



# Heritage Assessment Policy

A policy document for nominating, assessing and making decisions about heritage places and objects against the criteria in the *Heritage Act 2004*

March 2018



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# Overview

This document is intended to assist members of the community prepare nominations to the ACT Heritage Register (the Register), to assist ACT Heritage in their assessment of nominations, and to assist the ACT Heritage Council (the Council) in its decisions on provisional registration and registration under the *Heritage Act 2004* (the Act).

This document is in four parts:

PART 1 – Introduction to the registration of heritage places and objects in the ACT

- Defines the purpose of the Register
- Defines levels of significance for heritage places and objects
- Defines the character and identity of the ACT, indicating aspects which may contribute to a place or object's significance in the context of Territory level significance and
- Outlines the heritage significance criteria of the Act.

PART 2 – Nominating heritage places and objects (primarily for use by those making a nomination to the Register)

- Provides information to assist in making a nomination to the Register.

PART 3 – Assessing heritage places and objects (primarily for use by heritage professionals undertaking assessments)

- Provides information about the significance assessment process
- Provides an overview of threshold indicators and guidance on their application and
- Outlines a two-step process to help 'test' the level of significance of a place or object.

PART 4 – Clarifying the criteria (primarily for heritage professionals including staff at ACT Heritage and the Council)

- Clarifies the intent of the criteria and provides guidelines for their application in order to minimise ambiguity during the assessment process and avoid the legal misinterpretation of completed assessments of registered places or objects and
- Ensures consistency, openness and transparency in decision-making.

Although the different parts of this document cover different stages of the nomination and assessment process, please look at each stage of the nomination, assessment and decision-making process.

# Part 1. Introduction to the registration of heritage places and objects in the ACT

## 1.1 The purpose of the ACT Heritage Register

In the case of the provisional registration or registration of a place or object under the Act, it is the intention of the Council to recognise and protect those places and objects which are *above the ordinary*, with the object of the Act being to register *significant* places and objects.

Places and objects that could be characterised as usual, normal or ordinary are not places or objects for which the Register is intended. When the criteria are interpreted, they must be interpreted with this objective in mind.

The aim of heritage conservation is to retain the cultural significance of places and objects so they can be appreciated and enjoyed by current and future generations.

The guidelines for assessing places and objects against the criteria of the Act are consistent with the concepts of heritage significance defined in the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter – the Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance and the Australian Heritage Commission and Australian Committee for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s Australian Natural Heritage Charter.

The process of assessing heritage significance cannot be reduced to a scientific formula. Nonetheless, it is important for people engaging with the ACT’s heritage system to have an understanding of how the Council exercises its discretion when determining to include – or not include – a place or object in the Register.

The assessment and decision making process involves layers of expert input and external comment, all of which the Council draws on to make its final decision. This includes: information from nominators; expert staff research and advice; expert Council member research, advice and consideration, especially by the Council’s Register Taskforce; and other expert and community input and comment. This layered approach is common in Australian jurisdictions, and is a strength of the process.

Due to the iterative nature of the assessment process, views on heritage significance might evolve over time. This variance reflects personal experience, information, values and history.

The purpose of this guide is to identify the key matters that the Council considers when determining if a place or object is of Territory level heritage significance.

## 1.2 Place and object

### Place

Under the Act, a place includes the following:

- a. a site, precinct or parcel of land
- b. a building or structure, or part of a building or structure
- c. the curtilage, or setting, of a building or structure, or part of a building or structure
- d. an object or feature historically associated with, and located at, the place.

Places may include an important view to or from a place, where this forms part of its significance. However, the view must be included within the boundary for the place. Similarly, the curtilage or setting of a place must form part of the registered boundary.

An *Aboriginal place* means a place associated with Aboriginal people because of Aboriginal tradition.

*Aboriginal tradition* means the customs, rituals, institutions, beliefs or general way of life of Aboriginal people.

### Objects

An object means a natural or manufactured object, but does not include a building or any other man-made structure. Objects (including collections) may include three dimensional objects (furniture, fittings, equipment, machinery etc.), archival material such as records, maps, plans and photos, and art works.

An *Aboriginal object* means an object associated with Aboriginal people because of Aboriginal tradition.

## Collections

Collections may be registered as an object or as part of a place. Where a collection is historically associated with and located at a place entered on the Register, the collection should be registered as part of the place. Part of the significance of the collection is likely to be its association with, and location at the place. In all other cases, a collection should be registered as an object.

Words in the singular also include the plural. In this way, an object includes a collection (a set of objects, specimens, writings etc., gathered together) or assemblage (an archaeological term referring to a collection of artefacts found from one site and in association with one another; in the same context).

A collection may include small or large objects, or a mixture of both. There is no set number of objects which are required to constitute a collection or artefact assemblage.

All objects within a collection must be related. This could be through provenance, theme, association with a place or other common element. Provenance and context are particularly important in understanding the significance of a collection. Provenance refers to the origin and life story of a collection and is a record of its passage through various owners. An item with provenance is more likely to be of significance than a similar item without provenance.

Where a collection is split into two or more distinct locations, it may be registered as the one object under the Act. Every opportunity should be taken to reunite the collection as a whole.

An inventory of objects which form part of the collection will form a critical part of the register entry.

Certain objects within a collection might be excluded from registration where their provenance is not clear, they are of a poor condition, or they are not relevant to the broader collection and its heritage significance.

### 1.3 Levels of significance (context of the place or object)

There are many levels of significance for which a heritage place or object may be important, including personal, interest group, local, state, national and world. This concept is illustrated in Diagram 1.

The level of significance of a place or object derives from its historical and geographical context and the group of people for whom the place or object has significance or meaning. A place or object may possess significance in many different contexts – from the local region or area to the entire world, and for any number of people – from an individual to a vast body of people across the globe.

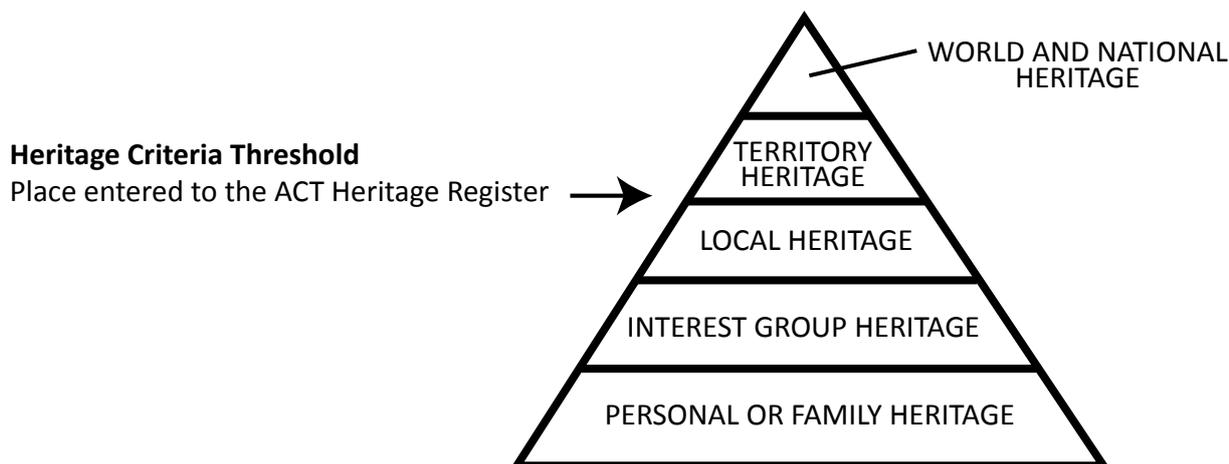
A place or object may be entered in the Register only if it has Territory-level heritage significance, or higher, under the Act. This is consistent with the wording of the heritage significance criteria of the Act.

Personal or family heritage places and objects are those that hold value for an individual or their family members. This might include family homes or places where events have occurred for an individual or family, such as a place of annual holiday.

Interest group heritage places and objects are those which are of significance and meaning to a specific interest group or organisation. Interest groups might include community action groups, church groups, ornithological, engineering, architectural or other groups. (Note – there will be some instances where places and objects valued by these groups meet a criterion under the Act where the value is to the Territory, not just the group. However, not all places or objects valued by an interest group will automatically meet a criterion for registration).

A place or object is of local heritage significance if its heritage values are of a purely localised nature and do not contribute significantly to our understanding of the broad pattern and evolution of the ACT's history and heritage. For example, houses that form part of character streetscapes or which may be historically, architecturally, aesthetically and socially significant within the context of a street or suburb, are likely to be of local cultural heritage significance but not of Territory significance.

In the ACT, a local area or region would normally be considered to be a satellite town or district, such as Belconnen, Woden etc. On a smaller scale again, it might also be considered to be a suburb within a satellite town, such as Scullin or Curtin. A local region would also be considered to be either the north or south side of today's Lake Burley Griffin or the former Molonglo River. There are other, smaller areas which, due to their individual character and identity, might be considered a local area in their own right, such as the villages of Hall and Tharwa, and the suburb of Oaks Estate.



A place or object is of Territory-level significance if its heritage values contribute to our understanding and appreciation of the broad pattern and evolution of the ACT's history and heritage. Examples include the Kingston Power House, early Garden City precincts, the Melbourne and Sydney Buildings, Gubur Dhaura (Aboriginal Red Ochre quarry) and the Jerrabomberra Wetlands.

