



ACT Heritage Council

Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

Heritage Act 2004

20030. Free Serbian Orthodox Church

Section 19 Block 2

FORREST

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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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30. Free Serbian Orthodox Church And Murals, Parish Of St George, Canberra [V78]¹

Location

District of Canberra Central, Division of Forrest, Section 19, Block 2 as identified in Figure 30 and indicated on the Territory Plan Map by the Heritage Places Register Overlay H30.

Features Intrinsic To The Heritage Significance Of The Place

The place comprises:

- a) the church; and
- b) the murals.

Statement Of Significance

The Free Serbian Orthodox Church and the murals are a product of a distinct phase in Australia's history - the mass migration post World War II and arrival in Australia of people with differing cultures and faiths.

The Free Serbian Orthodox Church building is a successful modern reminder of traditional Serbian church planning. The simplicity of the external architectural treatment contrasts with the internal complexity and richness of the display of the paintings and religious furniture, which highly reflect the influence of the traditional eastern ecclesiastic style.

The execution of the murals by one elderly artist over a period of nearly 16 years is a noteworthy achievement, and his unified style gives an aesthetic appeal to the interior, which draws visitors from many parts of the world. The social significance and community interest in recreating an environment of worship similar to that of their homeland is reflected in the total care and support of the artist by the Church congregation during the period of his task.

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:

To promote the conservation and interpretation of the significant heritage features of the place.

- i) Building including alterations and additions**
 - a) The church building and interiors are to be retained and appropriately conserved.
 - b) No extension or addition shall be permitted to the northern, western or southern elevations of the church building. Any additions or alterations to the remainder of the buildings shall respect the original fabric and form of the building.
- ii)** The murals are to be conserved and appropriately maintained.
- iii)** Development may be permitted only where it can be demonstrated that the new work respects the original layout of buildings on the land and does not dominate or obscure the original church building.

¹ [V78: Added to Heritage Places Register 12/12/1997 (Variation Number 78)]

Figure 30: Free Serbian Orthodox Church and Murals, Parish of St George, Canberra

