



SITES OF SEPARATION

Heritage Trail Guide

Here's a chance to see what remains of Brisbane and further afield in 1859 and the following decade when public and private buildings sprouted all over the place. That was induced by the Separation of Queensland from NSW, demand for local infrastructure, immigration from overseas and development of colonial resources.

Considering the import of Separation, it might be expected to have left an imprint on the landscape – and in three regards. The first is those sites where official events actually took place, including the first temporary Government House from which Separation was proclaimed on 10 December 1859.

The second involves those places which emanated from Separation, such as Parliament House, while the third and largest grouping comprises all those sites which derived from the era of optimism and expansion after Separation – until the inevitable crash in 1866 and long, painful recovery – as in 2009.

To this end the trail is divided into three tours. The first is a walk (or cycle) around town to see what's what historically. Starting in William Street at the old Commissariat Store, it proceeds clockwise along Queen and Ann Streets, to loop around Wickham Terrace and back via Creek Street, through the Botanic Gardens to George Street.

The second tour is a drive (or ride) through the encircling suburbs of Brisbane. That starts at South Bank and proceeds anticlockwise to East Brisbane, swings through Fortitude Valley, New Farm and Hamilton heights. It then heads north to Kalinga and back to town through Windsor, Spring Hill and Petrie Terrace after looping north to Red Hill and west to Bardon.

The third tour (or series) involves heritage places which are further off the beaten track, whether just outside the above limits, such as West End and Bulimba, or further to the north, south, east or west, including Cleveland and Sandgate. Those sites, like the others, may be selected to suit whatever opportunity might arise to visit them hereafter.

The upshot is that almost 120 historic sites have been described by 35 contributors and edited by historian Rod Fisher. As well as maps and instructions en route, there's an eye-witness account of the governor's arrival in 1859 and a timeline of events, whether the outcome of official action or private enterprise.

***A souvenir of the sesquicentennial celebration of the Separation of Queensland
the Foundation of Dioceses and the Municipality of Brisbane***

BHG Enquiries: Email: BHG@brisbanehistory.asn.au Phone: 3351 6371 www.brisbanehistory.asn.au



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