



Resources for Recognizing Heritage Sites in Thailand

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Abstract

Throughout Thailand and elsewhere in the world, heritage sites are under threat. To alleviate this, our project's goal was to increase the protection of heritage sites in Thailand. Initially, we aimed to create a resource for heritage site owners to understand and apply for official recognition by the Department of Fine Arts (DFA). We interviewed conservation organizations, the DFA, and heritage site owners and found there exist misconceptions surrounding the DFA. Our goal expanded to include developing methods to alleviate this through increased transparency, communication, and protections.

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Glossary

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

DFA: Department of Fine Arts

ICOMOS: International Council on Monuments and Sites

BPN: Baan Plai Nern

Director-General: Director-General of the Department of Fine Arts

Use value: The main sources of direct income through heritage sites, such as admission fees, cost of land, and workers' wages

Non-use value: The main sources of indirect economic benefit, such as option and bequest

Option: The wish to preserve the possibility of consuming the heritage's services in the future

Bequest: The wish to pass on heritage to future generations

Executive Summary

Increasing levels of urbanization in Thailand, coupled with minimal urban planning and heritage protection laws, pose a serious threat to buildings that hold historical or cultural value (Brereton, 2015). Hundreds of such sites have either lost their value due to nearby development or have been demolished to make space for high-rise buildings (Pimonsathean, 2019). Owners of heritage sites generally know very little about what protections the law offers or where to ask for help, leaving them helpless in the face of drastic urban changes. The Department of Fine Arts (DFA), a branch of the Ministry of Education, oversees all sites of historical, archaeological, or artistic value in Thailand. The DFA offers some protections, but also has its own set of limitations, which sometimes deter sites from considering official registration. Through our research, we found that site owners who do not want to work with the DFA can pursue other options to find help. In order to make it easier for owners of heritage sites to learn about ways to protect themselves through laws, advertisement, or external funding, our group pursued the following goal: create a resource tailored to site owners which contains accurate, succinct, and easy to understand information and guidelines on how the DFA officially recognizes sites, as well as other options that sites of historical value can pursue in order to gain recognition. As the project progressed, we also realized that there is room for improvement within the DFA's process, so we set out to evaluate what the department could do to improve its organization and heritage sites' perception of it. We worked to meet the following objectives:

1. Determine what options exist for unrecognized heritage sites to be recognized by different lists and organizations,
2. Identify the properties and criteria that make a site a heritage site,
3. Detail the steps and process of how different lists could offer recognition to a site,
4. Determine steps the DFA can take to improve its image and increase benefits for heritage sites.

Methodology

In order to meet our objectives, we prepared a set of interviews with representatives from the DFA and Siam Society (an organization under Royal Patronage which provides financial and academic resources to help heritage sites), managers of historical sites that do not have DFA recognition such as Baan Plai Nern and Voradis Palace as well as managers of sites which are part of their own foundation, such as the Jim Thompson House (part of the *James H. W. Thompson Foundation*).

We interviewed an archaeologist at the DFA who had been part of a committee evaluating whether sites should be officially recognized. We asked questions regarding the following topics:

- The DFA's definition of a historical or heritage site,
- The types of recognition offered to such sites,

- Benefits sites obtain through DFA recognition,
- The steps for applying for such recognition,
- The detailed process of assessing whether a site deserves recognition, the parties involved, as well as its duration.

We conducted the interview in Thai, and received a book which detailed in English the laws that currently protect heritage sites the DFA is aware of. After transcribing and analyzing the interview and legal documents, we followed up to clarify details in various definitions, the process of recognition, and communication between the DFA and applicants during this process.

At the Siam Society, we asked about the following:

- The extent of the society's efforts to help heritage conservation,
- Whether they have partnered with the DFA in the past,
- Their opinion on the value of DFA recognition,
- The reasons why sites are often hesitant to apply for or accept DFA recognition,
- What steps could the DFA, the government, Thai society, or other stakeholders take to offer more protection to cultural heritage sites.

We interviewed two members of the family at Baan Plai Nern to learn about the following points:

- Why owners of the site applied for DFA recognition,
- Whether they were aware of the protection they receive from DFA,
- Whether they have collaborated with any other organizations to ask for help in protecting their site,
- Whether they had tried to apply for other forms of recognition, and if so, what the process was,
- What positive and negative perceptions they had of the DFA before and after the registration process.

The owner of Voradis Palace was unable to physically meet with us but could answer some of our questions through a phone interview. Since this site is not registered with the DFA, we asked whether the site receives support or protection from another organization. We also assessed their level of understanding of DFA protections, recognitions, and criteria. After learning that they receive no outside support, we asked how they locate funds, and whether it is hard to take care of a historical site on their own.

Representatives of Jim Thompson House were eager to meet with us. We asked about the reason why the house managers had decided to make their own foundation instead of registering with the DFA and the benefits of creating a foundation.

Results

Department of Fine Arts Recognition

From our methodology, we found out that the DFA contains a list of sites with outstanding value, called the list of “Registered Ancient Monuments.” To become part of this list, the DFA will either approach the owner of a site they deem deserving of registration, or if a site owner wishes to request recognition, they must send an application request to the DFA together with a set of documents outlining the importance of the site. After the DFA evaluation committee receives the documents, the site goes through an evaluation process made up of three sections, all assessed by a different third party. Afterwards, the site must wait 150-200 days for the committee to reach a verdict. Throughout this time there is no communication between the DFA and the site’s owner, and only after recognition is approved is the owner notified of his/her rights and limitations.

Even if an ancient monument is not registered through the DFA, it still must abide by the laws found on Chapter 1 of the *Act on National Monuments, Antiques, Objects of Art and National Museums*. The most important points on this Act are as follows:

- The Director-General of the DFA has the power to register any site.
- If owners do not accept the site’s registration, they have 30 days to file a dispute against the DFA in court.
- The Director-General has the power to order a competent official to make repairs to any site, independent of whether or not it is registered, after approval from the site’s owner.
- No alterations or building within a site’s territory can be done without approval from the Director-General.
- Anyone that defaces, destroys, or in some way illegally alters a non-registered Ancient Monument is subject to punishment by imprisonment for no more than 7 years, a fee of no more than 7,000 THB, or both.
- Anyone that defaces, destroys, or in some way illegally alters a registered Ancient Monument is subject to punishment by imprisonment for no more than 10 years, a fee of no more than 1,000,000 THB, or both.

In addition to the abovementioned regulations, the DFA is currently working on lowering taxes and creating a “buffer zone” around registered sites which will force stricter criteria for construction within this zone.

We learned that owners of all historical sites must propose any changes or repairs they wish to make to their own sites to the Director-General. If the repairs are minor, like a broken window or leaking roof, a phone call or letter will suffice, and a specialist will come to the site to fix the problem within three weeks. If the changes are major, however, DFA will need to take it

into consideration further to ensure the site does not lose its historical value when the project gets carried out. This extends the response time to at least one month.

During our interview with Siam Society, we learned that a vast number of registered sites could not make desperately needed repairs because DFA does not have the necessary funds to cover them or does not approve of the changes. For this reason, sites direct their attention towards the Siam Society or other foundations in hopes of receiving funding from them. Providing financial help for DFA-approved projects is just one way that Siam Society collaborates with the association. Other examples include co-hosting conferences, lectures, conducting surveys, and exchanging academic resources.

The responses from the owner of Voradis Palace, the senior conservationist at the Jim Thompson House, and residents of Baan Plai Nern solidified what we already knew about site owners lacking information or not desiring registration. The owner of Voradis Palace noted that although the palace is recognized as a museum by the DFA, the family still pays for repairs using their own funding because he believes the DFA would not properly preserve the site. He also was not aware about the existence of the list of registered sites. On the other hand, residents of Baan Plai Nern said that they applied for DFA registration after learning about the potential buffer zone law, and if it was not for that, they would not have considered registration as an option. They also warned us about the fact that because the DFA does not have much funding, a majority of sites that rely on their financial support for renovation must wait for the DFA to have the financial means to make any changes, which often takes an extended period.

UNESCO Recognitions

Although we were unable to meet with representatives of UNESCO Bangkok, we could gather a significant amount of information through research about two forms of recognition the organization provide which are specifically tailored to Thailand and neighboring countries: The *Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation* and the *Asia-Pacific Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts*. This branch of UNESCO holds a yearly conference to announce the winners of the competitions, who obtain advertisement on UNESCO's website as well as a physical certificate. The first award recognizes outstanding conservation efforts completed within the last 10 years on four sites that are older than 50 years old; while the second award recognizes sites built less than 50 years ago, whose architectural elements are integrated into the nation's history. The application criteria, regulations, and form can be found on the website of UNESCO Bangkok.

Creating a Foundation

From our meeting with the *James H. W. Thompson Foundation* we were able to get a better understanding of the benefits of creating a foundation for a heritage site. The option is best suited for heritage sites with money or popularity since there is a high start-up cost for a foundation and funding can be difficult to find. The *James H. W. Thompson Foundation* gets there funding through the entry fee to the Jim Thompson House. A Foundation provides sites with the autonomy to make repairs and changes to the site without DFA approval. However, a

foundation does not have the benefit of receiving additional legal protections and funding for repairs and changes from the DFA.

Recommendations

With the DFA as our sponsor, we propose several recommendations to them after analyzing gathered data. By implementing these suggestions, the DFA could become more transparent, approachable, and helpful to heritage sites.

Availability of Information, Transparency, Objectivity

If a site owner wants to know about the extent of protection the DFA offers or about evaluation criteria and timeline for registration, this information should be easily accessible to them. Hence, we recommend that DFA post on their website simplified and easy to understand infographics such as the ones we created, which describe the process, criteria, and protections of registration. Next, we noticed the physical and academic value of a site applying for registration is currently gauged using subjective criteria. To make site evaluation as accurate as possible, the DFA should try to minimize subjective assessment by clearly defining thresholds that justify each point the site can receive for each subsection, as they have done on the “age” section. Moreover, we recommend that the DFA inform site owners about the legal difference between registered and non-registered sites before they start the registration process.

Efficiency and Elimination of Stigma

We recommend the DFA take a series of steps to reduce the stigma surrounding recognition, such as the incorrect ideas about losing ownership of one’s property, starting with making such a clarification in their website. Next, we suggest relaxing and expediting approvals for changes site owners want to make, especially when they are not requesting DFA funding. We further propose a rating system we created to determine what requests should be prioritized for approval. Finally, we suggest the DFA allow sites to withdraw their application for recognition at any time and refuse such a verdict without having to take the case to court.

Further Protection

Finally, we looked at additional protection the DFA could provide to incentivize site owners to apply for recognition. We strongly suggest the DFA press for the addition of lower taxes and a buffer zone as protection for registered sites. Next, we recommend the DFA consult conservation and protection laws of other countries, such as the UK or France, to see what Thai legislature lacks in comparison and how they may expand the protections they offer to heritage sites. Lastly, we recommend that the DFA expand their focus to include value-based conservation in addition to material-based conservation. We have found that all too often, the DFA works to preserve the physical structure of a heritage site (material-based) while neglecting much of its diminishing reverence and cultural value (value-based).

1 Introduction

The rapid expansion of urbanization around the world has resulted in challenges for preserving unrecognized heritage sites. Many governments in developing countries will favor urban development over the conservation of heritage sites to increase their economic standing in the world. This pursuit of power and prosperity at the expense of heritage can lead to the loss of national identity and culture (Sigel, L., 1978).

In Bangkok, Thailand, the imbalance of culture and urban development may result in major threats for unregistered heritage sites (Stent, J., 2012). While officially recognized sites receive some protections from the law, unrecognized sites lack the same protections and benefits even though they may fit the same definitions. In certain instances, the government disregards the value and cultural contributions of these sites by allowing potentially harmful development to take place in very close proximity. When this occurs, and an unrecognized heritage site is under threat from urbanization, many site managers do not know their rights, or what they can do to protect themselves (Baan Plai Nern, personal communication, January 15, 2019).

In Bangkok and around the world, there are organizations that work to preserve heritage sites. The United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is an international organization that “seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity” (UNESCO, 1945). In Thailand, the government body that provides official recognition of heritage sites is the Ministry of Culture specifically its sub-department, the Department of Fine Arts (DFA) which oversees the country’s cultural heritage conservation (กรมศิลปากร, 2019). The DFA is the most important organization in Thailand that helps to protect heritage sites, and the only Thai government-sponsored organization that guarantees legal protection to its members

The most pressing issue that unrecognized sites face in becoming officially recognized is the daunting and confusing task of applying and going through the verification process. In order to receive many of the recognitions offered in Thailand, site owners often struggle to find the necessary information and follow a complicated process. This leaves owners of cultural heritage sites confused and unaware of the options, resources, and help that is available for them. As our sponsor, the DFA requested our assistance in creating resources and documentation that would provide heritage site owners with an easy to understand resource to guide them through applying for recognitions. What we found, however, is that site owners are not only unaware of the process to apply, but also often have a negative perception of the DFA. To alleviate this, we expanded our goal to include recommendations and deliverables for the DFA to use based on our findings.

