



**Assessing the cultural heritage significance
of places and objects for possible state heritage listing:**

The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines

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Acknowledgements

The Heritage Council of Victoria proudly acknowledges Victoria's Aboriginal communities and their rich culture and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia's first peoples and as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and water on which we rely. We recognise and value the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal people and communities to Victorian life and how this enriches us. We embrace the spirit of reconciliation, working towards the equality of outcomes and ensuring an equal voice.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Who is this guide for?

This guide outlines key considerations in determining whether a place or object is of state level cultural heritage significance and could be included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR).

It is intended to assist:

- **members of the community** who are nominating a place or object for inclusion in the VHR;
- **heritage assessors and advisors** who assess the cultural heritage significance of places and objects; and
- **statutory decision-makers** who determine whether places and objects should be included in the VHR.

The purpose of this guide

The act of determining whether a place is of cultural heritage significance is often criticised as being a subjective exercise. Views on cultural heritage significance can vary between individuals and also evolve over time. This variance reflects personal experience, values and history.

However, the process of assessing cultural heritage significance is a rigorous and objective one that is guided by the principles of *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (2013)* and has been developed and refined over many years of heritage practice in Victoria and Australia more broadly. This guide supports that evolving practice by assisting people who engage with the State's heritage system to have an understanding of how the Heritage Council exercises its discretion when determining to include – or not include – a place or object in the VHR.

The purpose of this guide is to identify the key matters that the Heritage Council – Victoria's peak heritage body – consider when determining if a place or object is of state level cultural heritage significance. Additional guidance for determining the cultural heritage significance of particular types of places or objects may be issued by the Heritage Council from time to time and should be considered alongside this guide.

This guide focuses on providing clarity and consistency with respect to the following:

- **the terminology** used to explain cultural heritage significance within the state heritage registration process;
- **the approach** used to assess the cultural heritage significance of a place or object; and
- **the decision** as to whether a place or object should be included in the VHR.

Reviewing the guide

The Heritage Council has undertaken to review this guide every three (3) years. Your feedback on the usefulness of the guide is welcome at any time by emailing the Heritage Council at: heritage.council@delwp.vic.gov.au.

2. ASSESSING STATE LEVEL CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The heritage assessment criteria

The *Heritage Act 2017* (the Act) requires criteria to be used when assessing the cultural heritage significance of places and objects and determining whether those places or objects warrant inclusion in the VHR (refer to s.11(1)(k) of the Act).

In 2008 the Heritage Council of Victoria adopted a set of heritage assessment criteria; Criterion G was updated in 2019 (Figure 1). This guide will help users determine whether a criterion is applicable when considering the significance of a particular place or object.

Note: In accordance with s.8 of the Act, these criteria do not apply to a place or object that is of cultural heritage significance only on the ground of its association with Aboriginal tradition. Please contact Aboriginal Victoria to discuss the potential inclusion of such places and objects in the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR) on 1800 762 003 or aboriginalaffairs@dpc.vic.gov.au.

Figure 1: Heritage Assessment Criteria

Criterion:

- (a) *Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.*
- (b) *Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.*
- (c) *Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.*
- (d) *Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.*
- (e) *Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.*
- (f) *Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.*
- (g) *Strong or special association with a particular present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.*
- (h) *Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.*

The role of thresholds in heritage assessment

In Victoria, places and objects of cultural heritage significance can be protected and managed through one or more of four statutory mechanisms. The mechanism that protects the largest number of places of cultural heritage significance is the Heritage Overlay under a local planning scheme (estimated to cover in excess of 150 000 places). At the other end of the spectrum, one place in Victoria (the Royal Exhibition Building & Carlton Gardens) is inscribed in the World Heritage List for its outstanding universal value. The *significance threshold* determines the level of cultural heritage significance a place or object has and what mechanisms can therefore be used to protect and manage it. The significance threshold can be defined as:

the minimum level of cultural heritage significance that a place or object must possess to justify its inclusion on the relevant local, state, national or world heritage list.

As a general principle:

- a place that is of heritage value to a **locality or municipality** has the potential to be recognised as being of **local** cultural heritage significance (and may be included in the Heritage Overlay of the local planning scheme);
- a place or object that is of heritage value to **wider Victoria** has the potential to be recognised as being of **state** level cultural heritage significance (and may be included in the VHR). Further discussion of how state level cultural heritage significance can be determined is explored under each heritage assessment criterion in Part 4 of this guide;
- a place with outstanding heritage value **to the nation** has the potential to be recognised as being of **national** heritage significance (and may be included in the National Heritage List); and
- a place that is of **outstanding universal value** has the potential to be recognised as being of **world** heritage significance (and may be inscribed on the World Heritage List).

It is important to note that a place or object may, for example, be of **local, state and national** heritage significance and be subject to multiple statutory mechanisms.

This guide will help users determine whether a place or object is of state level cultural heritage significance.

As a general principle, a generation (or approximately 25-30 years) should pass after the creation of a place or object before that place or object is considered for heritage listing at any level. The passing of time allows the enduring cultural heritage values of a place or object to be more rigorously and objectively assessed.

Further resources

When considering the cultural heritage significance of a place or object at the state level, the following resources can assist:

- *Heritage Act 2017*

- *Guidelines for Nominators to the Victorian Heritage Register*, Heritage Council & Heritage Victoria
- *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (2013)*
- *Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes*, Heritage Council 2010
- *Guidance on identifying places and objects of state-level social value in Victoria (2019)*
- Victorian Heritage Database: <http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/vhd/heritagevic>

3. APPLYING THE CRITERIA AND THRESHOLDS GUIDELINES

Structure and application of the guidelines

The following approach is employed to help users of the guide determine whether a place or object is likely to satisfy the state level threshold for each heritage assessment criterion:

- **STEP 1: A basic test for satisfying the criterion.** If the test is not met, the criterion is unlikely to be satisfied and the assessment can move to the next criterion.
- **STEP 2: A basic test for determining state level significance.** If the test is not met, the criterion is unlikely to be satisfied at the state level and the assessment can move to the next criterion.
- **STEP 3: A list of exclusion guidelines** by which a place/object will generally be disqualified from being able to satisfy the criterion at the state level. If one of the exclusion guidelines is triggered, the criterion is unlikely to be satisfied at the required threshold and the assessment can move to the next criterion.
- **Illustrative examples** of places/objects that satisfy the criterion at the state level are provided against which the place/object can be compared. To accurately corroborate a criterion and threshold finding, the place/object should be compared against a broad range of relevant examples that are of state significance (for example, by using the Victorian Heritage Database and available thematic studies). The illustrative examples provided in this guide, as for most places/objects, will also often satisfy other criteria.
- **Reference tools** with further information are included for some criteria.

