United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name U.S. Army Publications Distribution Center

other names/site number Sammy L. Davis Army Media Center

2. Location

street & number 1655 Woodson Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Overland ☐ vicinity

state Missouri code MO county St. Louis code 189 zip code 63114

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

__ national __ statewide X local

Signature of certifying official — Date: 8/20/2015

Federal Preservation Officer — U.S. General Services Administration

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ✓ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Toni M. Prawl — May 12, 2015

Signature of commenting official — Date

Director & Deputy SHPO — Missouri Dept. of Nat. Res.

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

__ determined eligible for the National Register

__ determined not eligible for the National Register

__ removed from the National Register

__ other (explain:)

Joe Edson for Beall

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

	private
	public - Local
	public - State
X	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box)

X	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
3	1	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

0

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DEFENSE/Military Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DEFENSE/Military Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement

Other Industrial Modern

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Concrete block

Sheet metal

Stucco finish system

roof: Built-up

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The U.S. Army Publications Distribution Center (APDC) is set back from the west side of Woodson Road on a large parcel of land in Overland, Missouri. Completed in 1953, the facility has the modern industrial aesthetic of a mid-twentieth-century industrial complex. It consists of a large warehouse and an office wing which projects from the east side of the warehouse. The property also includes two contributing support buildings dating to 1953: a mechanical equipment building and a guard shelter, located on the east and south sides, respectively, of the warehouse. A noncontributing "high rise" storage annex constructed in 1988 stands on the west side of the warehouse. Physically separate, the annex is connected to the warehouse by an enclosed hallway.

Narrative Description

See Continuation Sheets 7.1 through 7.9

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- [X] 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 values, 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
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Military

Period of Significance

1953

Significant Dates

1953

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Marcel Boulicault, Inc.

Period of Significance (justification)

The APDC has made a significant contribution to the administrative function of the U.S. Army and its Adjutant General's Office and is significant as an example of the group of consolidated Army operations developed in the greater St. Louis, Missouri area during the Cold War era. Therefore, the period of significance is 1953, representing the construction date of the purpose-built facility.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The APDC in Overland represents the centralization and rationalization of military support functions during the post World War II era and the accomplishment of a critical communications function. This center was built to house a consolidated operation responsible for storing and distributing Army technical and supply publications, recruiting publicity items, classified and accountable publications, forms, and Army personnel testing materials. Designed by St. Louis architect Marcel Boulicault and completed in 1953, the APDC consists of warehouse and office wings that represent the industrial aesthetic that was used at the time and reveal their related functions. Although the historic integrity of the property is fair to good, the APDC still conveys its function and historic significance as a modern facility for the centralized storage and distribution of military publications and documents the presence of a group of centralized military operations in the greater St. Louis area. For these reasons, it meets National Register Criterion A for Military significance at the local level of significance.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

See Continuation Sheets 8.1 through 8.5

The APDC is significance under the Military area of significance as a property that represents the consolidation and modernization of a critical administration function of the U.S. Army Adjutant General's Office during the mid-twentieth century. The establishment of this operation, which performs an essential communication function by distributing publications, manuals, and forms, occurred at the same time the Adjutant General was centralizing other administrative functions. The warehouse and office facility in Overland, Missouri was one of several U.S. Army operations located in the St. Louis area, a location considered ideal, as it was near the center of the continental U.S. and good transportation services. This centralized military function represents the influence of modern American industrial management practice and the development of rationalized communication operations on the military-industrial complex.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See Continuation Sheets 8.1 through 8.5

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)
See Continuation Sheets

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____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
____Other State agency
__X__Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: **General Services Administration**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 35 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	729201	4284895	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)
The APDC is located on the property with the legal description of Pt Shares 1, 3 & 4 and the Clifton G Bailey Farm Lot, Pt 1 in Woodson, Missouri.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)
The nomination consists of the property historically associated with the ADPC except for the acres conveyed to the City of Overland in 1972 for park use.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betsy H. Bradley and Andrew J. Schmidt/ Architectural Historians
organization Summit Envirosolutions, Inc., later revisions by GSA, Center for Historic Buildings
Date September 2010; revised 8/2015
street & number 1217 Bandana Blvd. N.
telephone 651-842-4202
city or town St. Paul
state MN
zip code 55108
e-mail aschmidt@summite.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: U.S. Army Publications Distribution Center

City or Vicinity: Overland

County: St. Louis **State:** Missouri

Photographer: Betsy H. Bradley

Date Photographed: April 2007

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 10. EAST FAÇADE, OFFICE BUILDING, FACING WEST.
2 of 10. EAST FAÇADE, FACING SOUTHWEST.
3 of 10. DETAIL OF ENTRANCE, EAST FAÇADE, FACING WEST.
4 of 10. OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE WINGS, FACING SOUTHWEST.
5 of 10. EAST FAÇADE, WAREHOUSE, FACING SOUTH.
6 of 10. NORTH FAÇADE, WAREHOUSE, FACING WEST.
7 of 10. SOUTH FAÇADE, WAREHOUSE, FACING WEST.
8 of 10. INTERIOR, WAREHOUSE.
9 of 10. INTERIOR, WAREHOUSE.
10 of 10. INTERIOR, LOADING DOCKS, WAREHOUSE.

