

HERITAGE ADVISORY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 1998/99

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chairman's overview	1
Council members	2
Meetings	4
Functions of Council	5
The Heritage Conservation Act 1991	6
Amendments to the Act	6
Northern Territory Heritage Register	7
Nominations	7
Assessments	7
Declarations	7
Places not recommended	10
Places not declared	10
Places revoked	10
Places destroyed	10
The state of the Register	11
Section 29 (Archaeological) Permits	11
Section 39 Permits	11
Section 47 Delegations	11
Research and Assessment Highlights	12
Conservation and Management Studies	13
Government Incentive Package	14
Education and Promotion Activities	16
Appendix 1	19

CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

I take great pleasure in presenting the 8th Annual Report of the Heritage Advisory Council. The Heritage Advisory Council was established under the provisions of the *Heritage Conservation Act 1991* (the Act). The Act was assented to on 26 September 1991 and came into operation on 1 November 1991.

Amendments came into effect in August 1998 that are intended to clarify the powers of the Minister and the processes to be followed for the purposes of revocation of declared heritage places and for authorising work, which may include demolition of a place or object. The amendments allow the Minister to act in cases of public health or safety and prescribe a stronger level of referral and reporting than previously required.

An appeal against the Minister's Direction under section 49 of the *Heritage Conservation Act* was decided in favour of the owners and lessees of the former Wesleyan Church in Darwin. The decision established that such a direction could only require repairs and maintenance of a declared place to a standard applying at the time of declaration. The decision has implications for restoration work that will need to be addressed.

The Heritage Advisory Council has broadened its focus from assessment of nominations and recommendations on declaration to the issues of long term conservation of heritage places and objects. The council has addressed these issues with two initiatives.

The first has been to review, progressively, the statements of heritage value on which declarations are based and to identify, in accompanying conservation statements, those aspects of a place, such as ambience, fabric or design, which define the essence of the heritage significance of a place thus clarifying the boundaries of allowable actions leading to continued use or adaptive re-use.

The second initiative was the "Heritage Conservation in the Tropics" workshop held over three days in August 1998. Over sixty practitioners dealing with heritage structures gained hands-on knowledge of conservation techniques from expert facilitators and through sharing of experiences.

Practical assistance was also the main ingredient in responding to the damage caused to heritage structures by the 1998 Australia Day Floods in Katherine. Five places were severely affected; O'Keefe House, Katherine Railway Precinct, Knotts Crossing, Springvale, and Hore's Homestead. It is pleasing to report that, with the imminent completion of work on Hore's Homestead the rehabilitation program has been successful in restoring and upgrading the heritage values of these places.

The Heritage Advisory Council continued to be involved in the National discussions on the future role of the Commonwealth and the development of a National Heritage Strategy. The Chairman attended an Heritage Chairs and Officials meeting on the issues and with two members participated in the national HERCON conference in August 1998.

A number of issues have moved closer to resolution over the year. The Council has been pleased to note the announcement by Government that the integrity of the core heritage buildings in the former Alice Springs Gaol will be ensured as part of the development brief which has been expanded to cover the whole Lot on which the Gaol stands. The Council's strategy in seeking resolution of the owners objections to the proposed listing of the whole site of the former Alice Springs Post Office and Repeater Station by conceding not to recommend the Repeater Station, was vindicated when the Minister was able to declare the Post Office with the owners agreement in March 1999. Although there was some disappointment with this compromise at least the Post Office has been secured and this would not have been assured if the owners had continued with their total objection to the proposal.

In summary the year has seen positive gains in the conservation of Territory heritage. While I wish to acknowledge the great contribution of the retiring members I am confident that the three new members representing the National Trust, the Museums and Art Galleries and the Department of Lands Planning and Environment, will bring fresh perspective to the Council in continuing the major steps already taken in affording proper appreciation and protection of our Northern Territory Heritage.

PETER JAMES

COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Act provides for a Council of nine members appointed by the Minister. Membership of the Council from 1 July 1998 through to 30 June 1999 was as follows:

Mr Peter James (Chairman)

Mr Peter James has been Chairman since the commencement of the Heritage Advisory Council in 1992. Mr James is a consultant lawyer and his particular interest lies in the application of legislation to heritage protection.

Ms Fran Erlich (Deputy Chair)

Ms Erlich has been a member of Council since 1995. She is a teacher at St Philip's College in Alice Springs, has a degree in archaeology and is an Alderman

on the Alice Springs Town Council. She has a particular interest in NT cultural heritage.

