TWO TREES AT *GREEN HILLS*

ADDRESS: 28 Old Barnawartha Road, West Wodonga (part)

Off Bidstrup Road, West Wodonga (-36.089822, 146.820548)

STUDY No.: 2C HO No.: ..... HERMES No.: 27796

DATE: late 19th century

CONDITION: Fair to Good

INTEGRITY: Good



Bunya pine on left and Deodar on right (RBA, June 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is significant?

The two coniferous trees – a Bunya pine (*Araucaria bidwillii)* and a Deodar *(Cedrus deodar)* - at the former *Green Hill* homestead site off Bidstrup Road, West Wodonga and likely planted during the late 19th century are significant.

How is it significant?

The Bunya pine (*Araucaria bidwillii)* and Deodar *(Cedrus deodar)* off Bidstrup Road, West Wodonga are of local historical and representative significance to the City of Wodonga.

Why is it significant?

The Bunya pine and Deodar are of local historical significance as early plantings at John and Winifred Woodland's *Green Hill* homestead. John Woodland was one of the most influential

public figures in Wodonga settler history as its first Shire President. The trees are also associated with another significant public figure, his daughter, Rose Murphy, who was the first woman appointed a role within the Wodonga Shire Council. (Criterion A)

The Bunya pine and Deodar are of representative significance as they are substantial and good specimens which are evocative of late 19th century landscape traditions, in particular the taste of affluent pastoralists. At the time, the less common Bunya pines were planted in botanic gardens, public parks and large private gardens whereas Deodar were more commonly employed in the public domain, including street avenues. (Criterion D).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The two large trees are a Bunya pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) to the north and a Deodar *(Cedrus deodar)* to the south whose canopies are intertwined. The two trees are set back some 175 metres on the east of Bidstrup Road, near a tributary of the Murray.

There are no physical remains of the house which stood nearby.



Trees from east – the deodar to the left and bunya bunya to the right (Nearmap 24.11.2024)

The Bunya pine or bunya-bunya (*Araucaria bidwillii*) is a large evergreen coniferous tree in the family Araucariaceae which is endemic to Australia, mainly southeast Queensland. They can reach a height of 50 metres with a single unbranched trunk with dark brown or black flaky bark and their leaves a small and rigid with a sharp tip. Part of their distinct appearance is determined

by their varying branch configuration with those at the top tending to be ascending and those at the lower parts tending to droop. The cones are located at the apex of the tree (terminal) with the female (or seed) cone being larger than the male (or pollen) cone and maturing after (December to March) the male (October to November).

The Himalayan cedar or deodar (*Cedrus deodora*) is a large evergreen coniferous tree which is native to the sub-continent in East-Afghanistan, Southwestern Tibet, Western Nepal, Northern Pakistan, and North-Central India but is widely grown as an ornamental tree. Specimens can reach 40-50 metres in height, have a trunk up to 3 metres in diameter, a conic crown, and level branches and drooping branchlets and needle-like leaves. The smaller male cones shed their pollen in autumn and the larger female cones disintegrate when mature (about 12 months) when their winged seeds are released.[1]

