

Australian Capital Territory

# Heritage (Decision about Registration for 70 Dominion Circuit, Deakin) Notice 2011

Notifiable Instrument NI 2011 - 500

made under the

*Heritage Act 2004* section 42 Notice of Decision about Registration

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**1. Revocation**

This instrument replaces NI 2011 – 101

**2. Name of instrument**

This instrument is the Heritage (Decision about Registration for 70 Dominion Circuit, Deakin) Notice 2011 -

**3. Registration details of the place**

Registration details of the place are at Attachment A: Register entry for 70 Dominion Circuit, Deakin

**4. Reason for decision**

The ACT Heritage Council has decided that 70 Dominion Circuit, Deakin meets one or more of the heritage significance criteria at s 10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*. The register entry is at Attachment A.

**5. Date of Registration**

25 August 2011

**Jennifer O'Connell**  
Acting Secretary  
ACT Heritage Council  
25 August 2011



ACT Heritage Council

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**HERITAGE REGISTER  
(Registration Details)**

**Place No:**

For the purposes of s. 41 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, an entry to the heritage register has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council for the following place:

70 Dominion Circuit

Block 9 Section 7, Deakin

**DATE OF REGISTRATION**

Notified: 25 August 2011 Notifiable Instrument: 2011-500

Copies of the Register Entry are available for inspection at the ACT Heritage Unit. For further information please contact:

The Secretary  
ACT Heritage Council  
GPO Box 158, Canberra, ACT 2601

Telephone: 13 22 81 Facsimile: (02) 6207 2229

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## IDENTIFICATION OF THE PLACE

- 70 Dominion Circuit, Block 9, Section 7, Suburb of DEAKIN, ACT.
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## STATEMENT ABOUT THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE

70 Dominion Circuit is important as evidence of a way of life that is no longer practised. The house and garage remain in original condition, demonstrating the character of a block and dwelling occupied by early middle to upper ranking Canberra public servants from the immediate pre to the immediate post World War 2 period.

70 Dominion Circuit is considered to be the only highly intact example of a Department of Interior (DOI) Type 1H house, retaining its original decorative colour scheme and plan layout (apart from minor alterations to the kitchen/laundry area).

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## FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE

The features intrinsic to the heritage significance of 70 Dominion Circuit, Deakin, which require conservation comprise:

- External built form, fabric and decorative colour scheme of the original house including:
  - The Canberra red brick base, deep cream rendered walls and timber windows painted externally; terra cotta tiled hipped roof and 3 brick chimneys, rendered and capped in red brick.
- Characteristic stylistic details of the exterior including:
  - The minimal eaves projection and moulded coved cornice; the continuous, rendered projecting string course at window head level; the horizontally proportioned window openings, the horizontality carried through in the division of sashes into horizontally proportioned timber window panes.
  - The front porch with a typical flat concrete rendered canopy with curved corner and grooved leading edge; the steps and porch terrace paved in red brick with low red brick balustrades topped with a painted metal handrail of typically inter-war functionalist detail; the original porch light fitting and porch window with original art deco styled stained glass motif.
  - The front and rear timber panelled doors, painted on the outside and with the original painted timber framed and braced fly-wire screens.
  - The free standing garage with attached work room, having similar wall, roof, eaves and window details to the house; the pair of original painted side-hung timber garage doors, and the original wire gates to the driveway which have been retained in storage.
- The interior plan form and use of building materials:
  - Retention of the internal plan form with the exception of the kitchen laundry and rear porch areas where alterations have already taken place.
  - Interior polished jarrah floors throughout; the hall passageway and two bedrooms where the flooring is pine, carpet covered. Stained jarrah skirtings, picture rails, architraves and windows throughout the interiors; and in the bathroom where all timber work is painted light cream.
  - Panelled plaster ceilings and gypsum plaster or rendered brickwork walls, above picture rails painted white. Walls below picture rails painted cream.