Having followed this approach, if a place/object **appears to meet the state threshold for one or more criterion** then the place/object may, at the discretion of the Heritage Council, be included in the VHR.

A note on the guidelines

These guidelines will be applicable to the bulk of places and objects nominated to the VHR. However, there will be instances where the guidelines are not easily applied. In these circumstances the nominator should contact Heritage Victoria for further guidance prior to lodging a nomination.

Definitions

The following terms are used throughout the guidelines. For clarity, they are explained below.

Class (in relation to a class of cultural place): generally refers to a sub-category of a broad place type, such as 'WWI memorials' (within the broad 'war memorials' place type) or 'grammar schools' (within the broad 'schools' place type). A class is generally defined by a specific purpose or use, era, design characteristic, construction technique, materials used or some other recognisable quality. A class should be readily discernible as a sub-category of a broad place type and should not be narrowed by multiple qualifiers (for example, timber constructed, Edwardian era, rural theatres).

Fabric: means all the physical material of a place or object, including components, fixtures and contents (taken from *The Burra Charter*). It may also include living material such as trees and other plants.

Intactness: refers to the degree to which a place or object retains its significant fabric. Note: Intactness should not be confused with condition – a place may be highly intact but the fabric may be in a very fragile condition.

Integrity: refers to the degree to which the heritage values of the place or object are still evident and can be understood and appreciated (for example, the degree to which the original design or use of a place or object can still be discerned). If considerable change to a place or object has occurred (through encroaching development, changes to the fabric, physical deterioration of the fabric etc) the significant values may not be readily identifiable and the place or object may have low-level integrity.

Place: means a geographically defined area. It may be of any size and may include built or natural elements. *Cultural heritage significance may be embodied* in a place: for example in its *fabric, setting, association* or community attachments (phrases in *italics* are taken from *The Burra Charter*).

4. GUIDELINES FOR THE HERITAGE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

CRITERION A: IMPORTANCE TO THE COURSE OR PATTERN OF VICTORIA'S CULTURAL HISTORY

A place or object is likely to satisfy this criterion at the state level only if **all** of the following requisites are met:

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION A

The place/object has a *CLEAR ASSOCIATION* with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life in Victoria's cultural history.

+

The association of the place/object to the event, phase, etc *IS EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history.

+

The *EVENT, PHASE, etc* is of *HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE*, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria.

=

CRITERION A IS LIKELY TO BE SATISFIED

+

STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE

The place/object allows the clear association with the event, phase etc. of historical importance to be *UNDERSTOOD BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES OR OBJECTS IN VICTORIA WITH SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME ASSOCIATION.*

=

CRITERION A IS LIKELY TO BE RELEVANT AT THE STATE LEVEL

Note: the sub-themes in *Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes* will assist in understanding the events, phases, periods, processes, functions, movements, customs and ways of life in Victoria's history.

STEP 3: EXCLUSION GUIDELINES FOR CRITERION A

The place or object is unlikely to satisfy this criterion at the state level if any of the following conditions apply:

XAI	Poor, indirect or unproven association	The association of the place/object to the historically important event, phase etc is either incidental (minor, secondary) or cannot be substantiated . For instance, every rural property is not important in demonstrating the spread of European settlement or pastoral land use across Victoria and a 'legend' relating to a place or object needs to be backed up by strong documentary or other evidence if the place/object is to be registered on the basis of that story.
XA2	Low or questionable historical importance	The place/object has an association with, or demonstrates evidence of, an historical event, phase etc that is of low or questionable historical importance , i.e. the event, phase etc has not made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria. For example, the recreational pursuit of table tennis is considered to be a niche activity that has not made a strong or influential contribution to the state.
XA3	Poor evidence	No reliable or verifiable physical, documentary or oral history evidence remains to demonstrate the association of the place/object with an historical event, phase etc.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF CRITERION A BEING SATISFIED



The **Miner's Rights Collection**, Ballarat (VHR H2112) is a significant collection associated with the Eureka uprising and the subsequent improvement to miner's rights and conditions on the goldfields through the development of an administrative system that remained substantially unchanged from the 1850s to the 1970s.



The **Collins Settlement Site**, Sorrento (VHR H1050) is significant as the site of the British Government's first official settlement in southern Australia (in 1803).



Big Lizzie, Red Cliffs (VHR H1919) is a tractor and two trailers significant for their association with land clearing in the Mallee and Mildura regions for agriculture and the establishment of soldier settlement schemes following World War I.



The **Murndal Homestead**, Tahara (VHR H0289) is significant as a particularly fine and highly intact example of a large-scale pastoral enterprise in Victoria. The place exemplifies the pattern of land settlement during the nineteenth century.



The **Sewerage Pumping Station**, Spotswood (VHR H1555) is significant as the key component of Melbourne's first centralised sewerage system which began operations in 1897. The station is unique in Australia as an intact ensemble of buildings, sewage pumping machinery and objects.



The **State Library of Victoria**, Melbourne (VHR H1497) is significant as the principal educational and cultural centre for the people of Victoria for more than 150 years. The early buildings are significant as the first purpose built, free public library in Australia and one of the first in the world.



