



ACT Heritage Council

Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

Heritage Act 2004

20050. Ainslie Primary and Public Schools

Section 31 Block 50

BRADDON

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50. Ainslie Primary and Public Schools, Braddon [V110]¹

Location

District of Canberra Central, Division of Braddon, Section 31 Block 50 and adjoining road verges as identified in Figure 50 and indicated on the Territory Plan Map by the Heritage Places Register Overlay H50.

Features Intrinsic To The Heritage Significance Of The Place

The place comprises:

- a) Ainslie Primary School Building and former shelter sheds, constructed c1938 shown on Figure 50a;
- b) former Public School Building and Lavatory Block, constructed c1927; plus north and south wing extensions to the Public School Building constructed c1948, shown on Figure 50a;
- c) original internal fittings; and
- d) associated landscape, including playing fields, tennis courts, circulation routes and all mature landscape elements, shown on Figure 50a.

Statement Of Significance

The establishment of the Ainslie Schools in 1927 played a pivotal role in the development of the Canberra community to the north of Civic Centre. The place has strong links with the local community through its continued educational use, including involvement of the community with its development, maintenance and management as an educational place for children for over 70 years. The schools continue to be a cultural focus for the community.

The place has a high degree of integrity with intact street and site planting and relatively intact built elements and original internal fittings in the Art Deco style.

The place exemplifies community schools in the garden city ideals of Walter Burley Griffin and John Sulman and prominent architects in the Federal Capital Advisory Committee (FCAC) and Federal Capital Commission (FCC), including John Smith Murdoch, Henry Maitland Rolland, Cuthbert Whitley and Edward Herbert Henderson.

The landscape represents an intact example of mixed exotic planting of the early FCAC, as interpreted by horticulturist, Thomas Charles George Weston. Symmetry in design is emphasised by zones of planting and hard landscaping.

The Ainslie Schools site contributes to an understanding of garden city principles, architectural design, formal planning for the nation's capital and the social history of early Canberra. This is aided by its close proximity to Gorman House, Northbourne Oval, Haig Park, Olims Hotel Ainslie and several contemporaneous housing precincts. It has associations with several politicians, public servants and Canberra families who played a significant role in local history, including the former Prime Minister Rt Hon Stanley Melbourne Bruce and the Secretary of the FCAC and later Assistant Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs, Charles Studdy Daley.

The original internal layout evidences public school philosophy of the time, in particular, segregation of the sexes and class size. The Primary School is believed to be the first in Australia to be planned with a library, a lecture room and a needlework room.

Specific Requirements

In accordance with s54(1) of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* the following requirements are identified as essential to the conservation of the heritage significance of the place. These requirements are prepared to implement the following conservation policy for the place:

The features intrinsic to the heritage significance of the place are to be conserved, maintained and used consistent with the heritage significance of the place and reflecting its role in the educational and cultural history of Canberra. This is best achieved through continued use of the place for educational and/or cultural purposes.

¹ [V110: Added to Heritage Places Register Number 50 21/09/2000 (Variation Number 110)]

- i) **Landscape**
 - a) The established landscape character of the place shall be retained.
 - b) New landscape elements may be permitted where the proposed elements will not adversely affect the heritage values of the landscape.
 - c) All mature landscape elements, identified on Figure 50a, and street tree plantings shall be conserved and appropriately maintained
 - d) The original symmetrical layout and hard landscaping, comprising tennis courts, playing fields and circulation routes centred on the main axis, shall be retained.

- ii) **Building including alterations and additions**
 - a) Alterations and additions to existing buildings and structures identified on Figure 50a shall reflect and complement the architectural style of the original buildings and structures. This includes alterations to finishes and changes including painting and adding or removing rendering.
 - b) New buildings, alterations and additions to existing buildings or structures and new structures may be permitted only where they will not adversely affect the heritage values of the place.

