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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **National Trust supports heritage nomination for St Patricks Church, Braddon**

The ACT National Trust has supported a nomination to the ACT Heritage Register for St Patricks Church, Braddon.

St Patricks Church is situated on the busy corner of Cooyong and Donaldson Streets in Braddon. Although it is now beset by modern tall buildings it is a very noticeable as an example of inner city 1930s architecture built in an austere form for austere times.

It was erected as a combined church/school for the Catholic community as a place of worship in the inner city area and a school for their children. The first mass was held in August 1935 and the church still holds services today for the Catholic community.

Dr Peter Dowling, Heritage Officer for the National Trust stated today that, "Following discussions with parishioners and reading through letters from former students which the Trust has received we have identified strong historic, community and cultural values which are exemplified by the building."

Today, there is a strong connection with the German community of Canberra which most likely had its origins in the many German workers who were brought to Australia to assist in the building of the national capital after the Second World War.

Also other families that have worshiped at the church or were educated at St Patricks have connections back to the nineteenth century rural period of Canberra.

The Trust believes that the building is a visible connection to, and a reminder of the immediate pre-war and post war architectural style as well as the focal point of strong cultural and community group that has existed for seventy-five years.