

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** BLUESTONE WEIR

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** off Hamilton- Port Fairy Road BYADUK NORTH

**STUDY NUMBER:** 199

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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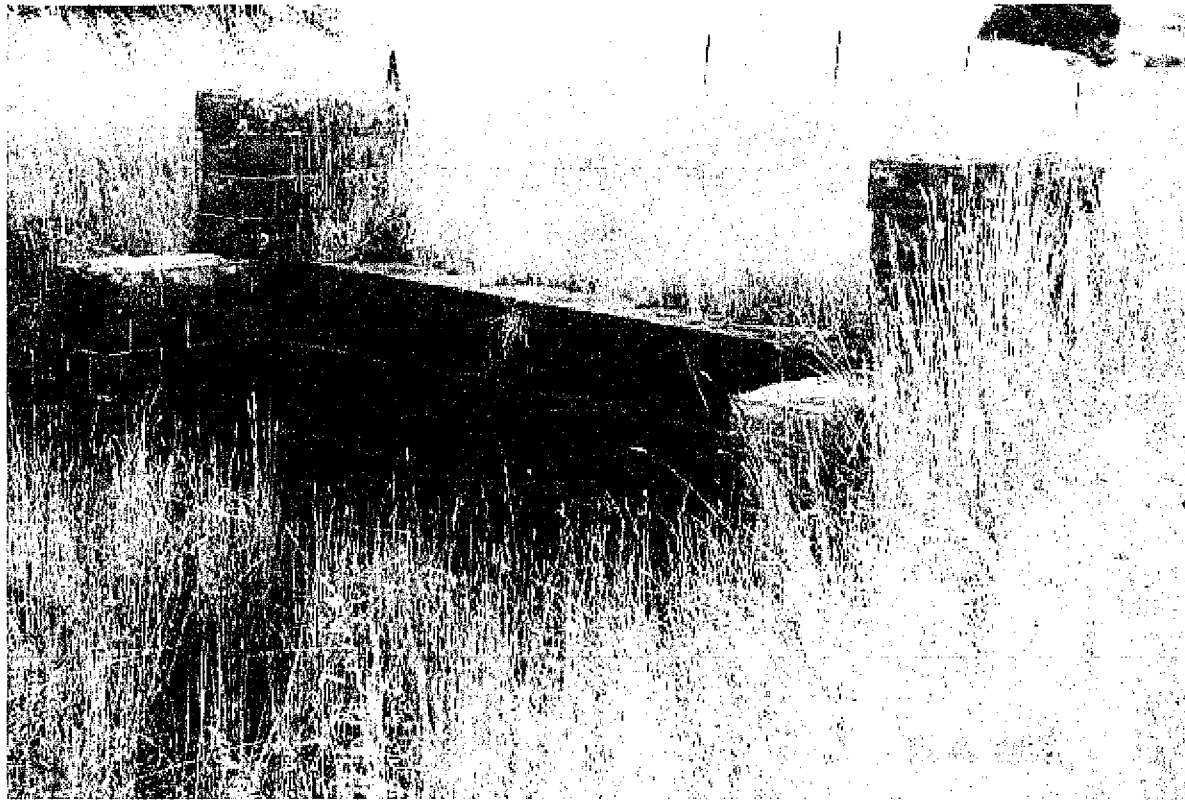
**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 473 D; Vicroads72 H8; located approximately 150m east of the Hamilton-Port Fairy Road opposite the North Byaduk fire station.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Bluestone Weir, Hamilton - Port Fairy Road, Byaduk North

**Image Date:** 28/03/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the works and an area of 1,000sq m around the weir.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The bluestone weir is located about 150 metres northeast of the Hamilton-Port Fairy Road, adjacent to an unnamed road reserve opposite the North Byaduk Fire Station.

The structure is built of dressed bluestone, and reveals a high level of skill in the stone masonry. It consists of two stone piers on either side of a narrow gully, with a stepped stone wall of approximately 2 metres in height. The width of the structure is about 2 metres. The ground behind the weir is solid, suggesting that the gully has silted up over the years to the height of the weir wall.

## **HISTORY:**

The weir is built on a narrow watercourse which appears on the Parish Plan dated 1951 as a water reserve.

There is a possibility that the stone work was executed by Edward Stephens, a well known stone mason, responsible for several major structures in the area including St Ronan's, Hamilton, Alexandra House, Hamilton, Clunie woolshed, Harrow and Kanawalla woolshed. The ascribing of the work to Stephens is based on comparisons of the techniques and style that he used on these known examples of his craft.

The weir may have been built after 1857. Stephens was active in his trade around the district from the late 1850s to 1880s. He obtained a block of land at North Byaduk when the township was surveyed.

## **CONDITION:**

The bluestone weir is in excellent condition.

## **INTEGRITY:**

high degree of integrity

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The bluestone weir is located about 150 metres northeast of the Hamilton-Port Fairy Road at North Byaduk. The structure, dating from after 1857, is built of dressed bluestone, and reveals a high level of skill in the stone masonry. It consists of two stone piers on either side of a narrow gully, with a stepped stone wall of approximately 2 metres in height. The width of the structure is about 2 metres. The ground behind the weir is solid, suggesting that the gully has silted up over the years to the height of the weir wall. The weir retains a high level of integrity and is in good condition.

How is it significant?

The bluestone weir at North Byaduk is of historical, architectural and scientific significance to the district of Byaduk and the Southern Grampians Shire..

Why is it significant?

The bluestone weir at North Byaduk is of historical significance as an example of early water management. It is of further historical significance for its associations with Edward Stephens, resident of North Byaduk, who was responsible for some of the finest stone masonry in the Hamilton district. It is of architectural significance for its excellent stone masonry. It is of scientific interest as a sophisticated attempt at hydraulic engineering in the nineteenth century.

## **COMPARISON:**

453 Glenisla Weir, off Red Rock Creek Road, Glenisla

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ASSESSED BY: mgt

ASSESSMENT DATE:

28-Mar-02

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Departments of Lands and Survey	Township of Byaduk Parish of Byaduk County of Normanby	1951	
Geoff Stephens	Personal Communication	2002	