

Canberra Light Rail

Preliminary Heritage Advice

Proposed Routes in Parliamentary Zone, Barton, Capital Hill

Report prepared for Major Projects Canberra
September 2023



Sydney Office Level 17 323 Castlereagh Street Haymarket NSW Australia 2000 T +61 2 9319 4811

Canberra Office 2A Mugga Way Red Hill ACT Australia 2603 T +61 2 6273 7540

GML Heritage Pty Ltd ABN 60 001 179 362

www.gml.com.au

Report Register

The following report register documents the development and issue of the report entitled Canberra Light Rail, Preliminary Heritage Advice undertaken by GML Heritage Pty Ltd in accordance with its quality management system.

Job No.	Issue No.	Notes/Description	Issue Date
18-0678A	1	Draft 'Preliminary Heritage Advice' report, examining five proposed routes:	26 March 2019
18-0678A	2	2019 Final Preliminary Heritage Advice Report	17 April 2019
18-0678A	3	2019 Revised Final Preliminary Heritage Advice Report	2 July 2019
18-0678H	4	2023 updated report: Preliminary Heritage Advice—Proposed Routes 1 and 2, Parliamentary Zone—Draft	30 August 2023
18-0678H	5	2023 Preliminary Heritage Advice—Proposed Routes Parliamentary Zone—Final	21 September 2023

Quality Management

The report has been reviewed and approved for issue in accordance with the GML quality management policy and procedures.

It aligns with best-practice heritage conservation and management, *The Burra Charter: the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, 2013* and heritage and environmental legislation and guidelines relevant to the subject place.

Copyright

© GML Heritage Pty Ltd 2023

This report has been produced for the client as an internal document. Except as allowed under the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth), no part may be copied, transmitted, published, or otherwise dealt with in any form without permission in writing from GML Heritage and the owners of copyright in images or other matter in that part of the document.

Pre-existing copyright in images and other matter is acknowledged where appropriate. Although a reasonable effort has been made to obtain permission to reproduce copyright material, GML Heritage does not warrant that permission has been obtained in all cases.

Source of images is GML unless otherwise stated.

Moral Rights

GML asserts its Moral Rights in this work, unless otherwise acknowledged, in accordance with the (Commonwealth) Copyright (Moral Rights) Amendment Act 2000. GML's moral rights include the attribution of authorship, the right not to have the work falsely attributed and the right to integrity of authorship.

Right to Use

GML grants to the client for this project (and the client's successors in title) an irrevocable royalty-free right to reproduce or use the material from this report, except where such use infringes the copyright and/or Moral Rights of GML or third parties.

Contents Page

	1
Executive Summary	i
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Background to The Project	1
1.2 Study Area	1
1.3 Methodology	2
1.4 Heritage Listings	3
1.5 Reference Documentation	4
1.6 Statutory Context	5
1.6.1 <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>	5
1.6.2 <i>The National Capital Plan</i>	6
1.6.3 <i>National Capital Authority</i>	7
1.6.4 <i>Heritage Act 2004 (ACT)</i>	7
1.7 Limitations	8
1.8 Acknowledgements	8
1.9 Endnotes	8
2.0 Heritage Context	9
2.1 Introduction	9
2.2 Historic Heritage Values	9
2.2.1 <i>Commonwealth and National Heritage Listed Places</i>	13
2.2.2 <i>ACT Heritage Register Places</i>	25
2.2.3 <i>Commonwealth and National Heritage List Nominated Places</i>	31
2.3 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values	33
2.4 The Designed Cultural Landscape	33
2.5 Endnotes	34
3.0 Proposed Action	35
3.1 Introduction	35
3.2 Overall Design and Construction	35
3.3 Existing Design Considerations	38
3.4 Endnotes	39
4.0 Identification of Potential Heritage Impacts	40
4.1 Introduction	40
4.2 Method for Assessment of Potential Heritage Impacts	40
4.3 Analysis of heritage impacts associated with Route 1 and Route 2	41
4.3.1 <i>Overview of the potential historic heritage impacts</i>	41
4.3.2 <i>Type/s of heritage impact</i>	41
4.3.3 <i>Route 1—National Triangle Barton: analysis of potential heritage impacts</i>	44
4.3.4 <i>Route 2—State Circle East: analysis of potential heritage impacts</i>	45
4.3.5 <i>Other Issues for Consideration</i>	48
4.4 Aboriginal Heritage	49
5.0 Summary and Recommendations	50
5.1 Summary: preliminary heritage impact statement	50

GML Heritage

5.2 Recommendations and next steps	51
6.0 Appendices	53
Appendix A	53
<i>Citations for listed heritage places ACT Heritage Register, Commonwealth Heritage List and National Heritage List</i>	53

Executive Summary

GML Heritage Pty Ltd (GML) was engaged in 2019, by the ACT Government, Major Projects Canberra, to provide preliminary heritage advice regarding two proposed light rail routes for Stage 2B Commonwealth Park to Woden Light Rail Project system (**The Project**). The report has been revised to consider two different route options—referred to as Route 1: National Triangle Barton and Route 2: State Circle East. The proposed routes will pass through or near significant heritage places within the Parliamentary Zone, on the southern side of Lake Burley Griffin, in the National Triangle.

This updated preliminary heritage advice is to assist Major Projects Canberra in decision making, based on the identification of potential heritage issues and constraints, and to understand the extent of potential impacts on the heritage places along the proposed routes.

As part of the preliminary heritage advice—this report—the detail associated with the implementation of light rail is not available to GML. Instead, the report highlights potential heritage impacts, based on a high-level, ‘worst case scenario’, for determining a ‘likely or possible’ impact assessment. Determining which route has a lesser, or greater, degree of impact on the heritage values of the places in, or near to the routes.

A significant impact associated with the proposed ‘action’ on Commonwealth land triggers a referral under Section 26 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). A heritage impact assessment (HIA) should be prepared and form part of a referral under the EPBC Act.

There are multiple heritage values, types of values and ‘actions or activities’ for each route that need to be considered throughout The Project development and approval stages. The degree and intensity of potential impacts, and likely impacts, will vary due to associated ‘activities’ of the proposed routes, and proximity to heritage places and values.

The report concludes that the proposed Routes 1 and 2 are likely to result in a significant impact to the Commonwealth Heritage values of the study area (the Parliamentary Zone, refer to Figure 1.1). Both routes would have a similar degree and intensity of impact to the heritage values (CHL and ACT Heritage Register; listed and nominated places) in the study area.

However, note this report is not a formal heritage impact assessment. Further analysis will be needed to test, assess and mitigate potential heritage impacts associated with The Project, through the mechanism of a HIA, or multiple HIA’s, for different light rail development activities. When undertaking HIA/s for The Project, the following should be considered (although not exclusively):

- detailed degree and intensity of heritage impact associated with a particular route/routes needs to be assessed following the methodology established in this report;
- view analyses’ may be required; and
- extensive mitigation measures would be determined, and implemented, in collaboration with Major Projects Canberra and the NCA.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background to The Project

GML Heritage Pty Ltd (GML) has been commissioned by the ACT Government, Major Projects Canberra to provide preliminary heritage advice regarding the Stage 2B Commonwealth Park to Woden Light Rail Project system (**The Project**) determination.

The proposed light rail system crosses Lake Burley Griffin at Commonwealth Avenue Bridge and passes through the Parliamentary Zone, via Parkes/Barton, around Capital Hill and along Adelaide Avenue to Woden. The overall proposed route for The Project is from the city, across Lake Burley Griffin at Commonwealth Avenue Bridge and passes through the Parliamentary Zone, via Parkes/Barton, around Capital Hill and along Adelaide Avenue to Woden.

This preliminary heritage advice has been prepared to assist Major Projects Canberra in decision making, based on the identification of potential heritage issues and constraints, and to understand the extent of potential impacts on the heritage places along the proposed routes.

Following further decision from Major Projects Canberra, separate future heritage impact assessment, or multiple HIAs, would be prepared to provide detailed heritage impact analysis and accompany the necessary approvals processes.

1.2 Study Area

The study area for this report is shown in Figure 1.1) focuses on the Parliamentary Zone, Barton and Capital Hill area, as follows:

- Route 1—National Triangle Barton
- Route 2—State Circle East (red)

The alignment for the whole extent of The Project between Commonwealth Park and Woden, as well as the location of the existing depot which will require expansion to accommodate additional LRVs and facilities is not part of this report.

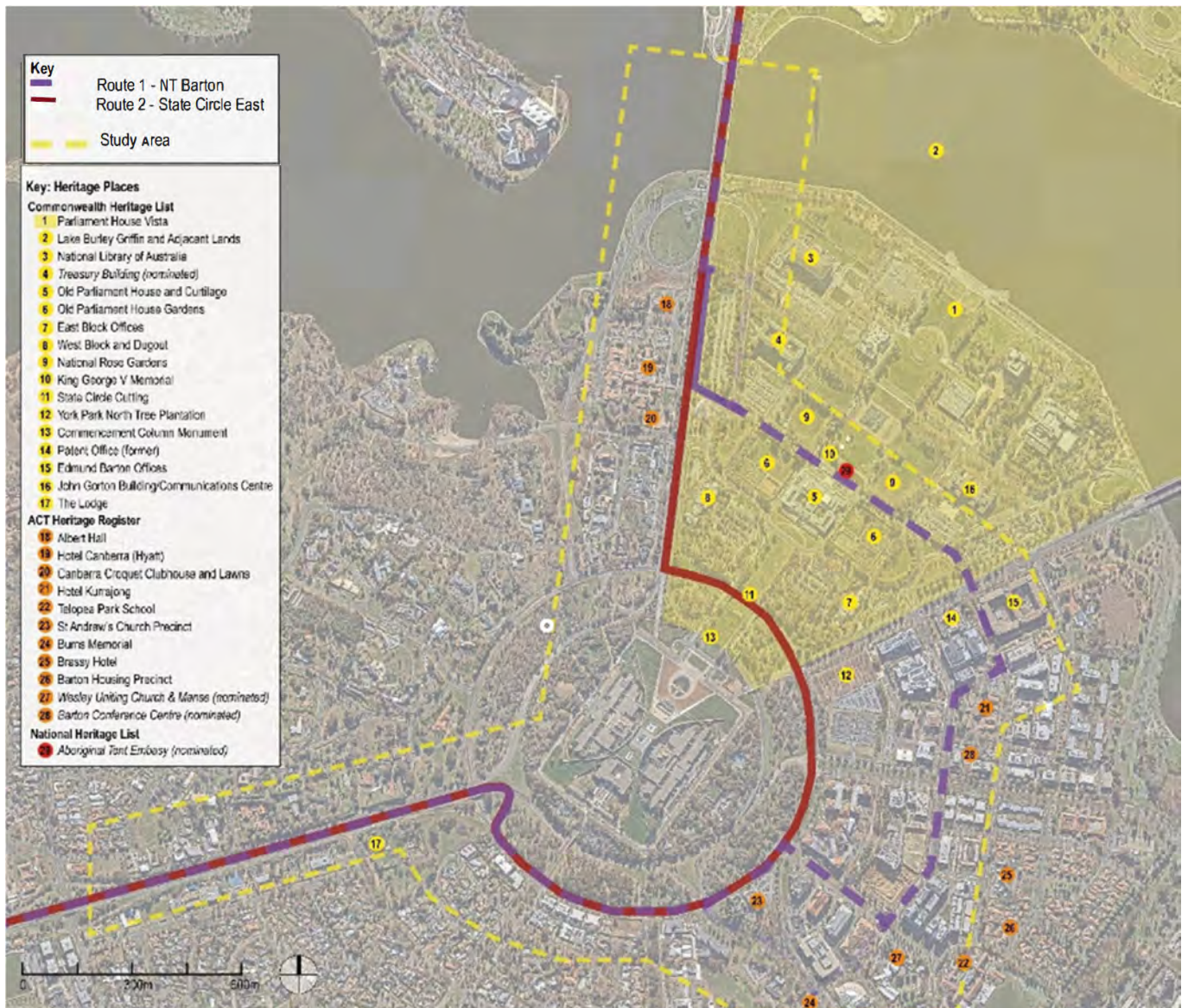


Figure 1-1 The proposed routes through the Parliamentary Zone study area. Route 1: National Triangle (NT) Barton is shown as a purple line. Route 2 State Circle east is shown as a red line (Source: Routes provided by Major Projects Canberra on GML overlay, Nearmap 2023)

1.3 Methodology

This report provides preliminary heritage advice, identifying the potential for impacts to the heritage values of places within, or near to the proposed routes. Heritage places, in this context, are those which have been included or nominated in the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL), National Heritage List (NHL) or the ACT Heritage Register (refer to Table 1.2 for the listings).

A review of existing project documentation, including design documentation and previous heritage studies, was undertaken to understand the context and scope of works. Additional research has been conducted including on heritage listings associated with the proposed routes, nominations and databases, to help inform the constraints and opportunities analysis, and the preliminary commentary and identification of potential impacts.

Recommendations have been provided to guide the next stage of The Project; especially where further heritage investigation is required, and/or where heritage impacts are possible, or likely.

1.4 Heritage Listings

Table 1.1 sets out the listed and nominated non-Aboriginal heritage places located within the study area of the two proposed routes. The heritage values of each place are discussed further in Section 2.0.

Appendix A includes the heritage listing citations for each of the heritage places in the vicinity of the proposed routes.

Table 1-1 Non-Aboriginal Heritage Places and Objects.

Place Name	Location/Curtilage	Heritage Register	Status/ID
Parliament House Vista	Intersects the Parliamentary Zone	Commonwealth Heritage List	Listed (105466)
Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands	Adjoins the Parliamentary Zone, National Triangle and Commonwealth Avenue Bridge	Commonwealth Heritage List	Listed (105230)
Old Parliament House and Curtilage	King George Terrace, Parkes	Commonwealth Heritage List National Heritage List	Listed (105318) Listed (105774)
Old Parliament House Gardens	King George Terrace, Parkes	Commonwealth Heritage List	Listed (105616)
National Library of Australia and Surrounds	Parkes Place, Parkes	Commonwealth Heritage List	Listed (105470)
East Block Government Offices	Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes	Commonwealth Heritage List	Listed (105349)
West Block and the Dugout	Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes	Commonwealth Heritage List	Listed (105428)
National Rose Gardens	King George Terrace, Parkes	Commonwealth Heritage List ACT Heritage Register	Listed (105473)
King George V Memorial	King George Terrace, Parkes	Commonwealth Heritage List	Listed (105352)
John Gorton Building (JGB)	Parkes Pl, Parkes	Commonwealth Heritage List	Listed (105472)
Communications Centre at JGB	King Edward Tce, Parkes,	Commonwealth Heritage List	Listed (105618)
State Circle Cutting	State Circle, Parkes	Commonwealth Heritage List	Listed (105733)
York Park North Tree Plantation	Kings Avenue, Barton	Commonwealth Heritage List	Listed (105242)

GML Heritage

Place Name	Location/Curtilage	Heritage Register	Status/ID
Commencement Column Monument	Federation Mall	Commonwealth Heritage List	Listed (105347)
Patent Office (former)	Kings Avenue, Barton	Commonwealth Heritage List	Listed (105454)
Edmund Barton Offices	Kings Avenue, Barton	Commonwealth Heritage List	Listed (105476)
The Lodge	5 Adelaide Avenue, Deakin	Commonwealth Heritage List	Listed (105452)
Albert Hall	Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla	ACT Heritage Register	Registered
Canberra Croquet Clubhouse and Lawns	Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla	ACT Heritage Register	Registered
St Andrew's Church Precinct	State Circle, Forrest	ACT Heritage Register	Registered
Hotel Canberra	Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla	ACT Heritage Register	Interim Heritage Listing
Treasury Building	King Edward Terrace	Commonwealth Heritage List	Nominated (106258)
Aboriginal Tent Embassy	King George Terrace	National Heritage List Commonwealth Heritage List	Nominated (105836) (within Parliament House Vista CHL)
Hotel Kurrajong	8 National Circuit, Barton	ACT Heritage Register	Registered
Telopea Park School	New South Wales Crescent, Barton	ACT Heritage Register	Registered
Burns Memorial	28 National Circuit, Forrest	ACT Heritage Register	Registered
The Brassey Hotel	12 Macquarie Street, Barton	ACT Heritage Register	Registered
Barton Housing Precinct	5 Belmore Gardens, Barton	ACT Heritage Register	Registered
Wesley Uniting Church	20 National Circuit, Forrest	ACT Heritage Register	Nominated
Barton Conference Centre	Brisbane Avenue and National Circuit Barton	ACT Heritage Register	Nominated

1.5 Reference Documentation

The following reports and documents were reviewed as part of this project:

- Commonwealth Avenue Landscape Heritage Advice, October 2021, and the Commonwealth Avenue Bridge Heritage Assessment, September 2020, prepared by GML for Major Projects Canberra and the NCA;
- Commonwealth Heritage List citations and ACT Heritage Register citations;

- ACT Government, Major Projects Canberra, Gungahlin to Woden (via Barton) Light Rail Update, 15 June 2018;
- Arup, Hassell, City to Woden Light Rail Precinct Report, prepared for Transport for Canberra, 12 October 2018;
- RPS Australia, Canberra Light Rail Stage 2, Draft Non-Aboriginal Heritage—Preliminary (Desktop Impact Assessment), November 2017, in Major Projects Canberra and City Services Definition Design, Appendix P6, 9 February 2018;
- RPS Australia, Canberra Light Rail Stage 2, Aboriginal Heritage Desktop Study, November 2017, in Major Projects Canberra and City Services Definition Design, Appendix P5, 9 February 2018;
- the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, The Burra Charter, 2013* (Burra Charter)—the Burra Charter and the associated series of Practice Notes provide a best practice standard for managing cultural heritage places in Australia; and
- the EPBC Act Significant Impact Guidelines for National Heritage places (Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1—Matters of National Environmental Significance) and Commonwealth Heritage places (Significant impact guidelines 1.2—Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land and Actions by Commonwealth Agencies)—these provide overarching guidance on determining whether an action is likely to have a significant impact on a matter protected under the EPBC Act.

1.6 Statutory Context

1.6.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC Act) is the Australian Government's central piece of environmental legislation. The definition of 'environment' in the EPBC Act includes the heritage values of places, i.e. 'the place's natural and cultural environment having aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance, or other significance, for current and future generations of Australians'.¹

Actions on Commonwealth land are subject to the provisions of the EPBC Act, which provides the legal framework to manage nationally and internationally important heritage places (termed 'matters of national environmental significance'). The objectives of the EPBC Act include providing for the protection of the environment, especially matters of national environmental significance; providing a streamlined environmental assessment and approvals process; and providing for the protection and management of important natural and cultural places.² It also provides for the protection of the environment on Commonwealth land and for actions by Commonwealth agencies. The Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) is responsible for administering the EPBC Act.

The EPBC Act establishes the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) and the National Heritage List (NHL). The CHL comprises places owned or controlled by the Commonwealth that have been assessed as having heritage values against the criteria established under the EPBC Act. Places identified with *outstanding* heritage values for the nation are eligible for inclusion in the NHL. National Heritage places may be owned or controlled under any jurisdiction. National Heritage places are one of the nine 'matters of national environmental significance' under the EPBC Act,³ which are subject to particular provisions of the EPBC Act.

GML Heritage

As the study area is within Designated Land and relevant provisions of the EPBC Act will apply to The Project as managed by Major Projects Canberra and the National Capital Authority (NCA).

Approvals and 'Controlled Actions'

Under the EPBC Act, a person must not take an action that has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on the environment—for heritage, this means places listed on or nominated to the CHL or NHL—without prior approval from the Australian Government Minister for the Environment (the Minister).⁴ Places listed on the NHL are classified as 'matters of national environmental significance'.

Proponents must undertake a self-assessment to determine whether an action is likely to have a significant impact on the environment (for heritage, this means the heritage values of a place listed on or nominated to the NHL or any heritage values on Commonwealth land). If the proponent believes the action is likely to have a significant impact, it must be referred to the Minister via DCCEEW.

The Minister makes the decision as to whether the referred action requires approval under the EPBC Act and on the process of assessment, or whether the action is unacceptable and should not proceed. A 'controlled action' is subject to assessment and approval under the EPBC Act; a 'not controlled action' 'particular matter' means that approval is not required if undertaken in the manner specified; and an action that is not controlled means that approval is not required if the action is taken in accordance with the referral.⁵

Major Projects Canberra should undertake a self-assessment to determine whether The Project is likely to have a significant impact on the protected heritage values of the study area (ie; National Heritage values or any heritage values on Commonwealth land). The significant impact criteria for NHL places is set out below.

Significant Impact Criteria

The *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1: Matters of National Environmental Significance*, prepared by the Australian Government Department of the Environment in 2013, provides significant impact criteria for assessing impacts on National Heritage places:

An action is likely to have a significant impact on the National Heritage values of a National Heritage place if there is a real chance or possibility that it will cause:

- *one or more of the National Heritage values to be lost*
- *one or more of the National Heritage values to be degraded or damaged, or*
- *one or more of the National Heritage values to be notably altered, modified, obscured or diminished.*⁶

The self-assessment process for this project includes the preparation of this preliminary heritage advice, followed by a HIA to be prepared following decisions regarding the proposed route/s and based on details of the design and construction of the light rail.

1.6.2 The National Capital Plan

The National Capital Plan (NCP) forms the strategic planning framework for Canberra and the ACT. In accordance with Section 10 of the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988* (Cwlth), the NCP sets out detailed conditions for planning design and development for Designated Areas for which the NCA is responsible for planning and development approval.

The aim of the NCP is to ensure that 'Canberra and the Territory are planned and developed in accordance with their national significance'. The key matters of national significance include:

- *The pre-eminence of the role of Canberra and the Territory as the centre of National Capital functions, and as the symbol of Australian national life and values.*
- *Conservation and enhancement of the landscape features which give the National Capital its character and setting, and which contribute to the integration of natural and urban environments.*
- *Respect for the key elements of the Griffins' formally adopted plan for Canberra.*
- *Creation, conservation and enhancement of fitting sites, approaches and backdrops for national institutions and ceremonies as well as National Capital uses.*
- *The development of a city which both respects environmental values and reflects national concerns with the sustainability of Australia's urban areas.*

The NCP recognises the value of the unique purpose, setting, character and symbolism of Australia's national capital. A Designated Area is land that is specified as having 'the special characteristics of the National Capital'.⁷ The proposed light rail route traverses the central national area including the Parliamentary Zone precinct.

The NCA's aim, through the NCP, is to achieve a high quality of planning and development within a design context appropriate to its location. In addition, development in the central national area is referred to in the NCA's 'The Griffin Legacy', which recommends that respect should be given to the geometry and intent of the Griffin Plan for Canberra and to maintain and enhance the city's landscape character.⁸

For the Canberra Light Rail Project with routes through the central national area, the joint responsibilities of the NCA and the ACT Government for implementing the NCP and meeting its intent are pertinent.

1.6.3 National Capital Authority

Commonwealth Heritage Obligations

As noted above, the NCA has heritage obligations under the EPBC Act for the places it manages in Canberra. This includes CHL places, through heritage management plans (HMPs) and the identification, assessment and management of other heritage values and places not already in the CHL.

The NCA recognises:

the quality of the landscape and central urban spaces are attributes unique to the National Capital. The national public places at the centre of the capital provide the setting for the Parliament and national institutions. Such places are also the setting for the ceremonial and community events that reflect our nation's history, spirit and aspirations.

Works Approval Process

Works within a Designated Area require written approval from the NCA and must meet detailed conditions set out in the NCP for the planning, design and development. These works include new buildings or structures, relocation or installation of new sculptures, landscaping, excavation, tree-felling and demolition.

An NCA works approval application would usually be lodged after an EPBC Act referral decision has been made for proposed works. If an EPBC Act referral is not required, then a HIA should accompany the NCA works approval application for proposed works.

1.6.4 Heritage Act 2004 (ACT)

Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage places and objects in the ACT are protected under the ACT *Heritage Act 2004* (Heritage Act). The Act establishes the system for recognising, registering and conserving natural and cultural heritage places and objects in the ACT. It establishes the ACT Heritage

GML Heritage

Register and the ACT Heritage Council; establishes enforcement and offence provisions for heritage; and seeks to integrate heritage with planning and development. The Heritage Act also provides heritage guidelines to protect heritage significance.⁹

The ACT Heritage Register provides legal protection for those places and objects which are of heritage significance to the people of the ACT through 'enriching understanding of history and identity'.¹⁰ Developments that may have an impact on the heritage significance of a registered place or object are subject to advice from the ACT Heritage Council, to help ensure that impacts are avoided or minimised. The ACT Heritage Directorate which supports the Heritage Council, provides assessment advice to the NCA and the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) as to whether a proposed development has the potential to affect heritage significance. This advice can be provided informally by the ACT Heritage Directorate, or formally by heritage professionals in the form of a Statement of Heritage Effects (SHE) or other heritage planning and management advice.

1.7 Limitations

The study area for this report is limited to the central Parliamentary Zone, Barton and Capital Hill area of the overall proposed City to Woden light rail route. Potential impacts from the route/s outside this area and construction compounds and activities, on heritage values and places, have not been explored in this report.

Consultation with the Representative Aboriginal Organisations (RAOs) has not been undertaken as part of this project. Consultation and values assessment processes are discussed further in Sections 2.4 and 4.3.

This report provides a high-level review of potential impacts and does not constitute a formal HIA. HIA/s would still be required once the proposed route is determined, and further design and construction details are developed. Recommendations requiring further in-depth assessment and consultation are discussed in Section 5.0.

1.8 Acknowledgements

GML acknowledges the assistance of Major Projects Canberra in the preparation of this report.

1.9 Endnotes

- 1 Australian Government, *Working Together—Managing Commonwealth Heritage Places: A Guide for Commonwealth Agencies*, 2008.
- 2 Australian Government Department of the Environment, 'About the EPBC Act', Canberra, viewed 6 May 2014 <<http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/about-us/legislation/environment-protection-and-biodiversity-conservation-act-1999/about-epbc>>.
- 3 Australian Government Department of the Environment, 'About the EPBC Act', Canberra, viewed 6 May 2014 <<http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/about-us/legislation/environment-protection-and-biodiversity-conservation-act-1999/about-epbc>>.
- 4 Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy, 'Environment assessment and approval process', Canberra, <<http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/environment-protection/environment-assessments/assessment-and-approval-process>>.
- 5 Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy, 'Environmental Assessment Process: Referral, assessment/decision whether to approve flowchart', Canberra, <<http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/environment-assessment-process-0>>.
- 6 Australian Government Department of the Environment 2013, *Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1: Matters of National Environmental Significance*, Canberra, p 19.
- 7 National Capital Authority, 'Designated Areas', NCA website, viewed 15 June 2018 <<https://www.nca.gov.au/planning-heritage/about-planning-act/designated-areas>>.
- 8 National Capital Authority 2016, *National Capital Plan*, May, p 10.
- 9 ACT Government Environment and Sustainable Development, *Information Sheet: Heritage in the ACT*, January 2011, viewed 6 May 2014 <http://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage_reports_projects_and_publications/heritage_fact_sheets>.
- 10 ACT Government Environment and Sustainable Development, *Information Sheet: Heritage registers*, January 2011, viewed 6 May 2014 <http://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/heritage_reports_projects_and_publications/heritage_fact_sheets>.

2.0 Heritage Context

2.1 Introduction

This section provides an overview of the places within the study area with identified heritage values, both listed and nominated.

2.2 Historic Heritage Values

There are 29 places with historic heritage values—listed and nominated to the CHL, NHL, ACT Heritage Register—within the study area (refer Figure 2.1). Four of these places are nominations, one to the CHL, one nominated to NHL and two nominated to the ACT Heritage Register.

All heritage places in the study area are included in Table 2.1. Most of the listed heritage places have HMPs that provide conservation policy for the management of these places. A list of available HMPs is also provided in Table 2.1.

Excerpts from the summary statements of significance from the official citations are included in Tables 2.2–2.4, to provide the heritage context for this report. Heritage citations for each listed place are included at Appendix A.

In addition to the listed and nominated places, there are places within the study area with ‘identified’ or potential values but have not been formally listed (for example Commonwealth and Kings Avenues, and State and Capital Circles, as discussed in the ‘Certain Roads on National Land in Central Canberra, Heritage Assessment, 2014). Identified heritage values should be managed as if they are listed.

There are also places which have not been assessed for their potential historic heritage values (including the general landscape and cultural plantings—Weston’s plantings, Barton area, significant views and vistas), and so the values, and therefore the impacts, are unknown.

Table 2-1 List of heritage places in the study area for both routes, with a corresponding list of heritage/conservation management plans for each place. The numbers given to the heritage places cross-refers to the key in Figure 2.1.

Heritage places along the route	Heritage/conservation management plan
1. Parliament House Vista (CHL)	Parliament House Vista HMP, 2010, prepared by Duncan Marshall, for the NCA
2. Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands (CHL)	Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands Heritage Management Plan, prepared by Godden Mackay Logan, for NCA. 2009.
3. National Library of Australia and Surrounds (CHL)	National Library of Australia CMP, prepared by Duncan Marshall for NLA, 2018
4. Treasury Building (CHL nominated)	Treasury Building Canberra, HMP, 2015, prepared by ERM for the Department of Finance
5. Old Parliament House and Curtilage (CHL NHL)	Old Parliament House and Curtilage HMP, prepared by Museum of Australian Democracy, 2015 – 2020
6. Old Parliament House Gardens (CHL)	Old Parliament House Gardens Precinct HMP prepared by Context for NCA, 2015
7. East Block Government Offices (CHL)	East Block, Parkes ACT, HMP, 2015, prepared by ERM for the Department of Finance

GML Heritage

Heritage places along the route	Heritage/conservation management plan
8. West Block and the Dugout (CHL)	West Block HMP, prepared by Eric Martin and Associates for the Department of Finance, 2014
9. National Rose Gardens (CHL)	Parkes Place and The National Rose Gardens HMP, 2013, prepared by Duncan Marshall for the NCA
10. King George V Memorial (CHL)	King George Memorial HMP, 2014, prepared by GML for the NCA
11. State Circle Cutting (CHL)	State Circle Cutting HMP, 2013, prepared for the NCA, by Duncan Marshall
12. York Park North Tree Plantation (CHL)	York Park North Oak Plantation, Barton ACT, prepared for the NCA, 2008, by Duncan Marshall
13. Commencement Column Monument (CHL)	Commencement Column Monument, HMP, 2016, prepared for the NCA, by GML
14. Patent Office (former) (CHL)	—
15. Edmund Barton Offices (CHL)	Edmund Barton Building HMP, prepared by Eric Martin and Associates for GHD, 2008
16. John Gorton Building (CHL) and Communications Centre, at JGB (above) (CHL)	John Gorton Building and Communications Centre, Parks ACT HMP, 2014, prepared by ERM for the Department of Finance and Deregulation
	John Gorton Building and Communications Centre, Parks ACT HMP, 2014, prepared by ERM for the Department of Finance and Deregulation
17. The Lodge (CHL)	The Prime Minister's Lodge, Canberra, HMP, 2014, prepared by Ainsworth, for the Department of Finance
18. Albert Hall (ACT)	Conservation Management Plan for Albert Hall Heritage Precinct, 2015, prepared by Philip Leeson Architects for the ACT Property Group
19. Hotel Canberra (ACT)	—
20. Canberra Croquet Clubhouse and Lawns (ACT)	—
21. Hotel Kurrajong, Barton (ACT)	—
22. Telopea Park School (ACT)	—
23. St Andrew's Church Precinct (ACT)	—
24. Burns Memorial (ACT)	—
25. Brassey Hotel (ACT)	—
26. Barton Housing Precinct (ACT)	—
27. Wesley Uniting Church & Manse (ACT nominated)	—
28. Barton Conference Centre (ACT nominated)	—
29. Aboriginal Tent Embassy (nominated to the NHL and within CHL place Parliament House Vista)	—

Heritage places along the route	Heritage/conservation management plan
<p>Canberra—Central National Area and Inner Hills (this NHL nomination was made in 2009, and was assessed with the Canberra and Surrounding Area, below)</p>	<p>Referenced in Certain Roads on National Land in Central Canberra, Heritage Assessment, 2014 prepared for the NCA, by Duncan Marshall.</p> <p>The NHL nomination was rejected by the then Minister for the Environment in 2022.</p>
<p>Canberra and Surrounding Areas (this NHL nomination was made in 2009, and was assessed with the Central National Area and Inner Hills Area above)</p>	<p>The NHL nomination was rejected by the then Minister for the Environment in 2022.</p>

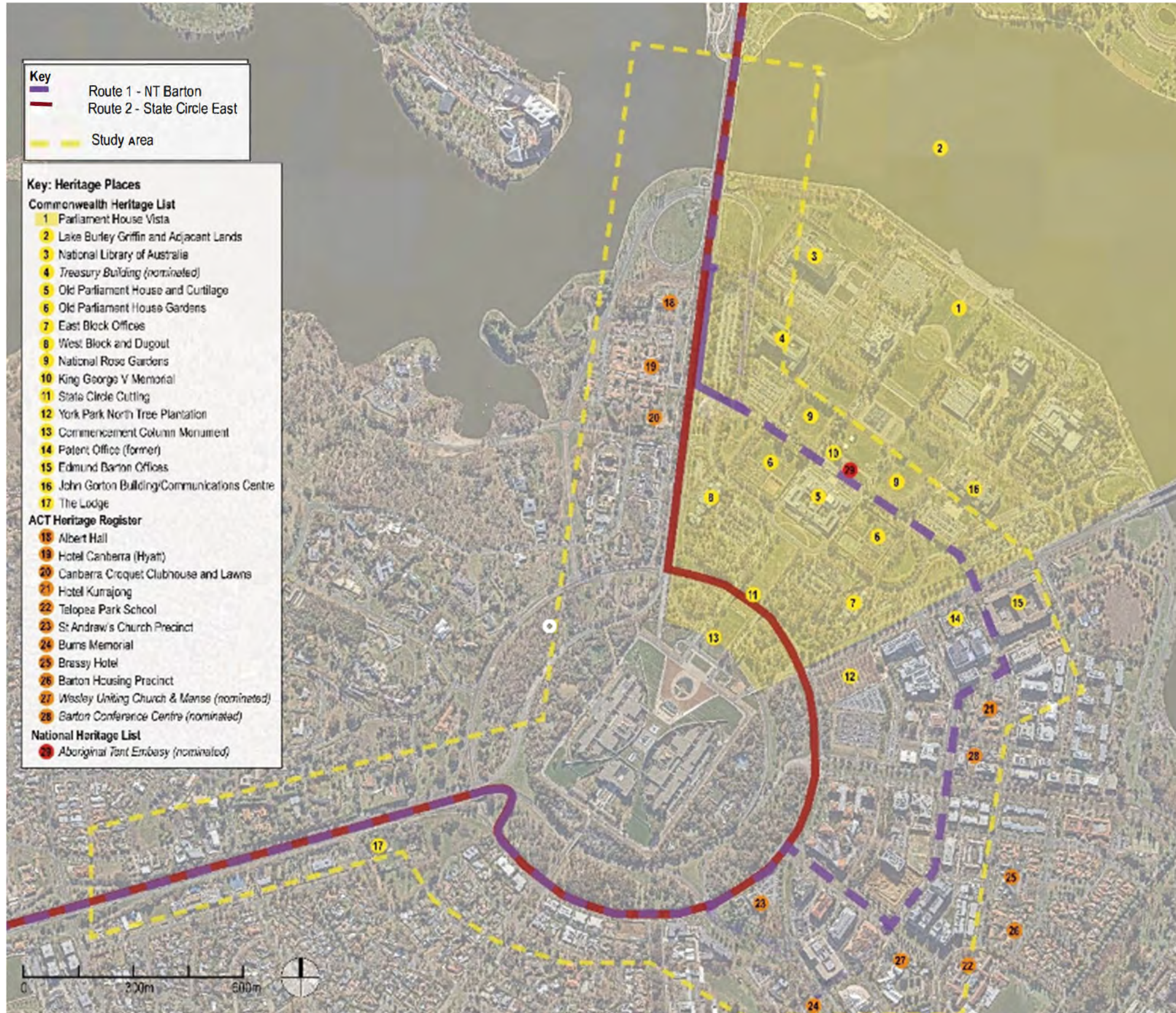


Figure 2-1 Heritage listed and nominated places (CHL, NHL and ACT Heritage Register) within the study area (yellow dotted line). (Source: GML overlay on Nearmap base plan)

2.2.1 Commonwealth and National Heritage Listed Places

Table 2.2 identifies the CHL and NHL places in the study area, with a summary of the heritage significance and attributes relevant to The Project.

Table 2-2 CHL and NHL-listed places within the study area, with a summary of heritage significance and attributes, relevant to The Project.

Place Name/ Location/ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes from citations
<p>Parliament House Vista</p> <p>Anzac Parade, whole of Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle (105466)</p>	<p>a) processes (historic values)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The central national area of Canberra is strongly associated with the history of politics and government in Australia and the development of Canberra as the Australian National Capital. It is significant as the home of the Commonwealth Parliament, the focus of the Federal Government since 1927, initially in the Old Parliament House and from 1988 in the new Parliament House. <p>e) aesthetic characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The place has high aesthetic significance due to the visual impact of the extensive open sweeping vista along the land axis that can be experienced in two directions, the designed axes set within natural features of forested hills, patterns and textures of architectural massing accentuated by planned open spaces, water planes and tree plantings that are arranged across the area. Symmetrical characteristics of the road networks. <p>f) technical achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parliament House Vista is the central designed landscape of Canberra, which expresses the core of the Walter Burley Griffin design vision for Canberra. <p>g) social value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area has strong and special associations with the broad Australian community because of its social values as a symbol of Australia and the Federal Government. <p>h) significant people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The central national area has a special association with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> its designers, Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin; John Smith Murdoch, chief architect of the Commonwealth Government; 	<p>a) processes (historic values)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The concentration of buildings, parklands and gardens that support Commonwealth parliamentary and governmental activity as well as, to some extent, national cultural life. These include Old Parliament House and Curtilage, East Block Government Offices, West Block and the Dugout, John Gorton Building, the National Library of Australia, the High Court of Australia, the National Gallery of Australia, Blundells Farmhouse, Slab Outbuildings and Surrounds, the Australian War Memorial, the Portal Buildings, the High Court–National Gallery Precinct, the Carillon, King George V Memorial, Sculpture Garden of the National Gallery, the National Rose Gardens, Commonwealth Park, the Peace Park, the Lakeshore Promenade and Kings Park and the Aboriginal Embassy site. <p>e) aesthetic characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extensive vista along the land axis, the forested hills, patterns and textures of architectural massing accentuated by planned open spaces, water features and tree plantings, artworks, the terminal features plus the interplay of scale and texture in the designed landscape. <p>f) technical achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole of the vista, including all elements and features contained within it, as well as the natural wooded hills beyond. <p>g) social value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial features including sculptures, plaques, commemorative trees, water features and gardens. Also, recreational landscape spaces and gathering spaces in which the community may demonstrate. <p>h) significant people</p>

GML Heritage

Place Name/ Location/ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes from citations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thomas Charles Weston, Superintendent of Parks, Gardens and Afforestation; and - Notable NCDC planners Sir John Overall, Peter Harrison and Paul Reid. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The whole of the vista, its planned layout, and the view from the top of Mount Ainslie which illustrates the realisation of Marion Mahony Griffin's perspective drawing.
<p>Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands Lady Denman Dr, Yarralumla (CHL: 105230)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents Canberra’s establishment as the national capital, the gradual formation of Lake Burley griffin marked major milestones in the capital city’s creation <p>b) rarity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Burley Griffin is an important exemplar of the City Beautiful and Garden City movements. Canberra is one of the few planned twentieth century cities in Australia and in the world. • The lake forms part of the water axis which Griffin used to arrange city elements and connect surrounding natural features. The grand scale of lake vistas along the water axis and in other areas gifts the National Triangle and city a sense of grandeur and beauty. <p>c) research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to yield information on Australia's history and practice of urban planning, architecture and landscape architecture. Indigenous sites and natural sites are also able to yield important information. <p>d) characteristic values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design exemplar of the City Beautiful Movement and the Garden City Movement. • Lake Burley Griffin is recognised as a beautiful feature of Canberra and as an attractive setting for national institutions. • Appreciated by Canberra community as a beautiful part of their city, and for characteristics such as the formal water basins near the national institutions and Parliament buildings. 	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The significant historic values include, the lake as a whole including its edge treatments, the Commonwealth and Kings Avenue Bridge; the Lake’s contribution to the geometry of Griffin’s plan of Canberra. <p>e) aesthetic characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The large size and varied shape of the lake; the lake's quiet and peaceful areas (particularly the secluded areas in the lower reaches); the water body and surface of the lake (including the maintenance of its water level); and the reflective qualities of the water. <p>f) technical achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The features which express these values include but are not limited to the lake as a whole, Scrivener Dam, Commonwealth and Kings Avenue bridges, the islands within the lake and the lake’s function as part of the water axis. <p>g) social value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The features which express these social values include but are not limited to, the whole of Lake Burley Griffin. <p>h) significant people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include the lake as a whole, including all its designed and engineered elements.

Place Name/ Location/ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes from citations
	<p>f) technical achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purposefully developed to reflect Canberra's function and status as the nation's capital. Lake Burley Griffin also demonstrates a high degree of technical achievement in engineering. The construction of the two bridges and Scrivener Dam were projects which demonstrated high levels of achievement in their time. <p>g) social value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands place is important to various communities as a landmark and as a signature element of Canberra. Lake Burley Griffin is highly valued as an important community gathering place which is also used as a setting for large public events and as a place that represents the realisation of the Griffin design for Canberra. <p>h) significant people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important people involved with the creative and technical aspects of the design and construction of Lake Burley Griffin include Walter Burley Griffin, Marion Mahony Griffin, Charles Scrivener, Sir William Holford, Dame Sylvia Crowe, Richard Clough and the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) and with Sir Robert Menzies 	
<p>Old Parliament House (OPH) and Curtilage</p> <p>King George Terrace, Parkes</p> <p>(CHL: 105318)</p>	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed as the grandest element and central focus of a fully planned capital city. OPH is a place of outstanding heritage values related to its history, design, landscape context, interiors, furnishings, courtyards and gardens, collection of movable items, social values and associations. The relocation of the Parliament to Canberra was the focus of an intense period of development of the nation's capital. The opening of Parliament heralded the symbolic birth of Canberra as the capital. The intended importance of OPH is reflected in its design, its prominent siting in the landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle, and in the treatment of the areas 	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole building, including all additions, plus its setting, design, prominent siting in the landscape of Parliamentary Triangle, and its relationship with the areas around OPH, particularly the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens and the National Rose Gardens. <p>b) rarity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The building's planning which includes legislative and executive functions of government, plus original furniture and documentation. <p>d) characteristic values</p>

Place Name/ Location/ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes from citations
	<p>around OPH, particularly the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens, and the National Rose Garden.</p> <p>b) rarity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Among parliamentary buildings in Australia and in other parts of the western world, OPH is an uncommon place in that it eventually housed both the legislative and executive functions of government. <p>d) characteristic values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OPH is a good example of the Inter-War Stripped Classical style of architecture. The essential character and symmetry of Old Parliament House have remained intact despite several substantial additions <p>e) aesthetic characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OPH is an important landmark in Canberra, Australia's national capital. It is part of the significant cultural landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle, partly reflecting Griffin's design, which placed the Government Group of buildings in this corner of the Triangle. <p>f) technical achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It also represents a significant creative achievement. <p>g) social value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has been a strong symbol of Commonwealth Government in Australia, and of Canberra itself, for many generations of Australians. <p>h) significant people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the home of the Commonwealth Parliament from 1927 until 1988, OPH is significant for its associations with Commonwealth governments, oppositions, political parties, individual politicians and the press. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The building's Inter-War Stripped Classical styling, plus its internal planning, styling, related furniture and fitout. <p>e) aesthetic characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Its stark white colour and symmetry, its siting on the Land Axis, its visual relationship with Parliament House in the north–south vista, and the open landscape between the building and the lake. <p>f) technical achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Its relatively plain yet dignified design. <p>g) social value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole building and its location on the Land Axis and, in particular, the front façade, the entrance portico, King's Hall and the Chambers. <p>h) significant people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The design of the building, which reflects the work of Murdoch and Henderson, plus all internal spaces and furniture, for their association with the people and process of Australian politics.
<p>Old Parliament House and Curtilage King George Terrace, Parkes</p>	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first purpose-built home for the Australian Parliament. It was central to the development of Australia as a nation from its opening in 1927 until the opening of the new Parliament House in 1988. 	<p>Note: attributes are not individually defined by value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The front façade of the building, immediate grassed area to its north, King's Hall and the Chambers. Internal building fabric, collections, furniture, records and features of the building.

Place Name/ Location/ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes from citations
(NHL: 105774)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scene of numerous events, gatherings, protests and demonstrations, including the formal opening in 1927 and the address by the former Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam, on the front steps of the building after his dismissal. <p>b) rarity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPH is uncommon in that it housed both the legislative and executive functions of government. • The House of Representatives Wing provides extensive and relatively intact evidence of the accommodation provided for Members and Ministers. • The former Members' Private Dining Room contains the remains of 1927 hand-painted decorative wall features which are rare. <p>c) research values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant collection of documents—an important source of historical information which include plans, photographs and files that are directly related to the design, construction, use, and alteration of the Chambers and King's Hall. <p>d) characteristic values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example of the Inter War Stripped Classical style, and its variations to include the influence of Garden City ideals, ie courtyards with loggias and pergolas, verandahs, internal courtyards and adjacent gardens. • Central feature of a precinct, which includes East and West Blocks, the Old Parliament House Gardens, Constitutional and Magna Carta Places and the National Rose Gardens. There is some commonality in the design style of the early buildings within this precinct, which reflects a period of increase in Commonwealth Government power and an increase in the public's interest in Canberra. • The adjacent Senate and House of Representatives gardens are a part of the landscape setting (albeit redeveloped). <p>e) aesthetic characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An iconic national landmark that has a major role in the symbolic physical representation of democracy in the Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle. • A major component of public and familiar views of Canberra. Appreciated for its crisp lines, stark white colour, pronounced vertical patterns and classical form. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House of Representatives Wing, former Member's Private Dining Room wall features, records of furniture. • Precinct of OPH and its curtilage, which includes East and West Blocks, the Old Parliament House Gardens, Constitutional and Magna Carta Places and the National Rose Gardens. • Views to and from the building, including towards the Australian War Memorial, and Parliament House. • Modest scale and aesthetic qualities, and the open landscaping and gardens between the building and the lake.

GML Heritage

Place Name/ Location/ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes from citations
	<p>Major contribution as a viewpoint towards the Australian War Memorial and in the other direction to Parliament House.</p> <p>f) technical achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A major component of the Griffins' designed landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle which was designed to hold the principal components of parliamentary government. • Demonstrates a high degree of achievement in combining built features into a designed landscape to achieve an aesthetic purpose. • Significant component of the designed vista along Canberra's Land Axis. The Land Axis is one of the Griffins' main city design components which sets the order of the federal capital's design. <p>g) social value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly associated with events that shaped the political and private lives of prominent individuals in Australia's political and social history. <p>h) significant people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important association with many people, particularly national politicians, Prime Ministers of Australia, prominent individuals and the Commonwealth's first government architect. 	
<p>Old Parliament House Gardens King George Terrace, Parkes (105616)</p>	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associations with the operations of Parliament. • Links to parliamentary wives of 1930s. <p>d) characteristic values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many existing rose specimens are regarded as fine aged species. • Example of international movement of landscape design. <p>e) aesthetic characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the planned aesthetic qualities of Parliamentary Triangle. <p>f) technical achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant as an integral component of the OPH complex. <p>h) significant people</p>	<p>(Note: attributes are not individually defined by value.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The roses, many of which were donations. • The garden as a whole including hedges, trees, garden beds, open lawned areas, formal design layout.

Place Name/ Location/ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes from citations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Association with important figures of parliament as well as Thomas Charles Weston, and Robert Broinowski. 	
<p>National Library of Australia Parkes Place, Parkes (105470)</p>	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important for housing Australia’s book collections, manuscripts, printed materials, tape recordings, painting and other treasures. First permanent purpose built building in the Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle <p>d) characteristic values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example of Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical Style <p>e) aesthetic characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of the significant cultural landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle. Occupies a prominent location, making it one of Canberra’s landmark features. <p>f) technical achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of a significant cultural landscape of the Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle. Harmonious proportions, contributes to the planned aesthetic qualities of the Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle. <p>g) social value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> highly valued by the community for its cultural use as a library, for its national collections and for its exhibitions <p>h) significant people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> regarded as one of the finest works of Australian architect Walter Bunning. 	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole building for being a repository of many of Australia’s valuable books. <p>d) characteristic values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Its Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical Style <p>e) aesthetic characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prominence, location and proportions in the context of the southern foreshore, its planned setting within the Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle, Canberra landmark <p>f) technical achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> location and proportions within the Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle adjacent the lake, Canberra landmark <p>g) social value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use as a public library, publicly accessible parts of the building.
<p>East Block Government Offices Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes (105349)</p>	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important for its association with Federation, as part of Provisional Parliament House group. Accommodated the first post office for Canberra, servicing the city as well as the Parliament, and the first telephone exchange. <p>d) characteristic values</p>	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of the original form, fabric and appearance of the building. <p>d) characteristic values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The building’s Inter-War Stripped Classical style evidenced by symmetrical planning and form, its classical proportions, the low horizontal massing, the simple but dignified detailing (such as cornices,

Place Name/ Location/ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes from citations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed by office of John Smith Murdoch, fine example of Inter-War Stripped Classical style. f) technical achievement • Significant component of Parliament House Secretariat group. Integral component to the Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle landscape. h) significant people • Associations with the relocation phase of the Federal Capital, the planning and architecture of John Smith Murdoch and Walter Burley Griffin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> balustrades, rainwater heads and paving) and its good appearance from all sides. f) technical achievement • The building’s location in relation to West Block, Old Parliament House and the Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle. Also, remnants of the pneumatic tube system. h) significant people • The building’s original architectural form and detail plus its relationship to West Block, Old Parliament House and the Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle.
<p>West Block and the Dugout Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes (105428)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) processes • Important for its association with Federation, as part of Provisional Parliament House group. b) rarity • The group of government buildings is uncommon. Only one other similar formal grouping exists in Australia, and that is the Commonwealth and State offices group in Brisbane, also designed by John Smith Murdoch. d) characteristic values • The building is a fine example of Federal Capital Architecture, a version of Inter-War Stripped Classical style. e) aesthetic characteristics • The unpretentious style of the building with its low horizontal massing, the role of the building as part of a group linked by architectural style and function, and the contribution of the building group as a feature of the designed landscape of the Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle, are significant aesthetic qualities now greatly valued. f) technical achievement • West Block is a significant component of the Parliament House Secretariat group, which also includes East Block and the Provisional Parliament House. h) significant people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) processes • All of the original form and fabric of West Block, and of the Dugout. b) rarity • The location and appearance of West Block in relation to the group and Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle and the Land Axis. d) characteristic values • The building’s original architectural design, including its classical style, proportions, arcaded entrance screens and courtyard arrival points. e) aesthetic characteristics • The external form and appearance of building, plus its landscaped setting, especially in relation to the Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle. f) technical achievement • The appearance and location of the building plus its designed landscape in relation to the group and the Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle h) significant people • The original form and fabric of the building, any remaining evidence of its use as the former National Library plus its architectural styling that demonstrates the involvement of John Smith Murdoch.

Place Name/ Location/ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes from citations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has associations with the formative days of the National Library, the relocation phase of the Federal Capital, the planning and architecture of John Smith Murdoch and Walter Burley Griffin [the Griffins], and the evolution of federal government administration in Canberra. 	
<p>National Rose Gardens King George Terrace, Parkes (105473)</p>	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was conceived in 1926 and opened in 1933, was Australia's first national gardening project and was planned as a physical expression of the principle of cooperation between the Commonwealth and the States. <p>b) rarity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinctive early example of twentieth-century public garden design in a formal style. <p>e) aesthetic characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Its location in front of the (then Provisional, now Old) Parliament House was planned to enhance the setting of the House. The garden is valued by visitors to Canberra as well as the local community for its aesthetic qualities. 	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole of the gardens, their original and evolved layout and all of the roses that have been planted. <p>b) rarity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole garden including its size, design layout and diversity of species. <p>e) aesthetic characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The location of the gardens, especially in relationship to OPH, the beauty of the individual plants, plus their public accessibility.
<p>King George V Memorial King George Terrace (105352)</p>	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The King George V Memorial is a substantial Canberra example of a place that tangibly reflects the importance of the Australian Head of State within the Australian system of government. <p>d) characteristic values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Memorial is, in part, an example and one of seven Canberra examples of interwar Art Deco style architecture. <p>e) aesthetic characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed to be viewed in the round, and not sympathetically located in its present position, the memorial is a significant feature of the Parliament House Vista landscape and provides enframing to the land axis space. <p>h) significant people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Memorial has a special association with George V as Australia's third Head of State, being the major Commonwealth symbol of his service. 	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole memorial plus its physical association with Old Parliament House. <p>d) characteristic values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Its interwar Art Deco style evident in the features noted. <p>e) aesthetic characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole memorial and its location within the land axis. <p>h) significant people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> References to, and portrayal of, George V plus the whole memorial as the work of Rayner Hoff.

GML Heritage

Place Name/ Location/ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes from citations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant for its association with the sculptor Rayner Hoff. 	
<p>State Circle Cutting State Circle, Parkes (105733)</p>	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The unconformity at the Cutting is a significant geological feature, and along with the nearby Capital Hill feature, provides keys to the interpretation of the ancient geological landscape in the Canberra region. <p>b) rarity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The place is one of the few sites that exposes the Early Silurian unconformity. <p>d) characteristic value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site is a geological benchmark site for the Early to Mid-Silurian age of the Canberra region. 	<p>(Note: attributes are not individually defined by value.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole cutting, located immediately adjacent to traffic lanes in State Circle at Capital Hill between Commonwealth Avenue and Kings Avenue.
<p>York Park North Tree Plantation Kings Avenue, Barton (105242)</p>	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inaugural planting carried out by HRH the Duke of York in 1927 as part of the celebrations associated with the opening of Provisional Parliament House. <p>b) rarity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The formal arrangement of oak plantation and the use of a large number of a single species. <p>d) characteristic value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is significant as the only one of the six plantations proposed for Canberra in the 1920–1930s that is still remaining largely intact. 	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of the trees plus the grid spacing, plus the total size of the plantation. The specific tree planted by HRH the Duke of York is particularly significant. <p>b) rarity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the same species, plus the grid spacing, plus total size of plantation. <p>d) characteristic value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The specific location, dimensions, tree spacing and tree species of the coppice.
<p>Commencement Column Monument Federation Mall (105347)</p>	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The foundation stones of the never-completed Commencement Column are significant for their historical association with the selection of a site for the federal capital of Australia. <p>g) social value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Though moved from their original location, the foundation stones of the never-completed Commencement Column are of symbolic significance to the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The three foundation stones and their inscriptions.

Place Name/ Location/ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes from citations
	<p>Australian community for their commemorating the official selection, foundation and naming of Canberra as the national capital.</p> <p>h) significant people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The foundation stones are significant for their association with important figures in the foundation of Canberra, including John Smith Murdoch, designer of the intended Commencement Column and of Old Parliament House. 	
<p>Patent Office (former) Kings Avenue, Barton (105454)</p>	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The former Patent Office is a historically significant building which expresses the decision to build permanent and monumental structures in Canberra. The placement of the service in the ACT and the construction of a purpose-built building demonstrated Parliament's decision to secure the future of Australia's fledgling capital. <p>d) characteristic values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The former Patent Office is one of the few public buildings of its era in the federal capital. The design is conservative, eclectic and evocative of the period. <p>e) aesthetic characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The building's aesthetic qualities, along with other heritage and architecturally significant buildings, contribute to the monumental architectural character of the streetscape of Kings Avenue, one of the boundaries of the Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle. <p>f) technical achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The building is important as a dignified expression of its design style. 	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole building, including its high-quality design and materials, plus strength of architectural expression. <p>d) characteristic values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The building's architectural style evident in its form, fabric and detail, in particular the elements noted. <p>e) aesthetic characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The building's streetscape characteristics. <p>f) technical achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The building's scale, form, character, design style and details including the decorated zinc spandrel panels below the steel framed windows, the sandstone ashlar external walls, the bronze lanterns at the entry points and the entrance vestibules with their marble finishes and doors.
<p>Edmund Barton Offices Kings Avenue, Barton (105476)</p>	<p>b) rarity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of post-tensioned precast concrete and 'T' beams is now rare in Australia. <p>d) characteristic values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The building, constructed from 1969 to 1974, is an outstanding example of the Late Twentieth-Century International Style of architecture in Australia and is the largest such example in the National Capital. <p>e) aesthetic characteristics</p>	<p>b) rarity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The concrete structural elements. <p>d) characteristic values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quadrangular form with contrasting circular vertical access cores, the expression of the structural system, the controlled use of architectural materials and detailing, and the use of plain wall surfaces devoid of superficial ornamentation. <p>e) aesthetic characteristics</p>

Place Name/ Location/ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes from citations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The building creates a strong, elegant presence on the Kings Avenue and, with the strong horizontal patterns of the concrete 'I' beams and windows, contributes to the articulation of Kings Avenue vista. <p>f) technical achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Edmund Barton Offices are significant for their technically innovative structural system employed with its the precast post-tensioned 'T' floor beams supported by precast post-tensioned 'I' spandrel beams. <p>h) significant people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harry Seidler, who designed the building, is recognised as one of Australia's leading architects of the modern movement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The horizontal patterning of the 'I' beams, extensive paved areas, features of the monumental sculptures and ground level spaces that contribute to the aesthetics of the courtyards by providing a backdrop of horizontal framed views of street trees and the open ground floor exposing the structural system as an aesthetic feature. <p>f) technical achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative structural system employed with its the precast post-tensioned 'T' floor beams supported by precast post-tensioned 'I' spandrel beams. <p>h) significant people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The structural architecture and sculptures.
<p>The Lodge 5 Adelaide Avenue, Deakin (105452)</p>	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lodge is the official residence constructed in 1925–1927 to house the Prime Minister of Australia and his or her family. • It has historic importance for the association it holds with the lives of its 14 resident prime ministers, the national politics with which they were involved, their personalities, the impact they had on The Lodge, and the official guests that the prime ministers and their wives hosted at The Lodge. <p>b) rarity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lodge is significant as a unique place in Australia. <p>c) research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lodge is significant as a site of research value. <p>d) characteristic values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With its studied proportions and finely executed details, the two-storey rendered brick building is an important example of the official residences built in Canberra in the 1920s. <p>e) aesthetic characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The residence and grounds are valued by many, as one of Canberra's features as a nationally important and attractive property. <p>f) technical achievement</p>	<p>a) processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The whole of the building, its architectural styling, its location and the extensive garden, plus movable items including paintings, china figures, silverware, ceramics, furniture, sculptures, memorabilia and artefacts collected by or donated to past prime ministers. <p>b) rarity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The whole of the place that demonstrates its purpose-built nature as the Prime Minister's residence. <p>c) research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The building, its gardens and any research documentation or artefacts held on site. <p>d) characteristic values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The building's proportions and details that demonstrate Colonial Revival and Georgian styling including symmetrical façade, simplicity, use of arches, round headed windows and delicate corner porches. <p>e) aesthetic characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The residence and grounds, in particular the garden design, plantings, memorial trees and artworks. <p>f) technical achievement</p>

Place Name/ Location/ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes from citations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a building developed for the new federal capital, The Lodge reflects the designers' appreciation for the importance of its setting. <p>g) social value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lodge remains to this day one of the primary landmarks in Canberra symbolising the presence of the prime minister, and his importance demonstrated in the location of the residence on a main road near Capital Hill. <p>h) significant people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lodge is significant for its close association with 14 of Australia's 25 Prime Ministers, their wives and families (as at June 2002 [time of listing]). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The building's relationship to its setting, plus the alterations, additions and internal finishes to public areas carried out in the 1980s. <p>g) social value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The residence's prominent location, plus glimpses of the house from the public realm. <p>h) significant people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole of the residence and grounds.

2.2.2 ACT Heritage Register Places

Table 2.3 identifies the places within the study area included in the ACT Heritage Register, and the key attributes 'features intrinsic' which are relevant to this project. Under the ACT Heritage Register, heritage significance is shown as being present in features intrinsic to the heritage significance'.

Table 2-3 ACT Heritage Register places within the study area.

Place Name/Location /ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes (intrinsic features) from the citations
Albert Hall Commonwealth Ave, Yarralumla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime example of public architecture of the foundational federal capital era of 1911 to 1939. As with OPH, Albert Hall expresses the aim for a distinctive architectural character for Canberra equal to its role as the national capital. Aesthetic significance is embodied in the architecture, the landscape and the interior design of the place. Embodies the early life of the federal capital, a life characterised by community involvement in civic events, and in the national and community life of the early capital. Publicly constructed place of gathering for the federal and local community of Canberra. It is notable as one of a number of halls constructed within the early federal capital. A landmark adjacent to the Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle and the thoroughfare from City Hill to Parliament House. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Albert Hall, including original exterior elements; b) the early interior fabric including furnishings and fittings, projection facilities and associated equipment, suspended light fittings and parquet floor; c) two Atlantic cedars (<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>) to the east of the hall; d) the remaining elements of the former rose garden; e) the sun dial and pedestal to the east of the hall; f) the three Pinus sp. and three London plane trees (<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>) to the south of the hall; g) the historical boundary of the Albert Hall as shown on the attached site plan;

GML Heritage

Place Name/Location /ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes (intrinsic features) from the citations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • h) the adjacent landscape and its historical setting, including views and vistas to the former Hotel Canberra, Lake Burley Griffin and Commonwealth Avenue; • i) the road verges and plantings contained therein to the east, west and south of Block 1 Section 39 Yarralumla; and • j) the original entrance loop road from Commonwealth Avenue.
<p>Canberra Croquet Clubhouse and Lawns Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Croquet Club operated as a 'women only' sporting club from 1928 to 1975. This club was one of the few early social focal points for women associated with parliamentarians and government officials. • The club remains the only croquet club in the ACT. • The clubhouse and lawns contribute to the historic streetscape along Commonwealth Avenue, which includes the architecturally important Hyatt Hotel Canberra and Albert Hall. • The croquet lawn was once part of the outdoor facilities provided for guests at the Hotel Canberra in 1923. • The croquet lawns are intrinsic to the landscape setting of the Hotel Canberra. The design of the club house and associated structures reflect the Federal Capital Architecture style of the adjacent hotel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) the croquet lawns; • b) the clubhouse; • c) the furniture fixtures and fittings around the lawn; and • d) those trees within the property boundary proposed for listing.
<p>St Andrew's Church Precinct State Circle, Forrest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A notable example of an ecclesiastical precinct due to it being designed as a complex reflecting the history of the Presbyterian Church and the parish in the national capital. • Opened in 1934, it is one of the largest and most ornate interwar Gothic style buildings in the ACT. Style emphasises verticality and traditional European ecclesiastical design. • Stained glass windows by notable artist Norman Carter as well as the first Australian-trained stained glass window artist, John Radecki. Use of stone cladding and ornate decorations gives the church a sense of age drawing inspiration from the past. • The manse, opened in 1928, also draws inspiration from the past with its interwar Georgian Revival style reinterpreting early Scottish settler estates in the region. • Developed during the formation of the ACT and was the Presbyterian Church's aspiration to provide a national denominational monument in the new capital. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the existing Church of St Andrew, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - its visual prominence on the block; - the cruciform layout; - the large, open interior space; and - the interwar Gothic architectural style. • the existing St Andrew's House (the Manse), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Inter-War Georgian Revival style architectural style. • the Caretaker's Cottage, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the buttressing; and - the modest styling and scale; • the existing mature plantings, including:

Place Name/Location /ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes (intrinsic features) from the citations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notable figures in ACT and national history have strong associations through benefaction and as members of the parish. Notable for its association as the last charge of Australia's first and last female Presbyterian minister, Rev. Joy Bartholomew. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the curved triangular planting pattern representing the original layout of the block and surrounding roads.
<p>Hotel Canberra Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla (Interim Listing)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hotel Canberra has historical, social and architectural significance relating to the early years of Canberra's development. Built as the first hostel (Hostel No. 1), it formed part of the early visual and social fabric of the developing city. Important for its role in providing residential accommodation for Members of Parliament during the formative years of Canberra. One of a number of buildings designed by the Commonwealth Architect JS Murdoch in the Garden-Pavilion style peculiar to Canberra. It exemplifies the design attributes of the Federal Capital at that time, in particular the garden city concept of Walter Burley Griffin. It is important for its contribution to an understanding of early Canberra architecture. The plan and elevation of the building combine with the architectural detailing to produce a building complex of considerable aesthetic appeal. The garden design by Thomas Weston still retains much of the original plantings and layout. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the central building and its interior; b) the associated pavilions and courtyards; and c) the garden setting.
<p>National Rose Garden King George Terrace, Parkes (This is a heritage place included in the CHL. The ACT Heritage Register entry is an anomaly and has no statutory effect while in Commonwealth ownership.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant to the ACT and to the nation for its historical, horticultural and aesthetic values. Developed as Australia's first nation-wide gardening venture. Provides a physical expression to the principle of Commonwealth and State cooperation. The development of the gardens provided an interest for Australians in developing Canberra, the national capital, as a Garden City. In horticultural terms, the gardens exhibit the best varieties of Australian-grown and overseas roses in a favourable climate. Special association with Thomas Weston, first Superintendent of Parks and Gardens in Canberra. The memorial cypress planting and the poplars marking the entry positions are remnants of his original plan and planting. His ashes were scattered in the park opposite OPH. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) rose beds laid out in a pattern to symbolise the petals of a fully opened rose; b) mature evergreen and deciduous trees; and c) lawn areas.

GML Heritage

Place Name/Location /ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes (intrinsic features) from the citations
<p>Hotel Kurrajong, Barton 8 National Circuit, Barton</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hotel Kurrajong has historical, social, and architectural significance relating to the early years of Canberra’s development. Built as the second hostel (after the Hotel Canberra), formed part of the early fabric of the developing Canberra. It played a significant role in the Federal Capital Commission’s building program in providing hostel accommodation for administrative staff and officials and their families who were transferred to Canberra for the opening of Parliament. Important for its role in providing residential accommodation for Members of Parliament, particularly those in the Labor Party, for almost half a century. Special association with the life of Ben Chifley who was a resident at the Hotel for eleven years including his term as Prime Minister of Australia. One of a number of buildings designed particularly for Canberra by the Commonwealth Architect John Smith Murdoch in the Garden Pavilion style. It exemplifies the design attributes of the Federal Capital, particularly the garden city concept of Walter Burley Griffin, and is important for its contribution to an understanding of early Canberra Architecture. The garden setting was set out by the Superintendent of Parks and Gardens Thomas Charles Weston and still retains most of the original plantings including the formal double avenue of oaks and plane trees and the coniferous plantings that dominate the frontal aspect of the building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scale, massing and position of the building on the site The pre 1948 fabric (refer to CMP, 2004); The landscape setting, designed by the first Superintendent of Parks and Gardens in the ACT, Thomas Charles Weston, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the avenues of plane and oak trees which line gravel paths along the site boundaries. the mature pines along the National Circuit frontage, the hedges and shrubs which define the edges of the building; and the formal landscaping to the front of the hotel which includes an open lawn, several mature conifers, and a central elliptical rose garden.
<p>Teloepa Park School 25 New South Wales Crescent, Barton</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teloepa Park School is significant as one of the first public buildings undertaken by the Federal Capital Advisory Committee and as the first public school completed by the Commonwealth, in 1923, for the new capital city. The school has been the focus for the provision of a range of education services in the early years of Canberra including infant, primary, secondary, tertiary and adult education, and now offers a unique bilingual English-French education. Also significant for the quality of its architectural design by then Commonwealth Architect, John Smith Murdoch. The 1920s buildings exhibit special design features in response to their function as a school. The school’s design in its setting is significant, not only for the position of the 1920s buildings facing Griffin’s axis along Sydney Avenue to Capitol Hill, but also for its setting within the broader Barton landscape. The school’s landscaping is significant with its oval/s and perimeter tree plantings, in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1920s buildings’ special design features in response to their function as a school, with the gable ended tile-roofed block, and an L-shaped, hipped roof pavilion on each side, with an ornate roof. ventilator, and two storey wings, with fine gabled sections with arched small-paned windows and decorative wrought-iron balconies. Symmetry on axis, centred on the Griffin axis along Sydney Avenue of the 1920s buildings. Landscape setting with ovals and tree plantings, within the broader Barton landscape.

Place Name/Location /ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes (intrinsic features) from the citations
	<p>sympathy with the overall Griffin plan for this area of Canberra and Weston's plantings of adjacent Telopea Park and the Barton Garden City suburb.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school is also of significance for its role in the education of later Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam, from 1928–1931. 	
Burns Memorial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important associations with the life of early Canberra. It symbolises the contribution made by those people of Scottish descent, to Australia's settlement and development. It symbolises the loyalty and affection in which Scottish communities in Australia held the poet Robert Burns and Scotland at the time. The memorial has been a significant landmark in Canberra for over 60 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a bronze statue and its immediate environment.
Brassey Hotel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brassey Hotel is significant for its design, which exhibits influences of American Colonial architecture. The proportions, materials and details of extensions to the hotel have followed the design of the original building to form a complex of consistent architectural character. Brassey Hotel was the only Federal Capital Commission (FCC) hostel of this style in Canberra. Brassey Hotel with its garden setting and axial placement at the end of Belmore Gardens makes a major contribution to the urban environment of the Barton residential area, itself a registered heritage place, which was developed contemporaneously with Brassey Hotel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The place comprises the hotel building and surrounding landscape.
Barton Housing Precinct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Garden City heritage precincts of Alt Crescent, Barton, Blandfordia 5, Braddon, Corroboree Park, Forrest, Kingston/Griffith, Reid and Wakefield Gardens collectively and individually demonstrate the early principles of Garden City planning The heritage precincts also demonstrate historical and social aspects of the detailed planning and construction of early Canberra by the FCAC, FCC and DOI. Additional values specific to the Barton Garden City heritage precinct are: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An early c20th 'Garden City' planned subdivision A distinct pattern of housing development and landscape demonstrating early Federal Capital planning philosophy for the provision of low-density public housing The Federal Capital architectural style/character of the original public housing. Historic remnants of the original street furniture including street signs, fire hydrants and footpath lighting and other elements including kerbs and gutters and examples of brick drains within some verges.

GML Heritage

Place Name/Location /ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes (intrinsic features) from the citations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The first stage of the precinct was constructed 1926-1927 to meet the urgent need to provide housing for public servants prior to the opening of the provisional Parliament House in 1927. - The precinct contains examples of original privately built houses designed by early local architects Mitchell, Sproule and Oliphant. - The public domain landscape is associated with the horticultural work of Thomas Charles Weston who was Canberra's first Superintendent of Parks and Gardens. The species used are typical of Weston's choice of planting for Canberra. - The precinct is associated with Walter Burley Griffin's original plan for Canberra. - Telopea Park was an integral part of Griffin's plan with residential areas zoned at each side. - The precinct was a part of John Sulman's 'initial city' at Kingston prior to the establishment of the existing city centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mature public and private treescape of historic, aesthetic, natural and amenity values.

2.2.3 Commonwealth and National Heritage List Nominated Places

Table 2.4 includes places nominated to the CHL and NHL. The identified heritage values of these places should be managed as part of the project, and following best heritage practice. The table includes summary extracts from the nomination citations, that are relevant to the project. Where a place has identified Commonwealth Heritage values, the EPBC Act stipulates that the owner or manager of that place should manage the values in accordance with the Commonwealth Heritage management principles.

Table 2-4 Places nominated to the CHL and NHL within the study area, with a summary of heritage significance and attributes.

Place Name/Location/ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes from the citations
<p>Treasury Building King Edward Terrace (106258) Nomination to the Commonwealth Heritage List</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Treasury Building is a good example of the interwar Stripped Classical style. 	<p>Note: attributes are not individually defined by value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symmetrical façades, the division of the elevations into vertical bays; the occasional use of correct Classical details; the use of a basic Classical column form; the expressed porticos, the simple surface treatments, and subdued spandrels between the storeys which emphasise verticality.
<p>Aboriginal Tent Embassy King George Terrace (105836) Nomination to the National Heritage List (This is a place currently included within the Commonwealth Heritage Listing for Parliament House Vista.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Its establishment on 27 January 1972 was a defining event, which took Aboriginal rights to the international arena. It challenges the sovereignty of Australia. It is the first national protest uniting the Aboriginal cause. Represents the ongoing Aboriginal struggle and is a major part of Australia's political heritage. It has played an important role in the struggle to end racial discrimination, the introduction of land rights legislation, introduction of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cwlth) and the recognition of Aboriginal sovereignty. It is a place of living ceremony for open and face-to-face communication between Aboriginal people and Australian and international visitors. The Sacred Fire for Peace and Justice on the Land Axis provides spiritual healing and inspiration. 	<p>Note: attributes are not individually defined by value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the Aboriginal Tent Embassy as a place rather than any structures that are important.

GML Heritage

Place Name/Location/ID	Summary—heritage significance from citations	Summary—relevant attributes from the citations
<p>Canberra the Planned National Capital</p> <p>This is the title of two national heritage list nominations.</p> <p>Amalgamation of two nominations to the National Heritage List were made in 2009. The nominations were assessed together. The nomination was rejected by Minister for the Environment in April 2022.</p>	<p>Canberra—Central National Area and Inner Hills (106100)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canberra as a national capital through its inception and early development represents an outstanding and unique achievement in town planning and social idealism of the early twentieth century. It stands as a significant milestone in the application of the utopian ideal of conceiving and building a new city reflective of Australia’s democratic principles based on contemporary early international twentieth-century planning in terms of the City Beautiful and Garden City, with their aesthetic and social foundations. In the 1911 International Competition for the Federal Capital, results of which were announced in 1912, the winning entry submitted by Walter Burley Griffin with its City Beautiful inspiration formed the initial design format for the city, supplemented by his 1913 and 1918 amendments. The changes to a Garden City model initiated by John Sulman in 1921–1924 overlay Griffin’s structure, but do not obliterate it. Canberra’s significance is also underpinned by the fact that it is a city not like any other area in that it embodies within its structure the contemporary town planning principles of the day that were the focus of expert thought and practice, nationally and internationally. Its significance is further underpinned in the way it was seen as a national role model of planning and civic achievement, where the civic ideal was regarded as critical to successful city development. <p>Canberra and Surrounding Areas (106074)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding significance for the people of Australia because it was planned and constructed to symbolise, and function as, the epicentre of Australian democracy. Hosts many of the nation’s most significant social, cultural institutions and commemorative events, for example Australia Day, Anzac Day, the apology to the Stolen Generations, and for public rallies and protests. 	<p>Note: attributes are not individually defined under the assessment criteria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The central national area including and surrounding Lake Burley Griffin, the inner hills and 1920s garden city suburbs. <p>Note: attributes are not individually defined under the assessment criteria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Triangle and Parliamentary Zone, with the Land Axis vista stretching between Parliament House and the Australian War Memorial against the backdrop of Mount Ainslie. Lake Burley Griffin and its landscaped foreshores. The main approach roads and grand tree-lined avenues identified in Griffin’s plan. The National Capital Open Space System including Hills, Rivers and Buffer Spaces, the River Corridors, and the Mountains and Bushlands; forming a continuum of natural and park-like settings, preserving a visual and symbolic backdrop for the national capital, reinforcing the natural, cultural, scenic and recreational values of the ACT. Extant elements of the 1918 Griffin Plan and the 1925 Gazetted Plan which have set the framework for Central Canberra, including the avenues, open spaces, structures, axial lines and subdivision geometries (many of which are not covered by the National Capital Plan). Early garden suburbs of the FCAC and FCC, and other prototypical suburbs in Central Canberra by subsequent planning agencies up to 1984. The building height restrictions in Central Canberra, limiting building heights to below the base of the flag pole on Parliament House at the apex of the Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle, to preserve the primacy of the major public buildings and a dominant landscape horizon, and giving Canberra a distinct identity as a horizontal city subservient to the landscape. The peripheral parkways dispersing the peak traffic around the new towns, in scenic landscape corridors, rather than through the urban neighbourhoods.

