

MAY 2001

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE SYDNEY PROPERTY DISPOSALS UNIT

DEFENCE NATIONAL STORAGE DISTRIBUTION CENTRE (DNSDC) Moorebank Defence site, Moorebank

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report has been extracted from a Heritage Assessment of the Moorebank Defence site at Moorebank, currently being prepared by Graham Brooks and Associates Pty. Ltd., on behalf of the Department of Defence Sydney Property Disposal Unit, as part of the master planning exercise to secure the rezoning of the overall site.

The purpose of this report is to complement other environmental and planning assessments prepared that support the rezoning of the DNSDC site from solely military use to various employment generating uses.

1.1 SITE IDENTIFICATION

The Defence National Supply and Distribution Centre (DNSDC) forms part of the Moorebank Defence site, located approximately 2 km southeast of Liverpool, on the eastern bank of the Georges River. The Moorebank Defence site also includes the School of Military Engineering (SME) and Base Administrative Support Centre (BASC) located on the western side of Moorebank Avenue, the former Ammunitions Depot located on the southern side of Anzac Road, and two areas of natural scrub and bushland.

1.2 HERITAGE LISTING STATUS

The DNSDC site within the Moorebank Defence site has not been included in the Cubbitch Barta National Estate area listed in the *Register of the National Estate* by the Australian Heritage Commission. It has not been listed on the State Heritage Register by the NSW Heritage Council or identified as a heritage item on the Liverpool LEP 1997.

The DNSDC site within the Moorebank Defence site is located within the Holsworthy Landscape Conservation Area, which has been Classified by the *National Trust of Australia*. Although the listing does not specifically identify the subject area, the boundary definition includes the subject area within the 20,310 hectares of land covered by the listing. Listing on the Register of the National Trust carries with it no statutory implications.



Fig. 1.1 LOCATION PLAN

2.0 HISTORIC OUTLINE

The association of the military with the Liverpool district extends back to the early 1800s when military troops were stationed at Liverpool to protect the town and oversee convict work gangs, and military barracks were constructed at the corner of George and Moore Streets.

During the early 1900s the use of the Liverpool area for military purposes steadily increased, with several training camps held in the area to the north of the DNSDC site. By 1907 a military camp had been established across the Georges River from the Liverpool township, with a rifle range further to the south, as shown on a 1915 plan of the Liverpool Manoeuvre area.

In January 1910 the Liverpool camp held manoeuvres for the inspection of Lord Kitchener, who was to advise the government upon the best means of developing the defence forces of the country. The camp was conducted at a time when the Government was reassessing its strategic approach to the military forces of Australia, from solely an expeditionary force to fight Britain's imperial wars, to incorporate a defence force for Australia within the Pacific region.

Although the exact extent of the Liverpool Military camp at this time is unknown, it would appear from the following description of the area used for the manoeuvres contained within the *Daily Telegraph*, that the land presently occupied by DNSDC formed part of this early military camp.

*"The camp was pitched upon the paddocks to the left of the railway station, on the ground that has been similarly occupied in recent years and which is nearly all included in the military manoeuvre area which the Commonwealth Government is endeavouring to secure ... the training ground embraces a stretch of country extending from Liverpool, on the southern line, across Heathcote on the Illawarra system, and it provides not only very fair opportunities for moving large bodies of troops in tactical exercises, but also has within its limits well equipped ranges for artillery and infantry shell and ball practice."*¹

The result of Kitchener's visit was the acquisition of large areas of land by the Government for the establishment of permanent camps for military training and services. In 1912, 883 acres of land were acquired for the establishment of a Remount Depot and Veterinary Hospital for horses used for transport, and in March 1913 a further 16,868 acres of land in the Liverpool area, including the DNSDC site, were acquired by the Government for Defence purposes.² The present DNSDC site would appear to have been used for storage for military purposes since 1915, as illustrated on a 1915 plan of the Liverpool Manoeuvre area.

¹ *Daily Telegraph*, 7 January 1910, p.7.

² *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* No. 16, 7 March 1913.

The following plan of the Moorebank area c.1912 provides an illustration of the type of development located at the study area at this time. The site of the DNSDC at the time appears to remain as dense gum ironbark and wattle scrub, as was the majority of the land to the east of the Georges River, including the present site of the DNSDC.

A number of roads are shown to exist at this time, generally corresponding to original roads or boundaries of the Moorebank Farms Subdivision, including Moorebank, Greenhills and Centenary Avenues running north-south, and Church, Henley and Harrow Roads running east-west. All but Moorebank Avenue and a section of Greenhills Avenue to the north of Anzac Road, have since been obliterated.

