

4.6 Statutory heritage listings

4.6.1 Commonwealth Heritage List

Place	Location	Status
Reserve Bank	Block 1 Section 18, City	Listed
Parliament House Vista		Listed

4.6.2 ACT Heritage Register

Place	Location	Status
The Law Courts Precinct	(Section 18 Blocks 1, 4 & 6, Section 63 Block 16	Nominated
City Hill	Block 1 Section 34, City	Listed

4.7 Non Statutory Heritage Listings

4.7.1 AIA Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture (RSTCA)

Place	Location	Status
The Law Courts of the ACT Precinct	(Section 18 Blocks 1, 4 & 6, Section 63 Block 16	Listed
City Hill	Block 1 Section 34, City	Listed

4.7.2 Register of the National Estate (RNE)

Place	Location	Status
The Law Courts Precinct	(Section 18 Blocks 1, 4 & 6, Section 63 Block 16	Listed

4.7.3 National Trust Register of Significant Places (NTR)

Place	Location	Status
The Law Courts Precinct	(Section 18 Blocks 1, 4 & 6, Section 63 Block 16	Listed
City Hill	Block 1 Section 34, City	Listed

4.8 Stakeholders

Stakeholders include:

- ACT Justice & Community Safety Directorate (JACS)
- ACT Heritage Council (HC)
- National Capital Authority (NCA)
- Commonwealth Department of Sustainability Environment Water Population and Communities (SEWPaC)

} *

Supreme Court rooms (1 & 2)	
General description These spaces were built for Supreme Court hearings with provision for a Jury. They reflect typical courtroom design of the 1960s and are windowless.	
Original features	Some painted and rendered walls Carpeted floors Plastered concrete ceilings Court 1 panelled in Red Cedar (NSW) ← Court 2 panelled in Mountain Ash (VIC) Matching timber justice benches, jury boxes, railings, doors and trims Coats of arms above bench Wooden plaques identifying timber state of origin
Modified features	Light fittings and security systems upgraded 1991 Wheelchair access ramp & steps modified Re-carpeted Witness boxes replaced matching existing timbers Jury box increased in size Counsel's table replaced Bulkhead over main entry for AC return air Additional lighting and AV system 2009 Trapdoors no longer in use Airlock and inner doors with glazed panel Airlocks and outer doors installed
Condition	Satisfactory. Carpet is shabby.
Functional adequacy	Inadequate separation of prisoners



Figure 48. Courtrooms 1 & 2 provide for a jury.

	<p>public spaces; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the axial and symmetrical nature of the precinct in which the pedestrian courtyard and flanking buildings represents the most controlled and unified of the examples.
<p>(b) it exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group</p>	<p>The place meets this criterion.</p> <p>The Law Courts Precinct and the Court building are listed on the Australian Institute of Architects Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture.</p> <p>The AIA believes the Law Courts Precinct is significant as a comparatively rare and successful example of twentieth century civic design guided by the NCDC and incorporating three buildings which differently express the Late Twentieth-Century Stripped Classical style.</p> <p>We note that the ACT Heritage Council advises that the status of the AIA as a cultural group cannot be determined at this time.</p> <p>No specific research has been undertaken in regard to community values.</p> <p>At present there is insufficient evidence to support a conclusion under this criterion.</p>
<p>(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</p>	<p>The Law Courts building is an excellent example of Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical Style and displays all of the key indicators of the style:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symmetrical façade • Horizontal skyline • Regular bays with height exceeding width • Colonnade echoing classical peristyle • Column without base or capital • Broad horizontal member echoing classical entablature • Central entrance <p>The building form and planning is evidence of a lineage of courthouse</p>

	<p>of Canberra where buildings of a particular purpose were constructed more or less in the location originally proposed by Griffin.</p> <p>The place meets this criterion.</p>	
<p>(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</p>	<p>The ACT law courts building and its location at City Hill is highly valued by the legal profession.</p> <p>There is debate as to whether the legal profession a cultural group.</p> <p>No specific research has been undertaken in regard to community values.</p> <p>Although the place is highly valued by the legal profession there is presently insufficient evidence to support a conclusion under this criterion.</p>	<p>* * * *</p>
<p>(e) it is significant to the ACT because of its importance as part of local Aboriginal tradition.</p>	<p>Not assessed. Refer to Limitations of this CMP outlined in the Introduction.</p>	
<p>(f) it is a rare or unique example of its kind, or is rare or unique in its comparative intactness</p>	<p>The ACT Law Courts building was the first purpose built Commonwealth Court building in the ACT. Elements which particularly illustrate the Commonwealth role include the gilded coats of arms above each main entrance and the six courtrooms panelled with different timbers donated by each of the six states of the Commonwealth and each evidenced by an explanatory plaque.</p> <p>The Law Courts precinct is a relatively rare example of 1960s civic design incorporating British New Town planning principles. As the axial focus of the Legal Precinct the ACT Law Courts building is an integral part of one of three rare examples of 1960s civic design, all of which are in Canberra. These are Civic Square, the Legal Precinct and Hobart Place. In formal terms the Legal Precinct provides the most successful and elegant pedestrian spaces. Design elements which particularly illustrate this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • simple rectangular buildings of two to three storeys subordinate to a range of public spaces; and 	<p>)</p>

The Precinct is also significant for its ability to demonstrate characteristics of 1960s civic design incorporating British New Town Planning principles. It is also an early example of the NCDC planning era that, between 1959 and 1989, did more than any other planning body to transform Canberra into a mature capital city. An important characteristic of this was their policy of commissioning renowned architects to design high quality buildings.

