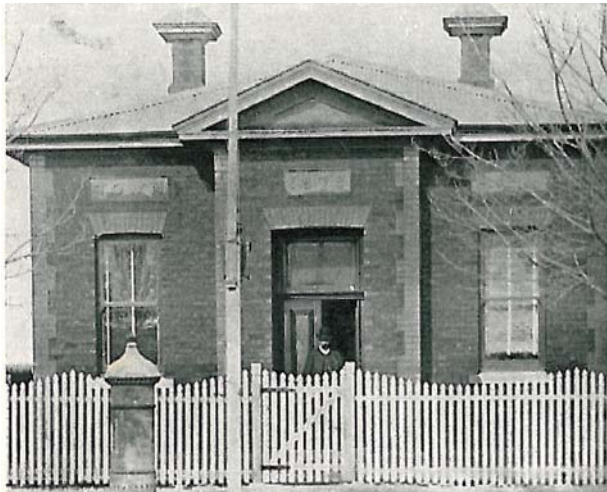


<b>Name</b>	Former Raywood Town Hall	<b>Reference in 1998 Marong Study</b>	R12
<b>Address</b>	50 Inglewood Street, Raywood	<b>Map reference</b>	VicRoads 44 E2
<b>Building type</b>	Public hall (former town hall)	<b>Survey date</b>	June 2010 (external inspection only)
<b>Date of construction</b>	1878	<b>Recommendation</b>	Include in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay
<b>Significance</b>	The former Raywood Town Hall is of local historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance.		



Left: Raywood Town Hall north elevation, c. late-19<sup>th</sup> century (Source: Marie H Manning, *Back-To Raywood and District Souvenir Booklet*, 1973, p. 5). Right: North elevation, 2010.



Left: East elevation. Right: View looking north-east; note west addition at right.



Left: Aerial view, 2010 (Source: City of Greater Bendigo). Right: Proposed Heritage Overlay map. The subject site is shown as R12.<sup>1</sup>

**Intactness**      ✓ Good      Fair      Poor

## History

Raywood was declared a Borough in 1865, following representations from the local progress association at a time when it was a part of the Marong District Roads Board area. The first Council elections were held on 21 March 1865, and the first councillors were Messrs Emmett, Pendlebury, Molloy, Ratcliffe, McKay, Tatchell, Gunn, Emery and Page. George Emmett was the founding mayor and George Hall the first secretary.<sup>2</sup> The first council meeting was held at Gunn's Hotel on 5 April 1865. Thomas Draper, a publican (see former White Horse Hotel citation, R11), previously owned the land on which the present building was erected, and James Wilcox occupied a hut on the land.<sup>3</sup>

The subject building was constructed in 1878, and was designed by Henry Edmeades Tolhurst. The successful Eaglehawk architect also designed the Manchester Arms Hotel, Long Gully; and the Bank of Victoria, the Camp Hotel and the Oriental Bank at Eaglehawk, and three of Eaglehawk's Protestant Churches.<sup>4</sup> Tolhurst was Eaglehawk's town clerk and Borough surveyor, and he engineered lake Neangar in Canterbury Park (VicRoads 603 N8). The Raywood Town Hall was built by J Herbert of Eaglehawk for the sum of £351 5 shillings. The public debt incurred was considerable and the loan was still being paid off in 1887. By this time alluvial mining had ceased and after a number of difficult years the Borough was united with the Marong Shire on 1 October 1915.<sup>5</sup> The building has since been used as a public hall and meeting place.

## Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes

Victoria's themes and sub-themes:

- 7.1: Developing institutions of self-government and democracy
- 7.2: Struggling for political rights

## Description & Integrity

The former Raywood Town Hall occupies a narrow allotment running between Inglewood Street (as the Elmore-Raywood Road is known at Raywood) and McKay Street to the rear. It was inspected externally.

The former town hall is a small building, albeit with a high volume, of brick construction with a hipped roof and symmetrical break-fronted (north) facade in tuck-pointed bichrome brick; a pediment surmounts the projecting central section, which has deeply recessed entrance doors. The hipped roof is clad in corrugated galvanised steel and has two broad-corniced chimneys with conspicuous bases and bichrome stacks. The eaves are boxed with a single line of vent perforations around the sides and front. There are three recessed signage panels with a stucco base to the north elevation, reading 'TOWN' and 'HALL' over the front windows and '1878' over the front door. The windows are double-hung sashes, the lower panes being frosted. The two door leafs and fanlight are replacements – the original fanlight had a central glazing bar. The windows and the front door have cambered headers. The contrasting cream bricks are arranged in a quoin effect by being set in an alternating extra header's width every four courses.

