Heritage Register

The Lodge, ACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finance ID Number</th>
<th>PMOE-TL1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Heritage List Place ID Number</td>
<td>105452</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ownership

Owned by Finance on behalf of the Commonwealth

Location

Location of The Lodge in relation to Canberra, shown on map at letter A.

Description of the place

The Lodge was built in the 1920s as the Canberra residence of the Prime Minister of Australia. The Lodge holds considerable heritage significance as the only purpose-built residence for Australian Prime Ministers and their families.

The Department of Finance (Finance) is the building owner and property manager of The Lodge. Finance carries out property management responsibilities in careful recognition of the significant heritage obligations for the property.

Finance manages The Lodge as part of the Australian Government's domestic non-Defence property portfolio.
### Landscape Setting

The northern boundary of the Lodge sits along Adelaide Avenue and the western boundary along National Circuit, open parklands are on the eastern boundary of the property which sits within the residential suburb of Deakin and Yarralumla. It is located close to Parliament House, just outside of the parliamentary triangle.

### History and Summary of Uses of the Place

The Lodge, constructed during 1925-1927, reflects the scale and style of the official residences built at Duntroon to house senior military officers. The house and garden are typical of the style of design that prevailed in the early Canberra years, also known as the Federal Capital style.

Mrs Ruth Lane Poole supervised the interior decoration of the house and the purchase of fashionable, late 1920s furnishings. The architect, Desbrowe Annear assisted in the designs for the furniture. Australian timbers were used throughout in timber panelling, mantel pieces and fine furniture. The Federal Capital Commission's brief for the purchase of household linen, and silver, china and glassware for the Lodge was 'British and first quality throughout'.

The Prime Ministers' wives had unpaid duties associated with running The Lodge. These duties included the weekly arrangement of menus with the chef and of household requirements, official dinners, Royal visits and hospitality for foreign heads of State. The first occupants were Stanley M. Bruce and his wife on 4 May 1927. Ethel Bruce was responsible for changes to the design of the building during construction including additional rooms.

In 1929 the Labor successor to Bruce, J.M. Scullin, refused to live at The Lodge, declaring that it was too grand. There was talk of letting the building but no tender was received, so the house remained empty while the Prime Minister lived in a hotel. It was also suggested that the building could become the home of the National Library or perhaps a private hospital, but nothing came of these suggestions. Prime Minister J A Lyons moved into The Lodge with his large family in 1931 (the younger 6 of their eleven children) and stayed until his death seven years later. The house was adapted to accommodate the large family.

The grounds were developed from bare paddock to an effective garden including lawns, plantations and shrubberies with a tennis court and croquet lawn, covering approximately 2.8ha. The Gardens that developed reflected the contemporary style of the time with distinct garden areas expanses of lawn surrounded by trees and hedges although retaining the original eucalypts of the site.

The gardens were developed quickly with roses and other plants ordered from a Sydney nursery in huge quantities. Apart from roses there were phlox, zinnias, asters and petunias. A tennis court and croquet court were also established in the grounds. By 1950 the gardens had changed little. The southern part of the grounds included a fowl yard, clothes line, shed and a small orchard. Picking gardens were on the site of the present service yard.

Robert Menzies, his wife Pattie and their two children were residents at The Lodge from 1939 -1941 during which time Pattie Menzies redecorated the building using the decorator Dolly Guy Smith.

Elsie and John Curtin moved into The Lodge in 1941, although Elsie Curtin spent many months of the year at the family home at Cottesloe. The Lodge became a work place during the war years and the billiard table was returned from storage so that a game of billiards could round off the day. John Curtin died in The Lodge in 1945. When Ben Chifley became Prime Minister, Elizabeth Chifley spent
most of her time at the family home in Bathurst. There were no changes to the building during the
time of the Curtins and Chifleys.

Robert Menzies and Pattie Menzies returned to The Lodge and lived there from 1949 - 1966. During
this time, redecorating and minor additions and alterations were carried out to the building. Robert
Menzies commenced the Prime Ministers XI cricket matches at Manuka Oval in 1951, entertaining
the players afterwards with dinner at The Lodge. This tradition ceased with Menzies but was revived
by Bob Hawke. The Menzies converted the Billiard Room into an extra Drawing Room, removing the
billiard table and installing sets of low bookshelves. Several commemorative trees were planted in
the gardens and Pattie Menzies extended the gardens below the tennis courts for vegetables. The
Menzies lived continuously at the Lodge and it became a second home for their grandchildren.

