HISTORIC PROPERTIES REPORT

U.S. ARMY ST. LOUIS AREA SUPPORT CENTER

ILLINOIS

FINAL REPORT

JULY 1984

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The U.S. Army St. Louis Area Support Center, a part of the U.S. Army Aviation Systems Command, is a government-owned, contractor-operated installation in Madison County, Illinois, located directly across the Mississippi River from St. Louis. Constructed during World War II, the installation was originally a Corps of Engineers depot that housed engineer supply and maintenance schools from 1943 to 1945. Half of its present 114 buildings were constructed by war's end, and in the post-war years 57 new housing, storage, and maintenance facilities were erected. After 1962 the installation's name changed several times, and in 1980 it became a government-owned, contractor-operated facility. In 1976, it assumed its current mission of providing administrative and logistic services to Army and other federal agencies in the St. Louis area. There are no Category I, II, or III historic properties at the St. Louis Area Support Center.
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PREFACE

This report presents the results of an historic properties survey of the U.S. Army St. Louis Area Support Center. Prepared for the United States Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command (DARCOM), the report is intended to assist the Army in bringing this installation into compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and its amendments, and related federal laws and regulations. To this end, the report focuses on the identification, evaluation, documentation, nomination, and preservation of historic properties at the U.S. Army St. Louis Area Support Center. Chapter 1 sets forth the survey's scope and methodology; Chapter 2 presents an architectural, historical, and technological overview of the installation and its properties; and Chapter 3 identifies significant properties by Army category and sets forth preservation recommendations. Illustrations and an annotated bibliography supplement the text.

This report is part of a program initiated through a memorandum of agreement between the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Department of the Army. The program covers 74 DARCOM installations and has two components: 1) a survey of historic properties (districts, buildings, structures, and objects), and 2) the development of archeological overviews. Stanley H. Fried, Chief, Real Estate Branch of Headquarters DARCOM, directed the program for the Army, and Dr. Robert J. Kapsch, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) directed the program for the National Park Service. Sally Kress Tompkins was program manager, and Robie S. Lange was project manager for the historic properties survey. Technical assistance was provided by Donald C. Jackson.
Building Technology Incorporated acted as primary contractor to HABS/HAER for the historic properties survey. William A. Brenner was BTI's principal-in-charge, and Dr. Larry D. Lankton was the chief technical consultant. The MacDonald and Mack Partnership was a major subcontractor. The author of this report was Barbara E. Hightower. The author gratefully acknowledges the help of the base Facilities Engineer, Alan Brandt and Sue Sigite of the Installation Management Division; Red Greaney, the Chief of Buildings and Grounds; and Marilyn Brusewitz, and Gary Gutzman of the Facilities Engineers Division.

The complete HABS/HAER documentation for this installation will be included in the HABS/HAER collections at the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, under the designation HAER No. IL-17.
Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

SCOPE

This report is based on an historic properties survey conducted in 1984 of all Army-owned properties located within the official boundaries of the U.S. Army St. Louis Area Support Center. The survey included the following tasks:

- Completion of documentary research on the history of the installation and its properties.
- Completion of a field inventory of all properties at the installation.
- Preparation of a combined architectural, historical, and technological overview for the installation.
- Evaluation of historic properties and development of recommendations for preservation of these properties.

Also completed as a part of the historic properties survey of the installation, but not included in this report, are HABS/HAER Inventory cards for 44 individual properties. These cards, which constitute HABS/HAER Documentation Level IV, will be provided to the Department of the Army. Archival copies of the cards, with their accompanying photographic negatives, will be transmitted to the HABS/HAER collections at the Library of Congress.

The methodology used to complete these tasks is described in the following section of this report.
METHODOLOGY

1. **Documentary Research**

The U.S. Army St. Louis Area Support Center was initially constructed by the Corps of Engineers between 1942 and 1945 as the Granite City Engineer Depot. Documentary research conducted at the U.S. Army St. Louis Area Support Center, the Granite City Public Library, and Southern Illinois University focused on the physical development of the installation and on its pre-military land use. The Illinois State Historic Preservation Office was contacted about possible historic properties at the installation, but no properties were identified through this source.

