

Australian National University

Acton Campus — Site Inventory

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Heritage Consultants

Study Item/ Area	WK Hancock Building (West Wing, Life Sciences Building) and WK Hancock Building (East Wing)
Acton Campus Precinct	BANKS Precinct
Building Nos. & Names	43 (West Wing), 122 (East Wing)

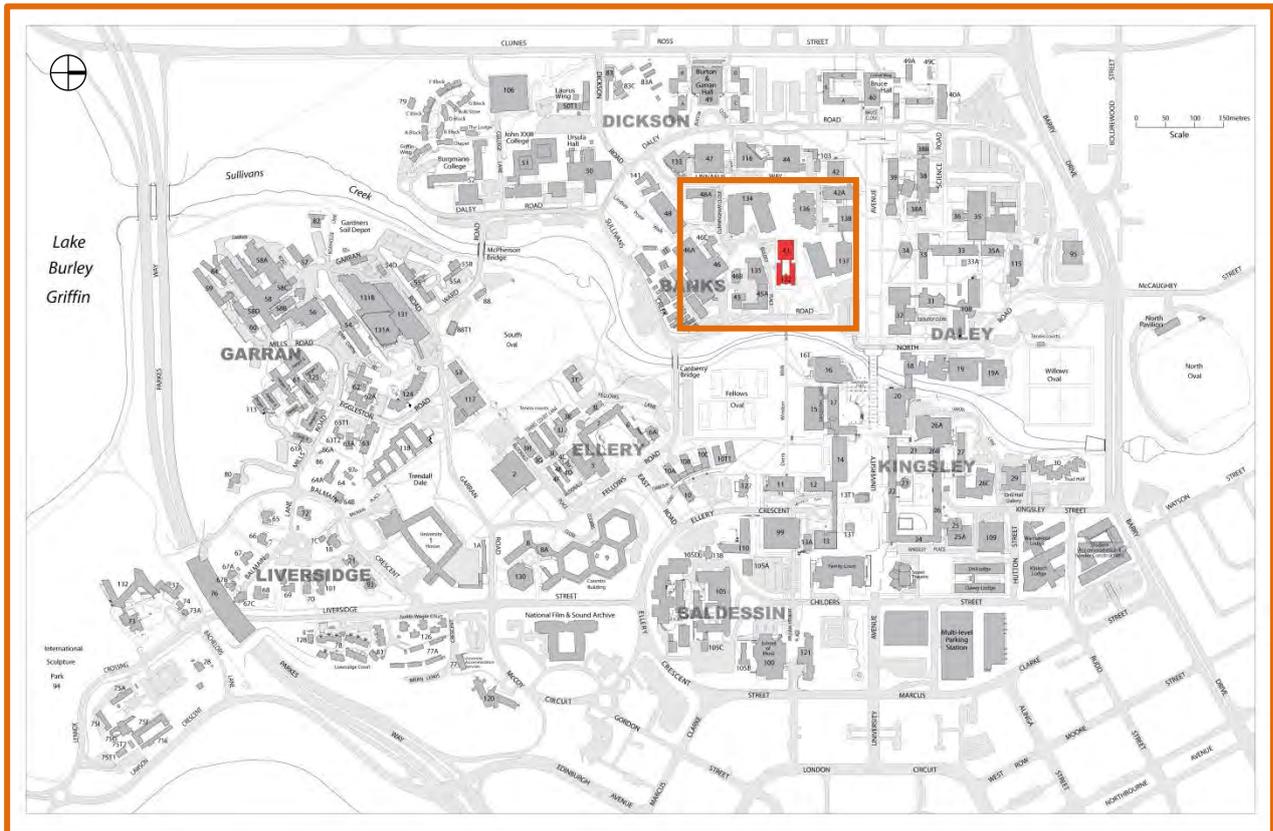


Figure 1: Location of study area within the ANU Acton Campus site.

Heritage Ranking	WK Hancock Building (43)— Low —Does not meet Criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List WK Hancock Building (122)— Neutral —Does not meet Criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List
Heritage Listing	The Hancock Library and Life Sciences Building are not individually listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL).
Condition—Date	The condition noted here is at March 2012. The extant buildings and trees in the Hancock Library and Life Sciences Building area continue to be well maintained for student study and research and are in excellent condition.
Relevant Documentation	There is currently no relevant documentation regarding the Hancock Library and Life Sciences Building.

Context of the Buildings

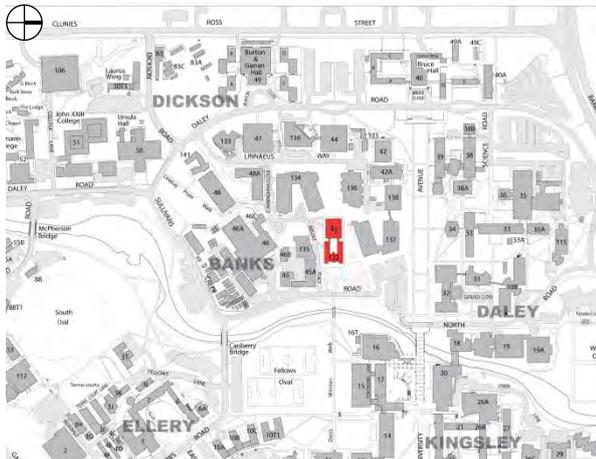


Figure 2: The Hancock Library and Life Sciences Building in the Context of the Banks Precinct.

