30 August 2019

Kyle Everett Strategic Planner City of Yarra

via email: kyle.everett@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Dear Kyle

Former Sherrin Factory, 32 Wellington Street, Collingwood Peer Review

As requested, this letter provides a 'peer review' of the draft heritage citation prepared by Trethowan Architects (14 June 2019) for the former Sherrin Factory at 32 Wellington Street, Collingwood. The draft citation has found the former Sherrin Factory satisfies the threshold of local significance to the City of Yarra and recommends its inclusion within the Heritage Overlay (HO).

The purpose of this peer review is to:

- Review the draft citation and provide my professional opinion whether the place meets the threshold for individual significance to the City of Yarra on the basis of the information and analysis contained within it, and
- Having regard to the above, identify amendments to the citation and statement of significance (if any).

This peer review comprises:

- An explanation of my methodology (section 1)
- ► A discussion of previous heritage assessments (section 2)
- ► The review of the draft citation (section 3)
- My conclusions and recommendations (section 4)

1. Methodology

In undertaking this peer review I have:

- Reviewed the citation prepared by Trethowan Architecture (draft, dated 14 June 2019).
- Reviewed the determination made on 26 April 2019 by the Heritage Council Registrations and Reviews Committee in relation to the nomination of the former Sherrin Factory to the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR).
- Reviewed the lists of heritage places identified by previous heritage studies in the City of Yarra (and former City of Collingwood).
- ► Reviewed relevant Planning Panel decisions.

Considered Planning Practice Note 1: Applying the heritage overlay (PPN1) and The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines (2019). Although the latter guidelines are intended for places nominated to the VHR, I believe they provide useful guidance for assessing places of local significance.

A site inspection was not made. I have relied on the recent (2019) images contained within the draft citation.

2. Previous heritage assessments

The former Sherrin Factory is not included in the HO, and is not included on any other heritage register or list.

As far as I can ascertain, the former Sherrin Factory has not been identified in any previous heritage studies prepared by the City of Yarra, or the former City of Collingwood. This includes the *Collingwood Conservation Study* (1989, 1995), the *Yarra Heritage Review* (1995) and the various 'Gaps' study carried out from 2004 to 2012 by Graeme Butler or Lovell Chen.

The former Sherrin Factory has been nominated for inclusion on the VHR. On 10 January 2019, the Executive Director recommended that the place <u>not</u> be included on the VHR, and further recommended that the Heritage Council consider referring the recommendation to the City of Yarra for inclusion in the HO.

After considering the Executive Director's recommendation, the Registrations and Reviews Committee of the Heritage Council determined on 26 April 2019 that the former Sherrin Factory is not of cultural significance to the State of Victoria and should not be included on the VHR. The Committee also determined to refer the Executive Director's recommendation to Yarra City Council for consideration of inclusion of the place in the HO.

However, in making this decision the Committee noted that its consideration was 'hampered due to the lack of relevant sites for comparison' and also raised questions about the Executive Director's assessment against Criterion A, Criterion B, Criterion G and Criterion H.

A copy of the Committee decision is attached. Of note is Paragraph 027 where the Committee qualifies that the decision not to include the former Sherrin Factory on the VHR was made 'based on the evidence before it'. Specifically, the Committee found it was 'not convinced' by the recommendations and findings of the Executive Director in relation to Criteria A, G & H and the discussion indicates that the former Sherrin Factory *may* have been worthy of inclusion on the Register under one or more of these criterion if more extensive investigation had been carried out. For example:

09. The Committee was not convinced by the Executive Director's argument that the form and fabric of the Place does not demonstrate the historical use. The current building is readable as a small-scale factory and, with relevant historical documentation, the Place may demonstrate its historical association. A c1950s photograph of the interior of the Former Factory suggests production activity more akin to a cottage industry around a work bench than a larger-scale industrial process discernible in any significant or bespoke built form.

010. If, as is acknowledged in the Executive Director's recommendation, the Sherrin football has historic value, then it would follow that the site where it was developed and manufactured over a significant period of time may be worthy of inclusion in the Register.

