

U.S. Army Depot Activity, Umatilla
(Umatilla Army Depot)
Hermiston
Umatilla County
Oregon

HAER No. OR-5

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

U.S. Army Depot Activity, Umatilla

OR-5

Location: In Umatilla and Morrow Counties in northeastern Oregon, approximately three miles south of the Columbia River and 180 miles east of Portland.

Date of Construction: Established in 1941.

Owner: Department of the Army

Significance: Established in 1941, Umatilla Depot was one of the first ammunition storage depots begun under the Army's pre-World War II mobilization program.

Historical Report
Prepared by: Barbara E. Hightower, 1984.

Prepared for
Transmittal by: Robie S. Lange, HABS/HAER, 1985.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The U.S. Army Depot Activity Umatilla, a reserve storage facility under the command of Tooele Army Depot, stores, maintains, and demilitarizes ammunition. A part of the U.S. Army Depot System Command (DESCOM), it is located on 19,729 acres in Umatilla and Morrow Counties in northeastern Oregon, approximately three miles south of the Columbia River and 180 miles east of Portland. The installation, built in 1941-1942, was one of the first ammunition storage depots begun under the Army's pre-World War II mobilization program. By war's end, 1,268 of the installation's current 1,347 structures had been erected. Since 1945, only a small number of ammunition renovation and demilitarization facilities and storage structures have been added to Umatilla. There are no Category I or II historic properties at the U.S. Army Depot Activity Umatilla. The headquarters building (Building 1) and the firehouse (Building 2) are Category III historic properties because of local importance as works of architectural design.

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PREFACE

This report presents the results of an historic properties survey of the U.S. Army Depot Activity Umatilla. 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 Depot Activity Umatilla. 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. Major subcontractors were the MacDonald and Mack Partnership and Melvyn Green and Associates. The author of this report was Barbara E. Hightower. The author gratefully acknowledges the help of LeBaron Amacker and Robert Winter of base administration, and Chuck Ryan of the Facilities Engineer's Office.

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. OR-5.

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

SCOPE

This report is based on an historic properties survey conducted in 1984 of accessible Army-owned properties located within the official boundaries of the U.S. Army Depot Activity Umatilla. 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 accessible 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 52 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 Depot Activity Umatilla was one of the first World War II ammunition supply depots constructed by the Ordnance Department, and the majority of its structures were built in 1941-1942. Documentary research conducted at the U.S. Army Depot Activity Umatilla focused on the physical development of the installation and on the pre-military land use. The Oregon State Historic Preservation Office was contacted about possible historic properties at the U.S. Army Depot Activity Umatilla, 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; and base maps and photographs supplied by installation personnel. 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 January-February 1984. The installation Administrative Officer, LeBaron Amacker, served as the point of contact and as survey escort, and provided access to historical materials on file in the headquarters building. Chuck Ryan of the Facilities Engineer's Office provided access to the installation's property records, maps, and drawings.

Field inventory procedures were based on the HABS/HAER Guidelines for Inventories of Historic Buildings and Engineering and Industrial Structures.¹ All areas and properties were visually surveyed except for the chemical exclusion area located in the ammunition storage area to which access was prohibited for security reasons (see Appendix A). 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.² 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 historical overviews, properties were first evaluated for historical 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:³

- 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 420-40:⁴

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 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

1. Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, Guidelines for Inventories of Historic Buildings and Engineering and Industrial Structures (unpublished draft, 1982).
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.

3. National Park Service, How to Complete National Register Forms
(Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, January 1977).
4. Army Regulation 420-40, Historic Preservation (Headquarters, U.S. Army:
Washington, D.C., 15 April 1984).

Chapter 2

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Army Depot Activity Umatilla is a reserve storage facility under the command of Tooele Army Depot. The installation, which stores, maintains, and demilitarizes ammunition, is located on 19,729 acres in Umatilla and Morrow Counties in northeastern Oregon, approximately three miles south of the Columbia River and 180 miles east of Portland. The area is semi-arid desert and sparsely settled. (Illustration 1)

Construction of Umatilla Ordnance Depot, one of the first World War II Army ammunition supply depots, began in 1941 shortly after the acquisition of approximately 16,000 acres that had been used previously for open range grazing. By war's end, 1,268 of the installation's current 1,347 structures had been erected. These included administration, maintenance, and housing facilities, ammunition storage igloos, and warehouses. Following World War II and again after the Korean War, the depot was responsible for storing, maintaining, renovating, and demilitarizing ammunition; construction into the 1950s was aimed at meeting this mission. Since 1960, construction has been mostly limited to small storage facilities. The installation's name was changed to Umatilla Army Depot when it was assigned to the Army Supply and Maintenance Command in 1962. In 1973, it was made a subinstallation of Tooele Army Depot and redesignated Umatilla Depot Activity. Its name was later changed to U.S. Army Depot Activity Umatilla.

