

ASHFIELD HERITAGE STUDY

1991-1992

NAME Ashfield Presbyterian Church		REFERENCE NO. 154	
OTHER NAMES		REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	
LOCALITY / SUBURB Ashfield	POSTCODE 2131	ZONING 5(a)	
STREET ADDRESS 3 Knox Street, corner Liverpool Road		OWNER Presbyterian Church NSW Property Trust	
MAP	REFERENCE		
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS/HISTORICAL NOTES - SEE OVER			
CATEGORY		BOUNDARY / IDENTIFICATION The property boundary	
SUB CATEGORY			
EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE			
Historic: Rare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Associative <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Representative <input type="checkbox"/>
Aesthetic: Rare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Associative <input type="checkbox"/>		Representative <input type="checkbox"/>
Social: Rare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Associative <input type="checkbox"/>	Representative <input type="checkbox"/>	
Scientific: Rare <input type="checkbox"/>	Associative <input type="checkbox"/>	Representative <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other: Rare <input type="checkbox"/>	Associative <input type="checkbox"/>	Representative <input type="checkbox"/>	
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE		SITE CONDITION	
* An excellent traditional and conservative church, finely designed and built in polychrome brick and stone, with an impressive interior.		Intact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
* A superb example of the work of Ashfield architect A.L. Elphinstone.		Minor Alteration <input type="checkbox"/>	
* The church contains the only known example of the work of the organ builders Matanle and Wood, in a fine free standing case.		Major Alteration <input type="checkbox"/>	
		- Sympathetic <input type="checkbox"/>	
		- Unsympathetic <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Removed (site only) <input type="checkbox"/>	
PHOTOGRAPHS		DATE OF SURVEY	
BandW ROLL 91-052-9	NEG NO. 9	6/4/92	
COLOUR SLIDES ROLL	FRAME NO.	SURVEYOR	
STUDY TEAM: Richard Mackay, Robert Irving, Chris Pratten, Jill Sheppard, Stephen Harris		RI/CHP	

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<p>HERITAGE LISTINGS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Register of the National Estate (AHC) - Registered</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Register of the National Estate (AHC) - Interim</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Register of National Trust (NSW)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Within National Trust Conservation Area</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture (RAIA)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department of Public Works Heritage and Conservation Register</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Council Register - Permanent Conservation Order</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Council Register - Interim Conservation Order</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Council Register - Section 130 Order</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Council Register - Nomination</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NSW Government Department Heritage Register (S170 Heritage Act)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Institution of Engineers (NSW) Heritage Register</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Regional Environmental Plan Heritage Schedule</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Environmental Plan Heritage Schedule</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (See also Goodlet Institute and The Manse)</p>	<p>PERIOD</p> <p>Pre - 1800 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1800 - 1825 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1825 - 1850 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1851 - 1875 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1876 - 1900 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1901 - 1925 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1926 - 1950 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1951 - 1975 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Post - 1975 <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>REFERENCE NO. 154</p> <p>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1885-6</p> <p>ARCHITECT/DESIGNER: A.L. Elphinstone (Organ case - Nixon and Adam)</p> <p>BUILDER: Dowling</p>
<p>HISTORICAL THEMES:</p> <p>State Themes: Cultural and social life. Emergence of Building styles.</p> <p>Local Themes: The Boom Years The Village of Ashfield Local Government and Services</p>		
<p>HISTORICAL NOTES</p> <p>When St David's Church at Dobroyde (now Haberfield) was built in 1869, it was the only Presbyterian Church between Newtown and Parramatta. The first Presbyterian service in Ashfield was held in the Oddfellows' Hall in October, 1875, and on 12/3/1876 the first weatherboard church was opened by the Revd. Dr John Dummore Lang, the land having been given by John Pope, Ashfield's first Mayor. In 1882, additional land was purchased and a building fund opened for a new church. Knox Street was formed in 1883. Elder A.L. Elphinstone was appointed architect, but the tower and spire had to be deleted from his original plan due to cost. The foundation stone was laid by Mrs Goodlet on 17/10/1885 and the church opened on 3/12/1886. The cost was £5769. Colonel J. H. Goodlet contributed £1 for every £ raised by the congregation. The first weatherboard church was moved to another position on the site and became a school hall.</p>		
<p>INFORMATION SOURCES:</p> <p>Written: <u>Ashfield Presbyterian Church, 1876-1976; Historic Organs of NSW, Rushworth, 1988.</u></p> <p>Oral: N/A</p> <p>Graphic: A framed architectural drawing of the church with a spire hangs in the Church Vestry.</p>		
<p>PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:</p> <p>Materials: Orange grey face brick walls, with accents of red and cream and moulded bricks as well as sandstone window dressings and tracery. Slate roof.</p> <p>Exterior: Rectangular plan with steep, parapetted gables, twin gabled vestries at rear. Part of group which includes the Goodlet institute, Manse and Old church.</p> <p>Interior: Axial preaching hall with hammer beam roof, raking floor, raised rostrum and pipe organ in end wall.</p> <p>Styles: Victorian Academic Gothic.</p>		
<p>DESCRIPTION:</p> <p>A very fine brick, freestanding, urbane church building, exhibiting excellent design and workmanship. It was designed with a tower and spire but, though toothing for the tower is incorporated in the brickwork, it was not built. Among the expected Gothic panoply are several splendid features. The north (Liverpool Road) facade has a large window with decorated tracery, below which is a double entrance detailed and executed with great finesse and including a trumeau. Slender brick and stone pinnacles break the skyline above the main gable. The masonry is notable for its skilled use of polychrome brickwork as well as carved stone, especially evident in the bayed and buttressed side elevations. The interior is as impressive as the exterior, and has a raking floor addressing the raised platform at the south end. High in the south wall is a wheel window, below which is the freestanding organ case. The exposed roof, a massive hammer beam structure of dark timbers, makes the interior an especially unified space.</p> <p>See also Goodlet Institute and Manse.</p>		
<p>MODIFICATION:</p> <p>In 1902, a pipe organ by the Sydney Organ builders Matanle and Wood was installed in a "splendid, free standing case" designed by the architects Nixon and Adam. The organ is the only example of so far identified as the work of these builders. Tower and spire not built. One buttress pinnacle damaged. Generally the building is intact.</p>		