

**AMBERLEY CITATIONS**  
**Table of Contents**

Amberley State School Precinct	RAAF Base Amberley
Camphor Laurel Tree	RAAF Base Amberley
RAAF Base Amberley – World War II Facilities Precinct	RAAF Base Amberley

<b>Name</b>	Amberley State School Precinct
<b>Former/Other Name</b>	Warrill Creek State School
<b>Category</b>	School buildings
<b>Location</b>	RAAF Base Amberley, 1A Rosewood Road, Amberley.
<b>RPD</b>	Part of RAAF Base Amberley.
<b>Local Authority</b>	Ipswich City Council
<b>AMG Map Sheet</b>	SG 56-14, Ipswich <b>Grid</b> MQ7645
<b>Present Tenure</b>	Commonwealth of Australia, RAAF Base, Amberley Qld 4306.
<b>Listing Boundary</b>	The western boundary is the present bitumen driveway, and it continues in a southerly direction to the corner of the high set building, then easterly along a line of the southerly face of that building to a point where it aligns with the easterly end of the original school building. Thence parallel to the end of this building in a northerly direction until it reaches the present road, and then westerly to the western driveway boundary.

### History

Warrill Creek State School was established in temporary accommodation in 1861, being amongst the first six schools established under the newly-formed Board of General Education, Queensland. In 1862 a permanent school building was erected on the "Willowbank" property near Warrill Creek, and named Warrill Creek School no. 115. In 1888 the School was shifted to its present site, near the old Toowoomba Road, where it catered mainly for farmer's children. Here a residence was erected for the headmaster, by 1900 a new school building had been erected, and it was renamed Amberley State School in 1903. The School was closed from 1941 to 1946 whilst the nearby newly constructed RAAF Base Amberley operated during World War II. In 1981 the State School was moved onto an entirely different site, leaving the buildings behind, and under the control of RAAF Base Amberley. The buildings have since been converted into RAAF training facilities, and the schoolroom building has been extended to the east by the addition of a library room. With recent car park alterations, it was found necessary to relocate the headmaster's residence approx. 12 metres north-east, rotating it 90 degrees in the process.

### Description

The two room, vaulted ceiling school building is of a typical design. It is a one storey gable ended weatherboard structure, that is low set on timber stumps. It has a steeply pitched corrugated iron roof which extends over an open front verandah. The gabled end features a deep bank of casement windows and a corrugated iron window hood supported by timber stays. Its timber verandah details include post and rail ballustrading. The library extension is sympathetic to the original building, although its verandah roof extends marginally past the original roof line. In contrast to the original building it features hopper windows, its verandah is sheeted in to sill height and it rests on concrete stumps. A high set timber and corrugated iron roofed school building set to the immediate south-west of this structure is complementary in form. To the rear of this building is the spreading camphor laurel tree, listed separately.

The headmaster's residence now sits adjacent to the original building, with the front verandahs at a 90 degree angle to each other. The headmaster's residence is one storey, weatherboard lined house that is low set on timber stumps. It has a corrugated iron hip roof with a hipped rear extension, featuring an external brick chimney. It appears also that the original left-hand verandah was enclosed, and the present verandah extended sympathetically around this to match the original front verandah.

Although the front verandah is lined out with weatherboard, the original rear verandah wall is lined internally with chamferboards and exposes close set studs. The verandah railing detailing matches that of the original school building. The rear verandah section has been enclosed as well as there being a small skillion roofed enclosure over the rear exit. Sash windows with corrugated iron window hoods predominate, apart from a french door leading onto the front verandah from the enclosed section. A pine tree which now sits on the western side of the present driveway marks the previous location of the school master's house.

**Significance**            *Level*            *Xlocal*            *city*            *regional*            *state*            *national*

- As an example of the traditional materials, and the form of turn of the century state school buildings.
- For its historical associations with the rural development of Amberley, and the later RAAF Base usage.

#### **Significance of Interior**

The interiors of the original two room school building and headmaster's residence feature original materials, although in the headmaster's residence new material has been added in the enclosure of the original side verandah and extension of the side verandah and rear offices.

