

TOORAK HOUSE
21 St Georges Road, Toorak



Recommendations It is recommended that this building be retained on the Register of Historic Buildings and Register of the National Estate, and be protected using the provisions of Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule)

Current Assessments 'Toorak House' is included on the Historic Buildings Register, the Register of the National Estate and classified by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

History and Description 'Toorak House', in St Georges Road Toorak, constructed c. 1848-51 was designed by architect Samuel Jackson and erected for, but never occupied by, wealthy Melbourne merchant James Jackson. The assymetrical, rectangular planned two storey brick and stucco Italianate style mansion, complete with dominant tower and ground floor colonnade, was leased and then extravagantly extended as the residence to the Governor of Victoria from 1854-74.

Significance 'Toorak House' is of special historic importance as the first substantial Government House in Victoria and the centre of Vice-Regal Administration from 1854-74. The structure is perhaps the oldest surviving mansion house in the State and of paramount importance architecturally because it is an original example of the Italianate tradition in residential Victoria, by important pioneer architect Samuel Jackson.

Intactness 'Toorak House' survives essentially intact although the character of the original mansion has been partially obliterated by alteration and embellishment. The extensive outbuildings and quarters have been demolished and the interior sympathetically converted for use of the Swedish Church in Victoria.

References
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