

Monterey cypress - Ferguson's Paddock

NAME: Monterey cypress - Ferguson's Paddock

TYPE: TREE

SITE NUMBER: 95

ADDRESS off HURSTBRIDGE-ARTHURS CREEK HURSTBRIDGE ROAD

MELWAY MAP: 185 J7

DATE: 1910s-20s



PLANNING SCHEME OVERLAY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Planning scheme protection Recommended External paint controls
Tree control Outbuilding control Internal alteration control

HERITAGE VALUE Local

ELTHAM STUDY CRITERIA:

THEME(S), HORTICULTURE, STREETSCAPE

ELTHAM STUDY THEMES:

EARLY SETTLEMENT, PRIVATE PLANTING

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

Frances Ellen Grey, William G Grey

REVISED ELTHAM STUDY EXTENT OF DESIGNATION:

ENTIRE TREE AND LAND WITHIN THE TITLE TO a RADIUS OF nominally 5 METRES, the root ball or the canopy drip line of THE tree whichever is the greatest.

ELTHAM STUDY HISTORY:

Once part Allwood, tree dated in the SOEHS as c1880:

ALLWOOD

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Original and Later Use: Residence (1)

Current Use: Neighbourhood House

Original Owners: William and Frances Grey (1)

Later Owners: Frances Grey (5)

1951-1975 Sheila Ferguson (Gray's daughter) and Gordon Ferguson (5)

1975- Shire of Eltham (6)

Builder/Artisan: Verso (1)

Allwood's first owner William Grey owned an extensive nursery and large areas of orchards, including 30 acres at Hurstbridge, 20 acres at Clier Hills near Cottles Bridge and 100 acres at Kinglake. His nursery business boomed from the early 1900s, when it supplied most of the orchards in the area.(4) Gray's wife Frances was grandniece of Henry Hurst, who managed the first settler Cornelius Haley's property at Hurstbridge from around 1852 until 1866, when he was killed by the bushranger Burke.(5) Hurst's family remained in the district and purchased Haley's cattle station, the site of Allwood. The previous house at Allwood survived behind the present Allwood until 1942. Grey was Eltham's Shire President for two terms but the family's fortunes were ruined due to calamities in the World War I period and the Great Depression. (5) After Grey died, Allwood was leased until his daughter, Sheila, and her husband Gordon Ferguson moved into it in 1951, after buying it from other family members. In 1975, the property was designated a passive recreation reserve by the Shire. As a consequence, the Ferguson family sold most of the land, leaving the house on little over an acre.d4a It is currently owned by the Shire of Eltham.(6)

REVISED HISTORY:

This tree was presumably planted during the Grey tenure of this property.

Around 1910 William G Grey, nurseryman, had a house and 50 acres on this site (Allwood), derived from the 156 acres he had owned before a recent subdivision. The owner however was his maternal granduncle Henry Hurst of Hurst Bridge fame. By the following year, Frances Ellen Grey was the rated owner-occupier of the property, although she had title since 1908. This property stood at a little over 47 acres, with an increase in annual valuation of 50% in 1914-15 indicating improvements

Her subdivision of CP1/A in 1920 created small town lots along Main Road. The subdivision plan showed a paling fence along this frontage, with a post and wire fence opposite; allotment 34 was close to where the cypress group is today. Around 1930 William G Grey occupied or leased the property which, by 1935, included a number of town lots plus the house and buildings. One of these lots (lot 1 at the corner?) was occupied by Graham's blacksmith shop.

ELTHAM STUDY DESCRIPTON:

This is a very large tree located by the edge of the road at the entry to Ferguson's Paddock. It is showing some signs of aging and wind damage with a large broken limb.

REVISED OR EXTENDED DESCRIPTON:

This example is assumed to be the largest of a group of Monterey cypress located at the current entry to Ferguson's Paddock (340423E, 5832721N). It is about 35m high and 2m diameter.

Cupressus macrocarpa

Endemic to a very short stretch of the central Californian coast near Monterey, this grows into one of the largest of all cypresses, reaching 120 ft (36 m) tall with a trunk diameter of 8 ft (2.4 m). When planted in a grove it forms a tall, straight trunk, but in the open in good soil it branches low with massive, spreading limbs, producing a broad, dense crown of deep green with a rather spiky outline. Close up, the foliage is rather

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coarse, and it has a slightly sour smell when bruised. The cones are large and wrinkled. It thrives best in cool but mild climates with winter rainfall and takes only 10 years or so to form a dense 30-40 ft (9-12 m) tree. Golden cultivars include 'Brunniana', somewhat columnar, the foliage ageing almost green; the vigorous 'Aurea', with long, golden spikes of foliage spreading almost horizontally; and 'Aurea Saligna' with remarkable weeping, gold-tipped branchlets and elongated scale leaves. A lower-growing cultivar to 4 ft (1.2 m) is 'Greenstead Magnificent', which spreads to form a flat-topped, dense mat of pale green-green foliage, drooping around the edges; as the plant ages the whole becomes raised above the ground on a short trunk. 'Goldcrest' is a small conical form with golden foliage { Botanica}.

Condition: Good (partially disturbed, well preserved)

Integrity Substantially intact/some intrusions

ELTHAM STUDY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

This is a tree of substantial size and age, certainly one of the oldest of this species in the district and would date from the early settlement of the area.

REVISED STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (with AHC criteria)

MONTEREY CYPRESS TREE - FERGUSON'S PADDOCK is significant to the locality of Hurstbridge:

- for its historical link with the Grey family and in turn to the Hursts, pioneers of the area, as expressed by its size and maturity (Criterion H1);
- for the association with the nearby Allwood house as part of its early landscape setting (Criterion A4).

ELTHAM STUDY REFERENCES:

Allwood:
Bick cites-

FURTHER REFERENCES:

Municipal Rate Books VPRO- VPRS 9705/P Nth riding
Victorian Titles Office (VTO)

QUERIES RESOLVED:

Age source? History? sources?