

**South Australian
HERITAGE COUNCIL****SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE**

**Entry in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with s14(1)(a) of
the *Heritage Places Act 1993***

NAME: Neighbour House

PLACE NO.: 26619

ADDRESS: Karna Country
61 Braemar Road
Torrens Park, SA 5062
CT 5084/739 F19264 A60, Hundred of Adelaide

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Neighbour House, built in Torrens Park in c.1956-1958 by architect Keith Neighbour as a family home for himself and his wife Lorna, demonstrates a high degree of creative and aesthetic accomplishment. The creative use of readily available materials and harmonisation with the natural environment made for a thoroughly modern house that was perfectly suited to its site. Neighbour House also has a special association with Keith Neighbour, one of South Australia's preeminent architects. Designed early in his career, Neighbour's modernist influences are conveyed by the house's clear functionality, honest expression of structure and materials and rejection of superfluous ornamentation. Moreover, its siting and integration of natural elements show his strong appreciation for landscape architecture and adaptation to the environment. While his later work increased in scale and complexity, Neighbour House captures the essence of his nascent design philosophy.

RELEVANT CRITERIA (under section 16 of the Heritage Places Act 1993)***(e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics***

Designed by architect Keith Neighbour in late 1956 and completed by 1958, Neighbour House demonstrates a high degree of creative and aesthetic accomplishment. Strongly influenced by modernist architecture, Neighbour designed the house to be functional and honest in its expression of structure and materials. He creatively combined readily available and affordable materials like concrete blocks, timber, glass and pressed straw to build a family home suited to modern living. The design response also carefully considered the setting and contours of the site. When completed, the house was thoroughly modern in appearance yet appropriately adapted to its local and environmental context.

Importantly, Neighbour House marks a departure from earlier modernist houses erected in Adelaide during the 1940s and 1950s which were typically built in Functionalist and International styles of architecture. Instead, Neighbour designed the house to include features that became characteristic of what was later described as the Late Twentieth Century Adelaide Regional style of architecture, notably its low-pitched gable roof, wide eaves and environmental adaptation. While the style mainly developed from the 1960s onwards and was progressed primarily by architects John S. Chappel, Robert Dickson and Newell Platten, all contemporaries and associates of Keith Neighbour, Neighbour House helped lay the basis for what further evolved into an Adelaidean response to modernism.

Since at least the 1960s, Neighbour House has received critical recognition and wide public acknowledgement of exceptional merit for its design. In 1961, it was one of three South Australian homes featured in architect Neil Clerehan's book, *Best Australian Houses*. Four years later, Neighbour House made the cover of *House and Garden*, a national magazine. The magazine described the house as a 'pleasing contemporary home' and documented its interior and exterior features. In the 1980s, the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (now the Australian Institute of Architects) identified the place as significant twentieth century architecture due to its 'direct use of materials' and the ways in which it 'influenced the development of a new Adelaide hills vernacular style'. Similarly, in 2011, the AIA's National Heritage Taskforce included Neighbour House in its list of 117 buildings it considered to be significant twentieth-century South Australian architecture. More recently, Neighbour House has been featured in several popular publications showcasing exemplars of South Australian modern architecture.

Neighbour House remains substantively intact to demonstrate these creative and aesthetic accomplishments. Although several alterations have been made to Neighbour House, such as the painting of the internal concrete blocks, alterations to

some of the window arrangements and the extension of the balcony, the fundamental design elements can still be observed and appreciated.

(g) it has special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance

Neighbour House has a special association with prominent South Australian architect Keith Neighbour (b. 13 June 1919 – d. 4 February 2011). Neighbour is known to have designed or co-designed many buildings throughout South Australia and was highly active in the profession, including through the (Royal) Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) and the state's architecture schools. In 1992, he received an Order of Australia medal for his professional contributions and in 1994 the South Australian branch of the AIA awarded him its President's Medal. The branch's award for commercial architecture is also named in his honour.

Neighbour designed the house while partnered with Lawson, Cheesman, Doley and Partners. In May 1956, Neighbour and his wife Lorna purchased land from fellow architect Jack Cheesman in what is now a part of Torrens Park and Neighbour subsequently commenced designing a family home. The plans and calculations were largely complete by the end of 1956 and the house was completed by 1958. Neighbour House was sold to new owners in the early 1990s.

Neighbour House is an excellent example of Keith Neighbour's early architectural output, demonstrating his formative design ideals. Although Neighbour's interests were broad, a sizeable portion of his early focus was on house design. Strongly influenced by modernist architecture and its principles, Neighbour favoured houses that were predicated on functionality and the creative yet honest use of materials. He also had a keen interest in landscape architecture and adapting places to their environments. Neighbour House encapsulates all these ideals through its simple rectilinear shape, seamless layout divided into resting, washing and living areas, extensive use of unadorned materials and adaptation to its environmental context, particularly the sloped terrain. While Neighbour's later work was characterised primarily by large-scale commercial projects and his use of off-form concrete, Neighbour House is a highly intact example demonstrating the foundational principles of his architectural oeuvre.

SITE PLAN, PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION & ELEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

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Neighbour House

PLACE NO.: 26619

61 Braemer Road, Torrens Park

Elements of Significance:

Elements of heritage significance include:

- Neighbour House
- Exposed concrete blocks on exterior
- Steel-cable cross braces at the eastern elevation
- Compressed straw ceilings
- Extant original window frames
- Extant original timber panelling on all elevations
- Interior layout and spacing (specifically upper level layout with bedrooms and bathroom to the east, laundry and stair case at the centre and open-plan living area to the west)
- Original fixtures and fittings (specifically, entrance stair case, including steel balustrades (not including colour) and timber steps; timber panelled dividing wall between kitchen and laundry; steel columns with U-shaped brackets); exposed timber roof beams
- Extant original landscaping elements (specifically the curved driveway layout, sloped terrain (as demonstrated by the exterior gradient of the house and driveway) and creek bed (location and presence only)).

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include:

- Rear balcony extension
- Solar panels
- Non-original fixtures and fittings
- Non-original landscape features and additions



Neighbour House, 61 Braemer Road, CT 5084/739 F19264 A60, Hundred of Adelaide.

LEGEND

N ↑

 Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)

 Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place – Red outline is indicative of elements of significance, noting imperfect alignment of aerial imagery with parcel cadastre.

Physical Description

Neighbour House is a modernist rectangular dwelling. The house follows the contour of the property's sloped terrain with a single-storey to the east and two-stories to the west. It is primarily constructed of concrete blocks and has a gable roof clad with corrugated galvanised metal.