The wreck of the **Clonmel** (VHR S129) is significant for its role in the discovery of Port Albert and the subsequent development of Gippsland. The site is the earliest located steamship wreck in Australian waters. The Clonmel demonstrates the period of transition between sail and steam and between wooden and iron shipbuilding.



The **Ballarat Botanical Gardens**, Ballarat (VHR H2252) is significant as a particularly fine and highly intact botanic garden in Victoria. The gardens clearly demonstrate the acclimatisation and zoological gardens movements in Victoria.



Station Pier (southern section), Port Melbourne (VHR H0985) is significant for its association with Australia's involvement in the World War II, both as an embarkation and arrival point for Australian troops and an embarkation point for US troops. It is also associated with the Australian Government's post-war migration program, which transformed Victoria's society in the 1950s and 1960s.

CRITERION B: POSSESSION OF UNCOMMON, RARE OR ENDANGERED ASPECTS OF VICTORIA'S CULTURAL HISTORY

A place or object is likely to satisfy this criterion at the state level only if **all** of the following requisites are met:

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION B

The place/object has a *CLEAR ASSOCIATION* with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life of importance in Victoria's cultural history.

+

The association of the place/object to the event, phase, etc *IS EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history.

+

The place/object is *RARE OR UNCOMMON*, being one of a small number of places/objects remaining that demonstrates the important event, phase etc.

OR

The place/object is *RARE OR UNCOMMON*, containing unusual features of note that were not widely replicated

OR

The existence of the *CLASS** of place/object that demonstrates the important event, phase etc is *ENDANGERED* to the point of rarity due to threats and pressures on such places/objects.

=

CRITERION B IS LIKELY TO BE SATISFIED

+

The place/object is *RARE, UNCOMMON OR ENDANGERED* within Victoria.

=

CRITERION B IS LIKELY TO BE RELEVANT AT THE STATE LEVEL

STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE

Note: the sub-themes in *Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes* will assist in understanding the events, phases, periods, processes, functions, movements, customs and ways of life in Victoria's history.

* Refer to p.5 for definition of "class".

STEP 3: EXCLUSION GUIDELINES FOR CRITERION B

The place or object is unlikely to satisfy this criterion at the state level if any of the following conditions apply:

XB1	Low or questionable importance of attribute linked to the place/object	The place/object is rare, or is even the only one of its type, but the attribute(s) of claimed rarity is of questionable importance . For example, the only 2-storey potting shed or bandstand with fitted windows etc.
XB2	Dependence on too many qualifiers	The claimed rarity is dependent upon numerous qualifiers being strung together. For example, the place is the <i>only</i> stone house ... <i>with</i> a slate roof... <i>in</i> the Federation style... <i>designed by</i> the architect...
XB3	Place/object is 'endangered' only because of an imminent demolition threat	For the purpose of this criterion, 'endangered' should generally relate to a class of place/object that has become so rare over time that there is a risk that in the short to medium term no such place/object will remain.
XB4	Poor evidence	No reliable or verifiable physical, documentary or oral history evidence remains to demonstrate the association of the place/object with an historical event, phase etc. or to the rarity/endangered status being claimed.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF CRITERION B BEING SATISFIED



The **Cab Building and House**, Maryborough (VHR H2151) is a rare surviving example of a 19th century horse cab building and associated residence. It demonstrates a means of transport and industry that was essential until the twentieth century and has now completely disappeared.



The **Portland Inn**, Portland (VHR H2071), built c1841, is significant as one of relatively few surviving pre-1851 structures in Victoria and for its association with the earliest officially sanctioned settlement of Portland, the first permanent post-contact settlement in Victoria.



The **Bellhouse Iron House**, South Melbourne (VHR H1888) is significant as one of the few surviving examples of prefabricated, portable iron housing imported from England in the 1850s due to the rapid increase in population and scarcity of materials and labour during the gold rush.



The **Nylex Sign**, Cremorne (VHR H2049) erected in 1961, is significant as a rare surviving example of illuminated signage that used to be a prominent feature of the Melbourne skyline, and for its rare inclusion of a range of lighting media.



The **Shot Tower**, Clifton Hill (VHR H0709) is a rare as one of two surviving shot towers in Victoria. Its form reflects the shot production process: the shot was produced by dropping molten lead through sieves at the top of the tower into water at the bottom. The height of the tower allowed the shot to form before reaching the bottom.



The **Carousel**, Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens (VHR H1064) is significant as a rare and intact example of a nineteenth century Carousel in Victoria – fewer than 200 Carousels survive world-wide.



The **Stock Selling Ring**, Casterton (VHR H0314) is one of the few remaining examples of a stock selling ring in Victoria – a building type that was once common in Victoria.



The snow brig **Cheviot** (VHR S114), built in 1827 is significant as one of only a handful of shipwreck sites relating to the whaling industry in Victoria.



The **Archbold Gold Treatment Works**, Chewton (VHR1351) is a rare example of a gold assaying and treatment works. It contains relics and machinery used to treat gold bearing ore, from the mid 1880s to the 1950s.

CRITERION C: POTENTIAL TO YIELD INFORMATION THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF VICTORIA'S CULTURAL HISTORY

A place or object is likely to satisfy this criterion at the state level only if **all** of the following requisites are met:

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION C

The:

- visible physical fabric; &/or
- documentary evidence; &/or
- oral history,

relating to the place/object indicates a likelihood that the place/object contains *PHYSICAL EVIDENCE* of *HISTORICAL INTEREST* that is *NOT CURRENTLY VISIBLE OR UNDERSTOOD*.

+

From what we know of the place/object, the physical evidence is likely to be of an *INTEGRITY* and/or *CONDITION* that it *COULD YIELD INFORMATION* through detailed investigation.

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CRITERION C IS LIKELY TO BE SATISFIED

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The knowledge that might be obtained through investigation is likely to *MEANINGFULLY CONTRIBUTE* to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.

