

(Oct. 1990)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Facility 97, Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP) Dallas

OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: Engineer Flight Test Hangar

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A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 x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x 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):

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Public-Federal

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	0 TOTAL

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

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

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: INDUSTRIAL/manufacturing facility

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: INDUSTRIAL/manufacturing facility

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: no style

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

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 7-5)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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: Industrial

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1954-1975

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1954, 1962

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Smith, Harwood K. & Miles, Joseph M./O'Rourke Construction Company

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

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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:

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: approximately 1.6 acres

UTM REFERENCES Zone Easting Northing
 14 689635E 3624082N

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The exterior walls of Facility 6 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 97 is within an industrial complex that includes over 300 buildings and structures (see continuation sheet Map-9).

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

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

DATE: November 1, 2001

STREET & NUMBER: 611 S. Congress, Suite 300

TELEPHONE: 512-478-8014

CITY OR TOWN: Austin

STATE: TX

ZIP CODE: 78704

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheets Map-8 through 9)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-10)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

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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Facility 97, NWIRP Dallas
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Description

Facility 97, constructed in 1954, is a massive five-story hangar with a flat, built-up roof. The rectangular-plan building utilizes steel-frame construction and is clad with ribbed steel siding and concrete. Situated within the southeast portion of NWIRP Dallas, Facility 97's most distinctive features include a control tower on its roof and large overhead pivoting doors on its north and south facades. The property is in good condition and has undergone no major alterations. Facility 97 retains its architectural integrity to a good degree.

Constructed in 1954, Facility 97 is a hangar-type manufacturing building in the southeast portion of NWIRP Dallas. The facility sits atop a level terrain directly southeast of Facility 33 with paved parking lots surrounding. A 396'-long concrete loading ramp was appended to the facility's south façade a year after it was constructed.

The facility utilizes a concrete foundation and a steel-frame structural system. Facility 97 has a multi-level flat roof constructed of ribbed metal decking, insulation board, and built-up roofing materials. Exterior walls are reinforced concrete up to 5'-6' above the first finished floor, then ribbed steel panels to the roofline.

Metal canopy doors on the facility's north and south facades function as its primary entrances. Each of these doorways feature an integral hinged panel and sliding panels. Additional entries include a set of paired metal doors with vision panels on the building's east facade. Facility 97's windows are industrial, steel-sash units and fixed aluminum-frame units. Additional exterior wall openings include louvered vents and steel ladders on the building's east façade.

The four-story resource measures 213'-0" in width, 253'-0" in length, and houses a total of 70,634 square feet of usable interior space. Facility 97's primary interior space is a large open "high bay" area that is currently used for general materials storage. To the east of the high bay is a two-level mezzanine that currently houses administrative offices. A primary feature of the hangar interior space is a massive underground scale that forms much of the high bay's floor. Although the scale is currently on tin use, throughout the Cold War Era, it was used to weigh and qualify Regulus I and II missiles as well as the F8U Crusader and A-7 Corsair II jet aircraft.

Facility 97 remains on its original site and has undergone no major interior or exterior alterations since its construction in 1954. Although the resource currently functions as a storage facility for aircraft-related materials, it housed functions related to the manufacture and testing of avionic products throughout much of its history. The essential features of Facility 97's design, such as its overall form, roof shape, and interior space configuration, remain intact. The building retains its architectural integrity to a good degree.

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Facility 97, NWIRP Dallas
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Statement of Significance

Since its completion in 1954, Facility 97 has served as an integral part of the manufacturing, testing, and certification processes at NWIRP Dallas. One of the many buildings erected during Chance Vought's Spring Building Program (1952-1956), Facility 97 has strong historical associations to the Chance Vought's most successful Cold War products – the Regulus missile programs, the F8U Crusader, and A-7 Corsair II. When work on the Regulus ended, the function of the building was modified to installation, repair, and testing of avionics on jet aircraft, such as the Crusader and Corsair II. These products were designed and developed exclusively at NWIRP Dallas during the Cold War era and were nationally significant aerospace products. Facility 97 is closely related to the historic context established for the activity, *NWIRP Dallas: A World War II and Cold War Aircraft and Missile Manufacturing Plant, 1942-1945 and 1949-1989*. Because Facility 97 retains much of its historic character and integrity, the facility is eligible for the NRHP under Criterion "A".

