

Statement of Significance Criteria Guide

The following information is a guide to understanding the formal Statement of Significance contained in table format on each Heritage Fact Sheet. To determine whether a place is worthy of inclusion on a heritage list, heritage experts use a suite of agreed criteria.

Understanding the provisions of the Queensland Heritage Act (QHA) relating to the assessment of heritage places is fundamental to the successful conservation of historical cultural heritage. The application of the interpretations and methodology explored in the below table will avoid misinterpretation of the criteria and provide clarity when places are considered, entered or removed from the register, on how assessments of cultural heritage significance are made.

A local heritage register can be made strictly under the QHA, or it can be included in a local government planning scheme. For the Mackay region, heritage is addressed in the planning scheme, however this does not mean that a Statement of Significance is not necessary to provide the same clarity afforded by the QHA. The QHA requires that each entry must include, enough information to identify the location and boundaries of the place, and a statement about the cultural heritage significance.

There are eight criteria listed in the right side of the table with an explanation of how alignment might be demonstrated and outlines numerous ways that a building or place might achieve compliance.

- Criteria (a) and (h) are used mainly when assessing the historical significance of a place.
- Criterion (b), identifies the rarity value of a place, and can be used to qualify most aspects of cultural heritage significance.
- Criterion (c) is used mainly to assess the scientific significance (i.e. research potential) of a place.
- Criterion (d) is used when assessing the architectural or historical significance of a place.
- Criterion (e) is used when assessing the aesthetic or architectural significance of a place.
- Criterion (f) is used when assessing the aesthetic, architectural or other (technological) significance of a place.
- Criterion (g) deals with the social significance of a place.

The right column provides the assessment indicators or threshold tests which assessors use to gauge how the building or place has achieved alignment with that criterion and satisfies the significance test. Once the assessment is made, the place can proceed further in the heritage survey process for local list consideration. Should you require any further explanation please contact

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Criteria	Significance Assessment
<p>A – Historical Significance /Scientific Significance <i>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the local government area’s history</i></p>	
<p>Significance Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Product, result or outcome of an event, phase, movement, process, activity or way of life that has made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution to the evolution or pattern of our development of our society or of our environment <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Example of a process or activity that has made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution to the evolution or pattern of our development of our society or of our environment <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Influenced by an event, phase, movement, process, activity or way of life that has made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution to the evolution or pattern of our development of our society or of our environment <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Has influenced an event, phase, movement, process, activity or way of life that has made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution to the evolution or pattern of our development of our society or of our environment <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Site of or associated with an event, or activity that has made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution to the evolution or development of our society or of our environment <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Symbolic association with an event, or activity that has made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution to the evolution or development of our society or of our environment <input type="checkbox"/> 	<p>Local threshold indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional importance <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Earliness <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Representativeness <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Distinctiveness/Exceptionality <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Rarity <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>B – All Aspects of Heritage Significance <i>The place has rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the local government area’s cultural heritage.</i></p>	
<p>Significance Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Way of life (including fashion, taste and aspiration) that once was common but is now rare or that has always been uncommon or is endangered <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Custom that was once common but is now rare or uncommon or no longer practised or has always been uncommon or is endangered <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Process that was once common but is now rare or uncommon or no longer practised or has always been uncommon or is endangered <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Function that was once common but is now rare or uncommon or no longer practised or has always been uncommon or is endangered <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Land use that was once common but is now rare or uncommon or no longer practised or has always been uncommon or is endangered <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Design or form that was once common but is now rare or uncommon or no longer practised or has always been uncommon or is endangered <input type="checkbox"/> 	<p>Local threshold indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intactness/Integrity <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Distinctiveness <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Exceptionality <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>C – Scientific Significance/Historical Significance <i>The place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the local government area’s history.</i></p>	
<p>Significance Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential to contribute new knowledge about the local government area’s history <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Potential to contribute knowledge that will lead to a greater understanding of particular aspects of the local government area’s history <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Potential to contribute knowledge that will aid in comparative analysis of similar places <input type="checkbox"/> 	<p>Local threshold indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Earliness <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Rarity <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Extensiveness <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Intactness <input type="checkbox"/>

