

Investigating Heritage Significance

DRAFT GUIDELINE



NSW
Heritage
Office

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THE NSW HERITAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The NSW Government is responsible for the management of our cultural and natural heritage in partnership with local councils and the community. The NSW Heritage Act is the main legislation that governs statutory heritage protection in NSW. The Heritage Council of NSW is established through this Act; the NSW Heritage Office administers the Act.

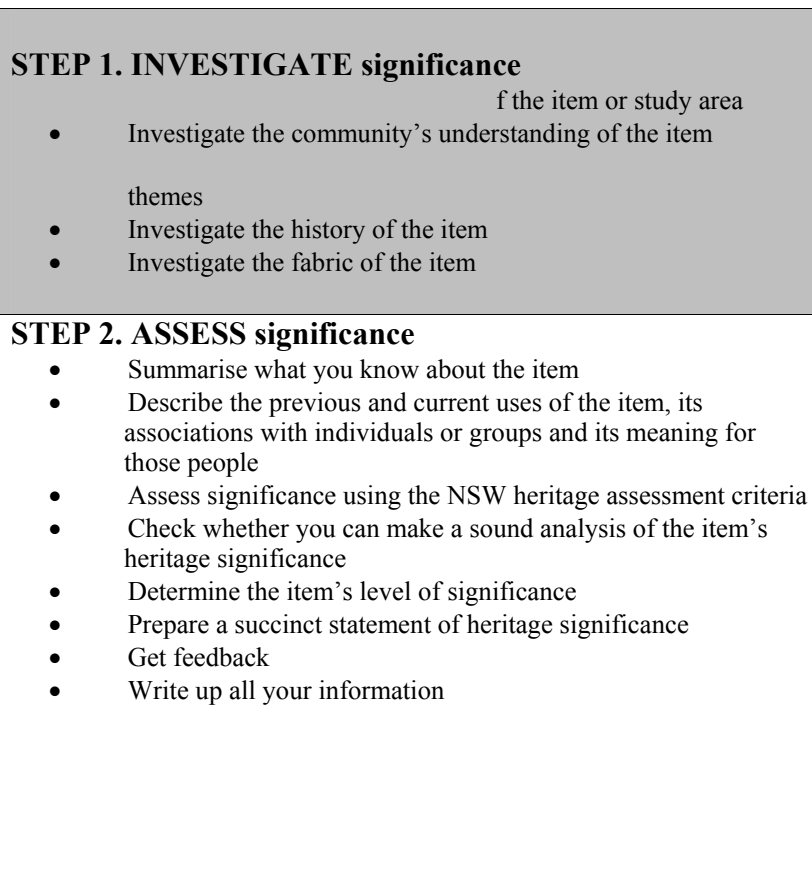
The Act encompasses places, buildings, works, relics, movable objects, precincts and landscapes and heritage items of local or State significance to Aboriginal and other communities.

The NSW heritage management system requires three steps to manage heritage items:

- investigate significance
- assess significance
- manage significance.

The NSW Heritage Manual provides Heritage Council endorsed Guidelines which explains these steps. They apply to all kinds of heritage items, from individual houses and movable items to archaeological and industrial sites, conservation areas, landscapes and natural areas. They also apply to items of any level of significance, from local to world. In practical terms, however, the vast majority of items managed in New South Wales will be of local significance. A smaller number will be of State significance.

The chart below summarises the processes in the NSW heritage management system.



STEP 3. MANAGE significance

- Analyse the management implications of the item's level of significance
- Analyse the constraints and opportunities arising out of the item's significance (including appropriate uses)
- Analyse owner and user requirements
- Prepare conservation and management recommendations
- If any obvious options are not suitable, explain why
- Get feedback from the community
- Analyse statutory controls and their relationship to the item's significance
- Recommend a process for carrying out the conservation and management strategies.

This guideline explains the first step in this process - **investigate significance**. It replaces the guidelines History and Heritage, Investigating History and Investigating Fabric published in the first edition of the *NSW Heritage Manual* in 1996. The 1996 Manual was a comprehensive set of Heritage Council endorsed guidelines explaining the NSW heritage management system. The components of the revised Manual are:

Step 1 INVESTIGATE SIGNIFICANCE

Investigating Heritage Significance – this guideline

Step 2 ASSESS SIGNIFICANCE

Assessing Heritage Significance, 2nd edition, 2001

Step 3 MANAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Altering Heritage Assets

Planning and Heritage

Heritage Planning Practice Notes 1 & 2

Statements of Heritage Impact

Heritage Approvals

Heritage Studies

NSW Government & Heritage

Conservation Management Documents

Heritage Nominations

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Heritage Terms and Abbreviations

Heritage Contacts

Heritage References

COMPANION DOCUMENTS:

Archaeological Assessments

Conservation Areas

Heritage Curtilages

Regional Histories

WHAT IS HERITAGE?

Our heritage consists of the places and objects we have inherited from past generations, and that we want to keep and pass on to future generations.