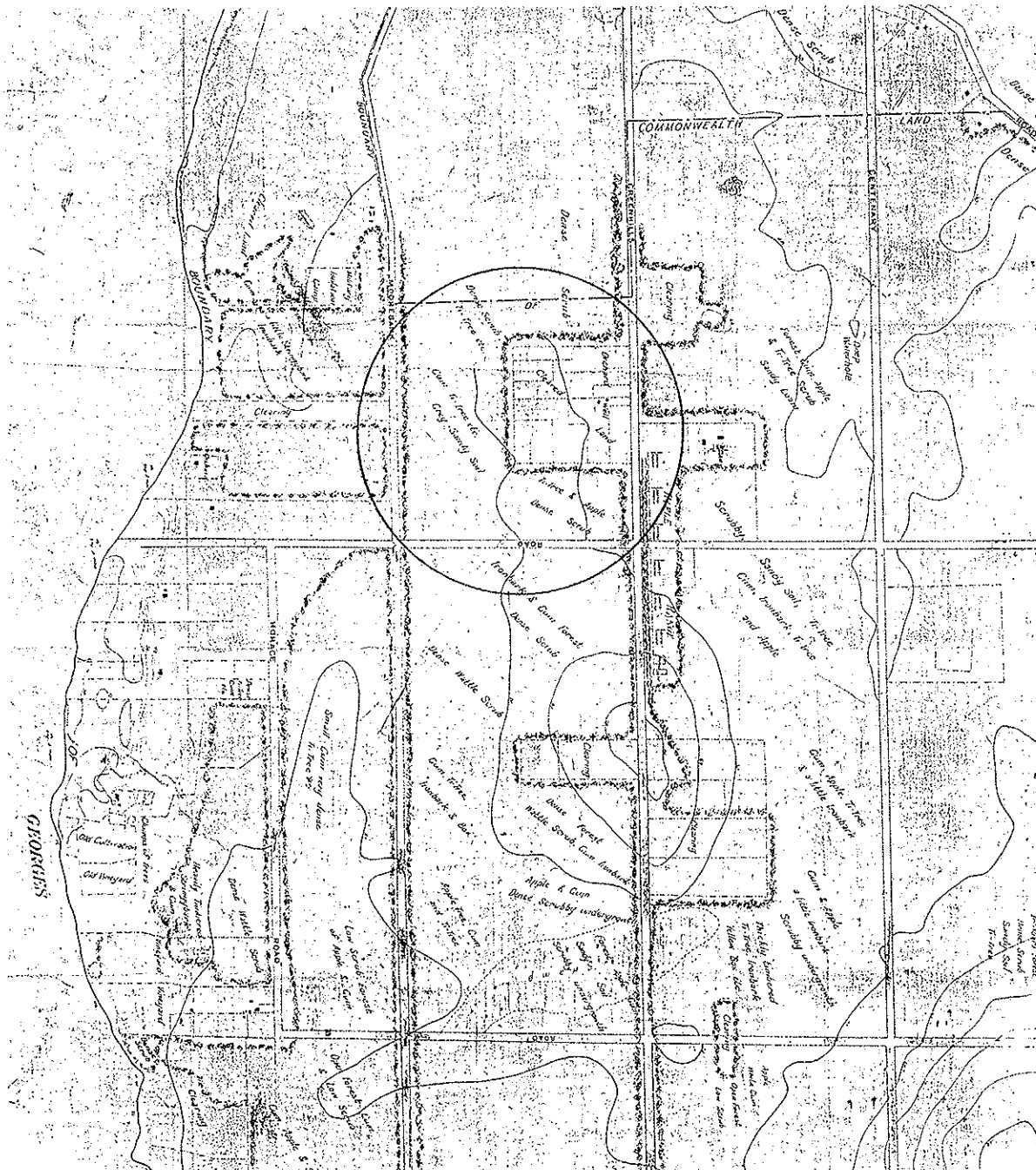


Fig. 2.1 PLAN OF THE MOOREBANK AREA INCLUDING THE STUDY AREA c.1912.
Source: Liverpool Regional Museum