Property Owner:

(complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name U. S. General Services Administration, Region 6

street & number Two Pershing Square, 2300 Main St telephone 816.823.4905

city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64108-2416

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

U.S, Army Publications Distribution Center
Name of Property
St. Louis County, Missouri
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 1

Description

Summary

The U.S. Army Publications Distribution Center (APDC) is set back from the west side of Woodson Road on a large parcel of land in Overland, Missouri. Completed in 1953, the facility has the modern industrial aesthetic of a mid-twentieth-century industrial complex. It consists of a large warehouse and an office wing which projects from the east side of the warehouse (Figure 1). The property also includes two contributing support buildings dating to 1953: a mechanical equipment building and a guard shelter, located on the east and south sides, respectively, of the warehouse. A noncontributing "high rise" storage annex constructed in 1988 stands on the west side of the warehouse. Physically separate, the annex is connected to the warehouse by an enclosed hallway (Figure 2).

Setting and General Description

The APDC, which has the street address of 1655 Woodson Road, is located on a property that initially consisted of 78 acres of land. Two large parcels of nearly equal size are separated by a 100-foot-wide rail line and right-of-way owned by the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad. The APDC is located on the parcel south of the rail line, and the former Military Personnel Record Center at 9700 Page Avenue is located northwest of the APDC on the north side of the rail corridor, where prominent transmission line towers stand in the right-of-way. The APDC is positioned near the west end of the parcel and is served by underground electrical conduit and steam mains from the boiler plant on the Military Personnel Record Center property. Pickering Drive provides access to the APDC from Woodson Road and connects with a government-owned road, Hand Drive, which extends along the south and west side of the APDC and enters the grounds of the former Military Personnel Record Center. A stream, the River Des Peres, is located near the southern boundary of the property. Approximately seven acres of this parcel was conveyed to the City of Overland for park use in 1972. The city park area is adjacent to Woodson Road and the east end of Pickering Drive and southeast of the APDC.

The APDC warehouse is skewed slightly from the orthogonal grid to be positioned parallel to the rail line (Figure1) and the rail spur that served the center (now removed). A security fence encloses the warehouse and office complex and a small paved parking area on the east side of the warehouse. A mechanical equipment building stands at the northeast corner of the parking lot (Figure 3) and a guard shelter is located on the south side of Pickering Drive at the security fence (Figure 4). A larger parking area located on the east side of the fence is bisected by Pickering Drive. A monument sign identifying the facility stands in the lawn on the south side of Pickering Drive and faces Woodson Road. A narrow lawn surrounds the office wing and a few oak trees on the east end of the property appear to have been planted during the 1950s. A concrete-paved road on the east side of the office wing and south side of the complex connects with wider paved areas on the north and west sides of the warehouse and the parking lot to provide a circulation system within the security fence. Most of the landscaping on the east side of the facility, including the gazebo located near the northeast corner of the warehouse, was installed during the last twenty years.

The functional and modern industrial aesthetic exhibited in the pre-World War II boom in factory construction, influenced the design of both federal and private facilities during the Post-World War II building boom. Many military buildings from the early 1950s, including the APDC and others on military bases, were designed for a particular function and expressed an engineering aesthetic that highlighted function rather than style. Such facilities were designed to provide large, flexible spaces for production and processing layouts and storage. The plain structures that enclosed manufacturing and warehouse space had clean lines with flat roofs, limited fenestration due to the use of fluorescent lighting and air conditioning, and entrance features that were influenced by the Streamlined and International styles. However, few industrial or military buildings of the era

would be considered to fully express the International style.

Architect Marcel Boulicault's design for the APDC reflected these influences. The original APDC facility consists of an office wing and a warehouse, and the functions of the two portions of the complex are expressed in their size, height, and fenestration. The office wing, with its bands of windows and flat entrance canopy, is representative of the Post World War II era industrial aesthetic. The facility shared some architectural features of the architect's other projects of the era. Bold rectangular massing and an emphasis on horizontal banding is evident in Boulicault's projects, from the elegant and high-style Jefferson State Office Building, to the urbane City of St. Louis Health Center, and the functional APDC.

The more utilitarian warehouse demonstrates the standards for functional and flexible interior spaces and climate controlled spaces, which included an air-conditioned printing plant. The warehouse portion of the complex has accommodated changes in materials storage and handling operations. A number of new systems were installed in the warehouse in 1970s. New receiving docks for tractor trailers were constructed, the rail spur was removed, and a new roof and sprinkler system was installed during the 2000s. A "high-rise" annex constructed in 1988 is filled with storage racks and pallets of publications, and is accessed by an automatic storage retrieval system. An automated guided vehicle system that is used throughout the warehouse was installed at this time also. The blue and white color scheme with the stepped forms dates from this period as well.

A rehabilitation of the APDC office wing completed during the late 1980s updated the appearance of the interior and exterior. The office wing originally had brick walls that extended as a parapet wall to edge a flat roof (Figure 5). The long bands of window openings were filled with metal (presumably aluminum) awning sash divided by metal mullions. A flight of concrete steps that led to the front entrance was flanked by a brick wall on its south side and sheltered by a flat canopy supported by two steel poles on the east side. The 1980s project included a refacing of the exterior brick walls with an insulation and stucco veneer product, replacement of the window sash within existing openings, and the redesign of the exterior components of the main entrance. This project maintained the identification of the office wing of the complex while concealing most of the original exterior materials. Changes to the interior include the installation of new flooring materials and dropped ceilings and the removal of the cafeteria kitchen.

