

Study Item/ Area	John Curtin School of Medical Research (JCSMR)
Acton Campus Precinct	GARRAN Precinct
Building Nos. & Names	54 (John Curtin School of Medical Research, 1957), 131 (John Curtin School of Medical Research, 2005)

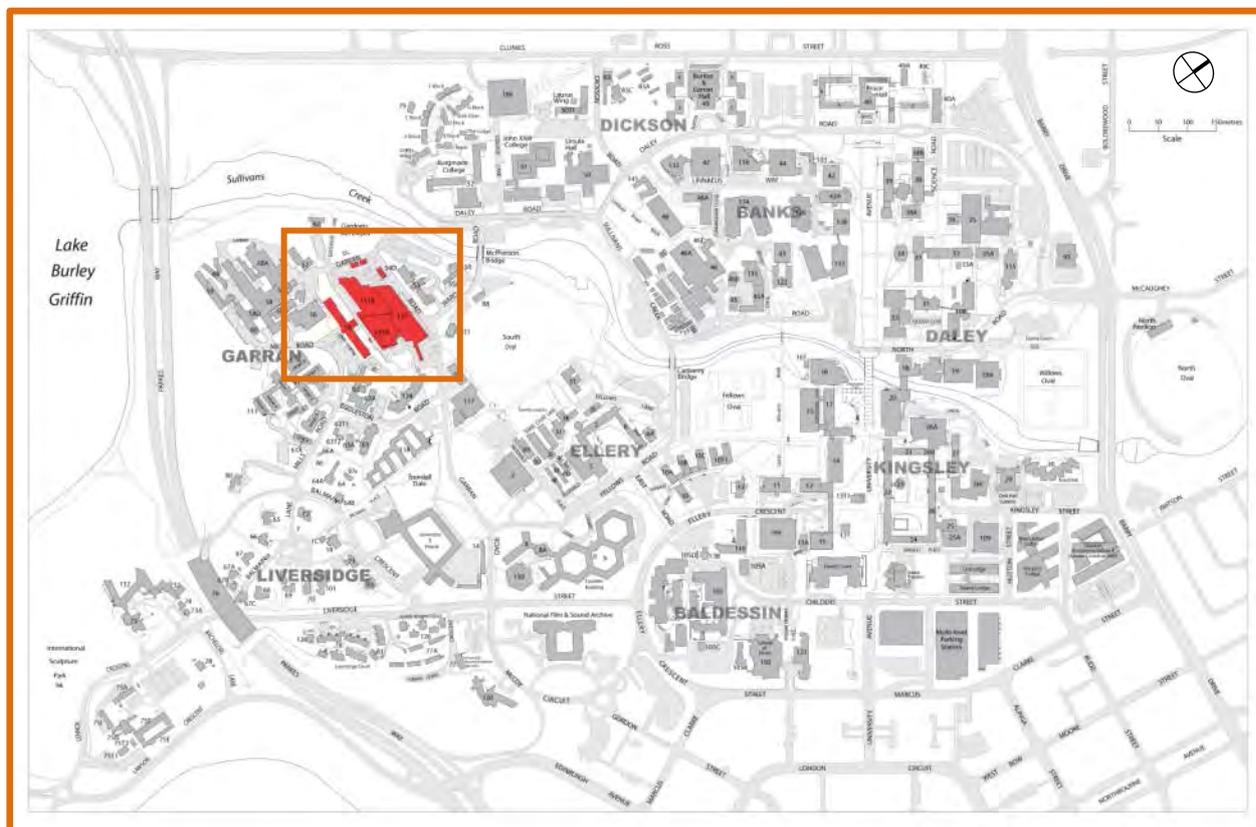


Figure 1: Location of study area within the ANU Acton Campus site.

