



Amendment to  
Special Gazette No. S100, Tuesday, 20 June 2006.

On 20 June 2006 the Minister for the Environment and Heritage published a notice including Old Parliament House and its National Heritage values in the National Heritage List in which there were factual errors relating to the National Heritage values.

This notice corrects the original schedule of that notice.

*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

INCLUSION OF A PLACE IN THE NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST

I, Ian Gordon Campbell, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, having considered, in relation to the place listed in the Schedule of this instrument -

- (a) the Australian Heritage Council's assessment whether the place meets any of the National Heritage criteria; and
- (b) the comments given to the Council under section 324G of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; and

being satisfied that the place specified in the Schedule has the National Heritage value or values specified in the Schedule include, pursuant to section 324J of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the place listed in the Schedule in the National Heritage List.

Dated 8 November 2005

Ian Gordon Campbell  
Minister for the Environment  
and Heritage

**SCHEDULE****AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY****Australian Capital Territory****Old Parliament House and Curtilage:**

About 2.5ha, King George Terrace, Parkes, comprising the area bounded by the centre lines of King George Terrace, Queen Victoria Terrace and Parliament Square, and including all of Sections 39, 42, 43 and 50 Parkes.

**Criterion****Values**

- (a) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.

Old Parliament House as the Provisional Parliament House was the first purpose-built home for the Australian Parliament. It was central to the development of Australia as a nation from its opening in 1927 until the opening of the new Parliament House in 1988 and demonstrates Australia's political process.

Old Parliament House is a site that has provided a physical focus for events that reflect Australian democratic values, and political and social rights. It also stands for the right to argue and dissent, and reflects the orderly succession of governments through the democratic process, as reflected by the seven changes of government that took place during the years in which Parliament sat in the building.

The building set the pattern of combining the functions of the executive arm of government and the legislative function in the one building. This commenced with the provision of ministerial offices at the design stage followed by Prime Minister James Scullin moving Cabinet meetings into the building in 1930-31. These actions initiated the major expansion of the building to house both the legislative and executive functions of government, a pattern that continued in the design of Parliament House.

The North Wing has historic importance as the main venue for parliamentary functions from 1927-88. The Senate Chamber, House of Representatives Chamber, and King's Hall are highly significant as venues for the debates, petitions and votes associated with 61 years of Australian legislature.

Old Parliament House is an important place in the story of the creation of the Australian democracy and has associations with several related defining events. Landmark political events associated with the building included legislation in 1942 adopting the *Statute of Westminster 1931* and the declarations of War in 1939 and 1941. The building was also the place of 61 years of national legislation shaping Australian society, the extension of the voting age to 18 year olds in 1973, and the establishment of new political parties such as the Democratic Labor Party in the 1950s, the Australian Democrats in 1977 and the Liberal Party of Australia in 1944-45.

Old Parliament House saw the growth of Commonwealth responsibility for Aboriginal affairs. Key events included the Bark Petition sent by the Yirrkala community to the House of Representatives in August 1963 protesting bauxite mining in Arnhem Land, and the Referendum in 1967 that overwhelmingly supported Commonwealth power to legislate for Aboriginal people. Amongst other developments, the Referendum result led to the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*, proclaimed on Australia Day 1977. With the new responsibilities arising from the 1967 Referendum, the Commonwealth Parliament became the focus of Aboriginal political protest. The siting of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy outside Parliament House in 1972 was a part of this protest.

The front façade of Old Parliament House and the immediate grassed area to its north have been the scene of numerous events, gatherings, protests and demonstrations. Significant events included the formal opening of the Provisional Parliament House in 1927 and the address by the former Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam, on the front steps of the building after his dismissal by the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, in November 1975.

Old Parliament House, in particular King's Hall and the Chambers, has been the venue of important ceremonial events including: the public mourning for the deaths of Prime Minister John Curtin in 1945 and former Prime Minister Ben Chifley in 1951; State receptions held in honour of Queen Elizabeth II in 1954 and 1963; and events associated with Royal visits in 1927, 1935, 1945, 1954, 1963, 1974 and 1977.

Old Parliament House has a richness of internal fabric and collections that convey the way in which parliamentary functions were conducted and the everyday use of the building. In particular these features include the purpose-designed furniture and furnishings that maintained their original setting and purpose for over sixty years.

King's Hall and the Chambers have features that reflect both the austerity of the time and a dignified formality. These features include the decorative skylights, elegant pendant lights, and parquet flooring, as well as the high ceilings accentuated by the raked galleries, the timber wall paneling, and the extensive, restrained and subtle decoration. The Hall features bas-relief busts of prominent personalities (related to Federation, the judiciary and of the first Parliament in 1901) on its colonnades, and portraits of former Prime Ministers as well as a statue of King George V. The Chambers demonstrate (through their fabric, furnishing and objects) the growth of Parliament over 61 years, including the evolution of communications technology applied to the reporting of parliamentary debates and events to all Australians.

