

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE

Old Convent Building, Wadeye

The Old Convent at Wadeye, formerly known as Port Keats, was built in 1940 by the Catholic Missionaries and the local Aboriginal men using native timbers.

The Old Convent is the only remaining building associated with the original establishment of the Catholic Mission at Wadeye. From 1941 to 1979 the Old Convent was home for the Sisters from the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, who also housed and educated young Aboriginal children at the Convent until such time as separate dormitories and school were constructed.

Many of the elderly Aboriginal people at Wadeye who grew up under the influence of mission life feel that the Old Convent represents an integral part of their personal history and the history of Wadeye.

The Old Convent is associated with Bishop Francis Xavier Gsell, Father Richard Docherty and Sister Magdalen McNamara, all of who helped to establish the Catholic Missions in the Territory.