Army records used for the field inventory included current Real Property Inventory (RPI) printouts that listed all officially recorded buildings and structures by facility classification and date of construction; the installation's property records; base maps and photographs supplied by installation personnel; and various reports and documents relating to master planning and environmental assessment. A complete listing of this documentary material may be found in the bibliography.

2. **Field Inventory**

The field inventory was conducted by Barbara E. Hightower during a three-day period in April 1984. Facilities Engineer Alan Brandt served as the point of contact and Sue Sigite of the Installation Management
Division was survey escort. Red Greaney, Marilyn Brusewitz, and Gary Gutzman of the Facilities Engineer's Office provided access to the installation's property records, maps, drawings, photographs, and historical materials.

Field inventory procedures were based on the HABS/HAER Guidelines for Inventories of Historic Buildings and Engineering and Industrial Structures. All areas and properties were visually surveyed. Building locations and approximate dates of construction were noted from the installation's property records and field-verified.

Field inventory forms were prepared for, and black and white 35 mm photographs taken of all buildings and structures through 1945 except basic utilitarian structures of no architectural, historical, or technological interest. When groups of similar ("prototypical") buildings were found, one field form was normally prepared to represent all buildings of that type. Field inventory forms were also completed for representative post-1945 buildings and structures. Information collected on the field forms was later evaluated, condensed, and transferred to HABS/HAER Inventory cards.

3. Historic Overview

A combined architectural, historical, and technological overview was prepared from information developed from the documentary research and the field inventory. It was written in two parts: 1) an introductory description of the installation, and 2) a history of the installation by
periods of development, beginning with pre-military land uses. Maps and photographs were selected to supplement the text as appropriate.

The objectives of the overview were to 1) establish the periods of major construction at the installation, 2) identify important events and individuals associated with specific historic properties, 3) describe patterns and locations of historic property types, and 4) analyze specific building and industrial technologies employed at the installation.

4. Property Evaluation and Preservation Measures

Based on information developed in the historic overviews, properties were first evaluated for historic significance in accordance with the eligibility criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. These criteria require that eligible properties possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and that they meet one or more of the following:

A. Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B. Are associated with the lives of persons significant in the nation's past.

C. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, represent the work of a master, possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
D. Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history.

Properties thus evaluated were further assessed for placement in one of five Army historic property categories as described in Army Regulation 420-40:

- **Category I**: Properties of major importance
- **Category II**: Properties of importance
- **Category III**: Properties of minor importance
- **Category IV**: Properties of little or no importance
- **Category V**: Properties detrimental to the significance of adjacent historic properties

Based on an extensive review of the architectural, historical, and technological resources identified on DARCOM installations nationwide, four criteria were developed to help determine the appropriate categorization level for each Army property. These criteria were used to assess the importance not only of properties of traditional historical interest, but of the vast number of standardized or prototypical buildings, structures, and production processes that were built and put into service during World War II, as well as of properties associated with many post-war technological achievements. The four criteria were often used in combination and are as follows:

1. **Degree of importance as a work of architectural, engineering, or industrial design.** This criterion took into account the qualitative factors by which design is normally judged: artistic merit, workmanship, appropriate use of materials, and functionality.
2) **Degree of rarity as a remaining example of a once widely used architectural, engineering, or industrial design or process.** This criterion was applied primarily to the many standardized or prototypical DARCOM buildings, structures, or industrial processes. The more widespread or influential the design or process, the greater the importance of the remaining examples of the design or process was considered to be. This criterion was also used for non-military structures such as farmhouses and other once prevalent building types.

3) **Degree of integrity or completeness.** This criterion compared the current condition, appearance, and function of a building, structure, architectural assemblage, or industrial process to its original or most historically important condition, appearance, and function. Those properties that were highly intact were generally considered of greater importance than those that were not.