011. If, as tentative additional evidence suggests, the Sherrin cricket ball has historic value (including its possible use in the famous 1930s bodyline series), then it would also follow that the site where it was developed and manufactured over a significant period of time may be worthy of inclusion in the Register.

. . .

020. The Committee was not convinced by the argument put forward by the Executive Director in his recommendation that there is no evidence of a direct association between the Place and a community or cultural group. It is the Committee's view that an absence of evidence without clear methodological reference or discussion is not sufficient to state that the Place is not of cultural heritage significance.

021. The Committee is of the view that further investigation is warranted into the social significance of the Place to the current day Australian rules football and perhaps cricketing communities. It is acknowledged that, at times, establishing a link between a community and a place is difficult, but the Committee believes that in some cases, such as this, further testing is warranted.

. . .

023. The Committee was not convinced by the Executive Director's argument that the Place does not satisfy Criterion H. The Executive Director stated that there is no direct association between TW Sherrin and the current building as a result of changes in the physical fabric. It is acknowledged, however, that historical resources exist which illustrate this association. TW Sherrin and his nephew Syd Sherrin are key figures in the genesis and development of the games of football and cricket, and through their industrial skills had a formative influence particularly on the game of football in Victoria and nationally. This association is evident through the documentary evidence and is both enduring and close.

Discussion

The issue of the lack of identification or assessment of a place in a previous heritage study has been discussed in some Panel reports. For example, submissions to Amendments C157 & C163 to the Yarra Planning Scheme pointed out that some places proposed for the HO had not been identified in previous heritage studies and therefore could not have the heritage significance attributed to them and also queried the legitimacy of 'gaps' studies. The Panel appointed to consider submissions found that 'gaps' studies are legitimate, indeed necessary, to address areas or themes not previously studied in detail and to reconsider other places as required (see pp.28-29 of the C157 & C163 Panel report).

The findings of the Heritage Council Committee in relation to Criteria A, G & H are of note, as they indicate the former Sherrin Factory may satisfy these criteria, possibly at the State level, subject to further investigation. The determination also indicates the former Sherrin Factory may be of significance at the local level.

3. Review of Trethowan citation

PPN1 instructs that places to be included in the HO can include (amongst other things) 'Places identified in a local heritage study, provided the significance of the place can be shown to justify the application of the overlay'. It goes on to explain:

The heritage process leading to the identification of the place needs to clearly justify the significance of the place as a basis for its inclusion in the Heritage Overlay. The documentation for each place shall include a statement of significance that clearly establishes the importance of the place and addresses the heritage criteria.

The thresholds to be applied in the assessment of significance shall be 'State Significance' and 'Local Significance'. 'Local Significance' includes those places that are important to a particular community or locality. Letter gradings (for example, "A', "B', "C') should not be used.

In order to apply a threshold, some comparative analysis will be required to substantiate the significance of each place. The comparative analysis should draw on other similar places within the study area, including those that have previously been included in a heritage register or overlay.

The Heritage Victoria Model Consultants Brief for Heritage Studies further directs that:

The Heritage Gap Study is to be prepared in accordance with the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, 1999 and its Guidelines. All terminology shall be consistent with the Burra Charter.

The values to be used in the identification and assessment of places are historic, scientific, aesthetic, social and spiritual values (as articulated in the Burra Charter). Where a place of potential cultural heritage significance is identified, a coherent and coordinated assessment against the HERCON criteria is required. Thresholds applied in the assessment of places shall include 'State Significance' and 'Local Significance'. Local significance includes those places that are important to a particular community or locality.

The draft citation complies with PPN1. It includes a history, description, comparative analysis, assessment against Hercon criteria, statement of significance and recommendations. Specific comments for each section are provided below.

History and description

The history is well-researched and detailed. In the context of industrial history of Collingwood it clearly establishes the connection of the factory to the development of boot and leather-related business within the area. The history also establishes the strong/special connections between the Sherrin family and the Collingwood Football Club, and also with community life in Collingwood. The important role of the Sherrin family and their products with the development of Australia Rules Football is also evident. The Sherrin Football became the 'standard' in the sport from the early twentieth century, and continued to provide the benchmark well into the twentieth century.

