

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2021 I SERIES 5 I NO. 3

President's message

Although the continued Covid lockdown drags on, testing everybody's patience, it does give us opportunities to explore novel ways of tending to our lifestyles.

Keeping up exercise is important, and walking the local suburbs has been a growing pasttime of many in our neighbourhoods.

I have enjoyed my local walks, exploring streets and architecture otherwise seldom inspected. We are lucky we have plenty of tangible evidence of local history still to ponder over.

Perhaps, nowhere is our local history more discernible and accessible than taking a stroll through the cemetery of St John's Church, Alt Street, Ashfield.



I hope everyone remains safe over the next few months, as we wait for the virus threat to 'peter out' like the 'Spanish Flu' did ultimately, a century ago.

Regards

Mark Sabolch

Upcoming events

Unfortunately, we have cancelled the **'Who's Who' at St John the Baptist Anglican Church Cemetery: A guided tour** that was planned for Sunday 17 October. We are aiming to have the event rescheduled for **Sunday 28 November 2021**, pending the requirements of the Covid restrictions. Please visit our website for an update on the rescheduling of this event and for details of our future events:

<https://ashfieldhistory.org.au/event>

Heritage Report

David Rollinson reports recent development applications lodged with Inner West Council.

The second DA to redevelop the Commonwealth Bank building at **34-36 Lackey Street Summer Hill** has been refused by Council's staff on largely standard planning grounds but the DA suggestion that the building be clad to its sides, roof and rear in 'Monument Black' metal sheeting didn't meet with heritage support (fortunately)!

The site owner has a pre-existing approval via a Land and Environment Court (LEC) appeal but has run into difficulties with a Sydney Water sewer crossing the site. He also wanted to increase the number of flats marginally.

There has already been an appeal lodged with the LEC on this latest refusal. A Court conference was held this week to see if any amendments might be made particularly to the use of black/dark grey metal external wall covering.

Another DA has been lodged for the Salisbury motor mechanics building at **108-112 Smith Street Summer Hill**, this time by putting two shops at ground floor with a central doorway to give access to apartments built behind (and largely hidden by) the existing front wall and its parapet.

Reverse Garbage and The Bower plus Council's Green Living Centre plan on moving to Council's former depot at **7 Prospect Road Summer Hill**, with a DA under assessment.

The Inner West Local Planning Panel at its August 2021 meeting refused the DA for the 97 room 'New Generation Boarding House' (NGBH) redevelopment of the industrial site at **55-63 Smith Street Summer Hill**. The Panel in adding to Council's staff reasons for rejection noted that the DA had an unacceptable impact on the heritage items adjoining the site and the heritage conservation areas nearby. This DA had created a lot of local concern, with design and impact being a key complaint. DAs for NGBHs continue to be lodged throughout the LGA, possibly because the Dept of Planning has foreshadowed a tightening of the rules!

The tower at **Amesbury** in Alt Street Ashfield was hit by lightning earlier this year. Council staff required the applicant for the repairs to lodge a detailed Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) to repair/reconstruct the tower and spire. A comprehensive HIS has been submitted and gives appropriate recommendations. The HIS and the structural engineers extensive report (plus the extensive close-up photos submitted), will be copied as a resource for the ADHS Rooms.

As previously reported Council staff refused a DA for a second storey addition to an intact bungalow located at **12 Ranger Road Croydon**. A fresh application has now been lodged for a more modest single storey rear addition, which is quite acceptable.

Recently there have been some DAs for minor works to other bungalows in conservation areas as well as a two storey pavilion rear addition to one dwelling which exhibits some sensitive design. So it is unfortunate when the intent of Council's DCP is not always followed, as evidenced by a recent approval in Church Street Ashfield which adds four bedrooms to a modest cottage (to create seven overall).

Going, going...gone

Another piece of history disappears

If you were in the vicinity of Victoria and Norton Streets Ashfield on Tuesday 7 September 2021, you would have noticed the demolition of a house at **No. 9 Victoria Street**.



Going!



>>>Going!



>>>Almost gone!

Lois Gray writes:

What is the story of this place and was it important?

Those of you who participated in the Victoria Street walk in April this year may remember the house as the only remaining house on the western side of Victoria Street between Liverpool Road and Norton Street.

