

CIT. ST. Beaufort
Steel House

INTERIM HERITAGE PLACES REGISTER

CITATION

Name of Place: BEAUFORT STEEL HOUSE, 25 Cowper Street, Ainslie

LOCATION OF PLACE

Section and Block Suburb: Block 1, Section 23, Ainslie

Area bounded by: Present housing block.

FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE:

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

- History associated with any occupant.
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

A house of major technological significance as a prototype, mostly steel house, prefabricated in the manner of aircraft production. Few of the Beaufort houses were built, owing to the short supply of steel in the immediate postwar years. The house is also a significant example of the post-war Victorian modern style and was designed by the prominent architect Arthur Baldwinson. It has been well conserved and is in intact condition. Date of construction: 1947.

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

Any action relating to these requirements is development for the purposes of the Act and will require approval prior to undertaking the activity. To undertake development without such approval may be an offence.

1. Requirements Relating to the Building

- 1.1
- 1.2

2. Requirements Relating to the Setting

- 2.1
 - 2.2
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MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

In assessing this place for the interim Heritage Places Register, the Council recommends that the following actions and activities should be undertaken which will enhance the heritage values of the place. They are made as recommendations and have no legal effect.

- 1.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

1. date Draft citation considered by ACT Heritage Council at Meeting (number)
2. date Draft citation released for public comment
3. date Revised citation for ACT Heritage Council Meeting (number)
4. 23/2/89 Gazetted in an interim Heritage Places Register
5. 22/7//85 Classified

Attachment A

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. DESCRIPTION OF HOUSE:

Prefabricated steel panels of steel and wood frames -style is a Beaufort House Type 2.

The house has a high pitch and low entrance underneath. Pylons - brick; joists - steel; floor - hardwood bolted to steel joists; framework - steel supports with steel sheeting.

2. STATUS OF PLACE AT NOMINATION DATE:

The building is in excellent condition with the only alteration being to enclose the front porch.

3. BACKGROUND:

Builder: Dept of Works. The house was built in 1947 on Block 1, Section 23, Ainslie.

It was furnished by Cusack's and opened to the public for inspection. Between Friday 18 April and Sunday 27 April, 4644 people had viewed the house. A charge of 2/- was made and given to charity. The Wunderheat in the lounge was going, but, as the Wunderheat was burning out its own frame and giving off little heat it was removed in 1979 and replaced with a Classic Electric heater in January 1979. This is also ducted into the dining room from the lounge room. (Cost of heater - \$238 from Norman Ross. Installation etc about \$120).

The chimney still remains closed-in above, but the chimney is still there lined with asbestos.

The cost of supply and erection of the house (+ Transport from Melbourne, Provisions of foundations, fences, etc; Water, sewerage & drainage; Concrete paths) 1,805 pounds and ten pence.

The prefabricated house was brought from Melbourne on a truck and semi-trailer and weighed 19 and a half tons. House arrived 10 March 1947. The Canberra Times reported 21 March 1947 "2 Canberra plumbers laid the roof in six hours, work had commenced on the house 8 days ago and by tonight all interior furniture will be installed".

Garage - 20'x 10' built about 1956 for 80 pounds. Concrete floor done by Bert Gregory and Roy Martin in 1957. Concrete cost 2 yards (thirty pounds).

Car Port - metal built by WR Engineering in 1978 for \$400.

House - the original porches, back and front, were open but closed-in in 1981 by Dowells of Queanbeyan for about \$1,100. Tiling, etc was extra and porches were lined along outside with Canberra bricks. (Cost about \$250).

Blinds - to cool the house in summer were added in 1982 by Neilsen Homemakers - about \$1,100.

In 1947 steel was in short supply and objections were raised in the Federal Parliament about the use of that material in housing instead of for ships etc. Although the Beaufort Division, Division of Aircraft Production had spent Two hundred and eighty thousand pounds on tooling up for production and was ready to build 5500 of these houses against its Government contract, production was immediately cancelled and the division closed down.

4. RELEVANT PRINCIPAL NATIONAL HISTORIC THEMES:

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

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

- (i) a place which demonstrates a high degree of technical and/or creative achievement, by showing qualities of innovation or departure, or representing a new achievement of its time;
- (ii) a place which exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group;
- (iii) a place which demonstrates a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function which is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost, or is of exceptional interest;
- (iv) a place which is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations;
- (v) a place which is the only known or only comparatively intact example of its type;
- (vi) a place which is a notable example of a class of natural or cultural places or landscapes and which demonstrates the principal characteristics of that class;
- (vii) a place which has strong or special associations with a person, group, event, development or cultural phase which played a significant part in local or national history;
- (viii) a place which represents the evolution of a natural landscape, including significant geological features, landforms, biota or natural processes;
- (ix) a place which is a significant habitat or locality for the life cycle of native species; for rare, endangered or uncommon species; for species at the limits of their natural range; or for district occurrences of species;
- (x) a place which exhibits unusual richness, diversity or significant transitions of flora, fauna or natural landscapes and their elements; or
- (xi) a place which demonstrates a likelihood of providing information which will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality or benchmark site.

6. REFERENCES:

Author Title date publication