

BUILDING NO. 52
"MOSSMOUNT"
PART C.A. 109, WEBBS HILL ROAD



Recommendations

It is recommended that 'Mossmount' be added to the Register of the National Estate and protected under the provisions of Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act. (Third Schedule).

Statement of Significance

'Mossmount' is a well detailed residence designed in the Gothic style for Francis Moss, a reputed Nurseryman. The building is well executed with elaborate timber barge boards, finials and verandah columns and friezework. It is reputed that the owners initials are intertwined in the cast iron work. 'Mossmount' remains an important legacy to the early horticultural industry in Buninyong.

Building History and Description

'Netherby' is reputed to have been constructed as a residence for Dr Sparling in circa 1870. However parts of the building were thought to have been associated with an earlier hotel establishment. By 1900 'Netherby' was occupied by Mr Graham who was associated with the Buninyong Tannery.

The building is an important residence in Buninyong and several early photographs of the building survive. 'Netherby' is constructed of stone with a render finish, and a corrugated galvanised iron roof comprises double hips. Of particular note is the corner conservatory structure, principal facades parapets and the dominant rendered chimneys. A significant feature is the openwork timber columns, characteristic of Buninyong residences, with a valence.

The garden form is significant comprising a gravel pathway and remnants of early planting, including a mature Bunya Bunya Pine.

Building Integrity and Future Enhancement

'Netherby' remains substantially intact, however prior to the undertaking of any proposed alterations, a detailed conservation analysis should be undertaken. An analysis is also recommended for the garden, with the identification of many early cultivars. The Bunya Bunya Pine provides an important vista in Buninyong, and this mature tree should be supported by the planting of a further tree of this species.

References

M W Thorpe and M Akers, An Illustrated History of Buninyong, Buninyong, 1982.

Information from Mrs Beth Ritchie, Local Historian.

Building History and Description

'Mossmount' was erected for Francis Moss, a Nurseryman, in c. 1865. Moss trained as a horticulturalist before embarking to Australia in search of gold. He established a nursery at Buninyong in 1853, which he named Mossmount. The early enterprise first specialized in vegetables and was later expanded to include a selection of trees. Moss is known to have supplied the infant Buninyong gardens with plants and was thought to have given plants to the Ballarat Botanic Gardens. The Moss family now operate from Monbulk and still trade under the name 'Mossmount'.

'Mossmount', residence is well sited on rising ground, overlooking the nursery operations. The rectangular plan is articulated by a high pitched roof terminating in gables. A feature of the building is the elaborate gothic barge board decoration and finial. Open work verandah columns are completed by a cast iron frieze.

Building Integrity and Future Enhancement

'Mossmount' remains substantially intact, and should be conserved.

References

M W Thorpe and M Akers, An Illustrated History of Buninyong, Buninyong, 1982.

P Lumley, et al, "Ballarat Historic Landscapes, Trees and Gardens" in draft form. Melbourne 1983.