

# ROSALIND PARK



ROSALIND PARK SOHE  
2008



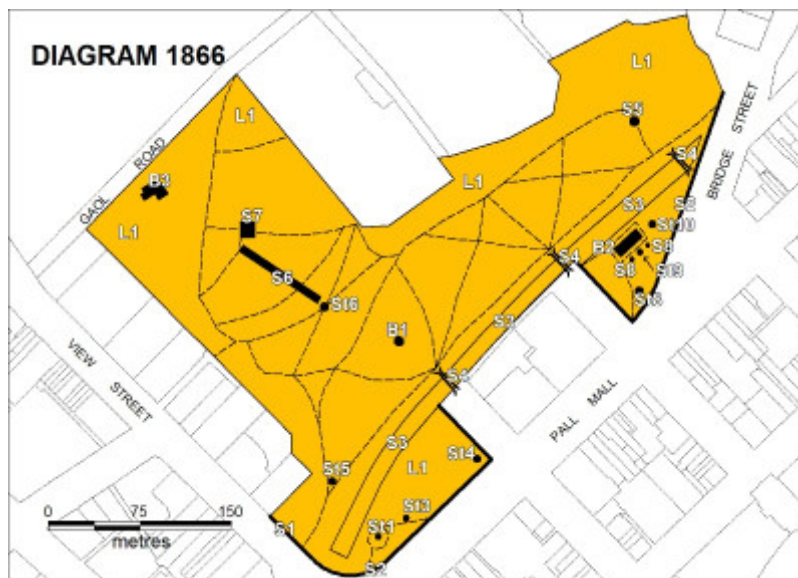
1 rosalind park bendigo  
dec1997 jh



Rosalind Park, site of  
archaeological potential



Rosalind Park - site of  
archaeological potential 2



rosalind park plan revised.jpg

## Location

PALL MALL AND VIEW STREET AND GAOL ROAD AND PARK ROAD BENDIGO, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## **Municipality**

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## **Level of significance**

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H1866

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO10

## **VHR Registration**

December 23, 1999

## **Amendment to Registration**

March 11, 2010

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

---

## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - December 6, 1999

What is significant?

The area known as Rosalind Park (formerly Government Camp Precinct) was first mapped by Surveyor George Urquhart, and designated a Government Camp, in 1852 to serve the local goldfields. The site of the Government Camp Precinct including Commissioner's Gully was bound by View Street, Pall Mall, Bridge Street, Park Road and Barnard Street. A mine was located on the site of the present RSL building just outside the boundaries of this registration. A puddling mill was known to be within the parkland (removed during development of the parkland in the 1860s). Rosalind Park now consists of the land and the contributory elements within the boundaries of View Street, Pall Mall, Bridge Street, Park Road and Gaol Road.

Government camps serving colonial goldfields were typically built on hills or escarpments for surveillance purposes. During the Victorian gold rush, government camps existed in Sandhurst (Bendigo), Ballarat, Beechworth, Castlemaine, Creswick, Clunes, and Back Creek (Talbot), with Bendigo being one of the largest camps. In 1853, the camp was the scene of a large protest by miners upset by the gold mining license fee imposed by the colonial government on mining for gold. In 1856, Gold Commissioner Joseph Panton suggested the idea of transforming the camp of makeshift buildings and reserve into a park, but instead more permanent government buildings were erected. At that time, Bendigo Creek was transformed into a stone lined channel. By the end of the 19th century the 66 acre camp consisted of a police barracks, courthouse, gold office, gaol and lock-up, commissariat store, stables, superintendent's and resident warden's offices and quarters, and other associated buildings.

In 1861, fifty-nine acres of the land were reserved and handed over to the Sandhurst Borough Council. One year later George Brown was appointed first curator. It was during these years that the name Rosalind Park was first used (a reference to the miniature park in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*). Development continued in the 1870s

with the addition of an ornamental fence and numerous plantings, many of which were exchanged with Ferdinand von Mueller for a truck of quartz in large pieces. Samuel Gadd, curator during this time, submitted plans consisting of a network of paths ten feet in width, avenues planted with shady trees, and parkland ornamented with choice specimen trees.

A cascade (designed by local architect William Vahland) and a large fernery were established in 1880. The park includes statues, fountains and a vaulted grotto (which was filled-in some time in the twentieth century and partially re-instated in 1997). Three iron bridges were erected across the creek in 1882, with the Conservatory Gardens laid out in 1886 and a conservatory erected in 1897. Developments in the twentieth century included the erection of the former Garden Gully Mining Company poppet legs on the summit of Camp Hill in 1931 and a number of small community buildings (which were removed in 1995 following the recommendations of the Rosalind Park Redevelopment Plan).

The statuary, which contributes to the aesthetic significance of the park include the: white marble statue of Daphne (1871); Mayor Harness metal sculpture - Man Fighting Wild Animals (1899); white marble statue of Venus (1901); Queen Victoria monument (1903); George Lansell monument (after 1906); Ernest Mueller Bust (1910); Sir John Quick bust (1934); bronze sculpture of George V (1938); James Curnow memorial fountain (n.d.); and Eve (n.d.) Daphne and Eve were purchased in London for the National Gallery of Victoria in 1877 and were de-accessioned and gifted to Bendigo in 1943. The Daphne and Eve statues are currently held by the Bendigo Art Gallery. The Venus statue is currently (2009) undergoing conservation works and is held in the City of Bendigo's storage facility

Plantings, some dating from the 1870s, include avenues of elms, oaks and palms, and fernery, and a fern and palm collection. Significant trees include; *Umbellularia californica* (the only known example in Victoria); *Flindersia australis* (one of only three in Victoria); *Araucaria bidwillii* (near the View Street entrance), *Afrocarpus falcata*; eight *Washingtonia filifera* (in the Conservatory Garden); *Waterhousea floribunda* (near the Queen Victoria statue); and *Jubaea chilensis*.

