

4 CULTURAL FEATURES OF THE ACTON CONSERVATION AREA

This section concentrates on the extant structures of the Acton Conservation Area and the surrounding landscapes. A description of the structures, including a brief history, discussion of their architectural design, construction techniques and condition is provided. A short historical overview of some demolished buildings has also been included in order to fully demonstrate the associated development of the Conservation Area.

The Acton Conservation Area consists of four main site complexes: Lennox House zone, Old Canberra House zone, Acton Cottages zone and the Old Canberra Community Hospital zone. The zones are illustrated in Figure 4.1.

The earliest buildings in Acton that survive the initial development of the Capital are those found at the Bachelor's Quarters (Lennox House zone), which was constructed uphill to the west of the Acton Camp. These buildings were closely followed by the cottages for married men (7, 8 Liversidge Street and 16 Lennox Crossing of the Acton Cottages zone) and the Residence of the Administrator (Old Canberra House), which were constructed uphill of the Bachelor's Quarters. In the mid-late 1920s a number of other cottages and houses were constructed for middle and high-level public servants to the north of the Residence (Acton Cottages zone). The original Canberra Hospital was constructed to the north-west of the residential area in 1913-14, with extensive additions in the late 1920s and early 1930s to form the Canberra Community Hospital zone (now the Old Hospital Buildings).

Altogether, there are 38 buildings in the Conservation Area that embody heritage values. These range from the large Old Canberra House to small garages and utilitarian structures of the Acton Cottages. They were constructed from a variety of materials at different times and are today in varying levels of condition and intactness. There are also two tennis courts within the Conservation Area, as well as gardens and landscape features. All buildings and sites are used by the ANU or its associated affiliates.

The buildings and different site complexes are examined in rough chronological order, from south to north.

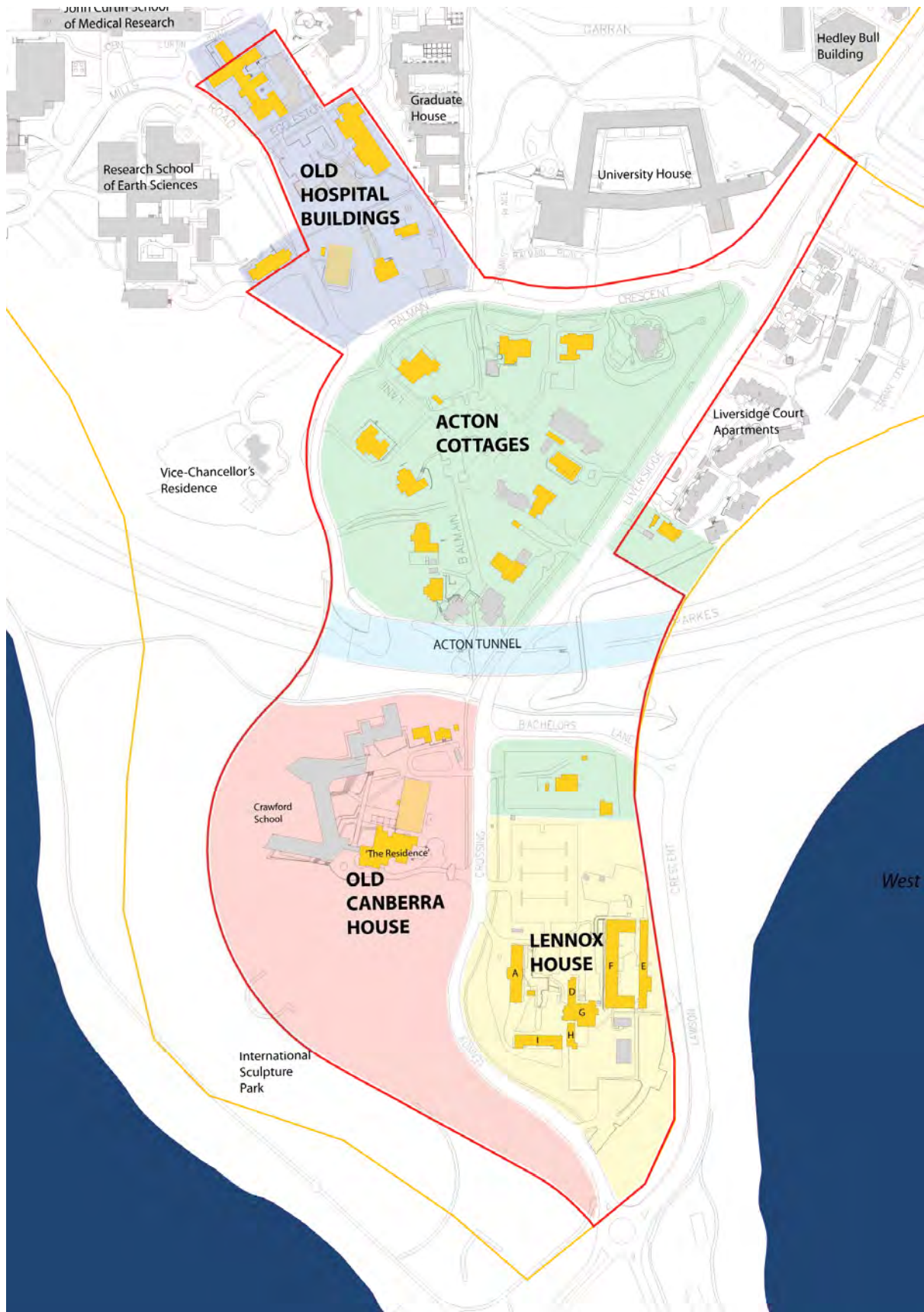


Figure 4.1: Curtilage of the four zones of the Acton Conservation Area that are examined in the HMP (ANU Heritage Office).

The extant structures are identified in the following list of Site Survey Features.

Note: Number 8 Liversidge Street and A Block of the Old Hospital Buildings are included in the HMP as early elements of the site, though are not included in the official ACA boundary.

Site Survey Features

Lennox House	Year const.	Original Use	Current Use
A Block	1927?	Sleeping quarters	Vacant (intermittent occupation)
D Block	1911-12	Sleeping quarters	Acton Early Childhood Centre
E Block	1926	Sleeping quarters	Acton Early Childhood Centre
F Block	1925?	Sleeping quarters	Acton Early Childhood Centre
G Block	1911-12	Mess Hall	Acton Early Childhood Centre
H Block	1911-12	Sleeping quarters	Acton Early Childhood Centre
I Block	1912/1923	Wardsman's Flat / sleeping quarters	Vacant
Laundry A	1920s?	Laundry?	Vacant (intermittent occupation)

Old Canberra House	Year const.	Original Use	Current Use
Old Canberra House	1913	Administrator's Residence	University offices
Chauffeur's Cottage	1938	Chauffeur's Cottage	University offices
Gardener's Cottage	1925-26?	Gardener's Cottage	University offices
Garden Shed	1913?/1926?	Firewood store?/ Garden shed?	Bicycle storage
Tennis Court/shed	1914	<i>Tennis court/shed</i>	<i>Tennis court/shed</i>

Acton Cottages	Year const.	Original Use	Current Use
16 Lennox Crsing	1913	Residence	University offices
3 Liversidge St.	1925-27?	Residence	University offices
5 Liversidge St.	1929	Residence	University office
7 Liversidge St.	1913?	Residence	University offices
8 Liversidge St.	1916	<i>Residence</i>	<i>Residence</i>
14 Balmain Lane	1924	Residence	University offices
16 Balmain Lane	1924?	Residence	University offices
18 Balmain lane	1924?	Residence	Central Canberra Family Day Care
20 Balmain Cres.	1926	Residence	University offices
22 Balmain Cres.	1929	Residence	Acton Early Childhood Centre
26 Balmain Cres.	1928/29	Residence	PARSA
28 Balmain Cres.	1928	Residence	University offices

Old Hospital Buildings	Year const.	Original Use	Current Use
A Block	1928	Administration Block	RSES research offices
B Block	1928	Women's Ward	RSES research offices/laboratories
N Block	1928-29	Isolation Ward	Centre for Mental Health Research offices
M Block	Early 1930s?	Nurses Quarters	National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health offices
Commonwealth Health Labs	1928	Health Laboratories and Animal House	ANU Gardener's Depot
Auxiliary Canteen	1938	Auxiliary Canteen	Vacant (storage)
Tennis court	1930	<i>Nurses' court</i>	<i>Recreational court</i>

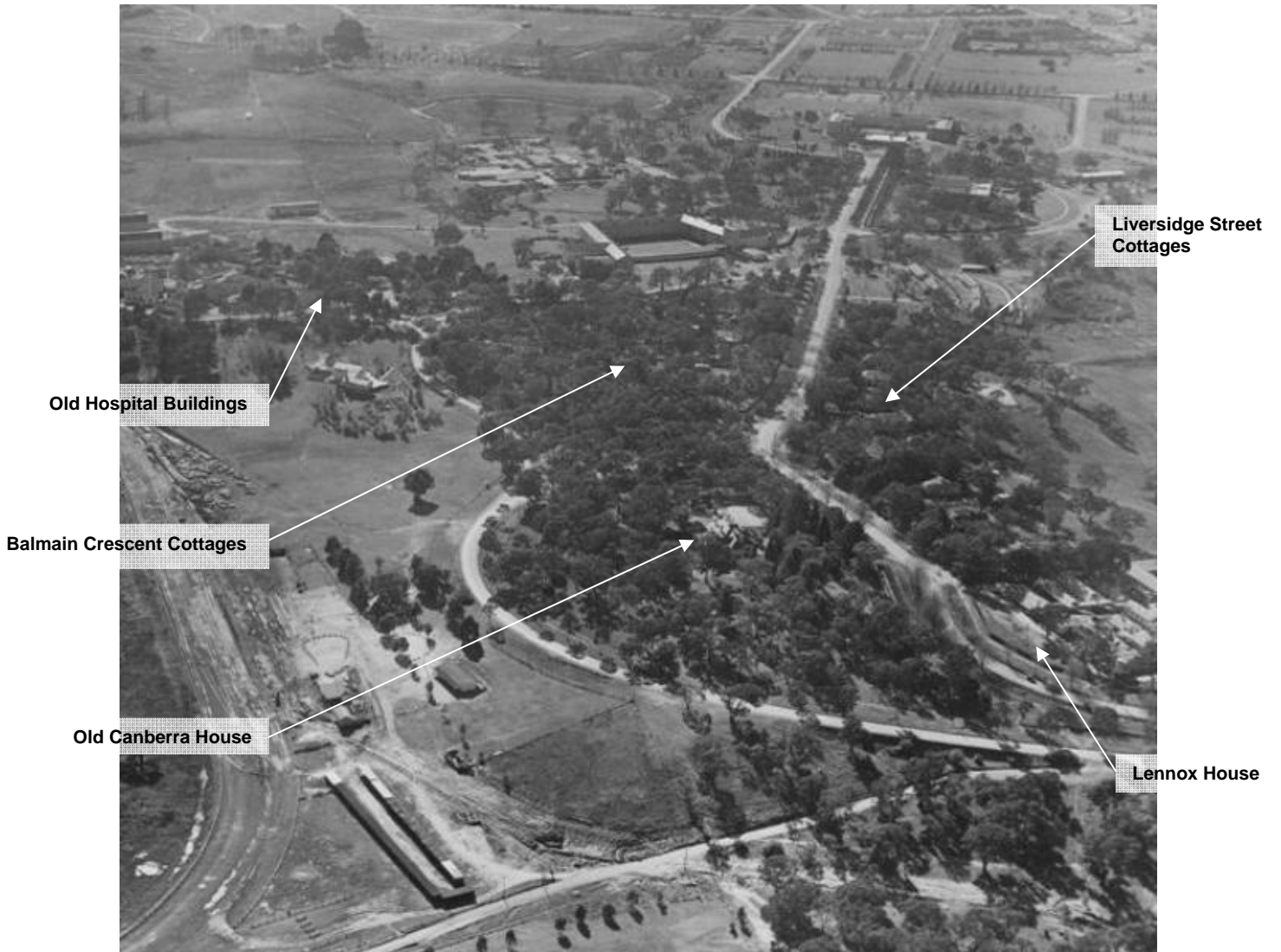


Figure 4.2: Aerial view northeast of Acton, 1956 (ANUA 16/20)

4.1 Lennox House

The following historical information has been reproduced from the Lennox House Heritage Management Plan (Armes 2007). Relevant site plans of the Lennox House zone can be found as Appendix 4.

The Lennox House complex is located at the south-eastern tip of the Acton Conservation Area. Its curtilage is defined by Lawson Crescent to the east, Lennox Crossing to the south/west and the southern boundary of 16 Lennox Crossing to the north. The complex constitutes eight of the original buildings and some later structures and a number of significant trees.

Lennox House (and the adjacent Lennox Crossing) was named after the NSW pioneer bridge builder David Lennox (1788-1873). The complex represents one of the few remaining links to the early surveyor's camps erected prior to the development of the Capital and has served a number of purposes associated with the growth of the city.

Lennox House was erected in stages from 1911-1927. The official date of the earliest occupation of G Block is given as 22 August 1912, the same date as the Administration Office further down the peninsula. A large number of residents and regular visitors were housed in the complex, which began to play an important role in the social life of the settlement. Notable firsts for the Bachelor's Quarters include:

- 1912: Formation of Canberra's first cricket club, 'Acton Cricket Club', the Canberra Sports Club for the Department of Home Affairs employees and the Canberra Cricket Club.
- 1913: Canberra Lawn Tennis Club formed with 24 members - and already seeking a second court (before 1933 there were five courts in the Acton area).
- 1914: First Rifle Club.
- 1925: First amateur theatre group, the Canberra Community Players.
- 1926: First Chess Contest.



Figure 4.3: Tents and buildings of the Bachelors Quarters, 1926 (NAA A3560, 46).

Some junior members of the Royal party were accommodated in the buildings when the Provisional Houses of Parliament was opened by the Duke and Duchess of York in 1927. The complex continued to house public servants until it was leased to Mrs M. Marshall in 1935, who changed the name to the Acton Guest House.

In 1939 the property was commandeered by the Royal Australian Navy to house staff of their Canberra Radio Station until new accommodation for them was completed in 1940.

From 1944 to 1945 the United States 7th Fleet conducted part of a radio training school for their servicemen in the buildings. After the navy released the buildings in 1946 they were used to accommodate junior public servants and, by April of that year, held 130 guests.

The complex became the property of the ANU in 1953 but continued to be used as a guest house until 1960.

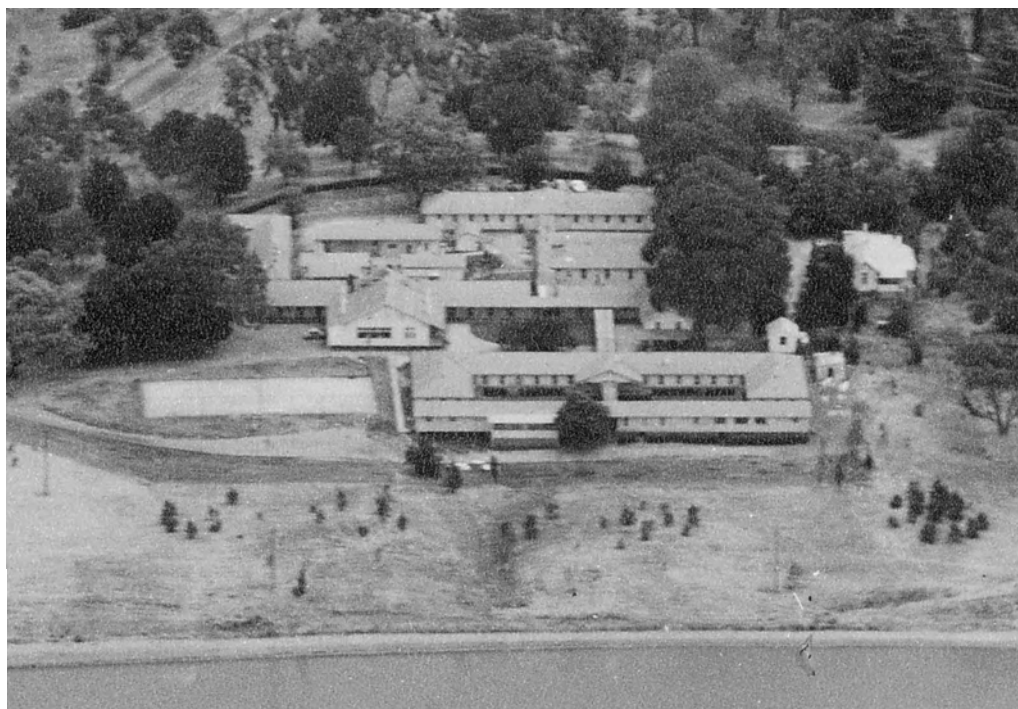


Figure 4.4: View west of Lennox House, c1964 (ANUA 16-07).

Eight of the original sixteen buildings remain. Listed alphabetically, they include Blocks A, D, E, F, G, H, I and Laundry A (the lost buildings include Blocks B, C, J, K, L, M, Q and Laundry B). The design of each building is essentially symmetrical and there is some evidence to indicate their connection via covered walkways. There is also evidence to suggest symmetrical planning for the complex as a whole, although this pattern has largely become obscured with loss of the buildings and later additions.

Most buildings were sited to overlook the river corridor and flood plains of what was to become West Basin of Lake Burley Griffin. The majority included verandahs, which would have added to their amenity and provided an architectural response to their rural and exposed locale. It is clear that any cohesive plan for their original siting has not endured.

Blocks A, D, F, G, H, I and Laundry A are clad externally with rusticated weatherboards supporting a corrugated iron roof; the standard materials of many

rural Australian settlements. The perimeter walls are of stud construction and partition walls consist of vertical v-jointed boards stiffened with a central horizontal stringer. The buildings have 2.7m high ceilings made of v-jointed boards and a timber floor. Many original surfaces remain intact beneath recently applied caneite and other modern floor coverings. E Block was the last building added to the complex prior to the University taking control of the site and is formed of fibro sheeting attached to a light wooden frame.

The windows vary throughout the complex, with the standard type of double-hung with cords and weights. Transoms are fitted to some of the original windows and the sashes have a central vertical bar and horns in an ogee curve. Others have a variety of sash designs, including a pair of casements on some with hopper sash above. The windows of Laundry A are double hung with ogee horns, although they are without glazing bars. Modern aluminium alterations to the windows of G Block are obvious. The windows of E Block are of painted timber, with two hoppers, one above the other; each displays a central vertical glazing bar.

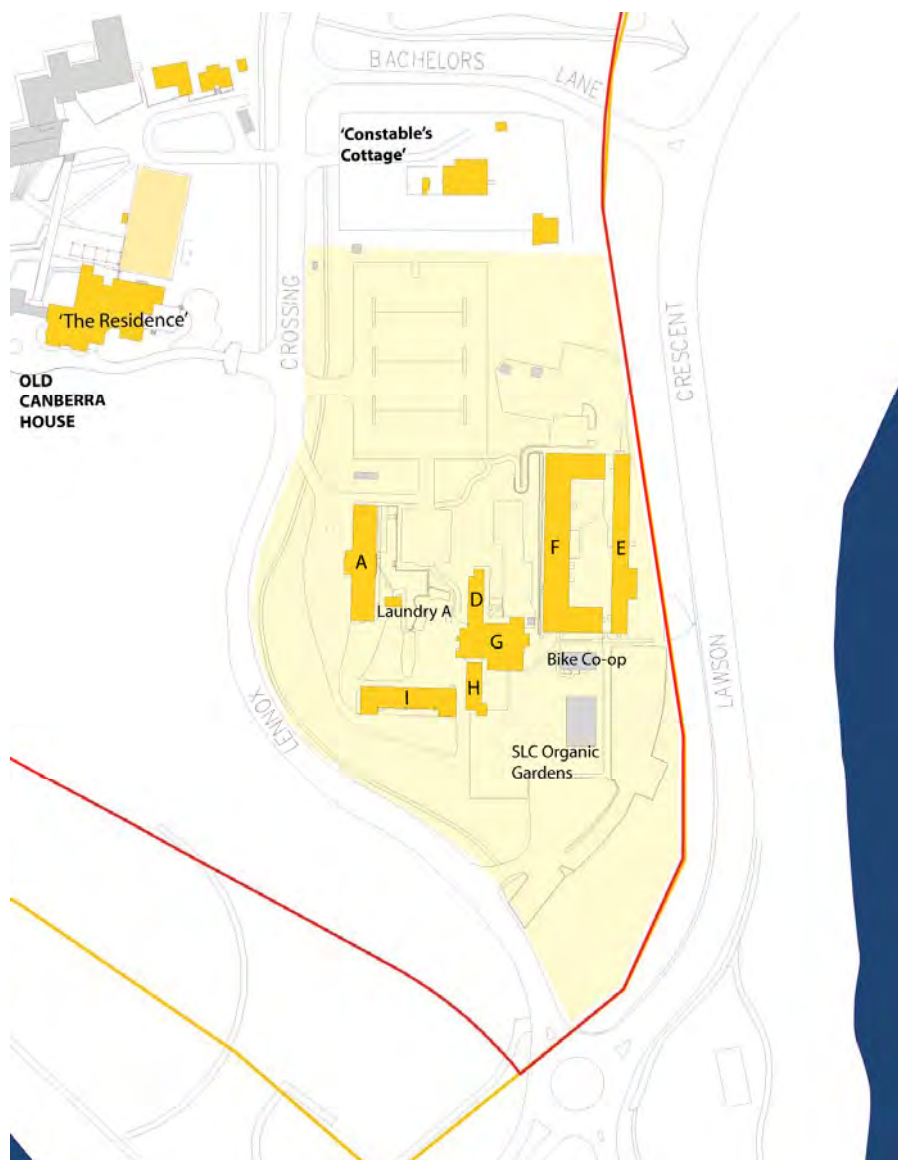


Figure 4.5: Lennox House zone; remnant buildings shaded (ANU Heritage Office).



A Block (view SE), 2009



Front portico of A Block

Historical Overview

A Block was likely designed under the leadership of HM Rolland of the FCC and constructed in August 1927. It was originally called York House to commemorate the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York, who opened the Provisional Houses of Parliament at the time. In 1969 a proposal was made to use the building as offices by University Press, although drawings prepared shortly after note that the building was unoccupied. It has since been renovated in sympathy with the heritage values and occupied as student accommodation and, until recently, as art student studio space. A Block is currently vacant.

Description and Condition

A Block is an elongated, rectilinear single-storey structure with a prominent entry portico and a rhythmical sequence of windows that relate to the interior layout of the cubicles, stemming from a central corridor. Original features include 35mm quad cornices and 35mm scotia boards which have been recently painted white. Each bedroom has a sink, of which some of the original brackets survive. Most original built-in cupboards also remain, constructed of double v-jointed boards. Fragments of the original installation survive and some cord switches are still evident above the bed location, which are fixed to timber mounting blocks.

The doors derive from the Edwardian period and display two lower vertical panels and a single top panel. Some transom windows have survived above the doors; the windows are double-hung with original cords and weights. The sashes have a vertical central bar supporting the ogee curve of the horns above. There is a single brick fireplace in the south-west room.

A Block is generally in good condition, with a high degree of original fabrics, though have been painted over in most cases. Internal linings require some basic repairs, as do the windows and doors.

4.1.2 B Block (demolished)**Lennox House****Historical Overview**

Built at the Molonglo Internment Camp in about 1918, B Block was transferred to Acton in 1922, where it was used initially as sleeping quarters.

The building was similar to others of the Bachelors Quarters, constructed of weatherboard with a verandah to the western side and adjoining links to adjacent buildings. A 1949 drawing gives the building the colloquial name of 'Easy Street'.

B Block, together with the links and verandah, was demolished in 1972. The site is now used as carparking facilities for the childcare complex.



Figure 4.6: Sleeping quarters, Lennox House (Block unknown) (NAA A7973, INT556/3).

4.1.3 C Block (demolished)**Lennox House****Historical Overview**

In similar fashion to B Block, C Block was constructed at the Molonglo Internment Camp about 1918 and transferred to Acton in 1922 to serve as sleeping quarters.

C Block was an elongated weatherboard structure with links to the other buildings of the Bachelors Quarters. A 1949 drawing gives the building the colloquial name of 'Gun Alley'.

C Block was demolished with B Block in 1972. The site today serves as carparking facilities for the childcare complex.



View southwest of D Block (nla.pic-an11030057-247)



Modern view southwest of D Block (Armes 2007)

Historical Overview

D Block was one of the first four buildings constructed at the Bachelors Quarters in the 1911-12 period (along with G, H and part of I Blocks). The building was used as married quarters until WWII, at which time it was used by 'staff'. By 1972 the building had become student accommodation and in 1999 it was modified to improve the compliance of its use as a child-care centre. The upgrade also included the secure connection to G Block and the entry canopy and footpath from the new carpark.

Description and Condition

The interior of D Block originally consisted of five rooms, each leading off the verandah, which faced west onto the tent camp. Walls have since been removed that have enlarged these rooms, but nibs and bulkheads remain to explain the original configuration.

An important feature of the building is the remnant carpentry and roofing which belonged to the covered link proceeding uphill to B, C and A Blocks. Apart from some other much more ephemeral signs, this is the only surviving evidence of the covered links between buildings (Figure 4.7).

The windows have a variety of sash designs, but generally form a pair of casements with a hopper sash above.

D Block is in good condition. Much of the original fabric remains. The most noticeable alterations are the concrete floor of the verandah and the replaced verandah posts. Some repair work was undertaken on the building in 1998, including new floorboards and parts of walls.

D Block is currently used by the Heritage Childhood Centre.



Figure 4.7: Remnants of the covered walkway between buildings (Armes 2007).



West side of E Block, 2010



East side of E Block

Historical Overview

E Block was transported from Sydney (Narellan) in 1946. Department of Works and Housing drawings of that year illustrate the building with the colloquial name of 'the Tunnel', with another similar sized building proposed (but not constructed) alongside the east.

The building's military origins are interesting and demonstrates the resourcefulness required to house Australians in a post-War period of shortages. Relocating this building was a considerable task. It is interesting to note that E Block, although it is a late addition to the complex, sustains the tradition of 'temporariness' attributed to the Bachelors Quarters.

E Block was linked to F Block by a roofed timber structure which reflected the themes of the verandahs throughout the complex. It was likely used as a Common Room in the 1960s and had become part of a Preschool and Day Care Centre by the early 1970s. In 1979 it was altered to accommodate the incumbent child-care facility and by 1989, after the removal of some internal walls, the building was used as a kindergarten.

In 1999 the building was upgraded to address compliance and safety issues relating to its use as a child-care facility. The child-care centre commenced operation in 1969 and has recently celebrated its 40th year at the Lennox House complex.

Description and Condition

E Block is an elongated timber-frame building with fibro walls. It represents a departure from the standard rusticated weatherboards seen in the other buildings of the Bachelors Quarters, though retains the corrugated iron roof. The addition of this structure at Lennox House signalled the loss of symmetrical planning and the obstruction of the main façade of F Block.

The interior of the building has been altered to provide for a series of large rooms for child-care activities. The windows are painted timber, consisting of two hoppers, one above the other. Each hopper sash has a central vertical glazing bar; quadrant mouldings are commonly used for trim and covering. Original entry doors are of braced and ledged construction.

E Block has survived the rigours of total relocation and heavy internal alterations for use as child-care. The fabric is in reasonable condition, but displays cycles of alterations. The building is poorly insulated and has settled to show distortions in some places. The presence of asbestos sheeting will require further investigation.

E Block is currently used by the ANU Pre-School and Child Care Centre.

4.1.6 F Block

Lennox House



Courtyard between E and F Blocks, 2009



The original front façade of F Block, 2009

Historical Overview

An early drainage plan (no. 24) details tents with weatherboard walls sited in the position of this building and in 1925 the structure was described as a 'new pavilion', with a link to the recreation room via a covered walkway. This may have been the standard pattern for other links shown on various site plans. In 1972 drawings designate F Block as part of the Preschool and Day Care Centre, which was altered after 1969 to accommodate the Child Care Collective and play area to the east.

In 1999 the building was upgraded to address compliance and safety issues relating to its use as a child-care facility and included a more secure connection to E Block. The original roof was replaced in about 2000.

F Block has been used as a child-care facility for over 40 years, representing an important chapter of Acton's social history.

Description and Condition

F Block is a long, single-storey structure with symmetrically arranged end wings facing east and a central entry verandah under a prominent gabled 'portico' roof. In much the same style as A Block, rooms are reached via a long central corridor.

The building represents an important step in the architectural character of the region. The gabled roof has a strong pitch and expressed rafters; typical features of the 'Federation Arts & Crafts' style that can be seen in other Acton buildings. Much of the original building survives to show typical construction techniques, with a skilful use of minimum material to provide a large number of individual rooms.

Interior walls are built of v-jointed tongue-and-groove (20mm) boards fixed vertically. The doors are panelled construction, with two elongated bottom panels

and a single panel at the top (four-pane glazed panel for entry doors). Above the door is a transom hopper sash with a vertical glazing bar. Some original door hardware survives. The double-hung windows have box frames concealing cords and weights and the sashes have a single vertical glazing bar each repeating the style used in the transoms. The sash horns have simple splayed detail. Most windows have a modern steel flyscreen with a single horizontal bar at the centre.

Several built-in cupboards remain, built to 1.9m high. Two chimneys are built with roughcast finish and there are lattice vents in the corridor ceilings. Toilet and laundry areas sport ripple-iron linings, with later additions of masonite and fibro linings to the studwork.

There has been a major addition to the east (main) façade, which had little regard for the orthodox symmetry of the original appearance. The building has had a series of modifications culminating in the present configuration for use as a child-care facility.

The entry verandah has largely lost its imposing presence due to the later addition of E Block and is built with a timber floor and perimeter posts that have rounded corners with grooved details at the top. Roof purlins are expressed and the roof neatly returns behind the gutter to terminate the base of the gable. A decorative steel acroterion is fixed at the gable ends.

The exterior of the building is mostly intact. Modern alterations include entry doors in some places and a new balustrade to the eastern portico. The roofing was replaced in about 2000. The interior has much of the original material still in use, although several layers of paint have been added. Many internal walls have been removed, but evidence of early wall locations is still clear through nib walls and bulk-heads. The building remains in sound, serviceable condition.

F Block is currently used by the ANU Pre-School and Child-Care Centre.

4.1.7 G Block

Lennox House



View NW of G Block, 1926 (NAA A3560, 200)



View NW of G Block, 2009

Historical Overview

Built as the dining room to support the nearby tent camp, G Block is the oldest building of the Acton Conservation Area and appears to be the fifth oldest building erected during the Federal Capital period. The 1932 drainage plan shows an extension to the dining rooms (also shown on a Department of Works and Housing drawing of 1946) as having four fireplaces. Chill rooms were added in 1938 and a new garbage bin enclosure in 1949. 1966 saw the rebuilding of the kitchen after a fire and by 1969 the southern end was being used for storage.

In 1972 G Block was designated as a Health Department Cytology laboratory, a use which continued until 1979, when the Child-Care Collective was introduced. In 1987 toilet facilities were built in the south-east corner and a kitchen in the south-west corner of the main room of the child-care facility. This phase also included alterations to the original double doors on the southern side. In 1999 there was a major upgrade to the building to address compliance issues.



Figure 4.8: G Block interior, 23 Oct 1959 (NAA A7973, INT556/1).



Figure 4.9: G Block? interior, 23 Oct 1959 (NAA A7973, INT556/2).

Description and Condition

G Block consists of three phases. The kitchen and part of the dining room are the first two phases and an eastern extension to the dining room is the last major

phase. There have been numerous modifications over time to suit a variety of requirements.

The building is a large, timber-frame structure that is highly expressive of the carpentry and design skills of the period. The original dining room adjoined a verandah to the east, which was framed with two handsome gabled roofs. This has been lost by the later addition, which has disfigured the original dignified façade. The bold pitch, incorporating a gable, and the expressed rafters, are typical features of the Federation Arts & Crafts style, which was continued and embellished by the architect JS Murdoch in the Acton area.

Entry doors have transom windows opening to the verandah and lattice vents are incorporated into the ceiling, which are also assisted by the louvred vents in the gables. The roof construction is expressed by projecting ends to roof purlins.

The building is generally sound. The exterior has been altered with a variety of aluminium windows, modern flush doors and the enclosure of original verandahs. The building is sited well above the ground and the sub-floor frame appears sound. Parts of the roofing and some of the weatherboarding require basic repairs. The interior has been altered with improvised partitions and the installation of fittings and fixtures required for compliance and licensing reasons.

G Block is currently used by the Heritage Early Childhood Centre.

4.1.8	H Block	Lennox House
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H Block (centre left), 1926 (NAA A3560, 200)



Southern end of H Block (Armes 2007)

Historical Overview

H Block was constructed in 1911-12, and was identified as the Bachelors Quarters on an early drainage plan. The building remained 'sleeping quarters' until 1925 and was used as student accommodation after it fell under control of the ANU. The verandah was extended in 1983 and minor work carried out in 1999 as part of the compliance upgrade, which included a weather-proof connection to G Block.

Description and Condition

H Block carries the same style of construction seen elsewhere at Lennox House. The weatherboard walls support a corrugated iron roof with internal partitions of minimal construction.

A large timber-frame deck has been built at the front (east) of the building beneath a metal deck roof. This structure obscures the architectural character of the place, though serves a need for the child-care facility.

The windows have a variety of sash designs, but generally form a pair of casements and a hopper sash above, as seen in other Acton buildings.

The building remains in good condition after refurbishments in 1998. An accumulation of dirt at the western wall should be removed to provide sub-floor ventilation.

H Block is currently used by the Heritage Early Childhood Centre.

4.1.9

I Block

Lennox House



I Block of the Acton Guest House
(nla.pic-an11030057-2539)



Northwest view of I Block, 2009

Historical Overview

Four rooms at the eastern end of I Block were constructed in 1911-12 and the remainder completed in 1923. This makes the flat one of the earliest Federal Capital buildings, along with G and H Blocks. The original four rooms comprised the Warden's Flat and had a small detached room (probably a privy). The extension of 1923 included six rooms and converted the building to a symmetrical, elongated structure with projecting ends that embraced a new verandah. The verandah was filled in with louvers and fibro sheeting (possibly in the 1960s) adopting a commonplace method of improvising additional enclosed space.

During the 1990s the building was occupied by squatters and vacated after negotiations and the disconnection of services. The ANU maintained a view that the building was not suitable for habitation and it had an obligation to protect the liability of the University. I Block has had intermittent use as artist studio space, but has largely remained vacant.

Description and Condition

The earliest phase of I Block (western end) uses techniques not seen elsewhere at the Lennox House complex, although it retains similar features to much of the dining room (G Block). It is generously decorated with (fibrous?) plaster walls with a dado, modified 'lamb's tongue' ogee skirtings about 230mm high and a picture rail.