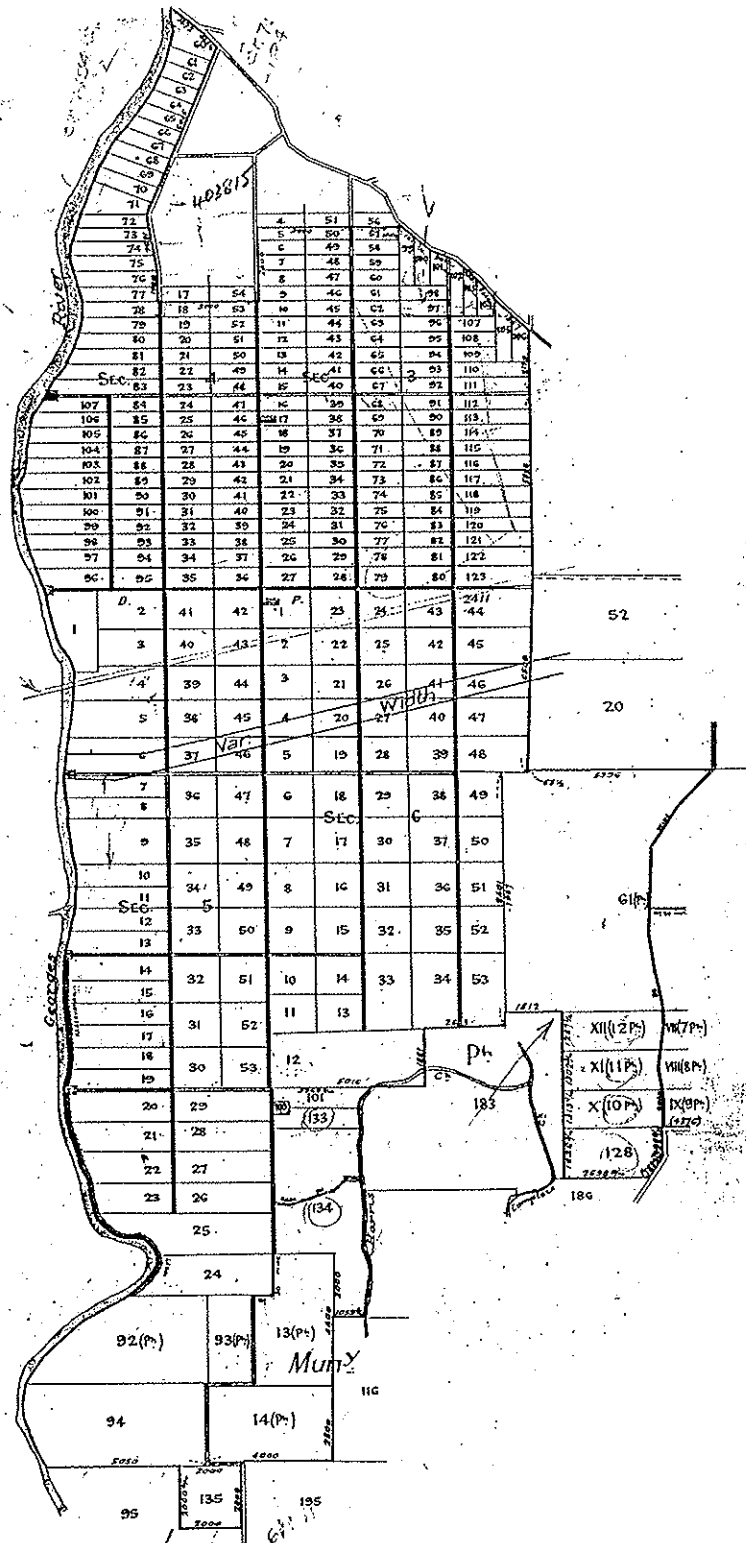


Fig. 2.2 PORTION OF LAND INCLUDING THE DNSDC SITE, WHICH WAS COMPULSORILY ACQUIRED BY THE COMMONWEALTH 7 MARCH 1913.

Source: Certificate of Title Vol. 2788 Fol. 87, Land Titles Office

The following plan of the Liverpool Manoeuvre area dated c.1915 shows the Liverpool camp. At the present DNSDC site are noted "Mobilisation Store" on the eastern side of Moorebank Avenue.



Fig. 2.3 PLAN OF THE LIVERPOOL MANOEUVRE AREA c.1915
Source: Liverpool Regional Museum

During the First World War the Liverpool camp was the main training centre in NSW for all new recruits, including Light Horse regiments. New recruits were encamped in long lines of canvas bell tents on the eastern bank of the Georges River, and the camp became a "city of canvas". Located at the Liverpool camp were the supply units, the Light Horse, the infantry reinforcement contingents and the recruit training depot. Units that trained at the Liverpool camp during the First World War included the Engineer and Field Mining companies, the field hospital, infantry and reinforcement units, artillery and light horse units.

In 1919 two sidings to service the depot were added, off the Liverpool – Anzac Rifle Range – Holsworthy railway line. This railway line had been constructed in 1917 for the Commonwealth Department of Railways and the Department of Defence, in order to link all of the military installations on the eastern side of the Georges River, including the Liverpool Camp, Anzac Rifle Range, the Remount Depot and Holsworthy Camp. The first siding extended through the centre of the site, and was known as the Moorebank Depot siding, and the second, known as the Ordnance Store siding, extended along the northern boundary. The Ordnance Store siding was extended during the Second World War in order to handle the subsequent increase in traffic.

Storage for military purposes would appear to have been accommodated at the present DNSDC site since 1915, at the time of the initial establishment of the Liverpool camp during the First World War. Initially known as the Mobilisation stores, the area accommodated the 2nd Base Ordnance Depot and 2nd Base Workshops during World War II, which became the 21st Supply Battalion and 2nd Base Workshop Battalion in 1972. In 1990 these two groups amalgamated to become the Moorebank Logistics Group.³

Although the type and extent of storage facilities offered at the site during World War II remains unknown, a Department of Defence study of timber buildings constructed between 1939-1945 identified at least fifteen timber post and beam buildings typical of this period at the site.⁴ The buildings identified were each of nine bays in width. An inspection of the site confirmed this report, and identified a further three composite timber and steel workshop buildings, a smaller QM store and carpentry workshop, which all exhibit similar timber post and beam construction. An aerial photograph dated 1951 would indicate that twenty of these typical nine bay post and beam buildings were constructed at the site, most likely as part of the widespread expansion of Army support facilities in the early years of the Second World War.

The various plans and aerial photographs of the DNSDC site would indicate that the site remained largely unaltered between the early 1940s and the early 1990s, when the site was upgraded to accommodate the DNSDC. At this time the majority of the World War II timber post and beam buildings and composite steel and timber buildings were reclad, to remove the original fibro asbestos sheeting. Five of the original 20 nine bay wide post and beam buildings located at the south western corner of the site, were demolished at this time, and replaced with larger modern steel framed warehouse buildings. Following the completion of the DNSDC, the site comprised of a mixture of large and small storage buildings, and smaller ancillary buildings for administration, workshops and amenities.

³ *Minutes of Evidence, Defence Logistics Redevelopment Project, Defence National Storage and Distribution Centre.* Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1992.

⁴ Department of Architecture, University of Tasmania. *Department of Defence Timber Buildings 1939-1945*, March 1995, pp. 92-93.

The DNSDC at Moorebank was established as part of the Defence Logistics Redevelopment Project, to centralise and rationalise its warehousing facilities. The DNSDC resulted from the Department of Defence's requirement to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Defence supply services. Existing warehousing arrangements in and around Sydney did not provide Defence with the most cost effective logistic support. Slow moving and bulky stock is still warehoused at Leichhardt, Regents Park, Dubbo and Bathurst.

DNSDC is the central warehouse for all three of Australia's armed services, including everything from electronic gadgets, army rations, food supplies, naval guns, aircraft wings and bodies. There are also maintenance sections dealing with automotive engineering, electronics, vehicle repairs, small arms and heavy precision engineering.



Fig. 2.4 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE DNSDC SITE IN 1951
Source: Department of Lands NSW

3.0 DESCRIPTION

The DNSDC study area is a rectangular shaped parcel of land of approximately 84 hectares, which extends towards Anzac Road in the north, and is bound by Moorebank Avenue in the west, the former Ammunitions Depot in the east, and an area of natural scrub and bushland in the south and east.

Access to the site is provided at a number of locations along Moorebank Avenue, however the main entrance is approximately midway along Moorebank Avenue.

The site is predominantly made up of a number of large storage sheds, many of which would appear to be those dating from the early 1940s, although which have been extended and refurbished in the early 1990s, as well as a number of smaller ancillary, administration and workshop buildings. Adjacent to the main entrance is the main headquarters and administration building of the DNSDC.

