



HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

TREE PROFILE SHEET

1. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

Street: Victoria Road
Suburb: Henley
Post Code: 2111
GPS Co ordinates : northing 6253991.821, easting 327541.446
northing 6254000.567, easting 327535.081
Other: Located in Henley Cottage site



2. DETAILS

Listed Significant Trees:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Deodar Cedar
<i>Livistona australis</i>	Cabbage Tree Palm

Public or Private Type: Public
Group or Individual: Individual x 2
Date of Assessment/Inspection: 22.07.2014

3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

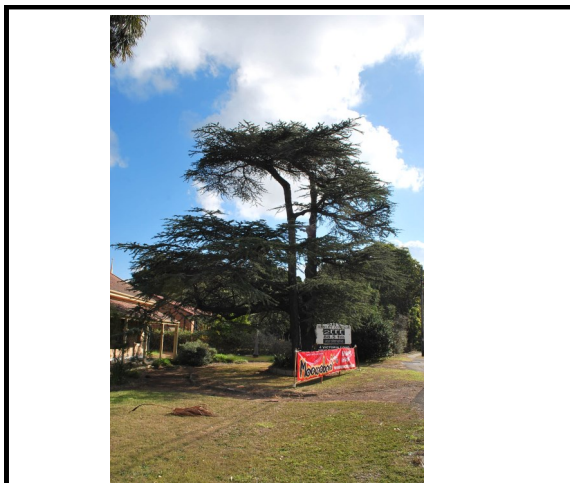
The *Cedrus deodara* (Deodar Cedar) is regarded as having a direct association with Henley Cottage and Gladesville Hospital. Henley Cottage, as the possible office of Medical Superintendent Dr Manning or Dr Sinclair, has high associational value (*historic value*).

The *Cedrus deodara* (Deodar Cedar) and *Livistona australis* (Cabbage Tree Palm) are considered to support the late-Victorian landscape of planted garden beds including specimen plantings of palms and accents in the high Gardenesque-style evident elsewhere throughout the grounds of Gladesville Hospital (*historic value*).

The Deodar Cedar, with its highly sculptural habit, together with the Cabbage Tree Palm, are regarded as making a valuable contribution due to their prominent location to this section of Victoria Road, Gladesville (*aesthetic value*).

The *Cedrus deodara* (Deodar Cedar) and *Livistona australis* (Cabbage Tree Palm) are considered to have group significance at a local level in terms of historic and aesthetic value.

4. IMAGES



Deodar Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*)



Cabbage Tree Palm (*Livistona australis*)



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5. SIGNIFICANCE ATTRIBUTES

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

6. SIGNIFICANCE LEVEL

Local State National

7. BACKGROUND

The scheduled *Cedrus deodara* (Deodar Cedar) and *Livistona australis* (Cabbage Tree Palm) are located in the front garden area of Henley Cottage. Henley Cottage is located on the corner of Victoria Road and Crown Street, Gladesville. The building has been upgraded and adapted in recent years for the community radio headquarters and is no longer part of the Gladesville Hospital site.

No evidence survives to confirm the construction date for Henley Cottage, however it is thought to date from c.1885 and constructed as an office or the Night Attendant's Cottage.¹

The building is reputed to have been the office of Dr Manning during his term as Medical Superintendent. In 1932, it is recorded as Nurses' Quarters No.5, and, in 1949, it was known as the Junior Medical Officers' Quarters.²

The location of the Lunatic Asylum at Tarban Creek (later called Gladesville Hospital) was idyllic, on a ridge above a valley sloping down to the Parramatta River, with Tarban Creek on the adjacent side.

The earliest reference to the Gladesville Hospital grounds was made in 1839, when the first Superintendent, John Thomas Digby, suggested the enclosure of two acres for use as a garden plot. During an enquiry of 1855, attention was drawn to the fact that the inmates were shut in from the view of surrounding land, and, in 1863, it was noted that the site had no green trees and no gardens.³

It was not until Dr Manning became Superintendent in 1869 that substantial improvement to the grounds commenced. Under Manning and his successor, Dr. Eric Sinclair, a pastoral environment came to dominate because of its perceived therapeutic effect. Manning and Sinclair were relatively successful in obtaining funds for appropriate buildings and under them the landscape and menagerie developed.

A vineyard was planted c1868, and in 1870, it was reported that a number of trees were planted and enclosed with fences. The Director of the Botanic Gardens, Charles Moore, donated a large number of young trees, for the gardens and grounds during the early 1870s.⁴

By 1890, the grounds had become an extensive parkland, with areas of cultivation that supported the hospital. The grounds continued to be cultivated and the gardens maintained until the 1950s when declining inmate numbers and changing government attitudes led to the abandonment of the gardens and their subsequent deterioration.

The Gladesville Hospital Conservation Management Plan (2001) outlines that Henley Cottage was possibly the office of Dr Manning while he was Medical Superintendent. However, the construction date of c.1885 does not support an association with Dr Manning who was Medical Superintendent from 1869-1879. The construction date would be associated with Manning's successor Dr. Sinclair who was Medical Superintendent from 1882-1898.

Cedrus deodara (Deodar Cedar) was first listed as a cultivated species in Catalogue of Plants cultivated at Camden, NSW, 1843.⁵

Analysis of aerial images of the area in 1943 indicates that the specimen Deodar Cedar was an established tree at that time. The tree's then wide spreading canopy occupies the garden area in front of Henley Cottage, and the tree would have once been a dominant landscape feature. A rectangular plot of land is visible to the right of the cottage, possibly a vegetable garden, and what appears to be a hedge is evident along the Gladesville Road and Crown Street boundaries. Whilst the Cabbage Tree Palm is not clearly visible, the small canopy of palms is often difficult to identify from an aerial view.

It is difficult to determine the exact planting date for the Deodar Cedar however it is considered to possibly date from the late 19th century, and the site's development associated with Dr Eric Sinclair. The Cabbage Tree Palm may be from a more recent planting period.

The Deodar Cedar and Cabbage Tree Palm are considered to support the late-Victorian landscape of planted garden beds including specimen planting of palms and accents in the high Gardenesque-style evident elsewhere throughout the grounds of Gladesville Hospital.

The Deodar Cedar, with its highly sculptural habit and prominent location, is regarded as making a valuable contribution to this section of Victoria Road, Gladesville.



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References:

- ¹Tanner & Associates (2001), *Gladesville Hospital Site Conservation Management Plan*, Volume II, Department of Public Works and Services, NSW.
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 - ³Tanner & Associates (2001), *Gladesville Hospital Site Conservation Management Plan*, Volume II, Department of Public Works and Services, NSW.
 - ⁴Tanner & Associates (2001), *Gladesville Hospital Site Conservation Management Plan*, Volume III, Department of Public Works and Services, NSW.
 - ⁵Sydney Living Museums (2014) *Colonial Plant Database*, accessed 14.10.14 <http://collection.hht.net.au/firsthht/fullRecordColonial.jsp?recnoListAttr=recnoList&recno=17835>
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8. ADDITIONAL IMAGES

IMAGE SOURCE: RTA, From the Skies, 1943