Our goal was to create a resource that owners or managers of potential heritage sites in Bangkok can use to find information and guidelines for becoming officially recognized. We also set out to identify and eliminate the negative perception surrounding the DFA. To gather the requisite information, we needed to answer the following questions:

- What is the definition of a heritage site?
- What options exist for a site in Thailand to become recognized?
- What can a site do to apply for heritage site recognition? What criteria must it satisfy?
- What is the process and timeline for becoming a heritage site within different organizations and lists?
- How can the DFA improve their organization and public perception to encourage more heritage sites to join?

We believe that through our project, site owners will start to understand the process and steps they must take to become officially recognized. In addition, we hope that the DFA utilize our recommendations and deliverables to improve their department's public perception and ultimately protect more heritage sites.

2 Background & Literature Review

This chapter introduces the organizations and criteria that can officially recognize a heritage site. Many sites in Thailand, even though they hold a wealth of Thai history and culture, lack protections that official recognition can provide. Without these recognitions and protections, urbanization in Bangkok has overtaken and degraded unofficial heritage sites. To provide a solution to this issue, the goal of our project was to create a resource that unofficial sites can use to get information and instructions for becoming officially recognized.

In this chapter, we aim to provide a complete picture of the background of heritage sites, including their definitions and value. To do so, we will cover the following topics.

1. What is the definition of a heritage site? What criteria must it satisfy and what options and organizations exist for recognition?
2. What is the value of heritage sites?
3. What laws and protections does official recognition grant a heritage site?

2.1 The Definitions of Heritage, Cultural, and Historical Sites

The terms cultural heritage site, heritage site, and historical site hold various definitions, all of which vary slightly in meaning from each other. In some cases, these terms overlap, while in others they contrast. Below we will make a distinction between each of them, as well as explain and justify our usage of these terms.

2.1.1 The distinction between heritage, cultural, and historical sites

According to the Umass Amherst Cultural Center, heritage is defined as the “full range of our inherited traditions” which includes language, music, buildings, and even ideas and memories (UMASS Amherst). In other words, heritage is the elements from the past, both tangible and intangible, which presently define a nation’s history and traditions. UNESCO also includes natural elements in its definition of the term since they have played a part in defining a people’s identity throughout the years. UNESCO divides heritage sites into natural and cultural, and so will we (UNESCO, 1974).

Cultural heritage refers more to a “way of life” according to Texas A&M University’s cultural department. This can include attributes such as behavior, socialization styles, and shared knowledge and experiences (Texas A&M). On the other hand, UNESCO defines cultural heritage as “the entire corpus of material signs - either artistic or symbolic - handed on by the past to each culture, and therefore to the whole of humankind.” (UNESCO, 1974) UNESCO classifies cultural heritage as a subsection of heritage, which also includes tangible elements such as historical buildings, monuments and archaeological sites. These two definitions give the term “cultural heritage” slightly different meanings, but we will in this report only use UNESCO’s interpretation because of its higher precision. UNESCO also makes a distinction between historical and heritage sites, and following their definition, we will recognize the term heritage site as an umbrella term for both natural and cultural sites. Meanwhile the term historical site

will simply refer to buildings of historical value as subsections of cultural heritage, and not monuments or archaeological sites.

In our project we worked with heritage sites which are cultural, tangible, and immovable as displayed in Figure 1. Consequently, from this point onwards, we will use the term “heritage sites” to refer to only sites characterized by these attributes. In the case that we need to include any other form of heritage, we will clearly state its type.

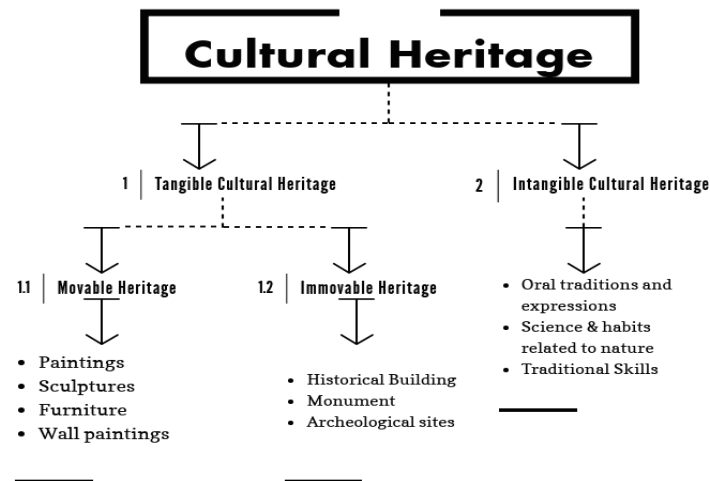


Figure 1: Classification of cultural heritage based on UNESCO guidelines.

2.1.2 Definition by the Department of Fine Arts

The laws and regulations that exist in Thailand refer to ancient monuments. The Department of Fine Arts defines an “ancient monument” as “an immovable property which, by its age or architectural characteristics or historical evidence, is useful in the field of art, history or archeology and shall include places which are archeological sites, historic sites and historic parks” (Chuntarasup, 1961). Historic sites fall under this definition, therefore all laws that reference “ancient monuments” are applicable to historic sites. For the detailed DFA definition of a heritage site, see Appendix A.

2.2 Value of Heritage Sites

Heritage sites make up an important part of a communal identity by providing physical evidence of a people’s history and social values. As stated by UNESCO, “heritage gives each particular place its recognizable features and is the storehouse of human experience” (UNESCO, 1989). These features are made possible through a collection of values that can be ascribed to each heritage site. These “values” are defined as “an aspect of importance that individuals or a society assign(s) to an object” (ICOMOS, 2015) and we shall describe them in detail in the rest of this section.

2.2.1 Types of values and their categorizations

Fully understanding the value each heritage site holds and stakeholders' perception of them is not an easy task for three main reasons, as the Getty Institute described in 2002. The same value can be represented in a multitude of ways, and one characteristic of a building can be valuable in different contexts (Torre, 2002). Within each context, different stakeholders value different aspects of a site: a corporation will see a different economic benefit from a small heritage site than someone who owns it or has been taking care of it for years (Torre, 2002). Values are always changing with time, as they are constantly affected by different external factors including physical, historical, and social ones (Torre, 2002).

These challenges have made it difficult for other scientists and researchers studying this topic to come to an agreement on one extensive list of values that heritage sites convey. However, they acknowledge that such values can fall into either the social, cultural, or economic categories. To satisfy the scope of our project, we relied on the categorizations created by the Getty Conservation Institute in 2002, shown respectively in Table 1.

Table 1: Typography of Heritage Values. Retrieved from Torre, 2002

Sociocultural Values	Economic Values
Historical	Use (market) value
Cultural/symbolic	Nonuse (nonmarket) values
Social	Existence
Spiritual/religious	Option
Aesthetic	Bequest

There are multiple ways of interpreting the value of each characteristic of a site, creating an overlap between all elements of Table 1. Thus, we can argue that the two major categories—sociocultural and economic—do not refer to different sets of values, but rather to multiple ways of understanding the same, wide range of heritage values. For example, through a socioeconomic framework, a well-preserved, intricately designed mural which is part of a traditional house contains immense cultural and historical value. However, one might consider the piece to have a high market value for the same characteristics. Points of view are intangible and highly dependent on the individual, therefore making the process of valuation of a site difficult to measure objectively.

Because of this overlap, the economic value of heritage sites is not necessarily solely dependent on their cultural value. The main sources of direct income through heritage sites are expressed as “use value” and includes admission fees, cost of the land and artifacts, as well as the workers' wages. The flux of visitors, which depends on the advertised historical, aesthetic,

and artistic value of the site, determines use value. On the other hand, “option” and “bequest” are both non-use values that provide indirect economic benefit and are even more deeply rooted in social and cultural values. “Option” refers to the wish to preserve the possibility of consuming the heritage’s services in the future, while “bequest” refers to the wish to pass on this heritage on to future generations.

The current reverence of a site is the root of both these values, and it stems from a community’s cultural and historical valuation (Torre, 2002).

2.2.2 Societal view of the value of heritage sites in Thailand

Thailand is known for its rich cultural heritage and Thai society values this heritage for its role in defining the nation’s identity as well as maintaining its traditions and customs. Heritage sites are an integral part of Thai society because they are a physical representation of the history of the nation and showcase the ingenuity of the people’s ancestors, providing them with a “sense of place.” (Siam Society, personal communication, February 8th, 2019) Additionally, they are an educational resource for all generations and can also serve as recreational areas. Sites can also provide a source of income to locals through tourism and charitable foundations.

While Thai society cares deeply about their history, culture, and heritage, there has been a recent societal shift in values due to the desire for economic expansion. For many, economic development has taken priority over preserving cultural heritage since the immediate materialistic and monetary value urbanization provides has become more desirable (Brereton, 2015).

2.3 Various Forms of Recognition of Heritage Sites

Site owners who want to gain educational, financial, and legal help, can do so by becoming recognized either internationally or nationally in Thailand. At the international level, sites can join UNESCO’s *World Heritage List*, while at the national level they have the option of becoming part of the Department of Fine Arts’ (DFA) list of Registered Ancient Monuments. If sites cannot attain recognition through these lists, they could pursue other options such as competing for awards from various organizations such as UNESCO and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) or creating their own foundation to recognize themselves. Detailing the importance and criteria needed for each of these various forms of recognition can help a site choose a path that would best fit them.

2.3.1 Internationally recognized heritage sites

Heritage sites around the world gain recognition and protection through the international treaty *Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (UNESCO, 1972). UNESCO uses a set of ten criteria when considering sites for their *World Heritage List*. These guidelines include both natural and socio-cultural heritage, thus for the purposes of this project

we will focus on the socio-cultural heritage criteria, which state that a site must represent one of the following traits to obtain recognition as a World Heritage Site:

- Represent a masterpiece of human creative genius,
- Exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design,
- Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living, or which has disappeared,
- Display an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates significant stage(s) in human history,
- Have direct tangible association with events, living traditions, ideas, or beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.

From UNESCO World Heritage Centre (UNESCO, 2017).

2.3.2 Nationally recognized historical sites

In Thailand, the Ministry of Culture oversees the “[integration] of religion, art and culture to the people, fostering pride in Thai identity with a proper culturally based lifestyle that leads to a sustainable and peaceful society” (Ministry of Culture, 2017). This national body works to preserve heritage within the Kingdom of Thailand with the mission of sustaining Thai identity and culture in the face of “changing times.” The Ministry of Culture is the main Thai government organization in charge of heritage sites.

The DFA lies under the Ministry of Culture and acts as the body that works to protect, preserve and promote the arts and treasures of Thailand and Thai culture. These treasures include customs, ceremonies, arts, handicrafts and official documents. As the governmental organization which oversees all forms of tangible and intangible heritage in Thailand, the DFA contains a list of all sites in Thailand which contain some form of historical, artistic, or archaeological value. However, they recognize sites with outstanding value in all the above characteristics by putting them on the list of Recognized Ancient Monuments. Members of this list obtain more benefits and protection than non-member sites.

2.3.3 Other official recognitions heritage sites can receive

The process of nomination and inclusion to the UNESCO *World Heritage List* or the DFA list of Ancient Monuments might for some sites be difficult, excruciatingly long, or even impossible. In that case, sites might find it more practical to seek a more attainable form of official recognition that might still offer benefits, albeit not to the same degree as membership in the more prestigious lists.

Every year, the UNESCO Bangkok office, which is *the Regional Office for Education in Asia and the Pacific*, holds two competitions with the aim of incentivizing conservation efforts in the region. The competitions, called the *Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation*

and the *Asia-Pacific Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts*, offer their winners recognition in their awards ceremony, as well as advertisement on the UNESCO Bangkok website (UNESCO, 2015). On the award for heritage conservation, judges base their decisions on outstanding conservation and restoration efforts made within the last 10 years to sites that are older than 50 years old and offers four categories of recognition: *Award of Excellence*, *Award of Distinction*, *Award of Merit*, and *Honorable Mention*. On the other hand, the new design award recognizes one newly built site which is less than 50 years old with a design that well-integrates typical historical, cultural, and architectural elements (UNESCO Bangkok, 2017).

Site owners can apply for both awards through the application found at <https://bangkok.unesco.org/content/apply-awards> and they provide the benefit of advertisement on the website of UNESCO Bangkok.

