

# Heritage (Decision about Registration of the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct Forrest) Notice 2007 (No 1)\*

Notifiable Instrument NI2007-66

made under the

***Heritage Act 2004 s42*** Notice of decision about registration

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**1. Revocation**

This instrument replaces NI2006-369

**2. Name of instrument**

This instrument is the Heritage (Decision about Registration of the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct Forrest) Notice (No 1).

**3. Registration details of the place**

Registration details of the place are at Attachment A: Register entry for Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct, Forrest.

**4. Reason for registration**

The ACT Heritage Council has decided that the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct meets one or more of the heritage significance criteria at s 10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*. The register entry is at Attachment A.

**4. Date of registration**

1 March 2007.

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Gerhard Zatschler  
Secretary ACT Heritage Council  
GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2602

5 March 2007



ACT Heritage Council

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**HERITAGE REGISTER  
(Registration Details)**

**Place 20158**

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:

• **BLANDFORDIA 4 PRECINCT, FORREST**

Section 1 Blocks 1-14; Section 2 Blocks 1-22; Section 9 Blocks 1-8; Section 10 Blocks 1 (Park); Section 11 Blocks 1-6; Section 37 Blocks 1-13; Section 38 Blocks 1-14; Section 39 Block 1 (Park); Section 40 Blocks 1-13; Section 41 Blocks 1-13; Section 42 Blocks 1-14; Section 43 Blocks 1-15; Section 44 Blocks 1-15; Section 45 Blocks 2-3 (Collins Park); Section 46 Blocks 1-15; and Section 47 Blocks 1-11; pedestrian walkways at Block 16 Section 44 and Block 15 Section 42; and adjacent road easements, traffic islands and verges.

**DATE OF REGISTRATION**

Notified: 5 March 2007 Notifiable Instrument: NI2007-66

RESTRICTED INFORMATION (if applicable)

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

The Secretary  
ACT Heritage Council  
PO Box 144, Canberra, ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6207 2179 Facsimile: (02) 6207 2229

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## IDENTIFICATION OF THE PLACE

District of Canberra Central, Division of Forrest, Section 1 Blocks 1-14; Section 2 Blocks 1-22; Section 9 Blocks 1-8; Section 10 Blocks 1 (Park); Section 11 Blocks 1-6; Section 37 Blocks 1-13; Section 38 Blocks 1-14; Section 39 Block 1 (Park); Section 40 Blocks 1-13; Section 41 Blocks 1-13; Section 42 Blocks 1-14; Section 43 Blocks 1-15; Section 44 Blocks 1-15; Section 45 Blocks 2-3 (Collins Park); Section 46 Blocks 1-15; and Section 47 Blocks 1-11; pedestrian walkways at Block 16 Section 44 and Block 15 Section 42; and adjacent road easements, traffic islands and verges.

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## DESCRIPTION OF THE PLACE

The name Blandfordia is derived from *Blandfordia nobilis* (Christmas Bell), and is the name given to the park terminating the monumental radial Hobart Avenue by Walter Burley Griffin. It was applied to the residential subdivision in 1921 by the Federal Capital Advisory Committee (FCAC) before the first land sales and changed to Forrest by 1928. It is located between the Red Hill Housing Precinct, the Forrest Housing Precinct and the Blandfordia 5 Housing Precinct, all entered in the ACT Heritage Register. Each of these precincts has been included in the Register for its evidence of Garden City planning principles, distinctive pattern of housing development and landscape treatment, and (except for the Red Hill Housing Precinct) the predominantly Federal Capital architectural character.

The Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct is part of the Blandfordia subdivision identified on the 1925 Federal Capital Commission (FCC) plan, bounded by Melbourne Avenue, Empire Circuit, Arthur Circle, Moresby Street and Mugga Way. The precinct was developed as 3 subdivisions with differing block characteristics, in this document referred to as Blandfordia 4a, 4b and 4c (see Figure 1).

Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct consists mainly of single houses on blocks of various sizes set within a planned environment using Garden City principles. It is characterised by mature streetscape planting and wide grassed verges set within the backdrop to the north-eastern slopes of Red Hill. The land falls away towards the Molonglo River (now Lake Burley Griffin). The precinct contains a collection of high quality buildings with a range of eclectic architectural styles unified by the landscape setting and topography.

The Precinct contains several houses of outstanding architectural merit by architects of both local and national renown.

A range of nationally significant people have lived in the precinct and many houses have strong historical associations, see [1. Background Information](#).

## Features Intrinsic to the Heritage Significance of the Place

The features intrinsic to the heritage significance of the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct which require conservation are:

- 1. The definition of the precinct by the principle structural elements of Walter Burley Griffin's plan (the Griffin Plan) for an 'Ideal City'.** These are all elements of Griffin's ordering geometry centred on 'Capitol' Hill and were designated on all his plans from 1913 to 1918 and in the FCC plan of 1925. These elements are integral to the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct and comprise: Melbourne Avenue, a primary radial avenue from Capital Hill; Collins ('Blandfordia') Park, a nodal structure which terminates Hobart Avenue, and which is defined by Tasmania Circle and Arthur Circle; Empire Circuit (Griffin's 'Australia Circuit'), a primary interlinking road structure in the Griffin plan geometry; Curvilinear connecting routes including Tennyson Crescent and Baudin Street/Dampier Crescent; and the definition of the south-western extremities of the precinct by Mugga Way.

2. **The demonstration of early 20<sup>th</sup> Century ‘Garden City’ planning.** A definition of Garden City planning is provided in the Dictionary at [3. References and Dictionary](#). However, the intrinsic features that are characteristic of the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct are:
- (i) The hierarchical road pattern comprising Griffin’s primary interlinking circuit (renamed Empire Circuit) and major interlinking crescents (renamed Tennyson Crescent, Baudin Street/Dampier Crescent) with narrow interlinking ‘diagonal’ crescents created by the FCC (Wilmot Crescent and Nares Crescent);
  - (ii) The pocket parks created by road patterns and junctions such as at Sections 10 and 39 and at oblique intersections such as Nares Crescent and Baudin Street;
  - (iii) The traffic islands and their plantings;
  - (iv) Patterns of block subdivision including:
    - a) blocks subdivided with an alignment parallel to Melbourne Avenue;
    - b) blocks subdivided with an alignment radial to Tasmania and Arthur Circles; and
    - c) blocks subdivided on alignments generated from the road layouts;
  - (v) The generous landscaped verges containing mature street trees in varied planting patterns, footpaths and street furniture;
  - (vi) The predominance of a single detached house per block;
  - (vii) A mix of single-storey and two-storey houses relating to the size of the block to accommodate a generous garden setting;
  - (viii) The pattern of generally uniform front building setbacks with occasional variation which serves to avoid monotony and create visual interest in the streetscape;
  - (ix) The highly-ordered composition of houses, driveways, gardens and public space existing throughout the precinct achieved through the central siting of houses within the block;
  - (x) The alignment of houses with the main axis or building frontage parallel to the street, with entrance doorways facing the street and at street corners, houses that are aligned with their main axis facing the intersection point;
  - (xi) Driveways positioned along side boundaries and a number of driveways (most commonly in Arthur Circle) that share or ‘pair’ the verge crossing with a neighbouring block;
  - (xii) Public utility services located underground or at the rear of blocks; and
  - (xiii) Unified landscape treatments and street furniture, including grassed verges with bitumen vehicle crossings; limited palette of driveway materials, consistency of street tree planting along roads, hedges, bus shelters, street signs and lighting.

3 **The evidence of a distinct pattern of housing development demonstrating early Federal Capital planning philosophy;**

This precinct demonstrates a hierarchical attitude to planning which represents a departure from the Garden City concept as introduced to solve the problems of industrial pollution in England and Europe. This planning philosophy resulted in the block size variety and the distribution of block sizes throughout the precinct, including;

- (i) The large blocks in Blandfordia 4a along Melbourne Avenue and Empire Circuit, near the Forrest Housing Precinct. These were released for sale (lease) at the first public land auction and were planned for private houses, with only a small number for rental accommodation for high-income public servants;
- (ii) The smaller blocks of Blandfordia 4b in Rous and Dampier Crescents (Sections 37 and 38), for middle income public servants; and
- (iii) A mix of block sizes in Blandfordia 4c (Sections 9-11 and 40-44) with a large proportion of its outer blocks (facing Arthur Circle) almost 50% smaller than its inner blocks (facing Tasmania Circle). Blandfordia 4c was planned to include a higher proportion of rental accommodation for middle-income public servants.

4. The mature landscape setting comprising a mix of exotic deciduous and evergreen and local species arranged in formal and informal patterns on grassed street verges, traffic islands and parks and within private gardens, including hedges. Planting of Collins Park commenced in 1922 and throughout Blandfordia generally in 1922-23. Street plantings within Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct include the Red Mexican Hawthorn (*Crataegus 'smithiana'*), a hybrid which originated at Yarralumla Nursery in the 1920s. A locally rare Californian Big Tree (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), almost as old as the suburb, is located at the rear of 14 Tennyson Crescent. In front gardens hedges have been planted on front or side boundaries of 70% of properties.

#### 4.1 Street tree plantings making a strong contribution to the streetscape are:

Street	Species
Arthur Circle	Single species planting of <i>Platanus acerifolia</i> (London Plane) Average tree height between 15-25 metres, trees are in very good condition as a result of tree maintenance programs.
Baudin Street	Multiple species planting: <i>Grevillea robusta</i> (Silky Oak) Plantings of <i>Grevillea robusta</i> , the original planted species in the street have some dieback with a few exceptions. Some replacement planting of this species has occurred. <i>Eucalyptus mannifera ssp maculosa</i> (Brittle Gum) This species occurs on two houses on Baudin Street and are in a healthy condition. <i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> . <i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> occurs on the even number side of Baudin Street, and is planted between the <i>Grevillea robusta</i> plantings. These plantings are in good condition and are sympathetic to the streetscape.
Dampier Crescent	Multiple species planting <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> (False Acacia) 10 – 15 metres The plantings of this species are in poor condition, some have died and the remainder require work. <i>Crataegus</i> sp (Hawthorn) 1 x 3 metres Only 1 plant of this species remains at No 3 Dampier <i>Eucalyptus mannifera ssp maculosa</i> (Brittle Gum) 2 – 20 metres This species is the dominant planting in the streetscape.
Empire Circuit	Single species planting of <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> (Chinese Elm) Average tree height between 6-20 metres, trees are in very good condition as a result of tree maintenance programs.
Melbourne Avenue	Single species planting of <i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i> (Yellow Box).
Moresby Street	Single species planting of <i>Quercus palustris</i> (American Pinoak). [Original almonds removed 1945 and replaced with pinoaks.]
Nares Crescent	Single species planting of <i>Sophora japonica</i> (Japanese Pagoda tree), in poor condition.
Rous Crescent	Single species planting of <i>Quercus canariensis</i> (Algerian Oak).