- Characteristic stylistic details of the interior and colour scheme:
  - Fireplaces (lounge and dining room) with fireplace walls and chimney breasts in rendered brickwork painted cream, with fireplace openings having red brickwork interior surrounds and plinth with a projecting tiled hearth at floor level. The built-in timber over mantle, timber shelving and associated joinery
  - Internal doors in panelled timber with stained finish and glazed with dimpled glass in the top panel; original panelled lounge room doors with stained finish; the front door
  - The original bathroom fit out including wall and trim tiles, mosaic floor tiles, original basin, bath and tap ware and mirrored shaving cabinet.
  - The original W.C. and cistern for the W.C.
  - The original light fittings in the bedrooms and hall passage
  - The original storeroom and the original coat rack fixed to the wall of the hall passage; and the original linen cupboard
  
- The character of the block and garden planting:
  - The informality of the garden planting with emphasis on productive horticulture in the rear garden and soft informal mixed screen planting in the front garden
  - The remnant fruit trees
  - The gravel driveway

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### **APPLICABLE HERITAGE GUIDELINES**

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The Heritage Guidelines adopted under s27 of the *Heritage Act 2004* are applicable to the conservation of 70 Dominion Circuit, Deakin.

The guiding conservation objective is that 70 Dominion Circuit, Deakin shall be conserved and appropriately managed in a manner respecting its heritage significance and the features intrinsic to that heritage significance, and consistent with a sympathetic and viable use or uses. Any works that have a potential impact on significant fabric (and / or other heritage values) shall be guided by a professionally documented assessment and conservation policy relevant to that area or component (i.e. a Statement of Heritage Effects – SHE).

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### **REASON FOR REGISTRATION**

*70 Dominion Circuit, Deakin, has been assessed against the heritage significance criteria and been found to have heritage significance when assessed against three criterion under the ACT Heritage Act including c, f & g.*

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### **ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA**

Pursuant to s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, a place or object has heritage significance if it satisfies one or more of the following criteria. Significance has been determined by research as accessed in the references below. Future research may alter the findings of this assessment.

- (a) it demonstrates a high degree of technical or creative achievement (or both), by showing qualities of innovation, discovery, invention or an exceptionally fine level of application of existing techniques or approaches;

The place is assessed as not meeting this criterion.

**(b) it exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group;**

The place is assessed as not meeting this criterion.

**(c) it is important as evidence of a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function that is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost or is of exceptional interest;**

70 Dominion Circuit is important as evidence of a way of life that is no longer practised. The house and garage retain elements of the original layout and colour scheme, demonstrating the character of a block and dwelling occupied by early middle to upper ranking Canberra public servants from the immediate pre to the immediate post World War 2 period in the ACT.

The house has had no alteration externally except to the rear porch; it is remarkably intact internally, apart from the replanning of the kitchen, laundry and rear porch areas. The house retains its original decorative colour scheme both internally and externally.

70 Dominion Circuit meets this criterion.

**(d) it is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations;**

The place is assessed as not meeting this criterion

**(e) it is significant to the ACT because of its importance as part of local Aboriginal tradition**

The place is assessed as not meeting this criterion

**(f) it is a rare or unique example of its kind, or is rare or unique in its comparative intactness**

The occurrence of the Department of Interior (DOI) Type 1H house has been investigated for the neighbouring suburbs of Forrest, Kinston and Griffith, and it is apparent that 70 Dominion Circuit is the only highly intact example of this type of dwelling.

The residence is unique in its comparative intactness, retaining a high level of integrity with only minor alterations in the early 1970s to the kitchen, rear porch and laundry. Both the interior and exterior retain the original decorative scheme; stained timber internally and painted cream timber externally.

70 Dominion Circuit meets this criterion.

**(g) it is a notable example of a kind of place or object and demonstrates the main characteristics of that kind**

70 Dominion Circuit is a notable example of a highly intact Department of Interior Type 1H house and demonstrates the main characteristics of its kind. The modest two bedroom dwelling set on a large block has an asymmetrically located entrance, detached single garage and workshop, Canberra red brick base and rendered walls above, timber framed doors and windows (painted externally and stained internally), terracotta tiled roof with minimal eaves projection, flat concrete curved porch canopy, front and rear porches and steps paved with Canberra red bricks, painted porch railing, decorative porch window with Art Deco style stained glass motif and stained timber floors, picture rails internal doors.

