



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 01465
2. **NAME** *Gwalia Museum Group (1898+)*
Assay Building (1898; c.1910; 1970s; 1989-90)
Mines Office (1898; 1937; 1986-87)
Mine Superintendent's House (1899; c.1903; 1937; 1996-99)
Headframe (1899; 1913) & Winder (1913)
OTHER NAMES Gwalia Conservation Area
3. **LOCATION** Tower Street, Gwalia
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
 1. Lots 1127 and 1128 on Deposited Plan 188906 being the whole of Crown Reserve 46751 and being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Titles Volume 3126 Folio 787 and Volume: 3060 Folio: 319.
 2. Portion of Tower Street, Gwalia
 3. Portion of unallocated Crown Land

as is defined by Heritage Council of Western Australia survey drawing No 1465 prepared by Cadgraphics WA.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Leonora
6. **OWNER**
 1. State of Western Australia (Management Order to the Leonora Gwalia Historical Museum Ltd)
 2. State of Western Australia (Responsible Agency Shire of Leonora)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 23/09/2005
Permanent Entry 07/09/2006
 - National Trust Classification: Classified 21/03/1978
 - Town Planning Scheme: -----
 - Municipal Inventory: Adopted 17/02/1998
 - Register of the National Estate: Headframe & Winder Min 21/03/1978
Manager's House Min
Office
Garden 21/10/1980
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gwalia Museum Group, comprising of a collection of single-storey brick and corrugated iron buildings including Mine Manager's House (fmr) (1899) and its setting; Mine Office (fmr) (1898); Assay Building (fmr) (1898); and timber Headframe (1899) and Winder (1913), has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place presents a unique cultural environment with the Mine Managers House (fmr), Mine Office (fmr) and Assay Building (fmr) intact on their original site in close proximity to a modern mining operation. Together with the relocated Headframe and Winder they contribute to a greater understanding of the mining operations of 1898 to 1963;

the 1912 Fraser & Chalmers Winder is the largest of its type in Australia and one of only three surviving. It is a fine example of a large, steam-powered winding machine and an example of technological achievement of the period. The Headframe is the only large timber headframe surviving in Australia;

the place had a short, but significant, association with Herbert Hoover, later a President of the United States of America, who advised his employer, Bewick Moreing, to purchase the Sons of Gwalia mine, and who was manager of the mine in 1898;

the place is a part of the mining town of Gwalia, the establishment of which was a direct result of the operation of the Sons of Gwalia mine, one of the major underground goldmines in Australia, operating from 1896 to 1963;

the place presents a unique combination of substantial buildings developed and owned by Sons of Gwalia Company, which have survived because of the long-term mining at Gwalia;

within the place, the Mine Manager's House (fmr) is a simple elegant example of mining accommodation for a senior employee, in a garden setting;

the place is valued by the local and wider communities for its associations with the early goldmining history of the towns of Leonora and Gwalia, and for its ongoing value as a tourist attraction, as evidenced by the efforts of the local community in restoration, preservation and presentation of the group and the development of the Mine Office (fmr) as a museum; and,

the place has a landmark quality demonstrated by the visual impact of the Headframe from many positions around the towns of Gwalia and Leonora, both by day and by night, when it is flood lit.

Elements of little significance within the boundary of the group include the winder house and the corrugated iron clad building north of the Assay Building.

The corrugated iron clad former engineer's house ('White House'), the woodline locomotive 'Ken' and 'Ken's' shed, and the steel framed and galvanised steel clad exhibition building, all situated on the adjoining site to the west, are of little significance, but are more closely linked to the group than to the Gwalia townsite.

The exhibition building, which immediately adjoins the west boundary of the group, is intrusive.