4.0 ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF COMPONENTS

4.1.31 Hurtle Square Assessment



4.0 ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF COMPONENTS

Hurtle Square

Existing Planning / Development Plan Context

Hurtle Square exists within the Hurtle Square Precinct R18 of the *City of Adelaide Development Plan* (p. 369). Its 'Environment' is described as:

DESIRED FUTURE CHARACTER

Hurtle Square and its surrounding buildings will continue to develop as an attractive residential Square with a built form character reflecting its importance as one of the City's major public spaces. A largely continuous wall of buildings will enclose the spatial envelope of the Square and create a low to medium scale, inner-urban residential environment. Medium scale buildings to corners are envisaged.

The Square itself will remain generously planted with tall trees set in an open lawned setting, its landscaped open space dominating the character of the Precinct. Paving, planting, lighting and street furniture will aim to maintain the traditional character, promote unity of the Square and provide areas for informal recreation.

Pulteney Street will continue to carry a high traffic volume while all other streets should only provide for local traffic. Specific provision will be made for cyclists on Pulteney Street. Safe pedestrian access to the landscaped area of the Square, the Park Lands and across the Precinct from the south-east corner of the City to the Central Activities District should be maintained and improved. Parking should be to the rear or in basements, not on or visible from ground level property frontages.

No components in Hurtle Square are identified in the State Heritage Register.

No components of Hurtle Square have been identified on the National Trust of South Australia's Register of Significant Trees.

Significant Components and Places

In terms of Hurtle Square, they include:

Overall Spatial Pattens

Hurtle Square has deteriorated from the spatial footprint and dominant circulation system as originally proposed by Light with the intrusion of main north-south and east-west roads through the Square together with the original tramways on the north-south alignment. These works effectively broke the one large Square into four small quadrants removing extant period ornamental vegetation at the same time. The character that exists today has therefore been extensively compromised by road construction works but it does not visually read this way as the maturity of these ornamental plantings result in the representation of an open lawned semi-Victorian square. The original pathway system in the Square was largely in a union jack configuration and parts of this system exist today explaining the angles of particular pathways as there were to meet with a larger north-south pedestrian promenade in the centre of the Square. Light proposed a rectangular space, with a roadway encircling the rectangle, with a north-south east-west pathway circulation system within the Square. Both have been compromised. O'Brien and Pengilly appear to have maintained the latter adding a set of diagonal pathways to meet the axes, together with an internal perimeter pathway. Plantings reinforced these axes and newer pathways, and a pattern of Moreton Bay Fig (Ficus macrophylla) trees together with other ornamental species were planted in the 1860s-70s many of which were removed progressively in the 1940s the remnants of which remain today. There are remnants of these plantings today together with plantings the Pelzer added in the 1900s-1930s. With Pelzer's departure, the internal perimeter pathways were removed to cut maintenance costs but the rest of the pathway system was retained. Overall, Hurtle Square has lost its spatial pattern and form as proposed by

Light, has a compromised circulation system, and the original planting scheme has been compromised resulted in a fragmented but Gardenesque planting design today. Accordingly, the Square holds cultural landscape merit because of its design and spatial integrity.

❖ Hurtle Square Spatial Pattern (J&E LB.18): the overall spatial form and internal circulation systems of the Square that hail from the design intent of Light and were created by O'Brien and Pengilly in their capacities as City Gardeners, and the subsequent modifications due to the introduction of roadways. Of some design and cultural merit.



Land Use

The land use has remained consistently, as proposed by light, as a public park or village common. There is one area of significance evident in terms of its use and function:

❖ Hurtle Square Park Use (J&E LA.18): the overall Square has retained its design intent and purpose as proposed by Light in 1836. Of some design and cultural merit.



Natural Features Responsiveness

Hurtle Square is a relatively level rectangular space with no topographical feature. No significant features are evident.