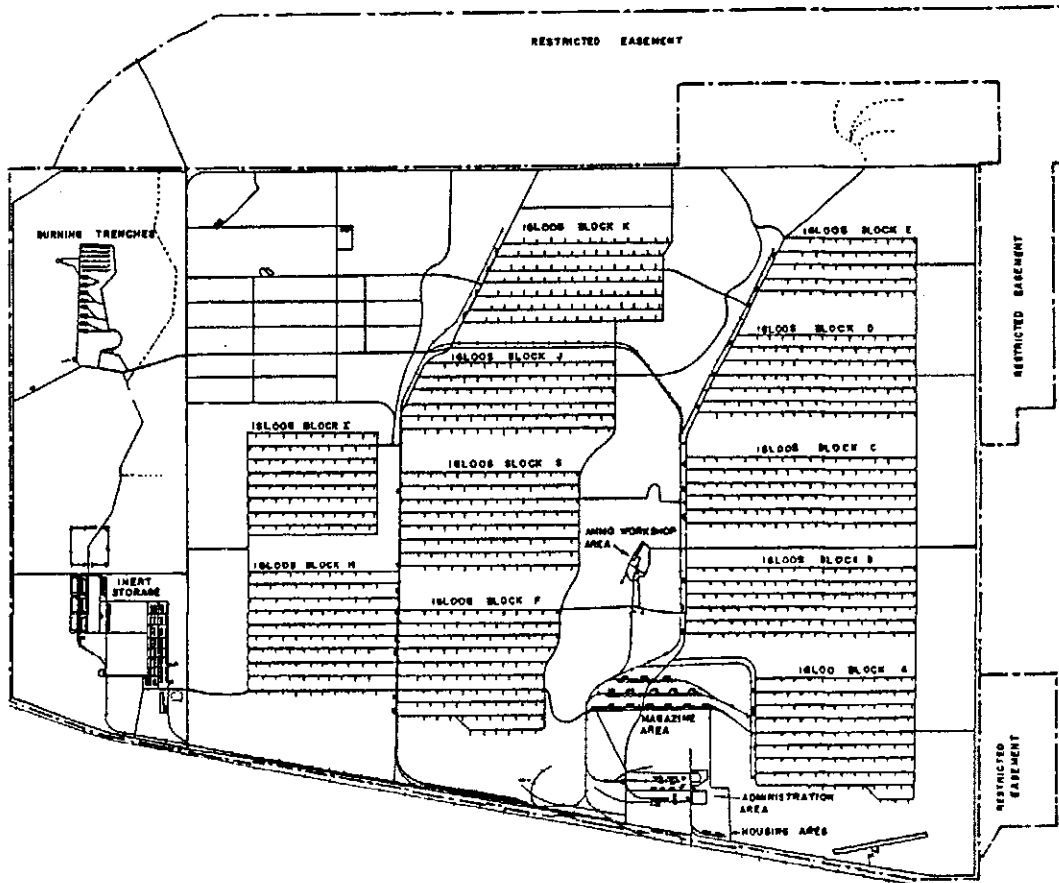


Illustration 1 Map of the U.S. Army Depot Activity Umatilla. The installation is located on 19,729 acres in Umatilla and Morrow Counties in northeastern Oregon, approximately three miles south of the Columbia River and 180 miles east of Portland. One thousand one ammunition storage igloos built in 1941 occupy much of the site. Administration and housing areas are located along the southern boundary, and warehouses built in 1942 for the storage of combat equipment are in the southwest corner of the installation. (Source: U.S. Army Depot Activity Umatilla)

PRE-MILITARY LAND USE

Although explored by the Spanish and English as early as the 1500s, the Umatilla area remained unsettled, except by various Indian tribes, through the early 1800s. The Lewis and Clark expedition traversed the area in 1805, and the Oregon Trail, located south of the present depot site, was established in 1812. By the 1850s and 1860s, settlers had begun cattle ranching, gold mining, and lumbering operations. Following the advent of flood irrigation in 1862, agriculture became the main industry. Population growth was limited, however, until the construction of the Army Ordnance Depot in 1941-1942 and the later construction of McNary Dam on the Columbia River, which began in 1947. When the depot site was acquired from Umatilla and Morrow Counties, Western Irrigation Company, Northern Pacific Railroad, and the Department of the Interior in 1940, it was being used primarily for open range grazing. A 1941 aerial photograph on file at the depot shows a site devoid of any man-made structures.¹

