

CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES FOR STATE HERITAGE PLACES

Our heritage consists of the places with special cultural value that we have inherited from the past, and that we intend to conserve and pass on to future generations. The Heritage Places Act 1993 creates a South Australian Heritage Register. A place is eligible for entry in the Register if it is of heritage value, that is, if it meets one or more of the criteria in Section 16 of the Act.

A place would be considered as having State heritage value if one or more of the following criteria are met

- a) **it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the state's history.**

Guidelines for inclusion

The place should be closely associated with events, developments or cultural phases which have played a significant part in South Australian history. Ideally it should demonstrate those associations in its fabric. For example:



[Above left] Reeves Point near Kingscote was the scene of the first formal settlement by Europeans in South Australia in 1836.



[Above right] The Burra mines are substantial evidence of the importance of the nineteenth century copper mining industry to South Australia's economy.



Tests to be considered

- Does the place have a CLEAR ASSOCIATION with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life in South Australia's history?
- Is the place's association to the event, phase, etc EVIDENT in the physical fabric of the place and/or in documentary resources or oral history?
- Is the EVENT, PHASE, etc of HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE at the state level, having made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution to the evolution or pattern of South Australian society or environment?
- Is this significance at the State level? Does the place allow the clear association with the important event, phase etc. to be READILY APPRECIATED BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA WITH SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME ASSOCIATION?

Guidelines for exclusion

A place may be excluded from this criterion for any of the following reasons:

- it is of a class of things that is commonplace or frequently replicated across the State
- it is associated with events that are only of interest to a small number of people
- it is associated with an historical event, phase etc of low or questionable importance
- its associations to the significant event, phase etc are either incidental, indirect or cannot be substantiated
- there is no surviving reliable or verifiable physical, documentary or oral history evidence to demonstrate the association of the place/object with the historical event, phase, etc.

Examples of exclusions

- Public buildings such as state schools are commonplace and would not normally be considered for entry in the Register, unless a particular example was exceptionally well preserved in its historic state, or possessed some notable physical attribute. Such a place might be regarded as an 'outstanding representative' and considered under Criterion (d). If it had a strong association with an important event or person it might be considered under Criterion (g).
- Independence Point near the township of American River on Kangaroo Island is reputed to be the construction site of the schooner Independence by American sealers in 1803. However, the event left no discernible trace and there is nothing of cultural significance to conserve at that place today.



- b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.**

Guidelines for inclusion

The place should demonstrate a way of life, social custom, industrial process or land use which is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost, or is of exceptional interest. This encompasses both places which were always rare, and places which have become scarce through subsequent loss or destruction. For example:



[Above] The Ostrich Farm near Port Augusta is evidence of an industry which once flourished but is now little known.

[Left] The arsenic labyrinth at Wheal Ellen near Strathalbyn is the only surviving example in South Australia of this rare technology.

Tests to be considered

- Does the place have a CLEAR ASSOCIATION with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life in South Australia's history?
- Is the place's association to the event, phase, etc EVIDENT in the physical fabric of the place and/or in documentary resources or oral history?
- Is the EVENT, PHASE, etc of HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE at the state level, having made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution to the evolution or pattern of South Australian society or environment?
- Is the place RARE OR UNCOMMON in South Australia, being one of a small number of places remaining that demonstrates the important event, phase, etc? OR



Is the existence of the CLASS of place that demonstrates the important event, phase, etc endangered to the point of rarity in South Australia due to threats and pressures on such places?

Guidelines for exclusion

A place may be excluded from this criterion for any of the following reasons:

- its rarity is only significant in the local context
- it appears rare only because research has not been done elsewhere
- its distinguishing characteristics have been degraded or compromised
- it is currently common and simply believed to be in danger of becoming rare in future
- the attribute of claimed rarity is of questionable importance (*eg*, the only grandstand with a tiled roof)
- the claimed rarity depends on too many qualifiers being strung together (*eg*, the only stone house with a slate roof in the Federation style designed by a particular architect)
- it is not the class of places that is endangered but an individual place. If there are other examples that represent the class, then the place may not fulfil this criteria.
- there is no surviving reliable or verifiable physical, documentary or oral history evidence to demonstrate the association of the place/object with the historical event, phase, *etc.* or to the rarity/endangered status being claimed.



- c) **it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the state's history, including its natural history.**

Guidelines for inclusion

The place should provide, or demonstrate a likelihood of providing, information that will contribute significantly to our knowledge of the past. The information should be inherent in the fabric of the place. The place may be a standing structure, an archaeological deposit or a geological site.



[Left] The site of the South Australian Company's bay whaling station at Thistle Island (1838-39) has yielded information about living and working conditions in this early staple industry.



