

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R099

Name of Place: The Pines

Other/Former Names:

Address/Location: 21 Furneaux Street FORREST 2603

Block 7 Section 23 of Forrest

Listing Status:		Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:		Level of Significance:	
Citation Revision No:		Category:	
Citation Revision Date:	1995	Style:	Inter-War
Spanish Mission			

Date of Design:	1929	Designer:	Kenneth Oliphant
Construction Period:	1930	Client/Owner/Lessee:	
Date of Additions:		Builder:	

Statement of Significance

The 'Pines', at 21 Furneaux Street Manuka, is an example of significant architecture and is potentially an urban design and educational resource. It was built at the time when the Inter-War Spanish Mission Style (1915-1940) was a new architectural style in Australia. The design incorporates features which are peculiar to the style including Spanish (cordova) roof tiles, grouped arch openings, twisted columns and ornamental metalwork.

The architecture of this building may contribute to the education of designers and planners in their understanding of inter-war architectural styles.

Its architecture contributes to the urban form of Manuka which features a number of other buildings in the same or similar styles.

Description

The four bedroom house including a surgery, was designed by Kenneth Oliphant for Dr Rolland Fraser in 1929 and construction was completed in 1930¹. The building is an example of the Inter-War Spanish Mission Style (1915-1940) with its grouped arched windows, twisted columns, ornamental wrought iron and half round roof tiles².

The near symmetrical faceted siting of the building around the corner of Furneaux and Bougainville Streets, reminiscent of the much larger Sydney and Melbourne Buildings in Civic designed in 1927, forms an important corner element in the urban form by reinforcing the turning of the street corner.

It is an 'L' plan two storey building with a prostyle main entry portico placed at the central bevelled corner of the house. The surgery is located on Furneaux Street with its own separate entry and is adjacent to the rear accessed garage. There is a waiting room associated with the surgery.

The entry to the residence opens directly into the central 'L' shaped living room off the portico at the ground level. The plaster ceiling has stained exposed beams and the walls are painted roughcast plaster. Opposite the entry and located in the centre of the facet of the rear facade is a large arched window that allows a view out into the rear garden. To the left of the entry in the south west wall is a central fire place with a projecting angle hood.

The dining room is up a step to the north through an arched loggia set at the base of the stairwell to the upper level. The kitchen is at the northern end with the laundry and store room to its rear.

The well designed staircase, with masonry balustrade, curved mid-landing and full height arched glazing leads to the upper level which consists of three original bedrooms and a bathroom. The ceiling follows the angle of the roof pitch at the sides and is flat in the centre. The main bedroom, located over the living room, has glazed double doors which open onto the balcony over the entry. Originally, the upper level at both ends had large roof terraces, to the south over the garage and to the north over the kitchen. The latter was enclosed with a flat roof extension in 1963 by the second owner, Dr Fitzhardinge, to provide a large bedroom and an additional toilet and shower room³.

The house is constructed of rendered cavity brickwork with timber roof framing. The upper level hall internal wall is stud framed and the floor is timber framed.

The major architectural elements that are peculiar to the Inter-War Spanish Mission Style (1915-1940) and that are displayed by this building relate to the external forms⁴. They are:

- Spanish roof tiles (the roof tiles are cordova terracotta roof tiles),
- grouped arched openings,
- ornamental metalwork,
- twisted columns.

Other architectural elements of this style displayed by the building that relate to the external forms are:

- tile capping,
- stucco finished walls up to the underside of roof tiles,
- medium pitched roof,
- shaped corbel,
- balcony.

The external wall treatment is white painted light textured stucco. In this style of architecture it is more common that stucco with an exaggerated texture is applied to the walls, however there are notable examples of this style in Australia that have a light texture stucco finish⁵. The roof has exposed rafter ends which is associated more with the Inter-War Mediterranean Style (1915-1940)⁶.

The major elements listed above place this building in the Inter-War Spanish Mission Style (1915-1940).

Condition and Integrity

There are architectural elements that are important to the building's integrity which are not necessarily common features of the Inter-War Spanish Mission Style: internally the curved stair is an architectural form which is expressed as a cubic projection on the north east facade and is well lit by a tall arched window. The stair and internal loggia combine as a strong transitional element dividing the living room from the raised dining level, externally the large rendered sills provide a solid base to the windows, sometimes at ground level forming planter shelves surrounded by ornamental metalwork, that allow the play of shadows across the wall surfaces and the leadlight small paned glazing.

