ASHFIELD HERITAGE STUDY

1991 - 1992

NAME	Bethlehem College
OTHER NAMES	Former Convent of the Sisters of Charity.
LOCALITY / SUBURB	Ashfield
POSTCODE	2131
STREET ADDRESS	18 Bland Street
MAP	
REFERENCE	

REFERENCE NO. 41

REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

ZONING 5(a)

OWNER

BOUNDARY / IDENTIFICATION

The north building only

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS/HISTORICAL NOTES - SEE OVER

CATEGORY

SUB CATEGORY

EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

Historic:	Rare		Associative	x	Representative	
Aesthetic:	Rare		Associative	x	Representative	
Social:	Rare		Associative	x	Representative	
Scientific:	Rare		Associative		Representative	
Other:	Rare		Associative		Representative	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

* A building with historical value and streetscape presence.

SITE CONDITION

Intact	
Minor Alteration	x
Major Alteration	
- Sympathetic	
- Unsympathetic	
Removed (site only)	

PHOTOGRAPHS

BandW ROLL **NEG NO.**

COLOUR SLIDES ROLL **FRAME NO.**

DATE OF SURVEY 25/2/93

SURVEYOR CHP/RI

STUDY TEAM: Richard Mackay, Robert Irving, Chris Pratten, Jill Sheppard, Stephen Harris

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HERITAGE LISTINGS

- [ ] Register of the National Estate (AHC) - Registered
- [ ] Register of the National Estate (AHC) - Interim
- [ ] Register of National Trust (NSW)
- [ ] Within National Trust Conservation Area
- [ ] Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture (RAIA)
- [ ] Department of Public Works Heritage and Conservation Register
- [ ] Heritage Council Register - Permanent Conservation Order
- [ ] Heritage Council Register - Interim Conservation Order
- [ ] Heritage Council Register - Section 130 Order
- [ ] Heritage Council Register - Nomination
- [ ] NSW Government Department Heritage Register (S170 Heritage Act)
- [ ] Institution of Engineers (NSW) Heritage Register
- [ ] Regional Environmental Plan Heritage Schedule
- [x] Local Environmental Plan Heritage Schedule
- [ ] Other

PERIOD

- Pre - 1800 [ ]
- 1800 - 1825 [ ]
- 1825 - 1850 [ ]
- 1851 - 1875 [ ]
- 1876 - 1900 [ ]
- 1901 - 1925 [ ]
- 1926 - 1950 [x]
- 1951 - 1975 [ ]
- Post - 1975 [ ]

REFERENCE NO.

41

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:

1927

ARCHITECT / DESIGNER:

Not known

BUILDER:

R. M. Bowcock

HISTORICAL THEMES:

State Themes:

Cultural and social life.

Local Themes:

The boom years.

HISTORICAL NOTES

Bethlehem College is situated on Dr William Bland's 1863 subdivision of part of the Ashfield Park Estate. William Henry Hudson, owner of a well-known Redfern joinery firm, purchased a large section of land between Alt and Bland Streets, on which he erected his home. In December, 1878 William Harry purchased part of Hudson's land for £2,000, the purchase price indicating that the house was included. Harry's wife moved her girl's school from Petersham to Bland Street in 1879. In January 1882, William Harry sold the site to the Sisters of Charity, who had established a school in Elizabeth Street in 1881. They moved the school to Bland Street, naming it "Bethlehem". The sisters built St Charles Church in 1885, and this was used as a parish church until St Vincent's was erected a decade later. Hudson's original home was demolished in 1927, and a new convent erected. Several alterations and additions have been made to the school buildings over the years. The Sisters of Charity have vacated the former convent, which is now part of Bethlehem College.

INFORMATION SOURCES:

Written: N. Peek, historical searches.

Oral:

Graphic:

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Materials: Face brick walls. Slate roof with terra cotta trim.

Exterior: Two-storey school building with long gable roof and two gables addressing street, with an arcaded corridor between.

Interior: Not inspected.

Styles Inter-war Free Classical

DESCRIPTION:

A two -storey school building, U-shaped in plan with two street-facing gables between which is a two-level corridor. It is of well detailed face brickwork which includes moulded bricks and patterns of texture work, prominent gable piers with caps, projecting ground floor bays and a triple arched corridor with a beamed corridor above. The slate roof has decorative terra cotta trim. Double-hung windows have four pane top sashes and two pane bottom sashes.

MODIFICATION:

Two-storey additions on south side. Some detailed alterations.