

Ngatea Bridge Replica



Location: Orchard Road West, Ngatea

Heritage Status

Historic Places Trust Registration Number:

Historic Places Trust Category:

HDC Heritage Category: C - Heritage Item. Local or Neighbourhood Significance

Other:

Physical Description: A half size replica bridge complete with lifting section, known as the Millenium Bridge, commemorates the now replaced original bridge.

Other known names: Piako River Bridge

Notable features:

Style:

Materials: Timber (original and replica)

Date of Construction: Original 1917. Replica: 2000.

History: The actual bridge was first opened in 1917. It was a lifting-span bridge and was replaced by a new bridge in 1964.

A replica of the lifting-span bridge was built in 2000 in a small reserve (Tilbury

District Plan Schedule

Number: HAU187

Heritage Category: C

Heritage Type:

- Wahi Tapu
- Cultural Landscape
- Building
- Group of Buildings
- Structure
- Monument
- Historic Place
- Archaeological Site
- Other

Date Period:

1917-1963

Significance:

- Archaeological
- Architectural
- Cultural
- Historic
- Scientific
- Technological

Thematic Context

- Maori
- Early Settlement
- Industry
- Extraction
- Forestry
- Agriculture
- Transport
- Communication
- Commerce
- Residential
- Social/Cultural
- Civic
- Health
- Educational
- Church/yard
- Other

Historic Heritage Inventory



Ngatea Bridge Replica

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Reserve) adjacent to the bridge. The replica was scaled at half size of the middle span of the working model.

Before the first bridge, access across the Piako River was either by swimming or taking the ferry at Pipiroa or Kaihere. In December 1917, the one lane Ngatea Bridge was officially opened. The route quickly became the main travel way between Auckland and Tauranga and Ngatea became the commercial hub of the Plains. Two passing bays were added in 1926. The lifting mechanism was removed in 1952 and the central span was fixed. In 1963, the bridge was demolished and a modern bridge built to replace it (HAU427).

The lifting-span was an unusual design as the swivel design was used for most of the other bridges in the plains. The central span would lift up when boats needed to travel along the river. The tower and lifted central span were landmark features and could be seen from some distance away. It may have been one of only two bridges in New Zealand with this design (the other being in Gisborne).

Architect:

Designer:

Builder:

Engineer:

History of changes: Approaches had to be rebuilt immediately after opening because the fill used was too heavy and was sinking into the banks. In 1926 two passing bays were added to the one lane bridge.

Condition: Good

Integrity: Intact

Current Uses: Commemorative display

Former Uses:

Registered owner: Hauraki District Council

Legal Description: Tilbury Reserve- Sec 82 Blk 1 Waihou SD

Reference Source: Clover, K. (1997) "Hauraki Plains: River and Road Communication." Ohinemuri Regional History Journal 41:14-23.

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Associated Pictures:



First Ngatea Bridge, with centre span raised to allow s.s. "Hauti" to pass.

Historic photo