

Victorian Heritage Database Report

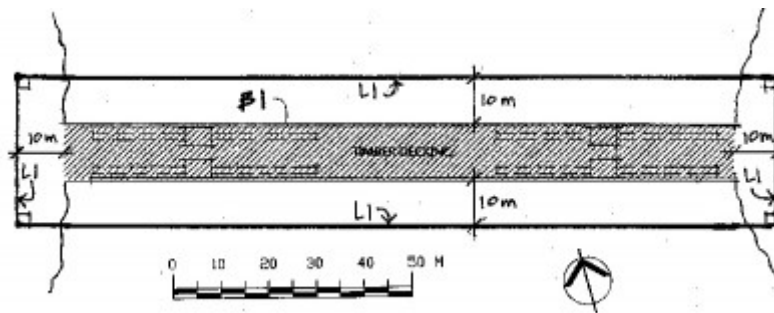
Report generated 06/07/20



TRAMWAY BRIDGE



1 tramway bridge poverty point thomson
river walhalla side view apr1995



tramway bridge poverty point thomson river walhalla plan

Location

STEEL BRIDGE TRACK AMOR and AUSTRALIAN ALPS WALKING TRACK WALHALLA, BAW BAW SHIRE

Municipality

BAW BAW SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1444

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO23

VHR Registration

August 20, 1982

Amendment to Registration

July 20, 2000

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 2, 2000

What is significant?

The Tramway Bridge over Thomson River, Poverty Point, Walhalla, was constructed in 1900 by Dorman Long (London, England), and erected by Austral Otis Co (South Melbourne). Used on a seven-mile, horse-worked two-foot gauge railway/tramway, it was built for the Long Tunnel goldmining company mine. It is a prefabricated steel structure, imported from England and consisting of steel girders and tubular steel vertical and diagonal struts. The line was closed between Platina and Walhalla in 1944 and the timber deck was later destroyed by fire. A new timber deck and steel handrail were completed in 1976 by the Forestry Commission, and it currently serves as a pedestrian bridge.

How is it significant?

The Tramway Bridge at Walhalla is historically and architecturally significant to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Tramway Bridge at Walhalla is historically significant as an important reminder of the gold mining industry of Gippsland, and for its role in serving the Long Tunnel gold mining company mine at Walhalla. It was used to bring mining timbers and firewood for the mine's boilers and furnaces, and is therefore also significant for its role in the development of the mining town of Walhalla.

The Tramway Bridge is architecturally significant as a unique and essentially intact example of a bridge of its type constructed in Victoria. It is unusual in being constructed of imported prefabricated steel at this time since bridges of this size were typically constructed of timber trestles. (Beeston, 1995)

Permit Exemptions

General Conditions

1. All alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner that prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the

permit exemptions.

5. Nothing in this declaration exempts the owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

No permit is required for works on the deck of the bridge, the incorporated superstructure that supports the tracks, for the maintenance of operational and safety standards or for any emergency works relating to the substructure and the superstructure of the bridge.

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|-------------------------|--|
| Construction dates | 1900, |
| Architect/Designer | Timmins, M, |
| Heritage Act Categories | Registered place, |
| Other Names | POVERTY POINT BRIDGE, PRE-FAB BRIDGE, WALHALLA TRAMWAY BRIDGE, |
| Hermes Number | 1178 |
| Property Number | |

History

The Tramway Bridge at Walhalla is an important reminder of the gold mining industry of Walhalla, and for its role in serving the 'Long Tunnel' gold mining company mine. It was used to bring mining timbers and firewood for the mine's boilers and furnaces, and is therefore also significant for its role in the development of Walhalla. (Beeston, 1995)

It is unusual in being constructed of prefabricated steel members imported from England.

Extent of Registration

1. All of the structure known as the Tramway Bridge over Thomson River, Poverty Point, Walhalla (B1), including the deck and steel superstructure, steel piles and diagonal struts, as marked on plan 602028 held by the Executive Director.

2. All of the land surrounding the structure marked L1 on plan 602028 held by the Executive Director, being part of Crown Land as vested in the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE).

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 data owner.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>