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# Maribyrnong Rail Bridge



HO51(1) - Footscray Rail Bridge.jpg



HO51(2) - Footscray Rail Bridge.jpg

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## Location

Newell's Paddock FOOTSCRAY, Maribyrnong City

## Municipality

MARIBYRNONG CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1213

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO51

## Heritage Listing

Maribyrnong City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - February 28, 2000

Of state significance for its historical association with the beginning of rail travel, architectural and technical significance as the outstanding engineering work of its day. (Criterion A4) While substantially modified from the

original Melbourne and Mt. Alexander Railway Bridge, this structure exemplifies the engineering methods of the 19th century bridge builders.

(Criterion F1) The bluestone abutments are both decorative and practical, reflecting their designed strength in solid forms and rusticated blocks of stone. While designed for steam trains, the bridge relates to a time when trains revolutionised travel. The more artistic forms of classic bridge design are rarely seen to day. (Criterion B2) The alterations over time are related to changes in use of the bridge and the requirement for heavier loads as engine and train weight increased. This is a phenomena which can also be seen in the extra iron piers added to the Tarradale viaduct and the strengthening of the Malmsbury and Sunbury viaducts on the same line.

#### Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) criteria

The Australian Heritage Commission criteria consist of a set of eight criteria which cover social, aesthetic, scientific, and historic values. Each criterion has sub-criteria written specifically for cultural or natural values. The relevant criteria are:

A.4 demonstrates well the course and pattern of history, important historic events

F.1 design or technological achievement .

B.2 rarity

Heritage Study/Consultant	Maribyrnong - Maribyrnong Heritage Review, Jill Barnard, Graeme Butler, Francine Gilfedder & Gary Vines, 2000;
Construction dates	1859,
Other Names	Saltwater River Bridge,
Hermes Number	28473
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

Bluestone and steel bridge spanning the Maribyrnong River with a clear span of over 164 ft.

As originally built the bridge had a lattice girder between piers of rusticated bluestone masonry with a string course. The 1911 modifications replaced the lattice with the current triangulated bow truss, extended and modified the abutments and added curved wing walls. Further modifications involved improvements to the abutments. A concrete and steel railway bridge was built immediately upstream to provide two additional tracks in the 1970s.

## Physical Conditions

In good condition and well maintained, although the upstream view has been compromised by the duplication.

## Integrity

Generally intact to its rebuilt condition but the adjacent modern bridge detracts

## Physical Description 2

Set amidst the industrial remnants of the Footscray/Kensington area, with parkland now replacing noxious industry sites.

## Historical Australian Themes

### Thematic context

**Australian Principal Theme** Moving goods and people

**PAHT Subtheme:** Moving goods and people by rail

**Local Theme** Railways - freight

## Physical Description 3

**Creation date(s):** 1859 c.

**Heritage Significance** *state*

**Map (Melway)** 42 G4

**Boundary description** The bridge, abutments and approach embankment

**Local Government Area:** Cities of Maribyrnong and Melbourne

**Ownership Type** State (PTC)

*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/>*