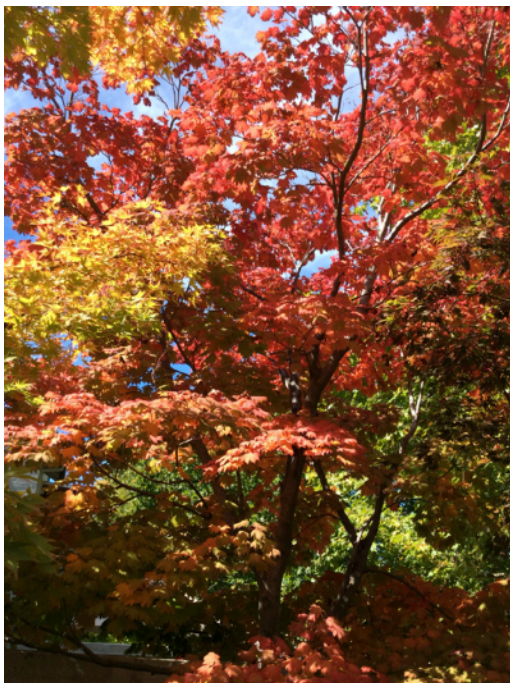


FOLLOW THE SIGNS OF FORREST

a short walk through our leafy suburb loosely based on the theme of following restored heritage street signs



Best times for the walk are during spring blossoms in September and the glorious autumn foliage in April, but it is a pleasant walk at any time of year.

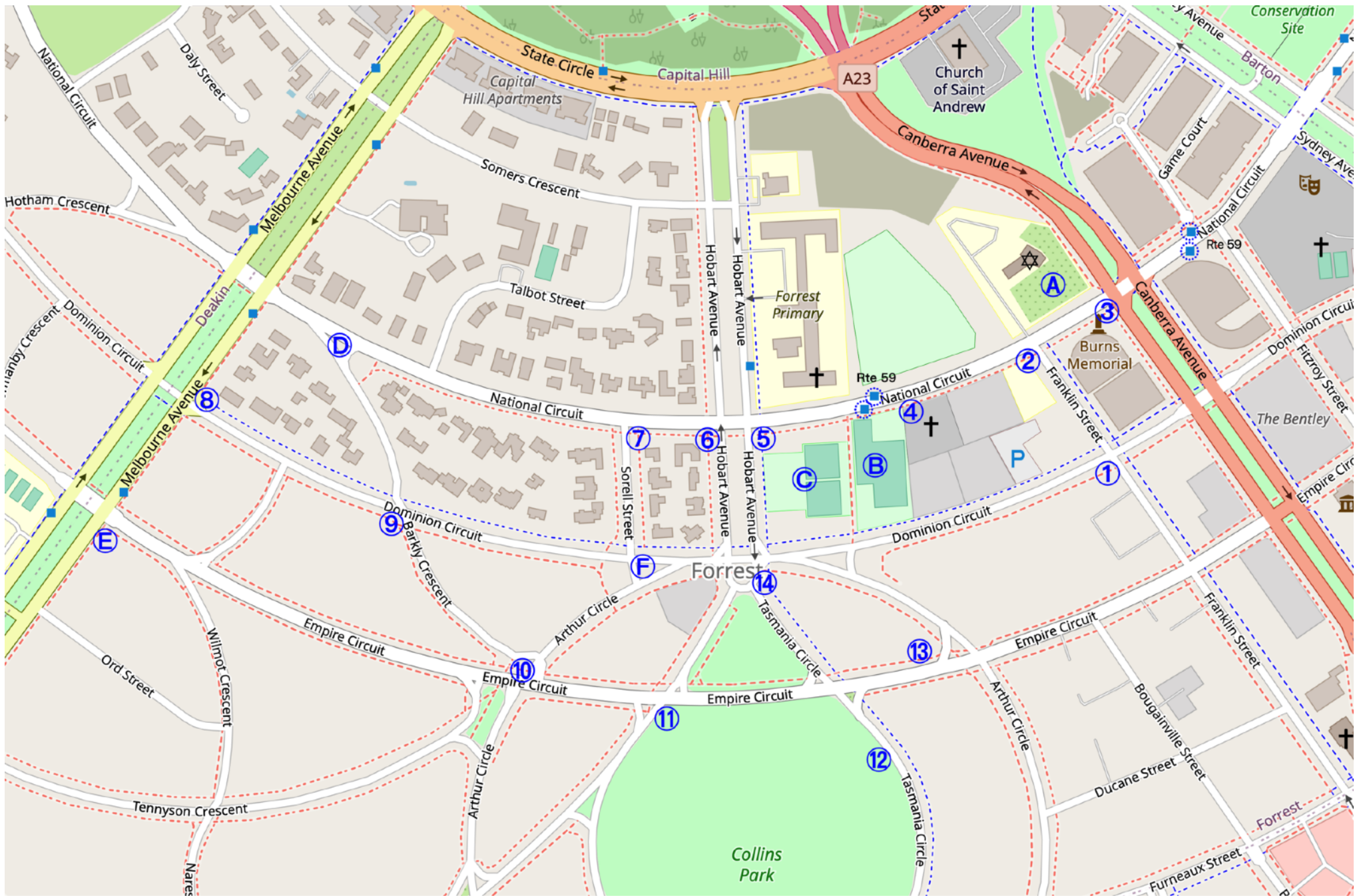
Street parking is available on weekends but can be difficult on week days; there is a Wilson's parking lot on Franklin Street at the starting point. Bus stops for route 59 from Civic or Woden at Forrest Primary School in National Circuit or near the corner of National and Canberra Avenue are both close to the starting point (these bus stops are marked on the walk map below by circled blue squares).



