

Australian National University

Acton Campus — Site Inventory



Study Item/ Area	Bruce Hall
Acton Campus Precinct	DICKSON Precinct
Building Nos. & Names	40 (Bruce Hall: Amenities Block, A-D Wings), 40A (Bruce Hall – Packard Wing), 49A (2 Clunies Ross Road), 49C (4 Clunies Ross Road)

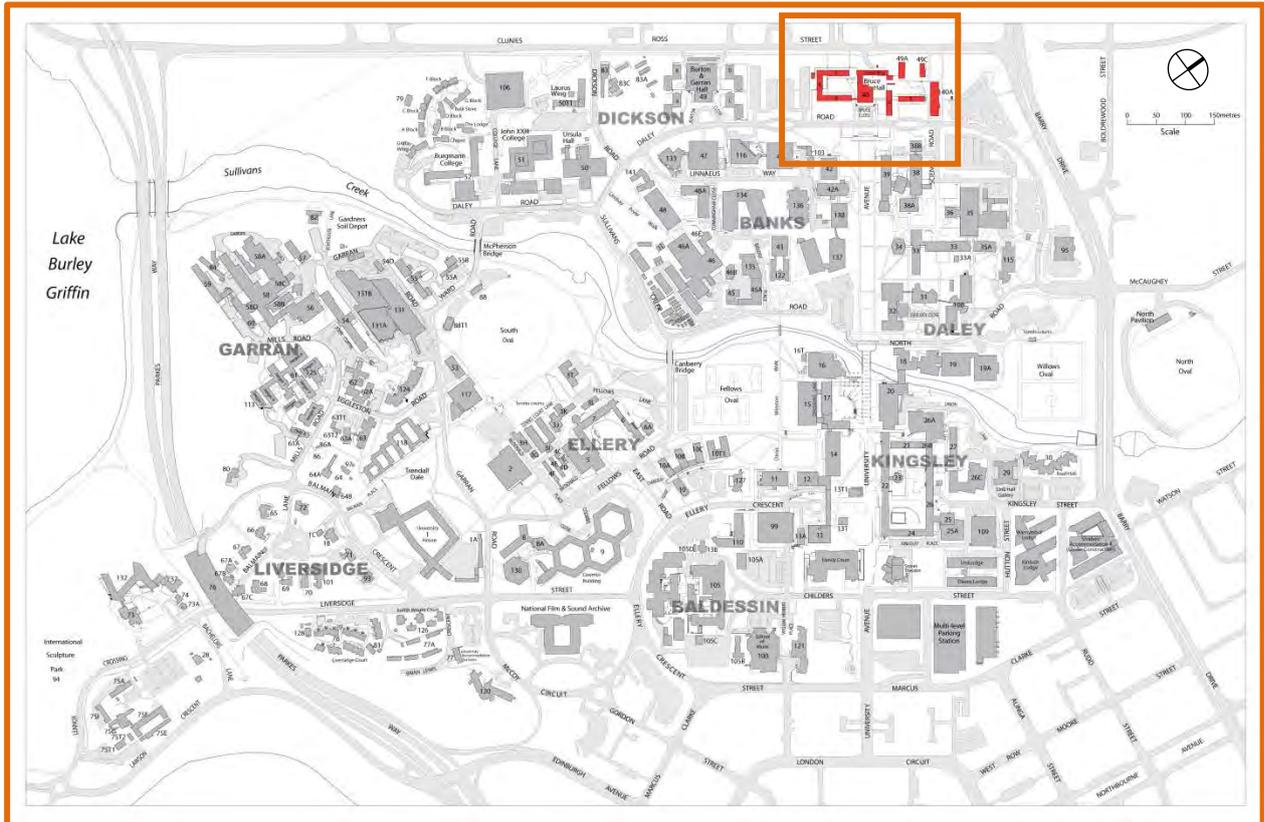


Figure 1: Location of study area within the ANU Acton Campus site.

Heritage Ranking	<p>Bruce Hall—High—Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List</p> <p>Packard Wing—Neutral—Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List</p> <p>2 Clunies Ross Rd—Neutral—Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List</p> <p>4 Clunies Ross Rd—Neutral—Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List</p>
Heritage Listing	Bruce Hall is not individually listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL).
Condition—Date	The condition noted here is at March 2012. The buildings of Bruce Hall continue to be well maintained for student accommodation and are in good condition.
Relevant Documentation	There is currently no relevant documentation for Bruce Hall.

