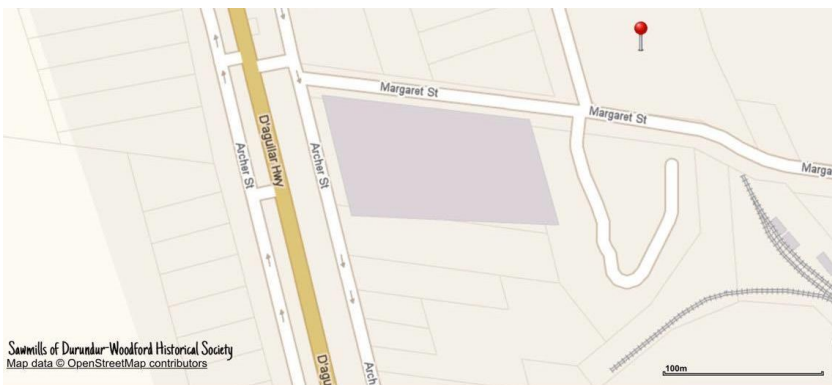




37 Coronation Avenue, Woodford
Site of the Becker Sawmill & then Stephens & Simpson



1964: Woodford Station yard with old sawmill in the background
Photo: J Armstrong



Woodford Historical Society 2025

Compiled using information from:-

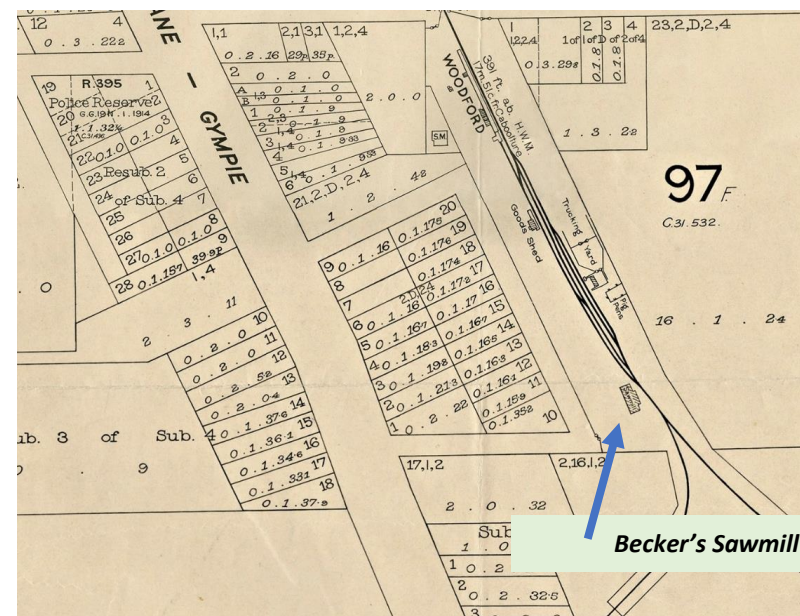
'Milestones from Woodford to Durundur' by Woodford Historical Society
Queensland PO Directories, Trove Newspapers, local historian Ron Trim

Fact Sheet – W7



Sawmills of Durundur ...

Becker & Co Ltd Sawmill (c1926 – c1942)



1936: Survey Map of Woodford

By 1926, Charles Frederick Becker had erected a sawmill in the Woodford Station yards.

Charles Frederick Becker (1889-1964)

Woodford Sawmills



Becker & Co Ltd Sawmill *continued*

Frederick Becker (Charles Frederick Becker's father) was employed by Fredin & Lovf when they started sawmilling in Woodford in November 1910. All his boys worked as millhands for Fredin's Sawmill at one time or another.

By 1917, eldest son Charlie Becker was working as an engine driver.

Charles Frederick Becker (engine-driver in the employ of Fredin and Co.)

From TROVE: *NORTH COAST ADVERTISER* 3 August 1918



Workers from Fredin & Co Sawmill

L to R Back: Charlie Becker (3rd), brother Tom (4th)

When Fredin & Co registered as a limited liability company in 1920, Charles and his wife Agnes became shareholders.

In December 1925, Charles formed the company Becker & Co Ltd and went into business for himself. He built a sawmill beside the railway tracks just south of the Woodford Station.

The following companies have been registered:—Charles F. Becker and Co., Ltd., capital £5000, to carry on the business of sawmillers, &c.

From TROVE: *THE BRISBANE COURIER* 5 December 1925



Local historian Ron Trim's recollections:

On Coronation Avenue but in the Railway Station Yards, was another mill that was said to have been started by Charlie Becker about the time of the end of the 1st World War. Bob Stephens and Mick Simpson were also involved in it as well. After the war was over, it was being run by Paddy Bourne, and in later years by Gordon Fredin until it closed during the 1960s.

The company opened a branch office at Virginia for a time.

**CHAS. F. BECKER & CO., LTD.,
WOODFORD.**

wish to advise customers that they have CLOSED the Virginia branch of their business as from the 12th inst. After that date, they will have no representative in Brisbane, but can assure customers that orders forwarded to Woodford will receive prompt attention.

From TROVE: *THE BRISBANE COURIER* 13 January 1931

Even though Frederick and his wife relocated to Ipswich in about 1936, the company still operated in Woodford until about 1942.

Becker & Co Ltd, sawmillers, Woodford

From *QUEENSLAND PO DIRECTORY* 1942

By March 1942, Stephens & Simpson had taken over the business.