

182 LIVERPOOL ROAD: Club, formerly residence

Brief description

The Polish Club complex includes the two-storey administrative building addressing Liverpool Road, formerly a residence and, at the rear of the deep site, is the club building, a modern framed structure with car parking below, at No 73 Norton Street. The Liverpool Road building, called 'Polish House', is a traditional face-brick building with a hipped tiled roof, set back behind a low brick pier-and-panel fence.

Outline history

The Liverpool Road building was originally the residence 'Red Cliff', designed by the architect M B Halligan in 1894. It was purchased in the 1960s and renamed Sir Paul Strzelecki House to be used as a Polish Community Centre. The first gathering place for Poles was St Vincent's Church, where from the 1950s a noon mass with a sermon was conducted in Polish. It was said that the Poles scattered throughout New South Wales regarded Ashfield as 'their intellectual home'. It seems surprising now that there was much sectarian, racial and commercial opposition to the community centre project and it was not until 1967 that the Polish Club was set up in the building at the Norton Street end of the site in 1967.(1)

Reason for listing

This complex has much contemporary historical significance as well as being a pleasing group of residential character in the urban scene of Liverpool Road. *Criteria (a), (b), (c), (d).*

Other relevant documentation and citations

Speed the Plough, p 242-43; Ashfield & District Historical Society.

