

Bunya bunyas (2), Monterey cypress & forme

Bunva bunvas (2). Monterey cvpress & former B

TYPE: Trees; Tree Rows; Site

SITE NUMBER 225

ADDRESS: 697 Ridge Road Christmas Hills

MELWAY MAP: 273 G2



DATE: 1880s-? **HERITAGE VALUE:** significant to the Shire

PARISH: Sutton, County of Evelyn **ALLOTMENT:** 18

AHC CRITERIA: A4, B2, C2, G1

THEMES: 2.3? 3

Farming

ASSOCIATIONS:

William Davidson; Board of Land and Works

HISTORY:

This site formed part of an 80-acre allotment that purchased from the Crown by Ben Smith on 1 August 1873. {Sutton Parish plan}

The Board of Land and Works acquired this land on the south-western corner of Ridge Road and School Lane in February 1887 for the purpose of building a residence to house the engineers working on the construction of the Maroondah Aqueduct. 'The Bungalow', as it became known locally, was completed the same year. It was a single-storied timber house with wide verandahs to three sides, and a separate kitchen and servants' quarters. It is thought to have been constructed in parts and transported to the site, where it was assembled. William Davidson, chief engineer of the Maroondah aqueduct project, was the first resident manager. The Bungalow was destroyed by fire in the 1960s. {Woiwod, pers com., June 1997}

A surviving plan of the site includes a floor plan of the former residence and the garden layout. The substantial garden was probably laid out in c.1887-91, at around the same time that the residence was built, and was maintained by a departmental gardener. A row of Monterey cypresses ('*Cupressus macrocarpa*') was planted to line the driveway leading from the roadway to the house. {Plans of the residence, showing garden layout, held by Melbourne Water (not seen); Woiwod, pers. com., June 1997; Woiwod (1992), p. 144} Reputedly the site was later used for the Presbyterian manse { *ibid.* }.

DESCRIPTON:

This site includes a mature Monterey cypress drive from the corner of School Lane and Ridge Road to the reputed former Bungalow site which now has a new house but with two mature bunya bunyas ('*Araucaria bidwillii*'), one notable and large. There are also several later Bhutan cypress ('*Cupressus torulosa*') with recent '*Cupressus glabra*' and remnant Hawthorn hedges in the paddocks below. Other trees are Italian cypress and immature Monterey pines. The bunya bunyas appear to be from the late 19th century.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The bunya bunyas are of regional significance:

- as rare and mature specimens
- for their probable link with the Maroondah aqueduct project, and
- as evidence of the ornamental planting at a government departmental residence of the period.

The Monterey cypress avenue may have local importance for:

- their possible link with the Maroondah aqueduct project Bungalow garden (plan not seen).

The Monterey cypress avenue, bunyas, other tree specimens and garden remnants at the former Bungalow site are of local interest:

- for their marking of the important Bungalow site and
- their link with the site's later use for the Presbyterian manse, recalling the relative dominance and influence of the Presbyterian Church in the Christmas Hills area.

REFERENCES:

Sutton Parish plan S 364 (5) (CPO).

Plans of the residence, showing garden layout, held by Melbourne Water (not seen).

Mick Woiwod, 'Once Around the Sugarloaf' (1992).

Mick Woiwod, pers. com., June 1997.

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Tony Dingle and Carolyn Rasmussen, 'Vital Connections' (1991), pgs. 271 and 281.