

Ashfield Heritage Study Review of Areas Zoned 2(a)

Current Use House, 15 Hampden Street, Ashfield	Reference N° 1 08 10
Heritage Listing Recommended	
Themes : Local Subdivision and consolidation	Themes : State Towns, suburbs and villages
<p>Historical Notes</p> <p>The land in this area of Ashfield was originally a 1794 grant to Lieutenant John Piper and by about 1820 had been incorporated into Robert Campbell's Canterbury Park Estate. This site was Lot 48 of an unnamed estate, DP 263, owned by G W Nicoll. This house and its flanking neighbours, Nos 11A and 17-19, were all built on adjoining allotments in about 1907 by Alex Mudie Allen (also spelt Allan), a Summer Hill contractor. Allen had built the substantial Italianate house 'Ormiston' in 1889 and also designed and built the former Methodist church (now Ella Community Centre) in Haberfield in 1908. Allen was very active in the first decade of the century providing mortgage finance on a large number of Haberfield properties. He was still working locally as a builder until 1927.</p> <p>The house is first noted, as vacant, in 1907, and was then owned by the trustees for the Nicoll estate.(1) In 1908 Lots 47 to 49 were owned by the Trustees of the late G W Nicoll, Summer Hill. This house was valued £140 unimproved and £770 improved.(2) It appears that the house was let to Mrs Elizabeth Usher, who lived there for a time,(3) but the first occupant recorded in <i>Sands Directories</i> was James A Pasfield, in 1909. Thereafter the tenants changed until Andrew McDowell moved in in 1916. The McDowell family stayed until at least 1928. In that year the house was called 'Hazelmere' and was owned and occupied by Amy Sarah Broom, schoolteacher. It was then valued at £400 unimproved and £1,400 improved.(4) By 1940 these valuations were £405 and £1,175 respectively.(5)</p>	
<p>Physical Description</p> <p>It is a single-storey brick Queen Anne/Arts-&-Crafts residence of pleasing design, unusual in being symmetrical. Similar to No 11A, it is slightly different in detail. The facade is done in tuckpointed dark red brickwork, while the side walling is in commons, as was the custom at that time. A terra cotta tiled roof has two gablets flanking the central ridge which runs right angled to the street. The ridges are crenellated. A chimney, with corbelled top and terra cotta pots, is in the front roof slope, between the gablets. Each gablet has a small circular terra cotta vent. The roof extends downwards over a three-bay verandah which has timber posts and curvilinear fretwork timber decoration. The entrance is not at the front, from the verandah, but at the left side through an arched and hooded opening. The front windows, protected by the verandah, extend to floor level and have double-hung sashes. The driveway on the right (north) leads to a carport. There is a new front fence of pickets, appropriate in character, and from its central gate a curved path leads to the entrance, which is in a recess in the south wall and over which is a hood supported on turned timber brackets.</p>	
<p>Information Sources</p> <p>(1) For early history, see Ashfield Heritage Study, vol 1, pp 32, 36. Rate Book, South Ward, 1907, Nos 1121-24, in Ashfield Council Archives.</p> <p>(2) Valuer General's records, South Ward, 1908-10, Nos 927-30. Ashfield Council Archives.</p> <p>(3) Valuation Book, 1908; Pratten, 'Ormiston', in <i>Summer Hill</i> (ADHS, 1999), pp 109-113.</p> <p>(4) Valuer General's records, 1928, No 672.</p> <p>(5) Ibid, 1940, No 709.</p>	