



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 16601
2. **NAME** *Frank Wise Institute of Tropical Agriculture* (from 1947)
FORMER NAMES Kimberley Research Station, Kununurra Research Station
3. **LOCATION** Durak Drive, Kununurra
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
Portion of Lot 203 on Deposited Plan 27929 being part of Reserve 22609 and part of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3123 Folio 613 and portion of Lot 1012 on Deposited Plan 40682 being unallocated Crown land and part of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3133 Folio 954 as shown on Heritage Council of Western Australia Survey Drawing No. 16601 prepared by Steffanoni Ewing & Cruickshank Pty Ltd.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley
6. **OWNER** State of Western Australia
(As to Reserve 22609: Management Order to the Chief Executive Officer of Department of Agriculture)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim Entry	09/05/2006
	Permanent Entry	19/01/2007
• National Trust Classification:		-----
• Town Planning Scheme:		-----
• Municipal Inventory:	Adopted (School)	20/02/1997
• Register of the National Estate:		-----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**
Frank Wise Institute of Tropical Agriculture, a group of timber, fibro, steel, iron and brick buildings comprising workshop (17) (1947), duplex residence (28R) (1953), School (8) (1958), archives/farm office (20) (1961), cotton laboratory (21) (1961), administration building (1) (1962), four 2-storey residences (18R, 20R, 21R, 22R) (1962-65), offices (3A, 3B, 5), herbarium (4) and entomology annex in demountable buildings (7) (1968), drying shed (19) (c.1970), CSIRO laboratory (6) (1977), recreation room (9) (1977), carport (2), a number of sheds (10-16, 18, 24-29) (1950s-1990s) and six other residences (23R, 24R, 25R, 34R, 38R, 39R) (1965-1977), tennis court, swimming pool, oval, water tanks, shade houses (32, 33), pump houses (34), pump remains, various outbuildings, mature plantings of

tropical species and other plantings, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is significant for its association with the development of the extensive Ord River Irrigation Project and is illustrative of the Western Australian government's long-standing support of agricultural land settlement in the State;

the place is an example of Commonwealth and State government co-operation and is illustrative of the political atmosphere of the post-War period;

the place is one of only two research stations established in the State for research into tropical agriculture and displays residential and administration buildings not typical of research stations in Western Australia;

the place is associated with Frank Joseph Scott Wise, adviser on tropical agriculture, Northern Territory Administrator, Member of Parliament and Premier of Western Australia;

the place is important for the aesthetic characteristics of the buildings within the picturesque tropical setting;

the place, with its established and picturesque tropical landscape, reflects the management and philosophy associated with a tropical research station in its combination of mature and new species and in the changing nature and diversity of the species that has come out of past and ongoing experimentation;

the School is a good representative example of the North West Vernacular style; and,

the place has scientific value for its role as one of only two research stations in the State specialising in tropical agriculture.

The offices (3A, 3B), herbarium (4), former APB office (5), laboratory (6), entomology annex (7), recreation room (9), carport (2), sheds (10-16, 18, 24-29), residential buildings (23R, 24R, 25R, 34R, 48R, 49R), tennis court, swimming pool, oval, water tanks, shade houses, pump houses, various outbuildings and groves of trees and plantings not specified, are of little or no heritage significance. Sheds (22, 23) are outside the curtilage.