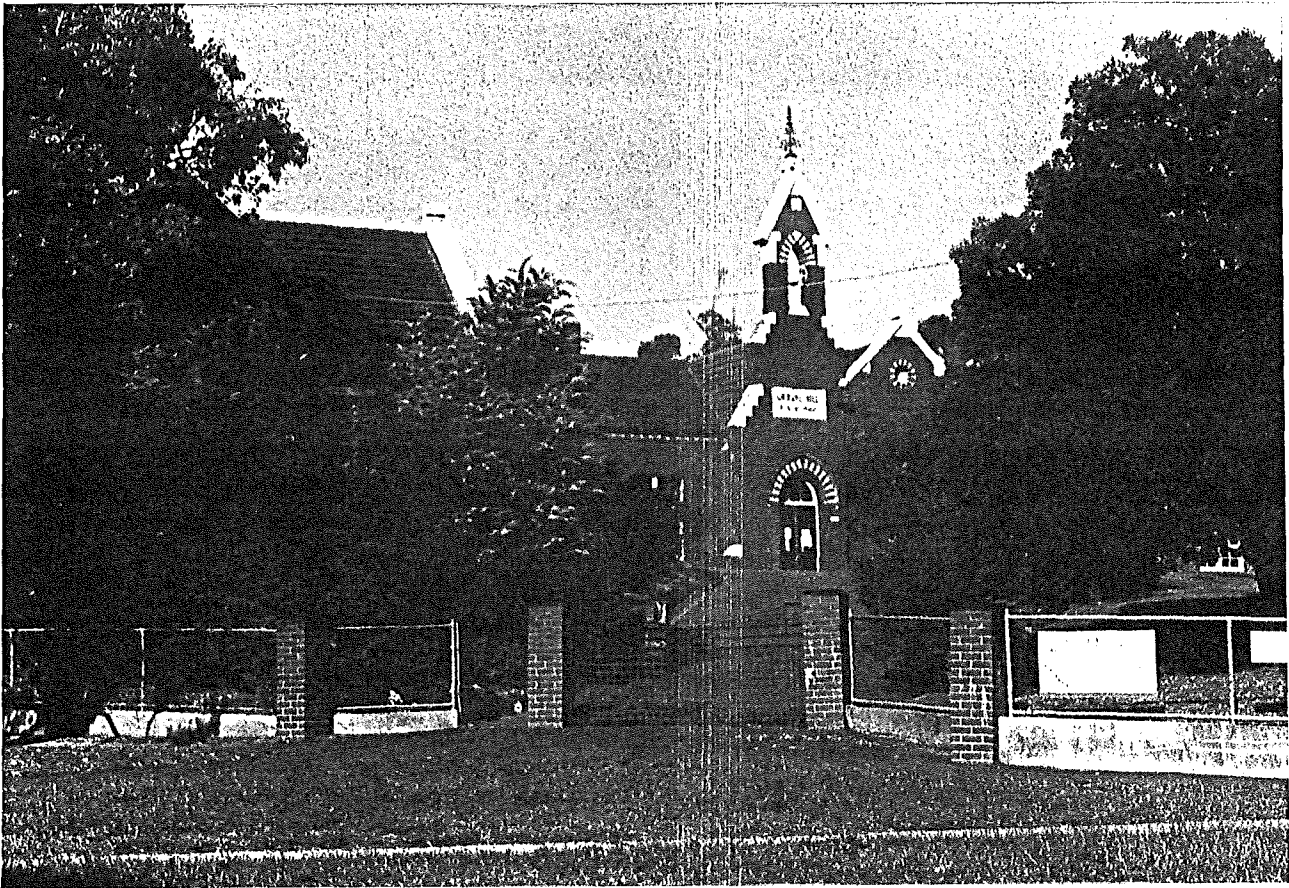


**PRECINCT: 7.03
GRAVEL HILL RESIDENTIAL & CIVIC**



3-27

Gravel Hill School, the focal point of the precinct.

LGA: BENDIGO CITY MAP: 7.07

Major Contributory Streets

Bramble, Victorian, Edwardian, timber, brick
Mollison, Victorian, Edwardian, timber, brick
McLaren, Victorian, brick, stucco

Typical residential building attributes are detached siting, pitched roofing (slate or corrugated iron), single-storey (with some two-storey in McLaren Street), scale and formerly picket fenced property lines.

History/Description

The area's history revolves around the old Gravel Hill school which opened July, 1875, on a new four-acre site, to house a potential 1000 pupils.¹ It replaced the Sandhurst School (SS586) of 1855, which had been leased by the Colonial Government since the effects were felt of the Education Act in 1873. Granite from Bright's quarry in Harcourt and 'double' red-brick walls complemented the school's slate roof.

By 1893 this school had been amalgamated with the nearby Quarry Hill school when the school's junior choirs gained some notoriety.² Caire's 1875 view shows the school recently completed, set in a bare acreage on the edge of

¹ V & R, V2, p.484
² *ibid.*



3-28

Bramble Street from 28.

Bendigo's urban development.¹ His view was taken from the other end of the precinct, from St. Paul's Anglican Church tower (1868-).

In time, structures erected around the church were the rectory (1885), offices (1898) and Sunday School.² Caire's view also takes in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (1859), which has since been replaced (1930) and does not comprise part of the precinct.³ However, its site adjoins Mollison Street, which still has its collection of large villas on the south side, valuable remnants of when the street was well favoured as a residential precinct. Caire's 1875 view shows a well-treed area, concealing a group of large villas.

Almost a continuation of this street is Bramble Street, which forms a gentle curve to avoid the Gravel Hill school. The allotments there were sold in the mid-1850s to persons such as the venerable Henry Backhaus (CA5,6/18C), R H Paul, Bendigo Town Clerk, George Avery Fletcher, and R Burrowes. Many of the houses built there are individually significant (30, 32, 34, 36, 48, 50, 52), but many of them were built in the Edwardian era, rather than the 1850s. One exception is Bramble Cottage (1856), which was designed by Fletcher for his own use.⁴

At the other end is a timber merchant's house (Iser), designed by William Beebe in 1899. Because of its two-storey scale and corner site, the house dominates this part of the precinct, although altered in detail.⁵

Key Sites

Thomas Taylor Residence 18 McLaren Street 1881

Thomas Hawkey's Lancewood House, 22 McLaren Street 1882

1 Caire, view 48
2 Butcher & Flanders, p.57; F.St.: D1915
3 Butcher & Flanders, p.59
4 Butcher & Flanders, p.61
5 Butcher & Flanders, p.61

John Stewart's (c1874-1884) Magnolia, 95 Mollison Street 1874c-

Maurice Moran's Terrace, 100-104 Mollison Street 1873

Lewis Lewis' Kinlough, 111 Mollison Street 1881

St. Paul's Anglican Rectory, 4 Myers Street 1885

St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral, 6 Myers Street 1868-

Significance

The streets, Bramble, McLaren and Mollison, provide the important residential base of this precinct with continuity of period and form of the housing within each being underscored by individually important house designs such as those listed above. The railway contains them but also provides a buffer which allows a visual focus on these streets because of their isolation and orientation towards it. The Gravel Hill school also serves as a visual focus because of its scale, its surrounding mature trees and its construction period which is related to that of the rest of the precinct.

The important St.Paul's block is linked to this precinct by the related period of the Albert Bush complex at the Williamson Street corner which offers commercial and ecclesiastical elements to the otherwise mainly residential precinct.