The external fabric and windows of the garage match the existing house.

70 Dominion Circuit meets this criterion.

**(h) it has strong or special associations with a person, group, event, development or cultural phase in local or national history**

The house has associations with prominent public servants, notably Frank Thorpe, chairman of the Public Service Board, as his retirement home and with academics of the ANU. However, these associations are not of sufficient strength to meet the requirements of this criterion.

70 Dominion Circuit is assessed as not meeting this criterion.

**(i) it is significant for understanding the evolution of natural landscapes, including significant geological features, landforms, biota or natural processes**

The place is assessed as not meeting this criterion.

**(j) it has provided, or is likely to provide, information that will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of the natural or cultural history of the ACT because of its use or potential use as a research site or object, teaching site or object, type locality or benchmark site**

The place is assessed as not meeting this criterion.

**(k) for a place—it exhibits unusual richness, diversity or significant transitions of flora, fauna or natural landscapes and their elements**

The place is assessed as not meeting this criterion.

- (l) for a place – it is a significant ecological community, habitat or locality for any of the following:**
- i. the lifecycle of a native species;**
  - ii. rare, threatened or uncommon species;**
  - iii. species at the limit of their natural range;**
  - iv. distinct occurrences of species**

The place is assessed as not meeting this criterion.

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## **SUMMARY OF THE PLACE'S HISTORY AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

### **History**

70 Dominion Circuit, Deakin is a Department of the Interior (D.O.I.) pattern book design, Type 1H, drawn for the block and built as government housing in 1937. The suburb of Deakin and Dominion Circuit had been gazetted in September 1928, but little or no building took place then. The Great Depression, 1929-1932 slowed down, almost stopped, building in Canberra until later in the 1930s. The Federal Capital Commission had been abolished in 1930, and the Department of the Interior took over responsibility for construction in Canberra, 'slowly building in the 1920s suburbs...' including Deakin. (Taylor 2007:56).

Edwin Hubert Henderson was Chief Architect, Works and Services Branch, Department of the Interior, until 1939, succeeding JS Murdoch in 1929. As chief architect, Henderson is largely associated with the 1930s architecture of numerous suburban and country town Commonwealth Bank branch buildings throughout Australia. He was the architect for the Commonwealth Bank in Martin Place, Sydney which was used as the model for the design of the 'money box'.

Henderson used Art Deco design in the architectural details of many of his buildings, notably public buildings in the Parliamentary area such as the National Library (now demolished), the old Patent Office and two of Canberra's five Art deco schools – Ainslie Primary and Canberra High School (Canberra School of Art).

70 Dominion Circuit was not necessarily designed by Henderson but was certainly designed under his supervision. Casey House, Rhodes Place, Yarralumla is a more important house of similar inter-war functionalist and Art Deco design characteristics which was designed by Henderson for Richard and Maie Casey. It is more representative of Henderson's capacity as an architect in the domestic field.

It appears that 70 Dominion Circuit was designed and built with no particular occupant in mind. (ACTPLA records) The first occupant may have been Neville F. Stuart, a senior public servant, who leased the house between 1940 and 1948. Neville Frank Stuart was a protégée of H.C. Coombs who worked as an economist in the Treasury between 1940 and 1944, served as a Sub-lieutenant in the RAN in the South Pacific in 1944 and 1945, and returned to a post as economist in the department of Post War Reconstruction in 1946. He left Canberra for Sydney after his appointment to the Joint Coal Board in April 1947. His subsequent career, which culminated in a First Assistant Secretaryship with the Department of Trade, is recorded in *Who's Who in Australia, 1965*.

The 2011 owners, Drs. Bruce and Ann Kent occupied the house in April 1971. From 1951 – 1971 it had been the retirement home of the Chairman of the Public Service Board, Frank Thorpe and his wife Vera. Frank Thorpe was a significant figure in Canberra in his role as sole Commissioner of the Public Service Board from March 1937-December 1946, during the critical post-Depression and War II period, and as Chairman of the 3-member board when it was reconstituted in 1 January 1947, as well as his role in post-War reconstruction' (Bruce and Ann Kent).

