

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R013

Name of Place: Alt Crescent Buildings and Precinct

Other/Former Names:

Address/Location: Alt Crescent AINSLIE 2602

Block 1, 4-8, 11 Section 14, 17 of Ainslie (2)

Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:	1984	Level of Significance:	Local
Citation Revision No:		Category:	Residential
Citation Revision Date:	August 1989	Style:	Mediterranean

Date of Design:		Designer:	Federal Capital Commission
Construction Period:	1926	Client/Owner/Lessee:	
Date of Additions:		Builder:	

Statement of Significance

Alt Crescent, Ainslie is significant as one of the early housing precincts in Canberra which reflects the principles of garden city planning. The symmetrical layout of the houses, choice of housing types, and the use of Roman Cypresses as vertical elements in the architectural composition, add to its importance as a landmark and key example of Canberra's early urban planning. The precinct includes good examples of Federal Capital Architecture, with the centre house being the only known example of an FCC Type 5 house, probably selected for its strict symmetry.

Description

Alt Crescent is lined by standard Federal Capital Commission designed houses facing the centre of the crescent. The crescent is lined on both sides by Roman Cypresses, which were used often in early Federal Capital planning schemes. The three housing types are symmetrically laid out on each side of the central FCC Type 5 and are mirror reversed. The central house, the only known example of FCC Type 5 design, was apparently selected for its symmetrical facade, and adds to the formal characteristics of the crescent's design. It is an unusual design with a higher central portion and smaller wings on either side with flat roofs and parapets to the facade, and arched windows and doors in the central portion. The first five houses were built in 1926 by day labour, and the remaining two houses were built in the mid 1930's under the Department of Interior. The houses are all of rendered brick construction, with red terracotta tile roofs.

Condition and Integrity

The houses, planting, open space and street layout are generally in good condition, with one house altered unsympathetically.

Background/History

Analysis against the Criteria specified in Schedule 2 of the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991

(i) a place which demonstrates a high degree of technical and/or creative achievement, by showing qualities of innovation or departure or representing a new achievement of its time

(ii) a place which exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group

(iii) a place which demonstrates a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function which is no longer practised, is in danger or being lost, or is of exceptional interest

(iv) a place which is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations

(v) a place which is the only known or only comparatively intact example of its type

(vi) a place which is a notable example of a class of natural or cultural places or landscapes and which demonstrates the principal characteristics of that class

(vii) a place which has strong or special associations with person, group, event, development or cultural phase which played a significant part in local or national history

(xi) a place which demonstrates a likelihood of providing information which will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality or benchmark site

References

Other Information Sources