


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

Name of Item House, 'Taruna', one of a group of two houses Other Names	Reference N° 2 10 07																								
Address 15 John Street Locality Ashfield Postcode	Land Title																								
Item Type Building Group Name	Owner/s																								
Statement of Significance <p>This is one of a fine pair of Victorian Italianate/Filigree houses which make an effective contribution to the streetscape despite some modification. Buildings of this period are now comparatively rare. They are associated with a prominent and influential citizen of Ashfield and demonstrate the prosperous period of speculative residential building which preceded the great depression of 1893.</p>	Condition as observed from street — <input type="checkbox"/> Intact Minor alteration — <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic Major alteration — <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic Modifications — Refer to description.																								
Summary of Significance <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>Historic</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>Aesthetic</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>Social</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>Scientific</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>Other</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	Historic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aesthetic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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Current Use House, 'Taruna', 15 John Street, Ashfield, one of a group of two houses	Reference N° 2 10 07
Heritage Listing Recommended	
Themes : Local Subdivision and consolidation Boom years	Themes : State Towns, suburbs and villages
<p>Historical Notes</p> <p>The exact date of construction of this house is not known, but one of the two (it is not known which) appeared for the first time in the Rate Book in 1884, and both appeared in 1885, owned by G B Walker.(1) <i>Sands Directory</i> lists the first occupant in 1886; it was William Russell, solicitor. The house was also named 'Taruna' in that entry. Russell continued as tenant until 1890, after which there was a quick succession of occupancies, none lasting more than three years until David Paton became tenant in 1910, and he stayed until 1928.(2)</p> <p>By 1896 both this house and No 11A were owned by the estate of the Rev G Hurst, from which in 1899 they were acquired by Dr George Hurst, of 'Ecclesbourne', Blackheath. The first valuation for this property was recorded in 1909; it was £185 unimproved and £895 improved. In 1920, still owned by Dr Hurst, the building was described as an eight-room brick house with a slate roof, and valued at £180 unimproved and £875 improved.(3) By 1928, 'Taruna' was in the ownership of Arthur Leopold Paton, of John Street, and the valuation was recorded as £405 unimproved and £1,050 improved.(4)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Refer also to the Inventory sheet</p>	
<p>Physical Description</p> <p>These are two matching two-storey brick-and-stucco houses on adjacent sites, designed in a composite of the Victorian Italianate and Filigree styles. Each has a narrow, asymmetrical facade, with a two-level verandah on one side and a narrow projecting bay on the other. The bay is treated with simple Classical detailing including pilastrated piers, recessed panels, an arched portal and a blind arch at the side. Upstairs the space within is treated as part of the verandah, becoming a kind of loggia or depressed tower with its own hipped roof. The main roof is hipped and, presumably originally slated, is now covered with tiles. The verandah has an outer corner column of cast iron, a framed frieze at the lower level, and cast iron balustrading at the upper level in a design registered in New South Wales by A T Rees & Co, iron founders, in 1883.(5) No 15 has an upper frieze also, but the one at No 11A is missing. Other Classical detailing in stucco includes corniced chimneys and ground floor window architraves. A carport has been added to the side of No 15 and No 11A has a side drive. The front fences are not original.</p>	
<p>Information Sources</p> <p>(1) Rate Book, North Ward, 1884, Nos 215-16; 1885, Nos 249 and 250, in Ashfield Council Archives. (2) <i>Sands Directories</i>. Incidentally, two clerics were tenants: viz, the Rev G McInnes (1898-1900) and the Rev James Paterson (1907-09); both were Presbyterian ministers. (3) Rate Book, North Ward, <i>ibid</i>, 1896, Nos 242-43; 1899, Nos 232-33; 1907, No 295; 1909, Nos 785-86; 1915, Nos 1204-05; Valuer-General's records, <i>ibid</i>, 1920, Nos 1367-68. (4) Valuer-General's records, 1928, No 1734, <i>ibid</i>. (5) Brian Turner, <i>Australia's Iron Lace</i> (Allen & Unwin, 1985) p 178.</p>	