

SA Heritage Register Submission Form

South Australian Heritage Council

Introduction

This submission contends that all South Australians and the SA Housing Authority should celebrate the achievements and goals of the Authority's predecessor, the SA Housing Trust and the designer and architect, Newell Platten, as represented by Stage 1 of Dr Kent's Paddock Complex.

The design and function of Stage 1 of Dr Kent's Paddock Complex should not be blamed by the Housing Authority or others, for the failures of its management, for example, actions by individual tenants and/or of mismanagement of rubbish collection.

This submission, while urging listing under three criteria, especially criteria (a), also contends that the merits of the Complex are further acknowledged by the whole three criteria, which taken together describe the importance of the 'whole'.

Submission

Submission on whether the entry of **Dr Kent's Paddock Housing Complex** should be confirmed in the South Australian Heritage Register

The South Australian Heritage Council can only take into account heritage significance of a place as defined by the *Heritage Places Act 1993* (Act) when considering places for entry on the South Australian Heritage Register. Using the table below, please provide evidence or information to explain why you believe the place does or does not meet the criteria under the Act.

Criteria

Criteria under the <i>Heritage Places Act 1993</i> , section 16(1)	Provide evidence or other information why you believe criteria applies or does not apply to this place (There is more space at the end of the form)
(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history	<p>Dr Kent's Paddock demonstrates an important evolution in the provision of homes for South Australians and, in particular, social housing. Social housing was originally primarily provided via the philanthropic actions of some individuals and organizations, such as the church. Then, in 1936, the South Australian government established the South Australian Housing Trust to supply affordable mass housing, for workers to support the Playford government's industrialisation strategy.</p> <p>However, in 1967 the SA Housing Trust began restructuring in response to many factors including social change and budget cuts that resulted in it becoming the primary provider of rental welfare housing in South Australia.</p>

	<p>Similarly, social and economic change also inspired broader urban renewal and densification of the urban environment.</p> <p>To meet the increasing need for social housing, the SA Housing Trust built dozens of medium-density cluster infill developments in established communities such as the City of Adelaide and the inner band of suburbs around the city. Unlike the urban fringe, these locations provided the SA Housing Trust's clients with access to established communities, services, and amenities. The SA Housing Trust quickly became the industry leader in providing medium-density infill developments and was well in advance of private developers in doing so.</p> <p>The SA Housing Trust was the largest provider of housing in South Australia during the twentieth century and while Dr Kent's Paddock is one of dozens of sites where the SA Housing Trust medium density cluster social housing, Stage 1 of the development is acknowledged as one of the best examples of this type of development and awarded for being so.</p> <p>Accordingly, Stage 1 of Dr Kent's Paddock demonstrates important aspects of the evolution and pattern of the State's history.</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>Stage 1 of Dr Kent's Paddock demonstrates "a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics".</p> <p>We agree with the assessment by Heritage SA [REDACTED] that it does demonstrate a high degree of creative and aesthetic accomplishment in the composition of the site and the relationship between built components, landscape and the surrounding urban form to create a high-quality living environment at low cost.</p> <p>It has been nationally recognised and awarded for the quality of its design. The site design and buildings show a response to the site and its function including zoned areas for living, dependent on stages of life; and setback of flats and inclusion of treed car parking to reduce noise and outlook to open space, private courtyards and communal areas.</p> <p>Hence, Stage 1 of Dr Kent's Paddock demonstrates a high degree of creative and aesthetic accomplishment in the composition of the site and the relationship between built components, landscape and the surrounding urban form.</p> <p>It also was an early demonstration of how medium density housing can provide a significant biodiversity - without the traditional back and front yard - thus maintaining a significant form of public health through a shared semi-private environmental asset which includes tree canopies, in lieu of public parks which are non-existent in Kent Town.</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>Stage 1 of Dr Kent's Paddock Housing Complex, “has special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance”, on both counts as demonstrated specifically by both the SA Housing Trust and the work of South Australian architect Newell Platten. The major change in direction of the SA Housing Trust in the 1970s from broad acre developer of housing for workers on the urban fringe, such as the creation of City of Elizabeth, to the design and building of medium-density-cluster, social-housing, as infill within existing suburbs and the City of Adelaide, is demonstrated here.</p> <p>Although Dr Kent's Paddock Housing Complex is one of hundreds of developments undertaken by the SA Housing Trust since it was first established in 1936, it also demonstrates the leading role in Australia that the SA Housing Trust took in urban consolidation and densification in the late twentieth century.</p> <p>From 1967, the SA Housing Trust also began shifting its focus, becoming the primary social welfare rental housing provider in South Australia. It undertook this work with an understanding of the growing importance of social planning – recognizing structural socio-economic disadvantage - and the need to improve its housing stock to better meet the needs of its clients.</p> <p>As a result of the change in focus to becoming the primary social welfare rental housing provider in South Australia, the SA Housing Trust became the leader in the design and construction of medium-density, infill housing developments in South Australia.</p> <p>Stage 1 Dr Kent's Paddock Housing Complex is widely acknowledged as the best of this type of development and demonstrates this important aspect in the history of the SA Housing Trust and its role as the largest builder of homes in South Australia in the twentieth century.</p> <p>The Complex also has a special association with the work of the eminent South Australian architect Newell Platten. While Platten designed many building types, residential projects were a feature of his work and when he was approached to join the SA Housing Trust in 1973 as the Chief Design Architect he was undeniably at the height of his architectural career.</p> <p>SA-born and educated, Newell Platten, was in a respected design-oriented architectural partnership with Robert Dickson from 1958. They created and introduced a climate-responsive and more relaxed form of Modernism to South Australia, a modification of the style that responded to the environment and has become known as ‘Late Twentieth Century Adelaide Regional’.</p> <p>While at the SA Housing Trust, Newell significantly improved the design of the housing stock to ensure that it could be adapted to suit the conditions of multiple site types, while also meet the needs of the</p>
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clients it was being constructed for.

Newell was responsible for designing many of the infill projects that the SA Housing Trust built in the 1970s, including Dr Kent's Paddock Housing Complex resulting in the SA Housing Trust becoming the acknowledged leader in the design and construction of medium-density infill housing in South Australia. Stage 1 of Dr Kent's Paddock is imbued with and demonstrates Newell's design philosophy, albeit within strict budgetary constraints. It is Dr Kent's Paddock Housing Complex that Newell claims to be the proudest of and which he believes best represents what he was trying to achieve while at the SA Housing Trust – 'design innovation' in social housing and a wish to return something to his working class roots.

Hence, we submit that Stage 1 of Dr Kent's Paddock Housing Complex, "**has special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance**", on both counts, as demonstrated by the SA Housing Trust and the work of South Australian architect Newell Platten.

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.

I/We, [REDACTED] wish to make a written representation regarding the provisional entry of Dr Kent's Paddock Housing Complex. 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: 15/4/2023

You may email this submission to DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au or post to Heritage South Australia, Department for Environment and Water, GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001.

Please attach any relevant documents or add for other comments.