Circulation Networks

Historically Hurtle Square was proposed by Light as a rectangular common encircled by a roadway with a north-south- east-west axis internal pathway system. These components were developed in accordance with this plan but were extensively modified with the advent of electric tramways and heavy traffic volumes in Pulteney Street resulting in the construction of the north-south and east-west roadways through the Square. These circulation routes include:

- ❖ Hurtle Square Road System A: a dense tree-lined narrow roadway system that encircles the Square. Of some design, aesthetic and engineering merit.
- Hurtle Square Road System B: the more contemporary north-south Pulteney Street and the east-west Halifax Street alignments. Of some design, aesthetic and engineering merit.



❖ Hurtle Square Pathway System: an internal pathway system consisting of a basic union jack configuration of a north-south and east-west pedestrian paths, as proposed by Light in 1836, with a cross-axis pathway system laid on top established in the 1860s-70s under O'Brien, of which some components exist today. Of some design, aesthetic and engineering merit.



Boundary Demarcations

No evidence is present of past demarcation devices and fencing apart from the fundamental road boundaries.

Vegetation

There are numerous vegetation elements in Hurtle Square that possess cultural heritage merit:

- **❖** English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) arc: five specimens of English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) planted in *c*.1900 located in the south-west and south-east quadrants of the Square. These were street trees planted to a design by Pelzer that established a southern arc road sweep of the Square before the north-south and east-west road pattern was constructed. In poor and mixed health today displaying evidence of dieback and termite infestation. **Of some design and aesthetic merit.**
- ❖ Desert Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia* var *oxycarpa*) line: located along inner flank of the north-western quadrant of Hurtle Square, in reasonably good health and condition and dating from the 1920s. Of some aesthetic merit.





- ❖ Captain Cook Pine (*Araucaria columnaris*) specimen A (J&E TA.26): located on the south-eastern inner corner of the Square, a very good specimen in form and health considering its double leader, that provides a very strong evergreen visual accent feature to the intersection and Square. Probably planted in the 1870s under O'Brien. **Of some horticultural and aesthetic merit.**
- ❖ Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) specimen A (J&E TA.28): located in the south-western corner of the north-eastern quadrant, an elderly Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) in good form and heath considering its age but bearing evidence of dieback amongst its top branches. An ornamental tree that very strong evergreen visual accent feature to the intersection corner. **Of some horticultural and aesthetic merit.**





- ❖ Pepper Tree (*Schinus aeria* var *molle*) specimen A: located in the north-eastern quadrant just north of the Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*), an elderly specimen probably dating to the 1870s under O'Brien in good to mixed health and condition. Of some aesthetic merit.
- ❖ Pepper Tree (*Schinus aeria* var *molle*) specimen B: located in the north-eastern quadrant adjacent to Pulteney Street, an elderly specimen probably dating to the 1870s under O'Brien in good to mixed health and condition. **Of some aesthetic merit.**





- * Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*) specimen: located in the northern portion of the north-eastern quadrant, a large and relatively healthy specimen of a Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*) planted in the 1920s under Pelzer resulting in a feature tree in this quadrant. Of some botanical and aesthetic merit.
- ❖ Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) specimen B (J&E TA.28): located in the upper centre of the north-western quadrant, a large relatively healthy specimen of a Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) planted in the 1860s under O'Brien providing a dominant feature to this quadrant. Of some botanical and aesthetic merit.





- ❖ Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) specimen C (J&E TA.28): located in the south-eastern corner of the north-western quadrant of the Square, a large but poorly specimen that has been unsuccessfully severely pruned over the years to prolong its life resulting in a poor form but has been continually affected by surface changes and underground infrastructure changes resulting in a continual stressed environment. Has only a few years remaining, and unfortunately today provides a dominant corner feature to the Pulteney Street roadscape. **Of some botanical and aesthetic merit.**
- ❖ Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) avenue: two lines of mature street Hackberrys (*Celtis occidentalis*) located along the service lanes on the north-eastern and north-western portions of the Square, that provide a beautiful shady avenue effect that are in relatively good health and form. Planted in the 1930s under Pelzer. **Of some aesthetic merit.**





