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

Name of Item	Blo	ck of eight flats	Reference N°		
Other Names	'Gle	enleigh', formerly 'Bo	3 19 04		
Address		105 Smith Street			Land Title
Locality	Sun	Summer Hill Postcode 2130			
Item Type	Buil	Building			Owner/s
Group Name					
Statement of Significance					Condition as observed
An interesting example of an architect-designed block of Inter-War flats with					from street —
a Mediterranean style character. It demonstrates one of the many different kinds of speculative building activity pervading Ashfield in that period.					
					Minor alteration — ☐ Sympathetic
					☐ Unsympathetic
					Major alteration —
					☐ Sympathetic
Summary of Significance					☐ Unsympathetic
•	are	Associative	Representativ	e	Modifications —
Historic			\boxtimes		
Aesthetic			\boxtimes		
Social			\bowtie		
Scientific					
Other					



Photo Roll N° 36 Frame N° 20 Survey Date Surveyed by RI 19/7/2002 RI

Ashfield Heritage Study Review of Areas Zoned 2(a)

Current Use

Block of eight flats, 'Glenleigh', 105 Smith Street, Summer Hill

Reference N° 3 19 04

Heritage Listing Recommended

Themes: Local Themes: State

Subdivision and consolidation Towns, suburbs and villages

Historical Notes

Originally part of a 1794 grant to Henry Kable, this land became part of Section 7 of the 1878 subdivision of Underwood's Estate.(1) It was re-subdivided early in the 20th century and this particular site became part of Lots 13 and 14 of deposited plan No 554.(2)

A Building Application was lodged in 1928 by the owner of the site Sherard Michael Beecher, architect, of Sydney, for the erection of eight brick flats, each of three rooms, on a concrete foundation, with lead dampcourse and a tile roof. The builder was G W Dickenson, of Homebush. Its estimated cost was £4,450.(3) In July of that year the property was recorded as being mortgaged to McIntosh & Sons Ltd, with a valuation of £1,175 both unimproved and improved. By 1930, still mortgaged to McIntosh, the valuation of the property was £1,175 unimproved and £4,700 improved.(4) In 1931 the valuation figures had dropped to £1,024 unimproved and £3,500 improved; this reduction could be perceived as one of the effects of the Great Depression.(5) In the 1961 record the building was named 'Bognor Flats' and was owned by Mrs Lilla May Fowler. Its valuation was then £3,250 unimproved and £14,000 improved.(6)

Physical Description

This Inter-War Free Classical building is a composition symmetrical at both front and rear. It is a brick-and-render two-storeyed structure, with a low-pitched hipped and eaved roof of terra cotta tiles, arranged as two projecting bays flanking a wide, set-back central bay. On the Smith Street facade, each side bay has two tall vertical recesses enclosing ground and first-floor windows, the latter round-headed, with panelled inter-floor spandrels. There are flower boxes at the base of these recessed. The centre bay has on the ground floor a recessed entrance porch with Tuscan columns in antis, and a small cantilever hood, above which is a panel with the name 'Glenleigh' in modelled serifed lettering. This is flanked by windows which originally might have been balconies. On the first floor there are three windows which were probably originally the openings of balconies.

The front fence is a matching render-and-picket composition with a central entrance gate and, at the eastern end, a lane-way between this property and the rear of the Lackey Street corner shop buildings. The whole design has a vaguely but intentionally Mediterranean flavour.

This property is part of the Summer Hill Central Conservation Area.

Information Sources

- (1) Ashfield Heritage Study 1993, vol 1, pp 32, 36; vol 2, item 249.
- (2) Higinbotham & Robinson map of Ashfield, 1883; H E C Robinson map of Ashfield East Ward, not dated but about 1912. The ward boundary was later altered.
- (3) BA No 5212 of 1928, in Ashfield Council Archives.
- (4) Valuer-General's records, East Ward, 1928, No 1537, and annotation. Ibid.
- (5) Ibid, 1931, No 1580. The property was still mortgaged to McIntosh & Sons Ltd.
- (6) Ibid, 1961, No 1675 (8762), in Ashfield Council Archives.