

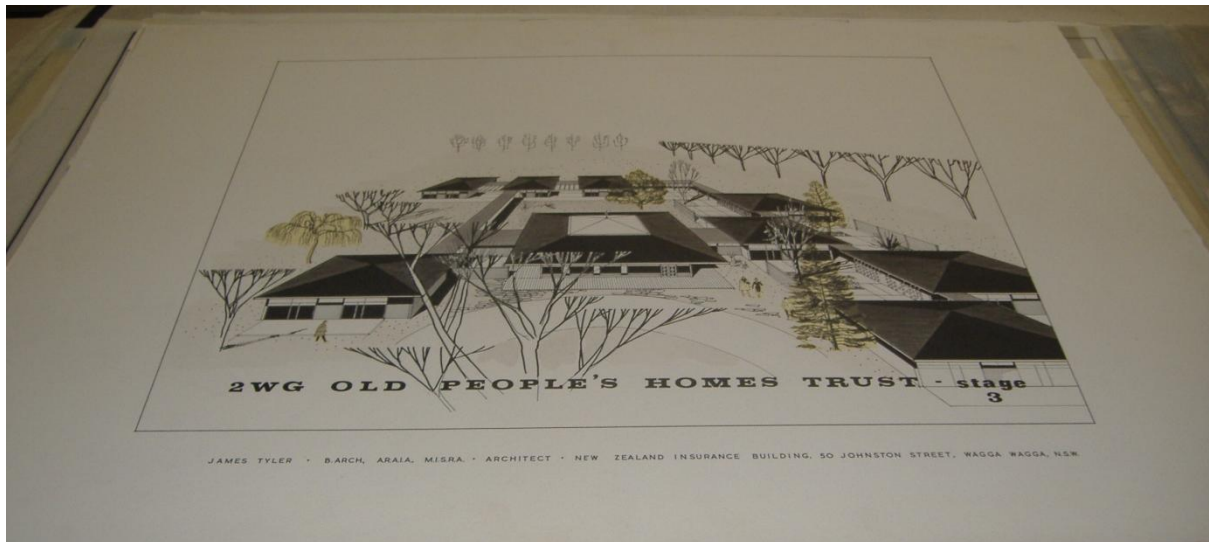
RW2064: James Victor Tyler, Architectural Drawings

Charles Sturt University Regional Archives

Summer Scholarship Report

2010-2011

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Introduction

My second project for the 2010-2011 CSURA Summer Scholarship was to determine original order and appropriate arrangement & description for the Tyler architectural drawings. James Victor Tyler was a partner of Tyler, Sutton & Perey Architects, Wagga Wagga. The collection, RW2064, was accessioned on January 5, 2001, after which the files were listed in chronological order. The numerous architectural drawings, which include projects such as the 2WG Old People's Home (The Haven) and the Southern Riverina County Council along with numerous private residences and small business, were not listed.

Arrangement & Description

Arrangement alphabetically "by building project, and, within the project, by type of drawing ... and by chronologically assigned number" is recommended, designating a series for each project "arranged according to the existing project/drawing type/chronological-numerical scheme"¹. This publication explains that architectural drawings are highly organised, usually with an easily discernable numbering system and that this system should be used to determine original order and arrangement. Clearly, each building project constitutes a series and includes all drawings, contracts and associated records for that building project. Due to time constraints and 'mountain' of drawings to organise (1026 in total) it was not possible to integrate the files which had previously been arranged in chronological order. Eventually it was decided to arrange the drawings which constituted 151 items for 106 projects, into two series: 'Architectural Drawings: Wagga Wagga & Suburbs' and 'Architectural Drawings: Other NSW Locations'. Within these series the items were listed alphabetically by location (or client when location is unknown) and then chronologically where more than one item existed for a project.

Order the sheets so that all drawings for each project were identified took about 11 days to complete. This was achieved by utilising the original numbering system and sorting the sheets into progressively refined piles until 151 separate items were identified. A few anomalies were discovered along the way.



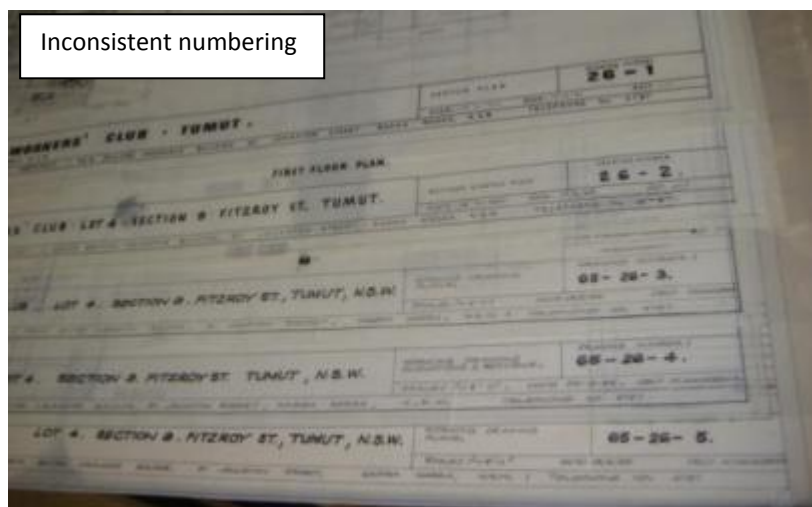
The piling system used to sort drawings.

