

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	

<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>Neighbour House and Regional Design</p> <p>Neighbour House is one of the very first representative buildings of an architectural school that has become known as the 'Late Twentieth Century Adelaide Regional Style.'</p> <p>This Regional Style arose from a combination of unique economic, social and historical circumstances in South Australia's post WW2 era;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The culmination of a program of industrialization which had commenced with the Butler Government in the mid-1930s and was continued by the Playford Government. (b) A growing population and affluence across the South Australia community after the Great Depression. (c) The gradual loosening of social and religious barriers initiated by the upheaval of World War Two. (d) A greater openness to international trends from outside the sphere of the British Empire amongst the South Australian public. This was particularly true of the State's upper class who had previously looked in the main to Great Britain, especially to the Arts and Crafts Movement, until the 1930s.

The Late 20th Century Adelaide Regional Style

In building his family home, the Neighbour House, during 1956-58 architect Keith Neighbour largely pioneered a significant variation to the prevailing postwar ‘International Style’ in Australia and locally. The adoption of such features as low pitched gable roofs, wide eaves, sympathetic blending of the interiors with Australian landscapes in the surrounding gardens and the use of construction devices to afford protection from the glaring, hot South Australian sun became key characteristics of the Late 20th Century Adelaide Regional Style.

Neighbour House utilised in its erection many of the building techniques of the Adelaide Regional School; the combining of readily available materials like concrete blocks, timber, glass, pressed straw to create a home appropriate to contemporary living. It reflected the social changes after 1945 where servants had been replaced by labour saving devices and the emphasis was on open internal spaces with light and colour-filled areas accompanied by the need for homes to be easily maintained.

Another important trait of the Neighbour House – and of the Adelaide Regional School generally- was that the building sat comfortably in its natural setting. The architect conferred careful consideration upon the contours and environmental context of the house’s building site. Landscaping was used to create an ‘understated and informal’ setting making much use of Australian native plants that were drought resistant and again easily maintained. Such natural settings were seen as integral to the overall design of Adelaide Regional Style homes in which the external landscape complimented the extensive fenestration and open layout of the home’s interior setting.

Cultural/Historical Significance of the Adelaide Regional Style

It might be argued that until the close of the 20th century there were only two architectural cum stylistic movements that developed recognizably unique South Australian qualities viz:

- (1) A long-lived local Arts and Crafts Movement that over time adopted a number of peculiarly South Australian traits in its buildings and arts, often subsumed under a very vague ‘Federation Era’ heading.
- (2) In the middle of the 20th century, the Adelaide Regional Style, predominately during the 1960s and 1970s.

The Adelaide Regional Style is by definition limited in the range and quality of its representative buildings. It lasted a much shorter historical time than its earlier counterpart, the South Australian Arts and Crafts Movement. Therefore, there are fewer prime examples of this school of architecture to have survived demolition, heavy alterations, fire and neglect. It is imperative that as a community we seek to preserve those buildings which exemplify the achievements and outcomes of this very South Australian cultural movement. The Neighbour House is an exemplar of this architectural movement, produced by one of the movement’s leaders, at the very inception of the style in the late 1950s.

f) it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it	
(g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance	

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 / 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/We,

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.

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

Signature: _____ Date: 1st May 2026_____

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**