Heritage items can be landscapes, buildings, structures, relics, objects, places or works. They are valued not simply because they are old, but because they are associated with phases of our history, or people and events of great importance. They may be exceptional for their aesthetic qualities, they may give a community a sense of identity and spiritual connection to place, or they may have the potential to inform us about our cultural history. They may be the best example of their kind or a rare survivor of their type.

The first step in the heritage process is to identify those places and items that appear to be of heritage significance. This is usually done in the form of a heritage study of a local government area or an organisation. Another method is the thematic study, which focuses on a historical process or theme, such as the Aboriginal land rights movement, rural homestead gardens, interwar service stations or postwar migration, and assesses the significance of the remaining evidence of that theme or process.

The investigation process is also the first step in preparing a conservation management plan or a statement of heritage impact for an individual item.

WHY INVESTIGATE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE?

Before making decisions about the future of a heritage item it is first necessary to understand its heritage values. Understanding the heritage values of a place can provide an owner, steward or manager with greater confidence in the decisions they should then make to conserve these values, and in choosing which kinds of changes are possible or desirable, and which are not. This in turn can help to defuse tensions between owners, stewards and the community over proposed changes to heritage items. Heritage assessments can only be made when all the evidence associated with the item is gathered together.

WHEN TO INVESTIGATE SIGNIFICANCE

Investigating significance is a necessary prelude to assessing the heritage significance of an item. As in detective work we need to draw together all available information about the item in question before we can properly assess its importance.

There are five main situations when investigations need to be made:

1. making decisions about changing or retaining an item;
2. preparing a heritage study (see the *Heritage Studies* guide in the *NSW Heritage Manual*);
3. preparing a conservation management plan (see the *Conservation Management Documents* guide in the *NSW Heritage Manual*);
4. considering an item for listing on the State Heritage Register or on a local environmental plan; or
5. preparing a statement of environmental effects or a heritage or environmental impact statement as part of the development approval process (see the *Heritage Approvals* and *Statements of Heritage Impact* guides in the *NSW Heritage Manual*)

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

Aboriginal heritage includes the sites, places, objects, stories and documents that relate to the long history of Aboriginal occupation and use of the continent before and after European colonisation. Cultural heritage is the value people have given to items, knowledge, places and whole landscapes through their associations with those items, places and landscapes. These associations may be traditional, historical or contemporary in nature. (As noted in the National Parks & Wildlife Service's *Mining Guidelines*, 1994).

The protection of Aboriginal heritage objects and places within NSW are dealt with under the following legislation:

- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*
- *Heritage Act 1977*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is responsible for the protection and preservation of all Aboriginal places and objects in NSW under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. The DEC maintains the Aboriginal Heritage Inventory Management System (AHIMS) register. It is important to consult with DEC initially on any matters relating to Aboriginal heritage.

The Heritage Office is able to provide an extra level of protection beyond that provided by the DEC Register, by listing places of high cultural value and importance to Aboriginal people to the State Heritage Register.

The State Heritage Register is very different from the AHIMS register, both in its role and in the legislative protection it provides. The AHIMS register includes a database and recording cards for all Aboriginal objects, Aboriginal places and other Aboriginal heritage values in NSW that have been reported to the NPWS and a database index of archaeological reports and a library of these reports. The State Heritage Register does not list site specific items such as midden sites, scarred trees or other objects, but enables Aboriginal communities to celebrate and recognize significant places that are important to their historical, social, cultural and spiritual associations and values.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

Archaeological significance is part of the heritage significance of many land-based heritage items. A separate guideline, *Archaeological Assessments*, explains the processes involved in the investigation of archaeological sites. Archaeological investigations should only be carried out by qualified historical archaeologists.

There are 1,800 recorded shipwrecks along the coast of NSW and an estimated 300 in inland lakes and rivers. Other underwater archaeological sites include aircraft and the footings and deposited material associated with wharves, jetties and sites drowned beneath dam waters. Investigations of shipwrecks and other underwater sites should only be prepared by qualified maritime archaeologists.

MOVABLE HERITAGE

Movable item collections are generally associated with a significant heritage place, or are conserved in collecting institutions. Some individual items, such as transport vehicles, may have heritage significance, either individually or collectively.

Movable items include furniture, fittings and garden ornaments, such as crinkle wire trellis work, arbors and garden furniture.

Refer to *Movable Heritage Principles* for further advice on the investigation of movable items.

NATURAL HERITAGE

Scientific values are particularly important in the conservation of species habitats and ecosystems. Cultural values will be more relevant in those areas where there has been a long or varied interaction between humans and the natural environment. Given Australia's long occupation by Aboriginal people, sites often have both natural and cultural values.

Investigations of natural heritage should take account of the Heritage Council's *Natural Heritage Principles* and the National Parks & Wildlife Service's *Land for Wildlife Notes* and *Land for Wildlife Newsletter*.

SKILLS REQUIRED

Heritage investigations can be carried out by anybody who understands the NSW heritage management process and who has training and experience in the area. What counts is openness to the values of the place under investigation, personal knowledge and experience in assessing the significance of heritage items and places.

Professional heritage consultants, staff from the Heritage Office and council officers or heritage advisers based at your local council can offer valuable assistance.

THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The aim of the NSW heritage management system is to identify and conserve important places and objects that we have inherited so they can be appreciated and enjoyed by future generations. The knowledge and values of the community are therefore important ingredients in the assessment process.

Aboriginal land councils, historical societies, ethnic community organisations, local libraries and museums and larger organisations such as the Institution of Engineers, Australian Garden History Society, Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, Royal Australian Historical Society, Royal Australian Institute of Architects and the National Trust of Australia (NSW) can all provide valuable information for heritage assessments. Relatives and friends of owners and the wider community can provide documents, photographs and informed judgments, all of which can be useful in making comparative analyses.

Community consultation requires a clear focus and a sensitivity to differing and sometimes conflicting values. It is preferable that there is broad community support for heritage investigations and assessments. This will make future management more effective.

THE ROLE OF HISTORY

The relationship between an item and its historical context underlies the investigation process. Historical themes provide a context within which the heritage investigation is conducted, especially if historical values are critical to an understanding of an item's heritage significance.

Local historical themes are usually identified by qualified historians during the preparation of a historical context report prepared as part of a heritage study. State historical themes have been developed by the Heritage Council of NSW to connect local stories to the broader history of NSW. They are listed on Page 18.

Historical themes provide a context within which the heritage significance of an item can be understood, assessed and compared with similar items. Themes help to explain why an item exists, how it has changed and how it relates to other items linked by the theme. As a theme can unite a variety of actions, events, functions, people and dates, it helps to prevent the concentration on a particular type of item, period or event during the investigation process.

Historical themes help in evaluating comparative significance, as like items under like themes can be compared and their rarity or representativeness assessed. Themes such as *events*, *industry*, *social institutions* or *welfare* help in deciding whether historical or social values may be more important to the heritage significance of a building than its aesthetics or research potential.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT REPORTS

An historical context report is usually prepared as the first part of a more extensive significance assessment process, particularly as the first stage of a heritage study prepared for a local council or State government agency. Heritage studies investigate and assess the heritage resources of an area or agency and make recommendations on how they can be managed. As well as producing an inventory of significant heritage items, a heritage study is a tool for the promotion of community or corporate identity through a collective understanding of shared history. It's also a valuable method of engaging communities with the heritage process.

An historical context report can be prepared for a large or small area, or for particular types of items, such as maritime or railway heritage. It should be undertaken for any type or number of heritage items, including a single item or site that is the subject of a conservation management plan. Without this historical background it will not be possible to place an item in its larger cultural and geographical context. This in turn will inhibit the assessment of its heritage significance. For example, a historical context report on Victorian public parks in a region can help to establish the relative significance of any one particular park from that era.

2 THE NSW HERITAGE INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE

The steps in investigating heritage significance are:

INVESTIGATE significance

- Investigate the historical context of the item or study area
- Investigate the community's understanding of the item
- Establish local historical themes and relate them to the State themes
- Investigate the history of the item
- Investigate the fabric of the item.

The methodology described below relates particularly to the investigation of individual items. Usually there are not sufficient funds available to undertake this level of research for the heritage study of a large organisation or a local government area.

Step 1: Investigate the historical context of the item or study area

A heritage item needs to be considered in the context of the history and geography of the area surrounding it. When identifying the heritage item in a given area, a purely visual approach is inadequate. It is important to understand the underlying historical influences that have shaped the area.

The historical significance of an item can be assessed by checking whether it physically demonstrates any of the historical themes that shaped the area in which the item is located. The themes can be used to consider how the item demonstrates heritage values or whether it has research or educational potential. The themes may also give clues as to why a community may hold an item in high esteem.

Using historical themes in this way can be particularly important for large survey and assessment projects, where there may be insufficient resources to allow detailed research for each item. To consider an item in its historical context it is important to identify the links between information known from historical sources and physical evidence identified in the field.

Refer to the Heritage Office publication *Historical Research for Heritage* for further information on useful sources, research materials and repositories.

Step 2:	Investigate the community's understanding of the item
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The purpose of heritage listings and heritage conservation practice is to retain those items and places that the community values. The community, therefore, has a key role in defining the meaning and significance of heritage items and the people associated with them.

Defining what constitutes the 'community' associated with an item or place is the first step in deciding how to tap into this valuable information source. If the place is associated with a particular ethnic group that may seem to be obvious. Certainly that group will be the primary source of information.

But what about the place before, and in some cases after, its association with that group? Contact should be made with Aboriginal communities to find out the associations their ancestors may have had with the place, and those that the present-day Aboriginal community continues to have. Many places may also have associations with more than one group in the wider community. Initial discussion with the primary group should uncover these other associations.

Step 3:	Establish local historical themes and relate them to the NSW themes
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The historical development of an area or item can be understood as occurring in a thematic way. A physical illustration of this can be seen when we think about a landscape, garden, building or arrangement of artefacts as a series of layers, each one representing an earlier or later theme, or historical process. Thinking about a place in terms of themes can help us to understand its significance.

The use of themes helps the historian to consider all periods in the history of an item or area in a heritage study or conservation management plan, not just the most obvious ones. Themes provide the framework for identifying and assessing the remaining physical evidence for each theme on a site or within an area.

