

Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

This group represents the major components of gold-era town life at California Gully; an area renowned at first for its alluvial gold finds but later a rich quartz field. Apart from the fair integrity of its commercial components, there is the church, at once a monument to the devotion of the local Cornish and Methodist communities and an architectural marvel for its interior decoration scheme.

As with Long Gully and perhaps with an even greater sense of cohesion, the California Gully Precinct demonstrates the village characteristics identified with nineteenth century mining. In the case of California Gully the landscape is more comprehensively revealing since there are landform remnants from mining as a backdrop to a group of buildings which includes cottages, shops and Methodist chapel. The siting of the commercial strip along the roadway into Bendigo further illustrates the significance of traffic between Eaglehawk and Bendigo itself. California Gully is an important precinct since its range of buildings, street alignment and character and as well its surrounding landforms reflect the integrated local life of mining on the nineteenth century goldfield.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Bendigo - Eaglehawk & Bendigo Heritage Study, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1993;
Other Names	California Gully Precinct (Precinct 4.00 California Gully Commercial and Civic),
Hermes Number	34609
Property Number	

Physical Description 2

Contributory Streets:

Eaglehawk Road

Esler Street

Physical Description 1

Roof Forms: Parapeted, gabled. Scale: One-storey.

Wall Materials: Brick, stucco.

Roof Materials: Corrugated iron.

Siting: Attached Buildings.

Period: Mid-late Victorian era.

An old commercial streetscape is the focus of this precinct, being 301-311 Eaglehawk Road. This includes the post office, the White Horse Hotel and the notable 301-3 Eaglehawk Road. Visible behind this commercial strip is the individually notable former California Hill Methodist Church which is typical of the Goldfields Wesleyan architecture, being dichromate brick Gothic revival. Behind it again, are two old houses, one possessing an unusual tracery frieze, and another cottage (lot 91C) which links this group with the former gold field rising behind. This house turns away from the road and hence illustrates the landscape which existed prior to the surrounding subdivision.

Physical Description 3

Key Sites

Pascoe's California Gully Post Office, 307 Eaglehawk Road, 1865c

Pabst, Joseph Hanover, former 301-303 Eaglehawk Road, 1893-5

California Hill Methodist Church, former 2 Esler Street, 1875

Wesleyan School No. 156, former, Esler Street, 1869

Carson's white Horse Hotel, 305 Eaglehawk Road, 1870c

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/>