

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria



Name: Former Kew Asylum
Entrance Gateway

Address: 450-500 High Street Kew

Relevant Authority: Boroondara City

Provisional VHR No. PROV VHR H2406



Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway (August 2020)

Executive Director recommendation

Under Part 3, Division 3 of the *Heritage Act 2017* I recommend to the Heritage Council of Victoria that the Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway, Victoria Park, 450-500 High Street, Kew should be included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) in the category of registered place.

STEVEN AVERY

Executive Director, Heritage Victoria

DATE OF RECOMMENDATION: 16 November 2020

This report may contain images and/or names of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are now deceased.



Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Heritage Council determination

The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria recommends that the Heritage Council include the Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway, Victoria Park, 450-500 High Street, Kew in the Victorian Heritage Register in accordance with section 49 of the *Heritage Act 2017* by determining:

- That this place/object is of State-level cultural heritage significance and should be included in the Heritage Register in the category of registered place in accordance with section 49(1)(a) of the Act.
- That the proposed categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to the place or object for which a permit under the Act is not required will not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place under section 49 (3) of the Act.



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The process from here

1. The Heritage Council publishes the Executive Director's recommendation (section 41).

The Heritage Council of Victoria will publish the Executive Director's recommendation on its website for a period of 60 days. Submissions must be received by Heritage Council on or before Monday 18 January 2021.

2. Making a submission to the Heritage Council (sections 44 and 45)

Within the 60-day publication period, any person or body with a real and substantial interest in the place or object can make a submission to the Heritage Council. This submission can support the recommendation, or object to the recommendation and a hearing can be requested in relation to the submission. Information about making a submission and submission forms are available on the Heritage Council of Victoria's website:

<https://heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/registrations-reviews/executive-director-recommendations/>

3. Heritage Council determination (sections 46 and 49)

The Heritage Council of Victoria is an independent statutory body. It is responsible for making the final determination to include or not include the place or object in the VHR, or amend a place or object already in the VHR.

If no submissions are received the Heritage Council must make a determination within 40 days of the publication closing date.

If submissions are received, the Heritage Council may decide to hold a hearing in relation to the submission. If a hearing does take place, the Heritage Council must make a determination within 90 days after the completion of the hearing.

4. Obligations of owners of places and objects (sections 42 and 43)

The owner of a place or object which is the subject of a recommendation to the Heritage Council has certain obligations under the *Heritage Act 2017*. These relate to advising the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria in writing of any works or activities that are being carried out, proposed or planned for the place or object.

The owner also has an obligation to provide a copy of this statement of recommendation to any potential purchasers of the place or object before entering into a contract.

5. Further information

The relevant sections of the Act are provided at Appendix 1.

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Description

The following is a description of the Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway at the time of the site inspection by Heritage Victoria in August 2020.

The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway consists of two 4.5 metre sandstone gate piers on bluestone bases on either side of a 5.5 metre vehicle entrance set back from the High Street pavement. The 1870s gate piers are of Barrabool sandstone and repairs during 2015-16 were undertaken with sandstone from English Town, Tasmania. The gate piers are highly decorative and feature oculi, triglyphs, dentils, corbeling and other ornamental work. Each gate pier incorporates a pedestrian archway with a cast-iron pedestrian swing gate. Two curved sections of cast-iron palisade fencing on rusticated bluestone blocks extend from the outer edges of the piers to a set of shorter sandstone pillars on the High Street pavement. Straight sections of cast-iron fence extend 4.5 metres ending at two bluestone pillars. Garden beds have been created within the curved sections of fencing, bordered by concreted bluestone and planted with shrubs.



2018, western arch



2020, gates with plantings



2020, eastern arch



2020, rear of western arch

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History

Kew

Kew and East Kew are located on the lands of the Wurundjeri people. In 1803, the Charles Grimes Survey Party entered into this territory and explored beyond Dight's Falls. In 1845, there was the first successful sale of land to new settlers. During the 1850s the commercial precinct known as Kew Junction began to take shape. The first store was opened in 1853 and the post office and the first school opened in 1856. The Boroondara Cemetery was established in 1858. During the late-nineteenth century Kew became a sought-after suburb for the well-to-do in Melbourne. Kew was proclaimed a town on 8 December 1910 and a city on 10 March 1921. Between 1910 and the outbreak of the second world war Kew's population approximately tripled.

Kew Asylum

Operational from 1871 to 1988, the Kew Asylum (VHR H0861) was one of the largest asylums ever built in Australia. Over its history, this institution has been known as the Metropolitan Lunatic Asylum at Kew, Kew Hospital for the Insane, Kew Mental Hospital and Willsmere Hospital. The complex of buildings was constructed on 10 acres between 1864 and 1871 to the design of various architects including G.W. Vivian and Frederick Kawerau of the Victorian Public Works Office. It was constructed after it had become clear that the Yarra Bend Asylum (established 1848) could no longer meet Melbourne's needs.

The Kew Asylum was based on the 'E-shaped' 1850s asylum in Colney Hatch, England. Compared with earlier regional asylums in Victoria at Ararat (1865) (VHR H1223) and Beechworth (1867) (VHR 1189), Kew was larger and bolder in scale and design. Influenced by the French Second Empire architectural style, Kew Asylum continued a trend in asylum architecture towards extremely large, monumental buildings set in verdant garden surrounds. The construction of the Kew Asylum coincided with a paradigm shift towards the 'moral treatment' of mental illness. In theory at least, this approach involved no physical restraints and used the natural environment and architecture to influence the human mind. Kew Asylum was designed with these principles in mind, providing elegant, orderly buildings and large therapeutic gardens to convey the sense that the state was offering a benevolent institution for care, rather than punishment.

The Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway

The Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway and an adjacent gate lodge were built at the Princess Street entrance in 1873.¹ The imposing sandstone pillars and cast-iron gates impressed upon visitors the therapeutic and civilising vision of the asylum. The entrance opened onto a tree-lined drive (now known as Main Drive) which culminated in an elliptical carriageway in front of the main building. A second drive (now known as Lower Drive) extended from the Princess Street entrance to the rear gates of the asylum. The gateway was part of the design of the generous asylum grounds which were planned in the tradition of a stately English country park, featuring vegetable gardens, farms and recreational areas such as cricket ovals and bowling greens. This was consistent with the ideal that pleasant surroundings and outdoor activities would ease residents' mental anguish.

Little evidence remains of the original garden landscaping or outdoor structures at Kew. From the 1880s and into the twentieth century, the addition of buildings, reuse of land and different approaches to treatment saw the Kew Asylum change and adapt (a phenomenon that also occurred at other asylums in Australia and globally). One significant change was the relocation of the Entrance Gateway 1.5 kms away to Victoria Park on High Street Kew.

Relocation of the Kew Asylum Gates

From the late 1930s, there was growing pressure to remove the lodge at the Princess Street entrance to enable the Kew Council to straighten Princess Street. In 1940, the State Government approved the demolition of the lodge and

¹ Helen Lardner Conservation & Design (HLCD Pty Ltd), Former Kew Cottages Conservation Management Plan, 2008, p.9.

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the relocation of the ornamental gates, and in 1942 they were reconstructed at the entrance to Victoria Park.² The Kew Council acquired the gateway on the grounds that it would make an 'attractive park entrance' along High Street.³ The 'new' stately nineteenth-century entrance lent a sense of civic grandeur to Victoria Park. At this time, Victoria Park was a centre for outdoor community events, including patriotic rallies. During World War II building materials were scarce and there was a shortage of labour, and in this context the recycled gates were a valuable asset. A report in the *Herald* noted that the central cast-iron gates were missing after asylum authorities had removed them due to repeated unauthorised closing, presumably by visitors concerned about patients escaping. The Kew Council was reportedly 'not worried' about this as the pillars were visually appealing and secure gates were unnecessary for an un-fenced park.⁴ It is not known if or where the internal cast-iron swing gates survive. It is possible they were recycled to another location.

Victoria Park (Kew Recreation Reserve)

In 1871 the Kew Recreation Reserve was set aside as a public reserve. From the 1880s cricket, tennis and lacrosse was played here and the gardens were planted with native and exotic species. The surrounding residential streets were developed advertising the beauty and amenity of the reserve. At some stage, possibly to commemorate the death of Queen Victoria in 1901, the Kew Recreation Reserve was renamed Victoria Park. In the early 1900s modest sporting facilities were constructed and improvements were made to the playing grounds. In the 1920s tennis clubrooms were built and in 1934 a croquet club house was constructed. During World War II 1940s Victoria Park became a popular place for events such as rallies, musical band performances, community carnivals, children's picnics and community events. Sport continued to be played there, and clubs travelled from around Melbourne to compete in athletics and running as well as team sports.

The relocation of nineteenth-century gates and fences

The relocation of the Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway is part of a tradition of moving (or what we may now term 'recycling') grand gateways and fences, particularly during the twentieth century. This could be for a number of reasons, such as demolition/remodelling of the original 'host' building, changes to the landscape setting, or a particular design style falling out of fashion. Examples include:

Original location of gate	Date	New location	Date
Labassa Gates, Caulfield	1890	Maddingley Park, Bacchus Marsh	1922
Nareeb Mansion Gates (Toorak) <i>Originally made in UK.</i>	1888	Royal Botanical Gardens, Gate D (1967)	1966
Eastern Market Gates	1880	Altona Memorial Park (Cemetery)	1968
Royal Melbourne Hospital Gates	<1860	Moved twice – see below.	1910, 1934

The original gates of the Royal Melbourne Hospital, constructed prior to 1860, were moved three times. In 1910 they were presented to Dr JW Springthorpe (1855-1933), a physician at the hospital, who had them erected at his home 'Joyous Gard' in Murrumbeena. In 1934 they were installed at the Springthorpe Reserve after being donated by Mrs Springthorpe to the Caulfield City Council.

In the early twentieth century it also became fashionable to open up public gardens and remove fences, a reversal of the earlier fashion of enclosure. One of the most public examples was the removal of the 1880 cast iron palisade perimeter fence around the Carlton Gardens in 1928. One length of the original fence remains in place in the north-west corner of the gardens as do the original Grattan Street gates. Much of the Carlton fence was re-erected around the perimeter of the Genazzano College, Kew. Other sections were relocated to the Alexandra Parade boundary of

² Former Kew Cottages Conservation Management Plan, p. 8; Don Anderson, Kew Cottages Coalition, Research for the Nomination of the Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register.

³ 'No gate to swing asylum entrance', *Herald*, Saturday 24 August 1940, p.5.

⁴ 'No gate to swing asylum entrance'.



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Melbourne High School, South Yarra, to F Gate at the Botanical Gardens, and to other unknown destinations. Similarly, the cast iron front fence of Queens College (University of Melbourne) on College Crescent dates back to the nineteenth century and was formerly the fence of the Melbourne General Hospital, later Queen Victoria Hospital, in Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. It was relocated to Queens College and officially opened in 2007.

Conservation of the Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway

The Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway underwent major conservation works during 2015-16. The stonemason identified the original 1870s masonry as Barrabool sandstone from near Geelong. Barrabool sandstone is known to be of poor durability and tends to spall because of the high levels of clay. After 1942 the Gateway was painted to conceal its decay and poor appearance, possibly because the Kew Council may have wished to avoid the cost of repairs. Multiple white and off-white paint layers were removed during the 2015-16 works, and repairs were undertaken with sandstone sourced from English Town, Tasmania.

The Entrance Gateway stood at the Asylum for around 70 years (c.1872-1942) and has stood at Victoria Park for around 78 years (1942-2020). The Gateway remains a significant element of the Kew Asylum, in the context of the loss of other landscape structures that demonstrated the scale and vision of this institution. It also stands in its own right as a rare and impressive example of a Gateway which was relocated for use within a non-institutional landscape. This gateway is now arguably more recognisable in Victoria Park than in its original Princess Street location.

