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## **C2 32 ALBERT STREET, CABRAMATTA – WHITLAM HOUSE**

### **C2.1 Required Task**

Council required an assessment of the heritage significance of the home of the former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam and his family located at 32 Albert Street, Cabramatta. The house is not listed as a heritage item in Schedule 5 of Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2013.

### **C2.2 Methodology**

The assessment of significance was undertaken using relevant Heritage NSW guidelines and in accordance with the ICOMOS Burra Charter.

### **C2.3 Findings**

The property has heritage significance at a State level.

### **C2.4 Recommendations**

1. The property should be listed as a heritage item in Schedule 5 of Fairfield Local Environmental Plan as “Whitlam House and its site, including interior and garden”.
2. The inventory sheet below should be added to the NSW Heritage Inventory database.
3. Further research should be undertaken on the architect and further comparative analysis.
4. Council should make a submission to the Heritage Council of NSW for listing of the property on the NSW State Heritage Register.
5. The owner should be encouraged to undertake immediate maintenance and repairs.
6. It is suggested that the Whitlam family be encouraged to allow the Whitlam Institute to scan their photographs of the house.
7. The house should remain a single family home. It is well designed for the use of a contemporary family.

### **C2.5 Heritage Inventory Sheet**

## ITEM DETAILS

<b>Name of Item</b>	Whitlam House and its site, including interior and garden						
<b>Other Name/s Former Name/s</b>							
<b>Item type (if known)</b>	Built						
<b>Item group (if known)</b>	Residential buildings (private)						
<b>Item category (if known)</b>	House						
<b>Area, Group, or Collection Name</b>							
<b>Street number</b>	32						
<b>Street name</b>	Albert Street						
<b>Suburb/town</b>	Cabramatta				<b>Postcode</b>	2166	
<b>Local Government Area/s</b>	Fairfield						
<b>Property description</b>	Lot 11 DP 26969						
<b>Location - Lat/long</b>	<b>Latitude</b>				<b>Longitude</b>		
<b>Location - AMG (if no street address)</b>	<b>Zone</b>		<b>Easting</b>			<b>Northing</b>	
<b>Owner</b>	Whitlam Heritage Home Ltd						
<b>Current use</b>	Single family dwelling						
<b>Former Use</b>	Single family dwelling.						
<b>Statement of significance</b>	<p>The Whitlam family home at 32 Albert Street, Cabramatta, is of State and local significance as the former family home of Australia's 21<sup>st</sup> Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam. The Whitlam Government enacted a vast range of reforms to Australia's laws and institutions and these have shaped the nature of Australian society since. The property demonstrates Whitlam's political ambitions, needing to relocate after the redistribution of his seat of Werriwa, and it is important in providing an understanding of his political as well as his private self. Whitlam lived with his family at 32 Albert Street from 1957 to 1972 prior to becoming Prime Minister, and his experience of living in Cabramatta influenced his views about the nature of cities and the services they need, and of a multi-cultural Australia. The modernist design of the house demonstrates Whitlam's embrace of new ideas and the site informs our understanding of Whitlam's private life. The house is significant at a State level as a rare example of the family home of a Prime Minister who lived in Sydney's western suburbs during the formative and influential years of his political career.</p> <p>The Whitlam family home at 32 Albert Street, Cabramatta, is of local significance as a rare well-designed Post-War International style home built in the 1950s in the Fairfield Local</p>						

	<p>Government Area. The house is well designed and was carefully planned to accommodate the Whitlam family, who were prominent in the local community.</p> <p>The site has the potential to reveal further information about Whitlam's family life, the rarity of the house in relation to those lived in by other Prime Ministers during their politically formative and influential years, the rarity of the house in the Fairfield City Council Local Government Area, and the design and construction of the house.</p>	
<b>Level of Significance</b>	State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>		
<b>Designer</b>	Roy H. D. Appleton, Architect, A.R.A.I.A	
<b>Builder/ maker</b>	Harry G. Richardson, Master Builder	
<b>Physical Description</b>	<p>The single storey house is designed in the 'Post War International' with a simplicity of form and detail, a horizontal emphasis and a lack of ornamentation.<sup>1</sup> The house is comprised of simple rectangular forms and motifs. The roof is flat (low pitched) with minimal, or no, eaves overhangs. The narrow edge of the roof is delineated by a timber fascia. The walls are light coloured face brick. The main façade of the house, facing Albert Street, features a long glazed wall above a band of lightweight cladding. The glazed wall has alternating panels of large panes of timber framed fixed glass and sets of timber framed awning windows (three windows set one above the other). This front wall, which is terminated at either end by face brick walls, has a low base of face brickwork. The main entry to the house is set at the side, behind the front rectangular volume. The solidity of the face brick walls provides a pleasing contrast to the lightweight walls.</p> <p>The modernist aesthetic of the design is clearly evident in the clean lines of the house, the cubiform shapes of the house, the strong horizontal roof plane, the large areas of glass, the crispness of the detailing, the lack of applied decorative detail, the open plan of the house, the split level (albeit modest), the light sandy coloured brickwork, white timber window frames, and its planning. The living areas are located in the rear wing that has a wall of windows on its east and north facades that look to the back garden. The bedroom wing is located at the front facing Albert Street. The house is well designed without wasted space.</p> <p>The original front fence was a low face brick fence and the driveway had a lawn insert created by a short length of wheel strips. A set of stepping stones that increased in width as they got closer to the front door started near the front boundary at the driveway. The living room of the house opened onto a concrete patio that stretched to the garden bed along the northern boundary.</p> <p>A carport (not original) is located on the southern side of the house.</p> <p>The front fence (not original) has a low brick base capped by a header course, regularly spaced brick piers that extend to a height of about 1.8 metres, and decorative steel railings set between the piers.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> See – Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture*, Angus and Robertson, 1989, pp 214-217.

	Both the front and back gardens currently appear to be used as storage for cars, building material, etc. The garden is untended.					
Physical condition and Archaeological potential	The house appears to be in fair condition although urgent maintenance and repair works are needed.					
Construction years	Start year	1957	Finish year	1957	Circa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Modifications and dates	<p>The original form and fabric of the house appear to remain largely intact with original external walls, windows, and roof insitu.</p> <p>Some minor modifications to the original house occurred c.1980 (BA2730/80). The original carport was demolished and a new carport constructed, and a patio awning was added to the rear.</p> <p>The painted vertical boarding of the front façade has been covered with asbestos or fibre cement sheeting.</p> <p>The original white (light coloured) timberwork has been painted brown.</p> <p>The blue blinds installed by Margaret Whitlam to shade the western facing windows have been removed.</p> <p>The concrete driveway has been replaced with (or covered by) brick paving.</p> <p>The original front fence has also been altered by the introduction of a header course, brick piers and a railing. Alternatively, this could be an entirely new fence.</p> <p>The original garden/planting scheme appears to have been lost. It is not clear if the Lorraine Lee climbing rose remains near the front door.</p>					
Further comments						
HISTORY						
Historical notes	The block of land was subdivided by William (Bill) Ireland and Lot 11 DP 26969 was transferred to Whitlam in August 1956. <sup>2</sup> At this time the area still retained a semi-rural character.					
THEMES						
National historical theme	4. Settlement: Making suburbs					
State historical theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Town suburbs and villages</li><li>Accommodation</li></ul>					
APPLICATION OF CRITERIA						
Historical significance SHR criteria (a)	The allotment of the Whitlam House, Lot 11 DP 26969, was part of a residential subdivision created on the site of a former vineyard. The creation of the allotment c.1956, and the construction of the house in 1957, demonstrate the rapid suburbanisation of parts of					

<sup>2</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 5156 Fol. 229. Whitlam was the first person to buy an allotment of the newly created subdivision.



	<p>western Sydney resulting from pent up demand and rapid population growth following the Second World War.</p> <p>The house and its relationship to the allotment demonstrate the influence of modernism on the design of Australian homes and gardens.</p> <p>The site illustrates a time when politicians were very accessible to their communities, the original low front fence and open driveway being no impediment to people who wished to speak with Gough Whitlam.</p> <p>Based on available information, this criterion is satisfied at a local level, although further research may find that it is rare at a State level for its ability to demonstrate the availability to his constituents of a politician who went on to become Prime Minister.</p>
<b>Historical association significance</b> SHR criteria (b)	<p>The Whitlam house is of State significance as the former family home of Australia's 21st Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam. The Whitlam Government, the first Labor government since Ben Chifley ceased being Prime Minister in 1949, brought in a vast range of reforms to Australia's laws and institutions.</p> <p>The property demonstrates Whitlam's political ambitions, the land being purchased and the house constructed in order to accommodate his family after redistribution of the Federal seat of Werriwa. The site is associated with Whitlam's political as well as personal life - he worked from home, hosted political functions at his home, celebrated election victories there, and invited constituents into the living room to discuss matters that were concerning them.</p> <p>Whitlam lived with his family at 32 Albert Street prior to becoming Prime Minister and his experience of living in Cabramatta helped shaped his views about the nature of cities and the services they need, and of a multi-cultural Australia.</p> <p>The modernist design of the house demonstrates Whitlam's embrace of new ideas and the site informs our understanding of Whitlam's private life.</p>
<b>Aesthetic significance</b> SHR criteria (c)	<p>The house at 32 Albert Street, Cabramatta, was designed and constructed between 1956 and 1957 in the Post War International style. The house has two connected wings, the bedroom wing is located at the front of the allotment facing Albert Street, and the rear wing, encompassing the living areas, looks onto the back garden. The modernist aesthetic of the design is clearly evident in the plan arrangement, the clean lines of the house, the cubiform shapes of the house, the strong horizontal roof plane, the large areas of glass, the crispness of the detailing, the lack of applied decorative detail, the open plan of the house, the split level (albeit modest), the light sandy coloured brickwork, and white timber window frames.</p> <p>The house has been well designed to accommodate the needs of the Whitlam family without wasted space.</p> <p>Based on available information, the house and its garden setting are significant at a local level.</p>
<b>Social significance</b> SHR criteria (d)	<p>Evidence has not be found that any present-day community group has a special association with the house or that there has been any regular or long term engagement with the place by any community groups.</p> <p>This criterion is not satisfied.</p>

<b>Technical/Research significance</b> SHR criteria (e)	The site has not been accessed nor the interior of the house visited. The house has research potential including - the design of the house, the construction methodology of the house, the occupation by the Whitlam family, the influence of living in the newly forming suburbs on the Whitlam government's policies, the influence of coming into contact with migrants making their way in a new country on his government's policies, the work of the house's architect Roy Appleton, a comparison with the homes of other Prime Ministers, his involvement in the Fairfield LGA, and the rarity of modernist houses in the Fairfield City Council local government area. Based on available information this criterion is satisfied at both a State and local level.
<b>Rarity</b> SHR criteria (f)	The house is a rare example at State level of the former family home of a Prime Minister who had a significant impact on Australian life and of a Prime Minister who welcomed constituents into his family home who turned up at the front door. The house is significant at a State level as a rare example of the family home of a Prime Minister who lived in Sydney's western suburbs during the formative years of his political career. The house is of local significance for its rarity as an example of Post War International style house in Fairfield Local Government Area. Based on available information, this criterion is satisfied at both a State and local level.
<b>Representativeness</b> SHR criteria (g)	The house is of local significance as, while in need of repairs and maintenance, it nevertheless is a good example of modern architectural design of the 1950s.
<b>Integrity</b>	Reasonable

### HERITAGE LISTINGS

<b>Heritage listing/s</b>	
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### INFORMATION SOURCES

**Include conservation and/or management plans and other heritage studies.**

Type	Author/Client	Title	Year	Repository
Report	Kate Higgins	<i>Assessment Of Heritage Significance: Whitlam Family Home, 32 Albert Street, Cabramatta</i>	2019	Fairfield City Council

### RECOMMENDATIONS

<b>Recommendations</b>	The house including its interior and garden should be listed as a heritage item. Repair and maintenance works should be undertaken as a matter of urgency. A conservation management plan should be prepared as a matter of priority.
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### SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION

<b>Name of study or report</b>	Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2020 – Heritage Review	<b>Year of study or report</b>	2019
<b>Item number in study or report</b>	C2		
<b>Author of study or report</b>	Kate Higgins		
<b>Inspected by</b>	Kate Higgins		
<b>NSW Heritage Manual guidelines used?</b>		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>This form completed by</b>	Kate Higgins	<b>Date</b>	19.12.2019



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# **ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

## **Whitlam Family Home**

### **32 Albert Street, Cabramatta**

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**FINAL 14 February 2020**

**Kate Higgins**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this study is to assess the heritage significance of no. 32 Albert Street, Cabramatta, in response to a request from Fairfield City Council. Council is undertaking a review of a number of heritage matters in preparation for a new Local Environmental Plan, and one of these matters is whether or not the former Whitlam family home at Cabramatta warrants listing as a heritage item.

The Fairfield City Council liaison for this report is Patrick Warren, Senior Strategic Land Use Planner.

### 1.2 The Site

The subject site, no. 32 Albert Street, Cabramatta, is located on the eastern side of Albert Street in the block between Junction Street (to the north) and Liverpool Street (to the south).

The property title is Lot 11 DP 26969. The allotment is square with a frontage of 18.3 metres (60 feet) and a depth of 36.6 metres (120 feet). The allotment is aligned east-west with the western boundary facing Albert Street. The area of the allotment is 661 m<sup>2</sup>.



**Figure 1: Locality map**

Source: SIX Maps, accessed 6 December 2019

### 1.3 Methodology

This report has been prepared with reference to the NSW Heritage Division guidelines for the assessment of heritage significance *Assessing Heritage Significance*, NSW Heritage Office, 2002, and *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* 2013, Australia ICOMOS.

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A site visit was made in November 2019 and December 2019. Unless otherwise stated, the photographs in this report were taken on those site visits. Entry to the property was not possible. It was only able to be viewed from the street and neighbouring yards.<sup>3</sup> This has limited an understanding of the design and physical fabric of the existing house.

Historical research was undertaken using a range of sources as referenced in the report. The Whitlam Institute was helpful in providing information.

Historical information and photographs were kindly provided by Catherine and Nicholas Whitlam at a meeting on 12 December 2019.

Social significance was researched using an internet search and information from Fairfield City Council staff.

The heritage values of the garden have not been assessed.

This study has been limited by the time available. Further research and analysis is warranted.

An assessment was not undertaken of the archaeological potential of the site nor its Aboriginal heritage values.

#### **1.4 Author**

This report has been prepared by Kate Higgins, B.Sc (Architecture), B. Architecture, Master Heritage Conservation.

#### **1.5 Important Information**

This report has been prepared for Fairfield City Council for the sole purpose of the matters described in Section 1.1 of this report. The report should not be used for any other purposes, or by others, except as permitted under the Copyright Act.

In preparing this document it has been assumed that information provided by Fairfield City Council was up to date, complete and accurate.

This report is based on a consideration of heritage matters only.

An assessment of the archaeological or Aboriginal values of the site has not been undertaken.

#### **1.6 Thanks**

The author of the report would like to thank:

- Catherine, Nicholas and Stephen Whitlam for photographs and information about the house and the family's occupation.
- Kerren Ven, Strategic Planner, Fairfield City Council, for the provision of information held by Council.
- Jim Russell, Architect, for drawing up the CAD plan of the house and site.

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<sup>3</sup> Council staff made several attempts to contact the owner regarding a site visit, however did not receive a response.





*Township of*  
**CABRAMATTA**  
**GREAT S.<sup>RN</sup> RAILWAY**  
 FOR AUCTION SALE  
**ON THE GROUND**  
 ON SATURDAY, JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> 1884. AT 3 O'CLOCK

CABRAMATTA TOWNSHIP  
 & A SUBURB OF  
 PARRAMATTA

HIGHEST LAND  
 ON THE  
 SUBURBAN RAILWAY

LOOP LINE ST PETERS TO  
 CABRAMATTA IS SURVEYED &  
 JUNCTIONS ON THE  
 ESTATE

LOCAL SKETCH

SPECIAL TRAIN FROM REDFERN  
 ON DAY OF SALE  
 TITLE  
 WILL BE TORRENS  
 TERMS

DEPOSIT 15% IN 3 MONTHS  
 BALANCE 1 2 & 3 YEARS WITH 6%  
 INTEREST ADDED  
 SPECIAL CASH TERMS  
 10% DIS. ALLOWED IF MONEY BE PAID WITHIN  
 14 DAYS FROM DAY OF SALE & 20% IF PAID WITHIN  
 30 DAYS

**J.H. LAYCOCK**  
 LICENSED SURVEYOR  
 Specially Licensed  
 under the  
 Real Property Act  
 PASTORAL CHAMBERS 375 GEORGE ST

**WATKIN & WATKIN**  
 AUCTIONEERS

NOTE: ALL STREETS 66' WIDE

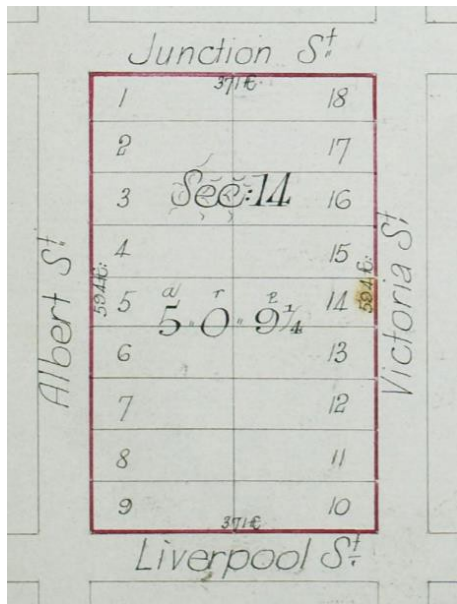
Whitlock, Brisbane  
 Printers 1884

John. Shallock & Co. Sydney

Figure 4: Advertisement for the sale of allotments in the “Township of Cabramatta” subdivision.

Source: State Library of NSW Z/SP/C2/11 - Township of Cabramatta





**Figure 5: William (Bill) Ireland owned the whole of Section 14 of DP 1656 by 1940.**

Source: Extract of Certificate of Title Vol. 775 Fol. 73.

William (Bill) Ireland was a member of a family involved in the production of wine and the growing of fruit on the fertile land adjacent to Cabramatta Creek. His father, Charlie Ireland, is listed in Sands Sydney Directory of 1930 as living at Sunnybrook Vineyards in Victoria Street, so it may be that the land was leased prior to it being purchased. Bill Ireland's grandfather, Thomas Ireland, had established a vineyard in the area in 1885.



**Figure 6: Aerial photograph taken 1943 showing a vineyard occupying the whole of the block. This is likely to be Sunnybrook Vineyard (or part of it). The house is evident near the corner of Victoria Street and Liverpool Street. The allotment purchased by Whitlam is outlined in red.**

Source: SIX Maps



Figure 7: Aerial photograph taken 1943 showing the semi-rural character of Cabramatta at this time. The extent of vineyards is also evident.

Source: SIX Maps

**Wines, Spirits**  
ETC.  
**C. Ireland**  
WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANT  
"SUNNYBROOK VINEYARDS"  
CABRAMATTA

**A DELIVERY SERVICE**  
Is Now Available to Residents in Cabramatta  
and Surrounding Districts.

WINES, also RUM, GIN, BRANDY and  
LIQUEURS, etc.,  
are Available in ONE, DOZEN MIXED  
LOTS OR MORE.

Cellars Open for Your Inspection Week Days  
and Saturdays.

UB 1739 — Phone — UB 1739

 Say "Merry Xmas" with ...

*Sunnybrook*  
**WINES**

Be sure you have the very best wine  
to offer your friends this Xmas ...  
take home a bottle, or better still, a  
half dozen or a dozen bottles of  
Sunnybrook wines ... there's no finer  
wine in the whole of Australia and the  
prices are right.

**Available now from  
your local Hotel**



**SHERRIES**  
•  
**PORTS**  
•  
**CLARETS**  
•  
**HOCKS**  
•  
**SAUTERNES**  
•  
**MUSCATS**  
•  
**TOKAY**  
•  
**FRONTIGNAC**

Figure 8: Advertisements for Sunnybrook wines.  
Source: *The Biz* 10 November 1949 (left), *Nepean Times*, 21 December 1950 (above).

The block of land was subdivided by William (Bill) Ireland and Lot 11 DP 26969 was transferred to Whitlam in August 1956.<sup>8</sup> Whitlam was the first person to buy an allotment of the newly created subdivision. At this time the area still retained a semi-rural character.

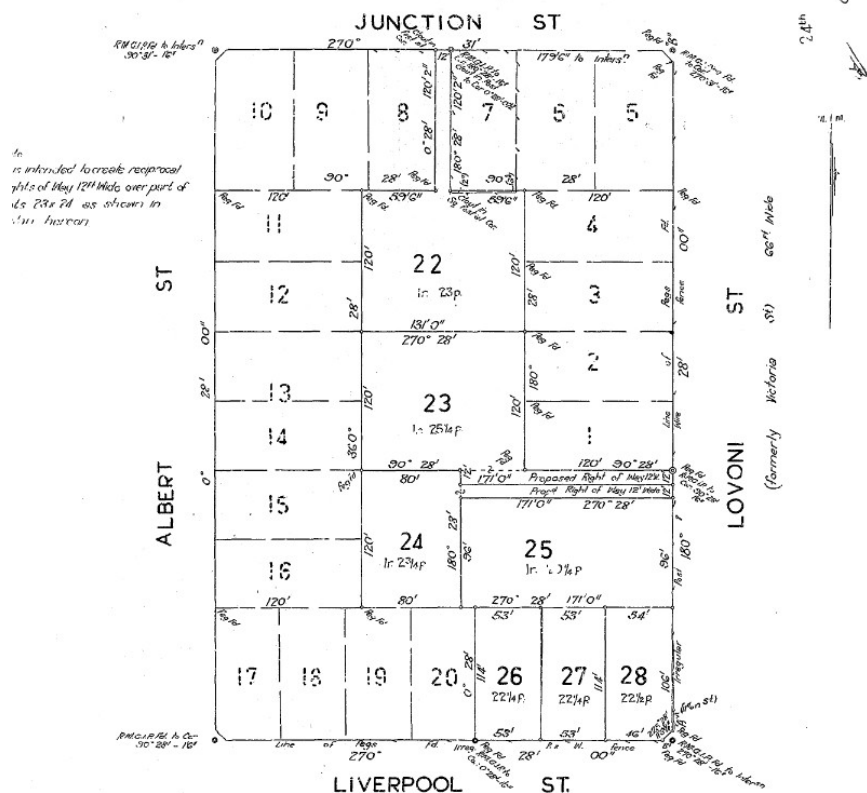
<sup>8</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 5156 Fol. 229.