Significant furniture of Old Parliament House includes the John Smith Murdoch designed furniture and fittings; the HMAS Australia table; the Country Party Table (Murdoch's original cabinet table from West Block)

and the Cabinet table (used by the Whitlam, Fraser and Hawke Cabinets). Furniture items which underlie the significance of Australia's role initially as a member of the British Empire and later as a member of the Commonwealth of Nations include the President of the Senate's Chair (presented by the Dominion of Canada) and the Speaker's Chair (presented by the United Kingdom Branch of the Empire Parliamentary Association). Furniture and fittings designed or purchased for the extension or alterations to the building including those items associated with the Senate and House of Representative Wings and the President of the Senate and Prime Minister's suites are of particular value.

Old Parliament House has a rare record (documented in the Old Parliament House) which is made up of both furniture and a variety of documents related to the furniture. The documents include initial design concepts, specifications, quotes and detailed drawings for manufacture.

The Old Parliament House Library is of heritage significance, in particular, the remaining features of the original library and the later additions or changes to the library up to and including the 1958 extension are of value.

- (b) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.

Old Parliament House is uncommon in that it housed both the legislative and executive functions of government. This is reflected in the construction of the House of Representatives (southeast) and the Senate (southwest) Wings, the front pavilions and in a great number of internal changes.

The House of Representatives Wing provides extensive and relatively intact evidence of the accommodation provided for Members and Ministers at various periods and the working conditions of parliamentarians and staff over the period 1943-88.

The former Members' Private Dining Room contains the remains of the 1927 hand-painted wall features. These decorative features are rare. They are the only examples of these features in the building and are also rare within the ACT.

There are important records of both furniture and its documentation relating to initial design concepts, specifications, quotes and detailed drawings for manufacture.

- (c) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to

Old Parliament House has a significant collection of documents which are associated with the place. This collection is an important source of historical information. The documents include plans, photographs and files that are directly related to the design, construction, use, and alteration of the Chambers and King's Hall. An inventory of the collection is documented in Old Parliament House.

an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history.

- (d) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:
- (i) a class of Australia's natural or cultural places;
  - or (ii) a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments.

Old Parliament House is a primary example of the Inter War Stripped Classical style of architecture. This style was dominant in Canberra's government architecture of the 1920s - 1940s. It is also an example of how this style was varied in Canberra during the 1920s-1940s. This style variation was a major stylistic feature of Federal Capital Architecture in Canberra.

The Inter War Stripped Classical style of architecture was varied to include the influence of Garden City ideals. In the case of Old Parliament House, this included courtyards with loggias and pergolas, verandahs, internal courtyards and adjacent gardens. Despite these influences the central stylistic expression of the building retained its classical orderliness.

The characteristics of the building's style and their expression in Old Parliament House's exterior and interior, are due to the design work of the Commonwealth's first government architect, John Smith Murdoch. Murdoch's design is modest, embracing classical symmetry and forms, having balanced masses with projected bays with arched bronze framed windows. The architectural detail between the storeys (spandrels) also emphasises the verticality of the elevations.

Old Parliament House and its curtilage also forms the central feature of a precinct. This precinct includes the two Secretariat buildings (East and West Blocks), the Old Parliament House Gardens, Constitutional and Magna Carta Places and the National Rose Gardens. There is some commonality in the design style of the early buildings within this precinct. This precinct reflects a period when there was an increase in Commonwealth Government power and an increase in the public's interest in Canberra. The essential character and symmetry of Old Parliament House have remained intact despite several substantial additions. The design of the building and its layout, its curtilage spaces and its interior rooms all demonstrate the customs and functions of the Commonwealth Parliament.

The building's Chambers reflect the roles of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The seating arrangements particularly indicate the formal and adversarial nature of debate. The Public and Press Galleries illustrate the nature of public and press access to formal Parliamentary processes. This access is further demonstrated by the spaces allocated to the recording of Parliamentary sittings. The presence of Executive Government staff indicate the major involvement of the Executive in the processes of Parliament in Australia.

The House of Representatives Wing comprises two blocks constructed in three phases: 1943, 1949 and 1965. The Senate Wing comprises two

blocks and these were constructed in three phases: 1943, 1949 and 1972. These building Wings retain much of their internal layout and some fittings. They are an unusual physical record of the difficult working conditions of parliamentarians, staff and press representatives over the period 1943-88. Early surviving interiors of the building include King's Hall, the Library, Senate Chamber, House of Representatives Chamber, Dining Rooms, Senate Opposition Party Room, Ministerial Party Room, Clerk of the Senate's Office, Member's Bar, Senate Government Party Room and Leader of the Government in the Senate's Office. King's Hall and the Chambers are important for reflecting the austerity of the times and the building's style. The rooms tend to be simple spaces with little decoration and have subtle and repeated classical references. For example, the use of Greek key patterning is evident in the Chambers and in the external metal and rendered balustrades. Some of the rooms have a certain grandeur resulting from generously proportioned spaces with clerestory windows. The use of timber for wall or ceiling panelling and furniture also distinguishes some rooms. These variations in interior detail highlight the hierarchy of parliament.