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Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway and Gatehouse in situ at Kew Asylum, c.1875-1930
Source: State Library of Victoria



Kew Asylum, Main Building Entrance with Circular Driveway c.1885-1887
Source: Kew Historical Society (Victorian Collections)



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Selected bibliography

Allom Lovell Sanderson, Kew Urban Conservation Study, 1988.

Cheryl Day, 'Magnificence, misery and madness: a history of the Kew Asylum 1872-1915', PhD University of Melbourne, History Department, 1998.

Don Anderson, Kew Cottages Coalition, Research for the Nomination of the Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register.

Helen Lardner Conservation & Design (HLCD Pty Ltd), Former Kew Cottages Conservation Management Plan, 2008.

National Trust (Victoria), Wills Street, 'Willsmere', Citation no. 71

Nigel Lewis 'Asylums' in P Goad and J Willis (eds) *The Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture*, Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Interview with stone mason Tom Carson, 3 September 2020.

'No gate to swing asylum entrance', Herald, Saturday 24 August 1940, p.5.

National Trust (Victoria), *Fences & Gates: A guide to identification, conservation, and restoration of historic gates and fences c.1840-1925*, Melbourne, 1988.

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Further information

Relevant Authority	City of Boroondara
Heritage Overlay	There is no Heritage Overlay for this place.
Other Overlays	There are no other overlays for this place/object.
Other Listings	There are no other listings for this place.
Other Names	Kew Asylum Gates Victoria Park Gates

Traditional Owner Information

The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway is located on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri people. Under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, the Registered Aboriginal Party for this land is the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register

The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway is not included in the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register.

Integrity

The integrity of the place is good. The cultural heritage values of the place can be easily read in the extant fabric. Some fabric is not original to the 1870s. Sandstone is a less durable material and some repairs undertaken throughout the life of the gateway are visible. All the bluestone appears to be original with several small areas of damage and some inappropriate cement repairs. (August 2020).

Intactness

The intactness of the place is good. It appears that the same elements installed in the 1940s are still extant. The central cast iron swing gates are missing but were removed while at the Kew Asylum. Their whereabouts is unknown. (August 2020).

Condition

The overall condition of the place is fair to good. The condition of the masonry is fair, and the condition of the cast iron pedestrian gates and palisade fence is good. (August 2020).

Note: The condition of a place or object does not influence the assessment of its cultural heritage significance. A place/object may be in very poor condition and still be of very high intactness and integrity. Or a place/object may be in excellent condition but have poor intactness and integrity.

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Statutory requirements under section 40.

Terms of the recommendation (section 40 (3)(a))

The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria recommends that the Former Kew Asylum Entrance is included in the VHR in the category of a Heritage Place

Information to identify the place or object (section 40(3)(b))

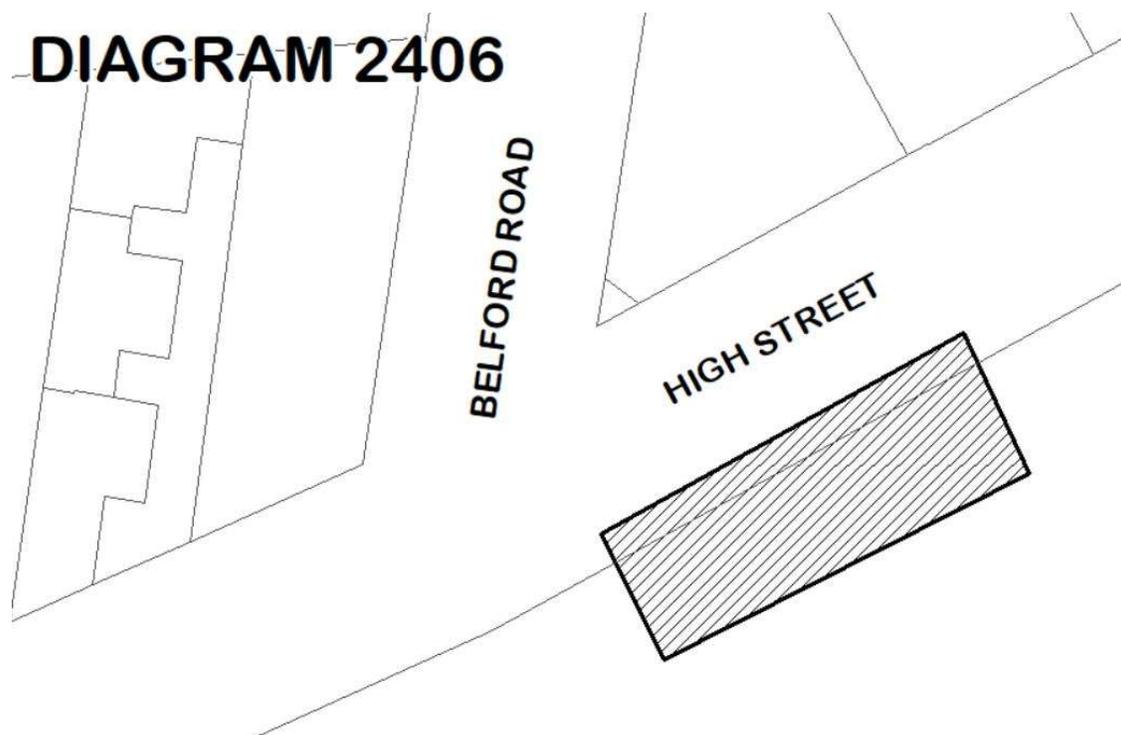
Name: Former Kew Asylum Entrance

Address: Victoria Park, High Street, Kew

Proposed extent of registration

The Executive Director recommends that the extent of registration for the Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway be gazetted as:

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 2406 encompassing part of Crown Allotment 85B Parish of Boroondara and part of the road reserve of High Street.



