



ACT Heritage Council

Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

Heritage Act 2004

20110. Orroral Woolshed Precinct

Block 8 (part)

District of RENDEZVOUS CREEK

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*.

Contact: ACT Heritage Council c/o Secretary PO Box 144
Enquiries: phone 02 6207 2164 fax 02 6207 5715

Lyneham ACT 2602
e-mail heritage@act.gov.au



ACT Government



environment ACT

Helpline: 02 6207 9777
Website : www.cmd.act.gov.au
E-mail: EnvironmentACT@act.gov.au



ACT Heritage Council

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



**Orroral Woolshed Precinct, Namadgi National Park, (part
Block 8 District of Rendezvous Creek)**

For the purposes of s. 54 of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*, this heritage assessment for the above place 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:

**The Secretary
ACT Heritage Council
PO BOX 144
LYNEHAM ACT 2602**

**Telephone: (02) 6207 7378
Facsimile: (02) 6207 2200**

ORRORAL WOOLSHED PRECINCT

LOCATION OF PLACE:

The Orroral Woolshed precinct is sited approximately 80 metres to the west of Orroral Valley Homestead, on Block 8, District of Rendezvous Creek. The Precinct is located within Namadgi National Park and is accessed off the Orroral Road approximately 18 kilometres south west of Tharwa. Refer Figure 1 below.

FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ORRORAL WOOLSHED PRECINCT

The features which contribute to the heritage significance of the Orroral Woolshed Precinct and which require conservation, comprise:

- The Woolshed
- The Woolshed yards
- Site of former yard north-north-east of the Woolshed
- 'Horse works' gearing disc
- Collapsed yards and former site shed
- The former Gregory's(1950's) homestead ruin including orchard and garden
- The dam
- Two pine trees in the enclosure west of the former Gregory's homestead ruin
- One pine tree in enclosure northwest of the former Gregory's (1950's) homestead ruin
- Former toilet
- Collapsed pen and metal tank
- Quarry
- Cattle yards
- Flag stone floor west of yards
- Paddock north west of yards
- Former post holes east of yards
- Ploughed paddock east and north of cattle yards
- Perimeter and internal fence lines
- Archaeologically sensitive areas

(Refer Figure 2 below for a schematic layout of the precinct).

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Orroral Valley is recognised as a cultural landscape cleared of vegetation for pastoral purposes. The Woolshed precinct, with its strong pastoral associations, and the Woolshed building as the largest extant structure in the valley, is a significant component of that cultural landscape and, in conjunction with the adjacent Homestead and ploughland forms part of the Orroral settlement.

Together with the adjacent Orroral Homestead and ploughland precinct, the Woolshed precinct demonstrates the distinctive way of life of the initial European settlers of the early

high country pastoral runs. These places demonstrate a land use and pastoral function no longer practised, and are among the oldest archaeological remains of back-country pastoralism in the ACT. The Woolshed, yards, plantings, dams, and former structures, together with the adjacent homestead, ploughland, dairy and access track demonstrate the self-reliance required in such isolated locations.

The Orroral Valley is one of the principal locations in the European settlement of the mountainous region west of the Murrumbidgee River. The broader Orroral settlement contains particular elements that have significant social associations with well-known local identities including William Herbert, Charles and Archibold McKeahnie, and the Cunningham's; and their pastoral enterprises including 'Lanyon', 'Tuggeranong', 'Redbank' and 'Top Naas'.

The Woolshed was constructed circa 1929 – 30 by Sid Cleary for Andrew (Andy) Cunningham. Construction marked the shift in pastoral activity from cattle to sheep in the Orroral Valley. Its construction was also associated with the end of the Cunningham era at Lanyon and Tuggeranong, for with the death of Andy Cunningham's father, the properties were sold, the estate distributed among the family and Andy purchased Orroral, Redbank and Top Naas.

The Woolshed precinct contains elements that demonstrate the extensive period of European pastoral occupancy in the Orroral Valley up until Commonwealth resumption of the land. The Woolshed precinct contains elements that are inextricably linked to, and complement, the Orroral Valley Homestead precinct, a place already entered to the interim heritage places register. The Orroral Valley itself is highly significant for its ability to demonstrate vast historical change, from pre-contact Aboriginal activity, through to mankind's initiative to walk in space. The Woolshed and surrounding precinct contains elements that represent pastoralism, a significant part of this history.

The Woolshed itself is the last standing Woolshed in Namadgi National Park. Its location within the precinct, its setting within Orroral Valley and its integrity, render it a highly suitable Woolshed in the ACT from which the shearing process could be explained. Along with its associated sheep dip and yards, it provides a very good example of a three-stand shed utilising bush pole framing, with corrugated galvanised iron cladding. The significance of the Woolshed is enhanced by the integrity of the interior, including the diversity of gates in the pens, the sorting table, the quality of the sorting bins, overhead gear and stencilled labelling on bins and comb sharpening pockets. The significance would be further enhanced if the original Lister engine was returned to the shed.

The Woolshed precinct is highly valued by the National Parks Association and the Kosciusko Huts Association for its cultural heritage values. It is also highly valued by history teachers and coordinators of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards program in ACT schools who utilise heritage sites in Namadgi National Park for educational and personal development activities.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE ORRORAL WOOLSHED PRECINCT

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

The features intrinsic to the heritage significance the Orroral Woolshed Precinct shall be managed to conserve the significance of the place.

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE 1.

Conserve the Woolshed and yards and other significant elements within the precinct by providing adequate conservation management planning and act in accordance with an endorsed Conservation Management Plan

Conservation Objective 1.1

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

Specific Requirement 1.1

- (a) The Woolshed and the Woolshed precinct shall be managed in accordance with a Conservation Management Plan prepared for the place and endorsed by the ACT Heritage Council. An endorsed Plan shall remain current for a period of not more than 5 years without review.
- (b) Maintenance will be as defined in the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, and should not involve change to significant fabric.
- (c) Conservation works identified within the Conservation Management Plan as urgent shall be implemented by the land manager.

Management Recommendations

The Heritage Council recommends that the Conservation Management Plan for the precinct include a program of exotic weed control to ensure that exotic species included as intrinsic features as part of this registration are managed and controlled appropriately.

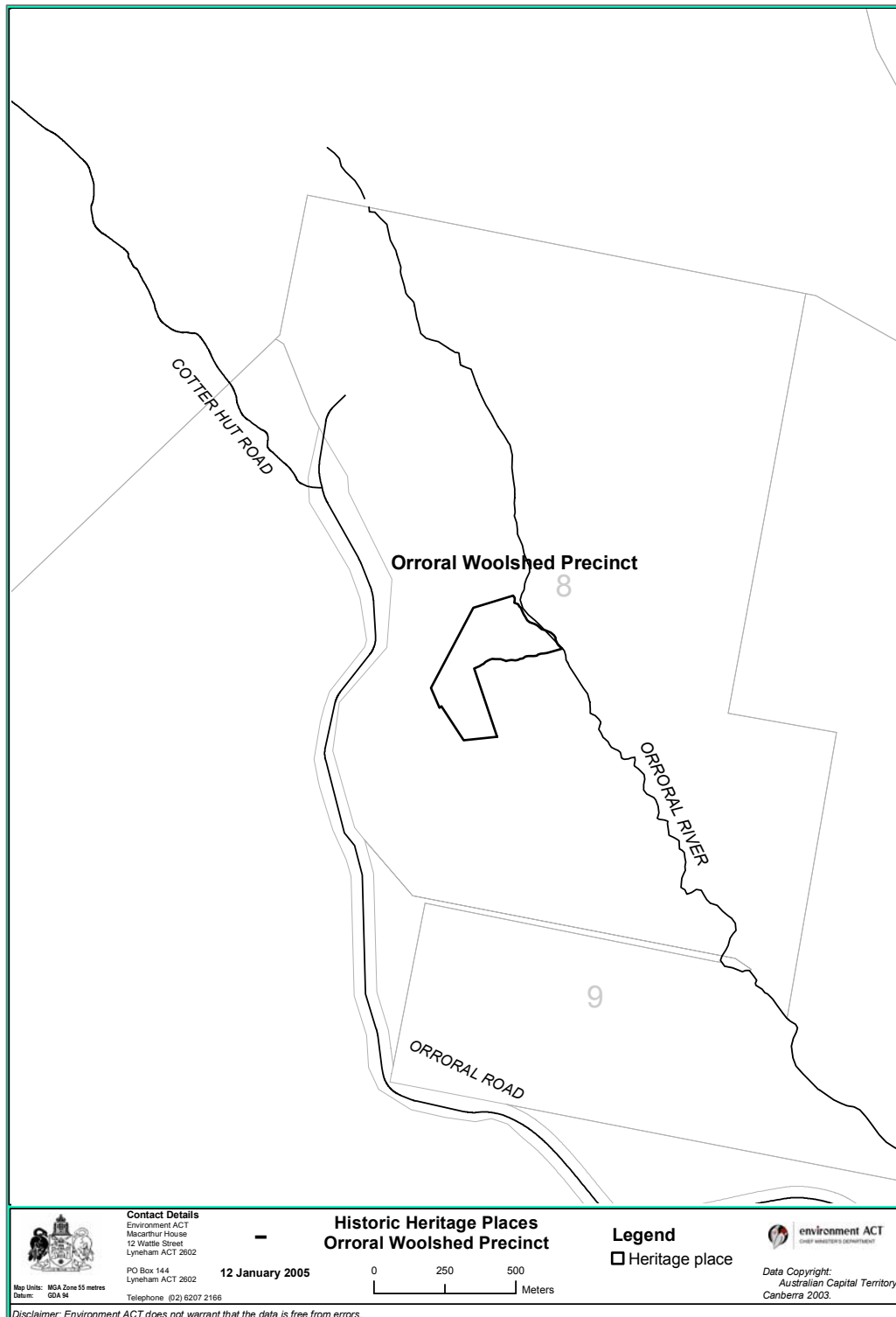


Figure 1
Location plan for the Orroral Woolshed precinct

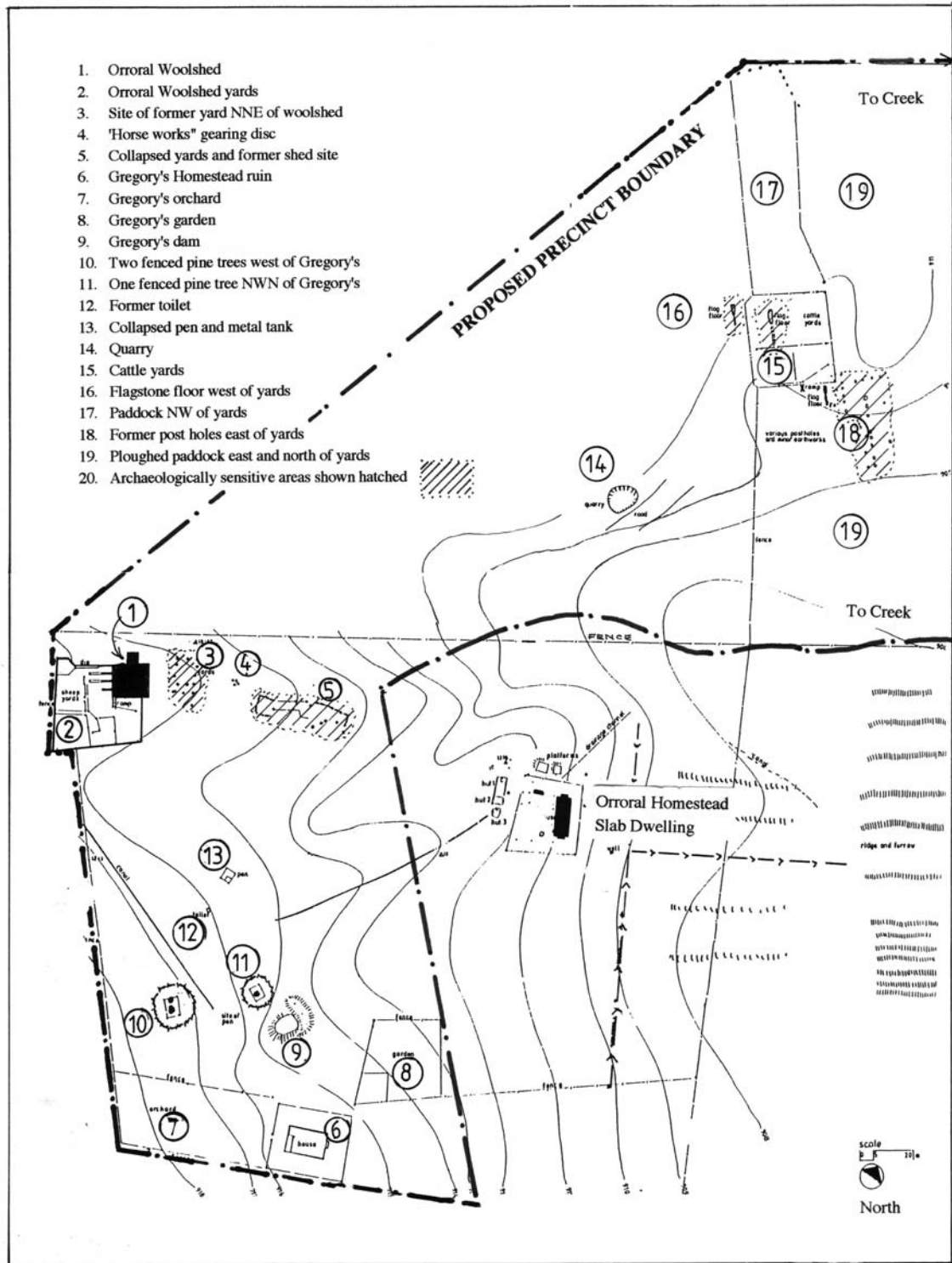


Figure 2
 Schematic plan of the Orroral Woolshed precinct
 Annotation by P. Giovanelli, 2004