registered place or object.

Is there any avenue for appeal?

Yes. Applicants or owners, who are dissatisfied with a permit refusal or the conditions applied to a permit, may appeal to the Heritage Council within 60 days of the Executive Director's determination. The requirements and procedures for appeals are available from the Heritage Council as a separate document.

More Information

Heritage Victoria and the Heritage Council have published a number of other Information Leaflets about the care of Victoria's heritage places and objects.

For further information and assistance, visit our website: www.heritage.vic.gov.au

Published by the Victorian Government Department of Planning and Community Development, Melbourne, July 2007

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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne
Printed by Stream Solutions

Printed on 100% Recycled paper

ISBN: 978-1-74152-752-X
(Hardcopy)
ISBN: 978-1-74152-758-9
(Online)

This publication was funded through the strategy, *Victoria's Heritage: Strengthening our communities*.

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