The changes made to the APDC have impacted its historic integrity in several ways. The changes to the office wing have concealed and replaced historic materials and affected the integrity of design and workmanship. However, the alterations were sympathetic to the modern aesthetic of the office wing and their impact on the overall feeling of the APDC, which is characterized by its size and general lack of ornamentation, is minimal. The presence of the 1988 high rise annex affects the appearance of the APDC and its setting, although it does not intrude on the relationship between the 1953 office wing and warehouse. The 1998 annex is physically separate from the original building and clearly distinguished from it by its strikingly different massing. The APDC continues to convey its function and historic significance as a modern facility for the centralized storage and distribution of military publications.

The Office Wing

The 18,000 square foot office wing accounts for approximately only 6 percent of the building's footprint. The walls of the office wing have a smooth stucco finish and are capped by a metal coping. The distinguishing feature of the office wing is the long bands of windows centered in the height of the wall. These windows are framed by square-cut limestone heads, sills, and jambs. Two windows meet at the northeast corner of the building. The window openings are filled with metal-framed inoperable sash with nearly square panes.

The main office entrance is located north of center in the east wall. Stucco-finished walls with openings filled

with the same sash used in the office wing walls shelter both sides of the external stoop and steps. A ramp extends along the north wall of the office to provide access to a pair of secondary entrances near the west end of that wall.

The main entrance provides access to a central corridor that bisects the space and leads to the warehouse. Two sets of paired doors define a small entrance vestibule; the exterior doors are metal while the interior ones are wood. The interior space of the office building consists of three large spaces on either side of the hallway, some of which have been subdivided for private offices. A large lunch room is located on the north side of the corridor. Bands of windows in the hallway wall open onto this space, as well as onto a large area on the south side. Interior alterations include new linoleum and carpeting; a dropped ceiling is positioned just above the top of the window openings.

The Warehouse

The 312,000 square foot APDC warehouse is a rectangular space with its long walls parallel to the rail line. The floor of the warehouse is a concrete slab, the painted markings on which indicate routes for the vehicles in the warehouse and pedestrians. Steel columns on 22-foot centers support lightweight bar joists welded to I-beam girders and positioned 3-feet on center to support the roof. The ceiling height is 14 feet. The flat roof of the building was originally formed of pre-cast roof tile of lightweight concrete under built-up roofing; new roofing was installed in 1986.

Concrete block forms most of the east wall and corrugated sheet metal encloses some of its upper wall. Window openings in the east wall have replacement metal sash identical to that of the office wing. Four overhead vehicular bays enclose the recessed loading dock used for shipping located near the center of the east wall. Concrete block encloses the lower half of the south wall and flat sheet-metal siding with vertical joints forms the upper wall. Horizontal band window openings in the upper portion of the south wall are now filled with louvers flanking a small single pane window. Concrete block encloses the entire north wall, which has no window openings. An exterior loading platform with a shed roof supported by metal poles extends along the west end of the north wall, where it initially served the rail spur. Three angled loading docks for receiving materials extend from the west end of the platform.

The interior of the warehouse is divided by fire walls extending east-west through the space. Most of the interior is open to the underside of the roof. Tube fluorescent lights hang parallel to the exposed joists. The parcel sorting area has a dropped ceiling that incorporates closely-set lighting panels. The layout of the equipment for retrieval and shipping moves from receiving and storage areas at the west end of the building eastward to the packing, sorting, and shipping areas in the northeast quadrant of the warehouse. Shipments leave the warehouse from an interior shipping dock, where a group of overhead vehicular doors define loading bays.

In stark contrast to the low and sprawling 1953 warehouse, the “high-rise” annex located on the west side of the warehouse has a compact footprint of 24,000 square feet but has a height equivalent to six stories, although it has no interior floor levels. This annex houses numerous levels of racks served by an automatic storage retrieval system and is filled with pallets of publications stock. This portion of the complex, enclosed with ribbed sheet metal siding, is unheated and has no fenestration. A short enclosed hallway leads from the annex to the north end of west wall of the warehouse to connect the two spaces. The annex is a noncontributing resource.

Support Buildings

The mechanical equipment building is the larger of the two support buildings. Both are small, one story,

utilitarian buildings with flat roofs and concrete block walls. The 400 square foot mechanical equipment building has a pair of metal doors with half glazing, while the 90 square foot guard shelter has a single metal door with half glazing. The guard shelter is lit by double hung windows, The mechanical equipment building has metal louvers in its side walls. Constructed in 1953 to service the original function of the facility and largely unaltered, these buildings are contributing resources.[1]

[1] By letter dated July 29, 2014, the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office concurred with the U.S. General Services Administration that these support buildings are contributing resources.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

U.S, Army Publications Distribution Center
Name of Property St. Louis County, Missouri
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

