

FIELD AND RESEARCH METHODS

This study has been undertaken to determine if the 159 federally owned properties at NWIRP Dallas are eligible for listing in the NRHP. The scope of work stipulates that all extant resources, regardless of age, be examined and their significance considered relative to aircraft production during World War II and the Cold War. All work was conducted in accordance with applicable federal regulations and guidelines including *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*; *National Register Bulletin 16A: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*; *National Register Bulletin 22: Guidelines for Evaluating and Nominating Properties that Have Achieved Significance within the Past Fifty Years*; and *National Register Bulletin 24: Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning*.

PROJECT GOALS

The following goals guided research and field investigations, as well as data synthesis and NRHP assessments:

- Identify properties at the plant that have already been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP.
- Examine previous cultural resource management studies and summarize their findings in the survey report.
- Document existing physical characteristics of all extant buildings, structures, and objects at the plant.
- Determine when the extant resources were built.
- Document any alterations and/or additions to the resources and determine why these changes were undertaken. Assess the effect these changes have on the property's integrity.
- Identify and describe the principal types of buildings and structures associated with the plant's operation.
- Determine whether the buildings were constructed from standard plans that the Navy developed and replicated elsewhere or whether they are unique to this plant.
- Determine the original use of the extant resources and, if applicable, how each resource's function changed over time.
- Describe the plant's setting and analyze how the plant influenced subsequent development around adjoining properties.

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- Describe community support for the establishment of the plant and how it changed over time.
- Identify the major periods of development/activity that contributed to the plant's successful operation. Assess the impact the plant had on the local economy and development patterns in western Dallas County and the city of Grand Prairie.
- Provide written and/or graphic documentation that substantiates active periods of growth and development in western Dallas County and Grand Prairie since the plant originally opened.
- Analyze the work force and ascertain to what extent women and minorities contributed to the plant's successful operation. Discuss general trends and work force changes over time. For example, women played a critical role during the plant's operation during World War II.
- Document the relationship between the plant and adjoining Naval Air Station (NAS) Dallas. Determine whether this relationship was part of a widespread, common trend that was implemented during World War II mobilization efforts and continued throughout the Cold War era. For example, nearby Carswell Air Force Base (no NAS Fort Worth JRB) and Consolidated-Vultee Aircraft Corporation in Fort Worth operated in tandem.
- Examine the relationship and historical association between NWIRP Dallas and the contractors (North American Aviation, Chance Vought Aircraft Corporation, TEMCO, LTV, Northrop Grumman, and Vought Aircraft Industries), that operated the government-owned facilities.
- Compare work orders, activities, and operations at NWIRP Dallas with major periods in recent in U.S. history (i.e., analyze to what extent World War II and the Cold War affected the plant's operations).
- Assess the plant's contributions to the domestic industrial effort of World War II and how NWIRP Dallas compares with similar plants in the state and nation.
- Analyze how NWIRP Dallas has evolved since its inception and determine to what degree the plant's physical character conveys its historic integrity. Examine how additions and renovations to the plant's buildings and the construction of new facilities impact the overall historic character of the plant.
- Examine historical factors that contributed to the selection of the plant's location.
- Identify the major periods of development/activity that contributed to the plant's successful operation.
- Identify the kinds of planes, weapon systems, aerospace systems, and subassembly components manufactured at the plant and assess the role/impact these products played in the nation's history. Determine whether the plant fabricated all components for final product assembly or whether some or all of parts were made elsewhere.
- Describe the manufacturing process and identify buildings used to manufacture goods/products at the plant. Identify what role buildings at NWIRP Dallas played in the overall manufacturing process and analyze their significance in the plant's successful operation.
- Describe and analyze the relative significance products manufactured at NWIRP Dallas played during the Cold War. (By their very nature, defense-related plants, such as NWIRP Dallas, are a rare

resource, and relatively few exist throughout the country. As a consequence, the importance of NWIRP Dallas and its Cold War significance must be evaluated at a national level of significance within the context of military-industrial operations. Determine the impact NWIRP Dallas had on the nation's defense and how it compares with similar plants across the nation.

