

# Australian National University

Acton Campus — Site Inventory



Study Item/ Area	Old Hospital Buildings
Acton Campus Precinct	GARRAN Precinct
Building Nos. & Names	61A (Old Hospital Building/Jaeger), 62 (M Block), 62A (M Block Extension), 63 (N Block), 63A (N Block Extension), 63T1 (CMHR Transportable 1), 63T2 (CMHR Transportable 2), 64 (Gardeners Depot), 64A (Gardeners Cottage), 64B (University General Store), 86 (Tennis Court), 86A (Tennis Shed), 97 (PCB Store)

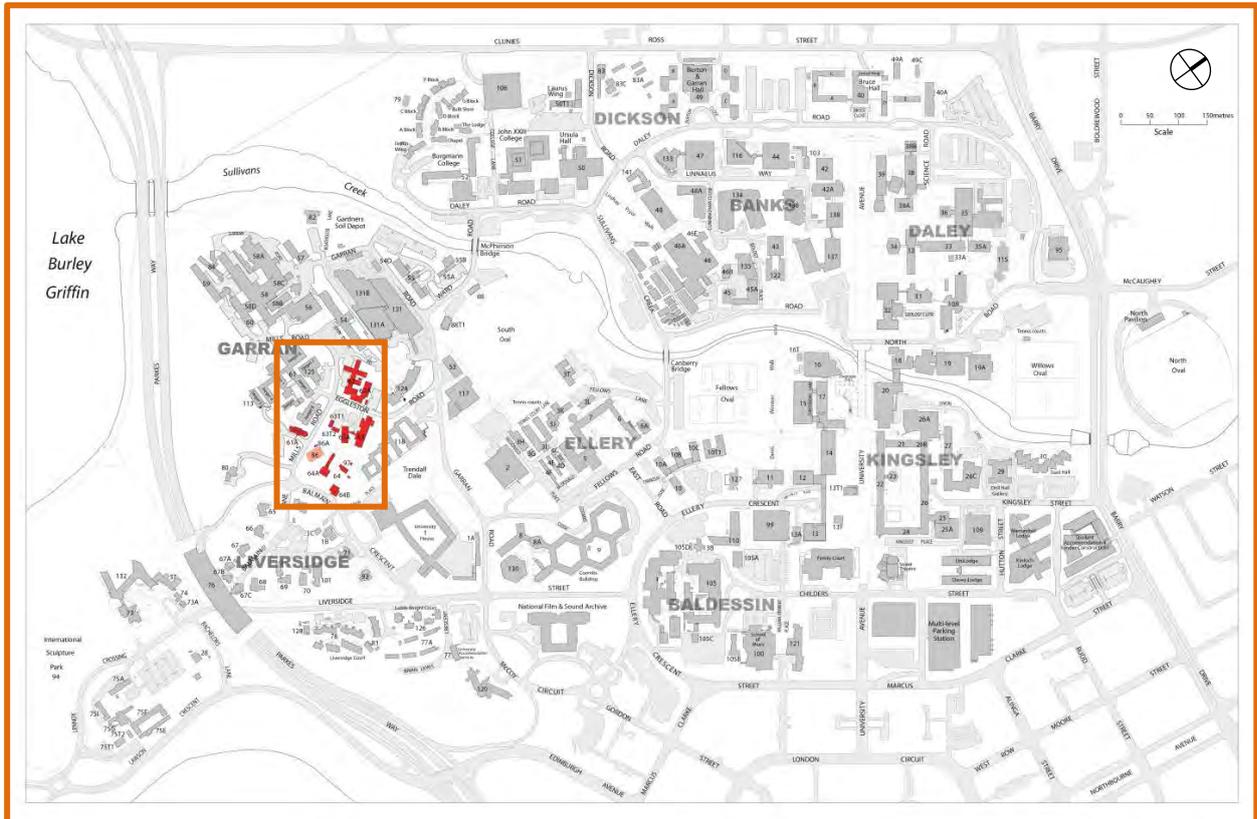
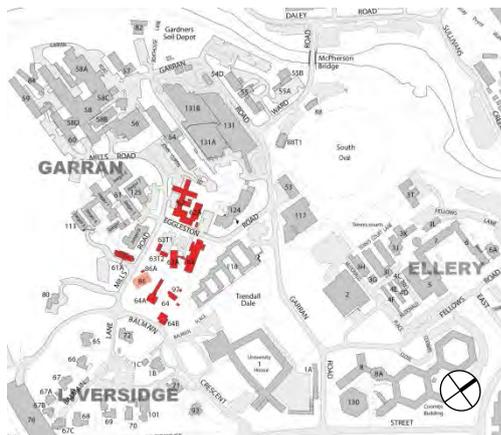


