



3. THE ACT OPERATIONS

Left: Detail of Memorial Shrine, St Kilda Cemetery. Photo: Janusz Molinski.

60 3.1 CHANGES TO LEGISLATION

ROYAL EXHIBITION BUILDING AND GARDENS

World Heritage Listing of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens

On 1 July 2004 the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens became the first building and gardens in Australia to be listed in the world heritage list.

The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens has outstanding universal value as a rare surviving manifestation of the international exhibition movement. The great International Exhibitions, starting with the Crystal Palace Exhibition of 1851, were the shopfront of the products and services of the Industrial Revolution. The exhibitions promoted world-wide trade and exchange of technology, ideas and culture, and foreshadowed the modern international economy.

The International Exhibition movement played a critical role in the development of the modern global society. Countries participated to promote their countries and products, to seek further investment and to compete for economic dominance. In the competitive environment of the late nineteenth century when major empires were being consolidated and issues of nationalisation were being played out both in Europe and internationally the exhibition movement served as a platform to assert political and nationalistic arguments without resorting to war.

The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens feature the typical international exhibition architectural characteristics that made the exhibitions so dramatic and effective. These included an axially planned building, a dome, a great hall, giant entry portals, versatile display spaces, and complementary gardens and viewing areas. Surprisingly the Melbourne building and gardens are the only surviving central exhibition hall with associated gardens from these major exhibitions.

Recognising the importance of celebrating and protecting such a unique place in the world the Victorian Parliament has passed an amendment to the Heritage Act 1995 which will enable the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens to be recognised and protected. The amendments have three objectives:

- recognition of the world heritage status of World Heritage Listed places in Victoria;
- establishment of a World Heritage Environs Area and a World Heritage Environs Strategic Plan; and
- establishment of a process for the drafting and endorsement Management Plans for World Heritage sites.

The Victorian Heritage Register

World heritage listed places will, as a matter of course, be listed in the Victorian Heritage Register.

World Heritage Environs Area and Strategy Plan

The Act provides for an area around a world heritage listed place to be officially declared a World Heritage Environs Area in order to protect the World Heritage values of the place.

The Executive Director, Heritage must then develop a draft World Heritage Environs Strategy Plan for the declared area. The Strategy Plan must set out:

- the world heritage values of the Area; and
- strategies for the use and development of the Area to ensure the protection and management of the world heritage values.

The process provides for public notification and community participation in the process. Submissions will be received by the Heritage Council which will consider all submissions and hold hearings if necessary. The Council will then adopt the draft Strategy Plan, with or without amendment, and forward it to the Minister for approval. The Minister may then approve it, with or without amendment. The Strategy Plan will ultimately come into effect upon gazettal. Any planning scheme applying to a World Heritage Environs Area must be amended to identify the Area and to remove any provisions which are inconsistent with the approved Strategy Plan. No provisions inconsistent with the Strategy Plan can be introduced at any time.

World Heritage Management Plan

The legislation also enables the development of a Management Plan, for the world heritage listed place, which will form the basis of a possible bilateral accredited Management Plan between Victoria and the Commonwealth at a future date.

The Minister must appoint a Steering Committee for any listed place, to be chaired by the Executive Director, Heritage and includes the owners or land managers of any world heritage place.

The Management Plan will only apply to the world heritage listed site. It will be a detailed document developed to assist the land owners and managers to manage the world heritage listed place. Including the requirement for a Management Plan provides a legislative basis for the Commonwealth to deliver an accredited management plan for Victoria as required under the EPBC Act.

The process proposed for the development of the Management Plan essentially follow the current procedures under the Heritage Act for a Victorian Heritage Register hearing, which are well understood by the community. The Steering Committee is obliged to refer the draft plan following public consultation to the Minister for approval. The Minister may approve the Management Plan with or without amendment and it will come into effect upon gazettal.

