

**PRECINCT: 7.01
QUARRY HILL RESIDENTIAL**



3-24

.166-168 Mitchell Street, individually significant but not typical of the area as a whole which is generally of detached timber housing.

LGA: BENDIGO CITY MAP: 7.06

Description/Contributory Streets

Stylistic and physical characteristics of contributory sites in major streets are as follows (street, dominant period and materials):

Breen, Victorian and Edwardian, timber

Brodie, Edwardian, brick, timber

Brougham, Edwardian, timber

Carpenter, Edwardian and 1920s-30, timber, brick

Echuca, Edwardian and 1920s-30, timber

Gladstone, Victorian and Edwardian, timber

Graham, Edwardian, timber

Hallam, 1920-30, timber

Hamlet, Edwardian and 1920s-30, timber

Harkness, Victorian and Edwardian, timber, brick

Havlin, Edwardian, timber

Horace, Victorian, Edwardian, 1920s-30, timber Marks, Edwardian, timber

Miller, Edwardian, 1920s-30, timber, brick

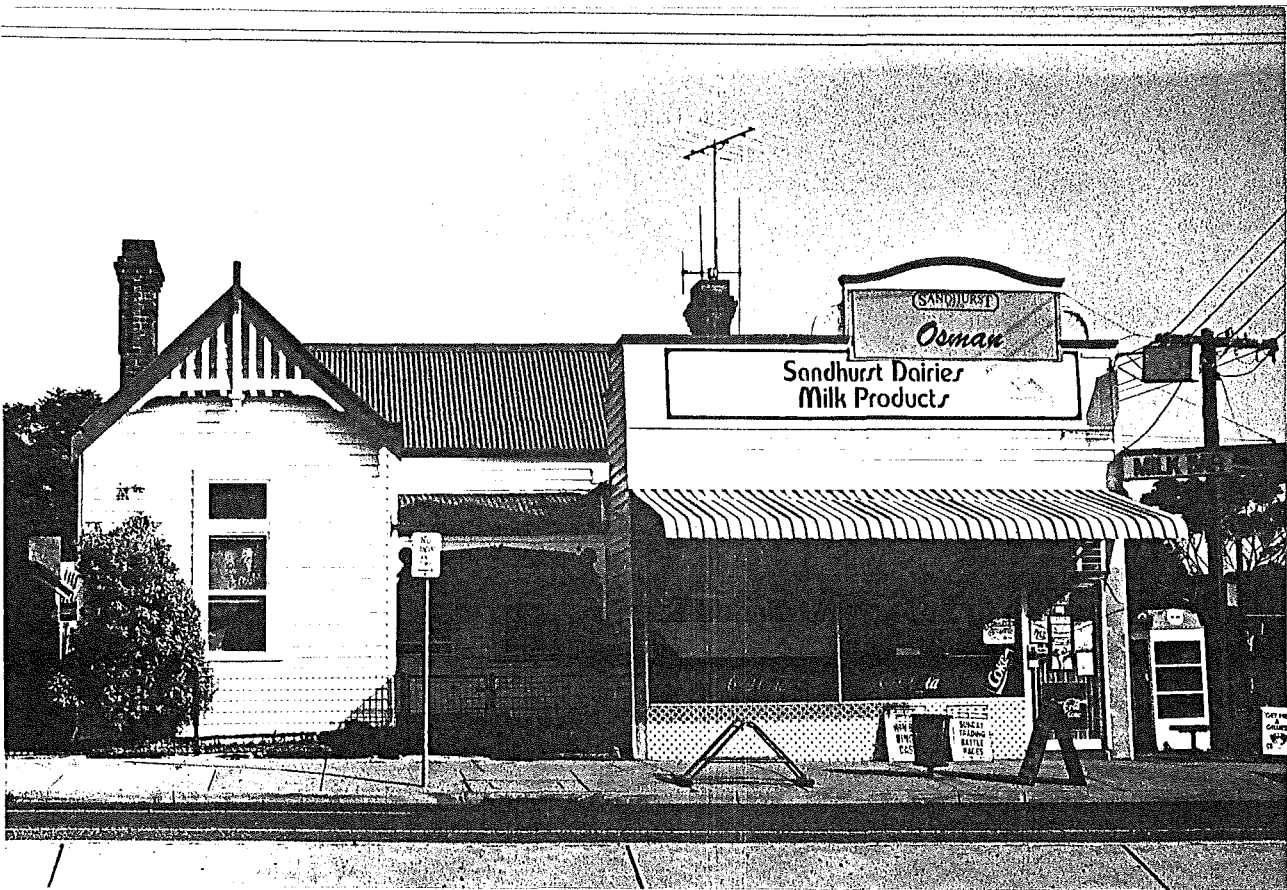
Mitchell, Victorian, Edwardian, timber, brick

