Cultural Artefacts and World Heritage Sites
How movable heritage relates to the significance of World Heritage Sites
Definitions in the Burra Charter

• **Place** as a geographically defined area, which may include elements, objects, spaces and views.

• **Cultural significance** is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects.
Objects at a Heritage Site

• Movable heritage is part of the fabric of a heritage site, which contributes to its cultural significance
• Related objects contribute to the conditions of integrity and authenticity of a heritage site
• Objects act as a tangible link to a site’s occupation, purpose and use
The Link Between Object and Site

**Fremantle Prison Crown Theatre piano, 1923**

This Beale piano was purchased in 1923 by Fremantle Prison. It was played during music concerts, and at the Prison’s closure in 1991 had served for 68 years of entertainment by, and for, Fremantle prisoners.

The piano’s arrival was much anticipated. From the 1910s many individuals and groups were volunteering their time to offer live entertainment for the inmates. From 1921 the lack of a piano was identified. Funds were raised at various events, and the piano was finally acquired in 1923, with Superintendent Badger proudly announcing the purchase at the annual Boxing Day concert. The funds raised on the night would be used to ‘materially lighten the debt thus incurred’.

During the 1920s concerts were performed in the Crown Theatre, then known as the ‘concert room’. Performed on Sunday afternoons, they were organised by the Prison Gate Committee. Women were able to attend from 1925, when an upper balcony was erected in the Theatre.

This piano is a typical example of those produced by Beale in the 1920s. Beale pianos were manufactured in Annandale, Sydney, from 1893 to 1961. The founder of the firm, Octavius Beale, succeeded in making an Australian made piano suitable to the changeable Australian climate. Beale pianos were popular, with almost 100,000 pianos manufactured by the company throughout its history.
Objects and the Five Cs

• Credibility – objects add to the significance and authenticity of a site by being utilized in their original historical context.
Objects and the Five Cs

• Conservation - conserving a heritage site includes conserving its history and connection with the community. Objects provide a pathway to connect people to what would otherwise be an empty room.
Objects and the Five Cs

• Capacity Building – increase the capacity of your team by including museum and collection management professionals

A grade of significance has been assigned in this table to each separate graffiti mark located in and around the shelters in 3 Division Yard. The degree of significance is based on its condition and content, in particular whether it contains full or partial names, dates, phrases or other discernible and/or traceable marks or symbols.

The significance of each piece of graffiti has been ranked accordingly:

1 – Low significance (blue)
   This graffiti can be removed, only if conservation and restoration works require

2 – Medium significance (orange)
   Attempts should be made to preserve this graffiti wherever possible

3 – High significance (red)
   Every effort should be made to preserve this graffiti, and it should be conserved in every instance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Significance</th>
<th>Location and Description</th>
<th>Photograph</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 - High</td>
<td>Large shelter, small middle table, wooden bench seat</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Photograph" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘LEE 7/12/87’</td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Photograph" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - Medium</td>
<td>Large shelter, long table, northern wooden bench seat</td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Photograph" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘MASS 91’</td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Photograph" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 - Low</td>
<td>Large shelter, small middle table, wooden bench seat</td>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Photograph" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eight vertical lines</td>
<td><img src="image6" alt="Photograph" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objects and the Five Cs

- Communication - Increase public awareness through exhibition programs; keeping the site new and dynamic for repeat visitors
Objects and the Five Cs

