
Bluestone Bridge over Kororoit Creek



Bluestone Bridge over
Kororoit Creek Road,
Hobsons Bay Heritage Study
2006

Location

Princes Highway BROOKLYN, Hobsons Bay City

Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO259

Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The Bluestone Bridge over Kororoit Creek, comprising the bridge constructed in 1889 and altered in 1912 and the adjoining remnants of the old Geelong Road, off the Princes Highway (Geelong Road) near Clelland Road, Brooklyn.

How is it Significant?

The Bluestone Bridge over Kororoit Creek, Brooklyn is of local historic, technical and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, the bridge is significant as the oldest surviving road bridge within the municipality and one of a small number of stone bridges from this era, which survive on a major roadway reserve in the metropolitan area. It is an integral element, which illustrates the early development and alignment of the Geelong Road reserve, which was one of the first to be surveyed in the Colony by Hoddle in the pre-1840 period. (AHC criteria A4 and B2)

Technically, the bridge is significant as an unusual hybrid bluestone and concrete bridge, which demonstrates how these structures were adapted to meet new standards. The surviving approach roads are also significant as rare examples of early road construction. (AHC criterion F1)

Aesthetically, the bridge is significant as an example of an early stone bridge, which is notable for the elegant series of segment arches that are reminiscent of early colonial bridges in Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania. (AHC criteria E1)

Heritage Study/Consultant Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;

Hermes Number 22239

Property Number

Physical Description 1

The former Geelong Road bridge over Kororoit Creek is constructed of coursed basalt squared blocks, with three segment arches set on capped piers, each pier with a curved profile to divert the current. The steel pipe and concrete post balustrade has replaced with what may have been a wrought-iron balustrade (A similar balustrade is used on the Heidelberg Road bridge over Merri Creek at Clifton Hill) which may have also led to changes to the connecting capped stone balustrade walls at the creek bank. This balustrade and the walls beneath them curve elegantly with the curve of the road.

The approach to the bridge along the old Geelong Road required a 'kink' to negotiate the Kororoit Creek crossing - this can still be traced on the north and south of the current road. Approaches to the bluestone bridge retain 'Telford' road paving of large bluestone blocks set in the basal clay, cambered from a raised centre. The largest blocks are used to stabilise the edges, and sometimes a central row. Originally these were covered with a layer of crushed rock and/or gravel to form the road surface, but this is usually eroded away in the case of unmaintained roads, or covered in layers of bitumen, in the case of roads improved for motor vehicle traffic in the early twentieth century. Both results can be seen near Kororoit Creek.

The section of road parallel with the east bank of the creek, north of the present road, also retains a short section of the hand laid embankment and hand dug cut, where it descends along the slope to the old bridge level.

Integrity

External Condition

Good

External Integrity

Moderate (see History and Description)

Physical Description 2

Context

Set in an off-road deviation, with part of the former road surface evident but mainly unmaintained grassland and VicRoads dumping areas surrounding.

Historical Australian Themes

Making Suburbs

Physical Description 3

Associations

Victorian Colonial Government, Shire of Werribee, Robert Hoddle

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/>