



SUBMISSION FORM

South Australian Heritage Council

Submission on whether the entry of **Shed 26, Semaphore Road, New Port** should be confirmed in the South Australian Heritage Register

The South Australian Heritage Council can only take into account heritage significance of a place as defined by the *Heritage Places Act 1993* (Act) when considering places for entry on the South Australian Heritage Register. Using the table below, please provide evidence or information to explain why you believe the place does or does not meet the criteria under the Act.

Criteria

Criteria under the <i>Heritage Places Act 1993</i> , section 16(1)	Provide evidence or other information why you believe criteria applies or does not apply to this place
(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history	<p>Several submissions make strong arguments under criterion (a) regarding the importance of retaining the historic / heritage context of the Port as redevelopment proceeds and brought to mind these very pertinent American observations. I include them here as further support for those submissions.</p> <p><i>At the pinnacle of historic preservation in our nation are sites preserved to commemorate influential events and great people. But there are relatively few such sites, and they are not the core of the most fundamental value of preservation. I think that the preservation battle cry in our communities is this: Change that is too rapid disorients humans. Escalating rates of change deprive people of the referents and confirmations of their own memories. People's identities are corroded, bonds of community are severed, environments are damaged, and suspicion</i></p>



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	<p><i>replaces the mutual trust upon which democracy depends. We must become advocates for rates of change that do not cause wholesale obliteration of places of memory. How can we care about places that are interchangeable, homogenous, transient, and disposable? Places that conserve memory are good places for people and incubators of community, but they are also inherently oriented toward preservation because they emphasise reuse of what is old and eschew new development that too rapidly consumes increasingly scarce resources.</i></p> <p><i>Let us slow down. Let us really live in our places and become advocates for their conservation to preserve our own sanity, protect a sense of context and continuity for our own lives, and be good stewards of those resources that are really the property of those who will follow us. Let us not blindly oppose what is new, but instead look for a pace and quality of change that respects the fundamental human need to remember. Let us acknowledge that all of us need places of remembrance and that we need to stay in place long enough to embed memories, for only then can we truly be at home. May we all remember that our sacred obligation is to care for our places and exercise good stewardship so we will be reminded of where we came from and sometimes even discover who we are. - R. R. Archibald 'No Place, Any Place, Some Place, My Place', Forum Journal vol 16 no 2 Winter 2002 [Extract from a speech at the 2001 National Preservation Conference, Providence, Rhode Island] quoted in '30 Years of Heritage Acts – Where to Now?', Heritage South Australia Newsletter, no 32, March 2008. [Available on-line at https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/heritage/Heritage_News_and_Events]</i></p>
(b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance	No comment



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<p>(c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history</p>	<p>No comment</p>
<p>(d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance</p>	<p>No comment</p>
<p>(e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics</p>	<p>No comment</p>
<p>(f) it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it</p>	<p>Other community submissions (notably no's 9, 12, 16 & 17) have demonstrated how Shed 26, the sole surviving building of the former Government Dockyard, has a strong cultural association for the community and I endorse their sentiments. As an observer of and participant in history and heritage-related activity in the Port Adelaide District since the late 1960s I simply want to take issue with attempts from some quarters to downplay the opinions of community members advocating for the Shed's retention.</p> <p>It is not at all uncommon for small numbers of people to take a leadership role in history/heritage campaigns and for a majority of community members to subsequently be</p>



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grateful for their achievements.

Equally, it is quite common for heritage-listing to be pursued only when a place is under immediate threat and for State Heritage rather than the long-winded Local Heritage listing procedures to be used because of the urgency.

That is not a failing of the nominators. It's a result of trying to achieve good heritage conservation outcomes in the context of:

- long-standing under-resourcing of local heritage administration within the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI),
- the perception of arbitrary decision-making created by frequent intervention of Planning Ministers in the local heritage listing processes, and
- a more general perception that local listing can lack the teeth to ensure a satisfactory outcome, especially when dealing with major projects such as the Port Waterfront Redevelopment.