2.3 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values

To assess the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the proposed routes, consultation with the four recognised RAOs in the ACT is normally required to afford them an opportunity to participate in the assessment and management of their own cultural heritage.

Consultation was not undertaken as part of the 2018 Aboriginal Heritage Desktop Study and was recommended to be conducted as part of future studies in the assessment process.

An important Aboriginal cultural place within the study area is the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, which has identified heritage values, through its nomination to the NHL, and as an inclusion in the CHL citation for the Parliament House Vista (discussed in Tables 2.2 and 2.3). Also, Capital Hill is a well-known Aboriginal cultural site.

Consultation with representative Aboriginal community groups should be undertaken and should follow the Ask First Guidelines. Community consultation would provide clarity on the cultural heritage significance specific to the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in the study area.

Further investigation would also provide greater understanding of the areas of Aboriginal archaeological potential in the study area.

2.4 The Designed Cultural Landscape

In addition to the listed and identified heritage places, the study area, particularly the National Triangle (the land bounded by Constitution Avenue, Kings Avenue and Commonwealth Avenue), is a designed cultural landscape. The implementation of the Griffins' Plan for the development of Canberra as the national capital is physically represented by the historic, aesthetic and physical characteristics of the designed landscape in the central national area, as identified in the nomination of 'Canberra, the Planned National Capital' to the NHL.

The National Capital Plan defines the 'Central National Area', as the place that is the designed, historic urban landscape area including the Parliamentary Zone and its setting; Lake Burley Griffin and Foreshores; the Australian National University; the Australian Defence Force Academy; Duntroon; Campbell Park and Canberra Airport/RAAF Base Fairbairn. Also included are diplomatic lands at Yarralumla, O'Malley, West Deakin and Red Hill.¹ Further information can be found in the NCP.

The historic layer of the National Capital Development Commission's (NCDC) planning is also representative in the landscape; however, the NCDC period of development through the 1950s–1970s is less well documented than the Griffin planning and Federal Capital Commission development phases.

Most of the study area physically demonstrates characteristics that are fundamental to, and representative of the heritage significance of the designed, historic urban landscape, noted in the NHL nomination 'Canberra, the Planned National Capital' (an amalgamation of two similar nominations).

Examples of these heritage values are also included in the NCP (2016 version²), including the:

- National Triangle, a representative and symbolic demonstration of Australian national life and values;
- central national area, its landscape features, which give the national capital its character and setting, and which contribute to the integration of natural and urban environments;
- key elements of the Griffins' formally adopted plan for Canberra;

GML Heritage

- creation, conservation and enhancement of fitting sites, approaches and backdrops for national institutions and ceremonies as well as national capital uses; and
- unique purpose, setting, character and symbolism of Australia's national capital.³

Further explanations, and updated text is included in the 2021-2023 NCP
<https://www.nca.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-06/national_capital_plan_rev_June_2021-2023_0.pdf>

2.5 Endnotes

- ¹ National Capital Authority, Consolidated National Capital Plan, Part Four(A) – Principles And Policies For Designated Areas And Special Requirements For National Land Outside Designated Areas.
- ² National Capital Authority, National Capital Plan, May 2016, p 12.
- ³ Transport Canberra Light Rail Update June 2018 report, p 52.

3.0 Proposed Action

3.1 Introduction

Light Rail Stage 2b is approximately 10km of track that extends from the Commonwealth Park light rail terminus in Parkes on the northern side of Lake Burley Griffin, via the Parliamentary Zone and continuing on Adelaide Avenue and Yarra Glen to a proposed Callam Street terminus in Woden. It is not known if light rail for both routes is wire free, or the location of construction compounds/stabling yards.

The alignment for the whole extent of the project between Commonwealth Park and Woden, as well as the location of the existing depot which will require expansion to accommodate additional LRVs and facilities.

The study area referred in this report is Parliamentary Zone, Barton and Capital Hill area. It does not include Adelaide Avenue or the northern or the south-western side of Lake Burley Griffin or Mitchell Stabling Yard. As previously noted, the two route options proposed are: Route 1, P–Barton and, State Circle East. These options are described below and shown in the following figures, that also identifies the heritage places in the vicinity of the routes, that may be subject to potential impacts.

Due to the relatively early, investigative stage of the project, the route options have not been detailed in their design or level of construction works required, and therefore the discussion remains high-level and focused on the corridor of Routes 1 and 2, and a general understanding of the proposed work activities.

3.2 Overall Design and Construction

It is understood, from Major Projects Canberra, that the key features of the Project would include:

- About 10 kilometres (km) of light rail track between Commonwealth Park and Woden Town Centre including nine stops
- Two alignment options being considered through the National Triangle including:
 - an alignment through National Triangle-Barton, which would follow King George Terrace, Macquarie Street, Bligh Street, National Circuit and Sydney Avenue, before connecting with State Circle (Figure 3-1)
 - an alignment along State Circle East (see **Figure 3-2**). **Figure 3-2** shows two options being considered to connect to Adelaide Avenue, either from State Circle or Capital Circuit
- A new light rail bridge on Commonwealth Avenue over Lake Burley Griffin
- Landscaping features consistent with the prescribed outcomes in the NCP and what was envisioned by the Griffins' plan for Canberra
- Track infrastructure, including wire-free areas from the approved Stage 2A stop at Commonwealth Park through the Parliamentary Zone. The final endpoint of wire-free travel would be determined during detailed design
- Road network alterations to accommodate the Project
- Integration with the wider active and public transport network
- Dedicated traction power substations to provide electricity for the Project
- Upgrade of the existing stabling depot and maintenance facility in Mitchell to accommodate additional light rail vehicles

GML Heritage

- Rail systems infrastructure, including inground service routes, wayside cabinets, and communications systems.

There would be additional implications during the construction phase including:

- the establishment of construction compounds, worksites and stockpiles—including:
 - site offices, crib sheds, amenities, ablutions and project parking;
 - temporary storage of plant, equipment, materials, and any potential waste; and
- off corridor compounds for bridge works, possible use of existing boat ramps and access to areas with nearby utilities for easier connections;
- the erection of fencing, illustrated hoarding, barricades, gates and security lighting for the provision of safe and secure worksites;
- traffic disruptions associated with traffic management measures (road diversions/closures) and/or construction traffic;
- removal of existing trees;
- earthworks; and
- use of construction plant and equipment.¹

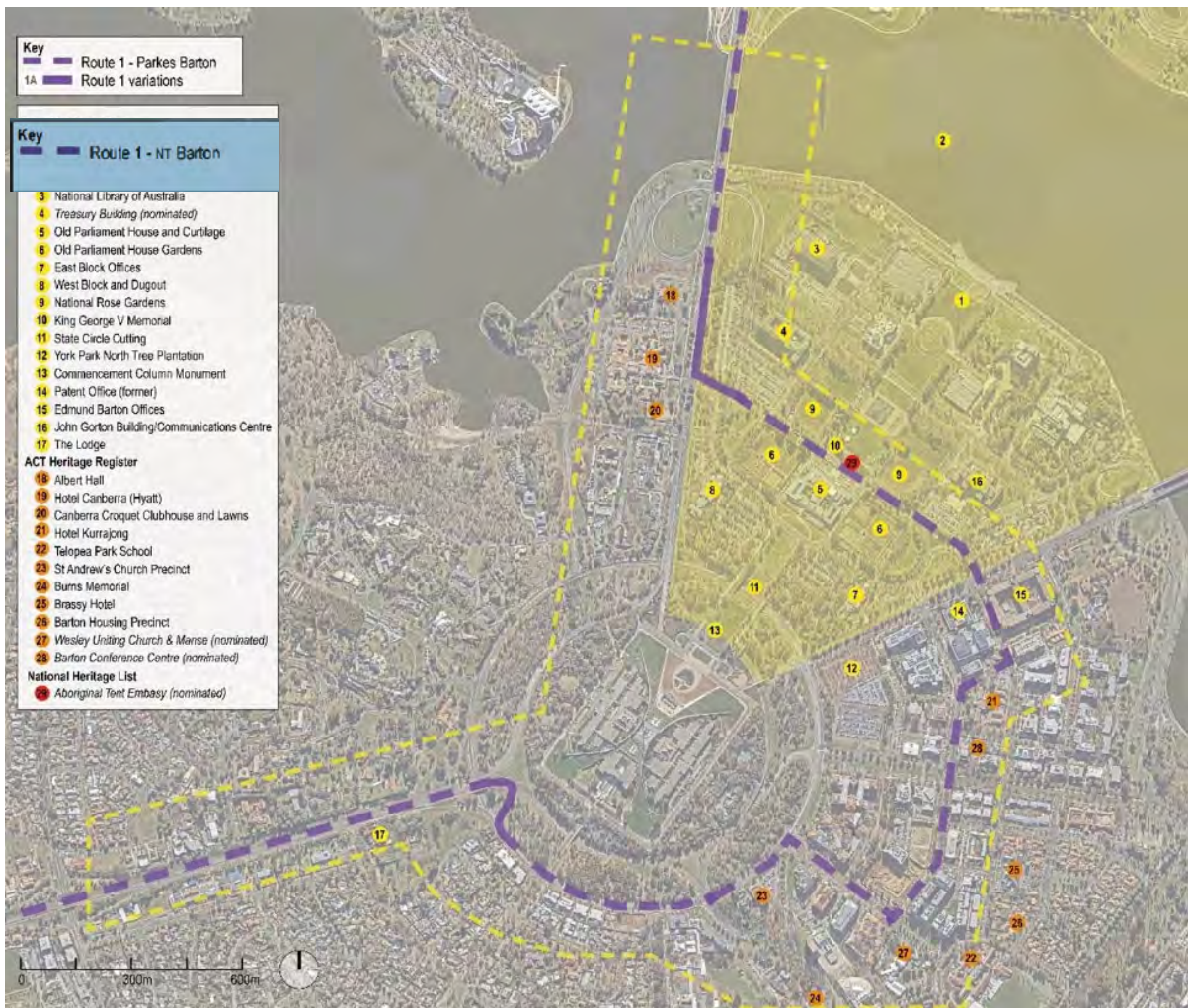


Figure 3-1 Route 1 National Triangle Barton—map showing heritage places in the vicinity (Source: GML overlay on Google Earth base plan 2023)



Figure 3-2 Route 2—State Circle East showing heritage places in the vicinity. Note the NHL nominated place for ‘Canberra, the Planned National Capital’ is not shown. (Source: GML overlay on Nearmap base plan, 2023)

3.3 Existing Design Considerations

A range of existing design considerations have been incorporated into The Project, which would assist in reducing the type and level of heritage impact. Current design considerations by Major Projects Canberra include:

- the design of the light rail stops to be visually and physically unobtrusive in the landscape, including potential ‘minimalist’ surface stops, integrated into the existing landscape;
- construction of tracks within the ground to be seamless where possible, with varying landscaping treatments (ie grass or paving, where relevant);

- ensuring the light rail is wire-free through the Parliamentary Zone (including across Commonwealth Avenue Bridge, through to the first section of Adelaide Avenue) to minimise visual impacts;
- replanting and landscaping strategies; and
- the removal of private vehicle access from King George Terrace, encouraging pedestrian use.

The 2018 Light Rail Update Report identifies that the community supports a route alignment that travels through Parkes and Barton to better connect education, cultural and employment hubs in south Canberra.²

3.4 Endnotes

¹ Transport Canberra Light Rail Update June 2018 report, p 52.

² Transport Canberra Light Rail Update June 2018 report, p 18.

4.0 Identification of Potential Heritage Impacts

4.1 Introduction

The Project has the potential to significantly impact heritage values of places in, or near to, the proposed routes. The potential heritage impacts take many forms—they may be direct or indirect, cumulative, temporary and permanent, reversible or irreversible, visual, physical, social and cultural.

This section describes the methodology for assessing the potential heritage impacts (Section 4.2) and a high-level preliminary heritage impact assessment of the proposal for light rail to cross over Commonwealth Avenue Bridge, and pass through the Parliamentary Zone and Barton (Route 1), or via State Circle (Route 2), around Capital Hill (Section 4.3).

There are numerous heritage-listed and nominated heritage places in the study area, which are referred to, in a combined way, as the ‘heritage values of the study area’. However, determining which route has a lesser, or greater degree of impact on the heritage values, over another route, is more complex than considering the number of places listed along the particular route. Also, at this early stage where the design details, such as wire-free light rail, the extent of excavation, alteration to road alignments, removal of historic trees, etc, are not known, and this also makes it difficult to determine the degree and intensity of heritage impacts associated with each route.

4.2 Method for Assessment of Potential Heritage Impacts

Potential impacts have been assessed according to a methodology which addresses the identified heritage values and attributes when exposed to the project works (during construction and following completion).

This methodology is intended to provide a high-level indication of the potential impacts. Further analysis of heritage impacts should be undertaken following the determination of the ideal route and development of additional detailed design documentation.

Future, comprehensive heritage impact assessments (HIAs) should follow the same impact assessment criteria.

Table 4-1 Outline methodology for assessing heritage impacts arising from the project (two proposed routes).

Heritage Places	Key heritage values and attributes	Discussion—Potential heritage impacts
List of heritage places along the route.	Summary of values and attributes specific to the route, with potential to be affected by the proposed development (drawn from the official citations, as discussed in Tables 2.2–2.4).	<p>What are the potential impacts from the proposed action/s?</p> <p>Type/s of potential heritage impacts:</p> <p>What are the types of impacts which may occur?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indirect/direct; • cumulative/temporary/permanent; • reversible/irreversible; • cultural/social/symbolic (eg: tangible and intangible); and • visual/physical (eg: location, form, function, character, scale).

4.3 Analysis of heritage impacts associated with Route 1 and Route 2

4.3.1 Overview of the potential historic heritage impacts

The proposed light rail, and associated works, for both Routes 1 and 2 have the potential to significantly impact the heritage places in the study area. Primarily the impact will be to the heritage values associated with the historical landscape setting, character and amenity of these places, during the construction and implementation of light rail. The two routes will pass by, or be located near, heritage places shown in Figure 2.1.

- **Route 1** National Triangle Barton passes approximately 19 listed and nominated heritage places in the study area. This route covers the greatest distance through, and across, the Parliamentary Zone, of the National Triangle, where there is a concentration of heritage places.
- **Route 2** State Circle East passes approximately 11 listed and nominated heritage places.

4.3.2 Type/s of heritage impact

The following discussion provides an overview of the types of potential impacts that are likely to occur from the proposed action associated with Route 1 (1A, 1B, 1C, 1D) and Route 2, refer to Tables 4.2–4.6 below for details on how each type of impact more specifically relates to each individual route.

Indirect/Direct

Route 1 and Route 2 will have **indirect** impacts on the heritage values in the study area. The likely indirect heritage impacts relate to:

- the '**large scale**' and '**extent**' of the project; and
- the '**community perception**' about future 'changes' to the heritage environment, which is culturally, socially or symbolically significant. For example, there may be indirect impacts on the symbolic and intangible nature of the heritage values in the study area. These could be impacts on community-held values. The impacts may be 'actual' or a community perception that change, of any kind, is negative if it relates to a significant heritage environment such as the central national area of Canberra. Therefore, communication about the positive benefits to the heritage values would be necessary.

Route 1 and Route 2 will have **direct** impacts on the heritage values in the study area. These would likely be from the physical construction activities and actions of the light rail for all proposed routes, including:

- civil works associated with existing roads, and constructing/rebuilding bridges;
- alteration of existing road alignments;
- civil and landscape works associated with the creation of new rail corridors through green space/undeveloped areas; and
- removal of established mature and historically/culturally significant trees, individual trees or avenues of trees (planted by Weston in the 1920s, generally following Griffin's earlier design plans for Canberra).

These direct and indirect impacts are described in various ways under the following subheadings, which follow the impact assessment criteria that will be used in a future HIA.

GML Heritage

Temporary/Permanent

The construction period of the light rail will be 'temporary' (a short-medium term time frame), while the inclusion of the light rail construction itself will be permanent. In all scenarios, the likely and potential heritage impacts would vary across all proposed routes and within different locations of each route.

Cumulative

The cumulative impacts of light rail could occur for a range of reasons, including:

- variations to The Project scope, time delays and the overall extent of change to The Project, and to the heritage values, and environment;
- establishing a precedent for major infrastructure works or changes within the Parliamentary Zone in general; and
- light rail and its associated infrastructure as initially implemented, and then potentially altered, or expanded in future, on the historic urban landscape character of the central national area.

Reversible/Irreversible

The physical construction of light rail, including new ancillary infrastructure, removal and replacement of historic trees (individual, groups and avenues of trees), and introducing new rail corridors through landscape areas, is an irreversible action and would have a significant heritage impact. The impact will be especially significant on the historic urban and planned environment and to all places and values with historical, aesthetic and other cultural and natural heritage value. For example, Route 1–1B would involve the removal of significant historic trees on Commonwealth Avenue planted in the 1920s, which is an irreversible action. As such, Route 1–1A would be preferable, because the historic trees on Commonwealth Avenue between Flynn Drive and Coronation Avenue, would be retained.

Introducing mitigation measures and heritage conservation outcomes that have positive benefits for heritage values and places, such as replacement trees and landscaping, would be necessary for any selected route, or variation thereof.

Cultural/Social/Symbolic (eg tangible and intangible heritage values)

Impacts on the cultural, social and symbolic heritage values associated with all heritage values and places in the study area are likely and would have a heritage impact. At this investigative project stage, uncertainty around the degree and intensity of heritage impacts is likely to be of high public/community concern.

Consultation with stakeholders and community groups would establish an understanding of the community-held values (cultural, social and symbolic) and assist in understanding the extent and nature of any impacts.

Visual/Physical (eg location, form, function, character, scale)

Physical and visual impacts are highly likely on the heritage values of the study area, given the number of individual heritage places, and significance of the historic planned landscape and historic trees and character of the Parliamentary Zone, Barton and Capital Hill.

Physical and visual heritage impacts will arise from:

- altering the form of the existing road network and historic road alignments;

- physical construction of the light rail, including all ancillary infrastructure, roads, bridges, stations, platforms, lights, etc);
- changing the function and character of the areas, which would also have an impact on cultural, social and symbolic heritage values;
- proposed removal of existing established mature, historic trees, planted along avenues, or individually, or other significant tree species for their cultural and natural heritage values, (this would have a significant impact on the heritage values of the study area, not just isolated impacts); and
- proposed replacement of trees with new species that may not be suitable for the compatibility with the historic planned landscape of the study area. For example, it is important to design new plantings so they are complementary to the heritage values (ie the form, character, and aesthetic should make a positive contribution). Refer to the Commonwealth Avenue Landscape Heritage Advice, October 2021, and the Commonwealth Avenue Bridge Heritage Assessment, September, 2020, prepared by GML for Major Projects Canberra and the NCA.

Degree of Impact

The degree and intensity of the heritage impacts has not been calculated at this stage; and a cautious approach is recommended due to the concentration of heritage values in the study area.

The degree and intensity would vary and would depend on testing the proposed 'actions' associated with the light rail development against the impact assessment criteria in a forthcoming heritage impact assessment.

Some impacts will be permanent, while others will be temporary during the period of construction. There may also be examples where the action may have an impact in a specific or isolated location, where the degree of impact could be minor, or cumulative, and could contribute to a broad-scale significant impact on the heritage values across the study area.

4.3.3 Route 1—National Triangle Barton: analysis of potential heritage impacts

A discussion of potential impacts to the heritage values, places and attributes specific to **Route 1** is included in the table below.

Table 4-2 Discussion of impacts to heritage values and places along Route 1 (inclusive of 1A, 1B, 1C and 1D). Note, the number references are shown in Figure 2.1.

Heritage Places Associated with Route 1	Summary—heritage values and attributes	Discussion—potential heritage impacts
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parliament House Vista (CHL) 2. Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands (CHL) 3. National Library of Australia and Surrounds (CHL) 4. Treasury Building (CHL nominated) 5. Old Parliament House and Curtilage (CHL, NHL) 6. Old Parliament House Gardens (CHL) 7. East Block Government Offices (CHL) 9. National Rose Gardens (CHL) 10. King George V Memorial (CHL) 14. Patent Office (former) (CHL) 15. Edmund Barton Offices (CHL) 16. John Gorton Building (CHL) 16. Communications Centre (at JGB) (CHL) 17. The Lodge (CHL) 18. Albert Hall (ACT) 19. Hotel Canberra (ACT) 20. Canberra Croquet Clubhouse and Lawns (ACT) 21. Hotel Kurrajong (ACT) 22. Telopea Park School (ACT) 23. St Andrew’s Church Precinct (ACT) 24. Burns Memorial (ACT) 25. Brassey Hotel (ACT) 26. Barton Housing Precinct (ACT) 27. Wesley Uniting Church Complex (ACT Nominated) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concentration of buildings, parklands and gardens. • Extensive vista along land axis, north–south vista. • Location in Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle and connection to other buildings/elements in Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle. • Memorial features, commemorative historic trees. • Recreational landscapes. • OPH, setting, siting in landscape [Landmark Zone]. • Open landscape between buildings and lake—open green spaces. • Roses, garden as a whole, size, layout. • Form, fabric and appearance/symmetrical façades of buildings. • Prominent location and siting on block. • Spacing of plantation, location, dimensions, species. • Glimpses of The Lodge from the public realm. • Significant trees around and within the property boundary, mature evergreen and deciduous trees. • Entrance/way finding. • Layout of historic roads, road verges, and layout of block. • Historic tree-lined avenues identified in Griffin’s Plan/planted by Charles Weston. 	<p>Type/s of potential heritage impacts from Route 1</p> <p>Route 1 passes the greatest number of heritage places in the study area (approximately 19 listed and nominated). These are referred to generically as the ‘heritage values of the study area’.</p> <p>Indirect/Direct</p> <p>The route itself will have indirect impacts on the heritage values of the study area—of the individual heritage listed places, including Commonwealth Avenue Bridge, and the symbolic and historic designed landscape character and setting of the Parliamentary Zone, Barton and Capital Hill.</p> <p>The likely indirect impacts relate to the ‘large scale’ and extent of the project and the ‘community perception’ about future ‘changes’ to the cultural, social and/or symbolic heritage environment.</p> <p>The direct impacts on the heritage values will relate to the visual and physical construction including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • civil works associated with existing roads, primarily Commonwealth Avenue and Commonwealth Avenue Bridge, Kings Avenue, King George Terrace, National Circuit, Sydney Avenue and State Circle; • alteration of existing road alignments, such as at the junctions entering/exiting the Parliamentary Zone/National Triangle, the ‘boulevards’ of Commonwealth and Kings Avenues; • civil works associated with the creation of new rail corridors through green space/landscape areas, such as the entry/exit points off Commonwealth and Kings Avenues; • the construction of a new bridge at Adelaide Avenue (over State Circle); and • removal of established mature and historically/culturally significant trees, individual trees or avenues of trees, planted by Weston in the 1920s. <p>Cumulative/Temporary/Permanent</p>

Heritage Places Associated with Route 1	Summary—heritage values and attributes	Discussion—potential heritage impacts
<p>28. Barton Conference Centre (ACT Nominated)</p> <p>29. Aboriginal Tent Embassy (NHL nominated and within CHL place Parliament House Vista)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenic landscape and view corridors. 	<p>The <u>construction period</u> of the light rail will be 'temporary', while the inclusion of light rail and construction itself will have permanent impacts to varying degrees. The cumulative impacts of the light rail are not fully understood at this stage; however, they could relate to variations on the scope, time delays and the overall extent of change proposed to the heritage environment.</p> <p>The degree and scale of the heritage impacts would be variable, depending upon the location and proximity to the heritage places. Some impacts will be permanent, and others will be temporary during the period of construction.</p> <p>Reversible/Irreversible</p> <p>The physical construction of light rail, including associated ancillary infrastructure, and the removal and replacement of historic trees—individual, groups and avenues of trees—are irreversible actions.</p> <p>Cultural/Social/Symbolic (tangible and intangible)</p> <p>Cultural, social and symbolic impacts (intangible heritage values) are associated with all heritage values in the Central National Area. Consultation would establish the community-held values and assist in understanding the extent and nature of any impacts.</p> <p>Visual/Physical (form, function, character, scale)</p> <p>As noted above, physical impacts will arise from civil works associated with the road alignments and introduction of the rail corridor, and the removal (and potential replacement) of existing established/historic avenue trees and significant tree species (for their cultural and natural heritage values).</p> <p>The rail corridor through the Parliamentary Zone, particularly at the landscaped area at the junction of Commonwealth Avenue and King George Terrace follows a historic road alignment, delineated by significant historic mature trees, planted in 1920s.</p>

4.3.4 Route 2—State Circle East: analysis of potential heritage impacts

A discussion of potential impacts to the heritage places and attributes specific to **Route 2** is included in the table below.

Table 4-3 Discussion of impacts to heritage values and places near, or in the vicinity of Route 2 of the proposed light rail (number references are from Figure 2.1).

Heritage places near/associated with Route 2	Summary—heritage values and attributes	Discussion—potential heritage impacts
<p>1. Parliament House Vista (CHL) 2. Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands 3. National Library of Australia and Surrounds (CHL) 4. Treasury Building (CHL nominated) 8. West Block and the Dugout (CHL) 11. State Circle Cutting (CHL) 12. York Park North Tree Plantation (CHL) 13. Commencement Column Monument (CHL) 17. The Lodge (CHL) 18. Albert Hall (ACT) 19. Hotel Canberra (ACT) 20. Canberra Croquet Clubhouse and Lawns (ACT) 23. St Andrew’s Church Precinct (ACT)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concentration of buildings, parklands and gardens. • Extensive vista along land axis, north–south vista. • Location in Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle and connection to other buildings/elements in Parliamentary [Zone and National] Triangle. • Spacing of plantation, location, dimensions, species. • Memorial features, commemorative trees. • Recreational landscapes. • Glimpses of The Lodge from the public realm. • Significant trees around and within property boundary, mature evergreen and deciduous trees. • Entrance/way finding. • Road verges. • Layout of surrounding roads, layout of block. • Tree-lined avenues identified in Griffin’s plan. • Scenic landscape corridors. 	<p>Type/s of potential impact from Route 2</p> <p>Route 2 passes approximately 11 heritage places in the study area (listed and nominated). These are referred to generically as the ‘heritage values of the study area’.</p> <p>Indirect/Direct</p> <p>The route itself will have indirect impacts on the central national area of Canberra, including Commonwealth Avenue Bridge and the multiple heritage listed places.</p> <p>The likely indirect impacts relate to the ‘large scale’ and extent of the project and the ‘community perception’ about future ‘changes’ to the heritage environment.</p> <p>The direct impacts on the heritage values will arise from physical construction works including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • civil works associated with existing roads, primarily Commonwealth Avenue and State Circle; • civil and landscape works associated with the creation of new rail corridors through green space/undeveloped areas, such as across the landscape to join the route from State Circle to Adelaide Avenue; • the construction of a new bridge at Adelaide Avenue (over State Circle); • potential physical impacts to the heritage-listed State Circle Cutting (during construction); and • removal of established mature and historically/culturally significant trees, individual trees or avenues of trees (planted following Griffin’s plan). <p>Cumulative/Temporary/Permanent</p> <p>The construction period of the light rail will be ‘temporary’, while the inclusion of light rail and construction itself will have permanent impacts to varying degrees.</p> <p>The cumulative impacts of the light rail are not fully understood at this stage; however, they could relate to variations on the scope, time delays and the overall extent of change proposed to the heritage environment.</p> <p>The degree and scale of the heritage impacts would be variable, depending upon the location and proximity to the heritage places. Some impacts will be permanent, and others will be temporary during the period of construction.</p>

Heritage places near/associated with Route 2	Summary—heritage values and attributes	Discussion—potential heritage impacts
		<p>Reversible/Irreversible</p> <p>The physical construction of light rail, including associated ancillary infrastructure, and the removal and replacement of historic trees (individual, groups and avenues of trees) are irreversible actions.</p> <p>Cultural/Social/Symbolic (tangible and intangible)</p> <p>Cultural, social and symbolic impacts (intangible heritage values) are associated with all heritage values in the Central National Area. Consultation would establish the community-held values and assist in understanding the extent and nature of any impacts.</p> <p>Visual/Physical (form, function, character, scale)</p> <p>As noted above, physical impacts will arise from civil works associated with the introduction of the rail corridor, and the removal (and potential replacement) of existing established/historic avenue trees and significant tree species (for their cultural and natural heritage values).</p>

4.3.5 Other Issues for Consideration

Issues to be considered and/or investigated in due course include:

- Analysis of the ‘positive impacts’—heritage benefits that light rail would contribute to the heritage values of the study area (for example: social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits, including environmentally sustainable tree species, increased public transport, reduction of cars, etc). It will be important to explore compensatory actions to address negatively affected heritage values or as general benefits arising from the project.
- Holistic understanding of the heritage values, species and condition of historic trees and cultural plantings, in the study area, including consistently mapped and collated data on the trees.
- Not all heritage places have been formally listed (noting that identified heritage values should be managed as if they are listed, recognising the precautionary principle of the EPBC Act [Section 391]). For example, the ‘central national area’ is not a formally listed item (although the heritage significance is recognised through the NHL nomination). The significance relates to the symbolic and cultural significance of the central national area, and ‘Canberra, the Planned National Capital’ the NHL nominated place. It is a historic, designed urban landscape, that underpins the National Capital Plan and is fundamental to all heritage listed places in the study area.
- Further investigation and examination of the multiple heritage and conservation management plans (HMPs and CMPs) for each of the listings and nominated places to better understand the detail and management policies for potential future change.
- Not all heritage places have management plans in place, therefore specific management policies would need to be based on best heritage practice (following the Burra Charter).
- Not all places or areas within the study area have been assessed for their potential historic heritage values (includes parts of the landscape and cultural plantings along the route—Weston plantings, the Barton area, significant views and vistas along the main avenues) and therefore are unknown impacts.
- Preparing public communication which defines the ‘heritage values’ of the study area in concise and simple language and explains the duration and extent of the ‘temporary’ construction period.
- Detailed documentation for the construction of all light rail infrastructure, ancillary infrastructure, and landscape and tree removal and replacement requirements.

4.4 Aboriginal Heritage

- Consultation associated with RAOs for the ACT and for the community groups representing the Aboriginal Tent Embassy is necessary to determine the heritage values and potential impacts on these values. Both proposed routes have the potential for impacting Aboriginal cultural sites and areas of Aboriginal archaeological potential.

The identification of Aboriginal heritage values requires further assessment, prior to determining the full extent of potential impacts.

5.0 Summary and Recommendations

5.1 Summary: preliminary heritage impact statement

The Project, with its associated works activities, is likely to have a significant impact on the heritage values of the study area (i.e: the Parliamentary Zone, Barton and Capital Hill areas, refer to Figure 1.1). The proposed action is on Commonwealth land and triggers the requirement for a referral under the EPBC Act. The Project, with relevant documentation, including this preliminary heritage advice, and future HIA/s, forms part of a referral under the EPBC Act.

Further, both routes would have a similar degree and intensity of impact to the heritage values (CHL and ACT Heritage Register; listed and nominated places), particularly to the historic planned layout, landscape areas and settings within the central national area of Canberra. Noting that Route 1, variation 1A, that is the proposed entry/exit off Commonwealth Avenue, has less of a heritage impact than variation 1B King George Terrace; because it would not involve removal of the historic 1920s avenue trees from Commonwealth Avenue.

Table 5.1 shows a summary of potential/likely heritage impacts based on a high-level, ‘worst case scenario’, for determining a ‘likely/possible’ impact assessment on the heritage values of CHL and ACT Heritage Register, and of places with identified heritage values.

Table 5-1 Summary of potential/likely heritage impacts from tables Table 4.2–4.5. Note that further heritage impact analysis would be part of future heritage impact assessments.

Route	Summary—heritage values/places	Summary—likely/potential heritage impacts
Route 1 National Triangle Barton	<p>Route 1 passes the greatest number of heritage places in the study area (approx. 19 listed and nominated), because the route covers the greatest distance through, and across, the National Triangle where there is a concentration of ‘listed’ heritage places and nominated heritage values.</p> <p>Key heritage values in the study area relate to the following places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth Avenue; • Lake Burley Griffin and Commonwealth Avenue Bridge; • the historic planned landscape, road layout, verges and listed heritage places within Parliamentary Zone; • historic trees (1920s Weston plantings), avenues of trees and groupings of significant trees; • central national area; • Parliament House Vista; and • Old Parliament House. 	<p>Route 1 would have a likely significant impact on heritage values, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indirect cultural, social, symbolic (eg: tangible and intangible) heritage values associated with a new element that traverses the Parliament House Vista and central national area; • irreversible, the ‘large scale’ and extent of the project and the ‘community perception’ about future ‘changes’ to the heritage environment; • direct, visual, physical (eg: location, form, function, character, scale), permanent and irreversible impacts, associated with new elements (light rail and associated infrastructure, specialty poles and wires, stations and platforms), new road alignments and changes to verges to accommodate rail tracks and removal of significant avenues of historic trees (Weston plantings); and • direct physical impacts associated with the construction of light rail infrastructure – hoardings, fences, inconvenience to computers and businesses, etc – noting the temporary nature of the impact.

Route	Summary—heritage values/places	Summary—likely/potential heritage impacts
Route 2 State Circle East	<p>Route 2 passes 11 heritage places (listed and nominated).</p> <p>Key heritage places/values in the route:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth Avenue; • Lake Burley Griffin and Commonwealth Avenue Bridge; • the historic planned landscape, road layout, verges and listed heritage places within Parliamentary Zone; • historic trees (1920s Weston plantings), avenues of trees and groupings of significant trees; • central national area; • Parliament House Vista; • Federation Mall and Commencement Column; • York Park; and • State Circle. 	<p>Route 2 would have a likely significant impact on heritage values, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • indirect cultural, social, symbolic (eg: tangible and intangible) heritage values associated with a new element that traverses the Parliament House Vista and central national area; • irreversible, the 'large scale' and extent of the project and the 'community perception' about future 'changes' to the heritage environment; • direct, visual, physical (eg: location, form, function, character, scale), permanent and irreversible impacts, associated with new elements (light rail and associated infrastructure, specially poles and wires, stations and platforms), new road alignments and changes to verges to accommodate rail tracks and removal of significant avenues of historic trees (Weston plantings); and • direct physical impacts associated with the construction of light rail infrastructure – hoardings, fences, inconvenience to computers and businesses, etc – noting the temporary nature of the impact.

5.2 Recommendations and next steps

Given this report is preliminary heritage advice for the investigative stage of scoping and design development for Light Rail, further information is needed to test the potential impacts associated with the light rail development in forthcoming HIA/s. A HIA, or multiple HIAs are required to formally assess the degree and intensity of heritage impacts, and to include mitigation measures to reduce the impacts of the proposed action and works activities.

When decisions have been made by MPC, and the NCA, about the proposed light rail route through the Parliamentary Zone, and design documentation for the construction and implementation of light rail is in development, the following steps should be taken for the HIA process:

- heritage analysis of the detailed design documentation, including proposed mitigation measures already in place;
- assessment of the degree and intensity of heritage impacts, associated with a particular route/routes and design features for construction, all associated infrastructure, road and verge realignments, tree removals, stations, platforms, signalisation, wire free or otherwise, etc, needs to be assessed following the methodology established in this report;
- view analyses', and 3D modelling, examining the visual impacts, to and from heritage places and throughout the Parliamentary Zone, Barton and Capital Hill;
- further exploration and documentation of mitigation measures and alternative options by MPC as required; and
- confirmation of the mitigation measures through collaboration with MPC and the NCA.

Additional tasks to be considered by MPC will assist The Project team with light rail design development, and mitigating potential/likely heritage impacts, before the project step of undertaking HIA/s.

GML Heritage

- Assess Aboriginal cultural heritage impacts by undertaking consultation with RAOs and the Aboriginal Tent Embassy community; a) to determine the heritage values, b) the extent of potential heritage impact, and c) consideration of recommendations arising from the consultation.
- Understand the NCA's 'whole of landscape' approach for heritage management and impact mitigation approaches across the National Triangle including the Parliamentary Zone, Commonwealth Avenue Bridge, Lake Burley Griffin, Commonwealth Avenue and Capital Hill.
- Understand outcomes from targeted stakeholder and community consultation engagement to determine community-held cultural, social and symbolic heritage values and/or concerns of the study area. This would inform the degree and intensity of impacts on these identified values associated with each of the proposed routes, and any future communication plans for the construction of the light rail.
- Obtain and analyse tree and landscape data, including available mapping, analysis of the historic, mature trees, avenues of trees and groupings of trees in the study area. This would be usefully translated and analysed by relevant experts from the ACT Government and/or the NCA for consistency associated with the listed and identified heritage values (of multiple heritage places noted in this report).
- Undertake an analysis of the individual CMPs and HMPs and their heritage management policies for future change associated with each of the heritage places (and to identify where there are inconsistencies, duplication or uncertainty in the management recommendations).

6.0 Appendices

Appendix A

Citations for listed heritage places ACT Heritage Register, Commonwealth Heritage List and National Heritage List

Heritage (Decision about Registration for an Amendment to the Albert Hall Heritage Precinct, Yarralumla) Notice 2010

Notifiable Instrument NI 2010 - 524

made under the

Heritage Act 2004 section 42 Notice of Decision about Registration

1. Revocation

This instrument replaces NI 2010 – 227

2. Name of instrument

This instrument is the Heritage (Decision about Registration for an Amendment to the Albert Hall Heritage Precinct, Yarralumla) Notice 2010 -

3. Registration details of the place

Registration details of the place are at Attachment A: Register entry for the Albert Hall Heritage Precinct, Yarralumla.

4. Reason for decision

The ACT Heritage Council has decided that the Albert Hall Heritage Precinct, Yarralumla meets one or more of the heritage significance criteria at s 10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*. The register entry is at Attachment A.

The Albert Hall and its immediate surrounds were entered in the ACT Heritage Register in 2001.

In 2007 a Conservation Management and Landscape Plan (CM&LP) for the Albert Hall Heritage Precinct was prepared by Peter Freeman Pty Ltd Conservation Architects and Planners, identifying a larger Precinct boundary than that currently entered in the ACT Heritage Register.

The CL&MP Conservation Policy 3 states that the existing ACT Heritage Register entry for Albert Hall ‘should be reviewed in the light of this CM&LP. The entire Albert Hall Heritage Precinct should be entered in the Register, and the Special Requirements and the citation guidelines should be guided by this CM&LP’.

The CM&LP, including Conservation Policy 3, has been endorsed by the ACT Heritage Council.

This amended Register Entry incorporates the original Registration details and amends the description of the boundary to incorporate the landscape setting of the Albert Hall.

This boundary reflects the historical relationship between the building and its landscape setting.

It does not include all the land recommended by the CM&LP as the southernmost portion contained in the CM&LP is considered to have a historical relationship with the Hotel Canberra rather than the Albert Hall.

Additional amendments have been made to this Register entry to incorporate an assessment against each of the criteria of the *Heritage Act 2004*, and to update the Statement of Heritage Significance accordingly.

5. Date of Registration

15 September 2010

.....
Gerhard Zatschler
Secretary
ACT Heritage Council

15 September 2010



ACT Heritage Council

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

HERITAGE REGISTER
(Registration Details)

Place No: 20070

The following is mandatory:

For the purposes of s. 41 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, an entry to the heritage register has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council for the following place:

Albert Hall Heritage Precinct, 100 Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla, ACT

Block 1 Section 39, Yarralumla, Canberra Central

DATE OF REGISTRATION

Notified: 15 September 2010 Notifiable Instrument: 2010/

Copies of the Register Entry are available for inspection at the ACT Heritage Unit. For further information please contact:

The Secretary
ACT Heritage Council
GPO Box 158, Canberra, ACT 2601

Telephone: 13 22 81 Facsimile: (02) 6207 2229

IDENTIFICATION OF THE PLACE

Albert Hall Heritage Precinct, 100 Commonwealth Avenue, Section 39 Block 1, Division of Yarralumla, District of Canberra Central.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This statement refers to the Heritage Significance of the place as required in s12(d) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

Albert Hall is recognised as a prime example of the public architecture of the foundational Federal Capital era, 1911 to 1939. As with Old Parliament House, Albert Hall expresses the aim for a distinctive architectural character for Canberra equal to its role as the national capital.

This aesthetic significance is embodied in the architecture, the landscape and the interior design of the place. The Albert Hall precinct is, in built form, the embodiment of the early life of the Federal Capital, a life characterised by community involvement in civic events, and in the national and community life of the early Capital. Albert Hall was the 'cultural hearth' of the early Federal Capital, and as such, remains highly valued for that quality.

The naming of Albert Hall, an intentional association with the centre of the performing arts in London, and the British Commonwealth, was a statement of the importance of the arts in national life and testimony to Prime Minister Stanley Melbourne Bruce's advocacy of Australian culture, an often-overlooked characteristic of his career as a statesman.

Albert Hall was a publicly constructed place of gathering for the Federal and local community of Canberra. It is notable as one of a number of halls constructed within the early Federal Capital [refer the Causeway, Ainslie, Acton and Kingston halls], but Albert Hall was intended to be the 'Assembly Hall' for the city and community. It represents the intent of the early government to provide a community, public and cultural focus for the infant city. Albert Hall also has a role in signifying key events in Australian political and constitutional history, and our national cultural and professional history, and hence has clear associations with major political and community figures involved in those events (Freeman, P., 2007).

Albert Hall continues to have social and cultural value as a venue for a range of different purposes attracting large gatherings, and aesthetic value in its lakeside setting. The Hall is a landmark adjacent to the Parliamentary Triangle and the thoroughfare from City Hill to Parliament House.

FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE

The place comprises the features listed below:

- a) the Albert Hall, including original exterior elements;
- b) the early interior fabric including furnishings and fittings, projection facilities and associated equipment, suspended light fittings and parquet floor;
- c) two Atlantic Cedars (*Cedrus atlantica*) to the east of the Hall;
- d) the remaining elements of the former rose garden;
- e) the sun dial and pedestal to the east of the Hall;
- f) the three *Pinus* sp. and three London plane trees (*Platanus x acerifolia*) to the south of the Hall;
- g) the historical boundary of the Albert Hall as shown on the attached Site Plan;
- h) the adjacent landscape and its historical setting, including views and vistas to the former Hotel Canberra, Lake Burley Griffin and Commonwealth Avenue;

- i) the road verges and plantings contained therein to the east, west and south of Block 1 Section 39 Yarralumla, and
 - j) the original entrance loop road from Commonwealth Avenue.
-

APPLICABLE HERITAGE GUIDELINES

The Heritage Guidelines adopted under s27 of the *Heritage Act 2004* are applicable to the conservation of the Albert Hall Heritage Precinct.

The guiding conservation objective is that the Albert Hall Heritage Precinct, 100 Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla, shall be conserved and appropriately managed in a manner respecting its heritage significance and the features intrinsic to that heritage significance, and consistent with a sympathetic and viable use or uses. Any works that have a potential impact on significant fabric (and / or other heritage values) shall be guided by a professionally documented assessment and conservation policy relevant to that area or component (i.e. a Statement of Heritage Effects – SHE).

Any future works and development must adhere to the Conservation Policy and Strategy outlined in Freeman, P., Pty Ltd Conservation Architects and Planners, 2007, 'The Albert Hall Precinct, Canberra Conservation Management and Landscape Plan', report prepared for Environment ACT and the ACT Department of Economic Development, Canberra, or any subsequent update.

REASON FOR PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION

Albert Hall, 100 Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla has been assessed against the heritage significance criteria and been found to have heritage significance when assessed against five criteria under the ACT Heritage Act.

ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

Pursuant to s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, a place or object has heritage significance if it satisfies one or more of the following criteria. Significance has been determined by research as accessed in the references below. Future research may alter the findings of this assessment.

- (a) it demonstrates a high degree of technical or creative achievement (or both), by showing qualities of innovation, discovery, invention or an exceptionally fine level of application of existing techniques or approaches;**

Not applicable.

- (b) it exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group;**

Albert Hall is recognised as a prime example of the public architecture of the foundational Federal Capital era, 1911 to 1939. As with Old Parliament House, Albert Hall expresses the aim for a distinctive architectural character for Canberra equal to its role as the national capital. This aesthetic significance is embodied in the architecture, the landscape and setting, and the interior design of the place.

This distinctive architectural and landscape character can be seen in other extant buildings of the founding period [eg Beauchamp House, Hotel Canberra, and Hotel Acton, now Acton House], but because of its unique public purpose, Albert Hall is considered the civic and cultural equivalent of Old Parliament House.

Its prominent placement on a major Canberra avenue, its intended vistas and placement in relation to the parliament, and its association with the civic design principles on which the national capital was planned, all speak of its intended role in a community charged with founding the capital city of a young nation.

Albert Hall has an iconic aesthetic significance highly valued by Canberra's resident community and by those among the community of visitors who have the opportunity to learn of its history and purpose. The architecture, landscape and civic planning of the Albert Hall precinct are nationally significant as the embodiment of community and national aspirations for the national capital (Freeman, P., 2007).

In addition, the views and vistas to and from the Albert Hall from the major axis route of Canberra Avenue and the former Hotel Canberra comprise a crucial element to the historical and landscape setting and context of the Albert Hall.

(c) it is important as evidence of a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function that is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost or is of exceptional interest;

The Albert Hall within its Heritage Precinct is the embodiment of the importance of kindling and nurturing civic and cultural engagement in the founding years of the federal capital. The Precinct was the hearth for the civic and cultural life of the city and its region, with the sense expressed at the opening of the Hall by Stanley Melbourne Bruce of radiating these essential values throughout the nation.

Its extant architectural, landscape and interior design elements provide unusually rich evidence of that purpose and how it was realised. Its setting in the Precinct provides the complementary evidence of a landscape design aesthetic deploying elements of plant type, planting layout and setting to express that purpose.

As a gracious assembly hall in a designed garden city landscape setting, Albert Hall played a unique role in shaping the life of the young city, evident in the civic and cultural occasions held there. It was the base for the Society for Arts and Literature, formed by Robert Garran, Harold White and Robert Broinowski, and for Lewis Nott's breakaway Canberra Repertory Society. For Canberra's first forty years, Albert Hall was the only venue dedicated to the performing arts, and influenced the shaping of musical, operatic and dramatic societies. As well, for many Canberrans, the association of the Hall with dances, socials, exhibitions and shows imbues the place with special community affection, which in turn, reflects a time when these events were central to community life (Freeman, P., 2007).

(d) it is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations;

Albert Hall was the 'cultural hearth' of the early Federal Capital, and remains highly valued for that quality, even though major cultural events now have their own dedicated buildings such as the Canberra Theatre, Llewellyn Hall, the National Gallery of Australia etc. The naming of Albert Hall, an intentional association with London's renowned venue, asserted the importance of the arts in national life, attaching a responsibility to the new city to realise this vision. The Albert Hall Heritage Precinct expresses a spiritual ideal recognised by many as a treasured legacy difficult to define but readily recognised when expression is found.

Albert Hall has important associations with national cultural institutions and national and international artists, and with education through the lectures and events held there and through its

association with the founding of the Australian National University. It is still much loved for these associations, as is evident in the strong community demand for its protection and sustainable future despite the neglect and mismanagement that have interrupted its long tradition of civic, cultural, educational and social uses (Freeman, P., 2007).

(e) it is significant to the ACT because of its importance as part of local Aboriginal tradition
Not applicable.

(f) it is a rare or unique example of its kind, or is rare or unique in its comparative intactness
Not applicable.

(g) it is a notable example of a kind of place or object and demonstrates the main characteristics of that kind

Albert Hall was a publicly constructed place of gathering, its style and Precinct setting it apart from other Canberra halls of the period such as the Causeway, Ainslie, Acton and Kingston halls. Albert Hall was intended to be *the* 'Assembly Hall' for national and regional events, a place to nourish a civic and cultural life for the capital that would signify a vibrant national life of participation. Albert Hall fulfilled the unique role it was assigned. It was for the nation in the 20th century, what town halls, schools of arts and mechanics Institutes were for young Australian cities and towns in the 19th century (Freeman, P., 2007).

(h) it has strong or special associations with a person, group, event, development or cultural phase in local or national history

The Albert Hall Heritage Precinct has strong associations with key events in Australian political, constitutional, civic and cultural history, with regional history before and after the establishment of the national capital, and with notable national and local figures. There are associations with Royal visits, from the naming of the hall after the Duke of York opened Parliament House in 1927 to the visit of Queen Elizabeth and of the Queen Mother in the 1950s. There are associations with Governors-General and with prime ministers, including WM Hughes, Stanley Melbourne Bruce, Joseph Lyons, John Curtin, Ben Chifley, RG Menzies, Harold Holt and EG Whitlam. Some associations point to a greater understanding of our political history, such as Prime Minister Stanley Melbourne Bruce's advocacy of Australian culture, an often-overlooked characteristic of his career as a statesman.

Many international and national artists have special associations with the Albert Hall, including vocalists Lotte Lehmann, Rita Streich, Joan Sutherland, musicians Eileen Joyce; dancers Robert Helpmann, Alan Alder, Ross Stretton.

There are special associations with the ANZAC tradition, with the 1939-45 war, the declaration of peace and postwar reconstruction; there are strong associations with postwar immigration, with the creation of an Australian citizenship and with the Cold War and anti-Communism to Australia. There are also special associations with the federating and creation of early institutions, in the form of national conferences held at the Hall [eg Royal Australian Institute of Architects, Rotary, Forestry, etc.]. (Freeman, P., 2007).

(i) it is significant for understanding the evolution of natural landscapes, including significant geological features, landforms, biota or natural processes
Not applicable.

(j) it has provided, or is likely to provide, information that will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of the natural or cultural history of the ACT because of its use or potential use as a research site or object, teaching site or object, type locality or benchmark site
Not applicable.

(k) for a place—it exhibits unusual richness, diversity or significant transitions of flora, fauna or natural landscapes and their elements
Not applicable.

(l) for a place—it is a significant ecological community, habitat or locality for any of the following:

- (i) the life cycle of native species;
 - (ii) rare, threatened or uncommon species;
 - (iii) species at the limits of their natural range;
 - (iv) distinct occurrences of species.
- Not applicable.

SUMMARY OF THE PLACE HISTORY AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Please refer: Freeman, P., Pty Ltd Conservation Architects and Planners, 2007, 'The Albert Hall Precinct, Canberra Conservation Management and Landscape Plan', report prepared for Environment ACT and the ACT Department of Economic Development, Canberra, for a detailed history and physical description of the Albert Hall Heritage Precinct.

In addition:

Historical plantings within the Albert Hall Heritage Precinct occurred in two main periods – the first occurred during the Hall's initial construction phase in the 1920s; and the second occurred more recently with the National Capital Development Committee's (NCDC) adjacent road construction work in the late 1960s.

The earliest landscaping was planned by Charles Weston and carried out by Alexander Bruce. Information relating to this period of planting has been obtained from historical photographs and other sources, and is provided in Peter Freeman's 2007 Conservation Management and Landscape Plan.

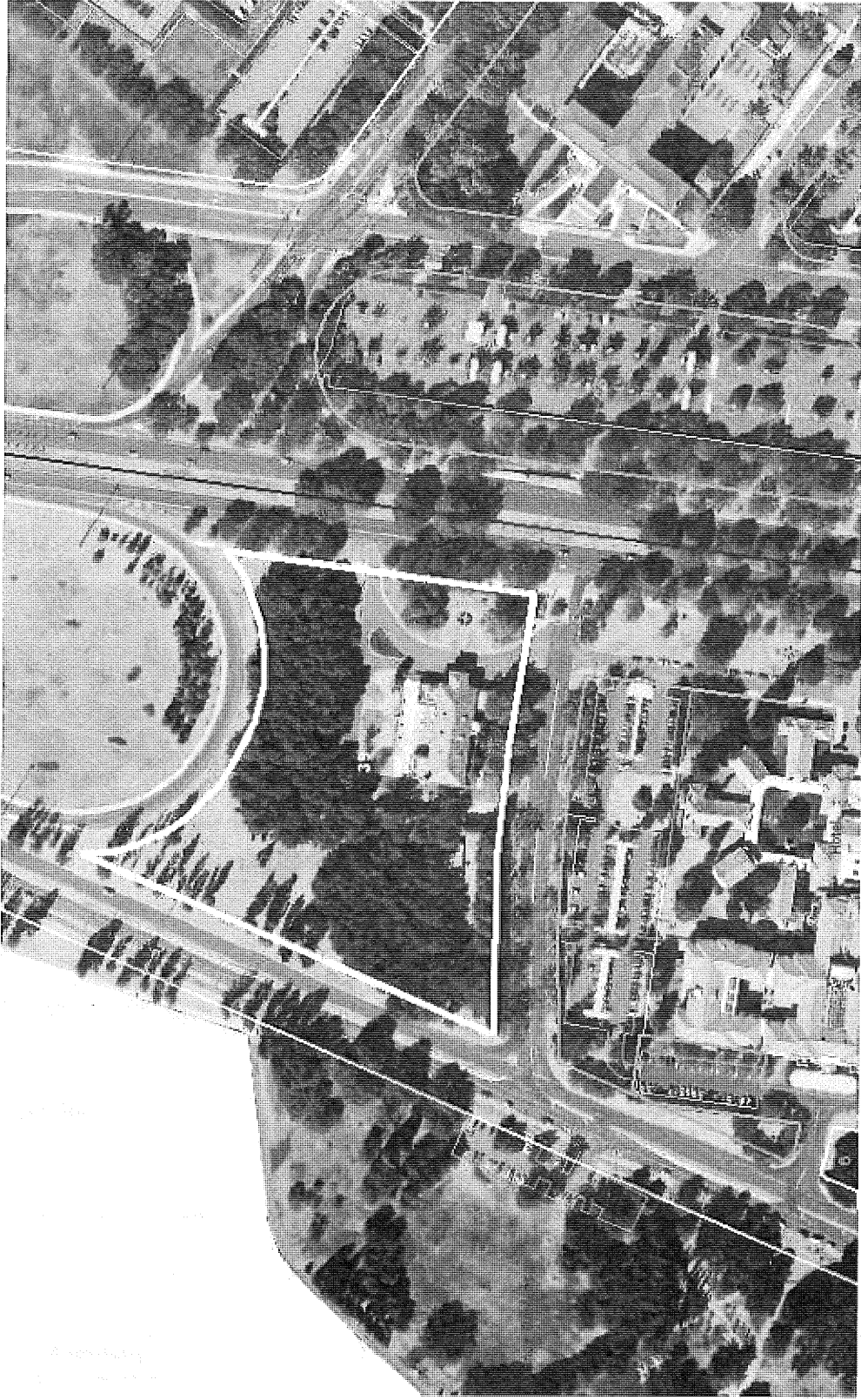
The planting by the NCDC involved vegetation screening from the new road construction of Flynn Drive and the loop road to the north of the Albert Hall.

Both these periods of planting are reflected within the Albert Hall Heritage Precinct today.

The planning and development of Albert Hall was strongly based on the context of its surrounds, including its proximity to the former Hotel Canberra and to Commonwealth Avenue. The views and vistas to and from the Albert Hall formed a crucial element in its design and construction. The Albert Hall today retains strong connections to both the former Hotel Canberra and to Commonwealth Avenue. As such, these adjacent places form part of the setting and significance of the Albert Hall. These adjacent places include:

- the road verges and plantings and driveway entry therein, to the east, west and south of Block 1 Section 39 Yarralumla;
- the former Hotel Canberra Block 1 Section 40 Yarralumla; and
- the former Rose Gardens, bowling green and tennis courts Block 4 Section 40 Yarralumla.

SITE PLAN



**Albert Hall Heritage precinct - aerial image
Block 1, Section 39; as defined by the solid white line**



ACT Heritage Council

Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

Heritage Act 2004

20001. Canberra Croquet Clubhouse and Lawns

Section 40 Block 7 and part of road reservation between Block 7 and street verges of Alexandrina Drive and Commonwealth Avenue

YARRALUMLA

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*.

Contact: ACT Heritage Council c/o Secretary PO Box 144 Lyneham ACT 2602
Enquiries: phone 02 6207 2164 fax 02 6207 5715 e-mail heritage@act.gov.au



ACT Government

environment ACT

Helpline: 02 6207 9777
Website : www.cmd.act.gov.au
E-mail: EnvironmentACT@act.gov.au

1. Canberra Croquet Clubhouse and Lawns [V26]¹

Location

District of Canberra Central, Division of Yarralumla, Section 40, Block 7 and in addition that part of the road reservation between Block 7 and the street verges of Alexandrina Drive and Commonwealth Avenue directly adjoining, as identified in Figure 1 and as indicated on the Territory Plan Map by the Heritage Places Register Overlay H1.

Features Intrinsic To The Heritage Significance Of The Place

The place comprises:

- a) the croquet lawns;
- b) the clubhouse;
- c) the furniture fixtures and fittings around the lawn; and
- d) those trees within the property boundary proposed for listing.

Statement Of Significance

The Croquet Club operated as a "women only" sporting club from 1928 to 1975. This club was one of the few early social focal points for women associated with Parliamentarians and Government officials. The Club remains the only croquet club in the ACT.

The clubhouse and lawns contribute to the historic streetscape along Commonwealth Avenue, which includes the architecturally important Hyatt Hotel Canberra and Albert Hall. The croquet lawn was once part of the outdoor facilities provided for guests at the Hotel Canberra in 1923.

The croquet lawns are intrinsic to the landscape setting of the Hotel Canberra. The design of the club house and associated structures reflect the Federal Capital Architecture style of the adjacent hotel.

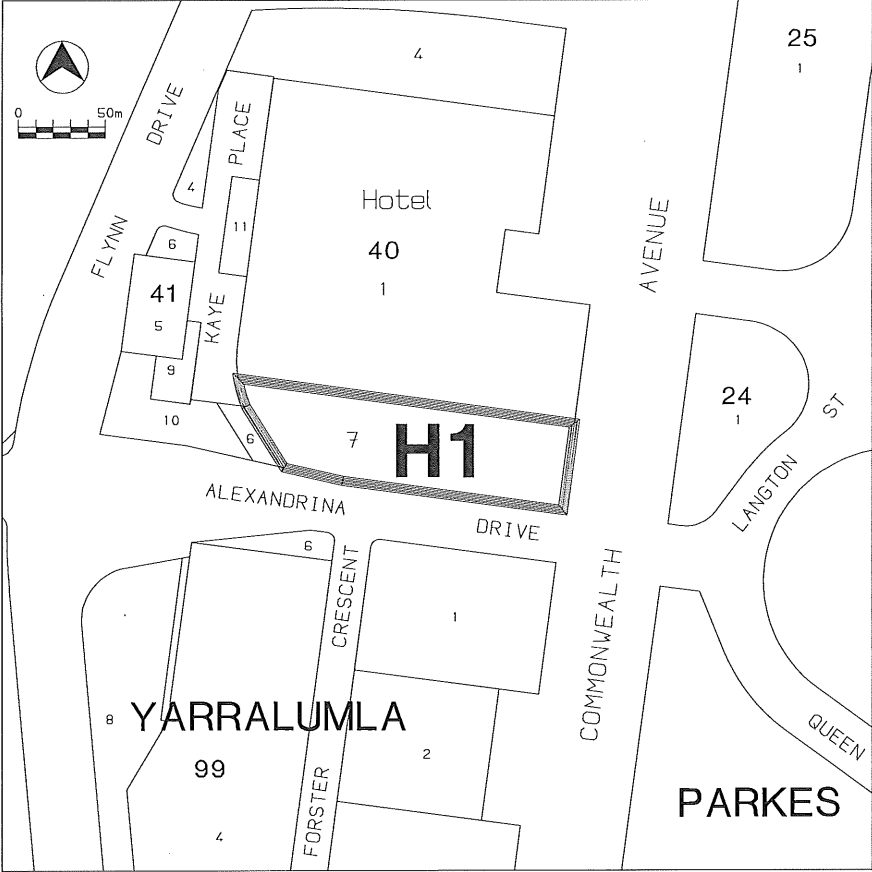
Specific Requirements

In accordance with s.54(1) of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*, the following requirements are identified as essential to the retention of the heritage significance of the place:

- i) The croquet lawns and clubhouse are to be conserved in their landscape setting.
- ii) A conservation study of the structures and associated areas is to be completed and submitted to the Heritage Council for approval within a time specified by the Council and in consultation with the lessee. A management plan derived from this study is to guide repairs and maintenance to ensure that the integrity of the structures and lawns is retained.
- iii) A heritage assessment of the landscape values of the place is to be undertaken as part of the conservation study. The integrity of the cultural landscape is to be protected. Continuity in management of the place, including the significant plantings is to be ensured as necessary.
- iv) Any redevelopment of the place is to be consistent with the Federal Capital Architectural style and the existing landscape setting of the Hyatt Hotel Canberra.
- v) No other form of sport, which conflicts with its predominant use for croquet, shall be permitted on the site.

¹ [V26: Added to Heritage Places Register 09/12/1994 (Variation Number 26)]

Figure 1: Canberra Croquet Clubhouse and Lawns





ACT Heritage Council

Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

Heritage Act 2004

20090. Hotel Canberra

Section 40, Block 1

YARRALUMLA

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*.

Contact: ACT Heritage Council c/o Secretary PO Box 144 Lyneham ACT 2602
Enquiries: phone 02 6207 2164 fax 02 6207 5715 e-mail heritage@act.gov.au



ACT Government



environment ACT

Helpline: 02 6207 9777
Website : www.cmd.act.gov.au
E-mail: EnvironmentACT@act.gov.au



ACT Heritage Council

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
INTERIM HERITAGE PLACES REGISTER**

For the purposes of s. 54(1) of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*, a citation for:

HOTEL CANBERRA (HYATT HOTEL CANBERRA), YARRALUMLA

has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council, and included in an interim Heritage Places Register. This is pursuant to the ACT Heritage Council Resolution No. 47/7 made on 31 August 1998.

Date of Gazettal: 30 September 1998

Background material about this place and copies of this citation are available from:

The Secretary
ACT Heritage Council
PO Box 1036
TUGGERANONG ACT 2901

Telephone: (02) 6207 2166 Facsimile: (02) 6207 2200

INTERIM HERITAGE PLACES REGISTER

CITATION

HOTEL CANBERRA (HYATT HOTEL CANBERRA)

LOCATION OF PLACE:

- Block 1 Section 40 Yarralumla.
-

FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE:

The features intrinsic to the heritage significance of the place are:

- a) the central building and its interior;
 - b) the associated pavilions and courtyards; and
 - c) the garden setting.
-

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Hotel Canberra has historical, social and architectural significance relating to the early years of Canberra's development.

The hotel, built as the first hostel (Hostel No. 1), formed part of the early visual and social fabric of the developing city. It played a significant role in the Federal Capital Commission's building program in providing hostel accommodation for administrative staff and officials and their families who were transferred to Canberra for the opening of Parliament.

The hotel is important for its role in providing residential accommodation for Members of Parliament during the formative years of Canberra. Among its more prominent residents was Labor Prime Minister James Scullin, who lived there with his wife, after his election in 1929 rather than incur the expense of running the Lodge during the Depression.

Hotel Canberra is one of a number of buildings designed by the Commonwealth Architect John Smith Murdoch in the Garden-Pavilion style peculiar to Canberra. It exemplifies the design attributes of the Federal Capital at that time, in particular the garden city concept of Walter Burley Griffin. It is important for its contribution to an understanding of early Canberra architecture. The plan and elevation of the building combine with the architectural detailing to produce a building complex of considerable aesthetic appeal.

The garden design is by Thomas Weston and still retains much of the original plantings and layout.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS:

In the National Capital Plan the land on which the Hotel Canberra, Yarralumla stands is specified as a Designated Area under the provisions of s.10(1) of the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988* and work carried out is subject to the approval of the National Capital Authority. The land is not classified as National Land under the National Land Ordinance 1989 or subsequent amendments. Consequently the land is Territory Land and Territory planning requirements may also apply. In accordance with Section 54(1) of the *(Land Planning and Environment) Act 1991* the following requirements are identified as essential to the conservation of the heritage significance of this place. These requirements apply to works undertaken by the Territory and in circumstances where the Territory is the approving authority. The Territory's conservation

policy for the place is:

The building and its landscaped setting of the Hotel Canberra should be conserved and maintained with regard to its original design and function.

Any activity relating to the requirements to conserve the heritage significance of this place development under Part VI of the Land Act and requires approval prior to undertaking the activity. To undertake development without prior approval may constitute an offence. This is in addition to any approval required under s.12 of the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988*.

(i) Requirements Relating to the Building

(a) External and internal alterations and additions to the existing building shall reflect and complement its original architectural style.

(b) No additional buildings or structures shall be erected within the precinct that will adversely affect the significance of the place.

(c) Demolition shall not be permitted, other than in exceptional circumstances, such as those in which buildings and structures are structurally unsound and beyond economic repair, or where there are significant health and safety reasons to warrant demolition. Demolition shall not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that there are no prudent and feasible alternatives. Partial demolition of the original fabric of the place shall not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that it is to reveal fabric of greater significance.

(ii) Requirements Relating to the Setting

(a) The existing landscape setting of the hotel shall be conserved and appropriately maintained. New landscape elements shall be consistent with the original landscape design.

(b) No trees greater in height than 5 metres shall be removed without approval from the Australian Heritage Commission and the ACT Heritage Council.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

(i) A conservation and management plan should be prepared for the place, in consultation with the ACT Heritage Council, to guide its future conservation and development.

(ii) The place should continue to operate as a hotel.



ACT Heritage Council

Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

Heritage Act 2004

20018. National Rose Gardens

Section 34 Block 4, Section 59 Block 1

PARKES

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*.

Contact: ACT Heritage Council c/o Secretary PO Box 144
Enquiries: phone 02 6207 2164 fax 02 6207 5715

Lyneham ACT 2602
e-mail heritage@act.gov.au



ACT Government



environment ACT

Helpline: 02 6207 9777
Website : www.cmd.act.gov.au
E-mail: EnvironmentACT@act.gov.au

18. National Rose Gardens, Parkes [V56]¹

Location

District of Canberra Central, Division of Parkes, Section 34 Block 4 and Section 59 Block 1 as identified in Figure 18 and indicated on the Territory Plan Map by the Heritage Places Register Overlay at H18.

Features Intrinsic To The Heritage Significance Of The Place

The place comprises:

- a) rose beds laid out in a pattern to symbolise the petals of a fully opened rose;
- b) mature evergreen and deciduous trees; and
- c) lawn areas.

Statement Of Significance

The National Rose Gardens are significant to the ACT and to the nation for their historical, horticultural and aesthetic values.

These gardens are important because they were developed as Australia's first nation-wide gardening venture. They also provide a physical expression to the principle of Commonwealth and State co-operation.

The development of the gardens provided an interest for Australians in developing Canberra, the National Capital, as a Garden City.

In horticultural terms, the gardens exhibit the best varieties of Australian-grown and overseas roses in a favourable climate.

The gardens have a special association with Thomas Weston, first Superintendent of Parks and Gardens in Canberra. The memorial cypress planting and the poplars marking the entry positions are remnants of his original plan and planting. His ashes were scattered in the park opposite Old Parliament House.

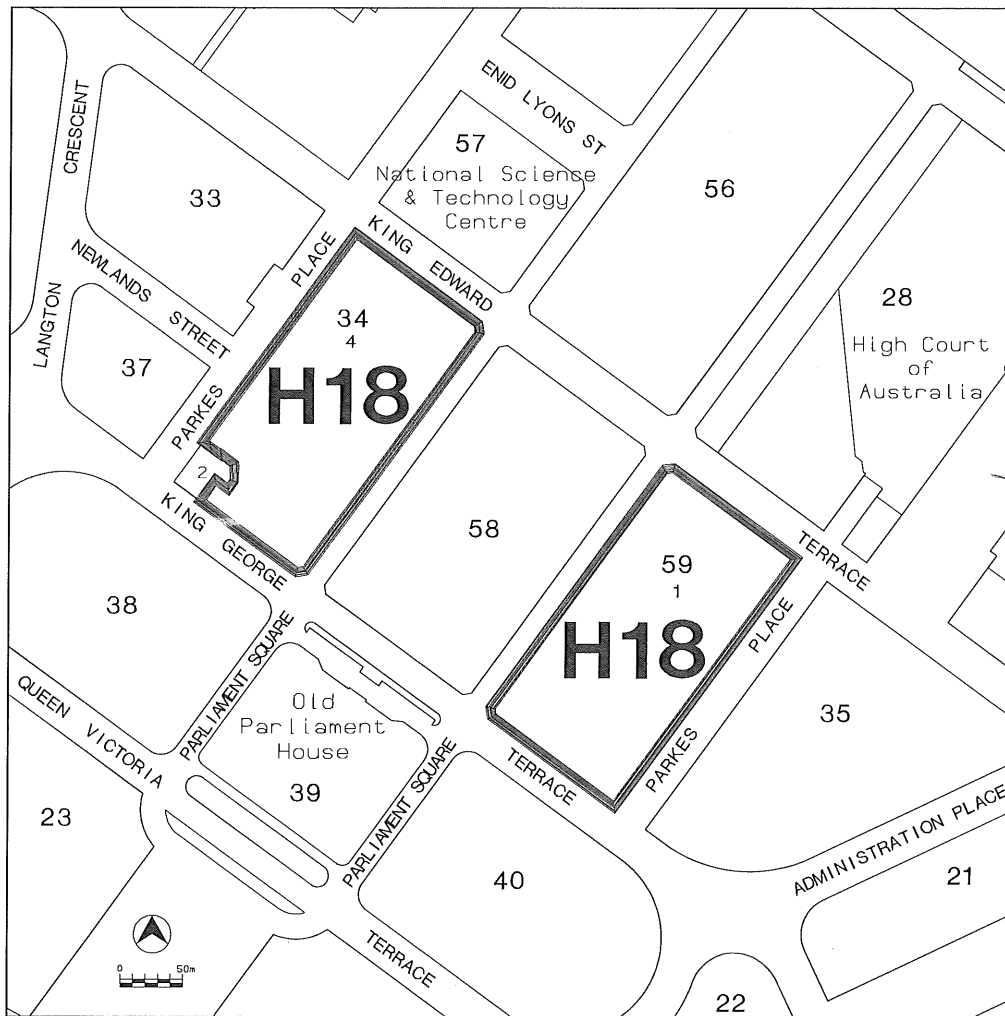
Specific Requirements

In accordance with s54(1) of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act* 1991, the following requirements are identified as essential to conservation of the heritage significance of the place;

- i) The place is to continue to be used as a National Rose Garden.
- ii) The concentric design of the beds is to be retained.
- iii) Future planting of roses are to be consistent with the original conception of the National Rose Garden.

¹ [V56: Added to Heritage Places Register 27/09/1996 (Variation Number 56)]

Figure 18: National Rose Gardens, Parkes



Australian Capital Territory

Heritage (Decision about Registration of St Andrew's Church Precinct, Forrest) Notice 2014

Notifiable Instrument NI2014-43

made under the

Heritage Act 2004, s42 Notice of decision about registration

1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Heritage (Decision about Registration of St Andrew's Church Precinct, Forrest) Notice 2014*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after notification.

3 Notice of Decision

Pursuant to Section 40 of the *Heritage Act 2004* the ACT Heritage Council has decided to register St Andrew's Church Precinct, Forrest to the ACT Heritage Register.

Jennifer O'Connell
A/g Secretary (as delegate for)
ACT Heritage Council
10 February 2014



ACT Heritage Council

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

HERITAGE REGISTER
(Registration Details)

For the purposes of s. 41 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, an entry to the heritage register has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council for the following place:

St Andrew's Church Precinct

Block 1 Section 28, Forrest

DATE OF REGISTRATION

6 February 2014 Notifiable Instrument: 2014-43

Copies of the Register Entry are available for inspection at the ACT Heritage Unit. For further information please contact:

The Secretary
ACT Heritage Council
GPO Box 158, Canberra, ACT 2601

Telephone: 13 22 81

IDENTIFICATION OF THE PLACE

St Andrew's Church Precinct, 1 State Circle, Block 1 Section 28, Forrest.

This statement refers to the Heritage Significance of the place as required in s12 (d) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

St Andrew's Church Precinct is a notable example of an ecclesiastical precinct due to it being designed as a complex reflecting the history of the Presbyterian Church and the parish in the national capital through the functions and design of the complex. [*Criterion (g)*]

St Andrew's Church, opened in 1934, is one of the largest and most ornate Inter-War Gothic style buildings in the ACT. It uses this style to emphasise verticality and traditional European ecclesiastical design. [*Criterion (g)*] Adding to the Inter-War Gothic style is the use of stained glass windows by notable artist Norman Carter as well as the first Australian-trained stained glass window artist, John Radecki. [*Criterion (h)*] This, combined with the use of stone cladding and ornate decorations, gives the church a sense of age as it draws inspiration from the past. [*Criterion (g)*]

The Manse, opened in 1928, also draws inspiration from the past with its Inter-War Georgian Revival style architecture that references its parish history by reinterpreting early Scottish settler estates in the region. [*Criterion (g)*]

St Andrew's Precinct was developed during the formation of the ACT and was the Presbyterian Church's aspiration to provide a national denominational monument in the new capital. [*Criterion (h)*]

Many notable figures in Territory and National history have strong associations with St Andrew's Church through benefaction and as members of the parish. It is also notable for its association as the last charge of Australia's first and last female Presbyterian minister, Rev. Joy Bartholomew. [*Criterion (h)*]

OTHER RELATED PLACES

- Canberra Baptist Church Precinct, Kingston
- St Christopher's Cathedral Precinct, Forrest
- St John the Baptist Church and Churchyard, Reid
- St Paul's Anglican Church, Griffith
- Uniting Church, Reid

FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE

The attributes listed below are assessed as features intrinsic to the heritage significance of the place:

- The St Andrew's Church Precinct, comprised of:
 - the existing Church of St Andrew, including:
 - its visual prominence on the block;
 - the cruciform layout;
 - the large, open interior space;
 - the Inter-War Gothic architecture inherent in the design and styling of the building, including:
 - the stone cladding;
 - the buttressing;
 - the belltower with spire and pinnacles;
 - the external decorations of gargoyles and the heads of the leaders of the Reformation; and
 - the stained-glass windows by Norman Carter and John Radecki and their tracery;
 - the existing St Andrew's House (the Manse), including:
 - the Inter-War Georgian Revival style architecture inherent in the design of the building, including:
 - the local red face brick outer walls;
 - the buttressing;
 - the double-hung windows;
 - the multiple geometric rooflines;
 - the castellated balconies; and
 - the original internal layout;
 - the Caretaker's Cottage, including:
 - the buttressing; and
 - the modest styling and scale;
 - the existing mature plantings, including:
 - the curved triangular planting pattern representing the original layout of the block and surrounding roads.

