

Study Item/ Area	14 Liversidge Street
Acton Campus Precinct	LIVERSIDGE Precinct
Building Nos. & Names	81 (14 Liversidge Street, Sir Keith Hancock's House)

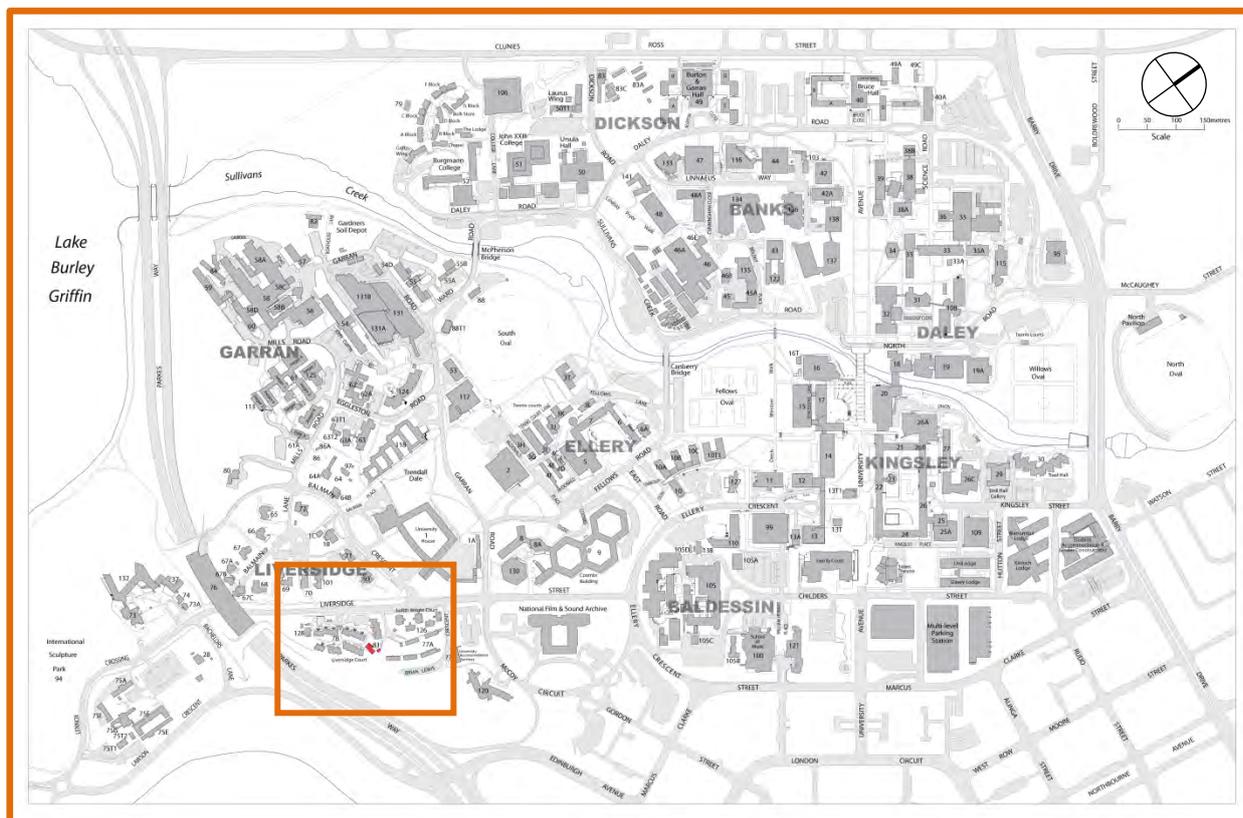


Figure 1: Location of study area within the ANU Acton Campus site.

Heritage Ranking	14 Liversidge St— Moderate —Meets threshold for Commonwealth Heritage List.
Heritage Listing	14 Liversidge Street is not individually listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL).
Condition—Date	The condition noted here is at January 2012. The extant buildings and trees at 14 Liversidge Street continue to be well maintained for office accommodation and are in reasonable condition.
Relevant Documentation	This building is included in the Brian Lewis Crescent Housing Heritage Report developed by the ANU Heritage Officer, 2008.

