# Australian National University

Acton Campus — Site Inventory

| | |
|---|---|
| Study Item/Area | Engineering Building and Ian Ross Building |
| Acton Campus Precinct | DALEY Precinct |
| Building Nos. & Names | 31 (Ian Ross Building), 32 (Engineering Building) |

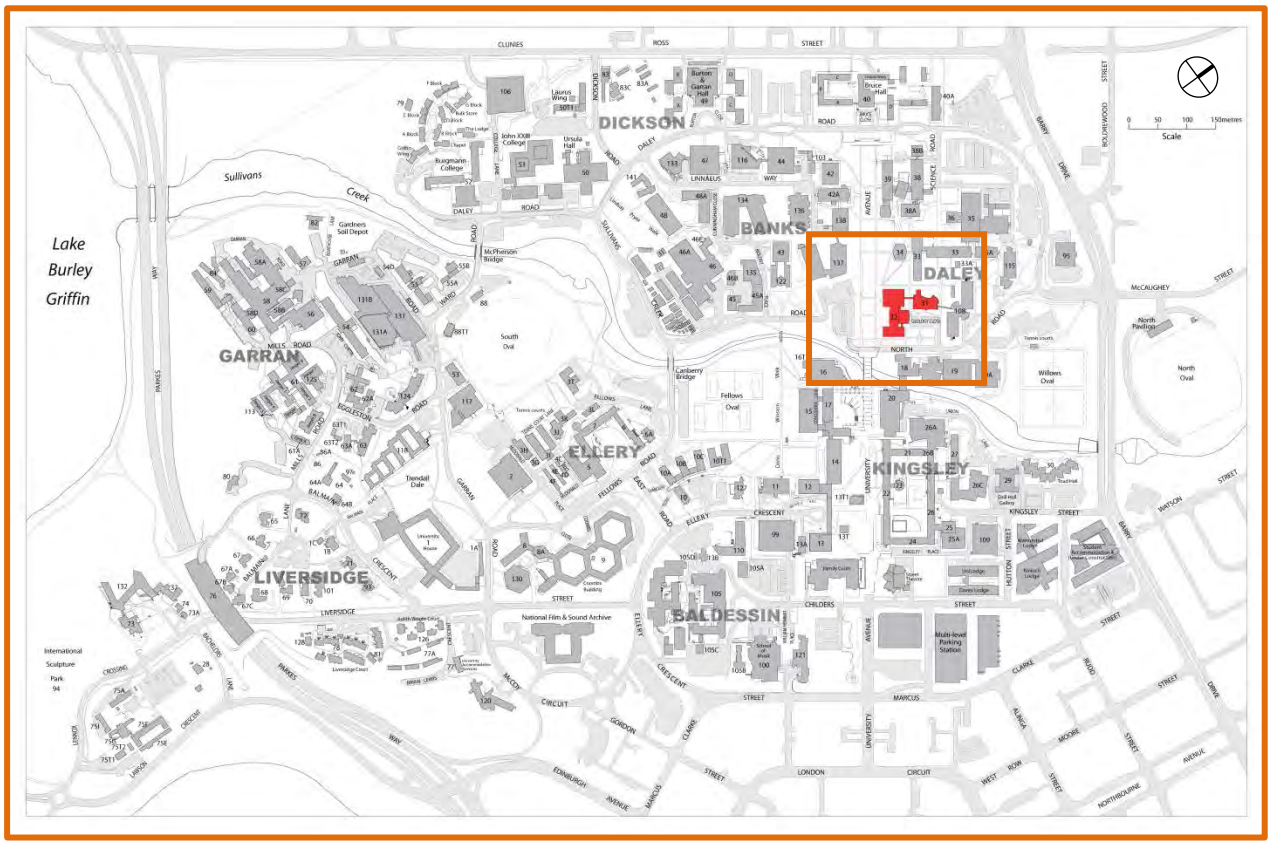


Figure 1: Location of study area within the ANU Acton Campus site.

| | |
|---|---|
| Heritage Ranking | Engineering Building—Moderate—Meets the criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List<br>Ian Ross Building—Neutral—Does not meet criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List |
| Heritage Listing | Neither the Engineering Building nor the Ian Ross Building is individually listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL). |
| Condition—Date | The condition noted here is at April 2012. The extant buildings (and trees) in the Engineering Building and Ian Ross Building continue to be well maintained for student education and research and are in excellent condition. |
| Relevant Documentation | There is currently no relevant documentation for the Engineering Building or Ian Ross Building |

## Context of the Buildings

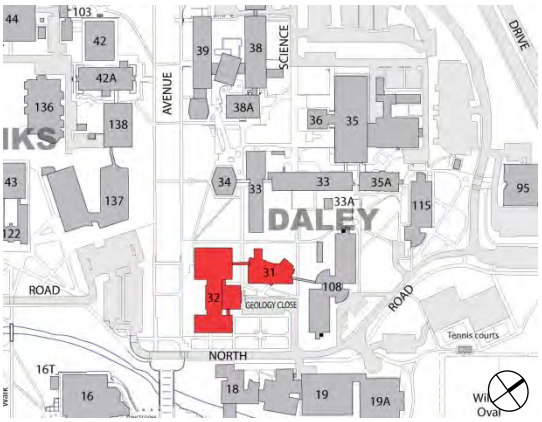


Figure 2: The Engineering Building and Ian Ross Building in the Context of the Daley Precinct.