A general guide to whether a place or object is of heritage value to the ACT might be found in the question 'would the loss of the place or object significantly impoverish our Territory heritage?'

National heritage places are those that are of outstanding heritage significance to Australia, including natural, historic and Indigenous places. Places entered in the National Heritage List include Old Parliament House, the Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves, the Eureka Stockade Gardens, Brewarrina Aboriginal Fish Traps and the Gondwana Rainforests.

World Heritage properties are important to everyone, irrespective of where they are located. They have universal value that transcends the value they hold for a particular nation. Places entered in the World Heritage List include the Great Barrier Reef, Angkor in Cambodia, the Great Wall of China, the Australian Convict Sites, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park and the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites.

## 1.4 Characteristics and identity of the ACT

The relationship between a place or object and its broader context within the natural, Aboriginal and historic heritage of the ACT underlies the registration process. A range of broad themes can be identified for natural, Aboriginal and historic

heritage places and objects within the ACT to assist in applying the criteria. Identifying these theme or themes can help in establishing the context for its assessment.

The themes of the ACT are those that have shaped the broad pattern and evolution of the ACT, distinguishing its history in the context of other Australian states and territories, providing its significant character and identity. These themes include its history prior to the declaration of the Federal Capital Territory in 1911, and subsequent to it. These are the themes which might come to the minds of ordinary Australians when they think about Canberra and the ACT.

Aspects which provide the ACT with its significant identity and character include:

- the evolution of the natural environment
- Aboriginal life in the area
- Aboriginal associations with place
- European settlement pre-Federal Capital Territory (FCT) (1911)
  - exploration
  - rural settlement
- Canberra as the nation's capital
  - exploring, surveying and mapping
  - the transfer of the seat of government
  - feeding and farming the region post 1911
  - developing ACT and regional economies
- Canberra as a planned environment
  - Griffin's Canberra
  - early federal government landscape and urban planning
    - » Garden City and City Beautiful
    - » notions of the bush capital

- National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) and the Y-Plan
- self-government and post-NCDC Commonwealth Government landscape and urban planning
- lodging and educating people and the provision of government housing and schools.

However, not all places and objects that relate to these aspects of Canberra’s identity and character are of Territory significance. For example, although a place might be related to the historical theme of ‘transfer of the seat of government’, it might not be ‘important’, ‘rare’, ‘representative’, ‘distinctive’, etc. in relation to this.

General historic themes and types of places and objects demonstrated across all states and territories in Australia and not specific to the ACT are:

- education
- religion and worship
- recreation and leisure
- institutions
- postal services
- health
- communication and technology
- domestic housing
- defence and military
- utilising natural resources
- developing primary production
- supplying services – power, transport, fire prevention, roads, water, light and sewerage
- memorialising the past, people and society’s achievements

Many places and objects associated with these themes may have personal, interest group or local significance. Other places and objects may be of Territory significance, where they are particularly relevant to the context of the ACT, or where they also relate to one of the historical themes particular to the ACT, or where they meet a threshold indicator to a particularly high degree.

A general thematic framework documented by the then Australian Heritage Commission identifies a range of historical themes common across all Australian states and territories. See this information at [www.environment.gov.au/heritage/ahc/publications/commission/books/australian-historic-themes.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/ahc/publications/commission/books/australian-historic-themes.html).

Demonstrating the significance of a place within one of the themes developed by the Australian Heritage Commission or the themes outlined above can enhance an assessment.

While themes are a useful tool in assessment, it is not essential to identify themes for every place or object being nominated or assessed.

## 1.5 Heritage significance criteria

The Act contains eight heritage significance criteria. A place or object must meet at least one criterion to be entered in the Register.

The criteria are a collection of principles, characteristics and categories used to help decide if a place or object has heritage value. They are known as the HERCON (Heritage Convention) criteria; a standard set of heritage significance criteria agreed to by all jurisdictions in 2008 by the then Environment Protection and Heritage Council. It was agreed that all jurisdictions would take every opportunity to adopt the HERCON criteria.

The criteria adapted to the ACT context are:

- a. importance to the course or pattern of the ACT’s cultural or natural history
- b. has uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the ACT’s cultural or natural history
- c. potential to yield important information that will contribute to an understanding of the ACT’s cultural or natural history
- d. importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or objects
- e. importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT
- f. importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement for a particular period
- g. has a strong or special association with the ACT community or a cultural group within the ACT for social, cultural or spiritual reasons
- h. has a special association with the life or work of a person, or people, important to the history of the ACT.

A ‘basic test’ applies to determine whether a place or object has any value in relation to a criterion (see Clarifying the Criteria below).

## Part 2. Nominating heritage places and objects

### 2.1 Preparing a nomination

Anyone may nominate a place or object for entry in the Register under the Act. Nomination forms are available on ACT Heritage's website at [www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage](http://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage) or by contacting ACT Heritage by telephone on 13 22 81. A nomination will only be considered if it is on the approved form.

If you believe a particular place or object may be of significance to the ACT (refer to the Levels of Significance section above) you are encouraged to nominate it to the Register.

Because planning and development decisions on National and Designated Territory land are made by the Commonwealth's National Capital Authority and the Act has limited application, nominations for these places or objects may not be accepted. In unusual cases where they are accepted, they are unlikely to be considered a priority for the Council and their assessment may be delayed. However, if a strong case is made that such a place has high significance for the Territory and particularly if those values are at risk, the Council may assess the place for the Register as a matter of priority.

In preparing a nomination, an applicant is asked to provide as much information about any matters relevant to the heritage values of the place or object as they can. The fields in the nomination form provide guidance on this.

Essential information to consider in preparing a nomination for a place or object includes:

- incorporating firsthand knowledge of the place or object (this might include oral histories and liaising with community members and others who might have information and knowledge about the place and/or object)
- describing the previous and current uses of the place or object, its association with individuals or groups and its meaning for those people
- providing a physical description of the place and its setting, or the object
- comparing it with other like places or objects
- researching primary sources (plans, photos, maps and other documents)
- researching secondary sources (written histories)

- considering its condition and integrity and
- including information about its setting and boundaries.

The extent to which each of these points is relevant to a place or object will depend on the type of place or object being assessed. Professional heritage consultants and staff at ACT Heritage can offer valuable assistance.

In completing the nomination form, refer to the information contained in parts 3 and 4 of this document. This will help you understand the types of things that ACT Heritage and the Council will be looking for in their assessment and decision-making processes, and will guide you in considering the significance of a place or object in relation to the criteria of the Act.

To be eligible for provisional registration, a place or object need only meet one criterion of the Act.

In addressing each of the significance criteria, you are encouraged to spend most time on the criteria that the place or object best meets. A strong argument against one or two criteria is more likely to be considered suitable for provisional registration than weak arguments across multiple criteria.

You are encouraged to contact ACT Heritage on 13 22 81 for further advice on preparing your nomination.

### 2.2 What happens next?

Once a nomination is accepted by the Council, certain provisions of the Act are applicable to the nominated place or object. Primarily, the Council gives advice to the planning and land authority about the effect of a development on the heritage significance of a nominated place when a development application is referred to the Council.

If there is insufficient information in the nomination, the Council may request additional information from the nominator prior to making a decision about whether to accept or dismiss the nomination. If sufficient information cannot be obtained, the nomination might be judged to be 'lacking in substance' and dismissed in its current form by Council.

The Council may decide to dismiss a nomination for detailed assessment on a number of grounds.

Under the Act, the Council may reject a nomination if:

- the Council is satisfied that the nomination is frivolous, vexatious, misconceived, or lacking in substance or was not made honestly or
- the Council has previously decided not to register the place or object nominated and is satisfied that the nomination shows no new ground for registration based on the substance of the nomination.

If the Council dismisses a nomination, it will provide written notice to the nominator setting out its reasons for its dismissal.

Each nomination accepted by the Council will be assessed in detail by appropriately qualified heritage professionals in accordance with the guidelines of parts 3 and 4 of this document. They will consider the information you have provided and your statement/s about why the place or object is of heritage significance, and will use professional judgment in determining the heritage values of the place or object in accordance with best practice heritage principles.

The Council's role is to review this assessment and direct any further work which may be required in order for the Council to be satisfied the assessment is thorough and rigorous and appropriately determines the heritage significance of the place or object.

The more effectively a nomination can demonstrate that a place or object meets a criterion, and the more information which is provided to give evidence and justification for

this, the less work Council has to do itself to demonstrate significance, and the quicker the nomination can be dealt with by the Council. If information about a place or object's values and its context with other places or objects is not readily available, the decision is less likely to result in provisional registration.

Anyone may request Council make an urgent decision about provisional registration for a nomination. A fee is required for this service.

The Council may provisionally register a place or object in the Register if it is satisfied that it may have heritage significance. The criteria for determining heritage significance are detailed below.

If the Council decides to provisionally register a place or object, there is a four week period of public consultation, during which time anyone can provide a submission in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed full registration of the place or object.

Once the Council has considered any public submissions, and received any direction from the Minister responsible for heritage, it will decide whether to proceed to full registration for the place or object, or to reject the registration.

Regarding the final registration decision, an appeal process exists for interested persons, including the property owner and those who have made submissions during the public consultation process.

The nominator and other interested parties, including the property owner, will be kept informed of the Council's decisions about the place or object throughout the process.

You are encouraged to read the following parts of this document to understand how your nomination will be formally assessed through a rigorous approach against the criteria of the *Heritage Act 2004* and the application of thresholds which will determine the level of significance of the place or object.

