



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 14198
2. **NAME** *Halley's Comet Gold Mine, Marble Bar (1936+)*
OTHER NAMES Comet Mine, Comet Gold Mine
3. **LOCATION** Hillside-Marble Bar Road, approx. 10km south of Marble Bar
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
 1. Lot 350 on Deposited Plan 49438 being part of Reserve 2906 and being the whole of the land contained in Crown land Title Volume 3136 Folio 695
 2. Portion of Lot 111 on Deposited Plan 238589 being part of Crown Lease 103/1989 and part of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3065 Folio 342as shown on Heritage Council of Western Australia Survey Drawing No. 14198 prepared by Whelans.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of East Pilbara
6. **OWNER** State of Western Australia
(Mining Tenement Holder: Haoma Mining NL)
(As to Reserve 2906: Management Order to Shire of East Pilbara)
(As to De Grey Location 111: Pastoral Lease to Grant William Robert Brooks and Wendy McWhirter Brooks)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim Entry	19/07/2005
	Permanent Entry	14/07/2006
• National Trust Classification:		-----
• Town Planning Scheme:		-----
• Municipal Inventory:	Adopted	27/08/1999
• Register of the National Estate:		-----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Halley's Comet Gold Mine, Marble Bar, comprising elements from a gold mine operation including an office, store, assay room, fitting shop, crushing shop, power house, gold room and various treatment elements including carbon columns, cyanide tanks, copper processing, roasters, stack, machinery and equipment; the mine tunnel (No. 3 adit) in the side of the hill and associated elements; the museum and associated elements; four houses; and remnants of domestic and mining activities and various outbuildings, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the treatment and processing plant at the place is rare as a near complete example of an inter-war plant in Western Australia;

the buildings, equipment and elements that comprise the place are of individual significance and together form a landmark gold mining industrial environment associated with the significant history of gold mining in the Pilbara in the 1930s;

the place has the ability to provide valuable information on a number of mining activities and functions;

the place is closely associated with prospectors Tommy Starr, Harry Boyd and Bill Robertson, who made the find, and with mining entrepreneur Claude de Bernales, whose Great Boulder Mining and Finance Ltd bought a controlling share in the Mine and was responsible for the development of the plant and settlement;

the buildings, equipment and elements that comprise the place demonstrate a range of occupations and ways of life, gold mining extraction and processes, and recreational activities; and,

the place sparked a resurgence of mining activity in the Marble Bar district and was important to the economy of the town and surrounding area for several decades from 1936, and as an ongoing tourist attraction continues to provide an economic benefit to the community.