

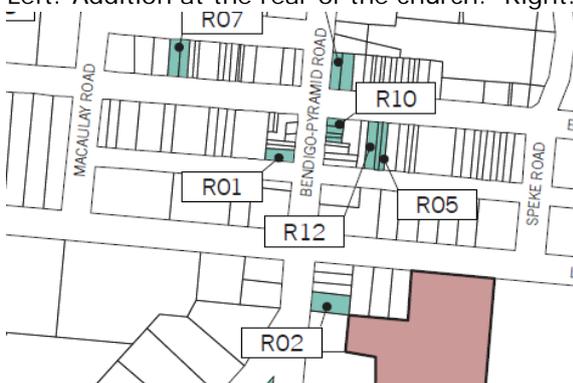
Name	St Mary's Anglican Church (former Congregational Church)	Reference in 1998 Marong Study	R1
Address	47-49 Sandhurst Street, Raywood	Map reference	VicRoads 44 E2
Building type	Church	Survey date	June 2010 (external inspection only)
Date of construction	Unknown (possibly 1870s)	Recommendation	Include in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay
Significance	St Mary's Anglican Church is of local historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance.		



Left: West and north elevations. Note bell tower to the north (right) of the church. Right: West and south elevations.



Left: Addition at the rear of the church. Right: Aerial view, 2010 (Source: City of Greater Bendigo).



Proposed Heritage Overlay map. The subject site is shown as R01 (at centre of plan).

Intactness ✓ Good Fair Poor

History

The first Anglican services in Raywood, following the discovery of gold at Thunder Plains in October 1863, were conducted at the home of a Joseph Davies.¹ Reverend Horace F Tucker of the Campaspe Mission subsequently took Anglican services in the township, until he was succeeded by Reverend Elijah P Sutton in 1881. The present St Mary's Church was originally built for the Congregational Church, possibly in the 1870s. The original architect has not been identified. Following the decline of attendances at the Congregational Church during 1880,² the church was rented by the Salvation Army, before being sold to the Church of England for £120 some time after 1895.³ St Mary's was restored and redecorated prior to being reconsecrated at an Anglican church on 28 October 1962 by Bishop Richards.⁴

Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes

Victoria's themes and sub-themes:

- 8.1: Maintaining spiritual life

Description & Integrity

St Mary's Anglican Church (former Congregational Church) at Raywood occupies a rectangular allotment on the west side of Sandhurst Road, close to the Inglewood Street and Sandhurst Road intersection in the centre of the township. The brick church, which is believed to date to the 1870s, has a shallow and open set back to Sandhurst Road. There is a small bell tower to the north of the church.

St Mary's is a small brick and stuccoed church in the Gothic Revival manner, with gable ends and a steeply pitched roof form. There is a circular rose window to the front (east) gable surmounted by a large rendered relieving arch overlooking a buttressed porch. There are three buttressed bays to the nave with lancet arched windows. Each side lancet window has a rectangular surrounding panel of darker coloured brick, and sills with stub jambs.

The buttresses are two-step with double off-sets on the upper step and single-depth off-sets on the lower. At each corner they are angled. Their setbacks are expressed side-on as cement-rendered angled blocks, and the cement dressing continues upward at each corner to include a corbelled kneeler for the main gable. Each of these cement surfaces reads as cruciform in outline when seen from the street. The porch has a two-leaved entry door under a pointed arch. The main gable coping, as on the porch, is a set of flat plates. The roofs to the main gable and porch are clad with corrugated galvanised sheet steel, painted red. There are three vents to each face of the main gable roof.

There is a non-original gabled brick rear addition and relatively recent leadlight work to the rose window and the nave windows to both sides. The nave is anchored by three 'S' irons. A diagonal crack under the north springing line of the arch to the east gable has been re-mortared.

The building is sited in an informal open setting, with some post and wire boundary fencing.

Comparative Analysis

St Mary's Raywood reads as a dissenting church, which is appropriate given its Congregational origins. Externally it parallels Crouch and Wilson's essay for the Primitive Methodists at Chewton (1860), and their Wesleyan Church in Glen Iris (1862).⁵ The Chewton church had a front porch enclosed by two curving, angled flying buttresses that ascribe a pointed arch in profile. These buttresses have five off-sets each, expressed side-on as triangular blocks, just as the squared buttresses do at St Mary's Raywood. The Glen Iris church was more sedate but with a rose window similar to Raywood's and a similar entry porch flanked by diagonal buttresses. The deep buttresses on the Raywood church are paralleled in the diagonal corner buttresses at both Chewton and Glen Iris, and the gable kneelers at Chewton ascribe a partial crucifix in their intersection with the buttresses, as at St Mary's. Besides these two examples, churches with front gables with a large relieving arch in these proportions are comparatively rare in Australia. The best known outside Victoria are John Horbury Hunt's Anglican cathedrals at Armidale and Grafton, New South Wales (1871-8, 1880), where a brick sustaining arch circles a brick surface below with lancet and roundel windows, resembling a huge area of expanded

plate tracery. In Melbourne, North and Williams took Hunt's expanded plate tracery idea further with their brick quasi-relieving arch and huge concrete tympanum in St Peter's Eastern Hill Anglican Hall, East Melbourne (1913), again punctuated by grouped lancets.

