

Thanks to: Ivan McDonald for the map and architectural sketches, Eleanor & Peter Cullen, Beris Broderick, John Clements and Council Officers for the historical and botanical information.

In this brochure reference has been made to two publications which contain further details on houses in this area and other party of the city.

These are: The Toowoomba House: Styles and History by David Roessler, Published by the Toowoomba City Council and available from Council and the Historical Society and Cottages - A History of Cottage Life in Toowoomba 1860 - 1910 by Beris Broderick and Val Russell, available from the Toowoomba Historical Society, 49 Lindsay Street.



Prepared by: Toowoomba Heritage Street Watch Group Inc. with the welcome assistance of Toowoomba City Council

Published by Toowoomba Regional Council – June 2010

www.smartprinting.com 296 16020

A Walk THROUGH HISTORY

TOOWOOMBA HERITAGE STREET WATCH



“Framed by a Sentinel”
The Sentinels are explained in point 23.

*Toowoomba's
East Creek Park &
Paddington Estate*

TOOWOOMBA
REGIONAL
COUNCIL

Allow 45 minutes for a brisk walk and over an hour for a leisurely stroll.

Enjoy a Walk to Historic Paddington through East Creek Park

From the Information Centre the cycleway is used to approach and leave this historic area.

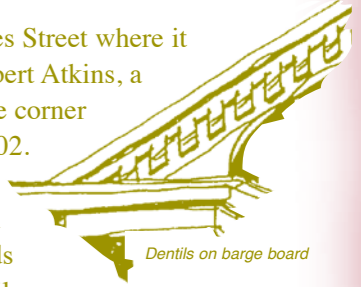
- 1 Start the walk at the Guide to Toowoomba Map. To the rear of the centre pass between a large Swamp Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and a tall eucalypt. Notice two Tulip trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and a mature Camphor Laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*) as you make your way to cross at the James Street lights.
- 2 This street, named after King James I of England was once Toowoomba's main thoroughfare and where our first Town Hall was sited. Bullock teams were a common sight on their way to and from the coast before the coming of the railway in 1867. Follow the cycle path beside East Creek with its willows (*Salix babylonica*) and swamp cypresses.
- 3 Cross Mary Street. Here a large Sheoak (*Casuarina*) overhangs the creek. Among the trees in the small park opposite are three Chestnut leaved oaks (*Quercus castaneifolia*), also found in Horton Street and a Carob tree (*Ceratonia siliqua*).
- 4 Enter Horton Street named after one of Toowoomba's colourful characters, William Horton, nicknamed Bill the Fiver because of his love of gambling. His origin is somewhat obscure but it seems that, at the age of thirteen, he was transported as a convict for stealing a coat. In 1847 he built the original Bull's Head Inn, Drayton and the current building in 1859. Horton made many investments in Toowoomba prior to his death in 1864 at the age of 47.
- 5 Number 15, named Horton Cottage, is an example of an early Toowoomba cottage built between 1890 and 1918. This style is numbered 2 in The Toowoomba House.

Houses at 14, 12 and 5 Horton Street are of similar age and style. While 10 was removed c2007

- 6 The land at number 14 was owned by John Muller in 1911. Council records show a cottage there two years later. The name Newington is incorporated into the concrete fence, reminiscent of a rustic style popular in the late nineteenth century. It is thought the verandahs were added later.
- 7 Early cottages face Herries Street where it meets Horton Street. Robert Atkins, a horse cabman lived on the corner at 68 Herries Street in 1902. Number 66 has two gables with pressed metal infills. Often barge boards were decorated with dentils as illustrated.
- 8 There has been a shop on the site of The Paddington Store since the late 1800s. In 1925 it was a saddlery owned by William Wood.
- 9 67 Herries Street, built 1897/8, is typical of Toowoomba's early timber cottages, four roomed, symmetrical, with a pyramid shaped galvanized iron roof and front verandah. In the early 20th century it was one of the city's lying-in hospitals where women gave birth with the assistance of a mid wife.

For more information on this house see Cottages p. 24

- 10 Glenroy, 60 Herries Street, is over 100 years old. This was the home of Robert Gordon Cousins, manager of Wyeths hardware store from 1900 until his death in 1913 at the age of 43. His widow Lottie died in 1966 at the age of 86. The cast iron balustrade is original. Other examples may be seen at point 22 and in the illustration.



Dentils on barge board



Cast iron balustrade

11 Cross Herries Street to enter the Paddington Estate, now part of the Caledonian Estate Urban Conservation Precinct. John Watts owned the 20 acres (8 hectares) prior to its subdivision into an unusual pattern of streets and narrow lanes. He had been part owner of Eton Vale station and was Minister for Public Works when the railway to Toowoomba was opened. The court house was near De Molay in Margaret Street when the following advertisement, complete with errors, appeared in the Darling Downs Gazette:

On the Ground

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9TH, 1866

**PADDINGTON!
Paddington. Paddington**

200 Magnificent Allotments, nearly adjoining the Court-house, Toowoomba, for absolute sale, upon the following unparalleled Easy Terms.

