

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

Name of Item Terrace of three houses	Reference N° 4 20 02																								
Other Names																									
Address 52-54-56 Thomas Street	Land Title																								
Locality Ashfield Postcode 2131																									
Item Type Building	Owner/s																								
Group Name																									
Statement of Significance The principal significance is aesthetic, this building being one of only two such ensembles in Ashfield, viz a terrace of three two-storey dwellings each with a distinctive small Juliet balcony upstairs, facing the street. They illustrate the good design quality of much speculative building of the late Victorian period.	Condition as observed from street — <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 — Some roof coverings have been changed. Other modifications mentioned in description																								
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Rare</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Associative</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Representative</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Historic</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aesthetic</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>Social</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>Scientific</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>Other</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	Historic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aesthetic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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Photo Roll N° 64	Frame N° 20	Survey Date 12/8/2003	Surveyed by RI
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<p>Current Use</p> <p>Terrace of three houses, 52-54-56 Thomas Street, Ashfield</p>	<p>Reference N°</p> <p>4 20 02</p>		
<p>Heritage Listing Recommended</p>			
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<p>Historical Notes</p> <p>This area was originally part of Augustus Alt's 1810 grant of 280 acres, incorporated into Joseph Underwood's Ashfield Park Estate by about 1820.(1) When this huge holding began to be broken up, the blocks in this vicinity, just east of the Iron Cove Creek, were acquired by Messrs Flowers and Glue. At that time neither Milton Street North nor Frederick Street existed. Milton Street North was evidently formed when the Flowers and Glue blocks were subdivided as the Claxby Estate at the end of the 19th century. The estate was owned by Ernest Ayling and his wife, who were living at 'Glenelg', the present No 48 Thomas Street.(2)</p> <p>The site on which these houses stand was vacant and owned by W J Young in 1892. The first evidence of the building is in 1893, when Young is described as the owner of three houses. He sold them in 1897 to W N Bucknell, from whom Mrs Joanna Bowman, of Flemington, acquired them in 1902.(3) In 1908 Mrs Clementina Drew purchased No 56, which she had occupied since 1902, from Bowman. The other two were tenanted. The Drew family went on to occupy No 56 for many years. By 1925, No 52 was owned and occupied by Arthur J Brailey, while No 54, owned by W H and Annie Strike, was occupied by different tenants over the succeeding years. The 1925 improved valuations were £450 for No 52 (the corner house) and £400 for the other two.(4) In 1943 the three separate owners were Elsie Brailey (No 52), Elizabeth Napper (No 54) and Bella Hardy (No 56). Their improved valuations were £400 each.(5)</p>			
<p>Physical Description</p> <p>This little terrace of three dwellings, on a corner site, is an unusual suite. Only one other like it in Ashfield is known, viz, Mainer's Terrace, a matching threesome at 72,74 and 76 Hawthorne Parade, corner of Lord Street, Haberfield (recognised as an individual heritage item in 1974 but now in the Haberfield Conservation Area).(6)</p> <p>It is a two-storey painted brick building, roofed by a top-floor gable with ridge parallel to the street and skillion extensions behind. There are no parapets, but single-storey firewalls, with distinctive eaves-stop embellishments, project forwards and separate the front verandahs of the occupancies. The continuous roof above the verandahs, is bullnose corrugated metal. The most notable feature of the facade is a cantilevered Juliet balcony in the centre of the facade of each house, above the verandah and roofed by a gablet. Each is accessed by a door with sidelights. The timber balcony railings appear to have been altered at Nos 54 and 56, while the balcony at No 52, which has turned timber posts, is probably original. It might have had a timber apex finial. The Milton Street gable has a collar-and- post motif. There are two chimneys at the ridge, one single-flued and the other double, indicating one main fireplace for each dwelling. No 52, at the corner, has two windows facing Milton Street North.</p> <p>The roof, originally slate-covered, has been changed to corrugated metal at No 56. The fences of Nos 52 and 54 are pickets while that at No 56 is a modern metal palisade. The narrow front garden spaces are elemental.</p>			
<p>Information Sources</p> <p>(1) <i>Ashfield Heritage Study 1993</i>, vol 1, pp 32, 36. (2) Higinbotham & Robinson map of Ashfield, 1883; H E C Robinson map of Ashfield South Ward, c 1912; Rate Book, South Ward, 1907, No 1497; in Ashfield Council Archives. (3) Rate Books, south ward, 1892, Nos 1457-58; <i>ibid</i>, 1893, Nos 1512-1514; 1897, Nos 1451-1453; 1901, Nos 1419-1431; 1902, Nos 1521-1522. (4) Valuer-General's records, south ward, 1908-10, Nos 138-140; 1922-25, Nos 2071-2073. (5) Valuer-General's records, <i>ibid</i>, 1943, Nos 2352-2354.</p> <p>(6) This was built for brickmaker William Mainer. It is illustrated and briefly described in <i>Working the Clays</i>, pp 55-57.</p>			