

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING HELD AT CANBERRA ON MONDAY,
22nd May, 1939.

Albert Hall:

Consideration of the proposal to effect additions and alterations to the Albert Hall was resumed, and, in view of an assurance from Mr. Daley as to the adequacy of vehicular accommodation for patrons of the Hall, after discussion, it was resolved:-

"That the Committee concurs in the general proposal for alterations and additions to the Albert Hall as submitted and suggests that consideration be given to the provision of an adequate heating system and to the removal of the electric sub-station from the precincts of the building."

ALBERT HALL:
ADDITIONS
AND
ALTERATIONS:

Consideration was given to sketch plans prepared by the Works Director, on the basis of suggestions made by the Committee, for providing additional space at the Albert Hall and improving its stage facilities.

The Committee resolved to approve of the sketch plans submitted, but suggested that consideration be given to the question of whether the present rooms shown in the plan at the rear of the main hall were actually required.

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

MINUTES OF THE 80th MEETING HELD IN THE DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR, CANBERRA, ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY,
3rd and 4th AUGUST, 1949.

Albert Hall : Additions and Alterations.

The Committee had made certain recommendations concerning proposals for various alterations and additions to the Albert Hall. Plan A.C.T. 18600 (shown to the Committee) had subsequently

been prepared by the Department of Works and Housing but, in some respects, as pointed out by the Executive Member, it did not conform to the Committee's recommendations. The Executive Member said that the Director of Works, A.C.T. would discuss the matter with the Committee during the meeting.

ALBERT HALL:
ADDITIONS &
ALTERATIONS.

The Committee discussed with Mr. Potts, Director of Works, A.C.T., the proposals for additions and alterations to the Albert Hall which had already been referred to by the Executive Member in his notification at the commencement of the meeting.

It was noted that the latest plan (A.C.T. 18600) prepared in the Department of Works and Housing contained more elaborate proposals than were agreed to when the matter was last dealt with by the Committee. For example, the suggested new Supper Room - also intended to be used for small concerts and similar purposes - was much larger than originally proposed, and provision had been made for a sliding roof over the open court between the Supper Room and the main building.

After some discussion by members, it was agreed that the matter be left in the hands of Mr. Potts for re-study with a view to fresh plans being prepared on the lines formerly approved by the Committee.

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 86th meeting held at the Department
of the Interior, Canberra, on Wednesday and Thurs-
day, 1st and 2nd March, 1950.

ALBERT HALL:
ADDITIONS

The Executive Member stated that it had been suggested, at a recent conference with the architects of the Department of Works and Housing, that the Committee's opinion be obtained on an alternative scheme for providing additions to the Albert Hall, which had been prepared at the suggestion of the Principal Designer and Architect in Melbourne, Mr. Howard. Messrs. Miller and McCalman, architects of the Canberra office of the Department of Works and Housing, submitted to the Committee plans developed from the design which had already been approved by the Committee and the amended scheme suggested by Mr. Howard. It was noted that the latter abandoned the scheme for building the new supper-room and lounges on the eastern side of the Hall, and provided for a less extensive scheme by a symmetrical extension on each side of the building incorporating the terraces. The development of the design previously approved by the Committee was shown in drawings Nos. A.C.T.18950/1/2/3, and the alternative scheme was indicated in Drawings Nos. A.C.T.18946 and 18947 and H.A.1092. The Executive Member stated that the Principal Designer, Mr. Howard, had expressed opinion that there were architectural objections to the scheme previously approved by the Committee, in view of the unbalanced nature of the building and, also, he felt that the cost of providing additions according to that scheme would be very considerable, perhaps £50,000. He believed that the amended scheme, which he had put forward, besides representing a considerable saving in cost, would also preserve the character of the building and be more satisfactory according to an aesthetic standpoint. The Executive Member pointed out that the amended scheme did not provide for the accommodation that had been considered to be necessary and also that, from a working point of view, the supper-room opening immediately off the main hall would not be satisfactory.

Further consideration was given, in discussion with Messrs. Miller and McClaman, to some detailed arrangements provided for in the first scheme, and suggestions were made for its improvement by providing for access from the new supper-room to the lounge, so that there would not be disturbance from a gathering in that room when another gathering was being held in the main auditorium. It was suggested also that folding doors might be provided near the northern end of the lounge, so that they might be closed and provide for the use of the buffet without disturbance of a meeting being held in the lounge, thus giving greater flexibility in the use of the whole of the accommodation for conferences and simultaneous gatherings. The proposals for the extension of the foyer by incorporating the porte cochere were examined in detail, and suggestions made for improvements for convenience and ease of working. It was suggested that the foyer might be separated from the immediate entrance hall by a wall with swing doors, and that the ticket office might be placed in the position where telephone boxes were shown, the telephones being removed to the two enclosures shown near the front door as ticket offices. It was thought that the men's cloak-room might still be retained downstairs as at present and the women's cloak-room and powder-room remain roughly in its present position, the room shown as powder-room to the left of the entrance being utilised as an office.

It was noted that the arrangements in regard to the foyer and entrance were common to both the schemes that had been submitted. Messrs. Miller and McCalman noted the proposals and said that further consideration would be given to these details in revision of the plans.

The Committee expressed the opinion that either scheme could be made satisfactory from an architectural point of view, and it felt that the question of the adoption of either one or the other was dependent upon the requirements to be met in the way of accommodation and also the views of the Department and the Government as to the amount that could be spent on the works. The Executive Member stated that the alternative proposals would be further examined by the Department in the light of these considerations.

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 87th Meeting held at the Department
of the Interior, Canberra, on Wednesday and Thurs-
day, 12th and 13th April, 1950.

ALBERT HALL

The Executive Member submitted for the information of the Committee further ground plan A.C.T. 18951A, received from Mr. McCalman, Department of Works and Housing, showing a scheme of additions to the Albert Hall. It was the intention of the Executive Member and Mr. Waterman to submit a joint recommendation on this subject covering also the alternative scheme prepared by Mr. Howard, Principal Designing Architect of Melbourne. In noting the plans, the view was expressed by the Committee that possibly an improvement could be effected in the arrangement of doorways as there appeared to be too many for the small area; swing doors being preferable; and that the ticket office might be of a portable nature.