Heritage Ranking	The JCSMR (Wings A&B and Part Spine), 1957— High —Meets criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List The JCSMR, 2005— Neutral —Does not meet criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List
Heritage Listing	The John Curtin School of Medical Research (JCSMR) is individually listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) as an <i>indicative</i> site. This status denoted that the significance of the building has been recognised, but that a full assessment has not yet been undertaken.
Condition	The condition noted here is at June 2012. The extant buildings in the JCSMR 1957 section are not currently in use and contain laboratory and office accommodation. The exterior of the building is in good condition however minor repairs are required including repainting, repairs to the timber eaves and replacement of some guttering. Internally, the laboratories and offices are generally in reasonable condition, although there is noticeable damage in places. This damage includes water staining and scuff marks to walls, termite damage to timbers, flaking paint, large cracks and other evidence of general wear to joinery and fixtures. Modern additions include fire safety equipment, light fittings, carpets, linoleum and other flooring, new ceilings and air-conditioning units affixed directly through windows. Due to the previous laboratory use of the spaces, much of the extant fabric may be contaminated. JCSMR (2005) is in excellent condition.
Relevant Documentation	2010 Heritage Study for JCSMR (Wings A and B, 1957) has been prepared by the ANU Heritage Officer. It provides a detailed history and description of the buildings within the JCSMR. The JCSMR was also assessed for heritage significance as part of the 1993 ANU Heritage Study (Ratcliffe & Armes).

Context of the Buildings

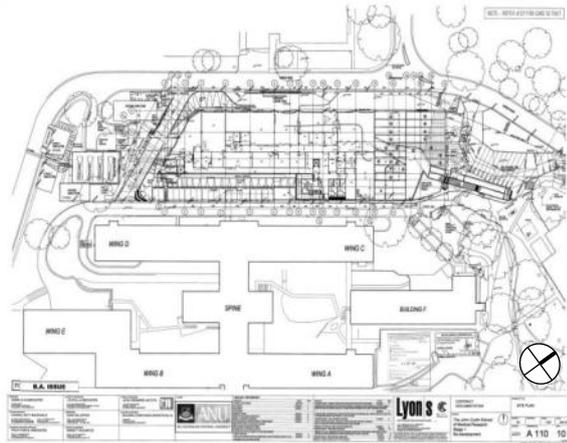


Figure 2: Site Plan of JCSMR including original building and New Stage 1 section.

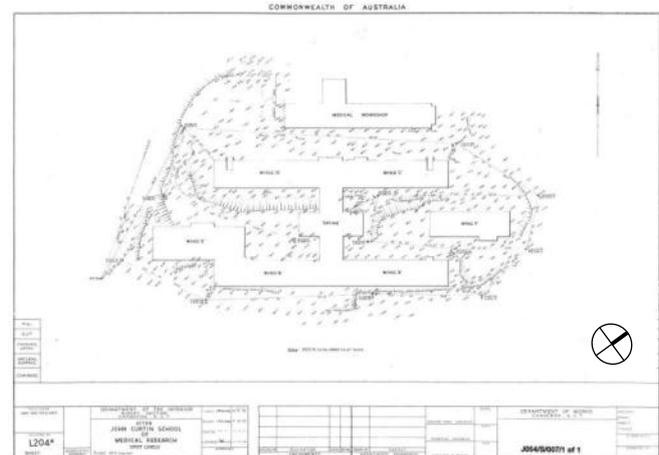


Figure 3: Original Design and configuration of the JCSMR according to the Dept. of Works 1955.

Brief Historical Overview

The establishment of a National Institute for Medical Research (later The JCSMR) was the brainchild of Sir Howard Florey, and Australian expatriate and Professor of Pathology who at Oxford University had succeeded in the conversion of penicillin into an antibiotic. Florey visited Australia during 1944-45 on invitation from Prime Minister John Curtin.

On implementation of the Act of Parliament establishing the ANU in 1946, it was decided on the recommendation of H.C Coombs that Florey's proposal for a National Institute for Medical Research would become one of the four original research schools of the ANU. The death of Curtin and his foresight in inviting Florey to Australia meant the Institute was referred to as The JCSMR from as early as 1945. Joseph Benedict Chifley, the subsequent Prime Minister continued Curtin's legacy, and went about convincing Florey and other academics to return to Australia from the UK and head up the new research schools.

Planning for the construction of The JCSMR began in 1949, and the final design was a result of several years of consultation and argument between the University's Architect, Brian Lewis, Professor of Architecture at the University of Melbourne, the ANU Academic Advisory Committee, consisting of Sir Howard Florey, Sir Keith Hancock, Professor Marcus Oliphant and Raymond Firth and the newly appointed professors of the JCSMR Frank Fenner, Arnold Hughes Ennor, John Eccles and Adrian Albert.