Mr Bob Alford

Mr Bob Alford was appointed as the National Trust representative in 1994. Between July 1993 and December 1999 Bob was the director of the National Trust in the Territory. Bob has an intense interest in the history and heritage of the NT and is also a noted aviation historian. He resigned his position on Council in February 1999.

Ms Elizabeth Close

Ms Elizabeth Close was appointed as the National Trust representative in April 1999. Elizabeth is the new director of the National Trust. She is particularly interested in increasing public awareness of the Territory's unique heritage.

Mr Peter Dermoudy

Mr Dermoudy is one of the original members of Council. He is a heritage consultant and specialist in World War II history and site identification. He also conducts field research into early European settlement.

Mr Jim Hayes

A member of Council since 1992, Mr Hayes is the fourth generation of Hayes living on Undoolya Station. He has held a personal interest in the local history of the Alice Springs district for many years.

Ms Judy Kean

Judy was the representative of the Museums and Art Galleries (MAGNT) from June 1998 until late February 1999 when she resigned her position on Council.

Mr Patrick Filmer-Sankey

Patrick was appointed as the MAGNT representative in February 1999. As the new Director of the Museum, Patrick is interested in the presentation and interpretation of heritage places.

Mrs Ruth Murphy

Ruth has been a member of Council since late 1996 and is from an old Katherine family. Her particular interests lie in the history and preservation of representative samples of the early lifestyles of the Katherine and rural area and in the pastoral history of the NT.

Mr John Pinney

John became the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment representative in mid 1996 but resigned his position on Council in late 1998, following his

appointment as Secretary of the Department. John's interest on Council lay in achieving the balance necessary between heritage values and developmental needs in a maturing, progressing community.

Mr Vic Stephens

Vic was appointed as the representative of the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment in February 1999. His interest is in Territory history and place names and in achieving the balance between heritage values and development needs in a rapidly growing community.

Mr David Ritchie

David is the Chief Executive Officer of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority and is a founding member of the Heritage Advisory Council. David currently serves on the Archaeology and Heritage Grants sub-committees. His area of expertise is the prehistory and history of the Northern Territory.

MEETINGS

Four meetings were held during the year as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. HAC Meeting dates and locations for 1998/99.

Meeting	Date(s)	Location
36 th	24-25 September 1998	Katherine
37 th	10 December 1998	Darwin
38 th	25 February 1999	Darwin
39 th	27 May 1999	Alice Springs

Council members inspect Knotts Crossing, September 1998.

Council held its 36th Meeting in Katherine in September 1998. Council took this opportunity to inspect the progress of flood rehabilitation works undertaken at Springvale Homestead, O'Keefe House, Katherine Railway Station and Knotts

Crossing. Members of Council also inspected the cycad gardens which have been nominated to the NT Heritage Register as well as visiting the Cypress Pine Overland Telegraph Poles and Snake Creek Armament Depot.

FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL

The Council is responsible to the Minister for Conservation under section 12 of the Act, for the following functions:

- to carry out research into, and evaluate the heritage value of, places and objects,
- to recommend to the Minister places and objects of heritage value for inclusion in the Register,
- to recommend to the Minister the removal of places and objects from the Register,
- to advise the Minister on the conservation and use of heritage places and heritage objects,
- to promote as it thinks fit the public use and enjoyment of heritage places and heritage objects in a manner consistent with the conservation of their heritage value and facilitate relevant public education and programs,
- to advise the Minister on financial incentives or concessions for heritage preservation,
- to advise the Minister on all matters affecting the natural and cultural heritage of the Territory,
- to make recommendations to the Minister on heritage agreements in general or particular agreements,
- to recommend to the Minister the imposition of an interim conservation order for the protection of a place or object,
- to prepare conservation management plans in respect of heritage places, and,
- to perform other such functions as required by or under this or any other Act or as directed by the Minister.

THE HERITAGE CONSERVATION ACT 1991

The purpose of the Act is to provide a system for the identification, assessment, recording, conservation, and protection of places and objects of prehistoric, protohistoric, historic, social, aesthetic or scientific value, including

geological structures, fossils, archaeological sites, ruins, buildings, gardens, landscapes, coastlines, and plant and animal communities or ecosystems of the Territory.

Heritage Conservation Amendment Act 1998

Amendments to the Act that clarified the powers and processes under the Act for revocation of a declaration and for carrying out work on a declared heritage place came into operation in August 1998.

