

INTERIM HERITAGE PLACES REGISTER

CITATION

Name : BELLONA or "Spirit of War"

LOCATION

Section and Block Suburb: Outside Albert Hall (1993)
(Sculpture Gallery, Australian War Memorial since 1977, Section 39, Campbell)

The sculpture was first exhibited in Melbourne on Parliament House steps in 1921, transferred to Canberra in 1927, standing on Commonwealth Avenue, near the Albert Hall. It went into storage at the War Memorial from 1954-56, then found a home in the foyer of the Administrative Building from 1956-63. Lady Hasluck had Bellona removed to the garden of Government House where it remained for eight years until it was accepted back for display by the Memorial in 1977.

Curtilage: the statue and plinth

FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE:

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

- Donation by artist Sir Bertram Mackennal, RA (1863-1931 - born Melbourne, first Australian to be elected a Royal Academecian) to the people of Australia as a tribute to the gallantry of the ANZACs at Gallipoli.
 - The location of Bellona has always been a controversial issue, for the Board of the War Memorial felt the gift was not an appropriate exhibit, arguing that the War Memorial stands for the spirit of sacrifice, while Bellona personified the spirit of aggression.
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The bust of Bellona has aesthetic, historical and social significance. The work is a gift from Australia's most distinguished sculptor of the time to honour the sacrifice made by his fellow countrymen. It was the first public sculpture in Canberra and its display on various sites and the associated controversies are an integral part of the city's history.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS:

In accordance with s54(1) of the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991, the following requirements are identified as essential to the conservation of the heritage significance of 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**
 2. **Requirements Relating to the Setting**
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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. date Gazetted in an interim Heritage Places Register
5. Classified by the National Trust 19/9/89

Attachment A

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. DESCRIPTION :

Amazonian type female half figure, wearing an unusually designed helmet, and with a portion of shield. This colossal bronze bust depicts Bellona (Goddess of War), sometimes known as the sister of Mars. Dimensions: Height - 140 cm, Width - 120 cm, Depth - 64 cm.

2. STATUS OF PLACE AT NOMINATION DATE:

Unveiled at Albert Hall in Sept/Oct 1993 - in good condition then.

3. BACKGROUND:

This work, executed in London in 1906, was donated by Mackennal to the people of Australia as a tribute to the gallantry of the ANZACs at Gallipoli. The High Commissioner accepted the gift and the work and plinth were shipped to Melbourne, arriving in 1917. They lay neglected in their packing cases until eventually placed on the steps of the Victorian Parliament, being unveiled on Anzac Day 1921 by WM Hughes, then Prime Minister.

The bust and a replacement plinth were re-located in Canberra in 1927 with the intention that their eventual home would be in the grounds of the proposed War Memorial. In the meantime they were placed on Commonwealth Avenue from 1927-54 and various other locations in Canberra already mentioned. Since 1993 they have been placed outside the Albert Hall.

4. RELEVANT PRINCIPAL NATIONAL HISTORIC THEMES:

The artist was Sir Bertram Mackennal, RA (1863-1931). Born Melbourne. Mackennal trained with his father, John Simpson Mackennal, until he was accepted into the National Gallery School, Melbourne 1878-82. He then travelled overseas, studying at the Royal Academy, and sharing a studio with Tom Roberts. He visited Australia from 1888-91 to execute a commission of relief panels of the steps of Parliament House, Victoria. He was knighted in 1921, and was the first Australian to be elected a Royal Academecian in 1922. He died in England in Torquay, Devon in 1931.

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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