SITE SELECTION AND WORLD WAR II CONSTRUCTION

Increased Congressional appropriations for defense brought about by the fall of France in 1940 led to the expansion of ammunition storage facilities across the United States. Initial plans called for placing depots in the four corners of the country to support forces repelling attacks from any direction. In the summer of 1940, the Army chose a 15,547 acre tract in northeastern Oregon for construction of the country's northwestern depot. The site met the Ordnance Department's criteria for location of storage installations: it

was a reasonably safe distance from the coast, thus lessening the danger of attack, yet was close enough to northwestern military posts and ports to facilitate shipment of supplies; the area was sparsely settled, decreasing the chance of damage in the event of an ammunition explosion; and the relatively mild climate and low humidity were ideal for the storage of ammunition. The deciding factor in the selection of the tract, however, was the availability of good rail transportation. The Union Pacific bordered the site on the south and four additional rail lines ran nearby.²

Work on the depot commenced shortly after site acquisition. An engineering contract was awarded to Stevens and Koon of Portland, which began topographical surveys in November 1940. Concurrently, access roads were built and existing rail lines were expanded. J. A. Terteling & Sons of Boise, Idaho obtained the prime construction contract in January 1941 and commenced building shortly thereafter. The depot was laid out in three major areas: administration, ammunition storage, and combat equipment and general supplies storage. Each is discussed below.³

Administration Area

Work in the administration area began in early 1941 with the erection of temporary wood frame structures for construction officials and workers. A pair of identical two-story, gable-roofed buildings with projecting brick vaults were built at the south end of the area and served as offices for the contractor (Building 52) and the construction quartermaster (Building 53). An adjacent one-story, gable-roofed structure (Building 54) housed the offices of the project's architect/engineer. A one-story, gable-roofed hospital for construction workers, built in 1941, was moved in 1943 to its present location

east of the main entrance road and converted to family officer's quarters (Building 55). A guest house (Building 51) was also built in the area in 1941 and was later converted to the commanding officer's quarters. This gable-roofed, single-story structure has an entrance porch on the south side.⁴

Since housing in the sparsely settled region was inadequate for the influx of construction workers, two housing areas were developed on depot land. Seventeen wood-frame, one-story houses (Buildings 501-517) were built for key construction personnel along the southern boundary of the site, east of the main entrance. Temporary barracks erected north of the family housing area served as quarters for civilian construction workers; these were demolished in the early 1950s.⁵

As one of the first World War II ammunition supply depots, Umatilla fell under the Ordnance Department's program "A". Program "A" construction for key buildings was characterized by the use of permanent masonry materials, which were not in critical supply before the spring of 1942. At Umatilla, tan brick laid in 5/1 common bond was used for most of the important permanent structures initially erected in the administration area. The headquarters building (Building 1) and firehouse (Building 2), both two-story structures with red clay tile hip roofs, are the most architecturally distinctive buildings on the installation. The entrance bays on each are flanked by projecting brick piers with stone caps and brick pilasters that support elaborate brick and stone entablatures. The structures are located on the main entrance road, and the headquarters building faces a landscaped U-shaped parade ground. A pair of brick, two-story family duplexes with red clay tile hip roofs also

faces the parade ground. Other brick structures erected in the administration area in 1941 are a gate guardhouse (Building 3), a family quarters garage (Building 70), two inert storage warehouses (Buildings 17 and 18), a machine shop (Building 4), a garage (Building 5), a motor fuel station (Building 6), a carpenter shop (Building 7), a paint shop (Building 8), a paint storage building (Building 9), and a railroad engine house (Building 10). Most are one-story, gable-roofed structures.⁶ (Illustration 2)

Many of the remaining facilities constructed in the administration area in 1942 and 1943 were temporary wood frame structures built according to standardized Army plans. These include two bachelor officers' quarters (Buildings 33 and 34), family officers' quarters (Building 35), a telephone office (Building 32), a cafeteria (Building 36), an inert storage warehouse (Building 19), a carpenter shop and storage building (Building 30), and a storage garage (Building 31). All are one- or two-story, gable- or hip-roofed structures with asbestos cement shingle cladding. A hospital complex erected in the administration area in 1943 was demolished in the early 1950s.

