
Elm Trees - Former Williamstown Court House Site



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Location

14 Thompson Street WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons Bay City

Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO300

Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The two Elm trees, established c.1900, on the site of the former Williamstown Court House at 14 Thompson Street, Williamstown.

How is it Significant?

The two Elm trees at 14 Thompson Street, Williamstown are of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, the Elms are significant for their presumed associations with the original court house and illustrate the Victorian-era practice of planting exotic trees in public reserves. As all of the early buildings on this site have been demolished, the trees are therefore important for their ability to assist in understanding and interpreting its history. (AHC criterion A4)

Aesthetically, the Elms are significant as locally rare examples for their size and maturity and as part of a group of exotic trees that contribute to the historic cultural landscape of Thompson and Cecil Streets and the Government survey precinct. (AHC criteria B2 and E1)

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

Hermes Number 22282

Property Number

Physical Description 1

Two mature, either Dutch or English Elms planted at the perimeter of the Williamstown Court House reserve:

- One adjacent to Thompson Street, at front of the former court housebuilding. It has a trunk of approximately 1m diameter and is about 18m high.
- One adjacent to Cecil Street, corner Council lane near the former George Hotel. It has a trunk of approximately 1m diameter, and is about 16m high.

Botanica (1997) provides the following description:

Dutch Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*)

This hybrid name covers several clones believed to originate from crosses between *Ulmus glabra* and *U. minor*. Their glossy, dark green leaves are mostly smaller and less raspy than *U. glabra* leaves, and broader and shorter stalked than those of *U. minor*. The original, now referred to as 'Hollandica', has broad, rounded leaves. ...'Vegeta', the Huntingdon elm (an old clone), bears pale yellowish green leaves in flattened sprays.

Physical Conditions

Condition

Good.

Physical Description 2

Context

Contributes to the historic grouping of mature exotic trees in this area, which include Elm trees in Cecil Street. The existing 1974 court house is unrelated to the area.

Physical Description 3

Associations

Victorian Colonial Government, Williamstown City Council

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/>