



ACT Heritage Council

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Nil Desperandum Homestead and Surrounds

(part) Block 143, Paddys River District

At its meeting of 30 July 2015 the ACT Heritage Council decided that Nil Desperandum Homestead and Surrounds was eligible for registration.

The information contained in this report was considered by the ACT Heritage Council in assessing the nomination for Nil Desperandum Homestead and Surrounds against the heritage significance criteria outlined in s10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

HISTORY

Tidbinbilla has been a focus of activity for Aboriginal people well before Europeans arrived. The earliest known date for Aboriginal people in the region comes from Birrigai Rock Shelter which contains evidence from approximately 21,000 years ago. The area is known to be part of an Aboriginal pathway leading towards the mountains where past peoples would gather seasonally to feast on Bogong moths. During this period groups from the coast, the lower Lachlan and Murrumbidgee Rivers and all neighbouring regions in between would gather in the alpine regions south and southwest of the ACT to feast on the plentiful supply of Bogong moths as they aestivate over summer (Flood, 1996; Gale 1991; Kabaila, 2005). The Tidbinbilla Range was of spiritual importance to Aboriginal people, and is said to be a variation of the Aboriginal word 'Jedbinbilla' which means place of initiation (Freeman and Collett et al. 1994, p. 7).

The first Europeans in the Canberra area were the early explorers who relied on their Aboriginal guides' prior knowledge. Charles Throsby and his team are credited with the first European discovery of the region around 1820 with further excursions by his team and others extending his recording of the area over the next few years. The Murrumbidgee River was located in 1821, and by the late 1820s, settlers had pushed south to the Tuggeranong area, some illegally grazing stock west of the Murrumbidgee, beyond the limits of the Nineteen Counties (Freeman and Collett et al. 1994, 8).

The homestead is a pisé construction. *Pisé de terre* is the method of earth building characterized by ramming earth into in-situ formwork similar to that used today for mass concrete (Lewis 1977, p. 43 quoted in National Trust of Australia 2001, p. 5). It is a cheap building construction style that was introduced into Australia in the 1820s (Lewis 2000: 51). First a timber framed mould is constructed on top of a stone or brick base layer (which protects the wall from moisture) and then earth is poured in about 10-15cm thick and then rammed into the mould until it is hard enough that a hammer will only leave a small dent when struck against the top surface, then another 10-15cm of soil is spread on top and the process repeated until the mould has been filled. When the mould has been filled, it is moved up and the process repeated until the full height of the wall is reached. The building can be used as soon as it has been erected with the walls being able to support heavy loads, such as roof structures; however, the walls must be allowed to dry for several months before they can be plastered, providing a pleasing finish that also helps to protect the walls from moisture.

In the area that is now the Australian Capital Territory, the County of Cowley was the most prodigious in the art and use of earth construction within a radius of 100 miles (Sheedy 1986, quoted in National Trust of Australia 2001, p. 20). This included the Tidbinbilla and Booroomba Valleys and areas to the west of the Murrumbidgee River.

Cosgrove and Dowling list 42 historic Pisé buildings in the ACT that were known in 2001. However, only fourteen of these were cited in 2001 as being in 'good,' condition, with a further nine cited as ruins. Approximately seven of the

fourteen 'good' structures survived at this time without being subject to major modification, with others, such as Nil Desperandum Homestead and Surrounds and Rock Valley, subsequently affected by bushfires in 2003.

Chronology

The 1994 document titled *Nil Desperandum Precinct, Tidbinbilla, Conservation Plan* by Freeman Collett and Partners, and the document titled *An Archaeological Survey of Ashbrook at Hurdle Creek, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve* by Samantha McKay includes a comprehensive history of the place. Excepting references to Canberra bushfires in 2003, Sub-headings 1 to 8 have been extracted from these REPORTS. While features within the Nil Desperandum cultural landscape, such as the distillery and camellia grove, survived bushfires in 2003, the pisé walls and Gillman and Blewitt-era chimneys are the only structural elements of the homestead to survive. Thus, alterations made to the residence by occupants subsequent to H. F. Gillman (1896-1914) have not been documented except where relevant to the significance of the place, but can be found in the abovementioned conservation plan.

1. George Webb, Andrew Cunningham, and the Tidbinbilly and Congwarrah Runs (1839 – c. 1880s)

George Webb arrived in New South Wales in 1818. In the autumn of 1834 George, Sarah and family, seeking new grazing country, camped on the eastern side of the Murrumbidgee. They were actually on James Wright's Lanyon property and Wright warned them off. Although the country west of the river was beyond the Nineteen Counties, the official area of settlement at the time, the Webbs crossed and built a home just below present-day Tharwa. After occupation of this western side became legal in January 1837 Wright obtained a grazing licence and the following year he and Webb again came into conflict, this time over boundaries. Although the dispute was settled in Webb's favour he decided to move, this time to the north-west.

