

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 4 Section 11 FORREST Forrest Townhouses

The Forrest Townhouses are an example of the early moves towards the introduction of modern architectural styles to Canberra. The housing group is a relatively rare and well-preserved example of early 1960's housing. The street corner setting and spacious park combine with the architecture to produce a place of integrity, illustrative of modern architecture.

The Forrest Townhouses are the only example of medium density housing in Canberra designed by Sir Roy Grounds, one of Australia's noted architects. They demonstrate an architectural theme of modern architecture with variations in the planning where the open planned double height living spaces create a three-dimensional play of space. This is combined with walled courtyards opening off fully glazed living spaces; a planning approach specifically devised to provide privacy and facilitate passive climate control in an urban context. This approach was innovative at that time in Australia.

The townhouses exhibit creative and artistic excellence as an entity possessing an architectural theme of modern architecture in the Post-War Melbourne Regional style. The townhouses are aesthetically significant for the elegantly composed simple shapes juxtaposed with fine detailing, all expressed in the textural and tactile qualities of natural materials.

The housing represents the ideal of innovative modern architecture and planning; clean, functional, uncluttered and well sited. As a design in the Post-War Melbourne Regional style of architecture it has special interest in being one of the earliest in Canberra of this modern ideal by one of Australia's most important architects.

The place has been acknowledged for many years as a distinctive example of architecture by professional bodies and has been included in an exhibition about significant architecture. It continues to fulfil its original purpose and its planning remains innovative and sound.