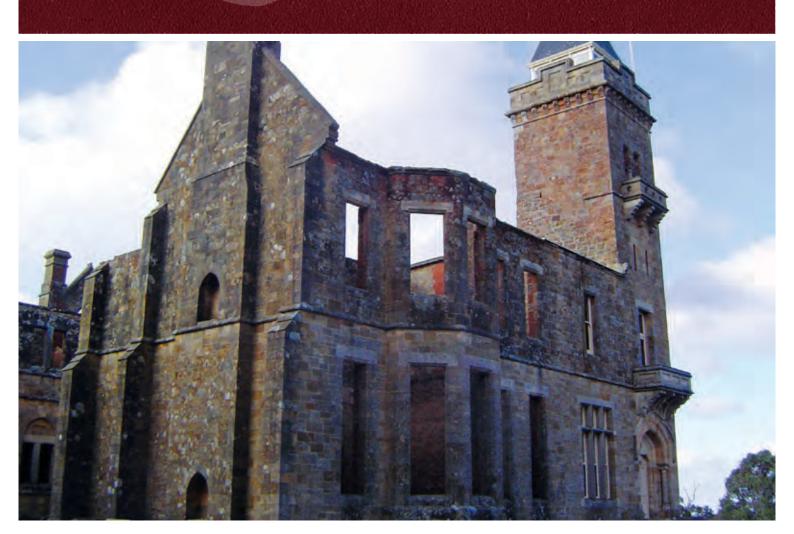


A guide to conservation and management





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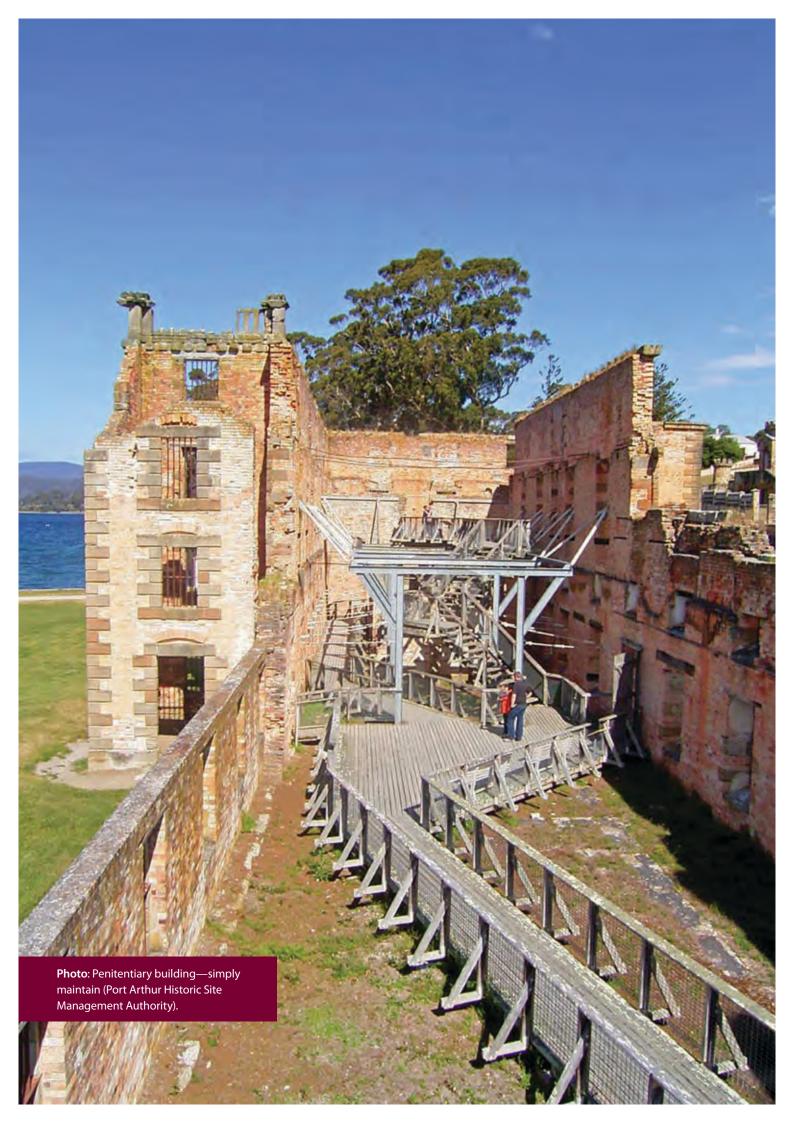






Huins

A guide to conservation and management



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1. Introduction

A place can become a ruin because it lacks a current purpose, is disused, has been abandoned or has been affected by disaster.

Ruins can be a challenge for heritage property owners and managers due to their deteriorated condition and location. Conserving a ruin can often appear to be more expensive, time-consuming or requiring of specialist skills than conserving other heritage places. The lack of a 'use' of a ruin or potential to generate income often makes conservation impracticable.

This guide is designed to highlight a best practice approach to the management of ruins in Australia.

Ruins are potentially important heritage places and effective management is vital to protect their heritage values. The diversity of types of ruins means there are a variety of management options available.

The 2011 Australia State of the Environment Report acknowledged the challenges of ruins management and emphasised the need for a more flexible and creative approach.

Some ruins already have legal heritage protection at the state, Commonwealth or local level. It is important to be aware of the statutory mechanisms and frameworks that protect ruins.

This guide is designed to be used by government agencies, community groups, private owners and managers of all types of cultural heritage places.

This guide has been developed by the Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand (HCOANZ). The group's membership consists of the Chair of the Commonwealth, state and territory heritage councils and the manager of each associated heritage government agency, including similar representatives from New Zealand. Secretariat support to the group is provided by the Wildlife, Heritage and Marine Division of the Department of the Environment.

This guide is based on a Heritage Ruins and Dilapidated Structures Workshop held in Melbourne in April 2011. The Guide was prepared by a team from Context Pty Ltd, Chris Johnston and Ian Travers, with assistance from Jessie Briggs.



2. What is a heritage ruin?

#### 2.1 All kinds of places can be a heritage ruin

A heritage ruin is defined as a place that currently, through abandonment, redundancy or condition, is disused and incomplete, is usually no longer maintained and appears unlikely to regain its original or a substantive use, function or purpose other than interpretation.

The *Burra Charter* (the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance), defines *place* as meaning: site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views.<sup>1</sup>

Heritage ruins can therefore come in all shapes and sizes: a derelict garden; a half-collapsed building; a termite ridden timber stock-yard; an overgrown mining site; or even a whole ghost town. While an archaeological site might be seen as the final step in 'ruination', such sites are outside the scope of this guide but a ruin and archaeological site may be one and the same.

A ruin is a place that no longer serves its original function or purpose and it is unlikely to ever fulfil that role again. This change may be the result of broader trends, such as the decline of an industry, changes in technology, exhaustion of a resource, abandonment of a settlement, or a change in a cultural practice, or circumstances specific to a particular individual or group.

Ruins can be unused or abandoned places, but a place that lacks a use today is not necessarily a ruin. An unused place may continue to be actively managed, even if the level of management is much lower than when it was in use. This will usually ensure that its condition does not deteriorate. An abandoned place does not have this 'residual management' and will inevitably deteriorate.

While many buildings can easily be adapted for a variety of uses, some cannot, increasing the likelihood that they will be abandoned or removed. As the condition of a place declines, the likelihood of it being used for another purpose diminishes. Not all ruins stay in this state forever, some will return to life as active, used and cared for places.

This guide cautions against the assumption 'once a ruin, always a ruin'.

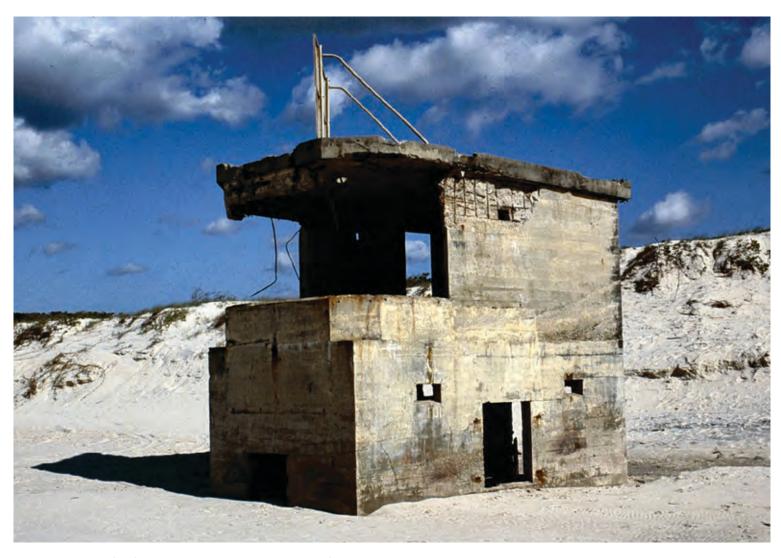


Photo: World War II fortifications on Bribie Island (Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing (Qld)).

# 2.2 The condition of ruins can vary

The term 'ruin' implies that the *fabric* of a place is in a derelict state. The decline of the physical fabric of the place or its condition usually comes after its use has ceased or it is abandoned. The exception is when a disaster strikes such as a cyclone, earthquake, flood or fire.

The condition of a 'heritage ruin' may vary considerably. The deterioration in condition need not correspond to a loss of heritage value. Ruins can retain important heritage values through archaeological investigation, interpretation or continuing community connections.

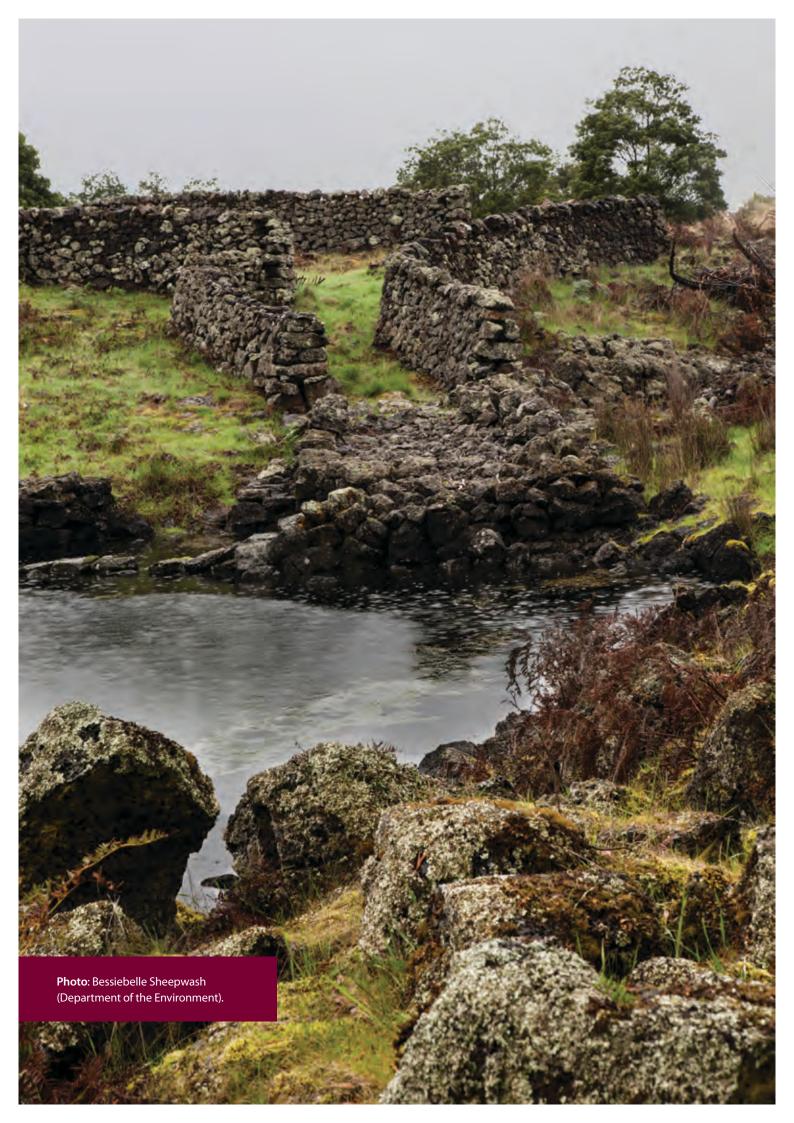
# 2.3 Tangible and intangible

Ruins potentially have both tangible and intangible heritage attributes. Tangible attributes are the physical fabric of a place such as structures, trees, machinery and artefacts. Intangible attributes are the cultural practices, traditions, language and knowledge of a place. The significance of any place comes from both its tangible and intangible attributes.