+

The information likely to be yielded from the place/object is *NOT* already *WELL DOCUMENTED* or *READILY AVAILABLE* from other sources.

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CRITERION C IS LIKELY TO BE RELEVANT AT THE STATE LEVEL

STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE

This criterion will normally apply to archaeological sites (land-based and maritime archaeology) and sites that develop over time through the layering of fabric.

STEP 3: EXCLUSION GUIDELINES FOR CRITERION C

The place or object is unlikely to satisfy this criterion at the state level if any of the following conditions apply:

XC1	Poor evidence	No reliable or verifiable physical, documentary or oral history evidence exists to provide a reasonable indication that physical evidence of investigative potential may be present OR insufficient information exists to locate the likely physical evidence with sufficient accuracy.
XC2	Dubious importance of information to be yielded	The information likely to be yielded is of low or questionable historical importance , i.e. the information is unlikely to contribute to an understanding or appreciation of important aspects of Victoria's cultural history.
XC3	High degree of disturbance	The physical evidence has been, or is likely to have been, so disturbed by subsequent activity that any research potential is compromised.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF CRITERION C BEING SATISFIED



Refuge Cove, on the eastern side of Wilsons Promontory (VHR H1729) is significant for its potential to yield information relating to the bay whaling industry that operated there from 1841 and other nineteenth century activities including quarrying and timber getting.



The **Chinese Kiln and Market Garden**, North Bendigo (VHR H2106) is the only known surviving Chinese brick kiln in Victoria and has a high potential to yield information about the processes and technology of brick manufacture and market garden operations that Chinese migrants brought to Australia in the nineteenth century.



Eureka Historic Precinct, Ballarat (VHR H1874) is significant because of its potential to yield archaeological evidence of events and individual participants in the rebellion of 1854 through subsurface deposits or artefacts, and for the presence of the Eureka Lead, the auriferous deposit being worked by the miners at the time.



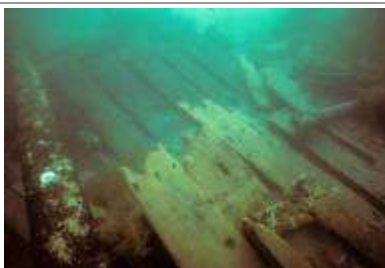
The **Cable Tram Track Formation**, North Melbourne (VHR H0988) is the only known cable tram track to survive intact in Melbourne and has the potential to contain subsurface evidence of the connection between the engine house and the underground cable tunnels and the track arrangement for the shunting operations.



The **Bessiebelle Sheepwashes and Yards**, Bessiebelle (VHR H2033) is significant for their potential to inform our knowledge of nineteenth century sheep washing processes and technologies on a large scale.



The **Steampacket Hotel**, Portland (VHR H0239) is significant for its potential to reveal information about interior finishes over time through the accumulations of wallpaper in the upstairs attic rooms dating from the 1850s and the linoleum laid on the floor in several rooms over various different periods.



The schooner **Clarence** (VHR S127) was built in 1841 and was wrecked in Port Phillip Bay in 1850. It has the potential to provide information on ship construction in Australia at the time as most ships were constructed by rule of thumb, without using models and plans.



The **Convincing Ground**, Allestree (VHR H2079) was the location of one of Victoria's first whaling stations. It contains historical archaeological remains that have the potential to provide information about the establishment and development of the whaling industry from the mid-late 1830s onwards.



The **Cottage**, 14 William Street, Port Fairy (VHR H2078) is significant as an intact example of a simple timber dwelling from the late 1840s or early 1850s and its potential, due to its good condition and lack of modifications since completed, to inform our knowledge of construction methods, timbers, hardware, materials and decorative finishes from the mid nineteenth century.

CRITERION D: IMPORTANCE IN DEMONSTRATING THE PRINCIPAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A CLASS OF CULTURAL PLACES/OBJECTS

A place or object is likely to satisfy this criterion at the state level only if **all** of the following requisites are met:

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION D

The place/object is one of a *CLASS** of places/objects that has a *CLEAR ASSOCIATION* with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, important person(s), custom or way of life in Victoria's history.

+

The *EVENT, PHASE, etc* is of *HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE*, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria.

+

The principal characteristics of the class are *EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object.

=

CRITERION D IS LIKELY TO BE SATISFIED

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STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE

The place/object is a *NOTABLE EXAMPLE* of the class in Victoria (refer to Reference Tool D).

=

CRITERION D IS LIKELY TO BE RELEVANT AT THE STATE LEVEL

Note: the sub-themes in *Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes* will assist in understanding the events, phases, periods, processes, functions, movements, customs and ways of life in Victoria's history.

* Refer to p4 for definition of "class".

Reference Tool D: What is a 'notable example' of a class?

The term **notable example** is used to encompass any of the following:

- **A fine example** – the place/object displays a large number or range of characteristics that is typical of the class; the place/object displays characteristics that are of a higher quality or historical relevance than are typical of places/objects in the class; or the place/object displays the principal characteristics of the class in a way that allows the class to be easily understood/appreciated.
- **A highly intact example** – the place/object displays characteristics of the class that remain mostly unchanged from the historically important period of development or use of the place/object.
- **An influential example** – the place/object contains physical characteristics of design, technology or materials that were copied in subsequent places/objects of the class (direct physical influence), or other places/objects were created, altered or used in response to the characteristics of this place/object.
- **A pivotal example** - the place/object encapsulates a key evolutionary stage in the development of the class.

