



1. **Data Base No.** 1273
2. **Name.** Chamber of Mines Building (1899) School of Mines (1903)
3. **Description of elements included in this entry.** Chamber of Mines Building, School of Mines Administration Building and School of Mines Museum, and the land on which they stand being Reserve 37851 and Reserve 6594.
4. **Local Government Area.** City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
5. **Location.** 115 Egan Street, Kalgoorlie

Lot Kalgoorlie 3918	D 84940	C/T 1641/226
Lot Kalgoorlie 4858	D 89762	
6. **Owner.** Chamber of Mines and Energy of Western Australia (Inc) and Curtin University of Technology
7. **Statement of Significance of Place (Assessment in Detail)**

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

At a meeting in September 1896, the Kalgoorlie Chamber of Mines set forth the aims and objectives of the organisation. The Chamber was established primarily to consider all questions connected with mining and to promote discussion on the subject. Members also wanted to share information and educate people about the role and importance of mining and mining matters.

The Chamber of Mines Building is first mentioned in the Western Argus on 25 August, 1898, when it was announced that Mr Harvey G. Draper's design for the building was accepted, and that he had been awarded the premium offered by the Chamber of ten guineas. It was also noted that Mr Draper would supervise the work.¹ A report on the progress of the building appeared in March 1899, "It is expected that the Chamber of Mines will in eight weeks times be in occupation of the new two storey building in Egan-street. The structure is to be of brick, with stone base, and what is being built now is designed to form part of a fairly extensive structure which the Chamber hopes to possess in the near future. For the time being, the body will be content with a one storey erection, measuring externally 50ft x 25ft. This will be divided to meet immediate needs, into a board room and two offices, with a strong room attached. The new building will furnish accommodation for a mineralogical collection of which the the specimens now being gathered by the Chamber for display at the Coolgardie Exhibition, will form the nucleus. Mr J.N. Miles is the contractor for the building. The architect being Harvey G. Draper."²

¹ Western Argus, 25 August 1898, p.20

² Western Argus, 16 March 1899

On 4 May 1899, it was reported that, "The new brick building erected at Egan-street for the Kalgoorlie Chamber of Mines, or rather as much of the proposed building as the Chamber can at present afford, is now completed."³ This provided the Chamber with a centrally located office that enabled them to safely store their documents.

In 1903, the School of Mines was completed on land adjacent to the Chamber of Mines Building. "The first week in October should see the completion of the Kalgoorlie School of Mines building, which is now being erected in Egan-street, next to the Chamber of Mines. It is a spacious structure with a frontage of 135ft. 2in. and a depth of 117ft. 4in., and when completed will be a handsome addition to the many big buildings in this city. In front there will be a verandah with a concrete floor 10ft. in depth and 76ft. in length. Then there will come the main entrance hall, close on the left of which is to be the senior laboratory, and on the right the secretary's office, lobby, lecturer's, assistants', and directory rooms. The extreme right will be taken up by a class room, preparation room, lecture hall, and drawing office. These latter apartments, it is expected, will be completed and ready for use in about six weeks. On the extreme left side will be the furnace, assay, metallurgists' laboratory, laboratory assistants' and balance rooms, and at the back will be another balance room, lobby, and the caretaker's and class rooms. There is also space for central courtyard. Altogether there will be 16 fume covers, 11 melting furnaces, and six muffle and assay furnaces, and for carrying off smoke from these, a large chimney stack is to be built. A drainage scheme is provided for throughout. Mr. A.E. Clarke is the architect, and Messrs. W. and J. Park are the contractors for the work."⁴

The Western Australian School of Mines has been a branch of the Western Australian Institute of Technology (now Curtin University of Technology) since 1969.

The Heritage Council does not have a detailed history of the place, beyond the above. Details of the history of the place would be included in a Conservation Plan.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

The Heritage Council does not have a current assessment of the physical evidence of the buildings on site. It is known that some internal alterations have taken place, these include replacement of ceilings and light fittings. The degree to which these alterations have impinged on the heritage of the place is yet to be assessed, but there is no indication of major disruptive work.

ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in September, 1991 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

1. AESTHETIC VALUE

The group of buildings has some aesthetic significance for its contribution to the character of Kalgoorlie, as a turn of the century gold boom town. (The aesthetic value of the individual buildings has yet to be fully assessed.)

2. HISTORIC VALUE

³ Western Argus, 4 May 1899, p.19

⁴ Western Argus, 7 July 1903, p.16

The Chamber of Mines Building, the School of Mines Administration Building and the School of Mines Museum demonstrate the very strong association of the mining industry with the history of Kalgoorlie, and the eastern goldfields.

The School of Mines buildings are associated with A.E. Clarke, a prominent Victorian architect, who emigrated to WA in the late 1890s, and practiced in Kalgoorlie.

3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Equipment and exhibits in the school and museum are likely to have scientific value, but they have yet to be fully assessed.

4. SOCIAL VALUE

The Chamber of Mines Building and the School of Mines Administration Building and School of Mines Museum are identified by the community as being an integral part of Kalgoorlie, and the eastern goldfields.

The School of Mines, an educational institution in the goldfields for ninety years, has a strong association with Kalgoorlie and the mining industry throughout Western Australia.

5. RARITY

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6. REPRESENTATIVENESS

This group of buildings is representative of the establishment of the mining industry in Kalgoorlie and Western Australia.

CONDITION

In a note on the file (22 January 1993) Prof. Spotteswood indicates Curtin University is restoring the School of Mines Administration Building and the School of Mines Museum.. The Property Officer (Curtin University), responsible for the School of Mines buildings, has confirmed (8/9/93) that the buildings are in sound structural condition and subject to regular maintenance.

INTEGRITY

This group of buildings continue to be used for their original purposes, and it is likely they will continue to do so for many years. They have a high degree of integrity.

AUTHENTICITY

The group of buildings appear to have a high degree of authenticity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chamber of Mines Building, the School of Mines Administration Building and the School of Mines Museum is a group of buildings with cultural significance, which is demonstrated by:

their strong association with the history of mining in Kalgoorlie and the eastern goldfields

the continuing educational association of the School of Mines with Kalgoorlie and the mining industry in Western Australia

the identification of the institutions with Kalgoorlie

the association with A.E. Clarke, a prominent Victorian architect

8. Register of Heritage Places

Interim Entry 18/09/1992

Permanent Entry 20/09/1993

9. Conservation Order

10. Heritage Agreement

11. References

Western Argus, 25 August 1898, p.20

Western Argus, 16 March 1899

Western Argus, 4 May 1899, p.19

Western Argus, 7 July 1903, p.16