

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R037

Name of Place: Manuka Housing Precinct

Other/Former Names:

Address/Location: Area bounded by Bougainville Street, Flinders Way, Murray Crescent & Furneaux Street GRIFFITH 2603

Block 1-39 Section 2 of Griffith

Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:	1984	Level of Significance:	Local
Citation Revision No:	1	Category:	Residential
Citation Revision Date:	December 1989	Style:	Mediterranean

Date of Design:	1929	Designer:	R Casboulte, FCC then Dept. Interior
Construction Period:	1930	Client/Owner/Lessee:	Department of Interior
Date of Additions:		Builder:	

Statement of Significance

The Manuka Housing Precinct is an early development of government two storey semi-detached low cost housing in the Federal Capital. The group is one of the best examples of its type in Canberra, and the unified architectural elements of the house designs and their siting help to form a cohesive group of buildings. Historically and socially important, the housing was a major low cost housing development at the height of the Depression and created an uproar at the time as the two-storey development was considered a departure from the garden city concept. The houses are a good example of Federal Capital architecture, and the planning is a part of the fabric of the Manuka area.

Description

The Manuka Urban Conservation area is a group of 36 two storey semi-detached houses designed originally as low cost housing. The houses are sited adjacent to the Manuka shopping centre on gently curving rows which radiate from Manuka Circle, with a central axial walkway. There are 4 house types, 3 types contain 2 flats with 2 or 3 bedrooms, and one type with 3 one-bedroom flats on the corner blocks. The houses form an homogenous group using similar materials, with uniformity of scale and style, while differing slightly in plan and elevation. The houses porches, blind arches, decorative brickwork and cast-iron balconies. These buildings form part of the group of FCC buildings in the Manuka/Kingston area. They became a planning precedent for subsequent low cost housing sited adjacent to shopping centres. The houses were designed to provide accommodation for public servants living in temporary accommodation. The proposal to build these houses caused an uproar at the time as they were seen as a complete departure from the garden city concept.

Condition and Integrity

The buildings are in good condition, and have mostly been altered or extended sympathetically, with some exceptions.

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