

## HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

13 February 2026

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**NAME:** Neighbour House

**PLACE:** 26619

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**ADDRESS:** Karna Country

61 Braemar Road, Torrens Park

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Based on the information available to it, Heritage South Australia of the Department for Environment and Water presents this heritage assessment that considers the place satisfies criteria (e) and (g) of Section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.



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

Source: DEW Files 29 September 2025

### ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

#### Statement of Heritage Significance:

Neighbour House, built in Torrens Park 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 South Australian Historical Themes**

#### 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)

### **Comparative Analysis:**

Neighbour House exhibits modern design principles mediated to suit South Australian sensibilities which in turn contributed to the development of what became known as Late Twentieth Century Adelaide Regional style architecture. As such Neighbour House is associated with Modern & Postwar International Style architecture; Late Twentieth Century Adelaide Regional style architecture; and architect Keith Neighbour.

### **Modern & Postwar International Style Architecture**

While Adelaide was architecturally conservative prior to World War Two, in the years after the war more clients were willing to commission buildings that drew on modernist or functionalist design known as the International Style. 'International Style' was a term coined by Philip Johnson and Henry-Russell Hitchcock in 1932 in their essay 'The International Style: Architecture Since 1922' which acted as the catalogue for an architectural exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, New York.<sup>1</sup>

During the 1950s, two building types that embodied the style emerged, namely the curtain-walled office block and the radical, flat-roofed, glass-walled private house.<sup>12</sup> Defined by Apperly et al as 'Postwar International c.1940-1960' as it was designed and constructed in Australia, Adelaide's architectural conservatism meant the style was more prevalent here during the 1950s and 1960s. These buildings are distinguished through the use of steel, reinforced concrete and glass, open planning of the interior and the use of sun control.

The key characteristics of the Postwar International Style are:

- Sleek, glossy, prismatic forms with uninterrupted surfaces
- Selective expression of the structural system used as a feature
- Landscaping and use of indoor plants often provided the only decorative foil
- Steel and reinforced concrete frame
- Cubiform shapes clad with curtain walls
- Cantilever

- Curtain wall featuring large expanses of glass and/or plain smooth surfaces with areas of contrasting textures
- Sun control measures
- Load bearing walls used for curvilinear forms that contrast with rectangularity<sup>3</sup>

There are only two houses designed in the International Style that are listed as State Heritage places in the Register, namely:

- Dwelling designed by Russell Ellis in the 'International Style', 3 Meadowvale Road, Springfield, c.1948, (SHP 16349),
- Dwelling ('Walkley House') designed by Robyn Boyd in the International Style, 26 Palmer Place, North Adelaide, 1956, (SHP 13515)

The South Australian Heritage Register currently contains six houses that are identified as 'Modern Movement' or 'Modern':

- Hawthorne Child Care Centre (former Dr Frayne's House & Surgery – an example of Modern Movement Architecture), 110 Belair Road, Hawthorn, (SHP 14778).
- 'Modern Movement' Style Dwelling, 1 St Michaels Road, Mitcham (SHP 11511).
- Dickson Beach House, Little Gorge Beach, Main South Road, Normanville (SHP 26195).
- Dwelling ('Deepacres' Apartments) and Garage at rear, 283-291 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide (SHP 13555).
- Dwelling - Dickson House, 2 Wandilla Drive, Rostrevor (SHP 26194).
- Modernist Style Dwelling, 20 Oaklands Road, Somerton Park (SHP 14467).



**Dwelling designed in the International Style by Russell Ellis, c.1948**

Source: Google Street View



**Dwelling ('Walkley House') designed by Robyn Boyd in the International Style, 1956**

Source: Google Street View

### **Late Twentieth Century Adelaide Regional Style**

Regional variations of Modern architecture appeared across Australia in the decades following the Second World War. While drawing on modern architectural principles, like the primacy of function, the honest expression of structure and materials and the rejection of superfluous ornamentation,<sup>4</sup> these variations also responded to local climate and topography.<sup>5</sup>

In Adelaide, several young and likeminded architects began to experiment with and adapt such principles to suit South Australian conditions as early as the 1950s. These architects were connected through various organisations, such as South Australia's schools of architecture, prominent architectural firms, the Contemporary Architects Association (CAA) and/or events like the Royal Australian Institute of Architect's 1956 Exhibition held in Bonython Park. These architects included 'Keith Neighbour, Dick Roberts, John Chappel, Laurie Brownell, Alan Godfrey, Brian Claridge ... Newell Platten' and Robert (Bob) Dickson.<sup>6</sup>

A notable outcome of their experimentation and adaptation was the introduction of pitched roofs to modernist structures, which generally favoured flat roofs. The addition of pitched roofs to contemporary designs led to the creation of 'interesting' interior spaces through the use of sloped and exposed ceilings. Another outcome was the tendency to create landscape settings that were 'understated and informal' and made frequent use of Australian native plants.<sup>7</sup>

After the 1950s, the development of a distinctive Adelaide style of modernist architecture was primarily advanced by the partnership of Bob Dickson and Newell Platten, operating as the architectural firm Dickson and Platten (1958-1973). The firm is recognised as 'pioneering and developing'<sup>8</sup> a 'friendly and more relaxed form of modernism' that came to be known as Late Twentieth Century Adelaide Regional style.<sup>9</sup> Other architects to design in Late Twentieth Century Adelaide Regional style include John Chappel and JD Craven.<sup>10</sup>

Apperly et al note the following attributes that define the style:

- Mainly domestic; some institutional buildings,
- Textured walls of painted or face brick or blockwork,
- Timber windows and door joinery, stained or oiled,
- Simple shapes freely composed,
- Low-pitched gable roofs with wide eaves clad in terracotta or concrete tiles,
- Clerestory windows,
- Well-shaded verandahs with timber posts and screens, and
- Off-form concrete columns and balustrades.

Examples of the Late Twentieth Century Adelaide Regional (LTCAR) style include:

- Dwelling - Dickson House, 2 Wandilla Drive, Rostrevor (SHP 26194); designed by Robert Dickson; completed 1952; confirmed 15 June 2009 under (e) and (g); described in the Statement of Heritage Significance as an 'influential representative of modern organic design and construction' but also shares characteristics of the LTCAR style, notably the pitched roof and simple shapes.
- Graham and Barbara Dickson House, 4 Marola Avenue, Rostrevor (SHP 26597); designed by Robert Dickson, 1958; confirmed 8 May 2025 under (e) and (g).
- Billam House, Esplanade, Brighton; designed by John S. Chappel; completed c.1965; identified in Apperly et al (since demolished).