In several respects, St Mary's Raywood parallels the Uniting Church (former Methodist Church, R2) nearby at 28 Sandhurst Street, built 1876. Comparable elements include the three-bay nave expressed by two-step buttresses, the squat entry porch with franking buttresses, and the flat plates used as main gable coping; otherwise the former Methodist Church's detailing is generally simpler.

Assessment Against Criteria

Amended Heritage Victoria Criteria

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

St Mary's Anglican Church, Raywood, is of historical significance. It is believed to have been constructed in the 1870s, and as such dates to the earliest phase of development at Raywood, following the discovery of gold nearby in October 1863. It was built for the Congregational Church, and later rented to the Salvation Army, following the decline of Congregational attendances. Dissenting faiths, such as the Congregationalists, were common on the goldfields, and the presence of their churches helps emphasise the diversity of the various goldfields communities and populations. The property was sold to the Anglican Church after 1895; this take-over by one of the more mainstream churches was also a not uncommon outcome for the dissenting churches. The property is additionally significant for remaining in use, for over 140 years, as a church.

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

St Mary's Anglican Church, Raywood, has a large relieving arch to its front (west) gable end which, in these proportions, is a comparatively rare architectural element.

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.

St Mary's Anglican Church, Raywood, is of aesthetic/architectural significance as a small brick and stuccoed church in the Gothic Revival manner. The large relieving arch to its front (west) gable end is a distinguishing element, demonstrative of St Mary's origins as a dissenting church. In several respects St Mary's parallels the Uniting Church (R2) at 28 Sandhurst Street, built 1876. Comparable elements include the three-bay nave expressed by two-step buttresses, the squat entry porch with franking buttresses, and the flat plates used as main gable coping. Externally, St Mary's is substantially intact as built. The modern addition at the rear has not significantly impacted on or affected the presentation of the building from Sandhurst Street. Churches with front gables with a large relieving arch in these proportions are also comparatively rare in Australia. In addition, the church is a prominent element on the main street of the township, by virtue of its height, limited setback, and picturesque steeply pitched 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.

St Mary's Church, Raywood is of social significance as the focus of the local Anglican community, including being the building in which church services are held, since c. 1895. The restoration and redecoration of the church in 1962, and its reconsecration, emphasise its ongoing importance to the local community.

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?

St Mary's Anglican Church, estimated to date to the 1870s, occupies a rectangular allotment on the west side of Sandhurst Road, Raywood. It is a small brick and stuccoed church in the Gothic Revival manner, with gable ends and a steeply pitched roof. A circular rose window is in the front (east) gable, surmounted by a large rendered relieving arch overlooking a buttressed porch. There are three buttressed bays to the nave with lancet arched windows. The buttresses are two-step, with cement dressings, and angled at each corner. The porch has a two-leaved entry door under a pointed arch. The roofs to the main gable and porch are clad with corrugated galvanised sheet steel, painted red. There are three vents to each face of the main gable roof. The church has a shallow and open set back to Sandhurst Road, with a small bell tower to the north of the church.

How is it significant?

St Mary's Anglican Church, Raywood, is of local historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance.

Why is it significant?

St Mary's Anglican Church, Raywood, is historically significant (Criterion A) for its association with the earliest phase of development at Raywood, following the discovery of gold nearby in October 1863. It was built for the Congregational Church and later rented to the Salvation Army, following the decline of Congregational attendances. Dissenting faiths, such as the Congregationalists, were common on the goldfields, and the presence of their churches helps emphasise the diversity of the various goldfields communities and populations. The take-over of the property by a more mainstream church, such as the Anglican Church after 1895, was also a not uncommon outcome for the dissenting churches. The property is additionally significant for remaining in use, for over 140 years, as a church. St Mary's Church is also of social significance (Criterion G) as the focus of the local Anglican community since c. 1895, including being the building in which church services were held over this period. The restoration and redecoration of the church in 1962, and its reconsecration, emphasise its ongoing importance to the local community.

In terms of the local aesthetic/architectural significance (Criterion E), St Mary's is a substantially intact small brick and stuccoed church in the Gothic Revival manner. The large relieving arch to its front (west) gable end is a distinguishing element, demonstrative of its origins as a dissenting church. Other elements of note include the three-bay nave expressed by two-step buttresses, squat entry porch with franking buttresses, rose window to the front (east) gable, and the flat plates used as main gable coping. Churches with front gables with a large relieving arch in these proportions are also comparatively rare in Australia (Criterion B). In addition, the church is a prominent element on the main street of the township, by virtue of its height, limited setback, and picturesque steeply pitched roof form.

Recommendations

The property is recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Greater Bendigo Heritage Overlay, to the extent as shown in the Overlay map above. The focus of significance is on the original church building, in its informal setting, with a curtilage around the building. The face brick should remain unpainted. The rear addition is of no heritage significance, and can be adapted, removed or retained as required.

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.

Marie H Manning (ed), *Back-To Raywood and District Souvenir Booklet*, 1973.

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. 327.

² Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 327.

³ Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 327.

⁴ Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 327.

⁵ Miles Lewis (ed., contrib.), *Victorian Churches*, National Trust, Melbourne, 1991, p. 135, item 324 (Chewton); p. 63, item 63 (Glen Iris).