

Imagine

A place for connection & community

FACT SHEET 10

BIRKDALE COMMUNITY PRECINCT

World War II radio receiving station

Toward the centre of Birkdale Community Precinct, hidden by trees from passing traffic, is a somewhat nondescript lowset brick building that many locals might not even realise exists. So significant was it during World War II, however, that it has been entered into the Queensland Heritage Register.

In 1942 the Commonwealth Government asserted possession over a large portion of the precinct, then known as Cottons Farm, as the preferred site for an Allied Forces radio communications base.

A long, rectangular brick building with 18-inch thick walls and reinforced to take a bomb blast, plus an array of radio antennas, were built the following year by the US Army Signal Corps.

It was set some 630m from the main road on low ground, which helped minimise radio interference. Inside the secluded structure, US officers from Detachment 3 of the 832nd Signal Service Company would receive all incoming telecommunications across the theatre of war in the Pacific and relay them to US General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters in Brisbane.

The radio antennas - arranged in a rhombic (or diamond) shape - allowed General MacArthur to receive coded communications from the Chiefs of Staff and President Franklin D Roosevelt in Washington DC.

On August 15, 1945 the Birkdale radio station was one of the first places in Australia to receive the message that the Japanese had surrendered and the war was over.

It also likely would have received the official Instrument of Surrender message sent from aboard the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945.

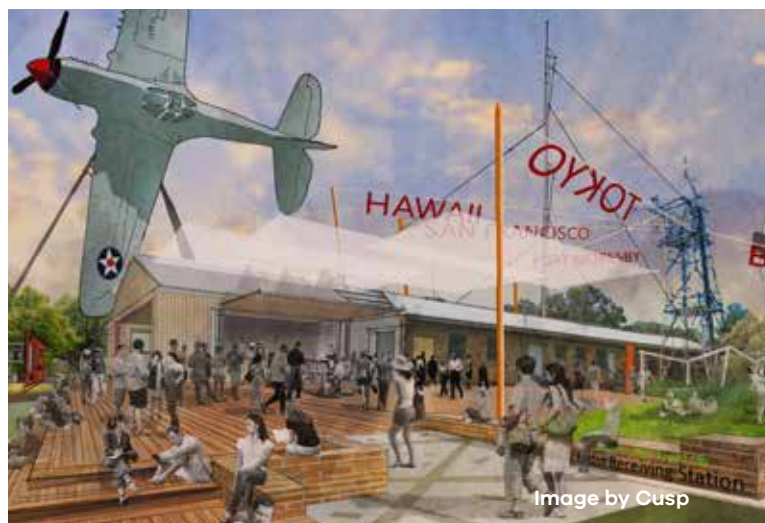
After the war, the station was used for several decades by the PMG (Postmaster-General's Department, later Telecom) as a high-frequency receiving station and radio testing site, and is considered to be one of Australia's most significant and intact examples of World War II infrastructure, having been built by the US Army.

Following extensive negotiations, the 61.78 hectares of Birkdale land on which the station is positioned was bought by Redland City Council from the Commonwealth on 12 December, 2019.

With the site now saved and placed on the Heritage Register, it is time for the community to imagine its future. What are your ideas for future use of the radio receiving station? Visit yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au

KEEP IN MIND

- State heritage listed
- How do we protect this asset?
- What are the best uses?
- How do we celebrate it?
- What suits the site?



A community legacy for everyone.

We're listening: Tell us your ideas at yoursay.redland.qld.gov.au

 Your Say Redlands Coast

Images are concepts only and do not represent final plans for the site.



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