Criteria	Significance Assessment
<p>D – Architectural Significance/ Historical Significance <i>The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural places.</i></p>	
<p>Significance Indicators Exemplifies or illustrates in the surviving fabric:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A way of life or custom that has made a noticeable contribution to the pattern or evolution of The local government area’s history <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ The impact of an ideology, value or philosophy on the local government area’s history <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ A process or land use that has made a strong contribution to the pattern or evolution of the local government area’s history <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ A function that has been an important part of the pattern of the local government area’s history <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ The work of a designer who made an important contribution to the local government area’s built environment <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ An architectural style or form that has made an influential or noticeable contribution to the pattern or evolution of the local government area’s built environment <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ A construction technique or particular use of materials that has made a conspicuous or early contribution to the evolution of the local government area’s built environment <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Variations within, or the evolution of or the transition of, the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places <input type="checkbox"/> 	<p>Local threshold indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intactness/Integrity <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Earliness <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Rarity/uncommonness <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Exceptionality <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>E – Aesthetic Significance/Architectural Significance <i>The place is important because of its aesthetic significance.</i></p>	
<p>Significance Indicators Demonstrates or possesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beautiful attributes <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Natural beauty or natural aesthetic quality <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Picturesque attributes <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Evocative qualities <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Expressive attributes <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Landmark quality <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Streetscape contribution <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Symbolic meaning <input type="checkbox"/> 	<p>Local threshold indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intactness <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Integrity <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Degree of deterioration <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Setting and location context <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Demonstrated representation <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>F – Aesthetic Significance/Architectural Significance/Other Significance <i>The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.</i></p>	
<p>Significance Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Displays artistic value <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Displays architectural excellence <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Is innovative or develops new technology <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Represents a breakthrough in design or construction technique <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Is a particularly appropriate solution to a technical problem that extends the limits of existing technology <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Adapts technology in a creative manner <input type="checkbox"/> 	<p>Local threshold indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intactness/integrity <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Peer recognition/award <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>G – Social Significance</p>	

Criteria	Significance Assessment
<p><i>The place has a strong or special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organisation of importance in the local government area's history</i></p>	
<p>Significance Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Important to the community as a landmark, marker or signature <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ A place which offers a valued, customary experience <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ A popular meeting or gathering space <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Associated with events having a profound effect on a particular community or cultural group <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ A place of ritual or ceremony <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Symbolically representing the past in the present <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ A place of essential community function leading to a special attachment <input type="checkbox"/> 	<p>Local threshold indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Length of association <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Demonstrated extent and degree of community association <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Significant former association <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>H – Historical Significance</p> <p><i>The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons</i></p>	
<p>Significance Indicators</p> <p>Has a special association with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A person who has made an important or notable contribution to the evolution or development of our society or our physical environment <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ A group of people who have made a notable contribution to the evolution or development of our society or our physical environment <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ An organisation who has made a notable contribution to the evolution or development of our society or our physical environment <input type="checkbox"/> 	<p>Local threshold indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Length of association <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Demonstrated extent and degree of community association <input type="checkbox"/> ▪ Significant former association <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Summary Statement of Significance</p>	
<p>References</p>	

Reference Documents:

Queensland Heritage Act 1992: <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/Q/QldHeritageA92.pdf>

The Burra Charter: <http://australia.icomos.org/publications/charters/>

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (Qld) Guide to Carrying out a local heritage survey <http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/assets/documents/land/heritage/gl-heritage-survey.pdf>

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (Qld) Guide Assessing cultural heritage significance—Using the cultural heritage criteria <http://www.qldheritage.org.au/assets/files/pdf/using-the-criteria.pdf>