In one room, the strapped ceilings have a perimeter margin and four central rectangles formed by the strapping (cover strips). The cornice combines scotia and ovolo sections and the floor is tongue-and-grooved, possibly Baltic pine. The doors are braced and ledged with rim locks and round brass handles. Each entry door has a transom.

The second phase of the building is more typical of the Lennox House complex, showcasing interior timber walls with a horizontal stiffener.

The verandah has a caneite ceiling, generations of tongue-and-groove flooring and fibro lining fixed to the outside of the square-dressed posts.

I Block has had several alterations to entry doors and windows and the southern verandah has been enclosed with louvers and fibro. The verandah floor is in poor condition. The building is generally sound, although there is some damage by white ants. The interior of the original Warden's Flat is mostly intact and the other rooms are sufficiently intact as to clearly demonstrate the construction of the building. Downpipes are not connected to effective drains and the roof requires repairs.

The building is today maintained only to prevent unauthorised access. Much of the fabric is sound, but begs repair and conservation.

I Block is currently vacant.

4.1.10 J Block (demolished)

Lennox House



J Block prior to demolition (Armes 1996)

Historical Overview

J Block was constructed of a timber-frame clad in weatherboards on concrete foundation piers. Drawings of 1925 designate the building as Servants' Quarters, while an undated sketch shows J Block as a Manager's Residence. A Department of Works sketch shows the building to be store rooms and also shows Laundry A at the northern side. A 1969 drawing shows the building used as a Tutor's Room and Warden's Office.

The building was seriously damaged by fire and demolished in 1998 after a review of its condition concluded that there was no prudent and cost-effective potential for adaptive re-use. A measured drawing of the building was prepared for archival purposes.

4.1.11

K Block (demolished)

Lennox House



K Block prior to demolition (Armes 1996)

Historical Overview

K Block was constructed of weatherboards clad to a timber frame on concrete foundation piers. Drawings of 1925 and 1939 designate it as Servant's Quarters, while an undated sketch shows K as a store. Department of Works and Housing drawings of 1946 and 1949 detail the building as an office. A 1969 drawing illustrates the building as store rooms. K Block was demolished in 1998.

4.1.12

L Block (demolished)

Lennox House

Historical Overview

Drainage Plan No. 24 details a building in this approximate location, designated 'Steward's Quarters'. As no drainage is shown to this building, it may have only been planned but not built at the time. The 1925 site plan shows L Block as Steward's Quarters, as does a 1939 site plan, which also details the laundry to the north. By 1969 L Block was designated as the deputy warden's flat and the laundry as the Maid's Room. Drawings of 1972 show the building as student accommodation. It had been demolished by 1987.

4.1.13

M Block (demolished)

Lennox House



M Block prior to demolition (Armes 1996)

Historical Overview

M Block was constructed as a shed c1913 and was still used for utilitarian purposes until at least 1939. An undated drawing shows two WCs. The building also appears to have been used as a laundry.

A measured drawing of the structure was prepared prior to its demolition.

4.1.14 Laundry A**Lennox House**

Laundry A, 2009

Historical Overview

Laundry A was one of two of such structures at the Bachelors Quarters. The other, Laundry B, was a small building located near the northern end of F Block. Laundry A has also served as the Maid's Quarters. The building is currently vacant.

Description and Condition

This small building is a well-crafted timber-frame structure lined with rusticated weatherboards. It has a single room with a concrete floor and walls lined with fibro and timber cover strips.

The windows are double hung with ogee horns, although they are without glazing bars. The corrugated iron roofing is secured to a gabled roof. There is a simple squared fascia supporting a quadrant gutter.

The building is in sound condition, although the south-east corner of the floor slab requires attention.

4.1.15 Grounds and Landscape**Lennox House**

Bicycle/storage shed to the north of the complex (recent structure)



Children's playground to north of E and F Blocks (site of demolished Acton Cottage #1)

Landscape Development and Appraisal

Lennox House is situated on a rise that once overlooked the Molonglo River. The view extends from east to south-west and is punctuated by the National Museum of Australia at the southern-most tip of Acton peninsula. Much of the view of Lake

Burley Griffin is now obscured by vegetation.

The landscape around the Bachelors Quarters was never properly developed, although there are hints of a loose landscape scheme for the complex. The oldest trees were planted during Charles Weston's time (prior to 1926). Weston's report of 1923 lists the plantings around the Bachelors Quarters as:

- *Acacia baileyana*
- *Acacia decurrens*
- *Acacia dealbata*
- *Cotoneaster siminsii*
- *Crataegus crenulata* (*Pyracantha crenulata*)
- *Cupressus macrocarpa*
- *Cupressus sempervirens*
- *Eucalyptus globulus*
- *Pinus muricata*
- *Populus Alba*
- *Ulmus campestris* (*Ulmus procera*)
- *Ulmus Montana* (*Ulmus glabra*)

The oldest exotic trees in the Lennox House zone include scattered cypresses, pepper trees, elms and poplars. An important element is the two lines of cypress and single blue gum running roughly east-west to the north of A Block. The last standing blue gum is the only evidence of what was once a fine row of specimen trees (removed by the University for safety reasons during construction of the carpark). There are also a number of scattered remnant eucalypts.

Apart from a few notable trees, little remains undisturbed in the areas used as playgrounds. New paths and paving have been laid and a rubber membrane laid in the play areas. A separate pergola shelter has been erected to the north of E and F Blocks above a paved area.

The tennis court site has become the platform for demountable units accommodating the Canberra Environment Centre and organic garden, and the Canberra Recyclery/Bike Co-Op. These buildings are an unsympathetic part of the complex and block the views from H Block. The organic garden terraces, however, are supported by recycled telephone books and are a novel way to use a difficult site. The gardens are tended by students and represent an important community facility used for educating children of the nearby childcare facility.

Figure 4.10: The Canberra Environment Centre gardens above the old tennis court site at Lennox House



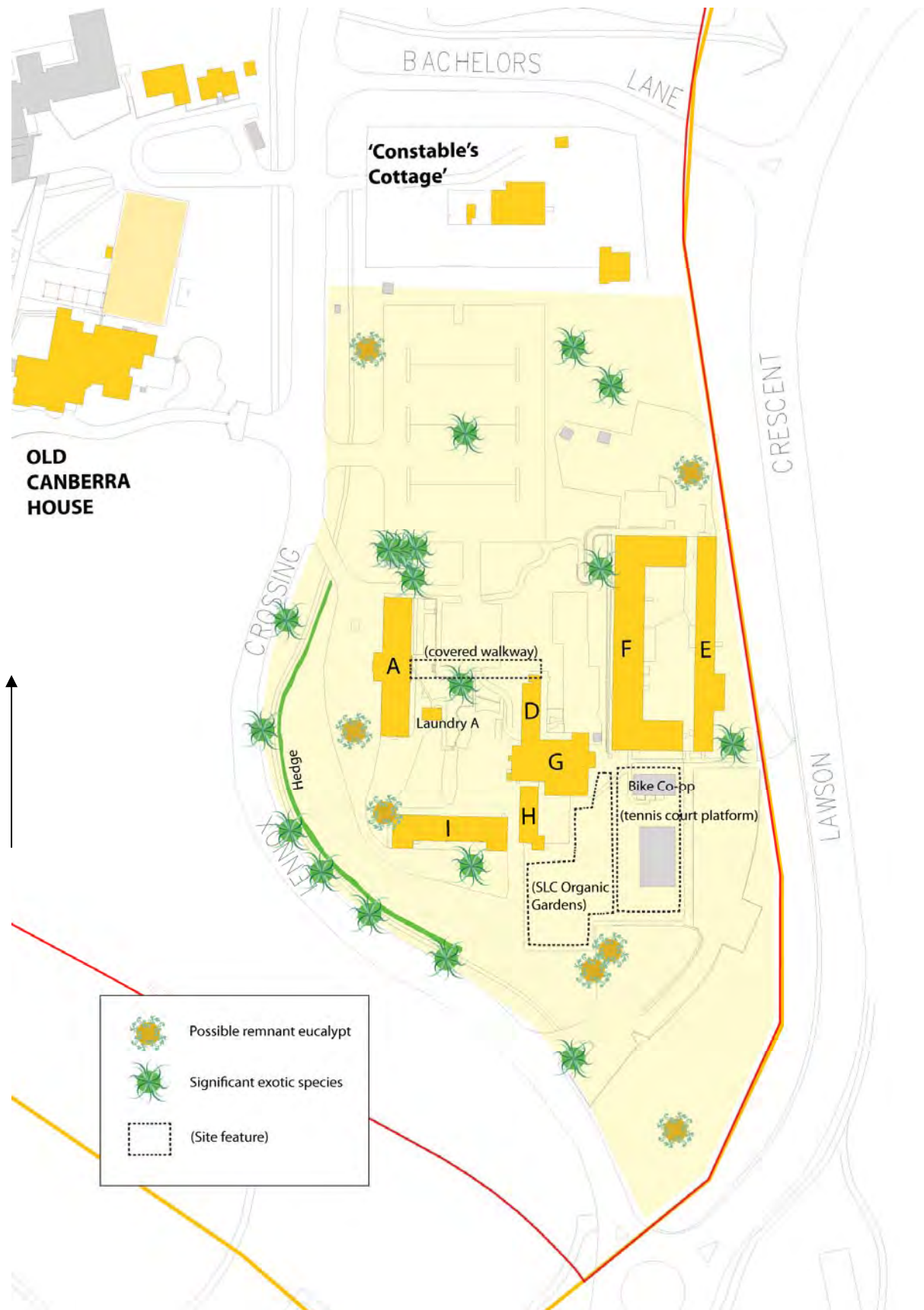


Figure 4.11: Landscape features of the Lennox House complex (ANU Heritage Office).

4.2 Old Canberra House zone

The Old Canberra House complex is located to the west of Lennox Crossing/Liversidge Street, across the road from Lennox House. The curtilage is defined by Lennox Crossing to the east, Parkes Way/Acton Tunnel to the north and the southern loop of Balmain Crescent to the south/southwest (no longer in operation). The complex includes Old Canberra House itself (originally 'the Residence'), the gardener's cottage, chauffeur's cottage, garden shed, tennis court and a small tennis pavilion. The WEH Stanner Building, a later addition to the area, is located to the north of the site. The newly constructed Crawford School links Old Canberra House and the WEH Stanner Building to the west. The gardens surrounding Old Canberra House were some of the first formally landscaped recreational gardens in the Federal Territory and are bordered by patches of endangered native grassy woodland.

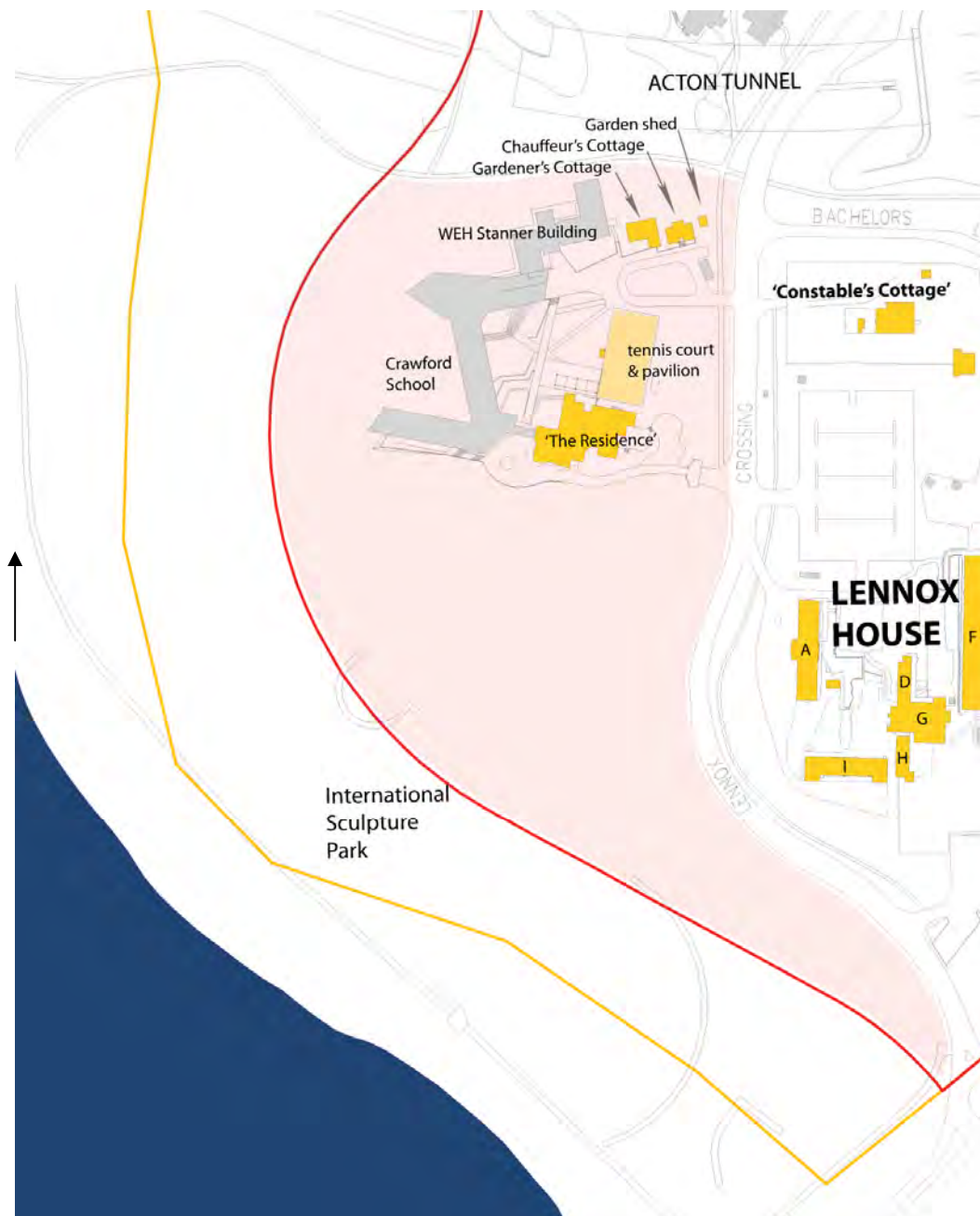


Figure 4.12: Old Canberra House zone; remnant buildings shaded (ANU Heritage Office).

Old Canberra House was constructed in 1913 as the residence of the Administrator and was the first substantial brick residence in the new city. It has also served as accommodation for high-level public servants, as well as the quarters of the first four British High Commissioners in Australia. It was the site of the first premises of the Commonwealth Club and the ANU Staff Centre.

In 2009-10 the Crawford School was constructed at Old Canberra House and connected to the original building via an enclosed link. As part of the works, the chauffeur's cottage and garden shed were transferred from their original locations to the east of the gardener's cottage. A number of significant trees were also removed.

Relevant site plans of the Old Canberra House zone can be found as Appendix 4. A record of the past occupants of Old Canberra House is provided in Appendix 5.



Figure 4.13: Old Canberra House complex (detail from a 1969 aerial photograph) (ANUA 16-23).

4.2.1 Old Canberra House

Old Canberra House



The Residence, c1913 (NLA – Mrs C Collins Collection)



Old Canberra House, 2011
(with link to the Crawford School)

Historical Overview

Old Canberra House was commissioned by King O'Malley, the Minister for Home Affairs, to serve as the Residence of Colonel David Miller, the Administrator of the Federal Territory. Miller transferred to Canberra on 3 October 1912¹ and was in charge of the development of the Territory; he was solely responsible to the Minister for Home Affairs in Melbourne².

Miller, his wife and son were initially housed in a number of tents and a small weatherboard hut that served as kitchen and dining room on the upper reaches of Acton Ridge. Work began on the Residence shortly after their arrival, located immediately to the north-east of their temporary quarters³. Plans for the buildings were originally drawn up by JS Murdoch, with subsequent alterations by Colonel PT Owen, Director-General of Works, and George Oakeshott, the Director of Works for NSW. In addition, both Miller and his wife were to have substantial input into the design of their Residence, including the materials used.

The building had been constructed by December 1913 and occupied in January 1914. The two-storey, concrete-brick structure showcased polished staircases, stained Rosewood panelling and maple wainscoting, prepared in Sydney and transported to the site⁴. Four fireplaces were added to each floor, the ones on the east end of the building incorporated into the bow window. The external façade included bow windows to the east and south, with pronounced sills throughout and an external roughcast coating applied to the concrete brick. Gas was supplied via a small external plant near the building and water from a number of corrugated iron rainwater tanks⁵. During construction a fence was erected around the property and the garden designed and formed by Weston shortly after.

The Royal Commission of 1916 instigated the resignation and departure of Colonel Miller, who left Canberra House on the morning of 28 February 1917⁶. The building was handed over to District Surveyor Percy Sheaffe, before falling under complete control of the Commonwealth Lands and Survey Branch by the beginning of March⁷. The building saw occasional short-term tenancies by government employees for the next few years, including one staff member of the Duntroon Military College in early 1920⁸.

The Federal Capital Advisory Committee were occupying part of the Residence by

March 1921⁹. Initially they were to share tenancy with other government employees, though exclusive use of the property was given to the Committee from 29 May 1922. Colonel Owen, the Director General of Works, lived in the building until the dissolution of the FCAC in 1924¹⁰.



Figure 4.14: The federal Capital Advisory Committee at the Residence, c1924 (l-r: Colonel PT Owen, CS Daley, JTH Goodwin, Sir John Sulman, ET DeBurgh and H.E Ross) (NLA Daley Collection)

The Federal Capital Commission were to resume work in the Capital upon the departure of the FCAC. The Residence was provided to the Chief Commissioner, John Butters (later to be knighted at the opening of the Provisional Houses of Parliament in 1927), his wife and daughters. Their son was later born in the building¹¹. Butters had renamed the building Canberra House by late March 1925¹².



Figure 4.15: Sir John Butters and Family outside Canberra House, 1929 (NAA A3560, 5852)

It appears that a vegetable garden and fowlyard were formed shortly after the Butters family moved into the Residence, with the gardener's cottage and garden shed constructed not long after¹³. Sir John Butters resigned his post in 1929 and left the Residence not long after, followed by the dissolution of the FCC in 1930¹⁴. Throughout their time at the Residence members of both Committees appear to have conducted meetings in the building.

In 1931, Ernest Crutchley, working at the time as the British Government Representative of Migration, was appointed the first 'Representative in the Commonwealth of Australia of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom'.

Crutchley was tasked to secure permanent quarters for the British representative in Canberra and moved to the Capital shortly after to prepare for the appointment¹⁵. After some apprehension, Crutchley settled for Canberra House as the future site of the residence, although extensive alterations were required. These included an enlarged dining room to comfortably accommodate eighteen people, three or four extra bedrooms, a study and an extra downstairs lavatory¹⁶. The Minister approved of the works, though none but the most necessary were carried out before Mr and Mrs Crutchley occupied the building in June 1932¹⁷.

A fence appears to have been erected to the northwest of the site at this time, providing for a smaller area of land for the British government to maintain, yet enough to 'ensure privacy and to give facilities for garden parties'. The remaining portion of the allotment came under control of the Department of the Interior¹⁸.

The approved alterations to the Residence were not undertaken until Crutchley's departure in September 1935. They were completed before the first British High Commissioner, Sir Geoffrey Whiskard, occupied Canberra House in March 1936¹⁹.

A small one-room weatherboard hut was constructed to the north of the garage in 1937 to act as sleeping quarters for the High Commissioner's chauffeur. This building was short-lived, however, and was replaced less than a year later with a larger five-room cottage after the chauffeur was married²⁰. The weatherboard chauffeur's cottage was a significant addition to the site.

Sir Ronald Cross was to follow Whiskard as High Commissioner from 1941 to 1945, to be replaced by (Sir) Edward Williams, who was in residence until 1952. Sir Stephen Holmes was the last UK High Commissioner to occupy the building, moving to a new residence in Deakin by November 1953²¹. Canberra House played host to a number of social activities during the tenancy of the first four British High Commissioners. Activities ranged from children's Christmas parties to more formal state functions, such as entertaining the Japanese Trade Delegation in February 1935²².

After the building was vested to the ANU in 1952 the University Registrar permitted the British government to name their new residence Canberra House, with the old Residency at Acton becoming Old Canberra House²³. A number of caretakers were installed in the outbuildings until the University had determined an appropriate use for the old Residence. The site was located at a distance from the centre of campus and the associated costs of refurbishments too great for the fledgling institution²⁴; it was therefore decided to lease the building to an external agency until the University could determine appropriate long-term occupants.

In March 1955 the Commonwealth Club opened its first premises in Old Canberra House, catering to executive members of the community²⁵. The Club was to take responsibility for any works to the buildings and grounds, with major alterations to the northern expanse beginning in August. These included internal changes to convert the building into commercial premises and the addition of a one-storey



Figure 4.16: Ernest Crutchley, c1932 (Diaries of E.T. Crutchley, NLA)

billiard room to the north. Two verandahs were enclosed to form a bar and auxiliary dining room. A staff toilet was also added to the rear (west) of the building.

The Commonwealth Club consulted Fred Ward of the University Design Section to provide furnishings for the building. The undeniably relaxed, modern Australian theme he adhered to (seen in other campus buildings such as University House) was ideally suited for the building. By February 1955 Ward had submitted drawings of furniture for the dining room, lounge, bar lounge, secretary's office, upstairs and downstairs halls, men's reading room, card rooms, bedrooms, associates' room and associates' lounge²⁶.

In 1963 ANU staff and students were given an opportunity to comment on the future of the building. Results of a questionnaire found that the community preferred to see the place transformed into a relaxed social venue, providing bar services, cheap snack lunches and opportunities for more formal dinners²⁷.

The Commonwealth Club vacated the property in 1965, before new furniture and modern equipment was purchased. The heating system had not functioned efficiently since the British occupation of the 1950s and was completely overhauled. The University Design Section was again entrusted with the decoration scheme (photographs from the late 1970s detail similar furniture to that seen in University House) and a dishwasher, mixer, mincer and 6-ft. bain marie were installed²⁸. The Governor-General passed the Staff Centre Liquor Statute shortly after, thereby granting approval for the sale and consumption of alcohol on the site by the University community. The ANU Staff Centre opened for trading on 7 February 1966²⁹.

Membership was initially open only to "academic staff, other graduate staff and University officers, members of convocation and any other such persons as the Old Canberra House Committee determines"³⁰. Numbers grew steadily throughout the year, as guidelines were relaxed to include all academic staff and permanent staff over 21 years of age, Visiting Fellows and full-time research students. External agencies that had their offices on the campus were also included, notably those of CSIRO and the National Heart Foundation. This was the only type of facility in an Australian university that welcomed all members of the campus community over the age of 21³¹. The Centre served light lunches and formal dinners, with full bar services and a small number of rooms (some with a wash-basin included) on the upper floor for accommodation of official guests.

By October 1972 the kitchen, which had changed little since the days of the Commonwealth Club, had become "congested and substandard to the point that a zealous health inspector could almost close it down forthwith". Two pre-fabricated steel and aluminium units were attached to the west of the original kitchen, providing an extra 800 square feet of much-needed space and modern equipment³².

Despite growing membership numbers and continual improvements to the building (works were carried out almost every year), the Staff Centre was more than \$100,000 in arrears by 1975. This spurred intense speculation amongst members, who felt "fed up with the way the Centre was being run [and] protested at the lack of a constitution for the Centre, lack of a definition of its status and that of its members"³³. They insisted that negotiations be instituted to discuss how better to manage the facility. Losses continued to be sustained for the next few years,

fuelled by restrictions posed by the formation of the Acton Tunnel in 1977 and other alterations to the site³⁴.



Figure 4.17: The ANU Staff Centre provided relaxed catering facilities in the old Residence and gardens. Extensions (including the BBQ room, below) altered the premises substantially (ANUA 226/426)



In 1980 the wall partition in the dining room was removed to provide for a more open and comfortable dining area, and by May the first floor had been offered to the Australian Teachers' Federation (ATF) as office space. Any rental was used to off-set further trading losses³⁵. Further modifications began in 1981, consisting of a double-storey extension to the east of the building, the ground floor to become the new billiard room of the Centre (the John Morphett Billiard Room) and the upper storey to be converted into office space. Other minor alterations included the removal of a window at the back of the ground floor chimney and replaced with a second dart board for the Canberra Dart Club. The current entrance to the gardener's cottage was established in 1981 to provide safe access for the staff and children of the RSA Family Day Care Centre, which had been founded in the building³⁶.

In 1982 the upper storey was modified to accommodate the Federation of College Academics, who were also permitted to use the old billiard room on a temporary

basis from March 1983. A new room fitted with barbecue facilities was also attached to the east of the building and an external staircase added to the front shortly after to allow the Teachers' Federation to have separate access³⁷.

Despite these changes, by 1987 the financial situation of the Staff Centre was in dire straits. It had continued to run at a loss, with disagreements between the management and the University once again prompting talk of permanent closure³⁸. The Governing Body determined that the enterprise could not survive in its existing form and recommended that it "wind back its operations and reduce overheads by eliminating positions and adopting a streamlined management structure"³⁹. The Bar Manager, Jim Murphy, who had been a familiar face at the Staff Centre since the early 1970s, was to leave shortly after⁴⁰.

In 1987 direct management of the Staff Centre was handed to University House and membership was opened to all University staff members without a fee. The accumulated losses were settled and refurbishments carried out. In 1989 the top floor was leased to the Communication Research Institute of Australia (CRIA) and the ground floor sitting room converted to an office-front for Outbound Travel, an agency dealing primarily with in-bound students. Major works were again underway by March 1990, including repairs and refurbishments to the upper storey and the renovation of the kitchen to comply with hygiene regulations. Long overdue painting was carried out and new furniture manufactured by the University workshops⁴¹.

The CRIA departed in January 1992, their rooms opened to the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE). Two rooms were also supplied to students of the Research School of Pacific Studies soon after⁴².

The financial situation of the Staff Centre had improved considerably by the time University House relinquished control of it in February 1994. This was due in large part to a streamlined management scheme instituted by a single experienced governing body, coupled with the rent accrued by the tenants of the upper floor⁴³.

The site began to be used exclusively for teaching and research purposes. Bar services continued on the ground floor until September 1999, albeit in a heavily reduced capacity⁴⁴. In May 1997 the high profile Managing Business in Asia Program was housed in the building, using the old kitchen modular units on the western side and a number of rooms upstairs. The Humanities Research Centre (HRC) had occupied both Old Canberra House and nearby 16 Lennox Crossing by the middle of 1997⁴⁵. Catering facilities were removed and the rooms outfitted as office space. For the first time since it had been vested to the University Old Canberra House was used exclusively as a teaching and research venue.

In 2001 the WEH Stanner Building was constructed to the north of Old Canberra House. This double storey red-brick office building housed the expanding staff of the HRC, who also occupied the chauffeur's cottage and gardener's cottage. The garage was demolished as part of the works and the courtyard between the buildings was landscaped. In 2003 the vestibule was refurbished and lined with modern display cabinets⁴⁶.

The landscape to the west of the building has also seen changes. The ANU Society for Constructive Anachronism used the grounds for archery practice⁴⁷ and the Research School of Biological Sciences had erected a small raised timber bee-house beneath the large stand of *cupressus* trees to the west of the chauffeur's

cottage, part of which remains on the site.

The construction of the Crawford School was the subject of a Referral under the EPBC Act in 2008. These works resulted in the most extensive alterations to the site, including a link punched directly into the western end of Old Canberra House, the transfer of the Chauffeur's Cottage and Garden shed to the east of the Gardener's Cottage and the removal of a number of significant *cupressus* trees.

Figure 4.18: The north courtyard was formed in 2001 with the construction of the WEH Stanner Building (part of the tennis court shed can be seen to the right)



Figure 4.19: The southern end of the Crawford Building, 2010, located to the southwest of Old Canberra House



Figure 4.20: The Crawford School was designed around notable landscape elements, such as the large stand of *cupressus* trees planted as a wind-break between the 1920s and 1930s.



Description and Condition

Though Old Canberra House has been heavily modified since its construction, it retains much of its original character and remnants of the original architectural style. Ratcliffe and Armes (1993) describe the building:

[Old Canberra House] blends stylistic features of the Mediterranean Revival and Californian Bungalow (the roughcast walls), Victorian Arts & Crafts (steep roof and exposed after tails), Public Victorian (bar-less windows), Queen Anne (roof gablets) and Italianate (bay windows incorporating the chimney). A small but important 'Australian' contribution is the louvred venting at the gablets, providing the signature of J.S Murdoch, with his Scottish and Queensland experience. The same motif is used at 16 Lennox Crossing, attributed to Murdoch.

The mix combines to provide a dignified composition, improved with the benefits of a visually magnificent site, and spacious grounds which with the tennis court, echo the character of upper-crust living in the earliest days of the new Federal Territory.

Many of the architectural features are used in other Acton buildings, and later development in the new city (e.g. Reid), so it is an important influence in the development of Canberra.

The concrete-brick walls, finished in roughcast cement and painted white, sport 'egg-crate' terracotta vents above the ground floor windows. Removed portions of the building are still visible in places, in particular on the west façade (signs of the modular kitchen units) and between the rear extensions (previously enclosed for bar services).

The steep hipped roofs embody pronounced valleys and are clad in terracotta tiles, which were replaced in 1982 (photographic evidence indicates that the original tiles were smaller and similar to those found on the tennis court shelter⁴⁸). The exposed rafter tails and extended eave overhangs are an interesting component of the roof design. Together with the conspicuous steep pitch leading to a myriad of valleys, they provide for an altered sense of perspective and results in the structure appearing taller than it actually is. The chimneys, also in good condition (though no longer used), are finished in roughcast with an ovolo and ogee string at the top.

There are few examples of original doors and windows. The majority are modern, with sunken panels and steel vents, rim locks and handles. External doors have glazed panels and are similar to those illustrated on early plans of the building. A screen door is attached to the frame of the first floor south-east balcony and some aluminium screens provided to windows. The ground floor originally contained three bow windows, two of which have been removed and one totally consumed in later additions (still visible in the east front hall). The bow windows are an important feature of the Residence for their association with Colonel and Mrs Miller, who insisted on their inclusion in the final plan⁴⁹.

The remaining early windows appear to date from the 1935 extensions that were carried out for the British government, or are sympathetic modern additions reminiscent of this style. The majority are double-hung, with four-pane sliding sashes in box timber frames with some supporting ogee horns. The pronounced sills that were evident in the original design have been retained in later additions and alterations and are important elements of the façade.

The 1935 extensions changed the character of the building considerably. Two bay windows were removed and the entrance remodelled. The original front façade was consumed in the extensions and led to the loss of the external dentils and the enclosure of the verandahs; two important features of the initial design.

The remaining bay window and chimney have largely become obscured. The windows are paired, but retain the double hung approach to the fenestration. The front single storey Meeting Room (constructed as the BBQ room of the Staff Centre) extension displays eight-pane glazed double doors flanked by glazed wall panels that provide a pleasant view of the gardens and front patio. The rear double-storey extension is generally sympathetic in mass and certain features of the original fenestration have been continued. These include pronounced sills and window styles, although the 'Moderne' horizontal glazing bars seen in some of the windows are arresting departures from the original style.

Internally, much of the original character has been lost with conversion into commercial premises and office space. The modern doors display sunken panels or grooves with a steel louvred vent and modern rim locks, hinges and handles. It appears that the original doors have been retained on the Program Manager's Office, upstairs western storeroom and Common Room. The latter examples also display traditional bronze handle and escutcheon (albeit since painted over).



Figure 4.21: 'Original' features of Old Canberra House include a number of fireplaces, joinery and some art deco wall vents.



The skirtings display a number of different moulds. The original skirtings may have been retained in the foyer, with a flat fillet and an Edwardian curve (dark-stained), although this area has been refurbished. The 1930s additions display an ogee

mould above a beaded quirk painted beige and the 1950s-90s additions display a much less ornate simple beaded quirk mould (basic shellac finish). The moulding is continued into the architraves and window frames. As the many alterations to the structure can lead to a somewhat distorted view of the history of the place, the different joinery styles provide an important contrast between the different periods. The cornices are fluted throughout, with differing widths that are painted white.

The panelling in the foyer has seen some restoration, although is largely reminiscent of the original form, as observed on the early plans of the building. The decorative joinery around the foyer fireplace combine with the dressed and exposed ceiling joists to provide a British character to the room. The fireplace is constructed of bullnose face bricks, with a generous timber (English Oak?) surround and tapered square pillars with a slight entasis (similar to 16 Lennox Crossing), a marble hearth kerb and ceramic tiles to finish. The ceiling panels between the joists are trimmed with an ovolo bead.



Figure 4.22: The growth of Old Canberra House (red frame illustrates original layout)

The remaining fireplaces throughout the building are of different styles. The first floor Common Room fireplace is framed by a similar mantle to that of the foyer, supported by quad brackets with a small display cabinet in the centre. The cabinet has six-pane glazed doors and includes the original lock. The inner hearth is formed of dark red bricks-on-end with bullnose stops. The original cast-iron plate is visible to the rear of the hearth. The outer hearth is of short black slate tiles surrounded by a polished marble kerb. Other fireplaces include examples in the Program Manager's Office, two in the Conference Room, one in the old maid's room (north-west wing) and a number upstairs. Most are later additions to the building that, while still displaying the original style, have been boarded up or used as temporary storage space.

The ground floor kitchen, upstairs kitchenette and all bathrooms have been outfitted with modern appliances and fixtures. Though the kitchen is closest to its initial (1913) size in over fifty years, no remnants of the original room survives.

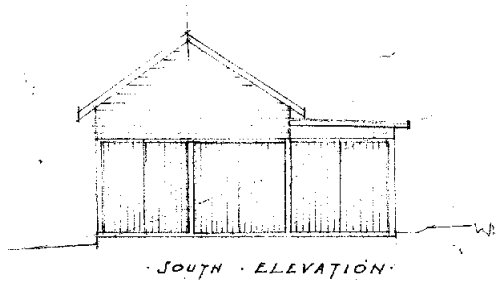
All rooms (bar storerooms, bathroom and kitchen facilities) are today used as office or research space, or for storage. Modern additions include air-conditioning units, electrical/computer fittings, paintwork, carpeting, window blinds, shelving and built-in cupboards that are not sympathetic to the original style.

A large crack has appeared in the wall outside the Director's Office (first floor northern corridor), as well as some paint flaking in the Common Room. Previous water leaks in the Conference Room have left unsightly staining to the ceiling panels.

Overall, Old Canberra House is in good condition. The fireplaces require some repairs, including a new marble kerb in the foyer. The roof tiles show some signs of age, with isolated instances of cracking and the external façade requires some basic repairs and paintwork to the roughcast. Water has stained the ceiling in the Tea Room and Conference Room.



