

Heritage (Decision about Registration of the Historic Timber Bus Shelters of the ACT) Notice 2016

Notifiable Instrument NI2016—270

made under the

Heritage Act 2004, s40 (Decision about registration)

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Heritage (Decision about Registration of the Historic Timber Bus Shelters of the ACT) Notice 2016*.

2 Decision about registration

On 2 June 2016, the ACT Heritage Council (the **Heritage Council**) decided to register the Historic Timber Bus Shelters of the ACT (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 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*, as set out in the schedule.

5 Date registration takes effect

The registration of the Place takes effect on the day after this notice is notified.

6 Revocation

The *Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of the Historic Timber Bus Shelters of the ACT) Notice 2016* NI2016—73 is revoked.

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

Schedule
(See Section 3 and 4)



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:

Historic Timber Bus Shelters of the ACT

DATE OF DECISION

2 June 2016 Notifiable Instrument: 2016–

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 the Historic Timber Bus Shelters of the ACT as required in s. 12 (b) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

LOCATION OF THE PLACE

Class	ACTION stop name	ACTION stop number	Suburb
A	Empire Cct after Wilmot Cr	2315	Forrest
A	Arthur Cir after Moresby St	2321	Forrest
A	Doonkuna St before Coranderrk St	3043	Reid
C	Cowper St after Cox St	3146	Ainslie
C	Officer Cr after Hawdon St	3215	Ainslie
D	Arthur Cir after Furneaux St	2324	Griffith
D	Stuart St before Barrallier St	2367	Griffith
D	Giles St Kingston Hotel	2329	Griffith
D	Stuart St after McIntyre St	2363	Narrabundah
D	Empire Cct after Tennyson Cr	2318	Forrest
D	Campbell St after Foveaux St	3225	Ainslie
E	Macgregor St after Strickland Cr	2283	Deakin

This section refers to the description of the Historic Timber Bus Shelters of the ACT 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

The twelve existing timber bus shelters consisting of variations on four base designs designated A, C, D and E located along their historic bus routes throughout the older ACT Suburbs.

Class A Shelters, as defined by:

- generous floor plan,
- gabled roof line,
- pressed iron roof,
- full seating style with detailed timber panelling,
- horizontal timber interior panels,
- external weatherboards, and
- no windows.

Class C Shelters, as defined by:

- hipped roofline;
- corrugated iron roof;
- bench style seating using full timber board;
- crafted timber bench supports;
- vertical timber interior panels;
- battened vertical timber with external strap work;
- ornate timber Federal Capital Architecture geometric design motifs on facias, windows and entrance architraves; and
- concrete slab floor.

Class D Shelters, as defined by:

- sloping roofline,
- corrugated iron roof,
- smaller floor plan than in earlier shelters,
- bench style seating in wood (type varies),
- battened vertical timber with external strap work,
- strap work detail on facias (type varies),
- concrete slab floor, and
- two elongated side windows (frame varies).

Class E Shelters, as defined by:

- sloping roofline,
- corrugated iron roof,
- floor plan slightly larger than the earlier design,
- bench style seating using full timber board,
- vertical timber boards externally,
- large corner windows to front and sides with fibro panel inserts in lower sections, and
- concrete slab floors.

This statement refers to the heritage significance of the Historic Timber Bus Shelters as required in s.12(d) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Timber Bus Shelters of the ACT demonstrate patterns in planning, transport and civic infrastructure during the development of the ACT. In a functional way they exhibit the profile of early urban public transport, reflecting historical development and growth in Canberra's first suburbs, and are important in demonstrating the characteristics of the earliest urban public transport facilities in the ACT. Once the most predominant form of bus shelter, there are now only twelve remaining, with several of these in poor condition. As such, the shelters are now considered rare and endangered *[(criteria (a) (b) (d))]*.

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE

The guiding conservation objective is that the Historic Timber Bus Shelters of the ACT shall be conserved and appropriately managed in a manner respecting their heritage significance.

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

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

REASON FOR REGISTRATION

The Historic Bus Timber Shelters of the ACT have been assessed against the heritage significance criteria and been found to have heritage significance when assessed against criteria [a, b, 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 the Historic Timber Bus Shelters, the Council considered:

- the Council's *Heritage Assessment Policy* (February 2015);
- information provided by a site inspection on 23 November 2015 by ACT Heritage; and
- the report by ACT Heritage titled, *Background Information Historic Timber Bus Shelters of the ACT*, 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;

The Historic Timber Bus Shelters of the ACT meet this criterion.

