

HORRY'S TREE, LEEDERVILLE



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Horry's Tree
Other names	Ficus macrophylla
Place type	Tree

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	25710
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 28 Jun 2016

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	Main Roads WA Road Reserve – bounded by the Mitchell Freeway, Melrose, Stamford and Vincent Streets, Leederville
Locality	Leederville
Survey	--
Vol/folio	--
Reserve	--

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	Considerable Very important to the heritage of the locality. High degree of integrity/ authenticity
Management category	Category 2 Conservation of the place is highly desirable. Any alterations or extensions should minimise impacts on the original site or building and reinforce the significance of the place.
Statement of significance	<p>The tree is a good and impressive example of the species which is well maintained in an appropriate urban park setting.</p> <p>The tree has historic value for its association with the use of this land for farming in the early 20th century.</p> <p>The tree has historic value for its association with the Thompson family and particularly Horry Thompson who planted this tree in 1915 as a method for his family to remember him when he served with the AIF overseas.</p> <p>The tree is valued by the community for the continuity of its presence in this open urban space which contributes to the community sense of place.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Park/Reserve
Current use	Park/Reserve
Other use	Road Reserve

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	1915 (planted)
Walls	N/A
Roof	N/A
Architectural Style	N/A
Physical description	<p>This Moreton Bay Fig tree (<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>) is a large specimen that appears to be in good health.</p> <p>A concrete plinth with an aluminium plaque is located away from the base of the tree. The wording of the plaque is as follows.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Horry's Tree</i></p> <p><i>"Standing before you is the Moreton Bay Fig Tree planted in 1915 by Horry Thompson. He planted this tree just prior to embarking to fight in World War 1. Horry sought to reassure his wife Lily and their children, including Annie, Horry(Junior) and William that he would be home again soon to see how large the tree had grown.</i></p> <p><i>Within two years Horry had been killed in action during the Battle of Passchendaele in September 1917. Private Horace Thompson has no known grave. He is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial and also the Australian War Memorial, the WA State Memorial and the Leederville War Memorial.</i></p>

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Physical description	<p><i>Dorothy Jenkins (nee Millward) 1920-2014, was the Thompson's family neighbour, living all her life in the home over the road from the Thompson's farm (later market gardens). Dorothy vowed to watch over Horry's Tree as a way of paying tribute to all those men who had served in the war and especially the 112 soldiers from the Leederville area who did not return. She was also aware of the suffering and grief of families left behind.</i></p> <p><i>Horry's Tree has now become a living reminder of those young men who served their country and fought for our freedom at such a pivotal time in our country's history."</i></p> <p>Fay Maughan, Horry's grand niece.</p>
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Horace (Horry) Thompson, a dairyman and resident within the Leederville area fought for Australia and lost his life at the Battle of Passchendaele in the First World War. Horry was the son of Harry Thompson who served as a Leederville Councillor in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Horry Thompson married Lilly Gobby in 1910 and the couple settled in Norfolk Street (now Melrose Street) Leederville. Three children followed soon after. An aerial photograph of the site in 1964 shows the tree close to the boundary of the cottage that was the Thompson family home.

Horry's Tree was the only domestic tree at this particular location that was conserved from demolition within the land resumption area designated by the Main Roads Department for the building of Mitchell Freeway in the 1970s.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Historic theme	Governing: Law, Order and Defence Governing: Government and Politics	
Associations	Horace Thompson and family	Original landowners
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



ARCHIVAL IMAGES



Landgate Aerial Photograph 1964 showing the location of Horry's Tree