By that stage it was in quite a dilapidated condition – neglected and empty. While only a modest dwelling, it did represent a piece of Ashfield's history. It would appear that it was the first house ever erected on that land. Here is a little bit of its life story.



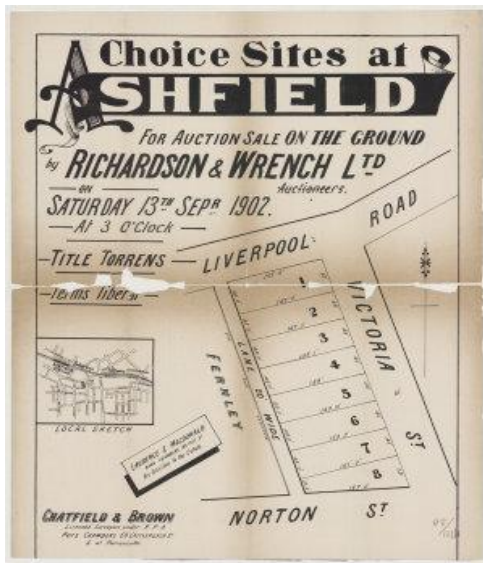
Karuah No. 9 Victoria Street Ashfield in April 2021

The 1883 Higinbotham and Robinson map of Ashfield and the 1890's Water Board plan shows the land without any dwelling and held in the name of Schaur (Schauer?). This could have been **William Schauer**, a cooper, as the 1877 Sands Directory lists him as being in Ashfield Street (the former name for Victoria Street).

Subdivision for residential purposes was advertised in September 1902. Lots 1,2 and 3 on that plan were subsequently reorientated to Liverpool Road leaving 5 lots fronting Victoria Street. Mrs Schauer was still listed as the owner of the land in 1903 (Ashfield Municipal Rate Book 1903).

By 1907 the land (being 48ft x 170ft) had been sold and a house had been erected but was still vacant. **John Jacobs** was then owner of No 7 and No 9.

Going, going...gone



Source: State Library Collection

In the first few years of its life the house had several owners and was given a few names:

- *Mursley* when owned by **Lawrence Deall** (1909)
- *Rochfore* by **William Brighton** (1910)
- *Karuah* when **Charles Norman Neale** bought it in 1911.

Charles Neale (b. 1879) was a Civil Servant. He commenced work in the Public Service in 1896 as an office lad, his pay being 11 shillings and 6d per week.

He married **Elsie A. Pearce** from Parramatta in 1909 and must have saved enough to buy the house by 1911. He rose to the position of Commissioner for Road Transport and Tramways NSW, having many other positions along the way (*Who's Who* 1950).

The Neales lived in the house for over 50 years so there would be lots of social and family history associated with the house.

In 1963 Charles was living with his son **Norman Woodward Neale** at 24 Pembroke Street Ashfield as his wife had died.

In 1963 Charles was living at 24 Pembroke Street Ashfield. Charles died in 1968.



Source: Sydney Morning Herald, 7 Aug 1937

The house was not unique architecturally, being generally Federation in style - brick with a front gable and tiled hipped roof. It had a protruding front room under the gable section with adjacent front verandah.

A central hall with an arch at the midway point and rooms either side of the hall - traditionally bedrooms one side and formal lounge and dining room on the other.

There was a rear verandah next to what was likely to have been bathroom/toilet/laundry.

Going, going...gone

The footprint of the house can be seen on the 1930's Water Board plan and also in 1943 aerial photography, below. Note that it was identical to No 7, *Alteryen*, and was built at the same time, presumably by the same builder.



No 9 marked on western corner of Victoria and Norton Streets Ashfield

Source: Six Maps 1943 Aerial Photography

Subsequent to the Neale's departure the house was much altered as seen in the April 2021 photo. In its latter years it was modified to be two dwellings.

What next? In 2018 a Development Application was lodged by Panorama No.1 Fixed Unit Trust to demolish the existing structures and construct a 4 storey 32 room boarding house with basement parking. This went to an appeal with the Land and Environment Court.



