
Wheeler's Bridge over Birch's Creek



B6805 Wheeler's Bridge

Location

Creswick/Lawrence Road,, LAWRENCE VIC 3364 - Property No B6805

Municipality

HEPBURN SHIRE

Level of significance

Regional

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 21, 2008

This bridge, with its two spans of 22.9 metres clear, was only the third completed in Victoria using the early "Monier" system of reinforced concrete, after the Morrell Bridge across the Yarra in Melbourne and the Fyansford Bridge near Geelong. Only six multi-span bridges of this type were built in Victoria. The importance of the bridge is enhanced by its connection with John Monash, later General Sir John and his business partner Joshua Thomas Noble Anderson, subsequently a prominent and colourful figure in Municipal Engineering in Victoria. The partnership acted as Victorian agent for the Monier system representing the Sydney firm of Carter Gummow & Co which held the Australian licence. The technology was transferred from Germany through the Sydney firm. Wheeler's Bridge has a fair claim to being the first in which Monash & Anderson took the leading role in both design and construction. The story of Wheeler's bridge is closely linked with that of the Creswick district. The Creswick-Lawrence road passes through an area rich in goldmines, some of them once again in operation. At the time of construction, large quantities of 'English capital' were about to be invested and the road was expected to become a major artery. The Public Works Department and the local council felt that a substantial bridge would be

required to carry heavy traffic. The bridge, with its tall central pier some 8 metres high is impressive in appearance when viewed from the banks of the creek. These have potential to be developed as an attractive tourist and picnic area.

Classified: 02/06/1997

Other Names The Creswick Bridge, Jenkin's Bridge,

Hermes Number 68542

Property Number

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/>