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## Denison Bridge

location Over the Macquarie River at Bathurst,  
New South Wales.

owner Bathurst City Council

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the plaque

type **Historic Engineering Marker**

location On a granite boulder in the rest park at  
the eastern approach to Bathurst.

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The first Denison Bridge was a three-span laminated bowstring arch structure opened by Governor Denison on New Year's Day 1856. Unfortunately it was washed away by the great flood of June 1867. Newly arrived engineer Gustavus Morell already knew about the structural and economic merits of American bridges and had design concepts for Pratt truss bridges rather than the traditional British iron lattice bridges. He therefore quickly finalised details for a new American-style iron bridge at Bathurst.

plaque text

### **Denison Bridge**

The American Pratt trusses on this bridge were the first of their type in New South Wales, a break from contemporary British technology. The innovative design of the bridge was prepared in 1865 by Public Works Department engineer Gustavus Morell and construction by P N Russell and Company took place during 1868–70. The structure proved the capabilities of colonial engineering skills and provided access from Bathurst and western districts to Sydney for 123 years.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia and the Bathurst City Council, 1995.

### ***Gustavus A Morell***

*G A Morell came to the colony of New South Wales in 1863 and entered Government service designing defence works and bridges including the second Denison Bridge at Bathurst. Later, in partnership with M J E Kemp, he became a well-known and respected consulting engineer. The firm was responsible for many of the prominent buildings constructed in Sydney at the time.*

*In 1885 he was appointed President of the Royal Commission into the safety of some major railway bridges. A co-member of the Commission was Professor Warren of Sydney University.*

*Gustavus Morell died in Sydney in 1888.*

