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**NAME: River Red Gum, 47 Booth Street, HAPPY VALLEY**

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<b>CURRENT USE:</b>	River Red Gum tree
<b>FORMER USE:</b>	River Red Gum tree
<b>DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION:</b>	Approximately 350 years old (c.1670s).
<b>LOCATION:</b>	47 Booth Street, HAPPY VALLEY
<b>LAND DESCRIPTION:</b>	CT 5572/375, Section 514, Hundred of Noarlunga
<b>OWNER:</b>	Private ownership
<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>	Local Heritage Place



River Red Gum, 47 Booth Street, Happy Valley (GGA, 2022)

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**DESCRIPTION:**

C.350 year old 'River Red Gum' (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) of approximately 15 metres in height, located in the rear garden of 47 Booth Street, Happy Valley.

It is recommended that 'River Red Gum', 47 Booth Street, Happy Valley 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.

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**STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:**

'River Red Gum', 47 Booth Street, Happy Valley, is a large and impressive example of a *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* of approximately 350 years of age. Formerly comprising a prominent part of Alfred Hallett's farming estate, the tree now represents a significant and well-documented botanical element for the district, having survived the extensive farming land clearings from the 1830s and the subsequent residential subdivisions of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, most likely due to its impressive size and age. The tree now effectively represents the entire span of the Happy Valley district's colonial history, from its 1830s farming origins to the extensive residential subdivisions of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The tree is also associated with the estate of Alfred Hallett (1814-1877), a significant early settler for the Happy Valley district and a prominent early South Australian colonist.

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**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 former farming complex of Alfred Hallett, one of Happy Valley's earliest settlers. The 'River Red Gum' survived extensive clearing of farmland from the 1830s. The 'River Red Gum' again survived the residential subdivisions of farmland in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, effectively representing a well-documented, surviving heritage element that spans the entire colonial history of the district.

b) it represents customs or ways of life that are characteristic of the local area; being a prominent and well-documented botanical element that bridges the colonial history of the district, surviving heavy clearing that occurred during the district's farming origins in the 1830s and the subsequent residential subdivisions that occurred in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

e) it is associated with a notable local personality or event; being strongly associated with the farming complex of Alfred Hallett (1814-1877), a significant South Australian citizen and early settler of the Happy Valley district from the 1830s.

g) in the case of a tree, it is of special historical or social significance or importance within the local area; being a large and impressive example of a *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* of approximately 350 years of age, having survived both extensive farming land clearings from the 1830s onwards and the subsequent residential subdivisions of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, now a significant and well-documented botanical element that spans the district's entire colonial history.

**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

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**BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

The heritage values of 'River Red Gum', 47 Booth Street, Happy Valley do not appear to have been identified or assessed as part of any previous heritage survey.

Current research has identified that the 'River Red Gum', an approximately 350 year old tree now located in the backyard of 47 Booth Street, Happy Valley, was formerly located within the farming estate of Alfred Hallett, a significant early settler of the Happy Valley and Morphett Vale districts. Hallett's original residence, an unlisted building attributed as dating to the 1840s, survives and is located at 45 Alison Drive, Happy Valley.

A significant early colonist, Alfred Hallett (1814-1877) was born in London, England. Arriving in South Australia in 1838, Hallett joined family members at 'Worthing' farm near Reynella where Alfred's brother John had discovered a small rocky beach known as Hallett's Cove. The brother established the Worthing Mining Company when copper was found in 1847, the mine was abandoned following the Victorian Gold Rush. Subsequent mining ventures included the Bremer Mine at Callington. At one time Lands Title Commissioner and Railway Commissioner, Hallett was also Chairman of the Central Road Board. Following his brother's death, Alfred managed the family's pastoral properties, including a number of properties in the mid-North and northern Flinders Ranges until Alfred's death in 1877.

The earliest identified Lands Title records relating to the site of the 'Gum Tree', 47 Booth Street date to October 1893 when Alfred Hallett's farm was acquired by Mary Ann Sampson, wife of Richard Sampson the younger of Unley Road, merchant. The property was transferred to John Denison Smith of O'Halloran Hill in 1900, the Smith family retaining the property until 1935. The property was subsequently owned by the Robertson family from 1935 until 1969 when a large portion of the farmland was sold to Rupari Pty Ltd & Warekilla Pty. Ltd. Subdivision began to occur to the site from the early 1970s, the current owners of 47 Booth Street constructed their residence from 1972, retaining the property since this time.

