



Built: 1873-1875
 Built By: Canadian National Railway
 Structure: Timber Trestle Bridge

Current Owner: Tay Township
 Original Use: Trestle Train Bridge
 Current Use: Recreation Trail

Architectural

Much like it's sister trestle bridge which stood in Hogg's Bay for 60 years, this trestle bridge is constructed of timber and was used for the trains coming and going from Midland. It is not as long or tall as the Hogg's Bay trestle bridge but it was constructed in a very similar manner. The entire support system of the trestle bridge is made of timber by criss-crossing and very unique patterns using large logs and timber (Fig 1 & 3). For safety reasons, railings have been put on the bridge as the bridge has become a recreation trail (Fig 2). The wood on the top of the bridge has been replaced over the years to keep within safety measures but still consists of grooves which would have been present while it was being used for trains (Fig 2). This bridge now stands among Ste. Marie Among the Huron walking bridges and is used for recreation vehicles and activities.



Fig 1: Supporting lumber pattern



Fig 2: Guard rails and grooves on the surface



Fig 3: Supporting logs

Historical

The Canadian National Railway created smaller railway lines radiating from Toronto connecting growing communities deeper in the province and to Georgian Bay known as the Midland Railway route. The Wye River Trestle Bridge is part of the Port Hope, Lindsay and Beaverton Railway line off of the Midland Railway route. The bridge was constructed between the years of 1873 and 1875. It was officially opened for traffic in 1879. The railway was officially abandoned in 1994 but trains stopped running 2 years earlier. The bridge is still used today as part of a recreation trail. In the winter, snowmobiles use the trail as way to travel from town to town and the summer as a biking and walking trail.