### ***Neighbouring properties in Section 7.***

Section 7 Deakin was a representative community of middle to high ranking public servants, people who took an important role in the early development of Canberra. They included the following:

At Block 1: A privately built house was originally the home of CSIRO scientist Albert Hill, and his family.

Block 2: on Melbourne Avenue, the residence for many years of Sir John Crawford, former Secretary of the Department of Trade and subsequently Vice Chancellor of the ANU, and his wife Lady Jess.

Block 4: The Corner of Melbourne Avenue and Empire Circuit, home of Dr. BW Monahan, medical practitioner based in Mugga Way in the late 30s and 40s.

Block 5: The home of Dr. F.R.E. Mauldon, a noted war time economist in government service.

Block 6: corner of Empire Circuit and Normanby Crescent; home of W.C. Blamford, the Commonwealth Actuary from 1939 -1950.

Block 7: Normanby Crescent; Home of the Chairman of the CSIRO, Dr. B.T. Dickson, from 1938 - 1950. Then home of architect Kenneth Oliphant until he moved to Mugga Way.

Block 8: corner of Normanby Crescent and Dominion Circuit; Home of Professor R.v d R Woolley, Head of Mt Stromlo Observatory from 1946-1949; he was subsequently Astronomer Royal.

## Description

The house is constructed of cavity brick with a Canberra red brick base below floor level and rendered walls painted deep cream above. The roof is terracotta tiled. Windows are timber painted light cream on the outside and stained on the inside. Floors, skirtings and picture rails are stained jarrah in the main rooms or pine where carpet is used in the passage and bedrooms. Externally, the doors (including original garage doors), timber flywire screens and metal handrail to the front porch are painted either light or deep cream. The entrance is asymmetrically located.

The design has a straight forward functional approach without reference to past architectural styles. The modest sizes of the houses typical of this period, and the large size of their blocks, were indicative of an era of financial restraint and economic self reliance. The self-reliant and mutually supportive community life of the Section was reflected in the wooden stiles, still in use in 1971, that were set up against the low post and rail fences separating the blocks, to facilitate neighbourly access to each other's fruit trees and vegetable gardens.<sup>1</sup>

Much of the original internal fittings of the house remain intact including:

- The interior plan form and use of building materials:
  - Retention of the internal plan form with the exception of the kitchen laundry and rear porch areas where alterations have already taken place.
  - Interior polished jarrah floors throughout except in the hall and two bedrooms where the flooring is pine, carpet covered. Stained jarrah skirtings, picture rails, architraves and windows throughout the interiors, except in the bathroom where all timber work is painted light cream.
  - Panelled plaster ceilings and gypsum plaster or rendered brickwork walls, above picture rails painted white. Walls below picture rails painted cream.
- Characteristic stylistic details of the interior:
  - Fireplaces (lounge and dining room) with fireplace walls and chimney breasts in rendered brickwork painted cream, with fireplace openings having red brickwork interior surrounds and plinth with a projecting tiled hearth at floor level. The built-in timber over mantle, timber shelving and associated joinery are painted white.
  - Internal doors in panelled timber with stained finish and glazed with dimpled glass in the top panel; original lounge room doors are fully panelled with stained finish; the front door originally a fully panelled door, now with plain glass panels installed for the view into the garden. (All original keys have been retained.)
  - The original fit out of the bathroom with wall tiles and trim tiles, mosaic floor tiles, original basin, bath and tap ware. The mirrored shaving cabinet is not shown on the original drawings but was probably either a 'building extra' or an early installation
  - The original W.C. and cistern for the W.C. stored in the ceiling space above the linen cupboard which is still operational.
  - The original light fittings in the bedrooms and hall passage; and the original Bakelite switches and power points
  - The original storeroom and the coat rack fixed to the wall of the hall passage; and the original linen cupboard in the hall passage which has the cistern for the W.C.