Twenty World War II timber post and beam buildings of varying sizes and types would appear to remain at the site, however all have been reclad as part of the early 1990s refurbishment. Fifteen of these buildings (Nos 6, 10-11, 33-35, 39-40, 44-46, 48, 72-73 and 75) are timber post and beam, with nine internal bays, and retain the original timber structure essentially intact, and have been reclad with modern profiled steel sheeting, new concrete floors laid, and sprinklers and smoke management screens installed. Three of these buildings (buildings 7, 9 and 80) are composite timber and steel warehouse buildings, which have three bays of timber post and beam construction on either side of a central raised bay, which is steel framed to support an overhead gantry crane. The remaining two buildings are the smaller QM Store (building 13), which has a similar timber post and beam construction of five bays in width, and the Carpentry Workshop (building 37), which is three bays wide, and which has been extended along both its length and width.

A railway siding servicing the Ordnance Depot, constructed in 1919 and extended during the Second World War, has been largely demolished, although there remains evidence in the landscape of its original alignment and the location of early buildings.



Fig. 3.1 BUILDING 9 AT THE CENTRE OF THE DNSDC SITE, A TYPICAL WORLD WAR II COMPOSITE TIMBER AND STEEL WAREHOUSE BUILDING, OF WHICH THERE ARE THREE AT THE SITE, AND WHICH HAS BEEN REFURBISHED DURING THE EARLY 1990s.



Fig. 3.2 INTERIOR OF BUILDING 9, A WORLD WAR II COMPOSITE TIMBER AND STEEL FRAMED STORE BUILDING



Fig. 3.3 TYPICAL INTERIOR OF A WORLD WAR II TIMBER POST AND BEAM STORE BUILDING AT DNSDC MOOREBANK



Fig. 3.4 DETAIL OF THE TYPICAL TIMBER STRUCTURE TO WORLD WAR II POST AND BEAM STORE BUILDINGS AT DNSDC, MOOREBANK

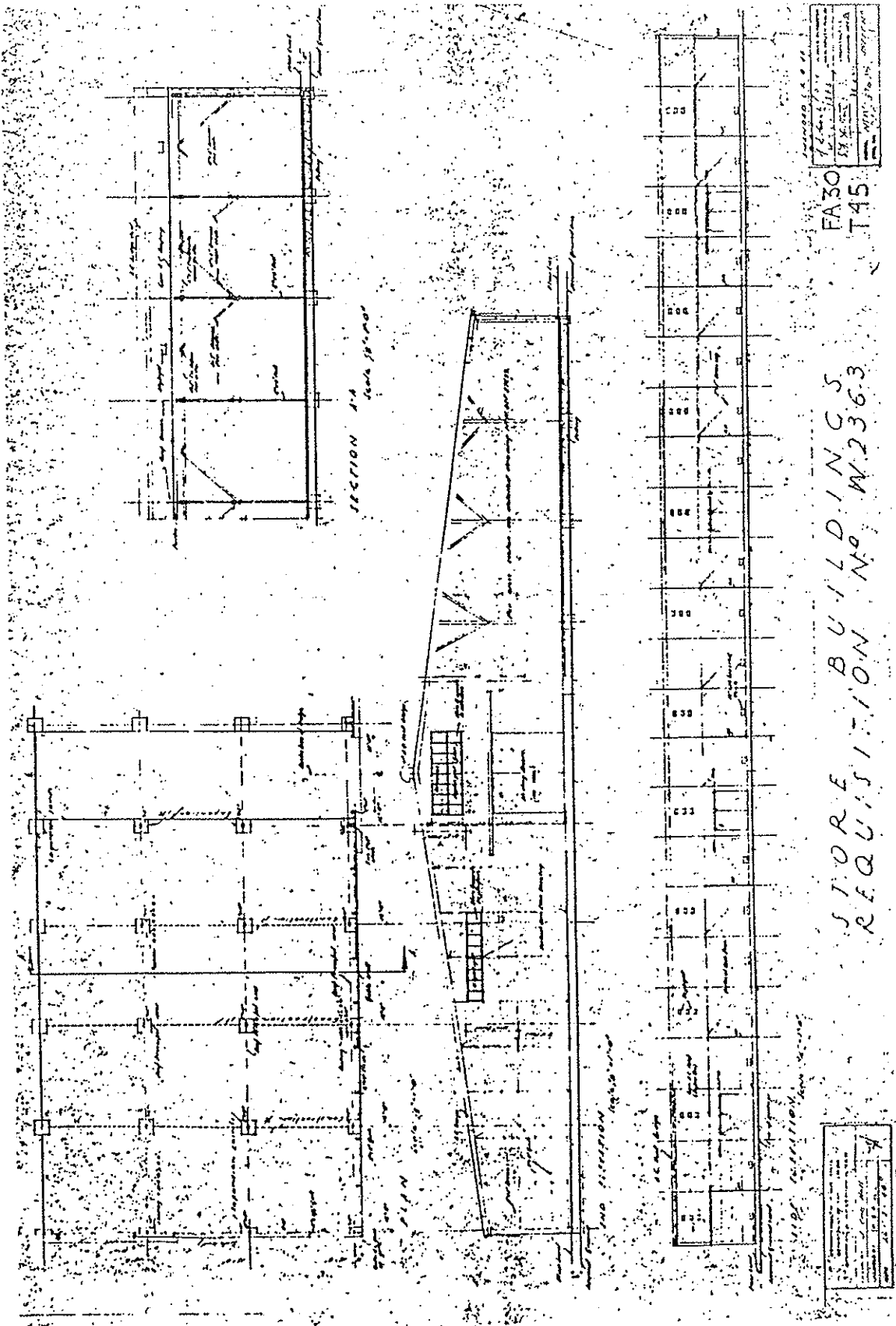


Fig. 3.5 PLAN OF NINE BAY POST AND BEAM STORE RENOVATED AS PART OF THE DNSDC DEVELOPMENT AT MOOREBANK, NSW.