4) **Degree of association with an important person, program, or event.** This criterion was used to examine the relationship of a property to a famous personage, wartime project, or similar factor that lent the property special importance.

The majority of DARCOM properties were built just prior to or during World War II, and special attention was given to their evaluation. Those that still remain do not often possess individual importance, but collectively they represent the remnants of a vast construction undertaking whose architectural, historical, and technological importance needed to be assessed before their numbers diminished further. This
assessment centered on an extensive review of the military construction of the 1940-1945 period, and its contribution to the history of World War II and the post-war Army landscape.

Because technology has advanced so rapidly since the war, post-World War II properties were also given attention. These properties were evaluated in terms of the nation's more recent accomplishments in weaponry, rocketry, electronics, and related technological and scientific endeavors. Thus the traditional definition of "historic" as a property 50 or more years old was not germane in the assessment of either World War II or post-war DARCOM buildings and structures; rather, the historic importance of all properties was evaluated as completely as possible regardless of age.

Property designations by category are expected to be useful for approximately ten years, after which all categorizations should be reviewed and updated.

Following this categorization procedure, Category I, II, and III historic properties were analyzed in terms of:

- **Current structural condition and state of repair.** This information was taken from the field inventory forms and photographs, and was often supplemented by rechecking with facilities engineering personnel.

- **The nature of possible future adverse impacts to the property.** This information was gathered from the installation's master planning documents and rechecked with facilities engineering personnel.
Based on the above considerations, the general preservation recommendations presented in Chapter 3 for Category I, II, and III historic properties were developed. Special preservation recommendations were created for individual properties as circumstances required.

5. Report Review

Prior to being completed in final form, this report was subjected to an in-house review by Building Technology Incorporated. It was then sent in draft to the subject installation for comment and clearance and, with its associated historical materials, to HABS/HAER staff for technical review. When the installation cleared the report, additional draft copies were sent to DARCOM, the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer, and, when requested, to the archeological contractor performing parallel work at the installation. The report was revised based on all comments collected, then published in final form.

NOTES


2. Representative post-World War II buildings and structures were defined as properties that were: (a) "representative" by virtue of construction type, architectural type, function, or a combination of these, (b) of obvious Category I, II, or III historic importance, or (c) prominent on the installation by virtue of size, location, or other distinctive feature.


Chapter 2

HISTORICAL REVIEW

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Army St. Louis Area Support Center is a government-owned, contractor-operated installation under the U.S. Army Aviation Systems Command. It is located directly across the Mississippi River from St. Louis on 895 acres in Madison County, Illinois, below the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. Constructed on reclaimed swampland during World War II, the installation served as a Corps of Engineers depot and housed engineer supply and maintenance schools from 1943 until war's end. Between 1942 and 1945, 57 of the installation's present 114 buildings were constructed, and in the post-war years, 57 additional housing, storage, and maintenance facilities were erected. The installation served as an engineer depot until 1962 when it was transferred to the U.S. Army Supply and Maintenance Command and redesignated the Granite City Army Depot. It was renamed the St. Louis Area Support Center in 1971. In 1976, the installation assumed its present mission of providing administrative and logistic services to Army and other federal agencies in the St. Louis area. It became a government-owned, contractor-operated facility in 1980 and is currently operated by Avco Services Corporation. (Illustration 1)

SITE SELECTION AND WORLD WAR II CONSTRUCTION

In the early spring of 1942, the Army Corps of Engineers filed a petition for condemnation of approximately 1,200 acres located within the corporate
limits of Granite City, Illinois for the construction of an engineer depot. Although much of the site was swampland, it was advantageously located. Twenty-seven railroads and waterways, including the Mississippi River on its western boundary, were readily accessible. Many of the factories that supplied engineering equipment were located in the midwest, and the St. Louis metropolitan area provided a good pool of labor. At the time of acquisition, the property (then largely owned by railroads, industries, and private individuals) contained a few scattered houses, barns and outbuildings; all of these were subsequently demolished or removed.

