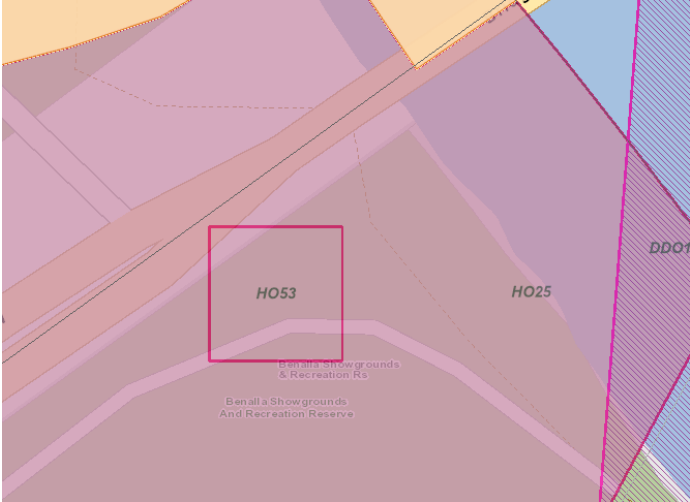


Place Citation HO53

Toll Gate, Bridge Road, BENALLA

Address	Toll Gate, Bridge Road, BENALLA		
Heritage Overlay	HO53		
Heritage Overlay Map			
Designer/s	Unknown	Dates	Unknown (pre c1870s)
Significance	Local	Builder/s	Unknown
Heritage Overlay Map	The extent of the Heritage Overlay Map is supported.	Survey Date	March 2024



Toll Gate

Assessment against criteria

Place Citation H053

Toll Gate, Bridge Road, BENALLA

The following analysis is based on Victorian Government Planning Practice Note 1: Applying the Heritage Overlay (August 2018).

Criterion A: Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history (historical significance).

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to understanding our cultural or natural history (research potential).

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).

Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance).

Criterion H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).

The following Statement of Significance has been prepared to reflect the Planning Practice Note: Applying the Heritage Overlay, 2018.

What is Significant?

The former toll gate located on the verge of the Monash Bridge, Bridge Street Benalla is significant.

Significant fabric and features include the timber posts and iron hardware.

The context and setting for the toll gate contribute to its significance.

How is it Significant?

The former toll gate located on the verge of the Monash Bridge, Bridge Street Benalla is of local historical cultural heritage significance and has rarity values for the Benalla Rural City.

Why is it Significant?

The former toll gate located on the verge of the Monash Bridge, Bridge Street Benalla is of historical significance as it provides evidence of a structure that raised taxes for the colonial government for the funding of the repair and construction of roads prior to the establishment of a local government authority. (Criterion A)

The former toll gate located on the verge of the Monash Bridge, Bridge Street Benalla is of rarity value as it is the only such structure in the Benalla Rural City and appears to be the only such structure in Victoria. There is sufficient integrity of fabric and construction detail to provide physical evidence of its former function. (Criterion B)

Place History

Place Citation H053

Toll Gate, Bridge Road, BENALLA

The toll gate is an early structure from the mid-Victorian period. It is located on the verge of the Monash Bridge near to the Broken River.

The Victorian colonial Government had no means of raising its own capital to generate funds for road building and repair and the Colony adopted the British concept of the collection of tolls. A toll bar or toll gate was a barrier placed over a track or roadside where passage was granted after paying a toll, the toll being a charge towards the maintenance of the road. An article from the *Ovens and Murray Advertiser* on 31.07.1866

Toll bars are looked upon by most people as a great nuisance. They are however, to a certain extent necessary evils. When a road is made, and the travelling public enjoy the advantage of it, there is something equitable and reasonable in levying a small sum from all who use it to defray the cost of maintenance. A good road even with a toll age on it, will be cheaper to the owners of vehicles, than a bad road free of such obstructions. The wear and tear of horses and vehicles will outweigh many times the tollage levied on a good road.

The first toll gate in Victoria was established on Heidelberg Road just over the Merri Creek Bridge from Clifton Hill. Over the next few years there were a number of toll gates installed at junctions of key thoroughfares throughout Victoria. The collection of tolls was a critical revenue making enterprise as the settlement expanded its population and infrastructure. The government tendered the gates and the lessee would pay rent in monthly instalments.

Government Gazette No 162 7.12.1849

...The Lessees will be required to enter into a Bond double the amount of the rent, with two responsible sureties (who must be present), for the due observance of the conditions of the Lease, and the regular payment of the rent, by equal monthly instalments, before the expiration of seven days after the termination of each month.

The construction of the railway network saw a decline in the revenue from tollages and in 1876 the Government decided it would abolish toll gates in the next year but some toll gates were still in operation after 1877. It is not clear when the Benalla toll gate was constructed or ceased collecting tolls but by the construction of the railway line in 1873 it is most likely to have ceased operations.

It is a rare surviving feature and may be the last such structure to survive in-situ in Victoria and potentially the nation.

Description and Integrity

The toll gate is a rudimentary timber gate with what appear to be early if not the original gate posts. The gate appears to be reconstructed with new timbers and the hardware may be original. The integrity is fair as the posts appear original and hardware has been constructed on a frame so it would appear to date from its construction.