Located within the camp, the Queen Elizabeth Oval Cottage was a former public works office constructed in c1858, which related to the operations of the Government Camp. It dates from the colonial government initiative to construct permanent buildings at the camp, when buildings such as the powder magazine and keeper's quarters were also constructed. In the 1890s, as the Bendigo Council sought to improve the Upper Reserve (Queen Elizabeth Oval), a new residence was constructed adjacent to the 1850s building, for the use of the Upper Reserve Keeper. Cricketer and former curator of the Back Creek cricket ground, John Beswick, was appointed to the role. After removal of the Rosalind Park curator's residence (former Powder Magazine) in the early part of the twentieth century, Queen Elizabeth Oval Cottage continued to be used as a residence for the park caretaker.

The original Government Camp Precinct site also included the following individual Victorian Heritage Register places: Old Police Barracks (H0545), built in 1860; Former Supreme Court (H1465), built in 1857; HM Prison Bendigo (H1550), built in 1861; Camp Hill Central School Number 1976 (H1642), built in 1877 and the Bendigo Senior Secondary School (PROV H2229).

How is it significant?

Rosalind Park is of historic, archaeological, aesthetic, scientific (botanical) and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Rosalind Park (formerly Government Camp Precinct) is historically significant as the site of one of the largest government camps in the Victorian goldfields. The open parkland still allows the landscape of the former government camp to be appreciated, and the reconstructed Garden Gully Mining Company poppet legs on Camp Hill reflect the original function of the hill as a lookout and the park as a government camp created to support gold mining activities.

Rosalind Park is historically significant as a significant example of a large, late nineteenth century public recreation reserve. Features which enhance this quality include the interface with the surrounding nineteenth century streetscape, the close proximity of significant government buildings, and the rich overlay of different uses of the park over many years.

The stone-lined Bendigo Creek channel is historically significant for its strong association with gold mining in central Bendigo, and is an important example of late nineteenth century urban infrastructure development.

Queen Elizabeth Oval Cottage is of historical and architectural significance. In terms of historical significance, Queen Elizabeth Oval Cottage is associated with the Government Camp at Sandhurst, which was established in 1851, and was one of the largest government camps in the Victorian goldfields. The former public works office c1858 contributes to an understanding of the role of colonial government in administering the goldfields, and dates from the period when government sought to replace temporary camp structures with more permanent buildings. The office is one of the earliest buildings surviving from the camp (others include the Old Police Barracks 1860, former Supreme Court 1857 and H M Prison Bendigo 1861) and although modest in scale, is important as an example of this early and unusual building type. The building is one of the oldest in Bendigo.

The caretaker's cottage, which probably dates from the 1890s, is also of historical significance and relates to the post-camp use and function of this area of Rosalind Park. It is associated with the changing nature of the Upper Reserve of the park, when the area was developed into the Queen Elizabeth Oval. The caretaker's cottage, combined with the office, have been associated with the operation and use of this area of Rosalind Park for over 130 years.

Queen Elizabeth Oval Cottage and the caretaker's cottage are of architectural significance as intact buildings of modest scale and simple form and detailing.

Rosalind Park is of archaeological significance for its potential to contain artefacts and deposits associated with the occupation and use as the former Government Camp Precinct during the gold rush in the mid-1800s. It is likely that some archaeological remains and deposits exist, including building remains, cess pits, and rubbish dumps, directly associated with the Government Camp buildings.

Rosalind Park is of aesthetic significance for the retention of its nineteenth century layout, significant garden and landscape elements including water features, bridges, rockeries, gravel paths, garden beds forming two ivy baskets in the Conservatory Gardens, three iron bridges over Bendigo Creek, iron fencing and gates, and the original remnants of the cascade. The statuary contributes to the aesthetic significance of the park.

Rosalind Park is of scientific (botanical) significance for its plantings (some dating from the 1870s), including the avenues of elms, oaks and palms, and fernery, rare trees, and fern and palm collection.

The conservatory in Rosalind Park's Conservatory Gardens is architecturally significant as the State's only surviving example of a nineteenth century conservatory within a public park.

## **Permit Exemptions**

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan endorsed by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: The existence of a Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan endorsed by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. Regular Site Maintenance : The following site maintenance works are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995: a) regular site maintenance provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) the maintenance of an item to retain its conditions or operation without the removal of or damage to the existing fabric or the introduction of new materials; c) cleaning including the removal of surface deposits, organic growths, or graffiti by

the use of low pressure water and natural detergents and mild brushing and scrubbing; d) repairs, conservation and maintenance to plaques, memorials, roads and paths, fences and gates and drainage and irrigation. e) the replacement of existing services such as cabling, plumbing, wiring and fire services that uses existing routes, conduits or voids, and does not involve damage to or the removal of significant fabric. Note: Surface patina which has developed on the fabric may be an important part of the item's significance and if so needs to be preserved during maintenance and cleaning. Note: Any new materials used for repair must not exacerbate the decay of existing fabric due to chemical incompatibility, obscure existing fabric or limit access to existing fabric for future maintenance. Repair must maximise protection and retention of fabric and include the conservation of existing details or elements. Fire Suppression Duties : The following fire suppression duties are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995, a) Fire suppression and fire fighting duties provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) Fire suppression activities such as fuel reduction burns, and fire control line construction, provided all significant historical and archaeological features are appropriately recognised and protected; Note: Fire management authorities should be aware of the location, extent and significance of historical and archaeological places when developing fire suppression and fire fighting strategies. The importance of places listed in the Heritage Register must be considered when strategies for fire suppression and management are being developed. Weed and Vermin Control : The following weed and vermin control activities are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995, a) Weed and vermin control activities provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; Note: Particular care must be taken with weed and vermin control works where such activities may have a detrimental affect on the significant fabric of a place. Such works may include the removal of ivy, moss or lichen from an historic structure or feature, or the removal of burrows from a site that has archaeological values.