Work on the depot began immediately after land acquisition and was directed by the St. Louis Engineer District. Since much of the site was low lying swampland, it had to be made stable enough to support large warehouses and heavy equipment. A new levee was constructed nearer the river, allowing reclamation of much of the installation's acreage, and tons of cinders, rock, and gravel were added as fill. Major construction contracts were awarded to Tarlton-MacDonald Construction Company and Dickie Construction Company for the erection of warehouses, a headquarters building, a firehouse, a railroad engine shelter, an officers' quarters, and 27 miles of rail trackage. Construction continued until war's end with the addition of housing, training, storage, and barge loading facilities.

During the war years, the depot served as a major storage and issue point for engineer troop equipment and lend-lease supplies. By the end of 1942, four warehouses, a covered shed, a flammable materials storehouse, and a hard surfaced area at the south end of the site provided over 3,500,000
square feet of covered and open storage space for supplies. The large warehouses (Buildings 306-309) have heavy timber structural frames, brick walls, a central monitor and rail and road access on their principal sides. The flammable materials storehouse is a brick structure with a concrete frame. Over the next three years, additional storage buildings were erected nearby. These include steel-framed, metal-clad structures originally designed as prefabricated combat hangars (Buildings 341-346 and 414), four metal buildings with vaulted roofs (Buildings 331-333 and 335), and a large brick warehouse (Building 340) similar to the four completed in 1942. Two brick structures, a water pumping plant (Building 300) and a firehouse (Building 305), and a complex of utilitarian wood-frame buildings housing the post engineer's office and shops (Buildings 401-405, 413, and 416-417) were also built in the storage area in 1942-1943.4 (Illustrations 2 and 3)

Construction in the administration area north of the warehouses occurred in two phases. The first phase, in 1942, consisted of the headquarters building (Building 100), officers' quarters (Building 101), a railroad engine shelter (Building 200), a maintenance building (Building 203), and a heating plant (Buildings 202 and 234). All are brick structures with concrete detailing, but with little pretension to architectural style. The second phase resulted from the establishment of engineer supply and maintenance schools at the depot in 1943 and consisted of barracks, classrooms, and support facilities. All were utilitarian wood-frame structures and quonset huts, and most were demolished in the early 1970s. Those remaining were remodeled and converted to other uses (e.g., Buildings 105, 113, 114, 116, and 125).5 (Illustration 4)
Illustration 2  Building 308, view from the south. This is one of four large brick warehouses erected in 1942 to store engineer equipment and lend-lease supplies. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1984, Barbara E. Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)
Illustration 4  Headquarters (Building 100), view from the east. This two-story brick structure was built in 1942 as the depot's headquarters. As with other buildings erected on the depot in that year, there is little pretension to architectural style. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1984, Barbara E. Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)
POST-WAR CONSTRUCTION

The post-war decades were marked by decreased activity at the depot except for the upsurges caused by the Korean and Vietnam Wars. New construction, concentrating on housing, storage, and maintenance, continued at the installation into the 1950s. Housing facilities were improved with the construction of seven two-story, four-unit buildings (Buildings 20-26) in 1948, and again in 1956 and 1957 with the erection of 15 one- and two-story buildings containing 49 units (Buildings 1, 5, 7, 9-15, and 27-31). Two concrete block barracks buildings (Buildings 192 and 193) were built in 1952. Nearly 850,000 square feet of storage space was added in 1952 and 1953 with the construction of four open storage sheds (Buildings 568, 569, 572, and 573), a flammable materials storehouse (Building 444), and a warehouse (Building 500). Two concrete block structures (Buildings 204 and 231) were built in 1953 to house the depot's maintenance functions but were converted to the commissary and post exchange in the mid-1970s. Since the 1950s, construction has been mostly limited to small storage facilities.

