

(Oct. 1990)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

**HISTORIC NAME:** Plant "A" Manufacturing Plant

**OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER:** Facility 1, Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP) Dallas

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER:** 9314 Jefferson Boulevard

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION:** N/A

**CITY OR TOWN:** Dallas

**VICINITY:** N/A

**STATE:** Texas

**CODE:** TX

**COUNTY:** Dallas

**CODE:** 113

**ZIP CODE:** 75265-5907

**3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_

determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_

determined not eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_

removed from the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**5. CLASSIFICATION**

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**OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:** Public-Federal

**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** Building

<b>NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTING</b>	<b>NONCONTRIBUTING</b>
	1	0 <b>BUILDINGS</b>
	0	0 <b>SITES</b>
	0	0 <b>STRUCTURES</b>
	0	0 <b>OBJECTS</b>
	1	0 <b>TOTAL</b>

**NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER:** 0

**NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:** Historical and Architectural Resources at  
Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP)  
Dallas, Dallas, Texas

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**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

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**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

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**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:** no style

**MATERIALS:** FOUNDATION concrete  
WALLS ribbed steel, concrete  
ROOF built-up, composition shingles  
OTHER

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheet 7-5)

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**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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**APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA**

- A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

**CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS:** N/A

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Industry

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** 1942-1951

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1942, 1947

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** Allen & Kelley Architects/Stewart, James & Company and Turnball, J. Gordon, Inc.

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-6 through 8-7)

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see *Historic Resources Survey Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant Dallas, Dallas County, Texas*)

**PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS):** N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:**

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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**ACREAGE OF PROPERTY:** approximately 20.5 acres

**UTM REFERENCES:** Zone Easting Northing  
14 689463E 6324443N

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:** The exterior walls of Facility 1 define the boundaries of the property to be nominated. An attached map graphically depicts the boundaries and is used in lieu of a detailed metes and bounds description of the boundaries (see continuation sheet Map-8).

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:** Facility 1 is within an industrial complex that includes over 300 buildings and structures (see continuation sheet Map-9).

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

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**NAME/TITLE:** Laurie A. Pospisil-Gotcher/Historian, Jennifer Ross/Architectural Historian,  
and Thomas P. Eisenhour/Historical Architect

**ORGANIZATION:** Hardy-Heck-Moore (HHM), Inc.

**DATE:** February 2002

**STREET & NUMBER:** 611 S. Congress Avenue, Suite 300

**TELEPHONE:** 512-478-8014

**CITY OR TOWN:** Austin

**STATE:** TX

**ZIP CODE:** 78704

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**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

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**CONTINUATION SHEETS**

**MAPS** (see continuation sheets Map-8 through 9)

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet Photo-10)

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

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**PROPERTY OWNER**

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**NAME:** United States of America: Department of the Navy, Naval Air Systems Command

**STREET & NUMBER:** 47123 Buse Road

**TELEPHONE:**

**CITY OR TOWN:** Patuxent River

**STATE:** MD

**ZIP CODE:** 20670-1547

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Facility 1, NWIRP Dallas  
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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### *Description*

Erected in 1940-1941 in the north-central portion of NWIRP Dallas, Facility 1 is a one story, steel-frame manufacturing building with concrete and ribbed steel exteriors. The rectangular-plan facility displays a variety of roof heights and shapes, including flat, gabled, and truncated gabled. The roof is covered with both composition shingles and built-up roofing materials. A large metal canopy door on the resource's east façade visually dominates the building. Also noteworthy is the building's massive 850,000 square foot size. The facility's interior is dominated by cavernous open spaces necessary for the manufacture of aircraft and other products. Facility 1 retains its historic integrity to a good degree.

Constructed in 1940-1941, Facility 1 is a one-story, blackout-type manufacturing building in the north-central portion of NWIRP Dallas, directly southeast of the main entrance. The rectangular-plan resource sits atop a level terrain and is surrounded on all sides by paved parking lots. Facility 10 -an elevated enclosed passageway appended to the facility's west façade in 1943- connects Facility 1 to Facilities 2, 6, 7, and 11. An 800'-0" x 23'-0" railroad loading dock is adjacent to the facility's south façade.

Facility 1 has a concrete slab-on-grade foundation and utilizes a structural system of steel columns spaced 50'-0' in both directions. Exterior walls are concrete, ribbed steel panels, and flat steel panels. The facility's flat and shallow-gabled roof consists of a metal deck, a layer of rigid insulation board, and built-up or composition shingle roofing supported by steel trusses and purlins.

