

National Heritage List

The National Heritage List recognises and protects our most valued natural, Indigenous and historic heritage sites. It reflects the story of our development, from our original inhabitants to the present day, Australia's spirit and our ingenuity, and our unique, living landscapes.

Each place in the List has been assessed by the Australian Heritage Council as having outstanding heritage value to the nation, and is protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. This means that approval must be obtained before taking any action that may have a significant impact on the national heritage values of the place. In this way, we can retain our heritage for future generations.

To ensure ongoing protection, each listed place should have a management plan outlining how the heritage values of the site will be conserved and interpreted. To view the Old Parliament House and Curtilage Heritage Management Plan visit www.oph.gov.au.

The National Heritage List enables all Australians to celebrate, value and protect our unique heritage.

For further information visit www.heritage.gov.au

Old Parliament House and Curtilage: King George Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600
Web: www.oph.gov.au | Tel: (02) 6270 8222



Australian Government

Old Parliament House and Curtilage



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www.heritage.gov.au



Canberra's Old Parliament House is steeped in history, significance and drama – an iconic Australian landmark and the seat of political power for over 60 years. Its impressive walls housed the debates that shaped our nation, on reforms such as constitutional change, welfare and Aboriginal rights. It was included in the National Heritage List on 20 June 2006.

The first home of the Australian Parliament in Canberra

- Old Parliament House was the first home of the Australian Parliament in Canberra. It was opened on 9 May 1927 by the Duke of York.
- Occupying 2.5 hectares, it sits in the cultural landscape known as the 'Parliamentary Triangle' that was designed by Walter Burley Griffin to hold the principal components of parliamentary government.
- Its design – by the Commonwealth's first government architect, John Smith Murdoch – lends the building a modest but dignified presence.

Witnessing dramatic social change

- The simple spaces belie the building's sometimes turbulent and momentous past.
- It is the site of seven changes of government and where national legislation for the advancement of Australian democracy was developed, including voting and land rights for Indigenous Australians.
- It is the place where Sir Robert Menzies served his record term as Prime Minister and where Prime Minister John Curtin and former Prime Minister Ben Chifley lay in state.
- It is also the place where Gough Whitlam addressed the public after his dismissal as Prime Minister by the Governor General.

A living record

- As the number of politicians, their staff and media increased so, too, did demand for space. Alterations and additions helped to improve the physical functioning of parliament but, by 1988, it was vacated for the 'new' House.
- Pressure from various bodies persuaded the Government to restore and return it to the public realm and it was reopened by former Prime Ministers, John Gorton and Gough Whitlam, on 15 December, 1992.
- Hundreds of thousands of tourists explore this living museum of social and political history every year, as an essential part of the Australian experience.



— OLD —
PARLIAMENT
HOUSE

Alive