After most construction was completed, the headquarters area was landscaped with trees and lawns, offering a lush contrast to the surrounding sagebrush and wild native grasses. The grounds were maintained during the last months of the war by Italian prisoners of war.⁷

Ammunition Storage Area

Initial depot plans called for 750 standard 60- or 80-foot reinforced concrete, barrel-vaulted storage igloos. Subsequent authorizations increased this number



Illustration 2 View of the east and south sides of Building 1. The headquarters building, a two-story brick structure with red clay tile hip roofs, is one of the most architecturally distinctive buildings on the installation. The use of permanent masonry construction for key buildings in the administration area is a characteristic feature of ammunition supply depots constructed before the spring of 1942, when masonry materials became in short supply. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1984, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

to 1,002. Crews worked around the clock on the storage facilities and set a record for igloo construction in September 1941, when 24 were poured in 24 hours. The first igloos were accepted for storage in October, and a shipment of 20,000 100-pound bombs from Ogden Arsenal was received the same month.⁸

The igloos, which occupy much of the depot's land area, were laid out in parallel rows at a maximum of 100 per block, as required by standard Ordnance Department plans. Since wind erosion was a greater problem than water erosion at Umatilla, the igloos' earth covering was protected by gravel rather than sod.⁹ One hundred small reinforced concrete, earth-covered, open-ended foxholes were interspersed among the igloos to provide personnel shelter in the event of an explosion. (Illustration 3)

The standard Army igloos of this period had arched sides designed to force an explosion upward, thereby directing explosive forces away from neighboring structures. This design was proven on March 21, 1944 when bombs stored in igloo 1014 exploded. Debris was scattered for miles and six persons working at the igloo were killed, but destruction was limited to igloo 1014.¹⁰

Fourteen standard above-ground ammunition magazines (Buildings 401-414) were erected at the south end of the ammunition storage area in 1941. Each is constructed with 8-inch clay tile walls on reinforced concrete foundations and has a gable roof of corrugated asbestos supported by steel Fink trusses; five sliding metal doors line concrete platforms on the side of the building serviced by rail lines. (Illustration 4)



Illustration 3 Ammunition storage igloos and "Y" pad. In 1941, 1002 standard ammunition storage igloos were erected over much of the installation's land area. The reinforced concrete, barrel vaulted structures were laid out in parallel rows with a maximum of 100 per block in conformance with standard Ordnance Department plans. One of the 693 "Y" type open storage pads constructed in 1945 in the open spaces between the igloos is at the left of the photograph. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1984, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