Despite a ruin having no current use, it may still have important associations and meanings for the local community and this should not be overlooked.



The 2011 Australia State of the Environment Report acknowledged the challenges of ruins management and emphasised the need for a more flexible and creative approach.



3. Why keep and protect heritage ruins?

#### 3.1 Our Australian story

Australia's history has created many ruins. Colonial settlement and expansion has left a landscape of ruins including houses, stockyards, tanks and windmills.

Aboriginal people forced off their traditional lands have also left behind ceremonial and art places, resource-harvesting sites, camps and artefacts.

With changing needs for particular minerals, the cycles of Australia's mining booms left a range of ruins including mullock heaps, shafts, kilns, engine stands and house sites.

Trade, travel and communication technologies have changed remarkably over 200 years. Roads, tracks and railways may now lie abandoned along with telegraph lines and buildings. Australia's colonial sea trade has left a legacy of now unused wharves, jetties, stores and lighthouses. Many ruins are sites associated with early Australian maritime defences. Shipwrecks along our coast are valuable time capsules but they are vulnerable to deterioration through natural processes and pilfering.

Towns have come and gone and all that remains may be a few trees, some footings of buildings and artefacts and yet the site may remain strong in community memory. Isolated cemeteries and headstones are another type of abandoned place. Ruins can also be the sites of traumatic events or disasters that are so important that a community may wish to keep the place unused and arrested in time as a memorial to the event.

## 3.2 Understanding significance<sup>2</sup>

Understanding the significance of a place is a vital first step before making any management decisions. Like other places, ruins may be of sufficient *cultural significance* to warrant their recognition, listing and protection.

*Cultural significance* means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. The Australian Government and each state and territory use specific heritage criteria to assess these five values.

Heritage ruins may have all of these values. The processes that led to a place becoming a 'heritage ruin' may, in some instances, have added to its importance. For example, the former Palmerston Town Hall ruin in Darwin is evidence of the devastation caused by Cyclone Tracy.

In other instances, the inevitable wear and tear of the years may have changed the fabric of the place but not necessarily reduced its heritage significance.

In assessing significance it is important to assess the heritage values of a place in its present state, not against a hypothetical past state of completeness or condition.

#### 3.3 Aesthetic values

Ruins may have particular aesthetic qualities that are a result of their ruined state. Some ruins are picturesque and evocative. Aesthetics relate to our human senses and the way we respond emotionally to a place because of its beauty, symbolism, picturesque or evocative qualities.

For example, Port Arthur in Tasmania is regarded as a landscape of picturesque beauty. Its ruins and formal layout in a serene setting and the care with which this is maintained, symbolise a transformation in Australia from 'hated stain' to celebration of a convict past.<sup>3</sup>

Another example is the World War II fortifications on Bribie Island in Queensland. These fortifications 'retain sufficient fabric to evoke a strong emotional aesthetic response and exhibit a range of aesthetic qualities including a "sense of place" and a "sense of discovery" enhanced by the isolation, landscape, the form and scale and materials of the fabric'.<sup>4</sup>

Terry's Lachlan mill at New Norfolk is believed to be the oldest remains of a mill in Tasmania (1821) and is a ruin of considerable aesthetic and historic value. The mill was inspected by Governor Macquarie in 1821 and shortly thereafter it was receiving grain from farmers situated as far as 100km away. Ruination of the mill followed damage by fire around 1900.

Creative or technical achievement at a particular point in time is often strongly demonstrated in the ruins of industrial places and structures.



Photo: Port Arthur (Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority).

### 3.4 Historical values

Ruins are sometimes the only remaining physical evidence of significant historical events, phases, activities or way of life.

For example, from the seventeenth century onwards, long before permanent European settlement in Australia, Macassan people from South East Asia visited the north Australian coast. Some of the only remaining evidence of this visitation are the ruins of Macassan campsites along the coast.

If a place was ruined or changed as a result of a significant event, its subsequent state will contribute to its significance. This is the case with the former Palmerston Town Hall in Darwin, built in the 1880s and almost completely destroyed in 1974 in Cyclone Tracy. The stabilised ruin stands today as an evocative reminder of the destructive power of the cyclone.

Abandoned places may offer particular insights into a past way of life through what was left behind, or of past technologies and processes. The Wild Irish Girl Mine site, associated with the Palmer River gold rush, is a rare and important surviving example of a rock crushing battery with related mine workings and living quarters. The site remains essentially as it was abandoned and demonstrates the mining methods and living conditions of the late nineteenth century.

#### 3.5 Scientific or research values

Many places have the potential to provide important and new information about a particular aspect of the past. Often this is through the investigation of the material of the place and what it can tell us about the past. It may be that a particular element of a place has particular research value, for example evidence relating to the early Overland Telegraph Line present in the ruins of former Peake Telegraph Station in South Australia. Investigation of one place can tell us a lot about a whole class of places.

Scientific investigation of the fabric of a place, for example through archaeological excavation, is a destructive process. As a ruin will already be partially destroyed it may be preferred over a similar intact place for such investigations. If such investigations remove or destroy everything with research potential, the place would no longer retain any research significance.

The Klondyke Coke Ovens in Queensland, abandoned in the mid-twentieth century, retain undisturbed archaeological evidence that could yield important information on the way they were used. Similarly the ruins of the Old Halls Creek Post Office in Western Australia have considerable potential to contribute to the future archaeological study of the remote early township and of the mud-brick construction techniques that were used.

#### 3.6 Social values

The strong and special associations between a community or cultural group and a place are the essence of social significance. Such attachments are felt by people alive today and often endure across generations. The church ruin and cemetery at Gwalla was the centrepiece of the Gwalla Mining Precinct and the first church constructed in what became Northampton, Western Australia. The site remains an important place for quiet contemplation, contributing to the community's sense of place.

Social value can derive from a community's ongoing relationship with the ruined place, and part of the social value of the Gwalla church and cemetery stems from the local community's ongoing concern and their endeavours to conserve these places.

# 3.7 Spiritual values

Spiritual value can encompass places with symbolic, ceremonial, sacred and religious meanings. Ruins with spiritual value could include Aboriginal ceremonial sites which have been physically damaged and fallen out of use, or a church which has been recently damaged through disaster such as Christchurch Cathedral in New Zealand, which was seriously damaged by an earthquake in 2011.

#### 3.8 Making comparisons

As well as considering the significance of a place in terms of the above values, it is usual to consider each place in relation to other similar places.

Is the place or ruin a rare example or is it one of many similar places? Rare places are generally regarded as much more significant than common places. Early examples of an activity, a building type or a design are often rare and very significant, even if only a ruin survives.

Are there intact examples of the same type of place? In principle, it is likely that an intact example would be more significant than a ruined example.

Is the ruin a good representative example of an aspect of the past, or a type of place? In some instances, the only evidence that survives will be ruins. Another factor often considered in relation to significance is intactness or integrity. By definition, a heritage ruin is not intact or complete. The test is whether what remains is sufficient to demonstrate the identified values.

#### 3.9 Recognising and listing

Some ruins will have legal protection through heritage listing at the Commonwealth, state or local level. It is important that heritage ruins are identified in local and thematic heritage studies, and that their significance is assessed and considered for protection through heritage listing in the same way as any other heritage place.

Including a heritage ruin on a statutory heritage register or in a local planning scheme may pose some particular challenges. Owners may fear that heritage listing would require them to reconstruct the ruin back to its previous condition or completeness, or take other costly or exceptional measures. Heritage listing may not result in such requirements, however, help may be available to support any actions that are needed.

In listing a heritage ruin, consider:

- describing the place carefully so that its present condition is understood
- including the word 'ruin' in the place name at the time of listing to acknowledge its current circumstances, while recognising that these may change
- defining carefully which parts of the place are significant and which are not
- the integrity of the place
- deciding on the best management approach for the place once its significance has been assessed—some jurisdictions will include this management policy in the listing documentation
- ensuring community expectations for a listed ruin are realistic.



4. Why do ruins, pose particular challenges?

The management of ruins can be less straightforward than dealing with intact sites or structures. This section outlines some of the particular challenges faced by managers.

#### 4.1 Inappropriate definition

Defining a place as a ruin may just reflect the circumstances at a particular point in time. It would be inappropriate to declare a place to be a ruin if it had only recently become unused or abandoned. It is also inappropriate where a place is essentially complete and could be used again or readily adapted for a new use.

# 4.2 Lack of a management regime and preserving values

In many cases ruins lack a management regime and may have no group or individual with a direct interest in their survival. Until a decision is made about their management, they are in a dynamic state and will continue to deteriorate through natural attrition and other impacts.

Decisions may therefore need to be made by a government authority on behalf of the wider public. A management regime for a ruin needs to reflect its values, location, condition and the community's management expectations.

# 4.3 Difficulties with resourcing, skills and knowledge

Most ruins cannot easily earn their keep. A lack of functionality leaves limited opportunities for establishing a viable economic future, usually limited to tourism. They are therefore largely dependent on external (usually public) funding and expertise.

Managing a ruin requires resources. Whether the decision is to do nothing or undertake substantial restoration and reconstruction, owners or managers may be wary of a commitment to managing such a place. Knowledge and specialist skills are required to manage ruins and these may also be difficult to source. A community-led approach can help to foster new 'ownership' for a heritage place.



Photo: Bessiebelle Sheepwash (Department of the Environment).

#### 4.4 Location and setting

Many ruins are in remote locations. This is likely to be a major reason for their existence and for their survival. Remoteness can also limit the ability of a ruin to earn income and increase its vulnerability. It also means that further deterioration can go unnoticed. Places in more populous areas may have a higher profile and be subject to different threats, such as vandalism.

# 4.5 Community perceptions and expectations

By the time a ruin is brought to the attention of a heritage body it may already be well-known to the local community. Ruins are central to the public perception of what constitutes 'heritage' and the expectation that recognition by a heritage body means protection or even reconstruction. There is a need to communicate that ruins can be of heritage significance, even if the management strategy is one of simply maintenance. There is also a need to counter the stigma attached to the term 'ruin' which implies that the place has no future. This may be difficult to convey when the management regime for a ruin appears to be to let it decay.