Figure 4.23: Though much of the original Residence has been lost, the foyer (centre right) and upstairs Common Room (lower right) are strongly reminiscent of the original form. Joinery and fireplaces are notable parts of the building (NAA A3560, 7567/7569).

4.2.2**Garage (demolished)****Old Canberra House**

OCH Garage, 1938 (extension not constructed) (detail from ANU Plan K073A-A-001-001)



The original garage (left) used as the Bottle Store of the Staff Centre (Ratcliffe & Armes 1993)

Historical Overview

The garage at Old Canberra House was erected shortly after the Residence was constructed. It was originally a small weatherboard structure with a concrete ramp ('car-wash') that accommodated two small cars, one of which was the Administrator's early Minerva model. Upon Miller's departure in 1917 minor repairs were carried out, including tighter security measures to protect the four-wheeled buggy and old stove stored within⁵⁰.

By 1938 the building had been ravished by white ants. The then British High Commissioner, Sir Geoffrey Whiskard, requested extensions to the garage, though these were never undertaken. Repairs on the doors and damaged timbers, however, were carried out⁵¹.

In 1966 plans were prepared to convert the garage into accommodation for gardeners, though again these were never carried out. By the early 1970s the building had become the bottle-store of the ANU Staff Centre and the concrete slab ramp consumed by a modern galvanised extension to provide for a larger storage area⁵².

The garage was demolished in 2001 as part of landscape alterations carried out in line with the construction of the WEH Stanner Building to the north⁵³.

4.2.3**Chauffeur's Cottage****Old Canberra House**

Chauffeur's Cottage (prior to transfer),
view east (front)



Chauffeur's Cottage in new location,
view north (front)

Historical Overview

A driver had been supplied to the Administrator after he arrived in the Territory⁵⁴ and executive members of the FCAC and FCC may have also used a driver. The British High Commissioner was to embellish the role of the chauffeur and constructed a small, one-room weatherboard hut to accommodate his driver to the north of the 'woodshed' (garden shed) in 1937. This 'room for chauffeur' had only the most basic of amenities, though was largely suitable for the single man⁵⁵.

In 1938 Sir Geoffrey Whiskard contacted the Department of the Interior and requested construction of a large, permanent cottage consisting of 'bedroom, sitting room and kitchen of the simplest type' for the newly married chauffeur and his wife. The work was duly undertaken in line with repairs to the garage and minor modifications to the upper floor of Canberra House. The new cottage had been completed and connected to the local electricity supply by 11 November 1938⁵⁶. Mr E. Coyle was the last chauffeur to occupy the building, moving to a home in Deakin in April 1954 before the building was handed over to the University⁵⁷.

The Department of the Interior carried out minor repairs in the mid-1950s, including a new coat of paint and the installation of a new electric bath heater and stove. The cottage was used as a caretaker's residence until staff of the Commonwealth Club moved into Old Canberra House in 1965⁵⁸.

The chauffeur's cottage was vacant and used for storage until 1967, when the caterer of the Staff Centre, Mr John Joseph O'Brien, took up residence. He stayed in the building until the beginning of 1969⁵⁹. It was used by a number of staff members of the Centre and as temporary gardener's accommodation until 1972, at which time it was refurbished and used as a residence by the newly married Bar Manager, Jim Murphy⁶⁰.

In May 2001 planning had begun on restoration works to the cottage. They were to cost more than \$80,000 and included the conversion of the separate rooms into offices, installation of efficient heating and air-conditioning units, new floor coverings and modern toilet and kitchen facilities⁶¹.

Description and Condition

The Chauffeur's Cottage originally consisted of a single bedroom, living room,

kitchen, hall, porch and laundry. The bedroom, living room and original kitchen have since been converted into office space and the laundry converted into a modern kitchenette.

The cottage is a timber-frame building clad externally in rounded bevelled weatherboards supported by a 'Canberra' red-brick base. It has boxed eaves, a corrugated-iron roof and red-brick chimney with circular pot.

The windows are double-hung with round horns. The single horizontal glazing bar in the sashes of the front window are important expressions of the 'Moderne' school, while the brackets under the eaves revert to Edwardian style.

The original room layout has been retained, though the joinery and carpentry finishes have been replaced where necessary and re-painted. In similar fashion to the Residence, most of the doors have been replaced with modern reproductions. The hall (original linen) cupboard retains the narrow framed ledge door, with modern aluminium fittings and has been painted beige to match the ovolo skirtings. As in the offices, the hall is lined with dark-stained picture rails that serve to separate the off-white walls with the white scotia cornices above.

The original range in the kitchen has been replaced with a large bookshelf, though the simple mantle beam has been retained. The living room fireplace is of red brick and has moulded surrounds and the original mantle (pine?). The gathering has sunk to the hearth level and has blocked the stack.

The ceiling of the living room may have been salvaged from the original chauffeur's hut; it displays moulded strapping and a central mount that balances the form and would have supported the original light fixture.

The chauffeur's cottage has recently been transferred to the east of the gardener's cottage in line with the construction of the Crawford School. It is in good condition following the recent refurbishments and survived the move intact. Original 'Canberra' red bricks were salvaged from other sites in the city and used in the reconstruction of the base and the addition of a small set of stairs at the rear.

4.2.4 Gardener's Cottage

Old Canberra House



Gardener's cottage, view north (front)



Gardener's cottage, view south (rear)

Historical Overview

It is unclear exactly when the gardener's cottage was constructed, although an examination of the role of the garden at different times provides a somewhat accurate picture of its history.

The cottage was likely constructed in the mid-1920s (1926?) after the departure of Charles Weston from the Capital. It was recorded that Weston's successor, Alexander Bruce, had consulted with John Butters regarding alterations to the landscape. No specific details are given, though this may have included planning for the vegetable garden and fowlyard, the conversion of the woodshed to garden shed and the construction of the gardener's cottage⁶². An extra room was added to the front (south) of the building by the British High Commission in 1941.

By 1977 the cottage had been converted into the RSA Family Day Care creche⁶³. In 1981, following years of planning, the drive and entrance to the gardener's cottage were re-designed to provide for a safer access for children and staff from Liversidge Street⁶⁴.

The building is currently used as outbreak space and the Muslim prayer room of the Crawford School.



Description and Condition

The gardener's cottage at Old Canberra House was one of the only fully brick residential buildings constructed at Acton prior to the dissolution of the FCC in 1930 (other examples include Old Canberra House and the residences at 22 and 26 Balmain Crescent).

The cottage has roughcast walls and a steep Marseilles-pattern tile roof, similar to number 26 Balmain Crescent. It has double-hung windows with ogee horns and the rear windows have a six-pane top sash. The chimneys are roughcast and the cappings are red brick-on-end soldiers supporting a concrete slab. The roughcast work is decorated with brick stretchers corbelled to form dentils.

The inner walls are of rendered brick and the architraves are simple splayed sections. The office walls, including the scotia cornices, pictures rails and fibrous plaster strapped ceilings, have been painted white. The interior layout of the rooms is similar to that of the original plan, though the joinery has been painted and

modern additions observed throughout (climate control systems, door locks and kitchen and bathroom fixtures). The roughcast finish has minor signs of wear, though the building is generally in good condition.

4.2.5 Woodshed / Garden shed	Old Canberra House
 <p data-bbox="272 853 715 913">Garden shed (to south of Chauffeur's cottage prior to transfer), 2009</p>	 <p data-bbox="868 853 1257 882">Garden shed after transfer, 2010</p>

Historical Overview

The woodshed may have been erected at the same time as the Residence and garage. In 1919 it was recorded that the door of a 'small weatherboard house' on the grounds of the Residence, which may have been the woodshed, had broken off⁶⁵.

The building was likely converted into a garden shed in the mid-1920s when the vegetable garden and fowlyard were established to the northwest of the Residence. A small wood storage bin was formed to the rear of the Residence at the same time⁶⁶.

In 2001 the University notified the Australian Heritage Council of their intention to demolish the shed. However, this was never to happen, with the Humanities Research Centre instead using the small structure for the storage of bicycles⁶⁷.

Description and Condition

The shed is a well-crafted utilitarian building. The use of the weatherboard dado is an interesting feature, as it is the only instance of squared (as distinct from rounded) bevelled weatherboards in the Acton area. It has one timber door (south) and quad guttering, but no fascia. The original downpipes on the western façade have been retained.

The building is also interesting for its potential association with the works of HM Rolland, who designed houses in the Canberra district along similar lines. The shed may have been a considered design, rather than an improvisation, reflecting the esteem of the site and social level of the occupants.

The building has recently been transferred to the east of the gardener's cottage, along with the chauffeur's cottage. It is in good condition.



Tennis court shed, view northeast, 2009



Tennis court, view north from Canberra House, 2009

Historical Overview

The tennis court at Old Canberra House was formed and graded by the Department of Afforestation under the direction of Charles Weston in 1914. The original base was of local gravel that has since been covered with artificial turf and a light coating of sand. It is likely that the court was lined with grapes along the fences (requested by the Administrator), though no evidence of these plantings remain⁶⁸.

In October 1918 the Surveyor General granted permission for the Canberra Tennis Club, consisting of married officers and their wives residing at Acton, to use the court for a minimal fee while Canberra House was empty⁶⁹. There is no evidence to indicate that the court was used by other local residents until the gardens were opened to the public in 1931⁷⁰.

The small tennis court shed was likely constructed at the same time as, or shortly after, the court. Both the court and shed are in good condition and are used regularly by University staff.

Description and Condition

The tennis court is artificial turf and bordered with a high chain-link fence.

The tennis court shed is a small shelter with rounded weatherboard cladding to the rear (west) and flanked on the north and south with lattice screens. The roof is formed of small terracotta tiles (likely original) and bordered by eave overhangs to the east and west. The walls have been painted white and the eaves stained dark green.

The tennis court is in good, playable condition and has been well-maintained. The court shed is also in good condition, although there is some rotting to the timbers on the lower north corner.



Front gates of Old Canberra House, flanked by commemorative cedars, 2009



South gardens of Old Canberra House, 2009

Historical Overview

Work on the gardens began in August 1913⁷¹, prior to the completion of the Residence. Charles Weston had prepared planting lists for Acton which included 260 trees on the Residence grounds and plane trees every 3.1 metres along the Avenue (Acton Road)⁷². By September he had planned the paths and drives and had begun work on the perimeter fence and border trenches. Planting began shortly after, with perennial phlox, roses and carnations forming the new borders⁷³.

Weston began grading the tennis court in January 1914, likely lining the perimeter fences with grapes at Miller's behest. Mrs Miller was to have significant input into the plantings at the Residence, including the selection of the commemorative cedars planted by Lord and Lady Grey in April 1914⁷⁴; the two trees today flank the main entrance from Liversidge Street. A Douglas-fir was also planted on the same day by the Governor-General, Sir George Strickland. This tree has since been replaced with a young example of the same species. Sir John Forrest is also known to have planted a commemorative tree on the premises⁷⁵, although the location and exact species is unknown.

Weston embellished the borders throughout 1914, planting roses, chrysanthemums, dahlias, flowering peaches and shrubs such as *Acacia baileyana*. Much of the year was also spent grading the drives with gravel from Kurrajong⁷⁶.

Trees planted by Weston until 1923 were included in a report he prepared:

- 1914: *Abies douglasii* (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)
- 1914: Variety of roses
- 1914: *Acacia decurrens*
- 1914: *Buddha veitchiana* (*Buddleia davidii* variety)
- 1914: *Cedrus deodara*
- 1914: *Cedrus libani*
- 1914: *Sequoia sempervirens*
- 1914: *Sequoia gigantean*
- 1915: *Pinus canariensis*
- 1915: *Pinus jeffreyi*
- 1915: *Pinus pinaster*

1915: *Pyrus aucuparia* (*Sorbus aucuparia*)
1915: *Rosa banksii* (white and yellow)
1915: *Rosa 'Dorothy Perkins'*
1915: *Sterculia diversifolia* (*Brachychiton populneum*)
1915: *Wisteria sinensis*

There are wide inconsistencies between the above list and the existing species. It is clear that much of the gardens have been altered, although some notable examples of some of the species listed above are found on the grounds today.

In early 1924 the inflated cost of living at a distance from the nearest store had begun to take a toll on the growing number of Acton residents. In response to complaints by the tenants of the Bachelor's Quarters, Weston advised the occupants to:

Practice, with benefit, both mentally and physically, a simple expedient adopted by almost every married officer at Canberra, that of growing their own vegetables and, in many instances, fruit, in their spare time⁷⁷.

Certain species of vegetables had already been sown in the region and flourished under the care of the residents. These included varieties of beans, broccoli, beet silver, cabbages, cauliflowers, carrots, cucumbers, lettuces, mint, marrow vegetables, onion, peas, parsley, rhubarb, turnips and potatoes. The vegetable garden at Canberra House was very likely formed at the request of John Butters in the mid-1920s and undoubtedly included examples of the species listed above. Other changes included the erection of a swing to the south of the vegetable garden and the probable construction of the gardener's cottage (see Section 4.2.4)⁷⁸.

Weston was to depart the Capital in 1926, leaving Alexander Bruce in charge of afforestation works. Bruce initially concentrated on smaller decorative species at Canberra House, including *Dianthus* sp, *Antirrhinum* sp, pansies and Iceland poppies. Larger species he planted at the request of Butters included single examples of palms and cypresses⁷⁹.

The large stand of *cupressus* trees located to the west of the vegetable garden and chauffeur's cottage may have been established at this time. Bruce recorded that an employee of the Gardens & Grounds Department spent four hours planting *cupressus* trees on the property on 5 October 1927⁸⁰. A dendrochronological study that was conducted on the trees in May 2006 stated that they may have indeed been planted between 1923 to 1929, although this could not be confirmed. It was noted that the trees were more likely associated with the use of the place by the British High Commission in 1935 when other physical changes were carried out⁸¹. This theory is supported by their exclusion in site maps dating from 1930 and 1936-37 and aerial photography dated 1927⁸². The evidence suggests that the trees were planted to provide either a wind-break to the vegetable garden (c1927), or as a shelter belt for the chauffeur's cottage (c1932-33). Either way, these trees were an important addition to the landscape and can be seen as a continuation of the planting principles established by Weston in the Capital. A number of trees have since been removed to make way for the Crawford School development at Canberra House⁸³.

Bruce also added strawberries, celery and asparagus to the variety of vegetables grown⁸⁴ and ensured that the drives were kept in good order, all again at the request of Butters. Like many employees of the FCC, the gardener respected John

Butters, whose departure he noted was a 'pity for Canberra'⁸⁵.

The gardens continued to play an important part in the social life of Acton until they were formally opened to the public in 1931. In July 1927 Bruce delivered a dozen roses for a ladies' party at Canberra House and manicured the grounds for an engineers' party not long after. He was to assist in the initial development of the Acton subdivision in 1928, as well as preliminary planning for a croquet lawn (never formed). He also planned species lists for an orchard at Canberra House⁸⁶, though no evidence of fruit trees exist in the area today.

With the dissolution of the FCC in 1930 the grounds were placed under the control of the Parks & Gardens Branch of the Department of the Interior. Attention shifted to other locations in Canberra, including the Acton Hospital, the Institute of Anatomy (Screen and Sound Archives), the Hotels Acton and Canberra and the Prime Minister's Residence⁸⁷.

A survey drawing of the Old Canberra House allotment dated January 1930 (Appendix 4.17) illustrates the trees planted in the grounds, together with garden beds lining the driveway from Lennox Crossing. Hedges of wattles and banksias and a large rose garden divide the grounds from Lennox Crossing and hide the view of the Bachelors Quarters to the east. Some of the trees in this plan can be identified in the gardens today. A later site plan (determined to be dated between 1936-37) shows little changes to the species.

These site plans suggest that the allotment was partitioned at the request of the British government. They wished to 'retain sufficient extra land to ensure privacy and to give facilities for garden parties', though had no need for the surrounding landscape and adjoining areas, nor did they wish to reimburse the Commonwealth for their upkeep. CS Daley prepared the lease and noted that the kitchen garden would remain the responsibility of the tenant⁸⁸. A fence appears to have been erected from the north of the chauffeur's cottage and then south to Balmain Crescent⁸⁹.

Very little work was carried out on the garden in the late 1930s, although some trees were removed in 1937-38⁹⁰. In 1939 the clothesline, which had previously been hung to the west of the tennis court, was visible from the High Commissioner's dining room window and subsequently moved to the west of the chauffeur's cottage and garage⁹¹. After the land was vested to the University in the early 1950s little notable additions were made to the surrounding landscape. Outdoor parties and social gatherings continued to be held in the gardens, including weddings and official University functions⁹². The gardens have been gradually reduced with each successive phase of occupation, but do contain a number of notable trees.

Description and Condition

The gardens of Old Canberra House display plantings from Weston's period (1913-26), as well as numerous examples of remnant eucalypts dotted amongst the introduced species. They have been gradually reduced since their initial development, although the remaining vegetation appears to be reminiscent of the original form.

The lawn area contains scattered Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*), interspersed with mature pine species. The hedgeline adjacent to Lennox Crossing is mainly

Photinia serrulata and *P. robusta*, with some smaller leaved *P. glabra rubens*. A small number of banksia roses still cling to the southern lengths of the fence.

Notable site features include the old Balmain Crescent ring-road skirting the site to the south and west, lined with mature eucalypts from the 1930s. Stemming from this is the old bitumen drive that was laid in the 1930s for the British high Commissioner; this today provides a handy walkway from Old Canberra House to the International Sculpture Park. The Sculpture Park itself is notable for the many pieces commissioned by the University from international and local artists.

Running through the Sculpture Park is the old allotment boundary between Acton and Springbank properties; one of the last, ephemeral reminders of early pastoral practices in the Conservation Area. No evidence of the fence remains today, though a tree sporting a large blaze may have been part of the boundary (the blaze appears to be artificial, though its connection to the boundary cannot be confirmed with any certainty). A number of areas also contain endangered grassland species, including *Leucochrysum albicans* (Hoary Sunray), amongst patches of the critically endangered White-box Yellow-box Blakely's Red-gum Grassy Woodland community (refer Section 4.5)⁹³.



Figure 4.24: The formal gardens of Old Canberra House (above), are a heady contrast to the scattered native trees and grasslands of the southwest Acton peninsula landscape (below).

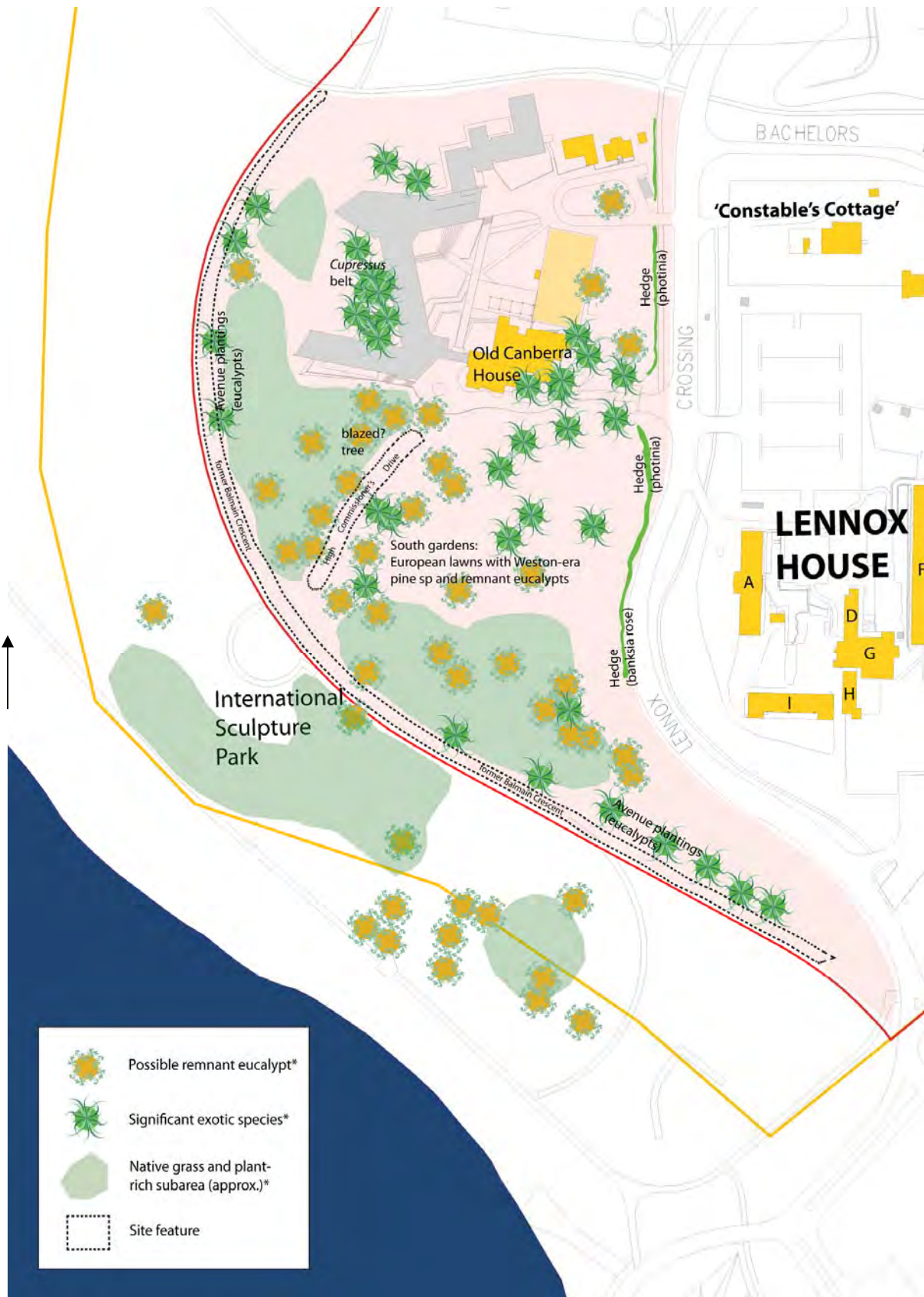


Figure 4.25: Landscape elements of the Old Canberra House zone (ANU Heritage Office).

*Approximate location – specific details are retained on the ANU Tree Database

-
- 1 Gibbney 1988 (7)
 - 2 Watson 1927 (164)
 - 3 See NLA Plate #10532, and the Dr Frederick Robinson Collection
 - 4 NAA A540, 13/763 (1912-13)
 - 5 NAA A540, 13/763 (1912-13)
 - 6 NAA A361, DSG23/2117 (1917)
 - 7 NAA A361, DSG23/2117 (1917)
 - 8 NAA A192, FCL1919/977 (1919-20)
 - 9 NAA A361, DSG23/2117 (1921-22)
 - 10 NAA A361, DSG23/2117 (1922)
 - 11 Gibbney 1988 (110)
 - 12 Gibbney 1988 (111)
 - 13 NAA A361, DSG23/2117 (1925)
 - 14 Gibbney 1988 (157-58)
 - 15 Barder, J. 1992. *Old Canberra House and the British Connection*. (5)
 - 16 NAA A1/15, 1932/3567 (1931-32)
 - 17 NAA A1/15, 1932/3567 (1932)
 - 18 NAA A1/15, 1932/3567 (1931)
 - 19 Barder 1992 (8-11)
 - 20 NAA A292/1, C15603 (1935)
 - 21 Barder 1992 (13-15)
 - 22 Crutchley, E.T (1870-1940). *Diaries and Personal Papers*. (vol. 2-3)
 - 23 ANUA 53 477 (1954)
 - 24 ANUA 53 477 (1954)
 - 25 ANUA 53 477 (1954)
 - 26 Morrison, A. 2002. *The History of the Commonwealth Club: 1954-2000* (33-34).
 - 27 ANUA 53 477 (1964)
 - 28 ANUA 53 477 (1965)
 - 29 ANUA 53 477 (1965)
 - 30 ANUA 53 477 (1965)
 - 31 ANUA 53 477 (1967)
 - 32 ANUA 53 477 (1972-73)
 - 33 Canberra Times, 10 Sept 1975
 - 34 ANUA 53 477 (1979)
 - 35 ANUA 53 477 (1980)
 - 36 ANUA 53 477 (1981-83)
 - 37 ANUA 53 477 (1983)
 - 38 ANUA 53 477 (1986-87)
 - 39 ANUA 53 477 (1987)
 - 40 ANUA 53 477 (1987)
 - 41 ANUA 53 477 (1987)
 - 42 ANUA 53 477 (1992-93)
 - 43 ANUA 53 477 (1992)
 - 44 ANUA 53 477 (1999)
 - 45 ANUA 53 477 (1998)
 - 46 ANU F&S, File 200106068
 - 47 ANU F&S, File 200106068
 - 48 ANUA 15/80
 - 49 NAA A540, 13/763 (1912-13)
 - 50 NAA A361, DSG23/2117 (1919)
 - 51 NAA A292/1, C15603 (1940)
 - 52 ANUA 53 477 (1972)
 - 53 ANU F&S, File 200106068
 - 54 NAA A361, DSG23/2117 (1917)
 - 55 NAA A292/1, C15603 (1938)
 - 56 NAA A292/1, C15603 (1938)
 - 57 ANUA 53 477 (1953)
 - 58 ANUA 53 477 (1954)
 - 59 ANUA 53 477 (1969)

-
- 60 ANUA 53 477 (1972)
- 61 ANU F&S, File 200106068
- 62 NAA A361, DSG23/2117 (1925)
- 63 ANUA 53 477 (1981)
- 64 ANUA 53 477 (1981)
- 65 NAA A361, DSG23/2117 (1917-25)
- 66 ANU Plan KO73-A-009-001-2 (1941)
- 67 ANU F&S, File 200106068
- 68 NAA CP209, 12/2 (1914)
- 69 NAA A361, DSG18/1656 (1918)
- 70 NAA A1/15, 1932/3567 (1931)
- 71 NAA CP209, 12/1 (1913)
- 72 Gray, J.E. 1999. *T.C.G Weston (1866-1935): Horticulturist and Arboriculturist. (77).*
- 73 NAA CP209, 12/1 (1913)
- 74 NAA CP209, 12/2 (1914)
- 75 NAA CP209, 12/2 (1914)
- 76 NAA CP209, 12/2 (1914)
- 77 NAA CP203, 12/3 (1924)
- 78 Refer Appendix 3
- 79 NAA CP209/2, NN (1927)
- 80 NAA CP209/2, NN (1927)
- 81 Brookhouse, M. 2006. *Age determination of core samples obtained from Cupressus? Specimens located near Old Canberra House on the Australian National University campus.*
- 82 Refer Appendix 3
- 83 Refer Tree Replacement Program (Appendix 9)
- 84 NAA CP209/2, NN (1928)
- 85 NAA CP209/2, NN (1929)
- 86 NAA CP209/2, NN (1927-28)
- 87 NAA CP209/2, NN (1930, 1941)
- 88 NAA A1/15, 1932/3567 (1931-32)
- 89 Refer Appendix 3
- 90 NAA CP209/6, 1937 (1937)
- 91 NAA A292/1, C15603 (1939)
- 92 For example, ANUA 53 477 (1971)
- 93 Refer ANU Environmental Management Plan and ANU Biodiversity Management Plan for environmental policies and information of the management of the Acton peninsula landscape

4.3 Acton Cottages Zone

The Acton Cottages are located in the centre of the Acton Conservation Area, with curtilage defined by Liversidge Street to the east, Parkes Way to the south and Balmain Crescent to the north/west. The cottages include Nos 14, 16, and 18 Balmain Lane; 20, 22, 26 and 28 Balmain Crescent; 3, 5, 7 and 8 Liversidge Street and 16 Lennox Crossing ('Constable's Cottage'). Some of the original garages have also been retained and there are many significant trees found in the area, both remnant eucalyptus and introduced species.



Figure 4.26: View southwest of the Balmain Crescent subdivision, 1928. The Acton Hospital can be seen in the background (NAA A3560, 7719).

The Acton Cottages were constructed between 1912 and 1929 as accommodation for middle-high level public servants. They are a rare surviving example of an early collection of residences established in a convenient location, unencumbered by future planning of the Capital as proposed by Walter Burley Griffin. At least one cottage pre-dates the official implementation of the Griffin Plan and later buildings correspond to the opening of the Provisional Parliament House in 1927.

The buildings are examined in rough chronological order of construction (demolished Cottages Numbers 1 and 2 are not examined). Relevant site plans of the Acton Cottages zone can be found as Appendix 4. A list of notable tenants for each cottage is included as Appendix 5.



Figure 4.27: Acton Cottages Zone; remnant buildings shaded (ANU Heritage Office).

4.3.1

16 Lennox Crossing
(‘Constable’s Cottage’)

Acton Cottages



One of the original seven cottages for married workmen, 1934 (NAA A3560, 7187)



16 Lennox Crossing, 2009

Historical Overview

Originally married mens’ cottage Number 3 (of a group of 7), 16 Lennox Crossing was constructed in the latter half of 1912. The first tenant was JG Brown, one of the original survey draftsmen of the Lands & Surveys Branch in the Territory, who lived in the cottage from 24 November 1912 to June 1915¹. The building was subsequently leased to one of the earliest surveyors of the Territory, Percy Sheaffe (later Chief Surveyor and Property Officer). Sheaffe requested a number of alterations shortly after he moved in, including the northern verandah (part enclosed in glass), the closure of the back vestibule and an entrance broken out from the living room to the new verandah².

In addition to the homestead, a detached laundry building consisting of laundry, WC and firewood store was constructed to the rear (west) of the cottage. A stable and buggy shed was also erected to the southeast, which was shared with the neighbouring Cottage No. 2.

Cottage No. 3 was occupied by Sheaffe until 10 December 1917, at which time he moved into the old Acton Estate homestead. He was replaced by Captain G. Coffey, who was in residence until September 1919³. Two months later J. Kilgour, accountant of the Royal Military College at Duntroon, took up the lease. With the steady increase in Canberra’s population after the First World War, Cottage No. 3 was badly needed for ‘Departmental purposes’, instigating Kilgour’s departure in March 1921⁴.

The lease was continued by AL Richmond, the Works Superintendent of the Department of Home Affairs. Repairs were undertaken throughout Richmond’s time in the cottage, including works to the doors and windows and to the wash-trough in the outside laundry. A new coat of paint was also applied to the external façade of the homestead and outbuildings. Richmond was to remain in residence until December 1925⁵.

HR Waterman, the Acting Internal Auditor of the FCC, began occupation shortly after Richmond’s departure in December 1925. Waterman was also employed as Secretary to the Royal Visit Section connected with the opening of the Provisional Houses of Parliament in 1927⁶. Later that year repairs were carried out on the

bathroom floorboards of the cottage, which was subsequently covered with malthoid (black tar matting)⁷.

The water tanks at Cottage No. 3 were not removed until October 1928 (tanks at other cottages were also seemingly removed at this time)⁸. Due to the Depression no repairs were carried out until Waterman's departure in 1932.

From 1932 Cottage No. 3 became known as Constable's Cottage; the permanent residence of Commonwealth police officers. The premises were first occupied by Constable Davies, who lived on the grounds until his retirement in 1936⁹.

It is likely that the stables and buggy shed had been converted to a garage by the FCC in 1928¹⁰. However, after the Chief Officer of Police requested the transfer of a mounted officer, Robert Hilton, and his family from Duntroon, a separate loose-box for the officer's horse was erected in the north-east corner of the grounds. At the behest of CS Daley the small shed had been painted green by November 1936 so as to be less visible from the 'main bus route and Acton Road'¹¹.

Hilton transferred his family shortly after. During the first few months of their occupation, the internal wallpaper was replaced and fresh coats of paint applied throughout. Three trees were also lopped and four others were removed to provide space 'to make a garden'. Repairs to the paths and main driveway were also carried out and a request was made to pave the area between the rear of the cottage and the detached laundry block¹².

In July 1949 one room was rented to Dr Joan Strong in connection with her paediatric practice. She had secured living quarters elsewhere in the city; the room at the cottage used solely for consultation purposes¹³. It is not clear if Dr Strong was connected to the Hospital at Acton.

Sergeant 3rd Class Hilton was to retire from the police force by mid-1950 and the property was vested to the University soon after. Substantial works were undertaken at the time, although specific details are not known. The cottage fell under complete control of the ANU from 1 July 1960. After the death of Hilton in the early 1960s, the University permitted his wife, Mrs MJ Hilton, to continue living in the house. During her stay, Mrs Hilton placed numerous requests for repairs to the buildings and grounds, the majority of which were addressed by the ANU. These included works to the clothesline, electrical installations, a complete re-paint of the cottage and repairs to the roof and laundry fixtures¹⁴. Mrs Hilton resided in the cottage longer than any other tenant, eventually terminating her tenancy in 1990¹⁵.

The old stables/garage was converted into a small unit in 1958. The makeshift 'granny flat' included a small kitchen and living room, with new windows and a patio to the north¹⁶.

The first people to occupy the site in an official University capacity were members of the Canberra Institute of the Arts (CITA). A new fridge and gas stove were supplied, along with other modern conveniences. The bathroom required repairs, as did the floors, walls and fittings throughout. Plans were also made to remove the remains of the garage at the bottom of the garden, though this was never to eventuate¹⁷.

The cottage roof was replaced in February 1992, with care taken to ensure that any damages were kept to an absolute minimum. New sheeting was affixed and gutters replaced as needed.

A full restoration of the cottage and laundry block was carried out by the ANU Housing Office in 1994. The façade was sprayed and re-painted, original colours determined from paint scrapings. The highly acclaimed work was concluded in 1994 and achieved the Dulux Restoration Award¹⁸. The driveway was also graded, new drainage channels excavated and treated pine edging installed¹⁹.

The garage has gradually deteriorated. Roof tiles were placed directly atop corrugated iron in places, which appears to have placed undue stress on the trusses. The University removed the roof in 1999.

No. 16 Lennox Crossing was given special mention in an exhibition at Parliament House in 1996 entitled *Houses, Huts and Hostels: Living in Canberra 1911-1933*, organised by the Australian Institute of Architects. The exhibition outlined the valuable history of Canberra's early workers' cottages and the importance of the continued conservation of the buildings and landscapes of Acton²⁰.

In 1997 the sleepout was painted in line with repairs to door and window locks and the linoleum in the kitchen and pantry. By the middle of the year new wallpaper had been hung throughout²¹.

From 1 July 1999 to 2010 the cottage was occupied by the staff of the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research (CCR) of the Research School of Humanities (RSH). The cottage has recently been repainted and opened to research students as an annex of the Crawford School, located across the road at Old Canberra House.

Description and Condition

The property at 16 Lennox Crossing consists of the cottage, a detached laundry/privy/firewood store building, a stables/garage structure and a separate loose-box.