- Mount Lofty Golf Course Clubhouse, 35 Golflinks Road, Stirling; designed by Dickson Platten; completed 1968 (planned for demolition); identified in Apperly et al.
- Kathleen Lumley College including Amenities Wing, Residential Wing, Master's Residence, Central and Front Gardens, Transformer Building, Southern Boundary Walls and Gates, 113-123 Mackinnon Parade, North Adelaide (SHP 26350); designed by Dickson and Platten; completed 1969; confirmed 25 October 2013 under (e) and (g); identified in Apperly et al.
- Union House, University of Adelaide, Victoria Drive, Adelaide (part of Union Building Group, The University of Adelaide, SHP 17619); completed 1975; confirmed 25 July 2002 under (e) and (g); identified in Apperly et al.
- Civic Centre, James Street, Salisbury; designed by Robert Dickson and Associates Pty Ltd; completed 1976; identified in Apperly et al (rejected by the South Australian Heritage Council in February 2020; since demolished).



**Section of Kathleen Lumley College, 113-123 Mackinnon Parade, North Adelaide (SHP 26350).**

Source: DEW Files, c.2010



**Graham and Barbara Dickson House, 4 Marola Avenue, Rostrevor (SHP 26597)**

Source: DEW Files, 2024



**Dwelling - Dickson House, 2 Wandilla Drive, Rostrevor (SHP 26194)**

Source: DEW Files, 2015



**Section of Union House University of Adelaide, Victoria Drive, Adelaide (part of Union Building Group, The University of Adelaide, SHP 17619)**

Source: Google Street View, August 2023



**Civic Centre, James Street, Salisbury (since demolished)**

Source: Google Street View, September 2019

## Keith Neighbour

Keith Neighbour (b. 13 June 1919, d. 4 February 2011) designed Neighbour House while a partner for Lawson, Cheesman, Doley and Partners. Neighbour was a prominent Adelaide-based architect active between c.1948 and 2011. Throughout his career, Neighbour was attuned to modernist architectural trends, such as the International and Brutalist styles. Much of his work demonstrates a 'sophisticated use and understanding of concrete as a material'.<sup>11</sup>

Throughout his professional life, Neighbour was associated with other notable and likeminded architects including Jack Cheesman and Newell Platten, both of whom he worked alongside during his long career. Neighbour's practice served a diverse clientele, designing 'homes for the aged, hotels, motels, cinemas, drive-ins, service stations, hospitals, schools and multi-storey office buildings, houses, churches and factories'.<sup>12</sup>

Neighbour was highly involved in the profession through organisations such as the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA), the Architects Registration Board of South Australia and the State's architecture schools. In 1992, he received an Order of Australia medal for his professional contributions and in 1994 was awarded the RAIA (SA Branch) President's Medal.<sup>13</sup>

Some notable places associated with Keith Neighbour include:

- Sisalkraft Factory Complex, 356 Torrens Road, Kilkenny (SHP 26557, provisional); designed and built in 1957; one of Neighbour's earliest projects.
- Neighbour House, 61 Braemar Road, Torrens Park; designed c.1956 and built by 1958; Neighbour's residence (subject of this assessment).
- Former Highways Department Building, 33 Warwick Street, Walkerville; designed by Cheesman, Doley, Brabham and Neighbour (attributed to Keith Neighbour and Ross Stagg) and built in two stages, respectively completed in 1964 and 1968; since converted into a hotel.
- Ligertwood Building, University of Adelaide, North Terrace, Adelaide; original design with Douglas Raffin and completed in 1967; since modified.
- AEU Building (former SAIT Building), 163A Greenhill Road, Parkside (SHP 26612 (provisional entry); completed in 1970.
- IMFC Building, 33 King William Street, Adelaide; design attribution shared with Douglas Raffin, completed c.1970.
- St. Martin's Anglican Church, 3 Gorge Road, Paradise; completed c.1970 (subject of a future assessment).
- Hilton Hotel, Victoria Square, Adelaide; design attribution shared with Antanas Lapsys; completed 1982.



**Sisalkraft Factory Complex (SHP 26557).**

Source: DEW Files, 26 November 2024



**Former Highways Department Building**

Source: Google Street View



**AEU Building (Former SAIT Building)**

Source: DEW Files, 29 April 2025



**St. Martin's Anglican Church.**

Source: Google Street View



**IMFC Building**

Source: Google Street View



**Hilton Hotel**

Source: Google Street View

**Assessment against Criteria under Section 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*. All Criteria have been assessed using the *Guidelines for Interpreting State Heritage Places* (approved by the South Australian Heritage Council on 14 March 2024).**

**(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.**

A place is of importance to the evolution or pattern of South Australia's history if that place is the product of, or is an example of, or was influenced by, or has influenced, or is associated with, or has a symbolic association with, or is the site of – an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life (including values, aspirations, tastes and fashions) which has made a **strong, noticeable or influential contribution** to the **evolution or pattern** of the settlement and development of South Australia.

The place should be closely associated with events, developments or cultural phases that have played a significant part in South Australian history. The following tests provide a guide as to the extent to which the place satisfies the criterion:

Neighbour House demonstrates the following South Australian historic themes:

Building settlements, towns and cities and its subthemes Shaping the suburbs (including pre- and post-World War 2) and marking significant phases in developing South Australia's settlements, towns and cities (including key town planning initiatives and architectural styles).

Neighbour House is associated with the historic theme Building settlements, towns and cities and its subthemes Shaping the suburbs (including pre- and post-World War 2) and marking significant phases in developing South Australia's settlements, towns and cities (including key town planning initiatives and architectural styles).

The house is associated with the suburban expansion of Adelaide in the decades following the Second World War. Along with Newell Platten and several other young architects, Keith Neighbour purchased undeveloped land from his colleague Jack Cheesman and erected a family home that drew on modernist design ideas adapted to its local and environmental circumstances.

While an interesting part of the history of Torrens Park and the work of Keith Neighbour, Neighbour House itself has not made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution to the evolution or pattern of South Australian history. Such a contribution instead came from the large-scale planning initiatives of several government agencies (South Australian Housing Trust and South Australian Land Commission) and private developers (Reality Development Corporation and Delfin), both of which also sought to create better living environments. It is their work that shaped South Australia's post-war suburbs both in Adelaide and regional centres across the State.

