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

Name of Item House, 'The Wrights'					Reference N°
Other Names					2 06 01
Address	s 12 Federal Avenue				Land Title
Locality	Ashfield		Postcode		
Item Type	Building				Owner/s
Group Name					Mr Harry Wright
This is a most original and intact house in the Queen Anne style of architecture, with some distinctive details such as the piers framing the gabled bay. It has had only a small handful of owners, all of whom have preserved the quality of the building. Its fine detailing, includes some excellent interior features including a rare moongate archway between the main living rooms. Federal Avenue itself demonstrates the development of Ashfield from early times until the Federation period. Summary of Significance Rare Associative Representative Aesthetic					Condition as observed from street — Intact Minor alteration — Sympathetic Unsympathetic Major alteration — Sympathetic Unsympathetic Unsympathetic The detached carport is a reversible addition.
Scientific					
Other					
SMACE LINE PERSONAL PROPERTY AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE PERSONAL PR					



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Heritage Listing Recommended

Themes: Local Themes: State

Subdivision and consolidation Towns, suburbs and villages

Historical Notes

This area of Ashfield was a grant made in 1799 to William Faithful (or Faithfull). By about 1820 it was subsumed in Joseph Underwood's Ashfield Park Estate. Federal Avenue was made in 1899, some of its allotments by then forming the Balranald Estate, itself part of the Federal Estate.(1) It was presumably so named to commemorate the federation of Australia. The street first appears in *Sands Directory* in 1903, by which time only one house had been built. The subject of this report, called 'Gleneagles' and owned and occupied by H E Haldane, first appeared in *Sands* in 1910, indicating that it had been erected in 1909. The property was first rated in 1911, when it was valued at £212 unimproved and £950 improved.(2) Ownership was transferred to Henrietta Haldane (presumably H E Haldane's widow) by 1920. In the rate book for that year it was described as a five-room brick cottage, and its valuation was £382 unimproved and £1,050 improved.(3) Mrs Haldane continued as owner and occupier until 1922, and from 1925 the property was occupied by Miss Harriet M Haldane. By 1928 Miss Haldane listed as owner as well as occupier, and the valuation was £800 unimproved and £1,950 improved. Until that year the street number of the property was 8 Federal Avenue; it was subsequently re-ordered as No 12.(4)

Physical Description

A single-storey Federation Queen Anne-style residence, with characteristically individual detailing. A hipped roof of slates is trimmed with terra cotta, including ridge terminals. The rafter feet are exposed. The walls are of brown brick with darker brick accents, tuckpointed on the front only. The facade has a side bay with a shingled gable facing the street, with a slightly projecting dentillated apex panel. In the front wall of the bay is a surface-mounted two-light double hung window with top sashes divided into small panes; it is flanked by attached piers and protected by a handsome hipped skillion hood of shingles, supported on twin brackets springing from the piers. The verandah extends around one side of the house and is supported on paired timber posts with curvilinear timber brackets. Its floor is tesselated tiles, while the edges, step treads and threshold are marble and the roof is an extension of the main roof at a slightly lesser pitch. The window under the verandah has two lights and a squinch- brick sill. The chimneys are roughcast rendered and distinctively tapered, with cavetto tops.

There are some fine interior details, including panelled plaster ceilings, good chimneypieces and joinery, and a rare and highly distinctive moon-arch opening between the two front living rooms.

The front garden is neatly planted, as is all of the open space around the house.

A free-standing carport with a metal deck roof and paved floor has been added, and there are low, wide steel gates in the low brick front fence.

Information Sources

- (1) Ashfield Heritage Study, 1993, vol 1, appendix G; H E C Robinson map of Ashfield, undated but about 1912.
- (2) Rate Book, North-East Ward, 1911, No 383, in Ashfield Council Archives. As a result of ward boundary changes, the property became part of the north ward in 1918, later being restored to the north-east ward.
- (3) Valuer General's records, ibid, 1920, No 1204, Ashfield Council Archives. *Sands Directories* list the occupant as Alexander C Haldane (presumed to be H E Haldane's son) from 1917 until 1919. Mr H E Haldane was last listed as owner in 1919 (Rate Book, No 1138).
- (4) Sands Directories; Valuer General's records, ibid, 1928, No 1459.