
Quercus canariensis



4e



4d



t4a



4f

Location

Aradale Asylum Ararat, ARARAT RURAL CITY

Municipality

ARARAT RURAL CITY

Level of significance

Regional

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 31, 2023

What is significant?

This Algerian Oak is one of a pair of oaks growing in the female airing court of Aradale Asylum. It is located next to the demountable workshop.

How is it significant?

This Algerian Oak is significant for scientific, historic, social, and aesthetic reasons at the Regional level.

Why is it significant?

This Algerian Oak is scientifically and aesthetically significant for its large canopy spread and form. Due to minimal human intervention over the years, the canopy is touching the ground, giving this tree a unique aesthetic.

This Algerian Oak is historically significant as one of the few remnant plantings from the original plantings at Aradale (File no: B2122). Aradale was built in 1864-67 as the Ararat Lunatic Asylum, and used for its original purpose until its closure in 1994. It is listed in the Victorian Heritage Register for architectural, historical and social significance (VHR 1223).

The landscaping of the site was completed by prominent landscape gardener Hugh Linaker in 1916, however this planting is from earlier landscaping conducted in 1879. The oaks were planted on recommendations of Mr Ferguson, Inspector of State Forests in 1871, to add restful, shaded areas where patients could connect with nature in a therapeutic way. An Argus newspaper article quotes Ferguson as saying, 'A few oaks ... might be interspersed in groups throughout the plantation to vary and brighten up the landscape by their sweet tints of autumnal foliage'. It is one of two oaks in the garden (T12447), and one of several trees on site listed in the Significant Tree Register. A Paul's Scarlet tree (T11275) and an Irish Yew (T11276) are also listed.

This Algerian Oak is socially significant for its contribution to the landscape. The remnant Oak plantings are heavily overgrown and their relationship to the buildings are a key element of the landscape, sitting in contrast to the pale brick walls and adding to the atmosphere of the disused buildings.

Tree Measurements:

Condition: Good

Tree Type: Individual

Circumference: 3.5m

Height: 12m

Canopy Spread: 26m

Height method: Folded Paper

Circumference method: Tape Measure

Date of measurement: 29/11/2020

Age of tree: 142 years (planted 1879)

Condition: Good. Small epicormic growth.

Tree Type: Individual

Circumference: 3.14 m

Height: 13.5

Canopy Spread (m): 21.70 (EW), 22.70 (NS)

Height method: Instrument

Circumference method: Tape Measure

Date of measurement: 15/11/2022

Other Names Algerian Oak,

Hermes Number 208337

Property Number

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/>