

Ashfield Heritage Study Review of Areas Zoned 2(a)

Current Use House, 23 Clissold Street, Ashfield	Reference N° 1 03 25
Heritage Listing Recommended	
Themes : Local Subdivision and consolidation	Themes : State Towns, suburbs and villages
<p>Historical Notes</p> <p>This building was erected on Lot 10 and part of Lot 9 of the Farleigh Estate. That estate was part of John Clephan's grant of 1794, which by 1820 was incorporated into Robert Campbell's Canterbury Park Estate. The house next door, No 21, built on Lot 8 and part of Lot 9 of the Farleigh Estate, appears to have been originally similar to No 23, though that similarity is no longer readily discernible.</p> <p>In 1901 the vacant site was owned by William Booker.(1) By 1902 the house had been erected and was owned and occupied by John Wallace.(2) In 1907 the property was owned and occupied by Mrs Thomas Burden and valued at £140 unimproved and £600 improved. Mrs Burden sold it in that year to Thomas Douglas, a man of independent means.(3) Douglas was owner and occupier until about 1909, when he sold the property to the Estate of W S Stead, for '£ exchange for land at Canley Vale'. It was valued at £140 unimproved and £600 improved. Stead did not live in the house.(4) By about 1912, the owner-occupier was D Robertson. In 1922 the property was valued at £280 unimproved and £850 improved(5) and by 1928 these values had increased to £420 unimproved and £1,000 improved.(6)</p>	
<p>Physical Description</p> <p>This is an early Federation-period house, the architectural style of which has elements of both Queen Anne and Classical. The construction is brick, now unfortunately painted, with a mounded string course across the facade. Its plan is basically a rectangle and its hipped roof, now tiled but probably originally slated, has a ridge parallel to the street with gablets at each end. A gabled bay projects from one side and a verandah is on the other side. From the street-facing bay a window bay projects slightly further, with a bracketted hood, and the small gable apex screen, with vertical boarding infill, is matched at the decorated lower ends of the bargeboards by triangular elements which act as stops to the boxed eaves. It seems that the apex finial has been removed. The end wall of the verandah is in the form of a firewall and has an eaves-stop with a Classical console motif. The chimneys have corniced tops and terra cotta pots. Yet the verandah frieze, in typical Queen Anne manner, is composed of short turned timber balusters. The windows have rendered sub-sill aprons. The verandah floor is a simple but fine example of tessellated and encaustic tiling. The name of the house is in a panel in the front gable. The front fence has a rendered base, rendered and capped piers and an iron palisade and gates. There is a side driveway. The small front garden has mature hedge plantings.</p>	
<p>Information Sources</p> <p>(1) Ashfield Heritage Study, 1993, vol 1, pp 32, 36; Rate Book, South Ward, 1901, N°571. (2) Rate Book, <i>ibid</i>, 1902, N°514; <i>Sands Directories</i>. (3) Rate Book, <i>ibid</i>, 1907, N°527. (4) Valuer General's records, 1908-10, No 1509. Sale Note, 16 December 1909, Ashfield Council Archives. <i>Sands Directories</i>. (5) Valuer General's records, 1922-25, No 326. (6) Valuer General's records, 1928, No 345.</p>	