Similarly, while the house demonstrates a high degree of creative and aesthetic accomplishment, considered under criterion (e), of itself, the house has not made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution to the evolution or a pattern of the settlement and development of South Australia. Rather the house was one of several early experiments that enabled Keith Neighbour to explore his growing confidence as an architect and it contributed to the emergence of a South Australian response to modern architecture that resulted in a distinct architectural style. These attributes are better considered under criteria (e) and (g).

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not satisfy** criterion (a).

**(b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.**

The place must demonstrate qualities of cultural significant to South Australia that are rare, uncommon or endangered. Cultural significance may include building class, historic themes, construction techniques, ways of life, social customs, scientific achievement, industrial processes, topographical or natural features, or land use, etc that may no longer be practiced, are in danger of being lost or rarely found in South Australia. This may encompass places that were always rare or places that have become scarce through subsequent loss or destruction.

The place must have both cultural significance to South Australia and also possess uncommon, rare or endangered qualities. Places that are few in number and considered at risk of being lost for reasons such as changing land use, industrial processes and lifestyles, and economic pressures may be considered endangered. Places that might become rare or uncommon but are not yet uncommon or rare do not satisfy criterion (b). Determining if a place is uncommon, rare or endangered requires contextual analysis to understand how common the place once was and how many examples still survive. A place may be uncommon, rare or endangered but not culturally significant to South Australia, in this instance the place is considered to not satisfy criterion (b). The following tests provide a guide as to the extent to which the place satisfies the criterion:

Neighbour House is associated with the suburban expansion of Adelaide in the decades following the Second World War. During this period, thousands of houses were erected by private individuals and the government, the latter through the South Australian Housing Trust. Accordingly, Neighbour House is not considered to be uncommon, rare or endangered.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not satisfy** criterion (b).

**(c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.**

A place may satisfy criterion (c) if it has the potential to yield information, typically in the form of physical evidence that will contribute to an understanding of South Australia's history. There must be strong existing evidence, in any form, to substantiate that the place is likely to yield information about South Australia's

history that is not readily available from other sources and that sufficient integrity remains to yield the information.

The place should provide, or demonstrate a high likelihood of providing, tangible evidence that will contribute significantly to our knowledge of the past. The place may be a built structure, an archaeological deposit or a geological, palaeontological, speleological or historic site. The following tests provide a guide as to the extent to which the place satisfies the criterion:

Located in an area of the foothills that is now a part of Torrens Park, Neighbour House was built on what appears to have been a previously undeveloped portion of Section 100, Hundred of Adelaide. There is no evidence to suggest that the house and its allotment will yield information that is not already well documented in other sources, including but not limited to published histories, newspaper articles, photographs, documents and architectural drawings. Consequently, criterion (c) is not considered to be satisfied.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not satisfy** criterion (c).

**(d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.**

To satisfy criterion (d), a place must belong to a class of place, be an outstanding representative of the class and the class of place must also be of cultural significance to South Australia. To be an outstanding representative of a class of place the place needs to be an exceptional example of the class and/or an influential example of the class and/or a pivotal example of the class. The place must also retain sufficient intactness to represent the class with a high level of integrity.

The class of place should be of cultural significance in a state-wide context. The place should be outstanding when compared with other places in the class. The following tests provide a guide as to the extent to which the place satisfies the criterion:

Neighbour House is a representative of the class of place known as Post-World War Two Houses.

While postwar suburban expansion is historically and culturally significant, thousands of houses were erected across South Australia as part of this expansion and many of them remain extant. Neighbour House features several key characteristics of the class, including bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, dining area, living area and driveway. However, these features were typical of the class and are represented by thousands of places. The details that make Neighbour House distinctive are demonstrated by the design of the house rather than its class of place and is therefore better represented by criterion (e).

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not satisfy** criterion (d).

**(e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.**

To satisfy criterion (e) the place must demonstrate a high degree of accomplishment that is creative and/or aesthetic and/or technical or is an outstanding representative of particular design characteristics or construction techniques. A place may demonstrate only one or a number of these distinguishers to satisfy the criterion.

The place should show qualities of innovation or departure, beauty or formal design, or represent a new achievement of its time. Breakthroughs in technology or new developments in design would qualify, if the place clearly demonstrates them. A high standard of design skill and originality is expected. The following tests provide a guide as to the extent to which the place satisfies the criterion:

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.

It is recommended that the nominated place **satisfies** criterion (e).

**(f) it has strong cultural or spiritual association for the community or a group within it.**

To satisfy criterion (f), there needs to be clear evidence of a cultural or spiritual association between the community or a group within it and the place. The reasons for the attachment may be spiritual, religious, cultural, political or derived from common experience. The attachment must be enduring and strong.

Places that meet this criterion embody meanings and values that are important to a community or cultural group. The place should demonstrate strong and direct associations for a community or group within it that resonates into the broader community and links to the South Australian identity. The community or group within it must be one that would be broadly recognised by most South Australians as a community or group. The association between the community or group and the place must be enduring, with evidence to demonstrate that there is at least one generation (about 25 years) of association, acknowledging that levels of attachment may fluctuate over time. The following tests provide a guide as to the extent to which the place satisfies the criterion:

Neighbour House may be important to groups who appreciate modern architecture such as the Art Deco and Modernism Society of Australia (Adelaide Chapter), followers of Modernist Adelaide and others who form a disparate collective who celebrate such places. However, these groups tend to hold many similar places in high regard and there is no evidence to suggest that these groups hold this particular house in higher regard than many others. As a result, criterion (f) is not considered to be satisfied.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not satisfy** criterion (f).

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

To satisfy criterion (g), the place must have an association that is considered to be special with the life or work of a person, organisation or event. The person, organisation or event must be notable or important to the history of South Australia

and the place must be associated with why the person, event, or organisation is notable or important.

There needs to be evidence of a special association between the place and the person, organisation or event that has played an important role in South Australia's history. The association may be demonstrated through the fabric of the place or other evidence, such as archaeological fabric, documentary sources and/or oral history. Most people are associated with many places in their lifetime, and it must be demonstrated why the place being assessed has associations that are significant at the State level. The following tests provide a guide as to the extent to which the place satisfies the criterion:

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 for himself and Lorna. The plans and calculations were largely complete by the end of 1956 and the house was completed by 1958. He and Lorna went on to raise their two daughters at the property. 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.

It is recommended that the nominated place **satisfies** criterion (g).

