



# Heritage Watch 2011

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## St Mary's Convent (fmr), Townsville



Why we're watching	<b>The former St Mary's Convent has been unoccupied for some time. The need for more maintenance had been identified even before the building was damaged by Cyclone Yasi early in February 2011.</b>
Significance	<b>The former St Mary's Convent is significant as part of a complex of timber buildings—church, convent and school—associated with the growth of the Catholic Parish centres Townsville.</b> It is significant as a very early example of the removal of buildings from Charters Towers and Ravenswood to Townsville. Its significance lies also with its association for over 50 years with the Sisters of Mercy.
What you can do	Contact the Mayor of the Townsville City Council. Explain your concern about the state of repair of the building. Be positive. So much of the history of Townsville can be read in its fabric. Contact the Queensland Heritage Council regarding its state.
History/ Description	The unoccupied high-set convent is a six-room, central hallway timber residence constructed initially as a bank building in Charters Towers and moved to Castling Street c1897. It was purchased as accommodation for the Sisters of Mercy in 1917, <b>when the parish of St Mary's was established. The Sisters occupied this building until 1964, after which and until 1975 it was the parish house for the priest.</b> It features a gabled porch entry and verandahs. One front room has been rebuilt as a chapel. To the rear is the utility section. Gothic features have been introduced.
Local Government Authority	Townsville City Council
Links to other information regarding the site	Contact details for the Mayor of Townsville City Council can be found at <a href="http://www.townsville.qld.gov.au/council/councillors/Pages/councillors.aspx">http://www.townsville.qld.gov.au/council/councillors/Pages/councillors.aspx</a> Contact details for the Queensland Heritage Council are at: <a href="http://www.qldheritage.org.au/contact-us.php">http://www.qldheritage.org.au/contact-us.php</a> Read more about its heritage significance at: <a href="http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/chims/basicSearch.html">http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/chims/basicSearch.html</a> Search for place ID 600879