

## Waterview Mill

### *Location*

At the end of the access road leading to Custom-built Furnishers, across a small park from Bundaberg Foundry. GPS 24 deg 51 min 40 sec S 152 deg 21 min 12 sec E.

### *Recommended Heritage Boundaries*

Boundaries five metres in each direction from wall may suffice for the visible remains. An archaeological study of a wider area may reveal other significant areas.

### *History*

The Steuarts moved into cane growing and it was Sam Johnston who established the Waterview sawmills in 1868, having previous experience at Rockhampton on the Fitzroy River with his brother John.<sup>1</sup>

The mill was severely damaged in the 1875 flood but was rebuilt. By 1888 it was substantially expanded with 70 horsepower engine, two storeys, and planing room and 50 employees and supplied Rockhampton as well as local needs.<sup>2</sup> The importance of the mill was sufficient for the government to extend the railway linking North Bundaberg with Mount Perry, eastward to the Waterview Mill. Log timber generated more traffic on the line than the copper mine at Mount Perry which was expected to have been the line's mainstay.<sup>3</sup>

Waterview also operated as one of the more important sugar mills in the Bundaberg district for many years. The sawmill closed around 1903. Little remains of either enterprise but with its pioneering role in the establishment of Bundaberg makes it an important site which may repay archaeological investigation.<sup>4</sup>

### *Site Description and Condition*

The principal visible remains of sawmill and sugar mill is a stone wall about 450 mm thick and 13 metres long in the side of a terrace parallel to the river bank. The area surrounding it is grass but there is lantana growing against much of the wall and a tree growing against the wall. The wall has one or more drains or pipe outlets. The Johnston residence at Waterview was shifted a few years ago a distance of a few hundred metres downstream. On a flat grassed area closed to the river are the remains of an old small boiler. This

could be flood debris or it could be associated with the Waterview site.

### *Assessment of Significance*

Almost nothing remains of what was Bundaberg's first sawmill and first industry. Logging and milling timber were the principal reasons for the establishment of Bundaberg; the sugar industry came a few years later. It is unclear whether this is part of the sugar mill or foundations which may have been common to both sugar mill and sawmill. Given the role of the saw mill in the establishment of Bundaberg this site, if confirmed, is significant under Criterion (a) for importance in determining cultural history of the region.

