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## Douglas Annand Mural - Mildura Arts Centre



B7348 Douglas Annand Mural.



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### Location

199 Cureton Avenue,, MILDURA VIC 3500 - Property No B7348

### Municipality

MILDURA RURAL CITY

### Level of significance

State

### Heritage Listing

National Trust

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - February 12, 2007

The large ceramic mural, by Douglas Annand, was commissioned in 1952 and installed in 1953 beside the central door of the Mildura Base Hospital Nurses' Home which had been opened in January 1951, a building in mid-century 'International modern' style. It is a rare example of public art commissioned for a country public hospital in Victoria. It is also a significant example of work by a major artist/designer who worked in a variety of media. Annand was considered to have made an enormous contribution to the development of Australian modernism.

The work comprises 63 square tiles, each 14 inches square [35.56cm]; 7 tiles horizontally and 9 tiles vertically, the whole work being approximately 2.5m by 3.1m. The colourful work depicts a female figure pouring water from a pitcher over the ochre-coloured land; elements include a white-coloured river and trees, figures and buildings. The ceramic mural by Douglas Annand is significant for aesthetic/architectural reasons in view of his

acknowledged reputation as one of Australia's most innovative artist/designers, who produced murals in paint, glass, ceramic, metals and mosaic as well as paintings, sculpture, relief and graphic design for posters, books, etc, approaching all he created with freshness and vigour.

This mural illustrates his innovative and sophisticated approach to the conjunction of art and design. The mural achieves a solution in harmony with - and contrasts to - the architecture.

The ceramic mural by Douglas Annand is significant for historical reasons because it is one of the earliest site-specific ceramic murals completed within the modernist idiom in Australian art and because it is one of the very few ceramic murals in Australia - all the more unusual in that it is located in a country city.

The ceramic mural by Douglas Annand is significant for social reasons because it represents one of the few commissions given by architects for murals in the 1950s in Australia and one of remarkably few in a hospital. Its subject matter illustrates the period in which it was designed and because the artist interspersed a multitude of indigenous matter with items of civic interest to complete the design.

The ceramic mural by Douglas Annand is significant for technical reasons because the artist used what was, in Australia at that time, an unusual medium - painted ceramic tiles - and it is executed on what was a substantial scale for that time.

Classified: 01/05/2007

File Note: December 2008: Building demolished. Mural stored at Mildura Arts Centre.

Hermes Number 71685

Property Number

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*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*