

Building:	Wallen Road Bridge and Tramwire Supports	Significance:	A
Address:	Swan Street, Yarra River, Richmond	Melway Map Ref:	45 A11
Building Type:	Road Bridge	Construction Date:	1884, 1916
Architect:	Unknown	Builder:	Tramwire Supports: H Wallace & Sons



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

History

The Wallen Road Bridge was built in 1881. It was strengthened and widened in 1916, and again by the Railways Construction Board in 1938.¹ The ornamental tram-wire supports were erected by the Hawthorn Tramways Trust in 1916 at the time of the construction of their two lines connecting Hawthorn and Camberwell with the Bridge Road line to the city. The tramwire supports were supplied by H Wallace and Son, 'Engineers, Blacksmiths and Government Contractors' of Whiteman Street, South Melbourne; the cost was £365. They were erected in January 1916.²

Description

The Wallen Road Bridge is a road bridge which connects Swan Street, Richmond, with Wallen Road (which becomes Riversdale Road), Hawthorn.

The structure comprises four steel girder spans supported on cross-braced circular hollow section columns. The deck carries four lanes of traffic, including two tram tracks, and has a footpath on either side.

The 1916 ornamental tram wire supports are simple steel structures with supports on either side of the roadway. The curved brackets are embellished with steel scrollwork.

Comparative Examples

Victoria Bridge, Richmond

Ornamental Tramwire Supports, Hawthorn Bridge

Ornamental Tramwire Supports, Victoria Bridge

Ornamental Tramwire Supports, Dandenong Road, Prahran

Ornamental Tramwire Supports, Victoria Parade, Fitzroy / Collingwood

Significance

The Wallen Road Bridge is of local historical significance. Constructed in 1881, the bridge is one of the few 19th century bridges remaining in the metropolitan area. Construction of the bridge was associated with the rapid growth of the suburb during the boom period, facilitating further development across the Yarra to the east.

The ornamental tram wire supports, added in 1916, are of State historical significance. The supports are rare survivors of the early development of the electrical tram network, constructed prior to the amalgamation of the privately operated companies into the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board.

1 Dacre Smyth. *Bridges over the Yarra*. Toorak, Vic, 1979. [unpaged].

2 National Trust (Victoria) File No. 6639.