

NAME: 'Olive Trees', 302 Cherry Gardens Road, CHERRY GARDENS

CURRENT USE: Two Olive Trees
FORMER USE: Two Olive Trees
DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION: Date of planting not identified, possibly mid-1840s.

LOCATION: 302 Cherry Gardens Road, CHERRY GARDENS
LAND DESCRIPTION: CT 5533/855, Section 786, Hundred of Noarlunga

OWNER: Private ownership

RECOMMENDATION: Local Heritage Place



One of two early olive trees sited at 302 Cherry Gardens Road, Cherry Gardens (GGA, 2021)

NAME: 'Olive Trees', 302 Cherry Gardens Road, CHERRY GARDENS

DESCRIPTION:

Two large European Olive (*Olea europaea*) trees located at 302 Cherry Gardens Road, Cherry Gardens, attributed as dating to the mid-1840s.

It is recommended that 'Olive Trees', 302 Cherry Gardens Road, Cherry Gardens be included on the South Australian Heritage Register as a Local Heritage place.

A delineation of significant historic fabric is provided in the Extent of Listing.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

The 'Olive Trees', 302 Cherry Gardens Road, Cherry Gardens are of significance as among the earliest surviving and documented examples of the species in South Australia. Documented as having been planted by the mid-1840s by the Broadbent family. The two trees may have been planted from cuttings sourced from the first olive trees brought to South Australia aboard the *Buffalo* in December 1836; the ship upon which the Broadbent family also arrived in South Australia at this time.

The trees are strongly associated with and were planted by Luke Broadbent (1791-1856) a prominent early settler of the Cherry Gardens district. The trees now comprise surviving heritage elements that represent the farming activities of the Broadbent family on the site from 1846. Of unusual size in comparison to other early documented examples of the species in Australia, the trees may be of some significance to the history of the imported species in Australia.

RELEVANT CRITERIA (As defined in Section 67(1) of the PDI Act 2016):

a) it displays historical, economic or social themes that are of importance to the local area; being a strongly associated with the farming activities of Luke Broadbent and the Broadbent family, among the Cherry Gardens district's earliest and most prominent families. Planted after 1846, the two trees are among the earliest documented examples of olive tree plantings in South Australia and are possibly cuttings from the first olive trees brought to South Australia aboard the *Buffalo* in December 1836; the ship upon which the Broadbent family also arrived in South Australia.

b) it represents customs or ways of life that are characteristic of the local area; the two olive trees are documented as having been planted after 1846 by Luke Broadbent and the Broadbent family, among the Cherry Gardens district's earliest and most prominent families. The two trees, significant early examples of olive tree planting in South Australia, effectively represent the early importation and planting of European fruit-bearing plants in South Australia, a common and characteristic activity of early South Australian settlers in both the district and more broadly in South Australia in general.

e) it is associated with a notable local personality or event; being strongly associated with the farming activities of Luke Broadbent (1791-1856), a significant early settler for the Cherry Gardens district who is documented as having planted the trees by the mid-1840s.

g) in the case of a tree, it is of special historical or social significance or importance within the local area; the two olive trees number among the earliest surviving documented examples of this species in South Australia, documented as having been planted by the mid-1840s. It is possible the trees were planted as cuttings from the earliest olive trees brought to South Australia aboard the *Buffalo* in December 1836; it is notable that the Broadbent family who planted the trees were also aboard this ship at the time. The two examples are also of unusually-large size in comparison to other early documented examples of the species in Australia and may be of some significance to the history of the imported species in Australia.

RELEVANT HISTORIC THEMES:

Theme 2: Regional Life in the Southern Vales

2.8 Significant local trees and plantings

Theme 4: Local Settlers and Local Entrepreneurship

4.1 Notable early local families and settlers

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The 'Olive Trees', 302 Cherry Gardens Road, Cherry Gardens do not appear to have been identified or assessed as part of any previous heritage survey.