In the background sits a related issue. Since the proclamation of the *Development Act 1993* on 15 January 1994 the Planning Minister, not the Heritage Minister, has been responsible for the declaration of State Heritage Areas. It is pertinent to note that only four have been declared since 1994 and none since 2002. Ironically, declaring the Fletcher's Slip Precinct a State Heritage Area early on may have been the best way of managing its heritage values and removing the need for 'last minute' action.



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(g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance

An 'organisation ... of historical importance'

I suggest that there is no disputing that the work of the SA Harbors Board and its predecessors and successors qualifies under criterion (g) as an 'organisation ... of historical importance'.

Shed 26, the former 'Main Workshops' of the Government (Glanville) Dockyard, represents the Government Dockyard function that began in the 1850s in nearby Hawker's Creek and was relocated in 1914-18 to the present site where it continued to operate until the 1980s. The work undertaken in the Dockyard was both wide-ranging and State-wide. It was **not** limited to serving Port Adelaide. As reported by *The News* of 13 August 1923:

Not many taxpayers are aware of the comprehensive nature of the State dockyards controlled by the Harbors Board. Located at Glanville, with a useful river frontage, the works compare favorably with those in other States - that is, in regard to modern methods.

All the latest appliances for the rapid handling of jobs have been installed, and there is a good army of employees under capable supervision.

Many improvements have been effected at the dockyards during the last few years. The repairs to the whole of the State's harbors and rivers plant are dealt with at Glanville - even the making of trucks for the numerous wharves and jetties scattered along our coast. Tugboats, motor launches, dredgers, barges, and craft of smaller dimensions all receive attention at these works, in addition to many other appurtenances. ...



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In the various workshops 16 trades are represented. There are nearly 200 employees, under the supervision of Mr. J. C. Christie, who has held the position of superintendent since 1918. His task is most comprehensive, but his good tact has made him most popular with the workmen. (p5)

'Special association'

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary website <

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/special>>

provides the following guidance as to the meaning of 'special':

- distinguished by some unusual quality;
- designed for a particular purpose.

Shed 26, which housed the Main Workshops of the Dockyard, was designed for a 'particular purpose' and built in the mid-1950s. Thanks to the inaction (and sometimes deliberate actions) of successive governments, is now the sole surviving building of the Government Dockyard function, an enterprise that dates from the 1850s. To my mind that constitutes an 'unusual quality' and makes it 'special' in terms of its *historical* significance.

With regard to Heritage SA's Guidelines for inclusion of places in the Register, Shed 26 obviously had a 'close association' with the SA Harbors Board and that association is 'demonstrated in the fabric of the place'. The shed is clearly recognizable as industrial workplace. That fact that its contents have been removed is the normal fate of a workshop that is no longer used, with equipment typically either being reused elsewhere or sold for scrap value.



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	<p>With regard to the only pertinent Guideline for exclusion that is open to debate, namely 'if a similar association could be claimed for many places', while many places may have benefitted from the output or services the Main Workshops provided, I am not aware of other surviving places where the actual work was done. Even if such places do survive, the Main Workshops would likely be judged the most significant one. I submit that claims that an office or wharf is sufficient to represent the full range of work of the Harbors Board do not hold water.</p>
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Declaration

The South Australian Heritage Council is committed to transparency in relation to the listing process and wishes to enhance public confidence in the nomination, listing and decision-making process. The Council's policy is to make nominations for State heritage listing and submissions on provisional entries publicly available via webpage or to interested parties. The Council will adhere to the Privacy Principles and your name and personal details will not be released.

I, [REDACTED] wish to make a written representation regarding the provisional entry of **Shed 26, Semaphore Road, New Port**. The information I have provided is correct to my knowledge.

I **support** the confirmation of this provisional entry

I **do** wish to appear personally before the Council to make oral representations.

Signature: [REDACTED]

Date: 12 March 2019

Please attach any relevant documents.

A heritage officer may contact you to discuss this submission.

This form must be received by 5pm on **12 March 2019**.

Please return the completed form to:

Executive Officer

South Australian Heritage Council

GPO Box 1047

ADELAIDE SA 5001

Email: DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au