- ❖ Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) specimen (J&E TA.27): located in a traffic median strip in the western portion of the Square, a very good specimen in form and health considering its position in the median strip, that provides a very strong evergreen visual accent feature to the intersection and Square. Probably planted in the 1870s under O'Brien. There was up until recently a matching Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) in the opposite traffic median strip. It is probable that during the road construction works, Pelzer relocated these specimens into the median strips from their original locations in the Square enabling the visual effect. **Of some aesthetic merit.**
- ❖ Canary Island Pine (*Pinus canariensis*) specimen: located on the inner intersection corner of the south-western quadrant of Hurtle Square, a large wide formed Canary Island Pine (*Pinus canariensis*) in relatively good health and condition forming an evergreen visual accent to the corner, probably planted in the 1870s under O'Brien. **Of some aesthetic merit.**





- ❖ Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) specimen **D** (J&E TA.28): located in the lower centre of the north-western quadrant, a large specimen of a Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) planted in the 1860s under O'Brien providing a dominant feature to this quadrant but displaying evident signs of health deterioration and dieback probably due to changes in the ground surface and underground installation changes over the last 25 years resulting in a poor form and appearance that is not assisted by its age. **Of some botanical and aesthetic merit.**
- ❖ Captain Cook Pine (*Araucaria columnaris*) specimen B (J&E TA.26): located in the north-eastern quadrant of the Square, a very good specimen in form and health considering its double leader, that provides a very strong evergreen visual accent feature to the intersection and Square. Probably planted in the 1870s under O'Brien. **Of some horticultural and aesthetic merit.**





Spatial ArrangementsOne area is present:

❖ Hurtle Square: the larger Square itself bounded by the Hurtle Square roadway representing a clearly identifiable landscaped space. Of some social merit.



Structures

There are no structures in Hurtle Square of significance.

Small Scale Elements

There are several elements in Hurtle Square that have merit. These include:

- ❖ Hanson Street Memorial: a bronze plaque memorial erected in August 1967 as a consequence of the Council decision to re-name the southern section, Halifax Street to South Terrace from Hanson Street to Pulteney Street, that continues the honour to and Sir Richard Davies Hanson after whom the street was originally named. Of some social merit.
- ❖ Pigeon Fountain: a red brick cube installation with a concrete tapering crown hosting a shallow wide water bowl to enable pigeon drinking, with mosaic tiled recesses on all four sides, and positioned in a crushed rock surface encircled by red brick edging. The mosaic tiles also carry a poem:

Address to the pigeons in Hurtle Square. The pigeons in the Square Are pert and debonair.

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Plumped out with scattered scraps
They cease to fear mishaps.
Accost me as I walk
With wheedling-salesman's talk.
And when I don't provide
They jostle me aside.
Security we know
Is mortals chiefest foe,
And Shakepeare's warning words
Embrace both men and birds.
They end who this defy
Car's lunch or pigeon pie.
So fly off, bludging crew,
And don't shit on my shoe.

John Bray

Of some design and social merit.





- ❖ Plinth and 'Hurtle Square' Sign: a contemporary design feature constructed in 2005 as part of the Pulteney Street street-scape renovation works, featuring a low timber slat bench on top of a impregnated concrete plinth with 'Hurtle Square' metal letters embedded in the lower flank. Of some design merit.
- ❖ 'The Forest of Dreams' Plaque: two aluminium mounted plaques, positioned on the ground surface adjacent to the 'The', associated with the above art installation indicating design-ship by artist Anton Hart, unveiling by Lord Mayor Alfred Huang on 18 February 2003, and explaining that the words 'The Forest of Dreams' are drawn from a quotation from French philosopher Gaston Bachelard wherein he wrote "the continuous passage from the real to the imaginary." Of some social merit.





* 'The Forest of Dreams' Installation: a four piece steel and four component granite art installation erected on the Pulteney and Halifax Street intersection corners to a design by artist Anton Hart and unveiled on 18 February by Lord Mayor Alfred Huang, and also associated with the Pulteney Street street-scape renovation works. Of some design and aesthetic merit.





