# AD 2001 Ashfield Heritage Study Review of Areas Zoned 2(a)

Name of Item	House, one of a group of	two adjacent houses	Reference N°
Other Names	'Farleigh'		2 10 03
Address	10 John Street		Land Title
Locality	Ashfield	Postcode	
Item Type	Building		Owner/s
Group Name			
Statement of Significance			Condition as observed
These two simple cottages have been severely altered, though they retain			from street —
their original form. Their significance is in their historical association with an important and colourful citizen of Ashfield who was mayor at the time of Federation, and in their streetscape value by virtue of traditional modest scale and form.			☐ Intact
			Minor alteration — ☐ Sympathetic
			☐ Unsympathetic
			Major alteration —
			☐ Sympathetic
Summary of Significance			■ Unsympathetic
Ra	_	Representative	Modifications —
Historic [			Main roof covering has
Aesthetic [			been replaced. Stucco facade has been
Social [			removed. Verandah
Scientific [			roof has been altered
Other [			and filigree removed. Chimneys have gone.



# Ashfield Heritage Study Review of Areas Zoned 2(a)

**Current Use** 

House, 'Farleigh', 10 John Street, Ashfield, one of a group of two adjacent houses

Reference N°

2 10 03

Recommended Heritage Listing

Themes: State Themes: Local

Subdivision and consolidation Towns, suburbs and villages

Boom years

#### **Historical Notes**

The house 'Farleigh' first appears in the Rate Book of Ashfield Council in 1878. John Mills, described in Sands Directories in 1882 as a lime merchant, built the house and lived here from about that year until his death in 1906. He was an alderman from 1886 until he died, and became Mayor in 1900.(1)

In 1907 both 'Farleigh' and its neighbour No 12 were bought by Arthur Henry Case, a stationmaster, possibly of Glen Innes. In 1908 they were each valued at £80 unimproved and £450 improved.(2) 'Farleigh' was then occupied by a procession of short-term tenants including Henry McLeod, Harry George, William McCarthy, Frederick Davison, Mrs Marion Dunn, Edward Casey and C D Bensley. The longest tenancy in these early years was that of a new owner, Michael Dowling, who lived there from 1924 until at least 1933.(3)

Refer also to the separate Inventory sheet for the group

### **Physical Description**

These two simple Victorian Georgian cottages survive alongside one another in original identical form, though they have been severely altered in their detail. Built of brick, each has a hipped roof of terra cotta tiles, probably originally of slate. In each case a three-bay verandah runs across the facade, between firewalls whose coping is curved, indicating that the verandah roof was originally concave corrugated iron. No 10 now has a metal skillion, while No 12 has a tiled skillion extending over the firewalls. There are recessed arched panels on the inside faces of these end walls. The facade fenestration comprises a centre door flanked by single double-hung windows. No 10 has timber verandah posts with stop-chamfers suggesting that there was once an iron bracket-and-frieze ensemble; it now has only a light fringe, while No 12 has no trace of the original format except the beams. No chimneys remain at No 10 but one survives at No 12; it is finished in stucco with a corniced top. Because it was common to treat chimneys to match facades, this suggests that the fronts of the cottages were originally stuccoed. The front of No 10 has been abraded to expose the brickwork, while the facade of No 12 has been colour-washed and tuckpointed.

The cottages are close to the front building line, making their front gardens minimal, but a picket fence now extends across both frontages.

## **Information Sources**

- (1) Sands Directories: the first occupation of the house is recorded in 1882; Chris Pratten, 'John Mills...', in Ashfield at Federation, p 76 et seq.
  (2) Rate Book, North Ward, 1907, Nos 292,293; Valuer-General's records, ibid, 1908-10, Nos 781,
- 782, in Ashfield Council Archives. Case's address is unclear in the records.
- (3) Sands Directories: Valuer-General's records, 1928, No 1781, 1782.