Australian National University

Acton Campus — Site Inventory

Study Item/ Area	Chemistry Building, Research School of Chemistry (RSC) Buildings
Acton Campus Precinct	DALEY Precinct
Building Nos. & Names	33 (Chemistry Building), 33A (Spectrometer Facility/800MHz NMR), 34 (Arthur Hambly Lecture Theatre), 35 (Arthur Birch Building), 35A (David Craig Building), 36 (RSC Lecture Theatre)

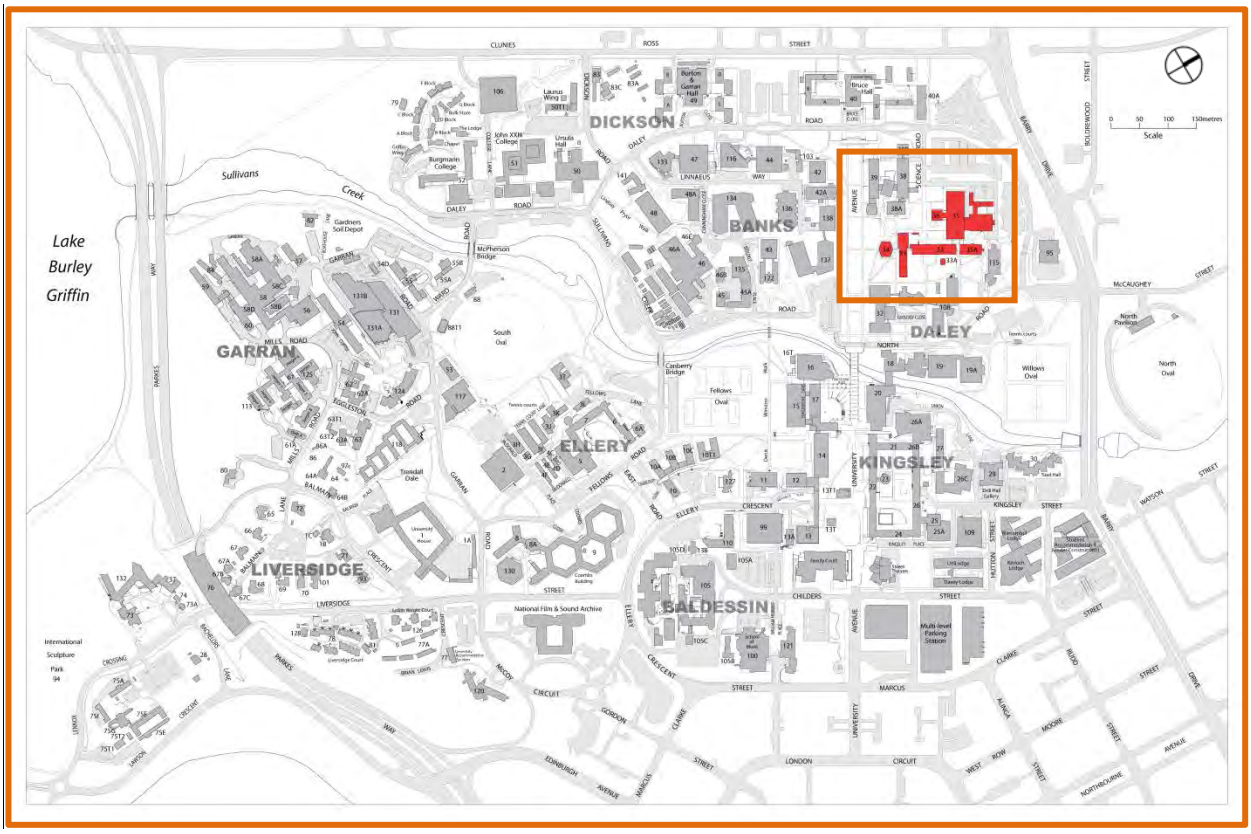

Figure 1: Location of study area within the ANU Acton Campus site.

