

## Ballarat Observatory



Ballarat Observatory.jpg



Ballarat Observatory02.jpg



Ballarat Observatory03 -  
Illustration from Ballarat  
Illustrated c1919, facsimile  
edition 1972 - Ballarat  
Conservation Study, 1978



Ballarat Observatory04 -  
Leaded glass window in the  
Oddie Building - Ballarat  
Conservation Study, 1978

### Location

439 COBDEN STREET, MOUNT PLEASANT - PROPERTY NUMBER 2005781, BALLARAT CITY

### Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0936

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

## Heritage Listing

Ballarat City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 10, 2024

**What is significant?**

**How is it significant?**

**Why is it significant?**

Heritage Study/Consultant Ballarat - Ballarat Conservation Study, Jacobs Lewis Vines Architects, 1978;

Construction dates 1918, 1922, 1923,

Architect/Designer Finch, FH,

Hermes Number 120792

Property Number

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### Physical Description 1

There are three main buildings which make up the Observatory complex. The Jelbart Observatory was constructed in 1918 to house the telescope donated by Mr. Jelbart Senior. Bricks for the building were donated, voluntary labour utilised for construction, and the stained glass windows were donated by Melbourne firm of Brooks, Robinson & Co. Ltd. The building has a circular plan with a rectangular porch on the south. The porch has a slightly arched corrugated iron roof, while the circular room (housing the telescope) has a domed roof which is able to open and rotate in conjunction with the operation of the telescope.

The adjacent Oddie Building contains the 8 inch telescope constructed by Capt. Baker in 1887. The building is weatherboard with a low pitched roof. At the south a large window dominates the building. It contains a superb stained glass panel with planets in the upper section and a Kookaburra and Magpie perching on a gum tree with the sun rising in the background. The window, presented by the proprietors of the *Ballarat Courier* in 1914, is a splendid and fitting decoration, and one of great importance to the complex. Internally the Oddie building has a pressed metal ceiling.

The third major building, Baker Hall, is an enlarged version of the Oddie building. Again stained glass windows are a major feature of the interior and all eight windows were donated by local organisations and business houses. [2] The roof of Baker Hall is of major importance. The front section has a low pitched gable while the rear section is of arched corrugated iron set on a frame which slides back enabling the 26 inch Baker telescope to be used. [3] To support the roof in the open position, a metal frame is located at the rear of the building. [4]

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*