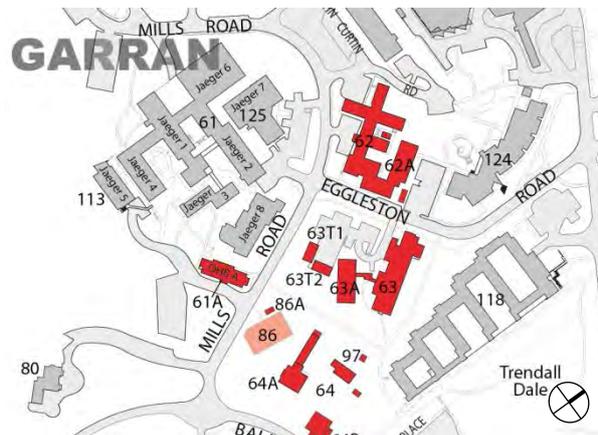
Figure 1: Location of study area within the ANU Acton Campus site.

Heritage Ranking	<p><b>Old Hospital Buildings Group—Exceptional—</b>Meets criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List</p> <p>Old Administration Building/Jaeger—<b>Exceptional—</b>Meets criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List</p> <p>M Block—<b>Exceptional—</b>Meets criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List</p> <p>M Block Extension—<b>Neutral—</b>Does not meet criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List</p> <p>N Block—<b>Exceptional—</b>Meets criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List</p> <p>N Block Extension—<b>Neutral—</b>Does not meet criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List</p> <p>CMHR Transportables (2)—<b>Neutral—</b> Does not meet criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List</p> <p>Gardeners Depot—<b>Exceptional—</b>Meets criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List</p> <p>Gardeners Cottage—<b>Exceptional—</b>Meets criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List</p> <p>University General Store—<b>Neutral—</b> Does not meet criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List</p> <p>Tennis Court, Tennis Shed—<b>Exceptional—</b>Meets criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List</p> <p>PCB Store— <b>Neutral—</b> Does not meet criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List</p>
Heritage Listing	The Old Hospital Buildings are listed as part of the Acton Conservation Area as part of the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL Place ID 105340).
Condition—Date	The condition noted here is at November 2011. The extant buildings and trees of the Old Hospital Building area continue to be well maintained for office and teaching accommodation and are in reasonable condition.
Relevant Documentation	<p>2009 Acton Conservation Area Management Plan has been prepared by the ANU Heritage Officer <a href="http://heritage.anu.edu.au/index.php?pid=64">http://heritage.anu.edu.au/index.php?pid=64</a>.</p> <p>1995 Heritage Study for the Old Hospital Buildings has been prepared by Richard J Ratcliffe of John Armes &amp; Associates.</p>

### Context of the Buildings



**Figure 2:** The Old Hospital Buildings and surrounding buildings, including the Jaeger complex to the south and Graduate House to the northeast.



**Figure 3:** The configuration of the Old Hospital Buildings and their extensions.

### Brief Historical Overview

The extant buildings of the Canberra Community Hospital or Old Hospital Buildings (OHBs) are situated in the northwest of the Acton Conservation Area. Remnant buildings include the Administration Block (A Block, 61A), the Nurses' Quarters (M Block, 62), the Isolation Ward (N Block, 63), the Animal House and Animal Laboratory (64 and 64A), the tennis court and Auxiliary Canteen (86 and 86A). The women's ward (B Block) was recently demolished to make way for the development of a new building (Jaeger 8) for the Research School of Earth Sciences.

The first medical facilities provided on the Acton Peninsula were constructed in 1914 and consisted of three buildings; an administration block consisting of outpatients, a consulting room and an examination room, dispensary area and quarters for a matron and two nurses, a second building provided a kitchen and pantry, with rooms for domestic staff; and a third building consisted of two four-bed wards, each with bathrooms and lavatory. The configuration of the buildings was similar to those of the Bachelor's Quarters (Lennox House Complex); with rectilinear weatherboard structures connected via a series of covered walkways and verandahs, with views to the floodplains below. An isolation area was later formed to the north of the complex containing a nurse's room, pantry, bathroom and lavatory, with patients accommodated in adjoining tents. All were handed over to the Canberra Community Hospital staff on 27 May 1914, with a brick operating theatre and laundry buildings added later. The hospital was only ever intended to serve as temporary quarters and minor alterations were carried out as needed over the following ten years.