The historic images reproduced in the report provide evidence of how the 'small scale and artisanal method of making leather sports goods chiefly by hand continued until the time of the factory's closure in 1983. A 1983 image of the factory also demonstrates that, apart from removal of paint, few visible changes have been made to the façade since then - that is, the façade appears to retain a high degree of integrity to the time when it was still used as the Sherrin Factory.

Comparative analysis

The comparative analysis demonstrates the factory in terms of its integrity and detailing compares with similar small-scale early twentieth factories in the City of Yarra. As a type, these buildings were usually constructed of brick and often simply detailed, with shaped and rendered parapets being the most distinctive feature.

It also highlights the historic and social importance of the Collingwood Football Club through the inclusion of the Victoria Park Football Club on the VHR.

Application of Hercon criteria

I agree the former Sherrin Factory does not satisfy Criterion B, Criterion C, Criterion E, or Criterion F at the local level. I also agree that, given the use ceased in 1983, the potential social values of the place are best understood in the context of the historic and associative importance of the Sherrin family.

I agree that Criterion A¹ and Criterion H are satisfied at the local level for the reasons discussed in the citation. Primarily, this is because of the special associations of the factory with the Sherrin family.

However, I question the application of Criterion D, which is:

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness)

While the building is certainly representative of the class of small-scale factories that proliferated in Collingwood (and throughout inner-city Melbourne) during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century I am not convinced that this criterion is satisfied at the local level. The analysis included in the citation states:

The building is significant as an example of a small artisanal workshop that produced goods largely by hand. While other significant manufactories demonstrate a large industrial scale, the former T.W. Sherrin Factory is notable for its small scale, presenting a single small frontage to the street. The building is distinctive for its modest workshop scale when compared to other larger surviving industrial premises in the municipality.

I agree a distinction can be made between larger scale and small-scale factories as representing a different 'class' of industrial places, as a basis for comparative analysis and assessment of significance. The Heritage Victoria inclusion guidelines provides the following definition for 'Class':

Class (in relation to a class of cultural place): generally refers to a sub-category of a broad place type, such as 'WWI memorials' (within the broad 'war memorials' place type) or 'grammar schools' (within the broad 'schools' place type). A class is generally defined by a specific purpose or use, era, design characteristic, construction technique, materials used or some other recognisable quality. <u>A class should be readily discernible</u>

¹ Note: the final sentence in the discussion under 'Criterion A' on p.21 essentially repeats the previous sentence (and is not repeated in the statement of significance) and could be modified or deleted.

as a sub-category of a broad place type and should not be narrowed by multiple qualifiers (for example, timber constructed, Edwardian era, rural theatres). (my emphasis added)

On this basis, I question whether it is appropriate to further distinguish between small factories that produced goods by hand and those that used machines, particularly when this difference is not demonstrated by the external fabric.

I believe the application of Criterion A, which in the citation describes the importance of the building as 'As a small workshop producing goods chiefly by manual labour, the factory is an important reminder of the role played by small artisan and family enterprises that flourished in the nineteenth century in Collingwood ...' is sufficient expression of this aspect of the history of the place.

Having said this, I acknowledge that the application of Criterion D is a matter of professional interpretation. If Criterion D is to be retained, then I believe further discussion/analysis is required to clearly establish what distinguishes the Sherrin Factory as a separate 'class' of place.

Statement of significance

Having regard to the preceding discussion, I believe the inclusion of the statement in relation to Criterion D should be reviewed. Other potential changes having regard to PPN1 are:

- The sentence under 'What is significant' could specify that it is the c.1915 building that is significant and delete 'and site'. Also, 'Collingwood' should be added to the address.
- ▶ Under 'How is it significant', the specific values could be cited, as follows:

'The Former T.W. Sherrin Factory is of *historic and associative significance* to the City of Yarra.'

 Create a separate statement of significance suitable for incorporation in the Yarra Planning Scheme using the template in PPN1.

Recommendations

The place is recommended for inclusion in the HO. No specific controls (e.g., external paint, interiors etc.) are recommended.

