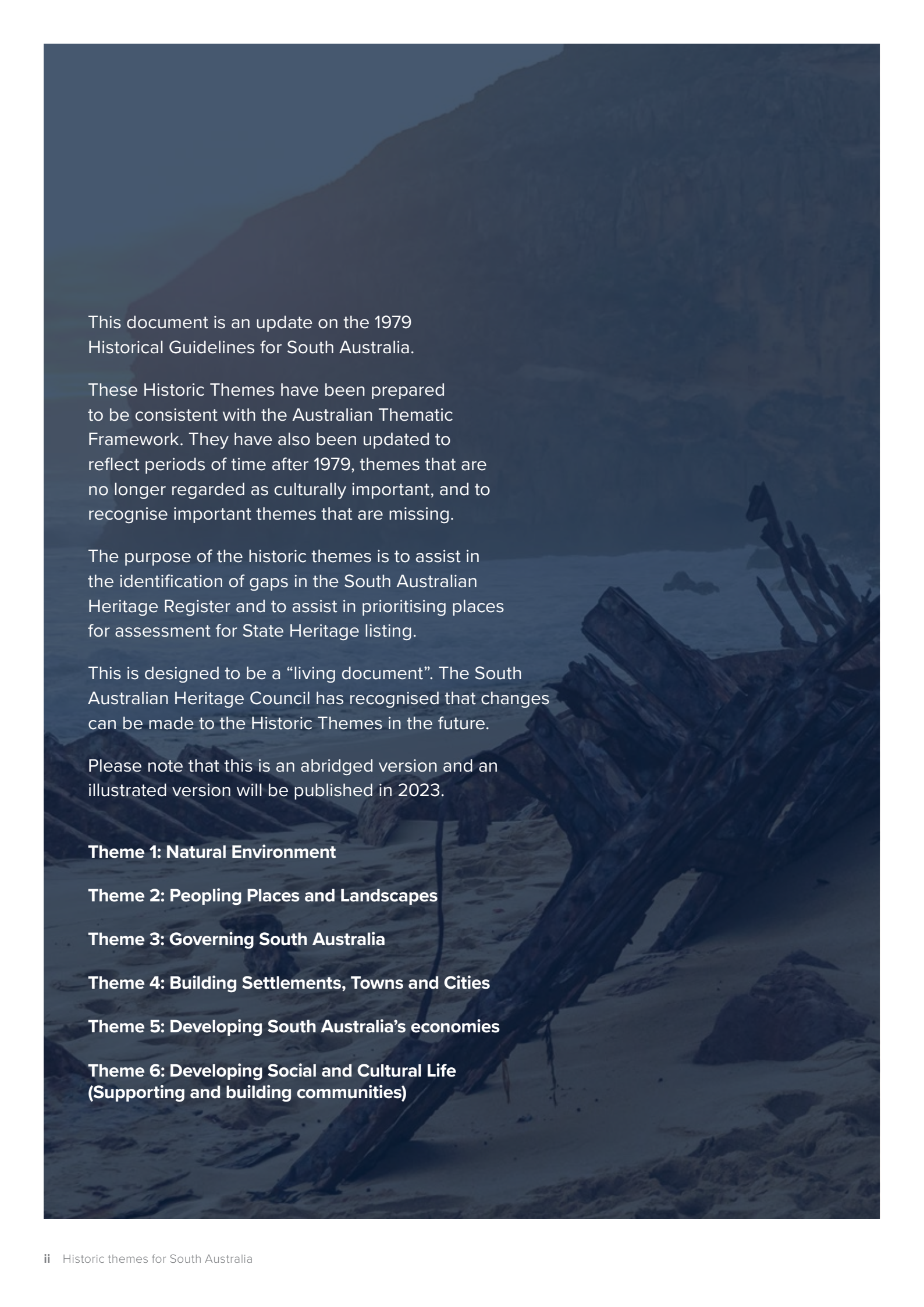# Historic themes for South Australia

South Australian Heritage Council

Government
of South Australia

This document is an update on the 1979 Historical Guidelines for South Australia.

These Historic Themes have been prepared to be consistent with the Australian Thematic Framework. They have also been updated to reflect periods of time after 1979, themes that are no longer regarded as culturally important, and to recognise important themes that are missing.

The purpose of the historic themes is to assist in the identification of gaps in the South Australian Heritage Register and to assist in prioritising places for assessment for State Heritage listing.

