

# SA Heritage Register

Submission form

South Australian  
HERITAGE COUNCIL

## South Australian Heritage Council

Submission on whether the entry of **Australian Education Union Building (Raggatt House; SAIT Building)** should be confirmed in the South Australian Heritage Register

A place is eligible for entry in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the criteria in Section 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993* (Act). Using the table below, please provide your evidence or further information to explain why you believe the place does or does not meet said criteria. For help in making a submission, please refer to the Guidelines for Interpreting State Heritage Criteria (**Attachment E**) and also available online: [Guidelines-for-Interpreting-State-Heritage-Criteria-Final-2024.pdf](#)

### Criteria

Criteria under the <i>Heritage Places Act 1993</i> , section 16(1)	Provide evidence or other information why you believe criteria applies or does not apply to this place
(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history	<p>While the Australian Education Union (AEU) has undeniably played a significant role in shaping South Australia's social and industrial history—particularly in advancing workers' rights—this significance lies in the people and the principles of unionism, not in the bricks and mortar of a building.</p> <p>Unions are made of people: their solidarity, ideas, debates, decisions, and activism. The current AEU building, while a long-serving base, is not the embodiment of that history. It is not the source of our influence or legacy.</p> <p>A robust and democratic consultation process has already taken place, with members at the centre of the decision to redevelop the site. The guiding question was: What is in the best interests of the union and its members? A heritage listing would override those democratic decisions, limiting our members' ability to shape the union's direction and manage its assets. In this way, heritage listing contradicts the very</p>

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	<p>ethos it claims to protect—it disempowers the collective voice of the membership and imposes an external judgment on what is significant.</p> <p>We acknowledge the building is an asset. But to continue contributing to the living history of South Australia, the union must retain the flexibility to use its assets in ways that align with our values, needs, and strategic goals. Heritage listing represents a constraint—one driven by those outside the union, who may cherish the building itself more than the purpose it serves.</p> <p>There are very real financial and functional implications. The building is no longer fit for purpose, and ongoing repair and maintenance costs represent poor financial stewardship. It has become a millstone, not a monument.</p> <p>Should heritage listing proceed, the union may be forced to vacate the premises. And if the union leaves, so too does the building's living significance. The legacy of the AEU resides not in the structure but in our people, our decisions, and the work we continue to do. We will take with us the artefacts that matter—artworks, banners, posters, furniture, and memorabilia—tangible reminders of our past that will continue to inspire our future.</p> <p>In short, preserving the building at the expense of the union's autonomy and function is a misstep. To protect our history, we must be allowed to evolve. Our future demands a space that serves a modern union—one that honours our past while enabling continued impact.</p>
<p>(b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance</p>	
<p>(c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history</p>	

<p>(d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance</p>	<p>I have been involved in the redevelopment process from the outset, and a vital part of this work has been consultation with Kauria people. We acknowledge that the AEU building stands on stolen Kauria land, and this recognition has shaped our approach.</p> <p>Our vision for the site is to create a place that honours its significance as Kauria land—one that is developed in genuine partnership with Kauria people. Redevelopment offers an opportunity to embed this recognition meaningfully into the future of the site, rather than preserving a structure that was not designed with this cultural acknowledgment in mind.</p>
<p>(e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics</p>	
<p>(f) it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it</p>	<p>The cultural and spiritual connection of those who occupy the AEU building lies not with the structure itself, but with the values and purpose of the organisation. Our connection to what we hold dear—solidarity, justice, equity—will remain, regardless of location.</p> <p>Similarly, the association with the life and work of those involved in the union is not tied to the physical building. The achievements of the AEU have come from the commitment, activism, and courage of its members—not from the place in which they happened to meet.</p>
<p>(g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance</p>	<p>While the Greenhill Road building has served as a central point, the work of the union extends far beyond its walls. It happens in school staffrooms, community halls, local pubs, and on the streets where we march. Unionism lives wherever members come together in pursuit of fairness and progress.</p> <p>As the world changes, so too must we. To remain effective, relevant, and representative, the union must have the freedom to evolve and respond to the needs of its members—unrestricted by a building that no longer reflects who we are or how we work.</p>

## Declaration

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The South Australian Heritage Council is committed to transparency in relation to the listing process and wishes to enhance public confidence in the nomination, listing and decision-making process. The Council's policy is to make nominations for State heritage listing and submissions on provisional entries publicly available via webpage or to interested parties. The Council will adhere to the Privacy Principles and your name and personal details will not be released.

I/~~We~~, \_\_\_\_\_

wish to make a written representation regarding the provisional entry of **Australian Education Union Building (Raggatt House; SAIT Building)**. The information I have provided is correct to my knowledge.

- I **support** the confirmation of this provisional entry.  
 I **do not support** the confirmation of this provisional entry.

I **do** / ~~I do not~~ wish to appear personally before the Council to make oral representations.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

30-5-2025

*Please attach any relevant documents and be aware that a heritage officer may contact you to discuss your submission.*

**Please provide your contact details here:**

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

This form must be received by 5pm on **4 June 2025**.

Please return completed submission form to the  
**Board and Policy Officer, South Australian Heritage Council**

Via email: **DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au**

Or via post: **GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001**