

<b>Name</b>	(Fmr) Holy Trinity Anglican Church	<b>Reference in 1998 Marong Study</b>	M2
<b>Address</b>	35 High Street, Marong	<b>Map reference</b>	VicRoads 603 N9
<b>Building type</b>	Private residence (former church)	<b>Survey date</b>	July 2010 (external inspection only)
<b>Date of construction</b>	1878	<b>Recommendation</b>	Include in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay
<b>Significance</b>	The former Holy Trinity Anglican Church is of local historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance.		



Left: East elevation of the former Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Marong. Right: North and west elevations.



Left: Aerial view, 2010 (Source: City of Greater Bendigo). Right: Proposed Heritage Overlay map with the subject site designated as M02. Note, the extent of the overlay is indicative only.<sup>1</sup>

**Intactness**      ✓ Good      Fair      Poor

**History**

The Marong area was squatted from the mid-1840s<sup>2</sup> and used as a gold washing site and commissioner’s camp from 1852, when the water gave out at Bendigo.<sup>3</sup> The town is located at the intersection of Bullock Creek, the historic source of water, and the Alternative Calder Highway (which becomes ‘High Street’ at Marong), a main road through the district from the early years of settlement. The Marong District Roads Board was formed in September 1861 at a meeting held in Kilgour’s Union

Hotel at Lockwood. At that time, 36 dwellings were recorded at Marong, of which 20 had more than two rooms, eight were of canvas and seven of slabs or mud. The majority of residents were farmers.<sup>4</sup> In 1865, Marong was described as a 'small hamlet' with a population of 'about 50 persons'.<sup>5</sup> Marong County was renamed the Parish of Marong in 1861 and from this time, land was temporarily reserved from sale for National School purposes (1861), for a cemetery (1861), for Presbyterian and Wesleyan churches (1865), and for public recreation (1869).<sup>6</sup> The Marong District Roads Board became known as the Shire of Marong on 12 December 1864.<sup>7</sup> By 1865, the Shire of Marong had an estimated area of 148,000ha (365,000 acres) and an estimated population of 5,500, the number of dwellings being approximately 1,100.<sup>8</sup>

By 1873, monthly Anglican (Church of England) services were held in the Presbyterian (Uniting) Church at Marong by the Reverend Joseph Carlisle, vicar of Eaglehawk. On 5 November 1873, a public meeting was called for the purpose of establishing a Church of England place of worship. Less than a week later, a Henry J Palmer had donated the present site, on the west side of High Street. The building was to cost £430 and 12 shillings plus the price of the bricks. The designer was the well known Bendigo architect William C Vahland and the builder Thomas Smallwood. As with the Catholic Church in Marong, Holy Trinity was made of bricks manufactured by J W Lawyer at Mopoke Hill. On 10 April 1878, the foundation stone was laid by the Right Reverend James Moorhouse, Bishop of Melbourne. The length of the church was 11m (36ft) the width 7.6m (25ft), the chancel 3.3m (11ft) by 4m (13ft) and the porch 1.8m (6ft) feet by 2.4m (8ft). On 1 September 1878 Holy Trinity was opened for public worship, the service being conducted by Reverend Carlisle. The vestry was added in 1897 by A Betts at a price of £46, the foundation stone being laid by the mayor of Bendigo Mr H M. Marks on 10 June 1897.<sup>9</sup> The church has been deconsecrated and adapted as private residence; the date of the deconsecration is not known.

### **Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes**

Victoria's themes and sub-themes:

- 8.1: Maintaining spiritual life

### **Description & Integrity**

The former Holy Trinity Anglican Church (built 1878) at Marong is a small brick gabled Gothic Revival parish church set back from the west side of High Street in the centre of the township. In recent years the church has been adapted as a private residence. It has a three-bay nave with articulated sanctuary and vestry, the vestry being a later addition (1897). The west elevation has a porch with central entry door, small flanking buttresses and a sturdy cross finial. Above that is a curved triangular window with a cement-rendered hood mould. The roof is timber framed and clad in corrugated galvanised steel. Another cross finial is located at the top of the west gable. Red bricks are relieved by black string courses visually anchoring the nave windows at their arch springs and window sills. Tuck-pointed bright red brickwork outlines the arches. The nave, sanctuary and vestry windows are all simple lancets, with the sanctuary windows arranged in a group of three. Thick gable profile cement copings to the parapeted gable ends have cusped terminations. The buttresses are two-stepped with cement rendered off sets and are diagonal at all major external corners. The gable has prominent gable-topped kneelers with triangular trefoils sitting on corbels and piers turned diagonally into the corner buttresses below them.

There have been no major external additions since the vestry of 1897 and that continued the original style of the church, even reproducing the rather High Victorian cranked linkage between its gable kneelers and the diagonal buttresses. Modifications to adapt the property to a residence include the introduction of corrugated sheet steel fences to the north, west and south boundaries (which are unsympathetic); discreet flues to the north and south of the nave, an air-conditioning unit adjacent to the entrance, and the removal of the post-mounted bell, cast by J W Horwood's Albion foundry at Castlemaine.