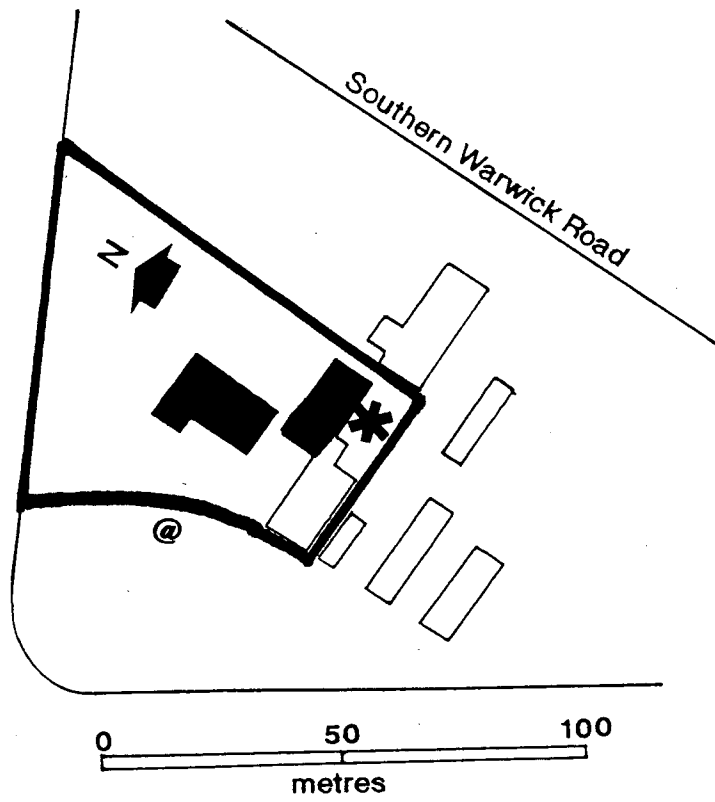
#### **Associated Items**

The camphor laurel tree, listed separately, and the pine which marks the previous location of the headmaster's residence.

#### **Comments**

Historical information from Robyn Buchanan article, *Queensland Times*, 20/7/1987 and files of the Education History Unit, Department of Education. The modern building does not require heritage constraints at this time.

**Note:** This report has been prepared on the basis of evidence examined by the investigator(s) and seeks to identify the most important heritage values of the item. The purpose of this report is to provide an initial evaluation. A conservation study by a qualified practitioner should be completed before any action is taken which may affect the significance of the item.



"@" = associated items.

**Name** Camphor laurel tree.

**Former/Other Name**

**Category** Tree

**Location** RAAF Base Amberley, 1A Rosewood Road Amberley.

**RPD** Part of RAAF Base Amberley.

**Local Authority** Ipswich City Council

**AMG Map Sheet** SG 56-14, Ipswich                      **Grid** MQ7645

**Present Tenure** Commonwealth of Australia, RAAF Base, Amberley Qld 4306.

**Listing Boundary** Greater of the circumference of the canopy or root system.

**Other Listings****History**

Now located within RAAF base Amberley, this was the site for the Amberley State School which relocated there in 1888 when still known as Warrill Creek State School. The tree would have been planted soon after the school was re-established. Amberley State School relocated again for the third time to entirely new premises in 1981. Just prior to this departure a plaque was unveiled to commemorate the camphor laurel tree which had provided shelter for school children for the best part of the century.

**Description**

The tree spreads wide at the rear of the original school building, and the plaque faced in this direction. It is surrounded by timber benches, and a fernery has been established between these benches and the trunk.

**Significance**                      **Level**                      *X*local    city    regional    state    national

- Its mature form reflects the time depth of settlement in the area.
- For its historical associations with the Amberley State School.

**Significance of Interior**                      Not applicable

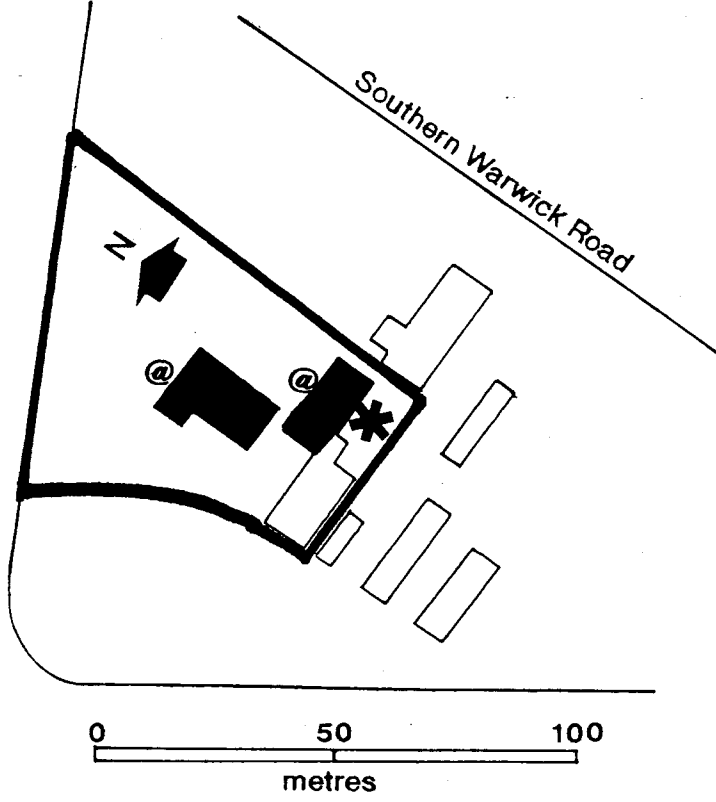
**Associated Items**

The original Amberley State School building and headmaster's residence, listed separately.

