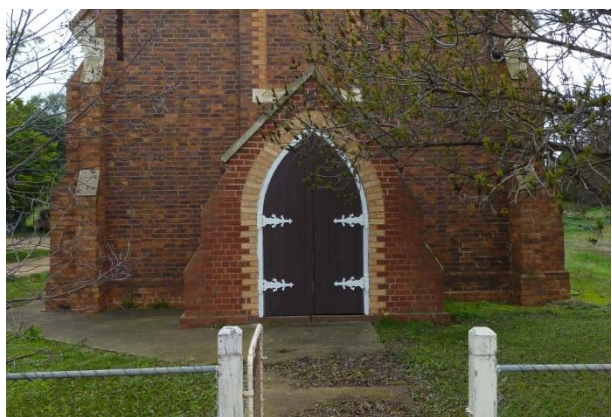


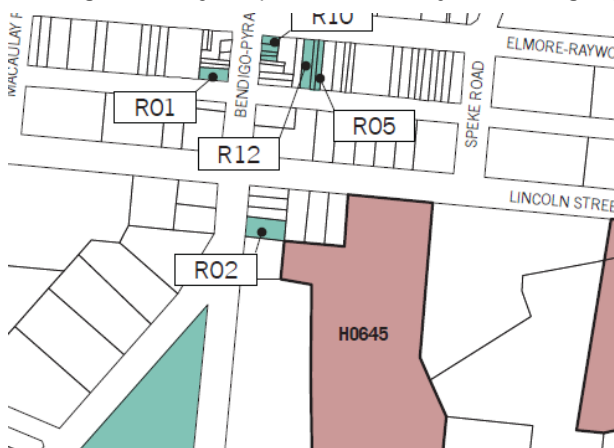
<b>Name</b>	Uniting Church (former Methodist Church)	<b>Reference in 1998 Marong Study</b>	R2
<b>Address</b>	28 Sandhurst Street (Bendigo-Pyramid Road), Raywood	<b>Map reference</b>	VicRoads 44 E 2
<b>Building type</b>	Church	<b>Survey date</b>	June 2010
<b>Date of construction</b>	1876	<b>Recommendation</b>	Include in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay
<b>Significance</b>	The Uniting Church is of local historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance.		



Left: Looking south-east. Right: South elevation, note addition to the rear (east).



Left: Church entrance. Right: Aerial view, 2010 (Source: City of Greater Bendigo). Below: Proposed Heritage Overlay map, with the subject site highlighted.



Proposed Heritage Overlay map with the subject site shown as R02.

<b>Intactness</b>	✓ Good	Fair	Poor
<b>Existing Heritage Status</b>	HV	AHC	NT

## History

A Dr Stilwell, a Wesleyan, is believed to have conducted the first Wesleyan service in the township of Raywood, at Gunn's Hotel in January 1864 (Dr Stilwell later converted to Methodism).<sup>1</sup> It would be another decade before the first Methodist minister, a Reverend A Grever, was appointed to Raywood, in 1874.<sup>2</sup> The present brick church, formerly a Methodist Church but now a Uniting Church, sited to the north of the school reserve, was opened in 1876 at a cost of £700.<sup>3</sup> The church was refurbished internally in 2003<sup>4</sup> and has been extended at the rear with meeting rooms and toilets.

## Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes

Victoria's themes and sub-themes:

- 8.1: Maintaining spiritual life

## Description & Integrity

The Uniting Church (former Methodist Church) at Raywood occupies a small site to the east of Sandhurst Street (Bendigo-Pyramid road), north of the school reserve. The gabled brick church building has a porch to the front and a modern addition to the rear. The building is located in the centre of the lot, setback from Sandhurst Street. A row of mature trees marks the rear boundary.

The Uniting Church is a small Gothic Revival bichrome brick church with a three-bay nave expressed with buttresses and lancet windows. Its steeply pitched roof has a single ridge and is clad in painted corrugated galvanised steel. Its liturgical west front comprises a low or squat gabled porch with buttresses, again clad in painted corrugated galvanised steel, and a two-leaf porch door set in a pointed opening and flanked by alternating cream brick headers and stretchers, to generate a quoin-like effect. Above the porch, on the main front gable, is a recessed, blind lancet arch set in a gabled breakfront with surmounting oculus vent and a quatrefoil surround inside the vent. The gable above has a flat plate coping, as does the rear (liturgical east) gable. There are no windows to the front gable. Splayed gable kneelers, two on each main gable, are expressed as paired and corbelled blocks with a double *cyma recta* outer moulding linking each block. All buttresses are two-step with cement rendered off-sets. The porch buttresses are squatter. The body of the church is constructed of rich brown brick, varied in colour gradation. The building appears to be in generally sound condition.

The single-storey rear addition reads as a later element, being built of pale bricks and having a shallow pitched roof. It is of similar width to the brick church building.