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Aerial Photo of the Place Showing Proposed extent of registration



Note: This aerial view provides a visual representation of the place. It is not a precise representation of the recommended extent of registration. Due to distortions associated with aerial photography some elements of the place may appear as though they are outside the extent of registration.

Rationale for the extent of registration

The recommended extent of registration includes all of the Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway, including the masonry arches, cast-iron fences with bluestone bases, and bluestone pillars at the ends of the fences.

It should be noted that everything included in the proposed extent of registration including all the land, all structures, works, trees and features is proposed for inclusion in the VHR. A permit or permit exemption from Heritage Victoria is required for any works within the proposed extent of registration, apart from those identified in the categories of works or activities in this recommendation.

The recommended extent is the same as the nominated extent.

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Reasons for the recommendation, including an assessment of the State-level cultural heritage significance of place/object (section 40(3)(c))

Following is the Executive Director's assessment of the place/object against the tests set out in *The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Thresholds Guidelines*. A place or object must be found by the Heritage Council to meet Step 2 of at least one criterion to meet the State level threshold for inclusion in the VHR.

CRITERION A: Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Step 1: Test for satisfying Criterion A

The place/object has a *CLEAR ASSOCIATION* with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life in Victoria's cultural history.

plus

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.

plus

The *EVENT, PHASE, etc* is of *HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE*, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria.

Executive Director's Response

The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway has a clear association with the development of the Kew Asylum, Victoria's largest nineteenth century mental hospital. This association is evident in the physical fabric of the place, photographic evidence and documentary resources. The Kew Asylum made a strong and influential contribution to the state over 100 years of operation between 1871 and 1988 during which time it provided care to thousands of mentally ill Victorians. The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway also has an association with the development of recreation reserves and public parks in Victoria.

Step 1 of Criterion A is likely to be satisfied.

Step 2: Test for satisfying Criterion A at the State Level

The place/object allows the clear association with the event, phase etc. of historical importance to be *UNDERSTOOD BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES OR OBJECTS IN VICTORIA WITH SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME ASSOCIATION*.

Executive Director's Response

Due to its relocation in 1942, the Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway does not allow the clear association with the development of the Kew Asylum to be understood better than most other places or objects in Victoria with substantially the same association. The place that best allows this association is the Kew Asylum itself (VHR H0861) and the documentary evidence of its residents' experiences at this place through case books and other archival material at the Public Record Office Victoria.

The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway does not allow the development of recreation reserves and public parks in Victoria to be better understood than most other places or objects in Victoria with substantially the same association. Gates of this scale are relatively unusual in suburban recreation reserves and parks. These reserves better represented by the structures more closely associated with the recreation activities for which they were designed.

Criterion A is not likely to be satisfied at the State level.

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CRITERION B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.

Step 1: Test for Satisfying Criterion B

The place/object has a *clear ASSOCIATION* with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life of importance in Victoria's cultural history.

plus

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.

plus

The place/object is *RARE OR UNCOMMON*, being one of a small number of places/objects remaining that demonstrates the important event, phase etc.

or

The place/object is *RARE OR UNCOMMON*, containing unusual features of note that were not widely replicated

or

The existence of the *class* of place/object that demonstrates the important event, phase etc is *ENDANGERED* to the point of rarity due to threats and pressures on such places/objects.

Executive Director's Response

The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway is a rare example of a nineteenth-century gateway of a monumental scale and ornate design. While there are many grand nineteenth-century institutional and residential buildings in Victoria there are fewer gateways, many having been demolished in response to subdivision and development of the original properties and/or changing tastes in the twentieth century. The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway is an uncommon example of an impressive gateway that has preserved through its relocation in order to evoke civic grandeur in a different setting. Its construction from sandstone is also uncommon, as this was a less used material in nineteenth-century Victoria where bluestone was more plentiful, durable and accessible.

Step 1 of Criterion B is likely to be satisfied.

Step 2: State Level Significance Test for Criterion B

The place/object is *RARE, UNCOMMON OR ENDANGERED* within Victoria.

Executive Director's Response

The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway is uncommon in Victoria. It is a rare example nineteenth-century gateway of a grand scale and ornate design, of which few survive.

Criterion B is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

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CRITERION C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.

Step 1: Test for Satisfying Criterion C

<p>The:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• visible physical fabric; &/or• documentary evidence; &/or<ul style="list-style-type: none">• oral history, <p>relating to the place/object indicates a likelihood that the place/object contains <i>PHYSICAL EVIDENCE</i> of <i>historical interest</i> that is <i>NOT CURRENTLY VISIBLE OR UNDERSTOOD</i>.</p> <p><i>plus</i></p> <p>From what we know of the place/object, the physical evidence is likely to be of an <i>INTEGRITY</i> and/or <i>CONDITION</i> that it <i>COULD YIELD INFORMATION</i> through detailed investigation.</p>

Executive Director's Response

The physical fabric and documentary evidence of the Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway is visible and can be understood. It is unlikely that the place contains physical evidence of historical interest that is not currently visible or understood.

Step 1 of Criterion C is not likely to be satisfied.

CRITERION D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

Step 1: Test for Satisfying Criterion D

<p>The place/object is one of a <i>CLASS</i> of places/objects that has a <i>clear ASSOCIATION</i> with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, important person(s), custom or way of life in Victoria's history.</p> <p><i>plus</i></p> <p>The <i>EVENT, PHASE, etc</i> is of <i>HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE</i>, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria.</p> <p><i>plus</i></p> <p>The principal characteristics of the class are <i>EVIDENT</i> in the physical fabric of the place/object.</p>
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Executive Director's Response

The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway is in the class nineteenth-century entrance gateway. This class has a clear association with the building of residences and institutions across Victoria. This phase made a strong contribution to Victoria by creating a visual impact and evoking a sense of grandeur at the front of many of the state's finest residences and institutions. These characteristics are evident in the physical fabric of the Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway.

