

Appendix: Background Information for Kohukohu Bridge

Source Material:

Google Street View Jan 2013 (accessed 2016)



The stream is partly visible west of Kohukohu Road, south of Kohukohu township

Source Material:

Google Street View Jan 2013 (accessed 2016)

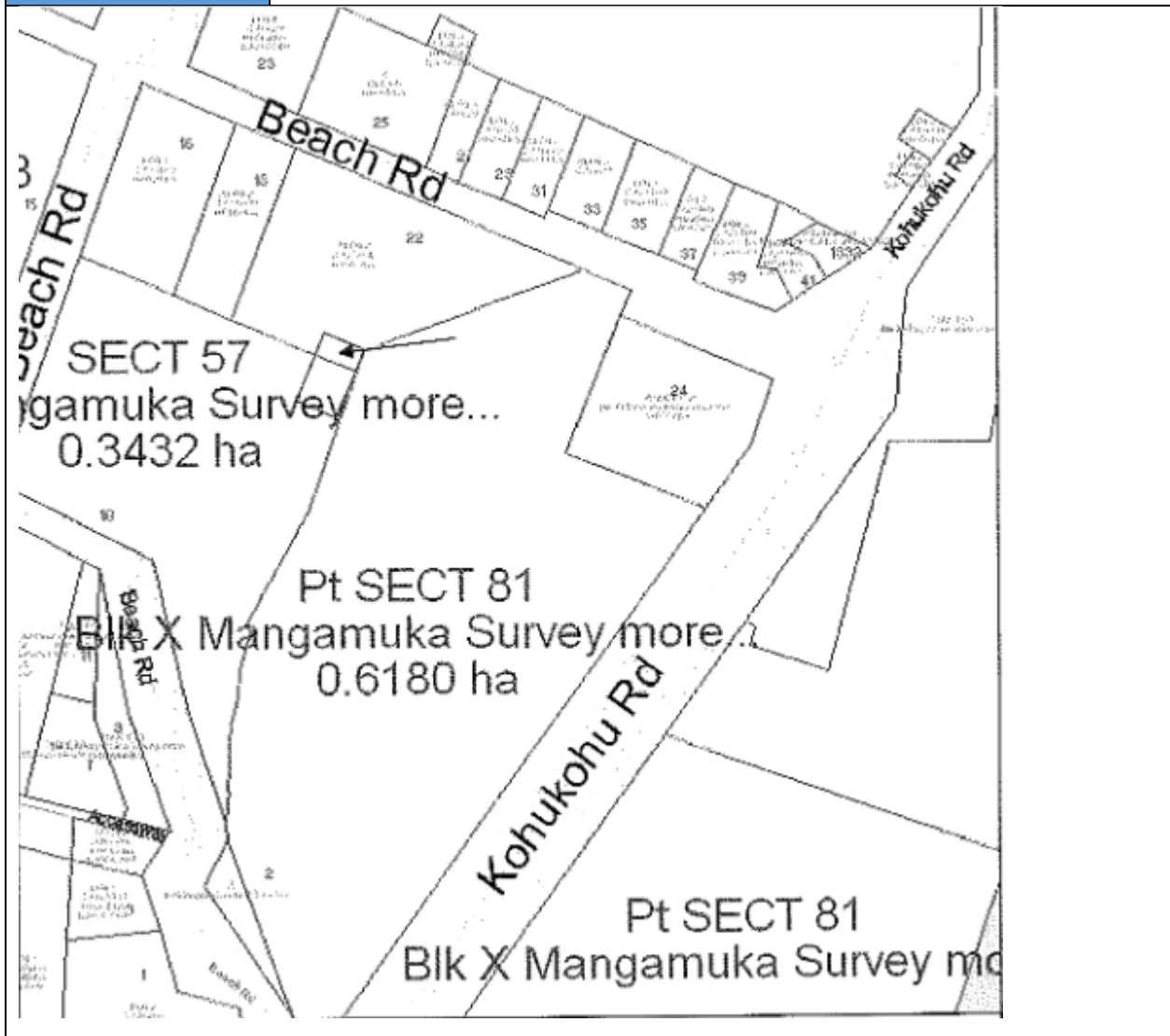


Looking south of Beach road towards the stream. The bridge crosses the Waihouuru Creek between Kohukohu School and the Kohukohu Bowling Club (top photo)

