

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated 08/07/20



## NEWTOWN BRIDGE PRECINCT



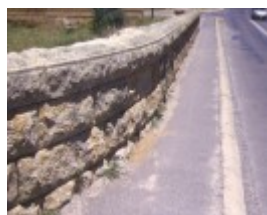
NEWTOWN BRIDGE PRECINCT SOHE  
2008



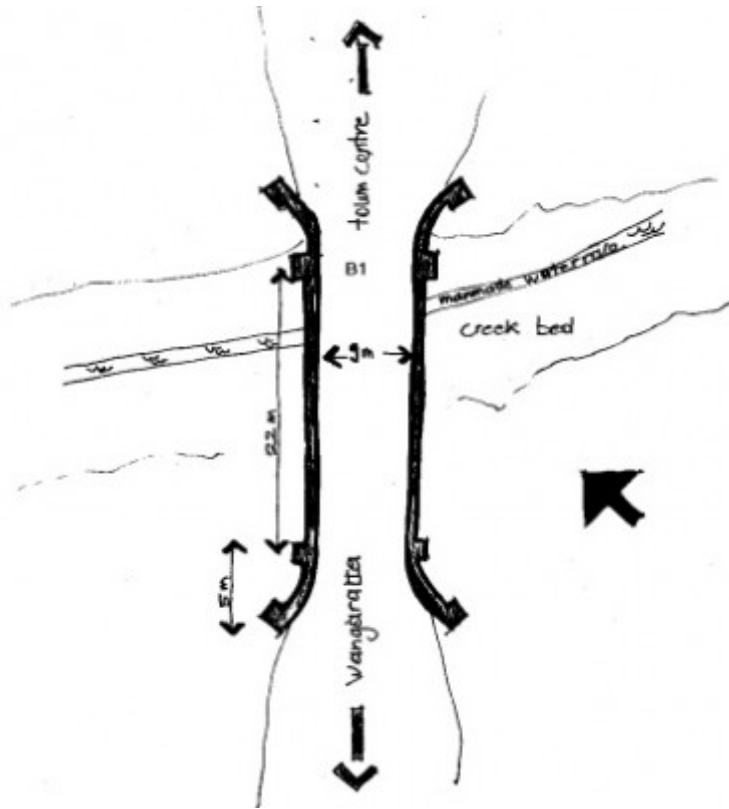
newtown bridge precinct beechworth  
side elevation



newtown bridge precinct beechworth  
detail of bridge arch & keystone

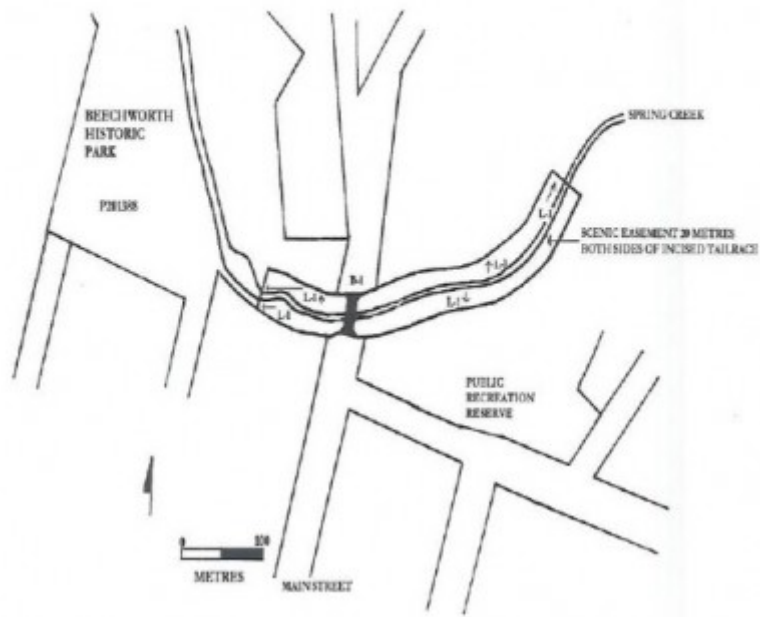


newtown bridge precinct beechworth  
side wall of bridge



newtown bridge precinct beechworth plan

DIAGRAM NUMBER: 603501B



H1424 newtown bridge plan b

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## Location

SPRING CREEK, BRIDGE ROAD BEECHWORTH, INDIGO SHIRE

## Municipality

INDIGO SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1424

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO13

## VHR Registration

August 20, 1982

## Amendment to Registration

November 26, 1998

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 19, 1999

What is significant?

The Newtown Bridge is a single arch granite bridge built c.1875. The bridge spans over Spring Creek at Beechworth and is 24.8 metres long with a kerb to kerb width of 6.3 metres. The arch span measures 15.5 metres overall. The apex of the arch is adorned with two superimposed keystones while the lower (actual) keystone has been somewhat dislocated. The upper stone marks the centre of the smooth faced assailing course of granite. The capping stones have two carved weathering strips which run along the full length of the parapet. The weathering groove is open-ended thus allowing water to run off the surface of the capping stones. The parapet walls form an elegant curve at both ends while the darker coloured capping stones provide a distinctive contrast against the lighter stones of the parapet walls.

How is it significant?

The Newtown Bridge is of architectural and historical importance to the State of Victoria

Why is it significant?

The Newtown Bridge is of architectural significance as an outstanding example of a large granite bridge and is important for the quality of its masonry work. The structure is an intact and representative example of a vernacular engineering tradition and demonstrates the use of local dimension stone and Scottish stonemason skills. The bridge is distinguished by its stone smooth faced string courses, rusticated parapet cappings, voussoirs and the far reaching and elegant span of the single arch.

The Newtown Bridge is of historical significance for its association with the gold mining era and the consequent growth of Beechworth, one of Victoria's most significant historic townships. The granite bridge replaced an earlier timber structure, which had been built further upstream c.1854, and it was constructed to facilitate transport and mark the entrance to the town. The Bridge is also of significance for its association with the mining race over which it spans. The solid granite race was constructed in 1856 and was cut to drain the Spring Creek flats to enable miners to scour previously abandoned claims.

The bridge is of historical significance for its ability to illustrate the growth of the Beechworth township and it also provides a greater understanding of the development and impact of 19th century gold mining activities in the State. Due to the gold rushes of the 1850s rapid growth in economic activity occurred in Australia. Investment in roads and railways helped establish the national transport system and bridges formed important links in this expanding network. The Newtown Bridge is historically significant for its association with the expansion of Victoria's infrastructure in the 1870s and for its role in the development of transport systems.

## Permit Exemptions

### EXEMPTIONS FROM PERMITS:

(Classes of works or activities which may be undertaken without a permit under Part 4 of the Heritage Act 1995)

#### General Conditions:

All alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.

Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.

If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.

Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

No permit required for routine maintenance of the Newtown Bridge

No permit required to replace like with like on the Newtown Bridge.

Construction dates	1875,
Architect/Designer	Dalziel, Thomas,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	97

Property Number

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## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1424 in the category described as a Heritage Place is now described as:

Newtown Bridge Precinct, Bridge Road, Beechworth, Indigo Shire Council.

#### EXTENT:

1. To the extent of the entire bridge known as the Newtown Bridge including all of the structure and its approach spans and abutments as marked B1 in Diagram 603501A held by the Executive Director.
2. All of the Crown land marked L-1 on diagram 603501B held by the Executive Director, being part of Crown land parcel P201338 (Beechworth Historic Park) and Wallace Park Public Recreation Reserve.

Dated 5 November 1998.

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 47 26 November 1998 p.2891]

*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 data owner.*

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