

NOMINATION TO THE ACT HERITAGE REGISTER

Please note that the information below represents indicative heritage values only, and not the views of the ACT Heritage Council (the Council).

This nomination is yet to be assessed by the Council against the heritage significance criteria established under the Heritage Act 2004.

Acceptance of a nomination is a preliminary, threshold step and ought not to be taken as indicative of any particular outcome concerning the Council's assessment of the nomination.

Block 1 Section 54 MITCHELL Norwood Park Crematorium MITCHELL

The Norwood Park Crematorium, completed in 1966, is the only building of its type in Canberra, and demonstrates a high degree of technical and creative achievement by successfully providing a facility for funeral services, as well as the purely industrial operation of cremation, in an appropriately-landscaped garden setting. It is also rare for being a comparatively intact Post-War International style building of considerable architectural significance. The crematorium's chapel has an exceptionally fine level of application of the sleek, transparent architecture pioneered by European modernists. The interior achieves a sense of lightness and a strong relationship with the exterior, due to the fully glazed walls and the roof which appears to hover over the building. The space around the chapel is well defined by solid blade walls, and water is used to good effect in the courtyards. The building is a notable example of the Post-War International style of architecture, although it was completed at the end of its style period. It demonstrates the style's broad characteristics of sleek, glossy, prismatic forms with uninterrupted surfaces, plus precision, sharpness and transparency. It has landscaping as the only decorative foil, which is typical of the style. It was awarded the Canberra Medallion, for "the best designed structure other than a house", in 1968 by the ACT Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and in 1997 it was awarded a 25-Year Award, for sustained architectural excellence.