

## Statement of Significance: 16 Cantala Avenue, Caulfield North

Date of Statement: August 2020

<b>Address:</b>	16 Cantala Avenue, Caulfield North	<b>Name:</b>	-
<b>Place Type:</b>	Residential building (private)	<b>Grading:</b>	Significant
<b>PS ref no:</b>	HO222	<b>Constructed:</b>	1951-53



Photograph by Built Heritage Pty Ltd, October 2019

### What is significant?

The house at 16 Cantala Avenue, Caulfield North, is a two-storey skillion-roofed white-painted brick house in a stark post-WW2 modernist style, with asymmetrical street facade incorporating expansive windows and sundecks. Designed in 1951 by Austrian-trained architect Dr Ernest Fooks, the house was commissioned by a Polish-born businesswoman for her own investment company.

The significant fabric is defined as the exterior of the entire house and attached garage, along with the stone-paved front terrace, stone retaining walls, steps and original balustrade railings.

### 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
- Criterion H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or groups of persons, of importance in our history.

### **Why is it significant?**

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The house is aesthetically significant as an early and unusually substantial example of post-WW2 modernist residential architecture. Designed by an architect who trained and even practiced in Austria before migrating to Australia in 1939, the house represents a confident and authentic articulation of the International Style, with its bold rectilinear massing, stark planar walls, broad-eaved skillion roof, expansive windows and sundeck. Built on an elevated site, the split-level dwelling (with attached garage at a lower level) is enhanced by its original setting, which includes a crazy paved patio and terraced front garden defined by stone-clad retaining walls with matching steps and pathways with low black-painted metal balustrades. (*Criterion E*)

The house is historically significant for associations with Austrian-trained architect Dr Ernest Fooks, who started private practice in Melbourne in 1948 and soon became sought-after as a designer of residential projects for fellow European émigré clients. Notably prolific in the former City of Caulfield (where he himself resided, in Howitt Street, from 1966 until his death), Fooks maintained a long personal and professional association with what is now the City of Glen Eira, including several art exhibitions held at the Caulfield Town Hall. Dating from 1951, the Cantala Avenue house is one of Fook's two oldest surviving buildings in the study area (along with another at 64 Balaclava Road, also 1951) that, together, provide rare and significant evidence of the early presence of an architect whose work re-shaped the Caulfield area. (*Criterion H*)

### **Primary sources**

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Heritage Citation PW07, *City of Glen Eira Post-war & Hidden Gems Heritage Review 2020, Stage 2: Citations*, prepared by Built Heritage Pty Ltd.