

## Phoenix dactylifera — Date Palm

**Scientific Name:**

*Phoenix dactylifera*

**Common Name:**

Date Palm

**Register Number:**

1

**Location of Tree:**

Corner of Wills Terrace and Hartley Street, Alice Springs NT

**GPS:**

-23.69685, 133.88302

**Categories of Significance:**

Cultural

**Date Planted:**

1913

**Year Listed:**

1982

**Heritage Listed:**

2007



Ben Walkington and Ida Standley (1921-1926). Image: Jack Laver

This Palm is one of the oldest in the Alice Springs area. It was thought to have been planted in 1913 by Ben Walkington, the owner of the two room slab cottage affectionately known as 'Myrtle Villa', which was situated on this block at the time. Myrtle Villa, also known as 'Sister's Hospital', was home to Jean Finlayson, the first resident sister appointed to Alice Springs in 1915. This cottage was also home to the first teacher appointed to Alice Springs, Ida Standley, who lived here between 1921 and 1925.

In the years following, the cottage made way for a Mobil Service Station, which has since been demolished, leaving only the Palm as a reminder of the history of this site. May 2007 this Palm was accepted by the Heritage Conservation Services to be considered worthy of Heritage Listing. It is now protected by the Heritage Conservation Act.



Mobil Service Station (1989)



Vacant Block (2017)

