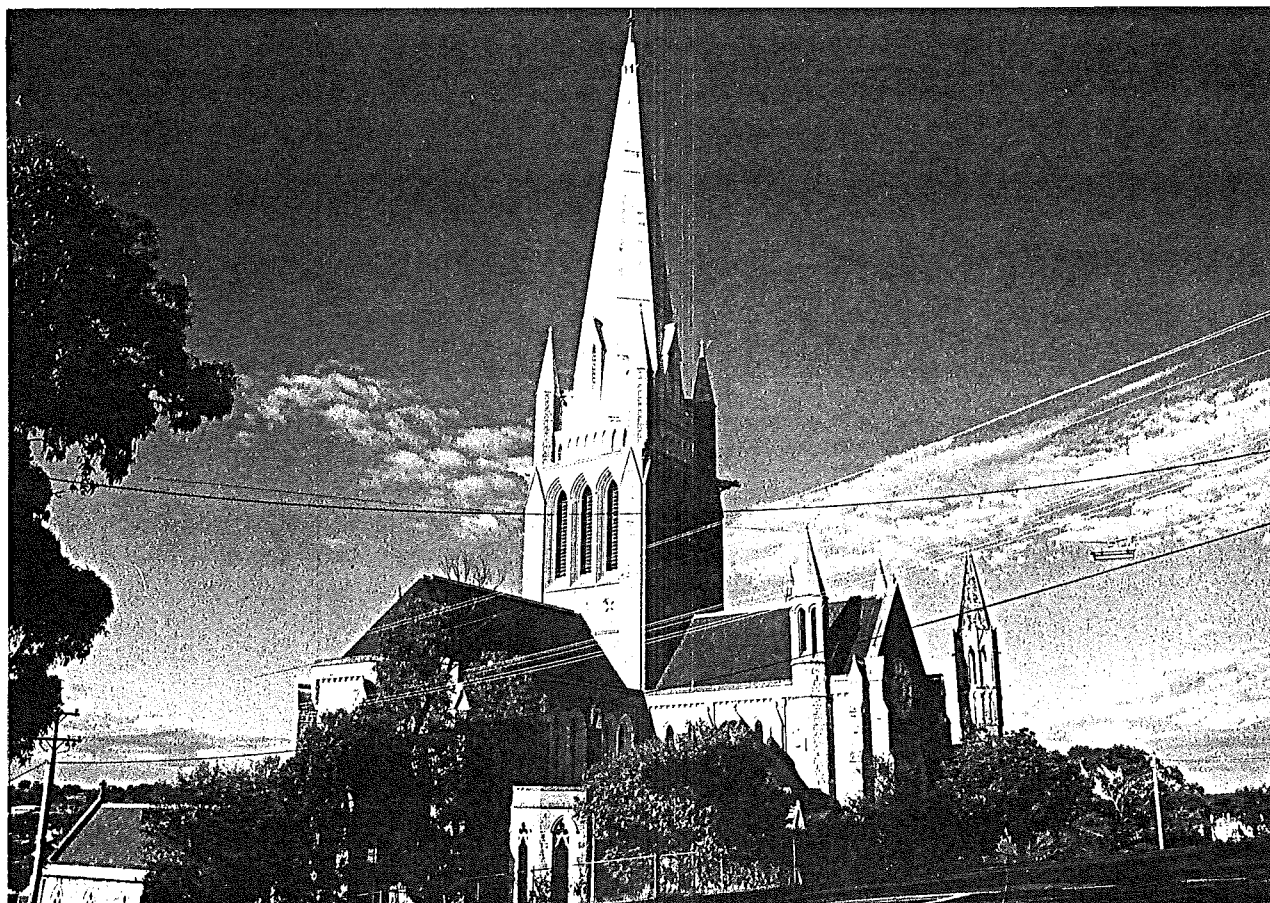


PRECINCT: 6.01 BENDIGO CIVIC & RESIDENTIAL



3-17

Sacred Heart Cathedral, Wattle Street: a major element in the precinct.