The shelters are important to the course of the ACT's cultural history, reflecting patterns in planning, transport and civic infrastructure during the Federal Capital Territory and inter-war years in the ACT. This was a time when the city was expected to become quite large, with a road network established for a city many times larger than that which existed in the early days of the Federal Capital Territory, and there were expanses of vacant land between areas of ongoing and future development. Cars were not common in the burgeoning city, thus, although subject to lengthy travel times and overcrowding during its operation, a bus service was essential. The shelters represent the essential service of public transport, which would have helped to induce public servants to move to the new administrative centre. The shelters provide tangible examples of early urban public transport, enhancing historical knowledge of development and growth in urban areas.

The Historic Timber Bus Shelters reflect changing social and economic trends during the Federal Capital Territory and inter-war years in the ACT. For example, shelters of the A, B and C classes favour a design reflective of the Federal Capital Architectural style, whereas later classes of shelter favoured a more utilitarian design. Further, the use of timber as the primary material was mostly due to economy in a time of materials shortages in the inter-war period, however shelters at more prestigious locations or built after World War II enjoyed better quality materials, such as tiled floors rather than concrete or compacted gravel, and more provision for light with the introduction of windows.

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

The Historic Timber Bus Shelters of the ACT meet this criterion.

Although the original number of Historic Timber Bus Shelters is unknown, they were once prolific aspects of Canberra's moveable streetscape architecture, and with only twelve extant examples as of 2015 they now represent a rare element of the ACT's cultural history. A thirteenth example stands in Oaks Estate, but this is a modern rebuild with no original heritage fabric. Further, the Arthur Circuit (Forrest), and Campbell Street (Ainslie) shelters are in poor condition, having been subject to timber deterioration and/or significant vandalism, leaving only ten standing shelters in good condition. As such, the Historic Timber Bus Shelters can also be considered as endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural history.

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

The Historic Timber Bus Shelters of the ACT do not meet this criterion.

There is insufficient evidence before the Council to suggest that the Historic Timber Bus Shelters of the ACT 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 shelters in one or multiple fields of scholarship, and the shelters provide a further example of a type of architecture which is well studied and documented.

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

The Historic Timber Bus Shelters of the ACT meet this criterion.

The shelters are important in demonstrating the characteristics of the earliest urban public transport facilities in the ACT. With their timber seating, weatherboard cladding, pressed metal or corrugated iron roofs, and echoes of Federal Capital Architectural Style, the shelters are evocative of the era of development of the ACT, and their function evident in their size, key features, and form. Their interior seating, placement in road corridors, and the walls and roofs that clearly enclose the structures, all speak to the Historic Timber Bus Shelters' past and ongoing use as public transport shelters.

While some classes of shelter demonstrate some elements of Federal Capital Architectural style, there is no evidence before the Council suggesting the Historic Timber Bus Shelters were or are regarded as important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of this form of architecture.

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

The Historic Timber Bus Shelters of the ACT do not meet this criterion.

While the shelters demonstrate some elements of Federal Capital Architectural Style, they do not possess landmark qualities, artistic excellence, or visual prominence demonstrated to be valued by the wider ACT community or a cultural group. While they may be valued by professional and special interest groups, these are not connected through the same way of living, which has been transmitted from one generation to another, and do not share a cultural or ethnic background, and therefore do not fall within the definition of a cultural group as defined by the Council in its *Heritage Assessment Policy, February 2015*.

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

The Historic Timber Bus Shelters of the ACT do not meet this criterion.

The shelters possess some elements of Federal Capital Architectural Style, however there is no evidence before the Council suggesting they are regarded for creative or technical achievement for the period in which they were built.