The new Part 6A deals with the Revocation of Declaration of a Heritage Place or Object. The Act previously dealt with revocation by stating that the processes under Part 4 of the Act dealing with Declaration shall be applied “with the necessary changes”. In practice the processes were unwieldy and confusing.

Part 6A spells out the processes by which owners may apply for a revocation, how the Minister may request the Council’s assessment of a place regarding revocation and how Council may, of its own motion, assess a place for revocation. Notice must be given to the owner(s)/occupier(s) and all persons likely to be directly affected in writing. Advertisements must be placed in a newspaper inviting public comments on the application.

Following consideration of comments received, the Minister may accept, reject or refer back the recommendation from the Council. The Minister’s decision to revoke must be by notice in the Gazette and published in a newspaper. The Minister may revoke a declaration of his own motion for the purposes of protecting the health or safety of persons, or in an emergency but must table his reasons for such revocation in the Legislative Assembly within three sitting days.

The new Part 6B deals with work on a Heritage Place or Object. The previous provisions of the Act have been clarified by specifying that work includes damage to, desecration, destruction, demolition and alteration of a Heritage Place or removal of a Heritage Object. Before authorising work the Minister is now required to refer the matter to the Advisory Council and consider its comments. The Minister must advise the Council of his decision and reasons and these are reported in the Council’s Annual Report. These new referral requirements have a 14 day time limit for normal consent issues.

The Act with amendments can be accessed on the Internet, <http://www.nt.gov.au/lant/hansard/>.

NORTHERN TERRITORY HERITAGE REGISTER

Nominations

Council received a number of nominations to the Register during the last financial year including Maranboy Precinct, Kelat, five Catalina wrecks, Submerged Telegraph Line Darwin Harbour, Helen Springs (Aboriginal) Quarry,

WWII Army Officer's Mess, Former Alice Springs Telegraph/Repeater Station and Bapa Shepherdon's House, Old Nurses Quarters and Staff Houses at Galiwinku. Council nominated Strauss Airstrip of its own volition and was directed to assess the Leviathan Tin Mine by the Minister.

Assessments

Council assessed a number of places during the year including Aileron Homesteads, Harts Range Mica Mines, Lot 533 Ti Tree, Darwin Wharf Precinct, Eldo Tracking Station, Alice Bazaar, Pioneer Youth Hostel, Araluen Homestead, Catholic Church Precinct, Heenan Building, Higgins Theatre, Old Lutheran Church, Old Stone Hut, former Tunck's Store, Charlotte Waters Telegraph Station, Brocks Creek Cemetery, Ross River Homestead, Old Cemetery at Hermannsburg, Kaporilja Springs, Albert Namatjira's House and Memorial, WWII RAAF Operations Room and Christodoulou House (106 The Esplanade).

Declarations

Ten places were declared as heritage places during the last financial year. These additions to the NT Heritage Register are summarised below.

Adelaide House

This building was designed as a hostel by John Flynn, a Presbyterian minister who was the founder and Superintendent of the Australian Inland Mission and also one of the founders of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Built over a period 1920-1926 the primary value and significance of Adelaide House lies in its architectural form as an early conscious example of "design for climate" using an innovative design that provided for a unique cooling system, which combined with thick walls, wide verandahs and appropriate roof construction facilitate climatic control during the hot summer months. Adelaide House also received the first two-way field radio transmission of a telegram sent from Hermannsburg by Alfred Traeger.

Adelaide House, Alice Springs.

Former Alice Springs Post Office

The former Alice Springs Post Office was constructed during 1931 and officially opened on January 26th 1932. The building is important because it represents an era of change in post and telegraphic communications and also demonstrates the main features of 1930s Government commissioned architecture in Alice Springs.

Former RAAF Explosives Storage Area

Located in Charles Darwin National Park the precinct contains semi-buried steel shelters constructed during the period of defensive build up in the north and in response to a worsening international situation that led to WWII, and a proof testing and service facility that was developed to meet the rapidly changing technology of the post war periods and a series of international incidents including Confrontation and the Vietnam War. The siting of the pre war buildings in the area was strategic and the effectiveness of both the siting and camouflage ensured that the site was able to operate effectively throughout the 46 recorded enemy raids of the war years. Building No 5 is the only one of the Armco shelters known to have sustained damage as a result of enemy action. The presence of these structures is a reminder of the continuing importance of Darwin for the northern defence of Australia.

