

PART ONE: IDENTIFICATION

Place Name:	KOHUKOHU STONE BRIDGE
Image:	 <p>Copyright: Heritage New Zealand (#7741), Stuart Park 2007</p>
Site Address:	Kohukohu Road, Waihouuru (or Waihoura) Stream, Kohukohu
Legal Description:	Part of the land described as Sec 57 and Pt Lot 2 DP 23934, Blk X Mangamuka SD, North Auckland Land District.
Certificate of Title:	Part located in CT NA636/269
Physical Description:	<p>The bridge crosses the Waihouuru Creek between Kohukohu School and the Kohukohu Bowling Club green. It is a simple arched stone footbridge and the stone blocks from which the bridge is constructed are made from Sydney sandstone. They are said to have been brought to the Hokianga as ballast in empty timber export ships returning from Sydney to collect further cargo. The name of the builder of the bridge is not known. It is recorded to be the oldest stone arch bridge in New Zealand and the oldest surviving bridge in New Zealand. The bridge was built at what was then the mouth of the Waihouuru Creek where it entered the Hokianga Harbour, and provided passage across the creek for people moving along the shoreline at Kohukohu. The date of construction is believed to be between 1843 and 1851. It is clearly shown in a drawing made by John Jolliffe, surgeon on HMS <i>Pandora</i>, in October 1851. It is not shown on a sketch plan drawn in December 1842. The bridge is not currently in use and has been partly buried. The harbour reclamations mean the bridge is no longer at the harbour edge.</p>
Site Type:	Historic Bridge
Approx. date (or range)	Construction date c. 1843 - 1851
NZAA Site No:	No
NZ Heritage List:	List Number 7741, Historic Place Category 1 (entered 2008)

Regional or District Plan Schedule	Included on Schedule of Historic Sites, Buildings and Objects (#169) Far North District Plan. The bridge is inside the boundary for the Far North District Council Kohukohu Heritage Precinct.				
Recorded NZTM grid reference:					
Easting:	1649461.13	Northing:	6086899.7	Position:	Centre of visible remains of bridge

PART TWO: HISTORIC HERITAGE EVALUATION

Criterion	Comments	Value*
(a) Archaeological and/or scientific importance	It is possible that the site may yield further information on 19th century bridges in New Zealand and the history of the local area through archaeological investigation in the future. The approaches to the bridge on each side have been buried as a result of reclamation and development of the adjacent land. It is clear that much of the original bridge is now under the surface, presenting a high opportunity for archaeological investigation of both the extant portion of the bridge and its buried approaches.	3
(b) Architecture and technology	As the oldest surviving bridge in New Zealand and the oldest stone arch bridge, this bridge has outstanding technological value in the history of engineering and public works in New Zealand. The stone arch bridge is a considerable technical accomplishment. Its use in New Zealand has been less common, something attributed to a relative lack of suitable stone, a shortage of masons, the limitations of the short spans attainable in a country with wide rivers and swamps to be crossed, and the relatively higher cost because of the ready availability of timber in New Zealand. As an example of bridge technology, and one that remains standing over 150 years after it was built, this bridge represents an outstanding technological accomplishment.	4
c) Rarity	Constructed 1843 – 1851, this is thought to be the oldest surviving bridge in New Zealand and the oldest stone arch bridge in New Zealand so it is rare nationally. The Heritage New Zealand registration report refers to the wooden bridge built over the Waitangi River near Waimate North in 1830 as New Zealand’s first real bridge. Bridges were built in 1841 in New Plymouth, in Wellington in 1842 and in Auckland in 1843. All were simple timber structures, and none of them survives today. Following the passing of the New Zealand Constitution Act in 1852 and the establishment of provincial government, more substantial bridges began to be erected, some incorporating stone abutments. The oldest stone traffic bridge still in use was built in Oamaru in 1861.	4