Note: the Hall has not been included even though it makes up a substantial part of the building footprint on the precinct because its heritage values are not sufficiently evident.

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE

The guiding conservation objective is that the St Andrews Church Precinct shall be conserved and appropriately managed in a manner respecting its heritage significance and the features intrinsic to that heritage significance.

The ACT Heritage Council may adopt heritage guidelines applicable to the place under s25 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

For further information on guidelines applicable to the place, or for advice on proposed works or development, please contact the ACT Heritage Unit on 13 22 81.

REASON FOR REGISTRATION

St Andrew's Church Precinct has been assessed against the heritage significance criteria and been found to have heritage significance when assessed against two criteria (g and h) under the *Heritage Act 2004*.

ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

Pursuant to s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, a place or object has heritage significance if it satisfies one or more of the following criteria. Significance has been determined by research as accessed in the references below. Future research may alter the findings of this assessment.

(a) it demonstrates a high degree of technical or creative achievement (or both), by showing qualities of innovation, discovery, invention or an exceptionally fine level of application of existing techniques or approaches;

St Andrew's Church Precinct, Forrest, does not meet this criterion.

Whilst St Andrew's Church demonstrates a degree of technical skill and innovation in the use of reinforced concrete in arches and vaults while maintaining a traditional gothic style through the use of economical materials and methods in times of financial hardship; there is insufficient evidence before the ACT Heritage Council (the Council) to consider it to be of a high degree of either technical or creative achievement.

Furthermore, whilst the use of modern materials and construction in the Nave results in a visually complex structure there is insufficient evidence before the Council to consider that it demonstrates a high degree of technical or creative achievement.

Whilst the Manse may reference several architectural styles, there is insufficient evidence before the Council to consider it as representing a high degree of technical or creative achievement.

The original floodlight has been suggested to be an early example of architectural lighting in the ACT, however, it has been moved and the floodlight replaced with a modern light. Accordingly, any heritage values have been lost.

(b) it exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group;

St Andrew's Church Precinct, Forrest, does not meet this criterion.

St Andrew's Church Precinct exhibits some design and aesthetic qualities valued by the Presbyterian community, such as the stained glass windows and the scale of St Andrew's Church and prominent location of the precinct on Capital Hill. However, there is insufficient evidence before the Council, at this time, to consider that the Precinct is highly valued by the broader ACT community for exhibiting outstanding design or aesthetic qualities.

The Council acknowledge that the prominent location of St Andrew's Church on the slopes of Capital Hill is complimentary and sensitive to Walter Burley Griffin's plan for the ACT and establishes a degree of landmark status. However, there is insufficient evidence before the Council, at this time, to consider that the design and aesthetic qualities of St Andrew's Precinct that would define the landmark status of the place are shared by the broader ACT community.

(c) it is important as evidence of a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function that is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost or is of exceptional interest;

St Andrew's Church Precinct, Forrest, does not meet this criterion.

St Andrew's Church Precinct is evidence of the Presbyterian faith in the ACT and was erected amid a co-operative effort of faiths and demonstrates changing liturgical practices and the practice of benefaction. However, there is no evidence before the Council to suggest that any of these activities are no longer practised or are in danger of being lost, and there is insufficient evidence to suggest they are of exceptional interest.

(d) it is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations;

St Andrew's Church Precinct, Forrest, does not meet this criterion.

St Andrew's Church Precinct is valued by the Presbyterian community for its religious associations. However there is insufficient evidence before the Council, at this time, to consider that the Precinct is highly valued by a cultural group or the broader ACT community for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations.

(e) it is significant to the ACT because of its importance as part of local Aboriginal tradition

This criterion does not apply to the St Andrew's Church Precinct, Forrest.

(f) it is a rare or unique example of its kind, or is rare or unique in its comparative intactness

St Andrew's Church Precinct, Forrest, does not meet this criterion.

The Inter-War Gothic style of architecture is utilised almost exclusively in ecclesiastical architecture (Apperly, et al. 1995) and can be seen in the Canberra Baptist Church Precinct, Reid as well as the Uniting Church, Reid as well as many other notable examples throughout Australia. Therefore St Andrew's Church is not considered by the Council to be unique or rare amongst ecclesiastical structures in the ACT.

Whilst St Andrew's Church Precinct combines a wide range of technical and design elements, the Council does not consider that this combination of elements qualifies the place as being a rare or unique example of its kind.

The first organ was the first of its type in Australia. However, there is insufficient evidence before the Council to suggest that it is a rare or unique example of its kind, or that it is of a high degree of intactness.

(g) it is a notable example of a kind of place or object and demonstrates the main characteristics of that kind

St Andrew's Church Precinct, Forrest, meets this criterion.

St Andrew's Church Precinct is a notable example of an ecclesiastical precinct due to it being designed as a complex reflecting the history of the Presbyterian Church and the parish in the national capital through the functions and design of the complex. The church building is ornate, expansive, draws the eye upwards and is evocative of the European origin of the denomination. This is juxtaposed against the Manse's solid and familiar upper-middle class design which references the region's early Scottish settler estates that drew the Presbyterian community to the area, reflecting its function as the residence of the minister. The comparison continues through to the caretaker's cottage which is modest and simple, reflecting the mundane functions that are associated with the upkeep of the Precinct. The Hall and Nave are both compromised versions of their original designs due to funding constraints and detract from the original holistic complex design.

St Andrew's Church is a notable example of Inter-War Gothic style architecture as the largest and most ornate example in the ACT. The church demonstrates the principal characteristics of ecclesiastical Inter-War Gothic style architecture, including:

- the traditional cruciform floor plan;
- an apse;
- a transept;
- a thematic chapel;
- the asymmetric massing of the belltower and spire;
- the use of stone cladding and buttressing to enhance the gothic character of the building;
- the interior of the church has tall expansive spaces that use pointed arches which are echoed in the design of alcoves throughout;
- the stained glass windows with cast concrete mullions and tracery that add to the verticality and the ornate styling; and
- the ornate decorations consisting of:
 - the gargoyles;
 - the carved stone portrayals of the leaders of the Reformation;
 - the spire; and

- the pinnacles.

The Nave, built four decades later, tries to continue this tradition, but in a style of dramatic contrast due to budget constraints that prohibited the use of a more complimentary design, to a more open, community based area using modern materials and styling.

St Andrew's Church is among the most ornate and largest of the churches when compared against others on the ACT Heritage Register. Other comparable churches in the ACT include:

- Canberra Baptist Church Precinct, Kingston – a modest Inter-War Gothic style building consisting of simplified geometric shapes and basic crenellations;
- St Christopher's Cathedral Precinct, Forrest – one of the largest churches in the ACT, utilising Federation Romanesque architecture;
- St John the Baptist Church and Churchyard, Reid – a modest Victorian Gothic local stone building and one of the oldest buildings in the ACT;
- St Paul's Anglican Church, Griffith – a large red-brick Inter-War Romanesque building with hints of art deco; and
- Uniting Church, Reid – a modest Inter-War Gothic style building which emphasizes verticality with a massed belltower, steep-pitched roof and double pointed gabling of the frontispiece.

The Manse is a notable example of Inter-War Georgian Revival style architecture. The style is evidenced by:

- the hipped rooflines with fine texture;
- prismatic shapes used in the layout, facades and features;
- paned double hung vertical windows;
- string course;
- plain wall surfaces of local red face brick;
- classical elements used for emphasis, including:
 - Buttressing (also used to tie all the buildings in the complex thematically together);
 - Castellated balconies;
 - Corner portico entrance with pointed arches; and
 - Pointed arch, shafted jamb frontispiece entrance;
- timber floor and roof; and
- painted cast concrete trim.

The styling of the Manse is simple in contrast to the church, but more lavish than the caretaker's cottage. The interior retains most of its original integrity as there has been minimal modifications, which are limited to upgrading to more modern amenities and changing the function of rooms to suit an administrative use rather than domestic accommodation. The Manse is notable among ACT Inter-War Georgian Revival style buildings as it is a substantial, two-storey residential building. Other examples of Inter-War Georgian Revival Style buildings in the ACT tend to be large commercial or public buildings such as Ian Potter House and the Albert Hall, or they tend to be smaller single-storey residential buildings such as those found in the Garden City Precincts of Alt Crescent, Blandfordia 5, Corroboree Park, Kingston/Griffith Housing Precinct, and Wakefield Gardens Precinct.

The Inter-War Georgian Revival style architecture of the Manse draws inspiration from early Australian architecture with a subtle mixing of styling with references to

Old Colonial Georgian and Old Colonial Regency architecture. In describing the Inter-War Georgian Revival style of architecture, Apperly et al (1995, p.150) notes that "the word *Revival* forms part of the name of the Inter-War style being described here because, for the first time in this country's history, an early style of Australia's own architecture was consciously chosen as the starting point for a twentieth-century idiom." The Manse is notable amongst buildings of this style as it references this early architecture quite literally. It finds its roots in its parish, the Scottish-based Presbyterians who settled in the area. The architectural style looks to these early Scottish Australian estates, the Campbell estate in particular, which often started as a modest Georgian style building and expanded in sections as resources allowed. This would create a building that has subtle styling differences in each of the expanded phases of construction. The Manse draws on this, with a subtle mix of styling cues, to create a building that looks as though it has expanded in stages; it is evocative of upper-middle class Australia and the Scottish settler roots of the church in the region. The Manse maintains its Inter-War Georgian Revival style, while reinterpreting it by deviating in the following characteristics:

- the use of balanced repetitive fenestration, rather than regular repetitive fenestration, with windows set in groups;
- windows on different floors do not line up to give the impression of the top floor as a later addition;
- although it does not have the characteristic symmetry of the style, it does have balance;
- the roof is more complicated than would usually be found on Inter-War Georgian Revival style buildings, but it is still prismatic and fairly simple;
- the use of castellation on balconies to give the illusion that they are later additions by using a slightly disjointed, but related, style; and
- the kitchen and administrative areas on the eastern side of the building have parapeted and gable-ended roofs that mark them out as differing from the second storey roofline which gives the impression of a later addition

This method of styling is evocative of a building that developed over time and creates a sense of age and history to the building, making it appear as though it has evolved on the site alongside the church's Inter-War Gothic styling which is evocative of even older architecture. The references to the Scottish settler origins of the Presbyterian Church as well as its juxtaposition with the church creates a sense of age and history that make the Manse a notable example of Inter-War Georgian Revival style architecture.

(h) it has strong or special associations with a person, group, event, development or cultural phase in local or national history

St Andrew's Church Precinct, Forrest, meets this criterion.

St Andrew's Church Precinct has a strong association in local history with the development of the ACT. Construction of the Church, Manse and Caretaker's Cottage was part of a vigorous program of building in the Federal Capital in the 1920s. The construction of the Church was a substantial effort by the Presbyterian Church to provide a national denominational monument in the new capital city.

St Andrew's Church Precinct has a special association with the Rev. Joy Bartholomew who was the first women ordained as a Presbyterian minister in Australia. In 1991 the Presbyterian Church ruled against women being ordained, but left intact the rights of

those already ordained. Rev. Bartholomew was the last Australian Presbyterian female minister when she retired in July 2013.

The Church has strong associations with many prominent local and national figures, including:

- Norman Carter – produced the windows in the Warrior's Chapel titled: The Resurrection, Walker and Reid Windows. Carter is a renowned Australian artist with works in the National Gallery of Australia and Parliament House. He has made several stained glass windows such as those in St Stephen's Church, Sydney, the 'Warriors' Chapel' in All Saints Cathedral, Bathurst, and the Teachers' College, Armidale. Other major works include the north clerestory windows in St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney.
- John Radecki – produced five windows in the apse: The Lord's Supper, Christ receiving the Children, Christ Asking Mary and the two Foliage Windows. Radecki was the first person to be trained in the art of stained glass windows in Australia. His works feature in many Sydney churches, the Queen Victoria Building and the Grand Hall of the Commonwealth Bank in Martin Place.
- The Very Reverend Hector Harrison – the second minister of St Andrew's, 1940-1978, who was the moderator of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales during 1950-51, the moderator-general of the Presbyterian Church in Australia 1962-64 and Vice-President of the World Presbyterian Alliance in 1964. He was largely responsible for St Andrew's Church not joining the Uniting Church.

(i) it is significant for understanding the evolution of natural landscapes, including significant geological features, landforms, biota or natural processes

St Andrew's Church Precinct, Forrest, does not meet this criterion.

St Andrew's Church Precinct is a landscaped and built environment and, as such, this criterion is not applicable.

(j) it has provided, or is likely to provide, information that will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of the natural or cultural history of the ACT because of its use or potential use as a research site or object, teaching site or object, type locality or benchmark site

St Andrew's Church Precinct, Forrest, does not meet this criterion.

The Council considers that the ability of the place to provide information that will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of the cultural history of the ACT (including architectural history, building technology, religious development and local history centred on the site) has not been clearly demonstrated at this time.

(k) for a place—it exhibits unusual richness, diversity or significant transitions of flora, fauna or natural landscapes and their elements

St Andrew's Church Precinct, Forrest, does not meet this criterion.

St Andrew's Church Precinct is a landscaped and built environment with no evidence of any flora or fauna that this criterion refers to and, as such, this criterion is not applicable.

(l) for a place—it is a significant ecological community, habitat or locality for any of the following:

- (i) the life cycle of native species;**
- (ii) rare, threatened or uncommon species;**
- (iii) species at the limits of their natural range;**
- (iv) distinct occurrences of species.**

St Andrew's Church Precinct, Forrest, does not meet this criterion.

St Andrew's Church Precinct is a landscaped and built environment with no evidence of any species that this criterion refers to and, as such, this criterion is not applicable.

SUMMARY OF THE PLACE HISTORY AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

History

The first Presbyterian service on the Limestone Plains was conducted in June 1838 by Reverend William Hamilton of Goulburn. A number of Scottish families had settled on the Limestone Plains, having been encouraged to come there under the bounty system by the Campbell family, one of the first settlers in the area. The Campbell's were themselves Scottish. Subsequent services were held in the Duntroon Woolshed on the Campbell estate, with Ministers from Yass, Gundaroo and Queanbeyan officiating (White, 1951). In 1865 the Kinlyside family built a church of bark which was later replaced by a stone building opened in 1873, now known as St Ninian's in Lyneham. When the national capital city was being formed and public servants were being transferred from Melbourne, Presbyterian services were held in the home of Mr H Rolland, Chief Architect of the Federal Capital Commission (FCC), then later at the Acton Hall, and then at the Friendly Societies' Hall (White, 1951).

In 1926, the FCC, which had been established by the Federal Parliament to continue the construction of Canberra according to Walter Burley Griffin's 1918 Plan, allocated cathedral sites to Anglican, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist and Congregational Churches. The site granted to the Presbyterians was been described as "a very fine one, half way up the slope of Capital Hill, near Parliament House, Government buildings and chief residential area. It is a self contained site, triangular in shape, and bounded by three roads. The lower point of the triangle centres with the very fine, wide and tree-planted Canberra Avenue which branches off as a road on each side of the site" (Rowe & Aitken, 1992: 20). The *Church Lands Leases Ordinance* 1924 was created with the intention of the major denominations building cathedral sites in the new Capital. This allowed the different denominations to apply for select blocks of up to five acres with minimal rent that were tax exempt. Each denomination was allowed to apply for one of the select blocks which were located in the "The City Area". These blocks were meant for cathedrals and associated ecclesiastical buildings, which was a great expense at the time for the several denominations who were only servicing a small population. The Presbyterians got around this by selecting a small secondary site on the northern side of the Molonglo River where they built a church hall, today Shakespeare Hall, that would serve as a church until the cathedral could be built. The Presbyterians petitioned the Minister for Home and Territories to be allowed the two blocks of land on either side of the triangular block they had chosen as it was smaller than the other sites (4 to 4.5 acres), but this would have given them around 12 acres in total, not the 4 they claimed. They were not given the extra blocks, but were allocated the half acre block in Ainslie (now Braddon), which would have brought the total of land allocated to them up to five acres.

There was among the churches "a feeling of some urgency to provide for their expected congregations and to be seen as nationally important" (Charlton, 1984: 54). This competitive spirit led the Presbyterians to build a church hall in Braddon in 1927, now St Columba's Uniting Church Hall. They then set out to raise money for "a monumental place of worship befitting the Federal Capital" which was to be the first church built on one of the sites which had been allocated for the erection of cathedrals or comparable monumental churches in line with the importance of the city (Charlton, 1984: 54-55).

There were two options open to the Church Management Committee: one was to build a church a little larger than necessary for present requirements, the other was to have a larger vision which would include the possible growth of the country and its capital city and to build a Cathedral Church. The second option was preferred and the decision was made to build the Church in stone in a gothic style with a tower, spire and a future church hall. (Fullerton, 1988)

In February 1927 the Very Reverend Mr (afterwards Dr) John Walker was inducted as the first Presbyterian Minister of the Canberra Parish. Dr Walker toured Australia as a Commissioner of the General Assembly to raise funds for the national church. Dr Walker's commission was undertaken with great zeal and enthusiasm and resulted in sufficient funds being raised to enable a contract to be let for the construction of St Andrew's (Fullerton, 1988). Dr Walker is hailed as a "pioneer minister" and a "maker of history" and he is credited with the building of St Andrew's Church which "was possible only because of his faith in the Cause and in the liberality of Presbyterians" (Rowe & Aitken, 1992: 16).

The principal architect for the St Andrew's Church Precinct was John Barr of Sydney (Charlton, 1984). As well as designing the Church, Barr also designed many of the internal furnishings and fittings. These are also in gothic style and were made of dark Queensland maple by master craftsmen from three Sydney furniture manufacturers. The Church was built by Simmie & Co. who were also the builders responsible for the Australian War Memorial, the United States Embassy, the Institute of Anatomy, CSIRO buildings at Turner, the Albert Hall much of the early Civic Centre (Fosket, et al, 2001).

The foundation stone of the Church was laid by the Governor-General, Lord Stonehaven in November 1929. Work on the church was proceeding in 1930 with the funds which had already been raised. In 1933 the situation had become difficult due to the Great Depression and many of the promised funds were not forthcoming. As a result, only half of the original design of the church, comprising the apse, transept, tower and spire, was built. This part of the building was completed in 1934 and opened by the Governor-General Sir Isaac Isaacs on 22 September of that year. It remained unfurnished for some time. Donations such as a gift of 5,000 pounds from Sir James Murdoch for the purchase of an organ, assisted in the acquisition of furnishings. The Church was opened on 22 September 1934. (Fullerton, 1988)

The foundation stone for the War Memorial Church Hall was laid in March 1954 and the main portion of the hall was opened on 19 September 1955. Further additions were made to the complex and these were opened on 19 August 1962. (White, 1951)

When the Church was opened in 1934, a temporary wooden wall was erected within the nave arch so that the Church could be completed at a later date. It was not until 1969 that a long-time parishioner, Mr Roy Rowe, instructed architect Finlay Munro to produce a modified plan for the nave to that drawn by the architect John Barr in 1930. An appeal to complete the church was launched but, in the meantime, the Uniting Church was in the process of being formed. In the early 1970s, funds were being donated but many prospective donors held back pending the decision of St Andrew's congregation. The congregation of St Andrew's decided not to join the Uniting Church, and this, together with escalating building costs, meant the Finlay Munro plans were abandoned in 1975 (Rowe & Aitken, 1992). Later that year, the congregation accepted a concept for a Peace Memorial Nave developed by Professor J C Haskell, Professor of Architecture at the University of NSW and a former member of the St Andrew's congregation. The Nave provides seating for 110 people, an entrance foyer, a covered way which provides ramp access, and a basement. The external walls of the nave are of shutter concrete, coloured to tone with the existing stonework. The timber featured in the nave is Tasmanian Oak. The large expanse of glass allows

considerable natural light into the church (Fullerton, 1988; Rowe & Aitken, 1992). The Nave demonstrates the skilful use of modern techniques of steel and glass construction, however it is not sympathetic with the original design. Work commenced in November 1978 and the Peace Memorial Nave was opened by the Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowen, on 22 September 1979. (Fullerton, 1988).

A feature of the Church, the Warrior's Chapel, built at the north-eastern side of the church in one transept, was specially designed to commemorate Australia's service and sacrifice in the First World War. The idea for the Chapel was conceived by Dr Walker, who had lost three of his sons in the war. Although the Chapel was part of the original design, funds were not available to furnish it until 1948. A memorial stained glass window, commemorating those who died in the two World Wars, was also installed in the Chapel at this time. Subscriptions towards the cost of this window were received from every State and Territory and consequently, the Coat of Arms of all the States is depicted above the figures of sailors, soldiers, airmen and nurses. The dedication and hanging of the three Service Colours in November 1980 was the final act to complete the Warrior's Chapel and honoured the desire of Dr Walker fifty years earlier to embody within the Church a fitting tribute to the memory of Presbyterians throughout Australia who gave their lives in the wars (Rowe & Aitken, 1992).

Funding for the Manse (now St Andrew's House) was donated by the Ross family of Holbrook and it was opened by John Ross MLA in August 1928. The Manse continued to be used as the minister's residence until 195. After this time it was occupied by assistant ministers as well as being used as an office from that time until it was renovated in the early 1980s. From 1986 it has been operating as the parish administrative centre. However, it remains highly intact and could easily revert to a manse again if necessary. (Fullerton, 1988)

The Caretaker's Cottage, also known as Beadle's Cottage, was completed on 12 June 1929. It was funded by donations from the Ross family, designed by John Barr and built by E. Spendlove. Armes & Associates (1992) note that the Cottage was to become a wing of the Hall, but how this was to be accomplished or why it was not undertaken is unclear.

The three builders of the precinct, Simmie & Co., V. Barker and E. Spendlove, were all members of the Master Builders Association of the Federal Capital Territory (MBAFCT) in early 1928; they, and the other 24 members and 9 building companies of the MBAFCT, were largely responsible for the work put out to contract by the FCC at the time (Foskett, et al, 2001).

The War Memorial Church Hall was built by the Congregation of St Andrews with funds raised by the Congregation itself without any national appeal for assistance. The Governor General, Sir William Slim, laid the foundation stone for the hall in March 1954 and the main portion of the hall was opened by the Reverend C E Turnbull in September 1955. Further additions were made to the complex and these were opened in August 1962. (Fullerton, 1988)

Only five ministers have been inducted into the church since its opening: The Reverend Charles Turnbull (1934-1939), the Very Reverend Hector Harrison (1940-1978), the Reverend John Baillie (1979-1985), the Reverend Dr Gordon Fullerton (1986-1999) and the Reverend Joy Bartholomew (1999-2013). It has been noted that the work of Mr Harrison was "eminently successful" and that "the Church of New South Wales has signified its appreciation of his work by calling him to be the Moderator of the NSW Assembly in 1950, while he was still working as a Minister at St Andrew's" (White, 1951: 288; Fullerton pers. comm.). He also became Moderator of the General Assembly of Australia in 1962, Vice-President of the World Presbyterian Alliance in 1964 and received an OBE. Rev. Harrison opposed joining the Uniting Church saying, "You have neighbours. You can respect each other, love each other, but Hell, you don't have to live together" (*The Canberra Times* 24 June 1972 p.13). Dr Fullerton was also Moderator of the NSW Assembly in 1994.

Description

St Andrew's Church is constructed in the Inter-War Gothic style and is more ornate than most other examples of this style and era in the ACT (Apperly, et al, 1994). The Church occupies a prominent position on the south-east side of Capital Hill on which Parliament House stands. The church has been carefully sited to take advantage of the vista along Canberra Avenue.

The Church is a brick building, faced with sandstone. The use of reinforced concrete in arches and vaults demonstrate a degree of technical skill. The Church has a well proportioned tower and spire with four pinnacles located towards the Southeast corner of the Church. The tower is brick, faced with stone and the spire is wholly stone. The belfry louvres and tower vents are slate. The decoration includes blind arcading and stone carvings of gargoyles and the heads of leaders of the Reformation. Rainwater is dispersed via the gargoyles (Armes & Assoc., 1993).

The interior walls of the Church are rendered and painted brick. The small alcoves found throughout the interior of the church are rendered in 'pebblecrete'. The ceiling is stained oregon, with painted trim. There are many stained glass windows and these are fitted into perpendicular tracery. Five stained glass windows located around the apse were the only ones installed when the church was first opened: three over the communion table, one over the baptismal font and one over the lectern.

The apse at the head of the church interior contains five stained glass windows by John Radecki. Radecki, a Polish Immigrant, was the first person to be trained in the art of stained glass windows in Australia at the firm of F Ashwin & Co. Radecki became proprietor of the company, which had changed to John Ashwin & Co from 1920 to 1955, during which time his works featured in many Sydney churches, the Queen Victoria Building and the Grand Hall of the Commonwealth Bank in Martin Place. St Andrew's Church features five windows in the apse credited to Radecki; The Lord's Supper, Christ Receiving the Children, Christ Asking Mary and the two Foliage Windows.

The Warriors' Chapel includes the stained glass windows The Resurrection, the Walker Memorial Window and the Reid Windows, made by the renowned artist Norman St Clair Carter, installed in 1948. The windows are a memorial to those who died in the two World Wars, including 10,000 Australian Presbyterians (Rowe & Aitken, 1992). Carter is a renowned Australian artist with several holdings in the National Gallery of Australia. His portraits of Sir Edmund Barton and W. M. Hughes are in Parliament House. Carter has made several memorial windows such as those in St Stephen's Church, Sydney, the 'Warriors' Chapel' in All Saints Cathedral, Bathurst, and the Teachers' College, Armidale; other major works include the north clerestory windows in St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney.

In the bell tower there is a peal of eight bells presented by Roy Rowe and installed in 1968. The bells were designed by Ronald Clouston of London and were cast at the bell foundry of John Taylor and Company, Loughborough, England (Rowe & Aitken, 1992).

An unusual feature is an outdoor pulpit in the centre of the north-eastern wall of the transept. It was designed for use with large outdoor gatherings on special occasions. It is built of timber covered with simulated stone and still has the original slate roof. (Rowe & Aitken, 1992)

The Church Hall, which adjoins the Church on the north-western side, was built in the early 1950s by A B Collings from plans by Finlay Rowe. The floor plan of the Church is cruciform but the Hall is attached behind the apse, resulting in a ponderous base which detracts from the vertical features of the Church. On the north-western and south-western sides, the Church Hall has a rendered finish on the walls, although it was to have been built of brick with stone facing, in accordance with the original plans. It appears that this was due to cost, the render being coloured to blend with the stone (Armes & Assoc., 1993). The north eastern facing wall is brick, faced with stone to match the styling of the church. It also has buttressing that echoes that of the church and the other buildings; the buttressing on the eastern facade closely resembles that of the church in design and material, the northern facade buttressing uses

the same design in a rendered brick finish and the least visible western facade has buttressing of a greatly simplified form.

St Andrew's House was designed by Henry Hardy Kemp, architect, of Melbourne and built by V. Barker. It was completed in October 1928. The house has two storeys in an Inter-War Georgian Revival style. It is built with local red brick and has a slate roof and decorative precast concrete elements in castellated walls. The brickwork has cavities, with terracotta vents, and bullnose bricks decorate the reveals. The windows are double hung and made of painted timber. They are similar to windows in the nearby Oakley and Parkes houses in Forrest. Major elements are decorated with gothic hood-moulds. Balcony roofs are supported with square, painted timber posts. Entry porches have tessellated red, black and white tiles. The rear porch has a roof of asbestos-cement shingles. The interior of the house consists of painted plaster walls with dark stained joinery, face brick fireplaces and strapped ceilings. The upstairs bathrooms have black and white tiling, chromed metalwork and painted joinery (Armes & Assoc., 1993).

The Groundskeepers Cottage, once known as Beadle's Cottage, is located a short distance to the north of St Andrew's House. Like the manse, the cottage was also designed by John Barr in an Inter-War Georgian Revival style with false buttresses, echoing those on the Church and rendered with similar patterns. The builder was E. Spendelove and it was built with funds donated by the Ross family (as with the Manse) and completed in June 1929. It is built of double brick which has been rendered so that it appears as stone, and has a slate roof. It has rendered brick buttressing that echo the buttressing on the church and the Manse. It has two bedrooms and a veranda enclosed into a bedroom, hallway, bathroom, outside laundry, lounge room and kitchen with walk in pantry. It has twelve-pane double-hung windows and timber eaves. An inspection during June 2013 by the ACT Heritage Unit found that it is in good condition with regular maintenance as outlined in the Conservation Management Plan (Armes & Assoc., 2007). It has had no alterations other than the replacement of the wood heater in the lounge room and the wood stove in the kitchen with more modern forms of heating and a small shed attached to the south-western end of the garage. A double garage, part of the original design, adjoins the cottage on the western side. As of June 2013, it is rented by the Church organist, before this the Cottage was occupied by the Church caretaker from the time it was built until the early 1990s when it was rented out.

St Andrew's Church Precinct is located in a prominent position at the northern end of Canberra Avenue. The alignment of the Church spire, Parliament House flagpole and Black Mountain Tower, reinforces the axes within Walter Burley Griffin's plan for Canberra. Surrounding trees have matured and nearby offices have been erected which obscure much of its original impact. Canberra Avenue is still a major road and its link to Queanbeyan was significant from the early days of Canberra. The sweeping curves of the Canberra Avenue and State Circle intersection have been modified for engineering purposes and the original symmetrical order of the block has been lost, yet is still evident in the landscaping design (Armes & Assoc., 1993).

Of the original tree plantings, rows of pin oaks forming two avenues still remain. There is also a rowan tree, the original of which was planted in soil brought out from Scotland, located at the southern end of the two rows of pin oaks (this is the second planting as the original died). There is an Arizona cypress planted on the western side of the block, near the cottage, which could have been planted around the time of building, as well as a row of Portuguese cypresses forming a hedge. Other plantings, such as a compass hedge planted by the architect (Rowe & Aitken, 1992), no longer remain. Parallel rows of alternating species of trees in advanced-to-mature stages have been planted to line the triangular shaped block on what were formerly the two sides of Canberra Avenue. There are also a number of trees and shrubs planted around the Church, House and cottage.

Restoration work and continual maintenance is required for the church and associated buildings. Restoration on the church commenced in 1992 with trials of methodology and urgent repairs (Armes & Assoc, 2007) with the coping-stones on the roof having been replaced and some work having been done to the road on the western side of the Church to divert rainwater away from the Church. Major

restorations based on the trial began during 1997-1998 after a \$500,000 Commonwealth grant was awarded, which completed work on the roofing of the church as well as restorations for the groundskeepers Cottage and the Manse. A site visit by a Heritage Officer from the ACT Heritage Unit in June 2013 noted that the Manse was being treated for termites and damp issues with the works being in accordance with the Conservation Management Plan (Armes and Assoc, 2007; Hans Sommer, pers. comm., June 2013).

Physical Condition and Integrity

The buildings were noted as requiring significant restoration work in order to maintain their physical integrity in 1988 in a report from David Muir (as reported in Armes and Assoc, 2007). From this time until 1997-98 there was a series of urgent works and trials, after which major restoration works were carried out on all of the buildings, including repairs to roofing, gutters, drainage, plumbing, painting, coping, re-pointing and restoration and securing of the stained glass windows. This period of major restoration works concluded in 2007 with the Conservation Management Plan being reviewed and updated by John Armes and Associates and an ongoing and cyclical maintenance program being instigated. During a site visit by the ACT Heritage Unit in June 2013 the results of the ongoing maintenance program was noted as termite-proofing and damp-proofing work was being carried out on the Manse. Visual inspection at the time of the buildings and grounds indicated that they were in excellent condition with all restoration work being completed in a sympathetic fashion that has maintained the physical integrity of the place.

SITE PLAN

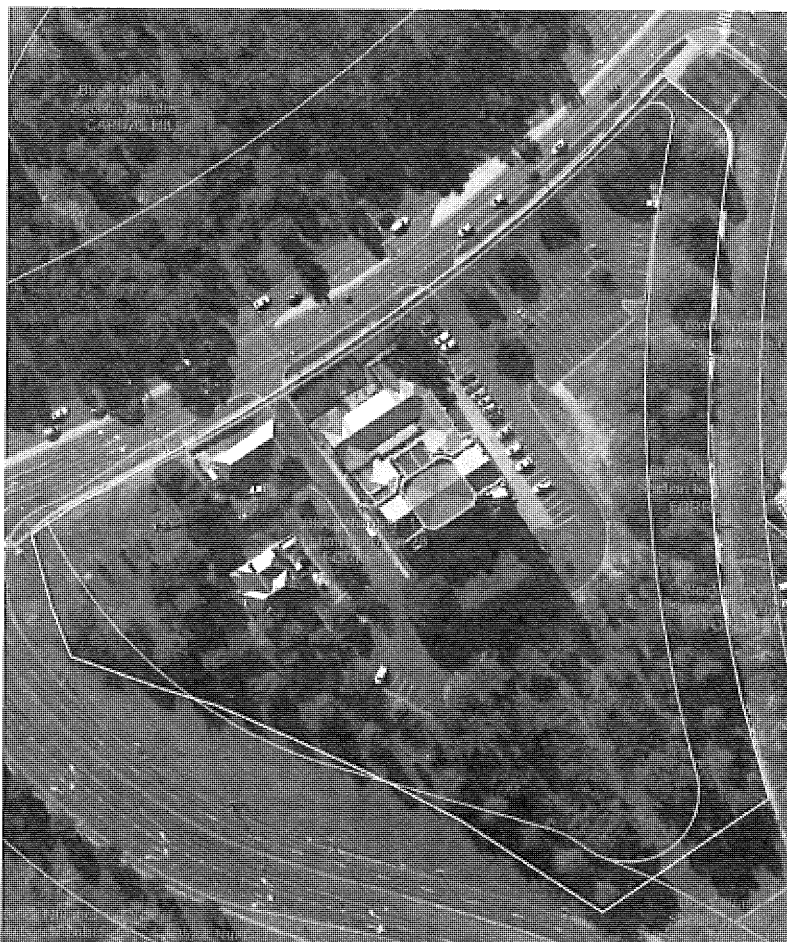


Image 1: St Andrew's Church Precinct boundary. (ACT Heritage Unit, 2013)

PHOTOS



Image 2. Northeast facade with the nave on the left, spire, Warriors' Chapel and outdoor pulpit in the centre and the Hall on the right.
(ACT Heritage Unit, 2013)



Image 3. Hall northeast facade.
(ACT Heritage Unit, 2013)

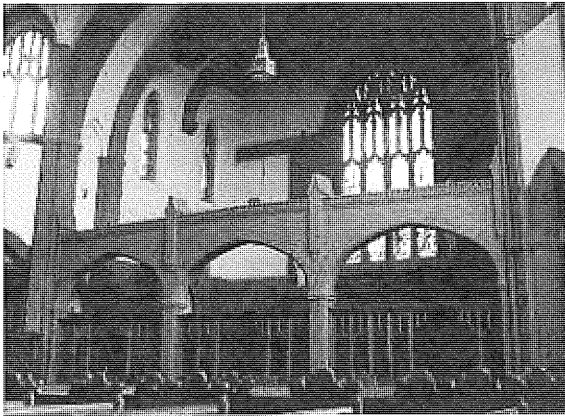


Image 4. Warriors' Chapel.
(ACT Heritage Unit, 2013)



Image 5. St Andrew's Church interior.
(ACT Heritage Unit, 2013)



Image 6. Manse northeast facade with modern entrance (formerly side/maid's entrance).
(ACT Heritage Unit, 2013)

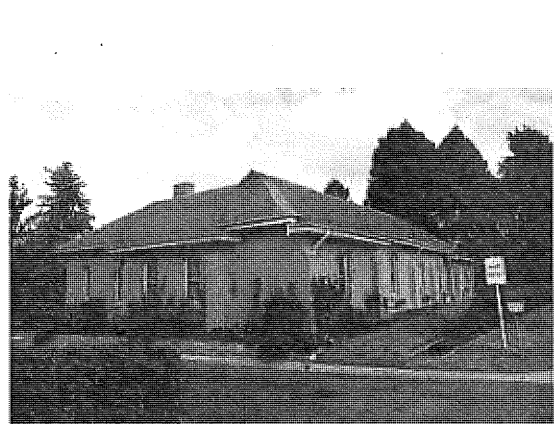


Image 7. Caretaker's Cottage.
(ACT Heritage Unit, 2013)

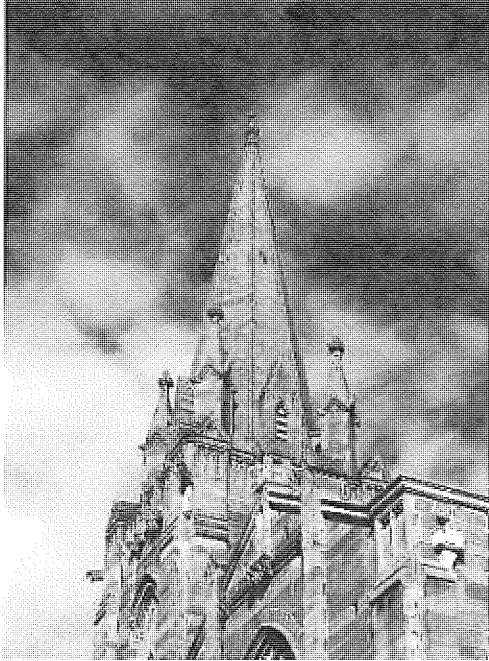


Image 8. Spire detail.
(ACT Heritage Unit, 2013)

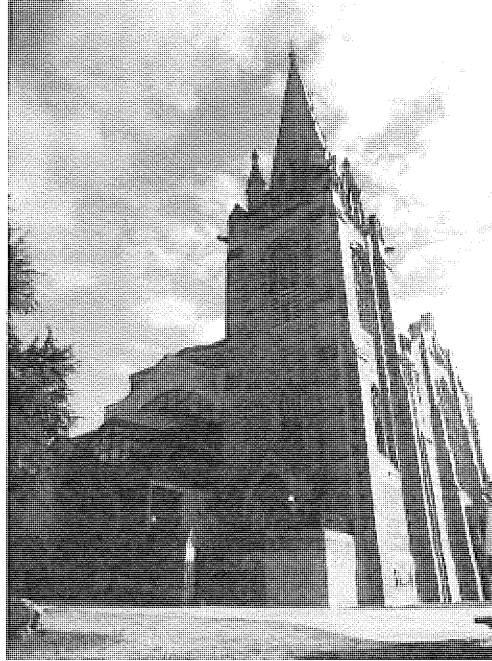


Image 9. Southeast facade showing the nave and spire.
(ACT Heritage Unit, 2013)

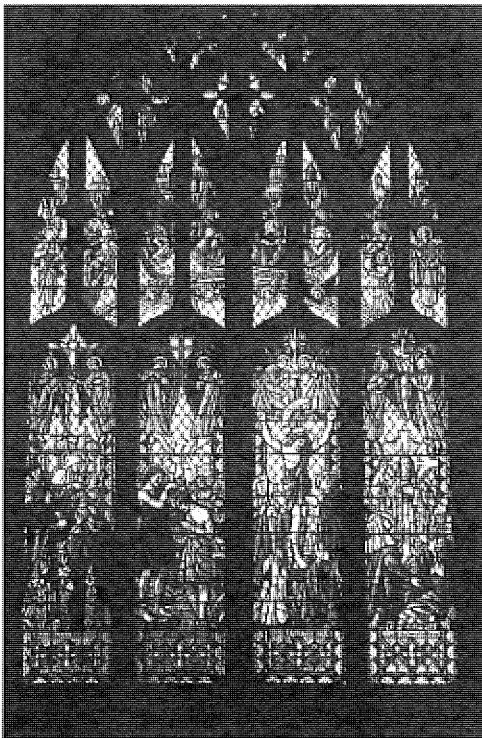


Image 10. The Redemption Window.
(ACT Heritage Unit, 2013)

REFERENCES

- Apperly, R, Irving, R & Reynolds, P. 1994. *A Pictorial Guide To Identifying Australian Architecture*, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, NSW.
- Armes, J & Associates. 1992. *St Andrew's Church and St Andrew's House Conservation Plan 1992*. A NEGP (National Estate Grants Program) report, ACT, unpublished.
- Armes, J & Associates. 2007. *Church of St Andrew State Circle, Forrest A.C.T. Conservation Plan*. Armes, J & Associates, ACT, unpublished.
- Australian Heritage Commission. 1990. *Register of the National Estate Database - Place Report*, Church of St Andrew and St Andrew's House, both registered 15/05/1990.
- The Canberra Times* (1972) Will church-goers' vote achieve unity? June 24 p.13.
- Charlton, Ken. 1984. *Federal Capital Architecture*, National Trust of Australia, ACT.
- Foskett, A.; Andrew, D. and Johnstone, P. (2001). *On Solid Foundations: the building and construction of the Nation's Capital 1920 to 1950: a history of the pioneering efforts of those who built Canberra*. Canberra Tradesmen's Union Club, Dickson, ACT.
- Fullerton, Reverend Dr G R(ed). 1988. *Set On A Hill, An Introduction To The Presbyterian Church of St Andrew*, pamphlet, Canberra, ACT.
- Leeson, Phillip, 1984. *Marion Mahony Griffin Measured Drawings Competition, First Prize*, Canberra, ACT (for St Andrew's Manse).
- Muir, D. 1988. *Report on Survey of the Church of St Andrews and the Church Hall, Forrest, A.C.T.* Unpublished report for Mr Ross Rowe to present to the Church Committee.
- Muller, Peter, 1976. *The Esoteric Nature of Griffin's Design for Canberra, Walter Burley Griffin Memorial Lecture*, Unpublished text of lecture, arranged by the ACT Chapter of the RAlA.
- Rowe, R & Aitken, A. 1992. *The Building and Furnishing of the Presbyterian Church of St Andrew*, Canberra, ACT.
- White, Reverend CA. 1951. *The Challenge of the Years, A History of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of NSW*, Angus & Robertson, Sydney, NSW.

Oral References

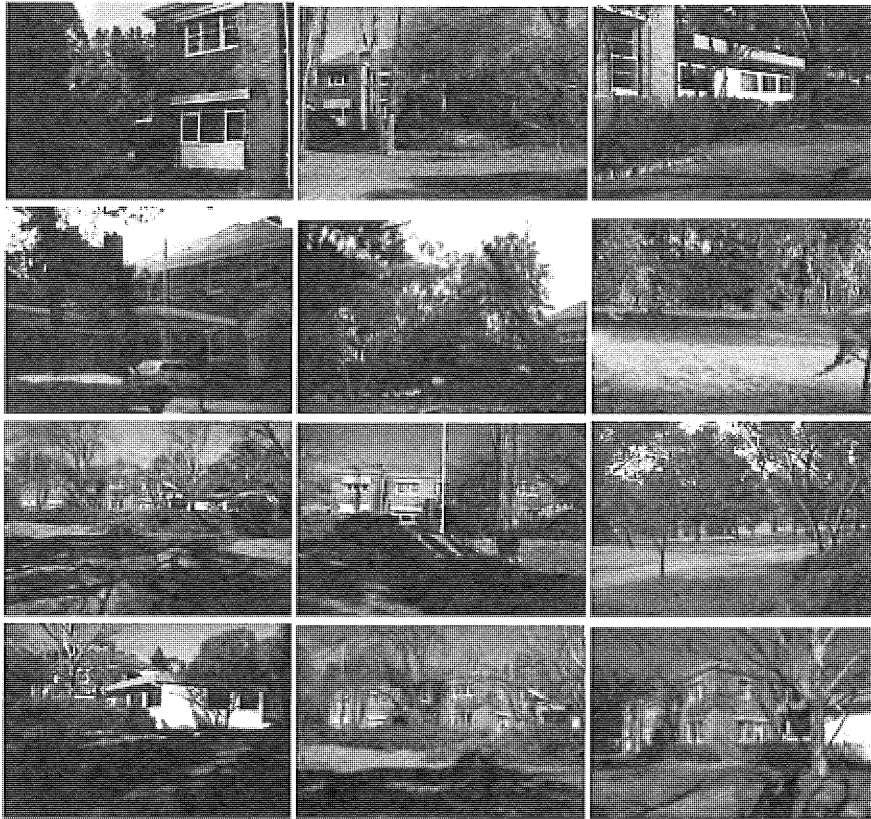
- Robert Boden, Assistance in identifying flora of the Church grounds, September 1996.
- Reverend Dr G R Fullerton, Personal Communication, September 1996.
- Mrs Margaret McAuslan, Personal Communication, September 1996.
- Hans Sommer, General Manager, The Village Building Co. Ltd, personal communication with ACT Heritage Unit, Heritage Office, June 2013.

Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

Casey House and Garden, 4 Rhodes Pl, Yarralumla, ACT, Australia

Photographs



List Commonwealth Heritage List

Class Historic

Legal Status [Listed place](#) (22/06/2004)

Place ID 105629

Place File No 8/01/000/0379

Summary Statement of Significance

Casey House is associated with political controversy, the development of Government Administration in Canberra, the need to have at least one Government minister resident in the National Capital, housing shortages in Canberra in the 1930s and 40s and the economic hardships following the Depression. (Criterion A.4) (Australian Historic Themes: 3.18 Financing Australia; 7.4 Administering Australia; 4.1 Planning urban settlements; 4.1.4 Creating capital cities)

Casey House & Garden is significant for its historic associations with Richard Gardiner Casey, Treasurer with the Lyons Government, Resident Minister in Canberra, the first Commonwealth minister to have an official residence in Canberra and later, Lord Casey, Governor-General of Australia. (Criterion H.1) (Australian Historic Themes: 7.6 Administering Australia)

Casey House & Garden is associated with the Chief Architect of the Department of Works, E Henderson, who respected the Griffin Plan in locating the house within an area designated for official residences. (Criterion H1) (Australian Historic Theme: 4.1 Planning urban settlements)

Casey House is important as the headquarters of the Canadian High Commission for over thirty years and as the focus of the administration of Canadian-Australian relationships during that time. (Criterion A4) (Australian Historic Themes: 8.5 Forming associations; 3.15 Developing economic links outside Australia; 7.1 Governing Australia as a province of the British Empire)

Casey House, as the Headquarters of the Australian Heritage Commission from 1978-1989, has associations with the growing awareness and concern with environmental and heritage matters felt by the Australian Government and society in the 1970s and 80s. (Criterion A.4) (Australian Historic Themes: 7.6 Administering Australia; 7.6.10 Conserving Australia's fragile environments; 7.6.12 Conserving Australia's heritage)

Architecturally, the house is unusual in Canberra for its Art Deco details in an otherwise Georgian Revival design. Through its Art Deco detailing Casey House is linked with the early group of 'permanent' Government buildings in Canberra favouring this style. The requirements and aesthetics of Richard Gardiner Casey and his wife, Maie, influenced the design and construction of the residence. Maie Casey was responsible for the original interior design schemes and details. The garden as a setting for the house was a significant component of all housing for officials at the time. (Criterion D2) (Australian Historic Theme: 8.10.4 Designing and building fine buildings; 8.12 Living in and around Australian homes)

Casey House is significant as one of the few buildings located on Perth Avenue, one of the roads radiating from State Circle named after state capitals and generally orientated in the direction of the capital. (Criterion D2) (Australian Historic Theme: 4.1.4 Creating capital cities)

Official Values

Criterion A Processes

Casey House is associated with political controversy, the development of Government Administration in Canberra, the need to have at least one Government minister resident in the National Capital, housing shortages in Canberra in the 1930s and 40s and the economic hardships following the Depression.

Casey House is important as the headquarters of the Canadian High Commission for over thirty years and as the focus of the administration of Canadian-Australian relationships during that time.

Casey House, as the Headquarters of the Australian Heritage Commission from 1978-1989, has associations with the growing awareness and concern with environmental and heritage matters felt by the Australian Government and society in the 1970s and 80s.

Attributes

The whole building, its grounds and setting.

Criterion D Characteristic values

Architecturally, the house is unusual in Canberra for its Art Deco details in an otherwise Georgian Revival design. Through its Art Deco detailing Casey House is linked with the early group of 'permanent' Government buildings in Canberra favouring this style. The requirements and aesthetics of Richard Gardiner Casey and his wife, Maie, influenced the design and construction of the residence. Maie Casey was responsible for the original interior design schemes and details. The garden as a setting for the house was a significant component of all housing for officials at the time.

Casey House is significant as one of the few buildings located on Perth Avenue, one of the roads radiating from State Circle named after state capitals and generally orientated in the direction of the capital.

Attributes

Art Deco details in an otherwise Georgian Revival design, plus its location in Perth Avenue.

Criterion H Significant people

Casey House & Garden is significant for its historic associations with Richard Gardiner Casey, Treasurer with the Lyons Government, Resident Minister in Canberra, the first Commonwealth minister to have an official residence in Canberra and later, Lord Casey, Governor-General of Australia.

Casey House & Garden is associated with the Chief Architect of the Department of Works, E Henderson, who respected the Griffin Plan in locating the house within an area designated for official residences.

Attributes

The whole house and garden, its location close to Parliament House, and any evidence of the original interior design schemes and details.

Description

Casey House is a two storey red brick traditional domestic building with a generally symmetrical form, facing a garden and having a formal entry court. It has regular fenestration and a tiled roof, indicating a Georgian Revival character, but there are Art Deco patterns in the doorways and some cornices. The house was originally comprised of seven bedrooms for family and staff, three full bathrooms, study, day nursery, drawing room reception and dining room, kitchen and service rooms. The house had every modern convenience for the time.

Walls are cavity brick with cross walls of brick or terracotta lumber. Timber floors are Tallow wood in the main reception room, study and main bedrooms otherwise, Cypress Pine. The roof is traditional timber framed and terracotta tiled. The external brickwork skin is of specially made narrow bricks from the Canberra brickworks; a salmon red with contrasting cream bricks in the front entrance porch. Decorative patterning is used with zigzag or raised banding and soldier coursing at the front and rear entrance porches. The upper windows of the projecting end walls at the rear are surrounded by a special pattern of raised courses.

The house was set in appropriately large grounds of 2 1/3 acres to give privacy and to suit the scale and importance of the house. It is in an area allocated to official residences by Griffin, close to the Government Group. The Casey House site borders the Commonwealth Club and there are some landscaped elements on the site including leveled terraces, steps, shrubs, hedges and trees. The original placement of the building on the site took the importance of protecting existing trees into consideration. The Canadian High Commission planted some Canadian maple trees on the front lawn.

Design and Construction

The design of Casey House is attributed to the Chief Architect, Works and Services Branch of the Department of the Interior, E Henderson. As formally requested by Casey, correspondence between the Caseys and Henderson, in relation to the house, was direct.

Henderson was a British architect who came to Australia in 1910 and worked in the office of John Reid and Sons in Sydney. After 18 months he joined the Commonwealth Department of Works and Railways in Melbourne, where J S Murdoch was Chief Architect. After 2 years he was appointed the Supervising Architect in NSW and was responsible for design. He succeeded Murdoch as Chief Architect for the Commonwealth in 1929.

As Chief Architect, Henderson is largely associated with the 1930s architecture of numerous suburban and country town Commonwealth Bank Branch buildings throughout Australia.

The restrained formality of the house for the Resident Minister, its symmetry in planning and façade treatment, selection of materials and colour are features which ascribe the design to the Georgian Revival style. Overlaid on this basic style is a palette of Art Deco architectural detailing. This combination of Georgian and Art Deco is unusual as Art Deco was more usually fashionable in domestic architecture of the Moderne Style.

There is some ambiguity and confusion concerning the design intent of the entrances. Architectural treatment and enrichment and correspondence about the design favour the northeast as the main façade, with its more richly detailed entrance porch. However, access to this entrance was not developed and it essentially led to the garden. The rear entrance has driveway access and appears to have been the main entrance in the Casey's time and has been subsequently used by the Canadian High Commission and the Australia Heritage Commission.

Henderson used Art Deco design in the architectural details of many of his buildings. The Department of Works, under E Henderson, was responsible for two of Canberra's five Art Deco schools - Ainslie Primary (RR13342) and Canberra High School (Canberra School of Art RR13356). Henderson also used Art Deco enrichment as the expression of the first permanent buildings in the Parliamentary area, the National Library (now demolished) and the Patent Office (RR13846). In Canberra in the 1930s Art Deco enrichment was applied to public buildings which were designed on Beaux Arts principles. Canberra's finest examples are the War Memorial by Emil Soderstein in collaboration with John Crust, 1929-1941 (RR13286) and the Australian Institute of Anatomy (The National Screen and Sound Archives RR13261) completed in 1930 by Hayward Morris, with motifs developed from Australian native flora and fauna.

The Georgian Revival style was characterized by symmetry in the arrangement of doors, windows and balconies and by simple hip or single ridge gable roofs and restrained classical architectural detailing. Maie Casey took an active role in the interior design, selection of hardware details and colour schemes.

History

During the 1930s, as Government Administration became more focused in Canberra the requirement increased for a Minister of the Government to be resident in Canberra.

As well as a supply of Government housing for employees, a number of 'Official Residences' had been built in Canberra and were among the first buildings erected in the Federal Capital. In 1912-1913 six permanent residences designed by the Commonwealth Architect, John Smith Murdoch, were constructed at the newly opened Royal Military College,

Duntroon. In 1913 Murdoch designed 'the Residency', the official residence of the Administrator of the Federal Capital, David Millar, now the ANU Staff Centre. In 1926 he designed the Director's residence at Mt Stromlo and designed renovations and extensions to Government House, Yarralumla. The Prime Minister's residence was erected at Deakin, to the design of the successful entrants in the FCAC competition, Oakley and Parkes.

In 1929 the architectural expression for the official residence and for the new 'permanent' Government buildings began to succumb to a new influence, Art Deco. W. Hayward Morris designed the Institute of Anatomy, one of the finest examples of the Australian adaptation of the Art Deco style, and the simple two-storey residence for the Director.

When confidence in Australia's future began to return following the Great Depression, momentum increased for the transfer of a second wave of the Public Service to Canberra. There was great opposition from public servants and the legal profession to move from Melbourne to the Monaro when the Scullin Government decided, in 1931, to transfer the Patent Office to Canberra. The viability of Canberra, then a town of 700,000 was called into question. However the level of expenditure and commitment already sustained by both Government and private enterprise in the development of Canberra had closed off the option of abandonment. The Lyons Government, which defeated Labour in 1932, overcame all opposition and the Patent Office led the second wave of Public Service transfers to Canberra. In June 1932 the staff of seventy was moved into temporary accommodation in the vacant wings of the Acton Hotel.

Infrastructure and housing were required to support the families of public servants and Canberra was considered a different case to other cities as Government employees were required to move because of their employment. It was felt to be the obligation of Government to provide adequate accommodation.

The waiting list for housing became so long that many public servants were unable to bring their families with them when transferring to Canberra. Many of the existing subdivisions still lacked adequate roads and water and sewerage services. In June 1938 there was a list of 310 families waiting for Government housing in Canberra with a building rate of 50 per year. In addition, there were two Departments of about 500 employees still to be transferred to Canberra.

Heavy criticism had been directed at the Government in the daily newspapers at this time. In the Canberra Times, worker's housing at the Causeway was referred as slums and a blot on the garden city concept of Canberra. The Government was also accused of not encouraging home building in Canberra under an assistance scheme. Although there was such a scheme in place to assist with building 4 - 6 rooms cottages, only 127 people had availed themselves of it.

It was against this background of hardship that the Government decided to build what then must have appeared in sharp contrast - a 14-roomed 'mansion' for the Treasurer.

In the mid 30s, Canberra was faced with getting development moving again. Under such pressure a series of violations of the Griffin Plan were proposed and it became common in official circles to regard the gazetted plan as a 'tiresome anachronism which deserved only nominal respect'.

Until 1939, Canberra was administrated by the Advisory Council, a body comprising the permanent heads of the Department of Health, Home Affairs, Works and railways and the Attorney General's plus three elected members. Supporters of the Griffin Plan were not impressed by the Advisory Council and lobbied for the appointment of a committee of architectural and planning experts.

The National Capital Planning and Development Committee was formed in 1939 and replace the Advisory Council. It comprised three ex-officio members, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, the Chairman of the Advisory Council and a senior officer of the Department of the Interior. Other members included authorities on town planning, architecture or engineering. It was a time of faltering leadership in the direction of the development of Canberra when the first permanent Government buildings were built - the first National Library on King's Avenue, the Patent Office and the Administration Building. At the same time the residence for the Resident Minister was conceived and developed and became a focus for criticism and controversy.

Richard Gardiner Casey, the Member for Corio in the newly elected Lyons Government was one of the first politicians to choose to take up residency in Canberra. The Caseys had returned from London where, since 1924, Richard Casey had successfully carried out a special diplomatic appointment by the then Prime Minister, Stanley Bruce, to facilitate close communication between London and Melbourne (then the Federal capital). As a politician, Casey sought to gain expertise in public finance and the location of the Department of Treasury in Canberra was major factor in his decision to live in Canberra in 1932.

While the Royal Military College was based in Sydney in the 1930s, the Caseys were housed in one of the vacant Officers Residences at Duntroon. In 1937, the return of the RMC from Sydney meant that Casey, who was by then Treasurer, had to find other accommodation.

The first attempt to provide accommodation for Casey involved a proposal to build an exclusive group of houses on the

slopes of Mt Ainslie behind the War Memorial. Investigation into the feasibility of the proposed subdivision continued through 1936 and the idea was later criticized along with the general criticism of the 'Treasurer's mansion' for its cost to the Government.

Casey's second attempt at selecting a site for his house was also not successful. The area selected by Casey was on Acton Peninsula within the zone allocated in the Griffin Plan for the hospital. CS Daley, Assistant Secretary, Civic Administration, opposed this choice and defended the Griffin plan.

After consultation about house plans with Casey in 1936, the Chief Architect of the Department of Works, E Henderson, submitted final sketch plans for the official residence in January 1937. These sketches were based on the site selected in Darwin Avenue. The site is described by the Surveyor-General, A Percival, as being 2 1/3 acres.... 'within a locality, which on the plan of Canberra, is set aside for a large city Domain. Within the domain is located a site for a future residence for the Prime Minister...The Treasurer has inspected the site and concurs with the selection made.'

In political terms the timing of the decision to build the Resident Minister's house could scarcely have been worse. Recovery from the Depression was scarcely underway and the memories of the hardship's experienced throughout Australia were still fresh. Weighed against the pressure on the Government to provide support facilities - especially health and education facilities, hostel accommodation and housing, was the perceived extravagance of government funding for a fourteen-roomed 'mansion' for one family regarded as of the wealthy and privileged sector of society.

In June 1938 questions were raised in Parliament about the cost and any contribution from the Treasurer and a commitment was given for discussion on the proposal. However, by this stage the construction of the house was already well underway and the Government was less than accurate about the state of affairs. The house was being financed in an unorthodox manner from the Architectural and Engineering Votes.

In Parliament the cost of the house was expressed in terms of the contract sum, 6 332 pounds, with additional extras such as drains and paths costing 175 pounds. Round figures were mentioned of 7 000 pounds and the somewhat exaggerated figure of 10 000 pounds with the inclusion of services, roads etc required for the block located in a new subdivision.

Comment continued to be made in Parliament and the Canberra Times editorials commented on the issues of the housing shortage and the extravagance of the Treasurer's house. During the course of the construction of the building, Cabinet discussions about accommodation for Ministers and the Prime Minister continued with various suggestions raised as there was a need for an increasing number of Ministers to reside in Canberra.

A local builder, JW Perry of Kingston won the tender and the completed cost in 1939 was 6 572 pounds 5 s 10d not including the cost of servicing the block. The work was stopped more than once during construction when the Cabinet reopened the debate on the need for the house.

The Caseys took up residence in September 1938. They were to stay there less than one year, for after the death of Lyons, Robert Menzies became Prime Minister and transferred Casey to the portfolio of Supply and Development. The Caseys returned to Melbourne in April 1939.

Casey's diplomatic career, commencing with an appointment as the liaison officer for the Bruce Government in London in 1924, resumed in 1940 with his appointment as Minister Plenipotentiary to Washington. He served in the British War Cabinet as Minister for State on the Middle East and was appointed Governor of Bengal for 1944-46. Returning to Australian and political life, he became MHR for Latrobe in 1949 and Minister for External Affairs from 1951-1960. In 1960 he resigned from politics and became the first life peer created outside the United Kingdom, Lord Casey of Berwick. He was Governor-General of Australia from 1965-69.

The Canadian High Commission moved into Casey House in 1941 and occupied it until 1973. The rooms were adapted easily for office, function rooms and residential accommodation for a small number of staff. In 1955, the Canadian Minister for Trade and Commerce, the Hon CD Howe, visited Canberra and offered the gift of a flagpole to the Australian Government, to celebrate the adoption of the blue Australian flag. The 128 foot flagpole, made from a single spar of Douglas Fir from British Columbia, was officially presented in 1957.

In December 1978 Casey House became the headquarters for the Australian Heritage Commission. The Commission occupied the house until 1989 during which time the staff numbers grew from 15 to 50.

The 1970s and 80s were important years in the growth of the conservation movement in Australia. Although Casey House was not the first home of the Australian Heritage Commission, it is associated with the formative years of the Commission and thereby the development of the concept of the natural and cultural environment as the National Estate. For the first year the Commission shared the house with the National Estates Grant Program but then occupied it solely, undertaking functional rearrangements as staff increased and the duties of the Commission expanded.

After the Australian Heritage Commission vacated Casey House the house was used temporarily as government offices and was vacant for 7 years until leased as professional offices in 1998.

Condition and Integrity

The building is in good condition but with alterations to the east wing and some interiors for conversion to office use. The garden is neat but overgrown.

Changes to the exterior include 1984 alterations to the former laundry, boiler room and service yard to provide storage for a compactus for the Australian Heritage Commission. A carport and a ramp have been added. Changes to the interior of the house have been minor. Light fittings and colours have been changed but doorhandles and tiling are original. There was no original furniture. The garage was converted into a conference room by the Canadian High Commission and the verandah porch enclosed. [Based on 1994 Conservation Plan].

The building and site appear to have been very well looked after during the current lease. Approved works have been completed satisfactorily. (1998 Casey House Condition Appraisal Report, Cox)

Location

4 Rhodes Place, Yarralumla, comprising Block 1, Section 44.

Bibliography

Australian Construction Services 1994 Casey House: Conservation Plan for Department of Administrative Services

Garnett, R & Hyndes, D 1992 The Heritage of the Australian Capital Territory, National Trust.

Cox Group 1998 Casey House Condition Appraisal Report

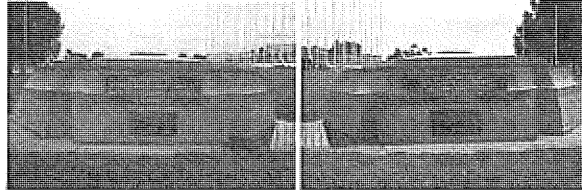
Report Produced Thu Mar 14 16:45:32 2019

Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

Commencement Column Monument, Federation Mall, Capital Hill, ACT, Australia

Photographs



List	Commonwealth Heritage List
Class	Historic
Legal Status	<u>Listed place</u> (22/06/2004)
Place ID	105347
Place File No	8/01/000/0389

Summary Statement of Significance

The foundation stones of the never-completed Commencement Column are significant for their historical association with the selection of a site for the federal capital of Australia, in accordance with Section 125 of the Constitution which stipulated that the federal seat of government would be located within the state of New South Wales, but not within a 100-mile radius of Sydney. The foundation stones are also significant for their association with the official foundation and naming of Canberra in March 1913 as the national capital. (Criterion A4. Historic Themes 7.4 Federating Australia; 4.1 Planning urban settlements [creating capital cities]; 4.6 Remembering significant phases in the development of settlements, towns and cities; 8.9 Commemorating significant events).

Though moved from their original location, the foundation stones of the never-completed Commencement Column are of symbolic significance to the Australian community for their commemorating the official selection, foundation and naming of Canberra as the national capital. (Criterion G1)

The foundation stones are significant for their association with important figures in the foundation of Canberra, including John Smith Murdoch, designer of the intended Commencement Column and of Old Parliament House. It is also associated with Lord Thomas Denman, Governor General at the time of laying the stones, his wife, Lady Denman who performed the official naming of the capital, Andrew Fisher, the Prime Minister of the day, and King O'Malley who, as Minister for Home Affairs, was intimately involved in the selection of Canberra as the federal seat of government. (Criterion H1)

Official Values

Criterion A Processes

The foundation stones of the never-completed Commencement Column are significant for their historical association with the selection of a site for the federal capital of Australia, in accordance with Section 125 of the Constitution which stipulated that the federal seat of government would be located within the state of New South Wales, but not within a 100-mile radius of Sydney. The foundation stones are also significant for their association with the official foundation and naming of Canberra in March 1913 as the national capital.

Attributes

The three foundation stones and their inscriptions.

Criterion G Social value

Though moved from their original location, the foundation stones of the never-completed Commencement Column are of symbolic significance to the Australian community for their commemorating the official selection, foundation and naming of Canberra as the national capital.

Attributes

The three foundation stones and their inscriptions.

Criterion H Significant people

The foundation stones are significant for their association with important figures in the foundation of Canberra, including John Smith Murdoch, designer of the intended Commencement Column and of Old Parliament House. It is also associated with Lord Thomas Denman, Governor General at the time of laying the stones, his wife, Lady Denman who performed the official naming of the capital, Andrew Fisher, the Prime Minister of the day, and King O'Malley who, as Minister for Home Affairs, was intimately involved in the selection of Canberra as the federal seat of government.

Attributes

The three foundation stones and their inscriptions.

Description

HISTORY

The Commencement Column monument consists of the three foundation stones for the intended column which were laid down at a ceremony on 12 March 1913 to designate the official foundation of the national capital and its naming as Canberra. Inaugurating the federal capital at Canberra, the laying of the foundation stones for the column marked the realisation of Section 125 of the Australian Constitution. This required the federal seat of government to be situated within the state of NSW, but located not less than 100 miles from Sydney. This was one of several amendments to the draft Constitution Bill that the NSW Premier, Sir George Reid, put forward at a special conference of the colonial premiers in January-February 1899 as a condition for committing NSW fully to federation; and it was one to which the other colonial premiers agreed.

The Commencement Column ceremony was a major public event in 1913. It was attended by the Governor-General, Lord Denman, his wife, Lady Denman, the Prime Minister, Sir Andrew Fisher, The Minister for Home Affairs, King O'Malley, the Administrator of the Federal Territory, Colonel David Miller, and many other dignitaries. Cadets from the Royal Military College, Duntroon, formed a guard of honour for the official party, while about 1,000 mounted troops from the 3rd Light Horse Brigade formed three side of a square in front of the site selected for the column. Also in attendance were two mounted bands and a battery of field artillery which fired a nineteen-gun salute to greet the arrival of the Governor-General's party. The site for the ceremony was on Kurrajong (now Capital) Hill.

The ceremony involved the laying of three foundation stones for the Commencement Column, one each by the Governor General, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Home Affairs. Each of the three stones was inscribed with the name and office of the person who laid it, together with the date of the ceremony. After the laying of the stones, the Prime Minister asked Lady Denman to announce the name of the federal capital, the name having been kept a secret up to that point. O'Malley's wife handed Lady Denman a gold card case containing a card on which the name of the capital was written. Stepping forward onto a timber dais laid over the foundation stones, Lady Denman proclaimed in a clear voice: 'I name the Capital of Australia, Canberra.'

The original location of the monument was excavated when the new Parliament House was constructed on the Hill. After the opening of the new Parliament House, the Commencement stones were relocated to their current position, in the Federal Mall on Capital Hill. The ceremony, featuring the Governor-General, the Prime Minister and the Minister for the Arts and Territories, took place on 12 March 1988, 75 years to the day that the stones were originally laid. Three new plaques were added to the monument to commemorate this occasion.

DESCRIPTION

The Commencement Column Monument is comprised of three foundation stones, set in a hexagonal base (of an intended but never completed column), composed of trachyte stone from Bowral, with stepped sides and a polished convex top. The stones bear inscriptions on separate faces in bold gilt lettering:

1. This stone was laid by His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Thomas Denman, Baron PC, GCMG, KCVO, Governor General and Commander in Chief of the Commonwealth of Australia on the 12th March 1913;
2. This stone was laid by the Right Honourable Andrew Fisher, PC, MP, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia on 12th March 1913;
3. This stone was laid by the Right Honourable King O'Malley, MP, Minister for Home Affairs on the 12th March 1913.

Three plaques were added for the relocation ceremony on March 12 1988, marking the unveiling of the monument by the three then incumbents of the same official positions.

Beneath Sir Thomas Denman's inscription is a plaque reading:

- 1) This plaque was unveiled by His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Ninian Stephens, AK, GCMG, GCVO, KBE, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia on 12 March 1988 to commemorate the relocation of this monument.

Beneath Andrew Fisher's inscription is a plaque reading:

- 2) This plaque was unveiled by the Honourable R J L Hawke, AC, MP, Prime Minister on 12 March 1988 to commemorate the relocation of this monument.

The third plaque, under King O'Malley's inscription reads:

- 3) This plaque was unveiled by the Honourable Gary Punch, MP, Minister for the Arts and Territories on 12 March 1988 to commemorate the relocation of this monument.

The proposed Commencement Column was designed by John Smith Murdoch, the Deputy Director-General of Works, later architect of the provisional Parliament House. The column was to consist of an elaborate base and obelisk 7.1 metres high, designed in Edwardian mannerist style. Resting on the foundation stones were intended to be six rough granite blocks, one from each of the original states of the Commonwealth, inscribed in each case with the date that the state had become an autonomous colony. A shaft was to sit upon the granite blocks and around it was to be placed an entablature representing the Commonwealth of Australia. Surrounding the shaft were to be six buttressing stones, one each brought from the 'six corners of the [British] Empire, including India, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and Newfoundland.' Above the shaft was to rise the four-sided obelisk made of granite from Great Britain and Ireland, its sides orientated to the cardinal points of the compass to represent the British Empire.

Originally, it was intended to erect the Commencement Column on the central city axis, according to Walter Burley Griffin's plan for Canberra. However, by the time of the ceremony of laying the foundation stones for the column, Griffin's plan had been superseded by the so-called 'departmental plan'. One effect of this plan was to move the central axis of the city and, when the foundation stones were laid in 1913, they were placed on Kurrajong Hill in line with this new axis. With the reinstatement of the Griffin plan in 1916, the foundation stones were now located 26 metres east of the central axis of the city. Canberra bureaucrats tried to persuade Griffin to shift his axis to coincide with that of the departmental plan and thus once again bring the foundation stones of the Commencement Column in line with the city's main axis. Griffin, however, refused.

The outbreak of World War One brought virtually all building activity in Canberra to an end and, as it turned out, work on the Commencement Column never resumed. The foundation stones were later covered with galvanised iron to protect them from vandalism, while in 1935 the site was described as surrounded with rotten timber, white ants and rabbits. The stones were taken up when work commenced on the new, permanent Parliament House, and they were re-laid in front of the forecourt of the new building in 1988. At this time, they were also positioned to lie on Griffin's original central city axis.

History Not Available

Condition and Integrity

The condition of the stones is excellent. The two steps leading up to the column base at its original site were omitted when it was re-laid in 1988.

Location

Federation Mall, near Parliament Drive, Capital Hill, Canberra.

Bibliography

Pearson, M, J Lennon, D Marshall and B O'Keefe 1999. National Federation Heritage Project: identification and assessment consultancy. Volume 1 - project report.

Roberts, A, 1990. 'Memorials in the national capital: developing a sense of national identity'. Canberra Historical Journal v 26

Gillespie, L, 1988. Canberra 1820-1913. Canberra, AGPS.

Gibbney, J, 1988. Canberra 1913-1953. Canberra, AGPS.

Freeland, G, 1995. Canberra Cosmos: the pilgrim's guide to the sacred sites and symbols of Australia's capital. Leichhardt, Primavera Press.

Queanbeyan Age. March 12 1913

Queanbeyan Age. March 14 1913.

Sydney Morning Herald. March 12 1913.

Canberra Times. March 12 1988.

Sparke, E, 1988 'Canberra 1954-1980'. AGPS Canberra.

Fitzgerald, A. 1987. Canberra in Two Centuries. 1987.

Report Produced Thu Mar 14 16:44:40 2019

[Accessibility](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#) | © Commonwealth of Australia

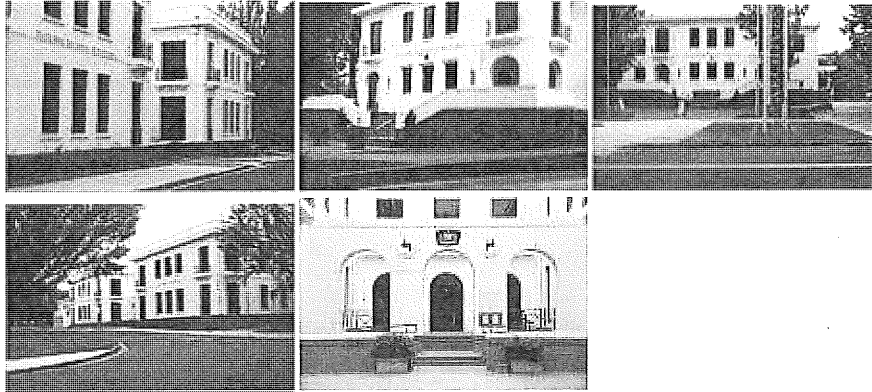


Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

East Block Government Offices, Queen Victoria Tce, Parkes, ACT, Australia

Photographs



List Commonwealth Heritage List

Class Historic

Legal Status [Listed place](#) (22/06/2004)

Place ID 105349

Place File No 8/01/000/0477

Summary Statement of Significance

East Block is a significant component of the Parliament House Secretariat group, which also includes West Block and the Provisional Parliament House. The group is located at the southern end of the Parliamentary Triangle and is an integral component of the significant Parliamentary Triangle landscape, exhibiting the skilful handling of planning and architectural forms within a simply designed landscape of related buildings, spaces and plantings. The group is an essential and important axial planning element within the Parliamentary Triangle. The planning principles of the group are as established by Walter Burley Griffin, and the architectural resolution of the group is as established within the office of John Smith Murdoch, Director of Works. (Criterion F1)

East Block is important for its association with Federation, as part of the Provisional Parliament House group, which formed the essential Government facilities in the early development of Canberra as the Nation's Capital. The Secretariat buildings are a remnant of the relocation phase of the Federal Capital when they represented the seat of Federal Government and political power. The former Secretariat buildings demonstrate a model of Government Administration dating from the earliest periods of developing the National Capital in the mid 1920s. East Block also accommodated the first Post Office for Canberra, servicing the City as well as the Parliament, and accommodated the first telephone exchange. (Criterion A4) Australian Historic Themes: 4.3, Developing Institutions, 7.4 Federating Australia.

The building was designed within the office of John Smith Murdoch and is a fine example of Inter-War Stripped Classical style which became known as Federal Capital architecture. This is represented by the symmetrical planning and form, its classical proportions, the low horizontal massing, the simple but dignified detailing (such as cornices, balustrades, rainwater heads and paving) and its good appearance from all sides. (Criterion D2)

The building has associations with the relocation phase of the Federal Capital, the planning and architecture of John Smith Murdoch and Walter Burley Griffin, and the evolution of Federal Government administration in Canberra. (Criterion H1)

The basement pneumatic tube for sending and receiving correspondence between East Block and Old Parliament House is of exceptional interest (Criterion F1).