#### 4.6 Condition

A place becomes vulnerable when it becomes incomplete. This could be for structural reasons or because it is less recognisable, or simply because once a place has begun to deteriorate it may be seen as less worthy of care. Without careful forethought and planning, delaying or reversing the deterioration of a ruin can become very onerous over the long-term. Location, setting and materials will also be important factors in the resilience of a ruin.

#### 4.7 Listing heritage ruins

Significant places should be conserved and not willfully allowed to deteriorate. A lack of listing can imperil certain aspects of the significance of a place, but there may be concern that listing a ruin could trigger unrealistic maintenance requirements. Strategies for monitoring and enforcing compliance also need to recognise the dynamic state of a ruin.

#### 4.8 Risk management

Risk management often dominates how government agencies and private owners deal with ruinous structures. While a place may be most valued in terms of its heritage, it is usually not heritage professionals who are making the management decisions and heritage may be only one of several competing considerations.

Control of access can be a major issue with ruined places and balancing heritage values against occupational health and safety considerations and other legal requirements can be delicate. Engineering and technical advice will often be needed to guide how a place can be managed as a ruin.

#### 4.9 Prioritising ruins for conservation action and management

Some materials and types of place are easier to conserve than others. Certain materials are more amenable to preservation, for example masonry survives whereas timber, earth, metal and more delicate materials break down more rapidly. Some materials like reinforced concrete may appear robust but can present particular problems as they age. Getting sound advice on materials and structures is vital.

A question that managers often face is whether places should be prioritised for conservation action on the basis of their potential for survival and likely cost, independent of their significance. Managers may also need to consider how long a ruin can be conserved for or whether it may have a finite lifespan due to decay.

## 4.10 Documentation and interpretation

Recording, documenting and monitoring a ruin takes time and resources and is the best way to safeguard our knowledge about a place. The question of when to record a ruin is important.

Interpretation is about communicating the significance of a place and the incompleteness of a ruin makes effective interpretation even more important. Care should be taken not to impact the heritage values of a ruin through excessive interpretation.





# 5.1 Making good heritage decisions requires careful consideration. The following principles underpin good practice:

- Understand and respect the heritage values of the place.
- Respect and understand the remaining fabric of the place.
- Recognise that past uses and associations may contribute to its heritage values.
- Assess values against the condition today, not a prior state.
- Involve communities and cultural groups, especially those with established associations or who may be affected by management decisions.
- Use the best available knowledge, skills and standards in managing heritage places.
- Use a logical process to determine management decisions.
- Document management decisions and make them public.
- Make essential interventions only—that is 'do as much as necessary but as little as possible'.
- Monitor and report on the outcomes of actions taken.

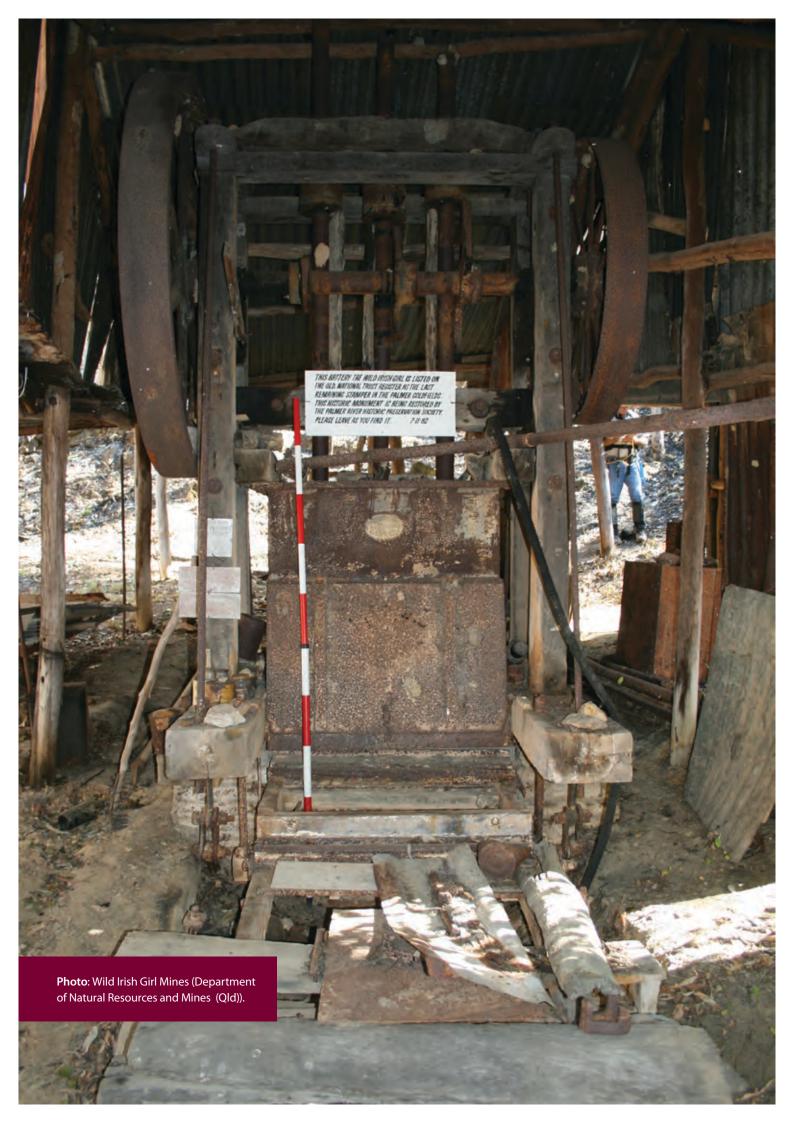
# 5.2 Other guidance

Other legislation and guidelines will form part of this process, including:

- The *Burra Charter*: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 1999 and its associated guidelines
- Working Together: Managing National Heritage Places and Working Together: Managing Commonwealth Heritage Places
- Ask First: a guide to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values.

Each state and territory may also have specific guidelines in relation to assessing heritage values and managing heritage places.

For further guidance see Tools and Techniques, Section 7.



# 6. Management approaches for heritage ruins

# 6.1 The **Burra Charter** provides a sound approach to recognising the heritage significance of a place and defining how these values can be retained, considering key factors such as condition, available resources and legal requirements.

There are generally five different management approaches to heritage ruins. Some places may require a combination of these approaches or a unique approach may need to be developed. The approaches are:

Coming alive again
Returning it to its former state
Simply maintain
Letting nature take its course
When removal is inevitable

Each approach involves specific types of conservation action and a different level of intervention. A decision as to which approach to take must be guided by careful consideration of the significance of the place and analysis of its social, economic and environmental setting.

# 6.2 Active management

This is the basis for three of the five management approaches. Coming alive again, returning it to its former state and Simply maintain.

While the coming alive again approach involves actions designed to enable a place to again be used, Returning to a former state focuses on restoration and reconstruction to reveal the place's significance, without an ongoing use.

The simply maintain approach means keeping a place as it is, stopping further deterioration but with minimal reconstruction.

Where no action is warranted the management approach is letting nature take its course. Where the only course is demolition, the final approach is when removal is inevitable.

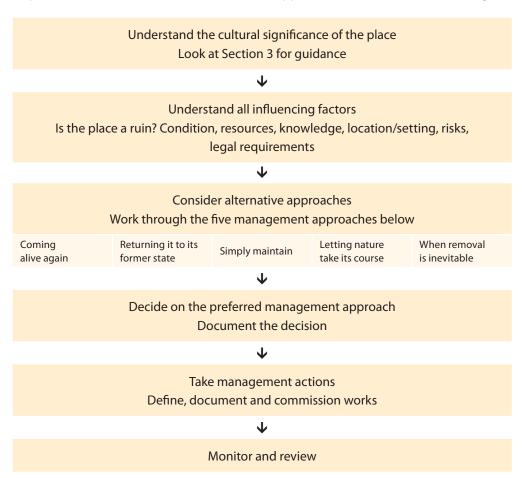
# 6.3 The five management approaches will rarely be mutually exclusive

Some terms are needed to describe specific types of conservation actions (repair, restoration, reconstruction, maintenance and preservation). These come from the *Burra Charter* and are used somewhat differently in heritage practice than in everyday language. Here is how to use those terms, using roof gutters as an example.

If a repair involves simply returning an element to its rightful place—reattaching roof guttering that has fallen to the ground for example, this is defined as restoration. If additional material needs to be added to achieve the repair—for example a new roof gutter is needed because the old one has corroded—then replacing a roof gutter is reconstruction. When the roof gutter has completely vanished and it is not possible to find out what it was like, then installing a new roof gutter is new work. Maintenance means simply inspecting and cleaning roof gutters. Preservation means simply maintaining the gutter in its current condition and maintaining it to reduce deterioration.

### 6.4 Selecting the best management approach

Deciding on which approach to use requires the heritage manager to work through a series of steps, described below. These are based on the approach in the *Burra Charter* and its guidelines.



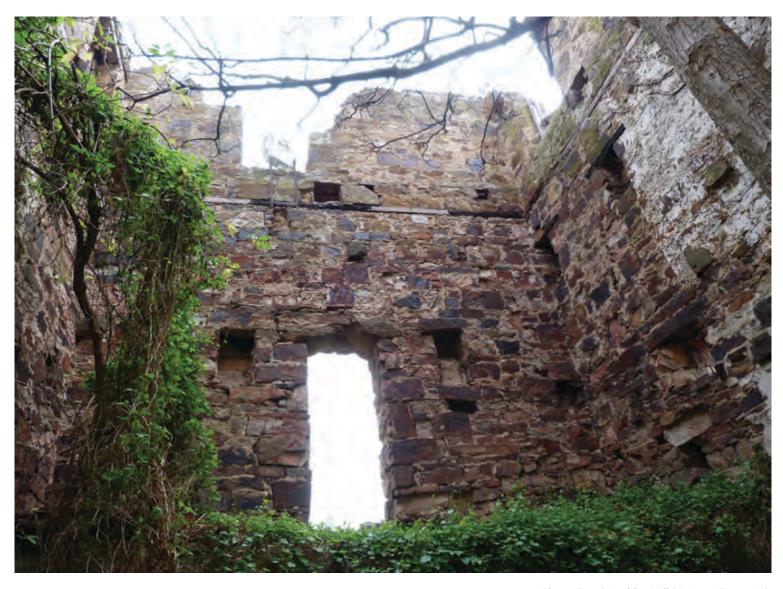


Photo: Terry's Lachlan Mill (Heritage Tasmania).

# 6.5 Responding to an emergency or disaster

If an urgent action needs to be taken, such as in response to a disaster event, use the *Burra Charter* as a guide. A manager should attempt to understand significance and which elements contribute to that significance and document any urgent actions that had to be taken while working towards defining a management approach.

In an urgent situation, the best approach is to safeguard any elements that might be at risk. For example, storing them safely on-site or elsewhere or restricting public access.

#### 6.6 Coming alive again

Ruins do not always stay ruins. Sometimes there is a desire or a need that brings a place back to life. Places that have been abandoned because of economic or social circumstances might be re-established again. A new compatible use or activity might be proposed to bring a place to life again.

