


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

Name of Item House, 'Magnolia Cottage' Other Names 'Fairmount', 1913-17; 'Arcadia' in 1943	Reference N° 5 22 02																								
Address 229 Victoria Street Locality Ashfield Postcode 2131	Land Title																								
Item Type Building Group Name	Owner/s																								
Statement of Significance <p>A very distinctive version of the Queen Anne style of architecture, which also has a high degree of intactness and is in splendid condition. It is the work of a building firm that created some of Ashfield's most interesting residences.</p>	Condition as observed from street — <input checked="" 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 — The verandah balustrading between the piers has been altered																								
Summary of Significance <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">Rare</th> <th style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">Associative</th> <th style="width: 20%; 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 type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aesthetic</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aesthetic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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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Photo Roll N° 69	Frame N° 13A																								
Survey Date 15-2-2004	Surveyed by RI																								

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Current Use House, 'Magnolia Cottage', 229 Victoria Street, Ashfield	Reference N° 5 22 02
Heritage Listing Recommended	
Themes : Local Subdivision and consolidation	Themes : State Towns, suburbs and villages
<p>Historical Notes</p> <p>This house was erected on Lot 5 of the Woolford Estate, which was a subdivision of 17 allotments on the land bounded by Victoria Street, Woolford Street (later re-named Service Avenue) and Hanks Street. These were offered for sale by Hardie & Gorman in 1905.(1) The residence was the subject of a Building Application in 1912 by Smith & Smith, of Hardy Street, as owner-builder. This was for a 5-roomed brick cottage with brick foundation, slate dampcourse and slate roof, estimated to cost £633. Incidentally, the firm of Smith & Smith designed and erected a number of houses in Ashfield, among them the very distinctive group not far away at 40-48 Service Avenue.(2)</p> <p>The first recorded occupant of the house was Charles Wylie in 1913, when the name 'Fairmount' was given.(3) The first Rate Book entry was in 1917, when M E Galling (or Gelling) was the owner and the improved value of the property was £800. By 1918 the property had changed hands, the new owner being William de Saxe. He in turn sold it to Reginald Charles Sparkes in 1920, in which year the valuation was £216 unimproved and £950 improved. <i>Sands Directory</i> in 1926 lists the occupant as Miss Ivy Sparkes, music teacher, while Reginald Sparkes occupied the property from 1927 until at least 1933.(4). In 1943 the owner was Mrs Elizabeth Beatrice Sparkes and the valuation was £387 unimproved and £1,150 improved. The name of the property at that time was given as 'Arcadia'.(5)</p>	
<p>Physical Description</p> <p>'Magnolia Cottage', presumably so named because of the mature Magnolia tree in the front garden, is a distinctive version of the Queen Anne style of architecture. Its site is on the high (west) side of Victoria Street, giving the house a good street presence. Its form is the usual L-shape, with brick walling, tuck pointed on the facade, and hipped roofing of slate with terra cotta trim including ridge terminals. From the side wing a handsome four-light faceted window projects, protected by a bracketed flying gable at a slightly lower level. The windows have casement sashes with coloured top and bottom panes, and transom lights also with coloured panes. The verandah beside the projecting wing has a tessellated floor, marble edges and threshold, brick piers, and paired timber posts with decorative brackets and valences. The verandah roof is a continuation of the main roof at the same pitch. The window under the verandah has two casements flanked by narrower fixed lights and, like the front bay window, a moulded sill and rendered apron ensemble. The chimneys have corbelled caps with terra cotta pots.</p> <p>The rendered base of the metal palisade front fence acts as a retaining wall for the garden, which is level whereas the street slopes markedly to the north. The south gate matches the fence and from it a tessellated tile and edged path winds towards the entrance steps, which have tiled risers and flanking pedestal strings supporting modelled lions. The garden is simple and commensurate. At the north side of the site there is a brick paved driveway leading from tall brick frontage piers, which have moulded brick and corbelled caps, to a rear garage.</p> <p>The property appears to be essentially original and in excellent condition. The street trees in this part of Victoria Street are Crepe Myrtle, handsomely complementing the domestic plantings.</p>	
<p>Information Sources</p> <p>(1) Subdivision Plan No A8/18, in Ashfield Council Archives. (2) BA No 1103 for 8 June 1912, in Ashfield Council Archives. The four domestic buildings in Service Avenue are the subject of separate Inventory sheets as part of this Heritage Review, q v. (3) <i>Sands Directories</i>. (4) Rate Book, east ward, 1917, No 1587 (the property was rated for the east ward at that time); Rate Book, ibid, 1918, No 1587; Valuer-General's records, east ward, 1920, No 1587, in Ashfield Council Archives. (5) Valuer-General's records, ibid, 1926, No 1746; 1943, No 1933.</p>	