

Hamilton Villas – Hamilton

From the earliest years of free settlement, the area around what is now Hamilton was considered one of Brisbane's most beautiful locations. Large attractive residences, collectively referred to as the Hamilton Villas, were built on the elevated land overlooking the Brisbane River. Hamilton became known as part of Brisbane's 'dress circle' and a desirable address for Brisbane's elite and working professionals. In their heyday, the Hamilton Villas were a place for glittering parties attended by important guests.

Navigational hint: look for the Hamilton Villas on Hamilton Hill on the right when travelling upstream, not long after the CityCat leaves Bretts Wharf ferry terminal.

Hamilton was close to recreational attractions including the Hamilton Hotel and the racecourse, and the city via Hamilton Road (later renamed Kingsford Smith Drive) and the Breakfast Creek Bridge. The suburb's population almost doubled between 1911 and 1921.

Notable Hamilton villas that can still be seen today include:

Blair Lodge – 242 Kingsford Smith Drive, constructed c. 1907 on Kingsford Smith Drive for the Munro family and designed by prominent Brisbane architect Claude Chambers. The design features an eye-catching gabled terracotta tiled roof, projecting dormers and high chimneys.

Cremorne – 34 Mullens Street, a substantial single storey high-set timber residence erected c. 1905–1906 on Mullens Street for Brisbane publican James Denis O'Connor. It is a striking design with a complex of hips, gables, ridges and pavilions, decorative gablets and finials, and 3 brick chimney stacks.

Euralla – 1 Eldernell Terrace, a masonry and tile house built in 1931 in a Dutch Colonial style by architectural firm Powell and Rae as the home of master builder George A. Stronach.

Eldernell – 39 Eldernell Terrace, a mid-Victorian stone residence built in 1869 for William Hemmant, a partner in the Drapery firm Stewart and Hemmant and designed by the prominent Brisbane architect James Cowlshaw. The house was renamed Bishopsbourne in 1964 when it became the new home of the Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane, Phillip Strong.

Greystaines – 240 Kingsford Smith Drive, a 3-storey block of flats erected in 1934 for Sydney James Dove and his wife Audree Thomasina Dove. It was designed by George Rae, a Brisbane-based architect who designed some of Brisbane's best interwar flats.

Lindenoa – 70 Hillside Crescent, a timber home built in 1908 in the Federation style for successful contractor, Justine Carr.

Lochiel – 6 Hillside Crescent, a substantial timber and masonry residence on the lower reaches of Toorak Hill and believed to have originated as a 2-storey masonry house erected by J. F. Buckland in the 1860s. After being purchased by John Samuel Cameron (the younger), additions to the house were made in 1899, 1906 and 1927. The house features distinctive timber detailing.

Marie Ville – 16 Hillside Crescent, a Victorian villa designed by Brisbane architects, John Hall & Son c. 1887 for Kate Quinlan, a partner in the firm Fitzgerald, Quinlan & Co. that established the Castlemaine Brewery at Milton in 1877–78.