Tasmania Circle	Multiple species planting: <i>Brachychiton populneus</i> (Kurrajong) – eastern side <i>Fraxinus oxycarpa</i> ‘Raywood’ (Claret Ash) – northern portion <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> (False Acacia) – western side <i>Quercus palustris</i> (American Pinoak) – to perimeter of Collins Park. Trees are in various stages of maturity from juvenile to semi-mature and their condition also varies. Notable specimen of <i>Populus yunnanensis</i> (Yunnan Poplar) at the corner of Arthur Circle and Tasmania Circle, planted c1950, one of the earliest local plantings of this specimen (Pryor & Banks, <i>Trees and Shrubs in Canberra</i> , ACT Government, 1991).
Tennyson Crescent	Multiple species planting of: <i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i> (Grey Box); and <i>Eucalyptus racemosa</i> (Snappy Gum) interplanted with <i>Cratageus phaenopyrum</i> (Washington Thorn); and <i>Cratageus smithiana</i> (Red Mexican Hawthorn) Notable specimen of <i>Eucalyptus racemosa</i> (Snappy Gum), planted c1920, an exceptionally fine example of this species (Pryor & Banks, <i>Trees and Shrubs in Canberra</i> , ACT Government, 1991).
Wilmot Crescent	Multiple species planting: <i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i> (Grey Box) <i>Cratageus smithiana</i> (Red Mexican Hawthorn) – multiple planting to corner at intersection with Empire Circuit

#### 4.2. Parks and traffic islands, specifically:

Park at Section 39	This park is planted with <i>Quercus palustris</i> (American Pinoak) along the Moresby Street side and <i>Quercus canariensis</i> (Algerian Oak) along the Rous Crescent side (in accordance with street planting) and there are shrubs planted intermittently around the perimeter (inside the street tree line). Within the park there are numerous trees including deodar, casuarina, eucalyptus and sequoia (?) sp. A new park bench in bright blue recycled plastic has recently been installed. [This matches recent bus stop seating but is out of keeping with earlier street furniture.]
Park at Section 10	A large triangular park, mostly planted with oaks and including a brown painted steel and timber park bench.
Collins Park	Extensively planted with a range of species, some of which may date to the 1920s, including <i>Brachychiton populneus</i> (Kurrajong), <i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> (River oak), <i>Cedrus atlantica</i> (Atlas cedar), <i>Cedrus deodara</i> (Deodar), <i>Celtis australis</i> (Nettle tree), <i>Eucalyptus cinerea</i> (Argyle apple), <i>Eucalyptus rubida</i> (Candlebark), <i>Malus</i> sp (Crabapple), <i>Populus alba</i> ‘Pyramidalis’ (Upright Silver Poplar), <i>Populus deltoides</i> ‘Monilifera’ (Cottonwood), <i>Prunus</i> sp (Flowering Plum) and <i>Ulmus procera</i> (English elm).
Traffic islands	There are numerous traffic islands throughout the precinct, created as a result of the street layout. Plantings within these vary and include roses and agapanthus (Mugga/Moresby); Pinoak (Rous/Moresby); gazania (Empire/Tasmania east); deodar and hawthorn (south end of Collins Park); Robinia (Tasmania/Dampier); Eucalypts (various places); and ivy (various).

**5. The original street furniture and other elements including kerbs and gutters and examples of brick or concrete drains within some verges, including:**

Fire hydrants	There are a number of fire hydrants throughout the precinct. Most appear to have been painted red originally.
Street lights	Street lights appear to be consistent throughout the precinct and comprise faceted concrete pillars with plain lamps on top. These are placed along footpaths. Road lighting is infrequent and comprises the occasional light mounted on wooden power poles where these run close to the road (e.g. Melbourne Ave and Tennyson Crescent).
Bus shelters	Original bus shelters remain at Empire Circuit (outside no. 70, removed there from Melbourne Avenue) and Arthur Circle (eastern end of park, Section 39). These shelters are cream-painted shiplap weatherboard with un-profiled metal sheeting (in the style of Morewood and Rogers) gable roofs painted green. There is another early bus shelter in Tennyson Crescent, west of the intersection with Tasmania Circle. This is also cream-painted weatherboard (but with vertical boarding) and has a skillion roof.
Street signs	There are two original street signs – one at the intersection of Mugga Way and Baudin Street (tall variety); and one at the intersection of Wilmot Crescent and Tennyson Crescent (short variety).

## 6. The high quality architecture in a range of building styles by private architects..

The following **identified** original houses are important for a high degree of architectural integrity or merit, and/or as signifiers of architectural trends, and/or as an important example of an architect's work, specifically:

EMPIRE CIRCUIT						
Sub-area	St No	Section Block		Architect	Date	Style/Influence
B4c	35	11	1	Kenneth Oliphant	1935	Federal Capital Style
Originally built as the Allawah Private Hospital in 1935 and retains its original almost symmetrical form with formal central entrance of French entrance doors with toplights, complemented by Roman cypresses flanking the entry. The house is a notable example of architectural design by Kenneth H Oliphant who designed many other homes in the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct (particularly Arthur Circle) and other areas of Canberra from the late 1920s to the 1950s.						
MELBOURNE AVENUE						
Sub-area	St No	Section Block		Architect	Date	Style/Influence
B4a	43	2	3	Malcolm Moir	1935	Inter-war Functionalist Style
An excellent example of the Functionalist Style favoured by Moi. This was Moir's own residence and exerted great influence on architectural design in Canberra at the time. The house was added to several times including a drawing office for the firm of Moir and Sutherland.						
BAUDIN STREET						
Sub-area	St No	Section Block		Architect	Date	Style /Influence
B4b	2	37	6	Rudd& Limburg	1928	Federation Arts & Crafts / Federation Bungalow
Rudd and Limburg were the most frequently commissioned private architects designing houses for the 'better class' blocks during the 1920s. This is an excellent example of their architecture which bore the hallmark of federation Arts and Crafts, Bungalow Style and John Horbury Hunt's Shingle Style.						
TASMANIA CIRCLE						
Sub-area	St No	Section Block		Architect	Date	Style/Influence
B4c	3	11	4	Roy Grounds (Grounds Romberg & Boyd)	1959	Post –War Melbourne Regional
These Forrest Townhouses are the first Canberra example of Le Corbusier's <i>Maison Citrohan</i> design idea that includes a double height living space. The post-war Melbourne regional style has long unbroken rooflines with widely projecting eaves and glass walls with regularly spaced timber mussions.						
	11	44	4	Robyn Boyd	1953	Post –War Melbourne Regional
The former home of Manning and Dymphia Clarke for much of their working lives. The roof top study which dominates the house contains the couples' library and is where Manning Clarke wrote many of his important historical works. It is an excellent example of the post-war Melbourne regional style with a low pitched gable roof, widely projecting eaves and large areas of timber framed glazing.						
TENNYSON CRESCENT						
Sub-area	St No	Section Block		Architect	Date	Style/Influence
B4a	19	2	22	Malcolm Moir	1952	Post – War International
A house exhibiting excellence in spatial planning with two wings and extended sympathetically in 1980. The original Moir design still evident today exhibits a loggia device to connect the separate elements of the residence and garaging – an architectural device he used in his other residences in the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct.						



WILMOT CRESCENT						
Sub-area	St No	Section Block		Architect	Date	Style/Influence
B4a	3	47	9	Moir & Sutherland	1937	Inter-War Functionalist Style
This house is a good early and intact example of the Inter-War Functionalist Style. Key features of the style displayed by the building include its asymmetrical massing, simple geometric shapes and metal-framed windows. The other features of significance are the use of corner windows, light-toned face brickwork, curved chimneys and some Art Deco style details.						

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct is structured by an ordering geometry centred on “Capitol” (now Capital) Hill with radial avenues, curvilinear streets and Blandfordia (now Collins) Park. These were major elements in the plan form of Griffin’s ‘Ideal City’. This surviving geometry demonstrates a great urban planning achievement of the twentieth century.

The Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct is a notable example of the early twentieth century planned Garden City suburban precinct principles, which were applied to the early planning and development of Canberra by the FCAC. The significant physical characteristics of this style of urban development as demonstrated at Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct include the major and minor street patterns with curved, tree-lined streets, single detached houses with uniform front building setbacks, set in generous front and surrounding garden settings with absence of front fences, and the provision of public space in Collins Park and the parks at Sections 10 and 39 Street trees merge with grassed verges and private gardens, which flow between the individual houses so that built form is in balance with the unifying setting of the landscape.

The street plantings are typical of those established in early Canberra under the direction of Thomas Weston and exemplify the innovative approach taken by Weston in the creation of the landscape for Canberra. Much of the public flora was propagated from original plant stock at the Yarralumla Nursery, established by Weston, and also provides a valuable historic seed source. The retention and diversity of mature exotic and native trees on public and private land within the precinct enhances the concept of Canberra as a ‘Garden City’ and the whole is complemented by individually designed bus shelters, street furniture and lighting.

Although it was developed as three separate residential subdivisions between 1926 and 1965, the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct demonstrates aesthetic cohesion of a high order, with varying street configurations, block sizes and deliberate eclecticism in architectural design. The precinct demonstrates an exceptionally high level of input by architects, which is extremely rare in Australia’s residential areas. The original housing designs were all by professional architects, including many of Canberra’s most notable architects, along with architects of renown from elsewhere in Australia. This

high input of quality architectural design over several decades has resulted in an eclectic mix of styles unified by overarching principles of Garden City planning.

The Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct complements the Canberra heritage precincts of Blandfordia 5 Housing Precinct, Forrest Housing Precinct (1), Red Hill Housing Precinct, Barton Housing Precinct, Kingston/Griffith Housing Precinct, Reid Housing Precinct, Alt Crescent, Corroboree Park Housing Precinct, Wakefield Gardens Housing Precinct and Braddon Housing Precinct in collectively, and individually, illustrating the early principles of Garden City planning.

The delineation of suburbs/precincts into segregated socio-economic classes was a departure from the Garden City ideology of combining social classes together. The designation of larger blocks for 'better class' housing for senior public servants on the highest ground closest to Capitol Hill (Blandfordia 4a) then slightly smaller block sizes for the other two subdivisions (Blandfordia 4b and 4c) which were designated for married public servants on moderate to high incomes contrasts significantly with the blocks allocated to workers and artisans at Ainslie, Braddon and Kingston. Such obvious class distinction in urban planning in the 1920's is of exceptional historical and social interest.

The precinct is also remarkable for its national role. It has had strong associations with Australia's political, administrative, economic, intellectual, and cultural history since the first residents moved in in 1926. A sampling of its first fifty years reveals the homes of more than a dozen heads of Commonwealth government departments, including the Parliamentary Librarian, and the Head of Hansard, the Solicitor General, the heads of the departments of the Senate, Health, Transport, Works, Police, and the Forestry School. Also represented are prominent academics, including the Australian National University's founding professors of Literature, History, and Music.

The precinct has been described as 'the cradle of Australian diplomacy', where the cadet External Affairs corps who founded the foreign service were trained in essential skills at the salons and garden parties in the homes of senior officials. Adjacent to the present 'embassy belt', this neighbourhood housed the first British High Commissioner and numerous other foreign diplomats, including the Japanese attache, commissioned, and interned, in 1941.

The Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct was also home to prominent architects and builders, to political journalists, and to a number of Cabinet ministers. There are close associations with three prime ministers, including Gough Whitlam, whose family home was in Empire Circuit. A key association with the development of Canberra under the government of R.G. Menzies is through his daughter Heather, whose experiences raising a family in Wilmot Crescent in the 1950s encouraged her father to recommence development of Canberra's infrastructure and facilities.

There is particularly rich evidence of the role of the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct in the history of the city and of the Territory. Two of Canberra's original surveyors, Percy Sheaffe and Colonel John Goodwin, lived here; in retirement both played a prominent role in the development of the community life and facilities of the city, and in the first steps towards political autonomy for the ACT.

