

Heritage places can include buildings, gardens, structures, archaeological sites, industrial sites, and cemeteries.

The key is a place's level of significance. Only those places considered to be of state cultural heritage significance will be added to the WA Heritage Register, a register which is maintained by the Heritage Council of WA.



Atwell House ~ Fremantle

The Council is the State's expert advisory body on heritage matters and aims to:

- identify and conserve places of cultural heritage significance throughout WA;
- facilitate development which is in harmony with cultural heritage values; and
- promote public awareness and knowledge of our cultural heritage.

WHAT IS THE REGISTER?

In WA, places included in the Register are given legal protection under the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990. Registration of a place is official recognition by the community of its cultural significance to the heritage of Western Australia.

Places may be entered on the advice of the Heritage Council or at the direction of the Minister for Heritage. There is a public consultation and review process associated with registration. Development controls apply under the Act and conservation incentives are available to owners.



Astor Theatre ~ Mount Lawley

WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?

The Register is designed as a planning tool and as a vehicle for public education about heritage issues generally. It is protective in that it is linked directly to the development and approvals process. Entry imposes on "decision making authorities" (such as local government authorities, or the Ministry for Planning) a requirement to seek approval from the Heritage Council regarding development proposals affecting registered places.

CAN ANYONE NOMINATE A PLACE TO BE ENTERED IN THE REGISTER?

Yes. A Heritage Referral Form is available from the Heritage Council to any member of the public who may wish to nominate a place for assessment. The form sets out the type of evidence required.

WHO DECIDES WHICH PLACES ARE ADDED TO THE REGISTER?

Any member of the community may suggest a place be considered for the Register. Following an assessment of a place's cultural heritage value, the Heritage Council makes a decision on whether a place has cultural heritage value. If an owner agrees

that their place should be entered, the Director of the Heritage Council can enter a place in the Register under delegated authority from the Minister. If an owner is concerned about the implications of a place being entered in the Register, the decision is made by the Minister for Heritage following a recommendation from the Heritage Council.

WHAT FACTORS ARE CONSIDERED WHEN ENTERING A PLACE IN THE REGISTER?

In considering a place for the Register, the Heritage Council is guided by various criteria. In broad terms, a decision is made as to whether a place has:

1. **Aesthetic Value** It is significant in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the community.
2. **Historic Value** It is significant in the evolution or pattern of the history of Western Australia.
3. **Scientific Value** It has demonstrated potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the natural or cultural history of WA.
4. **Social Value** It is significant through association with a community or cultural group in WA for social, cultural, educational or spiritual reasons.
5. **Rarity** It demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the cultural heritage of Western Australia.
6. **Representativeness** It is significant in demonstrating the characteristics of a class of cultural places or environments in the State.

The physical condition and integrity of places is also taken into account in assessing a place for registration. However it is possible for a place of poor condition or integrity to be entered in the Register where other values are high (eg historic value, or rarity).

During consideration of a place for the Register, comment is also sought from a place's owners, local government and the community.

DOES THIS MEAN WE KEEP

EVERYTHING?

No, we can't keep everything and we would not want to. Although the criteria may seem broad enough to embrace anything, in practice there are qualifying levels.

Some buildings, for instance, might have a local importance and be significant to the town or suburb in which they are located. However, they may not have state or national or even international significance.



CBH Grain Silos ~ Bunbury

Town Hall ~ Northam



SO WHAT ARE THE LEVELS OF HERITAGE PROTECTION IN WA?

Our three levels of government – local, state and federal – all have a role to play in protecting our cultural heritage.

Local governments maintain a Municipal Inventory, a list of places considered by the local community to have heritage value. There are no legal implications for any place entered on the Inventory. Local governments also have the ability to protect heritage places by including them in Town Planning Schemes, which would mean the impact of developments or changes would be considered before those changes would be allowed to occur.

The State government's role is primarily concerned with places considered to be of significance to the State. These places are either entered in the Register or eligible to be entered.

At a national level, the Australian Heritage Commission has compiled a Register of the National Estate. While only places owned by the Commonwealth are legally protected, the Register provides recognition of aboriginal, natural and historic places and encourages their protection.

WHAT ABOUT THE NATIONAL TRUST?

The National Trust does not have any legal powers to enforce preservation and conservation. The Trust does play an important role in developing public opinion as well as in supporting and encouraging the conservation of our heritage places and is a valuable advocate in that role.

The identification or classification of places by the National Trust or local historical societies, does not constitute legal recognition of their significance.

WHERE CAN YOU OBTAIN COPIES OF THE REGISTER?

Copies of the Register are available from the Heritage Council's office or from its website (heritage.wa.gov.au).

Beagle Bay Mission Church ~ Dampier Peninsula



Allandale Homestead ~ Dawesville



HERITAGE
COUNCIL
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

108 Adelaide Tce,
East Perth, W.A. 6004
Telephone (08) 9221 4177
Freecall 1800 644 177
Facsimile (08) 9221 4151
Email heritage@hc.wa.gov.au
Web Site <http://heritage.wa.gov.au>



June 1999

WA HERITAGE REGISTER



One Mile Jetty ~ Carnarvon



Heritage Council of Western Australia



DA 2150