

Australian National University

Acton Campus — Site Inventory



Study Item/ Area	Ursula Hall, Laurus Wing
Acton Campus Precinct	DICKSON Precinct
Building Nos. & Names	50 (Ursula Hall), 50A (Laurus Wing)

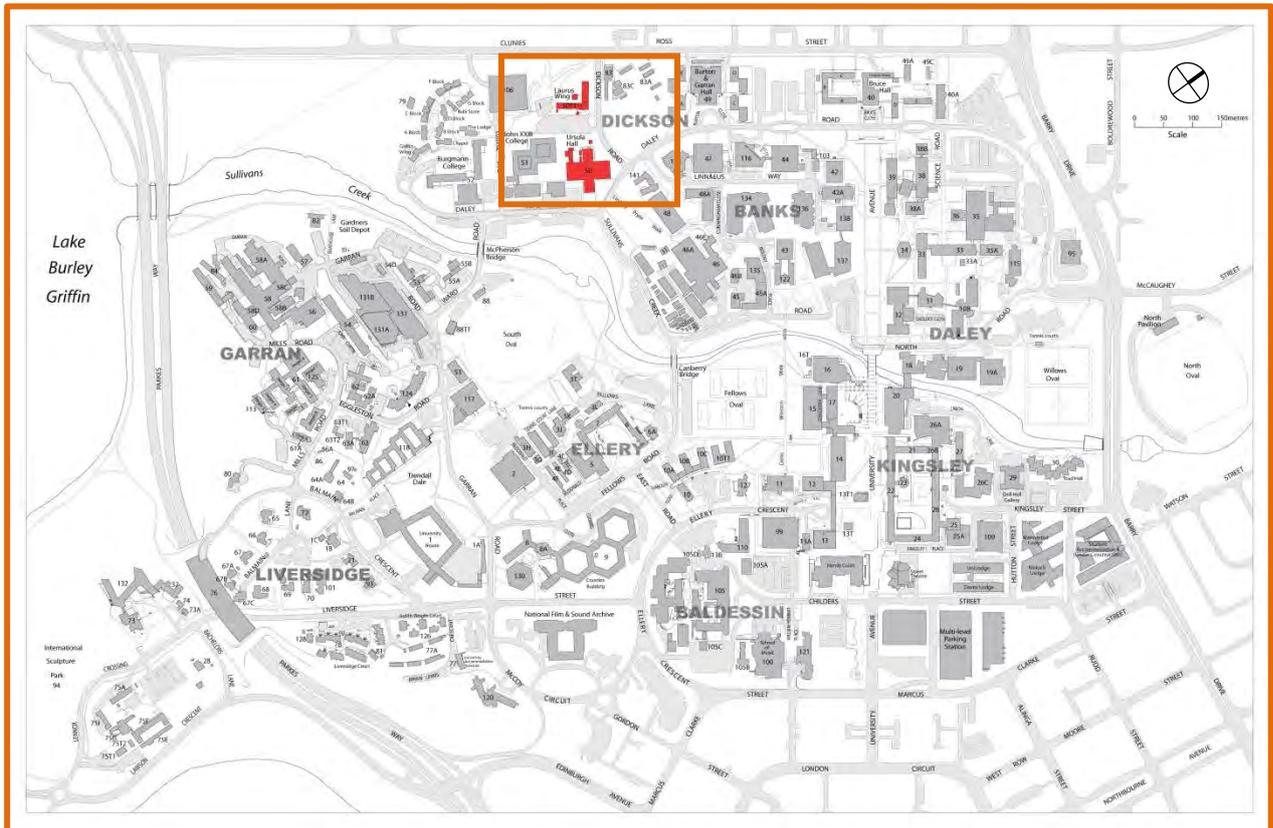


Figure 1: Location of study area within the ANU Acton Campus site.

Heritage Ranking	Ursula Hall— Moderate —Meets criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List Laurus Wing— Neutral —Does not meet criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List
Heritage Listing	Ursula College and the Laurus Wing are not individually listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL).
Condition—Date	The condition noted here is at February 2012. The extant buildings and trees of the Ursula College and the Laurus Wing area continue to be well maintained for student accommodation and are in good condition.
Relevant Documentation	There is currently no relevant documentation for Ursula College and the Laurus Wing.

