

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME

Cleland's Bridge

ADDRESS

Totara Creek, Cleland Road, Totara Valley

PHOTOGRAPH



(HNZPT)

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

No. 85

HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY

1986 / 2

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Legal road

VALUATION NUMBER

xx

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

c.1875?

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER**

Levels Road Board (William Williamson, engineer)

STYLE

Vernacular

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

c. 3.8-metre span arched bridge built from coursed limestone.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Limestone.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Side walls repaired and repointed (1990).

SETTING

Cleland's bridge spans Totara Creek on Cleland Road north of its intersection with Hays 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. The Levels Road Board, established in 1864, was responsible for building and maintaining bridges throughout the district. Local farmer Andrew Cleland, after whom the road was named, was a member of the road board from 1875 until 1880. The bridge was repaired and repointed in 1990. It is still in use today.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Cleland's bridge has historical significance for its association with Andrew Cleland 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

Cleland'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

Cleland's bridge has aesthetic value as a vernacular bridge that was designed to be fit for purpose. William Williamson was the engineer of the Levels Road Board in 1875. Jones and Peters were the successful tenderers for a stone bridge over the Totara Creek in September of the same year.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

Cleland'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

Cleland'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 # 78) is located on Hays Road, west of its intersection with Cleland Road, and St Paul's Presbyterian Church (heritage item # 77) is located south of the bridge on Cleland Road.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As Cleland'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

Cleland's bridge has overall heritage significance to Totara Valley and Timaru district as a whole. The bridge has historical significance for its association with Andrew Cleland and the Levels Road Board and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its early users. Cleland's bridge has aesthetic value as a utilitarian vernacular arched bridge and technical and craftsmanship significance for its masonry construction using locally quarried limestone. Cleland'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. Cleland's bridge has potential archaeological significance in view of its pre-1900 date of construction.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

B

REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 26 November 1864, p. 4; 28 January 1865, p. 5; 22 August 1866, p. 2; 11 August 1875, p. 4; 8 September 1875, p. 2; 15 September 1875, p. 4; 5 March 1914, p. 8.
- 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/1986>



Extent of setting, Totara Creek, Hays Road bridge.



Cleland Road, Totara Valley, between Hays and Middle Roads, with bridge site marked by pin.