Hore's Homestead

Built around 1920 Hore's Homestead remains as testimony to the perseverance of settlers in the NT, particularly those in isolated areas. The settlement of agricultural blocks in the Katherine region represented an attempt to provide a livelihood for returned servicemen after World War I. The homestead is unusual owing to the use of bamboo slats as part of the building.

Mt Riddock Station Cemetery

All of the eight graves and headstones in the cemetery relate to Benjamin Mark Webb, one of the original owners of the Mt Riddock leases from 1910. The cemetery is significant as provides a tangible reminder of the lives of an important family, the Webbs, who contributed to the development of the pastoral industry and the social history of Central Australia.

Mt Riddock Station Cemetery

Old Hartley Street School

Constructed in 1930, the old Hartley Street School aimed to cater for an increase in the town's population following arrival of the railway. Over the next decade enrolments increased and caused continual overcrowding and in 1945 a kindergarten and classroom, designed by B.C.G. Burnett was constructed. The wooden floors and distinctive octagonal shape of the new addition with its adjacent classroom provide a great contrast with the concrete floored, simple design of the earlier construction. The buildings reflect the changing styles and requirements of school design at different periods.

Old Mt Riddock Homestead

The former Mt Riddock Homestead is of historic and architectural importance. The homestead was constructed by Benjamin Mark Webb between 1928 and 1930 and represents an important phase of the pastoral industry in Central Australia. Mt Riddock Station was one of the first leases stocked in the area northeast of Alice Springs. It is also important owing to its close associations with the Webb family who made a significant contribution to the pastoral industry and social development in the Harts Range area. The building is one of the few remaining good examples of a type of vernacular building technique common in Central Australia until the 1940s: the use of horizontal drop slab panels with morticed uprights of bush timber.

Springhill Battery Complex

The Springhill Battery Complex is one of the best preserved 20th century stamp battery complexes in the Pine Creek region. It is significant as an example of mining equipment used in the mid 20th century in the NT. The entire complex is still evident through the remains of the water supply, ore transport and explosive storage facilities in juxtaposition to the crushing machinery.

Springvale Homestead Complex

Alfred Giles established Springvale Station in 1879 as part of Dr Browne's Northern Territory pastoral empire. The complex includes the homestead, store, Ronan family grave site and the surrounding grounds. Springvale was one of the first two substantial homesteads built in the Katherine region and the only one that now remains. The homestead and station is associated with the Territory's commercial and agricultural development. During WWII the property became an Aboriginal labour settlement under joint Military and Native Affairs Branch control. Later it became home to noted Australian writers Tom and Moya Ronan.

Uniya Station

This site is important in that it represents a way of life which was unique in its approach to Aborigines in the 19th century and which is no longer practiced in Australia. The Jesuit Mission at Daly River was established in October 1886 and was known as the "Queen of the Holy Rosary" or "Uniya" owing to its close proximity to the Aboriginal site Wuniya. Jesuit policy called for small staffed stations in tribal areas with an emphasis on the preservation of local language, song and music and education of its inhabitants. The site includes the remains of what is believed to be the store, consisting of a large concrete slab and a stone chimney, a small rock foundation and hand-shaped step, the remains of stockyards and a commemorative plaque. The site remains as a memorial to the idealism and hardships experienced by both the missionaries and the Aboriginal families who lived at the mission.

Places not recommended

The HAC resolved not to recommend a number of places to the Minister because they did not meet the threshold level of significance. These places include the second Aileron Homestead and Lot 533 Ti Tree.

Places not declared

The Minister declined to declare one place recommended by the HAC. This was 149 Mitchell Street on the basis of the owner's objections.

Places revoked

No revocations occurred during the last financial year.

Places destroyed

No heritage places were destroyed during the last financial year.

The state of the register

From the time of commencement to the 30th June 1999 there are 107 places and 3 objects declared on the NT Heritage Register. A total of 110 places have not been recommended while the Minister has not declared 20. One place and part of another have been revoked while two have been destroyed.

A wide range of different types of places are now represented on the NT Heritage Register, including trees, geological features, archaeological sites, mining 'relics', shipwrecks, buildings, ruins, floral communities and places of

social significance.

SECTION 29 (ARCHAEOLOGICAL) PERMITS

Under the provisions of sections 29 and 39 of the *Heritage Conservation Act 1991*, no work may be undertaken on a prescribed archaeological place or object without the permission of the Minister or his delegate. From time to time applications are received to do work, including archaeological excavation and collection as well as disturbance and destruction, on prescribed archaeological places and objects.

