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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name March Field Historic District

other names/site number March Air Force Base

2. Location

street & number _____ ☐ not for publication

city or town March Air Force Base ☐ vicinity

state California code CA county Riverside code 065 zip code 92518

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

See Letter dated 10/27/94, recd 11/4/94

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☑ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

Carol R. Lewyn — 12/6/94

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☒ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
- ☒ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
193	15	buildings
		sites
5	14	structures
1		objects
199	29	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Defense / Air Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Defense / Air Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Mission Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Concrete, Terra Cotta, Wood

roof Terra Cotta, Metal, Asphalt

other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The March Field Historic District includes a large collection of historic buildings and landscape elements, nearly all of which were built between 1928 and 1943, when this military base, now called March Air Force Base (March AFB), was March Field. It also includes a single building dating to 1918. The March Field Historic District, encompasses approximately 158 acres, surrounded entirely by more modern elements of the 6800 acre March AFB. A total of 228 buildings, structures, and objects are located within the March Field Historic District, of which 199 contribute to the significance of the district. In addition to buildings, structures and objects, contributing elements of the historic district include the plan (i.e., the formal layout of streets and buildings), as well as landscaping elements. The integrity for this historic district is very good, with good integrity for individual structures and very good integrity for the entire ensemble.

SETTING OF MARCH FIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT WITHIN MARCH AFB

March Air Force Base is located in the Moreno Valley of Riverside County, California, southeast of the city of Riverside. A small Army Air Corps base of exactly 640 acres until 1941, the base grew enormously during and after World War II, achieving its current area of more than 6800 acres. Most of the current March AFB is shown on the attached USGS topographic sheet. The base is divided into two distinct elements -- west and east -- with Interstate 215 dividing the two. The east base, also known as the Main Base, is in the flatlands of the Moreno Valley and includes the runways, hangars, and all other flight-related operational elements of the base. The March Field Historic District is located within the Main Base. West March includes residential units as well as weapons storage facilities, a golf course, cemetery, and other facilities unrelated to aviation.

The March Field Historic District is near the northeastern corner of the Main Base (which is also the northeastern corner of the base generally). The boundaries for the historic district are easily discernible in the attached sketch plan because of the distinctively triangular plan of the 1928 base. The Main Base outside the historic district is generally laid out along cardinal directions, consistent with the street grid of the Moreno Valley, although the huge flight lines southwest of the historic district align diagonally. The historic district, by contrast, is a tightly-organized cluster of buildings in a triangular plan, with one east-west side (Meyer Drive), a north-south side (Riverside Drive), and an hypotenuse formed by the 1928 flightline.

While the boundaries for the historic district are dramatically drawn when seen from the air or on a large-scale map, they are nearly as obvious from the ground. The edges of the historic district along Meyer and Riverside drives are lined with small-scale Mission Revival officers' quarters, while the buildings across Meyer and Riverside are very modern, generally large-scale non-residential buildings. The southwestern side of the triangle is defined by a row of 1928 hangars with only the vast asphalt and concrete runways beyond. The historic district is also easily recognizable by its lush and mature vegetation, which contrasts with the modern base beyond, where landscaping is generally minimal.

GENERAL PLAN FOR MARCH FIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT

The March Field Historic District is, as noted, a triangular area of the Main Base of March AFB, its boundaries defined by Meyer Drive on the north, Riverside Drive on the east, and the line of hangars (which parallel Graeber Street) as the southeast-northwest oriented hypotenuse. It is the most densely settled area of March AFB, with 228 buildings, many of them very large, sited in a parcel of about 158 acres. The triangle measures approximately 3350' along Meyer, 3100' along Riverside, and 3400' along the flight line, for a calculated area of about 157.5 acres. (Calculations show 165.75 acres within the full triangle, minus about 8.23 acres excluded at the northeast and southeast corners, giving a calculated acreage of 157.52.)

As discussed under "Significance," the triangular plan for this base was dictated in part by necessity and partly by the desires of the planners for a formal, axial plan. Practicalities had to do with the fact that an earlier base had been constructed at this site in 1918, for which both the buildings and the runways were oriented on an east-west alignment. When the base was re-built in 1928, its designers sought two practical solutions. First, they wanted runways facing northwest, to allow planes to take off and land into prevailing winds. Second, they sought to utilize the 1918 buildings during construction of the new buildings. These two practicalities called for a new runway turned 45 degrees from the old, allowing for immediate construction activities on the old runway and gradual demolition of the old buildings.

While these practicalities explain much, the plan also reflects prevailing ideas about base design from the 1920s, which were influenced in turn by city planning concepts of the early 20th century. As discussed under significance (Section 8), the plan of military bases became increasingly formal during the 1920s. As always, primary considerations were safety and logistics, driven by the need to supply safe conditions for dense concentrations of personnel and equipment. During the 1920s, however, the architects and engineers of the Quartermaster Corps, many of whom had civilian experience with firms associated with the City Beautiful movement and early city planning, sought to achieve these objectives with comprehensive plans. The plan of March Field exhibits its origin in the City Beautiful and city planning movements in three respects: careful segregation of buildings into functional sectors; layout of streets and buildings along formal geometric configurations; and the use of a unified architectural program, in this case, Mission Revival.

The 1928 plan for March Field may be seen as comprising seven functional sectors -- hangars; industrial buildings; the hospital complex; barracks for enlisted personnel; recreational buildings, chiefly for enlisted personnel; officers' quarters; and recreational buildings for officers. Each functional group occupies an identifiable sector of the base and is oriented in a unique way toward the triangular plan. Each functional group also includes repetitive building types unique to that sector. The plan for the base is visually powerful because it emphasizes all elements -- architectural, functional, and locational -- which unite buildings within each of the various sectors.

The principal unifying factor of the plan is the street arrangement, which is laid out according to lines which intersect at 45 and 90 degree angles, dividing the base into a series of right triangles. The triangles are defined by a series of strong street axes. [See **Photograph 1,**

an aerial photograph from the 1930s, which illustrates how clearly the axes may be seen from the air.] The strongest axis -- the hypotenuse of the triangle -- is that of Graeber Street. Graeber defines two sectors, with the hangars at the southwest, along the flightline, and industrial support buildings on the other side of the street. The hangar sector is among the most unified on base because the hangars are identical. It also includes the original headquarters building (Building 470). It is included within the hangar sector, not only because of location, but also because of its function: the headquarters building also served as the control tower for the runways and its control tower is intact, although no longer used. The industrial sector exists on the northeast side of Graeber. Industrial buildings, such as the Quartermaster Warehouse, Parachute Building, and repair shops, are placed in a less formal manner, although nearly all face Graeber. The buildings are also of different sizes, reflecting their varied functions. Industrial buildings, however, are clearly unified architecturally, easily defined as a group and easily distinguished from the other building types. A streetscape photograph of Graeber Street is included as **Photograph 2.**

The other strong axis on the base is that of Baucom Avenue, which bisects the triangle in a northeast-southwest orientation. If Graeber is the principal functional axis of the base, Baucom Avenue is the main ceremonial axis, linking three key structures: the entrance gate at the northeast, the commanding general's residence in the center, and the headquarters building at the southwest. Baucom Avenue links six of the seven sectors. Between the entrance gate and the commanding general's house, it is a narrow street, lined by the homes of the highest ranking officers, including the commanding general. At the commanding general's house, Baucom curves to either side, dividing into two separate streets, both of which are named Baucom Avenue, identified as Baucom NW and Baucom SE. Heading southwest, the two Baucom Avenues line the two parade grounds. At the northeasterly parade ground, Baucom is framed on one side (northwest) by recreational sector buildings and on the other by the original hospital. Along the southwesterly parade ground, Baucom is framed by the two huge original barrack buildings and by several industrial buildings. Baucom terminates at Graeber Street, facing the headquarters building. A streetscape photograph of Baucom Avenue within the residential sector is included as **Photograph 3**; **Photograph 4** shows Baucom Avenue at the Parade Ground.

Other strong axes are streets which define the east and north sides of the triangle. Outside the historic district, these are Meyer Drive on the north and Riverside Drive on the east. Paralleling these streets just inside the old base are Adams Street on the north and Gilley Street on the east. Gilley Street is lined entirely by officers' quarters, with NCO housing to the south and officer housing to the north. Adams Street is not continuous along the northern edge of the base. It is lined by officers' quarters to the east. The remainder of this axis includes the officers' recreational sector, including the officers' club, visiting officers' quarters, and the officers' swimming pool complex.

The remaining streets within the base are of lesser importance. Dekay Street runs parallel to Graeber and divides the two parade grounds. It is lined by the barracks, the hospital, and enlisted personnel recreational buildings. Plummer Street is also parallel to Graeber and defines the northeast end of the parade ground. It is lined by officers' quarters on one side, including the house of the commanding general, and by the hospital and recreational buildings

on the other. **Photograph 5** illustrates a streetscape along Plummer Avenue. The remaining streets are identified by letters. Most are oriented toward the cardinal directions, serving as small access streets within the officers' quarters sector, although U Street runs diagonally southeast of Baucom, separating the barracks from a small cluster of NCO houses.

As described, the plan of the March Field Historic District comprises three elements: street patterns, functional sectors, and architectural types. The plan also includes landscaping, both plantings and structural landscape elements. As described in Section L below, landscaping includes many mature trees, shrubs, and other plantings which are arranged according to the very formal base layout. Planting, however, was not carried out according to a formal landscape plan. Because of this, landscaping generally does not embody the same programmatic quality of the architecture. Nonetheless, landscaping surely contributes to the sense of time and place within this historic district.

BUILDING TYPES AND MATERIALS WITHIN MARCH FIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT

The 228 buildings, structures, and objects within the March Field Historic District are generally unified in appearance. Virtually all are surfaced in concrete, whether stucco or poured concrete. Most are roofed in clay Mission tiles. All are, to one extent or another, designed to conform with the general Mission Revival motif for the base. The many buildings nonetheless exhibit a wide range of architectural treatments and structural systems. From a structural and aesthetic standpoint, the buildings may be classified as to area (square footage), structural system (material in walls), and architectural detail.

