



HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

TREE PROFILE SHEET

1. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

House No: 9
Street: Ferry Street
Suburb: Hunters Hill
Post Code: 2110
GPS Co ordinates: northing 6254327.39, easting 329320.022
Other: GPS Co ordinates were not taken for the indi-



2. DETAILS

Listed Significant Trees:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Araucaria bidwillii</i>	Bunya Pine
<i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i>	Hoop Pine
<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	Maritime Pine
<i>Cedrus libani</i>	Cedar of Lebanon

Public or Private Type: Private
Group or Individual: Individual x 4
Date of Assessment/Inspection: 09.10.2014

3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The collection of trees at 9 Ferry Street, Hunters Hill, are regarded as significant remnants of an important historic cultural landscape. The trees have a direct association with 'The Hut' and the early formation of Hunters Hill as the first 'garden suburb'. The planting palette is indicative of the influences of the Gardenesque style. The individual specimens are likely to date from a similar period (mid-late 19th century) (*historic value*).

The trees collectively have landmark aesthetic values derived from their majestic scale and horticultural quality (*aesthetic value*).

The specimen *Pinus pinaster* (Maritime Pine) and *Cedrus libani* (Cedar of Lebanon) are considered to have high horticultural value as rare examples of these species in the area (*botanic/scientific value*).

As individuals and as a group, the *Araucaria bidwillii* (Bunya Pine), *Araucaria cunninghamii* (Hoop Pine), *Pinus pinaster* (Maritime Pine) and *Cedrus libani* (Cedar of Lebanon) have local significance in terms of their historic, aesthetic and botanic/scientific.

4. IMAGES





9 FERRY 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 scheduled trees include individual specimens of *Araucaria bidwillii* (Bunya Pine), *Araucaria cunninghamii* (Hoop Pine), *Pinus pinaster* (Maritime Pine) and *Cedrus libani* (Cedar of Lebanon). The trees are located within the grounds at 9 Ferry Street, Hunters Hill. The trees are listed in the Hunters Hill Local Environment Plan 2012 Schedule 5 (Item 471).

The current house at 9 Ferry Street dates from c.1956. Interpretation of subdivision plans indicates that the site would have previously formed part of the grounds of 'The Hut'. 'The Hut' was a prefabricated single-storey cottage imported from Germany in 1854 as one of four identical cottages by Swiss émigré Leonardo Etienne Bordier. The four cottages were erected on Ferry Street, two on either side. Bordier advertised the cottages as 'four splendid family residences, standing in their own grounds, of about 1½ acres each with wood and water in abundance'. Bordier's enterprise was the first planned multiple-housing development of Hunters Hill, and it was in the garden-suburb mode. After the houses were built, a wharf was constructed at the foot of Ferry Street.¹ 'The Chalet' at 2 Yerton Avenue is the only surviving intact cottage of the four prefabricated homes. 'The Hut' (previously recorded as Sommerville) was purchased by Charles Jeanneret in 1857 and was demolished in the early 1950s.

An excerpt from a subdivision plan c.1862 shows the location of the four pre-fabricated houses. 'The Hut' and the extent of its boundaries are shown on the north-eastern side of Ferry Street. The original site boundary would have also included the current 11 Ferry Street and 1 Woolwich Road.

Aerial images from 1943 show the cottage surrounded by established trees, almost in a circular planting layout. The scheduled trees are believed to date from the mid-19th century and would have formed the garden setting for 'The Hut'. The collection of trees reflects the eclectic thematic plantings styles of the period, particularly the influences of Charles Moore (Director, Royal Botanic Gardens 1848-1896) and the Gardenesque style.

Araucaria bidwillii (Bunya Pine) is a highly ornamental Australian rainforest tree with a distinctive, broadly spreading canopy and dramatic silhouette. It was frequently planted with other native Australian pines. Bunya Pine was a prized and valued component of many mid- to late 19th century gardens but is now relatively uncommon within the Hunters Hill area. The Bunya Pine's large woody cones (up to 30cm long) bearing edible seeds were a major food source for local Aboriginal tribes in south-eastern Queensland.

The *Araucaria cunninghamii* (Hoop Pine) is a tall, emergent species that provides a dramatic sense of scale to the streetscape. This species became a valuable timber tree during the colonial period up until World War II. Hoop Pine was also a highly valued collector's item in 19th century gardens and estates. The species is closely related to other native Australian rainforest pines, such as the *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine) and *Araucaria bidwillii* (Bunya Pine).

These highly ornamental trees, with their dramatic symmetry and scale, were frequently planted as feature or landmark trees within private garden estates and public parklands throughout the 19th century. They were often planted together with a range of other native rainforest and broadleaf evergreen species.

The specimen *Pinus pinaster* (Maritime Pine) and *Cedrus libani* (Cedar of Lebanon) have high horticultural value as rare examples of these species in the area. Both species are exotic conifers; Maritime Pine is a native to the western and southwestern Mediterranean and the Cedar of Lebanon from the mountains of the Mediterranean. The site also included a Fig and Cabbage Tree Palm which were removed in recent years.

This mixed collection of native and exotic pines and conifers makes a memorable impact on the quality of this streetscape and is regarded as one of the finest collections of its type in the Hunters Hill area. The collection is significant in terms of its existing integrity of historic fabric, overall composition and designed garden setting.

A historic photo from 1902 of Hunters Hill Wharf taken from the Parramatta River shows the distinctive silhouette of emergent pines dominating the skyline. The view is believed to capture some of the pines and conifers at 9 Ferry Street. This planting palette is typical of an eclectic Gardenesque style, borrowing on local conifer species as well as exotic species from abroad.

References:

¹Beverly Sherry, 1989, *Hunters Hill Australia's Oldest Garden Suburb*, David Ell Press, Australia, pg 47

8. ADDITIONAL IMAGES

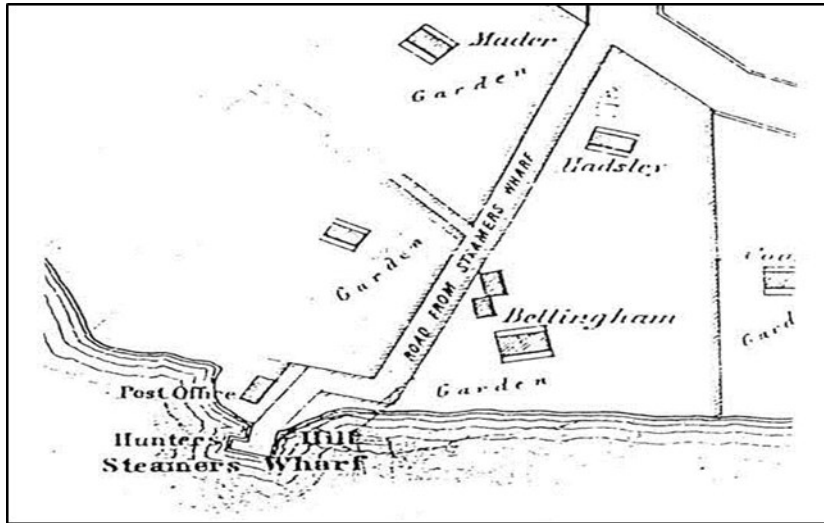


IMAGE SOURCE: Hunters Hill Trust Journal, 1994.

Hunters Hill Wharf at Ferry Street



Exert from the subdivision plan c.1862 showing the location of the four pre-fabricated houses

IMAGE SOURCE: Reproduced with permission from Ryde Library (REF: 4954912)



Buyna Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*)



Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*)



Maritime Pine (*Pinus pinaster*)



Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*)