

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME

Hay's Bridge

ADDRESS

Totara Creek, Hays Road, Totara Valley

PHOTOGRAPH



(www)

FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.
(at time of assessment)

No. 78

HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY

1985 / 2

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Legal road

VALUATION NUMBER

xx

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

c.1882

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER**

Levels Road Board

STYLE

Vernacular

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

3.8-metre span arched bridge built from coursed limestone.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Limestone.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Side walls repaired and repointed (c.1993).

SETTING

Hay's bridge spans the Totara Creek on Hays Road west of its intersection with Cleland Road. The extent of setting is limited to the immediate environs of the bridge and is consistent with the Heritage NZPT list entry.

HISTORY

Limestone quarrying for local use commenced in Totara Valley in the 1870s. Several bridges and a number of buildings were subsequently erected in the locale in the later 19th century. The land neighbouring the bridge in Hays Road was surveyed in October 1882 (DP 739), which suggests a contemporary date for the construction of the bridge, especially in light of the tender notice for a dwelling for W Hay published in September 1882. The Levels Road Board, established in 1864, was responsible for building and maintaining bridges throughout the district. William (1845-1910) and Agnes (1851-1928) Hay appear to have farmed in the Totara Valley until 1901. Repairs to the bridge were needed in December 1892 due to weathering over the previous winter. The bridge was then referred to as 'William Hay's', after the local sheep farmer for whom the road is also named. The bridge was closed for repair by the Levels County Council in March 1904 and was repaired and repointed in the early 1990s. It is still in use today.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Hay's bridge has historical significance for its association with the Hays family, who were local sheep farmers, and the Levels Road Board. The bridge represents the development of the district's transport infrastructure and the local quarry industry.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Hay's bridge has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of early pastoralists who relied on bridges built by the local road board to access their farms and truck stock to market.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

Hay's bridge has aesthetic value as a vernacular bridge that was designed to be fit for purpose.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

Hay's bridge has technological and craftsmanship significance as a later 19th century masonry bridge, constructed from locally quarried limestone by the Levels Road Board.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Hay's bridge has contextual significance as a local feature that is one of a large number of stone bridges and culverts throughout the Timaru district. Another scheduled bridge (heritage item # 85) is located on Cleland Road, north of its intersection with Hays Road, and St Paul's Presbyterian Church (heritage item # 77) is located on Cleland Road at the eastern end of Hays Road.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As Hay's bridge pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the structure's construction and the development of pastoralism in Totara Valley.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Hay's bridge has overall heritage significance to Totara Valley and Timaru district as a whole. The bridge has historical significance for its association with the Hays family and the Levels Road Board and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its early users. Hay's bridge has aesthetic value as a utilitarian vernacular arched bridge and technical and craftsmanship significance for its masonry construction using locally quarried limestone.

Hay's bridge has contextual significance as one of a large number of stone bridges and culverts in the district and in relation to other limestone structures in the locale. Hay's bridge has potential archaeological significance in view of its pre-1900 date of construction.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

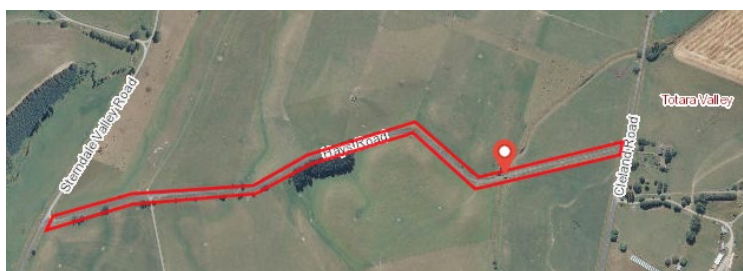
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REFERENCES

- *Lyttleton Times* 28 December 1892, p. 3; 8 August 1910, p. 9.
- *South Canterbury Times* 9 May 1888, p. 3; 10 June 1890, p. 3; 13 October 1890, p. 3; 13 December 1892, p. 3.
- *Timaru Herald* 26 November 1864, p. 4; 28 January 1865, p. 5; 11 August 1875, p. 4; 4 September 1882, p. 1; 6 June 1883, p. 2; 13 August 1884, p. 3; 14 May 1890, p. 4; 2 March 1904, p. 1; 3 March 1904, p. 3.
- *Press* 25 January 1901, p. 7.
- 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/1985>



Extent of setting, Totara Creek, Hays Road bridge.



Hays Road, Totara Valley with bridge site marked by pin.