Heritage Ranking	Group—Moderate—Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List Chemistry Building—Moderate—Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List Spectrometer Facility/800MHz NMR—Neutral—Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List Arthur Hambly Lecture Theatre—Moderate—Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List Arthur Birch Building—Moderate—Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List David Craig Building—Neutral—Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List RSC Lecture Theatre—Moderate—Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List
Heritage Listing	The Chemistry Building and the RSC Buildings are not individually listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL).
Condition—Date	The condition noted here is at April 2012. The extant buildings, trees and landscape continue to be well maintained for student education and research and are in excellent condition.
Relevant Documentation	There is currently no relevant documentation for the RSC Buildings and the Chemistry Building.

Context of the Buildings

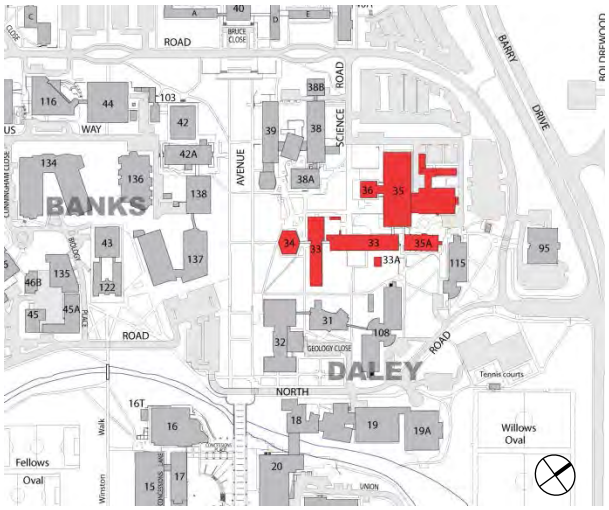

Figure 2: The RSC Buildings and Chemistry Building in the context of the Banks and Daley precinct and University Avenue.

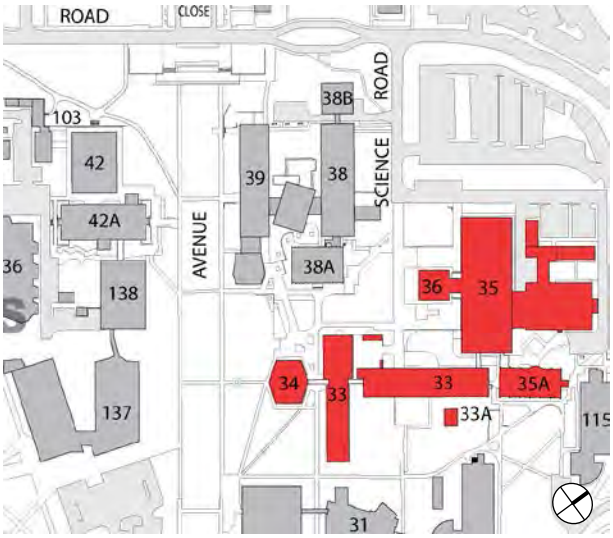

Figure 3: The RSC Buildings and Chemistry Building in relation to University Avenue and the Physics Buildings (38-39).

Brief Historical Overview

The Faculty of Chemistry Building (33) was designed by Eggleston, MacDonald and Secomb and built by Kennedy and Bird. Construction began in 1961 and was completed in 1963 during which time the faculty occupied the building (December 1962). The building was officially opened on June 7 1963 by Lord De L'isle. By 1970 an extension was required and was completed by ACT Builders. In 2003 a Spectrometer Facility, designed by GHD Pty Ltd was completed by Manteena Pty Ltd.

The Arthur Hambly Lecture Theatres (34) were designed and built at the same time as the Chemistry Building (33)and are in keeping with the concept of precinct design at the University, as planned by Denis Winston.

The Arthur Birch Building (RSC) (35) was of later construction in 1967, and was designed by Eggleston, Macdonald and Secomb and built by Civil & Civic. It was opened by Lord Todd of Trumpington. In 1983 a liquid store was added to the north face of the building and in 1994 the David Craig extension was completed. The Research School of Chemistry Lecture Theatre (36) was built concurrently with the Arthur Birch Building of the RSC, designed by Eggleston, Macdonald and Secomb and built by Civil and Civic.