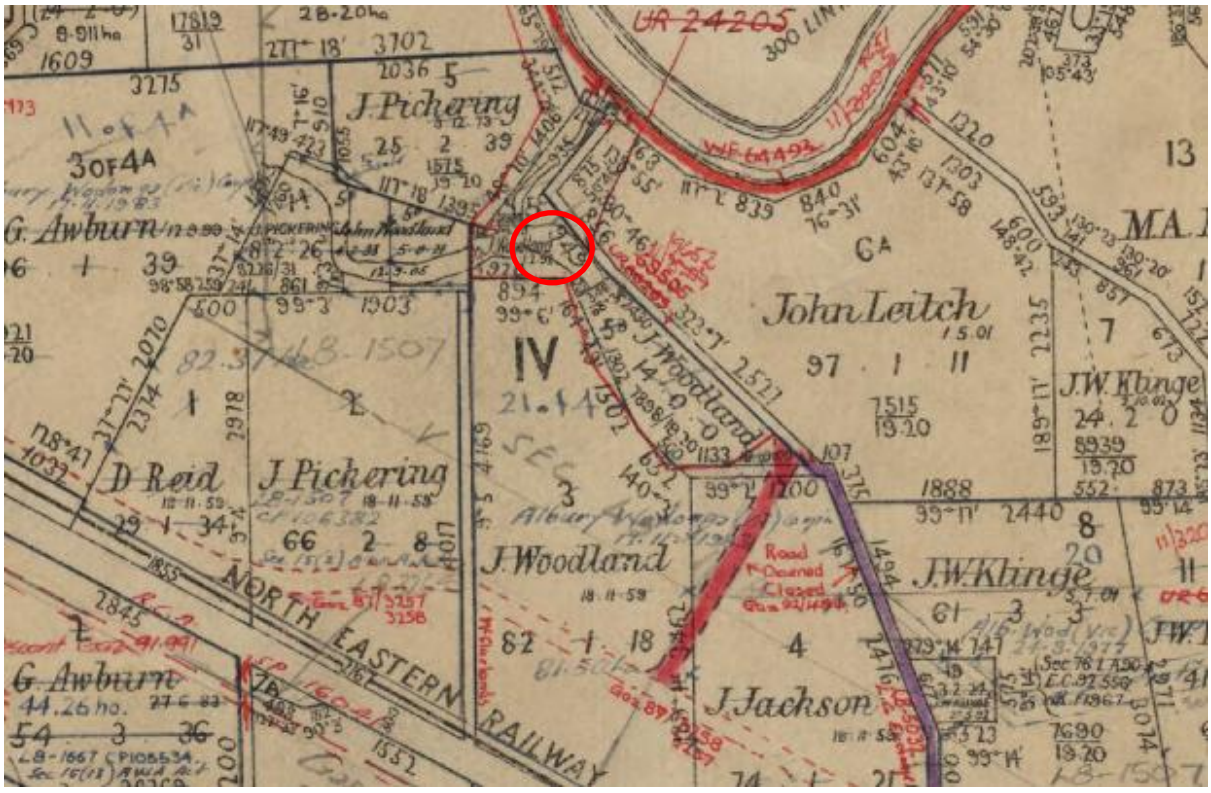
HISTORIC THEMES

4.4 Farming

6.7 Making homes for Victorians

HISTORY

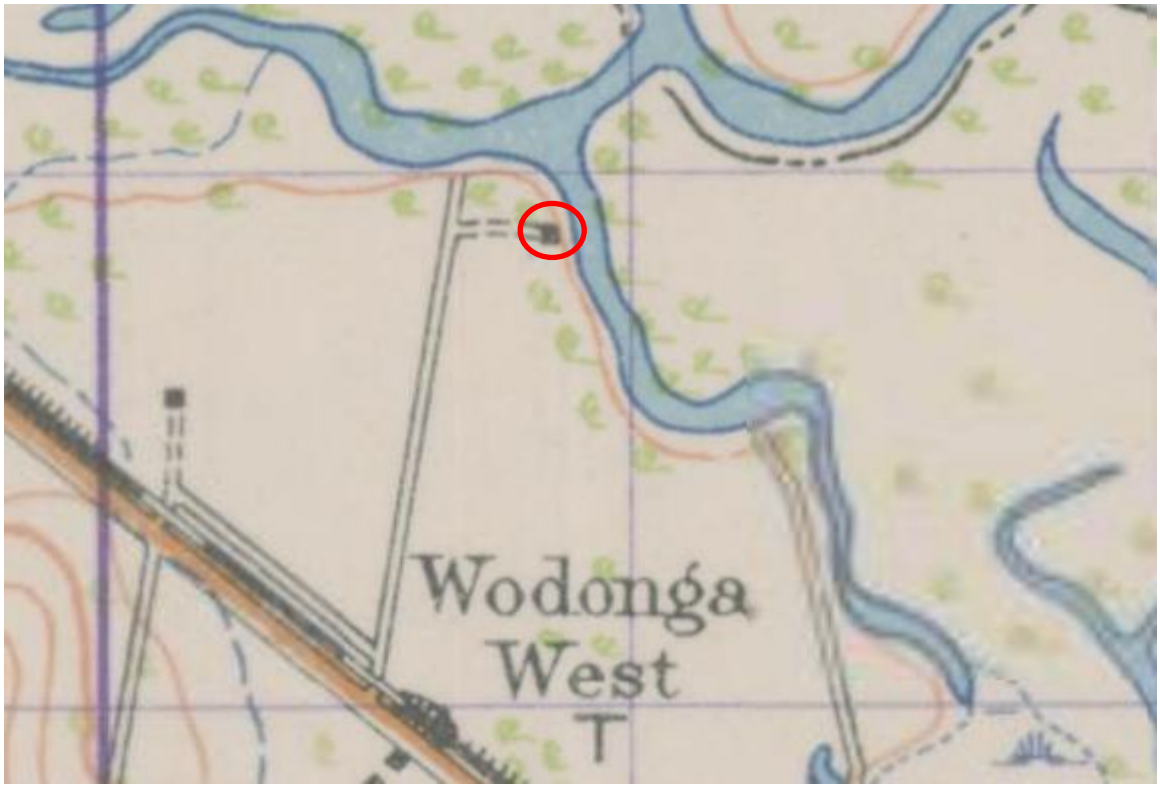
The remnant trees at the Green Hill homestead site were originally located within Crown Allotment 3, section 4 as shown in the Belvoir West Parish map (Chauncey 1859). In November 1859 John Woodland purchased the 82-acre Crown Allotment where he grazed cattle into the 20 century. Woodland's home was located by a horseshoe bend along the Murray River, almost directly north of present-day West Wodonga train station.