You are further encouraged to use the information in the following section when preparing your nomination.

## Part 3. Assessing heritage places and objects

### 3.1 The assessment process

The Council has adopted the nationally accepted principle of separating the identification and assessment of heritage places and objects from decisions about their management.

While urgent decisions about management (such as stabilising a ruin or protecting a place of potential significance from demolition) might have to be made before assessment is completed, any major management decisions about the long-term conservation, modification or demolition of a place should follow the assessment of significance.

The steps below summarise the process for assessing heritage places and objects. Such places and objects might have been identified by heritage surveys or nomination by any person.

Heritage assessments should be carried out by a person who understands the heritage assessment process and who has training and experience in the area.

An assessment must be rigorous, and must be detailed enough to present a clear argument to justify a decision on registration, including sufficient information to support the findings contained in the assessment. However, it should not be so detailed that it becomes unwieldy in length and contains irrelevant information that, while it may be interesting or even historically important, is not critical to an understanding of the heritage values of the place or object.

#### Research

In assessing nominated places, the Council or its secretariat will consider the case made by the nominator, and may undertake further research as required to complete its assessment.

#### Assessment

Once the initial investigation, above, is complete, the next steps in the assessment process are to:

- determine whether the place or object has value in relation to a criterion
- apply threshold indicators to 'test' the degree to which the place or object is significant
- prepare a short statement against each of the criteria which the place or object may meet and
- prepare a succinct statement of significance.

In assessing a place or object, the criteria of the Act must be applied thoughtfully and rigorously. Careful consideration should be given to the ways in which a place or object meets a criterion, and each statement against a criterion and the broader statement of significance for the place or object must clearly articulate the reasons why a place or object is considered to be of significance.

The wording of the statements against each criterion should reiterate the words of the criterion, clearly demonstrating the way/s in which the place or object meets that criterion. All assessments must satisfy the context and the threshold indicators of the relevant criterion/criteria.

Assessment statements should not repeat facts except where the fact is central to satisfying a criterion.

As well as gathering information and relating it to the place or object, an assessor needs to evaluate its comparative significance – i.e. its significance compared to similar places or objects. In some cases, this may not apply.

The knowledge and values of the community can be important to the assessment process, especially in regard to assessing criterion (g) – 'has a strong or special association with the ACT community or a cultural group within the ACT for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.'

Heritage significance assessments are undertaken based on information available at a certain time. The availability of information changes over time. This could be the result of further research or additional information, or further investigation of the place or object or of comparable places or objects. It is possible that such further information could increase or decrease the values of a place or object. In these circumstances, updated assessments may be made by the Council as resources and priorities allow.

An assessment is a collaborative process between qualified heritage professionals and the expert and public representatives of the Council. Heritage professionals either in ACT Heritage or acting as consultants for the Council prepare a draft initial assessment. The Council is then responsible for reviewing the draft assessment and requesting any changes they deem appropriate.

## Consultation

Following the initial research and analysis, the next stages are:

- if relevant, obtain feedback from the people and institutions that have provided information for the assessment, once a draft is prepared and
- review and revise the assessment accordingly.

## 3.2 Threshold indicators

Within each criterion, a threshold indicator is established by the words used to qualify the value of a place or object within the context of that criterion. Additional threshold indicators might also be applicable to certain criteria.

Threshold indicators include:

- Rarity
- Uniqueness
- Notability
- Intactness/Integrity
- Distinctiveness
- Exceptionality
- Importance
- Strong or special association (length, influence)
- Degree or extent of association

Other common qualities which might be applied in conjunction with these indicators are, among others:

- Representativeness
- Extensiveness of a place

In each case, these threshold indicators apply at the Territory level.

Threshold indicators can be applied to any place or object. For example, one might ask ‘to what degree is this place rare in the context of the ACT?’, or ‘is this a particularly distinctive object in the context of the ACT?’, or ‘how important is this place in the broader context of the ACT?’ Some of the threshold indicators are applied more readily to particular criteria than others.

‘Representativeness’ is judged in comparison with other representatives of the particular type or class. The place or object needs to be not only a representative of the particular type or class, but must be a **good example** of the type or class.

For instance, it should represent a high degree of integrity, or a wide range of characteristics, and must better demonstrate the type or class than other representatives. It is not enough to be a mediocre representative.

In each case the degree to which a threshold indicator applies to a place or object will be judged by reference to information about the place or object’s type or history, such as through comparative analysis.

The stronger the case for rarity/representativeness/distinctiveness etc., the more likely the place or object is to be of significance to the ACT. The same principle applies for each level of significance. For example, where a place has proven rarity in its state context it might be considered of state significance, or a where a place demonstrates a degree of representativeness in the national context that may warrant it being accorded a status of national significance.

Comparative analysis is a key tool in determining the level of significance of a place or object. The degree of significance of any place or object is relative—it is only through comparing it with other similar places or objects, or places or objects with similar historical or community associations, that a person can determine how rare or unique a place is; how representative it is; how distinctive it is, etc. This enables a decision about whether a place or object is ‘more’ or ‘less’ significant than other similar places or objects.

The context for comparative analysis varies between criteria and might not apply to some criteria.

In addition, the ACT is a small place and the context for comparative analysis may need to apply to a larger geographical area in some instances.

A place or item must not be excluded from the Register solely on the basis that other similar places or objects are already registered. More than one place can be important in the context of any criterion. Each place must be assessed on its own merits, but understood in its broader context.

### 3.3 Applying levels of significance and threshold indicators

In understanding the significance of a place or object, there are two key interrelated steps:

1. **determine whether the place has value in relation to a criterion** (this is the basic test). This will sometimes imply the historical or other context of the place or object and might determine whether the place or object is of personal, interest group, local, territory, national or World Heritage significance (its historical context and the community group for whom it is important); and,
2. **apply threshold indicators, to ‘test’ the degree to which the place or object is significant** and, hence whether it meets a criterion and warrants registration— is it sufficiently rare, unique, important, etc. in the context of the ACT when compared to other places?

For instance, a place might have some historical value under criterion (a) — i.e. it is important to the course of the ACT’s cultural history — within the theme of the provision of public housing within the ACT. The place might therefore meet the basic test against the criterion.

However, threshold indicators would then be applied, to determine how ‘important’ the place is within that theme and within the context of the ACT. Its level of importance determines whether it would meet the threshold for registration at the Territory level.

When a place or object meets the basic test of relevance against a criterion AND the threshold indicators for a criterion as defined below, it can be considered for registration under the Act

### 3.4 Integration with tree protection and nature conservation legislation

Provisions within the Act prevent the Council from registering places or objects that may otherwise be afforded recognition and protection under other ACT legislation, such as the *Tree Protection Act 2005* and the *Nature Conservation Act 1980*.

#### Tree Protection Act 2005

The *Tree Protection Act 2005* provides that the Conservator must keep a register of trees in the ACT. Trees may be included on the Tree Register if they are considered to be of high heritage, landscape or scientific value. Provisions in heritage legislation

prevent the Council from registering a tree, or group of trees, in a built-up urban area. However, this provision is waived where the tree or trees forms part of a broader heritage place, such as a precinct.

#### Nature Conservation Act 1980

The ACT’s nature conservation legislation has the key objectives of protecting native plants and animals and conserving significant ecosystems, species and ecological communities. Under section 38 of the *Nature Conservation Act 1980*, the Minister may declare a species to be vulnerable or endangered or an ecological community to be endangered, and may declare a process to be threatening with regards to its ecological significance.

Natural heritage significance is based on scientific criteria related to aspects of biodiversity and nature conservation. The recognition and protection of places and objects of natural heritage significance seeks to achieve the same objectives as nature conservation legislation to protect native plants and animals and conserve significant ecosystems, species and ecological communities.

Under provisions in the heritage legislation, the Council cannot register a place for which a declaration has been made, or is capable of being made, under s. 38 of the Nature Conservation Act. This provision is waived where the place also has other aspects of heritage significance which cannot be declared under nature conservation legislation, such as cultural heritage values, or geological or other landform types.

Types of natural heritage places and objects which might be registered under heritage legislation include:

- geological features, landforms, biota, natural processes and aspects which provide an understanding of the evolution of natural landscapes (important to the course or pattern of the ACT’s natural history – Criterion (a))
- unusual richness, diversity or significant transitions of flora, fauna or natural landscapes and their elements (uncommon or rare aspects of the ACT’s natural history – criterion (b)) and
- ecological communities, species, or populations which demonstrate the main characteristics of their class (where they are not declared as vulnerable or endangered under nature conservation legislation) (importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of natural places – criterion (d)).

## Part 4. Clarifying the criteria

Definitions provided in the glossary should be read in conjunction with the text provided in this section.

### Criterion (a) – importance to the course or pattern of the ACT’s cultural or natural history

#### Basic Test:

The place or object has a clear association with an event, phase, period, process, function, tradition, land use, movement, custom, way of life, ecological community, species, biodiversity, geology, climate, or evolution of natural landforms in the ACT’s history.

AND

The association of the place/object to the event, phase etc. is evident in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history.

#### Meets threshold if:

The event, phase etc. is of importance, having made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution to the evolution or pattern of the ACT’s cultural or natural history.

