

Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of 14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest) Notice 2016

Notifiable Instrument NI2016–172

made under the

Heritage Act 2004, s32 (Decision about provisional registration) s34 (Notice of decision about provisional registration)

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of 14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest) Notice 2016*.

2 Decision about provisional registration

On 7 April 2016, the ACT Heritage Council decided not to provisionally register 14 Dominion Circuit, Block 3, Section 27, Forrest (the **Place**).

3 Reasons for the decision

The Heritage Council decided not to provisionally register the Place because it did not have heritage significance as it did not meet any of the heritage significance criteria in section 10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, as set out in the schedule.

4 Date decision takes effect

The decision not to provisionally register the Place takes effect on the day after this notice is notified.

Fiona Moore
A/g Secretary (as delegate for)
ACT Heritage Council
7 April 2016



ACT Heritage Council

STATEMENT OF REASONS

DECISION NOT TO PROVISIONALLY REGISTER

14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest

(Block 3 Section 27, Forrest)

IN THE ACT HERITAGE REGISTER

In accordance with Section 32 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, the ACT Heritage Council has decided not to provisionally register 14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest. This Statement of Reasons provides an assessment of 14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest and finds that the place does not meet any of the criteria under s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004* (the Act).

Background

On Monday 18 January 2016 a nomination application was received for a residential house at 14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest. The Council accepted the nomination at its meeting of 11 February 2016.

Assessment

The Council's assessment against the criteria specified in s.10 of the Act is as follows.

In assessing the nomination for 14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest, the Council considered:

- the nomination, supporting material and documentary evidence supplied by, and on behalf of, the nominator;
- the Council's *Heritage Assessment Policy* (February 2015);
- information provided by a site inspection on 22 February 2016 by ACT Heritage staff; and
- the report by ACT Heritage titled, *Background Information 14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest*, February 2016, containing photographs and information on history, description, condition and integrity.

Pursuant to s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, a place or object has heritage significance if it satisfies one or more of the following criteria. Future research may alter the findings of this assessment.

(a) importance to the course or pattern of the ACT's cultural or natural history;

14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest, does not meet this criterion.

In accordance with the ACT Heritage Council's *Heritage Assessment Policy* (2015), the basic test in order to meet the threshold of significance against criterion (a) is:

- The place or object has a clear association with an event, phase, period, process, function, tradition, land use, movement, custom, way of life, ecological community, species, biodiversity, geology, climate, or evolution of natural landforms in the ACT's history;

AND

- The association of the place/object to the event, phase etc. is evident in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history.

There are reasonable records detailing the history of 14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest as a War Service Home. The place therefore has a clear association with the provision of War Service Homes in the ACT.

War Service Homes played a role in the development of Canberra post World War II. However, this contribution is considered minor, and the provision of War Service Homes in the ACT is not considered to be of importance, having made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution to the evolution or pattern of the ACT's cultural or natural history. 106 homes were built in Canberra under the War Service Homes scheme between 1945 to 1953. By way of comparison, between 1956 and 1962, the War Service Homes scheme had assisted in the purchase and/or construction of around 36,000 homes Australia-wide. In comparison with other jurisdictions, the ACT had a relatively small number of War Service Homes provided from the inception of the scheme to the mid-1950s.

The provision of War Service Homes in Canberra is not considered to constitute a 'significant past event'. By way of comparison, other events, phases and periods of history in the ACT which have made a significant and influential contribution to the history of the ACT include the planning and design of the early Garden City Precincts, the provision of public housing, including hostel accommodation, experimental Radburn Housing Precincts and early medium-density housing developments, and Federal Capital Architecture. Many of these periods of developments reflect the planning intent and designs of ACT authorities, including the National Capital Development Commission and the National Capital Commission.

In accordance with the Council's assessment policy, a place is not eligible under this criterion if it provides evidence of an historical quality that is common or of low or questionable importance to the ACT.

The provision of War Service Homes is considered to be of questionable importance to the ACT. Further, the association between 14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest with the provision of War Service Homes is not considered distinctive or special.

