

# Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of Greenhills Ruin, Stromlo) Notice 2016

## Notifiable Instrument NI2016–272

made under the

Heritage Act 2004, s32 (Decision about provisional registration) s34 (Notice of decision about provisional registration) and s37 (Public consultation about registration of place or object)

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### 1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of Greenhills Ruin, Stromlo) Notice 2016*.

### 2 Decision about provisional registration

On 2 June 2016, the ACT Heritage Council (the **Heritage Council**) decided to provisionally register Greenhills Ruin, part Block 510, Stromlo (the **Place**).

### 3 Registration details of the Place

The registration details of the Place are in the schedule.

### 4 Reasons for the decision

The Heritage Council decided to provisionally register the Place because it has heritage significance as it meets one or more of the heritage significance criteria in section 10 of the *Heritage Act 2004* (the **Act**), as set out in the schedule.

### 5 Date of provisional registration

The date of provisional registration is 3 June 2016 (being the day after the Heritage Council entered into the heritage register the registration details for the Place together with an indication that the registration is provisional).

### 6 Indication of the Heritage Council's intention

The Council intends to decide whether to register the Place under Division 6.2 of the Act during the period of provisional registration.

**7 Invitation to make written comments during public consultation period**

The Council invites written comments about the registration of the Place. Any written comments must be made within 4 weeks after the day this notice is notified and are to be provided to:

The Secretary  
ACT Heritage Council  
GPO Box 158  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Email: [heritage@act.gov.au](mailto:heritage@act.gov.au)

Fiona Moore  
A/g Secretary (as delegate for)  
ACT Heritage Council  
2 June 2016

**Schedule**  
**(See Section 3 and 4)**

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ACT Heritage Council

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

For the purposes of s. 32(1)(b) of the *Heritage Act 2004*, a provisional entry to the heritage register has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council for the following place:

**Greenhills Ruin**

**(Part) Block 510, Stromlo**

**DATE OF PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION**

2 June 2016 Notifiable Instrument: 2016–

**PERIOD OF EFFECT OF PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION**

Start Date 2 June 2016 End Date 1 November 2016

Extended Period (if applicable) Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ End Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

#### **LOCATION OF THE PLACE**

Greenhills Ruin, (part) Block 510 Stromlo. The ruin is located at the Greenhills Centre on 1437 Cotter Road.

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This section refers to the description of the place as required in s.12(c) of the *Heritage Act 2004*. The attributes described in this section form part of the heritage significance of the place. For the purposes of s. 12(c) of the *Heritage Act 2004*, the boundary of the place is at Image 1.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE PLACE**

Greenhills Ruin, consisting of the following attributes:

- Ruins, consisting of a standing stone arch with attached walls either side, extending approximately ten metres in a south east, north west direction;
  - tumbled, partially dressed stones surrounding the ruin that demonstrate the footprint of the original structure;
  - area of archaeological sensitivity, approximately 15 metres wide and 20 metres long, surrounding the standing stone arch and walls. This area is also defined by a substantial rubble deposit, comprising partially dressed stones from the original structure, that follows the rectilinear footprint of the original Greenhills homestead.
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This statement refers to the heritage significance of the place as required in s.12(d) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

#### **STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

Greenhills Ruin is the remnant of a ‘bush rock’ building, representing the successful efforts of a small-scale, independent selector family – the Moores – who rose to prominence and were able to expand their holdings significantly and succeed in working and running their land on the Limestone Plains over subsequent generations. Stone buildings, constructed of locally available materials, were once common during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries on the Limestone Plains, but few are now standing and they are now considered endangered. The remnants of the Moore family home represent an uncommon settler homestead, which was comparably large, and functioned as a post-office and general store. The homestead’s unique function in the pre- and early Federal Capital Territory era is likely to yield a distinctive and unusual archaeological assemblage that will contribute significant information to the archaeological record of domestic life in rural homesteads in late nineteenth, early twentieth century ACT [*criteria (a) (b) (c)*].

Richard Moore was the first small-scale selector to hold office in district affairs, when such matters had beforehand been the reserve of large scale, upper class pastoralists [*criterion (h)*].

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## CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE

The guiding conservation objective is that the Greenhills Ruin 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.

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## REASON FOR PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION

Greenhills Ruin, Stromlo, has been assessed against the heritage significance criteria and been found to have heritage significance when assessed against criteria [a, b, c, h] under s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

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## 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 heritage significance of Greenhills Ruin, Stromlo, the Council considered:

- the original nomination and documentary evidence supplied by the nominator;
- the Council's *Heritage Assessment Policy* (February 2015);
- information provided by a site inspection on 11 April 2016 by ACT Heritage; and
- the report by ACT Heritage titled, *Background Information Greenhills Ruin*, June 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;**

Greenhills Ruin, Stromlo, meets this criterion.

