



## ACT Heritage Council

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION HISTORICAL RAILWAY OBJECTS (FORMERLY BLOCK 10 SECTION 47, FYSHWICK)**

At its meeting of 2 June 2022 the ACT Heritage Council decided that the Historical Railway Objects was not eligible for provisional registration.

The information contained in this report was considered by the ACT Heritage Council in assessing the nomination for the Historical Railway Objects against the heritage significance criteria outlined in s10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

### **HISTORY**

The Australian Railway Historical Society (ARHS) was formed in Sydney in 1933 with the “aims to foster an interest in the railways, and record and preserve many facets of railway operations” (Wikipedia, n.d.). The society then expanded to every state and the Australian Capital Territory before each division was incorporated as a separate entity in 1967. After the ARHS (ACT Division) was established in 1967, it in turn established the Canberra Railway Museum in 1985 and, until 2006, that was the staging point for heritage rail trips as well as housing the static collection (Canberra Railway Museum n.d.a). The society continued acquiring and working on rail heritage items, with a collecting focus on items with a connection to the ACT and surrounds.

In an effort to support the heritage goals of the society, a commercial venture was entered into to transport scrap metal in 2015. Unfortunately, by the end of 2016 the venture had accumulated significant debt and the Australian Railway Historical Society (ACT Division) had to close (City News, 2016).

In 2016 the Australian Railway Historical Society (ACT Division) entered into receivership. Following this event, Deloitte, the receivers and liquidators, gave instructions for items from the collection to be auctioned by Slattery Auctioneers. This auction (sale H3406) took place on-site on the 2 August 2017.

News about the auction spread in July 2017 (Bushnell 2017a; Walmsley 2017). The items that were to be auctioned were nominated to the ACT Heritage Register at this time in an apparent attempt to preserve the objects as a collection. However, the acceptance of the nomination to the Heritage Register and other attempts to stop the auction did not prevent the auction proceeding as planned (Australasian Leisure Management 2017; Walmsley and Travers 2017).

The auction did not include all items in the collection of the Canberra Railway Museum. The liquidators maintained that “none of the key pieces of the fleet would be up for sale” and refuted claims that the items included “were of great historical importance to the ACT” (Bushnell 2017a). It was further claimed that the key pieces of the collection held by the Canberra Railway Museum prior to the auction were retained to form the core of a collection in a new organisation. Consequently, following the auction of some items and the payments of the debts, plans were made to re-structure the organisation (Bushnell 2017b). There also appears to have been plans to utilise some of the auctioned items in private collections in Canberra (Bushnell 2018a). In 2018, a not-for-profit company, Capital Region Heritage Rail, was established to re-open the Canberra Railway Museum, with assets being held separately by Heritage Rail Holdings (Bushnell 2018b; O’Mallon 2018). The museum was re-opened in October 2019 (Jacobs 2019).

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION – HISTORICAL RAILWAY OBJECTS**

One of the items nominated to the heritage register as part of the collection of Historical Railway Objects listed for auction can presently be found on the website as part of the current collection (TAM1888) (Canberra Railway Museum, n.d.*b*). Although included in the nomination it was not listed for auction. However, this is not of major consequence to the assessment of the collection because, regardless of those circumstances, it is no longer associated with the collection of Historical Railway Objects associated with this nomination.

### **DESCRIPTION**



There were around 115 lots and associated items auctioned from the holdings of the Australian Railway Historical Society (ACT Division). Not all items included in the on-site auction of objects were listed in the nomination. Table 1 contains information pertaining to the 17 objects/lots that were included in the nomination, as taken from the submission. The nominator considered these to be of particular historic significance or essential to the functions of the Australian Railway Historical Society (ACT Division).

#### Physical condition and integrity




The collection of objects included in the nomination is no longer intact and the objects are dispersed.

**Table 1: Details of objects included in nomination.**




The associated descriptions of rarity and the details of the condition of the items are the opinions of the nominator, not the Heritage Council.

Railway Carriage/ Locomotive Number	Description	Image from Auction Listing	Condition	Year Built	Original Owner	Year Acquired by ARHS (ACT Division)
B11127	<p>Timber American type tourist car.</p> <p>Forms part of ARHS operational vintage train. Extremely rare carriage. Used on many vintage excursions in the ACT.</p>	 <p><b>1 X 1905 AMERICA...</b> Item No. 13680-22 Lot No. 3</p>	Good	1905	NSW Government Railways (NSWGR)	1975
B11175	<p>Timber American type tourist car.</p> <p>Forms part of ARHS operational vintage train. Extremely rare carriage. Used on many vintage excursions in the ACT.</p>	 <p><b>1 X 1908 AMERICA...</b> Item No. 13680-21 Lot No. 4</p>	Good	1908	NSWGR	1975



