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# UNITING CHURCH



Looking south-east.



South elevation, note addition to the rear (east).



Church entrance.

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## Location

28 SANDHURST STREET (BENDIGO-PYRAMID ROAD), RAYWOOD - PROPERTY NUMBER 201534, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO635

## Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 1, 2023

### 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.

## **Theme**

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

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

Construction dates 1876,

Other Names former Methodist Church,

Hermes Number 184942

Property Number

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## **Physical Description 1**

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.

*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/>*