

66 Napier Crescent, Essendon Statement of Significance

Heritage Place:	House	PS ref no:	HO498
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66 Napier Crescent, Essendon, principal elevation (April 2018) (source: Context, 2018)

What is significant?

66 Napier Crescent Essendon, a Postwar Moderne house built in 1955 is significant.

The significant fabric includes the:

- original building and roof form;
- face brick walls, porches, balconies and fenestrations;
- original chimneys, tiled roofs, eaves and soffit details;
- door and window joinery and steel framed windows;
- porch detailing including the screen wall;
- wrought iron work including the balustrade, external lamps and screen to porch; and
- low brick fence along both frontages and wrought iron gates.

The high fence at the rear of the Peterleigh Grove (side) frontage and rear garage with roller door are not significant.

How is it significant?

66 Napier Crescent Essendon is of local architectural (representative) and aesthetic significance to the City of Moonee Valley.

Why is it significant?

66 Napier Crescent, Essendon, is architecturally significant as an example of a post-war Moderne residence. The Moderne style formed a distinct change from past architectural styles, combining aspects of Functional Modernism that were concerned with building form and structure, with a decorative approach to materials and detail. 66 Napier Crescent is one of a small cohort of Moderne houses in Moonee Valley. Two particularly early examples of the style were built pre-war at 2-4 Sherbourne Street, Essendon, c.1936 (HO279) and 2 Riverview Road, Essendon, 1935 (VHR1160, HO108). Two further examples include houses built in 1940 at 93-95 Mooltan Street, Travancore (HO75), and 34 Peterleigh Grove, Essendon (HO97). 66 Napier Crescent is somewhat later than these examples, being built in 1955, however it does demonstrate key aspects of the style. The Moderne is evident in the horizontally proportioned, streamlined curved glass window, whilst the corner windows and the front porch with its brise soleil wall and matching feature wall that forms part of the curved glass window are elements borrowed from Functional Modernism. (Criterion D)

66 Napier Crescent, Essendon, is aesthetically significant for its form, materials and details all present at a high level of integrity. Elements include the 'L'-shaped form of the house combining a single-storey and double-storey block of cream brick with base courses of dark brown brick, and occasional use of random stone facing. Steel-framed corner windows contribute to the horizontality of the Moderne aesthetic and culminate in the projecting curved window with the unusual porch screen in the manner of a brise soleil. 66 Napier Crescent is aesthetically significant for its wrought iron to balustrades, external lamps, gates, and porch screen, the latter being highly elaborate in pattern with a door and side panels. The integrity of the building is greatly enhanced by the very high level of intactness of these main elements, and by its setting that includes an original brick fence and wrought iron gate. (Criterion E)

Primary source

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