Landscape Maintenance: The following landscape maintenance works are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995, a) the process of gardening, mowing, hedge clipping, bedding displays, removal of dead plants and replanting same species, disease, vermin and weed control, emergency and safety works and minor landscaping works to maintain the garden landscape; b) removal of dead and dangerous trees which requires a list and plan to be submitted to the Executive Director; c) removal of vegetation, fallen timber and fuel reduction as part of an agreed Fire Management Plan. Note that the Vegetation Clearance Amendment VC61 (known as the 10/30 rule) does not apply to places on the Heritage Register and a permit is required from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria; d) replanting like tree species to conserve the landscape character, conifer, elm, oak, and shrub plantings provided a list and plan is submitted to the Executive Director for approval; e) management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard: Pruning of amenity trees AS 4373; f) removal of plants listed as Prohibited and Controlled Weeds in the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994; and g) repairs, conservation and maintenance to hard landscape elements, paths and roadways, stone and concrete edging, walls, fences and gates.

Public Safety and Security : The following public safety and security activities are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995, a) public safety and security activities provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground structures or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) the erection of temporary security fencing, scaffolding, hoardings or surveillance systems to prevent unauthorised access or secure public safety which will not adversely affect significant fabric of the place including archaeological features; c) development including emergency stabilisation necessary to secure safety where a site feature has been irreparably damaged or destabilised and represents a safety risk to its users or the public. Note: Urgent or emergency site works are to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified specialist such as a structural engineer, or other heritage professional.

Construction dates	1874,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place, Registered archaeological place,
Other Names	QUEEN ELIZABETH OVAL HOUSE (POWDER MAGAZINE), POWDER MAGAZINE, GOVERNMENT CAMP,
Hermes Number	1774
Property Number	

---

## History

### Draft

Government camps serving colonial goldfields were typically built on hills or escarpments for surveillance purposes. Camps existed at Bendigo, Ballarat, Creswick, Clunes, and Back Creek (Talbot), with Bendigo being one of the largest camps within the Victorian goldfields area. Buildings within the former Government Camp Precinct in Bendigo included: a stockade, gaol, police station, courthouse, mining surveyor's office, mining office, sub-treasury, superintendent of police office, police barracks, a stores building, flagstaff, stables, and powder magazine (Queen Elizabeth Oval House). To the east of these buildings was a cemetery (which was relocated following its close in 1858). To the south, on the other side of Bendigo Creek, was a garden (perhaps a vegetable garden for the camp), as well as the premises of the Sandhurst Fire Brigade.

Significantly Rosalind Park, like Lake Park Reserve in Creswick, preserves the site largely as open space. The former Garden Gully United Mine poppet legs was presented by relatives of the first Directors and erected by Bendigo City Council in 1931. The poppet sits on the main vantage point in the Park, Camp Hill, known generally to visitors as 'Look-out Tower'. View from the structure offers a panoramic view over the city in all directions and preserving the original function of a lookout point.

It was also not uncommon for public gardens to be located on water reserves close to government camps. Rosalind Park shares this attribute with Phillips Gardens (Maryborough) and Queen Mary Gardens (St Arnaud).

### Cascades

Cascades, water features and other garden follies were commonly incorporated into designs for romantic and classical gardens. The use of cascades in European garden design developed towards the end of the 18th century and often involved a dramatic fall of water over a ramp, staircase, boulder outcrop or wall. They were more common in Italy, Germany and France than in Britain, although Chatsworth is notable.

Those built in Victoria tended to be built in miniature scale, with the use of rustic rockwork which was usually in association with ferneries, as in the Fitzroy Gardens or Rosalind Park. These cascades usually attempted to mirror naturally occurring fern gullies. Waterfall/grotto constructions such as the example at Rippon Lea were also comparatively small and rustic in style. Prominent, wealthy local mine owner, George Lansell, visited Italy in 1875 and was greatly influenced by the artwork, architecture and water features of the many famous villas he visited.

The original Government Camp Precinct, bound by View Street, Pall Mall, Bridge Street, Park Road and Barnard Street, also includes the following individual Victorian Heritage Register places: Old Police Barracks (H0545), built in 1860; Former Supreme Court (H1465), built in 1857; HM Prison Bendigo (H1550), built in 1861; and Camp Hill Central School Number 1976 (H1642), built in 1877. The area historically known as Commissioners Gully, bound by Barnard and View Streets and Park and Gaol Roads, is listed on the Victorian Heritage Inventory (H7724-0263) for its potential to contain artefacts and deposits relating to the use of the former Government Camp during the gold rush in the mid-1800s. The Gully may also produce artefacts relating to gold mining activities in the area. In 1874, two large ponds were created in the area to the northern end of the Park, Aside from the ponds, the use of the land for recreational purposes is unlikely to have extensively altered the below-ground component of the site.

### History of Place:

#### Years 1852 - 1861

The area known as Rosalind Park (formerly Government Camp Precinct) was first mapped by Surveyor George Urquhart, and designated a Government Camp to serve the local goldfields in 1852. The Camp was the scene of a large protest, in 1853, by miners upset by the gold mining license fee imposed by the colonial government on mining for gold. Pall Mall was first surveyed in 1854 by surveyor Richard Larritt and his plan shows Bendigo Creek meandering through the government reserve. He indicated a cemetery in Bridge Street (to the north of the reserve) and the new thoroughfare. Pall Mall was almost twice its present width. Larritt's plan of the Camp showed a large fenced garden (perhaps for vegetables) adjacent to the creek in the location of the present fernery. Pall Mall and View Place (now View Street) were the only surveyed boundaries, with Commissioner's Gully forming an imprecise western boundary.