Marble Hill, the former governor's summer residence in the Adelaide Hills (South Australia) was destroyed by a bushfire in 1995; the stone walls remain. In this instance a proposal to reconstruct the missing sections of the building would be expensive, requiring a new economic activity to support this work. The new use would need to be compatible which means that that it would need to respect the cultural significance.

Sometimes all that is left is the site of a past activity. After careful consideration, some of the hut sites destroyed in the alpine fires of 2002–03 in Kosciuszko National Park were rebuilt on their original sites, enabling people to practice their traditional skills of hut-building and to continue to experience the whole landscape from the traditional hut location.

#### When might this approach be appropriate?

- When the significance of the place does not rely on it remaining as a ruin
  - This approach is not appropriate where the primary heritage value of the place may rely on it remaining a ruin.
  - Many ruins will have a range of heritage values and careful consideration of all values will be required.
- When there is sufficient evidence to reinstate lost elements of the place
  - This is an essential pre-requisite for all restoration and reconstruction work. A lack of information about the design, materials and detailing would mean that rebuilding would involve guesswork and this is not an acceptable practice in relation to a significant place.
- When a new compatible use is proposed to support ongoing conservation and interpretation of a significant place
  - If major reconstruction and restoration works are proposed, allowing a new use that will generate the needed funds may be essential.
  - The new use must not adversely impact the very significance that it should be protecting.
- When adaptive reuse will not impact on the significance of the place
  - Adaptive reuse can be undertaken to give the place new purpose. This is only appropriate when additions and alterations will not impact on the significance of the place.
  - This may be undertaken in conjunction with reconstruction and restoration to enable a new, sympathetic use for the site. The *Burra Charter* provides guidance on adaptation.



**Photo**: Palmerston Town Hall (Northern Territory Library).

- When the return of a past use or activity would help retain or recover the heritage values of the place
  - Enabling these uses and activities to be re-established is a positive step. It can reveal and reinforce a place's heritage values. The significance of the activity may also warrant repair and reconstruction in some instances.
- Where there is a strong and enduring association between the place and a community or cultural group that could be reinstated
  - Allowing those with significant associations to reconnect may be part of bringing back uses, activities or traditions.
- When maintenance as a ruin is not acceptable to the owners or the community
   When the strength of attachment is strong or when leaving a place in a ruined state is distressing, a decision may be made to return the place to a complete form.









**Photo**: (L–R) World War II fortifications on Bribie Island (Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing (Qld)), Terry's Lachlan Mill (Heritage Tasmania), Wild Irish Girl Mines (Department of Natural Resources and Mines (Qld)), Old Adaminaby Township (Heritage Branch, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage).

#### Actions to take:

- 1. understand the significance of the place
- 2. understand the fabric
- 3. involve associated communities or cultural groups
- 4. identify possible use to be returned and/or compatible new uses
- 5. assess what is proposed in terms of the heritage values
- 6. develop a conservation policy to ensure the heritage values are retained
- 7. determine funding required for the proposed works, and obtain prior to commencing
- 8. record and remove any significant fabric that might be damaged prior to works
- 9. document the management decisions made and make them public
- 10. undertake works
- 11. update any heritage listings to recognise the decisions taken and changes made.

# 6.7 Returning to its former state

When a ruin is very significant or set up for the public to visit, it is likely that at least part restoration or reconstruction will be required.

This approach involves returning the place to an earlier state through deliberate works involving restoration, reconstruction or both. These terms are defined in the *Burra Charter*.<sup>5</sup>

Revealing the 'former glory' of a place can be a rewarding aspect of cultural heritage management and is often perceived as its main role by the wider community.

In practice, larger scale restoration and reconstruction will be relatively rare, owing to the resources required and the need for wide consensus on any proposals. Such work requires accurate information on the prior state of the place to ensure accuracy rather than conjecture.

#### When might this approach be appropriate?

- When it will help to reveal the heritage values of the place
  - Restoration or reconstruction may help to more clearly reveal the heritage values of a place. The previous form and function of a place may not be clear from its ruined state. Reconstructing elements of the place may aid its interpretation and assist the visitor's comprehension of its significance.
- To ensure the structural integrity of the place
  - The loss of different built elements of a place or ruin may impact on its structural integrity. In a building, walls may rely on the roof for their structural integrity and the reconstruction of a roof or an alternative supporting structure may be essential.
  - Minor repairs which are intended to bring the place to a more stable condition for an ongoing simply maintain approach would also constitute restoration or reconstruction.
- Where the place has recently been ruined and there is strong community support for returning it to its former condition
  - It may be appropriate to reconstruct significant places which have been ruined in recent memory if there is strong heritage focussed community support.
- Where there is sufficient information or knowledge to enable accurate reinstatement of missing elements
  - As indicated under Coming Alive Again, this is an essential prerequisite for all restoration and reconstruction work.

#### Actions to take:

- 1. assess heritage values
- 2. understand the fabric of the place
- 3. assess, evaluate and record all existing components and their condition, including their research or archaeological potential
- 4. collate available information to establish the previous/original condition of the place and if necessary undertake further research
- 5. consult with all stakeholders
- 6. formulate proposals for repair
- produce a management policy document which justifies the decisions in light of heritage values and condition and sets out the proposed works and future management regime
- 8. prior to commencing work, determine funding required for the works
- 9. stabilise existing physical components and protect or temporarily remove any elements that may be vulnerable to damage during works
- 10. undertake works
- 11. update any heritage listings to recognise the decisions taken and changes made.

# 6.8 Simply maintain

Some ruins are simply best left as ruins because of what they are, ruinous structures that reflect and evoke past times.

Simply maintain means preservation—'maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration'.<sup>6</sup> This is the best approach where the existing fabric or its condition is vital to understanding the significance of the place or where not enough is known about the previous state of the place to enable restoration or reconstruction.

Maintenance involves regular protective care of the place and its setting.

It may be necessary to undertake repairs, as described above, but these would be minimised under the 'simply maintain' approach. Maintenance can also reduce the risk of unexpected deterioration through regular checks. Propping or other physical intervention to reduce the risk of catastrophic collapse is likely to be appropriate in the 'simply maintain' approach.

For a place manager, this approach may be the only option where resources are limited. This approach is appropriate when the ruined state of the place best represents its heritage values.

Managers need to be aware that the wider community may not understand the reasons for such limited action.

This approach is based on doing what is necessary, both in terms of management and physical intervention to prevent further deterioration. All places and their components change over time at varying rates and in the longer-term, deterioration may be inevitable.

Avoid the scenario where attempts to retain the same amount of fabric gradually result in the complete replacement of old with new.

#### When might this approach be appropriate?

- Where the place's heritage significance would be better revealed by its restoration/ reconstruction but the required resources are not available
  - Restoration/reconstruction needs to be supported by adequate resources. Preservation and maintenance can also provide a good interim solution until additional resources are obtained.
- Where there is insufficient information about its previous state or where a place has
  previously existed in a number of states and a decision cannot be made as to what
  to reconstruct
  - Restoration and reconstruction should not be undertaken without robust information concerning the previous or original state of the place. Decisions on what to recreate must also be justified.
  - Some ruins' primary heritage values are a result of a significant events, about which they provide information. For example, the ruins of the town of Old Adaminaby which was submerged within Lake Eucumbene (New South Wales) offers important evidence of the impacts of the Snowy Mountains Scheme in 1957.
- Where the aesthetic value of the ruin is a major consideration
   Some ruins have aesthetic value which would be lost if the place was restored.
- Where the physical fabric of the place and its location are suited to long term preservation
  - Once stabilised, ruins made of durable materials that do not require intensive conservation, such as stone or brick, are well suited to preservation. The Peake Ruins (South Australia) stabilised brick fabric and remote location currently ensure its long-term survival.
- Where the occupational health and safety issues related to the place's ruinous state can be effectively managed
  - It is important that the preservation of a ruin does not create a hazard, especially when it is open to visitors. Control of access to various parts of the site may be needed, based on their condition.
- Where it has been a ruin for a long time and is accepted as such by the community
   Whilst for some places there is public perception that ruins should be reconstructed, other ruins have become part of the community appreciation of a place.

Revealing the 'former glory' of a place can be a rewarding aspect of cultural heritage management and is often perceived as its main role by the wider community.

#### Actions to take:

- 1. assess heritage values
- 2. understand the fabric, its condition and any risks of structural failure or collapse, and seek engineering or other technical advice as necessary
- record components and their existing condition, including research and archaeological potential, and identify threats to fabric, heritage values and associations
- 4. document the management approach, justified on the basis of heritage values and other factors
- 5. set out a monitoring and maintenance plan designed to conserve the place in its current state for as long as possible
- 6. stabilise the significant physical components
- 7. protect from weather, fire and vandalism
- 8. document the management decisions made and make them public
- 9. undertake regular monitoring
- 10. update any heritage listings to recognise the decisions taken and the monitoring and maintenance expectations.

#### 6.9 Letting nature take its course

Not all abandoned and ruined places will have sufficient heritage significance to warrant their protection. At times it may be sufficient just to let these ruins slowly fade away, by doing little or nothing to care for them.

Some ruins will be of greater significance but the opportunities for conservation may be limited. This may be due to particular circumstances (for example a town site inundated by a dam) or because the physical fabric of the place has deteriorated to the point where it cannot be conserved. Investment in recording, research and archaeological investigation may offer greater benefits in gaining an understanding of the place rather than restoration.

#### When might this approach be appropriate?

- When the severely deteriorated condition of the fabric means that nothing can be done
   Assessing the condition of the fabric and any options that might slow its further deterioration requires a suitably skilled and experienced person.
- When the heritage values are slight and there are other better examples
   If a place is not particularly significant, it can be allowed to deteriorate. This means assessing its significance first. If there are other better examples it is important to know that these places are heritage listed, actively managed and resourced.
- When the heritage values of the ruin are adversely impacting on other heritage values that are of greater importance
  - While this is a rare circumstance, a ruin may by its presence or associated hazards be adversely affecting the heritage values of its wider setting. In these instances, it may be necessary to remove part or the whole of the ruin (see 'When removal is inevitable').
- Where this management action does not cause a risk to the public, to adjoining property or to other heritage values.
  - If in the process of decay, a place could collapse and damage life or property, letting nature takes its course may not be acceptable. Restrictions on access may be needed or the removal of the elements which create risks.

#### Actions to take:

- 1. assess the condition of the place
- 2. record the place
- 3. consult with associated communities and cultural groups
- 4. manage any occupational health and safety issues
- 5. document the management decisions made and make them public
- 6. update any heritage listings to recognise the decisions taken, policy being applied and any monitoring to be undertaken.

#### 6.10 When removal is inevitable

Documenting a place is an important step when it is known that a place or part of it is nearing the end of its life or has to be removed to reduce serious risks.

While removal should ideally be reserved for less significant and more deteriorated places, the removal of a place may be required to allow for a continuing use or for an economically significant development. In these circumstances, loss of a heritage ruin may be preferred over other alternatives with greater heritage impacts.

This approach is similar to the archaeological concept of preservation by record where information about a place is gathered through detailed investigation with the resultant record standing in for the place. This approach may also be appropriate for parts of ruins—for example elements which are not suited to long term preservation for which a simply maintain strategy is unrealistic.

