

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

<b>Name of Item</b> House	<b>Reference N°</b> 1 17 01																								
<b>Other Names</b> 'Eusdesmia', ('Well hidden' in Greek)																									
<b>Address</b> 7 Queen Street	<b>Land Title</b>																								
<b>Locality</b> Ashfield <span style="float: right;"><b>Postcode</b></span>																									
<b>Item Type</b> Building	<b>Owner/s</b>																								
<b>Group Name</b>																									
<b>Statement of Significance</b>  One of two adjacent houses of identical Italianate style, built in 1885-86 and both now seriously altered. The significance of 'Eusdesmia' lies in its association with the eminent scientist and public servant R T Baker, who lived there from 1890 to 1922. Baker was a distinguished and long-time Curator of the Technological Museum, Sydney, and published many important and influential works promoting the use of Australian materials and motifs.	<b>Condition as observed from street</b> — <input type="checkbox"/> Intact <b>Minor alteration</b> — <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic <b>Major alteration</b> — <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic  <b>Modifications</b> — Roof replaced. Chimneys removed. Verandah altered.																								
<b>Summary of Significance</b> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">Rare</th> <th style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">Associative</th> <th style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">Representative</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Historic</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Aesthetic</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Social</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Scientific</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Other</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Rare	Associative	Representative	<b>Historic</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Aesthetic</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Social</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>	
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<b>Photo Roll N°</b> 9	<b>Frame N°</b> 16	<b>Survey Date</b> 13/8/2001	<b>Surveyed by</b> RI
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<b>Current Use</b> House, 7 Queen Street, Ashfield	<b>Reference N°</b> 1 17 01
<b>Heritage Listing</b> Recommended	
<b>Themes : Local</b> Subdivision and consolidation The Boom Years	<b>Themes : State</b> Towns, suburbs and villages
<p><b>Historical Notes</b></p> <p>The land in this vicinity between Norton and Arthur Streets was owned by George C Whitney(1) until 1885, when it was subdivided. The site now No 7 Queen Street was Lots 6/7 of Part 5, DP 1433.(2) The house itself first appears in the records in 1886, when it was owned and occupied by Mrs Hebblewhite.(3) Ann Hebblewhite, a widow, married Richard Thomas Baker at the Ashfield Wesleyan Church in 1890. The house was then named 'Eusdesmia' ('well hidden' in Greek).(4) The 1891 Rate Book indicates that Mrs Baker was the owner and Richard Baker the occupant.(5) In 1908 Annie Baker, independent, was recorded as owner/occupier and the property was valued at £221 unimproved and £801 improved.(6)</p> <p>Baker was an eminent public servant and scientist, who was appointed Assistant Curator of the Technological Museum in 1888 and Curator in 1898. In the following years he presided over the development of the museum into one of the most esteemed institutions of its kind in Australia. Baker published many papers and books on economic botany and other aspects of the museum's work, including <i>Cabinet Timbers of Australia</i> in 1913. He was an ardent advocate of a National School of Australian Applied Art or Design, and in particular of the use of the Waratah in the decorative arts; he wrote <i>The Australian Flora in Applied Art</i> in 1815. Baker lived at No 7 Queen Street until 1922.</p> <p>In 1928 the property was owned and occupied by Mrs G M Bryant, value £605 unimproved and £1,550 improved.(7)</p>	
<p><b>Physical Description</b></p> <p>This is one of two identical residences at Nos 7 and 9 Queen Street. They are single-storey Italianate houses of brick and stucco, typically asymmetrical in design, in which a side bay contains a faceted window bay, beside which is a posted verandah. Both houses have now been compromised in several ways, including having their slate roofing replaced by inappropriate tiles, by the removal of their chimneys and by alterations to the verandahs.</p>	
<p><b>Information Sources</b></p> <p>(1) 1883 Higinbotham &amp; Robinson map. Valuer General's records, 1884; Ashfield Council Archives.  (2) Rate Book, South Ward, 1885, Nos 283 1/2 and 284.  (3) Rate Book, <i>ibid</i>, 1886, Nos 302-03.  (4) Information from Ashfield and District Historical Society.  (5) Rate Book, <i>ibid</i>, 1891, No 313.  (6) Valuer General's records, 1908-10, No 1150.  (7) Valuer General's records, South Ward, 1928, No 2027.</p>	