* Hurtle Square Inner North West Gutters & Kerbing: located on the inner road perimeter of Hurtle Square, along its north-western flank, lengths of slate and sandstone kerbing accompanied with bluestone gutter detailing dating from the 1870s when these components were constructed. Of some design, aesthetic and engineering merit.



Historical Views and Aesthetic Qualities

Hurtle Square is relatively flat landscape within no internal vistas. But the roadways accessing the Square enable vistas outwards, framed by street trees resulting in numerous framed views:

- ❖ Pulteney Street vista north: an open street tree-framed vista from Hurtle Square northwards towards the city skyline with considerable visual evidence of buildings and a glimpse of the Bonython Building that visually terminates Pulteney Street. **Of some** aesthetic merit.
- ❖ Pulteney Street vista south: an open street tree-framed vista from Hurtle Square southwards towards the South Park Lands and the Adelaide Hills escarpment, with some visual evidence of the Park Lands and considerable evidence of the escarpment. Of some aesthetic merit.





- ❖ Halifax Street vista east: an open street tree-framed vista from Hurtle Square eastwards towards the East Park Lands and the Adelaide Hills escarpment, with little visual evidence of the Park Lands but considerable evidence of the escarpment. Of some aesthetic merit.
- ❖ Halifax Street vista west: an open street tree-framed vista from Hurtle Square westwards towards the West Park Lands and the coast, with no visual evidence of the Park Lands and distant coast but a commanding view of the distant blue skies. **Of some** aesthetic merit.





Cultural Landscape Heritage Significance Evaluation

The following table summarises the cultural landscape heritage components present in Hurtle Square. A separate assessment, in the Main Report, positions Hurtle Square's cultural landscapes in the context of the wider Adelaide Park Land.

Hurtle Square overall Hurtle Square Spatial Pattern Hurtle Square Park Use		-	-	-	-	M	-								(e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics		(g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance			
	-	-	-					-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-
	-	-	-									_								
Hurtle Square Park Use	-			-	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-
			_																	
Hurtle Square Road System A	-	-	-	-	-	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hurtle Square Road System B	-	-	-	-	-	-	L		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hurtle Square Pathway System	-	-	-	-	-	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-
English Elm (Ulmus procera) arc	-	-	-	-	-	-	L	V	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Desert Ash (Fraxinus angustifolia var oxycarpa) line	-		-	-	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Captain Cook Pine (Araucaria columnaris) specimen A	-	-	-	-	-	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	Y	-
Moreton Bay Fig (Ficus macrophylla) specimen A	-		-	-	-	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-
Pepper (Schinus aeria var molle) tree specimen A	-	-	-	-	-	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-
Pepper (Schinus aeria var molle) tree specimen B	-	-	-	-	-	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-
Port Jackson Fig (Ficus rubiginosa) specimen	-	-	-	-	-	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-
Moreton Bay Fig (Ficus macrophylla) specimen B	-		-	-	-	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moreton Bay Fig (Ficus macrophylla) specimen C	-	-	-	-	-	M-	-	V	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hackberry (Celtis occidentalis) avenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norfolk Island Pine (Araucaria heterophylla) specimen	-	-	-	-	-	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-
Canary Island Pine (Pinus canariensis) specimen	-	-	-	-	-	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-
Moreton Bay Fig (Ficus macrophylla) specimen D	-	-	-	-	-	M	-	V	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Captain Cook Pine (Araucaria columnaris) specimen B	-	-	-	-	-	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	Y	-
Hurtle Square	-	-	-	-	-	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hanson Street Memorial	-	-	-	-	-	-	L	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	_
Pigeon Fountain	-	-	-	-	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plinth and 'Hurtle Square' sign	-	-	-	-	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_
'The Forest of Dreams' plaques	-	-	-	-	-	-	L	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
'The Forest of Dreams' Installation	-	-	-	-	-	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-
Hurtle Square Inner North West Gutters & Kerbing	-	-	-	-	-	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-
Pulteney Street vista North	_	_	_	_	_	M	_			_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	Y		
Pulteney Street vista South	-	-	-	-	_	M	_	_	-	_	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	Y	_	
Halifax Street vista East	_	_	_	_	_	M	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	Y		
Halifax Street vista West	_	-	_	_	_		I	_	_	_	-	_	-	_	_	_	_	_		_

