

# Heritage (Decision about Registration for Callum Brae Precinct, Symonston) Notice 2011

Notifiable Instrument NI 2011 - 108

made under the

*Heritage Act 2004* section 42 Notice of Decision about Registration

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**1. Revocation**

This instrument replaces NI 2010 – 594

**2. Name of instrument**

This instrument is the Heritage (Decision about Registration for Callum Brae Precinct, Symonston) Notice 2011 -

**3. Registration details of the place**

Registration details of the place are at Attachment A: Register entry for the Callum Brae Precinct, Symonston.

**4. Reason for decision**

The ACT Heritage Council has decided that the Callum Brae Precinct, Symonston meets one or more of the heritage significance criteria at s 10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*. The register entry is at Attachment A.

**5. Date of Registration**

10 March 2011

Gerhard Zatschler  
Secretary  
ACT Heritage Council  
10 March 2011

 <p>ACT Heritage Council</p>	<p><b>AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY</b></p> <p><b>HERITAGE REGISTER</b> <b>(Registration Details)</b></p> <p><b>Place No:</b></p>
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*The following is mandatory:*

For the purposes of s. 41 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, an entry to the heritage register has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council for the following place:

Callum Brae Precinct, Narrabundah Lane, Symonston

(Part) Block 14 and 15 Section 102, Symonston, Jerrabomberra  
(Part) Block 2229, 2231 and 2232 Jerrabomberra District

**DATE OF REGISTRATION**

Notified: 11 March 2011 Notifiable Instrument: 2011/

Copies of the Register Entry are available for inspection at the ACT Heritage Unit. For further information please contact:

The Secretary  
ACT Heritage Council  
GPO Box 158, Canberra, ACT 2601

Telephone: 13 22 81 Facsimile: (02) 6207 2229

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## IDENTIFICATION OF THE PLACE

Callum Brae Precinct, Narrabundah Lane, (Part) Blocks 14 and 15, Section 102, (Part) Blocks 2229 JD, 2231 JD and 2232 LD Symonston, Jerrabomberra

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## STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This statement refers to the Heritage Significance of the place as required in s12(d) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

Callum Brae, Symonston, has been assessed as the most outstanding extant example of a Federal Capital Territory (FCT) soldier settlement lease in the ACT. Its significance derives particularly from the very high integrity of its soldier settlement structures and fabric and from the high integrity of its soldier settlement boundary. These structures have been and continue to be conserved through their ongoing use as a continuing working rural property.

Callum Brae is a significant example of a successful World War 1 (WWI) FCT soldier settlement lease which began as a small economically non-viable block and which was rapidly expanded into a viable holding by the acquisition of adjacent unsuccessful soldier settlement leases.

The Callum Brae homestead and outbuilding precinct contains small simple structures built by the lessee himself using inexpensive and often recycled materials, and demonstrates the principle characteristics of soldier settlement leases established in the FCT.

The Callum Brae homestead and outbuilding precinct is set in a cultural and rural landscape with views and vistas extending from the northeast to the east and south across the pastoral landscape to the lower slopes of the Jerrabomberra Creek Valley, the distant mountains and the historic 'Woden' property.

Callum Brae's proximity to the nearby properties of Mugga Mugga and 'Woden' provides the area with historical associations demonstrating aspects of the landed gentry at one extreme and soldier settlement at the other. It is a rare example within the ACT which demonstrates a range of historical properties in close proximity to one another demonstrating different aspects of the history of the ACT over a period of time.

The soldier settler homestead and outbuilding precinct, and the cultural and rural landscape of Callum Brae make it a significant ACT rural lease and an important part of our cultural heritage.

### Other values

A separate nomination to the ACT Heritage Register has been made for a natural temperate grassland habitat for the endangered Grassland Earless Dragon (*Tympanocryptis pinguicolla*) in the south of the block. This will be assessed separately.

Within the boundary is a Registered Aboriginal Site, and just outside the boundary to the north-east of Callum Brae is an identified Potential Archaeological Deposit. (See the ACT Heritage Registered Aboriginal Site Mugga Q2 and Callum Brae Potential Archaeological Deposit).