The David Craig Building (35A) was designed by Wagdy Hanna & Associates in 1994 and was built by GE Shaw & Associates. It was built on the site of the Turner Oval, where Australian Rules Football began in Canberra. Trees were planted on the site by PM Menzies and CS Daley (It is unknown if they are still standing). The building was opened by Honourable Peter Cook, Minister for Industry, Science and Technology. Professor David Craig co-founded the Research School of Chemistry (RSC) with Professor Arthur Birch and was Dean of the school twice, from 1970-1973 and 1978-81.

The Spectrometer Facility (33A) was designed by GHD in 2003 and constructed by Manteena.

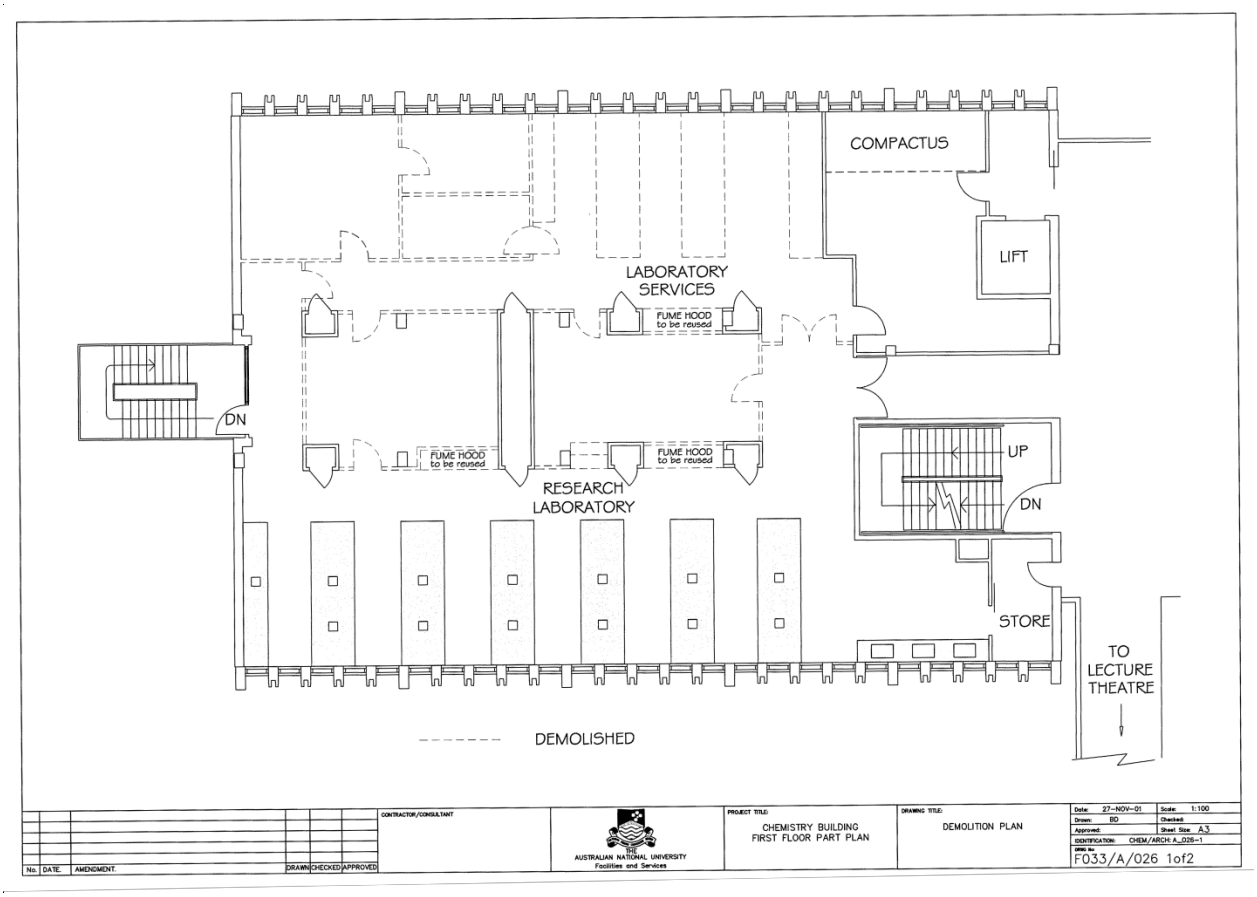

Figure 4: November 27 2001 architectural plan of the ground floor of the RSC Building.