Source: Department of Defence Timber Buildings 1939-1945, p. 33.

3.1 TIMBER POST AND BEAM STORES COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

There were a considerable number of standard designs for post and beam stores constructed during World War II, with the number of bays in transverse section ranging from two bays, about 10m wide, to nine bays, about 48m wide. Bay widths also varied from 4.15m, to 5.08m and 6.1m wide. A typical structure comprised of timber posts fixed to a concrete floor, joined to the top of each of the posts in each row by longitudinal tie beams, and inclined transverse rafters jointed over each post. Transverse knee braces connected the timber posts to the inclined rafters, while longitudinal ones braced the post to the tie beams, thereby stabilising the overall structure.

Post and beam stores buildings were erected during World War II for all services along the eastern seaboard, however they appear to be concentrated in south eastern Australia. They provided the mainstay of general ordinance storage, and in 1995 a significant number remained in use, including at Bogan Gate and Regents Park, NSW for the RAAF, Wallangarra, NSW for the Army, and at Broadmeadows and Bandiana, Victoria for the Army.⁵

Most of the timber post and beam store buildings located at the DNSDC site are typical of the nine bay type constructed during World War II. The early aerial photographs indicate that twenty such store buildings were constructed at the site.

3.1.1 Comparative Analysis, Bandiana, Victoria

Military use of Bandiana, Victoria arose following Japan's entry into World War II at the end of 1941. At that time, the perceived threat of an air attack on Melbourne and Sydney, resulted in a requirement for an inland storage facility, which would be safe from such an attack, while remaining close to existing transport facilities. One of the determining factors in the selection of Bandiana was its closeness to the major railway systems of both NSW and Victoria.

The main emphasis of the Bandiana facilities during the war years was the storage and processing of technical and motor transport stores, and the early construction at the site generally mirrored that which was occurring elsewhere.

Of the wartime construction at Bandiana, the storehouses and workshops within the North Bandiana precinct date from 1942, and are historically important. These buildings remain relatively unchanged, and were constructed in five rows, including three workshop buildings of timber framed construction, four storehouses with internal rail access, nine storehouses constructed on concrete plinths, and three transit stores. They have a timber post and beam construction, with a concrete floor, timber framed corrugated iron clad walls and fibro roofs. The timber used for the construction is Mountain Ash, which was sourced in the vicinity of Myrtleford, Victoria. The buildings at North Bandiana are the most comparable to the store buildings at DNSDC Moorebank.

The three workshop buildings (buildings 96, 100 and 105) are of varying timber framed construction, and have each been refurbished to an extent, including new external sheeting and internal partitioning.

⁵ Department of Architecture, University of Tasmania. *Department of Defence Timber Buildings 1939-1945*, March 1995, pp. 92-93.

The four storehouses constructed with internal rail access (buildings 64, 82 and 89-90) are of composite timber and steel construction. The buildings comprise a lower wing of five bays of timber post and beam construction, and a raised wing of steel framed construction, which straddles the railway line.

The three transit stores (buildings 68, 71 and 74) have a composite timber and steel framed construction, which is similar to that found at DNSDC. The gantry crane extends through the building on one side.

The eight storehouses constructed on concrete plinths (buildings 65, 69, 72, 77 and 79) most resemble the stores buildings at DNSDC, and are located in two rows through the site. These have a similar timber post and beam construction, although are slightly smaller, being only five bays wide.

The storehouse and workshop buildings at North Bandiana are located in their original wartime configuration, and retain evidence of the important railway connections through the site. The North Bandiana site has significance as evidence of strategic logistics support planning and massive expansion in military operations during World War II.

At South Bandiana four comparative timber post and beam stores buildings have been identified, although these are scattered through the site, and don't form a cohesive precinct. The present Army Museum most resembles the stores buildings at DNSDC. This building has a similar timber post and beam construction of nine bays in width, although has been refurbished with modern steel sheeting. The three remaining timber post and beam store buildings are slightly smaller, being only five bays wide.

Similar storehouse and workshop buildings were also constructed at East and West Bandiana.



Fig. 3.6 INTERIOR WORKSHOP 105, REFURBISHED FOR USE BY THE ARMY RESERVES, SHOWING TIMBER CONSTRUCTION



Fig. 3.7 TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF THE EIGHT TIMBER POST AND BEAM STOREHOUSES CONSTRUCTED ON CONCRETE PLINTHS, LOCATED AT NORTH BANDIANA



Fig. 3.8 INTERIOR OF A TYPICAL TIMBER POSTS AND BEAM STOREHOUSE AT NORTH BANDIANA, SHOWING SIMILAR TIMBER CONSTRUCTION TO THAT FOUND AT DNSDC



Fig. 3.9 TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF THE FOUR STOREHOUSES AT NORTH BANDIANA, WHICH COMPRISE OF A LOWER TIMBER WING, AND A RAISED STEEL FRAMED WING WHICH STRADDLES THE RAILWAY LINE



Fig. 3.10 ONE OF THE THREE TRANSIT STORES AT NORTH BANDIANA, WHICH HAVE A COMPOSITE TIMBER AND STEEL CONSTRUCTION SIMILAR TO THAT FOUND AT DNSDC