The former Holy Trinity Anglican Church appears to be in generally sound condition, with evidence of some structural movement.

## Comparative Analysis

The late 1870s brick church has broad parallels throughout rural Victoria, including the goldfields, being a small yet robust church building. It is also substantially intact and typically located in a simple open and informal setting, albeit on a comparatively small allotment. The treatment of the former church is plain and basic, being a brick version of the simple porch and oblong nave churches found in many small rural communities. Churches with prominent triangular west windows, as occurs here, appear in the High Victorian genre, the most spectacular being Albert Purchas' St George's Presbyterian in Chapel Street, East St Kilda (1877-80), or Sydney Smith's west front to Christ Church Anglican, St Kilda (1874-81).<sup>10</sup> The Marong church window is a pure triangle; the Purchas and Smith churches use rose windows inside triangular moulds. The cranked linkage between the diagonal buttresses and the gable kneelers is unusual in Victoria, although a distinctly High Victorian detail<sup>11</sup> and was evidently thought a sufficient signature to be maintained in the vestry extension. The motif had appeared in distant Victorian locations: on Charles Maplestone's St John's Anglican, Diamond Creek (1867-70) and R S Tuffs' St Paul's Lutheran at Grovedale near Bendigo (1870).<sup>12</sup> The red brick with white painted cement dressing seen here was popular in central Victoria across denominations and is seen in numbers of later churches, such as the Presbyterian and Catholic churches in St Arnaud by Wharton and Vickers (1876) and Keogh and Austin (1906-7) respectively.<sup>13</sup> Austin's similar St Monica's Church at Kangaroo Flat (1926), E P Eberach's John Knox Presbyterian at Swan Hill (1912), and Clegg, Miller and Riley's former Catholic Church at Horsham (1913).<sup>14</sup> It also spread to Melbourne suburban churches, especially after August Fritsch's St Joseph's Catholic Church, Malvern (1908).<sup>15</sup>

## Assessment Against Criteria

### *Amended Heritage Victoria Criteria*

*Criterion A: Importance to the course, or pattern, of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.*

The former Holy Trinity Anglican Church (built 1878) at Marong is of historical significance. From 1878 until the 1990s, the site, on the west side of High Street, was the centre of Anglican worship at Marong. Its construction in the 1870s reflects the development of Marong during the late nineteenth century and the denominational diversity of the goldfields towns and settlements. The former Holy Trinity Anglican Church is also significant for its association with the prominent and prolific Bendigo architect, William C Vahland.

*Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the City the of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.*

N/A

*Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.*

N/A

*Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places or objects.*

N/A

*Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics in the context of the municipality.*

The former Holy Trinity Anglican Church is of aesthetic/architectural significance as an example of a small Gothic Revival church of the 1870s, of red brick with white painted cement dressings, and displaying some High Victorian details. Although extended with a vestry in 1897, and adapted as a private residence, the church is largely intact externally. The former Holy Trinity church is also a restrained example of the work of renowned Bendigo architect, William Vahland. Details of note include the prominent triangular west window, the lancet arched windows and the cranked linkage

between the diagonal buttresses and the gable kneelers. The use of red brick with white painted cement contrasts was popular in central Victoria across denominations, and is seen in numbers of later churches. The former Holy Trinity Anglican Church is also a prominent element of the streetscape by virtue of its location on High Street, albeit on a narrow allotment; and through the picturesque steeply gabled roof form.

*Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.*

N/A

*Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of the place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions.*

The church has some social significance as the local focus of Anglican worship at Marong, and the Anglican community, for over 100 years from 1878 until the 1990s.

*Criterion H: Special association with life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the City of Greater Bendigo's history.*

The former Holy Trinity Anglican Church is significant for its association with noted Bendigo architect William C Vahland, albeit the building is regarded as a restrained example of his work. Vahland was locally prolific, with his commissions including notable residential buildings, as well as many important public, civic and commercial buildings in the municipality.

### **Statement of Significance**

*What is significant?*

The former Holy Trinity Anglican Church at no 35 High Street, Marong, was constructed in 1878. The building, which in recent years has been adapted as a private residence, is a small brick gabled Gothic Revival church set back from the west side of High Street in the centre of the township. It has a three-bay nave with articulated sanctuary and vestry, the vestry being a later addition (1897). The west elevation has a porch with central entry door, small flanking buttresses, and a cross finial, and above on the gable end a curved triangular window with a cement-rendered hood mould and another cross finial at the top of the gable. The red brick walling is relieved by black string courses which anchor the nave windows at their arch springs and window sills. The nave, sanctuary and vestry windows are all simple lancets, with the sanctuary windows arranged in a group of three. The buttresses are two-stepped with cement rendered off sets and are diagonal at all major external corners. There have been no major external additions since the vestry of 1897 which continued the original style of the church.

*How is it significant?*

The former Holy Trinity Anglican Church at no 35 High Street, Marong, is of local historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance.