Source: Inner West Council DA Tracker website

The application was then amended to be three storey boarding house comprising 23 double boarding rooms, nine car spaces, five motor cycle and six bicycle places.

Approval of the Court was granted in March this year, with the agreement of the Council that the amendments were satisfactory.

The site is not heritage listed but is opposite two important Ashfield heritage items - the Police Station and the Fire Station.

A changing face to Victoria Street.

Vale Karuah!

***We can say you are
important if only to
recognise that you were the
last of the first houses on
this land***



Gone!

16 September 2021

If anyone can add to the story of this home and its occupants, please contact the Society at

www.ashfieldhistory.org.au.

Photos: Lois Gray & Colin Webb.

The Parramatta Female Factory

A place of connection

Society Member **Ronda Gaffey** writes about the **Female Factory** at North Parramatta, including her personal connection to the site:

There are places which are imbued with such personal meaning - for me it is the Parramatta Female Factory at North Parramatta, now a National Heritage listed site.



Paramatta [Parramatta] Penitentiary 1826, watercolour by Augustus Earle

Source: nla.pic-an2818460, National Library of Australia

In 2011, my brother and I attended an open day at the Factory site, hosted by the advocacy and research group, the **Parramatta Female Factory Friends**. We were just so overwhelmed by the site's beauty, the quiet, the glorious sandstone buildings, the physical setting by the river and, above all, its remarkable survival.

Since discovering a family connection, we have been caught up in the narratives of the women and children who passed through its gates. Two great, great grandmothers were 'in' the factory - both having been sent 'up river' shortly after arriving in Port Jackson from Ireland (one in 1828 and the other, in 1831).¹

To walk the site is to truly walk in their footsteps and to work as a guide or to participate in site activation character vignettes at special events, has been a very personal and emotional experience.

In 2018, the Friends commemorated the Bicentenary of the laying of the foundation stone by Governor Lachlan Macquarie. A Commemorative Wall was unveiled - a sign identifying the site is on one side and on the other, the first names of the convict women researched so far.

In late February of this year, a second Bicentenary was held commemorating the women being moved into the new, Macquarie commissioned and **Francis Greenway** designed Factory and Barracks at North Parramatta.



1818-2018 Bicentenary Wall with floral tributes

Source: Parramatta Female Factory Friends (PFFF) Collection

The Parramatta Female Factory is such a significant heritage site - it is the earliest purpose-built and most intact female factory site in Australia and was the model for all others female factories, including the UNESCO World Heritage listed *Cascades* in Hobart. It housed the convict women and their children and provided work. It was also a prison.

The site has buildings from the colonial period - two Greenway buildings (1818-21), a Penitentiary building (1823-5), original sandstone walls and yards. It is in the grounds of Cumberland Hospital East Campus.



Greenway Matron's Quarters and Hospital (behind)

Source: Courtesy Anne Mathews

The Parramatta Female Factory

The most original building on the site is the 3rd class Sleeping Quarters and Penitentiary which was built during Governor Brisbane's time – the original porthole windows of the first floor sleeping quarters can still be seen though the veranda was added later.

It was here that the 'refractory' class women were housed, their punishment -picking oakum and breaking rocks for road macadamising. Until recently, the building was occupied by NSW Health.



**Ronda Gaffey and Kerima-Gae Topp
-the 3rd Class Penitentiary**

Source: 1821-2021 Bicentenary Character Vignettes, PFFF Collection

Ronda is a fifth generation Sydneysider, a resident of Ashfield for 34 years and a passionate family historian

The Parramatta Female Factory was multi-purpose; women processed wool and made cloth, they did sewing and laundry for settlers. The Factory hospital provided the first dedicated women's health service in the colony for both convict and free women.

The Factory and Barracks provided not only work but much needed accommodation.

From here women were assigned as servants - many returned to be reassigned. Escape from the Factory system was through marriage, serving one's sentence or, gaining a Ticket of Leave.

The Factory closed in 1848 and transitioned to the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum. From 1915 to 1983, it was the Parramatta Psychiatric Hospital and then, the Cumberland Hospital.



