

## BAXTER STREET PRECINCT



118-120 Hargreaves Street



34 Arnold Street



50 Arnold Street



21 Havelock Street



22 Havelock Street



Baxter Street Precinct part of former Precinct 7, Quarry Hill Residential

## Location

Mclvor Road and Larritt Street and Hargreaves Street and McCrae Street and Hopetoun Street and Havelock Street and Arnold Street BENDIGO, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO2

## Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 10, 2023

### What is significant?

The Baxter Street precinct comprising the area bounded by Chapel Street, Mclvor Road, Back Creek, Bayne Street and Bendigo Creek (Joseph Street), containing the area colloquially known as 'Irish town' is significant. Within the precinct are part of Arnold, Hargreaves and McCrae Streets, as well as Havelock, Holt, Hopeton and Larritt Streets.

Significant elements within the precinct include:

- . St Kilian's Catholic Church 173 McCrae Street (HO179)
- . St Kilian's Hall 173 McCrae Street (HO183)
- . St Kilian's Ladies Hall 181 McCrae Street (HO184)
- . 168 McCrae Street (HO180)
- . Catholic Presbytery 174 McCrae Street (HO181)
- . Marist Bros. Hall 118 Hargreaves Street (HO145)
- . 56 Chapel Street (HO106)

Contributory elements in the extension to HO2 include:

- . 34 Arnold Street
- . 38 Arnold Street
- . 44 Arnold Street
- . 46 Arnold Street
- . 48 Arnold Street
- . 50 Arnold Street
- . 14 Havelock Street
- . 21 Havelock Street
- . 22 Havelock Street
- . 24 Havelock Street
- . 28 Havelock Street
- . 30 Havelock Street
- . 31 Havelock Street

- . 32 Havelock Street
- . Havelock Street trees (elms)

### How is it significant?

The Baxter Street precinct is of local historic and aesthetic significance. St Kilian's Church complex has historic associations with the prominent Roman Catholic clergyman Dr Henry Backhaus.

### Why is it significant?

The Baxter Street Precinct provides a snapshot of the early residential development of Bendigo. Located just outside the city centre and focussed around the St Kilian's Church complex in McCrae Street, the church was established in 1857 by important Roman Catholic clergyman Rev Dr Henry Backhaus. The current buildings represent the church's redevelopment in 1888 by Backhaus and architect W C Vahland. The association is strengthened by the rather rare Australian practice of a gravesite at a church with Backhaus' grave being adjacent. (Criterion H)

The area is an important reminder of Irish immigration to Bendigo in the 1850s, many of whom settled around St Kilian's Church and are documented in early rate books as living in the surrounding streets. The precinct is also associated with alluvial gold mining carried out along the Back Creek and Bendigo Creek from the early 1850s. Later associations with the Sandhurst Tramway Company from 1897 and their association with the Electricity Supply Co. of Victoria are remembered in the naming of Tramways Avenue and a small triangle of land and curved roadway leading to the tram depot. (Criterion A)

Land sales in the area, largely conducted throughout 1860s-1875, resulted in a number of allotments being developed with examples of Victorian style houses; it was by the end of the Edwardian era, however, that this area's character had been formed, with houses lining both sides of Baxter Street. The area is significant for its retention of a large proportion of Victorian and Edwardian era houses and several commercial premises also dating from these eras. Later Inter-war houses also form contributory elements that are compatible with the scale and form of the older dwellings. The area is characterised by small single storey houses with hip and gable roofs, consistent setbacks, construction materials of both weatherboard and brick, front gardens and low fences.

The mature elm trees on streets including Havelock, Hargreaves, Hopetoun, Baxter and Tramways Streets are important contributory elements. Gravel verges, where they occur in Havelock Street, provide more informal and older aesthetics to the public realm.

James Delacour's bakery stood at the Hopetoun Street corner and Joseph Hadden, cab driver, at the McCrae Street end. Among the more important houses of this era are 66 Baxter Street, inhabited by Robert P Foster early last century, and 76 Hargreaves, Daniel McCall's house, but most houses are representative of the period (such as Constable Thomas Scholes' house at 30 Baxter), combining to produce a cohesive expression of the city's development at that time.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Bendigo - Eaglehawk & Bendigo Heritage Study, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1993; Greater Bendigo - White Hills & East Bendigo Heritage Study 2016, Context P/L, 2015;
Other Names	part of Former Precinct 7.04: Bendigo East Civic, Residential,
Hermes Number	161909
Property Number	

## Physical Description 1

## Key Sites

Garden, 37 Arnold Street 1860CWilliam

Ladd's House, 94 Baxter Street 1860c

John Jeffrey's House (carter), 56 Chapel Street 1905

Catholic Bishop's Palace, 174 McCrae Street 1876-?

St. Kilian's Catholic Church, 181 McCrae Street 1888

Dr.Backhaus's Grave, 181 McCrae Street

## Physical Description 2

### Contributory Streets:

Arnold, Victorian, Edwardian, timber. Baxter, Edwardian, timber.

Hargreaves, Edwardian, timber

Havelock, Edwardian, 1920s-30 timber

Hopetoun, Edwardian, timber

Larritt, Edwardian, 1920s-30, timber

McCrae, Edwardian, timber

## Physical Description 3

The existing Baxter Street Precinct (HO2) is located east of Tomlins Street, Bendigo, and consists of houses on the west and east sides of Hargreaves, McCrae, Hopetoun, Larritt, Havelock and Arnold streets. Located at the edge of the city, the Baxter Street Precinct comprises small allotments and tree lined streets with wide verges, including some that are unsealed (Havelock Street). The area is defined by the Bayne Street Reserve with the gardens of Lake Weeroona in the background, the diverging paths of Back Creek and Bendigo Creek, the paved banks of which conceal remnants of the early alluvial mining that took place along them. Chapel Street forms the boundary between the commercial areas of the city and the residential allotments of 'Irish Town'.

St. Kilian's and the complex of church buildings, once the first permanent buildings in the area, are the focus of this precinct. The mature elm street trees in streets such as Havelock, Hargreaves and Hopetoun are important features of the precinct. The St. Kilian's complex and surviving structures such as 37 Arnold Street and other small cottages dotted along Joseph Street, still evoke the character of old Irishtown where many Irish names are listed in Bendigo rate books of the 1860s-70s.

The development of the tramway to Lake Weeroona along McCrae Street, and the development of the Electricity Supply Co. of Victoria between the railway and Back Creek are marked by Tramway Avenue, where the area comprises a concentration of Edwardian era houses related to this period of development.

The various house types within the precinct area consist of detached houses and cottages dating from the Edwardian and Victorian eras, as well as a late-Victorian Church and a c1860s garden. Arnold Street and McCrae Streets had some commercial sites including the McCrae Street Hotel, the Baxter Street corner, Bridget Flood's grocery and J McMahon's Farriers' Arms Hotel. The Lake View Hotel at 204 McCrae Street is a reminder of this activity.

The north and south sides of Havelock Street and the east side of Arnold Street are proposed as an extension to this precinct given that there are a number of contributory properties in these streets with a the similarity in character and integrity to the street already within the existing precinct.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*