

## NATIONAL TRUST REGISTER OF SIGNIFICANT PLACES

### CITATION

This version 23/7/99

**NAME OF PLACE:**GUNGALEEN SCHOOL HOUSE (FORMERLY STONE HUT SCHOOL),  
LYNEHAM

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#### **LOCATION OF PLACE:**

Section and Block Suburb: Block 10, Section 95 Piquenit Close, Lyneham.

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#### **FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE:**

The place comprises:

- (a) the building; and
  - (b) remnant landscape and planting identified on Fig 1.
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#### **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

Gungahleen Schoolhouse is the oldest timber school building from the period before the creation of the ACT. It has historic associations with the New South Wales public education system of the late nineteenth century.

The School displays historic significance.

- It demonstrates the early education experience for the working families of the Gungahleen area. It also illustrates the living and working environments of early rural teachers.
  - It is relatively unaltered and shows important building construction and materials from the 1880's.
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#### **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS:**

The following requirements are identified as essential to the conservation of the heritage significance of this place. These requirements are prepared to implement the following conservation policy for the place:

**The building and remnant landscape is to be conserved and appropriately maintained.**

Any action relating to the requirements to conserve the heritage significance of the place is a "controlled activity" under Part VI of the Land Act and requires approval prior to undertaking the activity. To undertake such an activity without prior approval may constitute an offence.

##### **1. Requirements Relating to the Building**

1.1 The remnant internal layout which dates from the schoolhouse phase (up to 1923) shall be retained in its current form.

1.2 External alterations and additions to the existing building, including alterations to external finishes, shall reflect and complement its architectural style.

1.3 External additions or alterations only may be permitted to the existing building, if it can be demonstrated that the additions or alterations do not detract from the significance of the place.

1.4 The roof pitch, walls, materials, window types and materials of alterations and additions shall be as similar to those of the existing building as is feasible.

1.5 Demolition shall not be permitted, other than in exceptional circumstances, including circumstances in which the building is structurally unsound and beyond economic repair or where there are significant public health and safety reasons to warrant demolition. Demolition shall not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that there is no prudent and feasible alternative. The demolition of original building fabric shall only be allowed in the context of sympathetic alteration and additions.

## 2. Requirements Relating to the Setting

2.1 Pinus sp, Cupressus sp., and remnant orchard identified in fig 1 are to be conserved and appropriately maintained.

2.2 The remnant landscape elements referred to in para 2.1 are to be retained as the curtilage of the schoolhouse building.

## CONSERVATION

The property has been subjected to vandalism, graffiti attack and neglected by Government authorities.

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

In assessing this place for the interim Heritage Places Register, the Council recommends that 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. A conservation and management plan should be prepared for the place, in consultation with the ACT Heritage Council, to guide future conservation and development.

2. The place should be returned to use either as a residence or for community purposes.

## DOCUMENT HISTORY

1. date Draft citation considered by Council at Meeting (number)
2. date Revised citation for Council Meeting (number) ..... APPROVED / NOT APPROVED
3. date Submitted for inclusion in interim Heritage Places Register

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **1. DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:**

#### **2. DESCRIPTION**

The exterior structural walls are 10" western red cedar weatherboards, with verandah posts, door frames and architraves in oregon. The pitched roof is galvanised iron.

Internally the overall plan is of a symmetrical design common to the period of construction. It comprises 8 rooms; 2 small rooms and the original schoolroom (now divided into two rooms) directly behind the large central front porch. Behind that is the 4 roomed residence, with additional laundry and a back verandah. The walls comprise of V joint tongue and groove lining boards in pine, and the floorboards of "clinky pine".

The window sills and remnants of the mantelpieces are of western red cedar. The windows are double hung sash design. There are two open fireplaces, one in the residence, and the other in the schoolroom. The schoolroom also has a pitched roof of Oregon with 11.6' height.

#### **3. HISTORY**

The Stone Hut School began in 1878 on Edward Crace's property, Gungahlin. It was located in an old building alongside the Yass Road a short distance past the Old Canberra Inn on the opposite side of the road.

It was replaced in 1885 by a new school built across the road from the existing school by contractor J Kealman at the cost of 125 pounds. Elizabeth Colvin, teacher at Stone Hut at the time indicated in correspondence that she took possession of the new building on 18 August 1883.

The Stone Hut school, which derived its name from the stone hut in which it originally operated changed its name to 'Gungahleen' in 1888.

### **2. STATUS OF PLACE AT NOMINATION DATE:**

#### **3. BACKGROUND:**

#### **4. RELEVANT PRINCIPAL NATIONAL HISTORIC THEMES:**

The School displays historic significance.

- It demonstrates the early education experience for the working families of the Gungahleen area. It also illustrates the living and working environments of early rural teachers.
- It is relatively unaltered and shows important building construction and materials from the 1880's.

### **5. ANALYSIS AGAINST THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN SCHEDULE 2 OF THE LAND (PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT) ACT 1991**

Under Section 56 the criteria for the assessment of the heritage significance of places are:

- (i) a place which demonstrates a high degree of technical and/or creative achievement, by showing qualities of innovation or departure, or representing a new achievement of its time;
- (ii) a place which exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group;
- (iii) a place which demonstrates 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;

- (iv) a place which is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations;
- (v) a place which is the only known or only comparatively intact example of its type;
- (vi) a place which is a notable example of a class of natural or cultural places or landscapes and which demonstrates the principal characteristics of that class;
- (vii) a place which has strong or special associations with a person, group, event, development or cultural phase which played a significant part in local or national history;
- (viii) a place which represents the evolution of a natural landscape, including significant geological features, landforms, biota or natural processes;
- (ix) a place which is a significant habitat or locality for the life cycle of native species; for rare, endangered or uncommon species; for species at the limits of their natural range; or for district occurrences of species;
- (x) a place which exhibits unusual richness, diversity or significant transitions of flora, fauna or natural landscapes and their elements; or
- (xi) a place which demonstrates a likelihood of providing information which will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality or benchmark site.

#### **6. REFERENCES:**

Author Title date publication

Lyall Gillespie, *Canberra 1913-53*. AGPS, Canberra.

Lyall Gillespie, *Ginninderra - Fore runner to Canberra*. NCP, Canberra.

Lyall Gillespie, *Ginninderra. a centre of early Education*. CDHS No. 12 September 1983.

NSW Education Department. *Stone Hut file AO NSW Ref 5/1 7688.3*.