



Assessing heritage significance

Guidelines for assessing places and objects
against the Heritage Council of NSW criteria

Acknowledgement of Country

We recognise the traditional custodians of the lands and waterways where we live, work and play. We acknowledge Country, which always was and always will be Aboriginal land, and show our respect for elders past, present and emerging.

Much of the information in these guidelines is drawn from previous documents including *Assessing Heritage Significance* 2001, written as part of the NSW Heritage Manual. Parts of the manual are no longer published and have been replaced with updated single documents.

Earlier works that contributed to the development of the 2001 document and this updated version of *Assessing heritage significance* are acknowledged and listed at the end of this document.

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About these guidelines

These guidelines outline how to assess heritage significance against the criteria developed in 1999 by the Heritage Council of NSW. The criteria were gazetted following amendments to the *Heritage Act 1977*. They promote a standard of practice for those who provide advice, make decisions about, or undertake works to places or objects of heritage significance within NSW.

These guidelines are designed to assist anyone who:

- wants to assess the heritage significance of a place or object in NSW (for example as part of a heritage listing process, or as part of new or changing management of a place or object)
- manages, cares for, or advises on heritage listed places and objects including owners, heritage professionals, managers and custodians.

Assessing the significance of a place or object is critical before making decisions about future protection and management.

Once we can recognise why a place or object is important (its values), we can take the necessary steps to ensure decisions and actions do not diminish its significance.

These guidelines will help you determine, by using thresholds and examples, whether a place or object is of heritage significance:

- at a state level, being important to the whole of NSW, and eligible to be considered for nomination to the State Heritage Register
- at a local level, being important to a local area and eligible to be considered for a heritage listing at the local level.

When assessing heritage significance beyond the state level, refer to the specific guidelines for assessing of places that may be eligible for the National or World Heritage lists (DCCEEW 2021; UNESCO 2021).



What is heritage?

Heritage is the culture, traditions and assets preserved from one generation to another (Macquarie Dictionary Publishers 2022), and includes the places, objects, connections, and stories inherited from the past that we want to protect for future generations.

Heritage gives us a sense of our history and provides meaningful insights into how earlier generations lived and developed. It enriches our lives and helps us to understand who we are.

Our heritage in NSW includes tens of thousands of years of Aboriginal culture and landscapes, and historic buildings, monuments, gardens, archaeological sites, shipwrecks, bridges, industrial structures, moveable heritage, streetscapes, conservation precincts, and the associations and connections (intangible heritage) developed throughout our histories.

When considering the significance of all these types of places or objects, it is important to remember they also sit within a broader setting that can often contribute to their importance.

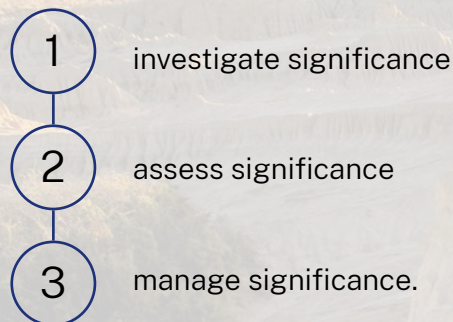
In this document, 'place' and 'object' are used as the overarching terms to represent physical heritage. However, the *Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)* uses the neutral term 'item', which in this context means a place, building, work, relic, moveable object, or precinct. All terms are assumed equal and correct for the purpose of using this document.

How is heritage managed in NSW?

The NSW Government leads the management of our significant cultural and natural heritage, working together with the community, local government, peak organisations and heritage professionals.

Significant places, objects and known or potential archaeological resources are protected under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, *Heritage Act 1977* and *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

There are 3 steps to managing heritage in NSW:



Each step provides guidance that can be applied to all kinds of places and objects.

1

Investigate significance

The key steps in the process are:

- investigate the historical context of the place or object or study area
- investigate the community's understanding of the place or object
- establish local historical themes and relate them to the state themes
- investigate the history of the place or object
- investigate the fabric of the place or object.

You can access more information about this process in the *Investigating Heritage Significance Guidelines* (NSW Government 2021).

A place or object's heritage values are established through the process of investigating and then assessing heritage significance.

The significance assessment should always come after you have investigated the place or object and before you make management decisions.



2

Assess significance

The key steps in the process are:

- summarise what you know about the place or object
- describe the previous and current uses of the place or object, its associations with individuals or groups and its meaning for those people
- conduct a comparative analysis of the place or object
- assess significance using the NSW heritage assessment criteria
- check whether you can make a sound analysis of the place or object's heritage significance
- determine the place or object's level of significance
- prepare a succinct statement of heritage significance
- get feedback from the community and/or relevant stakeholders
- write up all your information.

This process is outlined in this document.



3

Manage significance

The key steps in the process are:

- analyse the management implications of the place or object's level of significance
- analyse the constraints and opportunities arising out of the place or object's significance (including appropriate uses)
- analyse owner and user requirements
- prepare conservation and management recommendations
- if any obvious options are not suitable, explain why
- get feedback from the community and/or relevant stakeholders
- analyse statutory controls and their relationship to the place or object's significance
- recommend a process for carrying out the conservation and management strategies.

You can access more information about managing significance throughout the Heritage NSW website (DPE 2023).



What is heritage significance?

The concept of heritage significance is used in heritage practice and legislation to encompass all the cultural values and meanings that might be reflected in a place or object (Australia ICOMOS 2013a).

The terms 'cultural significance', 'cultural heritage value', 'cultural heritage significance' and 'heritage significance' are often used interchangeably. *The Heritage Act 1977* uses 'heritage significance'.

Heritage significance can encompass natural environments, modified landscapes, built places or objects. A place or object may also have a range of values for different individuals or groups (Australia ICOMOS 2013b).

The Burra Charter defines 'cultural significance' as meaning the aesthetic, historic, scientific, social, or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. The term brings together all the cultural values of a place or object.

The Burra Charter recognises that cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places, and related objects. It also outlines the necessary steps involved in understanding, planning for, and managing places of cultural significance.

The Heritage Council of NSW criteria encompass the values of cultural significance as outlined in the Burra Charter, which are commonly accepted by government agencies, peak organisations and heritage professionals.

Heritage significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places, and objects.

Places and objects can also be significant for their intangible values (for example, meaning, associations, connections), not just their physical attributes.

