

Victorian War Heritage Database Place Details - 5/8/2025

Puffing Billy- Railway Trestle Bridge

Location:

Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Selby VIC 3159

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number: H7922-0166

Listing Authority: HI

Description:

Sweeping, curved, timber railway bridge, spanning main road and heavily timbered creek. Built in 1900 for Ferntree Gully to Gembrook steam train. Roadway lowered in 1980s.

Constructed c.1899 by Board of Land and Works Railway Construction Branch. Cost - 482 pounds.. No extensions and progressive replacement of timbers dated. (Tansley, 1978)

The bridge is a timber girder bridge with fourteen spans of 6m. It is of considerable height, with piers to 11m high, it is built to a tight radius of 60m, giving rise to its name, The Horseshoe Bridge. It is a good example of light gauge timber construction in difficult terrain. (RNE, 016043)

The bridge carries a single 0.76m gauge track, at a radius of 60m on a ballasted timber deck. There are fourteen spans of about 6m. Originally the timber decking of 178mm x 102mm and 152mm x 102mm planks, was supported on four timber girders of 483mm x 203mm cross-section, but these have later been replaced by 508mm x 229mm and 533mm x 229mm timbers. The piers are timber with 406mm x 178mm half caps. The Bridge was extensively repaired by Hardcastle and Richards in 1980 and in 1981. The oldest beam found was dated to 1914 and, most of the piles to about 1922. (RNE, 016043)

Excellent