

Statement of Significance: 30 Griffiths Street, Caulfield South

Date of Statement: August 2020

Address: 30 Griffiths Street, Caulfield South	Name: -
Place Type: Residential building (private)	Grading: Significant
PS ref no: HO228	Constructed: 1977-78



Photograph by Built Heritage Pty Ltd, October 2019

What is significant?

The house at 30 Griffiths Street, Caulfield South, is a two-storey orange brick dwelling of unusual sculptural form. Occupying a corner site, it is laid out on an irregular plan (based on a rotated 45-degree modular grid), extruded to form two contrasting and mostly blank street elevations with projecting wing walls, half-round stairwell bay, a Diocletian window and an asymmetrical roofline of separate skillions with flat or raked parapets. The house was erected in 1977-78 as a speculative project for Karl Fink's construction company, and was designed by his architect son, Leon Fink.

The significant fabric is defined as the exterior of the entire house, including various brick walls that project from the house and extend along the street boundaries.

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 a distinctive example of modernist residential architecture of the late 1970s, showing the pervasive influence of the so-called Chamfer style that was popular for much of that decade. Its highly sculptural appearance is the result of a modular plan that was rotated by 45 degrees to respond to the corner site, then extruded into a series of irregular forms. The two street elevations, starkly and differently expressed, incorporate splayed corners, tapered wing walls, projecting half-round stairwell and an irregular skillion roofline with flat and raked parapets. The starkness is softened by the use of pale orange brick (rather than the concrete block or rendered finish more typically associated with the Chamfer style), and relieved by quirky details such as the projecting downpipes and Diocletian window to Goe Street, which hint at the influence of the emerging Post-Modernist style. Virtually unaltered since completion in 1978, the house remains an eye-catching element in a predominantly pre-war residential streetscape. (*Criterion E*)

Primary sources

Heritage Citation PW13, *City of Glen Eira Post-war & Hidden Gems Heritage Review 2020, Stage 2: Citations*, prepared by Built Heritage Pty Ltd.