Heritage Assessment and Interpretation Documents

**Attachment 1:** Preliminary Heritage Assessment (2012)

**Attachment 2:** Expanded Heritage Assessment (2015)

**Attachment 3:** Interpretation Framework (GML Heritage, 2015)

**Attachment 4:** Design Principles by architects (Conrad Gargett Riddell Ancher Mortlock Woolley, 2015)
Attachment 1: Preliminary Heritage Assessment (2012)
Australian National University
Acton Campus — Site Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Item/ Area</th>
<th>Pauline Griffin Building</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acton Campus Precinct</td>
<td>KINGSLEY Precinct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Nos. &amp; Names</td>
<td>11 (Pauline Griffin Building)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heritage Ranking</th>
<th>Pauline Griffin Building—High—Meets criteria for Commonwealth Heritage List.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Listing</td>
<td>The Pauline Griffin Building is not individually listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Condition—Date</td>
<td>The Pauline Griffin Building is in fair condition, though requires some basic maintenance and upkeep. There have been numerous instances of water leaking through the roof, exacerbated in the heavy hailstorms of February 2007. The water leaks have resulted in numerous stains to the vermiculite ceilings. The roof structure, and insulation beneath, should be examined and any repairs to ceilings and walls carried out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant Documentation</td>
<td>2011 Heritage Study for the Pauline Griffin building has been prepared by the ANU Heritage Officer. It provides a detailed history and description of the building.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Context of the Buildings

Figure 2: Plan image of the Pauline Griffin Building (Union Building) in relation to the ANU Campus.

Figure 3: Aerial photograph image of the Pauline Griffin Building (Union Building) in relation to the ANU Campus.

Brief Historical Overview

In April 1960 it was decided that a Union Building was essential for students of Canberra University College. At this time, student committees and associations on the campus were slowly gaining ground, nurtured by the Vice-Chancellor and Central Administration. The Union Building was the first permanent headquarters of these groups.

The building was designed by Sydney Ancher (1904-1979), of the firm Ancher Mortlock and Murray (later Ancher Mortlok, Murray and Woolley) who was a pioneer of the post war international style in Australia, with strong influences from European architects including Mies Van Der Rohe and Le Corbusier. His work was modern and bold yet low in mass, and blended well into the Australian landscape; qualities entirely suited to the relatively undeveloped ANU campus of the early 1960s. The building was sited close to a major entrance of the University and adjacent to other administration facilities, such as the Chancelry buildings.

To meet the growth of the student population, in 1969 the University site planner, Roy Simpson, recommended that a new Union building be constructed on University Avenue. Council accepted the proposal shortly after and the new building was completed in 1972. A Universities Commission grant of $200,000 went towards the conversion of the old Union Building to additional offices for University Administration. The building accommodated offices for Housing, Postgraduate Administration, and OIC Student Services and meeting rooms on the lower ground floor, with Student Administration, Admissions, Undergraduate Scholarships & Student Welfare, Student Files and part of Property & Plans on the ground floor.

The remainder of the Property & Plans Division were located on the first floor, along with the Development Plan Registry and Engineering Services. By the mid-1990s the Chancelry Annex housed University Central Administration, which included the Housing Office and the Property & Plans Division. Refurbishments were carried out in the next few years to a University design. The building was renamed the Pauline Griffin Building in 2001. The building now houses Student Administration, International Education Office, Student Recruitment Office and the Academic Skills & Learning Centre.

Apart from the Union Building, Ancher also designed the Northbourne Avenue Housing Group with similar characteristics, which was completed in 1962. These are the only examples of Ancher’s work in the ACT.

In 2001, the building was named after Pauline Griffin, AM who served on the University Council from 1978-1998 and as Pro Chancellor of the University from 1991-1998.
Description of the Pauline Griffin Building

Buildings
The building is a classic example of the Post War International style of architecture, with elements of the inter war functionalist style. The overall cubiform shape of the building, flat roof, large sheets of glass, plain, smooth wall surfaces contribute to the exterior aesthetic.

The building is constructed of concrete brick on concrete pier foundations. The terraces are important aspects of the design, and reveal a 'stepped' motif to the west of the building that mirrors the direction of the slope. The open views to the west have largely been obscured from the centre of the floors by internal partitions. Window frames are timber with some later aluminium examples. In general, the windows alternate between large single panes and smaller sliding horizontal sashes, punctuated by glazed doors in similar frames.

The building has a flat galvanised roof and is lined with square gutters and downpipes (replaced since original construction). The front façade displays separated banks of vertical windows. Those of the top floor are joined to continual clerestory windows running the length of the building; the lower floor windows are similar. This provides a pronounced horizontal perspective which is reinforced by the series of louvred overhangs above the terraces. The terraces have a concrete-tiled floor and the shelters are supported by square steel posts. The louvred shelters are modern; the original basic overhangs were formed by the exposed rafter ends. The terraces are lined by low rails which also serve as the backrest of continuous seating running the length of the building. The low P&O style rails again provide a somewhat elongated perspective of the different levels. The front entrance is from Ellery Crescent thorough a glazed entry lobby (originally a porte chochere)

The large open internal areas have been lost with light office partitions, though some significant original features have survived the fit-out. Of note, these include the dark stained timber window and door frames and architraves, the location of services and amenities and the (now defunct) dumbwaiter. The dumbwaiter is the only remaining physical evidence of the original catering facilities. Internal joinery is dark-stained, including window and door frames, stair rails and some skirting, with a basic mould used throughout. It is likely that some of the original doors were also of similar style, though have since been replaced with modern solid or glazed examples. An original dark-stained timber ledged door can be seen providing access to the sub-floor area from the records room on the lower ground floor, and should be retained. The cornices and skirting boards are of a very basic square mould, apart from the northwest extension which has a slight scotia mould along the upper length of the boards. These stylistic differences help differentiate the original style from later additions.

Original ceilings are coated with vermiculite, with later false ceilings of fibro boards added throughout. Other modern additions include air-conditioning units (with unsympathetic ductwork running the length of the western façade above the windows and punctuating the ground floor terrace), modern light fittings with some original plastic mounting blocks, and modern appliances and fixtures in bathrooms and kitchenettes.

Landscape
The northern façade of the building is screened by a number of nectar producing acacia trees. This group of trees is a significant natural element that helps to set the building in the Australian landscape, though does attract possums. A number of mature trees
Description of the Pauline Griffin Building

are also found in the surrounding landscape, including a large oak to the northwest and a line of young conifers along the path from Chifley Library to the west. Two large eucalypts screen the air-conditioning unit to the northwest of the front façade which also help to establish the building in the Australian landscape.

Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

Statement of Significance

The Pauline Griffin Building was the first Student Union building constructed on the ANU campus. The building was central to student life on the ANU Campus in the 1960s until the current Union Court was constructed. The building was converted into office accommodation, a purpose which it served for many years.

The Pauline Griffin Building was designed by notable modern architect Sydney Ancher, a prominent Australian modern architect from the 1950s-1970s, and is an outstanding example of the post-war international style of architecture, of which Ancher was a pioneer. The building demonstrates the principal characteristics of this style and also has elements of the inter-war functionalist style.

The Pauline Griffin Building is strongly associated with Sydney Ancher, and since 2001, has also been strongly associated with Pauline Griffin, AM, who was University Pro Chancellor from 1991-1998. Pauline Griffin also stood as a member of the University Council from 1978-1998.

Criteria Assessment

(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.

The Pauline Griffin Building was the first student Union building constructed on the ANU campus. It housed early student catering facilities, as well as other administrative offices and retail outlets that were an important part of student social life in the 1960s.

The Pauline Griffin Building was designed by notable modern architect Sydney Ancher, and is an outstanding example of the post-war international style of architecture, of which Ancher was a pioneer. The building is named after Pauline Griffin AM, Pro Chancellor of the ANU from 1991 to 1998.

The Pauline Griffin Building meets criterion (a) for historic values

Attributes

Form and original function of the building as the ANU Student Union and its significant associations.

(b) Rarity

The place has significant heritage values because of the place’s possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia’s natural or cultural history.

The Pauline Griffin Building does not meet CHL criterion (b) for rarity values.
### Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(c) Scientific</th>
<th>The Pauline Griffin Building does not meet CHL criterion (c) for scientific values.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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| (d) Representative | The Pauline Griffin Building is an outstanding example of the post-war international style of architecture. Designed by Sydney Ancher, a pioneer of this style. The building demonstrates the principal characteristics of this style including the overall cubiform shape, flat roof, horizontality, use of glass and steel, differing fenestration, plain, smooth wall surfaces, overhangs for shade and contrasting textures. The building also has elements of the interwar functionalist style including a take on the traditional P&O style balconies and corbusian window motifs or ribbon windows. Furthermore, the Pauline Griffin Building is representative of University Student Union in the 1960s, with remnant fabric (such as the dumb waiter) demonstrating this use prior to its refurbishment for office accommodation. | The Pauline Griffin Building meets criterion (d) for representative values Attributes |
| 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. |                                                                                     |

| (e) Aesthetic | The Pauline Griffin Building 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. | The Pauline Griffin Building does not meet CHL criterion (e) for aesthetic values |
| The place has significant heritage value because of the place’s importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group. |                                                                                     |

| (f) Creative/Technical | The Pauline Griffin Building does not meet CHL criterion (f) for creative/technical values |
| The place has significant heritage value because of the place’s importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period. |                                                                                     |
### Significance Assessment against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria

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| **(g) Social** | The Pauline Griffin Buildings has strong connections with the ANU community as the former Student Union; however, the presence of social value (strong or special attachment to the place by an identified community group) has not been formally tested.  
**The Pauline Griffin Building does not meet CHL criterion (g) for social values** |
| **(h) Associative** | The Pauline Griffin Building is strongly associated with Sydney Ancher, a prominent modern architect who designed the building. Ancher was a pioneer of modern architecture in NSW and beyond, and was instrumental in the growth of the post-war international style of architecture.  
Since 2001, the Pauline Griffin Building has been strongly associated with Pauline Griffin, AM, who was University Pro Chancellor from 1991-1998. Pauline Griffin also stood as a member of the University Council from 1978-1998.  
**The Pauline Griffin Building meets criterion (h) for associative values**  
**Attributes**  
The building itself and its strong associations with notable persons. |
| **(i) Indigenous** | The Pauline Griffin Building does not meet CHL criterion (i) for Indigenous values |
Photographs

Figure 5: The Union Building (Pauline Griffin Building) under construction October 15, 1964. (Source: ANU Archives)

Figure 6: Newly Completed Union Building (Pauline Griffin Building) October 5 1965. (Source: ANU Archives)

Figure 7: Southwest view of the Pauline Griffin Building with the now enclosed porte cochere. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2011)

Figure 8: Current view of Pauline Griffin Building. (Source: ANU Heritage Office 2011)

Figure 9: Interior top floor of the Pauline Griffin Building circa 1966. (Source: ANU Archives)

Figure 10: Memorable social gatherings on the lawns near the old Union Building included presentations and student festivals (the Aquarius Festival of University Arts, 1971). (Source: ANU Archives)
Management Issues

Constraints and Opportunities

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

The Pauline Griffin Building is of High heritage significance and meets the EPBC Commonwealth Heritage criteria a) historic, 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 an individual element and the campus as a whole.

