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MEDIA RELEASE

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McGregor Hall to be demolished

It was with disappointment the National Trust learnt today that the ACT Minister for Planning, Andrew Barr, used his call in power to allow the demolition of McGregor Hall on the grounds of the ANU.

McGregor Hall is a part, of the last remaining structure of the former Turner Hostel, constructed to accommodate the rapid population influx into Canberra in the post WWII period (circa 1948 to 1955).

National Trust Heritage Officer, Dr Peter Dowling said today that: "McGregor Hall represents a significant phase in the growth of Canberra as the capital city of Australia.

"During the post-war building boom many skilled and unskilled workers came to Canberra from overseas and within Australia to assist in the building of the city. They were housed in seven workers hostels scattered through the major building areas of Canberra.

"McGregor Hall is the last remaining structure of those hostels. With its impending demolition we will lose a visible reminder of that period of our city's built and cultural heritage. "

A heritage nomination was submitted for McGregor Hall which the Trust supported and made a recommendation to the ACT Heritage Council for provisional listing. The Heritage Council made a decision not to list the building stating that there was insufficient heritage value in the building.