Safety Note during autumn: the Oak and Plane trees in National and Dominion Circuits produce copious numbers of acorns and large seed pods. These are slippery and treacherous underfoot, and often hidden under leaves. Furthermore the pavements in this area are notoriously uneven and broken, so please watch your footing!

*Privacy note: the houses that you will pass on this walk are private residences and **are not open to closer inspection**: please remain on the public footpaths and do not enter the grounds of private property.*

① Starting Point: Corner of Dominion Circuit and Franklin St.



Follow the numbered markers ① to ⑭. The markers ① - ⑥ are points of interest along or near the route which may be viewed if you have time.

Forrest was first gazetted as a Division name on 20 September 1928. The suburb is named after two brothers, the Right Honourable **John Forrest** and **Alexander Forrest**. John Forrest was one of the founders of the Constitution, the first premier of Western Australia and held the Prime Minister portfolio in 1907. Alexander Forrest was a Legislator, surveyor and explorer, leading an expedition to the country east and south of the Hampton Plains in 1871 and was also a member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly from 1890 to 1901. John and Alexander were great-great-uncles to “Twiggy” Forrest. The suburb was previously part of Blandfordia (Christmas Bell) which became Griffith, Forrest and Deakin. This was in line with Walter Burley Griffin’s idea to have the area and streets named after native plants which was later over-ruled.

The street layout of Forrest is derived from **Griffin’s 1913** plan. The major circuits and circles are in ascending order – Capital Circle (around Parliament House), State Circle, National Circuit, Dominion Circuit and Empire Circuit (Empire Circuit was originally to be Australia Circuit) (if there were another circuit, presumably it would have been “World”). Major spokes from State Circle follow the capital cities in compass order and roughly in geographical direction – Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Hobart, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and Darwin Avenues. Forrest is bounded by Sydney and Melbourne Avenues and contains Canberra and Hobart Avenues. Interestingly Sydney Ave ends up at NSW Crescent and Hobart Ave at Tasmania Circle. Canberra Avenue was originally Wellington Avenue (it still leads to Manuka named after a New Zealand plant), in the expectation that New Zealand would join the Federation. Forrest’s other streets are named after Australia’s explorers and governors. For example, Arthur Circle is named in honour of **Colonel Sir George Arthur** who was Governor of Tasmania from 1824-36. Dampier Crescent is named after **William Dampier** a British navigator who discovered the Eastern coast of Australia in 1688 and was the first to realise that Australia was a separate continent.

The suburb has quite distinct zoning areas – Forrest Housing Precinct; Blandfordia; National Capital Authority controlled land; dual occupancy zoned areas plus along Canberra Ave office blocks, hotels, churches and apartments leading to Manuka shops and restaurants.

The first restored sign ① on the map

The **heritage street signs** that were restored as part of an ACT heritage grant matched by Roads ACT are primarily within the heritage listed **Forrest Housing Precinct**. All intersections on Dominion Circuit (the central thoroughfare of the precinct) between Melbourne and Canberra Avenues (1.2 km) except one missing at Hobart Avenue/Tasmania Circle now have restored heritage signs, a significant and unique example of a 1920/30s streetscape. With the National Circuit signs and three signs in Blandfordia, all remaining signs in Forrest have now been restored. Two signs in Yarralumla covered in a subsequent grant and those in Barton restored in a previous grant, complete the restoration of all south side heritage street signs.