2.4 Protection Offered to Officially Recognized Heritage Sites

From 1986 to 2004, urban development reportedly threatened fifty-four world-heritage sites (World heritage: Challenges for the Millennium, 2007). This development, especially in Southeast Asia, has come because of population booms and shifts of once rural farmers who are moving into urban hotspots like Bangkok, thus needing new housing in these areas (Sigel, 1978). Combined with an ineffective urban development plan, this rapid urbanization has resulted in a “a haphazard, free-for-all pattern of land use.” (Yeung, Y. 1996). For this reason, it is now more important than ever to protect these sites from disappearing in favor of high-rise buildings.

If a site is officially recognized by UNESCO, DFA or other organizations, it obtains varying level of educational, financial, and legal help. In this section, we outline various benefits that recognized sites receive when they accomplish one of the following achievements: membership on UNESCO’s *World Heritage List*, the DFA’s Ancient Monuments List, or on foundations created by individual heritage sites, other awards or forms of recognition.



Figure 2: Before & after photos of part of a historical building's demolition for new construction. Source: Siam Society Conference, 2019

2.4.1 Protection offered to members of DFA's List of Recognized Ancient Monuments

In many cases, the managers of sites that are not on the DFA's list of Recognized Ancient Monuments are not fully aware of the legal protection they could receive (DFA, personal communication, February 1, 2019). These protective laws can be found in the Thai constitution, under the *Act on Ancient Monuments, Antiques, Objects of Art and National Museums*. Some of the clauses that state the legal protection such sites receive through the DFA are outlined below:

Clause 7 forbids construction inside the territory of ancient monuments and authorizes the Director-General to stop or demolish it within 60 days (Chuntarasup, 1961).

Clause 10 states that no person may repair, fix, renovate, demolish, attach, destroy, move, or dig within the grounds of a heritage site, except if the Director-General grants authority. Afterwards, if onsite workers find objects that presumably belong to the historical site, then they must report to a company representative, who in turn must report to the Director-General. The latter has the authority to confiscate the object (Chuntarasup, 1961).

Clause 11 states that the DFA will recognize every site of some historical, archaeological, or artistic value in Thailand. The Director-General has the authority to authorize any changes to the site such as repairs, but if the site has an owner, he/she must receive a formal notification before taking any action (Chuntarasup, 1961).

2.5 The Department of Fine Arts as our Sponsor

Our sponsor for this project is the Department of Fine Arts. The mission of the Department of Fine Arts is to protect, preserve, conserve, maintain, promote, create, educate, research, and improve the arts and treasures of Thailand and Thai culture. These treasures include customs, ceremonies, arts, handicrafts and official documents, and the DFA holds the belief that it is essential to maintain these as they are the root of the country's culture (กรมศิลปากร, 2019). The DFA is important to our project as they are the Thai governmental organization that recognizes and protects heritage sites, as well as our sponsor. After meeting with the DFA, our task focused on the creation of an accessible resource for heritage sites, with the goal of facilitating the registration process, making the information more readily available, and improving the organization by eliminating the stigma and negative perception surrounding it.

3 Methodology

Unrecognized heritage sites face a daunting and confusing process when they decide to apply for recognition. To solve this problem, a goal of our project is to create a resource that potential heritage sites in Bangkok can use to find information and guidelines for becoming officially recognized. To achieve this goal, we needed to answer some important questions to determine the requirements and procedures to become recognized in different organizations.

1. What lists and organizations exist through which heritage sites can be recognized?
2. What makes a site officially recognized? What criteria must it meet?
3. What is the process and requisite steps a site must take to become recognized on different lists?

We developed the following objectives to answer these questions.

1. Determine what options exist to recognize heritage sites within different lists and organizations.
2. Identify what properties and criteria make a site a heritage site.
3. Detail the steps and process of how a site could become recognized within different lists and organizations.

3.1 Determine What Options Exist for Unrecognized Heritage Sites

In their attempts to recognize their unofficial heritage sites, site owners are often uninformed and unaware of what organizations are available to help them. To provide a comprehensive resource for these owners, we needed to gather what options for recognition are available. Based on our research, we identified several relevant organizations and lists that site managers in Bangkok can pursue, which we highlight in the next six subsections.

3.1.1 Interview Department of Fine Arts on protections they offer

To attain the most comprehensive protections available in Thailand can offer, a heritage site must obtain officially registered by the Department of Fine Arts. We contacted the DFA to obtain more information on their official list of heritage sites, the benefits obtained by becoming part of it, and the requirements for becoming officially registered.

In our interview with the DFA, we asked about what benefits their recognition provides as well as what is the physical proof of becoming a registered monument. We also asked for information regarding the Royal Thai Government Gazette and its role in announcing recognized sites. The interview was in a semi structured format, which allowed us to direct the conversation while still giving the interviewee the ability to respond freely. The questions we asked during the interview can be found in Appendix B.

3.1.2 Interview and network with Siam Society

The Siam Society held a conference called *Heritage Protection: The Asian experience* on the 25th and 26th of January 2019. Two of our group members attended the conference to gain insight on what characteristics of heritage sites are most valued in Thai society, what issues are most problematic in the process of recognition and preservation of sites, to gather information on other recognitions/awards sites could obtain, and network with people that have participated in heritage protection for years. By gathering this knowledge from a group of people with expertise in heritage protection, we discovered crucial information on the role of the DFA and Siam Society in nationwide heritage conservation efforts. We interviewed specialists at the site about their opinions on the matter, using the opportunity to network and secure formal interviews with several attendees, including a DFA official whose help proved incredibly helpful in the future.

We also interviewed with the manager of Siam Society to find out more about better ways to protect cultural heritage sites, Siam Society's contribution to the latter, as well as whether they have joined efforts with the DFA and other heritage protection organizations. For a detailed list of questions we asked during this interview, see Appendix B.

3.1.3 Interview managers of sites who have created their own foundations and lists

Several sites in Bangkok that appear as heritage sites online are not members of DFA's Registered Ancient Monuments List. Some, including the M.R. Kukrit House and the Jim Thompson House, have created their own foundations and recognitions for themselves. We wanted to understand why they made their own lists instead of joining pre-existing ones, what benefits their choice provides, and whether this is a feasible option for other sites. We also wanted to gather information on whether their lists and foundations accepted other sites and if so, what protections they offered. We managed to interview officials at the Jim Thompson House to gauge the feasibility of this option for other sites. No officials from the M.R. Kukrit house were available for an interview. For a detailed list of questions we asked during the interview with managers of the Jim Thompson House, see Appendix B.

3.1.4 Email other conservation organizations

When we discovered other organizations that provide recognitions to sites in Thailand, we found that many of their websites and informational materials lacked descriptive details on how to apply and qualify for their lists. For this reason, we emailed UNESCO, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), and the Association of Siamese Architects with a set of questions to learn what benefits they offer, the criteria they require, and how to apply. For a detailed list of our interview questions, see Appendix B.

3.1.5 Interview site owners who have accepted and declined recognition by the DFA

Many site owners decline recognition from the DFA despite the protections that it can offer. To gain a better understanding of the perceived disadvantages of DFA recognition as well as possible misconceptions, we interviewed an official at the Siam Society, which, as an organization, owns several sites that have declined recognition including the Kamthieng House. (Siam Society, personal communication, February 8 2019) We also interviewed officials at Voradis Palace, Baan Plai Nern, and the Jim Thompson House to understand their reasoning for either accepting or declining DFA recognition. We also reached out to managers of Wat Pathum Kongha and Bang Pa In, but they declined to meet with us. To view our interview questions, see Appendix B.

3.1.6 Evaluate and translate books and documents

We obtained multiple documents from several organizations with information about the laws and regulations surrounding the DFA. The data that we gathered from analyzing these documents helped us determine the criteria and process of DFA recognition as well as the limitations sites receive from registering with the department.

3.2 Determine the Criteria for Applying for Recognitions

Part of the process for applying for recognition includes understanding the criteria that a site must satisfy. Although we received this information from the DFA, the details are vague. For this reason, we made an effort to better understand the required criteria so that we may create an easily understandable resource. The process of determining this information involved interviewing the DFA for clarification on their criteria for recognition as well as other organizations for their opinions on the definition of a heritage site.

3.2.1 Interview Department of Fine Arts for their criteria

During our interview with the DFA, we obtained a list of requirements and criteria for a site to gain official recognition. We spoke to them about their opinions on the value of different criteria and what weight they hold when it comes to officially recognizing a site. We also received an instructional document outlining the evaluation process for each criterion, which we translated from Thai to English and converted into a format that is easy to understand. When reviewing the list, we noticed vagueness and subjectivity in the evaluation process, so we reached out to the DFA two more times to clarify who conducts the evaluation in each step of the way, and what criteria they use to do so. To view our interview questions, see Appendix B.

3.2.2 Interview Organizations with lists and recognitions for heritage sites

Once we identified the available and most useful organizations that heritage sites in Thailand could use to gain recognition, we interviewed each of the them in a semi-structured format and asked what criteria they require for recognition. For this process, we interviewed:

- The Department of Fine Arts (to obtain their list of criteria for recognition)
- Siam Society (to learn what their definition and criteria for important sites are)

For the questions we asked these organizations, see Appendix B.

3.3 Determine the Timeline and Process for Becoming Officially Recognized

For many sites that apply to become officially recognized, the process and timeline can be unclear. For this reason, we talked to the DFA, who is in charge of overseeing the entire process. Next, we contacted two sites that have been through the process to learn about their experiences and the extent of their knowledge on what recognition and the process to achieve it entails.

3.3.1 Interview DFA about their process and timeline

During the semi-structured interview with the DFA, we also set out to learn the typical process and timeline for becoming recognized within their organization. Because we had no prior understanding about the process, we asked open ended questions about the topic and formulated more specific questions on the spot based on the interviewee's responses. To view the interview questions, see Appendix B.

3.3.2 Interview heritage site owners on how they received official recognition

In our interviews of heritage site managers, we wanted to understand the process that specific sites went through to attain recognition in order to develop a set of steps and gauge a time frame for the process. We were also interested in seeing how informed site owners were on the benefits they would receive through registering, as well as on the process and criteria for registration. We formulated questions to ask to these sites based on the information obtained from an initial interview with the Department of Fine Arts. See Appendix B for these questions. We initially talked to residents of Baan Plai Nern to find what information they had on the registration process, the criteria, and timeline. Afterwards, we also reached out to managers of Wat Pathum Kongkha, but they did not express interest in interviewing with us.

4 Results & Findings

Through our research and interviews, we discovered that sites often decline DFA recognition as they are not fully aware of the requirements, process and benefits that come with registration (Owner of Voradis Palace, personal communication, February 18th 2019). We also found that each recognition from both the DFA and UNESCO contains its own categorizations with specific criteria of heritage sites. We determined that sites require better accessibility to the registration steps for the DFA and the laws associated with recognition. Also, to make themselves more appealing to heritage sites in Bangkok, we identified some changes the DFA could make. For sites that choose to forego DFA recognition, we found that other options exist that are comparable to recognition.

4.1 Site Owners Decline DFA Recognition due to Stigma and Minimal Protections

We interviewed two members of the Siam Society to understand the society's role in heritage protection in Thailand. We learned that the Siam Society works to maintain and promote Thai heritage in the arts and has a network of scholars and conservationists. The Society does not partake in the political aspect of heritage protection or provide any recognitions, but they do work in conjunction with the DFA to raise awareness for sites, organize and participate in workshops and seminars, and offer financial and academic help to sites that have the greatest need for it (Siam Society, personal communication, February 8th 2019). They base their judgement and priority of assistance based on the severity and urgency of the site's condition, the estimated cost of upkeep, and the financial situation of the owners. A site owner can reach out to the Siam Society to ask for this financial assistance through mail or email regardless of whether they are already officially recognized by the DFA (Siam Society, personal communication, February 8th 2019). This provides site owners with a good alternative to requesting DFA funding because it could potentially speed up the process of approving changes to a site. To read the transcript of our interview with the Siam Society, see Appendix D.

During our meeting with Siam Society and the DFA, we discovered that official registration with the DFA provides the following two benefits:

- Anyone that defaces or destroys any part of the site faces harsher punishments than they would otherwise (up to 10 years in prison and/or up to 1,000,000 baht fine).
 - The site will receive advertisement through the Royal Thai Government Gazette.
- (Siam Society, personal communication, February 8th 2019), (Department of Fine Arts, personal communication, February 1st 2019)

Initially, we assumed that all sites would want to become officially recognized on the DFA's Registered Ancient Monuments list. However, we discovered from interviewing sites and the DFA that many will decline official recognition; in 2018 12 out of 15 sites refused recognition (Siam Society, personal communication, February 8, 2019) (DFA, personal communication, February 1, 2019). When we attended the Siam Society conference, we received

an informative table that details exactly what protections Thai laws provide for heritage sites in comparison to other countries. What this shows is that Thailand is behind other countries and that protections it offers are rather minimal in comparison (see Table 2). To view the transcripts of our interviews with the DFA, see Appendices E and F.