**Comments**

Historical information from Robyn Buchanan article, *Queensland Times*, 20/7/1987 and Flight Lieutenant Maguire.

**Note:** This report has been prepared on the basis of evidence examined by the investigator(s) and seeks to identify the most important heritage values of the item. The purpose of this report is to provide an initial evaluation. A conservation study by a qualified practitioner should be completed before any action is taken which may affect the significance of the item.



"@" = associated items.

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<b>Name</b>	RAAF Base, Amberley, World War II Facilities Precinct	
<b>Former/Other Name</b>		
<b>Category</b>	RAAF base	
<b>Location</b>	1A Rosewood Road, Amberley	
<b>RPD</b>	RAAF Base Amberley Reserve	
<b>Local Authority</b>	Ipswich City Council	
<b>AMG Map Sheet</b>	SG 56-14, Ipswich	Grid MQ7645
<b>Present Tenure</b>	Commonwealth of Australia, RAAF Base, Amberley Qld 4306	
<b>Listing Boundary</b>	All World War II vintage structures within the area circumscribed in the accompanying map, plus the semi-underground U.S. Operations building.	

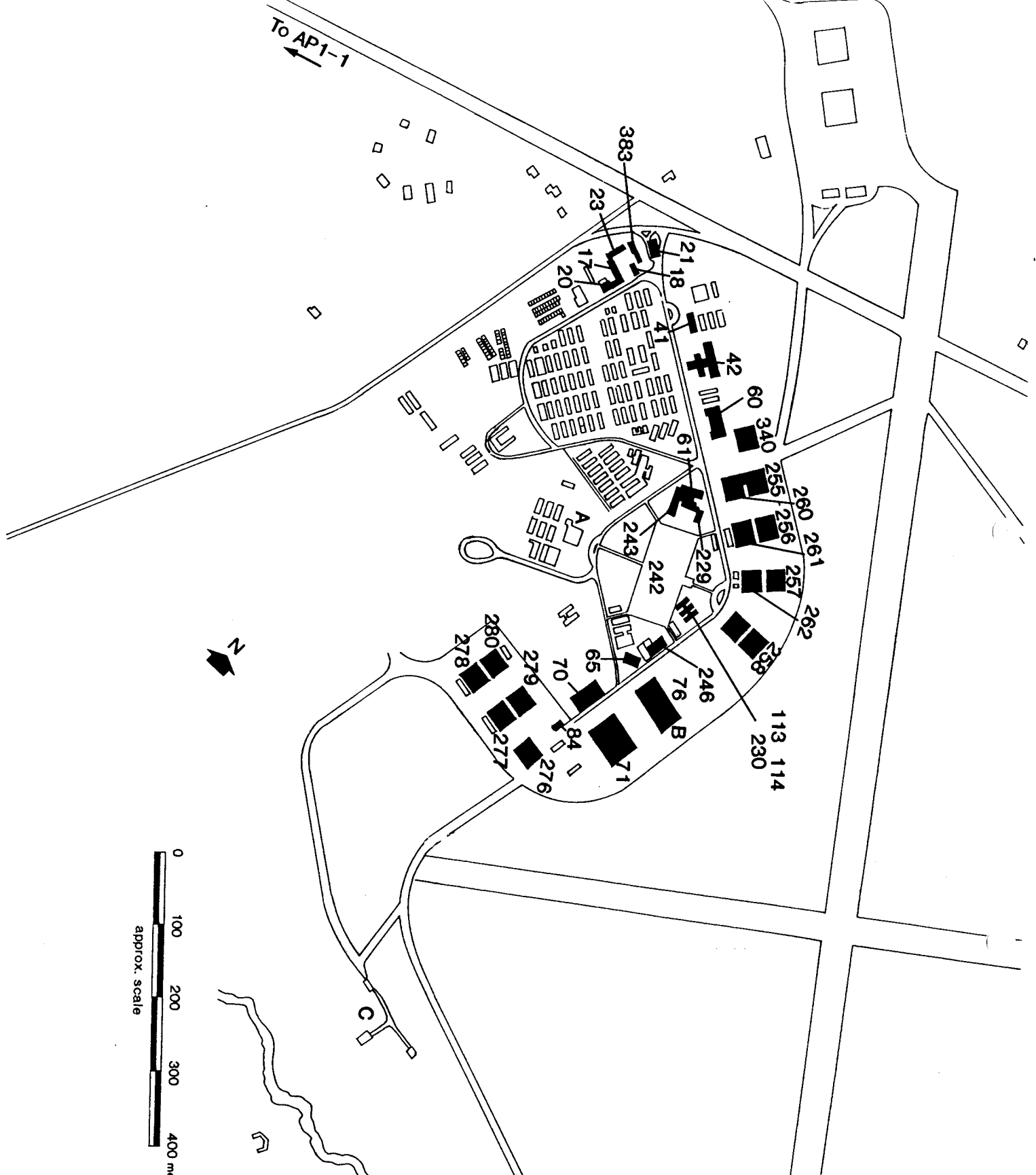
### History

In July 1938, the Minister of Defence granted approval for the purchase of land near Brisbane to be used for the establishment of a Royal Australian Air Force base. After rejecting a proposed site at Boondall, 800 acres (324 ha) of land which would provide a good all-weather aerodrome was acquired at Amberley, being gazetted on December 2, 1938, in Commonwealth Gazette No. 81. The original clearing, levelling and grading of the land at Amberley was carried out by the contractors Chesterfield and Jenkins (Qld) Pty Ltd; who in 1942 were also responsible for the spraying with tar and bitumen the first roads and hardstandings which had been constructed by the Main Roads Department, and in 1944 commenced work on the sewerage system. This initial construction work was undertaken mainly by local labour, with preference given to employment of returned servicemen.

Amberley commenced operation as a RAAF Base in June 1940, with the arrival of Station Headquarters and No. 24 (General Purpose) squadron. On July 4 1940 the first RAAF aircraft, a Moth Minor, arrived on base. In October 1940, No. 24 squadron departed for Townsville and No. 3 Recruit Depot and No. 3 Service Flying Training School (SFTS) were located at Amberley. These provided pilot training and personnel recruiting for the RAAF, being the initial role played by Amberley. Following the attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941, personnel of the United States Air Corps commenced arriving on base and were accommodated at No. 3 SFTS. Throughout December 1941 the American personnel, with the assistance of members of No. 3 SFTS, assembled Kittyhawk and Douglas Dauntless aircraft. This event foreshadowed the change in role of RAAF Amberley which up until that time had been primarily Aircrew training and recruitment.

This change was marked by the establishment of No. 3 Aircraft Depot in March, 1942. As the war in the Pacific intensified, Amberley became a major base for aircraft assembly, repair, and salvage, supplying operational squadrons with their aircraft requirements and major servicing. A salvage section was formed for the purpose of salvaging unserviceable aircraft from squadrons and aerodromes situated in the area, and despatching repairable components to No. 5 Aircraft Depot in Wagga, NSW. The Depot continued to expand, and commenced major inspections of Wirraway and Hudsons, and assembly of Martin Marauder and Kittyhawk aircraft. By the end of 1942 No. 3 Aircraft Depot was also assembling Vultee Vengeance aircraft as well as major inspections being carried out on Aerocobra, Kittyhawk, Lancer and Boston aircraft. An Engine Repair Section was also established which worked on Hamilton, De Havilland and Curtis Electric units.

Additionally the base acted as a staging post for units moving into the war zone, with the only units staying for extended periods being the US forces. The variety of units passing through can be seen from those present in April 1942, which included those from the US Army Air Corps, Volunteer Defence Corps, Australian Army Service Corps, and the 6th Anti-Aircraft Battery of the Australian Military Forces.



**KEY**

- AP1-1 = Semi-Underground U.S. Operations Building
  - 17 = Barracks Store and Offices
  - 18 = Store
  - 20 = Emergency Power Plant
  - 21 = Guard House
  - 23 = Store
  - 41 = Sergeant's Mess
  - 42 = Airmen's Mess
  - 60 = Cinema
  - 61 = Base Sick Quarters
  - 65 = Base Headquarters
  - 70 = Transport Building
  - 71 = Workshop Hangar and Offices
  - 76 = Workshop Hangar and Offices
  - 84 = Flammable Store
  - 113
  - 114 } Meteorology Building
  - 230
  - 229 = Dental Clinic
  - 242 = Parade Ground
  - 243 = Wards
  - 246 = Parachute Hanging Room
  - 383 = Store
- Bellman Hangers**
- 255, 256, 257, 258, 260, 261
  - 262, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 340.
- A = Officers mess
  - B = Control tower
  - C = Ammunition store

