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## House at 27 Esplanade



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WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons  
Bay Heritage Study 2006 -  
Aleppo Pines within the  
reserve



House at 27 Esplanade  
WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons  
Bay Heritage Study 2006 -  
overall view looking to the  
north-west from the  
Esplanade toward the Tennis  
Pavilion (bottom left)

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### Location

27 Esplanade WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons Bay City

### Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

### Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO114

### Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The Fearon Reserve, including the four Aleppo Pines and the remnant Cypress hedge, established c.1900 and the former Tennis Pavilion constructed in 1928 at the Fearon Reserve, 27 Esplanade, Williamstown.

How is it Significant?

The Fearon Reserve is of local historic, aesthetic and scientific (horticultural) significance to the City of Hobson's Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, the Fearon Reserve is one of the earliest recreational areas established in Williamstown and the Aleppo pines and the Cypresses are associated with the early period of its development as well as illustrating Victorian planting fashions and the early planted landscape at the reserve. The Tennis Pavilion demonstrates the continued development of the reserve during the Interwar period. (AHC criterion A4)

Aesthetically, the unusual form of the pines, shaped by the offshore winds, is an important and distinctive element of the landscape character of the reserve and relates to the nearby significant pinetum in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens, as well as other conifer plantings throughout this area. (AHC criterion E1)

Scientifically, the Aleppo Pines are of horticultural interest as rare mature examples of this species (AHC criterion B2).

Heritage Study/Consultant	Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;
Other Names	Fearon Reserve,
Hermes Number	15045
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

Four Aleppo pines are located on the north and west edges of the Fearon Reserve, being typically 14-15m high. These species are rare. Examples of Monterey cypress *Cupressus macrocarpa* horizontalis (Lambert type) are located nearby, appearing to be what remains of a hedge.

Botanica (1997) provides the following descriptions:

*Pinus halepensis* (Aleppo pine)

From the eastern Mediterranean area, this pine is the most resistant to dry conditions, in fact tolerating most conditions except severe frost when young. Fast growing to 50 ft (15 m), it has a spreading crown and a distinctive rugged character. The young bark is ash gray, but ages to reddish brown. The soft, light green needles are 4 in (10 cm) long and are usually carried in pairs; the 3-4 in (8-10 cm) cones are reddish brown'.

*Cupressus macrocarpa* varieties (Monterey cypress )

*Endemic to a very short stretch of the central Californian coast near Monterey, this grows into one of the largest of all cypresses, reaching 120 ft (36 m) tall with a trunk diameter of 8 ft (2.4 m). When planted in a grove it forms a tall, straight trunk, but in the open in good soil it branches low with massive, spreading limbs, producing a broad, dense crown of deep green with a rather spiky outline. Close up, the foliage is rather coarse, and it has a slightly sour smell when bruised. The cones are large and wrinkled. It thrives best in cool but mild climates with winter rainfall and takes only 10 years or so to form a dense 30-40 ft (9-12 m) tree. Golden cultivars include 'Brunniana', somewhat columnar, the foliage ageing almost green; the vigorous 'Aurea', with long, golden spikes*

*of foliage spreading almost horizontally; and 'Aurea Saligna' with remarkable weeping, gold-tipped branchlets and elongated scale leaves. A lower-growing cultivar to 4 ft (1.2 m) is 'Greenstead Magnificent', which spreads to form a flat-topped, dense mat of pale gray-green foliage, drooping around the edges; as the plant ages the whole becomes raised above the ground on a short trunk. 'Goldcrest' is a small conical form with golden foliage.*

The tennis courts have been removed, however, the 1928 Tennis Pavilion remains, but has been altered to face east toward the playing fields.

## **Integrity**

Condition

Varies - generally fair to good.

## **Physical Description 2**

Context

Relates to nearby conifer group at the Williamstown Botanic Gardens and adds Victorian-era character to the adjacent Osborne Street residential area.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Developing Cultural Institutions and Ways of Life

## **Physical Description 3**

*Associations*

City of Williamstown

*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/>*