The ACT Law Courts Building is an excellent example of Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical Style and a very early example of the style in Australia. The exterior is highly intact and displays all of the characteristic features of the style. The architects Yuncken Freeman are recognized as key practitioners of the style.

The building displays technical innovation in the use of new materials including aluminium faced ply in the fascia panels and zinc sprayed steel, both seeking to capitalise on new technology to help address a limited budget.

The building displays a particular refinement of materials and form that sets it above many other examples of the style in Australia. It is a simple, elegant design that carefully balances a limited budget with quality materials where they matter. It was designed to have maximum visual impact and to impart an air of authority and stability. This simplicity of program is further evidenced on the interior, with the use of a spacious, light filled atrium providing a public meeting place, circulation to all public areas of the building and a symbol of the openness and transparency of the judicial system.

The various timbers in the courtrooms, donated by each of the six states is evidence of a collaborative national gesture in the creation of a Supreme Court for the ACT.

The building form and planning is evidence of a lineage of courthouse design that has evolved since the beginnings of the colony of NSW. This is illustrated externally by the classical form, the colonnaded facades and internally by the hierarchy of the central public vestibule and atrium flanked by courtrooms with support functions beyond.

The Law Courts building was built in response to the needs of the legal system of the early 1960s. As such it illustrates the legal requirements and expectations of the time based on the administrative and legal needs of the Commonwealth government in Canberra.

The Law Courts building is strongly associated with its architects - Yuncken Freeman, a highly regarded and multi award winning commercial practice and in particular with its principal designer, Roy Simpson, who was made a Life Fellow of the RAlA in 1973 and was awarded the RAlA Gold Medal in 1997.

The significant attributes of the Supreme Court Building include:

- The key indicators of Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical Style, including;
 - symmetrical façade
 - horizontal skyline
 - regular bays with height exceeding width
 - colonnade echoing classical peristyle
 - column without base or capital
 - broad horizontal member echoing classical entablature
 - central entrance
- the exterior façade including the overall building form
- podium and planters
- marble cladding
- window and door openings
- decorative window grilles
- steel columns with integrated copper downpipes
- deep fascia and overhanging soffit
- gilded Commonwealth coats of arms above each entry
- the internal atrium
- the timber panelling and information plaques in each courtroom donated by each state



Policy 14	<p>The following exterior fabric is intrusive and should be replaced with materials which are more sympathetic to the original design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poured concrete paving with yellow oxide • disability access ramp to north staff entry and on east facade • colorbond gutters on east and west roof edges. • roof mounted plant which is visible to the public domain
Policy 15	<p>The following interior items should be conserved. If it is not possible to retain them in situ, they may be relocated and interpreted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the timber panelling and explanatory plaques from each courtroom
Policy 16	<p>The following internal elements are intrusive and should be removed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • air conditioning ductwork on Public Vestibule ceiling • concrete block planters to Upper Atrium • glass security screens and other elements which block the sense of openness and flow around the Public Vestibule and into the Atrium • ramped floor to east Entry Lobby

10.2.6 Policies relating to Conservation

Policy 17	<p>Significant fabric and spaces should be conserved in accordance with the principles of the Burra Charter. Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance.</p>
Policy 18	<p>A program of preventative and routine maintenance should be developed and a written record of actions kept.</p>
Policy 19	<p>Where maintenance of original fabric is not reasonably feasible or practicable professional heritage advice should be sought regarding suitable replacement fabric and work methodologies.</p>
Policy 20	<p>Significant fabric which is approved for removal should be identified and photographed prior to removal then labelled and stored for future reconstruction and/or interpretive purposes.</p>

10.2.7 Policies for Services Upgrades

Policy 21	<p>Upgrading of the building to comply with the Building Code of Australia (BCA) particularly with regard to disability access and fire provisions should not have a detrimental impact on heritage values.</p>
Policy 22	<p>Upgrading of building services should not have a detrimental impact on heritage values.</p>

Policy 41	<p>Where, as a result of maintenance or capital works, fabric previously unknown, or otherwise potentially of interest and/or heritage value is discovered, the following process shall be followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works in the area concerned shall cease, and if necessary the area shall be barricaded off to prevent access and maintain safety and integrity of the discovery. • The owner and its heritage advisor shall be immediately notified so that they may promptly inspect the discovery. • Following advice from its heritage advisors the owner shall consult with the ACT Heritage Council and jointly agree as to what further actions, if any, are required to be taken • The owner shall take the agreed action.
-----------	---

10.2.10 Policies relating to Interpretation

Policy 42	<p>An Interpretation Plan should be prepared by a suitably qualified person which interprets the significance of the ACT Law Courts building, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • its general history and changes over time • its relationship to the Griffin Plan • its original Commonwealth role • as a fine and early example of Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical Style • as a fine example of 1960s modern design for a civic building • as an example of the work of Yuncken Freeman and Roy Simpson in particular • as an example of 1960s planning principles • as an example of the early work of the NCDC <p>The Interpretation Plan should be implemented.</p>
Policy 43	<p>Significant interior fabric, including the timber panelling & information plaques in each courtroom, <u>that cannot be retained in situ</u> should be salvaged and re-used in an interpretative display or otherwise sympathetically incorporated into the design of the building.</p>