

H0229

London plane tree avenue of honour (25)

NAME: London plane tree avenue of honour (25)

TYPE: TREES, AVENUE

SITE NUMBER: 148

ADDRESS OFF MAIN ROAD

ELTHAM

MELWAY MAP: 21 J7

DATE: 1918c, 1940s?



PLANNING SCHEME OVERLAY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Planning scheme protection Recommended

External paint controls

Tree control

Outbuilding control

Internal alteration control

HERITAGE VALUE Shire

ELTHAM STUDY CRITERIA:

HISTORY, RARITY, THEME(S), STREETScape

ELTHAM STUDY THEMES:

PUBLIC PLANTING

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:

Eltham returned service personnel

REVISED ELTHAM STUDY EXTENT OF DESIGNATION:

25 TREES AND land within the road reserve TO RADIUS OF nominally 5 METRES, the root ball or the canopy drip line of each tree whichever is the greatest

ELTHAM STUDY HISTORY:

Original and Continuing Use: Avenue of Street Trees

The existing trees are too small in size and trunk diameter to be any older than 1950 and were possibly planted even later than that. ...these trees are not the post First World War

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memorial avenue, which was removed complete with the commemorative plaques.

REVISED HISTORY:

The Eltham Shire received a request from the Welcome Home Committee (WW1) in mid 1918 for assistance in planting an Avenue of Honour. The residents had already planted 100 trees, with guards and copper name plates and gold medals for the soldiers. An Honour Board had been erected, with total cost being £74. They felt they needed some financial assistance from the shire. Cr Taylor moved that £20 be donated to the cause but it was to come from the South Riding budget, adding that some rate payers had not given a penny. Other councillors disagreed with this wanting some for the North Riding as well. The motion was lost, with Morris saying 'We should be ashamed of ourselves' { EWSA}.

By 1919 the Eltham Avenue was in place and now the Shire was asked to look after it by checking tree guards, watering etc., using the Road Overseer. Again this was left to South Riding councillors to attend to { EWSA}. Avenues of plane and poplar trees were planted along French roadways and canals from the 15th century, totalling over 3 million by the end of the 19th century { 'The Age' 7/7/01:22}. They impressed many Australian soldiers returned from service during World War One, providing a basis for the choice of tree.

The 1945 aerial view of the area shows some evenly spaced street tree groups which resemble today's avenue: this does not confirm the replacement of the first avenue of honour.

ELTHAM STUDY DESCRIPTON:

Avenue planting with Plane trees symmetrically arranged on either side of Main Road leading up the rise from Dalton to Brougham Streets. The trees are of moderate size and variable in health and appearance. They are in need of regular pruning and other management.

REVISED OR EXTENDED DESCRIPTON:

The trees number 10 on the west side and 15 on the east (Dalton to Brougham Streets), including 4 smaller trees south of Dalton St.

'Platanus x acerifolia'

Used as a street tree for many years, this fast-growing species can reach 120 ft (36 m). It can withstand poor conditions and is resistant to leaf blight; however, the roots can lift paving and the large, bright green, leathery leaves can block small drains. Its straight, erect trunk is attractively blotched in grey, brown and white { Botanica}.

Condition: Good (partially disturbed, well preserved)

Integrity Externally substantially intact/some intrusions

ELTHAM STUDY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Shire of Eltham has virtually no other street tree avenues and certainly no other of this extent and type with single species deciduous planting. So whilst this is a generally common landscape treatment, it is rare within the Shire. This avenue also serves as a strong landscape indicator of the entrance into Eltham township and is important as an entrance feature. The avenue is also important as the commemorative avenue to honour Eltham residents who served in the wars, though these trees are not the post First World War memorial avenue, which was removed complete with the commemorative plaques.

REVISED STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (with AHC criteria)

London PLANE TREE AVENUE OF HONOUR (25) is significant to the Nillumbik Shire:

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- as a rare landscape element in the Nillumbik Shire and Eltham where mature exotic street tree avenues are non-extant (Criterion B2);
- as a strong landscape element at the entrance to the old Eltham civic core (Criterion E1);
- as a commemorative avenue to honour Eltham residents who served in the two world wars (Criterion A4, G1).

ELTHAM STUDY REFERENCES:

None

FURTHER REFERENCES:

'The Eltham Whittlesea Shires Advertiser & Diamond Valley Advocate' (EWSA)
7/6/1918: 3, 5/12/1919: 2;
H Gillam, 2001;
Land Victoria aerial views 1945, 1984.

QUERIES RESOLVED:

History, sources?