In terms of size, the buildings exhibit a very wide range. The three enlisted personnel barracks (Buildings 311, 400, and 456) are the largest structures in the historic district, encompassing about 41,000 sq. ft. each. Hangars measure about 110' x 200', with an area of about 22,500 square feet, nearly all clear span. The industrial buildings are among the largest and the smallest buildings within the historic district. The largest building in this sector is the quartermaster warehouse (now the museum, Building 420), at 27,703 sq. ft. Three other buildings (441, 453, and 458) are larger than 20,000 sq. ft. At the opposite extreme, the industrial sector includes numerous small structures from pump houses to storage units, some smaller than 100 sq. ft. The administrative, recreational and hospital sectors include generally large buildings. Building 100, originally a bachelor officers' quarters but now used for visiting airmen, is 39,325 sq. ft., exceeded only by the enlisted personnel barracks. The base hospital (Building 317, at 32,250 sq. ft.) is also one of the largest structures in the district. The recreational sector -- gymnasium, theater, bowling alley -- are smaller scaled, from 5-18,000 sq. ft. Finally, the officers' quarters sector, which includes nearly 70 percent of the buildings in the historic district, is a small-scaled sector which comprises virtually all of two sides of the triangle.

The buildings within the historic district are also differentiated according to their structural systems. Four discrete structural systems are represented in large numbers within the March Field Historic District: concrete hollow wall; hollow tile; steel posts and reinforced concrete; and structural terra cotta. The most common structural system at March Field is a generally uncommon method of construction: concrete hollow wall. Concrete hollow wall

construction was apparently popular only during the 1920s. As discussed under "Significance," this method is most directly associated with the architect, Myron Hunt, principal consulting designer of March Field. Hunt's chief biographer, Alson Clark notes: "Although the hollow-wall concrete system was used by others, Myron Hunt became its chief exponent." [Clark, p. 44] The first use of the technology by Hunt was in 1921 in a house in South Pasadena, which also served as a model for homes at March Field. Used principally in domestic architecture, the method was expanded at March Field to include a variety of functional types. The method is used on at least 116 buildings at March Field. Most are officers' quarters; indeed, all but a handful of officers' quarters at the base are built of this method. Of special interest, however, are the large hollow concrete wall buildings at March Field. These include two of the three massive enlisted personnel barracks (Buildings 311 and 400), each two story and about 41,000 sq. ft., the hospital (Building 323), over 32,000 sq. ft., and the base headquarters (Building 470), at nearly 11,000 sq. ft. In sheer numbers and scale, the hollow wall concrete buildings at March Field probably rank among the most significant examples in the world. A construction photograph of the forms used in a hollow-wall concrete building at March Field is included (**Photograph 6**).

The second most common construction method represented at March Field are hollow tile buildings. An older method, hollow tile wall construction was used in military base construction long before March Field was built. This method was used in building a later group of officers' quarters, in virtually all of the larger industrial buildings and in construction of most of the garages within the officers' quarters. This method was used in at least 53 buildings at the base. The third most common method, used only in the hangar area, is that of steel and reinforced concrete walls. These huge structures feature clear spans of 110' and a very tall roof height. Clear spans are achieved by use of steel columns and steel trusses, with reinforced concrete walls joining the columns. Construction photographs illustrate a complex webbing of steel post, beams and trusses, freestanding before any concrete was poured for the hangar walls. In this respect, the hangars are steel buildings from a structural standpoint, although the heavy reinforced concrete walls do no doubt carried some of the load. The fourth construction method used commonly at the base is that of simple reinforced concrete walls. Nine structures appear to have been constructed in this method, although the potential exists that some of these may actually have been built using the hollow-wall concrete method. Finally, a small number of miscellaneous buildings within the historic district utilize unusual (within the context of March Field) construction methods. A single wood frame building (Building 413) survives from the 1917-8 base. The few modern intrusions within the historic district, such as Building 394, are generally made of concrete blocks.

The buildings at March Field are remarkably unified in terms of architectural detail. All conform to the general Mission Revival theme for the base. This unity extends from the residential to administrative and industrial buildings. It also extends to seemingly utilitarian buildings, such as pump houses and storage units. The difference lies in the degree to which Mission Revival ornamentation and design features grace the structures. The three barracks, for example, are among the most highly decorated buildings, with long arcades at both levels, balconies, buttresses, and a variety of other features. The hospital is similarly rich in Mission Revival detail, as is Building 100, the original bachelor officers' quarters. The base theater (Building 467) is also overt in its use of Mission Revival detailing.

The officers' quarters offer a kind of middle ground in terms of architectural detailing. While clearly inspired by the Mission Revival, the many officers' quarters are modest in scale and detailing. All major features -- the smooth plaster surface, red tile roofing, arched openings, tile vents, and so forth -- are derived from the Mission Revival vocabulary. The buildings themselves are simple and understated. The hangars, industrial, and recreational buildings use complementary materials but are only faintly recognizable as Mission Revival structures. Buildings in the recreational sector come closest to a full Mission Revival statement, particularly Buildings 463, 465 and the theater. Industrial buildings, by contrast, are frankly utilitarian buildings, expressing their function and little else. Similarly the hangars are honest functional structures, impressive engineering structures with large clear spans and high roofs, with a reinforced concrete and steel skin. The hangars and industrial buildings, while not explicitly Mission Revival in detail, are integrated into the complex through use of complementary materials.

LIST OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES WITHIN HISTORIC DISTRICT AND CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING ELEMENTS.

A building or other element of this historic district is considered contributing if it was built during the period of significance and retains integrity. The exception to this rule is Building 413, which was built a decade prior to the period of significance. It is treated as an individually eligible property -- the sole remnant of early March Field.

As shown in the list below, the historic district includes 228 buildings, structures, and objects. Of these 29, or about 13 percent, are considered non-contributing. Six of the 17 non-contributors were built during the 1928-33 era, the original construction period for March Field, but have been modified to such an extent that they no longer retain sufficient integrity to be considered contributing elements. Another 3 were built during the 1940-43 era and are considered non-contributing, either because they are inconsistent with the original design for the base or because they have been substantially modified since the 1940s. The remaining non-contributors were built after 1943 and are non-contributing because they were built after the period of significance. The list of non-contributors also includes 9 aircraft which are on display in a parking lot beside the base museum. (For construction dates see Appenix A.)

List of Properties within March Field Historic District

Contributing Buildings

100, 102, 108, 112, 113, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 300, 301, 311, 315, 317, 323, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 355, 362, 364, 373, 381, 382,

383, 385, 386, 400, 405, 411, 412, 413, 417, 418, 420, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 435, 439, 440, 441, 452, 453, 456, 457, 458, 463, 465, 466, 467, 470, 472, 479, 497

Contributing Structures

406, 407, 408, 409, Stone Drainage Canal

Contributing Objects

Flagpole (Building 488)

Non-Contributing Buildings

110, 181, 356, 378, 394, 410, 415, 426, 434, 442, 444, 449, 468, 491, 492

Non-Contributing Structures

20004, 414, 486, 279, 454, Nine Aircraft Outside Museum.

In the discussion below, the buildings, structures, and objects are described by "sector," i.e., the 7 discrete areas of the March Field Historic District.

Officers' Quarters Sector

A very substantial proportion of the March Field Historic District is taken up by quarters for married officers, both commissioned and non-commissioned. Of the 228 buildings within the historic district, 130, or 57 percent, are married officers' quarters. Including the 21 garages and other utilitarian buildings within the officers' quarters sector, the proportion of buildings in that sector rises to 66 percent. Further, because all buildings within this sector are contributors, the Officers' Quarters sector accounts for nearly 3/4 of contributing elements within this historic district. The 130 officers quarters may be categorized by several salient characteristics: plan (the "footprint" of the building and its room arrangements); area (square footage); building material; and date of construction. All of these characteristics align, however, according to the rank of the occupant. Three fundamental building types exist, with a different type for: non-commissioned officers; commissioned officers; and the commanding officer. Sub-types exist within the first two groups, as discussed below.

Non-Commissioned Officer Housing

The March Field Historic District includes 73 houses, or quarters, for non-commissioned officers. All are located in the northern sector of the triangle, along the axes defined by Gilley and A streets, except for a small cluster within the inner part of the triangle, defined by U and K streets. The non-commissioned officers' quarters share many traits. All were built in 1930 and 1931. All are built of concrete hollow wall construction. All are small in comparison to officers' quarters, with areas ranging from 1054 to 1200 square feet. Finally, the

non-commissioned officer quarters are, with rare exceptions, built around a courtyard pattern, with four distinct building types built in a predictable sequence.

The courtyard pattern includes three buildings in a U-shape, connected by two concrete curtain walls, followed by a freestanding structure. The courtyard pattern utilizes three basic building forms, Office of the Quartermaster Types A, B, and C. The pattern is C1, A, C2, B, with the C and A building types linked by curtain walls and the B type freestanding. This pattern is illustrated below. From the street, the patterns reads, from left to right: Building C2, set about 50' from the street, Building A set about 50' behind building C1 (100' from the street), connected to it by an L-shaped concrete curtain wall, the L shaped by the right plane of the C2 building and the front plane of the A building, with an arched opening on the front plane of the A-building; Building C2, on a plane with building C1, connected with Building A by a curtain wall that is the reverse of that connecting buildings C1 and A; Building B, a freestanding structure situated only 10' from the sidewalk. Buildings C1 and C2 are simply reverse images of the identical plan. The A and B buildings include variants, with A1 and A2 and B1 and B2 being reverse versions of the same plan. There does not appear to be any particular pattern regarding the use of the A1-A2 and B1-B2 versions of these plans. The courtyard plan is shown in **Photograph 7.**

Including the reverse versions of the three basic plans, there are six basic building types -- A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, and C2. There are 11 A1 buildings, Buildings 202, 210, 219, 224, 232, 240, 248, 337, 341, 345, and 382. There are 8 A2 buildings: Buildings 203, 211, 218, 225, 233, 241, 249, and 332. There are 7 B1 buildings: Buildings 206, 215, 228, 237, 245, 329, and 335. There are 8 B2 buildings: Buildings 207, 214, 229, 236, 244, 334, 339, and 343. There are 20 C1 buildings: Buildings 200, 205, 208, 213, 216, 221, 222, 227, 230, 235, 238, 243, 246, 251, 328, 330, 336, 340, 344, and 381. Finally, there are 19 C2 buildings: Buildings 201, 204, 209, 212, 217, 220, 223, 226, 231, 234, 239, 242, 247, 250, 333, 338, 342, 346, and 383.