Table 2: Comparison of Thai heritage site conservation laws with international examples

Development of heritage law	ENG	U.S.	JAP	THA
Start of protection law	1882	1906	1997	1851
Start of zoning/planning law	1909	1922	1919	1952
Conservation area initiative	1967	1931	1968	1984
Heritage type diversification	1947	1931	1968	NO
Multi-levelled heritage register	YES	YES	YES	NO
Elaborate evaluation criteria	YES	YES	YES	NO
Devolution: monument law	1983	1980	1954	NO
Devolution: planning/zoning law	1967	1922	1968	NO
Conservation incentives	1950s	1976	1990s	NO

Although registering with the DFA provides at least some protection, site owners with sufficient funds will often choose to maintain their own sites and forego DFA listing (Siam Society, personal communication, February 8th 2019). This is due to the fact that when a site is listed with the DFA, the protection it receives comes with the prohibition of altering the site in any way, even minor repairs that the residents of a site may wish to do. To make any change to the site, owners must send an appeal letter to the DFA who may take an extended amount of time to respond to the request or even deny it outright. This process is extremely slow and inefficient: although it should only take up to three weeks for minor alterations, and over a month for major changes (DFA, personal communication, February 1, 2019), thousands of historic sites currently appear neglected simply because their proposal for renovation has been waiting for approval or funding (Siam Society, personal communication, February 8, 2019). Hence, some site managers believe that the extra protection by law is not significant enough to warrant “essentially losing ownership of the site” (Siam Society, personal communication, February 8, 2019). However, if the DFA accepts the request, the department will make all changes itself or appoint the right people to do so, freeing the residents from any financial or time burdens they would otherwise

experience. Coupled with the potential tax breaks, this can be a very desirable option for sites that lack adequate funding to support themselves. Otherwise, it may be easier for a site to fund and complete all changes themselves without the extra steps required by the DFA. Keeping this information in mind, we noted that while the restrictions to site alterations can be frustrating to site owners, they are in place to protect the cultural integrity and history of a site.

It is also important to acknowledge that once DFA representatives approve a site's official recognition, its owner can either accept the result or dispute it in court against the DFA. This can take a significant amount of time because it is up to the DFA to respond. Moreover, the dispute in court can continue for years, taking up a lot of resources from both sides (Siam Society, personal communication, February 8th 2019), (Department of Fine Arts, personal communication, February 1st, 2019).

From our interview with a Baan Plai Nern resident (see Appendix G), we found that finding information on the process of registration through DFA is difficult find, leaving site owners unaware of its details unless they explicitly ask DFA officials. Moreover, there is no communication between the DFA and owners of candidate sites during the registration process, until the evaluating committee and Director-General reach their verdict. This lack of transparency makes site owners hesitant to go through the process, and if they have started the application, it makes them anxious from not knowing its status (Baan Plai Nern, personal communication, February 11th, 2019).

However, from our correspondence with the DFA (see Appendix H), there are currently some new laws waiting for approval that would provide additional benefits which could make DFA recognition very appealing. The first would be a buffer zone around the heritage site that would prohibit disruptive development within a certain distance from the building. The second law is a tax break for owners of heritage sites, which could save them money that could be used for site preservation (Department of Fine Arts, February 1st, 2019).

4.2 The DFA Criteria for Registering Heritage Sites is confusing and vague

The DFA has two databases of sites. One is the “unofficial” list which contains all sites that have some form of physical, historical, artistic, or architectural importance in Thailand, and the “official” list which contains the most important sites that best exhibit the aforementioned characteristics. Sites on the unofficial list do not have a choice of whether to accept or deny this membership. They also do not need to take any steps to appear on this list, because the DFA actively searches for sites to include on it (Department of Fine Arts, February 1st, 2019).

Sites gain recognition through membership on the official list, known as the *Registered Ancient Monuments* list, only if they pass an evaluation by the DFA which includes rating its age, physical aspects, and academic values (Department of Fine Arts, February 1st, 2019).

To become a member of the list of officially recognized heritage sites by the DFA, a site must meet a certain threshold on the specified set of criteria. By meeting with the DFA, we obtained the set of documents the evaluating committee uses as a guide for evaluating sites. We

proceeded to simplify the requirements to present them in a more understandable format. To view the list that we created describing these evaluations, see Appendix I.

DFA evaluation of a site is based on a numerical rating that quantifies certain characteristics of a site (see Figure 3). Each characteristic is rated from zero to two and is divided into three sections: age, physical significance, and academic value. Three staff members from the DFA come to do the evaluation: an archeologist, an explorer, and a senior officer. Averaging out the total number of points for each section and summing the results provides the evaluators with a final score, which must add up to at least 3.6 for a site to qualify. The age category grades a site on the following scale: 0 points if built after 1932, one point if built between 1238 and 1932, and two points if built prior to 1238. It is also graded on the somewhat subjective and vague characteristics of uniqueness, authenticity, and historic value. In the Academic category of evaluation, a site must once again meet another set of rather subjective criteria: its artistic value and its cultural importance (Department of Fine Arts, February 1st, 2019).

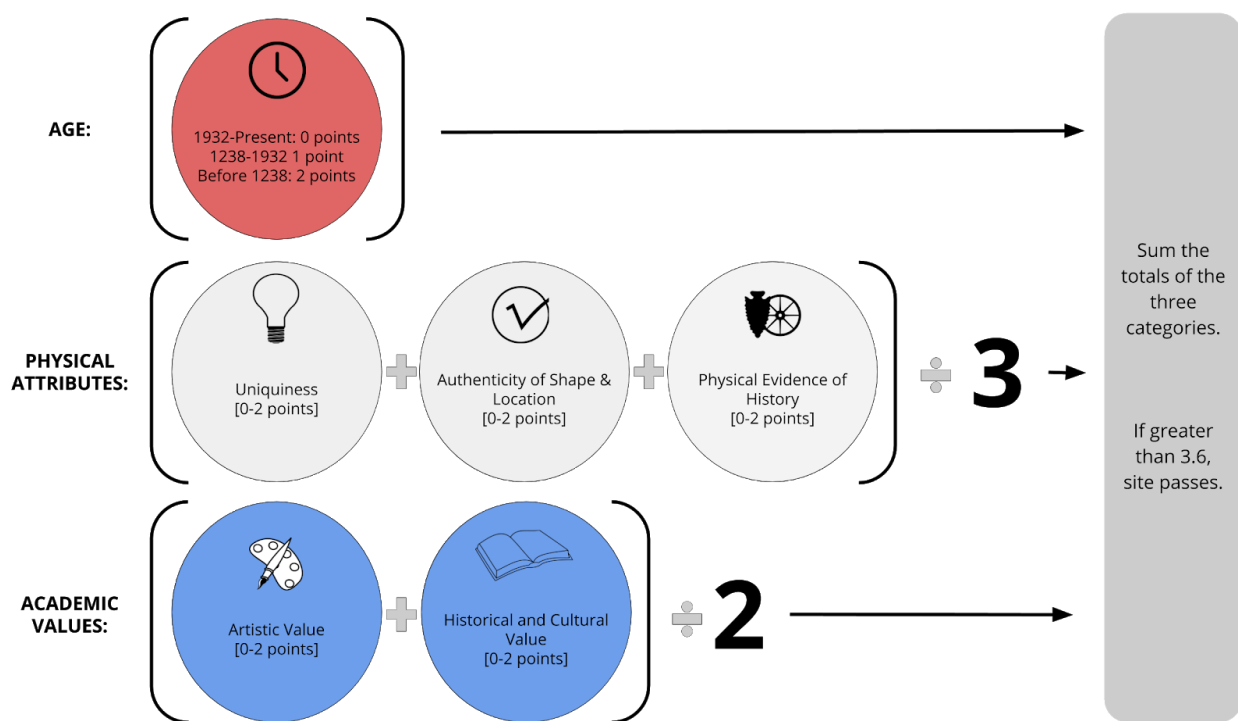


Figure 3: The point system for evaluating candidate sites for DFA registration

4.3 The DFA Process of Registration is Opaque

We ascertained the process and timeline for official recognition by extracting the information we needed from the DFA's evaluation documents and interview, detailed in Appendix J. The process begins with the owner of a heritage site filling out and submitting a registration request to the DFA with documentation and information about the site. This registration request consists of a letter to the DFA, a template for which we provided in our final deliverable and can be found in Appendix K. If the registration request is approved, the site owner must then meet with the director of the DFA to share further information about the site.

Should the director give their approval, the department will gather basic information from research and onsite observation to evaluate whether it meets the criteria and required threshold described in Section 4.2 and Appendix I (Department of Fine Arts, February 1st, 2019).). If the evaluating committee and the Director-General determine that the site meets the criteria, it will inform the owners of the site of all the laws and regulations that will protect the site as well as restrict their ability to change it. At this point, should the owners wish to decline recognition, they will need to take the case to court against the DFA. In fact, once the process begins, all power is out of the hands of the site and they cannot do nothing but wait for the DFA's determination (Department of Fine Arts, personal communication, February 1st, 2019), (Baan Plai Nern, personal communication, February 11th, 2019). To get to this point will usually take around 150 - 200 days unless there is pushback from within the DFA, in which case it will take longer (Department of Fine Arts, February 1st, 2019). The DFA will then certify the site by putting it on the DFA's Ancient Monuments List, announcing it in the Royal Thai Government Gazette with an article describing it and adding it to their database of declared heritage sites.

4.4 Creating a Foundation can be a Useful Option

An alternative option for heritage site owners that can yield helpful benefits is the creation of their own foundation. The foundation provides the site with the funds to make necessary repairs and changes without having to request DFA approval but comes without the additional legal protections.

For the James H.W. Thompson Foundation, the autonomy provided by the foundation has allowed them to effectively protect their site and the artifacts within and the set of rules that they created for themselves have ensured that the cultural integrity of the site is preserved. The biggest downside of creating a foundation is the high starting cost. Creating a foundation can be expensive and finding funding can be difficult. For some sites, funding can come from ticket sales or private funding, but that is not always feasible. For this reason, creating a foundation is best for sites that either have money or popularity (James H.W. Thompson Foundation, personal communication, February 20, 2019). The transcript for the interview with a senior conservationist from the James H.W. Foundation can be found in Appendix L.

5 Conclusions & Recommendations

Heritage sites in Bangkok face a confusing path when seeking to obtain official recognition in Thailand. By interviewing heritage sites such as Baan Plai Nern regarding their experiences and attempting to understand their options for recognition as well as how they could pursue them, it became evident that there is a lack of transparency between the organizations that provide recognitions and the sites themselves. Ultimately, both the DFA and heritage sites share the goal of preserving and protecting historical properties. However, for many sites, the DFA does not provide a satisfying option. If both parties were on the same page and had better communication and transparency, they could attain their shared objective more easily than their current relationship allows. In the process of resolving our initial goal to provide an easy to understand resources that inform for heritage sites about the options and criteria that they have, we identified an additional problem: there is a lack of clarity on behalf of DFA. This has caused widespread misconceptions and resulted in a disinterest from heritage site owners for DFA recognition. Consequently, our project evolved, and our goals expanded to incorporate recommendations on how the DFA could mitigate the stigma and improve their appeal to heritage site owners, so that both parties may obtain their shared goal.

In this chapter, we detail how the DFA can adjust their process and protections in a way that could satisfy the needs of both parties and allow for the long-term preservation of heritage sites in Thailand.

5.1 Ensure Site Owners Maintain Their Sense of Ownership

Site owners do not want to lose ownership of their properties, especially those whose sites have familial history and significance, such as Baan Plai Nern. Unfortunately, due to the way the DFA's laws are currently written, it is very easy for sites to conclude that recognition results in losing ownership of their site. To improve heritage site's perception of the DFA and mitigate this perception, we must ensure that owners understand that they retain ownership of their property. We have formulated the following recommendations that the DFA can use to achieve this goal.

- 1. We recommend that the DFA make explicit on their website that restrictions on alterations are to maintain a site's cultural integrity and do not result in a loss of ownership.**

One of the protections that DFA recognition provides prohibits alteration and/or damage to a site unless it is approved by the DFA. Failure to abide is punishable by law. While this is an important rule to have in place to protect the integrity and historical value of the site, it also prevents the owners from making any change to the site. This includes changes as minor as fixing a window, and this level of strictness discourages site owners from applying for recognition. What the DFA fails to make clear, however, is that this rule is in place for the greater good of the site. Although site owners know what is best for their own site, they can

better protect the historical aspects of a site if all alterations are evaluated by an expert on behalf of the DFA. In the end, the DFA's goal is to protect the site, and site owners would be more accepting of recognition if the DFA could, as we recommend, better convey the benefits of this rule.