*To the Navvies at work on the Railway Works,
Mechanics, Working Men, and Others.*

T. G. ROBINSON

HAS received instruction to sell by auction, Tuesday, January 9th, 1866, at 1 o'clock p.m., on

THE GROUND,

adjoining the Court-house.

The Paddington Estate, comprising 200 large

Allotments, having excellent frontages, commanding a beautiful view, actually within the Municipality, yet away from the business of the Town.

The whole of these lots are for unreserved sale upon the following remarkably easy terms, viz.,

£1 (ONE POUND) DEPOSIT upon each Allotment and the balance by

MONTHLY INSTALMENTS

Without Interest

The Transfers will, in each case, be given free of cost.

To the Purchaser of the greatest number of Allotments

One Allotment will be given in Gratis

To the Purchaser who gives the highest amount for any one Allotment

One Allotment will be given in Gratis

A Conveyance will ply between the Argyle Rooms and the Ground, to convey parties gratis to the sale.

Luncheon provided at 12 o'clock in a Marquee upon the Ground.

Remember the Paddington Estate, nearly adjoining the Court-house.

The paper later reported that the attendance at the sale was “very large” and the bidding “highly spirited throughout”. The corner lots in Margaret and Herries Streets fetched the highest prices - £35 to £40.

12 Mary Street was originally called Park Street as the land on which the Toowoomba Grammar School now stands was the original Queen’s Park until 1875 when the School was established. Towards the Margaret Street end is a large retaining wall made of basalt. This volcanic material came from local quarries and was used extensively for kerbing that gives character to Toowoomba’s older areas.

13 143 Mary Street, once named Maida, is a Queensland Bungalow, Style 6 in The Toowoomba House. This modest home with its gabled front is of the between wars period - the 1920s and 30s. The small verandah has been enclosed.



Typical Between-Wars bungalow

14 Council Minutes for May 1871 record that “the well for the Paddington Estate should be sunk at the junction of Pitt and Park Streets”. Before turning into George Street note Cronulla, 135 Mary Street, and early house more elaborate than the cottage style and with one projecting front room with a decorated gable, Style 3 in The Toowoomba House. Its bay window and banded chimneys with contrasting string courses are attractive features.



Banded chimney

15 From here the view directly west shows the landmark two-storied St. Mary’s College, West Street. Its original 1899 building was designed by Toowoomba architect William Hodgen Jnr.

George Street contains a mix of early, inter-war and more recent houses.

16 In 1900, Number 8 was the home of a sawyer, William McMullen. The four room cottage was the only house on this side of the street at that time. From 1917 the resident was Elizabeth McMullen, one of the first Toowoomba women to have the right to vote in the 1917 election. She was a nurse and the house was another lying-in hospital.



Metal window hood

17 At Lindsay Street turn left. Number 84 was designed by William Hodgen Jnr, in 1899 for Robert Bruce, one of a well-known Toowoomba family of stonemasons.

18 Lindsay Street between Margaret and Herries Streets was originally named Lutwyche Street after Judge Alfred Lutwyche who presided at many trials in Toowoomba and was noted for his courtroom humour. Number 88 built in 1888 was recently given the original street name. The intact metal window hoods are of an unusual design.

19 At 90 Lindsay Street, there was a four room cottage in 1904 with a kitchen added by 1906, the property value then being £36. The traditional style guttering features Acroteria.



Acroteria

Opposite is a large red cedar tree (Toona australis), and outstanding asset of the Caledonian Estate.

20 Number 92 is one of six Queensland Bungalows in this part of the street, Style 6 in The Toowoomba House. Its fence and winding path have been carefully designed to reflect the original period character.

21 Turning right into Herries Street with its avenue of camphor laurel trees, notice the hall numbered 82A, currently used by the Table Tennis Association. At one time this was Coddington’s Wood Depot.

22 Featuring on the cover of this brochure is 85 Herries Street, an early house with another example of cast iron balustrading, overhanging frieze and original window hood. It is Style 3 in The Toowoomba House.

23 Two large London Plane trees (Platanus x acerifolia), known locally as The Seninels, are landmarks on the southern side of the bridge. One may be seen on the cover of this brochure. They are at least 100 years old and at one time shaded a horse trough.

24 Cross at the lights and follow the cycleway beneath the willows back to James Street. The bluestone bridge you have just crossed, designed by Council engineer the late Murray Clewett, is a more modern example of the use of local basalt and features on the cover.

Along the creek look out for Black Ducks, Red Wattle Birds, Blue Eyed Honeyeaters, Noisy Miners and perhaps a White Faced Heron fishing in the shallows. The cycleway follows Kitchener Street, called East Street until 1916 when it was renamed in honour of the First World War field marshal.

25 After crossing James Street, you may like to rest on a picnic seat provided near the beginning of the walk. Chinese gardens providing vegetables for the local market once stretched along the creek banks.



If you have time to enjoy other Toowoomba Heritage walks, brochures are available at various outlets including the Visitor Information Centres at 476 Ruthven Street and on the corner of James and Kitchener Streets.

Please consider recycling this brochure by returning it to one of the Information Centres so that others may enjoy the walk.