

NATIONAL TRUST REGISTER OF SIGNIFICANT PLACES

CITATION

NAME OF PLACE: CARILLON (and surrounds)

LOCATION OF PLACE: Aspen Island, Central Basin, Lake Burley Griffin, ACT

Section and Block Suburb:

Area bounded by: All of Aspen Island, as bounded by Lake Burley Griffin

FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE:

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

The Carillon was a gift from the British Government to the Australian people to mark the 50th Jubilee of Canberra.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Carillon is commemorative of Canberra's 50th Jubilee and symbolic of Australia's cultural links with Britain.

Its location complements the Captain Cook Memorial Jet providing another vertical element in a symmetrical position across the land axis. Architecturally the design of the building reinforces its location within the Parliamentary Triangle.

The landscape setting of the Carillon now provides a venue for formal celebrations as well as a recreation area.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS:

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:

1. Requirements Relating to the Building

1.1 Not applicable

1.2

2. Requirements Relating to the Setting

2.1

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

In assessing this place for the interim Heritage Places Register, the Trust recommends that the following actions and activities should be undertaken which will enhance the heritage values of the place.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

1. date Draft citation considered by Council at Meeting (number)
2. date Revised citation for Council Meeting (number).....APPROVED/NOT APPROVED
3. date Submitted for inclusion in interim Heritage Places Register
National Trust of Aust (ACT) Classified (as adjunct to Lake Burley Griffin).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:

The Carillon stands on Aspen Island which is linked by a bridge to Kings Park. The island's trees, pathways and definition of space provide a pleasing setting for the structure. The largest of the bells (which is also the largest in bell in Australia) weighs 6 tonnes while the smallest is about 7kg. The tower is clad with ferro-cement panels, and finished with white quartz and opal glass chips. The three columned triangular tower is 50m in height which allows good hearing of the bells in recitals within a radius of about 300m.

The Carillon is played from a standard baton keyboard, with the action mechanical as the soft iron clappers are drawn down onto the stationary belts. There is also an ivory keyboard and a roll playing mechanism.

The Carillon houses 53 bells, made of an alloy of copper and tin.

The Carillon is located between the 2 bridges and provides a complementary vertical element to the Water Jet, adding symmetry to the Basin. Both the Jet and the Carillon were opened in 1970.

OWNER/LESSEE Commonwealth Government

2. STATUS OF PLACE AT NOMINATION DATE:

3. BACKGROUND:

The Carillon was a gift from the British Government to the Australian people to mark the 50th Jubilee of Canberra, March 12, 1963. Queen Elizabeth II officially accepted the gift during an opening ceremony on 26 April 1970. The structure was the subject of a limited competition between three selected architects and three selected British architects. The assessors were Lord Holford (town planner), Sir Donald Gibson and Sir John Overall (NCDC) and the winners were the Western Australian firm of Cameron, Chisholm and Nicol.

The Canberra Carillon is a sister instrument to the War Memorial Carillon at the University of Sydney both being cast by John Taylor and Co. Loughborough, England. This firm is said to date back to the fourteenth century.

Aspen Island itself was formed by the flooding of the Molonglo River to create Lake Burley Griffin in 1964.

DESIGNER	Cameron, Chisholm & Nicol (WA).
BUILDER	Dillingham Constructions Pty Ltd.
BELLS CAST BY	John Taylor, Loughborough, England.

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

Department of Territories, *Canberra's Carillon*
Eric Sparke, *Canberra 1958-1980* (1988)