The corners of the building are raised slightly above the main parapet and project from the line of the facade, forming broad pilasters. Flat steel panels, painted dark gray in contrast to the white facade, border these pilasters. Facility 1's primary entrance, a metal pivoting canopy door, is featured prominently on the north end of the building's east facade. The door consists of three 50'-wide sections that can be opened individually or collectively to provide a 150'-wide opening. Additional door types include sliding doors on the east and west facades, overhead metal doors on the north and south facades, overhead rubber doors on the east and west facades, hinged metal doors on the east and west facades, and aluminum-frame doors with glazing on the west facade. Concrete bomb baffles, a distinctive architectural feature that appears on several buildings at NWIRP Dallas, shield Facility 1's west facade entrances. The baffles are solid concrete panels that are designed to protect building entrances from bomb blasts. Facility 1 was designed to blackout standards and has no windows.

The ground floor of the building, which contains 911,375 square feet of space, originally consisted of a large open room with a few smaller partitioned areas. The ground floor is currently partitioned into specialized manufacturing work areas with only a small number of unpartitioned portions. Partitioned engineering/administrative offices are within a 45,749 square-foot mezzanine located directly above the manufacturing floor. The facility, which measures 900'-0" north/south by 950'-0" east/west, contains a total of 957,124 square feet of useable interior space.

Since its construction, Facility 1 has housed functions related to the manufacture of aircraft and aircraft-related products. It remains on its original site and has undergone only minor interior and exterior alterations. The essential features of its design, such as its overall form, roof shape, and interior space configuration, remain relatively intact. The building retains its historic and architectural integrity to a good degree

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 6

Facility 1, NWIRP Dallas  
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

## *Statement of Significance*

Facility 1 was historically referred to as the Plant "A" Manufacturing Building, and was the product of a massive military construction program in which the Defense Plant Corporation built thousands of highly specialized factories in support of the World War II Industrial Mobilization Program. Throughout its history, the building has functioned as a manufacturing facility and has been used for final assembly and production efforts. It is a massive building that encompasses just less than one million square feet and remains the focal point of what was originally known as the Plant "A" manufacturing. The significance of Facility 1 stems primarily from its associations with important patterns of history, specifically its contributions to aircraft manufacturing efforts during World War II and the Cold War. As such, Facility 1 is directly linked to all aspects of the historic context developed for the activity, *NWIRP Dallas: A World War II and Cold War Aircraft and Missile Manufacturing Plant, 1942-1945 and 1949-1989*. Because of its role in a locally significant military-industrial plant, Facility 1 is eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criteria A.

Facility 1 is a manufacturing building at NWIRP Dallas and is among the activity's most unique and functionally important buildings. It is in the north-central portion of the plant, just southeast of the main entrance. It fronts onto Jefferson Boulevard, the road providing service to the complex. Facility 1 was part of the Plant "A" or initial phase of construction at the plant. As the centerpiece of the industrial complex, the building was among the first to be completed and used.

Once completed, the Facility 1 plant was reportedly the first blackout, windowless, air-conditioned, and artificially lighted airplane factory in America. The blackout design was a measure of protection against possible enemy air attack. The War Department's blackout specifications and features included no external windows, special ventilation, artificial lighting, thick firewalls, and solid exterior walls and roofing. The lack of windows made the building less visible, and thus more difficult to target during a nighttime bombing attack.

The main floor, with 911,375 usable square feet of manufacturing floor space, was widely considered by the War Department, DPC, and industrial analysts across the United States in 1942 to be among the largest industrial rooms in the world. Facility 1 was specifically intended to accommodate the production and manufacture of the single-engine AT-6 *Texan* trainer and the single-engine P-51 *Mustang* fighter aircraft for use by the Army Air Forces in World War II.

North American Aviation's manufacturing operations in Facility 1 began in April 1941 and continued until July 1945. During this period, the Dallas plant reportedly produced more planes than any other plant in the country: 18,661 flyaway units with additional equipment and enough spare parts to build 25,000 more aircraft. North American employees produced over 15,000 AT-6 *Texan* trainers and 8,000 P-51 *Mustang* fighters in Facility 1 and averaged 18 and 16 planes per day, respectively. In a single 30-day period, workers in Facility 1 built 728 AT-6 *Texans* and P-51 *Mustangs*, a production mark unsurpassed in U.S. industrial and aircraft manufacturing history.

