

Place name **Woondella Park** **Survey Date:** 04/07/2004
Other name- **Id:** 1182
Street 1460 Sale-Maffra Road **Last Update** 04/10/2004
Locality Sale **Postcode**
Official Locality **Property No**
Local Government Area Wellington Shire
Precinct: Not in precinct
Easting **Northing**
Map
Workshop number **Workshop votes**
Field survey number **Community priority**
Designer **Builder**
Ownership Private **Built Date** 1877 **Change Date** 1900, c.19

Description Woondella Park is set back on a slight hill to the south of the main road between Sale and Maffra. Viewed from the approach along the serpentine drive, the house appears as a broad roofed weatherboard homestead with generous verandah on three sides supported by plain timber posts. The gable hipped ridge and chimneys date from the Federation era and appear to represent major changes to the original house which is believed to date from around 1877.(1)

The symmetrical facade has triplets of double hung windows positioned either side of the entrance which is recessed between the thick walls, constructed of brick with weatherboard veneer (brick nogged construction). The weatherboards are pit sawn with blacksmith's nails securing them. The floor is supported on redgum posts placed very close together and the ceiling has an equally dense arrangement of oregon beams and joists, creating a very solid structure.(1)

On the east wall of the house, a projecting bay with half timbered gables and leadlight windows indicates the later 1920s addition of a drawing room which features a very intact pressed metal ceiling representing a fine example of Art Nouveau interior design. To the rear of the house, a hip roofed wing of smaller dimensions appears to be the oldest section of the house. Red brick chimneys, six-paned double hung windows and slight warping of the weatherboard cladding suggest an 1870s date. This wing is attached to a series of interior spaces which also suggest an earlier date. A small room connecting the drawing room to the hall and the passage relate to older parts of the house. Pilasters in the main hall and part of the ceiling appear older than the front section which has the main entertaining rooms.

The house is surrounded by a garden which contains some plantings believed to date from the Bruce ownership, including the two large Camelias to the east. A crimped wire fence and garden shed are intact. The fence and gateposts are heavy, decorative white painted timber, in the same pattern of those of the house next door, the Glebe (refer to separate citation in this Study).

To the rear of the house plantings include a Peppercorn, a Kurrajong and an Irish Strawberry. In the vicinity there is also a wooden single room building. At the end of the driveway, a rectangular timber barn with stable doors is intact and was possibly built in the first decade of this century.

The house and outbuildings at Woondella Park are in good condition. The house represents stages of development of the site over the last 120 years. Further research into the development of the fabric of the house is desirable.

REFERENCE

(1) Owners, Mrs and Mr Irving, pers. comm., 1993.

Feature	Style	Wall Materials	Roof Materials
House	Edwardian	Other Timber	Corrugated iron

Condition Good **Integrity** Intact

None apparent
 Residential/Rural

Buildings
 Fence/gate
 Landscape

Tree(s)

National Themes	Local Themes
	7. BUILDING SETTLEMENTS & TOW 7.1 Ports

History Woondella Park, on the Maffra Road, was originally known as 'Mia Mia', and was the home of the Bruce family (1). The first stage of this house is believed to have been built by the Bruce family immediately prior to the birth of Mary Grant Bruce in 1878 (2). It is believed that Mary, who went on to become a well-known and much loved children's author, grew up here (3).

The house was extended in the Federation period and again in the 1920s by the Misses Moore, occupants at that time (4).

The history of this property is associated with that of 'Glebe' next door (refer to separate citation in this Study). Further historical research is necessary to confirm dates of construction and extension of this house and its past ownership.

REFERENCES

- (1) A & P Synan, 2001
- (2) Owners, Mrs and Mr Irving, pers. comm. 1993.
- (3) A & P Synan, 2001
- (4) ibid

Period	Associations
	Mary Grant Bruce

Heritage Protections Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
Planning Scheme	x		Recommended

National Estate

Research Required

Recommendations

Fieldwork priority?

Stage 1 Ranking Assessed: Sale Heritage Stu **Stage 2 priority** Planning Scheme: Individua

Final Ranking Local significance **Final Recommendation**

Statement of significance Woondella Park, comprising the house, garden, fence and outbuildings, at 1460 Sale-Maffra Road, Sale is of local historic, aesthetic and technical significance to Wellington Shire. Historically, Woondella Park is a now rare example of an early rural homestead now within the city's boundaries. It is also significant for its associations with the locally important Bruce family and may have associations with the important Australian author, Mary Grant Bruce. Aesthetically, the house is significant as a large transitional Federation era farmhouse that illustrates changing fashions in architectural style and in the needs of the occupying family. The house is complemented by mature trees, which are associated with the early development of the house. Technically, the house is significant as an example of 'brick nogged' construction. (RNE criteria A.4, B.2, E.1, F.1 & H.1)

(Note: Further research may reveal local historical associations, particularly with the Bruce family).

Extent of designation

Informant A & P Synan, 2001.

Notes

Follow up

Bibliography Context Pty Ltd, (1994), City of Sale Heritage Study
Context Pty Ltd, (2004), Wellington Heritage Study: Sale Review



Sale-Maffra Road 1460, ID 1182.jpg

Context

01/01/1994



Sale-Maffra Road 1460, ID 1182 i.jpg

Context

01/01/1994



Sale-Maffra Road 1460, ID 1182 ii.jpg

Context

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Sale-Maffra Road 1460, ID 1182 iii.jpg

Context

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Sale-Maffra Road 1460, ID 1182 iv.jpg

Context

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Sale-Maffra Road 1460, ID 1182 v.jpg

Context

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Sale-Maffra Road 1460, ID 1182 vi.jpg

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Sale-Maffra Road 1460, ID 1182 vii .jpg

Context

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