In 1856, Gold Commissioner Joseph Panton and Edward Emmett, Chairman of the local municipality, suggested the idea of transforming the camp of makeshift buildings and reserve into a park, but Emmett's motion, moved in September that year, lapsed for want of a seconder. Instead more permanent government buildings were erected. At that time, Bendigo Creek was transformed by the cutting of a channel which was the precursor to the present paved channel. A rush by miners to the flat adjacent to the creek in 1859 caused much damage but blue gums were planted along Pall Mall in 1860 and the roadway was levelled. Barnard Street and Water Street were surveyed by 1857 and these roadways formed the remaining two boundaries of the government camp.

Located within the camp, the Queen Elizabeth Oval House is one of the oldest surviving Government Camp structures in the park. The House was constructed in 1857 as a powder magazine as part of a colonial Government initiative to replace temporary camp structures with permanent buildings. In 1864 the House, constructed of locally made brick and sandstone sourced from the nearby Ironbark Ranges, was converted into a residence for the first curator of Rosalind Park, George Brown. The House became a caretaker's residence in 1909.

#### 1861 - 1869

Fifty-nine acres of the land were permanently reserved (almost identical to the present reserves) and a strip of land reserved or alienated along View Street) for use as a recreation reserve, and handed over to the Sandhurst Borough Council in 1861. The council began to improve the area and work commenced immediately on fencing, constructing paths and excavating a pond. One year later George Brown was appointed first curator (having been selected ahead of 11 other applicants). It was during these years that the name Rosalind Park (a reference to the miniature park in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*) was first used. By July of that year, £1817 had been spent on the reserve.

In September 1863, when the formalities of official reservation had been finalised, Rosalind Park was slowly developed and landscaped although the presence of a puddling mill and makeshift dwellings provided obstacles. Competition was also provided by the botanic garden at White Hills which was developed from the late 1850s and funded from the same purse as Rosalind Park. As the 1860s progressed, Rosalind Park began to assume a greater priority and significance. As the Bendigo Advertiser observed:

*"The Reserve [Rosalind Park] is in the centre of population and the effect of making it into a fine garden would be to give pleasure to a very large number of persons, especially in the summer months. The gardens at the Whitehills on the other hand, are so distant that except on Sunday they are seldom had recourse to except by the residents of Whitehills ... It will not do to continue the present system of spending money when so little value is obtained for it."*

#### 1870 - 1880

Controversy flared in 1871 when applications to mine the area adjacent to Bendigo Creek were considered by the council. Being outside the reserve, the council were keen to see the development and they finally gave permission to the City of Sandhurst Mine with the provision that the works were enclosed with an ornamental fence. Development continued to progress in the 1870s, with the addition numerous plantings, A bandstand and aviary (both now removed) were added and, following the clearing of some gum trees, almost 300 new trees were planted; included amongst these were elms, robinias, pines, and silver poplars as well as 15 blue gums. Correspondence from Ferdinand von Mueller, director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens reveals that he dispatched several greenhouse plants to Bendigo, requesting in return a truck of quartz in large pieces. Around the same time he also forwarded 335 plants, and 96 species of seed to the public gardens of Sandhurst. Curator Samuel Gadd, who was appointed during this time, submitted plans consisting of a network of paths ten feet in width, avenues planted with shady trees at twenty feet intervals, parkland ornamented with choice specimen trees, and hillside terrace with trees and creepers. A cascade (designed by local architect William Vahland) and a large fernery were established in 1880. The park includes statues, fountains and a vaulted grotto (which was filled-in some time in the twentieth century and partially re-instated in 1997).

A report of 1873 from the reserve keeper shows types and numbers of each tree planted in the reserve from July to October, with the total number of trees planted amounting to 296, of which there were ten varieties. In February 1874 the curator of the gardens reported that the daily number of visitors in January was 6,634. In March the daily number was 5,695. An 1874 plan indicates two large ponds along Barnard Street. The northernmost tip of the Rosalind Park reserve was divided by the creation of Park Road and designated Agricultural Show Yards. The mine, located on the site of the present RSL building, is clearly visible in Nicholas Caire's 1875

photographs.

### The Fernery

Curator Simon Gadd controlled all the reserves in Bendigo in the mid-1870s and had a number of staff responsible for particular aspects of the city's parks, reserves and street trees. Mr Lyons was the curator of the fernery, while Mr Roper supervised street trees. The present school building was erected in 1877 and this provided a dominant focus for the park. In 1878 an ornamental iron fence on a stone plinth was erected and two years later the fernery was established on its present site, a location formerly occupied by a clump of willows in the bend of the creek, known as 'The Willows'. The fernery had initially been proposed in 1879 by G. S. Mackay, who was a leading authority on ferns. He remarked in the Bendigo Advertiser of 12 July 1879, that *'if the City Council were to convert the Lower Reserve into a fernery it would be a pleasing attraction to the many visitors who would throng to see it'*. When completed, the fernery is reported to have covered four acres. By 1891 the fernery had become an *'enchanted retreat'* and *'was described by competent authorities in the neighbouring colonies as the finest fernery in Australia'*. The present fernery is just under an acre in size. Some of the land was lost to the Council depot.

### The Cascade, Fountains and Grotto

In 1880 an aviary that stood in the vicinity of the fernery was removed to the White Hills Botanic Gardens, where a zoo was a popular attraction. Early that same year plans were being made to erect a memorial column and fountain at Charing Cross just outside the park. Wealthy mine owner George Lansell, who was a member of the design committee, *'appears to have suggested the construction of an additional water feature, a series of basins and cascades to connect with the existing Rosalind Park fountain and the proposed Charing Cross fountain'*. An earlier fountain was already in existence in the park, possibly dating from the mid-1870s, and this structure appears to have been re-used in the new work.