Appendix: Background Information for Kohukohu Bridge

Source Material:

The New Zealand Heritage Listing comprises the parts of the three land titles shown within the rectangle (Source: Heritage New Zealand registration form)



Appendix: Background Information for Kohukohu Bridge

Source Material:

Excerpt from SO 3976, dated 1885, showing reclamations (Source: Quickmaps 2016)



Source Material:

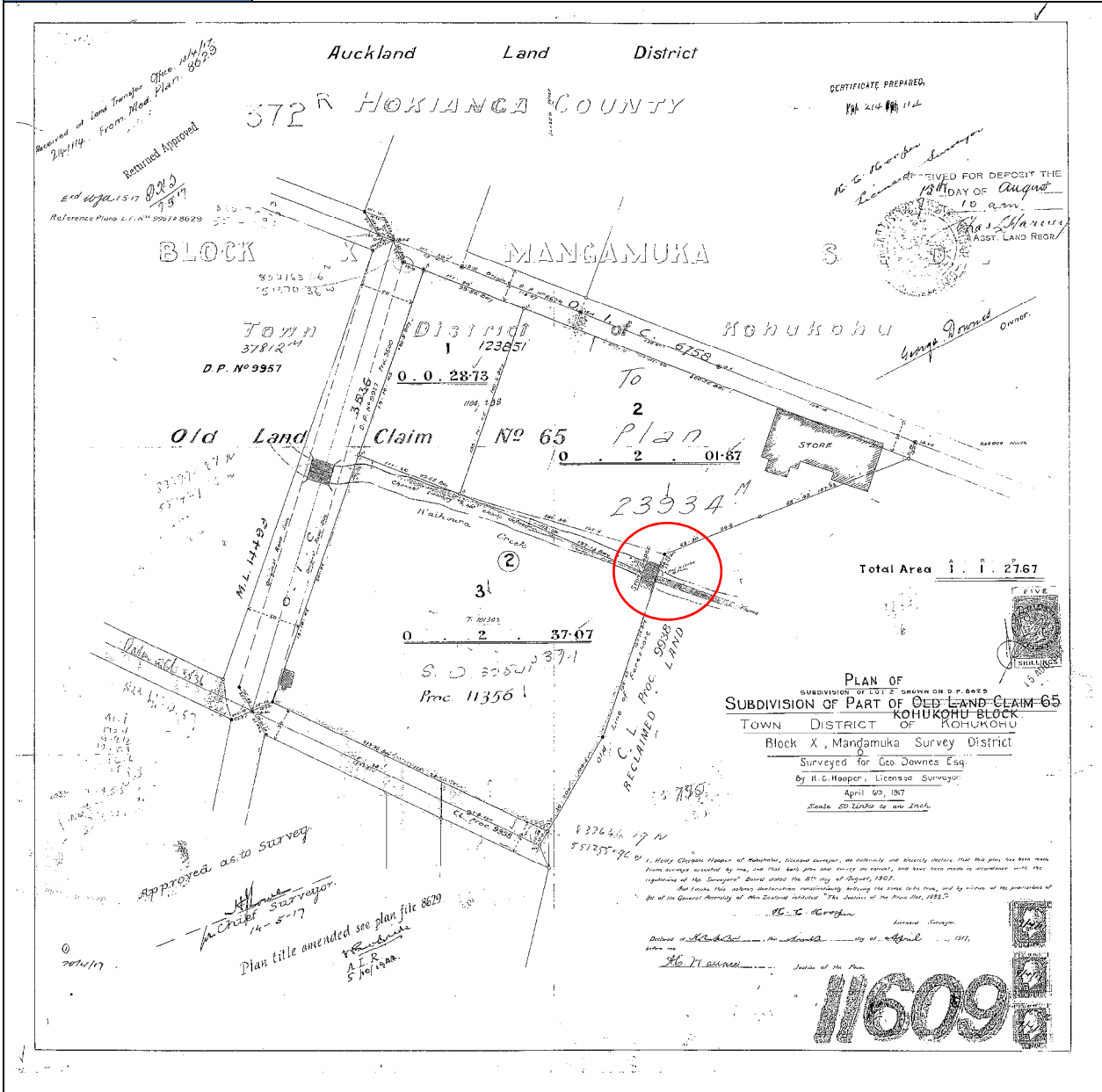
Excerpt from SO 3976, dated 1885, possibly showing the bridge circled in red (Source: Quickmaps 2016)



