

Ashfield Heritage Study Review of Areas Zoned 2(a)

Current Use House, 'Wraxall', 85 Holborow Street, Croydon	Reference N° 4 08 02
Heritage Listing Recommended	
Themes : Local Subdivision and consolidation	Themes : State Towns, suburbs and villages
<p>Historical Notes</p> <p>This corner of Ashfield was originally known as Piper's Farm, a 100-acre grant made in 1794 which, by about 1820, had become part of Robert Campbell's Canterbury Park Estate. This particular section was subdivided in about 1880 and called Green Hills, bisected by the present Greenhills Street. The Green Hills Estate was re-subdivided in 1903 and this site became Lot 14, sold by Thomas Jones to John Waugh, a builder. The residence was erected in that year and in 1904 Waugh was recorded as owner of the vacant house. It was let to Frederick Saville, baker, who lived there for 13 years. The property, valued at £250 unimproved and £750 improved, was sold in about 1920 to Mrs Agnes Adams, probably on behalf of her husband Francis H Adams. The name 'Wraxall' appeared in Sands Directory in 1917. In 1928 the property valuation was £400 unimproved and £1,050 improved. The Adamases lived there for many years, and the house passed by will to Miss Mary Ireson Homer Adams in 1944. By that time its valuation was recorded as £325 unimproved and £900 improved.(1) The reason for the reduced valuation is not known, but was possibly influenced by the great depression of the 1930s.</p>	
<p>Physical Description</p> <p>This house displays very distinctive characteristics of the Federation Queen Anne style. Typical in form, it is single-storeyed, with red-brown brick walls and chimneys and a hipped roof of unglazed terra cotta tiles, from which projects a side wing with a street-facing gable. The roof has ridge terminals and the main hip has end gablets. The design is distinguished by highly unusual detailing. The walling, with face-work on the facade, has dark brick banding at window sill and head levels. The gable has not only an apex of roughcast and strap pattern, but also a screen across the vergers comprising a bracketted column and radiating turned spindles. Its two-light window, with coloured top panes and transom lights, has an elegant bracketted hood with a valence of turned woodwork and a hipped tile roof. A delicate bracketted window planting box of wrought iron and wire has been fixed below the sill. The verandah in the crook of the L-shaped plan is narrow, with spindly timber embellishment including posts, valence matching the window hood, and turned timber balustrading. The front door has five panels, the large one with a leaded glass design.</p> <p>At the side of the house opposite the gable there is a tiny porch appendage that has a tiled gablet roof and decorative ensemble matching that of the front verandah, except that there is only a single post.</p> <p>Equally unusual are the front fence and lich gate. Half of the fence comprises painted turned posts with bays of flat decorative pickets arranged with a curved top profile. The other half, now decrepit, has unpainted chamfered flat pickets. The lich gate has a pyramidal roof of tiles with an apex terminal, and four turned timber posts with capitals and an ensemble of timber decoration that matches that of the house verandah.</p>	
<p>Information Sources</p> <p>(1) <i>Ashfield Heritage Study 1993</i>, vol 1, pp 32, 36; Higinbotham & Robinson map of Ashfield, 1883; Rate Books, South Ward, 1903, No 1369; 1904, No 1349; 1907, No 1419; Valuer-General's records, South Ward, 1908-10, No 505; 1922-25, No 791; 1928, No 830; 1943, No 895; in Ashfield Council Archives; <i>Sands Directories</i>.</p>	