

What is the Heritage List?

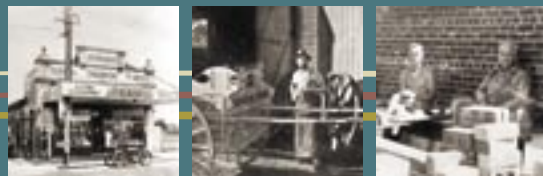
Heritage places come in all shapes and sizes and listing criteria varies between each level of government. For this reason, many agents, developers and property owners can get frustrated when they have to deal with more than one government authority when enquiring about heritage.

Many people refer to a "Heritage List" but the reality is that this term can mean many different things, and this causes confusion all too often.

The Federal government heritage organisation is called the Australian Heritage Council, and they maintain the National List (previously known as the Register of the National Estate) of places which are considered valuable to the whole of Australia.

The National Trust, an independent heritage organisation, also has a heritage list which results in places being "classified" and entered in the National Trust List of Classified Heritage Places. There is no additional statutory protection afforded to places classified by the National Trust.

The next tier in heritage listing is by the State government. The State government heritage organisation is called the Heritage Council of Western Australia and they have a heritage list called the Register of Heritage Places. This contains places which are valuable to the whole of Western Australia, and not just a local area. Registered places are protected under the provisions of the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990.



At the local government level, many Town Planning Schemes have a section which allows a Council to adopt a "Heritage List." This heritage list is clearly defined and can be a list of any places within the municipal boundary that the Council believes should be protected by standard planning control methods, allowed by the Town Planning Scheme. Places included in this heritage list can be commercial or residential, private or public, buildings or natural places, such as parks or trees.

The local Heritage List is usually prepared with reference to another local list, the Municipal Heritage Inventory, or the MHI for short. This is a document which every local government is required to adopt, maintain and review regularly. MHIs do not have regulatory status by themselves, however in the Town of Vincent the entire MHI is included in the Heritage List, as part of the Town Planning Scheme, and is therefore provided statutory protection.

The MHI is a valuable resource, for developers, home renovators, local historians, school groups and anyone wanting to get a picture of local history, and the places that help to tell this important story.

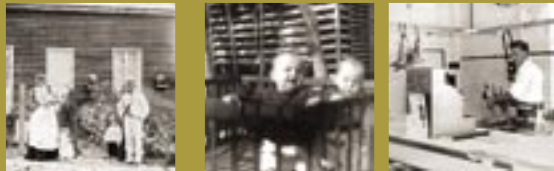
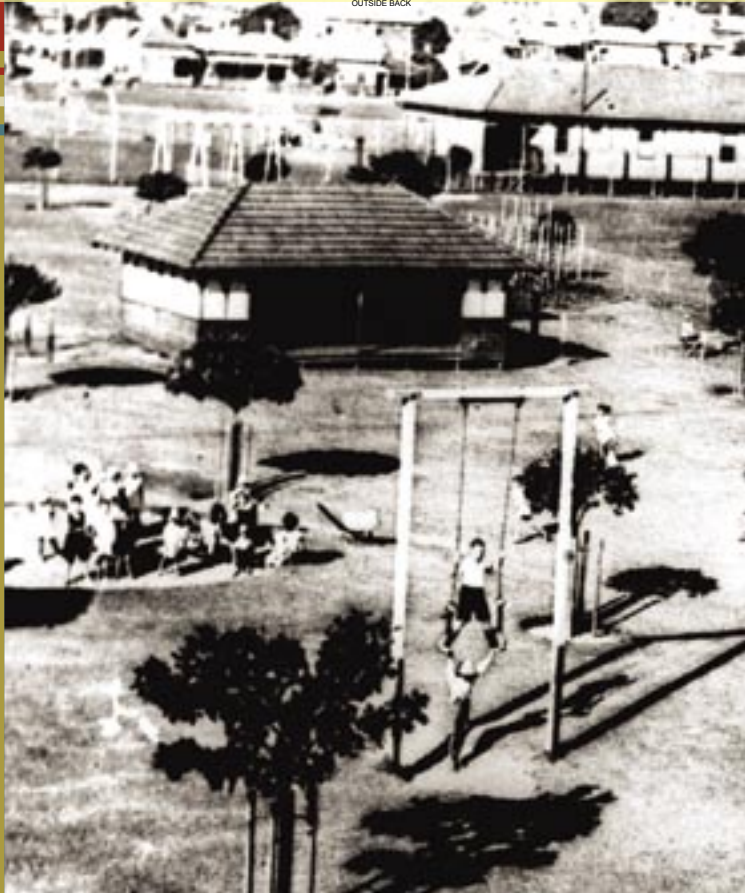
The MHI document itself is made up of three parts:

- 1 Historic Background (a mini-history of the local area),
- 2 Thematic Framework (the major themes which tell the story of the local area, such as the first installation of electricity, the creation of parks and reserves or a major event, such as the Commonwealth Games or World Wars), and
- 3 Place Data Forms (these are individual records of places which are included in the MHI and help tell the history of a local area - such as Beatty Park Aquatic Centre which was built for the Commonwealth games in 1962, or Anzac Cottage which was built for soldiers returning from World War One).

While the Historic Background and Thematic Framework are interesting and used extensively by the community, it is the Place Record Forms which "list" individual or groups of properties. Each Place Data Form contains some key information which helps explain what it is that makes the place special, or 'significant'. It usually contains a photograph of what the place looks like today and it also contains a description of where the place is located and sometimes who built it.

However, the key piece of information to look for when reading a Place Data Form is the 'Statement of Significance'. This is simply a description of why a place is considered to have heritage value. It may be because it is a unique example of a particular type of architecture, or it may be because the place is associated with an important person, organisation or event in history. As such, the Statement of Significance should easily summarise what is special about a place to warrant its inclusion in the Municipal Heritage Inventory.





The Statement of Significance leads us to one other important piece of information, which is particularly useful for property owners and developers if they want to understand what sort of changes may or may not be possible to a place which is included on the MHI. This piece of information is called the Management Category. These range from "Conservation Essential," applied to places of the highest possible significance, to which is applied to places where conservation is not appropriate for some reason, although an archival record of the place is necessary.

So as you can see there are a number of heritage lists relating to the different levels of local, state and national importance. The result is a pyramid effect - the larger base section containing heritage lists maintained by local government.

FEDERAL

"National List" also (National Trust "Classified List")

STATE

Heritage Council of Western Australia Register of Heritage Places

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Heritage List under the Town Planning Scheme and Municipal Heritage Inventory, which in the Town of Vincent is included in its entirety into the Heritage List, and provides information about the place.

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VINCENT HERITAGE
A FUTURE FOR OUR PAST

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TOWN OF VINCENT