STEP 3: EXCLUSION GUIDELINES FOR CRITERION D

The place or object is unlikely to satisfy this criterion at the state level if any of the following conditions apply:

XD1	Demonstrates few characteristics of the class	The place/object does not exhibit the principal characteristics that define the class, either having never possessed them or having lost them through subsequent development, activity or disturbance.
XD2	Poor evidence	There is a lack of reliable or verifiable physical, documentary or other evidence to indicate the place/object clearly belongs to a specific class of place/object and is a notable example within that class.
XD3	Low or questionable historical importance of class	The class itself is not associated with an event, phase etc of historical importance in the Victorian context or the association is incidental or cannot be substantiated . For example, not every fine or intact example of a road culvert or fowl house warrants inclusion in the VHR.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF CRITERION D BEING SATISFIED



Stawell Court House, Stawell (VHR H1997) built in 1878–79 is significant as a particularly fine and highly intact example of a large court house in the Victorian Free Classical style. It incorporates the key features of a recessed entry, arcade, gallery and hipped roof.



Glass Terrace, Fitzroy (VHR H446), a two storey terrace of eight houses in the Colonial Regency style, is significant as a particularly intact early surviving terrace house design, which was to become a distinctive Melbourne building type.



Warracknabeal Town Hall, Warracknabeal (VHR H2223) is significant as a particularly fine and intact representative example of an interwar town hall in the Moderne style.



Georgie's Hut (Chinese Market Garden) objects, Donald (VHR H0873) are significant as a fine collection of objects that demonstrate a particular way of life. They are surviving objects relating to the Chinese market garden industry, once widespread in Victoria, and provide information about the market garden operations and domestic life.



Heathcote Powder Magazine (VHR H1402), located within the McIvor Diggings, is a notable example of a powder magazine, a class of building which played an important role in the development of deep alluvial and quartz mining activities in the goldfields of Victoria in the late 1850s and the 1860s.



The South Channel and West Channel Pile Lights (VHR H1518 & H1519) are examples of the four manned pile lights that originally serviced ships entering Port Phillip Bay. These were integral to navigational operations along the South and West channels of Port Phillip Bay at a time of heavy traffic in shipping and when passage by sea represented the major form of transport to Melbourne from overseas and interstate.



Rail Bridge over Stony Creek, Nowa Nowa (VHR H1436) is significant as a fine example of a timber trestle railway bridge, demonstrating the ingenuity and skill involved in constructing a railway line over a long distance, through difficult terrain and utilising local timber resources.



The Former Common School No. 1124, Muckleford South (VHR H1380) was built in 1871 and was an influential example for subsequent school designs. The plan, elevation and classroom layout were all typical of 'Common Schools', which were developed in the period of rural expansion following the gold rushes and the Selection Acts.



The Andersons Mill Complex, Smeaton (VHR1521) is significant as a highly intact representative example of a rural industrial complex associated with the early period of wheat growing in Victoria.

CRITERION E: IMPORTANCE IN EXHIBITING PARTICULAR AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS

A place or object is likely to satisfy this criterion at the state level only if **all** of the following requisites are met:

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION E

The *PHYSICAL FABRIC* of the place/object clearly exhibits particular aesthetic characteristics (refer to Reference Tool E below).

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CRITERION E IS LIKELY TO BE SATISFIED

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STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE

The aesthetic characteristics are *APPRECIATED OR VALUED* by the wider community or an appropriately-related discipline as evidenced, for example, by:

- *CRITICAL RECOGNITION* of the aesthetic characteristics of the place/object within a relevant art, design, architectural or related discipline as an outstanding example within Victoria; or
- wide public *ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF EXCEPTIONAL MERIT* in Victoria in medium such as songs, poetry, literature, painting, sculpture, publications, print media etc.

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CRITERION E IS LIKELY TO BE RELEVANT AT THE STATE LEVEL

Reference Tool E: What is meant by 'aesthetic characteristics'?

The *Macquarie Dictionary Online* 2012 defines **aesthetic** and **aesthetics** as:

Aesthetic *adjective* **1.** relating to the sense of the beautiful or the science of aesthetics. **2.** having a sense of the beautiful; characterised by a love of beauty. *noun* **3.** a philosophical theory as to what is aesthetically valid at a given time. **4.** an artistic expression, viewed as reflective of a personal or cultural ideal of what is aesthetically valid.

Aesthetics *noun* **1. Philosophy** the science which deduces from nature and taste the rules and principles of art; the theory of the fine arts; the science of the beautiful, or that branch of philosophy which deals with its principles or effects; the doctrines of taste. **2. Psychology** the study of the mind and emotions in relation to the sense of beauty.

These definitions do not suggest that 'aesthetic' is synonymous with 'beauty'. Instead they imply a judgement against various qualities that may include beauty. To assume that 'aesthetic' and 'beauty' are interchangeable terms limits an understanding of aesthetic and aesthetics.

Aesthetic characteristics are the visual qualities of a place or object that invite judgement against the ideals of beauty, picturesqueness, evocativeness, expressiveness, grotesqueness, sublimeness and other descriptors of aesthetic judgement. The visual qualities of a place or object lie in the form, scale, setting, unity, contrast, colour, texture and material of the fabric of a place or object.

STEP 3: EXCLUSION GUIDELINES FOR CRITERION E

The place or object is unlikely to satisfy this criterion at the state level if any of the following conditions apply:

XE1	Lacks distinctiveness	The place/object has aesthetic qualities but they do not exceed those of the general class to which the place/object belongs.
XE2	Poor, indirect or unproven recognition	The aesthetic qualities of the place/object have only received limited public or disciplinary recognition (as appropriate).
XE3	Degraded aesthetic qualities	The aesthetic characteristics of the place/object have been irreversibly degraded through changes to the fabric of the place/object, changes to the setting of the place/object; or the degraded condition of significant elements of the place/object (in some instances).
XE4	No clearly definable aesthetic characteristics	Being "pretty" or "attractive" or popular is insufficient for the purposes of satisfying this criterion.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF CRITERION E BEING SATISFIED



The **Royal Botanic Gardens**, Melbourne (VHR H1459) (above and below) is significant for the design and planting established by William Guilfoyle between 1873 and 1909 that combines both picturesque and gardenesque landscape features, structures, botanical collections and the extensive use of subtropical species and bold foliage. The internationally acclaimed landscape, with sweeping paths, lawns, dense shrubberies, beds and specimen trees, internal and external vistas, and the location and design of buildings and structures, are of the highest quality.