## 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 fascias
- Landscape elements including curved driveway layout 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
- 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

## **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
- Original fixtures and fittings
- Extant original landscaping elements, including curved driveway layout, sloped terrain and creek bed

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

## HISTORY

### Early history of the Mitcham area<sup>1</sup>

The Kurna 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 Kurna 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 Kurna for 'scrub and camping place' and was an important seasonal 'camping, hunting and gathering ground', accommodating up to 150 people.<sup>14</sup>

Colonisation had an immediate and detrimental impact on the Kurna people. Kurna 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 Kurna people were also taken off country and sent to missions at Ruakkan/Point McLeay and Point Pearce.<sup>15</sup>

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.<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup> Around this time, West Mitcham was subdivided as a new suburb, located on Section 247, Hundred of Adelaide.<sup>18</sup>

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.<sup>19</sup> 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)).<sup>20</sup> Large 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)).<sup>21</sup>

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.<sup>22</sup> This process intensified

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

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)).<sup>23</sup> 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.<sup>24</sup>



**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.**

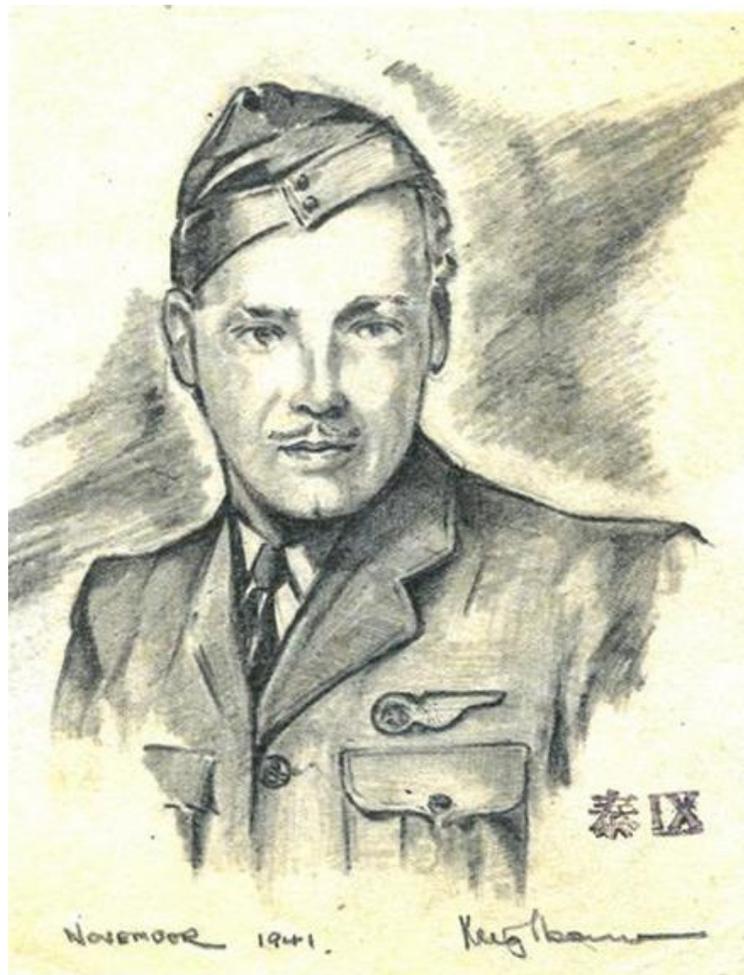
Source: Flickr (user: State Library of South Australia); per [PDM 1.0](#)

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.<sup>25</sup>

## Keith Neighbour's Early Life and Career<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>26</sup>

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).<sup>27</sup> 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.<sup>28</sup> Neighbour 'suffered appalling hardships' yet managed to draw 'sketches of camp life' and participate in recreational activities.<sup>29</sup>



**Sketch of Keith Neighbour, 1941.**

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

<sup>2</sup> 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](https://architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=49)

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*.<sup>30</sup>

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.<sup>31</sup>



**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.<sup>32</sup> Moreover, his early work for Lawson, Cheesman and Doley appears to have entailed designing houses.<sup>33</sup>

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.<sup>34</sup>

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.<sup>35</sup>

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.<sup>36</sup> Likely in response to the 1954 Adelaide earthquake, Neighbour also explored ways to increase structural stability on especially vulnerable surfaces, such as clay.<sup>37</sup>

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.

