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

Name of Item Other Names	Block of flats	, 'Wilton'			Reference N° 3 19 09
Address Locality	168 Smith Street Summer Hill Postcode 2130			Land Title	
Item Type Group Name	Building				Owner/s
An impressive and unusual example of late Inter-War architecture displaying interesting Functionalist and Art Deco motifs. It makes a positive streetscape statement and complements the scale of St Andrew's church next door.					Condition as observed from street —  Intact  Minor alteration —  Sympathetic  Unsympathetic  Major alteration —  Sympathetic
Summary of Significance					☐ Unsympathetic
Historic C Aesthetic C Social C Scientific C Other C	] ] ]	ssociative R	epresentativ	e	Modifications —



Photo Roll N° 44 Frame N° 21 Survey Date Surveyed by RI 15/8/2002 RI

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

Current Use	Reference N°
Block of flats, 'Wilton', 168 Smith Street, Summer Hill	3 19 09

Heritage Listing Recommended

Themes: Local Themes: State

Subdivision and consolidation Towns, suburbs and villages

## **Historical Notes**

The first white owner of the land in this part of Ashfield was Captain Joseph Foveaux, whose grant of 100 acres was made in 1794. That grant was absorbed into Robert Campbell's Canterbury Park Estate by about 1820. The particular block on which this building now stands became part of the Summerhill Estate which was subdivided in 1876. It was initially Lots 5 and 6 of Section 8, adjacent to Lots 1-4 on which St Andrew's church was erected. On a map of about 1912, Lots 5 and 6 together are labelled 'St Salmo', but it is not known whether this applied to a residence on the site.(1)

A building application was lodged in 1939 for the erection of this building, in which it was described as 'six flats, brick, 24 rooms, concrete foundation, lead dampcourse, tile roof, estimated value £4,000.' The owner-builder was H F & L Smith, of Dulwich Hill.

In 1943 the owners, described as joint tenants, were Henry Frederick Smith and Miss Lilian Susan Smith, of Dulwich Hill. The property valuation was then £600 unimproved and £6,200 improved.(2)

### **Physical Description**

A three-storey block of flats which exploits its site to the utmost. It has a facade of variegated brown brick and a hipped roof of terra cotta tiles with boxed eaves. It is a symmetrical three-bay composition, with two projecting bays embracing a narrower central bay containing the entrance and staircases. The flanking bays contain an open balcony on each level. The entrance is at the top of a flight of terrazzo steps which rise from the short terrazzo front path to glazed double doors bearing the name of the building, and above them there is a flat concrete hood with a reeded fascia. The doorway has a surround of bullnose and scotia moulded bricks. The balcony bays have rounded corners laid in curved stretchers, projecting balustrade motifs, also with quadrant corners, corbelled at the two highest levels, and soldier-brick lintel motifs. The two stair windows, enframed in moulded bricks, are timber and have double-hung sashes with vigorous Art Deco leaded designs in uncoloured glass. The windows in the side walls have squinch brick sills.

A side drive leads to a service yard and garaging at the rear. The front fence, of bricks matching the facade work, has bullnose capping, with piers marking the entrance path.

### **Information Sources**

- (1) Ashfield Heritage Study, vol 1, pp 32, 36; Higinbotham & Robinson map of Ashfield, 1883; H E C Robinson map of Ashfield east ward, undated but about 1912.
- (2) Building application No 8791, 10 May 1939; Valuer-General's records, 1940, No 1681; 1943, No 1715.