**3rd class Sleeping Quarters & Penitentiary
c1823-1825**

Source: PFFF Collection

A family connection to this place is rather special and, for us, its female convict narrative which still unfolds, has become an abiding passion

In her retirement, Ronda works as a guide at John Macarthur's Hambledon Cottage, and is secretary and newsletter editor for the Parramatta Female Factory Friends Inc., an occasional tour guide and 'actor'. For more information go to:

www.parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au

References:

1. Ronda's 2 x great great grandmother Mary Ahern, married Joseph Jones in 1832 - their granddaughter Rachel (Jones) and her husband Alma Weymouth, lived at 1 Charlotte Street Ashfield where Alma had his pharmacy. The property is now the *Café on Charlotte*.
2. *Convict Beginnings - The Jones Family Story*, Margaret Szalay, 2004.

Wyoming, Ashfield

Lois Gray met Jeremy, a proud heritage home owner in Palace Street Ashfield on one of her local walks

Lois discovered that *Wyoming*, **14 Palace Street Ashfield** is owned by Jeremy and David. Jeremy has undertaken some research on the property and kindly provided some information and some photographs for the newsletter.



Source: realestate.com.au.au

Wyoming Ashfield was built and named by J. **G. Nelson**, an American builder in 1898. A sister house next door at 12 Palace Street was called *Dakota*, but unfortunately this house has since been replaced by a block of units.



Source: realestate.com.au

A heritage study conducted in 2001 describes *Wyoming* as a Federation house, which “typifies another version of the Queen Anne style”, although the house does display many Victorian features. The house is relatively unique in its style within the area.

After a succession of owners, the house was purchased by **Harold Thomas** in 1924 and was occupied by descendants of the family until 2019. **Noelle Lee** (the daughter of Harold and Ruby Thomas) was raised and died in the house at the age of 100.



Source: Homeowners

Noelle loved the house and garden so much that she ensured the house was heritage listed. Noelle was known by her neighbours to sit by the front door and talk to them as they walked by.

The house was bought in 2020 by Jeremy and David who fell in love with the house as soon as they saw it, in particular its original ceilings, fireplaces, arches and flooring.

They intend to carefully restore the house and garden to its former glory.

Ann O'Connell's tale of

Shanghai in Ashfield

Our Society's rooms hold a vast and varied collection of local history resources which can enable a researcher to get the answers they are seeking with a little help from our volunteers.

A photograph that a research rooms visitor shared with our Society some years ago which he had found in the AGL archives shows Liverpool Road Ashfield shopping precinct taken at night with the tram lines shining in the lamplight.

The photo was taken before large shopping malls moved into the suburbs and it shows both sides of the strip lined with vibrant small businesses, and noticeably, the brilliantly lit Hoyts Theatre can be seen on the right side of the photo which is playing a double feature, *Shanghai* and *Dante's Inferno*.

The photo intrigued our visitor as it was taken at night with the streets empty apart from parked cars.

He wanted to find out when and why the photo was taken, so a clue to the date was the double feature showing at Hoyts and also a glimpse of the parked cars indicated perhaps it was the 1930s.

A Trove search revealed that Hoyts called for tenders to remodel the theatre in August 1933, and, as its façade looked shiny and new in the photo, we knew we were getting close to the right date.

The Argus newspaper was printed for Ashfield and surrounding suburbs for decades and the Society has the scattered surviving copies on microfilm from 1924 through to the 1960s. A relatively quick search through the issues around the mid-1930s and we struck gold in finding a half page advertisement for Hoyts Ashfield running *Shanghai* starring Charles Boyer and Loretta Young, and *Dante's Inferno* with Spencer Tracey! It appeared in the issue dated Thursday 12 December 1935.

It is ironic that the movie *Shanghai* was being run in Liverpool Road, just a stone's throw from the now famous chain of Shanghai restaurants.



Shanghai in Ashfield

Scanning through the news stories reported in *The Argus* during December 1935, much to our glee we find a lengthy story titled 'New Lighting System, Ashfield Shopping Centre Official Ceremony' in the issue dated Thursday 5 December. It shows a different photograph of Parramatta Road with the caption:

A midnight view of Parramatta Road, Ashfield, showing the remarkable effectiveness of the new light system. (Block by courtesy of the Australian General Electric Co.)

Similar installations are now in operation in Liverpool Road and Hercules Street.