The name Blandfordia is derived from *Blandfordia nobilis* (Christmas Bell), Australian native flora and the name Walter Burley Griffin gave to the park terminating the monumental radial Hobart Avenue. 'Blandfordia' is one of the place names literally crossed off maps by the Federal Capital Advisory Committee (FCAC) and finally eliminated in 1928 after the Bruce/Page government adopted an official naming scheme. It has particular significance as part of the nomenclature that Griffin used to enable a reading of the metaphysical relationships between urban design, landscape design, architecture, democracy and nature, which organised his plan. By combining the names of local flora with the names and orientation of routes indicative of constitutional and geo-spatial relations, the Griffins symbolically bridged the 'nature-culture' divide, conferring a unique perspective of the new city's place in the world. The name Blandfordia was applied to the residential subdivision in 1921 by the Federal Capital Advisory Committee (FCAC) before the first land sales and changed to Forrest by 1928. The FCAC's alternatives and the government's replacement scheme memorialising men of achievement and Australia's place within the British Empire were firmly on the 'culture' side. The name 'Blandfordia' is a reflection on the Griffins' vision for Australia, and how Australia influenced them. By picking up the remnant Griffin names, the contrasting outlooks behind the two naming schemes are revealed.

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## REASON FOR PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION

*The place has been assessed against the heritage significance criteria and been found to have heritage significance.*

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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:

**(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 residential area Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct is significant as a place structured by the ordering geometry centred on 'Capitol' (now Capital) Hill of Walter Burley Griffin's design for Canberra and subdivided by the FCC using Garden City planning principles. Its radial avenues, curvilinear streets and Blandfordia (now Collins) Park were major elements in the plan form of Griffin's 'Ideal City'. This ordering geometry remains as evidence of this significant urban planning achievement.

The name Blandfordia is derived from *Blandfordia nobilis* (Christmas Bell), Australian native flora and the name Walter Burley Griffin gave to the park terminating the monumental radial Hobart Avenue. "Blandfordia" is one of the names literally crossed off maps by the Federal Capital Advisory Committee (FCAC) and finally eliminated in 1928 after the Bruce/Page government adopted an official naming scheme. It has particular significance as part of the nomenclature that Griffin used to enable a reading of the metaphysical relationships between urban design, landscape design, architecture, democracy and nature, which organised his plan. By combining the names of local flora with the names and orientation of routes indicative of constitutional and geo-spatial relations, the Griffins symbolically bridged the 'nature-culture' divide, conferring a unique perspective of the new city's place in the world. The FCAC's alternatives and the government's replacement scheme memorialising men of achievement and Australia's place within the British Empire were firmly on the 'culture' side. The name 'Blandfordia' is a reflection on the Griffins' vision for Australia, and how Australia influenced them. The remnant Griffin names reveal the contrasting outlooks behind the two naming schemes.

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

'Garden City' planning, in combination with American 'City Beautiful' principles, underpinned the early planning of Canberra by the Federal Capital Advisory Committee (FCAC), Federal Capital Commission (FCC) and the Department of Interior (DOI) between 1920 and the Second World War. Post-war completion of the original housing stock of the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct was controlled by the Federal Capital planning bodies and the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC), retaining the Garden City values previously established.

The Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct is a notable example of the early twentieth century planned Garden City suburban precinct principles, which were applied to the early planning and development of Canberra by the FCAC. The significant physical characteristics of this style of urban development as demonstrated at Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct include the major and minor street patterns with curved, tree-lined streets, single detached houses with uniform front building setbacks, set in generous front and surrounding garden settings with absence of front fences, and the provision of public space in Collins Park and the parks at Sections 10 and 39. Street trees merge with grassed verges and private gardens, which flow between the individual houses so that built form is in balance with the unifying setting of the landscape.

Although it was developed as three separate residential subdivisions between 1926 and 1965, the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct demonstrates aesthetic cohesion of a high order, with varying street configurations, block sizes and deliberate eclecticism in architectural design. The precinct

demonstrates an exceptionally high level of input by architects, which is extremely rare in Australia's residential areas. The original housing designs were all by professional architects, including many of Canberra's most notable architects, along with architects of renown from elsewhere in Australia. This high input of quality architectural design over several decades has resulted in an eclectic mix of styles unified by overarching principles of Garden City planning. The resultant composition of architectural and landscape elements forms a cohesive streetscape that is valued by the community.

**(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;**

The delineation of suburbs/precincts into segregated socio-economic classes was a departure from the Garden City ideology of combining social classes together. The three subdivisions within the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct demonstrate historical and social aspects of the detailed planning and construction of early Canberra by the FCAC, FCC and DOI. The designation of larger blocks for 'better class' housing for senior public servants on the highest ground closest to Capitol Hill (Blandfordia 4a) then slightly smaller block sizes for the other two subdivisions (Blandfordia 4b and 4c) which were designated for married public servants on moderate to high incomes contrasts significantly with the blocks allocated to workers and artisans at Ainslie, Braddon and Kingston. Such obvious class distinction in urban planning in the 1920's is of exceptional historical and social interest. It also demonstrates a phase in Canberra's social history when it was acceptable to provide both government designed houses and houses designed by private architects randomly distributed in an area of the highest status.

**(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;**

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

The Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct demonstrates an exceptionally high level of input by technical professionals for the built environment, which is extremely rare in Australia's residential areas. The Garden City design of the three subdivisions with individual architecturally designed houses was created by Federal Government professional officers – architects, engineers, urban planners and landscape architects – together with private architects who gained 'approval to design' from Government authorities. The original housing designs were all by professional architects, including many designs by Canberra's most notable architects along with architects of renown from elsewhere in Australia. This level of input has decreased marginally but has remained significantly intact. By virtue of its use of landscape to unify an eclectic distribution of architectural styles it is a rare achievement in Australia.

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

The Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct demonstrates many of the significant physical characteristics of the early twentieth century Garden City movement that were applied to the early planning and development of Canberra. These features include the major and minor street patterns with curved, tree-lined streets, single detached houses with uniform front building setbacks, set in generous garden settings with absence of front fences, and the provision of public space in Collins Park and the parks at Sections 10 and 39.

The Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct is an exemplar of the early twentieth century planned Garden City suburban precinct and demonstrates in a similar way to the heritage precincts of Blandfordia 5 Housing Precinct, Forrest Housing Precinct (1), Red Hill Housing Precinct, Barton Housing Precinct, Kingston/Griffith Housing Precinct, Reid Housing Precinct, Alt Crescent,

Corroboree Park Housing Precinct, Wakefield Gardens Housing Precinct and Braddon Housing Precinct the early principles of Garden City planning.

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

The Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct comprises three subdivisions, two of which are strongly tied into the ordering geometry of Walter Burley Griffin's Plan for Canberra, albeit with minor alterations by the FCC. Development of the three subdivisions is associated with the early development of the Federal Capital of Australia, as orchestrated by (Sir) John Sulman, a pioneer of town planning in Australia, and later by the FCC under the direction of (Sir) John Butters.

The street planting is typical of that established in early Canberra under the direction of Thomas Weston and exemplifies the innovative approach taken by Weston in the creation of the landscape for Canberra. Much of the public flora was propagated from original plant stock at the Yarralumla Nursery, established by Weston, and also provides a valuable historic seed source.

There is particularly rich evidence of the role of Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct in the history of the city and of the Territory. Two of Canberra's original surveyors, Percy Sheaffe and Colonel John Goodwin, lived here; in retirement both played a prominent role in the development of the community life and facilities of the city, and in the first steps towards political autonomy for the ACT.

The precinct is even more remarkable for its national role. It has strong associations with Australia's political, administrative, economic, intellectual, and cultural history since the first residents moved in in 1926. A sampling of its first fifty years reveals the homes of more than a dozen heads of Commonwealth government departments, including the Parliamentary Librarian, and the Head of Hansard, the Solicitor General, and the heads of the departments of the Senate, Health, Transport, Works, Police, and the Forestry School.

Equally significant is the representation of prominent academics, including the Australian National University's founding professors of Literature, History, and Music. 'A History of Australia' was written by Manning Clark in the study at No 1 Tasmania Circle. The precinct has been described as 'the cradle of Australian diplomacy', where the cadet External Affairs corps who founded the foreign service were trained in essential skills at the salons and garden parties in the homes of senior officials. Adjacent to the present 'embassy belt', this neighbourhood housed the first British High Commissioner and numerous other foreign diplomats, including the Japanese attache, commissioned, and interned, in 1941.

Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct was also home to prominent architects and builders, to political journalists, and to a number of Cabinet ministers. There are close associations with three prime ministers, including Gough Whitlam, whose family home was in Empire Circuit. A key association with the development of Canberra under the government of R.G. Menzies, is through his daughter Heather, whose experiences raising a family in Wilmot Crescent in the 1950s encouraged her father to recommence development of Canberra's infrastructure and facilities.

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

Not applicable

**(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 Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct has the potential to contribute to an understanding of the way in which Garden City principles, which originated in England, were adapted or selectively applied by Canberra's early planners. This is most apparent in their departure from the democratic allocation of land and the adoption of a hierarchical social planning system which allocated specific areas for high-, middle- or low-ranking public servants, or for construction workers. The precinct is a rich archive recording the natural and cultural history of the ACT and

its role in Australian culture, and a site of great value for enhancing understanding of social and political history of the ACT and the nation.

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

Not applicable

**(l) for a place—it is a significant ecological community, habitat or locality for any of the following:**

- (i) the life cycle of native species;**
- (ii) rare, threatened or uncommon species;**
- (iii) species at the limits of their natural range;**
- (iv) distinct occurrences of species.**

Not applicable

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## 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

*In reading this background information reference should also be made to Lenore Coltheart's, 'Blandfordia: An Historical Summary', 6 December 2004, a report prepared for the ACT Heritage Unit. Much of the information below has been extracted from the Historical Summary.*

Walter Burley Griffin was quoted in the *New York Times* on 2 June 1912, soon after being advised that he had won the competition to design Canberra, stating *'I have planned a city not like any other. I have planned it not in a way that I expected any government authority in the world would accept. I have planned an ideal city, a city that meets my ideal of the future'*.

When Griffin's position as Federal Capital Director of Design and Construction was terminated in January 1921, his planning legacy for the area south of 'Capitol Hill' (later Capital Hill) was the ordering geometry of the major radial avenues centred on Capitol Hill. By the time of his departure he had softened his earlier plans for formal polygonal connections between the radial avenues close to Capitol Hill in favour of curved forms along the land contours and the area was no longer designated for Government buildings.<sup>1</sup> On Griffin's 1918 plan as drawn by the Department of Works and Railways as a basis for the gazetted plan of Canberra the area between Westridge (Yarralumla) and Red Hill was designated as a residential area referred to as Blandfordia.

Blandfordia (*Blandfordia nobilis*, or Christmas Bell), Clianthus and Telopea, representing Australian native flora, were the names given by Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin to three parks on the south side of the Molonglo River. The circular Blandfordia Park, defined by Blandfordia Circle inside Tasmania Circle (later named Tasmania Circle and Arthur Circle respectively), was centred on the axis of Hobart Avenue. The radial avenues were given the names of the state capitals symbolic of Canberra's constitutional position, and the linking circuits were given geospatial names symbolising Australia's global position: Island, National, State, Australia, Southlands, Antarctic and Australasia. Combining the names of local flora with the names and orientation of routes indicative of constitutional and geospatial relations, the Griffins enabled a reading of the metaphysical relationships between urban design, landscape design, architecture, democracy and nature, upon which Griffin's plan was organised.

The Griffins' original naming scheme was eroded after 1921 and almost completely erased when an official naming scheme was developed in 1927 and new names gazetted in 1928, after Parliament accepted the recommendation of the Canberra National Memorials Committee that naming of all streets and suburbs in the national capital should accord with chosen themes. In Blandfordia this meant in fact a single theme: great men of different accomplishments. The streets of Blandfordia were garnished with the names of state governors, navigators and explorers, and Blandfordia was divided into suburbs named for the founding fathers of federation, John Forrest, Alfred Deakin, Edmund Barton, Charles Kingston and Samuel Griffith, all gazetted on 20 September 1928.