# PLAN

SUBDIVISION OF LOT 21 D.P. 26969.

PARISH OF ST LUKE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND.

Scale 50ft to an inch



**Figure 9: DP26969. Lot 11 was purchased by Whitlam.**

Source: Fairfield City Council

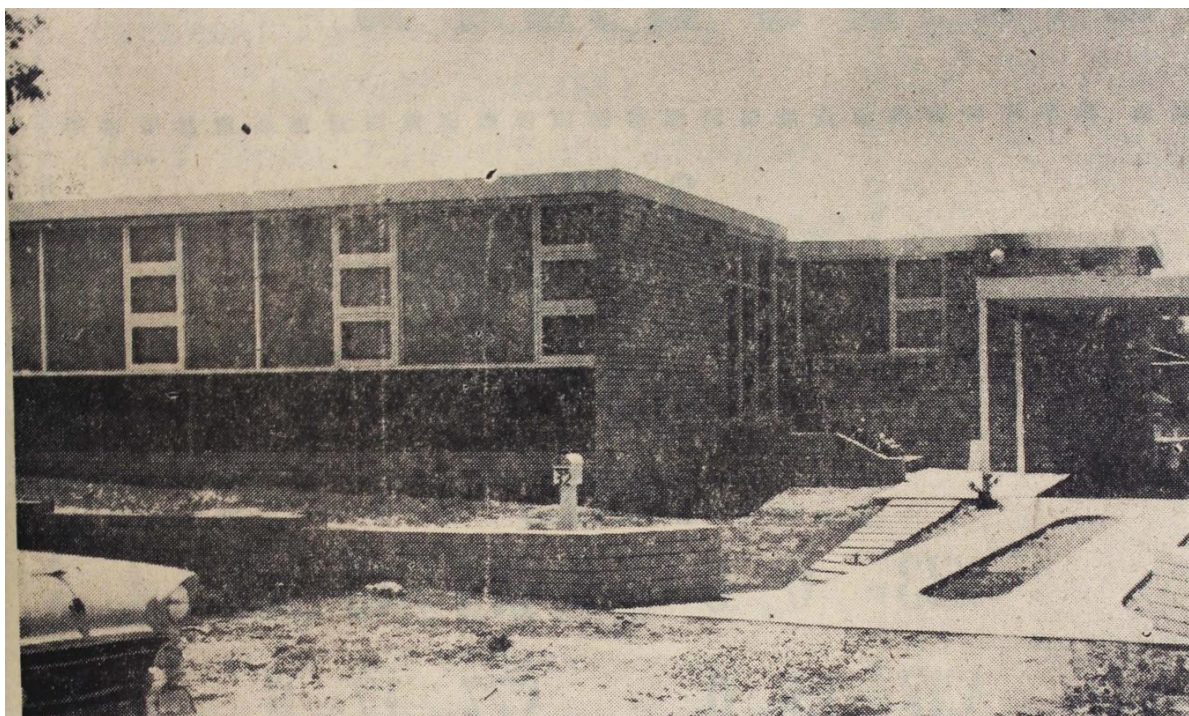
The land selected by Whitlam was a desirable allotment, being located on a wide street and situated near the top of the rise from Cabramatta Creek, and with the backyard facing east. It has easy access to the Hume Highway and is not far from Cabramatta train station, as well as being within easy driving distance to Liverpool town centre.

## 2.2 The Whitlam Family

The land in Albert Street, Cabramatta, was purchased by Whitlam as the family needed a place to live in the newly reshaped electorate of Werriwa. The family had been living at 2 Wangi Avenue, Cronulla since 1947 and during this time Whitlam entered Parliament as the member for Werriwa (in 1952). By 1955 the population of the electorate of Werriwa had grown to such an extent that redistribution of the electorate was required. In 1955 Whitlam successfully sought re-election for the reshaped Werriwa electorate. As the family home in Cronulla was now outside his electorate, Whitlam needed to relocate. When Gough and Margaret Whitlam could not find a house they liked, they instead bought a block of land and built a new house.<sup>9</sup> At this time they had four young children, the youngest, Catherine, being only three years old.

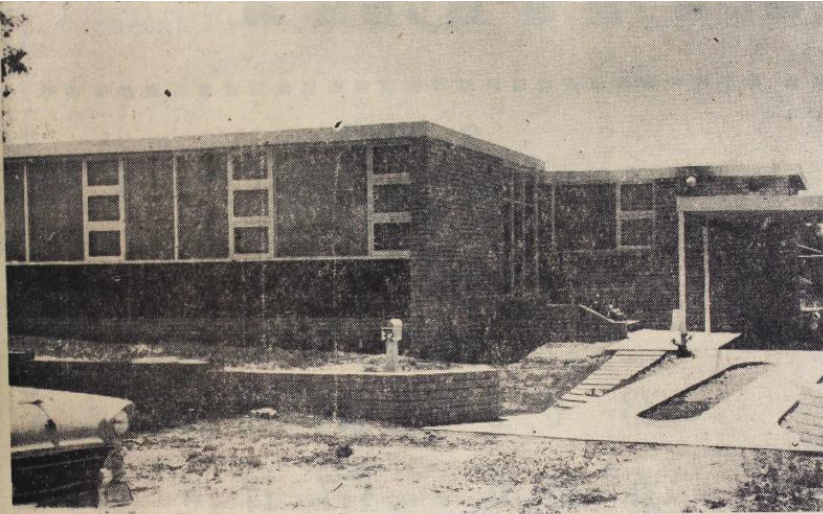
<sup>9</sup> Susan Mitchell, *Margaret Whitlam: a biography*, 2006, p. 135





**Figure 10: Front of the house taken soon after the house was completed.**

Source: Advertisement for Harry G. Richardson, Master Builder, *The Biz*, 19 February 1958. Copy from The Whitlam Institute.



**Contemporary Residence 32 Albert Street, Cabramatta  
for Mr. E. GOUGH WHITLAM, M.P. for WERRIWA**  
ARCHITECT: Roy H. D. Appleton, A.R.A.I.A., Cronulla.

**MASTER BUILDER  
HARRY G. RICHARDSON**

22 COVENTRY ROAD                      ::                      CABRAMATTA

**NOW OPEN FOR LIMITED CONTRACTS FOR 1958 —  
PHONE: UB 1709**

FREE ESTIMATES AND QUOTES

**Figure 11: The complete advertisement.**

Source: Advertisement for Harry G. Richardson, Master Builder, *The Biz*, 19 February 1958. Digital copy sourced from The Whitlam Institute.

Harry Richardson was a prominent local builder.



**Figure 12: The house soon after construction. The dark coloured vertical timber boards under the windows were soon after painted white, the area of concrete outside the living room was enlarged to become a patio, and a timber paling boundary fence was later erected.**

Source: *Margaret Whitlam: a biography*, Susan Mitchell.

The following description of the house is taken from Susan Mitchell's biography of Margaret Whitlam:

*Number 32 Albert Street, Cabramatta was only the second house on the block when they moved there in November 1957. Built of brick, unlike most of the small fibro homes nearby, it was larger than their Cronulla house, with four bedrooms. It was split level, architecturally designed and, like their Cronulla house, for its time it was considered very modern, with its peacock-blue front door, huge blue and white awnings, and big glass windows. Margaret loved it.... They were allowed to select plants from the government nursery in Canberra and so many trees were planted. Margaret decided against flower beds and instead opted for geraniums and creepers out the back, and a climbing pink Lorraine Lee rose over the front door.*<sup>10</sup>

Gough and Margaret Whitlam seem to have been very happy with the design of the house, Margaret Whitlam being particularly proud of the blue canvas awnings that stretch across the front of the house to shade the front windows for the westerly sun. No changes were made to the house during the occupation of the Whitlam family.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Susan Mitchell, *Margaret Whitlam: a biography*, 2006, p. 155

<sup>11</sup> Nicholas Whitlam, personal conversation 12 December 2019





**Figure 13: The front of the house with large canvas awnings shading the west facing windows.**  
Source: Nicholas Whitlam



**Figure 14: The rear façade of the front (bedroom) wing of the house. Catherine Whitlam in the foreground. A grape vine has been planted. Catherine is standing on the patio.**  
Source: Catherine Whitlam



**Figure 15: The rear façade of the front (bedroom) wing of the house and the patio. The extent of the garden and patio are evident. Antony Whitlam in the foreground. The lattice was added to the top of the paling boundary fence to provide some privacy for the family when in their backyard.**

Source: Nicholas Whitlam






**Figure 16: The northern façade of the rear (living room) wing of the house. The sliding door from the living room to the patio can be seen. The tall ceilings of the house are evident from this photograph. Stephen Whitlam in the foreground.**

Source: Stephen Whitlam



**Figure 17: The rear façade of the front (bedroom) wing of the house. The bathroom windows are evident. Catherine Whitlam in the foreground.**

Source: Catherine Whitlam

	<p><b>Figure 18: The northern façade of the rear (living room) wing of the house. Catherine Whitlam in the foreground.</b> Source: Catherine Whitlam</p>
	<p><b>Figure 19: The north-eastern corner of the rear (living) wing of the house. Photograph taken 1969. Stephen Whitlam on the bench.</b> Source: Catherine Whitlam</p>
	<p><b>Figure 20: Gough and Margaret Whitlam relaxing on the patio. The lawn, trees, and garden beds of the backyard can be seen behind. (The slope of the ground is less than that in the photograph. The camera may have been held at an angle.)</b> Source: Catherine Whitlam</p>





**Figure 21: Margaret Whitlam sitting at the built in phone table opposite the front door. The hall to the living room can be seen behind her. The door to the kitchen is on the right side of the hall below the steps.**

Source: Catherine Whitlam



**Figure 22: Margaret Whitlam relaxing in the living room. The windows behind her face onto the backyard.**

Source: Catherine Whitlam



**Figure 23: The living room. The built in bookcase and cupboards on the wall separating the living room and dining room can be seen in the background. The radio is set on the bench. The corner of the brick surround of the fireplace is evident.**

**Catherine and Stephen Whitlam in the foreground.**

Source: Catherine Whitlam



**Figure 24: The living room fireplace. Catherine Whitlam in the foreground.**  
Source: Catherine Whitlam



**Figure 25: The kitchen. The windows look towards the street. Catherine Whitlam in the foreground.**  
Source: Catherine Whitlam



**Figure 26: Stephen Whitlam's bedroom. The window, with its Luxaflex blinds, looks towards the street.**  
Source: Stephen Whitlam

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When Whitlam was in Sydney he always stayed in the family home,<sup>12</sup> and he enjoyed sunbaking on the patio.<sup>13</sup> Nicholas Whitlam recalls that his father would work on the large dining room table, a matter of some controversy and occasional dispute.<sup>14</sup> Stephen Whitlam's bedroom became Whitlam's study after the older boys left home and Stephen Whitlam moved into their bedroom,<sup>15</sup> although Gough Whitlam preferred to work where he had more space and so didn't often use the study.<sup>16</sup> At other times, if the weather was fine, Whitlam might work on the patio.<sup>17</sup>

Gough and Margaret Whitlam were very active in the local community, *The Biz* reporting on 19 November 1958 that "Mr and Mrs Whitlam are well-known throughout the electorate because of their constant attendance at the many functions to which they are asked and the speeches they are called on to make are much appreciated".

The Whitlam home was visited by Labor Party members and supporters would come to the home for party fundraisers,<sup>18</sup> for instance when they hosted Dr and Mrs Evatt, and several other leading parliamentarians, civic leaders and officials of the Australian Labour Party at their home prior to the Cabravale ALP ball in 1958.<sup>19</sup>

The establishment of the Whitlam family home at Cabramatta was at a time when the Fairfield district was experiencing a major period of growth following the Second World War as land was readily available for new housing and large scale migration programs filled hostels constructed in the area and Housing Commission homes.<sup>20</sup> In 1961 70% of the population of the area were not born in Australia, and of these 87% were not from the United Kingdom or Ireland.<sup>21</sup> Whitlam notes in his "Introduction" to *Fairfield A History of the District* that:

*For most of the period that I had the privilege of being the Federal member, my family and I lived in the Municipality. Our engagement books show an immense number of civic sporting and ethnic functions, most of them marking new activities in various groups of the population and district."*

Not only did Gough and Margaret Whitlam go out into the community, but the community came to them. Susan Mitchell, quoting from Stephen Whitlam's memoir, states: *Constituents would line up by the low brick fence at the front of our Cabramatta home for their interview about family migration, pensions etc. The interviews were conducted in the living room, which is why we eventually installed a folding door between that room and the dining room to give us family members some privacy. As the electorate was strongly working class and with a large number of migrants (mainly Italians, Maltese, Greeks, Lebanese) the load was quite heavy. My father's well-known interest in many of the cultures of the migrants encouraged the numbers, but they usually did not come empty handed.*<sup>22</sup> Catherine Whitlam remembers

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<sup>12</sup> "This is where Gough and Margaret lived until he became Prime Minister. During the whole of that time.....if he was in Sydney, Gough slept at home in Cabramatta", *Gough Whitlam, remembered by his eldest son, Antony Whitlam*, QC, speech given at Gough Whitlam's State memorial service, Sydney Morning Herald, 5 November 2014

<sup>13</sup> "Caught on the wing" *The Canberra Times*, 1 November 1967 (An interview with Margaret Whitlam.)

<sup>14</sup> Nicholas Whitlam, personal conversation, 12 December 2019.

<sup>15</sup> Catherine Whitlam, personal conversation, 12 December 2019.

<sup>16</sup> Notes from Stephen Whitlam dated 11 December 2019.

<sup>17</sup> Notes from Stephen Whitlam dated 11 December 2019.

<sup>18</sup> Notes from Stephen Whitlam dated 11 December 2019.

<sup>19</sup> "CABRAMATTA DISTRICT NEWS" *The Biz*, 6 August 1958

<sup>20</sup> Vance George, *Fairfield A History of the District*, 1991, Chapter 12.

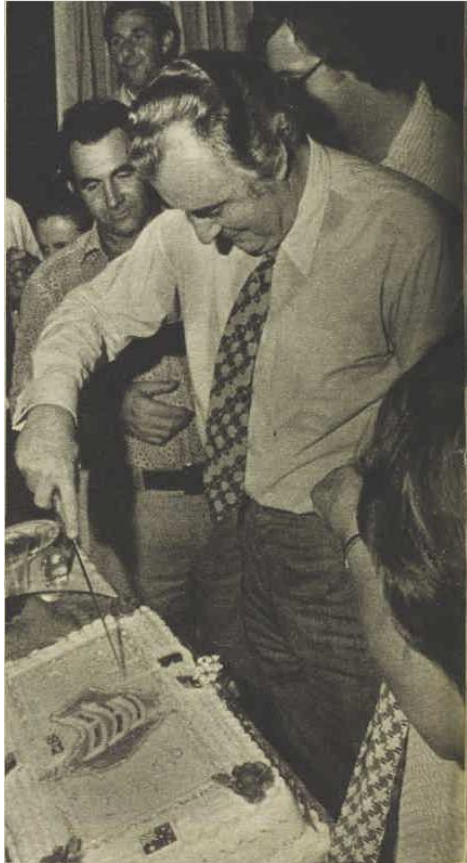
<sup>21</sup> Australian Census of 1961. Australian Bureau of Statistics.

<sup>22</sup> Susan Mitchell, *Margaret Whitlam: a biography*, 2006, p 153

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her mother helping people who came to the house when her father was away on Parliamentary matters.<sup>23</sup>

The Whitlam lead Labor Party successfully defeated the Liberals led by William McMahon in the 1972 general election. Whitlam was the first Labor Prime Minister since Ben Chifley in 1949. The celebration of the win was held at the family home in Cabramatta.



**Figure 27: “Mr Whitlam cutting the cake at the crowded election night party in his Cabramatta home.” The cake appears to be on the dining room table.**  
Source: "THE NEW PRIME MINISTER" *The Australian Women's Weekly*, 20 December 1972, p. 3.



**Figure 28: Whitlam and his supporters in the backyard after winning the 1972 election.**  
Source: Jenny Hocking, *Gough Whitlam: the biography*, Volume 2, 2014.

Gough and Margaret Whitlam moved to The Lodge in Canberra in 1972.

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<sup>23</sup> Personal conversation 12 December 2019.



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Whitlam sold the property in 1978 to Donald and Jill Hocking.<sup>24</sup>



**Figure 29: Gough and Margaret Whitlam visiting their former home in 2000.**

Source: Lovell Chen, *Ngara, 46 Rowland Street*, April 2015, p. 22.

### 2.3 Gough Whitlam, Prime Minister



**Figure 30: Gough Whitlam**

Source: Museum of Democracy  
<https://www.moadoph.gov.au>,  
accessed 7 December 2019

The following information is taken from the Museum of Australia website:

*Edward Gough Whitlam (commonly known by his middle name, Gough) was born in Kew, Melbourne, on 11 July 1916. He was the first of two children of Harry FE Whitlam and Martha Maddocks. Harry joined the Commonwealth Public Service in Melbourne, and rose to*

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<sup>24</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 7178 Fol. 32

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become the Commonwealth Crown Solicitor. The family moved to Sydney in 1918 and to Canberra in 1928.

Whitlam was educated at Mowbray House and Knox Grammar School in Sydney, then in Canberra at Telopea Park High School and Canberra Boys' Grammar School. He went on to the University of Sydney, from which he graduated in arts and law.

He married Margaret Dovey in 1942, and they had four children.

Whitlam enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in 1941, served as a navigator, and was discharged as a flight lieutenant in 1945. He was admitted to the New South Wales Bar in 1947 and practised as a barrister, being appointed Queen's Counsel in 1962.

Having joined the Australian Labor Party in 1945, Whitlam unsuccessfully contested the state seat of Sutherland in 1950.

Whitlam entered federal parliament in November 1952, winning the seat of Werriwa in a by-election. He was elected Deputy Leader of the federal parliamentary ALP in March 1960. He succeeded Arthur Calwell as leader in February 1967, which made him Leader of the Opposition.

As ALP deputy and leader, Whitlam played an important part in reviving the party's electoral fortune, through modernisation of the party platform so as to appeal to an emerging generation of better-educated voters. He helped the party throw off its image of being under Communist influence and control by party officials with no responsibility to parliament. He also won the ALP many supporters by persuading the party to accept government financial support of non-government schools.

In June 1971 Whitlam led an ALP delegation to China. Undertaken at a time when the Liberal-Country Party coalition government still refused to establish diplomatic relations with China, this demonstrated his statesmanlike qualities.

Whitlam became Prime Minister on 5 December 1972, following the ALP victory at the general election. Campaigning on the theme, 'It's Time' – that is, time for an ALP government after 23 years of Liberal-Country Party rule – the ALP promised electors an ambitious package of reforms.

These included an immediate end to Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War and an end to military conscription; diplomatic recognition of China; independence for Australia's territories of Papua New Guinea; free university education; a national health scheme; and a program of urban decentralisation through the creation of 'regional growth centres'.

Although the government led by Whitlam had a comfortable House of Representatives majority, it did not control the Senate. The Senate's threat to block the government's Budget in April 1974 prompted Whitlam to obtain a double dissolution of parliament, only the third time this had occurred since the foundation of the Commonwealth in 1901. The ALP retained government at the subsequent general election on 18 May 1974 but still lacked control of the Senate.

While in office, the Whitlam government implemented its huge program of reform. Among its many initiatives were:

- 1972: end of conscription.
- 1973: establishment of new Commonwealth agencies and functions, including departments of Aboriginal Affairs, Defence (amalgamation of Air, Army and Navy

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departments), Environment, Urban and Regional Development. Other innovations were Aboriginal Land Rights Commission; Adviser to the Government on Women's Affairs; Institute of Criminology; Law Reform Commission; Schools Commission; Social Welfare Commission.

- 1974: Aboriginal Land Fund Commission; Australian Legal Aid Office; National Employment and Training Scheme.
- 1975: Australian Heritage Commission; Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service; Australian Postal Commission; Australian Telecommunications Commission; Commissioner for Community Relations; Family Law Act (under which divorce law was reformed and the Family Court established in 1976); Medibank Health Scheme.