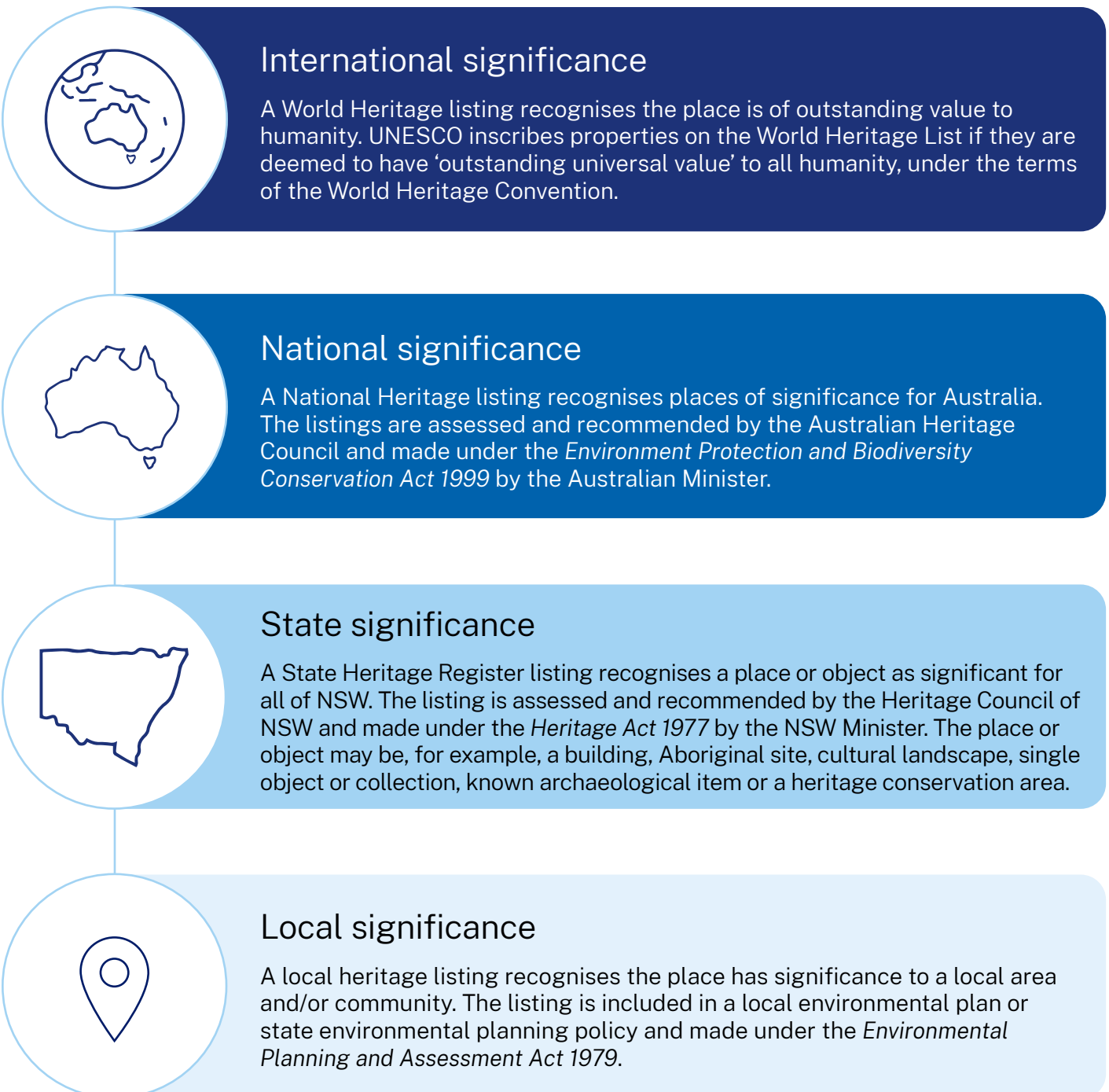
The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance provides guidance for the conservation and management of heritage listed places in NSW (Australia ICOMOS 2013b). It is the overarching guide to assessing heritage significance in Australia. These guidelines are aligned with the Burra Charter.

Heritage significance is the **sum of the heritage values** that a place or object has, as assessed against the criteria, and can represent the aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.

Levels of significance and heritage listings

In NSW, four levels of heritage significance are recognised for places and objects worth protecting for future generations:

Figure 1 Levels of significance and heritage listings



All levels of heritage significance are important. Levels do not signify hierarchy or ranking of importance. The significance level indicates the **context** in which a place or object is important – whether a local area, NSW, Australia or the world.

Once a place or object is assessed as being significant, it may be recognised and protected as a statutory listing, meaning it is protected by a law for present and future generations.

Statutory listing of heritage significance occurs at all four levels. Each level has a corresponding statutory listing process and a responsible authority for ensuring these important places and objects are appropriately protected.

The Heritage Council of NSW is responsible for managing the State Heritage Register and local councils are responsible for managing their local environmental plan.

Significant Aboriginal places and objects are also protected in NSW. Some places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance are listed on the State Heritage Register under the *Heritage Act 1977*. Some are also declared as Aboriginal Places under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.



Most heritage listed places and objects in NSW are of local significance. A smaller number are of state significance.

The NSW *Heritage Act 1977* states:

'State heritage significance', in relation to a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct, means significance to the state in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural, or aesthetic value of the item.

'Local heritage significance', in relation to a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct, means significance to an area in relation to the historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural, or aesthetic value of the item.

A place or object can have both state heritage significance and local heritage significance; however, one of local heritage significance often may not have state heritage significance.

Not every historic building, place or object has sufficient significance to justify statutory listing at a state or local level.

There are many other places and objects that are valuable and important to local communities. Although they may not be protected by law, they still form a valuable part of our collective heritage.

In NSW a place or object can have more than one level of heritage significance. For example, a place listed on the State Heritage Register (state significance), may also be listed on the heritage schedule of a local environmental plan (local significance).

Why and when do we assess significance?

Assessing heritage significance is an inquiry-based process that results in the compilation of various types of evidence (tangible, intangible or both) that is then used to determine the heritage significance of a place or object.

This assessment is integral to being able to make good decisions about important places and objects. Understanding why aspects of culture, traditions and assets have been preserved from one generation to another, and what values are present, allows for better management of heritage into the future.

The information gathered from a significance assessment is used by all levels of government, industry professionals and communities, to recognise, protect, manage and celebrate our cultural and natural heritage.

A significance assessment is crucial for supporting a heritage listing nomination and heritage management documents.

Heritage significance needs to be assessed when you:

- are preparing a heritage study, thematic history, conservation management plan, heritage asset register, policy or works program
- are considering if a place or object is eligible for listing on the State Heritage Register or in a local environmental plan
- want to make changes to a heritage listed place or object, or its setting, and need a more thorough understanding of its significance
- are preparing documentation for a development approval process such as a statement of heritage impact, environmental impact statement or statement of environmental effects.



Skills needed to assess significance

These guidelines can be used by anyone to prepare a heritage listing nomination (or similar).

If you are doing a significance assessment (based on these guidelines) to regulate or manage a heritage listed item, you should seek the input of a heritage professional to make sure it is robust and defensible.

Heritage management is a multidisciplinary pursuit. There is a range of professional expertise and experience that can contribute to a significance assessment, for example:

- history, for example Aboriginal, mining, labour, social, architectural and garden history
- archaeology, for example, Aboriginal and post-contact
- architecture, landscape architecture, interior design
- engineering
- fine arts
- natural history sciences
- technical sciences, for example, Aboriginal, historic and industrial archaeology, and materials
- human geography, sociology and anthropology.

A heritage professional who is undertaking or checking a significance assessment should have specialist knowledge of the place or object, its values and potential significance.

Heritage advisors, heritage consultants, NSW Government officers, local council officers and Aboriginal organisations can also offer valuable assistance.

Places or objects that are (or could be) of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance should only be investigated and assessed in consultation with the relevant Aboriginal stakeholders and communities.



The role of community

The knowledge and values held by different communities is important in the significance assessment process. Some places or objects will also have special importance to a specific group within the community, for example, Traditional Owners, migrants, LGBTQI+ or religious groups.

People with a valid connection, association and deep knowledge of the place or object should be involved throughout the significance assessment process. This will help inform and enrich the significance assessment.

An example of this would be talking to Aboriginal people from the area who hold deep cultural knowledge of Country and can assist with determining the Aboriginal significance of objects and places.

The role of history and cultural practices

The relationship between a place or object and its historical context underlies the significance assessment process.

The NSW historical themes have been developed by the Heritage Council to connect the local context to the broader history of NSW (Heritage Council of NSW 2001). Historical themes provide a context in which to apply the assessment criteria.

Local historical themes are often identified by qualified historians when preparing a thematic history as part of a local heritage study.

The historical themes help to reveal a place or object's heritage values, and are critical to understanding its overall significance.

They can also help evaluate comparative significance. Similar places or objects relating to similar themes can be compared and their rarity or representativeness assessed.

Applying the themes also helps to prevent one value from taking precedence over others. Themes such as events, industry, social institutions or welfare help to determine whether historical or social values may be more important to the heritage significance of a place or object than its aesthetics or research potential.



How to assess significance

Gathering and summarising evidence is critical for both investigating and assessing heritage significance. This applies to assessing the significance of places and objects, including buildings, conservation areas, landscapes and natural areas.

Follow the steps outlined in the following pages to assess places or objects that may be considered of state or local significance.

When considering significance, think objectively about the:

- **fabric** which means the material elements of the place or object that contribute to its importance, for example original brickwork, building interiors, a specific style of windows or drop slab boards, sub-surface remains and even natural elements
- **intangible values** that are kept, known or practiced, for example ideas, traditions, processes and meanings associated with the place or object.

Step 1

Summarise what is known about the place or object

Use your findings from investigating the heritage significance to summarise the essential information including:

- first-hand knowledge of the place or object, including its form and fabric
- description of the place or object and its setting
- its historical and physical context
- historical themes relevant to the place or object (Heritage Council of NSW 2001)
- maps, plans, photos and other documents.