There is a later and lower-scale addition to the west, linked to the original building by a recessed glazed vestibule. It has red brick walling of a later and differing brick and a hipped roof.

The former town hall has a shallow set back from Inglewood Street and is set to the rear of a timber picket fence. This is a sympathetic replacement of the original picket fence. The red letter box on the pavement to the east of the entrance is of long standing.

The property is braced east-west with S bars, but appears to be in generally sound condition.

## Comparative Analysis

Raywood's is one of several small brick shire halls in the Bendigo region, the others including W C Vahland and John Beebe's hall at Marong (M3), John O'Dwyer's design for Huntly (1867), George

Steane's design for Strathfieldsaye (1869),<sup>6</sup> and a series further afield at Chewton (1861), Maldon (1859) and Newstead (1860). O'Dwyer and Steane were shire engineers. Henry Tolhurst, architect of Raywood Town hall, was a prominent architect based in Eaglehawk, who had designed three churches, two banks, a hotel and numbers of houses there, and had been active in Bendigo since c. 1861.<sup>7</sup> The bichrome brickwork, window to wall proportions and the elegant hipped roof link it to other public buildings in Central Victoria, especially to smaller post offices and court houses, most of which were completed earlier. These generally had arched windows, but the material usage and elegant proportions were similar. Court house examples include Creswick (1859), F E Kawerau's at Maldon (1861), J J Clark's at Newstead (1865), Talbot (1866), A T Snow's at Inglewood (1868), H Williams' at Eaglehawk (1869), Woodend (1871) and Huntly (1874).<sup>8</sup> Broadly, these were Italianate designs readjusted to present symmetrically to their street entrances, with subtly prominent eave lines. Most were in an exposed red brick similar to the halls at Raywood, Marong and Strathfieldsaye. The court house plans obviously differed, with high windows for the court wings and a flanking lower wing or pavilions for the ancillary rooms. The three shire halls in the Bendigo region also opted for tripartite facades: either three façade bays, as at Raywood, or three-arched entries as at Huntly, Strathfieldsaye and Marong.

### **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 Raywood Town Hall (1878), located on Inglewood Street, Raywood, is historically significant for its capacity to recall the confidence and aspirations of Raywood during its late nineteenth century heyday; the building also provides evidence of the role of the township as a centre of local administration. The first Council elections were held in 1865, 13 years before the completion of the Town Hall, at the nearby Gunn's Hotel and Theatre (demolished). The high cost of the new building (£351 5 shillings) resulted in considerable public debt. The building was used for its intended purpose from 1878 until 1915, when the Borough of Raywood united with the Marong Shire. It is one of a number of surviving modestly-sized former shire and town halls which recall the spread of local government in the goldfields region and the civic independence of often small centres in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, prior to later municipal amalgamations. The association with Henry Edmeades Tolhurst, successful Eaglehawk architect, is also of note.

*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.*

The former Raywood Town Hall demonstrates some of the principal characteristics of a number of small brick shire halls in the Bendigo area, including examples at Marong and Strathfieldsaye. All of these three buildings has a tripartite façade. The building's bi-chrome brickwork, window to wall proportions and the elegant hipped roof link it to other public buildings in Central Victoria, especially to smaller post offices and court houses, most of which were completed earlier.

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

The former Raywood Town Hall (1878) is of aesthetic/architectural significance as an externally intact, elegantly designed and executed, and prominently located former town hall. It was designed by the noted Eaglehawk architect Henry Edmeades Tolhurst. Although a small building, its high volume,

symmetrical facade, prominent break-fronted entry bay with recessed doors, bichrome brick walling with contrasting brick quoining, central pediment and tall broad-corniced chimneys, all add vigour to the building's presentation. The former town hall also reads as a civic or municipal building, which further distinguishes the structure in its streetscape. It is additionally significant as one of a number of surviving small brick shire and town halls in the Bendigo region, with others at Marong, Huntly (1867), and Strathfieldsaye (1869). The public presentation of the building to the north is substantially as designed in 1878. The modern wing to the west is recessive and defers to the earlier building in height and setback.

