

SA Heritage Register

Place Submission form

South Australian
HERITAGE COUNCIL

South Australian Heritage Council

Submission on whether the entry of **Neighbour House** should be confirmed in the South Australian Heritage Register

A place is eligible for entry in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the criteria in Section 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993* (Act). Using the table below, please explain why you believe the place should or should not be entered into the Register, using the said criteria. The South Australian Heritage Council invites your submission regarding the entry of this place. For help in making a submission, please refer to the Guidelines for Interpreting State Heritage Criteria, also available online: [Guidelines-for-Interpreting-State-Heritage-Criteria-Final-2024.pdf](#)

Criteria

Criteria under the <i>Heritage Places Act 1993</i> , section 16(1)	Provide evidence or other information to support your submission
a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history	
b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance	

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<p>c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history</p>	
<p>d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance</p>	
<p>e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics</p>	<p>I grew up in Mitcham in the 1950s and 60s, a mere 1.3 km from Torrens Park but well and truly 'down on the plains', in a newly-built home of cream brick very similar to hundreds of others that were appearing in the suburbs. Occasionally, my parents would take us to Torrens Park, to visit their friends Newell and Margaret Platten and the Platten's neighbours, the Neighbours.</p> <p>What was immediately striking to me, even at a tender age, was the complete difference (compared to the streets around my home) the Platten and Neighbour houses displayed in their treatment of the natural environment. On the quarter acre blocks subdivided from larger properties in the mid 1950s, all existing vegetation had been cleared prior to construction of new dwellings and our parents built gardens from scratch, featuring in the main traditional European plantings with perhaps one native tree to lend a sense of the exotic. Our fathers spent their weekends struggling to establish and maintain lawns, in Adelaide's long, hot summers.</p> <p>By contrast, the Platten and Neighbour houses In Torrens Park were enveloped in natural bushland with large windows to bring the outdoors in. There was a sense of wonder in standing by the windows just watching the variety of birds. And viewed from</p>

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	<p>inside the house, the raked straw ceilings!!!! I could not imagine someone choosing straw for a ceiling. Or building a house of Besser blocks!- which my father used only to construct a barbeque and an incinerator on our quarter-acre.</p> <p>Where were the cream bricks and the double or triple fronted facade? The low-pitched roofs were unlike anything I was familiar with in our suburban Mitcham, where all the houses had a steep pitched roof like a child's drawing of a house.</p> <p>The assessment of the Neighbour House states that it 'influenced the development of a new Adelaide hills vernacular style'. I think this is exactly the strikingly different modern style that I was aware of as a child, although I had no way to describe it at that time. I applaud the recognition of this stylish, functional and environmentally aware home that was so far ahead of its time.</p>
<p>f) it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it</p>	
<p>(g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance</p>	<p>There is a wealth of evidence that this criterion is met. The SA Heritage Council has already recognised that at least two of Keith Neighbour's buildings are important enough to be added to the State Heritage Register. These are the Sisalkraft Factory at Kilkenny and the AEU Building on Greenhill Road, though this still remains 'Provisionally' listed.</p> <p>The prestigious positions Neighbour occupied during his</p>

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	<p>lifetime and the awards he received [Order of Australia medal 1992 and AIA President's Medal, 1994] speak for themselves. They are clear recognition from the architectural profession that here was a man at the top of his game and an inspiration to others. Further information about Neighbour's work is available at https://architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=49</p>
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Declaration

The South Australian Heritage Council is committed to transparency in relation to the listing process and wishes to enhance public confidence in the nomination, listing and decision-making process. The Council's policy is to make nominations for State heritage listing and submissions on provisional entries publicly available via webpage or to interested parties. The Council will adhere to the Privacy Principles and your name and personal details will not be released unless authorised or required under the Privacy Principles.

I do not want my personal details to be released when this nomination / submission is published on the Department for Environment and Water's webpage, noting the above requirements.

I, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] _____
wish to make a written representation regarding the provisional entry of **Neighbour House**. The information I have provided is correct to my knowledge.

- I **support** the confirmation of this provisional entry.
- I **do not support** the confirmation of this provisional entry.

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I do not wish to appear personally before the Council to make oral representations.

Signature: _____ Date 25-4-26: _____

Please attach any relevant documents. Please also note that a heritage assessment officer may contact you to discuss your submission.

Please provide your contact details here:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

This form must be received by **5pm** on **18 May 2026**.

Please return completed submission form to the

Board and Policy Officer, South Australian Heritage Council

Via email: **DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au**

Or via post: **GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001**

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