

# ASHFIELD HERITAGE STUDY

1991-1992

<b>NAME</b>	Masonic Hospital		<b>REFERENCE NO.</b>	270
<b>OTHER NAMES</b>	Part of Masonic Hospital Complex		<b>REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION</b>	
<b>LOCALITY / SUBURB</b>	Ashfield	<b>POSTCODE</b>	2131	
<b>STREET ADDRESS</b>	63 Victoria Street .			
<b>MAP</b>	<b>REFERENCE</b>			
<b>PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS/HISTORICAL NOTES - SEE OVER</b>				
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>SUB CATEGORY</b>			
<b>EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>				
Historic:	Rare	<input type="checkbox"/>	Associative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aesthetic:	Rare	<input type="checkbox"/>	Associative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social:	Rare	<input type="checkbox"/>	Associative	<input checked="" 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"/>
<b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The site has historical significance as the location of an important residence, "Fernlea", which was the birthplace of the Presbyterian Ladies' College.</li> <li>* The building is an impressive example of the Inter-War Free Classical style of architecture.</li> <li>* It is situated in an expansive landscape setting which includes significant specimens.</li> </ul>				
<b>BOUNDARY / IDENTIFICATION</b>				
The property boundary				
<b>SITE CONDITION</b>				
Intact				<input type="checkbox"/>
Minor Alteration				<input type="checkbox"/>
Major Alteration				<input type="checkbox"/>
- Sympathetic				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
- Unsympathetic				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Removed (site only)				<input type="checkbox"/>



<b>PHOTOGRAPHS</b>	<b>DATE OF SURVEY</b>
BandW ROLL 91-052-1	25/2/92
COLOUR SLIDES ROLL	<b>SURVEYOR</b>
NEG NO. 14	RI/CHP
FRAME NO.	
<b>STUDY TEAM: Richard Mackay, Robert Irving, Chris Pratten, Jill Sheppard, Stephen Harris</b>	

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<p><b>HERITAGE LISTINGS</b></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 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 type="checkbox"/> Local Environmental Plan Heritage Schedule</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>	<p><b>PERIOD</b></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 type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1901 - 1925 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1926 - 1950 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>1951 - 1975 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Post - 1975 <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>REFERENCE NO.</b> 270</p> <p><b>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:</b> 1931</p> <p><b>ARCHITECT/DESIGNER:</b> F. E. Stowe</p> <p><b>BUILDER:</b> Hutcherson Bros, Sydney</p>
<p><b>HISTORICAL THEMES:</b></p> <p>State Themes: Cultural and social life. Building styles.</p> <p>Local Themes: Local government and services.</p>		
<p><b>HISTORICAL NOTES</b></p> <p>The Masonic Hospital was built on the site of one of Ashfield's well known 19th century mansions, "Fernlea". In 1869 James Muir and his wife Mary purchased land from Sophia Campbell, building the house soon after. Sold to John Jamieson in 1879, the house was leased to the Presbyterian Church for the establishment of the Presbyterian Ladies College, which occupied the site for three years prior to moving to Croydon. Following occupation by a series of tenants, "Fernlea" was purchased in 1919 by the NSW Government and used as post and pre-maternity hospital until 1930. "Fernlea" must have then been demolished, as by mid 1931, the new owners, the United Grand Lodge of NSW, had opened a new 48 bed hospital, built at a cost of £60,000. Both architect and builders were Lodge members.</p> <p>A white marble plaque in the porch declares that the building was dedicated by M. W. Bro. Aubrey Halloran, Grand Master, on 13 June 1931</p>		
<p><b>INFORMATION SOURCES:</b></p> <p>Written: <u>ADHS Scrapbook</u> No. 6. Building Applications</p> <p>Oral:</p> <p>Graphic: <u>SMH</u>, 13/6/1931</p>		
<p><b>PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:</b></p> <p>Materials: Loadbearing brick/render walls, terra cotta tile roof.</p> <p>Exterior: Three storey building symmetrical about a porte cochere. Square belvedere tower, with pyramidal roof, above entry, housing lift machinery etc.</p> <p>Interior: Foyer and stair have dadoes of scagliola. The lift entrance is an aedicule. The front doorcase is very fine.</p> <p>Styles: Inter-war Free Classical.</p>		
<p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b></p> <p>A large and originally rectangular building with a Classically designed eastern facade. Two-storey Tuscan pilaster piers divide it into wide and narrow bays - A.B.A.B.A. - each side of the porte cochere, which is columned. Balcony spandrels span between the pilaster piers and the wide bays are crowned by semi elliptical arches and above there is a broad entablature with a centre pediment. There is also a centre tower with ionic pilastration, a dentillated entablature and a pyramidal roof. A later attic storey has wide, thin eaves. The Tuscan motif is carried around the corners of the front facade but all the other elevations are simpler, with a cornice at the original eaves line. There is a lower ground floor at the north end.</p>		
<p><b>MODIFICATION:</b></p> <p>Third (top) storey, with low pitched hipped roof, added over whole building. Second (top) storey added above porte cochere. Steel escape stair added. Additional wings on two sides of original building. Facade balconies between columns filled in.</p>		