The *Investigating heritage significance guidelines* provide guidance on who to talk to and where to find this information (NSW Government 2021).

Step 2

Describe the evolution and details of the place or object, its previous and current uses, its associations with individuals or groups and its meaning for those people

Collect information on:

- archaeological potential (both Aboriginal and post contact)
- community and/or key stakeholder values (including associations and connections) of the place or object over time
- oral histories of people associated with the place or object
- documentation and analysis of the physical material/fabric of the place or object (where it has physical attributes, rather than intangible values).

This will involve primary research, targeted stakeholder consultation with relevant knowledge holders, and/or physical investigation.

This step helps to explain how the place or object, and its use, may have changed over time. The *Investigating heritage significance guidelines* provide guidance on how to collect this information (NSW Government 2021).

Step 3

Conduct a comparative analysis of the place or object against similar ones

This step determines the degree of significance of any place or object relative to other places or objects. It is only through comparing it with similar places or objects, or places or objects with similar historical or community associations, that you can determine how rare or unique a place or object is, how representative it is, or how distinctive it is. This involves:

- seeking out similar places or objects both locally and across the state and defining the boundaries for the comparison (for example, geo-cultural or natural areas)
- outlining the similarities the place or object has with other places or objects and the factors that make it stand out
- explaining the importance of the place or object in a local and NSW context.

Refer to the NSW Historical Themes (Heritage Council of NSW 2001) and any local thematic histories to help compare the significance of similar places or objects.

Step 4

Assess significance using the criteria

Referring to each of the 7 criteria (a–g) for assessing heritage significance (explained in the next section), you will need to:

- identify which criteria are relevant to the place or object and which are not
- record and explain why the place or object is important under each criterion.

A place or object needs to meet one or more of the 7 criteria to be considered of heritage significance.

Not all places or objects will meet all 7 criteria.

When assessing if a place or object has state heritage significance, it might only meet one criterion. If so, the place or object must be of outstanding significance for NSW, to be considered as having state heritage significance.

Step 5

Consider the integrity and condition of the place or object

Significance can be affected by:

- the integrity, nature and/or condition of a place or object, the authenticity of a place or object, and the sources of information associated with it (UNESCO 2021)
- the extent to which alterations, demolition of fabric and additions have impacted on readability of a place or object, including level of intrusiveness and reversibility of such alterations
- the extent to which the alterations or additions have contributed to the significance of the place (for example, expanding its historic use or adaptation to a new use)
- the existing context of the place or object, including whether it remains within its original context, for example, its original environment, use or collection.

Any intangible values need to have integrity and be intact. It is important that knowledge and/or practice of these values is not irretrievably lost or unable to be revived.

Step 6

Determine the place or object's level of heritage significance

Use the threshold indicators and questions under each criterion to determine a place or object's heritage significance.

State significance means significance for NSW.

Local significance means significance within a local context, or for a local area or local community.

There are instances when separate elements of a place or object such as built fabric, landscape features, settings or views need further analysis to understand their significance. This analysis is referred to as gradings of significance. The gradings can assist to understand how different elements contribute to the heritage values of a place or object, ensure its protection and manage future change.

The gradings of significance may not apply to every place or object. An example of this would be a place or object that is significant because of intangible values.

Gradings of significance

Refer to this table and terminology as a guide for analysing gradings of significance for each individual element or a place or object.

Grading	Justification
Exceptional	Rare or outstanding element directly contributing to a place or object's significance.
High	High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element of the place or object's significance. Alterations do not detract from its significance.
Moderate	Altered or modified elements. Elements with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance of the place or object.
Little	Alterations detract from its significance. Difficult to interpret.
Intrusive	Damaging to the place or object's significance.

Step 7

Prepare a succinct statement of heritage significance

The statement of heritage significance summarises and distils the important values of the place or object.

It should answer the question: 'Why is this place or object important?' and should indicate its specific heritage values. It should summarise, but not simply re-state, the analysis in Step 4.

The statement of significance is critical for guiding future management of the place or object because it summarises the heritage values to be protected.

The statement of significance should clearly state how the place or object meets all of the identified values described in the criteria. For a large complex site or area, it may be appropriate to provide subsidiary statements for individual components of the place or object in addition to the main statement of significance.

Step 8

Get feedback

Present the conclusions of the assessment to the relevant stakeholders to seek their feedback:

- check the views of the owner or manager of the place or object
- seek comment from the individuals, groups and institutions that have provided information for your assessment
- determine what feedback is appropriate and accurate to include in your significance assessment.

Any feedback that is included in your significance assessment must be demonstrated with evidence such as an oral history, historical documentation, archaeological report or input from Aboriginal community knowledge holders.

Step 9

Write up your information

When writing up your assessment of significance, be clear and include:

- references to any documentation used in your assessment
- maps, plans and photographs, where possible
- any other evidence of investigative works undertaken, including stakeholder consultation, use of historical materials and links to previous assessments, where possible.

If you are preparing a nomination for a state or local heritage listing, follow the specific instructions and forms to use. Retain all research materials and analysis as a record and provide them to the relevant organisation if requested.



Checklist

Once you have completed the significance assessment, check if the place or object:

- has value in relation to one or multiple criteria for assessing heritage significance
- meets the threshold level for local or state significance (it may be one, both or neither)
- compares to other places or objects of local or state significance.

Criteria for assessing heritage significance in NSW

There are 7 criteria used in NSW to establish heritage significance.

Criterion (a)

Historic significance

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Criterion (b)

Historical association

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Criterion (c)

Aesthetic/creative/technical achievement

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area).

Criterion (d)

Social, cultural, and spiritual

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural, or spiritual reasons.

Criterion (e)

Research potential

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Criterion (f)

Rare

An item possesses uncommon, rare, or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

Criterion (g)

Representative

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments).

If a place or object does not meet a criterion, it may still meet others. Assess and test the place or object's significance against all 7 of the criteria.

Using the criteria

In the next section each criterion is accompanied by:

- an explanation of the types of places or objects the criterion could apply to
- examples of terms that are useful in describing how a place or object is considered significant against the criterion
- indicators and threshold examples to distinguish between state and local levels of significance
- questions to assist with testing the proposed level of significance
- examples of places or objects that meet state and local heritage significance thresholds for each criterion. Some of the examples show an abridged version of the full assessment for that criterion. Refer to the State Heritage Inventory for the full response to the assessment criteria.

A place or object is no less important and should not be excluded from consideration on the grounds that others with similar characteristics have already been heritage listed. Each place or object should be assessed on its own merits.



Criterion (a)



State significance

A place or object is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history.



Local significance

A place or object is important in the course, or pattern, of the local area's cultural or natural history.

Historic significance

A place or object is important in the course or pattern of an area's history if it:

- is the product of
- is an example of
- was influenced by
- has influenced
- is associated with
- has a symbolic association with

something that has made a strong contribution to the course or pattern of development of our culture, society or environment.

Places or objects that meet criterion (a) might include:

- those that demonstrate strong associations with past customs, cultural practices, philosophies or systems of government, regardless of the intactness of the place or any structure on the place
- those that are associated with significant historical events, regardless of the intactness of the place or any structure on the place
- cultural landscapes and other evidence demonstrating overlays of the continual pattern of human use and occupation where the physical fabric (above or below ground) demonstrates any of the points described above.

Examples of terms

Some examples of terms that can be used in your assessment:

- evidence of
- closely associated with
- contributes significantly to our understanding of
- important as the site of
- important early evidence of
- important in illustrating the development/evolution of
- important surviving evidence of
- part of the course/development of an area's history
- earliest known example of
- demonstrates the evolution of
- represents a significant period.

Criterion (a)

Threshold examples

The significance or the importance of a place or object in demonstrating the course or pattern of an area's cultural or natural history may be identified through the application of one or more threshold indicators, including earliness, representativeness, regional or local importance, distinctiveness or exceptionality, rarity, or some other quality of the place.

The table includes examples to assist you with applying criterion (a) to determine significance.