2. Expedite approvals for site owners making changes and repairs to their own properties. We recommend the DFA use a rating form to approve urgent requests quickly without the need for lengthy bureaucratic steps.

The lengthy process associated with DFA recognition is another deterrent for sites, and results in a lack of interest. The process involves several bureaucratic steps including paperwork and multiple evaluations by different experts. After interviewing the DFA, we learned that it would take one to three weeks to receive approval for a minor but necessary alteration like fixing a broken window. Larger scale renovations take over a month, if they are even approved. For this reason, for site owners to be confident that they retain control of their site, we recommend that the DFA expedite the approval process through a system that can rate urgencies and practicalities of requests. We also suggest they allow site owners to make minor repairs without the approval process and rather just a notice of intent. As part of our deliverables, we created a format that the DFA and heritage sites can use to rate and rank the urgency of requests to best facilitate quick responses to important site repairs. To view this Rating of Repair Urgency, see Appendix M.

3. We recommend that the DFA allow sites to withdraw from heritage site recognition at any time.

Site owners also feel they have lost control of their sites because, when they begin the DFA recognition process, they no longer have any input on the process and cannot reject DFA recognition without a lengthy court case. If this negative aspect of DFA recognition, which casts them in a controlling light, was eliminated, site owners would more likely accept DFA recognition. In addition, if the DFA implements our recommendations, it will increase the possibility of site owners' satisfaction, lowering the chances of them declining recognition. This flexibility will aid in increasing site owners' sense of security when working with the DFA, hence improving the department's image.

5.2 Increase Transparency and Communication

We recommend that the DFA improve its transparency and communication with heritage site owners so as to increase their trust in the department and its registration process. To achieve this overall objective, we have created four recommendations that the DFA could use to increase site owners' trust in them.

1. We recommend that the DFA make the simplified criteria for evaluation that we have made easily understandable available to the public.

A key aspect of transparency is showcasing exactly how an organization makes its judgements. For the DFA, this would entail publicly detailing their evaluation of the criteria for registration in a public format so that site owners can review and understand how the DFA works. Our team has created several easy to understand infographics (see Appendix N) and tables (see Appendix I), as well as a comprehensive guidebook that the DFA could publish on their website for site owners to review. To view the guidebook, see the attached files in our project submission in the WPI library. Implementing this recommendation would promote trust in the DFA and would additionally allow potential heritage site owners to evaluate whether their site fits the criteria so that no time is wasted on either side.

As part of this recommendation, we also advise the DFA to post our application letter template (see Appendix K) on their website so that a site can adequately fill it out with all the necessary information. As of now, there is no clear guidance for how a site owner should apply or provide information to become officially recognized.

2. We recommend that the DFA increase transparency of their evaluation process and fully disclose all laws and restrictions that come with recognition prior to its start.

The DFA does not include a description of the process for the evaluation of a site's eligibility. This causes site owners to be wary of the ambiguous process and discourages participation in any evaluation. To alleviate these concerns and develop a healthy rapport between the DFA and site owners, we recommend that the DFA publicly post the simplified and easy to understand infographics (see Appendix N) as well as the guidebook that our team created. These resources detail the entire process in a way that can ease site owners' doubts and allow for smoother communication.

Currently, the DFA does not adequately inform a site owner about the restrictions and limitations he/she will experience during the process, but rather after the recognition is already approved. We recommend that the DFA make informing the rights and restrictions of recognition a priority and that it occur at the beginning of the entire process.

3. We recommend that the DFA maintain communication and update site owners about the progress and prognosis of the process.

We learned from Baan Plai Nern that, once the process for DFA recognition begins, the heritage site receives no updates nor information about the progress and actions the DFA has taken. We learned that in the case of Baan Plai Nern, the DFA took initial measurements of the property without an explanation and did not continue to communicate, creating confusion on the status of the process (Baan Plai Nern, personal communication, January 15, 2019).

We recommend that the DFA explain and provide updates about their current state in the process. This would cause site owners to be more comfortable and aware of the situation, thus increasing their motivation to request DFA registration.

5.3 Increase DFA-Provided Protection

Another factor of the DFA recognition that may discourage sites from applying for recognition is the minimal additional protections beyond increased punishment for damaging the site. For example, a skyscraper could still be built right on the border of the property and the DFA could do nothing about it. For this reason, we recommend that the DFA work to expand the protections that their recognition provides

Expanding the protections that the DFA offers would encourage heritage site owners to apply for and accept DFA recognition. According to DFA officials we interviewed, recognition does not provide extensive protection.

1. We recommend that the DFA consult conservation and protection laws of countries like the UK or France for suggestions on expanding their protections

Table 1 was taken from the Siam Society conference, “Heritage Protection: The Asian Experience”, during a talk on local regulations on heritage protection, and compares Thailand’s conservation and classification laws with those of England, the U.S, and Japan. It is clear from the table that Thailand is stuck on the initial and basic protection laws. To ensure increased protection and advancement, we suggest the DFA consider reviewing other countries’ legislation to start building a modernized framework for heritage protection.

2. We recommend that the DFA expand their focus to include values-based conservation in addition to material-based conservation

We learned from the Siam Society conference, *Heritage Protection: The Asian Experience*, that DFA laws are focused on preserving the material value of sites, such as their physical appearance. This approach to conservation is one of the oldest (Poulios, 2014), and since then specialists have sought to improve preservation techniques, with values-based preservation being the first and most popular. The latter focuses on the value a site holds outside of its physical appearance and has to do with the preservation of the intangible cultural aspects of a monument. In the case of Figures 4 and 5, although the pagodas themselves are well-preserved, the atmosphere around them has diverged to the point where the monuments seem like they do not belong there anymore. They have lost their reverence and spiritual meaning because the area around them no longer complements their values.

We thus recommend that the DFA start focusing on preserving all other values of a site besides the architectural, historical, and artistic ones, and provide more resources for recognizing these values. This will not only increase DFA’s popularity with site owners but will also bring the DFA closer to providing internationally appraised forms of conservation.



Figure 4: Left: Pagoda in Lapburi, Right: Pagoda in Lumphon

5.4 Limitations of Our Project

Our project faced several limitations during its completion. The most prevalent was the lack of receptiveness of heritage sites when we requested interviews. We reached out to six heritage sites, ones that were both DFA recognized and otherwise, and only two were willing to partake in a sit-down interview. One agreed to answer questions though a phone interview. For this reason, we based our data about the perspective of heritage site owners on the DFA on a small sample size and online research. However, the DFA and Siam Society still backed up our analysis and conclusions about site owners' perspectives.

Similarly, we initially planned to gather a wide range of information from heritage organizations in Thailand. However, the information they provided online was often scant; the UNESCO Asia-Pacific website was the only one that provided an adequate description of their awards. The others were either unresponsive to emails or declined to answer any questions. We reached out to six of these organizations and were only able to successfully interview the Siam Society and DFA.

5.5 Conclusion

Organizations like the Department of Fine Arts and the Siam Society are an official representation of the value that is placed in heritage sites. The people who fund and work for these organizations are continuing the effort to preserve heritage sites with a more active role than the average Thai citizen and their efforts are continuing the survival of these important locations in Thailand. To promote the DFA's efforts in registering and protecting heritage sites, we set out with our project to inform heritage sites about the options that they have and detailing the DFA's process for them. We found misconceptions, stigma, and distrust between heritage sites and the DFA, which is an adversarial attitude to have since both parties are working towards the same goal. They need to be able to work together and communicate so that their common objective can be best reached.

We detailed the DFA and UNESCO's recognitions available in Thailand in infographics and a guidebook because understanding the process, definition, and criteria of a heritage site can be an overwhelming task. It is especially difficult when a site owner needs to determine what

options are the best fit for them and so we made sure to detail how different alternatives are more beneficial to sites depending on their situation. We hope that this easy to understand format and description of what action and recognitions sites should take could be implemented on a larger scale, including internationally and for an expanded set of organizations. For the same reasons that the DFA needs our recommendations, which come down to promoting transparency and real protections, we can foresee international organizations implementing them as well.

Ultimately, our project had the goal of informing sites of the process, criteria, and options that different forms of recognition could provide. With the DFA as our sponsor, we focused primarily on analyzing what they offered to different sites and providing recommendations of how they could make their recognitions more helpful and desirable to heritage site owners in Bangkok.

Our work was merely a continuation of what the Thai people have already been doing in the decades since urbanization has taken the country by storm and will only continue with the next generation. In providing assistance with this project to facilitate the process of conserving heritage sites, we hope that we have aided in this shared ultimate goal of Thai society.

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Appendix

Appendix A: Detailed Definition of Historical Sites as Recognized by DFA

According to the Department of Fine Arts, a historical site or Ancient Monument is defined as a site which has the following characteristics:

1. Is an immovable object
2. The site must be older than a certain age*
3. (or) The site's architecture has artistic, historical, and archaeological value
4. (or) Has other evidence about the site's artistic, historical, or archaeological value
5. It is a site for art, history, or archaeology

* The required age of a site used to be over 100 years, but with recent changes, the new criteria states that a site must have been built during the reign of King Rama VI or earlier. However, newer sites will be considered if they show significant historical, artistic, or archaeological value

Appendix B: Interview Questions

The following interview questions follow a semi-structured format and served as a starting point for a conversational interview.

B.1: Department of Fine Arts first interview questions (English):

- Does a registered site receive a certificate, plaque or other form of documentation certifying that they are registered?
- What parties, organizations, and departments are involved in the process of determining a heritage site?
- What is the list of criteria that a site needs to meet to become officially recognized?
- If a site is open to the public does it have a better chance to be officially recognized? Does it being privately owned hurt its chances to become registered?
- What are the main criteria a site must hold to be considered for registration?
- For a historical site, does a historically significant resident provide any additional value? What about a historical event?
- Does the architecture of a building take an important role?
- What are the documents that a site owner needs to submit to your organization to be considered a heritage site?
- How do you define a heritage site?
- What are the steps for a site to be officially recognized as a heritage site?
-
- How long would the process take? Is there any cost?
- What made Baan Plai Nern an official heritage site? What was the process it had to go through?
- What are some sites in Bangkok that have recently gone through this process? Do you have contact information for any?
- What are some examples of cases where sites have applied but failed to be recognized? Why?
- What other lists, recognitions, or organizations are available for heritage sites?
 - Sites like the M.R. Kukrit House fall under the protection of the Department of Fine Arts but are not registered. What are they recognized as and how are they protected?

B2: Department of Fine Arts first interview questions (Thai)

- ถ้าทางโบราณสถานได้รับการจดทะเบียน ขึ้นเป็นโบราณสถาน จะมีเอกสารอันใดบ้างที่สามารถยืนยันได้ถึงการจดทะเบียน
- หน่วยงานใดบ้างที่มีความเกี่ยวข้องต่อการขึ้นทะเบียนโบราณสถาน
- ทางสถานที่ต้องมียอดประกอบอันใดบ้าง ถึงจะนับว่าเป็นโบราณสถาน
- ถ้าสถานที่นั้นๆเปิดให้ ประชาชนเข้าไปเยี่ยมชม จะมีความเป็นไปได้ในการจดทะเบียนเป็นโบราณสถานหรือไม่ และ ถ้าเกิดปิดสถานที่ไม่ให้คนนอกเข้า จะมีผลกระทบต่อการจดทะเบียนหรือไม่?
- การจะเป็นโบราณสถานมีกฎเกณฑ์อย่างไรบ้าง

- การที่จะขึ้นเป็นโบราณสถาน การที่สถานที่เคยเป็นที่อยู่ของบุคคลสำคัญเพียงพอไหม แล้วต้องมีสถานะการสำคัญอะไรเปล่า
- สถาปัตยกรรมของตัวอาคารมีส่วนช่วยในการสนับสนุนการจดทะเบียนหรือไม่?
- ในการขอขึ้นทะเบียนเป็นโบราณสถาน ทางฝ่ายคำขอต้องยื่นเอกสารอะไรบ้าง?
- คุณให้คำนิยามของสถานที่โบราณสถานของไทยอย่างไร?
- การที่จะขึ้นทะเบียนเป็นโบราณสถานมีขั้นตอนอย่างไรบ้าง ?
- การขึ้นทะเบียนเป็นโบราณสถาน ต้องใช้เวลาระยะเวลาการดำเนินการเท่าไร ? มีค่าใช้จ่ายในการขึ้นทะเบียนมั้ย?
- อะไรที่ทำให้บ้านปลายเนินสามารถขึ้นเป็นโบราณสถานได้ และบ้านปลายเนินต้องผ่านกระบวนการใดบ้าง
- มีสถานที่ไหนพอใกล้เคียงกับเหตุการณ์นี้บ้าง
- ช่วยยกตัวอย่างสถานที่ที่อยากขึ้นทะเบียนเป็นโบราณสถาน แต่ไม่สามารถจดทะเบียนได้หรือไม่?
- พอจะมีองค์กรใดที่ช่วยเหลือ โบราณสถานอีกไหมครับ?
- สถานที่เช่นบ้านซอยสวนพลู มีองค์กรประกอบก่อนข้างจะครบถ้วนต่อการขึ้นทะเบียนเป็นโบราณสถานแต่ทางพิพิธภัณฑ์ไม่ได้จดทะเบียน

B3: Department of Fine Arts second interview questions (English)

- From reading the *Act on National Monuments, Antiques, Objects of Art and National Museums*, we found that historical sites were referred to as a “registered ancient monument”, “non-registered ancient monument”, or simply “ancient monument”. What is the difference between these three terms?
- Is there a detailed set of criteria used to evaluate whether a site deserves to be registered on the unofficial list?
- Looking at the assessment table for registration of historic sites, under physical aspects, how do you evaluate a site’s level of uniqueness, authenticity and historical background?
- If the owner of a site decides to oppose to the recognition DFA offers, what is the process he/she must go through? Does this apply to both the unofficial list and the official list?
- Is there any protection given to the immediate surroundings outside of the main boundaries of the historical Site? Does this apply to both unrecognized and recognized sites?
- Can the owner sell the house if it is registered?
- What are the differences in benefits obtained by sites on the official list versus those on the unofficial list?
 - We know there is a planned tax deduction for sites that are recognized by the DFA. How much is deducted? Is this deduction just for officially recognized sites? Are there any similar benefits to this?
- How long does the process take for allowing a site to make changes? What changes can a site make to themselves (ex. If a window breaks, can the site managers fix it themselves)?