Control of the Hospital was placed with the Federal Capital Commission (FCC) from September 1925. Rapid increases in the local populations generated plans for additional accommodation in the form of two new wards of twenty beds each for general admissions, with a twenty bed ward for emergency cases and an eight bed maternity ward. A new Administration Block was planned to consist of an outpatient department, X-ray, dispensary, store and quarters for the Resident Medical Officer. These temporary buildings were constructed of similar materials to the originals, being weatherboard clad to a light timber frame.

The majority of these buildings were completed in 1928 when the Commonwealth Department of Health moved from Melbourne to Canberra, which consisted of the Director General Dr Cumpston and 28 staff. The FCC prepared plans for a building with laboratories and an animal house nearby to undertake medical research on sheep and guinea pigs.

A 1934 inspection of the hospital buildings revealed inadequacies of the complex instigated talks of a new permanent hospital to be constructed on a more suitable site. A Women's Hospital Auxiliary was formed in September 1938 to provide services that were otherwise expensive or difficult to procure. One month later, a small weatherboard hut constructed of similar materials to the extant buildings was constructed to the west of the tennis court which was constructed in the early 1930s, to dispense goods and services to the complex.

By 1940 conditions in the buildings were deteriorating rapidly. The hospital, intended to house 90 patients, was commonly found to be housing 140 people at a time. The ward verandahs were enclosed to cope with the overflow and an extension of twelve rooms was added to the Nurses' Quarters that had been erected in the early 1930s.

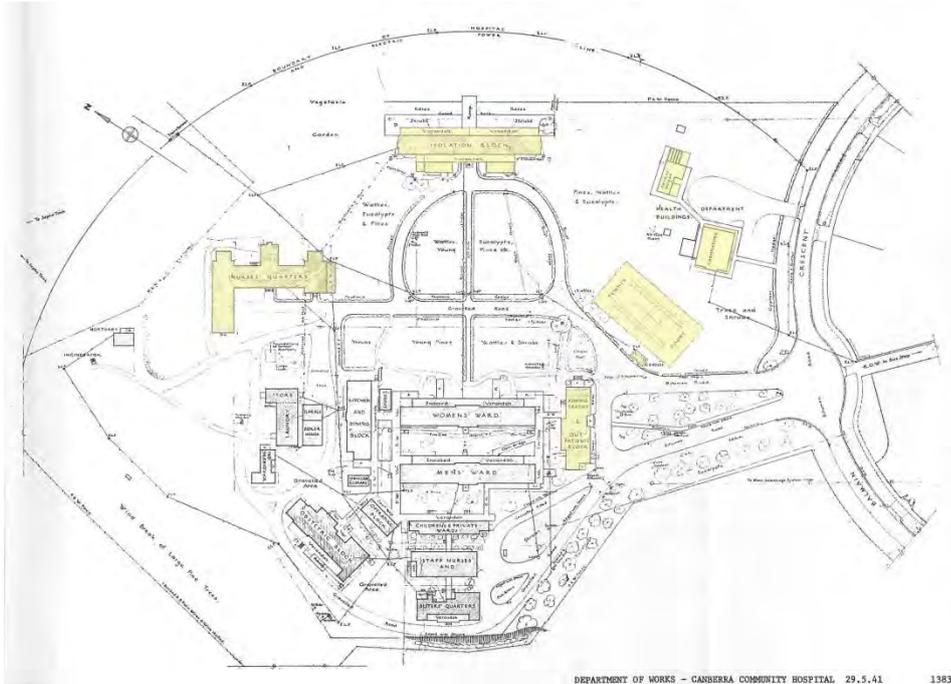
Plans for the new Royal Canberra Hospital, to be constructed at the end of Acton Peninsula, were finalised in January 1940. By April 1942 much of the new complex had been constructed and outfitted with modern equipment and facilities; however, the buildings were handed to the United States Army during the Second World War. A number of maintenance works were carried out on the old buildings to assist in coping with the delayed occupation of the new Hospital. Patients were transferred in February 1943 to the new buildings one month after the US Army had vacated it. Upon the departure of patients and staff the old hospital buildings were used as offices of other government departments and some external agencies, including the Department of Information and the Ministry of Post War Reconstruction which were housed in the old ward buildings. The former Isolation Block was converted to house the Territory's first Nursery School for the Canberra Kindergarten Society in 1944, while the Nurses' Quarters were used by the YMCA as their first hostel in Canberra, catering to returned servicemen. By the early 1950s the buildings were used for the Departments of Immigration, Information and Post War Reconstruction and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The National Library occupied a theatre and a number of rooms for storage.

