

Australian Capital Territory

Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of 24 Canberra Avenue, Forrest) Notice 2012

Notifiable Instrument NI 2012—376

made under the

***Heritage Act 2004* s34 Notice of decision about Provisional Registration**

1. Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of 24 Canberra Avenue, Forrest) Notice 2012*.

2. Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after notification.

3. Notice of Decision

Pursuant to Section 32 of the *Heritage Act 2004* the ACT Heritage Council has decided not to provisionally register 24 Canberra Avenue, Forrest to the ACT Heritage Register.

Jennifer O'Connell
A/g Secretary
ACT Heritage Council

19 July 2012



ACT Heritage Council

STATEMENT OF REASONS

DECISION NOT TO PROVISIONALLY REGISTER 24 CANBERRA AVENUE, FORREST

(Block 4 Section 27, Forrest)

IN THE ACT HERITAGE REGISTER

Summary

24 Canberra Avenue, Forrest was nominated by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (ACT Chapter) in 2002 as an example of the Late Twentieth Century International Style 1960 -. Insufficient information has been provided to the Heritage Council to allow a detailed assessment of the place against the heritage significance criteria at s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

Further, the nominator has subsequently requested that the nomination for the place be withdrawn.

This Statement of Reasons finds that the place does not meet any of the criteria of the *Heritage Act 2004* as there is insufficient evidence to enable a detailed assessment of the place.

Background

In 2002 the Royal Australian Institute of Architects nominated 24 Canberra Avenue, Forrest to the ACT Heritage Places Register. A preliminary assessment of the place was made which indicated the further research was required. The nomination was accepted by the ACT Heritage Council, with the understanding that further information would be provided in relation to the place by the nominator.

No further information has been provided by the nominator to date. In early 2012 the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA), ACT Chapter advised the ACT Heritage Council that it wished to withdraw its nomination for the place.

There is insufficient evidence before the Council to fulfil the assessment criteria specified in s. 10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

At Meeting 48 on 19 July 2012 the Council decided the place was not eligible for provisional registration and this is reflected in the following Statement of Reasons.

Assessment

In assessing the nomination for 24 Canberra Avenue, Forrest the Council considered:

- The material identified under **References** below
- Site inspection of June 2012

The Council's assessment against the criteria specified in s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004* is as follows.

Criterion (a) *it demonstrates a high degree of technical or creative achievement (or both), by showing qualities of innovation, discovery, invention or an exceptionally fine level of application of existing techniques or approaches*

Heritage Council assessment:

24 Canberra Avenue does not meet this criterion.

Criterion (b) *it exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group*

RAIA assessment:

The house is a good example of the Late Twentieth-Century International Style 1960 - with its cubiform overall shape, structural frame expressed, large sheets of glass and plain smooth wall surfaces Post War International style, and one of the only three known examples of Rudy Krastins private residence designs in the Canberra region (this one, and two side-by-side in Hobbs Street, Turner). An archetypal example of this innovative style which has remained largely unmodified and intact.

Heritage Council assessment:

The nominator's claims against this criterion do not address this criterion. Insufficient evidence has been provided to the Council in relation to either the design or aesthetic qualities of the place. Further, there is no evidence to suggest that 24 Canberra Avenue, Forrest is valued by the community or a cultural group for its design or aesthetic qualities.

24 Canberra Avenue does not meet this criterion on the available evidence.

Criterion (c) *it is important as evidence of a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function that is no longer practiced, is in danger of being lost or is of exceptional interest*

Criterion (d) *it is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations*

Criterion (e) *it is significant to the ACT because of its importance as part of local Aboriginal tradition*

Criterion (f) *it is a rare or unique example of its kind, or is rare or unique in its comparative intactness*

Heritage Council assessment:

24 Canberra Avenue does not meet criterion (c) (d) (e) or (f).

Criterion (g) *it is a notable example of a kind of place or objects and demonstrates the main characteristics of that kind.*

Heritage Council assessment:

The Council acknowledges that 24 Canberra Avenue is an example of the Late Twentieth-Century International Style 1960 - however has not been provided with sufficient evidence to establish the place as a notable example of the style as required by this criterion.

