

Heritage Council Determination

Determination date	3 April 2025
Place name	St Kilda Public Library
Location	150 Carlisle Street, St Kilda, Port Phillip City, Bunurong Country
VHR number	H2456
Category	Registered Place and Registered Objects Integral to a Registered Place
Relevant legislative provision/s	Inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register, pursuant to section 49(1)(a) and 49(1)(ca) of the <i>Heritage Act 2017</i>

Determination of the Heritage Council

The Heritage Council of Victoria determined on 3 April 2025, in accordance with section 49(1)(a) and 49(1)(ca) of the *Heritage Act 2017*, that the St Kilda Public Library is to be included in the Victorian Heritage Register in the categories of Registered Place and Registered Objects Integral to a Registered Place.

The Heritage Council also determined:

- categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to the place for which a permit is not required (specific permit exemptions), that would not harm the cultural heritage significance of the Place, pursuant to section 49(3)(a) of the *Heritage Act 2017*.
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The Place

Description

Extracted from the Executive Director's Recommendation, for information only.

The St Kilda Public Library is located on Carlisle Street in St Kilda, near the intersection of Carlisle Street and St Kilda Road, on Bunurong Country. It occupies a large flat site on the north side of Carlisle Street, on an allotment that extends north to Duke Street.

The Library is a large, single-storey building with a basement that comprises the original library (1972), built to an Lshaped plan, plus a later addition (1993). The original section is distinguished by its battered (inwardly sloping) concrete walls, which are realised in off-form concrete to the Carlisle Street elevation and concrete blockwork on the sides and rear of the building. The roof is largely flat but features deep projecting eaves, large fascias of red cedar boards and timberlined soffits. A projecting pyramid-shaped skylight indicates the location of the former entrance of the original building. All elevations feature a continuous row of narrow, rectangular windows below the eaves line. There are also distinctive polygonal window and door openings. The 1993 addition occupies what was the courtyard of the original building. It includes a curved feature in polished concrete that resembles an open book and identifies the location of the current entrance to the library. The remainder of the addition comprises tinted glass panels in steel frames that echo the narrow, rectangular windows of the original building.

The main public entrance to the library is off Carlisle Street via a lobby that is part of the 1993 addition to the far east of the site. Internally, the lobby has a polished concrete floor, panelled ceiling with green motifs and plywood cladding which reflects some of the shapes used in the original building. The lobby leads to a loans desk area which occupies the remainder of the 1993 addition. A large, open-plan reading room in the 1972 section occupies the rest of the publicly accessible space. The interior of the original building has exposed off-form concrete walls, timber-lined ceilings and large square light boxes. A cluster of colourful, plastic pendant lights hangs above the children's area. A mural by Mirka Mora (1980) occupies a space on the western wall of the public reading room. The staff area comprises open-plan work areas and several smaller offices.

There is original furniture throughout the building, including quite a number of desks and tables. There are courtyards to both the east and west elevations. The landscape treatment of the Carlisle Street frontage consists of low concrete walls, steps, ramps and paving. The landscaping on the Duke Street side of the building includes lawn and plantings of native species. A basement car park can be accessed via a ramp from the Duke Street side of the building and via internal stairs. A pedestrian thoroughfare along the eastern side of the building links Carlisle Street and Duke Street.

Executive Director's Recommendation

On 13 January 2025 the Executive Director made a Recommendation ('the Recommendation') to the Heritage Council that the St Kilda Public Library ('the Place') is of State-level cultural heritage significance and should be included in the Victorian Heritage Register ('VHR'). The Recommendation was advertised publicly for a period of 60 days, beginning on 17 January 2025.

Section 44 submissions

During the 60-day public advertisement period, one submission was received pursuant to section 44 of the *Heritage Act 2017*. The submission did not request that a hearing be conducted. The submission is summarised below:

- The submitter supported the recommendation to include the Place, but queried elements of the Executive Director's Recommendation and suggested changes to the Statement of Significance.
- The submitter queried the significance of the later 1993 addition to the St Kilda Public Library, noting that the additional building resulted in change to the original library building suggesting

that such alterations changed the external appearance of the library substantially. The submitter suggested that the additional building may include more elements of significance than those recommended by the Executive Director.

- The submission also suggested that the Place has aesthetic value under Criterion E as its aesthetic characteristics are 'beyond the ordinary'.

Heritage Council's findings

State-level cultural heritage significance of the Place

The Heritage Council's findings accord with the Executive Director's Recommendation. The Heritage Council finds that the Place is an important example of a municipal public library from the post-1950 period. The Heritage Council finds that the Place is an important addition to the VHR as the work of eminent Italian-born, Canberra-based architect Enrico Taglietti. The Heritage Council considered the submission received pursuant to section 44 of the Act but ultimately determined that Criterion E was not met at a State-level and that the Place should be included only under Criterion D.