In relation to places of significance for historical or social reasons PPN1 advises:

Planning is about managing the environment and its changes. An appropriate test for a potential heritage place to pass in order to apply the Heritage Overlay is that it has 'something' to be managed. This 'something' is usually tangible but it may, for example, be an absence of built form or the presence of some other special characteristic. If such things are present, there will be something to manage and the Heritage Overlay may be applied.

If not, a commemorative plaque is an appropriate way of signifying the importance of the place to the local community.

However, given the very strong historic and associative significance of this place at the local level I believe the application of the HO is appropriate. In this regard I note the comments made by the Heritage Council Committee cited above, which include:

The current building is readable as a small-scale factory and, with relevant historical documentation, the Place may demonstrate its historical association.

It is acknowledged, however, that historical resources exist which illustrate this association. TW Sherrin and his nephew Syd Sherrin are key figures in the genesis and development of the games of football and cricket, and through their industrial skills had a formative influence particularly on the game of football in Victoria and nationally. This association is evident through the documentary evidence and is both enduring and close.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

Having regard to the above, my conclusions and recommendations may be summarised as:

- The former Sherrin Factory is of local significance to the City of Yarra. It satisfies Criterion A and Criterion H at the local level, and I believe this provides sufficient justification to include it in the HO as an individual place.
- I question whether the former Sherrin Factory satisfies Criterion D at the local level and believe the application of this criterion should be reviewed.
- In accordance with PPN1, I suggest making the following changes to the statement of significance
 - The sentence under 'What is significant' could specify that it is the c.1915 building that is significant and delete 'and site'. Also, 'Collingwood' should be added to the address.
 - Under 'How is it significant', the specific values could be cited, as follows:

'The Former T.W. Sherrin Factory is of *historic and associative significance* to the City of Yarra.'

• Create a separate statement of significance suitable for incorporation in the Planning Scheme using the template in PPN1.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require further information.

Kind regards

Dueron.

David Helms



Heritage Council Registrations and Reviews Committee

Former Factory, Office and Residence of TW Sherrin

32-34 Wellington Street, Collingwood, Yarra City Council

DETERMINATION OF THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

After considering the Executive Director's recommendation, pursuant to Section 49(1)(b) of the *Heritage Act 2017*, the Registrations and Reviews Committee has determined that the Former Factory, Office and Residence of TW Sherrin is not of cultural heritage significance to the State of Victoria and is not to be included in the Victorian Heritage Register. The Committee has also determined to refer the Executive Director's recommendation to Yarra City Council for consideration of inclusion of the place in the Heritage Overlay of the Yarra Planning Scheme, pursuant to Section 49(1)(c)(i) of the *Heritage Act 2017*. This decision was reached having considered the assessment against the Heritage Council's criteria and information included in the Executive Director's statement of recommendation. The Heritage Council's reasons for determining that the place is not of cultural heritage significance at the State level are outlined below.

Prof Andrew May (Chair) Mr Rueben Berg Mr Paul Coffey

Decision Date - 26 April 2019

INTRODUCTION

THE PLACE

- **01.** The Former Factory, Office and Residence of TW Sherrin (the Place) is a small, single-storey brick building with simple gabled-roof. The building's unadorned Edwardian style façade displays a curved rendered parapet, contrasting vertical brick strips, frameless openings, banks of windows and recessed horizontal brick panels.
- **02.** The following background information is taken from page 3 of the Executive Director's recommendation for the Place (the Recommendation):

"WHAT IS AT THE PLACE?

The Former Factory, Office and Residence of TW Sherrin, 32-34 Wellington Street, Collingwood is a small single-storey brick industrial building of simple gabled-roof form. The asymmetrical front façade of the building is in an unadorned Edwardian style with rendered curved parapet, contrasting vertical brick strips (overpainted), frameless openings, banks of windows and recessed horizontal brick panels. The simple interior of the building has exposed timber trusses and later partitioning and skylights.

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE PLACE?

The Former Factory, Office and Residence of TW Sherrin, 32-34 Wellington Street, Collingwood was used by TW Sherrin to produce leather sporting goods from 1894 until his death in 1912. Sherrin lived at the premises during this period. The business was continued by generations of the Sherrin family until closure of the factory in 1982. Sherrin first occupied an existing timber shop on the site, however this was rebuilt after fire destroyed the building in 1915. A second fire caused damage to the rebuilt factory building in 1928.

