

Mitchell's Pass and Lennox's Horseshoe Bridge, Lapstone

location Over Lapstone Creek on Mitchell's Pass at Lapstone, New South Wales.

owner City of Blue Mountains

the plaque

type **Historic Engineering Marker**

location Attached to bridge parapet at roadway level.

plaque text

Mitchell's Pass and Lennox's Horseshoe Bridge, Lapstone

This road and bridge, allowing easy ascent of the Blue Mountains, formed the route of the Great Western Highway for 93 years from 1833, and opened up western NSW. Surveyor-General Major Thomas Mitchell discovered the Pass and aligned the road; David Lennox supervised building the bridge. The bridge over Lapstone Creek is the oldest surviving stone arch bridge on the Australian mainland. It was strengthened and repaired in 1982 with an internal concrete structure.

The Institution of Engineers, Australia, Blue Mountains City Council, 2002.



Sir Thomas Livingston Mitchell (1792–1855)

Mitchell was born in Scotland and served in the Peninsular war before emigrating in 1827 to NSW. As Surveyor General he surveyed and built main roads linking Sydney with the pastoral lands to the south and west

He went on to conduct a series of expeditions to explore the south and west of the colony, as far as the Darling River to the west and the mouth of the Glenelg River in the south.



David Lennox (1788–1873)

Lennox trained as a stonemason in Britain before emigrating to Sydney in 1832. His first major project in Australia was the stone bridge at Lapstone. On its completion, he was appointed Superintendent of Bridges and was responsible for designing and building many more bridges in NSW.

In 1844 he was appointed Superintendent of Bridges at Port Phillip. He constructed 53 bridges there, before retiring to Parramatta in 1853.