• Communities – Exhibitions can increase the public’s awareness of your collection, and encourage them to share their stories and artefacts.
Collections at Heritage Sites; the comparative benefits and challenges
Suitable Storage
Conservation Challenges
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BMR Number</th>
<th>Object Name</th>
<th>Parts</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Materials</th>
<th>Measurements (mm)</th>
<th>Marks</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Storage Location</th>
<th>Cataloguer</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>History</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Cross Refs:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006.1.2</td>
<td>12mm plate glass</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Irregular shaped pieces of broken plate glass from Refractory block cell windows, replaced during 2006</td>
<td>Glass</td>
<td>H137 x W160 x</td>
<td>Small crack.</td>
<td>2006 Sept</td>
<td>Glass in Refractory cell window broken and replaced in 2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005.1</td>
<td>Section of drainage down pipe</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Section of drainage downpipe 80x100mm; hollow downpipe in West Workshops store wall South of parade ground door</td>
<td>Galvanised iron</td>
<td>H715 x W100 x D80</td>
<td>Encrusted with limestone from being embedded in stone wall</td>
<td>2005 Oct</td>
<td>Probably made at Fremantle Prison</td>
<td>Map drawn on back of original paper work</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002.10</td>
<td>Revolving head for ventilation shaft</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Spherical head of sheet metal for ventilation shaft on roof of Key Room in Sally port</td>
<td>Metal</td>
<td>Diam.520 x H15</td>
<td>Corroded surface</td>
<td>2001 April</td>
<td>Removed and replaced April 2002</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998.30</td>
<td>Sash pulleys</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>40mm grooved wheel to take sash cord for the raising and lowering of window sashes. A counter weight attached to end of cord held in place by two screws</td>
<td>Steel</td>
<td>H100 x L25 x W40</td>
<td>Overall fair condition – surface markings</td>
<td>1998 March</td>
<td>Found in East Workshops March 1998</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998.80</td>
<td>Wooden lathe and stucco plaster</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 pieces of timber lathe with plaster attached, probably from a floor, as opposed to ceiling application</td>
<td>Wooden lathe, stucco</td>
<td>approx. H250 x L40 x W20</td>
<td>Fair condition for incomplete item</td>
<td>1998 March</td>
<td>Found by external wall on The Terrace</td>
<td>Probably from a cottage gable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997.30</td>
<td>Cupboard</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Timber has non-locking door, shelf and hanging rail</td>
<td>Timber</td>
<td>H1700 x W595 x D445</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>1997 Nov</td>
<td>Found in East Workshops</td>
<td>P: Furniture S: Institutional T: Cupboard Prison Officer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Significance Assessment of the Collection

**Name:** Communion Set  
**Category:** Convict Era (1850-1885)  
**Accession Number:** 1978.158.1-5

**Historical Notes**
Religious observance played a central role in convict reform, with compulsory attendance at weekly services for both prisoners and officers. Service was initially held for all convicts in the Anglican Chapel at Fremantle Prison from 1855. The Anglican Chapel was constructed as the centrepiece of the Prison. The large, open building looked out across the Prison gates towards the town of Fremantle. Fully completed in 1858, the Anglican Chapel is the only room in the Main Cell Block without bars on the windows. This was to create the impression of trust, to aid the prisoner’s path towards redemption.

This communion set, including a chalice, flagon, platter and spoon, is made from plated silver and is accompanied by its original storage box. The set was first used in 1852 at the temporary establishment for convicts in Essex Street, Fremantle. Later, the set was used in the Anglican Chapel of Fremantle Prison.

Inside the lid of the box is a facsimile of the original receipt, dated 5 April 1852, to Reverend Fletcher who was the Anglican Chaplain of the Convict Establishment between 1850 and 1852.

**Statement of Significance**
The Communion Set at Fremantle Prison holds high historic, aesthetic and spiritual significance. Anchored in its strong provenance, with the retention of the information contained within the original receipt of purchase, this object is a physical reminder of the importance of religion in the early Convict Establishment. It also holds wider representative significance as evidence of the 19th century’s approach to punishment and reform; that the path to redemption was through God. The object maintains international significance as a direct link with Fremantle Prison’s World Heritage Site listing. It also holds national significance as a well preserved piece of religious equipment from the 1850s, which can be linked to the earliest stages of convictism in Western Australia.
Contact us

State Heritage Office
Bairds Building
491 Wellington Street Perth
PO Box 7479
Cloisters Square
PO WA 6850

T: (08) 6552 4000
FREECALL (regional): 1800 524 000
F: (08) 6552 4001
E: info@stateheritage.wa.gov.au
W: www.stateheritage.wa.gov.au