

South Australian Heritage Council

Submission on whether the entry of the **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	Post World War 2 Adelaide faced severe building material shortages which slowed the construction of much needed accommodation for the rapidly expanding population. From 1945 there was a severe shortage of timber, bricks, corrugated iron and building hardware which restricted post war housing construction until the mid-1950's. As the supply of building materials improved, home construction increased, further driven by the development of housing estates by the South Australian Housing Trust (with the aim of attracting industrial investment through keeping labour costs below those of competing states). Privately constructed dwelling construction also increased at this time. The design of a minority of these privately

South Australian HERITAGE COUNCIL

constructed dwellings was influenced by the Modernist Movement. This movement favoured an angular design marked by a low-pitched roof and the extensive use of glass and timber. This approach used mass produced industrial materials - timber frame construction, steel or aluminium window frames and metal or asbestos roofing materials. Asbestos cement sheeting, precast concrete blocks and timber panelling were also extensively used. The Neighbour house, built as his family home by architect Keith Neighbour between 1956 and 1958, made extensive use of such modernist building materials – the house features the use of concrete blocks, timber panelling, straw ceilings and asbestos roofing. Although Modernist architecture had been a feature in Europe and the United States for over 50 years, there had been virtually no take up of this architectural style in Adelaide until the 1950's. The underlying philosophy of the modernist architectural approach was that “form follows function” – i.e. the function of a building should dictate its form – size, shape and layout. This aesthetic emphasised the rejection of ornamentation, a strong emphasis on the “honesty” of materials (concrete, brick, timber were left exposed to showcase their natural beauty), functionality (with an emphasis on simple layouts), sustainable construction methods and the creation of light filled spaces (with generous windows and French doors to give access to the surrounding natural environment). The Neighbour house strongly displays these Modernist features. Although some alterations have been made to the house over the years (alterations to some of the windows, some internal painting

	of concrete blocks) the house retains fundamental Modernist design elements.
b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance	
c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history	
d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance	The Neighbour House is featured in the recent publication "Adelaide Modernism:101 Houses" by Tim Reeves, 2024, Wakefield Press, Adelaide (pp112-113).
e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics	The basic design of the Neighbour house is a long rectangle with a gabled roof that follows the slope of the land and is sited over a dry creek bed. The positioning of the house provides sea and city views from its double storied, western (living area) end.

South Australian HERITAGE COUNCIL

Neighbour was strongly influenced by the effects of the 1954 earthquake that caused severe damage to much of Adelaide and used tensioned steel cabling at either end of the house and vertical expansion joints to counter any future earth movement.

The Neighbour house is an outstanding example of the local (South Australian) adaptation of Modernist architectural principles:

Form Follows Function (Functionalism): The design of the Neighbour house is dictated solely by its purpose and utility rather than any decorative or historical aesthetics.

Minimalism and Lack of Ornament: A "less is more" philosophy is demonstrated with the removal of unnecessary detail to highlight structural purity and clean, geometric forms.

Truth to Materials: The Neighbour house shows an honest expression of materials, including concrete block construction, steel, and glass, which are left exposed, and straw ceilings.

Open Floor Plans: Interior spaces are designed for flexibility and flow. Bed and utility rooms are sited at the Eastern, non-scenic view end of the house.

Connection to Environment: Large windows and flat roofs are used to connect interiors with the surrounding environment. The house is built over a dry creek bed with views to the sea from the main living area.

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 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,

SA Heritage Register

Place Submission form

South Australian
HERITAGE COUNCIL

[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.

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

Signature

[REDACTED]

Date:

07 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:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Address:

[REDACTED]

Phone: +61 8 8372 7521 | Email: DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au | Post: GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/Heritage