In 1839 George Webb and his family took up what became known as the 'Tidbinbilly Run' and became the first Europeans to live at Tidbinbilla. The run was leased annually at first then when regulations changed in the 1840s Webb took out a 14-year lease. Like other such squatting runs in the region, Webb's was vast, occupying 25 square miles. It ran from the Tidbinbilla Range to Paddys River and from Gibraltar Creek in the south to Hurdle Creek in the north where it adjoined the 'Congwarrah Run,' (see Image 2).

In 1866 the ageing George moved to live with daughter Eliza at Uriarra. Tidbinbilly Run changed hands and was acquired by Andrew Cunningham.

Andrew and his wife Jane arrived in Sydney from Scotland in 1845 and, shortly after, Andrew took up the Congwarrah lease. His pregnant wife Jane stayed at Lanyon with her friends, the Wrights. In 1848 the Wrights left Lanyon and the Cunninghams purchased the property and moved across from swampy Congwarrah, which Cunningham retained. By the time Cunningham obtained Tidbinbilly Run he was one of the most influential landholders in the region, owning Freshford, Tuggranong (as it then was spelt) and many other properties. Soon after his death in 1887, sons Andrew Jackson and James began running the family empire in partnership. Andrew Jackson Cunningham lived at Lanyon and James Cunningham at Tuggranong.

2. Selectors Arrive at Tidbinbilla (c. 1880s – 1895)

The first half of the nineteenth century saw the squatters become a powerful force in colonial New South Wales. Their pastoral leases occupied huge areas of land, making it difficult for smaller graziers and farmers to obtain holdings. Calls for a more equitable land policy were heard before the gold rushes, but the increased population and wealth created by gold heightened the cries to 'unlock the land'.

From 1861, when John Robertson's free selection legislation became law, a series of land acts were introduced to open land to selectors. While many of these small landholders failed, either through under capitalization or squatter tactics such as 'dummying' and 'peacocking,' large numbers of selectors were successful. From the 1880s onward a steady number of blocks were selected at what is now Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve as newcomers picked up parts of the formerly leasehold lands of the Cunninghams. These selectors and their families included the Sheedys, George Green, George Hatcliff, John Staunton, Henry Ffrench Gillman, John Noone and others. By 1895 the population had increased to the extent that a mail service was instituted. Three years later the Church Rock Valley School was opened, superseded in 1907 by the Gibraltar Provisional School.

3. John Staunton (1885)

John Staunton, born in 1855, came to the Tidbinbilla area thirty years later, only a few months after his marriage to Frances, nee Isaacs. On 19 November 1885 he applied for portions 31 and 32, Parish of Booroomba, on Hurdle Creek (see Image 3). Portion 31 was a conditional purchase and was later the block upon which Nil Desperandum was built. Portion 32 was believed to be a conditional lease as well. Today the base of stone fireplaces, close to the junction of the two portions, and a stand of elm trees remain and are understood to date from Staunton's occupation of the portions, in a dwelling called 'Ashbrook.' The Ashbrook footings survived bushfires in 2003. A stand of elm trees also remains near the Ashbrook site.

A cultivation paddock located nearby on portion 32 was used for many years; whether this paddock was first worked by Staunton is difficult to verify.

Seven years after applying for the two blocks Staunton started to purchase other land further up the Tidbinbilla Valley and moved onto that land from Ashbrook in 1895.

4. Henry Ffrench Gillman and Nil Desperandum (1895-1914).

Nil Desperandum is understood to have been built for Henry Ffrench Gillman between 1896 and 1899. Originally from Ireland, the presumably unmarried Gillman is said to have come to Australia for 'political reasons.' Nil Desperandum means 'no despair' or 'don't despair.'

Gillman was in the Tidbinbilla area by 1895 for on 8 August and 10 October of that year he applied for portions 96 and 115 Parish of Congwarrah respectively. These were adjacent to Staunton's two blocks. Then, in February 1896, he came before the Queanbeyan court because of a burning-off fire, lit in October 1895, which had escaped from his property onto Andrew Jackson and James Cunninghams' neighbouring land. This was the first of many disputes between Gillman and the Cunninghams. During the case it was reported that Gillman was using a tent, and that he had now acquired Staunton's land. Staunton's date of sale of Ashbrook was in July 1895.