Significance indicator	State significance threshold	Local significance threshold
Association with an event, or series of events, of historical, cultural or natural significance	Demonstrates the occurrence of an event(s) at the place that was significant in NSW history	Demonstrates the occurrence of an event(s) at the place that was significant to the local area
	Demonstrates the influence of an event(s) that occurred elsewhere and was significant in NSW history	Demonstrates the influence of an event(s) that occurred elsewhere and was significant to the local area
Demonstration of important periods or phases in history	An early example of settlement within NSW	An early example of settlement within the local area
	A notable example of regional settlement that demonstrates an important period or phase in the wider settlement and development of NSW	
	Demonstrates an important period or phase in the history of NSW (see Heritage Council of NSW, 2001)	Demonstrates an important period or phase in the history of the local area
	Demonstrates a prominent period of economic prosperity or decline/ depression in NSW	Demonstrates the influence on the local area of a prominent period of economic prosperity or decline
	Demonstrates a notable period in the governance and administration of NSW	Demonstrates a notable period in the governance and administration of the local area
Association with important cultural phases or movements	Notable association with changing demographic factors across NSW, through colonisation, forced/free migration, and human loss due to epidemic, war, etc.	Notable association with changing demographic factors in the local area
	Notable association with an important phase of social development including migration and social reform, interaction between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and the transformation of convicts into free settlers	Notable association with an important phase of social development in the local area
	Association with the development of an ideology derived from ethnic, religious, aesthetic, political, educational or other social beliefs, which resulted in the establishment or change of social values or behaviours across NSW	Association with the development of an ideology derived from ethnic, religious, aesthetic, political, educational or other social beliefs, which had a notable influence on the local area

Significance indicator	State significance threshold	Local significance threshold
Demonstration of important historical, natural or cultural processes or activities	Notable example of the harvesting and trade of natural and cultural resources, such as mining, forestry, pastoralism, agriculture, fishing, entertainment, tourism	Notable example of the harvesting and trade of natural and cultural resources associated with the key local historical themes of the area
	Notable example of industrialisation extending across/beyond a region or state-wide	Notable example of industrialisation associated with the key local historic themes of the area
	Notable example of the development of maritime and terrestrial civil infrastructure, transport and communications in NSW	Notable example of civil infrastructure, transport and communications associated with the key local historical themes of the area
	Notable example of the development and application of technology in NSW	Notable example of the development and application of technology in the local area
	Notable example of the development of centres for trade and governance, and the provision of community services across NSW	Notable example of the development of centres for trade and governance, and the provision of community services in the local area
	Notable example of patterns of domestic life across NSW	Notable example of patterns of domestic life in the local area
Symbolism and influence of place for its association with an important historical, natural or cultural event, period, phase or movement	The place possesses symbolic meaning to the broader NSW community, irrespective of whether the related activity is demonstrated at the place	The place possesses symbolic meaning to the local community, irrespective of whether the related activity is demonstrated at the place
	The place or activity had a notable influence on other places or activities elsewhere in the state	The place or activity had a notable influence on physical or social outcomes in the local area



Still not sure?

To check your assessment, consider these questions:

Q. Is the association of the place with the historically important event, phase, period, process or movement incidental (minor, secondary)? For example, not every farmhouse is of historical importance in demonstrating the spread of European settlement or pastoral land use across NSW or the local area.

Q. Can the association of the place with the historically important event, phase, period, process or movement be substantiated? For example, while a local legend of a link between a place and an event may make an interesting story, it needs to be backed up by reasonable evidence if the place is to be listed at either a state or local level.

Q. Is the association with, or demonstrated evidence of, an historical event, phase, period, process or movement of doubtful historical importance? For example, an historical event needs to possess an importance 'beyond the ordinary' with respect to its state or local heritage significance.

Q. Has the significant fabric of the place been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of the association? For example, a place that was significant as an industrial site has lost all intactness and integrity such that it no longer demonstrates industrial features.



State significance

Kinchela Aboriginal Boys' Training Home (SHR 01875)

Meets criterion (a) at a state level as it provides tangible evidence of the government policy and practice of taking Aboriginal children away from their families and communities, severing all ties with their culture in order to assimilate them into white Australian society.

It also meets criteria (b), (d), (e) and (f). Refer to the State Heritage Inventory for the full response to the assessment criteria.



Local significance

Bangalow Swimming Pool and Park, Bangalow (Byron LEP 2014 I002)

Meets criterion (a) at a local level as it remains as evidence of facilities in country towns with natural water courses where improvements could be made for the benefit of local recreation in line with sporting activities on a broader scale.

It also meets criteria (c) and (f). Refer to the State Heritage Inventory for the full response to the assessment criteria.

Criterion (b)



State significance

A place or object has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history.



Local significance

A place or object has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the cultural or natural history of the local area.

Historical association

A place or object has special associational value if it is associated with a person, organisation or group of people who have made an important or notable contribution to the course, pattern and development of our cultural and/or physical environment. In this context, special association may relate not only to the 'great' and well known, but also to the influential, the exemplary, and the innovative.

Places or objects that meet this criterion might include those that:

- demonstrate strong associations with a particular event, historical theme, people, or philosophies and ideologies
- are associated with significant historical events, regardless of the intactness of the place or any structure on the place.

A place may be considered significant because an important historical figure was said to have lived there and accomplished significant achievements while living there. For example, a house and studio being of state heritage significance as it was associated with an important artist during the most productive period of their career.

The level of heritage significance at state or local levels can only be determined by comparison with other like places. The attributes described for criteria (f) and (g) can assist in the determination of significance.

The contribution of persons or groups to an area's history must focus primarily on their individual achievement(s) or how well they are known across NSW or the local area. This generally relates to 'who/what did they ultimately influence' or 'who/what did they come to be recognised by'.

Examples of terms

Some examples of terms that can be used in your assessment:

- associated with the work of
- association with
- involvement with
- relationship with.

Criterion (b)

Threshold examples

The significance of a place or object that has a strong or special association with a particular individual, community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons may be identified through the application of one or more threshold indicators, including the importance or distinctiveness of the person, group or organisation in an area's history, the degree or extent of the association, the length of association, the influence of the association, or some other quality of the place. The association is not just about prominent people. It could be an association with an individual who has done something extraordinary for an area.

The table includes examples to assist you with applying criterion (b) to determine significance.

Significance indicator	State significance threshold	Local significance threshold
A key phase(s) in the establishment or subsequent development at the place or object was undertaken by, or directly influenced by, the important person(s) or organisation	The person(s) or organisation has made an important contribution to the history of NSW. Achievements should relate to the influence of the person(s) upon physical change to the place, or the occurrence of important events or activities at the place	The person(s) or organisation has made an important contribution to the history of the local area The person(s) or organisation has made an important contribution to the history of the local community and has a direct association with the place over an extended period
An event or series of events of historical importance occurring at the place or object were undertaken by, or directly influenced by, the important person(s) or organisation	The person(s) or organisation has made an important contribution to the history of NSW and has a direct association with the place over an extended period	
One or more achievements for which the person(s) or organisation are considered important are directly linked to the place or object		

Examples of people that fit under this criterion could include First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Peoples, convicts, early settlers, politicians, businesspeople, artists, scientists, sportspeople and people in community service. It could also be ordinary people who have done extraordinary things.



Still not sure?

To check your assessment, consider these questions:

Q. Does the person(s) or organisation associated with the place have reasonable prominence or historical importance to NSW or the local area?

Q. Can the association of the person(s) or organisation with the place be demonstrated or substantiated? For example, while hearsay of a link between a place and the person(s) or organisation may make an interesting story, it needs to be backed up by reasonable evidence if the place is to be registered based on that link. This evidence can include oral histories and/or documentary evidence.

Q. Is the association of the person(s) or organisation with the place strong, unusual or extraordinary enough to warrant recognition in this way? Or is the association of the person(s) or organisation with the place totally unconnected with their achievement and not of historical interest in interpreting the context of their life and achievement? For example, the person(s) only spent a brief, transitory or incidental time at the place without leaving evidence or achieving anything relevant to their importance.

Q. Would the person(s) or organisation draw more importance from their connection with the place than vice versa? For example, a place or object would not be considered of importance if the only reason for consideration was the person(s) acquiring a property claiming importance as a result of the acquisition.