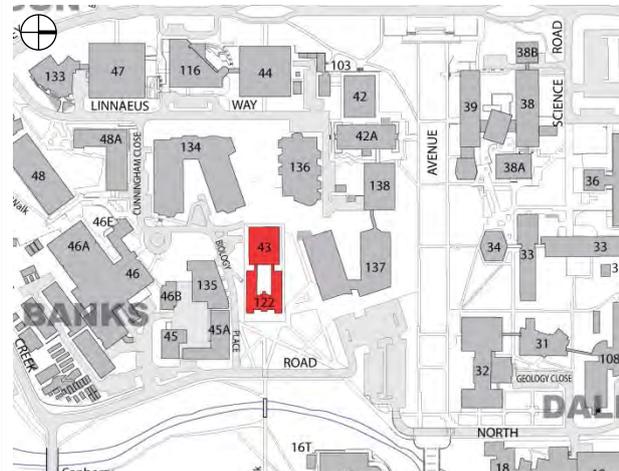


Figure 3: The Hancock Library and Life Sciences Building in relation to University Avenue and Sullivans Creek.

Brief Historical Overview

The Life Sciences Building (WK Hancock West Wing) (43) was designed by TE O'Mahoney, Neville & Morgan in 1973 and constructed by Citra Construction in 1975. It was built to accommodate the Life Sciences Library and the Centre for Resource and Environmental Science (CRES). The CRES was founded in 1973 with Frank Fenner as its Director. Designed as a multi-disciplinary institution to carry out research and training to ensure the natural resources of Australia are husbanded, developed and conserved.

In 1982 the building was renamed the JG Crawford Building and in 1985 GE Shaw conducted extensions to the basement. In 1986 it was renamed the WK Hancock Building. Hancock was the first director of the Research School of Social Sciences (RSSS) and was the founding Chair of History in 1957. In 1995 the 5th floor extension was completed by Huckstepp Pty Ltd from a design by Collard, Clarke & Jackson.

In 1999 the east wing was designed by May and Russell Architects, and constructed by Project Coordination. This extension was officially opened by Emeritus Professor Peter Baume on April 6 2001.