Statement of Cultural Significance

Hurtle Square represents a reasonable example of the Park Land square concept that Colonel William Light was seeking to create, as depicted in his 1836 survey plans for Adelaide, including roadway and pathway system configurations, but over the years its circulation system design has been compromised and this has severely affected its historical planting design strategy. O'Brien sought to establish the latter and undertook period plantings that would create a mid-Victorian styled public park that appropriated the union jack as the pedestrian pathway design and used Victorian era plant species including Moreton Bay Figs (Ficus macrophylla), Canary Island Pine (Pinus canariensis), Captain Cook Pines (Araucaria columnaris), Olive (Olea europaea), Pepper (Schinus aeria var molle) trees, and Carob (Ceratonia siliqua) in single ornamental and avenue styles of plantings. Pelzer reinforced this planting strategy with period plantings of English Elms (Ulmus procera), Italian Poplar (Populus nigra 'Italica'), Kurrajong (Brachchiton populneus), Pink Kurrajong (Brachychiton populneus x acerifolius), Arizona Cypress (Cupressus arizonica) together with other of his preferred species to conserve the basic spatial pattern, to address the major changes the Square experienced with the excision of land to create the internal roadways and electric tram routes, and update the landscape style to a more robust Gardenesque atmosphere and character These changes in vegetation largely due to age and condition deterioration, and transportation changes, have resulted in a highly fragmented planting design for the Square that is far from the original rectangular village green or commonage form and character as proposed by Light. Accordingly, the Square has been severely compromised by vehicular and tramway alignment excisions, retaining only the intent of its original pedestrian pathway configuration, and the intent of its O'Brien established planting design. Accordingly, it lacks the integrity and cohesion of the Square as envisaged by Light as a designed and functional space.

Recommendations:

- ❖ Conserve and reinforce the strong roadside tree plantings along the perimeter Hurtle Square roadscapes and seek to strengthen the roadscape character paying particular attention to views, co-ordinated tree planting strategies, and display of adjacent features and views;
- ❖ Prohibit the erection of Corporation maintenance infrastructure in Hurtle Square;
- * Remove all overhead wires and stobie poles from Hurtle Square;
- * Revise *City of Adelaide Development Plan* citations pertaining to R18 to reflect the above conclusions and recommendations;
- ❖ Prepare a Landscape Master Plan for Hurtle Square that seeks to undertake a major renovation of the tree planting strategy, including replacements and new plantings, for the Square, conserves the existing axial pedestrian pathway system, prohibits any memorial plaques or similar, enables the positioning of a fountain, enables the use of mid Victorian − early Edwardian style bollards, fencing, gates, paving, edging, light standards furniture, signage, and which seeks to craft a mid Victorian − early Edwardian style public park including the choice of plantings and detailing;
- That preparation and execution of such a Landscape Master Plan be considered an urgent budget item;
- That as part of any Landscape Master Plan a mapping and rationalisation of all underground infrastructure be undertaken with the intent of identifying such but importantly to rationalise and consolidate their locations to conserve extant mature tree specimens and further infrastructure placement;
- That the Corporation seriously consider the removal of two elderly and poorly Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) specimens and their replacement with similar species as soon as possible:
- * That the Corporation reviews its underground irrigation and infrastructure policy as it relates to all Squares and seeks to prioritise all infrastructure placement under existing

- pathways and not through lawns or under the drip-lines of any Significant Tree under the *Development Act 1993* or identified in this Assessment;
- * Review and reconsider all 1960s-1990s street tree planting species and species scales in the inner and outer perimeters of Hurtle Square roadscape in line with the above recommendation, and seek appropriate implementation actions;
- That the Corporation consider the dual naming of Hurtle Square, as proposed under Amery, to Tangkaira/Hurtle Square.