The Jackson house is a complex of residence and farm buildings designed as a country retreat for Daryl Jackson and his family on the Mornington Peninsula.

The buildings sit beside a 140 year old timber slab-sided, iron roofed pioneer cottage on a gently sloping site overlooking a creek. Several large trees dominate the surrounds. The elevated bridge or walkway provides a dramatic entrance to the house and forms a connection with the stable block in the opposite direction. Pedestrian movement along such walkways and ramps was a theme Jackson was preoccupied with at the time. Internally the spaces are laid out on stepped platforms overlooking voids to the lower areas. The skillion roof form above, parallels the sloping ground below. Timber poles used structurally and rough sawn timber and corrugated steel cladding reinforce the rustic nature of the place. The space within is layered from light to dark just like the bush outside. The use of pergolas, timber latticework and sun screening illustrates Jackson’s interest in light and shade.

This complex incorporates many of the ideas Jackson was writing and experimenting with in his early career particularly the connections with Australian landscape and the notion of place making.

The Jackson House is significant as an important example of 1970s timber architecture and the efforts of designers of the period to relate to the special characteristics of their site especially topography and the associated natural landscape. It is also important for its use of visual referencing in its design language and built form to the nearby heritage buildings.

The Jackson House is of significance as an outstanding example of the domestic designs and writings of the prominent architect Daryl Jackson. This particular project was illustrated in several of Jackson’s books and articles in the 1980s, and often referred to in his talks.

Criteria Applicable
N1 - Significant heritage value in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or period of design.
N2 - Significant heritage value in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.
N5 – Having a special association with the life or works of an architect of significant importance in our history.