Lewis had determined the site for The JCSMR on a sloping site at the western end of the campus, however the initial plans for the future JCSMR were sketched by Florey, Fenner, Ennor and Albert, along with Florey's associate AG Sanders in England. Drawing inspiration from the Medical Research Institute at Mill Hill, London, Florey and his colleagues sketched a H shaped building consisted of two wings of south facing laboratories and service rooms, with a central spine containing shared facilities such as the library, lecture theatres, administration offices, stores and a tearoom. Two animal houses would be attached to each of the front wings with a boiler house, solvent store and workshop at the rear. Also at this time, Florey arranged for Frederick Bunker to be appointed as the Laboratory Manager, and to oversee the construction of the buildings.

The actual design of the building was a long process, with Sanders (on Florey's behalf) eventually travelling to Canberra to meet with Lewis about Florey's vision of the H-shaped building. Despite the fact the Lewis was the University's appointed architect, Florey insisted that Lewis only be allowed to design the shell of the building, and that the individual professors design the fit out of their own spaces.

With a slowing in the momentum of the construction of a permanent facility, Florey had temporary accommodation constructed,

and by 1952 weatherboard buildings (in the Old administration Area) were operational and occupied by the medical professors. The research undertaken within these temporary buildings led to wide acclaim and included Nobel-Prize winning research.

Lewis resigned in 1953 as architect for The JCSMR and the design was keenly taken on by Melbourne firm Mussen, McKay & Potter who immediately set up an office on the campus. Tenders were accepted for the construction in 1954 and the successful tenderer was by Karl Schreiner. Schreiner had previously constructed the temporary buildings for JCSMR, and part of the Research School of Physical Sciences.

By January 1957 the building was fully constructed, with laboratories, offices and service rooms designed by the departmental heads. The internal laboratory and office fittings were originally designed by the ANU Design Section, under the directorship of the nationally recognised Australian designer Frederick Ward. These include items such as chairs and tables, laboratory benches, shelving and drawers and other furnishings in the building. The top floor of the spine was reserved for the library, the floor below accommodated the tearoom, partitioned as the Senior (academics) and Junior (technical and other) staff common rooms, offices for the school administration and the lecture theatre, aptly named the Florey Lecture Theatre in 1967. The building was officially opened on 27 March 1958 by Sir Howard Florey, in the presence of Prime Minister Robert Menzies.

Recent works have seen the demolition of more than half of the original JCSMR complex, including Wings C, D and E, Building F, the Animal Breeding Establishment, the brick chimney and several other outbuildings. New sections of the school were constructed to the north of the original buildings to accommodate more students and better facilities. The first stage, constructed by Hindmarsh P/L was completed in 2005 and the second stage in 2009. The third stage is still under construction as of 2012. The Stage One and Two sections of the school were officially opened by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in May 2009.