Nil Desperandum was constructed by George Green and George Hatcliff, two men who built a large number of pisé structures in the Tidbinbilla district. Green and Hatcliff worked on neighbouring properties, such as Booroomba, as well as running their own holdings. They also developed skills as builders of pisé houses; both Rock Valley and Gibraltar included pisé structures. It is thought that they acquired these skills from two Chileans, Eusebio Ponsi and Rupelto Rodrigues, who arrived in 1872. Both of these men worked as shepherds for Andrew Cunningham.

Rodrigues, who dummied for Cunningham on portion 26 Parish of Congwarrah, had come to the district employed on the building of rammed mud houses for selectors on the Tuggeranong Plain. Ponsi, also recorded as Esebio Towsey, could have been building in pisé in the 1850s, and in 1885 he is known to have built a pisé homestead at Freshford. It is quite likely that Green and Hatcliff could have had contact with Ponsi and Rodrigues and learned about pisé from the two South Americans.

Green and Hatcliff's pisé skills and knowledge were drawn on by a number of residents other than Gillman. The two builders also constructed outbuildings at Booroomba in about 1890, the Lambrigg laboratory during the same decade, Church Rock Valley School in 1898, the present Congwarrah house in 1910, Kayes Hut in about 1907, and they may have built Tennent Homestead. They represent two of the pre Capital Territory's pre-eminent pisé builders.

The earliest evidence of Nil Desperandum during the Gillman period is Surveyor R Rain's plan of Holding 180 dated 4 April 1919 (see Image 4). The plan depicts the house as being built with 10 foot 6 inch pisé walls on a stone foundation, and with a galvanised iron roof which was skillioned over the pisé kitchen at the rear. In addition to the kitchen there were three rooms, the northernmost having a fireplace, which survived bushfires in 2003. The cultivation paddock on portion 32, which may have been used by Staunton, was probably used by Gillman for cropping, for it was described by Rain as 'cleared old cultivation.' By 1914, Gillman no longer lived at Nil Desperandum.

5. The Blewitt Family (1931 to 1950).

Shortly after the Commonwealth's resumption of Tidbinbilla Station (adjacent to Nil Desperandum) its lease was taken up by Bert Reid in 1918. In 1930, Reid purchased Gillman's land and in 1931, let out Nil Desperandum to Eric and Elsie Blewitt and their family. Elsie was a daughter of George Green of Rock Valley. Thus in moving to Nil Desperandum Elsie was moving into a pisé house built by her father and George Hatcliff. Eric and Elsie had seven children by 1931, five of whom lived at Nil Desperandum.

The Blewitts ran several hundred ewes on the block, some horses and milking cows. Eric cropped the cultivation paddock on portion 32, growing wheat, oats or barley every year. Eric also worked for Bert Reid, doing fencing, dipping, shearing and other jobs. He was well known for his skill with horses and was the local blacksmith for the Tidbinbilla Valley.

The Blewitts had a Queanbeyan bricklayer, Joe Mason, build a fireplace and chimney in the kitchen. Elsie insisted that a proper tradesman do the job so that the chimney drew properly, unlike the lounge chimney (attached to the northernmost room, built during Gillman's era) which smoked. A new 'Canberra' stove was also placed in situ. The Kitchen fireplace and chimney, including 'Canberra' stove survived bushfires in 2003.

Elsie contributed to the family income by trapping rabbits. She would go off with 50 traps on her back and then sell the skins and carcasses. She helped the Reids with cooking during shearing and lent a hand at other times too. As well as the Reids and other local families, the Blewitts were also friendly with three Czechoslovakian eucalyptus distillers who operated a still near Nil Desperandum (not the current still).

In 1949 Eric was struck on the head with the front hoof of his favourite horse, Bungool. He was dead even before he had been carried inside the house. Eric's death was a tragedy for the Blewitt family, and altered the course of Nil Desperandum's history.

6. The Gilmours (1950-1972).

In April 1950, the title to Nil Desperandum passed to Elsie Blewitt, and in August she sold the place to Darcy and Kath Gilmour and Lionel Webber.

The Gilmours' intention was to run cattle on the block and they soon developed a herd of mixed breeds and eventually a Hereford herd. A few sheep were also grazed. The cultivation paddock on portion 32 continued to be used and oats and hay were harvested, the plot was called 'the oats paddock.'

