


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

<b>Name of Item</b> House <b>Other Names</b>	<b>Reference N°</b> 4 04 01																								
<b>Address</b> 40 Dalmar Street <b>Locality</b> Croydon <span style="float: right;"><b>Postcode</b> 2132</span>	<b>Land Title</b>																								
<b>Item Type</b> Building <b>Group Name</b>	<b>Owner/s</b>																								
<b>Statement of Significance</b>  A rare instance in Ashfield of an association having great literary and historical interest, in this case in three Australian states. In respect of its cultural significance, this house has been likened to 221B Baker Street, London, the residence of Sherlock Holmes, who was the famous detective of fiction created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.	<b>Condition as observed from street</b> — <input type="checkbox"/> Intact <b>Minor alteration</b> — <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic <b>Major alteration</b> — <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic  <b>Modifications</b> — Fenestration changed and verandah filled in.																								
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;"><b>Summary of Significance</b></th> <th style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><b>Rare</b></th> <th style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><b>Associative</b></th> <th style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><b>Representative</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"><b>Historic</b></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"><b>Aesthetic</b></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"><b>Social</b></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"><b>Scientific</b></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"><b>Other</b></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Summary of Significance</b>	<b>Rare</b>	<b>Associative</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Historic</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<b>Scientific</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Other</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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<b>Current Use</b> House, 40 Dalmar Street, Croydon	<b>Reference N°</b> 4 04 01
<b>Heritage Listing</b> Recommended	
<b>Themes : Local</b> Subdivision and consolidation	<b>Themes : State</b> Towns, suburbs and villages Creative endeavour
<p><b>Historical Notes</b></p> <p>This is the house associated with the most famous hoax in Australia's literary history, known as 'The Ern Malley Affair'. It was perpetrated in 1944 by the two Sydney poets, James McAuley and Harold Stewart, when they were in the Army in Melbourne. Repelled by what they saw as the irrationally uncritical pursuit of modernism practised by the Adelaide literary quarterly <i>Angry Penguins</i>, they concocted a number of poems allegedly written by one Ernest Lalor Malley (1918-43) and discovered after his death by his sister, Ethel. These pieces, they later claimed, were composed in the course of a single afternoon, mainly by opening various reference books at random and stringing together passages from them in a style reminiscent of modernist poems published in <i>Angry Penguins</i>. Two of the poems were sent to the magazine's editor, Max Harris, with a covering letter from 'Ethel', who gave the address 40 Dalmar Street, Croydon (it was really the house of one of Stewart's family). Harris replied, and was supplied with a collection of poems and prose aphorisms entitled <i>The Darkening Ecliptic</i>. All were published in <i>Angry Penguins</i>, and hailed as the work of a poet 'of tremendous power, working . . . into the deepest wells of human experience'. Soon afterwards a Sydney newspaper became suspicious and the whole affair was revealed as a deception; all the particulars about 'Malley', including the poems, had been fabricated by McAuley and Stewart to see whether those who so praised contemporary poetry could distinguish the real product from 'nonsense'. The hoax created a great deal of public interest in the press and was the subject of an obscenity trial which in retrospect seems surreal .(1)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A further note about the history of the house itself is given below.</i></p>	
<p><b>Physical Description</b></p> <p>This house is one of two adjacent and matching cottages, Nos 40 and 42 Dalmar Street, erected in 1927 by builder George Rickards on allotments in the subdivision created in 1917 by Kezia Miller. The building application described each as a four-room double-fronted brick cottage on a brick foundation with lead dampcoursing and a tiled roof. They are fairly ordinary Inter-War California Bungalows of indifferent architectural quality. No 40 has now suffered modifications but the neighbouring house, No 42, is in somewhat more original condition.</p>	
<p><b>Information Sources</b></p> <p>(1) Michael Heyward, <i>The Ern Malley Affair</i> (Vintage, 1993), passim; John Shaw, ed, <i>The Concise Encyclopaedia of Australia</i> (Bateman, 1984) p 214; <i>The Australian Encyclopaedia</i> (Australian Geographic Society, 1988), vol 3, p 1146; Anthony Barker, <i>What Happened When: a Chronology of Australia from 1788</i> (Allen &amp; Unwin, 1992), 1944 et al.</p> <p>(2) Valuer-General's records, north ward, 1922-25, Nos 957, 958; 1943, No 1189; BA Nos 4259 and 4502, 1927; all in Ashfield Council Archives.</p>	