Context of the Buildings

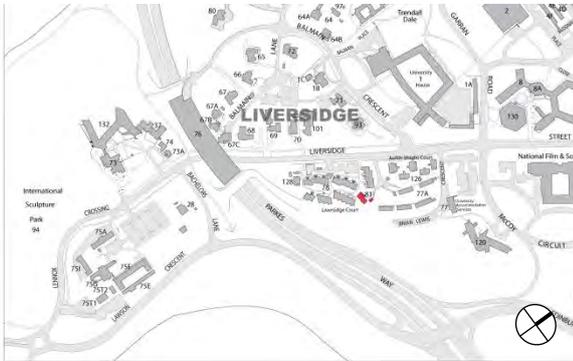


Figure 2: 14 Liversidge Street in the context of the Liversidge Precinct

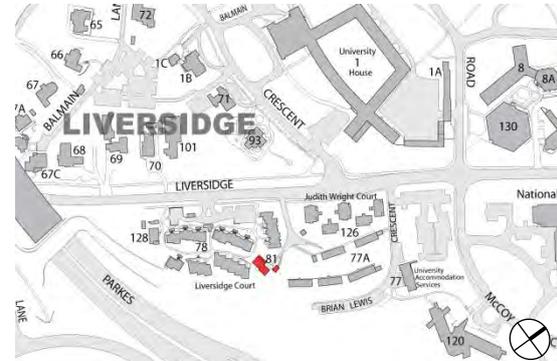


Figure 3: 14 Liversidge Street in relation to Judith Wright Court and University House

Brief Historical Overview

Number 14 Liversidge St was designed by the architectural firm of Collard & Clark and was completed in 1958. The building was constructed for Sir Keith and Lady Hancock, both of whom had significant input in the design of the structure. The architectural features of the building are a contrast from the austere forms seen elsewhere on the campus, in particular the nearby 'F' Type houses.

In July 1957, Sir William Keith Hancock, the Director of the Research School of Social Sciences, requested a suitable house be built for himself and his wife on the ANU campus. He located the house close to the 'F' Type houses, though aloof of the established housing community. The Buildings and Grounds Committee approved of the construction of the house in August 1957 and the Bursar, Mr J. Ryan, allotted £10,000 for the works. Prior to the beginning of construction, the ground upon which the house was to stand was largely covered by native vegetation, though had been fenced and used for agistment since the early foundation of the Federal Territory. Of prime concern to the University was the alteration of existing fences. In April 1958, it was recorded that the present fence forms a physical limit of the agistment paddock on the Acton Flats which is administered by the Department of the Interior. Hancock echoed the sentiments conveyed by the Interior, noting that decent fencing was necessary "if the horses are to be kept away from eating the shrubs". The revised fence-lines were duly surveyed and semi-permanent fences established.

A large tree situated on the site had been lopped, felled and removed by 22nd May 1958 under approval from Lindsay Pryor, Professor of Botany. Parts of the land were also used as playground by the children of the nearby 'F' Type houses, which was lost when construction began.

Though the building is of a contrasting architectural style, it does embody similar features of the nearby "F" Type houses. The Architects situated the house along the same axis as Numbers 23, 24 and 25 Lawson Crescent and embodied similar roof pitch where possible. In October 1957, the Buildings & Grounds Committee also opted to exclude timber to the external facade. This was largely for economic reasons, though is again in similar fashion to the 'F' Type houses.

The final plans of the house were submitted and the Department of the Interior gave formal approval for construction to begin on 9 January 1958. Tenders were called for shortly after. The cost of construction was a consideration for all parties involved, including Hancock, who stated that he was "ready to sacrifice not space, but quality of materials. Provided always that the house remains well insulated against cold, I don't mind whether it is built of wood and galvanised iron". A tender of £9,300.0.0 had been accepted by mid-March 1958. The contractor, Karl Schreiner & Associates, estimated a construction time of 16 weeks. The University agreed to provide funding for the initial landscaping works around the house, though Hancock was responsible for garden up-keep.

Building had begun by 21st April 1958 with the house recorded complete on 7th November (at an inflated cost of £10,690.6.1). The designs were amended by the future tenants during construction; Lady Hancock requested a copper ashtray near the fireplace, as well as "glazing between the stair and entrance lobby". Though the building had been completed by the end of 1958, the Hancock's postponed occupation until February 1959 "because the contractor failed to produce fly-wires for the windows of the kitchen and some other rooms". The building and block were officially numbered as 14 Liversidge Street shortly after.

