



ACT Heritage Council

## Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

*Heritage Act 2004*

### 20104. Palmerville

Block 1555

District of BELCONNEN

This document has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council.

This entry replaces the register entry which was previously part of either Appendix V of the Territory Plan, the Heritage Places Register, the Interim Heritage Places Register, the Heritage Objects Register or the Interim Heritage Objects Register (the old Heritage Places and or the old heritage Objects Registers (as defined in the *Heritage Act 299004*), as the case may be), is taken to be registered under the . This place or object is now registered under the *Heritage Act 2004*.

Conservation Requirements (including Specific Requirements), as defined under the *Heritage Act 2004*, that are contained within this document are to be read as taken to be Heritage Guidelines applying to this place or object, as the case may be.

Information restricted under the provisions of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* or *Heritage Objects Act 1991* the old heritage places register or old heritage objects register is restricted in accordance with under the *Heritage Act 2004*.

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ACT Heritage Council

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY  
ENTRY TO AN INTERIM HERITAGE PLACES REGISTER FOR:**

**Palmerville, Ginninderra  
(District of Belconnen)**

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For the purposes of s. 54 of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*, this heritage assessment for the above places has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council as the basis for its inclusion within an interim Heritage Places Register.

Notification effective: 23 February 2005

Background material about this place and additional copies of the entry are available from:

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## PALMERVILLE, GINNINDERRA

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### LOCATION OF PLACE:

Block 1555, District of Belconnen.

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### FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF PALMERVILLE

The features intrinsic to the heritage significance of the place include:

- A. Store & Post Office Site, including
  - The surface and sub-surface cultural remains associated with the Store and Post Office Site
  - The mature Lombardy poplars (*Populus Nigra 'Italica'*) to the south of the Store site (refer item 'A2' Figure 1)
  - The mature English elms (*Ulmus procera*) at the Store site (refer item 'A3' Figure 1).
- B. The Residential Complex, including:
  - Residential Complex mound (refer item 'B1' Figure 1)
  - Horse Trough and Bore remains (refer item 'B2' Figure 1)
  - Outbuilding Footings (refer item 'B3' Figure 1)
  - Two mature English oaks (*Quercus robur*) (refer item 'B4' Figure 1)
  - Woolshed (Barn) mound (refer item 'B5' Figure 1)
- D. Stone Bridge Abutments (refer item 'D' Figure 1)

#### NOTE:

There are several intrinsic features associated with Palmerville, which are located on the adjoining Block 1545, District of Belconnen. Block 1545 is Commonwealth Land managed by the Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). These features are associated with Palmerville, however they are not bound by the requirements of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*. These features are listed below for information only and the specific requirements have no statutory effect upon them:

- Ginninderra Cottage Complex mound (refer item 'C1' Figure 1);
- The Bay laurel (*Laurus nobilis*) adjacent to the cottage complex mound (refer item 'C2' Figure 1); and
- Mature English oak (*Quercus robur*) (refer item 'C3' Figure 1).

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Palmerville is a historical cultural landscape, which represents a connection to the early rural settlement of the ACT district. Palmerville provides evidence of the use of the land in this area as an integrated rural settlement over a period of time from possibly as early as 1829 to c.1959. Landscape features including mounds, shallow depressions and surface building debris represent remnants of past structures.

The former Ginninderra Store and Post Office structures, Ginninderra Cottage, woolshed and residential complex are represented as archaeological remains and sections of stone bridge abutments and a concrete and brick horse trough and bore are relatively intact physical remains of former structures of the rural settlement.

Exotic plantings, three English oaks (*Quercus robur*), Lombardy poplars (*Populus Nigra 'Italica'*), descendant English elms (*Ulmus procera*) and a Bay laurel (*Laurus*

*nobilis*), are located throughout the two blocks. The English oaks are potentially the oldest living specimens of their species in the ACT.

Palmerville is associated with a number of prominent early landowners in the ACT district including George Thomas Palmer, William Davis, Edward Crace and Everard Crace. It is also associated with George Harcourt and his wife who were the first independent operators of the Ginninderra Store and Post Office on the site from 1867 to 1887.

Palmerville has a high archaeological potential to throw further light on the settlement history in terms of the evolution, function and composition of the structures, the lifestyles of the people who lived and worked there or who utilised the services offered, and further knowledge of farming methods and practices. The area also has a high potential to offer sites suitable for teaching and testing archaeological research and sub-surface detection methods.

The Palmerville settlement is valued by the community as an area that was one of the earliest substantial European settlements in the district that later become the National Capital. A section of it has been renamed the Palmerville Heritage Park by the ACT Government to reinforce its origins and heritage significance.

