

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA)

CLASSIFICATION REPORT

Instructions:

- To be filled in as best you can. Please be as succinct as possible, and try not to repeat information in different sections.
- If you are planning to complete more than one nomination, copy this format now (or if using electronic version, remember to use "save as", and save the format to be used again.
- **As you are typing remove the instructions.** To request an electronic version email ann.gibson@nattrust.com.au or return completed email version to this address.
- Electronic versions are preferred. If posting a hard copy, post to National Trust of Australia (Vic) 4 Parliament Place, East Melbourne VIC 3002
- Labelled maps (sketches are fine) and photographs must be provided for the nomination to be considered for the National Trust Register. For identification high resolution jpeg files are preferred showing 1) the tree in context, 2) bark, 3) leaves and fruit if any.

FILE NUMBER: (Allocated by National Trust)

NAME :

Family: Fagaceae

Botanical Name: Quercus stellata

Common name: Post Oak

Name of particular specimen if it has one (ie "The Big Tree"):

LOCATION:

Address & Locality: 'Sonningfield', 1 Edna Walling Lane, Mooroolbark
Growing a rear (east) of new residence

Municipality (Shire/Council): Yarra Ranges Shire

Melway / Vicroads Reference: 52 A2

Longitude: 145°19'52.00"E

Latitude: 37°47'30.34"S

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Growing in the former grounds of 'Sonning' the home of Edna Walling, the Post Oak is an impressive tree with a large straight trunk and high canopy.

This tree is the only known example of this species in Victoria.

How is it significant?

The Post Oak is significant for historic and rarity reasons at a State level.

CATEGORIES: (*Circle or highlight one or more*)

(See Overleaf for Sub-Categories)

1. Any tree which is of horticultural or genetic value and could be an important source of propagating stock, including specimens that are particularly resistant to disease or exposure.
2. **Any tree which occurs in a unique location or context and so provides a contribution to the landscape, including remnant native vegetation, important landmarks, and trees which form part of an historic garden, park or town.**
3. **Any tree of a species or variety that is rare or of very localised distribution.**
4. Any tree that is particularly old or venerable.
5. Any tree outstanding for its large height, trunk circumference or canopy spread.
6. Any tree of outstanding aesthetic significance.
7. Any tree which exhibits a curious growth form or physical feature such as abnormal outgrowths, natural fusion of branches, severe lightning damage or unusually pruned forms.
8. Any tree commemorating a particular occasion (including plantings by Royalty) or having associated with an important historical event.
9. Any tree associated with Aboriginal activities.
10. Any tree that is an outstanding example of the species.

SIGNIFICANT TREES : CATEGORIES AND SUB-CATEGORIES

Note: These should be clearly demonstrated in the Statement of Significance

Category 1 : Horticultural Value

1-Blank

Category 6 : Aesthetic Value

1-Blank

Category 2 : Location or Context

1-Blank

2-Historic Garden or Park

3-Historic Cemetery

4-Important Landmark

5-Remnant Native Vegetation

6-End of Natural Range

7-Contribution to Landscape

8-Historic Town

9-Historic Planting Style

Category 7 : Curious Growth Form

1-Blank

2-Abnormal Outgrowths

3- Fusion of Branches

4-Unusually Pruned

5-Unusually Damaged

Category 3 : Rare or Localised

1-Blank

2-Only Known Specimen

3-1 to 10 Known Specimens

4-10 to 50 Known Specimens

5-In the Wild

6-End of Natural Range

7-Disjunct Community

Category 8 : Historical Value

1-Blank

2-Cultural Group

3-Public Feature

4-World War 1

5-World War 11

6-British Royalty

7-Non-British Royalty

8-Visiting Dignitary

9-Australian Public Figure

10-Victorian Public Figure

Category 4 : Particularly Old

1-Blank

Category 9 : Aboriginal Culture

1-Scarred Tree

2-Corroboree Tree

Category 5 : Outstanding Size

1-Blank

2-Height

3-Circumference

4-Canopy Spread

5-Height x Circumference

6-Spread x Circumference

7-Height x Circumference x Spread

Category 10 : Outstanding Example of Species

1-Blank

Why is it significant?

This tree is the only known example of this species in Victoria.

The Post Oak is growing in the former grounds of 'Sonning', the home of Edna Walling. The location is in an area developed as a nursery by Walling.

EXTENT:

Number of trees (if more than one): 1

Access: Restricted

CATEGORY: Tree

HISTORY:

HISTORY OF PLACE

Bickleigh Vale is a landscaped village of approximately 10ha created in the 1920s by leading Australian landscape gardener and designer Edna Walling (1895-1973). Bickleigh Vale was developed around Walling's own residence, 'Sonning' built in 1921 and her studio 'The Cabin'. Walling lived in the village for most of her working life, moving from 'Sonning' to 'The Barn' in 1951, before moving to Queensland in 1967. Bickleigh Vale was named after the village in Devon, England where Walling was raised.

The village was developed from the 1920s in a consistent style by Walling and a group of likeminded purchasers until the 1950s, whilst subsequent subdivision has created more than 30 properties. The design of all allotments in the first few decades was closely controlled by Walling, and part of the 'Sonning' garden was used by Walling as a nursery from which plants were supplied to purchasers.

