

## ***Calthorpes House, 24 Mugga Way, Red Hill ACT 2603***

Heritage listed home built for the Calthorpe family in 1927, the year the Federal Parliament and public service were transferred to Canberra. Harry and Dell Calthorpe moved to Canberra from Queanbeyan, having seen the potential of the new city first hand through Harry's role in land auctions in the growing Federal Capital.

The architects Oakley and Parkes were the same firm that had won a national competition to design suitable houses for the Federal Capital, and had also designed the Prime Minister's residence, the Lodge.

Like many Canberra houses of this period it has a roughcast exterior finish painted in earthy colours, a tiled roof with shingled gables, arched verandas and shuttered windows.



*Alex & Erica from the HWMM visited the site on the 08/08/2026 and located the water meter tucked away inside and under the service pit.*



**Pictured: Servicing the site is a Davies Shephard (DS-Elster) 20mm Rotary Piston PSM-V100 Positive Displacement Water Meter with ball-seat coupling connections. (circa 2005+)**



*The Calthorpe children outside the newly built house in 1927*

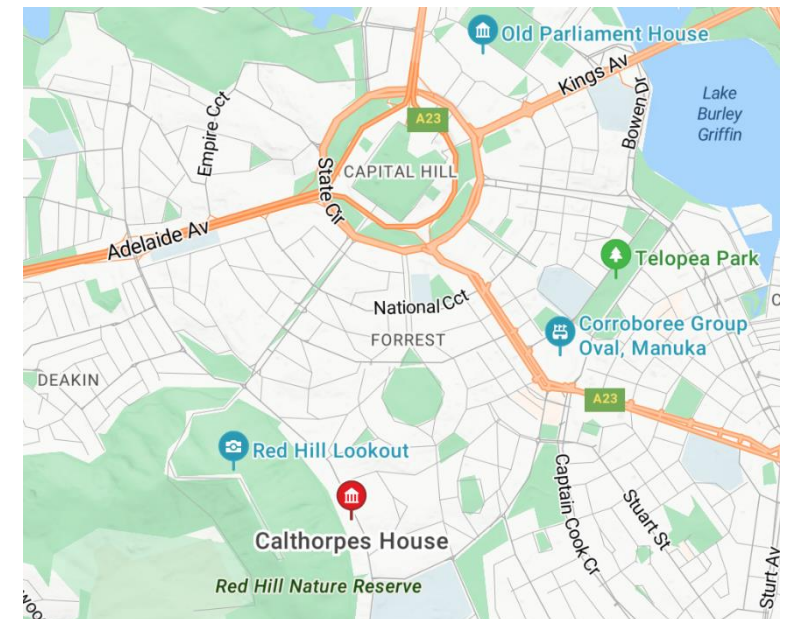


*Inside the house*

## HISTORY

Harry Calthorpe died at age 59 in 1950, and Dell Calthorpe remained in the house until her death in 1979. The house and its contents had remained largely unchanged for many years, and both the Calthorpe family and historians recognised its historical value and later, potential for a house museum. It was purchased by the Government of Australia in late 1984, and was opened as a museum in 1986. It continues to operate as a museum today.

Listed on the Australian Capital Territory Heritage Register



[www.watermetermuseum.org](http://www.watermetermuseum.org)