



ARATAPU,
 REX AVENUE (Lot 36),
 (1 CHANDLER HIGHWAY)

A Klemm purchased Crown Portion 117 in 1840. Fourth-three years later, the surveyor, Thomas Muntz, divided up the Perry Brothers Nursery and created the Fulham Grange Two Estate.¹ Oliver H. Forster, a jeweller and watch repairer, built Aratapu, during 1907, on lot 36 of the estate.² The street was first called Putney Avenue, later Fulham Avenue and finally Rex Avenue.³ Oliver and Annie Forster remained there until c1920; John Bennett followed them and Hubert Pearce, a contractor lived there in the 1950's.⁴

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Aratapu is a Federation or Queen Anne styled timber house, set on a bayed plan, with half-timbered gable elements dominating the elevation. Lead-light window bays occur under main gables; the verandah gable being expressed with a rising sun motif, set behind the normal king-post framing. Terracotta ridging decorates the iron cladding to the roof and a Dutch gable allows ventilation at its highest point. The boundary fence appears to have been replaced.

Aratapu forms part of a timber Edwardian precinct with 5-7 Rex Avenue qv.