

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R027

Name of Place: Royal Swedish Embassy

Other/Former Names:

Address/Location: 5 Turanna Street YARRALUMLA 2600

Block 2 Section 86 of Yarralumla

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| Listing Status: | Registered | Other Heritage Listings: | |
| Date of Listing: | 1984 | Level of Significance: | Local |
| Citation Revision No: | 4 | Category: | Government |
| Citation Revision Date: | May 1985 | Style: | Scandinavian Modern |

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| Date of Design: | 1947 | Designer: | EHG Lindquist, designer, Sweden (brother of Sweden's first Minister to Australia now called Ambassador) in assoc with Peddle Thorp & Walker, Sydney. Supervised by M Moir |
| Construction Period: | 1951 | Client/Owner/Lessee: | Swedish Government |
| Date of Additions: | | Builder: | John Grant & Son, Sydney |

Statement of Significance

Won 1952 Sir John Sulman Award for Public and Monumental Buildings, RAIA, NSW Chapter. The layout of three buildings in extensive grounds is a convincing design with the clean, graceful lines characteristic of Swedish architecture. Successfully integrated with Australian conditions and landscape. Significantly, they face north for maximum sun penetration. Australian and Swedish materials, finishes and craftsmanship of high quality are included in the design. There exists a collective significance due to the quality of the three buildings, their relationship to each other and the associated landscape, the access beside the landscaped grounds to the north of the building and the main public entry on the south side providing some privacy to the open space on the north side.

Description

- Embassy comprises three buildings: the main building, the caretaker's (chauffer's) lodge and the garages.
- Main buildings: Stretch east-west so that the principal rooms face north. Its two storeys and basement house the Ambassador's residence and entertaining rooms, offices, servant's quarters and service rooms.
- External envelope: Brick, flush jointed and painted off-white, with base course, terraces and window frames of Hawkesbury sandstone.
- Internal walls: Generally cement rendered brick.

- Roof: Swedish copper on boarding and jointed in the Swedish manner, roof overhangs not Swedish.
 - Eaves: Lined with boarding above the rafter ends which are slightly splayed and painted.
 - Gutters: Half round copper.
 - Downpipes: Copper, concealed in walls, swanneck connecting to gutter.
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Condition and Integrity

Excellent. Internal alterations include deletion of First Secretary's residence and 3 flats for expansion of office. Externally only a glazed roof added to north side of salon.

Background/History

Analysis against the Criteria specified in Schedule 2 of the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991

(i) a place which demonstrates a high degree of technical and/or creative achievement, by showing qualities of innovation or departure or representing a new achievement of its time

(ii) a place which exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group

(iii) a place which demonstrates a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function which is no longer practised, is in danger or being lost, or is of exceptional interest

(iv) a place which is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations

(v) a place which is the only known or only comparatively intact example of its type

(vi) a place which is a notable example of a class of natural or cultural places or landscapes and which demonstrates the principal characteristics of that class

(vii) a place which has strong or special associations with person, group, event, development or cultural phase which played a significant part in local or national history

(xi) a place which demonstrates a likelihood of providing information which will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality or benchmark site

References

Other Information Sources