The C type building is a one-story hollow-wall concrete building with a clay tile gabled roof. It features a front-facing gable with a parallel gabled porch roof to one side and a shed-roofed extension to the other. In Building type C1, the porch is to the left and the shed-roofed extension to the right; Building C2 is the reverse. The porch features arched openings to either side and a rectangular opening facing the street. It includes a straight plan on the elevation facing the courtyard, with a concrete chimney about halfway along this elevation. Four tall casement windows are found along this elevation. The other side elevation includes the shed-roofed extension. Two casement windows are found on this elevation, with bands of smaller casement windows on the extension. This building type features a triangular vent pattern at the facade. Window patterns reflect the original design, although the sash have all been replaced, as discussed below with respect to integrity for these buildings. An NCO C type building, Building 221, is shown in **Photograph 8.**

The A type NCO quarters is a side-gabled building, with hollow concrete walls and tile roof. Its area is 1054 square feet. The building includes a small porch overhang which is an extension of the slope of the primary gable roof, centered on the facade with arched openings on the sides. As noted, the A type building is linked at both sides by concrete curtain walls, joining it with the C type buildings. This curtain wall links with small rooms at either side of

the A building. At one side or the other (depending upon whether it is an A1 or A2), the A Building includes a small rear extension. Windows are tall metal casements, except in the two small side rooms. An NCO A type building, Building 211, is shown in **Photograph 9**.

The B type NCO quarters are largest of the three types, with an area of 1200 square feet. It is a more complex form than the A and C types. It is built of hollow concrete walls and features a side gable roof in tile. At one side (left for B1, right for B2) is a covered porch with an intersecting gable roof and arched openings on three sides. The four terra cotta vents for this gable are set in a diamond pattern. At the opposite side (again, left or right, depending upon the type) is a rear and side extension. The ridge for the gabled roof on this extension is located just behind the main ridge for the building. The rear slope of the roof is very long, extending to a rear roof height less than that for the front. Most windows in this building -- three on the side with the porch, two on the facade, and three on the side with the rear extension -- are tall metal casements. A round vent is located at the gable end on the side with the porch, while a diamond-shaped vent pattern is found at the opposite end. An NCO B type building, Building 237, is shown in **Photograph 10**.

The NCO quarters generally retain a very high degree of integrity. Two types of modifications are found almost uniformly in these building types. First, all sash was replaced in two generations of work. Original sash included paired six-light steel casements with a four-light transom overhead. This type of window was commonly used throughout the base -- here and in commissioned officers' quarters as well as smaller utilitarians buildings -- and may still be found in a few industrial buildings. The first generation of new windows were installed during the mid-1950s. Although replacing steel sash with an aluminum casement, the 1950s window closely matches the original design, except the four light transom was replaced by an eight light unit, including a horizontal as well as vertical muntins. Twenty-two NCO houses have these windows, in consecutive numerical order between 200 and 221. A second generation of window replacements, occurring during the 1970s, resulted in the installation of aluminum casements which are not close matches to the original. These windows feature casements without muntins and with a transom on the bottom. A second type of modification commonly found on these buildings is the installation of exterior heating and air-conditioning units. This modification is generally quite minor and unobtrusive. Aside from these relatively minor modifications, the NCO houses are quite intact. Their historical integrity extends to many interior features, including built in bookcases, telephone niches, and window and door moldings.

Officers' Quarters

While NCO housing was built around a very predictable pattern of three basic types, commissioned officer housing involved a more complicated pattern. Three general types of houses were built -- those for officers, built in 1929; those for officers, built in 1931; and a house for the commanding officer or commanding general (CG). Several building types existed for officers and field and company officers, while the house for the commanding general is unique. In the following discussion, the two basic types of officer housing (other than the commanding general's house) will be described, followed by a discussion of the large CG residence.

Officers' Quarters built in 1929 and 1931 are different in several respects. First, 1929 officers' quarters are smaller, ranging from 1600 to 1800 square feet, as opposed to 2064 to 2326 square feet for 1931 quarters. (The CG's house was originally 2522 square feet and is now somewhat larger). Second, 1929 officers' quarters are built of hollow concrete wall construction while the 1931 officers' housing is built of hollow clay tile finished in stucco. Further, the two types of buildings are clustered, with field officers occupying buildings close to the CG residence (within the inner triangle), and company officers sited mostly east of Gilley Street, although a few company officers are housed at the western end of Adams Street, near the Officers' Club. Several variations exist within the two major types, identified by letters, assigned by the Quartermaster Corps at the time the buildings were constructed. The concrete hollow wall buildings include types A, B, C, D, and E, while the hollow clay tile buildings are types F and G. Each will be described separately below in alphabetical order.

Building Type A.

Building A is a concrete hollow wall structure with a side gable roof in tile. It is distinguished by a cross gable front extension at one end and an open porch at the other. Its area is 1800 square feet. As with homes throughout the base, there are A1 and A2 variations. With A1, the cross gable extension is at the right, the porch at the left. A2 is the reverse. Sixteen A type buildings exist, including 6 A1 and 10 A2 buildings. A1 buildings include: 123, 124, 131, 132, 141, and 149. A2 buildings are: 127, 128, 135, 138, 145, 153, 157, 161, 163, and 166. A type buildings are scattered throughout the northeastern part of the historic district, i.e., the apex of the triangle. The A building is the most common type in the officers' quarters area of the base. Building 163, an A type residence, is shown in **Photograph 11**.

The A building is a particularly attractive example of the Mission Revival residence at March Field in several respects. It is a linear design, particularly at its facade. Its fenestration offers a pleasing mix of forms, from the balconied rectangular openings with French doors to the round-headed arched opening at the side porch. As discussed below, the integrity of A type buildings is diminished by the fact that windows were replaced during the mid-1950s. Buildings types A, B, C, D, and E originally included wooden casement windows. During the 1950s, these were replaced with aluminum sash which closely resembled the steel sash found in the NCO area and in officers' quarters building types F and G. This replacement was inappropriate in the sense that it introduced an entirely new design into these buildings. The inappropriateness is all the more apparent because building types A-E also include timber French doors, all of which are still in place, which were coordinated with the original wooden casement windows. Another repetitive, although easily reversible, modification is the enclosure of the small side porches, generally with lean-to (shed-roofed) patio covers.

Building Type B.

Building B is a concrete hollow wall structure with a side gable roof in tile. It is distinguished by a cross gable front extension and a small open porch at one end. Its area is 1800 square feet. As with homes throughout the base, there are B1 and B2 variations, depending on which side the cross gable extension is located -- left for B1, right for B2. Ten B type buildings exist, including 6 B1 and 4 B2 buildings. B1 buildings include: 121, 126, 136, 139, 147,

and 168. B2 buildings are: 129, 134, 137, and 155. B type buildings are scattered throughout the northeastern part of the historic district, i.e., the apex of the triangle. The B building is the second most common building type in the officers' quarters area of the base. Building 121, a B type residence, is shown in **Photograph 12**.

The B building is an attractive example of the Mission Revival residence at March Field. Like the A type, it is a linear design, particularly at its facade. Its fenestration offers a pleasing mix of forms, from the balconied rectangular openings with French doors to the round-headed arched opening at the side porch. As discussed, the integrity of B type buildings is diminished by the fact that windows were replaced during the mid-1950s. During the 1950s, these wooden casements were replaced with aluminum sash which closely resembled the steel sash found in the NCO area and in officers' quarters building types F and G. Another repetitive, although easily reversible, modification is the enclosure of the small side porches, generally with lean-to (shed-roofed) patio covers.

Building Type C.

Building C is a concrete hollow wall building with a side gable roof in tile. It is a long and narrow building with a small porch overhang which is an extension of the slope of the primary gable roof. Its area is 1600 square feet. As with homes throughout the base, there are C1 and C2 variations, depending on which side the porch is located -- right for C1, left for C2. Six C type buildings exist, 3 C1 and 3 C2. C1 buildings include: 133, 151, and 159. C2 buildings are: 125, 130, and 142. C type buildings are all located near the apex of the triangle, along Adams and Gilley streets. Building 133, a C type, is shown in **Photograph 13**. The C type buildings share the principal modifications associated with buildings A, and B, i.e., replacement of wooden casement with aluminum casement windows. The C buildings otherwise appear to be intact.

Building Type D.

Building D is a concrete hollow wall residence. In its footprint, it is one of a group of buildings, along with the E, F, and G buildings, which are in a U-shape with double front extensions which form a small patio at the entrance. The D type includes three very narrow elements -- the lateral stem and two side extensions, each about 15' wide. The area for this building about 1700 square feet. There are only two D buildings at the base, one D1 (Building 167) and one D2 (Building 164). With D1, the right front extension is slightly longer than the left; D2 is the reverse. Both are located on Plummer Avenue just to the right of the commanding general's residence, suggesting this house, built in 1929 before the field and company officer houses were constructed, was designed for use of ranking officers in the fledgling base. **Photograph 14** shows Building 164, a D type building. The D type buildings share the principal modifications associated with buildings A, B, and C, i.e., replacement of wooden casement with aluminum casement windows. The two D buildings otherwise appear to be intact.

Building Type E.

Building E is a concrete hollow wall structure. In its footprint, it is very similar to Building type D, including the fact of a 1700 square foot area. Like Building D, it is U-shaped with double front extensions which form a small patio at the entrance and includes three very narrow elements -- the lateral stem and two side extensions, each about 15' wide. The differences between the two likely pertain to internal room arrangements. There are only two E buildings at the base, Building 162, which is E1 and Building 169, which is E2. Both are located on Plummer Avenue just to the right of the commanding general's residence, suggesting the E-type house, built in 1929 before the field and company officer houses were constructed, was designed for use of ranking officers in the fledgling base. **Photograph 15** illustrates Building 162, an E type building. The E building, like the A-D buildings, originally featured wooden sash, now replaced with aluminum casement windows. The E buildings are otherwise almost completely intact.

Building Type F.

