

# Appendix A: Ontario Heritage Bridge Program

In the 1980s, the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Culture and Communication created a set of criteria to evaluate the heritage potential of bridges. The criteria are outlined below and as extracted from the 1991 publication entitled "Ontario Heritage Bridge Program".

## 1. Documentation

### Builder

a) Unknown-----	0	
b) Known; undetermined contribution	2	Companies, engineers, builders about which there is little present information may be elevated to categories c) and d) as knowledge increases.
c) Known: prolific builder-designer	4	Companies, engineers, builders responsible for large numbers of bridges utilizing standard forms, elements e.g. Ontario Department of Highways, Wrought Iron Bridge Co, Dominion Bridge Building Co.
d) Know unusual designer	6	Innovative companies, engineers, builders having major impacts on the development of bridge design, e.g. W.A. McLean; Barber and Young; Ontario Department of Highways.
<b><u>Maximum Total Score</u></b>	<b>6</b>	

The above criterion recognizes the value placed by society on the age of artifacts. Old structures, irrespective of whether they are ill or well designed, are often seen to have value simply because they still remain in our environment. Given the physical legacy of 120 years of bridge building, radical changes in pace and form of physical development prove a threat to many bridges built as late as the 1950's.

### Age

pre 1880	14
1880-1900	12
1901-1910	10
1911-1920	8
1921-1930	4
1931-1940	2
<b><u>Maximum Total Score</u></b>	<b>14</b>

Points may be awarded when the date can be accurately determined from date plates, newspaper accounts, plans, etc. When date can only be estimated from design/materials it may be necessary subtract one point.

## 2. Technology

### Materials

Wrought iron and stone are afforded high priority because these materials are no longer in use. Category "Other" means only materials not normally used in bridges or that have not gained favour, as well as unusual combinations of materials used in superstructure, piers or abutments.

a) Wrought Iron	4
b) Stone	4
c) Other (not normally in use)	4
<b><u>Maximum Total Score</u></b>	<b>4</b>

### Design/Style

a) Unique	16	The only one of its kind. It may be eccentric, old, an exaggerated version by virtue of its size, sophistication, use of a particular truss type. e.g. Sioux Narrows, Burlington Skyway.
b) Typical: but rare as a survivor	16	In any given period many bridges will be built which are typical of their age, being neither unique nor unusual. The ravages of time, climate and changing transportation requirements may have seen a number of such bridges disappear. The survivors may now be rare.
c) Unusual	16	Included here are bridges of which only a small number may have been built and perhaps a smaller number now remain. e.g. suspension spans, stone arches.
<b><u>Maximum Total Score</u></b>	<b>16</b>	

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## 3. Prototype

a) Prototype	10	A bridge may possess a technological or stylistic innovation or adaption, which marks it as a first of a type, an early example or an important improvement. e.g. reinforced concrete bridge at Massey: concrete bowstring arch, Etobicoke.
B) Early example	10	
<b><u>Maximum Total Score</u></b>	<b>10</b>	

## 4. Structural Integrity

a) No significant modifications	10	Bridges are often on, hydrological. Those that have escaped unchanged are more often than not a rarity and thus of importance in illustrating their original forms. Many bridges may have been modified over the years to the extent that they are no longer recognizable.
b) Sympathetic modifications	5	A few however, may still be able to illustrate their original form because of sympathetic modifications e.g. QEW widening/Bronte Creek; unobtrusive strengthening in Blackfriars Bridge, or other renovation and repair work.
<b>Maximum Total Score</b>	<b>10</b>	

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## 5. Visual Appeal

a) Design merits	10	This criterion addresses the intrinsic worth of a structure beyond its technological and functional characteristics. It may be an attractive structure because it is well designed and admirably fitted to a particular site. e.g. Sioux Narrows, Massey, Bronte Creek/QEW. Such a structure will always add to its environment rather than detract. The removal of such a structure would be detrimental to the ambiance of the setting.
B) Ornamentation/Decoration	2	Decoration or ornamentation, whether discreet or ostentatious, adds visual interest to the structure. It may appear in sculptured forms, belustrading light standards, piers, cross members, portals. etc.
<b>Maximum Total Score</b>	<b>12</b>	

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## 6. Integrity

a) At original location	4	Original locations are often benchmarks in the past development of a particular environment, and they often contribute to a strong sense of place.
<b>Maximum Total Score</b>	<b>4</b>	

## 7. Landmark

a) Physical prominence	6	A bridge may be a visually prominent feature in the landscape, either from the road or some other vantage point. Landmarks may be used by people as guides for moving through an area, or more simply for adding interest in the environment. e.g. Welland Canal lift bridges, Skyway etc.
b) Public perception	6	Bridges may be perceived as landmarks in the community and have a symbolic importance rather than a purely visual or aesthetic value.

<b>Maximum Total Score</b>	6
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## 8. Gateway

a) Entrance/exit occurrence	4	In some instance, particularly urban areas, certain bridges may assume the function of a gateway, albeit quasi, emphasizing to drivers and pedestrians that they are entering into or leaving a specific area. The Gateway function may be recognized as either a funneling phenomena as at Caledonia, or as a prominent superstructure on the road, e.g. Port Colborne, Hamilton.
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<b>Maximum Total Score</b>	4
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## 9. Character Contribution

4	A bridge, together with other buildings or structures, may contribute to a particular character or atmosphere of an area. This is more readily identifiable in certain places than others. e.g. stone bridges, St. Marys.
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<b>Maximum Total Score</b>	4
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## 10. Historical Association

a) Associated with person /group	10	Associated with the life or activities of a person or group that has made a significant contribution to the community, province or nation, e.g. entrepreneurs, politician.
b) Associated with event	10	Associated with a significant event that contributed to the future activities of a community, province or nation, e.g. road building programs, public work projects.
c) Associated with theme	10	Associated with and illustrative of significant patterns of cultural, social, political, economic or industrial history, e.g. Depression era, urban growth.
d) Associated with former bridges	10	Associated with former bridge that have served the same site or locale, i.e. a traditional river crossing.
<b><u>Maximum Total Score</u></b>	10	