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# RAILWAY FOOTBRIDGE (RAILWAY PLACE WEST)



Railway Place West,  
Predestrian Bridge.JPG

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## Location

RAILWAY PLACE WEST, FLEMINGTON, MOONEE VALLEY CITY

## Municipality

MOONEE VALLEY CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO104

## Heritage Listing

Moonee Valley City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

### What is significant?

The Railway Place West railway footbridge constructed in 1890 by D. Watson, builder of most of the footbridges on the Essendon line, is significant. The bridge is built predominantly of iron, (frame, balustrading, brackets), with some timber (treads and deck). On the web of some iron is marked the Darlington Iron Company Limited. Another mark on the web that has 'VR', indicates the iron was specifically produced for the Commissioners of the Victorian Railways. The deck of the footbridge spans two tracks and has a lattice balustrade. Higher diagonal iron

elements extend above the balustrade, and these support lamp brackets at each end of the deck (lamps removed). The steps extend to the east and west of the deck, and from a landing return to the north (west side of railway line) and to the south (east side of railway line). The balustrades of the steps are also lattice, of a design that is consistent with that of the deck. Further enhancing the character of the bridge are iron brackets with scroll detailing and a capital-like element towards the tops of the iron columns. The view of the footbridge, which closes the vista when looking east along Dover Street is also significant.

Non-original alterations and additions to the footbridge, which include the bluestone blocks at base of the steps, asphalt surfacing of the deck, tubular steel handrails and corrugated galvanised steel sheeting to the balustrades are not significant.

### **How is it significant?**

The Railway Place West railway footbridge is of local historic, architectural and social significance to the City of Moonee Valley.

### **Why is it significant?**

The footbridge is historically significant as evidence of the development of the suburban railway network in Moonee Valley and also associated growth in population that created a need for safe crossing places along the railway between stations. The footbridge is historically and socially significant as a manifestation of the land boom era in Essendon and the associated social prospects and as a place with a long history of community use. In its ornamental form, the footbridge is a reminder of the important role of the railways in transport around the 19th century metropolis and shows a significant association with the social expectations and ways of the period (Criteria A & G).

The footbridge is architecturally significant as the most complete example of a distinctive arched footbridge on the Essendon line. It has aesthetic significance as a finely ornamented structure, which contributes to the historic nineteenth century character of the railway and its environs. The view of the footbridge looking east along Dover Street is notable (Criteria D & E).

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moonee Valley - Moonee Valley Heritage Overlay Places Review, David Helms Heritage Planning, 2012;
Other Names	Review,
Hermes Number	162193
Property Number	

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## **Physical Description 1**

A late-nineteenth century pedestrian bridge over the Melbourne to Craigieburn Railway Line. The footbridge provides pedestrians access between the east of the railway line (near the corner of Pin Oak Crescent and Waltham Street) and the west of the railway line (at the intersection of Railway Place West and Dover and Elm Streets) closing the vista when looking east along Dover Street. The bridge contributes to the relatively intact late-nineteenth century character of this part of Flemington.

The bridge is built predominantly of iron, (frame, balustrading, brackets), with some timber (treads and deck). Other materials of recent origin include bluestone blocks at base of the steps, and asphalt surfacing of the deck. On the web of some iron is marked the Darlington Iron Company Limited. Another mark on the web that has VR, indicates the iron was specifically produced for the Commissioners of the Victorian Railways.

The deck of the footbridge spans two tracks and has a lattice balustrade. Higher diagonal iron elements extend above the balustrade, and these support lamp brackets at each end of the deck (lamps removed). The intricacy of

the design of the deck has been diminished by the fitting of the corrugated galvanised steel sheeting to the balustrades.

The steps extend to the east and west of the deck, and from a landing return to the north (west side of railway line) and to the south (east side of railway line). The balustrades of the steps are also lattice, of a design that is consistent with that of the deck. There are tubular steel handrails on the balustrade, which are of a more recent origin. Further enhancing the character of the bridge are iron brackets with scroll detailing and a capital-like element towards the tops of the iron columns.

*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/>*