

## Statement of Significance: Thurla, 1 Avalon Road, Armadale (March 2022)

<b>Heritage Place:</b> Thurla, Armadale	<b>PS ref no:</b> HO4
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(Source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021)

### What is significant?

The property at 1 Avalon Road, Armadale (otherwise known as Thurla) is significant. Specifically, the form, scale and detailing of Arts and Crafts/Art Nouveau residence is of local heritage significance, as well as the bluestone boundary wall, brick wall with flying buttresses on the eastern boundary, and remnant original cypress (*cupressus*) and cheesewood (*pittosporum*) plantings. The remainder of the landscaping, timber pergolas and swimming pool are not significant.

### How is it significant?

Thurla is of local aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington, and is associated with the prominent Arts and Crafts architect, Walter Richmond Butler, as well as the Melbourne-based architect Arthur Peck.

### Why is it significant?

Thurla has aesthetic significance as a fine, intact and early example of an Arts and Crafts dwelling with Art Nouveau influences. Art Nouveau elements of aesthetic value include the rendered leaf and flower laurel decorations on the front façade surrounding two louvered vents. Other elements of notable aesthetic value include the red brick, roof form with projecting bays and terracotta tile, rendered stucco, and decorative timber work on the projecting gable end. To the north of the carport are a series of substantial flying buttresses supporting the eastern boundary wall that contribute to the setting of the site. Finally, the bluestone boundary fence fronting the southern boundary of the property contributes to the character of the dwelling on the street. (Criterion E)

Thurla, the mature cypress (*cupressus*) hedging and the cheesewood (*pittosporum*) planting are associated with prominent Arts and Crafts architect, Walter Richmond Butler. Thurla was as transitional design of Butler's that was positioned between the largely English Vernacular Revival style of his earlier houses and the American influences of his later houses. It is also an unusual example of his use of Art Nouveau detailing on domestic architecture in Melbourne. He was also responsible for the original garden design. The flying buttresses on the eastern boundary wall were designed by architect Arthur Peck. (Criterion H)

### Primary source

*Thurla, 1 Avalon Road, Armadale, Citation Report, Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, September 2021.*