The following threshold indicators may apply to places and objects being assessed against this criterion:

- Representativeness
- Distinctiveness
- Exceptionality
- Extensiveness
- Intactness/integrity
- Rarity
- Seminal or early influence
- Length of association
- Influence of association
- Demonstrated extent and degree of community association or interest

#### Explanatory notes

This criterion applies to a wide range of cultural and natural places and objects. It applies particularly to behaviors, lifestyles and routines; past fashions, trends, patterns, aspirations and styles; habits and practices; any form of past land use including

Aboriginal land uses, farming, settlement or industry; a particular procedure, method or way of doing something; technical or aesthetic design, including planning; and a task, role or purpose.

This criterion also applies to places and objects which are the products or evidence of the evolution of natural landscapes. They may be the products of or show evidence of former, present or continuing natural processes including climatic, geological, geomorphological, ecological or biological processes.

#### Inclusion guidelines

A place or object may be eligible for registration under this criterion if it:

- shows evidence of a significant past event, phase, period, process, function, tradition, land use, movement, custom, way of life, ecological community, species, biodiversity, geology, climate, or evolution of natural landforms in the ACT’s history
- maintains or shows the continuity of an historical event, phase, period, process, function, tradition, land use, movement, custom, way of life, ecological community, species, biodiversity, geology, climate, or evolution of natural landforms in the ACT’s history or
- demonstrates distinctive associations to a past event, phase, period, process, function, tradition, land use, movement, custom, way of life, ecological community, species, biodiversity, geology, climate, or evolution of natural landforms in the ACT’s history.

Significant cultural landscapes might also be included under this criterion where they demonstrate distinctive land uses or designs.

#### Exclusion guidelines

A place or object may not be eligible for registration under this criterion if:

- it has incidental or unsubstantiated association with historically important qualities
- it provides evidence of an historical quality that is common or is of low or questionable importance to the ACT
- the evidence of association is not clearly established or is not in some way distinctive or special

- the event, phase, period etc. cannot be clearly identified
- the place or object has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of its meaning or
- the place provides habitat which is significant only for non-native species (including Australian species that have been introduced into the ACT).

### Examples of places and objects which might be registered under this criterion

- A slab building which is important as evidence of settlement construction technique in the area before the Federal Capital Territory
- A woolshed which demonstrates a particular method of shearing
- Significant infrastructure or buildings critical to the formation of Canberra as the nation's capital
- Aboriginal scarred trees and grinding grooves
- A geological fault line (rock fracture visible on the earth's surface)
- A fossil site showing evidence of past climate and/or extinct species
- Fauna or flora habitats at the limits of their geographic range, illustrating the evolution of diversity

### Places and objects which meet this criterion

#### Starlight Drive-in Theatre Sign, Watson



The Starlight Drive-In Theatre Sign serves as a tangible reminder of the drive-in era from the mid-twentieth century and is the only such reminder in the ACT. Drive-in theatres were immensely popular as a form of entertainment of which the sign remains as an iconic symbol.

#### Aboriginal Grinding Grooves



Aboriginal Grinding Groove sites are important as evidence of a past tradition and way of life. Grinding Grooves relate to the artefact grinding process, water access and utilisation of a limited stone resource which are all evidence of the Aboriginal way of life where the availability of resources was very important in the siting of activities.

#### Old Coach Road, Gungahlin



The Old Coach Road is important evidence of the ACT's nineteenth century rural road and transport systems.

These roads provided a mode of access between isolated rural homesteads and properties, and provided vital links for the bushman, homesteader, school child, churchgoer, local magistrate, parson, mail carrier and bullock dray driver. The remnant of this road today demonstrates an important layer of ACT history in that it was a vital aspect of daily life, reflecting the connectivity and relationships between nineteenth century rural properties.

### **Tuggeranong Parkway Road Cutting**



The Tuggeranong Parkway Road Cutting geological feature helps illustrate the evolution of ACT's current landscape and the importance of the volcanic stratigraphy of the area.

Due to its scale and quality, this geological feature clearly demonstrates important relationships between.

### **Lower Molonglo Geological Site**



The site is regarded as a benchmark for dating rocks of similar age in the region, an essential stage in understanding the evolution of landscapes.

### **Kama Woodland/Grassland**



Kama Woodland/Grassland, Belconnen includes good examples of the ACT's two endangered ecological communities (Yellow Box – Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Natural Temperate Grassland). At Kama they have been assessed as being mostly only partially modified from their natural condition.

Importantly, the significant transition at the boundary between these two communities (the ecotone) is largely intact (now unusual in the ACT and surrounding region) and demonstrates the zone of cold air-drainage characteristic of the woodland/grassland transition.

## Criterion (b) — has uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural or natural history

### Basic test:

The place or object must have a clear association with an aspect of the ACT's cultural or natural history.

and

The association of the place/object to the aspect of history must be evident in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history.

and

The aspect of history must have made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution to the ACT's society or environment.

### Meets threshold if:

The aspects for which the place or object has association are uncommon, rare or endangered within the ACT.

The key threshold indicators for this criterion are those written into the criterion itself:

- Uncommon
- Rare
- Endangered

Further threshold indicators might include:

- Intactness/Integrity
- Uniqueness
- Distinctiveness
- Exceptional
- Extensiveness

### Explanatory notes

An aspect of history includes that which is evidence of an event, phase, period, process, function, tradition, land use, movement, custom, way of life, ecological community, species, biodiversity, geology, climate, or evolution of natural landforms.

This criterion applies particularly to aspects of the ACT's natural history including geological, geomorphological, biological or palaeontological periods or processes.

This criterion applies to places which provide a significant habitat for a qualifying native species (i.e. rare, threatened, uncommon, at limits of range etc.) or places which are important in the life cycle of a qualifying native species not normally resident in the ACT.

This criterion also applies to a wide range of human-made places and objects, and might be relevant to the fields of architecture, planning, design, historical land use and settlement patterns, engineering, and surveying and exploration.

### Inclusion guidelines

A place or object may be eligible for registration under this criterion if:

- it is the only and/or the only extant example within the ACT with integrity or authenticity (though a wider contextual analysis is necessary to determine its importance)
- few examples of its kind existed originally
- few examples of its kind exist because the original population of examples has decreased due to destruction
- it has a mix or composition of features which is rare or uncommon in the ACT or
- it has an unusual richness, diversity or significant transitions of flora, fauna or natural landscapes and their elements.

Rarity and uncommonness will be judged in the context of similar places and objects elsewhere in the ACT or a wider context as appropriate. This is determined based on comparative analysis.

Rarity and uncommonness in one location when compared with abundance in another may not be sufficient for the place or object to be eligible under this criterion, depending on the context.

A place or object that is uncommon, rare or endangered must have sufficient integrity to be able to demonstrate those qualities.

'Endangered' should generally relate to a type of place or object that has become so rare over time that there is a risk that in the short to medium term no such place or object will remain.

## Exclusion guidelines

A place or object may not be eligible for registration under this criterion if:

- the place or object is not rare or uncommon in the ACT
- the quality of claimed rarity has too many descriptive qualifiers linked to it (for example, 'it is the only house of this design, in this colour, with this many windows, and a centre door, and chimney...')
- rarity is not substantiated through an appropriate level of research
- there may be reasonable doubt about the rarity or comparative level of intactness at other places or objects or
- there is no reliable or verifiable physical, documentary or oral history evidence to demonstrate the association of the place or object with an aspect of the ACT's history.

## Places and objects which meet this criterion

### Callum Offices, Phillip



Callam Office is a rare example of structuralist architecture in office design in the ACT.

John Andrews' use of a suspension system to support the entire perimeter of each office pod at Callum Offices is an unusual and rare example of this type of structure.

The use of high-tensile steel suspension systems in office buildings is rare in Australia.

### Ginninderra Blacksmith's Workshop, Gungahlin



The Ginninderra Blacksmith's workshop is significant as it is the only known village blacksmith's workshop remaining in the ACT.

### Belconnen Farm, Belconnen



Belconnen Farm is a rare example within the ACT of a soldier settlement lease which retains an ability to demonstrate that period of use and occupation through its built structures, including the stone cottage and outbuildings constructed in the 1930s.

It is one of only six relatively intact FCT Soldier Settlement properties identified in the ACT and one of only five still operating as a rural lease largely within the original soldier settlement boundaries.

Belconnen Farm differs to other soldier settler leases in the ACT through the use and adaptation of existing infrastructure on the lease. The continuing use of the property by family members of the original soldier settler, and their subsequent further development of the property and its built infrastructure is rare in the ACT context.

### Button Wrinklewort Habitat, Yarralumla and Majura



Stirling Park and Majura Field Firing Range provide significant habitat for Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosia leptorrhynchooides*). These sites host the two largest populations in the ACT and therefore contain the most viable populations of the species within the ACT. Button Wrinklewort has been declared an endangered species in the ACT and NSW and by the Commonwealth, and is listed as a threatened species in Victoria.

The ACT Flora and Fauna Committee assessed the species as being at risk of premature extinction in the ACT region in the near future, as demonstrated by the following:

- Current severe decline in population or distribution, from evidence based on:
- imminent risk of severe decline in population or distribution from evidence based on severe decline in quality or quantity of habitat.
- Severely fragmented distribution for a species currently occurring over a small range or having a small area of occupancy within its range.

### Small Purple Pea Habitat



The Small Purple Pea (*Swainsona recta*) is listed as an endangered species under ACT, NSW, Victoria and Commonwealth legislation. The species was once widespread from north-eastern Victoria

to central western NSW. Its range and numbers are now dramatically reduced. In 1997, fewer than 4000 plants were recorded across its fragmented distribution (ACT Government 1997).