The NSW historical themes listed on Page 10 provide the context needed to be able to investigate and assess whether an item is of State heritage significance. They also serve as a useful checklist when preparing local historical context reports.

In many cases the themes identified in historical context reports will parallel the NSW themes. Local themes should be cross-referenced to the NSW themes, as this will assist the comparative analysis and assessment of individual items, especially when using electronic media.

It is useful to identify both the local theme relating to an item and the broader state theme to which it relates. An inner suburban railway station in Sydney, for example, may be considered within the local study theme of *developing railways*, which itself forms a sub-theme of the NSW theme of *transport*.

The themes summarise the historical framework for NSW, but they do not describe physical evidence or items. For example, the theme of *accommodation* refers to the process of land subdivision and building, not to the fact that an area contains houses. Places that are part of a specific housing venture, such as public housing or housing estates, would fall within this theme; individual residences that are not part of these processes would not.

The themes are deliberately general in character. The use of single words to describe a theme allows for their flexible interpretation. The theme of *exploration*, for example, could refer to the early expeditions of Hume & Hovell, to more recent treks in wild areas or to astronomical observation of the skies.

Most heritage items relate to more than one theme, reflecting the way in which the state developed since European settlement. A grandstand, for example, may be considered under the theme of *education*, if it belongs to a school, *religion*, if it is a church school, or *leisure* or *sport* if it is part of a public park. It obviously has sporting significance, but it may be a war memorial (*defence*) or the site may be described in a memorable poem or novel (*creative endeavour*). It may also be the only remaining evidence of an important commercial or industrial enterprise.

Commonly, a combination of some or all of these themes will be applicable. In this way, themes help to clarify the layers of meaning that an item can demonstrate or reveal.

The Australian themes listed on the next page have been developed by the Australian Heritage Commission. It is useful to relate particularly important state heritage items to these themes, especially if an assessment of an item for national significance is being considered.

One way to understand the concept of a thematic approach to the preparation of a history for heritage purposes is to imagine that heritage registers are books providing an illustrated history of the subject, such as the State of NSW or a local government area. Each of the Australian historical themes becomes a volume of the book, and each of the NSW themes is a chapter.

Using this analogy, each chapter is illustrated by the remaining heritage items that can best demonstrate or represent the stories being told in the chapter.

Step 4: Investigate the history of the item
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Historical research and writing always begin with a question that is asked in the present. In heritage work, this usually means questions such as:

- When was this house built?
- Why was this garden designed using these plant species?
- What is that pile of rocks located in that paddock?
- How did these old wharves function?
- We know that Francis Greenway designed it – what else matters?
- This museum has a collection of geological specimens, but why have they been collected?
- How have the place's layout, function and detail changed over time, and why?

It is important to remember that apparently random events or processes in the past can be

situated within historical patterns. It is the role of a historian to describe and analyse those patterns and so provide a context for the artefact or event. This will lead to historical understanding, which can help us to define what is significant about an item.

Historical research aims to find out the ‘facts’ about an item or event. It is a fundamental, though often neglected requirement for identifying and assessing heritage items. Analysing these facts is best done by a professional historian, but this may depend on the complexity or significance of the item. Community historians may have the skills to undertake this work if properly guided by a professional.

A good historian is a good story teller – a dry chronological recitation in the manner of ‘1066 and all that’ will neither enthuse a reader nor contribute to determining the significance of an item or place. History consists of research, analysis and story – obtaining a balance between these components is always a challenge, and even more so in heritage work.

Key sources for historical information include:

- Local council records – for building and development applications, rate books, minute books, service records and commons records
- Local library local studies collection, historical societies and histories
- State government – particularly State Records, Births, Deaths & Marriages, State Library, Land & Property Information NSW, Geographical Names Board & Government Gazette
- Commonwealth government - National Archives, National Library, Australian Heritage Commission’s Australian Heritage Bibliography
- Specialist organisations – National Trust, Australian Garden History Society, Institution of Engineers, Royal Australian Institute of Architects, Royal Australian Historical Society

The Heritage Office publication *Historical Research for Heritage* provides more detailed guidance on suitable sources.

Step 5: Investigate the fabric of the item

For the purposes of heritage investigations, the items themselves can be regarded as three-dimensional documents. Their fabric tells an evocative story that cannot be told from historical records alone. This physical evidence provides an accurate record of what happened rather than what was intended or believed to have happened. The place itself can often tell us more about its history than anything else.

The term ‘fabric’ refers to all the physical material of a place, including its surroundings and contents. Investigation of the fabric should therefore consider all the details of the place, and all the details of any structure, including services such as plumbing. Investigating the fabric can reveal information such as:

- date of land grant / parcel / occupation / approximate date of the site’s layout

- approximate dates of changes to that layout, and what was done
- dates of any subdivisions to the site / land grant / parcel
- past relationship between the item, adjacent items and the surroundings
- original or previous uses
- how the item was used, managed or valued
- approximate dates of changes to the item and what was done
- type and style of design
- ‘hard landscape’ components, such as walls, structures, means of access, buildings
- ‘soft landscape’ components, such as trees, shrubs, ground covers, climbers, weeds
- approximate date of construction or the planting of landscape elements
- significant views to, from or within the item, especially where they are consciously designed, eg a bay window of a living room looking on to a garden vista
- nature of construction and materials used
- original or previous uses
- the item’s research (archaeological) potential
- who may have been involved in its construction, changes or use
- indication of transport system or the relationship of the item to transport routes.

