

Australian Capital Territory

# Heritage (Decision about Registration of the Sherwood Homestead Complex, Coree) Notice 2015

Notifiable Instrument NI2015—661

made under the

**Heritage Act 2004, s40 Notice of decision about registration**

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**1 Name of instrument**

This instrument is the *Heritage (Decision about Registration of the Sherwood Homestead Complex, Coree) Notice 2015*.

**2 Registration details of the place**

Registration details of the place are at [Attachment A](#): Register entry for the Sherwood Homestead Complex, Coree.

**3 Reason for decision**

The ACT Heritage Council has decided that the Sherwood Homestead Complex, 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 Sherwood Homestead Complex, Coree) Notice 2015 notifiable instrument NI2015—462 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:

**Sherwood Homestead Complex**

**(part) Block 225, Coree**

**DATE OF REGISTRATION**

19 November 2015      Notifiable Instrument: 2015–661

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 Sherwood Homestead Complex as required in s. 12 (b) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

#### LOCATION OF THE PLACE

Sherwood Homestead Complex, (part) Block 225, Coree. The boundary at Image 1 includes the exotic garden, grave site, and remnant pastoral landscape.

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This section refers to the description of Sherwood Homestead Complex as required in s.12(c) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PLACE

Sherwood Homestead Complex, consisting of the following attributes:

- The grave site on the upper slope of Roper’s Hill;
- The remnant pastoral landscape, rubbish dump and exotic plantings in the area of the former homestead, within the citation boundary, including:
  - Bulbs, esp. Daffodils (*Narcissus sp*);
  - Quince trees (*Cydonia oblonga*);
  - Fig tree (*Ficus carica*);
  - Pear trees (*Prunus sp*);
  - Elm trees (*Ulmus sp*);
  - Walnut trees (*Juglans sp*);
  - Oak trees (*Quercus robur*);
  - Hawthorn (*Crataegus sp*);
  - Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sp*); and
  - White cedar trees (*Thuja occidentalis*);
- Artefact assemblage retrieved from the 1993 excavation.

This statement refers to the heritage significance of the Sherwood Homestead Complex as required in s.12(d) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

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#### STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Sherwood Homestead Complex features a small family burial plot that accommodated infants and adults in the vicinity of the house. This plot was established circa 1878, where members of the Phillips family were buried until 1922 when they left the property. Shortly after this, in 1936 it became standard practice to inter individuals in public cemeteries and church. It is a rare example of a 19<sup>th</sup> century homestead with a burial plot, and represents a burial custom that is no longer practiced [*criteria (a) (b)*].

A varied garden of exotic trees, shrubs, bulbs and herbaceous plants remains at Sherwood Homestead Complex. Gardens provided subsistence for settlers, and were planted to demonstrate necessary improvements required on

small holdings. They were also places imbued with meaning and symbolism, often established as a way of ‘planting memories’ [*criterion (a)*].

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### CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE

The guiding conservation objective is that Sherwood Homestead Complex 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 REGISTRATION

Sherwood Homestead Complex, Coree, has been assessed against the heritage significance criteria and been found to have heritage significance when assessed against criteria (a) and (b) under s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*. Block 225 Coree is located at the north eastern border of the ACT, with Sherwood Homestead Complex situated north east of the Brindabella Road.

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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 nomination for Sherwood Homestead Complex, Coree, 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 officers;
- the ACT Heritage Council’s Heritage Assessment Policy, February 2015; and
- the report by ACT Heritage titled, *Background Information Sherwood Homestead Complex*, 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;**

Sherwood Homestead Complex, Coree, meets this criterion.

Sherwood Homestead Complex is important as evidence of burial customs that are no longer practiced. The place features a small family burial plot of adults and an infant in the immediate vicinity of the homestead. The practice of interring individuals within the vicinity of a homestead became less common after the introduction of Commonwealth legislation in 1936. At this time, it

became standard practice to use public cemeteries and church grave yards.

In addition, the place is demonstrative of a type of land use important in the early settlement of the ACT prior to formation of the Federal Capital Territory. The garden comprises fruits trees and exotic trees planted by the Phillips family after purchasing the holding. This garden not only would have provided important food resources to sustain the family, such as fruit and vegetables but was also a symbolic one, imbued with many layers of cultural meaning, as gardens often were during the early European settlement period.

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

Sherwood Homestead Complex, Coree, meets this criterion.

Sherwood Homestead Complex is a rare example of a European settler homestead (1863 to 1922), with a small family burial plot. The burial plot was in use between 1878 and 1922, before the enactment of Commonwealth legislation that normalised the use of public cemeteries and church grave yards for burials. Other significant homestead sites with associated burial plots registered on the ACT Heritage Register are Lanyon and Cuppacumbalong; however, these cannot be directly compared with Sherwood, as they are extensive stations with larger cemeteries.

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

Sherwood Homestead Complex, Coree, does not meet this criterion.

Although imbued with interpretive value, there is no evidence at Sherwood Homestead Complex to suggest that the archaeological assemblage retrieved from the place in 1993 contributes significantly to the field of archaeology in the ACT. The assemblage provides a further example of the material culture typical of European domestic settlement in nineteenth century Australia. The material culture from this period is adequately represented in the archaeological record.

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

Sherwood Homestead Complex, Coree, does not meet this criterion.

Some interpretative potential exists within the landscape of exotic trees and shrubs at Sherwood Homestead Complex. However, it is not important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of nineteenth and early twentieth century gardens on small selections, owing to deterioration of the formality of the original landscaping. Further, there are insufficient remains of the original buildings 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 rural holding.

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

Sherwood Homestead Complex, Coree, does not meet this criterion.

