



ACT Heritage Council

## Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

*Heritage Act 2004*

### **20068. Yarralumla Brickworks**

Section 102 Block 1

**YARRALUMLA**

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## 68. Yarralumla Brickworks, Yarralumla [V118]<sup>1</sup>

### Location

District of Canberra Central, Division of Yarralumla, Section 102 Block 1 as identified in Figure 68 and indicated on the Territory Plan Map by the Heritage Places Register Overlay H68.

### Features Intrinsic To The Heritage Significance Of The Place

The place comprises the elements listed in Schedule 1 (rated as possessing exceptional significance) and Schedule 2 (rated as possessing considerable significance), as identified in Figure 68a.

#### Schedule 1 Elements Of Exceptional Significance

- 1) Kiln - Staffordshire (1915)
- 2) Fan House for Staffordshire Kiln (1915)
- 3) Kiln - Hardy-Patent (1927)
- 4) Fan House for Hardy Patent Kiln (1953)
- 5) Kiln - Hardy-Patent (1953)
- 6) Kilns - Downdraft a, b, c (1963)
- 7) Chimney Stacks for Staffordshire Kiln (1915)
- 8) Chimney Stack for Hardy Patent Kiln (1927)
- 9) Chimney Stack for Hardy Patent Kiln (1953)
- 10) Chimney Stack for Downdraft Kiln (1963)
- 11) Quarry
- 12) Geological features A, B, C, D

#### Schedule 2 Elements Of Moderate Significance

- 13) Office (1916)
- 14) Power House (1915)
- 15) Machine Bay for Staffordshire and Downdraft Kilns (1955)
- 16) Machine Bay for Hardy-Patent (1955)
- 17) Machine Bay for Hardy-Patent (1955)
- 18) Workshop (1955)
- 19) Large Crusher House (1955)
- 20) Primary Crusher House (1955)
- 21) Small Crusher House
- 22) Elevator Conveyor (1955)
- 23) Remains of the Brickworks Accommodation Village

### Statement Of Significance

Operational from 1913 to 1976, the Yarralumla Brickworks is of historical value as the first industrial manufacturing facility within the ACT, and for its integral role in providing the base material used in the construction of the early buildings in the National Capital.

The Yarralumla Brickworks is a relatively intact representative example of large urban brickworks from the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, a type that is becoming increasingly rare nationally and internationally. The Brickworks comprise a cultural landscape where the remaining buildings, structures, equipment and landscape features have the ability to demonstrate the evolution of a range of industrial processes associated with brick and clay production-over a 60 year period.

The Yarralumla Brickworks is of considerable technical value from the presence in the one location of a number of different kiln types: Staffordshire (1915), Hardy-Patent (1927) and Downdraft (1953) kilns, which demonstrate an unusually wide range of firing processes. The Staffordshire kiln is especially significant as the only surviving example of this kiln type in Australia. The Staffordshire kiln variation to the Hoffman design of kiln allowed bricks, tiles and pipes to be fired in cycles and utilises an unusual fan-forced draft system to aid firing.

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<sup>1</sup> [V118: Added to Heritage Places Register Number 68 10/05/2001 (Variation Number 118)]

The largest chimney stack (element 9) is of aesthetic and social value as a prominent landmark in the central urban area, visible from the Lake Burley Griffin foreshores, New Parliament House and mountain lookouts around the City. Additional aesthetic value is associated with the composition and sculptural forms of the built elements, specifically the kilns, stacks and larger elements of equipment.

The Yarralumla Brickworks is one of a broad thematic group of remnant industrial and engineering heritage places that were built to facilitate the initial development of Canberra including the Cotter Dam and Pumping Station and the Kingston Power House.

The brickpits have historical value as a primary source of clay and are also of considerable geological value as the type locality for the 'Yarralumla Formation', dating from the Silurian Period 425 million years ago. The scheduled stratigraphic rock units constitute the reference section against which all other outcrops within the Formation are compared. It is the only fossil marine unit within the extensive volcanic marker horizons of South Canberra. Sites A and D show excellent examples of an anticline in calcareous siltstone, Site B shows a typical tuffaceous mudstone and siltstone of the Yarralumla Formation and Site C shows abundant fossils of mainly graptolites, trilobites, coral and a simple crinoid preserved in a bedding plane.

## Specific Requirements

In accordance with s54 (1) of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* the following requirements are identified as essential to the conservation of the heritage significance of the place. These requirements are prepared to implement the following conservation policy for the place:

The identified heritage values and intrinsic features of the place shall be conserved whilst allowing for the integrated and sympathetic redevelopment of the place as a single entity, consistent with contemporary practices for the adaptive reuse of industrial and commercial heritage places. In conserving and developing the place, its significant historical use as an industrial site for the production of bricks and clay products shall continue to be evident and accessible to the public.

