John Yencken Building & (old) University Maintenance

Acton Campus — Site Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Item/ Area</th>
<th>John Yencken Building, (Old) University Maintenance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acton Campus Precinct</td>
<td>BANKS Precinct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Nos. &amp; Names</td>
<td>45 (John Yencken Building), 45A (Hindmarsh Construction Site Office)</td>
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Figure 1: Location of study area within the ANU Acton Campus site.

Heritage Ranking

John Yencken Building—Low—Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List
Old University Maintenance Building—Low—Does not meet the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List

Heritage Listing

The John Yencken Building and the (Old) University Maintenance 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 John Yencken Building and (Old) University Maintenance Building areas continue to be well maintained for office accommodation and are in good condition.

Part of the University Maintenance Building has been demolished to allow for the development of the Sciences Buildings in the Banks precinct.

Relevant Documentation

There is currently no relevant documentation for the John Yencken Building and the (Old) University Maintenance Building.
**Context of the Buildings**

*Figure 2:* The John Yencken Buildings in the context of the Banks Precinct.

*Figure 3:* The John Yencken buildings in relation to Biology Place and Sullivans Creek Road.

**Brief Historical Overview**

The two buildings were designed by Eggleston, MacDonald and Secomb and built by Datch Australian Contracting in 1963, with the final stage completed in 1964. The John Yencken Building was designed originally as a boiler house to supply hot water to various buildings on the campus and works were carried out to carry these supplies to the Departments of Forestry, Botany and the halls of residence. This use continued until 1981, when the boilers were taken out of service. In 1988 the buildings were converted into office space for the Buildings and Grounds Division. This included the installation of a sculpture by Canberra artist Mary Kayser entitled *Chrysalis*. These alterations were designed by Anthony Cooper and Associates and carried out by GA Anderson and Sons. 1992 saw another major refurbishment, though it is not known who carried this out.

In 2008 the Drawing Office of Facilities and Services Division (formerly Buildings and Grounds) moved to the Innovations Building (144). The John Yencken Building currently houses the ANU Security Lost & Found Office, ANU Security and the Parking Administration Office. Building 45A, the (Old) University Maintenance Building was stripped in 2010 as a part of the Colleges of Science Development to the west. The western end of the building was demolished, while the eastern end has been converted into the site offices for Hindmarsh Constructions, the company overseeing the Colleges of Science developments.
Figure 4: Ground floor plan for the 1987-88 fitout of Boiler House No. 2 (Building 42) for use by the Facilities and Services Division, drawn by Anthony Cooper and Associates (Conforms closely to the current layout).

**Description of the John Yencken Building and (old) University Maintenance Building**

**Buildings**

Building 42 consists of a rectangular face-block building with gable roof. The building is oriented north with an eastern entrance portico. The pre-coated ‘pink’ metal facias and bargeboards are a major feature of the building. Internally, the building features painted plasterboard with suspended ceilings and carpet tiles. The exterior is constructed of face concrete blocks, aluminium awning windows and metal roofing.

**Landscape**

The landscape surrounding these buildings includes garden beds with semi mature native trees in a range of species. The grounds are predominantly concrete and asphalt for parking and heavy vehicle traffic.
### Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

#### Statement of Significance

N/A

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<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>(a) Historic</strong>&lt;br&gt;The place has significant heritage value because of the place’s importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia’s natural or cultural history.</td>
<td>The John Yencken Building and (old) University Maintenance Building do not meet CHL criterion (a) for historic values.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(b) Rarity</strong>&lt;br&gt;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.</td>
<td>The John Yencken Building and (old) University Maintenance do not meet CHL criterion (b) for rarity values.</td>
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<td><strong>(c) Scientific</strong>&lt;br&gt;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.</td>
<td>The John Yencken Building and (old) University Maintenance do not meet CHL criterion (c) for scientific values.</td>
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<td><strong>(d) Representative</strong>&lt;br&gt;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>
<td>The John Yencken Building and (old) University Maintenance do not meet CHL criterion (d) for representative values.</td>
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### Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

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<td><strong>(e) Aesthetic</strong></td>
<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>
<td>The John Yencken Building and (old) University Maintenance do not meet CHL criterion (e) for aesthetic values.</td>
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<td><strong>(f) Creative/Technical</strong></td>
<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>
<td>The John Yencken Building and (old) University Maintenance do not meet CHL criterion (f) for creative/technical values.</td>
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<td><strong>(g) Social</strong></td>
<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>
<td>The John Yencken Building and (old) University Maintenance do not meet CHL criterion (g) for social values.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>(h) Associative</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>The John Yencken Building and (old) University Maintenance do not meet CHL criterion (h) for associative values.</td>
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Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

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

The John Yencken Building and (old) University Maintenance do not meet CHL criterion (i) for Indigenous values.

Photographs

Figure 5: Rear view of The John Yencken Building (45) demonstrating the distinctive pre-coated ‘pink’ metal fascias and bargeboards. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2010)

Figure 6: Eastern entrance view of the John Yencken Building (45) including the sculpture Chrysalis by artist Mary Kayser. (Source: http://facilities.anu.edu.au/?pid=71)

Figure 7: Rear view of the (Old) University Maintenance Building (45A), including the since demolished western end of the building. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2010)

Figure 8: Maintenance Building delivery yard. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2010)
Management Issues

Constraints and Opportunities

As the buildings are low significance, no constraints are noted.

The buildings are ranked as being of ‘Low’ significance as they contribute to the overall significance/values of the ANU Acton campus, however they do not fulfill criteria for heritage listing on their own merit.

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 buildings are able to tolerate a moderate 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 buildings are of low 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.