[Above] The children's graves in the Moonta Cemetery give a powerful impression of the impact of the typhoid epidemics of the 1860s.



[Left] The fossil deposits at Ediacara have provided much information on the previously unknown soft-bodied fauna of the late Precambrian era.

Tests to be considered

- Does the visible physical fabric OR documentary evidence OR oral history relating to the place indicate a likelihood that the place contains PHYSICAL EVIDENCE of HISTORICAL INTEREST that is NOT CURRENTLY VISIBLE?
- From what we know about the place, is the physical evidence likely to be of an INTEGRITY and/or



CONDITION that it COULD YIELD INFORMATION through detailed investigation?

- Will the Knowledge that might be obtained through this investigation be likely to MEANINGFULLY CONTRIBUTE to an understanding of South Australia's cultural history?
- Is the information likely to be yielded from the place NOT already WELL DOCUMENTED or READILY AVAILABLE from other sources?

Guidelines for exclusion

Places will not normally be considered under this criterion simply because they are believed to contain archaeological or palaeontological deposits. There must be good reasons to suppose the site is of value for research, and that useful information will emerge. A place that will yield the same information as many other places, or information that could be obtained as readily from documentary sources, may not be eligible.

A place may also be excluded from this criterion if:

- there is no existing reliable or verifiable physical, documentary or oral history evidence to indicate that there is physical evidence worth investigation
- there is insufficient information to locate the likely physical evidence with sufficient accuracy
- the information that is likely to be yielded is of low or questionable importance to an understanding of South Australia's natural or cultural history
- the potential evidence is replicated in places where similar information may be more easily interpreted
- the physical evidence has been or is likely to have been so disturbed by subsequent activity that any research potential is compromised.



d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.

Guidelines for inclusion:

The place should be capable of providing understanding of the category of places which it represents. It should be typical of a wider range of such places, and in a good state of integrity, that is, still faithfully presenting its historical message.



[Above] Poltalloch Homestead by Lake Alexandrina constitutes a notable representative of the great pastoral complexes created by the success of the nineteenth century wool industry.

Tests to be considered

- Is the place one of a CLASS of places that has a CLEAR ASSOCIATION with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life in South Australian history?
- Is the EVENT, PHASE, etc of HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE, having made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution to the evolution or pattern of South Australian history?
- Are the principal characteristics of the class EVIDENT in the physical fabric of the place?
- Is the place a NOTABLE EXAMPLE of the class in South Australia?

Guidelines for exclusion:

Places will not be considered simply because they are members of a class, they must be both notable examples and well-preserved. A place may be excluded from this criterion if:

- it demonstrates few characteristics of the class or does not clearly typify the class



- it is very like many other places from the class (although places will not be excluded from the Register merely because some similar places are included)
- its representative qualities have been degraded or lost
- there is a lack of reliable or verifiable physical, documentary or other evidence to indicate that the place is of a particular class, or is a notable example within that class
- the class itself is not associated with an event, phase, etc of historical importance in the South Australian context, or the association is incidental or cannot be substantiated.



- e) **it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.**

Guidelines for inclusion:

The place should show qualities of innovation or departure, beauty or formal design, or represent a new achievement of its time. Breakthroughs in technology or new developments in design would qualify, if the place clearly shows them. A high standard of design skill and originality is expected.



[Left] The Hindmarsh River Bridge near Victor Harbor (1908) is South Australia's first reinforced concrete girder bridge.



[Above] The Bragg Laboratories at the University of Adelaide (1962) are a good early example of International Style architecture in the local context.



[Left] The ruins of the Peake Telegraph Station are one of the principal relics of the construction of the Overland Telegraph Line in 1871-72.

Tests to be considered

- Does the PHYSICAL FABRIC of the place clearly exhibit particular construction techniques or design characteristics, or contain VISIBLE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE that clearly demonstrates



creative, aesthetic or technical ACHIEVEMENT for the time it was created?

- Does the visible physical evidence demonstrate a HIGH DEGREE OF INTEGRITY?
- Are the significant characteristics of a HIGH DEGREE or 'beyond the ordinary' for the PERIOD IN WHICH IT WAS UNDERTAKEN?
- Is there evidence that the characteristics have been APPRECIATED OR VALUED by the wider community or an appropriately related discipline? Evidence may include any of the following:
 - CRITICAL RECOGNITION of the aesthetic, technical or creative characteristics of the place within a relevant art, design or technological discipline as an outstanding example within South Australia; or
 - Wide public ACKNOWLEDGE OF EXCEPTIONAL MERIT in South Australia in medium such as songs, poetry, literature, painting, sculpture, publications, print media etc.; or
 - Recognition of the place as a BREAKTHROUGH in terms of design, fabrication, construction techniques or aesthetic sensibilities; or
 - Recognition of the place as a successful solution to a technical or aesthetic issue that EXTENDED THE LIMITS or existing thinking and technology; or
 - Recognition of the place as an outstanding example of the CREATIVE ADAPTATION of available materials and technology of the period.