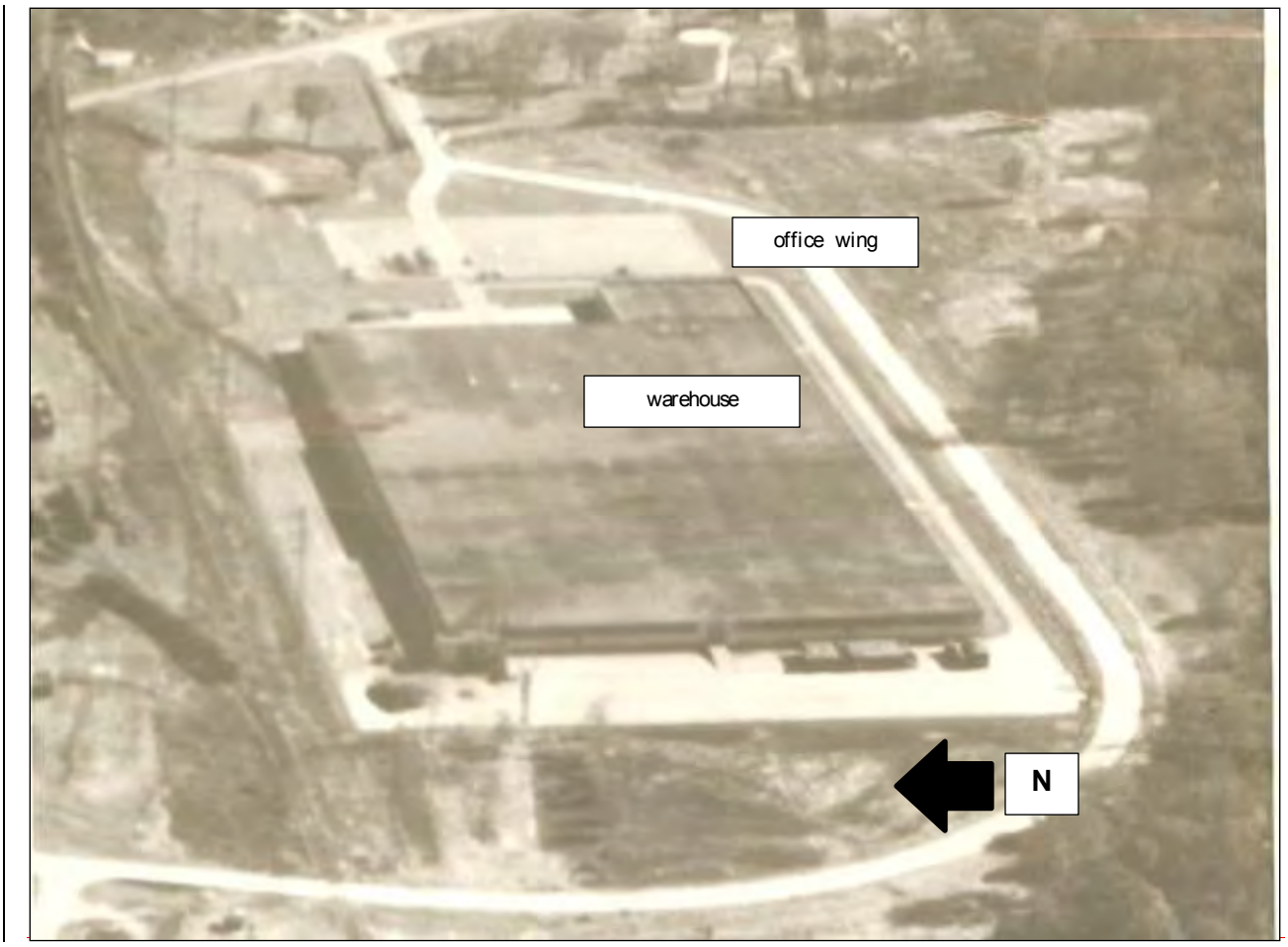

Figure 1. Army Publications Distribution Center, facing Woodson Road, 1953

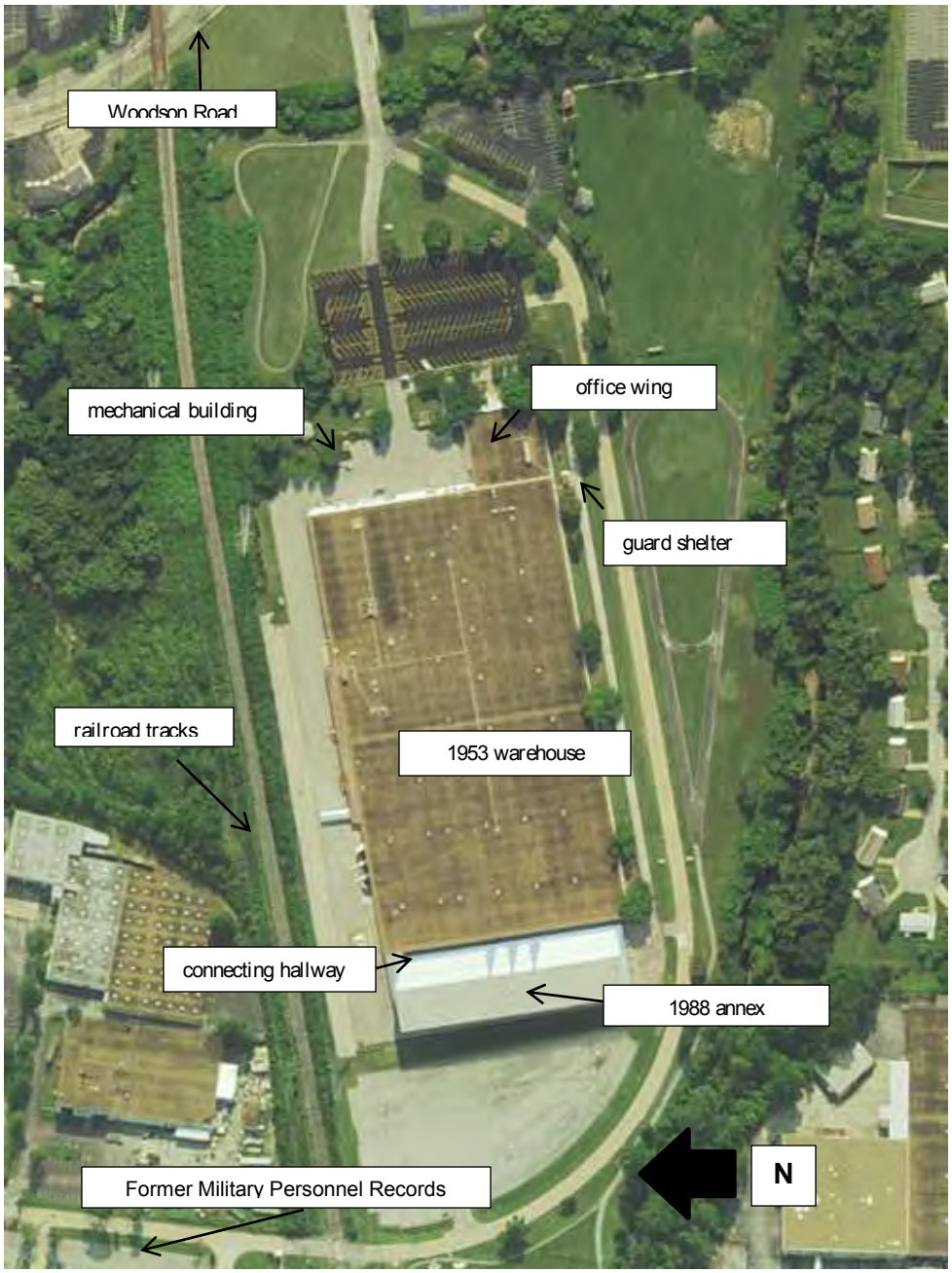

Figure 2. Army Publications Distribution Center, facing Woodson Road, 2015

Figure 3. Mechanical Equipment Building, Army Publications Distribution Center

Figure 4. Guard Shelter, Army Publications Distribution Center

Figure 5. Army Publications Distribution Center Office Wing, 1953

Statement of Significance

Summary

The APDC is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Military significance at the local level. The APDC made a significant contribution to the administrative function of the U.S. Army and its Adjutant General's Office and is representative of the group of consolidated Army operations developed in the greater St. Louis, Missouri area during the post-World War II era.

The APDC represents the consolidation and modernization of a critical administration function of the U.S. Army Adjutant General's Office during the mid-twentieth century. The establishment of this operation, which performs an essential communication function by distributing publications, manuals, and forms, occurred at the same time the Adjutant General was consolidating other administrative functions. The warehouse and office facility in Overland, Missouri was one of several U.S. Army operations located in the St. Louis area, a location considered ideal, as it was near the center of the continental U.S. and good transportation services. This administrative and geographical centralization represents the influence of modern American industrial management practice and the development of rationalized communication operations on the military-industrial complex.

The Period of Significance is 1953, representing the construction date of the purpose-built facility. Despite alterations, the property retains sufficient integrity to convey its original purpose. The contributing resources are those that date to 1953: the warehouse, mechanical building and guard shelter. The 1988 "high rise" annex is a noncontributing resource.

Historic Context: The U.S. Army Adjutant General's Office Functions

