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

Name of Item	House, one of	of a group of tw	Reference N°	
Other Names	'Cassilis'		2 10 04	
Address	12 John Stre	et		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 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.				from street —
				☐ Intact
				Minor alteration — ☐ Sympathetic
				☐ Unsympathetic
				Major alteration —
				☐ Sympathetic
Summary of Significance				■ Unsympathetic
•	0	ssociative	Representative	Modifications —
Historic				Main roof covering has
Aesthetic			\boxtimes	been replaced. Facade stucco has been
Social				removed. Verandah
Scientific				roof has been altered and filigree removed.
Other				and inigice removed.



Photo Roll N° 27 Frame N° 11A Survey Date Surveyed by RI $^\circ$

Ashfield Heritage Study Review of Areas Zoned 2(a)

Current Use

House, 'Cassilis', 12 John Street, Ashfield, one of a group of two adjacent houses

Reference N° 2 10 04

Recommended Heritage Listing

Themes: State Themes: Local

Subdivision and consolidation Towns, suburbs and villages

Boom years

Historical Notes

The house 'Cassilis' was one of two houses built by John Mills, alderman and later Mayor of Ashfield, after Mills had subdivided his land at the corner of Alt and John Streets. The two became Nos 10 and 12 John Street. 'Cassilis' first appears in Sands Directory in 1882, occupied by Henry Pattle sometimes recorded as Pattell), a tea taster and commercial traveller.(1) Pattle was tenant until 1887, after which there was a quick, almost annual, succession of occupiers, including Albert Mardardy, George Mortimer, Alexander Jenkyns, Mrs J Kidd, William Boulton, the Rev Ewing Thompson. In 1907 both 'Cassilis' and its neighbour were acquired by Arthur Henry Case, stationmaster, possibly of Glen Innes. Their valuation was then £80 unimproved and £450 improved.(2) Many other tenants followed, until Theodore Wolfe became owner-occupier in 1922; he was succeeded by his widow Mary Isabella Wolfe, who continued as owner and occupier 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

- Chris Pratten, 'John Mills . . .', in Ashfield at Federation, p 76 et seq; Sands Directories.
 Rate Book, North Ward, 1907, Nos 292, 293, in Ashfield Council Archives. Valuer-General's records, ibid, 1908-10. Case's address is unclear in the records.
- (3) Sands Directories; Valuer-General's records, North Ward, 1928, Nos 1781, 1782.