Olinda, Edwardian, timber

Palmerston, Edwardian, 1920s-30, timber

Peel, Edwardian, timber

Percival, Edwardian, 1920s-30, timber, brick



3-25

.148 Mitchell Street: an altered but long-term corner shop and residence which would have provided a focus for pre-car living in the precinct

Pine, Edwardian, 1920s-30, timber, brick
 Pyke, Edwardian, 1920s-30, timber, brick
 Reginald, Edwardian, 1920s-30, timber
 Rodney, Edwardian, 1920s-30, timber, brick
 Russell, Edwardian, 1920s-30, timber

Typically, roofs are pitched (gable, hip), siting detached and scale one-storey.

History

The quarry at Quarry Hill yielded stone for St. Andrew's Church in Myers Street, Bendigo (1855). The quarry was reputedly filled in to protect the area's amenity, but a proposed renaming of the locality to Summerhill apparently failed.¹ One quarry appears to have been south of Gladstone and west of Peel Street,² while J & W Wolstencroft's old quarry (Bendigo Brick Co.) in Miller Street still survives, as does Joseph Wolstencroft's house (61).³

Lines of reef through the area (Derby, Millers) were weak and, relative to other Bendigo reefs, remained relatively untapped. All around, however, were the extensive alluvial and reef workings (1852-) in Sheepshead Gully, while the Deborah and Great Southern shafts were even closer. When the Deborah closed in 1950, it had given up 53,553 ounces of gold from 132,817 tons, over an 18 year period and was the richest of the Bendigo field in 1940.⁴

Land sales in the precinct predominated in the 1860s along streets like Olinda, Hamlet and Horace.⁵ The next decade's sales lay in Graham and Harkness Streets.⁶ Denominational reserves included the Gladstone Street Catholic Church site (now St. Joseph's school), gazetted in 1863; the Anglican site nearby at the Howard Street corner (gazetted 1861), which appears to have been sold and is now occupied by two Edwardian houses (85, 87).

1 Butcher & Flanders, p.146
 2 Parish Plan
 3 D1915
 4 Mining Chronology Vol.3
 5 Parish Plan
 6 ibid.

Another reserve is Palmerston Square which, although shown on early Parish Plans, was only gazetted as a 'permanent' public recreation reserve in 1933, presumably because the located Summerhill shaft was its centre until at least 1923.¹

Another major reserve which is the focus of many views from the hill itself is the Back Creek or Bendigo Cemetery (q.v.). Its chapel, gates, fence and associated hitching posts are also valuable street elements. Across Carpenter Street, a group of early monumental mason's yards is visibly related to the cemetery's role, (John Harris, 1920s; Northern Terrazzo Co. and Joseph Woods in the 1940s).²

Less obvious is the former Chinese market gardens which occupied sites along the Back Creek, one yielding to the cemetery's expansion. Names such as Ah Cheong (1875, CA123/H, now subdivided), at the Hallam Street corner, or She Wun (1886, CA233A/H, subdivided) in Rowcliffe Street were Chinese freeholds.³

Panoramic views from the 1870s, early 1880s, show the hill sparsely populated with ample exotic and native tree growth.⁴

Key Sites

Among the more spectacular residential sites at Quarry Hill are The Eyrie (1896-7) in Reginald Street; Penwinnick (1895), Merlemont (1873) and Rock Lodge (1873), Harkness Street; Edelweiss (1890), Hamlet Street; Heidelberg (1885), Horace Street; Rydon (c1892), Gladstone Street; Toorak (1897), Breen Street; Del Oro (1892), Kilwinning Street; Rosslyn (1905), Olinda Street; Netherby (1888-02), Hopper Street; and Avondale (1896), Mitchell Street.⁵

Among the surprisingly few hotels in the area are the Queens Arms (1872) in Russell Street and Mt. Edgecombe Hotel and store at 79 Olinda Street.⁶

Significance

Quarry Hill, because of its hilly terrain, high percentage of Edwardian and late Victorian-era housing and its proximity to major cultural sites such as the Bendigo Cemetery, has both a strong period character expressed in its housing and picturesque views to and from the housing stock which enhances its sense of place. It also is a setting for individually significant sites such as the Eyrie which epitomizes the type of housing and the superb effects gained by siting against landscaped hillsides.

1 Herman, 1923
2 D1920, D1944-5
3 Annotated Parish Plan
4 Cairn
5 Butcher & Flanders, p.146f
6 ibid.