The U.S. Army Adjutant General's Office, responsible for the service's administrative functions, was established in 1775. A reorganization of the U.S. Army in 1903 created a centralized, vertical command structure headed by the Chief of Staff and identified responsibilities for the Adjutant General's office. Through the years, the Adjutant General's Office has had provided various administrative services, including coordinating all communications to and from the War Department and later the Department of the Army. Many of these duties – routine and mundane, especially during peacetime – have nonetheless been critical to the operation of the Army and have required careful management. The National Defense Act of 1916 added responsibilities for all personnel functions to the Army Adjutant General's Office. During World War II, the office had a dual role as the Adjutant General of the Army Service Forces as well as that of the War Department.[2]

The organization of the U.S. Army's administrative functions was under nearly constant scrutiny during the twentieth century. This repeated analysis recognized how the efficiency and effectiveness of administrative apparatus affects the building, training, equipping, and supplying of armed forces, particularly when they are tested in battle. The central issue of various proposals for reorganization was the tension between a strong, centralized authority with its related functions and the autonomy and flexibility of decentralized operations. In the aftermath of World War II, the structure of the military services was re-examined. At that time, military and congressional leaders weighed the consequences of establishing a single Department of Defense and the demands airborne units made for autonomy, particularly the Air Force.[3]

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2 *The Army Almanac* (Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1950), p. 64.
3 This paragraph is based on the extensive analysis in James E. Hewes, Jr., *From Root to McNamara: Army Organization and Administration, 1900-1963* (Washington, D.C.: Center for Military History, United States Army), ix-x, 129-215.