The article announced that the new system of street lighting recently installed in Liverpool Road and Hercules Street Ashfield was officially switched on by the Mayor, Ald. W.E. Grainger last Friday evening. Looking at a previous issue of *The Argus*, dated 21 November 1935, it confirmed that the Mayor was to switch on the system on Friday 29 November at 7.30pm.

The lights were a mercury vapour discharge type of lamp with the first installation being in Great Britain in 1933 and were said to provide three times as much light as the previous lamps used. It was noted that:

Motorists and drivers of public conveyances have been loud in their praise for the new system and there is very little doubt that the near future will see great extensions to the existing installations.

Not all our researchers get the details that they are searching for but we do our best to find at least a few references.

In this case, the answers were easily located and our researcher went away happy with the results.



To enable us to date the photograph, we struck gold in finding a half page advertisement in the local Ashfield newspaper 'The Argus' of 12 December 1935 for Hoyts Ashfield running Shanghai, and Dante's Inferno

When the Lockdowns finally come to an end and you are Covid-safe, please visit our Rooms, bringing your photographs and questions, and hopefully we can find some answers together.

Abergeldie connections

Scouts building centenary

Murray Cleaver has identified that regular lockdown-allowed walking exercise is a good way to uncover interesting information about your local neighbourhood.

Murray came across the Scouts Building at **31 Lewisham Street Dulwich Hill**. As you can see from the memorial stone, the centenary of its setting has recently occurred.



The memorial stone, laid 23 July 1921

Source: Murray Cleaver

The buildings are at the junction of The Boulevarde and Lewisham Street at Dulwich Hill. The Scouts still operate from the premises but the buildings are in need of some repair.

Mark Sabolch has researched the Dixon Family and uncovered some further information on the 1st Dulwich Hill Scout Hall:

The Scouting movement was founded in 1907 by Lord Robert Baden-Powell, with Scout groups starting in Australia in 1908.

The Scout Hall at Dulwich Hill was built in 1921, funded by the **Dixon Family**, who lived at the nearby *Abergeldie Estate* on Old Canterbury Road.

Dame Emma Dixon, the wife of **Sir Hugh Dixon** the tobacco merchant, became the patron of the Scout group, and the 1st Dulwich Hill Group thrived under the Dixon's patronage.

Newspaper reports during the 1920s record that the Dixsons lived in *Abergeldie*, nearby, and were quite prominent landholders in the area and in society life at the time.

The 1st Dulwich Hill Scouts won many of the annual Scout competitions during this period, such as the 1922 Leichhardt Shield.

Many of the Scout groups in our area had wealthy patrons. The Scout movement in the 1920s has a fascinating history. It provided a way for boys to learn new skills, develop leadership, travel the country in a supervised manner.

Dame Emma Dixon died a year after the Scout Hall was opened, and the Dixon Family maintained their support for the 1st Dulwich Hill group as a memorial to her. It is understood that the Dixon Family still maintain support for the Dulwich Hill group today. Indeed, the Scout troop is referred to as 'Mrs Hugh Dixon's own' in lettering on the parapet (right side) with a further acknowledgement of Lady Dixon on the left side.

July 2021 was the centenary of the opening of the Dulwich Hill Scout Hall. With the current Covid lockdowns no centenary celebrations could occur this year, but we hope that a fitting celebration can occur in the future.

Reference: The Daily Telegraph, 16 June 1924, page 6.

Cameo Photographics

Clare Herscovitch has been busy at the Rooms sorting out a fabulous photographic collection given to the Society

She tells the story of the gems she has uncovered: In late 2020, ADHS received a donation of an enormous collection of black-and-white negatives.

When we began sorting through the boxes we found that they were from a local photography business, **Cameo Photographics**, owned and operated by Alan Mortimer in Ashfield in the 1960s and 1970s.

Considering their age and their storage conditions for 50 years and more, the negatives were, overall, in surprisingly good condition.

Sadly, much of the collection was undocumented so there were many anonymous weddings, baptisms and graduations. However, there are also a good number of images that were documented or are identifiable, and significant for our local history.

