

## **NOMINATION TO THE ACT HERITAGE REGISTER**

*Please note that the information below represents indicative heritage values only, and not the views of the ACT Heritage Council (the Council).*

*This nomination is yet to be assessed by the Council against the heritage significance criteria established under the Heritage Act 2004.*

*Acceptance of a nomination is a preliminary, threshold step and ought not to be taken as indicative of any particular outcome concerning the Council's assessment of the nomination.*

### **Civic Square**

#### **Blocks 3, 10, 18, 19, 20-22, 23 (part) Section 19 CITY**

The cultural landscape of the Civic Square precinct, including the North and South Buildings and the Canberra Theatre Centre, represents a significant phase in the development of Canberra. It was the first commitment by the Government to develop public buildings in the city area and is based on the traditional design of “piazzas” or city squares.

The Precinct is important largely intact evidence of the planning and development concepts of the National Capital Development Commission which placed emphasis on the use of strongly geometric designs in the planning of public spaces in Canberra, deriving directly from concepts first elucidated by Griffin, but adapted to accommodate the changing needs of the Canberra community. This design schema is here given added importance by the use of simple, perhaps spartan features, such as water, planter beds, planter boxes and restrained use of trees.

The North and South Buildings demonstrate the architectural style of office buildings in Australia of the 1960's. Since 1961, the precinct has continually been used for local government and administration. The South Building now houses the ACT Legislative Assembly. The Precinct has provided the major cultural and civic focus for the community since its development. It has social, physical and symbolic value for the people of Canberra. The sculptures “Ethos”, “Thespis”, and the “Arms of the City of Canberra”, provide further tangible evidence of these values.