



ACT Heritage Council

Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

Heritage Act 2004

20015. Forrest Fire Station Precinct

Section 35 Blocks 2-10 & 12

FORREST

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15. Forrest Fire Station Precinct, Forrest [V56]¹

Location

District of Canberra Central, Division of Forrest, Section 35 Blocks 2 to 10 and 12 as identified in Figure 15 and indicated on the Territory Plan Map by the Heritage Places Register Overlay at H15.

Features Intrinsic To The Heritage Significance Of The Place

The place comprises:

- a) Fire Station building;
- b) seven residences organised around the fire station;
- c) associated landscaping; and
- d) original planting in Fitzroy Street, street trees, verges and remaining hedges.

Statement Of Significance

Forrest Fire Station Complex, built in 1938, offers a strategic landmark site along Canberra Avenue, an important axis leading to Capital Hill.

E H Henderson, Chief Architect from the Department of Works and Services provided a design typical of the Inter-War Functionalist style inherited from the European modern architecture of the 1920s and 1930s. The Forrest Fire Station Complex is a significant example in the ACT of this style, exhibiting a high quality of architectural design and composition.

The Complex is a link with the early days of Canberra through the history of the Fire Brigade.

Specific Requirements

In accordance with s54 (1) of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*, the following requirements are identified as essential to the retention of the heritage significance of the place:

- i) **Streetscape**
 - a) Existing street trees, remaining original planting and fences and the existing streetscape setting shall be conserved and appropriately maintained. The Fitzroy Street trees, which relate to the first school in the area, are to be retained.
 - b) New street furniture shall be sympathetic to the original design.

¹ [V56: Added to Heritage Places Register 27/09/1996 (Variation Number 56)]

ii) Street pattern and layout

- a) The Forrest Fire Station Complex, including the Fire Station building and the seven residences, shall be retained. The original existing external appearance of the buildings including brickwork and their colours, original timber windows and doors, stairs and planter boxes, original balustrades over balconies and incorporated garages, original rain water head and down pipes and the internal staircase and banister of the Fire Station building are to be conserved.
- b) The laneway between Canberra Avenue and Fitzroy Street is to be retained. The three buildings to the north-west are to be considered as a sub-precinct and the retention of their common use is to be encouraged.
- c) The overall planning layout of the Precinct is an integral part of its significance and its components are to be conserved. The existing street pattern is to be retained.

iii) Building including alterations and additions

- a) External alterations and additions to the existing dwellings shall be consistent with the existing landscape and streetscape values and reflect and complement the architectural style of the original dwellings. This includes alterations to external finishes and changes including painting and adding or removing rendering.
- b) No dwellings or structures shall be erected between the front boundary and a line drawn along the entrance side of the forward most building and then directly to the closest point on the nearest side boundaries.
- c) Minor external alterations and additions may be permitted to the front of the building where the Heritage Council is satisfied that the proposed work will not adversely affect the significance of the place.
- d) External alterations and additions may be permitted only to the sides and rear of buildings and only if the additions are set back 0.5m from the existing front of the building.
- e) The original building form is to remain dominant.
- f) The roof pitch, walls, materials, window types and materials, shall be as similar to the existing dwellings as is feasible.
- g) No front courtyard walls shall be permitted.
- h) Requirement (iii) (d) above does not apply where the block has two apparent street frontages (ie outside corner blocks).

iv) Demolition

- a) Subject to (iv) (b) and (iv) (c) demolition of original dwellings shall not be permitted, other than in exceptional circumstances, including circumstances in which the building is structurally unsound and beyond economical repair or where there are significant public health and safety reasons to warrant demolition.
- b) Subject to (ii) (a), the demolition of original external building fabric shall only be permitted in the context of permissible alteration of, and/or addition to, existing dwellings.
- c) Alteration or addition to, or demolition of, internal components of original dwellings may be permitted provided the external building fabric of the existing dwelling is not adversely affected.

v) Re-development

- a) Any re-development shall match the proportions and materials of the original fabric.

Figure 15: Forrest Fire Station Precinct, Forrest