In 1921, following Griffin's departure, the Federal Capital Advisory Committee (FCAC, 1921 to 1924) carried out the first surveys of the Blandfordia area and established the boundaries for the Housing Competition which would subsequently be won by Oakley Parkes and Scarborough (now listed in the ACT Heritage Register as the Forrest Housing Precinct). Blandfordia was to be developed by the Federal Capital Commission (FCC, 1925 to 1930) using the ideas of Sir John Sulman, chairman of the FCAC and notable town planner, and the influence of English Garden City planners like Raymond Unwin.

The philosophy behind Garden City planning was to create healthy working and living environments for urban residents. It developed internationally through the 1900s and many of the principles were integral to Walter Burley Griffin's winning design for the new Federal Capital of Australia. Garden City planning has evolved to become the basis of professional town planning practice, and Canberra as a

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<sup>1</sup> See Griffin's 1918 plan for Canberra and compare with the Competition entry and the plan produced in America in 1912 which further elucidates his original concepts.

whole reflects this progressive evolution. In Canberra, Garden City planning was characterised by the following principles:<sup>2</sup>

- Residential development was to be low density, predominantly single family detached houses on their own garden allotments;
- The provision of a healthy sunlight environment in a garden setting was to contribute to the maintenance of high standards of morality and social stability;
- The arrangement of houses into self-contained communities, each with their own identity, was fundamental;
- Efficient means of transport were required to facilitate the dispersing of people at low densities over large areas; and
- Different forms of land use were allocated to discrete land areas to provide an ordered and efficiently planned environment.

Since the Second World War, Garden City planning for new precincts has followed a continuous process of rationalisation to suit changing lifestyles. Key features such as the presence of central landscaped reserves overlooked by housing, the generous verge widths, generous block sizes and front setbacks and maintained hedges have been lost or diminished.

A further subdivision (Sections 1 and 2; and 1A and 2A, now 46 and 47) and street layout plan was completed on 30 June 1921. These were the residential blocks to be offered at the first public auction, which was held in December 1924, and are part of the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct (Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct a). Colonel J.T.H. Goodwin, member of the FCAC, was the surveyor. The subdivision comprised a select residential area to secure and retain in the city the families of senior public officials and other leading professionals. It was a departure from the democratic thinking of Garden City planning and exhibited the hierarchical social planning structures favoured by the FCC planners throughout the development of early Canberra.

The area which is the subject of this citation, that portion of Forrest bounded by Empire Circuit, eastern Arthur Circle, Moresby Street, Mugga Way and Melbourne Avenue provides particularly rich evidence of the role of this neighbourhood in the history of the city and of the Territory. Two of Canberra's original surveyors, Percy Sheaffe and Colonel John Goodwin lived here.<sup>3</sup> In retirement both played a prominent role in the development of the community life and facilities of the city, and in the first steps towards political autonomy for the ACT.

It is also a precinct of associations with Australia's political, administrative, economic, intellectual, and cultural history since the first residents moved in 78 years ago. A sampling of its first fifty years reveals the homes of more than a dozen heads of Commonwealth government departments, including Parliamentary Officers, the Solicitor General, the Crown Solicitor, MHRs and the heads of many government Departments.<sup>4</sup>

The precinct has also been described as 'the cradle of Australian diplomacy', where the cadet External Affairs corps who founded the foreign service were trained in essential skills at the salons and garden parties in the homes of senior officials.<sup>5</sup> Adjacent to the present 'embassy belt', this

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<sup>2</sup> Andrew Ward, 'Assessment of Garden City Planning Principles in the ACT', report prepared for the ACT Heritage Unit, September 2000.

<sup>3</sup> Percy Sheaffe, District Surveyor, lived at 7 Tennyson Crescent, designed by Oakley & Parkes architects in 1927. Colonel Goodwin, Surveyor General, lived at 10 Wilmot Crescent, designed by Rudd & Limberg architects in 1928.

<sup>4</sup> Kenneth Binns, Parliamentary librarian, lived at 7 Mugga Way, designed by Hardy Wilson in 1927 and then at 51 Melbourne Avenue, designed by E. Henderson, Dept. Interior in 1930. Sir Robert Garran lived at 47 Melbourne Avenue, designed by Kenneth Oliphant in 1933. H.F.E. Whitlam lived at 70 Empire Circuit, designed by Rudd and Limberg 1926/ FCC 1929; the family home of E.G. Whitlam, Prime Minister 1972-1975. Dr John Cumpston, First Director-General of the Commonwealth Department of Health 1921-45 and founder of the Canberra hospital, lived at 8 Wilmot Crescent, designed by the FCC in 1929 and 4 Nares Crescent, house built by Department of Interior 1940.

<sup>5</sup> Lieut. Colonel W. R. Hodgson, Secretary, Department of External Affairs, 1937, lived at 3 Tennyson Crescent, designed by Kenneth Oliphant in 1934. Refer article "Forrest: Cradle of



neighbourhood housed the first British High Commissioner and numerous other foreign diplomats, including the Japanese attache who was commissioned, and interned, in 1941.

The residents of this precinct also fostered the arts and culture of early Canberra, notably the Society of Arts and Literature, including its President Sir Robert Garran and other members such as Robert Broinowski, Dr Lewis Nott and Kenneth Binns.<sup>6</sup>

The FCC quickly expanded the area titled Blandfordia Subdivision on the 1918 plan. The unshaded area between the Blandfordia Subdivision and the Red Hill Subdivision became the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct Subdivision (Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct b), redesigned to eliminate the Forrest end of (Australasia) Hopetoun Circuit, creating Rous Crescent and open space, the park at Section 39. The block sizes were smaller, to serve the needs of middle ranking public servants and private members of the community of similar economic status. The first house in this area was designed by Oakley and Parkes as a private commission for their builder of the competition houses, P.J. McCarthy, at 9 Rous Crescent in 1926.

The development of the subdivision around Blandfordia (later Collins) Park did not commence until the 1930s. The Allawah Private Hospital, designed by Kenneth Oliphant and located at 35 Empire Circuit, was built in 1935. A greater density of housing was planned for the outer circle, renamed Arthur Circle, with narrower block frontages – in Sections 43 and 44, the block subdivisions are 2:1 block of the inner circle interfacing with Collins Park, but at a lower ratio in Section 41 and 42.

In 1950 a concept plan was prepared showing potential development of the Collins Park frontage to Tasmania Circle for government housing (18 sites). The records include comment on the sensitivities of the proposal and suggest it could be a potential source of embarrassment to the Minister responsible. The concept was abandoned. It was raised again in 1963 in a plan and letter by Ken Oliphant, to the NCDC.<sup>7</sup> Again the concept was abandoned.

### **Architectural History of the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct Precinct**

The eclecticism characteristic of the architectural design within the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct is due to aesthetic preference, particularly during the 1930s with the popularity of Revival styles, coupled with the time span of development from the 1920s to the 1960s and the social stratification of subdivisions practised by Government planners. The three subdivisions have some different characteristics. The subdivisions released for public auction in 1924 (Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct a) consisted of large blocks for better class housing often designed by private architects and privately built. The objective was to settle high ranking public officials and professionals in the area.

More economic blocks with a fifty percent proportion of FCC and Department of Interior designed housing for middle ranking public servants and fifty percent for privately built housing were provided in the second subdivision (Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct b), which extended the original Blandfordia Subdivision.<sup>8</sup> The third subdivision which encompasses Blandfordia Park (Collins Park) was not prepared for development until the 1930s (Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct c). Development throughout the precinct was not uniform, for instance Ord Street was not developed until the 1950s and the last original house in the precinct was completed in the 1960s.

An architect designed every original house in the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct.<sup>9</sup> This practise was started by the FCC with an “Application as to Approval for Design Only”. It was required for new

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Australian Diplomacy” by Ralph Harry, File copy Heritage Museums & Galleries, Forrest Precinct 2, file no 94/17134.

<sup>6</sup> Robert Broinowski, Usher of the Black Rod, lived at 1 Mugga Way, designed by Kenneth Oliphant.

<sup>7</sup> John Armes report, Vol 1 of 3, p 13, and National Archives file NAA: A1340, 1963/597

<sup>8</sup> Blandfordia is shown on a plan drawn by Home and Territories Department (Lands and Survey Branch) Melbourne, Sept 1918. It has not been established in this research whether Griffin was aware of this plan, whether he expressed an opinion in relation to it or whether it was made by the Department without informing Griffin.

<sup>9</sup> Evidence of “Application as to Approval for Design Only” submitted by architects are abundant in the building files held by ACTPLA at Mitchell. The files provide evidence that every original house was designed by an architect.

houses and additions to existing houses. The practise continued for new houses until self-government and the termination of the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) in the late 1980s. During the final years of the NCDC the practise was dropped for additions.

The eclectic mix of architectural design is represented by stylistic influences ranging through Federation Arts and Crafts and Bungalow; the Inter-War Revival Styles - Georgian, Old English, Mediterranean, Spanish Mission, Art Deco, Functionalist; Post-War Styles such as – Regional, International, American Colonial Australian Colonial and on to Late Twentieth Century Styles and Post Modernism.<sup>10</sup>

Architectural design within Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct took its direction initially from the ideas of Sir John Sulman who sought to develop sound housing which took into account the conditions of the Australian climate. Early Federal Capital architecture was developed by the FCC, although in the early years the influential architects included the winners of housing competition, Oakley and Parkes, the FCC (T.R. Casboulte, the executive architect, lived at 64 Empire Circuit), Kenneth Oliphant, L.H. Rudd (Rudd lived at 5 Tennyson Crescent), W. Hayward Morris, Geoff Mitchell (FCC), Hardy Wilson, and Plottel Burnett & Alsop. A total of 26 houses were built in the precinct in the 1920s. Kenneth Oliphant was the first private architect to live and work in Canberra, from 1926. He had arrived as supervising architect for the firm Oakley and Parkes (Scarborough dropped out) and later left to practise in his own right.

In the early years a singularly influential house was that designed by Kenneth Oliphant at 9 Tennyson Crescent in 1928 for S.J. Ryan. It was publicised in *Home Beautiful* in 1931.<sup>11</sup> A charming house with Georgian Revival influences in its symmetry of front terrace, French doors, semicircular entrance porch, side verandah and matching semicircular bay window (faceted) to the dining room, it must have been widely admired and influential as an Australian 'dream home'. This is the earliest Oliphant house in the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct. Its major flaw is its poor orientation on the site, with the major rooms facing south to the street frontage, which belies the apparent influence of climatic conditions on the design. Oliphant designed many houses in Canberra from the late 1920s, and many within the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct from the 1930s up to the 1950s.

Also in Tennyson Crescent, at No 7, is an Oakley and Parkes design of the 1920s. Original drawings for this house appear to have been lost from ACT Planning and Land Authority's files, so the precise date and signature were not found; however it was surveyed 'as existing' in 1931. The builder for the competition houses, P.J. McCarthy, commissioned another design by Oakley and Parkes in 1926 at 9 Rous Crescent.