State significance

Dobell House, Wangi Wangi (SHR 01985)

Meets criterion (b) at a state level for its strong association with seminal Australian artist William Dobell. The house was Dobell's home and studio from 1942–1970. Views from the house became the subject or background to many of Dobell's later works.

It also meets criteria (d) and (e). Refer to the State Heritage Inventory for the full response to the assessment criteria.



Local significance

Glebe War Memorial (including fencing, central path and steps and lamps), Glebe (Sydney LEP 2012 1724)

Meets criterion (b) at a local level for its association with the 174 [local] persons it commemorates. It was designed by Glebe architect, resident and alderman, William Martin.

It also meets criteria (a), (c) and (g). Refer to the State Heritage Inventory for the full response to the assessment criteria.

Criterion (c)



State significance

A place or object is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW.



Local significance

A place or object is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in the local area.

Aesthetic/creative/technical achievement

A place or object is important because of its aesthetic significance if that place or object exhibits sensual qualities that can be judged to be of significance against various ideals including beauty, picturesqueness, evocativeness, expressiveness, landmark presence, streetscape contribution, symbolism or some other quality of nature or human endeavour.

Alternatively, a place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period if that place illustrates artistic or technical excellence, innovation, accomplishment, extension or creative adaptation in a variety of fields of human endeavour including but not exclusive to art, engineering, architecture, industrial or scientific design, landscape design, construction, manufacture, and craftsmanship or some other technical field.

Places or objects that meet this criterion might include those that:

- demonstrate creative or technical excellence, innovation or achievement
- demonstrate aspirations, tastes and fashions
- have been the inspiration for creative or technical achievement
- demonstrate distinctive aesthetic attributes in form or composition
- demonstrate a highly original and influential style, such as an important early (or seminal) work of a major architect
- are an archaeological resource
- demonstrate the culmination of a particular architectural style (known as climactic).

A place may be considered significant under this criterion if it is a major landmark in a town, or it is the first major work in a particular architectural style. The significance may be diminished if its landmark qualities have been impacted by surrounding development, or it is only one of many examples of the architectural style.

The level of heritage significance at state or local levels can only be determined by comparison with other like places or objects. The attributes described for criteria (f) and (g) can assist in the determination of significance.

Criterion (c)

Examples of terms

Some examples of terms that can be used in your assessment:

- awarded
- acknowledged by
- demonstrates a high degree of creative or technical achievement
- first
- innovation/innovative
- inventive
- original
- seminal
- represents an advancement
- outstanding architectural qualities
- landmark qualities
- artistic qualities
- distinctive aesthetic qualities (size, setting, form, composition or condition)
- relationship between the parts, including the setting
- reinforces the outstanding aesthetic qualities
- scenic qualities
- streetscape contribution.



Criterion (c)

Threshold examples

The significance of a place or object of aesthetic significance may be identified through the application of one or more threshold indicators, including the degree of intactness, integrity, or deterioration of the place, or by its setting and location context, or by demonstrated representation, or by some other quality of the place. A high degree of creative or technical achievement may be identified through the application of one or more threshold indicators, including its intactness, integrity, whether it has received peer recognition or award or some other quality of the place. In some instances, places and objects have been so modified that they no longer meet the state threshold and might be considered of local significance.

The table includes examples to assist you with applying criterion (c) to determine significance.

Significance indicator	State significance threshold	Local significance threshold
Recognition as a landmark or distinctive aesthetic natural environment	Distinctive and unique in its formation, qualities, nature, scale, geology, botanical values in NSW	Distinctive in its formation, qualities, nature, size, or application within a local context or otherwise of particular interest in a local comparison of similar places
Recognition of artistic or design excellence	Critical acclaim of a place within a relevant art, design or technological discipline as a notable NSW example	Critical acclaim of a place as a notable local example by prominent members of a discipline
	Acknowledgement of merit in state-wide or national publications or media	Acknowledgement of merit in local media
	Prominent use of imagery in media promoting the artistic or built environment of the state	Prominent use of imagery in media promoting the artistic or built environment of the local area
Represents a breakthrough or innovation in design, fabrication or construction technique, including design/technological responses to changing social conditions	Creative and technical achievements that influenced techniques used within the discipline/industry or influenced outcomes at other places or changing social, economic or political conditions	Example of creative and technical achievements that influenced techniques used within the discipline/industry or influenced outcomes at other places or changing social, economic or political conditions in the local area
Distinctiveness as a design solution, treatment or use of technology	Unusual in its nature, size, or application within such a context or otherwise of particular interest in a state-wide comparison of similar places	Unusual in its nature, size, or application within such a local context or otherwise of particular interest in a local comparison of similar places
	Notable or distinctive construction response due to the availability of certain building materials at the time (known as 'vernacular' construction)	Notable or distinctive construction response to local constraints due to the availability of certain building materials at the time (known as 'vernacular' construction)
	Notable example of an adaptation or extension to the characteristics of a class of place or blending of the characteristics of different classes in NSW	Example of an adaptation or extension to the characteristics of a class of place, or blending of the characteristics of different classes in the local area
Adapts technology in a creative manner or extends the limits of available technology	Notable example of an unorthodox use or adaptation of the technology of the period in NSW	Notable example of an unorthodox use or adaptation of the technology of the period in a local area



Still not sure?

To check your assessment, consider these questions:

Q. Is the place or object a major landmark in a town, or is it an early or outstanding example of a particular architectural style?

Q. Is the place or object a substantial achievement, work of an important designer or artist that is demonstrated in the place itself and has been awarded or is otherwise worthy of recognition for its excellence? For example, the place is not necessarily important simply because it is the work of an important designer or artist.

Q. Has the place or object substantially lost its design or technical integrity through subsequent changes to, or deterioration of, the significant elements of the place?

Q. Has the place or object had its landmark or scenic qualities substantially and irreversibly degraded?

Q. Does the place or object have a strong and clearly demonstrated association with creative or technical achievement or is the association tenuous and/or indirect?

Q. Is the place or object a surviving, tangible evidence of a former place or use and can it be interpreted as such (i.e. an archaeological resource)?



State significance

Kunderang East Pastoral Station, Jeogla (SHR 00994)

Meets criterion (c) at a state level as the historic landscape of cleared grassed paddocks surrounding the homestead, ringed by massive mountain ranges has changed little since it was the site of the first station huts in c.1841 and reflects the isolation that occurred historically. The colour and warmth of large areas of red cedar and other unpainted timbers create an internal ambience of rare quality (*aesthetic*). The homestead is architecturally significant as the only known pit sawn Australian red cedar plank house constructed as late as 1892 (*technical*). It is the only one surviving on the coast of NSW.

It also meets criteria (a) and (f). Refer to the State Heritage Inventory for the full response to the assessment criteria.



Local significance

Town Hall, Deniliquin (Deniliquin LEP 2013 14)

Meets criterion (c) at a local level as the bold classic revival design ensures that the pleasing aesthetic of the building is a strong contributing heritage item to Deniliquin's main street.

It also meets criteria (a), (b), (d), (e), (f) and (g). Refer to the State Heritage Inventory for the full response to the assessment criteria.

Criterion (d)

Social, cultural and spiritual significance



State significance

A place or object has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.



Local significance

A place or object has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in the local area for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

A place or object is important for its strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group. This could be for social, cultural or spiritual reasons that have a perceived meaning or symbolic, spiritual or moral value that is important to them and which generates a strong sense of attachment.

Alternatively, a place is important when the community exhibits strong or special feelings or attaches community identity to it, or the community gathers especially for spiritual reasons, recreation or resort.

The place or object may be Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal or a natural environment. The natural place or object does not have to be a built/constructed/modified (culturally created) place and could be in an unmodified natural form or format.

Types of places or objects that meet this criterion might include those that:

- are esteemed by the community for their cultural values such as places that support cultural traditions or practices
- are considered sacred and/or if damaged or destroyed would cause the community a sense of loss
- contribute to a community's sense of identity such as places of reverence and worship.

A place or object does not need to be known to or valued by the whole community in an area to be significant. A 'particular' community or cultural group may be defined by such things as a common ethnic background, religious belief or profession.

Care must be taken not to confuse heritage significance with preference. For example, a community may seek to retain an older building in preference to replacing it with a more contemporary development of a site. In such cases, there must be evidence that the place or object is separately valued in accordance with this criterion or one of the other criteria to be considered a significant place.