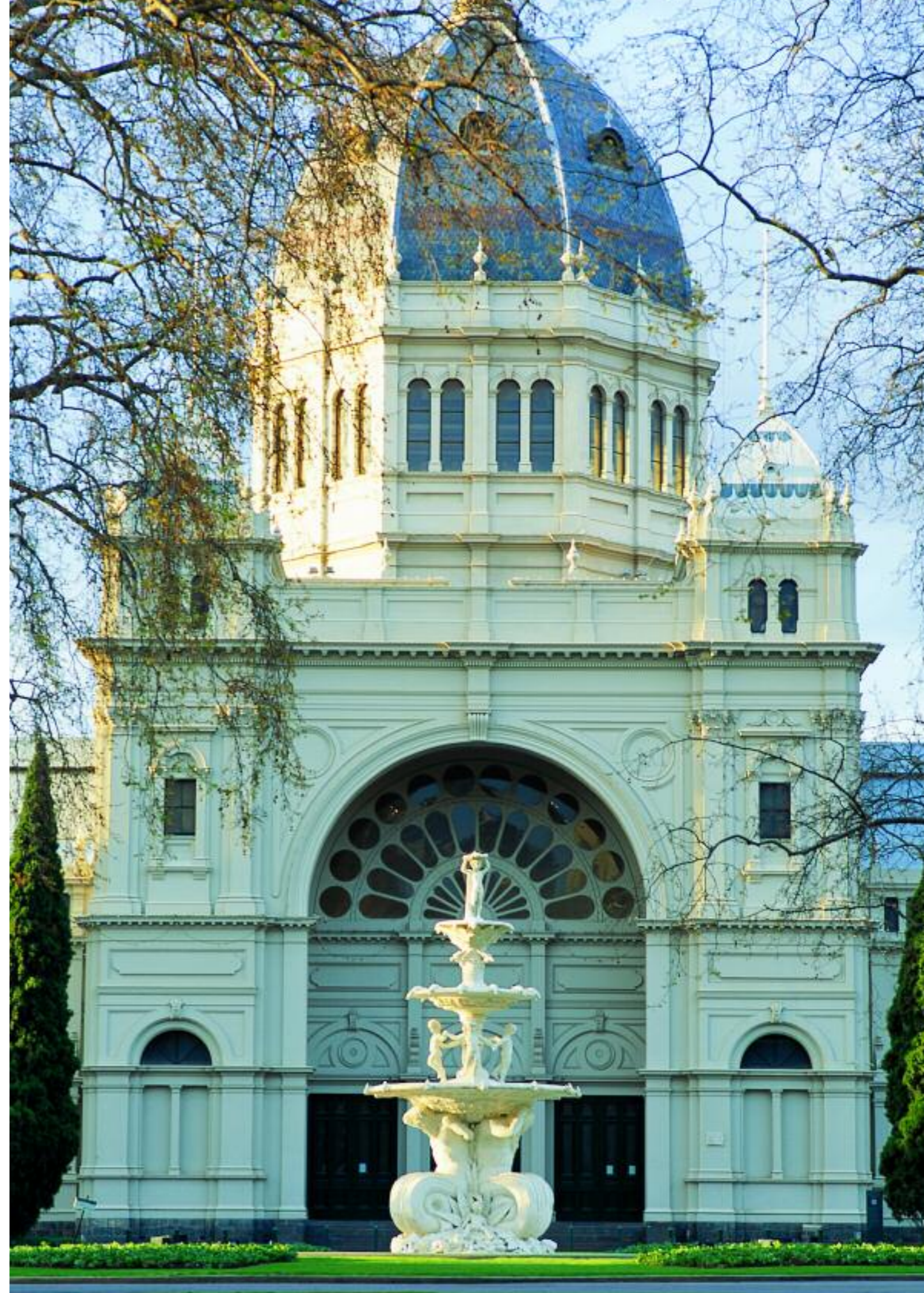
For further information on the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens World Heritage Listing see following web sites.

Museum Victoria
<http://www.museum.vic.gov.au/reb/index.asp>

UNESCO World Heritage Centre
<http://whc.unesco.org/pg.cfm>

Department of Environment and Heritage
<http://www.deh.gov.au/heritage/worldheritage/sites/royal/index.html>

Right: Royal Exhibition Building, Carlton.
Photo: Janusz Molinski.



Registration Statistics

Nominations Received
103

Recommendations to Add
52

Additions to the Register
33

Amendments
11

Planning Protection
21

Not Recommended
2

Recommendations attracting submissions
18

Recommendations involving hearings
8

Interim Protection Orders issued
2

Significant additions to the Register

Two very significant sites were added to the Victorian Heritage Register in 2004-2005. These were Kew Cottages (Kew Residential Services) and the Point Nepean Defence and Quarantine Precinct. Both of these sites will raise important issues about the re-use of heritage sites. The Register continued to grow, with a diversity of places including the Aqua Profonda sign at the Fitzroy Pool and the first indigenous keeping place in Victoria with the inclusion of the Bangerang Cultural Centre at Shepparton.

