

WOOD STREET FOOTBRIDGE

Place No. 86

ADDRESS Wood Street
Lower Templestowe

Last Update 2/09/2005

DESCRIPTION A single-span suspension footbridge over the Yarra River, located in Finns Reserve, at the end of the access road off Wood Street. The bridge is of steel construction with a steel-framed timber deck and latticed, steel angled towers supporting the wire rope cables. The bridge is a transitional structural type which combines both the use of diagonal cables and two main catenary cables. The timber decking to the bridge and the ramp at its southern end appear to be relatively recent. The avenue of poplars along the access road to the bridge has a degraded appearance due to missing and heavily pruned trees. At the Wood Street entrance to the reserve is a wrought iron gate with brick piers, which are presumably contemporary with the bridge. Nearby the gate are two conifers. The timber gatehouse described in the Doncaster and Templestowe Heritage Study (1991) has been demolished.

It is comparable to footbridges across the Yarra River at Gipps Street, Collingwood; Walmer Street, Kew; Roseneath Street, Clifton Hill.

Condition Good **Integrity** Minor Modifications

Threats **Key elements** Bridge
Fence/gate
Tree(s)

Designer Collier & Klaer

HISTORY The suspension bridge is believed to have been erected c.1955 by engineers Collier & Klaer for use by the Fathers of the Blessed Sacrament.(1) The Fathers occupied the seminary on the north bank of the Yarra, now used as Odyssey House Drug Rehabilitation Centre. It has also been suggested that the bridge was constructed for the Fathers c.1935 (2) although this seems unlikely as the seminary was not built until 1952.

SOURCES

(1) Allom Lovell & Associates, 'Banyule Heritage Places Study: Building Citations', pp.39-40.
[2] Irvine Green, pers. comm.

Creation Date c.1955 **Change Dates**

Associations **Local Themes**

6.02 - Churches

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE What is significant?
The Wood Street footbridge, constructed c.1955 and the Poplar Avenue, off Wood Street, Templestowe.

How is it significant?

The Wood Street Suspension bridge and Poplar Avenue are of local historic and aesthetic significance to Manningham City.

Why is it significant?

The Wood Street Suspension bridge is of historic significance for the associations with the fathers of the Blessed sacrament. (RNE criterion H.1)

The Wood Street Suspension bridge and associated elements have aesthetic significance as an intact and well-executed example of Inter-war engineering. The approach to the bridge is enhanced by the remnant poplar avenue. (RNE criterion E.1)

LEVEL Local significance

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
Manningham Planning Scheme	HO		Recommended

Extent To the extent of the footbridge, and the poplar avenue, and land surrounding both of these features to a minimum distance of 2m.

Heritage Schedule

External Paint Controls:	No	On VHR:	No	VHR Ref No:
Internal Alteration Controls:	No	Prohibited Uses:	No	
Tree Controls:	Yes	Aboriginal Heritage Place:	No	
Outbuildings or Fences:	No	Incorporated Plan:	No	Incorporated Plan Details
Description:				

Conservation Management

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation objectives, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.
2. Discourage the demolition of significant or contributory buildings unless the demolition is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:
 - The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
 - The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
 - It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
 - It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and/or layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or interpreting the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

Extra Research

BIBLIOGRAPHY Context Pty Ltd, (1991), City of Doncaster & Templestowe Heritage Study, City of Doncaster & Templestowe, Doncaster
Context Pty Ltd, (2005), Manningham Heritage Study Review, Manningham City Council, Doncaster