The three main populations of the Small Purple Pea in the ACT are small and fragmented and therefore highly vulnerable to any site disturbance.

Previous records of the species in the ACT are in locations now under residential development.

### Hall Cemetery – Leek Orchid, Photo credit: Ian Fraser



The Hall Cemetery is a significant habitat for the rare and uncommon Tarengo Leek Orchid (*Prasophyllum petilum*). It is one of only three known sites for the species, and the only known site in the ACT.

As they are often the only areas within a region that have not been cleared for development or used for grazing, cemeteries often provide a refuge for remnant native and natural species which have suffered loss or extinction in other environments.. They are generally fenced off, and may have been for 100 years or more, to protect them from potential damage by stock or wildlife.

Another reason that cemeteries play an important conservation role, particularly for grassland species, is the mowing regime which can stimulate flowering and growth of species such as herbs, lilies and terrestrial orchids.

## Criterion (c) — potential to yield important information that will contribute to an understanding of the ACT’s cultural or natural history

### Basic test:

A reasonable likelihood exists that the place or object contains substantial physical evidence of archaeological or other defined research interest.

and

The suspected physical evidence is not currently visible.

and

The evidence is of a likely integrity and/or condition to yield information.

### Meets threshold if:

The information that might be obtained through the investigation of the place or object is likely to provide a substantial contribution to an understanding of an important aspect of the ACT’s cultural or natural history.

In this instance threshold indicators might relate to the following qualities:

- Rarity
- Representativeness
- Distinctiveness
- Exceptionality
- Extensiveness
- Intactness/integrity
- Relevance to key periods of natural or cultural history

### Explanatory notes

This criterion applies to places and objects that have the potential to provide substantial information that will contribute to our knowledge and understanding of significant aspects of the natural and cultural history of the ACT. It will normally apply to archaeological sites and natural sites that develop over time through the layering of fabric.

This criterion is applicable to places and objects for which there is a strong presumption of research potential in one of a variety of fields of scholarship (for example, archaeology, palaeontology, biology, zoology, engineering, architecture, or history) which may contribute to the understanding of the ACT’s cultural and natural history.

The potential to provide information must relate to the physical evidence available at the place or object itself, and not the associated documentary evidence related to the place. If the information is already known then this criterion does not apply. This criterion is concerned with potential information.

The site is more important if it is the only known source of information.

### Inclusion guidelines

A place or object may be eligible for registration under this criterion if:

- based on the analysis of its characteristics and documentary sources, it has demonstrated research value or has the potential to be of research value because:
  - it may provide key information in understanding an important aspect of the natural or cultural history
  - it may fill important gaps in our existing knowledge of the history of the ACT
  - it may make a significant contribution to knowledge of the ACT’s natural and cultural environment or
  - the information likely to be yielded cannot be obtained from other sources.

The place or object must itself be important to the understanding and not simply replicate or confirm evidence provided by other similar places or objects, or by other sources. Every Aboriginal and historic site and every natural area has the possibility of contributing some evidence, but not all have the potential to yield important or substantial information.

The area of research and the significance of the place or object must be demonstrated. A potential to yield information is not merely a possibility to contain evidence. For a place or object to satisfy this criterion, there should be some form of evidence of real, proven or established potential, such as might derive from expert testing or professional examination. Such evidence might be obtained from a number of sources including oral traditions, records, collections, moveable heritage, archaeological resources, fossils, biological material, geological features and other contents or fabric.

## Exclusion guidelines

A place or object may not be eligible for registration under this criterion if:

- the information that may be provided is not particularly significant or valuable within the context of the ACT or more broadly
- the location of the physical evidence with research potential cannot be ascertained with reasonable accuracy
- the area or value of research is not demonstrated to have a likelihood of being important
- the place or object merely provides a further example of a type which is well studied and documented and from which no further information is required
- it no longer has the capacity to contribute to a better understanding of the aspect of natural or cultural history to which it was relevant (i.e. it has been so disturbed by subsequent activity that its research potential is compromised)
- it contains information which is readily available from other sources or archaeological site or
- the research value relates to associated documentation rather than evidence within the fabric of the place itself.

## Examples of places and objects which might be registered under this criterion

- An Aboriginal site which might enable an understanding of past ways of life and customs
- An early industrial site with demonstrated archaeological remains relating to important but poorly documented industrial processes
- A paleontological site known to contain species with research importance
- An early building demonstrating important but poorly researched building techniques

## Places which meet this criterion

### Woden Cemetery, Phillip



Memorials and gravestones are an important research resource for individuals or families who are buried there. They enable people to conduct genealogical research and historians to interpret the social and economic development of the region. Woden Cemetery is a tangible and personal document of the people who once lived in the region. It contains information not able to be found in written records which may be absent, lost or destroyed. The headstones reveal early families' names, trends in Christian names, occupations, circumstances of death, life expectancy, geographical origins, achievements and a wide range of religious values and emotional reactions.

### Gubur Dhaura, Franklin



Gubur Dhaura has yielded evidence that may prove useful in addressing research questions surrounding ochre exploitation in the context of the ACT. Consequently, it is likely to provide information that will contribute to a wider understanding of the cultural history of the ACT. The salvaged and remaining artefact assemblage at Gubur Dhaura remains the only ACT collection of artefacts from a potential Aboriginal ochre source. As such, the assemblage may prove valuable in providing information pertaining to lithic artefacts and how they relate to ochre extraction and processing at the place.

## Palmerville, Belconnen



Settled in 1829, Palmerville represents some of the earliest European settlement in the area, and utilised assigned convict labour. The former Ginninderra Store and Post Office structures, Ginninderra Cottage, woolshed and residential complex are represented as archaeological remains. The site has potential to shed further light on settlement history in terms of evolution, function and composition of structures, the lifestyles of those who lived and worked there or who utilised the services offered, and further knowledge of farming methods and practices.

## Criterion (d) — importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or objects

### Basic test:

The place or object must be readily identified as belonging to a 'class'.

and

The principal characteristics or features of the class of place or object must be evident in the physical fabric of the place or object.

and

The class of place or object must be important in the ACT's cultural or natural history, having made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution.

### Meets threshold if:

The place or object is 'important in demonstrating' the principal characteristics of its class (i.e. a particularly fine or pivotal example which is beyond the ordinary). It may be important because few other places of its class demonstrate the characteristics or because it demonstrates those characteristics particularly well.

In this instance 'importance' is a threshold indicator that might relate to the following qualities:

- Rarity
- Representativeness
- Distinctiveness
- Exceptionality
- Extensiveness
- Intactness/Integrity

### Explanatory notes

A class of places and objects might include those which are associated with an event, phase, period (including building/architectural types), process, function, tradition, land use, movement, custom, way of life, ecological community, species, biodiversity, geology, climate, or evolution of natural landforms.

This applies to a wide range of human-made and natural places and objects, and is particularly applicable to the fields of architecture, planning, design, historical land use and settlement patterns, engineering, surveying and exploration, and plant and/or animal species and/or communities.

A place or object might demonstrate construction or design methods or techniques, or demonstrate the key variations which occur within the class, or demonstrate the evolution of the type over time, or be transitional between that type and others. These qualities have to be fully explained and justified by comparative assessment.

This criterion might apply to natural places which are notable examples of, for example, geological, geomorphological, biological or palaeontological periods or processes.

The class and its principal characteristics need to be well understood, not just speculatively asserted.

### Inclusion guidelines

A place or object may be eligible for registration under this criterion if:

- it demonstrates the defining characteristics of the class of place or object which it represents
- it is notable because of its setting or condition when compared with other examples of its class
- it displays high integrity or good condition
- it is notable as an unusual example of its class (for example, it might illustrate an important variation within a class, but must still demonstrate the main characteristics of its class) or
- it is notable as a pivotal example of its class, which influenced subsequent examples of its class, or encapsulates a key evolutionary stage in the development of its class.

It would generally be expected that a place or object would demonstrate its principal characteristics through its fabric or features, and these characteristics should be to a high degree coherent, authentic and have high integrity.

The characteristics displayed by a cultural place or object would need to remain mostly unchanged from the historically important period of development or use.

### Exclusion guidelines

A place or object may not be eligible for registration under this criterion if:

- it does not demonstrate the majority of the defining characteristics of the class of place or object which it represents – either having never had them or having lost them through subsequent development, activity or disturbance
- it is not easily recognised as being representative of its class
- it is simply one of many representatives of its class (the place or object must be ‘important’ – i.e. have a degree of distinctiveness)
- it is a poor example of its class
- there is a lack of reasonable evidence to indicate the place or object is linked to a specific class
- the place or object is not of a class important in the natural or cultural history of the ACT or
- the definition of the ‘class’ of place or object has too many trivial descriptive qualifiers linked to it (for example, ‘it is the only house of this design, in this colour, with this many windows, and a centre door, and a chimney...’).

Not all examples of a class of place under this criterion will be registered. Comparative analysis with other like places or objects will determine whether the particular place or object is an ‘important’ example of its class, and the grounds for which it is important.

### Examples of places and objects which might be registered under this criterion:

- A Federal Capital Commission ‘type’ house showing a high degree of integrity (hence, it is important by virtue of the survival of its characteristics)
- An Aboriginal occupation site of large scale (important because very few exist in the region)
- An unusually extensive tract of *Themeda australis* grassland (important because of widespread loss of that habitat).

