

Mossmont House and Garden

Statement of Significance, November 2022

Heritage Place:	1207 Winter Street, Buninyong	PS ref no:	HO229
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- Heritage Overlay Boundary
- - - Early drive
- Significant vegetation
- - - Significant buildings

What is significant?

Mossmont' 1207 Winter Street, Buninyong, is significant including the following elements:

- The early extent of the house constructed c1850s to c1922.
- The landscape setting.
- Remnants of the early drive from the northeast corner of the property to the house
- Early plantings: mature elm (*Ulmus* sp) close to the house (northwest), mature Holly in the turning circle garden bed, early plantings along the length of the former drive including six Cherry Plum trees (purple and green foliated varieties), a *Liriodendron*, and three Hawthorns (Table 1).

The brick outbuilding on the south side of the house is a contributory element of the site.

Table 1: Significant vegetation.

Map reference number	Plant species
1.	Elm (<i>Ulmus sp</i>)
2.	Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>)
3.	Group of three mature trees: 2 x Hawthorns (<i>Crarageus sp.</i>) and 1 x Cherry Plum (purple) (<i>Prunus sp.</i>)
4.	Cherry Plum (green)
5.	Cherry Plum (purple)
6.	Cherry Plum (green)
7.	Tulip Tree (<i>Liriodendron</i>)

The 1990s extension to the house, as well as the extension to the verandah and bargeboard to the central gable on the north elevation, are not significant.

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How is it significant?

Mossmont house and garden are of historical (including associational) and aesthetic significance to the City of Ballarat.

Why is it significant?

Mossmont house is aesthetically significant due to its verandah enrichments and bargeboards. The verandah has a relatively early use of flat openwork columns, a feature that came to exemplify the architectural independence of regional cities Ballarat and Bendigo when columns of this type were massed produced of cast iron in the 1870s and '80s, in contrast to the rest of Victoria. The sparing use of cast-iron enrichments for the columns and frieze illustrate a period when cast iron was not as widely available. These elements themselves are rare examples of early cast iron, which was lighter and more delicate than the kind that became widely available later in the century. The carved timber bargeboard is a very unusual and creative adaptation of a decorative detail generally associated with the Gothic Revival style, but here it has been adapted to blend seamlessly with the classical rinceaux frieze of the verandah. (Criterion E)

The place as a whole is historically significant for the evidence it provides of the earliest known nursery established in the Ballarat area, which was responsible for the supply of ornamental and fruit trees for the rapidly developing town and farms and, after they permanently reserved the land as Public Gardens in 1889, to the Buninyong Botanic Gardens. The enlargement of the house in several stages, and the addition of embellishments, such as the later bargeboards, illustrate the growing prosperity of Francis Moss's business. (Criterion A)

The place is significant for its historic association with Francis Moss, a notable figure in the early development of horticulture in Buninyong and the wider Ballarat area. (Criterion H)

Primary Source

Mossmont House and Garden Heritage Citation (Landmark Heritage Pty Ltd., 2022)