The Heritage Council determines that the Place meets the following of the Heritage Council's Criteria for Assessment (**Attachment 1**) at a State-level:

- **Criterion D** – Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

Objects Integral to the Place

The Heritage Council also determined that the objects recommended are integral to the Place and should be included in the VHR as Registered Objects Integral to a Registered Place pursuant to section 49(1)(ca) of the Act. The Heritage Council determined that the objects satisfy the tests established in the Heritage Council's Policy: *Objects Integral to a Registered Place* as the objects were part of Enrico Taglietti's vision for the Place and date from the building's completion. The original furniture and Mirka Mora mural contribute to a richer and more complete understanding of the Place.

The Heritage Council notes the inventory of fixed and non-fixed objects integral to the Place that will be held by the Executive Director.

Extent of Registration (**Attachment 2**)

The Extent of Registration is provided as **Attachment 2** and includes all of the place shown hatched on diagram 2456.

Everything included in the proposed extent of registration including all of the land, all soft and hard landscape features, plantings, all of the building (exterior, interior and fixtures), and objects integral to the understanding of the cultural heritage significance of the place is included in the VHR. A permit or permit exemption from Heritage Victoria is required for any works within the extent of registration, apart from those identified in the categories of works or activities in this determination.

Permit exemptions (**Attachment 3**)

The Heritage Council determined specific permit exemptions for works or activities which would not harm the cultural heritage significance of the Place.

The permit exemptions are provided as **Attachment 2**.

Conclusion

The Heritage Council of Victoria determined on 3 April 2025 in accordance with section 49(1)(a) of the *Heritage Act 2017*, that the St Kilda Public Library is to be included in the Victorian Heritage Register in the categories of Registered Place and Registered Objects Integral to a Registered Place.



Professor Philip Goad
Chair, Heritage Council of Victoria

Attachment 1

Heritage Council criteria for assessment of places and objects of cultural heritage significance

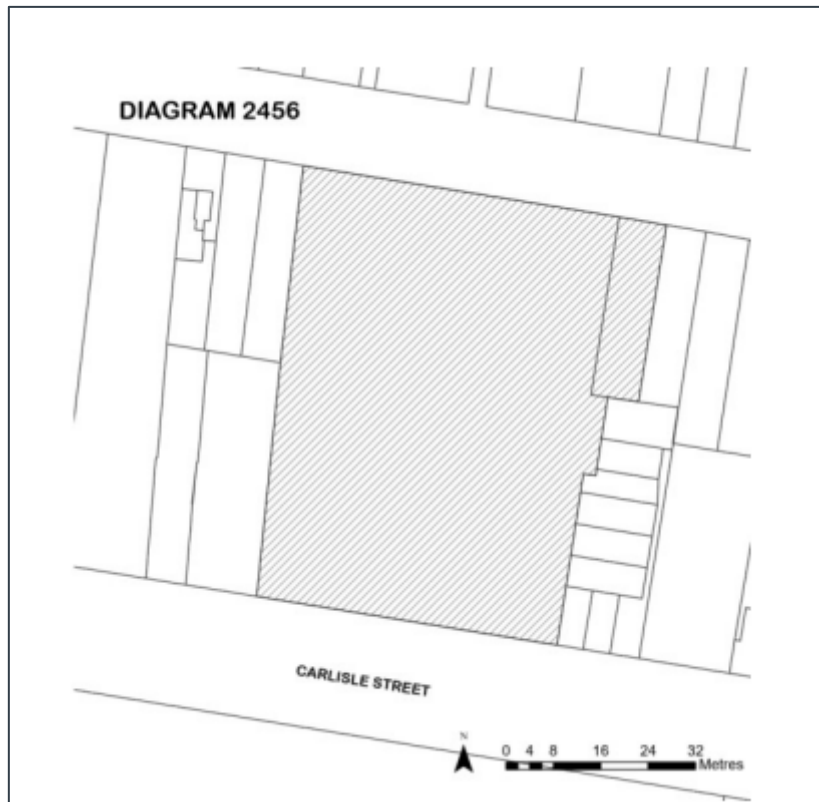
Criterion A	Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.
Criterion B	Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.
Criterion C	Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.
Criterion D	Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.
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 present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
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 1 December 2022, and replace the previous criteria adopted by the Heritage Council on 6 December 2012.

Attachment 2

Extent of Registration

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 2456 encompassing all of Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision 334783 and all of Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision 45670 and all of the objects integral to the place listed in the inventory held by the Executive Director.



Attachment 3

Categories of works or activities which may be undertaken without a permit (permit exemptions)

Introduction

A heritage permit is required for all works and activities undertaken in relation to VHR places and objects. Certain works and activities are exempt from a heritage permit, if the proposed works will not harm the cultural heritage significance of the heritage place or object.

Permit Policy

The St Kilda Public Library Conservation Management Plan was produced for the place in 2019. It is recommended that this Conservation Management Plan is regularly updated.

