
OLD LOWER PLENTY BRIDGE



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Location

Off Lower Plenty Road ELTHAM NORTH, Banyule City

Municipality

BANYULE CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO106

Heritage Listing

Banyule City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 25, 2005

The 1860s bluestone and iron Plenty Bridge is of considerable local historical significance. It is the oldest remaining bridge in the former Shire of Eltham and the original gateway, and is constructed on the site of the earlier 1858 bridge and toll house. The bridge also has associations with the original 1858 Plenty Bridge Hotel, which was a centre of community life for more than 100 years and whose siting reflected the significance of such crossing points in the 19th century. The environs of the bridge are of local historical significance, being the site of the river crossing where Edward Willis, the first recorded settler in the Shire, had his pastoral run in 1837.

Heritage Study/Consultant Banyule - Banyule Heritage Study, Allum Lovell & Associates, 1999;

Hermes Number 31344

Property Number

Historical Australian Themes

Though there were a number of government roads gazetted through the district, for the most part the responsibility and expense associated with the construction of roads and bridges in the early years of Banyule lay with the settlers themselves. The twin issues of roads and bridges saw local settlers group together, and formed the foundations of local government in the area.

Usage/Formal Usage

Original: Bridge

Current: Disused (ruin)

Physical Conditions

Poor

Physical Description 1

The old Lower Plenty Bridge comprises deep, riveted edge trusses with crossed web members. Iron plate I-beam transverse beams sit on the bottom flange of the edge trusses and support the deck. Only small areas of the timber deck remain. The piers on either side of the Plenty River are of coursed quarry-faced bluestone construction. Approaching the bridge at each end are bluestone wing walls which taper inward.

Intactness

Fair

Physical Description 2

No property description

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/>