

## Ashfield Heritage Study Inventory Sheets 2010

<b>Name of Item</b>	Residence, 'Menmuir'	<b>Reference N°</b>	10/13
<b>Other Names</b>		<b>Land Title</b>	
<b>Address</b>	30 King Street		
<b>Locality</b>	Ashfield	<b>Postcode</b>	2131
<b>Item Type</b>	Building	<b>Owner/s</b>	
<b>Group Name</b>			
<b>Statement of Significance</b>		<b>Condition as observed from street —</b>	
<p>This is one of several houses in the municipality closely associated with Mei Quong Tart, the well-known 19th-century Sydney merchant and Chinese Mandarin, who with his family owned the property for 24 years as well as others in Ashfield.</p> <p>It is an unusual and intact building with some very interesting architectural features.</p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intact <b>Minor alteration —</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic <b>Major alteration —</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic	
<b>Summary of Significance</b>		<b>Modifications —</b>	
	<b>Rare</b>	<b>Associative</b>	<b>Representative</b>
<b>Historic</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Aesthetic</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Social</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Scientific</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Surveyed by

RI

Survey Date

9/3/2010

## Ashfield Heritage Study Inventory Sheets 2010

<p><b>Current Use</b> Residential</p>	<p><b>Reference N°</b> 10/13</p>
<p><b>Heritage Listing</b>    Ashfield Local Environmental Plan 1985, Schedule 7</p>	
<p><b>Themes : Local</b> The Boom years. Subdivision and consolidation.</p>	<p><b>Themes : State</b> Migration. Ethnic Communities. Booms and busts.</p>
<p><b>Historical Notes</b> In 1890 Mei Quong Tart bought (in his wife Margaret's name) land on the eastern side of King Street, on which two houses stood. One, built of timber with a shingled roof, was very small; the other house was brick. The little timber building, called 'Weston Cottage', was occupied by James Monk or Monks. Quong bought it and had it demolished. On its site, now No 30, he erected this residence, which he named 'Menmuir' following his trip to China with his family in 1894 aboard the <i>SS Menmuir</i>. The brick house next door, now No 28 and the site of a block of flats, was also owned by the Quong Tart family for a few years before being transferred to George Scarlett, Margaret Tart's brother. After Quong's death in 1903 'Menmuir' continued to be owned by Margaret as an investment property. In 1914 it was acquired by George Henry Harris, who sold the property to Louisa Anderson in 1931. In 1961 its improved valuation was recorded as £4,000, and in 1963 it was inherited by Mr and Mrs Paul Anderson.(1)</p>	
<p><b>Physical Description</b> This small Victorian Regency-styled house is a single-storeyed, freestanding building of painted brick with a parapetted, gable-ended corrugated metal roof (originally slate). There are attic rooms with rear-facing dormers, believed to be originals. A verandah across the front has fire-walls with arched recesses, curved and rounded tops and stele on their faces. The monogram 'QT 1892' is incised in the stucco plinth at the front of one of the fire-walls. The verandah roof is of ogee-form corrugated metal, supported by an ensemble of plate cast iron columns and fringes and brackets. The chimneys are stucco, with moulded tops and terra cotta pots. The four main ground-floor rooms have corner fireplaces with cast iron basket grates, and the ceilings are of pressed metal. There is a sub-floor well under the kitchen.(2)</p>	
<p><b>Information Sources</b> (1) These records of ownership come from several sources, not all of them entirely clear. The Ashfield rate books and the Valuer-General's records for the quoted years are found in the Archives of Ashfield Council. Occupancy records are in <i>Sands Directories</i>. See also the <i>Ashfield Heritage Study 1992-93</i>, vol 2, Reference No 153, and <i>Ashfield at Federation</i> (ADHS, 2001) p 158. (2) Some of this description comes from the <i>Ashfield Heritage Study 1992-93</i>.</p>	