Features include:

Structural

- Concrete block load-bearing walls
- Concrete slab floor (concealed)
- Cylindrical steel columns with U-shaped brackets supporting main ridge beam (exterior and interior)
- External steel-cable cross braces at the eastern elevation

Exterior

- Projecting eaves with Solomit strawboard (compressed straw) soffits
- Timber panelling along sections of all elevations (paint non-original)
- Multi-panel timber-framed windows on all elevations
- Side entrance at northern elevation with timber door and fixed windows
- Timber facias
- Landscape elements including curved driveway that intersects with the carport below the house, sloped terrain and creek bed.

Interior

- Solomit strawboard ceilings
- Exposed timber roof beams
- Entrance staircase with timber steps, timber banisters and steel balusters
- Timber-panelled dividing wall between kitchen and laundry
- Two bedrooms located on upper floor on the eastern half; bathroom on upper floor on the eastern half; central 'utility' /laundry area on upper floor; open-plan kitchen, dining and living room area on upper floor of western half; rumpus room/bedroom with ensuite bathroom on lower floor

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HISTORY, CHRONOLOGY, SITE DETAILS & PHOTOGRAPHS

Other information held in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with s14(6) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

History of the Place

Early history of the Mitcham area¹

The Kaurna people are the traditional owners of the country that forms the Adelaide Plains, foothills and parts of the Mount Lofty Ranges. Prior to colonisation, the Kaurna people lived in extended family groups in seasonal camps residing near the coast during the warmer months and inland when it grew colder. Located near Mitcham in Adelaide's southern foothills, Wirraparinga was one such location. Now also known as Brownhill Creek, Wirraparinga is Kaurna for 'scrub and camping place' and was an important seasonal 'camping, hunting and gathering ground', accommodating up to 150 people.¹

Colonisation had an immediate and detrimental impact on the Kaurna people. Kaurna country was surveyed and sold to the newly arrived colonists within 10 years of settlement. Traditional practises like relocating between seasonal camps and firestick farming were hindered or prohibited, while European methods of farming decimated traditional food sources. Many Kaurna people were also taken off country and sent to missions at Ruakkan/Point McLeay and Point Pearce.²

European settlement of the area now known as the City of Mitcham commenced in the 1830s and 1840s. In 1838, Surveyor General Colonel William Light completed his 'first rural survey' of South Australia, which included much of the Mitcham area.³ The same year, the South Australian Company established a sheep station at Brownhill Creek. Two years later, the Village of Mitcham was established at Section 248, Hundred of Adelaide. In 1853, the District Council of Mitcham was established under the *District Councils Act 1852*, making it one of South Australia's first local government areas.⁴ Around this time, West Mitcham was subdivided as a new suburb, located on Section 247, Hundred of Adelaide.⁵

Comprising portions of the Adelaide Plains, foothills and the Mount Lofty Ranges, the District Council area was vast and originally included Brighton, Unley and Crafers before respectively separating in 1867, 1871 and 1883.⁶ The land was used for a variety of purposes throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Settlements and townships developed, land was put to pastoral and agricultural use and a government farm was established in Belair, which later became South Australia's first national park in 1891 (Belair National Park State Heritage Area (SHP 11552)).⁷ Large

¹ This section draws primarily from Taylor Weidenhofer, *Heritage Survey of the City of Mitcham, Volume One* (Adelaide: Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 1995).

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estates for prominent and wealthy figures were also established, including Torrens Park, first developed for Robert Torrens and subsequently owned and expanded by Walter Watson Hughes and Robert Barr Smith (Scotch College. Former Torrens Park – Stables & East Lodge (SHP 10699)).⁸

Aided by major infrastructural developments like the creation of new roads, bridges and railway and tram lines, residential and suburban growth increased steadily between the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.⁹ This process intensified following World War One (WWI), driven largely by the Thousand Homes Scheme, a government initiative to erect houses for veterans and working-class families. The Scheme was exemplified by the creation of Colonel Light Gardens (Colonel Light Gardens State Heritage Area (SHP 11597)).¹⁰ The demand for residential property led to the subdivision and sale of several large estates, including Torrens Park, part of which became Scotch College and the remainder a new suburb. Although growth was disrupted by the Great Depression, the establishment of new subdivisions and suburbs continued.¹¹



South-eastern portion of the Hundred of Adelaide in 1873 showing the general District Council of Mitcham area. West Mitcham (left) and Mitcham (right) are circled. The cities of Brighton and Unley had split from Mitcham in 1867 and 1871 respectively. Crafers remained as part of the Mitcham district until 1883.

Source: Flickr (user: State Library of South Australia); per [PDM 1.0](#)

Following World War Two (WWII), the postwar economic and population booms spurred unprecedented development throughout the area. Again, many new suburbs were created and older ones expanded. Much of the remaining pastoral and agricultural land was subject to residential development. The South Australian Housing Trust built homes for working families in Mitcham and Daw Park and wealthier and middle-class families erected homes in and around the foothills. Major services and

amenities were built during the post-war period, notably Flinders University and, later in the 1970s, the Flinders Medical Centre. Demonstrating the extent of post-war growth, the population more than doubled between 1947 and 1966.¹²

Keith Neighbour's Early Life and Career²

Keith Neighbour was born on 13 June 1919 to Arthur and Ivy Neighbour. The eldest of four siblings, he grew up in Goolwa and attended Victor Harbor High School. After graduating, Neighbour moved to Adelaide hoping to become an artist. While working part-time in various jobs, he attended the South Australian School of Art, where he honed his drawing and sculpting skills.¹³

Following the outbreak of WWII, Neighbour enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force in 1940 and served as a wireless air gunner (a radio operator and machine gunner).¹⁴ Early into his service, he married Lorna Pauline (née) Crafter on 5 February 1941. The following year, after Imperial Japan entered the war, he was captured by the Japanese while stationed in Java and was thereafter held as a prisoner of war for 1,248 days. In that time, he was detained in infamous prisons such as Changi and was forced to work on the Thai-Burma railway.¹⁵ Neighbour 'suffered appalling hardships' yet managed to draw 'sketches of camp life' and participate in recreational activities.¹⁶



Sketch of Keith Neighbour, 1941.

Source: Virtual War Memorial Australia <https://vwma.org.au/explore/people/533904>

² This section draws primarily from Julie Colins, 'Neighbour, Keith', Architects of South Australia, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia, 2008.

https://architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=49

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After the war, Neighbour returned to Adelaide and pursued architecture. He studied at the University of Adelaide and graduated in 1952 with a bachelor's degree. While studying, he was articled to Hassell and McConnell Architects, where he remained as an employee until 1953. After briefly working for the Architect-in-Chief's Department, he subsequently received a Fulbright Scholarship to study in the United States. He was awarded the Albert Khan Memorial Fellowship and studied at the University of Pennsylvania, from which he received his Master of Architecture in 1954 for his thesis titled *Architecture and Medicine and Health*.¹⁷

On arriving back in Adelaide in 1954, Neighbour joined the architectural firm Lawson, Cheesman and Doley. His employment started not only his longstanding association with the firm, of which he soon became a partner and included in the name (Cheesman, Doley, Brabham and Neighbour, 1959), but also his close friendship with Jack Cheesman, a fellow architect.¹⁸



Keith Neighbour, date unknown.

