

Lower Silvermine River Historic Flood Protection Measures

*Information from the book by
Malcolm M. Cobern, 1984:
Story of the Fish Hoek Valley;
From the beginning of time.*



The small original bridge over the Silvermine stream, about 1900. In summer, when the stream ceased to flow, sand blocked the mouth. When the stream flowed again in winter, the water backed in flooding the flats.

In an effort to control the flood water a dyke was built from the railway line to far up the valley.

In an effort to try and prevent the Silvermine stream from straying from its normal path, when in flood, the authorities about 1925 built this iron and stone retaining wall about 50 feet from the stream. Although it no longer serves its purpose, its remains are still there. This is a different one from that built by the Railway at a much earlier date.

This wall was strengthened later with corrugated iron sheets, and in places by redundant water tanks filled with sand. Remains of the wall are still visible.

