

INTERIM HERITAGE PLACES REGISTER

CITATION

Name of Place: Corroboree Park Ainslie Urban Conservation Area

LOCATION OF PLACE: **About 22ha, in Ainslie.**

Section and Block Suburb: All of Sections 79, 8 and 11. Blocks 1 to 9 & 25, Section 6: Blocks 1 & 5 to 15, Section 7; Blocks 1 & 10 to 20, Section 9; Blocks 1 & 10 to 20, Section 10; Blocks 1 & 4 to 15, Section 12; Blocks 6 to 12, 17 & 18, Section 13.

Area bounded by: The whole of the streetspace of Toms, Hargraves, Higgins and Lister Crescents, Grimes, Drake and Lewis Streets and Corroboree Park; the streetspace of Paterson Street between the alignments of the northern boundary of Block 13, Section 13 and the southern boundary of Block 19, Section 6; the streetspace of Cowper Street between Limestone Avenue and the alignment of the western boundary of Block 10, Section 6; and the streetspace of Chisolm Street between Limestone Avenue and the alignment of the eastern boundary of Block 6, Section 13.

FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE:

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

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

An area which is important for the way it demonstrates many of the characteristics of early twentieth century garden city planning in Australia. These include a curvilinear symmetrical street pattern, which was one of the two most popular garden city layouts, and the one most suited to generally flat terrain; single family detached dwellings erected at low density, framed by foliage; and trees, shrubs, lawns, private and public gardens merging into a park-like environment. (Criterion D.2).

This is the major area of 1920s artisan dwellings on the north side of Canberra, which is important for its associations with the early development of the Federal Capital. The park and the native trees in it are valuable for their reputed associations with the arrival of James Ainslie in 1825, being the reported site of his first camping place on Limestone Plains. The name of the park commemorates the tradition that aborigines used the area as a corroboree ground. (Criterion A.4).

The area's planning and landscaping, plus the architecture of the timber cottages, combine in an achievement of garden city design, which is most important. The layout of the park makes good use of the native trees. (Criterion F1).

The timber cottages are distinctive, as they were limited in design types and geographically to this and a few other areas of Canberra.

The area is important in demonstrating the attitude of the Federal Capital Commission to planning timber cottages which could be rented cheaply in a discrete area, rather than having such cottages and their tenants in areas set aside for brick houses, which would attract a higher class of tenant. Such class distinctions in planning in the 1920s is of exceptional interest and is no longer practised to the same extent. (Criterion B,2).

The park is important for its social and recreational value since the 1920s. The Ainslie Hall has social significance as a meeting place for over 60 years. (Criterion G.1).

The area is important for its associations with its planner, Sir John Sulman, a pioneer of town planning in Australia. (Criterion H.1).

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

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. 16/7/90 Nomination - to be entered in the Interim List AHC

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:

A semi-circular park which is planned around a clump of native eucalypts which existed before the arrival of the first Europeans in the early 1820s, plus two pairs of symmetrically planned crescents, along which are houses, most being constructed about 1927 of timber 'artisan dwellings'. The 1927 Ainslie Hall, another (later) hall, formerly the YMCA and a tennis pavilion, all built of timber and roofed in iron, are in the park. There are also various playground and sporting facilities. Red spotted gum trees, have been planted around the perimeter and a variety of trees and shrubs are in the park. Silky oaks line Hargraves and Higgins Crescents and the streets between them. Toms and Lister Crescents are lined with alternating Roman Cypresses and Prunus 'Nigra' trees. Lewis and Drake streets are lined with large Roman cypresses and Grimes street is lined with Deodar cedars.

This urban planning is attributed to Sir John Sulman, Chairman of the Federal Capital Advisory Committee, as the layout first appeared in the 1925 approved plan of Canberra. The builder was the Federal Capital Commission and the architect for the houses was Robert Casboulte, who headed the Housing Department of the FCC FROM November 1926 until about 1930. The houses were built in this and few other areas of Canberra, mainly nearby in Ainslie and in Yarralumla. They are not known to occur elsewhere. Landscaping was under the direction of TG Weston.

JJ Moore temporarily occupied 2000 acres on the north bank of the Molonglo River in 1824. In 1825 James Ainslie arrived with a flock of sheep, seeking pasture for Robert Campbell as a compensation grant. Ainslie is reported to have made his camp at what is now Corroboree Park, as the clump of trees there was beyond Moore's land.

2. STATUS OF PLACE AT NOMINATION DATE:

Generally good condition. Many houses have been modified, but the character of the period has been retained. There are gaps in the avenues of street trees.

3. BACKGROUND:

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

1. Cux, Tanner P/Ltd, *Government Cottage Construction in Canberra C1927*
2. McDougall, M, *Early Government Housing in Canberra: A History*, CCAE Thesis, 1980
3. Charlton, K; Garnett R, & Fowler, M. *Federal Capital Architecture - Canberra 1911-1939*, National Trust of Australia (ACT), 1984
3. Mawer, A, *Pioneering Exploits on Canberry Station in Canberra*, Historical Journal No 11, March 1983
4. Robinson, FW, *Canberra's First Hundred Years and after, 1927*
5. Daley, CS, *Canberra Nomenclature*, in Canberra Collection, 1976
6. Freestone, R, *Canberra as a Garden City 1901-1930*, in Journal of Australian Studies, No 19, Nov 1986
7. Freestone, R, *Model Communities. The Garden City Movement in Australia*, Nelson, 1989