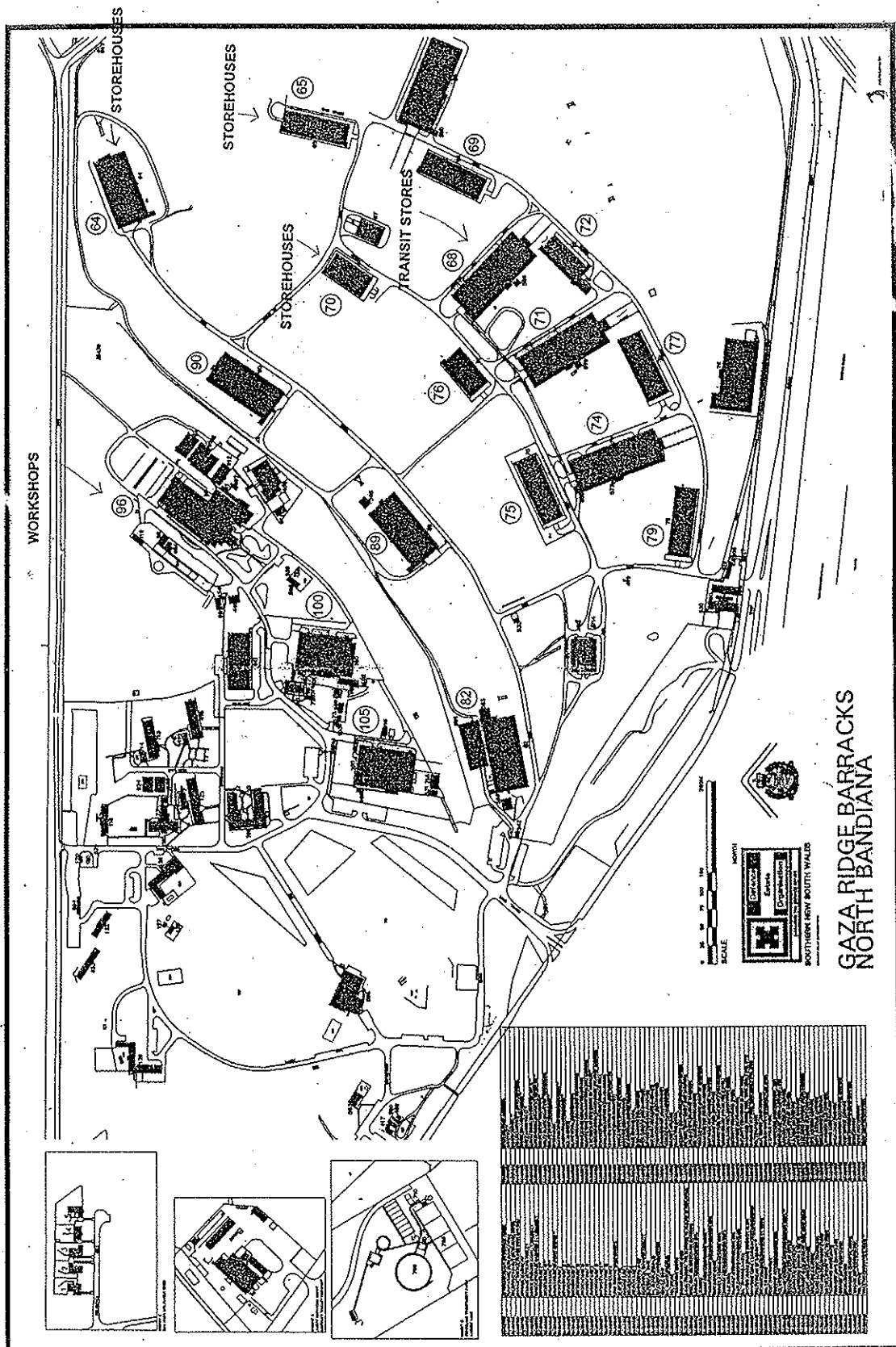


Fig. 3.11 PLAN OF NORTH BANDIANA, SHOWING ARRANGEMENT OF STOREHOUSES AND WORKSHOPS

4.0 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

'Heritage' significance, or 'cultural' significance are terms used to describe an item's value or importance to our society, and is defined in *The Burra Charter*, published by Australia ICOMOS (Article 1.2) as:

"aesthetic, historical, scientific or social for past, present and future generations".

The NSW Heritage Manual has adopted these four criteria as the basis for an assessment of the heritage significance of an item. The Manual also establishes evaluative criteria, divided into two categories, being:

- Nature of significance
- Comparative significance

4.1 EVOLUTION OR ASSOCIATION (HISTORIC)

The DNSDC site within the Moorebank Defence site has local historic significance as a part of 6,000 acres originally granted to Thomas Moore between 1805-1821, who as first magistrate of Liverpool, was influential in the early settlement and development of the town. The site has historic significance as forming part of the Moorebank Farms subdivision offered for sale in 1888. As such, the site has historic significance as an example of the state theme of *Land Tenure*, established by the NSW Heritage Office.

The DNSDC site has historic significance at National Level as forming part of the Liverpool military camp, which held manoeuvres in January 1910 for the inspection of Lord Kitchener. The camp is significant for its historic role in the development of the military forces in Australia, at a time when the Government was reassessing its strategic approach. The camp highlighted the need for compulsory training and permanent military training areas, which resulted in the acquisition by the Government of extensive areas of land, which were permanently devoted to military training and services.

The DNSDC site has historic significance as part of the extensive land area in the Liverpool district formally acquired by the Government for Defence purposes in March 1913. The site is representative of the state theme of *Defence*, established by the NSW Heritage Office.

The DNSDC site has historic significance for its continued occupation for Defence Logistics support purposes since 1915, and as evidence of the continued military organisation to sustain operations and defence capability into the long term.

The collection of timber post and beam store buildings at the DNSDC site have significance as rare and representative examples of this type of store building constructed during World War II for military storage purposes. These timber store buildings have historic significance for their association with the United States military, who were influential in the use of timber construction during WWII. The store buildings were reputedly prefabricated in the US, and imported into Australia on US "Liberty" ships.

