

# Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

**RSTCA No:** R064

**Name of Place:** Cotter Pumping Station & Electrical Sub-Station

**Other/Former Names:**

**Address/Location:** Cotter River ACT

Block Section of

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Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:	1984	Level of Significance:	Local
Citation Revision No:		Category:	Industrial/ Manufacturing
Citation Revision Date:	December 1991	Style:	

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Date of Design:	1911	Designer:	JS Murdoch associated with design
Construction Period:	1912-15	Client/Owner/Lessee:	
Date of Additions:		Builder:	

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## Statement of Significance

The buildings are historically significant in the ACT as two of the first buildings for engineering purposes established to ensure an adequate water supply for the future city of Canberra. The buildings were amongst the first permanent buildings in the ACT. Built while Burley Griffin was planning the city, between 1913 and 1916, they were significant in the early planning of Canberra as a garden city and electrically lit city. The pumps within the building are a record of this development over 50 years. The buildings are an example of Federal Capital architecture.

## Description

The pumping station and electricity sub-station are two brick buildings with smoothly rendered walls and tiled hip roofs, with ventilators. There is a later addition to the pumphouse on the northern end. The pumphouse contains 8 electrically driven pumps, the first two of which were put into use on 15 October 1918. Over a period of 50 years larger pumps have been added until the vertical pump was installed in 1963, above flood level.

## Condition and Integrity

Good condition and integrity. The building has a later 3 storey addition to the pumphouse.

## 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*

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## **References**

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## **Other Information Sources**