Step 1 of Criterion D is likely to be satisfied.

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Step 2: State Level Significance Test Criterion D

The place/object is a *NOTABLE EXAMPLE* of the class in Victoria (refer to Reference Tool D).

Executive Director's Response

Under the definitions provided in Reference Tool D, the Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway can be considered as a notable example of a nineteenth-century gateway because it is a fine and highly intact example:

Fine

The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway displays a large number or range of characteristics that are typical of the class and that are of a higher quality than are typical of places in the class. The scale is monumental, and the arches are highly decorative, featuring oculi, triglyphs, dentils, corbeling and other ornamental work.

Highly intact

Photographic evidence indicates that the Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway displays characteristics that remain mostly unchanged from the period of its development and use. While the central cast-iron swing gates are missing, there is evidence that they were removed while in use at the Kew Asylum.

Criterion D is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

CRITERION E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

Step 1: Test For Satisfying Criterion E

The *PHYSICAL FABRIC* of the place/object clearly exhibits particular aesthetic characteristics.

Executive Director's Response

The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway clearly exhibits particular aesthetic characteristics associated with late nineteenth-century institutional design expressed through its monumental scale and ornamental features.

Step 1 of Criterion E is likely to be satisfied.

Step 2: State Level Significance Test for Criterion E

The aesthetic characteristics are *APPRECIATED OR VALUED* by the wider community or an appropriately-related discipline as evidenced, for example, by:

- *critical recognition* of the aesthetic characteristics of the place/object within a relevant art, design, architectural or related discipline as an outstanding example within Victoria; or
- *wide public acknowledgement of exceptional merit* in Victoria in medium such as songs, poetry, literature, painting, sculpture, publications, print media etc.

Executive Director's Response

The particular aesthetics of the Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway are appreciated and valued by passers-by but have not received any critical recognition in a relevant discipline or wide public acknowledgement of exceptional merit in Victoria.

Criterion E is not likely to be satisfied at the State level.

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CRITERION F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

Step 1: A Test For Satisfying Criterion F

The place/object contains *PHYSICAL EVIDENCE* that clearly demonstrates creative or technical *ACHIEVEMENT* for the time in which it was created.

plus

The physical evidence demonstrates a *HIGH DEGREE OF INTEGRITY*.

Executive Director's Response

The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway does not demonstrate particular creative or technical achievement for the time in which it was created. Its design merits are better considered under Criterion D.

Step 1 of Criterion F is not likely to be satisfied.

CRITERION G: Strong or special association with a particular present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

Step 1: Test For Satisfying Criterion G

Evidence exists of a community or cultural group.

(A community or cultural group is a group of people who share a common interest, including an experience, purpose, belief system, culture, ethnicity or values.)

plus

Evidence exists of a strong attachment between the *COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP* and the place/object in the present-day context.

plus

Evidence exists of a time depth to that attachment.

Executive Director's Response

There is no identifiable community or cultural group in the present-day that has a strong attachment to the Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway.

Step 1 of Criterion G is not likely to be satisfied.

CRITERION H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.

Step 1: Test For Satisfying Criterion H

The place/object has a *DIRECT ASSOCIATION* with a person or group of persons who have made a strong or influential *CONTRIBUTION* to the course of Victoria's history.

plus

The *ASSOCIATION* of the place/object to the person(s) *IS EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources and/or oral history.

plus

The *ASSOCIATION*:

- directly relates to *ACHIEVEMENTS* of the person(s) at, or relating to, the place/object; or
- relates to an *enduring* and/or *close INTERACTION* between the person(s) and the place/object.



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Executive Director's Response

The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway is associated with the Public Works Department which made a strong and influential contribution to the course of Victoria's history. This association is evident in the fabric through the design links to the Kew Asylum.

Step 1 of Criterion H is likely to be satisfied.

Step 2: State Level Significance Test For Criterion H

<p>The place/object allows the clear association with the person or group of persons to be <i>READILY APPRECIATED BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES OR OBJECTS IN VICTORIA.</i></p>

Executive Director's Response

The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway does not allow the Public Works Department to be readily appreciated better than most other places or objects in Victoria. The PWD operated from 1855 to 1987 and there are better examples that demonstrate their work in the nineteenth century, including Parliament House, the Customs House, Victoria Barracks, the Government Printing Office and the Treasury Building.

Criterion H is not likely to be satisfied at the State level.

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Comparisons

These places were selected as comparators to the Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway because they allow the scale, design quality and craftsmanship of the Kew Gateway to be evaluated. They demonstrate the rarity of monumental nineteenth century gateways in Victoria.

Gateways (standalone) in the VHR

There is only one entrance gateway registered in its own right in the VHR.

Main Entrance Gates (Gate 6), Pillars and Fence (VHR H0918)

The Main Entrance Gates (Gate 6), Pillars and Fence, The University of Melbourne, Grattan Street Parkville, are historically significant as evidence of the original main entrance to the university. Their construction, together with the associated gate lodge, marked a formal boundary between town and university land. They are architecturally significant for their styling, consistent with the preferred Gothic Revival style of the main University buildings. The pillars are of bluestone and the internal swing gates are not *in situ*.



Gateways (as part of places) in the VHR

Government House Complex (VHR H1620)

Government House Complex is of architectural significance as one of the grandest and largest residences, and one of the finest examples of 19th century residential architecture in Australia. Designed in the conservative classical style, the superb Italianate composition appears to have been inspired by Queen Victoria's Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. The original entrance gate and gatehouse were designed by JJ Clarke and built by Pearson and Downie in 1875. In 1934 the gate (complete with its Royal Coat of Arms carved in sandstone) was relocated from its original location at Linlithgow Avenue to Government House Drive closer to the residence, and the original guard house was demolished.



Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Raheen, Kew (VHR H0515)

Raheen (built in 1870) is of architectural significance to the State of Victoria as a fine example of nineteenth century Italianate architecture. The property retains its garden layout, including an Italianate garden, outbuildings, fence and gates. It is also of historical significance through its association with elite businessmen in the late 1800s and the Catholic Church as the residence of several archbishops. The gates pillars are of alternating bands of red brick and bluestone.



Cranlana, 62 And 62a Clendon Road Toorak, Stonnington City (VHR H1293)

Cranlana (1903) is of exceptional aesthetic and architectural significance. Between 1929 and 1930 it was substantially remodelled by Sidney Myer as his family's residence. In 1932 additional land enabled the construction of a sunken formal garden, a front fence and gateway designed by Desbrowe Annear in an Italianate style. The decorative wrought iron gates incorporating the Myer shield were hand wrought by Caslake's, Melbourne's premier iron founders of the early twentieth century.



Central Park, Stawell (VHR H2284)

Central Park, Stawell is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria. It is the home of the Stawell Gift, Australia's oldest, richest and most prestigious short-distance footrace which began in the 1870s. The place comprises elaborate cast iron entrance gates supported by masonry pillars dating from the early 1900s which commemorates veterans of the Boer War. It leads to a grassed sports ground, grandstands and other structures.



Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Melbourne General Cemetery, North Carlton (VHR H1788)

The Melbourne General Cemetery (established 1853) is of historical, social, aesthetic and scientific significance to the State of Victoria. It is of architectural significance for the high quality of the buildings. It is of aesthetic importance due to the meticulous planning of architect Albert Purchas and botanist Baron Ferdinand von Mueller. The gate lodge stands next to the main entrance gateway. This lodge was re-constructed in 1934-35 from the materials of two demolished 1850s entrance buildings built in the western part of the cemetery. There is photographic evidence that the gate pillars date from the 1870s or earlier.



Gates that have been relocated to VHR or HO places

Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne (VHR H1459)

The Royal Botanic Gardens is of historical, aesthetic, scientific and social significance to the State of Victoria. It is also of architectural significance. One of the identified elements of significance are the Nareeb Gates (Gate D). The gates were originally built in England, and arrived in Australia, where they stood for over 60 years at Toorak's grand Nareeb Estate. Designed in the Italianate style, Nareeb was built in 1888 and demolished in the late 1960s. The Nareeb Gates were donated to the National Trust which gave them to the Gardens, and they were officially opened in 1967.



Former Royal Melbourne Hospital Gates, Springthorpe Reserve, Murrumbeena (HO133)

The former Royal Melbourne Hospital Gateway consists of tall Gothic Revival pillars and cast-iron gates. They have cultural significance as the last remnant of the Royal Melbourne Hospital, founded in 1846-48 and important as the City's first public hospital. They are of interest for their association with Dr Springthorpe and as an ornament in the Springthorpe Reserve, Murrumbeena. The gates are included in the HO, the reserve is not.



Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Former Fairlea Womens Prison, Yarra Bend Asylum (includes Asylum Gate Pillar, Remnant Trees) Yarra Bend Road Fairfield (VHR H1552)

The Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum was the first lunatic asylum in Victoria, which was opened in 1848. By 1927 the majority of the Asylum site was defined as a Public Reserve and most of the buildings demolished. All that remains above ground level is a bluestone gate pillar, which has been relocated to a site opposite the original entry to Fairlea and outside the original boundaries. The pillar probably dates from c.1860. It is a square block structure, approximately five metres high with a tapered plinth. It has a capital over rectangular corbels and a string course to all four faces.



Maddingley Park, Taverner Street, Bacchus Marsh, Moorabool Shire (HO163)

Maddingley Park, Bacchus Marsh, is of local historical significance for its association with social and sporting developments in community life and it has social significance as a meeting place as well as a landmark, illustrated on representative views including postcards. It has aesthetic significance to the town in revealing beauty in its plantings and elements and it has regional architectural significance as a relatively intact example of a surviving nineteenth and early twentieth century municipal garden. The Maddingley Park gates were originally located on the north east corner of Orrong and Balaclava Roads as gates to the Labassa mansion.



Former Eastern Market Gates, Altona Memorial Park, Dohertys Road Altona North, Hobsons Bay City (recommended for inclusion in the HO)

The Former Eastern Market Gates are significant as perhaps the only publicly surviving remnant of the famous Eastern Market of Melbourne. They are also of interest for their associations with the notable architectural firm of Reed & Barnes. Aesthetically, they are significant as fine examples of their style and type and provide an appropriate formal note to the entrance to the Memorial Gardens.



Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Internal recycling of gateways VHR places

Due to the practice of gate relocation and remodelling, it should be noted that some gateways which are currently part of places in the VHR may not be original to the place or in their original location.

Boroondara General Cemetery (VHR H0049)

The Boroondara (Kew) Cemetery is of architectural significance for the design of the gatehouse or sexton's lodge and cemetery office, built in stages from 1860 to 1899, the ornamental brick perimeter fence and elegant cemetery shelter to the design of prominent Melbourne architects, Charles Vickers, for the original 1860 cottage, and Albert Purchas, cemetery architect and secretary from 1864 to his death in 1907.

A photograph from 1906 provides evidence that the present-day entrance gateway differs to that from the early 1900s. The width of the original nineteenth-century gates was too narrow for construction vehicles undertaking works 1999-2000. New gates installed and the old gates were relocated within the cemetery.



Postcard (1906)
Source: Victorian Collections



Google Streetview (2020)

Summary of Comparisons

The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway is part of a twentieth-century tradition which has seen the relocation (recycling) of grand nineteenth-century gateways to new places. It displays a higher degree of design quality and craftsmanship than the Main Entrance Gates at the University of Melbourne. It compares well with the sandstone and wrought iron gates at Cranlana and those at Government House. The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway is one of a small number of grand gateways which remain in the state of which few are constructed of sandstone, most being of the more plentiful and durable bluestone readily available in Victoria.⁵ The Kew Gateway is impressive in its scale and ornamentation and demonstrates distinct decorative masonry elements which are fine and uncommon in comparison with extant gateways of the era.

