

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest for the Stone Arch Bridge at Beckwith Street

Description of Property

The Stone Arch Bridge at Beckwith Street is a bridge that spans the Rideau River at the foot of Beckwith Street. The property contains a stone fixed two-span segmental deck arch bridge constructed in 1890.

Cultural Heritage Interest or Value

The property has physical/design value as a rare example of a late 19th century stone bridge in Ontario. The Beckwith Street bridge is a stone fixed two-span segmental deck arch bridge. Stone bridges were constructed in the 19th century using locally available building materials but were increasingly replaced by steel and concrete structures by the 20th century, and few surviving examples remain.

The property has contextual value as an important contribution to defining and supporting the character of the area. The area is largely characterized by the neighbouring Woods Mill Complex, which the bridge was constructed to support its function. Both the Woods Mill complex and the stone arch bridge are constructed of stone, reinforcing their visual relationship.

The property has contextual value associated with its visual and historical connection to the neighbouring Wood Mill Complex, a federally designated heritage site. While the builder of the Beckwith Street bridge is unknown, it is likely that the construction of the bridge is connected to the Woods Mill Complex. The construction of the bridge and complex were completed at the same time. Many of the construction materials on the bridge and Mill Complex are the same, including the dark limestone used in the arches of the bridge were also used below the windows of the East Mill. The bridge also has a visual and historical connection to the Rideau Canal, a world heritage site, as an early structure that was used to support the milling industries along the canal.

Heritage Attributes

The following heritage attributes reflect the cultural heritage value or interest of the property:

- Form and massing of the two-span arched bridge
- Light-coloured stone cladding
- Dark-coloured stone quoins and arches
- Stone abutments on the north and south ends of the bridge
- Stone pier