Various changes were made at Nil Desperandum during the Gilmour period through to around the mid-1970s. Outside, the Hygeia toilet (still partially remaining in 2014) was installed with its pit outside the fence; it incorporated a ratchet system attached to the lid and chemicals and water were used, making it more like a closed septic system than the previous pit toilets.

On Hurdle Creek a swimming pool was built in the 1950s and refurbished with timber walls during the 1960s. Kath planted fruit trees at the western end of the house yard, and in the early 1960s condensing pipes were diverted from the eucalypt still to water a vegetable patch developed on the northern side of Hurdle Creek where the camellia grove stands today. The galvanised pipe is still extant, surviving bushfires in 2003.

By 1950 when the Gilmours bought Nil Desperandum, the original eucalyptus distillery located on the block had been removed. The present distillery (still extant in 2014) dates from the 1950s when a group of Yugoslavian men established it on the site, a different still, in a different location, to that utilised by the Czechoslovakians in the Blewitt era. The Yugoslavian men were also distilling eucalypt on neighbouring Block 60 round this time. Distilling at the Nil Desperandum block ceased around 1958.

7. Phil Gilmour (1975-1988).

Ownership of the property passed from Kath Gilmour to her son Phil in 1978. Phil, together with a friend Leon Horsnell who had landscaping experience, decided to replace the vegetable patch with camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons which would be grown and sold on a commercial basis for 'instant gardens.' By the time Nil Desperandum was valued in 1985 there were 600 plants in the grove, though none were able to be sold because the resumption of the property intervened. The Government paid \$16,000 for the grove in 1988 so that Yarralumla Nursery could take the plants (Jeffery, P., pers. comm. 28 November 2014). The camellia grove regenerated after bushfires in 2003.

By the mid-1980s Nil Desperandum was one of the last remaining freehold blocks of land in the ACT when the Government indicated it would resume the property. In 1991 Nil Desperandum became part of Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve (TNR).

8. The Koala Enclosure

The remnants of a former koala enclosure are located either side of Hurdle Creek, upstream from the camellia plantation. A small koala enclosure was proposed in 1938 for a site next to the Brindabella Road near Shannons Creek on the eastern ascent of the Brindabella Range. However, during 1939 this location was dropped for one at Hurdle Creek.

The reasons for the establishment of a koala park were varied. On the one hand there was Mr Lance Le Souef of Melbourne who was lobbying the Prime Minister for a fauna park, particularly a koala park, to be established near Canberra so as to conserve native fauna such as koalas, platypus etc in order to boost tourism.

Le Souef was a zoologist and a brother to the Curator of Sydney's Taronga Park Zoo. On the other hand there was the scientific community which wanted to study koalas. Block 56, District of Paddys River (retired, near Nil Desperandum Homestead and Surrounds) was set aside for the plot. Fence alignments were cleared, to stop the koalas escaping over the fence in the forest canopy, and the fence was erected by 25 July 1939. *The Canberra Times* reported that day that the Victorian government had agreed to send up six adult koalas. It should be noted that whilst koalas had once been 'plentiful' in the ACT they had by this time not been seen for thirty years. The enclosure became quite a novelty but did not survive long, and many local people came to view it. Trees and branches fell across the fencing, knocking parts of it down and by the end of the Second World War the enclosure was just about derelict. Several years later the wire netting disappeared, the koalas meanwhile had escaped long before. As of an ACT Heritage site visit on 2 October 2014, there were no remains indicating the location or presence of the enclosure, and for this reason it has not been included in the 'Description of Place,' and does not require conservation.

9. The Eucalyptus Distillery

Five Czechoslovakian men began eucalyptus distilling in the Tidbinbilla Valley in 1940. In 1943, three of these men, Steve Lajcin, Martin Teckle, and Jan Jandura moved their stills to Hurdle Creek, on the Nil Desperandum block (Australian Heritage Database 1996, p. 3). Eucalyptus oil was first extracted in Australia in 1788, within 10 months after the establishment of the colony the Surgeon General John White sent a quarter of a gallon of eucalyptus oil to England for further testing. By the late 1940s eucalypt distilling was a significant local industry in the Canberra region (Freeman and Collett et al. 1994: 39). The eucalyptus oil industry is one of the few industries based on Australian native plants and is little known to the general public (Pearson 1982, quoted in NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service 1998, p. 4).

