

Building:	Alameda	Significance:	B
Address:	5-7 Rex Avenue, Alphington	Melway Map Ref:	31 B12
Building Type:	Residence	Construction Date:	1907
Architect:	Unknown	Builder:	Unknown



Intactness:		Condition:	
G[x] F[] P[]		G[] F[x] 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

The Fulham Grange Two Estate was created from A Klemis' Crown Portion 117, in 1883.¹ William George Harless, a plasterer, purchased the land (part lot 59) and built 5-7 Rex Avenue in 1907.² He leased the house almost immediately to Percy and Ada Penn. Percy, a printer, and Ada stayed in the house until 1913³, when Harless returned from America and took it for his own use until past 1930.⁴ Harold D Harless, an engineer and William's son, later occupied the house.⁵

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

Description

53 Rex Avenue, Alphington, is a detached timber Federation attic style house. Characteristic of the style, the house is asymmetrically composed with a Marseilles patterned hipped and gabled roof. An octagonal candle snuffer turret marks the corner, rising above a polygonal bay window. The return verandah is supported on timber posts, with a timber arcaded frieze and carved brackets. Gable ends are half timbered and have fretted brackets. There is an unusual eye-shaped window on the street elevation. The roughcast rendered chimneys are diagonally oriented, and have terracotta chimney pots.

Alterations include the replacement of the casement windows beneath the main gable, replacement of the front door, and concreting of the verandah floor. The timber and woven wire fence and lych gate probably date from the inter-War period. Alongside the fence is a clipped hedge, and behind the house is a mature Norfolk Island pine.

Comparative Examples

Aratapu, 1 Rex Avenue, Alphington.

Significance

5-7 Rex Avenue, Alphington, is of local architectural significance and local historical interest. The house is a good example of the picturesque Federation style, notable for its unusual eye-shaped window, decorative timber verandah and octagonal corner turret and bay window. The house is enhanced by its mature garden. The continuous ownership of the house by the Harless family is of interest.

Original Source

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

-
- 1 Subdivision Plan V1556, F 195.
 - 2 Rate Books 1907, 525.
 - 3 CER Bourke, 1912.
 - 4 D1930.
 - 5 Pers comm, Harold Harless.