As noted, Building Types F and G are considerably different that types A through E. They were built later, in 1931 as opposed to 1929 for types A-E. Their walls are built of hollow clay tile, finished in stucco. The F and G buildings are easily recognized by their smooth finishes, quite unlike the rough form-mark finish of the poured concrete walls found in buildings A-E. Types F and G feature U-shaped facades, like buildings D and E. With Building G, however, the courtyard is enclosed by a low concrete wall, accessed through a central wooden gate. Both types feature central fireplaces, where all other building type fireplaces are at the sides. Finally, the F and G type structures are much larger, with the F type measuring 2005 square feet and the G type 2269 square feet.

Building F (along with Building G) is unusual among building types at the base in that it includes a hipped form, albeit on one side only. As noted, type F includes double front extensions, forming a small front patio, as well as longer rear extensions, forming an even larger rear patio. Thus, the building is H-shaped, with two long front-rear axes and a shorter central axis. One side is a smooth plane, while the other includes a small gabled extension, which continues the ridge of the central roof. The hipped roof form is found at the side with the smooth plane and is formed by the juncture of the lateral and side gables. Along with the hipped roof, Building F is best distinguished by the fact that it has rectangular vents in its gable ends, the only such vents on the base. Fourteen F type buildings are found on the base, divided between types F1 and F2 according to the side on which the smooth plane is located. The F buildings are: 140, 144, 146, 150, 117, 122, 156, 160, 118, 119, 120, 143, 152, and 158. They are located in two places: along the east side of Gilley Street and near the Officers' Club. **Photograph 16** depicts Building 120.

The F type buildings originally included steel sash, similar to that found originally in the NCO area. During the 1970s, these windows were replaced with aluminum sash, identical to the 1970s replacement sash installed in the NCO area. The 1970s windows did not match the 1931 originals in that the transom is at the bottom (it was at the top originally), and the casements are single pane (the originals included muntins dividing casements into four panes

each). This modification is somewhat ironic in that the 1950s aluminum replacements in buildings A-E are quite similar in appearance to the original steel sash in the F and G buildings. Thus the A-E buildings, which were designed to have wood sash, now have metal casement windows similar to those that belong on the F and G buildings, while the F and G buildings have windows with no real precedent in the history of the base.

Building Type G.

Building G is similar to Building F in that the front extensions form a front patio. The patio, as noted, is enclosed by a concrete wall. Type G differs from type F, however, in that it is not an "H"; the rear area is squared off, creating about 200 more square feet of space. Like Building F, the G type structure includes a hipped roof form on one side only, where the forward gable intersects with the lateral ridge. Six G structures are found on the base, being Buildings 115, 170, 171, 172, 173, and 174. All are located on Plummer Street immediately west of the commanding general's house.

Integrity is generally very good for homes within the Officers' Quarters sector. The most substantial modification was replacement of all windows. As noted, the replacement sash is inappropriate for types A-E, which originally had wooden sash, and for types F-G, which originally had multiple-pane steel casement windows. Other modifications in the area are minor by comparison and include: enclosure of porch areas with easily removable patio covers; introduction of freestanding air-conditioning and heating units; and installation of chain-link fences.

Commanding General's House

Building 176, the home of the Commanding General, is the most elegant and among the least modified buildings within the Officers' Quarters sector. It is a concrete hollow-wall building with a tiled roof. The building is U-shaped, with a long side gabled segment paralleling Plummer Avenue, measuring 21' x 96', with symmetrical rear extensions, measuring 19' x 37', both gabled. It features a concrete porch cover, the roof for which is an extension of the slope of the primary gabled roof. It includes double-hung wooden sash, the only building at March Field to do so. The Commanding General's house appears to be largely unmodified. The only notable alteration was the enclosure of the rear porch, which extends along three sides -- the main stem and the two rear wings. Building 176 is a key contributor to this historic district. It is shown in **Photograph 17.**

Other Buildings within the Officers' Quarters Sector

The Officers' Quarters sector includes 21 other buildings. Eighteen of these -- Buildings 112, 113, 116, 165, 175, 177, 178, 179, 180, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 331, 362, and 364 -- are multiple vehicle garages. All except 177 are essentially the same -- built of hollow tile with gently sloping shed roof of corrugated metal. The only differences are the number of garage units. Buildings 112, 113, 116, 179, 180, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 362, and 364 are 6-car units, Building 331 is an 11-car garage, Buildings 165 and 175 are 12-car units, and Building 178 is a 4-car unit. All contribute to this historic district. Building 175, a typical garage, is illustrated

in **Photograph 18**. Building 177 is a two car-garage, used by the Commanding General. It is a hollow-wall concrete structure with a tiled gable roof. In the earliest years of the base, it served as a temporary fire house, reverting to use by the Commanding General when Building 301 was completed in 1932. This building appears to be largely unmodified and contributes to the significance of this historic district.

Building 108 is a small reinforced concrete pump house, located within the Officers' Quarters sector. It measures 14' x 14', features a tiled hipped roof and is unmodified. It contributes to this historic district. Building 154 is the original gate house, located at original Main Gate at the corner of Riverside and Meyer. The gate house itself measures about 11' x 11', built of reinforced concrete walls with a tiled gable roof. An 11' length of concrete wall, 6' in height, extends to either side, terminating in a concrete post to support the metal gate. Complementary concrete posts exist opposite the two gates. The gate house, concrete wall, and posts retain a high degree of integrity and contribute to this historic district. Building 154 is shown in **Photograph 19**. Building 148 is the original "radio hut," now unoccupied, located just behind Building 154 along Baucom Avenue. It is a hollow concrete wall building with a tiled gable roof, measuring 16' x 25' with 8' shed-roofed wings at either side. It is a somewhat whimsical building from an architectonic standpoint, with a concrete door surround at the facade, surmounted by the likeness of a propeller airplane engine. The building is completely unmodified and contributes to the significance of this historic district. It is shown in **Photograph 20.**

Hangar Sector

Among the most impressive -- and functionally indispensable -- elements of the 1928-38 March Field Historic District -- are the hangars which line the south side of Graeber Avenue. The hangar sector includes 11 buildings, 9 of which contribute to the significance of this historic district. The two non-contributing buildings are small and recently-constructed.

The core of the hangar sector comprises the 8 hangars, Buildings 300, 355, 373, 385, 429, 440, 452, and 457. The hangars are essentially identical and described here as a unit; minor differences, relating to post-1929 modifications are discussed below. The 8 hangars were built in 1929, constructed by the L.A. Contracting Company. Each includes a core hangar space measuring 200' X 110'. The buildings are supported on steel columns, with 110' clear span trusses at the shallow gabled roof. Walls are 8-inch reinforced concrete while flooring is built up of 6-inch concrete paving. The roofs, originally finished in concrete slab tiles, are now covered in corrugated metal. Each building features an exterior frame for four massive sliding doors, allowing for full access to nearly all of the 110' clear span. Each structure is oriented with Graeber Street, i.e., the long sides of the structures and the roof ridges are parallel to the street. Finally, all hangars were fitted with 11' x 179' flat-roofed reinforced concrete wings in 1941 along both long side elevations (along Graeber Street and the flightline). In their original condition, the 8 hangars included identical fenestration, door, and other hardware. Hangar doors are sectional and, when fully opened, allow virtually open access to the entire hangar area. The 1941 wings largely obscure the original side windows; original windows now appear as clerestories above the wings. Windows on the wings themselves, found on three sides, are steel awning sash, common to the entire industrial sector. While all 8 hangars are essentially

intact and are regarded as contributing to the significance of this historic district, each has been modified to one degree or another. Five are essentially unmodified -- Buildings 385, 355, 300, 452, and 429. The remaining three are substantially modified, each in its own way.

Building 373 has been modified for use as office and research space. The modifications affect the northwestern wing, along Graeber Street; the principal hangar space has also been divided up for office use. Windows along the Graeber Street elevation have been replaced with tinted glass in aluminum frames. A new patio at the entrance to the Graeber Street offices is built of concrete block and was construction within the past decade. Building 440 is arguably the most heavily modified of the 8 hangars, although modifications are restricted to the southeast and Graeber Street elevations. At the southeast, the sliding doors were removed and the hangar space permanently enclosed by fixed vertical siding. Less substantial modifications affect the integrity of the Graeber Street elevation, including replacement of several original steel doors with glass doors in aluminum frames. The northwest elevation, including sliding doors and frames, is unaltered. Building 457 has been altered, like Building 440, through modifications to the southeast elevation. In this case, the four sliding doors have been pushed to left side (southwest), while the right half of the hangar space was infilled with a patterned concrete surface. The remaining elevations are largely unchanged except for a few small infillings of window and door spaces.

Building 429, an unmodified hangar, is shown in **Photograph 21**. Building 440, a modified hangar is shown in **Photograph 22.**

Also included within the hangar sector is Building 470, the original headquarters building for March Field, now headquarters for the 22th Air Refueling Wing. It is a two-story reinforced concrete building with a tiled gabled roof. It features a long central segment, its ridge parallel to Graeber Street, flanked by front-gabled segments at the ends of the building. Completed in January, 1929, it was one of the first buildings constructed after March Field was reopened. As originally constructed, it featured an open-air observation deck, centered on the roof of the long central segment. In 1940, the flight observation deck was enclosed to serve as a control tower. Appropriate to its role in the base, Building 470 is one of the more interesting and sophisticated structures at March Field. Its Mission Revival character is defined by its general form, smooth plastered surface, and tile roof, and by a cast stone doorway surround. The building appears to be almost completely unmodified. It appears to retain its original steel sash on the second story, joined by sympathetic aluminum replacement windows on the first story. The setting as well as structural integrity of the building is diminished, however, by a large (93' x 53') concrete block, which joins the 1929 building on the southeast. This addition, while largely freestanding, does link with the original Building 470 and is considered a part of it. Despite this intrusive addition, Building 470, which is otherwise unmodified, is a contributing element of this historic district. It is shown in **Photograph 23.**

In addition to hangars and the headquarters building, the hangar sector includes two small buildings, used for miscellaneous functions. Building 394 is one-story concrete block structure with a shallow side gable roof, encompassing about 2800 sq. ft., located between Buildings 300 and 355. It was built in 1952 and does not contribute to the historic district. Building 442 includes two "temporary"-type metal sided buildings, installed on the concrete

apron between Buildings 440 and 436. It does not contribute to the significance of this historic district.