The present still (see p. 4 above) is largely intact, with some evidence for coppicing of surrounding eucalypts. The regulator drum remains next to the still, this drum ensured that the still did not boil dry. The vat is square-sided, unlike the round ones used by the Czechoslovakians during the Blewitt era, and is set into the hillside with space below for the heating fire; an underground stone flue emerges from the rear of the still. Two condenser pipes emerged from the still; these have been removed some distance and used for diverting water from the creek to the vegetable patch which was subsequently converted into the camellia grove. When the still was operative these pipes ran along a race to a half drum set in the bank where the oil was retrieved (Freeman and Collett 1994, pp. 43-44).

10. Colonial and 20th century migration history

BACKGROUND INFORMATION – Nil Desperandum Homestead and Surrounds

There are two connections between Nil Desperandum and Australian migration history. The first concerns George Green and George Hatcliffe's possible acquisition of pise house building skills from the Chilean shepherds Eusebio Ponsi and Rupelto Rodrigues. The Australian population during the colonial period included people who had journeyed from many corners of the world, often attracted by gold mining activities. Their various cultural skills, some more well known than others, contributed to colonial settlement.

The second and more substantial migration connection also relates to Australian citizenship history and concerns the initiation of eucalyptus distilling in the Tidbinbilla Valley by five Czechoslovakians in 1940. The migration of Eastern Europeans to Australia was relatively rare before the post-war immigration program. However, the political issues leading up to the Second World War in Europe saw a spike in the arrival of Czechoslovakians, particularly those who were Jewish, in the 1930s (*The Australian People* p. 251). With the advent of the migration program in 1946 new opportunities became available for non-British migrants and at least one of the three distillers at Nil Desperandum took these up.

Jan Jandura (surname Pucek when he arrived in Australia) has the distinction of becoming the first non-British migrant to be naturalised as an Australian Citizen. Until the *Nationality and Citizenship Act* of 1948, Australians whether by birth or naturalisation were deemed to be British subjects. The first naturalisation ceremony conferring Australian citizenship took place in 1949 in Canberra's Albert Hall. The importance of the occasion and Jan Jandura's role in it is reflected in Commonwealth records which show that a Commonwealth Car brought Jandura from Tidbinbilla to Canberra (National Archives, A441 1952/13/7732). A sound recording and a number of photographs and other records of the proceedings also exist.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the ceremony (August 1999), the Embassy of the Republic of Slovakia erected a plaque that identified a parkland area along Sullivans Creek in North Canberra as a commemoration of Jan Jandura's role in the first Australian citizenship ceremony and of his pioneering role as a migrant in Canberra.

11. 2003 Bushfires.

Block 143 suffered fire damage as a result of bushfires in 2003, including Nil Desperandum Homestead and Surrounds. The timber framed roof and floors were destroyed, with timber lintels and doorways also burnt away (see Image 5). However, the pisé walls and original footprint remained intact and structurally sound. In addition, the Gillman and Blewitt chimneys, Hygeia toilet, distillery, and Ashbrook paddock remained, and several years post-fires, the camellia grove began to regenerate. The pisé homestead was restored with some patching and re-rendering, using lime-based renders, as similar as possible to original materials, and in 2014 the homestead continues to be used for short-stay accommodation.

DESCRIPTION (including physical condition and integrity)

Nil Desperandum Precinct lies within Block 143 Paddys River which includes original portions 31 and 32 selected by Staunton and:

- the pisé homestead and house paddock, including remains of Hygeia toilet;
- native regenerated bushland;
- portions of Hurdle Creek and Gilmore Creek related to camellia grove, pool, and distillery;
- cleared grazing paddocks indicating European land use, ditch-and-bank earthworks still bordering the field;
- Ashbrook cultivation paddock and exotic plantings;
- remnant hearth foundations and evidence for stone quarrying;
- eucalyptus distillery including surrounding eucalypts with evidence of coppicing;
- camellia plot; and
- swimming pool.
- The Homestead (Images 6, 7 and 8)

Nil Desperandum is a pisé homestead built sometime between 1896 and 1899 as a three roomed, one kitchen cottage with pisé walls on a stone foundation. At the time of original construction the roof was galvanised iron, skillioned over the pisé kitchen at the rear. The northernmost room had a fireplace, but not the kitchen. A verandah existed on the rear side and the house had a well-tended garden. The outbuildings included a stable, shed, and shingled toilet, all of which disappeared many years ago. Subsequent occupants made numerous changes, such as construction and

BACKGROUND INFORMATION – Nil Desperandum Homestead and Surrounds

enclosure of verandahs and bathrooms. However, evidence for all add-ons and outbuildings was destroyed in bushfires.