These two trees have been identified by the National Trust of SA as being 'old and unusually large for this species', though an exact age has not been identified. A historical summary of the site was provided by the National Trust, identifying that the site upon which the two olive trees are planted was initially owned by Luke Broadbent (1791-1856), who arrived in the Cherry Gardens district in 1844 and was among the district's earliest settlers. Two slate fragments now embedded in the base of the first tree appear to be made of Willunga slate. An association between these slate fragments and the Willunga slate gravestones at the nearby Cherry Gardens Wesleyan Methodist Church, established in 1849, was presumed; though the National Trust identified that no direct link could be determined between provided historical details and the date of planting.

Current information has identified Lands Title records dating to September 1869, when a portion of Section 786 was acquired by Luke Broadbent's widow, Harriet Broadbent. The 1869 title identified that Section 786 was previously granted to Luke Broadbent in May 1846, aligning with historical records of the Broadbent family arriving in Cherry Gardens in c.1844. Luke and Harriet Broadbent have been identified as having arrived in South Australia aboard the *Buffalo* with future Governor John Hindmarsh on the 28th December 1836, the day of the proclamation of province of South Australia at Holdfast Bay, Glenelg. Luke Broadbent is recorded as having found employment with the South Australian Company at Kangaroo Island for several years, later squatting in the Cherry Gardens district before being allocated a portion of Section 786 by 1846. The family constructed and resided at a residence now located at 38 Jacobs Road, Cherry Gardens.

An article regarding Luke Broadbent's life records a portion of his autobiography (written in third person) in which Luke provides a brief description of the family's farming activities by the mid-19th century, including a brief mention of mature olive plantings:

The worst part of the rough is, as he hopes, now passed over; and he and his family can amuse themselves, and even laugh, at the uncouth and ridiculous figure that the colony sometimes presented when in her swaddling band. The children, who on leaving home were pitied on account of their parents' obstinacy in taking such a step, caressed and wept over, are now ploughing, sowing, gardening, and growing the means of subsistence,

without one thought ever crossing their minds of either wanting work or bread. Settled in the bush, though his cottage has no imposing

appearance outwardly, nor many internal ornaments (comfort taking precedence of taste), yet there are crops on the land; wheat in the granary; milk, butter, and cheese in the dairy; flowers and pot-herbs in the garden; bearing fruit-trees in the orchard— apples, plums, cherries, peaches, apricots, and the like; to which must be added not only melons, but the fig, grape, and olive—which, besides their intrinsic worth, have a value, and give great interest from their sacred associations; ...

This description of mature olive plantings, in addition to other fruit-bearing trees, would suggest the trees were planted by Luke Broadbent shortly after the family's initial acquisition in 1846. Considering the rarity of these imported plants at the time, the lack of other subsequent olive trees on the site and the description of numerous fruit-bearing plantings on the small farming allotment, it is presumed that only these two olive trees were planted by Luke Broadbent during this period.

It is interesting to note that the earliest identified olive tree specimens in South Australia also arrived aboard the *Buffalo* in December 1836 with the Broadbents and the future Governor Hindmarsh. Using cuttings from these plants, olive trees were quickly planted in the North Adelaide Parklands and in Hackney at the Hackney Olive Tree Nursery. The beginnings of South Australia's olive oil industry are generally associated with Sir Samuel Davenport (1818-1906) who arrived in South Australia in 1843 aged 25. By 1851 Davenport represented South Australia at the first International Exhibition in London, showcasing South Australia's prize-winning olive oil. Shortly after his arrival in South Australia (ie. mid-1840s), Davenport provided the following quotation: "There are perhaps, about ten olive trees in the Colony. It would be well if there were ten thousand, for a more generous plant does not exist. Once planted, it requires no care, but continues to yield its increasing store for centuries." The two olive trees planted by Broadbent by the mid-1840s may number among those described by Davenport.

