



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Removed Entry

The Minister for Heritage Directed that this Permanent Entry in the State Register be removed on 26 August 1995. Notice of this decision under the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990 appeared in the Government Gazette on 8 September 1995.

1. **NUMBER** 3240
2. **NAME** *Railway Hotel*
3. **DESCRIPTION OF ELEMENTS INCLUDED IN THE ENTRY (GENERAL)**

The Railway Hotel was built in 1897 by John and Adam Wilkie, the contractors for the construction of the railway line from Southern Cross to Kalgoorlie. The railway was completed in 1896, and the Railway Hotel, together with the Wilkie Buildings opposite, was built to take advantage of this. Its position meant that it was in an unrivalled position to attract intrastate and interstate (after the opening of the Transcontinental Line in 1917) rail travellers. The Wilkie brothers had extensive financial interests in the Eastern Goldfields, including the Union Brewery, Oriental Hotel (demolished) and Exchange Hotel in Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie, and the Metropole and the Federal Hotels and a row of shops in Boulder. The Railway Hotel was the location of a meeting between Premier John Forrest and a deputation of miners of the Alluvial Rights Association in March 1898. The alluvialists were petitioning against the restrictions placed on them in working on mining leases ('the 10 foot rule') which, at a time when much of the alluvial gold had been worked in the Eastern Goldfields, had left many miners unemployed. An estimated 10,000 people lined the streets and verandahs of the hotel waiting in vain for the Premier to address them.

The Railway Hotel is a two-storey primarily stone and brick building with corrugated iron roof and two storey return verandah to the western and northern sides. It has an imposing stone facade with an ornately decorated brick pediment. A significant portion of the return verandah remains intact and is characterised by paired timber posts with bevelled corners and timber fretwork valance to the first floor. Internally the building has a public bar, saloon bar, smoke room, billiard room, banquet room, dining room, drawing room, kitchen and ablution facilities, as well as 29 rooms for accommodation. Many interior features remain intact including an impressive four level timber stairway lit by a roof lantern, original frosted glass and original Serpentine timber bar backed by moulded timber shelving with bevelled mirrors.

The hotel is located on a prominent corner opposite the railway station.

4. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Kalgoorlie-Boulder (C)
5. **LOCATION** Cnr Wilson & Forrest Sts, Kalgoorlie
6. **OWNER**
7. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE (ASSESSMENT IN DETAIL)**

The place has been assessed by the Australian Heritage Commission and entered in the Register of the National Estate with the following statement of significance: The Railway Hotel is of considerable value for the contribution it makes to the Kalgoorlie townscape. Together with the Wilkies Buildings, war memorial and railway station, it forms a critical entrance precinct to Kalgoorlie. The construction of the hotel was directly connected with the completion of the railway to the Goldfields and symbolises the beginning of a major building boom in Kalgoorlie. The hotel is also of historical significance as the location of a meeting in 1898 between Premier Forrest and a strongly supported deputation of miners from the Alluvial Rights Association regarding the '10 foot rule', a meeting that is indicative of the development of unionism in the Goldfields. It is the only remaining hotel which retains its links with the railway, and one of the most intact of the surviving nineteenth century hotels in Kalgoorlie.

**8. REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES
(DATE OF GAZETAL)**

Interim Entry 29/ 01/ 1993

Permanent Entry 22/ 07/ 1994

Removal of Entry 08/ 09/ 1995

[Removed pursuant to Ministerial direction dated 26/08/1995]

9. CONSERVATION ORDER

10. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

11. REFERENCES

Register of the National Estate