Source: Keith Neighbour Collection S294, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia

Like Cheesman and other younger architects, Neighbour had a keen interest in modernist architecture, particularly the International Style with its preference for functionality, honest expression of structure and primacy of unadorned materials. Although his design interests were broad, as reflected by his thesis, a large part of Neighbour's early focus was on housing. While in the United States, Neighbour routinely wrote articles for Adelaide newspapers about cutting-edge American homes, taking note of their form, materials, siting and functionality.¹⁹ Moreover, his early work for Lawson, Cheesman and Doley appears to have entailed designing houses.²⁰

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Importantly, his writing and house designs illustrate elements of his nascent design philosophy. They reveal his preference for functionality, honesty and simplicity, as well as his interest in landscape architecture. Regarding the latter, he declared in 1955 that landscape architecture did not mean 'simply planning a formal pattern of flower plots, shrubs, and trees around a house'. Instead:

The site for a house should be regarded as a base for a carefully co-ordinated piece of color-sculpture [sic], in which the house, paths, walls, screens, and the living sculptural forms are the parts.²¹

Evidently, he considered landscape architecture to be a fundamental component of the design process. This thinking carried over to his commercial architecture, as seen in his 1957 design for the former Sisalkraft Factory Complex (SHP 26557) in Kilkenny.²²

Relatedly, Neighbour was concerned with building efficient and structurally sound houses on challenging terrain, particularly sloped surfaces. In 1955, he observed that 'attractive sites for housing are readily available in the hills which surround Adelaide' but noted that it was 'sometimes difficult to know how to make the best of a sloping site'. Rather than building entire floors that sat awkwardly with the gradient, he proposed 'half-basements' as a solution, which catered to the terrain and thus enabled a more gradual transition between levels.²³ Likely in response to the 1954 Adelaide earthquake, Neighbour also explored ways to increase structural stability on especially vulnerable surfaces, such as clay.²⁴

Neighbour began his career designing houses just as the postwar economic and population booms were taking shape in South Australia. His approach was thus not merely academic but grounded in catering for the rapidly expanding urban sprawl and the home-ownership aspirations and lifestyle preferences of modern middle-class families, including his own.

Neighbour House

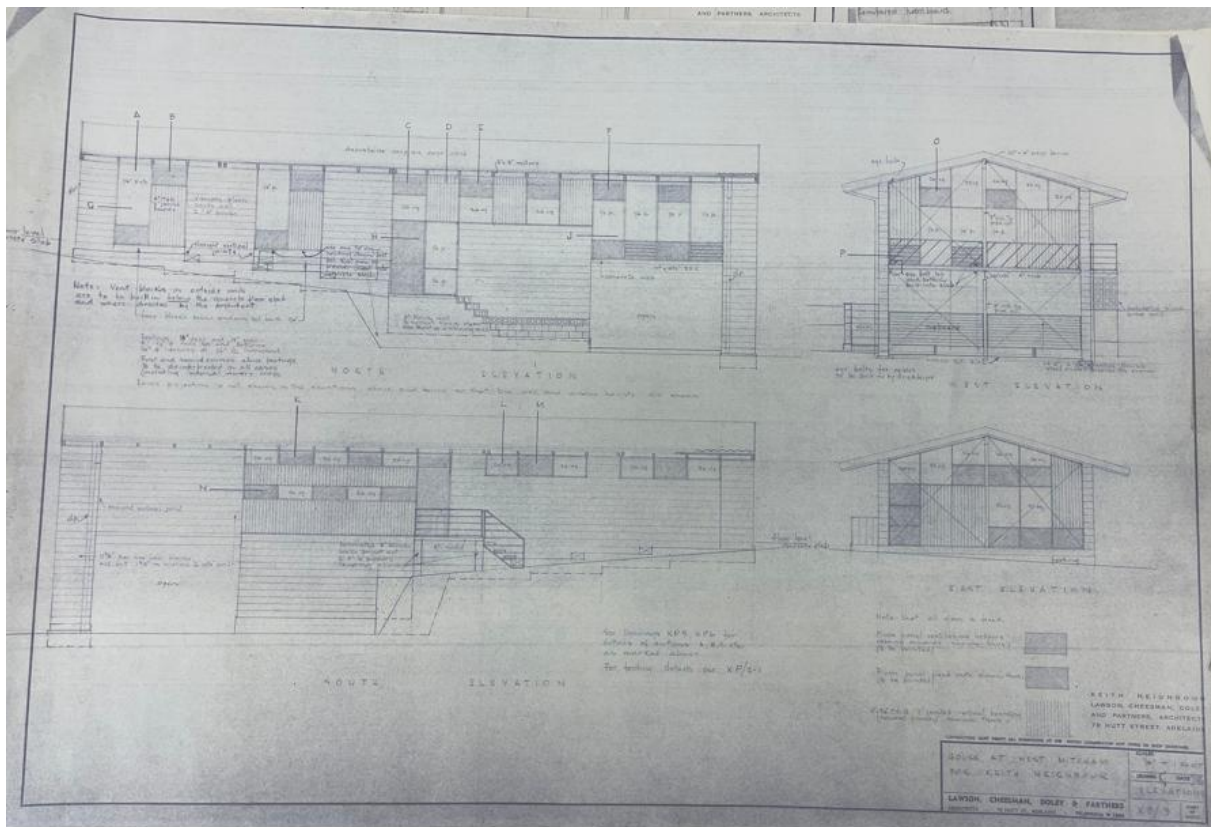
In 1942, married couple Jack and Catharine Cheesman purchased allotments 104, 108 and 109 of Sections 100 and 247, Hundred of Adelaide.²⁵ Then located in West Mitcham and situated roughly between the former Torrens Park estate and Belair National Park, these allotments comprised sparsely developed land on sloped terrain.

Possibly due to wartime building restrictions and material shortages, little development appears to have taken place on these properties during the 1940s. In 1947, the Cheesmans sold allotment 104 to Charles Andrew Cheesman, Jack's brother, and aerial imagery shows that a dwelling had been erected there by 1949.²⁶ However, it took several more years for further development to commence.