This is designed to be a "living document". The South Australian Heritage Council has recognised that changes can be made to the Historic Themes in the future.

Please note that this is an abridged version and an illustrated version will be published in 2023.

Theme 1: Natural Environment

Theme 2: Peopling Places and Landscapes

Theme 3: Governing South Australia

Theme 4: Building Settlements, Towns and Cities

Theme 5: Developing South Australia's economies

Theme 6: Developing Social and Cultural Life (Supporting and building communities)

Theme 1
Natural Environment

Covers how South Australia's distinctive geology, landscapes, flora and fauna have evolved over millions of years and traces the factors that have made South Australia's natural environment an important part of Australia's biodiversity. It includes First Nation's traditions about how the land and its features were created and the use and appreciation of the natural environment since contact and colonisation.

1.1 Tracing climatic and topographical change

Types of places represented under this theme include:
Geological formations, glaciers, evidence of ice ages, caves and cave systems, and changes in sea level.

1.2 Tracing the evolution of plants and animals

Types of places represented under this theme include:
Palaeontological deposits.

1.3 Maintaining Creation Stories and defining Country

Types of places represented under this theme include:
First Nation sites of significance, places that feature in Creation Stories, geological features and landforms.

1.4 Living with natural processes and disasters

Types of places represented under this theme include:
Evidence of meteor impacts, Goyder's line, evidence of fire, drought and flood.

1.5 Appreciating South Australia's natural environment

Types of places represented under this theme include:
National and Conservation Parks, Botanic Gardens, tourist sites, natural history museums, observatories and planetariums.

1.6 Recognising human impacts on the natural environment

Types of places represented under this theme include:
Quarries, mines, pastoral and agricultural stations, Murray River and irrigation systems.

Theme 2
Peopling Places and Landscapes

Understanding the many ways people have arrived and settled in South Australia and the successive waves of migration that have built our State.

2.1 Recognising the First Nations People's intrinsic links to place and landscape

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Places of First Nations cultural significance including songlines, geological landmarks, meeting places, waterholes and waterways.

2.2 Exploring, mapping and surveying South Australia (including government and private survey schemes)

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Places associated with the exploration and mapping of South Australia, such as early landmarks, surveying marks and sites, monuments and sites associated with notable explorers, early private and government towns (parklands town model).

2.3 Adapting to diverse environments

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Irrigation schemes and water management sites such as tanks, wells, pumping stations, aqueducts, weirs and drainage schemes; land clearance, managing drought, subterranean housing such as at Burra and Coober Pedy.

2.4 Migrating to South Australia (including German settlement and post-war migration)

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Migrant vernacular buildings and construction techniques, quarantine station, migrant hostels, community clubs, places of worship, monuments.

2.5 Establishing and abandoning settlements

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Ghost towns, abandoned sites and settlements, disused or now little used transport corridors.

2.6 Understanding early contact or conflict sites between First Nations people and European occupiers

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Contact sites, missions, massacre sites, evidence of conflict between Traditional Owners and Europeans.

Theme 3
Governing South Australia

Covers the phases of government in South Australia's history and the varied sites associated with defence, law and order and local government. It includes the granting of rights such as Aboriginal rights and Women's suffrage.

3.1 Developing a self-governing democratic British Colony distinguished by freedom of religion and no convicts

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Places associated with democracy and political reforms including parliament houses, council chambers and town halls; places of worship associated with religious freedom and dissenting denominations.

3.2 Granting political rights (including Aboriginal rights and Women's suffrage)

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Places associated with the recognition of South Australia's Traditional Owners (Native Title, laws, legislation); Parliamentary buildings, meeting places for civil rights movements, places where rights were enacted, places associated with Women's suffrage.

3.3 Establishing and implementing federal, state and local governments

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Parliamentary buildings, council chambers, town halls and civic buildings.

3.4 Defending South Australia and Australia

Types of places represented under this theme include:

First Nations as defenders of country, war memorials, military hospitals, training facilities and parade grounds, internment camps, military forts, magazines.

3.5 Maintaining law and order

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Court houses, police stations, gaols and cells, missions and labour camps imposed on First Nations people, armoury, barracks.

Theme 4
Building Settlements, Towns and Cities

Development of mining towns and agricultural service centres, the emergence of Adelaide and Port Adelaide, creating private and government towns, parklands town model, garden suburb, postwar new town (Elizabeth) and regional centres developed as a consequence of postwar industrialisation and growth, impact of deindustrialisation.

