

ITALIAN CYPRESS (3) AT COUNCIL OFFICES, MAIN RD



213 - 3 Pencil Pines at Council Offices Eltham - These three pencil pines immediately in front of the first stage of the Shire of Eltham Municipal Offices (in the 1968) (ELHPC No.657) - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



213 - 3 Pencil Pines at Council Offices Eltham 02 - Old photograph of Main Road showing the prominence of these trees (in the centre distance) probably early this century (ELHPC No. 708) - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



213 - 3 Pencil Pines at Council Offices Eltham 03 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



three ITALIAN CYPRESS- Nillumbik Shire Heritage Study 2001

Location

895 MAIN RD ELTHAM, NILLUMBIK SHIRE

Municipality

NILLUMBIK SHIRE

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

Heritage Listing

Nillumbik Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 1, 1992

ELTHAM STUDY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

These trees are the sole remains of the garden of historic Shillinglaw Cottage which was on this site previously. Although they do not date from the time of construction of the cottage they are still significant as indicators of this earlier site use where the Council offices now stand.

REVISED STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (with AHC criteria)

These Italian cypress, 'CUPRESSUS SEMPERVIRENS' (3) are significant to Eltham:

- for their association with the local prominent Stebbing and Shillinglaw families (Criterion H1);
- for their maturity as evocation of the area's landscape and building history;
- for their role as markers of the former Stebbing cottage and Eltham Shire offices sites (Criterion A4);
- their rarity within the former Eltham shire (Criterion 82);
- contribution to the historical landmark quality and streetscape contribution to a precinct of the nearby Stebbing cottage and other associated civic places (Criterion A3).

BASIS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

ILLUSTRATION OF THE THEMES: PRIVATE PLANTING

HISTORY

STREETSCAPE

RARITY

DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE: LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

EXTENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: 3 TREES AND LAND WITHIN THE TITLE TO A RADIUS OF 10 METRES

Heritage Study/Consultant	Nillumbik - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study, David Bick, 1992; Nillumbik - Nillumbik Shire Heritage Study 2001, Graeme Butler & Assoc, 2001;
Construction dates	1920,
Other Names	Cuppresssus sempervirens, MAIN RD, ELTHAM,
Hermes Number	104349
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

ELTHAM STUDY DESCRIPTON:

These trees are of upright columnar form and planted close together, adjacent to and in front of the Eltham Shire Offices.

Physical Description 2

REVISED OR EXTENDED DESCRIPTON:

The three Italian cypress trees. would appear to date from the same period as the Shillinglaw Cottage and were probably planted by the original builder George Stebbing, 1875-1882, or the Shillinglaw family, 1882-1963. More detailed historical research may reveal a more accurate date of planting. As exotic plantings more typical of the nineteenth century, trees of this type and age are not common in the Nillumbik Shire. The private planting theme is particularly strongly reflected in that the trees are the only identified remnants of the once 40 acres of land attached to the Shillinglaw Cottage. As indicated by early photographs, the trees have been an important streetscape element on the Main Road for over 100 years.

The cultural significance of the cypress trees is specific to the site, in that they date from the same period as the construction of the Shillinglaw Cottage and that they are the sole indicator of the original location of the building. They are also important elements which contribute to the streetscape and the Eltham Gateway Zone, which itself has significance resulting from the collection of individually significant buildings and structures. They are considered to be of local significance.

Physical Description 3

'CUPRESSUS SEMPERVIRENS'

This species, a familiar tree in Italy, France and Spain, was introduced to these countries from the eastern Mediterranean. It has fine dark greyish green foliage with very tiny scale leaves in slightly flattened sprays, and large, slightly elongated, pale brown cones. In its growth habit the Mediterranean cypress exhibits a curious phenomenon: the form usually cultivated, known as 'Stricta', is narrowly columnar, but a proportion of its seedlings grow into trees with side branches at a wide angle to the trunk; this form is often known as 'Horizontalis'. More tolerant of dry conditions and slower growing than most other cypresses, it makes quite vigorous growth under good conditions in a warm climate. The 'Stricta' form can reach 15-20 ft (4.5-6 m) in 10 years, often as a slim column at this stage, but old trees of 30-40 ft (9-12 m) are usually much broader. It takes well to topiary. 'Swane's Golden', an Australian cultivar with foliage flecked golden yellow with deeper gold tips, is slower growing than 'Stricta' but can still reach 20 ft (6 m) or more. It is rather frost tender. 'Gracilis' is a narrowly columnar cultivar raised in New Zealand, slow growing and maturing at about 15 ft (4.5 m) with a width of about 3 ft (1 m). It has bright green foliage { Botanica}.

Physical Conditions

Condition: Good (partially disturbed, well preserved)

Integrity

Integrity Externally substantially intact/some intrusions

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>