The Cameo Collection comprises professional quality images from the 1960s and 70s of buildings, streetscapes and events

Most of **Alan Mortimer's** business seems to have focussed on modelling, portraits, weddings and other family occasions. However, there is good amount of material of the Ashfield area and the collection has provided some treasures for us.

Here are some examples of the photos:



Swift Engineering (now Chubb) in Milton St, Ashbury



The new Bank of New South Wales, Summer Hill

Remember when there two banks in Summer Hill?!



Chesneyland caravans on Parramatta Road, Summer Hill



Street celebrations marking the centenary of Ashfield Council

There are also:

- group photos from *Willows* Nursing Home in Orpington Street
- street scenes showing houses now long gone
- political graffiti on a local shop window.

It has also been a treasure trove for others. After quite a bit of fascinating detective work, we were able to donate negatives to other organisations, images of for example:

- the Croydon Park Bowling Club in what is now Picken Oval
- a number of Strathfield Mayoral Balls
- Santa Claus arriving at Burwood Westfield Shoppingtown in the 1960s
- Jobling Glass manufacturing in Gosford
- street scenes of Hobbs and Victoria Streets in Lewisham
- Darwin in the 1960s
- Catholic Marillac Community Centre in Darlington
- Petersham Railway Fund Committee
- aspiring models posing in the streets of Woolloomooloo and Kings Cross
- Five Dock businesses now long demolished for town houses.

There are many more to be assessed:

- Images of models and the **June Dally Watkins'** modelling school are prominent in the collection. June herself appears in several, modelling a Chanel dress.



Modelling in front of the Kings Cross Wax Works

Another significant component of the collection comprises images of electronics and precision machinery, taken perhaps for publication or advertising purposes. The **Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences** has taken great interest in these fashion and technology images.

We are grateful to **Sean Creer** who donated this collection. He held onto the boxes of negatives, found when he moved his business into the premises vacated by Alan Mortimer. Sean looked after them for close to 40 years, knowing they had value and that the collection would be meaningful to the right people.

Our Society and many other organisations are fortunate that he took care of them all that time. So far, we know very little about Alan Mortimer or his business, so any information would be very welcome.

This is a work in slow progress (made slower by Covid) and we hope to report more about *Cameo Photographics* and share more images as they emerge.

The Italianate Style in Ashfield:1850-1890

In his Lockdown time, following on from his project photographing all leadlight windows in Ashfield and surrounds, ADHS Committee member **Colin Webb** has been researching houses in Ashfield built in the Italianate Style of architecture.

Colin writes: Using the Inner West Council Comprehensive DCP 2016 - Section 2 Chapter E1, a long list of houses were found, the most important were marked with '*'. I then located these on Google and I have begun photographing them.

I have also found where individual records for the houses that were in the Ashfield Heritage Study, have been placed on the Inner West website, see:

<https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/development-and-conservation/heritage-items/heritage-inventories>).

I have been using a number of books, notably two by Robert Irving¹ & ² and the Society's Journal *Houses of the Ashfield District*³.

The Victorian Italianate style evolved as a reaction to the neoclassicism of Georgian and Regency architecture that emphasised symmetry, formality, proportion and order. It was a desire for the picturesque; a term that originally denoted a landscape scene that looked as if it came out of a painting.

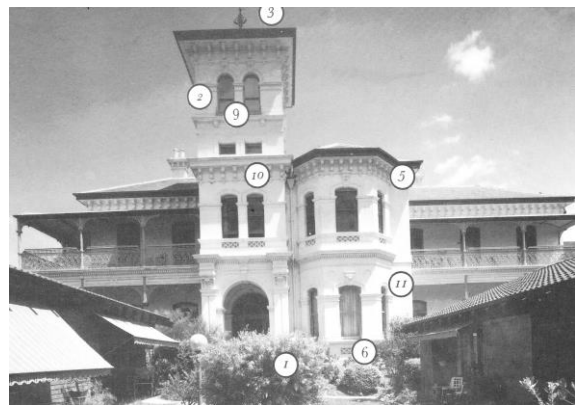
Victorian Italianate in Sydney is another expression of 'historicism in architecture, that is, to the admission of various styles of building all acceptable in their place and their mood'⁴.