LGA: BENDIGO CITY MAP: 7.07

Contributory Streets

FOREST
MACKENZIE
ROWAN
WATTLE

History /Description

Churches of most Christian denominations dominate the Mackenzie Street axis of the precinct, Forest Street being the secondary axis with a strong residential component on the west side. All Saints Anglican Church (1855-) is among the oldest surviving sites, although the current building (1869-) is later. Similarly, the Wesleyan Church, further down Forest Street, is from 1862, although the first structure (1855) was immediately after the alluvial gold era.¹ Both are of freestone, contrasting with the more architecturally sophisticated Congregational Church on the opposite corner (1890). Typically, all are Gothic revival stylistically, as is the distant but related Sacred Heart Church (1896-) which also dominates the city's entrance, while linking with the older church domain which is largely concealed from oblique views in High Street.

1

Butcher & Flanders, p.69f

Most residential land was sold here in the period 1854-1862, with early frontages in the north-south streets, south of Mackenzie Street. One of the civic sites at the entrance to the precinct was Wattle Square, which was gazetted as such in 1874, and was immediately south of Henry Backhaus's allotments which now hold Sacred Heart.¹ One of the area's large houses (Bishops Court, 1876) is linked with the churches through its later ownership by the Anglican Church. It is also a large, if altered corner site which contributes to two street frontages with its outbuildings and garden walling.² Substantial houses of this era and later make up a major residential streetscape in Forest Street; the main houses being numbers 55, 57 Forest Street (1864, 1886) and secondary contributors being 49, 53 and 59 Forest Street.

Other major residential sites are Marlborough House (1869-), Kent House (1874-), and Lister House (1881-), later Girton College, all built for some of Bendigo's most successful men, whether from gold or professional backgrounds.³ Another important but later corner house, Sommerfield, at 46 Mackenzie Street also complements the Cathedral opposite. Physical characteristics of the precinct divide between secular and ecclesiastical use, with the latter as landmarks surrounded by the former. Typical of the late Victorian era, early 20th Century housing, front and side setbacks are minimal, with a typical one-storey (plus basement) scale and materials being typically cemented brickwork, with some face-brick (red, cream) and use of stone for fences and detailing.

Similarly pitched roofs (of slate or painted corrugated iron), verandahs, opening sizes limited to less than 50% of the wall surface, and use of some symmetrically-arranged elements are common in the area. Fence lines are often individually important elements (46 Mackenzie Street), being both retaining walls and boundary markers.

Key Sites

- Charles Millward's Jefferson, 19 Forest Street, 1900
- George Vibert's House, 55 Forest Street, 1864-65
- Robert Mackay's Sommerfield, 46 Mackenzie Street, 1904-5C
- Warren House, 12 Rowan Street, 1920
- John McIntyre's Belgravia, 88 Short Street, 1885c
- William Milne's Girton College, now Lister House, 37 Rowan Street, 1881
- Henry Hawkins' Marlborough Lodge, 115 Wattle Street, 1869-
- John Watson's Kent House complex, 121-123 Wattle Street, 1874-5
- Paul MacGillivray's Bishops Court, 40 Forest Street, 1876
- Amy & Eileen Castles' Conservatorium of Music, 5 Rowan Street 1902
- Robert Moorhead's Illira, 57 Forest Street, 1886
- William Tipper's Euroma, 38 Mackenzie Street, 1870
- Wesleyan Church, 21-25 Forest Street, 1862-87
- Congregational Church later Presbyterian Church, 45 Forest Street 1890
- Daniel Kennedy's Osborne House, 31 Mackenzie Street 1869-
- Catholic Sacred Heart Cathedral, Wattle Street 1896
- Finch and Bosselman's Fernville Terrace, 35-41 Mackenzie Street, 1885

Significance

This precinct contains some of Bendigo's most prestigious private residences, typically grouped close to the city's key ecclesiastical buildings. It contains some of the first residential allotments sold in the township and some of the earliest church buildings and reserves.

The individual excellence of many of these building designs is underscored by the hilly terrain which allows spectacular prominences for both house and church siting and provides for picturesque groupings of one building type against the other, offering visually inspiring variations of scale and siting which is nevertheless unified within the language and ornamentation of the 19th and early 20th century architecture.

Combined with the contribution of individual buildings is the associated roadside detail in the form of planting and garden walls, using brick and stone, and matching protrusions of natural stone often occurring at the street edge.

¹ Parish Plan
² Butcher & Flanders, p.69
³ Butcher & Flanders, p.66