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Source Material:

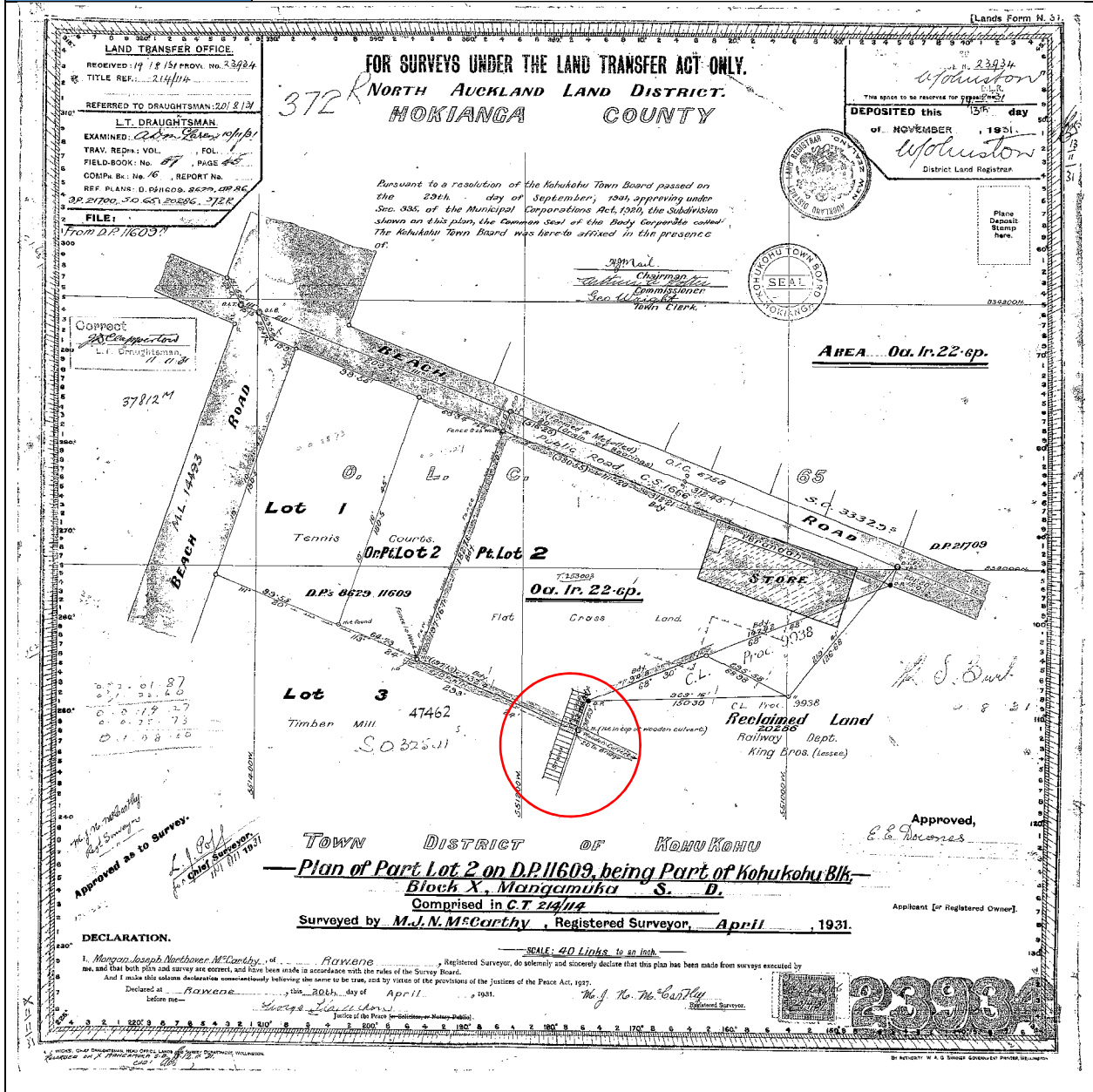
DP11609, dated 1917, after reclamation, showing the bridge circled in red. The old line of the foreshore is also recorded (Source: Quickmaps 2016)



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Source Material:

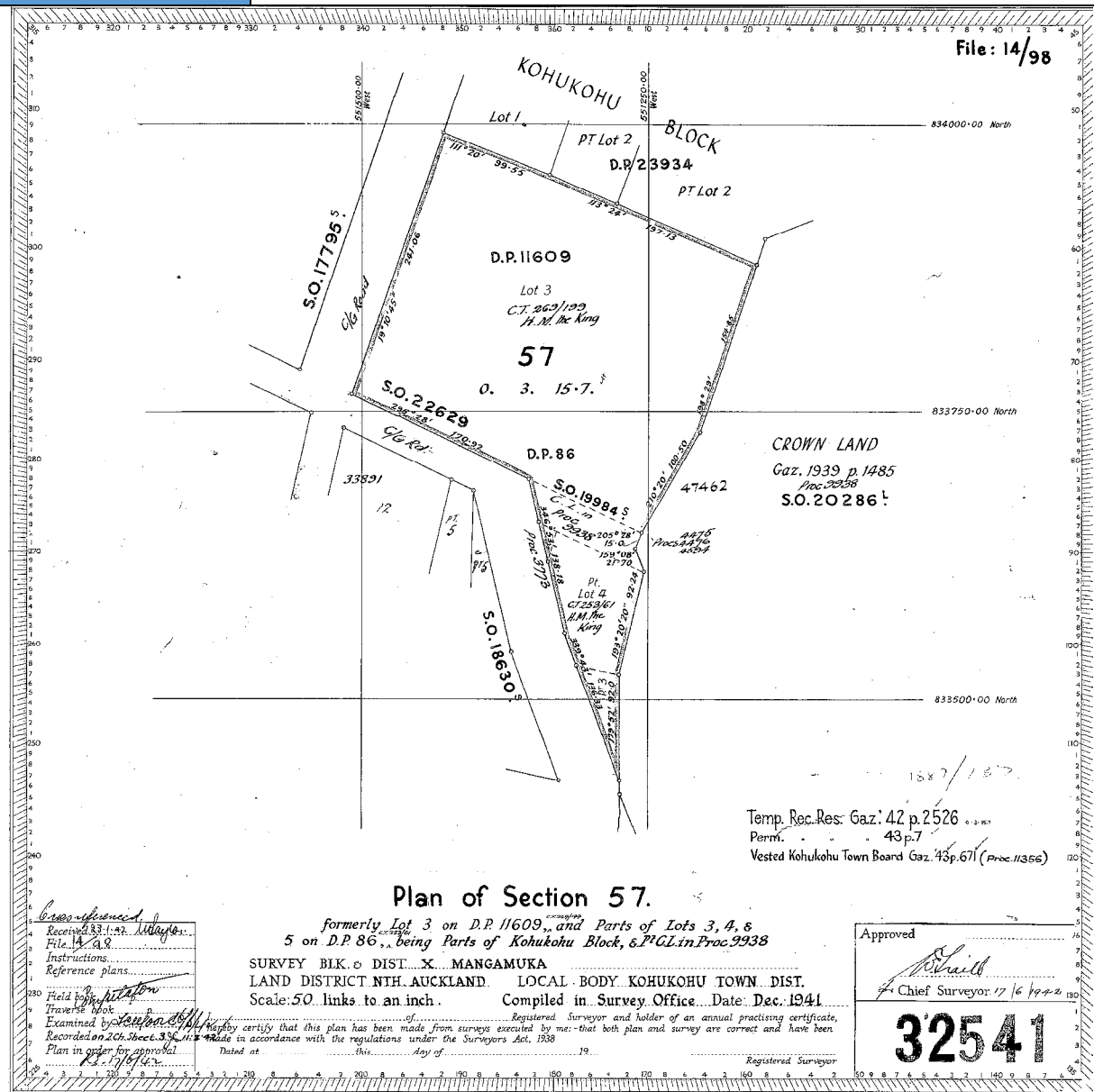
DP23934, dated 1931, showing the bridge circled in red (Source: Quickmaps 2016)



Appendix: Background Information for Kohukohu Bridge

Source Material:

SO32541, dated 1947, (Source: Quickmaps 2016)



Plan of Section 57.

formerly Lot 3 on D.P. 11609, and Parts of Lots 3, 4, & 5 on D.P. 86, being Parts of Kohukohu Block, & P.C.L. in Proc. 2938

SURVEY BLK. 0 DIST. X. MANGAMUKA LAND DISTRICT NTH. AUCKLAND. LOCAL BODY KOHUKOHU TOWN. DIST. Scale: 50 links to an inch. Compiled in Survey Office Date: Dec. 1941

Received by *[Signature]*
 Receipt No. 331-42. Date: 12 May 1947.
 File No. 42.
 Instructions.
 Reference plans.
 Field book *[Signature]*
 Traverse book
 Examined by *[Signature]*
 Recorded on 20th Dec. 1947.
 Plan in order for approval.
 Date: 17/12/47.

