

Ashfield Heritage Study Review of Areas Zoned 2(a)

<p>Current Use House, 200 Smith Street, corner of Prospect Road, one of a group of five houses</p>	<p>Reference N° 3 19 15</p>
<p>Heritage Listing Recommended</p>	
<p>Themes : Local Subdivision and consolidation The Boom Years</p>	<p>Themes : State Towns, suburbs and villages</p>
<p>Historical Notes</p> <p>The land on which these houses now stand was part of Henry Kable's grant of 151/2 acres made in 1795. The area was still largely unbuilt upon until the 1880s, though subdivision began before then. By 1883 these five sites were differently ordered as two allotments with frontages to Prospect Road and back boundaries to Louisa Street.(1) They do not appear in Ashfield rate books until 1886, when they were owned by Samuel Benjamin, and it is assumed that it was he who re-subdivided the parcel into the present five lots facing Smith Street and had the houses built. By that year three of them, Nos 194, 196 and 198, had been built. No 194 was sold to Sydney James Edward Putt, No 196 to J J Abigail, and No 198 to Edwin Walker, who sold on to A L Elphinstone.(2) In 1887 all five houses are recorded for the first time. In that year the owner of No 192 was still Samuel Benjamin; No 194 was owned and occupied by S J E Putt; No 196 was owned and occupied by C J Abigail; No 198 was owned and occupied by A L Elphinstone; No 200 was owned and occupied by J J Carolan.(3)</p> <p>In 1908 the owner and occupier of No 200 was Margaret P Carolan and its valuation was recorded as £180 unimproved and £650 improved. Twenty years later, in 1928, it was owned by New South Wales Government Railways and valued at £437 unimproved and £800 improved.(4) After the Carolans the longest tenancy was that of William Thacker (1916-23) and afterwards Mrs Clara Thacker (1923 until at least 1933).</p>	
<p>Physical Description</p> <p>One of a group of five almost identical freestanding houses situated on the upper slope of the south side of Smith Street. Because of their self-contained grouping between Louisa Street and Prospect Road, they form a most harmonious strip of streetscape. They are Victorian Italianate in architectural style, with details of Rustic Gothic such as their decorative bargeboards. All have been altered, but most modifications are relatively minor, and some restoration is also evident. They are brick-walled with stucco facades. The roofs would most likely have been of slate, but all are now tiled. Each has a lateral gabled roof from which projects a more steeply-pitched side gable bay, and from that a faceted window bay, with its own faceted roof, projects further forwards. The rest of the facade has a verandah, which would have been separately roofed with bullnose-profile corrugated metal and embellished with cast iron filigree embellishment. The outer end of the verandah has a firewall. Original windows are semi-circular arched, with double-hung sashes, label moulds and modelled sills, and chimneys were corniced. Verandahs probably had tessellated tile floors and slate edging.</p> <p>The houses are fairly close to the street, with small front gardens and varied fences.</p> <p>No 200 appears to have been partially 'Federationised', its faceted bay replaced by a hooded three-light casement window with coloured panes in the sashes. The verandah filigree is now aluminium and the verandah roof is a hipped skillion. The front fence, which returns around the corner to the verandah firewall, is a post and picket construction. The side fence along Prospect Road is a handsome paling structure.</p>	
<p>Information Sources</p> <p>(1) <i>Ashfield Heritage Study 1993</i>, vol 1, pp 32, 36; Higinbotham & Robinson map of Ashfield, 1883. (2) Rate Book, east ward, 1885, for record of vacant land; 1886, Nos 120-124 for individual properties. The purchaser of No 198 is recorded as A J Elphinstone, which might be a misspelling. <i>Sands Directories</i> record Robert Elphinstone as tenant from 1887. (3) Rate Book, east ward, 1887, Nos 122-126.(3) Rate Book, east ward, 1887, Nos 122-126. (4) Rate Book, east ward, 1897, No 143-147; Valuer-General's records, 1908, No 177-181, 1928, Nos 1569-1573; <i>Sands Directories</i>.</p>	