

FIELD AND RESEARCH METHODS

This study has been undertaken to determine if any of the 19 buildings and structures constructed from 1950-1959 at Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP) Dallas are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). An additional task undertaken as part of this survey is to provide the current lessee of NWIRP Dallas, Vought Aircraft Industries, with a management plan on how to deal and preserve its historic properties. The scope of work for HHM's 2001 ICRMP stipulates that all extant resources constructed between 1950-1959 be examined and their relative significance considered relative to aircraft, missile, and space-related manufacturing activities during the Cold War period. 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 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.

FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

The Historical Architect supervised all aspects of the field investigations. Prior to the start of fieldwork, the Historical Architect reviewed information contained in the November 1999 survey report of NWIRP Dallas by Hardy•Heck•Moore & Myers. The Historical Architect also reviewed information furnished by the Department of the Navy and in the form of P164 Real Property Records and Class II Property Records. Additionally, the Historical Architect viewed photographs of the resources taken in October 1998 as part of the initial historic and architectural survey of the plant. Using existing data, the Historical Architect familiarized himself with the 19 buildings and structures constructed between 1950-1956, including their location and salient physical features. Finally, the Historical Architect conducted a field survey of the 19 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, and
 - Photographic reference.
2. Photograph each resource, first digitally and then 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 linked to the inventory in this initial overview process. Additionally, the Historical Architect, using 16 mm large format black-and-white film, photographed those resources identified as Eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
 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 Historian conducted some supplemental facilities-related research on the 19 buildings in May 2001, but often relied on previously collected primary and secondary research as part of the November 1999 survey report of NWIRP Dallas by Hardy•Heck•Moore & Myers. As part of the 1999 survey, the Project Historian viewed and copied records at:

- Naval Historical Center Library and Archives at the Washington Naval Yard, Washington, DC
- Textual Archives Division of the National Archives in College Park, Maryland
- Southwest Regional Branch of the National Archives in Ft. Worth, Texas
- SeaBee Museum, Naval Construction Battalion Center in Port Hueneme, California
- Dallas Public Library, Dallas, Texas
- Inglewood Public Library, Inglewood, California
- Perry-Castaneda Library at the University of Texas in Austin.

Facility records on file at NWIRP Dallas proved invaluable to the Project Historian during the 1999 survey and the 2001 ICRMP. When the Project Historian conducted research at the facility on 9-10 May 2001, she began by collecting and photocopying original architectural plans on file in Facility 2's vault, located on the building's second floor. The Project Historian copied original architectural plans, building elevations, sections, roof plans, and plot maps on Vought Aircraft Industries' full-size Hewlett-Packard cartographic photocopier. On 10 May, the Project Historian continued with facility research by viewing Vought-maintained records on the 3rd floor of Facility 2. Inside several rows of metal file cabinets the Project Historian found records on each of the major buildings at NWIRP Dallas that included contracts, historic photographs, construction details, and modification to the buildings over time. The project historian photocopied the records and scanned the historic photographs for later use in building history section of the 2001 ICRMP report. She also took notes regarding architect, contractor, and date-of-construction for each of the 19 buildings under review.

Also on 10 May 2001, the Project Historian met with Vought Aircraft Industries' Retirees Club, located in an unoccupied building at NWIRP Dallas. She interviewed former employees at the plant that worked exclusively on the Regulus missile program during the Cold War. Persons interviewed included Mr. Bill Michelli, the Regulus Program Director; Mr. Peter Farina, Director of Manufacturing and Production on the Regulus; Mr. Joe A. Milsap, Mechanical Engineer; and, Mr. Joe Engler, a Chance Vought Test Pilot. The Retirees offered incredibly valuable information on design methodology, manufacturing processes, as well as the testing and development history of the missile. The also played a video tape of Regulus II testing at Edwards Air Force Base detailing testing efforts and supplied the Project Historian with formally top secret photographs of manufacturing and shipping practices on the Regulus. Later in the day, Mr. Peter Farina gave the Project Historian a tour of NWIRP Dallas indicating which buildings were involved in the manufacture of the Regulus missile and the role each played in the overall production program. The Project Historian utilized the information she collected to develop individual histories of each of the 19 buildings, evaluate their overall importance in the Regulus program, and write NRHP assessments.

Following facility related research at NWIRP Dallas, the Project Historian conducted extensive secondary source research at the

Engineering Library and the Perry-Castaneda Library at the University of Texas at Austin. Both repositories provided background information on the Regulus missile program and technical information regarding the United States' development of missile-related technology from 1945-1990. The Project Historian also relied on the Internet to supplement research into missile development, especially for technology created around the same time as the Regulus. These three secondary sources permitted the Project Historian to compare the Regulus with other missile programs in order to evaluate its relative importance within the Department of Defense as well as at a local and international level.