

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>The AEUSA/SAIT organisation has done a wealth of work to contribute to the state's history, however it is important to note that much of this work has been done in conversations with members, by getting out and about to school sites, and in the halls of parliament. The building itself housed some conversations, but not enough to warrant it being counted as historically valuable in this context when so much else took place external to the building.</p> <p>The work of the people in the building is what is significant to the state's history in this case. The growing importance for better education during the 1970s was not because of the building itself, but came from the members external to the building making a case for teachers to be viewed as professionals.</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>Some of the internal banners, which are removeable, contribute significantly to the state's history in that they are representations of campaigns hard fought for and won by members through their activism outside of the building itself, through representations to powerbrokers and marching on the streets in protests.</p> <p>It is my belief that nothing permanently fixed to the building or the building itself is actually congruent with the state's or the AEUSA's history; more so the stories, visual representations and documents which are housed on its walls and within the State Library's records.</p>
<p>(d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance</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>N/A – I cannot comment on this component as I am not an expert in the field. However, I can say that the building has been left by previous Branch Secretaries to run down to a poor state far beyond any feasible restoration and repair. It is not intact in its original condition, and its condition is poor. Considering this, I fail to see how this is an outstanding representation of certain design characteristics.</p>

<p>(f) it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it</p>	<p>Many comments about the building received from members attending events at the AEUSA revolve around how they expected the union to have more modern, pleasing, up-to-date facilities. Whilst members understand the reason behind why the union currently doesn't have such facilities, there is an expectation that the union will be able to better service members with facilities in the future. In saying that, it is clear that members do not have strong connections to the building itself.</p> <p>The union's values are about solidarity and lifting the conditions of those who need it most. The proposed plans for the current site of this building are in line with these values, as the proposed development includes elements of rental accommodation for those who need them the most – essential workers in one of our most affluent areas, which they otherwise may not be able to afford. We are currently in a housing crisis and this 'build-to-rent' scheme is beneficial for both the union's longevity and the needs of our state.</p> <p>Furthermore, the AEUSA has consulted with Kaurna people within the building planning, to ensure cultural significance for the Aboriginal land on which it is situated, and have worked together to plan the incorporation of local, endemic plant life to the area to ensure it maintains greenery which is suited to the conditions.</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>SAIT, or in its current form AEUSA, has not been isolated to this building alone. In fact, it has had other premises and many of its important meetings and decision-making incidents have been external to the building itself. The interior rooms have been permanently changed so extensively that it doesn't even accurately represent the rooms in which the supposed decisions took place.</p> <p>It would be expected that the vast majority of AEU members would not recall any of the important decisions made in the building, let alone which room they were made in.</p> <p>In fact, due to the disrepair mentioned above, it is more of a WHS hazard to the people inside the building than it is an asset of any significant historical value.</p> <p>The architect, Keith Neighbour, has several outstanding properties scattered throughout Adelaide which are much more highly maintained and original examples of his architecture and design. It could be argued that these are better suited to recognising any historical importance he and his designs had within South Australia.</p>

Declaration

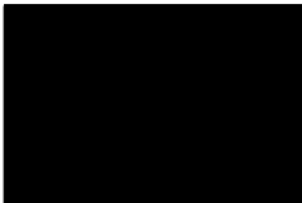
The South Australian Heritage Council is committed to transparency in relation to the listing process and wishes to enhance public confidence in the nomination, listing and decision-making process. The Council's policy is to make nominations for State heritage listing and submissions on provisional entries 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, [REDACTED] 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: 08/04/2025

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: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

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**