## Places which meet this criterion

### Canberra Girls' Grammar School, Deakin



The Main Quadrangle and Headmaster's Residence demonstrate the principal characteristics of the Interwar Gothic Style.

These characteristics are evident through load bearing face brickwork including patterning, medium pitched terra cotta tiled roofs with parapeted gables, use of pointed arch forms including window tracery and exposed timber roof trusses in the dining room.

### Callum Brae, Symonston

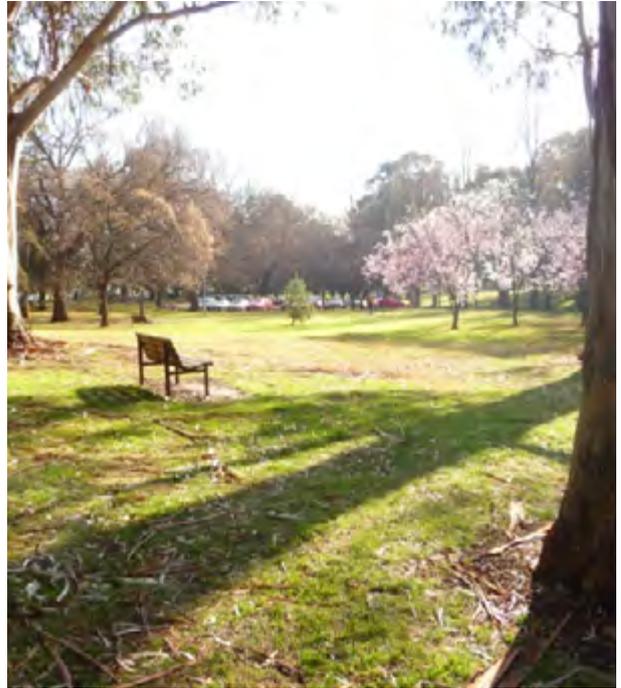


Callum Brae Precinct is a notable example of a successful WWI FCT Soldier Settlement lease which typically began as a small, economically non-viable block but which, in this case, was rapidly expanded into a viable operation by the acquisition of adjacent unsuccessful soldier settlement leases. Most Soldier Settlement leases in the ACT and elsewhere failed.

The Callum Brae homestead and outbuilding precinct containing small, simple structures built by the lessee himself using basic, often recycled

materials, demonstrates the principal characteristics of Soldier Settlement leases where capital was limited and economy, ingenuity and hard work were essential for survival.

### Telopea Park, Barton



Telopea Park is an example of a designed landscape. It is notable for having been established early in the history of the nation's capital. It is located in a prominent position within the Manuka, Kingston and Telopea area, and adjacent to Lake Burley Griffin.

The main characteristics of this type of place, demonstrated at Telopea Park, include the form, scale and siting of various elements including plantings, pedestrian pathway, creek line, park furniture and playground facilities.

## Criterion (e) — important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT

### Basic test:

Particular aesthetic characteristics are evident in the physical fabric of the place or object.

### Meets threshold if:

The place or object is ‘important’ in demonstrating those aesthetic characteristics (i.e. beyond the ordinary within the context of the ACT or more broadly).

and

There is clear evidence that the community or a cultural group in the ACT values the aesthetic qualities of the place or object.

In this instance the threshold indicator ‘important’ might relate to the following qualities:

- Rarity
- Distinctiveness
- Exceptionality
- Extensiveness
- Intactness/Integrity

The threshold indicator ‘valued by the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT’ has to be objectively tested and/or clearly demonstrated in some way.

### Explanatory notes

Aesthetic characteristics include artistic excellence, and a range of aesthetic forms including all sensory perceptions. These qualities are attributable to a wide range of natural and cultural places and objects. Places and objects considered under this criterion include features that inspire, emotionally move or have other characteristics that evoke a strong human response.

Aesthetic qualities are the visual or other qualities of a place or object that invite judgement against the ideals of beauty, picturesqueness, evocativeness, expressiveness, grotesqueness, sublimeness and other descriptors of aesthetic judgment. The visual qualities of a place or object lie in the form, scale, setting, unity, contrast, colour, texture and material of the fabric of a place or object.

Communities and cultural groups generally tend to value those places and objects of outstanding design or aesthetic qualities which are prominent, landmark, iconic, or distinctive places and objects.

The ACT community encompasses the broad community of the ACT, across the full geographical context, and a broad spectrum of society.

The meaning of ‘a cultural group’ has a narrower focus than ‘the community’ and is interpreted, in wording taken from the Macquarie Dictionary (see glossary) to be:

- ‘a group of people within a society with a shared ethnic or cultural background’ or
- a group of people connected through the same way of living, which has been transmitted from one generation to another.

An ordinary person should be able to easily recognise that the community or cultural group values the place or object. The value should not be so ambiguous or unlikely that it would not be clearly recognised by an ordinary person.

### Inclusion guidelines

A place or object may be eligible for registration under this criterion if it:

- is aesthetically distinctive
- has landmark or iconic qualities;
- is widely recognised as having artistic excellence or
- is visually prominent and possesses picturesque or evocative qualities that are acknowledged by the broad community or a cultural group.

A place can be considered for its aesthetic value in relation to view/s to or from the place.

### Exclusion guidelines

A place or object may not be eligible for registration under this criterion if:

- the aesthetic ideal expressed is not regarded more highly by the community than that of other places or objects of its type, i.e. it is not ‘important’
- it is simply the work of a highly regarded architect, engineer or designer
- it no longer displays clear evidence of the aesthetic qualities
- it has lost its visual or sensory appeal – through degradation of the physical fabric of the place or object or through changes to the setting of the place or object

- its landmark or scenic qualities have been seriously degraded or
- evidence of the value to the community or cultural group is not available.

Professional groups and special interest groups do not constitute a community or cultural group for the purposes of this criterion. Common expertise or interest is not sufficient by itself to define a community or cultural group.

### Examples of places and objects which might be registered under this criterion:

- A building of outstanding architectural design which has iconic or landmark status and is highly regarded by the community
- An Aboriginal rock art site.

### Places which meet this criterion

#### Weston Park, Yarralumla



The design qualities of Weston Park are evident in the area's designed landscape setting, dating from 1914 with group plantings and a pleasant parkland setting comprising the combined plantings of Australian species with deciduous and evergreen hardwood species from the northern hemisphere. Tree-framed views to and across Lake Burley Griffin enhance the setting's aesthetic qualities.

The ACT community values the outstanding design and aesthetic qualities of Weston Park as a prominent feature within the Yarralumla and Lake Burley Griffin foreshore area. This is evidenced through the popular use of the area by the community.

#### Sydney and Melbourne Buildings, Civic



The Melbourne and Sydney Buildings' design and details exhibit particular aesthetic characteristics, which were inherent in their original design and are valued by the community today as major landmarks and icons in the heart of the city.

#### Merry-go-round, Civic



The Merry-go-round is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics due to the overall design and fine detailing in artwork and craftsmanship.

The Merry-go-round and organ were purchased for the people of Canberra and the value of their aesthetic qualities is reflected in its continued use by the community since it began operation in 1974, and as an iconic and landmark place within the ACT.

## Criterion (f) — importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement for a particular period

### Basic test:

The place or object contains visible physical evidence that clearly demonstrates creative or technical achievement for the period in which it was created.

### Meets threshold if:

The place or object is 'important' for its achievement.

and

The nature and/or scale of the achievement is of a 'high degree' (i.e. beyond the ordinary within the context of the ACT or more broadly) for the period in which it was undertaken.

and

The visible physical evidence of the place or object demonstrates a high degree of integrity.

For this criterion, 'importance' and 'high degree' are threshold indicators that might relate to the following qualities:

- Rarity
- Representativeness
- Distinctiveness
- Exceptionality
- Extensiveness
- Intactness/integrity
- Seminal influence

### Explanatory notes

Creative or technical achievement includes artistic or technical excellence, innovation, discovery, invention or an exceptionally fine level of application of existing techniques or approaches which can only be judged by comparison with other achievements in the same fields.

Creative or technical achievement may be apparent in virtually any type of place or object created or influenced by people.

Technical or creative achievement might occur in a range of fields including, most commonly, those of art, engineering, architecture, industrial or scientific design, landscape design, construction, manufacture, craftsmanship, planning or design.

## Inclusion guidelines

A place or object may be eligible for registration under this criterion if:

- it demonstrates clearly and to a high degree a particularly appropriate solution to a technical problem using or expanding upon established technology
- it develops new technology, where the solution provides notable ingenuity
- it represents a breakthrough in terms of design, fabrication or construction techniques
- it provided a successful solution to a technical problem that extended the limits of existing technology
- it is an important example of the creative adaptation of available materials and technology of the period
- it results in an innovative departure from established norms in some field related to creative achievement or
- it adapts technology in a creative manner or extends the limits of available technology.

To be eligible, a place or object must have a high degree of intactness/integrity so that it demonstrates the technical or creative qualities for which it is nominated.

## Exclusion guidelines

A place or object is not eligible for registration under this criterion simply because it is the work of a highly regarded architect, engineer, artist etc. It must be a substantial work (i.e. seminal, well-known etc.) and also demonstrate a high level of creative or technical achievement, as identified above.