Tidying up a ruin is actually removal. Tidying is commonly undertaken for occupational health and safety or access reasons or simply to improve the aesthetics of a place. It can be a highly destructive activity, and should only be undertaken after the place has been carefully investigated to determine what is significant.

#### When might this approach be appropriate?

- When the complete loss of the place is inevitable because letting nature take its course presents too many hazards
  - In this case, proactive recording prior to removal will enable the place and its heritage values to be understood.
- When the sacrifice of part of a place will aid the preservation of more significant fabric

  In some cases it may be acceptable to remove a less significant part of a place in order to focus on more significant elements. This was the case at the Former Holy Trinity Anglican Church School in Barrabool (Victoria) where the less significant 1889 timber portion of the structure was recorded and demolished to help the church community safeguard the 1847 sandstone structure.
- When the place is creating an unacceptable risk to public safety or an environmental hazard
  - Recording and then removal of the hazardous elements should be employed where the significance of the place does not warrant the investment of substantial resources required to make them safe. Some old mining sites may be in this category.
- Where pressure for alternative use of the site is deemed to outweigh the heritage significance of the place
  - Almost regardless of the significance of a place, there will inevitably be instances where a competing land-use requires the removal of a heritage place and this is more likely to be the case for ruins and archaeological sites which lack a function. Where a heritage place is to be removed, the preservation by record approach should be used.



Photo: Klondyke Coke Ovens (Department of Natural Resources and Mines (Qld)).

#### Actions to take:

- 1. undertake a heritage impact assessment, identifying the elements of the place, and the associated values, that will be lost through the proposed removal
- undertake appropriate recording of the elements to be removed and decide how the removed elements are to be treated (for example, relocate, reuse, display) and interpreted
- 3. if only part of a place is to be removed, take appropriate measures to prevent this impacting on the surviving elements
- 4. prepare an interpretation plan prior to any elements being removed as it may influence the decision on what is to be removed or retained and conserved in situ
- 5. document the management decisions made and make them public
- 6. update any heritage listings to recognise the decisions taken
- 7. place the documentation of the pre-removal recording and investigations and any recovered materials in appropriate repositories.



7. Tools and techniques

A variety of well-established tools and techniques are available to assist in managing heritage ruins. Each is briefly described below, along with further sources of information and guidance.

# 7.1 Recording and documentation

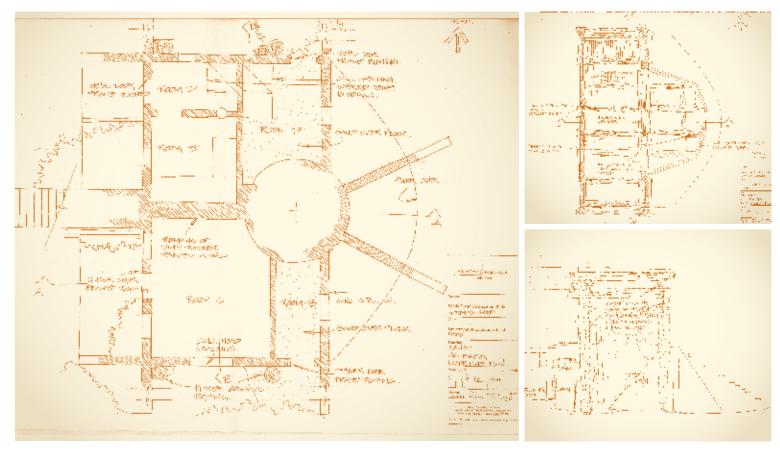
The place should be investigated at the earliest possible stage in order to establish its heritage significance.

The information gathered should be detailed enough to assess its heritage values, support heritage listing (if appropriate) and provide an acceptable minimum record in the event that the significance of the place is unexpectedly damaged through natural disaster or vandalism.

This work should include appropriate historical research including oral histories, consultation with associated communities and cultural groups, and physical site survey and recording. This may require use of archaeological, topographical, landscape, arboriculture or horticultural survey techniques and photographic or photogrammetric recording.

#### For further guidance:

- Investigating Fabric: NSW Heritage Office, 1996. This document explains the appropriate methodology of investigating fabric of a place. This can be obtained from the New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage website: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/hminvestigating.pdf.
- Guidelines for Conducting Historical Archaeological Surveys: Heritage Victoria, 2008. This technical note outlines the process to complete a survey for historical cultural heritage. You can obtain a copy from the Heritage Victoria website: http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0010/44785/ SurveyGuide.pdf



**Photo**: An example of historic documentation necessary for the management of a heritage ruin (Department of Environment and Heritage (Qld)).

# 7.2 Assessing condition and identify responses

Specialist skills may be required to assess the physical condition of the materials of the place and to advise on options for treatment. Technical specialists could include materials conservators and structural engineers.

There are a number of technical guides to the conservation of specific materials. Start by looking on the website of the government heritage agency in your state or territory.

### For further guidance:

Principles of Conservation Work on Heritage Places: NSW Heritage Office, 1999.
 This document offers guidelines on all stages of the conservation of a heritage place and principles to be applied in particular situations within heritage conservation. This can be obtained from the New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage website: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/infoprinciples.pdf

### 7.3 Stabilisation and construction

Stabilisation may involve a variety of works to help retard any further deterioration. Those involved in assessing the condition are best placed to determine the works required and to document them for action.

# 7.4 Maintenance and monitoring

To support the 'simply maintain' approach in particular, periodic monitoring and expert advice may be required to ensure the continued preservation of heritage fabric and its associated values. Helpful guidance for those involved in the maintenance of a place may be provided by any or all of the following: heritage architect, structural engineer, conservation scientist, horticulturist or arborist.

### For further guidance:

- Preparing a Maintenance Plan: Heritage Victoria, 2001. This guide explains the
  importance of a maintenance plan, asset management and the method of
  recording an asset for management policy and expenditure estimates. You
  can obtain a copy from the Heritage Victoria website: http://www.dpcd.vic.
  gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0004/36823/prepmaintplan.pdf
- Documenting Maintenance & Repair Works: Heritage Victoria, 2001. This
  guide is designed to help you develop the documents needed to guide
  those carrying out works on your behalf. It can be used to help prepare
  cost estimates for works. You can obtain a copy from the Heritage Victoria
  website: http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0003/36822/
  Maintenance-and-Repair.pdf
- Inspection Schedule: Heritage Victoria, 2001. This guide provides an example
  of an inspection schedule, breaking down categories and sub-categories
  and important elements to record, such as inspection time-frames and the
  estimated life expectancy of those elements inspected. You can obtain a
  copy from the Heritage Victoria website: http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/\_\_
  data/assets/pdf\_file/0005/36824/InspectionSchedule.pdf

# 7.5 Traditional skills and knowledge

Management decisions and actions should use the best available skills and knowledge.

Sources of this information could include previous owners/occupants, previous employees, local people and people with associations with the place, especially where these are Indigenous associations.

Specialist techniques may be necessary for maintenance, restoration or reconstruction. This expertise may be found in skilled tradespeople, traditional Indigenous owners or through other people with past associations with the place.

Many state and territory heritage agencies hold lists of people with specialist trade and conservation skills.

# 7.6 Making a record

If a ruin is to be removed, recording of the place is vital. Any research or investigation of the place will need to be undertaken before removal can occur.

#### This could include:

- archaeological excavation and/or monitoring of demolition works
- standing building recording, rectified photography, photogrammetry or laser scanning
- · oral history recording where this would benefit from being conducted on-site
- · specialist artefact and materials conservation and storage
- engineering contractors (in the probably rare event that structural elements are to be moved).

A statement of heritage impact may need to be prepared if you need to seek a permit prior to the recording and then removal of the heritage ruin.

### For further guidance:

- Guidelines for Conducting Historical Archaeological Surveys: Heritage Council Victoria 2008. These guidelines describe in detail how to conduct an archaeological survey, and include examples of different types of surveys. You can obtain a copy from the Heritage Victoria website: http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0010/44785/ SurveyGuide.pdf
- Photographic Recording for Heritage Places and Objects: Heritage Victoria, 2007.
   This technical note gives guidance for those commissions or undertaking photographic recording of heritage places and objects and explains the necessary equipment and method, as well as the format of the summary report. You can obtain a copy from the Heritage Victoria website: http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0003/36831/

   Photographic\_Recording\_Tech\_Note.pdf
- How to Prepare Archival Records of Heritage Items: NSW Heritage Office, 1998.
   These guidelines discuss some of the issues in relation to the recording of heritage items, provide examples, and explain the process and reasoning behind preparing archival records. This can be obtained from the New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage website: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/infoarchivalrecords.pdf

- Moveable Heritage Principles: NSW Heritage Office, 2000. The guide is designed
  to assist both the NSW Government and community organisations to manage
  their moveable heritage items and collections, and to develop appropriate
  conservation policy. This can be obtained from the New South Wales Office
  of Environment and Heritage website: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/
  resources/heritagebranch/heritage/infomovable.pdf
- Statements of Heritage Impact: NSW Heritage Office, 2002. The guideline assists people to carry out work that could impact on a heritage place. This can be obtained from the New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage website: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/hmstatementsofhi.pdf Stakeholder and community consultation

It is important to involve associated communities and cultural groups in decisions that affect a place that is of significance to them.

Likewise the wider community should be consulted to encourage voluntary involvement and support to build their understanding of the management process and options.

The Illustrated *Burra Charter*, pages 46–51 cover some key principles in engagement with communities and stakeholders. It is available for purchase from Australia ICOMOS and can be found at many libraries.

# 7.7 Management planning document

A standard document which sets out the proposed management approach or approaches needs to be used.

- A conservation management plan is a plan designed to document the significance of a heritage place and define the policies and actions that will be taken to conserve its significance.
- A management decision document would be used to communicate and justify
  decisions made about a ruin to the community. It could be displayed at the
  ruin site to provide information, invite public comment or encourage visitors to
  respect the place.

#### *For further guidance:*

Conservation Management Plans, Managing Heritage Places: Heritage
 Victoria, 2010. This guide is designed to help owners and managers of
 heritage places, both private and public create and use a Conservation
 Management Plan. You can obtain a copy from the Heritage Victoria
 website: http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0016/50911/
 CMP\_Guide\_1278369664770.pdf

Your state or territory government heritage agency is a valuable source of information on understanding and managing heritage places. They can often help you define and find the advice or skills you need.

Local government authorities are also a valuable source of assistance and many have a heritage advisor who may be able to provide some preliminary help.

There are also heritage grants and loans available in some parts of Australia to help conserve significance heritage places. A full contact list is below.