The final designs were provided by local architect William Vahland. On 16 April 1880 he submitted to the Council *'a design of the Cascades to be erected in the Reserve, a design of the Fountain etc. at Charing Cross ...'* The next day the Bendigo Advertiser announced that the designs had been approved by Council. The proposed cascades would have alternating fountains which would fall from the top of the hill in the park down to a larger fountain. As Sandhurst already had water supply problems, the project with its demand for large mains to provide large volumes of water, must have appeared ambitious. Peter Finn's tender of £465.15.0 was accepted for the cascade work, and Thomas Saunders won the fountain tender for £1201.1.0. Construction began in September 1880, and was still underway with its problems the following year; the curator S. G. Gadd had to spend part of his budget on irrigation works relating to the cascades, as well as tolerate the destruction of trees and shrubs, and postpone his planting schedule. By August 1881 works had halted, and the contractor given notice. Over a year passed and the project was still unfinished.

It is not known when the cascades were officially operating, but a local publication describes their appearance in 1895 as *'a rippling fountain constructed of granite, and granite cascades on the hill side among the trees and ferns ... form a picturesque and pleasant retreat from the busy thoroughfare of the city'*. The construction featured an uppermost statue, an intermediate grotesque spout and a tuckpointed, coursed basalt grotto structure adorned with decorative urns. By the turn of the century the upper and lower fountains were suffering from neglect. Later the pool of the lower fountain was filled in and its surrounding ornamentation removed, although the base and bottom dish were still apparently functioning as a fountain. The basalt grotto structure was also intact, but the decorative urns had disappeared.

It is not known when the cascade was filled in, or when the lower fountain was removed from the park. Reassembled portions of the fountain were erected in Hargreaves Mall in 1981, but the base of the structure is missing. The fountain statue was destroyed during filling-in works, but some fragments are held by the Bendigo Art Gallery. A hand was found at recent excavation works. The lower half of the middle level grotesque spout remains in situ, as does most of the stonework of the cascade itself. The basalt grotto survives almost intact.

It has been indicated that faulty construction methods, which consequently caused leakage, as well as an inadequate water supply, contributed to the failure of this ambitious project.

The Cascade was reconstructed and rebuilt during 1997 and was officially opened on Sunday 26 October 1997 by Mr Rob Macellan, Minister for Planning and Local Government.



The area historically known as Commissioners Gully, bound by Barnard and View Streets and Park and Gaol Roads, is listed on the Victorian Heritage Inventory (H7724-0263) for its potential to contain artefacts and deposits relating to the use of the former Government Camp during the gold rush in the mid-1800s. The Gully may also produce artefacts relating to gold mining activities in the area. In 1874, two large ponds were created in the area to the northern end of the Park. Aside from the ponds, the use of the land for recreational purposes is unlikely to have extensively altered the below-ground component of the site.

#### 1881 - 1901

Three iron bridges were erected across the creek in 1882, the Conservatory Gardens laid out in 1886 and a conservatory erected in 1897. Developments in the 20th century included the erection of the former Garden Gully Mining Company poppet legs on the summit of Camp Hill (1931) and a number of small community buildings (which were removed following the recommendations of the Rosalind Park Redevelopment Plan in 1995). Rosalind Park was enlarged in 1881 when land facing Pall Mall was included in the park. There had been various unsuccessful proposals to subdivide and sell this land but the colonial government finally reserved portions for the Post Office (1887) and Court House (1890).

By the end of the 19th century the 66 acre camp consisted of a police barracks, courthouse, gold office, gaol and lock-up, powder magazine (Queen Elizabeth Oval House), commissariat store, stables, superintendent's and resident warden's offices and quarters, and other associated buildings.

#### The Conservatory Gardens

The area now known as Conservatory Gardens, was left largely undeveloped until 1886 when it was laid out by the curator, Samuel Gadd, on land that had been previously been used as a rubbish tip. The conservatory was erected in 1897 and was the first prefabricated building in Bendigo. Curator Gadd and the City surveyor, George Minto are credited with the design and Frank M. Brown was responsible for the fabrication at a cost of £216. Mr Brown's name can be found on the iron pillars.

To link the new section of the park with the Pall Mall frontage, three iron bridges were erected in 1882, replacing earlier and far narrower structures that can be seen in the 1875 Caire photographs. In 1901 the sporting facilities developing along Barnard Street were boosted by the construction of the present grandstand at Queen Elizabeth Oval.

#### 1901 - 1997

The Queen Victoria Gardens adjacent to View Point were developed and Memorial Hall was erected in 1921. A red brick bungalow style ladies rest room was constructed at the View Point corner of the gardens between 1925-1930. Apart from the provision of sporting facilities along Barnard Street, there were few further incursions into Rosalind Park until after World War II. Poppet Legs from the Garden Gully United Gold Mining Company were erected on the summit of Camp Hill in April 1931 and these now serve as a lookout. A baby health care centre designed by Public Works architect, Percy Everett, and opened by the Mayor, Cr J. A. Michelsen on 8 April 1936, was erected opposite View Point near the ladies rest room. Nearby a cream brick tourist information centre known as the Pethard Building opened in 1941 on the site of a former tramways office. In 1952 land for a creche and day nursery was reserved near the baby health care building. Architects Eggleston MacDonald & Secomb were commissioned to design the premises in 1957. Constructed on bridge principles, the strikingly modern building had a triangular plan and featured exposed steel bracing set in panels. A sound shell was erected in the lower reserve in 1955/1957.