On 11 May 1956, the Cheesmans transferred portions of allotment 109 to couples Newell and Maragaret Platten and John and Barbara Murphy.²⁷ The same day, a portion of allotment 108 was sold to Keith and Lorna Neighbour.²⁸ At the time, both Platten and Neighbour were young architects working for Lawson, Cheesman and

Doley,²⁹ and John Murphy appears to have been a student architect and may have been articulated to the firm.³⁰ Over the following years, all three erected houses for themselves on these properties, all located along or just off Braemar Road.³¹ Although the titles still described them as being in West Mitcham, the properties were now in Torrens Park, which was extended during the 1940s and 1950s and absorbed West Mitcham and nearby Panchito Park.³²

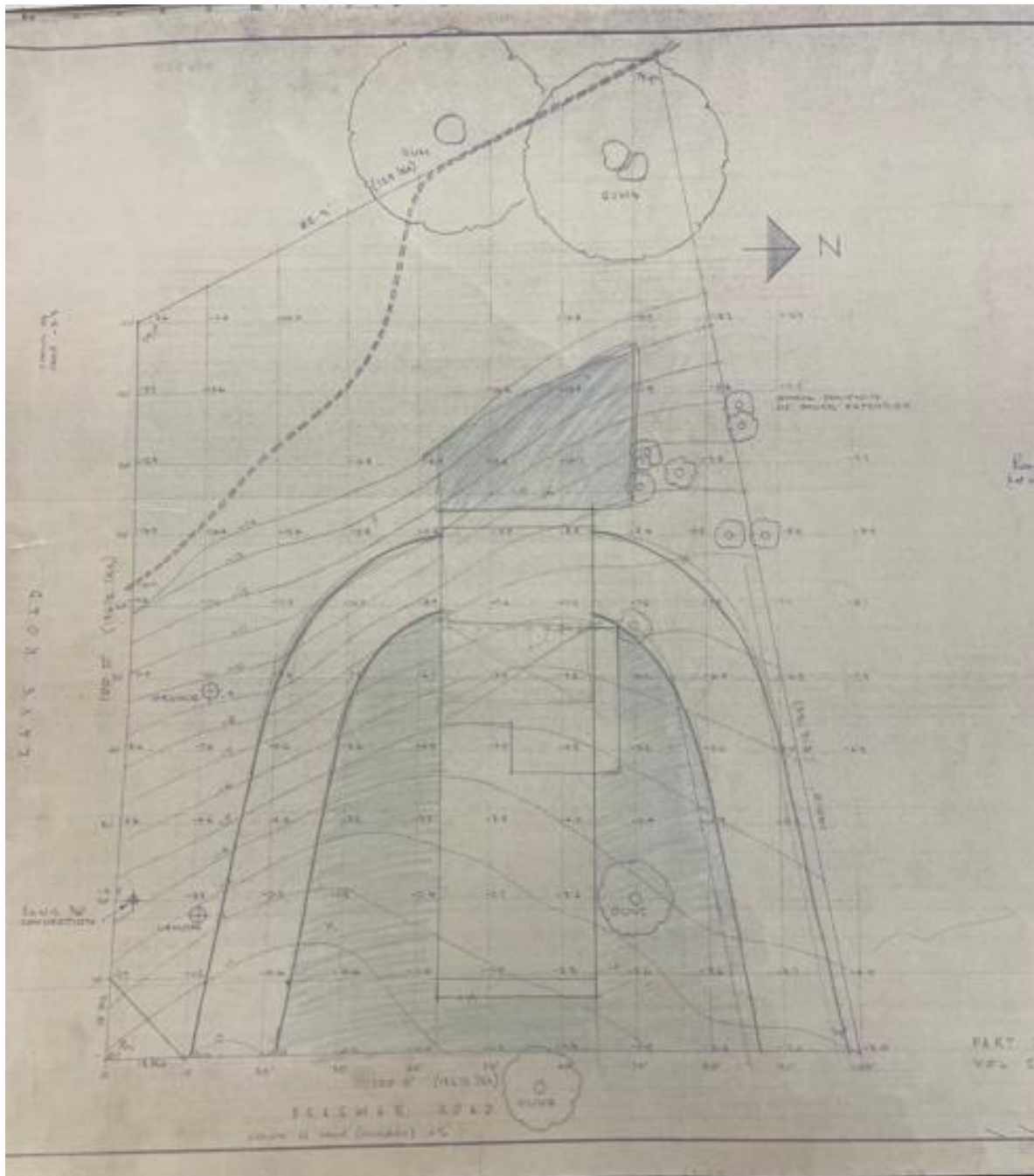
Neighbour had prepared extensive, near-complete plans and calculations for his house by the end of 1956.³³ Construction commenced sometime thereafter and was completed no later than 1958, though was most likely completed in 1957.³⁴ Neighbour designed the house, which he gave a rectangular plan and gable roof, to follow the contour of the property's sloped terrain, beginning with a single storey at the eastern crest and then graduating to two storeys at the western base. Reconciling the transition, a stair well with an intermediate landing met both ends in the middle. Two bedrooms and a bathroom were planned at the eastern end, a laundry in the middle and the kitchen, dining room and living room at the western end. The lower floor featured an open carpark and an enclosed 'storage space', which would later be used as a third bedroom with an ensuite bathroom.³⁵



Drawing of northern, western, southern and eastern elevations, 1956.

Source: Keith Neighbour Collection S294, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia

Neighbour's design philosophy is thoroughly embedded in the house. His preference for the simple and unadorned use of materials is expressed via the use of raw concrete blocks for the walls, compressed straw for the ceilings and exposed structural elements including timber rafters and cylindrical steel columns. The extensive use of glass in large single-pane and Corbusian-inspired windows convey his modernist influences. His appreciation of landscape architecture is captured by the siting, driveway layout and retention of natural elements like the creek bed at the rear of the property. Additionally, his consideration for building on challenging and vulnerable terrain is demonstrated by the flexible jointing, lack of lintels and steel-cable cross wires, the latter of which were included to monitor movement.³⁶



Landscape plan, 1956.