Today the extant features, relative to the significance of the place, which survived bushfires include:

- Pisé walls;
- four-roomed, closed-style footprint of the original structure reflective of contemporaneous homesteads;
- Gillman-era chimney and fireplace in the northernmost room;
- Blewitt-era fireplace and chimney in kitchen;
- cleared house paddock reflecting rural character of the place incorporating features surviving bushfires, such as the Hygeia toilet.

Eucalyptus Distillery (Images 9 and 10)

The present still (see pp. 4 and 5 above) is largely intact and able to be interpreted in its original context. The regulator drum remains next to the still, this drum ensured that the still did not boil dry. The vat is square-sided, and is set into the hillside with space below for the heating fire; an underground stone flue emerges from the rear of the still. Two condenser pipes emerged from the still; these have been removed some distance and used for diverting water from the creek to the vegetable patch which was subsequently converted into the camellia grove. When the still was operative these pipes ran along a race to a half drum set in the bank where the oil was retrieved (Freeman and Collett 1994, pp. 43-44). The distillery remains in fair condition, with some evidence for eucalypt coppicing, as described above.

The Camellia Plot (see Image 11)

The plot is an area north of Hurdle Creek, defined by a 25 x 35 metre fenceline. While the plot was burnt in bushfires, the camellias have regenerated.

Pool (see Image 12)

The stone walls on one corner of the pool remain visible, where the remainder has silted over. Water from Hurdle Creek flows over this section of stone wall, where movement over time has resulted in some wearing.

'Ashbrook' site (including cultivation paddock see Image 1)

The cultivation paddock, established during Staunton's occupation, remains as a cleared area, with ditch-and-bank earthworks still evident around the perimeter of the paddock, perhaps constructed for irrigation purposes. The stone footings from three hearths also remain, although the platform(s) from the original building(s) are no longer extant. In addition, west and up-slope of the hearths and cultivation paddock, there is evidence for clearing on the ridges exposing stone, which were subsequently quarried in order to construct the hearths. A stand of exotic trees, including elm, quince, and apple, also remain as indicators of Staunton's occupation.

