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# Cotton Palm, English Oak and Lilly Pilly Trees



Cotton Palm, English Oak and Lilly Pilly Trees, Hobsons Bay Heritage Study 2006 - English Oak



Cotton Palm, English Oak and Lilly Pilly Trees, Hobsons Bay Heritage Study 2006 - Cotton Palm

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## Location

197 Osborne Street WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons Bay City

## Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO241

## Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The trees, comprising a Cotton Palm (*Washington Robusta*), English Oak (*Quercus Robur*) and two Lilly Pillys, established c.1900-1930 at 197 Osborne Street, Williamstown.

How is it Significant?

The trees at 197 Osborne Street, Williamstown are of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, they are important for their ability to illustrate garden fashions in Williamstown during the Victorian and Edwardian eras. (AHC criteria A4 and G1)

Aesthetically, the oak and palm are significant as locally rare mature examples of these species, within a suburban garden context. They enhance the setting of the house and make an important contribution to the historic landscape character of Osborne Street. (AHC criteria B2 and E1)

Heritage Study/Consultant Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;

Hermes Number 22220

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

There is a mature *Washingtonia robusta* at the rear of a much extended Victorian era weatherboard house, with a large English Oak in front, plus two lilly pillys. The oak and the palm are typical of planting in the Victorian-era and Edwardian-era with the lilly pilly being more of an Edwardian-era or inter-war choice.

Botanica (1997) provides the following descriptions:

*Washingtonia robusta* (Cotton Palm)

*This species, taller and more slender than Washingtonia filifera and with a more tapering trunk, occurs naturally in north-western Mexico. It grows to 80 ft (24 m) and its crown is 10 ft (3 m) across. The shiny, bright green leaves, almost circular, are less deeply segmented than those of 'W. filifera'. The fruit are tiny dark brown berries'.*

*Quercus robur* (English Oak)

*Arguably the most famous of all the oaks and with a life span of 600 to 700 years, this species has spreading, heavily leafed branches providing good shade. Its 4 in (10 cm) long leaves are deciduous and remain dark green through fall (autumn). It eventually reaches a height of 120 ft (36 m) and trunks with a circumference of more than 70 ft (21 m) have been recorded. It is one of Europe's most valuable timber trees. 'Fastigiata' is grown for its narrow, upright habit, while 'Concordia' is a rounded tree to 30 ft (9 m)'.*

*Syzygium* sp. (lilly pilly)

*These 400 to 500 species of evergreen trees and shrubs, at one time included in the genus Eugenia, originated in tropical and subtropical rainforests of Southeast Asia, Australia and Africa. They are grown for their attractive foliage, flowers and berries. The edible berries-white, pink, magenta or purple-ripen in late summer to fall (autumn). The plants have a lush dense canopy of shiny green leaves; new growth in spring is often a contrasting red, pink or copper. The spring and summer flowers are mostly small with protruding white to mauve or crimson stamens giving a fluffy appearance.*

## Integrity

Condition

Good.

## **Physical Description 2**

### Context

Contributory to the Victorian-era house and the greater streetscape. Adjoining houses also have mature gardens.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Creating private landscapes

## **Physical Description 3**

### *Associations*

Unknown

*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/>*