By 1954 the land and its buildings fell under the control of the ANU, who required the buildings for space. The accommodation was given to the Departments of Anthropology, Geography, International relations and Pacific History of the research School of Pacific Studies (RSPS), and the Departments of Economics, History, Law and Political Studies of the Research School of Social Sciences (RSSS). In the early 1970s many of the buildings had been adapted for use by the Research School of Earth Sciences (RSES).

The Administration Building (61A) is currently housing offices of RSES, and is considered to be part of the Jaeger Complex. The old Nurses Quarters (62) presently houses the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH), which extended the building to add the Bob Douglas Lecture Theatre in 2002 (62A). The old Isolation Ward (63) is now occupied by the Centre for Mental Health Research (CMHR), which had two transportable buildings (63T1 and 63T2) constructed perpendicular to the extant the original building. The Animal Laboratory Building and Animal House (64 & 64A) were converted for use by the Gardens and Grounds Division in the 1970s and continue to be used for this purpose. The University General Store (64B), constructed in 2008, functions as a general supermarket, whilst the Tennis Shed (86A) remains unoccupied. Another building (97) in the Gardener's Depot is currently housing Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) used by the science laboratories.

The old Hospital buildings in the Acton Conservation Area are recognised by the Commonwealth Heritage List as important for

the significant role they played as the administrative, residential and social centre of early Canberra, prior to the construction of the city plan by Walter Burley Griffin. The extant fabric, roads, tracks, introduced plants, building setbacks and alignments in the former Acton 'village' contribute to the most extensive surviving cultural landscape of that period.



**Figure 4:** 1941 plan of the Old Hospital Building area. The shaded buildings represent extant buildings that have not been demolished. (Source: ANU Archives)

### Description of the Old Hospital Buildings

#### Buildings

*Building 61A:* Jaeger, OHB A: The OHB Administration Block repeats many of the architectural themes established in the Acton houses and cottages, but its most notable feature is the portico which combines elements of classical revival and the Georgian period. The building is a long, rectangular structure supported by a red-brick base with louvered terracotta vents to air the sub-floor. The weatherboards have a broad flat surface with a small scallop and are similar to those seen on the cottage at 5 Liversidge Street, constructed around the same time. There is a flush band between the soffit, reaching down to just above the window head. The roof is Marseilles pattern terracotta tiles. The portico has a weatherboard lined 'pediment' and a simplified Tuscan capital on the columns and pilasters, with a prominent round louvered vent (archival photographs show that this was replaced by a semi-circular vent for a period of time). The herringbone red-brick paving is an important feature that was not included on any other Acton buildings.

The double entry doors have small panes of frosted glass fitted into bulky rounded glazing bars which are typical of the period. The perimeter of the building is mostly intact; the north-east porch has been enclosed, although there are signs of the original stairs in the foundation brickwork. This element has a flat roof.

The windows throughout are mostly original and follow two main configurations. Double hung sashes and an assembly of three double hung sash windows with the outer two approximately half the width of the central window. External architraves are splayed. Original windows have cords and weights, but newer windows at the northeast end have spring balances and bullnose square dressed fascia. The porch at the south repeats many of the elements of the portico, but is built under the main hipped roof.

The interior is sufficiently intact to identify the original character and materials of the building. The long central corridor feeds a series of small rooms. The walls appear to be lath and plaster, with the covered cornice, formed by running the plaster up and

## Description of the Old Hospital Buildings

onto the ceiling in one process. Some partition walls have sheet and strapped construction. The strapped ceilings are likely fibrous plaster. The stepped fillets on the architraves and skirtings are stylistically advanced and some rooms display dado or picture rails.

There are a number of remnant doors displaying a 'ladder' style, forming five equal panels. Some original flyscreens survive, with traditional hinges and closers in a timber frame. The occupants have requested additional flyscreens throughout.

Most walls are white, with a beige dado or picture rail, although some rooms display dark blue walls to the dado, with yellow tones above to the white ceiling. There are isolated instances of cracking in the paintwork and some staining from past water damage to the ceiling (leaks have been repaired). Some original light switches and cords remain, as does the front door bell, which has been painted beige to match the weatherboards.

Modern additions include floor and window coverings, light fittings and climate control systems. Original rail heaters can be seen throughout, painted to match the walls. The building currently used as research and office facilities of the Research School of Earth Sciences.

The Administration Building is one of the most intact surviving links to the Canberra Community Hospital complex and has potential to provide information on scientific and architectural history in the region. Its contribution to the campus landscape is important.

*Building 62:* M Block: NCEPHR: The Old Nurses' Quarters have a red-brick base, terracotta Marseilles-pattern roof tiles, quadrant gutter, weatherboard walls and double-hung windows with six-pane sashes and ogee horns. The window details help to define the external differences and phases of the complex.