Laurence Rudd of the firm Rudd and Limberg came to Canberra practise architecture and lived in the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct at 5 Tennyson Crescent in a house he designed in 1927. Additions for Mrs Rudd comprising a colonnaded verandah on the east side were completed in 1928. In this part of the precinct, Rudd and partner D.E. Limberg designed houses at 66 Empire Circuit (1926), 10 Wilmot Crescent (1926, with a second design by Rudd in 1927) and 4 Tennyson Crescent (1927) opposite Rudd's own house. Houses designed by the firm at 68 and 70 Empire Circuit were not built – but a very similar house with evidence of Rudd's influence was built at number 70 to a design by the FCC in 1929. Rudd and Limburg were the most frequently commissioned private architects designing houses for the 'better class' blocks during the 1920s. They also designed two other houses of note – both of which may be considered as worthy of nomination for individual listing. No 2 Baudin Street (1928) focuses more on Federation Arts and Crafts and Bungalow styles and has sensitive additions by architect Bert Read. No 3 Rous Crescent (1930) is a very good, intact example of the Inter-War Old English Style, exemplified in the steeply pitched, tiled gable roof and half timbered brickwork at the gabled ends. The small front verandah is a stylistic indicator of Federation Bungalow style however this is a smaller house than usual in this style. It was the last house designed by Rudd and Limburg in Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct. The hallmark of their architecture is the influence of Federation Arts and Crafts, Federation Bungalow style and John Horbury Hunt's Shingle style. Its apogee was a combination of these styles with the Inter-War Old English style. The Tennyson Crescent houses differ in that they do not have the steeply pitched roofs, the shingles, half timbering

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<sup>10</sup> Richard Apperly, Robert Irving and Peter Reynolds, *Identifying Australian Architecture*, Angus & Robertson, 1995

<sup>11</sup> Peter Freeman, *The Early Canberra House*, p. 120

or verandah porches. These houses identify more with the housing types of the FCC (i.e. Rudd's own house) and Oakley and Parkes. In comparing 4 and 7 Tennyson Crescent the identifying hands of Rudd and Limburg and Oakley and Parkes are difficult to distinguish.

Also living in the auctioned subdivision (Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct a) was the FCC executive architect T.R. Casboulte at No 64 Empire Circuit, the house designed by him in 1928. The house next door to Casboulte at 62 Empire Circuit appears to have been designed by Geoff Mitchell architect (signature unclear) in 1929 with Casboulte. Mitchell also designed 49 Melbourne Avenue in 1929.

The house designed by W. Hayward Morris at 6 Baudin Street in 1929 moves away from the more organic influences to the formalistic influences of Art Deco and heralds the design aesthetics popular in the 1930s and 1940s. As a group, houses in Baudin Street from Nos 2-8 exhibit significant eclecticism in their architectural styling and have undergone only relatively minor alterations. No 10 retains some characteristic elements of an eclectic tour de force in Spanish Mission style by Kenneth Oliphant.

The mantle of Rudd and Limburg was to some extent taken up by the Department of the Interior with houses designed in the 1930s by the Principal Design Architect, Edward Henderson. Like Rudd, Henderson appears to have received design-generating influences from the Federation period for several of his larger houses of the early 1930s, when Revival Styles were popular. No 70 Empire Circuit was built according to drawings provided by the FCC but appears to have adopted the characteristics of Rudd's earlier design for this block. No 15 Mugga Way, an example of Rudd's Inter-War Old English style in the neighbouring Red Hill Housing Precinct, has a similar plan form and Federation Arts and Crafts characteristics to those which appear in Henderson's larger houses such as 51 Melbourne Avenue (1930), 12 (1930) and 22 (1933) Dampier Crescent, particularly revealed in the design of the recessed entrance between the gabled (hipped in the case of 51 Melbourne Avenue) protrusions of main rooms and in internal detailing of the fireplace and overmantel of No 12. (Refer to ACTPLA files for original coloured drawings.)

No 51 Melbourne Avenue, designed for Kenneth Binns, the Parliamentary Librarian, a corner house, has a similar plan form to Rudd's 1926 Mugga Way house in Red Hill. It is sited square to Melbourne Avenue not diagonally across the corner as with Henderson's 22 Dampier Crescent and both the Rudd-influenced FCC designs for 70 Empire Circuit and 15 Mugga Way, Red Hill. In Henderson's Melbourne Avenue design the roof form is hipped and, in the drawings, the recessed entrance porch was given a Georgian Revival character although this does not appear to have been carried out in the final construction. (Kenneth Binns formerly lived in a house designed by Hardy Wilson in 1927, 7 Mugga Way, with Georgian Revival character.) Henderson's design has Federation Arts and Crafts influence in internal panelling and externally in the use of shingles cladding the projecting bays of the dining room and sleepout. Face brick piers with a timber pergola form the porch construction seen today.

Towards the end of the 1930s and throughout the 1940s, Henderson and the principal design architect of the Dol, Cuthbert Whitley, as well as other prominent architects represented in Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct such as Kenneth Oliphant and Malcolm Moir, veered away from Sulman's influence on early Canberra architecture towards Art Deco and Inter-War Functionalism. This was an historic trend, arriving from overseas a little late in Australia.

For Henderson, Art Deco influences are exhibited most notably in the house in Rhodes Place, Yarralumla, designed for Lord Casey. There are several examples of the influence of Art Deco on smaller houses designed by Henderson and the Department of the Interior in the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct, later in the 1940s. Between the stylistic influences on Henderson's larger houses and the Art Deco influence are several houses such as 16 (1938) and 18 (date not confirmed) Tennyson Crescent, which were standard Department of the Interior designs such as the Type M, rendered with characteristic red brick bases, which made important contributions to the architectural character of the precinct.

Malcolm Moir's house in the auctioned subdivision, at 43 Melbourne Avenue, was designed in 1935. He married architect Heather Sutherland in 1936 and the house was modified several times, including the provision of a drawing office for the architectural practice established in the name Moir &

Sutherland. The design is an excellent example of the Functionalist style favoured by Moir and must have exerted great influence on architectural design in Canberra at the time. Other excellent examples of Inter-War Functionalist style by Moir include 3 Wilmot Crescent, built approximately 1937. No 45 Melbourne Avenue, designed in inter-War Functionalist style by Moir in approximately 1940 has undergone complete character change with a pitched tiled roof added in 1990. Interestingly the drawings for 9 Mugga Way show the hand of both Oliphant and Moir in 1937, the original tracing paper sketch signed by Oliphant and the Commission, with slight variations to the original sketch, carried out by Moir & Sutherland. The house was significantly changed in character in 1985 by Irvine Homes.

After the subdivision created by Empire Circuit, shown on the 1933 Canberra Plan, and construction of the Allawah Private Hospital in 1935, the subdivision of blocks in the circle around Collins Park continued. In 1937 the Department of the Interior architect E. Henderson laid out blocks 11 –14 of Section 43 with design types 1K, Aam, 1P and 1M with street nos. 38 to 44 Arthur Circle. This sequence by Henderson, probably with Cuthbert Whitley, is continued to include block 15 and blocks 6, 7, and 8 of Section 42 with street nos 46- 52 Arthur Circle. The designs are all single storey Inter War Functionalist style, all individual but retaining identifying original characteristics.

Blocks 1, 2 and 3 of Section 9 were developed in 1938 and 1939 with housing Types 1L, 1C and K and street addresses of 90, 92 and 94 Arthur Circle. Although there have been some alterations and additions, the style indicators remain discernable and include:

- No 90 - '1L' horizontal window subdivisions, face brick porch and planter;
- No 92 - '1C' horizontal banding of face brickwork and
- No 94 - 'K' retains the original multi paned double hung windows of vertical proportions in an eclectic design which incorporates a planter box.

These houses together with the Henderson designs in Sections 42 and 43 illustrate the transition in Government designs to Inter-War Functionalist design towards the end of the 1930s. The momentum for Inter-War Functionalist design in smaller housing increased with Kenneth Oliphant's designs in Arthur Circle in 1940.

Until the end of the 1930s Oliphant was utilising a range of styles from his early Canberra style (similar to the 1924 designs of Oakley, Parkes and Scarborough) to Inter-War Revival Styles ranging from Spanish Mission (10 Baudin Street) to Georgian and Old English (39 and 13 Tasmania Circle). The design of 3 Tennyson Crescent (1934) was not influenced by Art Deco and Inter-War functionalism but still expressed the character of early Oliphant houses, possibly influenced by Oakley and Parkes, the ideas of Sulman and by the search for a '... *universal domestic Australian architecture*' outlined in a publication of architects' ideas edited by Desbrowe Annear in 1922.<sup>12</sup> No 1 Mugga Way was designed by Oliphant in 1937 for Robert A Broinowski, former Usher of the Black Rod and Clerk of the Senate. The style again is Inter-War Old English. Originally a three bedroom house, there is evidence that the upper floor was a later addition by Oliphant to match existing. No 39 Tasmania Circle was designed in 1939 in the Inter-War Georgian Revival style while 13 Tasmania Circle was designed in 1940 in the Inter-War Old English style.

According to Apperly, Irving and Reynolds 'In the early post-war years, modern architecture was seen as having two parallel streams- the 'functional' and the 'organic'.<sup>13</sup> Evidence of an organic stream of architectural influence within Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct was sought however the connection between architecture and nature, expressed in organic architecture such as that practised by Frank Lloyd Wright and Walter Burley Griffin and their mentor Louis Sullivan, is not evident in the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct housing, where the connection with nature is through the Arts and Crafts movement and English garden city planning. The sweeping horizontal lines of eaves and balconies reminiscent of the Prairie School is only seen in the Apostolic Nunciature by Enrico Taglietti in the neighbouring Red Hill Precinct. Post Griffin, the connection with nature in residential areas is evidenced in the Garden City principles invested in the streetscape - in the planting of street trees and private gardens, the absence of front fences and the symbiotic relationship between built form and landscape, the landscape flowing into the spaces created by the articulated forms of the houses.

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<sup>12</sup> Peter Freeman, 'Kenneth Oliphant His Life and Work' Vol. 1 p. 70

<sup>13</sup> *ibid* p. 236.

Sixty percent of the original houses in the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct were constructed by 1940, while the other forty percent were constructed between 1940 and 1965 when the last original house on an original subdivision was constructed for Sir Harry Wunderley at 53 Tasmania Circle to a design by Moir & Slater. An earlier design for No 53 appears to have been a Government Department of Works design of 1951, not built.

Moir and Sutherland continued to be a strong architectural influence within the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct from 1941 to 1965 when their son Angus joined the firm (by then called Moir & Slater) and with A.H. Hanson of Sydney as design architect supervised the construction of 53 Tasmania Circle. In the 1940s Moir & Sutherland discontinued designing in their previously favoured Inter-War Functionalist style, as exhibited in 43 Melbourne Avenue and 3 Wilmot Crescent. In smaller houses they adhered to economic simplicity and 'form follows function', while three larger houses of this period illustrate their high level skills in spatial planning and form. No 58 Arthur Circle, the Chandler House (1941), is nominated to the ACT Heritage Register for assessment for its individual significance. Malcolm Moir's first design for this client is even more impressive than the impressive design that was eventually built and is a late example of Inter-War Mediterranean style with rendered wall surfaces, tiled roof and major rooms opening onto especially fine stepped terraces, the entrance terrace at the front and the other terraces facing north-east. The formal entrance also exhibits elements of Inter-War Georgian Revival style. The Chandler House has been adversely impacted upon by alterations and additions in recent times and no longer fully demonstrates the wonderful spatial planning ideas, which generated the original design. The original separate garage was connected to the house by a loggia, further demonstrating spatial planning carried into the external spaces however the original effect of this has been compromised by later alterations and additions.

