

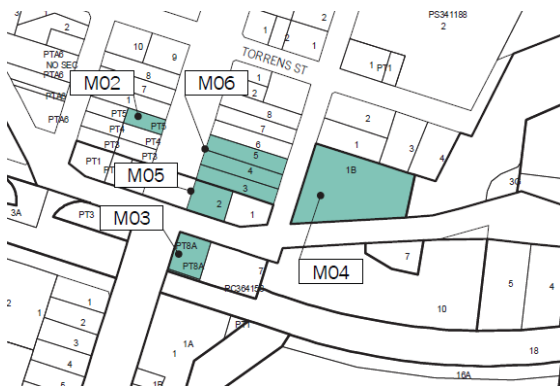
Name	Marong School No. 400	Reference in 1998 Marong Study	M4
Address	10 Adams Street (Calder Highway at Marong)	Map reference	VicRoads 626 C10
Building type	School	Survey date	July 2010 (external inspection only)
Date of construction	c. 1874 (bichrome brick building.)	Recommendation	Include in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay
Significance	The bichrome brick school building at Marong School no.400 is of local historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance.		



Left: Front (north) elevation. Right: West and front elevations, with landscaped garden at right.



Left: East elevation. Right: Later classroom additions, including the 1930s building.



Left: Aerial view, 2010, with the brick school building highlighted (Source: City of Greater Bendigo). Right: Proposed Heritage Overlay map, with the subject site designated M4.

Intactness ✓ Good Fair Poor

History

The Marong area was squatted from the mid-1840s¹ and used as a gold washing site and commissioner's camp from 1852, when the water gave out at Bendigo.² The town is located at the intersection of Bullock Creek and the Alternative Calder Highway, approximately 9km west of Bendigo. 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.³ In 1865, Marong was described as a 'small hamlet' with a population of 'about 50 persons'.⁴ 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).⁵ The Marong District Roads Board became known as the Shire of Marong on 12 December 1864.⁶ By 1865, the Shire of Marong had an estimated area of 148,000ha (365,000 acres), and an estimated population of 5,500.⁷ Some development at Marong occurred between the 1860s and 1880s, following the early gold rushes. Marong has never been a particularly large township. The most significant development has occurred in the post-war years.⁸

A school was opened at Marong in August 1859, on a half-acre site on a bend in Bullock Creek on the Marong township reserve. It is assumed that this is the eastern section of the present site. Local residents raised money for the building. The brick building with a shingled roof was constructed (since demolished), by James Wait in July 1859, and opened in the following month by E P Date. By 1863 the average attendance was 46. In 1874 extensions were completed and a teacher's residence added on additional land. It is believed that the current bichrome brick building at the school dates to this phase of works. A new residence, and an additional room for the school was built in 1887. The town water supply was connected in 1889. Sanitary arrangements at the school were condemned in 1909 as an outbreak of typhoid fever was attributed to their poor condition. Extensive repairs were carried out in 1912. In 1936 the original 1859 brick school building, which was in poor condition, was replaced with a new two room weatherboard building, the latter being occupied by the beginning of 1938.⁹

Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes

Victoria's themes and sub-themes:

- 8.2: Educating people
- 9.5: Advancing knowledge

Description & Integrity

Brick building

The red brick building at the south-east of the site is a small single-room school building with gable ends and a gabled porch, steeply pitched roof form, prominent plain barge-boards with exposed purlins and timber finial. The brick has bichrome colouration in red and cream, with the creams used in a single all-round wall-strip two courses deep and again to delineate quoins at each corner. This quoin expression is in three-tiered tapering courses throughout. The gable has a second two-course stripe and two more pairs of cream-brick three-step 'quoins' each side of the gable vent. The west-facing window has a bi-chrome segmental arch with two more of these stepped 'quoins' flanking it, and the porch window is narrow with a cambered soffit and a simple basalt block sill. There is another brick bay to the east, with a large double hung sash window with nine panes per sash. This wing has a weatherboard extension with a half-hip roof projecting c. 1.5 metres, with two more double hung sashes facing the playground (east). The large window by the porch in the south elevation has been enlarged. This may have been changed later in the nineteenth century or as part of the improvements specified in 1912. Its frame, head and sill detailing appears more typical of this period. The building appears to be in sound condition.