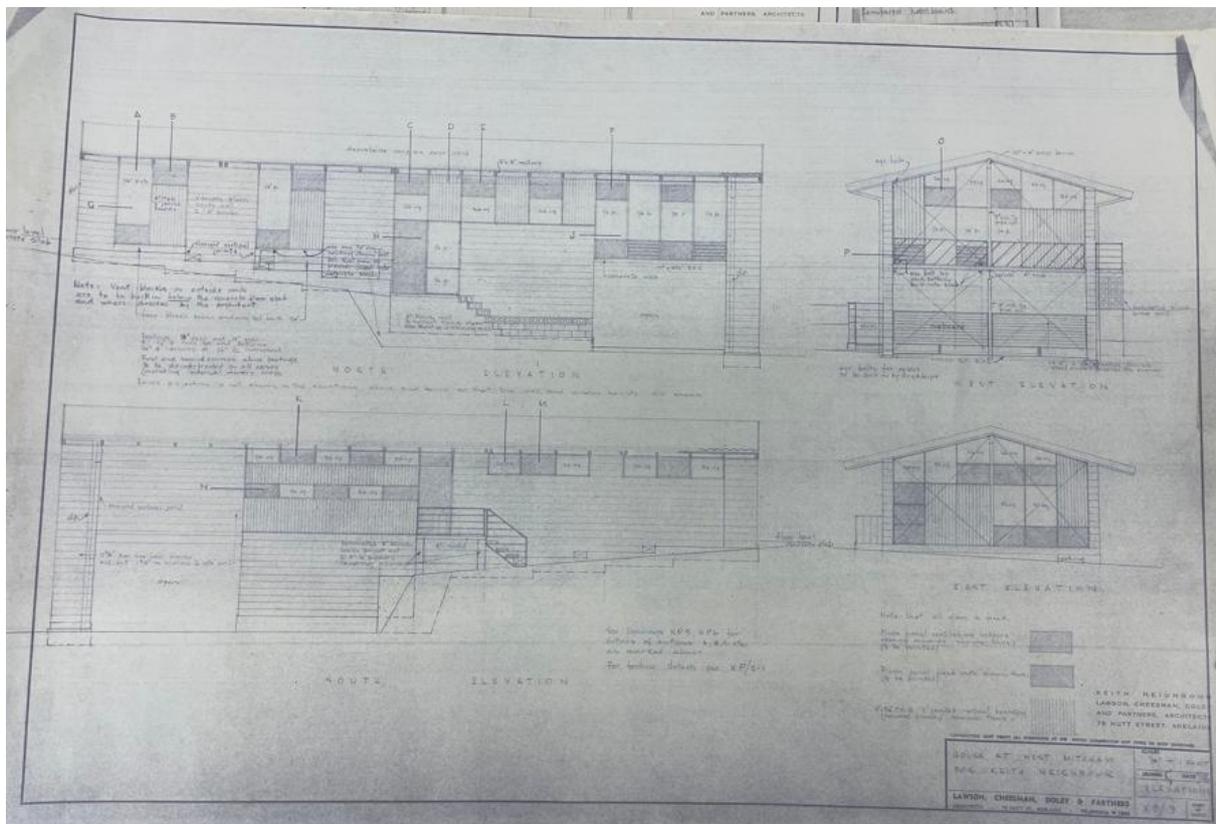
### **Neighbour House**

In 1942, married couple Jack and Catharine Cheesman purchased allotments 104, 108 and 109 of Sections 100 and 247, Hundred of Adelaide.<sup>38</sup> 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.<sup>39</sup> 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.<sup>40</sup> The same day, a portion of allotment 108 was sold to Keith and Lorna Neighbour.<sup>41</sup> At the time, both Platten and Neighbour were young architects working for Lawson, Cheesman and Doley,<sup>42</sup> and John Murphy appears to have been a student architect and may have been articled to the firm.<sup>43</sup> Over the following years, all three erected houses for themselves on these properties, all located along or just off Braemar Road.<sup>44</sup> 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.<sup>45</sup>

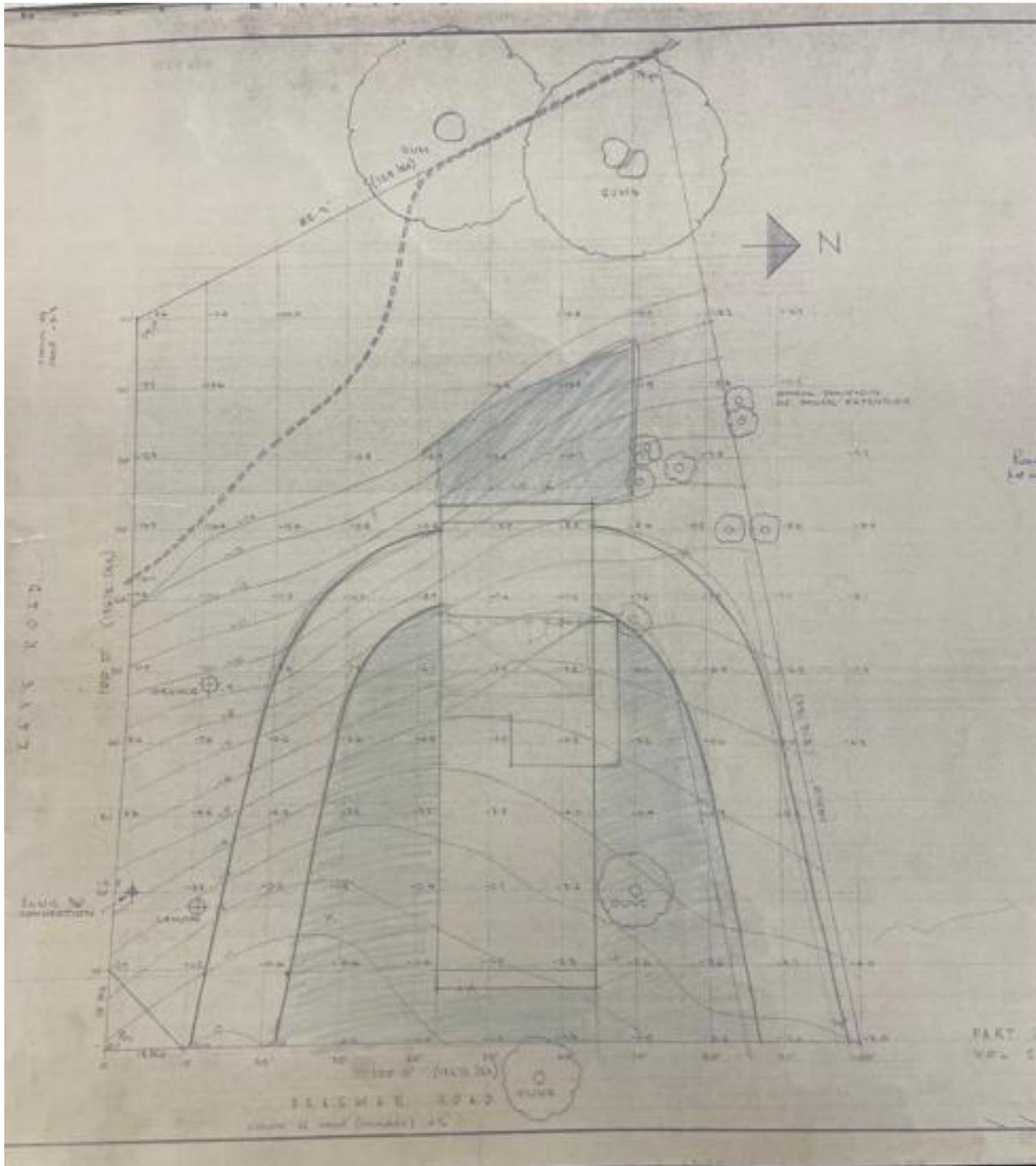
Neighbour had prepared extensive, near-complete plans and calculations for his house by the end of 1956.<sup>46</sup> Construction commenced sometime thereafter and was completed no later than 1958, though was most likely completed in 1957.<sup>47</sup> Neighbour designed the house, which he gave a rectangular 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.<sup>48</sup>



**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.<sup>49</sup>



**Landscape plan, 1956.**

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



**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.<sup>50</sup> 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.<sup>51</sup> 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.<sup>52</sup>

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*.<sup>53</sup> 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.<sup>54</sup> 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'.<sup>55</sup>

### 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,<sup>56</sup> 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.<sup>57</sup> By this point, Keith was in a relationship with Gudrun Tamandl, with whom he remained with until his death on 4 February 2011.<sup>58</sup> Lorna passed away on 2 January 2012. In 2022, the house was sold to its current owners.<sup>59</sup>

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.<sup>60</sup> 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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## SITE RECORD