*With a great interest in international affairs, Whitlam travelled more widely than any previous Prime Minister or opposition leader. Among his many overseas tours he visited most nations of Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Pacific and North America.*

*Following a series of controversies involving ALP ministers and revelations of government attempts to obtain foreign loans through unconventional channels, the Liberal-National Country Party opposition refused to allow the government's budgetary legislation to pass the Senate in 1975 in the hope of forcing the government to an election. From October to November 1975, with the government's monetary supply effectively cut off, a grave constitutional crisis resulted.*

*The crisis climaxed on 11 November 1975, when the Governor-General, John Kerr, withdrew Whitlam's commission as Prime Minister, commissioned the Liberal leader Malcolm Fraser to form an interim government until a general election could be held, and dissolved the parliament. Whitlam thus became the only prime minister in Australian history to have been removed from office while commanding the confidence of the lower house.*

*After perhaps the most bitter and divisive election campaign in Australian history, Malcolm Fraser's Liberal-National Country Party coalition routed the ALP at a general election on 13 December 1975, winning 56 per cent of the overall vote, 91 of the 127 House of Representatives seats, and 35 of the 64 Senate seats.*

*This resounding victory gave the coalition a record majority in the House of Representatives, and a six-seat majority in the Senate.*

*After the ALP was defeated at the 1977 general election, Whitlam quit the party leadership and was succeeded by WG Hayden. He resigned from parliament in July 1978.<sup>25</sup>*

Whitlam's long association with Cabramatta has been recognised by the naming of a public space in Dutton Lane, Cabramatta "Gough Whitlam Place" and by naming Fairfield City Council's main library at Cabramatta the "Whitlam Library". Cabramatta State MP Nick Lalich also acknowledged the impact of the Cabramatta area on Whitlam: "Raising his family on Albert St, Cabramatta, Gough developed a deep love for the people of this area — they motivated him to transform Australia into a land of progress, opportunity, equality and fairness."<sup>26</sup> Whitlam notes in his Introduction to *Fairfield A History of the District* that:

*My experience (as Member for Werriwa and living in Cabramatta) drove me to develop urban and regional programmes in which the Federal Government, State Government and Local Government could co-operate. My government was the first federal Government to*

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<sup>25</sup> "Gough Whitlam", National Museum of Australia website, <https://www.nma.gov.au/explore/features/prime-ministers/gough-whitlam>

<sup>26</sup> Fairfield Advance, Daily Telegraph, 21 October 2014

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*make financial assistance available directly to Local Government bodies. Apart from general purpose grants which my government made to Fairfield Council between 1972 and 1975, it grant \$3 million for specific purposes, such as drainage, bridges, parks and the Library. It was at this time that action was taken to ensure that the interests of rapidly growing areas were given adequate weight in Parliament.*

The following information from the Whitlam Institute (located at the University of Western Sydney) illustrates how policies of the Whitlam government improved the lives of those living in western Sydney:

*The rapid expansion of suburbs in Australia's cities in the 1950s and 1960s was not met with adequate provision of basic services and infrastructure. Many suburbs were not even properly connected to sewer lines.*

*The Whitlam Government implemented the National Sewerage Program soon after it came to power. The government spent \$330 million on the program before it was cancelled by the Fraser Government. The program achieved significant improvements. In Sydney for instance, the backlog of unsewered properties fell from 158,884 in 1973 to 95,505 in 1978.<sup>200</sup>*

*The government's Area Improvement Program provided funding to local and state government bodies to construct or improve infrastructure and facilities in suburban areas – particularly the rapidly growing western regions of Sydney and Melbourne. Parks, bridges, libraries and community centres were built, extended and enhanced through this program.*

*The quality of life in suburban areas was also improved through the Urban Local Roads program, which sought to alleviate the impact of cars on suburban neighbourhoods, and to improve the quality of the streetscape in these areas. Through this program, a number of local streets were pedestrianised, calmed and protected from fast through-traffic to be made safer for local residents.*

*One reason for lack of adequate services and infrastructure in Australian suburbs at this time was the poor funding of local government organisations. The Whitlam Government sought to resolve this. The Whitlam Government introduced legislation giving local government organisations access to federal funds for the first time through the Commonwealth Grants Commission. Under this arrangement, local government organisations could receive a new source of revenue from the Commonwealth. Money was to be allocated according to the needs of each area, so under this arrangement, the rapidly growing suburbs of Western Sydney received more funding than any other region in Australia.<sup>27</sup>*

Whitlam also acknowledged that Australian society had changed as a result of post-War migration from places other than Britain. Multiculturalism was first presented as the basis for migrant settlement, welfare and social-cultural policy in Australia in a 1973 speech entitled *A Multi-Cultural Society for the Future*, delivered by the Whitlam government Minister for Immigration. This was the first time the term 'multi-cultural society' was used in an official Australian Government policy statement. Government and other services established under multicultural policies have played a significant role in facilitating the settlement of immigrants, and many elements of the service infrastructure have endured despite the controversy surrounding the concept.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Whitlam Institute

<https://www.whitlam.org/whitlam-legacy-cities-and-suburbs#Connection-of-Suburban-Homes-to-Sewerage>

<sup>28</sup> Elsa Koleth, *Multiculturalism: a review of Australian policy statements and recent debates in Australia and overseas*, Research Paper no. 6 2010-11, Parliament of Australia website, 8 October 2010,



## 2.4 Roy Appleton, Architect

Roy H. D. Appleton became an Associate member of the NSW Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects c. 1944. His address noted at that time was 52 Abbotsford Road, Homebush.<sup>29</sup> Appleton is noted in 1945 as resuming practice.<sup>30</sup> Appleton appears to have worked as an architect for the Metropolitan Sewerage and Drainage Board.<sup>31</sup> Appleton may have had an office in Cronulla when he was engaged to design the Whitlam family home in Cabramatta, or may have worked from home on private commissions.<sup>32 33</sup>

It is not known how Roy Appleton was chosen as the architect for the new Whitlam family home in Cabramatta. Appleton is noted as being responsible for the construction of the South Cronulla Bowling Club, of which he was vice president.<sup>34</sup> The club is a five minute walk from the Whitlam family home in Wangi Avenue, Cronulla, and Gough and Margaret Whitlam may have admired the building. Appleton may also have lived near the Whitlam family home in Cronulla or caught the train into the city with Gough Whitlam on the morning commute into the city.<sup>35</sup>

The club building uses the same light coloured bricks as the Whitlam house in Cabramatta, has a flat roof, large areas of glazing, and stacked banks of three windows.



**Figure 31: South Cronulla Bowling Club**

Source: Google Street view



**Figure 32: South Cronulla Bowling Club**

Source:

<http://www.southcronullabowling.com.au/barefoot-bowls/>

[https://www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Parliamentary\\_Departments/Parliamentary\\_Library/pubs/rp/rp1011/11rp06](https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/rp1011/11rp06) accessed 14 December 2019.

<sup>29</sup> Chapter Bulletin of the NSW Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, Vo. 1, No. 1, December 1944, p.4.

<sup>30</sup> Chapter Bulletin of the NSW Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, Vo. 2, No. 4, April 1945, p.5.

<sup>31</sup> Nicholas Whitlam, personal conversation 12 December 2019. Also, a fine coloured perspective of the proposed Maritime Services Board building was drawn and painted by Appleton indicating that he worked for the State government.

<sup>32</sup> Further research is needed on Appleton.

<sup>33</sup> The National Archives of Australia has the war record of a Roy Higson Dell Appleton who may be the architect of the Whitlam's house.

<sup>34</sup> The St George Call, 22 March 1956.

<sup>35</sup> Nicholas Whitlam, personal conversation 12 December 2019, recalls that Appleton may have been a neighbour. A search of newspapers of the 1950s (using Trove) brings up an R. Appleton involved in a number of sporting events in Cronulla.

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### 3.0 DESCRIPTION

The single storey house is designed in the 'Post War International' style with a simplicity of form and detail, a horizontal emphasis and a lack of ornamentation.<sup>36</sup> The house is comprised of simple rectangular forms and motifs. The roof is flat (low pitched) with minimal, or no, eaves overhangs. The narrow edge of the roof is delineated by a timber fascia. The walls are light coloured face brick. The main façade of the house, facing Albert Street, features a long glazed wall above a band of lightweight cladding. The glazed wall has alternating panels of large panes of timber framed fixed glass and sets of timber framed awning windows (three windows set one above the other). This front wall, which is terminated at either end by face brick walls, has a low base of face brickwork. The main entry to the house is set at the side, behind the front rectangular volume. The solidity of the face brick walls provides a pleasing contrast to the lightweight walls.

The modernist aesthetic of the design is clearly evident in the clean lines of the house, the cubiform shapes of the house, the strong horizontal roof plane, the large areas of glass, the crispness of the detailing, the lack of applied decorative detail, the open plan of the house, the split level (albeit modest), the light sandy coloured brickwork, white timber window frames, and its planning. The living areas are located in the rear wing which features a wall of windows on its east and north facades that look to the back garden. The bedroom wing is located at the front facing Albert Street. The house is efficiently designed without wasted space.

The original front fence was a low face brick fence and the driveway had a lawn insert created by a short length of wheel strips. A set of stepping stones started near the front boundary at the driveway and increased in width as they got closer to the front door.

The living room of the house opened onto a concrete patio that stretched to the garden bed along the northern boundary.

A carport (not original) is located on the southern side of the house in the location of the original carport. A face brick wall is located along the southern side of the carport near the property boundary.

The front fence (not original) has a low brick base capped by a header course, regularly spaced brick piers that extend to a height of about 1.8 metres, and decorative steel railings set between the piers.

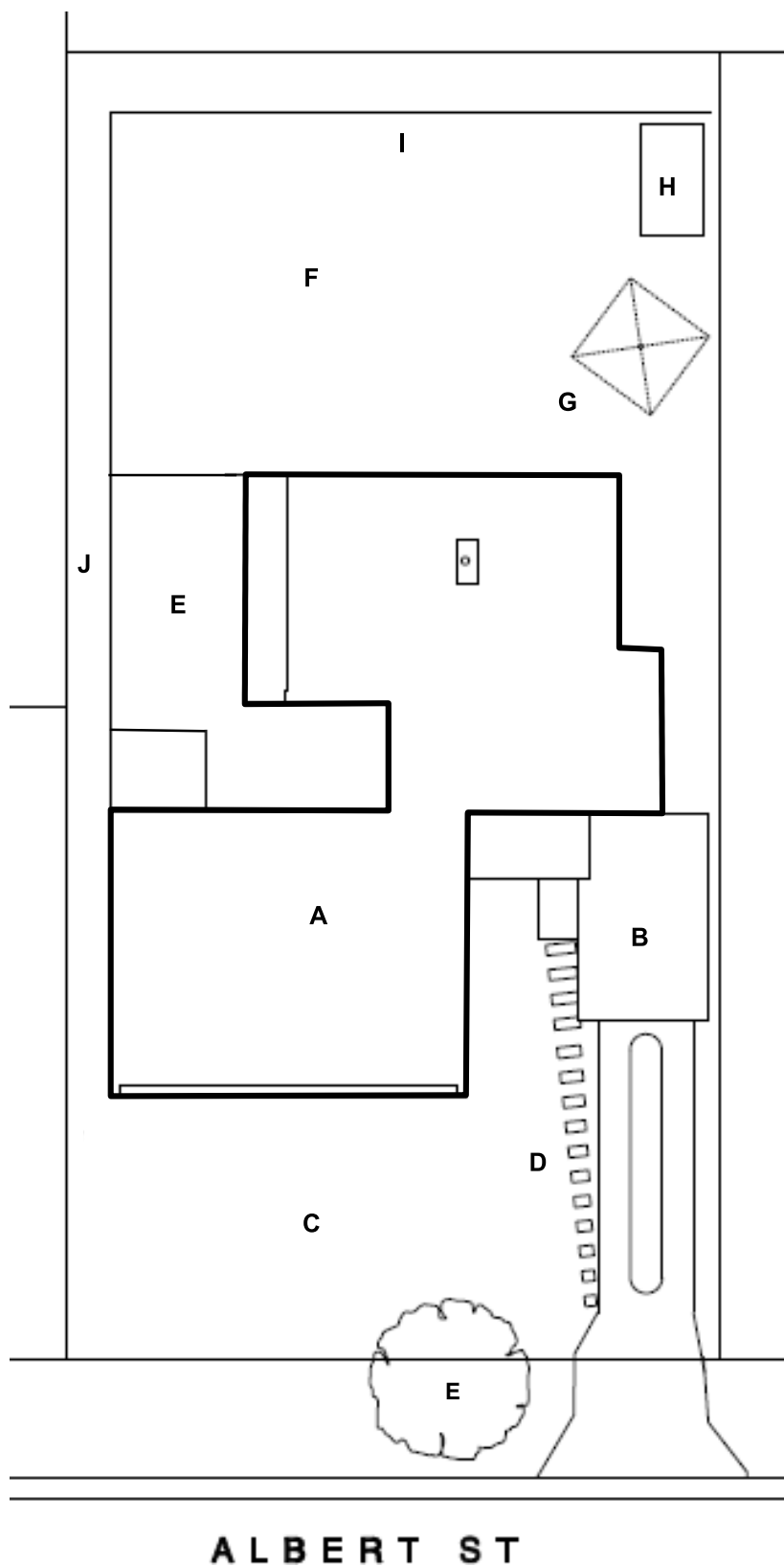
Both the front and back gardens currently appear to be used as storage for cars, building material, etc. The garden is untended.

The site plan and house plan drawn below are based on counting bricks and measurements made from neighbouring properties, and information from Catherine, Nicholas, and Stephen Whitlam. The interior of the house plan has not been able to be viewed. As a result there are likely to be errors.<sup>37</sup> However the drawings provide a good understanding of the design of the Whitlam family home.

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<sup>36</sup> See – Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture*, Angus and Robertson, 1989, pp 214-217.

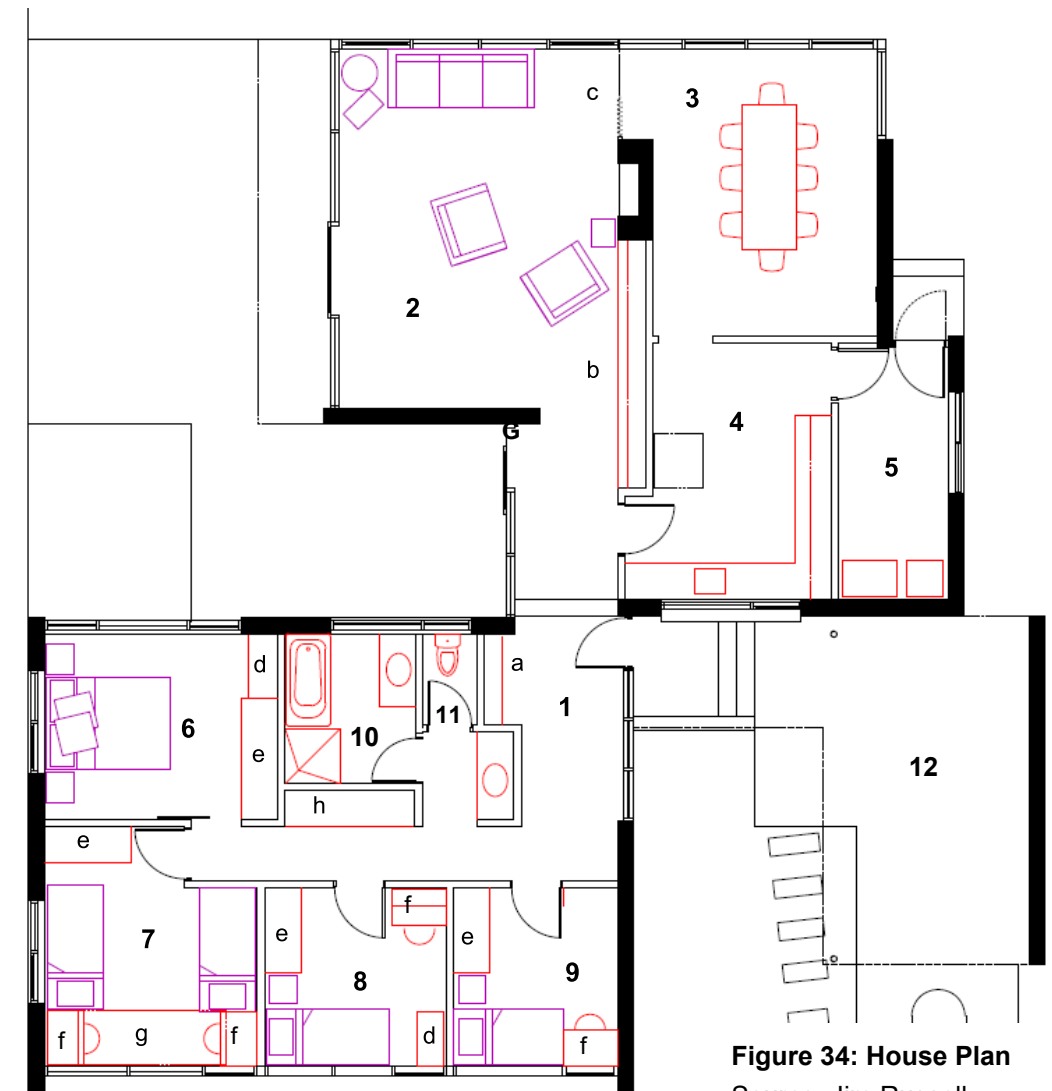
<sup>37</sup> For instance the bathroom appears to be slightly not wide enough.



- A** House
- B** Carport
- C** Front garden
- D** Stepping stones to the front porch
- E** Patio
- F** Lawn in the back garden
- G** Clothes line – Hills Hoist
- H** Septic tank (underground)
- I** Netball hoop
- J** Garden bed along the boundary



**Figure 33: Site Plan**  
Source: Jim Russell



**Figure 34: House Plan**

Source: Jim Russell.

Annotations by author.

1	Entry. The built in phone table (a) is located opposite the front door.	7	The older boys' bedroom. When they left home this became Stephen's bedroom. During Stephen's occupation a pull-up desk (g) was inserted between the two smaller desks (f) of the older boys. The beds were especially made to be 2.1 metres long.
2	The living room. The brick fireplace is located at the southern end of the living room. Built-in bench height cupboards with book shelves over (b) extend from the fireplace into the hall.	8	Catherine Whitlam's bedroom. The desk (f) had a bookshelf over.
3	The dining room. The concertina door (c) that was added later to provide some privacy for the family when constituents were meeting with Whitlam in the living room.	9	Stephen Whitlam's bedroom. This became Gough Whitlam's study after Stephen moved into the older boys' bedroom. However Gough found the desk was too small and so did not often use the room as a study.
4	Kitchen	10	Bathroom. A linen closet (h) in the hall.
5	Laundry	11	WC
6	Gough and Margaret Whitlam's bedroom. A 2.1 metre long bed was made especially. The dresser is shown as d and the wardrobe as e.	12	Carport





**Figure 35: The front of the house in 2014.**

Source: "Cabramatta and Fairfield community in mourning after the death of former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam at 98", *Daily Telegraph*, 21 October 2014



**Figure 36: Aerial view of the site. The site is outlined in red.**

Source: SIX Maps, accessed 6 December 2019. Annotation by author.





**Figure 37: The front façade from the street. The house appears to be unoccupied.**



**Figure 38: The front (western) façade of the bedroom wing. A set of awning windows was provided to each bedroom. The bedroom of the older boys occupied the first three bays. Catherine's bedroom occupied the next three bays, and Stephen's bedroom the last two bays. The original vertical boarding has been covered by lightweight sheeting.**





**Figure 39: The front (western) façade of the bedroom wing. The wall is set back slightly from the leading edge of the brick walls.**



**Figure 40: The side (northern) façade of the bedroom wing. The highlight window on the left is to Gough and Margaret Whitlam's bedroom. The highlight window on the right lights the older boys' bedroom. (Looking from the neighbour's backyard.)**

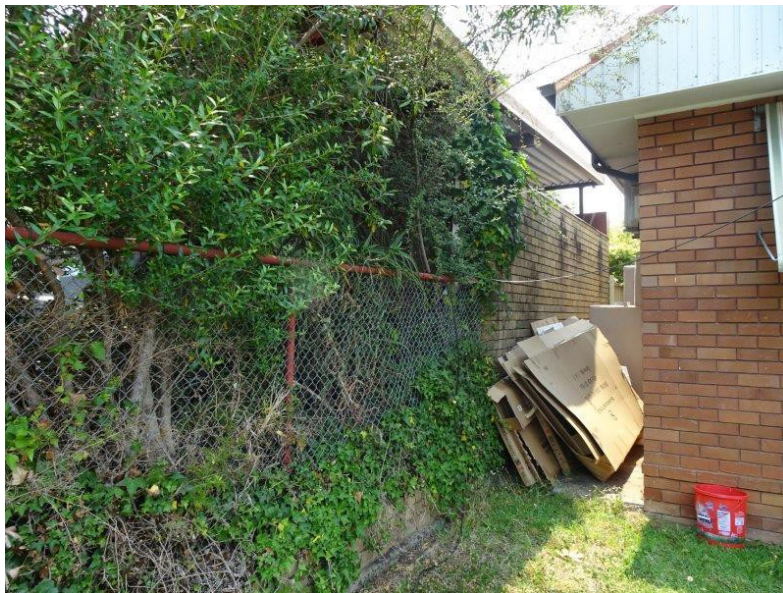


**Figure 41: The side (southern) façade of the living wing. The set of windows on the right are to the dining room. The house steps out to accommodate the laundry which has a door to the backyard and clothesline. (Looking from the neighbour's backyard.)**





**Figure 42: The side (southern) façade of the living wing showing the southern wall of the laundry. (Looking from the neighbour's backyard.)**



**Figure 43: The side (southern) façade of the carport showing the masonry wall set on the boundary along its southern side. (Looking from the neighbour's front garden.)**



**Figure 44: The side (southern) façade of the bedroom wing. The present day carport is not original.**





**Figure 45: The roof of the bedroom wing. (Looking from the neighbour's roof.)**



**Figure 46: The front edge of the roof of the bedroom wing. The cover over the former canvas blinds that shaded the windows of the front façade remains insitu. The brackets also remain. (Looking from the neighbour's roof.)**



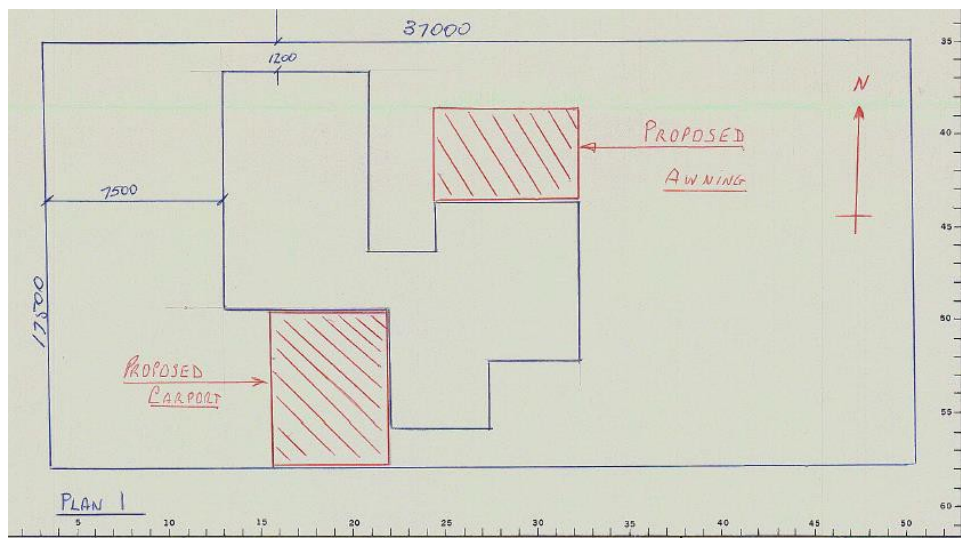
**Figure 47: The roof of the living wing. The fireplace chimney is evident. (Looking from the neighbour's roof.)**

## 4.0 CONDITION AND INTEGRITY

The original form and fabric of the house appear to remain largely intact, although the house is in need of immediate repairs and maintenance. The face brickwork remains as do the original windows.

Some minor modifications to the original house occurred after the property was transferred to Peter and Adele Saunders in 1980.<sup>38</sup> The Saunders made modifications to the house c.1980. At this time the original carport was demolished and a new carport constructed, and a patio awning added to the rear.<sup>39</sup>

A swimming pool has been built in the backyard near the northern boundary.