Industrial Sector

As mentioned earlier, the industrial sector at March Field includes a very diverse group of buildings, from the smallest to some of the largest buildings within the historic district and comprising a wide variety of uses. Further, nearly all buildings within the industrial sector are unique; only two repetitive building types exist there. As utilitarian structures, these buildings have been modified as uses changed. These various characteristics require that the 30 buildings within the industrial sector be described individually.

The largest buildings within the sector are 12 structures along Graeber Street northwest of the parade ground, the original Quartermaster Corps area of the base. These include: Buildings 420, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 441, 444, 449, 453 and 458. Building 420, the old Quartermaster Warehouse, now the base museum, has an area of 27,700 sq. ft. It resembles Building 441, the old Quartermaster garage, a smaller structure at about 21,000 sq. ft. The buildings are constructed of gambrel roofed modules, each 101' long and 69' wide; the only major difference between the two is that Building 420 includes four modules, Building 441 only three. Both are built of hollow tile walls, surfaced in a smooth concrete stucco. The roof for each module is a very shallow gambrel, with only a subtle difference in pitch between the breaks at each side. Each roof is shielded behind a concrete parapet with concrete coping, rising to a rectangular piece at the ridge. Concrete piers exist at the corners, with the outside piers twice as wide as those at the interior. These piers appear to be solid but are actually two sided parapets. The facade for each module includes two windows and a door. Windows are multiple-pane steel awning-type sash; doors vary from one module to the next. Exterior elevations include huge steel sash curtains, with awning-type openings at the center. The rear elevation of Building 420 includes a loading dock with large roll-up doors. These two buildings are largely unmodified and contribute to the significance of this historic district. Building 420 is the more heavily modified of the two. Modifications include replacement of several doors on the northeast elevation -- the front doors for the museum -- with aluminum framed glass doors. At the rear loading dock area, five windows and one door have been blocked off with concrete blocks. Building 441 is in much more original condition, modifications restricted to replacement of three doors each on the front and rear elevations. Building 441 is shown in **Photograph 24.**

Building 430, the old Quartermaster Maintenance Building, is very similar in design to Buildings 420 and 441, representing a free-standing example of the modules around which the others are constructed. It is slightly wider than the modules in 440 and 442, measuring 69' x 121', but otherwise includes the features characteristic of the other buildings: shallow gambrel roof; solid piers at the corners; long window curtains at the side elevations; and concrete parapet with coping at the roof line. It includes four windows at the facade. The building is almost completely unmodified and contributes to the significance of this historic district.

An industrial building type, similar but not identical to that in Buildings 420, 430, and 441, is illustrated in Building 433, the old bakery, Building 434, the old base laundry, and

Building 435, the old ordnance warehouse. Like the other Quartermaster type, it is built of hollow tile walls, surfaced in concrete stucco, and includes a concrete parapet with coping. Unlike the other building, however, this type includes a gabled roof and lacks the solid concrete corner piers and rectangular element at the ridge of the parapet. This type is illustrated by Building 435, a 7,700 sq. ft. building that is almost completely unmodified. Much larger than Buildings 432 and 434 at the time it was built, this former ordnance warehouse features large bands of steel awning-type sash on its front and side elevations, all of which are original. This building retains a high degree of integrity and contributes to the significance of this historic district. It is shown in **Photograph 25.** Building 433, the old bakery, has been modified through a major addition to its left (northwest) side, constructed some time after 1941. Originally a symmetrical building of 1700 sq. ft., it is now about 3700 sq. ft. owing to the aforementioned addition. The stuccoed addition includes a concrete loading dock at the facade (facing Graeber Street). This addition obscures the left elevation and nearly doubles the area. The original building, nonetheless, is visible at three elevations -- the facade, right, and rear. All original fenestration, comprising steel sash with awning openings, is in place. Although modified, the building appears to retain sufficient integrity to represent a contributing element of this historic district.

Building 434, on the other hand, is so heavily modified that it does not contribute to the significance of this property. It began life as a 4200 sq. ft. post laundry. In basic design, it was quite similar to Buildings 433 and 435, with a gabled roof and concrete parapet with coping, of the design found on Buildings 433 and 435. As a laundry, it features a ventilation monitor at the gable ridge and a large chimney at the rear. This building was modified in several stages. In 1941, a major addition was made by Works Progress Administration crews, resulting in a 13' x 124' wing to the right (southeast). This addition increased square footage to 6241. At some point after 1941, probably during the later years of World War II, a massive rear extension was built, making the building nearly twice as long as originally designed. This addition is partly reinforced concrete and partly woodframe with wood siding, diluting the integrity of design and materials. Various modifications have occurred since 1945, including a rather clumsy reinforced concrete addition to the left of the original structure. The building today encompasses 14,763 sq. ft., over 3 1/2 time the original area. These major additions have obscured the original design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association for this building, rendering it a non-contributing element of this historic district. The rear of Building 434 is shown in **Photograph 26.**

The remaining buildings in the Quartermaster area -- Buildings 431, 432, 444, 449, and 453 -- are unique, i.e., have no equivalents within the historic district. Building 431 is a small electrical switch house built in 1929. It is a concrete building with a tiled hipped roof. It was expanded some time after 1941, growing from an area of about 400 sq. ft to its current 684 sq. ft. The addition was handled so skillfully, however, that the modification is hardly apparent. Although modified, the building retains sufficient integrity to warrant treatment as a contributing element of this historic district. Building 432 is the old boiler room for the post laundry and is, of course, located adjacent to Building 434. It is a flat-roof reinforced concrete building of about 1650 sq. ft. It appears to be completely unmodified from its construction in 1941. Although built in 1941, it is architecturally compatible with adjacent structures, being a simple, sturdy concrete building, and represents a functional extension of

the adjacent laundry and bakery operations. It contributes to the historic district. Building 444 is a 1958 wood frame structure, serving as a safety instructional building and does not contribute to this historic district. Building 449 is a small, flat-roofed reinforced concrete building, built in 1941. It is designed in a modest interpretation of the Streamlined Moderne style and, for that reason, does not conform with the general design of the base. It is not a contributing element of this historic district.

Building 453, the original aircraft repair shop, is nearly identical to the hangars, located across Graeber Street. Indeed, Quartermaster property inventories from the period identify the building as a "Standard 110' hangar," and its plans are given the same Quartermaster number as those for the hangars. Its dimensions (110' x 200') and its construction methods (steel frame with concrete walls) are also identical to the hangars. The only measurable difference between it and the hangars is the absence of the hangar's wide doors and exterior frames. Building 453 might properly be classified with the hangars except that it did not so function is not situated with the other hangars. This 1929 structure is largely unmodified, except for a small addition to the northwest, and contributes to the significance of this historic district. Building 458, the original air corps warehouse, was identical to Building 453 when constructed. It was modified in 1956, however, through construction of a large concrete block addition. The addition continues to the form of the building about 80' to the northwest. Although a substantial modification, the addition is generally sympathetic to the original design and, as an addition, did not result in destruction of large parts of the original material. Despite its modifications, Building 458 contributes to this historic district.

Another cluster of industrial buildings are located southeast of the Quartermaster area, generally southeast of Baucom Avenue SE. These include Buildings 472, 301, 386, and 356. Building 472 is a 882 sq. ft. one-story reinforced concrete building with a tiled gable roof, measuring approximately 20' x 45'. Air Force records indicate that it was built in 1925; the construction chronology for this base suggests, however, that it was more likely constructed in the 1928-32 period, along with the bulk of the other concrete Mission Revival structures. It appears to be completely unmodified and contributes to this historic district.

Building 301 is the original firehouse and guard house, built in 1932. Sited at a 45 degree angle with the corner of Baucom and Graeber, this utilitarian building is a prominent feature of the Parade Ground area of March Field. Built of hollow tile with a stucco finish, it is a two-story building at the corner of Baucom and Graeber and a one-story building at the rear. The one-story segment was used as the original firehouse and features large fire truck entry doors at the facade (one of which has been in-filled), with office space at the second story. Original steel casement windows are in place at the side elevations and on four sides of the second story. The rear one-story segment, originally a guard house, features its original wooden sash. Building 386, a small hollow tile tool shed built in 1931, is located immediately behind Building 301. It features its original steel sash. It includes a hipped tile roof, as do both segments of Building 301. Both Building 386 and 301 date to the period of significance, retain a high degree of integrity, and contribute to this historic district.

Building 356 is a modern building number that applies to two early March Field structures, numbered 356 and 357 until they were joined together in 1967. These were among

the first buildings constructed at March Field, Building 356 being the "parachute and armaments building," Building 357 the original photographic laboratory. The buildings are very similar in size and other attributes. Both are built of hollow-wall concrete with tiled gable roofs. Each measured about 43' x 117'. Building 356 originally included a taller cross-gabled segment at its rear (northeast) and included steel sash, while Building 357 included a continuous roof ridge and wooden casement windows. In 1967, the two buildings were joined along Graeber Street through construction of a long and narrow frame and stucco element, measuring approximately 130' x 50'. The resulting building is a hybrid, architecturally and historically. From the rear and sides, the old Buildings 356 and 357 appear to retain separate identities. Along the important Graeber Street elevation, however, the building is dominated by 1967 construction. Thus, while most of the original material for Buildings 356 and 357 are intact, the design, feeling and associations have been destroyed through this modification. The building does not contribute to the significance of this historic district.

The remainder of the industrial area is clustered near the corner of Meyer and Graeber, just north of the old Quartermaster area, and is used in water treatment, vehicle maintenance, and miscellaneous storage. Building 405 and Building 479 are located side-by-side adjacent to the base museum (Building 420) and were originally a "salvage warehouse and lumber yard." Constructed in 1938, the two were late additions to the base but built in the general Mission Revival style, surrounded by a 6' reinforced concrete wall with coping, also built in 1938 and consistent with the design of other walls within March Field which date to the period of significance. Building 405 is a one-story reinforced concrete building with a hipped tile roof. It includes all of its original metal sash, although the front door has been replaced by an aluminum frame glass door. Building 479 is a tall concrete building with an open south face and shed roofed extensions to the east and west. Building 479 appears to be completely unmodified, including all of its original doors and windows. As noted, the reinforced concrete wall that begins at Building 405 terminates at Building 479. A small wall segment extends from each building, forming a concrete post for a gate. These two buildings and the joining wall retain a high degree of integrity and contribute to the significance of this historic district. These buildings are shown in **Photograph 27**.

