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# Nichol House



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## Location

49 Kangaroo Ground -Warrandyte Road NORTH WARRANDYTE, NILLUMBIK SHIRE

## Municipality

NILLUMBIK SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO103

## Heritage Listing

Nillumbik Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 7, 2010

REVISED STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTEXT, 2010

### ***What is significant?***

The 1949 house and the surrounding site to the title boundaries.

### ***How is it significant?***

The house is architecturally and historically significant to the Shire of Nillumbik.

### ***Why is it significant?***

The house is historically and architecturally significant as one of six notable houses in the Warrandyte-Eltham area designed by the prominent architect Robin Boyd between the 1940s and 1960s and as a rare, early and notable example of Australian Modernist domestic architecture. It is also a relatively rare early example of Boyd's work (Criteria B, F & H). The house is historically significant for its association with the active artistic community of the Eltham-Warrandyte area (Criterion H).

Heritage Study/Consultant Nillumbik - Nillumbik Shire Heritage Study, Graeme Butler & Assoc, 1997;

Hermes Number 64035

Property Number

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## **Physical Description 1**

(obscured) .

When built, soon after World War Two, this house could boast its space efficiency with only 8 squares but plenty of 'freedom' for its 'young artist' occupants. It had two bedrooms, kitchen, dressing, dining, living and, of course, room for a 'future studio' on the south side. Another distinctive aspect was its sloping timber-framed window walls (300mm at the top) which countered the tapered freestone rubble chimney angles as well as trapping low-angle sun while still dodging the mid-day sun. Typically louvre windows were used, alternating with fixed panes, and the roof was a combination of skill ions which reflected the two 'levels' inside. These levels followed the slope of the land.

Internally there were no passages, much pine lining and exposed waxed hardwood flooring but the more unusual aspects included a mezzanine bedroom which was isolated from the rest of the house by only a low screen wall. Most of these design aspects were only beginning to become popular by the mid 1950s and were innovative for the time.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Community growth-local government

8.10.4 Designing and building fine buildings

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

*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/>*