

Heritage Council Determination

Determination date	1 October 2026
Place/Object name	Former Queen Victoria Hospital Pavilion
Location	210 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, City of Melbourne, Wurundjeri Country
VHR number	H0956
Category	Registered Place
Relevant legislative provision/s	Amendment to the Heritage Register, pursuant to section 62 of the <i>Heritage Act 2017</i>

Determination of the Heritage Council

The Heritage Council of Victoria determined on **1 October 2026**, in accordance with Part 3 and Part 5 of the *Heritage Act 2017* ('the Act'), that the above place is to be amended in the Heritage Register.

The Heritage Council determined to make the following amendments to the Heritage Register:

- that the Former Queen Victoria Hospital Pavilion, to the extent of the place shown hatched on Diagram 956, is of State-level significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register in accordance with section 49(1)(ab)(i) of the Act; and
 - that part of the registered place (being the removed sections of the remnant wall/palisade fence and the associated land) is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register in accordance with section 49(1)(ab)(ii) of the Act; and
 - determining categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to the place for which a permit is not required in accordance with section 49(3)(a) of the Act.
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Executive Director's Recommendation ('the Recommendation')

The cultural heritage significance of Former Queen Victoria Hospital Pavilion, located at 210 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, City of Melbourne, Wurundjeri Country ('the Place') was recognised when it was included in the Register of Government Buildings in 1982 and amended in 1985 and 1988. Its State cultural heritage significance was confirmed in 1998 when it was transferred into the Heritage Register.

On **27 April 2026** the Executive Director accepted an application to amend the registration of the Former Queen Victoria Hospital Pavilion.

On **13 July 2026** the Executive Director made a recommendation to the Heritage Council ('the Recommendation') that the existing registration for the Place should be amended.

The Recommendation was advertised publicly for a period of 60 days, beginning on **17 July 2026**.

Section 44 submissions

During the 60-day public advertisement period no submissions were received pursuant to section 44 of the Act.

The Place

Description

Extracted from Executive Director's Recommendation:

The place consists of one extant pavilion from the former hospital complex built between 1910-16. The pavilion is situated on a single land title. The main elevation faces Lonsdale Street, with the cast iron and bluestone fence and entrance gates delineating the parcel boundary and framing the entrance to the building.

The pavilion is a five story [sic], red brick Edwardian baroque building with the central column flanked by two towers crowned with cupolas. Between the two towers in the centre of the building is a contrasting rendered concrete loggia, which is surmounted by a balcony.

Stairs lead up from the street level to an arched bluestone entrance, topped with a plaque inscribed with 'The Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital the Queen Elizabeth Block' in faded lettering. The contemporary name of the place, the Queen Victoria Women's Centre, is written on a rendered surface beneath the first floor balcony, flanking either side of the bluestone entry arch.

The interior of the ground floor lobby is a reception area, and features a highly decorative plaster ceiling, and original timber service counters on both sides of the foyer. Original architectural details are evident throughout the building, including double hung sash windows, wall tiles, decorative architraves, wooden panels and door frames.

Several modifications were made for the Queen Victoria Women's Centre (QVWC) during a major program of works in the 1990s. A brick veneer annex on the ground floor on the east side of the building was added, along with a new function space on the roof enclosed with glazing.

Reasons for the amendment application

Extent of Registration

The Executive Director recommended that the registration for the Place be amended to the extent shown hatched on Diagram 956, in accordance with section 49(1)(ab)(i) of the Act; and that part of the registered Place (being the removed sections of the remnant wall/palisade fence and the associated land) is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register in accordance with section 49(1)(ab)(ii) of the Act.

Change of name

The Executive Director recommended that the name of the Place be amended to 'Former Queen Victoria Hospital Pavilion' from 'Former Queen Victoria Hospital Tower and Perimeter Fence'. The Executive

Director's reason was that the perimeter fence beyond the QVWC Trust land title was removed more than twenty years ago, and the remaining section does not need to be highlighted in the name of the Place. The hospital was designed as a complex of inter-connected pavilions and the word 'pavilion' is preferred to 'tower' in the place name to emphasise this history and contrast with the recently developed towers that surround the building.

Heritage Council's Criteria

The Executive Director noted that the Place is currently registered under the following Heritage Council Criteria, in accordance with the Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines-(**Attachment 1**):

- **Criterion A** – Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history
- **Criterion D** – Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects
- **Criterion G** – Strong or special association with a particular present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

It was the recommendation of the Executive Director that the following Criterion also be added to the registration for the Place:

- **Criterion H** – Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.

Heritage Council's findings

The Heritage Council's statutory remit is confined to the Act. When a place or object is included in the Heritage Register, the description, history, Statement of Significance and permit policy do not form components of the Heritage Register.

The Heritage Council notes that the Executive Director may make non-statutory amendments as set out in the Recommendation. The Heritage Council's decision in relation to the place is confined to the extent of registration and permit exemptions.

Accordingly, the Heritage Council notes the Executive Director's recommendation to amend the Criteria under which the Place is registered, as set out above, but makes no determination in relation to it.

Extent of Registration

The extent of registration is provided as **Attachment 2** and includes all of the Place shown hatched on Diagram 956 encompassing all of Crown Allotment 9C Section 27 City of Melbourne Parish of North Melbourne.