The **Tolerance for Change** heritage management tool, outlined in Section 7.6 of the ANU Action Campus Heritage Study 2012, will assist in conserving heritage values through a process of change. The Pauline Griffin Building is able to tolerate moderate/some level of change through development whereby the historic, representative and associative attributes and characteristics are conserved and interpreted.

**Opportunities** arise from the identified heritage values of the Pauline Griffin Building. The history of the Pauline Griffin Building should be interpreted to maintain the historic and associative values of significant attributes identified in the assessments above. A greater degree of change may be tolerated if interpretation is of a very high quality and considered in any future development, which presents the identified heritage values for the future.

**Recommendations**

The Pauline Griffin Building should be nominated to the Commonwealth Heritage List and a Heritage Management Plan should be developed to guide the best practice management of the site.

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 Pauline Griffin Building.

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

Heritage Assessment

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CRICOS Provider No. 00120C
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INTRODUCTION

Project Background

In line with the obligations of the under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth) (EPBC Act) the Australian National University (ANU) through ANU Heritage has prepared an assessment of the Pauline Griffin Building (formerly the ANU Student Union) against the Commonwealth Heritage Criteria.

The Pauline Griffin Building was constructed in 1965 as the first ANU Student Union Building. It was repurposed for office accommodation following the construction of a new larger Union Building in 1975. It has been used for various faculties and services areas of ANU since this time and was vacated completely in 2014.

This assessment has been prepared in line with the EPBC Act and The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (Burra Charter).

Site Identification

The Pauline Griffin Building is identified as Building #11 and is located on Ellery Crescent of the ANU Acton Campus. Its curtilage is defined by Ellery Crescent to the east, Melville Hall to the north, a graded road to the south and an open quadrangle to the west. The ‘façade’ of the building is oriented west, overlooking the Chifley Meadow.

Legislative Context

ANU is a Commonwealth Agency and the ANU Acton Campus is on Commonwealth Land, which is designated under the National Capital Plan.

EPBC Act

Under the EPBC Act, any Commonwealth agencies is required undertake a program of identification and assessment of places under their ownership and control. As part of this Program, in 2012, ANU undertook to ANU Acton Campus Heritage Study.

The original assessment of the Pauline Griffin Building was undertaken in 2011, revised for the Acton Heritage Study in 2012, and further refined for the update of the report.

Heritage Listings

The Pauline Griffin Building is note currently listed on any statutory heritage register, however the 2012 Acton Heritage Study assessed the building as likely to meet the threshold for listing on the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL).
National Capital Plan

The National Capital Plan (the Plan) is the strategic plan for Canberra and the Territory. It ensures that 'Canberra and the Territory are planned and developed in accordance with their national significance'.

In accordance with section 10 of the Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988 (the Act), the National Capital Plan sets out the principles and policies and detailed conditions of planning, design and development for ‘designated areas’ because of their particular importance to the special character of the national capital. Planning and approval of development within designated areas is the responsibility of the National Capital Authority (NCA).

Authorship

This assessment was developed in 2011 by James Collet (former ANU Heritage Project Officer) and revised and expanded in 2015 by Amy Jarvis (ANU Heritage Officer).

Figure 1: Location of Pauline Griffin Building on ANU Acton Campus
Figure 2: Location of Pauline Griffin
HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Context

The area now occupied by ANU has been widely occupied and utilised by Indigenous people including the local Ngunawal people for over 20,000 years. The natural alignment of what is now Sullivan’s Creek was a natural creek leading to the Molonglo River. Archaeological evidence and cultural connections demonstrate that this area was used for camping, trading, meeting and as a resource for food and fresh water.

Since the 1820s, the area was the location of two separate pastoral properties – Acton and Springbank. The pastoralisation of this land dramatically changed the landscape.

From 1910, the Commonwealth resumed much of the pastoral land for use by the Commonwealth Administration. However the site had been designated for a University in the very early Griffin plans for Canberra.

Following the establishment of ANU in 1946, the southern portion of Acton was given to the University while the Canberra University College (CUC), established in the 1930s and originally part of the University of Melbourne, occupied the northern areas of the site.

In 1960 the ANU, which was originally formed as a postgraduate only research institution, was amalgamated with the CUC, which concentrated on undergraduate education. The ANU continued to be separated into two sections – the Institute of Advanced Studies (postgraduate) and the School of General Studies (undergraduate).

Student Union Building

In April 1960 it was decided that a Union Building was essential for ANU students, with student committees and associations on the campus steadily growing. Planning commenced immediately for the new facility.

The building was sited close to a major entrance of the University (via University Avenue) and adjacent to other administration facilities, such as the newly constructed Chancelry group. The Union Building was situated on the periphery of the campus at the time; the land to the east (Baldessin Precinct) was not vested to the University until 1974.

Completed in February 1965, the building was financed with the aid of Australian University Commission grants totalling $300,000. The front entrance included a drive-in porte-cochère that provided immediate access to the ground floor and made flush with Ellery Crescent to the east. Access to the lower ground floor was downslope to the west where a rounded external staircase opened out to the ground floor terraces.
The building was designed to accommodate 265 people; a dining room to cater for 100 people and coffee rooms opening on to large glass-screened terraces overlooking the University grounds to the west. Also included were rooms for a doctor and student counsellor, meeting rooms and offices for student clubs and societies, games and music rooms, bookshop, stationery store, post office and a bank. The Students’ Representative Council (responsible for ANU sports and social committees) also established their first permanent headquarters within the building.

Shortly after the building was completed work began on the formation of the open area between the Union Building and Chifley Library to the northwest. This quadrangle (colloquially known as Chifley Meadow) is still an important location for student gatherings and other social occasions such as Earth Hour.

**Sydney Ancher, Architect**

The design of the Union Building is credited to Sydney Ancher of the firm Ancher, Mortlock, Murray (& Woolley) from 1963-1965.

Ancher was a pioneer of post-war international modernist architecture in Australia, practicing since the late 1920s, Ancher served during the Second World War, and on return established a private practice in 1945.

By 1952 Ancher named two of his colleagues – Bryce Mortlock and Stuart Murray as partners, with the firm subsequently named Ancher, Mortlock & Murray. In 1964, Ken Woolley joined the firm as a partner (Ancher, Mortlock, Murray & Woolley).

Despite retiring in 1966, the firm retained Ancher’s name and in 1975 Stuart Murray set up his own practice with the firm dropping his name from its title (Ancher, Mortlock & Woolley). The firm practiced under this title until 2013, at which time it merged with Queensland firm Conrad Gargett Riddel, now named ‘Conrad Gargett Riddel Ancher Mortlock Woolley’ (CGRAMW).

Ancher’s work is said to be heavily influenced by the Modern movement and, in particular, the Bauhaus, as well as the work of modernist greats Le Corbusier and Mies Van Der Rohe. The Australian Institute of Architects considers Ancher to be one the most important Australian architects of the mid-20th century, primarily for his work on domestic buildings.

With the dominant character of his work being simplicity, Ancher was known for his clean geometrical forms, fine lines, smooth textures and pale colours, epitomising what is now referred to as the *International Style* of architecture. While modern and bold, Ancher’s work is recognised to be low in mass, responding directly to the Australian landscape, qualities entirely suited to the relatively undeveloped ANU campus of the early 1960s.

Much like the National Capital Development Commission (at the helm of Canberra’s planning and development) in employing Ancher to design the Northbourne Housing Group in the 1950s, the
ANU sought to employ leading architects from throughout Australia to create for ANU an identity and individuality worthy of the national University.

Preliminary research shows that the ANU Student Union is one of few non-residential buildings designed by Ancher during his career, and apart from the Northbourne Avenue Housing Group (completed 1962) which is considered to be the largest example of his work,¹ the ANU Student Union may be one of the only other examples of Ancher’s work in the ACT. As Ancher retired from practice in 1966, it is also one of the later examples of his work while in active practice.

**Chancelry Annex**

In 1969 the University site planner, Roy Simpson, recommended that a new Union building be constructed on University Avenue to meet the growth of the student population. The University Council accepted the proposal shortly after and the new building was completed in 1972.

At this time a Universities Commission grant of $200,000 went towards the conversion of the old Union Building (Pauline Griffin Building) to additional offices for University Administration – the building was then referred to as the ‘Chancelry Annex’.

Original plans for the conversion were prepared by Yuncken Freeman Architects (a firm to which Roy Simpson belonged) and included construction of a link between the old Union Building and Melville Hall to the north. Estimates prepared in June 1972, however, revealed that the budget did not allow for both the office conversions and adjoining link works. Priority was given to the conversion works to accommodate as many people as possible, with the link to remain as a possible mode of future expansion (this was never completed).

In order to keep within the budget, demolition of existing walls and partitions were kept to a minimum and the external appearance was virtually unaltered. Light-weight partitions subdivided general office space and few offices were fully enclosed. More costly alterations saw the upgrade of the heating and mechanical ventilation systems, significantly decreasing the already low ceiling heights.

The building accommodated offices for Housing, Postgraduate Administration, Student Services and meeting rooms on the lower ground floor. Student Administration, Admissions, Undergraduate Scholarships & Student Welfare, Student Files and part of Property & Plans were located on the ground floor. The remainder of the Property & Plans Division were located on the first floor, along with the Development Plan Registry and Engineering Services. The conversion works were completed in 1974 with improvements to services and some landscaping. Later alterations included the extension of the ground floor terrace in 1975.

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¹ Registered Place on the Register of the National Estate (¹100603).
By the mid-1990s the ‘Chancelry Annex’ housed University Central Administration, which included the Housing Office and the Property & Plans Division. Refurbishments were carried out in the next few years to a design by the University’s Design Unit.

**Recent Uses**

The building was renamed the Pauline Griffin Building in 2001 after Pauline Griffin AM, who was the University Pro-Chancellor from 1991 to 1998. Griffin was a member of the University Council from 1978 and demonstrated strong commitment to the University, especially the well-being of students and staff. Pauline Griffin led the University’s celebration of its 50th anniversary in 1996.