A place or object may not be eligible for registration under this criterion if:

- it has lost its design, technical or artistic integrity
- it has only an indirect or loose association with creative or technical achievement
- available documentary or technical evidence indicates the creative or technical achievements of the place or object are unlikely to be of a high degree or 'beyond the ordinary'
- a place demonstrates adaptation of an existing technique or design, where the adaptation cannot be said objectively to reflect a high degree of achievement in the nature of the adaptation or

- it is a good example of its style, but it doesn't represent an exceptionally fine application of techniques or approaches common to that type.

### Examples of places and objects which might be registered under this criterion

- An innovative structural solution where a complete perimeter structure supported by suspension cables has been used to overcome site difficulties on a flood prone area.

### Places which meet this criterion

#### Former Transport Depot, Kingston



The fully welded rigid portal frame dating from 1940 is thought to be one of the earliest examples in the world of a fully-welded rigid portal frame of any great size and is the first Australian example. This breakthrough in technology enabled portal frames to span wide spaces in an economical way.

The design and construction of this structure demonstrates a very high degree of technical achievement by the government structural engineers.

#### Callum Offices, Phillip



Callam Office demonstrates an innovative structural solution where a complete perimeter structure supported by suspension cables has been used to overcome site difficulties on a flood prone area.

Architect John Andrews used a suspension system for part of the Cameron Offices but, at the Callam Offices, used it to support the entire perimeter of each office pod.

#### Expansion Mural – Hotel Rex, Braddon



The Mural demonstrates a high degree of creative achievement through its use and application of tiles, hand-cut into irregular shapes; laid closely-spaced in carefully graded tones onto a hand painted cartoon by the artist.

The Mural represents one of the earliest examples of a mosaic mural in Abstract Expressionist style in the ACT. The integrity of the Mural and the original fabric is in good condition following comprehensive restoration work in 2010.

## Criterion (g) — has a strong or special association with the ACT community, or a cultural group in the ACT for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

### Basic test:

Clear evidence exists of an association between the place or object and the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT.

and

The association is for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

### Meets threshold if:

There is evidence that the association between the place or object and the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT is 'strong' or 'special'.

In this instance, 'strong or special association' is a threshold indicator that might relate to the following qualities:

- Distinctiveness
- Exceptionality
- Extensiveness
- Intactness/integrity
- Length of association
- Cultural practices
- Demonstrated extant and degree of community association

### Explanatory notes

This criterion applies to a wide range of natural and cultural places and objects which the community or a cultural group collectively holds in special and high regard.

The ACT community encompasses the broad community of the ACT, across the full geographical context, and a broad spectrum of society.

The meaning of 'a cultural group' has a narrower focus than 'the ACT community' and is interpreted, in wording taken from the Macquarie Dictionary (see glossary) to be:

- 'a group of people within a society with a shared ethnic or cultural background or
- a group of people connected through the same way of living, which has been transmitted from one generation to another.

This criterion is applicable to places which provide the broad ACT community or a cultural group with a shared sense of place and/or a sense of identity/story through collective experience or history.

Note that this criterion applies to the value which a present-day community or cultural group holds for the place or object. Social values change over time and a place originally entered under this criterion may become ineligible where the community or cultural group's value for the place has changed over time. A different criterion may then be applicable, especially in relation to historical and/or associational significance.

An ordinary person should be able to easily recognise the association between the community or cultural group and the place or object. The association should not be so ambiguous or unlikely that it would not be clearly recognised by an ordinary person.

Professional groups and special interest groups do not constitute the community or a cultural group. Common expertise or interest is not sufficient by itself to define the community or a cultural group.

### Inclusion guidelines

A place or object may be eligible for registration under this criterion if:

- the community attachment to the place or object is demonstrable, enduring (20 years is a guide), continuing, broadly based and out of the ordinary
- the community or cultural group has a deep sense of ownership/stewardship and/or connectedness to the place or object
- a place is valued as the site of an event which has had a profound effect on a community or cultural group
- the site symbolically represents some aspect of the past which contributes to a sense of identity for the community or a cultural group or
- the community or a cultural group gathers for ritual or ceremonial purposes or for social or cultural (including recreational) interaction.

Such associations must be demonstrated, not just assumed or asserted.

### Exclusion guidelines

A place or object may not be eligible for registration under this criterion if community or cultural group concern or regard is:

- not clearly demonstrated
- not held very strongly
- demonstrated only through petition, a form letter or similar
- held only by a small percentage of the community or cultural group
- not held for a considerable length of time—the attachment might be a short-term response to an event at, or a proposed change to, the place/object
- valued for reasons of amenity or utility value only
- valued only in preference to a proposed alternative
- not considered to be an association ‘beyond the ordinary’ or
- of value to a past community or cultural group only (in which case another criterion might be applicable).
- An Aboriginal place or object might not meet this criterion where its cultural significance and origin is uncertain.

### Examples of places and objects which might be registered under this criterion:

- A distinctive landscape feature with known cultural associations for the Aboriginal community
- An iconic and landmark place which the community frequently uses as a place of reference, including as a meeting place
- An activity or meeting venue valued for its long association with community life
- Places and objects associated with Aboriginal people’s ritual and ceremonial practices
- Trade or ceremonial sites
- Places reflecting the survival and adaptation of Aboriginal occupation of the ACT following European settlement.

### Places which meet this criterion

#### Gus’s Café, Civic



Gus Petersilka introduced European style outdoor dining to Canberra with an aim to make Canberra a better place to live and work in, to visit and enjoy.

Gus’s cafe remains highly valued by the ACT community for social associations attributed to the 1970’s pavement-dining style in Canberra, and has become a local landmark and meeting place.

#### Aboriginal Rock Shelters



Rock Shelters in the ACT are of significance to the ACT’s Aboriginal cultural group due to their association with traditional Aboriginal culture and their ability to demonstrate the comprehensive occupation of the ACT by their ancestors.

These shelters have special importance to the Aboriginal cultural group as places where there is an immediate link to the past, where they can walk in the footsteps of their ancestors and see some of what they saw.

**Manuka Oval, Griffith.** Photo credit: EMA 2011



Manuka Oval is highly valued by the ACT community as a prominent sporting venue and for the role it plays in the social life of the community. This is demonstrated through the number of visitors each year, and through it being a place prominent in the lives and minds of Canberrans.

The oval's prominence and importance in the community has not wavered since the early 1920s, being the site of many significant sporting events, including the Prime Minister's XI matches, first played at this site in 1952.

The place has a significant role in the lives of the ACT community, and is highly valued as a place for sporting matches, recreation and socialisation.

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## Criterion (h) — has a special association with the life or work of a person, or people, important to the history of the ACT

### Basic test:

The place or object has an association with a person or people whose life or work has made a contribution to the ACT's history.

and

The association is evident in the physical fabric (including archaeological fabric) of the place or object and/or in documentary resources and/or oral history.

and

The association directly relates to achievements of the person or people relating to the place or object.

### Meets threshold if:

The association between the person, people etc. with the place or object is 'special' (i.e. there must be something in this association which is beyond the ordinary, and which differentiates it from other similar places and objects associated with the person, people etc.). The association must normally be enduring and/or demonstrate close interaction between the place/object and the person/people.

and

The life or work of the person or people must be 'important' to the ACT's history.

In this instance, the threshold indicators 'special' and 'important' might relate to the following qualities:

- Distinctiveness
- Exceptionality
- Extensiveness
- Intactness/integrity
- Earliness
- Length of association
- Influence of association
- Degree or extent of association

## Explanatory notes

The contribution of the person or people to the history of the ACT might relate to a wide range of topics such as the arts, sciences, economy, politics, sports, entertainment and, in the case of a person or group, their public or private life.

Places and objects under this criterion are likely to be those which demonstrate an association with a strong, notable or influential contribution to the evolution or pattern of development in our society or environment.

Under this criterion, the word 'important' implies those persons or people who are prominent in their contribution to shaping the history of the ACT.

The length of association is normally important in judging strong or special association, or if other places or objects exist with longer and more meaningful associations. The extent to which the association affected the fabric of the place or object, and the extent to which the place or object affected the associated person/people are also relevant.

## Inclusion guidelines

The person/people's contribution must be established sufficiently by historical documentation or other firm evidence, and the association of the person/people, etc. with the place or object must be established clearly in a similar way.

A place or object may be eligible for registration under this criterion if:

- the person or people has made a notable contribution to the evolution or development of ACT society and/or the physical environment
- the person or people has reasonable prominence in the public arena and is capable of being recognised by the broad ACT community
- an event or series of events occurring at the place were undertaken by or influenced by the important person or people
- one or more achievements for which the person or people is significant are directly linked to the place or object – this might be through major work undertaken there, or where their contribution to history took place or
- social or domestic events occurred at the place that are inseparable from the achievement/s of the person or people.

## Exclusion guidelines

A place or object may not be eligible for registration under this criterion if:

- there are no strong or special associations with the person or people in the history of the ACT
- the associations are tenuous or unsubstantiated
- the associations of the person/people with the place or object is no different to other similar associations the person/people has with other similar places/objects
- the person, group etc. is of doubtful importance or
- the place or object has been so altered that it no longer provides evidence of the association.

## Examples of places and objects which might be registered under this criterion

- The only known solo public artwork created by one of Australia's pioneering abstract expressionist artists.

## Places which meet this criterion

### Giralang Primary School, Giralang



The complex is important for its strong association with the architect Enrico Taglietti, who played and still plays a significant role in Canberra's cultural history. Taglietti is one of the most acclaimed architects to practice in Canberra and the Giralang School is a major work which established his early career.