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## FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE

The attributes listed below are assessed as features intrinsic to the heritage significance of the place:

- The boundary of the original Soldier Settlement lease - Block 110G
- Homestead building, including forestry hut
- Woolshed
- Red shed
- Blacksmith's
- Permanent dam
- Orchard
- Original fencing (particularly as it indicates the original soldier settlement boundary)
- Sheep dip
- Sheep and cattle yards

The pastoral rural landscape of cultural significance including:

Pastoral vistas from the homestead and outbuilding precinct, extending from the northeast to the east and south towards the 'Woden' property.

Cultural landscape surrounding the homestead and outbuilding precinct.

The following built places post-date the soldier settlement period at Callum Brae, but are typical of modest ACT rural leasehold properties developed during the first half of the twentieth century and are an integral part of the place as a viable primary production operation. Conservation of the following features is warranted:

- Shearers quarters
- Super shed
- Stables

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## APPLICABLE HERITAGE GUIDELINES

The Heritage Guidelines adopted under s27 of the *Heritage Act 2004* are applicable to the conservation of the Callum Brae Precinct.

The guiding conservation objective is that the Callum Brae Precinct shall be conserved and appropriately managed in a manner respecting its heritage significance and the features intrinsic to that heritage significance, and consistent with a sympathetic and viable use or uses. Any works that have a potential impact on significant fabric (and / or other heritage values) shall be guided by a professionally documented assessment and conservation policy relevant to that area or component (i.e. a Statement of Heritage Effects – SHE).

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## REASON FOR REGISTRATION

Callum Brae Precinct, Narrabundah Lane, Symonston has been assessed against the heritage significance criteria and been found to have heritage significance when assessed against five criteria under the ACT Heritage Act.

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## ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

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. Significance has been determined by research as accessed in the references below. Future research may alter the findings of this assessment.

- (a) it demonstrates a high degree of technical or creative achievement (or both), by showing qualities of innovation, discovery, invention or an exceptionally fine level of application of existing techniques or approaches;**

The place does not meet this criterion.

- (b) it exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group;**

The place does not meet this criterion.

- (c) it is important as evidence of a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function that is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost or is of exceptional interest;**

The Callum Brae Precinct is important as evidence of a distinctive way of life and land use of exceptional interest, as one of only five identified examples of a still functioning soldier settlement lease established in the ACT under the WWI FCT Soldier Settlement Scheme which operated from 1920 – 1927. Most of the leases issued under this scheme have been resumed for urban development or absorbed into larger existing rural properties.

Callum Brae retains many of the distinctive built and cultural landscape elements characteristic of the soldier settlement period and of modest early twentieth century rural enterprises in the ACT.

The small simple structures of the original homestead and outbuildings are evidence of a distinctive way of life in response to the economic climate post-WWI and the 1920s Depression, and the improvisation in sourcing cheap and readily available materials. The buildings were constructed by the lessee using inexpensive and often recycled materials. This was common across many of the soldier settlement leases.

Callum Brae meets this criterion.

- (d) it is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations;**

The place does not meet this criterion.

- (e) it is significant to the ACT because of its importance as part of local Aboriginal tradition**

Not applicable.

- (f) it is a rare or unique example of its kind, or is rare or unique in its comparative intactness**

Callum Brae Precinct is a rare and unique example of a soldier settlement lease, as one of only six relatively intact FCT Soldier Settlement properties identified in the ACT and one of only five still operating as a rural lease largely within the original soldier settlement boundaries.

It is notable for the very high integrity of its soldier settlement structures, with very high retention of fabric from the soldier settlement period, and for the high integrity of its soldier settlement boundary.

Callum Brae's proximity to the nearby properties of Mugga Mugga and 'Woden' provides the area with historical associations demonstrating aspects of the landed gentry at one extreme and soldier settlement at the other. It is a rare example within the ACT which demonstrates a range of historical properties in close proximity to one another demonstrating different aspects of the history of the ACT over a period of time.

Callum Brae meets this criterion.

**(g) it is a notable example of a kind of place or object and demonstrates the main characteristics of that kind**

Callum Brae Precinct is a notable example of a successful WWI FCT Soldier Settlement lease which typically began as a small, economically non-viable block but which, in this case, was rapidly expanded into a viable operation by the acquisition of adjacent unsuccessful soldier settlement leases. Most of the Soldier Settlement leases in the ACT, and elsewhere, failed.