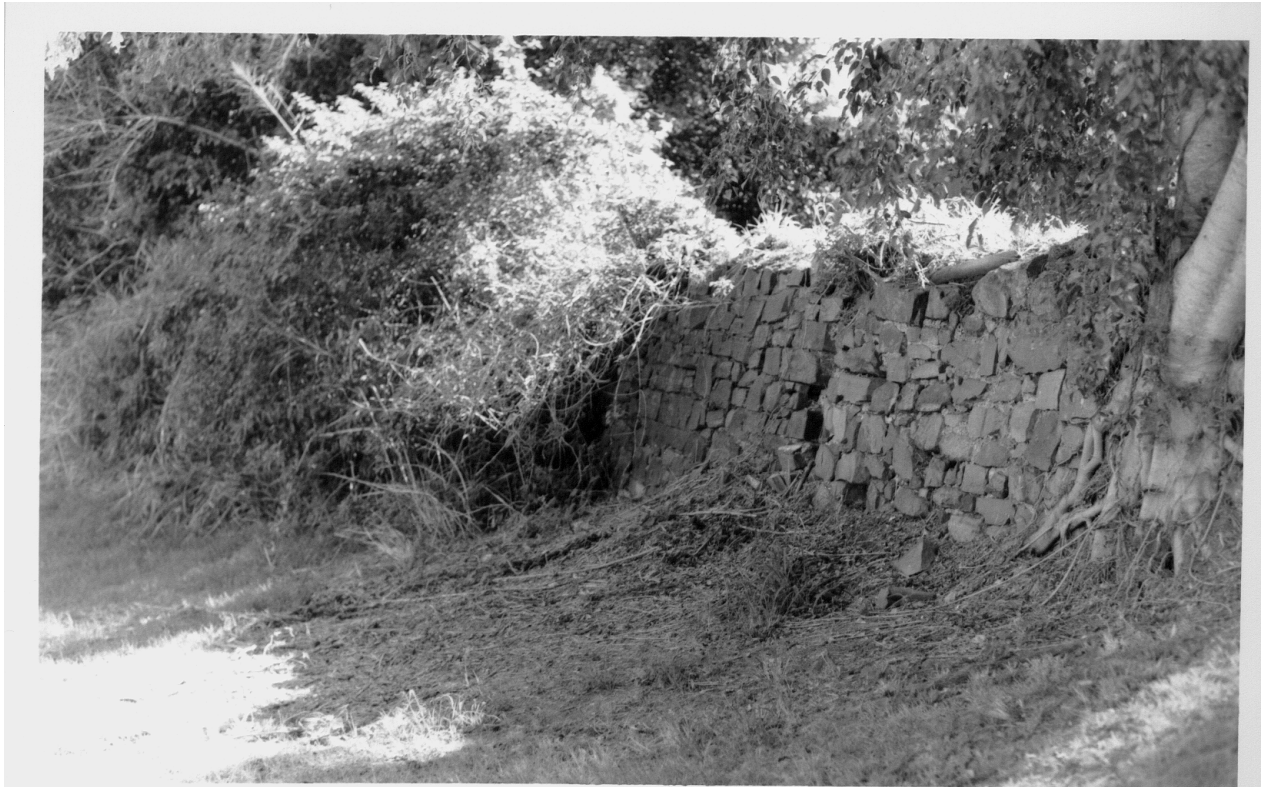
### *Recommendations*

The site needs further investigation to establish what the remains are. The surrounding area needs archaeological investigation to determine if there are other remains of sawmill or sugar mill.

### *References*

1. Nev Rackemann, *Bundaberg*, p. 57.
2. W.F. Morrison, Volume 2, unpagged.
3. *Queensland Parliamentary Debates* 36,143-4.
4. Waterview Mill closed early 20th century - Bundaberg & District Historical Society Sawmill File.