**Figure 48: Plan showing the location of the new carport at the front and awning roof at the rear.**

Source: Fairfield City Council Building application file for BA2730/80.

Other changes include the below.

- The painted vertical boarding of the front façade has been covered with asbestos or fibre cement sheeting.
- The original white (light coloured) timberwork has been painted brown.
- The blue blinds installed by Margaret Whitlam to shade the western facing windows have been removed although the brackets and hood remain in place.
- The concrete driveway has been replaced with (or covered by) brick paving.
- The original front fence has also been altered by the introduction of a header course, brick piers and a railing. Or this could be an entirely new fence built after demolition of the original front wall. (Further investigation needed eg scrapping off the paint to see the colour of the bricks.)
- The original garden/planting scheme appears to have been lost. It is not clear if the Lorraine Lee climbing rose remains near the front door.

The backyard is overgrown. The grape vine present when the house was occupied by the Whitlam family has run rampant and escaped the yard. There are now several fruit trees (heavy with fruit in December 2019) in the backyard.

<sup>38</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 7178 Fol. 32

<sup>39</sup> BA2730/80 – Additions to the value of \$2,824. Builder – Wells National, North Parramatta.

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The house currently appears to be unoccupied.<sup>40</sup>

## 5.0 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

### 5.1 Houses lived in by Gough Whitlam

The purpose of this comparative analysis is to understand the importance of the Cabramatta home to Gough Whitlam compared with the other homes he occupied.

1916 - 1921	46 Rowland Street, Kew (Melbourne) <sup>41</sup>	Childhood home	Demolished
1921 – 1927	Mosman and 1456 Pacific Highway, Turramurra <sup>42</sup>	Childhood homes	Mosman – unknown. Turramurra - demolished
1927 – 1934	2 Barkly Crescent, Forrest (the suburb then known as Blandfordia)	Childhood home	Appears to be extant
1947 – 1957	3 Wangi Crescent, Cronulla <sup>43</sup>	Family home	Essentially demolished/rebuilt
1957 – 1972	32 Albert Street, Cabramatta	Family home	Extant
1972 - 1975	The Lodge, Canberra	Prime Minister's residence	Extant
1975-2008	8 Marathon Avenue, Darling Point	Family home (no children at home)	Extant

The construction of the family home at Cabramatta, where he lived until he became Prime Minister in 1972, was a direct result of his political ambitions. Whitlam needed a home in the newly redistributed, and won, seat of Werriwa.

The house in Cabramatta is important as the only extant family home during the period of Whitlam's political activity that led to him becoming Prime Minister of Australia.

Living with his family in the Cronulla and Cabramatta at a time of rapid suburbanisation helped shaped Whitlam's view on the needs of the newly developing suburbs, including those of Western Sydney.

Living in an area with a growing population of recent migrants may also have influenced his views on the needs of migrants and the vision of Australia as a multi-cultural society.

### 5.2 Houses lived in by other Prime Ministers

A comparative analysis has been undertaken of houses lived in by Prime Ministers who had electorates in NSW in order to understand the rarity of extant houses.

Edmund Barton	1901-1903	"Whitehall", 37 White Street, Balgowlah (1888-1891)	Manly LEP2013  Demolished
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<sup>40</sup> Personal conversation with the neighbour at 34 Albert Street. Also the gates are chained closed.

<sup>41</sup> *Australia's Prime Ministers*, National Archives of Australia website, <http://primeministers.naa.gov.au>

<sup>42</sup> *Australia's Prime Ministers*, National Archives of Australia website, <http://primeministers.naa.gov.au>

<sup>43</sup> *Australia's Prime Ministers*, National Archives of Australia website, <http://primeministers.naa.gov.au>



		"Mandietta", 67 Carabella Street, Kirribilli (1897-1906) <sup>44</sup>	
Chris Watson	4 months in 1904		
George Reid	1904-1905	"Mount Royal" (1903-1904)	Strathfield LEP
Joseph Cook	1913-1914		
William (Billy) Hughes	1915-1923	1906-1915 "Kermadec" Lane Cove	Lane Cove LEP 2009
Earle Page	19 days		
Ben Chifley	1945-1949	1914-1951 10 Busby Street, Bathurst (family home) Built 1880s – Victorian Italianate	SHR Bathurst Regional LEP2014
William McMahon	1971-1972	18 Drumalbyn Road, Bellevue Hill (family home 1968 – 1988)	Not listed
Gough Whitlam	1972-1975	<i>See detailed list below</i>	
Paul Keating	1991-1996	Bankstown (childhood home)  12 Gerard Avenue, Condell Park (family home 1975-1983)	Demolished  Not listed
John Howard	1996-2007	Earlwood (childhood home)  19 Milner Crescent, Wollstonecraft (family home) Federation style house	Demolished  Not listed

Other prime ministers homes that are heritage listed outside NSW (not a comprehensive list).

John Curtin	1941-1945	24 Jarrad Street, Cottesloe, Western Australia (family home) Constructed 1923 1923-1945	Western Australian State Register of Heritage Places  Town of Cottesloe Local Planning Scheme No. 3 – Heritage List
Joe Lyons	1932-1939	"Home Hill", 77 Middle Road, Mandetta (Devonport) (family home)	Tasmanian Heritage Register
Malcom Fraser	1975-1983	"Nareen"	Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Overlay <sup>45</sup>
Bob Hawke	1983-1991	Hawke House, 63 Farquar Street, Bordertown (Birthplace) Built 1885	Heritage place listed in the table of Local Heritage Places in Tatiara Council Development Plan

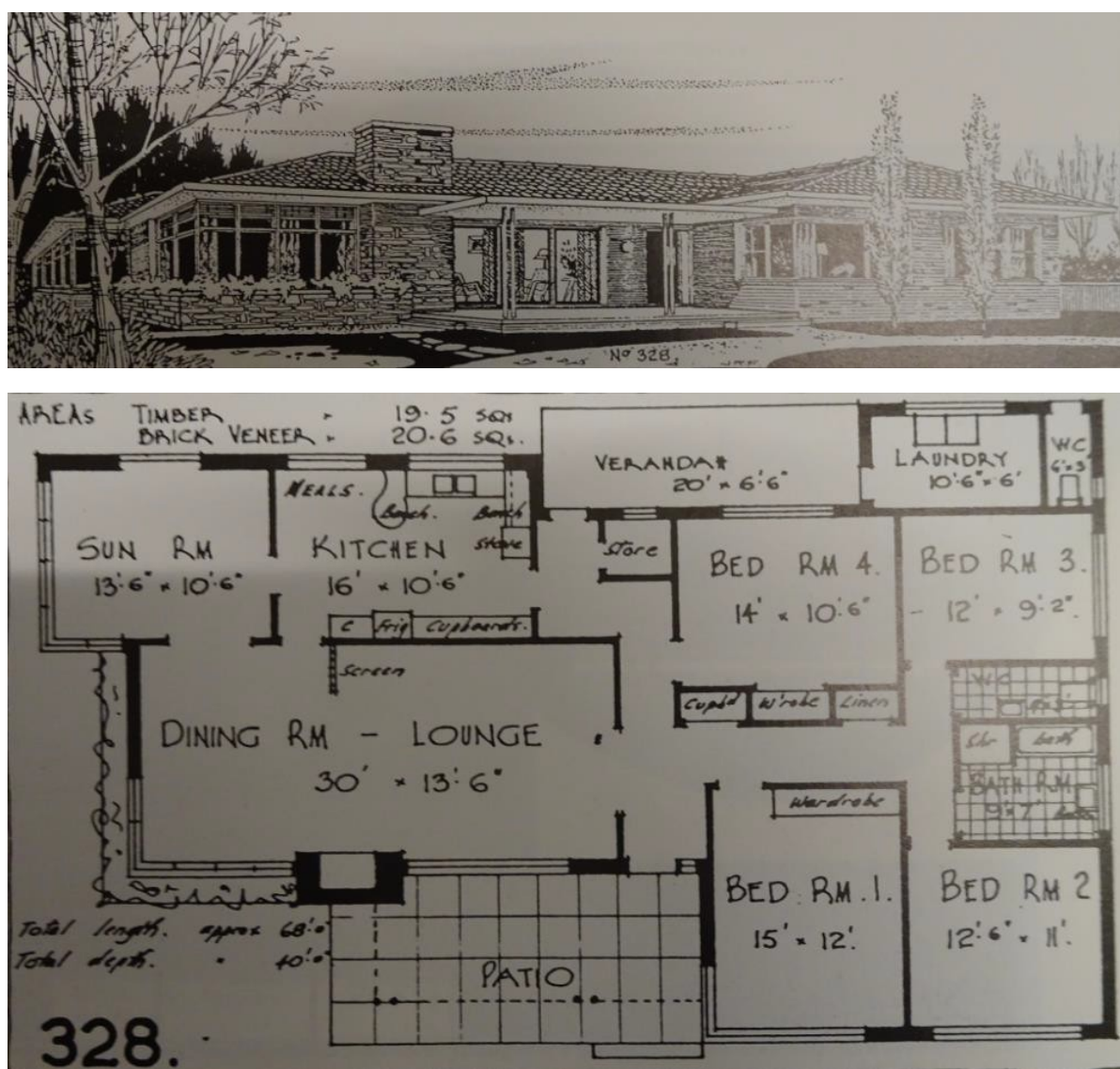
<sup>44</sup> Advice from Andrew Beveridge, student planner, North Sydney Council and Martine Craswell, Heritage Advisor.

<sup>45</sup> Lovell Chen, "Ngara", 46 Rowland Street, Kew, April 2015, p. 25

The Whitlam house at Cabramatta appears to be a rare family home lived in by a Prime Minister during their period of influence as a politician as well as during their politically formative years. As with the Curtin home in Cottesloe, constituents were welcomed to the home, and like the Chifley home, the building illustrates personal qualities of the Prime Minister, in Whitlam's case, a willingness to accept new ideas and the courage to put them into practice. Whitlam's Cabramatta house is very different to the conservative style of the homes of William McMahon, Paul Keating and John Howard.<sup>46</sup>

### 5.3 Houses of the 1950s

Suburban houses of the 1950s in Sydney were for the most part conservative, with hipped tiled roofs and brick or lightweight walls, although windows were bigger than seen in typical houses of the Inter-War years. The planning of the house usually had the living room at the front facing the street and service rooms such as the laundry and kitchen at the rear facing the backyard. A conventional home design can be seen in the 1957 design below.



**Figure 48: Elevation and plan of *Australian Womens Weekly* house design no. 328.**

Source: *Houses of the Forties & Fifties*, Peter Cuffley, p 45.

<sup>46</sup> A more comprehensive analysis of the homes of Australian Prime Ministers can be found in, "Ngara", 46 Rowland Street, Kew, April 2015 by Lovell Chen

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However, some architects, responding to new architectural influences, produced less conventional houses.



**Figure 49: Sydney Ancher House at St Ives, built 1957.**

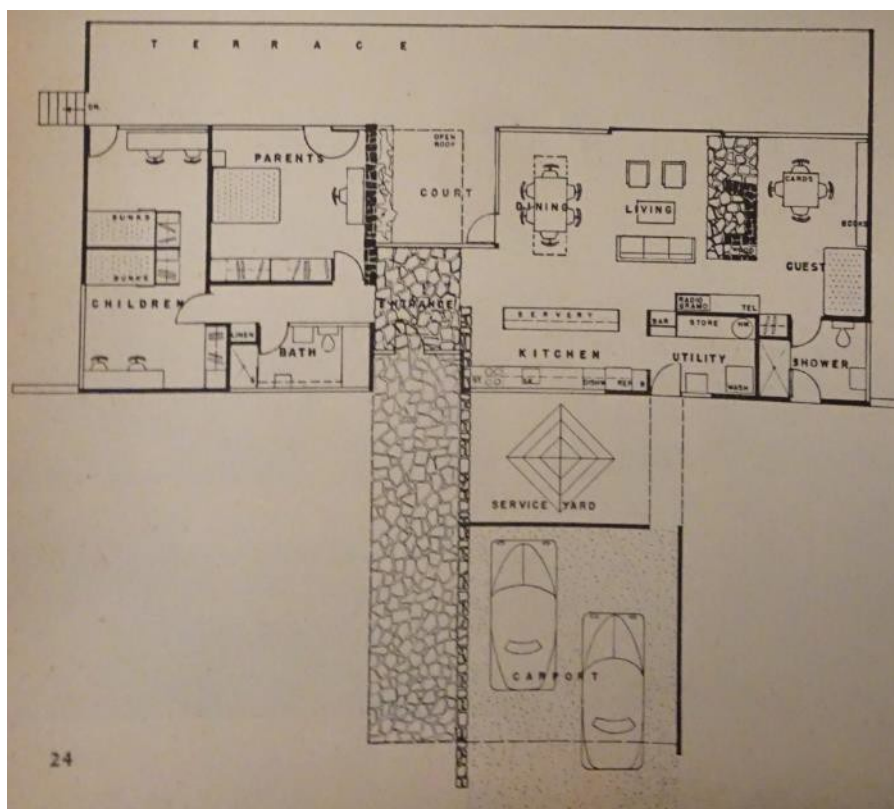
Source: *Homes for Today. Plans and interiors for modern living, featuring the combined ideas of the country's leading architects and interior designers*, Kenneth McDonald.



**Figure: Badham House, 95 Doland Road, Burraneer, Bryce Mortlock. The house won the Sulman Medal in 1959. It has the same rectilinear forms, clean lines, large areas of glazing and light coloured bricks as the Whitlam house. The vertical timber cladding of the Whitlam house was originally a similarly dark colour as the timber work on the Badham House.**

Source: *Best Australian Houses*, ed. Neil Clerhan, 1961





**Figure 50: Whale Beach house designed by Harry Seidler (prior to 1957). The house plan has a living wing and a bedroom wing separated by a passage and small courtyard.**

Source: *Homes for Today. Plans and interiors for modern living, featuring the combined ideas of the country's leading architects and interior designers*, Kenneth McDonald, p. 24

The Whitlam house, like the houses of leading architects of Sydney on the 1950s, is clearly influenced by the modern movement in architecture rather than the conservative approach taken to the design of the majority of houses in suburban Sydney.

Houses designed in the Post War International style are rare in Fairfield City Council Local Government Area. Between 1948 and 1960 there is only one mention of a modern house in Fairfield in *Australian House and Garden*, the Paton home at Fairfield designed by P. Swan.<sup>47</sup> There appear to be no houses built in in Fairfield LGA in the 1950s which are listed in the Australian Institute of Architects Register of Significant Buildings.

## 6.0 ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

### 6.1 Cultural Significance

Cultural significance is synonymous with 'heritage significance'. It is the terminology used by *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Places of Cultural Significance 2013* (ICOMOS Burra Charter) which defines cultural significance as the aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual values of a place for past, present or future generations.

Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects.

<sup>47</sup> "A Christmas Crop of Ideas", *Australian House and Garden*, December 1955, p. 18

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The assessment of heritage significance relies on an understanding and analysis of documentary and physical evidence of the place.

## **6.2 Assessment Methodology**

The NSW Heritage Office established guidelines in 2001 for the assessment of cultural significance of places and for the statement of significance for heritage places. The guidelines incorporate the five types of cultural heritage values identified in the ICOMOS Burra Charter into a specifically structured framework which is currently accepted as the required format by heritage authorities in New South Wales.

The guidelines are set out in the NSW Heritage Branch publication, *Assessing Heritage Significance*, which proposes seven criteria for the assessment of heritage significance. The seven detailed assessment criteria are:

- Criterion (a) An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (b) An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (c) An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).
- Criterion (d) An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
- Criterion (e) An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (f) An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).
- Criterion (g) An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments).

## **6.3 Assessment**

*Criterion (a) An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

The allotment of the Whitlam House, Lot 11 DP 26969, was part of a residential subdivision created on the site of a former vineyard. The creation of the allotment c.1956, and the construction of the house in 1957, demonstrate the rapid suburbanisation of parts of western Sydney resulting from pent up demand and rapid population growth following the Second World War.

The house and its relationship to the allotment demonstrate the influence of modernism on the design of Australian homes and gardens.

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The site illustrates a time when politicians were very accessible to their communities, the original low front fence and open driveway being no impediment to people who wished to speak with Gough Whitlam.

Based on available information, this criterion is satisfied at a local level, although further research may find that it is rare at a State level for its ability to demonstrate the availability to his constituents of a politician who went on to become Prime Minister.

*Criterion (b) An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

The Whitlam house is of State significance as the former family home of Australia's 21<sup>st</sup> Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam. The Whitlam Government, the first Labor government since Ben Chifley ceased being Prime Minister in 1949, brought in a vast range of reforms to Australia's laws and institutions.

The property demonstrates Whitlam's political ambitions, the land being purchased and the house constructed in order to accommodate his family after redistribution of the Federal seat of Werriwa. The site is associated with Whitlam's political as well as personal life - he worked from home, hosted political functions at his home, celebrated election victories there, and invited constituents into the living room to discuss matters that were concerning them.

Whitlam lived with his family at 32 Albert Street prior to becoming Prime Minister and his experience of living in Cabramatta helped shaped his views about the nature of cities and the services they need, and of a multi-cultural Australia.

The modernist design of the house demonstrates Whitlam's embrace of new ideas and the site informs our understanding of Whitlam's private life.

Based on available information, this criterion is satisfied at both a State and local level.

*Criterion (c) An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).*

The house at 32 Albert Street, Cabramatta, was designed and constructed between 1956 and 1957 in the Post War International style. The house has two connected wings, the bedroom wing is located at the front of the allotment facing Albert Street, and the rear wing, encompassing the living areas, looks onto the back garden. The modernist aesthetic of the design is clearly evident in the plan arrangement, the clean lines of the house, the cubiform shapes of the house, the strong horizontal roof plane, the large areas of glass, the crispness of the detailing, the lack of applied decorative detail, the open plan of the house, the split level (albeit modest), the light sandy coloured brickwork, and white timber window frames.

The house has been well designed to accommodate the needs of the Whitlam family without wasted space.

Based on available information, the house and its garden setting are significant at a local level.

*Criterion (d) An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.*



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Evidence has not been found that any present-day community group has a special association with the house or that there has been any regular or long term engagement with the place by any community groups.

This criterion is not satisfied.

However, this aspect of significance may change if there was a greater awareness of the site as Whitlam is a very prominent figure in Australian history and politics, and is remembered and held in high esteem by many.

*Criterion (e) An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

The site has not been accessed nor the interior of the house visited. The house has research potential including - the design of the house, the construction methodology of the house, the occupation by the Whitlam family, the influence of living in the newly forming suburbs on the Whitlam government's policies, the influence of coming into contact with migrants making their way in a new country on his government's policies, the work of the house's architect Roy Appleton, a comparison with the homes of other Prime Ministers, his involvement in the Fairfield LGA, and the rarity of modernist houses in the Fairfield City Council local government area.

Based on available information this criterion is satisfied at both a State and local level.

*Criterion (f) An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).*

The house is a rare example at State level of the former family home of a Prime Minister who had a significant impact on Australian life and of a Prime Minister who welcomed constituents into his family home who turned up at the front door.

The house is significant at a State level as a rare example of the family home of a Prime Minister who lived in Sydney's western suburbs during the formative years of his political career.

The house is of local significance for its rarity as an example of Post War International style house in Fairfield Local Government Area.

Based on available information, this criterion is satisfied at both a State and local level.

*Criterion (g) An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments).*

The house is of local significance as, while in need of repairs and maintenance, it nevertheless is a good example of modern architectural design of the 1950s.

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#### **6.4 Statement of Significance**

The Whitlam family home at 32 Albert Street, Cabramatta, is of State and local significance as the former family home of Australia's 21<sup>st</sup> Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam. The Whitlam Government enacted a vast range of reforms to Australia's laws and institutions and these have shaped the nature of Australian society since. The property demonstrates Whitlam's political ambitions, needing to relocate after the redistribution of his seat of Werriwa, and it is important in providing an understanding of his political as well as his private self. Whitlam lived with his family at 32 Albert Street from 1957 to 1972 prior to becoming Prime Minister, and his experience of living in Cabramatta influenced his views about the nature of cities and the services they need, and of a multi-cultural Australia. The modernist design of the house demonstrates Whitlam's embrace of new ideas and the site informs our understanding of Whitlam's private life. The house is significant at a State level as a rare example of the family home of a Prime Minister who lived in Sydney's western suburbs during the formative and influential years of his political career.

The Whitlam family home at 32 Albert Street, Cabramatta, is of local significance as a rare well-designed Post-War International style home built in the 1950s in the Fairfield Local Government Area. The house is well designed and was carefully planned to accommodate the Whitlam family, who were prominent in the local community.

The site has the potential to reveal further information about Whitlam's family life, the rarity of the house in relation to those lived in by other Prime Ministers during their politically formative and influential years, the rarity of the house in the Fairfield City Council Local Government Area, and the design and construction of the house.

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## B5 TROPHY GUN, CABRAVALE PARK, RAILWAY PARADE CABRAVALE

### B5.1 Required Task

Councils' project brief states:

*The current listing includes a bandstand built in 1919 to commemorate 22 soldiers killed in the great war. Nearby approximately 50 metres away between the bandstand and the Vietnam war memorial is a mortar gun that was captured by an Australian battalion on the western front in August 1918.*

*This provenance of this mortar gun should be investigated and if found to be period and relevant, it should be included in the bandstand listing.*

The bandstand is listed as a heritage item (item no. 17) in Schedule 5 of Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2013. The heritage inventory sheet however, in the NSW online heritage database, is titled "War Memorial and Bandstand Memorial group, Cabravale Park". The statement of significance on the inventory sheet includes the trophy gun, although the description does not. There is no history of the trophy gun in the inventory sheet.



**Figure B5.1:** Aerial photograph of Cabravale Park showing the memorial precinct (circled) and location of the mortar gun (arrowed). The bandstand is notated with an "A" and the Vietnam War Comradeship Memorial with a "B".

Source: SIX Maps with annotations by author

### B5.2 Research

- A site visit was made to Cabravale Park on 24 October 2019.



