

Identification and location

Name of place:

Other Name

Address

Place Identifier

Heritage Significance

Creation date(s) **Map (Melway)**

Boundary description

Local Government Area

Ownership Type

Description

Site Type:

Physical Description

Small avenues of pepper trees are located within the railway reserve north of Seddon Railway Station. They are visible in surrounding streets.

`This fast-growing tree with graceful, drooping leaves and branchlets develops an attractive, gnarled trunk as it ages to a height of 30-50 ft (9-15 m). The dark green, shiny leaves are 6 in (15 cm) long, composed of 10 to 18 pairs of small pointed leaflets; they are resinous and aromatic when crushed. Pendulous clusters of tiny cream flowers appear from late spring to early summer. Decorative sprays of tiny rose-pink berries follow—these have a peppery taste and have been used like pepper, but are somewhat toxic. In hot dry climates it naturalizes readily and may become a weed { Botanica}'.

Condition

Integrity

Context

Set within the railway reserve as a typical planting for railway and other public reserves around 1900.

Threats:

Pruning and removal with maturity, development of public land under private leaseholds.

History

Although located on one of the colony's earliest railway lines, Yarraville's station opened in 1872 and one of the present station buildings constructed in 1893 . Similarly Seddon and West Footscray Stations were opened in 1906 on pre-existing lines. The MMBW Detail Plan of this area from the mid 1890s shows no street trees: it is assumed that the planting may have occurred early in the 20th century.

In 1914 the Footscray Council sought beautification of the Railway, sending the mayor with a deputation to the railway commissioners to urge the continuation of the beautification of railway lands at Footscray. As well as general landscaping along railway reserves, this plan included the Railway Reserve at Footscray station and the acquisition of more land to extend the gardens { VPRO }.

This tree planting along the reserve near Seddon Station appears to be part of the Edwardian-era upgrade of the railways around Footscray when the population was increasing rapidly as a result of industrial expansion in the City.

Thematic context

Australian Principal Theme
PAHT Subtheme Local Theme(s)

Cultural Significance

These pepper tree avenues, on the Williamstown to Melbourne railway reserve, are significant to the City of Maribyrnong:

- for their maturity, genus and planting configuration, this combination being rare in the City (Criterion B2);
- as a reflection of the upgrade of the railway and the industrial expansion during the Edwardian-era in the City and the role of the reserve as the major entry point to the area via the railway station (Criterion A4).

Comparative Examples:

There are no comparable avenues in the City of pepper trees although individual specimens exist. Other rows exist in North Melbourne associated with a school reserve and on other railway reserves in the State.

Recommendations

Heritage Victoria Register

Register of the National Estate:

National Trust Register:

Other Heritage Listings

Planning Scheme Protection

External Paint Controls Apply?:

Internal Alteration Controls Apply?:

Tree Controls Apply?:

Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Act:

Are there Outbuildings or Fences not Exempt?:

Prohibited Uses may be Permitted

Recommendations:

The following management objectives have been drawn from the Statement of Significance:

- to conserve and enhance the listed trees at the place where enhancement includes replacement of missing original components in the planting scheme;
- to conserve and enhance the public view of these trees;
- to ensure that new planting or elements within the place are visually recessive and related to the trees; and
- to further research the detailed origins of the trees and maintain the link with its history, via promotion and publication of the findings.

Australian Heritage Commission Criteria

A4 Importance for their association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, state, region or community.

reflection of the upgrade of the railway and the industrial expansion during the Edwardian-era in the City as well as the role of the reserve as the major entry point to the area via the railway station.

B2 Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practiced, in danger of being lost, or of exceptional interest.

their maturity, genus and planting configuration, this combination being rare in the City

historical significanc architectural significan social significance scientific significanc

Documentation

References

'Botanica' CD Rom 1997 (Beaver Multimedia P/L, Random House Australia)
Butler, 1989. City of Footscray Urban Conservation Study
City of Maribyrnong collection: 1931 aerial
Landinfo aerial 1945 images
Footscray Council committee minutes (VPRO) VPRS 005337

Data recording

Assessed By:

Assessed Date:

Historic Places - Significant Trees in the City of Maribyrnong