Malcolm Moir uses the loggia device again in the spatial planning of 19 Tennyson Crescent (1952). This house, although not as impressive as the original Chandler house, retains its original excellence in spatial planning with sympathetic additions to the north living wing by an unnamed architect in 1980. Moir designed the house in two wings – north/living, south/front bedroom – connected by the entrance, which was in turn connected to the separate garage by a loggia. The roof forms a very low-pitched butterfly. Douglas designs added a carport, beside the original garage, and a curved driveway in 1990. The Moir & Sutherland House at 9 Ord Street (1953) is also nominated to the ACT Heritage Register for assessment for individual listing. This house appears to have been designed by Heather Sutherland (her signature is on the drawings) and was originally a single-storey face brick house with timber windows and a low pitched tiled roof. The house received large second storey additions by the firm Moir & Slater in 1967/8 and further alterations by Moir and Godfrey Spowers in 1973, all for the original owner Mr R Osborn. The completed house has an interesting v-shaped plan form with the living wing is angled to face north. The design is considered to be a late example of Inter-War Chicagoesque style and Post-War American Colonial style. The brickwork has been painted. The house was nominated by the RAlA and has since been considered by them as not of sufficient significance to be listed as an example of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture. Other houses by Moir & Sutherland or Moir & Slater in this period include 60 Arthur Circle (1941, two storey); 23 Tasmania Circle (1948, later additions); 12 Arthur Circle (1948); 27 Tasmania Circle (1949); 22 Tennyson Crescent (1951, two storey); 39 Empire Circuit (1948/52, since altered and character changed), 10 Arthur Circle (1947 or 1951, altered); and 4 Ord Street (1954, since altered and character changed).

After 1940, Oliphant also ceased designing in the Inter-War Functionalist style and continued designing mainly smaller single-storey houses in the precinct. However in a late revival in 1950 Oliphant returned to Functionalism in his design for a large two-storey house at 20 Dampier Crescent. This house of curved forms, fine scale and proportion retains a significant architectural presence in the streetscape. On close scrutiny rear additions by N. Renfree & Associates in 1981 are visible. Other houses designed by Oliphant within Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct include 4 Arthur Circle (1938); 16 Arthur Circle (1941); 20 Arthur Circle (1937); 22 Arthur Circle (1940); 24 Arthur Circle (1940); 26 Arthur Circle (1940); 34 Arthur Circle (1939); 36 Arthur Circle (1940); 54 Arthur Circle (1937, described above); 62 Arthur Circle (1941); 13 Dampier Crescent (1947); 70 Arthur Circle (1949); and 68 Arthur Circle (1950). The last house Oliphant designed in the precinct was for A.D. Hope at 66 Arthur Circle, set forward on the block to maximise the rear garden to the north-east viewed from the semicircular rear terrace. Rear additions in 2001 have compromised Oliphant's plan.

The houses in Arthur Circle from No 4 to no 54 are all single storey, with two exceptions: 28 Arthur Circle, a recent construction; and 14 Arthur Circle, which has a Moir and Slater second storey bedroom over the entry. Sited on rising land on the high side of the street, which elevates their height in the streetscape, the sequential single-storey houses relate well in scale and proportion to the narrower width of these blocks (and resulting closer proximity of houses). Sequential two storey houses would result in a change of proportions and greater dominance of built form over the garden city streetscape; while an up and down mix of single and double-storey houses would destroy the existing cohesion of form sympathetic to the streetscape geometry of the outer circle. Houses at 4, 16, 20-26 inclusive, 34, 36 and 54 were all designed by Oliphant. Houses at 7, 8 and 30 were designed by Moir.

The provision of War Service Homes within the precinct, designed by architects from the Department of Works and Housing, spans the period from the late 1940s to 1953 when the last designs were completed. War Service Homes within Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct include:

- No 76 Arthur Circle - additions by John Scollay 1963-67;
- No 37 Tasmania Circle (H. Divola for Australian Legion of Ex-Service Men and Women) - simple single storey design with major additions by Leith Bartlett & Partners 1979;
- No 3 Baudin Street - since demolished;
- No 13 Baudin Street – two storey, granny flat and bay window added by Anthony and Roger Pegrum in 1968, and further additions by architect/owner Dimitry Padashenko in 1989;
- No 29 Tasmania Circle – stone base, major additions in 1973 and 1987;
- No 14 Tennyson Crescent – since demolished;
- No 84 Arthur Circle – Department of Works Type 348 with rounded corners and low flower boxes beside entrance; a prominent carport was built forward of the building line in 1993.

Three architects of considerable skill whose work in the precinct is mainly confined to the 1950s are Harry Divola, R.B. Fitzgerald and Richard Ure. Of the three, the work of Divola is the most individualistic and robust, with his love of curves and angles expressed in vividly coloured drawings of readily identifiable style (held in ACT Planning and Land Authority's building files). From Sydney, he opened a drawing office in Manuka in the 1950s. Some of his most imaginative designs were not built (i.e. his initial designs for 72 and 80 Arthur Circle were not built in favour of more modest Divola designs, both built in 1954). No 53 Empire Circuit (1951), now demolished, exemplified the hallmarks of Divola's design, as does the house built by Karl Schreiner, for himself, at 51 Tasmania Circle (1954). The identifying characteristics of this house are the butterfly roof, feature stone wall, interesting angles employed in the design and verandah with semicircular end. The house exemplifies Divola's love of curves and free form. Other designs by Divola were constructed at 21 Tasmania Circle (1949, two storey with Moir & Sutherland 1950 additions and a 1978 porte cochere by architect Richard Luker); 17 Tennyson Crescent, constructed in 1951 for Professor Patrick Moran and occupied by him until his death in 1988; and 64 Arthur Circle (1952), a bungalow with a stone fireplace, added to later by others.

The work of R.B. Fitzgerald is more conservative than the robust and flamboyant style of Divola. The house at 2 Ord Street (1955) for David Fairbairn MHR is a conservative design with Georgian Revival elements such as the entrance porch. Professor Beddie's house at 7 Ord Street (1953) shows innovation in the belled form of the gable roof with the ridgeline following the short dimension, but with ungainly results. The house at 11 Tennyson Crescent (1954) designed for H.E. Renfree is the best design in the precinct by R.B. Fitzgerald – some elements are mindful of his contemporary Divola such as the semicircular bay window and the stone fireplace expressed externally in an otherwise conservative house. Other Fitzgerald designs within Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct include 5 Tasmania Circle (1948), 3 Ord Street (1951, since demolished), and 82 Arthur Circle (1951), a rendered bungalow with a second storey addition by others in 1982.

Influences in the 1950s and 1960s came from overseas in modern design adapted to Australian climatic and social conditions and interpreted in the various Australian Regional styles. Icons of international architecture like the Miesian pavilion were interpreted in such as in architect Richard Ure's own house at 6 Ord Street (1955) and at 41 Tasmania Circle (1952). Ure was the principal design architect for the Commonwealth Government and designed the Eagle Monument, Telecom (now Telstra) Tower at Black Mountain and the Portal Buildings on Anzac Parade in collaboration with the NCDC. The house at 6 Ord Street was purchased by N. Douglas architect in 1977 and enlarged while maintaining the original character. In 1986 architect H.C. Peel changed the architectural

character completely with further additions and a tiled roof over all. No 41 Tasmania Circle featured the living and sleeping wings under a butterfly roof, and was altered in a similar manner to 6 Ord Street by Living Constructions in 1994.

Other architects who had designs built within Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct during 1950s include T.J. Hasler at 56 Arthur Circle (1950) and 96 Arthur Circle (1953); Arthur Baldwinson (Sydney) at 13 Tennyson Crescent (1952); Robin Boyd (Melbourne) at 11 Tasmania Circle (1952) for Professor Manning Clark; C.J. Courtney at 3 Dampier Crescent (1953); H.P. Hancock at 25 Tasmania Circle (1956); Kevin Curtin at 38 Empire Circuit (1953); Geoffrey John Harrison at 5 Dampier Crescent (1954); and Thomas Maxwell Scott (EA & TM Architects) at 5 Ord Street for the British High Commission. A.H. Hansen from Sydney designed 31 and 55 Tasmania Circle in 1947; and 53 Tasmania Circle in 1965. Hansen sometimes worked in conjunction with Malcolm Moir's practice.

Granny flat additions were popular in the 1960s but many have been reincorporated as additions to the original houses. Alterations and additions have been continually carried out, with varying results. Some have been sympathetic to the original design while many others have resulted in changes of architectural character that completely dominate or obliterate the original design intent.

The 1970s and 80s saw mainly alterations and additions to existing original houses - continuing to the present day and including a number of demolitions of original houses and construction of much larger replacement houses. Dual Occupancies have taken place in recent times in accordance with the ACT Planning Authority's promotion of greater urban density for the sustainable development of Canberra. There have been several new subdivisions for dual occupancy development in the nominated precinct, including at Mugga Way, No 1A, 1B from 2\_1 with original house demolished, No 3 and 3A? from the subdivision of 13\_1; Tasmania Circle - No 19 and 19A from 5\_43 with original house demolished, 25A from 2\_43 and 39A from 5\_41; Tennyson Crescent - No 24 from 1\_1; and Wilmot Crescent - No 3A subdivided from 9\_47. These date from 1991 to 2003.

Local residents' opposition to a development proposal for townhouses for 2 Tennyson Crescent was the starting point for the nomination to the ACT Heritage Register. Townhouses have been constructed in Sections 9 (1982 by Gary Willemsen) and 11 (early 1960s by Grounds Romberg and Boyd) at the termination of Hobart Avenue.

The demolition of original houses and construction of replacement houses dates from 1966 (5 Mugga Way) but the majority are post-1990. Replacement (or dual occupancy addition) houses are located at:

- 28 Arthur Circle, Oztal architects 2002 (two storey replacing single storey)
- 63 Arthur Circle, Novatec 2003 (two storey replacing single storey)
- 3 Baudin Street, Anthony Cooper architect 1999 (part two storey replacing single storey)
- 7 Baudin Street, Eggleston MacDonald & Secombe architects 1993 (two storey replacing single storey)
- 9 Baudin Street, Small & Quintan architects (under construction, for Danish Embassy, two storey replacing single storey)
- 15 Baudin Street, Phil McMaster architect, 1989 (two storey but appears single storey from Baudin Street)
- 36 Empire Circuit, Munns Sly Scott Bohanna Moss architects, 1990 (two storey replacing single storey)
- 53 Empire Circuit, lessee design 1974
- 1A & 1B Mugga Way, Douglas Design architect 1994, part two storey dual occupancy replacing single storey
- 1C Mugga Way, Douglas Design architect 1994, dual occupancy, part two storey
- 5 Mugga Way, Olga/Stevenson & Turner architects, 1966 (part two storey replacing single storey, Mediterranean makeover 1992)
- 1 Nares Crescent, Philip Diment architect 1986
- 3 Nares Crescent, Branching Out designers 2001
- 5 Nares Crescent, Living Constructions 1999
- 3 Ord Street, Oztal Architects 2001 (two storey replacing single storey)
- 15 Tasmania Circle, Brian Foskett architect 1995
- 19 Tasmania Circle, Peter Byfield architect 2002-03 (dual occupancy both two storey)

- 39A Tasmania Circle, Peter Byfield architect 1999 (dual occupancy addition)
- 25A Tasmania Circle, Strine Design/Ric Butt architect 1991 (dual occupancy addition)
- 33 Tasmania Circle, Ross Norwood architect 1998
- 35 Tasmania Circle, Peter Byfield architect 1999 (two storey)
- 6 Tennyson Crescent, Robinson Group builders, 1999 (two storey)
- 8 Tennyson Crescent, Peter Byfield architect 1996 (single storey to street with two storey section to rear)
- 12 Tennyson Crescent, Douglas & Partners architect 1981
- 14 Tennyson Crescent, lessee/draftsman 2001 (two storey)
- 24 Tennyson Crescent, unnamed 1999 (dual occupancy)

### **The Development of the sub-precincts within the Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct**

The Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct, bounded by Melbourne Avenue, Empire Circuit, Arthur Circle, Moresby Street and Mugga Way, consists of three subdivisions Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct a, Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct b and Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct c. Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct a and b are further subdivisions of the area designated 'Blandfordia Subdivision' on the 1925 Federal Capital Commission plan. Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct c is the later subdivision around Blandfordia (Collins) Park. Each of these subdivisions display subtle variations in their subdivision pattern, topography, street type and the scale and architectural cohesion of the housing designs. 'Place making' in the ACT Garden City precincts weds architectural and landscape design to natural and subdivision site characteristics.

