

Ashfield Heritage Study Review of Areas Zoned 2(a)

Current Use	Reference N°
Pair of semi-detached residences, 92-94 Chandos Street, Ashfield, two of a group of three.	2 03 03
Heritage Listing Recommended	
Themes : Local	Themes : State
Subdivision and consolidation	Towns, suburbs and villages
Historical Notes	
<p>The early history of this site is given in the Inventory sheet for the group, q v. The building was built for William Smyth (or Smythe), a gardener, of Summer Hill, who had acquired the land of which this allotment is part. It was valued at £247 as an unimproved lot in 1908, and by 1916 the value was £100 unimproved and £1,050 improved.(1) The two residences were first occupied in 1913-14: No 92 by Frank Ackerman and No 94 by Henry McDonald. In 1917 Mrs E Hinwood moved into No 92 and named it 'Roseve', while James P Grindon moved into No 94 and gave it the name 'Oruba'.(2) Thereafter the tenants of both occupancies changed frequently.(3) In 1920 William Smythe sold the whole building to Mrs Mary E Cresswell, who lived in Pymont but moved to No 94 by 1922. In 1920 each occupancy was valued at £88 unimproved and £650 improved.(4) The available evidence indicates that Mrs Creswell, in 1928, named No 92 'Coonor' (sic) and No 94 'Ormiston', and by that time the valuation for each part of the building had increased to £250 unimproved and £825 improved.(5) Helena Mary Stephens bought the pair in 1949 for £1,780, and sold them to Tomaso Saviane and Ciro Pomare, builders, in 1958, when their valuation was £700 unimproved and £2,800 improved. The building was acquired in 1961 by Antonia and Francesca Sciacca, of Randwick, and in that year the two occupancies were subdivided. The Sciaccas moved into No 92 and sold No 94 to Gaetano and Caterino Picone, of Five Dock.(6)</p>	
Physical Description	
<p>A single-storey brick building in the Queen Anne/Arts-&-Crafts style of architecture, asymmetrical in form as customary for a one-family house, but in this case consisting of two occupancies. The walling is of red-brown bricks, tuckpointed on the facade and commons elsewhere, with a sandstone base. The terra cotta tiled roof is hipped, with a projecting gable having a hipped skillion-roofed street-facing verandah on one side protecting one entrance, and a smaller hipped-skillion verandah over the other entrance. Both of these verandahs have tessellated tile floors edged with slate, and paired timber posts embellished with timber spandrels and brackets and supported on stone piers. The street-facing gable has a triple-light casement window with toplights, a bracketted hood, projecting bullnose sill, roughcast rendering above door head height to the front wall only, and a shingled tympanum above a dentillated brick motif. Its projecting wall plates are bracketted. A pair of French doors opens on to the verandah of No 92. Behind the facade there are two lateral gables, one on each side, treated similarly to the front gable. Behind that again, for each occupancy there is a skillion-roofed and parapetted wing.</p> <p>There are two separate gateways, with paths leading to the two entrances. The front fence is brick and the front garden is small and simple.</p>	
Information Sources	
<p>(1) Valuer-general's records, North Ward, 1908-10, No 102, and 1916, No 481, in Ashfield Council Archives. The difference in unimproved valuation is explained by the fact that Smythe subdivided the allotment and the 1916 valuation was for the site of Nos 92-94 only.</p> <p>(2) <i>Sands Directories</i>.</p> <p>(3) <i>Ibid</i>.</p> <p>(4) Valuer-general's records, North Ward, 1920, Nos 539 and 540, <i>ibid</i>.</p> <p>(5) <i>Ibid</i>, 1928, Nos 619 and 620.</p> <p>(6) Valuer-General's records, 1949, Nos 687-89; 1961, No 1540, <i>ibid</i>. They became Lots 1 and 2 of DP No 214209</p>	