

INTERIM HERITAGE PLACES REGISTER

CITATION

Name of Place: **THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL**

LOCATION OF PLACE

Section and Block Suburb; Section 39, Cnr Anzac Parades & Fairbairn Avenue, Campbell

Area bounded by:

FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE:

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

- Seen to be of national importance
 - Historical significance in that it grew from an idea formulated in 1915 on the Gallipoli Peninsula by CEW Bean, the official Australian Historian of the 1914-18 War
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

National War Memorial and Museum. Present use, preservation and display of War Relics of Australia, dissemination of information, research into war or warlike operations, in which Australia has been involved. 64 dioramas, 12,000 works of art, library of 100,000 volumes, 520,000 photographs, one million metres of cine film and repository of Australian Operational records. Publications include official histories of Australians at war.

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

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.

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. 1979 Classified

Attachment A

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLACE: THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

2. STATUS OF PLACE AT NOMINATION DATE:

Excellent condition

3. BACKGROUND:

The Australian War Memorial in Canberra ranks high among the great National Monuments of the world for the grandeur of its architecture, the beauty of its setting and the manner in which its many exhibits tell their historic story. It is the Nation's tribute to the sacrifice and achievement of Australian men and women who died serving their country in time of war, and to those who served with them overseas and at home. The Memorial houses a magnificent art collection, and relics of war involving Australians back to the mid 19th Century. The building is of stylised Byzantine architecture, cruciform in shape, and surmounted by a copper sheafed dome. It is built brick with an outer cladding of Hawkesbury sandstone. The Memorial stands in 12 hectares of terraced lawns edged by gums, wattles and oaks, on the lower southern slopes of Mount Ainslie. From the front entrance there is a 3 kilometre vista, down Anzac Parade across Lake Burley Griffin, to Parliament House, with the Brindabella Range behind. The Memorial grew from an idea formulated in 1915 on the Gallipoli Peninsula by C.E.W. Bean, the official Australian historian of the 1914 /18 War. He thought of it first as a museum to house relics of the Gallipoli fighting, but by May 1917 after thousands more Australians had given their lives in France, his conception broadened to a national memorial which also would house relics written records and works of art.

After the war, Bean and his associates approached the Government, and on 26 September 1925 an Act was passed authorising the Australian War Memorial. Construction on the building commenced in 1934, but it was not until 11 November 1941 that the building was opened by the Governor General Lord Gowrie, VC, and by then another world war had been in progress for more than two years. After the conclusion of World War 2, extensions so obviously necessary had to wait upon more urgent post war building. Further Australian involvement in conflicts in Asia saw extensions to the building under way between 1968 and 1971, which were opened by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, on 31 March 1971.

The original building was a joint design by Messrs J. Crust and EL Sodersteen, and construction was carried out by Simmie and Co.

The conception of the Australian War Memorial extends over three broad features commemoration, exhibition galleries and the library. The commemorative area consists of a courtyard containing a Commemorative Stone and a Pool of Reflection, flanked on East and West by elevated cloisters in which are affixed the bronze panels of the Roll of Honour of those who have died. At the northern end of the cloisters is the Hall of Memory, which is the central feature of the building, with its magnificent domed, 24 metre hall, the walls and dome faced with glass mosaic, more than 6 million pieces. There are stained glass windows on three sides, and the focal point is a 5.5 metre bronze statue of a serviceman on a 3 metre marble plinth. (Marble plinth from Macclesfield SA, marble in floor from Wombeyan NSW.) On two floors either side of courtyard and Hall of Memories are the Exhibition Galleries. The immense library is not ordinarily seen by the general public but is widely used by researchers and scholars.

The building is in excellent condition, and behind the scenes art works, relics and documents and the like are continually undergoing conservation and restoration work. From time to time during the year, the Memorial is the scene of ceremony. On 25 April there is the traditional dawn service in the cloisters followed by the National Anzac Day ceremony where the Governor General takes the salute of marching ex/servicemen and women on the parade ground in front of the Memorial, and wreaths are laid on the Stone of Remembrance. On November 11 the Remembrance Day Commemoration Ceremony takes place, the date on which was signed the Armistice of World War 2.

Heads of State from many countries and other dignitaries visit the Memorial each year to pay their tribute to the fallen.

The Memorial is open every day of the year excepting Christmas Day, and last year had more than 750,000 visitors.

RELEVANT PRINCIPAL NATIONAL HISTORIC THEMES:

4. 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.**

5. REFERENCES:

Author Title date publication