After Robert Menzies retired Harold and Zara Holt lived at The Lodge for less than two years from
January 1966 to December 1967, but during this time major renovations were undertaken under the
detailed direction of Zara Holt. All main rooms on both floors were completely and dramatically
redecorated, including painting the wood paneled walls white. The corridor between the former
Billiard Room and the Sitting room was removed and changes to the upstairs corridors gave direct
access from bedrooms to bathrooms forming three self-contained bedroom suites. An extensive
array of new furnishings and fittings were installed.

John and Bettina Gorton moved into The Lodge in 1968 with their adult daughter. The Gortons had
the tennis court improved, a heated swimming pool installed, a double carport built and new
awnings and blinds fitted to the exterior. John Gorton used The Lodge for Cabinet and other official
meetings. Bettina Gorton worked with Dick Ratcliffe on the design of an Australian garden in the
remote northern corner. Dedicated to her after her death in 1983, it is known as the Bettina Gorton
Native Garden.

With the widening of Adelaide Avenue in 1968 the site was reduced to approximately 1.8ha and a
painted masonry boundary wall was erected on the two street frontages. At the same time, some
features of the grounds such as the fowl yard, which had persisted since The Lodge's early days,
disappeared allowing the removal of hedges and the general opening up of the garden spaces. The
vegetable garden remained but new picking gardens, rose beds and an orchard were added. At that
time, Adelaide Avenue was realigned and upgraded. Major changes to the driveway were made
during the late 1970s. Previously, the drive to the front door turned around an island, which was lost
in the change.

From 1971 -72, Sonia and William McMahon were residents of The Lodge but retained their Sydney
home and spent most of their time there. Gough and Margaret Whitlam lived at The Lodge from
1972 - 1975 undertaking only a few minor changes.

Malcolm and Tamie Fraser occupied The Lodge from 1975 -1983. They lived at the Lodge but their
children were at boarding school and they frequently spent holidays at their property Nareen, in
Victoria. The Dining Room was extended in 1978. The architect Guilford Bell remodelled the service
wing, cellars, kitchen and dining room, and redecorated the main rooms in classic colours and styles.

Tamie Fraser was impressed with the idea of the Americana Fund an initiative of Jackie Kennedy. She
noted that there was no memorabilia from previous occupants and that it was not very Australian in
its character. In 1978 Tamie Fraser founded The Australiana Fund. The non-political, self-governing
body raised funds and purchased items of Australiana to furnish the Commonwealth's four official
residences - The Lodge and Government House in Canberra, and Admiralty and Kirribilli Houses in
Sydney. Since then other Prime Minister's wives have continued this role. The Australiana Fund now
possesses a collection of decorative objects and memorabilia relating to previous Prime Ministers which illustrate Australia's heritage for the benefit of visitors to the houses. The Fund also conducts open days at The Lodge for the public to view the house and its fittings, and the garden is frequently open to the public. An Official Establishments Trust was set up in 1976, to co-ordinate planning for the four official residences.

Fire protection and external repairs were carried out from 1980 - 82.

Bob and Hazel Hawke moved into The Lodge in 1983. They had their two grandchildren living with them at The Lodge for a long period. During Prime Minister Hawke's residence, renovations were undertaken on several rooms. In 1985 following major repairs and maintenance, the State areas of The Lodge were redecorated in the style of the 1920s to reflect the historical significance of the house. Interior designer David Spode, under the direction of the Official Establishments Trust, prepared the interior design scheme. During the course of the work many items of original furniture and fittings purchased for The Lodge in 1927 were located and re-installed. Hazel Hawke became the second President of The Australiana Fund. Hazel Hawke, a pianist, took a keen interest in the restoration of the original Beale baby grand piano. Bob Hawke created a new billiard room upstairs to replace the room converted to a Drawing Room by the Menzies. Hazel Hawke appointed an official House Manager to assist in managing the affairs of the house. Redevelopment of the pool courtyard took place in 1990-91.

Paul and Annita Keating and their young children, occupied The Lodge from 1992 -1996. Annita Keating chose decorator Ros Palmer for refurbishment which included sending some furniture into storage.

In 1992, a carport, brick paving, walled service yard and pergolas were added in the south western corner of the property. In 1994 brick paving was added along the rear drive, completing the redesign of the driveway for modern standards. Other changes to The Lodge and grounds have been minor, such as repairs to the slate roof in 2000, and the installation of a satellite dish in 1999.

