



27 Rome Street (Reference Point 11)

If you have some more time to enjoy Toowoomba's heritage you may like to try other walks around Queens Park, Caledonian Estate, Russell Street, Mort Estate, East Creek Park and Paddington Estate and the City Centre. Brochures on these walks are available at various outlets including the Tourist Information Centres at 476 Ruthven St and on the corner of James and Kitchener Streets.

Further information on Toowoomba's history can be gained from the Council's Local History Information Centre at 476 Ruthven Street or the Historical Society at 49 Lindsay Street. Also, books like "The Toowoomba House: Styles and History" produced by Toowoomba City Council and "Cottages - a History of Cottage Life in Toowoomba 1860-1910" written by Beris Broderick and available at the city library, will provide further details on houses in this area and other areas of the city.

If you have no further use for this brochure, please consider recycling it by returning it to where you collected it, so that others may enjoy this walk.

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Sketches by Ivan McDonald.  
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The walk begins on the opposite side of Holberton Street from Newtown Park's State Rose Garden. Walk towards Campbell Street.

Thank you for respecting residents' privacy by viewing places on the walk and drive from footpaths and streets.

For over 40,000 years, long before European settlement, Aboriginal people such as the Gibal group inhabited the area.

1 Newtown Park was formally opened in 1913. Its perimeter was planted with two hundred Camphor Laurel trees donated by Queensland's Department of Lands.

The park has a history of cultural, sporting and military use. The Girl Guides' Hut is a reminder of occupation by the United States Navy for 'Rest and Recreation' during World War II. Other huts that were removed after the war may be seen on the Newtown Drive (West & Fanny Streets).

Turn right into Campbell Street

2 The house at 247 dates from the period after World War II when materials were at a premium and accommodation shortages had reached a critical point. Both the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments legislated to ensure fair access to materials and labour by allowing smaller dwellings to be built without permits.

Despite earlier settlement, enough land was available to enable rapid growth to occur during the decade following the war.

Therefore the area has homes from a number of eras including:

- early houses built before World War I (1890-1918);
- the Inter-War Period (1920s-30s); and
- those built after World War II (1940s-50s).

The latter are recognisable in age and style; and form a significant part of Newtown's character. See cover sketch.

Some such homes are built of brick with tiled roofs. They vary from single, double to triple fronts with moderately pitched roofs and generous roof overhangs. Windows are often casements, sometimes at corners.



Sash window style, Post-World War II

Others are clad with narrow chamfer boards. Typically these homes have low to moderate roof pitches in a stepped hip form and are low-set on stumps. Sash windows with horizontal mullions on the top sash were commonly used.

Turn right into Bernard Street

3 Homes at Numbers 4 and 8 are Post-World War II houses, free of the ornamentation of earlier styles.

4 "Burwood", Number 12, is an older home with a central passage and coloured glass door side-lights. A 'cubby' matches the house.

Turn left into Taylor Street

5 Opposite, a mature Pinoak, *Quercus palustris*, contributes greatly to the streetscape.

6 In the 1940s, the high-set building, Number 119, was a Police Station and residence.

Turn right into Clairmont Street

7 Number 5 was built around 1912 for Mr Jim Humphrey at a cost of £240 (\$480).

Mr Humphrey worked for Castlemaine Perkins Brewery, retiring as foreman when the business closed. Grand Central Shopping Centre occupies the former Brewery site.

Mr Humphrey was a life member of the Newtown Progress Association and caretaker of the Newtown Hall.

The home is a remarkably intact example of an early cottage which is Style 2 in Council's publication "The Toowoomba House – Styles and History".

It retains original features such as timber verandah balustrading and brackets, ogee guttering and metal window hoods. Its timber sash windows with coloured glass sidelights are typical of this style.



Ogee Guttering



Window Hood

Turn left into Rome Street

8 Newtown Hall at 49 Rome Street was formerly Council Chambers and was later used as a picture theatre until after World War II. Chairs from this theatre were re-used at the Newtown Theatre, "Fiveways" on the drive.

From mid-1995 until December 2003, the Newtown Progress and Hall Association led by Des and Karen McLucas acted as caretakers.

It is currently a valued Council community facility.

## BACKGROUND TO NEWTOWN

Around 1858, George Thorn, an Ipswich merchant bought land known as Thorn's Paddock. By 1861 another landowner, John Shipman, had established a reputation as an outstanding farmer. In 1865 Newtown was surveyed as town lots and offered for sale, making it one of Toowoomba's older suburbs. In 1879 when Gowrie was gazetted as a shire, it contained much of the present Newtown.

The Shire of Gowrie was abolished in 1913 and part became the Town of Newtown. It remained a town in its own right from 1913 until 1917, the first Mayor being Alderman James Hagan.

9 Number 33 Rome Street was the Police Constable's home in 1914. Its chimney is decorated with contrasting string courses.