Four permits were granted during the last financial year. These were granted in order to destroy/disturb archaeological material prior to development. In three of these cases mitigative works were undertaken prior to destruction. For each permit an assessment of the significance of the place or object was made by the Archaeological sub-committee of the HAC prior to a final decision being made.

Additionally advice in relation to archaeological sites and the appropriate procedures under the Act were provided for 21 projects.

SECTION 39 PERMITS

Under the provisions of section 39 of the *Heritage Conservation Amendment Act 1998* no work can be undertaken on a declared heritage place or object without the permission of the Minister or his delegate.

From time to time applications are received to do work on these places. During the last financial year the Minister granted four permits. One of these was to carry out conservation works on a heritage place while the remainder were to undertake non-conservation works on declared places.

SECTION 47 DELEGATIONS

Under Section 47 of the *Heritage Conservation Act 1991* the Minister may appoint a person as the Minister's delegate for the performance of a function or exercise of a power under the Act. The following individuals have been appointed Minister's delegates:

- Barry William Chambers, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment (section 39K(1)(a) powers in relation to places/objects owned, managed or controlled by the Dept),
- Robert Neville Alford (section 39K(1)(a) powers in relation to places/objects owned, managed or controlled by the National Trust),
- Colin James Fuller, Parks and Wildlife Commission (section 39K(1)(a) powers in relation to places/objects owned, managed or controlled by the

Commission),

- Patrick Filmer-Sankey, Museums and Art Galleries of the NT (section 39K(1)(a) powers in relation to places/objects owned, managed or controlled by the Museum),
- John Maurice Pinney, Department of Lands, Planning and Environment (section 39K(1)(a) powers in relation to places/objects owned, managed or controlled by the Dept),
- William John Freeland, Parks and Wildlife Commission (section 39K(1)(a) powers in relation to places/objects owned, managed or controlled by the Commission),

The section 47 delegations for Barry Williams Chambers and Colin James Fuller were revoked in January 1999 as these individuals no longer occupied the positions in which delegation powers were required.

During the last financial year consent was given by delegates of the Minister to undertake works on several declared heritage places including Fannie Bay Gaol, Old Courthouse, Qantas Hangar and The Residency.

RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Alice Springs Heritage Study

In order to retain Alice Springs' cultural heritage and provide a systematic, transparent approach towards the identification, protection and management of this heritage, the Heritage Advisory Council determined that a study should be undertaken.

The Alice Springs Heritage Study commenced in March 1999. The aim of the study is to identify places of heritage value in the town of Alice Springs. This may include examples of different architectural styles, places associated with important historical figures and places that are evocative of the town and capture its wider values. Within the broader scope of the study, the report shall provide a plan for the conservation and management, role in tourism, potential for adaptive re-use and incorporation into new works, community needs and promotion of heritage places in Alice Springs. Such an approach is invaluable in terms of future planning and development.

Development of Internet site

During the last financial year an Internet site was established for the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment. Information about the Heritage Advisory Council, its members, functions, logo and annual report are included at this site. Also provided is information relating to the *Heritage Conservation Act*, NT Heritage Register and NT Heritage Grants Program. The site has already proved an effective means of communicating information to both the private and public sectors. The heritage pages continue to be updated. The address of the site

is <http://www.lpe.nt.gov.au/heritage/>.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES

Council has shifted its focus from the identification and declaration of heritage places to the ongoing conservation and management of places on the NT Heritage Register. Examples of some of the conservation and management studies undertaken in the last year are described below.

Review of the conservation and management of declared heritage places and objects

Given the shift in focus and increasing demand for management and conservation advice, a brief review of the management and conservation of declared heritage places and objects was undertaken. The review aimed to identify the roles and responsibilities played by various stakeholders in order to ensure the long term conservation of these places and objects. It also reviewed the range of mechanisms available to facilitate the conservation and management of places including section 39 consents, heritage agreements and conservation management plans. The review identified the need for a strategic approach towards the care for heritage places and areas where management responsibility required clarification. A number of recommendations arose from the report and are currently being implemented, including:

- adopting a strategic approach towards the management and conservation of declared heritage places and objects,
- developing a conservation statement for each declared heritage place and object, and
- promoting the benefits of conservation and management plans to owners, encouraging the development of such plans and uptake of conservation mechanisms.

