



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 05307
2. **NAME** *St John of God Convent (fmr), Broome*
(1926, 1967, c.1995, 2005)
OTHER NAMES Centacare
3. **LOCATION** 9 Barker Street cnr Weld Street, Broome
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
Lot 301 on Diagram 87740 being the whole of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 2119 Folio 696.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Broome
6. **OWNER** Sisters of St John of God Inc
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: Permanent Entry 26/08/2008
 - National Trust Classification: -----
 - Town Planning Scheme: -----
 - Municipal Inventory: Adopted 30/06/1996
 - Register of the National Estate: -----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

St John of God Convent (fmr), Broome, comprising the timber and iron Convent Building (1926) constructed in North West vernacular bungalow style and the timber lattice Gazebo has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the Convent Building is a fine and rare example of North West vernacular architecture, particularly emphasising the external framing with its simple and elegant vertical line;

the Convent Building was constructed by Japanese carpenter and shipbuilder Hori Gorokitchi and is one of only three buildings known in Broome featuring the exposed framing of the traditional Japanese carpentry method of *Shinkabe* with its simple detailing;

the place was the home of the Sisters of St John of God, who were the first female religious order to serve in the Kimberley region, and has continued to provide a venue for their work to the present (2008);

the place was established at the height of the pearling industry in Broome, where the Sisters of St John of God worked with and were supported by the diverse populations of the town, in particular the Japanese community, at a time of strict racial segregation in Broome;

the place is a fine representative example of a convent designed in specific response to the tropical climate of Broome, and represents the way of life for the Sisters who lived and worked there; and,

the place is highly valued by the Sisters of St John of God and by the local and wider community for its historic, social and religious associations, and contributes to the Broome community's sense of place.

The archive and office building is of no significance and is visually intrusive.