

Newstead House

199 Breakfast Creek Road, Newstead

Newstead House and its parkland setting is indisputably one of the crown jewels of Brisbane's riverfront. The oldest surviving residence in Brisbane, it served as the unofficial government house between 1853 and 1859. It is now a museum and venue for the public to enjoy.

Navigational hint: after the CityCat leaves Bretts Wharf ferry terminal, look towards the Breakfast Creek inlet, and see the expansive lawns, plantings, rotunda and obelisk in Newstead Park. As the CityCat passes, there are glimpses of Newstead House.

Constructed in 1846, Newstead House is one of the only surviving examples of an 1840s Queensland colonial residence. At its heart is the original 1846 house built for Patrick Leslie, a grazier and explorer.

After the closure of Queensland as a penal settlement, Brisbane town was surveyed, and lots were offered for sale from 1842. Leslie was one of the first to purchase property, and upon its completion in 1846, he moved into Newstead House with his family.

Constructed from brick, stone and timber, the original 2-storey house had living rooms and bedrooms on the upper floor and servants' rooms, cellars and kitchen on the lower floor. Leslie made the most of the house site with a 2.4 m wide verandah on the first floor facing the best views of the river.

In 1847, Newstead House was sold to Leslie's brother-in-law Captain John Clements Wickham, whose name has been given to Brisbane streets, parks and terraces. Wickham made significant alterations and additions to the house. In 1853 he was appointed Government Resident of Moreton Bay, and the house became the unofficial government residence.

In 1921, Brisbane City Council bought the property, and it was modified to suit new uses. The earliest parts of the house were conserved and refurbished. It is now a museum, and the landmark building is open for everyone to enjoy for recreational purposes, weddings and social events.