The DNSDC site has historic significance as part of the massive expansion of military facilities which occurred during World War II. Similar facilities were erected along the eastern seaboard, although concentrated in south eastern Australia, and provided the mainstay of general ordinance storage during World War II.

4.2 CREATIVE OR TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENT (AESTHETIC)

The DNSDC site as a collection of large timber store buildings, does not exhibit any aesthetic significance.

The site does exhibit some aesthetic significance related to its cultural plantings, in particular along Moorebank Avenue.

4.3 COMMUNITY ESTEEM (SOCIAL)

The DNSDC site has social significance for the extensive community of Defence personnel, which work at the site, and for the immediate community of Liverpool and the broader community of Sydney, as the location of Defence operations since 1915.

4.4 RESEARCH POTENTIAL (SCIENTIFIC)

The DNSDC site has some scientific significance for its ability to show evidence of the early boundaries and alignments of the original land grants in the area, the 1888 Moorebank Farms subdivision, and part of the Liverpool – Anzac Rifle Range – Holsworthy military railway line.

The DNSDC site has some archaeological significance for its potential to yield information regarding the early use of the site, in the alignment of the 1919 railway line and siding which formerly serviced the site.

The collection of timber post and beam store buildings located at the DNSDC site have significance for their innovative construction method, as rare and representative examples of timber post and beam store buildings constructed during World War II. This technical significance is further discussed below.

4.5 OVERALL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WORLD WAR II STANDARD TIMBER BUILDINGS, AS PART OF A NATIONWIDE GROUP

In order to more fully understand the broader context of the significance of the various timber post and beam stores buildings at the DNSDC site, the following summary of significance has been included, drawn from the report *Department of Defence Timber Buildings 1939-1945*.⁶

"These buildings are culturally significant as they demonstrate the versatility and self-reliance of the Australian Government and people in a time of national emergency. Under direct military threat, the nation embarked on total mobilisation in its own defence and as it did so, reorganised itself to

⁶ Department of Architecture, University of Tasmania. *Department of Defence Timber Buildings 1939-1945 Final Report*, 1995, pp. 61-63.

make the most efficient use of the resources at hand. While the labour force mobilised and the organisations instigated were largely transient, the facilities constructed and used during the conflict were not. They remain a national asset and a testament to the nation's reaction. That these facilities were often constructed simply, ruggedly and in haste merely demonstrates the extent of emergency.

They are culturally significant due to the large public association of these buildings with times of personal and national change and stress.

The buildings are historically significant because the forms and location of the structures depict the strategic reality facing Australia at the time of their construction. Prior to December 1941 development was urgent but considered, and timber construction was largely limited to the scale of building constructed before the war, that is, the timber hut building. These buildings were generally temporary structures for the training of troops. In early 1942, construction in timber was hectic and experimental, concentrating on south eastern Australia. Large complexes were constructed to provide stores, airfields and war industry plant. By 1943, experimentation lessened but the pace of building was maintained. Facilities were developed to bolster Australia's defence and to provide forward supply bases for battles fought in the Pacific Islands. By 1944, the nation served as a storage and staging base for advances throughout the Pacific, and the buildings of that time concentrated around the major posts of Brisbane, Sydney, and to a lesser extent Melbourne.

The buildings have a political and technical significance as they show how standing design preferences and practices were overthrown as part of the national reorganisation. Technologies that had previously had little impact in Australia were used extensively, while technologies introduced by the USA military were embraced. Unseasoned local hardwood, a material that had previously been regarded as unsuitable for large buildings achieved primacy. The technical achievements of this period for timber construction cannot be overstated. The longest span and most widespread timber structures in Australian history were constructed in this period. Almost every specie of Australian timber was placed in extreme field test.

This significance has a further facet as the timber construction forms and technologies used throughout the war did not survive it. With demobilisation the pre-war preferences for steel construction re-emerged and timber construction for structures larger than houses did not recover its national popularity again until the 1960s.

Aesthetically, the truss and other construction forms produced throughout the war are unique. They advanced the aesthetic which had lingered as a legacy from the king and queen posts forms used in Australian buildings with the mortice and tenon construction of the later 1900s, and lack the nostalgia invoked in the 1960s and 1970s for the farmhouse. They express themselves in true and clean engineering layouts as was essential in a time of emergency.

These buildings, located throughout Australia, therefore have a significant heritage value as a group that should be preserved, recognising the influences that determined the form and construction distribution of the group."

5.0 HERITAGE ISSUES

5.1 FEATURES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO SIGNIFICANCE

The various elements of the DNSDC site have been carefully assessed to determine their relative level of contribution to the significance of the DNSDC site, as either of high or low contribution. Grading attempts to identify the level of contribution which individual elements make to the overall significance of the DNSDC site.

The following elements are considered to make a **high contribution** to the significance of the DNSDC site.