The tenancy agreement between Sir Keith Hancock and ANU was finalised on 16th February 1960, with a rent of £8.12.6 per week. After he retired in 1965, the University Standing Committee recommended that Hancock retain his tenancy of the house in perpetuity, as “he is expected to continue to make valuable contributions to historical studies in Australia and remain close in touch with the University”. Sir Keith and Lady Hancock made numerous requests for repairs or alterations to the building during their occupancy. Initially, most of the doors, including the main access portals and cupboard doors, required to be re-hung. One year after moving into the house, Hancock stated that his wife needed “both the muscles of a pugilist and the dexterity of a ju-jitsu prizeman to open the pantry door and one, at least, of the cupboard doors”. Extra shelves were required in some rooms, the kitchen stove needed to be raised by three inches and the Coleman heater had been incorrectly installed in the foyer/dining room. An infestation of wood borers was also discovered shortly after the building was completed, although this appears to have been a localised infestation and was quickly eradicated.

Hancock was also concerned over the initial state of the landscape. He noted that the grounds about the building had become “a seed bed of rubbish-heap weeds” shortly after construction. He also requested a small area to be paved outside the dining room door and stepping-stones on the lawn between the verandah and the path to the kitchen door. His request for awnings on some of the windows was summarily denied as the architects felt they were not sympathetic to the design. Sir Keith and Lady Hancock occupied the building until February 1971. Prior to his retirement, Hancock advised the University to administer the house as its own property. They were to pay him rents that had accrued or to use the rental monies for on-going maintenance costs.

Subsequent Occupation

After the termination of Hancock's tenancy, numerous people were to occupy the house in an official University capacity. Given the size of the building, it was leased to mostly visiting scholars and their families, similar to the tenants of the ‘F’ Type houses. Most tenancies were relatively short, though a number were lengthened due to extenuating circumstances.

Inspections were carried out on a semi-regular basis upon the departure of a tenant and works were undertaken if deemed necessary. Overall, little work was conducted on the building or surrounds, with the house described as “splendid and superbly convenient” by one tenant in 1974. The Coleman heater that had been installed in the foyer in 1959 had finally outlived its usefulness in July 1975 and was replaced with a Vulcan Hydraflame. The electricity was connected to the main University supply with the excavation of the Molonglo arterial in July 1977. Major works were carried out in October 1979 to accommodate the family of Mrs J.T Griffin, who was granted occupancy of the building with her partner and seven children. Modifications were made to the wooden floors and the garage was altered and converted into an additional living space.

Though the conversion was to “match the house in every possible way”, it consisted of significant changes to the building. The garage doors were removed and the wall was raised to the height of the new windows. A door was opened from the existing living room to the new area and the garage work benches were converted to a wardrobe.

The works were officially approved by the Building Branch of the Department of the Capital Territory on 23 November 1979 and cost in excess of \$3,950. The house had become fully furnished by 1985 and carpet tiles and curtains were installed on 24th September 1987. An extended tenancy was granted to Mr Anthony Pell in August 1991. He had returned to the University after suffering a debilitating injury on a Geology field-trip and was bound to a wheelchair. His parents, as carers, occupied the upper floor of the building. Although his tenancy itself was not overly significant to the history of the site, it is interesting to note that the ground floor was considered wheelchair accessible in a building not designed as such. Pell was to remain in residency until February 1995.

A full restoration of the structure was tendered to Ecowise Services at the beginning of 2000 and heavily altered the original form and layout of the house. Works included the following:

- a) painting (internal and external);
- b) installation of new kitchen;
- c) bathrooms/toilets upgrade (upstairs and downstairs);
- d) floor coverings (including new carpets laid);
- e) installation of new air conditioning unit;
- f) removal of gas heater from foyer;
- g) wall repairs; skirtings replaced;
- h) doors re-hung;
- i) kitchen/stove cabling replaced;

j) Works to ceiling.

The total costs of the works were in excess of \$57,300 and have resulted in the present appearance of the building.

The most recent tenants of the building include a section of Financial and Business Services from September 2011.

