

Attachment B

Historical justification

Historical justification – Cabbage Lane

The name Cabbage Lane is a reminder of the type of produce grown in the market gardens that proliferated throughout Sydney's southern suburbs, including Waterloo, in late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The fertile soil in the Waterloo and Alexandria area was suited to horticulture, as it was well irrigated by fresh water from local waterways such as Sheas Creek. Several market gardens and nurseries were established here by the 1830s and 1840s including the Camellia Grove nursery established by award-winning grower Robert Henderson Snr and George Rolfe's market garden adjacent to today's Cauliflower Hotel.

Chinese market gardeners began to take up allotments in the vicinity of Waterloo and Alexandria into the 1880s. There were Chinese market gardens and a branch of Shepherd's Nursery on the site bounded by Bourke and Lachlan streets in the late 19th century.

The nearby street names 'Tung Hop' and 'Sam Sing' provide recognition of the Chinese market gardeners and the Chinese community that existed in the area. These names are a reminder of everyday people, and everyday life in previous times and reflect the cultural diversity of people that lived in this area. For example, Tung Hop was identified in the Sands' Directories as working gardens in this block in 1891-1893 and is the namesake for a new nearby street named in 2012. Chinese market gardeners continued working plots in this area into the 1920s.

The two main vegetables cultivated by Chinese growers at Waterloo were cauliflowers and cabbages. These staple vegetables are both cultivars of the brassica oleracea family. Cauliflower and cabbage were regarded as valuable crops in the 19th and 20th centuries, because the vegetables stored well in cooler months and could be preserved through salting and fermentation for longer term use.

References

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