The entry was extended in 1967 and the portico added in 1989, providing an architectural parallel to the Administration Building. The building has a long central corridor feeding small rooms (originally Nurses' quarters) on each side. Though the rooms have been altered, with internal partitions added or walls removed where necessary, the general layout of the building is similar to the original. The whole building was constructed with great economy, reflective of the economic difficulties of the time.

Overall, the old Nurses' Quarters are in good condition. Later modifications altered the building considerably, though are generally sympathetic to the original style. Unfortunately little evidence of the original use remains; the traditional picture rails and ceiling and wall strappings hark back to the initial architectural scheme and mirrors that seen in other Acton buildings.

The old Nurses' Quarters are able to provide important information on the social and architectural history of Acton. It provides a pleasant contrast to the adjacent modern University research facilities and its contribution to the campus streetscape is noteworthy. The building is currently occupied by the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health Research (NCEPHR).

*Building 62A:* M Block Extension: Bob Douglas Lecture Theatre: In 2002 an office block and lecture theatre extension were added to the north of the old Nurses' Quarters (62), designed by Anthony Cooper and Associates Architects and constructed by Westland Building company. The extension showcased an energy-efficient climate control system regulated through the occupants' use of external office windows and awning windows above the office doors.

*Building 63:* N Block: CHMR: In its original form the Isolation Ward consisted of a main rectangular section with verandahs on the north and south. The southern verandah appears to have served as a breezeway, connected to two smaller buildings. There have been many alterations, notably the enclosure of the verandahs to provide additional space, the western extension (and verandah) and the large south-eastern addition. The building is lined with weatherboards and has a colorbond 'bronze olive' roof.

Interesting aspects of the building include the large central common room/kitchen that is separated from the main (northwest) corridor via a large brick-glass wall. There are also a number of small cupboards/compartments in the building that appear to have been used for hospital purposes but are today left empty. They display rounded wooden handles (some have modern steel handles) and have been painted white. There are a number of plastic light cord mountings. The floorboards appear to be in good condition, as does the roof space.

Overall, the building is in good condition, although little evidence of the original function remains. The layout of the original building is reminiscent of its intended purpose, with a central corridor and main administration area near the entrance to service the outpatients and incoming patients. Modern additions, including carpets, lights, electrical fittings, climate controls systems and kitchen and bathroom amenities, detract somewhat from the original components.

*Building 63A:* N Block Extension: CMHR: In 2002 a large extension was added to the south-eastern end of the building, jutting off at a 30° angle from the original structure. The modern addition has been built sympathetically in mass to the original, though the

### Description of the Old Hospital Buildings

joinery and finishes differ considerably.

*Buildings 63T1 & 63T2:* N Block Extensions: Transportable Buildings 1 & 2, CMHR: The two transportable modular buildings were designed by Coates and constructed by Martin Baker of the ANU in 2009.

*Building 64:* The former Animal House has similar architectural features to the Gardeners' Cottage (64A) and is likely to be a TR Casboulte design. The building has been converted into a workshop and store and, although much of the original fabric remains, there have been many alterations. Much of the architectural integrity of the place may be lost if care is not taken during any future works. It is a brick building with red-brick base, external render, hipped and tiled roof, slatted eaves, quadrant gutter and square dressed fascia with ovolo bead under the gutter. The windows are two horizontal sashes, each with three panes. The top sash is a hopper with the hinges at the middle of the assembly.

Modern vinyl tiles have been laid atop the concrete floor. The ceilings display timber cover strips. Inner walls have a dado of render and painted brickwork above. Some inner walls have been removed to create larger areas. The original porch has been enclosed and there is a modern skillion shelter at the north-western elevation. The original skillion remains at the northeast. It has a brick base along one section and a concrete base for the rest.

The building is generally in good condition for a workshop and storage rooms. The original windows are evident and have been hidden (and protected) by later additions. They display the original dark-stain finishes with pronounced sandstone lintels and are today in good condition. An important remnant of the original architectural scheme is the open holes in the eastern floor. Originally hatched (signs of the brackets remain in the paintwork), these openings provided access for the sheep from their runs to the laboratory inside the building. The walls require a coat of paint throughout and the linoleum and tiles need repairs in some places. There is a hole in the floor of the north eastern room. The paintwork generally corresponds with that observed on the main Laboratory building (off-white with green eaves).

