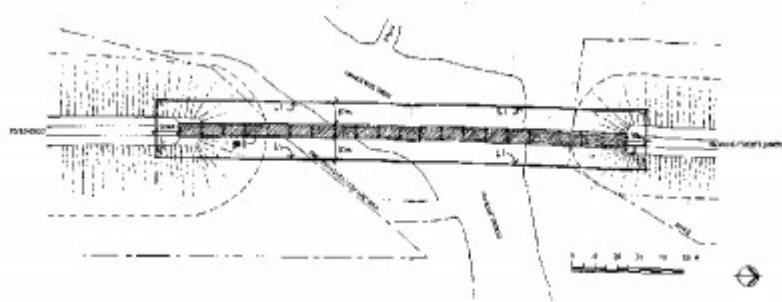


---

# RAIL BRIDGE



1 rail bridge over hansford creek pyalong side elevation apr 95



rail bridge at hansford creek pyalong plan

---

## Location

OVER HANFORDS CREEK, PYALONG, MITCHELL SHIRE

## Municipality

MITCHELL SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1695

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO122

## VHR Registration

August 20, 1982

## Amendment to Registration

July 20, 2000

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

---

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 3, 2000

What is significant?

The Rail Bridge over Hanford's Creek was constructed for the Victorian Railways in 1890 by McDermott & Sons along the Wandong-Bendigo line, near Pyalong. It is a timber trestle structure, comprising 19 freestanding trestles set at 6m centres, combining double pile and stay pile piers, originally supporting a single track. The line was closed in 1968 and the bridge is currently fenced off.

How is it significant?

The Rail Bridge over Hansford's Creek, Pyalong is historically and architecturally significant to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Rail Bridge over Hanford's Creek, Pyalong is historically significant as an important relic of a former line that was used to supply the Bendigo mines with shaft timbers. The line was also very important for local produce, being used in the transportation of wool and sheep (B.P.C, 1968). It is also an example of a rail bridge constructed as a result of the 'Octopus Act' of 1884.

The bridge is architecturally significant as a representative and substantially intact example of a timber trestle bridge using stay piles and timber longitudinal girders supporting a timber rail deck. It is a notable example of a timber trestle bridge construction, which demonstrates a distinctive and presently rarely used construction method that utilises the best qualities of native bush timbers.

## Permit Exemptions

<span class="c1">General Conditions<br /> 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.<br /> 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.<br /> 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.<br /> 4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.<br /> 5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.<br /> <br /> No permit is required for works on the deck of the bridge, the incorporated superstructure which supports the track, for the maintenance of operational and safety standards, or for any emergency works relating to the substructure and superstructure of the bridge.</span>

Construction dates        1890,

Architect/Designer	Long, John,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	963
Property Number	

---

## History

The bridge over Mollison's Creek, Pyalong is significant for its former role on the Bendigo-Wandong line, where it was used to supply the Bendigo mines with shaft timbers and for the transportation of wool and sheep (B.P.C, 1968). It is also an example of a rail bridge constructed as a result of the 'Octopus Act' of 1884. Richard Speight was one of three commissioners appointed to oversee a massive program of railway capital works. Richard Speight and Duncan Gillies, the Minister for Railways and Roads, were widely criticised for their mismanagement of the railway construction program, which resulted in huge deficits for the Government. (Harrigan, 1962) (Beeston, 1995)

## Extent of Registration

1. The entire bridge structure known as the Rail bridge over Hanford's creek, Wandong-Bendigo line, Pyalong (B1), including the timber superstructure, bracing and piles, as marked on plan 602044 held by the Executive Director.
2. All of the land surrounding the bridge structure marked L1 on plan 602044 held by the Executive Director, being part of Crown Land.

*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/>*