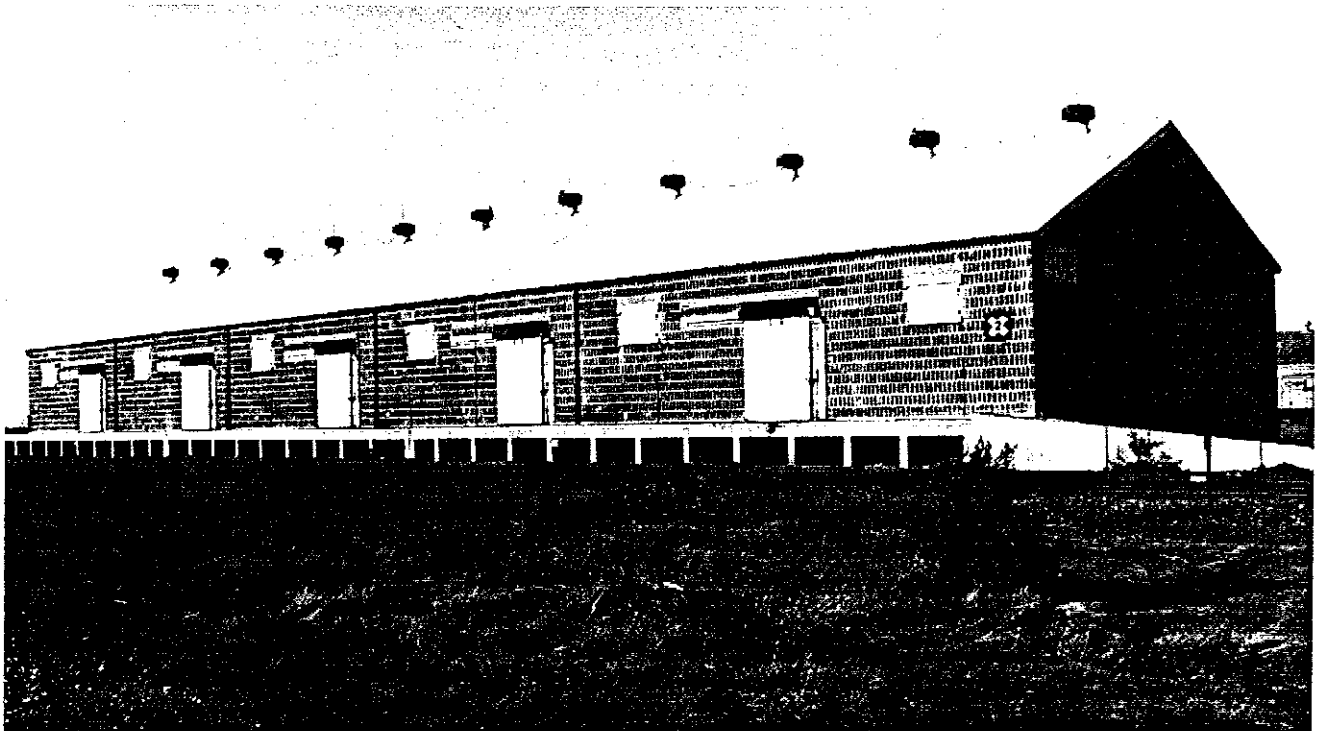


Illustration 4 View of the south side of Building 402. Fourteen standard above-ground ammunition magazines with 8-inch clay tile walls were built at the south end of the ammunition storage area in 1941. Each has a raised concrete platform lined with sliding metal doors on the side serviced by rail lines. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1984, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

To facilitate the movement of ammunition, 38 loading platforms (Buildings 801-838) were erected along the north-south rail lines in the storage area. They are uncovered reinforced concrete platforms with small concrete, flat-roofed tool houses at one end. Seven small concrete, gable-roofed dunnage and equipment buildings (Buildings 421-427) were built near these platforms in 1942.

Additional ammunition facilities were authorized for the storage area in late 1941. They included two identical bundle ammunition facilities with gable-roofed, concrete buildings and open concrete platforms (Buildings 431 and 434); a brick gable-roofed ammunition packing, shipping, and receiving building, equipped with concrete blast walls (Building 417); an inspector's workshop constructed of reinforced concrete (Building 415); and a single-story, wood-frame building for the administration of ammunition storage area operations (Building 419). All five, built during 1942, are located north of the above-ground magazines.

Ammunition storage facilities expanded in 1945 when 693 "Y" type open storage pads were constructed in the open spaces between the igloos. The pads are flat gravel-surfaced areas measuring 34 feet x 64 feet surrounded by 7-foot high earth barricades. A 16-foot opening facing the road provides access to the interior.

Combat Equipment or General Supplies Storage Area

In early 1942, shortly after American entry into the war, additional funds were allotted for the construction of warehouse facilities to store combat

equipment or general supplies at the Umatilla depot. A construction contract was awarded to P. Odegard and Associates of Portland, and construction, which began in July, was largely completed by the end of the year.¹¹

These warehouse facilities are located in two sections in the southwest corner of the depot. The larger contains 27 warehouses, most of which are gable-roofed, wood frame structures clad with transite and asbestos cement shingles over wood sheathing (Buildings 102-103, 105-113, and 117-128). Four additional structures are permanent concrete buildings that served originally as a fireproof warehouse (Building 101), an optical warehouse (Building 129), an optical warehouse and repair shop (Building 116), and a small arms storehouse (Building 114). Three prefabricated corrugated metal ordnance repair shops with gabled clerestories (Buildings 115, 130, and 131) that had been destined for overseas shipment were diverted to Umatilla in 1942 and erected south of the warehouses.

The west section of the combat-equipment storage area consists of six large wood frame warehouses. These buildings, originally clad with wood siding, have recently been covered with metal. Reinforced concrete firewalls extending above the slightly pitched roofs divide these 180 foot by 480 foot structures in half. The entire storage area is served by a wood-frame two-story firehouse and dormitory (Building 104), and a clay tile pumphouse (Building 133) and water tank.¹² (Illustration 5)

POST-WAR CONSTRUCTION

Following the war, the depot was assigned the task of receiving, renovating, demilitarizing, and providing for the long-term storage of ammunition. Sub-