Description of The Research School of Chemistry (RSC) and Chemistry buildings

Buildings

Building 33 is a rectangular reinforced concrete building oriented north. The upper storeys project over the ground floor on the north and south façade, with the northern overhang supported on columns creating a colonnade. It includes face brickwork with precast concrete mullions, anodised aluminium windows, copper downpipes and the ceiling is timber lined. Internally the central corridor has rooms either side. The eastern stairwell is expressed externally with a concrete sculpture. The original building is mostly intact. The extension, built in 1969 by ACT Builders, is a rectangular two storey building with open access through to the lower storey. The ground level is of brown brickwork infill to a concrete structure. Precast concrete units to the upper floor have clear anodised windows. The interior includes painted concrete columns with painted face brickwork between, vinyl flooring and terrazzo stairs.

Building 34 is a reinforced concrete hexagonal building connected to Building 33 via a raised glass walkway. The entrance is below the walkway into a foyer. It has brown face brickwork, clear anodised aluminium windows and door suites with painted vermiculite rendered concrete columns and copper downpipes and gutters. The eastern and western facades are accented with articulated brickwork and lower glazed panels to the west only. The roof rises centrally to a copper finial. The interior includes matching face brickwork and carpet tiles.

Building 35 is a single storey rectangular structure with expressive concrete 'fins' and metal parapet. The concrete 'fins' are in filled with brown face bricks and clear anodised aluminium windows. Painted floor slabs are expressed behind the fins. The parapet is pre-coated and folded metal with copper down pipes. The northern Liquid Store was added to the main building in 1983. This is a single storey brown face brick building with a folded metal parapet. Clear anodised aluminium windows are set at door head height. The interior features terrazzo tiles in the foyer with exposed aggregate concrete waffle slab ceiling. The walls

are marble clad. Vinyl floor tiles and painted block work walls to remaining sections of the building.

Building 35a is oriented north/south and arranged internally on the 'quadrangular concept'. A double volume aluminium framed glass link connects the original and addition. A plantroom is located centrally on the northern façade. The exterior features raw concrete columns in-filled with clear anodised aluminium windows and face brickwork. Folded metal parapet and wide sheeted boxed eave completes the roof. The plant room is constructed of white bricks. The interior includes carpet tiles to the first two levels, vinyl sheeting to the upper level with suspended ceilings throughout and painted plasterboard walls with polychromatic brickwork to the northern and southern ends.

Building 36 is a square inverted pyramid rising on three courses over a pond. This building is connected to the Research School of Chemistry via a glazed foyer which the pond continues through. The downpipes discharge directly into the pond. Internally the floor steps down towards the lecture podium. Access to perimeter rooms is internal. The lower three courses are exposed concrete. The upper main course has precast concrete 'fins' finished in carmiculite with clear anodised aluminium windows. The downpipes are copper. The interior includes carpet flooring, painted block work with exposed aggregate concrete waffle slab. Vinyl seats address the podium.

Landscape

The surrounding landscape is mainly a mixture of concreted pathways and grassed areas. There are planted beds which run along the edges of some buildings with a mix of native and exotic species. There are some mature and semi mature trees providing shade. Artworks on the site include; 'Six Fixed' by Angela Duffy, 2004 and 'Untitled' by Lenton Parr, 1962.

Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

Statement of Significance

The Chemistry Building (33) and the RSC Buildings (34, 35, and 36) were constructed during a major period of development for the ANU. They were designed by Eggleston, MacDonald and Secomb, who were major contributors to the buildings on campus during the 1960s and 1970s in the implementation of Denis Winston's Precinct Plan for the ANU.

