



# REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

## Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 01557
2. **NAME** *Niagara Dam* (1898)  
**OTHER NAME** Niagara Dam
3. **LOCATION** Kookynie Road, 12 km SE of Kookynie
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**  
That portion of Lot 127 on Deposited Plan 32437 being part of Crown Reserve 5062 and part of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume: 3128 Folio: 459 as is defined in Heritage Council of Western Australia survey Drawing No 1557 as prepared by Steffanoni Ewing & Cruickshank Pty Ltd.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Menzies
6. **OWNER** State of Western Australia (Vested in the Shire of Menzies)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim Entry	17/04/2003
	Permanent Entry	15/08/2003
• National Trust Classification:	Classified	09/10/1989
• Town Planning Scheme:		-----
• Municipal Inventory:	Adopted	18/12/1996
• Register of the National Estate:		-----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**  
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9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**  
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10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**  
*Niagara Dam*, a water storage reservoir with a concrete gravity wall construction on a natural basin, built in 1898 and having a capacity of approx. 40,000,000 gallons (182,400 kilolitres), has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:  
  

the place was constructed as a result of an ambitious plan in 1897-98 by the Public Works Department to provide a water storage reservoir in the arid Western Australian Eastern Goldfields to serve the railway;

the place is a fine and intact representative example of a concrete gravity dam constructed in the late 19th century, and is the only such dam in the Eastern goldfields of Western Australia;

the place is an important example of the determination of the colonial Government to maintain the viability of mineral exploitation in the area;

the place is a significant landmark element in the landscape of the remote north-eastern goldfields, valued for the form and proportion of the dam wall, elegant curved elements and iron balustrades, and picturesque reservoir within an otherwise arid natural environment;

the place is associated with Premier John Forrest, who instigated its construction following his tour of the Eastern Goldfields in November 1895, contractor H. Nelson, and with Abdul Waid and his camel team who carted the cement casks, one of the many Afghan camel drivers who played an important role in the development of the early Eastern Goldfields;

the place contributes significantly to a sense of place for local and wider communities as a landmark and place of recreation frequented by local residents and visitors on bus and 4-wheel drive tours, and as a relic of the goldfield history of the district; and,

the place provides evidence of a project that was quickly superseded, by the discovery of fresh water nearby at Kookynie.