While the building is now vacant, it most recently accommodated the ANU Student Administration, International Education Office, Student Recruitment Office and the Academic Skills & Learning Centre.
Figure 3: Building under construction, 1964 (ANU Archives)

Figure 4: Building under construction, 1964 (ANU Archives)

Figure 5: Construction nearing completion, 1965 (ANU Archives)

Figure 6: Construction nearing completion, 1965 (ANU Archives)

Figure 8: Completed building from front, 1965

Figure 7: Completed building from rear, 1965
Figure 9: Interior, 1966 (ANU Archives)
Figure 10: Interior, 1966 (ANU Archives)

Figure 11: Interior, 1966 (ANU Archives)
Figure 12: Exterior courtyard, 1966 (ANU Archives)

Figure 13: Students at Union, 1960s (ANU Archives)
Figure 14: Students outside Union, 1960s (ANU Archives)
Pauline Griffin Building: Heritage Assessment

Figure 15: Vice Chancellor Crawford addresses students on participation in university government, 1969 (ANU Archives)

Figure 16: Bush Week celebrations, 1969

Figure 17: Aquarius Festival for University Arts, 1971 (ANU Archives)
PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT

Architectural Style

The original Union Building was constructed in Post War/Late Twentieth Century International style. The building’s architect, Sydney Ancher, was considered a pioneer in this style of architecture and is renowned for his work in Australia, especially in the domestic realm. The Pauline Griffin Building is the only building on the ANU campus designed by Ancher, or his firm, is one of few buildings in Canberra attributed to Ancher, and may be one of few examples of non-domestic architecture designed by Ancher in Australia.

The ‘international’ style of architecture was common in the 1920s and 1930s with modernist architects such as Walter Gropius and Mies van der Rohe being pioneers of the style, which continued to develop following the Second World War. In Australia, the ‘Post-War International’ style grew in popularity from the early 1950s, with many early examples of the style being considered radical, with their extensive open planning, cubiform shapes, plain smooth wall surfaces, glass curtain walls, and flat roofs. During and following the 1960s, the style continued to diversify with more use of unusual features and shapes including cylindrical buildings, sloping roofs and combinations of linear and curved elements.

The style became more prominent in Australia from the 1950s onwards, and became known as the ‘Late Twentieth Century International’ style. The style is widely recognisable in the capital cities of Australia, often in large office and government buildings, especially those in Sydney and Melbourne.

In Canberra, this style is widely represented in domestic houses, however the Edmund Barton Offices in Barton (Harry Seidler) provide a larger commercial example of this style. The style is often combined with elements of the ‘Brutalist’ style of architecture as seen with John Andrews’ Cameron Offices, ANU Burgmann College (Dirk Bolt) and the Belconnen Library (Robin Gibson and Partners).

Stylistic elements of the International style as demonstrated on the Pauline Griffin Building include its curved stair, linear form, geometric massing, flat roof, white colour scheme and irregular fenestration patterns.

Exterior Description (Current)

The Pauline Griffin Building is a three-storey construction of concrete brick on concrete pier foundations. The exterior is rendered smooth in off white. The building has strong linear elements and horizontal massing, with several terraces which form a ‘stepped’ motif mirroring the direction of the slope into which it is built.
The building has a modern flat galvanised metal deck roof with square gutters and downpipes replaced since original construction.

The terraces have a concrete-tiled floor with shade shelters being supported by steel posts. The current louvered shelters are a modern addition (original basic overhangs were formed by the exposed rafter ends). The terraces are lined by low P&O style railing which also serve as the backrest of continuous seating running the length of the building. These railings are currently painted in a light great colour, however historic images show them to be in a darker contrasting tone.

Window frames are primarily timber with some later aluminium examples. Fenestration alternates between large single panes and smaller sliding horizontal sashes, punctuated by glazed doors. The front (western) façade displays separated banks of vertical windows. Those of the top floor are joined to continual clerestory windows running the length of the building; the lower floor windows are similar.

The primary entry to the building is via the rear façade (east) on Ellery Crescent through the original porte-cochère, which has since been infilled with glazing and an automatic entry door.

**Interior Description (current)**

The interior spaces of the Pauline Griffin Building have changed in character from the large open spaces which were originally designed for the Student Union as partitioning for office use has largely compartmentalised the spaces.

Internal joinery is dark-stained timber, including window and door frames, stair rails and some skirting, with a basic mould used throughout. It is likely that some of the original doors were also of similar style, though have since been replaced with modern solid or glazed examples. An original dark-stained timber ledged door can be seen providing access to the sub-floor area from the records room on the lower ground floor.

Original ceilings are coated with vermiculite, with later false ceilings added throughout. Other modern additions include air-conditioning units (with unsympathetic ductwork running the length of the western façade above the windows and punctuating the ground floor terrace), modern light fittings with some original plastic mounting blocks, and modern appliances and fixtures in bathrooms and kitchenettes.

The building appears to have originally been painted white throughout, providing a contrast to the stained timbers. Few original (1965) features remain, these include the fire alarm bell behind the front northern pillar, the electrical switchboard in the front plant room and the dumbwaiter in the southeast corner of the building. The now defunct dumbwaiter is one of the only remaining physical identifiers of the original catering facilities.
Analysis of Major Changes

The Pauline Griffin Building has undergone fairly minimal change since the mid-1970s when it was converted into office space as the Chancelry Annex.

At this time the front porte-cochère was glazed. A small spiral staircase was been added in the southeast corner, providing access to student records below and a five office extension was constructed on the northwest corner of the ground floor terrace. The kitchenettes are much smaller in size than originally, open plan breakout rooms have been lost and the original larger office spaces have been partitioned into smaller offices.

The open views through the building to the west have largely been obscured from the centre of the floors by internal partitions and much of the large open internal areas have been lost with this partitioning.

It has been recorded that a fountain once stood near the entrance to the building, though no evidence of this feature can be seen in archival photographs or in the existing landscape.

Building Condition

The Pauline Griffin Building is in overall poor-fair condition, with significant maintenance and compliance upgrade works require. The building was found to be structurally sound, however there were many identified issues in mechanical systems, hydraulics and the identification of hazardous materials. Much of the exterior fabric is in poor condition, with staining, evidence of concrete cancer and rotting timber visible to the naked eye.

Temperature control devices are unsightly and in need of replacements, however with excessively low floor to ceiling heights, there is little opportunity for discreet solutions or new ductwork.

Water ingress is a common problem in the building, with several major flood events occurring in recent times following heavy rain, this has produced visible staining on ceilings and floors. The waterproofing membrane on the outdoor terrace is failing, the current roof requires replacement as do the rainwater goods. Stormwater management is also a described issue on the site.

Building Curtilage

The building’s façade (west facing) addresses the ‘Chifley Meadow’ and another large grassed open area. Several paved paths punctuate the grass. The ‘Denis Winston Walk’ a large paved path dedicated to the University Site Planner is aligned directly with the rounded staircase.

To the north of the building, the façade is mostly obscured by its close proximity to Melville Hall (Building 12). On the southern side, the setting is characterised by service vehicle entries and plant. Finally, on the eastern side – addressing Ellery Crescent, the setting is defined by small plantings, gravel and pedestrian pathways.
The northern aspect of the building is screened by several acacia trees. A number of mature trees are also found in the surrounding landscape, including a large oak to the northwest and a line of young conifers along the path from Chifley Library to the west. Two large eucalypts screen the air-conditioning unit to the northwest of the front façade.
Figure 18: Lower Ground Floor – original layout as Student Union (ANU Drawing Office, c1970s)

Figure 19: Lower Ground Floor – refurbished as Chancelry Annex (ANU Drawing Office, c1970s)

Figure 20: Ground Floor – original layout as Student Union (ANU Drawing Office, c1970s)

Figure 21: Ground Floor – refurbished as Chancelry Annex (ANU Drawing Office, c1970s)

Figure 22: First Floor – original layout as ANU Student Union (ANU Drawing Office, c1970s)

Figure 23: First Floor – refurbished as Chancelry Annex (ANU Drawing Office, c1970s)
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

In order to appropriately assess the Commonwealth Heritage Values of the Pauline Griffin Building, a preliminary comparative assessment has been undertaken to compare the building to other University Student Union buildings, other notable examples of the Post War/Late Twentieth Century International style architecture and to other buildings designed by Sydney Ancher in Canberra and Australia. The comparative analysis is important in identifying whether a place is rare, or is a good representative example of its type.

Late Twentieth International Style

As described in Section 3.1.1, the Pauline Griffin Building is designed in the *Late Twentieth Century International Style* of architecture. Preliminary analysis has demonstrated that the building is an uncommon example in a non-domestic building in Canberra, and a strong representative example in Australia.

Reserve Bank of Australia, Sydney

Considered to be an excellent example of the style, The Reserve Bank of Australia Building in Sydney demonstrates several key stylistic elements. These include long horizontal windows or a ‘corbusian window motif’, The central banking functions of the Commonwealth Bank were separated from its commercial activities with the Reserve Bank Act of 1959, and the following year Dr H.C. Coombs became the first governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

Plans were developed for the Bank’s new headquarters in Martin Place Sydney, between Macquarie and Phillip Streets. The Bank purchased the site for £575,000, a record amount for a city building site in Australia at that time.

Designed by the Commonwealth Department of Works, the architecture of Sydney’s Reserve Bank reflected the aspirations of the International Style – functionality, clarity and the simplification of form. The building was finished in 1964.

Edmund Barton Building, Barton

The Edmund Barton Offices was designed by renowned modern architect Harry Seidler and was constructed from 1969 to 1974. The building is considered to be an outstanding example of the Late Twentieth-Century International Style and is the largest example in the ACT. The features of the style are its clear cubiform shape, the expression of its structural system and the use of plain wall surfaces devoid of superficial ornamentation.
University Union Buildings

University Union facilities are included in almost all universities in Australia. Several Australian universities were established before these types of facilities were considered essential and have since adapted historic university buildings for use as Unions. Following the Second World War, there was a governmental push towards higher education, and more universities were established across Australia. A large number of new universities established in the 1960s and 1970s. With student participation and social life being a strong focus at this time, many of these campuses were designed to include Union facilities, or built them soon after the establishment of their student populations.

The way in which Unions are developed and used has changed markedly since many were established. What were primarily built as student facilities with large open dining hall (often with a single catering option) have largely been converted in most cases to individual food and retail outlets.

Wentworth Building, University of Sydney

Constructed from 1968-1972, the Wentworth Student Union Building was designed by Ken Woolley, who had until 1966 worked closely with Sydney Ancher. The Wentworth Building is constructed in off-form concrete and white tile, and demonstrates many similar stylistic features to the Pauline Griffin Building including its horizontal fenestration, smooth white surfaces and its mix of linear and curved elements. The building included large atriums, catering facilities and wide, open internal spaces. It is still used for student purposes today and includes an food an retail outlets, an International Students Lounge and a student health centre.

Shortland Building, University of Newcastle

Also designed by Ken Woolley, the University of Newcastle Student Union Building was constructed in three stages from 1964 until 1970. The Shortland Building is constructed in brick and precast concrete and has a ‘domestic’ aesthetic. As with many Union Buildings, this has gradually changed from a large open catering facility to a food/retail/business outlet centre with central seating areas.