Flood works at Katherine

Throughout the last financial year rehabilitation works were undertaken on a number of declared heritage places that had sustained damage as a result of the 1998 Australia Day Katherine Floods, including Springvale Homestead Complex, Hore's Homestead and Knotts Crossing. Works to the Gallon Store at Knotts Crossing and Springvale Homestead have now been completed apart from painting at the latter. Preliminary works have commenced at Hore's Homestead.

Other studies and plans

In addition to the works described above a number of conservation studies were undertaken during the 1998/99 year including a conservation and management plan for the Sandy Creek Observation Post, Qantas Hangar, Gregory's Tree Historic Reserve and Bullita Homestead and Stockyards. Advice

regarding conservation and management plans was also provided in relation to Kintore Caves and Heavitree Gap Police Station Historic Reserve. A review and update of the conservation management plan for the Old Courthouse in Alice Springs commenced in April 1999. Advice regarding conservation works was also provided in relation to the Old Colonist's Residence at Hermannsburg, Aileron Homestead and several historic sites at Harts Range.

A joint Plan of Management/Conservation Management Plan for Anna's Reservoir Conservation Reserve was tabled in Legislative Assembly under the *Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* and the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

GOVERNMENT INCENTIVE PACKAGE

Rate Relief

Municipal rate relief arrangements for owners of declared heritage places were established and implemented during the last year. As part of the Government Incentive Package, rate relief is provided with rates set at 25% of the struck rate for residential places and 75% of struck rate for commercial places. Owing to the relatively small number of places involved the incentive has been managed administratively as a reimbursement on rates paid to municipalities. There has been a near total uptake of this incentive by owners of eligible places.

Provision of specialist advice - Heritage Advisers

The Government's incentive package provides free expert and specialist services to owners of declared heritage places on heritage conservation issues. Heritage conservation architects have been retained in Alice Springs and Darwin in order to provide Territory-wide services. During the last financial year there were numerous inquiries regarding this service which resulted in more than 25 referrals. Additional services were provided by specialists in stone work and structural engineers regarding conservation works to heritage buildings.

Northern Territory Heritage Grant Program

This funding program effectively remains the only funding source for conservation works in the Territory. Table 2 below describes those projects that received funding from the 1998/99 round of grants.

Table 2. Successful projects under the 1998/99 round of funding from the NTHGP.

Applicant	Project
Angurugu Community Government Council	Conservation works to No. 2 Missionary House, Angurugu
Borroloola Community & Town Library	Purchase pictures of historical value of Borroloola and surrounds
G. Calley (agent for Dept. Primary Industries &	Berrimah Operations Room - Reclamation

Fisheries)	
John Greatorex and Linda Miller	Conservation works to the former Methodist Manse
Hamilton Downs Youth Camp	Conservation works to Meathouse
Silvano Jung	Production of information pamphlet for the SS Ellengowan
National Trust of Australia (NT)	Conservation works to O'Keefe Residence, Katherine
National Trust of Australia (NT)	Conservation works to Katherine Railway Station
National Trust of Australia (NT)	Conservation works to Lot 1101 (Myilly Point)
National Trust of Australia (NT)	Heritage Awareness Activities
National Trust of Australia (NT)	Photographic documentation Fort Hill Survey Camp
National Trust of Australia (NT)	Site Survey and preparation conservation & management plan Old Bradshaw Homestead
Parks & Wildlife Commission	Conservation works to old Glen Helen Homestead
Domenico Pecorari & Lyne Barnes	Restoration works No. 16 Railway Tce
Don Raethel	Eleven Mile Heritage Inventory
Royal Flying Doctor Service (central)	Restoration works - RFDS Base and Residence Alice Springs
Art Schmidt and Margaret Busson	Restoration works No. 14 Railway Tce
Art Schmidt and Margaret Busson	Restoration works No. 12 Railway Tce
Art Schmidt and Margaret Busson	Restoration works No. 10 Railway Tce
Marion Townsend	Conservation works to Springvale Homestead

A total of 34 applications requesting \$369,913 worth of projects were received for the 1999/2000 round of funding. Of the applications recommended for funding, 16 were for restoration works, 5 were for education, and 7 were for research purposes.

Use of heritage places

During the last financial year effort was expended on encouraging the continued occupation and adaptable re-use of declared heritage places as the most

appropriate means of achieving conservation and ongoing maintenance. One such example was the Qantas Hangar.