The Callum Brae homestead and outbuilding precinct containing small, simple structures built by the lessee himself using basic, often recycled materials, demonstrates the principal characteristics of Soldier Settlement leases where capital was limited and economy, ingenuity and hard work were essential for survival.

Callum Brae meets this criterion.

**(h) it has strong or special associations with a person, group, event, development or cultural phase in local or national history**

Callum Brae Precinct has a strong association with the WWI Soldier Settlement Scheme which operated in the FCT from 1920 to 1927.

Callum Brae meets this criterion.

**(i) it is significant for understanding the evolution of natural landscapes, including significant geological features, landforms, biota or natural processes**

Not applicable.

**(j) it has provided, or is likely to provide, information that will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of the natural or cultural history of the ACT because of its use or potential use as a research site or object, teaching site or object, type locality or benchmark site**

As the most significant surviving example of an FCT soldier settlement lease, with buildings and fittings that have remained essentially unchanged since the 1920s and 1930s, and as a working rural property, Callum Brae Precinct has the potential to contribute significantly to a wider understanding of soldier settlement in the ACT, of the lifestyle of early ACT farming families of modest means and of rural grazing practices in the ACT from the 1920s to the present day.

Archaeological artefacts which may remain at the site have the potential to provide information about past human occupation of the site.

Callum Brae meets this criterion.

**(k) for a place—it exhibits unusual richness, diversity or significant transitions of flora, fauna or natural landscapes and their elements**

Not applicable

**(l) for a place—it is a significant ecological community, habitat or locality for any of the following:**

- (i) the life cycle of native species;**
- (ii) rare, threatened or uncommon species;**
- (iii) species at the limits of their natural range;**
- (iv) distinct occurrences of species.**

Not applicable

*The place is assessed as not being significant in relation to the following criteria: a, b, d, e, i, k, and l.*

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## SUMMARY OF THE PLACE HISTORY AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

### HISTORY

#### Contextual information

The following brief history is based primarily on Phillips (1995), with supplementary information from Pfanner (1999), Ipkendanz (1999) and Saunders (1999).

The Limestone Plains were originally occupied by Aboriginal people who appear to have lived in small, fluid, kin-based groups that came together periodically at large inter-tribal gatherings for trade, marriage and ceremony (Flood 1980).

European explorers Charles Throsby Smith, James Vaughan and Joseph Wild entered the Limestone Plains in 1820 and the first European settlement was established in 1823 on the Molonglo River at 'Acton'.

In 1915 the Federal Government implemented the Soldier Settlement Scheme to encourage voluntary recruitment, to provide employment for returned servicemen and to increase post-war primary production. The scheme can be summarised as:

- the Commonwealth Government would supply loan funds to the States and Territories for a maximum £500 per soldier settler (later increased to £625);
- the States and Territories would make land available for sale to returned soldiers and would administer the scheme;
- There would be an initial period of low interest charges to settlers;
- The settlers would be paid sustenance during the establishment period; and
- The State would organise training facilities for settlers with no farming experience (Navin Officer, 2001: 6).

In 1919 land was made available in the FCT for settlement of returned Australian soldiers as a repatriation scheme. As happened elsewhere throughout Australia, large landholdings were resumed by the government and subdivided for closer settlement including for soldier settlement. In the FCT, this land included areas at Yarralumla, Duntroon, Lanyon, Tuggeranong and Charnwood (Pfanner, 1999: 11).

Applications for the 4,216 acre Jerrabomberra-Tuggeranong Soldier Settlement Subdivision closed on 28 February 1920. The subdivisions varied in size from 212 to 1,140 acres.

Returned soldiers signed a very detailed lease agreement when they accepted a block, including issues about rental, filling in rabbit burrows and subletting (Pfanner, 1999: 13).

Life on most of the soldier settlement leases appears to have been difficult. Most of the settlers had little capital and many had no previous farming experience (Navin Officer, 2001: 6).

Soon after taking up their leases, it was usual for the soldier settlers to undertake fencing works, sink dams and place stock on their land (Pfanner, 1999: 14). In the FCT, soldier settlers were given an advance of £500 to £625 for these purposes. The settlers were also responsible for rabbit eradication and control of noxious weeds. In addition, Government officials undertook regular inspections (Navin Officer, 2001: 6).

Bad seasons in the late 1920s and the Depression soon meant that many soldier settlers struggled to pay back their advance.