The cottage encompasses three bedrooms, a dining room, sitting room, bathroom, kitchen and pantry; the latter two are the only rooms used for their intended purpose, the remainder used as University office space. It is a timber-frame building clad externally with rounded weatherboards on rendered brick foundations. The enclosed verandah that Sheaffe requested runs from the north to the east side, where it remains open to the garden. Original views of the Molonglo River and floodplains are mostly obscured by heavy vegetation growth.

Most of the timber-frame windows are casements with hopper transoms above; each sash is partitioned into three with glazing bars. The north-south ridge runs between louvred gablets and expressed rafter ends (both Murdoch design traits that can be seen in other Acton houses and cottages) and hold quadrant gutters which terminated originally at the end of the barges. The front façade has a prominent gabled roof which is lined with notched and painted shingles. The western end of the house is under a skillion roof.

The verandah has a tongue-and-groove hardwood floor on concrete piers. The supporting posts are dressed square timbers with rounded corners. The brackets, identical to those seen at 7 Liversidge Street, consist of a vertical board with a rounded bottom corner that provide a simple, yet elegant design element. The verandah ceiling consists of beaded boards and the balustrade is a twin-sloped sill with simple squared balusters and rounded handrails. An interesting component is the cellar below the verandah, which has been worked into the superstructure. This is the only instance of such an innovation remaining in the Acton cottages.

The chimneys display a roughcast finish and terminate with red-brick cappings in stretcher bond. The central living room has a dominant brick fireplace, executed in tuck-point bullnose brick. The surround is of dark-stained timber, with spired bracket and built-in shelves at the sides of the chimney breast. The corners of the chimney have strongly expressed ovolo staff moulds which terminate with a lark's tongue. The dining room has a bullnose brick fireplace with a timber mantle and has the same features as that of the living room.



Figure 4.28: The living room fireplace is intact, though no longer used.

The interior of the cottage is highly intact, with fireplaces, kitchen furnishings, pantry shelves and a bathroom with ripple-iron lining affixed to a timber frame. Modern locks have been fitted to all doors, though the originals have also been retained in most instances. Some of the early electrical installations survive, both inside and outside the building.

The walls are of lath and plaster and were originally papered. Wallpaper (1960s design) has survived in the front hallway and modern grey paper has been added in other rooms. Picture rails in all office rooms provide a distinctive separation between the paper and the painted wall above.

Both 16 Lennox Crossing and No 20 Balmain Crescent display relatively intact kitchens. The 'Metters Canberra' stove in Constable's Cottage is not original, but fits into a brick hearth and the original sink has been replaced. The built-in cupboards have glazed sliding sashes with decorative patterned transfers over the glass.

Exposed chrome plumbing in the bathroom has been renovated and the chip heater removed. The original medicine cabinet, towel rails and light fitting survive.

The four-paneled doors display concave moulding with an elliptical curve and stepped quirk. The doors are grained and have been fitted with rim locks; architraves have a lamb's tongue. The ceiling is lath and plaster with decorative strapping.

The built-in cupboards have been retained in some rooms, in particular the front hall, where the dark stain remains. The entry door has a pair of lower panels and a nine-pane glazed upper panel which provides a sombre source of light to the area and enhances the dramatic contrast and tones in the finishes.

Overall, the cottage strongly displays its original character and function. It is currently in good condition, though requires minor repairs to paintwork, wallpaper and carpets. Stress cracks have appeared in a number of places (in particular the

foundations) and some verandah floorboards need to be replaced. Evidence of possums can be seen above the rear (west) hall. The animals have damaged the wall and stained the weatherboards. Modern heaters attached directly to the walls have left some unsightly charring marks to the plaster/paper.



Figure 4.29: Intact features of the kitchen and bathroom

The external laundry block sits on a concrete base and is clad in rusticated weatherboards attached to a light timber frame. The corrugated iron roof is monopitch and the extruding chimney is of similar style to those of the main building: roughcast finish with red-brick cappings in stretcher bond.

The laundry itself is highly intact and in good condition. The (cracked) copper is still in place and there are double concrete tubs on brick piers. The room is lined with beaded boards upon which are attached shelves of similar style to those of the pantry. The casement window has four panes with bevelled architraves. The double doors are of braced and ledged construction with v-jointed boards.

The adjoining wood store is lined with beaded boards running to the height of the doorway, at which point the walls are unlined. The ceiling is open to the reinforced foil sissilation that was laid over the rafters as part of the restoration works in 1993-94. Again, the double doors are of braced and ledged construction with v-jointed boards. Though all fireplaces of the main homestead are no longer in use, a large amount of firewood remains in the store; a subtle reminder of past practices.

The attached WC had an overhead cistern which has been replaced, as similar to that of the cottage. The room itself has beaded board linings, a louvred window and a braced and ledged door.

The buggy shed/garage is a semi-detached building adjoining the neighbouring boundary. It has been extended and refitted to provide a flat with four rooms. It has a concrete floor and a timber frame that was lined externally with rusticated weatherboards originally and bevelled boards in the extension. The roof has been removed, though was originally corrugated iron directly overlaid with terracotta tiles at a later date (the weight of the tiles forced its removal in 1999).



Figure 4.30: The intact laundry and loose-box buildings, and dilapidated stables/garage at 16 Lennox Crossing, 2009.

The kitchen ceiling was lined with bituminous paper.

The current state of the buggy shed/garage is lamentable; the absence of a shelter has rapidly accelerated the deterioration of the separate elements. As a result the frame and cladding are gradually weathering away. A large bee hive was recently removed and the surrounding vegetation pruned in order to examine the remains of the building.

The loose-box is a vertically-fixed, corrugated iron lined stable with a hardwood frame located near the north-east corner of the property. It has a concrete floor and a small fixed glass louvred window with an internal layer of protective mesh. The stable doors are well-crafted, using braced and ledged construction. The whole has been painted dark green.

The small building is in good condition, although there are damages to the south-west corner iron sheets.

4.3.2	2 Liversidge Street (Cottage Number 4) (demolished)	Acton Cottages
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The demolition of Cottage #2 to make way for the Acton Tunnel (ACT Heritage Library. Ref 003729)

Historical Overview

According to archival records Cottage #4 was completed in September 1912. After undergoing a number of minor renovations, it became the home of some of the first public servants in the Territory.

The first tenant was Mr FA Piggin, Clerk in Charge of Accounts Branch, who was in residence from 17 September 1912²². The District Surveyor RJ Rain also briefly occupied the house, as well as Layton Knibbs (son of Sir George Knibbs, also a surveyor and later the first Commonwealth Statistician)²³.

The final tenant of Cottage Number 2 was Mr K Carrucan, Officer in Civic Branch of the Department of the Interior²⁴. It is believed that the house was occupied by Mrs Rubenia Carrucan until it was demolished²⁵.

The building sustained considerable damage in 1968 due to a kitchen fire, and was eventually demolished in 1976²⁶.

4.3.3	4 Liversidge Street (Cottage Number 5) (demolished)	Acton Cottages
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Historical Overview

Key tenants of Cottage #5 included Charles Weston, Officer in Charge of Afforestation from 1913 to 1926, and his successor Alexander Bruce, who lived in the cottage from 1926 to 1932²⁷.

This cottage was demolished to make way for the underpass at Parkes Way in the 1970s. No evidence of the building remains.

4.3.4	6 Liversidge Street (Cottage Number 6) (demolished)	Acton Cottages
<p>Historical Overview</p> <p>This early cottage, constructed in 1913, was used for medical purposes prior to the construction of the first hospital complex in May 1914²⁸. One of the early tenants was Margaretta ‘Charles’ West, the first visiting nurse and early ‘professional’ woman in Canberra. A consulting room was incorporated into the building, where patients were seen at regular hours and also after hours in emergencies. The room was equipped with surgical dressings and appliances and had a few pocket-case type instruments and means of sterilising. Miss West also visited workers in their residences or at the camps²⁹. She became Matron of the new Hospital after it was constructed in 1914 and moved into the complex shortly after. Dr JRM Thompson, the Officer-in-Medical-Charge for the Territory, was to occupy 6 Liversidge Street upon her departure³⁰.</p> <p>The building became the first committed ‘maternity ward’ for the Capital in January 1917; the services and facilities of the new Hospital buildings were considered unsuitable for such purposes. At the same time Dr Thomson moved across the road to Number 7 Liversidge Street, where he lived until he departed Canberra in August 1917³¹.</p> <p>Cottage Number 6 appears to have been used as a residence from 1917. In 1928 H. Mouatt, a pioneer surveyor of Canberra, moved into the building, where he lived until 1933³². He was followed by Mr CAS Teece from the Patents Office. In 1934 Mr JA Bolton leased the premises and appears to have remained in residence until 1948³³.</p> <p>In 1949 the house was sub-let to RJ Taber from the Department of External Territories, who was to move to Gorman House after he and his wife were divorced. Mrs Taber (now Siles) took over the lease and ran a successful furnishings business from the premises until a debilitating fire rendered the cottage uninhabitable in 1963³⁴.</p> <p>The remains were seemingly removed shortly after, to be replaced with a fibro cement building to serve as the Porter’s House.</p>		

**4.3.5 8 Liversidge Street
(Cottage Number 7)**

Acton Cottages



View southwest of 8 Liversidge Street,
c2002 (CHL)



View west of 8 Liversidge Street,
2009

Historical Overview

Cottage No. 7 appears to have been one of the last married men's cottages to be constructed. It was completed in 1916 at a cost of £1172, and includes a separate laundry/WC/firewood store similar to that of 16 Lennox Crossing³⁵.

Little is known of the tenants. The cottage was restored in 2002 and included alterations to the layout and installation of modern services. There has been a genuine attempt to maintain heritage features where possible and the house today retains much of its original character³⁶. As an interesting counterpoint, the property sits at the junction of the Edinburgh Avenue axis and the Griffin water axis.

A modern single garage was added in the mid-1980s and is sympathetic in design and mass.

No. 8 Liversidge Street appears to be the oldest residence in Canberra still used as accommodation.

Description and Condition

The property at No. 8 Liversidge Street consists of the cottage/homestead, a detached laundry/WC/firewood store building to the west and a separate garage to the south.

The cottage encompasses three bedrooms, a dining room, living room, kitchen, bathroom and a smaller toilet and laundry room. It is a timber frame building clad externally with rounded weatherboards on rendered brick foundations. The original verandah (and entry stairs) remains intact to the east and verandah decks have also been added to the north and south, accessed through original timber doors with eight glazed panels. A break in the vegetation reveals views of West Basin and the city beyond.

The timber frame windows are casements and most have hopper transoms above, with each sash partitioned into three with glazing bars. The north-south ridge runs between louvred gablets and expressed rafter ends hold quadrant gutters which originally terminated at the end of the barges. The front façade has a gabled roof lined with notched and painted shingles; the original verandah is under a skillion roof. A separate portico, lined with lattice framework, has been added to the front.

The verandah retains its original layout (the verandah to 16 Lennox Crossing was extended) and is formed of tongue-and-groove hardwood timbers supported on concrete piers. The verandah posts are dressed square timbers with rounded corners. The brackets are identical to those seen at 16 Lennox Crossing and 7 Liversidge Street, consisting of a vertical board with a rounded bottom corner. There is no evidence of a sub-floor cellar at 8 Liversidge Street.

The chimneys display a roughcast finish and are capped in a basic brick course. The central kitchen range and chimney were removed in 2002.

The interior is somewhat reminiscent of the original form, although the 2002 alterations have opened the central rooms and introduced a new colour scheme. The wall between the kitchen and living room has been removed; nib walls remain to demonstrate the original configuration. These works have resulted in a very comfortable open area that is well lit from the glazed doors on both sides of the building. A scotia dado rail has been included in this space, as well as a scotia picture rail (both painted white).

The central living room is dominated by the fireplace, which has been covered with large white tiles for the outer hearth and breast and terracotta tiles for the inner hearth. The surrounds are of white painted timber with an ovolo trim and a double mantle supported on vertical rounded boards (similar to the verandah post brackets). The corners have strongly expressed ovolo staff moulds which terminate with a lark's tongue. The only other fireplace remaining is in the east bedroom (original maid's room). It is much less ornate than the living room fireplace, although the surrounds and mantle are similar. The hearth is of painted brick (light brown inside; white outside), as is the timber kerb.



Figure 4.31:
The 2002 renovations resulted in an inviting open central area (left), though important original elements were retained (right).



The dado and picture rails are continued throughout the bedrooms. The front door appears to be original, displaying six glazed panes above two sunken panels and original internal doors display four panels. The retention of a number of door handles, locks and escutcheons serve as a tantalising hint of the original style.

The walls are of lath and plaster and, if 16 Lennox Crossing is any indication, were originally papered. They have since been painted white and evidence of the paper removed.

The cottage was refurbished in 2002. The works included the demolition of the wall and fireplace between the kitchen and dining room and part of the wall between the kitchen and living room, opening out the central area (bulk-heads and nib-walls remain). The bathroom was extended, consuming the pantry, with the northwestern corner partitioned to provide a separate laundry and WC. The fireplaces and double chimney between the kitchen and dining room were removed and the fireplaces in the living room and study/east bedroom were re-tiled. New timber balustrade and decking was installed to the south wall, accessed via new glazed French doors. The building was re-painted with the vibrant light blue and yellow trims seen today.

Overall, the general layout and the main fabrics of the superstructure have been retained. Although the exterior colours do not align well with the original tones (similar to 16 Lennox Crossing) and modern services have been installed throughout, the building does retain its original character. The presence of other original elements, such as the door handles, call-bell near the central fireplace, windows and doors and the western verandah serve to properly establish the building in its context as part of the group of early married workmens' cottages. The building is in good condition, though some minor cracks were observed in the bedroom cornices.

The external laundry building is in fair-good condition. It is constructed in similar fashion to the laundry building at 16 Lennox Crossing, though has been extended about six feet to the north for additional storage. The WC (modern cistern) remains in-situ, although no longer used. The firewood store is currently used for storage of an original door and window from the cottage. Possums have damaged some internal timbers. The original laundry fixtures have been removed and the room now used for storage. There is evidence of termite and water damages to the structure and some of the boards have rotted; mould is growing on some parts of the walls. The internal spaces should be re-painted.

There is also a modern garage to the south of the building, with an adjoining road direct to Liversidge Street. This structure repeats much of the style of the cottage. It is constructed of weatherboards clad to a timber frame, with two pane sliding sash windows. The building accommodates one car and has been painted blue and yellow in line with the cottage. The size of the property has been reduced and the rear fence re-aligned after the formation of the Acton Underhill Tunnel. The original gate-posts can also be seen to the northwest of the building and are an important landscape element from Liversidge Street.

4.3.6

7 Liversidge Street
(Cottage Number 8)

Acton Cottages



View north of 7 Liversidge Street



View southwest of 7 Liversidge Street

Historical Overview

Number 7 Liversidge Street was designed by, and built for HM Rolland, Home Affairs architect, in early 1913³⁷. In 1917 the building was leased to Dr JRM Thomson, the Officer-in-Medical Charge of the Territory, before he departed Canberra to take up a position with the NSW Department of Public Instruction in Tamworth.

In November 1917 the house was leased to CS Vautin, Survey Draftsman of the Lands and Survey Branch, who was in residence until 1922³⁸.

Rolland, in his new position as Architect of the FCC, was to return to the house built for him soon after. The lease was taken up by the Chief Lands Officer, JC Brackenreg, from 1927 to 1929³⁹.

Dr Arthur Burrows from the Commonwealth Department of Health briefly occupied the house from 1929 to 1930, before leaving Canberra to become a leading London skin specialist⁴⁰. Dr DW Crawford, Department of Works, also occupied the cottage until he was prematurely retired from the public service due to ill health⁴¹.

The pioneer surveyor RJ Rain tenanted the house from 1932 to 1936, followed by LA McAndrew from the Department of the Interior, who vacated in 1944. The lease was resumed by AK Healey, Parliamentary Hansard, who lived in the building from 1944 to 1962⁴².

In late 1962 the house was offered to the first University tenant, Professor JDB (Bruce) Miller, until 1969. Miller was the founding Professor of International Relations at ANU. Upon his departure the cottage became office space as the Urban Research Unit under Professor Max Neutze. Various groups occupied the cottage during the 1970s⁴³.

The grounds also consist of a separate stables/garage structure that appears to have been built at the same time as the cottage. It has been converted into a driller's workshop associated with the RSES equipment compound to the west.

In 1981 a timber workshop clad with weatherboards was constructed behind the building for the Biogeography and Biomorphology Group.

The cottage now houses the Centre of Immigration and Multicultural Studies. The small stables structure has recently been vacated by the driller.

Description and Condition

The cottage at 7 Liversidge Street has strong similarities with the seven married men's cottages that were constructed across the road at the same time (refer 4.3.1 and 4.3.2). The rusticated weatherboard walls are supported by a red-brick base sporting terracotta 'egg-crate' vents. The roof has been replaced with modern colorbond orb roofing with open eaves, expressed rafter tails and beaded boards concealing the underside of the roofing. The louvred gable on the southern side also displays small shingles, reminiscent of the style seen at 16 Lennox Crossing. The eastern gable is also louvred, though lacks the shingles. The verandah runs from the front door (south) and returns along the eastern side, terminating with a lattice panel at the north end. There is a bay window facing Liversidge Street.

Window styles change throughout the building; those viewing the verandah are casements with three panes and matching transoms. The original handles and locks remain, though the entire units, including the escutcheons, have been painted white in line with the doors. Modern locks have also been installed.

The chimneys are roughcast and are capped with eight courses of red face brickwork.

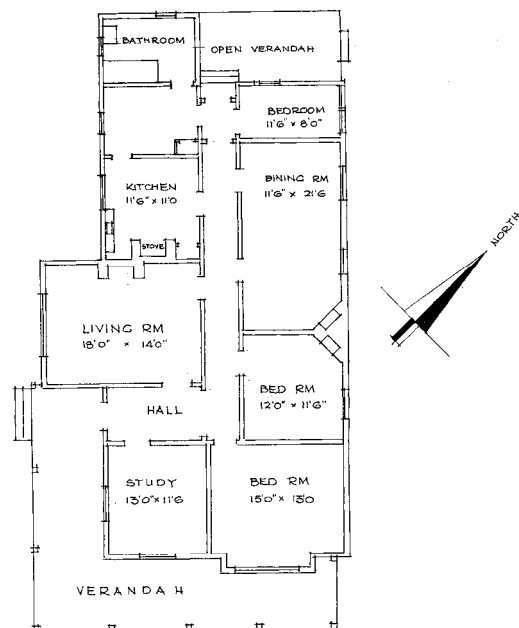


Figure 4.32: Plan of 7 Liversidge Street, 1962 (ANU Drawing Office).

The interior displays 3.3m ceilings, which belies the discreet scale of the exterior. The interior lath and plaster walls, which may have been papered originally, are painted white with some original vents remaining. This style again recalls that seen at 16 Lennox Crossing. The rooms have white or cream picture rails, timber floors that have been covered with carpet tiles and ceilings with double scotia cover strapping.

The lamb's tongue skirtings contrast with the contemporary character of the house. The four-paneled doors have ogee inlaid moulds and elegant architraves that repeat the gentle curve. Above the bay window in the eastern room there is

simplified 'fretwork', using circular holes and arcs with ogee curves. Though the basic room layout has been retained, interior features have been altered and most rooms converted into office space. The fireplaces have been boarded up, though the original mantle can be observed in the Director's Office (sitting room). This typical 1920s mantle is the most intact in the building. It has curved brackets, echoing the verandah post brackets (also seen at 16 Lennox Crossing and 8 Liversidge Street). The painted panelling above the mantle also displays characteristic cover strips. This, along with other original interior joinery, may have initially been dark-stained. The chimney breast has ovolo staff moulds.

The kitchen has been transformed into an office, though some kitchen cupboards remain and have been painted white with modern door furniture. The bathroom has been refurbished, perhaps in the 1960s. A small built-in timber cupboard survives in the bathroom, which demonstrates the utilitarian joinery of the period.

Overall, the building is in fair condition and begs restoration and repairs to arrest deterioration. A possum has damaged the boards of the verandah ceiling and waste has dissipated down the eaves. The weatherboards themselves display signs of wear and should be replaced or repaired in places, particularly the western façade. A small tree has grown into and distorted the gutter on the north façade. Some verandah floorboards and rails need to be replaced and the building repainted.

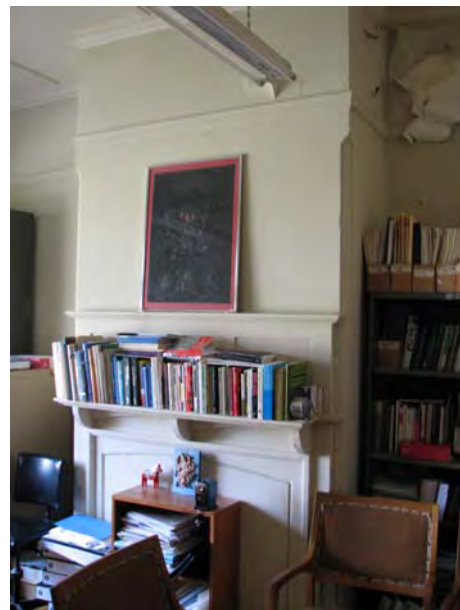


Figure 4.33: The original living room fireplace in the Director's Office, 2009.

Internally, water damages to the walls have resulted in the flaking of the calcimine paintwork in some rooms. Holes have been punched through walls and joinery throughout for the installation of cables and modern heating units are inappropriate or poorly positioned.

Wall cracking was observed throughout, but does not appear to be structural damage. The Director's Office has sustained damages to the plasterwork behind the Director's chair. The original wall vents have been covered or removed in most rooms, although art-deco terracotta vents (the same as observed in the foyer of Old Canberra House) have been retained in the northwest store room.

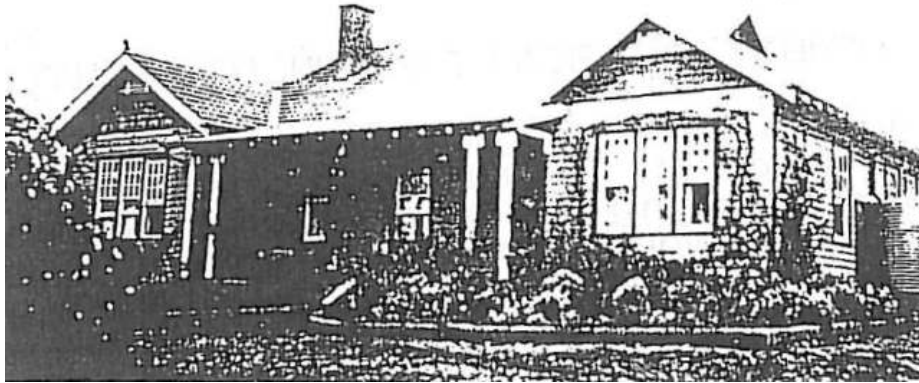
Some original light cords and ceiling mounts survive, though light fittings have been replaced with fluorescent globes. The doors and, in particular the architraves, have

sustained some scuffing and chipping. The kitchenette (room located immediately northwest of the original kitchen) has modern fixtures and requires basic repairs to the floor, walls, cupboards, sink and ceiling. There is evidence of rotting in the west wall of the bathroom. The southwest wall of the bathroom has been damaged by possums, with some staining.



Figure 4.34: Damages and poor installation of services in the cottage at 7 Liversidge Street.

Little evidence remains of the original use of the stables/garage other than the basic shell of the building. The structure is formed of an Oregon frame clad with weatherboards similar to those seen at the cottage. Foil sissilation has recently been added above the rafters. The building consists of three rooms; the eastern room is a large open room (buggy/car stall) with a small WC in the eastern corner on a timber floor (and perhaps lead base?), the middle room is a small office lined internally with beaded boards and the western room is a long workshop open to the ceiling. An internal partition has been removed in the workshop and there is possum waste and other damages to walls throughout; the structure is stable. The small building is painted beige with white trim to match the cottage.



9 Liversidge Street, 1916 (Ratcliffe/Armes 1993)

Historical Overview

Number 9 Liversidge Street was constructed in 1913 and served as the Commonwealth Bank Manager's Residence until 1932⁴⁴. The house was renamed Lynton in 1936 by tenants Dr and Mrs CV Mackay⁴⁵.

Mr Gilbert Jewkes from the Department of Health occupied the building from 1944 to 1960⁴⁶. The cottage was badly damaged by fire in May 1970 and demolished shortly after. The police report determined that the fire was an act of malice, perpetrated by a mental patient from the Royal Canberra Hospital. It is unknown if the arsonist had connections with tenants of the cottage.

Description and Condition

Ephemeral evidence of the cottage foundations remain in-situ, though the site's suitability for archaeological investigation remains to be seen (some small pieces of brick and ceramic shards were observed). Part of the foundations have been obscured by the modern demountable building to the south.



Figure 4.35: View southwest of the site of 9 Liversidge Street, 2009. The modern transportable building can be seen to the south, encroaching on the remains of the cottage foundations (dashed line indicates foundations).



Construction of 14 Balmain Lane,
c1926 (NAA A3560, 1842)



View north of 14 Balmain Crescent,
2009

Historical Overview

This cottage was constructed by the FCC and completed on 24 June 1924⁴⁷. It is significant as the home of TR Casaboulte, Executive Architect of the FCC and Head of the Housing Construction Department. Other tenants included Edwin Bancroft, Superintendent Building and Construction and WC Thomas, Treasury Officer and Custodian of Enemy Property⁴⁸.

By the 1970s the cottage was tenanted to University academics, including Dr Ken Inall, a physicist (and later climate change commentator) and his family. It appears that in 1975 there was an infestation of vermin, perhaps as a result of drought conditions. An interesting landscape feature at the time was the in-ground swimming pool reputedly formed by Inall⁴⁹.

In 1976 the building became a storage facility for Parliamentary papers associated with the archivist Professor Noel Butlin⁵⁰, as a precursor to the Noel Butlin Archives repository currently housed in the Acton Tunnel. By 1984 the building was vacant and at risk of being occupied by squatters⁵¹.

In 1992 the cottage was allocated to PhD students from the Research School of Pacific Studies (RSPacS)⁵² and was occupied by the National Europe Centre in 2002. Another two cottages, both sympathetic in mass and fenestration, were constructed to the west of 14 Balmain Lane also for the National Europe Centre, forming the southern tip of the Acton cottages zone⁵³.

Description and Condition

This house has a simple, rectangular floor plan, with a projecting living room and verandah facing the Molonglo River to the west. The main roof is hipped and the projections have two 'concertina' smaller hipped roofs.

The timber structure is clad with bevelled weatherboards that have a rounded bottom edge. The roof is covered with Marseilles-pattern tiles. The gutter is standard quadrant, mounted on a square dressed fascia. The building is painted pink, a departure from the original finishes, but complements the nearby pastel lilac and green modern 'cottages' of the National Europe Centre.

The chimneys are slender, red brick with a soldier course coping. One has a semi-

circular pot, similar to 22 Balmain Crescent. Standard red bricks are used for the base of the building and the chimneys and shallower red bricks for the verandah and sleepout piers. The piers have distinctive proportions and are similar to those seen at 16 and 18 Balmain Lane and 20 Balmain Crescent. They are significant for their possible association with Frank Lloyd Wright, via Walter Burley Griffin. The verandah has been enclosed. The brick base has a corbelled course just below the bottom weatherboard.



Figure 4.36: Two important features of the western façade are the enclosed verandah (above) and late Federation period 'triple' window (below).

A continuous band separates the tops of the weatherboards and the soffit above the windows, with scotia mould trims. The eaves are boxed and slatted. The side door has a six-pane top panel above a double v-jointed panel and the front door is modern with steel rim locks and handle.

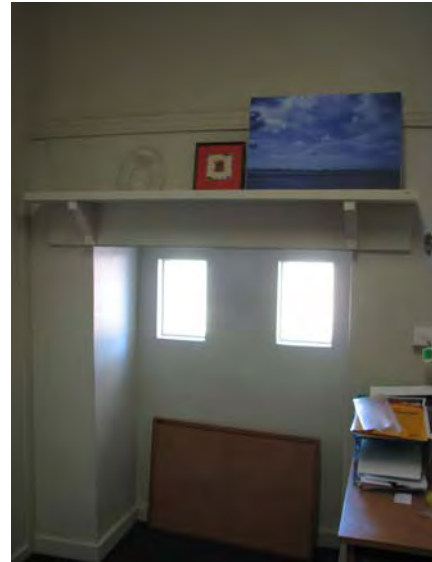
The windows are double hung with six-pane sashes and ogee horns. The verandah is enclosed with single pane sashes. The northern window of the verandah appears to be a sliding door, with the lower half consumed in a later fibro wall. The northeast sleepout has four-pane casement sashes, each pane with slender proportions. The northwest window develops the 'triple' window theme established in the late Federation period, mounting three double-hung windows in one assembly, on the outside wall frame. The assembly is seated on four dentils (Figure 4.36).

Internally, the building has lost much of its original character and integrity. The walls are painted white or beige, punctuated by white picture rails, skirtings,

cornices and architraves. Strapped ceilings in the northwest office are more expressive than elsewhere in the building, embodying angled block mounts at the intersections. The straps in the ceiling of the central living room lead to the chimney breast. The fireplace has been boarded and painted beige, in line with the walls and has lost the imposing presence it would have originally commanded. Like most of the rooms the original kitchen has been converted into office space. The range, fittings and appliances have been removed, although the original mantle above the range has survived and is painted white. The two windows at the rear of the stove were also retained (Figure 4.37)



Figure 4.37: The fireplaces of the living room and kitchen range, 2009.



Most doors are modern with contemporary steel door furniture, although there are a number of original bronze examples. The door of office #4.04 displays two long sunken panels above two smaller square glazed panels (since painted white), with period bronze door furniture. Also, the hallway (old linen cupboard) door is original, of ledged construction with a bronze latch. Some original lattice terracotta wall vents have survived.

Overall, the building is in good condition, with some minor damages to paintwork and a hole punched in the hall cupboard for cables. The bathroom and kitchenette have been modernised and the toilets enlarged for disabled access. A urinal has been added.

No. 14 Balmain Crescent was the first cottage constructed after the initial cottages for married workmen were built in 1913-16 and is an arresting departure from the original forms. This pronounced difference is more significant for its association with Casaboulte, who designed and lived in the cottage.

The two additional National Europe Centre 'cottages' are sympathetic to the original building in mass and fenestration, embodying weatherboards on a red brick base with Marseilles pattern roof tiles. These buildings are easily identified by their lack of chimneys. Both are currently in good condition and need only minor repairs.



Construction of 16 Balmain Lane
(NAA A3560, 1841)



View southeast of 16 Balmain Lane,
2009

Historical Overview

Number 16 Balmain Lane was built for WE Potts, the Assistant Engineer of the FCC. Secondary records indicate that the cottage was completed in September 1927 (though was likely designed in 1924 by the FCAC; the floorplan of 14 Balmain lane is similar)⁵⁴.

Other notable tenants may have included HP Moss and Dr RN Ratcliffe, the Chief Assistant of the Division of Entomology at CSIRO⁵⁵.

In 1970 the former Registrar of the ANU, David Hodgkin, occupied the site⁵⁶. In 1975 it was suggested to use the cottage as a 'distress house' by students before and after hospital, and other, treatment centres. The University approved funds of \$3,000 to cover set up costs of the institution and by 1979 over 2000 students had passed through with 1617 in occupation for a considerable length of time and 17 individuals requiring close attention⁵⁷.

By 1992 the University had resumed the cottage from the Student Union and by 1999, after refurbishments in line with those undertaken at Lennox House, the cottage became a crèche⁵⁸.

No. 16 Balmain Lane is currently used as the Central Canberra Family Day Care Centre, one of four child-minding facilities in the Acton Conservation Area.

Description and Condition

Numbers 16 and 18 Balmain Lane are of similar plan and construction. The front verandahs were sited to the west, taking advantage of the views. The cottage has an L-shape floorplan, and is constructed of rounded weatherboards clad to a timber frame on a red brick base with Marseilles-pattern roof tiles. It also displays the timber band, trimmed with scotia mouldings, between the soffit and window head that can be seen on 14 Balmain Lane.

A verandah was added to the front (west) of the building, and a porch to the rear. Provision was also made for a sleepout to be built to the north, under a flat roof covered with ribbed steel. The western elevation has two bay windows trimmed with scotia mouldings; these have a separate flat metal roof awning under the eaves of the main roof above. There are fragments of an original lattice fence and

a gatepost. The verandah is a prominent element, with decorative carpentry between the large, round and paired concrete columns. The eaves are boxed and slatted and the fascia square dressed below a modern leafless gutter.

The windows are double-hung with two six-pane sashes, ogee horns and chamfered external architraves. The roughcast chimneys have a recessed string course beneath a soldier coping. One has a chimney pot; an element also shared with the nearby cottages.

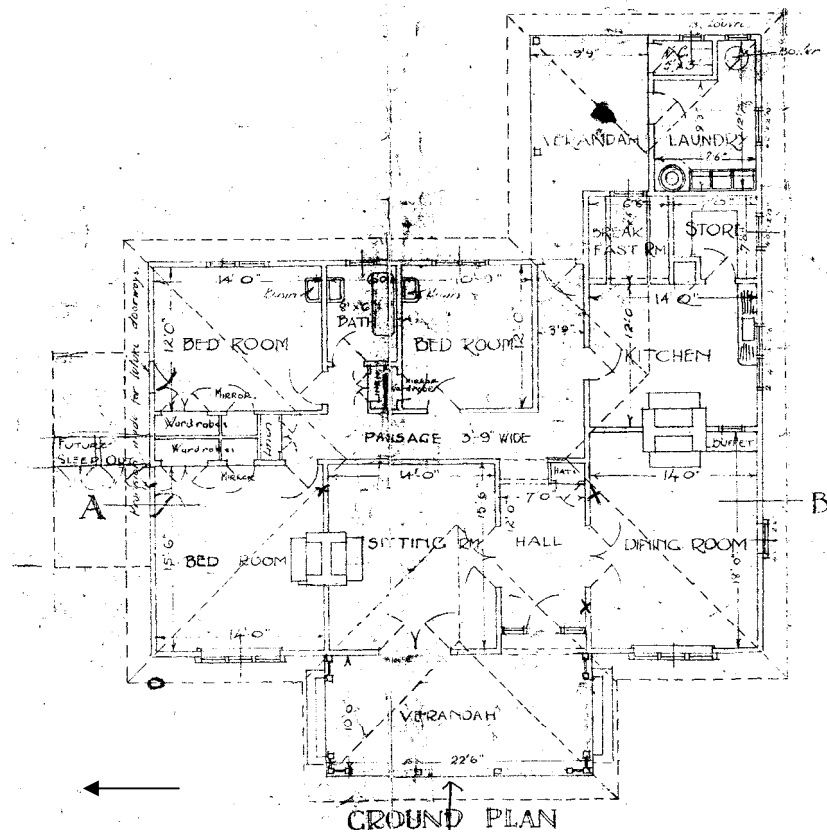


Figure 4.38: No. 16 Balmain Lane floorplan, 1925 (ANU Drawing Office).