By 1994 efforts were growing to have the residence for the Prime Minister removed from the current facilities to a new structure, possibly located near the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. During his term of office, Prime Minister John Howard (1996-) chose to divide his time between The Lodge and the Sydney residence, Kirribilli House.

Although designed as an 'ideal' home of the 1920s, the Lodge has not suited the requirements of many of its incumbents whose family needs varied. For some it was too small, for others too large and for one too grand. As a result it has required adaptations and renovations. Fourteen Prime Ministers have lived at the Lodge (Bruce, Lyons, Menzies, Fadden, Curtin, Chifley, Holt, Gorton, McMahon, Whitlam, Fraser, Hawke, Keating and Howard). Many of the Prime Minister's wives spent more time at The Lodge than their husbands and, depending on their personalities and interest in the place, strongly influenced renovations and alterations of the building and the garden.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statutory Heritage values</th>
<th>The Lodge is a Commonwealth Heritage place and is protected under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.</th>
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</table>

**Commonwealth Heritage List**

**Statement of significance**

The Lodge is the official residence constructed in 1925-27 to house the Prime Minister of Australia and his or her family. It has historic importance for the association it holds with the lives of its fourteen resident prime ministers, the national politics with which they were involved, their personalities, the impact they had on The Lodge, and the official guests that the Prime Ministers and their wives hosted at The Lodge. It was conceived at a time when other significant Federal buildings were also being constructed, such as the 1927 Parliament House. It is accessible from one of Griffin's radiating arteries centred on the Capitol (now Parliament House) and is in close proximity to Parliament House. The Lodge recalls the early isolationism of Canberra as Australia’s capital city and the need to provide elected representatives with suitable accommodation according to their status. It is significant as a unique place in Australia (Criterion A.4; Australian Historic Themes: 7.4 Federating Australia, Criterion B2).

The Lodge is important for its exceptional richness of cultural features that were acquired to create the home for the Australian Prime Minister's family and display Australian art and crafts to important visitors. These features include the house with its architectural stylistic features and fine interior detailing; the garden with its array of garden areas including memorial trees and the Bettina Gorton memorial native garden; and the extensive and notable array of movable cultural heritage items created by Australian craft specialists that include paintings, china figures, silverware, ceramics, furniture, sculptures, memorabilia and artefacts collected by or donated to past Prime Ministers (Criterion A3; Australian Historic Themes: 8.10.4 Creating Visual Arts).

With its studied proportions and finely executed details, the two storey rendered brick building is an important example of the official residences built in Canberra in the 1920s. The building is Colonial Revival in style, with refined Georgian detailing. Its symmetrical facade, simplicity, use of arches, round headed windows, and delicate corner porches are characteristic features of the inter-war Georgian Revival style. As a building developed for the new Federal Capital, The Lodge also reflects the designers' appreciation for the importance of its setting. Significant fabric in the building includes stucco finish to the external walls, slate roofing, timber internal stair cases, wrought iron work, timber panelling, picture rails, exposed ceiling beams, built-in furniture and, windows and doors, including their architraves and fittings. (Criteria D.2 and F1).

As a purpose built building it has retained its integrity as the residence of the Prime Ministers of Australia and their families since its construction. Although designed as a family home reflecting 'ideal' home styles of the 1920s it has required periodic adaptation and renovations to suit the changing needs of the families and the operational requirements of Prime Minister's wives, many of whom managed the household, carried out official entertainment and greatly influenced alterations and renovations. Alterations, additions and internal finishes to public areas carried out in the 1980s have significance as a well executed refurbishment to bring the place into a condition reflecting a 1920s residence. (Criteria D.2 and F1 Australian Historic Themes: 8.10.4 Designing and building fine buildings).

The Lodge is significant for its close association with fourteen of Australia's twenty-five Prime Ministers, their wives and families (as at June 2002). Although not designed for official functions, members of the Royal family, dignitaries and heads of governments have been entertained at The Lodge. It also has an association with the Melbourne architectural firm of Oakley and Parke, highly regarded in Canberra in the field of residential design, following their success in the FCAC Competition with the design for The Lodge in 1926. (Criterion H.1).

The Lodge remains to this day one of the primary landmarks in Canberra symbolising the presence of the Prime Minister, his importance demonstrated in the location of the residence on a main road near Capital Hill (Criterion G.1).

The residence and grounds are valued by many, as one of Canberra’s features as a nationally important and attractive property. The garden is open to the public a few times each year and is
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particularly valued for its aesthetic qualities of the design, plantings, memorial trees and art works. (Criterion E.1).

