

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R034

Name of Place: Forrest Urban Conservation Area

Other/Former Names:

Address/Location: Area bounded by Hobart Avenue, the NW arch of Arthur Circle, Empire Circuit, Melbourne Avenue and National Circuit FORREST 2603

Block Section 3, 4, 8 of Forrest

Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:		Level of Significance:	National
Citation Revision No:		Category:	Residential
Citation Revision Date:	November 1989	Style:	Mediterranean

Date of Design:	1924	Designer:	Oakley and Parkes (Oliphant, site administrator)
Construction Period:	1924-27	Client/Owner/Lessee:	
Date of Additions:	numerous	Builder:	Chapman & Eggleston, JJ McCarthy & W McDonald

Statement of Significance

The Forrest Urban Conservation area is significant historically and socially as a key example of the FCAC first phase of executive government housing development in the Federal Capital. Designed by well known Melbourne architects Oakley and Parkes, the houses were the result of an architectural competition. An architecturally unified group of buildings in a park-like landscape, the buildings contribute greatly to their environment and are good examples of planned housing and landscaping development of the time. The layout was based on a competition entry by Sale and Keage, and is unusual in early Canberra planning with large blocks with NE aspect, and no open space or park focus, like other early housing developments. The conservation area sets the character for and is a landmark in the development of Canberra public housing and Federal Capital Architecture.

Description

An attractive streetscape and group of 57 substantial government houses set on large blocks with pleasant gardens, on curving tree-lined streets over undulating ground. The buildings were constructed by three different building contractors with at least 38 different housing types. The architects were originally asked to plan 40 houses. The houses are architecturally unified with red brick construction, generally rendered, with brick quoins and tiled hipped roofs with wide eaves. Decorative elements include the rusticated corners, porches with arches, or piers with relief panels, while timber shutters were used both decoratively and functionally.

Condition and Integrity

Many of the houses have now been substantially altered, mostly sympathetically.

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