

**NOMINATION FOR
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD**

Category: **Cultural Resources Management - Installation**

Name: Defense Supply Center Richmond
8000 Jefferson Davis Highway
Richmond, VA 23297-5000

Point of Contact: Adrienne Moore
Chief, Environmental Division, Support Services
804-279-6465/DSN 695-6465
e-mail: Adrienne.Moore@dla.mil

Introduction:

Defense Supply Center Richmond (DSCR), located along the I-95 corridor in southern Chesterfield County, Virginia, has been a consistent, dependable supplier of quality goods and services to those defending freedom around the world since it was activated in 1942.

Designated as the lead center for aviation within the Defense Logistics Agency, the center serves within the Department of Defense (DoD) supply chain as the primary source of supply for the nearly 850,000 repair parts and operating supply items.

While these items and parts have an extremely wide range of applications, our core mission is to supply products with a direct application to aviation. These items include a mix of military-unique items supporting over 1,300 major weapons systems and other items readily available in the commercial market.

With over 600 acres and approximately 120 warehousing, utility and administrative buildings totaling over 6.7 million square feet, DSCR is host for a number of other DoD, Federal and state organizations. The largest of these tenants are the 350-acre Defense Distribution Depot Richmond, Virginia; the Defense Distribution Mapping Activity; the Virginia Army National Guard vehicle maintenance activity; and the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office.

The center and its tenant activities employ nearly 3,000 civilians, Service members, and contractor personnel, whose mission is to provide critical material support across the DoD and other Federal agencies, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Land use in Chesterfield County in the vicinity of DSCR is primarily single-family residential, with intermixed commercial and light-industrial properties. The majority of the acreage is dedicated to facility operations; however, 37 acres are available for wildlife habitat opportunities.

Background

Situated on one of the longest held parcels of land in the United States, DSCR has a long and varied history. Along Kingsland Creek, Native Americans established base camps for fishing, hunting, and economic activity. A variety of native artifacts have been uncovered near the creek. DSCR is the latest in a series of owners to lay claim to a portion of the property our neighbors call Bellwood.

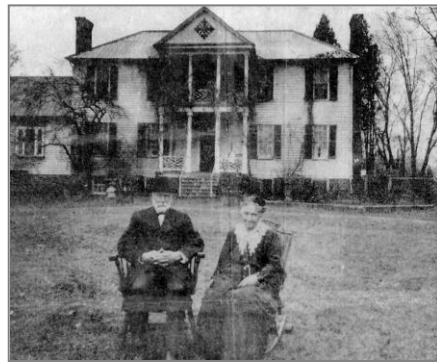
First provided to Thomas Sheffield in 1619 as a royal land grant, the property was sparsely occupied until it was abandoned in 1622 when more than a quarter of Virginia's inhabitants were killed in well-coordinated Indian raids along the James River. When England implemented a county system of government, permission to resettle the area was granted in 1634.

By 1801, the property held a building that is believed to be DSCR's Bellwood mansion of today, which is registered on the National Historical Register of Places. Records from 1810 show the owner held 50 slaves. Graves of African Americans have been uncovered at DSCR; however, no conclusive determination could be made from the remains and artifacts as to whether they were slaves or free men and women.

The most famous owner of the property was Major August Drewry who, with help of local farmers, constructed breastworks between Kingsland Creek and the James River. Fort Darling, known in Confederate circles as Drewry's Bluff, was located less than a mile from what would become DSCR and was a formidable fortification—gaining fame by repelling the ironclad *Monitor* in 1862.

The Bellwood mansion later became the headquarters of General P.G.T. Beauregard while he and Confederate President Jefferson Davis laid plans to repel Union troops intent on destroying the Richmond Petersburg Railroad. Once again, as in the mayhem 240 years earlier, many died during the battles adjacent to the Bellwood manor.

Worn out from years of traditional agricultural activities, Bellwood was purchased by its namesake, James Bellwood, in 1887. The Canadian farmer and his sons transformed the property into a model of agricultural success.



The farm's reputation spread during the 1914 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. Then President Theodore Roosevelt remarked, "This is a great thing you are doing for Virginia—your display is simply splendid."

Based on the long and continuous use of the DSCR property, as well as the depot's association with significant historical events between 1941 and 1953, individual properties and landscape features are eligible for inclusion as a National Register historic district.

A Preliminary Cultural Resources Management Plan was completed in 1999 and is DSCR's implementing plan for its cultural resources program. While never finalized, the document identifies and evaluates resources based on the limited information available in 1999 and makes recommendations for additional work. Detailed management and architectural treatment strategies comprise the heart of the plan. Concluding the report are 10 detailed operating procedures that lace the program together, providing unity over time.

