



HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

TREE PROFILE SHEET

1. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

House No: 19
Street: Madeline Street
Suburb: Hunters Hill
Post Code: 2110
GPS Co ordinates : northing 6254742.586, easting 329194.921



2. DETAILS

Listed Significant Trees:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>	Norfolk Island Pine

Public or Private Type: Private
Group or Individual: Individual
Date of Assessment/Inspection: 22.07.2014

3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine) provides a dramatic sense of scale and vertical accent to the area and is considered significant in form and habit (*aesthetic value*).

The specimen tree remains as an important remnant planting associated with the Victorian era (*historic value*).

The Norfolk Island Pine was the subject of poem by a prominent Australian poet, Robert D Fitzgerald (*cultural/social/commemorative value*).

The *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine) is considered to have individual local significance in terms of aesthetic, historic and cultural/social/commemorative value.

4. IMAGES

IMAGE SOURCE: RTA, From the Skies, 1943





19 MADELINE STREET, HUNTERS HILL - SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

5. SIGNIFICANCE ATTRIBUTES

Cultural/Social/Commemorative Historic Botanical/Scientific Ecological Visual/Aesthetic

6. SIGNIFICANCE LEVEL

Local State National

7. BACKGROUND

Araucaria heterophylla (Norfolk Island Pine), formerly listed as *Araucaria excelsa*, was first listed as a cultivated species at the Botanic Gardens, Sydney in 1828.¹

Araucaria heterophylla (Norfolk Island Pines) were amongst the earliest garden specimens brought to the Colony. Ships returning from Norfolk Island are thought to have transported the first seedling Norfolk Island Pines to the new Colony.²

Following Governor Macquarie's planting of the *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pines) in the 'Government Garden' in 1814, the species became a particularly popular landmark planting during the early years of the Colony. The stately pine appealed to the British taste for conifers and by the late 1820's began to feature in the front lawns of many colonial houses and public buildings throughout Sydney.

Norfolk Island Pine and the related Hoop Pine also frequently served as navigational beacons and markers on the harbor and around the foreshore.

The distinctive appearance of these trees with their physical stature, symmetry and grand scale has been a lasting part of the Hunters Hill landscape and skyline for almost two hundred years. Historic skyline images from the early 20th century indicate how widespread their use was.

The subject tree is located in the front garden area of 19 Madeline Street, Hunters Hill. The subject tree and subject site have a separate listing in the Hunters Hill Local Environment Plan (2012) Schedule 5 (Item I466 and Item I209).

Jules Joubert sold the land on which 19 Madeline Street currently stands to James Stephen Stanner in 1859. In 1864 the land was mortgaged and the mortgage document notes a 'dwelling house now being built'.³

A large tree is visible in aerial imagery from 1943 in the approximate location of the *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine). This tall, emergent pine provides a dramatic sense of scale and vertical accent to the area. Whilst it is unlikely the tree dates to the earliest phase of development at the site (c. 1864), it is likely to be associated with a later stage of development and is regarded as an important remnant of a Victorian-era private planting scheme.

The specimen tree was also the subject of a poem by prominent Australian poet and one time Hunters Hill resident, Robert D Fitzgerald. The poem formed part of a collection of work called *Product* (1977) and the prose was entitled 'Height; Pine Tree: Madeline Street'.⁴

References:

¹ Sydney Living Museums (2014), *Colonial Plant Database*, accessed 24.08.14

<http://collection.hht.net.au/firsthht/fullRecordColonial.jsp?recnoListAttr=recnoList&recno=20620>

² Wilson, E. (2004), *Poetry of Place*, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, Botanic Gardens Trust, Kangaroo Press, Sydney

³ Don Godden & Associates (1989), *Hunters Hill Heritage Properties*, NSW