A knowledge of historical periods and of similar types of heritage items is useful in helping to determine the likely construction dates of different parts of a building. Archival documents such as old photographs, aerial photographs for complex or large sites, drawings and written descriptions can also help to explain how a place developed over time.

Before you begin the investigation it is helpful to write down some of the questions you hope the fabric may answer. The historical research and archival documents will help to narrow down the field of enquiry. Draw up a list of the tools you will need, such as base plans, camera, tape measures, clipboard, ladders, safety equipment and protective clothing.

The way the item ‘sits’ in its surroundings can say a lot about its significance. Is it like its neighbours? Was it one of a group or part of a larger complex of items? What is the surrounding environment? How did its setting influence the placement, form, materials, additions or condition of the item? What is the settlement pattern, lot size or character of its setting? Is this property of a similar size and pattern to its surroundings? Has that changed?

Prepare measured drawings if possible and take photographs of all aspects of the item and its setting. This record will be invaluable as a reference for later repairs, stabilisation or other works on the item. The drawings should include a location plan, site plan, floor plans, roof plan, elevations (with north clearly marked), sections and key details. You can show how the place developed over time by using different colours or hatchings for the phases of development.

Photographs should include overall views from a number of different angles and, in the case of buildings, each interior and exterior elevation and key details. Old photographs can be invaluable aids to working out the changes to a site over time. Captions pointing out past features or changes can help a reader understand what has happened.

Aerial photographs taken at different times over a period can be a valuable record of change, particularly in showing changes to layout and vegetation or building cover on a site.

A good tool that will assist you in the assessment phase is a map or diagram of the whole site marked up to show the different elements that make up the site, their date of construction or planting and their relative intactness, and views to and from the site and how these have changed over time.

Disturbance of the fabric could destroy important evidence, so the investigation will need to be carried out in a thorough, careful and professional manner. If you intend to undertake an excavation that potentially could disturb archaeological relics, you will need to apply for a permit from the Heritage Office.

It can help your understanding of the heritage item to know the nature and provenance of its component parts. It is usually not possible to be accurate to the year in dating the construction or planting period, except in relation to the first Australian use of a particular material or a plant's first known availability. For example, corrugated iron roofing was first used in 1850, and grapevines were first sent out from the Sydney Botanic Gardens to important landowners in 1818. Sources for establishing provenance include:

- patents and registered designs
- catalogues for building materials and prefabricated structures
- brands
- trademarks and dates
- tradesperson marks and signatures
- records of botanic gardens and herbaria
- old nursery catalogues (for evidence of plant availability)

Archival designs and drawings can be misleading – buildings are often not constructed exactly as planned!

Learning about earlier decorative schemes that relate to a heritage item can help to explain some of its history, as well as providing guidance for future schemes. This investigation needs to be done with care. Earlier surface finishes are in themselves a valuable archaeological record and should not be completely destroyed. The best option is to find a surface that has been hidden, such as inside built-in cupboards or behind electrical conduits or mounting boxes. The Paint Finishes section of *The Maintenance Series* contains further information on the removal of paint layers.

Similarly, learning about earlier garden or landscape styles, dates of plant introduction and availability can help to explain how a garden or landscape may have appeared, and can aid the selection of appropriate material to reconstruct or maintain it. Terracotta bed edging tiles are often buried under later fill or lawns, and provide clues to earlier garden layouts.

Buried paths often survive below lawns or garden beds, again providing evidence of past layout and materials. Careful archaeological investigation is required to discover evidence of previous garden layout and composition. This may not need excavation, but could rely on research. Specialist information on plant availability, garden design styles, etc. is available from the Australian Garden History Society, the National Trust, the Historic Houses Trust and the Heritage Office.

1 OTHER INFORMATION

USING A STANDARD PROCEDURE

It is important that all heritage investigations in NSW are carried out in accordance with the procedures described in this guideline so that they are:

- accountable and can be tested;
- comparable;
- consistent (because the same process is used in every case across the State); and
- applicable to all types of heritage items.

The Heritage Council, under the Heritage Act, may issue guidelines to assist the process of investigating heritage items. This guideline constitutes this kind of advice.

s include aircraft and the footings and STATUTORY HERITAGE LISTS

Only lists based on legislation have statutory standing in NSW:

- 1 items of local heritage significance listed on schedules to local environmental plans
- 2 items of special significance to the people of NSW listed on the State Heritage Register
- 3 items listed on heritage and conservation registers by State government agencies under s170 of the Heritage Act
- 4 NSW items on the National Heritage List

Items on 3) and 4) may also be included on local environmental plans or the State Heritage Register.

Most of the 20,000 statutory items in NSW are listed by local councils. The majority of the State's local councils have listed heritage items in their local environmental plans.