Additional buildings

Behind the brick building is a hipped roofed weatherboard building with two classrooms with two triple-finned chimneys in red face brick and a round porch awning. This is the 1936-8 addition introduced under Percy Everett's aegis at Government Architect. This building has a group of four double hung sash windows to the south elevation but placed asymmetrically, each with six panes per sash. To the north-west of the 1930s block are three timber-framed portables with top-hung windows

and low-pitched roofing clad in crimped metal. The wall and apron boarding is vertical apart from the centre unit's end wall, which is horizontally laid weatherboard. The undercrofts have between two and four courses of timber plank screens. These may have been added for the school's centenary in 1959, or soon after. Another timber building sits north of the 1930s block, linked to it by a columned cloister with metal-deck roofing. There is a modern timber-framed shelter to the south of the school ground, close to the brick building.

Comparative Analysis

Compositionally the bichrome brick school building is close to two plan VIII Common schools, dating from the late-1860s – Evansford (1867) and Muckleford South (1873) – in placing an entry porch off-centre under the gable and having a large window to one side of the porch.¹⁰ For this reason it is estimated to date to the extension works carried out at the school property in 1874. In addition, the bichrome and proportioning is typical of 1860s court houses and other government buildings. Bichrome and polychrome schools, in architrave striation, emerged with Essendon Primary in 1862,¹¹ predating Joseph Reed's much better-known foray into polychrome church and house design in 1865-7. The bulk of 1850s elementary school designs were, however, either Gothic or classical-temple in composition and were either rendered or in plain stone or timber. They also avoided the brick asymmetrical cottage-Italianate form seen here.

Direct formal parallels are closer with contemporary court houses such as Creswick 1859, Maldon 1861, Daylesford and Bright 1862, Learmonth and Jamieson 1864, Benalla 1865, Ararat 1867, Inglewood 1868; this genre persisted through into the 1880s.¹² The school also has an affinity in design and detail with some railway stations such as Kangaroo Flat (1862), though these are in either in monochrome brick or stone. Similarly, M Schneider, W H Ellerker, Wharton and Vickers and Henry Bastow's polychrome government schools after 1873 are much later, and all their patterned brick designs primarily adopt a free Gothic approach rather than the segmental arched form seen here.¹³ Marong is also quite dissimilar in composition and detail from the next polychrome school essay, Henry Bastow's Camp Hill School of 1878, which is another freely Gothic design. Post-1873 schools use two-course wall striping, as here, but the stepped or tapering cream brick quoining in three-course groups as seen at Marong is absent from these other State School designs. Nor does Marong use either the bichrome Gothic or diaper brickwork seen in Victoria's mainstream school designs of this period. More generally, bichrome and polychrome persisted in school designs through to 1890, when supplanted by cement dressing.

The 1936-8 addition is typically Percy Everett in that it is determinedly modern, with three-finned chimneys, the rounded and scored porch fascia and Everett's cultivation of a strip-window form in the grouped sashes at its left front. The three timber portables behind the brick building are typical of their type; another example is sited behind the former Kangaroo Flat Police Station the Camp and Church Streets corner.

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 bichrome brick school building (built c. 1870s) at the Marong School no.400 is historically significant as the earliest surviving component of Marong Primary School. The school was originally established in 1859, on the present site at a bend in the Bullock Creek in close proximity to the town reserve. It has been the principal focus of State funded education at Marong since its inception. The building was also constructed in a period, between the 1860s and '80s, when the township of Marong was experiencing significant growth and development.

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 brick school building (built c. 1870s) at the Marong School no.400 is of aesthetic/architectural significance. Although small in size, the bichrome brick building has picturesque qualities deriving from its steeply pitched roof form, gable ends and gabled porch. Other elements of note include the asymmetrical cottage-Italianate form, the prominent plain barge-boards with exposed purlins and finials, and the stepped or tapering cream brick quoining.