Buildings 406, 407, 408, and 409 are not "buildings" in the ordinary sense but rather are a series of water reservoirs, located along M Street. Buildings 406, 408, and 409 are cylindrical reinforced concrete reservoirs with capacities of 400,000, 200,000, and 400,000 gallons, respectively. Buildings 406 and 408 were built in 1932, Building 409 in 1940. Building 407 is a 200,000 gallon steel water tank on a 110' steel tower, built in 1934. Although frankly utilitarian in appearance, these structures contribute to the historic district. Building 409, although built in 1940, matches the appearance of the earlier tanks and conforms with the general design of March Field. These tanks can be seen in **Photograph 27**.

Buildings 410, 411 412, 415, and 439 are pump houses located in the industrial sector; another pump house, Building 108, is located within the Officers' Quarters sector and is described in that context. Buildings 411 and 439, small square plan reinforced concrete buildings with tiled hipped roofs, were built as part of the original base during the 1920s and 1930s and contribute to the district. Building 412 was built in 1943, apparently of concrete

bricks but in a manner consistent with the historic district and is a contributor. Buildings 410 and 415 were built after World War II -- 410 in 1947, 415 in 1987 -- and do not contribute.

Building 417 is located in the industrial sector near the water treatment facilities. It was built in 1934 as a radio building, apparently to replace Building 148, the original radio "hut" in the officers' quarters sector. Building 147 is something of an architectural anomaly within March Field, being a nicely-detailed neo-classical structure. In its proportions and detail -- quoins at the corners, pedimented entry, corniced wood trim over the doorway -- it is like a small temple. Although not consistent with the overall architectural program at March Field, the building conforms with the base in its concrete and tile materials and contributes to the district. Building 418 is located nearby and, like 417, now operates as part of the base's motor pool. It is a rectangular stuccoed building with a tiled hipped roof. Although built in 1943, the building is consistent with the general design of the base and contributes to the historic district. Building 417 is shown in **Photograph 28.**

Hospital Sector

The hospital sector is situated at the southeast side of the parade ground, along Baucom Avenue SE between Dekay Avenue and Plummer Avenue. It includes three buildings -- the old hospital, Building 323, the original barracks for the medical detachment, Building 317, and Building 378, a small non-contributing storage building behind the hospital.

The hospital building, Building 323, is a two-story, hollow-wall concrete building with gabled roof forms, built in 1931 but enlarged in 1933 and 1941. It was originally H-shaped, with a long axis paralleling Baucom Avenue and shorter intersecting axes forming a rear courtyard and shorter extensions at the facade. Its original area was 32,000 sq. ft. In 1933, a small one-story, free-standing annex was built within the rear courtyard. In 1941, the building was substantially enlarged in two respects. First, major two-story addition were made at either side, beyond the transverse gable elements Second, the freestanding building in the courtyard was enlarged to two stories and integrated structurally with the main building. These additions increased the size of the building to over 60,000 sq. ft., nearly double the original. Additions are, like the original, of concrete hollow-wall construction. The additions, while transforming the appearance of the building, are generally consistent with the design of the original. Indeed, the wings are so skillfully executed as to be unrecognizable as additions. The hospital building is one of the more elegant buildings within March Field, rivalling Buildings 100, 470, and the barracks in architectural sophistication. It is also unusual among major buildings at March Field in that it appears to retain all of its original steel casement windows as well as important interior features, including a handsome staircase and marble entry lobby, centered on the facade. The hospital, despite 1941 additions, is a key contributor to this historic district. It is shown in **Photograph 29.**

Building 317 is the original barracks for medical personnel, built in 1934. As originally constructed, the building borrowed architectural elements from the hospital and enlisted personnel barracks. It is a hollow wall concrete building, measuring 75' x 35', with a two-story wing (originally an open porch) measuring 43' x 12'. The building has been modified, however, in several important respects. It originally included steel casement windows, identical to those

found in Building 323; these have been replaced with aluminum sliding windows which are much smaller than the openings. The original two-story porch was an open loggia, with first story arches twice as wide as those on the second story -- a feature borrowed from the enlisted personnel barracks. The arched openings have been in-filled with rectangular aluminum frame windows and doors piercing the stucco in-fill. Although these modifications detract from the original design, the building retains sufficient integrity of materials, design, and workmanship to qualify as a contributor to this historic district. Building 378 is a concrete block storage room, with an area of 142 sq. ft., built in 1954. It does not contribute to this historic district.

Recreational/Social Buildings for Enlisted Personnel

The enlisted personnel recreational/social sector is located northeast of the barracks sector of the base, along Baucom Avenue NW between Dekay and Plummer (across the parade ground from the hospital), and along Dekay Avenue between Baucom Avenue NW and B Street (across Dekay from barracks buildings 400 and 456). Six buildings are included in this area: Buildings 426, 463, 465, 466, 467, and 468. The recreational sector is arguably the least coherent sector of the historic district because it includes post-1940 buildings and because the pre-1940 buildings have been modified. Of the six structures, two (Buildings 426 and 468) are non-contributing because they were built after 1934 and do not conform to the design of the old base. Buildings 465, 466, and 467 are pre-1940 buildings that contribute to the historic district, despite being altered. Building 463, although built in 1941, contributes to this historic district because it is consistent with the design of the historic district.

The intended architectural character of this sector can best be described as transitional, midway between the utilitarian design of the industrial sector and the more elegant design of the hospital and barracks sectors. The buildings are generally large with broad clear-span rooms, and their architectural character is defined in large part by these design elements. Clearly, some effort was made to adorn the buildings with features that speak to the Mission Revival style, although not in the detail or with the success used in the hospital and barracks section.

Building 465, the base gymnasium is a massive structure, measuring 143' x 114' at the time its was constructed, most of which is taken up with the clear span gymnasium area. In its massive bands of steel sash along the side elevations and largely plain facade, the structure resembles buildings in the industrial area. The industrial appearance is softened, however, by modest detailing at the facade: massive quoins at the corners, a large two-story arched opening with voussoir-like incising, decorative grillwork at the vent, and a tile-roofed porch at the entry. This 1933 building contributes to the historic district, despite a major 1956 concrete-block addition to the left of the facade and a recent metal-sided addition at the rear. The building's interior includes important and intact elements, most notably the gymnasium floor and balconied viewing area. It is shown in **Photograph 30**.

Building 463 is a recreational building -- originally a bowling alley, now used for aerobic exercises -- located adjacent to the gymnasium. It is a reinforced concrete building, built in 1943 but within the general design standards for March Field. It draws inspiration

from nearby industrial buildings, particularly the Quartermaster warehouse buildings. Like Building 420 and 441, it includes a concrete parapet with coping, large concrete piers, and rectangular pieces which terminate the parapet. The 1943 building is largely intact, although a substantial addition was constructed in recent decades along its northwestern elevation. The building retains fair integrity and contributes to the historic district because it is consistent with the general design of the base.

Building 466 is the original base exchange, built in 1931. It is a hollow tile building with a large central gambrel roof. As originally constructed, the building featured a seven bay entry porch which extended the length of the facade, with five rectangular opening and symmetrical enclosed bays to either side. The building was modified in 1941 through construction of shed-roofed wings at the side of the building and enclosure of three of the five central entry bays. The building was further augmented at some point after 1941 (probably in 1956) with construction of a flat-roofed rear annex. While modified, Building 466 retains sufficient integrity of design, materials, and workmanship to be a contributing element of this historic district.

Building 426 is a 2600 sq. ft. "temporary" type building, constructed in 1964. It does not contribute to this historic district.

Building 468 is a 1941 building, built as the base chapel but now the base legal center. It does not contribute to this historic district because it has been modified substantially since 1941. When constructed, Building 468 was a "temporary" wood-frame chapel of a design built throughout American military bases during World War II. In its design, materials, and workmanship, it was not consistent with this Mission Revival base. Further it exhibits numerous post-1941 alterations, including: installation of asbestos shingle siding over the original wood siding; removal of the steeple; and replacement of all windows with sliding aluminum sash.

The base theater, Building 467, is, like others in the recreation area, a large, plain building, softened by the use of modest architectural detailing at the facade. The design for this theater was apparently a standardized plan of the Quartermaster Corps, used on military bases in the Southwest; this 1933 theater is a near-twin to the 1934 base theater at the Army post at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona.[1] The bulk of this theater building is a large, essentially two-story reinforced concrete building with a gabled roof and massive piers at the corner. This, the major element of the building, is quite plain. A smaller one-story segment at the facade, however, is nicely detailed, with an arched entry loggia, a Palladian motif window, and a curvilinear parapet (espedana) hiding its gabled roof. The theater contributes to this historic district. It is shown in **Photograph 31**.

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[1] Jackson Research Projects, "Fort Huachuca: an Evaluation of Architectural/Historical Resources," USACE, Los Angeles District, 1989; Col. P. W. Guiney to Gardenhire, September 26, 1932. Gen. Corresp. Geographic Field, 1922-35. Box 1218, File 600. RG 92, WNRC; CAG to QMG, August 13, 1932. Project Files: March Field. Box 2104, File 600.1 RG 18, NA.

Barracks Sector

The barracks sector at March Field includes four buildings: three huge barracks (Buildings 311, 400, and 456), and garages for enlisted personnel. (The garages are carried as building 315; the garages are actually two separate structures.) All contribute to the significance of this historic district. Indeed, the three barracks are the largest and arguably the most elegant buildings on the base and represent key elements that define the character of the historic district.

The three barracks, Building 311, Building 400, and Building 456, are, for most purposes, identical. The only notable difference has to do with the age of construction, materials, and site within the district. Buildings 311 and 400 were built in 1928 and face the original parade ground. Building 456 was built in 1939 and is sited northwest of Building 400, facing an open space. It is also built of standard reinforced concrete walls, while the earlier structures are of the distinctive hollow-wall concrete construction. It is otherwise an exact replica of the 1928 buildings.