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Railway Carriage/ Locomotive Number	Description	Image from Auction Listing	Condition	Year Built	Original Owner	Year Acquired by ARHS (ACT Division)
HFO1111	<p>Timber American type tourist car.</p> <p>Forms part of ARHS operational vintage train. Extremely rare carriage. Used on many vintage excursions in the ACT.</p>	 <p><b>1 X 1905 AMERICA...</b> Item No. 13680-20 Lot No. 5</p>	Good	1905	NSWGR	1975
HFO1276	<p>Timber American type tourist car.</p> <p>Forms part of ARHS operational vintage train. Extremely rare carriage. Used on many vintage excursions in the ACT.</p>	 <p><b>1 X 1908 AMERICA...</b> Item No. 13680-23 Lot No. 6</p>	Good	1908	NSWGR	1975
BAM1743	<p>Ex HFN2205 MANN type, 14 sleeping berths, 8-wheel steel car.</p> <p>Used on the Cooma Mail &amp; one of four left in existence. Used regularly on overnight &amp; local trips for the ACT community.</p>	 <p><b>1 X 1939 14 BERTH...</b> Item No. 13680-11 Lot No. 2</p>	Good	1939	NSWGR	1989




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Railway Carriage/ Locomotive Number	Description	Image from Auction Listing	Condition	Year Built	Original Owner	Year Acquired by ARHS (ACT Division)
BAM2189	<p>Ex FN2819 MANN type, 14 sleeping berths, 8-wheel steel car.</p> <p>Used on the Cooma Mail &amp; one of four left in existence. Used regularly on overnight &amp; local trips for the ACT community.</p>	 <p><b>1 X 1939 14 BERTH...</b> Item No. 13680-12 Lot No. 41</p>	Good	1939	NSWGR	1989
MAL888	<p>18 Sleeping berth, twinette, 12-wheel timber car.</p> <p>Used regularly on the Cooma Mail and is one of three in existence.</p>	 <p><b>1 X 18 BERTH TWI...</b> Item No. 13680-15 Lot No. 71</p>	Medium	1929	NSWGR	1986
TAM 906	<p>MANN type, 20 berth, 12-wheel timber car.</p> <p>Used on the Cooma Mail and excursions for the ACT community.</p>	 <p><b>1 X 1926 20 BERTH...</b> Item No. 13680-16 Lot No. 72</p>	Good	1926	NSWGR	1983




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Railway Carriage/ Locomotive Number	Description	Image from Auction Listing	Condition	Year Built	Original Owner	Year Acquired by ARHS (ACT Division)
TAM1888	<p>MANN type, 20 berth, 12-wheel timber car.</p> <p>Used on the Cooma Mail and excursions for the ACT community.</p>	(Unable to find object in auction listing.)	Good	1929	NSWGR	1988
BSR2031	<p>Ex BS, 18 seat, first class corridor/buffet car.</p> <p>Used on the Cooma Mail, currently in operational condition; one of three left in existence. Used regularly on excursions with the ACT community.</p>	 <p><b>1 X 1936 18 SEATE...</b> Item No. 13680-46 Lot No. 37</p>	Good	1936	NSWGR	1979
ATP1000	<p>Timber bodied, curved roof, mail sorting van.</p> <p>Last example of its type. Last known surviving example.</p>	 <p><b>1 X 1968 PARCELS...</b> Item No. 13680-49 Lot No. 50</p>	Good		NSWGR	

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3102	Locomotive: 4-6-0 Bayer Peacock Manchester England, builder's no. 5797.	 <p data-bbox="904 549 1128 624"><b>1 X 1914 STEAM L...</b> Item No. 13680-67 Lot No. 59</p>	Under restoration	1914	NSWGR	1976
3013	4-6-2 Bayer Peacock Manchester England, builder's no. 4456.	 <p data-bbox="904 911 1128 986"><b>STEAM LOCOMOT...</b> Item No. 13680-144 Lot No. 68</p>	Under restoration	1903	NSWGR	2009
Garrett Locomotive Boiler AD60 Class	Steel Garrett Boiler, Ex. locomotive 6029. 4-8-4 + 4-8-4 Bayer Peacock Manchester UK, builder's no. 7531.	 <p data-bbox="904 1281 1128 1356"><b>1 X AD60 CLASS B...</b> Item No. 13680-131 Lot No. 66</p>	Good	1952	NSWGR	1975

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Railway Carriage/ Locomotive Number	Description	Image from Auction Listing	Condition	Year Built	Original Owner	Year Acquired by ARHS (ACT Division)
Railway Crane	<p>Railway crane, Canberra Railway yard, manufactured by Johns &amp; Waygood Ltd, 3-ton capacity.</p> <p>Only example in ACT.</p>	 <p><b>1 X JOHNS &amp; WAY...</b> Item No. 13680-74 Lot No. 65</p>	Good	1960s	NSWGR	
BAS Hopper Wagon	<p>Commonwealth Railways used in the construction of the Australian Trans Continental Line.</p> <p>Rare. Forms part of a display of 4 wheeled goods wagons.</p>	 <p><b>2 X BOGIE AXLE/ 4...</b> Item No. 13680-70 Lot No. 31</p>	Good		Australian Commonwealth Railway	
75 Foot Turntable	Iron 75ft turntable Ex. Wyong Station, NSW.	 <p><b>1 X 75" TURNTABL...</b> Item No. 13680-202 Lot No. 93</p>	Under restoration	Circa 1920s	NSWGR	AHRS



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