

## Ashfield Heritage Study Inventory Sheets 2010

<b>Name of Item</b>	St David's Church complex	<b>Reference N°</b> <b>10/3</b>																							
<b>Other Names</b>	Formerly St David's Presbyterian Church group																								
<b>Address</b>	51-53 Dalhousie Street	<b>Land Title</b>																							
<b>Locality</b>	Haberfield <span style="float: right;"><b>Postcode</b> 2045</span>																								
<b>Item Type</b>	Buildings	<b>Owner/s</b>																							
<b>Group Name</b>																									
<b>Statement of Significance</b>		<b>Condition as observed from street —</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intact  <b>Minor alteration —</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic  <b>Major alteration —</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic  <b>Modifications —</b> There are many modifications but all have historic values.																							
The St David's Church complex has considerable historic significance, including its indications of the strong Presbyterian influence in the Ashfield area in the 19th century, and for its associations with historic families of Sydney and Haberfield, especially the Lords, the Ramsays and the Learmonth's. The buildings have strong and varied aesthetic values. The Vault Reserve is a very rare example of its type in the region.  The property is Classified by the National Trust of Australia (NSW).																									
<b>Summary of Significance</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">Rare</th> <th style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">Associative</th> <th style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">Representative</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Historic</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" 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><b>Aesthetic</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" 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><b>Social</b></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 type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Scientific</b></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 type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Other</b></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	<b>Historic</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Aesthetic</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Social</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Scientific</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Other</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Surveyed by

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Survey Date

18/3/2010

## Ashfield Heritage Study Inventory Sheets 2010

<b>Current Use</b> St David's Uniting Church, Vault Reserve, St David's Hall, and Manse.	<b>Reference N°</b>  10/3
<b>Heritage Listing</b> State Heritage Register. Register of the National Estate. Ashfield Local Environmental Plan 1985. Schedule 7	
<b>Themes : Local</b> Emergence of building styles. The large estates. Subdivision and consolidation.	<b>Themes : State</b> Cultural and social life. A place to live.
<p><b>Historical Notes</b></p> <p>Simeon Lord purchased the Dobroyde Estate (later named Haberfield by Richard Stanton) in 1805. His daughter Sarah Lord married Dr David Ramsay in 1825 and the couple were given the Dobroyde Estate, where they lived for the rest of their lives. Following her husband's death in 1860, Sarah began dividing the property among her eleven children. She also set aside a site of 4 acres 16 perches (1.6 ha) for burial-ground, church, school-hall and manse. Work on these began in 1861-62.</p> <p><b>The burial-ground</b> later became the Vault Reserve and the family vault was erected in 1862, in which the first bodies were laid. Later more bodies were interred in the vault and the adjacent enclosed area, including that of Alexander Learmonth, Dr Ramsay's son-in-law, marked by a monument.</p> <p><b>The School Hall</b> was commissioned in 1861 by the Learmonth's, to the design of William Munro, architect. It housed the Sunday School formerly conducted in Yasmar' and church services until St David's was built.</p> <p><b>St David's Church</b> was initiated by a committee including the Learmonth's and the widowed Mrs Ramsay. It was built by Frederick Lavers to the design of Thomas Rowe and opened for worship on Good Friday, 26 March 1869. Its tower was surmounted by a slender spire and weathervane, which were taken down in 1915. When the church was complete it was the only Presbyterian presence in the area. The electric organ was installed in 1920. New choir stalls and a new elders' dais came in 1959.</p> <p><b>The Manse</b> was designed in 1910 by the architect A M Alen and erected in 1911 by a builder named Bowie. (1)</p>	
<p><b>Physical Description</b></p> <p><b>The church</b> is a sandstone structure in the manner of a British parish church, expressing the Victorian Academic Gothic style of architecture. The walls are in rock-faced ashlar in six-inch courses, with substantial dressed quoins, tracery and mouldings. The roof is steeply pitched and slated. Three doorways face Dalhousie Street. The tower top bears a prominent urn motif at each corner.</p> <p><b>The School Hall</b> is a simple Free Gothic design in brick, with end additions designed by Power, Adam and Manning and built in 1931.</p> <p><b>The Vault Reserve</b> contains a finely-built stone dromos, seven courses above ground-level, with stone steps leading down to a square vaulted burial chamber in which are stone platforms for the lead casks of the interred bodies. The vault and burial ground are enclosed within a heavy iron fence. Altogether there are 20 grave plots, including the vault, holding 53 burials.</p> <p><b>The Manse</b> is a brick single-storeyed Queen Anne-style residence with a hipped roof of slates from which project gables including two facing Dalhousie Street. The window in the sitting-room gable has a pointed arch head and simple tracery, while the verandah gable has a screen with a trio of small trefoils.</p>	
<p><b>Information Sources</b></p> <p>(1) The history of St David's is recorded in many places. One of the most important is Professor Ian Jacks 'St David's Uniting Church, Haberfield', in <i>Along Parramatta Road, Ashfield History No 15</i> (Journal of the Ashfield &amp; District Historical Society, 2004).</p>	