Redevelopment of all or part of the place shall be in accordance with a Conservation and Management Plan endorsed by the ACT Heritage Council.

### i) Landscape Setting

- a) The quarry landform (11) should be retained in a manner whereby it is clearly evident to be a man made excavation, associated with the industrial use of the site. Subject to the recommendations of the Conservation and Management Plan, revegetation, enhanced hard and soft landscaping and low-medium height buildings with a high proportion of landscape open space may be permitted in the vicinity of the quarry, including on land overlooking the quarry and within the quarry excavation. The shape of the quarry may be altered in a minor manner, however access points into and out of the quarry area should utilise existing openings and gradients within the landform. The historical linkage between the quarry and kiln areas shall be expressed in any new development.
- b) The geological features (12 A-D) shall be integrated within any site landscaping treatment. Disturbance of the immediate surface shall be limited to works that protect, stabilise or enhance the interpretation of the geological values. The immediate environs of the geological features to a distance of approximately 10 metres shall be retained as landscape open space.
- c) To reflect historical usage patterns at the site and protect the setting of significant elements, the immediate environs of the kilns (1, 3, 5, 6) as identified below shall be retained as landscape open space, clear of any major structures. Minor structures and landscaping treatments that retain the kilns, stacks and fan houses as the dominant visual elements to the space may be permitted within:
  - The open concourse running north-south from the Hardy Patent Kiln (Element 5) to the Downdraft Kilns (6a-c), between the kilns and fan houses (2, 4),
  - The spaces between the kilns: (5-3, 3-1, 1-6)
  - The immediate environs of the chimney stacks (7, 8, 9, 10), fan houses (2, 4) and primary crusher house and elevator conveyor (20, 22) to a distance of generally 10m.
- d) New hard and soft landscaping treatment should generally express the historical spatial relationships and movement patterns of brick making operations about the site.

**ii) Built Structures - including alterations and additions**

- a) The existing large chimney stack (9) shall be conserved and maintained in its current form as a prominent urban landmark.
- b) The external form, including the arrangement of openings and detailing that reflects the industrial use of the built elements in Schedule 1 (1-10) and the Primary Crusher House (Schedule 2: 20) shall be retained.
- c) Minor external alterations and additions and major internal alterations to the built elements in Schedule 1 may be permitted to suit a new use where the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the elements or the place as a whole.
- d) Alterations and additions to the original built fabric of elements in Schedule 1, including alterations to external finishes, shall complement the historical industrial use and architectural style of the place.
- e) Subject to the recommendations of the Conservation and Management Plan, the elements in Schedule 2 may be conserved to interpret the historical use of the place or adapted to suit a new use for the place.
- f) Elements in Schedule 2 that no longer include substantial evidence to describe industrial processes (15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 21) may be replaced with new development that is generally consistent with the scale, form, external materials and industrial character of the place. The Office, the Powerhouse, Primary Crusher House and the Elevator Conveyor (13, 14, 20 and 22) may be relocated elsewhere within the place, subject to the relocation process being fully documented and full reconstruction of the buildings taking place within a specified period. Development may occur on the site of the remains of the Brickworks Accommodation Village (23), subject to detailed recording and suitable interpretation of the historical significance of the site.
- g) Construction of new buildings or elements in the place may be permitted if any new building(s) or element(s) do not significantly diminish the heritage value of the place. The scale, form, detailing and external materials of any new buildings or structures shall be consistent with the architectural style and industrial character of the built elements in Schedule 1.

**iii) Industrial Equipment**

- a) Major equipment and machinery associated with the historical industrial use of the place shall be retained and conserved in situ. Minor equipment should be retained and conserved but may be relocated to a new location within the site for interpretative purposes and/or its own protection.
- b) The Primary Crusher House (20), including the integral equipment and machinery, and the Elevator Conveyor (22) shall be conserved for their ability to demonstrate and interpret industrial processes and secondary aesthetic values.

**iv) Demolition**

- a) Subject to (iv)(b) (c) and (d) demolition of elements listed in Schedule 1 and 2 shall not be permitted, other than in exceptional circumstances, including circumstances in which the building or structure 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.
- b) The demolition of the original internal fabric of buildings within Schedule 1 shall only be permitted in the context of sympathetic alteration and additions, as identified within the Conservation and Management Plan.
- c) Elements in Schedule 2 may be demolished only to allow for new development in accordance with the Conservation and Management Plan and specific requirements (ii) (e) and (f).
- d) Comprehensive recording of a building or structure shall be undertaken prior to any demolition or removal of fabric.



**Figure 68a: Yarralumla Brickworks, Yarralumla: Significant Features**