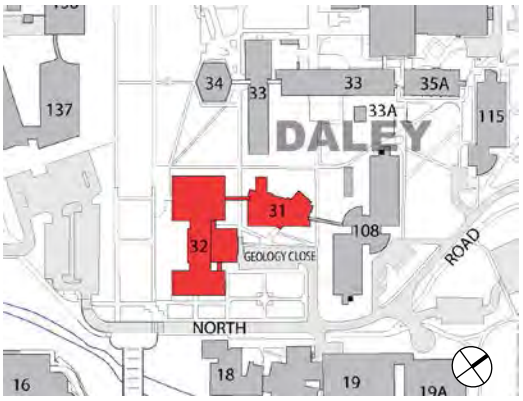


Figure 3: The Engineering Building and Ian Ross Building in relation to the Research School of Chemistry (Buildings 33-34) and the CSIT (Building 108).

## Brief Historical Overview

The Engineering Building (32) was designed by Eggleston, MacDonald and Secomb and built by Clements Langford in 1963 as a part of the major building works at that time. In 1966 planning for Stage 2 was initiated, again designed by Eggleston, MacDonald and Secomb and was completed in 1968 by Civil and Civic. It was also in this building that in 1994 the School of Information Sciences and Engineering was established. This was the first school of its kind for the University in twenty years.

The site on which the Ian Ross Building (31) now stands previously housed a hostel for post war Baltic migrants. The Canberra University College moved into this building in 1953. Faculties included Arts, Commerce, Law, Oriental Studies, Library and Administration. Only a portion of the complex was within the campus boundary and a land swap for the site was facilitated through a building group. The original Childers Street Theatre was a part of this site and was destroyed by fire in 1990. A replacement Childers Street Theatre was built near University Avenue. In 1999 plans were prepared for a new building to be constructed on the site. Final plans were drawn up by Collard, Clarke and Jackson in 2001 and the old buildings were demolished to make way for the Ian Ross Building, constructed by GE Shaw. It was opened in November 2002 by ACT Senator Kate Lundy along with links the Engineering Building (32) to the CSIT (108).

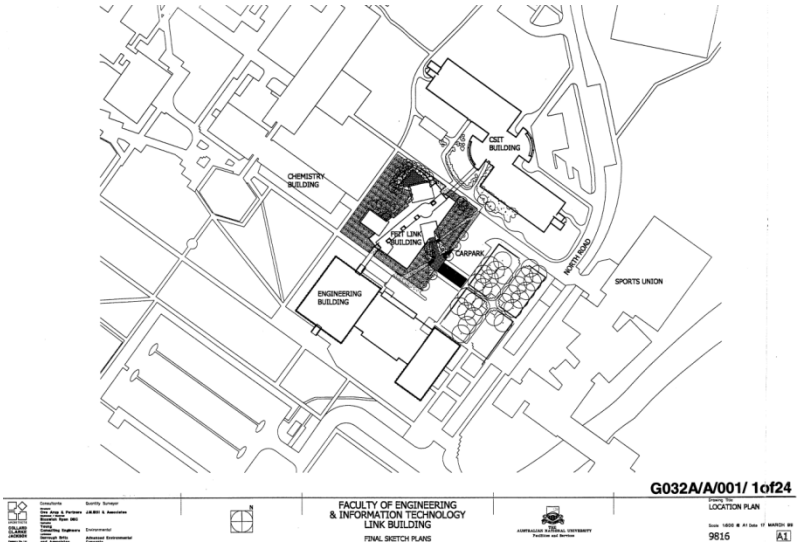


Figure 4: Final sketch plans of the Ian Ross Building for the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology. Drawn up by Collard Clarke and Jackson Architects in March 1999.

## Description of The Engineering Building and Ian Ross Building

### Buildings

Two similar square buildings joined by a single level link with an east/west axis comprise Building 32. The south-western building element has a central internal lecture theatre. A double storey estern building was added in 1966. The exterior consists of brick columns infilled with clear anodised aluminium windows and bricks set on end. Folded copper fascia with painted timber boxed eaves and has round copper downpipes at the corners. The central link is of face brickwork, metal fascia and aluminium framed windows. The interior is painted blockwork walls and a combination of vinyl and carpet tiles.

