



# Blakeney Bridge

Municipal Class EA Screening Results  
for Heritage Bridges,  
Built Heritage & Heritage Cultural Landscapes

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14 November 2022

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# Heritage Bridge Evaluation for the Municipal Class EA (MCEA) Process (2020)

Project Name: Blakeney Bridge Reconstruction

Municipality: Mississippi Mills

Address: Lot 26, Concession IX, Township of Ramsay, County of Lanark (just west of Blakeney, 8 km downstream from Almonte and 11 km upstream from Pakenham), 139 Blakeney Road, Mississippi Mills

Owner: County of Lanark

Structure Name: Blakeney Bridge

Date of Construction: 1915 (replacing an 1830s bridge)

# Study Area

**Source: Google maps, 2022,  
annotation by Contentworks.**

**The study area extends approximately  
200 m from the centre bridge in all  
directions.**



# MCEA Process Heritage Screening – Blakeney Bridge

**Timber bridge at Blakeney, [1910]. The bridge appears to have been in place continuously since the 1830s. Source: "Pic of the Past," in Hilda Geddes, *The Canadian Mississippi River*, General Store Publishing House, p. 249. Courtesy of Archives Lanark.**



**View of Blakeney Bridge, November 2022**



# MCEA Process Heritage Screening Result - Bridge

## **Blakeney Bridge**

The existing bridge was constructed in 1915 to replace an 1830s bridge; the current bridge uses a standard engineering approach - concrete substructure (piers and abutment walls), rigid frame steel and concrete superstructure, and plain steel barrier walls/railings.

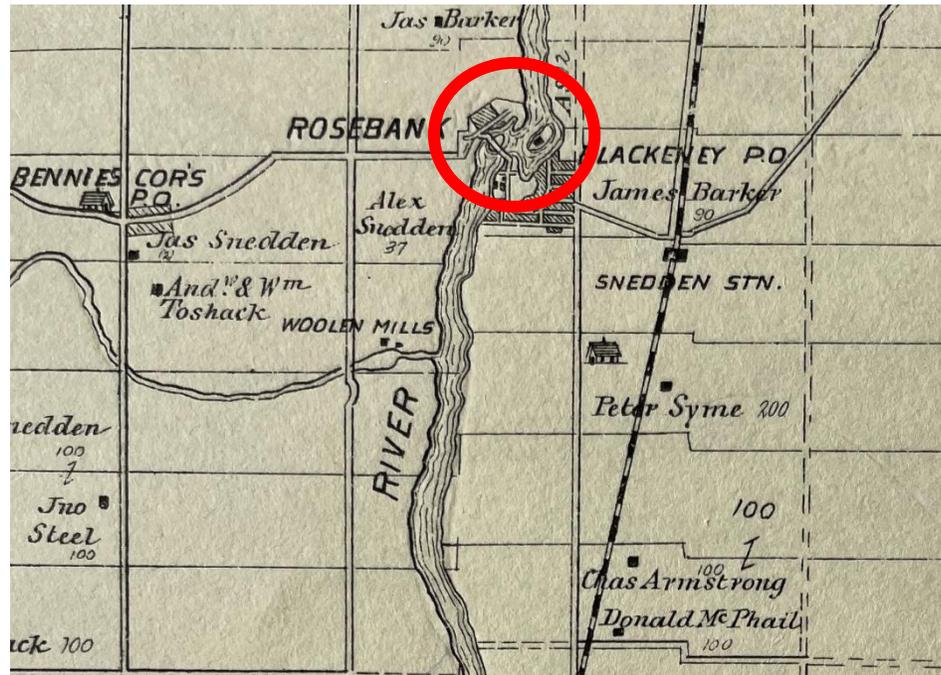
Blakeney Bridge has not been identified previously by the municipality or any other community or level of government as being of potential cultural heritage value or interest.