Official Values

Criterion A Processes

East Block is important for its association with Federation, as part of the Provisional Parliament House group, which formed the essential Government facilities in the early development of Canberra as the Nation's Capital. The Secretariat buildings are a remnant of the relocation phase of the Federal Capital when they represented the seat of Federal Government and political power. The former Secretariat buildings demonstrate a model of Government Administration dating from the earliest periods of developing the National Capital in the mid 1920s. East Block also accommodated the first Post Office for Canberra, servicing the City as well as the Parliament, and accommodated the first telephone exchange.

Attributes

All of the original form, fabric and appearance of the building.

Criterion D Characteristic values

The building was designed within the office of John Smith Murdoch and is a fine example of Inter-War Stripped Classical style which became known as Federal Capital architecture. This is represented by the symmetrical planning and form, its classical proportions, the low horizontal massing, the simple but dignified detailing (such as cornices, balustrades, rainwater heads and paving) and its good appearance from all sides.

Attributes

The building's Inter-War Stripped Classical style evidenced by the features noted above.

Criterion F Technical achievement

East Block is a significant component of the Parliament House Secretariat group, which also includes West Block and the Provisional Parliament House. The group is located at the southern end of the Parliamentary Triangle and is an integral component of the significant Parliamentary Triangle landscape, exhibiting the skilful handling of planning and architectural forms within a simply designed landscape of related buildings, spaces and plantings. The group is an essential and important axial planning element within the Parliamentary Triangle. The planning principles of the group are as established by Walter Burley Griffin, and the architectural resolution of the group is as established within the office of John Smith Murdoch, Director of Works.

The basement pneumatic tube for sending and receiving correspondence between East Block and Old Parliament House is of exceptional interest.

Attributes

The building's location in relation to West Block, Old Parliament House and the Parliamentary Triangle. Also, remnants of the pneumatic tube system.

Criterion H Significant people

The building has associations with the relocation phase of the Federal Capital, the planning and architecture of John Smith Murdoch and Walter Burley Griffin, and the evolution of Federal Government administration in Canberra.

Attributes

The building's original architectural form and detail plus its relationship to West Block, Old Parliament House and the Parliamentary Triangle.

Description**History:**

The Canberra Secretariat buildings and the Provisional Parliament house were the first buildings designed and erected in the Parliamentary Triangle of the new Federal Capital. Although Walter Burley Griffin's plan for buildings were for monumental structures in a landscape setting in the Beaux Arts style, the Federal Capital Advisory Committee favoured a more modest style, recommending that monumental works could come later in Australia's development. Thus the project for a provisional Parliament House was given to the Commonwealth architect John Smith Murdoch.

The East Block (Secretariat No 1) was constructed as a component of the complex of government buildings that featured the Parliament House as its centrepiece. The three buildings (East Block, Parliament House and West Block) articulate a classical symmetry centred on the land axis on which the Parliamentary Triangle is based. The proposal for the Secretariat scheme was first considered by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works in 1924. The proposal included a Secretariat Building at Canberra with provision for an Automatic Telephone Exchange and Post Office. This structure was referred to as Secretariat No 1. In evidence to the Committee, the total concept proposed two Secretariat buildings symmetrically disposed to the east and west of the land axis and to the rear of the provisional Parliament House. The centre block of Secretariat No 1 was to provide office accommodation for officials whose attendance at Canberra was essential by the time Parliament assembled. It was a proposal to provide provisional accommodation for a skeletal administration to serve Parliament, until the permanent Administration Building, which

was then subject to an architectural design competition, could be built. The Post Office and the Telephone Exchange, to the north and south respectively of the centre block, were services essential to the function of a modern Parliament.

The East and West Block Buildings were designed by Murdoch to complement each other and for absolute balance in the landscape with the Provisional Parliament House.

From early 1925, with the construction of the Provisional Parliament House underway and the recommendation for the construction of the Secretariat Scheme agreed by Parliament, the move to Canberra began to gather momentum. In December 1925, plans were made for 960 staff to move into the building. Public welcomes were held for the new Public Service arrivals in Canberra and, because East Block was completed first, it is reasonable to suppose that transfers were organised so that it was occupied first. The Post Office and Telephone Exchange were operating in time for the arrival of the first wave of Departmental Officers. As Canberra's main post office, it had the post code 2600 and all distances to Canberra were measured from it.

The centre block, the area designed for Departmental office accommodation, was occupied by about eighty employees of the Department of Trade and Customs. Of special interest is the pneumatic tube system, installed in 1940, which assisted communications between East Block and Old Parliament House. From 1937-43 the Post Office in East Block was squared off by infill additions and, over the same period, additions to the west and to the south were made for the Telephone Exchange. Underground pneumatic tubes, were used to ferry correspondence back and forth between the Provisional Parliament House and East Block. (Remnants of these survive in the basement.)

By the 1950s the permanent Administration Building and the Treasury Building were constructed and East and West Blocks had expanded into their present form (with very minor exceptions mainly as the result of later internal alterations and the requirements of new technology). In 1963 the Prime Minister's Department moved into East Block and occupied the first floor. The Department of the Special Minister of State, created by the Whitlam Government, became the new occupants in 1973. Utilities and public spaces were upgraded in 1982. The air conditioning system was upgraded with a new smoke exhaust system and a new plant room located at the first floor of the original Telephone Exchange building. The centre block, the Telephone Exchange building and the offices built in 1937 were reroofed in metal decking. Other refurbishments occurred in the entry and office interiors. By 1994 East Block was under the administration of the Department of Arts and Administration Services.

The former Post Office area was refurbished and opened in 1998 as the public area of the National Archives with a gallery for exhibitions. The refurbishment involved adaptation of the northern facade, including demolition of a 1950s addition, and the construction of ramps and disabled access. A section of pneumatic tube which connected the East Block to the provisional Parliament House has been retained to demonstrate the connection between the Secretariat Building and the former Parliament House.

The National Archives of Australia encourages public to use the building for access to the National Archives' collections.

Description:

The building is symmetrical in plan, with a three storey central section and two storey blocks on each side. It has a brick base with a painted render finish above ground floor level. Arcaded entrance screens to the centre block form a dignified courtyard arrival point to the building. The buildings are designed as separate entities linked by verandah porches to form a cohesive symmetrical group of the same architectural language.

The most northerly block is the former Post Office which in the original design had a formal, symmetrical entrance on its northern facade giving credence to the term Modern Renaissance with which Murdoch described the style. Other elements evident of the style throughout are the symmetrical massing, clean parapets, strong modelling of the projecting cornices, Classical proportions and Stripped Classical detailing. These original characteristics are very evident today and are referred to as the Federal Capital Style.

The former Post Office block originally consisted of a basement, executed in red brickwork forming the characteristic base, ground and first floor, which opened onto a flat malthoid covered roof formed by the east and west projections of the ground floor. The contrasting base, a characteristic of Renaissance Architecture, also serves as a connection with the Arts and Crafts Movement and the move towards an organic architecture, in linking the building with the landscape. Red brickwork is also used extensively in steps and paving, marking a transition from the exterior to the interior. An innovative element introduced by Murdoch to create the sense of transition from the outdoors to the indoors is the entrance screen and central courtyards unifying the entrance to the centre block offices. The design elements used are most characteristic of Murdoch. The treatment is simple and symmetrical with reliance on Murdoch's favourite proportions of the square and the one to the square root of two proportion, to create a sense of harmony and design control. Red brick is used for external steps and paving in panels in the same proportions with the bricks on the flat laid in diagonal pattern. In the original design, the exterior open court flowed into the interior covered court where the floor was unglazed red terracotta tiles, again using diamond patterns in square and

rectangular panels in Murdoch's favoured proportions. These areas have been refurbished but documentary evidence and some physical evidence remains.

Externally the red brick base course is used throughout the Secretariat Buildings and the white painted rendered brick walls are modelled and articulated into rectangular planes of squares and one to the square root of two proportions. The strong shadows cast by the projecting cornice and the stepped massing of the parapets creates a strong horizontality to balance the vertical expression of the windows. The parapets are designed as crisp clear horizontal forms sharply silhouetted against the sky, softened only by the stepped massing of the building form. Today this impact is reduced where the metal decking appears above the parapet line at the north elevation of the East Block. As well as the entrance screen and paved courtyards to the centre block Murdoch used open verandah porches to link the three blocks. Rooms opened onto small corner balconies with metal balustrades of geometrical detail (the square and the circle). The upper level of the centre block opened onto promenade roofs. These elements all contribute to the achievement of a building of the garden type.

The centre block is an H-form in plan and is designed on a grid of 21ft x 14ft. Beams and columns are used rather than cellular load bearing walls as in the Provisional Parliament House. This is because flexibility was required for the Government Departments with some areas of open plan general office space for the sharing of typing facilities after Sir Cyril Brudenell White, Chairman of the Public Service Board, advocated the economy of a typing pool.

History Not Available**Condition and Integrity**

The overall condition of the structure is good, however, the following intrusions are reported in the 1994 Conservation Plan: 1) The modern fit out (although recovery of the earlier form and detail is not feasible and reconstruction is not supported by Burra Charter; 2) Aluminium entry doors; 3) Link to B Block and D Block; 4) Northern Elevation alterations; 5) Boiler House. Although alterations and replacements to original fabric have taken place the integrity of the building is still of high order externally and the building is well maintained.

May 2001

The condition of the building is sound.

Location

Corner of Kings Avenue and Queen Victoria Terrace, Parkes.

Bibliography

Royal Australian Institute of Architects, Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture. No R74

National Trust of Australia (ACT) (1994)

Philip Cox, Richardson, Taylor & Partners (1995) East Block Final Conservation Plan, September 1994, For Australian Estate Management: In AHC File # 8/1/0/477

Peter Freeman Pty Ltd (1997) East Block Secretariat No. 1. Parkes Refurbishment and Fitout Independent Review for GE Shaw & Associates and Domestic Property Group, Department of Administrative Services.

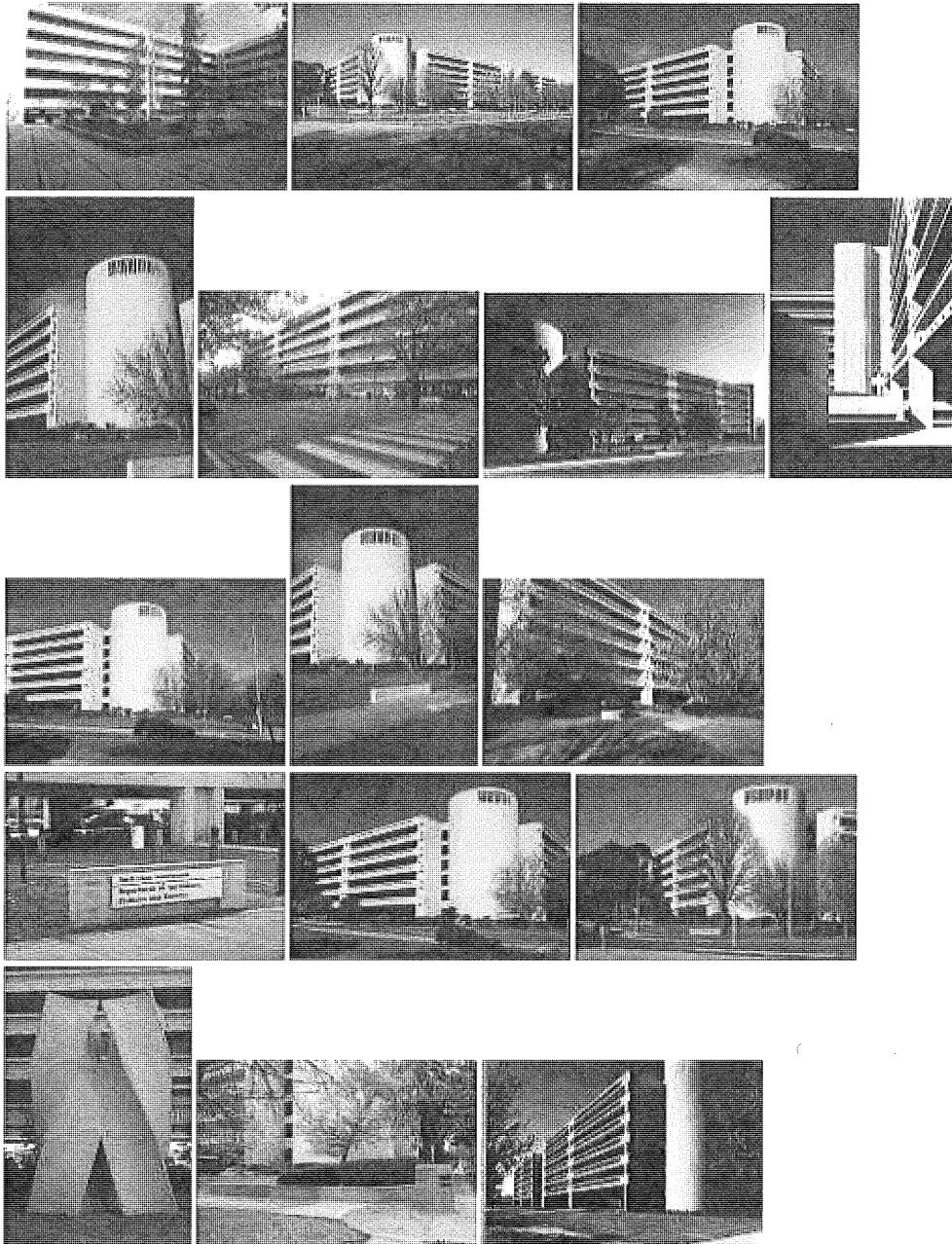
Report Produced Thu Mar 14 16:42:25 2019

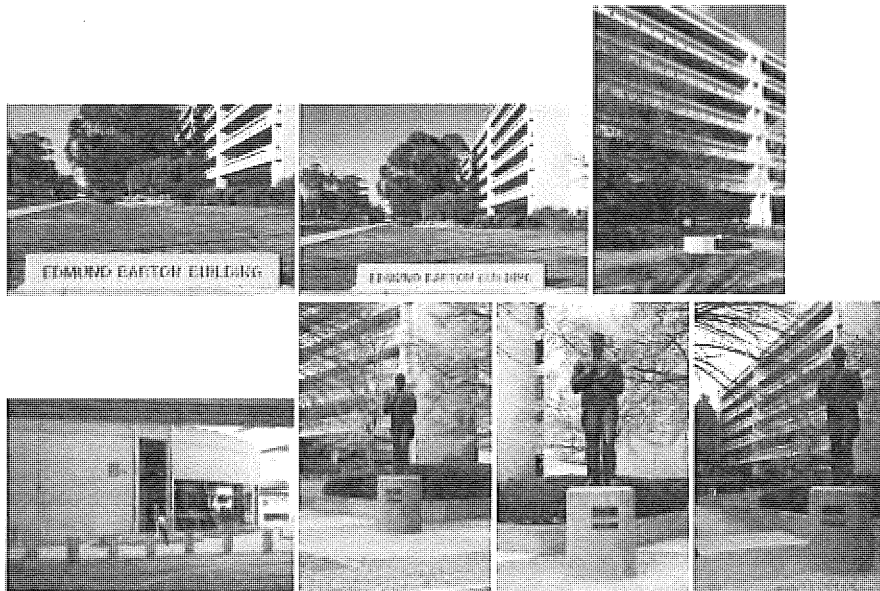
Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

Edmund Barton Offices, Kings Av, Barton, ACT, Australia

Photographs





List Commonwealth Heritage List

Class Historic

Legal Status [Listed place](#) (03/06/2005)

Place ID 105476

Place File No 8/01/000/0502

Summary Statement of Significance

The Edmund Barton Offices, constructed from 1969 to 1974 and initially known as the Trade Group Offices, is a highly acclaimed example of the Late Twentieth-Century International Style of architecture in Australia and is the largest such example in the National Capital. The features of the style are its clear cubiform shape, the expression of its structural system, the control of architectural materials and detailing and the use of plain wall surfaces devoid of superficial ornamentation.

The building is important for its technical and design achievement and creative excellence. The structural system, using precast post-tensioned 'T' floor beams supported by precast post-tensioned 'I' spandrel beams was innovative at the time of construction and the use of post-tensioned precast concrete 'T' beams is now rare in Australia. Combined with the innovative design of connecting five storey wings joined by contrasting circular vertical access cores, the building provided an efficient and flexible office accommodation space with adequate natural light and service conduits that have enabled sound functioning since its construction.

Other significant features of the design are the enclosed split-level courtyard quadrangles with the monumental sculptures, and quadrant shaped conference centre with wave shaped roof. The quadrant shaped water feature, once a significant component of the design, was converted to a garden area. The low scale of the building was a design feature to ensure the building would not detract from the future Parliament House.

Edmund Barton Offices create a strong, elegant presence on the Kings Avenue and with the strong horizontal patterns of the concrete 'I' beams and windows contribute to the articulation of Kings Avenue vista. The courtyards have a clear, strong architectural expression with extensive paved areas, features of the monumental sculptures and ground level spaces that contribute to the aesthetics of the courtyards by providing a backdrop of horizontal enframed views of street trees. An important aspect of the open ground floor was that the structural system was exposed as an aesthetic feature. The Royal Australian Institute of Architects identified the complex as a place that exhibits outstanding design and aesthetic qualities.

Harry Seidler is recognised as one of Australia's leading architects of the modern movement. The Edmund Barton Offices designed by Seidler are important as one of his largest projects in Australia and clearly illustrate the architectural principles on which his designs are based. Seidler was awarded the Royal Australian Institute of Architects Gold Medal in 1976 and the Royal Institute of British Architects Royal Gold Medal in 1996. The engineering employed in the precast post tensioned structure is attributed to the engineering firm of Miller Milston and Ferris. The sculptural works have an association with their designer Norman Carlberg.

Official Values

Criterion B Rarity

The use of post-tensioned precast concrete and 'T' beams is now rare in Australia. The attributes that express the rarity are the concrete structural elements.

Criterion D Characteristic values

The Building, constructed from 1969 to 1974, is an outstanding example of the Late Twentieth-Century International Style of architecture in Australia and is the largest such example in the National Capital.

The attributes that express the style are quadrangular form with contrasting circular vertical access cores, the expression of the structural system, the controlled use of architectural materials and detailing, and the use of plain wall surfaces devoid of superficial ornamentation.

Criterion E Aesthetic characteristics

The building creates a strong, elegant presence on the Kings Avenue and with the strong horizontal patterns of the concrete 'T' beams and windows contributes to the articulation of Kings Avenue vista. The courtyards have a clear, strong architectural expression with extensive paved areas, features of the monumental sculptures and ground level spaces that contribute to the aesthetics of the courtyards by providing a backdrop of horizontal enframed views of street trees. An important aspect of the open ground floor was that the structural system was exposed as an aesthetic feature. The Royal Australian Institute of Architects identified the complex as a place that exhibits outstanding design and aesthetic qualities.

The aesthetic value is expressed in the horizontal patterning of the 'T' beams, extensive paved areas, features of the monumental sculptures and ground level spaces that contribute to the aesthetics of the courtyards by providing a backdrop of horizontal enframed views of street trees and the open ground floor exposing the structural system as an aesthetic feature.

Criterion F Technical achievement

The Edmund Barton Offices are significant for their technically innovative structural system employed with its the precast post-tensioned 'T' floor beams supported by precast post-tensioned 'T' spandrel beams. The extensive use of post-tensioned precast concrete as repetitive pre-manufactured beams and columns for much of the structure was a relatively new building technique at the time of construction.

The design with the connecting five-storey wings joined by contrasting circular vertical access cores provides efficient and flexible office accommodation, with natural light entering from two sides, and excellent provision of service conduits that have enabled sound functioning of the building since its construction.

Other significant features of the design are the enclosed split-level courtyard quadrangles with the monumental sculptures, and the quadrant shaped conference centre with wave shaped roof. The quadrant shaped water feature, once a significant component of the design, was converted to a garden area. The low scale of the building was a design feature to ensure the building would not detract from the future Parliament House.

The building has been awarded the 25 Year Award for its architectural merit by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, ACT Chapter.

The technical achievement is present in the attributes noted above.

Criterion H Significant people

Harry Seidler is recognised as one of Australia's leading architects of the modern movement. The Edmund Barton Offices designed by Seidler are one of his largest projects in Australia and clearly illustrate the architectural principles on which his designs are based.

Seidler was awarded the Royal Australian Institute of Architects Gold Medal in 1976 and the Royal Institute of British Architects Royal Gold Medal in 1996.

The engineering employed in the precast post tensioned structure is attributed to the firm of Miller Milston and Ferris

The sculptural works have an association with their designer Norman Carlberg.

The attributes are the structural architecture and sculptures.

Description

The Edmund Barton Offices are located on Kings Avenue which forms one side of the Parliamentary Triangle. The complex was designed to accommodate 3,000 public servants on five column free levels surrounding two courtyards. The open plan offices are placed in seven rectangular column free areas at each level. Services and circulation are located in six cylinder 'silos' and the special purpose areas located within the courtyards. The three principal groups of building requirements, the office areas, services and vertical circulation, and the special uses areas are clearly separated.

The complex clearly elucidates the principles upon which Seidler's architecture is based including that the building reflect the spirit of the time, its structure be reduced to its simplest form and components providing a repetitive, orderly expression of large scale elements with clean lines can be observed in the two main components of the offices - the precast concrete post-tensioned beam members and the precast load bearing columns. The 'T' floor beams spanning 15.8 metres are supported by the 'I' shaped 1.7 high x 1.2 deep spandrel edge beams spanning 22.5 metres between precast load bearing columns providing column free floors. The floor beams are expressed on the facade of the buildings by stainless steel tendon couplers that cover the ends of the post-tensioning members. The 'I' beams also have tendon couplers at their ends. To refine the design of these beam elements, Seidler sought some advice from the eminent Italian engineer, Pier Luigi Nervi. However the structural engineering of the building was designed by the firm of Miller Milston and Ferris. The span of 24 metres for the main beams and 16 metres for the secondary T-beams was more than three times the distance between supports in conventional office buildings of the 1970s. The large spans led to the ability to provide maximum internal flexibility for an interior designed to channel air conditioning through the structure, rather than in false ceiling spaces. The resulting open spaces were designed to be lit naturally from glazing on both sides of the office space.

The design of the Edmund Barton building achieved a successful integration of the mechanical, electrical and communications systems required to service a modern office building of the 1970s. The cylinder 'silos' contain lifts, toilets, stairs and services. They are clad in curved precast wall panels set vertically and staggered. There are additional half curved stairs projecting from the facades on the courtyard side. All precast elements have a sandblasted finish and were erected by means of moving crane gantries.

The large courtyards provide a piazza like split level setting for two monumental sculptures, geometric gardens and the quadrant-shaped theatre (Conference Centre), a recurring form in Seidler's work. The Conference Centre has a wave shaped concrete roof supported by external beams that follow the form of the roof. The underside of the roof slab has boarded off-form exposed insitu concrete forming ceiling. Internally the side walls have a Tyrolean rendered finish and the curved rear wall has vertical slatted timber covered acoustic panels.

The courtyards are integral components of the concept, designed architecturally with extensive paved areas and planter beds. They incorporate the two monumental sculptures and two quadrant shaped features, one a conference centre and the other a water feature. The sculptures designed by American sculptor Norman Carlberg, 'Column' of concrete and 'Positive Negative' of steel (popularly known as the 'Black Widow'). They were both constructed under the supervision of Seidler.

Significant architectural features include the courtyard and sculptures, the fenestration design that is integral with the precast post-tensioned spandrel 'I' beams as a Corbusian window motif incorporating overhang for shade, the precast loadbearing columns, the precast post-tensioned 'T' floor beams, the open ground floor level, the Silo circulation and service spaces and the conference centre with their contrasting non-rectangular shape, details and finishes.

The extensive use of post-tensioned precast concrete for much of the structure was a relatively new and innovative building system which was utilised in many other office buildings. The use of post-tensioned precast concrete 'T' floor beams which occurred in the late 1960s to mid 1970s is now rare in Australia.

History

The post war modern development of Canberra began in 1957 under the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC). One of the many recommendations of the Senate Report which created the NCDC was that all government buildings in Canberra should be designed to the highest architectural standards. It was in the context of the dominance of the Australian architectural form and bold schemes that the NCDC set out to provide large offices for the relocation of several departments from Melbourne to Canberra echoing the process which took place in the 1920s culminating in the opening of the provisional Parliament House in 1927. The group of 'trade departments' was allocated a site on Kings Avenue with views to the lake and Mount Ainslie.

The Trade Group Offices were to house 1,700 personnel by the middle of 1972 at an estimated cost of 8 million dollars. Four architectural offices were asked to submit expressions of interest for the Trades Group Offices and the Belconnen Western Offices.

The Trade Group Offices (Edmund Barton Offices) were designed by leading Australian architect, Harry Seidler, and are his major work in Canberra. The building was constructed between 1969 and 1974.

After studying under and working for some of the leading architects of the modern movement, such as Gropius, Breuer, Albers and Niemeyer, Seidler arrived in Australia in 1948. He was the first architect in Australia to express fully the principles of the Bauhaus.

In Australia he has designed important residential and commercial buildings including the Rose Seidler House, Sydney (1949), Blues Point Tower, Sydney (1962), Australia Square, Sydney (1967), MLC Centre, Sydney (1978), Grosvenor Place, Sydney (1988) and Riverside Centre, Brisbane (1986). Other examples of his work in Canberra are Ethos House in Civic and housing in Garran, Campbell, Yarralumla and Deakin. Seidler also designed the Australian Embassy in Paris (1977), the Hong Kong Club, Hong Kong (1983) and recently a new mixed use and public housing scheme to accommodate 2,500 people in his native Vienna, Austria.

He was awarded the RAAIA Gold Medal in 1976 and the RIBA Royal Gold Medal in 1996. Harry Seidler and Associates designed the Edmund Barton Offices for the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) starting in 1969. Construction was completed by 1974. The building was designed in the Late Twentieth-Century International Style implicit in its cubiform overall shape, expressed structural frame and plain, smooth wall surface. The Benjamin Offices, by McConnel Smith & Johnson, are another example of this style in Canberra. The design of the office complex represented the continuation and further development of the International Style in Australia.

The buildings in and adjacent to the Parliamentary Triangle were to be subordinate in height and form to the proposed Parliament House. The Edmund Barton Offices were constructed over the site of the first National Library Building, an elegant building constructed in 1935. The Offices are an excellent example of the NCDC's First Assistant Commissioner (Architect), 1968-72, Roger Johnson's concept of buildings for central Canberra as individual statements in garden settings.

The building has been awarded the 25 Year award for its architectural merit by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, Act Chapter.

The statue of Sir Edmund Barton, Australia's first Prime Minister, was unveiled by Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, on 12 July 1983. The bronze portrait is the work of Marc Clarke and sits on the corner of Kings Avenue and Macquarie Street.

Condition and Integrity

The building is in good condition and is well maintained. (January 1999)

The ceiling of the open ground floor has had moulded plaster infills added recently covering the expressive structure of the 'T' beams. Seidler's original exposure of the 'T' beams allowed the reading of the building's structure. This reading of the structure can now only be seen at some of the entry lobbies. The quadrant shaped fountain in the east corner of the courtyard is no longer operating.

There have been several refits in the office areas resulting in changes to most surfaces and materials with the exception of the toilet rooms at each level. None of the entry pods at plaza level remains in original condition due to the need for increased security and the insertion of displays and shopfront activities. Lift foyers on all levels have been modified with new materials, colours and signage. In general there is no consistent theme internally and typically the floors have been subdivided to create a mix of open space and enclosed offices. Ceilings are now suspended acoustic tile below the original plane. (at 1997)

March 2003

The building appears to be in sound condition. Some areas of the courtyard gardens appear degraded. The former quadrant water feature has been converted to a garden area with concrete planter boxes of mixed species.

Location

Kings Avenue, Macquarie, Blackall and Broughton Streets, Barton, comprising the building and the internal courtyard with sculptures and theatre.

Bibliography

Pegrum and Associates (1998) The Edmund Barton Building Conservation Plan, for the Domestic Property Group.

Gerd Hatje, editor (1963) Encyclopedia of Modern Architecture, Thames and Hudson, London

Frampton, K. and Drew, P (1992) *Harry Seidler*. Thames and Hudson.

Apperly, R. Irving, R. and Reynolds, P. (1989) *Identifying Australian Architecture*. Angus & Robertson Publishers

Peter Miller, personal communication 1 December 2004.

Report Produced Thu Mar 14 16:46:18 2019

[Accessibility](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#) | [© Commonwealth of Australia](#)

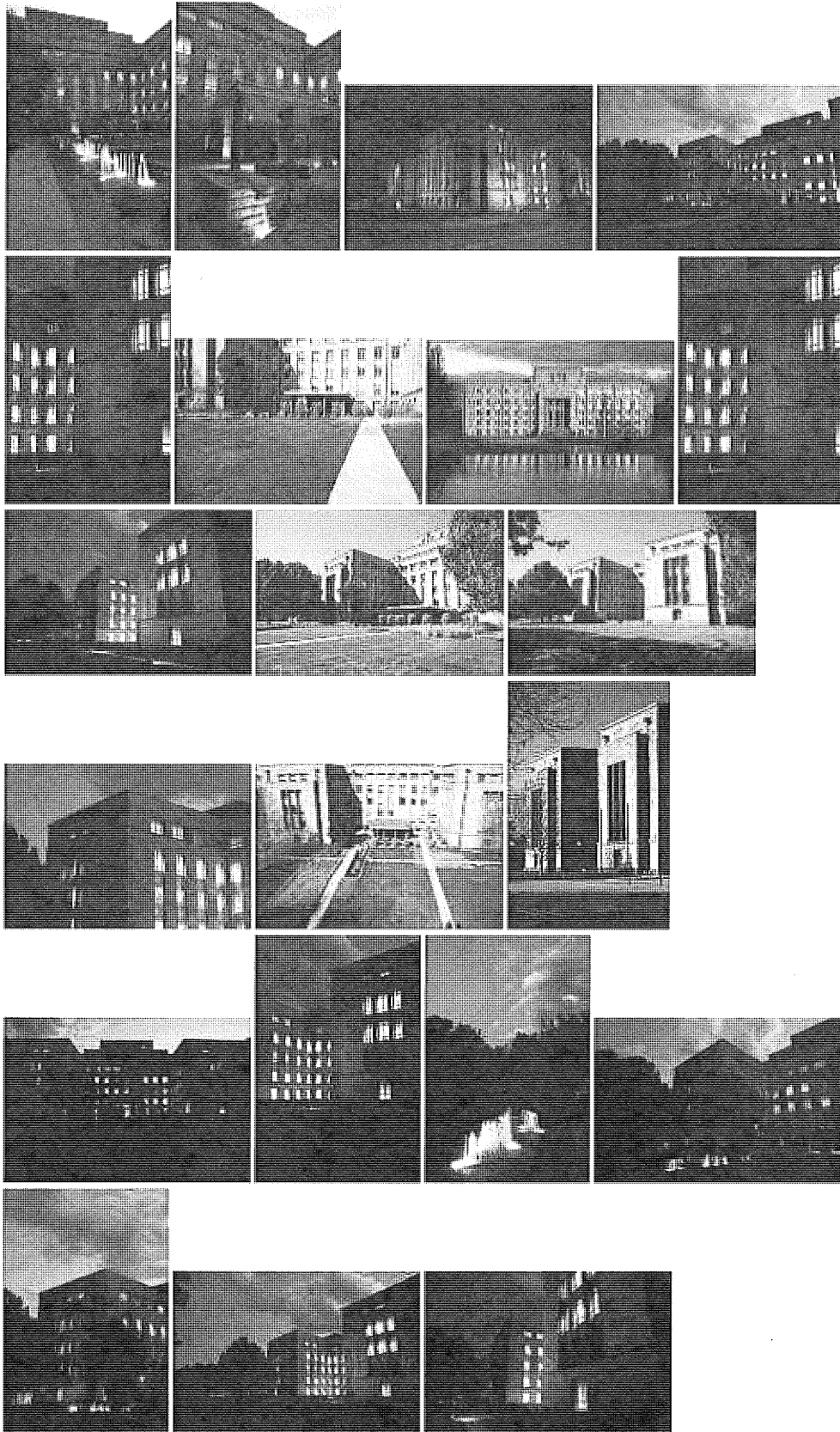


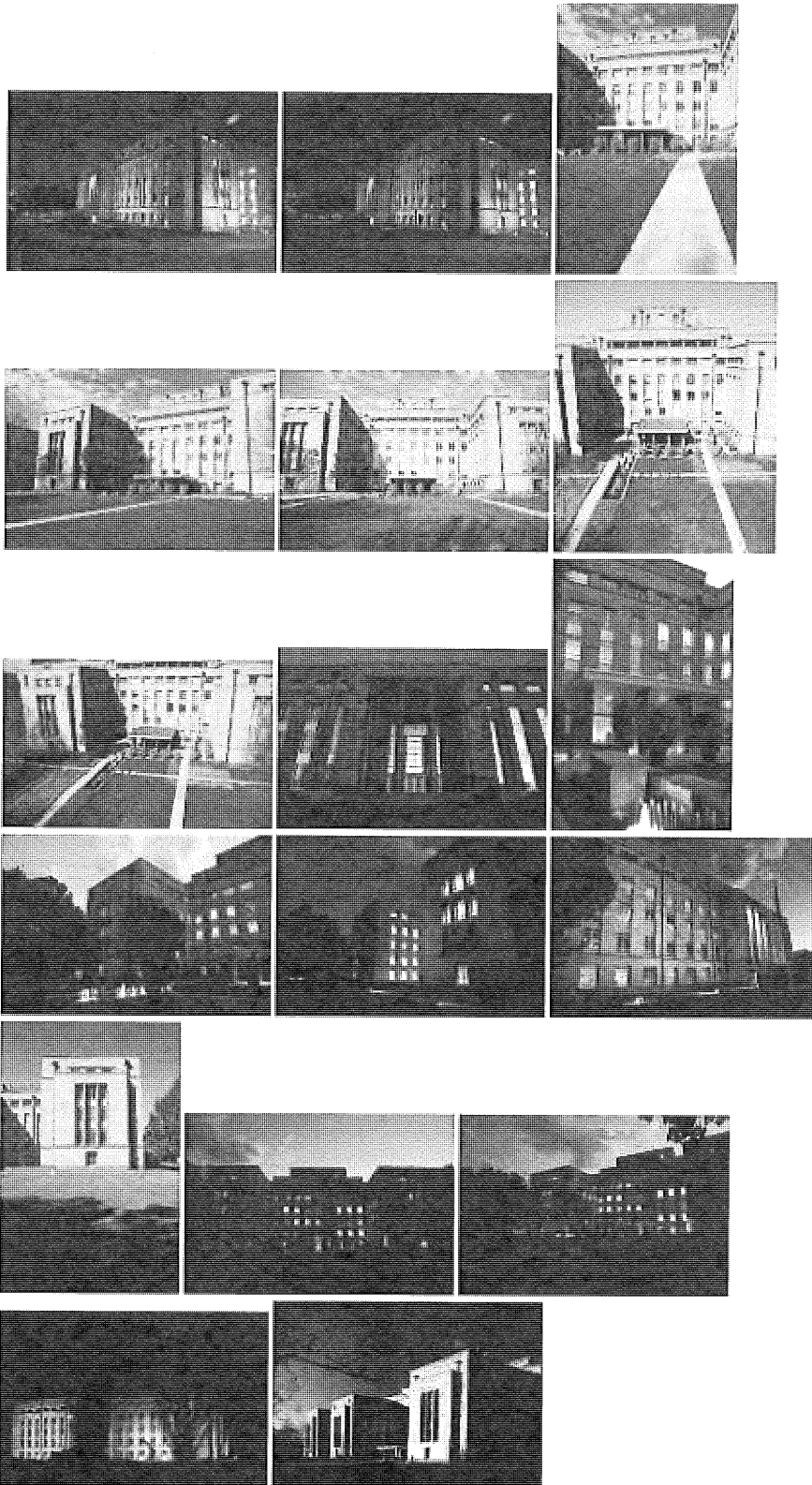
Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

John Gorton Building, Parkes Pl, Parkes, ACT, Australia

Photographs





List Commonwealth Heritage List

Class Historic

Legal Status Listed place (22/06/2004)

Place ID 105472

Place File No 8/01/000/0432

Summary Statement of Significance

Planned in 1924, designed in 1946 and completed in 1956, the Administrative Building is significant as a good Canberra example of the inter-war Stripped Classical style. Key features of this style displayed by the building include: the symmetrical facades; the division of the elevations into vertical bays; the occasional use of correct Classical details; the use of a basic Classical column form; the expressed portico; the simple surface treatments; and subdued spandrels between the storeys which emphasise verticality. Design elements which retain a high level of integrity include the exterior, foyers, lift lobbies and central corridors (Criterion D.2). The Administrative Building is also part of the significant cultural landscape of the Parliamentary triangle. It occupies a prominent and strategic location flanking the land axis in accordance with the 1916 Griffin plan. Together with the later Treasury Building balancing its mass across the central lawns of the land axis, the Administrative Building contributes to the planned aesthetic qualities of the Parliamentary triangle (Criterion E.1).

Official Values

Criterion D Characteristic values

Planned in 1924, designed in 1946 and completed in 1956, the Administrative Building is significant as a good Canberra example of the inter-war Stripped Classical style. Key features of this style displayed by the building include: the symmetrical facades; the division of the elevations into vertical bays; the occasional use of correct Classical details; the use of a basic Classical column form; the expressed portico; the simple surface treatments; and subdued spandrels between the storeys which emphasise verticality. Design elements which retain a high level of integrity include the exterior, foyers, lift lobbies and central corridors.

Attributes

The buildings Inter-War Stripped Classical style highlighted by the features noted above.

Criterion E Aesthetic characteristics

The Administrative Building is also part of the significant cultural landscape of the Parliamentary triangle. It occupies a prominent and strategic location flanking the land axis in accordance with the 1916 Griffin plan. Together with the later Treasury Building balancing its mass across the central lawns of the land axis, the Administrative Building contributes to the planned aesthetic qualities of the Parliamentary triangle.

Attributes

Its prominent and strategic location within the Parliamentary triangle, particularly in relation to the land axis and the Treasury building.

Description

History:

In the 1920s it was decided that many government departments were to move from Melbourne, then seat of the Commonwealth Parliament, to Canberra, which was the intended permanent home of the Parliament. In order to accommodate these departments, office buildings were needed in Canberra and a competition was held in 1924 for the design of the Administrative Building which was to house about eight departments. The building was to be the first in the Parliamentary triangle and its design was considered important because it would influence future buildings in the triangle. In 1924, G Sydney Jones won the competition. Jones died in 1927 and the Sydney architects Robertson and Marks continued the project. Work started in 1927 and the foundations were completed in 1928. However, work was stopped at this point because of the Depression. There were then many delays as a result of the Depression and later World War Two. The design of the proposed building was modified in 1946, apparently by Commonwealth Government architects. The new design was for a larger building which was based on Jones' original design. Construction started again in 1947 and the new design required the demolition of the original foundations. The building was substantially completed in 1956. The building is claimed to have been the largest Australian office building when completed (Philip Cox, Richardson, Taylor and Partners Pty Ltd November 1992, p 18). The building was the fourth major structure in the Parliamentary triangle after the Provisional Parliament House and East and West Blocks which were all completed in 1927. Other major buildings of the period include the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings (1926-46) and the Patent Office (1941) which was the only other major government office building constructed between 1927 and 1956. The building has some historic interest as the accommodation for a number of Government Departments since 1956. a major refurbishment is planned for the building in 1996.

Physical description:

The building is located in the south-eastern corner of the Parliamentary triangle. It is an example of the inter-war Stripped Classical style which generally features the retention of a Classical order and symmetry but with greatly reduced ornamentation. Key features of this style displayed by the Administrative Building include: the symmetrical facades; the division of the elevations into vertical bays; the occasional use of correct Classical details; the use of a basic Classical column form; the expressed portico; the simple surface treatments; and subdued spandrels between the storeys which emphasise verticality. The building plan comprises a large central rectangular block with eight wings. Construction is of reinforced concrete beam and slab. The facade is clad with polished red granite to the ground floor and dressed sandstone ashlar blocks to the upper levels. The building consists of a ground floor, six upper floors, basement, sub-basement and a communications centre. The gross floor area is about 51,000 square metres and the net lettable area is about 36,000 square metres. The building has some distinct design features, for example the light

courts, foyers and lift lobbies. The original main entry to the building is centrally located on the north-west elevation up a flight of stairs at level one. It is marked by a three storey high sandstone faced portico rising above the first floor level. The sides of the portico are defined with semi-circular columns capped with lintels. The opening is equally divided with two oval columns and these elements are in polished granite. Access is available centrally on the north-east elevation through an aluminium faced porte cochere and the south-east and south-west elevations through smaller porticos. Externally the building is largely unchanged and internally the original finishes have been retained in all the public areas. Most floors have been carpeted and otherwise the interior has been modified. It is claimed the public spaces in the building are one of the few substantial interiors of a public office building from the 1940s-50s remaining in Australia (Philip Cox, Richardson, Taylor and Partners Pty Ltd November 1992, p 57). The setting of the building is enhanced by two rows of mature trees on the north-east side and it is believed this planting was designed by T C G Weston.

Discussion of significance:

The Administrative Building has a number of aspects of interest including its being an example of the inter-war Stripped Classical style, its contribution to the cultural landscape of the Parliamentary triangle and its place in the development of Government office accommodation in Canberra. The Administrative Building is an example of the inter-war Stripped Classical style. Other Canberra examples of this style include the following buildings, all of which are in the Register of the National Estate (Garnett and Hyndes 1992): former Australian Forestry School (1927), now part of CSIRO Division of Forestry; former Institute of Anatomy (1930), now the National Film and Sound Archive; former Patent Office (1941), now part of the Robert Garran Offices; Kingston Power House (1915); Provisional Parliament House (1927). The former Institute of Anatomy and former Patent Office examples display Art Deco influences. The Power House is a simple example of the style. The Administrative Building is a late example of the style although its design origins date back to 1924. It may most appropriately be compared with the Provisional Parliament House and the former Forestry School. The design of the Parliament House influenced other architecture in Canberra in the period and it seems probable that it influenced the final design of the Administrative Building. In this context the building is considered to be a good example of the inter-war Stripped Classical style and accordingly worthy of Registration. The Administrative Building is part of the significant cultural landscape of the Parliamentary triangle. It occupies a prominent and strategic location flanking the land axis in accordance with the 1916 Griffin plan. Together with the later Treasury Building balancing its mass across the central lawns of the land axis, the Administrative Building contributes to the planned aesthetic qualities of the Parliamentary triangle. The Parliamentary triangle has been separately Registered and a full description of its values is contained in the Register citation for that place. The building has some historic interest for its part in the development of government office accommodation in Canberra. It was the fourth major government office building constructed in Canberra after East and West Blocks (1927) and the Patent Office (1941). East Block was originally intended to be a temporary building and along with West Block accommodated a range of Government agencies. The Patent Office was built as accommodation for that agency. The Administrative Building was larger than these other examples and was intended as offices for a range of government agencies. The association of the building with a range of particular government departments and agencies since 1956 is only of minor interest. The claim that the building was the largest Australian office building when it was completed is not substantiated. Another claim that the public spaces are rare surviving examples of 1940s-50s public building interiors is also not substantiated.

History Not Available

Condition and Integrity

The building is generally in good condition. There are some areas of spalling sandstone on the facade. Externally the building is largely unchanged except for: the addition of the porte cochere on the north-east side in 1980-81 and the portico on the south-west side in 1989; the provision of security fences to several of the courtyards; and the installation of satellite dishes on the roof. A new roof was installed over the existing one in 1983. Internally the original finishes have been retained in all the public areas; most floors have been carpeted; the light courts have been closed over and stairs built in two of the courts; and the rest of the building has been modified. Some toilets have been refurbished. A communications centre was constructed at the basement level in 1977. A new foyer has been constructed at the south-west entry and the other original foyers are not used.

Location

Parkes Place, corner King Edward Terrace, Parkes.

Bibliography

GARNETT, RODNEY AND HYNDES, DANIELLE, THE HERITAGE OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY, NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (ACT) ET AL, CANBERRA 1992.

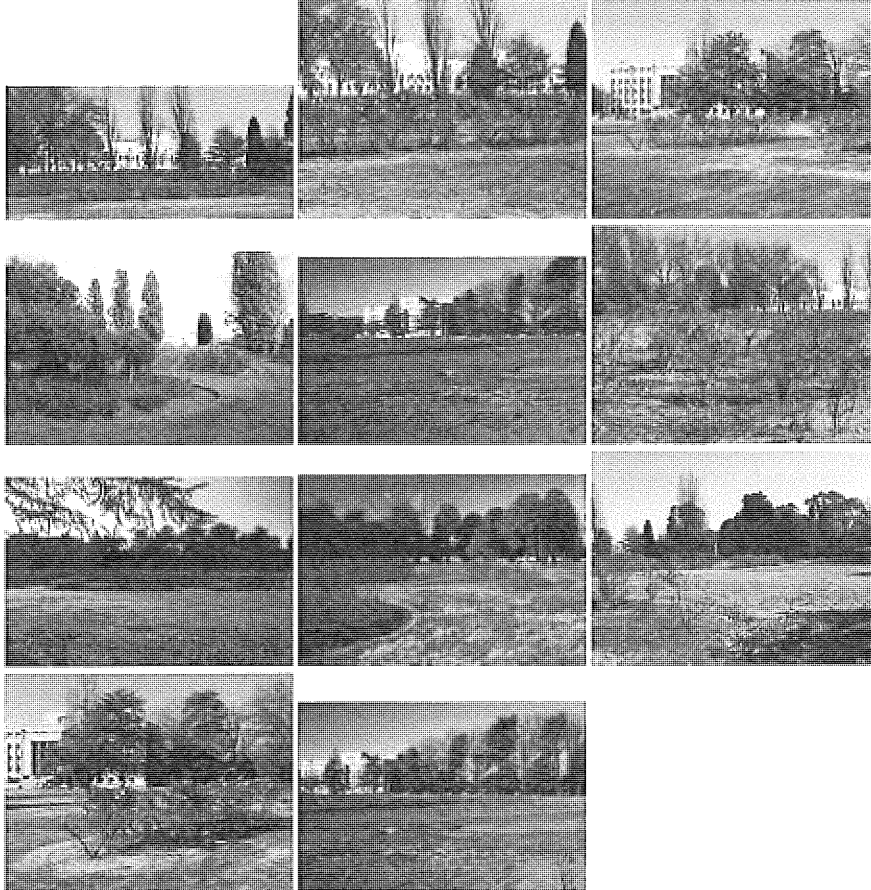
PHILIP COX, RICHARDSON, TAYLOR AND PARTNERS PTY LTD, ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, PARKES, CONSERVATION PLAN, FOR AUSTRALIAN ESTATE MANAGEMENT, CANBERRA 1992.

Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

National Rose Gardens, King George Tce, Parkes, ACT, Australia

Photographs



List	Commonwealth Heritage List
Class	Historic
Legal Status	Listed place (22/06/2004)
Place ID	105473
Place File No	8/01/000/0431

Summary Statement of Significance

The National Rose Gardens, conceived in 1926 and opened in 1933, were Australia's first National gardening project and were planned as a physical expression of the principle of cooperation between the Commonwealth and the States. In the development of the Gardens roses were contributed by all States in Australia. The Gardens were intended to provide an interest for all Australians in developing Canberra, the National Capital, as a Garden City (Criterion A.4). The Gardens demonstrate a distinctive early example of twentieth century public garden design in a formal style. In horticultural terms the Gardens have provided the opportunity to exhibit the best varieties of Australian grown and overseas roses in a favourable climate (Criterion B.2). Their location in front of the (then Provisional, now Old) Parliament House was planned to enhance the setting of the House. The Gardens are valued by visitors to Canberra as well as the local community for their aesthetic qualities (Criterion E.1).

Official Values

Criterion A Processes

The National Rose Gardens, conceived in 1926 and opened in 1933, were Australia's first National gardening project and were planned as a physical expression of the principle of cooperation between the Commonwealth and the States. In the development of the Gardens roses were contributed by all States in Australia. The Gardens were intended to provide an interest for all Australians in developing Canberra, the National Capital, as a Garden City.

Attributes

The whole of the gardens, their original and evolved layout and all of the roses that have been planted.

Criterion B Rarity

The Gardens demonstrate a distinctive early example of twentieth century public garden design in a formal style. In horticultural terms the Gardens have provided the opportunity to exhibit the best varieties of Australian grown and overseas roses in a favourable climate.

Attributes

The whole garden including its size, design layout and diversity of species.

Criterion E Aesthetic characteristics

Their location in front of the (then Provisional, now Old) Parliament House was planned to enhance the setting of the House. The Gardens are valued by visitors to Canberra as well as the local community for their aesthetic qualities.

Attributes

The location of the gardens, especially in relationship to Old Parliament House, the beauty of the individual plants, plus their public accessibility.

Description

History:

The concept of an Australian Rose Garden in Canberra dates back to 1926 when it was proposed by the National Rose Society of NSW to the Federal Capital Commission (FCC). Plans for the National Rose Gardens were prepared by 1932 and, through the Horticultural Society of Canberra, Rose Societies in each State were approached to contribute roses. Each garden was to have 2,000 standard and climbing roses and the beds were to have different varieties of roses arranged by colour. Thirty-eight public bodies and many private individuals contributed roses. The first rose was planted by the Minister for the Interior, J A Perkins on 12 September 1933. The rose was a Daily Mail donated by the Victorian Mothers' Clubs. Over the following weeks 2,000 roses were planted and the gardens were fully planted by the next planting season. The gardens have some value for their association with Thomas Weston, the first officer in charge of afforestation in Canberra, whose ashes were scattered in the park he designed and laid out in front of the Parliament House. This park includes the National Rose Gardens and the grassed terrace of Parkes Place. Weston died in 1936. The gardens were refurbished for the 1954 visit of Queen Elizabeth II. This involved the replacement of many roses. The perimeter paths around the gardens were converted to rose garden beds and the pyramid style supports for climbing roses were replaced with rectangular timber pergolas. The garden beds were modified between 1965 and 1968 when King George Terrace was realigned and the King George V Memorial was moved to a corner of the western garden. In 1968 a restaurant was built on another corner of the western garden. The timber pergolas were replaced with metal and wire frames in 1968.

Physical description:

The gardens are in two parts, set symmetrically either side of the grassed terrace in front of Old Parliament House. The design of the two gardens is similar in plan, but each displays an individual character. The site slopes gently to the north (approximately 1.5% slope) and covers an area of approximately 4.5ha. The general character of the gardens is of a spacious formal parterre enclosed by mature trees. The gardens have three basic components: the rose beds themselves, perimeter plantings of trees and the lawn. The rose beds in each garden are laid out in plan to symbolise the petals of a fully opened rose. This consists of a central circular bed enclosed by punctuated annulus beds in a formal quartered configuration. The replacement of ageing roses with new varieties occurs regularly. Each garden is enclosed by a perimeter of large mature trees of a variety of non native species, evergreen and deciduous and arranged in a regular order. The species used (basically cedar, oak, pine, plane and poplar) provide for a range of seasonal visual effects as well as wind protection and space definition. Pruning of low limbs has provided unimpeded pedestrian access. The avenue of cypress trees (*CUPRESSUS SEMPERVIRENS*) which separates the rose gardens and the central grassed terrace is a memorial planting. Planted by visiting dignitaries on the occasion of the meeting of the delegates of the Empire Parliamentary Association in 1926, many of the trees still have a memorial plaque at their base. Also along this avenue are mature poplar trees (*POPULUS NIGRA*) which were intended as markers, because of their strong vertical form and vivid yellow autumn colour, to key entry points within the Parliamentary Triangle. Both the poplars and cypresses are remnants of the original plan and plantings made by Thomas Weston.

Apart from the beds and the main edge pathways, all other surfaces are irrigated grass. This provides a bright green uniform ground plane which highlights the patterns created by light and shade and allows a smooth transition of views into adjacent spaces.

History Not Available**Condition and Integrity**

Modifications were made to the 1933 layout of garden beds between 1965 and 1968 when King George Terrace was realigned and the King George Memorial was moved to the centre corner of the western garden. Since then the layout has remained intact with the replanting of ageing roses with new varieties occurring at regular intervals. Additional beds were created by converting the perimeter paths and the support structures for the climbing roses have been replaced. Ad-hoc tree planting within the gardens has occurred in recent years and a priority to maintain grass quality has led to a watering regime detrimental to the display of blooms. The surrounding formation of trees, important for both wind protection and space enclosure is showing senescence in some areas. In addition, the setting of the western garden has been affected by the encroachment in one corner of a restaurant building and kiosk. (August 1994) Maintenance continues (November 2002).

Location

King George Terrace and Parkes Place, Parkes, on the southern halves of Block 4 Section 34 and Block 1 Section 59, Parkes.

Bibliography

BRUCE, A.E. AND BUTLER, A.G., 'THE NATIONAL ROSE GARDENS OF CANBERRA', IN AUSTRALIAN ROSE ANNUAL, 1933.
HERITAGE COUNCIL OF THE ACT, NATIONAL ROSE GARDENS, CITATION PREPARED FOR THE INTERIM HERITAGE PLACES REGISTER.

Report Produced Thu Mar 14 16:43:13 2019

[Accessibility](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#) | [© Commonwealth of Australia](#)

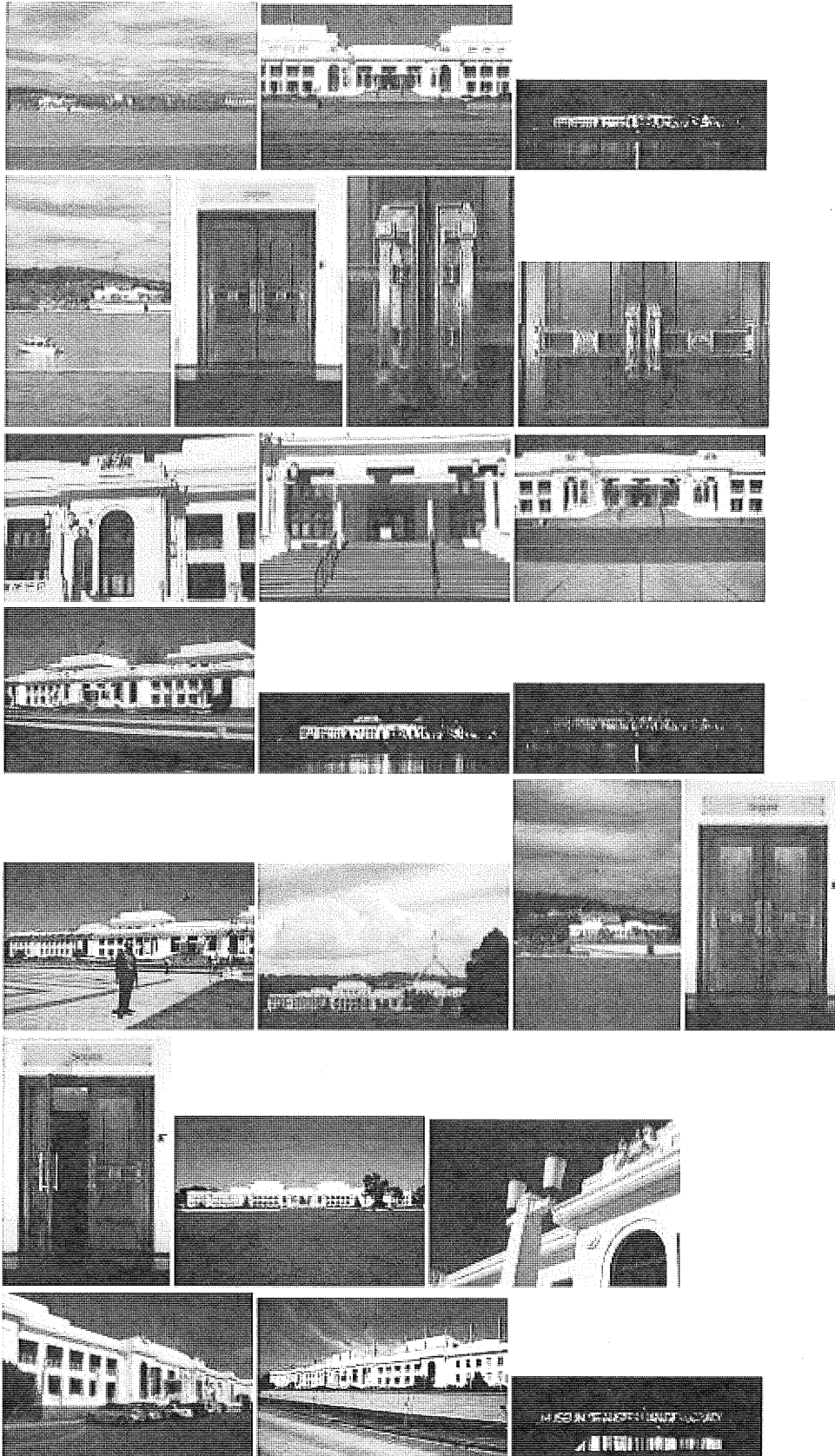


Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

Old Parliament House and Curtilage, King George Tce, Parkes, ACT, Australia

Photographs





List Commonwealth Heritage List

Class Historic

Legal Status [Listed place](#) (22/06/2004)

Place ID 105318

Place File No 8/01/000/0017

Summary Statement of Significance

Australia's first Federal Parliament building was designed as the grandest element and central focus of a fully planned capital city. Old Parliament House is a place of outstanding heritage values related to its history, design, landscape context, interiors, furnishings, courtyards and gardens, collection of movable items, social values and associations.

As the original focus of the Commonwealth Parliament and Government in Canberra, Old Parliament House is intimately associated with the political history of Australia, and the development of Canberra as the capital of Australia, from its opening in 1927 until the opening of the new Parliament House in 1988. The Old Parliament House was the second home of the Parliament which was located in the Victorian Parliament House in Melbourne from Federation in 1901 until 1927, and was the first purpose-built home for the Australian Parliament.

Old Parliament House was the venue for and witnessed both the course and pattern of the nation's political, social and historical development through the major part of the life of the Commonwealth to date. The movable items associated with the building are also intimately associated with these events. Apart from serving as the seat of Commonwealth Parliament, the building bears witness to the physical encroachment of the executive arm of government into the legislature's proper sphere. This was the primary cause for the extensive additions and modifications that had to be made to the building. These additions and modifications are manifested in such elements as the southeast and southwest wings, the northeast and northwest front pavilions, and a great number of internal changes.

The relocation of the Parliament to Canberra was the focus of an intense period of development of the nation's capital. The opening of Parliament heralded the symbolic birth of Canberra as the capital. The intended importance of Old Parliament House is reflected in its design, its prominent siting in the landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle, and in the treatment of the areas around Old Parliament House, particularly the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens, and the National Rose Gardens. (Criterion A4)

Among parliamentary buildings in Australia and in other parts of the western world, Old Parliament House is an uncommon place in that it eventually housed both the legislative and executive functions of government.

Research carried out to date suggests that the furniture in Old Parliament House is part of a rare, intact surviving record comprising both furniture and documentation. The documentation (held by others) relates to initial design concepts, specifications, quotes and detailed drawings for manufacture of items. (Criterion B2)

Old Parliament House is a good example of the Inter-War Stripped Classical style of architecture. The building reflects the embracing of classical symmetry and forms without the adoption of the full classical vocabulary and in this way it expresses a modest but refined architectural style. Key features of the style displayed by the building include: symmetrical facade, division into vertical bays indicating classical origins, vestigial classical entablature (being the horizontal decoration towards the top of the walls including the cornice), simple surfaces and spandrels (the panel between the top of a window on a lower level and the bottom of a window on a higher level) between storeys subduced to emphasise verticality.

The essential character and symmetry of Old Parliament House have remained intact despite several substantial additions. The design of the building and its spaces, and the movable items associated with its operations demonstrate the customs and functions of the Commonwealth Parliament. The divisions within Parliament and the hierarchical system of government are reflected in the categories and styles of both the rooms and furniture available to individuals of different status. (Criterion D2)

Within the building are rooms with significant intact interior features dating from the early period. These are King's Hall, the Library, Senate Chamber, House of Representatives Chamber, Dining Rooms, Senate Opposition Party Room, Ministerial Party Room, Clerk of the Senate's Office, Member's Bar, Government Party Room and Leader of the Government in the Senate's Office.

The building is also of interest for surviving features consistent with, if not influenced by, Garden City ideals. These include the courtyards with loggias and pergolas, and verandahs, a principal feature of the garden city ideal to link internal spaces with the landscape setting. They also include adjacent Senate and House of Representatives gardens that contain formal plantings and an array of recreation facilities, enclosed by high cypress hedges and flanked by fine stands of Maiden's gums. (Criterion F1)

The Old Parliament House is an important landmark in Canberra, Australia's national capital. It is part of the significant cultural landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle, partly reflecting Griffin's design which placed the Government Group of buildings in this corner of the Triangle. This scheme represents in physical form on the ground the conception of the principal components of parliamentary government - the legislative, executive and judicial - the strict separation of these components and the hierarchical relationship between them. Old Parliament House is highly significant as an integral part of this scheme and, standing near the apex of the Triangle, symbolises the primacy of parliament or the legislature over the other two components.

The building also occupies a prominent and strategic location at the southern end of the main Land Axis of Griffin's city design, and contributes to the planned aesthetic qualities of the Parliamentary Triangle. The axis is arguably the pivotal feature of the design. The Old Parliament House is one of four buildings sited on the axis. The other buildings being the Australian War Memorial, Anzac Hall and the current Parliament House. Accordingly, the Old Parliament House makes a major contribution as a viewpoint towards the Australian War Memorial which, together with the reverse view, are some of the most important views in the planned city. Its landmark status was recognised and enhanced by the design and siting of New Parliament House which integrated the building as part of the terminal feature of the North South vista along the Land Axis.

The success of the building in fulfilling this landmark role is due in part to its stark white colour and symmetry, its privileged siting on the Land Axis and the open landscaping between the building and the lake. The role of the Old Parliament House as a national icon is reinforced by its central location in the nation's capital.

Old Parliament House also represents a significant creative achievement. Intended as a provisional structure but occupying such a prominent location, it was deliberately designed as a plain yet dignified structure so that it possessed appropriate aesthetic and formal qualities for its location, but not to such an extent that it would enhance the possibility of the building becoming a permanent fixture in the landscape.

(Criteria E1 and F1)

Old Parliament House has been a strong symbol of Commonwealth Government in Australia, and of Canberra itself, for many generations of Australians. While its original function has shifted to the current Parliament House, the earlier building remains an important and familiar feature because of the memories of its former role, its new roles in the public realm, and its major contribution to the most familiar views in Canberra, from and to the building along the Land Axis. Elements of the building that particularly reflect this value are the front facade, the entrance portico, King's Hall and the Chambers. The facade of the building is significant as a widely recognised symbol of Commonwealth Parliament and Government from 1927 to 1988. The facade is also important as the backdrop for media interviews, protests and other events associated with the Parliament and Government. These events include the establishment of an Aboriginal Embassy in nearby Parkes Place in January 1972 and the address by Prime Minister Whitlam on the front steps of the building after his sacking by the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, in November 1975. (Criterion G1)

As the home of the Commonwealth Parliament from 1927 until 1988, Old Parliament House is significant for its associations with Commonwealth Governments, Oppositions, political parties, individual politicians and the press. Specific rooms and spaces within the building are directly associated with events that shaped the political and private lives of prominent individuals in Australia's political and social history. Many of the surviving parliamentarians, support staff and media representatives feel strong associations with the building and its contents.

Old Parliament House is also significant as the most prominent example of the work of the Commonwealth's first government architect, John Smith Murdoch. To a lesser extent, it is significant as an example of the work of the Chief Architect of the Department of the Interior, Edwin Henderson, who devised the scheme for adding the southeast and southwest wings in their original two-storey form. (Criterion H1)

Official Values

Criterion A Processes

Australia's first Federal Parliament building was designed as the grandest element and central focus of a fully planned capital city. Old Parliament House is a place of outstanding heritage values related to its history, design, landscape context, interiors, furnishings, courtyards and gardens, collection of movable items, social values and associations.

As the original focus of the Commonwealth Parliament and Government in Canberra, Old Parliament House is intimately associated with the political history of Australia, and the development of Canberra as the capital of Australia, from its opening in 1927 until the opening of the new Parliament House in 1988. The Old Parliament House was the second home of the Parliament which was located in the Victorian Parliament House in Melbourne from Federation in 1901 until 1927, and was the first purpose-built home for the Australian Parliament.

Old Parliament House was the venue for and witnessed both the course and pattern of the nation's political, social and historical development through the major part of the life of the Commonwealth to date. The movable items associated with the building are also intimately associated with these events. Apart from serving as the seat of Commonwealth Parliament, the building bears witness to the physical encroachment of the executive arm of government into the legislature's proper sphere. This was the primary cause for the extensive additions and modifications that had to be made to the building. These additions and modifications are manifested in such elements as the southeast and southwest wings, the northeast and northwest front pavilions, and a great number of internal changes.

The relocation of the Parliament to Canberra was the focus of an intense period of development of the nation's capital. The opening of Parliament heralded the symbolic birth of Canberra as the capital. The intended importance of Old Parliament House is reflected in its design, its prominent siting in the landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle, and in the treatment of the areas around Old Parliament House, particularly the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens, and the National Rose Gardens.

Attributes

The whole building, including all additions, plus its setting, its design, its prominent siting in the landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle, and its relationship with the areas around Old Parliament House, particularly the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens and the National Rose Gardens.

Criterion B Rarity

Among parliamentary buildings in Australia and in other parts of the western world, Old Parliament House is an uncommon place in that it eventually housed both the legislative and executive functions of government.

Research carried out to date suggests that the furniture in Old Parliament House is part of a rare, intact surviving record comprising both furniture and documentation. The documentation (held by others) relates to initial design concepts, specifications, quotes and detailed drawings for manufacture of items.

Attributes

The building's planning which includes legislative and executive functions of government, plus original furniture and documentation.

Criterion D Characteristic values

Old Parliament House is a good example of the Inter-War Stripped Classical style of architecture. The building reflects the embracing of classical symmetry and forms without the adoption of the full classical vocabulary and in this way it expresses a modest but refined architectural style. Key features of the style displayed by the building include: symmetrical facade, division into vertical bays indicating classical origins, vestigial classical entablature (being the horizontal decoration towards the top of the walls including the cornice), simple surfaces and spandrels (the panel between the top of a window on a lower level and the bottom of a window on a higher level) between storeys subdued to emphasise verticality.

The essential character and symmetry of Old Parliament House have remained intact despite several substantial additions. The design of the building and its spaces, and the movable items associated with its operations demonstrate the customs and functions of the Commonwealth Parliament. The divisions within Parliament and the hierarchical system of government are reflected in the categories and styles of both the rooms and furniture available to individuals of different status.

Attributes

The building's Inter-War Stripped Classical styling as described above, plus its internal planning, styling, related furniture and fitout.

Criterion E Aesthetic characteristics

The Old Parliament House is an important landmark in Canberra, Australia's national capital. It is part of the significant cultural landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle, partly reflecting Griffin's design which placed the Government Group of buildings in this corner of the Triangle. This scheme represents in physical form on the ground the conception of the principal components of parliamentary government - the legislative, executive and judicial - the strict separation of these components and the hierarchical relationship between them. Old Parliament House is highly significant as an integral part of this scheme and, standing near the apex of the Triangle, symbolises the primacy of parliament or the legislature over the other two components.

The building also occupies a prominent and strategic location at the southern end of the main Land Axis of Griffin's city design, and contributes to the planned aesthetic qualities of the Parliamentary Triangle. The axis is arguably the pivotal feature of the design. The Old Parliament House is one of four buildings sited on the axis. The other buildings being the Australian War Memorial, Anzac Hall and the current Parliament House. Accordingly, the Old Parliament House makes a major contribution as a viewpoint towards the Australian War Memorial which, together with the reverse view, are some of the most important views in the planned city. Its landmark status was recognised and enhanced by the design and siting of New Parliament House which integrated the building as part of the terminal feature of the North South vista along the Land Axis.

The success of the building in fulfilling this landmark role is due in part to its stark white colour and symmetry, its privileged siting on the Land Axis and the open landscaping between the building and the lake. The role of the Old Parliament House as a national icon is reinforced by its central location in the nation's capital.

Attributes

Its stark white colour and symmetry, its siting on the Land Axis, its visual relationship with Parliament House in the north-south vista, and the open landscape between the building and the lake.

Criterion F Technical achievement

Old Parliament House also represents a significant creative achievement. Intended as a provisional structure but occupying such a prominent location, it was deliberately designed as a plain yet dignified structure so that it possessed appropriate aesthetic and formal qualities for its location, but not to such an extent that it would enhance the possibility of the building becoming a permanent fixture in the landscape.

Attributes

Its relatively plain yet dignified design.

Criterion G Social value

Old Parliament House has been a strong symbol of Commonwealth Government in Australia, and of Canberra itself, for many generations of Australians. While its original function has shifted to the current Parliament House, the earlier building remains an important and familiar feature because of the memories of its former role, its new roles in the public realm, and its major contribution to the most familiar views in Canberra, from and to the building along the Land Axis. Elements of the building that particularly reflect this value are the front facade, the entrance portico, King's Hall and the Chambers. The facade of the building is significant as a widely recognised symbol of Commonwealth Parliament and Government from 1927 to 1988. The facade is also important as the backdrop for media interviews, protests and other events associated with the Parliament and Government. These events include the establishment of an Aboriginal Embassy in nearby Parkes Place in January 1972 and the address by Prime Minister Whitlam on the front steps of the building after his sacking by the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, in November 1975.

Attributes

The whole building and its location on the Land Axis and, in particular, the front facade, the entrance portico, King's Hall and the Chambers.

Criterion H Significant people

As the home of the Commonwealth Parliament from 1927 until 1988, Old Parliament House is significant for its associations with Commonwealth Governments, Oppositions, political parties, individual politicians and the press. Specific rooms and spaces within the building are directly associated with events that shaped the political and private lives of prominent individuals in Australia's political and social history. Many of the surviving parliamentarians, support staff and media representatives feel strong associations with the building and its contents.

Old Parliament House is also significant as the most prominent example of the work of the Commonwealth's first government architect, John Smith Murdoch. To a lesser extent, it is significant as an example of the work of the Chief Architect of the Department of the Interior, Edwin Henderson, who devised the scheme for adding the southeast and southwest wings in their original two-storey form.

Attributes

The design of the building, which reflects the work of Murdoch and Henderson, plus all internal spaces and furniture - for their association with the people and process of Australian politics.

Description

History

Following the federation of the Australian colonies into the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901, the first Parliament met in Melbourne. At this time the decision on the location of the new nation's capital, and therefore the permanent home of the Parliament, had not been taken. It was not until 1908 that the vicinity of Canberra was chosen for the new capital. Until 1927 when the Old Parliament House, then called the Provisional Parliament House, was completed, the Commonwealth Parliament continued to meet in Melbourne.

Walter Burley Griffin won the competition for the design of Canberra in 1912. Griffin was appointed by the Government in 1913 to oversee the design and construction of the new Australian capital. As part of this task, a competition for the design of a permanent Parliament House was conducted in 1916 but suspended because of the First World War.

Griffin left in 1920 leaving development under the control of the Federal Capital Advisory Committee chaired by the architect-planner, John Sulman. The Committee had been appointed to complete sufficient permanent buildings to enable Parliament to move from Melbourne to Canberra.

The concept for a provisional parliament house emerged in 1921 in response to the perceived need for a hall to house a constitutional convention. The convention never eventuated and the hall idea was transformed by the Advisory Committee into the Provisional Parliament House. The site for the hall became the site for the parliament house, on the Land Axis in front of Camp Hill, the latter being Griffin's location for the permanent parliament house. This was a major departure from Griffin's plan. The Provisional Parliament House idea was agreed by Parliament in 1923.

The provisional nature of the Parliament House was the outcome of a compromise to provide Canberra with a building for the Parliament. The government at the time was unwilling to commit the funds thought necessary to construct a permanent building and the notion of a temporary building was also unattractive. The provisional nature of the proposed Parliament building fell somewhere between these other options.

The Old Parliament House was designed by John Smith Murdoch, Commonwealth Architect, for the Federal Capital Advisory Committee. Murdoch also designed a range of furniture and fittings for the building. Site work commenced later in 1923.

In 1925 the Federal Capital Commission (FCC) was established under Sir John Butters. The Commission replaced the Federal Capital Advisory Committee. The FCC was responsible for moving the public service to Canberra and otherwise establishing the city in time for the opening of Parliament House.

The gardens on either side of Old Parliament House were established under the direction of T C G Weston, Canberra's first Superintendent of Parks and Gardens, at the same time as the building.

The Old Parliament House was opened by the Duke of York on 9 May 1927. The British Parliament gave the Australian Parliament a replica of the Speaker's Chair from the House of Commons. This chair became the Speaker's chair in the House of Representatives.

The building housed the Commonwealth Parliament from 1927 until 1988 when a new Parliament House was completed on Capital Hill. In that period the Old Parliament House was the focus of federal political activity and it was the scene for many important and colourful events, as well as the ordinary business of the Parliament. The building was the focus of public demonstrations, such as that by Aboriginal people in a campaign for land and other rights in the 1970s, and other events such as the 1975 dismissal of the Whitlam Labour Government.

The building housed the Commonwealth Parliamentary Library which was also initially the National Library. The National Library acquired its own separate building nearby in the mid-1930s.

During the period of 1927-88, the building underwent numerous small and large changes. The most prominent changes were the various multi-storey additions made to the sides of the building at both the front and back. These changes were made as a result of the growing number of Members of Parliament, increasing numbers of support staff and a growth in other services. Other changes include the enclosure of verandahs and the construction of a two storey office annexe in the House of Representatives garden.

After 1988, the Old Parliament House was left vacant for several years. In 1992 the Government decided on a number of new uses for the building. The primary use of the building became a museum of political history run by the National Museum of Australia. Other uses for the building include display areas for the Australian Electoral Commission, National Archives of Australia and National Portrait Gallery, as well as a shop and cafe. At this time the building was re-named Old Parliament House.

Physical Description

The Old Parliament House is a three storey rendered brick building with the main floor on the intermediate level. The strong horizontal pattern of the white main facade was originally set with a crisp grid of recessed openings and verandahs, punctuated by four bays with arched bronze windows and the rhythm of stepped parapets. The balanced masses of the House of Representatives and Senate Chambers rise above the surrounding offices and other rooms. These elements contribute to the image of the building which is widely recognised by the public.

The building has strong symmetrical planning based around a number of major spaces. The major axis through the building, aligned with the Land Axis of the Parliamentary Triangle, features a series of spaces: Kings Hall, the Parliamentary Library and the dining rooms at the back. The cross-axis features the House of Representatives and Senate Chambers which are placed symmetrically either side of Kings Hall. All of these spaces are on the main or intermediate level. Surrounding these spaces are a series of smaller meeting rooms, offices and other service areas which are placed on the lower ground, main and upper floors.

The Old Parliament House is an example of Inter-War Stripped Classical style architecture. Key features of the style displayed by the building include: symmetrical facade, division into vertical bays indicating classical origins, vestigial classical entablature, verandahs, simple surfaces and spandrels between storeys subdued to emphasise verticality.