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Context of the Buildings

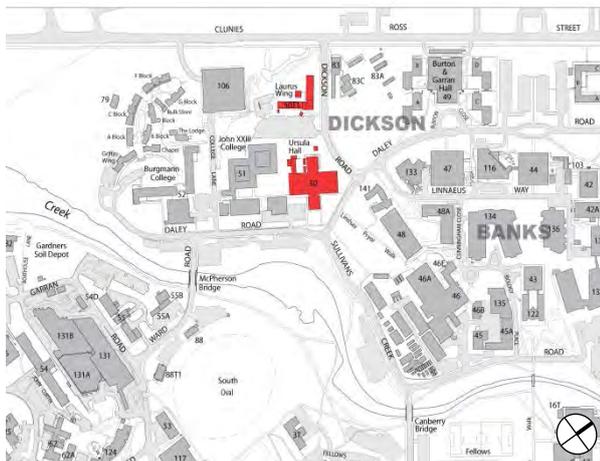


Figure 2: Ursula Hall and Laurus Wing in relation to the Dickson and Banks Precincts.

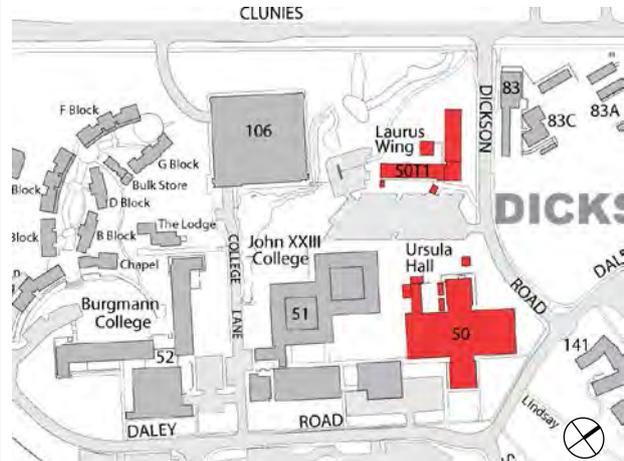


Figure 3: Ursula Hall and Laurus Wing in relation to John XXIII and Burgmann College.

Brief Historical Overview

Ursula Hall was founded by the Ursuline Order, an order of nuns within the Catholic Church, as a women's only residence for the ANU Campus. It was initially known as Ursula College as an affiliated College of both the ANU and John XXIII College. The College was opened in 1969 by the then Minister for Education and Sciences, the Honourable Malcolm Fraser, MP. In 1971 the College began a co-residential policy for students in conjunction with John XXIII College. In 2004 the College became known as Ursula Hall and is currently managed by the ANU.

In 2010 Ursula Hall began offering places for Postgraduate Students in the newly constructed Laurus Wing to the west of Ursula Hall. The Laurus Wing is believed to be a first in Australia – a residential facility whose construction is based on stacked shipping containers. The major benefit of this design is the comparatively short construction time. Containers are purpose built, including interior fit-out, in China, shipped to Australia, transported from port by road and installed on site. Construction of Stage one was completed within a six month period.

