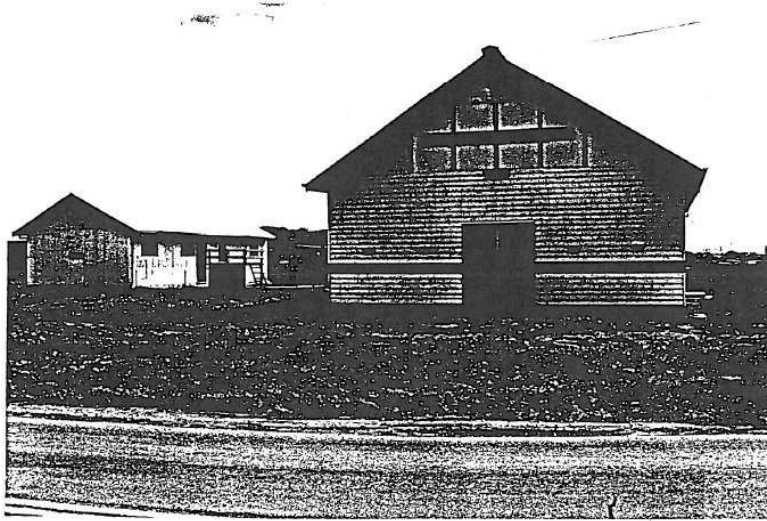


HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name Diggers Road Soldiers Memorial Hall
Address 450 Diggers Road WERRIBEE SOUTH **Significance Level** Local
Citation Date 1997



Diggers Road Soldiers Memorial Hall.

Recommended Heritage Protection VHR - HI - PS Yes

History and Historical Context

The Diggers' Road Memorial Hall was officially opened on 25 April 1925 by G.T. Chirnside, former owner of the Werribee Park Estate. Chirnside advised the Werribee South settlers to turn to market gardening, which during the 1920s and 1930s became an important district industry.[1]

By 1925, South Werribee had become a prosperous farming area, and, according to one account, "now possessed hundreds of settlers, many of them returned soldiers, growing fruit, lucerne and vegetables and milking cows".[2]

Soldier settlement became important in the area after the First World War.[3] The 1917 Discharged Soldiers Settlement Act made special provision for the re-settlement of returned soldiers, and was administered as part of the government's closer settlement program.[4]

The Hall was used as a school (No. 4312) between 1927 and 1937. A Krupp 125 mm Howitzer gun captured during World War I was once located outside the Hall. It was recently found (in pieces) and returned to the RSL, and is now stored at the council depot. [5]

REFERENCES

- [1] K.N. James (ed) Werribee. The First One Hundred Years, p.89.
- [2] James, p.85.

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[3] James, p.85.

[4] Cabena, P; McRae, H; Bladin, H. The Lands Manual, p.6.

[5] Werribee South Community Meeting; Darryl Wells, pers. comm.

Relevant Historical Australian Themes

9.6 A sense of community and identity

2.5 Creating smaller holdings: Soldier Settlement Schemes

Description

Physical Description

Large timber hall which forms part of the community infrastructure of the irrigation settlement landscape. The Hall is rectangular in plan, with a new iron roof. Several small buildings are associated with the Hall, including playground, iron clad shed, and a cement block toilet block. The Hall and shed are painted cream with turquoise doors and architraves. The Hall is located opposite the intersection between Diggers Road and Whites Road.

Occupancy

Ownership

Not known

Site Context

Area of Significance

Hall

Statement of Significance

This memorial hall, one of a number in the Shire, has local significance for its associations with the Soldier Settlement area which developed along Diggers Road, Werribee South, after the First World War.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Recommendations 1997

External Paint Controls	-
Internal Alteration Controls	-
Tree Controls	-
Fences & Outbuildings	-
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	-
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	-

Other Recommendations

Wyndham Heritage List Planning Scheme

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.