The original building was rendered in white cement and had two partly enclosed courtyards located behind the front wing of the building which contained the two chambers. The original roofs were constructed of flat concrete slabs with a membrane waterproofing.

Significant interior spaces which survive include Kings Hall, the two chambers, library, two party rooms, three prestige offices, dining room/billiard room and bar. The 1974 Prime Minister's office is also significant for its historical associations. The interiors feature impressive Tasmanian Blackwood finishes and specially designed furniture constructed of Australian timbers. An important design feature was the way the main rooms opened directly onto the verandahs.

The Old Parliament House has undergone many small and large changes over its life. The crispness of profile and the careful composition of the side and rear elevations have been lost due to extensive re-roofing and later additions. There have been major additions to the building at both sides, front and back. These have generally maintained the construction, external finish, height and rhythm of the facade but changed the mass of the building. Other changes include: the painting of the external walls; introduction of low-pitched roofs over the flat roofs; enclosure of verandahs; and changes to and a loss of original finishes in many rooms, though not the major spaces.

Significant Components

Some rooms and spaces, or groupings of room and spaces, both within the house and in the landscape areas around it, have had their significance described as follows.

Southeast and Southwest Wings

The encroachment of the executive arm of government into the legislature's proper space, was the root cause for the additions that had to be made to the building, leading to the construction of the southeast and southwest wings. The expansion of the number of parliamentarians in 1948 and changing expectations for separate office accommodation were further contributing factors.

The southeast wing, comprising two blocks constructed in three phases, 1943, 1949 and 1965, and the southwest wing,

also of two blocks constructed in three phases, 1943, 1949 and 1972, have some significance as major extensions in the several campaigns of extension construction to the four corners of the building. The wings, in retaining much of their internal layout and some fittings, are an unusual physical record of the difficult working conditions of parliamentarians, staff and press representatives over the period 1943-88.

The southwest wing is also significant for its association with some important phases or events in the political life of the nation, including the site of the temporary Prime Ministerial suite and Cabinet Room when the Whitlam Government took office in December 1972. This was a period of momentous change early in the life of the new government, and more infamously the site of the 'Night of the Long Prawn' in 1974 related to a failed Government ploy to gain control of the Senate.

Prominent individuals associated with the southwest wing include Senator Neville Bonner, the first Aboriginal parliamentarian, Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, a number of women who were Government Ministers and/or Senators, and various other parliamentarians, including Ministers. More generally and perhaps more aptly, the wing is significant for its association with the holders of various high offices in government, such as Ministers, whomever the particular holder of such an office may have been at any one time.

The southwest wing also provides evidence of the distinctive accommodation provided for Hansard.

The southeast wing provides extensive and relatively intact evidence of the accommodation provided for Members at various periods, and also extensive evidence of Ministerial accommodation. The latter reflects the substantial presence of Executive Government in the building, and the southeast wing only rivalled the northeast corner of the north wing in terms of the area of Ministerial accommodation provided.
(text based on Gutteridge Haskins and Davey, 1999).

Early Surviving Interiors (1927)

The building features the following rooms which have special architectural interest dating from 1927: King's Hall, Library, Senate Chamber, House of Representatives Chamber, Dining Rooms, comprising four adjoining spaces - the former Billiards Room, Dining Room, ante room and Members' Bar (with 1950s elements), Senate Opposition Party Room (Senate Club) Ministerial Party Room, Government Party Room, Clerk of the Senate's Office, and Leader of the Government in the Senate's Office.

In general, these early surviving interiors of the building reflect the austerity associated with the Inter War Stripped Classical style. The rooms tend to be simple spaces with little and subtle decoration. Subtle and repeated classical references, such as the use of Greek patterning, are found in these interiors. Some of the rooms have a certain grandeur being tall or generously proportioned with clerestory windows. The use of timber for wall or ceiling panelling and furniture also distinguishes some rooms.

The use of clerestory windows and/or decorative skylights in many of these rooms and the lobbies are also features of some architectural interest.
(text from Pearson et al, 2000)

Parliamentary Library

The Parliamentary Library is of historical and social significance because of its role from 1927 to 1988 as the home of the primary information service provider to Members of Parliament and Senators.

The Library was designed, and comfortably furnished, to suit the needs of a Parliament in which Parliamentarians had relatively little access to research staff, and relied on the Library as a research tool and place of work. It had what was described as a 'club-like' atmosphere, with large leather upholstered chairs, sofas and chaise lounges, and surprisingly few desks and work tables. Access to the main reading room was strictly controlled to maintain its capacity to service Members and Senators.

Changes were made to the Library progressively from 1938 to deal with both the increasing demands of an expanding parliament and executive, and the growth of the National Library collection, which was only separated from the Parliamentary Library in 1960. Additions infilled part of the courtyard, and a series of internal changes were made, some of which have been reversed in the 1998 refurbishment of the Library which was adapted to house the permanent collection of the National Portrait Gallery.

This history of development and deterioration suggests that the main heritage values of the Library fabric reside in those elements that it retained up to and including the 1958 extension.
(text from O'Keefe and Pearson, 1998).

Later Period Interiors (1950s and 1970s)

The building features the following rooms which have special architectural interest dating from the 1950s: Members' Bar (with 1927 elements), and 1970s: Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Room, Speaker's Suite and President of the Senate's Suite.

The 1950s Bar and 1970s rooms are modest though interesting representatives of architectural interiors of these periods. They are somewhat austere in character and rely for their effect on simple detailing but extensive use of timber panelling.
(text from Pearson et al, 2000)

Movable Items

The contents of Old Parliament House are significant for their historical value in providing evidence about the way in which the parliamentary functions were conducted within the building. The contents are evidence of the importance of the traditions and the people who carried out these functions, reflecting the everyday use of the building over an important period in the development of Australia as a nation. They also establish a hierarchy of importance of people engaged in parliamentary duties. The continued use of the contents of Old Parliament House in their original setting and for their original purposes for over sixty years enhances their significance beyond ephemeral furnishing for a structure originally designed as a provisional building. Recent additions to the original complement of furniture and furnishings reflect the increased demands that were placed on the building to accommodate new functions and an increasing number of occupants. These items are significant as evidence of changes to the form and function of the building.

The design of the contents of Old Parliament House is significant as an integral feature of the building and is representative of prevailing architectural trends in the 1920s. Their design reflects the role of John Smith Murdoch as architectural coordinator of a major architectural project of national significance.

The use of Australian materials and labour in the manufacture of the contents for Old Parliament House is significant for its contribution to the promotion of a sense of national identity and unity.

The contents of Old Parliament House include items presented to the Parliament from United Kingdom and Canada which underline the significance of Australia's role as a member of the Commonwealth of Nations and demonstrate the importance of the Westminster parliamentary system as the foundation of Australian Government. Of exceptional significance are the President of the Senate's Chair presented by the Dominion of Canada and the Speaker's Chair, presented by the United Kingdom Branch of the Empire Parliamentary Association.

The physical evidence in the contents and the supporting archival documentation of their design, use and modification represent a valuable research resource of national standing.
(text above is primarily from Pearson et al, 2000)

Senate and House of Representatives Gardens

The Senate and House of Representatives Gardens are a significant and integral component of Old Parliament House. Parliamentarians used the gardens for leisure and sport. The gardens supplied cut flowers to the Parliament and were the venue for formal events. The gardens relate to the building, featuring surrounding trees using a strong evergreen tree foundation, colourful deciduous trees, tall clipped hedges and patterned floral display beds. The gardens reflect the international movement of landscape design for public settings by the use of gardens beds cut into the grass sward, the creation of formal, pattern gardens, the extensive and dominant use of roses, and the creation of extensive open lawned areas.

Roses are the key plant element throughout the life of the gardens, and the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens are a key element of the National Rose Gardens which include plantings in Parkes Place.
(text based on Conybeare Morrison & Partners and others, 1998, and Patrick and Wallace 1989).

Rows of Maiden's gum (*EUCALYPTUS MAIDENII*) flank each side of the gardens. The eastern group on King George Terrace are regarded as exceptional (Pryor and Banks, 1991)

Further discussion of significance is in the conservation management plan (Pearson et al 2000).

History Not Available

Condition and Integrity

The Old Parliament House is in generally fair to good condition.

The integrity of the fabric varies considerably as the building has been subject to numerous alterations and additions. Major changes include: the enclosure of the 1927 courtyards by later wings; the 1964 wing added to south-east corner; the 1970 wing added to south-west corner; the 1972 and 1973 wings added to the north-east and north-west corners; the enclosure of verandahs; roofing of original flat roofs; painting of original external white render; construction of an office annexe in the House of Representatives garden; and loss of original interiors such as the original Prime Minister's office and Cabinet Room. The major additions have been spatially unsympathetic to the site, with the exception of the annexe, which relates to the original building in colour and construction. Changes are being made to the south elevation of the dining rooms to provide direct access.

Location

About 2.5ha, comprising that area bounded by King George Terrace, Queen Victoria Terrace and Parliament Square, Parkes.

Bibliography

The statement of significance and other documentation was primarily prepared from the following report:

Pearson, M, Betteridge, M, Marshall, D, O'Keefe, B and Young, L, (2000) Old Parliament House Conservation Management Plan. Report prepared for the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

Australian Construction Service:

(1988) The building in its setting : Old Parliament House redevelopment

(1991) Old Parliament House redevelopment study : design drawings.

(1991) Heritage strategy : Old Parliament House redevelopment.

(1991) Architectural character : Old Parliament House redevelopment

(1995) Conservation management plan : Old Parliament House, Canberra, A.C.T.

Connybeare Morrison & Partners and others (1994) Restoration of Old Parliament House Gardens, Report on History of the Gardens, prepared for the NCPA.

Conybeare Morrison & Partners (1994) Restoration of Old Parliament House Gardens: masterplan report

Garnett, Rodney and Hyndes, Danielle 1992, The Heritage of the Australian Capital Territory, National Trust of Australia (ACT) and others.

Gray, J. 1995 Poplar trees in the Garden Courts of Old Parliament House, Canberra : options for replanting

Gutteridge Haskins and Davey 1999, Old Parliament House South West Wing Heritage Study , report for DOCITA

Marshall, D 1995, Documentation on Historic Places in the Australian Capital Territory, 3 volumes, unpublished report for the Australian Heritage Commission.

O'Keefe, B and M Pearson (1998) Federation: A National Survey of Heritage Places, Australian Heritage Commission.

O'Keefe, B. (2000) Old Parliament House : heritage study for the conservation and refurbishment of the southwest wing of Old Parliament House

Patrick and Wallace (1988) Draft conservation study of Old Parliament House gardens, Canberra

Pryor, LD and Banks JCG 1991, Trees and Shrubs in Canberra. Little Hills Press. Canberra

Charlton, Ken 1984, Federal Capital Architecture, National Trust of Australia (ACT).

Dick, George 1977, Parliament House Canberra, AGPS, Canberra

Garnett, Rodney and Hyndes, Danielle 1992, The Heritage of the Australian Capital Territory, National Trust of Australia (ACT) and others.

Gibbney, Jim 1988, Canberra 1913-1953, AGPS

Howard Tanner and Associates 1986, Provisional Parliament House: The Conservation Plan.

Nelsen, Ivar and Waite, Phil 1995, Conservation Management Plan, Old Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, Australian Construction Services.

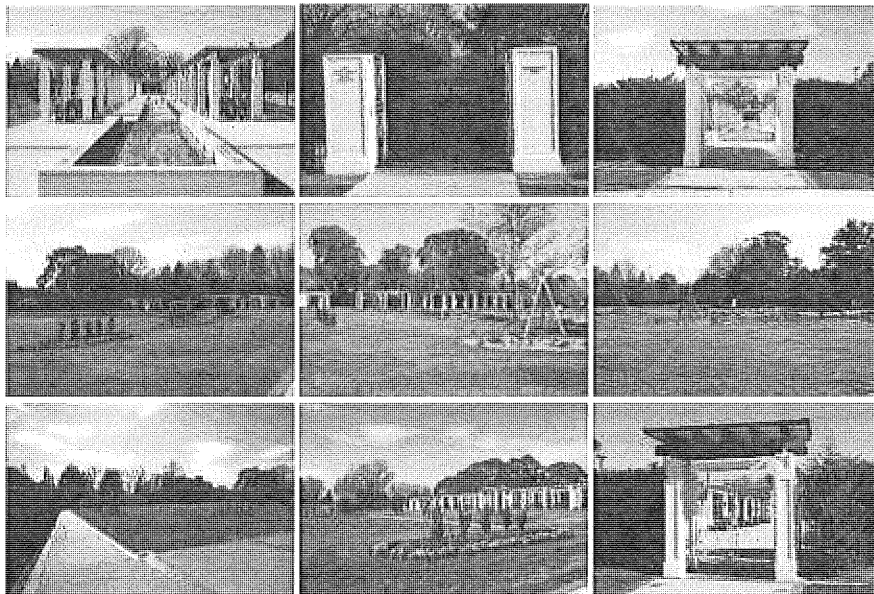
Report Produced Thu Mar 14 16:40:34 2019

Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

Old Parliament House Gardens, King George Tce, Parkes, ACT, Australia

Photographs



List	Commonwealth Heritage List
Class	Historic
Legal Status	Listed place (22/06/2004)
Place ID	105616
Place File No	8/01/000/0124

Summary Statement of Significance

The Old Parliament House Gardens are the Commonwealth Government's first Parliamentary gardens and are significant as an integral component of the Old Parliament House complex that occupies a prominent and strategic location at the southern end of the main Land Axis of Griffin's city design. As components of the Old Parliament House complex, they are significant contributors to the suite of the early Federal Capital features in the upper apex of the Parliamentary Triangle, that denote the physical commencement of the Federal capital. (Criterion F1) Australian Historic Themes: 7.4 Federating Australia, 8.1.3 Developing public parks and gardens, 8.10.4 Designing and building fine buildings (and gardens)

The Gardens are important to the understanding of the operations of the Parliament throughout its parliamentary tenure, being closely integrated into the daily life of the House, of both parliamentarians and parliamentary staff as place of relaxation, recreation and a venue for special events, although the strong design links to the building were diminished with the construction of the southwest and southeast wings. The gardens provide evidence of the recreations available to Members of Parliament. The gardens also have important historical links with the parliamentary wives of the 1930s who donated many of the roses and for their use as a venue for formal events. The existing roses, many of which were donations, provided cut flowers to the Parliament. (Criterion A4) Australian Historic Themes: 7.4 Federating Australia

Many of the existing rose specimens such as 'Mission Bells', 'Eiffel Tower', 'Queen Elizabeth', 'Alexander' 'Mr Lincoln', Alistair Clark roses including 'Black Boy' and 'Lorraine Lee' although available as cultivars are regarded as fine aged specimens. The 'Peace' rose plants (also known as 'Madame Mielland') growing on their own root stock are regarded as uncommon. Other roses of importance are the one hundred 'Etoile de Hollande' donated by the Macarthur-Onslow family, and the Daily Mail roses donated by Dame Mary Hughes. (Criterion D2).

As an example of the international movement of landscape design, they demonstrate the style of gardens for public settings with the use of gardens beds cut into the grass sward in formal patterns, the extensive and dominant use of roses, and the creation of extensive open lawned areas. They also reflect the Edwardian garden style that favoured defined garden 'rooms' with hedges as boundaries. The surviving features also demonstrate a design with a symmetrical structure, consistent with the Federal Capital style, and the Parliament House complex, that included the courtyards with loggias and pergolas, and verandahs, that linked internal spaces with the landscape setting. The predominance of rose species in the gardens represents a garden fashion and fascination with roses that has spanned approximately ninety years. (Criterion D2)

The Gardens contribute to the planned aesthetic qualities of the Parliamentary Triangle and have an aesthetic quality derived from their formal design layout within an enclosed area, the floral display of the roses in colour coordinated arrangements, the patterned display beds, and the fragrance, colour and beauty of the rose blooms set within the strong evergreen foundation from the intact sweeping lawns, the hedges and background canopies of adjacent trees. As well, the period charm of the gardens has aesthetic quality, derived from the relationship of the gardens to the adjacent Old Parliament House building, and the modest built features of the historic croquet/bowling clubhouse, glasshouse, tennis court fences and old style gates (currently not in place). Beyond the gardens the trees of King George and Queen Victoria Terraces, and the adjacent avenue walks of the House of Representatives and Senate parklands contribute considerable green canopy backdrops to the gardens. The parkland spaces adjacent to the gardens and the treed walks approaching the gardens contribute to the aesthetic values of the garden. (Criterion E1)

The Gardens have an association with many important figures in the life of the Parliament. They have an association with Thomas Charles Weston responsible for the original framework planting and Robert Broinowski responsible for their completion. (Criterion H 1)

Official Values

Criterion A Processes

The Gardens are important to the understanding of the operations of the Parliament throughout its parliamentary tenure, being closely integrated into the daily life of the House, of both parliamentarians and parliamentary staff as place of relaxation, recreation and a venue for special events, although the strong design links to the building were diminished with the construction of the southwest and southeast wings. The gardens provide evidence of the recreations available to Members of Parliament. The gardens also have important historical links with the parliamentary wives of the 1930s who donated many of the roses and for their use as a venue for formal events. The existing roses, many of which were donations, provided cut flowers to the Parliament.

Criterion D Characteristic values

Many of the existing rose specimens such as 'Mission Bells', 'Eiffel Tower', 'Queen Elizabeth', 'Alexander' 'Mr Lincoln', Alister Clark roses including 'Black Boy' and 'Lorraine Lee' although available as cultivars are regarded as fine aged specimens. The 'Peace' rose plants (also known as 'Madame Mielland') growing on their own root stock are regarded as uncommon. Other roses of importance are the one hundred 'Etoile de Hollande' donated by the Macarthur-Onslow family, and the Daily Mail roses donated by Dame Mary Hughes.

As an example of the international movement of landscape design, they demonstrate the style of gardens for public settings with the use of garden beds cut into the grass sward in formal patterns, the extensive and dominant use of roses, and the creation of extensive open lawned areas. They also reflect the Edwardian garden style that favoured defined garden 'rooms' with hedges as boundaries. The surviving features also demonstrate a design with a symmetrical structure, consistent with the Federal Capital style, and the Parliament House complex, that included the courtyards with loggias and pergolas, and verandahs, that linked internal spaces with the landscape setting. The predominance of rose species in the gardens represents a garden fashion and fascination with roses that has spanned approximately ninety years.

Criterion E Aesthetic characteristics

The Gardens contribute to the planned aesthetic qualities of the Parliamentary Triangle and have an aesthetic quality derived from their formal design layout within an enclosed area, the floral display of the roses in colour coordinated arrangements, the patterned display beds, and the fragrance, colour and beauty of the rose blooms set within the strong evergreen foundation from the intact sweeping lawns, the hedges and background canopies of adjacent trees. As well, the period charm of the gardens has aesthetic quality, derived from the relationship of the gardens to the adjacent Old Parliament House building, and the modest built features of the historic croquet/bowling clubhouse, glasshouse, tennis court fences and old style gates (currently not in place). Beyond the gardens the trees of King George and Queen Victoria Terraces, and the adjacent avenue walks of the House of Representatives and Senate parklands contribute considerable green canopy backdrops to the gardens. The parkland spaces adjacent to the gardens and the treed walks approaching the gardens contribute to the aesthetic values of the garden.

Criterion F Technical achievement

The Old Parliament House Gardens are the Commonwealth Government's first Parliamentary gardens and are significant as an integral component of the Old Parliament House complex that occupies a prominent and strategic location at the southern end of the main Land Axis of Griffin's city design. As components of the Old Parliament House complex, they are significant contributors to the suite of the early Federal Capital features in the upper apex of the Parliamentary Triangle, that denote the physical commencement of the Federal capital.

Criterion H Significant people

The Gardens have an association with many important figures in the life of the Parliament. They have an association with Thomas Charles Weston responsible for the original framework planting and Robert Broinowski responsible for their completion.

Description

History

Old Parliament House was designed by John Smith Murdoch, Commonwealth Architect for the Federal Capital Advisory Committee. From the very beginning of planning for the move to Canberra, the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens were considered to be an integral aspect of the amenities of the House. John Smith Murdoch, commented at an important hearing into the design of the House in 1923: 'The accommodation for members is, I think, going to be very fine, even in this building, especially in the garden arrangements and the promenades; there is no Parliament House that I have seen that is so good in this respect.' The promenades referred to by Murdoch include the provision of roof gardens, in use until the late 1930s. When they were closed off, due to roof leaks, the rest of the gardens became even more important.

Around the same time the National Rose Gardens (RNE 019119) were commenced on the lawns to the north of Parliament House. These were formal rose gardens designed to provide a setting for Parliament House whereas the Parliament House Gardens were a key amenity for parliamentarians and staff, and were planned from day one.

Design and planting of the Gardens began during construction of the House, under the direction of T C G Weston, Canberra's first Superintendent of Parks and Gardens, at the same time as the building. The hedges and structural tree planting was completed in 1927 when the first parliamentarians arrived. Robert Broinowski, Usher of the Black Rod (1920-1930), and Clerk of the Senate (1939-1942), took the initiative to complete the gardens while Secretary of the Joint House Department (1930- 1938). He ordered 100 climbing roses for the tennis courts. Rex Hazelwood, who practiced landscape design in the Sydney region, was invited by Broinowski to assist in designing and starting the rose gardens. Hazelwood and the National Rose Society of NSW provided the initial impetus and encouraged the involvement of other rose societies. Despite the exigencies of Depression and war, work continued on the Gardens with dogged determination by later parliamentary officials. In 1933 Broinowski commenced the development of the Ladies Rose Garden in southeast corner of the House of Representatives Garden and the wives of some parliamentarians donated roses from 1933-34.

The importance of the Gardens in the original vision of the House was made highly visible by substantial pergola-like gateways, which linked the inner courtyards to the gardens. The gates led to elaborate Murdoch-designed gates, which survived at least until 1943, when the erection of two small extensions closed off the original gateways on either side of the building. The first plans for these extensions, drawn in 1937, show that the gates were to be re-erected at the southern end of the new additions, thus retaining the key visual link between the sides of the House and the side gardens. The pergolas, whose design reflects the style of Frank Lloyd Wright, survived until the 1980s, when they were replaced by the present somewhat debased versions of the originals just prior to Parliament's departure. The inadequate nature of these replacements has served to obscure the original importance of the link to the gardens they formerly represented, as well as obscuring the prominence and importance of the side gardens.

The visible importance of the entries to the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens via the inner courtyard gardens of the House was finally lost in 1948, when the small war-time extensions were added to, and in the 1960s and 70s, when further wings were built on either side.

The original CUPRESSUS MACROCARPA and C. ARIZONICA hedges were planted to convey a subtle planting colour tapestry and were clipped to shape and curved out to the street at the garden entry points, enhancing the sense of entry.

The Gardens were, for most of the time, an almost domestic amenity to social life at Parliament House. They were for the exclusive use by parliamentarians who used them for leisure and sport. The bowling green (now occasionally used as a croquet lawn) was established early in the history of the gardens. The Gardens provided a private and restful haven from the stresses of parliamentary life. They were places of relaxation and reflection: places where groups of Senators and Members would gather every day when parliament was sitting, for tennis or bowls, to practise fly-fishing casting, or for a game of cricket. These groups also bridged gaps between parliamentarians and non-parliamentarians, especially parliamentary staff, and across party divides. One MP kept his bees in the House of Representatives garden, others sunbathed there, or went for a quiet walk and talk. Senator Neville Bonner demonstrated the superior aerodynamics of the boomerang to journalists. At other times large garden parties were held, generally after the formal Openings of Parliament, but also to greet important guests such as royal visitors. The gardens were frequently used as a setting for TV interviews.

Although quite modest in general design, they were not strictly formal gardens in the European sense. The grass was there to be walked and picnicked on: visitors were generally welcome, although priority use of tennis and squash courts was afforded to parliamentarians.

The Gardens focused on roses, which were extremely popular in twentieth century gardens. Roses were to a large degree donated by the rose societies, by wives of parliamentarians and by individuals. However the rose beds have undergone changes and many of the early plants were lost. In 1951 a major rose planting program was pursued with 2000 new roses planted. Other plants such as bulbs and irises were also donated. The practice of occasional rose donations continued into the 1990s. The gardens were also a source of cut flowers, both roses and annuals. Large bulb beds were also planted, both for decoration and for cut flowers. This activity varied over the years, depending on the enthusiasm of the Joint House Department, which employed the gardeners. During the war years, slit trenches were dug, just as they were in many other Canberra gardens, for fear of air raids.

Since the activities of Parliament House ceased in the former Parliament, the condition of the rose gardens has declined. Root competition precluded the cultivation of beds in the most southern area of the Senate Garden, a very large tree in the Senate Garden died during a summer drought, mechanical edging devices widened the rose beds at the expense of turf areas. Several beds in both gardens were grassed over. The symmetry of what was believed to be paired trees has mostly been lost. In the House of Representatives Garden, the Office Buildings, the Shade House and the Squash Courts have been removed. Instructions were given to gardening staff in 1991 to keep the Gardens at a very minimal maintenance level.

In 2001, the original hedge was removed and replaced with Cupressus hybrid varieties. The large metal gates present

since the 1940s were removed and several new openings were made into the gardens through the hedges, reducing the former drama of the enclosure of the gardens and their connection with Parliament House.

Since the end of the tenure of Parliament in the complex, the Gardens have been open to the public and continually used by the public for picnics, weddings and general garden relaxation.

Description

The Gardens cover square areas within lots 38 and 40, to the east and west of Old Parliament House, the House of Representatives Garden is in the eastern lot, while the Senate Garden is to the west. They form eastern and western components of the former Parliament complex. They are surrounded by hedges (replaced in 2001) and beyond the gardens are mature tree avenues and parklands that form part of the Parliamentary Triangle landscape (refer Parliament House Vista RNE 103831). These trees contribute to the setting of the gardens, particularly the mature EUCALYPTUS MAIDENII flanking King George and Queen Victoria Terraces regarded as exceptional group of trees (Pryor and Banks 1991). The House of Representatives Garden is separated from the half circular shaped parkland by a path edged by pairs of QUERCUS PALUSTRIS and CALOCEDRUS DECURRENS. Groups of four POPULUS NIGRA once formed the entry points to the paths. The mature trees that include QUERCUS PALUSTRIS and CALOCEDRUS DECURRENS edge the circle adjacent to the roads. The Senate Parkland to the west of the Senate Garden has a similar layout and tree planting arrangement although the parkland space now contains a sculptural feature, called Magna Carta Place.

The House of Representatives Garden has four areas, the north west quadrant contains the croquet/bowls green, edged by island beds, with a timber clad pavilion structure, and a building, possibly a former club room, currently used as an amenity room for the gardeners. Three tennis courts are in the south-west corner with mesh wire fences and metal posts. Gardens around the fence line contain climber roses and island beds edge the tennis courts. Formal rose gardens exist in the south and northeast areas of different layout configurations. These are planted with an array of roses in good health and organised by colour tones. Within the gardens are two metal sheet plaques dedicated to the memory of Elizabeth and John Macarthur respectively. A single CELTIS AUSTRALIS remains.

The Senate Garden contains tennis courts in the southeast quadrant, with mesh wire fences and metal posts but open between each court with the fence height reduced at the centre of the court. Rose garden beds occupy the southwest area, consistent with what was present in the 1930s, however the study undertaken in 1989 (Patrick and Wallace Pty Ltd) notes the beds were narrower at that time and contained tripods for climbers. The roses are healthy and of a variety of period origins, predominantly post World War II. The ornamental garden layout of the north east quadrant appears consistent with historical information although the bed planting is of a more recent origin and appears to reflect plants moved from the internal courtyards. A cricket field occupied the northwest quadrant and this area is now open lawn. The Patrick and Wallace report notes that both gardens had an overall symmetry with paired trees at cardinal points. It also suggests that corner beds and several island beds existed around the edge of the cricket field.

The rose beds contain a great variety of rose specimens. Over the years the roses have been added and many replaced. They are arranged in colours with tones from low to high intensity. The age of the rose specimens vary, some are said to date from the 1930s, others from the 1950s, and 1970s. Some outstanding examples of cultured roses are the 'Eiffel Tower' 'Mission Bells', and 'Peace' (also known as 'Madame Mielland'). Eiffel Tower, Mission Bells and Eddie Murphy are all commercially extinct in the UK. 'Alexander' and 'Mr Lincoln' roses are fine specimens, believed to have been planted during the 1970s.

History Not Available

Condition and Integrity

February 2003

The roses are strong, healthy and vigorous. Over the last decade many of the original garden beds have been grassed over and some trees lost. The timber structures in the gardens require conservation work.

Location

About 4ha, King George Terrace, Parkes, comprising all that part of Block 38 to the east of the alignment of the western side of Parkes Place, and all that part of Block 40 to the west of the alignment of the eastern side of Parkes Place.

Bibliography

Australian Construction Services 1991.

Conybeare Morrison & Partners et.al 1994, Restoration of Old Parliament House Gardens, Report on History of the Gardens, prepared for the NCPA.

Gray, J 1995, Poplar Trees in the Garden Courts of Old Parliament House, Canberra, unpublished report for Australian Estate Management, Department of Administrative Services.

Gray, J 1995, Gardens and Courts Walking Tours at Old Parliament House, Canberra, Review of Pilot Program, prepared for National Museum of Australia.

Gray, J 1994, "A Preliminary Review of the History of Old Parliament House Gardens Canberra", in Restoration of Old Parliament House Gardens" in Conybeare Morrison & Partners 'Restoration of Old Parliament House Gardens (listed above).

Patrick and Wallace 1989, Conservation Study of Old Parliament House Gardens, Canberra, prepared for the NCPA.

Pearson, M et.al. 2000, Old Parliament House Conservation Management Plan prepared for DCITA.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works 1923, Report relating to the Proposed Erection of Provisional Parliament House, Canberra.

National Archives of Australia, Department of the Interior CRS A292/5 C15168 'Parliament House Members & Press Accommodation - Alterations & Additions.

Australian Heritage Commission File 8/01/00/0124. Letter to Bruce Leaver from Robin Johnson 2 September 2002 with plans showing the location of rose species and post 1988 changes to the Gardens.

Report Produced Thu Mar 14 16:41:46 2019

[Accessibility](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#) | © Commonwealth of Australia



Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

Parliament House Vista, Anzac Pde, Parkes, ACT, Australia

Photographs



List	Commonwealth Heritage List
Class	Historic
Legal Status	<u>Listed place</u> (22/06/2004)
Place ID	105466
Place File No	8/01/000/0075

Summary Statement of Significance

Design Importance

The Parliament House Vista is the central designed landscape of Canberra, that expresses the core of the Walter Burley Griffin design vision for Canberra. It is highly significant for its symbolic representation of the democratic interchange between the people and their elected representatives and its use of the natural landforms to generate a strong planning geometry. It expresses a masterly synthesis and ordering of topographical features and administrative functions to meet the needs of a national capital. The vista landscape embraces the central land axis and part of the water axis and most of the Parliamentary Triangle including the area known as the Parliamentary Zone. The significance incorporates Walter Burley Griffin's vision for the area, as the focus of Commonwealth parliamentary and governmental activity as well as national cultural life. This vision has been partly realised and the place is the setting for major, government, judicial and cultural institutions. The northern extent of the vista of Anzac Parade and the Australian War Memorial, despite differing from the original plan, are significant for memorial purposes developed in response to the needs of the people. Despite being modified to a lesser degree to accommodate the impact of wars on Australians, the Vista now presents as a philosophical concept expressed in urban planning, landscape and architecture, to achieve a grand vision of a symbolic, unified and visually dramatic place (Criterion F.1)
(Australian Historic Themes 7.4 Federating Australia, 8.10 , Pursuing excellence in the arts and sciences)

The Parliament House Vista incorporating the central national area, is the core of the most ambitious and most successful example of twentieth century urban planning in Australia. It is important for its design pattern with large landscape and waterscape spaces with their enframement by treed avenues and at the lake by bridges, the terminal vista features of the Australian War Memorial and Mount Ainslie at the northern end and Parliament House at the southern end, with the Carillon and Captain Cook Jet creating balanced vertical features in the water plane (Criterion F.1).

The spatial setting of the buildings as features in the landscape reflects Beaux Arts planning concepts and the building masses and their careful location complement the significance of the overall landscape pattern. Across the Parliamentary Triangle, the buildings of Old Parliament House, and East and West Blocks provide a distinctive Stripped Classical architectural patterned horizontal band, that contributes to the symmetrical overall patterning of the landscape. At a higher elevation, Parliament House is a significant feature terminating the southern end of the land axis, culminating the classical landmark image of the triangle apex. The John Gorton Building (the former Administrative Building) and the Treasury Building balance the composition on King George Terrace while at the Lake edge the post-war architecture of the National Library of Australia and the High Court - National Gallery Precinct are prominent modern architectural forms and have a significant historical layering effect. The Portal Buildings provide balanced building massing at the southern end of Anzac Parade (Criterion F.1).

Avenues of trees along the terraces, roads and pathways of deciduous, pine, and eucalypt species provide colour, character, and contrast, emphasising the significance of the formal symmetrical design. Lombardy Poplars in groups of four, form sentinels at key locations. Water fountains, and statues also reinforce the significance of the total design pattern of the place. On the northern expanse of the vista the landscape pattern is the wide sweeping avenue space emphasised by red scoria gravel in the central strip and edged by large Blue Gums (Criterion F.1).

The vista landscape is significant for its richness of features. Many places in the Vista area have individual heritage significance for their architectural design and historic importance. These include Old Parliament House and Curtilage, East Block Government Offices, West Block and the Dugout, John Gorton Building, the National Library of Australia, the High Court of Australia, the National Gallery of Australia, Blundells Farmhouse, Slab Outbuildings and Surrounds, the Australian War Memorial, the Portal Buildings, The High Court - National Gallery Precinct, the Carillon, and King George V Memorial (Criteria F.1 and A3).

Within the area are important parklands and gardens enhancing the significance of the landscape setting. These include the Gardens of Old Parliament House (the former Senate and House of Representative Gardens), important for expressing their history in plantings, sports facilities, modest features and layout pattern. Also important is the Sculpture Garden of the National Gallery, a significant native style garden, and the National Rose Gardens. Commonwealth Park, the Peace Park, the Lakeshore Promenade and Kings Park are important landscapes for their design and popular use (Criteria F.1 and A3.)

Adding to the richness of the place is the manner in which Griffin's vision of democracy has also been emphasised, as places within the area have become identified with political protest actions by people, as exemplified in the significant Aboriginal Embassy site (Criteria F.1 and A3).

Historic Importance

The central national area of Canberra is strongly associated with the history of politics and government in Australia and the development of Canberra as the Australian National Capital. It is significant as the home of the Commonwealth Parliament, the focus of the Federal Government since 1927, initially in the Old Parliament House and from 1988 in the new Parliament House. The various government buildings in the area reinforce the association with Australian government and political history, including East and West Blocks, the Administrative Building, the Treasury Building and the High Court. The latter, being set apart from Parliament House but facing it is symbolic of the judicial role of the High Court as a physical representation of the separation of powers (Criterion A.4, Australian Historic Themes: 7.2 Developing institutions of self-government and democracy).

The central national area has strong links with the planning and development of Canberra as the Australian Capital. The relocation of Parliament to Canberra and the central national area in 1927 was the focus of an intense period of development of the new city and gave purpose to Canberra as the Nation's Capital. Over time this association has been reinforced by the construction of major government buildings in the area, such as the Treasury Building, the Administration Building (now John Gorton Building), the Portal Buildings and latterly the new Parliament House, as well as the construction of major cultural institutions. The area as intended has become the focus of Commonwealth parliamentary and governmental activity as well as, to some extent, national cultural life. (Criterion A.4) (Australian Historic Themes: 4.1 Planning urban settlement, 7.2 Developing institutions of self-government and democracy, 7.3 Federating Australia).

The area has been associated since 1941 with the development of Australian cultural life and national identity through the presence of such institutions as the Australian War Memorial, the National Gallery of Australia, the National Science and Technology Centre and the National Library of Australia. The national cultural institutions reinforce the national character of the area and are an important symbolic group in Australia's national cultural life. The Australian War Memorial and Anzac Parade memorials and, to a lesser extent, the other memorials have and continue to play a very important role in fostering aspects of national identity, in particular the Australian War Memorial through its role as a National Shrine for all Australians (Criterion A.4, Australian Historic Themes 8.8 Remembering the Fallen).

Social Importance

The area has strong and special associations with the broad Australian community because of its social values as a symbol of Australia and Federal Government. The values have developed over many years since Canberra's creation and the relocation of the Parliament in 1927 gave them a special focus. The special association is reflected in the use of the area as the location for national memorials, the number of tourists who have and continue to visit the area, the media portrayal of Canberra and federal politics and the continuing use of the area as the venue for occasional ceremonies and political protests by sections of the community. Memorial features include sculptures, plaques, commemorative trees, water features and gardens. The collection of sculptures, associated art and design which comprise the Anzac Parade Memorials, give expression to key aspects of the history of Australia's armed forces and Australia's war involvement, and possess high social value (Criterion G.1, Australian Historic Themes 8.8 Remembering the fallen, 8.9 Commemorating significant events and people).

The special association for the community is also the use of the area by people demonstrating against government decisions. The central national area, particularly Parkes Place in front of Old Parliament House, has been used for countless demonstrations (Criterion G.1).

The landscape spaces are important for social activities of visitors and Canberra residents and these include Canberra festivals, water events, national events and parades such as Anzac Day Parade and the Dawn Service, and other commemorative services (Criterion G.1).

Aesthetic Value

The place has high aesthetic significance due to the visual impact of the extensive open sweeping vista along the land axis that can be experienced in two directions, the designed axes set within natural features of forested hills, patterns and textures of architectural massing accentuated by planned open spaces, water planes and tree plantings that are arranged across the area. The vista is significant for its visual drama with its ability to engage viewers in the visual perspective of the sweeping vista to the terminal features. The aesthetic significance is also a result of the large scale qualities of the axes, including the open green spaces, combined with patterns and symmetrical characteristics of the road networks and numerous designed smaller attributes. These include the rose gardens, the Old Parliament House Gardens, Commonwealth Park, the street tree plantings, the lake-land interface and the Sculpture Garden of the National Gallery, and many intimate spaces rich in texture, colour, fragrance and in some cases, art works and water features (Criterion E1).

Associational Value

The central national area has a special association with its designer, Walter Burley Griffin. Griffin is an important figure in Australia's cultural history for his overall design of Canberra as the Nation's Capital. The special association between the central national area and Griffin results from the area being the centrepiece of the planning geometry for Canberra and perhaps the only part of his Canberra plan to survive relatively intact. The area has a strong association with Marion Mahoney Griffin who prepared the perspective drawings of the Vista. The Vista area has a strong association with numerous architects and planners, in particular John Smith Murdoch, Chief architect of the Commonwealth Government, and Thomas Charles Weston, Superintendent of Parks, Gardens and Afforestation in Canberra, and notable planners of the National Capital Development Commission such as Sir John Overall, Peter Harrison and Paul Reid (Criterion H.1).

Official Values

Criterion A Processes

The central national area of Canberra is strongly associated with the history of politics and government in Australia and the development of Canberra as the Australian National Capital. It is significant as the home of the Commonwealth Parliament, the focus of the Federal Government since 1927, initially in the Old Parliament House and from 1988 in the new Parliament House. The various government buildings in the area reinforce the association with Australian government and political history, including East and West Blocks, the Administrative Building, the Treasury Building and the High Court. The latter, being set apart from Parliament House but facing it is symbolic of the judicial role of the High Court as a physical representation of the separation of powers.

The central national area has strong links with the planning and development of Canberra as the Australian Capital. The relocation of Parliament to Canberra and the central national area in 1927 was the focus of an intense period of development of the new city and gave purpose to Canberra as the Nation's Capital. Over time this association has been reinforced by the construction of major government buildings in the area, such as the Treasury Building, the Administration Building (now John Gorton Building), the Portal Buildings and latterly the new Parliament House, as well as the construction of major cultural institutions. The area as intended has become the focus of Commonwealth parliamentary and governmental activity as well as, to some extent, national cultural life.

The area has been associated since 1941 with the development of Australian cultural life and national identity through the presence of such institutions as the Australian War Memorial, the National Gallery of Australia, the National Science and Technology Centre and the National Library of Australia. The national cultural institutions reinforce the national character of the area and are an important symbolic group in Australia's national cultural life. The Australian War Memorial and Anzac Parade memorials and, to a lesser extent, the other memorials have and continue to play a very important role in fostering aspects of national identity, in particular the Australian War Memorial through its role as a National Shrine for all Australians.

The vista landscape is significant for its richness of features. Many places in the Vista area have individual heritage significance for their architectural design and historic importance. These include Old Parliament House and Curtilage, East Block Government Offices, West Block and the Dugout, John Gorton Building, the National Library of Australia, the High Court of Australia, the National Gallery of Australia, Blundells Farmhouse, Slab Outbuildings and Surrounds, the Australian War Memorial, the Portal Buildings, The High Court - National Gallery Precinct, the Carillon, and King George V Memorial.

Within the area are important parklands and gardens enhancing the significance of the landscape setting. These include the Gardens of Old Parliament House (the former Senate and House of Representative Gardens) with their surviving layout, the Sculpture Garden of the National Gallery, the National Rose Gardens, Commonwealth Park, the Peace Park, the Lakeshore Promenade and Kings Park .

Adding to the richness of the place is the manner in which Griffin's vision of democracy has also been emphasised, as places within the area have become identified with political protest actions by people, as exemplified in the significant Aboriginal Embassy site.

Attributes

The concentration of buildings, parklands and gardens that support Commonwealth parliamentary and governmental activity as well as, to some extent, national cultural life. These include Old Parliament House and Curtilage, East Block Government Offices, West Block and the Dugout, John Gorton Building, the National Library of Australia, the High Court of Australia, the National Gallery of Australia, Blundells Farmhouse, Slab Outbuildings and Surrounds, the Australian War Memorial, the Portal Buildings, The High Court - National Gallery Precinct, the Carillon, King George V Memorial, Sculpture Garden of the National Gallery, the National Rose Gardens, Commonwealth Park, the Peace Park, the Lakeshore Promenade and Kings Park and the Aboriginal Embassy site.

Criterion E Aesthetic characteristics

The place has high aesthetic significance due to the visual impact of the extensive open sweeping vista along the land axis that can be experienced in two directions, the designed axes set within natural features of forested hills, patterns and textures of architectural massing accentuated by planned open spaces, water planes and tree plantings that are arranged across the area. The vista is significant for its visual drama with its ability to engage viewers in the visual perspective of the sweeping vista to the terminal features. The aesthetic significance is also a result of the large scale qualities of the axes, including the open green spaces, combined with patterns and symmetrical characteristics of the road networks and numerous designed smaller attributes. These include the rose gardens, the Old Parliament House Gardens, Commonwealth Park, the street tree plantings, the lake-land interface and the Sculpture Garden of the National Gallery, and many intimate spaces rich in texture, colour, fragrance and in some cases, art works and water features.

Attributes

The extensive vista along the land axis, the forested hills, patterns and textures of architectural massing accentuated by planned open spaces, water features and tree plantings, art works, the terminal features plus the interplay of scale and texture in the designed landscape.

Criterion F Technical achievement

The Parliament House Vista is the central designed landscape of Canberra, that expresses the core of the Walter Burley Griffin design vision for Canberra. It is highly significant for its symbolic representation of the democratic interchange between the people and their elected representatives and its use of the natural landforms to generate a strong planning geometry. It expresses a masterly synthesis and ordering of topographical features and administrative functions to meet the needs of a national capital. The vista landscape embraces the central land axis and part of the water axis and most of the Parliamentary Triangle including the area known as the Parliamentary Zone. The significance incorporates Walter Burley Griffin's vision for the area, as the focus of Commonwealth parliamentary and governmental activity as well as national cultural life. This vision has been partly realised and the place is the setting for major, government, judicial and cultural institutions. The northern extent of the vista of Anzac Parade and the Australian War Memorial, despite differing from the original plan, are significant for memorial purposes developed in response to the needs of the people. Despite being modified to a lesser degree to accommodate the impact of wars on Australians, the Vista now presents as a philosophical concept expressed in urban planning, landscape and architecture, to achieve a grand vision of a symbolic, unified and visually dramatic place.

The Parliament House Vista incorporating the central national area, is the core of the most ambitious and most successful example of twentieth century urban planning in Australia. It is important for its design pattern with large landscape and waterscape spaces with their enframement by treed avenues and at the lake by bridges, the terminal vista features of the Australian War Memorial and Mount Ainslie at the northern end and Parliament House at the southern end, with the Carillon and Captain Cook Jet creating balanced vertical features in the water plane.

The spatial setting of the buildings as features in the landscape reflects Beaux Arts planning concepts and the building masses and their careful location complement the significance of the overall landscape pattern. Across the Parliamentary Triangle, the buildings of Old Parliament House, and East and West Blocks provide a distinctive Stripped Classical architectural patterned horizontal band, that contributes to the symmetrical overall patterning of the landscape. At a higher elevation, Parliament House is a significant feature terminating the southern end of the land axis, culminating the classical landmark image of the triangle apex. The John Gorton Building (the former Administrative Building) and the Treasury Building balance the composition on King George Terrace while at the Lake edge the post-war architecture of the National Library of Australia and the High Court - National Gallery Precinct are prominent modern architectural forms and have a significant historical layering effect. The Portal Buildings provide balanced building massing at the southern end of Anzac Parade.

Avenues of trees along the terraces, roads and pathways of deciduous, pine, and eucalypt species provide colour, character, and contrast, emphasising the significance of the formal symmetrical design. Lombardy Poplars in groups of four, form sentinels at key locations. Water fountains, and statues also reinforce the significance of the total design pattern of the place. On the northern expanse of the vista the landscape pattern is the wide sweeping avenue space emphasised by red scoria gravel in the central strip and edged by large Blue Gums.

Many places in the Vista area have individual heritage significance for their architectural design and historic importance. These include Old Parliament House and Curtilage, East Block Government Offices, West Block and the Dugout, John Gorton Building, the National Library of Australia, the High Court of Australia, the National Gallery of Australia, Blundells Farmhouse, Slab Outbuildings and Surrounds, the Australian War Memorial, the Portal Buildings, The High Court - National Gallery Precinct, the Carillon, and King George V Memorial.

Within the area are important parklands and gardens enhancing the significance of the landscape setting that include the Sculpture Garden of the National Gallery, a significant native style garden, and the National Rose Gardens. Commonwealth Park, the Peace Park, the Lakeshore Promenade and Kings Park are important landscapes for their design and popular use.

Adding to the richness of the place is the manner in which Griffin's vision of democracy has also been emphasised, as places within the area have become identified with political protest actions by people, as exemplified in the significant Aboriginal Embassy site.

Attributes

The whole of the vista, including all elements and features contained within it, as well as the natural wooded hills beyond.

Criterion G Social value

The area has strong and special associations with the broad Australian community because of its social values as a symbol of Australia and Federal Government. The values have developed over many years since Canberra's creation and the relocation of the Parliament in 1927 gave them a special focus. The special association is reflected in the use of the area as the location for national memorials, the number of tourists who have and continue to visit the area, the media portrayal of Canberra and federal politics and the continuing use of the area as the venue for occasional ceremonies and political protests by sections of the community. Memorial features include sculptures, plaques, commemorative trees, water features and gardens. The collection of sculptures, associated art and design which comprise the Anzac Parade Memorials, give expression to key aspects of the history of Australia's armed forces and Australia's war involvement, and possess high social value.

The special association for the community is also the use of the area by people demonstrating against government decisions. The central national area, particularly Parkes Place in front of Old Parliament House, has been used for countless demonstrations.

The landscape spaces are important for social activities of visitors and Canberra residents and these include Canberra festivals, water events, national events and parades such as Anzac Day Parade and the Dawn Service, and other commemorative services.

Attributes

Memorial features including sculptures, plaques, commemorative trees, water features and gardens. Also, recreational landscape spaces and gathering spaces in which the community may demonstrate.

Criterion H Significant people

The central national area has a special association with its designer, Walter Burley Griffin. Griffin is an important figure in Australia's cultural history for his overall design of Canberra as the Nation's Capital. The special association between the central national area and Griffin results from the area being the centrepiece of the planning geometry for Canberra and perhaps the only part of his Canberra plan to survive relatively intact. The area has a strong association with Marion Mahoney Griffin who prepared the perspective drawings of the Vista. The Vista area has a strong association with numerous architects and planners, in particular John Smith Murdoch, Chief architect of the Commonwealth Government, and Thomas Charles Weston, Superintendent of Parks, Gardens and Afforestation in Canberra, and notable planners of the National Capital Development Commission such as Sir John Overall, Peter Harrison and Paul Reid.

Attributes

The whole of the vista, its planned layout, and the view from the top of Mount Ainslie which illustrates the realisation of Marion Mahoney Griffin's perspective drawing.

Description

HISTORY

The Australian Constitution left the location of the Capital to be decided by the new Federal Parliament. It declared that Melbourne would be the temporary home for the Federal Parliament and public servants until a new city was built at least 100 miles from Sydney. An agreed territory of 903 square miles included the water catchment of the Cotter River and the river valley of the Molonglo for the setting for the city. The Department of Home Affairs commenced works for services and city planning. In 1910 the Secretary of the Federal Department of Home Affairs, David Miller requested permission of Minister O'Malley to conduct a design competition to elicit ideas for the city.

At the time the Federal Capital area was proclaimed, the river flats of the Molonglo, Mount Ainslie, Camp Hill and Kurrajong Hill had been extensively denuded of vegetation from a long period of clearing and grazing. Some exotic trees were established in parts of the area, around structures such as Blundell's cottage and St Johns Church and graveyard.

The Canberra Plan

Walter Burley Griffin won the competition for the design of Canberra in 1912. The plan was expressed in beautifully rendered illustrations prepared by Griffin's wife Marion Mahoney Griffin as plans, elevations and sections painted on silk.

The order of the city was for a great triangle aligned with the mountains which rose above the site. The triangle was to be defined by tree-lined avenues and spanned the central basin of an impounded lake. The triangle would consist of a series of terraces arranged in the functions of government and representing democracy. It was a synthesis of function and design where the Order of the Site (the natural environment) and the Order of Functions (the needs of the people) are perfectly integrated by specific geometry (Reid 2002). The Capitol was a main feature of the design

In terms of vistas, the Griffin vision was represented in two renderings drawn by Marion Mahony Griffin. In the rendering looking from Mt Ainslie towards the Capitol, the drama of the vista focuses on the Capitol, the building representing the aspirational forces in Australian national life, with the final termination in the mountains beyond. Below the Capitol, the Parliament House and the Government departments are terraced down to the Lake providing a

symbol of a transparent democracy in action. The observer is standing at Mt Ainslie, a point representative of the power and influence of nature and the highest point of the vista. Griffin's plan for the ideal city, the philosophical triumvirate of humanity, democracy and nature is iconographed along the land axis which together with the water axis is the ordering geometry of the vista and the city. Griffin envisaged a dense city with a coming together of the population in a Casino (something akin to the recreational city gardens in pre war Berlin, Copenhagen, and Stockholm) and Plaisance descending from the foot of Mt Ainslie. Intersected by a busy commercial street, Constitution Avenue, the Plaisance unfolded to the area designated for cultural activity from which the people could look across the lake (or water axis) to the area of national government that was climaxed by the building symbolic of national achievement and aspiration, the Capitol.

Griffin's 1913 land use plan for the central National area indicates his intentions. Moving from north to south along the land axis, he proposed a park at the northern end of the land axis, public gardens on the north side of the lake, the lake itself (now Lake Burley Griffin), government buildings flanking a central terrace court to the south of the lake, Parliament House on Camp Hill, the Capitol building on Capital Hill flanked by the Governor General's residence to the west and the Prime Minister's residence to the east. The Capitol building was not intended to be the Parliament but rather to be for popular reception and ceremonial activities or for archives or otherwise to commemorate Australian achievements. Griffin's philosophical vision expressed in a remarkable urban planning form has been affected by the realities of Australian political and cultural life as well as by the circumstances and juxtapositions of historic events. Australian planners following Griffin have rearranged the icons to reflect the dominant realities and meanings of Australian life.

Griffin's various plans for the central National area of Canberra all included a basic planning framework, which has been constructed and survives to the present. This framework includes the land axis, joining Capital Hill and Mount Ainslie, the water axis, the radiating avenues from Capital Hill, Commonwealth and Kings Avenues, the arc of Parkes Way, the northern punctuation of the land axis by the Australian War Memorial, the roads encircling Capital Hill, State and Capital Circles and the southern punctuation of the land axis by the Parliament House of 1988. In addition to the alignment of axes and avenues which defined Griffin's city plan the triangle was a basic element on which the whole city was built. In his design Griffin had created three urban centres connected by main avenues. Capital Hill as the government centre, Mt Vernon as the municipal centre and Mt Pleasant as the market centre were integral to the plan. The northern avenue, Constitution Avenue, was the municipal axis.

Griffin prepared a preliminary plan in 1913 and a revised plan in 1918 following which the Official Plan was gazetted in 1925. Griffin left in 1920 leaving development under the control of the Federal Capital Advisory Committee (FCAC) chaired by the planner, John Sulman. The Committee had been appointed to complete sufficient permanent buildings to enable Parliament to move from Melbourne to Canberra.

Development

Tree planting began in the early years of Canberra's development, and by 1921 some 17,000 trees were planted (Hendry). Within the Vista area tree planting commenced around 1923 in Prospect Parkway, now known as Anzac Parade. Early images show tree planting in a scalloped arrangement along the length of the avenue. For 3 years from 1925, trees were planted in association with the construction of the Provisional Parliament House. The formal structural planting around the House including Cedars, Cyresses and Lombardy Poplars was completed for the opening (Hendry). The planting proposals were finalised by Charles Weston, Superintendent of Parks, Gardens and Afforestation, and from 1926, carried out by his successor Alexander Bruce. The planting design aimed to create through the use of a balanced mix of evergreen and deciduous trees, formally shaped grassed vistas and 'outdoor rooms' in scale with the Provisional Parliament House. The formally arranged groups of Lombardy Poplars to achieve 'sentinel' features at the entrances and the pedestrian reference points in the landscape, is attributed to the involvement of John Smith Murdoch, Chief Architect for the Commonwealth Government, in the design. Cedars were used at right angles to the Land Axis. Most of the trees planted in Parkes Place were exotics with the only eucalypts planted adjacent to the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens (Gray 1995).

The first major structure to be placed within the area was the Old Parliament House, then called the Provisional Parliament House. In 1923 the Commonwealth Parliament agreed to the proposed building which was sited in front of Camp Hill, Griffin's intended location of the permanent Parliament House. At the time, Griffin protested recognising that if built, the provisional building would remove any possibility of a permanent Parliament House being built on Camp Hill. Nonetheless the Commonwealth proceeded. In 1925 the Federal Capital Commission (FCC) was established under Sir John Butters. The Commission replaced the FCAC. The FCC was responsible for moving the public service to Canberra and otherwise establishing the city in time for the opening of Parliament House.

A number of other significant projects were undertaken at the same time as the construction of (Old) Parliament House, which was designed by John Smith Murdoch and completed in 1927. Either side of the Parliament House, private gardens were established for the use of Members of Parliament. On either side of Camp Hill, two government office buildings were constructed, known as East and West Blocks and these were also completed in 1927. East and West Blocks were also designed by Murdoch in a similar style to Old Parliament House.

In 1926 a delegation of the Empire Parliamentary Association visited the new Parliament House and planted an avenue of 12 commemorative trees, to mark the event of the first use of the House of Representatives. Ten Roman Cyresses

(*CUPRESSUS SEMPERVIRENS 'STRICTA'*) were planted at right angles to the House with each tree planted by a delegate and marked by a brass plaque. To commemorate the opening of Parliament House in 1927, the Duke of York planted a Bunya Pine (*ARUACARIA BIDWILLI*) near Kings Avenue. The Marquis of Salisbury and Mr Arthur Henderson planted the Lombardy poplars in the courtyards of the Provisional Parliament House (Pryor and Banks 1991, Gray 1995).

In 1927 the Canberra National Memorials Committee named the area in front of Parliament House - Parkes Place, to commemorate Sir Henry Parkes. King Edward, King George and Queen Victoria Terraces, and Langton and Walpole Crescents were named for links to the first 50 years of Federation (Gray 1995).

The Gardens designed and constructed as part of the Old Parliament House Complex was conceived by the Federal Capital Advisory Committee in the early 1920s and constructed by the Federal Capital Commission from the mid 1920s in time for the opening of Parliament in May 1927. Formal enclosed gardens were the style of the time and James Orwin of the Sydney office of the Director of Works for NSW prepared sketch plans that were finalised by Murdoch. Most of the trees for the Parliamentary gardens were planted by late 1925. Around the same time road patterns for the Parliamentary area following Griffin's concepts were prepared.

Formal rose gardens in front of the House were first proposed by Weston in 1924. The idea was finally realised when the National Rose Gardens were established in 1933 by the Canberra Horticultural Society in association with the Department of the Interior. The design was developed by A. Bruce based on the plan of petals of an open bloom with colours arranged from deep red in the central area progressing through yellow, white pink and coppery shades. Rose gardens were also commenced around the same time in the Senate and House of Representatives Gardens. By 1938, these gardens were established with formal garden beds and recreation courts, and surrounded by young cypresses which were later clipped into hedges (Patrick and Wallace).

Following the opening of the Provisional Parliament House by the Duke of York on 9 May 1927, the area in front of the House was used for official ceremonies for Anzac and Remembrance Days with a temporary cenotaph, until the opening of the Australian War Memorial in 1941. Initially this area had simple landscaping treatment of lawns. Rose gardens were added in the 1950s, and the car parking area in the forecourt added in the 1960s.

Weston and Murdoch were both given British Empire Awards in 1927 for their contribution to the nation.

In 1946 a major tree thinning of the Parliamentary Zone was initiated by Lindsay Pryor, Superintendent, Parks and Gardens. All the golden cypresses, white poplars, pin oaks and Lawson's cypress on King George Terrace were removed (Gray 1995).

In order to accommodate other government departments, a competition was held in 1924 for the design of the Administrative building, flanking the land axis in Parkes, which was to house about eight departments. The building was to be the first in the Parliamentary Triangle and its design was considered important because it would influence future buildings in the central National area. In 1924, G Sydney Jones won the competition. Work started in 1927 and the foundations were completed in 1928. However, work was stopped at this point because of the Depression. There were then many delays. The design of the proposed building was modified in 1946, construction started again in 1947 and the new design required the demolition of the original foundations. The building was substantially completed in 1956. The building is claimed to have been the largest Australian office building when completed. It was renamed as the John Gorton Building in 1999.

The major development at the northern end of the land axis was the construction of the Australian War Memorial. The site was agreed in 1923 and in 1928 Griffin expressed the view that the proposed site was suitable for the memorial. Construction began in 1928 but was not completed until 1941.

Although a memorial to King George V was proposed in 1936 it was not until 1941 that the architectural part was constructed but the bronze figure was not developed until after World War II. It was unveiled in 1953 but attracted criticism for blocking the vista to the Australian War Memorial. In 1968 King George Terrace was realigned and the memorial was moved to its current location west of the land axis, on a corner of the western part of the National Rose Garden.

In 1955 a Select Senate Committee of Inquiry urged tree planting and landscape works to be undertaken in Canberra under the direction of the National Capital Development Commission. The Commission sought guidance from landscape designers including Lord William Holford and Dame Sylvia Crowe. Holford recommended that a predominantly Australian character be retained around Lake Burley Griffin with autumn coloured foliage trees used in a dramatic way. Parliament House was to be built on the lakeside with a great forecourt. In 1968 the lakeshore location was rejected in favour of Camp Hill or Capital Hill. During the 1960s, the landscaping of the Parliamentary Triangle was modified to create more formality in Parkes Place. This included realigning roads, installing the four fountains in the pools in the land axis, paving and the relocation King George V statue.

The National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) Act of 1957 set in motion a significant phase in the development of Canberra with the support of Robert Menzies Liberal government. The report of British Town Planner

Sir William Holford stressed the need for 'unified design' for Canberra. This view was supported by the Senate Select Committee which propagated Holford's concept of a 'park like landscape...in the heart of Canberra, in which monumental buildings functioned both as symbols of government and of Australian unity'. The visual design of this landscape, the views along the main axial lines and avenues as well as the grouping of monumental buildings were considered to be the elements upon which the success of Canberra as a city of world standing depended. Holford's recommendations included siting the future houses of parliament on the lakeside and developing two monumental buildings on the municipal axis north of a new road connection, which became Parkes Way. The NCDC's acceptance of the Holford vision set the design context for the completion of Anzac Parade and the construction of the Portal Buildings under the direction of NCDC architects and planners. The Portal Buildings have heritage significance.

After a number of schemes for Canberra's lake, detailed planning of the Lake edges was begun in 1954. Lake Burley Griffin was created in 1964 by the damming of the Molonglo River by Scrivener Dam. It reached its predicted level of 556 metres in the same year. The northern shore of the lake between Commonwealth and Kings Avenues was landscaped from about this time to create Commonwealth and Kings Parks. In 1970, two vertical features were opened in the central basin of the lake. The Carillon, located on Aspen Island in the eastern part of the central basin, was a gift from the British Government to mark the fiftieth Jubilee of the founding of Canberra in 1963. In the western part of the central basin is the Captain Cook Memorial water jet commissioned by the National Capital Development Commission as part of the Cook Bicentenary year. In 1968 a small restaurant was built on a corner of the western part of the National Rose Garden.

NCDC architect and landscape architect Gareth Roberts and architect and landscape architect Richard Clough collaborated on the design of Anzac Parade and its architectural elements at this time. The two Portal Buildings, Anzac Park East and Anzac Park West, were completed in 1965 and 1966 respectively. With the establishment of the Australian War Memorial in the 1940s, the surrounding landscape was imbued with an associated symbolic character. This included the creation of Anzac Park and Anzac Parade. Anzac Park became the setting for a series of memorials commemorating Australian involvement and sacrifice in war. Anzac Parade was opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Anzac Day 1965, the fiftieth anniversary of the landing of the Anzacs at Gallipoli. It is the setting for a series of memorials commemorating Australian involvement and sacrifice in war and is the major national venue for the Anzac Day March and other ceremonies to commemorate those who served Australia in times of conflict. It has a deep symbolism for many Australians and its vista, linking the Memorial with Parliament House, adds aesthetic and emotional value to the place, which has become part of one of the major cultural landscapes of Australia. The notion of a ceremonial space of this grandeur is not found elsewhere in Australia.

Over time the spaces flanking the land axis to the south of the Lake have been filled with government buildings of varying character. These include the Treasury Building established 1967-70, the National Library in 1968, the High Court in 1980, National Gallery in 1982 and the National Science and Technology Centre in 1988. Associated with the Gallery is the extensive and significant Sculpture Garden established in 1982.

In 1972 an informal Aboriginal Embassy was established in front of Old Parliament House. The Embassy became the focus of a campaign for land and other rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In 1992 the Embassy was re-established.

The most recent major change to the central National area was the construction of a new Parliament House on Capital Hill. In 1974, The site of Capital Hill for Parliament House, was chosen by a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament. An Act of Parliament extended Parliamentary jurisdiction over work in the Parliamentary Triangle, henceforth known as the Parliamentary Zone. Completed in 1988, the building has resulted in a number of significant changes to the area. The relocation of the Parliament to the new building left the Old Parliament House without its original use. The construction of the building also resulted in the levelling of Camp Hill, Griffin's intended location for a Parliament House and its incorporation into the broader formal landscape of the new Federation Mall. Finally, the new Parliament House involved the construction of a large complex of buildings and extensive new landscape areas. The changes affected most of Capital Hill. The winning design, by Mitchell, Giurgola and Thorp Architects, considered the land axis of Canberra as the fundamental gesture of the City, a line around which all other design has evolved in circular and radial directions (Reid 2002).

During 2001-2002 new designed features were constructed across the Land Axis of the Vista landscape. These are Commonwealth Place and Reconciliation Place. In addition, a rotunda with exhibition, called Magna Carta Place is located to the west of the former Senate Garden.

Following the construction of Parliament House, emphasis was placed on the landscape of the Parliament Zone. The development of Federation Mall with its trees and central space was to balance Anzac Parade and to complete the visual Land Axis from Capital Hill to the War Memorial.

Use

By the turn of the century (2000-2001), the area was used for countless public events. These include memorial services such as the Anzac Day March and the Dawn Service, public protest demonstrations, celebration events, sporting activities, water races, art displays, fireworks and large-scale concerts. In addition it is used by people informally for weddings, picnics, and fairs. The area is a popular destination for tourists and schoolchildren.

DESCRIPTION

The central National area of Canberra is an extensive cultural landscape comprising buildings, roads, parks, tree plantings and a lake. The area is designated for Parliamentary and National Capital uses. The major features of the area include: Parliament House with its gardens and paved areas, State Circle Cutting (geological feature), Old Parliament House and curtilage, East Block, West Block and the Dugout, the John Gorton Building, the National Gallery of Australia, the High Court of Australia, the High Court - National Gallery precinct, National Science and Technology Centre, the National Library of Australia, Treasury Building, National Rose Gardens, The Sculpture Garden of the National Gallery, King George V Memorial, Aboriginal Embassy, the Portal Buildings, Australian War Memorial and memorials along Anzac Parade, Aspen Island, the Carillon, Kings Park, HMAS Canberra Memorial, Merchant Navy Memorial, Blundell's Cottage, Commonwealth Park, Kings Park, the Peace Park, Regatta Point Exhibition Building and Restaurant, Captain Cook Memorial Water Jet, the Lakeshore Promenade, and extensive mature plantings and avenues of trees such as those along Anzac Parade. The area also includes fountains, roads, car parks, landscaped areas, a restaurant, kiosk and the residence of the Catholic Archbishop. The spaces, particularly the Land Axis, are a major feature.

The central National area has a strong sense of symmetry based on the land axis. The Parliament House, Old Parliament House and Australian War Memorial are located on the axis. In addition, the landscape features of Federation Mall, Parkes Place (the landscape feature not the roads) and Anzac Parade are also located on the axis. Other major features in the area are generally balanced about the axis such as: East and West Blocks, the gardens of Old Parliament House, the Portal Buildings, the eastern and western parts of the National Rose Gardens, Administrative and Treasury Buildings, the National Gallery/High Court group and the National Library/National Science and Technology Centre group, as well as the Carillon and Captain Cook Memorial water jet. The road system also generally reflects the symmetrical planning of the area based on the land axis.

The Anzac Parade Memorials comprises two main components, Anzac Parade and Anzac Park. Either side of Anzac Parade is bounded by Anzac Park. Treed sloping grassy strips contain 10 symmetrically placed aprons prepared for national memorials. In 2002 there were 11 memorials on Anzac Parade, tributes to the men and women of the Australian military. These memorials are: (1) the Australian Hellenic Memorial, Limestone Avenue intersection, (2) the Australian Army Memorial, near Currong Street, (3) the Australian National Korean Memorial, near Currong Street, (4) the Australian Vietnam forces National Memorial, opposite Booroondara Street, (5) the Desert Mounted Corps Memorial, opposite Amaroo Street (commonly known as the Light Horse Memorial), (6) the New Zealand Memorial (7) the Rats of Tobruk Memorial, opposite (5), (8) Royal Australian Air Force Memorial, opposite Page Street, (9) the Australian Service Nurses Memorial, (10) the Royal Australian Navy Memorial, and (11) Kemal Ataturk Memorial, Fairbairn Avenue intersection.

The array of mature tree plantings are all regarded as important. Some are classified as notable by Pryor and Banks (1991) and these include *CALOCEDRUS DECURRENS* on King George Terrace planted in 1927, *CUPRESSUS ARIZONICA* planted in 1926 on King George Terrace, *EUCALYPTUS GLOBULUS* at the Australian War Memorial, *E. MAIDENII* group planted c 1927. Commemorative trees in the Parkes area, include the *CUPRESSUS SEMPERVIRENS* 'Stricta' planted in 1926 by nine members of the Empire Parliamentary Association, *ARAUCARIA Bidwilli* PLANTED BY THE duke of York in 1927 to commemorate his visit to Canberra to open the first Parliament House and *CUPRESSUS ARIZONICA*, planted by the wife of the then United States President, Mrs Lady Bird Johnson, at the time of their visit to Canberra in 1966. Within Commonwealth Park are a *QUERCUS ROBUR* planted by Princess Marina in 1964, and a *CURRESSUS GLABRA* planted by Mrs Lady Bird Johnson. Within the curtilage of the Australian War Memorial is a *PINUS HALPENSIS* planted by the Duke of Gloucester in 1934, believed to have been raised from seed from a cone collected from Lone Pine Ridge, Gallipoli in 1915. Also in curtilage is a *EUCALYPTUS NICHOLII* to replace the *E. PAUCOFORA* planted by Queen Elizabeth in 1954 to mark the beginning of the Remembrance Driveway to Sydney (Pryor and Banks 1991).

History Not Available**Condition and Integrity**

The central National area is an extensive cultural landscape with a variety of landscape and building features. Individual elements vary in their condition and integrity. At a general level, the area is in fair to good condition. The values relating to the cultural landscape design and special association with Griffin are degraded by the changes made over time to Griffin's plan. The location of Old Parliament House, removal of Camp Hill, location of the new Parliament House and parts of the road layout as constructed are all variations from Griffin's plan. Given these changes, the area displays only a poor to medium level of integrity with regard to these values. In 1994 the National Capital Planning Authority released details of the Central National Area Design Study. This includes proposals for significant changes to the area.

Location

About 260ha, comprising the whole of the area bounded by the northern alignment of State Circle, the western alignment of Kings Avenue, the southern alignment of Parkes Way and the eastern alignment of Commonwealth Avenue, excluding the Archbishops Residence and grounds being Block 1 Section 2 Parkes; the whole of Anzac Parade and Anzac Park and the whole of Section 39, Campbell.

Bibliography

Charlton, Ken (1984) Federal Capital Architecture, National Trust of Australia (ACT).

Garnett, Rodney and Hyndes, Danielle (1992) The Heritage of the Australian Capital Territory, National Trust of Australia (ACT) and others.

Gray, J. (1995) Parkes Place, Canberra, Heritage Conservation Management Plan. Prepared for the National Capital Planning Authority.

Harrison, Peter (1995) Walter Burley Griffin, Landscape Architect, National Library of Australia.

Hendry, M (undated) Canberra - The City of Trees. Unpublished paper.

National Capital Development Commission (1983) Parliamentary Zone Development Plan.

National Capital Planning Authority (1994) Looking to the Future. National Capital Planning Authority.

National Capital Authority (2000) Parliamentary Zone Review. National Capital Authority.

Nelsen, Ivar and Waite, Phil (1995) Conservation Management Plan, Old Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, Australian Construction Services.

Patrick and Wallace Pty Ltd (1989) Draft Conservation Study of Old Parliament House Gardens.

Pryor, L.D. and Banks, J.C.G. (1991) Trees and Shrubs in Canberra. Little Hills Press Pty Ltd.

Reid, Paul March 1981, 'Australia's National Area' in Architecture in Australia.

Reid, P. (2002) Canberra following Griffin , A Design History of Australia's National Capital, National Archives of Australia, Canberra.

Report Produced Thu Mar 14 16:38:44 2019

[Accessibility](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#) | © Commonwealth of Australia

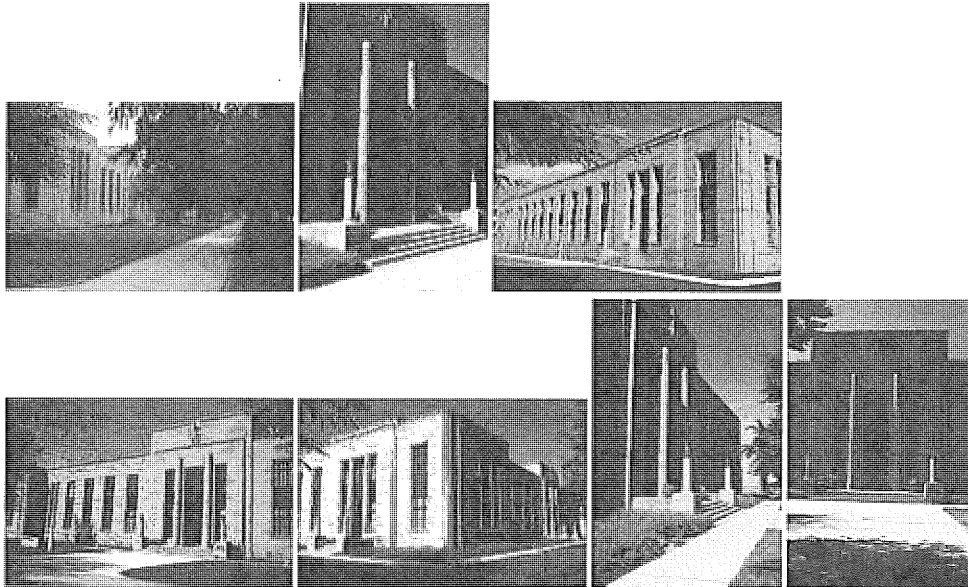


Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

Patent Office (former), Kings Av, Barton, ACT, Australia

Photographs



List Commonwealth Heritage List

Class Historic

Legal Status [Listed place](#) (22/06/2004)

Place ID 105454

Place File No 8/01/000/0333

Summary Statement of Significance

The former the Patent Office, is an historically significant building which expresses the decision to build permanent and monumental structures in Canberra. The relocation of the Patent Office from Melbourne to Canberra occurred in 1932 at the height of the crisis which questioned the viability of the development of the National Capital. The placement of the service in the ACT and the construction of a purpose built building, demonstrated Parliament's decision to secure the future of Australia's fledgling Capital. The building played an important role as Australia's repository of information on world scientific and technical innovation from 1941 to 1971. It also served an important role during 1941-63, in accommodating the Federal Police, the ACT Supreme Court and the British High Commission. (Criterion A.4) (Australian Historic Themes: 3.16 Inventing devices to cope with special Australian problems, 7.1 Developing institutions of self-government and democracy, 7.6 Administering Australia, 4.6 Remembering significant phases in the development of towns and suburbs)

The former Patent Office is one of the few public buildings of its era in the Federal Capital. The design is conservative, eclectic and evocative of the period. The building demonstrates the influences of the Dutch School (emphasising structural logic), Art Deco (applied strong geometric decorative forms) and the classically based Federal Capital Style (influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright) used for monumental public buildings. Elements of particular importance illustrating these influences include the decorated zinc spandrel panels below the steel framed windows, the sandstone ashlar external walls, the bronze lanterns at the entry points and the entrance vestibules with their marble finishes and doors.

(Criterion D.2) (Australian Historic Themes: 4.1.4 Creating Capital Cities,)

The building is important as a dignified expression of its design style. Its aesthetic qualities along with other heritage and architecturally significant buildings contribute to the monumental architectural character of the streetscape of Kings Avenue, one of the boundaries of the Parliamentary Triangle.

