

Avalon, 14 Power Avenue - R

Architect: W R Butler

1914: Residence at Toorak, Butler & Bradshaw, Architects 84 William St. Melb. Contract drawing dated 20 April 1914 Signed R H Butler, proprietor; John Richards, contractor; coloured plan shows a rough pencilled in outline which anticipates the later extension to the south (University of Melbourne Architectural Drawing Collection, State Library of Victoria WD HOU.148-1)

1915: R H Butler, Owner: W R Butler, Agent (MMBW Drainage Plan 97912)

1916-74: Butler, Richard then Butler Mrs E J
(Sands & McDougall Directories)

1925: Additions to residence at Power Av. Malvern; shows large block with tennis court along Power Avenue and outhouses (Malvern Building Plan 5549)

1980s: Auction notice of 'Avalon' describes house as remaining in the original owner's family to that time and a sketch, Marshall White Bundred & Co.

Avalon is a large single hipped residence with exaggerated eaves supported on angle brackets and covering cantilevered window bays. The simplicity of the design and the powerful building form made this building one of the landmarks of the combination of the Prairie style and Craftsman styles with the English Arts and Crafts movement. The building has a slate roof, rough cast walls, timber shingling and projecting bays. The building was extended by the Butler practice in 1925 but the building remained in the Butler family until the late 1980s. The building has been subject to some recent alterations after its change of ownership. The alterations have included some changes to windows on the western elevation and modification to the entry creating a projecting porch as well as a new high masonry fence. While the work is generally sympathetic, it resulted in the loss of some early details and its outstanding integrity.

Avalon is of regional significance as a distinguished example of the English Arts and Crafts style, especially as seen in the work of the architect C.F.A. Voysey. Major attributes include the simple yet powerful roof form, whose wide hip is extended out over exaggerated eaves, supported on eaves brackets projecting bays. The sheer walls punctuated by fenestration and the use of shingling are especially distinctive features. The original design has been extended sympathetically extended by the same architectural firm. Avalon remained for a long period in of ownership of the Butler family.