Guidelines for exclusion:

Places would not normally be considered under this criterion if their degree of achievement could not be demonstrated, or where their integrity was diminished so that the achievement, while documented, was no longer apparent in the place, or simply because they were the work of a designer who demonstrated innovation elsewhere.

A place may be excluded from this criteria if:

- it has aesthetic/design/construction qualities that lack distinctiveness and do not exceed those of the general class to which they belong
- its qualities have only received limited public recognition or recognition within their discipline
- its qualities have been irreversibly degraded through changes to the fabric or setting
- its qualities are not clearly definable (eg, being 'pretty' or 'attractive' is not sufficient)
- there is insufficient documentary or technical evidence to prove or substantiate a high degree of achievement.



f) it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it.

Guidelines for inclusion:

The place should be one which the community or a significant cultural group have held in high regard for an extended period. This must be much stronger than people's normal attachment to their surroundings. The association may in some instances be in folklore rather than in reality.



[Above] The War Memorial on North Terrace is the focus of community remembrance of those killed in war.

[Right] The Old Gum Tree at Glenelg is widely believed to be the scene of the proclamation of Government in South Australia in 1836.



Tests to be considered

- Is there evidence of a **STRONG AND DIRECT ASSOCIATION** between the place and a **PARTICULAR COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP**?
- Is the **CULTURAL AND/OR SPIRITUAL ASSOCIATION** between the place and the community or cultural group **STRONG** or **SPECIAL**, as evidenced by the regular or long term use of/engagement with the place, or the enduring ceremonial, ritual, commemorative, spiritual or celebratory use of the place?
- Does the place represent a **PARTICULARLY STRONG EXAMPLE** of the **CULTURAL AND/OR SPIRITUAL** association between the place and the community or cultural group by reason of its **RELATIONSHIP TO IMPORTANT HISTORICAL EVENTS** in South Australia and/or its **ABILITY TO INTERPRET EXPERIENCES** to the broader South Australian community?



Guidelines for exclusion:

A place may be excluded from this criteria if:

- its associations are commonplace by nature or of local significance only
- an enduring attachment is not substantiated, or the associations are of recent origin
- its associations are recognised by only a small number of people or are not held very strongly
- the community or cultural group lacks definition or is not widely recognised
- the associations cannot be demonstrated satisfactorily to others or are not considered relevant to the current generation.



- g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.**

Guidelines for inclusion:

The place must have a close association with a person or group which played a significant part in past events, and that association should be demonstrated in the fabric of the place. The product of a creative person, or the workplace of a person whose contribution was in industry, would be more closely associated with the person's work than would his or her home. Most people are associated with many places in their lifetime, and it must be demonstrated why one place is more significant than others.



[Left] Rostrevor House at Woodforde demonstrates the prosperity which James Smith Reid derived from the construction of the Silverton Tramway, linking Broken Hill to South Australia.

[Right] Edmund Wright House in King William Street, Adelaide, is a fine example of the work of that prominent architect, and is also notable as the former head office of the Bank of South Australia.



Tests to be considered

- Does the place have a SPECIAL AND DIRECT ASSOCIATION with an event or the life or work of a person or organisation that has made a strong, notable or influential CONTRIBUTION to the



course of South Australia's history?

- Is the SPECIAL association of the place to the person, organisation or event EVIDENT in the physical fabric of the place and/or in documentary resources and/or oral history?
- Does the SPECIAL association directly relate to achievements of the relevant person/organisation at the place, or to an ENDURING and/or CLOSE INTERACTION between the place and the person, organisation or event?
- Does the place allow the clear association with the event or life and work of the person/organisation to be READILY APPRECIATED BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA?

Guidelines for exclusion:

A place will not generally be considered under this criterion if:

- it has a brief, incidental, distant, indirect or unproven association with the person, organisation or event
- it is associated with persons or groups of little significance, or an event which has left no trace
- the person, organisation or event is of local significance only
- the association cannot be demonstrated
- a similar association could be claimed for many places.

For example, generally the home or the grave of a notable person will not be entered in the Register unless it has some distinctive attribute, or there is no other physical evidence of the person's life or career in existence.

For more information

Contact the State Heritage Unit

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources
Lvl 1, 1 Richmond Road, KESWICK, 5035

P (08) 8124 4960

E DEWNRHeritage@sa.gov.au

www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage

