



ACT Heritage Council

Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

Heritage Act 2004

10008. Aboriginal Stone Artefacts - PH 44

Wattle Street, Lyneham¹

OBJECTS

This document has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council.

This entry which was previously part of the old heritage places or the old heritage objects registers (as defined in the ***Heritage Act 2004***), as the case may be, is taken to be 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 taken to be Heritage Guidelines applying to this place or object, as the case may be.

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ACT Government



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¹The location of these artefacts was previously recorded as the Heritage, Museums and Galleries Section Repository, Cnr of Nettlefold and Lathlain Streets, Belconnen (CMAG Collection). Due to a change in the location of the object, the register has been corrected as of 15 June 2016 under section 24(2)(b) of the ***Heritage Act 2004***.

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
HERITAGE OBJECTS REGISTER**

For the purpose of S16 of the Heritage Objects Act 1991, a citation for:

**Aboriginal Stone Artefact Collection from site PH44
(Percival Hill site number 44)**

has been approved by the Minister for the Arts and Heritage for entry in the Heritage Objects Register.

The date of the Instrument of Approval : 18 April 1995

Enquiries about these objects and copies of this citation are available from:

The Secretariat
Heritage Council of the ACT
TUGGERANONG ACT 2901

Telephone: 207 2179 Facsimile: 207 2177

HERITAGE OBJECTS REGISTER

CITATION

Aboriginal Stone Artefact Collection from site PH44 (Percival Hill site number 44)

NOMINATED BY	Helen Cooke, Assistant Manager, Heritage Unit, Department of the Environment, Land and Planning
LOCATION	Wattle Street, Lyneham ACT

DESCRIPTION

Stone artefacts of quartz, quartzite, volcanic stones, chert, chalcedony and silcrete. The types indicate that generalised flaking activities were carried out on the site, including manufacture of micro-blades. Working of wood and soft plant materials was also carried out as evidenced by use-wear on some artefacts. These activities are consistent with domestic functions on a habitation site.

The artefacts are listed and described at attachment A.

The Gungahlin area has two chert procurement places, PH12 and PH13, which have been proposed to the interim Heritage Places Register. Although site PH44 was deemed not to have significance as a place, the artefacts were salvaged as significant to the Aboriginal people and for their research potential.

Investigation of the stone artefacts found on PH44 and other sites in the Gungahlin area will help to elucidate the differences between use of local stone resources and those exotic stone materials procured through trade.

The analysis of Aboriginal stone artefacts and Aboriginal archaeological sites from the Gungahlin area has scarcely begun. These artefacts and others from the area have the potential to explain the Aboriginal way of life and technology in the area and to contribute to the understanding of Aboriginal habitation in the ACT.

The number of artefacts on this site was unusually high; only about 1% of the sites recorded in the Ginninderra Creek area have over 100 artefacts. The high number of artefacts in this collection is important as it represents the range of activities on one camp site and indicates the spectrum of domestic activities in that location. The collection has potential for the analysis of artefact manufacturing techniques and use. The collection consists of a larger number of stone artefacts than those from other sites which indicates the utilisation of a wider range of plant and animal resources. Therefore this collection has the potential to give a broader picture of the way of life of the Aboriginal people who lived in this area.

HISTORY

The site was recorded in September 1991 by Access Archaeology (Access Archaeology 1991a:2) during on-going archaeological investigations of the areas of proposed public works in the Gungahlin area. A single artefact had been recorded at this site previously (Access Archaeology 1991a:Appendix 1), but the September survey located "one large site and three isolated artefacts".

The site was further recorded in a survey of the alignment of the proposed Gungahlin Drive, when 29 artefacts were recorded (Access Archaeology 1991b:12).

The significance of the place itself was considered to be low and the decision was made by the ACT Heritage Unit to collect the artefacts for the information they could contribute to the analysis of prehistoric stone artefact manufacture and use.

This salvage operation was carried out under controlled conditions of recording and mapping the locations of the artefacts. The procedure and background of the environmental context, landuse history and field investigation are fully described in the previous assessment (Navin Officer 1991).

ANALYSIS AGAINST THE CRITERIA

3 An object which is evidence of a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function which is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost, or is of exceptional interest.

This collection of 118 Aboriginal stone artefacts is a tangible record of the way of life of the Aboriginal people who once lived in the Gungahlin area. The artefacts are important to the local Aboriginal people as evidence of the traditions and way of life of their ancestors. Much of this way of life has been lost from current tradition and now only archaeological evidence can provide information on the past activities of the local Aboriginal people.

9 An object which 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 by virtue of its value or potential value as evidence or for research or teaching.

These artefacts have the potential to contribute to understanding of the Aboriginal way of life and technology in the area and of Aboriginal habitation and trade in the ACT. This collection is important as it represents the range of activities on one camp site and indicates the spectrum of domestic activities in that location. The collection has potential for the analysis of artefact manufacturing techniques and use.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This collection of 118 Aboriginal stone artefacts is a tangible record of the way of life of the past Aboriginal people who lived in the Gungahlin area. The high number of artefacts at this site is unusual and provides evidence of a wide range of domestic activities of the local Aboriginal people in the past. The artefacts are important to the local Aboriginal people as evidence of the way of life of their ancestors. The collection has potential for the analysis of artefact manufacturing techniques and use.

SPECIFIC CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with Section 6 (d) of the *Heritage Objects Act 1991*, the following requirements are identified as essential to the retention of the heritage significance of the object :

1. The artefacts are to be stored in a safe, dry place in the care of the ACT Heritage Unit until the local Aboriginal community have a suitable Keeping Place for the storage of this part of their heritage.
2. The artefacts may be studied by qualified persons with permission of the Heritage, Museums and Galleries Section, Department of the Environment, Land and Planning, but only in ways which will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the artefacts.

RESTRICTED INFORMATION

Nil

PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS

A detailed description of the artefacts and the site prior to salvage forms the basis of the report: **An archaeological investigation of Site PH44, Gungahlin, ACT.** Report to Ove Arup & Partners for ACT Public Works. (Navin Officer 1991).

REFERENCES

Access Archaeology 1991a **Gungahlin Distributor Roads 1.** Report to SMEC for ACT Public Works.

Access Archaeology 1991b **John Dedman Drive Archaeological Survey.** Report to Ove Arup & Partners; R A Young & Associates.

Navin Officer 1991 **An archaeological investigation of Site PH44, Gungahlin, ACT.** Report to Ove Arup & Partners for ACT Public Works.

NOMINATION NUMBER	5
DATE OF NOMINATION	20 August 1993
REGISTER NUMBER	
DATE OF GAZETTAL INTERIM REGISTER REGISTER	
FILE NUMBER	93/08055
OBJECT NAME	Aboriginal stone artefact collection from site PH 44 (Percival Hill site number 44)
TYPE OF OBJECT	Manufactured - Aboriginal
OWNER	ACT Government
KEEPER	Heritage Unit, Department of the Environment, Land and Planning

Prepared by Pamela Fabricius
18 April 1995