

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

<b>Name of Item</b> House, 'Ovalau' <b>Other Names</b>	<b>Reference N°</b> 1 11 10																								
<b>Address</b> 10 King Street <b>Locality</b> Ashfield <b>Postcode</b>	<b>Land Title</b>																								
<b>Item Type</b> Building <b>Group Name</b>	<b>Owner/s</b>																								
<b>Statement of Significance</b> A quintessential Federation Queen Anne house, with many distinctive architectural features. As well, it has particular significance for its long association with George Watson, one of Ashfield's most influential and colourful citizens and mayor in 1921-22.	<b>Condition as observed from street</b> — <input type="checkbox"/> Intact <b>Minor alteration</b> — <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic <b>Major alteration</b> — <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic <b>Modifications</b> —																								
<b>Summary of Significance</b> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">Rare</th> <th style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">Associative</th> <th style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">Representative</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Historic</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Aesthetic</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Social</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Scientific</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Other</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Rare	Associative	Representative	<b>Historic</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Aesthetic</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Social</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Scientific</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Other</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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<b>Photo Roll N°</b> 2	<b>Frame N°</b> 10	<b>Survey Date</b> 12/6/2001
		<b>Surveyed by</b> RI

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

<b>Current Use</b> House, 10 King Street	<b>Reference N°</b> 1 11 10
<b>Heritage Listing</b> Recommended	
<b>Themes : Local</b> Subdivision and consolidation	<b>Themes : State</b> Towns, suburbs and villages
<p><b>Historical Notes</b></p> <p>Originally a part of the very early Canterbury Estate, this site was Lot 11 of an unnamed subdivision, D P 263.(1) It was acquired by J Ferguson in 1899 and purchased from him by George Watson. Watson had the building erected by February 1901 and within a year it was rented to Captain James Dunstan, a mining engineer and JP, who lived there until some time after 1904.(2) Its early name was 'Ovalau', and the date of completion makes it a quintessential Federation period house in Ashfield.</p> <p>George Watson was one of the most influential citizens of Ashfield for almost 50 years. He established the first local newspaper, <i>The Advertiser</i>, in 1888 and owned it until 1909. Watson's leading articles on social and other issues of the day were far-sighted and progressive, a stark contrast to the blandness of today's local newspapers. After selling <i>The Advertiser</i>, Watson was elected to the council he had so often chastised, and he served as mayor in 1921-22.</p> <p>Watson was a leading figure in the local Presbyterian Church and a member of many sporting and community groups. He occupied 'Ovalau' from about 1908 until his death in 1938.(3)</p>	
<p><b>Physical Description</b></p> <p>A substantial Queen Anne-style brick house of brick with a slate roof which has crenellated tile ridges and scroll terminals and metal hips. From the main hipped roof, which is crowned by a ventilated gablet motif, one hipped bay projects towards the street and is fronted by a narrower gable bay with a decorative apex screen and a broad bracketed window hood. A less decorative bay projects northwards from the main roof. Between the two bays there is an L-shaped verandah, from the corner of which thrusts an oblique gabled bay supported on brick piers. This unusual feature is possibly an addition and appears to have been intended as a verandah piazza, but it was later infilled with double-hung windows. As well as the decorative elements already mentioned, the ensemble includes turned timber verandah posts, fretwork brackets, a frieze with turned balusters, casement windows with leaded glass, and very distinctive tall brick chimneys. The overall character, despite the modifications, is that of a distinctive and stylish Queen Anne design. There is a magnificent palm in the front garden. The brick-and-render front fence of unusual Classical panelled design is evidently later work.</p>	
<p><b>Information Sources</b></p> <p>(1) H E C Robinson map, n d.  (2) <i>Sands Directories</i>.  (3) Information from Ashfield and District Historical Society. Valuer General's records, South Ward, 1908-10, No 950.</p>	