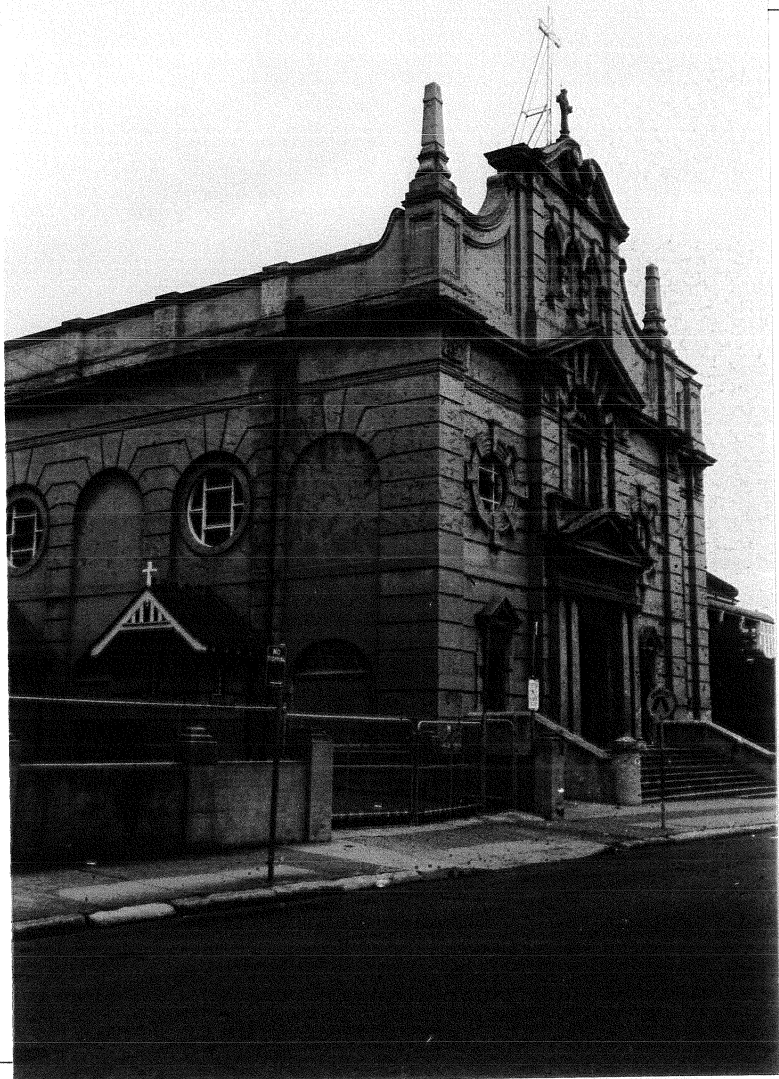


# ASHFIELD HERITAGE STUDY

1991-1992

<b>NAME</b> St Vincent's Church		<b>REFERENCE NO.</b> 039
<b>OTHER NAMES</b>		<b>REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>LOCALITY / SUBURB</b> Ashfield	<b>POSTCODE</b> 2131	<b>ZONING</b> 5(a)
<b>STREET ADDRESS</b> 1 Bland Street	<b>REFERENCE</b>	<b>OWNER</b> St Vincent's Presbytery
<b>MAP</b>		<b>BOUNDARY / IDENTIFICATION</b> The boundary identified on existing Heritage Conservation Map.
<b>PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS/HISTORICAL NOTES - SEE OVER</b>		<b>SITE CONDITION</b>
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>SUB CATEGORY</b>	Intact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>		
Historic: Rare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Associative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative <input type="checkbox"/>
Aesthetic: Rare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Associative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative <input type="checkbox"/>
Social: Rare <input type="checkbox"/>	Associative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scientific: Rare <input type="checkbox"/>	Associative <input type="checkbox"/>	Representative <input type="checkbox"/>
Other: Rare <input type="checkbox"/>	Associative <input type="checkbox"/>	Representative <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>		Minor Alteration <input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* A unique church design by one of Australia's best known architectural firms.</li> <li>* A component of an impressive streetscape.</li> </ul>		Major Alteration <input type="checkbox"/>
		- Sympathetic <input type="checkbox"/>
		- Unsympathetic <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>PHOTOGRAPHS</b>		<b>DATE OF SURVEY</b> 27/3/92
BandW ROLL 91-052-6	<b>NEG NO.</b> 34 and 35	<b>SURVEYOR</b> RI/CHP
<b>COLOUR SLIDES ROLL</b>	<b>FRAME NO.</b>	
<b>STUDY TEAM:</b> Richard Mackay, Robert Irving, Chris Pratten, Jill Sheppard, Stephen Harris		

