

TOPPING HOUSE

Place No. 248

ADDRESS 3 St Denys Crescent
Wonga Park

Last Update

DESCRIPTION Triple-fronted early Californian Bungalow in timber with a unglazed, Marseille terracotta tile roof. It was once on a larger allotment and is now within a suburban subdivision. The front facing St Denys Crescent has a centrally placed gable, with decorative shingles and long louvred vent. Large brackets sit under the ends of the bargeboards. Below is a rectangular bay window, with leadlight upper sash windows. The front entry porch is to one side of this gable. The timber valence has a shallow curved rail and simple fretwork, with posts set on brick piers.

The property retains a large well (said to be 30 feet deep), and a later garage.[1]

Condition Excellent **Integrity** Altered

Threats None apparent **Key elements**

Designer

HISTORY Frederick Augustus Topping, a well known local carpenter and builder, was associated with the construction of this house as his own home. An examination of rate records and inspection suggests that it was built by him in about 1908.

In 1908-9 Topping was rated as the owner/occupier of a house on 44 acres in Crown Allotment 9G valued at 13 pounds. This was an Eight Hour Pioneer Settlement (EHPS) property.[1] Topping was associated with the construction of St. Mark's Anglican Church in Wonga Park in 1921, after donating the land for its site. After losing his life in the bushfires in January 1939, a memorial tablet was placed in the church.[2]

The site of the St Denys Cres. farmhouse was leased in 1894 by Thomas Topping.[3] Murphy in his history of the eight hour movement in Victoria refers to the death of eight hours pioneers Henry and Thomas Topping by 1896.[4] In 1895 Mrs Topping, widow, was rated for a house in 9G valued at 9 pounds. At that time F.A. Topping, builder, owned 40 acres in 9N, another EHPS property.[5]

By 1905 F.A. Topping owned the house and 44 acres in 9G valued at 10 pounds. By 1908, the value had increased to 13 pounds and by the First World War period to 15 pounds. The valuation remained the same in 1920.[6]

Creation Date 1908

Change Dates

Associations

Local Themes

Frederick Augustus Topping

5.03 - Eight hour pioneer settlement

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE This farm house, the home from c1905 of Frederick Augustus Topping, well-known district carpenter and builder, is of local significance as a finely-crafted example of an early Californian Bungalow built by F. A. Topping as his own house. (Criterion A4, B2, F1)

LEVEL

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
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None Specified

Extent

Heritage Schedule

External Paint Controls:	On VHR:	VHR Ref No:
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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] Shire of Lillydale RB 1908-9 No.2120.
[2] Border Country, p.93.
[3] Border Country, p.39.
[4] Murphy, p.100.
[5] Shire of Lillydale RB 1896 Nos. 1430,1429.
[6] Shire of Lillydale RB 1905-6 No.1941; 1908-9 No.2120; 1913-14 No.2779; 1920-21 No.4616.