

APPENDIX 1 CITATIONS

UNESCO's World Heritage website includes the following 'Brief Description' and 'Justification for Inscription' for the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens.

Brief Description

The Royal Exhibition Building and its surrounding Carlton Gardens were designed for the great international exhibitions of 1880 and 1888 in Melbourne. The building and grounds were designed by Joseph Reed. The building is constructed of brick and timber, steel and slate. It combines elements from the Byzantine, Romanesque, Lombardic and Italian Renaissance styles. The property is typical of the International Exhibition movement which saw over 50 exhibitions staged between 1851 and 1915 in venues including Paris, New York, Vienna, Calcutta, Kingston (Jamaica) and Santiago (Chile). All shared a common theme and aims: to chart material and moral progress through displays of industry from all nations.

Justification for Inscription

Criterion (ii): The Royal Exhibition Building and the surrounding Carlton Gardens, as the main extant survivors of a Palace of Industry and its setting, together reflect the global influence of the International Exhibition movement of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The movement showcased technological innovation and change, which helped promote a rapid increase in industrialisation and international trade through the exchange of knowledge and ideas.

The Australian Heritage Database includes the following (more comprehensive) citation/statement of significance in relation to the World Heritage values:⁵

Statement of significance

The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens have outstanding universal value as a rare surviving manifestation of the International Exhibition phenomenon of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries - a phenomenon that embodied ideas and processes that have profoundly affected modern societies. The Building and Gardens, used for the international exhibitions of 1880 and 1888, are unique in having maintained authenticity of form and function through to the present day.

The International Exhibition phenomenon reflected a dynamic and transitional phase in modern history, which saw the growth and spread of the benefits of industrialisation in the form of technological advancements and social progress, the transmission of ideas and cultural values around the world, and the rapid development of an extensive international economy. The exhibitions themselves brought people and ideas together on a grand scale, in diverse locations around the world, and greatly enhanced international social and economic links. They provided a

⁵ Place Id 105143; Place File no. 2/11/033/0235.

mechanism for the world-wide exchange of goods, technology, ideas, culture and values, and heralded a new era of trading networks and the modern international economy. The exhibitions were a spectacular shopfront for the industrial revolution, which shaped some of the greatest global social and economic transformations.

Despite the great impact of the International Exhibition phenomenon, relatively few physical manifestations of it remain. These include the buildings and grounds that housed the exhibitions, and the exhibits themselves. They are tangible parts of the world's heritage that connect us to a significant stage in human history.

Of the many impressive buildings designed and built to hold these exhibitions, such as England's Crystal Palace, few survive, and of those surviving, even fewer retain authenticity in terms of original location and condition. The Royal Exhibition Building, in its original setting of the Carlton Gardens, is one of these rare survivors. It has added rarity, however. The Royal Exhibition Building was purpose-designed to be the Great Hall of the 'Palace of Industry', the focal point of international exhibitions. It is the only surviving example in the world of a Great Hall from a major international exhibition. Furthermore, it has retained authenticity of function, continuing to be used for its original purpose of exhibitions and displays even today. This is a building to be treasured – a representative of the spectrum of international exhibition buildings that are now lost to the world.

The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens has further value in being broadly representative of the themes and architectural characteristics shared by structures and sites used for international exhibitions. These include many of the important features that made the exhibitions so dramatic and effective, including axial planning, a dome, a great hall, giant entry portals, versatile display spaces, and complementary gardens and viewing areas. The scale and grandeur of the building reflects the values and aspirations attached to industrialisation and its international face. The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens have outstanding universal value as a tangible symbol of the International Exhibition phenomenon for all these reasons.

Official value: C (II) 'Important interchange of human values'

The Royal Exhibition Building, in its original setting of the Carlton Gardens, is an outstanding surviving manifestation of the International Exhibition movement of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century. This movement both reflected and promoted the developments in technology and the associated great international growth in trade and industrialisation that occurred in the later part of the nineteenth century, and laid the foundations of modernism and the economic structures of the twentieth century. International exhibitions were also nodes for the international interchange of the human values associated with these economic and social changes, such as those of progress, learning, and emerging nationalism. They had a moral as well as an industrial purpose.

The Royal Exhibition Building, a rare and outstanding example of a Great Hall that exhibited manufactured goods and technologies from a significant international exhibition, stands as an exceptional testimony to this interchange of human values and developments in technology and industrialisation that were fundamental to the International Exhibition movement.

The International Exhibition phenomenon spread through Europe and much of the world from the middle of the nineteenth century. In addition to the practical role of promoting trade and exchange of developments in technology, the International Exhibitions were designed to showcase the achievements of the nineteenth century industrial age and the benefits of being part of the new international economy. In effect, the International Exhibitions were the 'shopfront' of the Industrial Revolution.

Set typically within complementary landscaped gardens, the Royal Exhibition Building was a venue for that important interchange of human values, a characteristic of the International Exhibition phenomenon at the apex of the Industrial Revolution. The International Exhibitions provided an early opportunity for the mass international exchange of technological developments and ideas that would have a dramatic effect on economic, social and cultural life. Many exhibitions were held in the United States and Europe; others, reflecting the international reach of the movement and the values it represented, were held in colonies and emerging nations in Asia, Australasia, Central America, South America, the Caribbean and Africa. Progress, industrialisation and a sense of 'brotherhood' were all linked.

The International Exhibition movement, typified by the Royal Exhibition Building, also exhibited the interchange of values relating to nationalism and progress. While International Exhibitions were an opportunity for colonies or nations to demonstrate to the world their achievements in the science and arts, and their economic power, they were also venues for the presentation of social and cultural values, such as personal and national industry, which were seen to be part of a universal progress that technology could provide. The Royal Exhibition Building represents these concepts of nationalistic pride and competition on the one hand, and the perceptions of utopian ideals and internationalism on the other.

Education and its connection to scientific, cultural and technological development was another value being promoted. The International Exhibitions were both market-places and centres of learning: many had explicit educational purposes. Each exhibition event celebrated humanity's innate curiosity about the world, ingenuity and belief in the family of nations reaping the benefits of scientific and cultural progress. The exhibition movement reflected the nineteenth century's passionate interest in the acquisition of knowledge and using it for the betterment of mankind. 'Industry is a means and not an end' (Huxley 1881 in Johnson 1964: 357). These beliefs and aspirations were implicit in the selection of material culture on display. Huge numbers of exhibition visitors embraced these messages and shared them upon their return home.

Ideas and values were disseminated through the display and promotion of developments in industrial technology, manufactured goods, the arts and cultural tableaux. A key value was the utopian concept of civilising progress through technological advancement (Pearson & Marshall 2002: 34). The industrial revolution was perceived in the nineteenth century, as stated by Samuel Smiles, to enable 'the betterment of the species' (Briggs 1983: 190).

The significance of the Royal Exhibition Building against this criterion relates to it being a symbolic representation of the central and catalytic role of the International Exhibition movement in fostering the development and adoption of industrialisation and new technologies throughout the world, and the associated social and cultural values and ideas that were transmitted to societies in a process of internationalisation.