Ashfield Heritage Study Inventory Sheets 2010

Name of Item	Residence, 'Curra'	Reference N°
Other Names	'Sunnybrae' (1928)	**10/14**

Address	14 Kingston Street		Land Title
Locality	Haberfield	Postcode 2045	

Item Type	Building	Owner/s
Group Name		

Statement of Significance

Although sadly now altered, this house demonstrates a rare variation of the Arts and Crafts style, probably designed by D Wormal, architect for the Haberfield Estate. Apart from the evident modifications it is handsome and well maintained.

The property is associated with Frances Scully, founder of what became the Australian Ballet.

Condition as observed from street —

☐ Intact

Minor alteration —
☐ Sympathetic

☐ Unsympathetic

Major alteration —
☐ Sympathetic

☒ Unsympathetic

Modifications —

Shingle roof replaced by terracotta tiles. The very distinctive 'Oriental' hipped vent roof motif and crested ridges have been removed.

Summary of Significance

	Rare	Associative	Representative
Historic	☒	☒	☒
Aesthetic	☒	☒	☒
Social	☐	☐	☐
Scientific	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

	Surveyed by	RI	Survey Date	6/4/2010

Current Use	**Reference N°**
Residential	**10/14**

Heritage Listing   Ashfield Local Environmental Plan 1985, Schedule 7

Themes : Local	**Themes : State**
Subdivision and consolidation	Towns, suburbs and villages

Historical Notes

This site was part of the Haberfield Proprietary Company's Haberfield No 1 subdivision. On the H E C Robinson Map of Ashfield North-East Ward (undated but from c 1910) it is located in Residential District No 12. The house was erected by the Company, probably to the design of one of Stanton & Son's architects for the Haberfield Estate, John Spencer-Stansfield or D Wormal. It was purchased in 1913 by W J Arthur, who occupied it and named it 'Curra'. In 1919 Arthur sold the property to Mrs Annie Puckle and the occupier in 1920 was listed in *Sands Directory* as Leslie V Puckle.(1) Two years later, in 1922, the owner-occupier was listed as Mrs Annie Puckle, who sold the property to Miss Mary Teresa Scully. The name of the house is recorded as 'Sunnybrae' from 1928, when the occupier was Christopher Scully.

   In 1940 the listed owner was Frances Scully, of Palings Studios in Sydney. Frances Scully had begun her ballet school in Sydney in 1938, and afterwards collaborated with Edouard Borovansky (who toured Australia with the Russian Ballet) to form the Frances Scully-Borovansky Ballet School. When Frances Scully died, Borovansky kept the ballet school going until his own death in 1959.(2)

   In 1952 John Sherwood bought the property and restored the earlier name, 'Curra'. John Sherwood owned it until 1966, when it was purchased by Giuseppi and Grazia Ciliberto. The 1961 improved valuation of the property was £6.000.(2)

Physical Description

A handsome design in the Arts and Crafts style of architecture. It is probably the work of one of Stanton & Sons architects for Haberfield, John Spencer-Stansfield or D Wormal. It is a face-brick building, roughcast rendered above window sill height, with a hipped roof now of tiles. The uncharacteristic L-shaped front has a gabled wing on one side, fronted by a bay window of casements, capped by a very unusual shingled apron, flaring into the apex of the bracketted gable. On the other side, a broad, facetted piazza verandah has a pyramidal tiled roof with exposed rafter feet, grouped posts with decorative frieze and timber posts, and delicate balustrading. The entrance is protected by a roof extended down from the main roof slope at a slightly lower pitch. The steps up to the entry have slate treads, pressed metal risers and a timber balustrade.

   The front garden is simple and there is a low brick fence, with a curved brick path. There is also a side driveway.

Information Sources

(1) It is presumed that Leslie Puckle bought the property in his wife's name.
(2) See Vince Crow, *Tours of Haberfield*, p 64.
(3) Information about ownership comes from the Ashfield rate books, and valuations are given in the Valuer-General's records at Ashfield Council Archives. Occupation details are from the annual editions of *Sands Directories*.