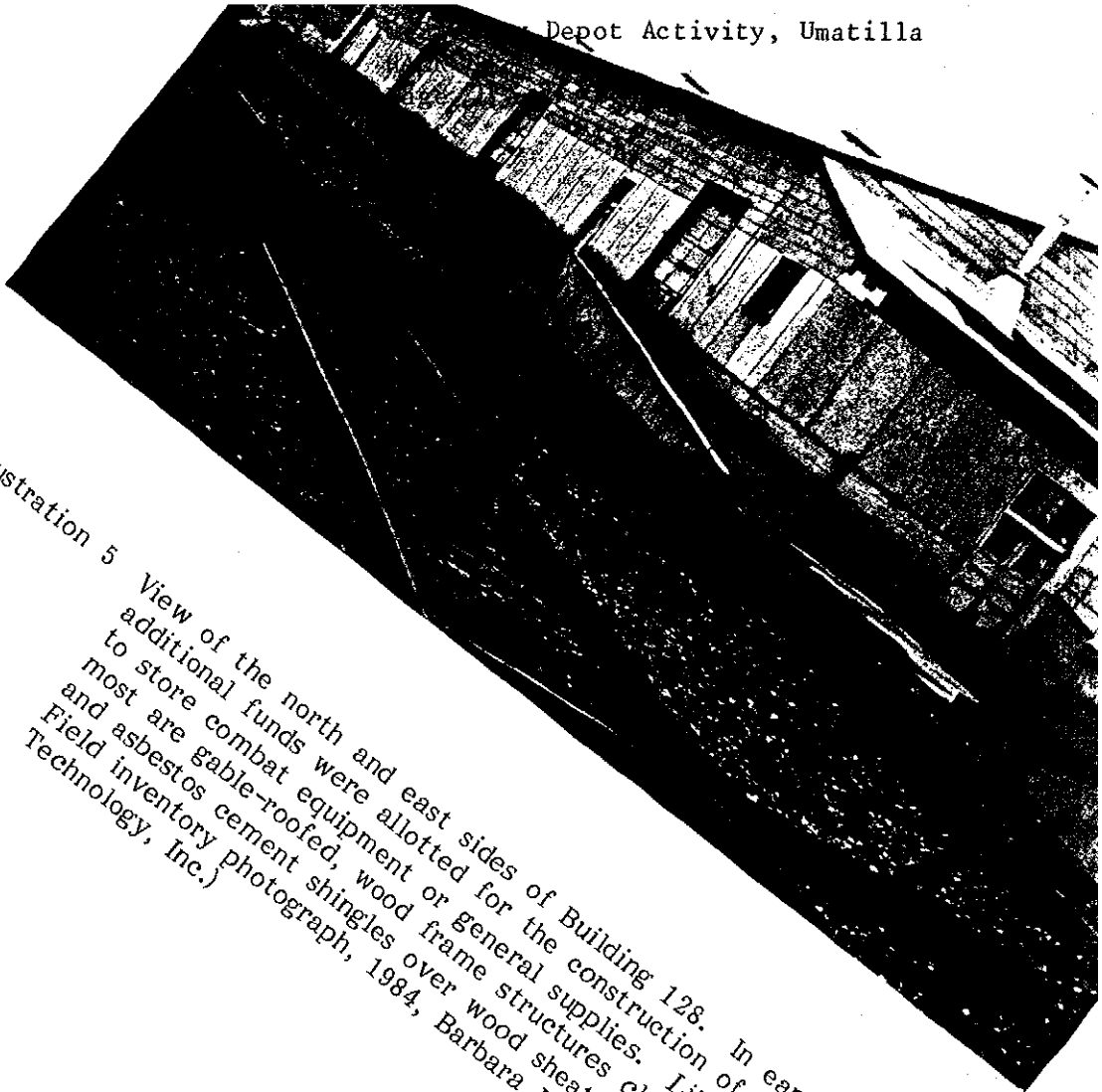


Illustration 5 View of the north and east sides of Building 128. In early 1942, additional funds were allotted for the construction of warehouses to store combat equipment or general supplies. Like Building 128, most are gable-roofed, wood frame structures clad with transite and asbestos cement shingles over wood sheathing. (Source: Field inventory photograph, 1984, Barbara Hightower, Building Technology, Inc.)

sequent major building projects were oriented to this task. In 1948, a one-story cleaning and painting shop (Building 493) and a two-story TNT washout and flaker building (Building 489) were added to existing facilities in the ammunition workshop area west of igloo blocks B and C. Both are of steel frame construction and are clad with corrugated metal.¹³

In early 1950, a disassembly plant was built at the north end of the ammunition storage area. The plant consists of a concrete barricaded holding pad (Structure 601), two concrete and steel operating barricades (Structures 602 and 604), a transformer station, and a clay tile storage building (Building 605). A conveyor moved bombs and other explosives from the holding pad to the operating barricade where they were examined on television screens using remote control devices.¹⁴

