



# Terminology

Heritage Information Series **12**

**This is Guideline No.12 of a series of 12 prepared by City of Gold Coast to assist owners of heritage or character properties in maintaining or finding out more information about their property.**

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**This guideline includes definitions of the terminology used throughout the guideline series, which are listed as follows:**

- Guideline 1 - Owning a listed heritage place
- Guideline 2 - Conserving and maintaining heritage places 1
- Guideline 3 - Conserving and maintaining heritage places 2
- Guideline 4 - Researching the history of your place
- Guideline 5 - The Gold Coast Local Heritage Register
- Guideline 6 - Development at local heritage places
- Guideline 7 - Heritage places and sustainability
- Guideline 8 - Heritage organisations in Queensland
- Guideline 9 - Recognising Gold Coast residential housing styles
- Guideline 10 - The fibro beach house
- Guideline 11 - Painting your period place
- Guideline 12 - Terminology

The following definitions are for terms used throughout the guidelines, and some are based on those in the Burra Charter (see Guideline No. 2).

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**Adaptation:** Modifying a place to suit the existing use or a proposed new use. For example, *adaptation* can be as simple as adding new kitchen cupboards or a garage to a house. *Adaptive re-use* refers to adaptation of a heritage place for a use other than its early or most significant use.

**Balustrades:** The system of horizontal and vertical (and sometimes diagonal) elements infilling at the edges of verandahs, balconies, or stairs, including handrails. Usually timber but may include cast iron, or aluminium and steel in more recent buildings.

**Chamferboard:** External timber wall cladding shaped to a profile that allows overlapping at horizontal joints. Typically made from pine in early buildings and dressed to a smooth surface.

**Bracket:** In a heritage context, a decorative timber or cast-iron corner infill between vertical members such as verandah posts and horizontal members such as verandah beams or soffits.

**Butterfly (roof):** Two typically steep roof planes sloping down to a low intersection, forming a “V” shape.

**Colorbond:** A proprietary name for pre-painted steel roof and wall cladding.

**Corrugated iron:** Often referred to as “tin”, corrugated iron is galvanised (zinc coated) sheets of iron (later steel) with continuous folds, and used for roofing and cladding.

**Conservation:** All the processes of looking after a place so that it retains its heritage significance. It includes *maintenance*, *preservation*, *restoration*, *reconstruction*, and *adaptation*.

**Conservation Management Plan:** A conservation management plan (CMP), or conservation plan, is a document prepared to guide the conservation and management of a place to ensure that its heritage values are retained and maintained, usually prepared by a recognised heritage professional and following the principles and methodology of the Burra Charter and its associated guidelines (see Guideline 2).

**Development:** Development is defined under the Sustainable Planning Act (SPA) 2009 and includes building, repairing, altering, underpinning, moving, demolishing, excavating or filling, renovations, alterations, additions, and changes to landscape or natural features, except for Queensland Heritage Register places where development also includes painting and plastering that substantially alters appearance, work on furniture, fitting and other objects associated with the place and which contribute to its cultural heritage significance.

**Fabric:** The physical material of the *place* including components, fixtures, contents, and objects.

**Fibre cement sheet:** Replacement for asbestos cement (“fibro”), using cellulose fibres in lieu of asbestos.

**Fibro:** Colloquial term specifically referring to asbestos cement board, but often used in reference to other asbestos building products. Also refers to a type of housing popular on the Gold Coast built prior to 1990 utilising asbestos cement board. Not to be confused with fibre cement sheet (see above).

**Gable:** The triangular upper part of a wall under a pitched roof.

**Heritage significance (often cultural heritage significance):** The term used to embrace the range of qualities that make some places especially important to the community, over and above their basic, utilitarian function. These places are usually those that help us to understand the past, enrich the present, and that will be of value to future generations.

**Hip:** Refers to the part of a roof formed where two adjacent sloping sides intersect.

**Interpretation:** Ways of presenting the heritage significance of a place in order to provide an understanding of it. It may be a combination of maintenance, restoration, and reconstruction, as well as through its use. It may include exhibitions, publications, and display of early photograph or drawings.

**Maintenance:** The continuous protective care of the *fabric* and setting of a *place*.

**Place:** A broad term applied to a site, an area, a building or buildings (usually including their site, surrounds, and contents). A heritage place is usually one which has been formally identified as being of heritage significance, and can be a building or a structure, an open space or landscape, a relic or an object.

**Preservation:** Maintaining the fabric in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

**Reconstruction:** Returning a place to a known earlier state, and is distinguished from *restoration* by the introduction of new materials. An example of reconstruction would be replacing a missing section of balustrading using new material and matching intact remnants.

**Re-pointing:** Replacing the jointing material in brickwork or stonework.

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**Restoration:** Returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by assembling existing components without the introduction of new material. This is a “narrower” definition than that in common use. Examples of *restoration* would be the removal of a later non-significant verandah enclosure to reveal the original *balustrading* behind, or reinstating some previously removed doors which had been stored under a building.

**Reversibility:** Refers to the ability to “un-do” changes made to a heritage place.

**Ridge:** A horizontal apex at the intersection of two sloping roofs.

**Skillion:** A single pitched sloping roof.

**Split Systems:** Air conditioners consisting of an indoor unit, wall or floor mounted, and an external condenser.

**Tung oil:** A natural oil (from the nut of the tung tree) used in traditional floor finishes.

**Weatherboard:** External overlapping wall cladding boards, slightly wedge-shaped in cross-section, usually cut from hardwood and left with the face as-sawn.

**Zincalume:** A proprietary name for steel roof and wall cladding with a protective coating of zinc and aluminium.

## Further information

### Where do I obtain further information?

Further information visit our web site at <http://heritage.goldcoast.qld.gov.au> or contact;

#### Office of City Architect and Heritage

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