(Criteria F1 and E1) (Australian Historic Themes 8.10. Designing fine buildings)

The building has an association with Sir Robert Garran, GCMG, QC, Australia's first Commonwealth Public Servant, and is part of the building named in his honour in 1983. (Criterion H1)

Official Values**Criterion A Processes**

The former the Patent Office, is an historically significant building which expresses the decision to build permanent and monumental structures in Canberra. The relocation of the Patent Office from Melbourne to Canberra occurred in 1932 at the height of the crisis that questioned the viability of the development of the National Capital. The placement of the service in the ACT and the construction of a purpose built building demonstrated Parliament's decision to secure the future of Australia's fledgling Capital. The building played an important role as Australia's repository of information on world scientific and technical innovation from 1941 to 1971. It also served an important role during 1941-63, in accommodating the Federal Police, the ACT Supreme Court and the British High Commission.

Attributes

The whole building, including its high quality design and materials, plus strength of architectural expression.

Criterion D Characteristic values

The former Patent Office is one of the few public buildings of its era in the Federal Capital. The design is conservative, eclectic and evocative of the period. The building demonstrates the influences of the Dutch School (emphasising structural logic), Art Deco (applied strong geometric decorative forms) and the classically based Federal Capital Style (influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright) used for monumental public buildings. Elements of particular importance illustrating these influences include the decorated zinc spandrel panels below the steel framed windows, the sandstone ashlar external walls, the bronze lanterns at the entry points and the entrance vestibules with their marble finishes and doors.

Attributes

The building's architectural style evident in its form, fabric and detail, in particular the elements noted above.

Criterion E Aesthetic characteristics

The building's aesthetic qualities, along with other heritage and architecturally significant buildings, contribute to the monumental architectural character of the streetscape of Kings Avenue, one of the boundaries of the Parliamentary Triangle.

Attributes

The building's streetscape characteristics.

Criterion F Technical achievement

The building is important as a dignified expression of its design style.

Attributes

The building's scale, form, character, design style and details including the decorated zinc spandrel panels below the steel framed windows, the sandstone ashlar external walls, the bronze lanterns at the entry points and the entrance vestibules with their marble finishes and doors.

Description

The former Patent Office on Kings Avenue is situated on one of the boundaries of the Parliamentary Triangle. The Avenue is monumental in character and in keeping with its context the building expresses the monumental and permanent desires for Canberra in the 1930s. The building is one of a number of buildings erected in Canberra during the 1930s which have been attributed to the Chief Commonwealth Architect E H Henderson.

The design of the Patent Office was developed from drawings for the Patent Office at The Hague obtained by the Commissioner of Patents, Mr Wallach, on a visit in 1936. The style of the building is conservative and characteristic of the Inter War years in its eclectic architectural idiom. The essentially Inter-War Stripped Classical Style building (overall symmetry, proportions and attached pilasters and base and parapet mouldings) borrows from many different sources including the Dutch School emphasising structural logic, the Art Deco style with its applied strong geometric decorative forms (e.g. Kings Avenue entrance and the cast zinc spandrel panels) and the Federal Capital Style which drew inspiration from the works of Frank Lloyd Wright. The use of a narrow band of fluting at the top of each opening added light and shade at an appropriate point.

The original Office building of 1941 is E-shaped in plan and two storey, except for the central wing which has three levels. The small area above the entrance was provided for recreational use. The building is generally steel and reinforced concrete framed construction. The external walls are sandstone clad. The rear elevations to the courtyards are rendered brickwork coursed to imitate stone masonry. Purpose designed bronze lanterns set on fluted stone pillars flank the entry points. The greater part of the ground floor was timber framed floor construction, otherwise timber floors were laid over reinforced concrete slabs. The roof construction was flat reinforced concrete slab with an overlay of light weight coke concrete, a layer of Sisalcraft, two coats of Neuchatel (bituthene) and finished with 1.5 inch cement paving squares. (Conservation Plan, ACS, 1992). Windows were steel framed throughout. Main entrance vestibules were detailed with black and white marble flooring, skirtings and wall cladding. A metal roof was superimposed in the 1950s in an attempt to stop it leaking. The original building was sympathetically adapted in 1996 to modern office use with the significant marble vestibules retained. The building has also been linked to a new three storey annexe that complements the design of the original building. Evidence of the buildings original Patent Office function survives in the foundation stones.

The building is a dignified expression of its design style. Its aesthetic qualities contribute to the monumental architectural character of Kings Avenue one of the boundaries of the Parliamentary Triangle.

History

The Patent Office was proclaimed 1 June 1904.

The Depression of the 1930s suspended Australian economic development and major building works for the Commonwealth virtually ceased. Despite much debate concerning the livability and viability of Canberra in the years that followed, the Lyons Cabinet approved the move of the Patent Office from Melbourne to Canberra in June 1932. The relocation of the Australian Patent Office in the ACT helped to secure the future of the fledgling Capital and paved the way for more growth after World War Two. As a temporary measure seventy staff were moved into Hotel Acton, pavilions A, B, E and F. Parliament had approved the sum of 16,000 pounds for transfer costs, with alterations to the Hotel for the temporary accommodation of the Patent Office costing 2,000 pounds. Almost half of this sum was needed for shelving for the Patent Office's technical library.

The Patent Office was among the first buildings erected in the Parliamentary area. Two foundation stones for the new Patent Office were laid on 31 July 1939, one by the Attorney General, Mr W M Hughes and the other by the Commissioner of Patents, Mr B Wallach. At the laying of the foundation stones for the new Patent Office, Prime Minister Menzies said that if credit for the new building went where it was due it would go first to Sir George Knowles and then to himself. It was while Mr Menzies was Attorney General that requests for the building were forthcoming and plans for it had been obtained from The Hague. A promise to fund the project was obtained from the then Treasurer, (Mr Richard Gardiner Casey) which Mr Menzies, as present Treasurer, would be reluctant to make. (Canberra Times, 1 August 1939)

The Patent Office moved into the new building in August 1941. Staff immediately noticed a reduction in social contact as a result of the functional planning and internal separations of the Office, which were quite different to the conditions at Hotel Acton. In the early years of the building's use the British High Commission occupied the eastern wing on the upper floor; the Federal Police and the local representative of the forerunner of ASIO occupied the area above the Library in the western wing. The Supreme Court of the ACT used accommodation that had been designated for the High Court in the 1938 drawings for the building. The Supreme Court of the ACT had regular sittings in the Patent Office until 1963 and a cell in the basement is associated with custody of defendants during court hearings.

The post war period saw many developments in technology and as a result the creation of many new Patents and Trade Marks. The Patent Office was Australia's repository of information on world scientific and technical innovation; eg as part of the post war retribution, the Canberra Patent Office received thirty-five tons of material from the German Patent Office.

Many social occasions under marquees were held on the roof of the building behind the original recreation room. In the 1950s when a new roof was installed, a polished wooden floor over the concrete slab provided an excellent dance floor. On many occasions representatives from the Attorney General's Department were invited to Patent Office Christmas Parties held on the rooftop. (Conservation Plan, ACS, 1992)

Continued expansion of the requirements of the Patent Office meant that it eventually outgrew its accommodation in Barton and in 1971 the Patent Office was persuaded to transfer to Scarborough House in Woden. At the time the Patent Office vacated its Barton offices, the Attorney General's Department also required new offices. The Attorney General's Department was reluctant to accept the Patent Office however, until it was agreed to totally refurbish the interior of the building and erect new offices in an Annexe linked to the Patent Office. A period of more than ten years passed before the decision to refurbish the building was made and as the Patent Office was unoccupied for some time it declined into a semi-derelict condition with broken glazing and broken partitions. During the refurbishment of the Patent Office many architectural details such as doors, skirting boards and the entrance lobby were conserved.

The Attorney General, Senator Gareth Evans, in the newly elected Hawke Government, reopened the building as part of the Robert Garran Offices in 1983. Sir Robert Garran, GCMG, QC was Australia's first Commonwealth Public Servant. He established the first department in the first Federal Government in Australia and organised the first Federal Parliament.

Condition and Integrity

Integrity:

Essentially complete with the exception of the extension of 1981-83 and the replacement of much of the internal fabric of the interiors. Changes have been made to the fabric of the entrances to accommodate security systems. Interior colours have changed to an off white throughout and new carpeting installed. New ceilings to corridors for air conditioning have meant the loss/covering over of the Art Deco cornices. Many functional spaces, now sub-divided, have lost their individual character which stemmed from the use of materials in particular timber panelling in Queensland maple characteristic of the Inter-War years. These rooms included the Library reading room, the Court Room, the Judge's Room and the Commissioner of Patent's Room. Interior lighting has been changed to standard office layout.

The Record's Office, a separate building for the storage of records was demolished in the 1981-83 refurbishment. This site is now the central courtyard between the annexe and the former Patent Office. All original stairs have been removed with the exception of those near the main vestibule.

The unstructured nature of the paved courtyards is not in keeping with the character of the period.

Physical condition:

A structural engineers report, commissioned as part of the 1983 refurbishment states that "The whole structure appears sound with the exception of some cracking of the internal wall towards the west end of the North Wing. The timber floors are showing signs of wear and various timber floor areas are creaking, sagging or otherwise damaged. These floors have not been fully inspected but an allowance based on interpolation from spot inspections has been made in the estimate for remedial work.

In April 1994, the Old Patent Office Draft Conservation Plan prepared by Australian Construction Services stated that the building was well maintained and in very good structural condition.

Location

Corner Kings Avenue, National Circuit and Macquarie Street, Barton.

Bibliography

F.S.P. Report by Jackson Teece Chesterman Wills and Partners.

Canberra Times of 1-8-39.

Patent Office 75TH Anniversary - A.G.P.S., 1979.

Conservation Plan for the Patent Office, prepared by Australian Construction Services for Australian Estate Management, September 1992.

Australian Heritage Commission File, Robert Garran Offices formerly the Patent Office, 8/01/000/0333 (Aug 1995).

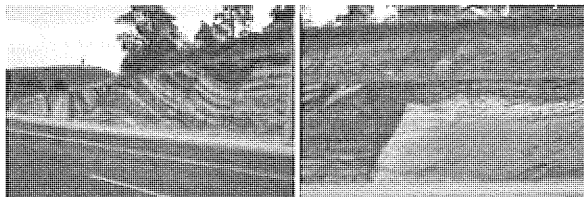
Report Produced Thu Mar 14 16:45:54 2019

Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

State Circle Cutting, State Ccl, Parkes, ACT, Australia

Photographs



List	Commonwealth Heritage List
Class	Natural
Legal Status	<u>Listed place</u> (03/06/2005)
Place ID	105733
Place File No	8/01/000/0041

Summary Statement of Significance

State Circle Cutting, along with Capital Hill unconformity beneath Parliament House, is ranked by the Geological Society of Australia as being of high significance as an outstanding exposure of an important folding event. State Circle Cutting is an important teaching locality for the interpretation of the early geology of the Canberra region, and the site is also of geological interest in interpreting the geological history of adjacent areas in eastern Australia.

Official Values

Criterion A Processes

The unconformity at the State Circle Cutting is a significant geological feature, and along with the nearby Capital Hill feature, provide keys to the interpretation of the ancient geological landscape in the Canberra region. It is one of only two sites in the ACT listed by the Geological Society of Australia as being of international significance (Cochrane & Joyce 1986, Owen et al. 1988).

Other geological features at the site include sandstone rafts, ripple marks and a pallid zone, all of which are important indicators of the varied environments that existed in the region during the Ordovician (approx. 460 - 440 million years ago) and Silurian (approx. 440 – 420 million years ago) geological periods. Structural features, such as folds and faults, point to the nature of the deformation of these rocks. (Mayer 1995, Owen 1987)

The relationships revealed by its excavation in the early 1970's led to a major re-assessment of Ordovician and Silurian geology of the Canberra region (Crook et al. 1973, Owen 1987), and led to the recognition of the Quidongan Movement as a significant tectonic event in southeast New South Wales which resulted in a major mid-Silurian unconformity (Owen 1987).

Criterion B Rarity

The place is one of the few sites that exposes the Early Silurian unconformity. The State Circle Cutting, along with the Capital Hill outcrop beneath Parliament House, represent the only two known sites in the Canberra region which clearly expose the Early Silurian unconformity. As the rock sequences that underlie the unconformity surface are different at each of these two localities, both sites display unique geological exposures. (Mayer 1995)

Criterion C Research

Perhaps the greatest importance of the State Circle Road Cutting lies in its value as a teaching site. The site lends itself to teaching on account of the excellent clarity of the geological features. The site provides the observer with learning opportunities that range from the most simple geological concepts to aspects of a complex nature. This, together with its easy accessibility, makes it an ideal site for observation of geological features and the study of geological history. It is a perfect illustration of features and concepts taught at tertiary level and it serves as a reference to geological scientists. (Mayer 1995)

The State Circle Cutting is likely to provide further information that will enhance the understanding of the area's natural history through continued research of its strata and the fossils they contain. (Mayer 1995)

Criterion D Characteristic values

The site is a geological benchmark site for the Early to Mid - Silurian age of the Canberra region. (Mayer 1995, Owen 1987), and the site is a notable example of place that provides evidence of ancient geological landscapes and the habitats of now extinct faunas (Mayer 1995)

Criterion H Significant people

The place is associated with the works of A.A. Opik, who was one of the pioneers of geological mapping and the interpretation of geological history in the Canberra region (Mayer 1995).

Description

The State Circle Cutting is located immediately adjacent to traffic lanes in State Circle at Capital Hill between Commonwealth Avenue and Kings Avenue. The road cutting is approximately 320 metres in length. The exposure clearly shows the unconformable contact between the older State Circle Shale, and the younger Camp Hill Sandstone. A number of faults are present in the cutting, and some minor folds can also be seen. The gently folded Camp Hill Sandstone overlies the State Circle Shale, which is slumped and contorted.

Geological context:

430 million years ago a large deep sea covered the Canberra area. Fine grained, silty sediments were deposited in deep water. When compacted they became the rocks of the State Circle Shale. An older sequence of sandstones broke up on an unstable slope and slumped down to the seafloor as large blocks. These blocks can be seen today in the roadcut as pink coloured sandstone rafts surrounded by the lighter brown, finer grained rocks of the State Circle Shale. 425 million years ago the rocks of the State Circle Shale became strongly folded by forces acting within the earth and were uplifted above sea level.

The Canberra area then became dry land. Erosion then wore down the land and shaped the ancient land surface which we can still see in the roadcut as an unconformity. Again the sea flooded the ancient land surface and the sediments of the Camp Hill Sandstone were deposited in shallow water.

After the deposition of the Camp Hill Sandstone on the eroded landsurface, some 420 million years ago, the sequence of rocks was gently folded and uplifted to form dry land again. The sea retreated from the Canberra region and has never returned since. The uplifted land was then eroded down to its present level.

Following the uplift and mild folding of the land a number of fractures or faults developed along which the rocks of the State Circle Shale and the Camp Hill Sandstone were displaced.

Specific features in the cutting:

The State Circle Shale here is formed of mainly siltstone and very fine sandstone which has been strongly contorted by slumping. Marine fossil graptolites were found during excavation of the cutting, the most common species being *Monograptus exiguous*, which confirms the deposits were laid down in a deep oceanic environment, and they also help to indicate the age of the sediments. The age of these rocks has been estimated at approximately 430 million years old, which places them in the Early Silurian Period.

The Camp Hill Sandstone, which is approximately 425-420 million years old, is comprised of fine to coarse quartz sandstone, interbedded with siltstone and silty mudstone. The unit is fossiliferous, with poorly preserved brachiopods, corals and trilobites found during the excavation work.

Sandstone rafts: The presence of large slabs or rafts of sandstone, which are now completely enclosed within the finer grained shale, probably originated when a large packet of sandstone and siltstone layers, resting on a sloping oceanic surface, started to slide towards the deeper parts of the ocean basin. As the sequence of sediment layers tumbled downslope, the sandstone beds broke up into slabs of various sized and mixed with the finer grained sediments.

Pallid zone: The uppermost 20 to 50cm thick horizon of the State Circle Shale has a pale, almost white colour, which supports the argument that the plane of the unconformity represented an ancient land surface exposed to weathering.

Ripple marks: The unconformity in the State Circle Cutting marks a geologically short time of just a few million years. This is the time that elapsed between the elevation of the State Circle Shale from the floor of the ocean, its transformation into a hilly land of severely deformed rocks, and its subsequent wearing down by erosion to a low-lying area that could then be reclaimed by the sea.

It was in this younger sea that the Camp Hill Sandstone was deposited. Ripple marks have been preserved on the top surfaces of some of the sandstone layers, and fossils, particularly brachiopod shells of the genus *Rhipidium*, as well as specimens of corals and trilobites, have been found in the Camp Hill Sandstone. The presence of ripple marks and these fossils indicates that the sea was a shallow one.

History Not Available

Condition and Integrity

The original State Circle Cutting, excavated between 1969 and 1971, produced cuts at two levels. The lower of these forms a steep, almost vertical rock face up to 6 meters high. Above this another rock face rose less steeply to a height of up to 7 meters. The cutting of the upper level was partly removed during the construction of the two bridges and roads for the new Parliament House. Subsequent to this work, the remaining part of the upper level cutting was planted with low, dense shrubs as part of the landscaping of the area surrounding the new Parliament House. Only the lower part of the original cutting remains exposed today.

In the 33 years since its excavation, the cutting has suffered relatively little damage. However, a combination of natural weathering, the vibrations created by the high volume traffic flow on State Circle, and, to a lesser extent, the removal of rock samples by the public, has resulted in the partial destabilization of the outcrop. The accumulation of loose material at the base of the rock face provides evidence for this.

Location

The exposed rock face on the northern side of State Circle between Commonwealth Avenue and Kings Avenue, Parkes.

Bibliography

Abel, R.S., 1991. Geology of the Canberra 1:100 000 Sheet Area, New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory. Bureau of Mineral Resources, Australia.

Cochrane, R.M. and Joyce, E.B. (1986) Geological Features of National and International Significance in Australia. A report prepared for the Australian Heritage Commission. Geological Soc. of Australia, University of Melbourne, Victoria.

Crook, K.A.W., Bein, J., Hughes, R.J., and Scott, P.A., 1973. Ordovician and Silurian history of the southeastern part of the Lachlan Geosyncline. *Journal of Geological Society of Australia* v 20, 113-144.

Henderson, G.A.M., 1973. Geology of the Capital Hill area, Canberra A.C.T. Bureau of Mineral Resources, Australia, Record 1973/35 (unpublished).

Henderson, G.A.M. 1981. Geology of Canberra, Queanbeyan and Environs - notes to accompany the 1980 1: 50 000 geological map. Bureau of Mineral Resources, Australia

Henderson, G.A.M. and Strusz, D.L., 1982. Rocks and Fossils Around Canberra. AGPS, Canberra.

Mayer, W. 1995. Nomination by the National Trust ACT of the State Circle Cutting and Capital Hill Unconformity to the Register of the National Estate.

Mayer, W., 1996. Images in Stone – A Guide to the Building Stones of Parliament House. AGPS Press, Canberra.

Opik, A.A., 1958. The Geology of the Canberra City district. Bureau of Mineral Resources, Australia, Bulletin 32

Opik, A.A., 1971. The Silurian of Canberra. *Journal of the Geological Society of Australia*, 17, 231-232

Owen, M. 1987. Geological Monuments in the Australian Capital Territory. A report prepared for the Australian Heritage Commission. Geological Society of Australia, Commonwealth Territories Division, Monuments Subcommittee.

Owen M., Senior D., Owen J. & Hodgson J. (1988). Geological Monuments in the Australian Capital Territory. Geological Society of Australia.

Strusz, D.L. and Henderson, G.A.M. 1971. Canberra City ACT 1:50 000 Geological Map. Bureau of Mineral Resources, Australia, Explanatory Notes.

Strusz, D.L. and Jenkins, C.J., 1982. The Stratigraphic implications of the MONOGRAPTUS EXIGUUS from Camp Hill, Canberra, ACT. *BMR Journal of Australian Geology and geophysics*, 7, 78-9.

Townley, K.A. and Veevers, J.J., revised by Strusz, D.L., 1974. ROCKS AND FOSSILS AROUND CANBERRA. Bureau of Mineral Resources, Australia.

Report Produced Thu Mar 14 16:43:40 2019

Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

The Lodge, 5 Adelaide Av, Deakin, ACT, Australia

Photographs



List	Commonwealth Heritage List
Class	Historic
Legal Status	<u>Listed place</u> (22/06/2004)
Place ID	105452
Place File No	8/01/000/0110

Summary Statement of Significance

The Lodge is the official residence constructed in 1925 -27 to house the Prime Minister of Australia and his or her family. It has historic importance for the association it holds with the lives of its fourteen resident prime ministers, the national politics with which they were involved, their personalities, the impact they had on The Lodge, and the official guests that the Prime Ministers and their wives hosted at The Lodge. It was conceived at a time when other significant Federal buildings were also being constructed, such as the 1927 Parliament House. It is accessible from one of Griffin's radiating arteries centred on the Capitol (now Parliament House) and is in close proximity to Parliament House. The Lodge recalls the early isolationism of Canberra as Australia's capital city and the need to provide elected representatives with suitable accommodation according to their status. It is significant as a unique place in Australia (Criterion A.4; Australian Historic Themes: 7.4 Federating Australia, Criterion B2)

The Lodge is important for its exceptional richness of cultural features that were acquired to create the home for the Australian Prime Minister's family and display Australian art and crafts to important visitors. These features include the house with its architectural stylistic features and fine interior detailing; the garden with its array of garden areas including memorial trees and the Bettina Gorton memorial native garden; and the extensive and notable array of movable cultural heritage items created by Australian craft specialists that include paintings, china figures, silverware, ceramics, furniture, sculptures, memorabilia and artefacts collected by or donated to past Prime Ministers (Criterion A3; Australian Historic Themes: 8.10.4 Creating Visual Arts).

With its studied proportions and finely executed details, the two storey rendered brick building is an important example of the official residences built in Canberra in the 1920s. The building is Colonial Revival in style, with refined Georgian detailing. Its symmetrical facade, simplicity, use of arches, round headed windows, and delicate corner porches are characteristic features of the inter-war Georgian Revival style. As a building developed for the new Federal Capital, The Lodge also reflects the designers' appreciation for the importance of its setting. Significant fabric in the building includes stucco finish to the external walls, slate roofing, timber internal stair cases, wrought iron work, timber panelling, picture rails, exposed ceiling beams, built-in furniture and, windows and doors, including their architraves and fittings. (Criteria D.2 and F1)

As a purpose built building it has retained its integrity as the residence of the Prime Ministers of Australia and their families since its construction. Although designed as a family home reflecting 'ideal' home styles of the 1920s it has required periodic adaptation and renovations to suit the changing needs of the families and the operational requirements of Prime Minister's wives, many of whom managed the household, carried out official entertainment and greatly influenced alterations and renovations. Alterations, additions and internal finishes to public areas carried out in the 1980s have significance as a well executed refurbishment to bring the place into a condition reflecting a 1920s residence. (Criteria D.2 and F1 Australian Historic Themes: 8.10.4 Designing and building fine buildings).

The Lodge is significant for its close association with fourteen of Australia's twenty-five Prime Ministers, their wives and families (as at June 2002). Although not designed for official functions, members of the Royal family, dignitaries and heads of governments have been entertained at The Lodge. It also has an association with the Melbourne architectural firm of Oakley and Parkes, highly regarded in Canberra in the field of residential design, following their success in the FCAC Competition with the design for The Lodge in 1926. (Criterion H.1).

The Lodge remains to this day one of the primary landmarks in Canberra symbolising the presence of the Prime Minister, his importance demonstrated in the location of the residence on a main road near Capital Hill (Criterion G.1).

The residence and grounds are valued by many, as one of Canberra's features as a nationally important and attractive property. The garden is open to the public a few times each year and is particularly valued for its aesthetic qualities of the design, plantings, memorial trees and art works. (Criterion E.1).

The Lodge is significant as a site of research value. The domestic, personal and political histories and events within the Lodge are comprehensively recorded, and serve as a lasting record of the Lodge in files, photographs, film, newspaper and magazine articles (Criterion C2).

Official Values

Criterion A Processes

The Lodge is the official residence constructed in 1925 -27 to house the Prime Minister of Australia and his or her family. It has historic importance for the association it holds with the lives of its fourteen resident prime ministers, the national politics with which they were involved, their personalities, the impact they had on The Lodge, and the official guests that the Prime Ministers and their wives hosted at The Lodge. It was conceived at a time when other significant Federal buildings were also being constructed, such as the 1927 Parliament House. It is accessible from one of Griffin's radiating arteries centred on the Capitol (now Parliament House) and is in close proximity to Parliament House. The Lodge recalls the early isolation of Canberra as Australia's capital city and the need to provide elected representatives with suitable accommodation according to their status.

The Lodge is important for its exceptional richness of cultural features that were acquired to create the home for the Australian Prime Minister's family and display Australian art and crafts to important visitors. These features include the house with its architectural stylistic features and fine interior detailing; the garden with its array of garden areas including memorial trees and the Bettina Gorton memorial native garden; and the extensive and notable array of movable cultural heritage items created by Australian craft specialists that include paintings, china figures, silverware, ceramics, furniture, sculptures, memorabilia and artefacts collected by or donated to past Prime Ministers

Attributes

The whole of the building, its architectural styling, its location and the extensive garden, plus moveable items including paintings, china figures, silverware, ceramics, furniture, sculptures, memorabilia and artefacts collected by or donated to past Prime Ministers.

Criterion B Rarity

The Lodge is significant as a unique place in Australia.

Attributes

The whole of the place that demonstrates its purpose-built nature as the Prime Minister's residence.

Criterion C Research

The Lodge is significant as a site of research value. The domestic, personal and political histories and events within the Lodge are comprehensively recorded, and serve as a lasting record of the Lodge in files, photographs, film, newspaper and magazine articles.

Attributes

The building, its gardens and any research documentation or artefacts held on site.

Criterion D Characteristic values

With its studied proportions and finely executed details, the two storey rendered brick building is an important example of the official residences built in Canberra in the 1920s. The building is Colonial Revival in style, with refined Georgian detailing. Its symmetrical facade, simplicity, use of arches, round headed windows, and delicate corner porches are characteristic features of the inter-war Georgian Revival style.

Significant fabric in the building includes stucco finish to the external walls, slate roofing, timber internal stair cases, wrought iron work, timber panelling, picture rails, exposed ceiling beams, built- in furniture and, windows and doors, including their architraves and fittings.

Attributes

The building's proportions and details that demonstrate Colonial Revival and Georgian styling including symmetrical facade, simplicity, use of arches, round headed windows and delicate corner porches. The fabric noted above is also significant.

Criterion E Aesthetic characteristics

The residence and grounds are valued by many, as one of Canberra's features as a nationally important and attractive property. The garden is open to the public a few times each year and is particularly valued for its aesthetic qualities of the design, plantings, memorial trees and art works.

Attributes

The residence and grounds, in particular the garden design, plantings, memorial trees and art works.

Criterion F Technical achievement

As a building developed for the new Federal Capital, The Lodge reflects the designers' appreciation for the importance of its setting.

As a purpose built building it has retained its integrity as the residence of the Prime Ministers of Australia and their families since its construction. Although designed as a family home reflecting 'ideal' home styles of the 1920s it has required periodic adaptation and renovations to suit the changing needs of the families and the operational requirements of Prime Minister's wives, many of whom managed the household, carried out official entertainment and greatly influenced alterations and renovations. Alterations, additions and internal finishes to public areas carried out in the 1980s have significance as a well executed refurbishment to bring the place into a condition reflecting a 1920s residence.

Attributes

The building's relationship to its setting, plus the alterations, additions and internal finishes to public areas carried out in the 1980s.

Criterion G Social value

The Lodge remains to this day one of the primary landmarks in Canberra symbolising the presence of the Prime Minister, his importance demonstrated in the location of the residence on a main road near Capital Hill.

Attributes

The residence's prominent location, plus glimpses of the house from the public realm.

Criterion H Significant people

The Lodge is significant for its close association with fourteen of Australia's twenty-five Prime Ministers, their wives and families (as at June 2002). Although not designed for official functions, members of the Royal family, dignitaries and heads of governments have been entertained at The Lodge. It also has an association with the Melbourne architectural firm of Oakley and Parkes, highly regarded in Canberra in the field of residential design, following their success in the FCAC Competition with the design for The Lodge in 1926.

Attributes

The whole of the residence and grounds.

Description

Background:

Work was begun on an official residence for the Prime Minister in December 1925, before the Federal Parliament moved to Canberra from Melbourne. It was built as a temporary measure to be '...occupied by him until such time as a permanent monumental Prime Minister's residence is constructed and thereafter to be used for other official purposes such as for the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives'. The designer for The Lodge was the private Melbourne firm of architects, Oakley and Parkes. Oakley and Parkes had become highly regarded in Canberra in the field of residential design following their success in the FCAC competition. They rose to the occasion with their plans for The Lodge, which was designed in Georgian Revival style (Apperly et al, p152) and constructed between 1925 and 1927. It was built under the direction of James G. Taylor of Glebe, NSW, at a total cost of 28,319 pounds. This included furnishings, decorations, and landscaping as well as a tennis court and croquet lawn.

The Lodge, being constructed during 1925-1927, reflects the scale and style of the official residences built at Duntroon to house senior military officers. The house and garden are typical of the style of design that prevailed in the early Canberra years, also known as the Federal Capital style.

Mrs Ruth Lane Poole supervised the interior decoration of the house and the purchase of fashionable, late 1920s furnishings. The architect, Desbrowe Annear assisted in the designs for the furniture. Australian timbers were used throughout in timber panelling, mantel pieces and fine furniture. The Federal Capital Commission's brief for the purchase of household linen, and silver, china and glassware for the Lodge was 'British and first quality throughout'.

From the outset it was clear that the Lodge was the business of the Prime Minister's wife. The Prime Ministers' wives had unpaid duties associated with running The Lodge. These duties included the weekly arrangement of menus with the chef and of household requirements, official dinners, Royal visits and hospitality for foreign heads of State. The first occupants were Stanley M. Bruce and his wife on 4 May 1927. Ethel Bruce was responsible for changes to the design of the building during construction including additional rooms.

In 1929 the Labor successor to Bruce, J.M. Scullin, refused to live at The Lodge, declaring that it was too grand. There was talk of letting the building but no tender was received, so the house remained empty while the Prime Minister lived in a hotel. It was also suggested that the building could become the home of the National Library or perhaps a private hospital, but nothing came of these suggestions. Prime Minister J A Lyons moved into The Lodge with his large family in 1931 (the younger 6 of their eleven children) and stayed until his death seven years later. The house was adapted to

accommodate the large family.

The grounds were developed from bare paddock to an effective garden including lawns, plantations and shrubberies with a tennis court and croquet lawn, covering approximately 2.8ha. The Gardens that developed reflected the contemporary style of the time with distinct garden areas expanses of lawn surrounded by trees and hedges although retaining the original eucalypts of the site.

The gardens were developed quickly with roses and other plants ordered from a Sydney nursery in huge quantities. Apart from roses there were phlox, zinnias, asters and petunias. A tennis court and croquet court were also established in the grounds. By 1950 the gardens had changed little. The southern part of the grounds included a fowl yard, clothes line, shed and a small orchard. Picking gardens were on the site of the present service yard.

Robert Menzies, his wife Pattie and their two children were residents at The Lodge from 1939 -1941 during which time Pattie Menzies redecorated the building using the decorator Dolly Guy Smith.

Elsie and John Curtin moved into The Lodge in 1941, although Elsie Curtin spent many months of the year at the family home at Cottesloe. The Lodge became a work place during the war years and the billiard table was returned from storage so that a game of billiards could round off the day. John Curtin died in The Lodge in 1945. When Ben Chifley became Prime Minister, Elizabeth Chifley spent most of her time at the family home in Bathurst. There were no changes to the building during the time of the Curtins and Chifleys.

Robert Menzies and Pattie Menzies returned to The Lodge and lived there from 1949 - 1966. During this time, redecorating and minor additions and alterations were carried out to the building. Robert Menzies commenced the Prime Ministers XI cricket matches at Manuka Oval in 1951, entertaining the players afterwards with dinner at The Lodge. This tradition ceased with Menzies but was revived by Bob Hawke. The Menzies converted the Billiard Room into an extra Drawing Room, removing the billiard table and installing sets of low bookshelves. Several commemorative trees were planted in the gardens and Pattie Menzies extended the gardens below the tennis courts for vegetables. The Menzies lived continuously at the Lodge and it became a second home for their grandchildren.

After Robert Menzies retired Harold and Zara Holt lived at The Lodge for less than two years from January 1966 to December 1967, but during this time major renovations were undertaken under the detailed direction of Zara Holt. All main rooms on both floors were completely and dramatically redecorated, including painting the wood panelled walls white. The corridor between the former Billiard Room and the Sitting room was removed and changes to the upstairs corridors gave direct access from bedrooms to bathrooms forming three self-contained bedroom suites. An extensive array of new furnishings and fittings were installed.

John and Bettina Gorton moved into The Lodge in 1968 with their adult daughter. The Gortons had the tennis court improved, a heated swimming pool installed, a double carport built and new awnings and blinds fitted to the exterior. John Gorton used The Lodge for Cabinet and other official meetings. Bettina Gorton worked with Dick Ratcliffe on the design of an Australian garden in the remote northern corner. Dedicated to her after her death in 1983, it is known as the Bettina Gorton Native Garden.

With the widening of Adelaide Avenue in 1968 the site was reduced to approximately 1.8ha and a painted masonry boundary wall was erected on the two street frontages. At the same time, some features of the grounds such as the fowl yard, which had persisted since The Lodge's early days, disappeared allowing the removal of hedges and the general opening up of the garden spaces. The vegetable garden remained but new picking gardens, rose beds and an orchard were added. At that time, Adelaide Avenue was realigned and upgraded. Major changes to the driveway were made during the late 1970s. Previously, the drive to the front door turned around an island, which was lost in the change.

From 1971 -72, Sonia and William McMahon were residents of The Lodge but retained their Sydney home and spent most of their time there. Gough and Margaret Whitlam lived at The Lodge from 1972 - 1975 undertaking only a few minor changes.

Malcolm and Tamie Fraser occupied The Lodge from 1975 -1983. They lived at the Lodge but their children were at boarding school and they frequently spent holidays at their property Nareen, in Victoria. The Dining Room was extended in 1978. The architect Guilford Bell remodelled the service wing, cellars, kitchen and dining room, and redecorated the main rooms in classic colours and styles.

Tamie Fraser was impressed with the idea of the Americana Fund an initiative of Jackie Kennedy. She noted that there was no memorabilia from previous occupants and that it was not very Australian in its character. In 1978 Tamie Fraser founded The Australiana Fund. The non-political, self-governing body raised funds and purchased items of Australiana to furnish the Commonwealth's four official residences - The Lodge and Government House in Canberra, and Admiralty and Kirribilli Houses in Sydney. Since then other Prime Minister's wives have continued this role. The Australiana Fund now possesses a collection of decorative objects and memorabilia relating to previous Prime Ministers which illustrate Australia's heritage for the benefit of visitors to the houses. The Fund also conducts open

days at The Lodge for the public to view the house and its fittings, and the garden is frequently open to the public. An Official Establishments Trust was set up in 1976, to co-ordinate planning for the four official residences.

Fire protection and external repairs were carried out from 1980 - 82.

Bob and Hazel Hawke moved into The Lodge in 1983. They had their two grandchildren living with them at The Lodge for a long period. During Prime Minister Hawke's residence, renovations were undertaken on several rooms. In 1985 following major repairs and maintenance, the State areas of The Lodge were redecorated in the style of the 1920s to reflect the historical significance of the house. Interior designer David Spode, under the direction of the Official Establishments Trust, prepared the interior design scheme. During the course of the work many items of original furniture and fittings purchased for The Lodge in 1927 were located and re-installed. Hazel Hawke became the second President of The Australiana Fund. Hazel Hawke, a pianist, took a keen interest in the restoration of the original Beale baby grand piano. Bob Hawke created a new billiard room upstairs to replace the room converted to a Drawing Room by the Menzies. Hazel Hawke appointed an official House Manager to assist in managing the affairs of the house. Redevelopment of the pool courtyard took place in 1990-91.

Paul and Annita Keating and their young children, occupied The Lodge from 1992 -1996. Annita Keating chose decorator Ros Palmer for refurbishment which included sending some furniture into storage.

In 1992, a carport, brick paving, walled service yard and pergolas were added in the south western corner of the property. In 1994 brick paving was added along the rear drive, completing the redesign of the driveway for modern standards. Other changes to The Lodge and grounds have been minor, such as repairs to the slate roof in 2000, and the installation of a satellite dish in 1999.

By 1994 efforts were growing to have the residence for the Prime Minister removed from the current facilities to a new structure, possibly located near the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. During his term of office, Prime Minister John Howard (1996-) chose to divide his time between The Lodge and the Sydney residence, Kirribilli House.

Although designed as an 'ideal' home of the 1920s, the Lodge has not suited the requirements of many of its incumbents whose family needs varied. For some it was too small, for others too large and for one too grand. As a result it has required adaptations and renovations. Fourteen Prime Ministers have lived at the Lodge (Bruce, Lyons, Menzies, Fadden, Curtin, Chifley, Holt, Gorton, McMahon, Whitlam, Fraser, Hawke, Keating and Howard). The Prime Minister's wives have had a major (unpaid) role in the day-to-day management of The Lodge and in organising official hospitality. Many of the Prime Minister's wives spent more time at The Lodge than their husbands and, depending on their personalities and interest in the place, strongly influenced renovations and alterations of the building and the garden.

Description

Compared with some official and vice-regal residences in Australia The Lodge is modest in being designed as a home, not for offices or official entertainment. However, The Lodge, its interior and its garden are fine examples of the contemporary design style of the time. Designed and built as the national residence for the Prime Minister, it has no equal in Australia.

The two storey rendered brick residence is essentially Colonial Revival in style, most evident in the hipped roof and pavilion like massing, along with refined Georgian detailing. The symmetrical facade of the two storey residence has a central loggia on each level, delicate corner porches and dark painted windows, with large paned lower sashes, all of which are characteristic of the way these architects used the vocabulary of the style. A closer examination reveals moulded plaster decorative motifs, such as the shield, half hidden by the boxing over the central arch and swags between the upper windows on the sides. Wrought iron balusters are decorated with restraint, both externally and internally. The slate roof is hipped and consoles support the eaves.

The building's interior has an American Colonial character, with stained wall panelling and exposed upper floor beams under the ceiling. The ground floor entrance opens into an entrance hall. To the left of the entrance hall is the dining room and service wing. To its right are the formal reception rooms - a drawing room, study and sitting room/library (originally designed as a billiards room). The staircase rises to a landing, then divides into two flights leading to a hall opening onto a loggia above the entrance. On the first floor are the private apartments and guest accommodation, consisting of a study, five bedrooms, one bedroom/sitting room, a sitting room, and a sewing room. The first floor also contains three terrace areas and two balconies.

The 1985 restoration works included the tapestry chairs and clock in the entry foyer, and the Beale piano in the morning room. The Lodge currently contains paintings and sculptures on loan from the National Gallery of Australia, as well as items of historic interest donated by The Australiana Fund. As part of the 1985 restoration of the interiors, the blackwood timber panelling of the entrance hall was stripped and polished and the original leadlight glass lamps re-hung.

The Lodge contains numerous movable items of cultural importance. These belong to The Australiana Fund and are frequently moved between rooms but are, from time to time, relocated within the building.

The major feature associated with the drawing room is the piano that was made in Sydney by the Beale firm and purchased for The Lodge in 1927. From 1977 to 1985 the Beale piano was used for practice by the students of the Canberra School of Music. It was restored in 1986 by staff and students of the Preston TAFE in Victoria. The piano has a particularly fine Queensland walnut case. Other notable pieces of furniture associated with the drawing room include a huon pine piano stool, c.1845; a Jarrah bookcase of Western Australian origin, c.1860; a cedar music canterbury, made in NSW, c.1850; a cedar music stand, made by F.B. Dale, Sydney, c.1845; an oval cedar folding table, originally purchased for The Lodge in the 1920s; and a cedar side table of NSW origin, c.1835.

The Lodge is set amongst gardens currently covering 1.8 ha of ground. Its reduction in size from the widening of Adelaide Avenue in 1968 had little effect on the character of the gardens close to the house. To the west of the house are a swimming pool and the western gardens. A carport, brick paving, walled service yard and pergolas occupy the south western corner of the property. There are lawns to the north, south and east of the house. To the east of the east lawn there is a croquet lawn, tennis court and vegetable garden. In the south east corner is an orchard, while the native garden, pool and rockery are features of the north east corner. The Lodge grounds also house a complex of services including sewer, stormwater, water, irrigation, gas and electricity. These services have little visual impact.

The grounds feature many trees planted by Prime Ministers, their wives and distinguished guests. The north lawn, for example, is planted with one Incense Cedar (*CALOCEDRUS DECURRENS*) and two Tulip trees (*LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA*), the western one of which was planted by Queen Elizabeth II. Some of these tree species are unusual for Canberra.

The garden features one sculpture, "Moonbird", by Inge King. It was loaned to The Lodge in March 2001 by the Australiana Fund to commemorate the Australian Centenary of Federation.

Over the years the garden has matured, been reduced in size and to meet the desires of its Prime Ministers and their wives, undergone a number of changes. The garden in 2002, while retaining much of its early character also retains the imprints from its various residents. It requires a continual degree of upgrading as well as maintenance to meet modern requirements. A conservation and management plan for The Lodge gardens was prepared by the Department of Housing and Construction in 1986. The plan sought to ensure that all developments should typify gardens of the late 1920's as a correct setting for the house. It included rationalisation of materials, plant species, furniture and structures, with a view to giving the gardens an overall aesthetic unity. One comment made by the plan was that gardens of the 1920s era relied heavily on exotic, rather than native species, and that this rationale should be continued and reinforced.

In 1992 renovations were conducted on part of the grounds, including a new carport, pergolas, walls and paving. In 1994 the driveway was modernised. Many of the original plantings have been replaced as they age, such as one of six English Elms which was removed in 2002. The garden also needs to accommodate extensive security services such as security lighting and a security guard house. In 2000 The Lodge's perimeter fencing was upgraded to reflect these security concerns.

(Information in this report is compiled from sources noted in the bibliography)

History Not Available

Condition and Integrity

When Adelaide Avenue became a major thoroughfare, it deprived The Lodge of a large section of the gardens and brought the traffic noise into the house. A wall was built round the boundary to deaden the noise and to improve security. The service wing has now been modernised and the dining room extended. Nonetheless, The Lodge remains essentially a family house. Though the house and grounds have been considerably altered over the years, none of the changes have yet threatened the heritage significance of the place. (1995)

(2002) Condition: good

Location

5 Adelaide Avenue, corner National Circuit, Deakin.

Bibliography

Apperly, R., Irving, R., and Reynolds, P. (1989) Identifying Australian Architecture: styles and terms from 1788 to the present. Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, NSW.

The Australiana Fund (c.1999) "The Lodge: Catalogue of furniture and works of Art". Unpublished report, AHC file.

Charlton, K., Garnett, R., and Fowler, M. (1984) Federal Capital Architecture: Canberra 1911-1939. National Trust of Australia (ACT), Canberra.

Committee on Official Establishments. (1979) "Final report, May 1979." Canberra: AGPS.

Department of Housing and Construction and Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (1986) Conservation and Management Plan for the Prime Minister's Lodge, Landscape Architects for the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Canberra: Department of Housing and Construction.

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (1985) "A guide to the works of art and items of historical interest in The Lodge, Canberra". Unpublished report, AHC file.

Peter Freeman Pty Ltd and Coltheart, L. (2001) The Lodge, Canberra, Conservation Management Plan. Volume 1, The Plan. Draft report prepared for the Official Establishment Trust by Peter Freeman Pty Ltd in association with Dr Leonre Coltheart.

Report Produced Thu Mar 14 16:46:48 2019

[Accessibility](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#) | © Commonwealth of Australia



Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

The Surveyors Hut, State Ccl, Capital Hill, ACT, Australia

Photographs



List	Commonwealth Heritage List
Class	Historic
Legal Status	Listed place (22/06/2004)
Place ID	105467
Place File No	8/01/000/0056

Summary Statement of Significance

As a remnant of the original surveyor's camp at Capital Hill in 1909, the hut is significant as one of the earliest extant Commonwealth buildings in the Australian Capital Territory. It has a strong association with Federation and the establishment of the Federal Capital. (Criterion A.4) Australian Historic Themes: 4.1.4 Creating capital cities; 7.4 Federating Australia

The simple hut constructed of concrete with a corrugated iron roof, is a functional building with innovative and pragmatic use of materials (Criterion F.1).

The Hut is associated with C R Scrivener, Canberra's Surveyor, who mapped the region for the design competition for the capital, and later worked closely with Walter Burley Griffin in his preparation of the 1918 plan for Canberra (Criterion H.1).

Official Values

Criterion A Processes

As a remnant of the original surveyor's camp at Capital Hill in 1909, the hut is significant as one of the earliest extant Commonwealth buildings in the Australian Capital Territory. It has a strong association with Federation and the establishment of the Federal Capital.

Attributes

The whole of the hut including its original fabric, detail and location.

Criterion F Technical achievement

The simple hut constructed of concrete with a corrugated iron roof, is a functional building with innovative and pragmatic use of materials.

Attributes

The concrete building with its curved corrugated iron roof.

Criterion H Significant people

The Hut is associated with C R Scrivener, Canberra's Surveyor, who mapped the region for the design competition for the capital, and later worked closely with Walter Burley Griffin in his preparation of the 1918 plan for Canberra.

Attributes

The whole of the hut.

Description

History:

A small concrete store for plans, with a curved corrugated iron roof and a heavy steel door. It is all that remains of the camp established in the area in 1909 by surveyors of the site of the Federal Capital.

The surveyor's camp was created by the survey team within virgin bush to the north of Capital Hill and some distance from the Molonglo River. A survey of the area was 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.

Charles Robert Scrivener was the District Surveyor at Hay, New South Wales. In 1908 his services were 'loaned' to the Commonwealth to provide survey information on the proposed Federal Capital sites, then being selected. Scrivener established his surveyors camp at Capital Hill and in 1909 the camp consisted of some fourteen tents with one permanent' skillion roofed structure. With the commencement of the detailed survey the tent camp grew. By 1911 two gable roofed drawing offices had been placed to the east of the tents. The exact date of the construction of the surveyor's concrete plan archive (the Surveyor's Hut) is not known but it is shown in photographs of 1913.

The international competitors for the planning of Canberra used Surveyor Charles Robert Scrivener's base survey maps and the winning competitor, American architect/planner Walter Burley Griffin, worked closely with Scrivener until the surveyor's retirement. Griffin's final plan, completed in January 1918, was prepared by Scrivener's team and printed in that year.

By 1920 some of the roadworks for the Griffin plan had been established and a plan prepared in that year (after Griffin's resignation) showed a road skirting the surveyor's camp (State Circle) and crossing the Molonglo River. A later plan, in 1941, showed the roadworks near the surveyor's site little further advanced, with the State Circle still incomplete. Other uses were found for the Capital Hill site. In 1925, the Commonwealth Works Department erected a series of makeshift huts (Capital Hill and Hillside Hostels) on the Hill as housing for workers engaged in the construction of the Provisional Parliament House and other large Federal Capital projects. These huts were removed in 1966.

The Hill was chosen as the site of the new Parliament House and construction work on that project continued around the remnant Surveyor's Hut for almost a decade. A landscaping proposal, as part of the Parliamentary Zone roadworks, has been prepared for the area around the hut. Scrivener's, or Scrivener's Hut, originally built as a secure storage for the surveyor's plan and as an adjunct to the actual survey drawing office, has remained intact at the base of Capital Hill. On the north it has been bounded by the massive earthworks of State Circle and to the south by the Parliament House complex. It remains as the first Commonwealth built structure still extant within the Territory.

Physical Description:

The Surveyor's Hut is a simple, single roomed structure measuring 3,110mm x 2,980mm. The walls of mass concrete are uniformly 250mm thick and have been finished with a cement render. The floor is also of concrete. The use of steel, iron and concrete assured protection from fire. The room is enclosed by a flat concrete ceiling which is protected from the weather by an open ended bowed corrugated iron roof. The roof has no framing apart from the two timber top plates from which it is sprung. The use of such a roof was innovative. On the north and south ends of the Hut, the roof extends to form an overhang, while on the east and west it finishes flush with the walls. Originally the overhang to the north formed a lobby between the Hut, or archive and the surveyor's offices. Evidence of the timber framing to the lobby can be seen in the mortices cut into the top plates. Access to the Hut is via a heavy timber framed and ledged door that is sheeted externally with iron. The door features sturdy iron hinges and bolts.

History Not Available**Condition and Integrity**

Conservation Plan: Generally the Hut is in good condition with little evidence of structural failure, damp, vandalism or insect infestation. However, there has been rot or insect damage to several timber members in the door. The top plates have been fire blackened in some places and the exposed end grain is badly weathered. There are no downpipes or subsoil drainage. There are several young acacias growing within several metres of the Hut walls. (1987)

February 2002:

In 1998 maintenance work to the roof and guttering was undertaken. Interpretive signage was damaged by graffiti and replaced in 2001. Condition of the structure is sound.


Location

State Circle, Capital Hill.

Bibliography

Surveyor's Hut/ Capital Hill/ Conservation Plan prepared by Peter Freeman and Partners on behalf of the Department of Administrative Services Construction Group, 1987.
Information found in AHC file number 8/01/000/0056.

Report Produced Thu Mar 14 16:45:11 2019

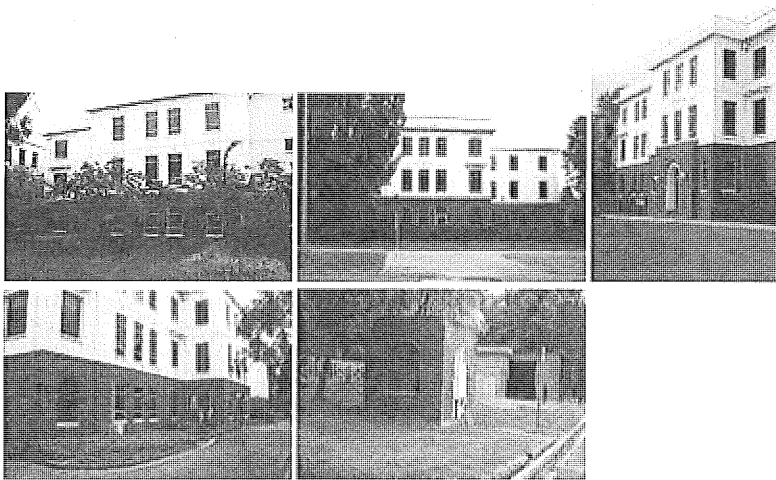
[Accessibility](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#) | © Commonwealth of Australia 

Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

West Block and the Dugout, Queen Victoria Tce, Parkes, ACT, Australia

Photographs



List	Commonwealth Heritage List
Class	Historic
Legal Status	Listed place (22/06/2004)
Place ID	105428
Place File No	8/01/000/0489

Summary Statement of Significance

West Block is a significant component of the Parliament House Secretariat group, which also includes East Block and the Provisional Parliament House. The group is located at the southern end of the Parliamentary Triangle and is an integral component of the significant Parliamentary Triangle landscape, exhibiting the skilful handling of planning and architectural forms within a designed landscape of related buildings and spaces. The group forms essential and important axial planning elements with the Parliamentary Triangle. The planning principles of the group are as established by Walter Burley Griffin, and the architectural resolution of the group is as established within the office of John Smith Murdoch, Director-General of Works. (Criterion F1)

West Block is important for its association with Federation, being part of the Provisional Parliament House group, which formed the essential Government facilities in the early development of Canberra as the Nation's Capital. The Secretariats are a remnant of the relocation phase of the Federal Capital when they formed the seat of Federal and political power. (Criterion A4) Australian Historic Themes: 4.3, Developing Institutions, 7.4 Federating Australia

The Dugout is significant as a purpose built World War II bomb shelter. Along with West Block it is important for accommodating strategic international communication functions of Australia's war time activities. (Criterion 4) Australian Historic Themes 7.7 Defending Australia

The building is a fine example of Federal Capital Architecture, a version of Inter-War Stripped Classical style. It exhibits classical style proportions and features of arcaded entrance screens and courtyard arrival points. (Criterion D2)

The unpretentious style of the building with its low horizontal massing, the role of the building as part of a group linked by architectural style and function, and the contribution of the building group as a feature of the designed landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle, are significant aesthetic qualities now greatly valued. (Criterion E1)

The group of government buildings is uncommon. Only one other similar formal grouping exists in Australia, and that is the Commonwealth and State offices group in Brisbane, also designed by John Smith Murdoch. (Criterion B2)

West Block has associations with the formative days of the National Library, the relocation phase of the Federal Capital, the planning and architecture of John Smith Murdoch and Walter Burley Griffin, and the evolution of Federal Government administration in Canberra. (Criterion H1)

Official Values

Criterion A Processes

West Block is important for its association with Federation, being part of the Provisional Parliament House group, which formed the essential Government facilities in the early development of Canberra as the Nation's Capital. The Secretariats are a remnant of the relocation phase of the Federal Capital when they formed the seat of Federal and political power.

The Dugout is significant as a purpose built World War II bomb shelter. Along with West Block it is important for accommodating strategic international communication functions of Australia's war time activities.

Attributes

All of the original form and fabric of West Block, and of the Dugout.

Criterion B Rarity

The group of government buildings is uncommon. Only one other similar formal grouping exists in Australia, and that is the Commonwealth and State offices group in Brisbane, also designed by John Smith Murdoch.

Attributes

The location and appearance of West Block in relation to East Block, Old Parliament House and Parliamentary Triangle and the Land Axis.

Criterion D Characteristic values

The building is a fine example of Federal Capital Architecture, a version of Inter-War Stripped Classical style. It exhibits classical style proportions and features of arcaded entrance screens and courtyard arrival points.

Attributes

The building's original architectural design, including its classical style, proportions, arcaded entrance screens and courtyard arrival points.

Criterion E Aesthetic characteristics

The unpretentious style of the building with its low horizontal massing, the role of the building as part of a group linked by architectural style and function, and the contribution of the building group as a feature of the designed landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle, are significant aesthetic qualities now greatly valued.

Attributes

The external form and appearance of building, plus its landscaped setting, especially in relation to the Parliamentary Triangle.

Criterion F Technical achievement

West Block is a significant component of the Parliament House Secretariat group, which also includes East Block and the Provisional Parliament House. The group is located at the southern end of the Parliamentary Triangle and is an integral component of the significant Parliamentary Triangle landscape, exhibiting the skilful handling of planning and architectural forms within a designed landscape of related buildings and spaces. The group forms essential and important axial planning elements with the Parliamentary Triangle. The planning principles of the group are as established by Walter Burley Griffin, and the architectural resolution of the group is as established within the office of John Smith Murdoch, Director-General of Works.

Attributes

The appearance and location of the building plus its designed landscape, in relation to East Block, Old Parliament House and the Parliamentary Triangle.

Criterion H Significant people

West Block has associations with the formative days of the National Library, the relocation phase of the Federal Capital, the planning and architecture of John Smith Murdoch and Walter Burley Griffin, and the evolution of Federal Government administration in Canberra.

Attributes

The original form and fabric of the building, any remaining evidence of its use as the former National Library plus its architectural styling that demonstrates the involvement of JS Murdoch.

Description

History

The Canberra Secretariat buildings and the Provisional Parliament house were the first buildings designed and erected in the Parliamentary Triangle of the new Federal Capital. Although Walter Burley Griffin's plan for buildings were for monumental structures in a landscape setting in the Beaux Arts style, the Federal Capital Advisory Committee favoured a more modest style, recommending that monumental works could come later in Australia's development. Thus the project for a provisional Parliament House was given to the Commonwealth architect John Smith Murdoch.

The difficulty of establishing and housing government departments in Canberra was met by establishing a Secretariat of each Department on a temporary basis to assist the minister with Parliamentary work and to provide a link between that work and the general administration of Departments in Melbourne. It was therefore proposed that a special building, constructed of brick and harmonising with the Provisional Parliament House, be erected to accommodate these Secretariats and it was proposed that the Telephone Exchange and Post Office should be in one of the buildings. The East and West Block Buildings were designed by Murdoch to complement each other and for absolute balance in the landscape with the Provisional Parliament House. From 1927 - 1929, Murdoch served as Director-General of Works, Public Works Branch, Department of Home Affairs.

West Block, Secretariat No. 2, was completed in 1928 near the southern apex of the Parliamentary Triangle under the control of H.M. Rolland, Works Director, Canberra. The completed building incorporated screened forecourts, verandahs, balconies and linking corridors. Block A was originally intended to house the National Library; Block B housed a strong room. Murdoch's building was modified and extended from an early date to suit the requirements of occupants.

In 1938 the balconies and corner verandahs were enclosed and brick spandrel panels inserted. In 1944, the building was occupied by Prime Ministers, Attorney Generals, Statistician, Treasury, Taxation, External Affairs, Territories, Auditor General and Crown Solicitor. In 1944 building was enlarged with the addition of a new south wing, Block D by Senior Architect J. Orwin, and enclosure of the central ground floor loggia in Block B. The corners of the new block were treated to match the enclosed balconies as executed in the 1938 alterations to the original building.

During World War II years, the small building to the east of West Block was constructed as a bomb shelter and called 'the Dugout'. It contained a Typex machine used for decoding cables and coding information to send in cables. This critical work was undertaken by the Prime Ministers Department, 5 Division which occupied the first floor of West Block. An external metal staircase was constructed to give access from a window on the first floor of West Block to ground level and The Dugout (Metcalf 2001).

In 1945/1946 the addition of telephone exchange and offices to B Block, creating enclosed, brick paved courtyards. Metal gates defined the new entrance portals. It appears that timber mouldings were removed from the windows at this time to modernise its appearance. In 1948, three storey extensions were added to the north wing, Block A.

The novel 'West Block: the hidden world of Canberra's Mandarins' written by Sara Dowse and published by Penguin Books in 1983, is a fictional work set in West Block.

Physical Description

The three linked blocks (A, B and C) of John Smith Murdoch's three brick West Block building with basements, were constructed of partially rendered load bearing external brick walls; reinforced concrete staircases in the central block (Block B); reinforced concrete ground floors; and an internal combination of load bearing brickwork and reinforced concrete beams and columns with timber floors and reinforced concrete roofs. Ceilings of fibro-cement were fixed at 12ft (3,600mm). Ground floor entrances and open, corner verandah openings were formed with semicircular brick arches in contrast to other openings which were built with flat brick lintels. Windows were originally metal framed built up with timber mouldings. The later D Block incorporated similar scaling and external detailing to the original buildings. The east and west facades matched in scale those on B Block. The southernmost part matched C Block. It is notable that the corners were treated to match the infilled balconies as executed in the 1938 alterations to the original building. Although continually modified throughout its life West Block remains a key example of the Federal Capital style of architecture. The building displays the characteristic flat roofs and parapets above cement rendered and white painted brick walls and contrasting brick base. Greek pattern metal railings, medallion motifs and projecting cement cornices articulate symmetrically disposed elements of classical proportions with sharp silhouettes and overall horizontal proportions and massing.

The earlier and more substantial additions to the building adhered more closely to the original concept and intention, as well as materials and detailing. Later alterations and refurbishment tended to pay more attention to immediate functional and financial expedience. Their program was dictated by a need for more comprehensive mechanical, hydraulic and electrical servicing as well as a growing security requirement (Freeman Collett & Partners 1994). The Dugout building appears to be structurally unchanged. It is now used as an electrical sub-station. A brick screen wall with three arches has been added to it and the area behind the brick wall used for bikes. At some stage the roofing material was changed.

The 1982 alterations, have to a degree compromised the architectural significance. In terms of design and fabric, West Block is closely paralleled by East Block. Some of the elements of the original West Block that have been altered in later additions are still extant on East Block.

History Not Available

Condition and Integrity

Appears to be maintained in good condition. The building is structurally sound and in good physical condition with the exception of the atrium (courtyard) roofs which appear to leak.

February 2001

The integrity of the original design has been partly compromised, but the condition of the building is sound. Refer report, West Block Secretariat No.2 Parliamentary Triangle, Canberra, Conservation Plan (Freeman Collett & Partners 1994)

Location

Queen Victoria Terrace, corner Commonwealth Avenue, Parkes.

Bounded by Commonwealth Avenue to the west; Queen Victoria Terrace to the north and north-east; the perimeter of the parking area to the south-east; and the slip road from Commonwealth Avenue to State Circle to the south-west.

Bibliography

Freeman Collett & Partners (1994) West Block . Secretariat No.2 . Parliamentary Triangle Canberra, Conservation Plan.

ACS, 1992, Draft Conservation Plan for the Canberra Secretariats.

Metcalf, Nancy and Ron (March 2001) Personal communication. Refer file note (RNE file 8/1/0/489).

Canberra Times (1996) "The women who kept our secrets". The Jubilee Page, Thursday, 16 May 1996.

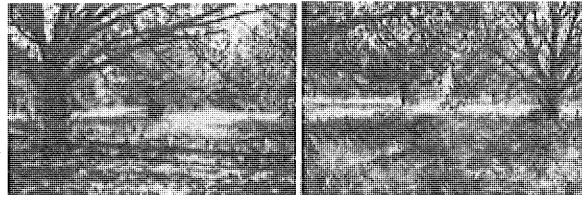
Report Produced Thu Mar 14 16:42:50 2019

Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

York Park North Tree Plantation, Kings Av, Barton, ACT, Australia

Photographs



List	Commonwealth Heritage List
Class	Historic
Legal Status	Listed place (22/06/2004)
Place ID	105242
Place File No	8/01/000/0487

Summary Statement of Significance

The plantation is significant as the only one of the six plantations proposed for Canberra in the late 1920s-early 30s still remaining largely intact. (Criterion D.2) (Historic themes: 8.1.3. Developing public parks and gardens)

The inaugural planting was carried out by HRH the Duke of York on 10 May 1927 as part of the celebrations associated with the opening of the Provisional Parliament House. (Criterion A.4)

The formal arrangement of the oak plantation and the use of a large number of a single species in wide spacing is unusual. It demonstrates an historic aspect of the National Capital's early tree planting program. (Criterion B.2)

Official Values

Criterion A Processes

The inaugural planting was carried out by HRH the Duke of York on 10 May 1927 as part of the celebrations associated with the opening of the Provisional Parliament House.

Attributes

All of the trees plus the grid spacing, plus the total size of the plantation. The specific tree planted by HRH the Duke of York is particularly significant.

Criterion B Rarity

The formal arrangement of the oak plantation and the use of a large number of a single species in wide spacing is unusual. It demonstrates an historic aspect of the National Capital's early tree planting program.

Attributes

The fact that the trees are all of the same species, namely English Oak, plus the grid spacing, plus the total size of the plantation.

Criterion D Characteristic values

The plantation is significant as the only one of the six plantations proposed for Canberra in the late 1920s-early 30s still remaining largely intact.

Attributes

The specific location, dimensions, tree spacing and tree species of the coppice.

Description

The features intrinsic to the heritage significance of the place are the English Oak plantation containing 75 live trees and the English oak at the north western corner of the plantation.

The English Oak (*QUERCUS ROBUR*) plantation is located on the corner of State Circle and Kings Avenue, Barton. Originally there were six rows with thirteen plants in each row, a total of 78 plants. They are spaced on a 40ft (approximately 12m x 12m) grid, which has allowed the trees to spread and some have a crown diameter of 18-20m. They tend to branch at a low height (1.5 - 3m) which is typical if this species is grown in an open situation in poor soils without additional watering. The tallest trees are about 12-14m tall and the trees in the outer rows have generally grown better than those within the plantation.

There are numerous oak seedlings beneath the canopies where shade has excluded native herbaceous species. Bird-dispersed exotic species of cotoneaster, hawthorn and rowan occur under the canopy and there are a few cootamundra wattle (*Acacia baileyana*) seedlings in open spaces. These may be self-sown seedlings from the remnants of a planting made in 1945 on the northern, southern, and western sides of York Park from the former Hotel Wellington to the Patents Office. Native grasses in the plantation have persisted in open spaces because the area has not been cultivated or mown.

History

As part of the celebrations associated with the opening of the Provisional Parliament House an inaugural planting of trees was carried out by HRH the Duke of York on 10 May 1927 in Coppice Plot 5. The proposal for the plantation by the Federal Capital Commission, endorsed by Prime Minister S M Bruce, was based on the suggestion by the Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens, Sydney, E N Ward, that rather than planting individual specimens a much bolder scheme would be to create a Royal or English vista comprising four coppices of English trees, for which the Duke of York would plant the initial trees. Symbolically the trees to commence the four coppices would be supplied from England, while the remainder of the trees would be raised at either of the government nurseries at Campbelltown or Canberra. The tree the Duke of York planted is an English oak, (*QUERCUS ROBUR*), brought to Australia as a live tree from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London. The Duke also planted an Australian bunya pine (*ARAUCARIA BIDWILLII*) at the same ceremony, located opposite the English oak on the northern side of Kings Avenue. (This tree is included in the Parliament House Vista listing in the Register of the National Estate.) The history and status of the oak tree was established in 1994.

The plantation consisted initially of at least seventy-eight trees which were widely spaced on a 40ft x 40ft grid. The plantation is significant as the only one of six coppice plantations established in Canberra in the last part of the 1920s-early 30s which still remain. The formal arrangement of the oak plantation and the use of a large number of a single species in wide spacing is unusual and reveals an historic aspect of the National Capital's early street planting. It differs from the style adopted by Thomas Charles Weston, Officer in Charge of Afforestation 1913-26, who, within the city, tended to plant in groups often with mixed species. An exception was the cork oak, (*QUERCUS SUBER*), plantation at Green Hills but this was intended to be a commercial plantation. The formality of the planting evident in the York Park plantation is unlikely to be repeated. The plantation is important for its size, design and position close to Capital Hill. It presents an interesting contrast in style and species to the informal plantings around Parliament House. It forms part of the Kings Avenue streetscape and relates closely to the landscape of the Parliamentary Zone.

The concept of planting English oaks as a link with Australia's British heritage is valued by the members of the community. The longevity of oaks is similarly valued by the community.

Condition and Integrity

The plantation has received very little horticultural maintenance. Despite its prominent position bordering the Parliamentary Triangle there has been no supplementary watering. The survival of the trees under these conditions is a measure of the hardiness of the species. Despite the conditions many of the trees are healthy with the potential to grow for many years.

(1997)

Location

About 1.75ha, in Barton, comprising that area of Block 2, Section 1, between Windsor Walk, State Circle, Kings Avenue and a line parallel to Kings Avenue 100 metres to the south-south-east (ie extending from the formed kerb on the most southern side of Kings Avenue).

Bibliography

Boden, Robert. 1994. English Oak Plantation York Park, Canberra Report based on archival search and submitted to ACT Heritage Unit and National Capital Planning Authority.

David Hogg Pty Ltd. 1992. York Park, Barton Botanical Survey. Report to the National Capital Planning Authority, pp16 + tables.

Federal Capital Commission. 1930. Annual Reports 1st-5th, 1925-1929, Federal Capital Commission. Canberra.

Young, R A, and Associates Pty Ltd. 1992. York Park Master Plan. Report to the National Capital Planning Authority.

Ramsay, Juliet. 1991. Parks, Gardens and Special trees, A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate. Technical Publications Series No 2, Australian Heritage Commission, Canberra, pp78.

Report Produced Thu Mar 14 16:44:08 2019

[Accessibility](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#) | © Commonwealth of Australia



Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

Aboriginal Embassy Site, King George Tce, Parkes, ACT, Australia

Photographs

Australian Heritage
Photo Library

**Restricted
Images**

Australian Heritage
Photo Library

**Restricted
Images**

Australian Heritage
Photo Library

**Restricted
Images**

Australian Heritage
Photo Library

**Restricted
Images**

Australian Heritage
Photo Library

**Restricted
Images**

Australian Heritage
Photo Library

**Restricted
Images**

Australian Heritage
Photo Library

**Restricted
Images**

Australian Heritage
Photo Library

**Restricted
Images**

Australian Heritage
Photo Library

**Restricted
Images**

Australian Heritage
Photo Library

**Restricted
Images**

Australian Heritage
Photo Library

**Restricted
Images**

Australian Heritage
Photo Library

**Restricted
Images**

Australian Heritage
Photo Library

**Restricted
Images**

Australian Heritage
Photo Library

**Restricted
Images**

Australian Heritage
Photo Library

**Restricted
Images**

Australian Heritage
Photo Library

**Restricted
Images**

Australian Heritage
Photo Library

**Restricted
Images**

Australian Heritage
Photo Library

**Restricted
Images**

List Commonwealth Heritage List

Class Indigenous

Legal Status [Within Listed Place](#)

Place ID 105224

Place File No 8/01/000/0421

Summary Statement of Significance

On 11 August 2005, the Minister decided not to include the Aboriginal Tent Embassy as an individual place in the Commonwealth Heritage List (it remains within the listed Parliament House Vista) and on 20 October 2005 provided the following reasons for his decision:

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER SECTION 341J OF THE *ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT 1999*

ABORIGINAL TENT EMBASSY SITE

I, Ian Gordon Campbell, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, provide the following statement of reasons for my decision under section 341J of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), not to include the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, ACT, in the Commonwealth Heritage List.

LEGISLATION

1. Subsection 341C(2) of the EPBC Act provides that:

- (1) A place may be included in the Commonwealth Heritage List only if the Minister is satisfied that the place:
 - (a) either:
 - (i) is entirely within a Commonwealth area; or
 - (ii) is outside the Australian jurisdiction and is owned or leased by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth agency; and**
 - (b) has one or more Commonwealth Heritage values.

2. Section 341D provides:

(1) A place has a **Commonwealth Heritage value** if and only if the place meets one of the criteria (the **Commonwealth Heritage criteria**) prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this section. The **Commonwealth Heritage value** of the place is the place's heritage value that causes the place to meet the criterion.

(2) The **Commonwealth Heritage values** of a Commonwealth Heritage place are the Commonwealth Heritage values of the place included in the Commonwealth Heritage List for the place.

(3) The regulations must prescribe criteria for the following:

- (a) natural heritage values of places;
- (b) indigenous heritage values of places;
- (c) historic heritage values of places.

The regulations may prescribe criteria for other heritage values of places.

(4) To avoid doubt, a criterion prescribed by the regulations may relate to one or more of the following:

- (a) natural heritage values of places;
- (b) indigenous heritage values of places;
- (c) historic heritage values of places;
- (d) other heritage values of places.

3. The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Regulations 2000 relevantly state as follows:

- (1) For section 341D of the Act, sub regulation (2) prescribes the Commonwealth Heritage criteria for the following:
 - (a) natural heritage values of places;
 - (b) indigenous heritage values of places;
 - (c) historic heritage values of places.

(2) *The Commonwealth Heritage criteria for a place are any or all of the following:*

- (a) the place has significant heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history;
- (b) the place has significant heritage value to the nation because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history;
- (c) the place has significant heritage value to the nation because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history;
- (d) the place has significant heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:
 - (i) a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or
 - (ii) a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments;
- (e) the place has significant heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;
- (f) the place has significant heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period;
- (g) the place has significant heritage value to the nation because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- (h) the place has significant heritage value to the nation because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history;
- (i) the place has significant heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance as part of indigenous tradition.

(3) For sub regulation (2), the **cultural** aspect of a criterion means the indigenous cultural aspect, the non-indigenous cultural aspect, or both.

4. Section 341E of the EPBC Act relevantly provides that:

(1) A person may, in accordance with the regulations (if any), nominate to the Minister a place for inclusion in the Commonwealth Heritage List.

(2) The Minister must give the Chair of the Australian Heritage Council a written request for the Council to assess under section 341G whether the place meets any of the Commonwealth Heritage criteria, unless the Minister rejects the nomination under this section.

(3) If the Minister must give the Chair a request, he or she must give the request within 10 business days after receiving the nomination, unless:

- (a) the place is wholly or partly outside the Australian jurisdiction; or
- (b) the Minister includes the place in the Commonwealth Heritage List under section 341F (emergency listing) within that period.

(3A) Within 10 business days after giving the request to the Chair of the Australian Heritage Council, the Minister must publish on the Internet a brief description of the nomination.

[Subsections 341E(4) to (8) omitted.]

5. Subsection 341G of the EPBC Act relevantly provides that: (1) The Minister may give the Chair of the Australian Heritage Council a written request for the Council to assess whether a place meets any of the Commonwealth Heritage criteria, whether or not the place is the subject of a nomination.

(2) The Australian Heritage Council must give the Minister a written assessment whether a place meets any of the Commonwealth Heritage criteria:

(a) within 12 months after the Minister gives the Chair of the Council (under this section or section 341E) the request for the assessment; or

(b) if the place is included in the Commonwealth Heritage List under section 341F (emergency listing)—within 40 business days after the Minister gives the Chair of the Council (under that section) the request for the assessment.

[Subsections 341G(2A) to (3) omitted.]

(3A) Before giving the Minister an assessment under this section whether a place meets any of the Commonwealth Heritage criteria, the Australian Heritage Council:

- (a) must publish, in accordance with the regulations (if any), a notice:
 - (i) stating that the Council is assessing whether the place meets any of the Commonwealth Heritage criteria; and
 - (ii) inviting comments in writing, within a specified period that is reasonable having regard to the time by which the Council must give the assessment to the Minister, on whether the place meets any of the Commonwealth Heritage criteria and whether the place should be included in the Commonwealth Heritage List; and
- (b) must consider, subject to subsection (5), the comments (if any) the Council receives within the period. The Council must give the Minister a copy of the comments with the assessment.

(4) If, in making an assessment, the Australian Heritage Council considers that a place within the Australian jurisdiction might have one or more Commonwealth Heritage values, the Council must:

- (a) take all practicable steps:
 - (i) to identify each person who is an owner or occupier of all or part of the place; and
 - (ii) if the Council considers the place might have an indigenous heritage value – to identify each indigenous person who has rights or interests in all or part of the place; and
 - (b) take all practicable steps to advise each person identified that the Council is assessing whether the place meets any of the Commonwealth Heritage criteria; and
 - (c) give persons advised a reasonable opportunity to comment in writing whether the place should be included in the Commonwealth Heritage List.
- The Council must give the Minister a copy of the comments with the assessment.

(5) In assessing whether a place meets any of the Commonwealth Heritage criteria, the Australian Heritage Council must not consider any matter that does not relate to the question whether the place meets the Commonwealth Heritage criteria.

6. Section 341J of the EPBC Act relevantly provides that: (1) After receiving from the Australian Heritage Council an assessment under section 341G whether a place, except one that is or includes a place included in the Commonwealth Heritage List under section 341F (whether before, on or after receipt of the assessment), meets any of the Commonwealth Heritage criteria, the Minister must:

(a) by instrument published in the *Gazette*, include in the Commonwealth Heritage List the place and its National Heritage values specified in the instrument; or

(b) decide not to include the place in the Commonwealth Heritage List.

(2) The Minister must comply with subsection (1):

(a) within 20 business days after the day on which the Minister receives the assessment; or

(b) if section 341H applies in relation to the place—within 60 business days after the end of the period mentioned in paragraph 341H(3)(a) for the place.

However, this subsection does not apply if the place is wholly or partly outside the Australian jurisdiction.

[Subsections 341J(3) omitted.]

(4) If the Minister decides not to include in the Commonwealth Heritage List a place (whether the decision is made after publishing a notice under section 341H or not), the Minister must:

- (a) give written reasons for the decision to anyone who asks for them; and
- (b) if the place was nominated by a person—advise the person within 10 business days of the decision and give the person written reasons for the decision; and
- (c) within 10 business days publish the decision and the reasons for the decision on the Internet.