- Files and aerial photographs provided by Council
- *Artillery Pieces in New South Wales. Thematic Study*, 2008, Department of Planning Heritage Branch
- *War Trophies From the First World War 1914-1918*, Major R. S. (Bill) Billett, 1999, Kangaroo Press
- Trove
- *Fairfield a History of the District*, Vance George, 1982, Council of the City of Fairfield

### B5.3 Findings

The mortar gun was one of the war trophies captured by the 19<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion after the Battle of Amiens when the battalion was fighting near the villages of Warfusee and Frammerville. The guns were captured on 18 August 1918.<sup>1</sup> The guns were tagged with the name of the unit involved in its capture.<sup>2</sup>

Australia began to capture war trophies soon after their arrival in France during March 1916, however most trophies were taken during the last 100 days of the war, from 8 August 1918 to 11 November 1918. Large trophies such as field guns were taken only during successful operations – when the ground captured from the enemy was held thus providing the opportunity to remove the guns. Captured trophies were marked with a label indicating the name of the unit which captured the piece, the date captured and the place. The labels were prepared in advance and carried into battle in preparation for tagging trophies in accordance with War Office regulations. Trophies were moved from the battle area through the rear echelons to headquarters, and thence across the channel to England, where they were placed in British stores depots. The Prime Minister W M Hughes wanted the trophies as a reminder of Australia's place in history in defending the Empire and its pride in this endeavour as a nation. Hughes became very interested in Australia's war trophies and played an important political role in securing Australia's interests in these trophies of Australian valour.<sup>3</sup>



**Figure B5.2: Unidentified soldiers inspect German field guns and trench mortars captured by the Australians during the August 1918 offensive. The guns are assembled at the Australian Corps Headquarters at Bertangles.**

Source: Australian War Memorial

<sup>1</sup> Artillery Register, [http://artilleryhistory.org/artillery\\_register/nsw/gun\\_cabramatta\\_170mm\\_sn3260.html](http://artilleryhistory.org/artillery_register/nsw/gun_cabramatta_170mm_sn3260.html)

<sup>2</sup> Department of Planning Heritage Branch, *Artillery Pieces in New South Wales. Thematic Study*, 2008, p. 24

<sup>3</sup> Major R. S. (Bill) Billett, *War Trophies From the First World War 1914-1918*, 1999



**Figure B5.3: The Australian War Records Section's trophy store at Millwall Docks, showing a collection of captured German trench mortars (minenwerfers) and hundreds of MG08 and MG08/15 machine guns and accessories. A crate containing damaged brass musical instruments is also visible in the foreground. Captured German equipment collected by AIF units serving in France was forwarded here before being recorded and packed for despatch to Australia.**  
Source: Australian War Memorial

In Australia, Committees were set up in each state to manage the distribution of the war trophies. Some were retained for what would become the Australian War Memorial, others distributed to Army units to which the guns capture was linked, and others to communities and schools. The type and size of the weapon allotted depended on the size of the town and conditions for allocation varied between States. Generally the community accepted responsibility to display the trophy, paid the cost of its transportation from the train station to its site, arrange a ceremony to unveil the trophy and accept responsibility for its maintenance. NSW received 139 guns and 164 mortars (Minenwerfer).<sup>4</sup>

Fairfield Council was allocated a 105 mm field gun captured on 18 September 1918 in the first round of allocations<sup>5</sup>, and sometime later, the 170 mm mortar gun at Cabravale Memorial Park (Figure B5.4)<sup>6</sup>. Council appointed trustees responsible for the trophies in 1920 however the trophies were still waiting to be put on public display in 1921 as reported in *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate* (Figure B5.5). The trophy mortar gun was finally placed in Cabravale Memorial Park. The gun was unveiled, as well as the bandstand opened, on Anzac Day 1922 by Mr W. R. Fitzsimons MLA (Figure B5.6).

**The New South Wales War Trophies Committee has advised Fairfield Council that in addition to the field gun already allotted to Fairfield, a trench mortar is available . The council has decided to accept the latter.**

**Figure B5.4: Newspaper article reporting the allocation of the mortar gun to Fairfield Council.**  
Source: "CABRA-VALE.", *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 4 June 1921, p. 5.

<sup>4</sup> Department of Planning Heritage Branch, *Artillery Pieces in New South Wales. Thematic Study*, 2008, p. 25

<sup>5</sup> Major R. S. (Bill) Billett, *War Trophies From the First World War 1914-1918*, 1999, Appendix 5

<sup>6</sup> The date that Council received the mortar gun has not been able to be determined within the timeframe of the study. Further research should be undertaken.



## Fairfield Items.

### THE WAR TROPHIES.

Quite a number of people are inquiring what is to be done with the trench mortar and field gun which have been forwarded the municipality by the War Trophy Committee. At present, both are at the rear of the council chambers, one gun seeming as if it is guarding the new chambers against an air attack. The other seems to be protecting Fairfield from the ravages of the natives of Smithfield.

Figure B5.5: Newspaper article reporting the delay in displaying the war trophies received by Council.

Source: "Fairfield Items.", *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 3 September 1921, p.9.

## CABRA-VALE.

### OPENING SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL.

On Tuesday, last week, Anzac Day was a notable one in the annals of Cabramatta, by reason of the memorial band rotunda being officially opened by Mr. W. R. Fitzsimons, M.L.A. The park was crowded with spectators, and most of the leading citizens in the district were present. The rotunda is a fine structure of octagonal shape, concrete base, red brick sides and pillars, concrete steps and tile roof. It was designed by a local man, Mr. Hackworthy, and does him great credit. Two white marble tablets are on the sides. On one is inscribed, "Erected to those who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War, 1914-18." On the other the following names are inscribed:—B.

of the local Branch of the R.S. and S.I. League, who thanked those present for their attendance there that afternoon. It showed they had the true Anzac spirit. He also thanked them for the memorial, which would be a permanent and pleasing reminder to the boys who would be here when they were gone, of the great deeds done by the Anzac heroes. The Mayor said they had met to do two things—first to do honor to those who had laid down their lives for their country; and second to open the memorial rotunda and unveil the trench mortar. The people had done great work in putting up the rotunda, which would be an everlasting reminder of what their brave boys had done for them. At the conclusion of the Mayor's speech the audience stood with bared heads while the band played the National Anthem. The hymn, "Oh, God, our help in ages past," sung by the audience, was followed by a prayer by Evangelist McDonald. The Mayor apologised

girl's parents, as they did to the parents of the boys who had fallen. The party, headed by the Boy Scouts and Boys' Naval Brigade, then marched down to the war trophy located near the main entrance. Mr. Fitzsimons said they came there that day in sorrow and in gladness—sorrow because of those who had fallen, and joy because of the name they had made for Australia for ever. They had met that day to perpetuate the memory of those grand men who had fought and bled. He drew a vivid word picture of the men from the time they left these shores till they put off from the transports and scaled the heights of Gallipoli. Not one man shirked his duty and it was now for the people of Australia to do their duty. He then unveiled the gun erected to "the memory of the brave boys who died that we might live." (Applause). The party returned to the rotunda, across the entrance of which were blue silk ribbons. The stairway was decorated with wreaths of white flowers, and the Union Jack and Australian flag hung over the recording tablets. The gathering sang, "Lead, Kindly Light," accompanied by the band, after which Mr. Fitzsimons cut the ribbons, declared the rotunda open and unveiled the tablets. He said he was astonished to learn that out of that small community 183 men went forth to serve their country. He congratulated them on erecting the rotunda and trusted it would long last as a memory of the brave boys who had fallen. The band then occupied the rotunda and Evangelist McDonald delivered a soul-stirring address. Master Skinner also recited "Our Day." The Mayor then asked Mr. Fitzsimons to present

Figure B5.6: Newspaper article describing the unveiling of the mortar gun.

Source: "CABRA-VALE." *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 3 May 1922



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The mortar gun was captured by the 19th Australian Infantry Battalion 1st AIF at Warfusee and Framerville on 18 August 1918. The War Diary of the 19th Battalion shows the unit was involved in the major attack on the German lines on 8 August 1918 and that 11 mortars were captured, another was overrun on 10/11 August 1918 but could not be carried out. It therefore appears that the mortar gun at Cabravale Park is one of these 12 mortars as the Battalion was relieved on 17 August and taken to the rear.<sup>7</sup> The following information about the Battalion is taken from the Australian War Memorial website:<sup>8</sup>

*The 19th Battalion was raised at Liverpool in New South Wales in March 1915 as part of the 5th Brigade. A large number of the 19th's original recruits had already served with the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) in the operations to capture German New Guinea in 1914. The 19th left Australia in late June, trained in Egypt from late July until mid-August, and on 19 August landed at ANZAC Cove.*

*At Gallipoli the Battalion participated in the last action of the August Offensive ' the attack on Hill 60 ' before settling into defensive routine in the trenches. From mid-September, until its withdrawal from the peninsula on the night of 19 December, the 19th Battalion was responsible for the defence of Pope's Hill.*

*After further training in Egypt, the 19th Battalion proceeded to France. It took part in its first major offensive around Pozieres between late July and the end of August 1916. After a spell in a quieter sector of the front in Belgium, the 2nd Division, which included the 5th Brigade, came south again in October. The 19th Battalion attacked near Flers between 14 and 16 November, in conditions that Charles Bean described as the worst ever encountered by the AIF.*

*In 1917, the 19th was involved in the follow-up of German forces after their retreat to the Hindenburg Line, and was one of four battalions to defeat a counter-stroke by a German force, almost five times as strong, at Lagincourt. The Battalion took part in three major battles before the year was out, second Bullecourt (3-4 May) in France, and Menin Road (20-22 September) and Poelcappelle (9-10 October) in Belgium.*

*The spring of 1918 brought a major German offensive that the 19th Battalion helped to stop. For his actions during the fighting around Hangard Wood on 7 April, Lieutenant Percy Storkey was awarded the Victoria Cross. With this last desperate offensive defeated, the 19th participated in the battles that pushed the German Army ever closer to defeat: Amiens on 8 August, the legendary attack on Mont St Quentin on 31 August, and the forcing of the Beaurevoir Line around Montbrehain on 3 October. Montbrehain was the battalion's last battle. The casualties of 1918, combined with long-term leave for 1914 enlistees, and dwindling new enlistments had sapped the strength of the AIF. On 10 October 1918 the 19th Battalion was disbanded to reinforce other battalions in the brigade.*

The following information about the Mittlerer 170mm Minenwerfer gun is taken from the thematic survey of artillery pieces prepared for the NSW Heritage Branch:

*It had long been the opinion of the European Armies that the requirement for a mortar was irrelevant in modern warfare. However, the German Army recognised there was still such a need due to lessons learnt from the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05, where the Japanese used makeshift weapons to hurl explosive demolition*

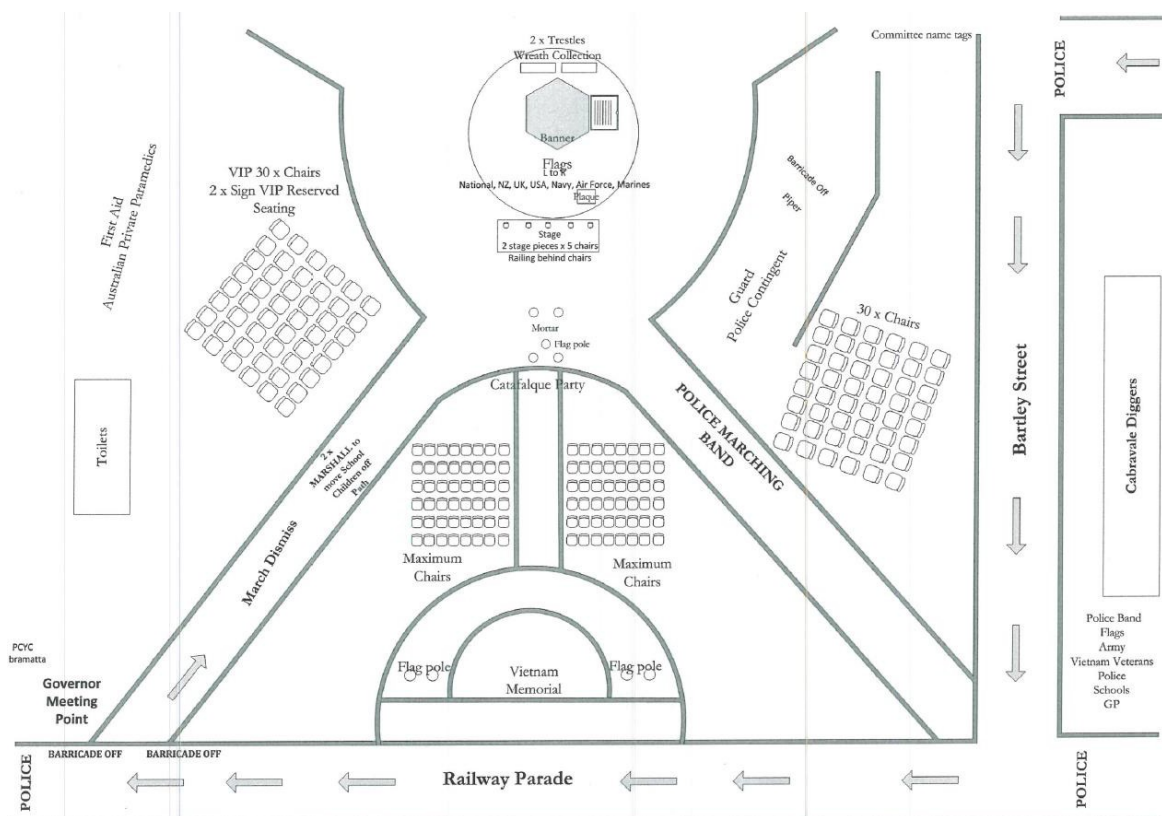
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<sup>7</sup> "Artillery Register", Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company, [http://artilleryhistory.org/artillery\\_register/nsw/gun\\_cabramatta\\_170mm\\_sn3260.html](http://artilleryhistory.org/artillery_register/nsw/gun_cabramatta_170mm_sn3260.html)

<sup>8</sup> 19th Australian Infantry Battalion", Australian War memorial website, <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U51459>

charges to destroy enemy fortifications. Soon after 1910 the medium mortars (or *Minenwerfer* meaning mine throwers) were introduced as fortification artillery. Following the start of war in 1914 and the commencement of trench warfare they were moved up to the front where they could destroy a whole section of trench and were quite deadly. By 1916 the idea had set in that these mortars were no longer a pioneering tool to smash fortifications, but a weapon intended to support the infantry. During the artillery preparation before a battle their mission was to clear barbed wire, smash enemy trenches or (shallow) dugouts and machine gun positions. When the moment came, they followed the infantry closely to take out any strong points. They could either fire shells that exploded upon impact to clear barbed wire, or they could fire a shell with a deadly fuse. It could also fire gas shells at the enemy, which they did mainly during preparation. The HE shell weighed 50 kg and the gas shell weighed 40 kg.<sup>9</sup> (p21)

The mortar gun is now part of a formal memorial precinct within Cabravale Memorial Park. The memorial precinct is used by the local community for commemorative events.



**Figure B5.7: Plan of route of the Victory in the Pacific march held on 14 August 2018 and the arrangement of furniture etc for the ceremony.**

Source: Letter from Megan Orahem, Victory in the Pacific organising committee, 12 June 2018.

<sup>9</sup> Department of Planning Heritage Branch, *Artillery Pieces in New South Wales. Thematic Study*, 2008, p. 21



**Figure B5.8: Anzac Day ceremony at Cabravale Park, 2019.**  
Source: Cabra-vale Diggers Club.



**Figure B5.9: Photograph of the mortar gun against the backdrop of the Vietnam War Comradeship Memorial. Photograph taken in October 2019.**





**Figure B5.10: Photograph of the mortar gun taken in October 2019.**



**Figure B5.11: Photograph of the mortar gun taken in October 2019.**



**Figure B5.12: Photograph of the mortar gun taken in October 2019.**





**Figure B5.13: Photograph of the mortar gun taken in October 2019.**



**Figure B5.14: Photograph of the mortar gun taken in October 2019.**

## **B5.5 Conclusion**

The mortar gun located in the memorial precinct of Cabravale Memorial Park has sufficient heritage value at a local level to warrant inclusion as part of the heritage listing for the memorial precinct of Cabravale Memorial Park.

## **B5.6 Recommendations**

1. The name of the heritage item in Schedule 5 of Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2013 should be changed from “Bandstand” to “Memorial Precinct - Cabravale Memorial Park”. The property description for this heritage item should encompass the whole of the memorial area as illustrated below. The Heritage Map of Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2013 should be amended so that the heritage listing curtilage of the heritage item includes the whole of the memorial precinct.



**Figure B5.15: The heritage listing curtilage of the current Heritage Map of Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2013 is shown in blue. The recommended extension to the current listing is shown in red.**

Source: SIX Maps with annotations by author.

2. The heritage inventory sheet should be updated as set out below in order to include the mortar gun. While some changes to the statement of significance have been recommended, further review is required in order to encompass parts of the precinct other than the trophy gun, and the precinct as a whole. The photographs of the gun in this report should be added to those already included in the inventory sheet. The photographs were taken by Kate Higgins in October 2019.
3. Further investigation into the history of the gun could be undertaken using the regimental records held by the Australian War Memorial.
4. The heritage significance of Cabravale Park should be investigated.
5. The NSW War Memorials Register states that the mortar gun is associated with the Second World War. This should be corrected to the First World War.
6. Conservation works should be undertaken for the mortar gun as a matter of priority. The work should be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced people. Advice can be sought from the Australian War Memorial.

## **B5.7 Heritage Inventory Sheet**

It is recommended that the heritage inventory sheet be updated as set out below.  
(Changes/additions in blue text.)



<b>Name of Item</b>	War Memorial Precinct - Cabravale Memorial Park					
<b>Other Name/s</b>	Bandstand					
<b>Former Name/s</b>	War Memorial and Bandstand Memorial group, Cabravale Park Cabravale Park					
<b>Item type (if known)</b>	Built					
<b>Item group (if known)</b>	Monuments and Memorials					
<b>Item category (if known)</b>	War Memorial					
<b>Area, Group, or Collection Name</b>						
<b>Street number</b>						
<b>Street name</b>	Railway Parade					
<b>Suburb/town</b>	Cabramatta				<b>Postcode</b>	2166
<b>Local Government Area/s</b>	Fairfield					
<b>Property description</b>	Lots 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, Section C, DP 2526 Council to check					
<b>Location - Lat/long</b>	Latitude				Longitude	
<b>Location - AMG (if no street address)</b>	Zone		Easting		Northing	
<b>Owner</b>	To be completed by Council					
<b>Current use</b>	Memorial precinct in local park					
<b>Former Use</b>	Individual memorials in local park					
<b>Statement of significance</b>	The Cabravale Park War Memorial Precinct War Memorial Group is of significance for people of the Fairfield City area for historical, aesthetic, associative, social, reasons as well as for reasons of rarity and representativeness. The unique collection of monuments in the precinct and their location in a designed landscape provides evidence of the community's					

	<p>regard for those who served importance of the precinct's role in the defence of Australia the country and defence strategy in the 20th Century. The commemorative elements contained in the Park are collectively and individually representative of the practices of paying respects to defence and technology of the 20th Century. They are associated with a number of significant persons who took part in the defence of Australia and are held in high esteem by the local residents. The Bandstand is aesthetically distinctive and presents a local landmark. The bandstand is unique of its type in the Fairfield City area. All elements are in good condition and have high integrity. The trophy Medium Mortar gun commemorates defence and victory in WWI and contributes to the character of the precinct identity of the area and community's sense of place. The Vietnam War Comradeship Memorial is a tribute to Vietnam War veterans. The whole group Memorial Precinct presents a significant record of a major historical events that had having a profound influence on life in Australia, and the local area the development and social life of the area. The War Memorial Precinct is regularly used by the local community for commemorative events.</p>					
Level of Significance	State <input type="checkbox"/>		Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Designer	Various					
Builder/ maker	Various					
Physical Description	<p>The War Memorial Precinct is comprised of the bandstand, mortar, gun, flagpole, Vietnam War Comradeship Memorial, pathways, and landscaping.</p> <p><u>Bandstand:</u></p> <p>Bandstand situated in middle of Cabravale Park. Octagonal plan. Corrugated iron roof supported on eight face brick columns. Exposed rafters. Flat tongue and groove board ceilings. Balustrade with soldier course edge and render infill. Two marble plaques. One with a memorial inscription, the other with the names of 22 soldiers killed on active service. At base of bandstand steps are two Doric style columns set on piers. Physical Characteristics: Architectural Style Face Brick (BC), Smooth Render (RT) Corrugated Iron (MF)</p> <p><u>Trophy gun:</u></p> <p>A 170mm Minenwerfer set on a concrete plinth beside a single flagpole, located between the Bandstand and the Vietnam War Comradeship Memorial.</p> <p>Calibre: 170mm          Serial number: 3260          Barrel length in calibres: 3.8 (a/A) or 4.5 (n/A)          Weight: 525 kg (a/A) or 586 kg (n/A)</p>					
Physical condition and Archaeological potential	The 170 mm Medium Minenwerfer is in poor condition. It appears to have been painted over a number of times without proper prior preparation. As a result the rust has formed under the paint. All markings are covered by paint and not readable (the registered number is taken from the AWM Trophy records).					
Construction years	Start year		Finish year		Circa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>Modifications and dates</b>	The trophy mortar gun has been relocated from its original position near the main entry to the park.
<b>Further comments</b>	
<b>Historical notes</b>	<p>Mortar Gun:</p> <p>170mm Mittlerer Minenwerfer (Medium Mortar) The 170 mm Minenwerfer was captured by 19 Battalion 1st AIF at Warfusee and Framerville on 18 August 1918. The War Diary of 19 Battalion show the unit was involved in the major attack on the German lines on 8 August 1918 and that 11 mortars were captured, another was overrun on 10/11 August but could not be carried out. It is therefore reasonable to assume that this minenwerfer is one of the 12 mortars mentioned above as the Battalion was relieved on 17 August and taken to the rear.</p>
<b>National historical theme</b>	<b>State historical theme</b>
8. Developing Australia's cultural life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative endeavour</li> <li>• Social institutions</li> </ul>
7. Governing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defence</li> </ul>
<b>Historical significance</b> <b>SHR criteria (a)</b>	The mortar gun in the memorial precinct of Cabravale Memorial Park is a tangible reminder of the victory of the Imperial forces in the First World War, of the courage and tenacity of Australian troops, and of Australian nationalism. The gun, captured by the locally raised 19th Australian Infantry Battalion, is a reminder of the local men who served their country in a time of need. The gun illustrates the distribution of war trophy guns throughout Australia for permanent display in public places.
<b>Historical association</b> <b>significance</b> <b>SHR criteria (b)</b>	The mortar gun in the memorial precinct of Cabravale Memorial Park has historical significance as a trophy from the First World War captured by a battalion that was raised from men in the Liverpool area. The mortar gun also has historical significance as a memorial to the First World War having been located in Cabravale Park since its allocation after the First World War.
<b>Aesthetic significance</b> <b>SHR criteria (c)</b>	The memorial precinct has aesthetic significance as a carefully designed memorial area that connects the memorial bandstand, war trophy mortar gun, and the Vietnam War Comradeship Memorial into a pleasing whole. The mortar gun, an item designed and made as a weapon of war, has a utilitarian aesthetic given added meaning by its mounting on a concrete plinth and central location in the memorial precinct.
<b>Social significance</b> <b>SHR criteria (d)</b>	The memorial precinct has high social significance at a local level as it is the focus of Fairfield City Council's memorial activities throughout the year, such as Anzac Day and Victory in the Pacific.
<b>Technical/Research significance</b> <b>SHR criteria (e)</b>	The mortar gun is an example of obsolete military technology, however research has not been undertaken into whether or not this technology is already well understood. Therefore this criteria is not demonstrably satisfied with regard to the mortar gun.
<b>Rarity</b> <b>SHR criteria (f)</b>	A similar war trophy mortar guns is located in Lake Macquarie Council in NSW



