

THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (NEW SOUTH WALES) POLICY ON THE NATIONAL TRUST REGISTER

PREAMBLE

As a community heritage conservation organisation, the National Trust acts to recognise heritage and promote heritage conservation through publicity, lobbying and representations which are based on the identified heritage significance of a place listed on the National Trust Register. The National Trust Register of places of heritage significance was commenced in 1946 at the request of the NSW Government and was the first Register of Heritage Places in Australia. The Register now contains more than 11,600 listed places in New South Wales and the Trust continues this listing role.

The Trust Register is a valuable information and educational resource.

Trust Register Listings are intended to recognise and promote the heritage significance of places, with a view to encouraging conservation, adaptive re-use and development which is sympathetic to the values identified. Listing nominations are received from owners of properties, individual community members or groups such as Historical Societies or churches. They may also be proposed by the Trust Conservation Committees themselves on their own initiative. Those Committees appointed by the Board of the National Trust are the Built Heritage Conservation Committee, the Landscape Heritage Conservation Committee, the Industrial Heritage Committee and the Cemeteries Conservation Committee.

Following an initial appraisal, the relevant Committee will determine whether to proceed with the preparation of a draft Listing Proposal based on a preliminary assessment of the heritage significance of the place or item nominated. Draft Listings may be referred to several Committees, where additional expertise may be available to expand and develop listing proposals. The Committee or Committees will then review listing proposals to determine whether to recommend to the National Trust Board that they be listed on the National Trust Register.

Property owners generally support National Trust Register Listings because they give esteem and recognition to a property and may assist in gaining grant monies and, in some cases, tax-deductibility for conservation work. They are non-statutory and place no restrictions on an owner.

Trust Register Listings may be amended or even removed from the Trust Register if they are shown to be factually incorrect and their Statements of Significance unsupportable. The Trust welcomes any information in this regard.

POLICY

1. The National Trust Register will continue to be an important cornerstone for the Trust's advocacy to promote heritage recognition, protective legislation and the maintenance and sensitive continuing use and adaptive re-use of NSW heritage. The National Trust will continue to produce and maintain Trust Register listings as a key part of its conservation advocacy.
2. The Trust Register listing process for determination of the heritage significance of a place will be based on historical research, assessment of physical evidence and appreciation of the community's links with that place. Consideration of how a place should be managed will not form part of the significance assessment.
3. Proposals to "de-list" places on the National Trust Register will only be accepted on heritage significance grounds and where the original historical research, physical evidence assessment and/or communities' links to the place are proven to be incorrect. If a de-listing proposal is accepted, the relevant Conservation Committee(s) will consider the matter and make recommendations to the National Trust Board.
4. Places listed on the Trust Register that are demolished or destroyed will remain on the Trust Register for historical record purposes and will be marked "demolished", "destroyed", etc as appropriate.

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