Union House, University of Melbourne

The original building on this site, designed by Reed and Barnes, housed the National Museum (now Museum Victoria located in Carlton Gardens) from 1863 until 1899. Only a few fragments of the original building are still visible, the current building includes a major addition to the west, designed by Philip Hudson, which gives the building its present bulk, extensions and changes were also undertaken in the 1960s. In 2006, the Government eliminated student unions, which led to the loss of many student activities in the Union, which now includes retail and food outlets and a large central seating area.
Other Ancher Designed Buildings

Ancher was primarily known for his domestic work, which was largely in NSW. Ancher designed numerous houses in Sydney’s effluent suburbs including Killara where the largest collection of his houses is located.

Ancher designed very few buildings on the scale of the Pauline Griffin Building, and while he designed many residences over his career, few are well recognised, and many of his works are unlisted. Jennifer Taylor says of Ancher in her book Australian Architecture Since 1960 that ‘...it seems surprising that Ancher who was an unassuming man, with few large and certainly no major buildings to his credit, had such a profound effect on following generations of Australian architects’.

Those works which are recognised however, some of which are discussed below, are considered to be some of the finest examples of modernist residences in Australia and are commended for their response to their setting, as well as the applications of the stylistic elements of the international style in a uniquely Australian manner.

Northbourne Housing Group

The Northbourne Housing Precinct, located on Northbourne Avenue in Dickson and Lyneham, is a good example of the Post-War International Style architecture, incorporating key stylistic elements including a cubiform overall shape, expressed structural frame, large sheets of glass and a simplified curtain wall. The housing precinct is Canberra’s, and potentially Australia’s, first architectural example of the rationale of the Bauhaus principles used for public housing, based on the important example of the Weissenhof Siedlung in Stuttgart, Germany.

The complex was designed and built to provide a gateway or entry point into Canberra, at a time when the city had no architecturally significant urban structures along the main entry route to the city. The housing precinct was Ancher’s only large, medium-density housing design (Australian Institute of Architects).

Single Residences

Ancher designed numerous residences throughout Australia, primarily in NSW. Each residence displays a combination of elements which characterise Ancher’s designs including smooth white facades, cubiform ( miesian) shapes with horizontal massing, linear forms and curved elements, use of curtain walls, patterned fenestration, verandahs, pergolas and other shad structures to create shadows and an aesthetic which ‘blends’ with its surrounding landscape.

The Prevost House

Ancher designed the modernist, ‘liner’ style Prevost House in Sydney in 1935, it is regarded as one of the most important of its style and period in Australia. This house is considered to be in the ‘interwar functionalist’ style.
Maytone Ave Houses

Some of his best known work includes the Maytone Avenue Houses in Killara, NSW which are a significant collection of residences designed from the mid-1940s onwards. Ancher’s own house at 3 Maytone Avenue, Killara won the RAIA Sulman Medal in 1945. These houses are similar in character with cubiform shapes, open internal floorplans and use of shading elements.

Farley House

In 1947 the Warringah Council objected to Ancher’s flat roof design for the house at North Curl Curl, Sydney. The court ruled in Ancher’s favour and proved a landmark decision for modern architecture, as designs with flat roofs without parapets were becoming prevalent.

Summary

The comparative analysis undertaken as part of this Heritage Assessment demonstrates that the Pauline Griffin Building is one of the only remaining examples of Ancher’s work in the ACT, one of the few examples of non-domestic design undertaken by Ancher during his career and is a relevant example of a building designed in the Post-War/Late Twentieth Century International style.

As a University Union Facility, the building is found to demonstrate the key characteristics of its type, however much of the intact evidence from that era is no longer extant.
Figure 24: Sydney Ancher, 1962 (Max Dupain)

Figure 25: Cameron Offices by John Andrews (National Library of Australia)

Figure 26: Wentworth Building, Ken Woolley (University of Sydney)

Figure 27: Shortland Building, Ken Woolley (University of Newcastle)

Figure 28: Northbourne Housing Group (Canberra House)

Figure 29: Ancher designer house, Maytone Avenue, Killara (Max Dupain)
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

Legislative Background

This report assesses the heritage values of Pauline Griffin Building against the Commonwealth Heritage criteria of the EPBC Act. Section 341D of the EPBC Act states that a place has Commonwealth Heritage value if it meets one of the Commonwealth Heritage criteria specified in Section 10.03A of the EPBC Act Regulations.

Previous Assessments

The Pauline Griffin Building (as the Chancelry Annex) was assessed for heritage significance as part of the 1993 ANU Heritage Study (Ratcliffe & Armes):

*The building was originally the Students Union Building designed by Sydney Ancher and constructed in 1964-65. A large water feature at the front, the Chifley side of the building, has subsequently been filled in. The design of the building uses Moderne elements typical of the Cubist International School. Internal modifications have removed most of the original fabric and layout. Currently the student administration office and other sections of central administration are housed within the building.*

*Assessment of Cultural Significance, statement of significance*

*The building exhibits typical architectural features (criterion i, iii). It is important for its role in the evolution of campus architecture (criterion vii).*

Summary Statement of Significance

The Pauline Griffin Building is significant as the first Student Union constructed on the ANU campus and as an important part of ANU student social life in the 1960s and early 1970s. The building was the location of important student activities such as events, rallies, performances and festivals.

The building was designed by Sydney Ancher, a regarded pioneer in modern architecture in Australia. The use of such a prominent architect for the design of this building is illustrative of the desire of the ANU to portray a National identity to Australia and the world. The building and its location within the surrounding landscape are considered to be of aesthetic significance.

It is an important early example of the Post War/Late-Twentieth Century International style architecture, uniquely adapted by Ancher for the Australian context. The Pauline Griffin Building is important as one of very few examples of architectural work attributed to Sydney Ancher, Principal of the firm Ancher, Mortlock, Murray and Woolley in Canberra. It is also one of the few examples of Ancher’s work on a large, non-domestic scale in Australia.

The building has the potential to yield information about Australia’s architectural history, in particular the work of pioneer modern architect Sydney Ancher. It is significant for its associations
with Pauline Griffin AM, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the ANU from 1991 to 1998. It is also significant for its clear associations with architect Sydney Ancher.

Assessment of Commonwealth Heritage Values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHL Criteria</th>
<th>Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A HISTORIC</strong></td>
<td>The Pauline Griffin Building is significant as the first Student Union constructed on the ANU campus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The place has significant heritage values because of its importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history.</em></td>
<td>It housed early student catering facilities, as well as student services and administrative offices that were an important part of student social life in the 1960s and early 1970s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The building provides evidence of several eras of use and demonstrates the needs of ANU students at the time of construction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The building was designed by Sydney Ancher, a regarded pioneer in modern architecture in Australia. It is an important early example of the Post War/Late-Twentieth Century International style architecture, uniquely adapted by Ancher for the Australian context.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Despite its large size, the building maintains a somewhat domestic scale, typical of Ancher’s style. The building also responds directly to its location and setting, relating closely to its terrain and blending seamlessly with the landscape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The use of such a prominent architect for the design of this building is illustrative of the desire of the ANU to be the best of the best in all aspects of operation and to project a National identity to Australia and the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Pauline Griffin Building is one of several buildings on the ANU campus to be designed by industry leading architects of their time, forming a uniquely modern architectural language for the fledgling campus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Attributes:</em> form, fabric and original function of the building as the ANU Student Union; features of international style of architecture; associations with Sydney Ancher.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Pauline Griffin Building meets this criterion.</td>
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| **B RARITY** | The Pauline Griffin Building is important as one of very few examples of architectural work attributed to Sydney Ancher, Principal of the firm Ancher, Mortlock, Murray and Woolley in |
| *The place has significant heritage value because of its possession of* |  |

ANU Heritage | 26
Pauline Griffin Building: Heritage Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHL Criteria</th>
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<tr>
<td>uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia’s natural or cultural history.</td>
<td>Canberra. Another notable example of Ancher’s work in Canberra is the Northbourne Housing Group. The Pauline Griffin Building is also one of the few examples of Ancher’s work on a large, non-domestic scale in Australia. The Northbourne Housing Group is attributed as the largest example of Ancher’s work, and while large in scale, is domestic in character. Sydney Ancher was highly regarded for his domestic architecture. The Pauline Griffin Building demonstrates the key elements of Ancher’s architectural style including bleached colours, horizontality, flat roof, use of pergolas and verandahs and decorative shadows, applied on a commercial scale. Attributes: form and fabric the building; features of post war/late-twentieth century International style of architecture; associations with Sydney Ancher. The Pauline Griffin Building meets this criterion.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

| C  | RESEARCH                                                                                                                                                                                                 | The Pauline Griffin Building has the potential to yield information about Australia’s architectural history, in particular the work of pioneer modern architect Sydney Ancher. The building is one of few examples of work by Sydney Ancher in Canberra and one of few examples of Ancher’s work in the non-domestic realm. Attributes: form and fabric the building; features of post war/late-twentieth century International style of architecture; associations with Sydney Ancher. The Pauline Griffin Building meets this criterion. |

<p>| D  | REPRESENTATIVE                                                                                                                                                                                                 | The Pauline Griffin Building is representative of the Post-War/Late Twentieth Century International style of architecture. It is a good example of this style in its own right and an excellent example of this style as interpreted by Sydney Ancher in the Australian context. The building is an uncommon example work attributed to Ancher in Canberra and of Ancher’s non-domestic work in Australia. The building is also representative of a Student Union Building from the 1960s, demonstrating the requirements of ANU |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<th>CHL Criteria</th>
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</table>
| **E AESTHETIC**  
*The place has significant heritage value because of its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.* | The Pauline Griffin Building demonstrates key aesthetic characteristics including its horizontality, bleached colours, connection to its setting and architectural features. The building also responds directly to its location and setting, relating closely to its terrain and blending seamlessly with the landscape. The ANU community value the building for its architectural characteristics and relationship with the Chifley Meadow and other surrounding buildings.  
*Attributes: form and fabric the building; features of Post War/Late-Twentieth Century International style of architecture; relationship to landscape.*  
The Pauline Griffin Building meets this criterion. |
| **F CREATIVE/TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT**  
*The place has significant heritage value because of its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.* | While the architectural characteristics of the building are of interest, little evidence has been found to suggest that the construction or use of the building are unique or rare in nature.  
The Pauline Griffin Building does not meet this criterion. |
| **G SOCIAL**  
*The place has significant heritage value because of its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.* | As the location of some of the first Student Union, the Pauline Griffin Building was central to student life at ANU in the 1960s and early 1970s. The building was a place where students casually socialised and accessed food and beverage services as well as a venue for larger events such as student balls, parties, political rallies and university events such as Bush Week. The building was an important backdrop and venue for the infamous 1971 Aquarius Festival of University Arts, a significant historical event in the history of ANU.  
*Attributes: the building’s form and function as the former ANU Student Union.*  
The Pauline Griffin Building meets this criterion. |
### CHL Criteria

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CHL Criteria</th>
<th>Response</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>H ASSOCIATIONAL</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;The place has significant heritage value because of its special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia’s natural or cultural history.</td>
<td>The Pauline Griffin Building is significant for its association with architect Sydney Ancher, who is considered a pioneer of modern architecture in Australia. Ancher not only designed the building, but worked closely with the ANU to ensure the building met the requirements of the University. The building is a rare example of Ancher’s work in Canberra and of Ancher’s non-domestic work in Australia. The building is also significant for its associations with Pauline Griffin AM, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the ANU from 1991 to 1998 since 2001, at which time it was renamed. Attributes: Associations with Sydney Ancher and Pauline Griffin. <strong>The Pauline Griffin Building meets this criterion.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I INDIGENOUS TRADITION</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;The place has significant heritage value because of its importance as part of Indigenous tradition.</td>
<td>The study area for this project was the footprint an immediate setting of the building. It is unlikely that this building would have Indigenous heritage values, however consultation with Indigenous people was not undertaken. <strong>The Pauline Griffin Building does not meet this criterion.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Conclusion—Commonwealth Heritage Values

The heritage assessment of the Pauline Griffin Building has found that it meets the threshold for inclusion of the CHL under Criterion A, B, C, D, E, G and H. The Building is primarily significant as the former ANU Student Union, for its architectural characteristics and associations with pioneer modernist architect Sydney Ancher. The building warrants inclusion on the CHL.
CONCLUSIONS

The Pauline Griffin Building was the focus of student social life on the ANU campus throughout the 1960s and early 1970s. It housed early catering facilities and provided convenient space for social events.

