

Jonston Bridge

(Amaranth Structure No. 12)



Photograph by Melissa Davies, 2012

General Information	Physical Details
Bridge No. A1	Type: Concrete Bowstring Arch
Ownership: Township of Amaranth	Span: Single
Construction Date: c.1929	Dimensions: 5.5m Width
Water Crossing: Willow Brook	Materials: Reinforced Concrete



Evaluation Form		Check
Design/Physical Value		
I. Is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method		✓
II. Displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit		
III. Demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement		
Historic/Associative Value		
I. Has direct association with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to the community		
II. Yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of the community or culture		✓
III. Demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, engineer, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community		✓
Contextual Value		
I. Is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area		✓
II. Is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings		
III. Is a landmark		

General Description

Jonston Bridge is located on 6th Line, 0.2 km south of 15th Sideroad. It was constructed circa 1929 and represents one of only two remaining concrete bowstring arch bridges in the Township of Amaranth, along with Sproules Bridge. It was engineered by Christie & Beattie. Jonston Bridge is paired with the very similar Keldon Bridge in the neighbouring Town of Grand Valley, which was also engineered by Christie & Beattie, designed in the same style and constructed in the same year.

The bowstring design was popular in the early 1900s as it required minimal material, was simple to install, represented newer construction materials and could easily accommodate vehicular traffic. Many of these structures were built in the Grand River watershed, however they are quickly disappearing due to demolition and replacement with wider, more load-bearing structures.

While of a basic type, there is considerable variety among bowstring truss structures. The concrete trusses on Jonston Bridge are shallow and thick. Solid railing walls merge into the arch and display decorative embossed squares and a slightly protruding capped end post. The railings located in the centre of the arch are open balustrades that span between each stringer. The thin board finish is still visible in the concrete.

Sources: *Township of Amaranth 2008 Structure Inventory*
Grand River Watershed - Bridge in MCzCR Inventory
Discovering Heritage Bridges on Ontario Roads, David Cuming, 1983
MCL List of Heritage Bridges, March 22, 1994