SITE PLAN

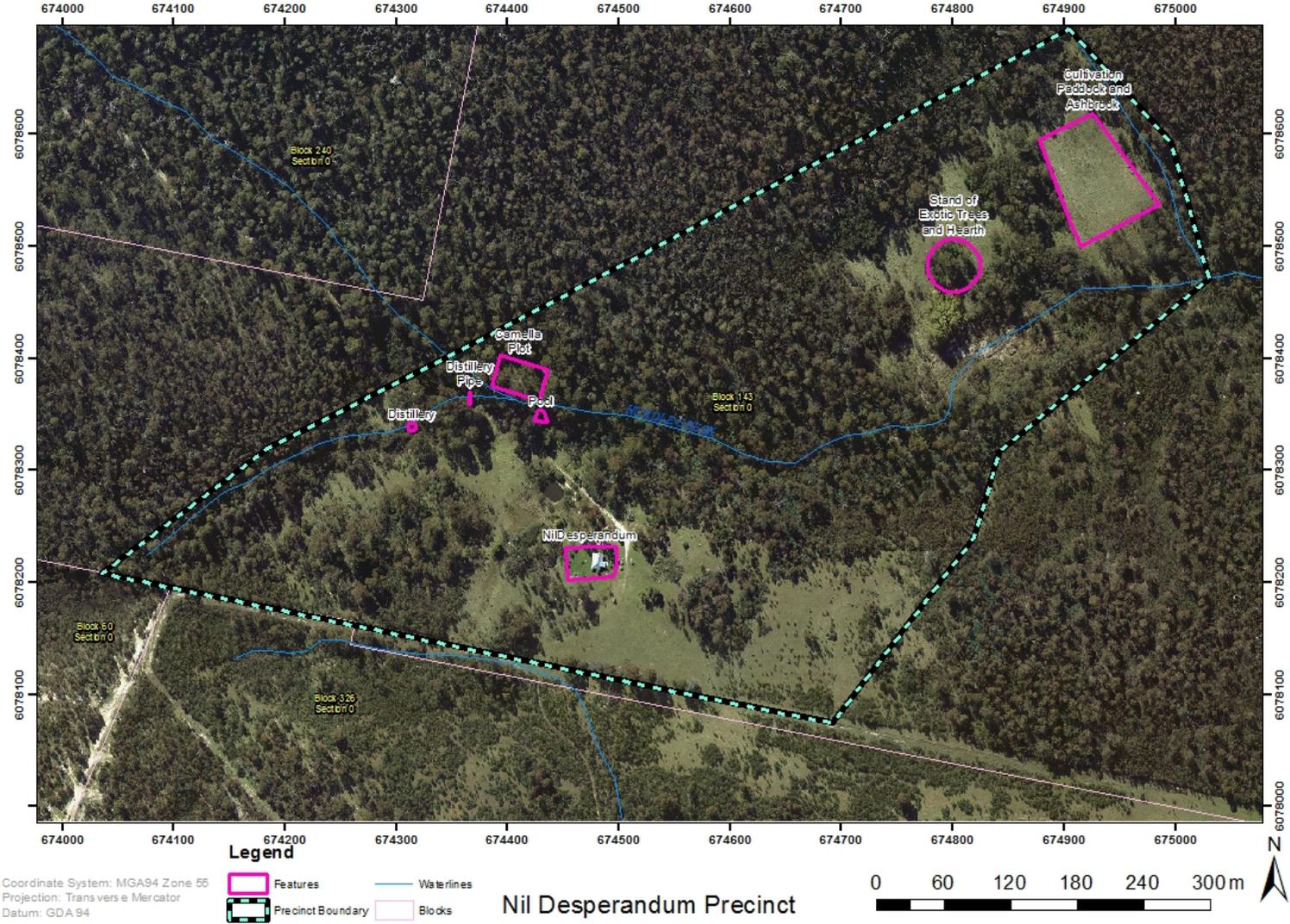


Image 1 Site Boundary

BACKGROUND INFORMATION – Nil Desperandum Homestead and Surrounds

IMAGES

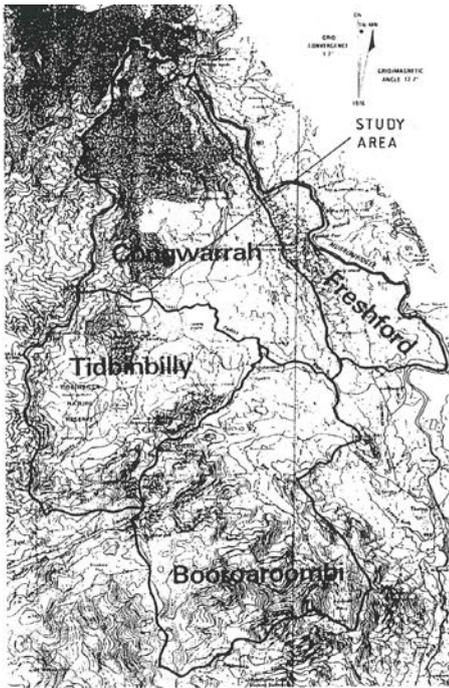


Image 2 Squatter Runs Tidbinbilla Valley. Nil Desperandum is 'Study Area' (Freeman and Collett et al. 1994)

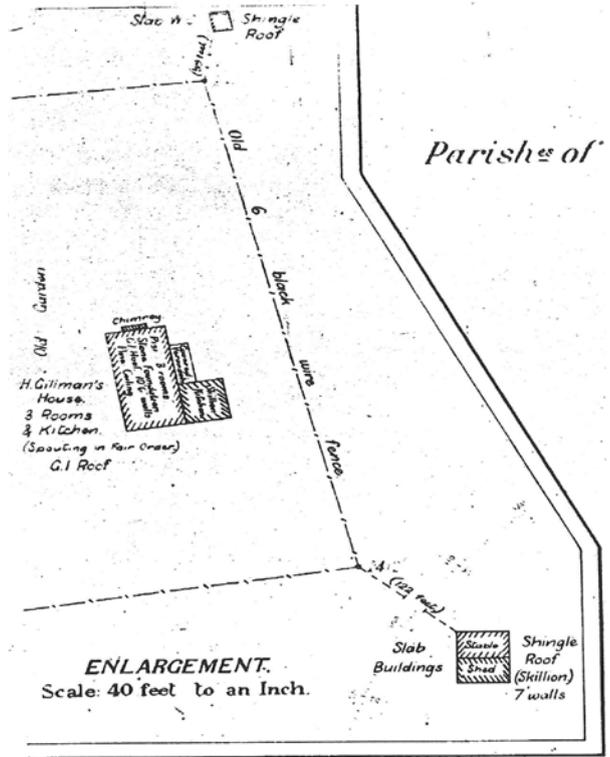


Image 4 Nil Desperandum under Gillman (Freeman and Collett et al. 1994)