The building is highly significant for its associations with Sydney Ancher, and is a rare example of work attributed to Ancher in the ACT. The building is also an uncommon example of non-domestic architectural work by Ancher in Australia. It is a good example of Post War/Late-Twentieth Century International style architecture, and an excellent example of the style as applied by Ancher in the Australian context.

The Pauline Griffin Building meets a number of CHL criteria and warrants nomination to the Commonwealth Heritage List.

The exterior of the building is relatively intact and is able to provide information on the evolution of architecture on the ANU campus, and the wider Canberra region.

The building is in sound structural condition, however the condition of many individual elements is poor and require urgent attention.

Summary Recommendations

- The Pauline Griffin Building should be nominated to the CHL on the basis of this heritage assessment.
- A Heritage Management Plan should be developed for the building.
- Any proposed works to the building should be informed by a Heritage Impact Assessment.
- Immediate catch up and scheduled maintenance and stabilisation works should be undertaken to prevent further deterioration of the building’s fabric.
- The outstanding remnant features, such as the timber joinery, staircases, windows and doors, front fire alarm and, especially, dumbwaiter should be maintained with any changes to the use of the building.
Attachment 3: Interpretation Framework (GML Heritage, 2015)
Pauline Griffin Building Australian National University

Interpretation Framework

Report prepared for the Australian National University

April 2016
Report Register

The following report register documents the development and issue of the report entitled Pauline Griffin Building, Australian National University—Interpretation Framework, undertaken by GML Heritage Pty Ltd in accordance with its quality management system.

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<td>Draft report</td>
<td>June 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-0347</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Final report</td>
<td>April 2016</td>
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Quality Assurance

GML Heritage Pty Ltd operates under a quality management system which has been certified as complying with the Australian/New Zealand Standard for quality management systems AS/NZS ISO 9001:2008.

The report has been reviewed and approved for issue in accordance with the GML quality assurance policy and procedures.

Project Manager: Sarah Webeck
Project Director & Reviewer: Sheridan Burke

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Signature  Signature

Position: Senior Consultant  Position: Partner

Date: 5 April 2016  Date: 5 April 2016

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Executive Summary

Interpretation plays a core role in the presentation and conservation of heritage values. This framework provides a basis for the interpretation of the significant heritage values associated with the Pauline Griffin Building, formerly the Student Union Building, designed by renowned Australian architect Sydney Ancher, constructed in 1965 and located at the Acton Campus of the Australian National University (ANU). The historical development of the site and its recognised heritage value are outlined in Section 2.0.

The building has been vacant since 2014 and has been assessed as not complying with current building codes (refer to 2014 Tract Feasibility Analysis and 2015 Aurecon Environmental Report). The ANU proposes to demolish the building and redevelop the site to accommodate major new facilities for the College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS).

The Pauline Griffin Building is significant as the first Student Union Building constructed on the ANU campus and as the centre of student activity and social life in the 1960s and early 1970s. It is also significant as a work of high quality modern Australian architecture and as a rare example of the work of Sydney Ancher, one of Australian architecture’s leading practitioners. As such it represents the commitment to design excellence of the University administrators during the early development of the campus. The building also has significant associations with Pauline Griffin, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the ANU from 1991 to 1998.

The Pauline Griffin Building is a significant heritage component of the ANU campus. While not yet formally included in the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL), the ANU has Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) legislative obligations to protect, conserve and present (interpret) its identified Commonwealth Heritage values. The EPBC Act obligations are explained in the ANU Pauline Griffin Building Heritage Impact Assessment (April 2016) prepared for the ANU by GML.

This Interpretation Framework is an important tool to interpret the Commonwealth Heritage values of the place.

Section 3.0 identifies the key messages to be conveyed in interpreting the heritage values of the Pauline Griffin Building as:

- **Early ANU Campus Planning**—The building is an important component of the early development of the ANU.

- **Heart of the Campus**—The Student Union was an important student social hub and the location both of informal gatherings and student committees, organisations and Student Representative Council (SRC) meetings and events that were an important feature of campus life.

- **Design Excellence**—The building is a high quality and rare example of modern Australian architecture by leading practitioner, Sydney Ancher. As such the building provides evidence of the aspirations of campus planners and the university’s commitment to architectural excellence in developing the national university campus.

This Interpretation Framework was prepared to respond to three alternative courses of action originally proposed by the ANU in relation to the building. The options include:
1. The retention of the Pauline Griffin Building and integration of the CASS users;

2. The adaptation of the Pauline Griffin Building to meet the CASS functional and user requirements; or

3. The demolition of the Pauline Griffin Building and the construction of a purpose built facility designed to meet the functional and user requirements of the CASS.

Interpretation would be most effectively achieved through the retention, conservation and adaptive reuse of the Pauline Griffin Building. Adaptation would allow for the return of activity, staff and students to the building and this would ensure that the building’s significant values are daily experienced by future audiences through the ongoing use of the building by the ANU community.

However, the current proposal is for the demolition of the building and redevelopment of the site. This would provide limited interpretation options beyond recording the history and values of the Pauline Griffin Building.

In Section 4.0 of the Interpretation Framework the key aspects of heritage significance of the building and its cultural landscape context are identified as well as opportunities and constraints for interpretation, for the project architects to consider during the design development of the CASS facility.

Architectural firm Conrad Gargett Ancher Mortlock Woolley (CGAMW) has produced a document titled Pauline Griffin Building Design Principles (2015), which should be read in conjunction with this Interpretation Framework.

Implementation of the interpretation principles outlined in Section 5.0 of this Interpretation Framework will assist in recording the history and heritage values of the Pauline Griffin Building so that the history and significance can be appreciated by future users of the site.
1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

GML Heritage Pty Ltd (GML) has been commissioned by the Australian National University (ANU), to prepare an Interpretation Framework for the Pauline Griffin Building, ANU Acton Campus.

The site of the Pauline Griffin Building has been identified as a location for a new facility for the College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS) as part of the Research School of Social Sciences (RSSS), and the demolition of the Sydney Ancher designed building is proposed.

This Interpretation Framework has been prepared to provide input to the concept design for the proposed CASS Facility, being developed by Hassell Architects. It is important that interpretation of the Pauline Griffin Building is an integral component of the architectural concept designs.

1.2 Site Identification

Designated as Building No.11, the Pauline Griffin Building is located on Ellery Crescent in the ANU Acton Campus, Canberra. It is bordered by Chifley Meadow to the west and Melville Hall to the north. Refer to Figures 1.1 and 1.2 for the location of the Pauline Griffin Building.

1.3 Methodology—Interpretation as a Conservation Process

Interpretation can be a highly successful way to present the heritage significance/values of a place. In order to provide a broad framework for interpretation of the building within its campus setting, this Interpretation Framework refers to the heritage values of the building and of the ANU Acton Campus as a whole. Interpretive themes and messages are identified to guide opportunities for integration of concepts, and opportunities and constraints in relation to interpretation of the heritage values of the building are explored.

The Pauline Griffin Building has Commonwealth Heritage values as identified in the ANU Acton Campus Heritage Study Volume 1 and Volume 2 Heritage Inventory (ANU Facilities and Services), 2010. It is a significant place in the ANU Acton Campus. While not yet formally included in the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL), the ANU has legislative obligations under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) to protect, conserve and present (interpret) identified Commonwealth Heritage values.

The development and implementation of this Interpretation Framework is an important requirement of the EPBC Act and uses best practice terminology, methodology and principles contained in The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 2013 (the Burra Charter). The framework comprises:

- a summary of the history of the Pauline Griffin Building and its cultural landscape setting;
- analysis of the heritage significance of the building;
- identification of interpretative themes associated with the heritage values of the building and its Ellery precinct setting; and
recommended interpretation messages and approaches for integration in the design development.

1.4 Documentation

The following documents have been reviewed, and in conjunction with this framework, should guide the preparation of the designs:

- Pauline Griffin Building Design Principles, by Conrad Gargett Ancher Mortlock Woolley (CGAMW) Architects, April 2015;
- Pauline Griffin Building: Heritage Assessment, by ANU Heritage, July 2015 (updated March 2016); and
- ANU Acton Campus Heritage Study Volume 1 (GML Heritage) and Volume 2 Heritage Inventory (ANU Facilities and Services), 2010.

1.5 Authorship and Acknowledgements

The report has been prepared by Rebecca Hawcroft, engaged as a subconsultant to GML; Rachel Jackson, Senior Associate; and Sheridan Burke, GML Partner. Sarah Webeck, Senior Consultant and Hannah Griffiths, Graduate Consultant provided input. GML would like to thank Amy Jarvis, Heritage Officer, Facilities and Services Division, for assistance in the preparation of this report.

Figure 1.1 Site Plan showing the location of ANU Acton campus (outlined in white) within the broader Canberra context. (Source: Google Earth baseplan with GML overlays 2015)
Figure 1.2 The location of the Pauline Griffin Building within the Acton Campus (Source: Pauline Griffin Building, Acton Campus—Site Inventory, ANU)

Figure 1.3 The completed building from Ellery Crescent, or the rear, 1965. (AMW Archives)

Figure 1.4 The completed building from the front addressing Chifley Meadow, 1965. (ANU Archives)
Figure 1.5 The ground Floor Cafeteria 1965. (Source: AMW Archives)

Figure 1.6 Students gather inside the Student Union, 1960s. (Source: ANU Archives)

Figure 1.7 Students outside the Student Union, 1960s. (Source: ANU Archives)

Figure 1.8 Students spill out of the Student Union Building during Bush Week celebrations, 1969. (Source: ANU Archives)
2.0 Site History and Heritage Values

2.1 Overview History

The Pauline Griffin Building was built in 1965 as the original ANU campus Student Union Building. Refer to Figures 1.3–1.5 for photographs of the newly completed building and Figures 1.6–1.8 which show events in and around the Student Union in the 1960s. In 1975, the building was converted into office accommodation for the university administration and other services. It was renamed the Pauline Griffin Building in 2001. The building has been vacant since 2014.