Both Taglietti and others acknowledge the Giralang complex as being a seminal design in his portfolio.

### Former Child Welfare Centre, Griffith



Constructed intentionally as a Child Welfare Centre, the place has a strong association with the Mothercraft movement (people) of the early twentieth century and the development of improved health and welfare for mothers and their babies in the ACT.

The work undertaken by Child Welfare Centres brought about a new knowledge regarding the health and welfare of both mother and baby to the forefront of the medical profession, and also to the wider community.

In a further association with this movement, the building housed the first public playgroup in the ACT, in 1942, and was instrumental in the development of the Canberra Nursery Kindergarten Society.

# GLOSSARY

This glossary provides a definition for each qualifying word found within the criteria of the *Heritage Act 2004*, and the threshold indicators identified in this document.

Definitions in this glossary have been selectively extracted from The Macquarie Dictionary and Thesaurus 2010.

For the purposes of clarifying the intent of the criteria contained in the *Heritage Act 2004* and for the purposes of these guidelines, the Heritage Council adopts the following definitions from among the broader definitions given in The Macquarie Dictionary and Thesaurus 2010. Where useful, a further interpretation of the definition for heritage assessment purposes is given.

## **achievement**

- something accomplished, esp. by valour, boldness, or superior ability.

## **aesthetic**

- relating to the sense of the beautiful or the science of aesthetics.
- having a sense of the beautiful; characterised by a love of beauty.
- a philosophical theory as to what is aesthetically valid at a given time.
- an artistic expression, viewed as reflective of a personal or cultural ideal of what is aesthetically valid.

## **association**

- the state of being associated.
- connection or combination.
- the connection of ideas in thought, or an idea connected with or suggested by a subject of thought.

## **biodiversity**

- a diversity of species of plants and animals.
- biological processes
- pertaining to biology.

## **biology**

- the science of life or living matter in all its forms and phenomena, esp. With reference to origin, growth, reproduction, structure etc.

## **class**

- a number of persons, things, animals etc., regarded as forming one group through the possession of similar qualities; a kind; sort.

## **community**

- all the people of a specific locality or country.
- a particular locality, considered together with its inhabitants.

For the purposes of the *Heritage Act 2004*, 'the community' is defined as 'the ACT community' or 'the community of the ACT'.

## **comparative**

- estimated by comparison; not positive or absolute; relative.

## **creative**

- resulting from originality of thought or expression.

## **culture**

- the sum total of ways of living built up by a group of human beings, which is transmitted from one generation to another.
- a particular state or stage of civilisation, as in the case of a certain nation or period: Greek culture.

## **cultural**

- of or relating to culture or cultivation.

## **cultural group**

- a group of people within a society with a shared ethnic or cultural background.

## **demonstrate**

- to manifest or exhibit.

## **design**

- the combination of details or features of a picture, building, etc.; the pattern or device of artistic work.
- a plan; a project; a scheme.

## **distinct**

- (sometimes followed by *from*) distinguished as not being the same; not identical; separate.
- different in nature or qualities; dissimilar.
- more than usually notable; pronounced.

**distinctive**

- distinguishing; serving to distinguish; characteristic.

**diversity**

- the state or fact of being diverse; difference; unlikeness.
- variety; multiformity.

**early/earliness**

- in or during the first part of some division of time, or of some course or series
- far back in time.
- occurring in the first part of some division of time, or of some course or series
- belonging to a period far back in time or to the first part of such a period: the *early Norman castles*.
- belonging to the period when white settlements were first made in Australia, or in a section of it: *the early days; early explorers*.

**endangered**

- exposed to danger
- imperilled

**example**

- one of a number of things, or a part of something, taken to show the character of the whole.
- an instance serving for illustration; a specimen.
- (*usually used in the passive*) to give or be an example of.

**exceptional**

- forming an exception or unusual instance; unusual; extraordinary.
- extraordinarily good, as of a performance or product.
- extraordinarily skilled, talented, or clever.

**exhibiting**

- offering or exposing to view; presenting for inspection.
- manifesting or displaying.
- to place on show.

**extensive/ness**

- of great extent; wide; broad; covering a great area; large in amount.
- far-reaching; comprehensive; thorough; lengthy; detailed.

**geological (geology)**

- the science which treats of the earth, the rocks of which it is composed, and the changes which it has undergone or is undergoing.

**geomorphologic (geomorphology)**

- the study of the characteristics, origin and development of land forms.

**high**

- intensified; exceeding the common degree or measure; strong; intense, energetic.
- assigning or attributing a great amount, value, or excellence.
- of great amount, degree, force, etc.
- chief; principal; main.
- of great consequence; important; grave; serious: eg. high treason.  
degree (i.e. – a ‘high degree’)
- a step or stage in an ascending or descending scale, or in a course or process.
- a stage in a scale of rank or dignity; relative rank, station, etc.
- a stage in a scale of intensity or amount.
- to a degree, to an undefined but not great extent.

**highly**

- (used as an intensifier) in or to a high degree.

**important**

- of much significance or consequence.
- of more than ordinary title to consideration or notice.
- prominent: an important part.
- of considerable influence or authority, as a person, position, etc.
- of social consequence or distinction, as a person, family, etc.
- important to, mattering much.

**importance**

- the quality or fact of being important.
- important position or standing; personal or social consequence.
- consequential air or manner.

**influence**

- invisible or insensible action exerted by one thing or person on another, especially by people in power.
- power of producing effects by invisible or insensible means.
- to move or impel to, or not to do, something.

**innovation**

- something new or different introduced.
- the act of innovating; introducing of new things or methods.

**intact**

- remaining uninjured, unaltered, sound, or whole; unimpaired.

**integrity**

- the state of being whole, entire, or undiminished.
- sound, unimpaired, or perfect condition.

**invention**

- (in patent law) the conception of an idea and the means or apparatus by which the result is obtained.
- anything invented or devised.
- the exercise of imaginative or creative power in literature or art.
- the act of producing or creating by exercise of the imagination.
- the power or faculty of inventing, devising, or originating.

**notable**

- worthy of note or notice; noteworthy.
- prominent, important, or distinguished, as persons.
- a notable person; a prominent or important person.

**outstanding**

- prominent; conspicuous; striking.

**particular**

- pertaining to some one person, thing, group, class, occasion, etc., rather than to other or all.
- special, not general.
- being a definite one, individual, or single, or considered separately.
- distinguished or different from others or from the ordinary; noteworthy; marked; unusual.

**potential**

- possible as opposed to actual.
- capable of being or becoming; latent.

**rare**

- coming or occurring far apart in space or time; unusual; uncommon
- few in number.
- thinly distributed over an area, or few and widely separated.
- remarkable or unusual, especially in excellence or greatness.

**rarity**

- something rare, unusual, or uncommon.
- something esteemed or interesting being rare, uncommon, or curious.
- rare occurrence; infrequency.
- unusual excellence.

**religious**

- of, relating to, or concerned with religion.
- imbued with or exhibiting religion; pious; devout; godly.
- relating to or connected with a monastic or religious order.
- appropriate to religion or to sacred rites or observances.

**representative/ness**

- serving to represent; representing.
- exemplifying a class; typical.
- an example or specimen; type; typical embodiment, as of some quality.

**significant**

- important; of consequence.
- expressing a meaning; indicative.
- having a special or covert meaning; suggestive.

**social**

- living, or disposed to live, in companionship with others or in a community, rather than in isolation.
- of or relating to human society, especially as a body divided into classes according to worldly status.

- of or relating to the life and relation of human beings in a community.

#### **special**

- of a distinct or particular character.
- being a particular one; particular, individual, or certain.
- relating or peculiar to a particular person, thing, instance, etc.
- having a particular function, purpose, application, etc.
- distinguished or different from what is ordinary or usual.
- extraordinary; exceptional; exceptional in amount or degree.
- especially beloved or favoured.
- a special person or thing.

#### **spiritual**

- of, relating to, or consisting of spirit or incorporeal being.
- of or relating to the spirit or soul as distinguished from the physical nature.
- characterised by or suggesting predominance of the spirit; ethereal or delicately refined.
- of or relating to sacred things or matters of religion; religious; devotional; sacred.

#### **strong**

- powerful in influence, authority, resources, or means of prevailing or succeeding.
- of great force, effectiveness, potency, or cogency.
- distinct, as marks or impressions; marked, as a resemblance or contrast.

#### **technical**

- belonging or relating to an art, science, or the like.
- peculiar to or characteristic of a particular art, science, profession, trade, etc.
- relating to or connected with the mechanical or industrial arts and the applied sciences.

#### **tradition**

- the handing down of statements, beliefs, legends, customs, etc., from generation to generation, especially by word of mouth or by practice.
- that which is so handed down.

#### **transition**

- passage from one position, state, stage, etc., to another.
- a passage or change of this kind.
- Architecture the period of change from one architectural style to another.
- to go through a period of transition.

#### **uncommon**

- not common; unusual or rare.
- unusual in amount or degree; above the ordinary.
- exceptional.

#### **unique**

- of which there is only one; sole.
- having no like or equal; standing alone in comparison with others; unequalled.
- remarkable, rare or unusual.

#### **unusual**

- not usual, common, or ordinary; uncommon in amount or degree; of an exceptional kind.

#### **valued**

- highly regarded or esteemed.
- estimated or appraised.

#### **yield**

- to give a return, as for labour expended; produce or bear.