The Department of Health Animal Laboratory and Animal House are important reminders of past scientific practices in the Acton area, prior to the development of the University and are an important part of the hospital complex. The buildings have been relatively well maintained and the lack of attention given to the Animal House has resulted in the retention of important features

*Building 64A:* Gardener's Cottage: The Animal Laboratory was constructed in 1928 by TR Casboulte for the FCC, intended to service the newly relocated Commonwealth Department of Health. It is today used as the ANU Gardens and Grounds Depot. The grounds also consist of a number of other galvanised structures for the storage of equipment and vehicles. The laboratory is a substantially crafted, rendered brick building with a tiled roof; as with 26 Balmain Crescent, it survives as one of the few brick FCC buildings on the site and the only non-residential large brick building. It has louvered vents in the roof gables, echoing the style seen at 16 Lennox Crossing and 7 Liversidge Street. The walls have deep recesses with raised panels and architraves worked into the render that provide a rigid, hard-edged character to the openings and corners of the building. The face brick base is painted and there are two courses that form a string around the building at floor level. The steps are red brick. The eaves are boxed and slatted and the fascia is square dressed. The gutter is quadrant profile.

The windows have pairs of six-pane double-hung sashes with splayed horns and operated by cords and weights. The entry door has nine panes of glass above a simple plywood panel at the bottom. The glazing bars are of bold dimensions and are bevelled on the external arrases. The original painted finishes (grey) survive on the windows and the original cream, applied to the render is showing through later coats. The interior has rendered brick walls, featuring dado 'ovolo' run into the plaster. The strapped ceilings are 3.3 metres high and survive intact. Later walls are lightweight partitions that are built shy of the ceiling. The original doors have a glass panel in the top half of the leaf and there is evidence of earlier varnished finishes.

The building is generally in good condition and displays less signs of damage than the other hospital building in Acton. The skirting near the front door needs minor repairs, as do the kitchen walls (minor cracking). The original low cupboard in the meeting room, painted white, is reminiscent of the original fittings, and the layout of the building remains largely unaltered (a new partition has been added in the main tea room to provide a change area and locker space for the gardeners) Despite recent alterations, the building has been well looked after by the current occupants.

*Building 64B:* The University General Store was designed and built in 2008 by Chapman Constructions, to house the supermarket that had occupied the basement of University House.

*Item 86:* Tennis Court: The tennis court appears to have been constructed in 1930, although it is not clear if the facility was part of the first Auxiliary or provided by their funds. After 1932 the court fell into disrepair until the land was handed over to the ANU in 1950, and was reconditioned shortly thereafter.

*Building 86A:* Auxiliary Canteen: The tennis court Canteen is a small single room construct with a rectangular floor plan that sits

## Description of the Old Hospital Buildings

on concrete piers (recently replaced). The exterior is weatherboard and the hipped roof is clad with Marseilles-pattern roof tiles. Eaves are raked and lined with v-jointed boards. The gutter is quadrant with scotia mould trims beneath a square-dressed fascia.

There are two single casement windows and two double casement windows facing the tennis court. The external architraves are simple square dressed. The double doors are braced and edged, faced with beaded boards and hung from tee-hinges. The floor has tongue and groove boards and the interior walls are lined with hardwood with half-round timber beads concealing the sheet junctions. There are remnants of the original built-in cupboards and fragments of the original electrical installation survive; Bakelite switches and power outlets in timber mounting blocks.

The Canteen is significant for its role as an intact, recreational building with a long association with Acton. Its potential to provide information on recreational and architectural history is important and its contribution to the campus streetscape is noteworthy. The Canteen is in good condition, however is has recently been vandalised and requires some repairs.

*Building 97*: Is a modern PCB Store.

### Landscape

The landscape around the Old Hospital Buildings, like much of the Acton Conservation Area, were initially fashioned by Charles Weston, officer-in-charge of afforestation. Later developments undertaken by Alexander Bruce of the Department of Gardens & Grounds. Tree species planted by Weston included natives *Acacia baileyana*, *Acacia decurrens*, *Eucalyptus globulus* ssp. *Bicostata* and *Eucalyptus maideni*. Introduced species included *Pinus insignis* (*Pinus radiata*) and *Populus alba*.

The landscape of the OHBs has been heavily reduced as the area was developed over the years. The original decorative species around the Administration Block and any vegetable gardens have been removed. Extant Weston planting include a *Eucalyptus globulus* to the south of A Block and a number of pine specimens and remnant *E. melliodora* lining Mills Road. These are all mature specimens in fair to good condition. A significant *Schinus molle* can be seen to the north of N Block and an elm in the car park to the east of M Block. A number of Weston-era *cupressus* have also survived in the landscape to the southwest of the Administration block and are today still a useful windbreak from the Lake below and provide for pleasant surroundings.

