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

Name of Item Other Names	Cottage, one of a group of	of six adjacent cottages	Reference N° 2 23 14
Address Locality	5 Wood Street Ashfield	Postcode	Land Title
Item Type Group Name	Building		Owner/s
Statement of Significance This is a rare group in Ashfield, a largely intact suite of small single-fronted Queen Anne cottages which demonstrate the activity of a speculative builder and a succession of owners and tenants, especially in the Federation period, when Ashfield's housing stock was expanding intensely and interestingly.			Condition as observed from street — Intact Minor alteration — Sympathetic Unsympathetic Major alteration — Sympathetic
Aesthetic Social C		Representative	☐ Unsympathetic Modifications —



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Current Use

Cottage, 5 Wood Street, Ashfield, one of a group of six adjacent cottages

Reference N°

2 23 14

Heritage Listing Recommended

Themes: Local Themes: State

Subdivision and consolidation Towns, suburbs and villages

Historical Notes

As far as can be determined, these six houses were built for H Ruchlet, of Petersham, in 1908, at a total cost of £3,050. When completed, each house property was valued at £100 unimproved and £410 improved. (1) In 1920 the owner of the whole suite was John West, of Hampden Street, and each was valued at £110 unimproved and £450 improved. The recorded owner in 1928 was Sarah West, also of Hampden Street, and at that time the valuation of each property was £200 unimproved and £700 improved, except for No 13, the building at the Elizabeth Street corner. The cottage at No 5 was called 'Annaghgowan' in 1928.(2) It was occupied by Mrs J Aitchison, sewing mistress, from its completion until 1929.(3)

Refer also to separate inventory sheet for the group

Physical Description

This suite of six identical free-standing single-fronted cottages, in a simplified but none-the-less veracious version of the Queen Anne style of architecture, are all essentially intact. Each is a single-storey brick building with a brown tuckpointed Flemish-bond face-brick facade and a hipped tiled roof, the front plane of which continues down as a skillion over a small verandah. The verandah floor has tesselated tiles and slate edges, the posts have tapered stop-chamfers and the rafters have exposed ends. The entrance, flanking the verandah, is marked by a small gabled porch containing a round-arched portal accented by imitation stone dressings. A gablet in the main roof, trimmed with curvilinear bargeboards and a ridge terminal, contains a louvred ventilator. The gable of the porch also has curvilinear barges and a terminal. The front door is five-panelled and has a segmental arch head, while the front window has casement lights with transoms, a segmental arch head and bullnose brick sill. The chimney is corbelled and a terra cotta chimney-pot crowns a convex roughcast rendered panel.

Each tiny front garden is simple and enclosed by a brick pier-and-panel fence with double-squinch cappings.

No 5 retains a terra cotta tile roof and crested ridges.

Information Sources

- (1) Valuer-General's records, North Ward, 1908-10, Nos 229-234. The Council note of the intended buildings is dated 29/6/1910; Ashfield Council Archives. Hill-Miller is recorded as owner in the Rate Book of 1909.
- (2) Valuer-General's records 1908-1910, ibid; 1928, Nos 2769-74.
- (3) Sands Directories.