Restoration works to the Conservatory Gardens to the cost of \$54,000 were undertaken in 1978 by Bob Hodges with brickwork by George Robinson.

In 1990 a large area of the park was asphalted to form a carpark and the ensuing controversy resulted in the commissioning of a conservation analysis of Rosalind Park and View Street.

In 1996 the creche, baby health care, tourist and ladies rest room buildings were demolished by the council under the 1995 redevelopment plan for Rosalind Park. The creche was relocated to another location.

In February 1997 two cannons were discovered in Rosalind Park by workers excavating the cascades. Markings on the cannons suggest they originally came from the 48-gun steam warship HMVS Nelson late last century.

They were rifle muzzle 64-pounders weighing about three tonnes each.

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:

The registration for Rosalind Park has many components of which the following are the most significant: Conservatory Gardens, Queen Elizabeth House, areas of archaeological potential in the park, Queen Victoria Gardens (both on the east side), upper reserve known as Camp Hill, and the lower reserve which includes the fernery and other landscape elements.

The park has several major entrances: from View Point, Williamson Street, Bull Street, Bridge Street, Park Road, Barnard Street and View Street. Some entrances lead to specific facilities (such as those along Barnard Street), some are subsidiary gates, but those to View Point and Pall Mall are formal entry points and link with the early path layout of the park. The park is bounded by several highly significant buildings notably the post office, court house, Sandhurst Club, art gallery, returned soldiers building and Sandhurst Trustees offices.

The Conservatory Gardens and Queen Victoria Gardens form discrete yet integral parts of Rosalind Park. The Conservatory Gardens are fenced with a decorative iron fence and a row of *Washingtonia filifera* palms line the Bull Street and Pall Mall boundaries. The area is given over to lawns with floral bedding and is dominated by a large glazed conservatory with decorative roofline. This is located adjacent to the Bendigo Creek and a gate leads from the Conservatory Gardens to a footbridge linking with the lower section of Rosalind Park.

Queen Victoria Gardens (at the southern end of Rosalind Park) provide a balance to the Conservatory Gardens (at the northern end of Rosalind Park), and the two gardens form a fine group with the law courts and post office on Pall Mall. Queen Victoria Gardens have a simple path layout which centres on a large statue of Queen Victoria and the garden is largely given over to lawn and floral beds, notably a large display of cannas. The RSL Memorial Hall is located in the northern section of this garden and its elevated bandstand is an unusual example of this building type. Until recently the area had several buildings of relatively recent date including the creche (suspended over Bendigo Creek), health centre, tourist kiosk and public toilets (in the centre of Williamson Street). Like Conservatory Gardens, Queen Victoria Gardens are enclosed with a substantial and decorative iron fence. They also have a fine view over Charing Cross and View Point.

The lower reserve of Rosalind Park is more easily approached from View Point or from footbridges from Pall Mall. The area is flat and paths criss-cross the area with a fine avenue of *Pinus canariensis*, elms and oaks. The area is mainly grassed and mature specimen trees such as Bunya Bunya pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) dot the lawn. This part of the park is bounded by Bendigo Creek (currently screened by hydrangeas), the fernery, the escarpment of Camp Hill and the back of several buildings in View Street. A sound shell (1955/57) is located against the escarpment and several drinking fountains dot the paths.

The fernery is situated on ground which was once a bend in the Bendigo Creek. This billabong has been levelled and transformed into a large open air fernery where mature trees provide a canopy of shade for the more tender ferns. The path layout leads the visitor through a circuitous route with small bridges crossing concrete lined channels. The area has a luxuriant character, especially compared with the rest of the gardens, and vegetation comprises largely of tree ferns such as *Dicksonia*, *Cyathea* and ground ferns, *Butia* and *Trachycarpus* palms, cordylines (specifically *C. terminalis* and *C. australis*), a large *Eucalyptus botroides* (Southern mahogany Gum) and a *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum), and screened by *Pittosporum undulatum* (Sweet Pittosporum).

The upper reserve, known as Camp Hill, forms a stark contrast to the lower reserve. Camp Hill is dry rocky land, with specimen tree plantings including stunted *Jubaea chilensis*, *Brachychiton rupestris* and *Prunus ilicifolia* and the remnants of clumped plantings of species such as *Agave americana*. The area is dominated by the poppet legs of the former Garden Gully United Mine (relocated here in 1931) which stand between the buildings in View Street and the government buildings in the centre of Rosalind Park. The remains of a nineteenth fountain can still be seen on the main path leading from the lower reserve. The early path system in this area still retains its brick spoon drains. This area has a lower maintenance level than other parts of the park and this heightens the contrast between this upper reserve and the greenery of the lower reserve and fernery. To the north of the poppet legs is an early brick building, probably erected by the Victorian colonial government in the 1850s and now used by the garden staff. This area has recently been covered with a large asphalted carpark which leads to Queen Elizabeth Oval and is entered from View Street.

The land parallel to Barnard Street historically known as Commissioner's Gully is given over to sporting facilities (and outside this registration), with the Queen Elizabeth Oval (at the corner of View Street) and its impressive grandstand (1901) forming the focus. One of the ponds shown in the 1874 plan has been converted to a swimming pool. The second, and larger, pond further north has retained much of its early character. The Agricultural Show Yard (bounded by Barnard Street, Park Road, Bridge Lane and Water Street) contains an early grandstand but is largely cleared. It contains the site of Bendigo's earliest cemetery.

