

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R051

Name of Place: Vasey Crescent Houses

Other/Former Names:

Address/Location: 42, 44, 46 Vasey Crescent CAMPBELL 2612

Block 9, 10, 11 Section 36 of Campbell

Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:	1984	Level of Significance:	National
Citation Revision No:		Category:	
Citation Revision Date:	November 1990	Style:	Melbourne Regional

Date of Design:	1960	Designer:	Grounds, Romberg & Boyd
Construction Period:	1961	Client/Owner/Lessee:	42 Blakers 44 Boettcher 46 Phillip
Date of Additions:	1973, 1976, 1990	Builder:	42 Civil & Civic 44 Meli & Eglitis P/L 46 ACT Builders P/L

Statement of Significance

Local. A rare example of individual owners collaborating to achieve a unity of architectural and suburban character of domestic dwellings on adjacent sites in a Canberra suburb. This group is important for the way it is designed, as a group by the Melbourne firm of Grounds, Romberg and Boyd, with a consistency of style, form and materials in a common architectural idiom. The statement is clear, confident with a limited palate of materials, unpretentious but strong, and unified by a landscape of native plant material with continuity across the three sites and into adjoining reserve land on Russell Hill. Each house responds to individual owner requirements in internal accommodation and facilities.

Description

42, 44, 46 Vasey Crescent Campbell.

As a result of collaboration between respective owners the three adjacent houses were designed by the same architects and built at about the same time as a co-ordinated group. The site is a spur running from Russell Hill on an east-west alignment, with a significant fall to the road. Each house, orthogonal to the road, has a northern aspect, but by a staggered site planning arrangement each also enjoys western views over the city; no. 46 is sited nearest to the road, and no.42 the furthest. As there is a minimum of dividing or enclosing fences a continuity of the landscape setting is achieved, with direct connection to public open space on the southern hillside boundary. The ground floor of each house is at the same level, and materials, construction and building form are common to the three.

Common design features include modular concrete masonry walls; timber framed fenestration panels; flat roofs with metal decking and overhanging eaves; slender verandah posts; and strong rectilinear forms. Collectively these features create a unity and continuity of architectural character.

Two of the houses are still occupied by the original owners.

Description 42 Vasey Crescent Campbell. Block 9; Section 36.

Planned on three levels. Site slopes from south to north (street frontage)

LEVEL 1: (Basement) Garage, studio, store. Some portions fill external concrete stairs to level 2.

LEVEL 2: External balcony (timber) full width of house: entry hallway is central zone with stair (open riser timber); originally 3 bedrooms; 2 now converted into single study/workroom; laundry; small kitchen/servery; bathroom; WC and vanity unit.

LEVEL 3: Staircase gives access to open plan reception/living area/dining; main kitchen; master bedroom; bathroom and WC; built in wardrobes. Access from living and bedroom to external balcony overlooking paved terrace/garden. Vertical timber partitioning spaces (blond ash).

MATERIALS: Besser block walls material finish internal/external. Full height timber framed windows/doors. Brown built roof deck and fascias overhanging on all four sides of house: timber posts at approximately 10' (3m) centres from roof to ground level on all four sides timber beams between posts at floor Level 2 on north and west elevations.

Description 44 Vasey Crescent, Campbell. Block 10, Section 36.

ORIGINAL HOUSE: Planned on three levels

Lower floor - single garage and storeroom. External staircase to entry.

Main accommodation on two levels - upper floors

(i) Lower front level: Large combined living/dining areas, playroom, and kitchen. Full width glazed screen. (ii) Stairs to three bedrooms, study, and combined bath/shower/WC.

CONSTRUCTION: Besser block masonry walling, natural finish. Timber framed windows (full height in living areas). Flat roof Brownbuilt decking and fascia, overhang on all faces 3'0" north and south 6'0" east and west. 4"x4" verandah posts at approximately 12'0" centres on east and west.

VARIOUS ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS:

1973 - Addition of sunroom, WC/shower unit on north frontage, and balcony to living room.

1976 - Addition of master bedroom to rear (south) and new windows introduced.

1990 - Reduction of bathroom area and removal of internal partitions in master bedroom areas.

New windows introduced in two bedrooms.

Description 46 Vasey Crescent Campbell. Block 11, Section 3.

Planned on three levels.

LOWER FLOOR. Single garage and storeroom

UPPER FLOOR. Entry level planned as a rectangular wing on north-south axis. Stairs up from driveway to entrance - entry hall, dining and kitchen and living room north facing full width of wing; main bedroom with bathroom en suite; laundry. External areas from kitchen and laundry.

THIRD FLOOR. Stairs to 3rd level planned as children's wing: central playroom with 4 small bedrooms (2 either side of playroom) bathroom and WC.

CONSTRUCTION: Besser block natural finish external and internal stretcher bond (nominal 12" cavity (3 5/8" blocks), internally 3 5/8" blocks). Timber framed windows (full height in living areas). Stegba flat roof decking and fascias - overhang on all faces with timber posts on east and west elevations at approximately 9'0" centres.

Timber flooring T & G

Ceilings - mountain ash T & G (north wing)

- caninite ceiling (south wing)

Partitions - Ply and T & G linings (ash)

Condition and Integrity

Good.

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