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## Railway Bridge (Black Arch)



HO147 - Railway Bridge,  
Nicholson Street Rail  
overpass, Nicholson Street,  
Footscray.JPG

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### Location

Nicholson Street FOOTSCRAY, Maribyrnong City

### Municipality

MARIBYRNONG CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO147

### Heritage Listing

Maribyrnong City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The Nicholson Street Bridge is of historical and architectural significance to the City of Maribyrnong as a finely constructed bluestone bridge which represents the turn of the century improvements to road access beneath the railway lines and the importance of locally quarried bluestone. Even though not original to the construction of the line, the bluestone masonry demonstrates nineteenth century building and engineering techniques which are no

longer practised. (Criteria B2&D2) The bridge is also of social value for the continuing public appreciation and tradition which appears to refer back to an earlier historical structure as evidenced by the popular but confusing name of the 'Black Arch'. (Criterion G1 & Criterion E1) As part of the first Government railway in Victoria, one of the first country railways in Australia and a line built to British engineering standards with IK Brunel as supervising engineer (from England) this demonstrates the beginnings and origins of railway construction in Victoria. Criterion A4)

#### 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:

B.2 rarity

D.2 good example of type

G.1 social importance to the community

E.1 aesthetic importance to the community or cultural group

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

Heritage Study/Consultant	Maribyrnong - Maribyrnong Heritage Review, Jill Barnard, Graeme Butler, Francine Giffedder & Gary Vines, 2000;
Construction dates	1859, 1900,
Other Names	Nicholson St. Rail overpass,
Hermes Number	28480
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

Double track railway bridge with rusticated bluestone abutments including smooth ashlar string course, curved wing walls and single low relief pilasters on each abutment. The bridge girders appear to be modern replacements, while the road has been lowered to provide greater clearance and concrete kerbing added in part. The approach roads are unusual in the sharp entry and exit angles

## Physical Conditions

In good condition

## Integrity

The abutments are original although the bridge girder and deck may be later replacements or modifications

## Physical Description 2

On a minor road adjacent to Footscray Technical College which has resumed the original main approach, Nicholson Street, into its landscaped grounds.

## 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):** 1859, 1900c

**Heritage Significance** *city*

**Map (Melway)** 43 D5

### Boundary description

the extent of the bridge, its abutments and approach embankments for 50 metres either side.

**Local Government Area:** Maribyrnong

**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/>*