(d) Representative-ness	The Hokianga harbour was one of the earliest focal points for Pakeha settlement in New Zealand, and together with the Bay of Islands contains a number of places dating from the earliest periods of interaction between Maori and Pakeha. As the oldest bridge in New Zealand, this bridge represents an outstanding example of a place relating to the early Pakeha settlement of Hokianga and New Zealand. It is also an outstanding representative example of an early stone bridge.	4
(e) Integrity	The exposed section of the bridge appears to be intact, consisting of the central arch (c. 2.7m long at base, 93cm high above the creek and 2.6m wide carriageway). However, much of the bridge is now under ground, therefore it is difficult to determine how intact it is overall and the full extent of subsurface remains.	2
(f) Context	The bridge forms part of a group of early bridges built throughout New Zealand. The development, design and construction of bridges to cross New Zealand's many rivers, creeks and swamps was essential to its whole land transport infrastructure. Although modest in size and scale, this bridge, as the oldest surviving bridge and the oldest stone arch bridge, is an icon of outstanding significance representing the importance of bridges in the past and currently to New Zealand's development as a modern nation. The bridge is also associated with the early development of Kohukohu, reflecting the former coastline in this area prior to reclamations associated with the timber mill industry c.1879.	4
(g) People and events	The bridge is located on the former residence of George Russell, who was a contractor for large kauri spars for the Royal Navy (painted by Charles Heaphy in 1839). It is thought likely that this was the person for whom the bridge was built, sometime between 1843 and 1851. The bridge is in a drawing by John Jolliffe (surgeon on HMS <i>Pandora</i>) in 1851, indicating it was built by this time for George Russell. The builder is unknown.	2
(h) Identity	It is unknown if the resource provides a sense of place, community identity or cultural or historical continuity. Reclamation of the harbour, in large part a result of the activities of the adjacent former Kohukohu timber mill, which began operations in 1879, means that the bridge is no longer at the harbour's edge, and no longer serves as a through route.	U
(i) Tangata whenua	It is unknown if the resource, place or feature is important to tangata whenua for traditional, spiritual, cultural or historic reasons. The Heritage New Zealand files indicate that there is no particular Maori interest in this place (File No. HP 36007-293).	U
(j) Statutory	The resource is recognised nationally on the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangi Kōrero as Category 1 and is scheduled in the Far North District Plan.	4
Threshold for Scheduling	Minimum of 4/Outstanding in two criteria:	Yes

*Outstanding – 4; High – 3; Moderate – 2; little – 1; None – 0; or Not Known or unassessed - U.

PART THREE: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Significance:	The Kohukohu stone bridge is of outstanding historic heritage value for its architecture and technology, rarity, representativeness and context. Dating to 1843 - 1851 the Kohukohu stone bridge is unique. It is the oldest surviving bridge in New Zealand and was the first known bridge of its type to be built. It takes on iconic, representative status, still standing after 150 years to represent all subsequent bridges that have been and remain so significant in the development of New Zealand as a modern nation. It is also of high archaeological significance, as the site may yield further information on 19th century bridges in New Zealand and the history of the local area through archaeological investigation in the future. Overall, the Kohukohu stone bridge is of outstanding historic heritage significance.
-----------------------------------	---

PART FOUR: EVALUATION RECOMMENDATION

Identified criteria	(a), (b),(c), (d), (f)
Overall Value*	Outstanding
Overall Score*	4
Overall Context**	National
Eligibility for scheduling:	Yes
Extent of Place:	Yes [Refer to diagram in Part 6]
Interior protected:	N/A
Potential Tangata Whenua value:	Not a site of Maori origin
Pre-1900 or gazetted archaeological site:	A pre-1900 site protected under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014

* Outstanding/ Score 4: of exceptional importance and interest: retention of the identified value(s)/ significance is essential.

High/ Score 3: of great importance and interest: retention of the identified value(s)/ significance is very important.

Moderate/ Score 2: of some importance and interest: retention of the identified value(s)/ significance is desirable.

Low/ Score 1: of limited importance and interest: retention of the identified value(s)/ significance is of low importance.

