

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.

Evans House
Block 8 Section 18 COOK
62 Skinner Street COOK

The Evans House demonstrates a high degree of creative achievement by showing qualities of innovative architectural design. The architect took advantage of the steep slope up from the street to skilfully choreograph the experience of arrival at the house. The discretely set-back front door is approached up the driveway and across a screened terrace. A staircase from the garage to the entrance hall was provided for the family. The heart of the house - the kitchen and family room - is located beside the entrance and a walled garden court is provided conveniently to its east. From the family room space flows up into the living/dining space, out to the verandah, then from the living room up onto the roof-top terrace.

Space also flows from the entrance up to the bedrooms. The form of the house is moulded and its fenestration is arranged in ways that has given it considerable character. The dominant two-storey portion of the house, comprised of the living/dining space and its verandah over the double garage, is placed centrally to the front of the block. The bedrooms, in a long pavilion across the rear of the block, are linked to the composition by the entrance stair hall beside the terrace on the roof of the kitchen and family room. There are white rendered walls with diagonal lines in tapered buttresses at the front, and deep sloping boarded fascias around all three roofs to unify the sculptural form of the house in an inventive way. The walls are punctuated by openings located where function requires them, while maintaining the aesthetic quality of the whole.

The Evans house is a notable example of the Late Twentieth-Century Organic style (1960-) of Australian architecture, of which the architect of the house, Enrico Taglietti is a key practitioner. The house is a notable example of its kind in the way it demonstrates the broad characteristics of this largely domestic style: the building appearing to grow from its site and free massing, expressing functions naturally. The retention of the natural setting, taking advantage of the topography, and the asymmetrical arrangement of the massing - key indicators of the style - are also demonstrated. Other indicators of the style are the horizontal roof planes, horizontally-boarded fascias, highlight windows and the complex, angular geometry complementing nature. These characteristics and indicators are present in this place in a way that makes it a notable example of its kind.