



HERITAGE  
COUNCIL  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

### Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 01313
2. **NAME** *Commonwealth Health Laboratory (fmr)* (c.1900, 1923)  
**OTHER NAMES** Brown Hill Oroya Mine Laboratory/Office (fmr), Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital; Building 19, Eastern Goldfields Medical Division of Genera (fmr), Public Health Laboratory (fmr), Western Australian Centre for Remote and Rural Medicine, Ngunyntju Tjitji Pirni
3. **LOCATION** Maritana Street, Kalgoorlie
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**  
Kalgoorlie Lot 3973, being part of Crown Reserve 2728 and being part of the land comprised in Crown Land Record Volume 3102 Folio 622.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
6. **OWNER** Minister for Health
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
  - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 18/09/1992  
Permanent Entry 28/03/2002
  - National Trust Classification: Classified 01/09/1986
  - Town Planning Scheme: -----
  - Municipal Inventory: -----
  - Register of the National Estate: Nominated 08/04/1988
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**  
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9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**  
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10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

*Commonwealth Health Laboratory (fmr)*, a Federation style prefabricated weatherboard and galvanised iron building with deep verandahs and gabled roof ends, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is a simply expressed twin roofed building from the Federation period, which employs classically derived proportions and details, such as acroteria, as a means of expression. It is a finely detailed building with strong aesthetic appeal, which displays a high degree of excellence in design;

the place is a rare example of a kitform, prefabricated construction, imported from Germany as a purpose designed mine laboratory; Its

twin roof construction is unusual, as is its composition of spruce from the Black Forest in Germany. The inclusion of an entirely new set of laboratories and testing works as part of the mill was said to be an innovative concept at the time of its construction in 1900;

although prefabricated buildings have been used since the earliest days of the Australian colonies, the place proved to be of a construction type very well suited to Australian conditions. It is one of a small number of surviving prefabricated building structures in Western Australia and as a whole the place is unique to the Kalgoorlie region;

the place is associated with the cyanide processing plant at Brown Hill, established in 1899, and the Diehl Process of gold extraction, reflecting the changes and progress made in gold recovery techniques in the Goldfields in the 1890s and 1900s;

the place, as a science laboratory, assisted in the cultivation and expansion of the gold industry, which became crucial to the economic and social development of the whole of Western Australia;

the place, designed during the Federation period, fits in comfortably with the Kalgoorlie aesthetic of light timber framed construction, typical of its suburban areas;

the place is associated with Frederick William Ponsonby (Larry) Cammilleri, who initiated the concept of the 'Golden Mile' and the Brown-Hill Oraya source and Dr L. Deihl, who adapted the German filter press system and perfected a method for extracting the sulphide and telluride gold ores;

the place has had a long and continuous historic association with its present location on the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital site and has been a valued community resource since 1900, as a place for scientific pursuits, health care, employment and as a focus for community endeavour. As part of the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital, the place is one of the key institutions of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, as its major medical facility. It has significance to the region as the regional health centre, and contributes to the community's sense of place;

the creation of the government hospital in 1894 was one of the earliest building developments in the establishment of Kalgoorlie and served both Kalgoorlie and Boulder, and the outlying districts. The rapid expansion of the hospital throughout the period 1896-1910 reflected the rapid development of the Goldfields. The curtailing of the growth of the site by 1910 reflected the slowing of the scramble to find gold, together with the onset of a more general low-level depression in Australia; and

the environment created by the river gum grove along the Maritana and Piccadilly Street boundaries provides a distinctive setting for the place.

The additional buildings and related structures that comprise the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital are assessed to be of little significance.