Statutory lists of heritage items advise owners and the community of special places and objects that are to be conserved and managed for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. Owners of items on these lists need to make an application to a consent authority, such as a local council or the Heritage Council, for statutory approval before they can make major

changes. The consent authority has the responsibility of assessing and approving only those changes that respect the heritage significance of the item.

Most of the items on local heritage schedules are of local heritage significance. But some items listed by local councils are also of State significance. The Heritage Office is working with local councils to find out which of these items should be added to the State Heritage Register.

THE STATE HERITAGE REGISTER

The Register was created in April 1999 as a result of amendments to the Heritage Act, 1977. The Heritage Council seeks public comment before recommending the listing of items to the responsible Minister. Listings are published in the Government Gazette.

The Register will eventually be a comprehensive list of heritage items of significance to the people of NSW.

The Heritage Council is the consent authority for significant changes that affect the heritage significance of items listed on the Register, usually sharing this responsibility with the relevant local council through the Integrated Development Application process.

THE STATE HERITAGE DATABASE

The State heritage electronic database contains information on many of the items on NSW statutory lists. In many cases the information on local heritage items in the database is minimal, consisting only of the name and address of the item and the date of the local environmental plan on which it is listed. To find out more detailed information you will need to refer to the heritage study for your area. This should be available from your local library or your council planning department.

Some councils have developed electronic heritage databases. The Heritage Office is working with these councils to transfer this detailed information to the State heritage database. Heritage and conservation registers of State government agencies are also being progressively added to the database.

You can access the State heritage database on the internet through the Heritage Office's home page: www.heritage.nsw.gov.au

OTHER HERITAGE LISTS

The State heritage database already includes some cross-references to heritage items in New South Wales that are identified by organisations such as the National Trust, the Art Deco Society, the Institution of Engineers, the Royal Australian Institute of Architects and the Professional Historians' Association.

These non-statutory lists cannot be used to control future changes to the items. Their value is in indicating that these items are valued by a particular community organisation or group. They also alert the community, local councils and the Heritage Council to significant items that may need to be listed on the State Heritage Register or local environmental plans.

2 REFERENCES

To come

APPENDIX

New South Wales Historical Themes
(table showing correlation of Australian, NSW and local themes,
with revised annotations and examples)

Australian Theme	NSW Theme		Notes	Examples
1 Tracing the natural evolution of Australia,	Environment - naturally evolved	Local themes	Activities associated with the physical surroundings that support human life and influence or shape human cultures.	A geological formation, fossil site, ecological community, island, soil site, river flats, estuary, mountain range, reef, lake, woodland, seagrass bed, wetland, desert, alps, plain, valley, headland, evidence of flooding, earthquake, bushfire and other natural disasters.
2 Peopling Australia	Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures	Local themes	Activities associated with maintaining, developing, experiencing and remembering Aboriginal cultural identities and practices, past and present; with demonstrating distinctive ways of life; and with interactions demonstrating race relations.	Place name, camp site, midden, fish trap, trade route, massacre site, shipwreck contact site, missions and institutions, whaling station, pastoral workers camp, timber mill settlement, removed children's home, town reserve, protest site, places relating to self-determination, keeping place, resistance & protest sites, places of segregation, places of indentured labour, places of reconciliation
2 Peopling Australia	Convict	Local themes	Activities relating to incarceration, transport, reform, accommodation and working during the convict period in NSW (1788-1850) – does not include activities associated with the conviction of persons in NSW that are unrelated to the imperial 'convict system': use the theme of Law & Order for such activities	Prison, convict shipwreck, convict system document, ticket-of-leave and probationary living quarters, guards uniform, landscapes-of-control, lumber yard, quarry, gallows site, convict-built structure, convict ship arrival site, convict barracks, convict hospital, estate based on convict labour, place of secondary punishment.
2 Peopling Australia	Ethnic influences	Local themes	Activities associated with common cultural traditions and peoples of shared descent, and with exchanges between such traditions and peoples.	Blessing-of-the-fleet site, ethnic community hall, Chinese store, place or object that exhibits an identifiable ethnic background, marriage register, olive grove, date palm plantation, citizenship ceremony site, POW camp, register of ship crews, folk festival site, ethnic quarter in a town.