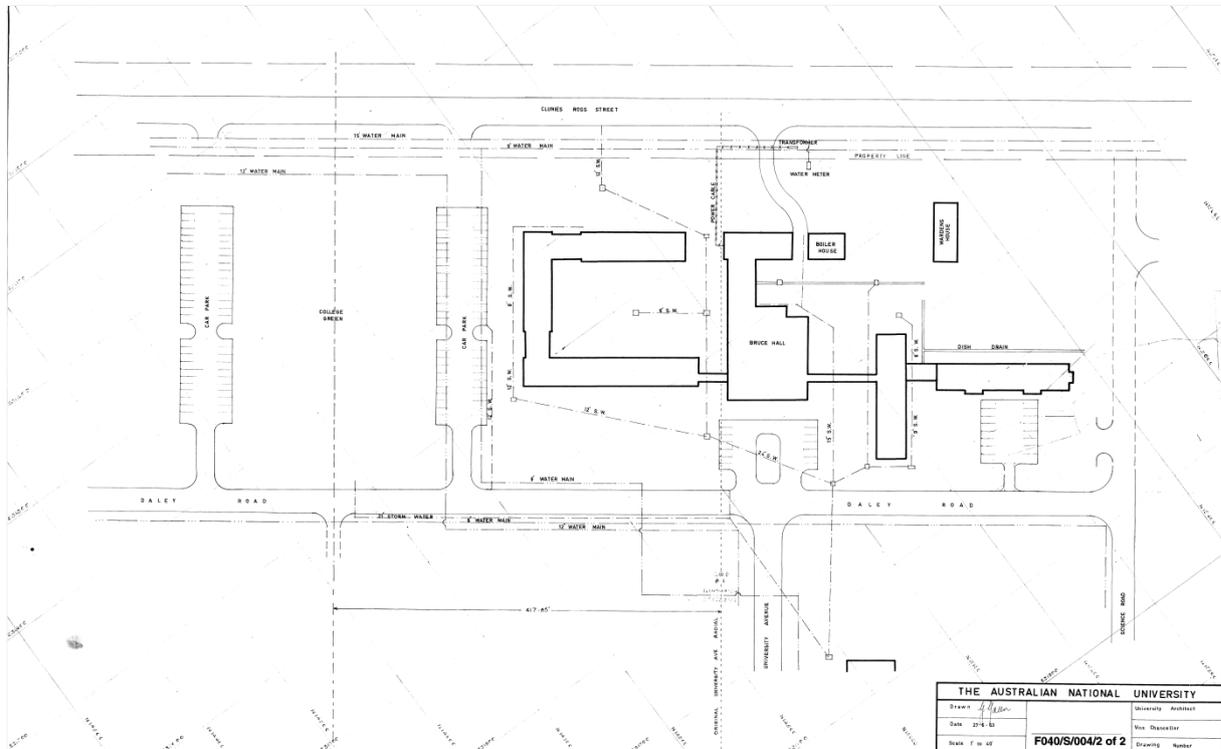


Figure 4: Site plan for Bruce Hall, including car parks along Daley Road. Drawn by the University Architect on June 26 1963. (Source: ANU Drawing Office)

Description of Bruce Hall

Buildings

A series of simple rectangular residential building organised around a central communal hall. This complex is on the periphery of the campus with the hall entrance terminating University Avenue. The buildings are joined at ground level with a series of walkways, some enclosed to form common work spaces. Cantilevered concrete balconies with metal balustrades are shared between room pairs. All buildings have a central pedestrian axis running the length of the buildings with rooms either side.

The central hall has painted concrete portal frames in filled with face brickwork, timber parquet floors and slated ceilings. The residences have matching face brickwork with carpet tiles and plasterboard ceilings. Painted render to rooms.

The exterior is constructed of mottled brown faced bricks with clear anodised double hung windows. The roof is gabled with metal tray roofing materials, concealed gutters and galvanised downpipes.

Landscape

The landscape is mixed with a high ratio of exotic to native plantings. It includes grassed quadrangles between residential halls.

Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

Statement of Significance

Criteria	Assessment
<p>(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.</p>	<p>Bruce Hall is historically significant as the oldest of all the residences on the ANU Campus, celebrating 50 years of continuous operation in 2011. Bruce Hall was constructed to accommodate undergraduate students of the Canberra University College (CUC), a predecessor to the ANU.</p> <p>Bruce Hall was designed by Bunning and Madden, a prominent architectural firm who heavily influenced the architectural styling of the early buildings at the ANU including the Chifley Library and elsewhere including the design of the National Library of Australia. Bruce Hall was constructed by AV Jennings, one of Australia's most well-known and longest standing construction companies, with over 90 years' experience. AV Jennings constructed several buildings on the campus.</p> <p>Bruce Hall is named after Stanley Melbourne Bruce (1883-1967), the eighth Prime Minister of Australia, who was highly influential in the development of Canberra.</p> <p>Attributes</p> <p>The age and history of Bruce Hall, associations with its designers and builders and its namesake.</p>
<p>(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.</p>	<p>Bruce Hall does not meet criterion (b) for rarity values.</p>
<p>(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.</p>	<p>Bruce Hall does not meet criterion (c) for scientific values.</p>

Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

<p>(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.</p>	<p>Bruce Hall does not meet criterion (d) for representative values.</p>
<p>(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.</p>	<p>Bruce Hall does not meet criterion (e) for aesthetic values.</p>
<p>(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.</p>	<p>Bruce Hall does not meet criterion (f) for creative/technical values.</p>
<p>(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.</p>	<p>Bruce Hall does not meet criterion (g) for social values.</p>

Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

<p>(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.</p>	<p>Bruce Hall does not meet criterion (h) for associative values.</p>
<p>(i) Indigenous The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition.</p>	<p>Bruce Hall does not meet criterion (i) for Indigenous values.</p>

Photographs



Figure 5: View of the main entrance to Bruce Hall. (Source: <http://accom.anu.edu.au/Bruce/g3/89.html>)



Figure 6: View of Bruce Hall grassed courtyard with bedded gardens and mature trees. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)

Photographs

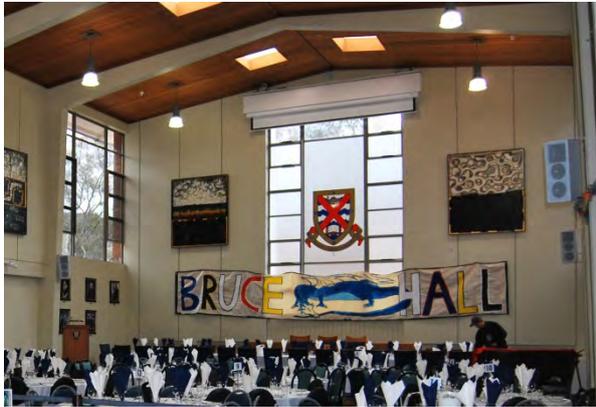


Figure 7: View of the stained glass window in the dining hall. Includes the Hall's Coat of Arms and motto (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)



Figure 8: View of main foyer including Accommodations Office. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)



Figure 9: View of the Bruce Hall Buttery with frosted feature window. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)



Figure 10: View of the sculpture *Untitled* by Bert Flugelman. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)

Management Issues

Constraints and Opportunities

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

Bruce Hall (40) is of high heritage value and meets the EPBC Commonwealth Heritage criteria a) historic. Elements of 'high' heritage value embody Commonwealth Heritage values in their own right and make a significant contribution to the values of the Acton Campus as a whole. Elements of high heritage value should be retained and conserved. They require a high level of care in their management and the tolerance for change is generally low or able to tolerate some change and adaptive reuse. Loss or unsympathetic alteration would diminish the Commonwealth Heritage values of an individual element and the campus as a whole.

The **Tolerance for Change** heritage management tool, outlined in Section 7.6 of the ANU Acton Campus Heritage Study 2012, will assist in conserving heritage values through a process of change. Bruce Hall is able to tolerate some level of change through development whereby the historic attributes and characteristics are conserved and interpreted. The interior of Bruce Hall is able to tolerate moderate change.

Opportunities arise from the identified heritage values of Bruce Hall. The history of Bruce Hall 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

Bruce Hall should be nominated to the CHL and a Heritage Management Plan prepared to guide the best practice conservation and management of the site.

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 Bruce Hall

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