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 1870s building at Marong School no.400 has social significance as a long-standing building within the school complex, which has served the local school community at Marong for 140 years.

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.

N/A

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The bichrome brick school building, built c. 1870s, located in the south-east of the site is a small single-room school building with gable ends and a gabled porch, steeply pitched roof form, prominent plain barge-boards with exposed purlins and timber finial. The brick has bichrome colouration in red and cream, with the cream used in courses and to delineate quoins at corners and around some openings. There is a brick bay to the east, with a large double hung sash window with nine panes per sash. This wing has a weatherboard extension with a half-hip roof. The large window by the porch in the south elevation has been enlarged, a change which may have occurred later in the nineteenth century or as part of the improvements of 1912.

How is it significant?

The bichrome brick school building (built c. 1870s) at the Marong School no.400 is of local historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance.

Why is it significant?

The bichrome brick school building is historically significant (Criterion A) as the earliest surviving component of Marong Primary School. The school was originally established in 1859, on the present site at a bend in the Bullock Creek in close proximity to the town reserve. It has been the principal focus of State funded education at Marong since its inception. The building was also constructed in a

period, between the 1860s and '80s, when the township of Marong was experiencing significant growth and development. The 1870s building also has social significance as a long-standing building within the school complex, which has served the local school community at Marong for 140 years (Criterion G).

It is also of aesthetic/architectural significance (Criterion E). Although small in size, the brick building has picturesque qualities deriving from its steeply pitched roof form, gable ends and gabled porch. Other elements of note include the asymmetrical cottage-Italianate form, the prominent plain barge-boards with exposed purlins and finials, and the stepped or tapering cream brick quoining.

Recommendations

The property is recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Greater Bendigo Heritage Overlay. While the map above illustrates an extent of Overlay coverage (following the property boundaries), it is recommended that this be reduced to the historic building with a curtilage around it of five or so metres. The timber buildings and the remainder of the property generally, while sharing the historical significance of the site, do not contain elements which warrant heritage controls. The 1930s timber classroom, while of some interest including through its association with architect Percy Everett, is otherwise not a distinctive or distinguished building, and its inclusion in the Overlay is not recommended.

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.

References

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:

¹ Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 123.

² Andrew Ward, *City of Greater Bendigo (Marong District) Heritage Study* (Stage One Report), unpaginated.

³ Ruth Hopkins, *Moving Forward, Looking Back, The History of the Marong Shire*, Shire of Marong, 1985, p. 13.

⁴ F F Bailliere, in the *Victorian Gazetteer and Road Guide*, 1865, p. 238.

⁵ Victorian Government Gazette: 29 – 25/02/1861, 98 – 29/06/1861, 178 – 06/12/1861, 98 – 04/08/1865, and 06/08/1869).

⁶ Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 126.

⁷ F F Bailliere, in the *Victorian Gazetteer and Road Guide*, 1865, p. 238.

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- ⁸ Mike Butcher and Gill Flanders, *Bendigo Historic Buildings*, p. 167, and
<http://profile.id.com.au/Default.aspx?id=134&pg=101&gid=230&type=enum>
- ⁹ *Vision and Realisation*, Victorian Government, Melbourne, 1973, v. 2, p. 442.
- ¹⁰ Lawrence Burchell, *Victorian Schools: a Study in Colonial Government Architecture 1837-1900*, University Press, Melbourne, 1980, pp. 70-71. Plan VIII is on p. 72.
- ¹¹ Lawrence Burchell, *Victorian Schools: a Study in Colonial Government Architecture 1837-1900*, University Press, Melbourne, 1980, illustration, p. 65; discussion pp. 64, 66.
- ¹² Illustrated and discussed by Michael Challinger, *Historic Court Houses of Victoria*, Palisade, Melbourne, 2001.
- ¹³ Lawrence Burchell, *Victorian Schools: a Study in Colonial Government Architecture 1837-1900*, University Press, Melbourne, 1980, Ch. 8.