The barracks are huge C-shaped, two-story, gable-roofed buildings, each with an area of about 42,000 sq. ft. They are the most distinctively Mission Revival structures on the base, although there is little in the Mexican California tradition to foretell Mission Revival structures of this magnitude. If the buildings have a precedent in Mexican California architecture, it is the Petaluma Ranch headquarters of Mariano Vallejo (1833-44), which also is two-story with a two-story veranda, built around an inner courtyard, and designed for barracking many single men.

As C-shaped structures, the barracks include six major elevations (three inside the courtyard, two sides, and rear), and two minor elevations (at the tips of the extensions). The three courtyard elevations are dominated by a two-story arcaded loggia, the most dominant element of the composition. The side and rear elevation are dominated by banks of paired rectangular window openings. The only arched element outside the courtyard is a porch, centered on the rear elevation. This porch is one-story in Buildings 311 and 400 but two-story in the 1939 building. The roof for each barrack comprises long gabled forms, which extend the length of the rear (325') and each major wing (125'), with small cross gabled elements at the courtyard side of the two wings, i.e., at the termini of the two-story loggia.

The two-story loggia, as noted, surrounds the courtyard on three sides. Arched openings at the first story are twice as wide as those on the second story, creating an interesting rhythm in which second story piers are alternately centered on the crest and the piers for first-story arches. This pattern, which has precedent in classical architecture (particularly in aqueduct design), is repeated in Building 317, the original barracks for the medical detachment. The loggia is also the location of most character-defining architectural detail: pilasters about the principal first-story entry; cast stone surrounds for the second story balcony; a buttress form for the corners of the loggia.

The buildings have been modified, although alterations are slight when considered against the scale of the buildings. Interior spaces have been altered completely by partitioning

of dormitory sleeping quarters into small apartments. The partitioning was handled differently in Building 456 than in Buildings 311 and 400. In 311 and 400, access to the rooms is gained through a series of entries, each of which gives access to four apartments. In 456, rooms are accessed through long double-loaded hallways. This change in internal circulation resulted in exterior changes, specifically blocking off unneeded doorways and transformation of some windows into new doors. Concrete block infill identifies the closed doorways. The other notable alteration was replacement of all sash. Originally steel casement, windows in the barracks are now double-hung aluminum sash. Despite these alterations, the three enlisted personnel barracks constitute key contributors to this historic district. Building 400, one of the barracks, is shown in **Photograph 32.**

Also located within the barracks sector is Building 315, a garage for enlisted personnel. As noted, it is actually two buildings with a single number. The buildings are constructed of terra cotta tile with wooden interior partitions. The tile walls extend toward one another at the front, forming posts for a gate. The building, now used principally for storage, contributes to this historic district.

Officers' Recreation Area

This sector of March Field includes a cluster of buildings designed for the recreational and social use of officers on base. It includes 10 buildings or structures: Buildings 100, 102, 110, 181, 413, 414, 491, 492, 497, and 20004, of which four (Buildings 100, 102, 413, and 497) contribute to the significance of this historic district.

Building 100, the original Bachelor Officers' Quarters, is one of the most elegant buildings on base. With four wall segments completely enclosing a patio area, the building is a hollow square, derived from a Mexican hacienda form known to have existed in California during the late rancho era but rarely mimicked by 20th century architects in their quest for Mission Revival and Spanish Colonial architectural antecedents. In this form, the structure includes four one-story wall segments, each accessible to the outside and to an inner garden or patio. While of some architectural interest from the outside, the building's character is best seen from the patio, where a four-sided, arcaded *corredor* surrounds the patio. The building appears to be small-scale because little of it can be seen at a time, but it was actually the largest building at March Field at the time it was constructed, with an area of nearly 40,000 sq. ft. (That number is somewhat deceptive in that it includes the patio area as usable space.) The scale is best appreciated from the patio, where all segments of the building are visible. It measures 225' (north-south) by 174'. It is built of hollow-wall concrete construction with a tiled roof.

The building comprises four hipped roofed segments, with the hipped roof extending toward the patio, forming the roof for the *corredor*. The exception to this roof patterns is found at the west elevation, the principal entry, which features a taller, gabled entry pavilion. Entry to the patio is gained from six points: from two arched portals on the side elevations (north and south), which align with the east and west sides of the *corredor*; from an arched portal midpoint on the east elevation; and from doorways in the gabled entry pavilion on the west elevation. Virtually all rooms in Building 100 are accessible only from the patio; the only room accessible

from the outside is the west-facing entry lobby. In addition to its unique hacienda style, Building 100 is distinguished among March Field buildings in its architectural detail. The most richly ornamented area is the western entry pavilion, which is also the most heavily altered part of the building. Entry was initially gained through three arched doorway openings, which included double rectangular doors with a fanlight transom, sidelights and arched band around the transom. [This doorway is identical to door found throughout the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, a Marine base designed by Bertram Goodhue, 1918-19.] These arched openings align with three rectangular doorways on the *corredor* side. Only one arched opening is still in place, the northerly of the three. The other archways have been infilled and include modern window openings. The arched portal on the east elevation is framed by a characteristically Mission Revival curvilinear parapet (sometimes called an espedana motif). The motif is repeated in the foundation for a fountain at the center of the patio, an original feature of the 1929 building.

Building 100 retains a good degree of integrity. The most notable modification is the enclosure of lobby space, mentioned earlier, which apparently occurred in 1989. This modification obscured or destroyed important character-defining elements, including the MCRD-type doors as well as decorative interior partitions. Another notable alteration was construction of a wrought iron canopy which shelters entry to the western of the two arched portals on the north elevation, making this effectively the primary entrance to the building. This modification, installed in 1977, is visually obtrusive but easily removed. Nearly all of the original brass electroliers have been removed and most interior doorways have been replaced. While these modifications affect the decorative aspects of this building, the integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association for this structure are largely intact. It is a key contributing element of this historic district. Building 100 is shown in **Photographs 33 and 34**.

Building 102 is located within the officers' recreation sector and is currently used, along Building 100, as quarters for visiting airmen. This building number refers to two elements: a 20' x 46' two-story structural terra cotta building, finished in stucco with a tiled pyramidal hipped roof; and a 6' high wall, also of terra cotta in stucco, measuring 70' x 170'. As built in 1932, the two-story structure apparently included two apartments, while the first story was used for storage. [Quartermaster Corps inventories from 1932 identify the building as "Garage and Storeroom," but indicate the second story was heated and included a lavatory.] By 1954, it had been remodeled for its current use, which includes quarters on the first and second stories. As it appears today, the building retains a good degree of integrity. As noted, it is now fully utilized for visiting airmen, although the adaptation from storage to living space was handled very sensitively. The only intrusive features are aluminum sliding sash at all window openings. Original fenestration is not known but likely included steel casement windows, at least on the second story. Building 102 -- the residence as well as the wall -- is a contributing element of this historic district. It is shown in **Photograph 35**.

Building 110, the Officers' Club and Hap Arnold Conference Center is a key functional element of March Field but does not contribute to the historic district, owing to a series of modifications which have destroyed its historic integrity. Built in 1934, the building was modified through major additions during each succeeding decade. Originally a 6400 sq. ft. building, it now encompasses nearly 30,000 sq. ft. The original building can be seen only at the

western end of facade (south elevation); all other original elevations are obscured behind more recent additions. As built, the Officers' Club was a reinforced concrete building, 33' x 93', with a tiled hip roof. It was first modified in 1941 with construction of a 113' x 25' wood frame kitchen and dining room at the rear and to the west of the original building. Smaller additions of 600 sq. ft. were added in 1959. The building was substantially modified in 1965, principally involving interior renovations. The largest modification occurred in 1983 with construction of the Arnold Conference Center, a major building encompassing nearly 15,000 sq. ft., located east of the original building. As a result of these alterations, the eastern half of the building is dominated by the 1983 addition, the western elevation by the 1941 addition, the south elevation by the 1941 and 1983 additions, and the eastern elevation by the 1983 addition. The original structure, in short, is almost completely encased within more recent construction.

Building 181 is a storage building located just north (to the rear) of the Officers' Club. It is a wood frame and stucco structure built in 1950. It is not a contributing element of this historic district.

Building 413 is a key contributing element of this historic district, not because it is large or especially distinguished architecturally, but because it is the sole remnant of the original 1918 air base still standing within the March Field Historic District. As discussed under "Significance," both the buildings and the runways of the original March Field aligned on an east-west direction. The new base was predominantly oriented at 45 degrees from the original, allowing continued use of most older buildings until their replacements were constructed. Building 413 was the 1918 post bakery and continued to serve in that capacity until 1933, when the modern replacement (Building 433) was completed. Located within the area of the bachelor officers' quarters and officers' recreation, it was re-used after 1933, first as servants' quarters for the BOQ and later as a "club house" for the swimming pool. The building is of interest because it illustrates as no other building on base the "temporary" nature of wartime construction in 1918. It is woodframe, surfaced in stucco -- its original finish. It also includes virtually all of its original windows, all 6/6 double-hung wood sash. Another interesting original feature is a small porte cochere, located on the west, now used as a vending area for snacks for swimmers. The building retains a remarkable degree of integrity and contributes to this historic district. It is shown in **Photograph 36.**

Four buildings or structures are associated with the swimming pool area -- Building 414, the swimming pool; Buildings 491 and 492, bath houses; and building 497, an enclosure for the pool's water treatment machinery. Of these, only Building 497 retains integrity. The swimming pool, Building 414, is in its original 1930 location but is not a 1930 structure; base maintenance records indicate that the pool was rebuilt in 1958-9. Buildings 491 and 492 are 1930 bath houses -- one for men, one for women. These small buildings were joined, however, in recent decades through construction of a concrete block wall, rendering them essentially one building which lacks integrity.Building 497 is a 92 sq. ft. 1931 building that houses water treatment equipment. Although it has a small concrete block addition, the building retains sufficient integrity to be considered a contributor to this historic district.

LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS -- PLANTINGS, ROADS, STREET FURNITURE

As discussed under "Significance" in the area of "Architecture," March Field was a thoroughly planned development, with all aspects of this new "city" taken into account -- architecture, transportation, landscape architecture. Because the plan was so comprehensive, some landscape elements often overlooked in National Register evaluations comprise significant elements within this historic district. The following discussion focuses on three elements of the landscape -- roads, plantings, and street furniture.

