



ACT Heritage Council

Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

Heritage Act 2004

20034. Lennox House

Section 34 Block 4 (part), Section 64 Blocks 1 (part), 2 (part)

ACTON

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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.

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34. Lennox House [V66]¹

Location

District of Canberra Central, Division of Acton, Section 34 Block 4 part and Section 64 Blocks 1 part and 2 part as identified in Figure 34a and indicated on the Territory Plan Map by the Heritage Places Register Overlay at H34.

Features Intrinsic To The Heritage Significance Of The Place:

The place comprises:

- a) buildings identified as A, D, F, G, H, I and Laundry A;
- b) part of the road known as Lennox Crossing; and
- c) eucalyptus and cypress screen planting on the northern side of the complex.

Statement Of Significance:

Lennox House remains as a surviving element of the Acton site of early Canberra public administration and as an integral part of the broader cultural landscape of Acton Peninsula. It is important for its association with the earliest development of Canberra as the Nation's Capital and with the successive development of Canberra and the Australian National University.

Its buildings display uniformity of scale, form and materials and the complex is one of the few surviving remnants of the early Federal Capital period.

The complex demonstrates the importance of accommodation, particularly that at low cost, in Canberra.

The social history of Canberra is reflected in the importance of sporting clubs such as tennis, cricket, rifle shooting and chess, which were centred on the place. Drama clubs were also based in the complex during its University phase and since the 1970s it reflects the desire for cheap student accommodation, especially for families and single mothers, consistent with their increased access to universities.

Lennox House has social significance because of strong associations, which resonate over generations and across uses of the buildings. Lennox House evokes strong attachment to place by its occupants. Recurring familial and community connections to Lennox House, across the generations, enhance these associations. Lennox House is valued by the community having continuing, strong and positive associations.

As student accommodation Lennox House has been a focus for increasing opportunities for women, and the poor, to study at University. Lennox House is highly valued by students and the community for its use as a high quality, low-cost accommodation which allows autonomy and lifestyle diversity for its users.

Specific Requirements:

In the National Capital Plan, the land which comprises the Lennox House Complex is specified as a Designated Area under the provisions of s. 10(1) of the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988* and work carried out is subject to the approval of the National Capital Authority. The land is not classified as National Land under the *National Land Ordinance 1989* or subsequent amendments. Consequently the land is Territory Land and Territory planning requirements may also apply. 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 apply to works undertaken by the Territory and in circumstances where the Territory is the approving authority. The Territory's conservation policy for the place is:

The Lennox House complex is to be conserved and any changes to buildings identified in figure 34b as A, D, F, G, H, I and Laundry A are to be in the context of sympathetic conservation of the place. The historical context and relationship with Lennox Crossing is to be retained and this road is to remain in its current alignment and form. Any new buildings to be erected in the place must be sympathetic with and must not dominate the original buildings. Significant landscape elements of the place, including the eucalyptus and cypress screen planting on the northern side of the complex, are to be conserved.

¹ [V66: Added to Heritage Places Register 30/10/1998 (Variation Number 66)]

i) Building including alteration and addition

- a) The buildings identified in figure 34b as Blocks A, D, F, G, H, I and Laundry A are to be conserved and appropriately maintained.
- b) Any refurbishment to these buildings is to reconstruct, as far as possible, the original decorative finishes and treatments.
- c) New or replacement buildings may only be permitted where it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed buildings will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place.

ii) Demolition

- a) Demolition of the significant fabric of buildings identified in figure 34b shall not be permitted, other than in exceptional circumstances, including circumstances in which the building is structurally unsound and beyond economic repair or where there are significant public health and safety reasons to warrant demolition. All prudent and feasible alternatives to demolition will need to have been explored before demolition is considered.
- b) The demolition of original building fabric shall only be allowed in the context of sympathetic conservation of the place, including any alterations and additions. Accurate recording of a building prior to any demolition or removal of fabric is to be conducted.

iii) Landscape

- a) The existing eucalyptus and cypress screen planting identified in figure 34b is to be conserved and appropriately maintained.
- b) The alignment and character of the road known as Lennox Crossing, as included in this place, is to be conserved. The absence of kerbs and gutters is a significant feature of the character of this road.

Figure 34a: Lennox House Complex: Location

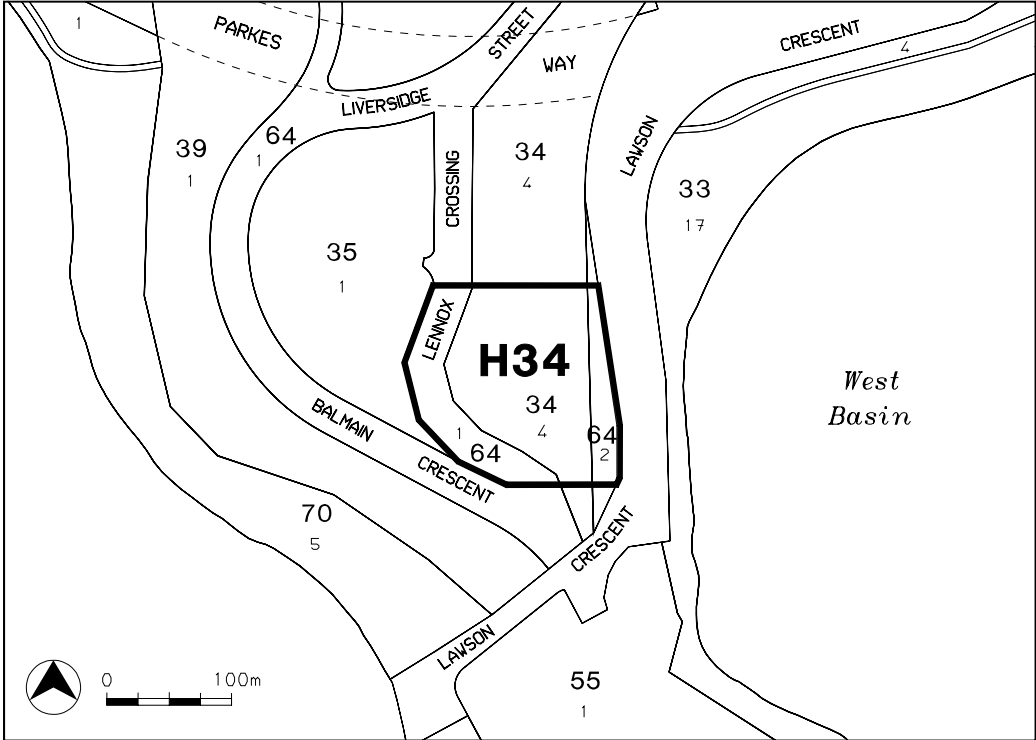


Figure 34b: Lennox House Complex: Significant Elements