Currently 58 of the 107 declared places and objects are being used for a variety of purposes including private residences, museums, tourist attractions, restaurants/cafes, and offices.

EDUCATION AND PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

NT Heritage Trails

The NT Heritage Trail Program was established in order to protect and promote key aspects of the Territory's natural, Aboriginal and historic heritage. The Trails link key sites, many of which have had conservation works undertaken as part of the program, and aim to enhance awareness, enjoyment and understanding of our heritage, whilst providing significant tourist attractions for visitors and locals.

The overall theme for the program is "People on the Move", with pamphlets and interpretive signage focussing on local themes and personalities. This approach to explaining our history will extend along six trails off the major highways and includes the Stuart Highway itself.

The program aims to tell the stories associated with the country in a light-hearted but accurate style and is combined with roads and safety advice and tourism information under the umbrella of the Tourism Drive Strategy.

The EXPLORER HIGHWAY project along the Stuart Highway is 60% complete with roadside stops, interpretive shelters and information signs being installed from Darwin to the South Australian border. The EXPLORER HIGHWAY theme is continuing through to Adelaide in a coordinated program with SA Roads and Tourism agencies.

The NORTHERN GOLDFIELDS LOOP between Pine Creek and Adelaide River takes travellers off the highway and through the once thriving goldfields of Burrundie, Grove Hill and Brocks Ck. A major interpretive display is located at the Grove Hill Hotel and a walking trail through the old Brocks Creek township site is about to open with the helpful cooperation of Acacia Resources the current mine operators. Additional archaeological sites along the loop will be made accessible in coming years.

Research has commenced on new trails through the mining areas east of Alice Springs and the exploration and pastoral development routes from Queensland through the Gulf Country and through the Victoria River District to Western Australia.

The 1992 SIGNS of HISTORY WW II commemorative sites program still attracts a very high level of interest among travellers and will continue as a theme trail as a result of an ongoing maintenance and replacement cycle introduced this year.

Maintenance and the protection of archaeological material and heritage structures are the main concerns in the isolated areas of the Territory and the Heritage Trails program aims to provide access opportunities to interested travellers as a strategy to increase public appreciation of these reminders *in situ*, thereby raising protection against vandalism.

Conferences, Seminars and Workshops

The Heritage Advisory Council continued to be involved in the National discussions on the future role of the Commonwealth and the development of a National Heritage Strategy. The Chairman attended an Heritage Chairs and Officials meeting on the issues and with two members participated in the national HERCON conference in August 1998.

Heritage Conservation in the Tropics

The Department of Lands, Planning and Environment together with the Royal Australian Institute of Architects co-hosted a three day seminar in August 1998 entitled "Heritage Conservation in the Tropics". The seminar was underwritten by the Australian Heritage Commission via reallocated National Estate Grant funding. The seminar aimed to increase the level of understanding and the pool of expertise in heritage conservation in the NT. More than 60 people attended the seminar including engineers, architects, students, stone masons, building owners and managers, government departments and planners. The program dealt largely with issues relating to practical matters of managing and conserving building materials, particularly masonry and metal. The combination of lecture-style presentations and visits to various sites to inspect issues of conservation policy and practice was warmly received by participants. Feedback regarding the seminar was unanimously positive.

Summer School Conservation of Traditional Buildings

An officer of the Heritage Conservation Branch attended the Summer School Conservation of Traditional Buildings course in Canberra. The course was held over two weeks in January 1999 and included both theoretical and practical aspects of building conservation. The conservation of masonry, timber, metal and researching paint finishes were studies. The course also provided invaluable networking opportunities and access to a greater pool of conservation expertise. Every state apart from WA was represented at the course.

Publications

Heritage Notes have now been developed for a significant number of declared heritage places and objects including:

Alcoota Fossil Beds, Anna's Reservoir Conservation Reserve, Bonney Well, Borroloola Police Station, Brown's Mart, Chambers Pillar Historical Reserve, Channel Island Leprosarium and Reefs, Christ Church Cathedral Ruins, Flying Fox Daly Waters, Daly Waters Aviation Complex, Daly River Coppermine and Graves, Darwin Botanic Gardens, Ewaninga Conservation Reserve, Gilbert Well, Heavitree Gap Police Station, Illamurta Springs Conservation Reserve, Kintore Caves Nature Park, Knott's Crossing Precinct, Mac Clark Conservation Reserve, Noltenius' Billabong and Grave, Stuart Town Memorial, Anzac Hill Memorial, O'Keeffe House, Cypress Pine Overland Telegraph Poles near Pine Creek, Katherine Overland Telegraph Pylons, The Old Courthouse and Residency Alice Springs, Pine Creek Butchery and Bakery, Pine Creek Railway Precinct, Former Qantas Hangar, Roper River Overland Telegraph Construction Depot, Rumbalara Ochre Mine, Ryan Well Historic Reserve, SS Ellengowan, World War II Shipwrecks, Steam Pump House, Town Hall Ruins, Tree of Knowledge, State Square Banyan, Cavenagh St Boab Tree, Wishart Siding, and the former Wesleyan Church.