The following table provides a brief historical overview of the site and is based on the more detailed history contained in the Pauline Griffin Building Heritage Assessment prepared by ANU Heritage, 2015 (updated March 2016).

Table 2.1 Historic Overview of the ANU Acton Campus Student Union Building/Pauline Griffin Building.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historical Overview: Student Union/Pauline Griffin Building</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Context</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946: The ANU was established in 1946 on the southern portion of the current Acton Campus. In 1960 the ANU, which was originally formed as a postgraduate only research institution, was amalgamated with the Canberra University College (CUC) on the current campus site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Student Union Building for the ANU</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960: In April 1960 it was decided that a Union building was essential for ANU students, with student committees and associations on the campus steadily growing. Planning commenced immediately for the new facility, which was completed in 1965.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Union Building accommodated 265 people, with a dining room for 100 people and coffee rooms opening on to large glass-screened terraces overlooking the grounds to the west. It also housed a range of student facilities including a doctor, student counsellor, student clubs and the Students' Representative Council (SRC).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Heart of the Campus</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965–1972: One of the University's early facilities and the centre of student activities; the Union Building was the social heart of the campus. The cultural landscaped area to the northwest, Chifley Meadow was then, and remains an important location for student gatherings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conversion to Chancellery Annex</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972: In 1972, to meet the growth of the student population, the university constructed a new Union building on University Avenue. The old union building (Pauline Griffin Building) was converted for additional offices for university administration, with the building then referred to as the 'Chancellery Annex'. The conversion kept demolition of existing walls and partitions to a minimum and the external appearance was virtually unaltered. Internally light-weight partitions subdivided general office space and there was an upgrade of the heating and mechanical ventilation systems, significantly decreasing floor to ceiling heights. The building accommodated offices for Student Services including housing and welfare as well as the Property &amp; Plans Division and the Registry and Engineering Services.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Historical Overview: Student Union/Pauline Griffin Building**

**Recent Uses**

1978: The building was renamed the Pauline Griffin Building in 2001 after Pauline Griffin AM, who was the University Pro-Chancellor from 1991 to 1998. Griffin was a member of the University Council from 1978 and demonstrated a strong commitment to the university, especially the well-being of students and staff. Pauline Griffin led the ANU in celebration of its 50th anniversary in 1996. While the building is now vacant, it most recently accommodated the ANU Student Administration, International Education Office, Student Recruitment Office and the Academic Skills & Learning Centre until 2014.

**Sydney Ancher—Ancher, Mortlock, Murray Architects**

The Student Union Building (now Pauline Griffin Building) was designed by Sydney Ancher (1908-1979) of the firm Ancher, Mortlock, Murray (& Woolley) and constructed between 1963 and 1965. Ancher is recognised as one of the pioneers of modern architecture in Australia. His adaptation of Internationalist style architecture to the Australian climate made him one of the most important Australian architects of the mid-twentieth century. Working out of his own practice from 1945 he was a central figure in the development of Sydney’s architecture, mainly in domestic design. He received the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) NSW Chapter Sulman Award for architecture in 1945 for his own house and the RAIA Gold Medal in 1975. His characteristic use of clean uncluttered simple expression, white geometric forms and flat-roofed designs that related closely to the existing topography, are represented in the Pauline Griffin Building.

The ANU Acton Campus has few buildings of such architectural excellence as this. The university has consistently sought to employ leading architects from around Australia to create an identity and individuality worthy of the national university. Their engagement of Ancher in the mid-1960s demonstrates his renown and the university’s commitment to commissioning the best of Australian contemporary architecture as part of its ongoing campus planning.

The ANU Student Union is one of few non-residential buildings designed by Ancher during his career. The ANU Student Union and the Northbourne Avenue Housing Group (completed 1962) are the only examples of Ancher’s work in the ACT. Retiring in 1966, the Student Union is also one of the later works of Ancher’s career.
2.2 The ANU and Pauline Griffin Building Heritage Values

2.2.1 Heritage Significance of the ANU Acton Campus

The whole ANU Acton Campus is of Commonwealth Heritage values—as a place of cultural importance for Australia for its associations with Australian scientific research and endeavour. A range of heritage places within the campus are already heritage listed, and many more are identified as being of Commonwealth Heritage value in the 2012 Heritage Study of the Acton Campus.

2.2.2 Heritage Significance of the Pauline Griffin Building

The Pauline Griffin Building has Commonwealth Heritage value. It meets Commonwealth Heritage criterion a, b, c, d, e, g and h.

The following summary statement of significance for Pauline Griffin Building is reproduced from the Heritage Assessment:

The Pauline Griffin Building is significant as the first Student Union constructed on the ANU campus and as an important part of ANU student social life in the 1960s and early 1970s. The building was the location of important student activities such as events, rallies, performances and festivals.

The building was designed by Sydney Ancher, a regarded pioneer in modern architecture in Australia. The use of such a prominent architect for the design of this building is illustrative of the desire of the ANU to portray a national identity to Australia and the world. The building and its location within the surrounding landscape are considered to be of aesthetic significance.

It is an important early example of the Post-War late twentieth century International style architecture, uniquely adapted by Ancher for the Australian context. The Pauline Griffin Building is important as one of very few examples of architectural work attributed to Sydney Ancher, Principal of the firm Ancher, Mortlock, Murray and Woolley in Canberra. It is also one of the few examples of Ancher's work on a large, non-domestic scale in Australia.

The building has the potential to yield information about Australia’s architectural history, in particular the work of pioneer modern architect Sydney Ancher. It is significant for its associations with Pauline Griffin AM, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the ANU from 1991 to 1998. It is also significant for its clear associations with architect Sydney Ancher.

2.2.3 Landscape Setting

The building’s west-facing facade addresses the Chifley Meadow and adjacent open grassed areas. Several paved paths punctuate the grass. The Denis Winston Walk, a pathway dedicated to the former University Site Planner, is aligned on axis with the rounded staircase of the Pauline Griffin Building.

The northern aspect of the building is screened by several large acacia trees. A number of mature trees are also found in the surrounding cultural landscape, including a large oak to the northwest and a line of young conifers along the path from Chifley Library to the west. This group of trees is a significant natural element that helps to set the building in the campus’ conscious interpretation of an Australian bush landscape. Two large eucalyptus trees screen the air-conditioning unit to the northwest of the front facade, which further establishes the building in the campus’ cultural landscape.
3.0 Interpretative Themes and Messages

In preparing to interpret heritage places, it is important to present their past in an informative, interesting and easily accessible way. This is achieved through communicating the history and significance of the site via key historical themes and messages.

The ANU Acton Campus Heritage Study (2012) identified the following broad, interlinked interpretation themes for the ANU Acton Campus as a whole:

- the history of the ANU and Canberra’s development;
- development and change within the cultural landscape of the ANU;
- strong personalities and high achievers; and
- research endeavour and excellence of international standing.

The specific interpretative themes related to the Pauline Griffin Building are identified in the following table. The table makes reference to both the Australian Historic Themes Framework identified by the former Australian Heritage Commission and the Historic Themes developed by the NSW Heritage Branch. The following themes have been identified to assist in interpreting the Pauline Griffin Building. A short commentary relating the site to each of the historical themes is provided below.
Table 3.1 National and State Historic Themes as they relate to the Pauline Griffin Building.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Australian Historic Theme</th>
<th>Educating</th>
<th>Developing Australia’s cultural life</th>
<th>Developing Australia’s cultural life</th>
<th>Marking the Phases of Life</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSW Historic Theme:</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Creative endeavour</td>
<td>Social institutions</td>
<td>People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Pauline Griffin Building was the first Student Union facility constructed on the ANU campus. As such it provides evidence of early campus planning and development and the central role of the Student Union in the early period of the university. Its location and functions can be seen as integral in the planned development of the university, including the ongoing use of Chifley Meadow as a student gathering place.</td>
<td>The Pauline Griffin Building is a fine and rare example of the work of influential pioneer architect Sydney Ancher of Ancher, Mortlock, Murray. The building is one of a group of high quality modern buildings on the ANU Acton Campus undertaken by prominent and highly regarded architects. The building provides evidence of the aspirations of the campus planners and the University’s commitment to architectural excellence within the national university campus.</td>
<td>From its completion in 1965 until the Student Union’s relocation in 1972, the building was the heart of campus student activities and student social life. The social and administrative functions of the Student Union Building are reflected internally in the mix of open spaces and enclosed spaces, and externally in the wide terraces and the open address to the social gathering area of Chifley Meadows. The building is likely to have social values to ANU students from 1965 to 1970s as the location of student services, student unionism and SRC activities.</td>
<td>The building has a strong association with Sydney Ancher, a highly regarded and influential architect. It is a rare example of Ancher’s non-domestic design, and rare as one of only two projects undertaken in the ACT. The building also has associations with Pauline Griffin, AM, University Pro-Chancellor from 1991 to 1998. The building was re-named in her honour in 2001 as a tribute to her achievements and years of service to the University.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.1 Key Messages for Interpretation

The historic themes above link the assessed cultural significance of the Pauline Griffin Building to broader historical movements to provide the main topics for interpretation of the site. The key messages for interpretation of the Pauline Griffin Building are:

- **Early ANU Campus Planning**—This building was the first Student Union facility at the ANU and represents the progressive development of the campus in the early period of the university’s development and the investment in student services as a central part of the growing university. Its functions represent the development and support of student services from the 1960s. During its period of operation the Student Union made a significant contribution to the development of the ANU by facilitating and organising student participation in campus life.

- **Heart of the Campus**—This building was an important student social hub and meeting place from 1965 to 1972. It contained open and enclosed spaces including catering and meeting places that supported both student gatherings as well as student committees, the functions of the SRC and other student lead organisations. The Union Building was at the centre of a number of student gatherings during the late 1960s and was designed to provide the social centre of the ANU campus, and specifically to address Chifley Meadow as a site of student gathering and protest since the 1960s.

- **Design Excellence**—The building is an exceptional quality design and an important element in the overall ANU campus, which contains a number of high quality architectural works by prominent architects. The building is a rare and significant work of Sydney Ancher, an important practitioner and pioneer of Australian modernism. The building is representative of the university’s commitment to commissioning high quality Australian architecture within the national university campus.
4.0 Approach to Interpretation

4.1 Interpretation as a Conservation Process

Interpretation is an essential part of the heritage conservation process. As important as authentic restoration and regular maintenance, the active interpretation of heritage places supports community recognition, enjoyment and understanding of a site’s values and significance.