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|              |                 |                   |       |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|
| <b>NAME:</b> | Neighbour House | <b>PLACE NO.:</b> | 26619 |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|

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**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  
Date of Provisional Entry: 12 February 2026

**CURRENT USE:** Private residence, c.1957 -

**ARCHITECT:** Keith Neighbour, 1956-1957

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** City of Mitcham

**LOCATION:**

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Street</b>    | 61 Braemar Road      |
| <b>Address.:</b> | Torrens Park SA 5062 |

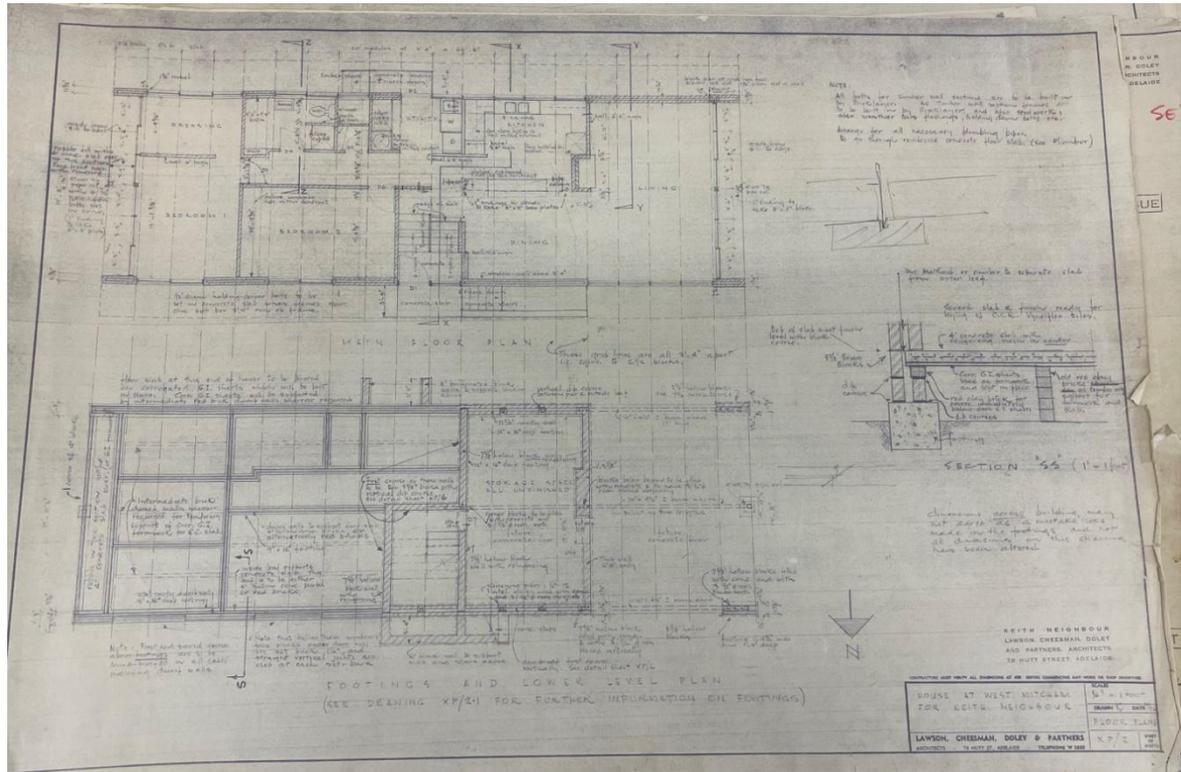
**LAND DESCRIPTION:**

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Title</b>      |                        |
| <b>Reference:</b> | CT 5084/739 F19264 A60 |
| <b>Hundred:</b>   | Adelaide               |

PHOTOS

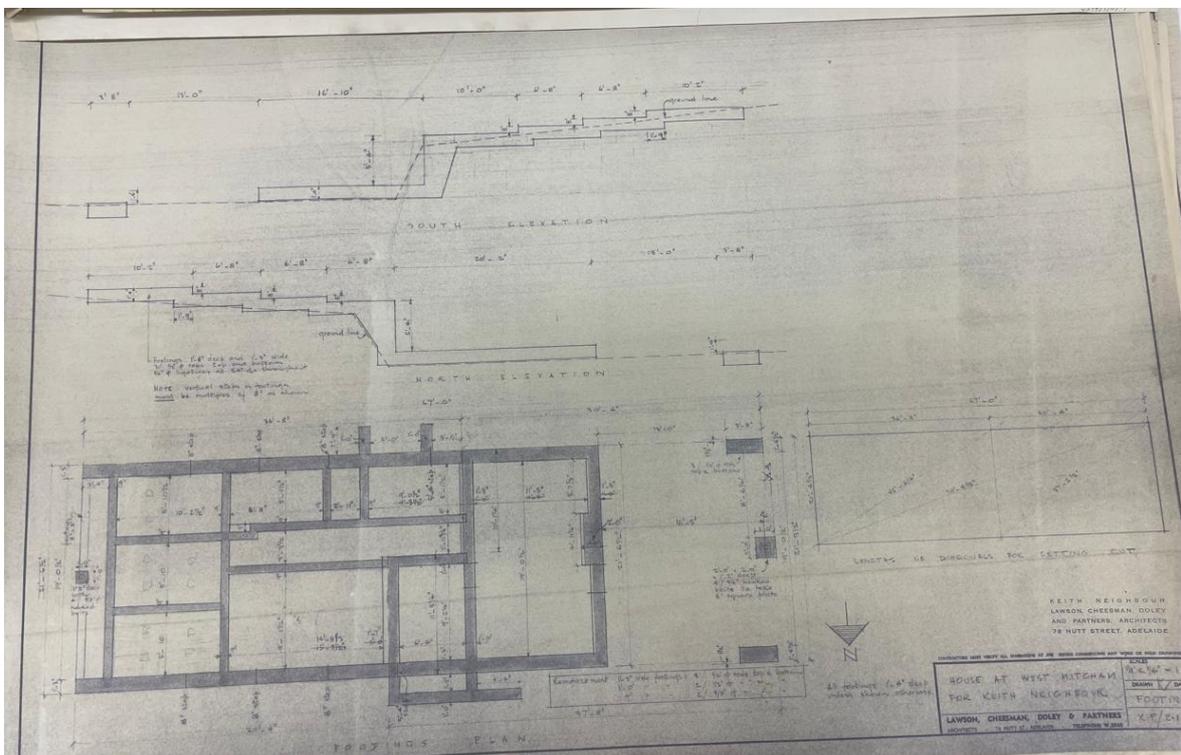
NAME: Neighbour House

PLACE NO.: 26619



Part floor plan of Neighbour House, 1956.

