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# Moreton Bay fig & Canary Island date palms in south Cuming Reserve



HO140 - Moreton Bay Fig,  
Cuming Reserve,  
Yarraville.JPG

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## Location

off Hyde Street SEDDON, Maribyrnong City

## Municipality

MARIBYRNONG CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO140

## Heritage Listing

Maribyrnong City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The Moreton bay fig and two Canary Island date palms at the Cuming Reserve, are significant to the City of Maribyrnong:

- as mature trees which are uncommon within the general planted context of the City, judged by their maturity and

type (Criterion B2);

- for their contribution to this distinctive inter-war public landscape created within the City under the Footscray municipal parks and gardens Curator David Matthews (Criterion A4, H1); and

- their association, with the rest of the reserve, with the memorial to James Cuming who was a major and benevolent employer in the City's history (Criterion H1).

Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) criteria

The Australian Heritage Commission criteria consist of a set of eight criteria which cover social, aesthetic, scientific, and historic values. Each criterion has sub-criteria written specifically for cultural or natural values. The relevant criteria are:

B.2 rarity

A.4 demonstrates well the course and pattern of history, important historic events

H.1 association with important person or group

Heritage Study/Consultant	Maribyrnong - Maribyrnong Heritage Review, Jill Barnard, Graeme Butler, Francine Gilfedder & Gary Vines, 2000;
Construction dates	1900, 1934,
Other Names	`Ficus macrophylla', `Phoenix canariensis',
Hermes Number	29112
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

A large mature Moreton Bay fig and two Canary Island date palms are located in the southern part of a triangular grassed reserve (Cuming Reserve) on Hyde Street south of Princess Street.

There is a stone monument (bust on a granite obelisk) erected by the citizens of Footscray in memory of the life of the late James Cuming JP.

The Moreton bay fig (`Ficus macrophylla') is described as a `large, spreading evergreen tree, this species occurs naturally in coastal rainforests of eastern Australia. It grows to about 130 ft (39 m) with a spread nearly as great and a buttressed trunk. It bears large, leathery, dark green leaves with rust-toned undersides, and abundant fruit that turn reddish brown when ripe {Botanica}. 'Canary Island date palms (`Phoenix canariensis') come from the Canary Islands and `grows to 50 ft (15 m) tall with a spread of 30 ft (9 m), and has a sturdy trunk up to 3 ft (1 m) across and arching, deep green fronds up to 12 ft (3.5 m) long. Small yellow flowers in drooping clusters in summer are succeeded by inedible, orange-yellow, acorn-like fruit. This palm needs plenty of room to show off its dramatic symmetrical shape. In areas prone to frosts, plant an advanced specimen when the danger of frost has passed {Botanica}'.

## Physical Conditions

good (partially disturbed, well preserved)

## Integrity

substantially intact/some intrusions

## Physical Description 2

### Context

Part of total reserve with notable Cumming statue. In a notable inter-war public landscape precinct, with the Yarraville Gardens, and adjoins proposed HO10 which has a dominance of Edwardian-era housing.

## Historical Australian Themes

### Thematic context

**Australian Principal Theme** Developing cultural institutions and ways of life

**PAHT Subtheme** Creating public landscape

**Local Theme(s)** Reserves and parks

## Physical Description 3

**Map (Melway)** 42C7

**Boundary description** The trees and sufficient land around each to allow for root zone and canopy protection, nominally 1m beyond the drip line, root zone or canopy perimeter whichever is the greatest.

**Heritage Significance** City

**Creation date(s)** 1900s, 1934-

**Local Government Area** City of Maribyrnong

**Ownership Type** Public

*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/>*