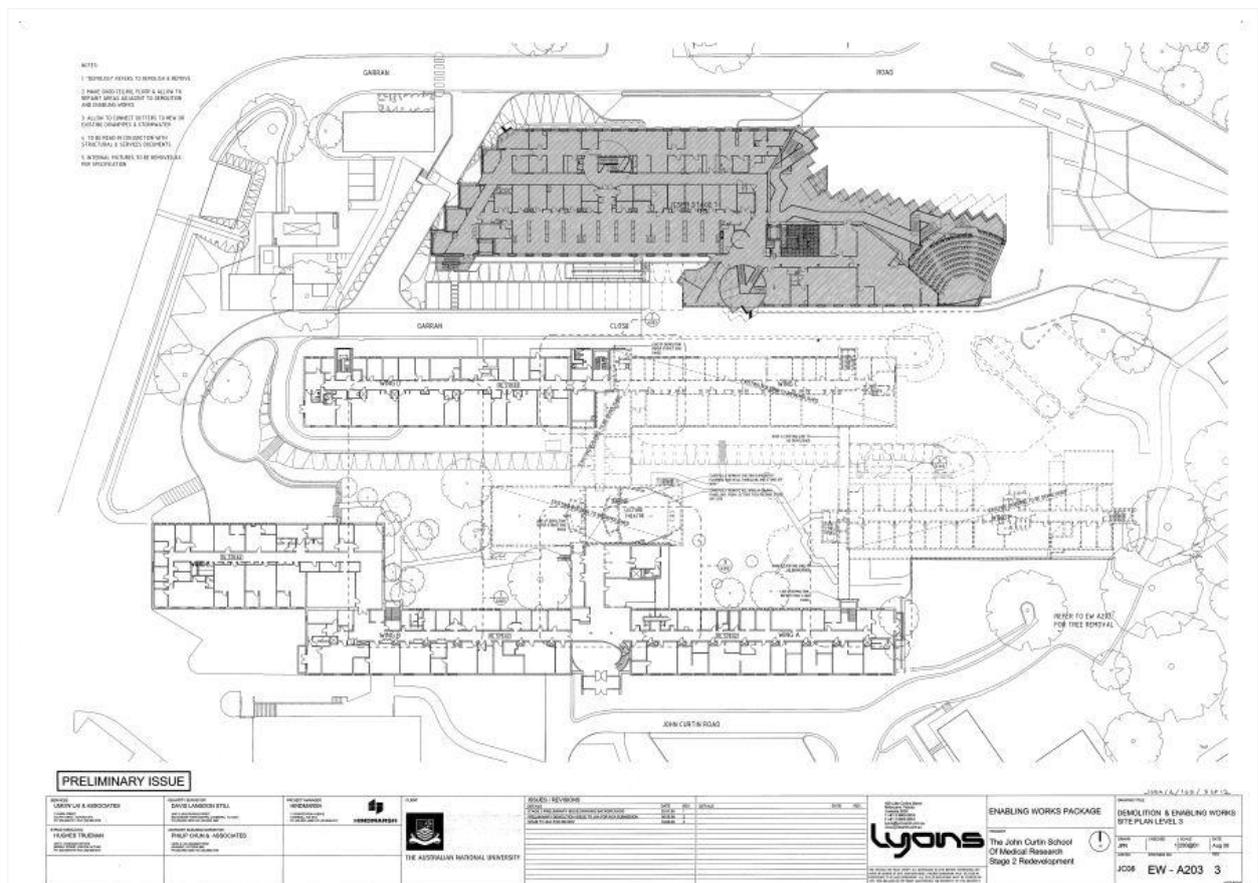


Figure 4: Plan of JCSMR building upgrades including demolition of certain sections and the Stage 2 redevelopment August 2006.

Description of the JCSMR

Buildings

The JCSMR—Wings A and B, 1957

The long, three-storey brick building sits in the natural slope of the land and, despite surrounding developments, is visible from most angles. Wings A and B previously formed the southern half of the original JCSMR complex (1957).

The symmetrical fenestration is formed of rows of single and double windows to either side of the glazed central entrance. This motif is repeated on the rear of the building, though there are 'breaks' in the rows; a result of extensions to the building and change of internal uses. The northern side is flanked by exposed staircases.

The end of the central Spine has been blocked by black metal sheeting. The roof was originally clad in terracotta tiles and was replaced with galvanised steel in 1987. External doors are constructed in basic timber frames with glazed panels; the front doors are large glazed panels. The windows are single and double side-hung casement windows with casement fanlights above. The frames are constructed of timber and have been painted white. Many of the window frames require minor repairs and repainting, and given the extent of termite damage in the building itself, some timbers may need to be replaced.

The front entrance is flagged in random slate tiles which continue through the airlock and cease at the timber herringbone parquetry in the foyer. The quarter-turn staircase is backed by terrazzo pink and grey marble strips. The staircase has decorative timber and brass balustrades. These brass rails also form the above balcony and a decorative screen in the foyer.

The foyer leads directly to the central spine of the building, in which significant features such as the timber boarded ceiling have been retained. The interior of the building retains some original stained timber joinery, including the large curved timber ceiling in the old library.

The Wings themselves are formed of long corridors with offices and laboratories stemming off in either direction. Staircases and amenities (toilets, locker rooms, etc.) are located at the peripheries of the corridors. The corridors are painted white with stained timber trims and doorframes; a theme continued in the offices and laboratories. Some cupboards and display cabinets are found in the corridor and appear to be original built-in features of Ward design.

