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# Former Raywood Town Hall



Raywood Town Hall north elevation, c. late-19th century



North elevation



East elevation.



View looking north-east; note west addition at right.

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## Location

50-52 INGLEWOOD STREET, RAYWOOD - PROPERTY NUMBER 201093, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO643

## Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 29, 2023

### 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 facade. 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).

## Theme

### 7. Governing Victorians

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

Construction dates 1878,

Architect/Designer Tolhurst, HE,

Hermes Number 184949

## Physical Description 1

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 leaves 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.

*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/>*