


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

<b>Name of Item</b> Darrell Jackson Memorial Gardens <b>Other Names</b>	<b>Reference N°</b> <b>3 19 08</b>																								
<b>Address</b> 127-131 Smith Street <b>Locality</b> Summer Hill <span style="float: right;"><b>Postcode</b> 2130</span>	<b>Land Title</b>																								
<b>Item Type</b> Park <b>Group Name</b>	<b>Owner/s</b>																								
<b>Statement of Significance</b> <p>This is Summer Hill's most central garden and recreational area, possessing considerable but yet largely unrealised aesthetic potentiality. It has an interesting history and is a memorial to one of Ashfield's most eminent citizens, the longest-serving alderman in municipal history and mayor for three terms.</p>	<b>Condition as observed from street</b> — <input 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> —																								
<b>Summary of Significance</b> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <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><b>Historic</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>Aesthetic</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 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 type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Aesthetic</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Social</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Scientific</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Other</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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<b>Photo Roll N°</b> 56	<b>Frame N°</b> 2	<b>Survey Date</b> 28/4/2003	<b>Surveyed by</b> RI																						

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<p><b>Current Use</b> Darrell Jackson Memorial Gardens, 127-131 Smith Street, Summer Hil</p>	<p><b>Reference N°</b> 3 19 08</p>
<p><b>Heritage Listing</b>    Recommended</p>	
<p><b>Themes : Local</b> Subdivision and consolidation Local Government and Services</p>	<p><b>Themes : State</b> Towns, suburbs and villages Environment—cultural landscape</p>
<p><b>Historical Notes</b></p> <p>The land around here was first subdivided as the Underwood Estate and put up for sale in 1878. The estate west of Lackey Street was Section 7. Here half of these comfortable allotments faced Carlton Crescent and half faced Smith Street, with frontages of some 50 feet.(1) Lot Nos 27 to 33 in Carlton Crescent and Nos 60 and 61 facing Smith Street, plus portions of other allotments, eventually became DJ Gardens. Within a short while after the initial subdivision was made, residences began to appear. ‘Hawthorne’, on Lot 57 (now 123A Smith Street) was erected in 1880. ‘Montana’ (Lot 59), ‘Wilcannia’ (Lot 60), ‘Avon Villa’ (Lot 61) and ‘Lethington’ (Lots 62 and 63) appeared at about the same time.(2) ‘Montana’ was demolished and its site is now part of the supermarket complex; ‘Hawthorne’ survives and is now also part of the supermarket holding. The sites of ‘Wilcannia’ and ‘Avoca Villa’ are now part of the Gardens. There were also dwellings addressing Carlton Crescent on Lots 27, 29 and 35 (now part of the Gardens). Four other Underwood Estate sites facing Carlton Crescent held nine dwellings built later and eventually replaced by the Gardens.(3)</p> <p>Augustine Darrell Crosby Jackson (1906-97) was the longest-serving alderman in Ashfield (1937-91). The Gardens, though created earlier, were named in his memory. An enlargement and improvement programme was completed in 1984 during the mayoralty of Lewis Herman. The Municipal Engineer was M J Tobin.(4)</p>	
<p><b>Physical Description</b></p> <p>A large park of irregular shape, extending from Smith Street on the south to Carlton Crescent on the north and containing a number of diverse components. The land was originally traversed by a creek, and so the park is in a slight hollow. At the Smith Street end it is narrower, flanked by the Community Centre on the west and the supermarket complex on the east. The entrance has the single sign identifying the gardens, while the stone plinth on which are mounted the two commemorative plaques is located here. A walkway leads down the gentle slope past the Community Centre and its small carpark towards the main grassed area. On the right there is a formal area with playground equipment. Beyond this the park widens to its full east-west extent, from the Ambulance Station at 75 Carlton Crescent on the east to the residential property at 93 Carlton Crescent on the west. A considerable area to the east is concreted for a pair of tennis courts, an extended basketball court and a skateboarding facility, while the western area is grassed and treed. A path leads southwards from a lichgate motif at Carlton Crescent, past the skateboard area and tennis courts, on past a barbecue and picnic area and some scattered playground equipment on the west, and then up to Smith Street. The ground cover around the barbecue, beneath tree canopies, consists of wood chips which, because the area is the lowest in the park, has suffered from washaway which appears to be exacerbated by stormwater drain blockages. The rear boundaries of the Smith Street properties on the west give a stepped edge to the park. One of these properties is the Council’s Before and After School Care Centre, which opens on to the park and, like the Community Centre, has a balcony overlooking it. The School Care Centre is accessed from the rear of 135 Smith Street.</p> <p>The character of the park leaves much to be desired. While the grassed areas are pleasant, the concreted areas, though desirable and functional, are rather bleak, a result partially of their dull colours, which include the black-painted railings and the high mesh tennis court screens: a marked contrast with the Smith Street end of the park. The graffiti on some of the walls facing the park are also unpleasant. The overall impression bespeaks <i>ad hoc</i> rather than planned development.</p>	
<p><b>Information Sources</b></p> <p>(1) The Underwood Estate subdivision plan, and the Higinbotham &amp; Robinson map of Ashfield, 1883, that shows slightly later re-subdivisions, are held in the collection of Ashfield &amp; District Historical Society.</p> <p>(2) These properties are shown on the H E C Robinson map of Ashfield, East Ward, undated but about 1912.</p> <p>(3) The 1974 Ashfield Planning Scheme map shows the footprints of these buildings.</p> <p>(4) From the two bronze plaques on a sandstone plinth at the Smith Street entrance to the Gardens.</p>	