## LIST OF FEATURES IN ROSALIND PARK

### Conservatory Gardens and Pall Mall

#### The Conservatory

Built in 1898, the conservatory is rectangular in shape. It has a cast iron framework from the foundry of F. M. Brown in Creek Street, Bendigo. Evidence of the maker's mark can be seen imprinted in the iron door surrounds. Entry to the building is through double doors located at the north and south gable ends of the structure. A series of narrow Corinthian-capital pilasters run around the exterior. A gabled clerestory extends along the roof ridge line and is surmounted by a pavilion-shaped ventilator. Both the clerestory gables and central ventilator have decorative finials. The interior of the structure has curved iron trusses. Flower pot benches would have once lined either side of the internal walls. By 1981 the structure had decayed to the extent that demolition was contemplated. However, the iron work was still in good order. A decision was made to replace the woodwork and restore other parts of the structure. Alongside stand two cast iron benches designed in 1980 by Bill Delecca and cast at Golden City Implements foundry. They commemorate the passing of Amy Huxtable, local writer and loyal Bendigonian.

The Queen Elizabeth Oval House is one of the oldest surviving Government Camp structures in the park. The House was constructed in 1857 as a powder magazine as part of a colonial Government initiative to replace temporary camp structures with permanent buildings. In 1864 the House, constructed of locally made brick and sandstone sourced from the nearby Ironbark Ranges, was converted into a residence for the first curator of Rosalind Park, George Brown. The House became a caretaker's residence in 1909.

Rosalind Park is of archaeological significance for its potential to contain artefacts and deposits associated with the occupation and use as the former Government Camp Precinct during the gold rush in the mid-1800s. It is likely that some archaeological remains and deposits exist, including building remains, cess pits, and rubbish dumps, directly associated with the Government Camp buildings.

### Statues

Daphne - white marble nude, set on a black and white marble base. Sculpted by British artist, Marshall Wood in 1871. Wood, a conservative sculptor died in 1882. He had visited Australia the previous year to erect his marble sculpture of Queen Victoria which had been commissioned by the Victorian Government in 1876. Daphne was originally owned by the National Gallery of Victoria, and will soon be transferred to Bendigo Art Gallery as the statue was not commissioned for an outdoor setting. Surface is becoming chalky and discoloured.

George V - bronze sculpture, mounted against a sandstone wall on a sandstone plinth. The figure stands with one foot forward and with hands clasped in front holding a sword pointing down to the ground. He wears an overcoat and Admiral-style hat. The monument faces south and there is a marble plaque with engraving highlighted with bronze paint. Sculpted by Viennese artist John Elischer in 1938. Elischer was born in Vienna in 1891 and died in 1966. He trained in a number of European countries and was the winner of various prizes. He arrived in Australia in 1935 and continued to produce sculpture, but worked as an industrial designer. He designed numerous war memorials in Europe. It is the only known sculpture by this artist in Victoria.

Venus - white marble nude with sheet partially covering her body. One foot is placed forward and one hand is placed on her breast. Her head is turned to one side. South facing, the figure is set on pink granite plinth. A small decorative box sits at her feet behind the sheet. Sculpted by Melbourne artist, Charles Francis Summers in 1901. It is a minor work by an important artist who worked on several public commissions. The work was the gift of Mr W. Hunter.

Mayor Harness Sculpture - Man Fighting Wild Animals - metal sculpture, painted white, depicts a man wearing an animal fur loin cloth fighting a wolf and a large wild cat. It is set on a plinth that has a polished granite plaque on

the front (west) face. The work dates from about 1899, the artist is unknown.

Inner Wheel Club of Bendigo Sundial - a bronze sundial set on a concrete fluted column with 2 bronze plaques at the base. Dated 1983. Plaque reads *Presented by the Inner Wheel Club of Bendigo to commemorate their Golden Jubilee 1933-1983. Imitate the sundial's ways count only the pleasant days.*

Discovery of Gold Monument - white marble sculptural group of a man panning for gold and a woman standing behind him pointing to the pan. The sculpture is supported by a light grey marble plinth featuring a bronze lyrebird on each corner and a decorative scroll on the front and back. The plinth is supported by a 3-step bluestone base. Sculpted by Charles Douglas Richardson, the work dates from 1901-1906. It was erected by the committee of the Victorian Gold Jubilee Exhibition held in 1901/2. English-born in 1853, Richardson arrived at Portland in 1858 and died in Melbourne in 1932. He worked on several public commissions.

Bendigo War Obelisk - light grey granite obelisk on 3-step grey granite base. Featuring inscriptions, it was erected by the citizens of Bendigo District. It is a tribute to the men and women of all wars.

George Lansell Monument - large bronze statue of Lansell with leg bent and holding a block of quartz. Set on a large granite plinth and 2-step base. Front has polished granite plaque with inscriptions. Other 3 sides feature bronze relief sculptures depicting the gold rush. The reliefs were sculpted by Jas White, who may also have been responsible for the statue. Dates from after 1906.

The lower park (Rosalind Park)

The Bendigo Creek Channel

Bendigo Creek was rushed for alluvial gold in 1851-2, and was re-worked by miners from 1854. Sludge channels had to be created and re-created, eventuating in a Royal Commission's recommendations in 1858 to construct a timber box-drain along the re-aligned Bendigo Creek. The channel was completed in the early 1860s. In order to improve channel drainage, the section of the creek running through central Bendigo was widened, the gutter lined with flagstones, both sides walled with stone, and new bridges installed. This artefact symbolises the civilising nature of gold and is significant as an example of late nineteenth century public infrastructure development.

James Curnow Memorial Fountain - made of narrow, textured orange and brown bricks. On the front there is a relief sculpture of Mr Curnow and a plaque (both in bronze). On the side there is a relief sculpture of a girl, on the other side a relief sculpture of a boy. The drinking fountains have concrete bowls and modern drinking bubblers. The date is unknown, but appears to be inter-war.

