

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R089

Name of Place: Manning Clark House

Other/Former Names:

Address/Location: 11 Tasmania Circle FORREST 2603

Block 4 Section 44 of Forrest

Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:	November 1993	Level of Significance:	Regional
Citation Revision No:	2	Category:	Residential
Citation Revision Date:	June 1994	Style:	Melbourne Regional

Date of Design:	1952	Designer:	Robin Boyd
Construction Period:	1953	Client/Owner/Lessee:	Mrs Dymphna Clark
Date of Additions:		Builder:	

Statement of Significance

Designed by prominent Australian architect Robin Boyd, the house is typical of the post-war Melbourne Regional Style, and an example of Boyd's Peninsula House Design.

The house presents an innovative design solution to Professor Manning Clark's specific requirements for an isolated study. This has been satisfactorily integrated with the separate living and sleeping areas of the house.

Professor Manning Clark is possibly the most influential and well-known Australian historian and almost all his published work was written in this study. He is best known for his epic *A History of Australia* published in six volumes between 1962 and 1987.

The house is significant as one of the few examples of the work of Robin Boyd in Canberra. Boyd is well known for his writings on architecture and has been recognised as a leading architectural figure in Australia and overseas.

Description

The house, sited along the high side of a north sloping block, takes advantage of the north aspect and outlook to the well laid out garden. Two separate parallel wings dividing living and sleeping areas are connected by a glass-walled passage and entrance over which the study is set. Access to the study is by a very steep flight of steps. The contents of the study include a large portion of Professor Manning Clark's extensive library, and is a significant element of this house. The extensive library has progressively extended throughout the house.

The building is of simple masonry construction, the bagged walls painted light grey with charcoal trim. It has a low pitched gable roof with wide overhanging eaves, and timber framed windows with large areas of glass. Minor alterations include: a pergola to extend the sun shade over the north facing windows of the study, also a carport was built onto the house, the separate garage being converted to a studio.

A further link with the Boyd family is a collection of hand-painted tiles set irregularly into bathroom and kitchen walls and made by members of the family at Murumbeena.

Condition and Integrity

Good, recently re-painted.

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