## **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF PALMERVILLE**

In accordance with s.54 of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act, 1991*, the following specific requirements are identified as essential to conserving the Hotel Ainslie's heritage significance. The guiding conservation objective is:

**Palmerville is to be maintained and conserved as a site of considerable historical significance in the National Capital, with minimal intervention to occur at the site.**

Any action relating to these requirements is development for the purposes of the Act and will require approval prior to undertaking the activity. To undertake development without such approval may be an offence.

### **Conservation Objective 1.**

**Provide adequate conservation management planning**

#### **Conservation Objective 1.1**

*Ensure that any actions impacting on the significance of Palmerville are based on professional conservation planning.*

#### **Specific Requirements for Conservation Objective 1.1:**

- (a) A conservation management plan (CMP) should be developed for the place to guide its conservation and future use.
- (b) Any works necessary prior to the development of a CMP that have a potential impact on significant fabric shall be guided by a professionally documented interim assessment and conservation policy relevant to that area or component (ie a Heritage Impact Statement -HIS).
- (c) No changes of use necessitating substantial changes to the place, or other substantial works affecting fabric, other than reversible stabilisation works, will

be permitted before the preparation of a CMP, after which all works and uses should be in accordance with the CMP.

- (d) Maintenance will be as defined in the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, and will not involve change to significant fabric. Maintenance shall be continued regardless of the status of the CMP or HIS.
- (e) Following the preparation of a CMP or HIS, identified essential conservation works shall be implemented. The requirements determined within the CMP or HIS may further refine the Specific Requirements in the interim Heritage Places Register

## **CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE 2.**

### **Conserve the archaeological significance of the site**

#### ***Conservation Objective 2.1***

*New development shall not impact on identified intrinsic features within the site*

#### **Specific Requirements for Conservation Objective 2.1.**

- (a) No new development **shall** be permitted to disturb surface and subsurface archaeological deposits associated with identified intrinsic items.
- (b) Archaeological investigation and research projects may be undertaken with the approval of the authority. All works shall be undertaken by a professionally qualified archaeologist, in consultation with the authority.

#### ***Conservation Objective 2.2***

*Vehicle access to the archaeological sensitive site shall be limited*

#### **Specific Requirements for Conservation Objective 2.2**

- (a) Vehicle access in the vicinity of the archaeological sites shall be confined to appropriate organisations and permitted only in the course of approved maintenance, management and research purposes.
- (b) Access to public vehicles, including motorcycles, shall not be permitted.

## **CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE 3.**

### **Conserve the landscape setting of Palmerville**

#### ***Conservation Objective 3.1***

*Conserve the landscape setting of Palmerville*

#### **Specific Requirements for Conservation Objective 3.1**

- (a) A Conservation Management Plan **should** be developed for the remnant landscape elements within the site.

- (b) The mature English oaks (*Quercus robur*), the English elms (*Ulmus procera*), and Lombardy poplars (*Populus nigra 'Italica'*), identified as intrinsic features, shall be maintained and conserved. They shall not be removed from the site, except where:
- The tree is moribund or has died, in which case they shall be replanted with trees propagated from the same stock, where feasible
  - If not feasible the tree shall be replanted with trees of the same species.
  - Any new planting shall be on the site of the original tree, or as close to it as possible.
- (c) The trees **shall** only be removed in circumstances where they have been professionally assessed as being moribund or where it can be demonstrated that there are significant health and safety reasons to warrant their removal. All works shall be undertaken in consultation with a landscape specialist and in accordance with the provisions of the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991 and the Tree Protection (Interim Scheme) Act 2001.
- (d) Where possible, trees that have been removed **shall** be replaced with trees propagated from the same stock. Environmental Weeds may be replaced with an alternated species. Replacement species should, at maturity, be of similar size, shape and habit to the original.
- (e) The elm forest at the site of the Store and Post Office is to be reduced and maintained to prevent disturbance to the surface and subsurface cultural material.
- (f) The memorial tree plantings of the National Landcare Forest shall not be extended beyond the current boundaries in a northerly, easterly or westerly direction, to ensure that the Forest does not impinge upon the landscape and the remnant surface and subsurface cultural material.

