

## Statement of Significance: 6 Labassa Grove, Caulfield North

Date of Statement: August 2020

<b>Address:</b>	6 Labassa Grove, Caulfield North	<b>Name:</b>	-
<b>Place Type:</b>	Residential building (private)	<b>Grading:</b>	Significant
<b>PS ref no:</b>	HO232	<b>Constructed:</b>	1963-64



*Photograph by Built Heritage Pty Ltd, October 2019*

### What is significant?

The house at 6 Labassa Grove, Caulfield North, is a single-storey flat-roofed brick house in the post-WW2 modernist style, with a double-fronted asymmetrical façade that incorporates an expansive window wall, paved terrace and top-lit entry porch with stone feature wall and metal grille screen doors. Designed by Polish-born architect Bernard Slawik, the house was erected in 1963-64 for a Slovakian émigré couple, who would remain living there into the twenty-first century.

The significant fabric is defined as the entire exterior of the house, as well as the original pebbled concrete front path and driveway, and the original letterbox.

### 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?**

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The house is aesthetically significant as a highly distinctive example of modernist residential architecture of the early 1960s. Designed by a Polish-born architect who trained in Lviv and worked in Sweden, the house demonstrates many of the defining characteristics of international modernism, such as the flat roof with broad eaves, stark planar walls and expansive full-height windows. The starkness of the composition is relieved by some more idiosyncratic details and decorative finishes such as the skylit porch roof, slate feature wall, metal grille screens, terrazzo terrace and pebbled concrete path and driveway. Owned by the same family for over forty years, the house demonstrates an uncommon degree of physical integrity, including its front garden setting with path, driveway and original letterbox. (*Criterion E*)

### **Primary sources**

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Heritage Citation PW17, *City of Glen Eira Post-war & Hidden Gems Heritage Review 2020, Stage 2: Citations*, prepared by Built Heritage Pty Ltd.