¹ International Council on Archives. (2000) *A Guide to the Archival Care of Architectural Records: 19th-20th Centuries* (<http://www.wien2004.ica.org/sites/default/files/ArchitectureEN.pdf>) pp.65-66.

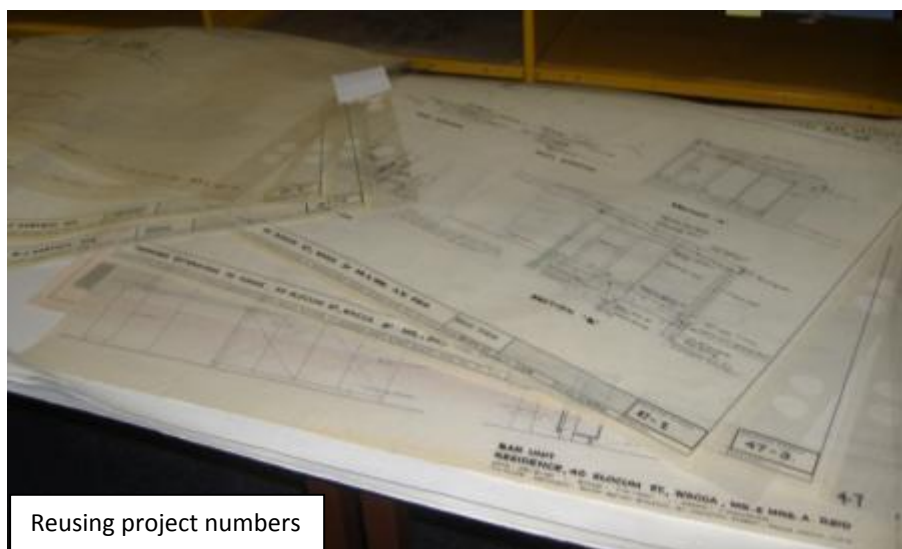
James Victor Tyler Architectural Drawings

The numbering system used was not always consistent however I was eventually able to determine that James Victor Tyler (JVC) frequently omitted the first number from a system which usually contained a set of three numbers. He also had a habit of not dating every sheet which added to the confusion. Other draftsmen used a numbering system containing three sets of numbers; Year# / Project # / Sheet #, with the first number referring to the year the project began.

The drawings for the International Workers Club, Tumut, begin with the number 26 (project number) when drawn by JVT or 65 (year the project began) followed by 26, when drawn by M. Nankervis. The date range for these drawings is 18 April 1965 – 28 June 1965.



On another occasion the same project number was used for two completely different projects. The lead number (project number) 47 was used on three drawings of proposed extensions to an existing residence at No. 40 Slocum Street for Mr & Mrs AW Reid. The same numbers were used on four drawings of proposed extensions to an existing residence on Lake Albert Road for BJ Hartwig Esq.



Preservation

The first and most obvious preservation issues discovered were problems associated with adhesives used to attach rendering patches. In some instances the adhesive had dried up (or perhaps not originally been applied correctly) so that the rendering patches had begun to peel off. More commonly the adhesive has begun to bleed (or perhaps been over zealously applied) so that the sheets now stick together to such a degree that separation can cause damage such as tearing or further dislodgement of rendering patches.

Some time was spent attempting to determine the composition of the sheet materials. This proved rather difficult as many written descriptions were inadequate or confusing. The description which seemed most appropriate, “high-quality translucent paper (sometimes known as paper vellum)”, did not really fit in with the date range for these drawings as it was referred to as becoming “increasingly available for reproducible drawings” after the 1970s². After several email enquiries with conservators the conclusion seems to be that a conservator would need to examine the materials to accurately determine the material composition and that of the media and adhesives involved before determining what conservation actions are necessary and which adhesives would be most appropriate for reattaching the rendering patches. It does seem likely that encapsulation in mylar will be a suitable solution for preventing sheets from sticking to each other. From digital images, conservators ascertained that the materials are probably acetate based, possibly described as a “vellum paper, which is a paper made of cloth fibers [sic] coated with cellulose acetate resin, a semi-synthetic plastic material”³.



Render patches adhered to architectural drawing



Probably original drawing (left) & diazo copy (right)

² International Council on Archives. (2000) *A Guide to the Archival Care of Architectural Records: 19th-20th Centuries* (<http://www.wien2004.ica.org/sites/default/files/ArchitectureEN.pdf>) p 34.

³ Ibid. p. 100



Conclusion

The architectural drawings have all been identified and listed, ensuring that the collection is now accessible to researchers. Time did not permit preservation activities such as staple and adhesive tape removal to be undertaken. Preservation and conservation requirements were listed during the arrangement & description process, but further investigation is required before any decisions are made as to the most appropriate conservation measures. It may be necessary for a conservator to analyse the materials, media and adhesives to determine the most suitable conservation treatments.

Statistics

- 106 Projects comprising 151 items
 - 65 projects for Wagga Wagga, comprising 106 items
 - 41 projects for Other NSW Locations, comprising 45 items
- 1026 sheets
 - 108 sheets for 2WG Old Peoples Home (The Haven)
 - 47 sheets for Dept Main Roads
 - 151 sheets for Southern Riverina County Council
- 202 sheets may require some level of conservation treatment
- 5 Map Draws
 - 39 items
 - 247 sheets - paper, including concept boards, & 1 sheet of coated paper, probably acetate based (vellum paper).
- Vertiplan Cabinet
 - 111 items
 - 775 sheets - predominantly coated paper, probably acetate based (vellum paper), & tracing paper (probably < 10%), all with hanging strips.