[Subsections 341J(5) to (7) omitted.]

- (8) Before acting under subsection (1) or (5), the Minister must consider:

- (a) the Australian Heritage Council's assessment whether the place meets any of the Commonwealth Heritage criteria; and
- (b) the comments (if any), a copy of which was given to the Minister by the Council under section 341G with the assessment; and
- (c) the comments (if any) received in accordance with the notice (if any) published under section 341H in relation to the place; and
- (d) the assessment (if any) requested under subsection 341H(4) of the merits of the comments received in accordance with the notice published under section 341H in relation to the place.

[Subsection 341J(9) omitted.]

BACKGROUND

7. The Aboriginal Tent Embassy was nominated for inclusion in the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL). In accordance with subsection 341E(2) of the EPBC Act, on 21 June 2004, I requested the Australian Heritage Council ("Council") to assess the place.

8. The Council duly completed its assessment and provided it to me by letter dated 21 June 2005, in accordance with subsection 341G(2) of the EPBC Act. The Council also provided me with the written comments following the Council's invitation to comment under subsection 341G(3A) and 341G(4) (listed below).

EVIDENCE AND MATERIAL BEFORE ME

9. The evidence and material on which I based my decision not to include the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in the Commonwealth Heritage List are listed below:

- The nomination;
- The report prepared for the Australian Heritage Council by staff of the Department of the Environment and Heritage on the place;
- The assessment report of the Australian Heritage Council dated 21 June 2005;
- Public submissions provided under subsection 341G(3A) and 341G(4) of the EPBC Act from:
 - Aboriginal embassy residents and supporters
 - Neville Williams, Wiradjuri Elder
 - Natalie Cromb, Indigenous Office Bearer, University of NSW
 - The Hon Jim Lloyd MP
 - Jon Stanhope MLA, Chief Minister of the ACT
 - National Capital Authority
 - Department of Transport and Regional Services
 - Richard Strudwick
 - Joan Marshall

FINDINGS ON MATERIAL QUESTIONS OF FACT

10. I began by considering all the evidence provided to me about the heritage values in the nominated place.

11. I considered the Council's view that the Aboriginal Tent Embassy has significant heritage values which satisfy criteria (a), (b), and (g) as a place of national land rights protest.
(a) the place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.

12. I noted that with respect to criterion (a) the Council stated that "for many" the 1972 protest was a defining event in the evolution of Australian democracy and specifically in Aboriginal political history.
(b) the place has significant heritage value because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.

13. I noted the Council's advice relating to criterion (b) that the 1972 Aboriginal Tent Embassy was the location of the first national land rights action with Indigenous people across Australia demanding the return of their lands and compensation for other lands.
(g) the place has significant heritage value because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

14. I noted the Council's assessment with respect to criterion (g) including that the Aboriginal Tent Embassy had different associations, significance and value for several Indigenous groups and sections of the Indigenous population.

Other criteria

15. I also considered the range of views expressed by members of the public and others during the public submission phase about the heritage values of the place. I noted that the Council had considered the public comments

where the comments related to heritage values.

16. In particular, I considered the points made by residents and supporters of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy against each of the criteria. The analysis in their submission was against the National Heritage criteria, but I considered their evidence as if it applied to the relevant Commonwealth Heritage criteria, taking into account the difference in threshold of significance between the two sets of criteria. Their analysis claimed heritage values against each of the criteria. I noted that the Council had considered the submission by the residents and supporters before the Council decided that the place did not meet Commonwealth Heritage criteria (c), (d), (e), (f), (h) and (i). I agreed with the Council's conclusions that the place did not meet Commonwealth Heritage criteria (c), (d), (e), (f), (h) and (i).

17. I considered the representation to Council from the National Capital Authority (NCA). The NCA advised that it was unable to comment in detail on the proposal to include the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in the Commonwealth Heritage List. However the NCA noted that although the Aboriginal Tent Embassy is commonly associated with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, the place has considerable significance for its use as a place of general protest for the whole Australian community.

Conclusion on Commonwealth Heritage values

18. On the basis of the evidence before me, I concluded that the place did not meet Commonwealth Heritage criteria (c), (d), (e), (f), (h) and (i).

19. While acknowledging Council's advice that the Aboriginal Tent Embassy met the Commonwealth Heritage criteria (a), (b) and (g), I noted its further advice that while some Indigenous people support the Aboriginal Tent Embassy as illustrating civil disobedience, others express shame and embarrassment about its appearance and do not consider that it portrays an accurate image of Indigenous people. I considered that this was an important matter relevant to whether the Aboriginal Tent Embassy retains historic significance for Indigenous people for its role as a protest site in 1972 or subsequently. I concluded that there was some uncertainty as to whether the place met Commonwealth Heritage criteria (a), (b) and (g).

20. I was aware from the submission made by the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads (see paragraph 23) that a nation-wide consultation is underway seeking the views of Indigenous people on the significance and future of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy. I concluded that the nation-wide consultation may produce evidence that could be relevant to whether the place meets Commonwealth Heritage criteria (a), (b) and (g).

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS

21. The representations from the NCA and the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads raise additional issues that I considered were relevant to my decision as to whether to include the Aboriginal Tent Embassy on the Commonwealth Heritage List. The NCA representation noted that the Aboriginal Tent Embassy was already included in the Commonwealth Heritage List as part of the Parliament House Vista. The NCA expressed the view that the values of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy are protected by this listing, and an individual listing would seem unnecessary.

22. The NCA also noted that it had received legal advice that transient and other structures located on the site contravene sections of the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988*, the *Parliament Act 1974* and the *Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance 1932*. The NCA also said that there were public health and safety issues associated with the illegal use of the site for camping purposes. I considered that in these circumstances including the Aboriginal Tent Embassy on the Commonwealth Heritage List could be perceived as encouraging activities and structures in contravention to the applicable laws.

23. The Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads advised in his representation that he has recently commenced a nation-wide consultation process with Indigenous people regarding the importance of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy site and options for its future use and management. I considered that these consultation processes are likely to provide further information, including additional Indigenous views, on the heritage values of the place and guide the resolution of the outstanding issues associated with the future role and management of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy site. I considered that these processes could help clarify or resolve the legal concerns and public safety concerns associated with current uses of the site.

REASONS FOR DECISION 24. In the light of these considerations, I decided, pursuant to subsection 341J of the EPBC Act, not to include the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in the Commonwealth Heritage List.

[signed]

.....
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

20/10/2005

Official Values Not Available

Description

The Aboriginal Tent Embassy is located on Commonwealth land opposite Old Parliament House. It is contained within the Parliament House Vista.

The site is cleared and grassed, with *Eucalypt* species growing along its west and eastern borders. In 2005, the site contained a number of temporary structures and displays, including:

- A Sacred Fire for Peace and Justice, a traditional humpy and wood pile in the centre southern end of the site;
- A shipping container, housing a small display and information about the Aboriginal Tent Embassy;
- Flags and banners, including a number of metal barrels with flags along the northern edge of the site;
- An art mural on the ground at the southern end of the site (closest to Old Parliament House);
- An array of tents, campsites and camp infrastructure, vegetable gardens and vehicles; and
- A portable toilet.

These temporary structures and displays have changed over time as people come and go from the site, and as different political statements are expressed.

Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people have used the area currently occupied by the Aboriginal Tent Embassy for protest activities, and in this regard it was a shared space. While non-Indigenous protests were ephemeral, they were important as a social expression of attitudes towards the Government of the day. With the transfer of the seat of Government to new Parliament House on Capital Hill in 1988, community protest actions have largely been relocated to ensure maximum impact on parliamentarians. The statement of significance for the Parliament House Vista (listed on the Register of the National Estate and the Commonwealth Heritage List) clearly outlines the social values of the area in front of Old Parliament House as a place of protest.

History

On 26 January 1972 in the early hours of the morning, four young Aboriginal activists set-up a beach umbrella and a sign on the lawns of Parliament House – and the Aboriginal Tent Embassy was created. The events and processes that gave rise to this event can be considered in terms of three separate, but interconnecting themes:

- Early Aboriginal political activism, leading to the 1967 referendum
- Aboriginal land rights pre-1972
- The Australian Black Power movement

In 1972, the ideas, activities and energy expressed in each of these themes came together, creating fertile ground for direct protest action in response to Prime Minister McMahon's Australia Day speech.

The events of 1972 and more recent activities at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy site can also be described in terms of three 'waves' of action:

- Wave 1 – the Aboriginal Tent Embassy
- Wave 2 – 1972 - 1992
- Wave 3 – 1992 to present

Aboriginal protest and citizenship, leading to the 1967 referendum

Aboriginal people have long resisted and protested against European settlement of their country, and the dispossession that it brought. Early Aboriginal protest action tended to focus on personal concerns, such as civil rights and prior rights to land, generally at a local or regional level ^[1]. While the emphasis on Aboriginal rights changed over time, with civil rights gaining prominence from the 1930's to the 1960's, rights to land has always been an issue of concern.

The earliest Aboriginal protest can be traced to the mid 1840s at Van Diemens Land, focused on living conditions.

Forms of protest action during this early period included letters, petitions, appeals to other sources of authority (e.g. the Queen), and strike action (e.g. at Coranderrk during the 1870s and 1880s) (Attwood *et al*, 1999:9-11). The protests usually focused upon local needs, rather than the interests and rights of others.

From the 1920s there was a marked rise in Aboriginal activism and an increasing politicisation of Aboriginal affairs. In the 1920s – 1930s, under a government policy of 'protection' and then 'assimilation', Aboriginal people were largely excluded from the nation and citizenship, disenfranchised, and subject to restrictions on their daily lives (Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific (CHCAP), 2003:34). As part of a growing social awareness of people's rights, Aboriginal political protest organisations were set-up at a state and later national level ^[2], aimed at ending

discrimination, seeking full citizenship and improving administration of Aboriginal affairs (CHCAP, 2003:34). Most of these organisations were dominated by white membership, a characteristic later challenged by Aboriginal activists. An exception was the all-Aboriginal Australian Aborigines League established in Melbourne, Victoria 1936.

These organisations largely campaigned by writing letters and forming delegations to politicians, and the imperial monarch (Attwood *et al*, 1999:14). Protest actions during this period included a petition to King George V (not forwarded by the government) calling for the establishment of special electorates for Aborigines in federal parliament; and the Day of Mourning, Sydney on 26 January 1938. Organized in response to the sesquicentenary celebrations, this protest called for new policies for Aboriginal affairs, with full citizenship status for Aboriginal people and rights to land. While the influence on government of these Aboriginal political organisations in this period was negligible, their actions illustrate the beginnings of a national-level political activism for indigenous rights, and an early expression of the claims for democratic recognition and inclusion (CHCAP, 2003:34).

A significant development in the post-war era was the founding of a national organisation in 1958 – the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders (FCAATSI). It became an important voice in national Aboriginal politics, and was a multi-racial organisation with Aboriginal leaders (Attwood *et al*, 1999:19). FCAATSI made a major contribution to the campaign leading to the 1967 constitutional referendum, and was also active in advocating for federal voting rights for Aborigines (Horton, 1994, 359-360). As a result of pressure from FCAATSI and other Aboriginal organisations, several legislative measures were implemented to improve the rights of Aboriginal people in the 1950s and 60s, such as the right to vote in Commonwealth elections (1962); the extension of welfare benefits to all but 'nomadic or primitive' Aborigines in most states; and equal pay (1965) (CHCAP, 2003:37).

Land rights took a less prominent role in Aboriginal politics during the post-war period, re-emerging in the early 1960s as a major focus for political action, often with support from unions and other organisations. Examples of this include the Yirrkala bark petition by the Yolgnu people of Arnhem Land, Northern Territory in protest of mining on their land (CHCAP, 2003:37); actions taken at Lake Tyers in Victoria in 1963 to retain Aboriginal ownership of an Aboriginal cooperative farm (Robinson, 1993:13), and the Wave Hill walk-off, Northern Territory in 1966 (Australian Heritage Database).

Change was also occurring during the 1950s – 1960s in Aboriginal consciousness and identity. Through national conferences, increased opportunities for networking and improved communication between Aboriginal people across Australia, a stronger sense of a common national group was developing – Aboriginal Australians – who shared a historical experience of oppression, yet who also shared a culture (Attwood, *et al*, 1999:20). These changes together with the advent of Black Power consciousness were to impact the policies and aims of Aboriginal organisations.

One of the most significant advancements of the 1960s was the 1967 Referendum. With an overwhelming 'yes' vote, the referendum gave the Commonwealth power to legislate for Aboriginal people (potentially over-ruling State arrangements) and count them in the census. While this did not lead to immediate change, this action, together with the creation of an Aboriginal Affairs portfolio in 1968 and the early land rights protests in the Northern Territory, brought the struggle for Indigenous rights onto the national agenda (CHCAP, 2003:37-38), setting the stage for the 1972 events.

The early land rights movement

Aboriginal people's struggle for land dates back to at least the late 1800s (if not from the time of European arrival), with local communities fighting to be granted lands, or to retain lands that had been previously reserved for their use (Attwood *et al*, 1999:30). The concepts of compensation, prior occupation of and rights to traditional land, and the need for land to provide an economic base – themes of the 1972 protest action – underpinned Aboriginal people's fight for land from the 1800s [3], although their expression varied in the decades prior to 1972 (Goodall, 1996:84). While most of these actions were taken at a local level by communities or individuals, over time a common Aboriginal interest in these issues emerged that was wider than a single language group.

During the 1920s – 1950s, it appears that the land rights issue was relocated from a short-term demand to a long-term goal, as civil rights became the focus of attention (Goodall, 1996:239). It did not disappear from the agenda, however. In 1925, for example, the Australian Aborigines Progressive Association sent a petition to the NSW Premier calling for land, as an economic base and as compensation for dispossession, to 'restore to use that share of our country of which we should never have been deprived' (Goodall, 1996:162). By the 1950s, pressure was building for the re-emergence of land issues into the centre of the political stage.

In 1963 the Yolgnu people of Gove Peninsula, Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, took action to protest the Commonwealth Government's proposed excision of land from Yirrkala Reserve to allow bauxite mining. Following a parliamentary visit, community members sent a bark petition to parliament seeking recognition of their title to the land (Morphy, 2000:100-101). Although a special Committee of Inquiry was established, the Government did not implement its recommendations. In 1969 the Yolgnu sought to challenge the doctrine of 'terra nullius' and prove they had owned their land 'since time immemorial', taking legal action against Nabalco (mining company) and the Commonwealth Government (Attwood *et al*, 1999:173). The judgement found that although there was a spiritual

connection between the people and land, there was no economic relationship that could validate the land claim (Goodall, 1996:337). The Yirrkala bark petition is seen by many to mark the beginning of the 'land rights movement' and place land rights on the agenda of south-east Australian organisations [4] .

Claims for land were being pursued elsewhere in the Northern Territory at this time. In 1965 the Arbitration Commission ruled to grant equal pay to Aboriginal pastoral workers in the Northern Territory, although not to commence until 1968 (Australian Heritage Database). In 1966, Aboriginal stock workers from a number of cattle stations, including Wave Hill station, walked off these stations and went on strike in protest of unequal wages and poor employment conditions (Attwood *et al*, 1999:173). New camps were set-up in a range of places, including Wattie Creek (Daguragu), an area to which people had traditional rights (Central and Northern Land Council, 1991). By October the action had transformed into a claim for land, attracting considerable interest and support elsewhere in Australia. In 1975 Prime Minister Gough Whitlam promised the return of title of these lands to the traditional owners under the Commonwealth powers gained from the Referendum. This was finalized in 1986 with the hand back of Gurindji land as Daguragu Aboriginal Land Trust under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Northern Territory Act 1976 (Cth)*.

Both the Yolngu bark petition and Wave Hill walk off are viewed by many as significant events in the struggle for land rights (Attwood *et al*, 1999:173), bringing a demand for legal recognition of Aboriginal people's traditional rights and connections to country into the national arena, in part through the involvement of the Commonwealth Government. These events also contributed to the development of a national Aboriginal identity, as people across Australia joined in a common cause for land rights (CHCAP, 2003:37-8).

In 1966 the first land rights legislation was passed in South Australia, marking an important step in the recognition of Aboriginal land rights, and formal inclusion in Australian democracy (CHCAP, 2003:38). Debate over land rights intensified in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and the introduction of Black Power philosophies to Aboriginal politics at this time played a role in focusing political attention on land as a means to economic independence and advancement (discussed further below). The FCAATSI ran a national campaign in 1968 in support of land rights for Aborigines all over Australia, drawing connections between the alienation of land in both settled and remote Australia (Attwood *et al*, 1999:172). In 1970 the Aboriginal Advancement League took their call for rights to the international arena, petitioning the United Nations for the return of all land and compensation.

Against the backdrop of an increasingly national Aboriginal political movement and growing demand for recognition of Aboriginal people's rights to land, it was perhaps inevitable that Prime Minister McMahon's 1972 speech would elicit a strong and vigorous response.

Indigenous self-determination and the Australian Black Power Movement

The Aboriginal Tent Embassy can be viewed as an expression of self-determination, as Aboriginal people chose to take control of their own destiny, and directly demand change. The protest was 'masterminded' by members of the Australian Black Power movement, and later considered by some to be one of their most significant achievements.

In the mid to late 1960s a new approach to Aboriginal political activism started to emerge, drawing on the ideology of the Black Power movement in the United States of America (USA) and South Africa with its emphasis on black pride, self-determination and separatism (Robinson, 1993:21-22). These ideas filtered to Australia indirectly through media coverage and literature; and more directly through contacts with black activists in the USA (refer Jennett, 1980 for further detail). An early expression of the Black Power ideals in Australia was the 1965 Freedom Ride. Led by Charles Perkins through country towns in northern NSW, this action aimed at exposing racism and discrimination (Robinson, 1993:33-34; Foley, 2001:4).

One of the arenas of debate about Black Power philosophies was the Aboriginal advancement organisations, previously dominated by white members. While the Aboriginal Advancement League (Victoria) adopted the principle of black power in an Australian context in 1969, a split emerged within FCAATSI over who should have power to determine policy. In 1970 a breakaway organisation was set up - the National Tribal Council, with Aboriginal activists Kath Walker and Doug Nicholls as prominent members (Jennett, 1980:11-13). The advancement organisations tended to adopt a reformist approach to change, in contrast to the more immediate and far-reaching change being sought by the newer radical Aboriginal activists. The Australian Black Panther Party, established in 1972, was one response to the call for a more direct form of action, with its call to arms, among other demands (Robinson, 1993:28).

As change was sweeping through such organisations, a loose coalition of young Indigenous activists was also forming in the urban centres of Redfern (NSW), Fitzroy (Victoria) and South Brisbane (Queensland). Their political philosophy centered on Indigenous self-determination and economic independence, to be achieved through land rights (Foley, 2001).

Of particular significance to the 1972 events in Canberra was the rise of the black power movement in NSW. A significant migration of young Aboriginal people from country NSW to the city occurred in the 1960s, and a strong sense of community developed in Redfern, Sydney. There was much discussion of black power ideals, and young Aboriginal people set about raising their level of political consciousness, and taking action (Robinson, 1993 and Foley,

2001 provide a more detailed description of these days). One expression of self-determination was the establishment of a number of community services, operated by and for Aboriginal people. Key among these were the Breakfast Program, the Aboriginal Legal Service and the Aboriginal Medical Service (Robinson, 1993:22). An element of more radical Aboriginal activism emerged, and protests during the early 1970s focused on direct action - demonstrations, marches and peaceful sit-ins (refer Foley, 2001:10 for further detail and examples).

The Australian Black Power movement was arguably at its peak by the end of 1971, and the activists were poised for further action.

By the end of 1971, many of the citizenship rights that had been fought for over the last 50 years had been gained, and Aboriginal political protest was increasingly focused on land as a means of gaining economic independence and improving living conditions. There was a greater sense of belonging to an 'Aboriginal Australia', with its own unique culture, and an entitlement to the land to which people belonged, and that had been taken away by Europeans. With the 1967 Referendum, the Commonwealth government now had the ability to recognise the uniqueness of Aboriginal culture heritage and people's relationships with country, and legislate on behalf of Aborigines across Australia. As a result of court decisions such as Nabalco (Yolngu people), some Aboriginal activists believed that new laws were necessary to deliver the rights that they sought, rather than relying upon the reform of existing legislation and structures. Embracing the ideals of black pride and self-determination, some Aboriginal activists were primed for political action of a greater magnitude than previously witnessed. Each of these 'threads' wove together and set the stage for the Aboriginal Tent Embassy protest action.

WAVE 1 - THE ABORIGINAL TENT EMBASSY

In his Australia Day statement on 25 January 1972, the Prime Minister William McMahon announced a new form of general purpose lease for land on Aboriginal reserves (excluding existing missions, reserves and crown land), valid for fifty years and conditional upon Aboriginal people's 'intention and ability to make reasonable economic and social use of land' and which would 'exclude all mineral and forest rights' (Horton, 1994:1062).

'Outraged' by the announcement, a group of Aboriginal activists met in Sydney to decide their response. Ideas had been circulating for some months about a symbolic protest, and a suggestion had been made that an 'embassy' was one way to achieve this. A vigil was immediately established outside the NSW Parliament (Goodall, 1996:338), however it was decided that more direct action was needed. With a high degree of spontaneity, Tribune photographer Noel Hazard drove four protesters to Canberra. Arriving late in the evening, the protesters initially stopped at the home of an Australian National University lecturer, and were offered materials and a beach umbrella. In the early hours of the morning, the beach umbrella and a sign announcing the protest as an 'embassy' were set up on the lawns of Parliament House (Robinson, 1993:93-94) – and the Aboriginal Embassy was born.

Michael Anderson was a prominent public figure in the early days of the demonstration, dressed in black and wearing a Black Power badge. In his first public statement, he made a demand for land rights, emphasising the original dispossession of Aboriginal people and the Embassy's opposition to the Gove mining proposal. In a second statement, it was announced that the Embassy would remain on the lawns in protest until the policy statement by the government was retracted and land rights granted; a demand for compensation was also made. A comprehensive statement of demands was issued by the Aboriginal Embassy Cabinet Committee on 6 February – a five point plan for land rights:

1. Full State rights to the Northern Territory under Aboriginal ownership and control with all titles to minerals etc.
2. Ownership of all other reserves and settlements throughout Australia with all titles to minerals and mining rights.
3. The preservation of all sacred lands not included in Points 1 and 2.
4. Ownership of certain areas of certain cities with all titles to minerals and mining rights.
5. As compensation, an initial payment of 6 billion dollars for all other land throughout Australia plus a percentage of the gross national income per annum.

(Aboriginal Embassy, Canberra. Information sheet, 1972).

Numbers grew as news of the embassy traveled through Aboriginal organisations and communities. The embassy became a small camp with supporters from Victoria and Queensland, and in April it consisted of eight tents. The protest attracted support from many quarters, including Australian National University students, the Australian Council of Trade Unions and other non-Indigenous people (Robinson, 1993:97), and drew gestures of support from other Aboriginal people across Australia. In the early days, a group of representatives from Yirrkala and Elcho,

Melville and Bathurst islands, in Canberra for talks, identified themselves to the Embassy. This served to enhance the sense of pan-Aboriginal support for the protest, and as Yunupingu recalled 'Everyone heard' of the Embassy in remote areas (Robinson, 1993:103). In July, busloads of Aborigines came from Queensland and South Australia, although many elders in more remote areas (e.g. Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia) were opposed to further protest, fearing that the violence that was a feature of clashes between police and protesters might lead to a loss of lives (Robinson, 1993:160). People had said they were willing to die to defend the Embassy (Robinson, 1993:160). The violence led to fresh support from many white Australians, and a high media profile. During the first six months of its existence, the Aboriginal Tent Embassy gained national and international media coverage, including print media and television; and a number of publications were written by and for Aboriginal people (Robinson, 1993:120-121).

In a visit to the embassy during the initial protest days, the leader of the Opposition, Gough Whitlam, expressed support for Aboriginal land rights and other components of the embassy's 'five point' plan. These events assisted in shaping Labor's policy on Indigenous issues: following their election win in 1972 Labor went on to establish an Aboriginal Land Rights Commission in 1973. This led to the first legislation allowing a claim of title if claimants could show evidence of their traditional association with land - the *Aboriginal Land Rights Northern Territory Act 1976 (Cth)*.

A full description of the events at the Embassy during this time can be found in Robinson (1993); while Dow (2000) provides a chronology of the key events at and relating to the embassy from the its establishment until 2000. A summary of the key actions in 1972 is provided below.

1972

- 22 February 60 protesters attended a rally outside Parliament House calling for land rights (Parliament in session)
- 11 May The Minister for the Interior announces the Governments' intention to bring in an Ordinance to 'fill a need in relation to the law regarding trespass on Commonwealth lands in Canberra', making it an offence to camp on such land within the city.
- 20 July The amended *Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance* is gazetted. Between 60-150 police remove tents, and there are violent actions between police and approximately 70 Aboriginal people and students. Eight people are arrested in a confrontation, and there are injuries on both sides.
- 23 July A meeting is held between Department of Interior officials and Aboriginal Tent Embassy representatives; representatives indicate they were determined to make their protest in strong terms but were prepared to reach an understanding with police to avoid violence. The Department refuses permission to re-erect the tents. Two hundred people try to re-establish the embassy tents, in the presence of 360 police. Eighteen people were arrested, with injuries on both sides. It was described by one participant as 'one of the most violent confrontations in the history of Canberra'.
- 27 July The Minister for the Environment, Aborigines and the Arts refuses to meet a delegation of ATE representatives, who then send a telegram to the Prime Minister asking him to intervene.
- 30 July Two thousand people march to Parliament House and the embassy is re-erected. A standoff ensued; with peaceful protest and the later removal of tents by police.
- 16 August Four Aboriginal women chain themselves to the rails of the front step of parliament, removed by police with bolt-cutters.
- 12 September The *Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance* was judged not to be in effect by the ACT Supreme Court. The Aboriginal Tent Embassy was re-erected. A Bill to restore the ordinance retrospectively was passed; the ordinance was re-gazetted and the tents were removed the following morning.

The protest action concluded on 12 September 1972 with the passing of the *Trespass on Commonwealth Lands Ordinance*. The activists regarded the peaceful standoff and subsequent removal of tents on the 30 July 1972 as a 'great moral victory' for the movement, and Foley has argued that it represented the political high point for advocates of Black Power (Foley, 2001:13). Aboriginal activists focused on the democratic process for the remainder of 1972.

WAVE 2 -1972 TO 1992

Over the next twenty years various Indigenous protest actions were undertaken at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, and the embassy was re-established at this site on at least one occasion (and possibly more). The focus of protest actions

over this time broadened to encompass a range of Indigenous interests. On 30 October 1974, the embassy was re-established by the Organisation of Aboriginal Unity and a sit-in was staged both at the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA) and on the steps of Parliament House, demanding Aboriginal control of DAA and widening the term of the reference of the Woodward inquiry on land rights (Dow, 2000:11). The embassy remained until 13 February 1975 when Charles Perkins and the Minister for the Capital Territory negotiated its removal for two months, in which time the Government would be given a chance to 'do something positive about land rights not only for tribal Aboriginals but also for urban Aboriginals'. On 26 January 1982, the old Aboriginal embassy tent was briefly and symbolically re-erected (held up by hand) on the lawns as part of a commemoration event (No author, 1982:2).

The Aboriginal Embassy was also set up in other locations in Canberra (e.g. Red Hill, 1976; Capital Hill, 1979; Grevillea Park, 1991) (Dow, 2000) to protest on issues such as funding cutbacks, the threatened abolition of the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee, Aboriginal sovereignty, a bill of rights, and reconciliation legislation. The concept of an Aboriginal tent embassy as a means of taking protest action on issues such as Aboriginal housing, land rights and self-determination was also applied in other parts of the country (refer Attachment 1 for a list of other Aboriginal embassies).

In August 1987 the Parliament House Vista was entered in the Register of the National Estate, incorporating the site on which the Aboriginal Tent Embassy was situated.

WAVE 3 – 1992 TO PRESENT

The Aboriginal Tent Embassy has retained strong associations with many Indigenous people as an Aboriginal 'embassy' representing the interests of Aboriginal people in Australia, and as a place of protest on political issues. On the 20th anniversary of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, the embassy was re-established and sixty protesters occupied Old Parliament House, largely vacant. Voicing concern that Aboriginal affairs were starting to stagnate, representatives presented the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Affairs with the Declaration of Aboriginal Sovereignty, earlier sent to the United Nations and foreign embassies. Protesters were removed from Old Parliament House and four arrested; the arrest was organised so that claims for sovereignty and land rights could be heard by the courts (Dow, 2000:14). One hundred protesters marched from the embassy to the courts; however attempts to obtain a stay of proceedings so that the International Court of Justice could hear the issue of sovereignty were unsuccessful. In September 1993 over 600 representatives at a national meeting on native title legislation chose to congregate at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy and march to new Parliament House to protest against the extinguishment of land title that the new legislation heralded.

In April 1995 the Aboriginal Tent Embassy itself was listed on the Register of the National Estate. A ceremony marking the listing was attended by many Aboriginal activists connected with the Aboriginal Tent Embassy.

In 1998, the Sacred Fire for Peace and Justice was lit, and has been burning almost continuously since 1998 (it was initially extinguished).

Since its re-establishment, the Aboriginal Tent Embassy has been the focus of various activities, including:

- Protest action on issues such as ATSIC budget cuts (1996); Jabiluka uranium mine (1998); applications to arrest federal parliamentarians on genocide charges (1998);
- As a base for protest action at new Parliament House and the Governor-General's residence (1999);
- Memorial services (Kevin Gilbert, Black Allen, Billy Craigie) and other ceremonies (e.g.: marriages; a Cleansing Healing and Blessing Ceremony 1999).
- An annual Corroboree for Sovereignty on 26 January.

The Aboriginal Tent Embassy continues to present an image of Indigenous Australia that challenges both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Certain structures have been erected and removed amidst controversy while fires have destroyed structures and tents. In 2003 a study was commissioned by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) to examine future options for the Aboriginal Tent Embassy site (Brisbane City Enterprises, 2003), and further consultation with the some of the original activists has also been undertaken.

Attachment 1

Aboriginal tent embassies established in Australia (not an exhaustive list)

Date	Event	Reference
------	-------	-----------

June 1972	A tent embassy was set up outside the Western Australian state parliament remaining until the state government agreed to commit \$3m to Aboriginal housing projects.	Horton (1994: 1062-3)
1977	An Aboriginal Parliament tent was pitched outside Parliament in Hobart, Tasmania in relation to the Aboriginal Land Claim petition	Kirk (n.d)
1988	An Aboriginal tent embassy was erected at Mrs Macquarie's Chair, Sydney to draw attention to the 'Aboriginal struggle for land rights and self-determination' during the Commonwealth Games.	Dow (2000:13)
August 1991.	An embassy was set up in Grevillea Park, Canberra by the 'Sovereign Aboriginal Congress'. Delegates rejected the reconciliation legislation just passed.	Dow (2000:13).
early 1992	An Aboriginal Tent Embassy was set up in Queens Park, Brisbane, aiming to raise awareness of Indigenous issues and provide support for the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra. Key focus on protesting native title legislation in Queensland. Media coverage in Courier Mail. Embassy started with single tent then grew, constant presence, lasted for approximately 6 weeks. Ended with a march on Parliament House during Parliament sittings; Aboriginal people were excluded.	Shane Coghill, pers. com. 22/3/2005.
July - August 2000	A fire for peace and justice was lit and an Aboriginal Tent Embassy set up in Victoria Park, Sydney to raise awareness of the political issues of Indigenous Australians (coinciding with the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games). Specifically, the struggle for sovereignty, recognition of Aboriginal law and land rights, and the struggle against unacknowledged acts of genocide.	<u>ENIAR</u> , 2002 Bichard, 2002 No author, 2000
August 2001	The Aboriginal Tent Embassy apparently set up an office in the Hague, the Netherlands. This was part of a delegation to the Hague to initiate world court action. As part of this visit, it is also reported that an Aboriginal embassy was set up in Ireland for the recognition of Aboriginal sovereignty.	<u>ENIAR</u> , 2002
2002	An Aboriginal tent embassy was set up again in Victoria Park, Sydney.	<u>ENIAR</u> , 2002
2002 - 2004	An Aboriginal embassy was set up at Lake Cowal.	Neville Williams (2005)
May 2004	An Aboriginal tent embassy was set up again in Victoria Park, Sydney, linked to the investigations into the death of T.J. Hickey at Redfern. The embassy ended in c. August following negotiations with Sydney City Council and Lord Mayor Clover Moore.	<u>ENIAR</u> , 2002
November 2004	An Aboriginal tent embassy was established at Shell Cove Marina site, south of Wollongong, to monitor activities surrounding the Shell Cove development. Embassy spokesperson expressed particular concern about consultation processes and protocols.	ABC Radio News, 8/11/2004

[1] Note that Attwood et al (1999:9-10) suggest that early demands were couched in terms of a widely held political language of the time, in two forms which were often used at the same time. Some Aborigines legitimized their call for change on *historical* grounds, by reference to their prior occupation of the land, demanding land and other rights on the basis of that Aboriginality. In other instances, people called for equal rights as human beings, with no reference to history (also refer discussion by Goodall, 1996).

[2] The oldest active organisation, the Association for the Protection of Native Races, was formed in 1911, focusing its efforts on Aborigines after 1927. There were also small humanitarian organisations, the first of these founded in 1858, which had an emphasis on Aboriginal protection and uplift (Attwood *et al*, 1999:15).

[3] Note that Goodall has challenged the views of other researchers, who have suggested that it was not until the early 1960's that claims for ownership, use and access to land shifted from the ideal of rights for Aborigines as Australian citizens (ie: a concept of equality) to that of *Aboriginal* rights, as the Aboriginal people of Australia (ie: a concept of 'proprietary rights and entitlement to land). See for example Attwood *et al* (1999:20).

[4] This view is challenged by others, such as Goodall (1996: 308-309) .

Condition and Integrity

The vegetation of the site (trees, lawns) are regularly maintained. The condition of the site varies through time, dependent upon its current use.

Location

About 1.5ha, opposite the main entrance to the Old Parliament House, King George Terrace, Parkes, comprising all that part of Block 1 Section 58 bounded in the south-west by King George Terrace, and in the north-east by the south-west road edge of the road on the south western side of the ornamental pools. The north eastern boundary is parallel to and 110 metres north-east of King George Terrace.

Bibliography

Aboriginal Embassy, Canberra. 1972 Information sheet (held by Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies).

Atkinson, W. 2004 'Reconciliation & land justice: you can't have one without the other' - reflections on the future directions of the Yorta Yorta land claim', *Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues*, 7(2), p.24-28.

Attwood, B. and A. Markus 1999 *The struggle for Aboriginal rights: A documentary history*, Allen and Unwin.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) 2001 Timelines – the big picture, *Four Corners* (www.abc.net.au/4corners/4c40/timelines).

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) 2004 *Canberra ABC Radio News*, 8 November 2004.

Australian Heritage Database, Department of Environment and Heritage (searched 2005).

Bandler, F. 1972 comment in article in *The Bulletin*, 5 August 1972.

Richard, V. (Director) 2002 'Fire of the Land', Australia (www.roninfilms.com.au/video).

Bluett, W. P. 1954 The Aborigines of the CBR District at the arrival of the white man, Paper read to the CBR and District Historical Society, 29th May 1954.

Brisbane City Enterprises Pty Ltd in association with the Mirii Centre 2003 Review of the future of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, Canberra, Report to the Queanbeyan Regional Council, ATSIC.

Cassidy, D. n.d. 1965 Freedom Ride (www.freedomride.net).

Central and Northern Land Council 1991 'From little things, big things grow', *Land Rights News*, 2(23) (www.clc.org.au/ourland).

Clack, P. *Canberra Times*, 17 February 2002.

Coulthard-Clark, C. D. 1988 'The Aborigines who came to the opening of the first Parliament House', *Canberra Historical Journal*, 21, pp.26-27.

Cowan, G. 2004 'Nomadic Resistance: Tent Embassies and collapsible architecture. Illegal architecture and protest', (www.kooriweb.org/foley/history/1970s).

Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific, Deakin University (CHCAP) 2004 Creating an Australian democracy, Report prepared for the Department of Environment and Heritage.

Curthoys, A. 2002 'The Freedom Ride – its significance today', a public lecture by Prof. A. Curthoys at the National Museum of Australia, 4 September 2002.

Dow, C. 2000 'Aboriginal Tent Embassy: Icon or eyesore? Chronology 3 1999-2000', Social Policy Group, Department of the Parliamentary Library.

ENIAR 2002 Aboriginal Tent Embassy – the Hague Consulate Declaration, 2001 (www.eniar.org/news).

Foley, G. 1999 article in *Koori Mail*, 8 September 1999.

Foley, G. 2001 Black Power in Redfern 1968 – 1972, The Koori History Website (www.kooriweb.org).

Fulton, C. 1985 'Tassie', *Aboriginal Law Bulletin*, Aboriginal Law Research Unit, 16 October 1985, p.5.

Goodall, H. 1996 *Invasion to Embassy: Land in Aboriginal Politics in NSW, 1770-1972*, Allen & Unwin in association with Black Books.

- Gillespie, L. 1984 *Aborigines of the Canberra Region, Canberra*, CBR Publishing and Printing Co.
- Grattan, M. 1972 political correspondent, *The Age*. 22 July 1972.
- Hefner, R. 1987a 'Who was that masked man' ? Canberra Times, 13 December 1987.
- Hefner, R. 1987b 'The masked man was King Billy, but was he alone ?' Canberra Times, 27 December 1987.
- Horton, D. (ed) 1994 *Encyclopedia of Aboriginal Australia: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, society and culture*, Aboriginal Studies Press, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Canberra, p.1062-3.
- Jennett, C. 1980 'Ethnic politics: Aboriginal black power and land rights movement of the 70s', Australasian Political Studies Association annual conference, 1980.
- Kaus, D. 1995 Jimmy Clements and John Noble at the opening of Parliament House in 1927, information sheet, National Museum of Australia.
- Kirk, M. 'Land Rights in Tasmania', Aboriginal Treaty Committee Papers (www.aiatsis.gov.au/lbry/dig_prm/treaty/atc/mo027781_7_a.rtf).
- Moss, H. P. 1939 'Evidences of stone age occupation of the Australian Capital Territory', *Report of the 24th meeting of the Australia and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science*, Canberra, 24.
- Morphy, H. 2000 'Art and politics: The Bark Petition and the Barunga Statement', in S. Kleinert, M. Neale and R. Bancroft (eds) *The Oxford Companion to Aboriginal art and culture*, Oxford University Press.
- Muir, K. (Marnta Media Pty Ltd) 2003 Scoping an approach to identifying national heritage significance for sites associated with recognizing Indigenous rights, Report to the Australian Heritage Commission.
- Nakano- Jackson, A. n.d. Indigenous representation at Parliament House, notes on RNE file.
- Nakano- Jackson, A. 1996 'Of King Billy and Marvellous', *The Canberra Times*, 5 June 1996, p.12
- National Native Title Tribunal 2003 'Some key developments in native title case law since 'Mabo (no. 2)', *Studies in Western Australian history*, 23, p.19-26.
- No author 1982 "The same old "Embassy" tent goes up again', *Aboriginal Treaty News*, 4(2).
- No author, 2000 *Indigenous Law Bulletin*, 5(1), p.17-18.
- No author, n.d. Black Station, A4 pamphlet (possibly produced by Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre) (held by Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies).
- Robinson, R. 1957 'Mr Wallaby – related to Roland Robinson by Bob Andy at Wallaga Lake', *Dawn*, 6(12), p.22-23.
- Robinson, S. 1993 *The Aboriginal Embassy, 1972*. Thesis submitted for the degree of Master of Arts (History), Australian National University.
- Smith, S. 1992 *Mum Shirl – an autobiography*, 2nd. Edition, Mammoth Publishing, Port Melbourne.
- Wigmore, L. 1963 *The long view*, F. W. Cheshire Pty Ltd. (later republished in 1972 as *Canberra: history of Australia's national capital*).
- Personal communications
- Maluga, Trudi State Secretary, Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre. 6 December 2004.
- Hughes, Colin Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council. 7 December 2004.
- Shane Coghill, Queensland. 22 March 2005.

Media

Argus (Melbourne) 10 May 1927 Article on opening of Parliament House.

Canberra Times, 26 July 1997 Article in relation to the marriage of Rose and Arthur Kirby at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy site.

Canberra ACT Radio News, 8 November 2004.

Canberra Times, 17 February 2009.

Koori Mail, 9 February 2005, p.27.

Leader, 25 May 1912 relating to Nangar's presence at Empire Day in Orange.

The Bulletin, 5 August 1972.

The Sydney Morning Herald, 17 February 1999.

Report Produced Thu Mar 14 16:48:27 2019

[Accessibility](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#) | © Commonwealth of Australia



Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

Treasury Building, King Edward Tce, Parkes, ACT, Australia

Photographs	None
List	Commonwealth Heritage List
Class	Historic
Legal Status	Nominated place
Place ID	106258
Place File No	8/01/000/0549

Summary Statement of Significance Not Available

Official Values Not Available

Description

Treasury Building is a 1960s era construction of five interconnecting structures of varying heights between four and seven levels, including the basement. From ground level, the complex consists of a six-story central block (Building A), a five-story eastern and western wing (Buildings B and C), and two smaller three-story blocks to the north (Buildings D and E). The building has an external feature base section of polished granite. Above this, and continuing up to the floor line of level one, is weathered pink granite cladding, and above this is faced with sandstone. Recessed external aluminium windows have been used throughout. The facades are vertically divided into bays by accentuated sandstone clad columns. These bays have uniform horizontal rows of windows, broken at each level by two secondary vertical, equally spaced structural columns with sandstone facing and recessed spandrel panels above and below the windows. The main entry points for the Buildings B (east) and C (west) are located on the first level and are accessed via a set of wide granite stairs. Building C features a prominent entry awning supported on granite clad columns and trimmed in copper. This is the formal entry to the Treasury Building and makes a strong visual statement as the main facade of the building viewed from Commonwealth Avenue. In a central position above the stairs to both Buildings B and C there is a large copper moulded Australian Coat of Arms by artist Tom Bass. Situated over the northern and eastern entries to Building A, the central building, are six sculptured granite entry panels. The two ground level wings of Buildings D and E are inset from the buildings outer footprint and have a glass facade. Thick columns around the building perimeter give an appearance of strength and compliment the inset full height ground level glass frontage. The main entrances to both blocks face north and are surrounded by full height, highly polished, granite panels. Each building within the Treasury complex has a full copper sheet roof that is covered from view by the external sandstone walls extending above the roofline.

Well-kept grounds surround the Treasury Building. There are substantial lawns in the northern portions and small sections of lawn to the east, south and west sides. On all sides the lawns are divided by hard paved forecourt areas. The central-northern courtyard is paved at the western end and contains tables, seating and established garden beds. The courtyard's eastern end comprises the outdoor play area for a Child Care Centre. The rest of the courtyard is paved with a central sculpture fountain which was installed in 1969. The extreme northern boundary of the Treasury Building grounds is defined by two rows of planted, now mature, London Plane trees with a well-defined pathway leading to the northern entry to Building A. The front entrance for Building B has small grassed areas to the north and south sides and ground level planter boxes adjacent to the stairs. The rest of this area is hard surface, made up of either driveway, parking areas or footpaths. The southern portion of the Treasury Building is made up predominantly of exposed aggregate concrete pavers. Positioned in uniform square formation there are several concrete seating blocks and concrete planter boxes on either side of the buildings entry. Flanking the walkway entrance are large recessed grass areas that slope towards the building's basement level. The western side of the building, which is the Treasury Building's formal entry, there is a circled drive-through access road that provides covered entry from a car into the building. There are ground level planter boxes on either side of the main entry external stairs and two small grassed areas that extend to Langton Crescent.

The Treasury Building is located in the north-western corner of Canberra's Parliamentary Triangle, located on titled Block 1 Section 33 in the Division of Parkes, ACT.

The Treasury Building is a good example of the inter-war Stripped Classical style. Key features of this style are displayed by the building inclusive of: the symmetrical facades, the division of the elevations into vertical bays; the occasional use of correct Classical details; the use of a basic Classical column form; the expressed porticos, the simple surface treatments, and subdued spandrels between the storeys which emphasise verticality. Design elements which retain a high level of integrity include the exterior, foyers, stairwells, central corridors on Level 1 (Parkes Place West entry) and the ground floor (Newlands St entry).

History

The following is a chronology of the site's history from pre-European use of the site to the present day. A timeline has been included as a brief overview.

- 31,000 years ago (BP) Earliest evidence of Indigenous occupation of area
- 1788 Arrival of First Fleet to Botany Bay, Sydney
- 1824 Robert Campbell was awarded a land grant in the Canberra Queanbeyan region, known as 'Pialligo'.
- 1911 Royal Military College of Australia established.
- 1913 Walter Burley Griffin appointed Federal Capital Director of Design & Construction
- 1927 Treasury located in the West Block offices, which was a key location adjacent to the newly constructed Parliament House during the interwar period.
- 1927 Establishment of Canberra as the National Capital
- 1958 National Capital Development Commission established
- 1958 Treasury Building's location was selected to add balance and symmetry to the philosophy of the Parliamentary Triangle.
- 1961 Fowell Mansfield, Jarvis and Maclurcan was chosen to design the building in 'Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical' in style
- 1970 Building occupied by Treasury, the Commonwealth Taxation Office and components of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics
- 1999-2000 Major internal refurbishment
- 2000 Treasury relocated to the western end of refurbished building
- 2001 Department of Finance and Deregulation moved in eastern end
- 2001-2002 Introduction of Abacus Child Care Centre in Building B, including changes to landscaping in forecourts to Newlands Street and Kind Edward Terrace entrances
- 2002 NCA moved into building
- 2006 Parkes Place West handrail upgrade
- 2011 Facade conservation and remediation project
- 2011 Abacus Child Care Centre Extension
- 2011 Refurbishment of storage room in basement
- 2012 Cooling Tower works
- 2012 Paver removal and replacement around Building C entry
- 2012-13 Security upgrade, interior of Treasury tenancy

Condition and Integrity

Construction work for the building began in 1963 and was planned as a three stage building project, completed in 1969. The building's original 1960s interior underwent a major refurbishment between 1999 and 2000. Good quality and finely polished marble floors and terrazzo wall panels were retained during the refurbishment and line several areas in the entries, public and lift foyers of the building complex. It appears that the terrazzo was re-instated during the refurbishment as all moulding is recent. The Treasury Building has been maintained internally and externally to a high standard. All fixtures are of high quality materials, designed to last, and remain in good, sound condition. The sandstone facade underwent conservation works which were completed in 2010. Overall the building is in good condition.

Location

Located on King Edward Terrace, Parkes, comprising the whole of Block 1 Section 33 Parkes.

Bibliography

- ACT Heritage Library Photographic Collection
- Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P., 1989, *A Pictorial Guide to identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*. Harper Collins, Sydney.
- Australian Heritage Commission, 2001, *Australian Historic Themes – A Framework for use in Heritage Assessment and Management*, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.
- Australian Heritage Commission, 2002, *Ask First - A guide to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra*.
- Australian Heritage Commission, 2002, *Australian Natural Heritage Charter for the conservation of places of natural heritage significance (2nd edition)* Australian Heritage Commission/Australian Committee for IUCN, Canberra.
- Barber, M., 1991, *Report on fieldwork at Honeysuckle Homestead April 27 to 11 May, 1991*. A report to the Canberra Archaeological Society Inc.
- Barwick, D. E. 1984, 'Mapping the Past: An Atlas of Victorian Clans 1835 – 1904', *Aboriginal History* 8 pp. 100-132.
- Bennett, G. 1834, *Wanderings in New South Wales, Batavia, Pedir Coast, Singapore and China: being the journal of a naturalist in those countries, during 1832, 1833 and 1834*. Two volumes, Bently, London.
- Best, J. G, D'Addario, G. W., Wagpole, B. P., Rose, G. (1963), *Canberra Geological Map (Sheet SI 55-61)*, Geology by Bureau of Mineral Resources and Geological Survey of New South Wales with contributions from Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority, Australian National University, Sydney University and Sydney Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board, (Mercury-Walch, Hobart, Tasmania.)
- Clark, I. D. 1990, *Aboriginal Languages and Clans: An Historical Atlas of Western and Central Victoria, 1800-1900*. Monash Publications in Geography, Number 37, Department of Geography and Environmental Science, Monash University, Melbourne.
- Connell Wagner, 2008, *Treasury Building, Parkes, ACT – Façade Maintenance Works Technical Specification*, prepared for United Group Limited.
- Conner, J. R., 1970, *A Guide to Canberra Buildings*. The Royal Institute of Architects, Melbourne.
- Cooke, H., 1988, *An Interpretation of the Prehistory of Blue Water Holes and Cooleman Plain, New South Wales*, BA (Hons) thesis, Australian National University, Canberra.
- Cross, R. L. 1985, *Bygone Queanbeyan Revised Edition*. Queanbeyan Publication Company.
- Department of Treasury, 2001, *100 Years of Public Service*, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra
- Environmental Resources Management (ERM). 2005, *Duntroon Parade Ground and Associated Buildings*. Unpublished report prepared for the Department of Defence.
- ERM, 2009. 'Nigel Bowen Commonwealth Law Courts, Canberra. Heritage Assessment'. Department of Finance and Deregulation
- Flood, J., 1980, *The Moth Hunters: Aboriginal Prehistory of the Australian Alps*. Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, Canberra.
- Flood, J., 1995, *Archaeology of the Dreamtime: the story of prehistoric Australia and its people*. (2nd edition) Angus & Robertson, Pymble, N.S.W.
- GHD, 1999, *Refurbishment of Treasury Building Parkes – Design Approval Drawings*, prepared for Domestic Property Operations Group
- Garnett, R. and Hyndes, D., 1992, *The Heritage of the Australian Capital Territory*. National Trust of Australia, ACT.
- Hutchinson, M., 2000, *Developing Images: Mildenhall's Photographs of Early Canberra*. National Archives of Australia.
- Navin, K., 1993, *Archaeological Survey Fyshwick Expansion Area, ACT*. Report to Maunsell Pty Ltd.
- Navin Officer., 1994. *Preliminary Archaeological Assessment – Canberra Abattoir Site*. ACT. A report to CMPS&F. National Archives of Australia Photographic Collection Series A3560, A1200 and A1500
- National Capital Development Commission 1959, *Planning Report covering Proposals for the Five Year Period 1959-1964*, 28 February 1959.
- National Capital Development Commission, *Annual Reports, 1959-62, 1964-67*.
- National Capital Development Commission 1961, *Planning Report*, February 1961.
- Saunders, P., 1994, Block 2099, Jerrabomberra, ACT: *Preliminary Cultural Resource Survey and Artefact Collection*. A report to the Land Division, Department of the Environment, Land and Planning.
- Saunders, P., 2004, *Fyshwick Section 48 Cultural Heritage Assessment*. A report for Cardno Young Pty Ltd by Patricia Saunders Archaeological heritage Surveys.
- Sparke, E., 1988, *Canberra 1954-1980*. Australian Government Publishing Services, Canberra.
- Tindale, N. B., 1974, *Aboriginal Tribes of Australia: Their Terrain, Environment Controls, Distribution, Limits and Proper Names*. University of California Press.

Report Produced Thu Mar 14 16:47:57 2019
--

Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

Canberra and Surrounding Areas, Northbourne Av, Canberra, ACT, Australia

Photographs	None
List	National Heritage List
Class	Historic
Legal Status	<u>Nominated place</u>
Place ID	106074
Place File No	8/01/000/0134

Nominator's Summary Statement of Significance

Canberra is of outstanding significance for the people of Australia because it was planned and constructed to symbolise, and function as, the epicentre of Australian democracy. Canberra is the city created by Federation (when six Australian colonies became States within a Commonwealth) to be the seat of government for the nation. It is the place where the Parliament of Australia meets, where Commonwealth legislation is debated and promulgated, and where the Prime Minister and Governor-General reside; and where, through the open doors of Parliament House, the people can witness democracy in action.

Canberra hosts many of the nation's most significant social, cultural institutions and commemorative events, for example Australia day, Anzac day, the apology to the Stolen generations, and for public rallies and protests.

Canberra's outstanding significance has been endorsed and publicised by a number of Australian and international (professional) experts over the last one hundred years. A selection of their comments is included in Attachment A, Part 1.

While certain parts of Canberra are already rightly on the National Heritage List (the Old Parliament House and curtilage; the High Court-National Gallery precinct; the Australian War Memorial and the memorial parade; the Australian Academy of Science building; and parts of the Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves, including Namadgi National Park, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and the Brindabella National Park), its overall integrity as a pre-eminent capital 'city in the landscape' can only be effectively measured by examining the three distinct legacies left by the various planning layers that have accumulated over time, and the distinct stages of Parliamentary commitment that have occurred over the past one hundred years.

The first legacy period (1890-1921) must itself be divided into two periods: the pre-Griffin period from 1890 to 1912, the year of the announcement of the winners of the International Design Competition for Canberra, and the Griffin period from 1913 to 1921. The pre-Griffin period includes: the Constitutional Convention debates in the 1890s about the need for a national capital for a new nation; the 'Battle of the Sites', the prolonged and exhaustive search for the best and most inspiring site for the new capital; the Charles Scrivener survey of the Canberra site, which produced the topographic map forwarded to all the entrants in the design competition; and the intense controversy surrounding the competition itself (see Reps, 1997). These are the decades when the practical and philosophical groundwork was laid for the planning, design and implementation for a model city which Walter Burley Griffin famously suggested would be 'an ideal city' for a nation of 'bold democrats'. A selection of responses from key people are cited in Attachment A, Part 2.

The Griffin period, from 1913 to 1921, entails those years when Walter Burley Griffin was employed by the Commonwealth as the Federal Capital Director of Design and Construction. Special attention is also to be given to Marion Mahoney Griffin, Griffin's professional partner and wife, who though not officially registered with the winning entry, is widely believed to be a contributor to both her husband's success and the quality of the final design. This period is best represented by Griffin's plan of 1918, the last Plan he signed and approved. Specific design aspects of Griffin's legacy include the land and water axes, parts of Lake Burley Griffin, the structure of main avenues and some of the road patterns in the inner areas, and the masterly integration of topography and landscape into the overall plan. Examples include ANZAC Parade, Commonwealth and Kings Avenues, and Constitution Avenue.

The second legacy comprises the work carried out, from 1921 to 1949, by the Federal Capital Advisory Committee, the Federal Capital Commission and the National Capital Planning and Development Committee - including the suburban areas of inner Canberra with their treed streetscapes, as well as some individual elements of the built fabric such as Old Parliament House, East and West Blocks, the Administration Building, the Australian War Memorial, the Sydney and

Melbourne Buildings, School of Anatomy, Hotel Acton and Beauchamp House. This period is characterised by the 1925 gazetted Plan of Layout, derived from the 1918 Griffin plan. While Griffin's name and reputation fell from favour in the inter-war period (see Headon 2003), the Plan of Layout remained the framework for Canberra's development for some fifty to sixty years. Gazettal of the Plan of Layout meant that any variations to the plan had to be scrutinised by a Joint Committee of both houses of Parliament, and this remained the case from 1925 through to the late 1980s, when the ACT was granted self-government.

The third legacy spans the period from 1950 to 1988 - a legacy with its firm foundations in the monumental Report from the Select Committee Appointed to Inquire into and Report upon the Development of Canberra (1955). The Senate Select Committee asserted the need to re-commit to the design of Griffin-- 'The more one studies Griffin's plan and his explanatory statements, the more obvious it is that departures from his main principles should not be lightly countenanced' - and it unequivocally endorsed the sentiments of the President of the Australian Planning Institute, who described the Griffin's scheme as 'a grand plan'.

In response to the Senate Report, the Australian Government established the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) in 1957-8. This was the Menzies/Holford/NCDC era. Prominent British planner, Sir William Holford, was commissioned by the Commonwealth in 1957 to report on Canberra's development. His report recommended that the 'Garden City' concept be retained, that an improved traffic system needed to be developed, and reinforced the idea that Canberra should be developed as a cultural centre (Holford 1958). The Commonwealth tasked the NCDC to report on Holford's report. The period encompassed: the completion in 1963 of Lake Burley Griffin and the surrounding parklands; the design and development of the three discrete new towns of Woden-Weston Creek, Belconnen and Tuggeranong (and Gungahlin 'conceptually' in the NCDC's metropolitan plans-- its construction did not commence until after the NCDC was abolished); the network of open spaces between the towns known as the National Capital Open Space System (Seddon 1977; & National Capital Plan 8. National Capital Open Space System); the peripheral road hierarchy and parkway network; and the major government, cultural and administrative facilities in the Parliamentary Zone, not the least of which is Parliament House itself. Given the many decades of delay that Canberra had already experienced, Prime Minister Robert Menzies recognised the need to ensure that the NCDC reported to the Parliament and operated within the span of his own authority (Troy 1993:8). In his first Prime Ministership (1939-41) Menzies was someone who, by his own admission, hated Canberra. In his second Prime Ministership, however, he became an unashamed 'apostle' and advocate for the city, and is reported as saying that "Canberra is my pride and joyit will continue beyond question" (The Canberra Times 1989).

In October 1992, a Commonwealth Parliamentary 'Joint Committee on the National Capital', in a report titled: 'Our Bush Capital - Protecting and Managing the National Capital's Open Spaces' recommended that: 'The Commonwealth and ACT governments explore the possibility that the parts of Canberra designed by Walter and Marion Burley Griffin (sic) and the surrounding hills and open spaces be included in the indicative list of possible Australian World Heritage Sites.'

The significant features of Canberra's fabric thus include:

- the National Triangle and Parliamentary Zone, with the Land Axis vista stretching between Parliament House and the Australian War Memorial against the backdrop of Mount Ainslie;
- Lake Burley Griffin and its landscaped foreshores;
- the main approach roads and grand tree-lined avenues identified in Griffin's plan;
- The National Capital Open Space System including Hills, Rivers and Buffer Spaces, the River Corridors, and the Mountains and Bushlands; forming a continuum of natural and park-like settings, preserving a visual and symbolic backdrop for the National Capital, reinforcing the natural, cultural, scenic and recreational values of the ACT (National Capital Plan: 8. National Capital Open Space System Principles and Policies).
- The broad structure principle of new towns (Woden/Weston, Belconnen, Tuggeranong and Gungahlin) each with its own town centre and self contained services, as proposed in the 1984 Metropolitan Plan; preserving the open character of the city by limiting the extent of the existing districts and forming new settlements in the valleys between the main hills; extending the National Capital Open Space System as a visual backdrop and landscape setting for the National Capital, reinforcing the natural, cultural, scenic and recreational values of the ACT (refer National Capital Plan: 8. National Capital Open Space System Principles and Policies).
- Extant elements of the 1918 Griffin Plan and the 1925 Gazetted Plan which have set the framework for Central Canberra, including the avenues, open spaces, structures, axial lines and subdivision geometries (many of which are not covered by the National Capital Plan);
- Early garden suburbs of the FCAC and FCC, and other prototypical suburbs in Central Canberra by subsequent planning agencies up to 1984;
- The broad scale metropolitan structure (beyond Central Canberra) based on the principle of discrete and decentralised new towns (Woden/Weston, Belconnen, Tuggeranong and Gungahlin) each with its own town centre and relatively self-contained services, as proposed in the 1984 Metropolitan Plan; with particular emphasis on preserving the open character of the city by limiting the extent of the existing districts and forming new settlements in the valleys between the main hills; extending the National Capital Open Space System as a visual backdrop and landscape setting for the National Capital;
- The building height restrictions in Central Canberra, limiting building heights to below the base of the flag pole on

Parliament House at the apex of the Parliamentary Triangle, to preserve the primacy of the major public buildings and a dominant landscape horizon, and giving Canberra a distinct identity as a horizontal city subservient to the landscape;

- The peripheral parkways dispersing the peak traffic around the new towns, in scenic landscape corridors, rather than through the urban neighbourhoods; and
- The river corridors and landscape views of the Brindabellas that form the backdrop - or in Griffin's words, the 'amphitheatre' -- to the city when viewed from the hill tops in the National Capital Open Space System around Central Canberra.

Official Values Not Available

Description

Canberra was purpose-built as the capital for the newly established nation and is Australia's only comprehensively planned city. It is one of only a very few of the world's capital cities designated as such before they were created. Walter Burley Griffin's plan for the national capital was chosen through an international worldwide design competition and, as anticipated at the time, the city has since grown in relation to Australia's population as a whole.

Canberra's unique design and planning over the past one hundred years embodies many of the ideas and messages incorporated in the theme for 2009. Canberra can be described as:

- the city that the Federation created – a city reflecting the spirit of democracy and nation-building that inspired the emergence of a new nation.
- the national capital of a proud nation that has made a significant contribution to democracy globally as one of the world's oldest stable democracies.
- the permanent site of Australia's democracy, in its design embodying the separation of powers between the judiciary and the legislature. Canberra is home to the three integral elements of Australian democracy: namely, the High Court, the Parliament and the Executive (Prime Minister and Cabinet).
- embodying Australia's distinctive identity, with its endorsement of egalitarian concepts of 'the fair go' and mateship through a historic (and legislated) social planning commitment to deliver liveable towns and neighbourhoods, and accessible community facilities, services and open spaces for its residents.
- the symbolic home of: Australia's diverse cultural, political and religious perspectives; its past struggles and victories for fairer conditions and greater social equality, which saw Australia earn the reputation, in the early decades of the twentieth century, as 'the social laboratory of the world'; a uniquely significant nomenclature of places, streets and suburbs according to a grid of particular national themes, with a noble, informed history dating back to the FCAC in 1921-4; most of Australia's national 'treasure-house' institutions (including the Australian War Memorial, the National Gallery, the National Library, the National Portrait Gallery, the National Museum, the National Film and Sound Archive, the National Archives, the Australian Institute of Sport, the National Botanic Gardens, and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies); its unparalleled (in Australia) collection of monuments and commemorative spaces marking defining moments in Australian history.
- a model city representing the best theories of the emergent town planning movement at the beginning of the twentieth century in relation to 'democratic' open space planning, through the provision of public parks, access to town and country, public transport, healthy light-filled homes and gardens, and the absence of urban congestion allowing individuals a maximum of freedom to engage with 'the recreational and cultural life of the capital' (Griffin, 1934); or, 'a civic life such as is not attainable in any other modern city wherein the complexities up to our time have so multiplied the confusion as to stifle the freedom and expression of individual life and the development of a true culture' (Griffin, 1927).

History

Canberra's planning history is rich, complex and, above all, nationally and internationally significant. The first plan for 'the capital of an Australian union' was proposed as early as 1829, by English landscape designer, John Claudius Loudon. Recognising the opportunity that the relatively blank slate of the colonies offered for producing 'ideal' plans, Loudon's plan foreshadowed practically all the tenets of Ebenezer Howard's Garden City concept that came to be included in Canberra - including limiting urban growth by green belts, combining 'the best of town & country', central zones for government and cultural buildings (civic centres) in landscaped parks, radial boulevards as rapid transit corridors, public ownership of land to control settlement in the public interest - thus placing Canberra in the international narrative of town planning progress as a culminating chapter.

In brief, it was Australia's particular good fortune to become a nation at a critical junction in the history of global planning: the end of the nineteenth century when the 'science' (and profession) of town planning was beginning to emerge at last as the direct result of—and reaction to—too many centuries of untrammelled urban growth across the globe. 'Garden City' and 'City Beautiful' concepts captured the attention of a generation of Australian town planners with a new capital city design in mind. The design professionals who organised the historic 'Congress of Engineers, Architects and Surveyors', and who intentionally gathered in Melbourne at precisely the same moment as the opening of the first Australian Parliament (May 1901), were determined to exert an influence on the nation's future capital. They were not prepared to leave such an important issue as this up to the politicians alone. Thus, Canberra's 'Battle of the Sites' and early design history inevitably engaged with 'world's best practice' design ideas. These ideas soon gained global publicity through the vehicle of the first international planning conference, held in London in October 1910 and attended by the world's most important planners of the era—among them, Daniel Burnham, Ebenezer Howard, Raymond Unwin and Australia's leading planning practitioner, (Sir) John Sulman. Just six months after this conference, the international design competition for Canberra was announced (Reps 1997:9). The timing was perfect.

As earlier discussed, Canberra's planning and development would eventually evolve in three major periods and involve six major plans. Each has made a significant contribution to Canberra's planning history, to entrenching some of Griffin's visionary ideals. In the Griffin years and for decades to come, there were no town planning ministries in any of the States. When they were created, they ranked very low in the political hierarchy with no authority or capacity to co-ordinate the provision of infrastructure or services for urban development (Troy 1993:3). The Royal Australian Planning Institute was finally established as a national institute at a first Congress-- in Canberra's famed Albert Hall, in August 1951 (Norman 1993:5). It is only against this idiosyncratic political, social and cultural background that Canberra's national planning heritage can be properly evaluated (see Headon 2003).

Canberra's planned fabric is widely recognised. Planners, architects and landscape architects from around the world come to the city to study how a new nation planned and developed its national capital. Summing up a strongly endorsed opinion abroad, renowned American architecture historian Professor John Reps stated in 1997 that Canberra deserves 'recognition and protection as one of the treasures, not only of Australia, but of the entire urban world'. Closer to home, Parliament House's design architect, Romaldo Giurgola, put the case with eloquent simplicity and insight: *'Canberra remains among the nation's greatest achievements'*.

Condition and Integrity

The physical fabric of Canberra's planning history—expressed through the three legacies cited in Question 5-- are in sound condition. Significant features of the fabric include:

- the National Triangle and Parliamentary Zone, with the Land Axis stretching between Parliament House and the Australian War Memorial against the backdrop of Mount Ainslie;
- Lake Burley Griffin and its landscaped foreshores;
- the main approach roads and grand tree-lined avenues identified in Griffin's plan;
- The National Capital Open Space System including Hills, Rivers and Buffer Spaces, the River Corridors, and the Mountains and Bushlands; forming a continuum of natural and park-like settings, preserving a visual and symbolic backdrop for the National Capital, reinforcing the natural, cultural, scenic and recreational values of the ACT (National Capital Plan: 8. *National Capital Open Space System Principles and Policies*).
- The broad structure principle of new towns (Woden/Weston, Belconnen, Tuggeranong and Gungahlin) each with its own town centre and self contained services, as proposed in the 1984 Metropolitan Plan; preserving the open character of the city by limiting the extent of the existing districts and forming new settlements in the valleys between the main hills; extending the National Capital Open Space System as a visual backdrop and landscape setting for the National Capital, reinforcing the natural, cultural, scenic and recreational values of the ACT (refer National Capital Plan: 8. *National Capital Open Space System Principles and Policies*).
- Extant elements of the 1918 Griffin Plan and the 1925 Gazetted Plan which have set the framework for Central Canberra, including the avenues, open spaces, structures, axial lines and subdivision geometries (many of which are not covered by the National Capital Plan);
- Early garden suburbs of the FCAC and FCC, and other prototypical suburbs in Central Canberra by subsequent planning agencies up to 1984;
- the broadscale metropolitan structure (beyond Central Canberra) based on the principle of decentralised new towns (Woden/Weston, Belconnen, Tuggeranong and Gungahlin) each with its own town centre and relatively self-contained services, as proposed in the 1984 Metropolitan Plan; with particular emphasis on preserving the open character of the city by limiting the extent of the existing districts and forming new settlements in the valleys between the main hills; extending the National Capital Open Space System as a visual backdrop and landscape setting for the National Capital;
- the building height restrictions in Central Canberra, limiting building heights to below the base of the flag pole on Parliament House at the apex of the Parliamentary Triangle, to preserve the primacy of the major public buildings and a dominant landscape horizon, and giving Canberra a distinct identity as a horizontal city subservient to the landscape;
- the peripheral parkways dispersing the peak traffic around the new towns, in scenic landscape corridors, rather than through the urban neighbourhoods; and
- the river corridors and landscape views of the Brindabellas that form the backdrop—or in Griffin's words, the 'amphitheatre'-- to the city when viewed from the hill tops in the National Capital Open Space System around Central Canberra.

It should be noted that this nomination recognises a series of overlapping 'legacies' of different planning eras that have shaped Canberra, some reinforcing earlier plans, others in contradiction. While highly valued elements and principles of original planning survive on a broad scale, some have been, and will continue to be, altered in detail over time. This is consistent with the fact that Canberra is a living city and the principle that a good town planning framework stands the test of time, protecting the important features of an overarching framework, while allowing details to adapt to evolving needs and technologies.

Location

The curtilage of this nomination is derived from the National Capital Development Commission's 1984 *Metropolitan Policy Plan/Development Plan* as amended up to the end of 1988 and incorporated in the National Capital Plan at the time of self-government for the Territory. It extends to the whole of Metropolitan Canberra but with particular focus on the following elements (for clarity, National Capital Plan terminology is used to describe particular elements):

- All land in the *Designated Areas* as defined in the National Capital Plan (<http://downloads.nationalcapital.gov.au/plan/ncp/seca.pdf>), these include:
 - § the *Parliamentary Zone* and *National Triangle*;
 - § *Lake Burley Griffin* and its landscaped foreshores;
 - § the *Main Avenues and Approach Routes*;
 - § *Hills, Ridges and Buffer Spaces* (extending the National Capital Open Space System as a visual backdrop and landscape setting for the National Capital, and defining discrete, decentralised new towns (Woden/Weston, Belconnen, Tuggeranong and Gungahlin) as proposed in the 1984 Metropolitan Plan) each with its own town centre and preserving the open character of the city by limiting the extent of the existing towns and forming new settlements in the valleys between the main hills and forming a visual backdrop and landscape setting for the National Capital.
- the *River Corridors*, and the *Mountains and Bushlands*;
- Extant elements of the 1918 Griffin Plan and the 1925 Gazetted Plan which have set the framework for Central Canberra, including the avenues, open spaces, structures, axial lines and subdivision geometries (many of which are not covered by the National Capital Plan);

- Early garden suburbs of the Federal Capital Commission, and other prototypical suburbs in Central Canberra by subsequent planning agencies (including the former National Capital Development Commission) up to 1984;
- The building height restrictions in Central Canberra, limiting building heights to below the base of the flag pole on Parliament House at the apex of the National Triangle, to preserve the primacy of major public buildings within a dominant landscape horizon, giving Canberra a distinctive identity as a horizontal city subservient to landscape; and
- The river corridors and landscape views of the Brindabella's that form the backdrop to the city when viewed from the hill tops in the National Capital Open Space System around Central Canberra, and as described by Griffin as forming the backdrop to the 'amphitheatre' of central Canberra, i.e.: 'the purple distant mountain ranges; sun-reflecting, forming the back scene'.

The following addendum is made to assist with the interpretation of the two maps provided.

The first map of the whole of the ACT shows the following inclusions:

- That much of the Australian Alps National Parks that is within the ACT and forms the dominant landscape horizon and backdrop to the city when viewed from Central Canberra and hilltops in the National Capital Open Space System around Central Canberra; and
- That much of the *River Corridors* (as defined by the National Capital Plan) of the Murrumbidgee and Molonglo Rivers (also shown as NUZ4 River Corridor on the Territory Plan).

The second map showing the detailed map of Canberra and the immediate environs shows the following inclusions:

- All land within the Designated Areas as defined in the National Capital Plan and as shown on the second map but excluding the airport;
- The *Main Avenues and Approach Routes* as depicted in the National Capital Plan and as shown on the second map;
- The National Capital Open Space System and inner hills as shown on the second map capturing the broad scale metropolitan structure (beyond Central Canberra) at the concept level and the principle of discrete and decentralised new towns (Woden/Weston, Belconnen, Tuggeranong and Gungahlin) each with its own town centre and relatively self-contained services, as proposed in the 1984 Metropolitan Policy Plan Development Plan;
- The whole of Central Canberra (excluding Fyshwick and North Watson) as this area contains extant elements of the 1918 Griffin Plan and the 1925 Gazetted Plan for Canberra, early garden suburbs of the Federal Capital Commission, other prototypical suburbs in Central Canberra planned by subsequent planning agencies (including the former National Capital Development Commission) up to 1984 and gives effect to the significant achievement of Canberra as a designed city in the landscape.

Specifically **excluded**:

1. Within the built environment of Central Canberra: all land outside the public domain that is not within the Designated Areas as defined in the National Capital Plan – i.e. residential and commercial land, buildings and structures outside the avenues, streets, parklands, parkways, key vistas and major public buildings comprising the historic layout of the city. Exceptions include the principles of building height control, setbacks, and no-front-fences which preserve the essential character of Canberra as a city in the landscape; and the early garden suburbs where architectural fabric and streetscapes (i.e. the 'private realm') are important to heritage significance (such as those entered on the ACT heritage list as Canberra's Early Garden City Planned Precincts in Ainslie, Braddon, Reid, Kingston, Barton, Griffith and Forrest).
2. In the New Towns: all the urban areas including buildings, roads, and open spaces which are not part of the continuum of the National Capital Open Space System comprising the *Inner Hills Ridges and Buffer Spaces*.
3. In the Australian Alps National Parks, the same areas excluded from the existing National Heritage Listing.

Bibliography

Legislation

Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988 (Cth)

Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900 (UK)

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) (Cth)

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Regulations 2003 (No.1) (Cth)

Seat of Government Act 1908 (Cth)

Seat of Government (Acceptance) Act 1909 (Cth)

Seat of Government (Administration) Act 1910 (Cth)

Seat of Government (Administration) Act 1924 (Cth)

Books, Journals etc.

ACT Government (2005) Canberra Connect website, Accessed 9 August 2005.

<http://www.canberraconnect.act.gov.au/environmentandheritage/parksreservesandforests/dreamtime/theact.html>

Australian Government Solicitor (1997) *The Constitution, As Altered to 1 January 1997*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.

Australian Planning Institute (1955) *Statement by a Committee of the Australian Planning Institute for the Senate Select Committee on the Development of Canberra*.

Bacon, Edmund (1967, rev. ed. 1974) *The Design of Cities*. Penguin. <http://www.edbacon.com/more/store.htm>

Bacon, Edmund (1968) 'Canberra as a Statement of World Culture', *Architecture Australia*, vol. 57. no. 4, August, pp 625-626.

Bourassa, Steven; Neutze, Max; Strong, Ann Louise (1994) *Leasehold Policies and Land Use Planning in Canberra*, Urban Research program, Working paper No. 44, Urban Research program, Australian National University, Canberra.

Brennan, Frank (1971) *Canberra in Crisis*, Dalton Publishing Company, Canberra.

Freestone, Robert (1989) *Model Communities: The Garden City Movement in Australia*, Thomas Nelson Australia, Melbourne.

Gray, John E (1999) *TCG Weston (1866-1935), Horticulturist and Aborigiculturist. A critical review of his contribution to the establishment of the landscape foundations of Australia's National Capital*. Thesis submitted for the Degree of Environmental Design, University of Canberra.

Griffin, W B (1912) 'Australia's Federal City Planner Tells the Story of His Design'. *Building*. 12 July.

Griffin, W B (1913) *The Federal Capital – The Report Explanatory of the Preliminary general Plan*. Commonwealth of Australia.

Griffin, Dustin (2008) *The Writings of Walter Burley Griffin*, Cambridge University Press, New York.

Hall, Peter (1990) *Cities of Tomorrow: An Intellectual History of Urban Planning and Design in the Twentieth Century*, Basil Blackwell, Oxford. (First Published 1988, Reprinted 1990)

Harrison, Peter (1980) *Government development of a city: Canberra*, Paper presented to the Sixteenth Biennial Congress of the Royal Australian Planning Institute, Canberra (unpublished).