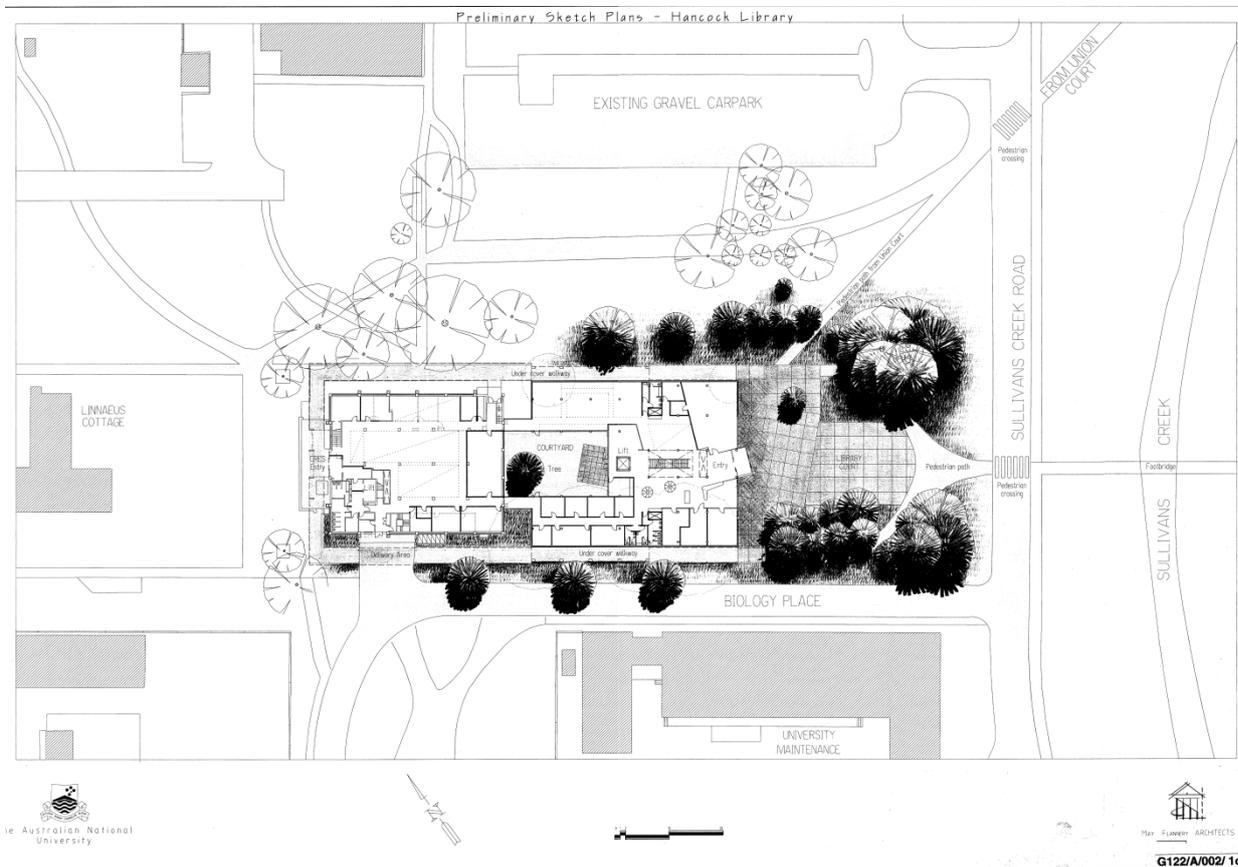


Figure 4: Preliminary sketch plans of the Hancock library extension (East Wing), drawn circa 1998, including landscaping plans.

Description of the Hancock Library and the Life Sciences Building

Buildings

Internally, both buildings have been renovated to provide optimum learning space for students, leaving little of the original interior of the older building extant. Both have suspended panelled ceilings with a mix of carpet tiling and parquet flooring. The walls are painted plasterboard with a range of artworks and 'feature walls' in strong colours. The balustrades are toughened glass panels with either metal or wooden hand rails.

Externally the buildings are constructed of a mix of painted and raw brickwork. Windows are coated metal frames with a range of opening styles. Part of the exterior is clad in metal sheeting. The connection of the two buildings is well integrated.

The site houses two artworks of note – *Untitled- integrated artwork*, by Jan Aspinall commissioned in 2000 and *Ingress egress* 1999, by Hezzie Carleton. Both are included on the ANU Sculpture Walk.

Landscape: The landscape includes two mature pre-University eucalypts on the eastern end of the site with native grasses surrounds. Other plantings are chiefly exotic species. The major pedestrian areas are pebblecreted with grassed areas on the outer courtyard. At the time of condition assessment there are building works to the north and west of the site.

Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

Statement of Significance

N/A

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>	The Hancock Library Buildings do not meet CHL criterion (a) for historic values.
<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>	The Hancock Library Buildings do not meet CHL criterion (b) for rarity values.
<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>	The Hancock Library Buildings do not meet CHL criterion (c) for scientific values.
<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>	The Hancock Library Buildings do not meet CHL criterion (d) for representative values.

Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

<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>The Hancock Library Buildings do not meet CHL 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>The Hancock Library Buildings do not meet CHL 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>The Hancock Library Buildings do not meet CHL criterion (g) for social values.</p>
<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>The Hancock Library Buildings do not meet CHL criterion (h) for associate values.</p>
<p>(i) Indigenous The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition.</p>	<p>The Hancock Library Buildings do not meet CHL criterion (i) for Indigenous values.</p>

Photographs



Figure 5: View of front entrance and landscaping of Hancock Library. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)



Figure 6: Detailed view of the main entrance of the Hancock Library (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)



Figure 7: View of western entrance (now defunct) of the Hancock Library. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)

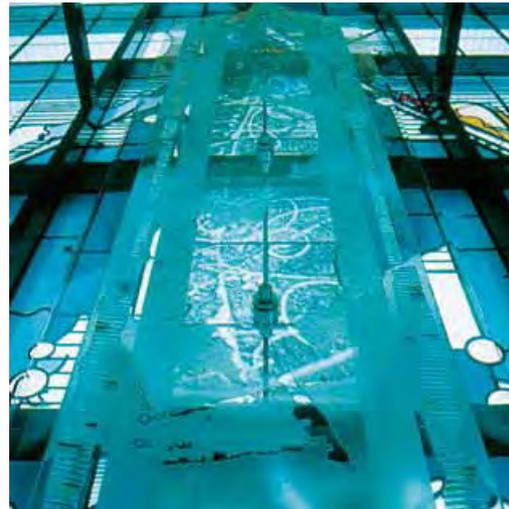


Figure 8: *Untitled — integrated artwork 2000*, by artist Jan Aspinall, sited in the WK Hancock Building, best viewed from inside. (Source: http://facilities.anu.edu.au/files/3442_Sculpture-Walk-Booklet.pdf)

Management Issues

Constraints and Opportunities

As West Wing is of low significance and the East Wing is of neutral significance, no **constraints** are noted.

The West Wing is ranked as being of 'Low' significance as it contributes to the overall significance/values of the ANU Acton campus, however it does not fulfil criteria for heritage listing on its own merit.

The East Wing is ranked as being of 'Neutral' significance as it does not embody, reflect or demonstrate Commonwealth or National Heritage values. The Transportable does not make any contribution to the site nor does it detract from the overall heritage values of the ANU Acton campus.

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. The Hancock Library Buildings are able to tolerate a substantial amount of change through development. Removal of these elements is not necessary unless it allows for heritage values of the campus to be regained, reinforced or conserved.

As the West Wing is of low significance and the East Wing is of neutral significance, no **opportunities** are noted.

Recommendations

Photographic recording for the ANU archives should be undertaken prior to substantial change to buildings or landscaping in any future development.
