

# COLLYER HOUSE

Kennington

Place No. 247

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<b>ADDRESS</b>	10 Paynters Road Wonga Park	<b>Last Update</b>
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**DESCRIPTION** A late Edwardian timber house with a gabled-hip roof with a large louvred vent. The return verandah sits under the main roof. It has a simple timber valence and squared posts. The external walls are weatherboards to sill level, with asbestos cement sheet above, and paired, double-hung sash windows.

At the rear is a large shed/garage, also clad in cement sheet.

**Condition** Good **Integrity** Intact

**Threats** None apparent **Key elements**

**Designer**

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**HISTORY** As early as 1894 Thomas Hewish, a Templestowe gardener, secured the lease of 24 acres in Crown Allotment 9S (an Eight Hour Pioneer Settlement (EHPS) property).[1] By 1898/99 Hewish was rated for a house and 25 acres in 9S valued at only five pounds.[2] By 1900, he had made greater improvements. He had built a four-roomed weatherboard house with an iron roof, a three-stall stable and had seven acres grubbed, cleared and under fruit and raspberries. Thomas applied in January 1900 to have his licence converted into a “non-residence licence” as he “had to leave to be near Medical assistance.” Thomas died in November 1901. The property then passed to John Thomas Hewish, a Croydon farmer and fruit grower. He secured the Crown Grant in June 1906.[3] During the First World War period, when the property was owned by John Jones, it increased in value.[4]

The Collyers once “lived opposite the school (in Dudley Road) which later became Mr Horrie Burch’s property. The Collyers later moved to Painters Road.”[5] A 1912 photograph shows five Collyer children at the opening of the new Wonga Park State School. They are Billy, Edgar, Alice, Hettie and Flora Collyer.[6] In 1920 Edward Robert Burch, orchardist, took over the former Collyer house and 22 acres in 9L valued at 50 pounds.[7]

In the same year Alice Collyer was rated for a house on four acres in 9S.[7] Alice’s house had a valuation of 25 pounds and was most probably a new house constructed after a subdivision. In that year Charles E. Marshall, orchardist, was rated for a house on 13 acres in 9S valued at 15 pounds, which appears to be the earlier house. (RB No. 3417). Alice was there still in 1924.[8] The Collyers continued as Wonga Park residents according to Sands and McDougall Victorian Directories. Edgar Collyer was listed in the 1930s, J.E. Collyer in 1948 and James S. Collyer, poultry farmer in 1968.

Rate records confirm that in 1938-39 the Collyer house on four acres in 9S, known as Kennington, was valued at 30 pounds and owned and occupied by John Ernest Collyer, who also owned 13 acres of vacant land (probably the site of the earlier house) in 9S valued at 12 pounds.[9]

Local sources suggest that the Collyer family built this house as a holiday home, possibly in response to the influenza and polio scares that were rife in the city.[10]

## SOURCES

**Creation Date** 1920

**Change Dates**

**Associations**

**Local Themes**

Collyer family

3.01 - Travel sites

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** Of local significance for its associations with the Collyer family, and the interesting local stories of its role as a rural escape from the illnesses of the city. Of architectural interest also as a substantially intact example of late Edwardian domestic architecture, one of relatively few examples in Wonga Park and using materials not common in the locality at this time. (Criterion B2, H1)

## LEVEL

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
None Specified			

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#### Extent

#### Heritage Schedule

External Paint Controls:	On VHR:	VHR Ref No:
Internal Alteration Controls:	Prohibited Uses:	
Tree Controls:	Aboriginal Heritage Place:	
Outbuildings or Fences:	Incorporated Plan:	Incorporated Plan Details
Description:		

#### Conservation Management

#### Extra Research

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- BIBLIOGRAPHY** [1] Land File No. 11436/49.  
[2] Shire of Lillydale RB 1898-99 No.1149.  
[3] Land File No.11436/49.  
[4] Shire of Lillydale RB 1913-14 No.2705.  
[5] Slade MSS.  
[6] Border Country, p.43.  
[7] Shire of Lillydale RB 1920-21 Nos.2382, 2543.  
[8] Shire of Lillydale RB 1924-25 No.2874.  
[9] Shire of Lillydale RB 1938-39 Nos.5901, 5902.  
[10] Workshop: Place 19.