## Comparative Analysis

Several aspects of this church are paralleled in St Mary's Anglican Church on the opposite side of Sandhurst Road (R1), including the three-bay nave, squat porch with flanking buttresses and the flat plate gable coping. The use of bichrome brick to generate quoin imagery can be seen much earlier: in Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Oakleigh (1858), through to Crouch and Wilson's Congregational Church and Hall, South Melbourne (1867-8), and S H Lugg's Bible Christian Church in Ballarat (1866-7). In the Bendigo area bichrome brick is evident at St Luke's Anglican Church at White Hills (1863), a W C Vahland design. The device was still current in 1876, as seen in Charles Webb's former John Knox Church in Brighton.<sup>5</sup> In buttressed Gothic churches, the blind west front of the subject building, apart from the porch, is unusual. It appears in a few other protestant churches in Victoria, such as the former St John's Catholic Church, Sutherlands Creek (1858), Hamilton's Lutheran Church (1861), St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Penshurst (1865), and St John's Anglican Church, Diamond Creek (1867-70).<sup>6</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 Uniting Church (former Methodist Church) at Raywood, built 1876, is of historical significance. The first Methodist service at Raywood was held in January 1864 at Gunn's Hotel, conducted by Wesleyan preacher Dr Stilwell. Twelve years later the present brick church was built, reflecting the strength of the Methodist congregation among the goldfields population. The presence of the Methodists also underscores the diversity of religious communities on the nineteenth century goldfields, which in turn has resulted in the rich collection of church buildings scattered throughout the Bendigo region. The brick building has been the centre of Methodist (now Uniting Church) worship at Raywood for over 130 years, and remains in use.

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

The Uniting Church has a blind west front gable (without windows), which is an unusual architectural treatment for a small Gothic church.

*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 Uniting Church (former Methodist Church) at Raywood is of aesthetic/architectural significance as a substantially externally intact 1870s small gabled Gothic Revival church. Elements of note include the rich brown brick walling, with varied colour gradation, the squat and buttressed gabled entrance porch with two-leaf door in a pointed opening, flanked by brick quoining, and the gabled breakfront above the porch in the main gable with a recessed blind lancet arch, and surmounting oculus vent with quatrefoil. The use of bichrome brick to generate quoin imagery in Victorian churches dates to at least 1858; the blind west front of the building, apart from the porch, is also unusual. The modern addition at the rear has not significantly affected the presentation of the building from Sandhurst Street. The church is additionally a prominent element in the streetscape, with the steeply pitched roof having picturesque qualities. The informal landscape setting is also typical of numerous churches on the goldfields.

*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 Uniting Church at Raywood is of local social significance as the focus of Methodist (and now Uniting Church) services since 1876, and as a prominent historic building in the local community context.

*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 Uniting Church (former Methodist Church) was built in 1876, and occupies a small site to the east of Sandhurst Street (Bendigo-Pyramid road), Raywood. A row of mature trees marks the rear boundary. It is a small Gothic Revival bichrome brick church with a three-bay nave expressed with buttresses and lancet windows. The body of the church is constructed of rich brown brick, varied in colour gradation. Its steeply pitched roof has a single ridge and is clad in painted corrugated galvanised steel. Its liturgical west front comprises a low or squat gabled porch with buttresses, and a two-leaf porch door flanked by alternating cream brick headers and stretchers which generate a quoin-like effect. Above the porch, on the main front gable, is a recessed, blind lancet arch; there are no windows to the front gable. All buttresses are two-step with cement rendered off-sets; the porch buttresses are squatter.

*How is it significant?*

The Uniting Church (former Methodist Church) is of local historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance.

*Why is it significant?*

The Uniting Church is historically significant (Criterion A) as the centre of Methodist (now Uniting Church) worship at Raywood for over 130 years and retains this use. The first Methodist service at Raywood was held in January 1864 at Gunn's Hotel, conducted by Wesleyan preacher Dr Stilwell. Twelve years later the present brick church was built, reflecting the strength of the Methodist congregation among the goldfields population. The presence of the Methodists also underscores the diversity of religious communities on the nineteenth century goldfields, which in turn has resulted in the rich collection of church buildings scattered throughout the Bendigo region. The Uniting Church is also of local social significance (Criterion G), as the focus of Methodist (and now Uniting Church) services since 1876, and as a prominent historic building in the local community context. Aesthetically and architecturally (Criterion E), the Raywood Uniting Church is significant as a substantially externally intact 1870s small gabled Gothic Revival church. Elements of note include the rich brown brick walling, with varied colour gradation; the squat and buttressed gabled entrance porch with two-leaf door in a pointed opening, flanked by brick quoining; and the gabled breakfront above the porch in the main gable with a recessed blind lancet arch, and surmounting oculus vent with quatrefoil. The use of bichrome brick to generate quoin imagery in Victorian churches dates to at least 1858; the blind west front of the building, apart from the porch, is also unusual (Criterion B). The church is additionally a prominent element in the streetscape, with the steeply pitched roof having picturesque qualities. The informal landscape setting is also typical of numerous churches on the goldfields.

### Recommendations

The property is recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Greater Bendigo Heritage Overlay. The recommended extent of the Overlay is illustrated in the above map. The focus of significance is on the 1870s church building, and its simple setting and presentation, as seen from Sandhurst Street. The brick walling 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:

<sup>1</sup> Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 326.

<sup>2</sup> Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 326.

<sup>3</sup> 'Uniting Church' citation, Andrew Ward *et al*, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998.

<sup>4</sup> Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 326.

<sup>5</sup> Miles Lewis (ed., contrib.), *Victorian Churches*, National Trust, Melbourne, 1991, pp. 78, item 115 (Oakleigh); 86, item 144 (South Melbourne) 95, item 172 (Ballarat), 105, item 208 (White Hills) and 60, item 52 (Brighton).

<sup>6</sup> Lewis, pp. 99, item 186 (Sutherlands Creek) 116, item 251 (Diamond Creek), 124, item 282 (Hamilton) 138, item 334 (Penshurst), and 103, item 203 (Bendigo).