

Ashfield Heritage Study Inventory Sheets 2010

Name of Item	Service station	Reference N°	10/30
Other Names	Formerly Freeman's Garage		
Address	48 Parramatta Road	Land Title	
Locality	Summer Hill	Postcode	2130
Item Type	Building	Owner/s	
Group Name			
Statement of Significance		Condition as observed from street —	
<p>A prominent and, in Ashfield, a rare example of the Inter-War Functionalist-Art Deco style of industrial architecture.</p> <p>It is associated with the well-known firm of Crick and Furse, architects, and with Frank Freeman, motor engineer</p> <p>The building makes a lively contribution to the streetscape of Parramatta Road.</p>		<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	
Summary of Significance		Modifications —	
	Rare	Associative	Representative
Historic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aesthetic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Apart from its present assertive colour, the main change is the addition of a large sign atop the Parramatta Road awning.



Surveyed by

RI

Survey Date

25/3/2010

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<p>Current Use Service station</p>	<p>Reference N° 10/30</p>
<p>Heritage Listing Ashfield Local Environmental Plan 1985, Schedule 7</p>	
<p>Themes : Local Industry, commerce and retail trade</p>	<p>Themes : State Industry. Technology. Towns, suburbs and villages.</p>
<p>Historical Notes</p> <p>On the North-East Ward Map of about 1910 this site, at the corner of the Great Western Highway(Parramatta Road) and Sloane Street, is shown as part of the Underwood Estate, owned at that time by E M Pope. It was later owned by the Electric Light & Power Supply Co Ltd and then sold to Sarah Hurdis. In 1937 Ms Hurdis sold the site to Frank Freeman for £1,000.(1)</p> <p>Frank Freeman submitted a Building Application at the end of 1938 for the erection of a Garage and Flat, with an estimated value of £3,000. The architects for the building were Guy Crick and Bruce Furse.(2) and their coloured BA drawing survives in the Ashfield Archives. Crick & Furse were prominent Sydney architects who specialised in cinema design as well as industrial and domestic work. Their many theatres included eight for the Kings chain, designed mostly in the Functionalist and Art Deco styles of architecture.(3) Interestingly, Guy Crick's practice continues today.</p> <p>By 1961 the building was called 'Freeman's Garage' and Freeman was described as a motor engineer. The property had an improved valuation of £13,500 and the flat was occupied by the owner.(4)</p> <p>The property is part of the North Summer Hill Conservation Area. In that study it was accorded a ranking of '1', which means 'a building with a high degree of intactness and/or which contributes importantly to the character of the area.'</p> <p>The business is still a service station, now operated by Abraham Automotives.</p>	
<p>Physical Description</p> <p>This prominent corner building, now painted a bright orange colour, is a two-storeyed structure of cement rendered brick, designed in the Functionalist-Art Deco style of architecture. It is set back from Parramatta Road behind a projecting awning, having a semicircular fascia and a pair of supporting stanchions. The concrete ground floor contains large workshop areas accessible from both Parramatta Road and Sloane Street, a sales room, an office and toilets. Steel framing supports the timber upper floor, which is an ample two-bedroom unit, originally accessed by stairs from Sloane Street.</p> <p>The characteristic elements of the style seen here are the rounded corners of the facades, a parapet concealing the pitched roof, recessed horizontal bands and, most prominently, a central motif, above the awning, of stepped forms embracing a tall reeded feature which was designed to support a large neon letter 'F'.</p>	
<p>Information Sources</p> <p>(1) Valuer-General's records in Ashfield Council Archives, 1934, No 1495; 1937, No 1529. (2) BA records, Ashfield Council Archives, 1939 No 8673. (3) Haskell and Howells, unpublished <i>Encyclopaedia of Australian Architecture and Building</i>. (4) Valuer-General's records, 1961 No 2511.</p>	