



**Location:** Mercy Street  
**Built:** Circa early 1880s  
**Designer:** Probably Vahland and Getzschmann  
**Builder:**



#### History:

Built as part of the containing wall which defined the site on the less public sides, it joined with the front fence along Barnard St. Originally of timber pickets, the front fence was later replaced by an impressive cast iron structure.

The wall however has had a series of gates inserted (three for vehicular access at dates unknown but presumably after 1950) and two for pedestrian purposes (after 1998).

#### Description:

A brick wall approximately 2m high primarily in stretcher bond with every fourth course a header-stretcher-header-stretcher arrangement. The wall is capped by a rendered roll over top (originally with embedded glass to deter intrusion) and built on a rock faced base of sandstone and tooled basalt work.

The wall is approximately 218m long with three motor vehicle gate openings made in the wall and two recent pedestrian openings.

This wall is similar to the one surrounding the Bendigo Base Hospital site where the site planning and early buildings were also to the design of Vahland and Getzschmann. The Base Hospital wall is however far less intact having been broken through and decapitated in a large number of locations.

This wall is less intact than Hope Street in that it is penetrated by two pedestrian openings and three vehicular openings. The first 32m of the wall are the most intact, followed by a pedestrian opening with lowered wall sections (5m), then a recent rebuilding of the wall over the following 15m.

The following 21m (58-79m mark) has some metal balustrade attached to the wall top prevent intrusion, followed by a further 21m of original wall (79-100m), a pedestrian gate, a vehicular entry gate, (at 107-112m) then further sections of original wall and vehicular entry gates at the 132m & 174m marks. The wall terminates at approximately 218m from Barnard Street where it returns into the site. At the 179m mark the following 8m has been rebuilt and then for approximately 10m before the end of the wall (at 207 –circa 218m) the wall shows further evidence of rebuilding. There are other shorter rebuilt sections such as at the 171-174m mark.

#### Cultural Heritage Significance

**Historic Theme:** Development of Bendigo Asylum

**Primary significance to the major historic theme and to the site** as part of the group of the structures which define the sites earliest history.

The wall is also important as an element which clearly defines the location and alignment of the land held as a reserve for the purpose of the Benevolent Asylum.

The wall, along with its Hope St counterpart, is amongst the longest and most intact of such walls in Bendigo. The wall however is not intact in some sections due to the various gates inserted into it (5) and the rebuilt areas (3). The first 30m is intact followed by intact sections which have a balustrade metal top then between vehicular gates 1 – 2 and 2 - 3.

**Historic Sub -Theme:** Post War Development

No significance