

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** RAILWAY BRIDGE (FORMER)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Scott Street extension CAVENDISH

**STUDY NUMBER:** 381

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** Cavendish

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 432J G3; VicRoads 228 H7; located at the western end of the Scott Street extension crossing the Wannon River.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Railway Bridge, off Scott Street, Cavendish

**Image Date:** 2/11/01

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the structure, its abutments and approaches and all the land on either side for 50m.

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## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The timber bridge is constructed with a series of trestles, comprising two uprights, two angled braces and two diagonal ties. There are abutments at either end. The floor of the bridge is timber.

## HISTORY:

"A railway linking the Wimmera with Portland was first proposed in 1889 but nothing was done for many years. Work was started on a line in 1912 from Hamilton to Cavendish to serve an area of Closer Settlement. After much investigation and political maneuvering it was decided to link the two lines through Balmoral. The extension to Balmoral was opened in 1919, but it was not until 19th November 1920 that the line was completed" (Harris, 17). The rail bridge over the Wannan River at Cavendish was an integral part in linking Hamilton and Balmoral. It is thought that the bridge was constructed between 1918 and 1920.

## THEMATIC CONTEXT:

3 Developing local, regional and national economies  
3.8.6 Building and maintaining railways

## CONDITION:

The bridge is in good condition

## INTEGRITY:

high degree of intactness

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

### What is Significant?

The timber trestle Railway Bridge over the Wannan River was constructed between 1918-1920 to link the Hamilton and Balmoral lines. The bridge used conventional trestle construction and is not of particular structural significance, although it was perhaps the major work on the Hamilton-Cavendish section. With the advent and improvement of motor transport, the passenger and goods trade went into decline and the line closed in 1977. There has been no engineer or builder associated with the design. The bridge remains in good condition and retains a high degree of integrity.

### How is it Significant?

The trestle Railway Bridge over the Wannan River at Cavendish is of historical significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

### Why is it Significant?

The trestle Railway Bridge over the Wannan River at Cavendish is of historical significance as a reminder of the critically important rail link between Melbourne and places northwest of Hamilton of which the bridge was a critical element. It has further historical significance for its association with the timber industry, which was flourishing in the area as a result of the railway.

## COMPARISON:

291 Hamilton-Penshurst Railway Bridge, Spring Creek, Tabor  
431 Railway Bridge (former), Brung Brungle Road, Wannan

**ASSESSED BY:** TFH

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

13-Jan-04

## EXISTING LISTINGS:

## HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

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**No Recommendations for Inclusions**

## REFERENCES:

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Page</b>
Don Garden	Hamilton, a Western District History	1984	var.
G. McGaffin	History of the Shire of Wannan	1972	40-1