⁵ Interview with stone mason Tom Carson, 3 September 2020.

Summary of cultural heritage significance (section 40(4)(a))

The ED recommends that the Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway be included in the VHR as a Registered Place.

Statement of significance

What is significant?

The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway including the sandstone arches, cast-iron fencing and bluestone pillars.

How is it significant?

The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

Criterion B

Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects

Why is it significant?

The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway is a rare example of a nineteenth-century gateway of monumental scale and ornate design, few of which remain in Victoria. Constructed by the Public Works Department in the early 1870s as part of Victoria's largest nineteenth-century mental hospital, this impressive sandstone and cast-iron gateway was moved to Victoria Park in 1942 evoking a sense of civic grandeur in its new location. [Criterion B]

The Former Kew Asylum Entrance Gateway is architecturally significant as a notable example of a nineteenth-century gateway. It displays a large number and range of design characteristics that are of a higher quality than other gateways from this era. The scale is monumental, and the arches are highly decorative and feature oculi, triglyphs, dentils, corbeling and other ornamental work. [Criterion D]

Categories of works or activities (permit exemptions) recommended under section 38 (section 40(4)(b))

Introduction

The purpose of this information is to assist owners and other interested parties when considering or making decisions regarding works to a registered place or object. It is recommended that any proposed works be discussed with an officer of Heritage Victoria prior to making a permit application. Discussing proposed works will assist in answering questions the owner may have and aid any decisions regarding works to the place or object.

It is acknowledged that alterations and other works may be required to keep places and objects in good repair and adapt them for use into the future. However, under the *Heritage Act 2017* **For places:** a person must not knowingly, recklessly or negligently remove, relocate or demolish, damage or despoil, develop or alter or excavate all or any part of any part of a registered place without approval. It should be noted that the definition of 'develop' in the Act includes any works on, over or under the place. **For objects:** a person must not knowingly, recklessly or negligently remove, relocate or demolish, damage or despoil, or alter a registered object, or disturb the position of a fixed object without approval.

If a person wishes to undertake works or activities in relation to a registered place or registered object, they must apply to the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria for a permit. The purpose of a permit is to enable appropriate change to a place or object and to effectively manage adverse impacts on the cultural heritage significance of a place or object as a consequence of change. If an owner is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that Heritage Victoria be contacted.

Permits are required for anything which alters the place or object, unless a permit exemption is granted. Permit exemptions usually cover routine maintenance and upkeep issues faced by owners as well as minor works or works to the elements of the place or object that are not significant. They may include appropriate works that are specified in a conservation management plan. Permit exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under section 38 of the Heritage Act) or after registration (under section 92 of the Heritage Act). It should be noted that the addition of new buildings to the registered place, as well as alterations to the interior and exterior of existing buildings requires a permit, unless a specific permit exemption is granted.

Disrepair of a registered place or object

Under section 152 of the Act, the owner of a registered place or registered object must not allow that place or object to fall into disrepair.

Failure to maintain registered place or registered object

Under section 153 of the Act, the owner of a registered place or registered object must not fail to maintain that place or object to the extent that its conservation is threatened.

Conservation management plans

It is recommended that a Conservation Management Plan is developed to manage the place in a manner which respects its cultural heritage significance.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

If works are proposed which have the potential to disturb or have an impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage it is necessary to contact Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain any requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

Statement of recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria to the Heritage Council of Victoria

Other approvals

Please be aware that approval from other authorities (such as local government) may be required to undertake works.

Archaeology

There is no identified archaeology of state level significance at the place.

Notes

- All works should ideally be informed by a Conservation Management Plan prepared for the place. The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan, and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.
- Nothing in this determination prevents the Heritage Council from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
- Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits where applicable.

General Conditions

- All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place.
- Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place are revealed which relate to the significance of the place then the exemption covering such works must cease and Heritage Victoria must be notified as soon as possible.

Specific Permit Exemptions

The following categories of works or activities (permit exemptions) do not require a permit from Heritage Victoria. They are considered not to cause harm to the cultural heritage significance of the place.

General

- Inspection, minor repairs and maintenance which replaces like with like. Repairs and maintenance must maximise protection and retention of significant fabric and include the conservation of existing details or elements. Any repairs and maintenance must not exacerbate the decay of fabric due to chemical incompatibility of new materials, obscure fabric or limit access to such fabric for future maintenance.
- Works or activities (including emergency stabilisation, erection of temporary security fencing, scaffolding, hoardings, signage or surveillance systems) necessary to secure safety in an emergency where a structure or part of a structure has been irreparably damaged or destabilised and poses a safety risk to its users or the public. The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria, must be notified within seven days of the commencement of these works or activities.
- Removal of biological growth in accordance with Heritage Council of NSW, *Treating Biological Growths on Historic Masonry*.
- Research and testing on any paint or other materials used to graffiti the place. This must be conducted by a conservator and only to the extent required to formulate a proposal to remove this graffiti.
- All repointing works on the gates must be done in accordance with *Heritage Victoria's Technical Codes: HTC 1 Lime Mortars for the Repair of Masonry and HTC 2 Repointing with Lime Mortars*.
- The later bluestone garden edging may be repointed with cement-based mortars providing the cement mortar is not used on the bluestone or sandstone of the gates.
- Minor repairs and maintenance of existing asphalt and cement paving, kerbs and channels which are generally undertaken to the same details, specifications and materials.