Original features that have been retained in the corridors help to provide information on the nature of research and the use of the different rooms. These include fans and ventilation systems, with Negretti & Zambra magnehelic gauges, original signage and hardware.

The majority of the rooms either side have been fitted out as laboratories of various sizes, with small offices interspersed. Some rooms have noticeable modern upgrades, such as light switches, repairs to ceiling tiles and upgraded fume cupboards and other scientific equipment, although many original features reminiscent of the nature of research and age of the building have been retained. These were an important consideration of the architects and reveal the scientific use of the facility. Interestingly, these wall-mounted services can also be found at the earliest medical laboratories in the Old Administration Buildings to the north.

The JCSMR, Stage 1 and 2, 2005-Present

The recent JCSMR buildings are multi-award winning and highly modern structures, constructed in off-form 3D relief pre-cast concrete. The buildings are modulated into four primary parts, with zig-zag patterned facades, each with highly vertical fenestration separated by decorative patterned concrete panels. A wide concrete staircase forms the formal entry to the new JCSMR, with a large foyer and café immediately inside.

The building was constructed to highly technical specifications to conform to the requirements of each of the research areas. The building houses several world-class research laboratories including highly technical bio-containment systems for animal holding and disease research and facilities for electron microscopy and neuroscience vibration control.

Landscape

The landscape around the building is primarily asphalt car parking, with some open grassed areas, formal hedging and established exotics.

Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

Statement of Significance

The JCSMR is significant as one of the four foundation Research Schools of the ANU, and as one of the world's great medical research institutions, recognised internationally for its ground-breaking and multi-award winning research in the fields of molecular bioscience, immunology, neuroscience, health sciences, genomics, mental health, infectious diseases, obesity and metabolic disorders.

The JCSMR is representative of a state of the art medical research facility constructed in the post-war period in Australia, of the growth of medical research in Australia after the second world war and the commitment of the Australian Government at this time to advancing this field.

The JCSMR is strongly associated with several key figures in the history of the University and in the field of medical research including; Sir Howard Florey, Prime Minister John Curtin, Prime Minister Joseph Benedict Chifley, H.C. Coombs, the University's Academic Advisory Committee, including Sir Keith Hancock, Professor Marcus Oliphant and Raymond Firth, the first professors of The JCSMR Frank Fenner, Arnold Hughes Ennor, John Eccles, Adrian Albert, Nobel prize winners (1996) Peter Doherty and Rolf Zinkernagel, the University's Architect Brian Lewis and preceding architects Mussen, Mackay & Potter, builder K. Schreiner and furniture designer Fred Ward and the ANU Design Unit.

Criteria	Assessment
<p>(a) Historic The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.</p>	<p>The JCSMR is significant as one of the four foundation Research Schools of the ANU, and as one of the world's great medical research institutions, recognised internationally for its ground-breaking research and many award winning discoveries including advances in molecular bioscience, immunology, neuroscience, health sciences, genomics, mental health, infectious diseases, obesity and metabolic disorders.</p> <p>The JCSMR is also significant as one of earliest major and permanent buildings on the campus to house a research school, which had previously been housed in temporary accommodation in the Old Administration Area.</p> <p>The JCSMR concept was founded in 1946, and was the brainchild of Nobel Prize winner Howard Florey. The development of the school was a major step in the history of medical research in Australia, and in the development of a research only University in Canberra. Its establishment was also supported by John Curtin the wartime Labor Prime Minister of Australia, after whom the building is named, and his successor Joseph Benedict Chifley.</p> <p>The design of JCSMR was a collaborative effort between Florey, the University's Academic Advisory Committee, including Sir Keith Hancock, Professor Marcus Oliphant and Raymond Firth and the first professors of the JCSMR Frank Fenner, Arnold Hughes Ennor, John Eccles, Adrian Albert, the University's Architect Brian Lewis and Mussen, Mackay & Potter. The building was constructed by K. Schreiner, and completed in 1957. The building contains fittings and furnishings by renowned designer Fred Ward and the ANU Design Unit.</p> <p>The JCSMR meets CHL criterion (a) for historic values</p> <p>Attributes The location of the building and its form and detailing, interior fixtures and furnishings, as well as associations with notable people and the nature of research undertaken within the buildings.</p>
<p>(b) Rarity The place has significant heritage values because of the place's possession of</p>	<p>The JCSMR does not meet CHL criterion (b) for rarity values.</p>

