

# Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

**RSTCA No:** R052

**Name of Place:** Calthorpe House

**Other/Former Names:**

**Address/Location:** 24 Mugga Way RED HILL 2603

Block 9 Section 5 of Red Hill

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Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:	1984	Level of Significance:	National
Citation Revision No:	1	Category:	Residential
Citation Revision Date:	June 1987	Style:	Mediterranean

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Date of Design:	December 1926	Designer:	Oakley and Parkes
Construction Period:	1927	Client/Owner/Lessee:	formerly Calthorpe now Department of Territories
Date of Additions:	1928 porch infilling	Builder:	

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## Statement of Significance

The building, contents and gardens are significant in their completeness and unchanged character. The house itself, its contents and its garden are in themselves quite ordinary, but it is the survival of each that makes for a most important property. The design is the work of significant early Canberra architects Oakley and Parkes, who were responsible for the first government housing in Forrest and the Prime Minister's Lodge, both nearby. The building is socially and historically significant in Canberra and Australia as an encapsulation of family occupation mainly in the 1920's, evoking a lifestyle now past in what is now a museum house. The preservation of the property is significant as one of the few relatively unchanged surviving examples of a house of the 1920's with original documentation supporting the understanding of the family's lifestyle. The interior design and clinical appearance of the kitchen and bathroom herald the new social era.

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## Description

The house was designed by Oakley and Parkes, with distinctive Spanish and Mediterranean influences. The basic rectangular form has a large gable roof covering the main rooms and gables projecting over the sitting room and bedroom 2 and their arcaded loggias. Subsidiary gables, over bedroom 3 and the dining room bay windows give a stepped effect to the overall massing of the front elevation. The rear of the house is less formal, with the functional laundry/service area projecting asymmetrically. The external walls are finished in a coarsely trowelled render finish and relieved by rectangular fenestration and the two arcaded loggias. The most significant aspect of this property is the intactness of the interior rooms and their contents. The entry, sitting and dining rooms have a warmth of colour and finishes created by panelled wood, rich ochre wall finishes, polished floor boards and furniture. The bedrooms make subtle contrast to the living rooms, with the use of timber finishes somewhat reduced. The bathroom and kitchen areas, with white walls and ceiling expanses of white tiles, create an almost clinical atmosphere indicative of the advances in building technology of the period.

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## Condition and Integrity

Well preserved and maintained, some external elements restored. Conservation policy in place to maintain but not restore the building.

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## **Background/History**

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### **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*

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## **References**

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## **Other Information Sources**