Examples of terms

Some examples of terms that can be used in your assessment:

- demonstrated attachment with
- strong and special association for/with
- widespread community support/association
- highly regarded by.

Criterion (d)

Threshold examples

The significance of a place that has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons may be identified through the application of one or more threshold indicators, including the length of association for a community, the degree or extent of the association or attachment, a significant former association for a community or some other quality of the place.

The table includes examples to assist you with applying criterion (d) to determine significance.

Significance indicator	State significance threshold	Local significance threshold
Highly regarded by a community as a key landmark (built feature, landscape or streetscape) within the physical environment	A landmark that is visually prominent and possesses picturesque attributes or aesthetic qualities acknowledged by many people in NSW	A landmark that is visually prominent and possesses picturesque attributes or aesthetic qualities acknowledged by the local community
	Use of imagery in media promoting the artistic or built environment of NSW	Use of imagery in media promoting the artistic or built environment of the local area
Important to the community as a landmark within social and political history	The site of an event(s) that had a profound effect on a community or group, and/or resulted in changes in social or political attitudes of people in NSW	The site of an event(s) that had a profound effect on a particular community or group from the local area
Important as a place of symbolic meaning and community identity	A place that symbolically represents some aspect of the past that a state-wide community or cultural group feels contributes to the identity of NSW	A place that symbolically represents some aspect of the past that a local community or cultural group feels contributes to the local identity
	A place in which a community or cultural group gathers for rituals or ceremonies	A place in which a local community or cultural group gathers for rituals or ceremonies
Important as a place of public socialisation	A place in which a community or cultural group regularly gathers for social or recreational interaction	A place in which a local community or cultural group regularly gathers for social or recreational interaction
Important as a place of community service (including health, education, worship, pastoral care, communications, emergency services, museums)	Public places that form the hub of state-wide community services and cultural institutions	Public places that form the hub of local community services and cultural institutions
Important in linking the past affectionately to the present	A place that is known, used and valued as a link between the past and present by many people in NSW	A place that is known, used and valued as a link between the past and present by the local community



Still not sure?

To check your assessment, consider these questions:

Q. Does evidence exist that the place or 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 3 facets of social value are all met:

- existence of a community or cultural group
- existence of a strong attachment of a community or cultural group to the place or object
- existence of a time depth to that attachment.

Q. Who is the community or cultural group? For example, 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:

- live or meet in the same locality
- have once been located together and are now geographically dispersed
- have never met in person (e.g. are a virtual group and interact online).

Q. What is the intensity of the attachment to the place or object? Attachment describes people's connection to a place or object and 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 must be strong or special. The place or object may be a source of positive association for some people and negative association for others.

Q. What is the time depth of the attachment? 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 (one generation may be accepted as a rough guide). Alternatively, 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 or object until it is under threat. 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.

Q. Does the social value resonate at a state level, i.e. across the broader NSW community? The 'broader NSW community' is the population of NSW who live across the state and/or those who share a common geographical connection to NSW. The social value of the place or object must resonate beyond a particular local, social or cultural community and into the broader NSW community to surpass the local threshold.

Q. Is the social value part of an event or story that contributes to the state or NSW identity? 'NSW identity' includes the events and/or themes that underpin the stories that NSW tells. To meet criterion (d) at a state level, the place or object must be associated with, represent or be identified with an established or emerging story or theme that contributes to or forms part of the NSW identity.

Q. Is the social value historical rather than in the present day; that is, 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 or object under criterion (a).



State significance

Sydney Mardi Gras Parade Route (SHR 02068)

Meets criterion (d) at a state level as a public platform for reclaiming public space by formerly oppressed minorities, with this trio of roads taking on a different meaning and purpose at least once a year, as the site of the Sydney Mardi Gras Parades.

It also meets criteria (a), (b), (c), (e), (f) and (g). Refer to the State Heritage Inventory for the full response to the assessment criteria.



Local significance

Cullendulla Creek Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Area, Surfside (Eurobodalla LEP 2012 AH12)

Meets criterion (d) at a local level as the area continues to hold significance to the [local] Aboriginal community. Shellfish continue to be prepared and eaten in the location traditionally used to eat and prepare shellfish and other seafood; a shell midden marks the spot on the western side of the rocky point protruding into Surfside Beach.

It also meets criterion (a). Refer to the State Heritage Inventory for the full response to the assessment criteria.

Criterion (e)



State significance

A place or object has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history.



Local significance

A place or object has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the local area's cultural or natural history.

Research potential

A place or object has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of an area's history if it can be demonstrated that with further examination or research, it may reveal information that will contribute to our understanding of our past.

The potential to contribute to our understanding of the past may be found in archaeological deposits, complexes, buildings and structures, gardens and plantings.

Types of places or objects that meet this criterion might include those that:

- have the potential to yield new or further substantial information (such as scientific, archaeological, architectural)
- are an important benchmark or reference site, place or type
- contribute evidence to our understanding of past natural and cultural patterns, development or activity that is unavailable elsewhere.

Documents, oral history and other sources of evidence, in addition to a detailed examination of the surviving physical fabric, can often assist in the assessment of whether a site could reveal valuable archaeological, technical or scientific information.

For example, it may become apparent that the buried footings of a colonial house have little integrity if there is historical evidence that the site has been so disturbed that there will be no additional archaeological deposits associated with the use of the house.

Examples of terms

Some examples of terms that can be used in your assessment:

- potential to contribute to our understanding of
- potential to reveal knowledge or information
- potential to yield further or new information.

Criterion (e)

Threshold examples

The significance of the potential of a place or object to reveal information that contributes significantly to our understanding of NSW's history may be identified through the application of one or more threshold indicators, including earliness, rarity, extensiveness, intactness or some other quality of the place. Almost all places or objects of cultural heritage significance have the potential to yield information in some way; however, this 'potential to yield', or the degree to which a place or object may contribute to our understanding of an area's past, must be qualified by a strong presumption that a place or object has research potential.

The table includes examples to assist you with applying criterion (e) to determine significance.

Significance indicator	State significance threshold	Local significance threshold
Comparative analysis	A comparative analysis suggests that further research at the place or of an object could improve our understanding of NSW's past histories and environments	A comparative analysis suggests that further research of the place or of an object could improve our understanding of local history or archaeology
Potential to improve knowledge of a little-recorded aspect of an area's past or to fill gaps in our existing knowledge of the past	Has potential archaeological/ environmental or architectural evidence, through analysis and interpretation, to provide information about a place, practice or people that could not be derived from any other source and that contributes to the understanding of that place and its environment, fabric and relics, and is important to understanding NSW's past	Has potential archaeological/ environmental or architectural evidence, through analysis and interpretation, to provide information about a place, practice or people that could not be derived from any other source and that contributes to the understanding of that place and its environment, fabric and relics, and is important to understanding the past of the local area
Potential to inform/confirm unproven historical concepts or research questions relevant to our past	The place or object has high research merit in that the relevant historical concepts or research questions relevant to NSW's past have not been explored	The place or object has high research merit in that the relevant historical concepts or research questions relevant to the local area's past have not been explored
Potential to provide information about single or multiple periods of occupation or use	The place, collection or object contains relics and remains that may illustrate a significant pattern in state history. A benchmark or reference site or object with potential to represent a period, occupation, practice or tradition important to NSW or its people	The place, collection or object contains relics and remains that may illustrate a significant pattern in local history. A benchmark or reference site or object with potential to represent a period, occupation, practice or tradition important to the local area or its people
Potential to yield site-specific information that would contribute to an understanding of significance against other criteria	Archaeological, environmental or fabric remains may have particular associations with individuals, groups and events that may transform mundane places or objects into significant items through the association with historical occurrences important to NSW	Archaeological, environmental or fabric remains may have particular associations with individuals, groups and events that may transform mundane places or objects into significant items through the association with historical occurrences important to the local area
	The place, collection or objects is likely to embody an architectural or engineering style or pattern/layout that is distinctive in NSW	The place, collection or objects is likely to embody an architectural or engineering style or pattern/layout that is distinctive in the local area



Still not sure?