The Korean War reinstated the installation's mission as an active storage and shipping facility. The McNary Dam, by then completed on the Columbia River north of the depot, enabled barge shipment of ammunition to west coast ports. During this period, construction on the depot was limited to the erection of small storage structures.¹⁵

At the end of the Korean War, Umatilla once again received ammunition for inspection, renovation, demilitarization, and peacetime storage, and over the next eight years several new structures were erected in the ammunition storage area for this ongoing mission. A concrete and concrete block ammunition maintenance building (Building 608) was constructed in 1955, and new renovation facilities consisting of a concrete block structure (Building 614)

and an earth barricaded reinforced concrete magazine were built three years later. A small concrete block and corrugated metal popping plant (Building 206) for cleaning explosive powder residue from spent shells was added in 1961. Since that time, construction has been mostly limited to small storage structures.¹⁶

NOTES

1. Inland Pacific Engineering Company and Haworth and Anderson, Inc. Installation Environmental Assessment: Tooele Army Depot, Umatilla Depot Activity, Hermiston, Oregon, December 1982, pp. 1-2; Mrs. Leone Clark, "UOD Marks 14th Anniversary," East Oregonian, 14 October 1955.
2. Between 1957 and 1960, 4,000 acres were added for safety zones through easements and withdrawals from public and private lands. "Umatilla Army Depot, 1941-1969," pp. 1, 5 (on file in the Administration Office at the U.S. Army Depot Activity Umatilla); Harry C. Thomson and Lida Mayo, The Ordnance Department: Procurement and Supply (Washington, D.C.: Office of the Chief of Military History, 1960), p. 367; Clark, "UOD Marks 14th Anniversary"; "Historical Summary: Umatilla Ordnance Depot, Ordnance, Oregon, Inception (1941) to December 1942." (Umatilla Ordnance Depot, 1943), pp. 1-2.
3. "Umatilla Army Depot 1941-1969," pp. 1-2; "Historical Summary: Inception (1941) to December 1942," pp. 1-2.
4. "Historical Record of Umatilla Ordnance Depot," c. 1946, pp. 21-22, 24.
5. Umatilla County Sun, August 28, 1952.
6. Thomson and Mayo, The Ordnance Department, p. 378.
7. "Umatilla Army Depot, 1941-1969," p. 4.
8. "Historical Summary: Inception (1941) to December 1942," pp. 2-4. Kenneth J. Halloran, "Igloo Concreting Record Set," Western Construction News, December 1941, pp. 353-355.
9. Thomson and Mayo note that the igloo type of magazine had been preferred by the Joint Army-Navy Ammunition Storage Board for all types of ammunition except small arms since the late 1920s. The structures were called igloos because they resembled the Eskimo shelter. Thomson and Mayo, The Ordnance Department, pp. 361 and 368; "Historical Record of Umatilla Ordnance Depot," pp. 15, 40.
10. Clark, "UOD Marks 14th Anniversary."

11. Thomson and Mayo, The Ordnance Department, pp. 380-381; "Historical Summary: Inception (1941) to December 1942," p. 5.
12. Historical Record of Umatilla Ordnance Depot," p. 12.
13. Clark, "UOD Marks 14th Anniversary;" "Umatilla Army Depot, 1941-1969," p. 5.
14. "Bombs Tamed by New Trick," The Oregonian, April 23, 1950.
15. Clark, "UOD Marks 14th Anniversary."
16. "Umatilla Army Depot, 1941-1969," p. 5.

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.¹ 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 Buildings² 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.³ 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 Buildings⁴ and in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.
- c) Each Category II 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.⁵

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 Buildings⁶ 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.⁷ Similar structures need only be documented once.

CATEGORY I HISTORIC PROPERTIES

There are no Category I historic properties at U.S. Army Depot Activity Umatilla.

CATEGORY II HISTORIC PROPERTIES

There are no Category II historic properties at U.S. Army Depot Activity Umatilla.

CATEGORY III HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Headquarters building (Building 1) and firehouse (Building 2)

- Background and significance. The headquarters building and the firehouse are the most architecturally distinctive buildings on the installation.

Both are constructed of brick (a characteristic of early World War II depot construction), are two stories high, and have red clay tile hip roofs. Their entrance bays are flanked by projecting brick piers with stone caps and brick pilasters that support elaborate brick and stone entablatures. (See Chapter 2, Site Selection and World War II Construction and Illustration 2). Building 2, which originally served as the firehouse and dispensary, has a one-story garage on the south side. Except for a basement-level addition to the headquarters building and the construction of an extra bay on the firehouse garage, the buildings remain essentially unaltered. Both are highly visible landmarks on the installation's main entrance road, and the headquarters building occupies a prominent position at the head of a landscaped, U-shaped parade ground. The headquarters building and firehouse are Category III historic properties because they are important locally as works of architectural design.