*Why is it significant?*

The former Holy Trinity Anglican Church is historically significant (Criterion A) through being the centre of Anglican worship at Marong from 1878 until the 1990s. Its construction in the 1870s reflects the development of Marong during the late nineteenth century and the denominational diversity of the goldfields towns and settlements. The church is also significant for its association with the prominent and prolific Bendigo architect, William C Vahland, whose commissions included notable residential buildings, as well as many important public, civic and commercial buildings in the municipality (Criterion H). The church additionally has some social significance as the local focus of Anglican worship at Marong, and the Anglican community, for over 100 years from 1878 until the 1990s (Criterion G).

Aesthetically and architecturally (Criterion E), the former church is an example of a small Gothic Revival church of the 1870s, of red brick with white painted cement dressings, and displaying some High Victorian details. Although extended with a vestry in 1897, and adapted as a private residence, the church is largely intact externally. The former Holy Trinity is also a restrained example of the work of Vahland. Details of note include the prominent triangular west window, the lancet arched windows and the cranked linkage between the diagonal buttresses and the gable kneelers. The use of red brick with white painted cement contrasts was popular in central Victoria across denominations and is seen in numbers of later churches. The former Holy Trinity Anglican Church is also a prominent element of the streetscape by virtue of its location on High Street, albeit on a narrow allotment and through the picturesque steeply gabled roof form.

### Recommendations

The Holy Trinity Anglican Church is recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Greater Bendigo Heritage Overlay. The recommended extent of the Overlay is identified in the above map, with the significance focused on the former church building and its simple setting to the street.

The church has been sympathetically adapted to a private residence but still clearly presents as a mid Victorian church building. The face brick should remain unpainted.

External Paint Colours	No
Internal Alterations Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Outbuildings and fences exemptions	No
Victorian Heritage Register	No
Prohibited uses may be permitted	No
Incorporated plan	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

### Identified By

Andrew Ward, 1998.

### Reference

Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003.

Andrew Ward *et al*, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998.

#### Specific:

- <sup>1</sup> Changed map from *Heritage Policy Citations Review*, 2011.
- <sup>2</sup> Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 123.
- <sup>3</sup> Andrew Ward, *City of Greater Bendigo (Marong District) Heritage Study* (Stage One Report), unpaginated.
- <sup>4</sup> Ruth Hopkins, *Moving Forward, Looking Back, The History of the Marong Shire*, Shire of Marong, 1985, p. 13.
- <sup>5</sup> F F Bailliere, in the *Victorian Gazetteer and Road Guide*, 1865, p. 238.
- <sup>6</sup> Victorian Government Gazette: 29 – 25/02/1861, 98 – 29/06/1861, 178 – 06/12/1861, 98 – 04/08/1865, and 06/08/1869).
- <sup>7</sup> Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 126.
- <sup>8</sup> F F Bailliere, in the *Victorian Gazetteer and Road Guide*, 1865, p. 238.

- 
- <sup>9</sup> Reverend P D Kissick, *Brick Making for God: Built in Truth, Holy Trinity Centenary 1878-1978*, Holy Trinity Centenary Committee 1978, pp. 6, 8, 9, 14-23.
- <sup>10</sup> See Miles Lewis (ed., contrib.), *Victorian Churches*, National Trust, Melbourne, 1991, pp. 83, item 133 (Christ Church), and 84 item 137 (St George's).
- <sup>11</sup> Gothic revivalism of the High Victorian period (c. 1848-1880) was renowned for vigorous detail, evoking muscularity, bone structures and bodily stress. This is outlined by George Hersey in his *High Victorian Gothic: a Study in Associationism*, Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, 1972. It was more inventive and less tied to reproducing specific medieval detail than early Victorian Gothic Revival (1835-1850) had been, and was a particular mark of William Butterfield, (massive and angular 'Rhenish' towers) John Horbury Hunt, Crouch and Wilson and Edward Gell among others in Australia (crutch buttresses, crow-steps, cranked brick faceting, dog-tooth brick mouldings); and George Edmund Street, Samuel Tuelon, E B Lamb and R C Carpenter (spectacular and massive yet spiky finials and turrets, bold bichrome and polychrome walling). High Victorian's other main signature was an insistent use of colour in patterns, usually striping and coloured course lines, as here, or criss-cross patterning known as diaper-work. Climatic recognition was considered a must in High Victorian circles, as in the adoption of 'speluncar' or cave-like character for churches in hot climates, often through use of plate tracery or narrow lancet windows. John Ruskin was its major critical arbiter, and its principal journal was the British *Ecclesiologist*. Its exponents were later known as 'rogue architects'. It had a major influence in Victoria, both in the polychrome and bichromatic brickwork of the Bendigo and Ballarat regions, and the brick polychrome made popular by Joseph Reed in Melbourne after c. 1865.
- <sup>12</sup> Lewis, pp. 116, item 251 (Diamond Creek); 147, item 373 (Grovedale).
- <sup>13</sup> Lewis, p. 148, items 375 (Presbyterian) and 377 (Roman Catholic)
- <sup>14</sup> Lewis, p.p. 127, item 291 (Horsham); 149, item 380 (Swan Hill).
- <sup>15</sup> Lewis, p. 76, item 109.