## **Result**

As per the Municipal Class EA process, the bridge is over 40 years old and must be the subject of a cultural heritage evaluation report (CHER) that includes heritage conservation mitigation measures that should be considered for any interventions (including replacement) of the bridge.

# MCEA Process Heritage Screening – Cultural Heritage Landscape

Illustrated atlas of Lanark County, 1880. H. Belden & Co., reprint 1972. Richardson, Bond & Wright, Owen Sound, Ont.



## Interpretation panel installed at Blakeney Park

**BLAKENEY, ONTARIO: Over 150 years ago...**

When the first settlers arrived in this area in 1821, they recognized the potential for developing water power here in the "Bay" area of the Mississippi River. They built a sawmill, gristmill, and a timber slide to divert logs from the rapids into the "Bay" and on to calmer water. An inn at the Ninth Line corner provided lodging for those heading north to the lumber camps.

Known variously as Norway Pine Falls, Snedden's Mills, and Rosebank, the village received its present name of Blakeney in 1874. In 1865, the B & O railroad was extended towards Arnprior, passing near the village and opening up markets, so that by the late 1800s, Blakeney was a hive of activity with a flour mill, a large woolen factory, a sawmill, a cheese factory, a Presbyterian Church and manse, and a general store & post office. The original log bridge, which provided a vital crossing for the Bytown Road, was replaced with the present one in 1918.

Nothing remains of the early industries but stone foundations, but many new houses have been added to the homes of the early inhabitants, creating a pleasant hamlet in what is now the Ramsay Ward of the Town of Mississippi Mills.

**Legend**

1. Snedden Stopping Place
2. Snedden Stone House (later Cheese Factory)
3. Glover's Cooper's Shop
4. Fenlon's Hotel (later Cheese Factory, then Nontell's Dance Hall)
5. Conford's Cobbler Shop
6. Marshall's Sawmill (later Wm. Snedden's)
7. Dam for Sawmill
8. Storehouse for Woolen Mill
9. Gomersall & Littlewood Brewery
10. McDougall Woolen Mill (later P.J. Campbell's)
11. Gomersall's Tannery (site of first sawmill)
12. Bridge to Pine Isle
13. Livery Stables
14. Merilees Home
15. Oatmeal Mill
16. Flour & Grist Mill
17. Site of first gristmill
18. Timber Slide
19. Peter McDougall's House
20. General Store & Post Office
21. Blakeney Presbyterian Church (later United)
22. Church Manse
23. Usher's Home
24. York's Store
25. Orange Hall
26. Blacksmith Shop (Harry James)
27. Snedden's Station

Erected in 2010 by the Ramsay Women's Institute.  
For more information: [www.ramsaywi.ca](http://www.ramsaywi.ca)

Ontario With permission from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

# MCEA Process Heritage Screening Result – Cultural Heritage Landscape

## **Study Area**

The study area for this project is defined as all lands and waters within a 200m radius the centre of the bridge. This area includes views to the bridge from the shores and water.

Blakeney Park and views to the bridge are well-known regionally for their scenic and recreation value.

Blakeney Park appears to be of cultural heritage interest to the community, due to the presence of interpretation about the history of the area and the collection of historic relics in the park.

No other properties in the study area appear to have been identified previously as being of cultural heritage value or interest by any community or level of government, and no property in the study area is included in the Heritage Register of Mississippi Mills (as per the Community Map tool).

## **Result**

Blakeney Park will be considered in the CHER for Blakeney Bridge.

# Requirements

- Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report
  - Pending further research, a CHER will be required to evaluate the cultural heritage value of the Blakeney Bridge and its cultural heritage landscape
  - The criteria to be used is Reg. 9/06 of the Ontario Heritage Act.
  - The CHER will consider potential impacts from the proposed project on the heritage attributes of the bridge and/or landscape and identify potential mitigation measures.
  - If recommendations from CHER are followed, no further action is required for the purposes of the MCEA.