#### **COMMONWEALTH**

#### **Department of the Environment**

(for places on the Commonwealth and National Heritage Lists)

Phone: (02) 6274 1111 www.environment.gov.au

**Environment Protection and Biodiversity** 

Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999

See also the Australian Heritage Information webpage: www.heritageinfo.gov.au

#### **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

#### **ACT Heritage**

Phone: 13 22 81

www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage

Heritage Act 2004 (ACT)

#### **NORTHERN TERRITORY**

#### **Heritage Branch**

Phone: (08) 8999 5039 www.nretas.nt.gov.au/

knowledge-and-history/heritage

Heritage Act 2011 (NT)

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

### South Australian Heritage Branch

Phone: (08) 8124 4960

www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/

Heritage Act 1993 (SA)

### **VICTORIA**

### **Heritage Victoria**

Phone: (03) 9208 3333

www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/heritage

Heritage Act 1995 (Vic)

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES**

# **Heritage Division, Office of Environment**

and Heritage

Phone: (02) 9873 8500 www.heritage.nsw.gov.au

Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)

#### **QUEENSLAND**

### **Department of Environment and Heritage Protection**

Phone: 13 74 68

www.ehp.qld.gov.au/heritage

Queensland Heritage Act 1992

#### **TASMANIA**

#### **Heritage Tasmania**

Phone: 1300 850 332 www.heritage.tas.gov.au

Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995

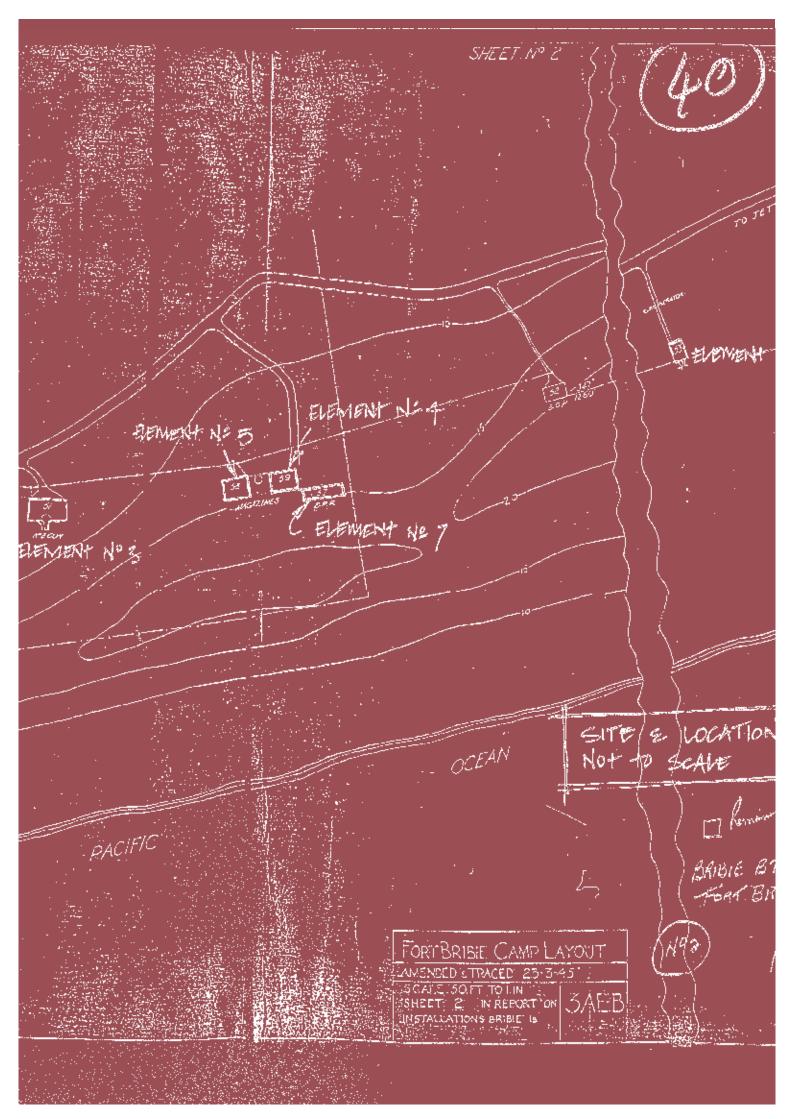
### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

#### **State Heritage Office**

Phone: (08) 6552 4000 stateheritage.wa.gov.au

Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990





8. Case studies

This section looks at some real examples of the management of places around Australia that have been defined as a ruin. Each illustrates many of the issues and one or more of the management approaches described above.

First the place and its significance are described along with the processes which led to becoming a ruin. Then the actions taken and key considerations in making decisions are discussed. Lastly the outcome for the place is described.

#### The case studies are:

- Marble Hill (SA), the former summer residence of South Australian Governors. For many years following the 1955 bushfires this site has been a ruin, it is now proposed to come alive again.
- Bessiebelle sheepwashes & yards (Vic), a complex of washes, runs and yards
  in the stony rises of south-western Victoria. After extensive restoration and
  reconstruction, it is now returning to its former state which is stabilised and under
  secure and active management.
- **SS City of Launceston shipwreck (Vic)**, lying deep in Port Phillip Bay, is subject to the wash of tides. Slowing natural decay has involved monitoring and evidence-based actions, along with a protective zone to ensure this significant wreck can be simply maintained for the benefit of future generations.
- Palmerston Town Hall ruins (NT), dating from the 1880s, suffered great damage
  in Cyclone Tracy in 1974. Since being stabilised, and with the open interior
  serving as a performance space, the Town Hall Ruins are an example of the simply
  maintain approach in a capital city's central business district.
- Old Adaminaby township site (NSW), inundated by the waters of Lake
  Eucumbene, a key part of the Snowy Scheme. This is now valued as a heritage
  place, although eventually nature will take its course and will claim what remains.
  In the meantime simple protections are in place so that natural decay is not
  hastened and pilfering is prevented.
- Batman's House and the Kingston Sheepwash (Tas), an 1820s house and farm
  complex associated with John Batman. This site has been long ruined, and while
  now on a Heritage Register, given its remote location, the expectation is that
  nature will take its course.
- Holy Trinity Anglican Church School (Vic), once a ruin within a complex of church buildings, part of the site was recorded and demolished to enable the most significant parts to be reconstructed and stabilised. In this instance, removal was inevitable for a part of the structure, to achieve a good outcome for the place as a whole.





# 8.1 Coming alive again

### Marble Hill, Marble Hill Road, Ashton, South Australia Heritage Listing: 24 July 1980, South Australian Heritage Register

High in the Mount Lofty Ranges of the Adelaide Hills and away from the summer heat of the Adelaide Plains, this site offered commanding views and was well suited to the creation of a grand residence. Completed in 1879 on the initiative of the Governor William Jervois, Marble Hill became the summer residence of South Australian Governors for more than 75 years. There are other grand summer residences built for Adelaide's wealthy in the nearby towns of Aldgate, Stirling and Crafers.

Marble Hill was grand in scale, designed in the Gothic Revival style as typified by the arcade on the first floor above the main staircase and the dominating 'prospect' tower. The residence comprised 26 rooms, all richly adorned, and a cellar. Marble Hill in all its opulence was a fitting symbol of the Governor's position. In keeping with the grand scale of the residence, a large stable complex was also built. An earlier Governor's summer residence in Belair was simple by comparison.

The Governor's summer residence was a victim of the 1955 Black Sunday bushfires which rendered the building uninhabitable. On 2 January 1955, Sir Robert George (Governor at the time) and Lady George and their staff were at Marble Hill. Coming from the north-west and despite all attempts to quell it, the fire soon engulfed the house, fueled by the bitumen lining the balcony floor and seaweed insulation in the roof. Everyone survived but the house was severely damaged. Major structural elements of the ruin remained, including prospect tower and the external walls, but the lack of a roof meant the walls and interiors were exposed to the elements.

The government's verdict in 1955 was that it was too solid to pull down and too expensive to rebuild, although some 'unsafe' sections were demolished. An imposing ruin, it was left to suffer vandalism and the ravages of nature.

The National Trust stepped in to care for Marble Hill in 1967, aiming to stabilise and repair the buildings and open it to visitors. By 1975 the stables were operating as tea rooms and work had started on the main building. By 1979, with the main staircase rebuilt and the tower restoration works complete, the tower was opened for visitors to experience the dramatic views.

But the task was too great and funds were limited. By 1992 the site had been closed to the public. Two years later a community group—Friends of Marble Hill—was established but after undertaking valuable maintenance works and opening the site several times, the same challenges defeated their efforts.

Responding to calls for Marble Hill to be reconstructed, the South Australian Department of Environment and Heritage commissioned a Conservation and Dilapidation Report (Danvers Architects 1998) to determine the structural integrity and whether reconstruction was possible.

In 2007 the South Australian Government called for expressions of interest in the future use, reconstruction and management of Marble Hill. The property was subsequently sold with agreements in place to ensure the building would be reconstructed to the original plans of architect William McMinn and the property opened to the public regularly. The new owners propose to establish an event venue within the reconstructed building.

#### Sources:

'Marble Hill' Former SA Vice-Regal Summer Residence, Ashton, Part 1—Conservation Plan Part 2—Dilapidation Report (Danvers Architects)

Australian Heritage Database, *Marble Hill (ruin), Marble Hill Rd, Marble Hill, SA* (RNE 6486).

Marble Hill property website http://marblehill.com.au/

Marble Hill, South Australia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marble\_Hill,\_South\_Australia



# 8.2 Returning to its former state

# Bessiebelle sheepwashes and yards, Pyes Road, Bessiebelle, Victoria. Heritage Listing: Victorian Heritage Register

Pastoralist Samuel Gorrie settled in the rock-strewn lava flow landscape of Bessiebelle in south-west Victoria in 1848. He established Aronachie Run which covered 14,000 acres and held 6,000 sheep. The long tradition of washing the wool on the sheep's back came to Australia from Britain and decontaminated the wool prior to shearing. Bessiebelle is the site of two drystone sheepwash complexes built sometime between 1848 and 1864.

The Bessiebelle sheepwashes are historically significant as probably the largest and most sophisticated example of a traditional pastoral property sheepwash in Victoria. They used the undulating natural terrain in conjunction with a network of drystone wall races and washing yards and are technically significant for this clever adaption to the landscape, as well as for the high level of craftsmanship in their construction. These features also have a potential to reveal further information about pastoral activities of the region, which makes them of archaeological significance.

Advances in the wool dying processes towards the end of the nineteenth century meant that manufacturers preferred to receive the wool 'in grease' and sheepwashes like those at Bessiebelle were abandoned. Trees grew back over the once cleared landscape and the regular flooding of the depressions that once assisted the washing process began to erode the structures. A 2008 survey of the site identified that the sheepwashes had deteriorated and sections had collapsed through neglect, undermining by vegetation and disturbance by livestock. Cattle displacing capstones had weakened the wall.

To prevent further deterioration, Heritage Victoria funded a program of works, undertaken by Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, to restore and reconstruct the sheepwashes. Working under a permit from Heritage Victoria, the rebuilding was guided by an experienced drystone wall builder and monitored by heritage consultants.

The main objective was to reconstruct collapsed and deteriorating portions of the sheepwashes, reusing existing stone; a small amount of additional stone was able to be sourced from nearby sinkholes (the same provenance as the original stone). Vegetation damaging the stone structures or obscuring views across the site was removed, using the skills of the indigenous Budj Bim Rangers land management team.

The large stones used in the partially collapsed main race of southern sheepwash meant machinery in the form of a small excavator with a grab attachment was needed for their safe handling, an additional challenge for the project team. The total cost of the project, around \$150,000, was covered in two stages by Victoria's Heritage Grants programme and works were completed in May 2012.

Restoring the structural integrity of the sheepwashes will provide an important defence against future deterioration. Ongoing management by the Traditional Owners (Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation) and an end to grazing at the site has established a secure management regime into the future. Bessiebelle sheepwashes will now form a key site on the Budj Bim tourism trail.