Ernest Mueller Bust - bronze bust of a man with full beard. The bust is mounted on a grey granite plinth with polished front piece with inscriptions. The rest of the granite plinth is unpolished. The maker is unknown. It is dated c.1910. Mueller b.1832 d.1910. The bust was erected by the citizens of Bendigo.

Queen Victoria Monument - Very large white marble sculpture. In a standing position, the Queen holds a sceptre in one hand and a dove in the other. The sculpture is mounted on a large bronze and granite plinth and base, with heavy bronze detailing including a large bronze lion lying at the base of the plinth. Decorative ship sterns in bronze protrude from the bronze cap on the plinth. The work was sculpted by James White in 1903. Moves to erect a monument to Queen Victoria began with her diamond jubilee in 1897. A public subscription was resurrected after her death. It was unveiled on 14.4.1903. White was born at Edinburgh in 1862 and arrived in Australia in 1888. He died in Brisbane in 1918 after completing a number of commissions across Australia.

Nude with Snake - marble nude of a woman with long hair. Her arm rests on a stump around which a snake coils. The sculptor is P. McDowell, the date is unknown.

Sir John Quick Bust - Bronze bust of a man set on white marble. It has a 3-tiered granite base. The artist is John Walker (1879-1955), and the date of the work is 1934. John Quick was a leader of the Federation League. He worked as a newspaper reporter for both the Bendigo Independent, the Bendigo Advertiser, and the Age, and completed a law degree at Melbourne University. He was admitted to the bar and conferred with a doctorate of laws and returned to Bendigo throwing himself wholeheartedly into the Federation campaign. Bendigo voted 95% in favour of the constitution and Federation. Quick went on to become the first Federal representative for Bendigo. The only other public works by this artist are found in Bendigo.

## COMPARISON:

### Large Public Gardens

Comparative examples of large public gardens in Victoria include Johnstone Park and Eastern Park, Geelong; Ballarat Botanic Gardens; Lake Wendouree; Castlemaine Botanical Gardens; Princess Park and Citizens Park Queenscliff; Town Hall Gardens, Beechworth; and Victoria Park, Ballarat. Special points of interest in Rosalind Park include an interface with urban areas and significant streetscapes, most notably Pall Mall, View Street, and Barnard Street. This aspect is unrivalled amongst other Victorian public gardens and perhaps the only real comparison can be with Johnstone Park, Geelong. Rosalind Park exhibits contrast between the intensive horticulture of the conservatory to the more casual character of Camp Hill; this is a feature of many large public gardens such as Eastern Park or Castlemaine Botanic Gardens. Rosalind Park also exhibits differing horticultural features such as parkland, fernery, conservatory, floral bedding, turf and statuary.

### Conservatories

Fitzroy Gardens. Opened 1930. Designed in Spanish Mission style.

Ballarat Botanic Gardens Begonia House). Constructed 1995.

(Display House). 1920

Eureka Park, Ballarat (Display House). 1930s

Central Park, Malvern Conservatory erected 1927

Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne once had a collection of nineteenth /early twentieth century conservatories, and many smaller suburban public gardens frequently also featured conservatories. For example Queen's Park, Essendon had a conservatory with an ogee-shaped roof, dating from early this century.

The conservatory at Rosalind Park is the only such structure from this period to survive in a public garden or park.

### Other related registrations

The original Government Camp Precinct, bound by View Street, Pall Mall, Bridge Street, Park Road and Barnard Street, also includes the following individual Victorian Heritage Register places: Old Police Barracks (H0545), built in 1860; Former Supreme Court (H1465), built in 1857; HM Prison Bendigo (H1550), built in 1861; and Camp Hill Central School Number 1976 (H1642), built in 1877.

## Plaque Citation

Named after a character in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, the park was established as a recreation reserve in 1861 on the site of the earlier goldfields Government Camp.

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 1995**, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1866 in the category described as Heritage Place and Archaeological Place.

Rosalind Park

Pall Mall and View Street and Gaol Road and Park Road

Bendigo

Greater Bendigo City

### EXTENT

All of the landscape features including trees and plantings, rock walling, paths, bridges and water features.

1. All of the buildings marked B1-B3 on Diagram 1866 held by the Executive Director:

B1 Rotunda  
B2 Conservatory  
B3 Queen Elizabeth Oval House (former Powder Magazine)

2. All of the structures, landscape features and paths marked as follows on Diagram H1866 held by the Executive Director:

S1 Iron fence and gates, and granite base and pillars  
S2 Iron fence, gates and lamp stands x2  
S3 Bendigo Creek stone lined channel  
S4 Iron bridges x3  
S5 Fernery gateway  
S6 Cascade  
S7 Former Garden Gully Mining Company Poppet Legs and Lookout  
S8 Garden beds in the form of ivy baskets x2

3. All of the statuary, marked ST1-ST11 as follows on Diagram 1866 held by the Executive Director:

ST1 Queen Victoria statue  
ST2 Eve statue (moved to the Bendigo Art Gallery)  
ST3 Sir John Quick bust  
ST4 George Lansell monument  
ST5 Ernest Mueller bust  
ST6 James Curnow memorial fountain  
ST7 Daphne statue (moved to the Bendigo Art Gallery)  
ST8 George the V statue  
ST9 Mayor Harness sculpture - Man Fighting Wild Animals  
ST10 Venus statue

4. All the land known as Rosalind Park, bound by View Street, Pall Mall, Bridge Street, Park Road and Gaol Road, incorporating the Conservatory Gardens, Queen Victoria Gardens, Queen Elizabeth Oval House and gazetted as Crown Reserve Rs 1375 [P127620] permanently reserved for Recreation and Drainage purposes marked L1 on Diagram H1866 held by the Executive Director.

Dated 11 March 2010

JimGard'ner  
Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette G 10 11 March 2010 444-445]

---

*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/>*