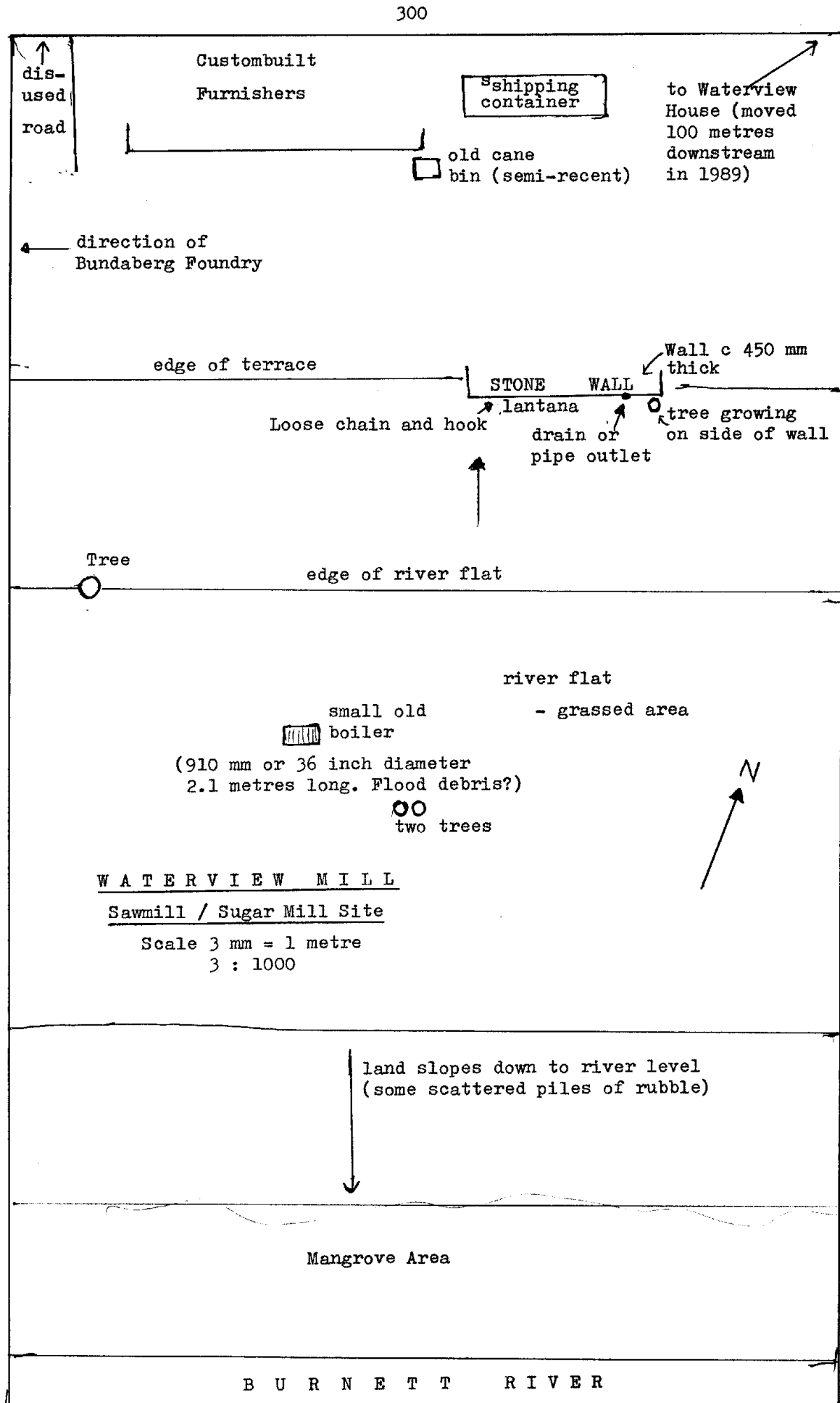
## Waterview Sawmill / Sugarmill Site



View of stone wall



View of remains of boiler of uncertain origin



## **Monto Forestry District**

### **Fleming's Mill, Builyan**

#### *Location*

The site is reached from a short access road leading off the road from Builyan to Many Peaks as it leads out of Builyan. GPS 24 deg 32 min 2 sec S 151 deg 22 min 58 sec E.

#### *Recommended Heritage Boundaries*

Recommended boundaries are a those of a rectangle extending five metres in each direction from the remains of the former cypress mill. The existing mill is not included.

#### *History*

Builyan has been a sawmilling centre since the opening of the district with the Many Peaks mine and the building of the railway to Builyan and Many Peaks. Builyan was originally known as Nevertire and was to be the terminus of the line until it was decided to extend it across the ridge to Many Peaks where it opened later in 1910. Since the closure of the mine, sawmilling at Builyan at various mills has been the main local industry with the Parkside mill, a major mill, still in operation. Little is known of the history of this mill which, like the existing mill on this site, chiefly mills cypress pine for roofing trusses.

#### *Site Description and Condition*

The closed mill has only the remains of a roof structure and the mill was a simple one with breaking down saw and tramway and skids leading to a second tramway of narrower gauge and circular saw for cutting into the required dimensions and staging to store the product. Both saws were power by belt drive from a Leyland (6 cylinder) engine which is also still on site.

#### *Assessment of Significance*

Cypress mills are typical of western Queensland rather than south east Queensland as defined for this study. The cypress mills in the study zone are generally on the western fringes. Cypress mills were generally small operations, both because of the smaller log size and the lower density of trees which also made heavy investment at a fixed site less warranted, especially before modern motor transport. This mill being largely intact is a good example of the small cypress mill operation, which is also rapidly disappearing as milling is

concentrated in fewer larger mills. The mill is a good example of its class (Criterion d) and a surviving almost intact example of what is rapidly becoming rare (criterion b).

#### *Recommendations*

The proximity of the working mill helps protect the site from theft and vandalism. There is no protection from the elements. Such protection is needed to permit this site to retain its heritage significance, and with suitable signage, convey the role of the cypress mill in this timber township.



