Centre Wellington Bridge 12-N

Photograph by Melissa Davies, 2012

General Information	Physical Details
Bridge No. CW19	**Type**: Earth-filled Concrete Arch
Ownership: Township of Centre Wellington	**Span**: Single
Construction Date: 1925	**Dimensions**: 10.3m x 6.2m (LxW)
Water Crossing: Irvine Creek	**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

Centre Wellington Bridge 12-N is located on Washington Street, 0.3 km north of Wellington Road 18. It was constructed in 1925 and is one of only two remaining earth-filled concrete arch bridges in the Township of Centre Wellington, along with Old Fourth Line Bridge. It features concrete railings with decorative embossed circles and chamfered balustrades.

Arched bridges are one of the oldest bridge forms and are very efficient at supporting large loads over a long period of time. Most of the early activity in concrete bridge construction in Ontario focused on the earth-filled, solid spandrel arch form. This bridge type gained in popularity because they were easy and inexpensive to build. However, the popularity of solid spandrel bridges appears to have declined after 1919, although they continued to be built in small numbers into the 1930s since it was still an economic structure in circumstances where solid ground permitted adequate foundations. This was the case for Centre Wellington Bridge 12-N as existing limestone was used to form an abutment base on the west side of the bridge, a unique feature. Concrete was used to form the abutment on the east side of the bridge.

Many of these early 20th century earth-filled concrete arches have been removed from the Province's roads because they are too narrow to meet modern traffic needs. As a result, solid spandrel concrete arch bridges in active use, such as Centre Wellington Bridge 12-N, are now considered rare survivors.

Sources: *Township of Centre Wellington 2008 Structure Inventory Data*
Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report: Benham Bridge, Unterman McPhail Associates, July 2010