The walls appear to be lath and plaster; these are painted light blue or orange in the child-play or office areas and beige in other rooms. The rooms have a picture rail that is painted the same colour as the walls, beneath a white strapped ceiling.

Some doors appear to be original, including the double sliding glazed and frosted glass doors in the old entrance hall, leading to the offices. The frosted doors are a feature of the western side of these cottages, displaying views of the racecourse from the front of the building. Other doors have frosted glazed panels or sunken panels (cupboards) with bronze door furniture and some modern locks. Some of the original lattice vents have survived and are painted the same colour as the walls.

The eastern patio has been enclosed with lattice fencing and the old laundry doorway has become the end of a corridor leading to a separate galvanised shed. The red concrete base has been retained in the pantry, WC and laundry. The original breakfast room is used as a small break-out room.

Some original cupboards have been retained in the kitchen, though the door to the pantry has been blocked and the central range replaced with bookshelves. The

kitchen and dining room share a double fireplace. The original servery cupboards and hatch survive, but are no longer used. The sink and other fixtures have been replaced.

The dining room fireplace has been converted into part of a workstation, and is an interesting use of an otherwise awkward feature in such a space (Figure 4.39). The mantle has a simple beaded quirk and is painted white. The fireplace in the master bedroom (now a play area) has an ogee scotia mantle, with a number of modern hooks attached beneath.



Figure 4.39: The sitting room fireplace (above) and dining room fireplace (right).

The bathroom retains some original features, including the medicine cabinet and towel rail, but needs some upgrades to comply with child-care standards.

The building is in good condition, though displays some minor scuff marks and chips to doorways and walls. There are isolated instances of water damage and a number of holes in the plasterboard.



18 Balmain Lane? shortly after construction
(NAA A3560, 1823)



View west of 18 Balmain Lane, 2009

Historical Overview

Number 18 Balmain Lane was constructed for WN Rowse, the Accountant for the FCC⁵⁹.

The official records for the property were unfortunately destroyed, though it is known that Dr HL Allen, Professor of English at RMC Duntroon and later one of the first full-time lecturers of the Canberra University College, lived on the premises⁶⁰.

EH Clark, formerly librarian at the University of Malaysia and Acting Registrar, occupied the house in 1952⁶¹. Professor Oskar Spate, the Geographer and Pacific Ocean historian, also lived in the house⁶². The Management Services Group were using the premises by the early 1970s⁶³.

The cottage is today used as the Australian Social Science Data Archives of the Research School of Social Sciences (RSSS).

Description and Condition

The floorplan of 18 Balmain Lane is similar to that of 16 Balmain, including the northern sleepout (appears to have been added at time of construction and converted into offices in 1975), front verandah (enclosed) and eastern extension. The walls, roof, chimneys, windows, base brickwork, eaves and fascia are also the same as at No. 16 Balmain Lane. The exterior has been painted dark brown with white eaves and the interior has been painted different pastel tones, from lilac in the northern sleepout to blue in the western verandah. Some original vents remain and have been painted beige in line with the upper portion of the wall above the picture rail. The picture rail and joinery have been painted the same colour, but a darker shade than the wall.

The verandah piers were originally rendered brick, similar to those seen on the nearby cottages, though have since been painted white to match the fibro walls used to enclose the verandah. The eastern porch has also been enclosed with windows atop a weatherboard skirting.

The original doors have, for the most part, been retained, along with original door furniture. The kitchen and bathroom have been altered; components of the original rooms survive, such as the medicine cabinet and servery cupboards and hatches

(identical to 16 Balmain Lane).

The living room and dining rooms have highly decorated fibrous plaster ceilings, with a complex pattern of panels and mouldings. There is a picture rail lining the rooms, window pelmet and a plate shelf above the bay windows, although the bay window seat has been removed in the southern office. In 1993 the dining room showcased dark varnished plywood panelling and intact cover strips; a strong feature of the room that has since been lost. The cornice is a combination of ogee and scotia. The architraves have a series of stepped flat fillets, a distinct fashion of the times. The skirtings have a similar character, but a groove has been added above the centre.



Figure 4.40: The north verandah (above) and western verandah with bay window.

The original external weatherboards have been retained as a feature wall inside the eastern extension, as well as the archway between the breakfast room and kitchen (Figure 4.41). The double fireplace of the dining room/kitchen has been boarded up, but that of the master bedroom/living room have been left open, with the brickwork an important element. The kitchen mantle survives to become shelving for the servery.

The interior doors are noteworthy. They are identical to surviving doors in 16 Balmain Lane: two small glazed panels with frosted glass, above two long panels which serve to exaggerate the height of the door. Much of the original door

hardware has survived but steel rim locks have also been fitted to some doors.



Figure 4.41: The beaded arch between the breakfast room and kitchen (above) and the original servery cupboards.

The bathroom has been upgraded with new tiles and amenities, but the original medicine cabinet remains.

Overall, the building is in good condition. Original features have been retained and glimpses of its original use can be seen in the current configuration.

4.3.11 20 Balmain Crescent

Acton Cottages



20 Balmain Lane under construction, 1926 (NAA A3560, 1644)



View south-east of 20 Balmain Lane, 2009

Historical Overview

This house was likely planned by the FCAC, and constructed by the FCC, for Charles Studdy Daley, the Secretary of both planning authorities. He was the only occupant of the building from October 1926 until his death in 1966, making him the longest permanent Acton resident⁶⁴.

There is evidence that the building accommodated the ANU Club for Women in the

early 1970s⁶⁵.

In 1980 the building was converted into office space for the Demography Group attached to the Research School of Social Studies, with a bathroom removed to make way for a computer and storage room. The southern verandah was also enclosed to be used as office space at the time⁶⁶.

The building is currently occupied by the Graduate Program in Demography.

Description and Condition

Number 20 Balmain Crescent is constructed of rounded weatherboards on a red brick base beneath a Marseilles-pattern tile roof with identical brick chimneys and brick piers as those seen at the nearby cottages. The windows are double-hung, each with two six-pane sashes. The fascia is square-dressed beneath a quadrant gutter. The bay windows flanking the verandah have a separate metal roof retreating under the eaves above and the rafters to the bay windows are exposed.

The entry porch has a red polished concrete floor and the glazed entry doors are exceptional examples of the style. The verandah is furnished with a balustrade consisting of three panels of diamond-pattern jewellery beneath vertical balusters. It is executed in simple square-dressed timber sections and painted white.

Internally, 20 Balmain Crescent is perhaps the most intact of the Acton Cottages that were constructed in the 1920s. The walls are of fibrous plaster panels between dark-stained straps. They are lined with stepped flat fillets forming the curtain rail that is also stained with dark varnish. The Jarrah flooring appears to be in excellent condition beneath modern carpet tiles and original intertwined lattice terracotta wall vents have been retained, painted white in line with the walls. The southern sleepout was enclosed after the initial phase of construction, with the weatherboards and frames made to fit the brick verandah piers. The ceilings are painted white with decorative strapping throughout.

Internal doors are identical to those of 16 and 18 Balmain Lane (two small glazed panels above two elongated panels) and external doors display eight to fifteen glazed panels. Original bronze door hardware has been retained on most doors with some modern cylinder locks. The architraves and frames are dark-stained to match the doors and strappings. The northeastern expanse has been altered to allow for disabled toilet access.

Both bay windows have been retained in the two front rooms. The sitting room (?) has been converted into a computer laboratory. Modern shelving has been attached directly to walls and a large crack runs around the room at waist-height.

The lounge room and dining room are separated via a concertina timber panel door with small glazed panels at the top. The lounge room fireplace remains intact, along with dark-stained shelving either side. Small four-pane windows flank the chimney stack. The dining room displays the original servery and cupboards either side on the eastern wall, with hatches into the kitchen next door. The dining room also embodies a bay window with northern exposures and a view of Daley's orchard.

The kitchen is also highly intact, though some modern elements detract from the original fixtures. The kitchen cupboards remain below the servery drawers and hatches, the unit painted white. The original Canberra 'Metters' stove survives, as

well as a later gas stove. The kitchen sink is a large modern steel unit that was likely installed when the gas stove was introduced.

A disabled ramp has been attached to the rear of the building. It complies with conservation practices, though is rarely used.



Figure 4.42: Important features (l-r) include the southern verandah, lounge room concertina doors, dining room servery and lounge room fireplace.

The building is in good condition, though begs restoration and repairs. There are signs of cracking in the walls (do not appear to threaten the structural integrity of the place); the whole needs to be re-stained or repainted. A number of door frames have been damaged and isolated instances of holes in the walls should be repaired. Modern additions, such as the shelving affixed to walls, electrical switches directly to skirting boards and modern lighting should be avoided.

The house had an Oregon garage (extent unknown), and a driveway leading along the south boundary, off Balmain Crescent. The driveway remains ungraded, and ends at the concrete garage platform.



View northeast of 22 Balmain Crescent, 2009



View southwest of 22 Balmain Crescent, 2009

Historical Overview

Number 22 Balmain Crescent was built in 1929 to the specifications of Brigadier General JP McGlenn, the Commissioner of the Public Service Board from 1923-1930⁶⁷. McGlenn was appointed to the Public Service Board in June 1923, having become deputy State Engineer (Lines) in the PMG. He retired on 10 March 1930 and departed the cottage a month later⁶⁸.

The lease was resumed by Dr BT Dickson of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)⁶⁹. Dr Dickson was to choose the site for the Australian National Botanic Gardens at the base of Black Mountain in 1935.

Dr DG MacKellar, the Medical Superintendent of the Canberra Community Hospital, leased the house from 1938 to 1940⁷⁰. The Medical Superintendent, Dr L. Nott, took up residence shortly after⁷¹. On 10 December 1949, standing as an Independent, Dr Nott became the ACT's first member of the House of Representatives; he had limited voting rights, but could speak on any issue. Nott advocated the construction of a road from Canberra to the New South Wales coast.

In 1943 the Russian Legation leased the house for a short time⁷². The next permanent resident was Stanley East, a journalist with the Department of Information, working out of the old Canberra Community Hospital buildings. Mr East remained in the house from late 1943 until 1963 and occasionally sub-let rooms, reputedly to the Australian poet Professor AD Hope and family⁷³.

In late 1963 the house was offered to David Catcheside, Professor of Genetics and Director of the Research School of Biological Sciences from 1964 to 1972. He vacated in late 1970⁷⁴.

By 1971 22 Balmain Crescent was used as a child-care facility during school holidays, accommodating up to 70 children per day⁷⁵. The house became a permanent child-care centre in 1976. Alterations were undertaken in 1987 to improve the facilities and the building is today still used for child-care purposes⁷⁶.

Description and Condition

Original drawings of the cottage are highly detailed; fittings and furniture were

placed to loosely emulate McGlinn's home in Kew, Victoria. It is obvious that as head of the Public Service Board he was given much freedom to have input into the design of his Canberra house. Correspondence between McGlinn and the Executive Architect details the original wall colours for each room, including white walls in the kitchen, bathroom and lavatories and all walls above the picture rails. Cupboard doors were to be stained walnut, with jarrah floors throughout. This appears to have been the case with a number of public officials in the Acton cottages.

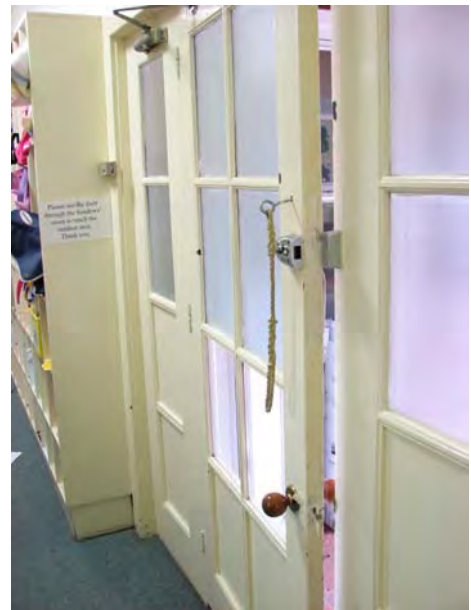
The design of the house is dominated by three pairs of adjacent gables with steep pitches. Each pair is separated by a box gutter and rainhead. A fourth eccentric pair at the front provides an interesting character to the main façade. The gables are lined with horizontal painted weatherboards and are punctuated with rectangular lattice vents. The roofing is Marseilles-pattern tiles. The house has red face brick walls and double hung windows with two six-pane sashes painted white. At the southeast there is a skillion roof which contrasts strongly with the pitch of the main roof. The gutters are quadrant profile fixed to square dressed fascia boards.

A recent extension to the southeast has a flat metal roof and western red cedar windows with a clear finish. Part of the extension is built in brick and the rest in bevelled weatherboards.

A dominant element is the chimney, which is executed in red brick with an elongated niche and an on-edge briquette sill. The curved shoulders and the arched terracotta pots, obliquely set, combine to provide a pleasing design.



Figure 4.43:
The eastern bay window (left) and front doors.



The building has been altered internally to accommodate the child-care centre, but, like most of the cottages, intact features can be gleaned in many parts. The walls appear to be of lath and plaster with horizontal strapping throughout. Picture rails are also evident in most rooms, formed of simple stepped fillets. Some original wall vents (terracotta 'egg-crate' or louvred vents) have been retained and are painted white to match the walls. Original skirtings are similar to the picture rails and the chamfered cornices also display the stepped fillets. This style is continued into the ceiling straps, which have been retained in most rooms and, like the other Acton cottages (and Old Canberra House chauffeur's cottage), are a prominent

decorative feature.

The cupboard doors have been retained and display two small sunken panels, above two elongated panels, alternating between six sunken panels. Modern door hardware has been attached to most of the cupboard doors. The modern partitions are of fibro and are clearly obvious with lack of strapping. The original doorframes and architraves have been conserved, merely blocked and worked into the new wall.

The bay window to the right of the front door is an interesting feature. The seat has been retained as a storage compartment and is flanked with glazed cupboards. It is an arresting decorative feature which provides views of the front door portico (Figure 4.43).

Original doors have been retained throughout the cottage, consisting of eight to ten panes with glazed panels flanking the frame. Cupboard doors are similar with a number of sunken panels. The original door hardware has been retained on some doors though has been replaced where necessary.



Figure 4.44: The sitting room fireplace and wood panelling has been damaged by unsympathetic services, but is relatively intact.



The fireplace in the sitting room has been retained, including the dark-stained surrounds and mantle (Figure 4.44). The surrounds are elongated sunken panels flanking smaller sunken panels at the top of the opening. The mantle is supported by chamfered brackets and surrounds the entire stack. Above is a smaller shelf with the assembly capped by a chamfered ledge running throughout the room. This provides a much more expressive, decorative character, as compared with the other basic picture rails throughout the residence. The room is lined with dark-stained timber panels and is in relatively good condition (minor scuff marks and damages). The window sills reflect the style of the mantle and shelving above.

There are a number of small kitchenettes throughout the building and another added in the southern extensions. The original kitchen has been altered; new cupboards, tiling, sinks and fixtures installed throughout. The toilets have been modernised and appear to align with current child-care regulations.



The southern extension is sympathetic in mass to the original and can be clearly distinguished from the original brickwork via the different courses. The obviously

modern features are not a direct contrast to the original and blend quite smoothly into the older parts of the building; the most significant contrast can be seen in the stained windows, compared with the original white window joinery.

Modern electrical outlets have been installed at head-height to keep them out of children's reach, though are not sympathetic. In some rooms they have been attached directly to the skirting boards, or through the panelling in the sitting room. Minor cracks have appeared in the brickwork and there are minor damages to walls and architraves. Louvred plastic ceiling vents and fans have been installed in some rooms. The immediate surrounds and gardens have been converted into childrens' playgrounds.

The garage is roughcast brick with a minimally pitched, corrugated iron gabled roof. There is no gutter but a square dressed fascia and barge trim the roof (recently replaced). The narrow eaves are slatted. There are four-pane sash windows (pivoted?) and a door of v-jointed boards. The garage is used as a store and workshop.

The driveway appears to have originally been curved and the rear yard was gravelled. The remains of a brick drain line Balmain Crescent and are an important landscape feature.

4.3.13	26 Balmain Crescent	Acton Cottages
 <p data-bbox="272 1444 703 1503">View south of 26 Balmain Crescent, 2009</p>	 <p data-bbox="874 1444 1286 1503">View northwest of the rear garden, 2009.</p>	

Historical Overview

Number 26 Balmain Crescent was constructed in 1928-29 by the Federal Capital Commission⁷⁷.

The tenants included WJ Skewes, who was Chairman of the Commonwealth Public Service Board from June 1928 until his early retirement in June 1931. The lease appears to have been resumed by the Crown Solicitor, Mr WH Sharwood, who was in occupation until 1936⁷⁸.

It is not known who leased the building between 1936 and 1949. The house was offered to the Belgian minister, though he found the premises to be unsuitable and did not move in. In his place, the first South African High Commissioner, Dr PR Viljoen, occupied the house in February 1949⁷⁹. Viljoen also found the building unsuitable. However, as there was no opportunity of procuring a house elsewhere

in the Capital and as it was “one of the largest owned by the Commonwealth”, the South Africans decided to stay (in 1950 they set up offices in the old Nurses Quarters of the Hospital Buildings – see section 4.4.4). Viljoen was succeeded in 1954 by JK Uys, who lived in the building until their permanent residence was constructed in Yarralumla in 1957⁸⁰.

CP Fitzgerald, Professor of Far Eastern History at ANU, lived in the house from 1957 to 1968. His lease was taken up by Professor Wang Gungwa, who resided in the building until 1971⁸¹.

The Master of University House, Professor Ralph Elliott, took up residency in 1976, seemingly staying until 1986, when his successor, Ms Susan Bambrick, moved in⁸².

In 1988 the building was converted into University offices and meeting space. It remained part of the University House facilities until 1993, but has also been used by the Postgraduate and Research Students Association (PARSA) since 1991⁸³. PARSA continues to occupy the building.

Description and Condition

Number 26 Balmain Crescent is one of the only brick residences in Acton (the others being the Old Canberra House gardener’s cottage and 22 Balmain Crescent), with the ubiquitous Marseilles-pattern tile roof. The roughcast finish establishes stylistic links with other government housing of the period. Although it is presently white, the original cream finishes show through in places where the paint has weathered. The base brickwork incorporates ‘egg-crate’ terracotta vents and upper vents are of the louvred terracotta pattern. The roof is hipped and has a steeper pitch than most of the Acton houses, which gives the building a slightly different character. This is very similar to Old Canberra House.

The building sits on a painted (later) face brick base. It has double-hung windows and departs from the local theme by using four-pane sashes with elliptical horns. The brick sills are painted but were probably originally red face brick. The quad gutter and square dressed fascia identify this building with other houses nearby.

The chimneys have a distinctive individual style. They are coated in roughcast concrete with a single, smooth course beneath a corbelled cap and finished by a chamfered top. The entry porch has a gracefully curved head that is subtly echoed by the top rail of the front door. The front verandah has generously proportioned roughcast brick piers with a capital ovolo moulding. The pilasters reflect the piers which support a hipped roof.

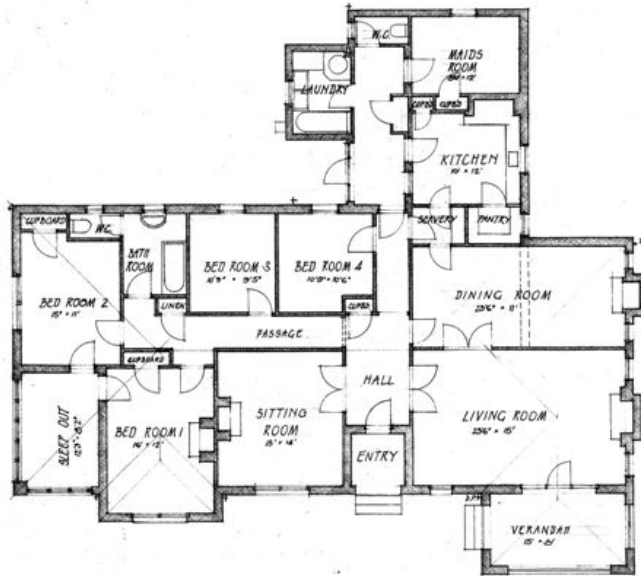
Internally, the building consists of four bedrooms and a sleepout in the eastern expanse with an L-shape corridor connecting the sleeping area to the western sitting and dining room. The southern kitchen and maid’s quarters were at the rear. There was a separate bathroom near the bedrooms, as well as another bathroom as part of the maid’s quarters in the southern part of the building (Figure 4.45).

The internal walls are of beige painted plaster separated from cream upper walls by an ogee trim forming a picture rail. Cornices have a stepped hollow chamfer. The white ceilings have beaded strapping. Original wall vents (terracotta lattice or basic wire mesh) have been covered in some rooms. Internal doors display a large sunken panel above three elongated panels. Original hardware has survived (bronze round handles and locks in the same assembly), although rim locks have

also been added. Ceilings in the laundry (now disabled toilet) have dark-stained beaded boards.



NORTH ELEVATION



PLAN

Figure 4.45: The front (north elevation) and floorplan of 26 Balmain Crescent, as sketched from an original FCC plan in 1956 (ANU Drawing Office).

The main bedroom has a bay window under a pitched roof that serves to balance the main façade. Fireplaces have been consumed in later alterations and converted into office space, although the fireplace on the western wall of the living room is strongly reminiscent of the original form. The brickwork surrounding the chimney breast has sunken panelling. The mantle is supported by the original chamfered brackets. The assembly has been painted white.

The west part of the building has been opened out, the original walls replaced by glass partitions. The partitions are incorporated into the original walls with nib walls and bulkhead remaining. The new glazed wall has been punched directly though the original cornice, skirting and picture rail, though has had little effect to the original layout and can be removed at a later date if necessary.

The south expanse has been converted into larger kitchen and bathroom facilities with modern amenities added throughout.

Overall, the original layout has been retained, yet important details have been removed or consumed in later alterations. The fireplaces, which are an important feature of the Acton Cottages, are barely visible in most rooms and some joinery has been removed.

Minor cracking and some small holes were observed in the walls and there is evidence of water damage. Like most of the Acton buildings, the modern climate control systems are not sympathetic. The ceiling should be cleared for possums.

A concrete ramp with steel balusters has been added to the front. This provides disabled access, but is not in keeping with the original style.



Figure 4.46:
The original garage (left) was demolished to make way for a cottage annex.



The original brick garage was removed by the University to make way for a larger cottage annex (Figure 4.46), which sits to the west of the building. It consists of five offices, a large meeting area and modern bathroom and kitchen amenities. The garage was of similar fabrics to the cottage and was well-suited to the site.

4.3.14 28 Balmain Crescent

Acton Cottages



View south of 28 Balmain Crescent, c1928 (courtesy Liz Posmyk)



View southeast of front façade, 2009

Historical Overview

Number 28 Balmain Crescent was constructed in 1928 for Mr HE Jones, who had transferred to the Capital in 1927 and occupied the house for the next ten years⁸⁴. In 1937 Jones sub-let the house to Mr J. Oldham of the Department of External Affairs for a short period⁸⁵.

In October 1937 LS Jackson, Commissioner of Taxation, moved into the building. He is believed to have remained in residence until late 1945⁸⁶.

Dr AJ Metcalfe, Director General of Health, occupied the home from 1946 to 1960, when he retired and moved to Sydney. For a time between 1960 and 1965 the house was used as office space for the Department of International Relations⁸⁷.

From 1965 to 1966 the house was occupied by Professor JA la Nauze, who succeeded Sir Keith Hancock as Professor of History in the Institute of Advanced Studies at ANU⁸⁸. On his retirement in 1977 he became the first Professor of

Australian Studies at Harvard University.

The building was converted to office space in 1966 and further alterations undertaken in 1974 and 1982⁸⁹.

No. 28 Balmain Crescent is currently occupied by the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.

Description and Condition

Number 28 Balmain Crescent is clad in rusticated weatherboards with Marseilles pattern tile roof. The building is set on a red brick base. The double-hung windows have splayed horns and a six-pane top sash. The eaves are boxed and there is a continuous band of asbestos cement sheet around the top of the wall, between the soffit and line of the window head (as seen in numbers 14, 16 and 18 Balmain Lane). It has colonial references in the arched chimney tops. The original 'Metters' ash-pot and door remains on the western façade.

The building has been extended to the east. Externally, this section is generally sympathetic to the original and continues the use of pilasters, although the interior does not continue the original themes. Windows are pairs of double hung six-pane sashes top and bottom. The entry porch has square columns made up of 8"x1" boards. The base has a double layer of bullnose skirting and the capitals have splayed beading. The floor has hardwood tongue-and-groove flooring, milled out of 50mm boards.



Figure 4.47: Intact bathroom features include the towel rail and exposed chrome plumbing.

The interior is mostly intact, although the painted joinery finishes probably replace a dark stain, as seen in 20 Balmain Crescent (likely a standard feature of the buildings that was fashionable in the period). A dramatic dado panel is an embossed sheet (caneite?) material, with 60mm cover strips at junctions. The smooth linings are seemingly fibrous plaster, with scotia cornices. The generous skirtings are 300mm high and have a splayed profile. As a departure from the other cottages, the interior doors have six panels, simulating a Georgian configuration,

and there are no inlaid mouldings. Much of the original hardwood survives and the Florentine bronze finish is typical of the period.

The bathroom has some original fixtures, notably the exposed chrome plumbing that harks back to 16 Lennox Crossing; these features are becoming rare in the Acton Cottages. Like the bathroom, it is noteworthy that the mantle around the living room fireplace has similar features to the house at 16 Lennox Crossing. The fireplaces have been blocked yet are an arresting feature of the offices. Although the buildings were constructed fifteen years apart, similar shaped brackets are used, with plywood panelling and cover strips. The joinery at No. 28 is painted yellow, as opposed to the dark stain seen in Constable's Cottage. There are leadlight windows, featuring a simple rectilinear pattern, fitted to casement sashes. The architraves, picture rails and window frames have been painted yellow in some rooms, with light blue walls in the bathroom.

4.3.15	3 Liversidge Street	Acton Cottages
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3 Liversidge Street under construction, 1927 (NAA A3560, 2793)



View northwest of 3 Liversidge Street, 2009

Historical Overview

Number 3 Liversidge Street was constructed in 1927 for Percy Deane, the Secretary to the Prime Minister's Department⁹⁰.

Prominent tenants have also included Lawrence Jackson, the Commissioner of Taxation and Sir Ralph Cilento, who briefly occupied the house in 1934. Dr Colin Barnard, the CSIR scientist involved with the production of morphine, hyoscine, strychnine and quinine during the Second World War, appears to have occupied the building from the late 1930s to the mid-1950s. Dr Barnard was involved in the establishment of the National Botanic Gardens in Canberra⁹¹.

Dr DM Griffin, the Head of the Department of Forestry at ANU, occupied the house briefly in 1971. In 1972 it was converted into office space, accommodating the Urban Biology Group and the Social Psychiatry Unit under Professor Henderson⁹².

Plans were made to demolish the building in the mid-1970s, although this did not eventuate. In 1992 the southern verandah/courtyard was enclosed and large extensions were undertaken in 1994 to provide for more office space⁹³.

The building is currently occupied by the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Description and Condition

Number 3 Liversidge Street is a timber-frame weatherboard building supported by a red brick base. The Marseilles-pattern tile roof is gabled, with lattice vents under the ridge in similar style to 22 Balmain Crescent. The windows are double hung and the entry doors glazed with panes similar to the windows. An office extension has been built to the north. This is mostly sympathetic to the original cottage but some details have been simplified. The southern verandah has been enclosed.

Like the majority of the Acton cottages, the house blends traditional and modern elements. The floorplan has a generous entry hall and a long corridor which leads to two bedrooms and the kitchen, bathroom and rear porch. The planning is a distinctive departure from houses emerging from the Victorian and Federation traditions. However, the portico has classical influence, with a pedimented roof and round, simplified Tuscan columns. The use of an ogee moulding along the barge is notable and the continuation of the gutter along the base of the pediment is unusual. The red face brick chimneys have a colonial arched cap and the corners of the timber frames are detailed to include a pilaster with a simplified Tuscan capital.

The walls are lined with rusticated weatherboards to 2.4m and an asbestos cement sheet band with cover strips in place completes the wall to eaves height. Eaves are boxed and the gutters standard quadrant.

The windows have double hung six-pane sashes and ogee horns. The use of ogee mouldings on the pediment, window horns and the joinery around the fireplaces establishes a theme through various elements in the building. The windows of the original house have timber architraves, but this has not been repeated in the extension. Another 'colonial' reference is the use of medallions at the top corners of the external architraves to doors. This detail echoes regency fireplaces.

The verandah is surrounded by a handrail with simple squared balusters, set skew into the sill and handrail.

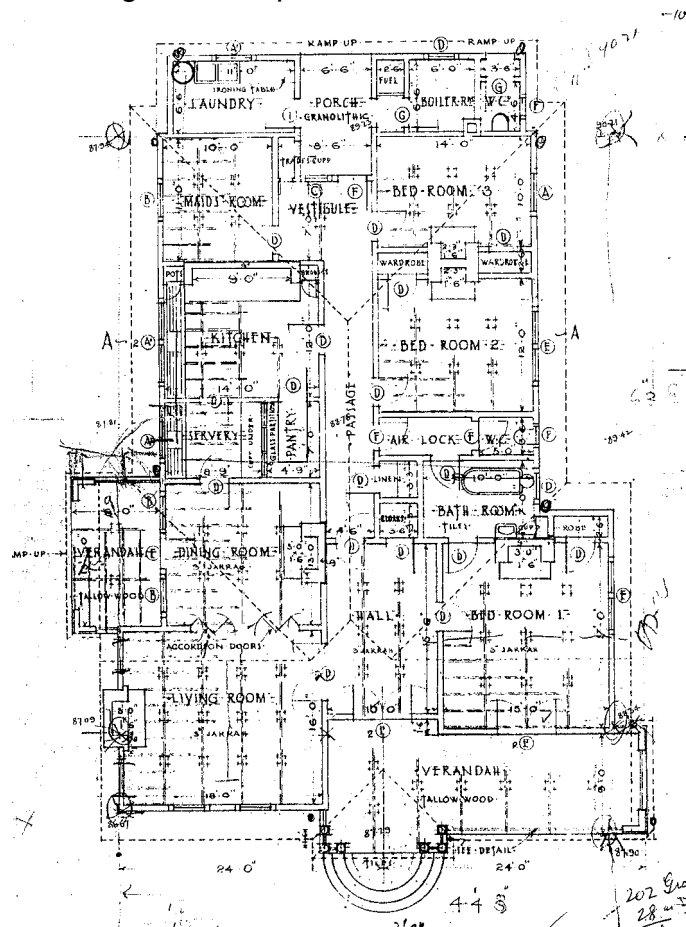


Figure 4.48: Original floorplan of 3 Liversidge Street (undated) (ANU Drawing Office).

Internally, much of the original decorative fabric remains. The dark stain applied to the skirtings and architraves, however, has been painted over. The kitchen has been gutted; original brickwork around the cooker survives. The high window sills provide squat windows which are above the removed benches and the room displays splayed architraves and dado rail.

The original laundry and boiler room have been stripped to provide offices.

The cottage has a prominent dado rail that has been fixed at door head height. The rail is 90x20mm, with lightly arised edges. The dado panel is fibrous plaster with simple timber cover strips and the architraves are squared and dressed.

Cornices are simple scotia moulds and the ceilings display cover strips featuring a small scotia on each arris. There are scotia mouldings in the corners of the rooms. Internal doors have four equal panels arranged in a vertical row. Some of these features have also been incorporated into the northern extension. However, the absence of the dado immediately identifies the later work.

The fireplace mantles in the original house are individual exercises in design which have some traditional references (scotia and ogee), as well as rectangular mouldings. The face brickwork has been painted with a deep red polish. The kitchen range has been converted into shelving (original mantle remains).

Internal doors display four sunken panels, with modern door hardware affixed throughout. There are some instances of the original door furniture surviving, mainly on cupboard doors and some window latches.

Figure 4.49: Rear courtyard formed by the northern extension.



Figure 4.50: A common element to the Acton Cottages: the fireplace (kitchen range) converted into shelving.



The building is in good condition with minor repairs needed to some of the original fabrics. The earth around the northern façade of the building should be excavated to below the brickwork; it has caused some water damage and rotting to the lower weatherboards. Minor cracks were observed in isolated locations on the ceiling and there is evidence of water damage. The tenants have requested a ramp for disabled access to skirt the northern (later) extension. The proposed ramp will not be visible from Liversidge Street and will not be directly attached to the original building.

The original garage survives intact. It is a small timber-frame structure with an iron monopitch roof. The walls are lined with weatherboards, which have been painted white and require some repairs. A front porch has been added, constructed of a steel frame with corrugated iron roof. This structure is currently used for storage.

4.3.16 5 Liversidge Street

Acton Cottages



View southwest of 5 Liversidge Street, 2009



Rear courtyard of 5 Liversidge Street, 2009

Historical Overview

Number 5 Liversidge Street was constructed for GH Monahan, Clerk of the Senate, in 1929. It was designed by Robert Casaboulte, Chief Architect of the Housing Construction Department⁹⁴.

Professor JFM Haydon was in occupation until 1953. Along with Dr IH Allen, Haydon was one of the first lecturers appointed full-time to the teaching staff of Canberra University College⁹⁵. Prof Haydon was also a Senior Lecturer in Modern Languages and had previously been Professor of that discipline at the Royal Military College, Duntroon. Dr Allen, Senior Lecturer in English and Latin, had been Professor of English at Duntroon. The Haydon-Allen building on the ANU campus is named in their honour.

Dr Wes Whitten lived in the house from 1953 to 1961⁹⁶. He was appointed to set up the Animal Breeding Establishment at the John Curtin School of Medical Research at ANU in 1950. In 1961 he was appointed Assistant Director (Endocrine Products) of the National Biological Standards Laboratory in Canberra. The ANU's new animal facility was named after him in 2008.

The lease was resumed by Dr KS Inglis from the Department of History, who lived in the house from 1961 to 1967, before transferring to the University of Papua New

Guinea⁹⁷. Dr Inglis is Emeritus Professor of History at ANU. He was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Papua New Guinea from 1972 to 1975 and in 1982 he was Professor of Australian Studies at Harvard University.

Number 5 Liversidge Street was one of the first cottages to be converted into offices, to accommodate staff of the National Heart Foundation in 1967⁹⁸.

In 1976 the Australia-Japan Project occupied six rooms after the heart Foundation vacated the premises. Extensions were undertaken in the early 1980s and the garage was enclosed to form office space⁹⁹.