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) convinced DSCR of the need to more fully evaluate both architectural and archeological resources before preparing an integrated plan.

The Bellwood Manor, nominated to the National Register in 1977, has historically been the premier resource at DSCR. The building is two stories, originally constructed as a plantation house. Since purchased by the government, the mansion has undergone several extensive modifications to convert it to a full service restaurant and banquet facility called the Bellwood Club.



Due to its size and conspicuous location at the main gate, DSCR's headquarters building, Building 34, is clearly the proposed historic district's most historically significant element from World War II.



The brick building is U-shaped, constructed on a concrete foundation. Situated at the primary entrance to the installation, the building has served as a local landmark for more than 60 years, representing the long military and economic relationship between DSCR and the surrounding community.

Quarters One is the home of the DSCR commander and is a two-story wood-frame single family dwelling cobbled together in 1913 when James Bellwood joined two farmhouses for a new home for his recently married son. The house was subsequently moved in 1941 to make room for the construction of Building 33.



In recent years Native American artifacts and African American archeological resources have been discovered at DSCR. The human remains were re-interred near the site where they were discovered, with gravestones in a fenced burial ground and granite memorial to commemorate their lives.



Two Memorandums of Agreement were developed for DSCR and VDHR within the period of interest for the award. The first was an agreement enabling the renovation of Building 34. The second enabled DSCR to demolish nine minor structures that VDHR agreed had little or no historic significance.

The environmental office manages the cultural resources program at DSCR. Facilities engineers are responsible for coordinating their projects with the manager to ensure resources are managed responsibly. The Corporate Board is responsible for general management of all environmental programs. The Special Emphasis Committee consults with the manager on most matters related to archeological resources.

Program Summary

Because the cultural resources management plan made clear that DSCR needed a more exact inventory of historic resources, DSCR's recent efforts have focused on delineation of both architectural and archeological resources. An architectural evaluation and inventory concluded DSCR was an eligible historic district and lists contributing structures and landscapes.

Phase I archeological investigations have been completed to determine the likelihood of disturbance to potential archeological resources.

Since the development of the management plan, DSCR has fostered a strong working relationship with VDHR by first working conservation-preservation issues into construction, renovation, and demolition projects before presenting them to historic preservation officers. DSCR has embraced the partnering concept and freely requests advice from others to preserve historic resources.

As the mission evolves, the facility needs less warehouse space for stock and the expense of maintaining the buildings and warehouse has become increasingly difficult to justify. Despite the fact that some buildings must be demolished, the cultural resources program focuses on the importance of preserving our history.

Commemoratives for both African Americans and American Indians have been erected at DSCR to demonstrate the new emphasis the installation places on DSCR's history.



Accomplishments

Because the property that now comprises DSCR has had such an interesting and distinguished history, a program aimed at preserving and conserving the cultural resources has been implemented. DSCR has also begun to communicate information about the cultural resources to the surrounding community.

An in-depth architectural evaluation was completed in 2003. Based on the long and continuous use of the DSCR property, as well as the depot's association with significant historical events that took place between 1941 and 1953, 63 individual properties or landscape

features from the pre-World War II and Korean War-era are recommended as eligible for inclusion in the National Register as contributing elements to a proposed National Register historic district. The proposed name of the district is Bellwood - Richmond Quartermaster Depot Historic District. DSCR is consulting with the VDHR before finalizing the inventory.

To determine the likelihood of further archeological resources at DSCR a Phase I investigation was completed in 2003. The draft report concluded that the property has undergone significant changes during the last 50 years, but some sites retain their integrity. Remains of both pre-historic and historic sites exist at DSCR, and they may have the potential to represent important events in regional history; be associated with important persons; or contain important prehistory information.

DSCR protects its archeological sites by evaluating all excavation activities in areas designated as high probability sites. At the request of the Native American special emphasis committee DSCR erected a monument to commemorate the site where scattered archeological resources were discovered. The monument now stands as a constant reminder of the ancient ones that once dwelled on our property many years ago.

Through its school partnership program, DSCR shares its cultural resources information about its history with neighboring school children. Each year DSCR volunteers bring Native American artifacts representing the Woodland Indian way of life 200 years ago to our neighborhood schools. The artifacts help to vividly demonstrate what prehistoric life was like at Bellwood.

During the last 3 years, DSCR has clearly made progress in the development of a consultation process with VDHR. This close relationship has enabled DSCR to balance the requirements of its evolving mission with the need to preserve cultural resources for future generations.