

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R035

Name of Place: Olim's Canberra Hotel

Other/Former Names: Ainslie Hotel

Address/Location: Corner Limestone Avenue & Ainslie Avenue BRADDON 2612
Block 1 Section 56 of Braddon

Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:	1984	Level of Significance:	Local
Citation Revision No:	1	Category:	Residential
Citation Revision Date:	April 1990	Style:	Arts & Craft

Date of Design:		Designer:	Burcham Clamp & Finch Architects
Construction Period:	1926-27	Client/Owner/Lessee:	
Date of Additions:		Builder:	Elphinstone & George

Statement of Significance

The Hotel Ainslie is an important landmark in the development of architecture in the Federal Capital as one of the first buildings of inner north Canberra. The building is socially and historically significant as a licensed hotel since 1930, and one of the first of three guest houses in the Capital. The building is rare and architecturally significant, as one of the finest examples in Canberra of the influence of English Arts and Craft design. The planning of the building is highly successful, in three wings, which address the corner site. A substantial porte-cochere focuses attention on the central entrance.

Description

The Hotel Ainslie was designed by Burcham Clamp and Finch originally as a boarding house and built from 1926-27. The boarding house was closed in 1928, and in 1930 was converted into licensed premises. The building Y-shaped in plan with two storeys, was constructed of rendered brick with a tiled gabled roof. There are attic windows incorporated in the high gables, and larger dormer windows adjoining the gables at the lower first floor level.

Condition and Integrity

Unsympathetic additions to the rear and side of the building detracted from the integrity of the original building. The front has since been restored and a large addition built at the rear, reflecting the original character.

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