B.4: Department of Fine Arts second interview questions (Thai)

- จากที่ได้อ่าน ข้อกฎหมาย พระราชบัญญัติ โบราณสถาน โบราณวัตถุ และ พิพิธภัณฑ์ เราเห็นว่า โบราณสถานได้แบ่งเป็น 3 ส่วน คือ โบราณสถาน ที่จดทะเบียน, และโบราณสถานที่ไม่ได้จดทะเบียน
- ทางกรมศิลปากรได้มีเกณฑ์ใดเอาไว้วัดทางสถานที่ไหมครับ ว่าควรอยู่ใน official list หรือ unofficial list

- จากตารางการประเมิน ทางกรมศิลปากรได้ใช้เกณฑ์ประเมินระดับความสำคัญของแต่ละหัวข้อครับ? เช่น ความเป็นเอกลักษณ์ของสถานที่
- ถ้าเกิดทางเจ้าของปฏิเสธการเป็นโบราณสถานโดยกรมศิลปากร ทางเจ้าของจะต้องปฏิบัติอย่างไรแล้วจะได้รับผลกระทบทางใดหรือไม่ครับ?
- ทางกรมศิลปากรมีนโยบายใดใหม่ครับ ในการปกป้องสถานที่จากนอกรั้ว เช่นเพิ่มระยะการก่อสร้างตึกสูงให้กับโบราณสถาน
- เจ้าของโบราณสถานที่จดทะเบียนแล้วสามารถซื้อขายบ้านได้หรือไม่?
- อะไรคือข้อดีหลักๆของการเป็น โบราณสถานใน official list กับ unofficial list หรือครับ? เราพอจะรู้ว่ากรมศิลปากรพอจะลดค่าภาษีให้กับโบราณสถานได้ แต่พอจะขอทราบได้ไหมครับ ว่าลดได้เท่าไร และ มีผลกับโบราณสถานที่อยู่ใน unofficial list ไหมครับ?
- ใช้เวลานานแค่ไหนในการ ขออนุญาตซ่อมแซมบ้านที่ขึ้นทะเบียนเป็นโบราณสถาน ตัวอย่างเช่นกระเจตกแตก

B.5: Siam Society interview questions (English):

- What is the mission of the Siam Society?
- What do you think is the best way to protect cultural heritage sites?
- Do you have any partnerships or cooperative work with the DFA?
- Aside from legal protections, is there value in getting a site officially recognized by organizations such as the Department of Fine Arts?
- Do you think it is worth it for a site to be recognized by the DFA? Why or why not?
- Why might sites be hesitant to go under the protection of the DFA?
- Are you aware of any other recognitions sites can attain other than ones through the DFA and UNESCO?
- Would you like to be involved in our project? If yes, how would you like to be involved?

B.6: Interviews with managers of sites on the DFA Recognized Ancient Monuments list (English):

- Information we want to obtain through these interviews:
 - We want to learn what gives their heritage site value
 - How they convey that value to organizations to get on an official list or recognition
 - What the process was to get on the official list or any different lists.

Questions:

- What do you consider to be the values of this heritage site?
- Why is it important to preserve heritage sites, such as this one?
- What is the process you went through to become a heritage site? How did you get started?
- How did you convey the site's value to the DFA to get on an official list or recognition by another organization?
- Is your site recognized by any other lists/recognitions?
- If your site is registered have you ever needed their help to protect yourselves?
- Why did you decide to become a registered site through the Fine Arts Department?
- What are the benefits of being a registered site? What are some of the downsides?

B.7: Interviews with managers of sites on the DFA Recognized Ancient Monuments list (Thai):

อะไรคือสิ่งสำคัญเกี่ยวกับสถานที่แห่งนี้

- ทำไมสังคมถึงต้องให้ความสำคัญต่อการอนุรักษ์ โบราณสถาน ของไทยอย่างเช่นที่นี้เป็นต้น
- สถานที่แห่งนี้ต้องผ่านกระบวนการอะไรบ้างกว่าจะได้ขึ้นทะเบียนเป็น โบราณสถาน
- คุณแสดงคุณค่าที่น่าหวงแหนยังใ้ให้กรมศิลปากรหรือทางหน่วยงานอื่นๆยอมรับ
- สถานที่แห่งนี้ได้รับการคุ้มครองจาก กระทรวงใดบ้างหรือเปล่า
- ถ้าหากได้รับการคุ้มครอง สถานที่แห่งนี้เคยต้องใช้ในการคุ้มครองนั้นหรือเปล่า
- ทำไมถึงตัดสินใจขึ้นทะเบียนโบราณสถานกับกรมศิลปากร
- มีข้อดีข้อเสียอย่างไรกับการขึ้นทะเบียนโบราณสถาน

B.7: Jim Thompson House site manager interview questions (English):

- What are the values of this museum?
- Why is it important to preserve museums like yours?
- How would you classify your site? A heritage site? A museum? Both?
- Why is your site not an official heritage site?
- Are you on any official list for museums?
- What protections do you have? Have any construction projects ever threatened your site?

Dependent on previous answers:

- What is the process you went through to become an official museum? How did you get started?

B.8: Jim Thompson House interview questions (Thai):

- อะไรคือสิ่งสำคัญเกี่ยวกับสถานที่แห่งนี้
 - นิยามความแตกต่างระหว่างพิพิธภัณฑ์กับมรดกแห่งชาติสำหรับคุณ
- ทำไมสังคมถึงต้องให้ความสำคัญต่อการอนุรักษ์ โบราณสถาน ของไทยอย่างเช่นที่นี้เป็นต้น
- คุณจะจำแนกประเภทสถานที่นี้เป็นอย่างไร พิพิธภัณฑ์? โบราณสถาน?
- ทำไมสถานที่แห่งนี้ถึงไม่ได้จดทะเบียนเป็นโบราณสถาน
- สถานที่แห่งนี้ได้ยอมรับอยู่ได้รายชื่อพิพิธภัณฑ์ที่ไหนบ้างรีเปล่า
- สถานที่แห่งนี้ได้ถูกคุ้มครองยังใ้แล้วเคยมีผลปัจจัยภายนอกไหนเคยกระทบต่อตัวสถานที่บ้าง เช่น การก่อสร้างตึกสูงใกล้เคียง
- สถานที่แห่งนี้ต้องผ่านกระบวนการอะไรบ้างกว่าจะได้ขึ้นทะเบียนเป็นโบราณสถาน

Appendix C: Information Received From Phone Interview With Owner of Varadis Palace

Because we treated this interview conversationally with open ended and spontaneous questions based on a predetermined guideline, we have a partial transcript with the information we received.

- Varadis palace has no protection or any support from any organization.
- The owner of the house used his father's money to look after this place.
- Hosts a government conference
- During the revolution in B.E. 2475, some of the palace was annexed.
- The site owner donated some of the palace to the government to take care of and register as a historical site and museum.
- Site owner credits his father for not being greedy and seeing the value of the site.
- Site owner stated that "if the palace were not given to the government his family would be really rich by now."
- Right now site owner is concerned about the diminishing funding that he has left from his father.
- Site owner's great grandfather was the 1st person recognized by UNESCO in B.E. 2505 (1962).
- Site owner was completely unaware of the process or protections of the DFA.
- Site owner did not know how hard it is to preserve the historical site by himself.

Appendix D: Partial Transcript of Interview With The Siam Society

Because we treated this interview conversationally with open ended and spontaneous questions based on a predetermined guideline, we have a partial transcript with the information we received.

- Siam Society stated that “Law doesn't protect anything” with respect to DFA and general Thai laws.
- With DFA recognition, owner lose their rights to alter the house in any way.
- At least 2,000 sites have refused registration by the DFA.
- Some other sites have been registered but haven't done any changes for years.
- Siam Society exchanges ideas and works with DFA.
- Occasionally work together with surveys, lectures, exchange publications.
- Restored buildings together with DFA permission.
- Sometimes get permission to renovate a site, sometimes they do not. Provided an example about mural paintings.
- Sites ask the DFA to renovate for them and Siam Society will sometimes fund.
- Sometimes DFA they can't afford alterations.
- DFA had duty to look after buildings that are not private, but organization owned.
- Recognize at least 40,000 temples, only 10 percent are over 100 years old.
- Thousands of temples haven't been retired that are already part of the DFA - such as City Halls and other ruins in provincial cities.
- Baan Plai Nern and three Siam Society buildings have received awards

Appendix E: Transcribed Responses From First DFA Interview

Question: What documents must the requestor prepare for the DFA?

Answer: In the event that the owner wishes to register a heritage site, he/she must submit a registration request letter to the General Director of DFA, which includes the site's name, location, details, and photographs in email form. The requestor must also meet with the General Director of the DFA to discuss the site further and provide any additional information. Afterwards, the registration process begins. If it passes, then DFA staff visits the site, evaluates it, and gathers more data to make a proposal to the DFA Evaluating Committee. This committee comes to a decision which they present to the Director-General, who gives the final judgement on the matter.

Question: How long does the process of registration normally take? What is the cost?

Answer: If there is no disapproval and the entire process goes smoothly, a site could become registered within 150-200 days. However, depending on the particular site being registered, the process might be delayed. Some causes of delays include ensuring all criteria and laws are followed, as well as owners denying to let DFA register their sites.

The requestor does not need to pay in order to register their site, as the DFA will cover all expenses.

Question: What is the importance of a historical site to society?

Answer: A historical site reflects the past, whether through history, archaeology, fine arts, and architecture. It is a learning center for kids of the next generation, for them to know and understand history, religion, social values and culture in the past. Moreover, the site must benefit the area in which it is located either directly or indirectly by also serving a second purpose as a tourist destination or learning center.

Question: What parties, organizations, and departments are involved in the process of determining a heritage site?

Answer: The process of registering a historical site can be found on the "Act on Ancient Monuments, Antiques, Objects of Art and National Museums". Chapter 1, Section 7 of the Act gives the Director-General of DFA the power to register any historical site within Thailand. The involved parties are all 12 sub-departments of the DFA. Technically, the DFA conducts the registration process of a historical site by, and only at the end of the process does the Government House of Thailand get to register the site officially and make sure it is protected by law.

Appendix F: Transcribed Responses From Second DFA Interview

Question: From reading the *Act on National Monuments, Antiques, Objects of Art and National Museums*, we found that historical sites were referred to as a “registered ancient monument,” “non-registered ancient monument,” or simply “ancient monument.” What is the difference between these three terms?

Answer: In the Act, the term Registered Ancient Monument is used for registered historical sites, while all other sites that are not registered are simply called Ancient Monuments.

Question: Is there a detailed set of criteria used to evaluate whether a site deserves to be registered on the unofficial list?

Answer: We have to understand that there are plenty of ancient monuments in Thailand and the law protects both registered and unregistered ancient monuments. Because of this, the current Director-General has a policy of registering all the sites in Thailand.

Question: Looking at the assessment table for registration of historic sites, under physical aspects, how do you evaluate a site’s level of uniqueness, authenticity and historical background?