Representativeness	Memorial precincts are not uncommon in NSW, although the design of the Cabravale Memorial Park memorial precinct is unique. War trophy mortar guns are located in other places such as in the Lake Macquarie Council LGA and the Heritage Branch thematic survey of artillery pieces in NSW has similar mortar guns listed in eight other LGAs.			
SHR criteria (g)				
Integrity	Good			
HERITAGE LISTINGS				
Heritage listing/s	Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2013			
INFORMATION SOURCES				
Type	Author/Client	Title	Year	Repository
Website		ARTILLERY REGISTER		Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company <a href="http://artilleryhistory.org/artillery_register/nsw/gun_cabramatta_170mm_sn3260.html">http://artilleryhistory.org/artillery_register/nsw/gun_cabramatta_170mm_sn3260.html</a>
Website		Cabravale Memorial park Medium Mortar		NSW War Memorials Register <a href="https://www.war memorials register.nsw.gov.au/content/cabravale-memorial-park-medium-mortar">https://www.war memorials register.nsw.gov.au/content/cabravale-memorial-park-medium-mortar</a>
Recommendations	<p>Trophy gun:</p> <p>The cause of rust should be determined (it may be that moisture is trapped under the layers of heavy paint) and corrected if possible. It is likely that the layers of paint will need to be removed in order to inspect the metal under. Area of rust should be appropriately treated and repaired in accordance with expert advice. The colour for the repainting of the gun should be historically accurate – it is recommended that a shade similar to Humbrol 7010 Zeltgray or 7009 Feldgrau be used. During repair works (eg when paint has been removed) any areas of war damage should be identified and decisions made about how these should be interpreted. Regular maintenance inspections should be undertaken following repairs to ensure that the gun remains in good condition.</p>			
Name of study or report	Fairfield City Heritage Study (Cabravale Park and bandstand) <a href="#">Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2020 – Heritage Review (trophy gun)</a>		Year of study or report	1993 2019
Item number in study or report	170 (Bandstand and Cabravale Park) <a href="#">B5 (War trophy gun.)</a>			
Author of study or report	<a href="#">Purumal Murphy Wu (Cabravale park and bandstand)</a> <a href="#">Kate Higgins (gun)</a>			
Inspected by	<a href="#">WA (Cabravale park and bandstand)</a>			

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	Kate Higgins		
NSW Heritage Manual guidelines used?		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
This form completed by	Kate Higgins	Date	13.12.2019

### IMAGES

NOTE: The photographs of the mortar gun taken in October 2019 (in the report above) should be added to the inventory sheet (augmenting those already included with the existing inventory sheet).

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## C1 4, 6 & 8 CANLEY VALE ROAD, CANLEY VALE

### C1.1 Required Task

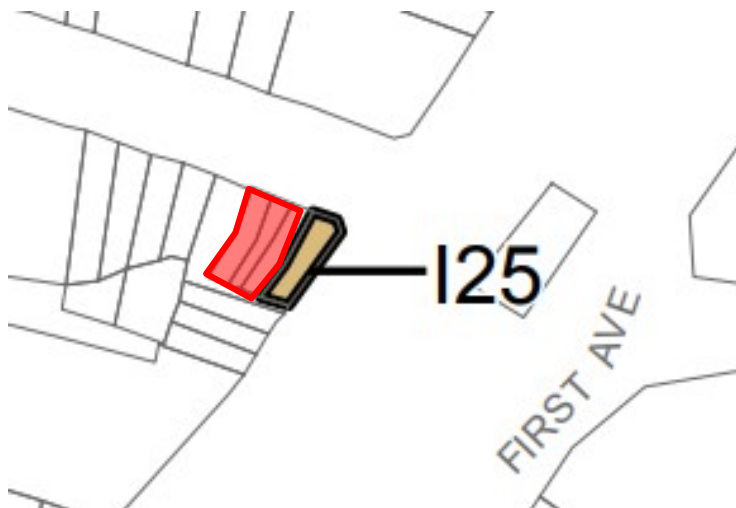
The heritage significance of nos. 4, 6 and 8 Canley Vale Road is to be investigated to determine if they warrant listing as a heritage items in Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2013.

### C1.2 Research

- A site visit was made to the property on 29 November 2019. It was not possible to view the rears or much of the interiors of the shops.
- Aerial photographs
- Files provided by Council

### C1.3 Background

The Heritage Schedule of Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2013 only includes no. 2 Canley Vale Road as a heritage item (item no. 25), however nos. 2, 4, 6 and 8 are part of the same shop building located at the corner of Canley Vale Road and Railway Parade, Canley Vale.



**Figure C1.1: Extract of LEP Heritage Map showing the heritage item at no. 2 Canley Vale Road. The location of the other shops that form part of the same building – nos. 4, 6 and 8 Canley Vale Road is outlined in red.**

Source: Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2013

Council's heritage inventory sheet for no. 2 Canley Vale Road has the following description:

*Single storey corner shop. Rendered brick walls. Suspended steel awning. Curvilinear parapet with pyramidal caps, and half-round pediment on corner. Double-hung corner entry*

and the following statement of significance:

*One of the oldest surviving commercial buildings in Canley Vale. Good example of a Federation period corner shop, in a prominent location. Historical significance as a*

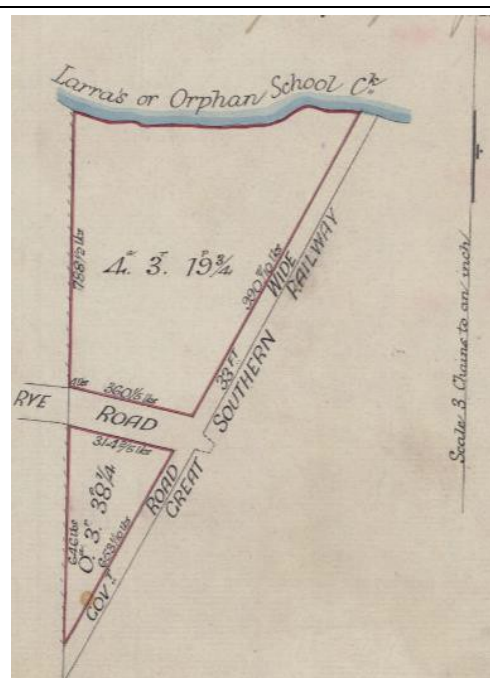


*record of early development in the area. Shown in old photos much as it is now.*  
*Local significance.*

The listing of no. 2 Canley Vale Road without nos. 4, 6 and 8 Canley Vale Road appears to be a technical error as the inventory sheet is relevant to all the buildings.

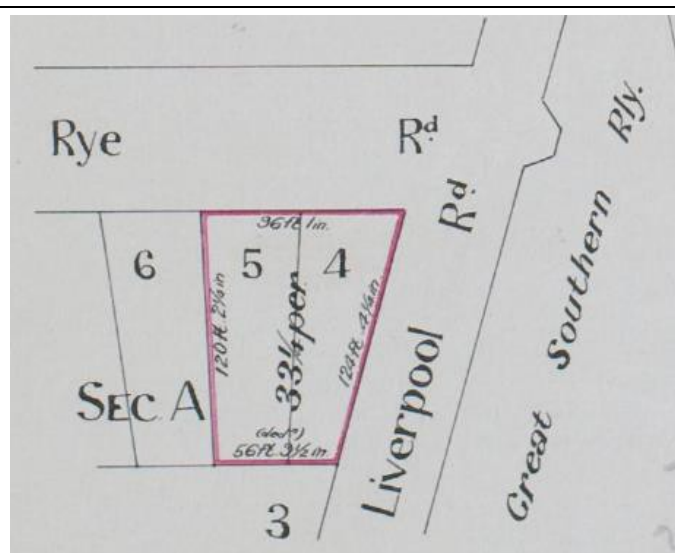
## C1.4 Findings

The land on which the shops are located was originally granted to Alexander Rutledge in 1833. The land later came to be owned by Sir Henry Parkes who lived on the opposite side of the railway line at his home "Canley Grange".<sup>1</sup> Parkes sold the triangular piece of land on the western side of the railway station to John Broomfield (ship owner) and John Laycock (surveyor) in 1884. Broomfield and Laycock immediately subdivided the land and sold the allotments.<sup>2</sup> After passing through a number of different owners, Lots 4 and 5, Section A, DP 1330 were transferred to Stephen Robert Jarvis, storekeeper, on the 6 May 1915.<sup>3</sup> The land was almost immediately transferred to George Stimson, Canley Vale land agent, on 31 March 1916. Stimson was an alderman on the Cabramatta and Canley Vale Municipal Council and Mayor from 1913-14.<sup>4</sup>



**Figure C1.2: Land transferred to Broomfield and Laycock in 1884.**

Source: Extract of Certificate of Title Vol. 714 Fol. 94



**Figure C1.3: Land transferred to Stephen Jarvis in 1915.**

Source: Extract of Certificate of Title Vol. 2572 Fol. 206

The original shop appears to have been built by either Jarvis or Stimson sometime prior to 1916 as a general store was opened in the building by J.W. Thomas in 1916. At this time, the building only occupied what is now nos. 2-4 Canley Vale Road. A newspaper article of

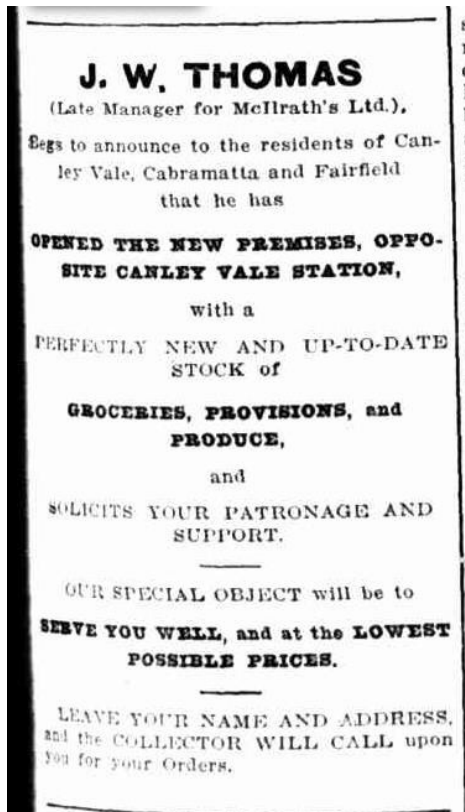
<sup>1</sup> The land was transferred to Parkes in 1874 - Certificate of Title Vol. 35 Fol. 34.

<sup>2</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 714 Fol. 94

<sup>3</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 2572 Fol. 206

<sup>4</sup> Vance George, *Fairfield. A History of the District*, The Council of the City of Fairfield, 1991, pp. 73-74

the time reports that: "Mr. J. W Tomas, who has resided for some years at St. Johns Park, and was manager for the North Sydney branch of McIlraths, Ltd., for a number of years, has opened Alderman Geo. Stimson's fine building opposite Canley Vale Railway station as an up-to-date grocery, provisions, and produce store. Housewives should give the new comer a call".<sup>5</sup>



**Figure C1.4: Advertisement for J. W. Thomas' store**

Source: "CABRAMATTA AND CANLEY VALE." *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 2 September 1916



**Figure C1.5: Photograph of J. W. Thomas' store, possibly c.1916.** Note that no. 4 Canley Vale Road has a separate entry to no. 2 Canley Vale Road indicating that they were separate shops. Also there is no signage on the parapet of no.4. Source: *Fairfield. A History of the District*, Vance George, p. 80

<sup>5</sup> "CABRAMATTA AND CANLEY VALE." *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 2 September 1916, p. 5

The suburb of Canley Vale first appears in Sands Sydney Directory in 1925. At this time James E Harper had a grocery business and a drapery business. It is likely that the grocery business occupied the shop at no. 2 Canley Vale Road and the drapery business occupied no. 4 Canley Vale Road. A.V. Stimson is listed as an ironmonger in 1925. The ironmonger business may have occupied nos. 6 and 8 Canley Vale Road, in which case these shops would have been constructed by 1925. It is evident from the photograph in Figure C1.5 that the shops at nos. 6 and 8 Canley Vale Road have yet to be built. As the shops are evident in the 1943 aerial photograph they were therefore added sometime between 1916 and 1943. As the later shops match the architectural character of the original shop building, they were most likely built soon after the original building.

## New Year Reductions

LARGE CAKES SAND SOAP .....	3d
LARGE BARS LOTUS SOAP .....	8d
BARS GOLDEN FLEECE SOAP .....	11d
GLOBE JELLIES (large) 6 Packets for .....	11d
2lb PACKETS APEX S. R. FLOUR .....	6d per Packet.
LARGE BOTTLE MUSTARD PICKLES .....	8d
LARGE BOTTLE MIXED PICKLES .....	8d
BUSHELL'S TEA .....	2/2
LARGE TINS SALMON .....	11d
LARGE TINS APEX CLEANSER .....	8d
TINS NESTLES CREAM, 5oz. ....	7½d
TINS NESTLES CREAM, 8oz. ....	1/2½

ORDERS COLLECTED & DELIVERED. ..

PLEASE NOTE—

**J. E. Haworth**

CASH GROCER.

BUSY CORNER, CANLEY VALE.

Figure C1.6:  
Advertisement  
for J.E  
Haworth's store.  
Source: The Biz,  
9 February 1929,  
p. 2

## For Cash Only

TRY THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS, FOR  
QUALITY AND CHEAPNESS

½lb. pkt. Golden Tip Tea and ½lb. tin Nestle's Cocoa, all for	1/3
Large Bottles Cloudy Ammonia .....	8d
2lb. pkts. Self-Raising Flour .....	5½d
Large Bars Apex Soap .....	8d
Choice Prunes .....	8d lb.
Prime Dried Apricots .....	10d
Cooking Salt, 7lbs. for .....	6d
Large Tin Nestle's Cocoa (sweetened), .....	1/2½
Large Bottle Pickles (mustard, mixed and onions) .....	8d
Large Cakes Sand Soap .....	3d
R.S.T. Jam, from .....	9d, 9½d, 10d, and 1/2 per tin
Small pkts. Vita Brits .....	7½d
Large Boxes Vita Brits .....	2/1½
Bushell's Tea .....	2/2½
Large Bars Golden Fleece Soap .....	11d
Large Bottle Worcestershire Sauce .....	1/
Best Brands of Bacon Butter and Cheese kept in Stock.	
Large Jars Pure Honey .....	1/3½

Orders Collected and Delivered per motor.

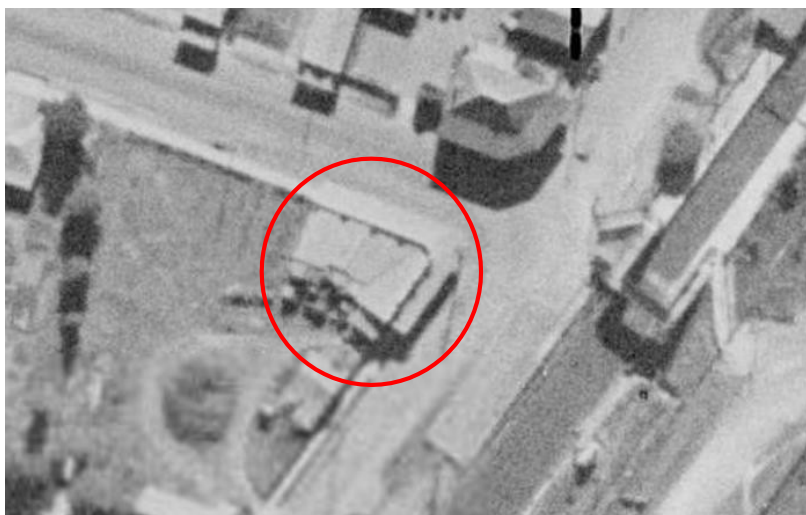
**J. E. Haworth**

BUSY CORNER, CANLEY VALE.

Phone: Liv. 326.

Figure C1.7:  
Advertisement  
for J.E  
Haworth's store.  
Source: The Biz,  
9 August 1929, p.  
2





**Figure C1.8: Aerial photograph showing the shop buildings, circled, in 1943.**

Source: SIX Maps

The property remained in the Stimson family until 21 September 1950 when it was transferred to Frank Archibald Patten, a grocer from Merrylands, and his wife Doreen May Patten. The Pattens immediately subdivided the land and sold the allotments. Lot 1 was transferred to Alma Thomas, spinster, on 2 August 1951. Lot 2 was transferred to Peter Kalucy, Wentworthville bootmaker, on 19 July 1951. Lot 3 was transferred to Doris Emery, wife of Clarence Emery, painter, and James Emery, shopkeeper, on 30 December 1952.<sup>6</sup> The Pattens appear to have owned Lot 4 until c.1980.<sup>7</sup>



**Figure C1.9: Extract of DP 23143 showing the subdivision of the land purchased by Frank Patten in 1950. Nos. 2-4 Canley Vale Road is outlined in red (Lots 3 & 4), no. 6 is outlined in green (Lot 2), and no. 8 (Lot 1) is outlined in blue.**

Source: DP 23143

<sup>6</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 2572 Fol. 206

<sup>7</sup> Certificate of Title Vol. 7042 Fol. 165



**Figure C1.10: Photographs from Council's files. Date unknown.**  
Source: Fairfield City Council





**Figure C1.11: Photograph from Council's files. January 2006.**  
Source: Fairfield City Council



**Figure C1.12: Photograph taken 29 November 2019. It is evident that the shop building remains largely unchanged since 2006.**





**Figure C1.13:** Photograph taken 29 November 2019 of the eastern façade of the shop building. The original side façade remains intact, with the exception of the windows which have been bricked up, and the original awning which has been replaced with a suspended steel awning that does not extend along the full length of the façade.



**Figure C1.14:** Photograph taken 29 November 2019 of the bricked up original window on the eastern façade. It is evident that the original walls in the bays between the piers was facade brickwork, while the piers were rendered. It is also evident that the window opening had an arched head.



**Figure C1.15: Photograph taken 29 November 2019 showing the parapet along Railway Parade with roof behind.**



**Figure C1.16: Photograph taken 29 November 2019 showing the Canley Vale Road façade of nos. 2-4 Canley Vale Road.**





Figure C1.17: Photograph taken 29 November 2019 showing the Canley Vale Road façade of nos. 6 and 8 Canley Vale Road.



Figure C1.18: Photograph taken 29 November 2019 showing the shopfront of no. 4 Canley Vale Road.





**Figure C1.19:**  
**Photograph taken**  
**29 November 2019**  
**showing the**  
**shopfront of nos. 6**  
**and 8 Canley Vale**  
**Road.**

The shop buildings have experienced some change however the original form of the building remains, the solid walls along Railway Parade, the decorative parapet and the retail use. There is the opportunity for sympathetic changes to reinstate some of the architectural character of the existing building and to improve its appearance.

### **C1.5 Recommendations**

1. No. 4 Canley Vale Road should be included in the existing heritage listing of no. 2 Canley Vale Road listed in the Heritage Schedule of Fairfield Local Environmental Plan as these addresses are included in a single property in Council's mapping database.
2. Both no. 6 and no. 8 Canley Vale Road should be listed as individual heritage items of local significance in the Heritage Schedule of Fairfield Local Environmental Plan.
3. The existing heritage inventory sheet for no. 2 Canley Vale Road (database no. 1570039) should be updated as set out below.
4. Inventory sheets for no. 6 and for no. 8 Canley Vale Road should be added to the state heritage inventory online database.

### **C1.6 Heritage Inventory Sheets**

The recommended heritage inventory sheets are set out below.