Registered Surveyor and holder of an annual practising certificate,
 I hereby certify that this plan has been made from surveys executed by me; that both plan and survey are correct and have been
 made in accordance with the regulations under the Surveyors Act, 1938
 Dated at this Any of 19...
 Registered Surveyor

Approved
[Signature]
 Chief Surveyor: 17/12/47
32541

Temp. Rec. Res: Gaz. 42 p. 2526
 Perm. 43 p. 7
 Vested Kohukohu Town Board Gaz. 43 p. 671 (Proc. 11356)

Appendix: Background Information for Kohukohu Bridge

Source Material:

Kohukohu on the Hokianga harbour, 1839. This painting is by Charles Heaphy and shows G.F. Russell's house and timber yard at Kohukohu, Hokianga Harbour, with a ship and a barque, the Francis Spaight (nearer vessel) and the Bolina (on the left) loading kauri spars; and a row-boat hauling spars. On the hill behind is dense native forest.

(Ref: <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/kohukohu-hokianga>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 13-Jan-2016)



Appendix: Background Information for Kohukohu Bridge

Source Material:

Undated photograph that has been attributed to A.C. Yarborough (1847 – 1925) showing full extent of the bridge before reclamation (Source: Heritage New Zealand registration form).



Appendix: Background Information for Kohukohu Bridge

Source Material:

Modern photo of the visible extent of the bridge (Ref: <https://en.wikipedia.org>, accessed 30/03/2016)



Appendix: Background Information for Kohukohu Bridge

Source Material:	New Zealand Heritage List Entry Information (#7741)
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Kohukohu Road, Waihouuru (or Waihouora) Stream, Kohukohu**List Entry Information**

List Entry Status Listed List Entry Type Historic Place Category 1

List Number 7741 Date Entered 4th April 2008



Registration includes part of the land described as Sec 57 and Pt Lot 2 DP 23934, Blk X Mangamuka SD, North Auckland Land District, and the structure known as Stone Bridge, Kohukohu thereon. It includes those parts of the bridge that are currently under the soil. (Refer to Extent of Registration Map in Appendix 1 of the Registration Report for further information).

City/District Council Far North District
Region Northland Region

Legal description

Sec 57 (NZ Gazette 1977, p.397) and Pt Lot 2 DP 23934, Blk X Mangamuka SD (NZ Gazette 1981, p.1917), North Auckland Land District.

Location description

The bridge crosses the Waihouuru Creek between Kohukohu School and the Kohukohu Bowling Club green.

Summary

This simple arched stone footbridge is one of the oldest stone bridges in New Zealand: it is thought to be the oldest stone arch bridge in New Zealand and the oldest surviving bridge in New Zealand. It 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.

Its 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 Pandora, in October 1851. It is not shown on a sketch plan drawn in December 1842. 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.

Historical Significance or Value

Appendix: Background Information for Kohukohu Bridge

As the oldest surviving bridge in New Zealand and the oldest stone arch bridge, this bridge has outstanding historical value in the history of New Zealand.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OR VALUE:

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 significant opportunity for archaeological investigation of both the extant portion of the bridge and its buried approaches.

TECHNOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OR VALUE:

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

a) The extent to which the place reflects important or representative aspects of New Zealand history

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.

(g) The technical accomplishment or value, or design of the place

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 attain-able 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.

(i) The importance of identifying historic places known to date from early periods of New Zealand settlement

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.

(j) The importance of identifying rare types of historic places

As the oldest surviving bridge in New Zealand and the first known stone arch bridge, this bridge is unique.

Summary of Significance or Values

This place was assessed against, and found it to qualify under the following criteria: a, g, i, j.

Conclusion

In several aspects of this assessment, this bridge has been assessed as having 'outstanding' significance. It 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 considered that this place qualifies as a Category I historic place.

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.