Source: Keith Neighbour Collection S294, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia

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Eastern (street) elevation, c.1960s

Source: Keith Neighbour Collection S294, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia



Corner of northern and western elevations, c.1960s

Source: Keith Neighbour Collection S294, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia

In 1958, Bruce and Patricia Robertson purchased a neighbouring property from the Cheesmans.³⁷ Neighbour designed a very similar dwelling for them, featuring exposed concrete blocks, a gabled roof, exposed straw ceilings, timber panelling, large glass windows and landscape elements.³⁸ Once completed, the house joined the other dwellings along the southernmost end of Braemer Road to form a cluster of modernist houses with features that responded to their local and environmental contexts. Several more followed over subsequent years.³⁹

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During the 1960s, Neighbour House received praise for its design. In 1961, it was one of three South Australian homes featured in architect Neil Clerehan's book, *Best Australian Houses*.⁴⁰ Four years later, Neighbour House made the cover of *House and Garden*. The magazine described the place as a 'pleasing contemporary home' and documented its interior and exterior features. Many of the accompanying photographs focused on the setting and the interior to show how the place functioned as a modern house.⁴¹ Years later, the South Australian branch of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (now the Australian Institute of Architects) identified the place as significant twentieth century architecture. Its significance lay in its 'direct use of materials' and the ways in which it 'influenced the development of a new Adelaide hills vernacular style'.⁴²

Subsequent history

Neighbour House was the family home for Keith, Lorna and their two daughters Latha and Gina. The couple apparently separated during the 1970s and decided to live separately,⁴³ but the house remained in both their names until the early 1990s. On 26 August 1992, the title was transferred exclusively to Lorna, suggesting she had remained at the house. It was then sold to new owners on 25 May 1993.⁴⁴ By this point, Keith was in a relationship with Gudrun Tamandl, with whom he remained with until his death on 4 February 2011.⁴⁵ Lorna passed away on 2 January 2012. In 2022, the house was sold to its current owners.⁴⁶

Since the 2010s, Neighbour House has received renewed attention from architecture critics and admirers. Although there have been several alterations to the place since its construction, notably the balcony extension, interior painting and kitchen redesign, current observers continue to appreciate Neighbour House. In 2011, the AIA's National Heritage Taskforce included Neighbour House in its list of 117 buildings it considered to be significant twentieth-century South Australian architecture. Others have similarly lauded it as a 'masterpiece' of modernist architecture.⁴⁷ As of 2025, it continues to serve its original function as a family home, albeit with adjustments to make it more amenable to contemporary living.

Chronology

Year	Event
1840	Mitcham Village is established at Section 248, Hundred of Adelaide.
1853	May: The City of Mitcham is proclaimed as a local government area. Section 247, Hundred of Adelaide, becomes West Mitcham.
1917-1919	Torrens Park is established as a suburb.
1919	13 June: Keith Neighbour is born in Goolwa.
1920s	Panchito Park is established as a suburb.

- 1940 Keith Neighbour enlists in the RAAF and goes on to serve in the Pacific theatre during WWII.
- 1941 8 February: Keith and Lorna Neighbour are married.
- 1942** March: Keith Neighbour is captured by Imperial Japan and goes on to spend 1248 days as a prisoner of war.
7 July: Jack and Catharine Cheesman purchase allotments 104, 108 and 109 of sections 100 and 247, Hundred of Adelaide, in West Mitcham.
- 1945 Keith Neighbour discharged from the armed forces and returns to Adelaide.
- 1947 20 February: Jack and Catharine Cheesman sell allotment 104 to Charles Cheesman.
- 1948 - Keith Neighbour studies architecture at the University of Adelaide. He is
 1953 articulated to Hassell and McConnel Architects during his studies.
- 1950s Panchito Park becomes part of West Micham.
- 1953 - Keith Neighbour completes a Master of Architecture at the University of
 1954 Pennsylvania while on a Fulbright Scholarship.
- 1954 1 March: The Adelaide Earthquake occurs, causing serious damage to buildings across the metropolitan area, including in the foothills.
 Keith Neighbour is employed by Lawson, Cheesman and Doley.
- 1956 11 May: Jack and Catharine Cheesman sell portions of allotment 109 to Newell Platten and John and Barbara Murphy. On the same day, they sell a portion of allotment 108 to Keith and Lorna Neighbour.**
25 May: A new Certificate of Title is created for Keith and Lorna's portion of allotment 108.
December: Plans are drawn for Neighbour House.
- c.1957 Neighbour House is constructed.**
- 1961 Neighbour House is included in the book *Best Australian Houses*, edited by Neil Clerehan.**
- 1963 10 October: Jack and Catharine Cheesman sell an additional portion of allotment 108 to Keith and Lorna Neighbour.
- 1965 September: Neighbour House is featured on the cover of *Australian House and Garden*.**
- 1970s The balcony facing the backyard is extended.
 /1980s
- c.1986 Neighbour House is identified by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects as Significant Twentieth Century Architecture.
- 1992 Ownership of Neighbour House is transferred exclusively to Lorna Neighbour.

- 1993 14 April: Neighbour House is sold to new owners.
Keith Neighbour appears to relocate to Murray Bridge. Lorna appears to relocate to Norwood.
- 2011 4 February: Keith Neighbour passes away.
- 2012 2 January: Lorna Neighbour passes away.
- 2019 Neighbour House features in Stuart Symons' book *Modernist Adelaide: 100 Buildings*.
- 2022 3 May: Neighbour House is sold to new owners.
- 2024 Neighbour House is featured in Tim Reeve's book *Adelaide Modernism: 101 Houses*.
- 2025 31 January: Neighbour House is featured in SALIFE, an online publication by *InDaily*.
May: Neighbour House is featured in *Houses*, an Australian architecture magazine.

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State Library of South Australia

'Interior of 1950s House', photograph, c.1958, John S. Chappel Collection, State Library of South Australia, BRG 346/28/CHEESMANANDCO/29/1

'House at Braemar Road, Torrens Park', 20 August 1959, John S. Chappel Collection, State Library of South Australia, BRG 346/28/CHEESMANANDCO/7/1.

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- 'Our History', About Our City, Mitcham Council.
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SITE DETAILS