- Condition and potential adverse impacts. Both buildings are in good condition and receive routine maintenance and repair. There are no current plans to alter or demolish either property.
- Preservation recommendations. Refer to the general preservation recommendations at the beginning of this chapter for Category III historic properties not listed on the National Register.

NOTES

1. Army Regulation 420-40, Historic Preservation (Headquarters, U.S. Army: Washington, D.C., 15 April 1984).

2. National Park Service, Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Revised Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings, 1983 (Washington, D.C.: Preservation Assistance Division, National Park Service, 1983).
3. National Park Service, "Archeology and Historic Preservation; Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines," Federal Register, Part IV, 28 September 1983, pp. 44730-44734.
4. National Park Service, Secretary of the Interior's Standards.
5. National Park Service, "Archeology and Historic Preservation."
6. National Park Service, Secretary of the Interior's Standards.
7. National Park Service, "Archeology and Historic Preservation."

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- Inland Pacific Engineering Company and Haworth and Anderson, Inc. Installation, Environmental Assessment: Tooele Army Depot, Umatilla Depot Activity Hermiston, Oregon. December 1982.
- Nissen, Paul. "How Terteling Builds Igloos of Concrete at Hermiston." Pacific Builder and Engineer, September 1941, pp. 40-44. Describes igloo construction at Umatilla.
- Thomson, Harry C. and Mayo, Lida. The Ordnance Department: Procurement and Supply. Washington, D.C.: Office of the Chief of Military History, 1960. Useful source for placing the development of the depot into the context of overall development of American Ordnance supply depots during World War II.
- U.S. Army DARCOM. Real Property Inventory, U.S. Army Depot Activity Umatilla. March 1982.
- U.S. Army Depot Activity Umatilla. Installation and Activity Brochure. DARCOM, December 31, 1982. DARCOM brochure.
- The following sources are on file in the U.S. Army Depot Activity Umatilla Administration Office located in the Headquarters Building:
- Army photographs showing early construction of the depot.
 - Clark, Mrs. Leone. "UOD Marks 14th Anniversary." East Oregonian, 14 October 1955. Brief account of the depot's history through the early 1950s.
 - "Historical Summary: Umatilla Ordnance Depot, Ordnance, Oregon, Inception (1941) to December 1942." Umatilla Ordnance Depot, 1943. Discusses initial construction and function of the depot.
- The office also has historical summaries for most years between 1943 and 1962.
- Scrapbooks containing local newspaper articles beginning with the 1950s.
- Ordnance Department film showing initial construction at the depot. Focuses on igloo construction.
- "Umatilla Army Depot, 1941-1969." Includes brief history of the construction and missions of the installation.

The following sources are on file in the Facilities Engineering Branch:

"Historical Record of Umatilla Ordnance Depot." c. 1946. Contains date of construction, use, and brief description of all buildings on the depot.

"Informal Brochure: Umatilla Ordnance Depot." c. 1958. Contains descriptions and photographs of many of the depot's buildings.

Original drawings showing the layout of the depot and design of buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY Depot Activity, Umatilla
 UMATILLA DEPOT ACTIVITY
 HERMISTON, OREGON

HAER No. OR-5

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REPLY TO
 ATTENTION OF:
 SDSTE-UA-AS-A

27 January 1984

Barbara Hightower
 Building Technology, Inc.
 1109 Spring Street
 Silver Spring, Md. 20910

Dear Ms. Hightower;

Pleased be advised that a prearranged camera pass, security visitors badge and a government vehicle will be provided to facilitate your work IAW the provisios of the National Park Service Contract No. CX-0001-2-0033, period January 30-February 2, 1984.

It will not be possible to gain entry into the chemical exclusion area or take photographs in or of this area. The high security land area dedicated to the toxic chemical munitions aspect of our mission, is a relatively small portion of our overall land area. In any case, no known sites either geographical or structural, are of historical significance within the confines of the chemical exclusion area. Certain details of the structures in this area may be discussed upon your arrival.

An escort will be required in the limited area (conventional munitions storage, renovation shops, warehousing, etc.) for which I am pleased to be of service, as well as coordinate any other details to make your visit productive and informative. If you have any questions prior your arrival, please call me at ATV 790-5229.

Sincerely,

Le Baron W. Amacker
 Administrative Officer