

Australian Capital Territory

Heritage (Decision about Registration of Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds, Belconnen) Notice 2015

Notifiable Instrument NI2015—560

made under the

Heritage Act 2004, s40 Notice of decision about registration

1 Revocation

This instrument replaces NI2015—260.

2 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Heritage (Decision about Registration of Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds, Belconnen) Notice 2015*.

3 Registration details of the place

Registration details of the place are at [Attachment A](#): Register entry for Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds, Belconnen.

4 Reason for decision

The ACT Heritage Council has decided that Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds, Belconnen meets one or more of the heritage significance criteria at s 10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*. The register entry is at [Attachment A](#).

5 Date of registration

24 September 2015

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



ACT Heritage Council

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
HERITAGE REGISTER
(Registration)**

For the purposes of s. 40 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, an entry to the heritage register has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council for the following place:

Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds

(part) Block 1491, Belconnen

DATE OF REGISTRATION

24 September 2015 Notifiable Instrument: 2015–560

Copies of the Register Entry are available for inspection at ACT Heritage. For further information please contact:

The Secretary
ACT Heritage Council
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Telephone 13 22 81

This statement refers to the location of Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds as required in s. 12 (b) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

LOCATION OF THE PLACE

(part) Block 1491, Belconnen.

This section refers to the description of Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds as required in s.12(c) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLACE

Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds, consisting of the following attributes:

- Vertical slab cottage referred to as 'Rosebud,' consisting of:
 - timber slabs with cut marks, metal strips, and remnant limewash and newspaper wall dressings;
 - undressed veranda posts with notching, cut nails, and wire lashing, demonstrating post-and-beam construction;
 - timber battens;
 - galvanised iron roof sheets.
- Vertical slab cottage referred to as 'Bell's Cottage,' consisting of:
 - timber slabs with cut marks, metal strips, and remnant limewash;
 - timber battens;
 - wood floor on south side of building mentioned by valuer A. W. Moriarty;
 - galvanised iron roof sheets.
- Vertical slab dairy, consisting of:
 - timber slabs with cut marks, metal strips, and remnant limewash;
 - timber battens;
 - galvanised iron roof sheets.
- Vertical slab stables, consisting of:
 - timber slabs with cut marks;
 - undressed veranda posts;
 - battens;
 - galvanised iron roof sheets;
 - external western wall (sloped) in original condition and location.
- Pastoral setting incorporated within boundary, consisting of:
 - three mature *Pinus radiata* between dairy and Bell's cottage;
 - seven mature *Cyprinus macrocarpa* to the south east of building collection;
 - late nineteenth/early twentieth century transport and agricultural/pastoral machinery, including:
 - Sunshine harvester;
 - Bale lifter;
 - Chaff cutter;
 - Corn crusher;

- 2 x buggies;
 - 3 ploughs, including one disc plough;
 - Model T ford automobile shell.
-

This statement refers to the heritage significance of Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds as required in s.12(d) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds is important to the course of the ACT's cultural history as an example of the vernacular building style of vertical timber slab construction adopted by European settlers in the nineteenth century [*criteria (a) (d)*].

Slab construction was employed by European settlers as a form of inexpensive architecture, as materials were locally sourced, inexpensive, and easily moveable. However, few slab buildings from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries survive in the ACT and those that remain are subject to damage and deterioration. As such, Rosebud Cottage, the dairy, Bell's Cottage and stables are considered to be rare and endangered. It is significant as evidence for the era of nineteenth, early twentieth century European land use necessary for the survival, if not prosperity in rural settlements, such as use of locally available building material, and storage and preservation of meat, livestock and produce [*criteria (a) (b)*].

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE

The guiding conservation objective is that Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds shall be conserved and appropriately managed in a manner respecting its heritage significance.

The ACT Heritage Council may adopt heritage guidelines applicable to the place under s25 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

For further information on guidelines applicable to the place, or for advice on proposed works or development, please contact ACT Heritage on 13 22 81.

REASON FOR REGISTRATION

Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds, Belconnen has been assessed against the heritage significance criteria and been found to have heritage significance when assessed against criteria (a), (b), and (d) under s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

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

In assessing the nomination for Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds (part) block 1491, the Council considered:

- the original nomination and documentary evidence supplied by the nominator;
- information provided by a site inspection on 23 April 2015 by ACT Heritage; and
- the report by ACT Heritage titled, *Background Information, Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds*, September 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;

Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds, Belconnen, meets this criterion.

Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds, Belconnen is important to the course of the ACT's cultural history, as it comprises a group of farm buildings of slab construction which demonstrates significant vernacular building methods and land use from the nineteenth century.

Slab construction was adopted as a result of availability of timber, enabling European settlers to build homes from inexpensive, abundant materials. This demonstrates the resourcefulness of settlers and the environmental and economic demands of the era and location. The buildings reflect pioneer life and skills, displaying a once important building convention no longer adopted within the ACT.

The old honey and fruit store (Bell's Cottage) and dairy reflect the capacity for independence in the supply of rural produce such as honey, fruit, and meat necessary in rural life at the time. These structures, as well as the substantial collection of late nineteenth/early twentieth century agricultural machinery included within the remnant pastoral landscape represent and evoke a way of life which is no longer practiced.

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

Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds, Belconnen, meets this criterion.

Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds demonstrates rare and endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural history. Rosebud Cottage, Bell's Cottage, the stable and the dairy are of vertical timber slab construction, a vernacular building type important in the cultural history of the ACT. It represents one of few known properties with slab constructions in the ACT, not all of which exist in good condition, and all are at risk from water and termite damage, general deterioration, and encroaching development. Often, slab buildings do not remain from historic pastoral properties as they were dismantled with materials re-used elsewhere. By contrast, Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds exists in good condition, with most original fabric in-situ.

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

Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds, Belconnen, does not meet this criterion.

There is insufficient evidence before the Council to suggest that the place will provide important new information contributing to a wider understanding of the ACT's cultural or natural history. The Council does not recognise a strong presumption of research potential at the place in one or multiple fields of scholarship.

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

Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds, Belconnen, meets this criterion.

Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds exists in good condition, with most original fabric still evident and in-situ. Owing to this high degree of integrity, the place demonstrates several defining characteristics of vernacular timber construction.

Original timber framework, including undressed, notched posts and battens are still in use and structurally sound. Wire-cut nails from the early twentieth century remain in the timber and still secure the structures. Further, timber slabs from the Southwell/Shumack phases of occupation clad the main cottage, Bell's Cottage, the dairy and stables, and retain traces of limewash. These display evidence of tapering and in some instances are fitted into top and/or bottom plates, and hand-cut metal strips remain fastened to the slabs where they were originally placed to cover spaces between vertical timbers. In addition, the main cottage, the dairy and Bell's cottage also retain their early twentieth century galvanised iron roofing sheets. Few other examples of the building type in the ACT are able to exhibit these important characteristics of vernacular rural timber construction.

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

Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds, Belconnen, does not meet this criterion.

There is no evidence before the Council indicating the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT values any extant aesthetic qualities of Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds.

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

Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds, Belconnen, does not meet this criterion.

While the place provides a good example of slab construction, there is insufficient evidence before the Council demonstrating a high degree of technical or creative achievement more than other similar places in the ACT.

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

Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds, Belconnen, does not meet this criterion.

Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds has an association with the Southwell, Shumack, Bell, and Tully families who have settled in the ACT. However, the association is familial and personal, with no evidence before the Council to suggest it is social, cultural, or spiritual. Further, the association does not extend to the broader ACT community. The descendants of previous occupants are not connected through the same way of living, which has been transmitted from one generation to another, and they do not share a cultural or ethnic background, and therefore do not constitute a cultural group defined by the Council in its *Heritage Assessment Policy 2014*.

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

Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds, Belconnen, does not meet this criterion.

While the place has an association with families who feature in the history of the ACT, there is no evidence before the Council demonstrating that the association with Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds is more special than other associations these families have with similar places, or the importance of these families to the history of the ACT above the ordinary.

For example, while the Southwell family is credited with the popularisation of Methodism in the area, there are other places in the ACT better able to demonstrate the importance of the Southwell family in the Methodist movement, such as Weetangera Cemetery.

Further, while the Shumacks were the first family in the Parish of Weetangera to select land under the Robertson Land Acts of 1861, it cannot be demonstrated that this act served as an important contribution to the history of the ACT. Samuel Shumack authored the oft cited autobiography titled *Tales and Legends of Canberra Pioneers*, and while this volume provides informative anecdotes pertaining to the district in the early twentieth century, it did not shape or influence the pattern of development of the ACT.

SITE PLAN



Rosebud Apiary and Surrounds (part Block 1491 Belconnen)

Image 1 Site Boundary