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

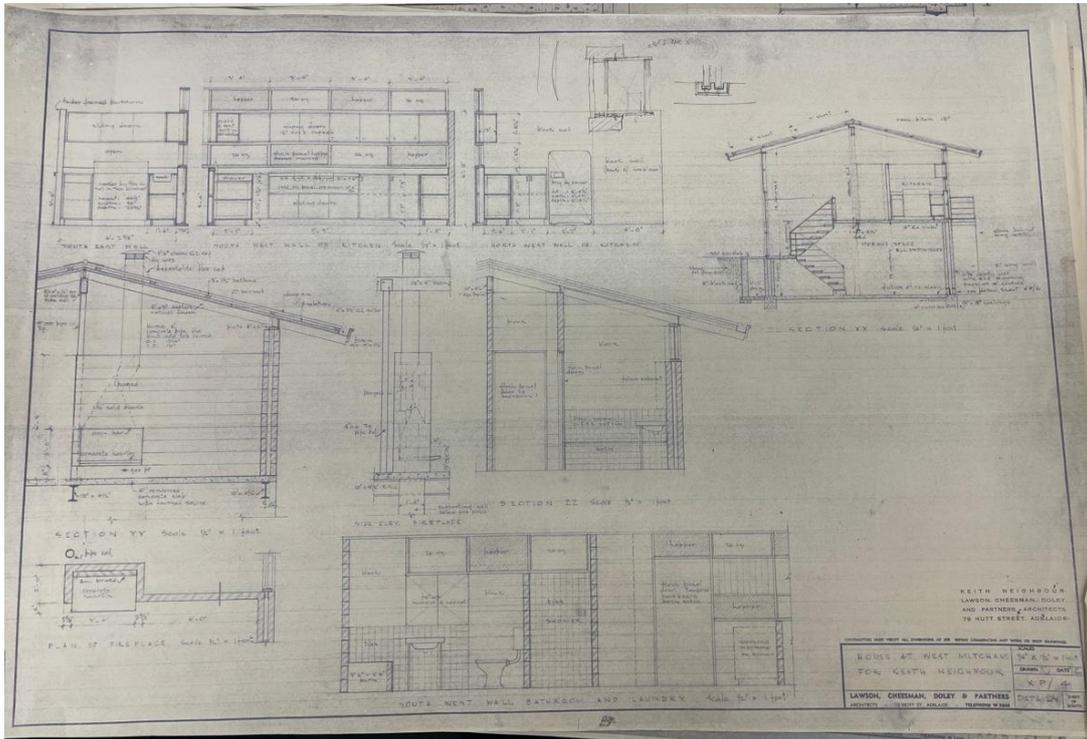


Plan and elevations of concrete footings, 1956.

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

**NAME:** Neighbour House

**PLACE NO.:** 26619



**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

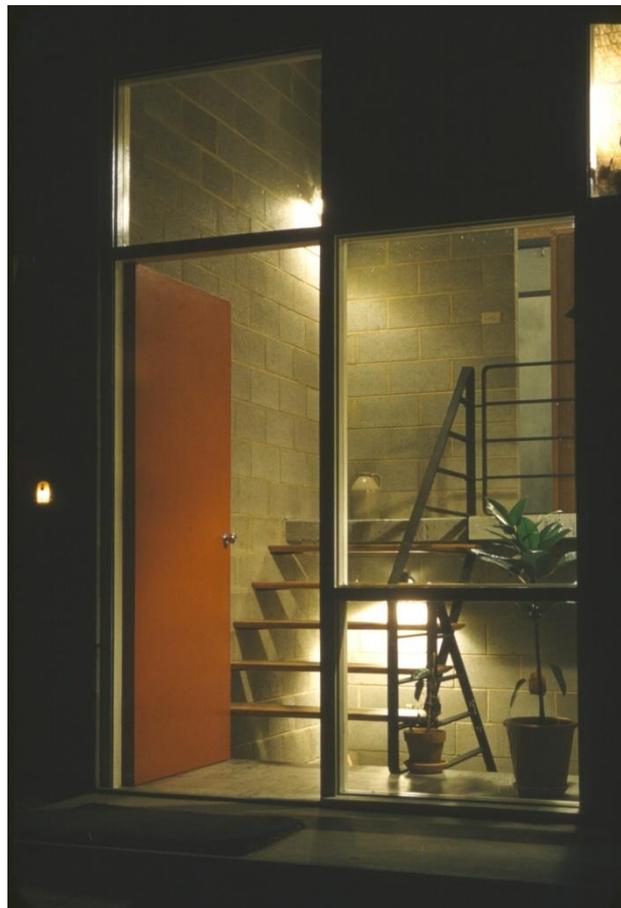
**NAME:** Neighbour House

**PLACE NO.:** 26619



**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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**NAME:** Neighbour House

**PLACE NO.:** 26619

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**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.**

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**NAME:** Neighbour House

**PLACE NO.:** 26619

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



**Northern elevation.**

**NAME:** Neighbour House

**PLACE NO.:** 26619



**Western elevation showing balcony extension (upper floor).**



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

**NAME:** Neighbour House

**PLACE NO.:** 26619



**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.**

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**NAME:** Neighbour House

**PLACE NO.:** 26619

---



**View from balcony showing creek bed and natural setting.**



**Northern side of the driveway layout showing the sloped terrain.**

**SITE PLAN**

**NAME:** Neighbour House

**PLACE NO.:** 26619



61 Braemar Road, Torrens Park, CT 5084/739 F19264 A60, Hundred of Adelaide.\*

N ↑

**LEGEND**

 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 for the building.

**Elements of Significance:**

Elements of heritage significance include:

- Neighbour House
- Exposed Besser Blocks on exterior
- Steel-cable cross braces at the eastern elevation
- Compressed straw ceilings
- Interior layout and spacing
- Extant built-in timber furniture
- Extant landscaping elements, including curved driveway layout, sloped terrain and creek bed

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

## Table of Changes

| Date             | Action   | Officer       |
|------------------|--|---------------|
| 12 February 2026 | This document was last updated to record the date the SAHC provisionally entered on page 31. Also on page 31, the date of identification was corrected from 8 May 2025 to 10 April 2025. | Thomas Mackay |
| 13 February 2026 | Corrections made to Details page and Site Plan: extant landscaping moved to 'exterior' subheading and missing extant landscaping elements added to Site Plan.                            | Thomas Mackay |
|                  |  |               |

<sup>1</sup> Richard Apperly, Robert Irving and Peter Reynolds, *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, reprint (North Ryde: Angus and Robertson, 2011), pp.184-187 and pp.214-217.

