

Australian Capital Territory

Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of the Calvary Homestead Ruin, Paddys River) Notice 2015

Notifiable Instrument NI2015–249

made under the

Heritage Act 2004, s34 Notice of decision about provisional registration

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of the Calvary Homestead Ruin, Paddys River) Notice 2015*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after notification.

3 Notice of Decision

Pursuant to Section 32 of the *Heritage Act 2004* the ACT Heritage Council has decided not to provisionally register the Calvary Homestead Ruin, Paddys River to the ACT Heritage Register.

Pamela Hubert
A/g Secretary (as delegate for)
ACT Heritage Council
4 June 2015



ACT Heritage Council

STATEMENT OF REASONS

DECISION NOT TO PROVISIONALLY REGISTER

Calvary Homestead Ruin

(part Block 29, Paddys River)

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 Calvary Homestead Ruin, Paddys River. This Statement of Reasons provides an assessment of Calvary Homestead Ruin, Paddys River and finds that the place does not meet any of the criteria under s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

Background

Calvary Homestead Ruin was nominated to the Interim Places Heritage Register under the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* in 1996. It was constructed on Portion 97, Parish of Congwarra, between 1891 and 1903 by Michael and Susan Maloney, with the probable assistance of George Hatcliff. 1916 valuation data records the presence of the main pisé homestead with an adjoining horizontal slab kitchen, outbuildings consisting of a cow bail, skillion, and slab shed, and several netted cultivation areas.

By 1893 the Maloney family pastoral holdings spanned from the summit of the Bullen Range (Freshford Hills) to the Murrumbidgee River. Michael Maloney was an active member of the community of small selectors in the Tidbinbilla and Tuggeranong areas. He worked for the de Salis family of Cuppacumbalong and William Farrer at Lambrigg, and became a member of the committee that arranged the opening, in March 1895, of the Tharwa Bridge.

In 2015, portions of the north, east, and south walls of the pisé homestead remain. No evidence of the west pisé wall remain, and substantial leaning and vertical cracking is evident in the standing walls. There are impressions of rotted timber framework in the windows and internal walls. The only evidence for the slab kitchen, cow bail, shed, and skillion recorded in 1916 are corner posts, several stone foundations, and a modest surface collection of domestic artefacts such as glassware and crockery. A collapsed fence suggests the location of one of two recorded netted cultivation areas.

Assessment

The Council's assessment against the criteria specified in s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004* is as follows.

In assessing the nomination for Calvary Homestead Ruin, Paddys River, the Council considered:

- the original nomination and documentary evidence supplied by the nominator;
- information provided by a site inspection on 13 March 2015 by ACT Heritage; and
- the report by ACT Heritage titled, *Background Information Calvary Homestead Ruin*, June 2015, 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;

Calvary Homestead Ruin, Paddys River, does not meet this criterion.

While it may be argued that the place has an association with patterns of rural European land use and vernacular building techniques used by selectors during the late nineteenth century, there is insufficient physical fabric remaining to demonstrate the place’s importance to the course or pattern of the ACT’s cultural or natural history.

The homestead is a vernacular pisé building, constructed in the 1890s. Pisé was adopted as a result of economic conditions, enabling European settlers to construct homes from inexpensive, readily available materials. This demonstrates the resourcefulness of settlers and the environmental, social, and economic demands of the era and location. However, the pisé ruin is now substantially degraded, with only severely deteriorated pisé walls remaining, and, as such, the homestead does not meet the threshold for inclusion under this criterion.

A horizontal slab kitchen once adjoined the pisé homestead. This building type represents the resourcefulness and independence of European settlers in the late 19th century as a form of vernacular rural construction in the area that eventually became the ACT. No substantial evidence of this structure remains at the place, and the evidence of its association with European lifeways cannot be established.

The cow bail, shed, and netted cultivation areas are further indicative of European lifeways, including self-sufficiency and industry in remote rural areas. However, insufficient evidence of these features remains to enable assessment under this criterion.

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

Calvary Homestead Ruin, Paddys River, does not meet this criterion.

