

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R041

Name of Place: Fisher Government Housing Group

Other/Former Names:

Address/Location: Palbara Place FISHER 2611

Blocks 1-16 Section 44, Blocks 11-18 Section 45 of Fisher

Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:	1984	Level of Significance:	Local
Citation Revision No:	1	Category:	Residential
Citation Revision Date:	1989	Style:	Modern

Date of Design:	c1970	Designer:	Cameron, Chisholm & Nicol for NCDC
Construction Period:		Client/Owner/Lessee:	
Date of Additions:		Builder:	JJ Marr Homes Pty Ltd

Statement of Significance

The Pilbara Place housing scheme is significant as a successful development of medium density housing using the Radburn principles of urban planning, without the advantages offered by a larger site in the development of pedestrian and landscape systems. It is unique as a pilot study for the suburb of Charnwood. The individual houses are well designed and planned to relate to adjoining garden and service areas, within extremely tight cost limits. The design of the houses is appropriate to the planning of the scheme. The differing plan types provide a good solution to group housing, while providing for individual preferences and allowing visual variety. The housing scheme was awarded the C S Daley Medal in 1971, by the ACT Chapter of the RAI.

Description

A design for 24 government houses commissioned by the NCDC to test design and construction aspects for the suburb of Charnwood in Belconnen. The scheme is based on the Radburn principles, with a vehicular access to houses and a separate pedestrian access through community parkland. The parkland provides a consistency of landscape throughout the neighbourhood, and planting provides privacy. The houses are designed on small blocks, making maximum use of the available space, with double carports located to the front of the building line and service yards grouped in pairs on the street face, concealed by higher walls and carport roofs. A broad area between the paved carport - service yard elements allows a pleasant landscaped approach to the front door of the house. All the houses, carports and fences are constructed of similar materials, colour, form and detail. There are eight different three bedroom house types, and one four bedroom house. The majority of houses have a north-east orientation, and have been planned around the family room, located in association with the kitchen and facing the parkland to facilitate the supervision of children. Construction is of brick veneer, timber floors, timber joinery and timber roof trusses covered with concrete tiles. All external brickwork is white painted and all timber work is stained dark brown.

Condition and Integrity

Background/History

Analysis against the Criteria specified in Schedule 2 of the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991

(i) a place which demonstrates a high degree of technical and/or creative achievement, by showing qualities of innovation or departure or representing a new achievement of its time

(ii) a place which exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group

(iii) a place which demonstrates a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function which is no longer practised, is in danger or being lost, or is of exceptional interest

(iv) a place which is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations

(v) a place which is the only known or only comparatively intact example of its type

(vi) a place which is a notable example of a class of natural or cultural places or landscapes and which demonstrates the principal characteristics of that class

(vii) a place which has strong or special associations with person, group, event, development or cultural phase which played a significant part in local or national history

(xi) a place which demonstrates a likelihood of providing information which will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality or benchmark site

References

Other Information Sources