

PRECINCT: 6.00 BENDIGO CIVIC & RESIDENTIAL

LGA: BENDIGO CITY MAP: 7.08

General History

(see Precinct 8)

Physical focal points in this precinct include the surrounding Monument Hill, Hustlers, Camp and View Hills, while the original Colonial government administration buildings on Camp Hill provides the cultural focus. The rising physical terrain was as important to civic leaders and seekers of the best residential sites, as it was to government officials who situated their symbols of law and order high, where all could view them. As a consequence, most of Bendigo's important ecclesiastical and residential sites can be found in this precinct. The influence of Camp Hill spread to View Street for commercial uses and Forest Street, by its proximity and early survey date, became the obvious spiritual axis for church building.

The prime early residential areas east of Vine Street and south of Drought Street remained remarkably free of major alluvial or reef mining activity, presumably because of the absence of reefs (except for the weakening Derby line) and possibly because of the influence of both the incumbent church leaders and wealthy householders. The nearest alluvial fields were the Bendigo Creek and Ironbark Gully.

Nevertheless, the Hustlers group of mines remained in Rosalind Park over a long period and the Hustlers Hill group (c1853-) towered over the early villa domain of Barkly Street and Terrace. On the other side, the Victoria Hill group at Ironbark, the Lazarus and Lansell mines and the Ellesmere followed the New Chum reef line, generating their own kind of villa development such as the Lazarus West End House (1868-), Lily Street and the Ballerstedt villa, later developed by George Lansell as Fortuna. Houses like these, because of their size and type, remained isolated from the mainstream villa development nearby.

In 1901 Bendigo's best residential neighbourhoods included Hustlers, Quarry and Gravel Hills, Barnard and Rowan Streets.