Lessees gave up their blocks, many compulsorily, as the land was needed for other purposes (Pfanner, 1999: 22).

In general terms, the Soldier Settler Schemes across Australia were considered to have failed. This is due to a number of factors, including 'small non-viable blocks on poor land which were unsuitable for farming, over-capitalisation due to the high price of stock and equipment, lack of previous farming experience, a fall in farm commodity prices in the critical years between 1920 and 1924 when soldier settlers were trying to establish their properties, and continued decline in the rural sector from 1924 and throughout the Depression' (Navin Officer, 2001: 6).

In the ACT, a greater flexibility in the leasehold system enabled struggling lessees to transfer or consolidate their leases, thereby saving the scheme in the ACT from total failure. Most of these leases were eventually resumed for the development of Canberra (Navin Officer, 2001: 7).

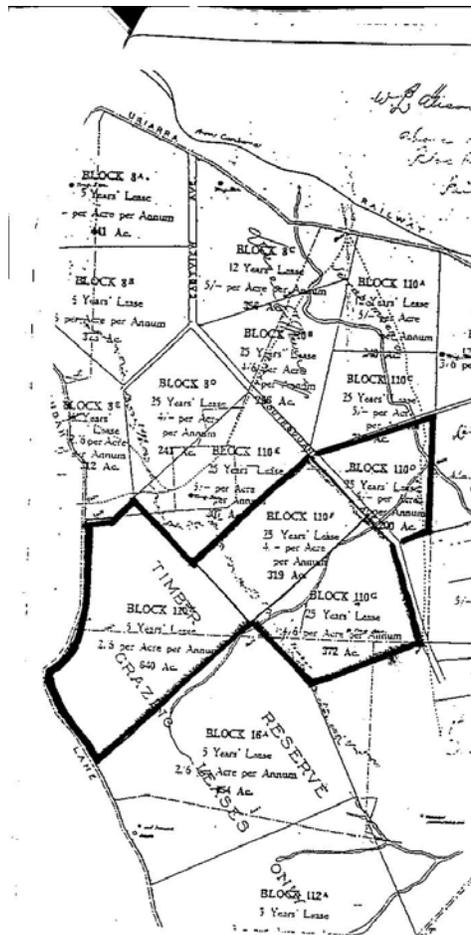
### Callum Brae

In 1825 merchant Robert Campbell established 'Duntroon' on a 4,000 acre grant on the Molonglo River at Pialligo. In 1827 Campbell began renting 5,000 acres south of the Molonglo, purchasing the land in 1838 (Armes and Winston-Gregson 1989). The future Callum Brae was located in the southwest corner of this area. For many years the run was overseen by Campbell employees living at 'Mugga Mugga' outstation.

In April 1913 the Commonwealth resumed 'Duntroon' for the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). In 1914 Alex McDonald of 'Hill Station' secured a five year agistment lease over Mugga Mugga Paddock, including what is now the Callum Brae Precinct.

In 1919 the area was subdivided for soldier settlement and in 1920, returned soldier, Hector Gordon McIntosh, received a 25 year lease over block 110G of 372 acres. McIntosh named his property 'Callum Brae'. The name is the Scottish Celtic translation of 'Malcolm Vale'. 'Malcolm Vale' was the name of a property in the Majura region owned and farmed by John Malcolm McIntosh, father of the returned WWI soldier, Hector Gordon McIntosh.

The block proved too small for a viable living and in 1923 McIntosh purchased two adjoining leases, block 110F of 319 acres and block 110H of 640 acres. In 1931 he acquired block 110D of 200 acres, making an economically viable holding of 1,531 acres. The Callum Brae Precinct is located on part of blocks 110G and 110F.



(Part of) 1920 survey plan showing Federal Capital lands available for settlement for returned soldiers and residents of the Territory who have volunteered for active service abroad.  
NLA MAP G8981.G46 1920 (Bib ID 1979561).

Between 1920 and 1925 McIntosh resided at Ainslie Post Office where his wife Hilda (nee Hayter) was Postmistress. During the week, he lived at Callum Brae in a 'portable camp', a hut towed to the site by tractor. During this time he built a four roomed house just east of the hut.

In 1925 when the Ainslie Post Office closed, the McIntosh family moved to Callum Brae. In 1929 a forestry hut was purchased from Uriarra and set up near the house. Extensions and minor alterations to the house were carried out in 1931. McIntosh sold Callum Brae in 1933.