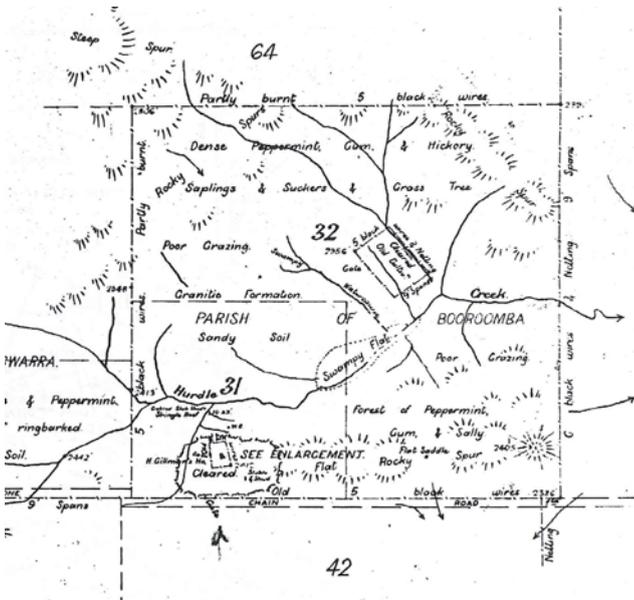


Image 3 Surveyor Rain's Plan of Holding 180 in 1919 (Freeman and Collett et al. 1994)



Image 5 Nil Desperandum after 2003 bushfires (ACT Heritage File 2003)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION – Nil Desperandum Homestead and Surrounds



Image 6 Nil Desperandum in 1994 (Reinecker and Reid)

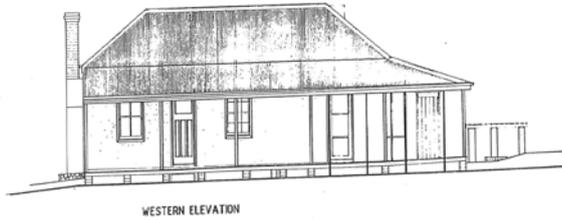


Image 7 Nil Desperandum in 1994 (Reinecker and Reid)



Image 8 Nil Desperandum Homestead (ACT Heritage 2014)



Image 9 Eucalyptus Distillery (ACT Heritage 2014)



Image 10 Distillery (condenser) Pipe on Hurdle Creek (ACT Heritage 2014)



Image 11 Camellia Plot (ACT Heritage 2014)



Image 12 Hurdle Creek Swimming Pool (ACT Heritage 2014)

REFERENCES

- Australian Heritage Database. (1996). *Nil Desperandum and Surrounds, Tharwa, ACT, Australia*. Register of the National Estate.
- Flood, J. (1996). *Moth hunters of the Australian Capital Territory : Aboriginal traditional life in the Canberra region*. J.M. Flood, Downer, A.C.T
- Freeman Collett & Partners, and Higgins, M. (1994). *Nil Desperandum Precinct, Tidbinbilla: conservation plan*. Unpublished report for ACT Parks and Conservation Service.
- Gale, J. (1991) *Canberra: history of and legends relating to the federal capital territory of the Commonwealth of Australia*. Queanbeyan Age, Queanbeyan, N.S.W.
- Jeffery, P. (2014). Personal Communication. (On-Site at Rock Valley Homestead, Paddys River, ACT).
- Jupp, J. (ed) (2001). *The Australian People: An Encyclopedia of the Nation, its People and Their Origins*. Cambridge, UK. Cambridge University Press.
- Kabaila, P. (2005) High Country Footprints: Aboriginal pathways and movements in the high country of southeastern Australia. Recognising the ancient paths beside modern highways. Pirion Publishing, Canberra.
- Lewis, M. (2000). Making Do. Patrick Troy (Ed) *A History of European Housing in Australia*. Cambridge: University of Cambridge, pp 41-56.
- McKay, S. (2005). *An Archaeological Survey of Ashbrook at Hurdle Creek, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve*. Report for the National Trust of Australia, ACT Branch.
- National Archives of Australia. Department of Immigration. A441 1952/13/7732.
- National Trust of Australia. (2001). *Pisé Place in the ACT*. Unpublished report to ACT Heritage.
- Pearson, M. (1982). *Eucalyptus Distilleries in the Tinderry Nature Reserve*. Internal report to New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- Reinecker, S., and Reid, A. (1994). 'Brief history and field notes (with measured drawings) Record of Nil Desperandum.' *Marion Mahony Griffin Measured Drawing Competition*. Royal Australian Institute of Architects.
- Sheedy, B. (1986). *Some Earth Constructed Buildings within the Australian Capital Territory and Surrounding Districts*. Notes for Canberra and District Historical Society. Held by Society in 'Earth Buildings' File.