



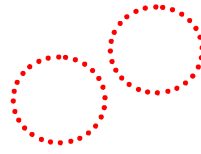
HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

TREE PROFILE SHEET

1. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

House No: The Priory, 10-12
Street: Salter Street
Suburb: Gladesville
Post Code: 2110
GPS Co ordinates : Longitude 151.134272°E Latitude 33.836474°S



2. DETAILS

Listed Significant Trees:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress
<i>Callitris columellaris</i>	White Cypress Pine
<i>Cupressus funebris</i>	Funeral Cypress

Public or Private Type: Public

Group or Individual: Group

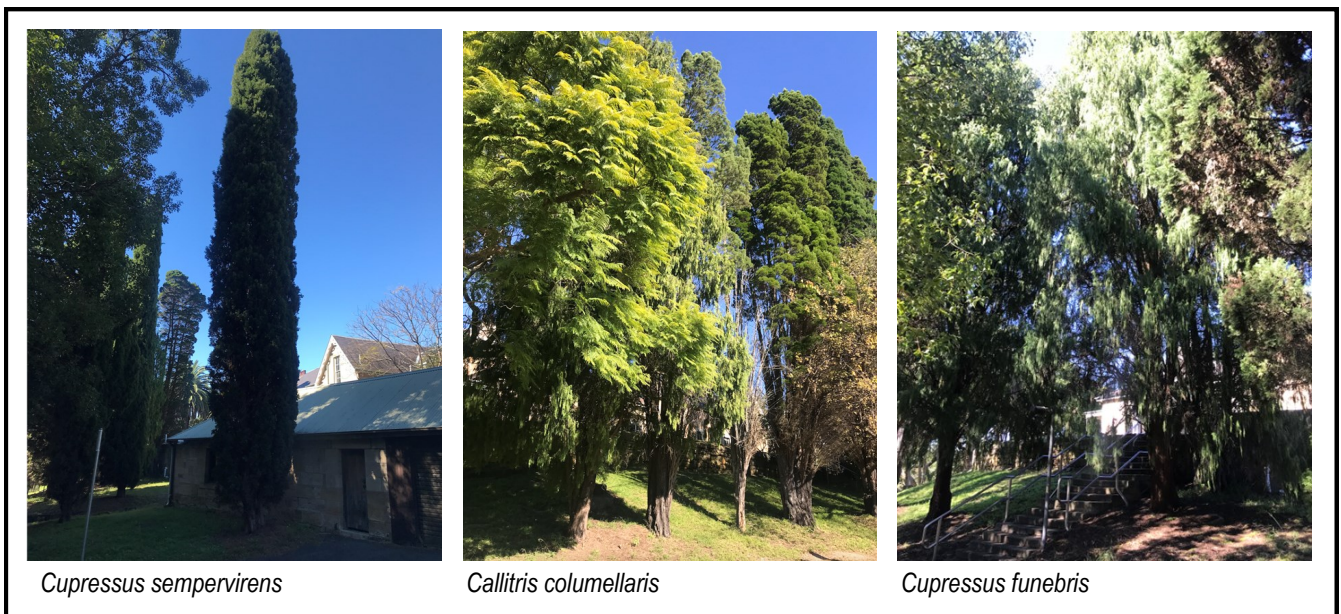
Date of Assessment/Inspection: November 23

3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The *Cupressus sempervirens* (Italian Cypress), *Callitris columellaris* (White Cypress Pine) and *Cupressus funebris* (Funeral Cypress) remain as evidence of remnant plantings and provide information about the evolution and layout of 'The Priory' over time (*historic value*).

The historic specimens of *Callitris columellaris* (Northern Cypress Pine) have outstanding botanic rarity value as a rare example of the species used in a cultural landscape. The specimens are considered to have a direct association with Charles Moore and the showcasing of Australian plants to the world through their exhibition at the Paris Exhibition, 1855 (*botanic/scientific, ecological and historic values*).

4. IMAGES





THE PRIORY, 10-12 SALTER STREET GLADESVILLE SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

5. SIGNIFICANCE ATTRIBUTES

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

6. SIGNIFICANCE LEVEL

Local State National

7. BACKGROUND

In 1836, journalist, musician and auctioneer Thomas Stubbs purchased two allotments of land at Tarban Creek and proceeded to build a single-storey farmhouse. Stubbs, his wife, two servants and a gardener resided at 'Longwood' until 1847.¹ In 1847, Thomas Stubbs sold the house, the outbuildings and farm to the French religious order The Society of Mary (Marist Fathers). It would become their first base in Australia. The Marist Fathers extended Stubb's original sandstone farmhouse under the architect William Weaver and named the site 'Villa Maria'.

