

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R055E

Name of Place: Captain's Quarters Assets B1 to B4

Other/Former Names:

Address/Location: 1-4 Harrison Road DUNTROON ACT 2600

Block Section of

Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	RNE
Date of Listing:	1984	Level of Significance:	Territory
Citation Revision No:	3	Category:	Military & Residential
Citation Revision Date:	November 03	Style:	

Date of Design:	1911	Designer:	Works & Railways
Construction Period:	1912-13	Client/Owner/Lessee:	RMC
Date of Additions:	1969	Builder:	

Statement of Significance

The Captains Quarters are historically significant for housing members of the Royal Military College's first instructional staff and for being four of only five residences for officers built in timber which have survived from the initial construction phase of the Royal Military College. As the group of houses was part of the original development, it has strong associations with the college. As medium sized timber residences, they reflect the status of the college instructors. They have had continual residential use.

The Captains Quarters are aesthetically important as a unified group of four houses of vernacular design, with similarities to the Federation Bungalow style, within a mature landscape.

Description

The four houses form a unified group within a mature landscape. They are examples of vernacular design with similarities to the Federation Bungalow style in their ground-hugging single-storey forms with wide eaves, deep shady verandahs on timber posts and prominent gable verges.

The four houses, originally identical, are single-storey, timber-framed on a timber subfloor structure, lined with horizontal weatherboards externally and plaster internally, probably on a hessian backing and lightly reinforced with hair. The timber used is Canadian redwood. The roofs are corrugated galvanised iron or steel. The two sets of chimneys for four fireplaces in each house are brick on a brick foundation. Bathrooms are concrete slab on fill. The windows with casement sashes are original. There are front and rear verandahs.

Condition and Integrity

Gilchrist Cottage, 1 Harrison Road, Asset B1, has been extended in two stages, with the later stage dating from about 1969. After refurbishment in the 1990s, the four houses are in good condition. Some casement window sashes have been replaced by double-hung sashes, but their narrow vertical proportions have been retained. ²

Background/History

See General Background to Royal Military College Precinct. This group of four timber-framed residences is located on the northern end of the RMC campus. The four houses, constructed for Captains, were commenced in July, 1912 and completed in January– March, 1913. Their original form is captured in a photograph taken in 1914, which shows the houses of identical appearance painted a dark colour, with a darker trim and very light casement sashes, porch columns and rafters. A fifth house was proposed in 1914 on the southern end but it was never built. ¹

Following the RMC tradition, the four houses are named after their original occupants. Gilchrist Cottage, 1 Harrison Road, was first occupied by Mr D. R. Gilchrist, who was the first Lecturer in Mathematics at the College. Captain H. D. K. Macartney, Royal Australian Garrison Artillery, first occupied Macartney Cottage, 2 Harrison Road. He served as a Company Officer and assisted in instruction in Infantry Drill, Physical Training and Musketry. Lalor Cottage, 3 Harrison Road, was first occupied by Captain P. A. R. Lalor, grandson of Peter Lalor, famous as the leader of the 1854 miners' rebellion at Eureka Stockade. He was the first Medical Officer at RMC. Mr C. E. MacKenzie, then Lecturer in Chemistry, first occupied MacKenzie Cottage, 4 Harrison Road. He was appointed Professor of Chemistry at the College in 1823.

The houses are currently used by the RMC as residences.

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

1. Philip Cox & Partners. *Royal Military College of Australia Duntroon, Conservation & Management Plan*, for Department of Housing & Construction, 1986.
2. Eric Martin and Associates, *RMC Duntroon, ACT: Conservation and Management Plan for 13 Residences*, Defence Housing Authority, 2001.

Other Information Sources