



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## **REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES PERMANENT ENTRY**

1. **DATA BASE No.** 9743
2. **NAME** *Numbala Nunga, Derby*  
FORMER NAME (or OTHER NAMES) Geriatric Hospital for Natives/Derby Native Geriatric Hospital; Derby Nursing Home; Numbala Nunga Nursing Home  
Site: Residency Reserve (1883-1925)  
Derby Government Residency (original) (1884-1925)  
Derby Hospital (including Lock Hospital and Leprosy facilities) (1890s-1925)  
Derby Native Hospital (1925-1968)  
Original Numbala Nunga Nursing Home (1968-2008)  
Current Numbala Nunga Nursing Home (2008-2019)
3. **LOCATION** 33 & 37 Sutherland Street, Derby
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
  1. Lot 500 on Deposited Plan 76129 being the whole of the land in Certificate of Title Volume 2953 Folio 549, being Conditional Tenure subject to instrument N964277 pursuant to s75 of the Land Administration Act 1997
  2. Reserve 28992 comprising Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 76129 being the whole of the land in Crown Land Title Volume LR3165 Folio 958.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Derby-West Kimberley
6. **OWNER AT PERMANENT REGISTRATION**
  1. Uniting Church Homes
  2. State of Western Australia (Responsible Agency: Department of Health; Management Order Holder: Minister for Health)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim Registration	12/04/2019
	Permanent Registration	28/06/2019
• National Trust Classification:		-----
• Town Planning Scheme:		-----
• Municipal Inventory:	Category 5	01/12/1995
• Register of the National Estate:		-----

**8. ORDERS UNDER SECTION 38 OR 59 OF THE ACT**

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**9. HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

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**10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

*Numbala Nunga, Derby*, the site of the former Derby Government Residency (1884), Derby Hospital (including Leprosy and Lock Hospital facilities) (1890s-1925), Derby Native Hospital (1925-1968), Numbala Nunga Nursing Home (1968-2008), and including the current Numbala Nunga Nursing Home (2008 to present), populated with mature plantings and boab trees, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place represents the measures undertaken by the Western Australian government, since the late nineteenth century, to provide health care to the Aboriginal population of the State's North West, and therefore government policies and social attitudes towards health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people throughout the twentieth century;

the place is indicative of the impact that colonial settlement had on the Aboriginal population of Western Australia, and the consequential need to provide health care to treat diseases that they would have otherwise not encountered;

the place was the site of a lock hospital, one of only four in the Western Australia, and is representative of the Government policy from the late 1900s of the relocation, isolation and treatment of Aboriginal people suffering from venereal diseases;

the place is rare as the site of a leprosy hospital in the 1920s and the 1930s and is representative of the Government policy of the relocation, detention, isolation and treatment of leprosy patients;

the place was the site of the first and only Nursing Home in the Kimberley Region from 1968 until the late 1980s, serving residents that were predominantly of Aboriginal descent and as such the facility worked to retain Aboriginal cultural links where possible;

as the site of the Government Residency (1884), the place is representative of the settlement of the Kimberley by colonists from the mid-1880s, and the important first step in establishing a government in the region;

as the site of a Native hospital from 1925 until 1966, the place is representative of the then official government policy of treating Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal patients in separate medical facilities;

as a nursing home, the place was established with funding from the Commonwealth's Aboriginal Advancement Trust Account, which aimed to help improve Aboriginal health services across Australia following the 1967 referendum when the Commonwealth first became directly engaged in Aboriginal affairs;

as a nursing home, the establishment of the place for elderly Aboriginal patients requiring geriatric care in the North West was a direct result of the implementation of the Pastoral Industry Awards of 1968.

While the place is considered to be significant, the buildings, including the 2008 Numbala Nunga nursing home complex on Lot 500, are not. The continuous and evolutionary use of the place as a site for the provision of health care, and its intangible values as such, are the significant element.