



ACT Heritage Council

## Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

*Heritage Act 2004*

### **10005. Field Books, Survey of the ACT**

John Overall Offices, 220 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra City

#### **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.

Information restricted under *the old heritage places register or old heritage objects register* is restricted under the *Heritage Act 2004*.

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# **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY HERITAGE OBJECTS REGISTER**

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

## **Field Books used for the survey of the border of the Federal Capital Territory**

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

### Field Books used for the survey of the border of the Federal Capital Territory

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**NOMINATED BY** Mr Peter Edwards, Assistant Manager, Customer Services, Land Information Office, Department of the Environment, Land and Planning

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**LOCATION OF OBJECTS** Compactus storage shelving, Plan Room, Ground Floor, John Overall Offices, 220 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra City

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#### DESCRIPTION

The books used by the surveyors in the field to record the details of the survey and marking of the border of the Federal Capital Territory. The books define the ACT border in surveying terms. Details in the books include references to natural and cultural features and drawings of the area surveyed.

The books are regulation Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs survey field books issued for all survey work. The books have red cloth covered cardboard covers with tan leather spines. Stamped on the front cover and spine in gold is "Fieldbook A / H A Dept". The number of the book is stamped in gold in the top right of the front cover and on the spine. The books have marbled endpapers. The index, at the beginning of each book, lists the particulars of the survey, and is signed and dated by the surveyor. In addition to the field book number most of the books are given a Territorial Boundary Survey (TBS) Number (from 1 to 61). This number is written in black on the spine of each book.

Two of the books differ from the rest as follows :

1484A - dragged multi-coloured paper covered cardboard cover to which is adhered a piece of white printed paper which reads " Commonwealth of Australia Department of Home Affairs Field Book No 1484 Survey of Intersections of Territorial Boundary with Title Boundary 284 285 286 Par of Tuggeranong ". Written in white on red cloth binding on spine "TBS 59". Written in black on spine "1484".

F1486 - dragged multi-coloured paper covered cardboard cover to which is adhered a piece of white printed paper which reads " Commonwealth of Australia Department of Home Affairs Field Book No F1486 Survey of Portion 33 Par of Amungula Co of Murray Par of Molonglo Co of Murray". Written in black on spine "1486"

Each book has the dimensions : 21 x 13.5cm

A list of the 67 field books used for the survey of the border follows. The list is in numerical order by field book number. Each entry includes the book's field book number, TBS number, name of the surveyor who completed the book, dates the surveyor entered or completed the information in the book and the number of the corresponding sheet in the series of border plans.

An asterisk (\*) indicates the location of the book is not known.

Field Book No.	TBS No	Surveyor	Dates of Survey	FC18 Sheet No
69A	1	Sheaffe	30/6/10-30/8/10	1
70A	10	Sheaffe	27/8/10-1/9/10	1
71A	2	Sheaffe	9-11/1910	1,2
84A	3	Sheaffe	1/10/10-15/10/10	1,2
85A	4	Sheaffe	10/1910	2
86A	5	Sheaffe	1/11/10-30/11/10	2

140A	6	Sheaffe	12/10	2
141A	7	Sheaffe	2-3/11	2
142A	8	Sheaffe	17/12/10-4/3/11	2
147A	9	Sheaffe	7/2/11-20/2/11	2
151A	11	Sheaffe	1/4/11-30/6/11	3
152A	12	Sheaffe	26/4/11-31/7/11	3
201A	-	Rain	4/5/11-18/5/11	3
202A	13	Sheaffe	17/7/11-27/7/11	3
203A	14	Sheaffe	6-8/11	3
221A	15	Sheaffe	1/9/11-23/11/11	3,4
222A	16	Sheaffe	1/9/11-23/11/11	3
283A	17	Sheaffe	1/11/11-29/2/12	
284A	21	Sheaffe	15/11/11-2/3/12	4
291A	25	Sheaffe	1/2/12-30/4/12	4
301A	24	Sheaffe	1/2/12-24/4/12	4
302A	18	Sheaffe	6-7/12	
314A	19	Sheaffe	5-7/12	
*315A	22	Sheaffe	7/1912	4
474A	32	Sheaffe	8-11/12	5
475A	23	Sheaffe	8-12/1912	4,5
496A	20	Sheaffe	10/12-1/12	5
*497A	31	Sheaffe	2/1913	5,6
594A	-	Sheaffe	11-12/1912	
636A	36	Sheaffe	10-12/1913	6
*685A	43	Vance	24/2/15	
1008A	27	Mouat	10-11/13	
1009A	26	Mouat	24/10/14-30/12/14	
1010A	28	Mouat	11/11/13-12/13	
1011A	29	Mouat	23/12/13-31/1/14	13
1012A	30	Mouat	30/12/13-31/3/14	
1013A	35	Mouat	2/2/14-15/3/14	12
1017	37	Sheaffe	10-12/1913	6
*1018	38	Sheaffe	3/1914	6
*1020	39	Sheaffe	4/1914	6
1022A	34	Mouat	27/2/14-17/3/14	12
1023A	-	Mouat	6/1915	
1024A	33	Mouat	22/4/14-20/4/14	12
1028A	40	Sheaffe	3-6/14	6,7
*1029	41	Sheaffe	6/1914	6,7
*1051	42	Sheaffe	10/1914	7,8,9
1052A	51	[Sheaffe]	n.d.	7,8
1055A	50	Mouat	13/11/14-8/1/15	11,12
1056A	52	Mouat	16/11/14-8/12/14	11
1057A	53	Mouat	2/2/15-3/3/15	10,11
1058A	54	Mouat	4/3/15-20/4/15	10
1059A	55	Mouat	21/4/15-22/4/15	10
1083A	60	Sheaffe	n.d.	8
1084A	61	Sheaffe	n.d.	8,9
1087A	56	Johnston	1/3/15-22/3/15	9
1088A	57	Johnston	29/3/15-28/5/15	9
1089A	58	Johnston	29/4/15-28/5/15	9,10
*1303A	47	?	11/1914	
*1304A	48	?	12/1914	
*1305A	49	?	1/1915	
1484A	59	Reid	27/8/15	
1486F	-	Reid	7/9/15	4
*1637E	46	?	3/1915	
*1638E	44	?	2/1915	
*1639E	45	?	5/1915	