ITEM DETAILS						
Name of Item	Corner Shop					
Other Name/s Former Name/s						
Item type (if known)	Built					
Item group (if known)	Retail and Wholesale					
Item category (if known)	Shop					
Area, Group, or Collection Name	Group of shops at the corner of Canley Vale Road and Railway Parade, Canley Vale					
Street number	2 – 4					
Street name	Canley Vale Road					
Suburb/town	Canley Vale				Postcode	2166
Local Government Area/s	Fairfield					
Property description	To be added by Council					
Location - Lat/long	Latitude				Longitude	
Location - AMG (if no street address)	Zone		Easting		Northi ng	
Owner	To be inserted by Council					
Current use	Shop					
Former Use	Shop					
Statement of significance	No. 2- 4 Canley Vale Road is shop building that is one of a group of shops located on the corner of Canley Vale Road and Railway Parade (the group comprises nos. 2-8 Canley Vale Road). The shop building, located in a prominent position opposite the Canley Vale Railway Station, is one of the oldest surviving commercial buildings in Canley Vale. The shops are a good example of a relatively intact Federation period corner building. The group of shops is a physical record of Canley Vale changing from a rural area to a suburban area as a result of suburban subdivision and development in the early years of the twentieth century. The shop provided services for the growing local community at the time and continues to serve local residents.					
Level of Significance	State <input type="checkbox"/>			Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
DESCRIPTION						
Designer	Unknown					
Builder/ maker	Unknown					

Physical Description	The single storey shop building wraps around the corner of Canley Vale Road and Railway Parade. The shop building has a decorative parapet punctuated by engaged piers that “push” the rendered and painted parapet up so that it steps and then “punch” through the parapet. The piers are surmounted by pyramidal caps. The piers create bays that correspond to the shop fronts below. The parapet rises to a semicircle over the splayed corner entry. The corbelled top of the parapet highlights its stepped form. A suspended steel awning extends across the Canley Vale Road façade and half way along the Railway Parade facade. The façade of the building facing Canley Vale Road is divided into four sections – each a different shop. Nos. 2-4 Canley Vale Road is located on the corner, and takes up two of the bays facing Canley Vale Road.					
Physical condition and Archaeological potential	The shops are in fair condition. Part of the façade has been covered with marble tiles.					
Construction years	Start year	1916	Finish year		Circa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Modifications and dates	The shops at nos. 2-4 Canley Vale Road form the original building. The shops at nos. 6 and 8 Canley Vale Road were built later than the original shop building. The original shopfronts have been replaced with modern shopfronts. The parapet had painted signs advertising the business. The external walls of the ground floor of the original building were face brickwork with rendered attached piers. Some of the rendered piers have now been covered eg with tiles. The face brick walls have been painted. There was a smaller double hung window in each of the last two bays of the Railway Parade façade of the shop building. These windows have been bricked-up. The original timber awning has been removed and the awning rebuilt as a steel framed suspended awning and the length of the awning along Railway Parade is less than the original extent.					
Further comments						
HISTORY						
Historical notes	The land on which the store is located was purchased by George Stimson in 1916. Stimson was an alderman on the Cabramatta and Canley Vale Municipal Council and Mayor from 1913-14. The original shop appears to have been built sometime prior to 1916 (possibly by Stimson). J.W. Thomas opened a general store in the building in 1916. At this time, the building only occupied part of the site –nos. 2-4 Canley Vale Road. As an ironmonger shop is listed in Sands Sydney Directory of 1925, it is likely that nos. 6 and 8 Canley Vale Road were added sometime between 1916 and 1925. The later shops match the architectural character of the original shop building. Each shop was separated onto its own individual allotment by a 1951 subdivision.					
THEMES						
National historical theme			State historical theme			
3. Developing local, regional and national economies.			Commerce			
4. Settlement: Making suburbs			Town suburbs and villages			
APPLICATION OF CRITERIA						
Historical significance SHR criteria (a)	Nos. 2-4 Canley Vale Road comprise the original shop building of a groups of shops built in a prominent location opposite the railway station. The group of shops located on the corner of Canley Vale Road and Railway Parade are one of the oldest surviving commercial buildings in Canley Vale. The group of shops demonstrates the history of Canley Vale. The shops served the local population that was growing in response to the					



<b>Historical association significance</b> SHR criteria (b) <b>Aesthetic significance</b> SHR criteria (c) <b>Social significance</b> SHR criteria (d) <b>Technical/Research significance</b> SHR criteria (e) <b>Rarity</b> SHR criteria (f)  <b>Representativeness</b> SHR criteria (g) <b>Integrity</b>	suburban subdivision and development of the formerly rural area in the early years of the twentieth century. The shops continue to serve the local community. The group of shops has historic heritage values at a local level.			
	Based on available information, this criterion is not satisfied.			
	The group of shops, particularly the decorative parapet, is an attractive modest example of a Federation Free Style corner shop building. The group of shops, prominently located on a corner opposite the train station, makes an important contribution to the streetscape. The groups of shops has aesthetic values at a local level.			
	Based on available information, this criterion is not satisfied.			
	Based on available information, this criterion is not satisfied.			
	The group of shops from the Federation period is rare in the Canley Vale shopping precinct at the station.			
	The group of shops is representative of modest strip shopping buildings of the Federation period.			
The building is intact but has lost some integrity due to modifications.				
HERITAGE LISTINGS				
Heritage listing/s	Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2013			
INFORMATION SOURCES				
Include conservation and/or management plans and other heritage studies.				
Type	Author/Client	Title	Year	Repository
Report	George	Fairfield A history of the District	1992	
		Certificate of Title Vol. 2572 Fol. 206		
RECOMMENDATIONS				
Recommendations	The original form, character, details and finishes, of the shop building should be retained and conserved. Additions should be single storey and visually subservient to the existing building. The group of shops should continue to be understood as a consistent whole, in particular the group of shops should have a unified colour scheme for the whole building (parapet and walls facing Railway Parade). The groups of shops should also have a unified awning, including the awning lining (ie underside of the awning facing the footpath). The awning should be extended to its original extent along the Railway Parade façade. New signage painted on the parapet with letters in the location letters and style to match the original can be considered (ie the words can advertise what the shops sell but be painted to look like the original advertising). No other signage should be located above the awning. The marble tiles should be removed. The piers should have a render and paint finish. The entry to the shop at no. 2 Canley Vale Road should continue to be from the corner. The original window openings on the Railway Parade façade should be reinstated if practicable with window to match the existing. The air-conditioning unit above the awning of no. 4 Canley Vale Road should be relocated so that it is not visible from the street.			
SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION				
Name of study or report	Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2020 – Heritage Review		Year of study or report	2019

Item number in study or report	C1		
Author of study or report	Kate Higgins		
Inspected by	Kate Higgins		
NSW Heritage Manual guidelines used?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
This form completed by	Kate Higgins	Date	13 December 2019

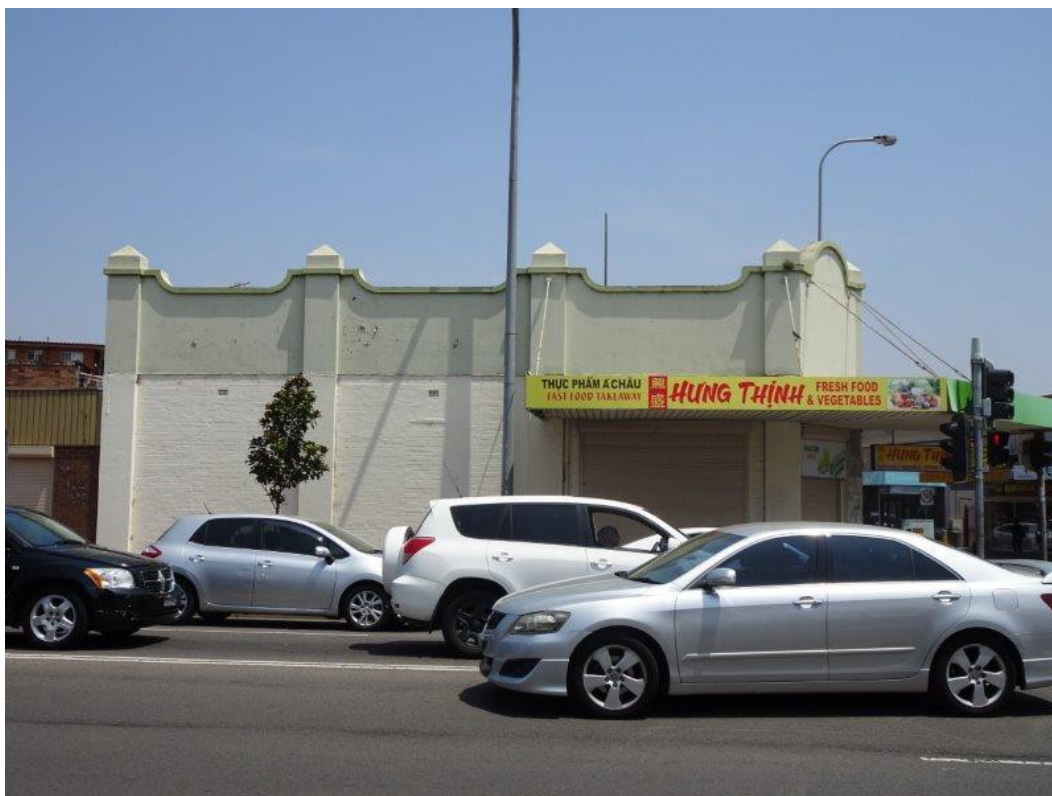
## IMAGES

### NOTES:

- These images should be added to those already included with the existing inventory sheet.
- All photograph were taken by Kate Higgins on 29 November 2019.



Corner shop building viewed from outside Canley Vale train station.



Eastern (Railway Parade) façade of the shop building. A window was located in the centres of each of the bays. These windows have been bricked up.



Parapet along the Railway Parade façade with roof behind.





Northern, Canley Vale Road, façade of nos. 2-4 Canley Vale Road.



Shopfront of no. 4 Canley Vale Road.

ITEM DETAILS						
Name of Item	Shop					
Other Name/s Former Name/s						
Item type (if known)	Built					
Item group (if known)	Retail and Wholesale					
Item category (if known)	Shop					
Area, Group, or Collection Name	Group of shops at the corner of Canley Vale Road and Railway Parade, Canley Vale					
Street number	6					
Street name	Canley Vale Road					
Suburb/town	Canley Vale				Postcode	2166
Local Government Area/s	Fairfield					
Property description	To be added by Council					
Location - Lat/long	Latitude				Longitude	
Location - AMG (if no street address)	Zone		Easting		Northing	
Owner	To be inserted by Council					
Current use	Shop					
Former Use	Shop					
Statement of significance	No. 6 Canley Vale Road is one of a group of shops located on the corner of Canley Vale Road and Railway Parade. The shops are one of the oldest surviving commercial buildings in Canley Vale and are sited in a prominent location opposite the Canley Vale Railway Station. The shop provided services for the growing local community at the time of its construction and continues to serve local residents. The group of shops is a good example of a relatively intact Federation period shop building and is a physical record of Canley Vale changing from a rural area to a suburban area as a result of suburban subdivision and development in the early years of the twentieth century.					
Level of Significance	State <input type="checkbox"/>			Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
DESCRIPTION						
Designer	Unknown					
Builder/ maker	Unknown					

Physical Description	The single storey shop building has a decorative parapet punctuated by engaged piers that “push” the rendered and painted parapet up so that it steps, and then “punch” through the parapet. The piers are surmounted by pyramidal caps. The piers create bays that correspond to the shop fronts below. The corbelled top of the parapet highlights its stepped form. A suspended steel awning extends across the façade. The shop is part of a group of shop buildings located on the corner of Canley Vale Road and Railway Parade. The building façade facing Canley Vale Road is divided into four sections – each a different shop. The shop at no. 6 Canley Vale Road occupies the third bay from the corner. The awning and shop front are modern.					
Physical condition and Archaeological potential	The shop is in fair condition.					
Construction years	Start year	1920	Finish year		Circa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Modifications and dates	The shops at nos. 6 and 8 Canley Vale Road were built later than the original shop building (nos. 2-4 Canley Vale Road). The original shopfront has been replaced with a modern shopfront. The original timber awning has been removed and the awning rebuilt as a steel framed suspended awning.					
Further comments						
HISTORY						
Historical notes	The land on which the store is located was purchased by George Stimson in 1916. Stimson was an alderman on the Cabramatta and Canley Vale Municipal Council and Mayor from 1913-14. The original shop appears to have been built sometime prior to 1916 (possibly by Stimson). J.W. Thomas opened a general store in the building in 1916. At this time, the building only occupied part of the site –nos. 2-4 Canley Vale Road. As an ironmonger shop is listed in Sands Sydney Directory of 1925, it is likely that nos. 6 and 8 Canley Vale Road were added sometime between 1916 and 1925. The later shops match the architectural character of the original shop building. Each shop was separated onto its own individual allotment by a 1951 subdivision.					
THEMES						
National historical theme		State historical theme				
3. Developing local, regional and national economies.		Commerce				
4. Settlement: Making suburbs		Town suburbs and villages				
APPLICATION OF CRITERIA						
Historical significance SHR criteria (a)	The shop at no. 6 Canley Vale Road is part of a group of shops located on the corner of Canley Vale Road and Railway Parade (nos. 2-8 Canley Vale Road) that are one of the oldest surviving commercial buildings in Canley Vale. The shops served the local population that was growing in response to the suburban subdivision and development of the formerly rural area in the early years of the twentieth century. The shops continue to serve the local community. The group of shops demonstrates the history of Canley Vale and has historic heritage values at a local level.					
Historical association significance SHR criteria (b)	Based on available information, this criterion is not satisfied.					



<b>Aesthetic significance</b> SHR criteria (c)	No.6 Canley Vale Road is part of a group of shops. The group of shops, particularly the decorative parapet, is an attractive modest example of a Federation Free Style corner shop building. The group of shops, prominently located on a corner opposite the train station, makes an important contribution to the streetscape. The groups of shops has aesthetic values at a local level.
<b>Social significance</b> SHR criteria (d)	Based on available information, this criterion is not satisfied.
<b>Technical/Research significance</b> SHR criteria (e)	Based on available information, this criterion is not satisfied.
<b>Rarity</b> SHR criteria (f)	The group of shops from the Federation period is rare in the Canley Vale shopping precinct near the station.
<b>Representativeness</b> SHR criteria (g)	The group of shops is representative of modest strip shopping buildings of the Federation period.
<b>Integrity</b>	The building is intact but has lost some integrity due to modifications.

### HERITAGE LISTINGS

<b>Heritage listing/s</b>	Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2013
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### INFORMATION SOURCES

**Include conservation and/or management plans and other heritage studies.**

Type	Author/Client	Title	Year	Repository
Report	George	<i>Fairfield A history of the District</i>	1992	
		Certificate of Title Vol. 2572 Fol. 206		

### RECOMMENDATIONS

<b>Recommendations</b>	The original form, character, details and finishes, of the shop building should be retained and conserved. Additions should be single storey and visually subservient to the existing building. The group of shops should continue to be understood as a consistent whole, in particular the group of shops should have a unified colour scheme for the whole building (parapet as well as the piers and wall below the awning). The groups of shops should also have a unified awning, including the awning lining (ie underside of the awning facing the footpath). No signage should be located above the awning.
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### SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION

<b>Name of study or report</b>	Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2020 – Heritage Review	<b>Year of study or report</b>	2019
<b>Item number in study or report</b>	C1		
<b>Author of study or report</b>	Kate Higgins		
<b>Inspected by</b>	Kate Higgins		
<b>NSW Heritage Manual guidelines used?</b>		Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>This form completed by</b>	Kate Higgins	<b>Date</b>	13 December 2019

### IMAGES

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NOTES:

- These images should be added to those already included with the existing inventory sheet.
- All photograph were taken by Kate Higgins on 29 November 2019.



Corner shop building viewed from outside Canley Vale train station.



Canley Vale Road façade of nos. 6 and 8 Canley Vale Road.



Shopfronts and awning  
of nos. 6 and 8 Canley  
Vale Road.



ITEM DETAILS						
Name of Item	Shop					
Other Name/s Former Name/s						
Item type (if known)	Built					
Item group (if known)	Retail and Wholesale					
Item category (if known)	Shop					
Area, Group, or Collection Name	Group of shops at the corner of Canley Vale Road and Railway Parade, Canley Vale					
Street number	8					
Street name	Canley Vale Road					
Suburb/town	Canley Vale				Postcode	2166
Local Government Area/s	Fairfield					
Property description	To be added by Council					
Location - Lat/long	Latitude				Longitude	
Location - AMG (if no street address)	Zone		Easting		Northing	
Owner	To be inserted by Council					
Current use	Shop					
Former Use	Shop					
Statement of significance	No. 8 Canley Vale Road is one of a group of shops located on the corner of Canley Vale Road and Railway Parade. The shops are one of the oldest surviving commercial buildings in Canley Vale and are sited in a prominent location opposite the Canley Vale Railway Station. The shop provided services for the growing local community at the time of its construction and continues to serve local residents. The group of shops is a good example of a relatively intact Federation period shop building and is a physical record of Canley Vale changing from a rural area to a suburban area as a result of suburban subdivision and development in the early years of the twentieth century.					
Level of Significance	State <input type="checkbox"/>			Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
DESCRIPTION						
Designer	Unknown					
Builder/ maker	Unknown					
Physical Description	The single storey shop building has a decorative parapet punctuated by engaged piers that "push" the rendered and painted parapet up so that it steps, and then "punch" through the					

	parapet. The piers are surmounted by pyramidal caps. The piers create bays that correspond to the shop fronts below. The corbelled top of the parapet highlights its stepped form. A suspended steel awning extends across the façade. The shop is part of a group of shop buildings located on the corner of Canley Vale Road and Railway Parade. The building façade facing Canley Vale Road is divided into four sections – each a different shop. The shop at no. 8 Canley Vale Road occupies the fourth bay from the corner. The awning and shop front are modern.					
<b>Physical condition and Archaeological potential</b>	The shops are in fair condition.					
<b>Construction years</b>	<b>Start year</b>	1916	<b>Finish year</b>		<b>Circa</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Modifications and dates</b>	The shops at nos. 6 and 8 Canley Vale Road were built later than the original shop building (nos. 2-4 Canley Vale Road). The original shopfront of no. 8 has been replaced with modern shopfronts and the piers covered. The original timber awning has been removed and the awning rebuilt as a steel framed suspended awning.					
<b>Further comments</b>						

### HISTORY

<b>Historical notes</b>	The land on which the store is located was purchased by George Stimson in 1916. Stimson was an alderman on the Cabramatta and Canley Vale Municipal Council and Mayor from 1913-14. The original shop appears to have been built sometime prior to 1916 (possibly by Stimson). J.W. Thomas opened a general store in the building in 1916. At this time, the building only occupied part of the site –nos. 2-4 Canley Vale Road. As an ironmonger shop is listed in Sands Sydney Directory of 1925, it is likely that nos. 6 and 8 Canley Vale Road were added sometime between 1916 and 1925. The later shops match the architectural character of the original shop building. Each shop was separated onto its own individual allotment by a 1951 subdivision.
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### THEMES

<i>National historical theme</i>	<i>State historical theme</i>
3. Developing local, regional and national economies.	Commerce
4. Settlement: Making suburbs	Town suburbs and villages

### APPLICATION OF CRITERIA

<b>Historical significance</b> SHR criteria (a)	The shop at no. 8 Canley Vale Road is part of a group of shops located on the corner of Canley Vale Road and Railway Parade (nos. 2-8 Canley Vale Road) that are one of the oldest surviving commercial buildings in Canley Vale. The shops served the local population that was growing in response to the suburban subdivision and development of the formerly rural area in the early years of the twentieth century. The shops continue to serve the local community. The group of shops demonstrates the history of Canley Vale and has historic heritage values at a local level.
<b>Historical association significance</b> SHR criteria (b)	Based on available information, this criterion is not satisfied.
<b>Aesthetic significance</b> SHR criteria (c)	No.8 Canley Vale Road is part of a group of shops. The group of shops, particularly the decorative parapet, is an attractive modest example of a Federation Free Style corner shop building. The group of shops, prominently located on a corner opposite the train station,

<b>Social significance</b> SHR criteria (d) <b>Technical/Research significance</b> SHR criteria (e) <b>Rarity</b> SHR criteria (f) <b>Representativeness</b> SHR criteria (g) <b>Integrity</b>	makes an important contribution to the streetscape. The groups of shops has aesthetic values at a local level.			
	Based on available information, this criterion is not satisfied.			
	Based on available information, this criterion is not satisfied.			
	The group of shops from the Federation period is rare in the Canley Vale shopping precinct near the station.			
	The group of shops is representative of modest strip shopping buildings of the Federation period.			
The building is intact but has lost some integrity due to modifications.				
<b>HERITAGE LISTINGS</b>				
<b>Heritage listing/s</b>	Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2013			
<b>INFORMATION SOURCES</b>				
<b>Include conservation and/or management plans and other heritage studies.</b>				
<b>Type</b>	<b>Author/Client</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Repository</b>
Report	George	<i>Fairfield A history of the District</i>	1992	
		Certificate of Title Vol. 2572 Fol. 206		
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				
<b>Recommendations</b>	The original form, character, details and finishes, of the shop building should be retained and conserved. Additions should be single storey and visually subservient to the existing building. The group of shops should continue to be understood as a consistent whole, in particular the group of shops should have a unified colour scheme for the whole building (parapet as well as the piers and wall below the awning). The groups of shops should also have a unified awning, including the awning lining (ie underside of the awning facing the footpath). No signage should be located above the awning.			
<b>SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION</b>				
<b>Name of study or report</b>	Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2020 – Heritage Review		<b>Year of study or report</b>	2019
<b>Item number in study or report</b>	C1			
<b>Author of study or report</b>	Kate Higgins			
<b>Inspected by</b>	Kate Higgins			
<b>NSW Heritage Manual guidelines used?</b>			Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>This form completed by</b>	Kate Higgins		<b>Date</b>	13 December 2019



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## IMAGES

### NOTES:

- These images should be added to those already included with the existing inventory sheet.
- All photograph were taken by Kate Higgins on 29 November 2019.



Corner shop building viewed from outside Canley Vale train station.



Canley Vale Road façade of nos. 6 and 8 Canley Vale Road.



Shopfronts and awning  
of nos. 6 and 8 Canley  
Vale Road.

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## C4 STIMSONS CREEK RAILWAY VIADUCT

### C4.1 Required Task

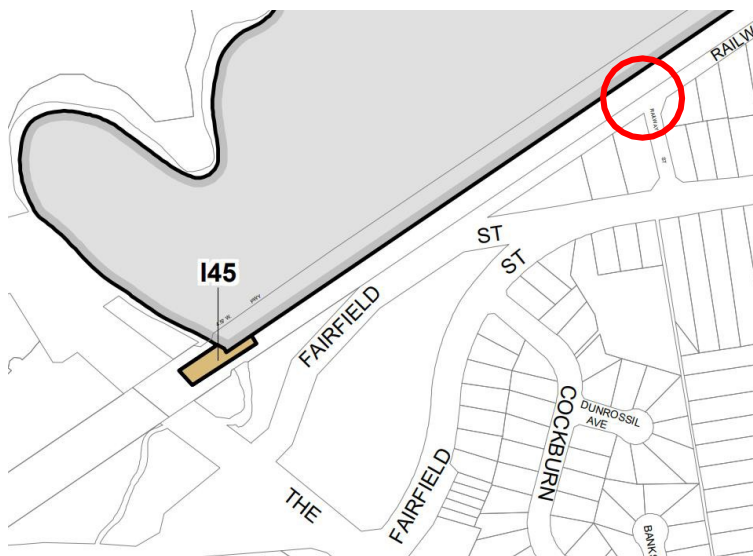
The curtilage of the heritage item needs to be reviewed to determine if the railway viaduct (underbridge) over Stimsons Creek (a tributary of Prospect Creek) located just to the north of Prospect Creek should be included within the heritage listing curtilage of the current heritage item for the railway viaduct over Prospect Creek.