Kew Cottages (Kew Residential Services), Princess Street Kew (H2073)

The Former Kew Cottages (Kew Residential Services) initially consisted of three cottages, school house and kitchen constructed from 1887 to the east of the Kew Lunatic Asylum. The present buildings stand in extensive grounds with avenues of oaks lining the internal roads and mature plantings between the buildings. The Former Kew Cottages (Kew Residential Services) site is historically significant as the first government institution to be established for

intellectually handicapped children in Australia. Its design and construction in 1885-87 represented a new and progressive move for the care and accommodation of people with intellectual disabilities, in that it removed them from the general lunatic asylums and provided opportunities for education and training. The six buildings constructed between 1887 and 1917 are of particular significance as the core of the site, demonstrating the form and function of the original institution. The landscape at Kew Cottages is of historical and aesthetic significance at a state level. The planting is dominated by towering conifers from the nineteenth century, including Hoop Pines, Bunya Bunya Pines, Monterey Pines, Canary Island Pines, and Monterey Cypress. The landscape was further enhanced by avenue plantings of English Elms, English Oaks and Algerian Oaks along the Drives and in the landscape. The Main Drive comprises an unusual double avenue of trees, the outer rows are planted with Algerian Oaks, and the inner avenue with English Elms

Point Nepean Defence & Quarantine Precinct (H2030)

Point Nepean Defence and Quarantine Precinct at the western extremity of the Mornington Peninsula consists of approximately 526 hectares of land about 95 km from Melbourne. A number of Aboriginal sites have been identified on Point Nepean. These include coastal shell middens which reflect indigenous food gathering practices over the past 6000 years. The first European use of the land was for grazing and lime burning. From the 1840s, limeburning became the chief industry in the Portsea area, supplying lime to Melbourne's building trade.

Point Nepean contains the oldest surviving buildings erected for quarantine purposes in Australia. The peninsula was chosen as the first permanent quarantine station in Victoria because of its early isolation, access to shipping, deep-water anchorage and security. The Quarantine Station was constructed from 1852 and operated from the 1850s until 1979. Point Nepean was also used in the management of infectious diseases within Victoria, housing a leper colony from 1885 to the 1930s, and a consumptives' colony from the 1880s. The Influenza Huts housed soldiers with influenza returning from World War I when almost 300 ships with over 11,800

passengers were quarantined between November 1918 and August 1919.

In 1951 the Officer Cadet School of the Australian Army took over the main buildings on the quarantine station site. Very small numbers of people were quarantined from that time until the official closure of the Quarantine Station in 1980. A number of new buildings were constructed c.1963-65 as part of the Officer Cadet School such as a gymnasium, barracks, library and gatehouse. In 1984 the Officer Cadet School was relocated to Canberra.

The School of Army Health replaced the Officer Cadet School from 1985 to 1998. This was the main establishment in Australia for the training of Army health officers. In 1999 the Quarantine Station buildings were used to accommodate Kosovar refugees.

Point Nepean was a major part of the Victorian coastal defence system which made Port Phillip Bay reputedly the most heavily defended harbour of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century in the southern hemisphere. It is said that the fortifications at Point Nepean are the best examples demonstrating the development of military technology of the Port Phillip Bay network.

Aqua Profonda Sign, Fitzroy Pool, Alexandra Parade, Fitzroy (H1687)

The Fitzroy Baths opened in 1908. At the deep end of the main pool the words "DANGER DEEP WATER" and underneath "AQUA PROFONDA" are painted in black on the brick wall which runs along Young Street. The sign was painted c. 1953-54 at the initiative of the pool manager, James Murphy, who was constantly rescuing migrant children from the deep end of the pool. Mr Murphy asked an Italian friend what the words for "deep water" were in Italian and had them painted at the deep end. "Aqua" is actually a misspelling of the Italian word: the correct spelling is "acqua" ("aqua" is the Latin spelling).

The sign has social significance as a highly valued feature of inner Melbourne. The sign achieved iconic status through its appearance in the 1977 Helen Garner novel *Monkey Grip* and the subsequent film where the "Aqua Profonda" sign served as a metaphor for the tempestuous relationship of the main protagonists. The importance of the sign and the pool to a wide community became evident during the highly successful *Save Our Pool* campaign of 1994-95 when the pool was threatened with closure by the City of Yarra commissioners. This campaign is often cited by writers and academics as a case study for successful grassroots campaigns.