As these larger issues were settled, various staff duties were shifted and command structures were adjusted. The Adjutant General's Office, or Department, maintained its separate identity as one of the administrative staff services. The Adjutant General's administrative duties remained fairly constant as well. The development of centralized, more efficient operations seemed to work well for the Adjutant General's responsibilities after World War II. Many functions, such as the distribution of forms and publications and the management of personnel records, were consolidated.

A reorganization of the War Department and Army effective June 11, 1946 confirmed the Adjutant General's role in the department and its responsibilities for administrative services. During the late 1940s, the Adjutant General directed an executive office, four main divisions, and numerous branch operations. During the late 1940s, this office had a roster of over 500 military personnel and some 3,500 civilian employees. Two of the bureaus oversaw all matters relating to the recruitment and appointment of military personnel and all of the records relating to personnel matters.[4]

The responsibilities of the Administrative Services Division of the Adjutant General's Office included the processing, procurement, distribution, and storage of all publications and blank forms for Army-wide use. The manuals distributed throughout the Army (and other military branches) disseminated both baseline and updated information critical for the maintenance and operation of military equipment. In this capacity, they were used by a wide range of service personnel. This form of communication was used during most of the twentieth century and was published in paper and then electronic formats. The forms distributed by the Adjutant General's Office were an uncelebrated, yet important, component in the development of the Army's administration and communication technology. Paper records were an essential component of modern military management, and an extensive collection of forms was the foundation of such record keeping. Forms established standardized communication for correspondence, to convey orders, to acquire materials and provision units, to record routine and extraordinary events, and to create the records of an extensive and frequently changing roster of personnel. The stocking and distribution of Army manuals and forms was assigned to the APDC.

The centralized dissemination of forms and manuals was accompanied by the centralizing of the records that the forms produced. During World War II, the War Department created numerous records depositories throughout the country. The Adjutant General's Administrative Services Division decided to consolidate and centralize several of those operations near the center of the continental United States during the late 1940s. A Records Administration Center was established in St. Louis, which included depositories of inactive military and civilian employees. The Adjutant General's APDC in St. Louis also dates to late 1940s. In 1950 the Adjutant General's centralized field operations included the Adjutant General's School at Camp Lee, Virginia and a Recruiting Publicity Bureau at Governors Island, New York.[5]

The Adjutant General's Administrative Services Operations in St. Louis

The location of St. Louis near the center of the continental United States and its good railroad and highway connections seem to have influenced the decisions to locate three consolidated operations in the suburban St. Louis area. The *New York Times* announced in September 1945 that the St. Louis Ordnance Depot would be converted into a war records center.[6] New units intended for a specific purpose, which gradually took on the functions of various older operations throughout the country, were located in the area immediately following World War II. These units were the APDC, a military personnel records center, and a civilian personnel records facility. New purpose-built facilities were provided for these operations during the early 1950s. All three units were initially housed in the former Ordinance Depot at 4300 Goodfellow Avenue in St. Louis in

4*The Army Almanac*, pp. 63-66.
5 Ibid, p. 65; *Dedication, Federal Records Center* (U.S. General Services Administration, St. Louis, 1961).
6"War Records in New Site," *New York Times*, 15 September 1945.

1946.[7] Though the two records operations were transferred later to the General Services Administration (GSA), the Army Publication Center remained an operation of the Adjutant General's Office after the ownership of the property was transferred to GSA in 1960.

By 1951 the Department of Defense had acquired a large tract of land in Overland, Missouri where two new facilities would be erected for the APDC and the Military Personnel Records Center. The property provided for some economy of scale and a single boiler plant provided steam heat and electricity for both operations. The APDC, designed by St. Louis architect Marcel Boulicault and built by the Army Corps of Engineers, was completed on the southern portion of the property in 1953. The St. Louis architectural firm of Helmuth, Yamasaki, and Leinweber, Inc. designed a new facility for the Military Personnel Records Center on the northern portion of the property at 9700 Page Avenue, where the center remained from 1956 to 2011. In 1961, the Civilian Personnel Records Center moved to a new facility located at 111 Winnebago Avenue in St. Louis.[8] More recently, in 2011, all civilian and military personnel service records were consolidated in a single, purpose-built building: the National Personnel Records Center of the National Archives, located at 1 Archives Drive, St. Louis.

Development of the Army Publication Center

The centralization and expansion of the APDC took place during the late 1940s and by the early 1950s needed to be housed in a facility designed for that purpose. The mission of the center has remained similar over the years, while it has modernized and extended its services to additional military branches and the Department of Defense.

Publications were distributed throughout the War Department during World War II from ten depots on the continental United States. The War Department consolidated this function to seven locations and then to four following the war. General Order No. 79, dated July 29, 1946, activated the U.S. Army Adjutant General's Publication Center as a Class II activity. The mission of the center was to receive, store and issue War Department publications and blank forms for the Fifth Army area. This support service was expanded to include the Third Army area in March 1949 and then served a geographical area of 21 states. The Fourth Army area was added to the center's mission in 1950.