Neighbour House

PLACE NO.: 26619

61 Braemar Road, Torrens Park

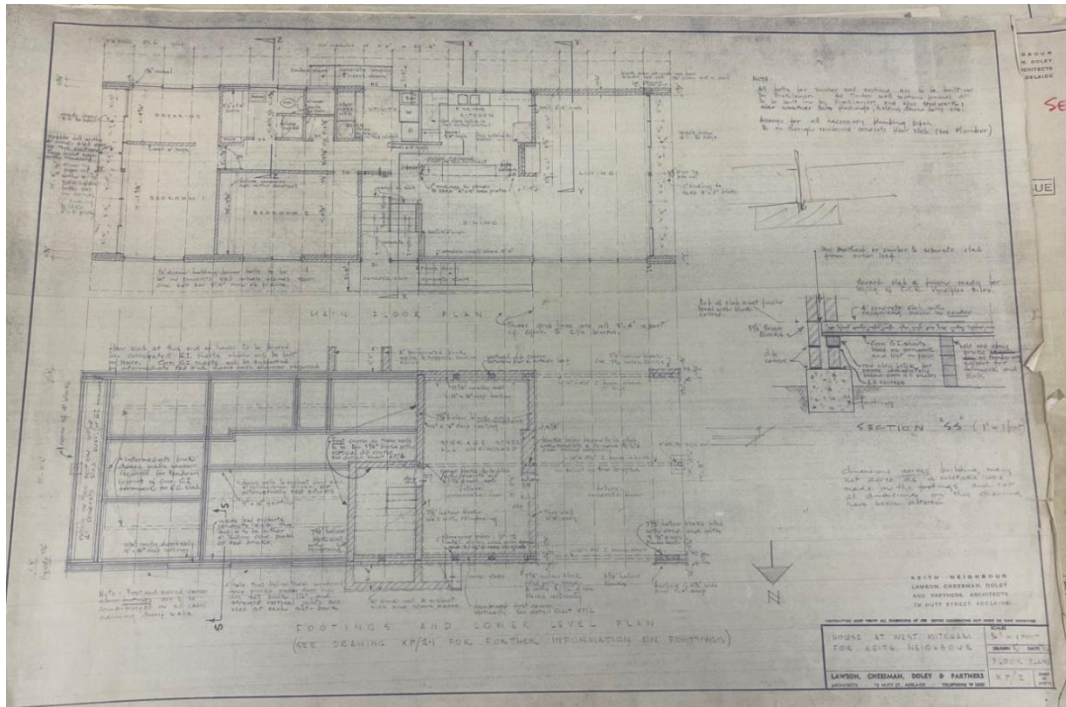
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Rectangular house with pitched gable roof, exposed concrete block walls and landscape elements.	
HISTORIC THEME/S	4. Building Settlements, Towns and Cities 4.3 Shaping the suburbs (including pre- and post-World War 2) 4.7 Marking significant phases in development of SA's settlements, towns and cities (including key town planning initiatives and architectural styles)	
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1956-1958	
REGISTER STATUS:	Identified: 10 April 2025 Provisional Entry: 12 February 2026 Confirmed: 6 August 2026	
CURRENT USE:	Private residence, c.1957 -	
ARCHITECT:	Keith Neighbour, 1956-1957	
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	City of Mitcham	
LOCATION:	Street	61 Braemar Road
	Address:	Torrens Park SA 5062
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title	
	Reference:	CT 5084/739 F19264 A60
	Hundred:	Adelaide

PHOTOS

Neighbour House

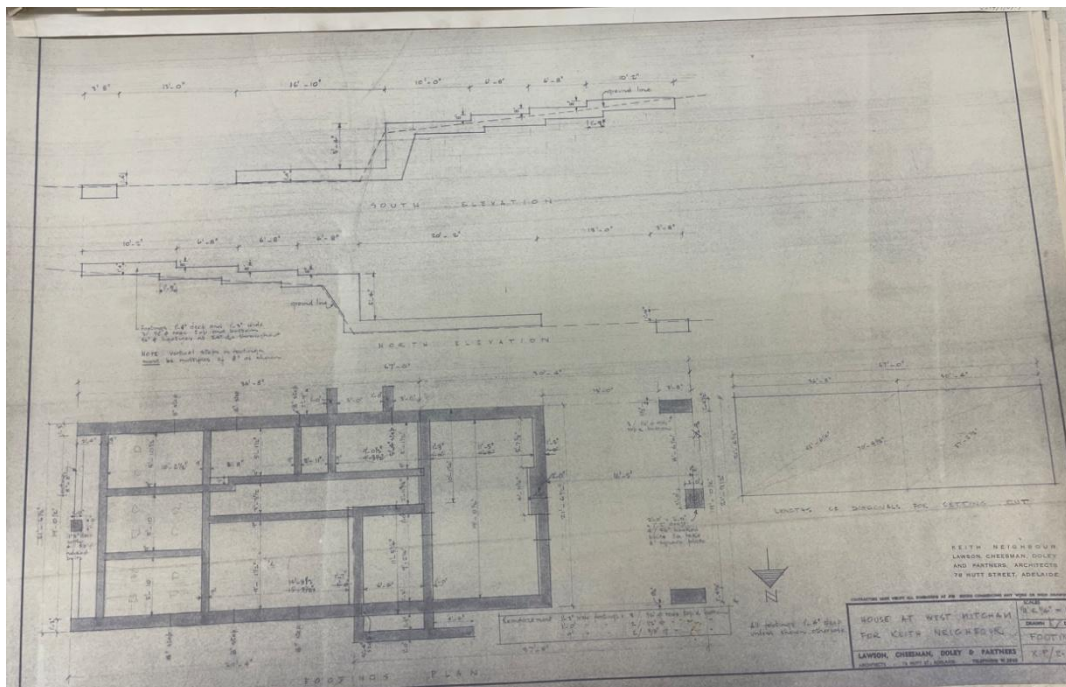
PLACE NO.: 26619

61 Braemar Road, Torrens Park



Part floor plan of Neighbour House, 1956.

Source: Keith Neighbour Collection S294, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia



Plan and elevations of concrete footings, 1956.

Source: Keith Neighbour Collection S294, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia

Summary of State Heritage Place: 26619

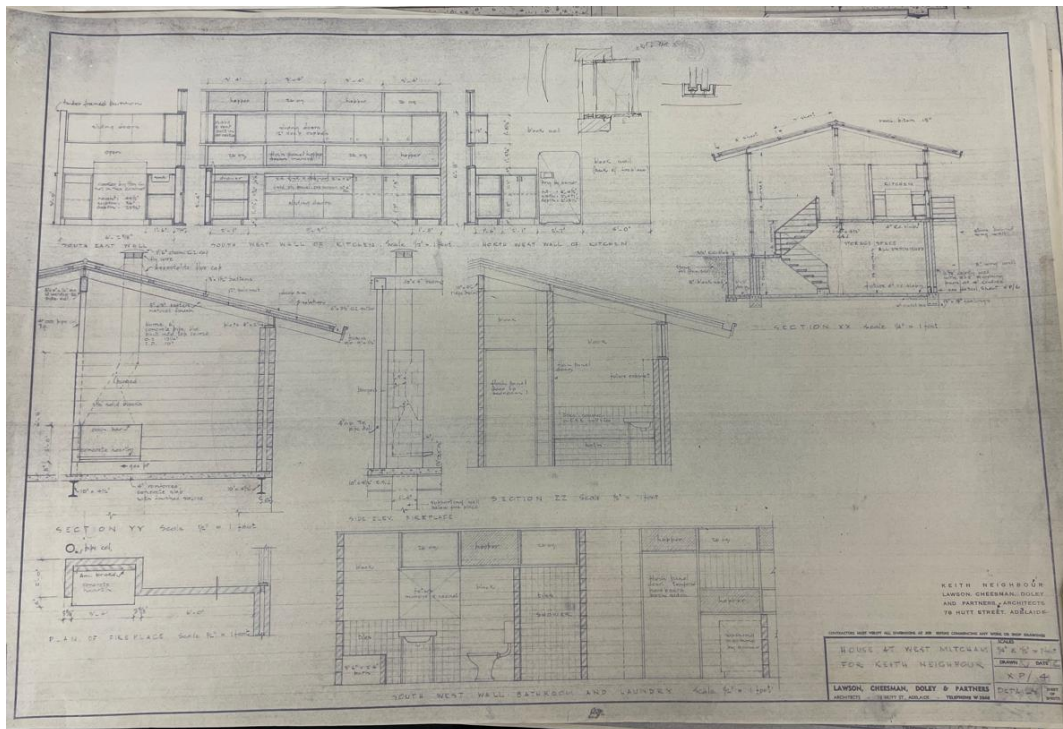
Provisionally entered by the South Australian Heritage Council on 12 February 2026.

