

Heritage Conservation and Historic Preservation

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Preservation

1. Introduction

- **Heritage conservation:** the careful management of historic buildings, sites and cultural landscapes to retain their significance.
- It safeguards tangible and intangible heritage for present and future generations.

2. Key Concepts

- **Significance:** the historic, aesthetic, scientific or social value that justifies protection.
- **Authenticity:** the degree to which fabric, design and setting are genuine and credible.
- **Integrity:** the completeness and intactness of a heritage place.

3. Approaches

- **Preservation:** stabilising and maintaining existing fabric with minimal change.
- **Restoration:** returning a place to a known earlier state by removing later additions.
- **Adaptive reuse:** giving a historic structure a new compatible function.

4. Frameworks and Charters

- The Venice Charter (1964) and Burra Charter guide conservation ethics and practice.
- UNESCO World Heritage listing protects sites of outstanding universal value.
- National registers and heritage legislation provide legal protection.

5. Challenges

- Balancing conservation with development pressure, tourism and modern use.
- Funding, technical expertise and material sourcing can be limiting.
- Climate change, disasters and neglect threaten heritage fabric.