
Coombe Cottage & Garden



B1381 Coombe Cottage



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B1381 Coombe Cottage
Music Room



B1381 Coombe Cottage
Garden



B1381 Coombe Cottage
Garden



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Garden

Location

673 - 675 Maroondah Highway, COLDSTREAM VIC 3770 - Property No B1381

Municipality

YARRA RANGES SHIRE

Level of significance

National

Heritage Listing

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - February 7, 2008

The building, Coombe Cottage, is not classified by the National Trust. However, Coombe Cottage Garden is classified by the National Trust at a National level of significance.

Garden significance:

Coombe Cottage, the garden developed by Dame Nellie Melba in the period 1909-31, is of National significance:

- for the manner in which it provides an evocation of Melba's lifestyle as an operatic singer of outstanding international repute and one who moved in the highest social circles;
- as a fine and intact example of a compartmentalised garden, developed progressively and with input from the owner and several notable garden designers; major features include the encircling hedge, gates and gate lodge, the residence and associated drives, paths, lawns and shrubberies, mature trees, perennial walk, rose garden, vegetable garden, pool and associated buildings;
- for its collection of architecturally distinctive buildings, all major elements in the garden design; these include the residence (and especially its rooftop pergola), entry lodge, garage and stables, pool changing rooms and summer house;
- for its retention of fine examples of garden structures, including gates, pergolas, a sundial, and a pair of stag sculptures;
- for its collection of trees and plants representative of the inter-war period, including the immaculately maintained hedge, roses, exotic trees such as Italian Cypresses, and the avenue of Oaks along the rear drive;
- for its considerable aesthetic appeal derived from many factors including the concept of enclosure on an otherwise open site, the contrast within the garden provided by different compartments (some totally screened and others more open), controlled vistas (both into and out of the garden), mature trees, and the tradition of maintaining the perennial walk;
- for its continued family ownership and the manner in which the property is reverently maintained within the spirit of Melba's design.

It is known that Nellie Melba was acquainted with William Guilfoyle and that he offered to design a garden for her and stylistically parts of the garden reflect his style. His design would date from 1910. During the 1920's, Edna Walling managed the garden for Melba and supervised several changes. The association of the garden with these 3 people, give the garden a place in social and garden history significance.

Classified: 09/05/1980

File note 28/06/2012: G13125(Coombe Cottage Garden) amalgamated & filed with B1381

Hermes Number 66971

Property Number

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/>