From 1933-1936, the Callum Brae lease was held by Dick Reid. Reid appears to have held the lease to Blocks 110G and 56 Canberra City until 1946, while the lease to Blocks 110H and 39 Canberra City was held by Leon Russell Smith from 1936 to 1955 (Phillips 1995:14). Reid sold his lease to John Butt. A number of additional structures were built during this time, including shearers' quarters, an extension to the woolshed, a cottage, garage, stables and various other sheds.

In 1957 Andrew and Beryl McMaster and their children began living at Callum Brae, purchasing the lease in 1958. Several blocks were consolidated around this time and became Block 38 Canberra City (Phillips 1995:14). In 1960 Andrew McMaster sold a half share to F. McMaster. In 1987 the lease passed to the McMaster daughters, Mrs. Jenny Ipkendanz and Mrs. Margaret Wombey. The current lessee (2010) is Mrs. Ipkendanz who runs fine merinos on the property.

## DESCRIPTION

The Callum Brae Precinct comprises land on the eastern side of the Mt Mugga Mugga ridgeline. The block contains the Callum Brae homestead and outbuilding precinct, comprising a house, small cottage, garage, shearers' quarters, woolshed, stockyards, stables, cow bail and several machinery and storage sheds. It also includes an old sheep dip and yards, an old orchard, some original fencing, and a permanent dam.

The house and outbuilding precinct is set well back from the entrance on Jerrabomberra Avenue. It is accessed by the original 1.25km long dirt track from Jerrabomberra Avenue.

The homestead has three components: a portable weatherboard hut towed to the site in 1920, a six roomed weatherboard dwelling built between 1920 and 1925 and extended in 1931 and a former Uriarra forestry hut transported to the site in 1929.

The portable hut was divided into two rooms, a kitchen and a laundry, in 1925, but is otherwise unchanged. It has a galvanised iron shallow pitched gable roof with exposed timber rafters, a small storage loft with a pressed kerosene tin ceiling at the southern end of the northern room, a timber floor, unlined weatherboard walls and a cement rendered brick chimney with a red wash.

The original section of the homestead consists of two bedrooms, a dining room and a bathroom. The 1931 extensions at the front of the house consist of a living room, a bedroom and a verandah around the front and northern side of the house. The original portable hut at the rear was joined to the house by a covered fibro and weatherboard breezeway with an enclosed rear entry. Later owners converted the original back bedroom to a kitchen and enlarged it by enclosing part of the side verandah.

The Uriarra forestry hut is a single-roomed weatherboard structure located at the rear of the house. It has a corrugated iron gable roof and a timber floor. It was originally used as a bedroom and later as a playroom.

The house sits on concrete block foundations. It has a timber floor and a corrugated iron roof. The internal walls and ceilings of the original four-roomed section are weatherboard. The internal walls and ceilings of the 1931 extension are chipboard, with a picture rail in the living room. There is a brick fireplace in the dining room and the living room.

Following the McMasters' acquisition of the property in 1958, the original fuel stove in the kitchen was replaced, the external brick chimney to the kitchen was shortened and a slow combustion heater was installed in the living room fireplace. The interior has been re-painted in pastel tones. No other changes have been made since 1958 (J. Ipkendanz 1999: pers. comm.).

All the structures in the homestead precinct are painted cream with a brown trim. They are well maintained and in good condition, although there is localised damp and periodic white ant infestation in the southern external wall of the homestead living room (J. Ipkendanz 1999: pers. comm.) and deterioration of the timber flooring in the portable hut.

The homestead garden is partly enclosed by a substantial saltbush hedge, possibly 'old man saltbush' (*Atriplex nummularia*). The hedge would appear to have been planted sometime after 1933 (Phillips 1995: Appendix 11). A row of Eucalypts along the southern boundary also post-dates 1933. The garden itself is simple and functional, with lawns, occasional shrubs, fruit trees and a vegetable garden all post-dating the soldier settler period.

Outbuildings attributed to the soldier settler owner, Hector McIntosh, consist of part of the woolshed and yards, the 'red shed', a shed known as the 'blacksmiths' and a sheep dip and yards. McIntosh also planted the original orchard, located approximately 150m southeast of the house.