Pisé and horizontal slab buildings are rare and endangered aspects of the ACT’s cultural history, as few of these rural vernacular structures survive from nineteenth and early twentieth century pastoral landscapes, and fewer still survive in unmodified, ‘good’ condition. European holdings that demonstrate pastoral and agricultural lifeways of early settlers in the region also represent endangered aspects of the ACT’s cultural history. However, there is insufficient physical fabric at the place to demonstrate these aspects of European settlement history and meet the threshold for inclusion under this criterion.

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

Calvary Homestead Ruin, Paddys River does not meet this criterion.

There is no evidence at Calvary Homestead Ruin to suggest substantial physical evidence exists pertaining to a defined research interest, neither is there evidence to suggest any surviving archaeological material at the place would be of high integrity. Any surviving evidence would be archaeological, and the place would merely provide a further example of the material culture typical of European domestic settlement in nineteenth century Australia. The material culture from this period is adequately represented in the archaeological record.

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

Calvary Homestead Ruin, Paddys River does not meet this criterion.

Some interpretative potential exists at Calvary Homestead Ruin as a pisé ruin. However, it is not important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of nineteenth and early twentieth century

vernacular pisé or slab construction, owing to significant deterioration of the structure. The rammed earth walls or the pisé homestead have been subject to extensive weathering and demonstrate considerable cracking and distortion, with only portions of the original house footprint evident. Stronger examples of historic pisé buildings include Lambrigg, Nil Desperandum, and Rock Valley. Further, the horizontal slab kitchen is only present at the site in the form of several remnant weathered timber posts, most of which are no longer in situ.

Further, there are insufficient remains of the original outbuildings and cultivated areas of the rural landscape to meet the thresholds for inclusion under this criterion as an example of a small, nineteenth and early twentieth century pastoral holding.

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

Calvary Homestead Ruin, Paddys River does not meet this criterion.

There is no evidence before the Council indicating the community or a cultural group in the ACT values any extant aesthetic qualities of the Calvary Homestead Ruin.

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

Calvary Homestead Ruin, Paddys River does not meet this criterion.

The pisé building does not demonstrate a high degree of technical achievement for the period in which it was constructed. There is little evidence of an appreciation of structural issues by the builders, with too little bonding or overlap between rammed sections. This has resulted in long vertical 'joints' which have contributed to the failure of the structure and suggests that the formwork used for the pisé may have been extremely limited in size and flexibility.

With regards to the slab structure and surrounding pastoral landscape, there is insufficient remaining physical evidence to demonstrate any degree of integrity, and therefore meet the thresholds for inclusion under this criterion.

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

Calvary Homestead Ruin, Paddys River does not meet this criterion.

There is no evidence before the Council suggesting a strong or special association between Calvary Homestead Ruin and the ACT Community or a cultural group in the ACT.

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

Calvary Homestead Ruin, Paddys River does not meet this criterion.

The Maloney family appear to have been valued and active members of the community in the Tidbinbilla, Uriarra, and Tuggeranong areas during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and had connections with the de Salis family of Cuppacumbalong and William Farrer of Lambrigg. However, the physical fabric of Calvary Homestead Ruin holds no connection with the de Salis family or William Farrer. Further, it has not been demonstrated in the physical fabric of the place, documentary resources, or oral history that the Maloney family is important to the history of the ACT.

Conclusion

Calvary Homestead Ruin does not demonstrate the necessary evidence required to meet high thresholds for inclusion on the ACT Heritage Register. The degraded condition of the pisé homestead and slab kitchen, the outbuildings, and the pastoral landscape significantly reduces the place's capacity to represent uncommon, rare, or endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural history, and demonstrate its importance to the course or pattern of the ACT's history. The lack of remaining fabric also obscures significant aesthetic characteristics that may have once existed.