The precinct reflects a highly ordered composition of dwellings, driveways and public space including public domain landscaping by **Thomas Charles Weston**. In collaboration with Walter Burley Griffin, he carried out extensive scientific breeding trials to increase the number of species that might grow in Canberra. He also established the first plantation forest on Mt Stromlo. Nearly 1.2 million trees were put in between 1921 and 1924. Though relocating to Sydney in 1926, on his death in 1935 his ashes were spread at a park he designed near Old Parliament House.



Street furniture was integral to the aesthetics of the precinct. The precinct today has realised Griffin's garden city concept, with high quality housing, renovated to heritage guidelines over the years, with well established and maintained gardens and hedges. The tall street signs on Dominion Circuit, several of which are in traffic islands, reflect the scale of the housing and streetscape. The smaller streets and crescents have the short concrete signs also used in Barton and Reid, intended for easier pedestrian use.

Walk along Franklin past the car park (former site of the Italo-Australian Club) to

② Corner of Franklin St and National Circuit

Franklin St is named after **Sir John Franklin** 1786-1847 Governor of Tasmania (Van Dieman's Land) 1836-1843. He was also an Arctic explorer and perished in the NW Passage.

Street trees in Franklin St are *Quercus palustris* (Pin Oak), Liquidamber and *Prunus*. Street trees in National Circuit are *Quercus bicolor* (Swamp white oak) and *Quercus macrocarpa* (Burr oak).

Italian Cultural Centre

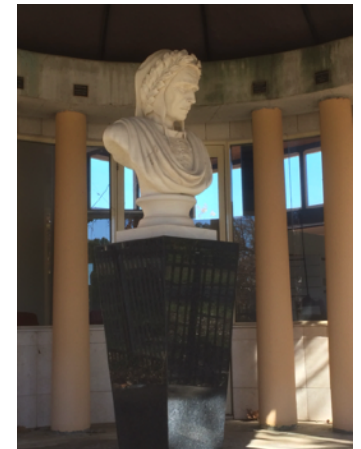
During the 1990s the Canberra Italian community of some 10,000 1st and 2nd generation Italians felt it needed a place where Italian events could take place. Land next to the then Italo-Australian Club in Franklin St was located and donated by the Commonwealth in 1995, allowing pursuit of the dream of an Italian Cultural Centre. It was opened on 2 June 2006.

The Italian Cultural Centre was built on a design to remind the community of Italy, with a large hall and traditional bell tower. The Centre was donated a statue of Dante Alighieri the 'Father of the Italian Language' by the municipality of Lecce in Southern Italy, with the Bell being donated by the Italian Region Friuli Venezia Giulia in the North of Italy.

On the other side of National Circuit

① National Jewish Memorial Centre

The ACT Jewish Community is the home of Jewish people in Canberra and the surrounding district. It currently has around 200 membership units and caters for their religious and educational requirements, containing two synagogue spaces. It hosts groups interested in social activities, intellectual debate, Jewish history, Jewish films, music, books and cooking. The community was founded in 1951 and the National Jewish Memorial Centre, which was designed by the émigré Austrian architect, Ernst Fooks, was opened in 1971. It houses a Judaica library and a small museum and art gallery, open to the public 10am to 3pm Monday to Thursday (except holidays and Jewish festivals). The grounds of the Centre also house the Australian Jewish War Memorial.



A short detour: walk down National to Canberra Avenue to

③ Former Site of the Burns Club and still the Robert Burns Statue

Formed in 1924, the Burns Club was initiated to foster the culture and heritage of Scotland. It is Canberra's first and longest serving Club although the club itself has relocated. Canberra's population in 1924 was approximately 3,000. Around 1,400 of those were involved in the numerous construction projects being undertaken to build the new city. Many of those 1,400 were Scots. Within a very short space of time, the newly formed Burns Club became active in the Canberra community. Early events included the first Robert Burns Night in January 1925, a Highland Gathering in February 1925, a soccer team in February 1925, and in March 1925 a series of concerts were organised to help raise funds for the Queanbeyan Hospital.

