



HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

TREE PROFILE SHEET

1. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

Number: 24
Street: Avenue Road
Suburb: Hunters Hill
Post Code: 2110
GPS: Co ordinates : Longitude 151.143551°E Latitude 33.831852°S



2. DETAILS

Listed Significant Trees:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>	Camphor Laurel

Public or Private Type: Private
Group or Individual: Individual
Date of Assessment/Inspection: November 23

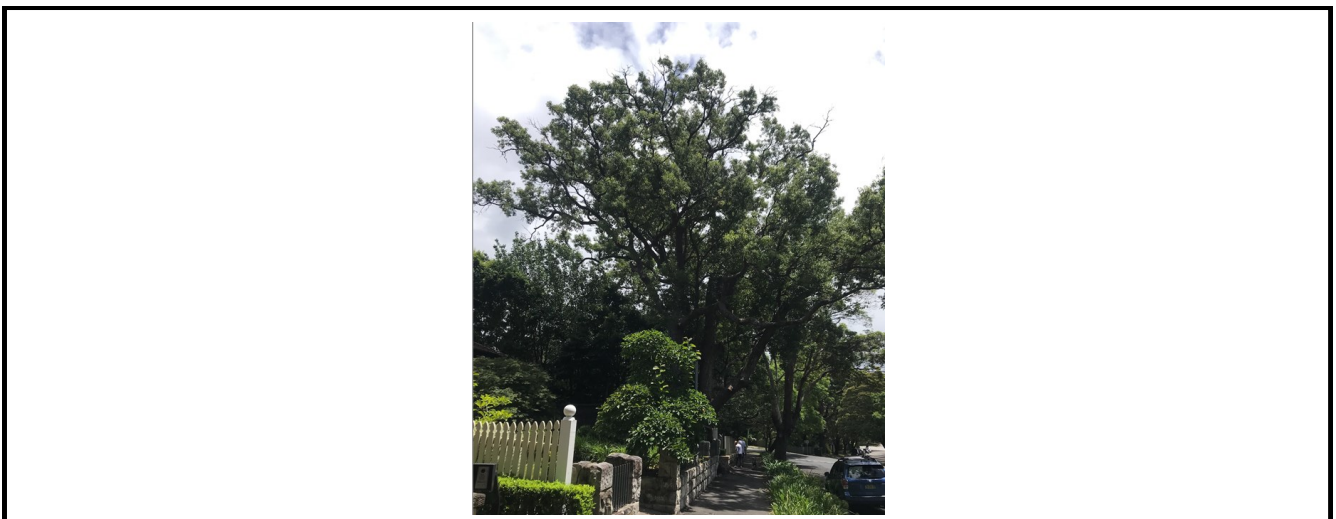
3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor Laurel) is considered to have high visual significance and is remarkable in terms of its scale and proportions (*aesthetic value*).

The specimen tree remains as an important remnant planting associated with the Federation period (c.1890-1915) and with the 'Saintonge' estate (*historic value*).

Note: Although this specimen is of local individual significance in terms of its visual, historic values, representative of many plantings of this species throughout the mid 19th century and early 20th century, the species is now generally regarded as an exotic weed.

4. IMAGES





24 AVENUE ROAD, HUNTERS HILL - SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

5. SIGNIFICANT ATTRIBUTES

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

6. SIGNIFICANT LEVELS

Local State National

7. BACKGROUND

Cinnamomum camphora (Camphor Laurel) was introduced into Australia from Southeast Asia as an ornamental species in 1822. The species was established in the Sydney and Brisbane Botanic Gardens in 1854 and 1861 respectively. The value of Camphor Laurel as an ornamental tree was actively promoted in municipal parks, gardens, school grounds and large estates, and it was widely planted for shade and shelter on north coast dairy farms after the clearing of the 'Big Scrub' in the late 1800s.¹ Camphor Laurel is also recorded as being used as a hedging species in large estates and parks; the species' fast growth rate meant that frequent pruning was required.²

Camphor Laurel was still popular in Sydney in the 1930s. As part of the Australia's Sesquicentenary Celebration in 1938, members of the tree-planting section of the Citizens' Organising Committee approved a scheme for the planting of half a million trees in New South Wales. Authorities in Sydney limited their choice to about six species of tree, with Camphor Laurel being second favourite.³

The density of the Camphor Laurel, its attractiveness to a number of bird species and the ideal climate and soils for its growth have allowed it to naturalise and spread extensively in many parts of the New South Wales. Camphor Laurel is now an environmental weed species in a number of local government areas on the north coast and in the Sydney region.⁴

The Camphor Laurel is located at the front of 24 Avenue Road, Hunters Hill, along the eastern side boundary. The house, known as 'Saintonge', is listed in the Hunters Hill LEP (2012) Schedule 5 Item 68.

Built in 1885, the land was purchased by Alfred Randall from Numa Joubert in 1883. Members of the Randall family owned and occupied the house until 1975.

The Camphor Laurel is believed to date from the early 20th century. A review of aerial images from 1943 shows the Camphor Laurel as an established tree.



Aerial image 1943
Image Source: Historical Imagery

References:

¹ Prime Facts, 2009, Camphor Laurel. http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/304594/Camphor-laurel.pdf

² The Northern Champion, 11/11/1931, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/15618811>

³ The Sydney Morning Herald, 07/5/1936, p.5 <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/17341841?searchTerm=croydon%20park%20camphor%20tree%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20&searchLimits=>

⁴ Prime Facts, 2009, Camphor Laurel, accessed 08.04.2024 http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/304594/Camphorlaurel.pdf