2 Peopling Australia	Migration	Local themes	Activities and processes associated with the resettling of people from one place to another (international, interstate, intrastate) and the impacts of such movements	Migrant hostel, customs hall, border crossing, immigration papers, bus depot, emigrant shipwreck, Aboriginal mission, quarantine station, works based on migrant labour, detention centre.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Agriculture	Local themes	Activities relating to the cultivation and rearing of plant and animal species, usually for commercial purposes, can include aquaculture	Hay barn, wheat harvester, silo, dairy, rural landscape, plantation, vineyard, farmstead, shelterbelt, silage pit, fencing, plough markings, shed, fish farm, orchard, market garden, piggery, common, irrigation ditch, Aboriginal seasonal picking camp.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Commerce	Local themes	Activities relating to buying, selling and exchanging goods and services	Bank, shop, inn, stock exchange, market place, mall, coin collection, consumer wares, bond store, customs house, trade routes, mint, Aboriginal trading places, Aboriginal ration/blanket distribution points, Aboriginal tourism ventures
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Communication	Local themes	Activities relating to the creation and conveyance of information	Post office, telephone exchange, printery, radio studio, newspaper office, telegraph equipment, network of telegraph poles, mail boat shipwreck, track, airstrip, lighthouse, stamp collection.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Environment - cultural landscape	Local themes	Activities associated with the interactions between humans, human societies and the shaping of their physical surroundings	A landscape type, bushfire fighting equipment, soil conservation structures, national park, nature reserve, market garden, land clearing tools, evidence of Aboriginal land management, avenue of trees, surf beach, fishing spot, plantation, place important in arguments for nature or cultural heritage conservation.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Events	Local themes	Activities and processes that mark the consequences of natural and cultural occurrences	Monument, photographs, flood marks, memorial, ceremonial costume, honour board, blazed tree, obelisk, camp site, boundary, legislation, place of pilgrimage, places of protest, demonstration, congregation, celebration.

3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Exploration	Local themes	Activities associated with making places previously unknown to a cultural group known to them.	Explorers route, marked tree, camp site, explorer's journal, artefacts collected on an expedition, captain's log, surveyor's notebook, mountain pass, water source, Aboriginal trade route, landing site, map.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Fishing	Local themes	Activities associated with gathering, producing, distributing, and consuming resources from aquatic environments useful to humans.	Fishing boat, whaling station, marine reserve, fisher camp, midden, seafood factory, fish shop, oyster lease, artificial reef, fishing boat wreck, mooring, dock, marina, wharf, fish farm, fish trap
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	2. <i>orestry</i>	Local themes	Activities associated with identifying and managing land covered in trees for commercial timber purposes.	Forested area, forest reserve, timber plantation, forestry equipment, saw mill, mill settlement, arboretum, charcoal kiln, coppiced trees, forest regrowth, timber tracks, whim.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Health	Local themes	Activities associated with preparing and providing medical assistance and/or promoting or maintaining the well being of humans	Hospital, sanatorium, asylum, surgical equipment, ambulance, nurses quarters, medical school, baby clinic, hospital therapy garden, landscaped grounds, herbalist shop, pharmacy, medical consulting rooms.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Industry	Local themes	Activities associated with the manufacture, production and distribution of goods	Factory, workshop, depot, industrial machinery, timber mill, quarry, private railway or wharf, shipbuilding yard, slipway, blacksmithy, cannery, foundry, kiln, smelter, tannery, brewery, factory office, company records.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Mining	Local themes	Activities associated with the identification, extraction, processing and distribution of mineral ores, precious stones and other such inorganic substances.	Mine, quarry, race, mining field or landscape, processing plant, manager's office, mineral specimen, mining equipment, mining license, ore laden shipwreck, collier, mine shaft, sluice gate, mineral deposit, slag heap, assay office, water race.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Pastoralism	Local themes	Activities associated with the breeding, raising, processing and distribution of livestock for human use	Pastoral station, shearing shed, slaughter yard, stud book, photos of prize-winning stock, homestead, pastoral landscape, common, fencing, grassland, well, water trough, freezer boat shipwreck, wool store.

3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Science	Local themes	Activities associated with systematic observations, experiments and processes for the explanation of observable phenomena	Laboratory, experimental equipment, text book, observatory, botanical garden, arboretum, research station, university research reserve, weather station, soil conservation area, fossil site, archaeological research site.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Technology	Local themes	Activities and processes associated with the knowledge or use of mechanical arts and applied sciences	Computer, telegraph equipment, electric domestic appliances, underwater concrete footings, museum collection, office equipment, Aboriginal places evidencing changes in tool types.
3 Developing local, regional and national economies	Transport	Local themes	Activities associated with the moving of people and goods from one place to another, and systems for the provision of such movements	Railway station, highway, lane, train, ferry, wharf, tickets, carriage, dray, stock route, canal, bridge, footpath, aerodrome, barge, harbour, lighthouse, shipwreck, canal, radar station, toll gate, horse yard, coach stop.
4 Building settlements, towns and cities	3. <i>owns, suburbs and villages</i>	Local themes	Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	Town plan, streetscape, village reserve, concentrations of urban functions, civic centre, subdivision pattern, abandoned town site, urban square, fire hydrant, market place, abandoned wharf, relocated civic centre, boundary feature.
4 Building settlements, towns and cities	Land tenure	Local themes	Activities and processes for identifying forms of ownership and occupancy of land and water, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal	Fence, survey mark, subdivision pattern, land title document, boundary hedge, stone wall, shelterbelt, cliff, river, seawall, rock engravings, shelters & habitation sites, cairn, survey mark, trig station, colonial/state border markers.
4 Building settlements, towns and cities	Utilities	Local themes	Activities associated with the provision of services, especially on a communal basis	Water pipeline, sewage tunnel, gas retort, powerhouse, County Council office, garbage dump, windmill, radio tower, bridge, culvert, weir, well, cess pit, reservoir, dam, places demonstrating absence of utilities at Aboriginal fringe camps