The importance given to the Parliamentary Library as a source of information for Parliament is demonstrated by its position within the building. The key positional features are its location on the central axis of the building, its close proximity to both Chambers and its access to and from King's Hall. Its designated importance is also demonstrated by the design and fit-out of the Library rooms which feature extensive timber panelling and fittings. These fittings were normally reserved for high-status spaces such as the Chambers, the Party Rooms, and office holders' rooms.

The building is also of interest for surviving features consistent with, if not influenced by, Garden City ideals. These features include the courtyards with loggias and pergolas and the courtyards with verandahs. These features express aspects of the garden city principles and in particular the typical linking of internal spaces with the landscape setting. The adjacent Senate and House of Representatives gardens are a part of this landscape setting. These gardens have been substantially redeveloped but they contain the original garden layout.

- (e) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.

Old Parliament House is an iconic national landmark that has a major role in the symbolic physical representation of democracy in the Parliamentary Triangle. This landmark importance has been strengthened by the siting and design of the new Parliament House building. These two buildings are read together as part of the land axis vista and they are also a part of the planned aesthetic qualities of the Parliamentary Triangle.

Old Parliament House is a major component of public and familiar views of Canberra. In particular, Old Parliament House is appreciated for its crisp lines, stark white colour, pronounced vertical patterns and classical form. It makes a major contribution as a viewpoint towards the Australian

War Memorial and in the other direction to Parliament House. The building is highly valued by the Australian community. This value is reflected in the popularity of its image, as documented in countless tourist and other imagery. These popular images include those made since the construction of Parliament House completed in 1988. These post 1988 images of Old Parliament House are enhanced by the presence of Parliament House.

- (f) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

Old Parliament House is a significant landmark in Canberra. It is a major component of Walter Burley Griffin's designed landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle which was designed to hold the principal components of parliamentary government. In particular the Griffin design sought to demonstrate the strict separation of the legislative, executive and judicial components of government and the hierarchical relationship between them. Old Parliament House demonstrates a high degree of achievement in combining built features into a designed landscape to achieve an aesthetic purpose.

Erected at the base of the former Camp Hill on the main Land Axis, Old Parliament House symbolised the primacy of Parliament (or the legislature) over the executive arm of government. In this way the building contributed to the *planned democracy* symbolism of the Parliamentary Triangle now fulfilled with the construction of Parliament House on Capital Hill. This new Parliament House upholds Griffin's design intention and embraces the Old Parliament House as an integral feature of the Land Axis vista.

The success of Old Parliament House as a landmark is also due in part to its modest scale and aesthetic qualities, and the open landscaping and gardens between the building and the lake. Intended as a provisional structure, Old Parliament House was deliberately designed as a simple yet dignified building possessing appropriate exterior aesthetic and formal qualities for its use and location.

It is a significant component of the designed vista along Canberra's Land Axis. The Land Axis is one of Griffin's main city design components which sets the order of the Federal Capital's design.

Although manifesting building failures in the past, with a constantly leaking roof, Old Parliament House demonstrates a high degree of achievement in combining built features into the designed landscape to achieve an aesthetic purpose.

- (g) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's strong or special

Specific rooms and spaces within the building are directly associated with events that shaped the political and private lives of prominent individuals in Australia's political and social history. Many of the former parliamentarians' support staff and media representatives retain strong associations with the building and its contents.

association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

The importance of Old Parliament House to the Australian community was demonstrated when organisations and individuals rallied to support the retention of the place when it was threatened with demolition in the 1970s.

(h) the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history.

Old Parliament House has an important association with many people, particularly national politicians. Prime Ministers of Australia who served their term in Old Parliament House include:

Stanley Bruce	from	29/10/1922	to	22/10/1929
James Scullin	from	22/10/1929	to	6/1/1932
Joseph Lyons	from	6/1/1932	to	7/4/1939
Earle Page	from	7/4/1939	to	26/4/1939
Robert Menzies	from	26/4/1939	to	29/8/1941
Arthur Fadden	from	29/8/1941	to	7/10/1941
John Curtin	from	7/10/1941	to	5/7/1945
Frank Forde	from	6/7/1945	to	13/7/1945
Ben Chifley	from	13/7/1945	to	19/12/1949
Robert Menzies	from	19/12/1949	to	26/1/1966
Harold Holt	from	29/6/1966	to	19/12/1967
John McEwen	from	19/12/1967	to	10/1/1968
John Gorton	from	10/1/1968	to	10/3/1971
William McMahon	from	10/3/1971	to	5/12/1972
Gough Whitlam	from	5/12/1972	to	11/11/1975
Malcolm Fraser	from	11/11/1975	to	11/3/1983
Robert Hawke	from	11/3/1983	and continued beyond 1988 when Federal Parliament moved to the new building.	

Prominent individuals associated with the Wings include Senator Neville Bonner AO, the first Aboriginal parliamentarian, elected in 1972, and Dame Enid Lyons and Senator Dorothy Tangney, the first women parliamentarians, elected in 1943.

The building is the most prominent example of the work of the Commonwealth's first government architect, John Smith Murdoch.