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# ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH (FORMER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH)



West and north elevations.  
Note bell tower to the north  
(right) of the church.



West and south elevations.



Addition at the rear of the  
church.

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## Location

47-49 SANDHURST STREET, RAYWOOD - PROPERTY NUMBER 201535, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO634

## Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 1, 2023

### 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.

## **Theme**

### **8. Building community life**

Heritage Study/Consultant Greater Bendigo - Heritage Policy Citations Review, Lovell Chen P/L, 2011;

Construction dates 1877,

Other Names former Congregational Church,

Hermes Number 184941

Property Number

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## **Physical Description 1**

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.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*