Answer: In order to register with the DFA a site needs to fulfill 3 sets of criteria:

Age: If the building was built after 1932 it receives 0 points as it is considered a new era building. 1 point if built from 1238 to 1932 and 2 points if built before 1238

- Physical characteristics: the purpose of erecting the building must be understandable at first sight. Examples would include temples, houses etc. If the building has been damaged, it will receive less points in this criterion, while if the building hasn’t been modified at all (original as possible) it will obtain a higher score.
- Academic value: Does the site represent any past local history or activity, or was/is it the house of an important person? If the DFA finds any historical objects in the premises, the site will obtain full points in this criteria, even if the physical aspect of the building is lacking.

Question: If the owner of a site decides to oppose to the recognition DFA offers, what is the process he/she must go through? Does this apply to both the unofficial list and the official list?

Answer: If the owner of a site decides to oppose to the recognition DFA offers, what is the process he/she must go through? Does this apply to both the unofficial list and the official list?

According to law, an ancient monument is inherently ancient, and there is nothing the owner could do to reject this fact. However, if the owner does not want the site to be registered, he/she can bring that up in court.

The impact to the owner does not come from the forms of preservation. There are understandably going to be problems since the owner cannot demolish or make any changes/repairs to the building without first asking for DFA’s permission. This makes site owners feel like they have diminished power in their own properties.

Question: Is there any protection given to the immediate surroundings outside of the main boundaries of the Historical Site? Does this apply to both unrecognized and recognized sites?

Answer: The DFA is currently pushing for a new law on creating a buffer zone around ancient monuments, where distance and height of nearby buildings will be restricted. However, it is now up to the court to make a verdict.

Question: Can the owner sell the house if they are registered?

Answer: The owners of either registered or unregistered sites are allowed to sell their properties as long as they notify the DFA of this change, in order for them to know who to contact in any case.

Question: What are the differences in benefits obtained by sites on the official list versus those on the unofficial list? We know there is some tax deduction for sites that are recognized by the DFA. How much is deducted? Is this deduction just for officially recognized sites? Are there any similar benefits to this?

Answer: The only difference between registered and unregistered ancient monuments is the severity of punishment for damage to the site.

* Personally, Khun Som believes that there is very little benefit from registering the site, which is the biggest disadvantage of the DFA. The DFA is trying to increase these benefits through tax cuts so they can increase the number of owners that want to register their sites. However, it is up to the ministry of finance to approve the law at this point. The DFA is really serious about this because they understand the owners feel like the site is being taken away from them, and want to change that.

Question: How long does the process take for allowing a site to make changes? What changes can a site make to themselves (ex. If a window breaks, can the site managers fix it themselves)?

Answer: If a window is broken, a roof is leaking, or floor needs fixing, all the owner needs to do is give the DFA a phone call or send a letter. In about a week, a craftsman will visit the site. The only reason the DFA does this is because it wants to ensure that fixes still blend in with the rest of the house. That's why if it is a big renovation, the board will have to consider it much more, so it might take more than a month.

Appendix G: Partial Transcript of Interview With an Owner of Baan Plai Nern

Because we treated this interview conversationally with open ended and spontaneous questions based on a predetermined guideline, we have a partial transcript with the information we received.

- We found that Baan Plai Nern (BPN) is fine with being part of DFA because of the potential for a future “buffer zone” of protection that would prevent nearby development.
- Most site owners so not want to be part of DFA because of the amount of rules and regulations imposed on them with still so little protection.
- BPN does not need funding for renovation from the DFA.
- If a site needs renovation but the DFA does not have any monetary support, then funding for renovations will take time to come through.
- Gave an example of a friend whose site received DFA recognition. Site owner wanted to change this building because they lived there but could not. Had to take DFA to court.
- There's a choice for the owners to give ownership to the DFA.
- If given to DFA, there will be more rules and regulation for the official owners to follow.
- BPN owners want to be the part of the DFA but not give the house to the department.

Appendix H: Partial Transcript From Interview With Khun Areeya Srichompoo

Registration does not announce a place as a heritage site - a historical site is historical independent of whether or not it has been registered as a Historical site with the department of Fine Arts. An analogy to represent this is that of a boy getting the title of mister automatically, without the need for registration. The same goes for historical sites: they are automatically called historical site if they contain artistic, historical, or architectural value. Registration makes that recognition formal, as if a boy gets married. A historical site can either be registered or not registered.

Both of these categories are protected by the DFA, with the only difference being the punishment by the law. Registration has to be approved by the DFA. More than 400 are still in the process, mostly delayed by law procedures.

- If the owner does not want to become registered, they have the right to sue the department. However, the DFA usually wins.
- The age criteria is not very fixed: if the site is 99 years old but important, the DFA will still consider it. This criterion is included on paper, but in real life it is almost never applied

Baan Plai Nern has immense historical value:

- Baan Plai Nern meets the DFA criteria in each category:
 - Age: Built before 1932
 - Uniqueness: House built by internationally important person
 - Historical or architectural value: Holds architectural value
- Strategies
 - Museum tickets can be listed as donations to reduce taxation
 - DFA is working on adding tax deductions in an effort to increase the amount of protection they offer. However, this has not been approved yet.
- Khun Som's perspective on Thai society:
 - There are less people who care about historical sites than there used to be.
 - Many Thai people care about the historical value that is being lost in their city, but since they are not impacted directly by the demolishing of these sites, they decide not to involve themselves with this situation.

Appendix I: Evaluation Criteria for DFA Registration

Assessment table for registration of historic sites

Sites are given a score of 0-2 for each subsection outlined below. Afterwards, a total score is calculated for each section by taking the average of points gathered in each subsection. The section scores are then summed up to make a final evaluation.

If the overall score comes out more than 3.6 (over 60%) then the site will begin the process of becoming an official heritage site by the DFA.

1. Age
 - Site erected on or before the reign of King Rama VI (older than 94 years)
 - 0 points for sites from 1932 to the present
 - 1 point for sites of the Sukhothai era (1238 - 1932)
 - 2 points for sites of erected before the Sukhothai era
2. Physical aspects
 - Uniqueness
 - Authenticity of shape and location
 - Detailed information and evidence on the historic value of physical elements of the site
3. Academic values
 - Artistic contribution/value
 - Historic and cultural importance

We have represented this criteria evaluation in the following table:

Table 3: The point system for evaluating candidate sites for DFA registration

Evaluation Criteria		Score [0-2]	Averaged Final Score
Age	1932-present: 0 points 1238-1932: 1 point Before 1238: 2 points		
Physical Attributes	Uniqueness		
	Authenticity of Shape & Location		
	Physical Evidence of History		
Academic Values	Artistic Value		
	Historical & Cultural Value		
			Total Score

Appendix J: Registration and Post-Registration Steps, Documentation, and Timeline

The following is the DFA's process and timeline for registering a site. Every step outlined below is completed by a different individual/group of specialists.

1. The site owner must send a registration request letter to the DFA to provide information and documentation about their site (skip if DFA contacts site instead of the other way around.)
 2. An archaeologist appointed by the DFA will gather additional information from visiting the site. If there is missing information, go to (*)
 3. The DFA Evaluating Committee will summarize the gathered data and evaluate it to conclude whether or not a site should become registered. In case registration is not agreed upon, go to (*).
 - a. When the committee concludes, the Director-General has the right to veto the decision.
 4. The Department of Law within the DFA will inform the site owner(s) about the decision, and their right to refuse registration in court
 - a. If the owner refuses and starts a court battle, then go to (*)
 5. The Department of Registration within the DFA will sign the legal documents declaring a site registered.
 6. Gazette Editors will officially announce registration in the Royal Government Gazette.
 7. The Department of Registration within the DFA will inform the site owner that the site has been officially registered.
 8. Renovate site if needed and note any changes made.
 9. Add the site to the DFA's database of heritage sites, and the website.
- (*) Stop/Edit/Postpone the request for registration

Documents the requestor needs to prepare to apply for registration of a heritage site to the DFA:

Appendix K: Deliverable: DFA Letter Application Template

English Version:

Address no. ____ Soi ____

Road ____ district ____

Province ____ Zipcode ____

Date of issue ____

Heading Request to register a site as a Registered Ancient Monument

Attachment *Attach any documents verifying the authenticity of your site as well as pictures of the site*

TO General Director of the Department of Fine Arts

Introduce yourself. Describe your heritage site. Explain why your site should be recognized by the DFA and why it qualifies by using the criteria guide we provide. Invite the DFA to explore your site.

It would be much appreciated if you can consider this request.

With respect,

YOUR SIGNATURE

(YOUR FULL NAME)

Your contact info....

Thai Version:

บ้านเลขที่ _____
ถนน _____ เขต _____ จังหวัด _____
รหัสไปรษณีย์ _____

วันที่ _____

เรื่อง ขอความอนุเคราะห์ขึ้นทะเบียน โบราณสถานบ้านพักอาศัย
เรียน ท่านอธิบดีกรมศิลปากร

ดิฉัน/กระผม นาง/นาย... มีศักดิ์เป็น... ปัจจุบันดิฉันพักอาศัยอยู่ที่... บ้านเลขที่ ... ซอย... ซอยถนน.... เขต.... จังหวัด....
รหัสไปรษณีย์... ซึ่งเป็น... ดิฉันพิจารณาแล้วเห็นว่า... เป็นบ้านที่ทรงคุณค่าทางประวัติศาสตร์
สมควรจะได้รับการอนุรักษ์ไว้เพื่อขึ้นทะเบียนโบราณสถาน จึงใคร่ขอความอนุเคราะห์ให้กรมศิลปากร ได้โปรดพิจารณาส่งเจ้าหน้าที่ที่มีความรู้และ
ความเชี่ยวชาญทางด้านโบราณสถาน มาดำเนินการตรวจสอบบ้านพักอาศัยของดิฉัน เพื่อดำเนินการขึ้นทะเบียน
โบราณสถานตามระเบียบของกรมศิลปากรต่อไป

จึงเรียนมาเพื่อโปรดพิจารณาให้ความอนุเคราะห์ในครั้งนี้ด้วย จักเป็นพระคุณยิ่ง

ขอแสดงความนับถือ
ชื่อ นามสกุล
(ลงนาม)

หมายเลขโทรศัพท์
หมายเลขโทรศัพท์ มือถือ

Appendix L: Partial Transcript From Interview With Jim Thompson House Site Managers

Because we treated this interview conversationally with open ended and spontaneous questions based on a predetermined guideline, we have a partial transcript with the information we received.

- Jim Thompson House is not a DFA recognized heritage site but is registered as a museum through which they have their own foundation. The Jim Thompson Art Center is operated under The James H.W. Thompson Foundation.
- The mission of the Art Center is to nurture artistic activities and create public awareness of both contemporary and traditional arts within today's context. Among its many activities, the Art Center organizes exhibitions; conducts educational and outreach programs; produces publications; and networks and collaborates with local and international cultural institutions.
- Jim Thompson house was built in 1958. Its structure was well-planned to prevent the ground shrinking from the water in the canal and trees. The house is very flexible because it is made from the Brazilian wood. The house has a monthly maintenance schedule. Jim Thompson wanted this house to become a museum for Thais because burglary and smuggling of art was popular at the time. There are around 1500 preserved objects in Jim Thompson house. The house has stayed the same way from the day Jim Thompson disappeared.
- They cannot eliminate the threat of urbanization, so they are trying their best to minimize any harm caused by it.
- It took the foundation seven years to turn the place into a museum due to the disappearance of Jim Thompson because his death was never confirmed, complicating the legal issues.
- DFA tried to take over the site but the foundation kept them out.
- The Jim Thompson House also does charity such as collaborating with Chula University to provide financial and knowledgeable support to students who study in traditional Thai silk.
- Jim Thompson himself was also a member of Siam Society, and the Foundation also provides Siam Society with venues to conduct their lectures.
- "The Royal family is important in preserving heritage sites". He also mentioned that the purpose of the foundation is to preserve and not to make profit.

Appendix M: Deliverable -- Rating of Repair Urgency for DFA

English Version:

Urgency Index Explanation

This document explains the Urgency Index, a metric created by the Heritage Team to rank how urgently different site changes should be addressed. Each attribute stated below is given a level of importance, where a bigger number means higher importance.

Attribute (At)	Symbol	Importance (Im)
Possibility of problem to further worsen	w	6
Lowered quality of life to residents of site (0 if no residents)	q	5
Time project has been delayed	d	4
Impeded ability of public to visit site (0 if not open to public)	v	3
Cost to complete project (10 if site will not use DFA funds)	c	2
Time required to complete project (including finding materials and the appropriate person/company)	t	1

For each attribute, a pre-assigned scale of 0-10 will be used. This scale is to be created by DFA employees as it requires knowledge and specialization in many fields. We assigned the cost (c) to be in inverse proportion to urgency, so an expensive project would make $c = 0$, while $c = 10$ for a project that will not be funded by the DFA. Again, this scale should be created by the DFA and be the same for every case.