#### Sources:

Context Pty Ltd 2011 Bessiebelle Sheepwashes and Yards, Pyes Road, Bessiebelle Report on reconstruction works. Report to Heritage Victoria.

Matrix Archaeological Services 2008 Bessiebelle Sheepwashes and Yards, (H2033, H7221–0281) Archaeological Recording. Report to Heritage Victoria.



# 8.3 Simply maintain

### SS City of Launceston shipwreck, Port Phillip Bay, Victoria Heritage Listing: 1981, Victorian Heritage Register (VHR S124)

The historic shipwreck of the steamship *SS City of Launceston* rests far from its namesake, 22 metres below sea level in the depths of Port Phillip Bay (Victoria). Significant as one of the most intact iron steamship wrecks of its age in Australian waters, this shipwreck offers a window into travel and trade between the Australian colonies in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, highlighting too the role of the Launceston and Melbourne Steam Navigation Company. The steamship was the first purpose-built vessel for trans-Tasman passenger travel.

The discovery and reporting of this shipwreck and the subsequent lobbying of the state government led to the proclamation of the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981*.

Impressively, the steamship's engine remains intact, providing evidence of the technical innovations of the period including in particular 'Silver's Patent Governor'. Salvage attempts in 1866 using Patented Maquay hydrogen gas generating devices, a unique lifting technology, left 17 lifting devices on the deck. The *SS City of Launceston* shipwreck preserves a complete intra-colonial steamship with evidence of its cabin fittings, passengers' luggage and cargo.

The SS City of Launceston last saw the light of day in 1865 when a collision with the SS Penola sent it to the bottom of Port Phillip Bay. Several attempts to salvage the ship were made, though these were abandoned in 1866 with only mailbags and some artefacts recovered. Since then, the fabric of the ship has been subject to natural decay, but remarkably it survives mostly intact, with its contents relatively undisturbed.

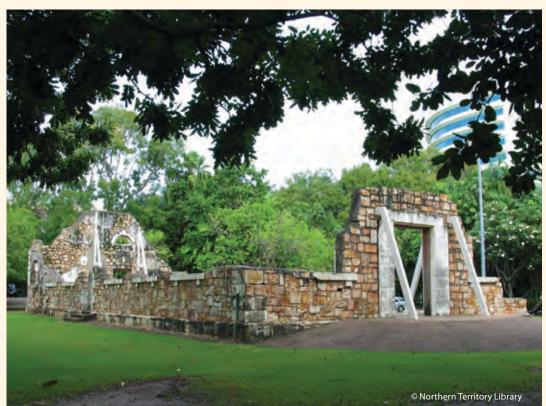
Excavation underwater and the conservation of recovered artefacts was very expensive, and cost was an important factor. Also limiting disturbance to the shipwreck, given the intactness of the ship's hull, was an important consideration in deciding on the best management approach.

In 1998 a conservation management plan was prepared by Heritage Victoria. It recommended in-situ conservation and regular monitoring. To reduce the risk of looting by recreational divers and anchor damage from fishing boats, a Protected Zone around the shipwreck was declared, preventing diving and anchoring within that area. Diver education has also proved important in protecting this and other shipwrecks.

Rapid corrosion noted in monitoring studies between 1999 and 2007 resulted in the installation of cathodic protection (that is, using sacrificial zinc anodes) designed to slow this rate of decay. This has been effective. As a result the shipwreck, once thought to be close to collapse, appears likely to survive for many more years.

### Sources:

Victorian Heritage Register, SS City of Launceston, S124 http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/#detail\_ships;124





### **Palmerston Town Hall ruins**

# 11 Smith Street, Darwin, Northern Territory Heritage Listing: 1996, Northern Territory Heritage Register

In the far-northern reaches of the Australian colonies in the 1880s, Palmerston was a young settlement in the Port of Darwin. Palmerston would grow over the decades and became the city of Darwin. The Town Hall ruins stand today as a symbol of growth during Darwin's settlement days and particularly the establishment of local government.

This building was the settlement's first Town Hall, designed by architect J G Knight, constructed of local stone and cypress pine and completed in 1882–3. Officially opened on 5 March 1883, the building also served as the first Court House, as the town's theatre and library and became a focus for cultural, civic and social gatherings. The remaining fabric hints at the architectural excellence of the 1882–3 Town Hall. In the 1880s it formed part of the group of stone buildings which together demonstrated Darwin's prosperity.

After the abolition of the Town Council in 1937, the building was left vacant and deteriorated. Later it was used as a branch of the Commonwealth Bank and then by the Taxation Department. During World War II, the building was used as a Navy workshop and storage area and after 1945 as the embryonic Northern Territory Museum of Arts and Sciences.

When Cyclone Tracy hit Darwin on Christmas Eve in 1974 the city was flattened. Few buildings remained standing. The Town Hall survived in part only: the walls up to window sill height and to just above the door frames on either end.

After Cyclone Tracy there was so much to rebuild. The Town Hall structure was temporarily propped. In 1978, it was proposed that the ruins of the Town Hall be retained, stabilised and conserved as a ruin to symbolise the destructive force of Cyclone Tracy, a cataclysmic event in Darwin's history.

External supports were added to reinforce the two end walls, and the walls were stabilised, with the works undertaken by the Department of Transport and Works. The interior was paved in brick, using a circular pattern intended to symbolize the swirling pattern of Cyclone Tracy, for use as a public performance and theatre space. Regular inspections, maintenance and repairs are the responsibility of the Department of Lands and Planning. The 1993 heritage study of central Darwin notes that it was then a unique example of the use of 'ruin' conservation policy to retard decay.

Today the Palmerston Town Hall sits within a park-setting, providing an evocative venue for performances and one of the must-see places for visitors. Its survival and continuing use reflects the importance of this remnant in the eyes of the Darwin community.

#### Sources:

Australian Heritage Database, Town Hall Ruins, 13 Smith Street, Darwin (RNE 16356).

Welke, AC, and Wilson, HJ, 1993 Darwin Central Area Heritage Study. A report for the Conservation Commission of the NT; Darwin, pp. 257–259.





# 8.4 Letting nature take its course

### Old Adaminaby, Eucumbene Dam, Snowy River, New South Wales Heritage Listing: 2008, New South Wales Heritage Register

There are few reminders of the original township of Adaminaby—or Old Adaminaby as it is now known. Settled in the nineteenth century, Old Adaminaby was added to the New South Wales State Register in 2008 for its association with pastoral development, twentieth century copper mining and with the building of the Snowy Scheme. The obliteration of this township and relocation of its community gained national prominence at the time.

Flooding of the Eucumbene Valley was a critical part of the Snowy Scheme, creating the Lake Eucumbene dam, the first and largest dam of the Scheme. Before the flooding everything perceived to have value was removed: over 100 buildings were relocated from Old Adaminaby to the new Adaminaby township site and others were flattened and left. Much was left: roads, a bridge, house foundations and chimneys, old vehicles, unusable machinery and all sorts of other artefacts.

But over time what was left there has gained significance, with low water levels revealing elements of the layout of the town and its buildings. For those who once lived there, the emergence of these usually submerged sites evokes memories of their displacement from the town, and is felt strongly. For others, seeing the relics of a past era is intriguing.

Old Adaminaby also has the potential to reveal through archaeological investigation for example, more about the pastoral, urban and industrial periods in its history and how these shaped the lives of those who once lived here.

A fascinating and rare discovery in the exposure of relics in Old Adaminaby and Lake Eucumbene is a Waterhouse steam engine. This engine is internationally rare, one of only three complete examples known to exist in the world.

Just over 50 years after its inundation, Old Adaminaby was added to the NSW Heritage Register in recognition of its state historical, social and research significance. A study of its significance was funded by the Heritage Branch. The listing requires Snowy Hydro Ltd (the successor to the Snowy Mountain Authority) to manage the heritage values of the site and restricts activities to those that will not 'demolish, alter, excavate or remove ruined structures, archaeological relics or movable objects'.

But natural deterioration is unavoidable. As the water levels rise and fall, the very fabric of the elements that remain is disturbed and decay hastened. Active measures to conserve this fabric are neither practical nor feasible, however care is still needed to reduce the risk of theft of movable heritage items, to manage occupational health and safety risks and to ensure recreation and other activities do not do any damage nor exacerbate decay. This is being achieved through active management and monitoring by Snowy River Council and Snowy Hydro Ltd.

An Interim Heritage Order gazetted in 2007 provided temporary protection for Old Adaminaby under the NSW Heritage Act. This was followed by listing on the State Heritage Register in 2008. The listings were initiated in response to the 2007 drought when Lake Eucumbene dried out, revealing Old Adaminaby and giving access to the site. Although many were keen to simply visit the site, there was also a worrying trend towards removal of items as souvenirs. Listing now protects the site and moveable objects from unsympathetic activity that may compromise its heritage significance. Given that the features of Old Adaminaby will continue to deteriorate, there is increasing recognition that greater knowledge of the site is desirable, primarily by building the historic record. Physical recording will continue to be a challenge as it is rare for the site to be accessible. It is proposed that research archaeology may occur at future times of low water levels.

The ability to access Old Adaminaby during the drought period stimulated increased local and visitor interest in the site. Prior to 2007 visitor interest appears to have been limited. More recently the local council has begun to promote the site as one of the places to visit as part of a longer stay in and around Adaminaby. It is also proposed to include the site as part of a heritage tourism trail.

#### **Sources:**

NSW Heritage Register, Old Adaminaby and Lake Eucumbene, including relics and moveable objects

 $http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails. \\ aspx?ID=5060670$ 







# Batman's House and the Kingston Sheepwash

## 561 Kingston Road, Conara, Tasmania Heritage Listing: 2006, Tasmanian Heritage Register

In 1821 John Batman and his brother Henry arrived in Tasmania, winning a contract to supply the government meat stores in George Town and establishing pastoral property of considerable size over the next few years.

Next to the main road from Launceston to the Fingal Valley, John Batman first built a cottage and then a homestead, 'Kingston', in a vernacular style. Batman's complex was described by his contemporaries as the picture of a self-sufficient village with a number of self-contained industries.

By 1827 John Batman was looking toward the Port Phillip district seeking a land grant in what is now Victoria, and in 1835 preemptively moved his enterprise north across Bass Strait, selling Kingston to Edmund Bryan, after which it changed hands numerous times.

Today, the Kingston property contains several buildings, including the present homestead, outbuildings and a cottage. The ruin thought to be John Batman's 1820s homestead, located some distance from the main structure, is itself substantial: a large brick and stone building with chimney, bread oven and cellar with latticed windows. Another brick building is associated with the remains of a sheep-dip and sheepwash, water-race, hawthorn hedging and evidence of other buildings.

The early structures that survive as ruins on the Kingston property are of great significance, offering an insight into the initial development of farming in this area and the importance of early roads on trading opportunities. As well they provide a material link to entrepreneurial landowner, John Batman.

Batman's 1820s house and pastoral complex has been recorded as being in a state of ruin since at least 1904 when reference was made to its condition on a survey map of the property. In 2006 it was added to the Tasmanian Heritage Register. Natural deterioration and exposure continue to take their toll.

