

607 Heidelberg Road, Alphington (Kia-Ora) Statement of Significance, September 2021

Heritage Place:	607 Heidelberg Road, Alphington	PS ref no:	HO326
------------------------	---------------------------------	-------------------	-------

What is significant?

607 Heidelberg Road, Alphington, a single storey brick residence built in 1903 for Walter Foreman, is significant.

Significant fabric includes the:

- original (1903) and early (c.1918) form and scale, terracotta tiled roof, chimneys and verandah roof form;
- red face brick surfaces, decorative cream brick banding and roughcast surfaces;
- pattern of fenestration, timber-framed windows and doors; and
- timber gable strapping and timber eave brackets, stringcourse label mould.

How is it significant?

607 Heidelberg Road, Alphington, is of local historic, representative, and aesthetic significance to the City of Darebin.

Why is it significant?

Kia-Ora at 607 Heidelberg Road, Alphington, is of historical significance for its representation of the development of Darebin and its growing prestige of Alphington as a residential area in the twentieth century. The substantial size of the allotment and fine architectural detailing of the house reflect the elevated status of the area. This is further reflected in the building's association with Benjamin Barrington Bank Sibthorpe (occupant from 1903 and owner from 1914) who was a director of MacRobertson's Pty. Ltd., a well-known confectionery business based in Fitzroy. The construction of this finely detailed villa signals the growing prestige of the area and its desirability to middle class professionals. The house also reflects the area's economic recovery following the economic crash of the 1890s before the start of World War One. (Criterion A)

607 Heidelberg Road, Alphington, is of representative significance, for its retention of elements characteristic of Federation era designs incorporating Queen Anne styling. This includes its varied building and roof forms, red face brick surfaces, its pattern of fenestration and window and door joinery, decorative chimneys and ridge cresting. The subject building is a good representative example of a substantial Federation era villa, a typology that is relatively underrepresented in the City of Darebin Heritage Overlay (Criterion D)

607 Heidelberg Road, Alphington, is also aesthetically significant as a fine, early example of the Queen Anne style. Its prominent, three street facing gables with fine architectural detailing, decorative chimneys and ridge cresting and wraparound verandah, demonstrate an Australian adaptation of the picturesque aesthetic qualities of this style. The substantial corner allotment with a low fence and mature garden setting enhance its aesthetic quality and distinguish the building's design as a particularly refined example within the City of Darebin. (Criterion E)

Primary source

Context Heidelberg Road Heritage Assessment report- Final Report, September 2020

