



# HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

## SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

### TREE PROFILE SHEET

#### 1. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

House No: 1A  
Street: Rooke Street  
Suburb: Hunters Hill  
Post Code: 2110  
GPS Co ordinates : northing 6254400.419, easting 329645.556



#### 2. DETAILS

Listed Significant Trees:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	London Plane Tree

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

#### 3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane Tree) is considered a specimen of significant height and spread, and makes a valuable contribution to the aesthetic quality of the streetscape (*aesthetic value*).

It is believed that the London Plane Tree is a remnant of the period post-subdivision of the 'Millthorpe' Estate (c. 1912-1920). The specimen is an old example of this taxon for the Hunters Hill area (*historic value*).

The *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane Tree) is considered to have individual local significance in terms of aesthetic and historic value.

#### 4. IMAGES





## 1A ROOKE STREET, HUNTERS HILL - SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

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### 5. SIGNIFICANCE ATTRIBUTES

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

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### 6. SIGNIFICANCE LEVEL

Local  State  National

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### 7. BACKGROUND

The *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane Tree) is located in the front garden area of 1A Rooke Street, Hunters Hill.

The site at 1A Rooke Street called 'The Stables' was formerly part of the 'Millthorpe' Estate. 'Millthorpe' stood on land originally owned by WB Campbell, later owned by Jules Joubert. The original stone house was built on a terrace overlooking Alexandra Bay in 1872 by flour mill owner Richard Sim. At that time, the house was called 'Atherslei'. James Leslie bought the house in 1886 and renamed it 'Millthorpe'. 'Millthorpe' was an impressive fourteen room sandstone villa with large gardens extending to the Lane Cove River. The house was extensively remodeled after 1912, and in 1976 and 1978 the grounds were further subdivided.

*Platanus orientalis* (Oriental Plane) was first listed as a cultivated species at the Botanic Gardens, Sydney in 1828. It is noted that during the 19th century *Platanus orientalis* (Oriental Plane) was used in a broader sense to include the *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane Tree).<sup>1</sup>

The London Plane Tree is a specimen of significant height and spread. The extensive canopy extends over the path and roadway, and contributes to the aesthetic quality of the streetscape. Limited urban constraints have enabled the tree to grow with minimal clearance pruning.

The London Plane Trees in nearby Passy Avenue were planted around 1935.<sup>2</sup> The London Plane Tree at Rooke Street is of a larger size than the Passy Avenue trees. An established tree, believed to be the London Plane Tree, is evident in the 1943 aerial photographs. Whilst it is difficult to determine the exact planting date for the London Plane Tree, it is considered possible the tree dates from the period post-subdivision of the 'Millthorpe' Estate in 1912.

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#### References:

<sup>1</sup>Sydney Living Museums (2014), *Colonial Plant Database*, accessed 10.09.14

<sup>2</sup>Walker, Meredith (1984), *Hunters Hill Heritage Study: Heritage & Character Report*, Hunters Hill Council, pg 64