The Italianate style 'is not defined by any one set of characteristics, but is a syndrome of characteristics'². suggestive of some imagined and romanticised past.

Initially the Italianate was a style for the wealthy who could build large freestanding houses with extensive gardens and *Glentworth*, pictured below, is a prime example.



***Glentworth* in its Italianate glory. Built in 1886**



***Glentworth* as photographed in *Identifying Australian Architecture*¹, in plate 147**

The key to the photograph shows:

1. *Asymmetrical massing*
2. *Prominent tower employing classical motifs*
3. *Pyramidal tower roof*
5. *Bracketed eaves*
6. *Facet bays*
9. *Grouped openings*
10. *Stilted segmented or round arch*
11. *Stucco wall finish*

When it became fashionable it was a style that was applied to more modest houses.

Italianate houses were almost universally asymmetrical, featuring picturesque massing and composition characterized by irregularity, ruggedness and variety of texture and form.



No. 85 Queen Street resurrected to its Victorian Italianate beauty

In the grander versions there imposing towers (belvederes) were placed to take advantage of a scenic view (they could also act as a water storage and even smoking rooms).



15 John Street is a very imposing Italianate style house

The style is characterized by heavy masonry facades composed of simple rectilinear forms, articulated with a regular pattern of bays.

The buildings are often capped with a continuous cornice under which there are moulded eave brackets. Arcaded loggias, covered exterior walkways, were often a feature and could be used on an upper level or ground level, or both. Facades became highly decorative and ornamented.

Quoin stones or quoin bricks were frequently used on the external angles of buildings as additional ornamentation.

These were often ornately decorated and painted in a different colour.

The external walls were stuccoed. Through the use of masonry mouldings, window architraves became more complex and ornamented. Faceted bays were common on later Italianate houses in the 19th century, often in the form a three-sided bay window.

Balconettes or false balconies, masonry balustrades appeared although iron lace was frequently used. Canted bay windows also appeared, particularly in the 1870's sometimes extending for two storeys. These capture more light, provided increased ventilation, and space.



Blancheville, 110 Park Avenue, is a very narrow fronted asymmetrical house built in the Victorian Rustic Italianate style circa 1888

References:

1. *Identifying Australian Architecture*, Richard Appelby, Robert Irving & Peter Reynolds, Angus & Robertson, 1989.
2. *The History & Design of the Australian House*, Robert Irving, Compiler, Oxford University Press, 1985.
3. *Houses of the Ashfield District*, Ashfield & District Historical Society Journal No. 21, 2018.
4. *In defence of the Picturesque* the *Architecture Review*, Nikolas Pevsner, 1954.

Council seeks Advisory Committee Members

Inner West Council's Engagement Team is seeking locals to join the **Environment Advisory Committee**:

Do you know someone in your network who has a passion for the environment and actively wants to be part of a group providing recommendations and advice directly to Council? We're looking for people from all different backgrounds to offer a wide variety of perspectives.

For more information, visit:

- [Local Democracy Groups - membership applications | Your Say Inner West \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- Paper applications available on request.
- Contact Kate Jackson 93352147 or kate.jackson@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Applications close 18 October, 2021.

Home research

A useful resource that had been developed by Inner West Council in 2020 has been rediscovered by our members – see this YouTube clip on researching the history of your house:

[History Week 2020: House History - unlock the mysteries](#)



This webpage from the National Library of Australia (NLA), which concentrates on NLA resources and Trove, is also available:

[Finding the history of your house](#)



Vale

Long-term member and past Committee Member, **Jan Winders** has recently suffered the loss of her beloved father on 8 September after a long illness. Our heartfelt condolences to you Jan. **Maurie Winders RIP.**

Research Rooms

The Society's Rooms at *Thirning Villa*, Pratten Park in Arthur Street Ashfield are in 'normal times' usually open to visitors for research purposes on our open days: the second and last Saturdays of each month between 11am and 4pm.

For the duration of the lockdown the Rooms are closed until further notice due to the COVID-19 restrictions

Contact the Society

Please visit our website for membership information:

<https://ashfieldhistory.org.au/membership-application/>

Postal address: PO Box 20 ASHFIELD 1800

Email: adhs@ashfieldhistory.org.au

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