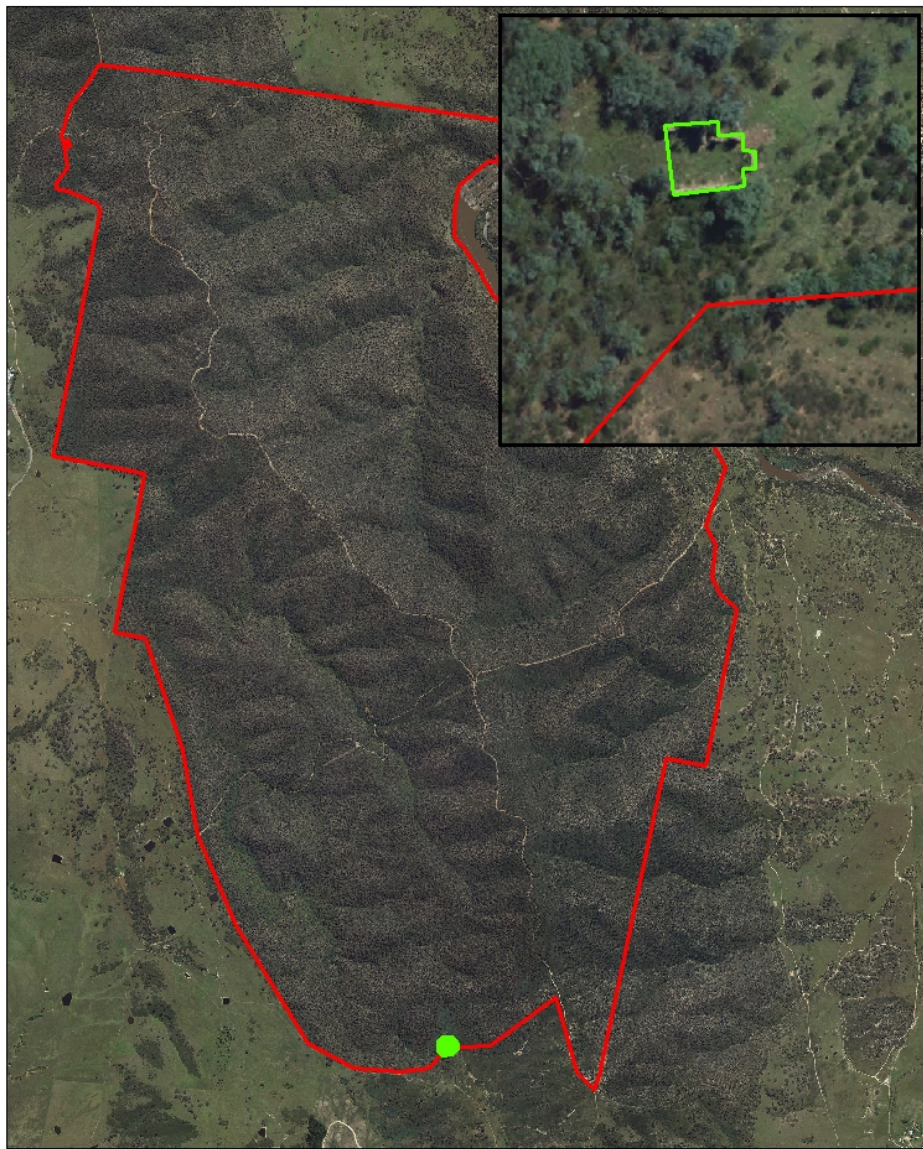
Calvary Homestead Ruin has no known potential to contribute significantly to the archaeological record of domestic life of late nineteenth, early twentieth century European settlers. In addition, the place does not display evidence demonstrating a high degree of technical achievement for the era in which it was built.

Michael and Susan Maloney amassed their pastoral holdings while occupying land in what would become the Paddys River District, and were acquainted with important families in the area, however there is no evidence before the Council demonstrating the Maloney's importance to the history of the ACT.

The ACT Heritage Council finds that the place does not meet the high thresholds necessary for assessment under the criteria of the *Heritage Act 2004*, however this does not mean that the place has no heritage values, as some interpretative qualities remain at Calvary Homestead Ruin as one of a class of important vernacular rural building types in the ACT.

This Statement of Reasons provides an assessment of Calvary Homestead Ruin, and finds that the Calvary Homestead Ruin does not meet any of the criteria specified in s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

SITE PLAN



Nominated Boundary Calvary Homestead (Block 29 Paddys River)



-  Calvary Homestead Pise Ruin
-  Nominated Boundary

Image 1 Nominated Boundary, Calvary Homestead Ruin, part Block 29 Paddys River.