



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 0379
2. **NAME** *Convent of Mercy Group (fmr) (1897 + 1924)*
OTHER NAMES Bunbury Art Galleries
 Bunbury Regional Art Gallery
 Bunbury Regional Arts Complex
 Convent of Mercy and Convent School of St Joseph's
3. **LOCATION** 64 Wittenoom Street, Bunbury
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
 Lot 6 on Diagram 56982, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1603 Folio 700
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Bunbury
6. **OWNER** City of Bunbury
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim Entry	14/07/2000
	Permanent Entry	20/10/2000
• National Trust Classification:	Classified	04/05/1981
• Town Planning Scheme:		-----
• Municipal Inventory:	Adopted	31/07/1996
• Register of the National Estate:	Modified	26/10/1999
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Convent of Mercy Group (fmr), a two-storeyed rendered-brick and corrugated steel convent and chapel complex in the Federation Gothic style, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place represents the role of the Sisters of the Convent of Mercy in both pastoral care and education in the Australind-Bunbury region of the State from the arrival of Mother Placida and two other nuns in 1883 until the closure of the convent circa 1979;

the convent and two-storeyed convent chapel are notable representative examples of the Federation Gothic style of architecture typical of religious and educational institutions of the period. The whole complex exhibits excellence of design in the harmony of forms

and materials, in the restful and confident proportions, and in the spatial continuity, despite apparent staged development;

the picturesque quality of the complex is an essential component of the townscape of central Bunbury. The complex forms a well-defined edge to the urban form of the City and is an imposing landmark in the context of the more domestic scaled surrounding streets;

the convent building was designed by Michael Francis Cavanagh, eminent architect of the period who carried out numerous commissions for the Roman Catholic Church, including St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Perth. The place is also associated with architect of the school, Frederick Walter Steere and builder of the chapel, Joseph George Hough;

the place is representative of the role played by the Roman Catholic nuns in the establishment of a community, a role that is no longer practised, but which has provided a substantial legacy to the Catholic community in the State; and,

the place is highly valued by the community as a consequence of its role in the culture and the arts, both in its former religious and teaching role (especially with respect to music) and its more recent role as an arts centre. This is evidenced by the adaptation of the place to an arts complex in the 1980s.

Convent of Mercy Group (fmr) was originally entered into the Register of the National Estate with permanent status on 18 April 1989. This entry was modified on 26 October 1999, as a result of the demolition of St Joseph's in 1982.