The Lodge is significant as a site of research value. The domestic, personal and political histories and events within the Lodge are comprehensively recorded, and serve as a lasting record of the Lodge in files, photographs, film, newspaper and magazine articles (Criterion C2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion A</th>
<th>Gazetteed Commonwealth Heritage values</th>
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<td>Attributes</td>
<td>The Lodge is important for its exceptional richness of cultural features that were acquired to create the home for the Australian Prime Minister's family and display Australian art and crafts to important visitors. These features include the house with its architectural stylistic features and fine interior detailing; the garden with its array of garden areas including memorial trees and the Bettina Gorton memorial native garden; and the extensive and notable array of movable cultural heritage items created by Australian craft specialists that include paintings, china figures, silverware, ceramics, furniture, sculptures, memorabilia and artefacts collected by or donated to past Prime Ministers.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Criterion B</th>
<th>Rarity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attributes</td>
<td>The Lodge is significant as a unique place in Australia.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Criterion C</th>
<th>Research</th>
</tr>
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<th>Criterion D</th>
<th>Characteristic values</th>
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timber panelling, picture rails, exposed ceiling beams, built-in furniture and, windows and doors, including their architraves and fittings.

Attributes
The building's proportions and details that demonstrate Colonial Revival and Georgian styling including symmetrical facade, simplicity, use of arches, round headed windows and delicate corner porches. The fabric noted above is also significant.

Criterion E
Aesthetic characteristics

The residence and grounds are valued by many, as one of Canberra's features as a nationally important and attractive property. The garden is open to the public a few times each year and is particularly valued for its aesthetic qualities of the design, plantings, memorial trees and art works.

Attributes
The residence and grounds, in particular the garden design, plantings, memorial trees and art works.

Criterion F
Technical achievement

As a building developed for the new Federal Capital, The Lodge reflects the designers' appreciation for the importance of its setting.

As a purpose built building it has retained its integrity as the residence of the Prime Ministers of Australia and their families since its construction. Although designed as a family home reflecting 'ideal' home styles of the 1920s it has required periodic adaptation and renovations to suit the changing needs of the families and the operational requirements of Prime Minister's wives, many of whom managed the household, carried out official entertainment and greatly influenced alterations and renovations. Alterations, additions and internal finishes to public areas carried out in the 1980s have significance as a well executed refurbishment to bring the place into a condition reflecting a 1920s residence.

Attributes
The building's relationship to its setting, plus the alterations, additions and internal finishes to public areas carried out in the 1980s.

Criterion G
Social value

The Lodge remains to this day one of the primary landmarks in Canberra symbolising the presence of the Prime Minister, his importance demonstrated in the location of the residence on a main road near Capital Hill.

Attributes
The residence's prominent location, plus glimpses of the house from the public realm.

Criterion H
Significant people

The Lodge is significant for its close association with fourteen of Australia's twenty-five Prime Ministers, their wives and families (as at June 2002). Although not designed for official functions, members of the Royal family, dignitaries and heads of governments have been entertained at The Lodge. It also has an association with the Melbourne architectural firm of Oakley and Parkes, highly regarded in Canberra in the field of residential design, following their success in the FCAC Competition with the design for The Lodge in 1926.

Attributes
The whole of the residence and grounds.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Non-Statutory Heritage Listings</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACT Heritage Register</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Lodge was nominated to the <a href="#">ACT heritage register</a>. However, as The Lodge is located on Commonwealth land and listed on the CHL, the ACT Heritage Council decided not to include The Lodge on the ACT Heritage Register (11 April 2013) as it would provide no additional protection to the heritage values of the place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The former Register of the National Estate</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Lodge has been recognised on the former Register of the National Estate.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The register of the National Trust of Australia (ACT)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Property or Information Access Restrictions or Requirements if any</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Lodge is a secure Official Establishment of the Prime Minister. The building is open only once or twice to the public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conservation Documents or References</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on Official Establishments. (1979) &quot;Final report, May 1979.&quot; Canberra: AGPS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Housing and Construction and Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (1986) Conservation and Management Plan for the Prime Minister’s Lodge, Landscape Architects for the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Canberra: Department of Housing and Construction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (1985) &quot;A guide to the works of art and items of historical interest in The Lodge, Canberra&quot;. Unpublished report, AHC file.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Record Last Updated</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4 November 2013</td>
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