DESCRIPTION:

The Post Oak tree is a single trunk and large narrow crown with distinctive leaves with deep lobes forming a cross and hairs below

Quercus stellata is native to the eastern and central United States, and found in all the coastal states from Massachusetts to Texas, and as far inland as Nebraska.^[3] It is identifiable by the rounded cross like shape formed by the leaf lobes and hairy underside of the leaves.

Quercus stellata is a relatively small tree, typically 10–15 meters (33–50 feet) tall and trunk 30–60 cm (1–2 feet) in diameter, though occasional specimens reach 30 meters (100 feet) tall and 140 cm (56 inches or 4.7 feet) in diameter. The leaves have a very distinctive shape, with three perpendicular terminal lobes, shaped much like a Maltese Cross. They are leathery, and tomentose (densely short-hairy) beneath. The branching pattern of this tree often gives it a rugged appearance. The acorns are 1.5–2 cm (0.6-0.8 inch) long, and are mature in their first summer.^[4]

CONTEXT

The Post Oak is growing in a private garden and is part of a row of 3 trees. The other two trees to the north are a Funeral Cypress and a Pin Oak. Nearby are other oaks (*Quercus macrocarpa*), Monterey Pines, Monterey Cypress, holly and rhododendrons.



MEASUREMENTS

All measurements must be in metres. For information on measuring trees, refer to the National Trust website at www.nattrust.com.au or telephone 9656 9800. If more than 1 tree, measure largest and describe exact location:

Circumference (of trunk at 1.4 metres above ground level): 2.82m

Spread N-S: 20m

Spread E-W: 22m

Height: 27m

Date Measured: 28/3/2014

Measured With: Instrument Clinometer

Measured By: John Hawker

Estimated Age: 80 years (1930s)
(Or date planted if known:)

Is the specimen: Cultivated ?

Planted by whom: (if known) probably Edna Walling

Identified by / Reference: Roger Spencer, Botanist

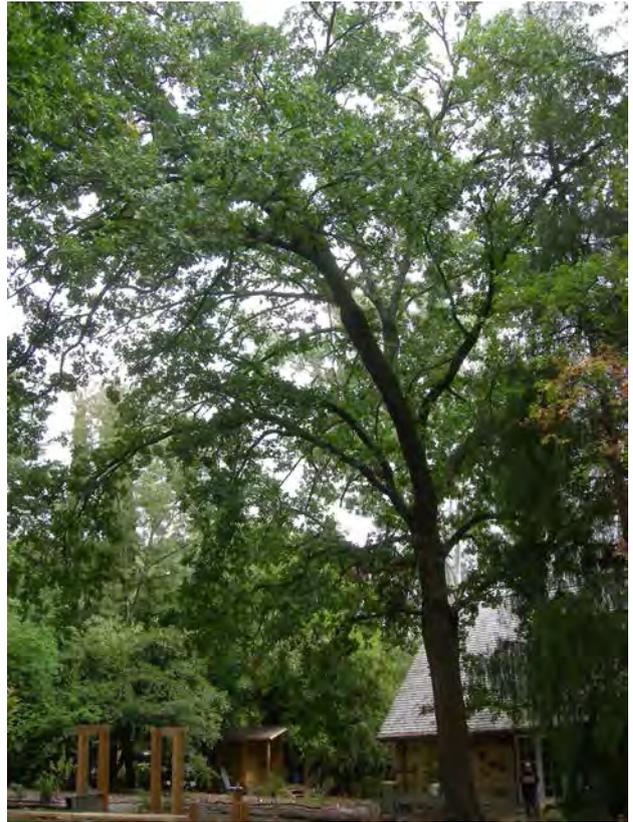
CONDITION:

Good

COMPARISON:

There is only one other Post Oak in Victoria growing at the former Coles Nursery, Belgrave and a tree at Footscray Park is identified as *Quercus* aff. *stellata*. A tree once grew in the Royal Botanic Gardens (northern walk).

APPENDICES:



OFFICE USE ONLY:

FILE NO.:
D.BASE NO.:
CLASSIFIED: (DATE)
STC:
CSC:
COUNCIL:
NEW CLASS. SHEET
COMPLETED: Y / N

**OWNERSHIP / CONTROLLING AUTHORITY
(CONFIDENTIAL)**

(name, address, phone number, also lessee/occupier/manager if relevant).

LOCATION OF PLACE

MANAGEMENT ISSUES/THREATS

e.g. over-maturity; incorrect maintenance; fungal or insect attack; destruction

DATE OF SUBMISSION

PHOTOGRAPHS (Include dates if known.)

NAMES & ADDRESSES OF SENDER/RESEARCHERS/COMPILERS/CONTRIBUTORS

(name, address, phone, National Trust Membership number if member)

DATE AND EXTENT OF LAST INSPECTION

NAMES OF PEOPLE MAKING INSPECTIONS

EXISTING DESIGNATIONS

VHR No.
Register of the National Estate
Local Overlay Control: (ask Planning Section of council)
Local Conservation Study Level

LEVEL/GRADING

ie. International, National, State, Regional. or Local