The installation remained a Corps of Engineers depot until 1962 when it was transferred to the U.S. Army Supply and Maintenance Command and redesignated the Granite City Army Depot. Four years later, the U.S. Army Materiel Command assumed control of the depot. In 1971 it was placed under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Aviation Systems Command, deactivated as a depot, and renamed the St. Louis Area Support Center. Subsequent changes in command took place in 1977 (U.S. Army Troop Support and Aviation Materiel Readiness Command) and 1984 (U.S. Army Aviation Systems Command). In 1976, the installation's mission was changed to one of providing administrative and logistic service to Army and other federal
government agencies in the St. Louis area. The support center became a
government-owned, contractor-operated activity in 1980; the operator con-
tract was awarded first to Operations and Maintenance Services, a subsidiary
of RCA Services Company, and two years later to Aveo Services Corporation.6

NOTES

1. "Two Sections of Land to Be Condemned for War Depot," Granite City
Press Record (Granite City, Illinois), 6 April 1942, p. 1. Transfers of
property in 1956, 1960, and 1978 reduced the site to its current size of
895 acres. Facilities Engineering Division, "Real Property Utilization
Report, U.S. Army St. Louis Area Support Center, Granite City, Illinois"
(30 March 1984), p. 36.

2. Facilities Engineering Division, "Real Property Utilization Report,"
pp. 35-36; "12th Anniversary Salute to the Granite City Engineer Depot,
July 31, 1954 Celebration," Granite City Press Record (Granite City,
Illinois), 26 July 1954, p. 3-B.

3. The barge loading facilities completed in 1944 were deactivated at war's
end. Facilities Engineering Division, "Real Property Utilization Report,"
p. 1; "12th Anniversary Salute to the Granite City Engineer Depot,"
p. 2-B; "Tarlton-MacDonald Awarded Contract for Engineering Branch
Depot," Granite City Press Record (Granite City, Illinois), 18 May 1942,
p. 1.

4. "12th Anniversary Salute to the Granite City Engineer Depot," p. 3-B.
The open storage shed built in 1942 was destroyed by fire in August
1944. Ibid, p. 4-B. One of the prefabricated combat hangars (Building
345) has been demolished.

5. "12th Anniversary Salute to the Granite City Engineer Depot," pp. 2-B
and 3-B. Blanche D. Coll, Jean E. Keith, and Herbert H. Rosenthal,
The Corps of Engineers: Troops and Equipment (Washington, D.C.:
Office of the Chief of Military History, 1958), p. 263; Facilities Engi-
neering Division, "Real Property Utilization Report," p. 3.

Chapter 3

PRESERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

BACKGROUND

Army Regulation 420-40 requires that an historic preservation plan be developed as an integral part of each installation's planning and long range maintenance and development scheduling. The purpose of such a program is to:

- Preserve historic properties to reflect the Army's role in history and its continuing concern for the protection of the nation's heritage.
- Implement historic preservation projects as an integral part of the installation's maintenance and construction programs.
- Find adaptive uses for historic properties in order to maintain them as actively used facilities on the installation.
- Eliminate damage or destruction due to improper maintenance, repair, or use that may alter or destroy the significant elements of any property.
- Enhance the most historically significant areas of the installation through appropriate landscaping and conservation.

To meet these overall preservation objectives, the general preservation recommendations set forth below have been developed:

Category I Historic Properties

All Category I historic properties not currently listed on or nominated to the National Register of Historic Places are assumed to be eligible for
nomination regardless of age. The following general preservation recommendations apply to these properties:

a) Each Category I historic property should be treated as if it were on the National Register, whether listed or not. Properties not currently listed should be nominated. Category I historic properties should not be altered or demolished. All work on such properties shall be performed in accordance with Sections 106 and 110(f) of the National Historic Preservation Act as amended in 1980, and the regulations of the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP) as outlined in the "Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR 800).

