Assessment criteria to assist in the identification of Historic Heritage Values

The following best practice criteria are promoted by the NZHPT for use by local authorities and communities to encourage a systematic and transparent approach to identification and assessment of historic heritage.

**Physical values**

**Archaeological information**: Does the place or area have the potential to contribute information about the human history of the region, or to current archaeological research questions, through investigation using archaeological methods?

**Architecture**: Is the place significant because of its design, form, scale, materials, style, ornamentation, period, craftsmanship or other architectural element?

**Technology and Engineering**: Does the place demonstrate innovative or important methods of construction or design, does it contain unusual construction materials, is it an early example of the use of a particular construction technique or does it have the potential to contribute information about technological or engineering history?

**Scientific**: Does the area or place have the potential to provide scientific information about the history of the region?

**Rarity**: Is the place or area, or are features within it, unique, unusual, uncommon or rare at a district, regional or national level or in relation to particular historical themes?

**Representativeness**: Is the place or area a good example of its class, for example, in terms of design, type, features, use, technology or time period?

**Integrity**: Does the place have integrity, retaining significant features from its time of construction, or later periods when important modifications or additions were carried out?

**Vulnerability**: Is the place vulnerable to deterioration or destruction or is threatened by land use activities.
**Context or Group:** Is the place or area part of a group of heritage places, a landscape, a townscape or setting which when considered as a whole amplify the heritage values of the place and group/landscape or extend its significance?

**Historic values**

**People:** Is the place associated with the life or works of a well-known or important individual, group or organisation?

**Events:** Is the place associated with an important event in local, regional or national history?

**Patterns:** Is the place associated with important aspects, processes, themes or patterns of local, regional or national history?

**Cultural values**

**Identity:** Is the place or area a focus of community, regional or national identity or sense of place, and does it have social value and provide evidence of cultural or historical continuity?

**Public esteem:** Is the place held in high public esteem for its heritage or aesthetic values or as a focus of spiritual, political, national or other cultural sentiment?

**Commemorative:** Does the place have symbolic or commemorative significance to people who use or have used it, or to the descendants of such people, as a result of its special interest, character, landmark, amenity or visual appeal?

**Education:** Could the place contribute, through public education, to people’s awareness, understanding and appreciation of New Zealand’s history and cultures?

**Tangata whenua:** Is the place important to tangata whenua for traditional, spiritual, cultural or historical reasons?

**Statutory recognition:** Does the place or area have recognition in New Zealand legislation or international law including: World Heritage Listing under the World Heritage Convention 1972; registration under the Historic Places Act 1993; is it an archaeological site as defined by the Historic Places Act 1993; is it a statutory acknowledgement under claim settlement legislation; or is it recognised by special legislation?

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The NZHPT welcomes any feedback and comments on this information sheet.

Comments can be provided to information@historic.org.nz. (Attention: Sustainable Heritage Guidance)