### C4.2 Background

Council have advised that the railway viaduct over Stimsons Creek was previously a heritage item listed together with the viaduct over Prospect Creek - both viaducts being included within a single listing in Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 1994. The viaducts were separated into separate heritage items during the preparation of Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2013. It appears that RailCorp raised an objection to the listing of the viaduct over the tributary in the mistaken belief that this was a new listing rather than a rationalisation of an existing listing. As a result, the Department of Planning removed the viaduct from the heritage schedule against the wishes of Council and without a formal request from RailCorp for such action. Council's objection to the de-listing included:

*... as a result of the 'confusion' in RailCorp's submission its removal from the draft LEP schedule was never formally requested and therefore was not formally considered by Council under finalisation of draft Fairfield LEP 2013.*

*Delisting of the Stimson Street Viaduct as a heritage item represents an incongruous planning decision and creates a significant anomaly in the heritage schedule given that the nearby viaduct over Prospect Creek (of similar age and construction) has been retained as a heritage item along with a number of similar railway bridges and viaducts across Fairfield City.<sup>1</sup>*



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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Fairfield City Council to the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, 23 October 2013.



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## C4.2 Research

- A site visit was made to the viaduct on 24 October 2019, however visibility was very limited due the overgrowth. This has limited the study.
- Files provided by Council
- *The Development of the New South Wales Railway System*, J Fraser, Chief Commissioner NSW Government Railways, October 1919
- State Records and State Library
- Australian Historical Railway Society
- Heritage Inventory sheet for “Cabramatta (Cabramatta Creek), Railway Parade & Sussex Street Underbridge”

## C4.3 Findings

The Main Southern Railway Line, which went from Granville (then Parramatta Junction) to Liverpool, opened in 1856, one year after the opening of the line from Central to Granville. The track was duplicated and regraded (to 1:100) in 1891 and the underbridges (viaducts) were constructed at this time. The regrading allowed heavier trains to use the track. The brick viaduct with six arches over Prospect Creek replaced a timber underbridge with six spans. The brick viaduct with four arches over Stimsons Creek replaced a timber underbridge with three spans.<sup>2</sup>



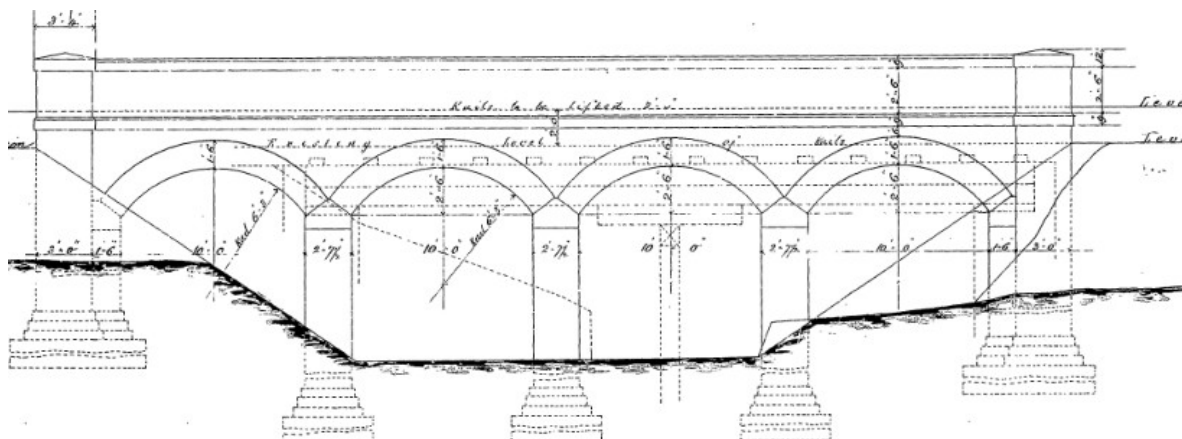
**Figure C4.2: Photograph of the brick viaduct over Prospect Creek. Taken in 1892 not long after it opened.**

Source: Australian Railway Historical Society (NSW)

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<sup>2</sup> John Forsyth, *Station and Tracks. Vol. 2. Main Southern Line Granville Jct. to Albury. Station, Siding Track & bridge Data*, 1989, pp. 1 and 7. Also, The Department of Railways Information Bureau, *Main Southern Line Maps, Revised Edition*, October 1967, p. 53.

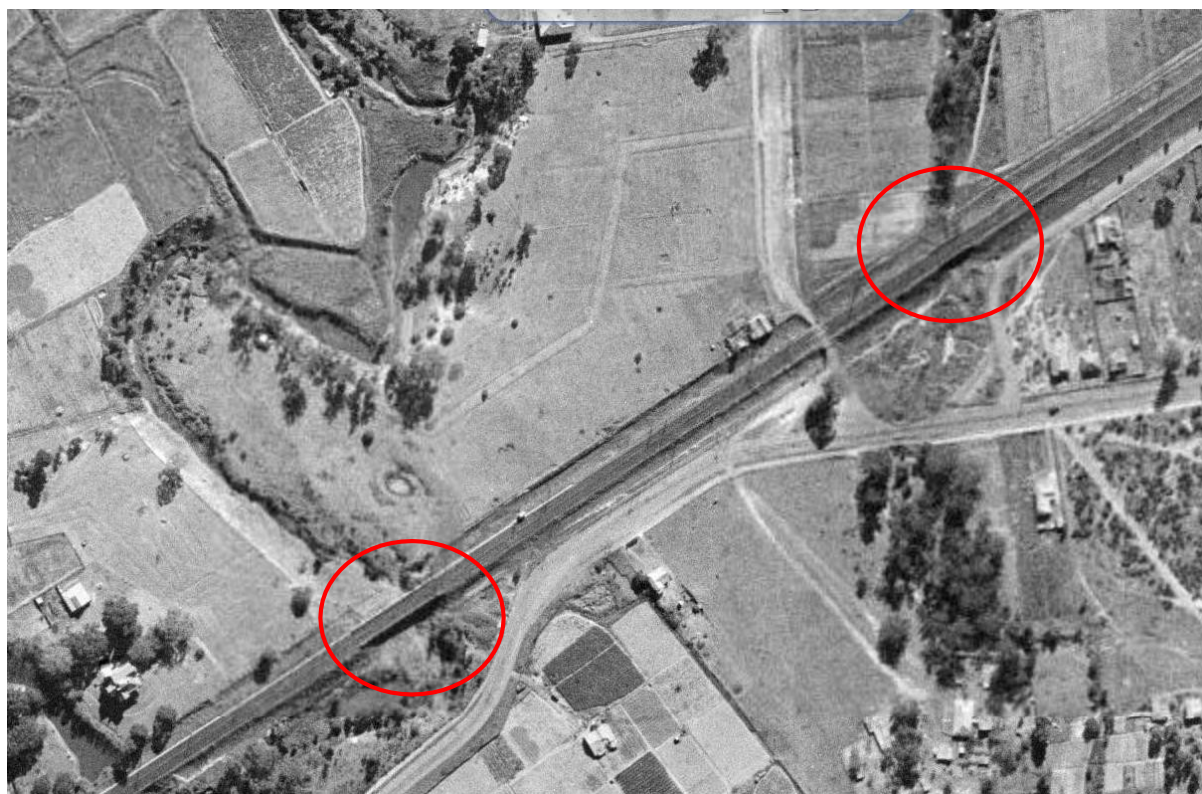




**Figure C4.2: Elevational drawing of the brick viaduct over Stimsons Creek. The drawing appears to be dated 22 August 1890.**

Source: Australian Railway Historical Society (NSW)

The drawing of the viaduct over Stimsons Creek is noted as having been given to Mr Angus (on 18 October 1890) and Mr Randall (on 17 October 1890). James Angus played a major role in railway construction in NSW, and won the contract for the duplication of the Granville to Picton line.<sup>3</sup> The name of Randall is likely to be referring to John Randal Carey, a partner in Mann, Carey and Co, a company involved in railway construction.<sup>4</sup> (It may be that the drawing was sent to both men for the purposes of a quotation for construction.)



**Figure C4.3: Aerial photograph taken in 1943 with the viaducts over Prospect Creek and Stimsons Creek circled in red.**

Source: SIXMaps with annotations by author

<sup>3</sup> "James Angus (1836-1916), *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/angus-james-5031>

<sup>4</sup> John Randal Carey (1834-1923), *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/carey-john-randal-5502>



**Figure C4.3: Aerial photograph taken in 1959 of the nearby viaduct over Prospect Creek.**  
Source: *Fairfield. A history of the district*, by George Vance, 1982, Fairfield City Council, p. 204

A newspaper article of 1891 reported on the “expeditious works” that comprised the Granville to Campbelltown railway upgrades. The work involved: 20 miles of line being laid down; the rearrangement of 10 station yards and a large number of platforms, sidings and waiting sheds; and, re-grading from 1 in 66 to 1 in 100. It was reported that the work “involved many difficulties as there were a number of wooden structures and bridges to be rebuilt. For instance the old structure over Prospect Creek was replaced by a substantial brick viaduct containing six 20ft. openings, and in addition a bridge of four openings over a branch of the creek had to be rebuilt in a similar way. At Canley Vale a viaduct of nine 20ft. arches has also been renewed. At Cabramatta a very extensive work had to be done very extensive work had to be done in connection with the reconstruction of two viaducts”. It appears that James Angus was the successful contractor for the work as the same newspaper article reports that the work was “carried out within the short space of two months under the energetic contractors Messrs. Angus and Co.” And further states that “about 1600 men were employed on the works, and with them a large number of horses and drays; 11 locomotives and 220 wagons were continuously engaged in ballasting, & etc.; about two and a-half million bricks were used, and about 120,000 cubic feet of timber, besides large quantities of cement and other materials”.<sup>5</sup>

#### **C4.4 Conclusion**

The viaduct over Stimsons Creek is of local heritage value in demonstrating the importance of the railway in the development of the area. The arched brick viaduct is an attractive built

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<sup>5</sup> “The Granville-Campbelltown Duplication”, *Sydney Morning Herald*, Saturday 4 April 1891, p. 7

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structure that also demonstrates bridge building technology used by the railways in the late nineteenth century.

The viaduct over Stimsons Creek has a similar heritage significance as the viaduct over Prospect Creek.

#### **C4.5 Recommendations**

1. The viaduct over Stimsons Creek should listed in the Heritage Schedule of Fairfield Local Environmental Plan as a heritage item of local significance.
2. The viaduct over Stimsons Creek should be a separate listing to the over Prospect Creek.
3. The curtilage of the heritage item should be the entire extent of the viaduct plus five metres either side of the abutments.
4. The existing heritage inventory sheet titled "Railway Viaduct" with the primary address "Fairfield Street (over Prospect Creek) near Railway Street, Yennora, NSW 2161" (database no. 1570207) appears to refer to the viaduct which is the subject of this study. This must be confirmed by Council's Heritage Advisor. If this is the case, the inventory sheet as set out in the inventory sheet below for the viaduct over Stimsons Creek should be added to the state heritage inventory online database.
5. The heritage inventory sheet for the viaduct over Prospect Creek should be reviewed and updated using information in this study.
6. The photograph in Figure C4.2 of this study should be added to the heritage inventory sheet for the viaduct over Prospect Creek.

#### **C4.6 Heritage Inventory Sheet**

ITEM DETAILS			
Name of Item	Railway viaduct (underbridge) over Stimsons Creek, Fairfield		
Other Name/s Former Name/s			
Item type (if known)	Built		
Item group (if known)	Transport - Rail		
Item category (if known)	Railway Bridge/Viaduct		
Area, Group, or Collection Name			
Street number			
Street name	Viaduct over Stimsons Creek near the intersection of Fairfield Street and Railway Street		
Suburb/town	Fairfield	Postcode	2165
Local Government Area/s	Fairfield		



Property description	To be provided by Council if there is one.					
Location - Lat/long	Latitude			Longitude		
Location - AMG (if no street address)	Zone		Easting		Northing	
Owner	To be inserted by Council					
Current use	Support for the Main South Line					
Former Use	Support for the Main Southern Railway Line					
Statement of significance	The brick viaduct (underbridge) over Stimsons Creek, constructed as part of the re-grading and duplication of the Granville to Liverpool railway line in the early 1890s, was an important piece of transport infrastructure for the area. It provided improved access to areas being subdivided for residential development as well as way to get to work for local residents. The viaduct represents the earliest examples of brick arched viaducts built by NSW Railways from the 1890s using local building materials during the cost-cutting period of the 1890s depression. The viaduct is aesthetically distinctive.					
Level of Significance	State <input type="checkbox"/>			Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>						
Designer	NSW Government Railways					
Builder/ maker	NSW Government Railways					
Physical Description	The viaduct over Stimsons Creek has four brick arches with spans of about 3 metres. (Note: Due to the extent of growth near the creek it was not possible to view the entirety of the viaduct.)					
Physical condition and Archaeological potential	Intact					
Construction years	Start year	1891	Finish year	1891	Circa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Modifications and dates	Unknown.					
Further comments	The boundary of the heritage item is five metres to either side of each abutment. The growth currently concealing the viaduct should be cleared and an appropriate landscaping scheme put into place. Photographs of the viaduct should be taken once the vegetation is cleared as well as a survey of its condition.					
<b>HISTORY</b>						
Historical notes	<p>The Main Southern Railway Line, which went from Granville (then Parramatta Junction) to Liverpool, opened in 1856, one year after the opening of the line from Central to Granville. The track was duplicated and regraded (to 1:100) in 1891 and the underbridges (viaducts) were constructed at this time. The brick viaduct with four arches over Stimsons Creek replaced a timber underbridge with three spans. (The brick viaduct, with six arches over Prospect Creek, replaced a timber underbridge with six spans.)</p> <p>The use of brick arch constructions by the Railways continued through to the early 1920s (the practice being prolonged by the short supply of imported steel due to WWI).</p>					

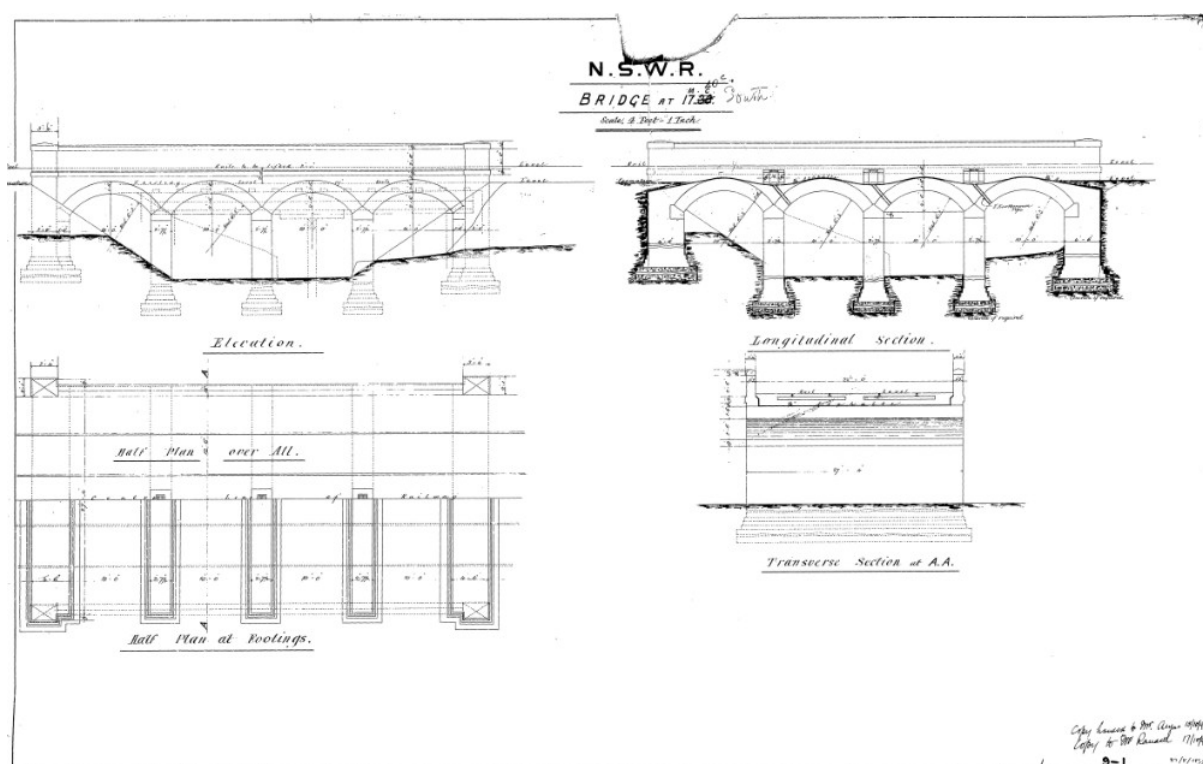
	<p>An article in the Sydney Morning Herald on Saturday 4 April 1891, reported on the “expeditious works” that comprised the Granville to Campbelltown railway upgrades. The work involved: 20 miles of line being laid down; the rearrangement of 10 station yards and a large number of platforms, sidings and waiting sheds; and, re-grading from 1 in 66 to 1 in 100. It was reported that the work “involved many difficulties as there were a number of wooden structures and bridges to be rebuilt. For instance the old structure over Prospect Creek was replaced by a substantial brick viaduct containing six 20ft, openings, and in addition a bridge of four openings over a branch of the creek had to be rebuilt in a similar way. At Canley Vale a viaduct of nine 20ft. arches has also been renewed. At Cabramatta a very extensive work had to be done very extensive work had to be done in connection with the reconstruction of two viaducts”. It appears that James Angus was the successful contractor for the work as the same newspaper article reports that the work was “carried out within the short space of two months under the energetic contractors Messrs. Angus and Co.” And further states that “about 1600 men were employed on the works, and with them a large number of horses and drays; 11 locomotives and 220 wagons were continuously engaged in ballasting, &amp; etc.; about two and a-half million bricks were used, and about 120,000 cubic feet of timber, besides large quantities of cement and other materials”.</p> <p>Duplication and improved gradients enabled goods to be carried more efficiently (therefore a greater quantity of goods) and the brick viaducts required less maintenance than the previous timber underbridge.</p>
<b>THEMES</b>	
<b>National historical theme</b>	3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies
<b>State historical theme</b>	Transport-Activities associated with the moving of people and goods from one place to another, and systems for the provision of such movements
<b>APPLICATION OF CRITERIA</b>	
<b>Historical significance</b> SHR criteria (a)	The Stimsons Creek brick viaduct (underbridge) has local historical significances as it was built in 1891 as part of the duplication and upgrading of the single track Granville to Liverpool line. It is also one of the first examples of brick arch construction employed by the Railways that continued through until the 1920s. Its brick fabric reflects the period of the 1890s depression when cost-cutting included the substitution of local materials in place of imported steel bridges.
<b>Historical association significance</b> SHR criteria (b)	
<b>Aesthetic significance</b> SHR criteria (c)	The viaduct exemplifies the particular brick arch viaduct design employed by the NSW Railways during the period from the 1890s to the 1920s. The viaduct is aesthetically distinctive.
<b>Social significance</b> SHR criteria (d)	
<b>Technical/Research significance</b> SHR criteria (e)	The Stimsons Creek Underbridge, in conjunction with other brick arch railway underbridges and viaducts constructed as part of the NSWGR railway expansion of the 1880s and 1890s in Fairfield Local Government Area, forms part of a valuable representative data set that has the potential to yield information that can contribute to our understanding of the history and development of the NSW rural railway network throughout the 19th century. The site of the Underbridge is unlikely to contain archaeological evidence of the earlier timber beam bridge.
<b>Rarity</b> SHR criteria (f)	

<b>Representativeness</b> SHR criteria (g)	The Stimsons Creek viaduct is a good representative example of a smaller span arched brick viaduct which was constructed by NSW Railways from the 1890s to the 1920s and which were the first examples of their type. In the Fairfield Local Government Area alone there are a number of viaducts of identical age, design and construction, and of comparable current physical condition. These include viaducts over Orphan School Creek at Canley Vale (1891), the Cabramatta Creek, Cabramatta (1891), as well as the viaduct over Prospect Creek at Fairfield (1891).			
<b>Integrity</b>	Unable to be determined due to vegetation overgrowth.			
<b>HERITAGE LISTINGS</b>				
<b>Heritage listing/s</b>	Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2013			
	NSW Transport Railcorp s170 Register			
<b>INFORMATION SOURCES</b>				
<b>Include conservation and/or management plans and other heritage studies.</b>				
<b>Type</b>	<b>Author/Client</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Repository</b>
Heritage inventory sheet	Not stated	<i>Fairfield (Prospect Ck) Underbridge</i>	2009	NSW Heritage on-line database
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				
<b>Recommendations</b>	1. Undertake a condition assessment of the viaduct and undertake any remedial work needed. 2. Conserve cultural heritage significance and minimise impacts on heritage values and fabric in accordance with the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (Burra Charter). 3. Seek advice from a qualified heritage specialist during all phases of a proposed project from feasibility, concept and option planning stage; detailed design; heritage approval and assessment; through to construction and finalisation. 4. Prepare a Statement of Heritage Impact (SOHI) to assess, minimise and prevent heritage impacts as part of the assessment and approval phase of a project. 5. Undertake annual inspections and proactive routine maintenance works. 6. Clear vegetation from around the arched bridge in order to make more visible from the street. 7. Review the heritage inventory sheet after vegetation has been removed and add photographs.			
<b>SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION</b>				
<b>Name of study or report</b>	Fairfield Local Environmental Plan 2020 – Heritage Review		<b>Year of study or report</b>	2019
<b>Item number in study or report</b>	C4			
<b>Author of study or report</b>	Kate Higgins			
<b>Inspected by</b>	Kate Higgins			
<b>NSW Heritage Manual guidelines used?</b>			Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>This form completed by</b>	Kate Higgins		<b>Date</b>	13.12.2019
<b>IMAGES</b>				





Photograph of the arched bridge over the small tributary of Prospect Creek near the intersection of Fairfield Street and Railway Street. Taken by Kate Higgins in October 2019. Council copyright.



Drawing of the viaduct over Stimsons Creek. Possibly dated 22 August 1890. Source: Australian Historical Railway Association (NSW). No copyright.