

Identification and location

Name of place: **Sugar gum (1) and pepper trees (6) Sandford Grove Reserve**

Other Name

Address

Place Identifier

Heritage Significance

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

Boundary description

Local Government Area

Ownership Type

Description

Site Type:

Physical Description

There are three mature pepper trees (*Schinus molle* var. *areira*) in the reserve near the fence line and one very large and old sugar gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) in the centre of the reserve. There are another three mature pepper trees (*Schinus molle* var. *areira*) as street trees near 11 Sandford Grove. A scar tree is thought to survive in this reserve but this appears to be based on the belief that the sugar gum was a red gum { Lee, 1999}.

Sugar gum

`Often branching quite low, this fast-growing eucalypt from South Australia reaches 50-100 ft (15-30 m) and usually forms a wide, dense crown. The rough, reddish brown outer bark is shed in patches to reveal the smooth, chalky white new bark. The leaves are dark green and glossy, and the new growth is bronze-pink. The individual white flowers, smaller than many in the group, are borne in large clusters to make a pleasing display in summer. The small, brown fruit are goblet-shaped. The tree should never be lopped as the new branches are notoriously unstable.' { Botanica }

Pepper tree *Schinus molle* var. *areira*

`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

good (partially disturbed, well preserved)

Integrity

substantially intact/some intrusions

Context

Close to significant Edwardian and Victorian-era residential precincts.

Threats:

Pruning for added and existing service lines, removal with maturity, new crossovers, carparking, root compaction, adjoining development.

History

Sandford Grove was shown on the MMBW 1894 plan as a short street, fenced as if a private court, heading north of York St and east of Stephen St. Two timber cottage pairs and one detached house faced east onto the site of today's reserve which was shown as a vacant block facing onto Cushworth St (now Schild St). There is no mention of the reserve in Sands & McDougall directories and it is not shown on the 1934 zoning plan of Footscray although the reserve on the south side of Simpson St, east of Ballarat St, is. The same 1945 city publication which displayed this map noted that the land for the reserve was acquired for £350 and the space planted out: the area was then 2 roods.

Footscray's Curator's (David Matthews) 1933 report on street trees noted use of the sugar gum tree ('Eucalyptus cladocalyx') in many of Footscray's streets. His view was that its growth habit did not commend it for street planting: its growth was so rapid that branches were always interfering with either telephone wires or street light systems. It was also subject to borer. He stated that this species, among others, had all been planted for over twenty years. Had the varieties selected proved suitable types, the streets of the 1930s would have been 'furnished with well grown trees and would have been giving pleasure instead of annoyance to the ratepayers'. He concluded that all existing trees might be unsuitable for public streets but he recommended to preserve all of the healthy trees for as long as possible until they could be replaced { VPRO}. From this period Matthews recommended smaller canopy trees such as the Queensland brush box or the more compact Canary Island palm. It is likely that the sugar gum

was planted prior to 1933 and after 1900.

Thematic context

Australian Principal Theme

PAHT Subtheme Local Theme(s)

Cultural Significance

Sugar gum (1) and pepper trees (6) at Sandford Grove Reserve are significant to the City of Maribyrnong:
- for their relative maturity among the other trees in the City's public reserves (Criterion B2);
- for their representation of an era in the City's public landscape before the loss of favour for the planting of this type of tree species in public areas and their substitution with smaller or more compact species (Criterion A4).

Comparative Examples:

Sugar gums are typically planted in the Western Region as rows around the western fringe of the built-up area, outside the City, as wind rows for farming. One mature row exists within the city as part of a large defence complex. This example is perhaps the oldest species planted in the City's public parks. Pepper trees are more common but nevertheless confined to fence lines of public reserves, such as the railway.

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;
- to conserve and enhance the public view of these trees;
- to ensure that any new planting or works at the reserve is visually recessive and related to the

Historic Places - Significant Trees in the City of Maribyrnong

character of the trees and associated landscape style;
- to conserve and enhance the amenity of the place to aid in its heritage conservation; and
- to further research further the origins of and associations with the trees and ensure a continuing link with their history by promotion or 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.

their representation of an era in the City's public landscape before the loss of favour for the planting of this type of tree species in public areas and their substitution with smaller or more compact species

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 relative maturity among the other trees in the City's public reserves

historical significant architectural significant social significance scientific significant

Documentation

References

MMBW Record Plan 5 1894 (MMBW);
City of Footscray, 1945 'Facts about Footscray City' 1934 plan;
Footscray Council committee minutes (VPRO) VPRS 005337;
'Botanica' CD Rom 1997 (Beaver Multimedia P/L, Random House Australia);
'Sands & McDougall Victorian Directories';
Jenni Lee (COM) 1999, scar tree identified by local resident.

Data recording

Assessed By:

Assessed Date:

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