Criteria	Assessment
(a) Historic The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.	The Chemistry Building (33) and the RSC Buildings (34, 35, and 36) were constructed during a major period of development for the ANU. They were designed by Eggleston, MacDonald and Secomb, who were major contributors to the buildings on campus during the 1960s and 1970s in the implementation of Denis Winston's Precinct Plan for the ANU. The buildings form a complete group for the study of Chemistry at the University, with the newer buildings being flawlessly integrated into the group with recessive and sympathetic design. The RSC Buildings and Chemistry Building meet CHL criterion (a) for historic values. Attributes The group of buildings, their associations with architects Eggleston, Macdonald and Secomb and their role as part of Denis Winston's Precinct Plan for the ANU.
(b) Rarity The place has significant heritage values because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.	The RSC Buildings and Chemistry Building do not meet CHL criterion (b) for rarity values.

Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria	
(c) Scientific The place has significant heritage value because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history.	The RSC Buildings and Chemistry Building do not meet CHL criterion (c) for scientific values.
(d) Representative The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of: A class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or A class of Australia's natural or cultural environments.	The RSC Buildings and Chemistry Building do not meet CHL criterion (d) for representative values.
(e) Aesthetic The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.	At this stage, The RSC Buildings and Chemistry Building do not meet this part of the criterion because the aesthetic value has not been formally tested by the community or cultural group. The RSC Buildings and Chemistry Building do not meet CHL criterion (d) for representative values.
(f) Creative/Technical The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.	The RSC Buildings and Chemistry Building do not meet CHL criterion (d) for representative values.

Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria	
(g) Social The place has significant heritage value because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.	At this stage the social value of the RSC Buildings and Chemistry Building has not been formally tested by the community or cultural group and therefore does not meet this criterion. The RSC Buildings and Chemistry Building do not meet CHL criterion (g) for social values.
(h) Associative The place has significant heritage value because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural and cultural history.	The RSC Buildings and Chemistry Building do not meet CHL criterion (h) for associative values.
(i) Indigenous The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition.	The RSC Buildings and Chemistry Building do not meet CHL criterion (i) for Indigenous values.

Photographs

Figure 5: View of the Chemistry Building near completion April 1962. (Source: ANU Archives)

Figure 6: View of the newly completed Chemistry Building with artwork by Lenton Parr, 1962. (Source: ANU Archives)

Figure 7: View of the RSC Lecture Theatre (36) including pond and water feature. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2006)

Figure 8: View of the link between Buildings 34 and 33. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2006)

Figure 9: View of the David Craig Building. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2011)

Figure 10: Main entry to the Research School of Chemistry. (Source: http://lostoncampus.com.au/img/poi/l/research-school-of-chemistry-25202.jpg)

Management Issues

Constraints and Opportunities

Constraints arise from the identified heritage values of the RSC Buildings and the Chemistry Building and the requirement under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwth)* (EPBC Act) to conserve them. The significant fabric of the Research School of Chemistry (RSC) & Chemistry Building, as indicated in the attributes above, should be conserved wherever possible.

The RSC Buildings and Chemistry Building as a group are of moderate heritage value and meet the EPBC Commonwealth Heritage criteria a) historic. Elements are of moderate heritage value and make a contribution to the overall heritage significance of ANU Acton campus and should be retained and conserved. They require care in their management and can generally tolerate a moderate level of change and adaptive reuse, especially in the interior of the buildings. Loss or unsympathetic alteration could diminish the Commonwealth Heritage or local heritage values of the ANU Acton campus.

The Tolerance for Change heritage management tool, outlined in Section 7.6 of the ANU Action Campus Heritage Study 2012, will assist in conserving heritage values through a process of change. The RSC Buildings and Chemistry Building is able to tolerate a moderate level of change through development whereby the historic, creative/technical and associative attributes and characteristics are conserved and interpreted.

Opportunities arise from the identified heritage values of the RSC Buildings and Chemistry Building. The history of the RSC Buildings and Chemistry Building should be interpreted to maintain the historic values of significant attributes identified in the assessments above. A greater degree of change may be tolerated if interpretation is of a very high quality and considered in any future development, which presents the identified heritage values for the future.

Recommendations

If development resulting in loss of significant fabric is proposed, interpretation and a heritage impact assessment would be a prerequisite according to EPBC Act requirements.

Photographic recording for the ANU archives should be undertaken prior to any potential loss of significant fabric, buildings or landscaping in any future development of the RSC Buildings and Chemistry Building.

A formal assessment of the aesthetic and social values of the building should be carried out.