## Fleming's Cypress Truss Mill, Builyan

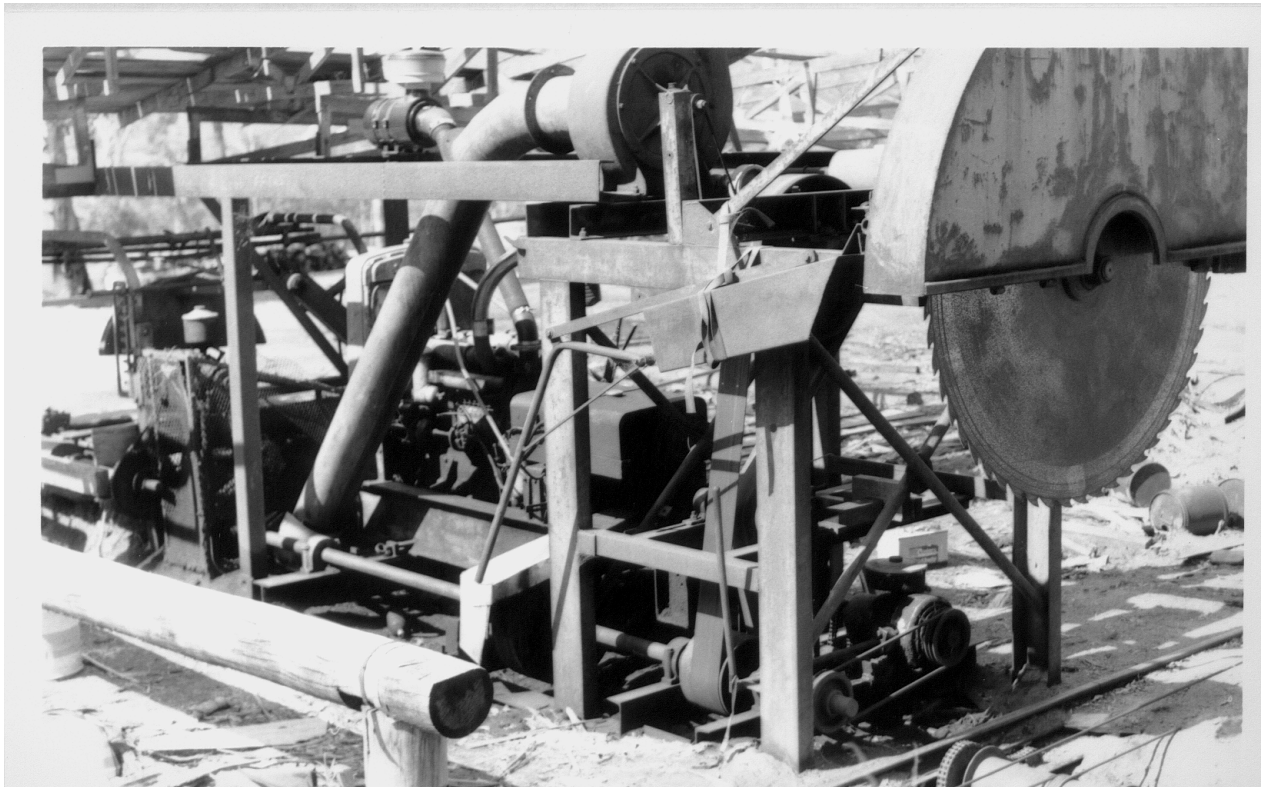


General View of Operating Mill



General View of old mill with only truss of roof, resting on machinery

## Fleming's Cypress Truss Mill, Builyan



View of main saw, part of bench, power drive and one of skids



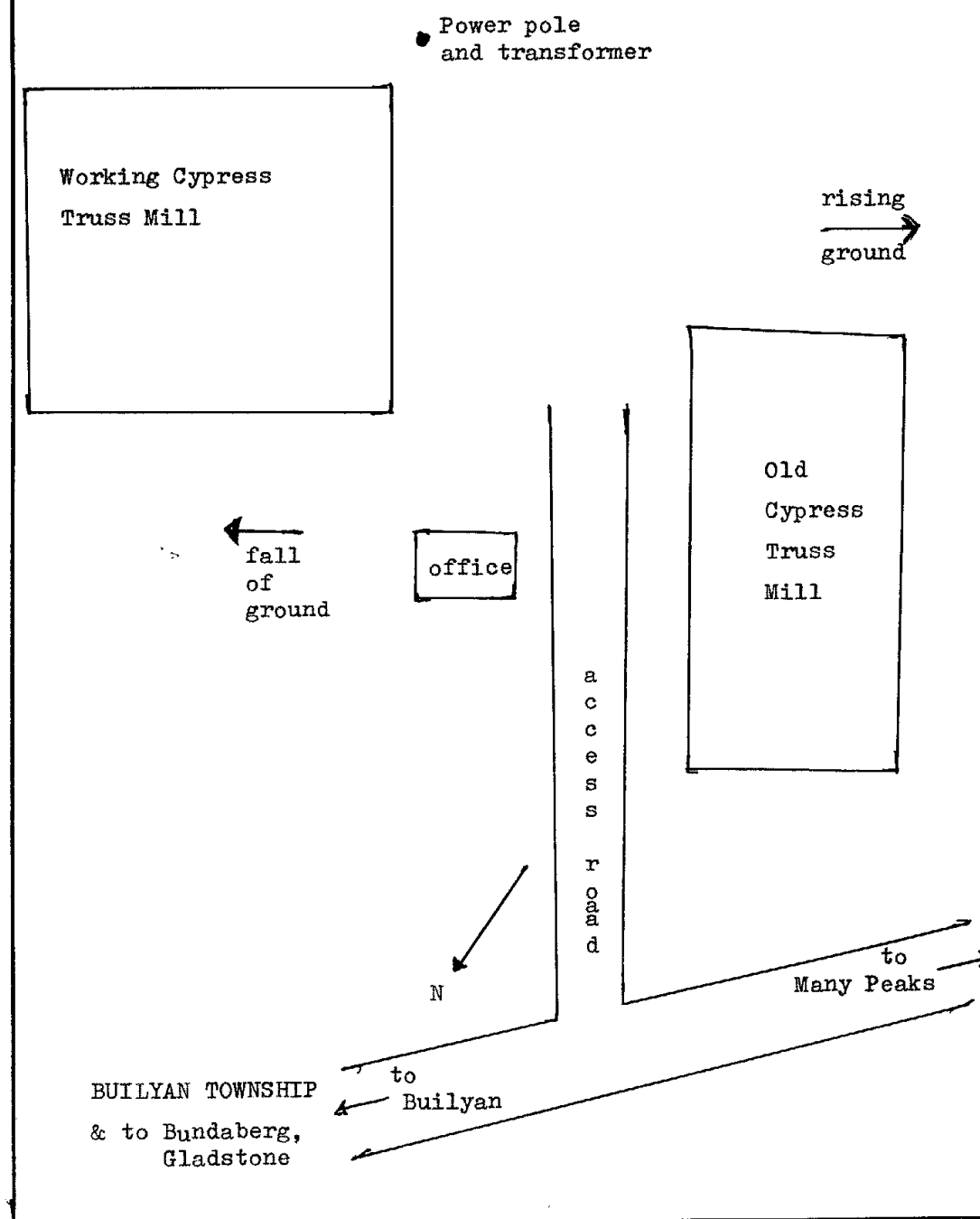
View of log carriage

304

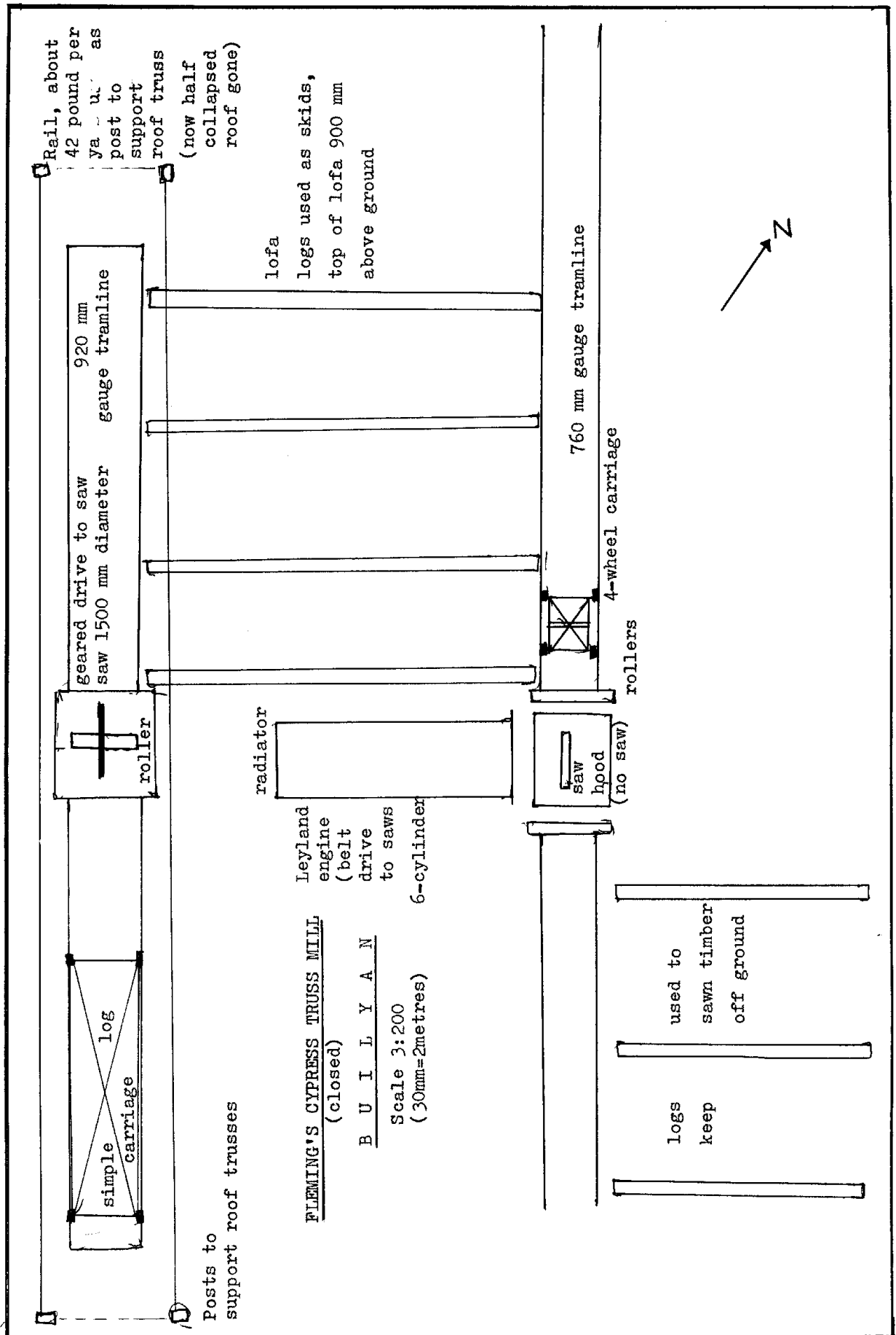
## FLEMING'S CYPRESS TRUSS MILL

B U I L Y A N

Layout sketch - not to scale



305



## Kalpowar Sawmill

### *Location*

The sawmill site is at the junction of the Kalpowar-Many Peaks and Kalpowar-Bundaberg road, being the land in the north-east corner block formed by the road junction. GPS 24 deg 41 min 37 sec S, 151 deg 18 min 24 sec E.

### *Recommended Heritage Boundaries*

The road frontages of the Kalpowar-Many Peaks and Kalpowar-Bundaberg roads, the creek and a line parallel to the Kalpowar-Bundaberg road 10 metres north of the machinery area included the portable boiler remains.