b) An individual preservation plan should be developed and put into effect for each Category I historic property. This plan should delineate the appropriate restoration or preservation program to be carried out for the property. It should include a maintenance and repair schedule and estimated initial and annual costs. The preservation plan should be approved by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council in accordance with the above referenced ACHP regulation. Until the historic preservation plan is put into effect Category I historic properties should be maintained in accordance with the recommended approaches of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Revised Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings and in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.
c) Each Category I historic property should be documented in accordance with Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) Documentation Level II, and the documentation submitted for inclusion in the HABS/HAER collections in the Library of Congress. When no adequate architectural drawings exist for a Category I historic property, it should be documented in accordance with Documentation Level I of these standards. In cases where standard measured drawings are unable to record significant features of a property or technological process, interpretive drawings also should be prepared.

Category II Historic Properties

All Category II historic properties not currently listed on or nominated to the National Register of Historic Places are assumed to be eligible for nomination regardless of age. The following general preservation recommendations apply to these properties:

a) Each Category II historic property should be treated as if it were on the National Register, whether listed or not. Properties not currently listed should be nominated. Category II historic properties should not be altered or demolished. All work on such properties shall be performed in accordance with Sections 106 and 110(f) of the National Historic Preservation Act as amended in 1980, and the regulations of the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP) as outlined in the "Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR 800).
b) An individual preservation plan should be developed and put into effect for each Category II historic property. This plan should delineate the appropriate preservation or rehabilitation program to be carried out for the property or for those parts of the property which contribute to its historical, architectural, or technological importance. It should include a maintenance and repair schedule and estimated initial and annual costs. The preservation plan should be approved by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council in accordance with the above referenced ACHP regulations. Until the historic preservation plan is put into effect Category II historic properties should be maintained in accordance with the recommended approaches in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Revised Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings and in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.


Category III Historic Properties

The following preservation recommendations apply to Category III historic properties:
a) Category III historic properties listed on or eligible for nomination to the National Register as part of a district or thematic group should be treated in accordance with Sections 106 and 110(f) of the National Historic Preservation Act as amended in 1980, and the regulations of the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation as outlined in the "Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR 800). Such properties should not be demolished and their facades, or those parts of the property that contribute to the historical landscape, should be protected from major modifications. Preservation plans should be developed for groupings of Category III historic properties within a district or thematic group. The scope of these plans should be limited to those parts of each property that contribute to the district or group's importance. Until such plans are put into effect, these properties should be maintained in accordance with the recommended approaches in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Revised Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings and in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

b) Category III historic properties not listed on or eligible for nomination to the National Register as part of a district or thematic group should receive routine maintenance. Such properties should not be demolished, and their facades, or those parts of the property that contribute to the historical landscape, should be protected from modification. If the properties are unoccupied, they
should, as a minimum, be maintained in stable condition and prevented from deteriorating.

HABS/HAER Documentation Level IV has been completed for all Category III historic properties, and no additional documentation is required as long as they are not endangered. Category III historic properties that are endangered for operational or other reasons should be documented in accordance with HABS/HAER Documentation Level III, and submitted for inclusion in the HABS/HAER collections in the Library of Congress. Similar structures need only be documented once.

CATEGORY I HISTORIC PROPERTIES

There are no Category I historic properties at the U.S. Army St. Louis Area Support Center.

CATEGORY II HISTORIC PROPERTIES

There are no Category II historic properties at the U.S. Army St. Louis Area Support Center.

CATEGORY III HISTORIC PROPERTIES

There are no Category III historic properties at the U.S. Army St. Louis Area Support Center.

NOTES


BIBLIOGRAPHY


Facilities Engineering Division, U.S. Army St. Louis Area Support Center. The office has various maps, some early drawings, original real property cards, and construction photographs on file.


"12th Anniversary Salute to the Granite City Engineer Depot, July 31, 1954 Celebration." Granite City Press Record (Granite City, Illinois), 26 July 1954. Contains information on original and subsequent construction and depot mission.

"Two Sections of River Land to Be Condemned for War Depot." Granite City Press Record (Granite City, Illinois), 6 April 1942, p. 1.


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