

ST MARK'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Place No. 243

ADDRESS 406 Yarra Road (former 9057)
Wonga Park

Last Update 10/03/2005

DESCRIPTION St Mark's Church of England, Wonga Park is a timber, Early English Gothic church, three bays deep with a gabled porch. The windows are diamond-paned leadlights. The roof has two Kemp & Sheehan vents on the ridge.

Condition Good **Integrity** Minor modifications

Threats None apparent **Key elements** Building

Designer

HISTORY District residents played an important role in the construction of St Mark's Anglican Church. The first Anglican services were held in 1914 in the Wonga Park Hall.

F.A. Topping, the well-known district carpenter and builder, and eight hour pioneer, gave the land for the church site. It was located on Allotment 9G, the Eight Hour Pioneer Settlement (EHPS) land leased by Topping at the turn of the century. It was here that he built his farm house c1908. [1]

Funding for the church was raised by subscription and loan. E.J. Collyer, another district settler, lent 100 pounds. Charles Fulford reputedly carted the timber in a horse-drawn lorry while Topping and Farran, another carpenter, put up the frame of the new church. The building was completed in 1921 by a working bee of parishmen. Jack Knee, a lay reader, conducted the first service and the first marriage was between Charles Fulford and Violet Hooper.[2] These were all wellknown farming and fruit-growing families.

St Marks was dedicated by Archbishop Harrington-Law in 1923. Originally part of the Parish of Ringwood, it was later included in the Parish of Croydon.

A memorial tablet to Topping was added to the church after he lost his life in the January 1939 bushfire.[3]

The 1st February 1981 was the last official service as part of the Parish of Croydon, then on 21st June 1990, the Anglican congregation of St Mark's Wonga Park was newly constituted by Bishop Butterss.[4]

SOURCES

[1] Shire of Lillydale RB 1905-6 No.1941; 1908-9 No.2120.

[2] 'Discover Wonga Park', Place No.12.

[3] Border Country, p.93.

[4] Parish Register of Services, St Marks Wonga Park.

Creation Date 1920-21

Change Dates

Associations

Local Themes

F. A. Topping

6.02 - Churches

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE What is Significant?
St Mark's Anglican Church at 406 Yarra Road, Wonga Park, a timber, Early English Gothic church.

How is it Significant?

St Mark's Anglican Church, 406 Yarra Road, Wonga Park is of historic, social and aesthetic significance to Manningham City.

Why is it Significant?

Of historic and social significance as one of a small number of public buildings that illustrate the development of the Wonga Park farming and fruit growing district in the 1920s. It has associations with locally important families such as the Toppings and the Fulfords and has played

an important role in the development of the Wonga Park community. (RNE criteria A.4, B.2, D.2, H.1)

Of aesthetic (architectural) significance as a representative example of a small timber Early English Gothic style church, which is substantially intact. (RNE criterion E.1)

LEVEL Local significance

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
Manningham Planning Scheme	HO190		Listed

Extent The whole of the property as defined by the title boundaries

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

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation objectives, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.
2. Discourage the demolition of significant or contributory buildings unless the demolition is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:
 - The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
 - The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
 - It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
 - It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and/or layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or interpreting the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

Extra Research

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- BIBLIOGRAPHY** Context Pty Ltd, (1996), Wonga Park Heritage Study. Report on Stages 1 and 2, City of
Manningham, Doncaster
Context Pty Ltd, (2005), Manningham Heritage Study Review, City of Manningham, Doncaster