During these initial years the APDC was located in a former ordnance depot on Goodfellow Boulevard in St. Louis. The operation was cumbersome and was not set up to respond quickly to orders. A system of 107 stockrooms, or sub-depots, in various Army installations and large cities was established as an interim means to improve distribution; they sent out limited quantities of forms and publications. The need to relocate the APDC was recognized in July 1950 and the search for a suitable property began.

A tract of land was acquired as the sites of both the APDC and the Army Personnel Records Center in Overland, Missouri. This area of northern St. Louis County had remained rural through the nineteenth century. The subdivision of the old estate tracts took place soon after 1900 and a small commercial area developed at the intersection of Woodson and Lackland roads. Housing was built and the population of the area, then known as Overland Park, grew noticeably during the 1910s and 1920s. The area was finally incorporated as the City of Overland in 1939, once ordered to do so by the St. Louis County Court. The city boundaries were expanded during the late 1940s and early 1950s as Overland experienced a post-World War II building boom. Much of Overland was built out with houses between 1947 and 1955. Industrial development was slow to take place until after 1952, although the area offered rail service, a modern sanitary sewer along its south side, a

7 *Dedication, Federal Records Center*.
8 Ibid; Walter W. Stender and Evans Walker, "The National Personnel Records Center Fire: A Study in Disaster," *The American Archivist* 37 (October 1974): p. 522.

local labor pool, and the promise of Page Avenue becoming a four-lane state highway. The property acquired for the army installations was adjacent to both the rail line and the sewer in the southern portion of Overland, a site ideal for the proposed uses.[9]

The property at 1655 Woodson Road was acquired and then plans for the new building provided by Marcel Boulicault were finalized and approved in February 1952. Marcel Justin Boulicault (1896-1961) was the principal of an architectural firm located in St. Louis. After studying architecture at the St. Louis School of Fine Arts and the Beaux Arts Institute of Design at Washington University, Boulicault entered the local architectural firm of Guy Study and Benedict Farrar in 1919. He started his own private practice in St. Louis in 1924. During the 1920s, Boulicault specialized in large residential projects. After 1930, his firm's work included more commercial, industrial, and public projects and the State of Missouri became an important client. During the 1950s, Boulicault competed with Helmuth, Yamasaki, and Leinweber (the predecessor firm to HOK) and other large firms for projects, though his office was much smaller than his competitors'. Boulicault's projects for the State of Missouri included three buildings in Jefferson City: the Jefferson State Office Building, an addition to the Highway Commission Building, and the Employment Security Building. Other state projects include several regional Employment Security office buildings, the state's medium security prison near Moberly, the Missouri Psychiatric Hospital in Nevada, new geriatrics and administration buildings at the State Hospital in Fulton, and the Missouri State School for the Deaf, also in Fulton. A clinic and administration building for the St. Louis State Hospital and a City of St. Louis Health Center were among his last projects.[10]

The APDC, which covered 7½ acres (or 312,000 square feet) was built by the Army Corps of Engineers. It was completed in September 1953 at a cost of over $2.17 million. The relocation of the operation from Goodfellow Boulevard was completed near the end of September 1953. The new facility included space for the storage and assembly of shipments of forms and manuals, as well as a small printing plant.

Over time the APDC has provided Army technical and supply publications, recruiting publicity items, classified and accountable publications and forms, and Army personnel testing materials for distribution to Department of Defense and Department of Army activities worldwide. In order to accomplish this mission, various aspects of the operation have been modernized and mechanized, while the printing operation was eliminated. The flexible spaces in the warehouse and office wing accommodated these changes.

The systems used in the APDC were upgraded frequently as the operation worked to maintain a high level of efficiency while handling a greater volume of materials. A new distribution and re-supply concept adopted in 1960 used "subscription forms" to identify authorized units' initial requirements and to enroll them to receive updated publications. This service was extended to over 28,000 accounts and all supply and technical publications supporting amphibious vehicles, communications-electronics, avionics, and missile, nuclear, and conventional weapons systems. An automatic data processing system was adopted in 1964, a new warehousing system was installed in 1970, and automated packaging equipment followed in 1973.

The APDC has been staffed mainly with civilian employees, the number of which has varied over the years. The peak of employees occurred during the Viet Nam War era, at over 300; the staff was then scaled back to just over 200 in 1975. The introduction of automated operations over the years has been accompanied by a decrease in center employees.

The APDC was modernized again during the 1980s with a number of projects, though the most significant

9 Robert Parkin, *Overland Trails and Trials* (Overland, Missouri: Krawll Printing Co., 1956; Bicentennial ed., 1976), pp. 80-84, 93-108.
10 GSA has a set of 1952 drawings for the APDC from Boulicault's office. "Marcel Justin Boulicault," *Missouri Historical Society Bulletin* 18 (April 1961): pp. 313-14; Carolyn Hewes Toft, Esley Hamilton, and Mary Henderson Gass, *The Way We Came* (Patrice Press, St. Louis, 1991), pp. 66, 79.

were the construction of the high-rise annex, the installation of an automatic storage retrieval system, and the use of automatic guided vehicle system. These changes allowed the consolidation of all warehouse facilities into the APDC distribution center. In 1995 the APDC absorbed a distribution center located in Baltimore, from which forms and administrative regulations were distributed. The center expanded its mission to provide services to the Navy and will soon do so with the Air Force.

