

**PRECINCT: 10.00**  
**GOLDEN SQUARE PRECINCT**



**3-38**

*Panton Street*

**LGA: BENDIGO CITY MAP: 6. 6**

**Contributory Streets**

Beech, Edwardian, timber

High, Edwardian, timber

Laurel, Victorian, Edwardian, timber, brick

Panton, Victorian, timber, brick

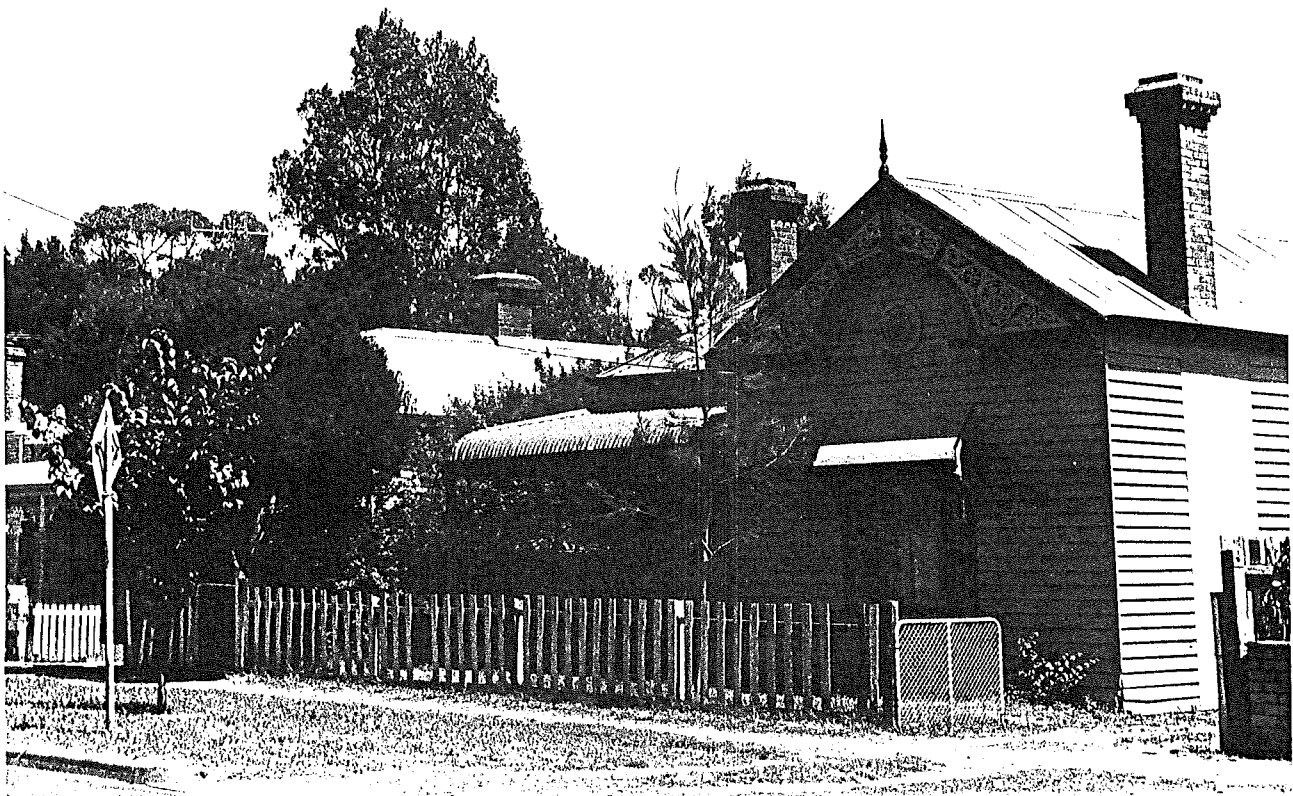
**History0Description**

Golden Square has long been a separate entity, perhaps since the gold prospects found by Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Farrell at Golden Point in October, 1851.<sup>1</sup> As a result the 'Hamlet' of Golden Square was surveyed by 1854 and allotments sold over the next few years.<sup>2</sup>

Caire's 1875 view of Golden Square centres on the former Methodist Church (1873- ), which was one of the earliest spires to rise over Bendigo. A product in part of the financial and other contributions of local mine managers, the church stood for the Cornish devotion to Methodism.

