


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

Name of Item House, 'Northumbria' Other Names	Reference N° 3 04 01																								
Address 10 Dover Street Locality Summer Hill Postcode 2130	Land Title																								
Item Type Building Group Name	Owner/s																								
Statement of Significance This is an important component of Ashfield's history, having a long-term association with Ninian Melville, State parliamentarian, local government identity and Ashfield Mayor, and his family. It is also a fine example of late Victorian architecture, both in form and detail.	Condition as observed from street — <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intact Minor alteration — <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic Major alteration — <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic																								
Summary of Significance <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 20%;">Rare</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Associative</th> <th style="width: 20%;">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 type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aesthetic</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>Social</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>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 type="checkbox"/>	Aesthetic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modifications — Front fence altered to incorporate a side drive
	Rare	Associative	Representative																						
Historic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																						
Aesthetic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																						
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Photo Roll N° 40	Frame N° 2																								
Survey Date 1/8/2002																									
Surveyed by RI																									

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Current Use House, 'Northumbria', 10 Dover Street, Summer Hill	Reference N° 3 04 01
Heritage Listing Recommended	
Themes : Local Subdivision and consolidation The Boom Years	Themes : State Towns, suburbs and villages
Historical Notes The land in the eastern corner of Summer Hill was a grant of 30 acres made to Henry Kable in 1804. A little later in the century it became part of the Underwood Estate. Underwood died in 1844 and left a will so complicated that it required special legislation before it could be subdivided. Eventually the estate was offered for auction by Richardson & Wrench in 1878 and its layout is shown on the Higinbotham & Robinson map of Ashfield, 1883. This allotment was included in Lot 19 of Section 5.(1) It was purchased by the builder E Marcer, who erected the house and sold it to Ninian Melville, mortician, in 1890. The house was financed jointly by Melville and his wife Mary.(2) Ninian Melville had been Mayor of Newtown in 1882 and was elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1880, becoming a colourful figure in State politics until his defeat in 1894. The house was named 'Northumbria' after his parliamentary electorate in the Newcastle district. He was declared bankrupt in 1894 and a year later was elected as Mayor of Ashfield. He died at 'Northumbria' in June 1897. Mary Melville and some of the family continued to live in the house until Mary's death at 92 years of age in 1932. The property continued in family ownership until at least 1943, in which year the property was valued at £315 unimproved and £950 improved.(3)	
Physical Description A substantial single-fronted Victorian Italianate house of two storeys height. Its walls are brick, the facade rendered and lined to simulate ashlar and the other walls painted. Alongside a squat tower motif is the verandah, roofed with corrugated iron sheeting of bullnose profile. The entrance portal is round-arched and the other openings have semi-elliptical arches. The roof is hipped and now covered with tiles, the tower motif being also hip-roofed. There are floriated friezes, pier caps and paterae, while the windows, including the tall ones opening on to the upper balcony and those of the side wall, have extrados label moulds and double-hung sashes with rounded top sashes. The ground-floor front windows have moulded sills and aprons. The verandah ensemble, while of the expected form, with slender cast iron columns, has distinctive cast iron panel patterns. The balcony design, registered in 1884 by D & R Bradford, features honey-eaters, flowers, berries and even butterflies.(4) The framed iron frieze and foliated bracket designs are likewise unusual, though no design registration has been found. The verandah floor is tessellated tiles with bullnose stone edgings. The chimneys have corniced tops and glazed pots. Against the rear boundary of the site there is a two-storeyed outbuilding. The front fence is a palisade, part of which has been removed to provide for vehicle entry.	
Information Sources (1) <i>Ashfield Heritage Study 1993</i> , vol 1, pp 32, 63, 148. The 1883 Higinbotham & Robinson map is in Ashfield Council Archives. (2) Rate Book, East Ward, 1889, No 892; 1890, No 881; in Ashfield Council Archives. Chris Pratten, 'Ninian Melville', in <i>Summer Hill</i> , p 69 et seq. (3) <i>Sands Directories</i> , 1890 to 1897; Chris Pratten, op cit, and 'The Mayors of Ashfield', in <i>Ashfield at Federation</i> , pp 218-221. Valuer-General's records, East Ward, 1943, No 450. (4) Brian Turner, <i>Australia's Iron Lace</i> (Allen & Unwin, 1985) pp 160, 180.	