



HOUSE,
5-7 REX AVENUE

The Palham 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 R. Harless, an engineer and William's son, followed him and lives there still.⁵

5-7 Rex Avenue is a Federation or Queen Anne style timber house. The Marseille tiled roof line is typically picturesque, with the normal Dutch hips and pronounced gables, combined with an octagonal tower and broach spire as well as a gabled attic dormer. Tall rough-cast stucco chimneys are set out on the diagonal and serve to underscore the nearby tower and spire. Under the tower is a

window bay, sheltered under a bayed and gabled verandah. Matching attic windows are mounted high in the roof; one looking south, the other north. The gables are half-timbered, the verandah brackets fretted and the friezework arcaded in timber. Below dado height are shingle-profile boards and, above, rough-cast stucco. The front door has been replaced and the verandah concreted; otherwise the house is generally original with the exception of the colour scheme and the absence of leading to the windows. A later wire-netting fence and two pergolas of a later date, are softened by a continuous clipped hedge behind and a mature Norfolk Island pine adds to the distinct character of the house. The house is a near original, timber version of the Queen Anne style, displaying its entire repertoire and is set in its original context, with the reinforcement of Aratapu (Rex Avenue, cv.) opposite.