In 1989 the house was used by the Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health Research (see section 4.4.4). In 1990 it was used for a brief time by the Department of Education, before the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies leased the building¹⁰⁰. An extensive addition was constructed to the west (rear) of the building in 2006¹⁰¹.

The building is currently occupied by Teaching Australia.

Description and Condition

In similar fashion to number 3 Liversidge Street, this cottage appears to be a logical arrangement of rooms with an architectural character that has been applied, rather than developed, out of the design. This may be a result of Casaboulte's design technique as well as some influence of the house's original occupants. The original design does not show the attached garage to the south, but later drawings, signed by Casaboulte, illustrate this element. The drawings also show a verandah on the northeast corner.

The building is lined with weatherboards showcasing a long flat surface, and a shorter scallop than the other weatherboards of the Acton Cottages. The rendered brick base is similar to others seen in the area, sporting 'egg-crate' terracotta sub-floor vents. The northern sleepout has been enclosed with casement windows, though the original red-brick steps leading to the verandah remain.

There are two bay windows at the front of the dwelling. These are built to the rear of the fascia line and the glazing is protected with a small, tiled canopy supported by simple timber brackets. The windows are double hung with two six-pane sashes. Evidence indicates that the joinery may have had a dark stain. The other windows are also double hung, with cords and weights, and the horns are a 'half-heart' shape. Some have a six-pane top sash and a simple glazed sash below.

Above the window line, an (asbestos?) band runs around the building, reaching to the eaves. The gutter is a quadrant profile and fixed to square dressed fascia. The roof is covered with Marseilles-pattern tiles. The chimneys are rendered and are capped with two corbelled courses of face red brickwork.

A garage was attached to the southern end of the building under a skillion roof, though was consumed in alterations in 1981. The roof was replaced with Marseilles-pattern tiles and a timber floor was installed. The new windows are similar to the original, but there are differences in the proportions and construction.

The front porch has 8"x1" pilasters and large 8"x8" timber columns. At the base, there are splayed skirtings with ovolo and rectilinear capital beading. There is a tongue-and-groove hardwood floor and red-brick steps provide access from the garden.

Internally, the integrity of the cottage has been compromised after extensive alterations and additions. The northern offices (living room) have been partitioned, separating the fireplace between the two rooms (the fireplace itself remains intact with original joinery and mantle). The fireplace in the front (east) office has been fitted with an ornate cast-iron decorative surrounds and mantle and a new grate in the hearth (Figure 4.109). Though the surround is modern, it provides a traditional feel to the room and is well suited to the surrounding joinery and brickwork. The other fireplaces in the building have been covered and painted white.

The entrance hall has been opened out and a reception counter added in the wall between the original entry and hall. Original strapping, cornice and nib walls have been retained.

The skirtings change throughout, depending upon the extension, and with the cornices and picture rails, serve to differentiate the separate elements. The skirtings are an extended board with bevelled edge. Later examples also display a bevelled edge, yet are much narrower. The original cornices are a stepped chamfer and later moulds are a simple chamfered form.

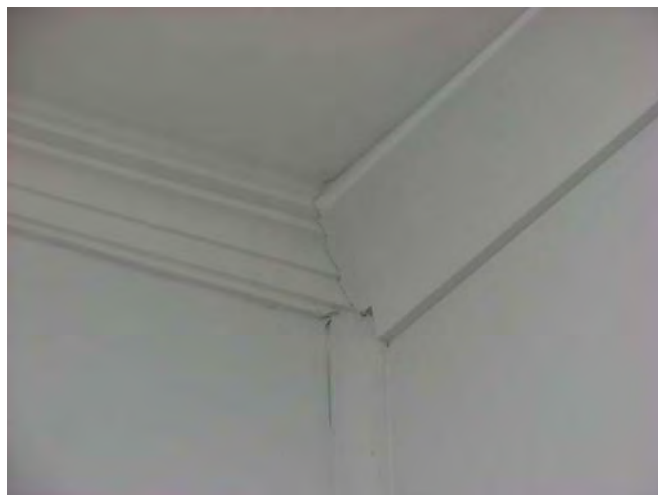


Figure 4.51: Sympathetic, yet arresting departures from the original: the front fireplace and change in cornice detail.

Rows of 'compactus' shelving have been installed in the original kitchen, though the range has survived and is open (shelving and a microwave fill the space). The mantle is supported by similar brackets to those seen at other Acton Cottages.

An important feature of the building is the small room at the northwest corner.

Originally a tool shed with external access via a ledged door, the room now houses a toilet (currently used as storage). The door remains, though has been fitted with a modern cylinder lock and fixed shut.

The interior tones appear to align with original colours of the external façade (FCC plans detail white and grey tones for the exterior).

The western extension consists of a number of offices stemming from a central corridor, with a large Director’s Office at the back showcasing a simple bay window (a parallel to the front bay window, but much less expressive). The skirting and joinery is modern (similar style, but again less ornate), and the fibro walls are painted white. Modern carpet tiles have been laid throughout.

The building is in good condition. Minor cracks and holes were observed on the walls and some cracking to the ceiling plaster. Wiring is visible in some places and there are signs of water damage.

4.3.17	Grounds and Landscape	Acton Cottages
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View northwest of Balmain Crescent (26 Balmain in the background), 1933 (NAA A3560, 7049)



View west of 16 Lennox Crossing driveway and *cupressus* trees, 2009

Historical Overview

The landscape of the Acton Cottages zone was some of the earliest formed in the Capital Territory. The original indigenous vegetation of scattered mature eucalypts has been embellished with introduced trees, hedges or groundcover for the different residences. Like the gardens at Old Canberra House, the introduced trees were likely sown at the Acton or Yarralumla Nurseries and transferred to the site just after completion of the cottages. The blocks appear to have originally been cleared of a number of tree species, though little use was made of the land until suitable stock had developed at the Nursery.

The first nine married workmens’ cottages were demarcated by concrete post and wire fencing, with hedge species lining Acton Road. Records indicate that Weston had begun preparations for planting around the married workmens’ cottages by 25 July 1913; two months after his arrival in Acton. Work had begun by the end of August and consisted of acacias, oaks, Rowans, Peppers and other trees. From 1916 there were further plantings of pine species (*Pinus radiata*), *cupressus* sp. and *Cedrus* sp. from stock at Acton Nursery¹⁰². Weston was resident of Cottage

No. 5 from 1922 and would have had a supervisory role for all plantings at the time.

The cottages built in the 1920s were under control of the FCAC and FCC. This also included the landscape, through the Superintendent of Parks & Gardens, Alexander Bruce. Bruce continued the landscape scheme as established by Weston (who was to return to the Capital in later years and advise on appropriate plantings). Primarily, the principles maintained were the planting of rows of *cupressus* as wind-breaks and decorative shelter belts, separate fruit trees and a vegetable garden (in most cases) and the development of front hedges lining Balmain Crescent and Acton Road¹⁰³.

Under the Buildings & Service Ordinance (1924) both the design of dwellings and their associated plantings were expected to conform to the Commission's standards. In an attempt to create an organised 'garden city', the social planning principles of Sulman's Committee were applied to different parts of the Territory:

As far as the majority of houses on the flat land are concerned, the main element to be appreciated from the hill tops is their "orderly array". On the ground, it is the "unifying effect" of the front hedges¹⁰⁴.

No established fences were permitted in front of building alignments, although temporary wire fences were permitted to protect hedges and other new plantings. Trees and shrubs were freely available from the Acton Nursery with no limit on numbers. Residents were expected to keep the hedges neatly clipped to a reasonable height; the Parks and Gardens Department even offered a free hedge clipping service until the 1950s¹⁰⁵.

The 1920s (Balmain Crescent) cottage blocks were demarcated with rail and post fences and separating hedges in places, but the latter were not a constant feature. The relatively unconnected gardens and landscapes of the different allotments appear to be the result of piecemeal development as the cottages were built in the 1920s. It was recorded that cottages at 16 Lennox Crossing and 8 Liversidge Street had front hedges and that there was a hedge separating 5 and 7 Liversidge Street (largely removed in 1993, though some original *photinia* species remain). Other cottages had fences or informal landscape areas separating the allotments.

Vegetable gardens, fowlyards and orchards species appear to have been a feature of the 1913 cottages, yet were largely abandoned in the formation of the Balmain Crescent cottages (Kingston shops were developed in 1925 and Civic Centre in 1927). It is known, however, that number 16 Balmain Crescent had a vegetable garden in 1980¹⁰⁶ and one was also planned for Brigadier McGlenn's residence (22 Balmain Crescent), although it is unknown if this was ever formed¹⁰⁷.

The gardens of number 20 Balmain Crescent are noteworthy. Two mature rows of *cupressus glabra*, very likely Weston plantings, flank the northern entrance of the building and some original orchard species have endured to the west of the *cupressus* trees. This allotment was largely formed as per CS Daley's explicit instructions in the mid-1920s (he moved into the building in 1926), and little changes appear to have been carried out until after his death in 1966.

By 1964 the gardens of 20 Balmain Crescent had become overgrown. Daley described them as "completely Miss Haversham" and noted that it had become dangerous to enter the property. Three years later, however, little work had been carried out to the garden, which was described as a bird sanctuary by the Vice-Chancellor's wife, living across the road¹⁰⁸. Evidence has indicated that yellow

banksia roses once lined the perimeter (reminiscent of Old Canberra House border plantings) with eucalypts interspersed. The rear (east) fence was post and rail, with part formed of wooden trellis. There was also a post and rail fence separating the allotment from number 18 to the south. Today, much of the original tree species have remained intact, although the fences and hedge species have been removed.

The gardens of 16 Lennox Crossing also display original tree and hedge species and tantalising hints of the original form of the gardens can be seen in the current configuration. The centrepiece are the three rows of *cupressus* serving as wind-breaks for the front gardens. These were initially planted by Weston in 1913-14, though have since been filled in with identical species (those in the centre likely planted in the 1930s). Most of the orchard species have now been removed, although a *Ficus carica* has survived and a number of others that appear to be apple or cherry (*prunus* sp). The significant elements of 16 Lennox Crossing include the *cupressus* shelter belt to the north and west of the homestead (*Cupressus macrocarpa* and *Cupressus arizonica*); the remnant native tree cover of *Eucalyptus blakelyi* and *E. melliodora*; hedge species (cedars); orchard species and the area used for the vegetable garden (low furrows still visible), as well as some remnant examples of decorative plantings.

The original front hedge (*cupressus* sp) have been retained at numbers 5 and 7 Liversidge Street, though have since matured and are a significant feature from the road. Mature hedges can be seen in other suburbs of Canberra, notably around the Deakin/Forrest areas, which were allowed to grow freely after the free hedge-clipping service was halted in 1954. Some remnant eucalyptus and later introduced evergreen species also survive between the buildings. The former gardens have largely been destroyed and replaced with carparking facilities, children's playgrounds or informal landscapes. The remnant garden trees of 9 Liversidge Street have been retained and today are exceptional examples of both introduced and indigenous species.

A group of thirteen *Angophora* trees at the northeast tip of Balmain Crescent are considered exceptional early examples of a coastal species not often found in the Capital (they are visible on early aerial photographs; see Figure 4.26). The central area of the Balmain Crescent residences appears to have been cleared of remnant eucalypts, as well as later introduced species when the carpark was formed. A large water tank was located on the present site of 5 Liversidge Street, which was removed by the FCC in the mid-1920s (water had been piped to Acton since 1921). The FCC were to progressively remove the water tanks at other cottages during their time in the Capital, followed by the installation of garden taps in the early 1930s. A tennis court may have been located to the rear of the cottages, although this has not been confirmed and no evidence of such an installation survives today.

The landscape to the south of 3 Liversidge Street and the border fence of 8 Liversidge Street was dramatically altered in 1977-78 with the formation of the Molonglo Arterial (Acton Tunnel) beneath the site.

Description and Condition

The landscape of the Acton Cottages has been altered considerably since they were originally formed, but glimpses of the past landscaping scheme can be seen in the remnant mature tree species and some last remaining hedges. Fences have been installed around the child-care centres and remain at numbers 8 Liversidge

Street and 16 Lennox Crossing. The fences of the Balmain Crescent houses, however, have been removed and little evidence remains (what appears to be an original gate post has survived to the west of 22 Balmain Crescent, as well as the two front gate posts of 8 Liversidge Street)



Figure 4.52: The cottages are separated by informal plantings (top left), with overgrown conifer species forming hedges along Liversidge Street (left and above).

No. 16 Lennox Crossing does retain the basic form of the garden, including signs of the vegetable garden bed (used by students until the 1990s). The remnant orchard species have been largely neglected though are healthy and well-tended by the University.

The Acton Cottages precinct has a group of 13 *Angophora floribunda* rare to the Canberra district as well as many large cypresses of several species, some up to 30 metres tall. Some of the species are readily identifiable, however there is evidence of hybridisation between at least four of them¹⁰⁹. This could have the advantage of providing a selection of the best forms for vegetative reproduction for further campus planting. Some of the cypresses are remnant plantings made to provide shelter around the cottages. In some cases they were planted closely as a hedge or screen requiring regular pruning, though have since been neglected and have resulted in unusual landscape features. These are tall, dense screens above but with bared trunks below. They tell an interesting story of the landscape management policies of Canberra and, along with other remnant hedges in the area, should be retained as heritage plantings.

The *Angophora* grove is in healthy condition and a small species plaque has been

attached to the northern-most specimen. The trees have grown well despite the cold, hard and dry conditions of the Canberra region and are a useful seed source for further plantings on the campus and elsewhere in Canberra.

The precinct also includes numerous examples of red gum and yellow box native to the site. Some relatively young plantings of woodland species in the central parking area may provide replacements for the older trees which will eventually decline.

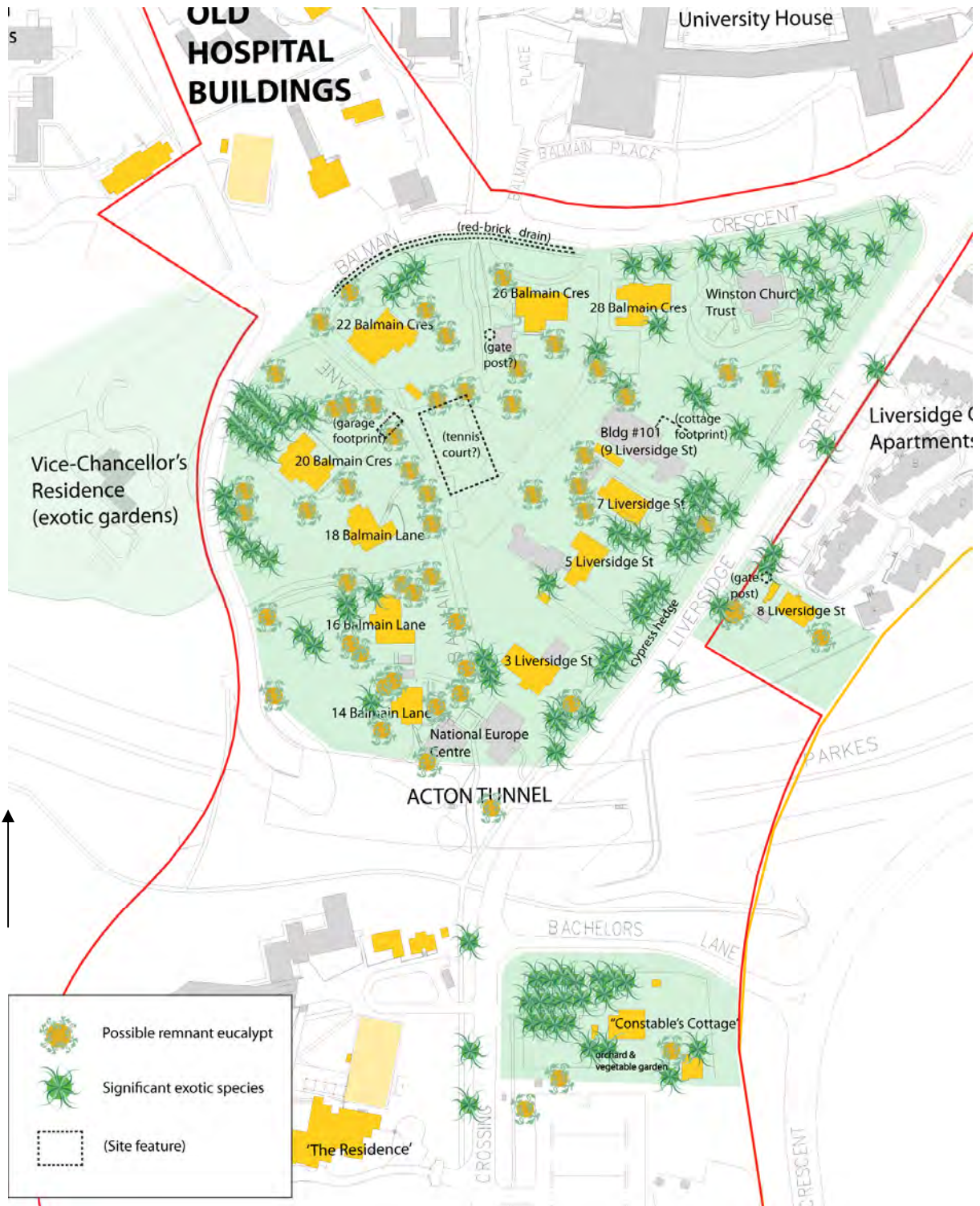


Figure 4.53: Significant landscape elements of the Acton Cottages zone (ANU Heritage Office).

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- 1 NAA A657, DS 1915/1116 (1915)
 - 2 NAA A192, FCL1919/977 (1917)
 - 3 NAA A363, DSL1918/123 (1917-18)
 - 4 ANUA 53 978 (1921)
 - 5 Dexter, D. 1991. *The ANU Campus* (359)
 - 6 Dexter 1991 (359)
 - 7 ANUA 53 978 (1927)
 - 8 ANUA 53 978 (1928)
 - 9 ANUA 53 978 (1936)
 - 10 ANUA 53 978 (1928)
 - 11 ANUA 53 978 (1936)
 - 12 ANUA 53 978 (1937)
 - 13 ANUA 53 978 (1949)
 - 14 ANUA 53 978 (1961-76)
 - 15 ANUA 53 978 (1990)
 - 16 Liz Pozmyk pers comm.
 - 17 ANUA 53 978 (1990)
 - 18 Aug 1994. *The Royal Australian Institute of Architects* (ACT Chapter) Newsletter (1).
 - 19 ANUA 53 978 (1995)
 - 20 Canberra Times: 20 July 1996; ANUA 53 978 (1996)
 - 21 ANUA 53 978 (1996-97)
 - 22 NAA A657, DS1915/1116 (1914)
 - 23 ANUA 53 981 (1919)
 - 24 ANUA 53 982 (1971)
 - 25 ANUA 53 981 (1953)
 - 26 ANUA 53 981 (1968, 1976)
 - 27 Dexter 1991 (360)
 - 28 NAA A657, DS1915/1116 (1914)
 - 29 Ide, A. 1994. *Royal Canberra Hospital: The First 40 Years* (21)
 - 30 Ide 1994 (34)
 - 31 Ide 1994 (36)
 - 32 NAA A192, FCL1923/189 (1918)
 - 33 Dexter 1991 (360)
 - 34 ANUA 53 475
 - 35 ANUA 53 477
 - 36 ANU F&S File #200204982
 - 37 NAA A657, DS1915/1116 (1914)
 - 38 NAA A192, FCL1923/189 (1918)
 - 39 ANUA 53 983 (1927)
 - 40 ANUA 53 983 (1928-29)
 - 41 ANUA 53 983 (1929-30)
 - 42 ANUA 53 983 (1933, 1951)
 - 43 ANUA 53 983 (1962, 1972)
 - 44 ANUA 53 981 (1932)
 - 45 ANUA 53 981 (1936)
 - 46 ANU 53 981 (1944)
 - 47 ANUA 53 477 (1958)
 - 48 Dexter 1991 (361)
 - 49 ANUA 53 979 (1975)
 - 50 ANUA 53 979 (1976)
 - 51 ANUA 53 979 (1984)
 - 52 ANUA 53 979 (1992)
 - 53 ANU F&S File #200200367 (2002)
 - 54 Ratcliffe, R. & Armes, J. 1993. *The Australian National University Heritage Study* (104)
 - 55 Ratcliffe/Armes 1993 (104)
 - 56 ANUA 53 979 (1970)
 - 57 ANUA 53 979 (1975)
 - 58 ANUA 53 979 (1990, 1999)
 - 59 Ratcliffe/Armes 1993 (106)

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- 60 Ratcliffe/Armes 1993 (106)
- 61 ANUA 53 477 (1951)
- 62 Ratcliffe/Armes 1993 (106)
- 63 ANUA 53 982 (1971)
- 64 ANUA 53 981
- 65 ANUA 53 982 (1971)
- 66 ANUA 53 981 (1980)
- 67 ANUA 53 982 (1928)
- 68 Aslanides, T & Stewart, J. 1991. *Twenty-Two Balmain Crescent, Acton: the Story of a House and its People*. (ANUA 53 982)
- 69 ANUA 53 982 (1931)
- 70 ANUA 53 982 (1938)
- 71 ANUA 53 982 (1940)
- 72 ANUA 53 982 (1943)
- 73 ANUA 53 982 (1943); Ratcliffe/Armes 1993 (110)
- 74 ANUA 53 982 (1963)
- 75 ANUA 53 497 (1971)
- 76 ANUA 53 982 (1976, 1980)
- 77 Ratcliffe/Armes 1993 (113)
- 78 Dexter 1991 (362); Ratcliffe/Armes 1993 (113)
- 79 Tohill, D. 2003. *South African Diplomats in Australia, 1949 to the early 1960s* (5).
- 80 Tohill 2003 (5)
- 81 ANUA 53 476 (1957, 1968)
- 82 ANUA 53 476 (1976, 1987)
- 83 ANUA 53 476 (1991)
- 84 ANUA 53 983 (1927, 1937)
- 85 ANUA 53 983 (1937)
- 86 ANUA 53 983 (1945); Ratcliffe/Armes 1993 (115)
- 87 ANUA 53 983
- 88 ANUA 53 983 (1965)
- 89 ANUA 53 983
- 90 Ratcliffe/Armes 1993 (92)
- 91 ANUA 53 475
- 92 ANUA 53 475 (1971-72)
- 93 ANUA 53 475/476 (1990-94)
- 94 ANUA 53 483 (1929)
- 95 ANUA 53 483 (1953)
- 96 ANUA 53 983 (1954)
- 97 ANUA 53 983 (1962, 1967)
- 98 ANUA 53 983 (1967)
- 99 ANUA 53 983 (1976, 1982)
- 100 ANUA 53 983 (1989-90)
- 101 ANU F&S File #200502529 (2006)
- 102 NAA CP209/1 (1913-14)
- 103 NAA CP209/2, NN (1927-1938)
- 104 Fischer 1984 (47)
- 105 Gibbney 1988 (258)
- 106 ANUA 53 979 (1980)
- 107 ANUA 53 982
- 108 ANUA 53 981 (1964-66)
- 109 Refer Ratcliffe/Armes 1993

4.4 Canberra Community Hospital Zone

The remaining buildings of the Canberra Community Hospital, or the Old Hospital Buildings (OHBs), are located to the northwest of the Acton Conservation Area. Curtilage is defined by Balmain Crescent to the south, Mills Road to the west, Eggleston Road to the north and the western boundary of Graduate House to the east (Figure 4.1). Remnant buildings include the Administration Block (A Block), Nurses Quarters (M Block), Isolation Ward (N Block), the Animal House and Animal Laboratory (Gardener's Depot) and tennis court and associated Auxiliary Canteen/tennis shed. A historical overview of the women's ward (B Block) is also included, though this building has recently been demolished.

The first medical facilities in the Capital were provided at Duntroon Military College and staffed by Dr Peter Lalor in July 1911. Lalor also inspected the workers' camps in the region, including Acton, and commented on the health and hygiene conditions at the sites¹. In late 1912 the Administrator recommended that a temporary wooden block be constructed as a hospital to cater for the medical care of workmen and a site was chosen shortly after by Charles Scrivener². Plans had been prepared by August 1913 and included three buildings; an administration block consisting of outpatients, a consulting and 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 toilet. The form of the buildings was similar to those of the Bachelor's Quarters; rectilinear weatherboard structures connected via a series of covered walkways and verandahs with views of the floodplains below. An isolation area was formed to the north of the complex, containing a room for a nurse, pantry, bathroom and toilet, with patients accommodated in adjoining tents. All had been constructed and ready for handover by 27 May 1914, with a brick operating theatre and laundry buildings added later³.



Figure 4.54: View west of the original Canberra Hospital, c1915? (nla.pic-an14235363-13).

The hospital complex was considered 'state-of-the-art' for the time and was well positioned to take advantage of the landscape. The Queanbeyan Age noted that the complex was "a model one, and advantage has been taken of every facility afforded by the unique and beautiful position"⁴.

The first Hospital was only ever intended to serve as temporary quarters for the City and minor alterations were carried out as needed for the next ten years.

From September 1925 the Hospital was under control of the Federal Capital Commission. The rapid increase of the local population led to the call for additional accommodation and plans were prepared to erect two new wards, each of twenty beds for general cases, plus a twenty-bed ward for emergency cases and an eight-bed maternity ward. A new Administration Block was also planned, to consist of an outpatient department, X-ray, dispensary, store and quarters for the Resident Medical Officer. These 'temporary' buildings were to be constructed of similar materials as the original; weatherboards clad to a light timber frame⁵.

Work began on the extensions in January 1927⁶. By the end of the year, the twenty-bed Male Ward and eight-bed Maternity Ward had been constructed, with the majority of infrastructure in place by mid-1928. The new Administration Block was completed towards the end of the year and formed a pleasant frontage to the hospital that blended well with the native and maturing tree species. Work also commenced on the new Isolation Block to the northeast of the complex, to accommodate 28 patients in four wards with four observation rooms. This building was also completed in late 1928, though not used until May 1929⁷.



Figure 4.55: Hospital Ward, April 1926 (NAA A3560, 1632).



Figure 4.56: Operating Theatre, April 1926 (NAA A3560, 1630).

A new kitchen and dining block to the west of the wards simplified catering for both staff and patients. Accommodation for staff, however, was far from adequate. Disjointed housing arrangements saw the nurses residing in the old domestic quarters, cottages in the area and one housed in the Isolation Ward⁸.

In September 1928 the Commonwealth Department of Health moved from Melbourne to Canberra, including the Director General Dr Cumpston and 28 staff⁹. The FCC prepared plans for a building with laboratories and an animal house nearby to undertake research on sheep and guinea pigs. The Animal Laboratory building, located to the northeast of the tennis court, consisted of an office, consulting room and waiting room, two laboratories, a sterilising room and male and female

lavatories. The Animal House was formed of an experimental animal room, food, fuel and chemical stores, a dark room and holding pens and runs for the animals¹⁰.

The Canberra Times reported on the new hospital complex in August 1929, again noting the positive effects of the site¹¹:

There is no doubt that there are many more imposing structures in other centres, but the test of an hospital is not to be found on the outside but on the inside. The architecture beauty will come when the time arrives for the building of a permanent hospital worthy of the city. The building which is to serve in the meantime is attractive in appearance, with surroundings that cannot but bring delight to those convalescing on its spacious verandahs. Everything possible has been done to make the hospital a haven for the sick, in which they can be restored to health in an environment which will ameliorate [sic] their sufferings ... The wards are bright and airy and there is an added delight in the spotless cleanliness which is characteristic of everything pertaining to them and every requirement for the comfort and convenience of patients and the nursing staff is provided.

The tennis court appears to have been constructed in 1930, in line with extensions to the Administration Block¹². The new Nurses Quarters was likely completed shortly after, freeing much-needed rooms in the old hospital buildings and general wards¹³.

An inspection of the hospital in 1934 revealed the inadequacies of the complex and instigated talks of a new permanent hospital to be “constructed on a more suitable site than the present one, which the [Hospital] Board did not quite firmly regard as suitable”¹⁴. As an interim measure, partitions were added to the wards to create more rooms and in 1936 a portable X-ray machine was purchased to avoid the hazards and bumping rides over verandahs to reach the X-ray room¹⁵. A Hospital Women’s Auxiliary was formed in September 1938 to provide services that were otherwise expensive or difficult to procure and a month later a small weatherboard hut (Auxiliary Canteen) was constructed to the west of the tennis court as a means of disseminating goods and services to the complex¹⁶.

By 1939 conditions at the existing hospital had deteriorated considerably. The wards had become overcrowded and nurses’ accommodation was rapidly being filled. The buildings were falling into disrepair and the staff constantly fighting with swarms of cockroaches and silverfish¹⁷. By May 1940 it was not uncommon to find more than 140 people in the hospital at one time, even though it was designed for only 90 patients. The ward verandahs were also enclosed to cope with the overflow and a long-overdue extension of twelve rooms was added to the Nurses Quarters¹⁸.

Plans of the new (Royal Canberra) hospital, to be constructed at the end of Acton peninsula, were finalised in January 1940 by Melbourne architect Leighton Irwin. They illustrated a main block of four floors containing 100 beds, plus an isolation ward of 24 beds and a building for staff quarters, connected by a covered way. The main building provided ground floor facilities for administration, Board room, kitchen and laundry, outpatients and obstetrics ward. The first floor was designed for women’s medical and surgical wards, second floor for men’s wards and third floor for children’s wards and operating theatres. Work had commenced by August 1940¹⁹.

By April 1942 much of the new complex had been constructed and outfitted with modern equipment and facilities. Rather than used for their intended purpose, however, the buildings were handed to the United States Army during the War. A number of works were carried out to the old buildings to assist in coping with the

delayed occupation of the new site, including alterations to the Nurses Quarters and Obstetrics Block²⁰.

The United States Army had vacated the buildings by January 1943, ironically at the same time as the alterations to the Community hospital were nearing completion. On 7 February the patients were transferred to the new hospital and were able to enjoy a steam-cooked meal from the new kitchen on the ground floor²¹.

Upon the departure of patients and staff the old hospital buildings were used as offices of other government departments and some external agencies. The Department of Information and Ministry of Post War Reconstruction were housed in the old ward buildings; the former Isolation Block was converted into the Territory's first Nursery School for the Canberra Kindergarten Society²² and the Nurses Quarters was used by the YMCA as their first bed and breakfast hostel in Canberra, catering to returned servicemen²³.



Figure 4.57:
University
Cartographic Room
at the old Hospital
Buildings, late 1950s
(ANU UN230/3).

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 was using space in a number of buildings as storage and the Isolation Block had officially become the new Nursery School²⁴. Soon after, the land fell under control of the ANU, who were in need of space and desperately required the Old Hospital Buildings. By 1954 they accommodated the Departments of Anthropology, Geography, International Relations and Pacific History of the Research School of Pacific Studies, and the Departments of Economics, History, Law and Political Studies of the Research School of Social Sciences²⁵. In the early 1970s most of the buildings had been adapted for use by the Research School of Earth Sciences (RSES).

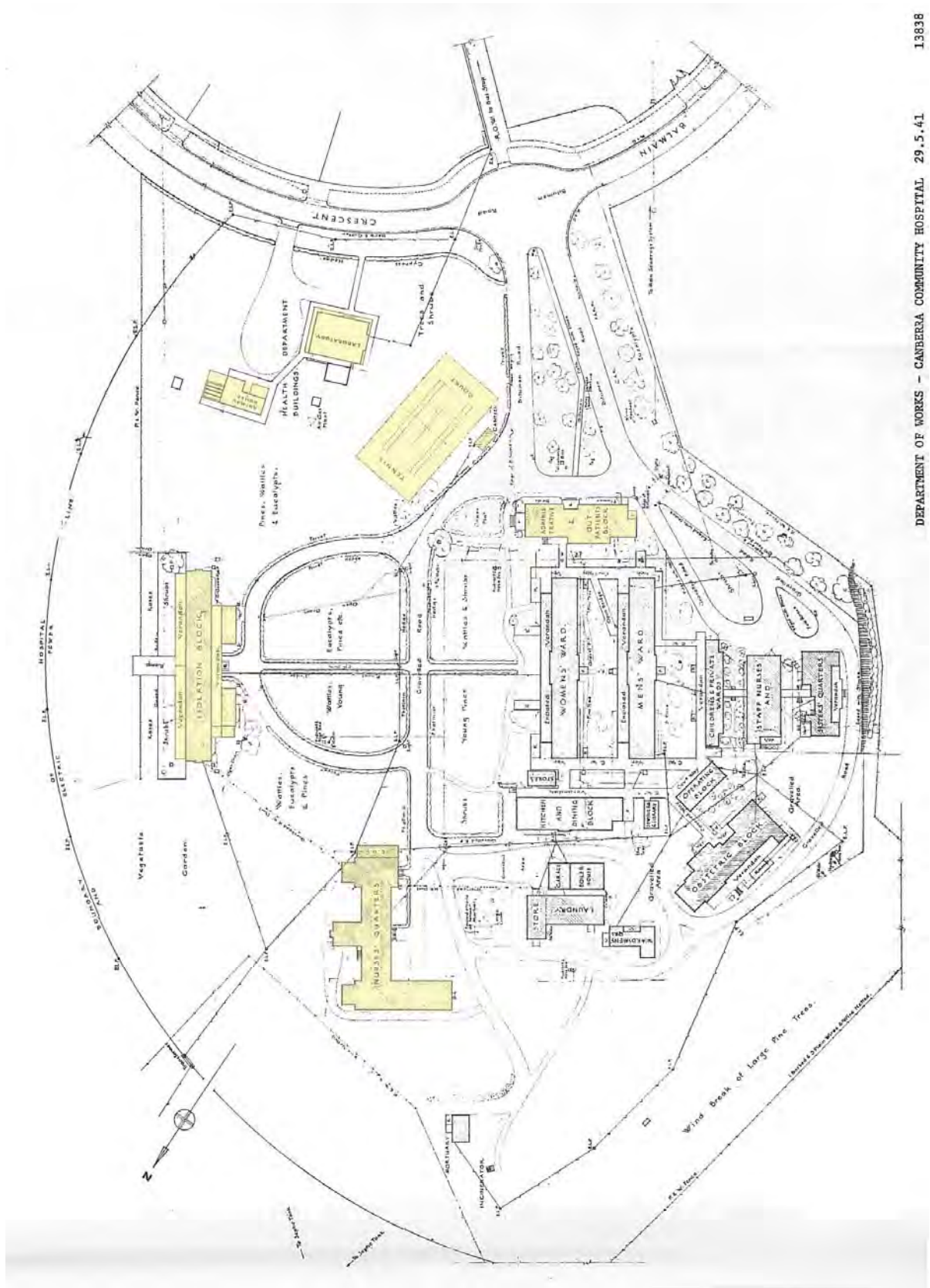


Figure 4.58: The Canberra Community Hospital complex at the height of operations in 1941. Remnant buildings are shaded (Dept. of Works Plan #13838).