The original section of the woolshed was built in 1920. It is a corrugated iron structure with a pitched roof supported by round bush timber posts. Wool bays and holding yards were added after 1933. The shed was originally used only for crutching, with shearing done at 'Tralee'. The shed is in generally good condition, although the southern wall of the holding yards is rusty and has been repaired in a number of places.

The 'red shed' was built as a granary in 1929-30. It is a small rectangular structure with a substantial pole frame, timber floor and walls of split and flattened 44 gallon bitumen drums salvaged from the 1928-29 Jerrabomberra Avenue construction camp located just inside the property entrance. It houses a number of local woolmarks. It is in good condition, although there is external decay in some of the foundation stumps and some of the timbers in the rear loading dock are unstable.

The 'blacksmiths' is a corrugated iron shed built in 1920. There is no evidence of a forge and it appears to have been used as a tool shed and workshop. The original door and windows were replaced in 1995. It is now part of a series of adjoining sheds constructed after 1933. It is in reasonable condition.

The sheep dip and yards, located approximately 650m southeast of the homestead and outbuilding precinct, are in very poor condition.

The original orchard dates to the earliest years of the McIntosh occupancy. Surviving fruit trees comprise apricot, pear, apple, fig and greengage plum which may be old varieties.

Much of the original fencing remains, although patched and reinforced with star pickets and timber strainers. Original fence posts indicate the boundary of the original soldier settlement lease.

The Callum Brae homestead and outbuildings are surrounded by a pastoral landscape created by successive owners of the property.

The Callum Brae homestead and outbuilding precinct is set in a cultural and rural landscape with views and vistas extending from the northeast to the east and south across a pastoral landscape to the lower slopes of the Jerrabomberra Valley, the distant mountains and the historic 'Woden' property.

#### Place Boundary

The place boundary as defined by this registration is McIntosh's original lease of Block 110G.

It also comprises a small portion of land immediately to the north of this Block, following a parallel line with that of Block 110G, because McIntosh's homestead and outbuildings were constructed over the boundary of both Block 110G and 110F immediately north.

The boundary then follows a logical alignment with the leased area to Narrabundah Lane, incorporating the only permanent dam on the property.

#### REFERENCES

ACT Government, 1999, Yellow Box/Red Gum Grassy Woodland: An endangered ecological community. Action Plan No.27. Environment ACT, Canberra.

ACT Government, 1997, Eastern Lined Earless Dragon (*Tympanocryptis lineata pinguicolla*): An endangered species. Action Plan No.3. Environment ACT, Canberra.

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Ipkendanz, J., (lessee) 1999, personal communication.

Navin Officer Heritage Consultants, 2001, A Comparative Assessment of the Cultural Heritage Values of Surviving Soldier Settlement Properties within the ACT. Report to Purdon Associates Pty Ltd.

Pfanner, S. 1996, Soldier settlement subdivisions in the Federal Capital Territory after WWI. *Canberra Historical Journal* 37: 25-34, March 1996. Canberra & District Historical Society.

Pfanner, S. 1999, A History of Soldier Settlement in the Federal Capital Territory after the First World War. Unpublished report to ACT Heritage Unit.

Phillips, S. 1995, Interpreting Historical Landscape a study of Callum Brae farm and homestead which include woodland and grassland on Section 103 Block 5 (pt) Section 49 Blocks 3, 4, 8, 13 and 14 Suburb of Symonston District of Jerrabomberra. Unpublished report for Unit LOCH222a University of New England, Armidale.

Saunders, P. 1999, Cultural Resource Survey of Symonston Block 4 Section 102, ACT. Report to Totalcare Projects.

