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# MARONG FAMILY HOTEL



Marong Hotel, looking north-east, 1986 (Source: State Library of Victoria, jc011775).



The Marong Family Hotel (2010), looking north-east, with Adams Street (Calder Highway) at right.



Rear view.



Rebuilt verandah.

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## Location

26 HIGH STREET, MARONG - PROPERTY NUMBER 202229, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO563

## Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 10, 2023

### What is significant?

The Marong Family Hotel was built in 1917 at the north-east corner of Adams and High streets in the Marong town centre. It replaced an earlier hotel on the site which was burnt down in 1917. The building is a large, single-storey Federation-era structure of brick and stucco, with a horizontal massing and low, spreading proportions. The hotel addresses both Adams Street to the south and High Street to the west, with a corner splay and prominent and ornamented moulded parapet. The sash windows to the west elevation and the westernmost window to the south elevation retain their original form, while other window openings to the south elevation have been dropped almost to ground level and have had plate glass added. Original door openings to the south and west elevations also have render surrounds. The hipped roof form of the main hotel is clad with corrugated sheet steel, and falls to a central valley; there are three rendered brick chimneys. The timber post-supported verandah has a ladder frame frieze. The brick walls have been overpainted to the south and west, while the rear (north) wall of the hotel is exposed brick.

### How is it significant?

The Marong Family Hotel is of local historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance.

### Why is it significant?

The Marong Family Hotel is historically significant (Criterion A) for occupying the site of the earlier 1860s hotel on this prominent location, and for replacing this building, following a fire, in 1917. It has since that time operated as a hotel and venue for community recreation and entertainment. The current hotel was also built shortly after Marong replaced Lockwood North as the municipal centre of the former Shire of Marong and can be seen as reflecting the confidence of the town at the time. The Marong Family Hotel is of local social significance (Criterion G), as a hotel which has operated continuously since 1917 and as such has been a valued focus of local community recreation and entertainment for many decades; this role is enhanced by its prominent corner location in the centre of town.

The Marong Family Hotel is also of aesthetic/architectural significance (Criterion E). Although built in the Federation period, and substantially intact to that date, it is essentially Victorian in form and proportions. In its moulded parapet, and low, spreading proportions, it parallels a number of other single-storeyed former hotels in the former Rural City of Marong. The prominent and ornamented parapet, including finials and semicircular pediments with rising sun ornamentation in cast cement, which give emphasis to the corner and ends of each street elevation, is a distinguishing element of the Marong Family Hotel. The hotel is also a prominent element of the streetscape, being located at the town's principal intersection, and opposite the former Shire of Marong hall.

## Theme

### 5. Building Victoria's industries and workforce

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

Construction dates 1917,

Hermes Number 184931

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

The Marong Family Hotel is located at the north-east corner of Adams Street (Calder Highway) and High Street (Alternative Calder Highway) in the Marong town centre, opposite Marong Shire Hall. It is a large, single-storey Federation-era structure of brick and stucco, with a horizontal massing. The hotel addresses both Adams Street to the south and High Street to the west, with a corner splay. The moulded parapet is prominent and ornamented, comprising finials and semicircular pediments with rising sun ornamentation in cast cement giving emphasis to the corner and ends of each street elevation. As built, sash windows to the south and west elevations were located between bands of render at dado height and surrounding the window tops. The windows to the west elevation and the westernmost window to the south elevation retain this form, with recessed moulded sills. Other window openings to the south elevation have been dropped almost to ground level and have plate glass windows, embossed with the 'mfh' logo. Original door openings to the south and west elevations also have render surrounds. The hipped roof form of the main hotel is clad with corrugated sheet steel, and falls to a central valley, oriented east-west. There are three rendered brick chimneys.

Since the 1990s the black tuckpointed red brick walls have been overpainted (pale/cream) to the south and west, and the timber post-supported verandah, including corner gable, re-roofed. The verandah has a ladder frame frieze. The rear (north) wall of the hotel is exposed brick. The open-sided gabled shelter to the rear (beer) garden also appears to be recent. There is no evidence of former stables (presumed to have been demolished). The internal public spaces have been altered and reconfigured.

Although beyond the site boundary, the horse trough (donated by Anni and George Bill) and palm trees to the south contribute to the hotel's streetscape presence.

The Marong Family Hotel appears to be in 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/>*