



LIVING DESIGN *in the* BAROSSA

TORTOLA HOUSE

Cnr Tod & Dundas Streets, Gawler

Tortola House in Dundas Street Gawler has a feel of bygone romance. With the sun setting on the cream and rose coloured brickwork, Juliet could be looking out from the arcaded balcony, waiting for her Romeo.

TORTOLA HOUSE DESIGN

Tortola House was built in the 1860s by William Faulkner Wincey. Wincey owned the timber merchant business of Padman and Company, which had businesses in Gawler and Kapunda.

The design was constructed of red bricks made at Gawler which were patterned with cream bricks which are reputed to have come from Florence, Italy. The architecture is Venetian Gothic Revival with French-Byzantine influences. A large block opposite, which now has buildings, was the orange orchard. In 1885 it was sold to Alfred May of May Brothers machinery works. He added the iron lacework to the front fence, made from his foundry. In 1912 he sold Tortola to the Tod Street Methodist Church for the

sum of £2000. Tortola then became known as the Tod Street Methodist Manse. It is now a private dwelling.

COLONIAL ATHENS

Industrial might and cultural energy in Gawler in the 1860s led to the creation of some impressive mansions for the wealthy. The designs said 'look at me, I have made it'. The mansions were in large grounds with vineyards and orchards. These mansions saw governors and princes wine and dine, fetes and grand social gatherings.

HOW TORTOLA GOT ITS NAME

William's mother, Mrs. Frances E. Wincey was born on Tortola Island in the British Virgin Islands, in

May 1800. Her father was a cotton planter and her grandfather a sugar grower. Both had slaves. After her marriage, she and her husband moved to England. Here she had connections with William Wilberforce and worked towards the abolition of slavery. The family landed in South Australia on Christmas Day in 1839.

BAROSSA DESIGN STORIES ARE ALL AROUND US...

Good design doesn't date. Bad design does - PAUL RAND

RELATED DESIGNS

Para Para Mansion (Penrith Avenue, Gawler West)

Trevu House (Deland Avenue, Gawler)