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## Anderson's Mill Bridge



B6920 Andersons Mill Bridge



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### Location

Birch Street Crossing,, SMEATON VIC 3364 - Property No B6920

### Municipality

HEPBURN SHIRE

### Level of significance

State

### Heritage Listing

National Trust

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant? Anderson's Mill Bridge is a three span road bridge with blue stone piers and abutments with timber superstructure and handrails. The transverse timber deck is 25 metres long. It was built c. 1890 to

provide access to Anderson's flourmill (VHR H1521).

How is it significant? Anderson's Mill Bridge is significant for historical and aesthetic reasons at the State level.

Why is it significant? Anderson's Mill Bridge is historically significant as the best, and probably the only, fully-intact and authentic medium-sized Victorian bluestone and timber-beam bridge surviving from the late nineteenth century. Its timber superstructure, featuring massive square-hewn beams and corbels is the best-preserved and most authentic example of a timber superstructure for a timber-and-masonry bridge, extant in Victoria. The solid squared-bluestone abutments, wingwalls and piers are among the best surviving examples of their kind.

Anderson's Mill Bridge is aesthetically significant as a very attractive bridge adjacent to the even older bluestone masonry buildings of Anderson's Mill, noted for its water race and waterwheel. The bridge crosses a scenic creek in park-like surrounds and is an integral part of the historic environs of the Anderson's mill complex.

Classified: 03/08/1998

Other Names        Smeaton Mill Bridge,

Hermes Number    112553

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

### DESCRIPTION:

Anderson's Mill Bridge is a three span squared-timber-beam bridge based on crafted abutments and piers of bluestone, with a transverse timber deck of twenty-five metres length.

### Context

Anderson's Mill Bridge is situated on an attractive little creek immediately adjacent to the substantial stone-masonry buildings of the historic Anderson's Mill complex (VHR 1521) and the larger stone arch main road bridge (VHR 1425), on the edge of Smeaton township.

### ASSESSMENT AGAINST CRITERIA:

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history. Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history

Anderson's Mill Bridge is the best, and probably the only, fully intact and authentic medium-sized Victorian bluestone and timber-beam bridge surviving from the late nineteenth century. Its timber superstructure, featuring massive square-hewn beams and corbels is the best-preserved and most authentic example of a timber superstructure for a timber-and-masonry bridge, extant in Victoria. The solid squared-bluestone abutments, wingwalls and piers are among the best surviving examples of their kind

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places or objects Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics

Anderson's Mill Bridge is a very attractive bridge adjacent to the old bluestone masonry buildings of Anderson's Mill, noted for its water race and waterwheel. The bridge crosses a scenic creek in park-like surrounds, and is an integral part of the historic environs of the Anderson's mill complex.

Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period

## Physical Conditions

deck and outer beams in poor condition and in need of rebuild; masonry in good condition.

### **Usage/Former Usage**

road bridge - no longer used by vehicles

### **Intactness**

Anderson's Mill Bridge is substantially unmodified. The deck and outer beams are in poor condition and the handrails are falling off; the masonry is in very good condition. Hepburn Shire is planning a major rebuild of the timber components as soon as funding is available (as of November 2011).

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*