The **Clyde Cameron College**, Wodonga (VHR H2192) (above and below) is a highly creative and largely intact example of the late twentieth century Brutalist style. It was the subject of high professional acclaim in 2008 when it was given the 25 Year-Award for Enduring Architecture from the Australian Institute of Architects Victorian chapter.



The **Marianne Gibson Quilt**, Wangaratta (VHR H2297) (above and below), created from 1890–1896, has aesthetic significance as an outstanding example of the craft of crazy quilting. The quilt has been the subject of acclaim in several books written by Margaret Rolfe, one of the foremost quilt scholars in Australia, and by Patricia Cox Crews, Professor of Textiles, Clothing and Design and the Director of the International Quilt Study Center at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. The quilt was displayed in the National Exhibition of Historic Quilts in Sydney in 1988 and was put onto the online National Quilt Register in 1996.



The **Marmalake/Murtoa Grain Store** (VHR 791) (left and right) was constructed in 1941 for the temporary storage of wheat during wartime. It is of aesthetic significance as a building which stimulates poetic responses, and which is valued for its impressive external presence in the surrounding plain and for the aesthetic qualities of its vast internal space which has been compared to both cathedrals and forests.



CRITERION F: IMPORTANCE IN DEMONSTRATING A HIGH DEGREE OF CREATIVE OR TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AT A PARTICULAR PERIOD

A place or object is likely to satisfy this criterion at the state level only if **all** of the following requisites are met:

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION F

The place/object contains *PHYSICAL EVIDENCE* that clearly demonstrates creative or technical *ACHIEVEMENT* for the time in which it was created.

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The physical evidence demonstrates a *HIGH DEGREE OF INTEGRITY*.

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CRITERION F IS LIKELY TO BE SATISFIED

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STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE

The nature &/or scale of the achievement is *OF A HIGH DEGREE* or 'beyond the ordinary' for *THE PERIOD IN WHICH IT WAS UNDERTAKEN* as evidenced by:

- *CRITICAL ACCLAIM* of the place/object within the relevant creative or technological discipline as an outstanding example in Victoria; or
- wide *ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF EXCEPTIONAL MERIT* in Victoria in medium such as publications and print media; or
- recognition of the place/object as a *BREAKTHROUGH* in terms of design, fabrication or construction techniques; or
- recognition of the place/object as a successful solution to a technical problem that *EXTENDED THE LIMITS* of existing technology; or
- recognition of the place/object as an outstanding example of the *CREATIVE ADAPTATION* of available materials and technology of the period.

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CRITERION F IS LIKELY TO BE RELEVANT AT THE STATE LEVEL

STEP 3: EXCLUSION GUIDELINES FOR CRITERION F

The place or object is unlikely to satisfy this criterion at the state level if any of the following conditions apply:

XFI	High degree of achievement unproven or unsubstantiated	The available documentary or technical evidence indicates the creative or technical achievements of the place/object are unlikely to be of a high degree or 'beyond the ordinary'.
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ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF CRITERION F BEING SATISFIED



Morell Bridge over the Yarra River at Anderson Street, South Yarra (VHR H1440) is significant as the first reinforced concrete bridge built in Victoria (1899) – only two years after the first reinforced concrete bridge in the world - and the first in Victoria to use the innovative Monier construction technique patented by Joseph Monier, a French manufacturer of garden ware.



The Commercial Travellers Association Building, Melbourne (VHR H0934) is of architectural significance for a number of innovations, such as the use of welded wire reinforcing mesh, perhaps the first use of such material in Victoria, and 'Mack' slab cement partitions, the only known use of this technology in Victoria. It was also one of Australia's earliest steel framed buildings.



Essendon Incinerator Complex, Essendon (VHR H0434), built in 1929-1930, is significant for its distinctive design by the Walter Burley Griffin architectural practice. The design set a new standard in Australia for industrial buildings that could be accommodated within developed municipal areas.



The **Solar House**, Templestowe (VHR H1312) is significant as the first commercially available solar energy project house in Australia. The integrated building and equipment system was designed to provide approximately 60 percent of the annual heating requirements for the house.



ICI House, Melbourne (VHR H0786) is significant for its considerable advancements in local construction techniques, including framed glazed curtain walls and innovative use of concrete, including precast reinforced units in structural members and flooring. The division of the glazed office space from the solidly clad service tower predates similar developments overseas.



The Church of the Resurrection, Keysborough (VHR H2293) is one of the most influential, well-recognised, discussed and published Australian post-war church designs and continues to be valued by the architectural profession for its originality and polemical value.



The Ovoid Sewer Aqueduct over Barwon River, Geelong (VHR H0895) is significant as an outstanding application of the Considere system of concrete reinforcement in a design derived from the steel Firth of Forth Bridge in Scotland. It enabled an overall length and span which exceeded any other reinforced concrete structure at the time of construction.



CSIRAC (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation Computer), held at the Melbourne Museum (VHR H2217) is highly significant as Australia's first programmable digital computer and the only surviving intact first generation computer in the world.



The New Works Historic Complex, Lakes Entrance (VHR H1532) is significant as the site of a major nineteenth century engineering achievement in Victoria. The New Works addressed the unreliable natural entrance from the sea to the Gippsland lakes, encouraging further development in this relatively isolated part of the colony.

CRITERION G: STRONG OR SPECIAL ASSOCIATION WITH A PARTICULAR PRESENT-DAY COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP FOR SOCIAL, CULTURAL OR SPIRITUAL REASONS.

What is social value?

Social value is a collective attachment to a place or object that embodies meanings and values that are important to a community or cultural group. The reasons for the attachment may be spiritual, religious, cultural, political or derived from common experience. The attachment of the relevant community with the place/object may be evident in its physical fabric and/or revealed through background research, direct community engagement, observational techniques or media analysis that demonstrate customary usage, access, symbolism or other community function.

