

## 40 Nestle Court, Arthurs Seat Statement of Significance

<b>Heritage Place:</b>	Hájek House	<b>PS ref no:</b>	HO403
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### What is significant?

The Hájek house at 40 Nestle Court Arthurs Seat designed and constructed in 1962 for Czech émigré engineer Dr Vladimír Hájek is significant. Significant features include:

- the siting and massing
- the external timber cladding and joinery
- the setting amidst trees

### How is it significant?

The Hájek house is of local historic, associational and aesthetic significance to Mornington Peninsula Shire.

## **Why is it significant?**

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The Hájek house is historically significant for its association with the Czech born émigré engineer and designer of the Arthur's Seat chairlift, Dr Vladimir Hájek and is still in family ownership. The Hájek house contributes to the understanding of architectural residential design in the 1960s through its demonstration of clear and functional design with the end user as an important design driver, often referred to as the 'new humanism' of the 1960s. Although now removed, the Arthur's Seat chairlift, built in 1960, was one of several designed throughout Australia by Hájek, including the still-operating Cataract Gorge lift in Launceston Tasmania. (Criterion A)

The Hájek house is the only building so far identified within Mornington Peninsula Shire designed by the practice of Brine and Wierzbowski. Judith Brine, as one of three principals of Brine and Wierzbowski later became a leading architectural historian and academic in the ACT and South Australia receiving, amongst other awards, an Order of Australia for services to architecture, planning and heritage conservation. (Criterion H)

The Hájek house by Brine and Wierzbowski at the time of its construction was considered worthy of exhibition alongside houses designed by other well known architects of the time including, Chancellor and Patrick, Graeme Gunn, McGlashan & Everist, Guildford Bell & Neil Clerehan. Also judged to be of popular appeal through featuring twice in editions of Home Beautiful in the 1960s. (Criterion D)

The Hájek house is aesthetically significant as a fine example of residential architecture in the manner in which it adapts traditional domestic forms to a steeply sloping site in a logical manner. The use of interlocking rectilinear pavilion wings, rhythms of vertical timber wall panels alternating with full height glazed windows, shallow pitched roofs and wide eaves characterise the key elements of the house. It is notable for its composition that is both adapted to its steep site and displaying an architectural formality. (Criterion E)

## **Primary source**

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*Mornington Peninsula Shire Heritage Review, Area 2 Volume 2 - Place and Precinct Citations* by Context Pty Ltd, 22 August 2016 (Revised September 2017)

This document is an incorporated document in the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*