The Burra Charter explains:

*Interpretation means all the ways of presenting the cultural significance of the place; Interpretation may be a combination of the treatment of the fabric (eg maintenance, restoration, reconstruction), the use of and activities at the place, and the use of introduced explanatory material.* (Article 1.17)

‘Significant associations between people and a place should be respected, retained and not obscured. Opportunities for the interpretation, commemoration and celebration of these associations should be investigated and implemented.’ (Article 24.1)

The charter notes:

‘The cultural significance of many places is not readily apparent, and should be explained by interpretation. Interpretation should enhance understanding and enjoyment and be culturally appropriate.’ (Article 25)

Reflecting the Burra Charter methodology for good interpretation practice, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) includes a requirement that management plans for Commonwealth and National Heritage places should include policies on how heritage values are to be interpreted and promoted.

Successful interpretation encourages personal appreciation and enjoyment of the experience of a place; it can also be an engaging educational tool, inspiring or deepening connections between people and places. The active interpretation of heritage places supports community recognition, enjoyment and understanding of the site’s heritage values and significance. Interpretation can also be a useful tool in explaining the layers of change at a heritage place.

Development and implementation of an interpretation program centred on the Pauline Griffin Building, in either a new building on the site or in the retained or adapted existing building, will assist in mitigating the impacts associated with any proposed works by enabling the history and heritage significance of the place to be understood, enjoyed and appreciated by students, staff and visitors.

4.2 Constraints for Interpretation

Building Condition

Changes made to the building in the 1970s to convert the interior into multiple administration offices have obscured aspects of the original internal fabric and layout which makes it difficult to appreciate some of the original internal spaces, functions and character of the place as a meeting place for students. The exterior, however, remains largely the same.

Modifications made to services have reduced the design integrity of the building. Ceiling heights in some of the spaces have been dropped to accommodate services and other building elements do not comply with current building standards. The building would require comprehensive
refurbishment and sensitive updating of services to facilitate a new university use and ongoing student activity.

Given that the building has been vacant and unmaintained since 2014; its current condition has been assessed as fair. From a conservation and resource management perspective, its vacant state is undesirable.

**Proposed Development**

The CASS requires a new facility and university planning has identified the site of the Pauline Griffin Building as the preferred location. The CASS’s requirements for the next ten years reflect the considerable growth anticipated in its activities. When the existing building’s facilities were assessed in the 2014 Tract Feasibility Analysis, it was considered that demolition of the Pauline Griffin Building would be required to enable the CASS’s functional requirements to be met by a new building on site.

Demolition would clearly have a negative impact on the building and adversely impact the Commonwealth Heritage values of the ANU Acton Campus. Demolition would clearly limit the options for interpretation of the significant values of the Pauline Griffin Building.

### 4.3 Opportunities for Interpretation

The interpretation options below respond to three alternative courses of action identified by ANU:

- the retention of the Pauline Griffin Building and integration of the CASS users;
- adaptation of the Pauline Griffin Building to meet the CASS requirements; and
- the demolition of the Pauline Griffin Building and the construction of purpose-designed CASS facility which responds directly to user requirements.

The current decision of the ANU is that the Pauline Griffin Building will be demolished. However, the interpretation actions possible for each option are outlined below.

**Interpretation through Ongoing Use—Retention of Building and Integration within CASS Development**

The location of the Pauline Griffin Building on campus and its connection to Chifley Meadow are important aspects of its significance. New buildings could be added in the immediate vicinity to the north and south, or underneath the Chifley Meadow area, and linked to the Pauline Griffin Building.

The external form of the building is largely intact and is a key part of its design excellence. The external form should be retained as much as possible to allow the original design to be interpreted and any extension could take the form of linked pavilions, or be located underground.

Although the building requires upgrading of services and internal spaces, such adaptation is common in buildings of this era and its original design and functions are readily able to be refurbished and interpreted. Exposure of building services is a common approach in contemporary architecture, and the removal of the fibro sheeted dropped ceilings would be anticipated in any refurbishment. Sensitive adaptation to a new use would allow interpretation of the building’s significant features, architectural excellence and historic ANU functions.
Interpretation through Conservation—Adaptation of Building

Continued use of the building as a focal place for students and staff is an important aspect of its interpretation, and hence works that facilitate new uses will have a positive impact.

The retention and reuse of existing buildings makes use of embodied energy and extends the life of a building, particularly important for buildings with heritage value. The demolition of an existing building and the construction of a new building will typically require significant amounts of energy and generate corresponding amounts of carbon dioxide; more than the amount required to adapt an existing building.

New structures are able to be added in the vicinity of the Pauline Griffin Building where they do not obscure the building’s external form and connection to Chifley Meadow. Opportunities for new buildings exist to the north and south, along Ellery Crescent and beneath Chifley Meadow.

Reversal of internal modifications associated with post–Student Union uses would assist in the interpretation of the building’s significant functions.

Any adaptation or associated new work should, where possible, retain significant and original features and fabric of the building, such as the central circulation spaces, external terraces and stairs and open verandah spaces, internal joinery/dark-stained timber, including window and door frames, stair rails and some skirting.

Interpretation through Replacement Architecture—New Building Design

The demolition of the Pauline Griffin Building involves the loss of a significant and rare building which conveys the history of the site and its functions in its form, fabric, function and location. The scale of demolition and redevelopment of the site would have a significant impact making the implementation of interpretation measures in the design of any proposed new building particularly important.

Development and implementation of a comprehensive interpretation program at the new CASS facility will provide limited mitigation of the impacts associated with the proposed demolition by enabling the history and significance of the former building to be recorded and interpreted for current and future students, staff and visitors.

The following actions are recommended before the demolition of the building and before and during the development of the new building.

Pre-demolition:

- retain, conserve and curate selected original and early fabric such as the terrace and stairwell rails, dumbwaiter, signage and internal joinery/dark-stained timber for storage by the ANU or for integration into the new building;
- conduct a comprehensive archival recording of The Pauline Griffin Building’s interior and exterior and lodge this in a public repository;
- initiate an oral history program for the building by inviting past students and staff to revisit the building and record their histories associated with the building and its function.
Site redevelopment:

- use documentary research and graphic material to prepare interpretation initiatives that can convey and interpret the history and significance of the Pauline Griffin Building within the new building, the common spaces and entries in particular;
- incorporate site specific themes and stories into these interpretation initiatives (refer Section above) (such as former student union officials);
- involve people with significant attachments to the place in implementing its interpretation; and
- involve people with skills and experience in heritage interpretation in the planning and design of initiatives to be implemented.
- Develop an Interpretation Strategy to guide these actions.

A ‘social values survey’ was undertaken by the ANU in March 2016 and provides insight into people’s associations with and memories of the Pauline Griffin Building, which may also be useful to inform interpretation initiatives, such as identifying candidates for oral histories and retelling of stories.
5.0 Interpretation Principles

5.1 Interpretation Principles for the Pauline Griffin Building

The following interpretive principles are provided to inform the process of designing a new CASS facility in the vicinity of the Pauline Griffin Building:

- acknowledge the original building as a rare and outstanding example of Australian design excellence and a significant heritage element of the ANU campus through interpretative initiatives in the new CASS facility.

- retain the functional connections between the new building’s location and outlook over Chifley Meadow;

- develop a program of specific interpretive initiatives in conjunction with the new building’s detailed design which integrate the key messages identified in section, relating to the role of the former Student Union Building;

- involve people with significant attachments to the former building to assist with the interpretation process such as providing historic photographs and oral histories; and

- involve people with skills and experience in heritage interpretation planning and design to implement interpretation initiatives within the new development.

If the building is to be adaptively reused, all changes should be guided by the principles listed above as well as:

- a site specific Heritage Management Plan which pays due respect for the original Ancher design, retaining the original architectural form, fabric character and key social functions of the site, sympathetically integrating new university functions;

- refurbishment work should retain evidence of and information related to the building’s original Student Union functions; and

- Interior treatments and interpretation initiatives should interpret the building’s heritage values, previous functions and aspects of its significance as identified in the key messages identified in Section 3.0.

5.2 Summary and Next Steps

5.2.1 Informing the Concept Design

This Interpretation Framework has been prepared to inform the development of the concept design of the proposed CASS facility. Ongoing consultation between ANU, Hassell Architects and GML during the development of the design is necessary.

Key messages and themes presented in Section 3.0 of this Framework would be further developed as part of an Interpretation Strategy to greater inform architectural design development and interpretation initiatives once a determination of the development option has been made by the ANU.
5.2.2 Tasks for Developing an Interpretation Strategy and Integrating Interpretation Initiatives

Depending on the decision to demolish or adaptively reuse, the next tasks in developing an Interpretation Strategy will involve a range or research and analysis.

If demolition is approved, tasks may include:

- historic research and survey of available resources relating to the building that are held by other parties and collecting bodies such as the past Student Union members (also refer to Section 5.2.3);
- collection of visual and archival material and oral histories gathered from alumnae of the Student Union and staff who worked in the building from the 1960s;
- analysis of building fabric, furniture or objects in an inventory, identifying elements to be salvaged, conserved and retained for interpretation, or as part of the ANU moveable heritage collection such as loose furniture, such as the ‘P&O’ style terrace rails and the dumbwaiter;
- identification of architectural devices and locations for interpretation in the new building (noting that the development of detailed content for interpretive installations would occur once archival material has been sourced);
- organisation of a farewell event for the Pauline Griffin Building; and
- ongoing consultation between the ANU and Hassell for collaborative purposes to ensure a successful heritage and ANU outcome.

As detailed elsewhere, the full archival recording of the building and its setting will be required prior to any demolition.

If adaptive reuse and/or extension of the building is determined, a Heritage Management Plan should be commissioned to guide appropriate refurbishment and design, using Burra Charter methodology and principles. Research on similar lines to that identified above will be needed.

5.2.3 Utilising the Social Values Survey

University voices—mostly past, some present, and others yet to be heard—could illuminate the social values and stories of the Pauline Griffin Building’s history. To gather these voices, an engagement process would need to be undertaken and could be based on the March 2016 ‘social values survey’ undertaken by the ANU would inform this process.

Utilising the social values survey would involve additional engagement with the alumnae to obtain oral histories and possibly historic photographs. ‘Voices’ include readings of factual texts combined with multi-voiced stories, from a range of perspectives, about the collective memories of building’s history.

Oral histories can illuminate the social values, voices and stories of the University’s history. The aim would be to share and record reflections on the importance the Pauline Griffin Building in the past and its role in shaping the University’s identity, with added multi-voiced story from a range of perspectives about the traditions and collective memories of the former Student Union.
The histories could be used in interpretation content, such as soundscapes and integration with architectural/visual displays.

If demolition is determined, the oral history collection could be undertaken as part of the University’s farewell to the building to commemorate and celebrate its history.

