

**PRECINCT: 9.00
BENDIGO SOUTH RESIDENTIAL**



3-36
Wills Street

LGA: BENDIGO CITY MAP: 7.07

Contributory Streets

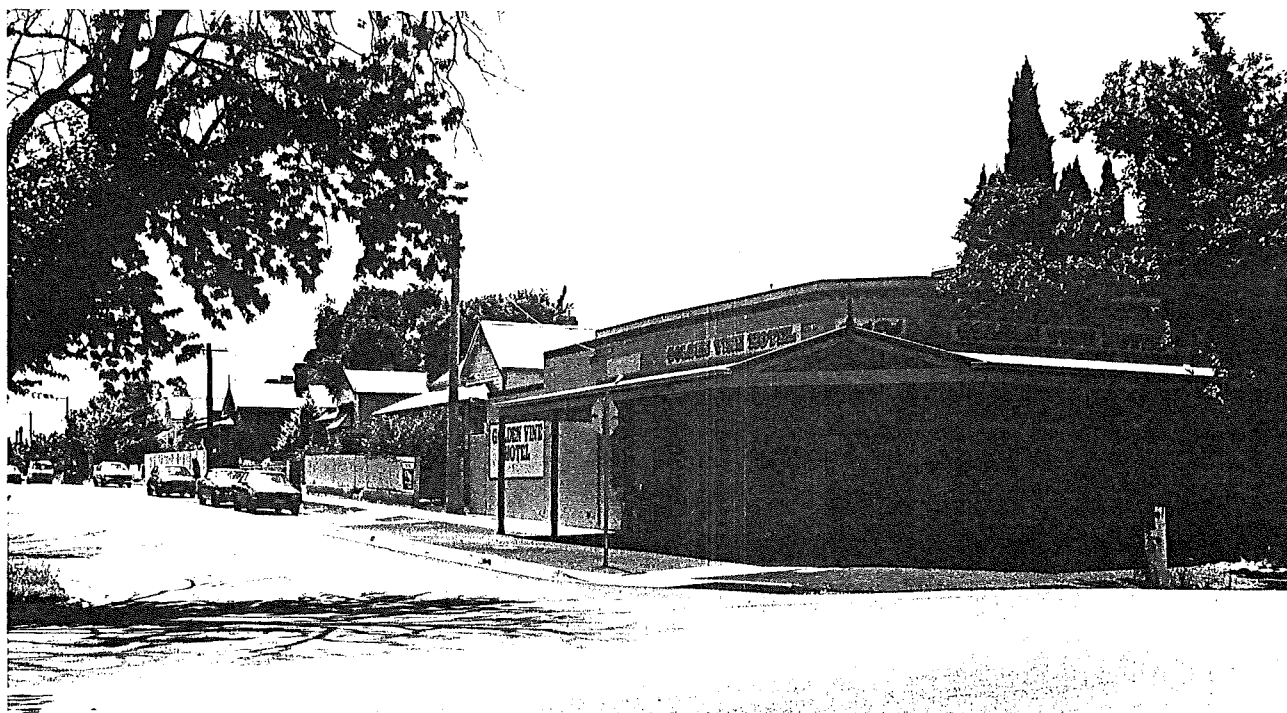
Garsed, Victorian, Edwardian, timber
Hargreaves, Victorian, Edwardian, timber, brick
Queen, Victorian, Edwardian, timber, brick
Wills, Victorian, Edwardian, timber, brick

Description/History

No major reef gold mines operated in this precinct, which helps to explain its development continuity as an early residential suburb of Bendigo.¹ Early alluvial lines (Sheephead Gully) ran north-south from the main trunk of Bendigo Creek, which forms the north boundary. Another early boundary was the railway (1862) and its large reserve. Most land sales in the precinct occurred in the 1860s, some in the 1870s, but nearly all were sold by the mid-1880s.²

The c1885 panorama shows only a sprinkling of houses west of Short Street, with the frequency decreasing closer to the railway. Reputedly there were some 24 houses in the Wills Street of 1870, about one-third of their occupants

¹ See Herman, 1923
² Parish Plan



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King Street from Myrtle Street.

being miners¹. The growth of reef mining in the suburbs of Bendigo meant their departure and the redevelopment of the area in the 1880s when the shopkeepers and owners, manufacturers and artisans of Bendigo's growing commercial centre sought housing close to their work². This was so of Wills Street and the precinct generally.

Buildings on these sites date mainly from the late-Victorian or Edwardian eras, are detached, and timber cladding is typical, with many houses taking on the gabled roof form, such as 92, 75 Wills Street, 101-103 Queen Street, and 117, 69 King Street.

Earlier sites include 72, 93, 97 and 103 Wills Street. Mature elm avenues enhance the sense of period at the precinct's west end, extending from Myrtle Street and ultimately, High Street.

The individually important former Grimsby Roller Flour Mill complex, Wills Street (1873-), is included in the precinct, although differing vastly in scale and use from the adjacent housing. Its link is more one of period association with the housing on the adjacent blocks which developed along with the mill.

Connecting at the rear of 37 Wills Street, is the important Garsed Street residential precinct. Other special occupancies in the precinct, early this century, were Mrs. Johanna Driscoll's boarding house at 57 Garsed Street, located near to William Wearne's (61 Garsed).³ There were also Adolph and Miss Charlotte Westphalen at 73 Garsed Street; Adolph was a battery manager.⁴ Just outside of the precinct, near Myrtle Street, the Bendigo Fruitgrowers Co. Ltd. operated their cool stores and a jam factory; this complex survives in part today at 123 Garsed Street.⁵ Alfred Hamilton, the manager, once lived opposite at 130.⁶

1 Fahey, 'Osmaston, 37 Wills Street, Bendigo', submission to the AAT 1990
2 ibid.
3 D1915
4 ibid.
5 ibid.
6 ibid.

In Hargreaves Street, 433 was run as a boarding house by Elizabeth Hayes and, a piano tuner, Arth Challen, lived at 476 Hargreaves Street (1955). Miss Carr's Aachmys College was housed at 100 Queen Street, but it is likely this building was replaced within 10 years, Leslie Killian being the resident c1930.¹ The noted architect, William Beebe, lived at 129 Queen Street early this century, until his death, (1920) when he was replaced in directories by Mrs. Sarah Beebe, until her death in 1929.² Annie Hewitt's store may exist in an altered form at 161 Queen Street and Edith Stoneman's boarding house probably survives at 87 Wills Street.³

Key Sites

John Emery's House, 108 Queen Street 1882c

Stewart & Scott Grimsby Roller Flour Mill, 35 Wills Street 1873-

Richard Williamson's Osmaston, 37 Wills Street 1896-

Cornelius Murphy, 48 Wills Street 1884-

Charles Burke, 92 Wills Street 1906

John Esler's La Mascotte, 113 Wills Street 1872

Significance

The precinct contains well-preserved examples of the mainly Edwardian and Victorian-era homes of tradespeople, shopkeepers and manufacturers of the nearby Bendigo commercial and manufacturing district which developed along with the nearby mining districts. The typical occupants of the precinct shared the localized influence of the commercial area with other inner streets of the city but here the character is concentrated, albeit suffering from its proximity to the commercial centre which spawned it.

¹ D1915, D1930
² D1915, D1930
³ D1915