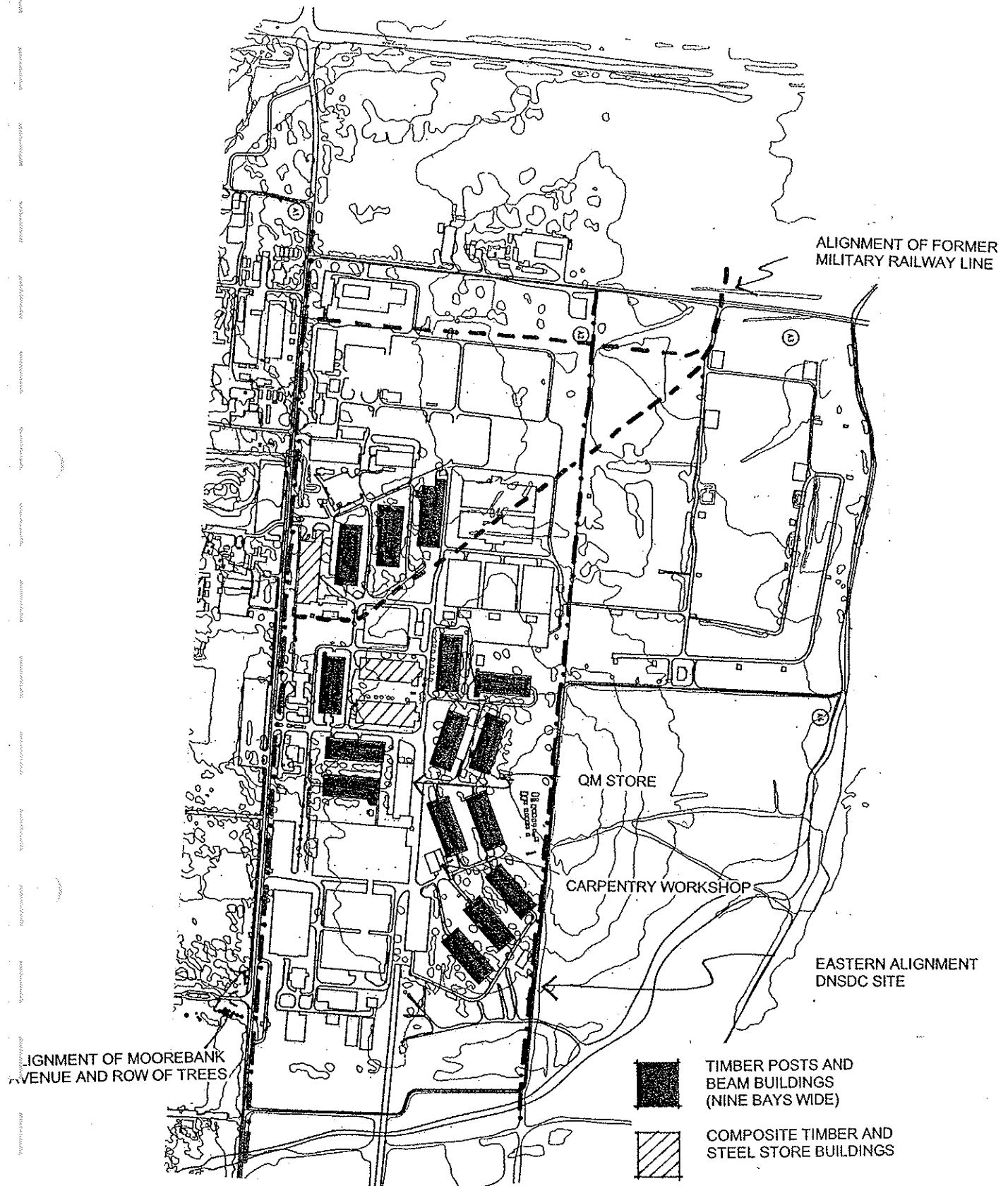
- The eastern boundary of the DNSDC site, which follows the alignment of Thomas Moore's grants along the Georges River, dating from the early 1800s.
- Moorebank Road and Anzac Road, which follow the alignments of the 1888 Moorebank Farms subdivision.
- The remnant evidence of the alignment of part of the former Liverpool – Anzac Rifle Range – Holsworthy military railway line and sidings, which can be seen within the alignment and placement of buildings and roads at the site.
- The collection of remaining timber post and beam buildings, which date from World War II, and which retain the internal timber structure essentially intact, as representative examples of such timber store buildings constructed during the second World War, and which are becoming increasingly rare in NSW.
- Significant avenue plantings along Moorebank Avenue.

The following elements are considered to make a **low contribution** to the significance of the DNSDC site.

- The remaining buildings of the DNSDC site, for their contribution to the ongoing use of the DNSDC site for military storage purposes since 1915.

5.2 COMPARATIVE SIGNIFICANCE, BANDIANA, VICTORIA

The comparative timber post and beam buildings at North Bandiana, identified in Section 3.1.1 Comparative Analysis, generally retain a high degree of integrity in their original construction, including the original timber structure, external cladding and concrete plinths. Furthermore, their original wartime configuration, being located in five rows connected by a railway system, is also readily comprehensible. As such, it is considered that these buildings at North Bandiana are more worthy of conservation than those at the DNSDC site.



FEATURES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO SIGNIFICANCE

DEFENCE NATIONAL STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

(Not to Scale)

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations have been formulated given the assessed significance of the DNSDC site, and the level of contribution of the various elements of the site to that significance.

- Given their increasing rarity, the preferred conservation option for the collection of World War II timber post and beam stores buildings is for the retention of one or more of the buildings as a representative example, for continued use by the Department of Defence, or adaptive re-use by others, provided that a viable re-use of the buildings can be identified.
- Should one or more of the stores buildings be retained for conservation purposes, any adaptive re-use of them should be compatible to their architectural character and significance, and have minimal impact on their original timber structure. As such, alterations which require change or removal of the original timber structure, with the exception of maintenance, are not considered acceptable.
- Should the re-use of the World War II buildings not be considered prudent or feasible, then demolition of all of the buildings would be acceptable, given the preparation of a photographic recording and measured drawing survey of the site.

A photographic recording and measured drawing survey of the site were completed in March 2001. The photographic recording covered the whole collection, with a focus on the four different World War II timber building types, while the measured drawing survey took into account the two main types of World War II buildings located at the site. These documents are considered sufficient as an archival record the site, and satisfy the requirements of its significance.

- The cultural landscape of the DNSDC site, including the eastern boundary of the site, alignments of Moorebank and Anzac Roads, and the remnant evidence of the alignment of the former Liverpool – Anzac Rifle Range – Holsworthy military railway line and sidings, should be expressed in future proposals for redevelopment.
- The avenue plantings along Moorebank Avenue, and other mature trees throughout the site, should be retained and conserved.