

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R025

Name of Place: Fenner House

Other/Former Names:

Address/Location: 1 Torres Street RED HILL 2603
Block 1 Section 2 (3) of Red Hill

Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:	May 1985	Level of Significance:	Regional
Citation Revision No:	5	Category:	Residential
Citation Revision Date:	May 1985	Style:	Melbourne Regional

Date of Design:		Designer:	Robin Boyd
Construction Period:		Client/Owner/Lessee:	Professor & Mrs Fenner
Date of Additions:	1953	Builder:	

Statement of Significance

Simple, bold, well-planned and designed to appropriately integrate the building with the corner site. High consistency in design details exemplifying the style emerging at the time. The plan form was novel in the Canberra context at that time and exhibits a unique and advanced design. A significant work of Robin Boyd, a prominent Australian architect, representative of the Victorian Small Houses Bureau Era and typical of the post-war Victorian Modern style; simple materials, large areas of glazing and vertical boarding, low-pitched metal roofs and raked ceilings. Design reflects the close ties of early Canberra inhabitants to Melbourne and to Melbourne architectural fashion (via Victorian Small Houses Bureau).

Description

The house is set well back diagonally on a corner block. Two off-set parallel wings, oriented N.NE are linked by an enclosed entry. The building is of simple masonry construction, with large areas of glazing in full height narrow timber frames. The roof is a low pitched "skillion" style gable, with internally raked ceilings. Now divided into two residences, the house originally provided two living zones.

Condition and Integrity

Good. Integrity reduced as now two residences. Carport addition and large area of paving added to Torres Street. Colours: original "celadon" green under windows.

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