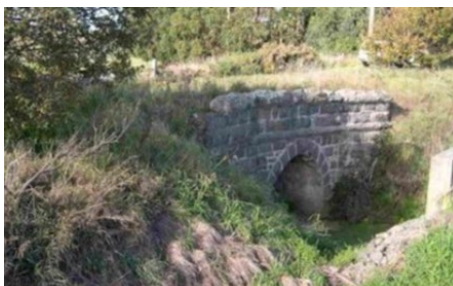


TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Bluestone Bridge
ADDRESS Normanby Creek, Normanby Road, Normanby

PHOTOGRAPH



(HNZPT)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. HHI176 **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 2005 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Legal road

VALUATION NUMBER xx

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION c.1875/1880?

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Levels Road Board [or Timaru and Gladstone Board of Works?]

STYLE Vernacular

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

c. 4.2-metre span arched bridge built from coursed bluestone and limestone.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Bluestone (basalt) and limestone.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Unknown, if any.

SETTING

The bridge spans Normanby Creek on Normanby Road, south of the settlement of the same name. The extent of setting is limited to the immediate environs of the bridge and is consistent with the Heritage NZPT list entry.

HISTORY

The Levels Road Board, established in 1864, was responsible for building and maintaining bridges throughout the district. The Normanby Creek bridge is believed to have been built in the mid/late 1870s, at which time William Williamson was the board's engineer. Alternatively, although it is unlikely, the bridge may have been erected by the Timaru and Gladstone Board of Works, which was established by Act of Parliament in 1867. John Rochfort was the Board's engineer in 1875. While the bridge originally was part of the Main South Road [later SH 1], realignment saw the section of road accessing the bridge relegated to a farm access road.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Normanby Road bluestone bridge has historical significance for its association with the Levels Road Board and the development of the main road south of Timaru. The bridge represents the development of the district's transport infrastructure and the local quarry industry.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Normanby Road bluestone bridge has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of colonial settlers who relied on bridges built by the local road board to access their properties and move about the district.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Normanby Road bluestone bridge has aesthetic value as a vernacular bridge that was designed to be fit for purpose.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Normanby Road bluestone bridge has technological and craftsmanship significance as a later 19th century masonry bridge, constructed from locally quarried bluestone and limestone.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Normanby Road bluestone bridge has contextual significance as a local feature that is one of a large number of stone bridges and culverts throughout the Timaru district.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the Normanby Road bluestone bridge pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the structure's construction and the development of the Main South Road.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Normanby Road bluestone bridge has overall heritage significance to Normanby and Timaru district as a whole. The bridge has historical significance for its association with the Levels Road Board and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its early users. The Normanby Road bluestone bridge has aesthetic value as a utilitarian vernacular arched bridge and technical and craftsmanship significance for its masonry construction using locally quarried bluestone and limestone. The Normanby Road bluestone bridge has contextual significance as one of a large number of stone bridges and culverts in the district. The Normanby Road bluestone bridge has potential archaeological significance in view of its pre-1900 date of construction.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 11 June 1870, p. 3; 2 October 1874, p. 4; 26 March 1875, p. 1; 7 June 1875, p. 3; 18 August 1875, p. 1; 11 December 1878, p. 3.
- *Lyttleton Times* 10 March 1892, p. 5.
- *Star* 27 January 1913, p. 3.
- http://www.nzlii.org/nz/legis/hist_act/tagbowa186731v1867n26456/
- J Waugh 'Historic Stone Arch Bridges' *Historic Places* No. 47, May 1994, pp. 20-21.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/2010>



Extent of setting, Normanby Creek, Normanby Road bridge.



Normanby Road, Normanby, with bridge site marked by pin.