- iii) **Demolition**
 - a) Subject to (ii)(b), demolition of buildings and structures shown on Figure 50a shall not be permitted, other than in exceptional circumstances, including circumstances in which the buildings or structures are structurally unsound and beyond economic repair or where there are significant public health and safety reasons to warrant demolition. Demolition shall not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that there is no prudent and feasible alternative.
 - b) The demolition of original building fabric may be permitted in the context of permissible alteration of, and/or additions to, existing buildings or structures.

- iv) **Original Fittings**
 - a) All original fittings shall be retained and appropriately maintained. These include stylised Art Deco lettering, grills, chevron vents, cornices, architraves, doors, parquet floors, brass handrails, light fittings, furniture, tiles, blackboards, bubblers, furniture made for the building and bronze doors at the main entry.

Figure 50: Ainslie Primary and Public Schools, Braddon

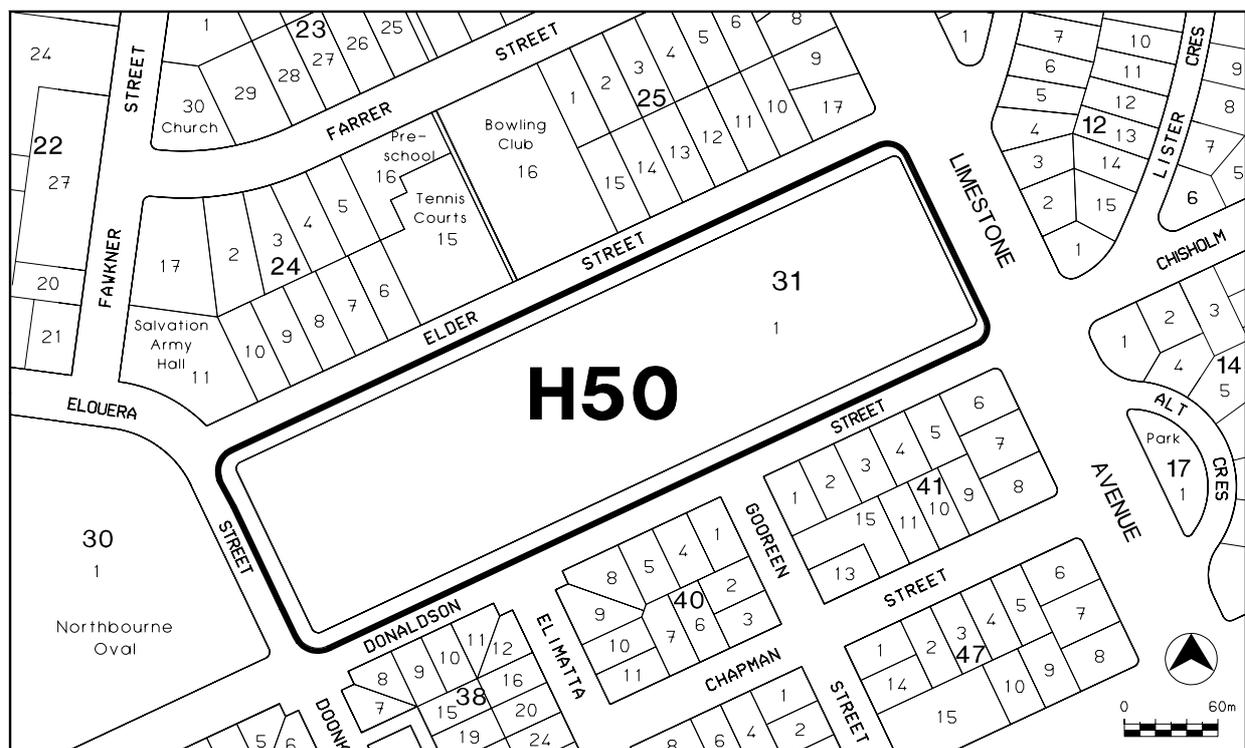


Figure 50a: Significant Features