### *History*

The sawmill as Kalpowar was an important part of the Kalpowar community for about three decades. The other main component was the Forestry Department. The proprietor was listed in 1949 as C.A. Purlds, and it had closed by 1982. It largely cut plantation pine thinnings for case timber. The mill was apparently powered by portable steam engine and was not modernised which led to its demise. The land on which it stood is now owned by Mrs Joan Price.

### *Site Description and Condition*

The site is a collection of what was not found to be worth removing. There are posts, remains of boiler and engine foundations, wooden posts and fittings, in various stages of decay, and limited remains of machinery including the derelict and raided remains of a portable boiler and disused motor vehicles which may have been part of the enterprise.

### *Assessment of Significance*

The sawmill was the principal enterprise of Kalpowar which was and is largely dependant on the timber industry for its existence. The mill was an example of the class of sawmills which were the mainstays of country communities and the derelict state of the remains shows greater evidence of the role of sawmilling and the nature of the enterprise than is commonly the case where sites have been cleaned up. The site has significance under Criterion (a) as sawmilling was a major determinant of the course of history in this district and under Criterion (d) as the remains of the class of country sawmill. The remains may reach the level required for significance given the rarity of more intact sites.

### *Recommendations*

The site is in an advance stage of demolition and decay. Conservation work that helped control the decay process is probably the most that effectively could be done in conjunction with signs to explain the site and process of milling logs.

### *References*

1. Queensland Post Office Directory; Interview on site, Mr Price, June 1997.

## Kalpowar Sawmill

General view of sawmill site apparently showing sawdust pipe supports



General view of central section of sawmill looking south towards road



View of remains of portable boiler and engine apparently used to power sawmill