In 1927 the Club initiated a project to build a Robert Burns statue in Canberra funded through an Australia wide fundraising program with Scottish Societies in other States to raise the equivalent of \$300,000. The Robert Burns statue was unveiled at its current location of Forrest in January 1935 at a ceremony attended by many hundreds of visitors and officiated at by the then Prime Minister Joseph Lyons. The statue, the second* public statue in Canberra, remains *in situ* today and the Club annually on 25 January holds a Burns Ceremony at the statue to celebrate the birth of the famous bard. *(the first was Bellona in 1926)

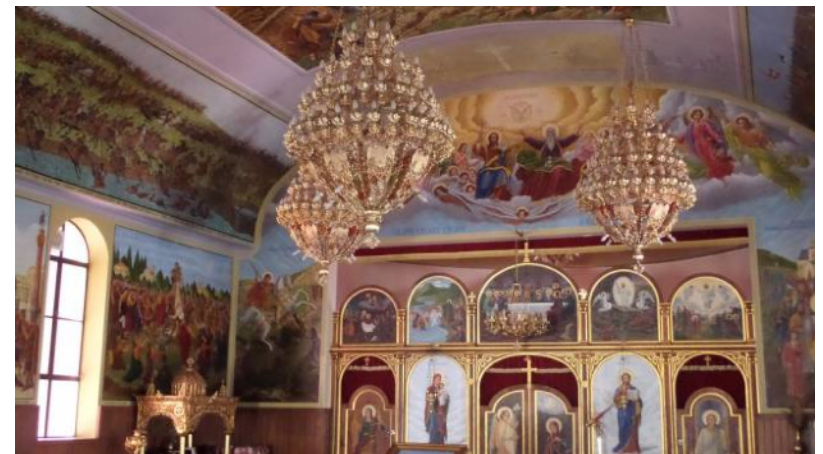
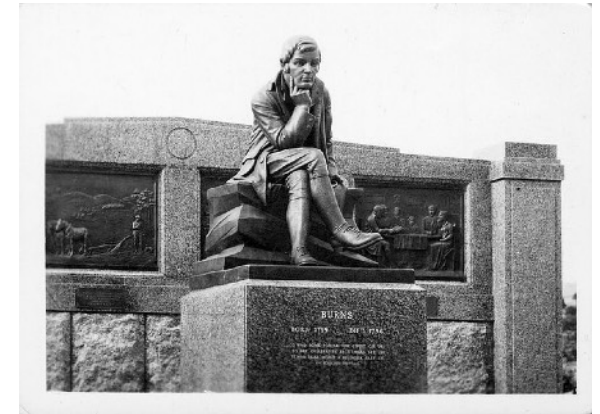
Retrace your steps back along National Circuit and continue to Hobart Avenue passing

④ St George Free Serbian Orthodox Church



St George Free Serbian Orthodox Church was formed in 1955 with parishioners acquiring land in the suburb of Forrest, including a monument to *Cetnik* (Royal Yugoslavian Armed Forces) General Dragoljub 'Draza' Mihailovic, the first of its kind anywhere in the world. The bottom half of the statue was destroyed in a bomb attack in 1972.

The charming building is heritage listed. The spectacular interior of the church was painted by Czech artist Karl Matzek in the 1970s and 1980s, primarily in the Western mural style. The parish priest is proud to show visitors the inside the church when asked.



Beyond the church you will see on the left the Tennis Club ⑥ (probably late 1920s; there were certainly tennis courts in Manuka and other sites in the 1920's recorded in photographs in the Mildenhall Collection) and the Bowling Club ⑦ 1926 (the clubhouse is not original).

⑤ Forrest Primary School

The school was officially opened on 4th April, 1958. Provisioning for the school commenced in mid April 1957, with agreement to purchase sporting equipment to the value of 10 pounds, a free gestetner, duplicator and typewriter were supplied by the then Department of the Interior, a 16mm projector and tape recorder; 200 pounds were spent on library books attracting a subsidy of 8 shillings per pound spent (40%). Provisions included three pianos, a table model radiogram and a gramophone for outside activities. Forrest Primary School is an International Baccalaureate (IB) World school, with 45% of enrolments from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds, and it sits in the heart of the Canberra diplomatic community. The school currently educates 550 students.



⑥ Corner of Hobart Avenue and National Circuit

This area was the site of constructions camps for the city in the early days: [narrabundah.org.au]