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<sup>1</sup> Mining Chronology Vol.3  
<sup>2</sup> Parish Plan



3-39

28 Pantan Street

Behind it was the Golden Square School, itself a product of the Methodist zeal. A Methodist school existed near here from 1853 and was replaced, soon after (c1857-9), by a new timber church-school, initiated by the Rev. Joseph Dare.<sup>1</sup> The site was at the corner of Laurel and High Streets, with a detached teacher's residence, where the former Sunday School still stands (313 High Street). The present school site was gazetted in May, 1873, and builder, Robert Wilkinson, proceeded to erect a new schoolroom there. However, with an average attendance of 500, spread over the old and new schools, the community sought government aid, resulting in John Cowper building a more substantial brick school on the site 1873-4. The north wing opened August, 1874.<sup>2</sup> Nearby, there was also St. Marks Anglican Church which opened, in 1881, at Pantan Street.<sup>3</sup>

This growth in the number of civic buildings reflected Golden Square's family population and paralleled the growth of the rest of the district, benefiting from established highly capitalized mines with a salaried work force.<sup>4</sup> To serve this industry, a crusher was set up by Young in 1856, to serve mines in the area.<sup>5</sup> Andrew Harkness & Co. (See 255 Mackenzie Street) had commenced their Victorian foundry as early as 1858 at Golden Square and well past 1900.<sup>6</sup> He was well located, with the dense peppering of mine shafts which followed the rich New Chum line of reef, occupying sites in Pantan, Breen and Rose Streets,<sup>7</sup> (Shenandoah, New Chum Railway, Eureka Extended, Shamrock, Old Chum, Young Chum and Craven's shafts).<sup>8</sup>

The church and miners, however, did not always agree - with the Rev. Nish vying with a Mr. Richards in 1872 over a site in Maple Street; one wanting a church site, the other wanting gold.<sup>8</sup>

1 V & R, VI, p.465  
2 ibid.  
3 Butcher & Flanders, p.134  
4 See Environmental History, Vol.2  
5 Mining Chronology Vol.3  
6 WD1890-91; WD1899-1900; Cusack, p.175; D1915  
7 Herman, 1923  
8 BCC, Box 6, 22

Another early sign of community needs is the Golden Square Police Station at the Beech Street corner of High Street (363). Further north is the Salvation Army Hall (former) at 319, located next to the old Methodist Sunday School and, next again, to the more recent Golden Square Post Office (321). The Golden Square railway station is another.

Golden Square was to be served by a horse tram in 1887, linking it with Bendigo, Lake Weeroona and Eaglehawk.<sup>1</sup> Trees were to be planted in large numbers (70) at the Golden Square Recreation Reserve in Laurel Street, during mid-1890, under the supervision of the municipal head gardener, Gadd.<sup>2</sup> This did not stop those at Golden Square demanding better picnic facilities at Rosalind Park, now that tram travel was available.<sup>3</sup>

Individual sites in the area include mine manager, David Lanyon's, house at 6 Beech Street, also a product of the noted architect, William Beebe.<sup>4</sup> The former Golden Square Hotel and nearby Hibernian Hotel (opposite the police station) served the Golden Square hamlet over a long period, as did the more distant Foundry Arms, located nearer to the Victoria Foundry. Thomas Howe's fruit shop survives on the Maple Street corner of High Street (330).

Panton street commences with the church as the focus of a small community which consists mainly of residential with some commercial uses along High Street. The main residential streetscape is 28-34 Panton Street and 93 another at the Beech Street intersection. Otherwise the development is patchy, with different eras represented, some intrusive, others supportive of the overall character. Elm trees provide for some visual continuity along Panton Street and the civic use of the school, church and notable bridge nearby reinforce this part of the precinct's village centre role.

#### Key Sites

David Lanyon's Reawla, later Ellinbank, 6 Beech Street 1898

James Blair's House, 359 High Street, 1905C

Golden Square Methodist Church and Complex, 6 Laurel Street church 1870, 1873

St. Mark's Anglican Church, 29 Panton Street 1881

Robert Saunders' Commersdale, 56 Panton Street 1898

#### Significance

Golden Square's historic identity springs from the first gold finds in the district at Golden Point and the subsequent development of a rich mining industry, along with some of the area's most important foundries. Although parts of the old hamlet have altered beyond recognition, it still possesses a core of civic buildings which allow recognition of its former self-contained status. The housing stock is both expressive of the boom-era in mining and, in some cases, the aspirations of mine owners and their chosen architects. It is close or adjoins to significant mine sites such as the New Chum Railway and Eureka Extended Mines and possesses elm plantings from the Victorian era in Panton and Maple Streets.

Golden Square was one of the best known of the mining areas of nineteenth century Bendigo. While few remnants of the early alluvial phase of mining survive the present road patterns, street patterns and several buildings still include elements which suggest different phases in the history of Bendigo both before and after alluvial mining.

<sup>1</sup> Environmental History, Vol.2  
<sup>2</sup> BCSCM, p.442  
<sup>3</sup> ibid.  
<sup>4</sup> Butcher & Flanders, p.135