On June 18, 1953, construction began on Facility 97, a \$1.7 million jet aircraft and guided missile hangar used initially to test and store production-quality Regulus missiles. One of 17 buildings constructed at NIRAP Dallas (now NWIRP Dallas) as part of Chance Vought Aircraft's Spring Building Program, Facility 97 was designed by Harwood K. Smith & Joseph M. Miles, an Architect – Engineer firm based in Dallas. The more than 70,000 square foot hangar was not of standardized construction, but unique to NWIRP Dallas and designed to the specifications and needs of Vought. The four-story hangar contained a high bay area, electronics test areas, storage, engineering offices, and workroom space for expanded production on the Regulus missile. Vought required this hangar to satisfy Cold War manufacturing demands on the weapons system. The Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks, 8th District, located in New Orleans, Louisiana, approved the architectural drawings and authorized the construction, which was carried out by O'Rourke Construction Company and completed in January 1954 (*Chance Vought News* June 1953: 1-2).

Originally, Vought used Facility 97 exclusively in support of the Regulus missile program. Regulus missiles leaving the Plant "B", Facility 6 production lines were taken to Facility 97 for final installation of the missile's internal avionics components and the individual testing of all electronic systems. Vought Retiree Club members indicated that installation of the missile engine also occurred in Facility 97. Following both of these complex processes, Vought employees moved the production missiles to flight testing, which occurred in Facility 95 and included simulation of engine starting-up, take-off, climb, cruise, and let-down simulation. Once the missile passed testing, it was moved back to Facility 97 for any rework and the official weigh-in. A large commercial scale was built into the floor of Facility 97 to weigh and certify production models. Once all final touches were complete, the missiles were shipped through Facility 93 in specially designed cargo carriers that prevented the Regulus from shifting and possibly damaging its delicate circuitry. Vought delivered the missiles to the Navy either by rail or on commercial trucks (*Chance Vought News* June 1953: 1-2).

In the early 1960s, the Navy cancelled Vought's Regulus missile program and the contractor dedicated Facility 97 to electronic and avionics repair as well as testing of the company's jet aircraft programs. At the time, Vought had just begun full-scale production on its F8U Crusader and used Facility 97 to store the completed jets prior to and following airborne testing at nearby Hensley Field. Vought employees, including a former flight test pilot, indicated that the aircraft would be taken outside Facility 97 and moved into an engine run-up shelter for pre-flight operations. Following clearance, the jet was then moved to Hensley Field for airborne operations. An octagonal flight control room on Facility 97's southeast corner permitted the contractor to observe airborne flights from the building's fourth floor tower. During an

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Facility 97, NWIRP Dallas
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

interview with Vought Retiree Club members, former engineers recalled that some electronics and avionics installation on the F8U Crusader and the A-7 Corsair II occurred in Facility 97 as well as pre-delivery weight and certification.