*2319	-	?		3
*2497	-	?		5

The references for the field books were taken from the Border Survey Plans (Nomination 1) and from the Department of Home Affairs, Federal Survey Camp, Field Book Record - Field Book Register No 1. This Register is also kept by the Plan Room staff.

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## CONDITION

The field books are intact and are in a fair condition with mostly minor blemishes and damage due to the use and age of the books.

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## HISTORY

Various sites for the Federal Capital Territory (as the Australian Capital Territory was named until 1938) were considered during the years leading up to the establishment of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901. It was not until 1908 that a final decision was made with the introduction of *The Seat of Government Act*, which identified the Yass - Canberra region for the Federal Capital Territory.

The task of identifying the best site for the capital city was given to Charles Robert Scrivener, then District Surveyor in Hay, New South Wales.

Scrivener was born on 2 November 1855 at Windsor, NSW, the son of Charles A Scrivener. Appointed as a NSW District Surveyor at Wagga Wagga and Hay, he took up his surveying duties with the Commonwealth Government first at Dalgety, then Yass/Canberra and finally at the Federal Capital. Scrivener was awarded the Imperial Service Order in 1915 and died at Mount Irvine in 1923.

Scrivener selected an area centred on the village of Canberry and the Molonglo River. The Federal Capital Advisory Board adopted the site but did not adopt Scrivener's boundary suggestions for the Territory. The Board substituted the catchment areas of the Naas and Gudgenby Rivers for the catchments of the Queanbeyan and Molonglo Rivers selected by Scrivener.

The area that would be ceded by the New South Wales Government to the Commonwealth was agreed by the Prime Minister and the Premier of New South Wales in October 1909.

The Federal Capital Territory came into existence with the passing of the Seat of Governments Acts of Surrender and Acceptance on 1 July 1911.

Having selected the site for the new capital, survey of the area had to be undertaken to provide information to the Commonwealth and, specifically, to provide the base survey drawings required for the impending competition for the design of Canberra.

Scrivener and selected staff prepared the contour map of the city area and undertook surveys for water, roads and railways.

The subject of this nomination, the survey and marking of the boundary between the Federal Territory and New South Wales, was undertaken by a small team of Scrivener's surveyors, commencing in June, 1910. The first section of the border surveyed was from Coree Trigonometrical Station to One Tree Trigonometrical Station by P L Sheaffe which was completed by October 1910. The majority of the surveying of the border was undertaken by Sheaffe.

Percy Lempriere Sheaffe was born in Brisbane on 1 October 1883. He began his career in NSW and following a brief period in Queensland was appointed to the Commonwealth Public Service as Senior Surveyor in 1910. Sheaffe retired from the position of Chief Surveyor and Property Officer in 1948. Following his retirement Sheaffe was made a life member of the Institution of Surveyors.

Frederick Marshall Johnston was born on 19 October 1885 in Perth, Western Australia. His early career was spent in W A and he commenced duty in the Federal Capital Territory on 15 January 1914. He later became head of the Lands Survey for the W A section of the Trans Australian Railway. From 1945 to 1949 he was Commonwealth Surveyor-General. Frederick Johnston died on 24 December 1963.

Harry Mouat was born on 31 May 1880 in Ravensborn, Dunedin, Otago, New Zealand. He worked in New Zealand and Fiji before he commenced duty in the Federal Capital Territory on 16 September 1913.

John Cecil Drury Reid was born on 14 May 1876 in Eaglehawk, Victoria. His career was spent in Victoria, Queensland and the Federal Capital Territory when he was temporarily appointed as surveyor, Federal Territory from 2 January 1912. John Reid joined the Expeditionary Forces and was killed in action during World War One.