Confirmed by the South Australian Heritage Council on 6 August 2026.

Neighbour House

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61 Braemar Road, Torrens Park



Plan showing sections of house and interior design elements, including furniture.

Source: Keith Neighbour Collection S294, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia



Interior of Neighbour House showing exposed Besser blocks, straw ceilings and original furniture, c.1950s.

Source: Keith Neighbour Collection S294, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia

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Neighbour House

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Interior of Neighbour House showing extensive use of glass and timber panelling, c.1950s.

Source: Keith Neighbour Collection S294, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia



Mid-level entrance with staircase, c.1950s.

Source: Keith Neighbour Collection S294, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia

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Neighbour House

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61 Braemar Road, Torrens Park



Interior of house showing furniture designed by Keith Neighbour, c.1950s.

Source: Keith Neighbour Collection S294, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia

*** All following photographs taken by DEW on 29 September 2025**



Eastern (street) elevation of Neighbour House, 61 Braemar Road, Torrens Park

Neighbour House

PLACE NO.: 26619

61 Braemar Road, Torrens Park



Southern elevation showing clerestory and Corbusian windows, side entrance with ramp, and integrated carport.



Northern elevation.

Neighbour House

PLACE NO.: 26619

61 Braemar Road, Torrens Park



Western elevation showing balcony extension (upper floor).



North-western corner showing upper- and lower-storeys with integrated carport and balcony extension (also with carport).

Neighbour House

PLACE NO.: 26619

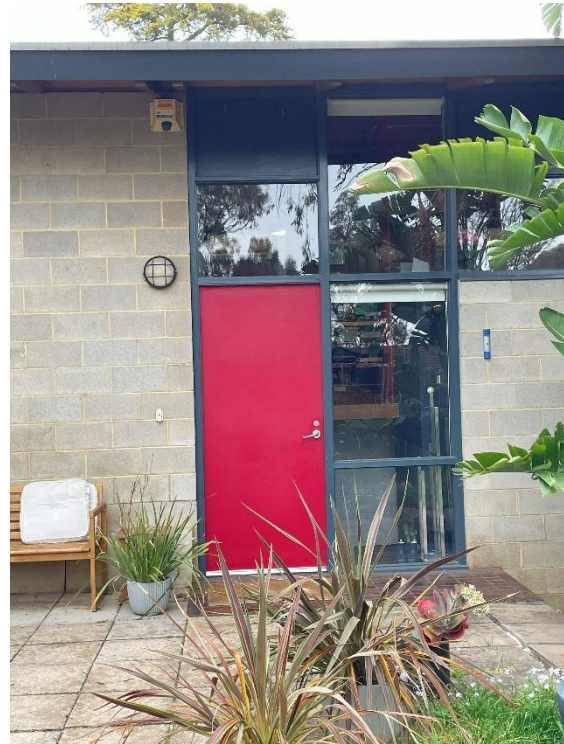
61 Braemar Road, Torrens Park



Corbusian-inspired window pattern on southern elevation (non-original paint); exposed perforated Besser blocks can be seen to the right.



Concrete pathway, fence and stairs



Closed entrance door at northern elevation.

Neighbour House

PLACE NO.: 26619

61 Braemar Road, Torrens Park



View from balcony showing creek bed and natural setting.



Northern side of the driveway layout showing the sloped terrain.

REVISIONS

Date	Changes
6 August 2026	Elements of Significance updated; date of confirmation added to footer and Site Details.

¹ 'Brownhill Creek Recreation Reserve', National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia, 2025.

<https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/parks/brownhill-creek-recreation-park> Accessed 19 August 2025.

² Christine Lockwood, 'Early Encounters on the Adelaide Plains and Encounter Bay' in Peggy Brock and Tom Gara eds. *Colonialism and its Aftermath A History of Aboriginal South Australia*, (Kent Town: Wakefield Press, 2017), pp.66-67.

³ Alexandra Marsden and Lothar Brasse, *City of Mitcham Heritage Survey* (Adelaide: National Programme, 1979), p.7.

⁴ Taylor Weidenhofer, *Heritage Survey of the City of Mitcham, Volume One* (Adelaide: Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 1995), pp.56; W. A. Norman, *The History of the City of Mitcham* (Adelaide: Corporation of the City of Mitcham, 1953), p.24; 'Our History', About Our City, Mitcham Council.

<https://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/Our-city-and-council/about-our-city/our-history> Accessed 19 August 2025.

⁵ Norman, *History of the City of Mitcham*, p.165.

⁶ Taylor Weidenhofer, *City of Mitcham*, p.6.

⁷ Taylor Weidenhofer, *City of Mitcham*, pp.5-7.

⁸ Taylor Weidenhofer, *City of Mitcham*, pp.5-7.

⁹ Taylor Weidenhofer, *City of Mitcham*, pp.6-8.

¹⁰ Christine Garnaut, *Colonel Light Gardens: Model Garden Suburb*, reprint (Darlinghurst: Crossing Press, 2006), p.70.

¹¹ Taylor Weidenhofer, *City of Mitcham*, pp.7-10.

¹² Taylor Weidenhofer, *City of Mitcham*, pp.10-11.

¹³ Julie Collins, 'Neighbour, Keith', Architects of South Australia, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia, 2008. https://architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=49 Accessed 19 August 2025; Keith Neighbour, 'Keith Neighbour Interviewed by Alice Garner in Fulbright Scholars Oral History Project'. By Alice Garner, Fulbright Scholars Oral History Project, record 6 March 2010 and 1 July 2010. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-219232870/listen> Accessed 19 August 2025.

¹⁴ Collins, 'Neighbour, Keith'; Neighbour, 'Fulbright Scholars Oral History Project'.

¹⁵ Collins, 'Neighbour, Keith'.

