

Poole Street and Poole's Hill

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Poole Street begins at a roundabout with Kiewa Street. At the centre of the Kiewa Street roundabout is one of Albury's original gaslights. It was first installed in Dean Street, removed when Albury was electrified and later located at the Poole-Kiewa Street roundabout.



Looking north at the house on Poole's Hill. Kiewa St heads up the hill, the sign on the post reads 'Nathan Ave' which connects with Poole St.

The house in the photograph is on the site of the present Mercy Hospital. It was probably the home of John and Mary (popularly known as 'Granny') Poole. The street is named after 'Granny' Poole. When she died on May 23, 1919, she was said to have been aged nearly 106 and reputed to have been the oldest woman in Australia.

Mary Poole was born in Bath, England and had lived in Albury for about 50 years. After her death, Harry Turnbull wrote to the *Albury Banner* stating that he had met Mrs Poole in about 1870 when delivering newspapers. He wrote that she "was a lady by birth and education and often chatted to me of her early life. She had been, she told me, a governess in the family of the Duchess of Bedford, and Mr Poole had occupied a good position on a neighbouring estate."

Turnbull went on to say that "There was a fairly large paddock, and about three acres of vineyard. Mr Poole made his own wine, and his grapes were in demand by other vignerons on account of the large amount of saccharine contained in them. His Riesling was particularly good, and Mr J T Fallon used to secure it." Turnbull stated that he believed that Mr Poole had returned to England.

For the last 15 months of Granny Poole's life she resided with a Miss Parker in Thurgoona Street, where her upkeep was maintained through the generosity of Mrs James Mitchell of Tabletop.

In 1917 Poole Street was suggested as a stock route to the Albury saleyards but the Council engineer could not “recommend the deviation through Paine's paddock and Poole street. The ground is not very suitable for road purposes and Poole street has never been dedicated and remains a private street.”

In 1944 the site on “Poole’s Hill at the top end of Kiewa Street” was chosen as the site for the Mercy Hospital. Building did not get underway for some time and the new Mercy Hospital was opened by Cardinal Gilroy on December 1, 1957.