

## 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>Since its purpose built construction in 1970, Raggatt House has remained used for over well over fifty years by the South Australian Teachers Union. To this day it has relevance as the AEU (Australian Education Union) as their base. Small in scale, it is an icon to the union movement and its history.</p> <p>A recent precedent is the John Curtain Hotel opposite Trades Hall in Melbourne (1) which has been included on the Victorian State Heritage register for its social significance to the history of the union and labour movement in Australia.</p> <p>In addition, Raggatt House has historical design significance as an example of mid century Brutalist architecture by the Architectural firm Cheeseman, Doley, Brabham and Neighbour. One of the best and most design prolific South Australian practises of their era, they helped bring the international modernist architectural style to Adelaide (2). Buildings</p>

	<p>such as this, are our design history and its finest examples such as Raggatt House must be retained.</p> <p>(1) <a href="https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/208812/download-report">https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/208812/download-report</a></p> <p>(2) <a href="https://architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp">https://architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp</a></p>
(b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance	<p>The rare aspect of Raggatt House is the dual social historical significance to both the union movement and to the architecture profession in South Australia.</p> <p>A very similar precedent can be found, however, in Union House at Adelaide University, built in the same era in 1975, and like Raggatt House, the university student union has been housed in the same building since then.</p> <p>So as Union House is of high significance to the history of the student union movement, Raggatt House is to the teachers union movement here too. Union House has state heritage listing and has recently had an award winning refurbishment demonstrating how these well built and designed heritage buildings can be contemporary and functional.</p> <p>(3) And fortunately the design of Brutalist buildings with simple layouts and robust materiality are often perfectly suited to this.</p> <p>(3) <a href="https://www.architecture.com.au/archives/awards/union-house-the-university-of-adelaide">https://www.architecture.com.au/archives/awards/union-house-the-university-of-adelaide</a></p>
(c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history	<p>The union movement and its history is identified by its buildings, such as Trades Hall in Melbourne and Sydney, Trades Hall in Broken Hill (which as been granted World Heritage listing (4)). Their legacy is evidenced by the fact that all these examples and including Raggatt House are still used by their respective unions today.</p> <p>(4) <a href="https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-25/trades-halls-get-backing-or-unesco-world-heritage-listing/103016278">https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-25/trades-halls-get-backing-or-unesco-world-heritage-listing/103016278</a></p>
(d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance	Refer to e.

<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>Australia should acknowledge its modern architectural design heritage. This is a part of our contemporary culture as is art, music and sport. As this is expressed through built form, the only way to capture this is to retain and refurbish the buildings of high merit to protect them in the future.</p> <p>As mentioned, Raggatt House was designed by the award winning and renown Adelaide architect Keith Neighbour, working with his architectural practise Cheeseman, Doley, Brabham and Neighbour. Their influence and respect within the industry as past leaders remains, so much so that the South Australian Architecture Awards still have categories named after these architects specifically, the Keith Neighbour Commercial Heritage Award and the Jack Cheeseman Award. This demonstrates their enduring legacy to the Architectural profession in Australia. (5)</p> <p>The Raggatt House building itself is an elegant example of Brutalist architecture. It has significance not only due to it's union history or respected designer but also as a high quality and well designed representation of modernist architecture. Australia is starting to realise the significance of this world wide architectural movement from the 1970's with exemplar examples to be found in cities such as London with the National Theatre and Barbican Estate. Adelaide too has very fine examples from this era evidenced and documented by [REDACTED] a local and well respected architecture historian (6).</p> <p>(5) <a href="https://citymag.indaily.com.au/culture/adelaides-most-beautiful-new-architecture/">https://citymag.indaily.com.au/culture/adelaides-most-beautiful-new-architecture/</a></p> <p>(6) <a href="https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-26/adelaide-brutalist-architecture-celebrated-in-london/11240608">https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-26/adelaide-brutalist-architecture-celebrated-in-london/11240608</a></p>
<p>(f) it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it</p>	<p>Refer to e.</p>

(g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance	<p>Raggat House was designed and built purposely for use by the South Australian Institute of Teachers (SAIT). The building next door, Meaghey House (which has a local heritage listing) was named after Veta Macghey while Raggatt House was named after Tom Raggatt. Taken from the AEU website, 'Together they were co-founders of the SAIT. Veta was President of the Women Teachers' Guild of SA and foundation President of the Women's Branch of SAIT. Tom was President of the South Australian Public Teachers' Union and the first President of SAIT'. (7) It would be a pity not to retain these two buildings side by side, as namesakes of the two South Australian teachers union founders.</p> <p>(7) <a href="https://www.aeusa.asn.au/Web/AEU_Journal/October_2021/09-Property.aspx">https://www.aeusa.asn.au/Web/AEU_Journal/October_2021/09-Property.aspx</a></p>
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## 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/ [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** wish to appear personally before the Council to make oral representations.

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



Date: 2.6.25

*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**