Figure 1.10 The Student Union Building, shortly after construction, ANU, 1965. (Source: ACT Heritage Library 002290)
Endnotes

2. GML April 2012, ANU Acton Campus Heritage Study, Volume 1 for the ANU Facilities and Services.
4. NSW themes have been referenced as they are more detailed than the recently prepared ACT themes. They are more aligned with the Commonwealth Heritage criteria and are helpful for building the case for ‘key interpretation themes’.
Attachment 4: Design Principles by architects (Conrad Gargett Riddell Ancher Mortlock Woolley, 2015)
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   3.2 Construction
4.0 Design Principles
   4.1 Indigenous Modernism
   4.2 Geometry
   4.3 Rigorous Simplicity
   4.4 Horizontality
   4.5 Materials
   4.6 Connectivity
   4.7 Colour
The Australian National University propose to construct a new building for the Research School of Social Sciences (RSSS). Currently, staff and students in the school are located across the campus. The site of the Pauline Griffin building is the preferred site for the new building. Several options have been considered including full demolition, adaptive reuse and integration of all or part of the building into a new structure.

With all considered options, the significant architectural values will need to be conserved and interpreted. This document provides guidance regarding what the key design principles that need to be considered in the future design and use proposals for the site.
2.0 SYDNEY ANCHER

Sydney Ancher (1904-1979), practiced as architect from the 1920s to the 1970s. Born in Woollahra, he was articled to Sydney architect EWS Wakeley and studied at the Sydney Technical College from 1924 to 1929. He qualified as an architect in 1929 and in the following year was awarded the Australian Medalion and Travelling Scholarship by the Board of Architects of New South Wales. Ancher spent the next six years travelling and working in Europe. He absorbed the modernist movement and was particularly attracted to the work of Mies van der Rohe and Le Corbusier.

Ancher returned to Australia in 1936 and became one of the early exponents of International style in Australia. His house for the Prevost family completed in 1937 exemplified his commitment to a radically different approach to architecture that was unknown in Australia at the time. Ancher formed a partnership with Reginald Prevost in 1937 who concentrated on domestic buildings. The practice was interrupted by World War II. Ancher served in the Australian Imperial Forces from 1940 to 1944. Ancher resumed his architectural work in 1945 and received a steady stream of commissions, mainly for houses but also for alterations and additions to hotels. In 1945 Ancher was awarded the Sulman medal for his own house at Killara. His work was not without controversy. In 1948, he became embroiled in a dispute with the Warringah Shire Council who had objected to his design for a house. The dispute went to court, and the ruling was in favour of Ancher and his client. In an important case and confirmed that "modernist" houses were acceptable and further enhanced Ancher's stature as a leading architect.

Ancher's practice continued to expand in the early 1950s and in 1952 formed a partnership with two of his assistants, Bryce Morlock and Stuart Murray. In 1964, Ken Wotton became a partner. In the 1960s, the practice expanded to include council chambers, libraries and university buildings. The student union building at the Australian National University marked a turning point in the practice as a substantial non-domestic commission. In 1965 Ancher was invited by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects to design a building for their headquarters in Canberra. This was an unusual accolade and recognition of his stature as an architect in Australia. Although his design was not ultimately used, another scheme prepared by the office, that he was asked by the RAIA reflects the regard in which he was held. Ancher retired from the practice in 1966 and designed for himself two more houses, one at Coogee Harbour, and another at Camden. Ancher was awarded the Gold Medal by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects in 1975. He died in 1979.

Honours:
- 1930 Australian Medalion and Travel Scholarship
- 1946 Sulman Award for House Architecture
- 1975 RAIA Gold Medal
3.0 THE PAULINE GRIFFIN BUILDING

The Pauline Griffin building was constructed in 1965 as the Student Union building for the Australian National University. The Australian National University was established in 1946 as a postgraduate research institution. In 1960, the ANU amalgamated with the Canberra University College. As a result, the ANU’s role expanded to undergraduate education. The significant increase in the number of students prompted the need for student facilities. Planning began in April 1960.

In 1963, the Sydney practice Ancher Morlock Murray were commissioned to design the Union complex. Construction began in 1964 and the building was completed in February 1965. It was both the largest and final commission which Ancher achieved during practice. The building comprised a dining room for 100 patrons, rooms for doctor and student councillor, offices and meeting spaces for student groups and society, it also included a bookshop, post office and bank. A feature of the building was the extensive terrace on the north-western elevation and the building soon became a centre for student activity and activism. By the early 1970s, the Union building had became increasingly overcrowded as a consequence of the rapid growth in student numbers in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In 1975, a new and much more substantial University Union Plaza was erected. The former student union building was converted into offices for use by the university administration and referred to as the Chancelry Annex. The conversion included the subdivision of the larger spaces with light-weight partitions and single skin concrete block walls. Other various minor alterations were undertaken overtime yet today the original fabric largely remains intact.

The building was used by for variety of administrative functions including student administration, student recruitment and the International Education office. The building is currently vacant. The building was renamed the Pauline Griffin building in 2001 after Pauline Griffin who served as the University Pro-Chancellor from 1991 to 1998.
The building faces Ellery Crescent midway between University Avenue and the Chancelry Building (designed by Yuncken Freeman completed in three stages between 1964-1968). The main “front” of the building however faces away from the street and overlooks the Chifley Meadow in a north-western direction. The external circulation aligns with the pedestrian access thoroughfare across the Acton Campus to the CSIRO Building (1929) and Black Mountain beyond. Coinciding with the Pauline Griffin Building’s construction, Robin Boyd’s Zoology Building (1963-68) was built along this access providing a pedestrian promenade traversing Sullivans Creek.

The planning for building’s siting largely was dictated through the resolution between the pedestrian access (from the landscape / the inhabited side) and vehicular access (screened from the street). The building was planned to be extended via the north-eastern facade.

3.1 THE SITE

3.2 CONSTRUCTION

All of the building’s elevations contribute to a well resolved whole; the terraces, railings, expansive glazing and aluminium louvre awnings to the north east in contrast to the south east facade in which dark stained timber windows set up stark contrapuntal rhythms in the white bagged brickwork. Its construction is of reinforced concrete floors and columns, steel deck roof on timber and steel framing. Original internal flooring is parquetry or vinyl tiles; ceilings off-form concrete or sprayed acoustic plaster. The original configuration accommodated a cafeteria to seat 265, coffee rooms, dining room, kitchen, small offices and shops to facilitate various student services and activities.

The building was constructed for £138,470.
Sydney Ancher, by his own admission, was not greatly interested in articulating in words what his buildings were about, “deliberately rejecting rational justification of his work.” He preferred to let them speak for themselves. Ancher was unassuming and easy-going yet had a deft ability to apply observations and experiences into fresh architectural statements, and there is no finer work of his than his last major work, the Pauline Griffin Building. These design principles are based not only on an analysis of the building itself, but also the limited published commentary on his other works, and conversations with former colleagues and family.
While deeply influenced by the works of leading exponents of modern such as Le Corbusier and Mies van der Rohe, Ancher vigorously sought to avoid producing mere copies or literal interpretation of their works. Throughout his career, Ancher was committed to developing an Indigenous or Australian interpretation of modernism. Ancher was conscious of the impact of the Australian environment on buildings and the need to respond to climatic factors.

The more evident expression of the Indigenous character of Ancher’s work was his predilection for verandahs and pergolas, informal landscapes and bleached colour schemes.

His greatest compliment, of which can be presented to him in relation to the Pauline Griffin Building, is that his architecture was original for its time and place, “we have to consciously work for an indigenous content in our designs.”
4.3 RIGOROUS SIMPLICITY

Simplicity was a defining principle of modernism. It is a defining characteristic of the Pauline Griffin building, and Ancher applied it rigorously throughout all his projects - no fussiness, no unnecessary details or decoration. Robyn Boyd described Ancher's work as 'an unaffected, uncomplicated and undeviating search for simplicity'.

The simplicity is expressed in the building form. The main elevation presents as a clean rectangular form with a flat roof and the porte cochere is also a plain unadorned rectangular form.

The interior spaces are defined by their simplicity: the detailing of rooms, openings, windows, doors, stairs, hand-railings and colour scheme all are diligently and deliberately simplified. The planning is also rigorous in its simplicity defining a 'back' and a 'front'. The building's planning using the time honoured square plan throughout.

4.4 HORIZONTALITY

While not an indispensable component of modernism, some of the most noted and outstanding works of the style were buildings with an accented horizontal form. They include Le Corbusier’s the Villa Savoye (1929), and Mies van der Rohe’s Tugendhat House (1930). Horizontality was even more explicitly expressed in Mies van der Rohe’s American projects, Farnsworth House and Crown Hall.

Horizontality was a distinctive element of Ancher’s domestic work and also is a dominant element in the Pauline Griffin building. Horizontality is most clearly expressed in the north-west elevation, accentuated by the external metal screens, the hand-rails and seating on the perimeter of upper and lower terraces.
4.5 MATERIALS

The limited palette of materials is essential to the style in which Ancher applied his architecture. An absence of decoration and an underlying need for neutral functionalism was a mark of the style in which the Pauline Griffin building was developed. The materiality of the building seeks to provide depth to the facade, sharpness to the form and volume to the interiors. The open, fluid interior is punctured by a grid of Queensland Maple V-jointed columns stained mission brown. The only other colour afforded within the project was the tiled up-stand to the cafeteria servery (pictured right). The whites of the building change texture between ceiling, wall, balustrades, threshold or seat. The building presented to the exterior as a stark white bagged rendered finish planes, glass and mission brown aluminiumnings, handrails and timber frames.

4.6 CONNECTIVITY

The building ensures a language of connectivity between spaces, axes and levels. It demonstrates Ancher’s, and the modern movements, fascination with making interior and exterior spaces continuous. Connectivity between the interior spaces and exterior was a constant theme in his works, most clearly expressed in verandahs and pergolas. In addition, Ancher utilised slender frame structures to insert large floor to ceiling windows to maximise views to the outside. The principle axis on which the building has been sited aligns the campus wide circulation route with the building’s secondary, informal “rear” entry, raising the status of the exterior gathering spaces. The material and spatial transparency of the building represents the progressive cultural values of the era. The building’s internal spaces have a strong connection to the surrounding landscape to the north west, yet screened to the vehicular entry by through building programme and materiality.
A consistent theme in Ancher’s works was a simple, uncomplicated colour palette. The palette was influenced by the modernist preference for white and the bleached colours of the Australian landscape. With the Pauline Griffin building, white was the principal colour, contrasted by dark stained timber window and door framing. Similarly, with the interior white was the principal colour, contrasting with stained timber paneling on the columns, parquetry flooring, skirtings, window frames and hand railings. Externally, the white bagged render of the masonry planes were juxtaposed with dark mission brown horizontal window framing and sappings. Ancher believed that Australian architecture was strongly coloured by overseas influences and he set to consciously work for an indigenous content in his designs, an achievement realised and with which he was pleased with in his final professionally completed scheme.

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