The APDC remained an operation of the Adjutant General's Office. The APDC became a unit of the Adjutant General's Information Systems Command as part of the transfer of the U.S. Army Publications and Printing Agency in 1988. The facility was named the Sammy L. Davis Army Publications Center in 1996 to honor a Vietnam War Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.

Historical Significance

The APDC represents the consolidation and modernization of a critical administration function of the U.S. Army Adjutant General's Office during the mid-twentieth century. The establishment of this operation, which performs an essential centralized communication function by distributing publications, manuals, and forms, occurred at the same time the Adjutant General's Office was centralizing other administrative functions. This management approach mirrored trends occurring in large commercial and industrial operations.

The warehouse and office facility in Overland, Missouri was located in the St. Louis area, near the center of the continental United States and good transportation services. The Military Personnel Records Center and the Civilian Personnel Records Center were located nearby for the same reasons. These functions, initially housed in a former ordnance depot during the 1940s, were moved into purpose-built facilities within a few years.

United States Department of the Interior
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County and State
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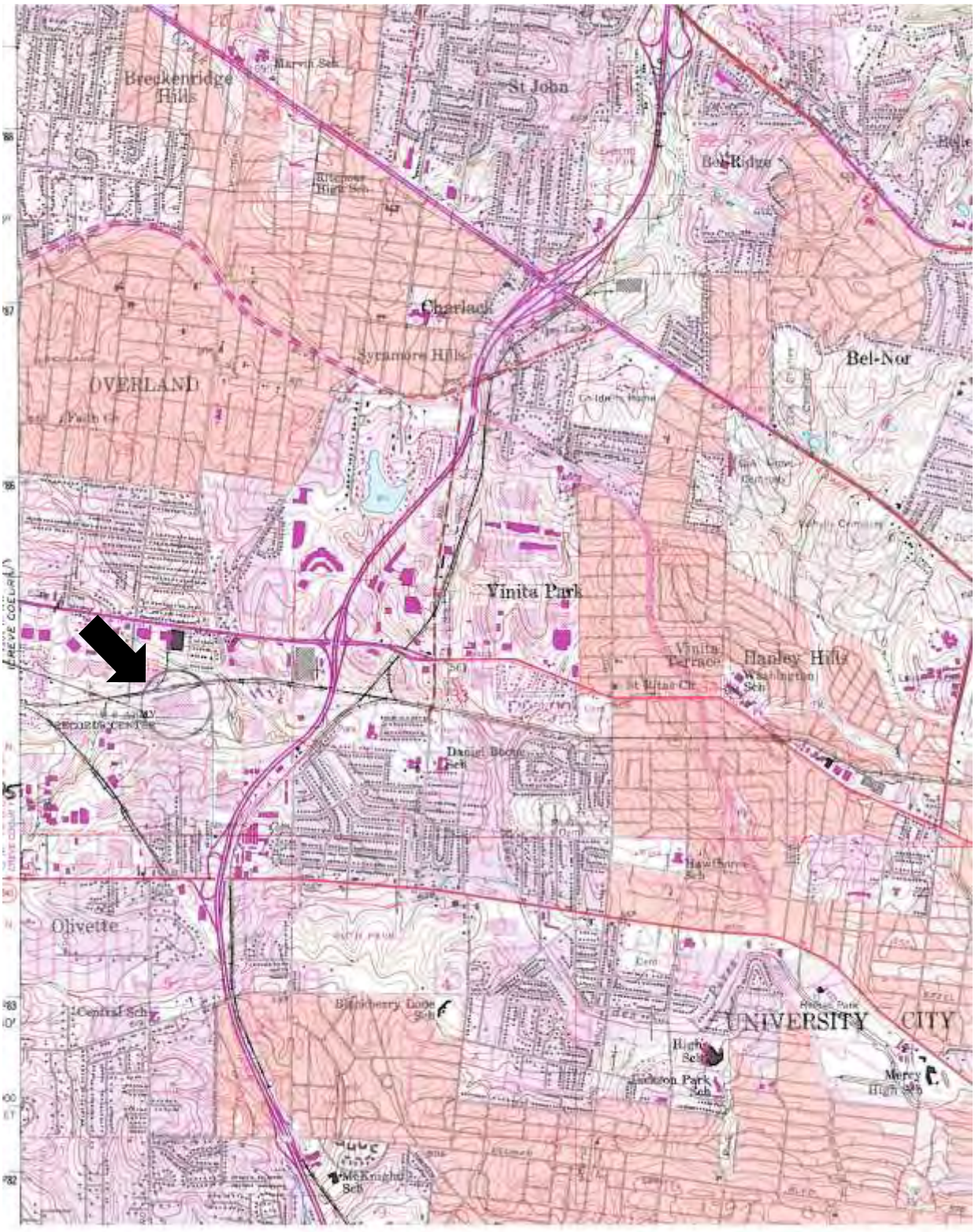

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