The survey and marking of the border was completed in 1915. The marking of the boundary was of a permanent character. Besides large wooden posts at all angles and at each mile and half-mile on straight lines, concrete blocks or galvanised iron pipes were sunk below the surface at frequent intervals, the positions being indicated usually by mounds of earth or cairns, and where possible additional references to marked trees were given. The placement of the markers is recorded in the field books. Many of these markers exist today *in situ*.

The nominated field books were returned to the Lands and Survey Branch of the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs which had been established in 1910, for conversion to plan form (Refer to nomination 1, FC series of plans of the border of the Federal Capital Territory, with reference map). By 1911 offices for the new Lands and Survey Branch had been constructed to the east of the surveyor's camp on the north side of Capital Hill. The surveyor's concrete plan archive at the southern end of the offices was built by 1913. This building, named Surveyor's Hut, stands today and is, at the time of the preparation of this citation, proposed for entry on the Interim Heritage Places Register.

The Lands and Survey Branch retained the nominated field books, which were subsequently passed to the various sections of the Commonwealth and ACT Governments responsible for the surveying of the ACT. The field books are now held by the Land Information Office of the Department of Environment, Land and Planning.

The field books are used today as the ultimate source of authority for all subsequent survey work within the ACT.

As is acknowledged by Hallman, 1973 field notes provide a unique and valuable record.

The field notes are the basic record of any survey and as evidence rank only second in importance to the actual layout of the survey on the ground. The plan, if any, is prepared from the field notes but a lot of useful information is not carried forward on the plan. For this reason and others the field notes are often invaluable for retracement surveys, particularly in those cases where the original plan is unreliable, ambiguous, defaced or even missing and most of the original marking is gone or not expected to be found.

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## 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.**

The field books are significant as they are evidence of surveying methods that are no longer used.

### **5 An object which is the only known or only comparatively intact example of its type.**

The field books used in the surveying and marking of the border of the ACT constitute the only original record of these surveying data.

**7 An object which has strong or special associations with a person, group, event, development or cultural phase in local or national history.**

The field books define the border of the ACT and as such have a unique association with the history of the ACT.

**8 An object which is significant in understanding the evolution of natural landscapes, including significant geological features, landforms, biota, or natural processes.**

The field books contain detailed information regarding the natural features in the vicinity of the border. This information is significant in understanding the evolution of the natural landscape.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The field books are of outstanding significance to the heritage of the ACT as they are the original records which define the ACT border and remain the ultimate source of authority for all subsequent survey work within the ACT.

They have a high level of significance as evidence of surveying methods no longer used and for their description of natural and cultural features in the vicinity of the border.

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**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 objects :

1. The books are not to be made available for day to day use.
2. They are to be copied to another medium (such as microfiche).
3. They are to be stored on metal paint-coated shelving with metal paint-coated book ends to support the books and to reduce pressure on individual books.
4. They are to be held in secure storage with controlled access. The storage should be locked and a nominated person made responsible for controlling and recording access to the books.
5. They are to be handled only with cotton or latex gloves
6. Their condition should be monitored and any changes are to be reported to the Registrar of Heritage Objects for action.
7. The books are to be stored in a fire safe environment.
8. Any change of location is to be reported to the Registrar.
9. The Registrar is to be notified if any of the missing books are located.

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**RESTRICTED INFORMATION**

Not applicable

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**PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS**

Not known

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## REFERENCES

Department of Home Affairs 1914, *Annual Report of the Lands and Surveys Branch 1912-13*, Government Printer, Sydney.

Department of Home Affairs *Federal Survey Camp Fieldbook Record Field Book Registers No.s 1 and 2*.

Freeman, Peter and Partners Pty Ltd 1987, *Surveyor's Hut Conservation Plan* for Department of Administrative Services, Canberra.

Gillespie, Lyall 1991, *Canberra 1820 - 1913* AGPS, Canberra

Hallmann, Frank M 1973, *Legal Aspects of Boundary Surveying as apply in New South Wales*, The Institution of Surveyors, Australia NSW Division, Sydney.

NCDC Sites of Significance Vol 1 p 54 refers to one of the markers of the border.

Mr R Wenzholz, Mr P Edwards, and Mr R Hulanicki of the Land Information Office, Department of Environment, Land and Planning.

<b>NOMINATION NUMBER</b>	2
<b>DATE OF NOMINATION</b>	4 May 1993
<b>REGISTER NUMBER</b>	
<b>DATE OF GAZETTAL INTERIM REGISTER REGISTER</b>	
<b>FILE NUMBER</b>	93/08052
<b>TYPE OF OBJECT</b>	Manufactured
<b>OWNER</b>	ACT Government
<b>KEEPER</b>	Land Information Office, Department of the Environment, Land and Planning

Prepared by Pamela Fabricius  
18 April 1995