<p>uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.</p>	
<p>(c) Scientific The place has significant heritage value because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history.</p>	<p>The JCSMR does not meet CHL criterion (c) for scientific values.</p>
<p>(d) Representative The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of: A class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or A class of Australia's natural or cultural environments.</p>	<p>The JCSMR is representative of a state of the art medical research facility constructed in the post-war period of Australia. The extant and custom designed internal laboratories, furnishings and fixtures demonstrate the types of research being undertaken in the building during its use and the remaining equipment throughout the building is representative of technology and practices in medical research which are no longer used or have been updated and upgraded since their installation.</p> <p>The JCSMR is also representative of growth of medical research in Australia after the second world war, and the commitment of the Australian Government at this time to advancing this field.</p> <p>The JCSMR meets CHL criterion (d) for representative values.</p> <p>Attributes: The JCSMR complex, its internal features including fittings, furnishings, equipment and laboratories.</p>
<p>(e) Aesthetic The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.</p>	<p>While The JCSMR displays a high level of aesthetic value, to fully meet this criterion, aesthetic values must be demonstrated as being valued by the community. The community appreciation of aesthetic value has not been formally tested.</p> <p>The JCSMR does not meet CHL criterion (e) for aesthetic values.</p>
<p>(f) Creative/Technical The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a</p>	<p>The JCSMR does not meet CHL criterion (f) for creative/technical values.</p>

particular period.	
<p>(g) Social The place has significant heritage value because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.</p>	<p>The JCSMR has strong connections with the ANU and medical research community, both for historic associations with the early establishment of the ANU and the provision of on campus facilities for world class medical research. However, the presence of social value (strong or special attachment to the place by an identified community group) has not been formally tested.</p> <p>The JCSMR does not meet CHL criterion (g) for social values.</p>
<p>(h) Associative The place has significant heritage value because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural and cultural history.</p>	<p>The JCSMR is strongly associated with several key figures in the history of the University and in the field of medical research including Sir Howard Florey (later Baron), and Australian expatriate and Professor of Pathology who at Oxford University had succeeded in the conversion of penicillin into an antibiotic. Florey was the visionary behind the JCSMR, after visiting Australia from the UK and undertaking a review of medical research facilities. After declining to formalise his temporary role as Director of The JCSMR, Florey acted as an adviser before becoming Chancellor of the University in 1965.</p> <p>The JCSMR is associated with its namesake John Curtin, the wartime Prime Minister of Australia, who was instrumental not only in the establishment of the ANU, but in bringing Florey to Australia, and subsequently proposing the development of a National Institute of Medical Research. The JCSMR is also associated with Curtin's successor, Joseph Benedict Chifley.</p> <p>The JCSMR is also associated with H.C. Coombs, (who initiated the idea of having the medical institute as part of the ANU,) and the University's Academic Advisory Committee, including Sir Keith Hancock, Professor Marcus Oliphant and Raymond Firth. The building is further associated with the first professors of The JCSMR Frank Fenner, Arnold Hughes Ennor (Knight Bachelor), John Eccles (Knight Bachelor and Nobel Prize Winner), Adrian Albert, and Nobel prize winners (1996) Peter Doherty and Rolf Zinkernagel. The University's Architect Brian Lewis and succeeding architects Mussen, Mackay & Potter, builder K. Schreiner as well as Fred Ward and the ANU Design Unit are also strongly represented in the exterior and interior design and fit out of the building.</p> <p>The JCSMR meets CHL criterion (h) for associative values</p> <p>Attributes: The JCSMR complex, its internal features including fittings, furnishings, strong associations with notable people and the nature of research undertaken there.</p>
<p>(i) Indigenous The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance as part of Indigenous tradition.</p>	<p>The JCSMR does not meet CHL criterion (i) for Indigenous values.</p>

Photographs



Figure 5: Recently completed JCSMR Complex 1959-60 (Source: ANU Archives)



Figure 6: Newly finished and landscaped main entrance to JCSMR (Source: ANU Archives)



Figure 7: View of JCSMR Chimney outside Wing D (Since Demolished). (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2010)