(b) has uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural or natural history;

14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest, does not meet this criterion.

In accordance with the Council's Heritage Assessment Policy, an aspect of history includes that which is evidence of an event, phase, period, process, function, tradition, land use, movement, custom, way of life, ecological community, species, biodiversity, geology, climate, or evolution of natural landforms.

A place or object may be eligible for registration under this criterion if:

- it is the only and/or the only extant example within the ACT with integrity or authenticity (though a wider contextual analysis is necessary to determine its importance);
- few examples of its kind existed originally;
- few examples of its kind exist because the original population of examples has decreased due to destruction;
- it has a mix or composition of features which is rare or uncommon in the ACT; or
- it has an unusual richness, diversity or significant transitions of flora, fauna or natural landscapes and their elements.

A place or object may not be eligible for registration under this criterion if the quality of claimed rarity has too many descriptive qualifiers linked to it (for example, 'it is the only house of this design, in this colour, with this many windows, and a centre door, and chimney...'). Any place, with sufficient descriptors applied, can be considered rare or uncommon.

War Service Homes in the ACT are not considered uncommon, rare or endangered. Further, as detailed at criterion (a), they are not considered to form an important aspect of the ACT's cultural history.

The nomination application has stated 14 Dominion Circuit as a two storey cream brick veneer war service home. This statement contains too many descriptors to be considered eligible for consideration under criterion (b).

(c) potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the ACT's cultural or natural history;

14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest, does not meet this criterion.

In accordance with the Council's Heritage Assessment Policy, a place or object would be likely to meet this criterion if the information that might be obtained through the investigation of the place or object is likely to provide a substantial contribution to an understanding of an important aspect of the ACT's cultural or natural history.

As detailed under criterion (a), the provision of War Service Homes in the ACT is not considered to form an important aspect of the ACT's history. Any information able to be yielded by the place would therefore not contribute to an understanding of the ACT's history.

Further, the potential to yield information must relate to the physical evidence available at the place or object itself, and not the associated documentary evidence related to the place.

In the case of 14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest, while there may be further information yielded about the ways in which War Service Homes contributed to accommodating Canberra's families after World War II, this is more likely to be yielded by historical records and documents than through the physical fabric of the residence itself.

(d) importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or objects;

14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest, does not meet this criterion.

The place is a conservative cream brick veneer house. It does not fit within a particular architectural style typical of the period. Further, there are no typical common traits which characterise War Service Homes. As such, it does not form part of a class of cultural places and cannot be considered against this criterion.

(e) importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT;

14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest, does not meet this criterion.

The house is constructed of a modest style and while it may have some aesthetic appeal, there is no evidence to suggest this is valued by the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT.

(f) importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement for a particular period;

14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest, does not meet this criterion.

The house is a utilitarian and conservative design using well known materials and details. It has been altered in sympathetic ways. It is not considered to demonstrate a high degree of creative or technical achievement.

(g) has a strong or special association with the ACT community, or a cultural group in the ACT for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest, does not meet this criterion.

The house is a private residence and has no special association with the ACT community or a cultural group.

(h) has a special association with the life or work of a person, or people, important to the history of the ACT.

14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest, does not meet this criterion.

The house was commissioned by Mr John Robert Gardner who became Trade Commissioner to Canada from January 1965 to August 1968, at a time of peak trade between the two nations. Mr Gardner then worked with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, rising to Assistant Secretary before his retirement.

Mr Gardner was a RAAF Flight Lieutenant Lancaster bomber pilot in World War II in Europe who rose to the rank of squadron leader. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC).

Mr Gardner had an interesting and distinguished career. However, this is not sufficient to consider him as being important to the history of the ACT.

Conclusion

This Statement of Reasons provides an assessment of 14 Dominion Circuit, Forrest and finds that the place does not meet any of the criteria specified in s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

SITE PLAN



Image 1 Site Boundary

This is an image indicating the site boundary, which includes the whole of the block.