

Building:	Aratapu	Significance:	B
Address:	1 Chandler Highway, Alphington	Melway Map Ref:	31 B12
Building Type:	Residence	Construction Date:	1907
Architect:	Unknown	Builder:	Unknown



Intactness:		Condition:	
G[x] F[] P[]		G[x] F[] P[]	
Existing Heritage Listings:		Recommended Heritage Listings:	
Victorian Heritage Register	[]	Victorian Heritage Register	[]
Register of the National Estate	[]	Register of the National Estate	[x]
National Trust	[]	Heritage Overlay Controls	[x]

History

Aratapu is located within Crown Portion 117, purchased by A Klemmis in 1840. In 1883, part of the allotment, then the Perry Brothers' Nursery, was subdivided by surveyor, Thomas Muntz, to create the Fulham Grange Two Estate.¹ Oliver H Forster, a jeweller and watch repairer, later purchased Lot 36 of this estate and built Aratapu in 1907.²

Oliver and Annie Forster remained there until c.1920, followed by John Bennett and then Hubert Pearce, a contractor, who lived there in the 1950s.³

Graeme Butler. *Northcote Urban Conservation Study*. 1982.

Description

Aratapu, 1 Chandler Highway, Alphington, is a single storey, asymmetrical timber villa on a prominent corner site. Its walls are clad in weatherboard, the hipped and gabled roof in corrugated iron. The complex roof plan incorporates a gabled bay to the south elevation and a polygonal corner bay with a corner gable to the south-east. It has terracotta ridge capping and finials and a ventilated gablet at its apex, and is penetrated by an elegant, roughcast chimney with a narrow, protruding cornice, flat, vertical strip mouldings and terracotta chimney pots. The gable-ends have timber trussed finials; the corner gable-end also has an unusual, delicate sunburst-style motif. The main roof encompasses the verandah, which has a shallower-pitched skillion roof with exposed rafter-ends and timber posts, which are paired at the corner entrance. The verandah is reached by three steps flanked by heavy rendered curved walls. The front entrance, at the north end of the return verandah, has a glazed and panelled side panel, and highlights. Windows are a combination of casements with highlights, and double-hung sashes. The entrance hall has a small window with a segmental arched head.

Significance

Aratapu, 1 Chandler Highway, Alphington, is of local architectural significance. It is a typically planned but unusually detailed Edwardian timber villa, with particularly notable gable-end and chimney details.

Original Source

Graeme Butler. *Northcote Urban Conservation Study*. 1982.

1 Vol.1556, Fol.195

2 Richmond Rate Books 1907, 426. CER, Bourke 1912.

3 Directories 1915, 1930-41, 1951.