# Statement of Significance: Clerehan House I, 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra (June 2026)

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| **Heritage Place:** | Clerehan House I<br>18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra | **PS ref no:** | HO799 |



**Figure 1:** *Frontage of Clerehan House I, 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra* (GJM Heritage, February 2025).

## What is significant?

Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra, constructed 1958.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include:

- Two-storey house in the Modernist style of the post-war period
- Red brick construction
- Simple rectilinear form, approximately square in plan
- Flat metal deck-clad roof, eaveless to the east and west sides
- Fully glazed, prefabricated and structural Stegbar window wall to the north, recessed between side brick walls
- Broad eave overhang to the north
- Double carport with flat metal deck-clad roof and cantilevering timber beams, supported on the brick garden wall to the east and slender steel columns at the centre
- High brick wall to the street boundary and the west side of the front garden.

The timber deck to the rear (south) first-floor level does not contribute to the significance of the place.

## How is it significant?

Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra is of local historical, representative, aesthetic and associative significance to the City of Stonnington.

## Why is it significant?

Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra, designed by celebrated architect, Neil Clerehan, in 1958 as his own residence, has a strong association with post-war suburban development in the City of Stonnington, when a number of architect-designed Modernist houses were constructed across the municipality for those with an appreciation of Modernist architecture and its design principles. The affluent suburbs of South Yarra and Toorak were particularly attractive to wealthy residents and architects interested in the Modern aesthetic, and refined examples of post-war Modernist houses replaced existing houses in well-established streetscapes. As a highly intact architect-designed and owned Modernist house constructed in the post-war period, Clerehan House I clearly demonstrates this important phase in the development of the City of Stonnington (Criterion A).

Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra is a fine and highly intact representative example of Modernist housing constructed during the post-war period. It displays the principal characteristics of Post-War Modernist housing, including a rectilinear form, flat roof with broad eave to the north, fully-glazed prefabricated and structural north-facing Stegbar window wall, prominently sited carport and an emphasis on privacy with high brick walls to the street. The house is highly legible as an accomplished example of Modernist housing in the City of Stonnington (Criterion D).

Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street, South Yarra is of aesthetic significance as an assured and finely executed example of a house constructed in the Modernist style of the early post-war period. Designed by celebrated architect Neil Clerehan as his own residence, the house is characterised by its simple but striking rectilinear form, its simple palette of materials, its fully glazed ‘Stegbar’ window wall creating a strong visual relationship between the interior and exterior, and its concealment from the street by a high brick fence to create a substantial private open space at the front of the property. Clerehan House I demonstrates the key aesthetic qualities of Modernist design in the City of Stonnington to a very high standard (Criterion E).

Clerehan House I at 18 Fawkner Street, designed in 1958 and constructed as his own residence, has a special association with renowned architect and long-term South Yarra resident, Neil Clerehan. Clerehan House I was the first house designed by Clerehan for himself and his family and clearly demonstrated the principles Clerehan was expounding in his role as Director of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects Small Homes Service at the time. The Clerehan family resided at 18 Fawkner Street from 1958 to 1968 before relocating to a new, self-designed house in nearby Walsh Street, South Yarra where Clerehan remained until his death in 2017. Within South Yarra Clerehan also designed the State-significance Fenner House, 228 Domain Road, South Yarra (VHR H2350). He continued to act as ‘honorary architect’ for 18 Fawkner Street until his death (Criterion H).

## Primary source

*South Yarra Heritage Review* (GJM Heritage, March 2025).