4.1 Planning the settlement of South Australia

Types of places represented under this theme include:
Urban and rural settlements, special surveys, South Australian Company, Goyder's line

4.2 Establishing Adelaide and Port Adelaide

Types of places represented under this theme include:
Adelaide Plan/Colonel Light/Parklands, settlement pattern - town and rural land packages together. Building a linked capital city and port.

4.3 Shaping the suburbs (including pre and post World War 2)

Types of places represented under this theme include:
Development marking transition from villages/towns to suburbs, infill development, connections through transport links (railway stations, infrastructure to support motor vehicles), early suburban development, interwar development (garden suburbs), post-war development (role of South Australian Housing Trust (new towns and suburbs, regional centres) and private developers (master planned communities)), industrialisation, and deindustrialisation, architectural styles associated with key periods of time and the role of migrant vernacular building styles and techniques.
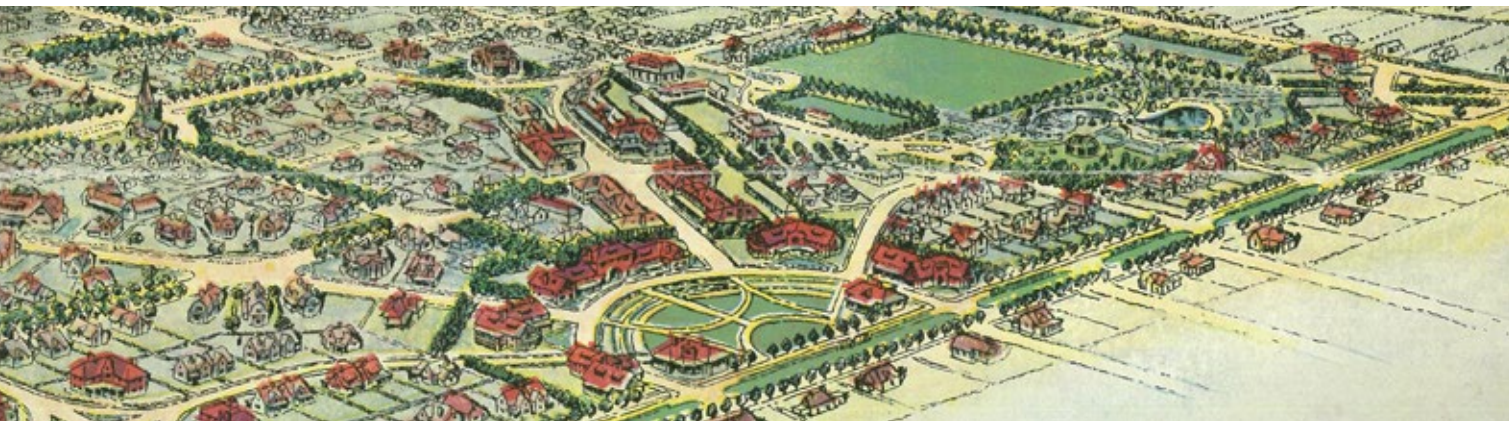
4.4   Making regional centres

Types of places represented under this theme include:
Development of towns into regional centres through growth of primary industries, industrialisation, and remaking communities post-industrialisation.

4.5 Living in country towns

Types of places represented under this theme include:
Community buildings typically found in every town such as hotels, churches, shops, institute or community hall, railway station.

4.6 Supplying services and utilities

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Pumping stations, water pipelines, reservoirs, sewage works, power stations and electrical installations, gas infrastructure, roads and bridges, incinerators, recycling depots and waste disposal.

4.7 Marking significant phases in development of SA's settlements, towns and cities (including key town planning initiatives and architectural styles)

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Places marking the rise and decline of places, including ghost towns, boom towns, garden cities and suburbs, new towns, master planned communities, sustainable cities, urban water design, key architectural styles, new building technologies and tall buildings.

4.8 Making homes for South Australians

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Houses including model and display homes, quarries, brickworks, timber plantations and factories and workshops for developing houses, fixtures and fittings. Homes ranging from grand mansions to tiny cottages, including row houses and apartments and places representing notable periods of house design.

4.9 Living on the fringes (including homelessness)

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Hostels and shelters, philanthropic housing for less fortunate, role of the South Australian Housing Trust in providing homes and community services on the fringe, shanty towns.

Theme 5
Developing South Australia's economies

Building the South Australian economy through primary, secondary and tertiary (service) industries, and the institutions that support economic development such as banking and finance.