To check your assessment, consider these questions:

Q. Is there physical, documentary or other evidence that would allow consideration of its likely research potential? Places that are not archaeological deposits may possess scientific (research) significance when there is no alternative source of information, or where alternative and supplementary documentary sources of information do not reveal a sufficiently detailed historical picture.

Q. Has the context of the place or object's physical remains been so disturbed that they cannot yield meaningful or important information, or has the heritage significance of the remains been compromised through being relocated to the current location from somewhere else?

Q. Is the information that can be derived from the place already reasonably known or readily available from other resources, including other heritage listed places?

Q. Has the research potential of the place or object been fully exhausted? For example, an archaeological site that has been excavated so that there are negligible physical remains left in situ, or a building whose significant fabric has been substantially removed or replaced with new work.



State significance

Archaeological site and associated artefacts at 45 Macquarie Street Parramatta

Meets criterion (e) at a state level for its research significance as the excavation has provided evidence relating to a number of research questions about the foundation of the colony of NSW. The findings contribute to our understanding of the site, the development of Parramatta – the colony’s second settlement – from a gaol town to a market town and the progress of settlement in NSW as a whole.

It also meets criteria (a), (c), (d), (f) and (g).



Local significance

Cemetery Ground, Deeping Grove Station, Saumarez Ponds (Uralla LEP 2012 I16)

Meets criterion (e) at a local level as the cemetery is an important record of the pioneers from the Frazier family who once lived and worked in the Invergowrie and Saumarez Ponds area. In conjunction with the church, sporting field, public school and diverse farms, it provides the opportunity to research a small farming community in the New England Tablelands. The cemetery has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the social and cultural history of small rural areas (like this one) by genealogical, architectural and artistic investigation.

It also meets criteria (a), (b), (c), (d) and (g). Refer to the State Heritage Inventory for the full response to the assessment criteria.

Criterion (f)

Rare



State significance

A place or object possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history.



Local significance

A place or object possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the local area's cultural or natural history.

A place or object demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of an area's cultural or natural heritage. The place or object illustrates past human activities or achievements that are at risk of being lost, and/or are of exceptional interest. Past human activities and achievements can include a way of life, custom, process, function, land use, design or some other activity or achievement that is no longer practised.

Types of places or objects that meet this criterion might include those that:

- provide evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process
- are the only example of their type
- demonstrate designs or techniques of exceptional interest
- show rare evidence of a significant human activity important to a community.

This criterion is exclusive and is concerned with places that are few in number. Determining what constitutes 'few in number' relies on contextual study. It is difficult to make claims without knowing how many other places survive or how many places existed at some time in the past.

It requires overview studies and comparative studies of place types to make judgements, although even with comparative study the historical data may be indicative rather than quantifiable.

For example, a park in a country town is said to be a rare example of Victorian public garden design, but further research reveals that it is a representative example, as there are many such parks in country towns in NSW. However, if research shows that the park is one of the few remaining examples of an important 19th century garden designer, or contains species not found in similar gardens elsewhere, it may qualify as rare in the NSW context. Assuming it is the only garden of its type in the local area, it is likely it would also be rare in the local context.

The level of heritage significance at state or local levels can only be determined by comparison with other like places or objects or by proving that there is no documentation on similar places. This helps in determining the heritage significance of a place.

Criterion (f)

Examples of terms

Some examples of terms that can be used in your assessment:

- one of the few surviving examples
- one of the only known examples
- rare surviving evidence/example
- last surviving example
- only known example
- one of an increasingly rare class of
- endangered.

Threshold examples

The significance of the rarity or uncommonness of a place may be identified through the application of one or more threshold indicators, including intactness/integrity, distinctiveness, exceptionality or some other quality of the place or object.

The table includes examples to assist you with applying criterion (f) to determine significance.

Significance indicator	State significance threshold	Local significance threshold
Rare surviving evidence of an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life in an area's history that continues to be practised or is no longer practised	One of few comparable places across NSW that demonstrates any evidence of this event, etc., a place that is unusually extensive, intact or undisturbed that demonstrates evidence of this event, etc., or the movement, custom or way of life is of particular interest to a community group	One of few comparable places in the local area that demonstrates any evidence of this event, etc., a place that is unusually extensive, intact or undisturbed that demonstrates evidence of this event, etc., or the movement, custom or way of life is of particular interest to a community group
Evidence of a rare historical activity that was considered distinctive, uncommon or unusual at the time it occurred	One of few comparable places across NSW that is associated with or demonstrates an activity that was distinctive for what it achieved, or was so unusual in its nature it is now of particular interest to a group or community across NSW	One of few comparable places in the local area that is associated with or demonstrates an activity that was distinctive for what it achieved, or was so unusual in its nature it is now of particular interest to a group or community in the local area
Distinctiveness in demonstrating an unusual historical, natural, architectural, archaeological, scientific, social or technical attribute(s) that is of special interest	Demonstrates a distinctive attribute that is unique or uncommon in its occurrence across NSW	Demonstrates a distinctive attribute that is rare within the local area
Demonstrates an unusual composition of historical, natural, architectural, archaeological, scientific, social or technical attributes that are of greater importance or interest as a composition/collection	Demonstrates a composition of attributes that is unique or uncommon in its occurrence across NSW	Demonstrates a composition of attributes that is unique within the local area



Still not sure?

To check your assessment, consider these questions:

Q. Is the place or object 'endangered' only because of an imminent demolition threat? For the purpose of this criterion, 'endangered' should generally relate to a class of place or object that has become so rare over time that there is a risk that in the short to medium term no such place or object will remain.

Q. Is there enough evidence to support the 'rarity' of the place or object? If no reliable or verifiable physical, documentary or oral history evidence remains to demonstrate the association of the place or object with an historical event, phase, etc. or to the rarity/endangered status being claimed, the status is unable to be demonstrated.



State significance

Old Gundagai Gaol (SHR 02031)

Meets criterion (f) at a state level as a unique example of a small rural gaol that functioned as part of the NSW prison system between 1859 and 1909. It is rare as an unusual architectural type of gaol from this period that does not conform to the 'Braidwood' (1861–1864) or 'Hay' (1876–1881) types although it does have buildings from both these periods of gaol construction. Many country gaols were demolished during the early 20th century after the rural prison network was decommissioned following the construction of the state penitentiaries. Old Gundagai Gaol is special in this context as it was one of the few to avoid demolition or conversion and has, therefore, retained much of its 19th century character.

It also meets criteria (a) and (b). Refer to the State Heritage Inventory for the full response to the assessment criteria.



Local significance

Angophora Reserve and Angophora costata tree, Avalon Beach (Pittwater LEP 2014 2270107)

Meets criterion (f) at a local level as a bushland reserve that is rare in its scale and diversity of plant and animal life in the municipality.

It also meets criteria (a), (b), (c), (d) and (g). Refer to the State Heritage Inventory for the full response to the assessment criteria.

Criterion (g)

Representative



State significance

A place or object is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's:

- cultural or natural places
- cultural or natural environments.



Local significance

A place or object is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of the local area's:

- cultural or natural places
- cultural or natural environments.

A place or object is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural or natural places or objects if it displays:

- the defining features, qualities or attributes of a type
- variation within a type
- evolution of a type
- transition of a type

and where the type or class of cultural or natural places illustrates a range of human or environmental activities including:

- a way of life
- a custom
- an ideology or philosophy
- a process
- a land use
- a function
- a form
- a design
- a style
- a technique
- some other activity or achievement.

Types of places or objects that meet this criterion might include those that:

- demonstrate the stages of development of a class of cultural places, including experimentation
- are recognised as an example of a type, style, taxonomic group, etc.
- demonstrate land-use influence on the geographical, financial, etc. development of an area
- demonstrate in their fabric the impact of an ideology, value or philosophy or association with a custom
- include complexes where more than one building or structure survives, demonstrating a way of life, often with associated furniture, fittings and other objects.

Criterion (g)

A place must demonstrate its significance in its fabric to fulfil criterion (g). This criterion is concerned with the evidence found at the place. If the evidence does not survive this criterion cannot be applied.

To assist in determining whether a place satisfies criterion (g), it is important to adopt a common understanding of:

- class of cultural places
- principal characteristics.