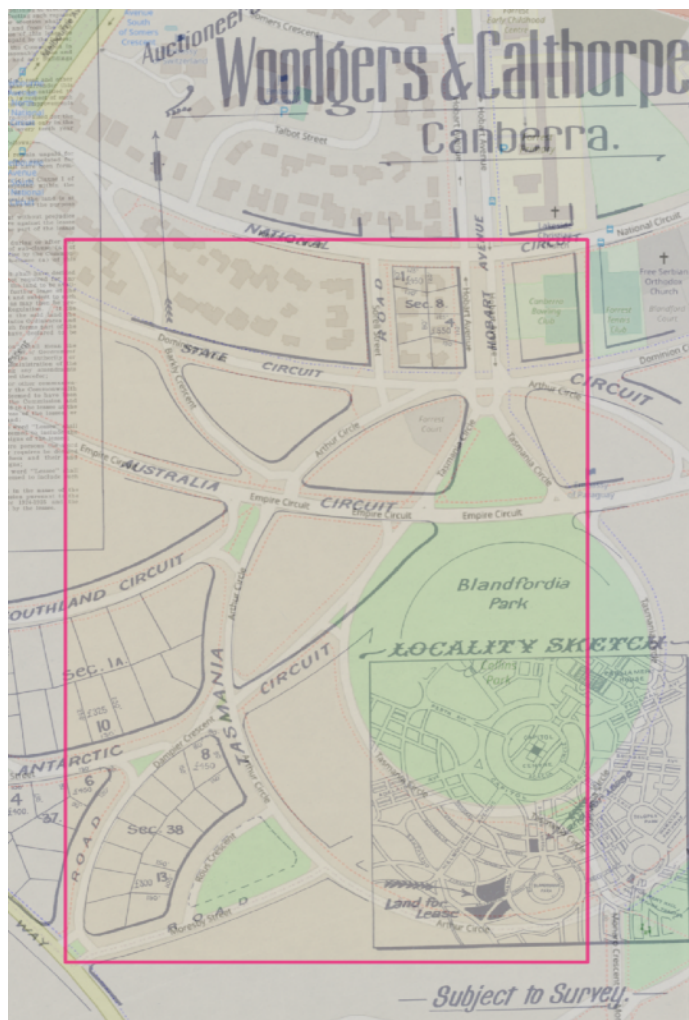
The building of the city of Canberra commenced in 1913 and was interrupted by the First World War. By 1916 most construction work had ceased and the brickworks closed with work not resuming until 1920/1921. Construction workers were housed in camps. Married and single quarters were kept separate and in the period post World War One camps were allocated to different 'classes' of workers. The lowest on the scale was Labourers followed by Pug (horse & dray), Tradesmen, Engineers and Surveyors and other such officials. Most single camps had a Mess and Mess Caterer.

CAPITOL HILL CAMPS - This camp was erected on Capitol Hill on the side nearest to the suburb of Forrest. In 1927 the camp had 8 huts each with eight rooms. In 1927 another 20 cubicles were added. From late 1928 Mrs Stanley was Mess Caterer. The camp did not close during the Great Depression but had only a few men - pensioners - staying there. In the early post World War 2 era it reopened fully again and for a time the Berry family were mess caterers. Around 1947 the camp was extended and in 1952 another hostel was constructed nearby. Capital Hill (note change of spelling) was closed in 1966. On the other side of the hill another hostel was opened - named Hillside. It was for single men and opened in 1952. It closed in 1968.

THE CAMPS BLANDFORDIA/MANUKA AREAS - Established in the early 1920s near the area of the Bowling Green bounded by Hobart Avenue, National Circuit and Dominion Circuit with a population of between 400 and 500 men around 1922. The men, tradesmen, probably constructed the brick cottages built at Blandfordia (modern Forrest) in

1923. Sixteen cottages were constructed for officials. On 20th May 1924 the camp had a population of 93 men. The camp was surrounded by corrugated iron. Old timers remember another similar camp in the area of the modern Manuka Oval.

LADY HOPETOUN CLUB - The club was founded in 1926 on 26th June. It was for young ladies of the domestic servant class, shop assistants and typists. They were housed in houses in Blandfordia. Miss Hawkins was the Matron and the club was disbanded on 17th December 1928.



Hobart Ave marks the beginning of the ACT Heritage listed **Forrest Housing Precinct** for which the Melbourne architectural firm **Oakley, Parkes and Scarborough** won a 1924 competition.

This was a distinct pattern of housing development and landscape demonstrating early Federal Capital planning philosophy for the provision of low-density public housing. It planned to provide rental accommodation for senior public servants transferring to Canberra with the opening of the temporary Parliament House with blocks of a generally substantial size and original cottage forms of equivalent size. The architectural style/character of the public houses reflected a mix of international styles (Arts & Crafts', 'Federation', 'Interwar Californian Bungalow' and 'Interwar Georgian Revival)' with just 4 basic plans but with subtle variations of gable and hipped roof forms and rendered masonry and face brick walls. (Photo, Mildenhall Collection.)



In September 1924 funds of 72,000 pounds was approved for the construction of forty cottages; Fifty houses were built in the precinct.

An original sales poster for the first sales of blocks conducted on 29 May 1926 in what was called 'Blandfordia No 4' is shown on the left.