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Gardening, trees and plants

- The processes of gardening including mowing, pruning, mulching, fertilising, removal of dead or diseased plants, replanting of garden beds, disease and weed control and maintenance to care for plants without the use of herbicides.
- Removal of tree seedlings, suckers, environmental and noxious weeds without the use of herbicides.
- Management and maintenance of trees including formative and remedial pruning, removal of deadwood and pest and disease control.
- Emergency tree works to maintain public safety provided the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria is notified within seven days of the removal or works occurring.
- Subsurface works involving the installation, removal or replacement of drainage systems or other services provided there are no visible above ground elements.
- Installation of physical barriers or traps to enable vegetation protection and management of vermin such as rats, mice and possums.

Appendix 1

Heritage Council of Victoria determination (section 41)

The Heritage Council of Victoria is an independent statutory body that will make a determination on this recommendation under section 49 of the Act. It will consider the recommendation after a period of 60 days from the date the notice of recommendation is published on its website under section 41.

Making a submission to the Heritage Council (section 44)

Within the period of 60 days, any person or body with a real and substantial interest in the place or object may make a submission to the Heritage Council regarding the recommendation and request a hearing in relation to that submission. Information about making a submission and submission forms are available on the Heritage Council's website.

Consideration of submissions to the Heritage Council (section 46)

- (1) The Heritage Council must consider—
 - (a) any written submission made to it under section 44; and
 - (b) any further information provided to the Heritage Council in response to a request under section 45.
- (2) The Heritage Council must conduct a hearing in relation to a submission if—
 - (a) the submission includes a request for a hearing before the Heritage Council; and
 - (b) the submission is made by a person or body with a real or substantial interest in the place or object that is the subject of the submission.
- (3) Despite subsection (2), the Heritage Council may conduct a hearing in relation to a submission in any other circumstances the Heritage Council considers appropriate.

Determinations of the Heritage Council (section 49)

- (1) After considering a recommendation that a place or object should or should not be included in the Heritage Register and any submissions in respect of the recommendation and conducting any hearing into the submissions, the Heritage Council may—

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- (a) determine that the place or part of the place, or object, is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; or
 - (b) determine that the place or part of the place, or object, is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or
 - (c) in the case of a recommendation in respect of a place, determine that the place is not to be included in the Heritage Register but—
 - (i) refer the recommendation and any submissions to the relevant planning authority for consideration for an amendment to a planning scheme; or
 - (ii) determine that it is more appropriate for steps to be taken under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 or by any other means to protect or conserve the place; or
 - (d) in the case of a recommendation in respect of additional land which has been nominated to be included in the Heritage Register as part of a registered place in accordance with section 32, determine that the land be included in the Heritage Register if—
 - (i) the State-level cultural heritage significance of the place would be substantially less if the land or any part of the land which is or has been used in conjunction with the place were developed; or
 - (ii) the land surrounding the place is important to the protection or conservation of the place or contributes to the understanding of the place; or
 - (e) determine that the object is integral to understanding the cultural heritage significance of a registered place or a place the Heritage Council has determined to be included in the Heritage Register.
- (2) The Heritage Council must make a determination under subsection (1)—
 - (a) within 40 days after the date on which written submissions may be made under section 44; or
 - (b) if any hearing is conducted into the written submissions, within 90 days after the completion of the hearing.
 - (3) A determination that a place or part of a place, or object, should be included in the Heritage Register may include categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to the place or object for which a permit under this Act is not required, if the Heritage Council considers that the works or activities would not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place or object.
 - (4) If the Heritage Council determines to include a place in the Heritage Register, with the consent of the owner of the place, the Heritage Council may determine to include in the Heritage Register additional land of the owner that is ancillary to the place.
 - (5) If a member of the Heritage Council makes a submission under section 44 in respect of a recommendation, the member must not take part in the consideration or determination of the Heritage Council.
 - (6) The Heritage Council must notify the Executive Director of any determination under this section as soon as practicable after the determination.

Obligations of owners of places and objects (section 42)

- (1) The owner of a place or object to whom a statement of recommendation has been given must advise the Executive Director in writing of—
 - (a) any works or activities that are being carried out in relation to the place or object at the time the statement is given; and

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- (b) any application for a planning permit or a building permit, or for an amendment to that permit, that has been made in relation to the place but not determined at the time the statement is given; and
 - (c) any works or activities that are proposed to be carried out in relation to the place or object at the time the statement is given.
- (2) An advice under subsection (1) must be given within 10 days after the statement of recommendation is given under section 40.
- (3) The owner of a place to whom a statement of recommendation has been given must advise the Executive Director in writing of an application, permit or amendment if, before a determination under section 49 or 52 in respect of a place—
- (a) an application for a planning permit or a building permit or for an amendment to that permit in relation to the place is made; or
 - (b) a planning permit or building permit or an amendment to that permit in relation to the place is granted.
- (4) An advice under subsection (3) must be given within 10 days after the making of the application or the grant of the permit or amendment.
- (5) The owner of a place or object to whom a statement of recommendation has been given must advise the Executive Director in writing of the following activities or proposals if, before a determination is made under section 49 or 52 in respect of a place or object—
- (a) any activities are carried out in relation to the place or object that could harm the place or object;
 - (b) any activities are proposed to be carried out in relation to the place or object that could harm the place or object.
- (6) An advice under subsection (5) must be given within 10 days after the owner becomes aware of the activity or the proposal, as the case requires.
- (7) If, before a determination is made under section 49 or 52 in respect of a place or object, a proposal is made to dispose of the whole or any part of the place or object, the owner of the place or object must advise the Executive Director in writing of that proposal.
- (8) An advice under subsection (7) must be given at least 10 days before entering into the contract for the disposal of the place or object.
- (9) The owner of a place or object who proposes to dispose of the whole or any part of the place or object before a determination is made under section 49 or 52 in respect of the place or object must, before entering into a contract for that disposal, give a copy of the statement of proposed contract, is to acquire the place or object or part of the place or object.

Owners of places and objects must comply with obligations (section 43)

An owner of a place or object to whom section 42 applies must comply with that section.

Penalty: In the case of a natural person, 120 penalty units;
In the case of a body corporate, 240 penalty units.