
Stony Creek Rail Bridge



HO126 - Stony Creek Rail Bridge, Francis Street, Yarraville.JPG

Location

off Francis Street YARRAVILLE, Maribyrnong City

Municipality

MARIBYRNONG CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO126

Heritage Listing

Maribyrnong City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - February 29, 2000

The Stony Creek Bridge is of historical and architectural significance at the metropolitan level as part of one of the earliest railways in Victoria and the first major government railway undertaking. (Criterion A3) The bridge abutments reflect on the design philosophy imported from Britain in the 1850s which none the less exhibits the skill of the stone-mason and railway engineer using the indigenous building material ie. the ubiquitous local bluestone. (Criterion A4) The bridge demonstrates important expansion of settlement in Melbourne and Victoria, as based on rail infrastructure. (Criterion C2) When built this bridge was part of one of the greatest engineering achievements in the colony. (Criterion F1)

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.3 richness and diversity of cultural features

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

C.2 research potential

F.1 design or technological achievement .

Heritage Study/Consultant	Maribyrnong - Maribyrnong Heritage Review, Jill Barnard, Graeme Butler, Francine Gilfedder & Gary Vines, 2000;
Construction dates	1856,
Hermes Number	28364
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The present bridge appears to comprise a modern structural steel span on the original 1859 rusticated bluestone abutments with the addition of a new concrete pier in the centre. The abutments show distinctive treatment with pilasters, an ashlar string course and low parapet capped in sawn stone slabs. Stonework is axe-faced regular coursed blocks with remnants of lime pointing.

The original box-section plate girder was a riveted wrought iron structure consisting of two wrought iron box girders, each 92 feet long, 7 feet high and 2 feet 3 inches wide, and weighing 26 tons with cross girders erected underneath later. The girders were mounted on two stone piers 20 feet above high water, and provided a clear span of 90 feet. The original girders were cut up and scrapped when the new span was built in 1959.

Physical Conditions

In good condition apart from some intrusive painting.

Integrity

The loss of the original girders is unfortunate but does not detract from appreciation of the beauty of the stone

abutments.

Physical Description 2

Adjacent to the former Yarraville Woollen mill but generally in open space as part of the Westgate Golf course and Stone Creek parkland.

Historical Australian Themes

Thematic context

Australian Principal Theme Moving goods and people

PAHT Subtheme: Moving goods and people by rail

Local Theme Railways

Physical Description 3

Creation date(s): 1856-8

Heritage Significance *metropolitan*

Map (Melway) 42 A10

Boundary description The bridge and its approach abutments and embankments,

Local Government Area: Cities of Maribyrnong and Hobson's Bay

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/>