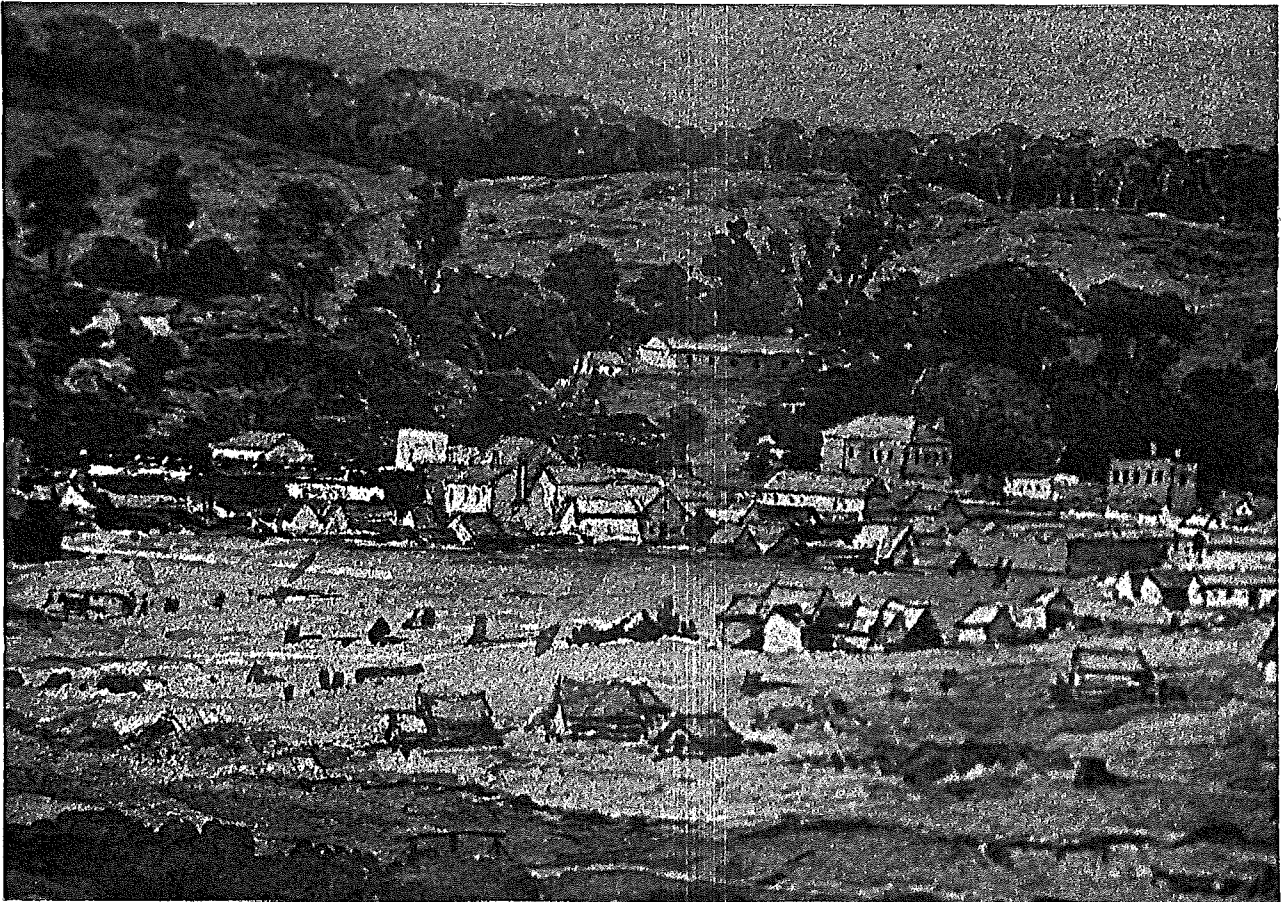


**PRECINCT: 8.02
CAMP HILL ROSALIND PARK**



3-34

George Rowe's 'Bendigo from Quarry Hill' 1857, looking to the site of Rosalind Park and Camp Hill (BCAG)

