

<b>Building:</b>	Hoddle Bridge	<b>Significance:</b>	B
<b>Address:</b>	Punt Road (Yarra River), Richmond	<b>Melway Map Ref:</b>	2G F12
<b>Building Type:</b>	Road Bridge	<b>Construction Date:</b>	1938
<b>Architect:</b>	Country Roads Board, Melbourne City Council	<b>Builder:</b>	Country Roads Board, Melbourne City Council



<b>Intactness:</b>		<b>Condition:</b>	
G[x] F[ ] P[ ]		G[x] F[ ] P[ ]	
<b>Existing Heritage Listings:</b>		<b>Recommended Heritage Listings:</b>	
Victorian Heritage Register	[ ]	Victorian Heritage Register	[ ]
Register of the National Estate	[ ]	Register of the National Estate	[x]
National Trust	[ ]	Heritage Overlay Controls	[x]

## History

The Hoddle Bridge, named after Robert Hoddle, replaced an earlier footbridge, which in turn had replaced a punt service. The bridge was constructed by the Country Roads Board in conjunction with the Melbourne City Council, at a cost of £78,000. It was opened on 22 December 1938 by the Hon. Albert Dunstan, Premier of Victoria.

The bridge was one of the first to be painted to improve its appearance, with a special brand of paint known as Emulux. The bridge was a continuous re-inforced concrete T-beam five-span bridge.<sup>1</sup> The bridge was not completely well-received with reports that:

‘By 1939, too, the new Hoddle Bridge fed an intolerable level of traffic into Victoria Street: “Accidents are numerous and many of them causing the death of pedestrians are due to the large number of parked cars ...”<sup>2</sup>

## Description

The Hoddle Bridge connects Punt Road, the boundary of the Cities of Yarra and Melbourne, with the Cities of Stonnington and Melbourne, to the south. It is a four-lane road bridge with narrow footpaths on either side. It is of continuous reinforced concrete T-beam construction with five segmental arched spans, supported on transverse piers, and linked by concrete cross-beams.

The piers terminate in a series of tapered concrete pillars with Art Deco-styled streamlined decoration. Each pillar supports a Victorian-style lamps. The infill railings are geometric-patterned painted metal.

The bridge crosses the river at an angle (south-east to north-west); the southern corners terminate in bold curved walls. The architectural impact of the bridge is diminished at the north end by the South-Eastern Freeway flyover, which sits above the bridge.

## Comparative Examples

MacRobertson Bridge, Yarra River, Richmond.

## Significance

The Hoddle Bridge is of local historical and architectural significance. Historically, it represents the third phase of connection—superseding the punt and original footbridge—between Punt Road, Richmond, with South Yarra. Architecturally, the bridge is an interesting composition which contrasts the horizontality of the shallow arched deck with the streamlined concrete pillars with simple, but bold, Art Deco-style decoration. The Bridge is an important and highly prominent architectural element which forms the south-west gateway to the municipality.

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1 D Smyth, *The Bridges of the Yarra*, Toorak (Vic) 1979 [unpaged].

2 J McCalman, *Struggletown: Portrait of an Australian Working-Class Community, 1900-1965*, Ringwood (Vic) 1984, p. 177.