

Australian Capital Territory

Heritage (Decision about Cancellation Proposal of the Canberra Services Club, Griffith) Notice 2015

Notifiable Instrument NI2015–150

made under the

Heritage Act 2004, section 49 Decision about cancellation proposal

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Heritage (Decision about Cancellation Proposal of the Canberra Services Club, Griffith) Notice 2015*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after notification.

3 Notice of Decision

Pursuant to section 49 of the *Heritage Act 2004* the ACT Heritage Council cancels the registration of the Canberra Services Club, Griffith from the ACT Heritage Register.

Jennifer O’Connell
Secretary (as delegate for)
ACT Heritage Council
9 April 2015



ACT Heritage Council

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

For the purposes of s. 49 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, a cancellation to the heritage register has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council for the following place:

CANBERRA SERVICES CLUB

Block 1 Section 15, Griffith

DATE OF NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

9 April 2015 Notifiable Instrument: 2015–150

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

LOCATION OF THE PLACE

Canberra Services Club, Manuka Circle, block 1 section 15, Griffith.



Image 1 Site boundary of previously registered area, Block 1 Section 15 Griffith, showing the condition of the place in 2014 after the site had been cleared.

REASON FOR CANCELLATION

The Canberra Services Club, Griffith, has been reassessed against the heritage significance criteria and been found to no longer have heritage significance when assessed against the criteria under s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

The Canberra Services Club was entered on the ACT Heritage Register in 1998 however it was significantly destroyed by fire in 2011. The remains of the original building were demolished following an assessment of the remaining materials which found them to be unsound and unable to be salvaged.

The heritage values that the Canberra Services Club was originally assessed against were intrinsically linked to the physical material of the building, which demonstrated Canberra's only surviving, purpose-built, wartime services recreation facility.

The Council recognises that the site has social values for former and present Services Club members and their families, and it continues to be associated with values of community service, sacrifice and support. The Council also acknowledges that there may be associations with the remaining memorials, including the Kokoda Memorial

However, the loss of the physical material of the building resulted in a significant loss of the heritage values of the place, and accordingly, the Canberra Services Club no longer has sufficient heritage value to meet the criteria for entry on the ACT Heritage Register

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 cancellation of the Canberra Services Club, Griffith, the Council considered:

- the original ACT Heritage Register Entry;
- the report by ACT Heritage titled, *Background Information Canberra Services Club, October 2014*, containing photographs and information on history, description, condition and integrity; and
- comments received (nil) during the public consultation period in response to its cancellation proposal of 13 November 2014.

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;

The Canberra Services Club, Griffith, does not meet this criterion.

The Canberra Services Club has been an important part of the history of the ACT from its inception as a place of hospitality for service personnel to its current expanded role of 'serving those who serve and have served' through hospitality, charitable works and other forms of support. However, the physical evidence of this has been significantly destroyed and there is nothing left at the site that can represent this important part of the ACT's cultural history. Therefore it is not considered to be able to meet the thresholds for this criterion.

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

The Canberra Services Club, Griffith, does not meet this criterion.

The Canberra Services Club was an Inter-war Georgian Revival style building and the building and landscape setting was considered an important element of the Canberra Avenue streetscape in Manuka. However, after it was significantly destroyed by fire in 2011 it has lost any features of the building that could be considered uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural history.

Social clubs and charitable organisations for current and past service personnel provide an important and valued part of the ACT's cultural history. These places continue to receive patronage and are unlikely to be lost. Additionally, the Canberra Services Club, while it has lost its main building, continues as an entity and will rebuild after joining with the Canberra Club. As such, the place is not considered to have uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural history.

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

The Canberra Services Club, Griffith, does not meet this criterion.

Whilst the Canberra Services Club has been an important part of the ACT's cultural history, there is no indication that it would be able to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the ACT's cultural history beyond what information has already been recorded.

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

The Canberra Services Club, Griffith, does not meet this criterion.

With the destruction of the Canberra Services Club building in 2011, there is no evidence left for the place to demonstrate any of the principal characteristics of either a war-time services club, or an Inter-war Georgian Revival style building.

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

The Canberra Services Club, Griffith, does not meet this criterion.

Whilst the Canberra Services Club has been appreciated by its members and has been noted as an important element of the Canberra Avenue streetscape in Manuka, the place no longer demonstrates any of the aesthetic characteristics previously valued by the ACT community due to being significantly destroyed by fire in 2011.

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

The Canberra Services Club, Griffith, does not meet this criterion.

Due to the building being significantly destroyed by fire in 2011, the place is no longer has any features that could demonstrate a high degree of creative or technical achievement for any particular period.

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

The Canberra Services Club, Griffith, does not meet this criterion.

The Canberra Services Club has been an important part of the ACT from its inception as a place of hospitality for service personnel to its current expanded role of 'serving those who serve and have served' through hospitality, charitable works and other forms of support. Although the club as an entity continues in this role, the building that it was originally associated with has been lost and there is no longer a strong or special association with the ACT community, or a cultural group in the ACT for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

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

The Canberra Services Club, Griffith, does not meet this criterion.

The Canberra Services Club has been an important part of the ACT from its inception as a place of hospitality for service personnel to its current expanded role of 'serving those who serve and have served' through hospitality, charitable works and other forms of support. Additionally, the building is also directly associated with the then Governor-General's wife, Lady Gowrie, who played a major role in raising finance for construction of the building. These associations are considered special; however, the association was connected to the building which has been significantly destroyed by fire so that the place no longer meets this criterion.