Location of Green Hill trees shown in red (Belvoir West Parish Plan 2001).

[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cedrus_deodara, accessed 05.03.2024

A 1933 map shows the location of the homestead near the waterway, about where the trees are located suggesting they may have acted as easterly wind breakers (Great Britain. War Office. General Staff. Australian Section 1933).



John Woodland's home highlighted corresponding with the location of the two trees
(War Office, Australian Section map, 1933)



John Woodland (centre) with his son, grandson, and two daughters, including Rose Murphy (seated right) circa 1900s (Wiltshire 2016)

John Woodland was born in Kent, England in 1829 (Wiltshire 2016). In 1839, at the age of 10, he immigrated to Australia with his parent where they settled in Sydney ('Personal and Social', 1913, pp. 30). In 1853 Woodland married Winifred Byrne in Goulburn and that year the pair moved to Wodonga where Woodland established a carrier business. John and Winifred first settled at a property known as Mosquito Alley on old Barnawartha Estate, and sometime later moved closer to Wodonga in West Wodonga to Crown Allotment 3 which they called "Green Hills" (heritage place). At Green Hills, the pair established a home for their young and growing family whilst engaged in farming and also running a hotel ('Family Notices', 1853, pp. 2, 'Personal and Social', 1913, pp. 30). It was at this time (the 1870s) that Woodland entered into public life within the West Wodonga Riding and commenced a long successful career in public life. During his early career as a member of the Riding, Woodland agitated for the separation of the Wodonga district from the Yackandandah Shire. He and his comrades succeeded in their historic campaign and in 1876 Wodonga was proclaimed a Shire. Woodland's significant contributions to the movement were recognised when he was unanimously elected as Wodonga's first Shire President. In 1878, Woodland was also elected to the position of executive officer of the Shire, a position which he held until his death in 1913. During his final years, his daughter, Rose Murphy, made important contributions to his work alongside her own role as Shire treasurer – a position she had held since 1908. Following her father's death in 1913, Rose was appointed her father's role as Shire secretary, a position she held for 20 years (Wiltshire 2016). Melbourne newspaper *The Argus* reported Rose's trailblazing appointment, reporting, "This lady enjoys the distinction of being the only one of her sex who has filled a municipal appointment. Mrs Murphy was subsequently chosen as treasurer to the Wodonga Waterworks Trust" (Wiltshire 2021).

In 1899 Winifred Woodland died. Winifred and John had three sons and four daughters ('Advertising', 1882, pp. 24, 'Personal and Social', 1913, pp. 30).

The trees are evident as well-established on the following 1948 aerial.

The condition of the two trees is consistent with that evident in a photograph taken during Stage 1 of the heritage study in 2004 (refer below).



1948 aerial (Source: Albury 782B3, RAAF, Council)



The trees in 2004 (Wodonga Heritage Study, Stage 1)

COMPARISON

Bunya pines (*Araucaria bidwillii)* are a not common tree in Victoria, having been introduced from Queensland in the nineteenth century, and becoming a prominent display tree in botanic gardens, public parks, and large private gardens.

The deodar *(Cedrus deodar)*, an exotic species, are more common being often used in avenues or windbreaks.

To date no specimen of either species, or any other similar specimen tree, has been included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay.

RECOMMENDATIONS

EXTENT OF LISTING

It is recommended that the two trees on Bidstrup Road, West Wodonga (Coordinates: -36.089822, 146.820548) are included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Wodonga Planning Scheme.

The extent of the heritage overlay should include the two trees and a curtilage of 10 metres about them on Lot 2\PS907837 as approximately indicated on the following aerial.



(Nearmap, 19 November 2024)

PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

Planning Controls	Y/N
External Paint Controls Apply?	N
Internal Alteration Controls Apply?	N
Tree Controls Apply?	Y –*Araucaria bidwillii* and *Cedrus deodar*
Solar Energy System Controls?	N
Outbuildings or Fences Not Exempt Under Clause 43.01-4?	N
Included on the Victorian Heritage Register Under the Heritage Act 2017?	N
Prohibited Uses Permitted?	N
Aboriginal Heritage Place?	N

REFERENCES

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