LGA: BENDIGO CITY MAP: 7.07

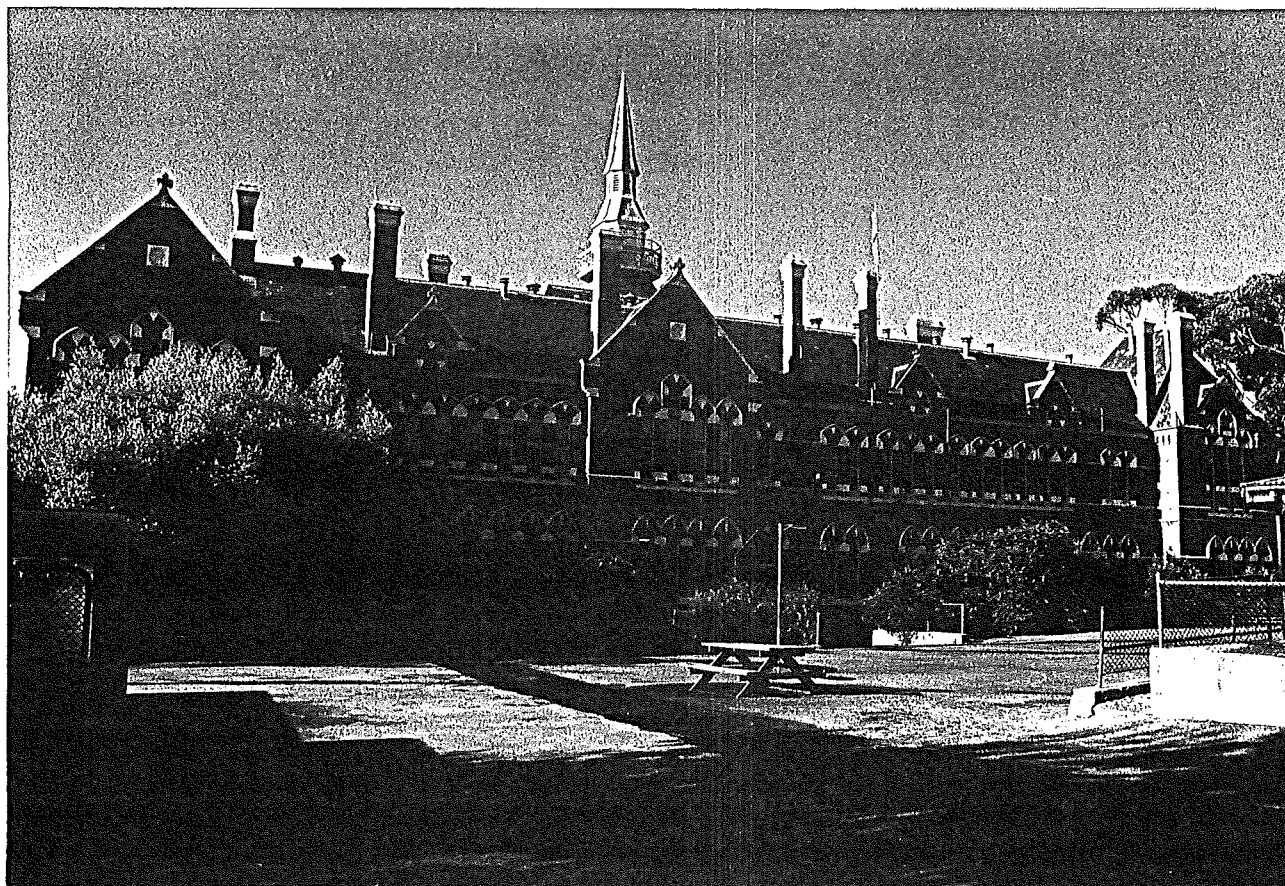
Contributory Streets

Barnard Street
Park Road (sites off)
View Street

History/Description

(See Caulfield & Krivanek, View Street Rosalind Park Study, 1992)

The immense historic importance of this precinct to Bendigo is still visible in the surviving early government buildings which are located within the old government camp area or facing View Street, as its formal extension. Once established in 1851, the 'camp' continued as the focus of government rule over the Bendigo goldfields until the move to Pall Mall in the 1880s. As with most of the major goldfields, the gaol (1859-), police offices and court house were quickly established, on an elevated site, for all to view and remember (i.e., Castlemaine, Beechworth). The location of the camp (with its goldfields commissioner and police magistrate), became the focus for all subsequent town plans. The first surveyed lots along High Street used the camp as their eastern boundary. The first town lots of 1854 used it as their north boundary and its centre became an axis (Bull Street) for broad crescents to the south.



3-35
Camp Hill School

Gold also influenced the precinct's development with reef discoveries on Hustler's Hill (1853) and the earlier alluvial workings in Commissioners Gully.¹ The Hustler name followed in 1854 with Thomas Hustler's purchase of the mine, but not until 1873 were good gold concentrations found in the southern part of the reef, by the Royal Hustler's Company.² Ironically, this coincided with Bendigo Council's peak period of tree planting and landscaping, one eventually financing the other. When miners sought to recommence operations in 1912 at the Royal Hustler's in Barnard Street, they were refused - as a mark of a more stalwart landscaping - interest in Council at that time. When the mine at Pall Mall had ceased forever, Council's curator (Rumball) designed a replacement landscape (1917), incorporation suggestions from the A.N.A.³

Nevertheless, the c1885 panorama shows the integration of mining and park, with the large mining sheds, chimney poppet heads and reservoirs at Barnard Street blending into the now maturing treescape of the upper reserve. The reservoirs, with forested islands, take on the appearance of ornamental lakes. Later they were to become public baths.⁴

Camp Hill's park role had been realized as early as 1856, when a petition requested that the reserve become a 'park and pleasure ground for the people.'⁵ Ten years later, work had commenced to achieve this,⁶ with government grants aiding in fencing and planting.⁷ One example of this was the replacement in 1878 of the wooden fence in Pall Mall with a new iron one, set on stone.⁸ The bowling club was also in evidence in the reserve during the 1870s.⁹

1 Mining Chronology Vol.3
2 Mining Chronology Vol.3
3 BCPCM
4 See BCPCM, 24/1/17
5 BCC, box 1, #2
6 Environmental History, Vol.2
7 BCC, 28/9/1870; BCC, 12/4/93
8 BCC, 23/5/78
9 *ibid.*

The continuing government presence in the reserve meant periodic conflict with the Council's parkland designs. In 1885 Council objected strongly to a proposed new orderly room in the park, in fact, to 'any' new government building in the park.

Key Sites

Victorian Colonial Government's Police Barracks, Gaol Road 1860

Victorian Colonial Government's Bendigo Gaol, Gaol Road 1859-

Victorian Colonial Government's Supreme Court, Rosalind Park 1858

Victorian Colonial Government Central School, Camp Hill, Rosalind Park 1877

Significance

Perhaps the city's most historic precinct with government structures dating back to near the beginning of permanent settlement in Bendigo and district and the park reserve itself representing the site of the gold commissioner's camp. The town's first cemetery was also close by.

With consolidation of local government, the reserve became a focus for public recreation, festivities and promenade, turning away from the formal role of government it had once stood for and the visual dominance of the court house, gaol and police barracks looming across the gold fields as signs of order. The old cemetery was also shifted away.

The precinct also contains evidence of major gold seeking activity (Upper Reserve and Bendigo Creek), albeit now much reduced, as a further link to the golden past of the city.