<sup>2</sup> Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, *Identifying Australian Architecture*, p.214.

<sup>3</sup> Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, *Identifying Australian Architecture*, pp.216-217.

<sup>4</sup> Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, *Identifying Australian Architecture*, pp.214-217; Alfred H. Barr Jr, 'Preface' in Henry-Russell Hitchcock and Philip Johnson, *The International Style* (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1995), p.29; Stuart Symons, *Modernist Adelaide: 100 Buildings, 1940s – 1970s* (Adelaide: House of Ralph, 2019), p.5.

<sup>5</sup> Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, *Identifying Australian Architecture*, pp.216-217.

<sup>6</sup> Christine Sullivan and Julie Collins, 'Morphett, John Neville', Architecture Museum, University of South Australia, 2008.

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<sup>7</sup> Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, *Identifying Australian Architecture*, pp.216-217.

<sup>8</sup> Alison McDougall, 'Platten, Newell', Architects of South Australia, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia, 2008.

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<sup>9</sup> Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, *Identifying Australian Architecture*, p.248.

<sup>10</sup> Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, *Identifying Australian Architecture*, p.248.

<sup>11</sup> 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](https://architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=49) Accessed 19 August 2025.

<sup>12</sup> Collins, 'Neighbour, Keith'.

<sup>13</sup> Collins, 'Neighbour, Keith'.

<sup>14</sup> '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.

<sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> Alexandra Marsden and Lothar Brasse, *City of Mitcham Heritage Survey* (Adelaide: National Programme, 1979), p.7.

<sup>17</sup> 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.

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- <sup>18</sup> Norman, *History of the City of Mitcham*, p.165.
- <sup>19</sup> Taylor Weidenhofer, *City of Mitcham*, p.6.
- <sup>20</sup> Taylor Weidenhofer, *City of Mitcham*, pp.5-7.
- <sup>21</sup> Taylor Weidenhofer, *City of Mitcham*, pp.5-7.
- <sup>22</sup> Taylor Weidenhofer, *City of Mitcham*, pp.6-8.
- <sup>23</sup> Christine Garnaut, *Colonel Light Gardens: Model Garden Suburb*, reprint (Darlinghurst: Crossing Press, 2006), p.70.
- <sup>24</sup> Taylor Weidenhofer, *City of Mitcham*, pp.7-10.
- <sup>25</sup> Taylor Weidenhofer, *City of Mitcham*, pp.10-11.
- <sup>26</sup> Collins, 'Neighbour, Keith'; 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.
- <sup>27</sup> Collins, 'Neighbour, Keith'; Neighbour, 'Fulbright Scholars Oral History Project'.
- <sup>28</sup> Collins, 'Neighbour, Keith'.
- <sup>29</sup> Michael Page (hardships) and Petra Starke (sketches) quoted in Collins, 'Neighbour, Keith'.
- <sup>30</sup> Collins, 'Neighbour, Keith'.
- <sup>31</sup> Collins, 'Neighbour, Keith'.
- <sup>32</sup> 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.
- <sup>33</sup> See items in '9 perspectives and plans of houses, reduced copies', S294/3/2, Keith Neighbour Collection, Architecture Museum, University of South Australia.
- <sup>34</sup> 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.
- <sup>35</sup> See Heritage South Australia, *Sisalkraft Factory Complex Heritage Assessment Report* (Adelaide: Department for Environment and Water, 2025), esp. p.27.
- <sup>36</sup> 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.
- <sup>37</sup> 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.
- <sup>38</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 507, Folio 55, Transfer No. 1371102, 7 July 1942.
- <sup>39</sup> 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.
- <sup>40</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 1951, Folio 192, Transfer No. 1945578, 11 May 1957 and Transfer No. 19455779.
- <sup>41</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 1951, Folio 192, Transfer No. 1945580.
- <sup>42</sup> Collins, 'Neighbour, Keith' and McDougall, 'Platten, Newell'.
- <sup>43</sup> 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.
- <sup>44</sup> The Plattens built the house at 55 Braemar Road and the Murphys built the house at 2 Yaminga Place.
- <sup>45</sup> 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](https://maps.collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/series/hundreds_SA_63360/A/adelaide/zsmp_830bje6_3360_adelaide1959.pdf) Accessed 19 August 2025.
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- <sup>46</sup> 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.
- <sup>47</sup> 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
- <sup>48</sup> '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.
- <sup>49</sup> Symons, *Modernist Adelaide*, p.54; Tim Reeves, *Adelaide Modernism: 101 Houses* (Mile End: Wakefield Press, 2024), pp.112-123.
- <sup>50</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 1951, Folio 192, Transfer No. 2061881, 27 May 1958.
- <sup>51</sup> 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.
- <sup>52</sup> Georgina Downey, 'Revisited: Neighbour House by Keith Neighbour', *Houses* (May 2025): p.122.
- <sup>53</sup> 'Torrens Park, South Australia' in *Best Australian Houses*, House Eleven.
- <sup>54</sup> Pamela Arnold, 'The Cover House: An Architect's Contemporary House', *Australian House and Garden* (September 1965): pp.52-53 and p.57.
- <sup>55</sup> 'CO.6.1: Factory', RAI South Australia Significant 20<sup>th</sup> Century Architecture: Card Index, c.1986, RAI 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>
- <sup>56</sup> 'Keith Neighbour AM, Of Tragedy and Valor, Rumbelow and Descendants. <https://www.rumbelow.net/tragedyandvalor/keith1919> Accessed 19 August 2025.
- <sup>57</sup> Certificate of Title, Vol. 5084, Folio 739, Transfer No. 7322641, 26 August 1992 and Transfer No. 7482789, 25 May 1993.
- <sup>58</sup> '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/313568b1526d1db93ad965d97dc> Accessed 19 August 2025.
- <sup>59</sup> Certificate of Title, Vol. 5084, Folio 739, Transfer No. 13778258, 6 May 2022.
- <sup>60</sup> See Symons, *Modernist Adelaide*, p.54; Reeves, *Adelaide Modernism*, pp.112-113; Downey, 'Revisited: Neighbour House by Keith Neighbour', pp.122-129; and Genevieve Mægan 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.