

## **Toorak House – 28 Annie Street, Hamilton**

Toorak House, the Gothic-influenced, castle-like residence on Hamilton Hill was built in c. 1865. Originally built for the former Premier of Queensland, Sir James Robert Dickson, Toorak House has been associated with some of the most important political and social figures of the 19th and 20th Centuries, including grazier George Moffatt (1916), John Gibson of the pioneer sugar family (1929), Brisbane businessman Patrick Woulfe, prominent grazier (c. 1930s), philanthropist and art collector Harold de Vahl Rubin (c. 1950), and pastoralist Sir William Allen (1963).

*Navigational hint: look for Toorak House and its 2 large pine trees on the very top of the hill above the Hamilton Villas. If you are travelling downstream, you can spot it from the Teneriffe ferry terminal. If you are travelling upstream, you may need to look back over your shoulder as you are travelling towards Teneriffe.*

Toorak House, reputedly built from sandstone from the nearby Petrie quarries at Albion, was originally a single storey residence with a grand 2-level entrance tower extending through the verandah roof. The design of the residence shows the influence of the English Picturesque movement on Australian domestic architecture in the late 19th Century. Photographs of the residence show that the second storey and an upper section to the tower were added by the 1890s.