The house has not been well maintained.

The garden is divided into two areas, the street frontages and the rear, which includes a terrace area within the "L" form of the plan.

Background/History

The residence was one of the first large private residences, that included a surgery, built in Manuka. Dr Fraser's dental surgery was an important facility for the Manuka community at a time when the Manuka shopping centre was becoming established⁷.

The design of the residence and surgery in the Inter-War Spanish Mission Style (1915-1940) represented a new architectural style in Australia at that time. It was a popular domestic style from the 1920's onward in California and Florida, USA, where it originated. The notable Australian examples built in the style date from the mid 1920's to the mid 1930's⁸. The 'Pines' was designed in 1929 making it a new achievement of its time.

Manuka's overall urban form is dominated by Mediterranean architectural styles. The Spanish Romanesque Style of St Christopher's Roman Catholic Cathedral (1935), St Christopher's School (1928) which is recognised as an example of the Inter-War Spanish Mission Style and the Manuka Housing Precinct (1929) in the more restrained Inter-War Mediterranean Style (1915-1940) are all enhanced by the Spanish Mission Style of the 'Pines' residence and surgery.

The street facade of St Christopher's School shows few of the style's indicators whereas the 'Pines' is a good example of the style exhibiting most of the main style indicators. The Inter-War Mediterranean Style of the Manuka Housing Precinct is more common in Canberra than the similar more decorative Inter-War Spanish Mission Style.

The streetscape is reinforced by the 'Pines' faceted turning of the corner, similar to the Melbourne and Sydney Buildings in Civic (part built 1927), and the buildings all being located within a block of the 'Pines' and facing Furneaux Street.

Kenneth Oliphant, 1896-1975,⁹ is recognised locally as an important architect in the development of private residential architecture in the early years of the development of Canberra, especially in the inner south. He was a Melbourne architect who moved to Canberra in 1926¹⁰ to supervise the construction of twenty six houses that are in what is now the Forrest Urban Conservation Area, designed by Oakley and Parkes. He remained in Canberra to establish his own practice.

In some of his work, and in particular in this residence, Oliphant demonstrated that he was able to incorporate new styles of architecture as well as enhance the urban form. He was later to design a number of buildings in the Inter-War Functionalist Style (1915-1940)¹¹.

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

The design of the residence and surgery in 1929 in the Inter War Spanish Mission Style (1915-1940) represented a new architectural style in Australia at that time. The notable Australian examples built in the style date from the mid 1920's to the mid 1930's.

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

The 'Pines' exhibits the particular architectural elements peculiar to the Spanish Mission Style including Spanish (cordova) roof tiles, grouped openings, twisted columns and ornamental metalwork.

The shaped corbel to openings, tile capping, stucco wall finish, balcony, leadlight glazing, the internal loggia and stairwell are design features that are of additional significance.

The building is valued by the RAIAs as a very good example of this style of architecture.

(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

Through its architectural style and urban form this building may be a valuable educational resource for designers and planners. Its external architecture is characteristic of the Inter-War Spanish Mission Style (1915-1940).

Its location opposite the manuka Housing Precinct and within a block of St Christopher's Cathedral and School enhances the urban form of Manuka. Its siting on the corner reinforces the streetscape.

References

- 1 Department of the Environment, Land and Planning (DELP). Building File for Block 7 Section 23 Forrest.
- 2 Richard Apperly Robert Irving Peter Reynolds. Identifying Australian Architecture Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present. Angus and Robertson 1989.
- 3 DELP opcit.
- 4 Richard Apperly Robert Irving Peter Reynolds opcit.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Conversation with Mrs Fitzhardinge, second owner of the house and wife of Dr Fitzhardinge.
- 8 Richard Apperly Robert Irving Peter Reynolds opcit.
- 9 Conversation with Rev D Oliphant, son of Kenneth Oliphant,
- 10 Canberra Times Newspaper. Article by Frank Longhurst, December 1984.
- 11 Examples of this can be seen in a house at 24 Arthur Circle, Forrest (1939) and the Dairy Farmers (Co-op) Dairy Mildura Street, Griffith (1946). Other houses were in Griffith at 13 Evans Crescent, now extensively altered, and on the corner of Evans Crescent and Hann Street now demolished.

Other Information Sources