


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

Name of Item House, 'Tara' Other Names 'Southsea', 'Mel Mel'	Reference N° 3 19 01																								
Address 43 Sloane Street Locality Summer Hill Postcode 2130	Land Title																								
Item Type Building Group Name	Owner/s																								
Statement of Significance A house of eclectic and interesting design embodying Federation Queen Anne and Inter-War Bungalow style characteristics resulting from an unusual modification made just after World War I. The property has a long association of more than half a century with the same Ashfield family.	Condition as observed from street — <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intact Minor alteration — <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic Major alteration — <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic Modifications —																								
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">Summary of Significance</th> <th style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Rare</th> <th style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Associative</th> <th style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Representative</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Historic</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Aesthetic</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Social</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Scientific</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Other</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Summary of Significance	Rare	Associative	Representative	Historic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aesthetic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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Photo Roll N° 40	Frame N° 20	Survey Date 5/8/2002	Surveyed by RI																						

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Current Use House, 'Tara', 43 Sloane Street, Summer Hill, corner of Kensington Road	Reference N° 3 19 01
Heritage Listing Recommended	
Themes : Local Subdivision and consolidation	Themes : State Towns, suburbs and villages
Historical Notes Originally part of Henry Kable's grant of 30 acres, made in 1804, this piece of land was owned by Robert Clemisha in 1897. The first record of the house appeared in 1898, when Mrs J Kingsbury bought the vacant block and had it built. She called the house 'Southsea'.(1) In 1900 the property was purchased from Mrs Kingsbury by William Williams and occupied by him. It appears that William Williams died in that year, for in 1901 it was listed as owned by Mrs Williams. Its occupant from about then until 1908 was W W Williams, and in that year the occupant and owner was recorded as Ethel Williams, domestic duties.(2) In the same year the property had a valuation of £160 unimproved and £740 improved. Within a short time it was named 'Mel Mel'(3) In 1918 and 1919 there is no listing in <i>Sands Directories</i> , which could mean that the house was undergoing alterations at this time. In 1922, still owned and occupied by the Williams family, the property was valued at £320 unimproved and £1,000 improved. By 1940 Loyden Ernest Wright Williams, clerk, had acquired it from Ethel Madeline Williams and its valuation had increased to £440 unimproved and £1,200 improved. L E W Williams owned the house until 1949, when it was acquired by Mrs Margaret Olive Light.(4) In 1952 the property was recorded with a valuation of £760 unimproved and £3,000 improved. By 1955 the house was known as 'Tara' and its valuation had been upgraded to £920 unimproved and £5,000 improved.(5)	
Physical Description This is an unusual house because it illustrates the transforming effect of a remodelling some 20 years after its erection and 80 years ago, manifesting two different yet compatible idioms. It is a single-storeyed brick building with a fairly dominant tiled main roof and subsidiary hipped wing with a crested ridge, as well as an ample verandah, befitting its Queen Anne form. It was modified to become a Bungalow-style house, by the addition of a rear wing with a skillion roof concealed from the street by a parapet, and by the removal of the chimneys. The eaves line is carried across the walling of this wing as a longitudinal hood over its windows and the faceted window bay which was part of the modification. This eaves line thus forms a dominant horizontal shadow line across both street facades. The windows have elegant leadlight patterns, reminiscent of some of the detailing in work by the American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The shady verandah has brick piers and paired stumpy square timber posts. The facade walling was unusually tuckpointed, either originally or in the modification, using black pointing mortar. The front fence has brick piers and plinths surmounted by distinctive panels of pipe-framed rivetted and twisted steel.	
Information Sources (1) <i>Ashfield Heritage Study 1993</i> , vol 1, pp 32, 36; Rate Books, East Ward, 1897, No 1042 and 1898, No 1060, in Ashfield Council Archives; <i>Sands Directories</i> . (2) Rate Books, East Ward, 1900, No 1074; 1901, No 1057; 1903, No 1080; 1907, No 240. (3) Valuer-General's records, North-East Ward, 1908, No 297, in Ashfield Council Archives. Note the change of ward boundary; <i>Sands Directories</i> record the name as 'Me Mel'. (4) <i>Ibid</i> , 1922, No 872; 1940, No 923; 1949, No 934. (5) <i>Ibid</i> , 1952, No 934; 1955, No 937.	