5.1 Developing South Australia's economy

Types of places represented under this theme include:
Shops, banks, office buildings, financial institutions, insurance companies.

5.2 Mining (including copper mining)

Types of places represented under this theme include:
Mines, mine buildings and processing plants associated with quarrying and mining, including copper mining (especially significant in SA), silver, lead, gold, tin, etc.

5.3 Developing primary production (pastoralism, agriculture, bio-security)

Types of places represented under this theme include:
Pastoral station complexes and associated infrastructure; farms including agricultural buildings; mills, distilleries, agricultural schools, institutions and research centres, agricultural and horticultural show grounds.

5.4 Developing the wine industry

Types of places represented under this theme include:
Vineyards, wineries, cellar doors and viticulture research facilities.

5.5 Using South Australia's flora and fauna resources (sealing, whaling, forestry)

Types of places represented under this theme include:
Early hunting sites including sealing and whaling; forestry and buildings and infrastructure for processing trees and plants including distilleries, saw-pits and wattle-bark mills; and aquaculture buildings and associated infrastructure.

5.6 Connecting South Australia through transport and communications

Types of places represented under this theme include:
Post offices, telegraphs, railways (including evidence of three gauges), roads, bridges, airports, planes, ports, riverboats, ships, boats and shipwrecks, infrastructure to support railways, motor vehicles, ships/paddle steamers/boats, places to build and maintain trains, ships/boats and motor vehicles.

5.7 Understanding scientific and technological development

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Exhibition buildings, educational buildings/
precincts, and research organisations.

5.8 Developing manufacturing, engineering and construction and service industries

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Factories, workshops, industrial buildings
and sites, quarries, manufacturers.

5.9 Supporting workers and workplaces

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Places demonstrating the experiences of workers, including:
diverse working conditions, union buildings and worker's
federations, work health and safety, paid and unpaid
work, volunteering, childcare/caring for dependents,
and working in a white-dominated economy.

5.10 Developing creative Industries

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Places supporting creative industries, including schools
for creative arts, studios and performance spaces.

5.11 Developing SA's tourism industry (welcoming tourists and visitors)

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Tourism sites and guest houses, hotels, motels, places
designed for cultural and recreational visitors.

Developing Social and Cultural Life (Supporting and building communities)

Highlights the role of churches, schools, hospitals, philanthropic and community organisations and institutions in transferring old-world belief systems to a new colony. It also covers the rich legacy of creative culture and the arts as a part of South Australia's history and identity including arts, sports, popular culture and science.

6.1 Supporting diverse religions and maintaining spiritual life (SA point of difference)

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Evidence of the spread of nonconformist religion across South Australia including chapels, churches, manses and schools. Prominent religions include Anglican, Methodist (four sects), Lutheran (largest population in Australia – several sects), Roman Catholic, Baptists (several sects), Congregationalist, Presbyterian (several sects), Church of Christ, Unitarian, Quakers, Orthodox (9 types), Salvation Army, Mormons, Seventh-day Adventists, Pentecostal, Christadelphian, Jehovah's Witness and Christian Science.

6.2 Making education available to all South Australians

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Supporting lifelong learning including kindergartens, schools, colleges and universities, also other training facilities and remote education, e.g. school of air.

6.3 Providing health and welfare services

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Hospitals, doctors' rooms, medical centres, mental asylums; friendly and benevolent societies including Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Druids, Rechabites and Foresters; Masons; Red Cross; Mother and Babies' Association; Deaf society; and churches.

6.4 Forming community organisations/Developing cultural and social organisations

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Institutes, libraries, Country Women's Association, community halls, community centres, social clubs, dance halls.

6.5 Participating in sport, leisure and recreation (including eating, drinking and holidays)

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Ovals, grandstands, sporting clubs and buildings, theatres, cinemas, galleries, public art, clubs, showgrounds, fairgrounds, restaurants, hotels, beach infrastructure.

6.6 Commemorating achievements, milestones and significant events

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Landmarks, significant sites, memorials and plaques commemorating significant events.

6.7 Continuing cultural traditions

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Cultural clubs, churches, festival sites/routes.

6.8 Marking the phases of life

Types of places represented under this theme include:

Hospitals, schools, registry offices, churches, nursing homes, funeral homes, cemeteries.

6.9 Innovating and advancing knowledge

Types of places represented under this theme include:

University buildings, research labs, scientific discovery, innovation and learning.