#### ***Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct a***

##### ***Sections 1, 2, 46 and 47, bounded by Melbourne Avenue, Empire Circuit, Baudin Street and (part) Arthur Circle***

The subdivision of 'better class blocks' for the first public land auctions (leases) of 1924 took in the area bounded by Melbourne Avenue, Mugga Way, Baudin Street, Arthur Circle and Empire Circuit – close to Blandfordia 2 (the subdivision for the 1924 Housing Competition), the site for the provisional parliament house and on the highest ground. A name for this subdivision does not appear to have survived. The auctioned subdivision (referred to as Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct a within this citation) has the curving street forms planned by Griffin as the connecting links between his main radial avenues and the curving diagonal minor streets introduced by the Federal Capital Advisory Committee (FCAC). These curved street forms create significant opportunities for more intimately scaled landscape vistas suited to residential development. The block sizes created by the FCAC were large and intended for private individual houses for the upper echelons of Canberra's early hierarchical public service class structure. A range of architectural styles was supported, cohesion and 'place' largely achieved through landscaping with street planting visually merging into private gardens. Pocket parks and street islands also serve to create a sense of 'place'; while bus shelters and other street furniture are also important elements in 'place making' providing cohesion and, today, additional connections with the past. The original housing within Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct a was constructed between 1926 and 1958, with alterations and additions continuing to the present day. One third of the housing was designed by government architects and two thirds by private architects.

#### ***Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct b***

##### ***Section 37, 38 and 39, bounded by Baudin Street, Mugga Way, Arthur Circle and Moresby Street***

The name Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct for the nominated precinct in its entirety appears to have been taken from the original Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct subdivision (referred to as Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct b within this citation), which was created at approximately the same time as the auctioned subdivision (Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct a). On both the 1925 FCAC plan and the 1926 Federal Capital Commission (FCC) plans, Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct b is the uncoloured area between the coloured areas designated Blandfordia Subdivision and Red Hill Subdivision.<sup>14</sup> Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct b is bounded by Dampier Crescent, Baudin Street, Mugga Way, Moresby Street and Arthur Circle and comprises sections 37, 38 & 39. The subdivision has smaller block sizes (except for two blocks on Mugga Way), economically scaled towards middle ranking

<sup>14</sup> Paul Reid, *Canberra Following Griffin*, National Archives of Australia, 2002 pp.148, 174



public servants and private buyers of similar status in the hierarchy of Canberra's early social planning. The original housing for Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct b was constructed from 1925. Fifty percent of houses were designed by government architects and most houses were completed by the end of the 1930s, the main exception being the house at 20 Dampier Crescent, designed by Kenneth Oliphant, which was not built until 1950. Although this subdivision was more uniform in its development time frame, eclecticism was still favoured in architectural design, with many Revival styles represented. Again visual cohesion was achieved through scale and the integration of landscaping with architectural forms.

### ***Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct c***

#### ***Sections 9, 10, 11, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44 and 45, bounded by Arthur Circle***

The 1933 Plan of Canberra, outlining the legacy of the FCC, shows the only subdivision within the outer circle around Collins Park where it is crossed by Empire Circuit.<sup>15</sup> Following the Depression and during the 1930s until the post war period, government housing was in very short supply in Canberra. Subdivision within the circles around Collins Park was further developed after the 1933 plan. The 'place' characteristics of this area (referred to within the citation as Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct c) are governed by the strong, closed geometry of the circle (relieved by the major penetration of Empire Circuit); the termination of the monumental radial, Hobart Avenue; the interface with Collins Park; and the park area at Section 10.

The development of Arthur Circle by the Department of the Interior concentrated on individual houses with smaller block sizes, suited to Canberra's early social planning and affected by economic pressures of the times. Aesthetic cohesion was achieved in the almost uniformly single storey original house designs, the smallest blocks with narrow frontages on the Manuka side largely influenced by Art Deco and Inter-War Functionalism.

Collins Park was informally planted earlier in the 1920s by Thomas Weston, Superintendent of Parks, Gardens and Afforestation 1913-1926, and the individual blocks around Tasmania Circle, interfacing with the park, were developed in the time frame from 1938 to 1961. The original houses are an eclectic mix in design and of both single and double storey construction. In general with the inner and outer Circles around Collins Park, visual cohesion was achieved through the planting of street trees, grassed verges, hedges in lieu of fences and the balance and interpenetration of landscape with built form.

The Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct was nominated to the ACT Heritage Register (formerly the ACT interim Heritage Places Register) on 13 July 1994.

### **History of association/occupancy**

Many of the houses in the precinct have a rich social history and association with people prominent in the life of Canberra and the nation. The table below indicates occupants of particular houses where this is known from historical records.

<b>Address</b>	<b>Occupant</b>	<b>Date Range (if known)</b>
4 Arthur Circle	Built for and by CW Turton – builder	1938-
10 Arthur Circle	SW (Sidney?) Caffin – Insurance Commissioner	c1947-
14 Arthur Circle	Neil Caffin – Secretary Parliamentary Accounts Committee; Accountant to NCDC 1961-64	Late 1940s
26 Arthur Circle	Ric Thorpe – architect Mitchell Giurgola Thorpe, during construction of Parliament House, 1980s	1980s
32 Arthur Circle	House built for Dr Maxwell Jacobs – Forest Assessor 1926, Chief Forester, 1928, Head of Forestry School 1959-1970	1938-
42 Arthur Circle	Tasman Hudson Eastwood 'Tas' Heyes – WWI historian, 1928 deputy to Director Australian War Memorial, founding head Department of Immigration 1946-61	1949+

<sup>15</sup> ibid p.194.

46 Arthur Circle	Ernest Llewellyn – founding head of School of Music	1960s
56 Arthur Circle	TJ Hasler – architect	1950-1960s
66 Arthur Circle	AD Hope – Academic, critic and teacher regarded as one of the great Australian poets of the 20th century. Foundation Professor of English at the ANU	1951-2000?
74 Arthur Circle	William Campbell – Hansard Officer 1933-48, Head of Hansard 1948-57	c1929-
78 Arthur Circle	Ricky Stuart – rugby league player, Canberra Raiders	1980s/1990s
90 Arthur Circle	Angus McKay – Chief Veterinary Officer	1940s?
94 Arthur Circle	USSR – Russian Legation	?
2 Baudin Street	Tatsuo Kawaii – Japanese Attache	1941
5 Baudin Street	John Simmie – builder, AWM plus other prominent buildings	1928-
10 Baudin Street	Leslie Bury – MHR Wentworth 1956-74, several ministries	1940s
12 Dampier Crescent	Allen Brown – Secretary, PMs Department, 1949-1959, Ambassador to Japan 1965-70	1949+
18 Dampier Crescent	George Watt – Secretary of Treasury	1940s
20 Dampier Crescent	Ken Cook – menswear retailer since 1936	1950-?
35 Empire Circuit	Sister Petrie – Allawah Private Hospital	1935-
	Sri Lankan High Commission	1952-present
51 Empire Circuit	Joseph E Collings – Labor Senator for Queensland 1932-1950. Minister for the Interior 1941-45 in the Curtin and Forde governments, Vice-President of the Executive Council 1945-46 in the Chifley government.	1940-c1950
64 Empire Circuit	Built for (Sir) Roland Wilson – Head of Treasury 1951-66	1940s-1990s
66 Empire Circuit	Sydney Chubb – Clerk Assistant House of Representatives (Clerk FC Green) 1941	1940s
70 Empire Circuit	Built for FE (Harry?) Whitlam – Crown Solicitor's Dept and occupied by Whitlam family including Gough Whitlam when young	1926-
43 Melbourne Ave	Designed and built by Malcolm Moir and occupied by Moir and his wife architect Heather Sutherland (d1950s) until 1970s	1935-1970s
45 Melbourne Ave	Lieut Col HE Jones – Chief of Police	1937-
	USSR – Soviet Minister to Australia	?
47 Melbourne Ave	Sir Robert Garran – First head of the Attorney-General's department and parliamentary draftsman 1901-32, a founder Society of Art & Literature	1940s-50s
	Canadian High Commissioner	1971
51 Melbourne Ave	Built c1930 for Kenneth Binns – Parliamentary Library 1911-47; Parliamentary Librarian 1928-47. A founder Society Art & Literature	1930-
1 Mugga Way	Built 1937 for RA Broinowski – Senate Clerk-Assistant 1930-39 & Clerk of the Senate 1939-42 Naturalist, poet, literary editor, founder Society Art & Literature, and of tennis, bowling & hockey in Canberra. Founding member Rotary in Canberra. (block now subdivided for dual occupancy)	1930-
	Mary & Gavin Long – journalist, war historian	1940s
7 Mugga Way	Built 1927 for Kenneth Binns – refer 51 Melbourne Avenue above	1926-1930
	Herbert Temperley – Parliamentary reporter	1930-1950s?

11 Mugga Way		1938-1950s?
4 Nares Crescent	Dr John Cumpston - see 8 Wilmot, lived here in retirement	1946-1968?
6 Nares Crescent	Mary Alice (Mrs HV) Evatt - widow of HV Evatt MHR 1940-60 (died 1965)	c1965-
1 Ord Street	Deputy High Commissioner for Britain	1950s-1980s
2 Ord Street	Built 1955 for David Fairbairn – MHR 1949–75 (Farrer); Minister for Air 1962-64 in the Menzies government, Minister for National Development 1964-69 in the Menzies, Holt, McEwen and Gorton governments, Minister for Education and Science March-August 1971, Minister for Defence 1971-72 in the McMahon government	1955-1960s?
4 Ord Street	Francis Stuart – Department of External Affairs	1954-
6 Ord Street	Richard Ure – architect	1955-
7 Ord Street	Professor Beddie	
3 Rous Crescent	Rupert Loof – Parliamentary staff 1927; Clerk of the Senate 1955-65	1940s
7 Rous Crescent	Jack Fingleton – journalist, former cricketer	1940s-
9 Rous Crescent	PJ McCarthy – builder for Oakley & Parkes	1926-27?
3 Tasmania Circle	Built 1962 for Grounds Romberg & Boyd and accommodated their Canberra office for a time.  Sir William McMahon – MHR 1949–82 (Lowe); Prime Minister 1971-72), Minister for Foreign Affairs 1970-71 in the Gorton government and his own, Minister for the Navy and Minister for Air 1951-54, Minister for Social Services 1954-56, Minister for Primary Industry 1956-58, Minister for Labour and National Service 1958-66, Vice-President of the Executive Council 1964-66 in the Menzies government, Treasurer 1966-69 in the Holt, McEwen and Gorton governments, Minister for External Affairs 1969-70 in the Gorton government David Fairbairn MHR (refer 2 Ord St, above)  Aldo Giurgola – principal design architect, Parliament House	1960s  1970s?  c1980-c2000
11 Tasmania Circle	Built 1952 for historian Professor Manning Clarke and his wife Dymphna	1951-
17 Tasmania Circle	Professor Archibald Gilchrist – Professor, Royal Military College Duntroon	1938-c1950s
19 Tasmania Circle	Russian Legation  Netherlands Government  Sir Harry Wunderly – Director of tuberculosis in the Commonwealth Department of Health, Canberra 1947-1957?	(after1949)
33 Tasmania Circle	(Sir) Douglas Copland – adviser to the Commonwealth Development and Migration Commission in the 1920s; chair of the committee of economists and state and federal treasury officials whose 1931 report to the Loan Council became the 'Premiers' plan' for economic management during the Depression; Commonwealth prices commissioner 1939–45 and economic adviser to Prime Minister John Curtin 1941–45. Founding vice-chancellor of ANU 1948-1953.	Late 1940s, after returning from posting to China 1946-48, waiting for ANU house to be built
43 Tasmania Circle	William Pert – Deputy Commissioner of Taxation	1940s