Examples of terms

Some examples of terms that can be used in your assessment:

- a representative example of class/type
- a good example of a class/type
- represents a class/type
- symbolic of a class/type.



Criterion (g)

Threshold examples

The significance of a place illustrates the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places. It may be identified through the application of one or more threshold indicators, including the degree of intactness/integrity, earliness, rarity or uncommonness, sustained use, exceptionality, or some other quality of the place.

The table includes examples to assist you with applying criterion (g) to determine significance.

Significance indicator	State significance threshold	Local significance threshold
A class of places or objects that demonstrate an aesthetic composition, design, architectural style, applied finish or decoration of historical importance	A particularly fine example of the class in a state-wide context, demonstrating a broad range of characteristics that are typical of the class	A particularly fine example of the class in the local area, demonstrating a range of characteristics that are typical of the class
	A particularly intact example of the class in a state-wide context, demonstrating a range of physical characteristics that typify the class and which remain mostly unchanged since built/created	A particularly intact example of the class in the local area, demonstrating a range of physical characteristics that typify the class and which remain mostly unchanged since built/created
	A pivotal example of the class in a state-wide context, being a place that notably influenced subsequent examples of the class, or encapsulates a key evolutionary stage in the development of the class, or incorporates notable variations to the characteristics of the class that are of special interest	A clear/pivotal example of the class in a local context, being a place that notably influenced subsequent examples of the class, or encapsulates a key evolutionary stage in the development of the class, or incorporates notable variations to the characteristics of the class that are of special interest
Representative of a class of places that demonstrate a construction method, engineering design, technology, or use of materials, of historical importance	A fine, intact or pivotal example (as per above) on a state-wide basis	A fine, intact or pivotal example (as per above) in the local area
Representative of a class of places that demonstrate an historical land use, environment, function, or process, of historical importance	A fine, intact or pivotal example (as per above) on a state-wide basis	A fine, intact or pivotal example (as per above) in the local area
Representative of a class of places that demonstrates an ideology, custom or way of life of historical importance	A fine, intact or pivotal example (as per above) on a state-wide basis	A fine, intact or pivotal example (as per above) in the local area



Still not sure?

To check your assessment, consider these questions:

Q. Does the place or object have a degree of distinctiveness within the class? For example, it is not a particularly, fine, intact or pivotal example – a place is not eligible simply because it is representative of a class of places, as nearly every historic place in the state can be defined as representative of one class or another.

Q. Does the place include a reasonable range of characteristics that define the class? If it either never possessed them or has lost them through subsequent development, activity or disturbance and therefore no longer exhibits the principal characteristics that define the class, it will not meet the threshold.

Q. Does the place or object have reliable or verifiable physical, documentary or other evidence to indicate the place or object clearly belongs to a specific class of place or object and is a notable example within that class?

Q. Is the class identified of low or questionable historical importance? If the class itself is not associated with an event, phase, etc. of historical importance in the NSW context or the association is incidental or cannot be substantiated, it will not meet the state significance threshold.

Q. Is it a 'notable example' of a class? For example:

- fine example – the place or object displays a large number or range of characteristics that is typical of the class; the place or object displays characteristics that are of a higher quality or historical relevance than are typical of places/objects in the class; or the place or object displays the principal characteristics of the class in a way that allows the class to be easily understood/appreciated
- highly intact example – the place or object displays characteristics of the class that remain mostly unchanged from the historically important period of development or use of the place or object
- influential example – the place or 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 or object
- pivotal example – the place or object encapsulates a key evolutionary stage in the development of the class.



State significance

South Head Cultural Landscape (including RMP 9-inch 12-ton gun) (SHR 02070)

Meets criterion (g) at a state level as the cliffs, rocky outcrop and surrounding Green Point, are significant representative examples of Sydney's sandstone coastline.

It also meets criteria (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f). Refer to the State Heritage Inventory for the full response to the assessment criteria.



Local significance

The Big Trout, Adaminaby (Snowy Monaro LEP 2013 57)

Meets criterion (g) at a local level as it is representative of 20th century period sculpture and the era when 'big things' were considered important for local community identification.

It also meets criteria (a), (b), (c) and (d). Refer to the State Heritage Inventory for the full response to the assessment criteria.

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Under an information-sharing agreement between the Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand, these guidelines draw heavily upon the respective guidelines produced by heritage jurisdictions across Australia:

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Photos:

Cover photo: Tocal Homestead (Tim Smith); Page 3: Lithgow Blast Furnace (Stuart Cohen/DPE); Page 4: The Grace Hotel (Nicole Guyatt/DPE); Page 5: The Three Sisters (Meehni, Wimlah and Gunnedoo), Blue Mountains (Pascal Vosicki/Shutterstock); Pages 6–7: Red Top lookout and boardwalk, Mungo National Park (John Spencer/DPE); Page 8: Camperdown cemetery (Effy Alexakis/DPE); Page 10: Buster Shipwreck Woolgoolga (Dionne Arthur/DPE); Page 12: Bate's General Store, Post Office and two-storey bed and breakfast, Central Tilba. (John Spencer/DPE); Page 13: The Fishwick House (Nicole Guyatt/DPE); Page 14: Uncle Glen 'Bing' Morris speaking to Ku-ring-gai Rock Art conservation project team members (Heritage NSW); Page 15: AMacintyre Falls. (DPE); Page 22: Experiment Farm Cottage, Harris Park (John Spencer/DPE); Page 26: Kinchela Boys Home survivors sitting by the fig tree located at the former boys' home site. At this tree most of the boys endured cruel conditions and abuse. From left to right (back row): Uncles Bruce Ellis #37 & 52, Paul Whitton #31, Les Franks #5 & 48, Peter Knight #10, Robert Young #24, Harry Ritchie #56, David Johnson #12 or #14, Roger Jarrett #12, Manuel Ebsworth #28, Greg Thompson #52, Cecil Bowden #29, Gus Wenberg (forgotten). Front row: Uncles Herbie Nixon #29 (seated), Lester Maher #11 (standing), Colin Davis #50 (seated), Vince Peters #32 (standing), Willie Leslie #46, Trevor Knight #32, Joe Munday #34, Allan Cooper #7, Pat Roberts #21, Peter Monsell #1, James Michael Widdy Welsh #36 (Peter Solness), Bangalow Swimming Pool and Park, Bangalow (Byron Shire Council); Page 29: Anna Bay, Tomaree National Park (Adam Hollingworth/DPE); Page 30: Inside Sir William Dobell's studio at Wangi Wangi (Dobell House); The Glebe War Memorial at Foley Park (Paul Patterson/City of Sydney); Page 32: Campbells Stores, The Rocks (Jan Nye/DPE); Page 34: Middle Head (Andrew Elliot/DPE); Page 35: Kunderang East former pastoral station. (Gerhard Koertner/DPE), Deniliquin Town Hall constructed in 1876 (Lincoln Fowler / Alamy Stock Photo); Page 39: Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade in 2019 (Jeffrey Feng/Destination NSW), Cullendulla Creek Aboriginal Heritage Conservation Area (Matthew Makeham/DPE); Page 42: Meroogal, Nowra (Litttree/Shutterstock) Page 43: The remains of early an European convict settlement discovered during excavations for a building development at 45 Macquarie Street Parramatta. (Julia Frowein/DPE), Deeping Grove Station burial ground, Invergowrie. (Graham Slingo); Page 46: Chinese Garden of Friendship, Sydney (andre&dominique/Destination NSW); Page 47: Visitors enjoying a self-guided tour around the old Gundagai Gaol (Destination NSW), Smooth barked Angophora trees growing in Angophora Reserve (Rose Cullen/DPE); Page 49: Kinchega Woolshed (Norman Allchin/Shutterstock); Page 51: Bridge over the Macquarie River, Dubbo (Dee Kramer/Destination NSW); Page 52: View of South Head Cultural Landscape including Camp Cove and South Head headland.(Stuart Read/DPE), The 10-metre high Big Trout fibreglass structure in Adaminaby (Don Fuchs/Destination NSW); Page 53: The Uiver Collection, Albury(Rosanna Luca/DPE); Backcover: Customs House Circular Quay, Sydney. State Heritage Register (Rosie Nicolai/DPE)