The place is important as evidence of the economies, lifeways, and aspirations of small-scale selectors after the introduction of the Robertson Land Acts in the nineteenth century. Greenhills Ruin stands as testament to independent selectors with modest means who were able to succeed in working and running their portions of land. Richard Moore began adult life working as a bullocky, living in a self-built hut on land selected by his parents. He and his wife, Agnes, went on to become successful graziers, taking up land in Queanbeyan and multiple portions in the future district of Stromlo, and then become active in public and community life. In municipal affairs, Richard was able to represent and speak up for 'small-time' farmers in the district. With Greenhills becoming a post office, general store, and social venue in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the place became a locus for community and social life in the Stromlo area. Greenhills Ruin embodies these elements of the lives of Richard and Agnes Moore. For example, it displays locally available 'bush rock' in its vernacular construction, reflecting building traditions of small landholders in the nineteenth century. It also retains evidence of Richard Moore's ambition and success. Specifically, the well built internal archway, built by the specially-

hired Scottish stonemason, is still standing at the site. The arch and soundly built coursed-rubble remainder of the building echo the one-time size and scale of a homestead that was substantial enough to host balls, parties and fundraisers, and provide vital services to the community.

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

Greenhills Ruin, Stromlo, meets this criterion.

Greenhills Ruin belongs to a class of endangered vernacular building. Stone buildings were once common on small selections, as they were able to be built using locally available materials and easily accessible 'bush rock.' In the ACT, there are at least seven remaining stone structures that relate to nineteenth century dwellings on rural selections not associated with major landholders such as the Campbells or Cunninghams. These include Blythburn (Paddys River), Horse Park Homestead (Gungahlin), The Valley Ruin (Gungahlin), Crinigan's Hut Ruin (Amaroo), 1874 ruin adjacent to Canberra Park (Kenny), Majura Stone Cottage (Majura), and Collier's Homestead Ruins (Kowen). Of these, five appear on the ACT Heritage Register, and at least three of the places mentioned above are in highly ruinous states, subject to rapid deterioration. The stone homesteads of selectors therefore represent an endangered aspect of the ACT cultural history.

Greenhills Ruin is also uncommon among this class of building, as represented by the stone arch, which demonstrates an unusual element of individuality, perhaps a reflection of the character and aspirations of Richard Moore. Typical homesteads were small, one to two-room structures with a fireplace and chimney for heating and cooking. The arch is an indicator of the previous size and scale of the four-roomed, two chimneyed Moore homestead, and a testament to the ambition and subsequent, uncommonly realised success and prosperity experienced by a settler family.

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

Greenhills Ruin, Stromlo, meets this criterion.

Greenhills Ruin is likely to yield archaeological information that will contribute significantly to an understanding of the cultural history of the ACT. As Greenhills homestead functioned as a post office and general store, servicing workers on the Cotter Dam, it is anticipated that the archaeological material present at the place will be more varied and diverse than that recoverable in a typical nineteenth century settler homestead in the ACT. Indeed, it is likely that, given its combined domestic, community and commercial functions, Greenhills ruin has the potential for a unique archaeological assemblage. Such an assemblage would reveal material culture relating to small-scale, private businesses in the context of domestic existence that will yield information on the development of the Federal Capital from an entirely different perspective. In addition, the height, width, and extent of the rubble pile indicates that stones from the ruin have collapsed inwards over the structure. This has the potential for excellent preservation of the site's archaeological profile.

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

Greenhills Ruin, Stromlo, does not meet this criterion.

Greenhills Ruin retains substantial interpretive potential as a stone ruin. However, it is not

important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of nineteenth and early twentieth century vernacular stone building, owing to deterioration of the structure. 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;**

Greenhills Ruin, Stromlo, does not meet this criterion.

While the arch and ruin is visually striking and evocative, there is no evidence before the Council suggesting the Greenhills Ruin possesses landmark qualities, artistic excellence, or visual prominence demonstrated to be valued by the wider ACT community or a cultural group.

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

Greenhills Ruin, Stromlo, does not meet this criterion.

While it demonstrates somewhat unique and evocative stone coursed rubble work, Greenhills Ruin, Stromlo, does not possess physical evidence that clearly demonstrates creative or technical achievement for the period in which it was created. Further, to the knowledge of the Council, Greenhills Ruin was not, and is not, recognised as important for its architectural achievement. In addition, the visible physical evidence that represents the place does not demonstrate a high degree of integrity.

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

Greenhills Ruin, Stromlo, does not meet this criterion.

Greenhills Ruin has an association with the Moore family who settled and prospered 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* February 2015.

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

Greenhills Ruin, Stromlo, meets this criterion.

Greenhills Ruin has a special association with pastoralist and successful selector Richard Moore. The Moores were an active family in the rural community of the Limestone Plains, with Greenhills functioning as a popular social venue, a post office for the Stromlo area, and as a general supplies store for the workers encamped at the Cotter Dam during its construction. Richard Moore was prominent in municipal life on the Limestone Plains, advocating for changes and advancements such as improvements to water supply and sewerage. Further, he was the first of the selectors on

the Limestone plains to hold public office, where he advocated for the interests of small-scale land-holders, where previously large wealthy pastoralists such as the Cunninghams and Campbells held the most influence.



SITE PLAN



Site Boundary Greenhills Ruin (part) Block 510 Stromlo

Image 1 Site Boundary, Greenhills Ruin. Inset: Greenhills Conference Centre