



HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

TREE PROFILE SHEET

1. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

House No: 23A & 23B
Street: Mount Street
Suburb: Hunters Hill
Post Code: 2110
Other: Located on boundary of 23A and 23B Mount Street and road reserve



2. DETAILS

Listed Significant Trees:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>	Moreton Bay Fig

Public or Private Type: Public/Private shared ownership

Group or Individual: Individual

Date of Assessment/Inspection: 19.03.2015

3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig) is associated with the early phase of development of the area and is thought likely to be associated with the 1888 residence and site at 21 Mount Street (Tregullus, later Lantana) (*historic value*).

The Moreton Bay Fig creates a sense of place and scale and contributes to the lush, native evergreen and broadleaf theme typical of 19th century planting (*historic and aesthetic value*).

The *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig) is considered to have individual significance at a local level in terms of historic and aesthetic value.

4. IMAGES





23A & 23B MOUNT 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

The *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig) is located on the northern end of Mount Street at the junction with Sea Street, Hunters Hill.

The landscape at Sea Street and the lower end of Mount Street is characterised by a mixture of indigenous remnant and cultural plantings of *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig) and *Ficus rubiginosa* (Port Jackson Fig).

The Moreton Bay Fig is a cultural planting and considered likely to date from the late 19th century when the use of this species was common in domestic and civic spaces due to the influences of the Director of Botanic Gardens Sydney, Charles Moore.

Analysis of aerial images from 1943, suggests that the Moreton Bay Fig may have been part of the Tregullus estate (later Lantana) at 21 Mount Street.

In 1888, George S. Adams, a commercial traveller, bought the land (now 21 Mount Street) from Henry C. Brookes. The following year, Adams built a two-storey weatherboard house. The house was called Tregullus, but the name was changed to Lantana by the next owner, William Barrett, after 1892.¹

It is thought that the wider site and further rock overhangs located eastwards along Sea Street would have been sheltered camping grounds for the Wallumattagal or more northerly Cammeragal peoples. In a rock shelter east of the Villa Floridiana, several stencils depicting hands are further indicators of habitation.²

The Moreton Bay Fig creates a sense of place and scale. The specimen continues the lush, native evergreen and broadleaf theme typical of 19th century planting.

Moreton Bay Fig is a large evergreen broadleaf species that is native to most of the east coast of Australia. The species was an early ornamental introduction to colonial gardens and became a major landscape element throughout much of the 19th century. This species remains as a significant historic and cultural element from Victorian-era planting schemes. The impressive scale and broad dense canopies of these evergreens were ideally suited to grand garden schemes. Charles Moore promoted the use of Moreton Bay Figs and many other rainforest specimens throughout the mid - to late 19th century.

Further investigation and research into the significance of additional mature trees in this area is recommended.

References:

¹Hunters Hill Council, Heritage LEP Files, Hunters Hill Council

²Clive, Lucas, Stapleton & Partners, 1989, *Villa Floridiana Assessment of Significance and Condition*