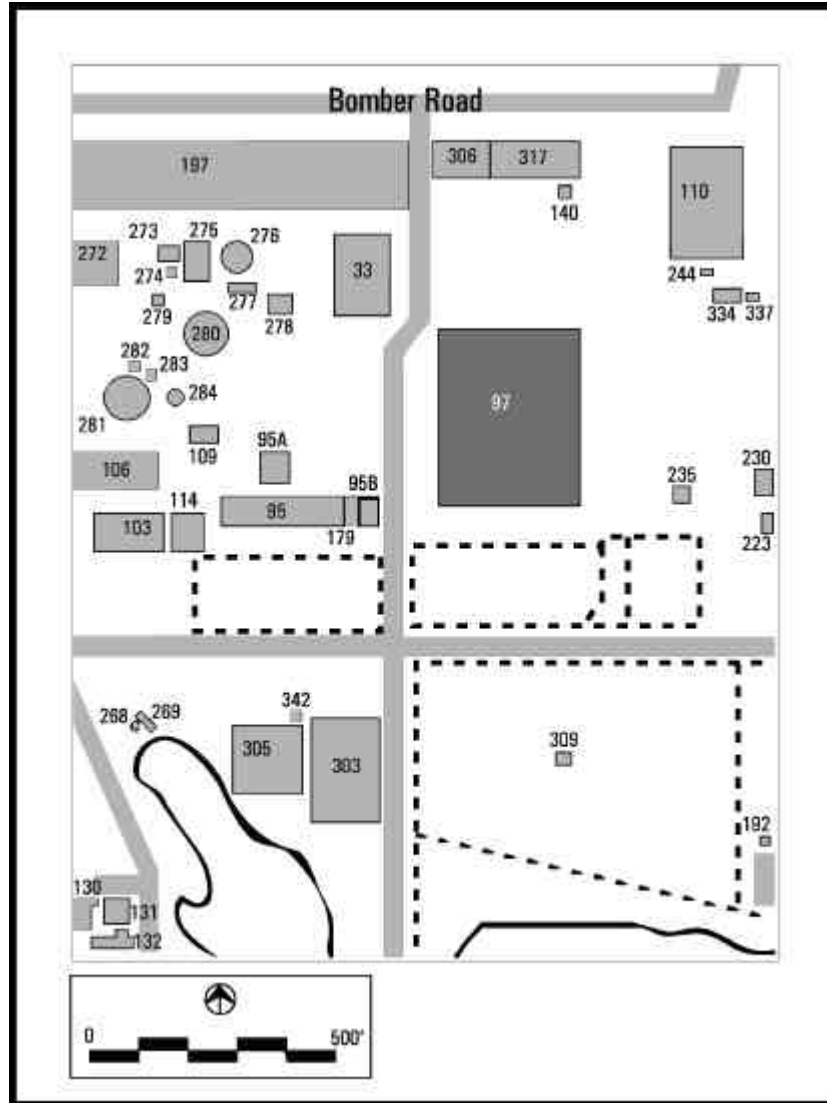
Department of the Navy Class II property records do not exist for Facility 97, and contractor-generated property files do not indicate any significant renovation or alteration. Facility 97 retains its original form, appearance, and location and is still 70,634 square feet. Charles Hampton, one of the Navy's representatives at NWIRP Dallas, reported that the only major work completed at Facility 97 in the past decade has been interior and exterior painting, which occurred plant-wide and reflected a change in tenancy. Currently, the majority of Facility 97 is used as a storage space for high volume quantities of steel, metal, and composites in various shapes and sizes. They are stored in tall steel shelves similar to those found in Facility 93 and Facility 94, except in much higher quantities and volume. The varying shapes and sizes of the materials require that they be moved with a forklift to the manufacturing spaces at NWIRP Dallas. The eastern portion of the hangar is unoccupied and is used to store discarded office partitions.

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Section Map Page 8

Facility 97, NWIRP Dallas
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas



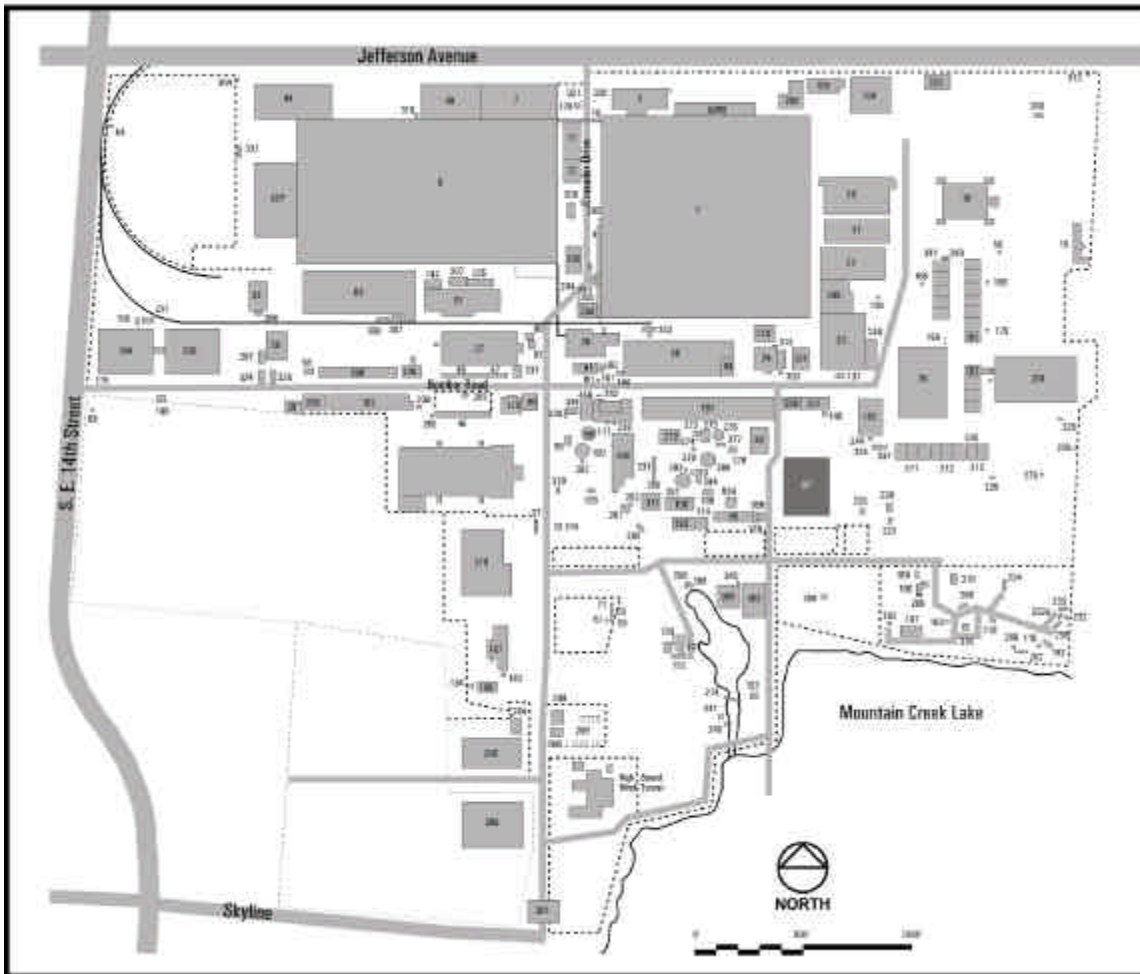
NWIRP Dallas, site plan showing Facility 97

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Facility 97, NWIRP Dallas
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas



NWIRP Dallas, site plan showing Facility 97

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Section Photo Page 10

Facility 97, NWIRP Dallas
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Photo Log

Facility 97

Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP) Dallas, Facility 97

Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Photographed by Thomas Eisenhour

October 2001

Negative with HHM Inc.

North and east facades, camera facing southwest

Photograph 1 of 3

Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP) Dallas, Facility 97

Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Photographed by Thomas Eisenhour

October 2001

Negative with HHM Inc.

South and west facades, camera facing northeast

Photograph 2 of 3

Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP) Dallas, Facility 97

Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Photographed by Thomas Eisenhour

October 2001

Negative with HHM Inc.

Detail of east façade, camera facing southwest

Photograph 3 of 3



N and E facades of Facility 97, camera facing SW



S and W facades of Facility 97, camera facing NE



Detail of E facade of Facility 97, camera facing SW