4 Building settlements, towns and cities	4. <i>accommodation</i>	Local themes	Activities associated with the provision of accommodation, and particular types of accommodation – does not include architectural styles – use the theme of Creative Endeavour for such activities.	Terrace, apartment, semi-detached house, holiday house, hostel, bungalow, mansion, shack, house boat, caravan, cave, humpy, migrant hostel, homestead, cottage, house site (archaeological).
5 Working	Labour	Local themes	Activities associated with work practices and organised and unorganised labour	Trade union office, bundy clock, time-and-motion study (document), union banner, union membership card, strike site, staff change rooms, servants quarters, shearing shed, green ban site, brothel, kitchen, nurses station, hotel with an occupational patronage.
6 Educating	Education	Local themes	Activities associated with teaching and learning by children and adults, formally and informally.	School, kindergarten, university campus, mechanics institute, playground, hall of residence, text book, teachers college, sail training boat wreck, sportsfield, seminary, field studies centre, library, physical evidence of academic achievement (e.g. a medal or certificate).
7 Governing	Defence	Local themes	Activities associated with defending places from hostile takeover and occupation	Barricade, fortification, RAAF base, barracks, uniforms, military maps and documents, war memorials, shipwreck lost to mines, scuttled naval vessel, POW camp, bomb practice ground, parade ground, massacre site, air raid shelter, drill hall,
7 Governing	Government and administration	Local themes	Activities associated with the governance of local areas, regions, the State and the nation, and the administration of public programs – includes both principled and corrupt activities.	Municipal chamber, County Council offices, departmental office, legislative document, symbols of the Crown, State and municipal flags, ballot box, mayoral regalia, places acquired/disposed of by the state, customs boat, pilot boat, site of key event (eg federation, royal visit), protest site, physical evidence of corrupt practices.

7 Governing	Law and order	Local themes	Activities associated with maintaining, promoting and implementing criminal and civil law and legal processes	Courthouse, police station, lock-up, protest site, law chambers, handcuffs, legal document, gaol complex, water police boat, police vehicle, jail, prison complex (archaeological), detention centre, judicial symbols
7 Governing	Welfare	Local themes	Activities and process associated with the provision of social services by the state or philanthropic organisations	Orphanage, retirement home, public housing, special school, trades training institution, employment agency,
8 Developing Australia's cultural life	Domestic life	Local themes	Activities associated with creating, maintaining, living in and working around houses and institutions.	Domestic artefact scatter, kitchen furnishings, bed, clothing, garden tools, shed, arrangement of interior rooms, kitchen garden, pet grave, chicken coop, home office, road camp, barrack, asylum.
8 Developing Australia's cultural life	Creative endeavour	Local themes	Activities associated with the production and performance of literary, artistic, architectural and other imaginative, interpretive or inventive works; and/or associated with the production and expression of cultural phenomena; and/or environments that have inspired such creative activities.	Opera house, theatre costume, film studio, writer's studio, parade tableau, manuscripts, sound recording, cinema, exemplar of an architectural style, work of art, craftwork, and/or public garden, bandstand, concert hall, rock art site, rotunda, library, public hall; and/or a, particular place to which there has been a particular creative, stylistic or design
8 Developing Australia's cultural life	Leisure	Local themes	Activities associated with recreation and relaxation	Resort, ski lodge, chalet, cruise ship, passenger rail carriage, swimming pool, dance hall, hotel, caravan park, tourist brochures, park, beach, clubhouse, lookout, common, bush walking track, Aboriginal Christmas camp site, fishing spot, picnic place, swimming hole.
8 Developing Australia's cultural life	Religion	Local themes	Activities associated with particular systems of faith and worship	Church, monastery, convent, rectory, presbytery, manse, parsonage, hall, chapter house, graveyard, monument, church organ, synagogue, temple, mosque, madrasa, carved tree, burial ground

8 Developing Australia's cultural life	Social institutions	Local themes	Activities and organisational arrangements for the provision of social activities	CWA Room, Masonic hall, School of Arts, Mechanic's Institute, museum, art gallery, RSL Club, public hall, historical society collection, public library, community centre, Aboriginal mission hall or school room.
8 Developing Australia's cultural life	Sport	Local themes	Activities associated with organised recreational and health promotional activities	Oval, race course, swimming pool, bowling club, bowling green, trophies, calendar of fixtures, cricket set, yacht pens, tennis court, rugby field, speedway, sporting equipment, bocce court.
9 Marking the phases of life	Birth and Death	Local themes	Activities associated with the initial stages of human life and the bearing of children, and with the final stages of human life and disposal of the dead.	Birth control clinic, maternity hospital, nursery, baby clinic, baptism register, circumcision equipment, and Hospice, nursing home, funeral parlour, grave furnishings, cremation site, cemetery, burial register, disaster site, memorial plantings, shipwreck with loss of life,
9 Marking the phases of life	Persons	Local themes	Activities of, and associations with, identifiable individuals, families and communal groups	A monument to an individual, a family home, a dynastic estate, private chapel, a birthplace, a place of residence, a gendered site, statue, commemorative place name, place dedicated to memory of a person (e.g. hospital wing).