No action is proposed to conserve this place, despite its acknowledged significance. Its remote location means that there is little risk of vandalism nor concerns about safety, and it is in private ownership. Its inclusion on the Heritage Register does not require a more active approach to its conservation, although demolition or removal would require approval from the Tasmania Heritage Council. The expectation is that the buildings will gradually deteriorate as the years pass.

### **Sources:**

Tasmanian Heritage Register, Kingston, 561 Kingston Road, Conara http://www.heritage.tas.gov.au/media/pdf/2012\_04\_16.pdf



Margaret Gugger from Vestry of Holy Trinity Church. © Department of the Environment

### 8.5 When removal is inevitable

Holy Trinity Anglican Church School, 400 Merrawarp Road, Barrabool, Victoria Heritage Listing: 1994, Victorian Heritage Register

© Third Ecology

Perched on a ridge in Barrabool, just west of Geelong (Victoria), survives the remains of the oldest known school building in the Geelong area, and the second oldest known school building in Victoria.

The former Holy Trinity Anglican Church School was built in 1847, only 12 years after the founding of Melbourne, and four years before the separation of Victoria from the colony of New South Wales.

This pre-gold rush school building is typical of the vernacular building traditions of the earliest settlers in Victoria. With the adjoining church and vicarage all built of the local Barrabool sandstone, it is part of a visually cohesive group of buildings and illustrates the religious, social and educational role of the Anglican church in Victoria during the 1840s and 1850s. The school also has an association with Edward Willis, an early and influential settler and an ardent Anglican.

Built of local stone, the walls of the school are coursed rubble sandstone, rendered later with ruled cement render and with a simple hipped roof of corrugated iron. An extension was added in 1889, in timber.

It is not known when the building ceased serving as a school, or was no longer occupied. But in 1994, the school building was in a ruinous and unstable condition. It had been identified in a regional heritage study in 1986 and its significance recognised. But by then the building was standing empty, used only by sheep for shelter. Parts of the walls had collapsed, yet the roof remained, protecting some of the interior spaces.

The parish sought a permit to demolish the building, concerned that it was unsightly and unsafe. The nearby church, hall and vicarage were still in use. Two options were to be considered: either complete demolition or for the building to be rebuilt so it could again be used. Stabilisation as a ruin was not an acceptable option for the parish.

A Conservation Options report was prepared by a local heritage architect who recommended against demolition, given the importance of the building. She explored several options: stabilisation, conservation of the exterior only, or conservation of both interior and exterior. For each, a costing was provided for that option applied to the entire structure (1847 and 1889 sections) or just the 1847 section.

Based on significance and cost, a decision was made to reconstruct the original stone section of the building (using stone from the collapsed sections) and the timber porch, and to record and then demolish the later 1889 timber teacher's residence, demonstrating two distinct management approaches—reconstruction and removal—in combination. The stone footings of the teacher's residence were retained, and the chimney was repaired and retained. The windows of the school building were secured and sheeted over to prevent vandalism.

Today the former Holy Trinity Anglican Church School stands somewhat apart from, but related both historically and aesthetically to the church and vicarage. From the road it is not apparent that the 1889 section is no longer there; on closer approach the chimney and footings of the former residence indicate its extent. In time and when funds become available the windows will be replaced to complete the exterior works, however the place is now secure and forms an integral component of the significant group of buildings at Holy Trinity Barrabool.

#### **Sources:**

Hone, J. A. Edward Willis (1816–1895), *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/willis-edward-4860

Honman, L. Conservation Options Report, August 2002.

Willingham, A. 1986 *Geelong Region Historic Buildings and Objects Study*, Geelong Regional Commission.

#### **Acknowledgements:**

Third Ecology, Geelong West, Victoria, project documentation and contract administration



9. Glossary

This glossary of terms is designed to assist with those words that have particular and special meaning in heritage conservation:

**Adaptation:** means modifying a place to suit the existing use or a proposed use (*Burra Charter* 1999: Article 1.9).

**Archaeological assessment:** a study undertaken to establish the archaeological significance (indicating the research potential) of a particular site and to propose appropriate management actions.

**Archaeological feature:** any physical evidence of past human activity. Archaeological features include buildings, works, relics, structures, foundations, deposits, cultural landscapes and shipwrecks. During an archaeological excavation the term 'feature' may also refer to an item that is not a structure, layer or artefact (eg. a post hole).

**Archaeological site:** a place that contains evidence of past human activity. Below-ground archaeological sites include building foundations, occupation deposits, features and artefacts. Above-ground archaeological sites include buildings, works, industrial structures and relics that are intact or ruined.

**Associations:** the special connections that exist between people and a place (*Burra Charter* 1999: Article 1.15).

**Australia ICOMOS:** the national committee of the International Committee on Monuments and Sites, a non-government conservation organization concerned with the care of places of cultural significance.

**Burra Charter and guidelines:** the Charter adopted by Australia ICOMOS in 1999, which establishes the nationally accepted principles for the conservation of places of cultural significance.

**Compatible use:** means a use which respects the cultural significance of a place. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance (*Burra Charter* 1999: Article 1.11).

**Condition**: means the state of the fabric of the place.

**Conjectural reconstruction**: alteration of a heritage place to stimulate a possible earlier state, which is not based on documentary or physical evidence. This treatment is outside the scope of the *Burra Charter's* conservation principles.

**Conservation:** means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance (*Burra Charter* 1999: Article 1.4).

**Conservation Management Plan:** see Plan of Management.

**Cultural landscape:** an area of the landscape which may have been significantly modified by human activity. They include rural lands such as farms, villages, mining sites and country towns.

**Cultural significance:** means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups (*Burra Charter* 1999: Article 1.2).

**Demolition:** the damaging, defacing, destroying or dismantling of a heritage place, or a component of a heritage conservation area, in whole or in part.

**Fabric:** the fabric of a place means all of the physical materials of the place, both natural and human-made.

**Heritage agency:** means the Commonwealth, state or territory government body responsible for historic places. In most parts of Australia, local government authorities also have responsibilities for identifying places with heritage values.

**Heritage fabric:** all the physical material of a place, including surroundings and contents which contribute to its heritage significance.

**Heritage Impact Assessment:** a document designed to evaluate the effects of an action on the values of a place of recognised heritage significance, often set as a requirement by the responsible heritage body. The purpose of a Heritage Impact Statement is to describe why the place is of heritage significance and what impact the proposed works will have on that significance. It should set out the measures proposed to mitigate any negative impacts, explain why more sympathetic solutions are not viable and assess the residual impact of the action. This is referred to as a Statement of Heritage Impact.

**Heritage listing:** when a place of established cultural significance is included on a register or statutory list at Commonwealth, state, territory or local government level.

**Heritage significance:** of aesthetic, historic, scientific, social, archaeological, natural or aesthetic value for past, present of future generations. This term is used interchangeably with Cultural Significance.

**Historical archaeology:** the study of the human past using both material evidence and documentary sources. In Australia, historical archaeology excludes Aboriginal archaeology prior to non-Indigenous occupation, but may include contact sites.

**Incomplete**: means the place has undergone the loss of components or elements, typically subsequent to its closure, abandonment or the ruining event.

**Integrity:** a heritage place is said to have integrity if its assessment and statement of significance is supported by sound research and analysis, and its fabric and curtilage are still largely intact.

**Interpretation:** an ongoing activity that integrates the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of a place with its day to day use and management and also with works. It may include signs, brochures, tours, exhibitions, events and so forth.

**Maintenance:** means the continuous protective care of the fabric and setting of a place, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration or reconstruction (*Burra Charter* 1999: Article 1.5).

**Measured drawing:** a technical or architectural record of a heritage place to scale, based on an analysis of the heritage significance of the fabric.

**Moveable heritage:** heritage items not fixed to a site or place (eg. furniture, locomotives or archives).

**Place:** means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views (*Burra Charter* 1999: Article 1.1).

**Plan of Management:** establishes a framework for maintaining the heritage significance of a place and gives guidance on how a conservation policy can be implemented in relation to future developments. This may also be called a Conservation Management Plan, Conservation Plan or Conservation Masterplan.

**Preservation:** means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration (*Burra Charter* 1999: Article 1.6).

**Proponent:** the person or organisation who proposes building or development activity at a heritage place. The proponent is usually the owner of the place.

**Recognising**: in reference to a heritage nomination, this means acknowledging a place's significance and noting this in a register or statutory list.

**Representativeness:** places having this value are significant because they are fine representative examples of an important class of significant places.

**Rarity:** a place having this value is significant because it represents a rare, endangered or unusual aspect of our history or cultural heritage.

**Reconstruction:** returning a place to a known earlier state and is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of new material into the fabric *Burra Charter* 1999: Article 1.8).

**Restoration:** means returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material (*Burra Charter* 1999: Article 1.7).

**Statutory**: to be required, permitted or regulated as a result of an Act of Parliament and therefore having legal force (eg. statutory instruments such as the Victorian *Heritage Act 1995*).

**Use:** means the functions of a place, as well as the activities and practices that may occur at the place (*Burra Charter* 1999: Article 1.10).



# **Key documents:**

Australia ICOMOS (2009) *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Conservation Significance*, Australia ICOMOS.

Australia ICOMOS (2004) *The Illustrated Burra Charter: Good Practice for Heritage Places*, pages 46–51.

# **Guidance documents from various jurisdictions:**

Heritage Office NSW (1996), *Investigating Fabric*, http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/ hminvestigating.pdf

Heritage Office NSW (1998), *How to Prepare Archival Records of Heritage Items*, http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/infoarchivalrecords.pdf

Heritage Office NSW (1999), *Principles of Conservation Work on Heritage Places*, http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/infoprinciples.pdf

Heritage Office NSW (2000), *Moveable Heritage Principles*, http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/heritagebranch/heritage/infomovable.pdf

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Heritage Tasmania (2009), *Pre-Development Assessment Guidelines*, http://www.heritage.tas.gov.au/guidelines.html

Heritage Tasmania (2011), *Guidelines for assessing historic heritage significance*, http://www.heritage.tas.gov.au

Heritage Victoria (2001), *Documenting Maintenance & Repair Works*, http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0003/36822/Maintenance-and-Repair.pdf

Heritage Victoria (2001), *Inspection Schedule*, http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0005/36824/InspectionSchedule.pdf

Heritage Victoria (2007), *Photographic Recording for Heritage Places and Objects*, http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0003/36831/Photographic\_ Recording\_Tech\_Note.pdf

Heritage Victoria (2008), *Guidelines for Conducting Historical Archaeological Surveys*, http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0010/44785/SurveyGuide.pdf

Heritage Victoria (2010), Conservation Management Plans: Managing Heritage Places, http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0016/50911/CMP\_Guide\_1278369664770.pdf

Heritage Victoria (2001), *Preparing a Maintenance Plan*, http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0004/36823/prepmaintplan.pdf



- 1 The Burra Charter, Article 1.1
- 2 This section draws on the Queensland Heritage Council's *Using the criteria: a methodology*.
- 3 K Altenburg, Workshop presentation.
- 4 Queensland Heritage Council, *Using the criteria: a methodology*, p. 54.
- 5 The Burra Charter, Articles 1.7, 1.8.
- 6 The Burra Charter, Article 1.6.
- 7 The Burra Charter, Article 1.5.