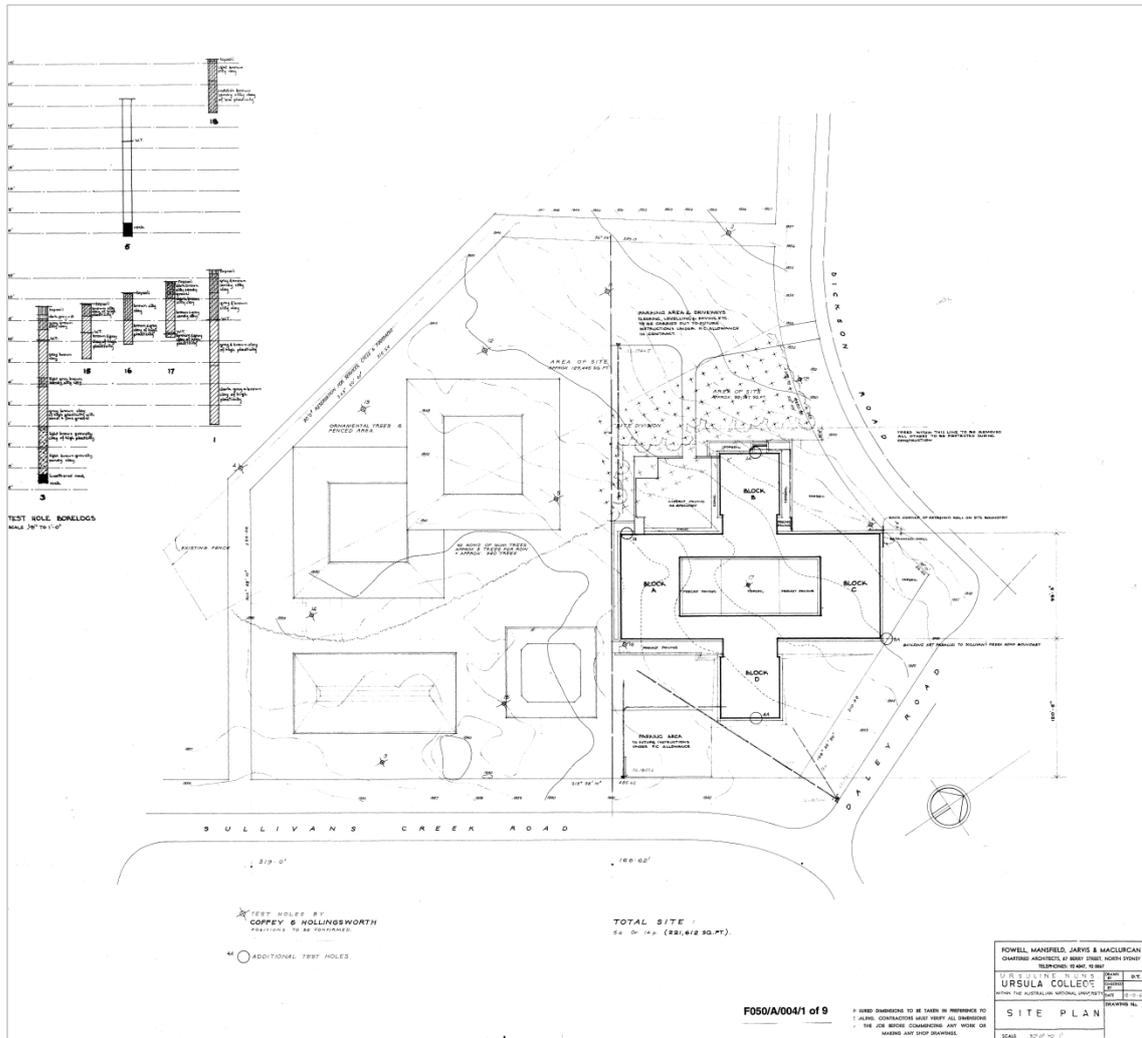


Figure 4: The site plan including relation of Ursula Hall to John XXIII College and St John the Evangelist Chapel. Plan drawn in 1968 by Fowell, Mansfield, Jarvis and Maclurcan Chartered Architects.

Description of the Ursula Hall & Laurus Wing

Buildings

Ursula Hall is a three storey brick and concrete construction with a flat metal covered roof and flashings. Windows are vertically aligned with single hung aluminium sashes opening vertically. The ground floor windows are fitted with metal security mesh screens. Upper walls are recessed from the main structural exterior of the building with steel frames supporting the roof structure.

Laurus Wing is a prefabricated construction of prefabricated shipping crate style studio and one bedroom units.

Landscape

The landscape of Ursula Hall is minimal with mainly grassed areas and established trees of both native and exotic species. The landscape around Laurus Wing is bedded with mainly native plantings and mature eucalypts between Laurus Wing and Ursula Hall.

Summary Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

Statement of Significance

Ursula College is significant as the the first women's only college on campus.

Criteria	Brief 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>Ursula Hall was founded by the Ursuline Order of nuns within the Catholic Church, as a women's only residence for the ANU Campus. It was initially known as Ursula College as an affiliated College of both the ANU and John XXIII College. This was the first women's only college on campus.</p> <p>In 1971 the College began a co-residential policy for students in conjunction with John XXIII College.</p> <p>Ursula Hall meets CHL criteria (a) for historic values.</p> <p>Attributes The building and its establishment as the first women's only college on campus.</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>Ursula Hall does not meet CHL criteria (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>Ursula Hall does not meet CHL criteria (c) for scientific values.</p>
<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>Ursula Hall does not meet CHL criteria (d) for representative values.</p>

Summary 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>Ursula Hall does not meet CHL criteria (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>Ursula Hall does not meet CHL criteria (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>Ursula Hall does not meet CHL criteria (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>Ursula Hall does not meet CHL criteria (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>Ursula Hall does not meet CHL criteria (i) for Indigenous values.</p>

Photographs



Figure 5: View of Ursula Hall from its internal courtyard. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)



Figure 6: The eastern external wall of Ursula Hall. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)



Figure 7: View of the front wall of the Laurus Wing. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)



Figure 8: View of the internal courtyard of Ursula Hall. (Source: <http://lostoncampus.com.au/3751>)

Management Issues

Constraints and Opportunities

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

The Ursula Hall is of moderate significance and meets the EPBC Commonwealth Heritage criteria a) historic. Elements 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 low degree of change or some change and adaptive reuse. 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 Acton Campus Heritage Study 2012, will assist in conserving heritage values through a process of change. The Ursula Hall Building is able to tolerate a moderate level of change through development whereby the historic, attributes and characteristics are conserved and interpreted. The Laurus Wing can tolerate substantial change.

Opportunities arise from the identified heritage values of the Ursula Hall. The history of the Ursula Hall should be interpreted to maintain the historic and associational 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.

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