### **Conservation Objective 3.2**

*The open landscape vistas to and from the site shall be maintained.*

#### **Specific Requirements for Conservation Objective 3.2**

- (a) No new plants shall be planted on the site, except in compliance with Specific Requirement 3.1 above.
- (b) Willows (*Salix sp*) and plants listed as Environmental weeds or Declared Pest plants shall not be permitted to be planted along Ginninderra Creek. New native planting along the creek shall retain the open vista of the site
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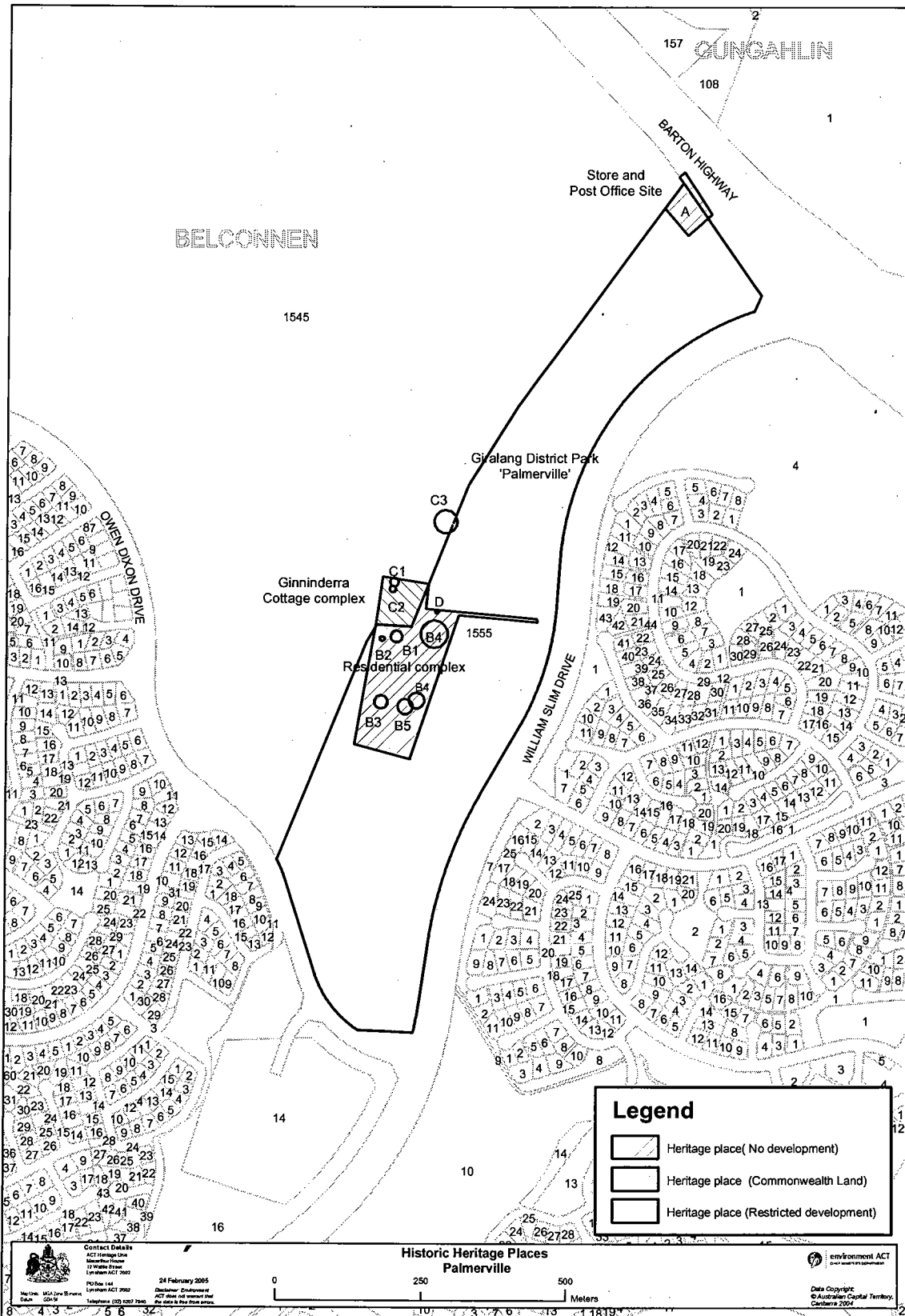
## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

In assessing this place for the interim Heritage Places Register, the Council recommends that the following actions and activities should be undertaken which will enhance the heritage values of the place. They are made as recommendations and have no legal effect.

1. The *Giralang District Park Conservation Plan* prepared in 1983 should be updated and should include the later archaeological reports of 1987, 1990 and 1999. The updated plan should be in accordance with the principles set out in the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance* (the Burra Charter). It should include a landscape plan.
2. An interpretation plan should be developed for Palmerville and should include appropriate signage providing information on the history of the area and important archaeological and landscape elements. The signs should indicate that the current access road is not an original road.
3. A maintenance program should be established to keep the elm suckers and hawthorn under control. Thinning of elms is required at the Store and Post Office site in the northern part of the block and also to the south of the residential complex archaeological remains in the southern part of the block. The maintenance program should include the replanted avenue of hawthorns (*Crataegus monogyna* syn. *Oxyacantha*) to prevent them spreading.
4. An individual or organisation with the relevant knowledge should conduct regular guided tours of the site, particularly during the ACT Heritage Festival.