Permit exemptions

General exemptions

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the VHR. General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which do not harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the *Heritage Act 2017*.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions. Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Specific exemptions

The works and activities below are not considered to cause harm to the cultural heritage significance of the St Kilda Public Library subject to the following guidelines and conditions:

Guidelines

1. Where there is an inconsistency between permit exemptions specific to the registered place or object ('specific exemptions') established in accordance with either section 49(3) or section 92(3) of the Act and general exemptions established in accordance with section 92(1) of the Act specific exemptions will prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.
2. In specific exemptions, words have the same meaning as in the Act, unless otherwise indicated. Where there is an inconsistency between specific exemptions and the Act, the Act will prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.
3. Nothing in specific exemptions obviates the responsibility of a proponent to obtain the consent of the owner of the registered place or object, or if the registered place or object is situated on Crown Land the land manager as defined in the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, prior to undertaking works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions.
4. If a Cultural Heritage Management Plan in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* is required for works covered by specific exemptions, specific exemptions will apply only if the Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been approved prior to works or activities commencing. Where there is an inconsistency between specific exemptions and a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the relevant works and activities, Heritage Victoria must be contacted for advice on the appropriate approval pathway.

5. Specific exemptions do not constitute approvals, authorisations or exemptions under any other legislation, Local Government, State Government or Commonwealth Government requirements, including but not limited to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to obtain relevant planning, building or environmental approvals from the responsible authority where applicable.
6. Care should be taken when working with heritage buildings and objects, as historic fabric may contain dangerous and poisonous materials (for example lead paint and asbestos). Appropriate personal protective equipment should be worn at all times. If you are unsure, seek advice from a qualified heritage architect, heritage consultant or local Council heritage advisor
7. The presence of unsafe materials (for example asbestos, lead paint etc) at a registered place or object does not automatically exempt remedial works or activities in accordance with this category. Approvals under Part 5 of the Act must be obtained to undertake works or activities that are not expressly exempted by the below specific exemptions.
8. All works should be informed by a Conservation Management Plan prepared for the place or object. 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.

Conditions

1. All works or activities permitted under specific exemptions must be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents harm to the registered place or object. Harm includes moving, removing or damaging any part of the registered place or object that contributes to its cultural heritage significance.
2. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the registered place are revealed relating to its cultural heritage significance, including but not limited to historical archaeological remains, such as features, deposits or artefacts, then works must cease and Heritage Victoria notified as soon as possible.
3. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions any Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered or exposed at any time, all works must cease and the Secretary (as defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*) must be contacted immediately to ascertain requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.
4. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions any munitions or other potentially explosive artefacts are discovered, Victoria Police is to be immediately alerted and the site is to be immediately cleared of all personnel.
5. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions any suspected human remains are found the works or activities must cease. The remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage. Victoria Police and the State Coroner's Office must be notified immediately. If there are reasonable grounds to believe that the remains are Aboriginal, the State Emergency Control Centre must be immediately notified on 1300 888 544, and, as required under s.17(3)(b) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, all details about the location and nature of the human remains must be provided to the Secretary (as defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*).

Exempt works and activities

Refer to diagram below titled St Kilda Public Library Floor plan for room locations.

Landscape

1. All subsurface works provided the landscape treatment is returned to its original appearance when works are complete.
2. Repairs and maintenance to hard landscape elements (for example, walls, paths and steps).
3. Gardening and soft landscape maintenance (for example, weeding, mulching, planting and tree lopping).
4. Replacement of trees where they pose a risk to people or property, with the same species or species with similar form.

Building exterior

5. All repairs and maintenance to roof and replacement of roof cladding and flashings etc. Note: this exemption does not apply to the pyramidal lantern
6. Removal of metal cladding to the pyramidal lantern and reinstatement of original timber board cladding and undertaking necessary repairs to reinstate original appearance.
7. Repairs to cracking of concrete elements provided works are planned and carried out in consultation with an appropriately experienced Heritage Advisor.
8. Localised replacement of concrete blocks where repairs are no longer sufficient provided works are planned and carried out in consultation with an appropriately experienced Heritage Advisor.
9. Dismantling and rebuilding of bin storage area to north elevation providing it is carried out in like materials to the same form and scale.
10. Removal of coating to timber boards on fascia to re-instate original timber appearance.

Interior

11. All non-structural works within the basement.
12. All internal works within 1993 section (G.01-G.06) and staff work areas (G.08-G.28) provided they do not impact any elements of the original building (for example, joinery, glazing or door openings).
13. Works to and removal of modern cabinetry in meeting room (G.30).
14. All works within toilets and kitchens.
15. Replacement of floor coverings.
16. All works to services, plant and HVAC within existing locations.
17. Repairs to original light fittings being large, square fluorescent light covers and coloured pendant lights above children's area.
18. Replacement of non-original light fittings.

Objects integral

19. Repairs, maintenance and conservation to objects listed in the inventory of objects integral held by the Executive Director provided repairs are undertaken by an appropriately experienced furniture restorer, conservator or carpenter.
20. Relocation of movable furniture listed in the inventory of objects integral within the St Kilda Public Library building.

St Kilda Public Library Floor Plan

Source: Lovell Chen, St Kilda Public Library Conservation Management Plan, 2019

To be used in conjunction with specific permit exemptions for the place.

