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## Location

29 LESLIE ROAD ESSENDON, MOONEE VALLEY CITY

## Municipality

MOONEE VALLEY CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0146

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO60

## VHR Registration

October 9, 1974

## Amendment to Registration

October 3, 1979

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 19, 1999

Constructed in 1890 for the brewer Mr Collier McCracken to a design by Messrs Lawson and Grey, this monumental scale classical revival building is one of the few known examples of the architects' work. The builder was WK Noble, the residence known as "Earlsbrae Hall", took some two years to build. The house consisted of 27 rooms on two levels with a promenade roof.

It originally stood in almost three acres of grounds. Whilst the site has been reduced in size, the house still maintains its special relationship with Leslie Road. In 1911, shortly after the death of his wife, Edward William Cole, the flamboyant owner of Cole's book arcade, searched for an out of town residence, together with his family and a batch of favorite monkeys.

A vast aviary was soon added. Cole had a 75 feet long floral rainbow planted in the front garden. When Cole died in 1918, "Earlsbrae Hall" was sold to the Anglican Church and remodelled as a girls' grammar school. It was named "Lowther Hall" after Archbishop Lowther Clarke who had been responsible for its purchase. The two storey building, until recently used as an arts and craft wing at the rear of the main house, almost certainly incorporates a single storey outbuilding shown in a photograph held at the school, taken at the time of Cole's occupancy. Historically the building is of importance, due to its association with Collier McCracken, the brewer,

and EW Cole, the flamboyant Melbourne personality and bookseller famous for Cole's book arcade. Although on a reduced site the house retains its clear garden relationship with the street. The main former residence building with its pedimented front and 16 giant order corinthian columns, the dwarf walls, the podium overlooking the steps to the verandah and the steps themselves are of importance within the area of land as defined on the plan.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Construction dates	1890,
Architect/Designer	Lawson & Grey,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	EARLSBRAE HALL, LOWTHER HALL ANGLICAN GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
Hermes Number	439
Property Number	

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## History

Associated People:

## Extent of Registration

Historic Building No. 146. Lowther Hall, Church of England Girls' Grammar School (to the extent of the land delineated by the red perimeter on the plan approved with this Order excluding all buildings except the old main building with its pedimented Corinthian front, the dwarf walls, the podium overlooking the steps to the verandah and the steps themselves), 29 Leslie Road, Essendon.

[Victoria Government Gazette No. 81 - 3 October 1979]

*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/>*