STEP 1: DEMONSTRATING SOCIAL VALUE

Does evidence exist that the place/object demonstrates social value to a community or cultural group in the present day in the context of its cultural heritage significance? Evidence must be provided that the following **three** facets of social value are all met as defined below:

- a) Existence of a community or cultural group.**
- b) Existence of a strong attachment of a community or cultural group to a place or object.**
- c) Existence of a time depth to that attachment.**

Tests for Step 1 (all need to be met)

a) What is the community or cultural group?	A community or cultural group is a group of people who share a common interest, including an experience, purpose, belief system, culture, ethnicity or values. The members are connected through a common interest or cause and may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • live or meet in the same locality, or • were once located together and are now geographically dispersed, or • may have never met in person (for example are a virtual group and interact online).
b) What is the intensity of the attachment?	Attachment describes people's connection to a place or object. This includes feelings, memories and associations that are important to a community or cultural group's sense of identity, as well as practices, expressions and representations. The reason(s) may be related to a common cause, experience, ideal, belief or cultural practice. The intensity of attachment to place – from ordinary to profound – can fluctuate over time. The nature of the attachment may vary within the community or cultural group but <u>must be strong or special</u> . The place or object may be a source of positive association for some people and negative association for others.
c) What is the time depth of the attachment?	<p>i) Time depth is the length of time over which a community or cultural group's connection to place can be demonstrated to have endured. An appropriate time depth to underpin social value will typically be of long standing (a generation, or 25 to 30 years, may be accepted as a rough guide). OR</p> <p>ii) Time depth can be of more recent origin, often provoked by a sense of loss or change, including change of use. People are sometimes unaware of their attachment to a place/object until it is under threat. <i>If the time depth is of this type, specific evidence should be provided as to why it should be considered a facet of social value.</i></p>

STEP 2: DEMONSTRATING SOCIAL VALUE AT THE STATE LEVEL

Evidence must be provided for the RESONANCE at the state level of the social value of a place/object demonstrated at Step 1, that is: **the social value resonates across the broader Victorian community as part of a story that contributes to Victoria's identity.** In this context 'resonance' means the extent to which the social value of a place/object can be demonstrated to exert an influence.

Tests for Step 2 (both need to be met)

a) Does the social value resonate at a state level, i.e. across the 'broader Victorian community'?	The 'broader Victorian community' is the population of Victoria (i.e. the people) who live across the state and/or those who share a common geographical connection to Victoria. To meet Criterion G at a state level, the social value of the place/object must resonate beyond a particular local, social or cultural community and into the 'broader Victorian community'.
b) Is the social value part of an event or story that contributes to 'Victoria's identity'?	Victoria's identity includes the events and/or themes that underpin the stories that Victoria tells about itself. To meet Criterion G at a State level, the place/object must be associated with, represent or be identified with an established or emerging story or theme that contributes to or forms part of Victoria's identity.

STEP 3: EXCLUSION GUIDELINES FOR CRITERION G

The place or object is unlikely to satisfy this criterion at the state level if any of the following conditions apply:

XG1	Lack of a community or cultural group	As required under Step 1(a).
XG2	Lack of a strong or special attachment	As required under Step 1(b).
XG3	Lack of time depth (ie: lack of existence)	As required under Step 1(c).
XG4	Not resonant across the broader Victorian community	The social value does not exert an influence across the Victorian community as required under Step 2(a).
XG5	Not part of Victoria's identity	The social value is not associated with, nor represents, nor is identified with an established or emerging story or theme that contributes to or forms part of Victoria's identity, as required under Step 2(b).
XG6	The social value is historical rather than in the present day	The association with the community, or the community itself, no longer exists. In this case it may be relevant to consider the cultural heritage significance of the place/object under Criterion A.
XG7	No association between the social value and the place/object	The place/object does not demonstrate social value because there is no association or low association between the proposed social value and the place/object.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF CRITERION G BEING SATISFIED



The **Salvation Army Temple**, Melbourne (VHR H0436) is significant for its enduring association with the Salvation Army, one of the most recognised religious and charitable groups in Victoria and Australia. The Temple continues to serve as a centre for worship, meetings and the administration of service delivery by 'the Salvos'.



Loong, Chinese Dragon (VHR H2120) is a ceremonial dragon held by the Golden Dragon Museum, Bendigo. It is a rare surviving artefact associated with the Victorian Chinese community's customary and continuing practice of public performances and processions in different parts of the State.



The **former Cockatoo Kindergarten** (VHR2303) was used as a refuge for residents of Cockatoo during the devastating Ash Wednesday bushfires of 1983. It has significance for its ability to resonate with other fire-affected communities and the wider Victorian public and interpret to them the experience of 'seeking refuge from fires'.



The **East Melbourne Synagogue**, East Melbourne (VHR H0495) is significant for its long and continuous association with Melbourne's Jewish community. It is the oldest and largest functioning Synagogue in Victoria.



The **Bangerang Cultural Centre**, Shepparton (VHR H1082) is significant for the important role it has played for Bangerang people in preserving their identity and raising awareness of Indigenous culture more broadly to the Victorian and wider community.



Central Park, Stawell (VHR H2284) is significant for its long and continuous association with the Stawell Athletic Club, which established the now internationally famous Stawell Gift footrace in 1878.



The **Former Benalla Migrant Camp**, Benalla (VHR H2358) was part of the government immigration programme to increase Victoria's population post-WWII. It is of significance for its connection with former residents and their families and for the way that the experiences of post-WWII non-British migrants can be interpreted to the broader Victorian community.



Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve (VHR H2032) is significant for its long and continuous association with the Victorian and Australian surfing community and as the location of the world's longest running surf competition.



The **Ballarat Trades Hall** (VHR H0657) is significant for its enduring association with the labour and trade union movement since the construction of the building in 1887-88.