Hedges do not appear to have been a common feature of the hospital and the existing hedge lines are modern additions planted as decorative screens. These include the hedge to the east side of N Block, screening modern air-conditioning units. They do not have significant heritage status per se, though serve to screen unsympathetic elements of the area.

An important feature of the site is the old Department of Health buildings as a separate group. These were associated with the wider hospital complex, yet were not officially involved in providing medical care. The current layout of the Gardeners' Depot has not diluted the connection between the buildings.

## Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

*The Old Hospital Buildings are part of the CHL Listed Acton Conservation Area, however they have not had an individual assessment.*

### Statement of Significance

The Old Hospital Buildings are highly significant as remnants of the first public hospital in Canberra, their construction was preceded only by the Royal Military College at Duntroon in 1911 as the first medical facilities of any sort to be established in Canberra. The Canberra Community Hospital was constructed to be a temporary facility, however served as a hospital until the construction of the Royal Canberra Hospital in the 1940s.

The extant Old Hospital Buildings are some of the earliest representative examples of rectilinear weatherboard structures constructed during Canberra's formative years as the Nation's capital, in the Federal Capital Period (1911-1939). The buildings were design by TR Casboulte, Chief Architect of the FCC and combine elements of classical revival and the Georgian period.

The Old Administration Building (61A) is significant for its association with many leading academics, including Professor J.C. Jaeger, the foundation Professor of Geophysics and Professor Ted Ringwood. This building is also significant for its association with Margaretta Katherine Charles-West (Matron West), the first resident nurse in the district in the Federal Capital.

Criteria	Assessment
<p><b>(a) Historic</b> 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>The Old Hospital Buildings are highly significant as remnants of the first public hospital in Canberra. The construction was preceded only by the Royal Military College at Duntroon in 1911 as the first medical facilities of any sort to be established in Canberra.</p> <p>The Canberra Community Hospital was constructed to be a temporary facility, however served as a hospital until the construction of the Royal Canberra Hospital in the 1940s.</p> <p>The old Isolation Ward (63) is significant for its role in providing child care for the community as the first Nursery School in Canberra and the Animal Laboratory was the first active animal research and experimentation facility to be constructed and used in the ACT.</p> <p><b>The Old Hospital Buildings meet CHL criterion (a) for historic values.</b></p> <p><b>Attributes</b> The buildings and their former use as hospital facilities.</p>
<p><b>(b) Rarity</b> 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><b>The Old Hospital Buildings do not meet CHL criterion (b) for rarity values.</b></p>
<p><b>(c) Scientific</b> 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><b>The Old Hospital Buildings do not meet CHL criterion (c) for scientific values.</b></p>

## Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

<p><b>(d) Representative</b> 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>The extant Old Hospital Buildings are some of the earliest representative examples of rectilinear weatherboard structures constructed during Canberra's formative years as the Nation's capital, in the Federal Capital Period (1911-1939). The buildings were design by TR Casboulte, Chief Architect of the FCC and combine elements of classical revival and the Georgian period. Casboulte was a key player in the early development of Canberra and designed many significant buildings including Albert Hall, buildings at the Mt Stromlo Observatory, Blandfordia and Balmain Crescent at the ANU.</p> <p><b>The Old Hospital Buildings meet CHL criterion (d) for representative values.</b></p> <p><b>Attributes</b> The buildings and their former use as hospital facilities.</p>
<p><b>(e) Aesthetic</b> 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><b>The Old Hospital Buildings do not meet CHL criterion (e) for aesthetic values.</b></p>
<p><b>(f) Creative/Technical</b> 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><b>The Old Hospital Buildings do not meet CHL criterion (f) for creative/technical values.</b></p>
<p><b>(g) Social</b> 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><b>The Old Hospital Buildings do not meet CHL criterion (g) for social values.</b></p>

### Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

<p><b>(h) Associative</b> 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 Old Hospital Buildings are significant for their association with the Federal Capital Commission, in particular TR Casboulte, the Chief Architect of the FCC who designed many of the original Old Hospital Buildings.</p> <p>The Old Administration Block (61A) is significant for its association with many leading academics, including Professor J.C. Jaeger, the foundation Professor of Geophysics at ANU and the first professorial appointment in geophysics in Australia, Professor Anton Hales, terrestrial and planetary scientist who in 1973 became the foundation Director of the Research School of Earth Sciences and held this position until 1978. Professor Ted Ringwood is also associated with the school, with the mineral <i>ringwoodite</i> being named in his honour in recognition of his experimental work using the germanate minerals as low pressure analogues for high-pressure silicate polymorphs. In 1978, his ANU team invented <i>synroc</i>, a possible means of safely storing and disposing of radioactive waste.</p> <p>The Administration Block (61A) is also significant for its association with Margaretta Katherine Charles-West (Matron West), the first resident nurse in the district in the Federal Capital.</p> <p><b>The Old Hospital Buildings meet CHL criterion (h) for associative values.</b></p> <p><b>Attributes</b></p> <p>The buildings, their former use as hospital facilities and the current use of the Old Administration Block as the Research School of Earth Sciences.</p>
<p><b>(i) Indigenous</b> The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition.</p>	<p><b>The Old Hospital Buildings do not meet CHL criterion (i) for Indigenous values.</b></p>

