

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R076

Name of Place: Carillon

Other/Former Names:

Address/Location: Aspen Island, Central Basin

Block Section of

Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:	1984	Level of Significance:	National
Citation Revision No:	1	Category:	Monuments/ Cemeteries
Citation Revision Date:	December 1986	Style:	

Date of Design:	1967	Designer:	Cameron Chisholm & Nicol for the NCDC
Construction Period:	1969-70	Client/Owner/Lessee:	
Date of Additions:		Builder:	Dillingham Constructions Pty Ltd

Statement of Significance

The building is historically important as a gift from the British Government to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the founding of the national Capital in 1913. The three shafts symbolise the British and Australian Governments and the city of Canberra, acknowledging Griffin's design and reflecting the Parliamentary triangle. It is one of the largest in Australia. The building contributes significantly to the urban design of the National Area of Canberra and provides a simple design solution, reflecting the Parliamentary Triangle, and is spectacularly sited on Aspen Island. The Carillon contrasts and compliments the Captain Cook Fountain, both vertical elements in the lake on each side land axis. The construction of the building is significant using precast concrete facing panels as permanent formwork. It was the winning entry in a limited competition, in which three British and three Australian architectural firms were invited to design a Carillon for Aspen Island.

Description

The building was opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on April 26th, 1970. The Carillon tower consists of three triangular shafts set about a triangular base, rising to a maximum height of 48.77m, and built on the island's projection towards the centre of Lake Burley Griffin to gain maximum benefit from water reflection. The Carillon manufactured by John Taylor and Co. in England; was shipped to Australia in sections, and erected within the tower. It contains 53 bells, with a range of 4-1/2 octaves and is played on manual clavier. The tower has three floor levels - the clavier chamber, the bell chamber partially enclosed by vertical fins, and the public viewing gallery. The tallest shaft contains a lift, another the staircase and the smallest the services. Constructed of insitu concrete walls, floors and roof on a piled foundation. Precast concrete panels face the building finished with exposed white quartz chips and fine white opal glass set in white cement, and were used as permanent formwork. The bells are cast in bronze and all woodwork is English Oak.

Condition and Integrity

Background/History

Analysis against the Criteria specified in Schedule 2 of the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991

(i) a place which demonstrates a high degree of technical and/or creative achievement, by showing qualities of innovation or departure or representing a new achievement of its time

(ii) a place which exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group

(iii) a place which demonstrates a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function which is no longer practised, is in danger or being lost, or is of exceptional interest

(iv) a place which is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations

(v) a place which is the only known or only comparatively intact example of its type

(vi) a place which is a notable example of a class of natural or cultural places or landscapes and which demonstrates the principal characteristics of that class

(vii) a place which has strong or special associations with person, group, event, development or cultural phase which played a significant part in local or national history

(xi) a place which demonstrates a likelihood of providing information which will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality or benchmark site

References

Other Information Sources