

FACTORS FOR ASSESSING CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This document is a quick guide to the factors that are considered when assessing the cultural heritage significance of a place for potential inclusion in the State Register of Heritage Places (the Register).

The cultural heritage significance of a place comes from its cultural heritage values. These values are assessed by considering the place against nine factors that are set out in the *Heritage Act 2018*.

If a place is assessed as making an important contribution to understanding the heritage of Western Australia it can be included in the Register.

Full guidance on how to apply the factors in an assessment of cultural heritage significance can be found in *The State Register of Heritage Places – A guide to assessing cultural heritage significance*.

Factor A – Importance in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Western Australia’s history.

A place is of importance in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Western Australia’s history if that place is the product of, an example of, or is associated with an event, phase or activity which has made an influential contribution to the settlement and development of Western Australia.

Cultural heritage values being assessed under Factor A: Principally Historic, but Aesthetic, Scientific, Social, Spiritual may also be relevant.

Factor B – Importance in demonstrating rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Western Australia’s heritage

A place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Western Australia’s heritage if that place illustrates – through its physical fabric or through other evidence – an event, phase or activity of historical note which is uncommon or unusual or which was once commonplace but for which there is now little surviving evidence.

Cultural heritage values being assessed under Factor B: Aesthetic, Historic, Scientific, Social, and Spiritual.

Factor C – Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Western Australia’s history

A place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Western Australia’s history if – through analysis, further examination or research of the place, its fabric (including artefacts) and associated documentary or oral evidence – it is likely to provide information that is

not readily or easily derived from other sources. While this factor is most often used for places of archaeological potential, it may also be used for places with research potential into architectural design, construction techniques, garden design and cultural institutions etc.

Cultural heritage values being assessed under Factor C: Principally Historic and Scientific, but Aesthetic, Social, and Spiritual may also be relevant.

Factor D – Importance in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of places

A place where this Factor is relevant should demonstrate the principal characteristics, defining features or key attributes of a particular ‘class of place’. A ‘class of place’ is generally defined by a specific purpose or use, era, design characteristic, architectural style, construction technique or some other recognisable quality (for example, WWI memorials, Edwardian theatres, trestle bridges, or State Government High Schools). The principal characteristics, features or key attributes should be evident in the fabric of the place. The place should be an important example of its class.

Cultural heritage values being assessed under Factor D: Aesthetic, Historic, Scientific, Social, and Spiritual.

Factor E – Any strong or special meaning it may have for any group or community because of social, cultural or spiritual associations

A place has a strong or special meaning for a group or community if there is a strong sense of attachment to it for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. The attachment should be one that extends back for a period of time (has time-depth) and which continues to the present day. The strong or special meaning of the place should resonate with the broader community and link to Western Australia’s sense of identity and place (the ‘broader Western Australian community’ is the population of Western Australia (i.e. the people) who live across the state and/or those who share a common connection to Western Australia).

Cultural heritage values being assessed under Factor E: Social and Spiritual.

Factor F – Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by any group or community

A place has aesthetic importance if a group or community demonstrably values the place for its aesthetic characteristics. Aesthetic characteristics may relate to the concept of beauty, or may be characteristics associated with good design. Aesthetic qualities may inspire awe or fear. Evidence of the aesthetic value may include a place’s recognised landmark qualities, its representation in art, media, and literature, or its critical recognition.

Cultural heritage values being assessed under Factor F: Aesthetic.

Factor G – Any special association it may have with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance to Western Australia’s history

A place can have value for its association with a person, group or organisation of importance to Western Australia’s history. The association between the life and work of a person, group or organisation must be clearly demonstrated in the fabric of the place or through other evidence. The place should represent an enduring association with a person, group or organisation or should relate directly to reasons for – or the time in which – the person, group or organisation is known for making an important contribution to Western Australia’s history.

Cultural heritage values being assessed under Factor G: Historic and Social.

Factor H – Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement

A place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement if that place illustrates artistic or technical excellence, innovation, accomplishment, or creative adaptation in a variety of fields of human endeavour including – but not limited to – art, engineering, architecture, design, construction, manufacture or craftsmanship. Evidence of creative or technical achievement may include recognition of the place as being a breakthrough in terms of design or construction, a successful solution to a specific technical problem, or through wide acknowledgement of exceptional merit in publications or print and digital media.

Cultural heritage values being assessed under Factor H: Aesthetic and Scientific.

Factor I – Any other characteristic it may have that in the opinion of the Council is relevant to the assessment of cultural heritage significance

Factor I will only be applied on a case-by-case basis. For most places Factors A to H are sufficient for determining cultural heritage significance.