
Melbourne-Geelong Railway Bridge and Stone Ford



Melbourne-Geelong Railway
Bridge and Stone Ford,
Hobsons Bay Heritage Study
2006

Location

Merton Street and Railway Avenue ALTONA MEADOWS, Hobsons Bay City

Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO201

Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The bluestone railway bridge and stone ford on the Melbourne-Geelong Railway at Laverton Creek, comprising the bluestone abutments, piers and roadway originally constructed in 1859, situated near the intersection of Merton Street and Railway Avenue, Altona Meadows.

How is it Significant?

The bluestone railway bridge and stone ford at Laverton Creek are of local historic and technical significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, it is significant as an original and contributory part of the earliest railway line to cross the region and one of a small group of stone railway bridges from the 1850s in the region (AHC criterion A4 and B2)

Technically, it is significant as the only ford paved with shaped or worked stone in the municipality and as an unusual combination of road ford and rail bridge in the Melbourne area. (AHC criterion B2 and F1)

Heritage Study/Consultant Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;

Hermes Number 15134

Property Number

Physical Description 1

The 1850s coursed basalt abutments have drafted margins and a splayed plinth. The bridge beam, originally wrought iron girders, has been replaced with pre-stressed girders, with modifications to the bearing surface at the top of the stone work.

Pilasters to the abutments also appear to have been trimmed above track level. The approach road is evidently of "Telford" type construction, of basalt boulders set in the natural clay on a camber, with a crushed rock wearing surface and bare basalt pitchers in the ford section.

This is an unusual combination of road ford and rail bridge in the Melbourne area which compares directly with the Black Arch or Duke Street ford in Tottenham, but more generally with the former Neil Road ford Deer Park, Clarke's Road ford Rockbank and Cobbledicks Ford, Werribee. Many fords have a natural stone base.

Integrity

External Condition

Good

External Integrity

Moderate to Low

Boundary Description

The bridge and ford plus land within nominally 5m of its perimeter with emphasis on fabric from the bridge and ford construction dates.

Physical Description 2

Context

Set in a flat open landscape near major industrial development.

Historical Australian Themes

Transporting people

Physical Description 3

Associations

Geelong and Melbourne Railway Company, Victorian Colonial Government

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/>