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

Name of Item Other Names	House		Reference N° 5 17 02
Address Locality	165 Queen Street Ashfield	Postcode 2131	Land Title
Item Type Group Name	Building		Owner/s
An example of an architectural idiom which is rare in Ashfield, viz, a 'waterfall front' version of the Functionalist style, with some unusual detailing. It was erected by and for a builder and not as a speculation.			Condition as observed from street — Intact Minor alteration — Sympathetic Unsympathetic
Summary of S Rai Historic Aesthetic Social Scientific Other	Associative F	Representative	Major alteration — Sympathetic Unsympathetic Modifications — Security screens added to openings



15A

Frame N°

Photo Roll N°

69

Surveyed by

RI

Survey Date

15/2/2004

Ashfield Heritage Study Review of Areas Zoned 2(a)

Current Use
House, 165 Queen Street, Ashfield

Reference N°
5 17 02

Heritage Listing Recommended

Themes: Local Themes: State

Subdivision and consolidation Towns, suburbs and villages: after World War II

Historical Notes

This land was originally part of the Rev Richard Johnson's 1796 grant of 100 acres. In little more than two decades it was taken into Robert Campbell's large Canterbury Park Estate, and this in turn was gradually disposed of after his death.(1) As the street pattern was created, the subdivision known as The Grove appeared, located in a triangular holding at the junction of Hardy and Queen Streets. It was one of several subdivisions shown on the Higinbotham & Robinson map of Ashfield, compiled for Ashfield Municipality in 1883.(2) This house is sited on Lot 16, on the west side of Queen Street.

In 1949 the allotment, owned by Norman Grey Woodham, master butcher, contained stables and sheds. Woodham sold the property in that year to Cecil Francis McCue, builder, for £1,250.(3) McCue lodged a building application in 1950 for a four-roomed brick dwelling on a concrete

McCue lodged a building application in 1950 for a four-roomed brick dwelling on a concrete foundation, with lead dampcourse and tiled roof, having an estimated value of £3,000. The BA included an unsigned architectural drawing. The planning is such that the large kitchen, though situated behind the street-facing lounge room, is in a projecting wing so as to permit a view of the street. In the following year the land and building, still owned by C F McCue, was given a valuation of £6,250. It appears that the stables and sheds were still on the land then.(4) In 1958 the owner and occupier was Douglas Stuart Bain, and the improved valuation was £8,000. Bain was still the owner and occupier in 1961.(5)

Physical Description

This house represents an architectural style unusual in Ashfield. It is a a version of what Robin Boyd called the 'Waterfall Front' idiom: round-cornered and streamlined, with boxed eaves (here canted), curved glass and a stress on horizontal lines.(6) The design also features an integrated garage, facilitated by the location of the building on a sloping site, and the deck above it. Other details characteristic of the period are the lacy welded steel balustrades and the fluted rendered fore-edges of the concrete slabs, the one over the front entrance also having a rounded corner. The walls are face brickwork in textured bricks and the rounded corners of the building are built with curved or radiused bricks, an unusual technique. Exterior joinery, including the curved corner windows, is timber. The paths, external steps and decks are paved with glazed modelled tiles. The hipped roof is covered with terra cotta tiles. The building is intact and in very good order.

The front fence, a brick construction matching the house masonry, including corners curving into the garage entry, is also a retaining wall for the garden which, though small, befits the house design.

Information Sources

- (1) Ashfield Heritage Study 1993, vol 1, pp 32, 36.
- (2) There is a copy of this map in Ashfield Council Archives.
- (3) Valuer-General's records, east ward, 1949, No 1448, in Ashfield Council Archives. This area was not recorded as in the south ward until later.
- (4) BA No 335 for 1950, in Ashfield Council Archives; Valuer-General's records, ibid, 1951, No 1450.
- (5) Valuer-General's records, ibid, 1958, No 1444; 1961, No 1442 (7805)
- (6) Australia's Home (Melbourne University Press, 1952) p 88.