Permit exemptions

The Heritage Council determined specific permit exemptions that would not harm the cultural heritage significance of the Place. The permit exemptions are provided as **Attachment 3** to this determination.

Conclusion

The Heritage Council determined, pursuant to Part 3 and Part 5 of the *Heritage Act 2017*, that the registration for the Former Queen Victoria Hospital Pavilion is to be amended in the Heritage Register.



Professor Philip Goad
Chair, Heritage Council of Victoria

Attachment 1

Victorian Heritage Register Assessment Criteria

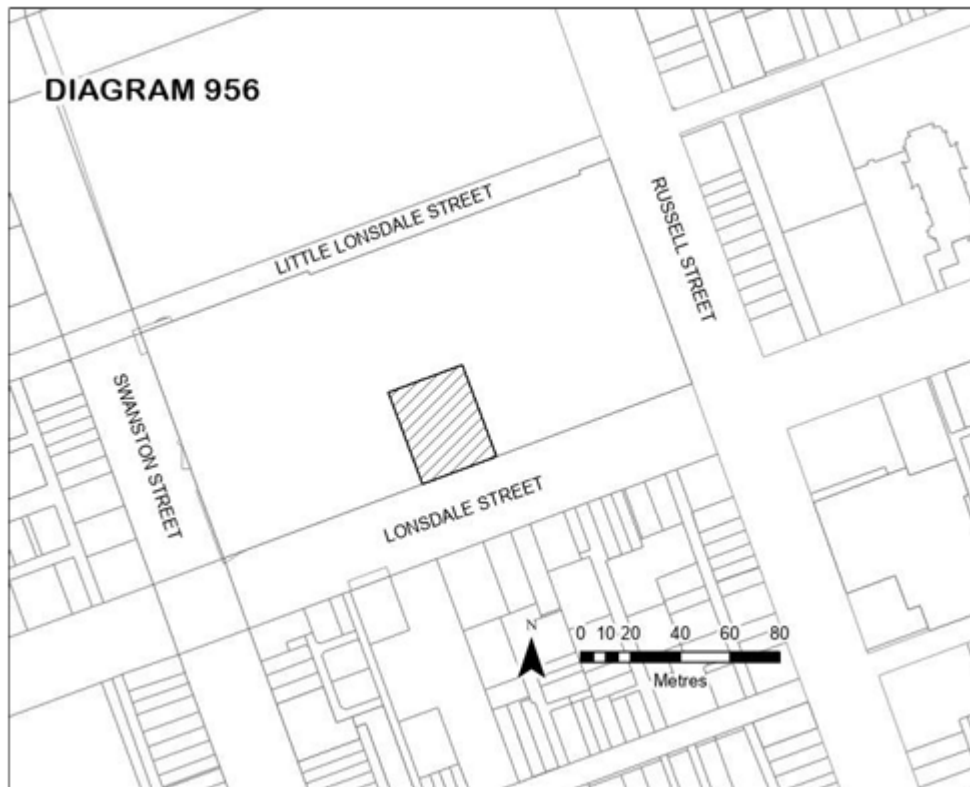
Criterion A	Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.
Criterion B	Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.
Criterion C	Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.
Criterion 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 956 encompassing all of Crown Allotment 9C Section 27 City of Melbourne Parish of Melbourne North.



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 Executive Director notes the completion of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the place in 2024 by Conservation Studio.

Permit exemptions

General permit 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 don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Act.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must notify the Executive Director before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

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 listed below under the heading 'Exempt works and activities' are not considered to cause harm to the cultural heritage significance of the **Former Queen Victoria Hospital Pavilion**. These are subject to the following guidelines and conditions:

Guidelines for specific permit exemptions

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.

General conditions for specific permit exemptions

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 Aboriginal Heritage Council (as defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*)

Exempt works and activities

Exterior

1. Minor repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.
2. Removal of extraneous items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc, and making good.
3. Installation or repair of damp-proofing by either injection method or grouted pocket method.

Regular garden maintenance

4. Installation, removal or replacement of garden watering systems.
5. Lopping, pruning and removal of trees and vegetation.

Interior

6. Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of the original paint or other decorative scheme.
7. Removal of paint from originally unpainted or oiled joinery, doors, architraves, skirtings and decorative strapping.
8. Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings.
9. Installation, removal or replacement of curtain track, rods, blinds and other window dressings.
10. Installation, removal or replacement of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted artworks.
11. Refurbishment of bathrooms, toilets and or en suites including removal, installation or replacement of sanitary fixtures and associated piping, mirrors, wall and floor coverings.
12. Installation, removal or replacement of kitchen benches and fixtures including sinks, stoves, ovens, refrigerators, dishwashers etc and associated plumbing and wiring.
13. Installation, removal or replacement of ducted, hydronic or concealed radiant type heating provided that the installation does not damage existing skirtings and architraves and provided that the location of the heating unit is concealed from view.
14. Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed and any original light switches, pull cords, push buttons or power outlets are retained in-situ. Note: if wiring original to the place was carried in timber conduits then the conduits should remain in-situ.
15. Installation, removal or replacement of bulk insulation in the roof space.
16. Installation, removal or replacement of smoke detectors.