

# 16 Cantala Avenue, CAULFIELD NORTH



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## Location

16 CANTALA AVENUE CAULFIELD NORTH, GLEN EIRA CITY

## Municipality

GLEN EIRA CITY

## Level of significance

Incl in HO: Individually Significant

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

## Heritage Listing

Glen Eira City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 5, 2023

#### What is significant?

The house at 16 Cantala Avenue, Caulfield North, is a two-storey skillion-roofed whitepainted brick house in a stark post-WW2 modernist style, with asymmetrical street facade incorporating expansive windows and sundecks. Designed in 1951 by Austrian-trained architect Dr Ernest Fooks, the house was commissioned by a Polish-born businesswoman for her own investment company.

The significant fabric is defined as the exterior of the entire house and attached garage, along with the stone-paved front terrace, stone retaining walls, steps and original balustrade railings.

#### How is it significant?

The house satisfies the following criteria for inclusion on the heritage overlay schedule to the City of Glen Eira planning scheme:

- Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics
- Criterion H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or groups of persons, of importance in our history.

#### Why is it significant?

The house is aesthetically significant as an early and unusually substantial example of post-WW2 modernist residential architecture. Designed by an architect who trained and even practiced in Austria before migrating to Australia in 1939, the house represents a confident and authentic articulation of the International Style, with its bold rectilinear massing, stark planar walls, broad-eaved skillion roof, expansive windows and sundeck. Built on an elevated site, the split-level dwelling (with attached garage at a lower level) is enhanced by its original setting, which includes a crazy paved patio and terraced front garden defined by stone-clad retaining walls with matching steps and pathways with low black-painted metal balustrades. (Criterion E)

The house is historically significant for associations with Austrian-trained architect Dr Ernest Fooks, who started private practice in Melbourne in 1948 and soon became sought-after as a designer of residential projects for fellow European emigre clients. Notably prolific in the former City of Caulfield (where he himself resided, in Howitt Street, from 1966 until his death), Fooks maintained a long personal and professional association with what is now the City of Glen Eira, including several art exhibitions held at the Caulfield Town Hall. Dating from 1951, the Cantala Avenue house is one of Fook's two oldest surviving buildings in the study area (along with another at 64 Balaclava Road, also 1951) that, together, provide rare and significant evidence of the early presence of an architect whose work re-shaped the Caulfield area. (Criterion H)

### Theme

#### 6. Building towns cities and the garden state

Heritage Study/Consultant	City of Glen Eira Post-war and Hidden Gems Heritage Review, Built Heritage Pty Ltd, 2020;
Hermes Number	210172
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/>*