Cross Hobart Avenue and continue along National Circuit to Sorell St

Kenneth Oliphant moved to Canberra in 1926 to supervise the construction of these homes. He then went on to privately design more than 30 original homes in Canberra, mostly in Red Hill, Forrest, Barton and Griffith. One of these was No 40 National Circuit in 1934, for **Mrs Betty Townsend**, who lived in the house for more than 50 years. Originally built as a four-bedroom house, it was extended under Oliphant's supervision in 1940, incorporating a fifth bedroom and second bathroom. The facade of the house is exactly as Oliphant intended, except for an attached garage added in 1991.



⑦ Corner of Sorell St and National Circuit

Site of the second street sign

No 42 National Circuit was commissioned by Dr R M Alcon, an early Canberra medical practitioner, was designed by **Kenneth Oliphant** and built in 1927. It has the rare distinction, in those days, of having the plans published in 'the Australian Home Beautiful' in June 1930 - Canberra was coming of age. It was also designed with a separate maid's quarters and a cellar, also unusual features in Canberra. Architect Peter Freeman, in his book 'the Early Canberra House - Living in Canberra 1911-1933' describes the house as reflecting 'classical features with entablatures to the single story projections enclosing and emphasising the points of entry and the verandah. The house also features square headed fenestration in a restrained composition and sash windows, with a smooth rendered wall finish generally and with Roman roof tiling'.

Sorell St is named for **Colonel William Sorell** (1775-1848) Governor of Tasmania 1817-1824. He progressed exports of cattle, wool and wheat, and established whaling stations.

Sorell St trees are *Cedrus atlantica* (Atlas Cedar) and *Prunus cerasifera* (Cherry Plum), *Euc. manifera maculosa* (Red Spotted Gum) and *Euc. meliodora* (Yellow Box).



Continue walking along National Circuit to Melbourne Avenue

Melbourne Ave is the western boundary of the **Forrest Housing Precinct**. The left-hand side of National Cct features typical Precinct 1920's houses. The **National Capital Authority (NCA)** controls the area on the right between National Circuit and State Circle with many earlier houses replaced by larger modern rebuilds and some multiple occupancies. In that area also are embassies and residencies for **Switzerland, Austria and Malaysia** and more recently apartments on State Circle.

④ As well as public servants, many early ANU academics had their homes in this area. For example Prof. Bernhard Neumann Inaugural Professor of Mathematics, Institute of Advanced Studies ANU 1961 and Prof. Hanna Neumann first Professor of Pure Mathematics and first female Chair at ANU, School of General Studies 1964. The house (not identified here) was built for the Neumann's and rented back, a practice echoing the earlier inducements to senior public servants to come to Canberra. In 1950 the ANU had been described as a shed in paddock, and by 1961 was still establishing itself as an attractive destination for academics.



Turn left on Melbourne Avenue, proceeding to the intersection with Dominion Circuit

⑧ Corner of Melbourne Avenue and Dominion Circuit

Here is the *third street sign*, a tall sign.

Dominion Circuit trees are *Brachychiton populneus* (Kurrajong), *Cedrus atlantica*, *Cedrus deodora* (Himalayan cedar), *Euc. rubida* (Ribbon Gum, Candlebark), *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane Tree).

⑤ For a short diversion, one block further up the hill on the corner of Empire St and Melbourne Ave is the mock-Tudor Whitlam house where **Gough Whitlam** grew up. It is now the Nigerian High Commission residence (which explains the green rather than original black painted timber). There is an interesting old bus shelter outside the house on Empire. Two houses further up Melbourne, on the near corner of Ord St, is the Moir house: **Malcolm Moir** designed many houses in Blandfordia. This was his own home cum office, described as “an important example of Inter-War Functionalist style”, built in 1935.

Turn down Dominion Circuit walking past 1920s listed housing

Site of the *fourth street sign* is on Davey Crescent.

Davey Crescent is named after **Colonel Thomas Davey** 2nd Lieutenant Governor of Tasmania 1813-1817. Trees on Davey Crescent are *Robinia pseudoacacia* (Black Locust) and *Betula pendula* (Silver Birch).



⑨ Corner of Dominion Circuit and Barkly Crescent

Continue on Dominion Circuit to Barkly Crescent,

This is the site of *fifth street sign*.

Barkly Crescent is named after **Sir Henry Barkly**, Governor of Victoria 1856-1863.

Barkly Crescent trees are *Quercus palustris*.

Beautiful streetscape and well maintained 1920's heritage homes

Walk through Barkly Crescent to Empire Circuit

This is the southern boundary of the Forrest Housing Precinct.