Historical aerial photography from 1936 show the original Hallett farm complex prior to subdivision (see Historical Images), clearly showing the 'River Red Gum' now located at 47 Booth Street, Happy Valley, then surrounded by open farmland. This image clearly demonstrates the tree's historical prominence for the local area, having survived the clearing of farmland in the district by Alfred Hallett and subsequent owners from the 1830s onwards and surviving later subdivision from the 1970s, most likely for its impressive size and age. Mid-20<sup>th</sup> century photography provided by the current owners clearly illustrate the prominence of this tree at this time, also showing heavy pruning that occurred to the tree at the time of the construction of 47 Booth Street.

The tree appears to be healthy and well-maintained with a regular maintenance schedule. Identified as a significant local tree, the 'River Red Gum' was registered as a tree of local significance on the National Trust's Register of Significant Trees in February 2014.

## EXTENT OF LISTING:

The form and materials that comprise the 350 year old 'River Red Gum' (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) at 47 Booth Street, Happy Valley.

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 tree for the complete duration of its natural lifespan should be undertaken. No actions should be undertaken that would compromise the tree's natural lifespan.

It is recommended that a regular maintenance schedule should be adopted and maintained to ensure the tree remains a safe and viable heritage element for the surrounding properties.

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## REFERENCES:

<https://www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au/library/collections-and-resources/local-history-room/localhistoryarticles/local-history-articles-people/hallett,-john-and-alfred-colonists>, accessed 12/4/2022.

CTs 579/191; 621/66; 1993/189; 2232/118; 2920/31; 3630/126; 3730/64; etc.

National Trust of SA, 2014, Receipt of Nomination, Register of Significant Trees.

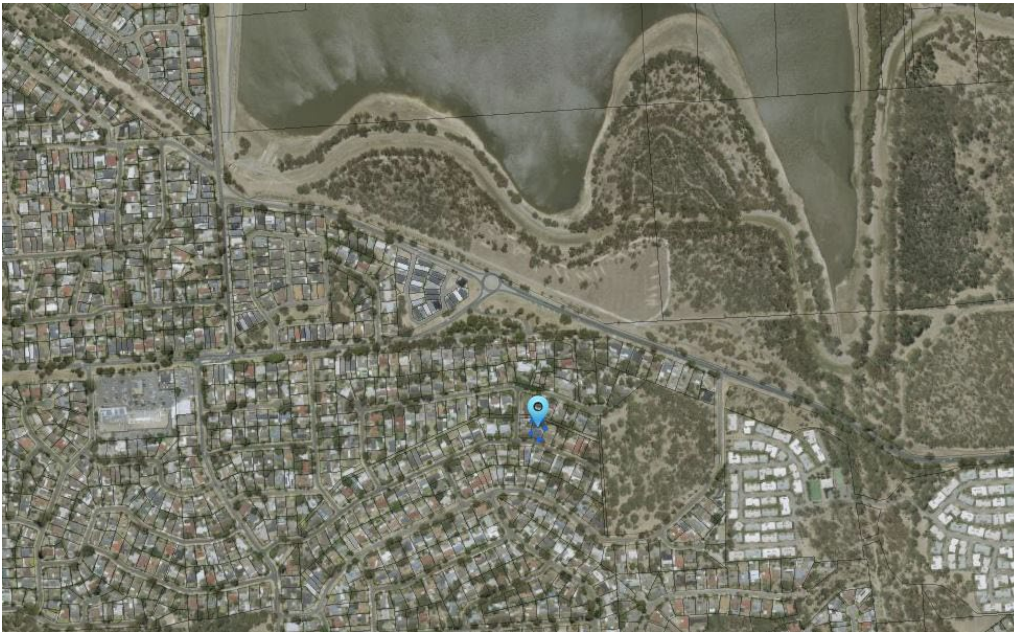
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## SITE MAPPING:



Location of River Red Gum, 47 Booth Street, Happy Valley; tree canopy in red circle (Planning SA SAPPA)





Site of 47 Booth Street, Happy Valley (shown by blue indicator) in relation to nearby Happy Valley Reservoir. (Planning SA SAPPa)

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## HISTORICAL IMAGES:



Location of River Red Gum (within red circle) now located at 47 Booth Street, Happy Valley in 1936 aerial photograph, sited on land formerly comprising part of Alfred Hallett's farm at Happy Valley. Note cleared farmland surrounding the tree, suggestive of the tree's size and prominence at that time. (ICSM Historical Aerial Photography, Film Number MAP1942, Run 4N, Frame 6344, dated 3rd April, 1936. <https://imagery.aerialphotography.fsdf.org.au/>, accessed 12/04/2022).



Mid-20<sup>th</sup> century photograph of large gum tree now located at 47 Booth Street, Happy Valley (image courtesy of current owner)



Photograph of River Red Gum shortly after heavy pruning during the construction of the current residence at 47 Booth Street, Happy Valley in c.1972 (image courtesy of current owner)



**OTHER IMAGES:**



Photograph of the River Red Gum's canopy, extending to a height of approximately 15 metres. (GGA, 2022)