

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 30 Section 47 WATSON McKeown House, 109 Irvine Street, WATSON

The 1965 McKeown house at 109 Irvine Street, Watson, is an exceptional creative achievement by Enrico Taglietti, having a sculptural form based on his new geometry for architecture, to create a work of art.

The aesthetic quality of the house is remarkable, due to the elegant splayed angles of the white walls and jewel like corner windows, under a sheltering flat roof with long horizontal timber fascias. The house is of architectural significance as a good example of the Late Twentieth-Century Organic style (1960-), as interpreted by Taglietti, which displays key indicators of the style – free asymmetrical massing, complex angular geometry complementing nature and clearly expressed timber structure. The splayed corner windows and the roof design, with rainwater falling to a central gutter and spilling out as a garden feature, were quite innovative.

The high aesthetic quality of the 1995 addition matches that of the 1965 house. It has vertical massing which contrasts with the horizontal proportions of the earlier house, and the two buildings combine well visually. The 1995 addition is significant as a compact example of a more mature Taglietti design, in which the exterior massing reflects the internal arrangement of space to flow vertically as well as horizontally. The difficult problem of designing this unusual building was solved most successfully. The addition is of architectural significance as a good example of Taglietti's interpretation of the Late Twentieth-Century Organic style, which displays key indicators of the style – free asymmetrical massing, complex angular geometry complementing nature.

The 1965 house and its 1995 addition are important for their strong associations with Enrico Taglietti, who played a significant role in Canberra's cultural history as one of the most important architects to practice in the city. They are of exceptional interest for the opportunity they presents to demonstrate how his domestic architecture developed over thirty years.