Figure 8: View of Wing B JCSMR (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2010)

Photographs



Figure 9: Wing D, JCSMR (Since Demolished) (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2010)



Figure 10: Animal Breeding Establishment, JCSMR (Since Demolished) (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2010)



Figure 11: Stage 1, JCSMR (2005) (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2010)



Figure 11: Stage 1, JCSMR (2005) (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2010)

Photographs



Figure 13: JCSMR Foyer Staircase. Taken as part of tourist brochure (Source: ANU Archives)

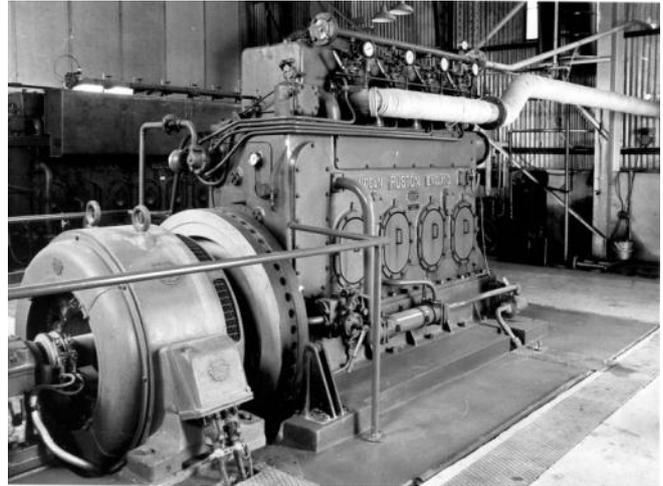


Figure 14: JCSMR Workshop Building interior. (Source: ANU Archives)

Management Issues

Constraints and Opportunities

Constraints arise from the identified heritage values of the John Curtin School of Medical Research and it is a requirement under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwth)* (EPBC Act) to conserve them. The significant fabric of the JCSMR (1957) as indicated in the attributes above should be conserved wherever possible.

The JCSMR (1957) is of High heritage value and meets Commonwealth Heritage criteria a) historic and d) representative and h) associative. Elements of 'high' heritage value embody Commonwealth Heritage values in their own right and make a significant contribution to the values of the Acton Campus as a whole. Elements of high heritage value should be retained and conserved. They require a high level of care in their management and the tolerance for change is generally low or able to tolerate some change and adaptive reuse. Loss or unsympathetic alteration would diminish the Commonwealth Heritage values of the individual element and the campus as a whole.

The JCSMR (2005) is of neutral heritage value as it does not embody, reflect or demonstrate Commonwealth or National Heritage values. The building makes no contribution to the site nor does it detract from the overall heritage values of the ANU Acton campus.

The **Tolerance for Change** heritage management tool, outlined in Section 7.6 of the ANU Acton Campus Heritage Study 2012, will assist in conserving heritage values through a process of change. The JCSMR Building (1957) is able to tolerate some level of change through development whereby the historic, representative and associative attributes and characteristics are conserved and interpreted. The proposed internal refurbishment of this building should be subject to a heritage impact assessment and consideration given to the retention of significant interior features such as the marble staircase, stone flagging, parquet flooring, timber panel ceilings and door frames, Fred Ward furnishings, both moveable and inbuilt (where possible) and original fittings such as gauges, notice boards, signage and light switches. JCSMR (2005) can tolerate a substantial amount of change.

Opportunities arise from the identified heritage values of the JCSMR. The history of the JCSMR Building should be interpreted to

Management Issues

maintain the historic and associative values of significant attributes identified in the assessments above. A greater degree of change may be tolerated if interpretation is of a very high quality and considered in any future development, which presents the identified heritage values for the future.

Recommendations

A Heritage Management Plan should be developed for The JCSMR Wings A and B to conserve the identified heritage values of the place. The JCSMR Wings A and B should be nominated to the Commonwealth Heritage List.

If development resulting in loss of significant fabric is proposed, interpretation and a heritage impact assessment would be a prerequisite according to EPBC Act requirements.

Photographic recording for the ANU archives should be undertaken prior to any potential loss of significant fabric, buildings or landscaping in any future development of The JCSMR and a formal assessment of the aesthetic and social values of the building should be carried out.