Harrison, Peter (1995) *Walter Burley Griffin, Landscape Architect*, National Library of Australia, Canberra.

Headon, David (2003) *The Symbolic Role of the National Capital—from Colonial Argument to 21st Century Ideals*, NCA and Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.

Holford, W (1958) *Observations on the Future Development of Canberra, ACT*, Government Printer, Canberra.

Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory (1987) *Report on Metropolitan Canberra*. The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.

Joint Committee on the National Capital (1992) *Our Bush Capital: Protecting and Managing the National Capital's Open Spaces*, Parliament House Canberra.

Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories (2004) *A National Capital: A place to live, Inquiry into the role of the National Capital Authority*, Parliament House Canberra. Accessed 5 August 2005, <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ncet/nca/report.htm>

Kemp, D (2004) Statement of Reasons for decision under Section 324F of the EPBC Act 1999, Acting Minister for the Environment and Heritage, 12 May 2004. Accessed 5 August 2005, www.deh.gov.au

Lloyd, C and Troy, P (1981) *Innovation and Reaction: The life and death of the Federal Department of Urban and Regional Development*, George Allen and Unwin, Sydney.

Macfarlane, I (2004) Statement of Reasons for decision under Section 324F of the EPBC Act 1999, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, 27 April 2004. Accessed 5 August 2005, www.deh.gov.au

National Capital Authority (NCA) (1990) *National Capital Plan*, NCA, Canberra. Accessed August 2005 and March

- 2006,
<http://www.nationalcapital.gov.au/planning/NCP/>
- National Capital Authority (NCA) (2004) *The Griffin Legacy*, National Capital Authority, Canberra.
- National Capital Development Commission (1965) *The Future Canberra*, NCDC, Canberra.
- National Capital Development Commission (1970) *Tomorrow's Canberra! Planning for Growth and Change*, ANU Press, Canberra.
- National Capital Development Commission (1984) *Metropolitan Canberra, Policy Plan Development Plan*, NCDC, Canberra.
- National Capital Planning Authority (1990) *The National Capital Plan*, NCPA, Canberra.
- Neutze, Max (1987) Planning and land tenure in Canberra after 60 years, *Town Planning Review* 58:147-164.
- Neutze, Max (1988) The Canberra Leasehold System, *Urban Law and Policy* 9 (1988) 1-34.
- Norman, Barbara (1993) *Peter Firman Harrison – His contribution to urban planning in Australia*, paper delivered to the Urban Research Program's Seminar Series, ANU, Canberra (unpublished).
- Overall, (Sir) John (1995) *Canberra: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: A Personal Memoir*, The Federal Capital Press, Canberra.
- Pegrum, Roger (1983) *The Bush Capital, How Australia chose Canberra as its federal city*, Hale and Ironmonger, Sydney.
- Quick, J and Garran, R (1901) *The Annotated Constitution of the Australian Commonwealth*, Angus and Robertson, Sydney.
- Reid, P (2002) *Canberra Following Griffin*, National Archives of Australia, Canberra.
- Reps, John W (1997) *Canberra 1912: Plans and Planners of the Australian Capital Competition*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.
- Stein, Justice Paul (Chair) (1995) *Report into the Administration of the ACT Leasehold to the Chief Minister of the ACT Government*, Board of Inquiry into the Administration of ACT Leasehold, Canberra.
- Sonne, Wolfgang (1998) 'Canberra 1912: The Representation of Democracy in the Age of Imperialism' Conference Proceedings 8th International Planning History Conference, 15 – 18 July 1998, Sydney, pp 853 – 854.
- Taylor, Ken (1992) Evidence to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the National Capital for its inquiry into *Protecting and Managing the National Capital's Open Spaces*, 14 April p.160, Parliament House Canberra.
- Taylor, Ken (2005) *Living with heritage: Canberra, City in the Landscape. Can it remain a City not like any other?* Proceedings of ICOMOS 15th General Assembly and Scientific Symposium, Xi'an, China, World Publishing Corporation, Xi'an. Pp. 791-800.
- The Canberra Times, *Canberra: NCDC's memorial of lasting beauty*, 10 February 1989.
- Seddon, George (1977) *An Open Space System for Canberra, A Policy Review*, NCSC, Canberra.
- The Senate (1955) *Report from the Select Committee Appointed to Inquire into and Report upon the Development of Canberra*, The Parliament of Australia, Canberra.
- Troy, Pat (1993) *'The weevils in the flour!' or Planning and implementing the infrastructure in Australia's capital: models of consensus and conflict*, Paper delivered to an Australia Day Symposium in Berlin.
- Walton, Meredith (2001) '20th Century Urban Heritage: Managing Change in Canberra's Garden City planned heritage precincts' 2001 Australia ICOMOS National Conference, Adelaide, 28 November – 1 December 2001.
- Wensing, Ed (1986) *Canberra's Leasehold Tenure System: Still in Crisis*, Submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory for their Inquiry into the Metropolitan Plan for Canberra, unpublished.

Wensing, Ed (1992a) 'Landlords and Land Use Controls in the ACT: Developing a new planning system', *Australian Planner*, Vol 30, Number 2, July.

Wensing, Ed (1992b) Private Submission to the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory Inquiry into the National Capital Open Space System, cited in the Joint Committee's Report, *Our Bush Capital: Protecting and Managing the National Capital's Open Spaces*, (1992) The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.

Wensing, Ed (1993) *Nomination for an Occasional Award for Services to Planning for Outstanding Contributions to the Planning Profession, Planning Theory and the RAPI – (Posthumously) Peter Firman Harrison 1918 – 1990*, Compiled by Ed Wensing, Canberra (unpublished).

Report Produced Thu Mar 14 16:49:52 2019

[Accessibility](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#) | © Commonwealth of Australia



Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

Canberra - Central National Area and Inner Hills, Northbourne Ave, Canberra, ACT, Australia

Photographs	None
List	National Heritage List
Class	Historic
Legal Status	<u>Nominated place</u>
Place ID	106100
Place File No	8/01/000/0134

Nominator's Summary Statement of Significance

Canberra as national capital through its inception and early development represents an outstanding and unique achievement in town planning and social idealism of the early twentieth century. It stands as a significant milestone in the application of the utopian ideal of conceiving and building a new City reflective of Australia's democratic principles based on contemporary early international twentieth century planning Terms of the City Beautiful and Garden City with their aesthetic and social foundations. In the 1911 International Competition for the Federal Capital results of which were announced in 1912, the winning entry submitted by Walter Burley Griffin with its City Beautiful inspiration formed the initial design format for the city supplemented by his 1913 and 1918 amendments. The changes to a Garden City model initiated by John Sulman in 1921-1924 overlay Griffin's structure, but do not obliterate it. Canberra's significance is also underpinned by the fact that it is a city not like any other area that it embodies within its structure the contemporary town planning principles of the day that were the focus of expert thought and practice, nationally and internationally. Its significance is further underpinned in the way it was seen as a national role model of planning and civic achievement, where the civic ideal was regarded as critical to successful city development.

Official Values Not Available

Description

The main components of the place are the Central National Area including and surrounding Lake Burley Griffin, the Inner Hills and 1920s garden city suburbs. Together these define the historic setting and character of Canberra, reflecting its symbolic values as ideal city and city in the landscape. They tell the story of events people and place through time defining the unique character of the city, its planning history and associated aesthetic value and sense of place value. The place includes:

- The Central National Area which marks the symbolic heart of the capital and the nation, including national buildings and institutions and democratic open space ideal. It reflects the foundational elements of the Griffin plan and later changes which respect major elements such as the land axis/vista, water axis and views to surrounding hills. It also reflects the influence of John Sulman in the siting of national buildings in a public parklike setting planting by Charles Weston and later additions by Lindsay Pryor and then the NCDC. Notable also is Sulman's 1909 schematic spider web plan for a Federal capital drawn before the 1911 competition. He wrote in the *Daily Telegraph* in 1909 a series of articles on town planning that stressed the need for parkways, playgrounds and vistas and advised incorporating these into the plan with Parliament at the apex of triangular shaped central area, thereby presaging Griffin's plan. These seminal ideas on town planning for Australia were comprehensively also set out in his 1921 book *An Introduction to the Study of Town Planning in Australia*.
- The Inner Hills part of the National Capital Open space System (NCOSS) which distinguishes the setting of the city and forms a major articulator of city form. It is the NCOSS that makes the city one not like any other with historic, social and aesthetic values. The Inner Hills are critical to these values.
- Original 1920s garden city suburbs of Canberra are reflective of John Sulman's planning ideas for new residential developments in Australia as outlined in his 1921 book. In 1910 in a conference paper to an international conference in Britain he had advised of the forthcoming competition for the federal capital and suggested that 'the Australian, of whatever degree generally prefers what we call a "cottage"'. The 1920s precincts 'have matured into the most substantial and distinctive suburban environments inspired by the Garden City movement in Australia... no other Australian city boasts such an extensive set of self consciously designed and controlled projects from its era'.

History

A hundred years ago the beginning of the twentieth century saw an international zeal for the new art and science of town planning. Parallel with this there emerged an interest in the building of national capitals: It was an international movement which saw the inception of ideas for capital cities for various countries including Australia, Brazil, India,

and renewed effort in developing Washington as the USA capital supported by models for the redevelopment schemes of existing major cities such as Chicago through the 1908 Burnham plan with the 1908 Royal Commission for the Improvement of the City of Sydney and its Suburbs in similar vein. Haussmann's 1852 plan for Paris was a precursor of the new city planning movement and interest in building better and healthier cities. The development of Canberra reflects these international trends.

The gathering momentum to improve city conditions was pivotal to fostering better health and civic pride for town dwellers. Healthy town dwellers meant economic efficiency and higher moral and social civic standards. Progressive thinkers saw the city as the microcosm of the nation, where all the evils they decried were found. In 1913 John Fitzgerald, a Sydney politician and town planning advocate, envisaged the city as 'the home of the race (where) no effort must be spared to make it beautiful [and] a highly organised and splendidly efficient instrument of civilisation'. The issue of health in towns was a concern internationally. In Australia the outbreak of bubonic plague in Sydney in 1901 was a major catalyst for reform ideas and underpinned the town planning movement for healthy cities leading to the 1908 Royal Commission

Underlying the ideas for the ideal, redeveloped city was an emphasis on eugenics and social engineering: a central assumption was that fresh air and better conditions would lift town dwellers morally and physically. Patrick Geddes (author of the seminal *Cities in Evolution*) saw an interrelationship between building better cities and the ideal of Civics. In 1904 he declared that 'The improvement of individuals of the community, which is "the aim of eugenics, involves a corresponding civic progress.' It is no accident that central Canberra from the Griffin era onwards is called 'Civic'.

When the Commonwealth of Australia came into being in 1901 the constitution provided for the establishment of a federal capital city on a new site. Canberra, which resulted from this political process, is unique nationally (and internationally) as a city in the landscape and an exemplar of new ideas in twentieth century town planning.

Underlying its inception lay two basic visions. The first was that a vigorous Australian national identity existed, that this was related to the ideal of the Australian landscape itself and that it could be symbolized in the layout of a capital city. The second was that city planning could create a better society.

In December 1908 a NSW surveyor, Charles Scrivener, was instructed by the Minister for Home Affairs, H. McMahon, to recommend a specific site in the Yass-Canberra. The instructions were explicit and note worthy in their implications. They reflected the manifest destiny of nationalism and emerging sense of identity based on images of the Australian landscape:

the Federal Capital should be a beautiful city, occupying a commanding position, with extensive views and embracing distinctive features which will lend themselves to the evolution of a design worthy of the object, not only for the present but for all time; consequently the potentialities of the site will demand most careful consideration from an hygienic standpoint, with a view to-securing picturesqueness and also with the object of beautification and expansion.

On 25 February, 1909, Scrivener reported that he regarded 'the Canberra site as the best that can be obtained in the Yass-Canberra district, being prominently situated and yet sheltered, while facilities are afforded for storing water for ornamental purposes at a reasonable cost'. He thought that 'the capital would probably lie in an amphitheatre of hills with an outlook towards the north and northwest, well sheltered from westerly winds.' His site choice also took account of the opportunity for potable water supply and the public health implications of this. Scrivener's recommendation was endorsed. His reference to an ornamental water body met the recommendations of the 1901 Congress of Engineers Architects, Surveyors, and Others Interested in the Building of the Federal Capital of Australia which had indicated that site selection was a matter for professional and aesthetic judgement, as well as stressing water supply, The Congress also advised the need to secure for the federal capital 'abundant Water Supply... For necessary water and sanitary services... For creation of artificial lakes, maintenance of public gardens, fountains etc.' At the congress Charles Bogue Luffman, an English horticulturist who was principal of the Burnley School of Horticulture in Melbourne, advocated a city where landscape was central to its design with surrounding hills in native forest. Looking out over the magnificent setting of modern Canberra along the land axis from Mount Ainslie, the far sightedness and wisdom of such ideas view are apparent.

Concurrently the utopian ideal of new cities and redevelopment of selected parts of existing cities as away to social reform and realizing landscape idealism was energetically bubbling away in Australia. In entering the winning design in the Federal Capital Competition in 1911 Griffin declared that 'I have planned a city not like any other city in the world. I have planned it not in a way that I expected any government authorities in the world would accept. I have planned the ideal city -a city that meets my ideal of the future.' In its overall masterly conception Griffin's experience of working with the eminent architect Frank Lloyd Wright of the Prairie School, who espoused the view that buildings should appear to grow from their site in an organic way, influenced Griffin's thinking. In using this to great effect in the Canberra plan, exquisitely illustrated by Marion Mahony Griffin's sketches as with her impressive panorama from Mt Ainslie, the union between architecture and landscape extended to the total city and its huge landscape like a stage-setting. The plan and the drawings combine the geometry of the City Beautiful with the natural landscape setting to a deeply satisfying effect in an organic whole.

That Griffin's city met the ideals current in Australia was no accident. From its inception in the nineteenth century and before the Walter Burley Griffin entry won the 1911 international competition, the concept and ideal of an Australian federal capital envisaged a city in the landscape and of the landscape'. Here there are links with art enduring theme in forging an Australian national identity from early colonial times: the Australian landscape and its visual and written representation. Picturing the landscape in words and images has been central to forming a sense of Australianness. The Heidelberg School of painters, representations in the *plein air* genre in the latter decade of the nineteenth century and

early part or twentieth century just prior the selection of the Canberra site in 1909 offered a national model. Notable in connection with the idea of a national capital is Helen Toppliss' proposition that 'the optimistic landscapes of the Heidelberg School became the reference point for a 'resurgent utopianism in the 1880s'. Whether it is Streeton's *The Purple Noon's Transparent Might* - which for Charles McCubbin 'You could almost take as a National Symbol' or Tom Robert's *Allegro con Brio, Bourke Street West*; the conflation of utopian visions for the ideal Australian city with the nationalist concept of picturesque landscape was inevitable.

The competition and the Griffin scheme were the culminating pinnacle of the utopian visions for a new Australian city that would lead the world. In short the Griffin plan was beautiful in design conception and physical presentation. It was the City Beautiful with Garden City overtones *par excellence* and matched Australian visions of the ideal city. Here was inspiration for the creation of a grand capital that grasped the idea of landscape as the structure for a city where social reform through healthy living was integral to the structure and life of the city. The City Beautiful and Garden City Movements had emerged in the 1890s as the two leading approaches to city planning.

The City Beautiful style was concerned primarily with urban aesthetics rather than social reform, It was are birth of ordered Renaissance planning and design where axes and vistas connected focal points-squares, circles, ellipses - with eloquent architecture and gardens. The initial City Beautiful concern for civic design did develop to include a wider concern for civic improvement as a means of social reform, but with aesthetic overtones. It would in every citizen, even the slum dweller, [create] a feeling of aesthetic appreciation and thereby civic pride, which would motivate him to recognise and fulfil his tole as a useful member of society.'

The Garden City movement emerged from the Writings of the English reformer and planner Ebenezer Howard who, in 1898, articulated his garden city principles in his book *Tomorrow: A Peaceful Path to Reform*. For Howard the garden city was a means of engendering a 'better and nobler' society and would counteract the social and moral evils and unhealthy physical conditions of overcrowded slums in the industrialised cities of Europe and America. A significant aspect of Howard's proposed garden city model was that land would be publicly owned, to be managed for the good of all citizens. This is the model taken for Canberra,

From the outset Canberra was envisaged as a city in the landscape and of the landscape. The Griffin design admirably suited the natural amphitheatre qualities of the site where 'the setting (was used) as a theatrical whole' to give a design that was 'rich in-symbolism' by its use of radiating avenues with the hills as focal points and the use of dramatic views out of the city to the magnificent hill-landscape surrounds: Its geometrical major and minor axes created impressive vistas, His major land axis and vista from Mount Ainslie to Parliament House remains as one of the great landscape axes in town planning history complemented by his water axis along Lake Burley Griffin: both creating a setting for the city plan of unrivalled beauty. They are at the heart of Griffin's central national triangle circumscribed by Commonwealth, King's and Constitution Avenues and focussing on City Hill, Russell and Parliament House. Within this central triangle on the southern side of the lake were Griffin's major public and executive buildings in art urbane setting of public plazas. On the northern shore of the lake linking City Hill and Russell Griffin's intention was for a littoral of public' recreational open space: present-day Commonwealth Park .and King's Park mark this open space zone. Critical also to the Griffin plan were the inner hills which are part of the nomination and which remain as a major articulator of city form. They continue in this capacity and also act as a multifunctional urban open space system with visual, recreational and Wildlife significance.

In the early years of the city of equal significance as Charles Weston who, from 1913 to 1926, laid down the innovative and visionary landscape planning framework for the city with his tree planting schemes. He set up experimental nurseries to raise the necessary tree stock; some indication of Weston's achievement can be seen from the fact that between 1921 to 1924 1,162,942 trees were planted in the city. Before this he had undertaken planting on parts of the inner hills. Weston's intention was rehabilitation and conservation of the inner hills setting in train a policy the results of which are evident today in the wooded nature of the inner hills. Weston at the time included policy recommendations to curtail ring barking and to erect fences to ensure tree regeneration. Many of the tree species still used in Canberra's public planting are those found to be suitable through Weston's innovative trials in the two nurseries he founded at Acton (now under the lake) and Yarralumla which together with Westbourne Woods remain as testimonies to his far-sightedness.

Weston's far-sighted and meticulous approach laid the firm foundation on which those who have followed have been able to build. Just the expansive number of indigenous plants - the list runs to 211 - he tested 1913 to 1926 and the number of plants - 210 - held at Yarralumla in 1925 for city planting is impressive. He not only knew from his horticultural experiments what to plant, what functional needs were, but also had a well-developed image in his mind's eye of a planting structure for the city form. He combined ideas of aesthetics and function admirably. Moreover he was planting for the long term and his work reflected his astute understanding of the wider role of landscape in the city's structure. This is the Weston legacy that has contributed significantly to Canberra as city in the landscape and not like any other.

It fell to Lindsay Pryor as Superintendent of Parks from 1944 to 1958 (when he was appointed Professor of Botany at Canberra University College, later the ANU) to expand Weston's pioneering city planting work. His achievement is aptly summarised by John Gray:

[Lindsay Pryor] when he relinquished his position in Parks and Gardens in 1958 he had an enormous influence over Canberra's urban landscape. Parks and Streets were planted in the suburbs of Acton, Ainslie, Braddon, Deakin, Forrest, Fyshwick, Griffith, Kingston, Manuka, Narrabundah, O'Connor, Red Hill, Turner and Yarralumla. Other landscape developments included the Australian War Memorial, parts of Central (now Commonwealth) Park, several schools, and indigenous planting in Westbourne Woods arboretum. He shifted the emphasis of major avenue plantings from exotic to indigenous species. Most importantly he reactivated Weston's experimental programmes, a

move which was to have a long-term beneficial effect on the future development of trees and parks in Canberra for the next forty years.. In 1945 he founded the Herbarium of the future Australian National Botanic Gardens and began work on the gardens themselves.

When Griffin resigned in 1921 the eminent town planner John Sulman as Chairman of the Federal Capital Advisory Committee, 1921-24 (FCAC) instituted changes to the city's form. The main change was in proposals for residential areas and the siting of national buildings. The FCAC reflected Sulman's influential ideas as a leading town planner and educator, in particular his advocacy of the garden city and garden suburb. The FCAC therefore declared that in the first stage Canberra was to be 'a garden town, with simple, pleasing, but unpretentious buildings'; it saw houses as single storey cottages standing in their own garden. Sulman in 1909/1910 had suggested that Australians preferred the single story house; evidence from various developments in Australian cities pointed to this phenomenon. His far reaching ideas on garden city style development are set out comprehensively in his 1921 book (*An Introduction to the Study of Town Planning in Australia*). The Federal Capital Commission (FCC) under John Butters continued the garden city concept in residential areas, domestic FCC style of architecture unique to Canberra and public buildings like Old Parliament House. The result is the set of inner garden city suburbs listed as part of this nomination. The 1920s precincts 'have matured into the most substantial and distinctive suburban environments inspired by the Garden City movement in Australia.... no other Australian city boasts such an extensive set of self consciously designed and controlled projects from this era'.

Sulman also decreed the siting of public buildings in Griffin's national triangle as individual objects within generous landscape settings should replace Griffin's more urbane character. Sulman had presaged this in 1909 when he wrote that buildings should not be crowded together but 'surrounded by grass and trees and shrubs [so that] inhabitants feel the open spaces are for public use', open; well grassed, and abundantly supplied with trees. This is the current pattern for Canberra's national buildings and institutions in the central national triangle.

The 1920s and 1930s therefore saw the central symbolic heart of the City and nation from the Griffin plan with its national triangle and exquisite axes and vistas established in outline. But buildings spaced in a park-like setting, not Griffin's more geometric urban spaces. Surrounding this were the early garden city residential suburbs of detached cottages in large gardens. Street planting had taken place and public parks initiated. The basis for the landscape city *par excellence* was in position. Even so the city grew slowly; by 1958 its population was a mere 36,000. It was at this stage that the decision was taken by the then Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, that Canberra should expand and that Government Departments and workers would relocate from Melbourne and Sydney. Parliament was housed in Canberra but not the machinery of government.

Following a 1955 Senate Inquiry on the Development of Canberra and a 1957/58 report by the British planner, Sir William Holford, the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) was set up by (Sir) Robert Menzies in 1958 to plan, develop and construct Canberra. The underlying landscape foci briefly reviewed above were grasped by the NCDC. They continued to suffuse planning ideas during the crucial years 1958 to 1988 (when the NCDC was disbanded) where land use planning policy and implementation integrated civil engineering and landscape concerns in an holistic approach to planning.

Menzies at one stage was not supportive of Canberra but once committed after the Holford report he applied his assiduous determination to see the city progress. In 1956 he wrote to Allen Fairhall, Minister for the Interior, setting out his concerns that little had been done during his term as Prime Minister and that he would like something done before leaving the position. A major contribution that Menzies made to Canberra that was crucial to the city's setting was ensuring that money was available to construct the lake (Lake Burley Griffin) in 1964 commensurate with Holford's recommendation.

Under the NCDC the garden city ideal flourished to create a city known affectionately as The Bush Capital. Not least was the adoption of the Y plan in the late 1960s as a linear model for city growth, with a series of new towns rather than the concentric pattern of other Australian cities. The Y Plan formalised in the 1984 NCDC *Metropolitan Policy Plan*, articulated the form of urban growth on the basis of a series of new towns (Belconnen, Woden/Weston Creek, Tuggeranong, Gungahlin) separated from Canberra and each other by landscape corridors. Landscape maintained its primal position as articulator of urban form. With extensive tree planting in the city and its immediate surrounds with associated public and private open space and wildlife, Canberra became and remains the epitome of nature in the city. Essential to the Y Plan is the integrated open space system of hills, ridges and buffers: the National Capital Open Space System (NCOSS). The 1992 report *Our Bush Capital: Protecting and Managing the National Capital's Open Spaces* refers to the NCOSS covering 72 per cent of the Territory 'as a valuable legacy of visionary design and planning'. In the 1970 NCDC publication *Tomorrow's Canberra* the forerunner of NCOSS is referred to as 'the emerging metropolitan park system [which] encompasses a wide range of parks, recreation areas, reserves, and other open space.' By 1977, the term NCOSS - reflecting NCDC nomenclature - was used. It embraced the comprehensive network of inner and outer hills, ridges and buffers. Lake Burley Griffin, river corridors and mountains with associated bushlands. The primary significance to Canberra's post-1945 planning of the open space system may be gauged from the view expressed in *Tomorrow's Canberra*:

The fourth major component of land use, open space, will probably be the most enduring element of the urban structure.

It is this comprehensive network which articulates the city plan: It was pivotal in guiding the physical layout and planning structure of the new towns inherent in the Y Plan concept.

Whilst the post-1958 NCDC development is outside the boundary nominated for national listing, its continuation of the authenticity of the inaugural planning principles of Canberra through Griffin and Sulman maintains the integrity of the early development and planning ideas and therefore acts as a buffer setting for the nominated area.

NCDC had planned since 1958 on the assumption that new, permanent Parliament House would be sited on the lake shore astride the land axis in the National Triangle. This had been Holford's recommendation and was supported by Prime Minister, Robert Menzies. However, it was not a site that met with the approval of a number of MP's who expressed preference for Griffin's original location on Camp Hill, behind Provisional (Old) Parliament House' or on the higher point of Capital Hill. Following NCDC submissions to cabinet in 1973 on a Camp Hill site followed by a subsequent report assessing the pros and cons of Camp Hill and Capital Hill, both Houses in a joint sitting voted for Capital Hill. The dilemma facing planners focussed on what to do with the vast open space of the national area now that Parliament would not occupy the space between the High Court and the National Library, and the future of Old Parliament House. Following construction of the new building at the apex high point of the triangle and looking down the land axis the space has, as described above, developed into a landscape dominated space where layers over time have accumulated; these include Old Parliament House and gardens, Weston's planting design, NCDC planting, development of national institutions and buildings, and places such as Reconciliation Place, Magna Carta Memorial, and Commonwealth Place. The Parliament House project embodied a felicitously harmonious working relationship between building and landscape symbolically reflective of the meaning of the city itself. It is the ultimate response to the ideals of Griffin, Sulman and Weston with the building set into the hill surrounded by planted slopes. '

Condition and Integrity

The place displays a high degree of authenticity and integrity in terms of its tangible physical form and its intangible meanings and values. The essential form and symbolism of the original Griffin intention and subsequent layers of change which have not obliterated the Griffin idea maintain the underlying philosophy of original design intentions for the city in the landscape.

Location

About 12,600ha, comprising the inner historic area of Canberra including Designated Areas ([i] Central National Area excluding Airport precinct; and [ii] Inner Hills) and inner FCAC/FCC garden city suburbs gazetted in 1928 (Yarralumla, Deakin, Forrest, Griffith, Kingston, Barton, Reid, Braddon, Turner , Ainslie).

Bibliography

- Taylor K, (2006), *Canberra: City in the Landscape*, Halstead Press, Ultimo, Sydney.
- Taylor K, (2003), 'We Mustn't Lose Sight of the Original Vision', *The Canberra Times*, 7 November 2003.
- Taylor K, (1999), 'Picturesque Visions of a Nation: Capital City in the Garden', *The New Federalist*, No3 June 1999, 74-80.
- Freestone R, (1986), 'Canberra as a Garden City 1901-1930', *Journal of Australia Studies*, Vol 19, 1986.
- Gray J E, (1999), T C G Weston (1866 - 1935), *Horticulturist and Arboriculturist. A critical review of his contribution to the establishment of the landscape foundations of Australia's National Capital*. Thesis submitted for the Degree of Doctor of Environmental Design of the University of Canberra, July 1999. '
- Powell A J W, (1979), 'Canberra as a Case Study in the Art and Science of Town Planning', *The Profession of Civil Engineer*, Sydney University Press, Sydney. .
- Pryor L D, (1982), 'TCG Weston's Contribution to the Canberra Landscape', *Australian Parks and Recreation*, August 1982, 47-52.
- Sulman J, (1909), *The Federal Capital*, John Sands, Sydney. See also Sulman J, (1921), *An Introduction to the Study of Town Planning in Australia*, Government Printer of NSW, Sydney.
- Topliss H, (1992), *The Artists' Camps: "Plein air" painting in Australia*, Frank McDonald, Hedley Australia Publications; Alphington, Vic.

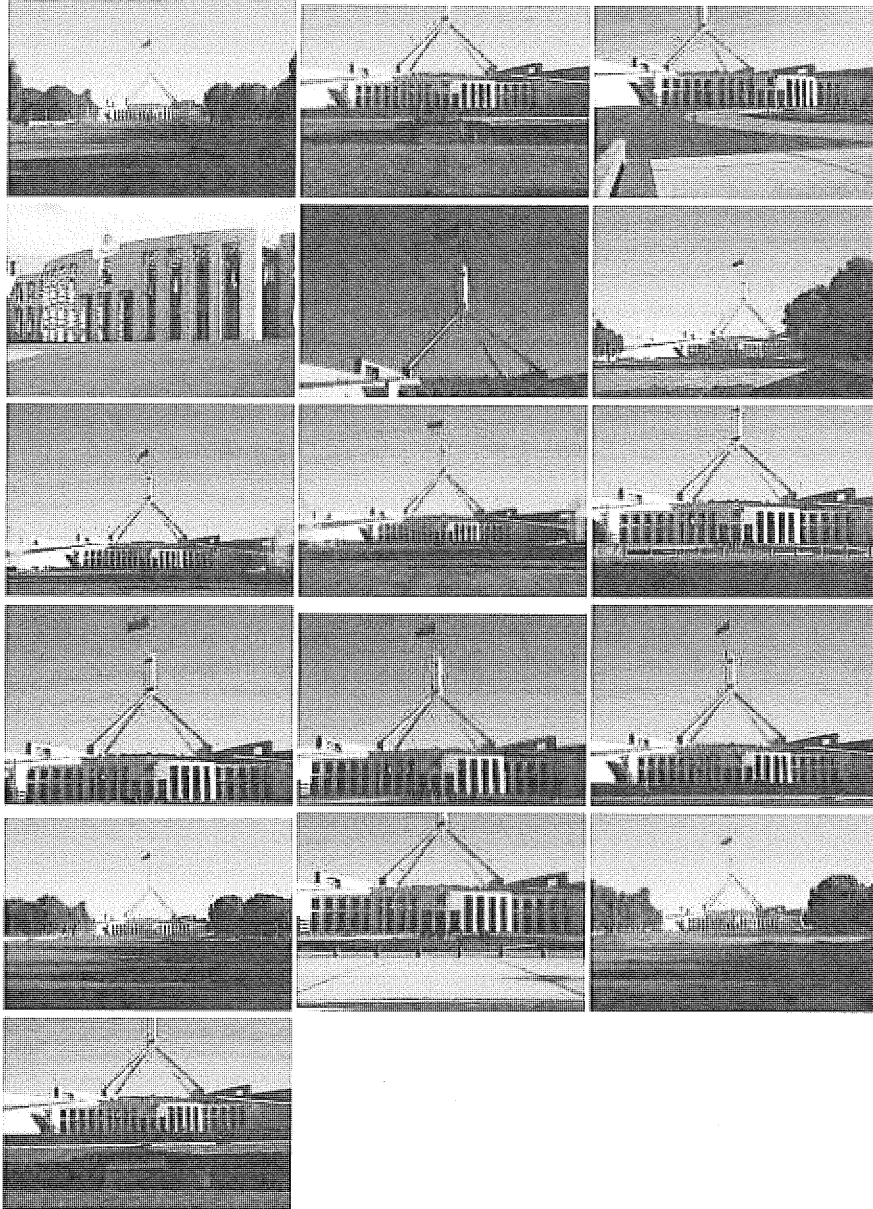
Report Produced Thu Mar 14 16:49:17 2019

Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

Parliament House and Surrounds, Parliament Dr, Capital Hill, ACT, Australia

Photographs



List	National Heritage List
Class	Historic
Legal Status	<u>Minister considering decision within extended period</u>
Place ID	105740
Place File No	8/01/000/0380

Nominator's Summary Statement of Significance

Parliament House is a landmark building which has become an icon of Canberra with the flagmast. It is a building of great creative achievement, nationally and internationally, designed by Mitchell/Giurgola & Thorp. Ronaldo Giurgola was awarded the Royal Australian Institute of Architect Gold Medal in 1988.

As the home of the Parliament and the seat of Government, this building has a significance unique amongst buildings in Australia, which is quite independent of its architectural, aesthetic and townscape values. Its historic value is already being established as the site in 1991 of the overthrow of the Labour Party Prime Minister, by his own party.

The fundamental significance of the building lies within its concept of making a national place. It functions both as a working place for the Parliament and as a symbol and ceremonial place for events of national importance, a symbol of national unity and commitment to the democratic process of government. The building with its integrated works of commissioned art, craft and specially designed furnishings, reflects the history, cultural diversity, development and aspirations of the nation.

The building's design and siting on the land axis create a strong visual relationship and a linkage between the historic War Memorial and Provisional Parliament House. The building is pre-eminently sited on Capital Hill at the focus of Walter Burley Griffin's 1912 plan for Canberra and the Parliamentary Triangle. The building design re-states the original profile of the hill and its curved walls reach out to encompass the radial avenues established by the 1912 Griffin plan as the primary axes of the city. The building, particularly the curved walls and flagpole, is a strong symbolic and sculptural element in the landscape. It was awarded the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) National Sir Zelman Cowen Award and the RAIA (ACT Chapter) Canberra Medallion in 1989, and the Civic Design award in 1990.

Official Values Not Available

Description

The whole site encompasses an area of 32 hectares. Thirteen hectares of the site are landscaped with formal garden beds and with informal plantings of trees and shrubs. A further ten hectares are covered with turf and the remaining nine hectares comprise hard surface areas. The actual building covers 4.8 hectares of the site, but most of the building is covered by the landscaped areas of gardens and informal plantings.

The building stands astride Walter Burley Griffin's north-south Land Axis which runs from Mount Ainslie to Capital Hill. Surmounting the building at the junction of its east-west axis and the Land Axis is a huge flagmast flying an Australian flag. The building is a four-sided structure whose eastern [House of Representatives] and western [Senate] sides are separated by two great curved walls, each 460 metres long. With the flagmast, the walls are the dominating features of the structure.

The main mass of the building stands along its north-south axis and consists from north to south of the Great Verandah with the Queen's Terrace above it, Public Foyer (or entrance), Great Hall, Members' Hall, Main Committee Room and the Ministerial (or executive) Wing. The Ministerial Wing incorporates a large enclosed courtyard at the rear of the building.

The eastern and western sides of the buildings are mirror images of each other and contain respectively as their principal elements the House of Representatives chamber and the Senate chamber. There are office suites for the Members and Senators on the respective sides as well. The mass of the eastern and western sides of the building is broken up by several internal courtyards.

The building has four entrances: the main or public entrance, one entrance each to the House of Representatives and Senate wings, and an entrance to the Ministerial Wing. The main entrance faces towards Mount Ainslie and the facade has been deliberately designed to harmonise with the design of Old Parliament House. In front of the entrance is a forecourt containing a large mosaic based on a traditional Aboriginal painting. It is surrounded by a ceremonial pool. The House of Representatives and Senate entrances have unique architectural characteristics that distinguish them from one another. Both entrances have porte cochères. The entrance to the Ministerial Wing is also distinctive and features at its front a long ornamental pool and fountain.

Parliament House includes special furnishings and fittings, together with over 3,000 artworks that are displayed at locations within the building or in its grounds. The artworks, furniture and fittings consist of pieces that were specifically commissioned or purchased for the building, official paintings that have been commissioned for the Historic Memorials Collection since 1911 and items that were donated by foreign governments, the Australian States and Territories, and various national organizations. The works that were commissioned or purchased for the new Parliament House were done so to accord with and enhance the building's architectural qualities.

Spaces:

Aside from the obvious functions it was designed to perform and the use of obvious symbols like the great flag to represent national unity, the building incorporated many other symbolic elements in its design. From the front entrance of the building through to the Main Committee Room, the spaces are meant to represent in symbolic form a

prehistoric / historic progression. This progression is:

- Forecourt: The Period before European Settlement
- Great Verandah and Public Foyer: The Period of European Exploration
- Great Hall: The Period of Settlement
- Members' Hall: The Period of Federation
- Main Committee Room: The Present and the Future.

Each of these spaces contains particular design elements that are intended to relate to the period it is supposed to represent.

Forecourt:

The forecourt was designed as an open-air ceremonial space at the front of Parliament House. The red gravel of the area and the mosaic pavement were meant to suggest the ancient continent and its Aboriginal occupation.

Nelson Tjakmarra's Possum and Wallaby Dreaming mosaic pavement is at the main entrance (Forecourt) of Parliament House. It is an example of the Papunya Aboriginal art style and describes a gathering of large groups of men from the different peoples of the Kangaroo, Wallaby, and Goanna Ancestors. The men are congregating to talk and enact important ceremonial obligation, which is an expression of the work of Parliament. The mosaic pavement also expresses respect for the collaborative wisdom of the Aboriginal cultures and of respect for wisdom and the values of a culture, which has lived in harmony with the land for over 40,000 years.

The design was selected in 1985 as the most appropriate to the nations meeting place. It had to be open to people walking over it all the time, and, on ceremonial occasions, driven on, without being denigrated by these activities.

Three stonemasons, Aldo Rossi, Franco Colussi and William McIntosh, used 86,000 pieces of coloured granite cut into circular pieces to create the 14-square metre mosaic. They used seven different colours of granite selected by Tjakamarra to match the colours of his painting. Unaccountably, visitors are allowed to walk all over the mosaic.

Surrounding the mosaic and central to the forecourt is a pool designed by Robert Woodward. This represents the island continent surrounded by water.

Great Verandah and Queen's Terrace:

This element forms the façade of Parliament House and is meant to echo the traditional verandah of Australian houses as a place of shelter and a place to welcome and farewell visitors. At the same time, the architects designed the façade to accord with the architectural style of OPH. Together with the Public Foyer, it was also intended to represent the Period of European Exploration in the architects' scheme of a prehistoric / historic progression. As a facing for the columns of the Great Verandah, the architects selected a Carrara marble called Paradise White. It was to be reminiscent of Greek and Roman architecture.

Mounted above the Main Entrance to the building is a large Australian coat of arms. This was fabricated in stainless steel by the silversmith Robin Blau. It was a gift of the New South Wales government.

Above the Great Verandah is Queen's Terrace. This supplies views down the Land Axis to the War Memorial and Mount Ainslie, and also features a full-size bronze statue of Queen Elizabeth II by Adelaide artist John Dowie.

Public Foyer:

The dominating feature of the Public Foyer is the array of 48 marble-clad columns which are intended to symbolize a eucalyptus forest. The lower two-thirds of the columns are enclosed in a green-coloured Italian marble, while the upper third is coated with white plasterglass. The marble is called Cipollino because of its resemblance to chives or shallots. The Foyer's floor is also of marble laid in a variety of geometric shapes.

Adorning the walls of the Foyer is a series of twenty marquetry panels inlaid with designs of Australian flora. The panels were designed by Adelaide artist Tony Bishop and fabricated by him with Sydney craftsman Michael Retter. Each panel is composed from up to twelve different timbers. Some of the panels depict plants used as traditional sources of food by Aborigines, while others depict botanical specimens discovered by Sir Joseph Banks.

From the ground floor, two marble staircases lead to the first floor level. The balustrades of these staircases are finished with finials based on seed pods of Australian trees. They were designed by Sydney artist Anne Ferguson.

Great Hall:

Beyond the Foyer, the Great Hall is a formal reception hall for banquets and official receptions. It can seat 750 people for banquet and accommodate 1,200 for receptions. The walls are panelled with Australian timbers and the floor is a herringbone parquet of Western Australian Jarrah intersected by inlays of Blackbutt and Ebony timbers. Natural lighting for the room is provided by a large central skylight. The Australian timbers and the skylight with white ceiling are intended to represent the colours of the land and sky in Australia.

The principal feature of the Great Hall is a large tapestry based on a painting by Australian artist Arthur Boyd of a eucalyptus forest on the Shoalhaven west of Nowra. Measuring 20 metres by 9 metres, the tapestry is one of the largest in the world. It was made by a team of thirteen master weavers from the Victorian Tapestry Workshop who took almost two-and-a-half years to complete the work. Unfortunately, the integrity of the image is compromised by the fact that a large section of it has been taken out by the wide set of doors which lead into the Members' Hall behind.

At the gallery or first floor level on the eastern side of the Great Hall, there is a large embroidery which was a Bicentennial gift to the nation from the Embroiderers' Guilds of Australia. The work, designed by Adelaide artist Kay Lawrence, depicts in a series of tableaux the Aboriginal and European use of the land. The embroidery is sixteen metres long and 65 centimetres high. Made of cotton, linen and wool, with some synthetic fibre, it took more than 500 embroiderers over 12,000 hours to complete.

Members' Hall:

At the very centre of the building is the Member's Hall, an open space three storeys high lit by a large central skylight. The space is at the crossroads between the Senate and House of Representatives' chambers and the Ministerial Wing to the rear of the building. On the floor in the centre of the space is a shallow reflective pool carved into a solid block of South Australian Imperial Black granite. The portal walls of the Hall are coated with stucco lustro, a revival of an ancient Roman type of plaster. The plaster gives the walls a lustrous quality because its ingredients include white marble ground to the consistency of flour.

The walls are decorated with portrait paintings of the Queen, Prime Ministers and other prominent parliamentarians, Governors-General and Presiding Officers of the two houses. Display cases in the hall contain important historical documents, including one of four original surviving copies of the Magna Carta, the Constitution Act of 1901 and three bark petitions from Aboriginal people, the oldest of which presented to Parliament by the Yirrkala people in 1963.

Main Committee Room:

The Main Committee Room is located to the rear or south of the Members' Hall. In the foyer to the room are three major paintings relating to Parliament in Australia: Tom Robert's painting of the ceremonial opening of the first federal Parliament in the Exhibition Building in Melbourne in 1901; W.B. McInnes' painting of the opening of OPH in 1927; and Ivor Hele's painting of Queen Elizabeth II opening Parliament in 1954.

In the Committee Room itself is a landscape painting that was specially commissioned for the Room in order to complete the prehistoric / historic sequence which commenced at the building's Forecourt. The painting is 'Red Ochre Cove' by Canberra artist Mandy Martin. It deals with the impact of European settlement on Australia and presents a view of the future. At 12.1 by 2.8 metres, the work is the largest painting ever commissioned in Australia.

Senate Chamber:

In comparison to the House of Representatives chamber, the Senate chamber is smaller but more richly detailed. The architectural detailing in the chamber is based on circles and ellipses, especially on the ceiling, balustrades and staircases. In keeping with Westminster tradition and with OPH, the chamber's basic colour is a rich red. The red is rendered in Australian tonal variations provided by red jarrah timber for furniture and flooring, hand-dyed upholstery, carpet and wool-upholstered wall panels. The columns and upper parts of the walls in the chamber are coated with stucco lustro. The chamber features an Australian coat of arms in the form of a free-standing sculpture in Tasmanian myrtle by Tasmanian sculptor Peter Taylor.

The horseshoe shape seating arrangement in the chamber was chosen because it mirrored the arrangement in OPH and because it was functionally the best. The horseshoe arrangement in OPH was in turn derived from that in the French Chamber of Deputies rather than on the less functional seating layout used in the British House of Commons.

Natural lighting for the chamber is provided by a large glazed skylight. At night, the skylight is intended to allow light to emanate from the chamber below, indicating that the Senate is in session. Outside, the skylight is surrounded by a circular terracotta or red tile roof which is meant to demonstrate an affinity with the red-tiled roofs of suburbia and hence the Senate's connection with ordinary Australian people.

In conformity with the circular roof design and the circular and elliptical patterns in the chamber, the entrance to the Senate from the outside is characterized by curved surfaces. This is quite different to the style employed for the entrance to the House of Representatives and helps to distinguish the entrance as that to the Senate. Another distinguishing feature of the entrance is the use of vertical panels of natural red stones, red being the traditional Senate colour. The entrance also provides a porte cochère to enable people entering the building to be driven right up to it and

to alight under cover.

The House of Representatives chamber is larger than that for the Senate and is distinguished from the latter by the use of the traditional green colour scheme. As in the Senate chamber, the columns and upper parts of the walls are covered with stucco lustro. In contrast to the Senate, the House of Representatives employs angular shapes in its architectural detailing. For its coat of arms, the chamber features a bas-relief designed by Sydney artist Gordon Andrews and fabricated in ceramic tiles by Rob and Rhyl Hinwood of Brisbane. Like the Senate, the House of Representatives chamber employs a horseshoe-shaped seating arrangement and has a large glazed skylight to provide natural lighting. On the outside, the skylight is surrounded by an angular terracotta roof which is again meant to demonstrate the House's identification with the red-tiled roofs of suburbia.

The exterior entrance to the House of Representatives chamber consists of a tall square canopy quite unlike the curved entrance to the Senate chamber. Some stones used in the entrance are coloured green to denote the Representatives. As with the Senate entrance, there is a porte cochère that allows Members and others to alight from their vehicles under cover.

Ministerial Wing:

The entrance to the Ministerial Wing is more modest than the public entrance at the front of the building or the entrances to House of Representatives and Senate chambers. However, it is approached by a set of stone stairs and a paved footpath along a long ornamental pool and fountain. The entrance itself is richly ornamented in marble. Its most prominent feature is an Australian coat of arms in stainless steel by Robin Blau which is set in a porthole cut in panels of green marble above the entrance.

The Wing contains the Prime Minister's office, the Cabinet Room and suite, and Ministers' offices.

Courtyards:

The building contains seventeen enclosed courtyards for the benefit of the Prime Minister, other Ministers and Members and Senators. The courtyards feature pools, lawns, stands of shade trees and granite paving. On the Representatives side, the two courtyards are lined with solid benches of polished stone, a gift of the United States Congress to the Australian Parliament. In one of the courtyards is a large sculpture in sandstone entitled 'Fossilised Architectural Landscape' by Australian artist Ewa Pachuka.

The Ministerial Entrance opens up onto the Ministerial Courtyard which is meant to represent an imaginary landscape in stone and bronze. A small waterfall runs down the southern wall of the courtyard, the water then flowing in a rocky channel over a narrow floodplain dotted by low hills. The low hills are represented by bronze sculptures entitled 'The Little Olgas' by sculptor Marea Gazzard. The courtyard is illuminated by lanterns donated by the People's Republic of China.

Gardens and Landscaping:

The new Parliament House is surrounded by 32 hectares of gardens and landscaping designed by Peter G. Rowlands and Associates, working in association with Mitchell Giurgola Thorp, the building's architects. The 32 hectares are made up of ten hectares covered by lawn, thirteen hectares devoted to garden beds and trees and shrubs, and nine hectares of hard surface areas. In all, 140,000 trees and shrubs were planted, most of them native species.

The design for the gardens and landscaping aimed at simplicity and harmony. On the eastern side of the building across the road from the entrance to the House of Representatives are formal gardens. Inside the entrance gates are two sculptures of crouching lions made from golden yellow Han marble from China. The sculptures were gifts of the People's Republic of Australia to the Australian government. The four corners of the Formal Gardens contain large circular granite planter boxes, one of which was donated by the War Widows' Guild.

Apart from the Formal Gardens, much of the sloping ground covering the building has informal plantings of trees and shrubs. A 3.8 kilometre walking track surfaced with red-coloured grit of weathered granite winds through these areas.

Two sculptures stand at the front of the building's Forecourt. The first is a bronze sundial on a black granite base by sculptor Hendrik Forster which was donated by the Country Women's Association. The other, donated by the Returned Services League and called the 'Returned Services League Fountain', is a sculpture formed from a single piece of Imperial Black granite by sculptor Anne Ferguson. It has a small drinking fountain on top and bronze features made by Peter Corlett.

On the lawn at the top end of the Land Bridge that leads down to the rear of OPH stands the monument comprising the foundation stones for the proposed Commencement Column for the federal capital. On 12 March 1913, a major public ceremony was held to mark the official foundation of the federal capital at Canberra. The Governor-General, Lord Denman, the Prime Minister, Andrew Fisher and the Minister for Home Affairs, King O'Malley, each laid a foundation stone for the Column (which was never built). Each foundation stone carries a plaque commemorating the event.

The building of the new Parliament House necessitated the removal of the foundation stones to another spot, their current location. The re-location was marked by a ceremony on 12 March 1988, 75 years after the stones were first put in place. The ceremony was attended by the Governor-General, Sir Ninian Stephen, the Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, and the Minister for Arts and Territories, Gary Punch. Plaques recording this event are also attached to the stones.

Art Collection:

The new Parliament House contains an extensive collection of artworks called the Parliament House Art Collection. The artworks comprise three sub-collections or categories. These are: works specially purchased or commissioned for the new Parliament House, the Historic Memorials Collection and the Gifts Collection. Altogether, the Art Collection contains over 3,000 works. A number of these have been referred to above and in 'History'.

The main part of the Art Collection consists of works that were specifically commissioned or acquired for the new Parliament House. The artworks have been installed in public and private spaces in and around Parliament House, in meeting rooms, in the offices of Members and Senators, and in staff areas.

The Historic Memorials Collection dates from December 1911 when an Historic Memorials Committee was established by the Executive Council. The Committee's role, broadened over time, is to commission official portrait paintings of Governors-General, Chief Justices of the High Court, Prime Ministers, Presidents of the Senate, Speakers of the House of Representatives and other senior or notable Parliamentarians. These portraits include the first woman member of the House of Representatives, Dame Enid Lyons and Neville Bonner, the first Aboriginal Australian who served in the Senate. Paintings of special events connected with the Commonwealth of Australia are also included in the Collection such as the painting by Tom Roberts displaying the defining event of Australia's Federation, the opening of the first Australian Parliament, in the Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne on 9 May 1901. Originally, the Commonwealth Art Advisory Board gave advice to the Committee on suitable artists for official commissions or acquisitions. Its role is now performed by the Visual Arts / Crafts Board of the Australian Council. There are in excess of 130 works in the Historic Memorials Collection, and these works are displayed in the Members' Hall.

The Parliament House Gifts Collection comprises gifts from other nations, Australia's States and Territories, and various national organizations. The gifts were given to celebrate and commemorate the opening of the new Parliament House in 1988. Prior to the opening, Parliament had supplied intending donors with guidelines for gifts. The guidelines stipulated that gifts should be compatible in quality, form and style with the architecture of the building or with the function of Parliament as an institution. For the most part, the gifts from other nations reflect their cultural traditions and / or natural resources. Those from the States and Territories of Australia relate to the building and role of Parliament. The gifts are displayed in a variety of locations in and around the building. Aside from a number of the gifts referred to in the foregoing narrative, the most important include the President of the Senate's Chair donated by Canada and the Vice-Regal Chair in the Senate Chamber donated by the United Kingdom.

Historical Documents:

The Constitutional Document Display in the Members' Hall of Parliament House houses two important documents that express Indigenous aspirations at particular periods in their recent history: the Yirrkala bark petition and the Barunga statement.

The Yolngu people from Yirrkala presented the Bark Partition to the Federal Parliament in 1963. It was in response to an announcement made by the then Prime Minister RG Menzies, that the government would grant leases for a large bauxite-mining project on land to be excised from the Arnhem Land reserve. The painted boards are an integral part to the petition, setting out Yolngu traditional title to their country. It was presented in both Yolngu and English and was signed by seventeen leaders. The accompanying letters made clear that it was a plea for the recognition of their title to land.

The Barunga Statement presented in June 1988 to then Prime Minister RJJ Hawke by the Northern Land Council and Central Land Council, sets out national Aboriginal political objectives. (NT). It called for self management, a national system of land rights, compensation for loss of lands, respect for Aboriginal identity, an end to discrimination, and the granting of full civil, economic, social and cultural rights.

A number of Aboriginal artists from different areas of Central Australia painted the two side panels. The designs depict a number of traditional Aboriginal stories from Central Australia and Arnhem land: the Two Women Dreaming stories which link all the major language groups of central Australia and the Crocodile Fire Dreaming which are traditional title to land and sea in Arnhem land. The text of the Barunga Statement calls on the government to negotiate a treaty recognizing prior ownership, continued occupation and sovereignty and affirming human rights and freedoms.

History

The construction of the new Parliament House in Canberra represents the culmination of the historical process of establishing a permanent home for the nation's Parliament in a national capital following the Federation of the Australian colonies in 1901. The first federal Parliament was officially opened on 9 May 1901 in the Exhibition Building in Melbourne, though Parliament did not actually meet there. Instead, it met in the Victorian Parliament House and

continued to do so until the move to Canberra in 1927.

Three years after Canberra was chosen as the site of the national capital, an international competition was held in 1911 to select a design for the federal city. The winner of the competition, Walter Burley Griffin, fixed upon Kurrajong Hill, now Capital Hill, as the focal point of the putative city. From it, the main avenues of the city radiated outward, as well as the city's principal axis – the Land Axis – to Mount Ainslie. Lying astride the Land Axis, Griffin's 'Government Group' of buildings was to occupy a triangle formed by Commonwealth Avenue, King's Avenue and the central basin of his ornamental lake. The apex of this 'Parliamentary Triangle' rested on Kurrajong Hill which was to be crowned by a Capitol building.

Unlike its namesake in Washington, Griffin did not intend his Capitol building to be a legislature (or parliament). Instead, he envisaged it as a ceremonial and cultural edifice 'representing the sentimental and spiritual head ... of the Government of the Federation' and commemorating the achievements of the Australian people. In the Griffin scheme, Parliament House was to occupy a lower position to the north, atop Camp Hill.

In June 1914, the Australian government announced an architectural design competition for a permanent Parliament House to be built in the position Griffin designated for it on Camp Hill. However, the outbreak of World War 1 forced the government to defer the competition. It was revived for a time in 1916, but was thereafter abandoned. In 1920, the Minister for Home and Territories referred the question of building a parliament house to a special committee. This was the Federal Capital Advisory Committee headed by the prominent Sydney architect John Sulman.

The Federal Capital Advisory Committee recommended the construction of a provisional building to serve as the federal Parliament House for up to fifty years. It was to be sited on the northern slopes of Camp Hill. In this position, the Committee felt that the building would not hinder the later construction of the permanent building on top of the hill.

Griffin vehemently opposed the Committee's recommendation. He warned that in the position proposed for it the Provisional Parliament House 'would absolutely destroy the whole idea of the Government group' of buildings and that it 'would never be pulled down'. Griffin also felt that he could not make parliament house on Kurrajong Hill the focal point of the Parliamentary Triangle and of the city plan in general because the Australian Parliament consisted of two houses. His concern was that, if parliament house were to be erected on this site, the focal point of his plan would be occupied by one house or the other. This would act to raise the status of one house at the expense of the other.

Other authorities, most notably the government's Chief Architect, John Smith Murdoch, advocated the construction of the provisional building on top of Camp Hill and the later erection of the permanent Parliament House on the summit of Kurrajong Hill, replacing Griffin's proposed Capitol building. In fact, Murdoch produced a scheme that involved cutting off the top of the hill, leveling an area on which to erect the permanent building and placing a cluster of administrative buildings on the slopes around the Parliament.

Murdoch's Kurrajong Hill scheme did not appeal to Sulman at all. He considered that the hill was too wind-swept and that its height and steepness would make a parliament building erected on it remote and difficult of access from the government buildings in the Parliamentary Triangle. These latter considerations would re-surface many years later when the permanent Parliament House was eventually erected on the hill. For now, Sulman and the Committee he chaired rejected the scheme. Their alternative proposal for building the Provisional Parliament House on the northern slopes of Camp Hill was accepted by the government. The building, designed by Murdoch, was officially opened in May 1927.

At the time of its opening, the Provisional Parliament House housed a Senate comprising 36 Senators and a House of Representatives comprising 73 Members. Murdoch designed the building to be able to cope with an expansion of the Senate and House of Representatives up to a maximum of 56 Senators and 112 Members respectively. He made no provision in the building for private offices for Senators and Members. Similarly, he provided almost no space in the building for the executive arm of government. The building was conceived purely as the home of the nation's Parliament, and it was expected that the executive functions of government would be carried out in East and West Blocks and other departmental buildings.

Under Section 24 of the Constitution, the number of Members and indirectly the number of Senators were to be related on a proportional basis to the nation's population. The numbers of Members and Senators were already lagging behind the growth in population when the Provisional Parliament House was opened. When the numbers were increased to 121 Members and 60 Senators in 1948, they were well beyond what Murdoch had allowed for in the building. The numbers were further increased in the mid-1980s to 148 and 76 respectively. The existing House of Representatives and Senate chambers could barely cope with these numbers.

Adding to the pressure on space in the Provisional Parliament House was the demand from Members and Senators from the outset for their own offices in the building. Over the years, these had been provided only with great difficulty by making additions to the building, reallocating and subdividing existing rooms, and housing two to three Members or

Senators in one small office. The greatest pressure on space in the provisional building, however, came about through the unavoidable movement into it of many of the executive functions of government. This movement was accentuated by the vast expansion of the executive. The first Commonwealth government after Federation, for example, included only eight ministries or departments, but this had increased nearly fourfold by the time Parliament vacated the building in 1988.

In response to the relentless demands for space in the building, the Provisional Parliament House was repeatedly enlarged until by the time it was superseded in 1988 it was approximately three times its original size. Even so, it had been apparent for many years before this that a new and permanent Parliament House was required. The matter was raised in the House of Representatives as early as February 1943 and re-surfaced at intervals thereafter. At length, in 1973, the National Capital Development Commission [NCDC] presented a report to Parliament on the options for a permanent parliament house. The report stated that it would be simple to build a new parliament house on the top of Camp Hill and to design it to harmonise with other buildings in the Parliamentary Triangle. However, the report noted that Capital Hill, as Kurrajong Hill was now called, was 'a more dramatic site'. It was also the focal point of Griffin's design for the national area, and a parliament house built on its summit would have 'city wide prominence'. The NCDC was aware, however, that care would have to be taken to ensure that a parliament house built on Capital Hill did not present as a remote structure unconnected with other buildings in the area.

The issue was debated at a joint sitting of the two houses of Parliament in August 1974. In their deliberations, Parliamentarians were not animated by considerations of simplicity and harmony, but rather a concern for drama and prominence. The Camp Hill site was thus of no interest to them. The Parliamentarians were also eager to ensure that no other building was ever erected on Capital Hill, in a superior position to Parliament. With these considerations in mind, they voted for the prominent site, Capital Hill. By an Act of Parliament, Capital Hill now became the designated site for the permanent Parliament House.

On 21 November 1978, federal Cabinet decided to proceed with the construction of the building, Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser announcing the decision the following day. The Parliament House Construction Authority was established to select a design for the building and oversee the project. On 7 April 1979, the government launched an international design competition for the new Parliament. The competition attracted 329 entries. On 26 June 1980, the assessors announced as their unanimous choice of the winning design an entry submitted by the firm Mitchell Giurgola Thorp Architects chosen from the 329 entries. This was an Australian company that had been formed by Mitchell Giurgola Architects of New York and Richard Thorp, an Australian-born architect who worked in Mitchell Giurgola's New York office. The design of the building was the work of Romaldo Giurgola.

Prime Minister Fraser turned the first sod of the project on 18 September 1980 and his successor, Bob Hawke, laid the foundation stone on 4 October 1983. The building was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 9 May 1988, in the Bicentennial year commemorating the first British settlement of Australia. It was also 87 years to the day since Australia's first federal Parliament was ceremonially opened in the Exhibition Building in Melbourne, as well as the 61st Anniversary of the opening of Parliament in the Provisional Parliament House in 1927. Federal Parliament first met in the new Parliament House on 22 August 1988. The total cost of the building project was about \$1.1 billion.

Design History:

Griffin intended that the Capital Hill site be reserved for a building of the highest order in the hierarchy of functions of which the seat of government is composed. The building on Capital Hill that Griffin called the Capitol, was to achieve supremacy as the objective feature, not only of the Government Group, but of the entire City and symbolise Australian sentiment, achievement and ideals. The Capitol was to symbolise - that in a democracy the people are above their elected representatives.

The brief for Parliament House required that the building should become a major national symbol and recognize that strength and originality of image determine the buildings association in the people's minds with national politics.

Romaldo Guirgola's unique design was selected as it not only fulfilled the requirements of the brief but reflected Griffin's concept of integrating with the landform, relating to the Land Axis as well as the major approach roads and establishing a formal physical connection to the existing Canberra geometry set by Griffin.

Although it was monumental in scale, the new building did not impose itself on the landscape, but rather merged with or incorporated into it. This was achieved by excavating Capital Hill, erecting the three-storey structure and, in essence, re-constituting the hill to cover the building under lawns and gardens. The top of the huge flagmast that crowned the structure was within one metre of the hill's original height. Thus, while Parliamentarians obtained the prominent site they wanted for the building, the building itself did not present as a dominating, dramatic or even particularly prominent feature in the landscape. This was felt to be in keeping with the democratic nature of the institution. The outstanding and dominating feature of the building was the great flag and flagmast that surmounted it. The dominance of this feature was deliberately intended by the architects as a symbol of national unity. At 81 metres high and weighing 220 tonnes, the flagmast is one of the largest structures of its kind in the world.

The new building was extremely sensitive to and compatible with Griffin's plan. In integrating the building into the (re-formed) hill, the architects conformed to 'Griffin's ideal of the dominance of the natural landscape'. Notwithstanding this, the hill was reconstructed as a formal landscape element which, in the manner of Griffin, the architects incorporated into the geometry of his city plan. The building also sat symmetrically astride Griffin's Land Axis for Canberra, continuing the line that ran from the War Memorial to Old Parliament House [OPH] (also referred to as the Provisional Parliament House) and thence to Capital Hill. The flagmast was designed in such a way that it could be seen through and as such would not obstruct the view along the Land Axis. One of the most striking aspects of the design, especially from the air, was the two great curvilinear walls which ran either side of the Land Axis, framing and emphasizing it. The walls, each 460 metres long and faced with granite, mirrored the course of two curved roads that Griffin had shown on Capital Hill in his 1913 plan.

In its design, the building formed a harmonious complement to OPH. During the construction of the new Parliament House, there had been much debate about the fate of the provisional structure. Many favoured its demolition. But the front elevation of Giurgola's building had an expansive north elevation which, when viewed from a distance, appeared to embrace the older building. The harmony between the two structures was enhanced by the façade of the Great Verandah of the new building which was designed to recall the style of OPH. When the front of the older building was viewed up close, the new Parliament House was not visible, allowing its predecessor to retain its architectural integrity. All that was visible above of it of the new works was the great flagmast and flag.

The compatibility of the two buildings and their connection to one another were further enhanced by the construction of a 150-metre wide land bridge between the two buildings. This sloped at a constant fall of 6° over the 500-metre distance from the front of the new building to the ground level at the rear of OPH. The land bridge also served to break down the remoteness that it had been feared would have attached to a parliamentary building erected on Capital Hill. The architects took additional steps to overcome this potential problem and to make the Parliament House accessible to the public by allowing the public to roam over the lawns of the land bridge and the gardens covering the building itself. This was a further recognition, as well, of the democratic nature of the structure, of the fact that it should be familiar to and approachable by the public. The degree of familiarity allowed with the building was an acknowledgement by the architects of the informal character of the Australian democracy and society. It is scarcely imaginable that such familiarity would be permitted with other parliaments around the world.

Various other considerations and assumptions underlay the design for the building. The placement of the House of Representatives chamber on the eastern side of the building and the Senate Chamber on the west reflects the arrangement that exists in OPH. This arrangement also solves the problem that Griffin claimed he had in siting the nation's Parliament on Capital Hill. The positioning of the chambers on either side of the Land Axis signifies that the two Houses of Parliament are of equal status and that one does not take precedence over the other. The influence of OPH is further demonstrated in the establishment of a central Great Hall in the building and behind it a central Members' Hall between the two chambers. This configuration is clearly derived from the Central King's Hall in OPH.

An assumption of great significance in the design of the building is that it was intended from the outset to house the core of the executive government. In fact, the new Parliament House was the first parliamentary building purpose-built in Australia to accommodate the executive. By contrast, in OPH and other parliament houses around Australia, the continual influx of elements of the executive into the buildings has necessitated their adaptation and enlargement to cater for the additional executive functions and occupants. The new building's title as Parliament House is thus something of a misnomer. It obscures the fact that the building was intended from the outset as a home for a significant part of the executive. This is mainly housed in a large purpose-built Ministerial Wing at the rear of the building.

Partly because it is both a parliamentary building and a home for the executive government, the new Parliament House is one of the largest buildings in the southern hemisphere. It contains about 4,500 rooms with a gross floor area of over 250,000 square metres and accommodates a workforce of approximately 3,500 when Parliament is in session. It is also designed to cater for up to 5,000 visitors a day, as well as an additional 1,500 on state occasions. In ground area, the building covers approximately 4.8 hectares – of the total 32-hectare site – with each of its four sides extending for over 200 metres. Because the building is embedded in the hill, however, it does not register from the exterior as a massive or overwhelming structure or even as a single monumental structure at all.

The building was intended to serve as Australia's Parliament House for a minimum of two hundred years. At the time it was first occupied, there were 148 Members and 60 Senators. In the House of Representatives' chamber, the architects allowed sufficient space to accommodate a doubling of the number of Members to 240. Similarly, in the smaller Senate chamber, allowance was made for a doubling of the Senators to 120. The Senate chamber, however, has been designed to be able to accommodate up to 360 Senators and Members in a joint sitting of Parliament.

National Symbolism

The siting of Parliament House on Capital Hill places it at the central location of Griffin's design and symbolically at the centre of the nation. The building is not an imposition of the hill but is of the hill and people are free to move

around. The building is not a closed form but rather is a cluster of buildings united within the circular form of the site by the geometry of the curved walls.

The bicameral system of government and its links with the Westminster tradition is expressed externally in the design with both Houses visible from all directions. The building refers to the origins of democracy in deference to the landform, the flag on the hill is the unifying symbol of the nation, while the use of white marble the Great Verandah reflects the classic architecture.

The influence of the land and the people working with the land are everywhere expressed in crafts and art works and Australian materials used for enrichment throughout the building. Light is introduced for its character relationship with the land as well as for practical reasons. Colours derived from their traditional use in the provisional Parliament House, are adapted to the colour tones of the land and its flora.

Through the Art/Craft Program, progression through the building in the public areas is rich in national symbolism and history. The Aboriginal people as original inhabitants are represented by the traditional symbolic art of the Papunya people in the mosaic of the Forecourt (refer Description). The Foyer metaphorically represents the arrival of European settlers for colonisation. The period of European settlement is represented by historic documents and art works in the public galleries and Great Hall, while the Members' Hall is symbolically the place of the present, the hub of the building displaying the constitution for Australian democracy and Federal system of government.

Landform Relationship and City Order:

The building derives its strong presence by merging built form with landform. The architect explained that " the architectural idea was subjected to an existing order: the order of the city and the order of the land – representing the inhabitants and nature".

The curved walls are the key to the geometry which resolves the functional planning and requirements for growth and change. The walls extend into four of the avenues which radiate from the hill two of which form the sides of the Parliamentary triangle thus bridging the geometry of the city. The curved walls and placement of the forecourt, public entrance and sequence of monumental spaces with the Members Hall being at the apex of the Parliamentary triangle, the symbolic centre of the city and the nation. The open frame of the Flag Mast straddling the top of the complex and hill enables the land axis concept to pass through it to Mount Bimberi the highest peak in the ACT (at approximately 98 km distance).

Parliament House and the War Memorial are features at opposite ends of the central sweep of the axis. Their address to each other is symbolic with the War Memorial symbolic of the sacrifice of the nation at the foot of Mt Ainslie and the Parliament house on Capital Hill, symbolic of the work and vision of a democratic people.

A success of the Parliament House Land Axis relationship is that it integrates with the Provisional Parliament House, which was designed by John Smith Murdoch to be long and low so that a Parliament House on Capital Hill would have an uninterrupted vista along the land axis to the War Memorial.

The profile of Parliament House has been arranged to complete the geometry of the Parliamentary Triangle with the flag providing visual engagement and unity that can be seen from long distances around Canberra.

The monumentality of the Parliament House is clearly expressed from the northern side of the Land Axis where the building engages with the Provisional Parliament House (OPH), while from other angles the sense of the monumental diminishes and at the Ministerial Wing it relates the nearby residential character.

Materials:

The brief requirements were that the new Parliament House should, wherever possible, contain and express the best in Australian materials and craftsmanship. Precast concrete, glass and plasterboard provide homogeneity and harmony in colour and texture throughout the building. These functional materials are enriched by the naturally occurring materials of Australia. Natural stone was used in selected locations particularly for the external envelope and for the monumental ceremonial and public spaces along with unpainted plaster, finished with powdered marble called 'stucco luster'. Research was carried out on the quality and availability of Australian materials with special reference to colour, grain and texture. Australian timbers were used almost exclusively throughout the building. Investigation of new techniques enabled the use of an extended range of eucalypt timbers beyond the established practice of the industry.

In all cases materials were used in a manner which revealed their intrinsic character and qualities with emphasis on serviceability and durability so as to minimize longer term maintenance. The building was designed to last 200 years and all of its finishings and features were designed to age with grace.

Artworks, Craft and Furniture:

The artworks and craft program was designed to be part of the building design and architecture. Each of the purchases and commissions was chosen or designed to add to the character and meaning of individual spaces and interweave and

extend narrative themes. A balance of the best in all aspects of Australian visual arts were sought and it included painting, sculpture, photography, ceramics, stained glass metal and woodwork. Craft works in furniture, rugs, glass and ceramics placed throughout the building reveal the beauty of Australian materials. Smallwares including silverware, stainless ware, linen, glassware, table ware and serving items contribute to the making of the place.

The twenty marquetry panels in the Foyer are of Australian timbers inlaid with designs of Australian flora, designed by Tony Bishop and fabricated by Michael Retter. The embroidery is a Bicentenary gift to the nation from the Embroiderer's Guilds of Australia designed by the artist Kay Lawrence and stitched by 500 embroiderers. The Great Hall tapestry was designed by Arthur Boyd and executed by the Victorian Tapestry workshop. The coat of arms at the forecourt entrance was designed by Robin Blau. Mandy Martin's large powerful landscape painting adorns the southern wall of the Main Committee Room.

Hundreds of items of furniture were specially deigned for the building by specialist craftspeople such as Kevin Perkin's commission for furniture, wall paneling, shelving, door heads/jambs etc. Some of these works were intended to be part of the existing traditions of the Parliament (as with the Speaker's Chair) or to general new traditions of use. Graphics, door furniture and hardware are included in the design works.

Colour and Light:

Inspiration for colour came from the Australian environment and Australian reds, and greens taken from the leaves and flower of the eucalypt form the basis of the colours of the Chambers. Blue of the Australian sky and the yellow of acacias are used throughout the ceremonial areas, the Parliamentary Library, the Committee rooms and the Executive.

Artificial and natural light are integrated by the design In the member's Hall natural light is introduced from many sources.

Symbolic Objects Housed in Parliament House:

A copy of the Australian Constitution is on display in Parliament along with a copy of the Magna Carta. The original of the constitution is in Britain.

The Yirkala Bark Partition was presented to the Federal Parliament in 1963 by the Yolgnu people from Yirkala (refer Description).

The Barunga Statement was presented in June 1988 to then Prime Minister R.J.L. Hawke by the Northern Land Council and Central Land Council (refer Description).

Design Achievements:

Parliament House has been awarded the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) Sir Zelman Cowen Award, the RAIA (ACT Chapter) Canberra medallion in 1989 and the Civic Design award in 1990. The internationally acclaimed architect, Romaldo Giurgola was awarded the Royal Australian Institute of Architects Gold Medal in 1988.

Parliamentary History:

The opening of the building in 1988 commemorated the bi-centennial of British settlement of Australia. Parliament House is associated with numerous politicians, community leaders and representatives at international, national and local level. In its 12 years of operation there have been many events occurring within its walls which have significantly changed the political and social face of the nation including the overthrow of the Labour Prime Minister, Bob Hawke by his own party in 1993 and the passage of legislation to introduce a Goods and Services Tax in 1999. International leaders have addressed Parliament and there have also been numerous demonstrations in front of the building against government actions.

Condition and Integrity

2005

The Maintenance of the building and its gardens are excellent. However new low walls are being constructed on the hill that will compromise the public's ability to walk over the hill unless they have been through a security clearance. Other security measures to the main public forecourt are being installed to prevent vehicle access.

Location

About 32ha, comprising the area bounded by the inner edge of Capital Circle, Capital Hill, Canberra, including road reserves within that circle.

Bibliography

- Australian Construction Services (1995) Parliament House Design Integrity and Management of Change. Prepared for the Parliament House Construction Authority 1990 and revised for the Parliament (1995).
- Beck, Haig. (1988) Parliament House Canberra: A Building for a Nation, Sydney, Collins.
- Dauth, L. (1997) 'Dreamings: A Forecourt for a Parliament', March 1997.
- Horton, D. (1994) 'The Encyclopedia of Aboriginal Australia' Aboriginal Studies Press for the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.
- Forecourt Mosaic, In House 99/14.
- Furness, Diane (1983) (ed.). Canberra and the new Parliament House, Sydney, Lansdowne.
- Giurgola, R. (1982) Towards a Definition of the Australian Spirit of the Parliament House Interior Spaces. Unpublished paper.
- Harrison, P. (1995) Walter Burley Griffin Landscape Architect, Canberra, National Library of Australia.
- "Indigenous Australia: In the Nation's Parliament House", Parliamentary Library.
- John Carrick Publishing Services. (1986) Australia's New Parliament House, Barton, Parliament House Construction Authority.
- Joint House Department (c.1995) Parliament House Art Collection, leaflet, Canberra, AGPS.
- Joint House Department (c 1995) Parliament House Gifts Collection, leaflet, Canberra, AGPS.
- Joint House Department, (c 1995) Parliament House Historic Memorials Collection, leaflet, Canberra, AGPS, c. 1995.
- Joint House Department (c.1995) Parliament House Visitor Guide, leaflet, Canberra, AGPS.
- Joint House Department (1995) Australia's Parliament House Information Sheet, Canberra, AGPS.
- Kleinert, S. & Neale, M. (2000) 'The Oxford Companion to Aboriginal Art and Culture', Oxford University Press.
- Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory website.
- Mayer (1996) Wolf. Images in Stone: A guide to the building stones of Parliament House, Canberra, AGPS.
- Northern Territory Government website.
- Parliament of Australia. Australia's Parliament Canberra: Visitor Guide, c. 2003.
- Parliament of Tasmania website.
- Parliament House Construction Authority (1986) "Project parliament: News from the Parliament House Construction Authority", no. 5
- Pearson, M., Betteridge, M., Duncan, M., O'Keefe, B. and Young, L. (2000) Old Parliament House Conservation Management Plan, prepared for the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.
- Reid, P.I (2002) Canberra Following Griffin, Canberra, National Archives of Australia, 2002.
- Sawer, G. (1988) The Australian Constitution, Canberra, AGPS, 2nd edition, .
- Smith, D. (1989). Interpreting the Art and Design of Parliament House: A Guide for Senior Secondary Schools, Manuka, Royal Australian Institute of Architects National Education Division.
- Sparke, Eric. Canberra 1954-1980, Canberra, AGPS, 1988.

