

Victoria Pass

location Great Western Highway, west of Mount Victoria, New South Wales.

owner Roads and Traffic Authority of New South Wales

the plaques

type **National Engineering Landmark and Information Plaques**

location On monument on the southern side of the roadway at the top of the pass.

The most outstanding original structure of the Victoria Pass is the stone-walled causeway known as Mitchell's Bridge, still in use as part of the highway.

plaque text

Victoria Pass

Surveyor-General Major Thomas Mitchell identified this line of road and ordered its construction to bypass the steeper descent at Mount York. The road with its massive stone-walled causeway was constructed between 1832 and 1838 by about 300 convicts. Engineering design and supervision were successively under the control of Philip Eliot, John Lamble and John Nicholson. This significant engineering achievement opened up the western districts of New South Wales and has been the principal route since 1832.

The Institution of Engineers, Australia, and Roads and Traffic Authority NSW, 2002



Sir Thomas Livingstone Mitchell (1792–1855)

Mitchell was born in Scotland where he received a good education. He joined the Army, and after serving in the Peninsular war emigrated in 1827 to Australia as a Major and was appointed the assistant Surveyor-General of New South Wales. He became Surveyor General in 1828 and embarked immediately on a program to survey and build main roads linking Sydney with the pastoral lands to the south and west. The road alignments he selected are substantially those in use today.

Mitchell clashed with Governor Darling, but survived Darling's efforts to have him dismissed and punished for insubordination. 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.

