

Looking after Heritage Buildings

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Fact Sheet



Understand what makes a place significant

What physical features and/or intangible values give this place its meaning?

Protect what gives the place its meaning and identity

Respect and retain the values and features that make a place special.

Protect the heritage item's sense of place

Retain an item's sense of place and look after its setting, for example fences, walls, and landscaping. Keep it in its setting – moving a place diminishes or changes its values.

Avoid making new work look old

Don't create faux heritage. If you are thinking about reinstating fabric that has been lost, understand what used to be there and document that before reinstating that fabric.

Keep up with your maintenance

If you look after a heritage place you can avoid expensive and drastic repairs that result in the loss of original fabric.

Repair rather than replace

Only replace heritage fabric when it cannot be repaired. Where possible, repairs should be done in accordance with original techniques and using historical records. If you can't find any records, then repairs need to use methods that work with existing heritage fabric. It is best to identify large areas of repair with an unobtrusively located date stamp.

Choose a use that sits well with the heritage place

Where possible, existing, or ongoing uses of places should continue. If a place is to have a new use, choose a use that changes the place as little as possible.

Make additions and alterations identifiable

While alterations and additions should respect the original heritage item, they still need to be visually distinct or discernable as later additions.

Record before restoring or reconstructing

If you are intending to restore (re-use heritage fabric from the place to match the original form) or reconstruct (using new material to match the original form) heritage elements, there should be incontrovertible evidence of the original form such as photographs.