47 Tasmania Circle	Alan Mahaffey – Director-General of Works William Potts – Director of Works Sir Alan Westerman – Head, Department of Trade	1930s? 1940s- 1970-1995
51 Tasmania Circle	Built 1955 by and for Karl Schreiner – a major builder in Canberra. United States Consulate	1954- 1959
1 Tennyson Crescent	Built 1934 for AE (or Charles?) ‘Cocky’ Roach – Head of Public Transport	1934-
3 Tennyson Crescent	Lieutenant-Colonel William Roy Hodgson – Secretary Department External Affairs Japanese Embassy	c1930s-40s 1940s
5 Tennyson Crescent	Laurance H Rudd – architect (Rudd & Limberg)	1926-
6 Tennyson Crescent	Sir Peter Lawler – Head Department of Administrative Services 1975-83 & Department of the Special Minister of State 1972-77, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet 1969-72; Prime Minister’s Department 1952-68	? –1990s?
7 Tennyson Crescent	Built late 1920s for Percy Sheaffe – Surveyor with Scrivener; later unofficial ‘mayor of Canberra’	1929-
8 Tennyson Crescent	Sir Ralph Harry – Third Secretary External Affairs 1940; former Australian Ambassador to the United Nations, Vietnam and The Netherlands	c1930s-1950s?
9 Tennyson Crescent	Frank & Marjorie Chamberlain – journalists Edward Waterman – journalist	1940s- (1949) (1949)
15 Tennyson Crescent	CJ Tillyard – builder?	
16 Tennyson Crescent	Donald K Rodgers – Journalist, press secretary to prime ministers Curtin and Chifley in the 1940s and to HV Evatt in the 1950s	1940s
18 Tennyson Crescent	Sir Peter Heydon – joined Political section External Affairs March 1936, Diplomat	
20 Tennyson Crescent	John Q Ewens – Principal Parliamentary Counsel	1933?-
8 Wilmot Crescent	Built 1930 for Dr Cumpston – First Director-General of the Commonwealth Department of Health 1921–45 and founder of Canberra Hospital. United Kingdom Trade Commission	1930-1946? ?
10 Wilmot Crescent	Built c1928 for (Colonel) JTH Goodwin – Department of Home Affairs 1910, Commonwealth Surveyor General 1915-, Federal Capital Advisory Committee 1921-24, board member FCC 1925-retired 1926. Leading figure in community development, eg Kangaroo Club, 1930s Peter Henderson – Ambassador to the Philippines 1973-74 and Head of Foreign Affairs 1979-84	1928-1950 1950-1987

## 2. CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

A period of 4 weeks public consultation will commence from the date of notification.

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#### Dictionary

Art Deco style	an architectural style which celebrated the exciting, dynamic aspects of the machine age and unashamedly made a direct assault on the emotions with the use of vivid decorative elements which served no particular function. Eye-catching materials and finishes were preferred, such as chromium-plated steel, plywood faced with exotic veneers and coloured opaque glass. (Apperly et al, p.188)
Arts & Crafts style	an architectural style which was concerned with the integration of art into everyday life through the medium of craftsmanship. (Apperly et al, p.140)
Attic	a room situated within the roof of a building
Bungalow	an architectural style popular from the late Federation period through to the Inter-War period, generally a single storey house catering for a relatively casual lifestyle and with easy access to the outdoors. Generally considered to have unpretentious and homely qualities, with the use of 'natural' materials honestly expressed. (Apperly et al, pps144,147)
Chicagoesque style	an architectural style from the Inter-War period originating in Chicago in the wake of the fire which destroyed the business district in 1871. Generally applied to commercial buildings with features including the horizontally emphasises window opening and the frank expression of the building's steel frame. (Apperly et al, p.180)
'City Beautiful' principles	the City Beautiful movement applied formal planning of axes and squares with classical revival architecture to the civic centres of modern cities. The intention was to evoke ancient Rome. The movement was influential throughout the United States and elsewhere from 1890 to 1920. (Reid, p.xi)
Department of Interior (Dol)	April 1932-1939. The Department was responsible for numerous functions related to the development of Canberra, including housing and works.
House	place of house, house
Eclectic, eclecticism	choosing from different sources; in the architectural context, not following any one style but selecting and using whatever is considered the best in all styles. (Macquarie) In relation to Blandfordia 4 Housing Precinct, exhibiting a range of architectural styles within the precinct, rather than uniformity of architectural design.

FCAC	Federal Capital Advisory Committee, 1921-1924. Formed to advise the Minister of Home Affairs on the Construction of Canberra and review the Griffin plan.
FCC	Federal Capital Commission, 1925-1930. Formed to construct and administer Canberra, including accelerating construction of the Provisional Parliament House and overseeing the development of the 'garden city' program devised by the FCAC.
Federal Capital style	used to describe the style of architecture which characterised Canberra's early development, much of which was produced by Government architects. For houses, the style variously incorporated elements from the Arts & Crafts, Georgian Revival, Mediterranean or Art Deco styles, with an emphasis on beauty, proportion, harmony, scale and fine craftsmanship. (Charlton et al, p.5)
Federation period	in relation to architectural styles covers the period c1890 to c1915, around the time of proclamation of the Commonwealth of Australia on 1 January 1901. According to Apperly, Irving and Reynolds 'by the late 1890s Australia was echoing contemporary or recent trends in British, European and American architecture.... and was also evolving its own interpretation and adaptations of overseas styles, aided by the imaginative contributions of gifted individuals'. (p.99)
Free form	departure from traditional building forms which was largely enabled by the introduction of new materials such as concrete and steel, and includes the use of curves, cantilevers and tensile structures.
Functionalist style	an architectural style also known as the International style. The name was adopted to replace the term 'Modern' and describes the European modern architecture of the 1920s and 1930s which expressed 'functionalism', 'clean lines' and complete dissociation from the styles of the past. Brought to Australia in the early 1930s. (Apperly et al, p.184)
Gabled roof	a ridged roof terminating at one or both ends with a triangular wall enclosed by the two slopes of the roof and a horizontal line across the eaves. (Macquarie Dictionary)
Garden City movement	a movement initiated by Ebenezer Howard in 1898 with its goal being to combine the best features of life in the town and life in the country by building a series of related towns of 30,000 population separated by 'greenbelts' of farmland. The movement had worldwide influence. The term Garden City has been applied to any urban development with generous landscape. (Reid, p.xii)
Garden City principles	A series of principles characterising the application of the Garden City ideals to Australian planning. These include low density residential development; a garden setting for each house; the arrangement of houses into self-contained communities; efficient means of transport for moving people living at low densities over a large area; and different forms of land use confined to discrete areas to create an efficiently planned environment. These were combined with abundant parkland and street tree planting, consistency of style for building stock, a high level of visual amenity in relation to the provision of services and street furniture design; and an efficient and artistic road layout, the whole of which combined to create a strong sense of community identity.
Georgian Revival style	an architectural style which turned away from free-ranging eclecticism to embrace the gentle discipline of the 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> century Georgian style. In the Inter-War period the revival of this style in Australia was largely due to William Hardy Wilson. (Apperly et al, p.150)
Griffin's 'Ideal City'	a term coined by Griffin after being advised that he had won the competition. He had planned the city in accordance with organic principles, and as a place which met his own ideals, or standards of perfection or excellence, for a city of the future.

Griffin plan	Refers to a greater or lesser degree to all the plans for Canberra produced by Walter Burley Griffin, from his competition-winning plan of 1912 through to his final plan of 1918. There were changes from plan to plan, however the fundamental planning principles relating to the land and water axes remained unchanged.
Hipped roof	roof form whereby an inclined projecting angle is formed by the junction of a sloping side and a sloping end, or of two adjacent sloping sides. (Macquarie Dictionary)
Inter-War period	in relation to architectural styles covers the period c1915 to c1940, a time when Australian architecture was highly eclectic and generally rather conservative. The study of architecture at Australian universities was introduced in this period. (Apperly et al, p.149)
Loggia Mediterranean style	an open sided arcade or gallery. an architectural style closely related to the Spanish Mission style, largely credited to the efforts of Professor Leslie Wilkinson, first chair of architecture in an Australian University (Sydney). Wilson recognised that Sydney had a Mediterranean climate, with the resulting architecture including simple shapes, light and shade, bleached pastel colours and accents of classical detail. (Apperly et al, p.172)
Miesian pavilion	a flat-roofed, glass-walled 'style-less' box originally designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, a German-born, Chicago-based architect. (Apperly et al, p.212)
Modernism	twentieth century avant-garde movement in architecture which combined a focus on functionalism and new technology with a rejection of ornamentation. (Reid, p.xii)
Old English style	an architectural style introduced to Australia in the 1930s and incorporating the visually prominent attributes of traditional English rural and village architecture including half-timbering and leadlighting. (Apperly, p.205)
Original house Organic style	first house erected on the block a style of architecture first called 'organic' by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1908 and heavily influenced by Wright's mentor Louis Sullivan. The principles of organic architecture include respect for the properties of the materials and for the harmonious relationship between the form/design and the function of the building; and an attempt to integrate the site and the structure expressing the connection between architecture and nature. In Australia the style was generally used for domestic buildings, often placing them in a real or created bush environment, with extensive use of exposed timber, textured brickwork and with a horizontal emphasis.
Parker and Unwin	Raymond Unwin and Barry Parker, cousins and brothers-in-law, formed their architectural partnership in 1898. They favoured the simple vernacular style and made it their aim to improve the standards of housing for the working classes. They also sought to popularise the Arts and Crafts Movement, and as a result of their success thousands of homes were built on their patterns in the early part of the 20th century. They designed the Letchworth Garden City in England.
Place making	place making in relation to garden city planning involves balancing all the functions that are necessary to achieve the desired suburban development, including the social, cultural and environmental aspects.
Porte cochere Portico	a porch large enough for a vehicle to pass through a porch supported by columns and open on at least one side

Post-War Melbourne Regional	the Melbourne interpretation of the International (Functionalist) architectural style. Brisbane, Sydney, Perth, Adelaide and the Tropical region also developed their own distinctive interpretations of the style. Characteristics of the Melbourne Regional style include a bush setting; single storey construction with a narrow, linear plan; low pitched gabled roofs; walls of bagged or painted brick; and large areas of glass articulated by widely spaced timber mullions. (Apperly et al, p.218)
Shall	the requirement is mandatory and must be complied with in any development or action post-dating gazettal of this listing.
Should	the requirement represents the Heritage Council's interpretation of how a development may fulfil the relevant objective in a manner that is consistent with the conservation of the heritage values identified in the statement of significance and intrinsic features. The Planning Authority shall have discretion to accept an alternative solution subject to the applicant demonstrating to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the alternative solution fulfils the relevant conservation objective without the risk of adverse impact upon the heritage values, and</li> <li>• the alternative solution provides a high quality outcome which is comparable to the outcome that would be achieved by directly complying with the relevant requirement, or</li> <li>• the alternative is necessary to address public health and safety concerns.</li> </ul>
Site coverage	the area of built development, including the area of any house, storeroom, garage, carport, outbuilding or other roofed area but excluding driveways and unroofed paved areas.
Spanish Mission style	an architectural style imported from California in the 1920s and 1930s, with its architectural legacy from the days of Spanish colonisation, particularly the Franciscan missions from the late 18 <sup>th</sup> and early 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries. (Apperly et al, p.176)





