



ACT Heritage Council

Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

Heritage Act 2004

20091. Ian Potter House

Section 25, Block 1

ACTON

This entry which was previously part of the old heritage places or the old heritage objects registers (as defined in the *Heritage Act 2004*), as the case may be, is taken to be registered under the *Heritage Act 2004*.

Conservation Requirements (including Specific Requirements), as defined under the *Heritage Act 2004*, that are contained within this document are taken to be Heritage Guidelines applying to this place or object, as the case may be.

Information restricted under *the old heritage places register or old heritage objects register* is restricted under the *Heritage Act 2004*.

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ACT Heritage Council

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
INTERIM HERITAGE PLACES REGISTER**

For the purposes of s. 54(1) of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*, a citation for:

IAN POTTER HOUSE, CITY

has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council, and included in an interim Heritage Places Register. This is pursuant to the ACT Heritage Council Resolution No. 47/7 made on 31 August 1998.

Date of Gazettal: 30 September 1998

Background material about this place and copies of this citation are available from:

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INTERIM HERITAGE PLACES REGISTER

DRAFT CITATION

IAN POTTER HOUSE, CITY

LOCATION OF PLACE:

- Block 1, Section 25, Acton.
 - Area bounded by Gordon Street (to the north), Edinburgh Avenue (to the south), Marcus Clarke Street (to the east), and by Becker House (to the west).
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FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE:

The features intrinsic to the heritage significance of the place are:

- (a) the building, including Fellows Court and Boden Court;
 - (b) its setting; and
 - (c) the wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*) in Fellows Court.
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Ian Potter House (known until 1985 as Beauchamp House) is historically significant for its associations with the Federal Capital Commission's building program for the transfer of public servants from Melbourne to Canberra in 1927. Together with other hostels built around the same time, it represents an early phase in Canberra's developing social and cultural history. It was originally used to accommodate female public servants, only later being used by both female and male public servants until the early 1970s, when it was also a guesthouse for visitors to Canberra.

The exterior of the building is a significant example of the Inter-War Georgian Revival style of architecture. It was the winning design by Melbourne architects, Anketell and Kingsley Henderson, in a competition held by the Federal Capital Commission to produce ideas for four hostels needed for the growing population of the new Federal Capital. It was the first of four guest houses designed by architects outside the Commission, to provide some variety in the design of the government hostels, most of which had been designed by Commonwealth architect, John Smith Murdoch. It was also the first building of a reinforced concrete structure in Canberra.

The building has associations with Sir Ian Potter, a highly respected entrepreneur and philanthropist.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS:

In accordance with s.54(1) of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*, the following requirements are identified as essential to the conservation of the heritage significance of this place. These requirements are prepared to implement the following conservation policy for the place:

Ian Potter House is to be conserved and maintained in a manner consistent with its heritage significance.

Any action relating to these requirements is development for the purposes of the Act and will require approval prior to undertaking the activity. To undertake development without such approval may be an offence.

(i) Requirements Relating to the Building

- (a) New building and external alterations and additions shall reflect and complement the architectural style and fabric of the existing building and shall not adversely affect the heritage values of the place.

- (b) Demolition of the building shall not be permitted, other than in exceptional circumstances, such as those in which the building is found to be structurally unsound and beyond economic repair, or where there are significant health and safety reasons to warrant demolition, and there is no prudent and feasible alternative.

(ii) Requirements Relating to the Setting

- (a) The courtyards of the building shall be maintained and conserved, including the wisteria in Fellows Court.
 - (b) The garden setting of the building as shown on the attached site plan shall be maintained in a manner consistent with the building's heritage significance.
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MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

In assessing this place for the interim Heritage Places Register, the Council recommends that the following actions and activities should be undertaken which will enhance the heritage values of the place. They are made as recommendations and have no legal effect.

- (i) The building maintenance program instituted by the Academy of Science for Ian Potter House should continue.
- (ii) A conservation plan should be prepared in consultation with the ACT Heritage Council to ensure the heritage significance of the building and its setting is retained.