

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This document outlines the criteria for the assessment of places for entry in the State Register of Heritage Places (the Register). Each place is unique and has its own combination of values, which together show its cultural heritage significance.

The cultural heritage significance of a place comes from its cultural heritage values. The values are assessed by considering the place against various criteria. In determining whether a place has cultural heritage significance to the State of Western Australia, the Heritage Council must have regard to nine criteria, as set out in the *Heritage Act 2018*. These criteria are based on the HERCON (Heritage Convention) criteria, a set of heritage significance criteria that have been gradually adopted around Australia.

The Heritage Council has adopted the following specific definitions of the criteria to assist in refining the assessment of places for the Register.

11(a) Importance in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Western Australia's history

Importance for the density or diversity of cultural features illustrating the human occupation and evolution of the locality, region or the State.

Importance in relation to an event, phase or activity of historic importance in the locality, the region or the State.

11(b) Importance in demonstrating rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Western Australia's heritage

Importance for rare, endangered or uncommon structures, landscapes, archaeological material/features or phenomena.

Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practised in, or in danger of being lost from, or of exceptional interest to, the locality, region or the State.

11(c) Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Western Australia's history

Importance for information/archaeological material contributing to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality, reference or benchmark site.

Importance for its ability through archaeological investigation to reveal obscured fabric due to subsequent alterations or additions and in so doing, reveal aesthetic characteristics of an earlier structure, either through design or setting.

Importance for its potential to yield information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of the locality, region or the State.

11(d) Its importance in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of places;

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a range of landscapes or environments, the attributes of which identify it as being characteristic of its class; for e.g. modernist architecture or, in the case of archaeological sites, being characteristic of a particular type of place/use.

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristic of the range of human activities (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique) in the environment of the locality, region or the State.

11(e) Any strong or special meaning it may have for any group or community because of social, cultural or spiritual associations;

Importance as a place highly valued by a community or cultural group for reasons of social, cultural, religious, spiritual, aesthetic or educational associations.

Importance in contributing to a community's sense of place.

11(f)¹ Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by any group or community;

Importance to a community for aesthetic characteristics.

Importance for its creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement.

Importance for its contribution to the aesthetic values of the setting demonstrated by a landmark quality or having impact on important vistas.

Importance for its contribution to the aesthetic qualities of the cultural environs or the natural landscape within which it is located or importance for its contribution to the natural landscape as part of a cultural environment.

Importance for the aesthetic character created by the individual components that collectively form a significant precinct; that is, streetscape, townscape or cultural environment.

¹ For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

11(g) Any special association it may have with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in Western Australia's history;

Importance for close association with an individual or individuals whose life, works or activities have been significant within the history of the nation, State or region.

11(h) Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement;

Importance as an example of technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement in a particular period.

Important in demonstrating technical innovation or achievement.

11(i) Any other characteristic it may have that in the opinion of the Council is relevant to the assessment of cultural heritage significance.

These definitions align with the sub-criteria previously used to assess places under the now repealed *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990* which have been mapped to their corresponding HERCON criteria.

The Heritage Council is in the process of developing more detailed guidance on the process of assessing places for the Register using these criteria. Guidelines will be published in due course.