The exterior of Building 31 is a combination of face brickwork and cast concrete panelling with aluminium framed windows using multiple opening styles. The main entry is aluminium framed glass panels with automaitc doors and the roof is a flat with colorbond fascia and downpipes. The interior is a combination of pale face brickwork and plasterboard on the walls with vinyl flooring in corridors and some carpeting. Stairs consist of wooden treads with metal balustrades, ceilings are plasterboard to lower floors with corrugated texture on the ceiling of the top floor. The building encorporates sustainable features including ventilation chimney stacks that also double as light wells drawing light deep into the building. A hydronic slab heating system that is suitable for future integration with solar hot water collection has been installed to heat the building during winter. Slab heating is a storage heating system that utilises the mass of the building to dispense heat to the space. The system has been zoned to take into consideration usage patterns, internal loads and conduction loads on each space. Any solar heat gain is distributed throughout the building using the water with a reduction on energy consumption of 40-45% and a reduction in installed boiler capacity of 40%.

### Landscape

The landscape surrounding the Engineering and the Ian Ross Buildings are a mixture of grassed areas, concreted pathways for foot traffic, low garden beds and low hedge plantings. Species are a mixture of exotic and natives with some semi mature eucalypts and exotics which are a part of the planting scheme for University Avenue.

## Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

### Statement of Significance

The Engineering Building was designed by Eggleston, MacDonald and Secomb and built by Clements Langford in 1963 as a part of the major building works at that time. The building is significant as part of the uniform design of buildings along University Avenue, designed specifically to address the avenue, provide a recessive border to the avenue and is a significant part of the 'precinct plan' by Eggleston Macdonald & Secomb architects, as per the Denis Winston site plan of the Acton campus.

| Criteria | Assessment |
|---|---|
| (a) Historic<br>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history. | The Engineering Building was designed by Eggleston, MacDonald and Secomb and built by Clements Langford in 1963 as a part of the major building works at that time.<br>The building is significant as part of the uniform design of buildings along University Avenue, designed specifically to address the avenue, provide a recessive border to the avenue and is a significant part of the 'precinct plan' by Eggleston Macdonald & Secomb architects, as per the Denis Winston site plan of the Acton campus. The buildings display a generally homogenous façade with vertical banks of windows offsetting the strong horizontal perspective.<br>The Engineering Building meet criterion (a) for historic values.<br>*Attributes*<br>The building including its location, style and detailing. |

| Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria | |
|---|---|
| (b) Rarity<br>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. | The Engineering Building does not meet criterion (b) for rarity values. |
| (c) Scientific<br>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. | The Engineering Building does not meet criterion (c) for scientific values. |
| (d) Representative<br>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:<br>A class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or<br>A class of Australia's natural or cultural environments. | The Engineering Building does not meet criterion (d) for representative values. |
| (e) Aesthetic<br>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group. | The Engineering Building does not meet criterion (e) for aesthetic values. |

| Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria | |
|---|---|
| (f) Creative/Technical<br>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. | The Engineering Building does not meet criterion (f) for creative/technical values. |
| (g) Social<br>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. | The Engineering Building does not meet criterion (g) for social values. |
| (h) Associative<br>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. | The Engineering Building does not meet criterion (h) for associative values. |
| (i) Indigenous<br>The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition. | The Engineering Building does not meet criterion (i) for Indigenous values. |

## Photographs

Figure 5: View of the entrance to the Ian Ross Building including artwork "Fusion' by Geoffrey Bartlett. (Source: http://www.ccj.com.au/?prepress_portfolio=anu-ian-ross-building, 2012)

Figure 6: View of the connecting walkway between Buildings 31 and 32. (Source: http://www.ccj.com.au/?prepress_portfolio=anu-ian-ross-building, 2012)

Figure 7: View of the Ian Ross Building's eastern entrance. (Source: http://www.ccj.com.au/?prepress_portfolio=anu-ian-ross-building, 2012)

Figure 8: View of Interior of Ian Ross Building. (Source: http://www.ccj.com.au/?prepress_portfolio=anu-ian-ross-building, 2012)

Figure 9: View of the Engineering Building with landscaping features. (Source: http://lostoncampus.com.au/13717, 2012)


Figure 10: View of main entrance to the Engineering Building. (Source: http://lostoncampus.com.au/13717, 2012)

## Management Issues

### Constraints and Opportunities

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

The Engineering Building 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 Action Campus Heritage Study 2012, will assist in conserving heritage values through a process of change. The Engineering Building is able to tolerate a moderate level of change through development whereby the significant attributes and characteristics are conserved and interpreted.

**Opportunities** arise from the heritage values of The Engineering Building. 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.