Chimney with Contrasting Courses

10 In 1950, Number 31 was built for ex-western graziers. Art Deco style plaster ceilings and cornices are similar to those used in Toowoomba's Empire Theatre.

Leadlight windows are silky oak with green and yellow glass.

In 2003 the original tiled roof was replaced.

11 The house at Number 27 is depicted on the brochure cover. It was built in the 1950s by Colin Barlow for a Mr Wishart who supplied timber from his country property.

The home features leadlight casement windows and unusual diagonal brickwork panels below the windows and on the fence.

Like Number 31, this house was built later than the 'austerity' homes immediately following World War II. Luxury touches are a sign of greater affluence and availability of materials.

12 'Spreydon', 30 Rome Street, is the southern portion of a house built for Robert Filshie, timber merchant, in about 1896.

In 1908 it opened as Spreydon Girls' College with Misses Beth and Jessie Thomson as Co-Principals. Within two years it became a Presbyterian Ladies' College, the forerunner of Fairholme College.

'Spreydon' was separated and moved to its present location in about 1922.

Turn right into Warra Street where the other section of 'Spreydon' remains

13 'Oak Lodge', 7 Warra Street, is believed to take its name from the century-old Silky Oak, *Grevillea robusta*, planted in 'Spreydon's' school yard.

The home's architect, James Marks, was a member of the Toowoomba sawmilling firm of Filshie, Broadfoot & Co.

His design in the Victorian manner features "Gothic" forms and decoration made possible by generous supplies of fine timber.

Turn right into Russell Street

14 Number 156 is a good example of the Post World War II brick and tile home with metal fence panels and gates of the era.

It was built by Mr Charles Higgins in about 1950 and has had few changes since.

15 The Art Deco style house at Number 177A was occupied by its builder, Mr William Brose in 1939.

The following three houses were built before the First World War.

16 'Jasmine', Number 164 was the home of Archdeacon W.P. Glover. In 1933 he laid the foundation stone for planned extensions to St Matthew's Church, Drayton.

17 At that time Arthur Higgins, a blacksmith, lived at 'Clontarf', Number 166.

18 'Boyanup', Number 170, was named by its original owners after the Western Australian town where they had lived.

Between World War I and World War II a new style of housing, the Inter-War house or Bungalow became popular. Three common styles are reviewed in Council's publication, 'The Toowoomba House – Styles and History'.

Inter-War House



19 Number 205 dates from that era, the 1920s-30s. There have been additions to the house and garden.

20 In 1921 Miss Mary Butterworth used the two front rooms of Number 209 for music lessons.

She left her sulky in rear stables and tethered her horse in the yard.

21 Camphor Laurel trees enhance the southern streetscape. They appear to be remnants of an earlier avenue.

22 In 1951 the building at Number 202 replaced a church which was officially opened by Rev. Richard Dunstan in 1911 as Newtown Methodist Church.

It has been the Russell Street Uniting Church since 1977.

23 'Kymoria', Number 229, was a private hospital owned by Dr Alex Horn who was medical officer for the Town of Newtown. The cross on the chimney, a Widow's Walk and mature Silky Oaks are noteworthy

24 Number 214 is a typical Inter-War house featuring gables, shingle-look cladding and distinctive front stairs.

25 Many corner and small stores contribute to Newtown's character.

The florist shop at Number 216 was a Store and Post Office in 1921 with the shop residence next door.

Widow's Walk



Turn right into Holberton Street

26 At 141 and 139A Holberton Street the Butcher's Shop and Post Office remain but with new uses.

The Street is named after Frederick Hurrell Holberton, Toowoomba businessman and Member of the Queensland Legislative Council whose home, now "Ascot", was built in 1876.

27 The convenience store, 102 Taylor Street, on the western corner of Taylor Street, dates from at least the 1930s.

Walk to the State Rose Garden in Newtown Park

28 Gowrie Shire Council purchased land from Henry Pottinger for the Park in 1912. In 1913 the 11th Infantry Regiment of the Citizens' Forces and in 1923 the 11th Light Horse Regiment camped in the Park.

Plaques on site record The Rose Garden's history.

29 Self-directed Drive – suggested places of interest:

- **Weetwood** - 423-427 Tor Street
- **Ascot** - 15 Newmarket Street
- **Tor** - 7 Devon Street
- **Clifford Park Racecourse** - Lot 982 Hursley Road
- **Newtown State Primary School** - 2 Albert Street
- **Old Picture Theatre, shops and hotel** - Anzac Avenue Five ways
- **Elphin** - 24 Anzac Avenue
- **St Rest** - 3 Gladstone Street
- **St Mary's College** - 129 West Street
- **The Glennie School** - 246A-248 Herries Street
- **Kerrilaw** - St Ursula's College, 38 Taylor Street
- **World War II Huts** - West Street, 2-14 Fanny Street