

Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of the Kallenia Woolshed, Molonglo Valley) Notice 2015

Notifiable Instrument NI2015–558

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 Kallenia Woolshed, Molonglo Valley) 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 Kallenia Woolshed, Molonglo Valley to the ACT Heritage Register.

Fiona Moore
A/g Secretary (as delegate for)
ACT Heritage Council
24 September 2015



ACT Heritage Council

STATEMENT OF REASONS

DECISION NOT TO PROVISIONALLY REGISTER

KALLENIA WOOLSHED

(Kallenia Woolshed, [part] Registered Rural Block 16 Molonglo Valley)

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 the Kallenia Woolshed, Molonglo Valley. This Statement of Reasons provides an assessment of the Kallenia Woolshed and finds that the place does not meet any of the criteria under s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

Background

The Kallenia Woolshed was nominated to the ACT Heritage Register (the Register) by the Environment and Planning Directorate of the ACT Government on 15 April 2015.

The ACT Heritage Council (the Council) accepted the nomination at its meeting of 4 June 2015.

The Council considered the nomination at its meeting of 24 September and found that the place did not meet the threshold of any of the criteria specified in s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

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 Kallenia Woolshed, Molonglo Valley, the Council considered:

- the original nomination and documentary evidence supplied by the nominator;
- information provided by a site inspection on 7 August 2015 by ACT Heritage; and
- the report by ACT Heritage titled, *Background Information Kallenia Woolshed*, August 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;

Kallenia Woolshed, Molonglo Valley, does not meet this criterion.

The Kallenia Woolshed is representative of the rural sheep industry in the early days of the ACT and is representative of the attempts to establish returned servicemen on the land to help rebuild the economy after the First World War.

Woolsheds as a type of place are an important part of the ACT's cultural history. They demonstrate the rural industry that attracted the first European settlers to the area and which continued through the early days of the federal capital. Although their economic importance to the local economy is much reduced, they have an increased cultural significance as an icon of the rural past. However, this does not mean that every individual woolshed is a significant part of that cultural history, and while the Kallenia Woolshed is a visible reminder of this type of place, it does not hold the same level of significance for the ACT's cultural history as does the larger Yarralumla Woolshed (20 stands),

Duntroon Woolshed (18 stands) or the Cuppacumbalong Woolshed Complex (12 stands). The significance of the Kallenia Woolshed lies in it being a part of the small, family run farms with smaller woolsheds, however these are quite well represented in the ACT Heritage Register with the listings of Callum Brae (Soldier Settler -SS), Belconnen Farm (SS), Huntley (SS), Kowen Cultural Precinct (Glenburn Shearing Shed 6 stands), Hall Heritage Precinct (Hall Woolshed), Tuggeranong Homestead and Environs, Orroral Woolshed Precinct, Royalla Woolshed (6 stands), Horse Park Homestead, and Well Station Homestead.

Additionally, the Kallenia Woolshed was formed under the Soldier Settler scheme, which was an important part of the post-war settlement of ex-servicemen in the region. The woolshed is but one part of this story on the property, with the homestead and other farm infrastructure being important as well. The overall farm infrastructure for the property is spread over a large area and has been broken up over time, with some features being lost to development. A complete analysis of the place as a Soldier Settler farm has not been completed, but the displacement of features across the landscape makes it difficult to interpret. This is juxtaposed against other Soldier Settler places in the ACT that are included on the Register, such as Callum Brae, Belconnen Farm and Huntley. All of these places have retained their significant Soldier Settler features and adequately represent this type of place on the ACT Heritage Register.

The Kallenia Woolshed includes timber slabs, recycled from earlier huts, that retain some of their former wall coverings. This is a rare glimpse into the tastes, materials available and efforts to make a place more homely of past settlers. However, this is related to the material, rather than the woolshed itself because this evidence can be removed without losing any information. Additionally, similar layers of wall coverings can be found which retain their original context at Mugga Mugga Cottage and in the Glenburn Homestead (slab cottage, within the Kowen Cultural Precinct).

Additionally, the physical integrity of the place has been severely compromised by unstable footings that have sunken in places to over a meter, severely damaging the bearers and consequently the structure of the building. This has been compounded by a termite infestation centred on the engine room, but the extent of which has not yet been determined. The physical integrity issues of the place have been assessed as requiring such extensive remedial works as to be considered not prudent or feasible to repair.

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

Kallenia Woolshed, Molonglo Valley, does not meet this criterion.

As mentioned in criterion (a), the Kallenia Woolshed is representative of the rural sheep industry in the early days of the ACT as well as the attempts to establish returned servicemen on the land to help rebuild the economy after the First World War. As a woolshed it is part of well over 50 historic woolsheds in the ACT and is unlikely to be considered rare, uncommon or endangered, but as a Soldier Settler woolshed it is part of a group of five. However, three of these, Callum Brae, Huntley and Belconnen Farm are already on the Register and are considered to have much higher integrity, particularly as a Soldier Settler farm rather than an isolated woolshed, than the Kallenia Woolshed.