24 Canberra Avenue does not meet this criterion on the available evidence.

Criterion (h) *it has strong or special associations with a person, group, event, development or cultural phase in local or national history*

RAIA Assessment:

This place is significant as one of the early works of Rudy Krastins and is important to Canberra as one of a small number of residences that were designed by local architects in the Late Twentieth-Century International Style 1960.

Heritage Council assessment:

Whilst the Council acknowledges the house as the work of Rudy Krastins, it has not been provided with sufficient evidence to establish that the nature of the association of the place with Krastins.

24 Canberra Avenue does not meet this criterion on the available evidence.

Criterion (i) *it is significant for understanding the evolution of natural landscapes, including significant geological features, landforms, biota or natural processes*

Criterion (j) *it has provided, or is likely to provide, information that will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of the natural or cultural history of the ACT because of its use or potential use as a research site or objects, teaching site or objects, type locality or benchmark site*

Criterion (k) *for a place—it exhibits unusual richness, diversity or significant transitions of flora, fauna or natural landscapes and their elements*

Criterion (l) *for a place—it is a significant ecological community, habitat or locality for any of the following:*

- (i) the life cycle of native species;*
- (ii) rare, threatened or uncommon species;*
- (iii) species at the limits of their natural range;*
- (iv) distinct occurrences of species*

Heritage Council assessment:

24 Canberra Avenue does not meet criterion (i) (j) (k) or (l).

History

The Council has been provided with limited information about the building's architect Rudy (Rudolf) Krastins. It is understood that Krastins was born November 8th, 1921. He studied at Riga University in Latvia in about 1939-40, but did not finish due to the Nazi invasion. Krastin made his way to England and eventually to Canberra and worked with the Department of Works around 1952. He was qualified as an architect in 1960, and commenced his own architectural practice in the early 1960s.

Little information has been provided to the Council about the place itself. The nomination notes, "The place is significant as one of the early works of Rudy Krastins and is important to Canberra as one of a small number of residences that were design (sic) by local architects in the work Late Twentieth-Century International Style 1960." However, there is no further information about the history of 24 Canberra Avenue, or its architectural or historic significance relative to other residences designed by the same architect.

Description

The nomination describes the house as "an example of Late Twentieth-Century International Style 1960 - with its overall cubiform shape, structural frame expressed, large sheets of glass and plain smooth wall surfaces".

The house is set back from the street, located centrally from the side boundaries of the block, facing north northeast. The two storey building has a low pitched 'skillion' style gale roof and is surrounded by a well established garden.

Physical condition and integrity

In 2002 the nomination noted that "there has been little change to the exterior of the building. Internal inspection of the building has been limited because of the present use." The nomination continues, "The internal examination was restricted to the porch and grounds. Externally, the building has been well maintained with what would appear to be few changes to the original design. The exterior has been painted white throughout, with sky blue detailing."

In June 2012 the property appears to be well maintained, with the external appearance well presented and neat. Internal inspection of the building was restricted due to current use as a private residence.



24 Canberra Avenue, June 2012, Source: ACT Heritage Unit



24 Canberra Avenue, June 2012, Source: ACT Heritage Unit

References

ACT Heritage Files 02/7273

Irving, R et al (1989), *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture*, Angus & Robertson, Sydney

Conclusion

Whilst 24 Canberra Avenue, Forrest is considered to be an example of the Late Twentieth Century International Style 1960 - , there is insufficient information available to the Council to enable a more detailed assessment of the heritage values of the place.

Further, the nominator has requested that the nomination for the property be withdrawn.

This Statement of Reasons provides an assessment of the place and finds that it does not meet any of the significance criteria of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

Jennifer O’Connell
A/g Secretary
ACT Heritage Council

19 July 2012