
Outer Circle Railway line bridge, later Chandler Highway Bridge, over Yarra River



Chandler Highway Bridge



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Chandler Highway Bridge -
1934

Location

Chandler Highway,ALPHINGTON, City of Yarra

Municipality

YARRA CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO67

Heritage Listing

Yarra City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2008

The following wording is from the Allom and Lovell Building Citation, 1998 for the property. Please note that this is a "Building Citation", not a "Statement of Significance". For further information refer to the Building Citation held by the City of Yarra.

History:

The Chandler Highway Bridge was originally part of the controversial Outer Circle Railway line, which linked the Clifton Hill-Heidelberg line with the Springvale line via Fairfield Park and East Camberwell stations. While the line was a long time in the planning it operated only for a relatively short period. Only the APM paper mill siding and the Camberwell to Alamein electrified line survive from the original 10.5 miles of line. Tenders for the construction of the Outer Circle Railway were first called in 1887 and almost a year later a contract was awarded to Graham and Wadick for ?125,016, about ?14,000 over the estimate. Graham and Wadick's supervising engineer was John Monash, later Sir John Monash.

The contract was completed in May 1891, almost two years after the estimated time of completion and ?11,000 over budget. Graham and Wadick sub-contracted the bridgework to engineers, Robison Brothers Campbell & Sloss. The railway bridge over the Yarra River was started in February 1889 but not completed until November 1890, threatening the timing of the whole project. An etching of the period shows the rural banks of the Yarra, with gums and timber fences, littered with building materials and an old timber crane at work in the foreground.

Once complete, the railway was considered the most extravagant ever built by the Government. The first station south of Fairfield Park Station was Fulham Grange which opened in 1891: a double platform station only 25 chains from the last. Severe losses were incurred during the running of the line, and the Fulham Grange station closed in 1893.

Willsmere, East Kew, Deepdene, Shenley, Canterbury Junction, Riversdale, Hartwell, Ashburton, Waverley Road and Oakleigh Stations followed. Other stations were added prior to the total closure of the line in 1927.7 The line was generally dismantled by 1946, the 1919 siding to the Australian Paper Mills being one of two small sections of line remaining. The bridge was converted to road traffic in 1930, and was reputedly widened in the 1950s using similar construction.

Description:

The Chandler Highway Bridge is a four-span iron box girder and brick bridge crossing the Yarra River, connecting Alphington and Kew. The red brick piers taper as they rise, and have moulded bluestone cappings. Pairs of red brick piers mark the approaches, and have heavy moulded bluestone cappings. The girders are diagonally braced, with original wrought iron lattice balustrading. The bridge has a cantilevered walkway along the west side.

Significance:

The Chandler Highway Bridge is of state historical significance. Constructed in 1891, the bridge is one of the most significant remnants of the Outer Circle Line, the most extravagant railway line developed by the Victorian Government in the 19th century. Construction of the bridge and the railway line is associated with the rapid growth of Melbourne during the Boom period, intended to facilitate suburban expansion. The bridge is also one of the few 19th century bridges remaining in the metropolitan area. The bridge is a local landmark, being substantially intact and a prominent element in the area, notable for its impressive red brick piers.

Heritage
Study/Consultant

Yarra - Northcote Urban Conservation Study, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1982;
Yarra - City of Yarra Heritage Review, Allom Lovell & Associates, 1998; Yarra - City
of Yarra Review of Heritage Overlay Areas, Graeme Butler & Associates, 2007;

Construction dates 1890,
Hermes Number 103743
Property Number

Physical Description 1

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Comparative Examples

Hawthorn Bridge, Bridge Road, Yarra River Richmond/Hawthorn.

Integrity

Good

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/>