The sign has historical significance for its associations with the post-war migration program which had such a profound impact on the Victorian community. The sign is indicative of the changing demographics of post-World War Two inner Melbourne when migrants replaced a segment of the population who moved to the outer suburbs. The sign demonstrates one way in which migrants were becoming accepted as part of the community and as such is a rare tangible example of a public acknowledgement of the cultural impact of the mass migration program.



Above: Point Nepean.



Above: Detail of Window, Pharmacy at Kew Cottages.



Above: Aqua Profonda sign, Fitzroy Pool.



Above: Point Nepean Quarantine Station.

Bangerang Cultural Centre, Parkside Drive, Shepparton (H1082)

The Bangerang Cultural Centre, originally known as the Aboriginal Keeping Place, was built as part of the International Village project in Shepparton. First conceived in 1974, the Keeping Place was finally opened in 1982 after many years of planning. The International Village was set up in 1974 as a tourist attraction by the Shepparton Council to celebrate the contributions of different ethnic groups. A space was allocated to the local Aboriginal community for an arts and crafts centre. The community, and in particular John (Sandy) Atkinson, OAM, a leading figure in Aboriginal organisations, had a more imaginative plan to set up their own museum or keeping place which would display artefacts and provide a resource centre for educating people about the cultural heritage of the Aboriginal people. The Aboriginal Arts Board of the Australia Council, to which Sandy Atkinson was appointed in 1976, met with the local community with the result that the Shepparton Aboriginal Arts Council Co-operative was set up with funding by the Arts Board.

The innovative architect Robin Boyd (1919-1971) had designed a circular interpretation centre at Tower Hill, Koroit in 1962, although it was not completed until 1970. When Sandy Atkinson visited the centre at the suggestion of Shepparton identity Mr Kilgour, he was inspired to contact Boyd's partner Frederick Romberg who agreed to design the building, with assistance from Ken Edelstein. Sandy Atkinson saw the building as a circle, an important symbol in Aboriginal culture. Romberg translated this idea into a brick octagonal building originally with a wide cedar shingle roof lit by skylights and surrounded by a timber colonnade. The windows are narrow and full height. Internally the space is divided into eight bays housing the four dioramas and other display areas. There is a theatre and a mezzanine level containing storerooms and office space.

Bangerang Cultural Centre is historically significant as an important landmark in the struggle of the Aboriginal people to maintain their own culture. As the first Aboriginal managed museum in Victoria to be planned, the Centre is a tangible symbol of the shift of attitude in society from the idea of assimilation to self-determination. The idea for a Keeping Place was conceived in the early 1970s in a climate of increasing consciousness of Aboriginal conditions and issues.

Bangerang Cultural Centre is architecturally significant as a work of renowned architect Frederick Romberg (1913-1992). The modest Keeping Place is perhaps the most interesting work from the latter part of his career.



Above: Bangerang Cultural Centre, Shepparton.

Permit Statistics 2004/2005

Total permits issued by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria	379
Appeals lodged within Council	3
Appeals called in by Minister	0
Appeals determined	2

Archaeological activities in Victoria

In the 2004-2005 financial year the Executive Director issued 118 archaeological consents, consisting of 91 Consents to Damage and 27 Consents to Excavate.

There were 326 archaeological survey projects conducted during the year.

These figures represent a significant increase in the amount of archaeological work being conducted in Victoria, in the order of 300%. In the 2003-2004 financial year, 41 consents were issued.

The Executive Director also issued 12 permits for archaeological work on places listed in the Victorian Heritage Register.

Summary of Appeals

Heritage Place	Reason(s) for Appeal	Status
H1944 Residence 94 Merri Street Warrnambool	against the refusal of some demolition works and a condition of the permit.	decision upheld but new permit issued
H362 Eynesbury Eynesbury Road Melton South	against a condition of the permit issued for development of hotel and golf course facilities at the Eynesbury Homestead including adaptive reuse of the homestead building and associated new buildings and infrastructure	withdrawn
H2064 Former National Bank of Australasia 271-285 Collins Street Melbourne	Against refusal of permit for proposed structural works to the facade and also ground floor spaces. Addition of canopies on front facade extending over footpath. Interior alterations to banking chamber, including removal of marble staircase and gallery.	new permit issued allowing some of the works

