

**PRECINCT: 7.02  
BACK CREEK RESIDENTIAL**



**3-26**

*Barry Street, commended by the East Sandhurst Congregational Church (45 Calvin Street 1865) with early housing stepping down the hillside.*

**LGA: BENDIGO CITY MAP: 7.07**

**Major Contributory Streets**

Barry, Victorian and Edwardian, timber  
Brougham, Victorian, Edwardian, 1920s-30, timber  
Bright, Victorian, timber  
Cobden, Edwardian, timber, brick  
Galvin, Victorian, Edwardian, timber  
Hopper, Victorian, Edwardian, timber, brick  
Mundy (part), Edwardian, 1920s-30, timber

**History/Description**

The separation of this precinct from precincts 7.01, 7.03 arises from a lower integrity of the housing stock to its construction date, but otherwise it shares attributes of the adjoining identified areas. Demarcated on the north by the railway and Gravel Hill school reserve, the precinct occupies the side of a hill topographically, ending on the south at a recreation reserve and Back Creek. Otherwise it blends into Precinct 7.01, via the irregular street pattern which fans off Brougham and Williamson Streets in its progress towards the Strathfieldsaye Road.

Contrasting with other housing, this side of the railway and the timber cottages in Bright Street, they appear to have been built soon after the land grants were issued in the mid-1860s. Then, many lots on the south side were

purchased by one P Delany, indicating (1864-7) a speculative intention. Similarly, G Moore purchased two lots on the north side (1866-7).<sup>1</sup> Nearby lots in Williamson and Brougham (west of Williamson) were sold later, in the 1870s-1880s.

The area was also not beset with major gold-seeking after the first alluvial wave which commenced in 1852, with the Summer Hill shaft the nearest active, on the west.<sup>2</sup> Reef mining came from finds on the Flora Reef in 1854, but otherwise reef activity was further to the south.<sup>3</sup> The recreation reserve, off Brougham Street, may have been a quarry or mine workings, having been possibly associated with Charles Bode from the 1860- 1880s and gazetted as a Recreation Reserve as late as 1951.<sup>4</sup>

Panoramic views of the Quarry and Gravel Hills area in the 1870s- 80s, show little housing development with only key buildings such as Gravel Hill school and the former Free Methodist or Congregational Church (Galvin Street). However, the Bright Street cottages are shown behind the church in Caire's view of c1875.<sup>5</sup> Much of the area appears to have developed around 1900.

Reputedly, the area's proximity to the railway complex has meant that many of the residents were railway workers, as with the rest of 19th century Bendigo, walking to their workplace.

### Key Sites

East Sandhurst Congregational Church, 45 Calvin Street 1865  
John & George Bain's Netherby, 29-31 Hopper Street 1888,1892

### Significance

The precinct is fairly representative of Bendigo's inner suburbs of the gold-era (late 19th and early 20th centuries,) with dominantly timber construction and hillside topography providing the visually cohesive housing stock with variety of sighting and elevation. Intermixed with these houses are landmark sites such as the former Congregational Church which lend differences of scale and materials within the Victorian and Edwardian-era idiom.

1 Parish Plan, CAs 1-13/65c  
2 Mining Chronology Vol.3; Herman, 1923  
3 Mining Chronology Vol.3  
4 Parish Plan, part CS112C; Bode was a patent range maker of Exhibition Street, WD1888-9  
5 Caire, view 41