Statement of Significance: Smooth-barked Apple Tree, 646 & 648 High Street, Prahran (June 2026)

Heritage Place:	Smooth-barked Apple Tree 646 & 648 High Street, Prahran	**PS ref no:**	HO773



Figure 1: *Smooth-barked Apple Tree*, 646 & 648 High Street, Prahran (Extent Heritage, July 2022).

What is significant?

The Smooth-barked Apple Tree (*Angophora costata*) at 646 & 648 High Street, Prahran, is of local heritage significance. The surrounding buildings, grounds and landscaping are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Smooth-Barked Apple Tree is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington.

Why is it significant?

The Smooth-barked Apple Tree is of historical significance as a mature ornamental native tree planting associated with the emergence of private suburban gardens in the municipality during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. A feature of freestanding middle-class villas, these gardens and their accompanying plantings not only encapsulated the suburban ideal of *ruse in urbe* (country in the city), but also established the municipality's upper-middle class pockets as leafy suburban areas. As a remnant of the former suburban garden at the former Victorian villa at 648 High Street, Prahran, the Smooth-barked Apple Tree at 646 & 648 High Street, Prahran demonstrates a key landscape feature of late nineteenth and early twentieth century middle-class suburban development. (Criterion A)

The Smooth-barked Apple Tree is of aesthetic significance as a pronounced and striking tree planting. It is distinguished by its impressive height, round and spreading canopy and characteristic symmetrical twisted branch structure and smooth, pale pink-brown coloured bark. These features, combined with its prominent siting and visibility from the street front, form a landmark feature along a main thoroughfare. (Criterion D)

Primary source

Prahran and Windsor Heritage Review (Extent Heritage, April 2024).