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 | Bruce Hall—High—Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List
|---|---
| | Packard Wing—Neutral—Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List
| | 2 Clunies Ross Rd—Neutral—Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List
| | 4 Clunies Ross Rd—Neutral—Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List

| 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.
Context of the Buildings

Figure 2: Bruce Hall in the context of the Banks and Daley precincts and Clunies Ross Road.

Figure 3: Bruce Hall in relation to Burton & Garran Hall to the south.

Brief Historical Overview

Bruce Hall is the oldest residential Hall at the Australian National University and celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 2011. The Hall was designed by W Bunning of Bunning and Madden Architects and construction was completed by AV Jennings in 1961. It was named after Stanley Melbourne Bruce, Prime Minister of Australia from 1923 to 1929. Bruce was a Victorian businessman, lawyer and conservative politician. He is the only Australian-born person to be made a Member of the House of Lords, and he served as the first Chancellor of the Australian National University from 1951 to 1961. The hall was commissioned by the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) on behalf of the Canberra University College (CUC) to accommodate undergraduate students. It was the first to house both men and women, which was a very liberal concept for the time.

Demand for accommodation led to the construction of stage two in 1964 and stage three in 1971 as extensions to the original Bruce Hall. These were designed by Cordukeo and W Bunning respectively and constructed by AV Jennings. This also included the purchase of the Schreinerhof – a large motel type building now known as Bruce Hall annexe.

In 2003 another extension was added. Designed by Cox Humphries Moss and built by Integrated Construction Management Services, it provides self-catered accommodation for later year students and most of Bruce Hall’s postgraduate students. The Packard Wing was opened in 2004, and these studios are in very high demand with few vacancies at any time of the year.

During the constructions an artwork was commissioned for the site by artist Bert Flugelman, and in 1966-1967 the work officially called Untitled was installed at the front of the first stage building of the Hall. It is more commonly and affectionately known as the ‘Eggbeaters’ and is now a part of the ANU Sculpture Walk.

Bruce Hall has its own charter and coat of arms and an important symbol for the Hall is Uroboros, an image of a dragon devouring its own tail which represents a being containing all life and knowledge.
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 parquetry 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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</table>
| (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. | 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. 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. 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. Attributes: The age and history of Bruce Hall, associations with its designers and builders and its namesake. |
| (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. | Bruce Hall does not meet criterion (b) for rarity values. |
| (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. | Bruce Hall does not meet criterion (c) for scientific values. |
**Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>(d) Representative</strong></th>
<th>Bruce Hall does not meet criterion (d) for representative values.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<th><strong>(e) Aesthetic</strong></th>
<th>Bruce Hall does not meet criterion (e) for aesthetic values.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The place has significant heritage value because of the place’s importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>(f) Creative/Technical</strong></th>
<th>Bruce Hall does not meet criterion (f) for creative/technical values.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>(g) Social</strong></th>
<th>Bruce Hall does not meet criterion (g) for social values.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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</table>
Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

(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.

Bruce Hall does not meet criterion (h) for associative values.

(i) Indigenous
The place has significant heritage value because of the place’s importance as part of Indigenous tradition.

Bruce Hall does not meet criterion (i) for Indigenous values.

Photographs

Figure 5: View of the main entrance to Bruce Hall. (Source: http://accom.anu.edu.au/Brucelg3/89.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 Action 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.