

**FORMER CABLE TRAM DEPOT  
649 Bridge Road**

**History and Description**

This building was the first of 15 tram depots built between 1885 and 1891 to house the Melbourne cable trams. The depots were built by the Melbourne Tramway & Omnibus Co. Ltd. which owned and operated the service. The tracks and eleven cable winding engine houses were built by the Melbourne Tramways Trust and leased to the company until 1916. Thereafter, the system was vested in a Tramways Board. Prior to 1885 the company operated an extensive service of horse drawn omnibuses and the cable tram network was virtually a copy of the omnibus routes.

The Richmond depot was closed in 1927 and it is the only one which remains relatively intact. A collection of cable trams is held at Northcote and Bylands (near Kilmore).

The depot is now owned by the Crown and is an important element at one of the main entry points to Richmond.

**Statement of Significance**

649 Bridge Road is significant as the first and the most intact cable tram depot in Melbourne.

**References**

National Trust file no. 4138.

Correspondence from Tramways Museum Society of Vic. to G.B.A.C., June 1983.