In 1864, the Marist Fathers moved their order to the other side of Tarban Creek and transferred the title 'Villa Maria' to their new home. In 1874, Thomas Salter purchased the original building and renamed it 'The Priory'. Under Salter's tenure, the site included a shed, latrines, out house, tennis court, stables, poultry yard, cultivation paddock and coach houses.²

In 1888, The Priory was purchased by the Crown with 20 acres of land for use as part of the Gladesville Asylum. It was known as Ward 2. The resumption under Superintendent Dr Frederick Manning's administration was to provide more patient accommodation, to prevent the land being sold for residential allotments, for storage and for farm buildings. The surrounding land was farmed by patients for the production of fruit and vegetables for hospital use, and in WWII an air raid shelter for patients and staff was cut into the terrace.

Under Dr Manning and his successor, Dr Eric Sinclair, a pastoral environment came to dominate at the Hospital because of its perceived therapeutic effect. This was consistent with the Victorian idea that pleasant or beautiful surroundings would help ease the mental anguish of the inmates.³ The gardens around 'The Priory' were transformed to provide pleasant and shady grounds for the inmates, and trees, possibly donated by the Director of the Botanic Gardens, were planted.⁴

Between the conclusion of World War II and 1954 Gladesville Hospital remodelled The Priory's landscaping. It removed all trees between The Priory and the Lower Farm Road, including three mature Cook Pine trees to the north and the cluster of trees to the east. It then laid out a new landscaping scheme. The gardens around The Priory were transformed to provide pleasant shady grounds for the patients. The plantings, probably supplied by the Botanical Gardens, were in the High Victorian manner. The plant material was similar to the late 19th century plantings at Gladesville Hospital, and the Parramatta (Cumberland) Hospital.

Based on historical research material, including aerial imagery from the 1940s, it is believed that the *Cupressus sempervirens* (Italian Cypress) & *Callitris columellaris* (White Cypress Pine) that line the entry and extend to in front of the Priory and two *Cupressus funebris* (Funeral Cypress) located at the base of a flight of steps off the terrace to the north of the Priory date from the period that Gladesville Hospital occupied the site.

The grounds of Gladesville Hospital contain significant plantings of *Callitris columellaris* (White Cypress Pine), which are listed on Council's Significant Tree Register. The *Callitris columellaris* (White Cypress Pine), form part of a Cypress Grove and are located on a level lawn area between the old asylum wall on the west and Victoria Road on the east. The grove, part of the former Asylum Cemetery (Gladesville Cemetery) is located adjacent to Gladesville Hospital.

A newspaper article from 1933 (Sydney Morning Herald) reported on an unknown native tree in danger of extinction, *Callitris columellaris* (Northern Cypress Pine). In the article, Dr Stuart Scougall explains how the cypress trees at Gladesville Cemetery, long thought to be *Cupressus sempervirens* (Pencil Pine) were *Callitris columellaris* (Northern Cypress Pine). The correct identification was made by the Mr Cheel, Chief Botanist and Curator, at the National Herbarium. In the article, Mr Cheel expressed his belief that the trees at Gladesville were probably raised from seed by Mr Charles Moore when collecting material for the NSW exhibit at the Paris Exposition in 1855 or the International Exhibition in 1862. The then fifty Northern Cypress Pines were noted in 1933 of producing their first seeds and were at that time expected to live for up to 200 years.⁵

The driveway entrance to The Priory includes a number of *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor Laurels). The specimens include a mix of mature trees which are likely to be cultural plantings dating from the Gladesville Hospital occupation of the site. Smaller Camphor Laurel self seeded/regrowth also occurs in the group and is indicative of the vigorous reproductive strategy of this species. The introduction of this species in the early 19th century as an ornamental exotic has had a profound impact on our natural bushland, gardens and pasturelands. Although these larger specimens are of historic value, the Camphor Laurel is generally regarded as a weed species throughout its naturalised range from the south coast and Sydney region to the NSW north coast and as far as the Atherton Tablelands in North Queensland. Further voluntary colonisation by this species within The Priory should be controlled in this location and within the Hunters Hill Municipality.



THE PRIORY, 10-12 SALTER STREET GLADESVILLE SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER



Aerial image 1943
Image Source: NSW Government Historical Imagery



Aerial image c.1940, showing young Cypress plantings
Image Source: 10-12 Salter Street, HP CMP

References:

- ¹ Hunters Hill Council, 2016, *The Priory*, accessed 10.05.2024, http://www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au/Page/Page.aspx?Page_Id=410
- ² Hunters Hill Council, 2016, *The Priory*, accessed 10.05.2024, http://www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au/Page/Page.aspx?Page_Id=410
- ³ Pike, P, 2004, *Heritage Assessment of the Priory*, Hunters Hill Council, pg 8
- ⁴ Pike, P, 2004, *Heritage Assessment of the Priory*, Hunters Hill Council, pg 12
- ⁵ Maley Jacqueline (2010), Gladesville's Forgotten – In Life and Death, Sydney Morning Herald, accessed 16.05.2024 <http://www.smh.com.au/national/gladesvilles-forgotten--in-life-and-death-20100310-pzel.html>