- Examine the plant's role in the space race, particularly contributions associated with NASA's Apollo space program.
- Identify architects, contractors, designers and/or engineers and determine how significant the buildings are in the context of their careers.
- Discuss any historically important or influential persons associated with the plant and how these individuals had an impact on the city's development.
- Document the physical characteristics of each identified resource through a written description that analyzes its physical attributes.
- Document the associative qualities of each identified resource through a written history that specifically relates each building to a major theme(s) developed for the historic context.
- Evaluate each identified resource, determining whether it is a unique, unusual, or typical example of its kind; its role and importance relative to the plant's operation and mission; the degree to which it retains its historic character and integrity; and whether it meets any of the NRHP Criteria and Criteria Considerations.

COORDINATION WITH THE TEXAS STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE.

At the outset of the project, the Historic Preservation Officer (HPO) of SOUTHDIV and the HHM&M Principal Investigator met with the architectural historian responsible for Section 106 coordination of historic resources within the Texas SHPO. The meeting took place in Austin on September 16, 1998. The HPO of SOUTHDIV presented a copy of the proposed scope of work and provided the Texas SHPO the opportunity to comment on the work program and work products.

FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

The Historical Architect supervised all aspects of the field investigations. Prior to the start of fieldwork, the Historical Architect reviewed information furnished by the client and gathered by the Principal Investigator during his initial visit to the activity. The Historical Architect was part of an HHM&M survey team that visited NWIRP Dallas on October 5-9, 1998. The Historical Architect began the investigation with a brief reconnaissance survey of the plant to familiarize himself with the kinds of extant resources, their concentration, and salient physical features. He then conducted a methodological survey of all federally owned buildings and structures at NWIRP Dallas. The field documentation process included the following steps:

1. Complete Historic Resources Survey Form for each building/structure, noting:
 - Facility number
 - Property type
 - Exterior materials
 - Number of stories
 - Site features
 - Photographic reference

2. Photograph each resource using both Kodak T-Max 100 and Kodachrome 100 film. This photodocumentation provides several oblique exterior views and primary elevations of each resource in both black-and-white and color-transparency film mediums. Significant interior features and/or spaces are also documented. Photos are keyed to the inventory in this initial overview process.
3. Note significant physical attributes of each resource, such as site features, exterior materials, locations and types of doors and windows, and condition, as well as any obvious changes that had taken place to the building over time.

RESEARCH METHODS

The project's research phase began in October 1998 when the Principal Investigator, Project Historian, Historical Architect, and Associate Historian visited NWIRP Dallas and reviewed primary source materials on file at the company's Facilities, Property, and Public Relations Management departments. The most valuable resource was a 1974 report that described the just-completed expansion project at the plant. The report contained historical data, property records, maps, and aerial photographs.

The Historical Architect and Associate Historian visited NWIRP Dallas again on November 2–6, 1998 and reviewed original architectural plans and specifications on file at Northrop Grumman's Facilities Department, (now Vought Aircraft Industries' Facilities Department). HHM&M obtained copies of original architectural plans of building elevations, sections, and roof plans. The Associate Historian copied all relevant plans on a full-size Hewlett Packard cartographic photocopier. Such a step helped the Historical

Architect determine the physical evolution and integrity of the identified properties. The HHM&M crew examined other archival and facilities-related documents in the Community Relations Department, including articles from corporate newsletters and annual reports from the various tenants of the facility. The Project Historian and Associate Historian conducted a supplementary research trip to Washington, DC, on March 6–12, 1999, where they conducted research at the Washington Naval Yards and the downtown and College Park, Maryland, branches of the National Archives. The bulk of the research occurred at the Textual Archives Division of the National Archives in College Park, where the Project Historian examined two types of records. The first group pertained to the activities of the DPC, which included construction and operational activities at NWIRP Dallas from 1939–1947. The Associate Historian copied contracts, deed records, plot plans, architectural plans, building and production schedules, the engineers' semifinal and final completion reports, and the *Briefalogue* assessment written by the DPC on postwar uses of the plant. The second group of records viewed were Naval Property Records that pertained to land acquisitions, maintenance, and the function or role of the Navy at NWIRP Dallas. In addition to the archives at College Park, the research team reviewed records at the downtown branch of the National Archives, located in Washington, DC. The Project Historian and Associate Historian reviewed and copied files related to purchase orders for aircraft manufactured at NWIRP Dallas during World War II and correspondence between the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics and North American Aviation, the original lessee of NWIRP Dallas. The Associate Historian also spent an entire day reviewing and copying operational records at the Naval Historical Center Library and Archives at the Washington Naval Yard. These records

showed the functional relationship between NAS Dallas and NWIRP Dallas.