An additional note has been prepared on the Northern Territory Heritage Register describing how places are listed on the register, the kinds of places that can be nominated, how the public can go about nominating a place to the register, and providing a list of declared heritage places/objects.

Appendix 1: List of Heritage Places and Objects declared to 30 June, 1999.

Adelaide House
Adelaide River Pioneer Cemetery
Administrator's Office
Alcoota Fossil Beds
Alice Springs Heritage Precinct
Anna's Reservoir Conservation Reserve
Anzac Hill Memorial

Bamboo Creek Tin Mine

Blyth Homestead
Boab Tree, Cavenagh Street, Darwin
Bonney Well
Borrooloola Police Station Museum
Bowson Hut
Brock's Creek Chinatown and Temple Site
Brock's Creek Township, Railway Siding and Military Detention Barracks
Brown's Mart
Bullock Creek Fossil Site
Burrundie Explosives Magazine

Cape Don Lighthouse Complex
Chambers Pillar Historical Reserve
Channel Island Leprosarium and Reefs
Christ Church Cathedral Ruins
Commonwealth Bank
CWA/Red Cross Shop
Cypress Pine Overland Telegraph Poles

Daly River Coppermine and Graves
Daly Waters Aviation Complex
Darwin Botanic Gardens
Driffield Mine Site

East Point Fortifications
Ewaninga Conservation Reserve

Fannie Bay Gaol
Fenton Airfield
Flying Fox, Daly Waters
Former Alice Springs Post Office
Former Bagot Superintendent's Residence
Former CWA Rooms, Alice Springs
Former Methodist Manse
Former RAAF Explosives Storage Area
Francis Bay Explosives Complex
Frog Hollow

Gilbert Well
Government Battery and Cyanide Works, Arltunga
Government House
Gregory's Tree
Grove Hill Hotel

Heavitree Gap Police Station Historic Reserve

Hore's Homestead

Illamurta Springs Nature Reserve

Katherine Overland Telegraph Pylons

Katherine Railway Precinct

Kintore Caves Nature Reserve

Knott's Crossing

Kohinoor Adit

Lot 5601 Town of Darwin (Qantas Hangar)

Lots 7733-7736 Town of Alice Springs (Railway Cottages)

Lyons Cottage - B.A.T House

MacClark (*Acacia peuce*) Conservation Reserve

McLachlan's Tree

Milingimbi Mud Brick Houses

Mt Riddock Cemetery

Munmarlary Homestead

Murranji Track

Myilly Point Precinct

N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park

Newcastle Waters Township

Noltenius Billabong and Grave

O'Keeffe House

Old Admiralty House

Old Andado Station

Old Bonrook Station

Old Courthouse Building, Alice Springs

Old Hamilton Downs Station

Old Hartley Street School

Old Mt Riddock Homestead

Old Pine Creek Butchery

Old Playford Club Hotel

Palmerston Cemetery

Pine Creek Bakery

Pine Creek Post and Office Repeater Station

Pine Creek Railway Precinct

Quarantine Anti-Aircraft Battery Site

Roper River Overland Telegraph Construction Depot

Rumbalara Ochre Mine

Ryan Well Reserve

Smith Point Beacon
Snake Creek Armament Depot
Springhill Battery
Springvale Homestead Complex
SS Ellengowan
State Square Banyan Tree
Steam Pump House
Stuart Memorial Cemetery
Stuart Town Gaol
17 Shepherd Street

Tennant Creek Hospital Outpatients Department
The Residency, Alice Springs
Timber Creek Police Station Precinct
Town Hall Ruins
Tree of Knowledge
Twelve Mile Chinatown (Settlement and Battery)

Uniya Station

Victoria Settlement Historical Reserve

Wesleyan Church
Westpac Bank
Wishart Siding and Fettler's Mess
World War II Shipwrecks