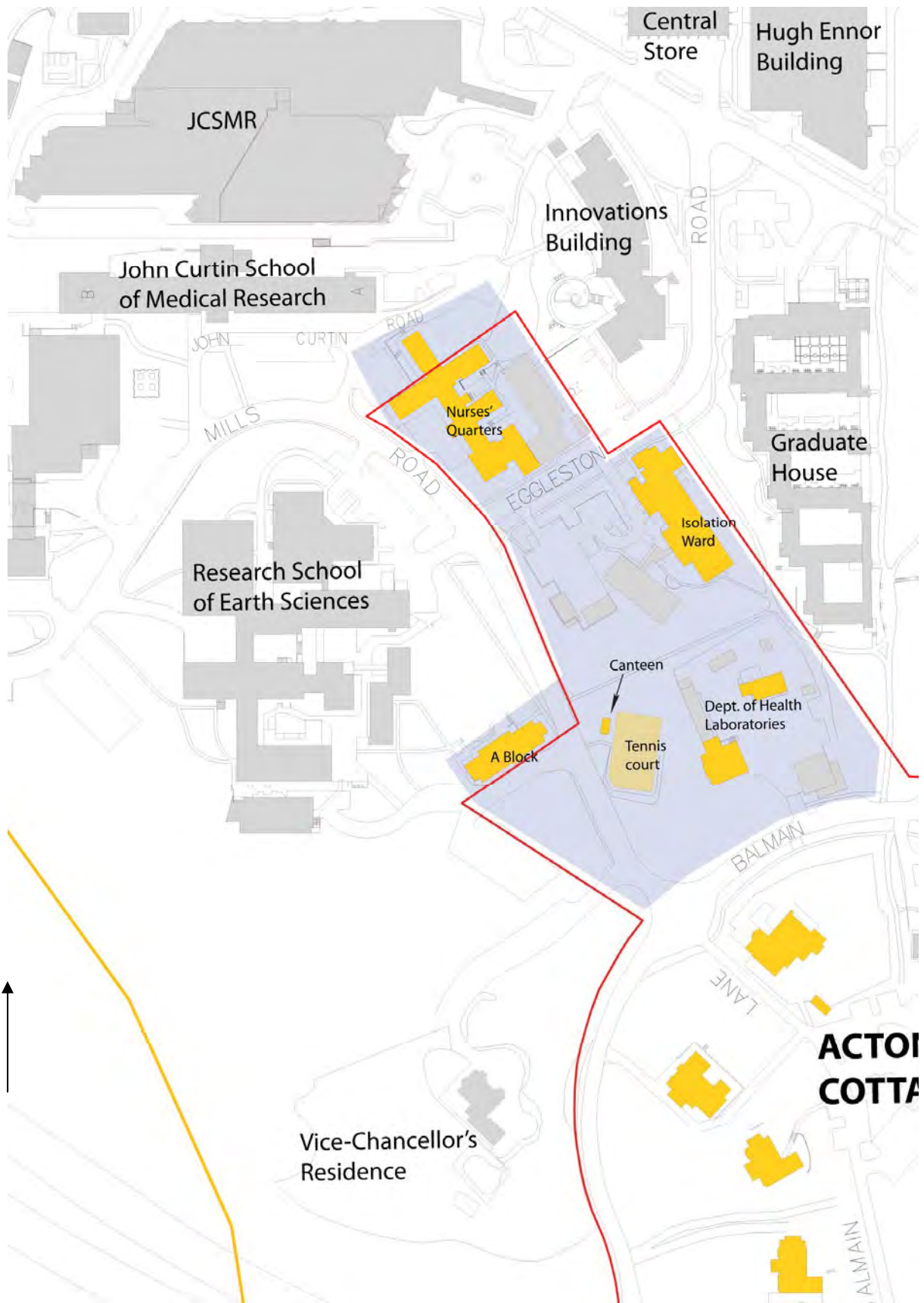


Figure 4.59: The remnant Canberra Community Hospital buildings as part of the modern University campus (ANU Heritage Office).



Administration Block, Jul 1928 (NAA A3560, 4326)



Administration Block, 2009

Historical Overview

The Administration Block of the old Canberra Community Hospital was designed by HM Rolland, Chief Architect of the FCC, and constructed in 1927²⁶. The brick and weatherboard building had a different layout than the original 1914 Administration Block, consisting of an outpatients' area, X-ray room, dispensary and offices.

By April 1930 the Administration Block had become congested with outpatients and incoming patients; there was no available space in the waiting rooms and access to the rooms was solely through the outpatient theatre, which was continually in use. Charles Daley, then Secretary of the FCC, recommended extending the building by 16 feet at the western end (to cost £610), providing two extra waiting rooms and two treating rooms²⁷. The alterations were in keeping with the original fabrics, although they resulted in the loss of the symmetrical façade and a slightly steeper pitch to the western hip.

The buildings were used for government offices from the early 1940s and became part of the ANU campus in November 1950. At the time all rooms required refurbishments, including screens to control flies that were attracted to the nearby Animal House and local grazing stock. The University provided screens where necessary, though complied with the wider Canberra city policy of not supplying flyscreens to offices²⁸.

It was recorded that the Department of Anthropology and Sociology were housed in the building in the early 1950s, although they had departed by 1954, causing a re-shuffle for the Department of Geography²⁹. Plans prepared in 1957 illustrate the building used for Economics, while a year later it housed Departments of Geology, Chemistry and Physics, with necessary alterations illustrated and new toilets added to the western end³⁰.

By June 1964 the building was occupied by the National Heart Foundation and telephones were installed and connected to the University PABX system in 1967³¹. A year later plans were made to demolish a number of hospital buildings, including the Administration Block (the front portico columns were to be retained and displayed at Fellow's Garden at University House)³². This was never to occur, however, with the building housing the Research School of Earth Sciences in the

early 1970s.

In 1977 plans were prepared for new radiocarbon dating laboratories in the western end of A Block³³. In the early 1980s RSES worked closely with Finland on the design and assessment capabilities of 'Quantulus', a liquid scintillation counter, that was considered the best in the world. The dating of the 40,000 year old Lake Mungo archaeological material was determined at the site, as well as a study of lake sediments from across Australia in conjunction with the Faculty of Geology³⁴.

The building is currently used as research and office facilities of the Research School of Earth Sciences.

Description and Condition

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 louvred 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 about 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 louvred 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 obscure 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 without glazing bars, and an assembly of three double hung 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 architraves. The eaves have 150mm slats; the gutter is quadrant and fixed to a 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 onto the ceiling in one process. 'Egg-crate' plaster vents are visible throughout. 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. The rails have rounded arrises, achieving an effect seen on the

glazing bars of the entry doors. Most doors are painted navy blue.

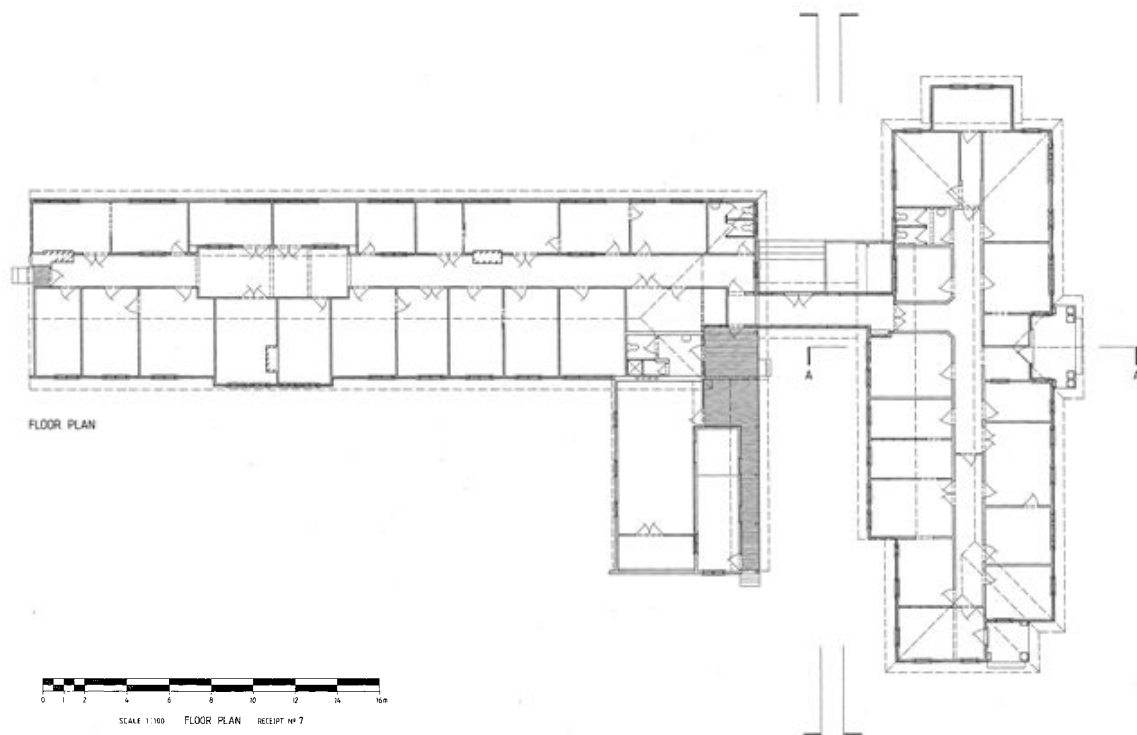


Figure 4.60: Measured drawing of A and B Blocks, 1982 (ANU Drawing Office J061A/A/008).

Some original flyscreens survive, with traditional hinges and closers in a timber frame. The occupants have requested flyscreens throughout.

Most walls are white, with beige dado or picture rail, although some rooms display dark blue walls to the dado, followed by yellow tones to the white ceiling. There are isolated instances of cracking in the paintwork and some staining from past water damage to the ceiling (the 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 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 streetscape is important.

**4.4.2 Women's Ward (B Block)
(demolished)**

Canberra Community Hospital



North side of the Women's Ward, Jan 1935 (NAA A3560, 7291)



Demolition of B Block, Dec 2010

Historical Overview

The Women's Ward had been completed by June 1928, more than a year after the adjacent Men's Ward was constructed to the south. Together, the two buildings provided 40 beds in four wards, plus two small private rooms, comfortably accommodating twenty men, ten women and ten children³⁵. The plans of both buildings were similar, consisting of two long wards, with central stores, kitchen and teaching facilities and a 'lobby' either end. The initial configuration of rooms was largely lost with later modifications.

The verandahs were enclosed by June 1940³⁶ and overcrowding of the general wards around the same time may have led to B Block used for maternity purposes (evidence indicates that birthing was very likely confined to the Obstetrics Block and the new mothers later moved to the verandah of B Block for recovery)³⁷.

Ten of the sixteen rooms in the building required refurbishments when it was handed over to the ANU in November 1950, including the removal/addition of partitions, addition of external doors and any glazed partitions replaced with caneite sheeting³⁸. The 1993 ANU Heritage Study indicates that the building may have been transferred a few metres south of its original location, though this is highly doubtful³⁹.

Plans prepared in 1958 illustrate Department of Zoology in the eastern wing of the building and those prepared ten years later detail the building used for the Property & Plans Division of the ANU, including the University Printing Room⁴⁰. In October 1971 preparations were made to demolish the building after the Plans & Property Division were moved to the old Union Building (Pauline Griffin Building), although this was never undertaken, with further extensive renovations carried out in 1975⁴¹.

B Block has recently been demolished to make way for the new 'Jaeger 8' building of the Research School of Earth Sciences⁴².

Description and Condition

B Block mirrored the form of the men's ward, located immediately to the west, each accommodating twenty beds. The following description and condition

assessment was recorded prior to the demolition of the building in December 2010.

The building was a long rectangular structure clad in weatherboards and supported by a red-brick base. The weatherboards are similar to those of the Administration Building (broad surface with a small scallop). B Block connected to A Block via a glazed link edged with beaded boards and a galvanised roof. The red brick base displayed egg-crate terracotta vents and double glazed doors on the northern side.

The verandah had been enclosed with asbestos and fibro sheeting and fibro partitions installed throughout. The original weatherboard cladding can be seen in the centre wall (with some windows), although has been altered in places, and extra doors added where necessary. Asbestos was found in numerous locations throughout the building.

The building embodied a mix of window styles; original examples were very large two-pane, double hung sliding sashes with a bottom-hung hopper window and some original closers. Other styles included vertical four-pane sliding sashes with modern locks and latches, horizontal casement windows and simple very large single pane sheets fixed into basic timber or aluminium frames. Like the windows, the frames displayed an eclectic mix and were replaced when necessary in line with alterations to the building.

The modern corrugated iron roof was similar to the original though the curved pitch had been straightened. The brick chimneys and rounded vents that were once characteristic of the Old Hospital Buildings had also been removed.

The western extension was modern and formed of asbestos and fibro sheeting. The west door was a modern glazed door with aluminium frames. The eaves were somewhat similar to those observed at the Administration Building, with 150mm slats and quadrant gutters. The roof of the western extension is hipped. This aspect of the structure required extensive repairs to arrest water leaking into the building.

The bedrooms (later offices) stemmed from a long central corridor. The walls were lath and plaster with chamfered cornices in the original partitions and less elaborate moulds for the later alterations. There were some examples of sheet and strapped construction in the building, although most had been removed. False ceilings with fibro sheets had been fitted throughout. The vents were louvred terracotta; most were covered or removed.

The original window frames were basic bevelled architraves and sills, with a number of later aluminium additions. The internal doors appear to have originally been a solid frame with five sunken panels (identical to those seen in A Block); four small glazed panels above a single large glazed and frosted panel below. The majority of doors were modern and painted white or beige. A number of original doors and windows were salvaged for re-use at the other OHBs.

The walls had been painted a light pastel blue throughout the main corridor and some of the rooms, with some walls, including the original verandah external wall, painted white. There were instances of the paint cracking and flaking and some isolated instances of water damage. Some window panes were broken.

Modern additions included light fittings (some original mountings remain), carpets,

painting, air conditioning systems and some noticeboards and posters affixed directly to the walls.

The old Women's Ward displayed some evidence of the original layout prior to its demolition, though very little evidence of the original function remained. Externally, its contribution to the Acton streetscape was questionable; the fibro sheeting used to enclose the verandah was a bland contrast to the traditional forms seen on the other hospital buildings.

4.4.3 Isolation Ward (N Block)

Canberra Community Hospital



Front of the Isolation ward, Jan 1935
(NAA A3560, 7282)



Front of the Isolation Ward, 2009

Historical Overview

Plans for the permanent Isolation Ward had been completed by March 1928, to replace the original small building with four adjoining tents⁴³. The new block was to contain 28 beds in four wards, with observation rooms, kitchen, storeroom, bathrooms and lavatories. Work had commenced by June and had been completed six months later, although the building was not occupied until May 1929 (eight cases of diphtheria were housed in tents in the beginning of 1929). Initially, it coped primarily with outbreaks of scarlet fever⁴⁴.

By June 1937 the Isolation Ward was in a poor state of repair and found to be unfit for occupation. By 1939 the hospital had become overcrowded, and general ward patients were admitted to the Isolation Block⁴⁵.

In 1944 the building became the first Nursery School in the Territory, opened by Lady Gowrie⁴⁶. By the early 1950s it was used as a primary school, consisting of four small, three medium, four large rooms and two glazed-in verandahs, until the University gained control of the building in 1959⁴⁷. A 1955 inspection noted that the School was in a poor state of repair. The gutters and downpipes needed work, the roof required a complete overhaul and there was evidence of dry-rot in places. The entire needed a complete re-paint, which was organised by the University⁴⁸.

In September 1957 the Canberra Orchestral Society used the building for a number of practices (they noted it was 'far superior' to others they had been using) and in April 1958 a number of Quaker meetings were also held there⁴⁹. Soon after the University prepared for the official hand-over of the building and carried out repairs costing in excess of £10,000 and lasting for three months. This included the installation of the building's first heating system⁵⁰.

The building was used for a number of different purposes before it accommodated the Department of Prehistory in the early 1970s and the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) by 1978.



Figure 4.61: North (rear) of the Isolation Ward as the Canberra Nursery School, 1954. The verandah has since been enclosed (ANU 01-15-B1-20-01).

In 1983 plans were prepared for extensions to the western end, including a seminar room, two syndicate rooms and toilet and kitchen facilities⁵¹ and 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 (Figure 4.62)⁵².

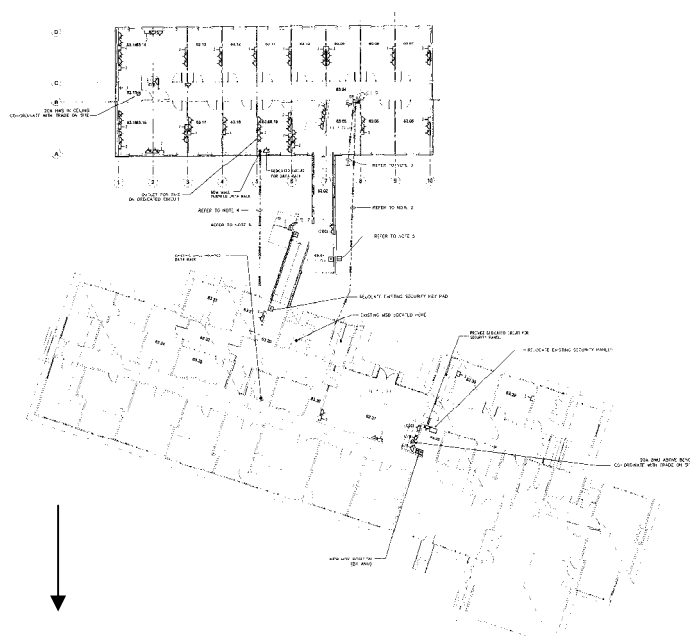


Figure 4.62: Isolation Ward, with modern extension to the south (ANU Drawing Office J063/A/001).

The old Isolation Ward is currently used as office and research space of the Centre for Mental Health Research (CMHR).

Description and Condition

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 southeastern addition. The building is lined with weatherboards and has a colorbond 'bronze olive' roof.

Vents and ductwork, important features of the original design, were removed when the roof was replaced. It was a carefully designed, naturally ventilated building, with transom windows for this purpose.

The windows display an interesting sequence of construction and detail, responding to stylistic and technical changes in the building industry. These range from traditional double-hung, box frame windows, to double-hung windows with spring balances, double-hung windows with horizontal glazing bars of the "Moderne" style and hopper and casement windows. The eaves are lined with slats mounted to the underside of the rafters, giving a raked eave. The gutters are standard quadrant on the original building.



Like the other hospital buildings, the walls appear to be formed of lath and plaster on a light timber frame with some strapping evident and a square dado in some rooms. In similar fashion to the window designs, the variety of sheet materials and range of cover strips and mouldings help to distinguish changes to the structure. The walls are mostly painted white in line with the ceilings, although the main corridor, Seminar Room and some other walls have been painted indigo. No original wall vents were observed (likely covered or removed in line with works to the roof). Some modern partitions have been fitted, as well as modern false ceilings of fibro sheeting.

All doors appear to be modern and display modern door furniture. They embody a single large glazed panel above a solid base that has been painted white. External doors display four glazed upper panels. The skirtings are a simple bevelled board running throughout; a style echoed in the door and window frames. In some rooms the square dado terminates at the door frame; a traditional theme that can be seen in some of the other hospital buildings, cottages and Old Canberra House. The cornices are often a simple square or bevelled board.

Interesting aspects to 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 control systems and kitchen and bathroom amenities, detract somewhat from the original components. The modern addition to the southeast has been built sympathetically in mass to the original, though the joinery and finishes differ considerably.

4.4.4	Nurses Quarters (M Block)	Canberra Community Hospital
 <p data-bbox="248 875 708 936">View west of the Nurses Quarters, Jan 1935 (NAA A3560, 7283)</p>	 <p data-bbox="866 875 1305 936">Front portico of the Nurses Quarters, 2009</p>	

Historical Overview

The Nurses' Quarters appears to have been constructed in the early 1930s⁵³. The new building provided much-needed space for the staff, who each occupied a private room, as well as separate dressing rooms. The previous disjointed accommodation arrangements had seen the nurses residing in the old hospital wards, the Isolation Block and other buildings in Acton⁵⁴. The new quarters were only suitable for a short time, however, and had become overcrowded by 1939, with some nurses living on the verandahs and sharing dressing rooms⁵⁵.

In May 1940 the Nurses Quarters was badly damaged by fire. The recreation room and adjacent rooms, basement and corridor were gutted (west end?). The resident nurses had been instructed in fire drill procedures and set about fighting the blaze with hoses, hydrants and chemical apparatus, but by the time the Fire Brigade arrived at 4am the building was alight. The cause of the fire remained a mystery; the Matron recalled checking the rooms regularly and found nothing amiss. The Hospital Auxiliary, which had been using the recreation room as a meeting space, obtained temporary quarters in Beachamp House (now Ian Potter House) to the south⁵⁶. The damage to the building was soon repaired and an additional twelve rooms added to the western extent to accommodate the growing hospital staff⁵⁷.

After the nurses moved to their quarters at the new Royal Canberra Hospital complex in the early 1940s the old Nurses Quarters was converted into the first YMCA bed and breakfast hostel in the Territory (1944), furnished by the Sydney YMCA and Australian Comforts Fund. The building provided accommodation for 40 men in single and double bedrooms and was later used as a hostel to help ease the post-War housing shortage in Canberra (1946-47)⁵⁸.

The old hostel was redecorated by the Department of Works and in June 1952 seven rooms were handed over to the ANU. The University, in turn, granted the

use of four rooms to the Chinese Embassy for a one year period and a room to the United Kingdom High Commissioner, who was living in Old Canberra House, to use as storage (to depart in October 1953)⁵⁹.

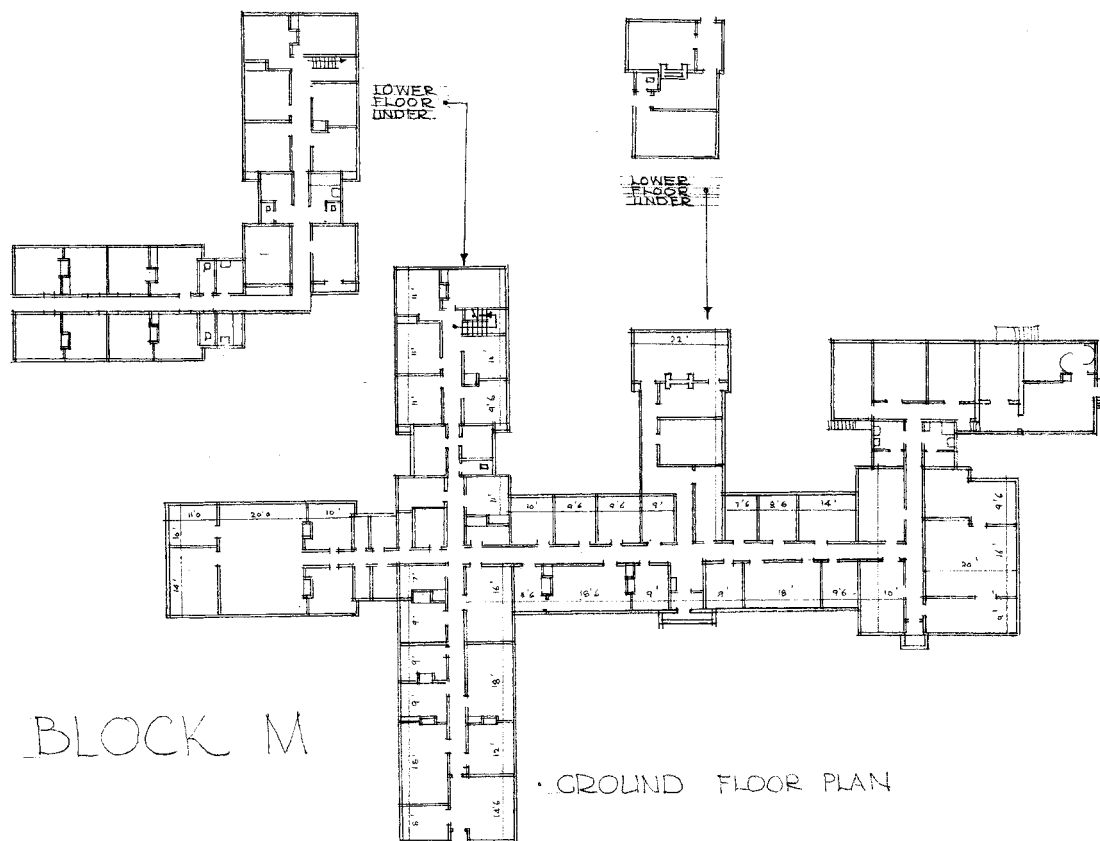


Figure 4.63: M Block, with extensions to the north and west (ANU Drawing Office J062/A/004/003).

In July 1952 the Department of National Development vacated the north wing of the building to make room for University Departments of Geography, Demography and History. Physics occupied three rooms for a short time and the Department of Far Eastern History moved into some rooms in the beginning of 1953⁶⁰. Four rooms in the basement were also occupied by the National Cash Register Company, who were to vacate by June, though left the space in a poor state of repair. By this time the Film Division of the National Library were also using some rooms and the News & Information Bureau were using the theatrette⁶¹.

Due to a debilitating fire in their Civic offices in December 1950, the South African High Commission was granted the use of seven rooms in the old Nurses Quarters until they relocated to Barton in February 1955 (the High Commissioner himself was residing in No. 26 Balmain Crescent)⁶². Their departure opened the entire ground floor of the building to the Department of Far Eastern History⁶³. Six months' later the Economics Department was occupying the front office block of the building⁶⁴.

By June 1958 the National Library was using the theatrette, film preparation room (Figure 4.64) and one small office, and the Film Section of the National Library were occupying a further seven rooms⁶⁵. By March 1961 one room in the basement was used as a gardener's mess and other rooms were gradually being

vacated by the National Library and converted into offices of the John Curtin School of Medical Research⁶⁶.



Figure 4.64: The Film Preparation Room in the old Nurses Quarters, 1960 (nla.pic-vn4389127).

In October 1971 the building was used by the Research School of Biological Sciences and by August 1982 the Psychology Annexe was located in M Block⁶⁷. However, the distance from the main hub of biological research was “a serious continuing impediment to its intellectual life” and plans were made to amalgamate the School⁶⁸. Research in Behavioural Biology continued to be undertaken from the premises, though the majority of biological research was carried out in their new buildings to the north of Sullivan’s Creek.

In 2002 an office block and lecture theatre extension were added to the north of the building, connected via an adjoining link from the western end. The extension showcased an energy-efficient climate control system regulated through the occupants’ use of external office windows and awning windows above the office doors⁶⁹.

The old Nurses Quarters currently houses the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health Research (NCEPHR).

Description and Condition

The building has 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 (original nurses' quarters) on each side. Though the rooms have been altered, with internal partitions added or walls removed where necessary, the general building layout is similar to the original.

Generally, newer alterations are identified by the use of bullnose mouldings. The original walls are caneite with cover strips and fibrous plaster above capped with a splayed picture rail. The ceiling appears to be caneite, with cover strips at sheet junctions, some of which have been recently replaced. Most walls are painted white or light pink.

Doors have four glass panels, beaded into the bars with fine square timber strips. Below the glass the two original panels have been replaced with painted metal louvre grilles on some. Some bronze period door handles are evident, although it is unlikely these are original. The architraves are splayed and the skirtings are simple squared sections. The whole building was constructed with great economy, reflective of the economic difficulties of the time.

Overall, the old Nurses Quarters is 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 building does display some minor damages to walls, in particular small holes where shelving or electrical installations have been removed and some waste resulting from water damage in the roof space (holes have been repaired, but walls need to be cleaned/repainted). Modern additions include air-conditioning systems, carpets, windows and wall coverings, shelving, light and electrical fittings and some new fibro partitions. The later extensions have formed a series of courtyards to the north of the building that, with the gardens, provide a quiet retreat for the occupants.

The Nurses' Quarters is 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.

4.4.5

Animal Laboratory and Animal House (Gardener's Depot)

Canberra Community Hospital (Commonwealth Department of Health)



Animal Laboratory, Jan 1935 (NAA A3560, 7287)



Gardener's Depot (office block), 2009

Historical Overview

In September 1928 the Commonwealth Department of Health moved from Melbourne to Canberra, including 28 staff members and the Director General, Dr John Cumpston⁷⁰. The FCC prepared plans for buildings of the Health Laboratories and Animal House (designed by Casaboulte⁷¹), to be constructed to the north of the tennis court, for some of the first official research conducted in the Acton area by a Commonwealth agency.

The Health Laboratory consisted of an office, consulting room and waiting room, two laboratories, a sterilising room and male and female lavatories. The Animal House was made up of an experimental animal room; food, fuel and chemical stores, a dark room and holding pens and runs for the animals. Guinea pigs and sheep were kept in the building. Early drainage plans show a dark-room and toilet facilities in an attached building to the west⁷².

Research at the Laboratory appears to have ceased in the late 1930s, when plans were made to house nurses in the building, although these were never seen to fruition and it is unclear what the buildings were used for until they were handed to the University in the 1950s.

Professor Spate of the Research School of Pacific Studies requested use of the buildings in 1953, but in January 1954 the Registrar instead announced that the cottage was to be refurbished and used by the Architectural Section and the University Design Section, under the leadership of Fred Ward⁷³.

The Animal Laboratory and Animal House are today used as the ANU Gardens & Grounds Depot. The grounds also consist of a number of other galvanised structures for the storage of equipment and vehicles.



Figure 4.65: The Animal House, 2009. The holding pens, on the right of the building, have now been enclosed and used as vehicle store.

Description and Condition

Laboratory

The laboratory is a substantially crafted, rendered brick building with a tiled roof. As with 26 Balmain Crescent, it survives as one of a few brick FCC buildings on the site and the only non-residential large brick building. It has louvred 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.

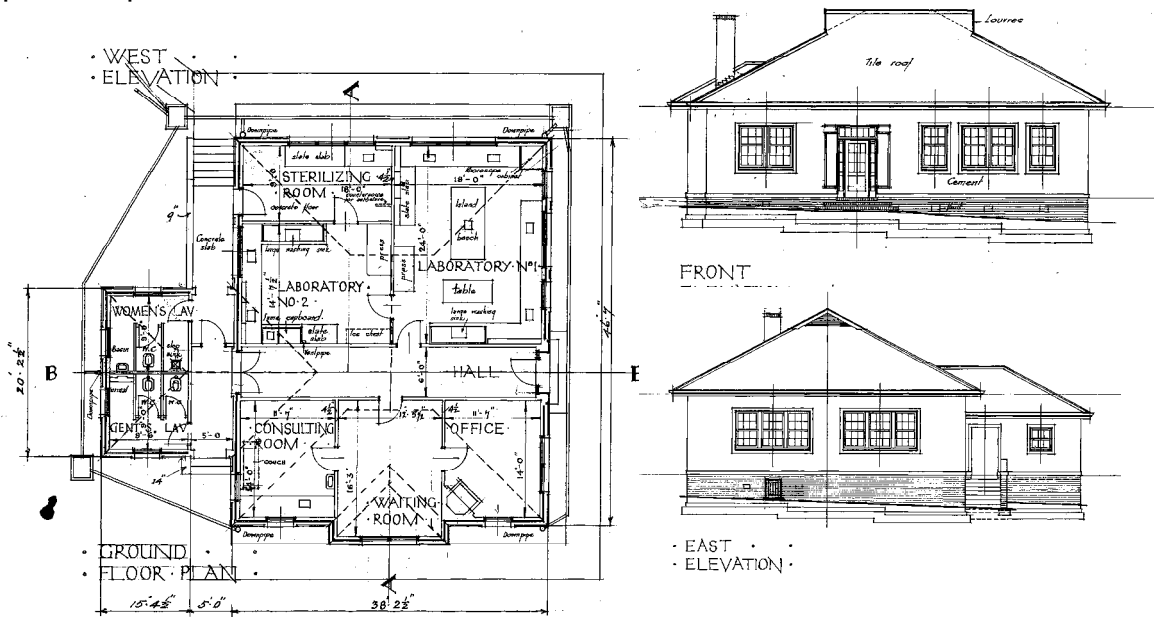


Figure 4.66: Plan and elevations of the Animal Laboratory, 1928 (ANU Drawing Office J064/A/001).

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 arrises. 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 a dado 'ovolo' run into the plaster. The strapped ceilings are 3.3m 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 buildings at 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 for a change-area and locker space for the

gardeners). Despite recent alterations, the building has been well looked after by the current occupants.

Animal House

This building was constructed at the same time as the laboratory and has similar architectural features; likely to be a TR Casaboulte 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.

The animal house is a brick building with red-brick base, external render, hipped and tiled roof, slatted eaves, quad 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 (fibrous plaster?) 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 north east. 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 are 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 original doors are evident, formed of a braced and ledged construction, with some traditional door furniture. 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).

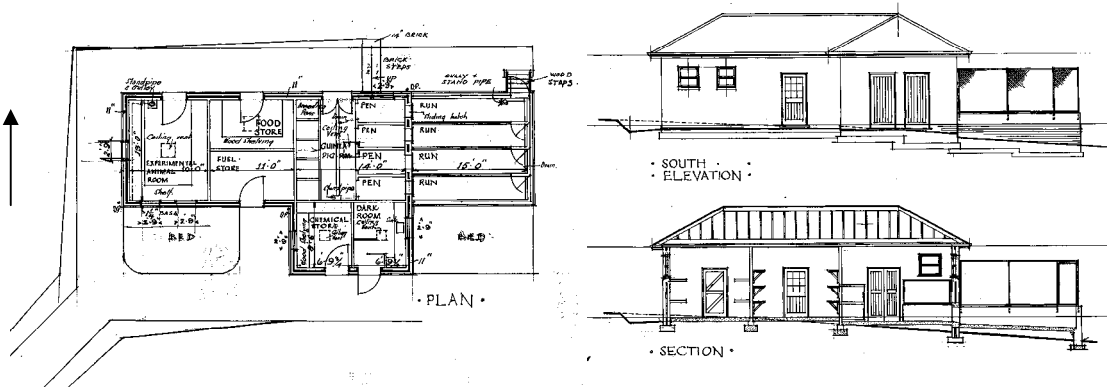


Figure 4.67: Plan and elevations of the Animal House, 1928 (ANU Drawing Office J064A/A/001).

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.

4.4.6 Auxiliary Canteen & Tennis Court

Canberra Community Hospital



Nurses assembled outside the tennis court and Auxiliary Canteen, Jan 1941 (Ide 1994:224)



View northwest of tennis court and Auxiliary Canteen, 2009

Historical Overview

Early calls for a Hospital Auxiliary, or Ladies' Advisory Committee, were made in March 1929 by the Sub-Committee of local organisations appointed by the FCC⁷⁴. By June 1931 the first Hospital Auxiliary had been formed. Their main objectives were to "provide comfort and recreation facilities for patients and staff which were not able to be obtained from the Hospital budget"⁷⁵. The tennis court appears to have been constructed in 1930⁷⁶, although it is not clear if the facility was part of the first Auxiliary or provided by their funds.

