

NOMINATION TO THE ACT HERITAGE REGISTER

Please note that the information below represents indicative heritage values only, and not the views of the ACT Heritage Council (the Council).

This nomination is yet to be assessed by the Council against the heritage significance criteria established under the Heritage Act 2004.

Acceptance of a nomination is a preliminary, threshold step and ought not to be taken as indicative of any particular outcome concerning the Council's assessment of the nomination.

Law Courts Precinct Blocks 1, 4 & 6 Section 18 and Block 16 Section 63 CITY

The precinct is significant as a comparatively rare and successful example of twentieth century civic design incorporating three buildings which differently express the Late Twentieth-Century Stripped Classical style, to a National Capital Development Commission masterplan and control drawings.

The contribution of the precinct to Canberra's townscape is noteworthy and the siting of the buildings gives due prominence especially to the Law Courts of the Australian Capital Territory building which closes the vista along University Avenue at City Hill. There are other examples of civic composition from this period in Canberra, particularly Civic Square and Hobart Place, but in formal terms the Law Courts Precinct represents the most controlled and unified of the three compositions, providing a successful and elegant pedestrian space.

The most architecturally significant building in the precinct is the Law Courts of the ACT building, and the Reserve Bank of Australia also has architectural significance, while the City District Police Station is only significant as part of the civic design of the precinct. However, all the buildings contribute to the scale and proportions of the square, and provide unity in use of materials and detailing. Works of art, in the form of sculpture in Knowles Place and the Reserve Bank, add to the aesthetic value of the precinct.