The presence of remnant interior wall coverings as found on the recycled wood slabs is not considered to be an uncommon, rare or endangered aspect of the ACT's cultural history. Reuse of materials was a common theme in the past and while the remnant wall coverings may be able to be researched, they have lost their context and would not be as significant as those found in-situ at places like the slab hut at Kowen Cultural Precinct or Mugga Mugga Homestead.

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

Kallenia Woolshed, Molonglo Valley, does not meet this criterion.

The Kallenia Woolshed is unlikely to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the ACT's cultural history. The structure and materials are clearly visible and any information they may

yield can be provided by detailed recording of the place as it currently stands. The materials used in the structure, particularly the slabs with remnant wall coverings, may provide some level of insight into past lifeways, including social aspirations and reuse of materials, but there is no indication that preserving these materials in-situ will make a significant contribution to the ACT's cultural history.

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

Kallenia Woolshed, Molonglo Valley, does not meet this criterion.

The Kallenia Woolshed is typical of a small post-Federal Capital Territory woolshed, but it has intactness and integrity problems that diminish its ability to be considered important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of that class of place.

It has a footprint of 200m², slightly less than the 'typical' ACT woolshed area of 250m², it has a raised floor with pens underneath using timber stump footings, four shearing stands, holding pens with battened floors serving two stands each, an later addition engine room, simple pitched roof of corrugated iron, the cladding has both timber slab and corrugated iron, recycled windows and sheep dips. However, it has had all of the shearing machinery removed, the outer pens are almost non-existent and the relationship with the homestead and other farm structures is not clear.

The most significant factor affecting the ability of the place to demonstrate the principal characteristics of woolsheds, is that many of the footings have sunk or fallen over, causing significant structural damage and leaving large spans of the frame unsupported.

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

Kallenia Woolshed, Molonglo Valley, does not meet this criterion.

While the Kallenia Woolshed displays a rural aesthetic that may be valued by some people, there is no evidence that it is valued by the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT. This may be considered in comparison to the Yarralumla Woolshed, for which there is clear evidence of the ACT Community using the place as a subject for photography and art as well a backdrop location for wedding and family reunion photography.

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

Kallenia Woolshed, Molonglo Valley, does not meet this criterion.

The Kallenia Woolshed is not considered to demonstrate a high degree of creative or technical achievement for its period. It is a vernacular design that had been established several decades earlier. None of the features of the woolshed show any evidence of creative or technical achievement beyond any other woolshed of its time.

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

Kallenia Woolshed, Molonglo Valley, does not meet this criterion.

The Kallenia Woolshed is not widely known and there is no evidence of it having a strong or special association with a cultural group in the ACT. While it may be of interest to some organisations, such as the National Trust or history or archaeology groups, as noted in the Council's Heritage Assessment Policy (February 2015), clubs and professional associations are not considered to be a cultural group for the purposes of the Heritage Act 2004 and, as such the threshold for this criterion has not been met.

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

Kallenia Woolshed, Molonglo Valley, does not meet this criterion.

The Kallenia Woolshed is associated with the Tully family and with the Soldier Settlement scheme in the ACT. The Tully family have been in the region since at least the late 19th century. They have been involved in the rural industry working on properties as well as establishing their own farms in the region, mostly associated with sheep farming. As a returned serviceman, David Tully leased the land around the woolshed using the Soldier Settlement scheme and built the woolshed itself, along with several other farm buildings, using funds also provided by government loans. The farming operations associated with the woolshed have been relatively small in scale and the contribution to the ACT, and its significance to the Tully family, has not been established as a significant one.

Additionally, the Tully family is well known for breeding sheep dogs and the presence of the pet cemetery indicates that there was a special association with the family and their dogs. However, it has not been established that the animals buried at the woolshed have been significant to the ACT in the breeding of sheep dogs, or the establishment of the any particular sheep dog lineage shown to be important to the history of the ACT.

Conclusion

This Statement of Reasons provides an assessment of Kallenia Woolshed, Molonglo Valley, and finds that the place does not meet any of the criteria specified in s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

The Kallenia Woolshed was built by David and Donald Tully utilising money from government grants and the Soldier Settlement scheme as well as recycled materials from disused wood slab huts. The design of the place follows the general vernacular design of Australian woolsheds, in both features and materials, and has a history typical of older woolsheds in the ACT. The woolshed is typical of its type, but its integrity has been severely compromised by sinking footings resulting in structural damage throughout. Its poor condition is the main contributing factor in its failure to meet any of the criteria under s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, however it also suffers from the loss of much of the associated equipment, later development and division on the property lessening its ability to read as a cultural landscape as well as there being several other places on the Register that have a much higher level of integrity and intactness that adequately represent both woolsheds and Soldier Settlement properties.

The Tully family have been a part of the region since the late 19th century and have been important in the establishment of the Australian sheep dog as well as sheep dog trials in the region, however, there is no clear evidence to suggest that the woolshed, or the property, are an important part of this history.

SITE PLAN



Image 1 Kallenia Woolshed nominated boundary and features