In March 1999, two Associate Historians from HHM&M made a subsequent trip to the Dallas area, visiting the Southwest Regional Branch of the National Archives in Ft. Worth, Texas. Records of NWIRP Dallas from 1947 through the early 1980s were viewed and copied, including correspondence between various tenants of the facility and the Navy, contracts for aircraft and missiles, property evaluations dated 1945 and 1970, photographs of the property during the 1970s, a detailed property and equipment inventory dated 1970, and environmental impacts of NWIRP Dallas on the local area from 1945–1975. The Associate Historians returned to the facility to obtain historic and aerial photographs of NWIRP Dallas dating from World War II to present day. The photographs detailed the general development of the plant over time and the way in which the cities of Dallas and Grand Prairie grew in relation to NWIRP Dallas. The Associate Historians obtained important historical photos of manufacturing activities during World War II for the period that North American Aviation occupied NWIRP Dallas, as well as photos for the early TEMCO and Chance Vought years of 1947–55. Included in this group were photos detailing the buildings, resources, and land during these time periods.

The Associate Historians also obtained both primary and secondary source materials from other repositories in the Dallas metropolitan area, the most important of which was the Dallas Public Library. The Library's holdings were quite extensive and included brochures and vertical subject files. Among the most useful materials that the Historians examined were copies of the *Dallas Morning News*, *The Grand Prairie Texan*, and the now-defunct *Dallas Times Herald*. The vertical files provided the historians with a wealth of information on operational activities at NWIRP Dallas from 1940–82, including products manufac-

tured at the plant and their contributions to World War II and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, production contracts awarded to the tenants of the facility, labor relations, hiring and layoff patterns, employee activities on the job and off, and the importance of the NWIRP Dallas to the cities of Dallas and Grand Prairie.

In April 1999, the Associate Historian visited the Inglewood Public Library in Inglewood, California, to view copies of the *North American Skyline*, the corporate newsletter for North American Aviation, Inc. during World War II. Unfortunately, the library had no copies pertaining to activities at Dallas. While in California, the Associate Historian examined materials at the SeaBee Museum, Naval Construction Battalion Center in Port Hueneme, where she viewed and copied Real Property Cards for buildings at NWIRP Dallas from 1940–55. Also copied were documents detailing the relationship between NWIRP Dallas and NAS Dallas.

The Project Historian and Associate Historian also undertook extensive research in Austin, Texas. The University of Texas Library System contained a wealth of primary and secondary source materials. The University's central repository, the Perry-Castañeda Library, was particularly useful. Historians examined vertical subject files and historic maps. The University of Texas Engineering Library provided copies of journals related to specific jet aircraft and missile programs developed at NWIRP Dallas during the Cold War period. Historians also gleaned much useful information about the life and career of Albert Kahn from the University's Architecture and Planning Library. The Associate Historian also obtained supplemental information about Kahn from several Internet web sites, including one for his still-active firm. Lastly, the recently published "Historic Context for the World War II Ordnance Department's Government-Owned Contractor-Operated (GOCO) Industrial Facilities, 1939–1945" by Kimberly

Kane, was another valuable resource for HHM&M researchers. The report provided important background information about the World War II building program and the national framework of contemporaneous GOCO plants.

From April 26–28, 1999, the Principal Investigator and Historical Architect made a follow-up analysis trip to assess the identified resources on an individual basis and collectively as a potential historic district(s). The

Principal Investigator viewed all resources at the facility and assessed their potential eligibility under applicable NHPA criteria and criteria considerations. The Principal Investigator also located a 1953–54 facility map and extrapolated changes to resources since that time. The Historical Architect located and copied additional architectural plans and facility reports and completed all field investigations and photographic documentation.