

SHIRE OF ASHBURTON



Shire of Ashburton Local Government Heritage Inventory INFORMATION SHEET

1.0 What is Heritage and why is it important?

Heritage sites are the places and objects that we have inherited from the past and as a community want to pass on to future generations.

Heritage places can be buildings, structures, landscapes and archaeological sites. Heritage places aren't just 'old' places, and they can also be more recently constructed buildings, which may be an example of technical or creative achievement from a particular period.

As a community, we share the responsibility to identify and protect places of cultural heritage significance for future generations so they too will be able to enjoy a rich and diverse cultural environment and understand what came before them.

2.0 Heritage Listing – What it is?

Heritage listing is the formal recognition that a place has cultural heritage significance and can be a way of ensuring that any modifications or changes to the place respect and retain those qualities and characteristics that make it special.

At the local government level there are two types of listing:

1. **Municipal Heritage Inventories** – MHIs can best be described as 'local heritage registers', which identify places that are of cultural heritage significance in the local area. They are a record or information source only. The *Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990* requires all local government authorities to compile, and periodically update and review, a MHI (also known as a Local Government Inventory). Inclusion on an LGI offers no formal protection of, or statutory restrictions to these places.
2. **Scheme Heritage List** - This is a list of places compiled under the Shire's Town Planning Scheme No. 7, and as a result are given certain protection under the Scheme through various provisions that affect these places and the types of development permitted.

To date the Shire has treated the Municipal Heritage Inventory as its Heritage List. However, in light of recent changes to the planning legislation in Western Australia there is a need to review this approach and to designate a separate Heritage List, as some places on the Municipal Heritage Inventory may not warrant this level of statutory protection.

This project will update of the Shire's Municipal Heritage Inventory and identify those places to be included on the Shire's Heritage List.

3.0 Why is my place considered heritage?

Places are selected for inclusion on the LGI and/or the Heritage List based on their cultural heritage significance to the locality. A place or area will be of significance to the locality if it has one or more of the following values: Aesthetic, Historic, Research or Social value. These values are defined by the Heritage Council of Western Australia and are used as criteria to assess the importance of places for heritage listing:

Aesthetic value: A place included under this criterion may be a good example of an architectural style, display creative or design excellence or be of landmark value for the local district.

Historic value: A place included under this criterion should be closely associated with events, developments or cultural phases that have played an important part in the locality's history.

Research value: A place of research value should provide, or demonstrate a likelihood of providing, evidence about past activity. This may include important information about construction technology, land use or industrial processes not available anywhere else.

Social value: A place of social value will be significant through association with a community or cultural group in the local district for social, cultural, educational or spiritual reasons.

4.0 How does inclusion on the Heritage List affect my place?

It is a common belief that if a place is included on a Heritage List that place cannot be altered in any way. This is not the case. The Shire encourages sensitive development and new compatible uses of heritage places as this can be an effective means of ensuring their future, and reflects the Shire's ongoing cultural development. Where significant modifications are proposed to a heritage site, the developer may be required to document these changes as a historical record.

The identification of heritage places is not about preventing change. Rather, it is about identifying and understanding what is important, and why, so that change can be managed appropriately.

The inclusion of a place on the Heritage List does have implications for owners: planning approval is required for demolition, alterations, or other development in order for an assessment to be made of the impact of the proposal on the heritage value of the place.