Briefly abandoned in 1945 after North American Aviation ceased operations at the plant, the building and surrounding support buildings were leased to TEMCO in 1947. TEMCO used Facility 1 to manufacture F-24 Fairchild, as well as assemblies and subassemblies for the C-82 Packet and Globe Swift aircraft. While the building continued to be used principally for the manufacture of aircraft, it was also a variety of missile and aerospace production as TEMCO expanded its product lines.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Facility 1, NWIRP Dallas  
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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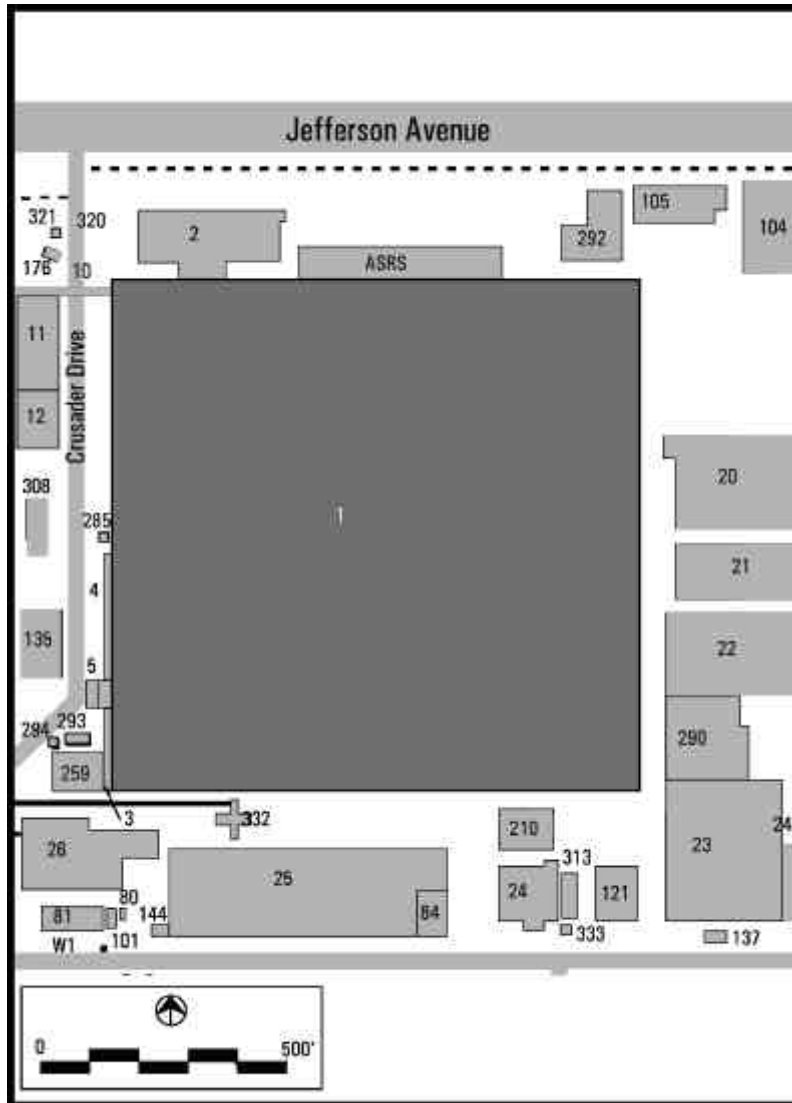
In 1960 TEMCO merged with Ling-Altec Electronics to form Ling-TEMCO and, in 1961, merged with Chance Vought. The newly created company, LTV, utilized Facility 1 for the manufacture of items related to the space program and for the production of Vought-designed missiles, such as the \$9.2 million Scout Missile Program. Northrop Grumman of El Segundo, California, purchased LTV in 1992 and assumed operations at NWIRP Dallas. Northrop Grumman manufactured large assemblies for the B-2 Stealth Bomber in Facility 1. The company subsequently shipped these items to its Southern California manufacturing plants for final production. Vought Aircraft Industries is the current tenant and uses Facility 1 for manufacturing purposes.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Map Page 8

Facility 1, NWIRP Dallas  
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas



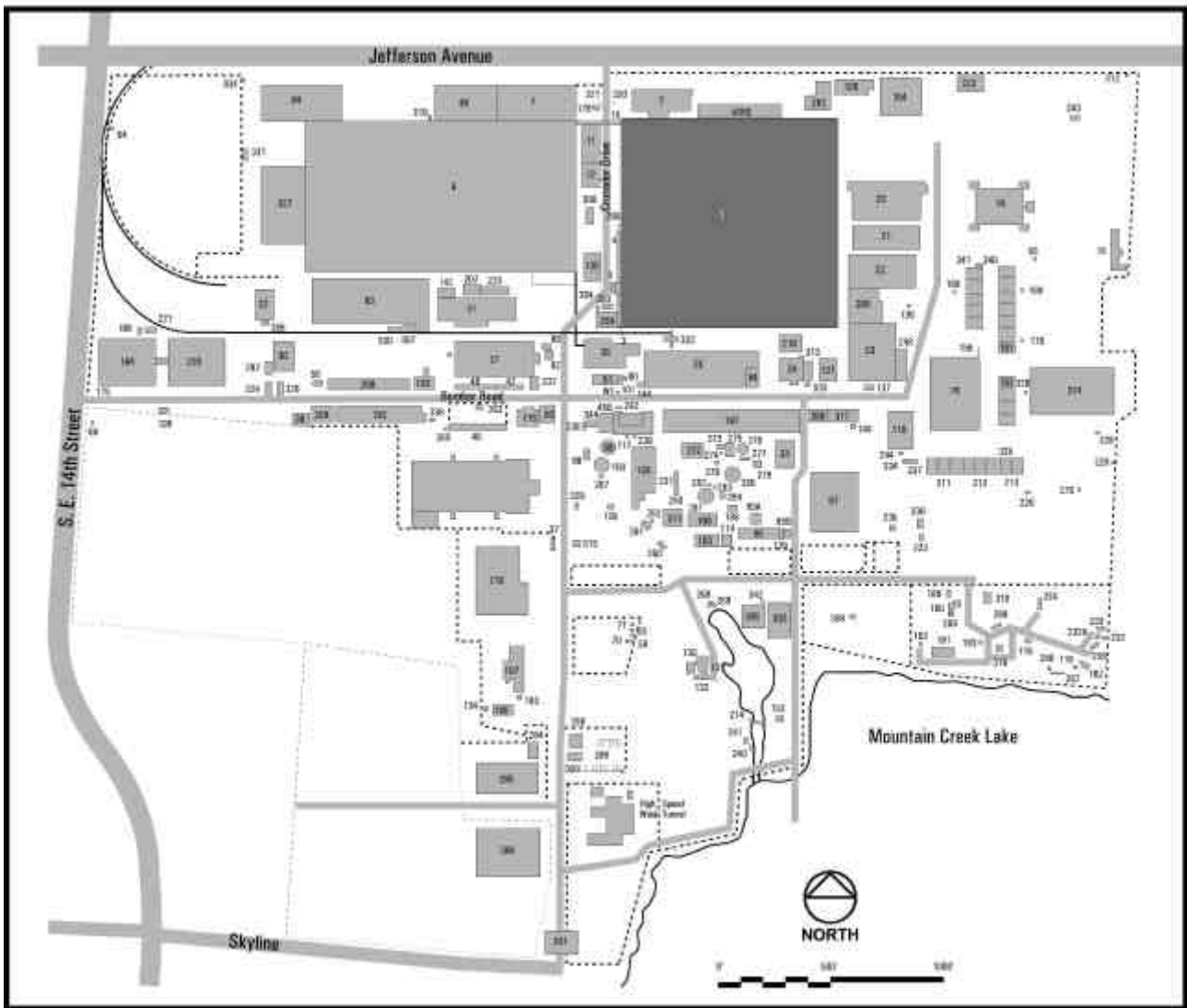
NWIRP Dallas, site plan showing Facility 1

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Map Page 9

Facility 1, NWIRP Dallas  
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas



NWIRP Dallas, site plan showing Facility 1

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photo Page 10

Facility 1, NWIRP Dallas  
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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## Photo Log

### Facility 1

Plant "A" Manufacturing Plant/  
Facility 1, Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP) Dallas  
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas  
Photographed by Thomas Eisenhour  
March 2001  
Negative with HHM Inc.  
Detail of west façade, camera facing northeast  
Photograph 1 of 3

Plant "A" Manufacturing Plant/  
Facility 1, Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP) Dallas  
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas  
Photographed by Thomas Eisenhour  
March 2001  
Negative with HHM Inc.  
Detail of east façade, camera facing southwest  
Photograph 2 of 3

Plant "A" Manufacturing Plant/  
Facility 1, Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP) Dallas  
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas  
Photographed by Thomas Eisenhour  
March 2001  
Negative with HHM Inc.  
Interior, camera facing west  
Photograph 3 of 3



Detail of W facade of Facility 1, camera facing NE



Detail of E facade of Facility 1, camera facing SW



Interior of Facility 1, camera facing W