# ASHFIELD HERITAGE STUDY

1991-1992

HERITAGE LISTINGS		PERIOD	REFERENCE NO.
<input type="checkbox"/> Register of the National Estate (AHC) - Registered		Pre - 1800 <input type="checkbox"/>	039
<input type="checkbox"/> Register of the National Estate (AHC) - Interim		1800 - 1825 <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Register of National Trust (NSW)		1825 - 1850 <input type="checkbox"/>	1895, 1907
<input type="checkbox"/> Within National Trust Conservation Area		1851 - 1875 <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>ARCHITECT / DESIGNER:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture (RAIA)		1876 - 1900 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sheerin and Hennessy
<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Public Works Heritage and Conservation Register		1901 - 1925 <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>BUILDER:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Council Register - Permanent Conservation Order		1926 - 1950 <input type="checkbox"/>	1895: Hope
<input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Council Register - Interim Conservation Order		1951 - 1975 <input type="checkbox"/>	1907: J. Ptolemy
<input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Council Register - Section 130 Order		Post - 1975 <input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Council Register - Nomination			
<input type="checkbox"/> NSW Government Department Heritage Register (S170 Heritage Act)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Institution of Engineers (NSW) Heritage Register			
<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Environmental Plan Heritage Schedule			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Environmental Plan Heritage Schedule			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other			
		<b>HISTORICAL THEMES:</b>	
		State Themes:	Cultural and social life. Building styles. Booms and busts.
		Local Themes:	The boom years.
<b>HISTORICAL NOTES</b>			
<p>The Sisters of Charity opened a school in Elizabeth Street in 1881, and the first Catholic Masses were celebrated there before the Sisters moved to their present site in 1882. St Charles' Church was opened on the west side of Bland Street in 1885. Land opposite was purchased, and Cardinal Moran blessed and laid the foundation stone for a new church on October 7th, 1894. The church was opened a year later on November 24th, 1895, but the west facade facing Bland Street was not completed until 1907. It was asserted at the time of its construction that St Vincent's was "the first ecclesiastical structure of the Roman basilica style that has been erected in Australia" (Freemans Journal).</p> <p>The church contains an historically important 1926 organ by J.E. Dodd, of Adelaide.</p>			
<b>INFORMATION SOURCES:</b>			
Written: <u>Speed the Plough; St Vincent's Jubilee Record</u> , 1894-1944. Freemans Journal 30/11/1895.			
Oral: <u>Historic Organs of NSW</u> (Rushworth)			
Graphic:			
<b>PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:</b>			
Materials: Brick/cement render walls, tile roofs, timber joinery.			
Exterior: Bulky rectangle with simple roof having ridge at right angle to the street. Rear gabled facade, with high pediment motif, much simpler than the bold baroque of the Bland Street facade.			
Interior: A single space with pilastrated walls, a gallery over the narthex end, and a semi elliptical central apse. The ceiling is treated as a segmental vault, divided into bays corresponding to the wall bays.			
Styles: Federation Mannerist.			
<b>DESCRIPTION:</b>			
A substantial and highly dramatic church on an elevated site. The centrepiece of a trio of large buildings - school, church and presbytery in Bland Street. Its dramatic feature is the facade, a vigorous composition of mannerist/baroque motifs modelled in cement and integrated into the rusticated theme that continues around the other three facades. Above the Ionic aedicule entrance is a remarkable florentine arched version of a paladin window, its enormous voussoirs thrusting upwards into an open bed pediment crowning the main entablature. Above this the parapet sweeps up to a pilastrated form with three mannerist niches crowned by a scrolled pediment with a swag between the volutes. In the side bays there are secondary entrances, architraved circular windows and obelisk corner motifs. There are five modelled cartouches including one bearing the symbols of St Vincent the worker.			
<b>MODIFICATION:</b>			
The facade, completed later than the rest, was undoubtedly part of the original design. The side bay, which has a separate pyramidal roofs, looks as though it was intended to support a taller element such as a tower or cupola. The walling carries remnants of what appears to have been a colour wash finish.			