The second Hospital Auxiliary was formed in September 1938 (the first enterprise had been disbanded by the mid-1930s) as a means to raise funds, provide goods and services and to assist the Matron⁷⁷. The second Auxiliary's first major activity was an Egg Day appeal in October 1938, in cooperation with schools in Canberra⁷⁸. The main fund-raising source of the Auxiliary over the years, however, was to be the volunteer Canteen. The Canteen began in a small weatherboard hut near the nurses' tennis court, across the road from the Administration Building, in October 1938⁷⁹.

The Auxiliary used the Canteen for the following few years, providing flowers, a library and sewing services⁸⁰. In 1942 they requested construction of a new Canteen as part of the permanent hospital complex. The Hospital Board approved the plans, although noted that the new brick canteen could not be used until the US Army vacated the premises⁸¹.

The court was top-dressed, watered and rolled in late 1932 and used by the staff of the hospital until the end of the War, when it again required repairs⁸². It was recorded that the court was used almost every lunch hour by the occupants of the buildings after the nurses had departed (staff of Departments of Immigration, Information and Post-war Reconstruction)⁸³. It appears that attention slowly shifted away from the tennis court as the hospital fell into decline and little repairs

were carried out until the land was handed over to the ANU.

By the early 1950s the Canteen appears to have been used as a payroll office for the government employees working in the complex, possibly associated with the Commonwealth Bank⁸⁴. The building likely showcased a door on either side, although by this time the west door had been removed and replaced with a small shuttered window and timber awning used for the dissemination of salary to the government employees.

In 1951 the ACT Jockey Club requested use of the building for the sale of refreshments. The plans were never approved, however, as the University wished to retain the building as a shelter for the tennis court, which was reconditioned shortly after⁸⁵.

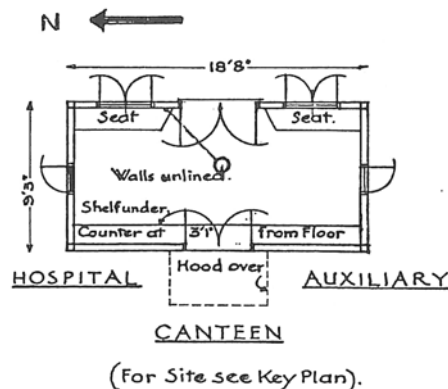


Figure 4.68: Auxiliary Canteen, c1940 (Ide 1994:XLVII)

Description and Condition

The tennis court Canteen is a small single room construct with a rectangular floor plan that sits 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 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, though has recently been vandalised and requires some repairs.



Entrance to Hospital, 1936 (NAA A3560, 5487)



View south of Acton Racecourse from the Hospital, 1935 (NAA A3560, 7296)

Historical Overview

Like much of the Acton Conservation Area, the Hospital grounds were initially formed by Charles Weston, with later developments undertaken by Alexander Bruce of the Department of Gardens & Grounds.

In 1923 Weston reported on the development of the Hospital grounds. Tree species included natives *Acacia baileyana*, *Acacia decurrens*, *Eucalyptus globulus* ssp. *Bicostata* and *Eucalyptus maideni*. Introduced species included *Pinus insignis* (*Pinus radiata*) and *Populus alba*⁸⁶.

The grounds were further developed in 1928, in line with extensions to the complex by the FCC. Alexander Bruce notes a number of landscape improvements in his diary, including the removal of some trees near the hospital entrance and the formation of flower beds⁸⁷.

In May 1929 Bruce consulted with Sir John Butters to determine suitable trees and possible shelter-belts at the hospital. Planting was carried out in August, and border plants developed a month later⁸⁸.

In 1930 the high cost of eggs and poultry prompted Dr Nott, the Medical Superintendent, to suggest that a vegetable garden and fowlyard be established for exclusive use of the hospital. There was ample space available in the grounds, including three acres on the slopes towards the Molonglo River⁸⁹. Such an industrious move was seen as highly amenable at a time when the economic downfall had resulted in rising costs in food and high unemployment. At the same time, extra trees were required to fill dirt patches, some mature trees required pruning and the area was not properly drained⁹⁰.

To cope with these growing landscape issues a full-time gardener, Mr CE Mayes, was employed in December 1930 to nurture the vegetable garden and advise on landscape improvements⁹¹. By June 1931 the vegetable garden had been established in an area to the north of the new Isolation Block (to become a children's playground associated with the Nursery School in the 1940s, and later the site of Graduate House) and to the northeast of the hospital grounds⁹².

The garden was tended for a number of years, though by August 1933 local sheep and cattle had destroyed three-quarters of the year's crop. Mayes

complained that the garden was poorly protected and in need of proper fencing. The Director-General of Health also granted an additional parcel of land 'beyond the infectious diseases ward', which was ploughed and made ready for use by October 1933⁹³.



Figure 4.69: View of Black Mountain from Hospital, 1935 (NAA A3560, 7295).

It is likely that the garden plots were fenced in the early 1930s to control stock damage, though the front of the hospital was open to the racecourse. In 1940 the Hospital Board concluded that the area leading down to the racecourse had become a fire hazard and should be fenced and vegetation controlled through sheep grazing⁹⁴.

Soon after, Dr Nott suggested opening the hospital gardens to the Canberra Garden Army, as the land was in good condition and had available water. Approval was given, but the Garden Army never used the land⁹⁵.

The grounds were under the control of Lindsay Pryor's Parks & Gardens Branch of the Department of the Interior until 1951. The size of grounds and extent of plantings prompted the University to consider hiring a committed gardening team⁹⁶.

Description and Condition

The landscape of the OHBs has been heavily reduced as the area was developed. The original decorative species around the Administration Block and any vegetable gardens have been removed.

Weston plantings 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-good condition. A significant *Schinus molle* can be seen to the north of N Block and an elm in the carpark 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 wind-break 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 of Mills Road, hiding the carpark, and the hedge hugging 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 Gardener's Depot has not diluted the connection between the buildings.



Figure 4.70: Though much of the vegetation has been removed around the Old Hospital Buildings, a number of significant species have been retained, including those around the carparking areas (left), and in the landscape to the south/west of the Administration Block.

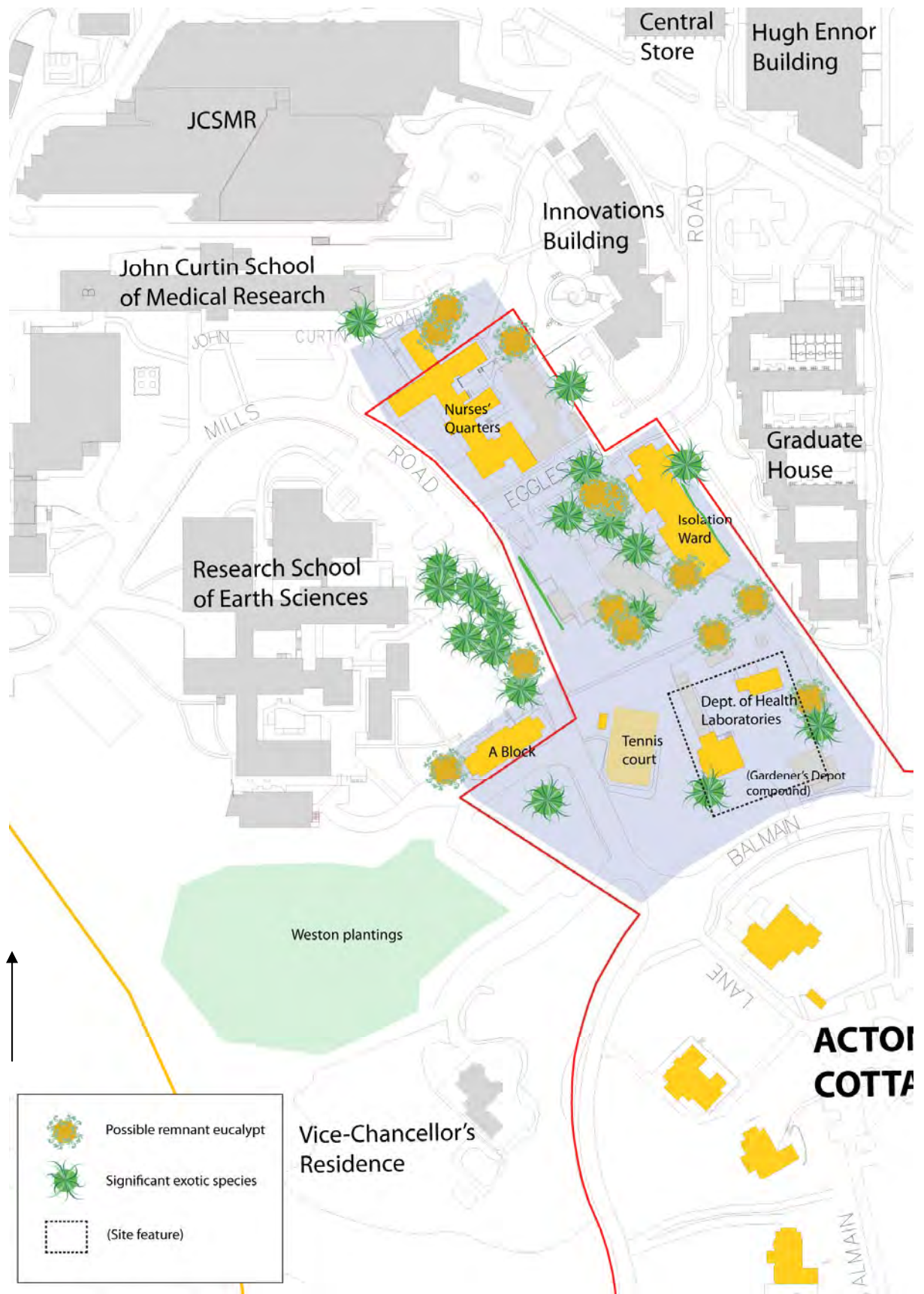




Figure 4.71: Significant landscape features of the Canberra Community Hospital zone (ANU Heritage office).

4.5 Acton ‘Underhill’ Tunnel

4.5.1	The Tunnel	Acton
 <p data-bbox="263 757 735 815">The entrance to the Tunnel, 1987 (ANU Env #41)</p>	 <p data-bbox="868 770 1267 799">The entrance to the Tunnel, 2009</p>	

Historical Overview

The Molonglo Arterial, or Acton Tunnel, is a significant feature of the Acton area. Plans for the Tunnel had their origins in the Holford Report of 1957. The first mention of Parkes Way and its continuation – the Molonglo arterial – were described as the internal link running through the City from the Queanbeyan Road to the Cotter Road, serving all the important features of the City outside the Parliamentary Triangle and preserving Griffin’s basic framework⁹⁷. In a way, the Tunnel supplanted Acton Road as the primary thoroughfare of Acton, which was cut short when the Lake was inundated in the 1960s.

The University was reluctant to accept the proposed Arterial below Acton Ridge. Opposition to the road was expressed within the University in the years leading to the formation of the Tunnel in 1977. Despite an environmental impact statement prepared by the NDC (1973) and a public hearing conducted by Commissioner Lawrence in the same year, the works went ahead and the Tunnel was formed. Arguments propounded by the University reduced the proposed six lanes to four, as well as helped to determine suitable vegetation cover above the Tunnel, the inclusion of two floors of space between the Tunnel top and the replaced ground surface and appropriate treatment of the area near the mouth of Sullivans Creek after completion of the project⁹⁸.

The Acton Tunnel was first included in the 1966 campus site plan, undertaken by Professor Denis Winston. Since then it has been an important feature of the overall plan⁹⁹. Of significance for site planning purposes is the agreement that, while the Tunnel (‘the segment of land below the horizon of RL 565 metres’) became Crown land with the Commonwealth the unquestioned owner of the public road, the superstructure and land above the Tunnel remains within the University’s perpetual lease.

During construction of the Tunnel, married workmen Cottages Numbers 4, 5 and 6 were demolished in 1976, 1969 and 1977, respectively. The boundary fence of Cottage #7 (8 Liversidge Street) was altered and the connection between the two Balmain Crescent ring-roads was permanently severed. Photographic evidence

indicates that a number of early and remnant trees were removed.

While the Tunnel was designed to accommodate about 500 cars, it has never been used for such a purpose. Instead, it was initially used for general storage, before parts were converted for the storage of the University and Noel Butlin Archives in the 1980s. This use has continued today, with part of the Tunnel used for as an archives repository and part used as general University storage. Though the space used for carparking is an important consideration in University planning, it is the only location on campus that can accommodate the large amount of archival documents, in a carefully controlled environment¹⁰⁰.

Description and Condition

The Acton 'Underhill' Tunnel is an interesting aspect of the ANU campus. Its spacious and relatively dark atmosphere provide for a unique character, one that is in direct contrast to the bright, open areas of the Conservation Area above.

The Tunnel has seen numerous alterations, with some remnant signs of earlier walls or fittings still visible. However, given the bare utilitarian nature of the original form these changes are not noteworthy. No damages were observed during recording, although it is known that water has seeped into the Tunnel from nearby pipes in the past. This is a prime concern for any area with a controlled environment for the storage of sensitive and fragile papers; the pipes were replaced and damages repaired.

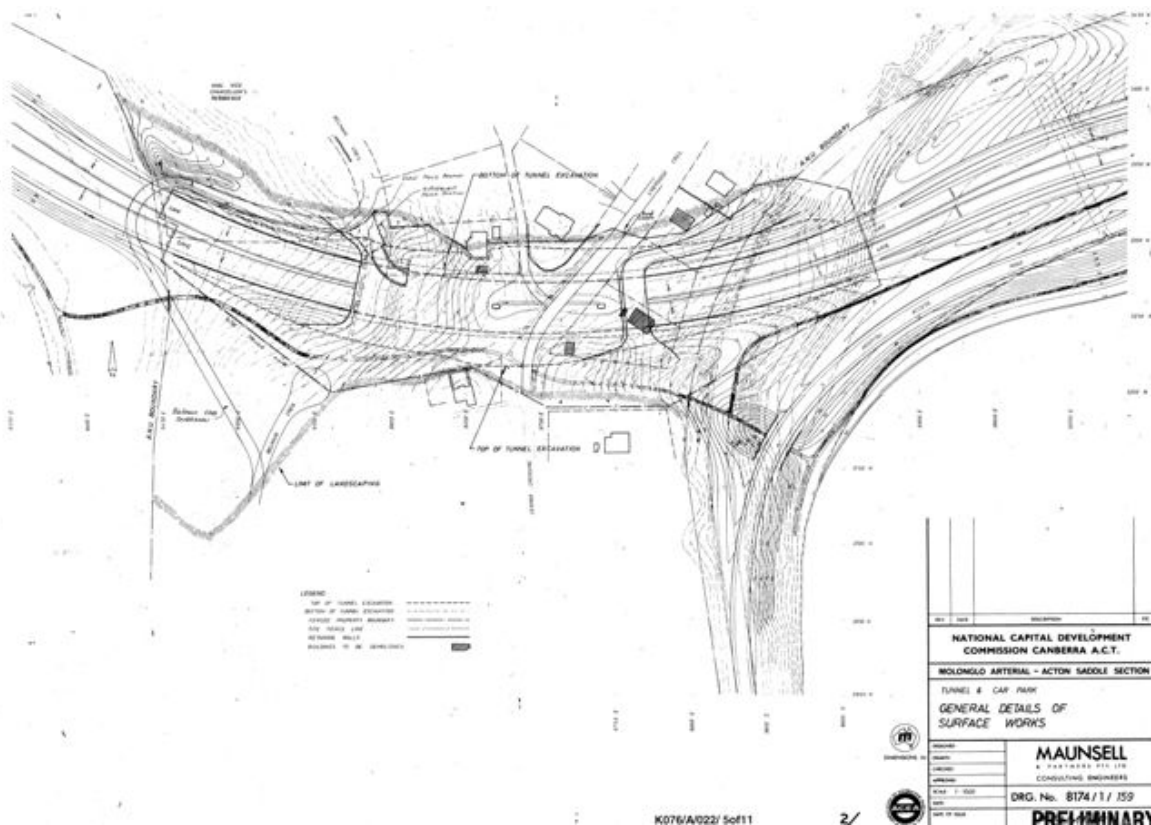


Figure 4.72: The formation of the Tunnel included the demolition of three of the original married workmens' cottages (ANU Drawing Office K076/A/022/005)

The archives repository of the Acton Tunnel is conditioned by a circulatory air-conditioning system. Barrel fans maintain only very gradual temperature and

humidity fluctuations. The self-regulating system ensures that rapid changes in condition levels are avoided.



Figure 4.73: Though designed as a carpark, the Acton Tunnel is used for general storage purposes (left) and as the repository of the ANU Noel Butlin Archives Centre (right).

The vegetation above the Tunnel is a poor reflection of that seen in the rest of the Acton Conservation Area. The landscape of this area “is typical of the municipal landscape approach adopted by the NCDC” and has been largely unsuccessful, likely due to the poor quality of the backfill over the Tunnel and to changed water table and drainage patterns. The species used include grevilleas and wattles, are short-lived and have been replaced where necessary. The choice of species forms a strong discontinuity between the Old Canberra House/Lennox House zones and the residential zone to the north, acting as a low-impact ‘buffer zone’. The stunted vegetation has also resulted in the retention of a number of significant views from the site that would have otherwise been obscured.



Figure 4.74: The low vegetation above the Tunnel provides for some of the last significant views from the Acton area.

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- 1 Ide 1994 (7)
 - 2 Ide 1994 (14,15)
 - 3 NAA A192, FCL1922/513
 - 4 Queanbeyan Age, 30 Oct 1914
 - 5 Ide 1994 (79, 85)
 - 6 Ide 1994 (86)
 - 7 Hospital Annual Report 1927/28, as quoted in Ide 1994 (112)
 - 8 Ide 1994 (113)
 - 9 Ide 1994 (114)
 - 10 ANU Drawing Office: J064/A/001 & J064A/A/001
 - 11 Canberra Times, 12 Aug 1929
 - 12 Ide 1994 (250)
 - 13 Ide 1994 (158)
 - 14 Ide 1994 (170)
 - 15 Ide 1994 (160,164)
 - 16 Edwards, A.W. 1964. *Canberra Community Hospital Auxiliary: A Short History of its First Twenty-Five Years: 1938-1963* (8,16)
 - 17 Ide 1994 (213-24)
 - 18 Ide 1994 (214,222)
 - 19 Ide 1994 (219)
 - 20 Ide 1994 (235-239)
 - 21 Ide 1994 (244,257)
 - 22 Ide 1994 (269)
 - 23 Canberra Times, 8 Jan 1944
 - 24 ANUA 53 496 (1949)
 - 25 ANUA 53 496 (1951,1954)
 - 26 Ratcliffe/Armes 1993 (123).
 - 27 Ide 1994 (137).
 - 28 ANUA 53 496 (1950)
 - 29 ANUA 53 496 (1956)
 - 30 ANU Drawing office: J063/G/001 & J061A/A/001
 - 31 ANUA 53 496 (1964, 1967)
 - 32 ANUA 53 496 (1968)
 - 33 ANU Drawing Office: J061A/A/005
 - 34 Ratcliffe/Armes 1993 (124)
 - 35 Ide 1994 (112)
 - 36 Ide 1994 (222)
 - 37 Ide 1994 (244)
 - 38 ANUA 53 496 (1950)
 - 39 Ratcliffe/Armes 1993 (Figure 9)
 - 40 ANU Drawing Office: J061A/A/001 & NAA A192, FCL1919/977 (1971)
 - 41 ANUA 53 496 (1975)
 - 42 A feasibility study of the demolition of B Block was prepared by John Armes & Associates, 2007
 - 43 Ide 1994 (250)
 - 44 Ide 1994 (215)
 - 45 Ide 1994 (215,222)
 - 46 ANU 01-15-B1-20-01 (photo description)
 - 47 ANUA 53 496 (1953, 1958)
 - 48 ANUA 53 496 (1955)
 - 49 ANUA 53 496 (1957, 1958)
 - 50 ANUA 53 496 (1958)
 - 51 ANU Drawing Office: J063/A/006
 - 52 ANU Drawing Office: J063/A/001
 - 53 Ide 1994 (250)
 - 54 Ide 1994 (139)
 - 55 Ide 1994 (213)
 - 56 Ide 1994 (220,221)
 - 57 Ide 1994 (222)
 - 58 Ide 1994 (269); Canberra Times, 8 Jan 1944 & 31 Oct 1945
 - 59 ANUA 53 496 (1952)

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- 60 ANUA 53 496 (1955)
- 61 ANUA 53 496 (1953)
- 62 Tohill, D. 2003. *South African Diplomats in Australia, 1949 to the early 1960s* (5-6)
- 63 ANUA 53 496 (1953)
- 64 ANUA 53 496 (1954)
- 65 ANUA 53 496 (1958)
- 66 ANUA 53 496 (1961)
- 67 ANUA 53 496 (1982)
- 68 ANUA 53 496 (1984)
- 69 ANU Drawing Office: J062A/A/001
- 70 Ide 1994 (114)
- 71 ANU Drawing Office: J064/A/001 & J064A/A/001
- 72 Ratcliffe/Armes 1993 (129)
- 73 ANUA 53 496 (1954)
- 74 Ide 1994 (117)
- 75 Ide 1994 (143)
- 76 Ide 1994 (250)
- 77 Ide 1994: Appendix J (44-48)
- 78 Ide 1994 (209)
- 79 Edwards 1964 (2)
- 80 Refer Ide 1994, Appendix J for Hospital Auxiliary activities and services
- 81 Ide 1994 (237)
- 82 NAA A431, 1946/26 & 1951/745
- 83 NAA A431, 1951/745 (1949)
- 84 Pers. Comm. Pennie Pemberton, ANU Archives
- 85 ANUA 53 496 (1951)
- 86 Ratcliffe/Armes 1993
- 87 NAA CP209/2, NN (Diaries of Alexander Bruce)
- 88 NAA CP209/2, NN (1929)
- 89 Ide 1994 (130)
- 90 NAA A1928, 504/13 (1930)
- 91 Ide 1994 (141-42)
- 92 Ide 1994 (143)
- 93 Ide 1994 (153)
- 94 Ide 1994 (219)
- 95 Ide 1994 (269)
- 96 ANUA 53 496 (1951)
- 97 Dexter, D. 1979. *The Australian National University – History of the Site Plan: 1971-1978* (3)
- 98 Dexter. 1979:3; NCDC. 1973. *Molonglo Parkway: Environmental Impact Statement*
- 99 Dexter, D. 1979
- 100 Pers. Comm. John Sullivan, ANUgreen

4.5 Condition of Significant Fabric - Summary

The values of the Acton Conservation Area are largely embodied in the physical elements, including the buildings and landscapes of the place. The condition and relative integrity of each building is summarised below.

Methodology

The condition of the fabric which reflects the site's heritage values has been assessed at few times in the past. The condition reports of the conservation/management plans that have been prepared for the area often concentrate on one of the four specific zones; the inter-relationship of the separate site complexes are rarely taken into consideration.

The condition assessments have not uniformly stated conditions in the currently preferred range of 'good' to 'poor', and there have been few direct reports on the associative values of the place or the relative 'integrity' – 'high', 'medium' or 'low' – of the fabric elements.

The following condition assessment has been prepared based upon reviews of the previous assessments for the area (including any relevant audits undertaken by the University Maintenance Division), as well as recent inspections of the different site complexes of the ACA.

Three levels of judgement are used to indicate the 'condition' of the value, or in other words, the state of the fabric reflecting the value:

- Good* Structurally sound, weather-tight, important features well maintained, no significant repairs needed.
- Fair* Structurally sound, retains major features, needs minor repairs.
- Poor* Damaged, structurally unstable, erosion, disturbance, walls or floors missing or dilapidated.

Three levels of judgement are used to indicate the 'integrity' of the value, or in other words the intactness of the fabric reflecting the value:

- High* Features largely intact, no significant removals, modifications or additions.
- Medium* Some important elements lost, retains enough significant fabric to be understood and interpreted.
- Low* Significant elements destroyed, removed, replaced, rearranged or altered.

4.5.1 Lennox House

	Previous Management Plan (1996)	Current condition	Integrity
A Block	Condition: Good. Integrity: Medium.	<i>Fair-Good condition.</i> Structurally sound, but requires basic repairs.	<i>Medium.</i> Original elements have been painted over.
D Block	Condition: Good. Integrity: Medium.	<i>Fair-Good.</i> Modern verandah posts and concrete flooring detracts. Some major replacements (roof, some walls).	<i>Medium.</i> Some original components have been retained.
E Block	Condition: Good. Integrity: Low-Medium.	<i>Fair.</i> Heavy internal alterations at numerous times (later addition to site).	<i>Low-Medium.</i> Some elements have been lost, but the general shape of the building has been retained.
F Block	Condition: Good. Integrity: Medium-High.	<i>Fair.</i> Exterior requires minor repairs and painting. Interior altered to accommodate modern purposes, though much of the original material is used, and in fairly good condition.	<i>Low-Medium.</i> Building has been altered to accommodate child-care facility, but retains some original fabrics.
G Block	Condition: Good. Integrity: Medium.	<i>Fair-Good.</i> Minor repairs needed (paintwork, climate systems, weatherboards, roofing).	<i>Low-Medium.</i> Has been altered with variety of modern additions, including new windows, doors, floor and verandahs enclosed.
H Block	Condition: Good. Integrity: Medium.	<i>Good.</i> Minor repairs to paintwork, weatherboards, flooring required.	<i>Medium.</i> Verdandah added to front that obscures original façade.
I Block	Condition: Fair? Integrity: (limited access) Medium.	<i>Poor.</i> Termite damage, repairs to weatherboards, flooring, roofing, windows, doors and internal partitions.	<i>Medium.</i> Warden's Flat largely intact. General form remains, though the view has now been obscured.
Laundry A	Condition: Good. Integrity: Medium-High.	<i>Fair.</i> Floorslab requires some repairs, as does the paintwork.	<i>Medium.</i> Some modern additions (e.g. light fittings, locks) obscure the earlier style.
Landscape	Condition: Good. Integrity: Medium.	<i>Fair-Good.</i> Remnant trees are in good condition.	<i>Medium.</i> Some notable elements have been retained, including hints of Westons' planting scheme.

4.5.2 Old Canberra House

	Previous Assessment (1993)	Current condition	Integrity
Residence	Condition: Good. Integrity: Medium.	<i>Fair-Good.</i> Minor repairs to roof and external roughcast coating, windows and doors. Wall is cracking near Director's Office and paint is flaking in the Common Room. Isolated instances of water damage to ceilings in a few places.	<i>Low-Medium.</i> Building and grounds have been heavily altered. Any remnant original joinery has seen numerous repairs.
Chauffeur's Cottage	Condition: Good. Integrity: Medium-High.	<i>Good.</i> Building has minor damages, though has recently been refurbished.	<i>Medium.</i> Altered internally to provide for office space; little signs of the building as a residence remain. Recently transferred to new location.
Gardener's Cottage	Condition: Good. Integrity: Medium.	<i>Fair-Good.</i> Building requires minor repairs to picture rails, paintwork and windows. Some signs of water damage in ceiling.	<i>Medium.</i> Altered internally to provide for offices. Little evidence remains of original residence.
Garden shed	Condition: Good? Integrity: Medium-High.	<i>Good.</i> Building has recently been refurbished, including works to roof.	<i>Medium.</i> Recently been transferred to new location.
Tennis court/shed	Not examined.	Shed: <i>Fair.</i> Some minor damages to lower north corner (dry-rot). Court: <i>Fair-Good.</i> Perimeter fence (not original) shows some signs of wear.	<i>High.</i> Building & court used for intended purpose, remains in original location.
Landscape	Condition: Good? Integrity: Medium.	<i>Fair-Good.</i> Remnant trees in differing levels of condition.	<i>Low-Medium.</i> Original form of garden and drives (established by Weston) has been gradually reduced.

4.5.3 Acton Cottages

	Previous Assessment (1993)	Current condition	Integrity
16 Lennox Crossing	Condition: undergoing restoration. Integrity: High.	<i>Good.</i> Recent refurbishment arrested deterioration.	<i>High.</i> Many original features have been retained. Recently restored.
16LX – Laundry	Condition: undergoing restoration Integrity: High	<i>Good.</i> Rooms have been well-maintained since refurbishment.	<i>High.</i> Significant original features have been retained.
16LX – Garage	(2001 Study) Condition: Poor Integrity: Medium	<i>Poor.</i> Removal of roof has hastened degradation of building.	<i>Low-Medium.</i> Some features of the garage conversion have been retained (e.g the garage doors), though little remains of the stables.
16LX – Loose-box	Condition: Good Integrity: Med-High?	<i>Good.</i> Building has minor damages, but overall in good condition.	<i>Med-High.</i> Building has modern (but sympathetic) paintwork. Original features survive.
8 Liversidge Street	Not accessed (appeared to be in good condition). Integrity: ?.	<i>Good.</i> Recently refurbished.	<i>Medium.</i> Recent works have resulted in some changes, although the original character and layout is relatively intact.
8 Liv. Street - Laundry	Not accessed (appeared to be in good condition). Integrity: ?	<i>Fair.</i> Damages to internal and external fabrics. Evidence of possums extensive; some rotting.	<i>Medium.</i> General layout has been retained, though extended. Original internal features have been removed.
7 Liversidge Street	Condition: Good? Integrity: Medium.	<i>Poor-Fair.</i> Damages to internal and external fabrics.	<i>Medium.</i> Building retains the original character, though many original features have been removed or obscured.
7 Liv. Street – Stables/ garage	Condition: Good Integrity: High	<i>Fair.</i> Needs repairs to original fabrics of walls, doors and windows.	<i>Medium.</i> Notable elements remain, though some have been removed on conversion into workshop.
9 Liversidge Street	Modular units on site.	Demolished.	Ephemeral evidence of building footprint remains.
14 Balmain Lane	Condition: Good? Integrity: Interior not accessed.	<i>Good.</i> Minor damages to paint/walls.	<i>Medium.</i> Some notable original features have been retained, such as the 'triple' window.
16 Balmain Lane	Condition: Good? Integrity:	<i>Good.</i> Some minor wear to walls.	<i>Medium.</i> Some original features have been retained, though many

	Medium.		have been obscured with conversion into child-care facility.
18 Balmain Lane	Condition: Good? Integrity: Medium-High?	<i>Good.</i> Some minor damages to walls.	<i>Medium.</i> Some original features have been retained and are similar to those seen at #14 (e.g dining room servery and windows).
20 Balmain Crescent	Condition: Good? Integrity: Not accessed, but appeared to be High.	<i>Good.</i> Minor repairs needed throughout.	<i>Medium-High.</i> Many original features have been retained and left open. Modern features detract from original fabrics (e.g. disabled toilet and ramp).
22 Balmain Crescent	Condition: Good? Integrity: Medium?	<i>Good.</i> Minor damages to walls from child-care activities and unsympathetic installation of services.	<i>Medium.</i> Some original features have been retained, though have been gradually obscured.
22 Bal. Cres - Garage	Condition: Good? Integrity: Med-High?	<i>Good.</i> Roof recently replaced with similar materials.	<i>Med-High.</i> Original elements (e.g. doors) have been retained, though has a new roof.
26 Balmain Crescent	Condition: Good? Integrity: Medium?	<i>Good.</i> Recently refurbished.	<i>Medium.</i> Western extent has been altered in recent refurb, though the original layout is evident. Some important features have been retained.
28 Balmain Crescent	Condition: Good? Integrity: Medium.	<i>Good.</i> Some minor repairs needed. Cats, possums and birds should be removed.	<i>Medium.</i> Some features have been retained (mostly external), though are gradually being obscured.
3 Liversidge Street	Condition: Good? Integrity: Medium.	<i>Good.</i> Minor damages to walls. Interior needs minor repairs.	<i>Medium.</i> Some original features have been retained, though have been somewhat obscured with conversion into offices.
3 Liv. Street - Garage	Condition: Good Integrity: Medium?	<i>Good.</i> Some minor damages observed.	<i>Medium.</i> Front pergola added.
5 Liversidge Street	Condition: Good? Integrity: Medium?	<i>Good.</i> Some minor damages to walls and ceilings.	<i>Medium.</i> Some original features have been retained, though obscured.
Landscape	Condition: Good. Integrity: Medium.	<i>Good.</i> Significant trees are in fair-good condition. Fences require minor repairs.	<i>Medium.</i> Some original landscaping has been retained, though most of the early plantings and fences have been removed.

4.5.4 Canberra Community Hospital

	Previous Assessment (1993)	Current condition	Integrity
Administration Building (A Block)	Condition: Good? Integrity: Medium-High.	<i>Fair-Good condition.</i> Minor repairs needed to paintwork; some water damage to ceiling.	<i>Medium-High.</i> Building altered internally, but displays general building layout.
Nurses' Quarters (M Block)	Condition: Good? Integrity: Medium.	<i>Fair.</i> Building requires minor repairs throughout (paintwork, joinery). Some evidence of water damage to ceiling.	<i>Low-Medium.</i> Original layout of rooms provides evidence of original use, but building and landscape has been heavily altered.
Isolation Ward (N Block)	Condition: Good? Integrity: Low-Medium?	<i>Good.</i> Building has seen numerous renovations. Basic repairs needed to paintwork, walls and some joinery.	<i>Medium.</i> Basic layout of rooms remains, but interior has been heavily altered for offices.
Animal Laboratory	Condition: Good? Integrity: Medium-High.	<i>Good.</i> Minor repairs needed to walls, joinery and paintwork. Some evidence of water damage to ceiling.	<i>Medium-High.</i> Interior has been altered, yet retains basic form. Original layout of compound remains (albeit with later additions).
Animal House	Condition: Good? Integrity: Medium.	<i>Fair.</i> Some wear/deterioration noted throughout; original fittings have been protected with later additions.	<i>Medium.</i> Hints of original use can be seen; original joinery has been consumed in later modifications, yet still visible.
Canteen & tennis court	Condition: Good? Integrity: High.	Canteen: <i>Fair.</i> Recent repairs to shuttered window, piers, downpipes and internal joinery. Court: <i>Fair.</i> Repairs to line markings and fencing.	<i>Medium-High.</i> Original use of both Canteen and court is obvious. Canteen appears to have been transferred about 10m north.
Landscape	Condition: Good. Integrity: Medium?	<i>Fair-Good.</i> Significant trees in fair-good condition.	<i>Low-Medium.</i> Little remains of the original landscaped gardens. Pine shelter along Mills Road has been retained.