

Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of the South Lanyon Sawmill, Tuggeranong) Notice 2016

Notifiable Instrument NI2016–409

made under the

Heritage Act 2004, s32 (Decision about provisional registration) and s34 (Notice of decision about provisional registration)

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of the South Lanyon Sawmill, Tuggeranong) Notice 2016*.

2 Decision about provisional registration

On 28 July 2016, the ACT Heritage Council (the **Heritage Council**) decided not to provisionally register the South Lanyon Sawmill, part Block 1188, Tuggeranong (the **Place**).

3 Details and description of the Place

The location details and description of the Place are in the schedule.

4 Reasons for the decision

The Heritage Council decided not to provisionally register the Place because it did not have heritage significance as it did not meet any of the heritage significance criteria in section 10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, as set out in the schedule.

5 Date decision takes effect

The decision not to provisionally register the Place takes effect on the day after this notice is notified.

Fiona Moore
A/g Secretary (as delegate for)
ACT Heritage Council
28 July 2016



ACT Heritage Council

STATEMENT OF REASONS

DECISION NOT TO PROVISIONALLY REGISTER

South Lanyon Sawmill

(part Block 1188 Tuggeranong)

IN THE ACT HERITAGE REGISTER

In accordance with Section 32 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, the ACT Heritage Council has decided not to provisionally register the South Lanyon Sawmill, Tuggeranong. This Statement of Reasons provides an assessment of the South Lanyon Sawmill, Tuggeranong, and finds that the place does not meet any of the criteria under s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

Background

The South Lanyon Sawmill comprises the remains of a small-scale, diesel-fuelled mill in use around the middle of the twentieth century. The remains of the site comprise collapsed timbers, a small cart, and metal fixtures, rails, and axles.

The National Capital Development Commission's *Sites of Significance in the ACT* (1988) asserted the interpretive potential, and rarity of the South Lanyon Sawmill based on extant features. However, the ACT Heritage Council (the Council) has assessed the place and found that these features have significantly deteriorated.

At its meeting of 28 July 2016, the Council assessed the place against the current heritage significance criteria, and decided that the place did not meet the threshold for inclusion on the Register.

Assessment

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 South Lanyon Sawmill, Tuggeranong, 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 29 April 2016 by ACT Heritage; and
- the report by ACT Heritage titled, *Background Information South Lanyon Sawmill*, July 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 South Lanyon Sawmill, Tuggeranong, does not meet this criterion.

The processes and industries of sawmilling represent distinct and important types of land use in the history of Australia and the ACT. The South Lanyon Sawmill belongs to the post World War II electrification and diesel power period of sawmilling in the ACT. However, while timber processing is

important to the course of the ACT's cultural history, and there are no other known extant examples for this period, the South Lanyon Sawmill is no longer able to demonstrate an adequate relationship with the sawmilling industry in order to meet the basic test for inclusion under this criterion. The site exhibits little extant heritage fabric, and as such it cannot be considered to have bearing on the course or pattern the cultural history of the ACT.

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

The South Lanyon Sawmill, Tuggeranong, does not meet this criterion.

While physical evidence of sawmilling industries is in decline in the ACT, the remains of the South Lanyon Sawmill are of such poor integrity that they are unable to adequately represent a possible uncommon, rare or endangered aspect 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 South Lanyon Sawmill, Tuggeranong, does not meet this criterion.

Since Barz and Winston-Gregson's survey in 1981, and publication of the National Capital Development Commission's *Sites of Significance in the ACT* (1981), the integrity of the site has degraded substantially. As such, the Council does not consider that there is any potential for the extant materials, or any possible unexcavated materials at the South Lanyon Sawmill to contribute significantly to an understanding of the ACT's cultural history.

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

The South Lanyon Sawmill, Tuggeranong, does not meet this criterion.

The South Lanyon Sawmill exhibits insufficient integrity in order to be readily identified as a 'class' of cultural place or object. Various principal characteristics of a mid-twentieth century sawmill, such as a gantry, platform, blade, or power source, are no longer evident in the physical fabric of the place. As such, the place does not pass the basic test for inclusion under this criterion.

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

The South Lanyon Sawmill, Tuggeranong, does not meet this criterion.

There are no high-integrity aesthetic characteristics identifiable in the physical fabric remaining at the South Lanyon Sawmill. Further, there is no evidence to show that the place is valued by the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT for exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

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

The South Lanyon Sawmill, Tuggeranong, does not meet this criterion.

The South Lanyon Sawmill was constructed during Bert Edwards' time as station manager at Lanyon (1940-1953), and diesel powered sawmills came into use in Australia in around 1945. As a diesel powered mill, it is possible the South Lanyon Sawmill could be considered a significant technical achievement for the mid-twentieth century, as it appears to have been a very early example of its type. However, there is no visible physical evidence, such as an engine, fuel source, blade, or platform and gantry arrangement that would clearly demonstrate this technical achievement. As such, the place does not meet the basic test for inclusion under this criterion.

- (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 South Lanyon Sawmill, Tuggeranong, does not meet this criterion.

There is no evidence that the site has 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 South Lanyon Sawmill, Tuggeranong, does not meet this criterion.

The South Lanyon Sawmill has an association with the history of Lanyon, and its station manager, Bert Edwards, as it milled timber that was used for houses, sheds, gate posts, fence posts and railings at the Lanyon property. However, the association is not evident in the physical fabric of the mill, and there are other, stronger associations between Lanyon and its owners and managers than the south Lanyon Sawmill. For example, the Lanyon precinct consisting of standing outbuildings, fences, sheds, homestead and evocative pastoral landscape, bear special associations with the life and work of notable pastoralists such as the Cunninghams, Wrights, and T. A Fields.

Conclusion

This Statement of Reasons provides an assessment of the South Lanyon Sawmill and finds that the place does not meet any of the criteria specified in s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

The place does not demonstrate the necessary evidence required to meet high thresholds for inclusion on the ACT Heritage Register. The ruined state of mill significantly diminishes its ability to represent uncommon, rare, or endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural history, and to demonstrate its importance to the course or pattern of the ACT's history.

It has low potential to add to existing historical and archaeological knowledge of the area, and is not easily recognisable as a class of cultural place, nor is it known to have been recognised for its technical or creative achievement.

SITE PLAN



Site Boundary South Lanyon Sawmill (part) Block 1188 Tuggeranong



 South Lanyon Sawmill Site Boundary

Image 1 Site Boundary South Lanyon Sawmill.