

# Fact Sheet 5

## Historic Government House



GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
QUEENSLAND

### Heritage listed

The Government House estate now comprises 14 hectares – ten hectares of managed bushland and four hectares that are taken up by the house, other buildings, and beautiful formal lawns and gardens.

Government House and its grounds are an important part of Queensland's history and are heritage listed.



## Historic Government House

**Government House in the Brisbane suburb of Paddington has been the home of Queensland's Governors since 1910, but the house has an even longer history.**

The first residence on the large site was built in 1865 for a German immigrant, Johann Heussler. He called the house *Fernberg*, which is German for 'distant mountain'. Financial pressures later forced Heussler to give up the house.

The residence was purchased in the 1880s by a young businessman from Scotland, John Stevenson, who added a large north wing in 1890. When Stevenson's fortunes faded in the economic recession of the 1890s, he too had to give up the house.

The house was eventually leased by the Queensland Government

in 1910, and purchased in 1911, as a temporary Government House. Governors had previously lived in a purpose-built house in central Brisbane, but that building was needed to house the newly-established University of Queensland.

The Queensland Government's initial plan to build a new Government House on another site was later abandoned.

In 1937, the Queensland Government decided that Fernberg would be Queensland's permanent Government House and added a new wing to the building.

Since 1937, there have been minor additions and alterations to the fabric of the house, and the functions of some rooms have been changed.



The 1972 Rolls Royce Phantom VI is used on State and ceremonial occasions.



The State Dining Room is the setting for formal hospitality provided by the Governor and Mrs de Jersey.