The original kitchen was updated in the 1970s and the original tubs in the laundry have been retained. The original telephone remains on the wall in the hall passage although no longer functioning for technological reasons. Room-specific electric water heaters in the kitchen and bathroom have been removed and a built in wardrobe installed in Bedroom 1.

The walls have been kept in the original deep cream colour and the woodwork, including picture rails maintained in original condition. The dimpled glass of the top section of the internal doors has been retained. Where light fittings have been damaged they have been replaced with similar originals of the period.

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<sup>1</sup> Information cited in the letter from the present owners which accompanied the nomination

The Kookaburra electric stove and sink from the original kitchen have been stored in the garage. The external walls have been repainted in the original deep cream colour. The garage complete with the original workshop and tools, is also intact, while the old garden shed has only been slightly altered to become a children's cubby. In the garden, to which some plants were added in the 1970s, the original crab-apple, apple, plum, apricot and walnut trees are still growing.

## References

ACTPLA Building File

R. Apperly, R. Irving, P.Reynolds, *Identifying Australian Architecture Styles and Terms from 1788 to Present*, pp 218-221, Angus & Robertson, 1989.

Australian Construction Services. *Conservation Management Plan for Casey House*, 1992.

B & A Kent, *Nomination to ACT Heritage Register- 70 Dominion Circuit, Deakin*, September 2005

Taylor, Ken. *Canberra: City in a Landscape*, Halstead Press 2006

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## PHOTOGRAPHS AND PLANS



**Figure 1. Street view of 70 Dominion Circuit, Deakin**



Figure 2. View of 70 Dominion Circuit, Deakin from property boundary

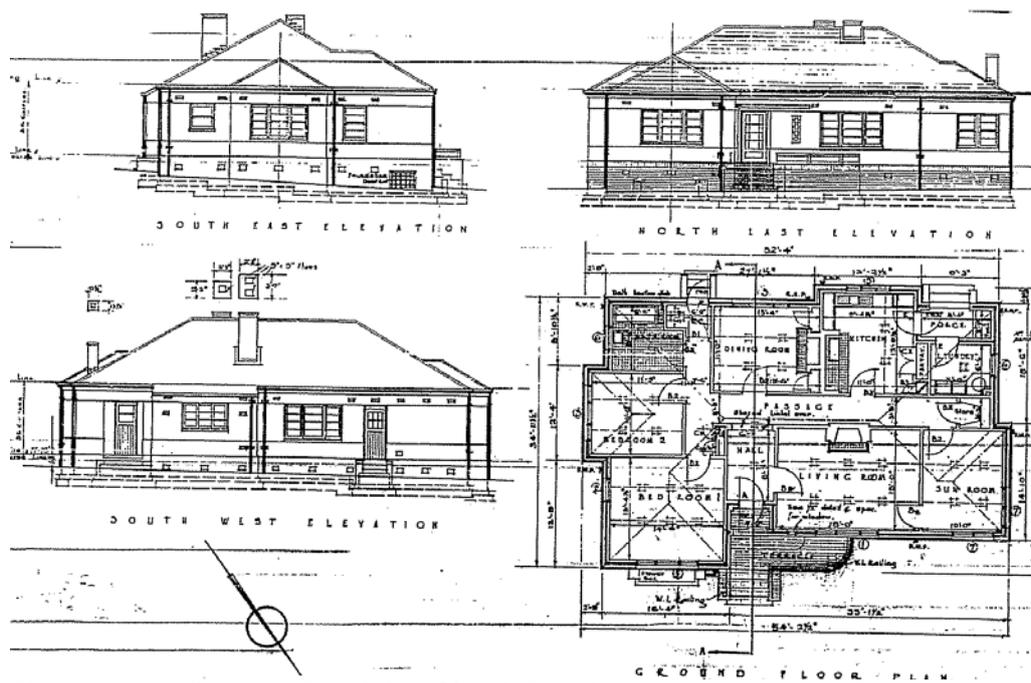


Figure 3. Drawings, 70 Dominion Circuit Deakin.



**Figure 4. Location Plan of 70 Dominion Circuit Deakin**