

Statement of Significance: 2 Edinburgh Avenue, Caulfield

Date of Statement: August 2020

Address: 2 Edinburgh Avenue, Caulfield	Name: -
Place Type: Residential building (private)	Grading: Significant
PS ref no: HO225	Constructed: 1962-63



Photograph by Built Heritage Pty Ltd, October 2019

What is significant?

The house at 2 Edinburgh Avenue, Caulfield, is a two-storey butterfly-roofed brick house in the post-WW2 modernist style, expressed as a stark rectilinear volume (with continuous window wall and full-width balcony), elevated on columns to form an open undercroft below. Built in 1962-63 for a Polish-born clothing manufacturer and Holocaust survivor, the house was designed by architect Bernard Slawik, also a Polish émigré and Holocaust survivor, and a resident of Caulfield.

The significant fabric is defined as the exterior of the entire building.

How is it significant?

The house satisfies the following criteria for inclusion on the heritage overlay schedule to the City of Glen Eira planning scheme:

- Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

Why is it significant?

The house is aesthetically significant as an exceptional example of high-end modernist residential architecture of the early 1960s. Boldly articulated as a stark rectilinear volume, raised on columns to form an open undercroft, with a low butterfly roof, uncommonly broad timber-lined eaves and a continuous full-height window wall opening onto an expansive front balcony, it represents a particularly bold and confident distillation of European Modernism. It must also be considered as a truly authentic example, being designed by a Polish-born architect (who had worked in Europe, including a stint in Sweden) for a well-heeled compatriot couple who would have been familiar with such progressive architecture in pre-war Europe. (*Criterion E*)

Primary sources

Heritage Citation PW10, *City of Glen Eira Post-war & Hidden Gems Heritage Review 2020, Stage 2: Citations*, prepared by Built Heritage Pty Ltd.