### Photographs

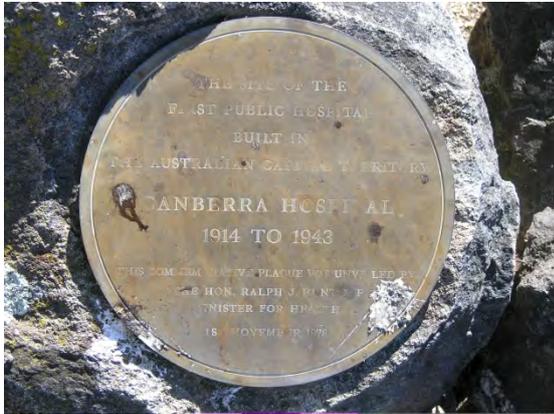


Figure 5: Photograph of the entrance to the Old Administration Ward (61A), April 1964. (Source: ANU Archives).



Figure 6: Layout of the Old Hospital Buildings with extant trees. (Source: Heritage Officer 2011).

## Photographs



**Figure 7:** The plaque commemorating the site of the Canberra Community Hospital. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2011)



**Figure 8:** Entrance to the Old Administration Building. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2011)



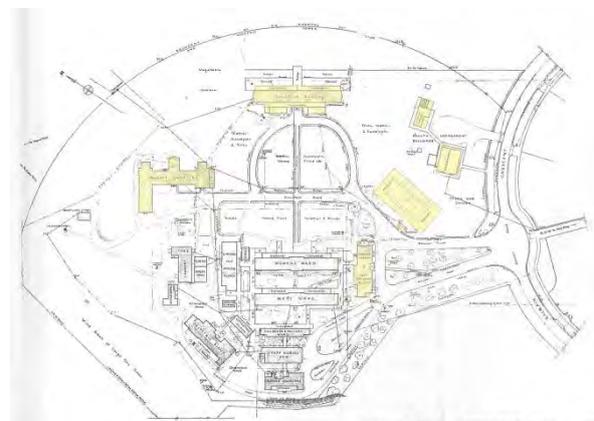
**Figure 9:** The old Isolation Block in use as a Nursery School, 1946. (Source: ANU Archives)



**Figure 10:** Nurses assembled outside the tennis court and Auxiliary Canteen, January 1941. (Source: Ide 1994:224).



**Figure 11:** One of the original door handles still in functional use in the Old Administration Building (61A). (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2011)



**Figure 12:** 1941 base plan of the Old Hospital Building area showing the extant buildings shaded yellow. (Source: Drawings Office ANU 2011)

## Photographs



Figure 13: Superimposition of the current buildings of the OHB area over the original hospital layout. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2011)



National Library of Australia nla.pic-an14235363-13-v

Figure 14: View west of the original Canberra Hospital, c1915 (Source: nla.pic-an14235363-13)

## Management Issues

### Constraints and Opportunities

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

The Old Hospital Buildings as a group are of exceptional significance and meet the EPBC Commonwealth Heritage criteria a) historic, d) representative and h) associative. Elements of exceptional heritage value are generally associated with the ANU's earliest phase of development and must be retained and conserved. The tolerance for change level is generally low. Loss or alteration of individual elements that may have exceptional significance would significantly diminish the Commonwealth Heritage (or other) 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 Old Hospital Buildings are able to tolerate a low level of change through development whereby the historic, creative/technical and associative attributes and characteristics are conserved and interpreted.

**Opportunities** arise from the identified heritage values of the Old Hospital Buildings. The history of the Old Hospital Buildings should be interpreted to maintain the historic, representative and associational values 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

Referral to the current Heritage Management Plan for the Acton Conservation Area is required when preparing advice for alterations to the Old Hospital Buildings. An individual Heritage Management Plan should be developed for the Old Hospital Buildings to provide more detailed guidance on their conservation and management.

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 the Old Hospital Buildings.

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