


Additional Ashfield Heritage Inventory Sheets 2010

Name of Item	Ashfield Bowling Club	Reference N°	2011/1
Other Names		Land Title	
Address	Ashfield Park	Locality	Ashfield
	Postcode 2131		
Item Type	Building and site	Owner/s	
Group Name			
Statement of Significance		Condition as observed from street —	
<p>This is the second oldest bowling club in the state and for over 120 years it has reflected the history of the sport of bowling and contributed positively to the reputation of Ashfield and the popularity of Ashfield Park, of which it is part. It has associations with many prominent Ashfield citizens, including John Spence, F O Hedger and Sir John Harrison, to name only a few, and eight mayors, e g Mortley, Watson (member for 42 years) and Stanton. It was the state's first to try night lighting and, in the 1890s, the first where women played. The first outside television broadcast of lawn bowls took place here in 1956. The present building is the club's third.</p>		<input type="checkbox"/> Intact	
		Minor alteration —	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic	
		Major alteration —	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic	
Summary of Significance		Modifications —	
	Rare	Associative	Representative
Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aesthetic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		The present building is the third in the club's history.	
			
Photo Roll N°	Digital	Frame N°	
			Survey Date 20/12/2010
			Surveyed by RI

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Current Use Bowling Club and recreational activities	Reference N° 2011/1
Heritage Listing Recommended	
Themes : Local Local government and services. After World War II.	Themes : State Cultural and social life.
<p>Historical Notes</p> <p>The Club was founded following informal lawn bowling activities elsewhere in Ashfield. In the middle of November 1889 Alderman J R Mortley petitioned Ashfield Council on behalf of the bowlers seeking permission to form a green in Ashfield Park, to which Council agreed. Thereby the Club began, with Mortley as its first president.</p> <p>The land for Ashfield Park had been purchased in 1879 and the basic layout was shown on the Higinbotham & Robinson map of Ashfield in 1883. Thus the Park was still in its infancy in 1889.</p> <p>A green of six rinks was completed by August 1890, when the initial games were played. The green was said to be the largest in the colony. In December, on the motion of alderman Richard Stanton, Council approved erection of the first pavilion, 52 by 15 feet (16 x 6 m). These works were designed and supervised by Mortley. Green extensions occurred in later years and the pavilion was enlarged in 1903 and 1914, to the design of president John (later Sir John) Harrison. A replacement pavilion, also designed by Harrison, was erected in 1916, on land conceded by Council. Social activities, 'the cement that bind the club together', intensified. The first poker machines (sixpence) were installed in 1937. The present clubhouse was erected in 1958 by Paynter & Dixon and afterwards the pavilion was demolished and its site reverted to the Council.</p>	
<p>Physical Description</p> <p>The principal elements of the Club ensemble are two square greens, accessible from the south side of Orpington Street near its intersection with Parramatta Road, and, adjoining them on the east side, the Clubhouse, a single-storey brick structure having a low-pitched metal roof. The Orpington Street fence is brick, with a decorative metal entrance gate. The access path and the paths around the greens are concrete. The building is set well back from Parramatta Road, from which it can also be seen in the Park landscape. There are two flagpoles.</p>	
<p>Information Sources</p> <p>Geoff Howe, <i>The Battlers: the History of Ashfield Bowling Club</i> (Hippo Books, Rosebery, 1998).</p> <p><i>Ashfield Heritage Study 1991-92</i>, Reference No 215.</p> <p><i>NSW Legislative Assembly Hansard</i>, 'Ashfield Park Playing Fields', speech by Ms Virginia Judge, member for Strathfield, undated (2010).</p>	