


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

Name of Item	Former Baby Health Centre	Reference N° 5 15 01																								
Other Names	Now occupied by YWCA																									
Address	296D Old Canterbury Road, corner of Victoria Street	Land Title																								
Locality	Summer Hill	Postcode																								
Item Type	Building	Owner/s																								
Group Name																										
Statement of Significance		Condition as observed from street — <input type="checkbox"/> Intact Minor alteration — <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic Major alteration — <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic Modifications — Some of the original detailing and landscaping have been removed.																								
This is a very good example, indeed one of the earliest, of professionally-designed post-World-War II International-style architecture in Ashfield. It was designed by a respected firm of architects, still extant, which has also worked with other Sydney councils. It is an unusual built example of a corroboration between three municipalities and the NSW Health Department. As well, it is an excellent and early example of a purpose-built Baby Health Centre. The building and its setting also form an attractive component of an Ashfield site that has intense historical significance, demonstrating the interactions of private ownership, development, education and municipal and State interests.																										
Summary of Significance																										
	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">Rare</th> <th style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">Associative</th> <th style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">Representative</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Historic</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aesthetic</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social</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>Scientific</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>Other</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	Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aesthetic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Rare	Associative	Representative																							
Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																							
Aesthetic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																							
Social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																							
Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																							
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>																							
																										
Photo Roll N°	Digital	Frame N°																								
		Survey Date 25/8/2003																								
		Surveyed by RI																								

Ashfield Heritage Study Review of Areas Zoned 2(a)

<p>Current Use</p> <p>Former Baby Health Centre, 296D Old Canterbury Road, corner of Victoria Street, Summer Hill. Now occupied by the YWCA</p>	<p>Reference N°</p> <p>5 15 01</p>
<p>Heritage Listing Recommended</p>	
<p>Themes : Local</p> <p>Subdivision and consolidation. Local government and services. After World War II</p>	<p>Themes : State</p> <p>Towns, suburbs and villages. Health. Government and administration. Welfare</p>
<p>Historical Notes</p> <p>On the 1883 Higinbotham & Robinson map of Ashfield, the land on which this building now stands is shown at the tip of the large trapezium-shaped site which had been resumed by the State Government for a Training College and which at that time contained John Kinlock's Hurlstone College. The tiny triangle at the point was then separated from the main College land by a small creek.(1)</p> <p>By 1925 about half of the land south of the College's acreage had been resumed and dedicated as Yeo Park. The other half, extending to the south corner, was vested in the Department of Education for the erection of Hurlstone Park Infants School. The creek was undergrounded as a drain.(2) Then in 1935, all the area south of the school site was excised and granted to Ashfield Council in a Permissive Occupancy Agreement, in which the Council agreed to pay rent of £1 per year. Most of this became Gough Reserve. The rest, the southernmost point, was the subject of a 1947 agreement making it available to the Health Department as the location of a Baby Health Centre. A conference of representatives from Ashfield, Canterbury and Petersham councils agreed that these three councils should contribute half of the capital cost of the proposed building.(3)</p> <p>The respected firm of architects Davey & Brindley was commissioned to design the Baby Health Centre and the building application was approved in 1949. The estimated cost of the work was £6,000. In the event the building was erected by Ashfield, Canterbury and Marrickville Councils in conjunction with the Department of Public Health; the foundation stone was laid in 1951.(4)</p> <p>In 1998 the Council approved a development application (since lapsed) for demolition of the building and erection of a new child care centre, requiring alienation of 446 square metres of Gough Reserve.(5)</p>	
<p>Physical Description</p> <p>A small single-storeyed brick, timber and concrete structure, the planning of which marks it as a state-of-the-art sample of this building type. There were two entrances, one from the north and the other from the south, each accessed by paths from both Victoria Street and Old Canterbury Road. The north path led to a semi-circular seating bay framed by a planter box. Outside each entrance there were covered areas designated as 'pram parks'. The waiting room, accessed from both entries, faced north and east to catch the morning sun, and this space flowed into the northernmost space, the toddlers' room, with its canted and fully glazed wall facing north-east. The principal service spaces comprised a consulting room, a nurses' room and a test feeding room. Both the nurses' room and the waiting room had small en-suite toilets.</p> <p>Parapets conceal the skillioned main roof, while additional flat roofs with wide overhangs shelter the fenestration and verandah on the north and the south entry.</p> <p>The architectural style of the design is Post-War International, featuring good face-brick walling, cubiform massing, extensive glazing, corner window ensembles, porthole and glass block windows, vertical fins and planter boxes.</p> <p>Landscaping included two shallow banks, one on the north providing an overlook to Gough Reserve, and the other on the south, beyond which was some perimeter hedge planting, offering a degree of seclusion from the busy intersection of the two main roads.</p> <p>The fabric and setting of this building have been compromised by changes of use and poor maintenance, but the little complex is quite capable of conservation which could well include creative adaptation.</p>	
<p>Information Sources</p> <p>(1) A copy of this map is held in Ashfield Council Archives. The original grants here were consolidated by the Rev John Graham, who sold on to John Kinlock. An unrealised 1880 proposal, after the failure of Kinlock's college, shows the whole area subdivided into 65 building allotments. (2) H E C Robinson map of Ashfield east ward, c 1912 and later annotated. Yeo Park was named after John Yeo, Ashfield's Mayor in 1917 and 1918. (3) Ashfield Council General History Correspondence file No 46/37/5843, location 190188. Gough Reserve was named for Henry Gough, who had been Mayor in 1930 and 1931 and died in 1939. (4) BA No 229 for 1949 contains the architects' coloured drawing for the design of the present building dated April 1947 (Ashfield Council Archives). Since the period of the Baby Health Centre the building has been modified. (5) Notice of Motion by Stott/Jones to Council, September 2003.</p>	