While the Council acknowledges the aesthetic qualities demonstrated by Sherwood Homestead Complex, there is no evidence to suggest these qualities are valued by the ACT Community or a

cultural group within the ACT. Interest groups make annual visits to the blooming daffodils, however, as these groups do not encompass the broad community of the ACT, they do not constitute the ACT Community under this criterion. Further, interests group do not constitute a cultural group, as they do not share an ethnic or cultural background, or represent a group of people connected through the same way of living.

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

Sherwood Homestead Complex, Coree, does not meet this criterion.

The remnant historic landscape at the place does not demonstrate creative or technical achievement. There is no evidence before the Council suggesting Sherwood Homestead Complex was acknowledged in the era it was built and settled as being important for any creative or technical achievements. In addition, the place has sustained loss of original formality in the garden layout, and insufficient evidence of the original homestead remains in order to assess its creative or technical merits.

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

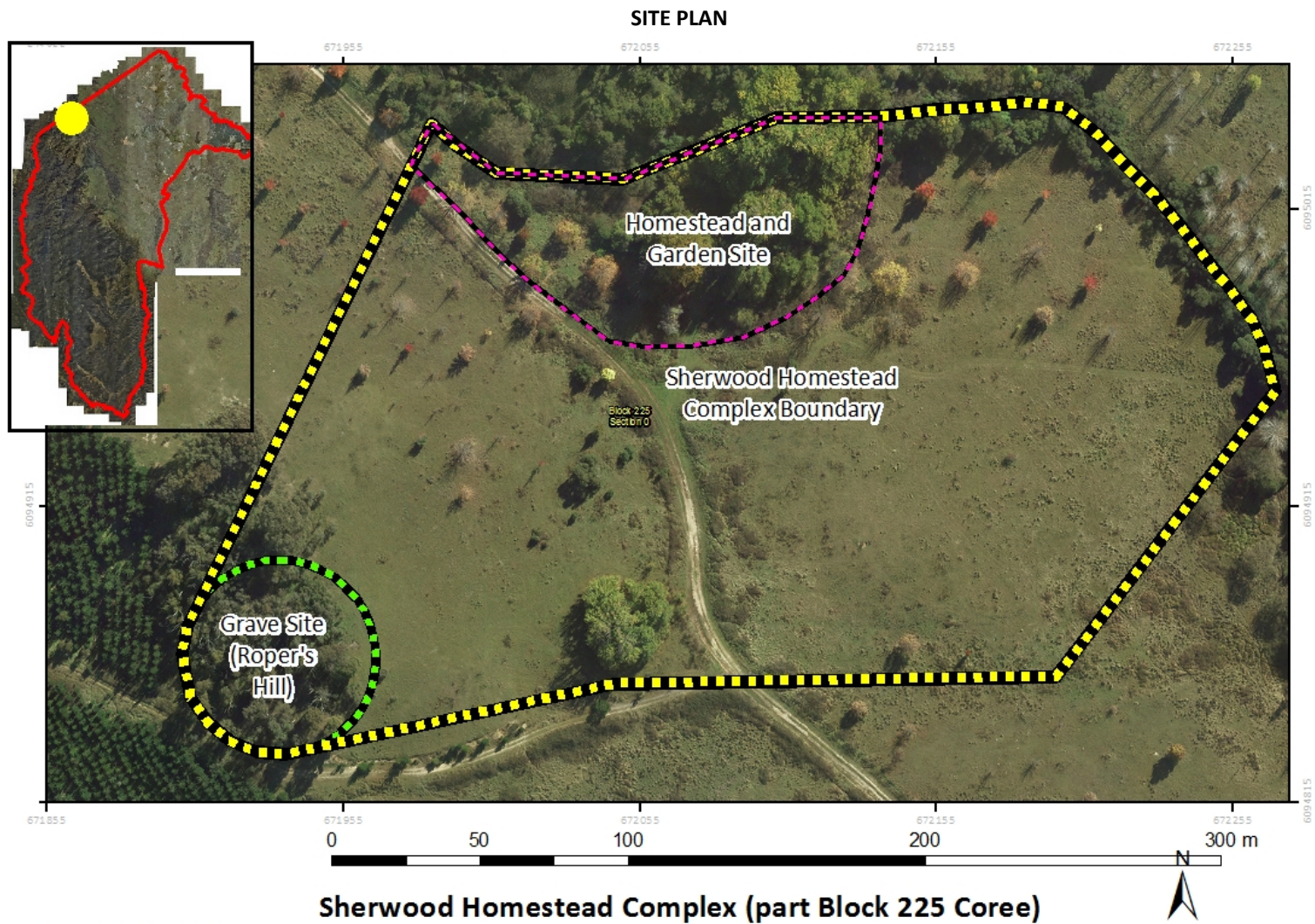
Sherwood Homestead Complex, Coree, does not meet this criterion.

There is no evidence before the Council suggesting a strong or special association between Sherwood Homestead Complex and the ACT Community or a cultural group in the ACT. Interest groups make annual visits to the blooming daffodils, however, as these groups do not encompass the broad community of the ACT, they do not constitute the ACT Community under this criterion. Further, interests group do not constitute a cultural group, as they do not share an ethnic or cultural background, or represent a group of people connected through the same way of living.

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

Sherwood Homestead Complex, Coree, does not meet this criterion.

While the burial ground at the place is associated with the Phillips family, who were active contributors to the district in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it has not been demonstrated in the physical fabric of the place, documentary resources, or oral history that the Phillips family is important to the history of the ACT.



Coordinate System: MGA84 Zone 55  
 Projection: Transverse Mercator  
 Datum: GDA 94

**Image 1 Site Boundary**