

Heritage (Decision about Registration of the Blue Range Internment Camp, Coree) Notice 2015

Notifiable Instrument NI2015—662

made under the

Heritage Act 2004, s40 Notice of decision about registration

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Heritage (Decision about Registration of the Blue Range Internment Camp, Coree) Notice 2015*.

2 Registration details of the place

Registration details of the place are at Attachment A: Register entry for the Blue Range Internment Camp, Coree.

3 Reason for decision

The ACT Heritage Council has decided that the Blue Range Internment Camp, Coree meets one or more of the heritage significance criteria at s 10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

4 Date of registration

19 November 2015

5 Revocation

The Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of the Blue Range Internment Camp, Coree) Notice 2015 notifiable instrument NI2015—463 is revoked.

Fiona Moore
A/g Secretary (as delegate for)
ACT Heritage Council
19 November 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:

Blue Range Internment Camp, Blue Range Road

(part) Block 225 Coree

DATE OF REGISTRATION

19 November 2015 Notifiable Instrument: 2015–662

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 Blue Range Internment Camp as required in s. 12 (b) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

LOCATION OF THE PLACE

Blue Range Internment Camp, (part) Block 225, Coree, containing the extant features of the wartime camp and the surrounding landscape, including portions of Blue Range Creek. Block 225 Coree is located at the north eastern border of the ACT, with Blue Range Internment Camp situated north east of the Brindabella Road.

This section refers to the description of Blue Range Internment Camp as required in s.12(c) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLACE

Blue Range Internment Camp, consisting of the following attributes:

- Blue Range Hut ('the galley');
- concrete slab south east of Blue Range Hut, remains of the former shed;
- concrete slab south east of Blue Range Hut, remains of the former wash room;
- open space area indicating former location of huts, south of Blue Range Hut;
- stone lined bathing pool in Blue Range Creek;
- remains of the former tool shed; and
- remains of the charcoal pits.

This statement refers to the heritage significance of Blue Range Internment Camp, Coree as required in s.12(d) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Blue Range Internment Camp's significance is engendered by its relationship to the World War II policy of internment of un-naturalised foreign nationals. There were three successive groups of Italian labourers during the war period, the first being paid labour, the second referred to as Enemy Aliens and the third were Italian prisoners of war. Their presence at the site is evident in remaining fabric including Blue Range Hut (the former kitchen galley), two concrete slab bases of the former shower block and wash room, the remains of a stone lined water-hole, former garden terraces and exotic fruit and nut trees [*criterion (a)*].

Blue Range Internment Camp is the only surviving example of a wartime internment camp in the ACT. Other camps were constructed at Pierce's Creek, Black Mountain and Fyshwick, but no physical fabric remains at these camps. It is the only surviving wartime internment camp occupied by Italians, who hold an enduring cultural association with the place, and whose work at the camp is important to the history of the ACT [*criteria (b) (g) (h)*].

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE

The guiding conservation objective is that Blue Range Internment Camp shall be conserved and appropriately managed in a manner respecting its heritage significance.

The ACT Heritage Council (the 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

Blue Range Internment Camp, (part) Block 225, Coree has been assessed against the heritage significance criteria and been found to have heritage significance when assessed against criteria [a, b, g, and h] 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 Blue Range Internment Camp the Council considered:

- the original nomination and documentary evidence supplied by the nominator;
- information provided by a site inspection on 22 May 2015 by ACT Heritage;
- the ACT Heritage Council's Heritage Assessment Policy, February 2015; and
- the report by ACT Heritage titled, *Background Information Blue Range Internment Camp*, November 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;

Blue Range Internment Camp, Coree, meets this criterion.

Blue Range Internment Camp has a clear association with domestic policies adopted during World War II, specifically, the policy of internment of un-naturalised nationals from countries with whom Australia was at war.

The place is significant in that it demonstrates the lifestyles of the Italian labourers, internees, and prisoners of war who lived in the camp and laboured in nearby arboreta from 1942 until 1956. The galley, stone lined pool, and remnant terraces and fruit trees are evocative examples of the lifestyles of the occupants, demonstrating patterns of everyday existence adopted in a remote location with limited resources.

After the outbreak of war in 1939, Australia was faced with a labour shortage, and interned un-naturalised nationals were required to undertake labour such as tree planting. While the surrounding pine plantations established by the occupants were destroyed in bushfires in 2003,

the charcoal pits remain, and reflect the industries undertaken by the Italians during World War II, with the set of six pits highlighting the scarcity of fuel during the war, and the methods taken to overcome the shortage.

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

Blue Range Internment Camp, Coree, meets this criterion.

The place represents rare aspects of the ACT's cultural history. It was one of only four wartime internment camps constructed in the twentieth century in the ACT. The others were Pierce's Creek Camp which was built simultaneously with Blue Range Internment Camp, and Molonglo Internment Camp, established in 1918. A little-known camp is reported to have been constructed at Black Mountain. Blue Range Internment Camp was built for Italians; Molonglo and Pierce's Creek camps were built for Germans and Austrians. The Molonglo Internment Camp was built on present day Fyshwick, and no longer exists, and all evidence of Laurel in Pierce's Creek was destroyed by bushfires in 2003, making Blue Range Internment Camp the only extant example of its type in the ACT.

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

Blue Range Internment Camp, Coree, does not meet this criterion.

There is no indication the place is likely to yield evidence or information pertaining to a defined research interest that will contribute to an understanding of the ACT's cultural history. The place may yield some archaeological evidence surrounding mid twentieth century domestic and industrial activity, however such information is readily available in other archaeological assemblages and contexts. Further, work and domestic life at Blue Range Internment Camp are themes which have been subject to detailed recording in documentary sources for the place.

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

Blue Range Internment Camp, Coree, does not meet this criterion.

Owing to its altered fabric, the place is not easily recognised as being representative of a class of place to a high degree. While wartime internment camps form part of the ACT's cultural history, the place does not demonstrate characteristics that provide a noticeable or influential contribution to the history of the ACT.

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

Blue Range Internment Camp, Coree, 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 Blue Range Internment Camp.

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

Blue Range Internment Camp, Coree, does not meet this criterion.

There is no evidence before the Council suggesting Blue Range Internment Camp is a fine or pivotal example, beyond the ordinary, of a class of place demonstrating 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;**

Blue Range Internment Camp, Coree, meets this criterion.

Blue Range Internment Camp has a special cultural association with the Italian community of the ACT. The place represents the contribution of the Italian community to forestry in the ACT, which was commemorated on Italian National Day in 1985, when a marble plaque was unveiled at the site by the Italian Ambassador. The Italian community's connection to the place is enduring, as attested to by its involvement in and contribution to an oral history project for the site, completed in 2003.

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

Blue Range Internment Camp, Coree, meets this criterion.

Blue Range Internment Camp bears a special association with the work of Italian immigrants. Beginning in World War II and continuing in the 1950s, Italian residents at Blue Range Internment Camp laboured or were actively employed in forestry in the ACT, and for approximately 10 years performed tasks such as preparation of land, pine planting, cutting hardwood regenerating in neighboring plantations, and raising pine seedlings. Further, the immigrant workforce addressed a shortage in the wartime and post-war labour force, facilitating the success of industries such as forestry. The Italians at Blue Range Internment Camp therefore provided a notable contribution to an industry important to the history of the ACT.

SITE PLAN



Image 1 Site Boundary