After a “grade” is assigned to each attribute, then that value is multiplied by the level of importance. In the end, all values are summed up and divided by the sum of the importance values to give an Urgency Index (UI) between 1 and 10. The higher the index, the higher the urgency required in handling a site’s submission for changes. The formula for UI is expressed below:

$$UI = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n At_i * Im_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n Im_i},$$

Where At_i indicates the i^{th} attribute out of n attributes, and Im_i indicates the i^{th} level of importance out of n levels. By following this formula, the DFA can make changes to the importance levels of any attribute, or add new attributes as they see fit.

Thai Version:

คำอธิบายการวัดค่าความเร่งด่วน

เอกสารฉบับนี้จะอธิบายถึงการทำงานของดัชนีวัดความเร่งด่วนของโบราณสถาน, สมการที่ทางทีมงานได้สร้างมาเพื่อเอาไว้ใช้ในการกำหนดค่าความเร่งด่วนในการแก้ไขของสถานการณ์ต่างๆ โดยด้านซ้ายสุดของตาราง ปังบอกถึงคุณลักษณะของแต่ละสิ่งที่ควรคำนึงถึง ตรงกลางของตารางปังบอกถึงตัวย่อที่ใช้ในสมการ และสุดท้ายคือความสำคัญของแต่ละคุณลักษณะ ซึ่งยิ่งคุณลักษณะนั้นมีความสำคัญมากเท่าไร ก็จะมีคะแนนที่มากขึ้นเท่านั้น

คุณลักษณะ (At)	สัญลักษณ์	ความสำคัญ (Im)
ความเป็นไปได้ของสถานการณ์ที่จะทรุดลง	w	6
ผลกระทบต่อผู้พักอาศัย (หากไม่มีผู้พักอาศัย 0 คะแนน)	q	5
การล่าช้าของการแก้ไขสถานการณ์	d	4
ส่งผลต่อการใช้งานและเข้าชมของประชาชน(หากไม่เปิดให้ชุมชน 0 คะแนน)	v	3
ราคาของการแก้ไขสถานการณ์ (หากโบราณสถานไม่ใช้งบจากกรมศิลปากร 10 คะแนน)	c	2
ระยะเวลาในการแก้ไขให้เสร็จสมบูรณ์ (คำนึงถึงเวลาที่ใช้ในการหาอุปกรณ์ที่จำเป็นและทีมใน การแก้ไขปัญหา)	t	1

สำหรับแต่ละคุณลักษณะ จะใช้มาตราส่วนที่กำหนดไว้ล่วงหน้าเป็น 0-10 โดยมาตราส่วนนี้ จะถูกกำหนดโดยทางกรมศิลปากรที่มีความรู้และทักษะในหลายๆด้าน เราจะกำหนดตัวแปรค่าใช้จ่ายให้เป็น (c) และ กำหนดค่า (c) ให้อยู่ในสัดส่วนผกผันกับความเร่งด่วน, เพื่อว่างานที่มีค่าใช้จ่ายสูงจะเป็น c=0, ในขณะที่ c=10 สำหรับงานที่กรมศิลปากรจะไม่ช่วยสนับสนุนค่าใช้จ่ายและมาตราส่วนนี้ก็ควรถูกคิดค้นโดยกรมศิลปากร

หลังจากการกำหนดมาตราส่วนให้แต่ละคุณลักษณะแล้ว นำตัวเลขมาตราส่วนมาคูณกับเลขที่กำหนดในตารางความสำคัญ สุดท้ายแล้ว นำผลรวมทั้งหมดที่ได้มาหารด้วยผลรวมของความสำคัญ โดยจะได้ผลออกมาเป็นดัชนีของความเร่งด่วน(UI) ที่มีความเร่งด่วนระหว่าง 1- 10 ยิ่ง ดัชนีของความเร่งด่วน(UI) สูงเท่าไร การแก้ไขปัญหาที่ยิ่งเร่งด่วนมากขึ้นเท่านั้น

สมการของ ดัชนีของความเร่งด่วน(UI):

$$UI = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n A_{t_i} * Im_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n Im_i},$$

โดย A_{t_i} แสดง i^{th} จาก n , และ Im_i แสดง ระดับความสำคัญของ i^{th} จาก n

โดยท้ายที่สุดทางกรมศิลปากรสามารถดัดแปลงคุณลักษณะ และ สมการได้ตามที่เห็นสมควร

Appendix N: Deliverable – Infographics

English Version:

ASIA-PACIFIC AWARD FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION

Award Description

The Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage conservation is an award sponsored by UNESCO. It serves to recognize exemplary conservation and restoration efforts in historical buildings. It is split into four categories: Award of Excellence, Award of Distinction, Award of Merit, and Honorable Mention.

Criteria

- ✓ Has shown significant conservation efforts or has been successfully restored
- ✓ The age of the site is greater than 50 years
- ✓ Restoration/Conservation efforts have been completed in the last 10 years

Pros and Cons

✓ Advertisement on UNESCO website	✗ No additional legal protection
--------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Application Form

You can find the application form by clicking the first award application on the following page:
<https://bangkok.unesco.org/content/apply-awards>

ASIA-PACIFIC AWARD FOR NEW DESIGN IN HERITAGE CONTEXTS

Award Description

The Asia-Pacific Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts is an award sponsored by UNESCO that serves to recognize newly built heritage sites that exhibit exemplary design and historical significance.

Criteria

- ✓ Exhibits exceptional design characteristics
- ✓ The site was built in the last 50 years
- ✓ Exemplary integration of site's design in local historical context

Pros and Cons

✓ Advertisement on UNESCO website Offers recognition to newer sites	✗ No additional legal protection
---	-------------------------------------

Application Form

You can find the application form by clicking the second award application on the following page:
<https://bangkok.unesco.org/content/apply-awards>

REGISTRATION THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

Description

The Department of Fine Arts is a branch of the Thai Ministry of Culture whose mission is to recognize and protect sites of artistic, architectural, cultural, and historical value.

Criteria [points]

YEAR BUILT	PHYSICAL [0-2 EACH]	ACADEMIC [0-2 EACH]
[0] After 1932	Uniqueness	Artistic Contribution
[1] 1238-1932	Authenticity	Historical and Cultural Importance
[2] Before 1238	Physical Evidence of Historical Value	

Pros and Cons

- ✓ Strict protection against unwanted damage
- ✓ Advertisement on Department of Fine Arts website
- ✓ Tax reductions (will be implemented shortly)
- ✓ Site repairs funded by the Department of Fine Arts
- ✓ Added criteria that construction near the site has to abide by (will be implemented shortly)
- ✗ The owner of the site cannot make changes to the site, however minor, without approval of the Director-General of the Department of Fine Arts
- ✗ It takes up to three weeks to obtain approval or denial of request to make changes to the site

Process

- 1 Site owner sends a registration request by email to Department of Fine Arts (DFA).
- 2 DFA will check completeness and accuracy of the information. If complete, registration is approved.
- 3 A proposal for recognition is brought to the Board of DFA.
- 4 Inform the site owner about the decision and laws they will have to abide by.
- 5 Publicly announce registration on the Government Gazette.
- 6 DFA will make changes and renovations, then add it to database.

รางวัล เอเชียน-แปซิฟิก อวอร์ด สำหรับ
การอนุรักษ์
โบราณสถาน
เชิงวัฒนธรรม

ลักษณะรางวัล

รางวัลเอเชียแปซิฟิกอวอร์ดสำหรับ การอนุรักษ์ โบราณสถานทางวัฒนธรรมนั้นได้รับการสนับสนุนจากองค์การยูเนสโก ที่จะมอบให้แก่สถานที่ที่เป็นแบบอย่างในเชิงอนุรักษ์และบูรณะดีของโบราณสถาน วัตถุสิ่งของในอีกหลายหมื่นปีข้างหน้าก็คือรางวัลโบราณสถาน วัตถุสิ่งของ, รางวัลเอกลักษณ์ได้เด่น, รางวัลแห่งคุณธรรม, และรางวัลเกียรติคุณ

เกณฑ์การประเมิน

ข้อดี และ ข้อเสีย



ได้รับการโฆษณาและ
โปรโมทจากองค์กรยูเนสโก



ไม่มีการคุ้มครองทาง
กฎหมาย

แบบฟอร์มใบสมัคร

คุณสามารถหาแบบฟอร์มใบสมัครโดยคลิกที่รางวัลแรกบนเว็บไซต์ต่อไปนี้
<https://bangkok.unesco.org/content/apply-awards>

รางวัล เอเชีย-แปซิฟิก อวอร์ด สำหรับ
การออกแบบ
ใหม่ในเชิง
โบราณสถาน

คำอธิบายรางวัล

รางวัล เอเซีย-แปซิฟิก อวอร์ด สำหรับ การออกแบบใหม่ ในเชิงโบราณสถาน คือรางวัลที่สนับสนุน โดยองค์กรยูเนสโกที่ให้การยอมรับแก่ โบราณสถาน ที่สร้างขึ้นใหม่ที่มีการออกแบบที่เป็นแบบอย่างและ ความสำคัญทางประวัติศาสตร์

เกณฑ์การให้คะแนน

- ✓ จัดแสดงลักษณะการออกแบบที่ยอดเยี่ยม
- ✓ โบราณสถานถูกสร้างขึ้นภายใน 50 ปี
- ✓ มีการบูรณะที่สามารถเป็นแบบอย่างให้แก่การออกแบบโบราณสถานในบริบทประวัติศาสตร์ท้องถิ่น

ข้อดี และ ข้อเสีย



- ได้รับการโฆษณาผ่านทางเว็บไซต์ยูเนสโก
- เสนอการยอมรับให้กับโบราณสถานใหม่



- ไม่มีการคุ้มครองทางกฎหมายเพิ่มเติม

แบบฟอร์มใบสมัคร

คุณสามารถหาแบบฟอร์มใบสมัครโดยคลิกที่รางวัล
ที่สองบนเว็บไซต์ต่อไปนี้
[https://bangkok.unesco.org/content/
apply-awards](https://bangkok.unesco.org/content/apply-awards)

สมัครผ่านกรมศิลปากร

บรรยายลักษณะงาน

กรมศิลปากรเป็นหน่วยงานย่อยของกระทรวงวัฒนธรรมภายใต้การดูแล
ของรัฐซึ่งมีเป้าหมายเพื่อคุ้มครอง มรดกทางศิลปวัฒนธรรมของชาติ
เพื่อพัฒนาและสืบทอดให้สู่รุ่นต่อไป

การประเมินคะแนน

ปีก่อตั้ง	ลักษณะของอาคาร	คุณค่าทางวิชาการ
- 0 ตระกูล ระหว่างปีค.ศ. 1932-1950	- มีความเป็นเอกลักษณ์	- มีความสำคัญทางศิลปะ
- 1 ตระกูล ระหว่างปีค.ศ. 1238-ค.ศ. 1932	- มีความเป็นของเดิมแท้	- มีความสำคัญทางประวัติศาสตร์
- 2 ตระกูล ก่อนปีค.ศ. 1932	- มีความชัดเจนของข้อมูล	- มีความสำคัญทางมานคดี

— **ข้อดี และ ข้อเสีย**

- ✓ มีบทลงโทษที่รุนแรงต่อการทำผิดให้โบราณสถานเสียหาย
- ✓ มีการจัดเขตโบราณสถานผ่านเว็บไซต์ของทางกรมศิลปากร
- ✓ จะมีการลดหย่อนค่าภาษี (อยู่ในช่วงดำเนินการ)
- ✓ มีงบประมาณที่เพิ่มข้อในการซ่อมแซมซากทางกรมศิลปากร
- ✓ จะริเริ่มของงานที่ห้ามเด็กเล็กดูก่อรั้วใกล้ๆ (อยู่ในช่วงดำเนินการ)
- ✗ เจ้าของไม่สามารถแก้ไขตัวอาคารใดๆได้จนกว่าจะได้รับอนุญาตจากกรมศิลปากร
- ✗ อาจจะใช้เวลาถึง 3 ปีถ้าขี้นเพื่อขออนุญาตในการตัดแปลงอาคาร

กระบวนการสมัคร

1. เจ้าของโบราณสถานยื่นคำร้องไปที่กรมศิลปากร
2. กรมศิลปากรตรวจสอบข้อมูลที่ได้รับและลงมติเห็นชอบว่าควรปรับปรุงหรือไม่
3. เสนอเรื่องการจดทะเบียนในทางคณะกรรมการพิจารณา
4. แจ้งเจ้าของโบราณสถานเกี่ยวกับข้อบังคับที่ต้องปฏิบัติตาม
5. ประกาศลงทะเบียนในราชกิจจานุเบกษา
6. กรมศิลปากรจะแก้ไขข้อบกพร่องและนำเข้าหลักฐานข้อมูล