⑩ Collins Park

We have now left the Forrest Housing precinct and entered **Blandfordia**, another listed area with developments in the 20s through to 60s and more recent knock downs and rebuilds. *Cross Arthur Circle to Collins Park.*

Colonel **David Collins** (1756 – 1810) was the first Lieutenant Governor of Van Dieman's Land. Blandfordia was the original name of Forrest, and refers to the Christmas Bell *Blandfordia nobilis*.

Collins Park itself is controlled by the NCA originally as a potential Prime Minister's Lodge site.

Trees include *Brachychiton*, *Casuarina*, *Cedrus atlantica*, *Cedrus deodora*, *Celtus australis* (Nettle Tree), *Euc. cinerea* (Argyle Apple), *Euc rubida*, *Malus sp.* (Crab Apple), *Populus alba* (Silver Poplar), *Populus deltoids* (Eastern Cottonwood), *Prunus*, *Quercus palustris* and *Ulmus procera* (English Elm).



Cross the lower end of Collins Park and turn right up Tasmania Circle to the second house

⑪ Tasmania Circle

Tasmania Circle trees are *Brachychiton populneus*, *Fraxinus oxycarpa* (Claret Ash), *Robinia pseudoacacia*.

Manning Clark House, designed by Australian architect, [Robin Boyd](#) in 1952, was built for Professor [Manning Clark](#) (1915 – 1991), described as "Australia's most famous historian", and his wife, [Dymphna Clark](#), (1916 – 2000), linguist and educator.



The house is now home to **Manning Clark House Inc. (MCH)**, a community based institution that nurtures creative practice and research in Australian history, human rights, literature, music, visual art, and indigenous culture, as well as discussion and debate on issues of public importance and all areas of scholarly interest. The organisation supports the intellectual and creative community through a network of scholars and community garden. The program includes public lectures, open

forums, seminars, conferences, art exhibitions, poetry readings, concerts, book launches, human rights education, and social gatherings in the former home of Manning and Dymphna Clark.



Following the 2000 death of Dymphna Clark, the house was transferred to community use and is heritage listed. [Tours of the house](#) are held regularly.



For those with time, a short walk on from Manning Clark House up Tasmania Circle on the edge of Collins Park is an original **Charles Scrivener** survey marker for his 1909 survey of the yet-unnamed capital city of Australia, called 'West of School' (it lies a little beyond the bounds of the attached map, at the eastern end of the Park and its highest point). More information is appended at the end of these Walking Notes.

⑫ Corner of Empire Circuit and Arthur Circle - previous Allawah Private Hospital

On 20 September 1935 **Winifred Marion Petrie** (1890-1966), a nurse from Auberne Private Hospital in Queanbeyan, leased a block on the corner of Empire Circuit and Arthur Circle, Forrest, with the aim of building a private hospital in Canberra. Returning to Sydney that year, she gained her mothercraft certificate from the Royal Society for the Welfare of Mothers & Babies. By May 1936 her twelve-bed Allawah Private Hospital had opened. For many years it was the bush capital's only hospital south of the Molonglo River. The building was the product of Petrie's practical experience and the skill of the architect **Ken Oliphant**. Their unorthodox design incorporated a curved-floor plan, with no right-angle turnings to enable easier manoeuvring of wheelchairs. Each ward had a private balcony. The hospital was equipped with a modern operating theatre with shadowless lighting, and a central steam-heating system. Nurses quarters were detached, and comfortable.

Petrie's economic gamble in the depressed 1930s succeeded, and she discharged the mortgage in 1940. Allawah gained a good reputation with medical practitioners as a general and obstetric hospital. Its patients received first-class care in pleasant surroundings. Petrie ran Allawah firmly and calmly, and became a mentor and friend to her staff. **John Curtin**, the **Duke of Gloucester** and his son **Prince William**, and **Dame Alexandra Hasluck** were among the hospital's patients.

Wartime shortages, the opening (1943) of new buildings at Canberra Community Hospital and Petrie's failing health forced the closure of Allawah in 1948. Moving to Deakin, she lived at 93 Empire Circuit where she made two rooms available for any of her friends who were convalescing. She died there on 6 May 1966 and was cremated with Anglican rites.

After a short period of ownership by a travel company, the building was purchased in 1962 by the **Sri Lankan High Commission**, operating as the High Commission until their new building opened in Yarralumla in 2012.