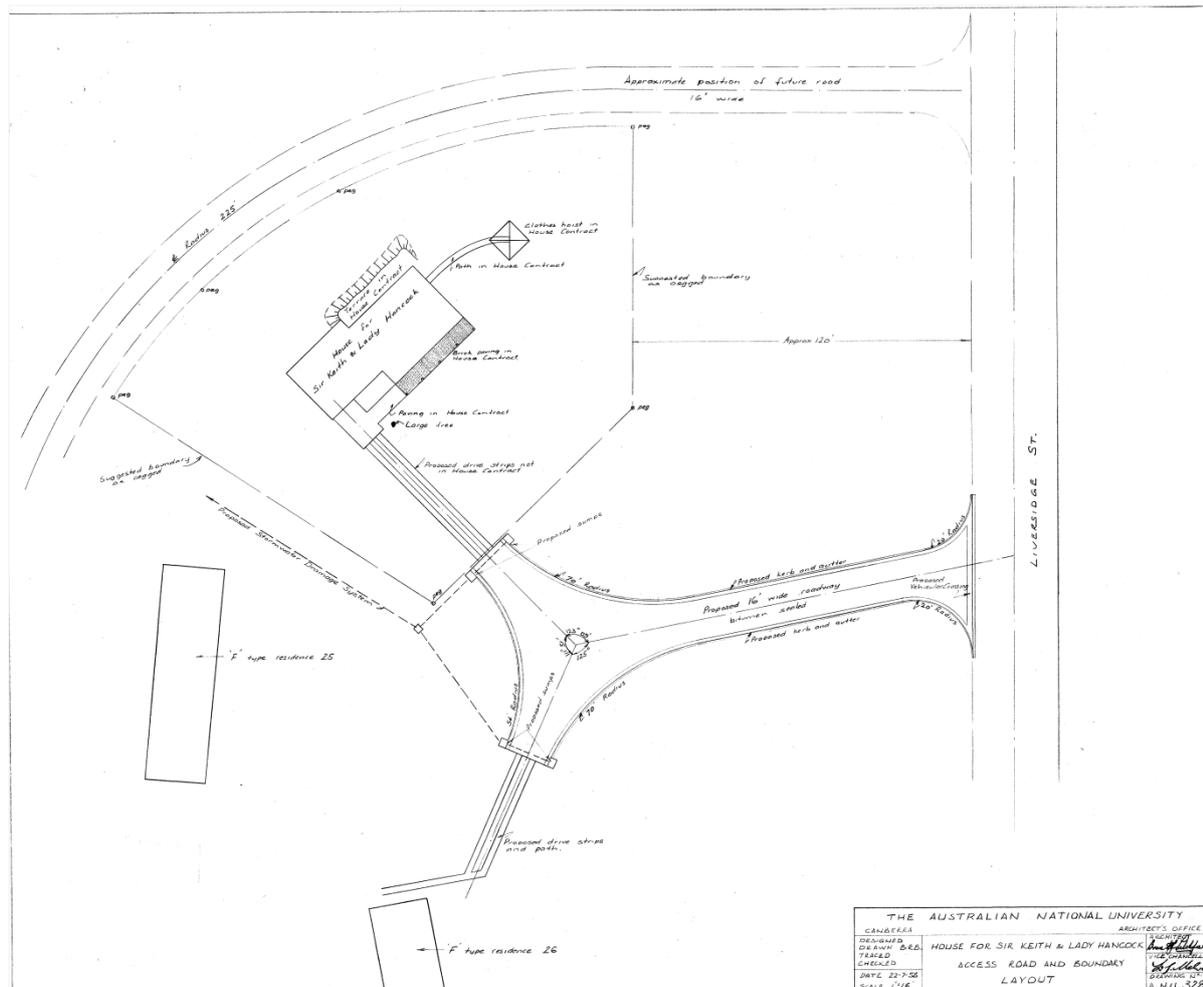


Figure 4: Site plan for 14 Liversidge Street. Initially the house for Sir Keith and Lady Hancock. Architect Bruce Litchfield Drawn 22/7/1958.

Description of 14 Liversidge Street

Buildings

No. 14 Liversidge St has also been modified since its erection, though retains some unique characteristics of campus buildings. The house is a two-storey rendered brick building with a tiled roof. The clerestory windows of the upper floor are in stark contrast to the style of the surrounding buildings. The boldly expressed vertical character of the side walls emphasise the gabled roof form and the high vertical posts of the northern verandah provide a strong, elevated perspective to the design.