It is likely therefore that the two olive trees at 302 Cherry Gardens Road, Cherry Gardens, mostly likely planted shortly after 1846, are the result of cuttings from either the original olive plants that arrived aboard the *Buffalo* in December 1836 or were cuttings from early specimens planted in either North Adelaide or Hackney. As a fellow emigrant with Governor Hindmarsh and other governmental officials aboard the *Buffalo*, it is possible that Broadbent, a former employee of the South Australian Company and described as an 'upright and honourable man' of 'considerable intellectual attainments', possibly had privileged access to early (likely protected) olive plantings for his own farming purposes. It is possible that the two examples at 302 Cherry Gardens Road, Cherry Gardens, planted by Luke Broadbent after 1846, date among the earliest known surviving olive trees in South Australia.

Prominent early settlers and local residents of the Cherry Gardens district, the Broadbent family retained Section 786 & the adjoining Section 348 as farming land until 1917, a significant association of over seventy years. Aside from the two c.mid-1840s olive trees, no other early fabric relating to the Broadbent family's farming activities appears to remain on the site. Subsequent owners include Frederick Oscar Scroop (1917), the Strange family (1917-1943), Kenneth James Edwards (1943-1951), Alfred Robert Chapman (1951-1962), the Rosenthal family (1962-1971) with numerous owners in the late 20th century.

No information relating to the attributed Willunga slate fragments could be identified; the varying size and thickness of the fragments does not suggest the use as a gravestone markers and may relate to fencing, sheds or earlier farming structures.

Information provided by the current owner demonstrates that the two olive trees at 302 Cherry Gardens Road, Cherry Gardens are of unusually large size in comparison to other early documented examples in both South Australia and in Australia and may be of some significance to the national history of olive tree planting.

EXTENT OF LISTING:

The form and materials that comprise the two large European Olive (*Olea europaea*) trees *camaldulensis*) at 302 Cherry Gardens Road, Cherry Gardens.

It should be noted that botanical specimens have a limited lifespan and require regular maintenance, including pruning etc., to ensure the tree remains safe for those living in close proximity. All efforts to ensure the survival of the trees for the complete duration of their natural lifespan should be undertaken. No actions should be undertaken that would compromise the trees' natural lifespan.

It is recommended that a regular inspection schedule should be adopted and maintained to ensure the trees remains a safe and viable heritage element for the property upon which they are planted.

REFERENCES:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Broadbent-38>, accessed 13/4/2022.

<https://www.burnside.sa.gov.au/Latest-News/History-Corner/Olives-From-the-Buffalo-to-Beaumont>, accessed 13/4/2022.

https://trusttrees.org.au/tree/SA/Cherry_Gardens/302_Cherry_Gardens_Road, accessed 13/4/2022. The Late Mr. Broadbent, South Australian Register, Mon 16 Jun 1856, p.4. CTs 134/183; 64/207; 1817/190; 1949/115; 3580/187; 3703/177; 3918/139; etc.

SITE MAPPING:



Site of 302 Cherry Gardens Road, Cherry Gardens; red circle denotes approximate site of two c. mid-1840s olive trees. Blue indicator to the south shows location of c. 1840s Broadbent homestead, now 38 Jacobs Road, Cherry Gardens (Planning SA SAPP)

HISTORICAL IMAGES:



Approximate site of 'Olive Trees' (within red circle) in 1936 aerial photography. (ICSM Historical Aerial Photography, Film Number MAP1946, Run 7, Frame 6460, dated 7th March, 1936. <https://imagery.aerialphotography.fsdf.org.au/>, accessed 12/04/2022).



'Olive Trees', 302 Cherry Gardens Road, Cherry Gardens, photographed in 2019 looking west (National Trust of SA, 2019)



'Olive Trees', 302 Cherry Gardens Road, Cherry Gardens, photographed 2019 looking east (National Trust of SA, 2019)

OTHER IMAGES:



One of the 'Olive Trees', 302 Cherry Gardens Road, Cherry Gardens, looking west (GGA, 2021)



Extensive root base of one of the 'Olive Trees', 302 Cherry Gardens Road, Cherry Gardens (GGA, 2021)



Willunga slate fabric now embedded within the root base of one of the 'Olive Trees', 302 Cherry Gardens Road, Cherry Gardens (GGA, 2021)



Willunga slate fabric now embedded within the root base of one of the 'Olive Trees', 302 Cherry Gardens Road, Cherry Gardens (GGA, 2021)