CRITERION H: SPECIAL ASSOCIATION WITH THE LIFE OR WORKS OF A PERSON, OR GROUP OF PERSONS, OF IMPORTANCE IN VICTORIA'S HISTORY

A place or object is likely to satisfy this criterion at the state level only if **all** of the following requisites are met:

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION H

The place/object has a *DIRECT ASSOCIATION* with a person or group of persons who have made a strong or influential *CONTRIBUTION* to the course of Victoria's history.

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The *ASSOCIATION* of the place/object to the person(s) *IS EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources and/or oral history.

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The *ASSOCIATION*:

- directly relates to *ACHIEVEMENTS* of the person(s) at, or relating to, the place/object; or
- relates to an *ENDURING* and/or *CLOSE INTERACTION* between the person(s) and the place/object.

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CRITERION H IS LIKELY TO BE SATISFIED

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The place/object allows the clear association with the person or group of persons to be *READILY APPRECIATED BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES OR OBJECTS IN VICTORIA*.

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CRITERION H IS LIKELY TO BE RELEVANT AT THE STATE LEVEL

STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE

STEP 3: EXCLUSION GUIDELINES FOR CRITERION H

The place or object is unlikely to satisfy this criterion at the state level if any of the following conditions apply:

XH1	Poor, indirect or unproven association	The association of the person(s) with the place/object is tenuous or cannot be substantiated or verified. For example, the person spent a brief, transitory or incidental time at the place without leaving evidence or achieving anything there that is relevant to their importance.
XH2	Inability to demonstrate association	No evidence remains to demonstrate the association of the place/object with the person(s) or, in the case of physical evidence, the remaining physical fabric has been so altered that it no longer demonstrates reasonable evidence of the association.
XH3	Person(s) is of local significance only	There is insufficient reliable or verifying information available to support a claim that the person(s) is of more than local importance.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF CRITERION H BEING SATISFIED



Mary MacKillop House, East Melbourne (H1062) is significant for its association with Mother Mary MacKillop, now St. Mary of the Cross, co-founder of the Order of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1995. MacKillop founded the first Providence in the East Melbourne area in 1901–2. She remained involved in the work carried out there until her death in 1909.



The **Grainger Museum**, Parkville (VHR H0875) is significant for being founded by Percy Grainger, an internationally acclaimed musician and composer. It contains a significant collection of Grainger's work.



Longacres, Olinda (VHR H1876) is significant for being established and used by the prominent artist (Sir) Arthur Streeton, who had the house built for his own use in 1923–24. He created most of the garden himself, all of which remains much as it was during Streeton's occupation.



The **Fletcher Jones Factory and Gardens**, Warrnambool (VHR H2101) were established in 1948 by clothing manufacturer David Fletcher Jones who provided innovative benefits for his employees. The company's distinctive ethos is reflected in the extensive gardens established for the enjoyment of staff and local residents.



Menlo, Templestowe (VHR H2294) is significant for its association with Edna Walling, one of Australia's most important and influential garden designers of the twentieth century. Menlo is one of the finest and most intact Walling-designed structural gardens.



The **Stringybark Creek Site**, Archerton (VHR H2205) is strongly associated with the members of the Kelly Gang (Ned Kelly, Dan Kelly, Joe Byrne and Steve Hart), and with the four police officers (Thomas Lonigan, Michael Scanlon, Michael Kennedy and Thomas McIntyre) who fought the bushrangers at the site, in the events that precipitated the Kelly Outbreak.



Ballara, Point Lonsdale (VHR H1126) is significant for its association with Alfred Deakin, Prime Minister of Australia on three occasions. He developed Ballara both as a place of relaxation and contemplation while in his second term as Prime Minister.



The **Women's Suffrage Petition**, held in the Public Records Office of Victoria (H2121) is significant for its association with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the Victorian Temperance Alliance and their role in fighting for – and obtaining – Victorian women's right to vote.



The **Robin Boyd House II**, South Yarra (VHR H2105) is significant for its direct association with nationally-acclaimed architect and architectural critic, Robin Boyd, a member of a well known Melbourne family of artists and writers. Designed by Boyd as his family home, it exemplifies many of the theories espoused in his writings and he lived there from 1959 until his death in 1971.

Acknowledgements:

Under an information-sharing agreement between the Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand, this guideline draws heavily upon the work in developing assessment methodologies and thresholds undertaken by heritage jurisdictions across Australia, including:

- the Queensland Heritage Council's 2006 publication: *Using the Criteria: a Methodology*;
- the NSW Heritage Office's publications *Assessing Heritage Significance* 2001, *Levels of Heritage Significance* 2008 and *Assessing Significance for Archaeological Sites and Relics* 2009;
- the Australian Heritage Council's publications *A Guide to Heritage Listing in Australia: Thresholds for Different Levels of Heritage Listing* 2008 and *Guidelines for the Assessment of Places for the National Heritage List* 2009;
- Heritage Tasmania's draft report *Assessing Historic Heritage Significance: Criteria and Threshold Guidelines* 2011;
- the ACT Heritage Council and Chief Minister's Department draft report *Guidelines for Assessing Places and Objects Against the Criteria of the Heritage Act 2004* 2011; and
- the Heritage Council of Western Australia's publication *Criteria for the Assessment of Local heritage Places and Areas* 2007;

and draws upon a number of Victorian reports including previous drafts by A Cahir, C Gribbin and D Scott, plus:

- *Review of Criteria and Thresholds for Inclusion of Places on the Heritage Overlay*, Ian Wight, Heritage Victoria 2007;
- *Assessing Heritage Places of Local Significance Using Criteria and Thresholds*, Dr David Rowe for Planning Panels Victoria 2011;
- *Assessing Historical Archaeological Significance*, Heritage Victoria and Heritage Council of Victoria 2004.
- *Assessing & Managing Social Significance*, Adam Mornement (Lovell Chen) and Dr Cristina Garduño Freeman (University of Melbourne) for the Heritage Council of Victoria 2018.