The resulting space is sheltered, but open, adding a sunny aspect to the front façade. The open perspectives are emphasised by the use of hopper, louvered and casement windows as a means of natural ventilation. Unfortunately, the design of the fenestration does not take full advantage of the views and the architects ignored the potential for solar efficiency on the northern elevation. A University Heritage Study (1993) notes that the design was more of an introspective study rather than one which took “fullest advantage of the considerable potential of the site”.

Landscape

The landscape around 14 Liversidge Street is varied with cultivated gardens within the fenced area of the house yard and more native growth within the house yard.

Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

Statement of Significance

14 Liversidge Street was built at the request of Sir Keith Hancock in 1958 and was then occupied by the Hancock's until 1971. After this time it has been leased to mostly visiting scholars and their families.

The residence is an example of Australian Post War Housing design within the Canberra region, with major input to the design provide by Hancock and is demonstrative of the commitment by the ANU to accommodate its senior staff on campus

14 Liversidge St is strongly associated with Sir William Keith Hancock (1898-1988), the Director of the Research School of Social Sciences from 1957 to 1965.

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>	<p>14 Liversidge Street was built at the request of Sir Keith Hancock in 1958 and was then occupied by the Hancock's until 1971. After this time it has been leased to mostly visiting scholars and their families.</p> <p>The residence is an example of Australian Post War Housing design within the Canberra region, with major input to the design provide by Hancock.</p> <p>The house is also demonstrative of the commitment by the ANU to accommodate its senior staff on campus.</p> <p>Attributes</p> <p>The building and its establishment by Sir Hancock.</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>14 Liversidge St does not meet CHL criterion (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>14 Liversidge St does not meet CHL criterion (c) for scientific values.</p>

Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

<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>14 Liversidge St does not meet CHL criterion (d) for representative values.</p>
<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>14 Liversidge St does 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>14 Liversidge St does 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>14 Liversidge St does not meet CHL criterion (g) for social values.</p>

Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

<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>14 Liversidge St is strongly associated with Sir William Keith Hancock (1898-1988), the Director of the Research School of Social Sciences from 1957 to 1965. Sir Hancock requested the construction of the house for him and his wife to reside in on the Acton Campus.</p> <p>Hancock was a prominent historian and public figure during his distinguished career and held many significant university and governmental roles. On his retirement he was made Emeritus Professor of the ANU (1968) and created the first University Fellow of the ANU. Other positions he held were Chairman of the Editorial Board of the Australian Dictionary of Biography from 1958 to 1965 and inaugural President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities from 1969 to 1971.</p> <p>14 Liversidge St meets CHL criterion (h) for associative values.</p> <p>Attributes The house and its construction for Sir Hancock.</p>
<p>(i) Indigenous The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition.</p>	<p>14 Liversidge St does not meet CHL criterion (i) for Indigenous values.</p>

Photographs



Figure 5: Front façade of 14 Liversidge Street. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)



Figure 6: Front foyer of 14 Liversidge Street. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)

Photographs



Figure 7. Kitchen converted to tea room, 14 Liversidge Street. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)



Figure 8: Bedroom of 14 Liversidge Street, repurposed as office space. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)



Figure 9: Rear façade of 14 Liversidge Street. (Source: ANU Heritage Office, 2012)



Figure 10: Internal stairwell with wooden detailing. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2012)

Management Issues

Constraints and Opportunities

Constraints arise from the identified heritage values of the 14 Liversidge Street and are required under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwth) (EPBC Act) to conserve them. The significant fabric of the 14 Liversidge Street, as indicated in the attributes above, should be conserved wherever possible.

The 14 Liversidge Street Building is of moderate significance and meets the EPBC Commonwealth Heritage criteria a) historic and h) associative. 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. The 14 Liversidge Street is able to tolerate a moderate level of change through development whereby the historic attributes and characteristics are conserved and interpreted.

Opportunities arise from the identified heritage values of the 14 Liversidge Street. The history of the 14 Liversidge Street should be interpreted to maintain the historic and associative 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 of the 14 Liversidge Street.

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