The Sherrin brand became well-known due to its association with Australian Rules Football from the late nineteenth century to the present day and large numbers of footballs were produced at the factory in Collingwood over a period of eighty years. The Sherrin football became the official ball of the Victorian Football League when it was formed in 1897 and the Australian Football League when it was formed in 1990. Despite the sale of the business to American-owned company Spalding in 1969, Sherrin-branded footballs were produced at the Collingwood factory until closure in 1982. After closure, the Collingwood property was sold by the Sherrin family and the building has since been used for a number of purposes, including as manufacturing premises and an art gallery.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

03. On 10 January 2019, the Executive Director recommended that the Place not be included in the Victorian Heritage Register (the Register) under section 37(1)(b) of the *Heritage Act 2017* (the Act). The Executive Director further recommended that the Heritage Council consider exercising its powers under section 49(1)(c) of the Act to refer the Recommendation to the relevant planning authority for inclusion of the Place in the Heritage Overlay. The Recommendation was advertised for 60 days.

REFERAL PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(3)

04. At a meeting of the Heritage Council (the Council) on 4 April 2019, it was determined, in accordance with section 15(3) of the Act, that the Recommendation

be referred to the Registrations and Reviews Committee to make a determination pursuant to section 49 of the Act, as delegated in the *Instrument of Delegation*.

MEETING OF THE REGISTRATIONS AND REVIEWS COMMITTEE

05. A meeting of the Registrations and Reviews Committee (the Committee) was held on 8 April 2019. The section below outlines the discussion of the Committee.

ISSUES

06. The Committee raised questions about the Executive Director's assessment against Criterion A, Criterion B, Criterion G and Criterion H in the Recommendation and the use of comparison sites.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES

Criterion A

- **07.** The Committee is not convinced by the recommendation of the Executive Director in relation to his assessment of Criterion A. The Committee is of the view that an assessment against the development of Australian rules football, as a movement that is of importance to the course of Victoria's cultural history, is required. The Executive Director's assessment of the Place in relation to 'the sporting industry' is broad and does not address the importance of Australian rules football to the history of Victoria.
- **08.** In addition to an assessment against the development of Australian rules football, it is the Committee's view that more extensive investigation is warranted on the ability of the site to demonstrate small-scale manufacturing of iconic sporting equipment. The manufacture of sporting equipment by the Sherrin family was internationally recognised and a more fulsome investigation of this is necessary, including their manufacture of internationally-recognised boxing and cricket equipment.
- **09.** The Committee was not convinced by the Executive Director's argument that the form and fabric of the Place does not demonstrate the historical use. The current building is readable as a small-scale factory and, with relevant historical documentation, the Place may demonstrate its historical association. A c1950s photograph of the interior of the Former Factory suggests production activity more akin to a cottage industry around a work bench than a larger-scale industrial process discernible in any significant or bespoke built form.
- **010.** If, as is acknowledged in the Executive Director's recommendation, the Sherrin football has historic value, then it would follow that the site where it was developed and manufactured over a significant period of time may be worthy of inclusion in the Register.
- **011.** If, as tentative additional evidence suggests, the Sherrin cricket ball has historic value (including its possible use in the famous 1930s bodyline series), then it would also follow that the site where it was developed and manufactured over a significant period of time may be worthy of inclusion in the Register.
- **012.** The Committee is of the view that, due to a lack of evidence in the Recommendation, the Place does not meet the threshold for inclusion in the Register under Criterion A at this time.

Criterion B

- **013.** The Committee accepts the Executive Director's view that the Place is not rare as a site with a demonstrated association with the sporting industry. However, the Committee would again have liked to have seen an assessment of the site for its association with the development of Australian rules football and cricket, and/or as a small-scale manufacturer of an iconic Victorian and Australian product. The development of both Australian rules football and cricket is integral to the Victorian identity and this Place has been identified as the original and preeminent site of manufacture of the equipment at the center of these games. An assessment which more completely considers the historical documentation with the remaining fabric would have been of assistance to the Committee.
- **014.**The Committee is of the view that the comparison against sports stadiums is not adequate. If it is the case that other, more appropriate, comparative sites cannot be identified then this of itself may provide evidence of rarity.
- **015.**The Committee is of the view that, based on the information before it, the Place does not meet the threshold for inclusion in the Register under Criterion B at this time.

