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**New International Selection  
Full Documentation Fiche 2003**

**for office use only**

**composed by national/regional working party of:**

International working party for  
**documentation and conservation**

of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the  
**modern movement**

**Australia**

**0. Picture of building/ group of buildings/ urban scheme/ landscape/ garden**



depicted item: Demountables, Terrigal High School 1978

source: Sydney and the Bush, p.242

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## 1. Identity of building/ group of buildings/ group of buildings/ landscape/ garden

### (a) Data for identification

current name:	Demountable Classrooms
	First erected at Kingsgrove North High School
	Kingsgrove Road & Blaxland Road
	Kingsgrove
former/original/variant name:	Divisible Mobile Classrooms
number(s) and name(s) of street(s):	Examples survive at North Head
Town/ suburb	Manly
province/state:	NSW
post code:	2095
block or lot (if known)	
country	Australia
national topographical grid reference:	
current typology:	Educational Building /High School
former/original/variant typology:	Educational Building /High School
comments on typology:	High schools are a building type that emerged in the nineteenth-century in NSW and can be found in the Sydney suburbs and in larger country towns.

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### 1.2 Status of protection

protected by: state/province/town/record only

Register of the National Estate	Not listed
RAIA National Register	Not listed
RAIA Register of Twentieth Century Buildings of Significance	Not listed
National Trust Register	Not listed
State Heritage Register/Inventory	Not listed
LEP	Not listed
Grade (ie level of protection)	None
Archival Recording exists?	Unknown but unlikely
Date:	n/a
valid for: whole area/parts of area/building	

### 1.3 Visually or functionally related building(s)/site(s)

name(s) of surrounding area/building(s):	Former School of Artillery, North Head
visual relations	Former School of Artillery, North Head
functional relations	School of Artillery
other relations:	

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## 2. History of building(s) etc.

### 2.1 Chronology

*Note if the dates are exactly known (e) or approximately estimated = circa (c) or (±)*

commission or competition date:	1966
design period(s):	Circa 1965-1966
start of site work:	First erected 1966
completion/inauguration:	First use 1966

### 2.2 Summary of development

commission brief:	
design brief:	Probably 1965-66
building/construction:	1966
completed situation:	1966
original situation or character of site:	Generally built within the grounds of an existing high school to provide additional classrooms.

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**2.3 Relevant persons/organisations**

original owner(s)/patron(s):	NSW Department of Education
architect(s):	Attributed to the NSW Government Architect's Branch under Ted (Edward) Farmer.
design architect:	Unknown
landscape/garden designer(s):	
other designer(s):	
consulting engineer(s):	
building contractor(s):	Unknown, probably various.

**2.4 Other persons or events associated with the building(s)/site**

name(s):	
association:	
event(s):	
period:	

**2.5 Summary of important changes after completion**

type of change: alteration/renovation/restoration/extension/other:	
date(s):	
circumstances/ reasons for change	
effects of changes:	
persons/organisations involved:	

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### 3. Description of building(s) etc.

#### 3.1 Site/building character

The first 'divisible mobile classrooms' was erected at the Kingsgrove North High School in 1966. The prefabricated sections, which extended from one side of the building to the other and included the sun shading, were expressed on the exterior of the building. The sections were designed to be bolted together rapidly and could be dismantled just as easily and moved to another site. A photograph of sections of the classrooms on flat bed trucks.

The divisible mobile classrooms' were 'usually superior, in terms of space and facilities, to many of the permanent classrooms built in the 1950s and early 1960s. The demountable's versatility has proved extremely useful in meeting emergencies, such as fire-damaged schools and building delays, and for longer-term planning aimed at avoiding a surplus of permanent classrooms.

The demountables continued to be utilised during the 1970s and could be arranged on a sloping site by adding piers and steps to the front entrance. The components could also be staggered.

Examples can be found today at Chester Hill and at the School of Artillery on North Head.

#### 3.2 Current use

of whole building/site:	Site currently being adaptively re-used.
of principal components ( <i>if applicable</i> ):	Temporary class rooms
comments:	

#### 3.3 Present (physical) condition

of whole building/site:	Good
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of principal components <i>(if applicable)</i> :	Poor
of other elements <i>(if applicable)</i> :	
of surrounding area <i>(if applicable)</i> :	
comments:	

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**3.4 Note(s) on context, indicating potential developments**

*Indicate, if known, potential developments relevant for the conservation/threats of the building/site*

The site is still in use as the Kingsgrove North High School. Other examples were erected across the state including Terrigal, Belmont and Chester Hill. These classrooms could be found throughout NSW and are still used today. Examples can also be found at the former School of Artillery at North Head.

**4. Evaluation**

<b><i>Intrinsic value</i></b>
<b>4.1 technical evaluation:</b>
The building was designed to be manufactured in sections and transported to the school by flatbed truck. Three or four factory assembled sections could be combined as necessary. These classrooms were demountable, and were intended to be relocated should school populations dwindle.
<b>4.2 social evaluation:</b>
The erection of these demountable classrooms shows the increase in school populations in suburban Sydney and the central coast and other areas where they were employed.
<b>4.3. cultural and aesthetic evaluation</b>
The demountables were designed by the NSW Government Architect's Branch and show a range of diverse influences including the educational buildings designed by Mies Van Der Rohe at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago and Japanese Architecture via the writings of Bruno Taut.
<b><i>Comparative significance</i></b>
<b>4.4 canonical status (local, national, international)</b>
A recognisable feature of NSW schools.
<b>4.5 historic and reference values:</b>
An important example of post war prefabrication, prefabricated housing and schools and hospitals were erected across NSW in the 1950s and 1960s. Unlike most of the prefabricated types which were designed in England, America or Scandinavia, the 'divisible mobile classrooms' were designed in NSW and include sun shading devices.

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**5. Documentation**

**5.1 archives/written records/correspondence etc. (state location/ address):**

Conservation Plan prepared?	No
Listing & files	Department of Education photographs now held at NSW State Records

**5.2 principal publications (in chronological order):**

Burnswoods, J. & Fletcher, J., 1980, *Sydney and the Bush, A Pictorial History of Education in NSW*, Sydney: NSW Department of Education

**5.3 visual material (state location/ address)**

original visual records/photographs/others:	Photographs included in Sydney and the Bush
Original drawings	Possibly former PWD Plan Room
recent photographs and survey drawings:	
film/video/other sources:	
website	

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**5.4 list documents included in supplementary dossier**

Current photographs

**6. Fiche report**

name of reporter:	Noni Boyd
Information provided by	
address	GPO Box 1334, Sydney, NSW 2001 Australia
telephone:	+61 412 737 921
fax	Not applicable
e-mail:	noni_jd@hotmail.com
date of report	May 2008

**examination by DOCOMOMO national/regional section**

approval by wp co-ordinator/registers correspondent (name): Scott Robertson  
sign and date:

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**examination by DOCOMOMO ISC/R**

name of ISC member in charge of the evaluation:

comment(s):

sign and date:

ISC/R approval:

date:

wp/ref. no.:

NAI ref. no.:

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Current view of one of the demountables at the former School of Artillery at North Head, Sydney  
(Photo: Scott Robertson, October 2008)



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Detail view of the steps of one of the demountables at the former School of Artillery at North Head, Sydney  
(Photo: Scott Robertson, October 2008)



Demountable modules in transit  
(Source: *Sydney and the Bush*, p.242)

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