

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R002

Name of Place: Ian Potter House

Other/Former Names: Beauchamp House

Address/Location: Edinburgh Avenue ACTON 2601
Block 1 Section 25 of City

Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:	1983	Level of Significance:	Local
Citation Revision No:	6	Category:	Residential (now offices)
Citation Revision Date:	October 1985	Style:	Georgian Revival

Date of Design:	February 1926	Designer:	Anketell & K(ingsley) A Henderson
Construction Period:	1929	Client/Owner/Lessee:	Academy of Science (formerly Commonwealth of Australia and FCC)
Date of Additions:		Builder:	Col James Walker, Rose Bay, Sydney

Statement of Significance

Resulted from a limited competition conducted by F.C.C. Significant example of early Federal Capital architecture and of K.A. Henderson, who had an influence on FCC architecture. Innovative use of structure and construction, reflecting labor and materials problems in Canberra. Design elements include street trees and surrounding landscape. Rare model of 2-storey government hostel, associated with first transfer of many public servants to Canberra to coincide with the opening of Parliament.

Description

Two-storey former guesthouse, now offices. H plan facing Edinburgh Avenue. Brick base with rendered concrete walls in the Georgian Revival style of the 1920's. Tiled hipped roof is bellcast over wide eaves on rhythmically spaced consoles. Central two-storey loggias front and back. First-floor verandahs over central common rooms, project into courtyard pergolas. Small-paned lead-light windows and doors. Simplified classical orders to verandahs facades and loggias. Rendered terracotta internal partitions. Substantial structural problems have had to be repaired. Original colour scheme was blue and white.

Initial contract cost 20,459 Pounds 1926. Final contract cost 28,234 Pounds 1929.

Ground floor construction is one way ribbed reinforced concrete slab cast on coke breeze blocks, supported on integral reinforced concrete beams, supported on concrete piers. Concrete columns and beams support first floor.

The construction ran significantly behind schedule, and was rushed and poorly supervised. There were considerable disputes over work done and payments.

Condition and Integrity

Replacement of front door and unsympathetic plumbing are the only detracting items. Otherwise intact externally. Interior staircase in original finish, other woodwork covered by paint (originally stained) internally.

Background/History

Analysis against the Criteria specified in Schedule 2 of the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991

(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 or 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 person, group, event, development or cultural phase which played a significant part in local or national history

(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

References

Other Information Sources