


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

<b>Name of Item</b> Block of four flats, 'Ruthven' <b>Other Names</b>	<b>Reference N°</b> <b>3 13 05</b>																								
<b>Address</b> 17 Morris Street <b>Locality</b> Summer Hill <span style="float: right;"><b>Postcode</b> 2130</span>	<b>Land Title</b>																								
<b>Item Type</b> Building <b>Group Name</b>	<b>Owner/s</b>																								
<b>Statement of Significance</b> <p>An interesting manifestation of the changes in residential development that have occurred in Ashfield since the Victorian period when the original 'Ruthven' was built. Erected during World War II, this block of flats is a simple though stylish building with echoes of the Functionalist style of architecture.</p>	<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>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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 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"/>	<b>Modifications</b> — The balcony balustrade above the entrance appears not to be original
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<b>Photo Roll N°</b> 20	<b>Frame N°</b> 17																								
<b>Survey Date</b> 14/3/02 <span style="margin-left: 50px;"><b>Surveyed by</b> RI</span>																									

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<b>Current Use</b> Block of four flats, 'Ruthven', 17 Morris Street, Summer Hill	<b>Reference N°</b> 3 13 05
<b>Heritage Listing</b> Recommended	
<b>Themes : Local</b> Subdivision and consolidation	<b>Themes : State</b> Towns, suburbs and villages
<p><b>Historical Notes</b></p> <p>This part of Summer Hill reflects the influence of James Bartlett, a builder and entrepreneur responsible for many Ashfield developments including the Tavistock Estate, of which this site is part. Bartlett lived in 'Prospect Hall', a house he built in 1874 and which once stood in Seaview Street, between Prospect Road and Old Canterbury Road. He designated all the allotments in the Tavistock Estate as villa sites. Several re-subdivisions occurred later, including many for commercial use.(1) This site was Lot 4 of Section A. On it, in about 1883, a house called 'Ruthven' was built for and occupied by Albert Primrose, a clerk.(2) In 1936, 'Ruthven' still stood, and was occupied by Frederick T Dodman.(3)</p> <p>In 1940 the property was owned by Marshall Sturah, a motor body builder, of Bega. He sold it to Mrs Lily Brooks, of Croydon, who sold on to Walter Newton, an engineer. Although no building application for the flats has been located, it seems that the building was erected by Walter Newton before 1943, for in that year Newton was recorded as the owner of the flats, the property then being valued at £550 unimproved and £3,100 improved.(4)</p>	
<p><b>Physical Description</b></p> <p>This is a stylishly simple two-storey building of loadbearing face brickwork, with an amply-eaved hipped roof of terra cotta tiles. Its symmetrical facade comprises two full-height semicircular bays, laid in header bond, flanking the recessed central entrance and stair hall. A two-course band projects slightly at first floor level. The entrance doorcase has a four-centred Tudor-motif arch of brick, while above it, offering some protection from the worst of the weather, there is a balustraded concrete balcony (it is not likely that the balustrading is original). The bays have three-light faceted timber windows at each level, with double-hung sashes. The openings are headed with soldier-course brick lintel motifs.</p> <p>Terrazzo steps rise from the small front garden to the entrance. The low front fence of brick retains the lawn. One stone pier survives from the original residence 'Ruthven'.</p>	
<p><b>Information Sources</b></p> <p>(1) <i>Ashfield Heritage Study 1993</i>, vol 1, pp 32, 36, 170; Higinbotham &amp; Robinson map of Ashfield, 1883.</p> <p>(2) <i>Sands Directories</i>. Primrose occupied the property until 1893. The footprint of the house is shown on the Water Board's detail survey plan of 1890.</p> <p>(3) Wise's Suburban Directory, 1936; copy in Ashfield &amp; District Historical Society collection.</p> <p>(4) Valuer-General's records, East Ward, 1940, No 1021; 1943, No 1047; in Ashfield Council Archives.</p>	