*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 former Raywood Town Hall is of local social significance as a venue for public meetings and congregations since 1915. The building's prominent location, and its capacity to recall Raywood's heyday during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century enhance this aspect of its significance.

*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 former Raywood Town Hall is a small building of brick construction located on a narrow allotment in the heart of the town. The building has a hipped roof and symmetrical break-fronted (north) facade in tuck-pointed bi-chrome brick. A pediment surmounts the projecting central section, which has deeply recessed entrance doors. The hipped roof is clad in corrugated galvanised steel and has two broad-corniced chimneys with conspicuous bases and bi-chrome stacks. The eaves are boxed with a single line of vent perforations around the sides and front. There are three recessed signage panels with a stucco base to the north elevation, reading 'TOWN' and 'HALL' over the front windows and '1878' over the front door. The windows are double-hung sashes, the lower panes being frosted.

*How is it significant?*

The former Raywood Town Hall is of local historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance.

*Why is it significant?*

The former Raywood Town Hall (1878), located on Inglewood Street, Raywood, is of local historical and aesthetic/architectural significance. It is historically significant (Criterion A) for its capacity to recall the confidence and aspirations of Raywood during its late nineteenth century heyday; the building also provides evidence of the role of the township as a centre of local administration. The first Council elections were held in 1865, 13 years before the completion of the Town Hall, at the nearby Gunn's Hotel and Theatre (demolished). The high cost of the new building (£351 5 shillings) resulted in considerable public debt. The building was used for its intended purpose from 1878 until 1915, when the Borough of Raywood united with the Marong Shire. The former Raywood Town Hall is of local social significance (Criterion G) as a venue for public meetings and congregations since 1915. The building's prominent location, and its capacity to recall Raywood's heyday during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century enhance this aspect of its significance. The former Town Hall is one of a number of surviving modestly-sized former shire and town halls which recall the spread of local government in the goldfields region, and the civic independence of often small centres in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, prior to later municipal amalgamations. The association with Henry Edmeades Tolhurst, successful Eaglehawk architect, is also of note. The former town hall

is also of aesthetic/architectural significance as an externally intact, elegantly designed and executed, and prominently located former town hall (Criterion E). Although a small building, its high volume, symmetrical facade, prominent break-fronted entry bay with recessed doors, bichrome brick walling with contrasting brick quoining, central pediment and tall broad-corniced chimneys, all add vigour to the building's presentation. The former town hall also reads as a civic or municipal building, which further distinguishes the structure in its streetscape, and demonstrates some of the principal characteristics of a number of small brick shire halls in the Bendigo area, including examples at Marong and Strathfieldsaye (Criterion D). All of these three buildings have a tripartite façade. It is additionally significant as one of a number of surviving small brick shire and town halls in the Bendigo region, with others at Marong, Huntly (1867), and Strathfieldsaye (1869).

### Recommendations

The property is recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Greater Bendigo Heritage Overlay. The extent of the Overlay is indicated in the above map, with the focus of significance on the 1878 building. The brickwork should remain unpainted. The modern wing to the west is of no heritage significance and can be maintained or demolished 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> Map changed from *Heritage Policy Citations Review*, 2011. November 2011.
- <sup>2</sup> Marie Manning, *Back to Raywood and District*, Back to Committee, 1973, p.5.
- <sup>3</sup> 'Raywood Town Hall' citation, Andrew Ward *et al*, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998.
- <sup>4</sup> Mike Butcher and Gill Flanders, *Bendigo Historic Buildings*, National Trust, Bendigo, 1987, pp. 117-27 (Eaglehawk), 106 (Long Gully), 128 (Lake Neangar).
- <sup>5</sup> 'Raywood Town Hall' citation, Andrew Ward *et al*, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998.
- <sup>6</sup> Butcher and Flanders, p. 160-161 (Huntly), 163 (Strathfieldsaye).
- <sup>7</sup> Butcher and Flanders, pp. 117-127.
- <sup>8</sup> Michael Challenger, *Historic Court Houses of Victoria*, Pallisade, Melbourne, 2001, pp. 71 (Creswick), 74 (Huntly), 79 (Eaglehawk), 102 (Inglewood), 121 (Maldon), 143 (Newstead), 182 (Talbot), 198 (Woodend).