



GET THE FACTS - HERITAGE INFORMATION SERIES

04. ASSOCIATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

To determine associational significance, persons associated with the property, item or place must be individually significant within a historic context. An item is not eligible if its only justification for significance is that it was owned or used by a person who is a member of an identifiable profession, class, or social or ethnic group. It must be shown that the person gained importance within his or her profession or group. Association with the item eligible under this criterion is usually that which is associated with a person's

productive life, reflecting the time period when he or she achieved significance. The individual's association with the item must be documented by accepted methods of historical or archaeological research, including written or oral history. Speculative associations are not acceptable. Each item associated with an important individual should be compared to other associated items in order to identify its relative rarity and or representativeness. Length of association is an important factor when assessing several items with similar

associations. Association with groups include items associated with several community leaders or with a prominent family. It is necessary to identify specific individuals and to explain their significant accomplishments. The item may also be associated with living persons, but such associations are usually not eligible for inclusion. Sufficient time must have elapsed to assess both the person's field of endeavour and his/her contribution to that field.