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

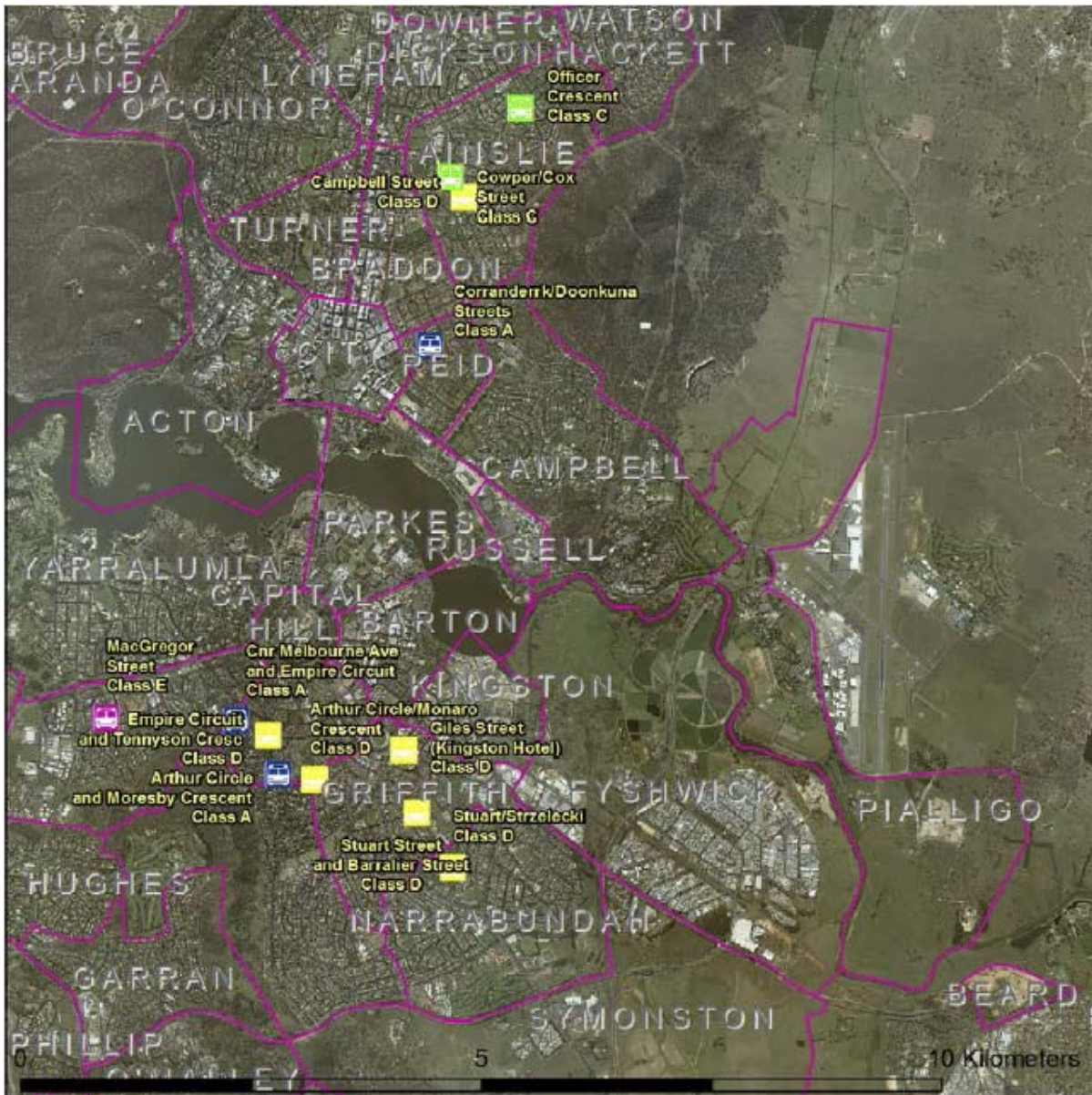
The Historic Timber Bus Shelters of the ACT do not meet this criterion.

The shelters may be of interest to specialist or professional organisations, however such interest has not been demonstrated to extend to the ACT community or a cultural group.

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

The Historic Timber Bus Shelters of the ACT do not meet this criterion.

The ACT's early bus services, including the Historic Timber Bus Shelters, were established by government agencies including the Department of Works, then the Federal Capital Commission, and later the Department of the Interior. However there is no evidence before the Council suggesting an association, above the ordinary, between the shelters and the life or work of a person or people important to the history of the ACT.



Coordinate System: MGA94 Zone 55
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum: GDA 94

Wooden Bus Shelters of the ACT

-  Class A
-  Class C
-  Class D
-  Class E

SITE PLAN: Locations of Historic Timber Bus Shelters across the ACT.