¹⁶ Michael Page (hardships) and Petra Starke (sketches) quoted in Collins, 'Neighbour, Keith'.

¹⁷ Collins, 'Neighbour, Keith'.

¹⁸ Collins, 'Neighbour, Keith'.

¹⁹ Collins, 'Neighbour, Keith'; see items in 'Published newspaper articles clippings of articles by Keith Neighbour on topic of house design dated 1955, in "Sunday Mail", S294/1/21/1-2, Keith Neighbour Collection, Series 294, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia.

²⁰ See items in '9 perspectives and plans of houses, reduced copies', S294/3/2, Keith Neighbour Collection, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia.

²¹ Keith Neighbour, 'Landscaping is Color Sculpture', *Mail*, 27 August 1955, p. unknown. S294/2/4/3 Keith Neighbour Collection, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia.

²² See Heritage South Australia, *Sisalkraft Factory Complex Heritage Assessment Report* (Adelaide: Department for Environment and Water, 2025), esp. p.27.

²³ Keith Neighbour, 'Building on a Slope', *Sunday Mail*, 1 October 1955, p. unknown. S294/2/4/14 Keith Neighbour Collection, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia.

²⁴ Keith Neighbour, 'New Footings for Houses on Clay Soils', manuscript, 6 June 1954. S294/5/11 Keith Neighbour Collection, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia.

²⁵ Certificate of Title Vol. 507, Folio 55, Transfer No. 1371102, 7 July 1942.

²⁶ Certificate of Title Vol. 507, Folio 55, Transfer No. 1491762, 20 February 1947; 'Adelaide Metro 9 Jan – 27 April 1949', aerial image, EnvMaps, Department for Environment and Water.

²⁷ Certificate of Title Vol. 1951, Folio 192, Transfer No. 1945578, 11 May 1957 and Transfer No. 19455779.

²⁸ Certificate of Title Vol. 1951, Folio 192, Transfer No. 1945580.

²⁹ Collins, 'Neighbour, Keith' and McDougall, 'Platten, Newell'.

³⁰ In 1959, John Murphy was elected as a Student Member of the South Australian chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. Royal Australian Institute of Architects, *Year Book of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, 1961-1962* (Sydney: Publications Board of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, 1962), p.168.

³¹ The Plattens built the house at 55 Braemar Road and the Murphys built the house at 2 Yaminga Place.

³² Neighbour's address is listed as Torrens Park in the 1958 edition of Sands and McDougall's Directory. Sands and McDougall Pty, Ltd., *Sands and McDougall's Directory of South Australia, 1958* (Adelaide: self-published, 1958), p.1088. Panchito Park appears to have been established in the 1920s and was located on Section 100, Hundred of Adelaide. The Department of Lands 1959 map of the Hundred of Adelaide shows that Torrens Park expanded and absorbed West Mitcham and Panchito Park, bringing an end to both suburb names. See 'Map 29', *The Register Street Guide, 1920* via MAPCO, 2005. <https://mapco.net/adelstreets/streets29.htm> Accessed 19 August 2025; Department of Lands, Adelaide: Co. Adelaide, 1959, map of Hundred of Adelaide. South Australia Hundred Maps, State Library of South Australia. https://maps.collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/series/hundreds_SA_63360/A/adelaide/zsmp_830bje6_3360_adelaide1959.pdf Accessed 19 August 2025.

³³ See the items in House at West Mitcham for Keith Neighbour, Drawings S294/9/5/1-12 and 17-24 and Calculations S294/9/5/13, Keith Neighbour Collection, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia.

³⁴ Neighbour's address in the 1958 Directory suggests he was residing in the place in 1957. Sands and McDougall, *Directory of South Australia, 1958*, p.1088

³⁵ 'Torrens Park, South Australia' in *Best Australian Houses: Recent Houses Built by Members of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects*, Neil Clerehan (ed.). Melbourne; Canberra; Sydney: F. W. Chesire, 1961: House Eleven.

³⁶ Symons, *Modernist Adelaide*, p.54; Tim Reeves, *Adelaide Modernism: 101 Houses* (Mile End: Wakefield Press, 2024), pp.112-123.

³⁷ Certificate of Title Vol. 1951, Folio 192, Transfer No. 2061881, 27 May 1958.

³⁸ See 'Interior of 1950s House', photograph, c.1958, John S. Chappel Collection, State Library of South Australia, BRG 346/28/CHEESMANANDCO/29/1 and 'House at Braemar Road, Torrens Park', 20 August 1959, John S. Chappel Collection, State Library of South Australia, BRG 346/28/CHEESMANANDCO/7/1.

³⁹ Georgina Downey, 'Revisited: Neighbour House by Keith Neighbour', *Houses* (May 2025): p.122.

⁴⁰ 'Torrens Park, South Australia' in *Best Australian Houses*, House Eleven.

⁴¹ Pamela Arnold, 'The Cover House: An Architect's Contemporary House', *Australian House and Garden* (September 1965): pp.52-53 and p.57.

⁴² 'CO.6.1: Factory', RAlA South Australia Significant 20th Century Architecture: Card Index, c.1986, RAlA Collection S301/2, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia. In 2011, the AIA's National Heritage Taskforce included Neighbour House in its list of 117 buildings it considered to be significant twentieth-century South Australian architecture. 'SA Notable Buildings'.

Australian Institute of Architects <https://www.architecture.com.au/explore/notable-buildings/sa-notable-buildings>

⁴³ 'Keith Neighbour AM, Of Tragedy and Valor, Rumbelow and Descendants. <https://www.rumbelow.net/tragedyandvalor/keith1919> Accessed 19 August 2025.

Summary of State Heritage Place: 26619

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⁴⁴ Certificate of Title, Vol. 5084, Folio 739, Transfer No. 7322641, 26 August 1992 and Transfer No. 7482789, 25 May 1993.

⁴⁵ 'Obituaries: Tributes to Three of Our Finest', *Advertiser*, 7 May 2011. <https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/ipad/obituaries-tributes-to-three-of-our-finest-/news-story/313568b1526d1db93adaaaa8965d97dc> Accessed 19 August 2025.

⁴⁶ Certificate of Title, Vol. 5084, Folio 739, Transfer No. 13778258, 6 May 2022.

⁴⁷ See Symons, *Modernist Adelaide*, p.54; Reeves, *Adelaide Modernism*, pp.112-113; Downey, 'Revisited: Neighbour House by Keith Neighbour', pp.122-129; and Genevieve Meegan and Anthony Basheer, 'Modernist Masterpiece', *SALife (InDaily)*, 31 January 2025. <https://www.indailysa.com.au/salife/homes/2025/01/31/modernist-masterpiece> Accessed 19 August 2025.