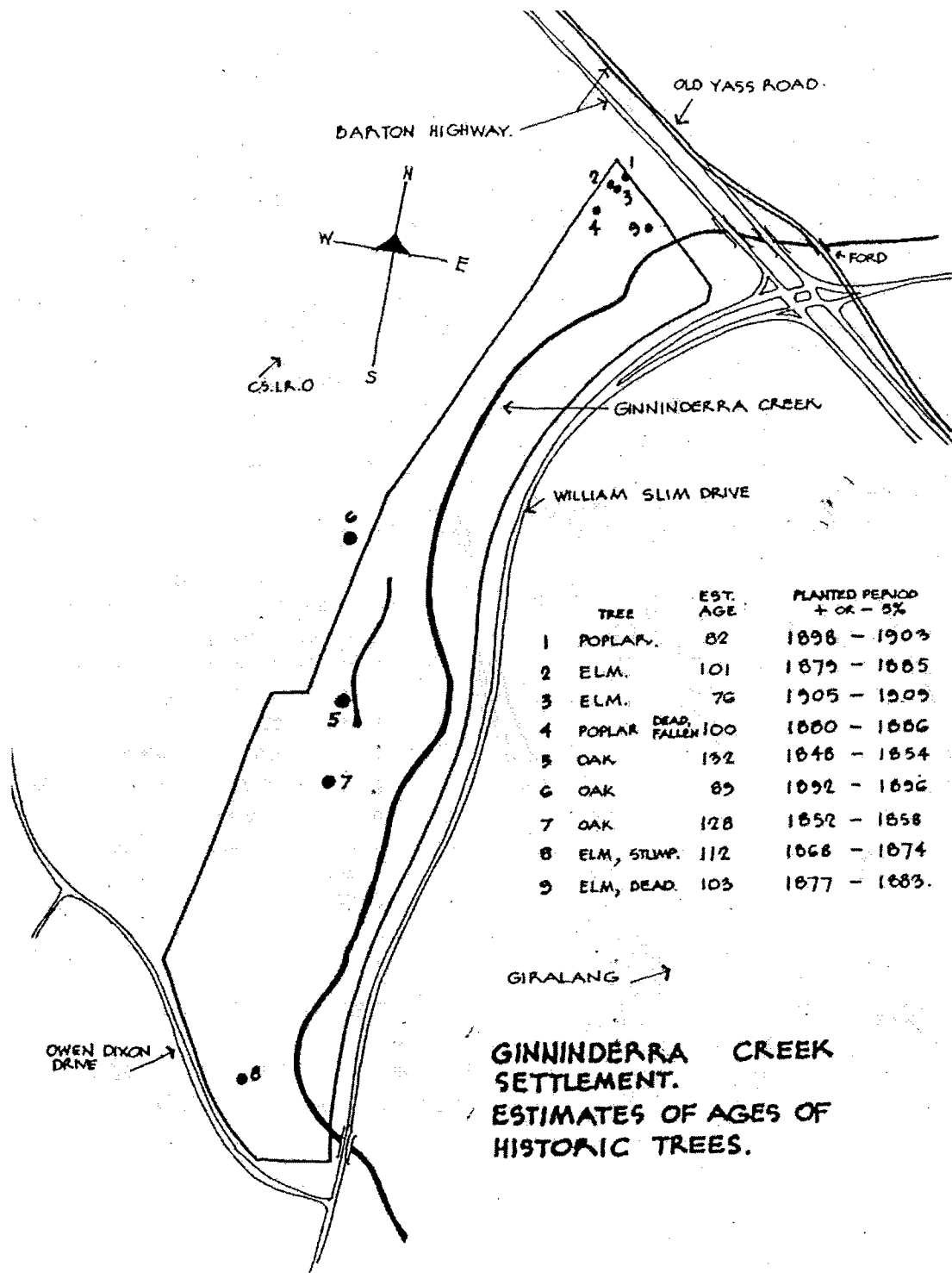
Access to the Store and Post Office site should be limited to prevent vandalism, which may occur due to its proximity to the Barton Highway. Access at the southern end of the Park, from Owen Dixon Drive, should remain open and free to the public.

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**Figure 1**  
 Location Plan, Palmerville, District of Belconnen





**Figure 2**  
Location of historic trees  
John Goldsmith, Giralang District Park Conservation Plan, 1983