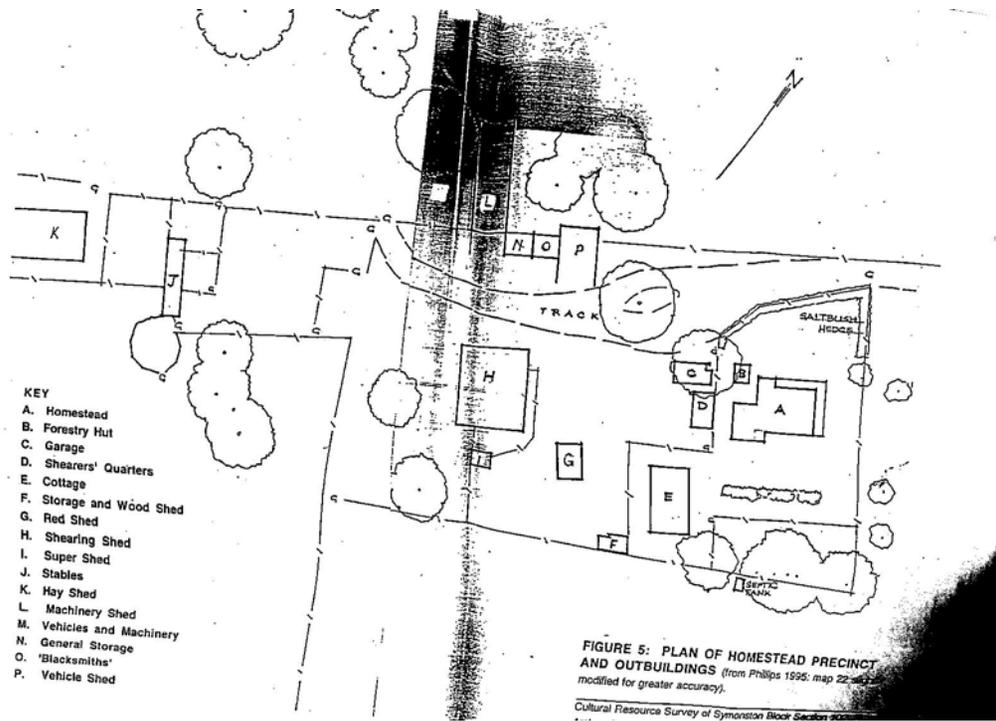
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SITE PLAN AND IMAGES

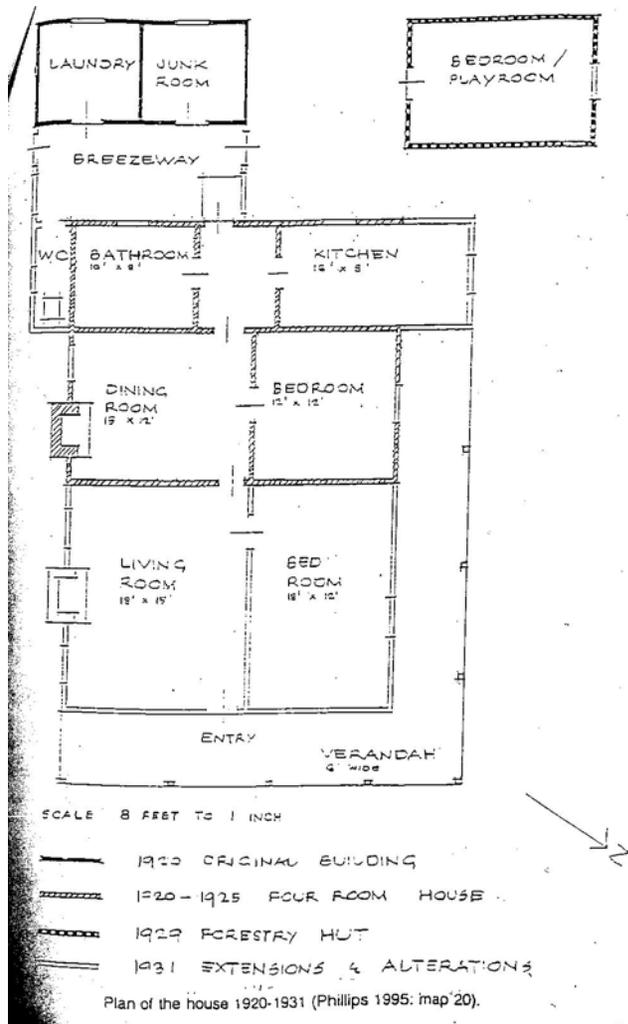


Callum Brae boundary - as marked by the solid red line.





Callum Brae homestead and surrounds site plan  
ACT Archaeological Heritage Surveys, 1999



Homestead floorplan  
Phillips, 1995.



Callum Brae Homestead



Callum Brae Homestead  
The original two-roomed building is at the rear.



The pressed metal 'red shed'



Uriarra Forestry Hut



Sheep yards



Shearing shed



Garage

Images taken 2010