Turn down Arthur Circle for one block to Dominion Circuit

⑬ Corner of Arthur Circle, Dominion Circuit and Tasmania Circle

The **Roy Grounds Townhouses** at 3 Tasmania Circle, Forrest are a group of five townhouses, a small attached bedsitter and a separate courtyard house linked by carports and a covered walkway. Designed by **Roy Grounds** (architect of the Academy of Sciences Shine Dome) as a speculative venture in 1959, they are the only townhouses in Canberra designed by Grounds. Grounds' own unit was the third townhouse from the west, while the courtyard house was used as the Grounds, Romberg and Boyd office in Canberra as well as the residence of Grounds' full time architect assistant, Fritz Suenderman and family. The bedsitter was originally leased to a local architectural firm.



The Forrest Townhouses are an important example of the post-war Melbourne regional style with their long unbroken rooflines, widely projecting eaves and glass walls with regularly spaced timber mullions. With their cubiform overall shape and large areas of glazing, the townhouses also exhibit aspects of the post-war international style.

The Roy Grounds Townhouses are listed on the Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture. The townhouses are of national significance and are the earliest and probably the only example in Canberra of the design philosophy of Le Corbusier's Maison Citrohan that includes a double height living space.

Various houses in the group have been owned or occupied by prominent Australians. Apart from Grounds himself, **Sir William McMahon**, Prime Minister of Australia from 1970–72, lived in the single level courtyard house and **Aldo Giurgola**, the principle design architect of the New Parliament House, lived in the westernmost townhouse.



⑭ Corner of Dominion Circuit and Arthur Circle

Site of sixth street sign – there is a *seventh street sign* in this immediate area not passed on the walk at the intersection of Dominion Circuit and Sorell St ⑥.

There are *three other restored signs* in the Blandfordia area: Tennyson/Wilmot Sts, Monaro Crescent/ Stokes Street and Flinders Way/La Perouse St (the last sign relocated from a private house).

Dominion Circuit trees are *Brachychiton populneus*, *Cedrus atlantica*, *Cedrus deodora*, *Euc rubida*, *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane).

[Continue walking along Dominion Circuit to the starting point](#) at Franklin Street, past a mix of 1920s houses and knockdowns/rebuilds of multiple occupancies. Number 32 was built in 1926 for Arthur Shakespeare, founding editor of the Canberra Times; it had detached quarters (ie room behind the garage) for the maid.

More to see in Forrest and nearby:

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, State Circle, 1934, Gothic style

St Christopher's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Canberra Ave Manuka 1939, largest church in Canberra

St Paul's Anglican Church, Flinders Way Manuka (Griffith), 1939, "Inter-War Gothic with Art Deco touches"

Wesley Uniting Church, National Circuit, 1962. The Wesley Music Centre has Wednesday lunchtime concerts

Telopea Park School, New South Wales Cr (Barton), 1923, the oldest school in Canberra (as Canberra)

Art Deco interior of Caph's Restaurant, trading since 1926, Manuka

the Canberra Fire Museum at the old Fire Station, 4 Empire Circuit



Reference

[ACT Heritage Council Blandfordia 4 Registration](#) has a wealth of detail on the area and is the source for much of these Notes. It includes notes on the Griffins' original plans, early houses and their architects, and notable residents of Forrest. It mentions an original street sign on the corner of Baudin St and Mugga Way, but that has disappeared.

Appendix: Original survey marker

Charles Robert Scrivener (1855 – 1923) surveyed numerous sites in New South Wales for the selection of a site for the Australian Capital Territory and Australia's capital city. Sites included Buckley's Crossing, the Hay district, and lastly the Yass-Canberra district. Scrivener's contour map of the selected site was used as the basis for entries in the Canberra design competition. He together with Charles Weston and Walter and Marion Burley Griffin are the most important people in the establishment of Canberra.

Scrivener started the preliminary contour survey for the Canberra site in March 1909. Here is part of the very first page of measurements in Scrivener's field survey notebook. He was positioned on Camp Hill trig and swung clockwise from Mt Ainslie. The survey mark **SW of PS** is annotated meaning South West of Public School. This was later shortened to West of School.

That school was the old Narrabundah Public School at the intersection of Uriara Rd and Scotts Crossing Rd where the heritage Forrest Fire Station in Empire Cct is now. Some of the conifer trees in the adjoining flats on Canberra Ave are reputed to have been part of the school. The picture below shows the school in 1924 with the newly built Telopea Park School behind and Mt Ainslie in the distance. Part of the Scotts Crossing road can be seen as well.

Narrabundah School c.1924



INDEX.		
Page.	Particulars of Survey.	Date.
	Preliminary Surveys for City Triangulation and original Contour Survey of Canberra City Site Commenced January March 1909 Completed May 1909 Charles Robt. Scrivener	
	BEARINGS are 14.Min.19.Sec Less than STROM Meridian	