Criterion C

016.The Committee agrees with the recommendation of the Executive Director and finds that the Place does not meet the threshold for inclusion in the Register under Criterion C.

Criterion D

017. The Committee agrees with the recommendation of the Executive Director and finds that the Place does not meet the threshold for inclusion in the Register under Criterion D.

Criterion E

018. The Committee agrees with the recommendation of the Executive Director and finds that the Place does not meet the threshold for inclusion in the Register under Criterion E.

Criterion F

019. The Committee agrees with the recommendation of the Executive Director and finds that the Place does not meet the threshold for inclusion in the Register under Criterion F.

Criterion G

020. The Committee was not convinced by the argument put forward by the Executive Director in his recommendation that there is no evidence of a direct association between the Place and a community or cultural group. It is the Committee's view

that an absence of evidence without clear methodological reference or discussion is not sufficient to state that the Place is not of cultural heritage significance.

- **021.** The Committee is of the view that further investigation is warranted into the social significance of the Place to the current day Australian rules football and perhaps cricketing communities. It is acknowledged that, at times, establishing a link between a community and a place is difficult, but the Committee believes that in some cases, such as this, further testing is warranted.
- **022.**Notwithstanding the comments above, the Committee is of the view that, due to a lack of evidence, the Place does not meet the threshold for inclusion in the Register under Criterion G at this time.

Criterion H

- **023.** The Committee was not convinced by the Executive Director's argument that the Place does not satisfy Criterion H. The Executive Director stated that there is no direct association between TW Sherrin and the current building as a result of changes in the physical fabric. It is acknowledged, however, that historical resources exist which illustrate this association. TW Sherrin and his nephew Syd Sherrin are key figures in the genesis and development of the games of football and cricket, and through their industrial skills had a formative influence particularly on the game of football in Victoria and nationally. This association is evident through the documentary evidence and is both enduring and close.
- **024.** It is the Committee's view that a more fulsome investigation of the contribution of TW Sherrin and the Sherrin family to the history of both the sporting goods industry, and more specifically the development of Australian rules football in Victoria, should be undertaken.
- **025.** The Committee is of the view that there is not enough evidence in the current assessment to determine State level significance, therefore the Committee has determined that the Place does not meet the threshold for inclusion in the Register under Criterion H at this time.

Comparisons

026. The Committee is of the view that its consideration of the Place for inclusion in the Register was hampered due to a lack of relevant sites for comparison. In the Recommendation, the Executive Director compared the Place to other sites associated with Australian rules football such as sporting grounds or grandstands. While comparison with Australian rules football facilities is relevant, the Committee would have been assisted if the Recommendation had also provided examples of other sites related to small-scale manufacturing, particularly those with associations with iconic Victorian (and Australian) products, and sites associated with the manufacture and development of sporting equipment.

CONCLUSION

027. After considering the Executive Director's recommendation, pursuant to Section 49(1)(b) of the *Heritage Act 2017*, the Committee has determined that, based on the evidence before it, the Former Factory, Office and Residence of TW Sherrin is not of cultural heritage significance to the State of Victoria and is not to be included

in the Victorian Heritage Register. The Committee has determined to refer the Executive Director's recommendation to Yarra City Council for consideration of inclusion of the Place in the Heritage Overlay of the Yarra Planning Scheme pursuant to section 49(1)(c)(i) of the *Heritage Act 2017*.



ATTACHMENT 1

HERITAGE COUNCIL CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT OF PLACES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGIFICANCE

CRITERION A	Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural
CRITERION A	history
CRITERION B	Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.
CRITERION C	Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.
CRITERION D	Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places or environments.
CRITERION E	Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.
CRITERION F	Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.
CRITERION G	Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions.
CRITERION H	Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.

These were adopted by the Heritage Council at its meeting on 7 August 2008, and replace the previous criteria adopted by the Heritage Council on 6 March 1997.