NA/None/ Score 0: none identified.

** Overall Context: the geographical significance at a local, regional or higher scale, should also be given.

PART FIVE: MANAGEMENT/ RISK INFORMATION

Criterion	Comments	Value
Occupancy/ Use:	The bridge is presently abandoned/unused. It crosses between two pieces of Crown reserve, one reserved for Kohukohu Primary School, the other Far North District Council for recreation purposes.	4
Management	The site is scheduled under the District Plan. It is not protected in the Regional Plan. There is recognition of its heritage value through inclusion on the NZ Heritage List. There are no known conservation plans, covenants or active management of the site.	3
Condition:	Condition is assumed to be good for the exposed area of bridge based on photos; however not all of the bridge is visible	3
Fragility/ Vulnerability	Fragility is assumed to be moderate as structures of this kind are fairly durable, however it is uncertain if it is being maintained and may be vulnerable to flooding.	3
Threats	The site was identified in the Northland At Risk Report 2007 as being a priority for registration. It was identified as already being partly buried, no longer functional and not being well known. The bridge is on the NZ Heritage List, but these factors remain as threats.	4
Overall risk:	High.	3

*0 – None, 1 - Low, 2- Moderate, 3 - High, 4 – Critical

Criterion	Comments	Value*
Opportunities:	Currently there is some opportunity for public appreciation of the site, but it is not easily accessible or highly visible (accessed along a creek from Kohukohu Road). This could possibly be improved through signage and a formal access point. As the site is within the Far North District Council Kohukohu Precinct, it could be included in any initiatives to promote the heritage values of this area and the heritage trail. Archaeological investigation would assist to document and clarify the extent of the remaining bridge subsurface.	2

*0 – None, 1 - Low, 2- Moderate, 3 - High, 4 – Outstanding

PART SIX-EXTENT OF PLACE



NZTM coordinates:					
Easting:	1649461.13	Northing:	6086899.7	Position:	Centre of visible extent of bridge (1)
Note	<p>This includes the structure known as Stone Bridge, Kohukohu. It includes those parts of the bridge that are currently under the soil, as indicated by deposited maps and historical images (see appendix 2). Without further investigation it is not possible to determine the extent of the bridge accurately as it is partly buried. The Heritage New Zealand files include correspondence with a local resident in 2011 that gives an account of another tunnel or bridge in this area that was visible in the 1920s or 1930s (File No. HP 36007-293). It is possible there are other associated remains subsurface but this has not been confirmed.</p>				

ADMINISTRATION

Desktop Date:	20/03/2016	Site Visit Date:	Not Visited		
Site Accessibility:	N/A				
Evaluated by:	Adina Brown	Date:	20/03/2016		
Reviewed by:	Sarah Macready	Date:	31/03/2016		
Approved by:	Jon Trewin	Draft:	31/03/2016	Final:	5/04/2016
NRC Assessment ID:	07				

APPENDIX 1 Supporting Research

Sources Checklist:	Checked
Northland Coastal Plan schedule	Y
Kaipara District Plan schedule	-
Far North District Plan schedule	Y
Whangarei District Plan schedule	-
NZAA ArchSite database	Y
New Zealand Heritage List	Y
LINZ/ Quickmaps	Y
Google Maps	Y
Whangarei Libraries Northland Room Digital Collections (http://whangarei.recollect.co.nz/)	-
Whites Aviation Archive National Library	-
Papers Past	-
Te Ara Encyclopaedia	Y
NZ History Online	Y
Archives NZ	N
IPENZ Engineering Heritage Register http://www.ipenz.org.nz/heritage/default.cfm	Y
Sources are fully referenced in the historical background report (Appendix 2)	

Bibliography:

Author(s)	Date	Title	Publisher	Location
Heritage New Zealand	2007	Heritage New Zealand Registration Report for a Historic Place: Stone Bridge, Kohukohu	Heritage New Zealand	Heritage New Zealand files