



ACT Heritage Council

## Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

***Heritage Act 2004***

### **20075. Becker House**

Section 25 Block 2

**CITY**

This document has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council.

This entry which was previously part of the old heritage places or the old heritage objects registers (as defined in the ***Heritage Act 2004***), as the case may be, is taken to be registered under the ***Heritage Act 2004***.

Conservation Requirements (including Specific Requirements), as defined under the ***Heritage Act 2004***, that are contained within this document are taken to be Heritage Guidelines applying to this place or object, as the case may be.

Information restricted under ***the old heritage places register or old heritage objects register*** is restricted under the ***Heritage Act 2004***.

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ACT Heritage Council

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY  
INTERIM HERITAGE PLACES REGISTER**

For the purposes of s.54(1) of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*, a citation for:

**BECKER HOUSE, CITY**

has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council, for the purpose of including it in an interim Heritage Places Register. This is pursuant to ACT Heritage Council Resolution No.45a/1 made on 18 June 1998.

**Date of Gazettal:**      **26 June 1998**

Enquiries about this place and copies of this citation are available from:

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## INTERIM HERITAGE PLACES REGISTER

### CITATION

#### BECKER HOUSE, CITY

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#### LOCATION OF PLACE:

- Block 2, Section 25, City
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#### FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE:

The features intrinsic to the heritage significance of the place are the:

- Australian Academy of Science building, 'Becker House'
  - 'moat' surrounding Becker House and
  - surrounding garden/bushland landscape.
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#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The building is of historical significance within the Australian scientific, architectural and local community.

The formation of the Academy marked the post-war development of the Australian scientific community at an international level. Australian science had attained an 'international face' and the Becker building is a physical manifestation of this level of technical and creative development. The building has strong associations with some of the most prominent scientists of the era, particularly M.L. Oliphant and D.F. Martyn.

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#### SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS:

In accordance with s.54(1) of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*, the following requirements are identified as essential to the conservation of the heritage significance of this place. These requirements are prepared to implement the following conservation policy for the place:

**Becker House is to be conserved and maintained in a manner which preserves intact those features listed as intrinsic to the heritage significance of the place.**

Any action relating to these requirements is development for the purposes of the Act and will require approval prior to undertaking the activity. To undertake development without such approval may be an offence.

#### 1. Requirements Relating to the Building/Place

- 1.1 Minor internal and external alterations and changes may be made to the building and surrounds where, in the opinion of the Heritage Council, the proposed works will not adversely affect the Heritage significance of the place.
- 1.2 Demolition shall not be permitted, other than in exceptional circumstances, such as those in which the buildings and structures are structurally unsound and beyond economic repair, or where there

are significant health and safety reasons to warrant demolition. Demolition shall not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that there is no prudent and feasible alternative. No alterations or additions will be made to change those structures listed as significant.

## **2. Requirements relating to the Setting**

- 2.1 The established landscape character of the place shall be retained.
  - 2.2 Construction of new landscape elements in the place shall only be permitted where it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Heritage Council that the new elements do not adversely affect the landscape setting of the place.
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### **MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:**

In assessing this place for the interim Heritage Places Register, the Council recommends that the following actions and activities should be undertaken which will enhance the heritage values of the place. They are made as recommendations and have no legal effect.

1. The original landscape character and built components of the place shall be retained and conserved.
  2. Attention should be given to improving the design of the entrance/drop off point, to better complement the original design of the building.
  3. Two additional bridges should be constructed, in the 'Geometric Structuralist' style and located at points of symmetry around the building. They should be sympathetic to the design of the existing bridge at the primary entrance. The bridges would allow for more effective use of the building, ensuring longevity through active occupancy. This would also allow removal of the temporary timber bridge currently in use and enable the structure to comply with current safety regulations.
  4. A conservation plan should be prepared for the place in consultation with the ACT Heritage Council, as a guide to future conservation and maintenance. This document should be periodically updated to retain its relevance.
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### **DOCUMENT HISTORY:**

1. 20 February 1998              Preliminary Draft citation circulated for Council comment
2. 23 March 1998              Draft citation considered by ACT Heritage Council at Meeting 44
3. 24 April 1998              Draft citation released for public comment.
4. 26 June 1998              Gazetted in an interim Heritage Places Register.