The road system at March Field is inseparable from the overall base design because the roads are the principal elements defining the geometrically complex plan. In saying that the plan is intact, one is effectively observing that the road system retains integrity of location. The road system also generally retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. As originally built, streets at March Field were concrete. Many of the streets retain their original concrete design and a great deal of original concrete, although all roads have been patched and repaired. As a general rule, streets are concrete within the officers' quarters sector and asphalt/concrete elsewhere. Concrete surfacing within the officers' quarters area is shown in Photograph 4. The entire road system contributes to the significance of this historic district.

Sidewalks also constitute an important part of the transportation network of this base in that a great deal of internal movement of personnel is by foot. The sidewalk system within the historic district was installed at the same time as the roads; indeed it was part of the same contract. Although many have been patched and repaired, the sidewalks retain integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The entire sidewalk system contributes to this historic district.

Another basic infrastructural element at the March Field Historic District is a stone-lined drainage canal, which extends along Meyer and Riverside Drives, at the northern and eastern perimeters of the historic district. This canal was installed in 1942 by Works Progress Administration workers. The canal is faced in split granite in a heavy concrete mortar. It should be noted that the canal extends far beyond the boundaries of this historic district. The canal contributes to the historic district. Only the lengths of canal within the boundaries of this historic district, however, are treated as contributing to the historic district. A typical section of canal is shown in **Photograph 37**. Several timber bridges cross the canal along Meyer Drive. These small bridges were built within recent decades and do not contribute to the significance of this property.

The March Field Historic District includes many miscellaneous structures which fall into the general category of "Street Furniture." Only one of these -- Building 488, the base flag pole -- carries a building number. The flagpole, built in 1933, is a copper-bearing tubular steel pipe, 85' in height. It was originally located in the southwesterly parade ground, directly across the street from Building 470 and centered on it. In more recent decades, the flag pole was relocated to the southwest corner of the northerly parade ground, across the street from base exchange (Building 466). The flagpole is now surrounded by a monument which includes many memorial markers; the monument was apparently installed during the 1970s. Although it was moved, the flagpole is an early element of this historic district and was moved only a short

distance. The flagpole contributes to this historic district; the monument does not. The flagpole is shown in **Photograph 38.**

All other structural landscaping features -- stop signs, street lamps, freestanding signs with building numbers, and so forth -- were installed after 1945 and do not contribute to the historic district. The base also includes a number of historical interpretive signs which identify prior building uses, significant events, and so forth. These signs, while adding to the historical experience of visiting the base, are of very recent origins and do not contribute to the historic district.

Finally, the base includes many areas of very mature plantings and lawn areas which add to the sense of time and place for this historic district. As discussed in the "Historical Overview," the landscape (i.e., the plantings) at March Field was not formally designed but rather was carried out according to informal plans developed by officers stationed at the nascent base and implemented by succeeding generations of base personnel. As a result, there is little to connect the Mission Revival style of the architecture with the style of the landscape. Certain landscape elements refer to Mission era California , especially the use of palm trees to denote street edges and extensive use of paver tile in residential patios. For the most part, the landscape plan, with its broad expanses of lawn, manicured foundation plants, and deciduous shade trees more closely resembles an English park than a dry early California landscape. Nonetheless, the current landscape scheme is appropriate to this historic resource because it closely approximates the landscaping that has prevailed since the early 1930s. Indeed, a substantial proportion of the existing plants, particularly the palms, Italian cypress, peppers, and cedars, are very mature and likely date to the period of significance.

In a sense, the landscaping is formally planned in that it conforms to the very formal layout of the base. Street trees line the formally aligned streets and the individual sectors of the base have very different planting schemes. The coordination of plantings and base layout are most evident along the Baucom Avenue streetscape. Between the guard house (Building 154) and the Commanding General's house (Building 176), Baucom Avenue includes two narrow streets divided by a broad planter island. At the sides, the streets is lined with palms and pepper trees while the planter island includes alternating palms and Italian cypress. This landscaping is shown in Photograph 4. Southwest of the Commanding General's house, Baucom divides around the parade ground, which extends nearly 600' to the Headquarters Building. This vast open space is landscaped much differently. Deodar cedars line the northeast end of the parade ground. Few street trees exist along the sides of the parade ground; the area is framed nonetheless by the mature foundation plantings in front the many buildings which face the parade ground. This part of Baucom is shown in Photograph 3. DeKay Avenue divides the parade ground and very mature palms line it. Beyond DeKay, the Parade Ground has been paved for use as a parking lot. New plantings within the parking lot are primarily Rhus sumac and gazania ground cover. Neither the parking lot nor the plantings contribute to the significance of this historic district, owing to a loss of integrity.

Other areas of the base have appropriately different types of landscaping. Graeber Street is principally framed by the hangars and industrial buildings. Landscaping is quite sparse, consisting primarily of mature street trees (peppers, eucalyptus, and palms, along with

some small patches of lawn and minimal use of foundation shrubs. The exception to this minimal landscaping is found at Building 470, where young purple leaf plums surround the building. The residential streets -- Adams, Plummer, and Gilley -- include residential scale plantings. Along Adams and Gilley, pepper trees alternate with palms within the planting strip between the curb and sidewalk; Plummer is lined principally with deodar cedars, oaks, and palms. Very mature shade trees exist between the sidewalks and the houses.

A final feature of note regarding the landscaping is the existence of small parks in the officers' recreational sector. One park exists directly in front (south) of the Officers' Club, lined with very mature shade trees (elms). Another park-like open space exists just south of Building 100. This area is dominated by very old shade trees, including many pepper trees which may be as old as the base.

A final element of the landscape includes a group of aircraft, located outside the March AFB Museum (Building 420). These are displayed in a paved parking area just northwest of the Museum. Nine aircraft are located there: a MiG-19 (1955, USSR); F-101B (1954, USA); F86H (1948, USA); FO-14 (1955, U.K.); AT-6 (1941, USA); U-4 (1973, USA); UH-1F (Bell Helicopter, 1964, USA); P-40 (1941, USA); ACLM (Air-Launched Cruise Missile, USA, 1980s). These aircraft, shown in **Photograph 39**, were built after the period of significance for this historic district. Further, they were imported to this site for display purposes and have no known association with March Field. These aircraft are also movable objects and could be relocated with relatively minor modifications to the parking area. The 9 aircraft do not contribute to the historic significance of this property.

The historic district includes four non-contributing structures: Building 20004, a tennis court built in 1941, but with new hardsurface, fencing, nets and benches; Building 486, a bus shelter built in 1968; Building 279, a tubular metal support for an aircraft display outside the base museum; and Building 454, a loading platform constructed in 1980.

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.
- [X] **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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Military

Period of Significance

1928-1943

Significant Dates

1928

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Hunt, Myron
US Army Quartermaster Corps

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibilography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more 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:

March Air Force Base

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 158 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	11	475840	3751180
2	11	476740	3751180
3	11	476740	3750270
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen D. Mikesell and Stephen R. Wee

organization JRP Historical Consulting Services date April 10, 1992

street & number 712 Fifth Street, Suite F telephone (916) 757-2521

city or town Davis state CA zip code 95616

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

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

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The March Field Historic District appears to be significant at the State level of significance in the areas of military history (National Register Criterion A) and architecture (National Register Criterion C). Under architecture, the district is significant in three respects. First, it is a distinguished example of a military base laid out according to city planning principles of the 1920s (type, period of construction), illustrating dramatically how those principles took form when applied to a large military installation. March Field exhibits this type of planning better than any other military installation in California. Second, it is an important example of the work of architect, Myron Hunt (work of a master), being the only known military base designed by him. Finally, it is an extraordinarily large assemblage of buildings built using hollow wall concrete construction methods (method of construction), illustrating the range of applications for that technology better than any other known property in California. Under military history, it is significant at the State level for its association with the development of the Air Corps (Air Force) on the West Coast, serving as the key training and bombardment facility on the West Coast during most of the period of significance. The period of significance extends from 1928 to 1943, the period during which buildings were constructed according to the master plan for the base, developed in 1928. The historic district also includes a building from 1918, a remnant from a World War I-era version of March Field. This building, while built outside the period of significance for this historic district, is individually eligible for listing in the National Register. As discussed under "Description," the historic district retains a remarkably high degree of integrity to its period of significance, with 199 of the 228 buildings and structures contributing to the property.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

In August 1907, the United States Army, Signal Corps established a small Aeronautical Division to take "charge of all matters pertaining to military ballooning, air machines, and all kindred subjects." From the Civil War until 1907, the Signal Corps had acquired only 10 observation balloons and it was not until August 1908 that the corps began testing its first airplane at Fort Myer, Virginia. A year later, the Army procured its first airplane, identified as "Airplane No. 1," an improved Wright Flyer. By the close of October 1912, the Signal Corps had purchased a total of only eleven aircraft. Six months later, on March 3, 1913, the Chief Signal Officer designated the Army's small group of Florida and Georgia-based aviators as the "First Provisional Aero Squadron" -- the first military unit of the U.S. Army devoted exclusively to aviation.

When World War I broke out in Europe in August 1914, the 1st Aero Squadron of the U.S. Army numbered 16 officers, 77 enlisted men, and eight aircraft. From October 1914 until Congress declared war on Germany in April 1917, this squadron represented the entire tactical air strength of the U.S. Army. But as the fledgling air forces of the European powers focused more attention on aviation, Congress responded in 1916 by voting $13,781,000 for military aeronautics and the purchase of land for airfields. Under the National Defense Act, it also authorized an increase in the number of officers in the Aviation Section to 148 and provided for a Signal Officers Reserve Corps of 297 officers and a Signal Enlisted Reserve Corps of 2,000 enlisted men to be trained under the Aviation Section.

On the eve of America's entry into World War I, the Aviation Section consisted of the old Aeronautical Division in Washington, the Signal Corps Aviation School at San Diego, the 1st Aero Squadron in duty with Pershing's expeditionary force in Mexico, and the 1st Company, 2nd Aero Squadron on duty in the Philippines. Before 1917, the Signal Corps had only one permanent flying field. Located at North Island in San Diego, California, Camp Trouble was a small pilot training facility consisting of a few hangars and quarters built of temporary woodframe, board-and-batten construction.[1] In 1917-18 the Army Air Service built at least 10 new air stations to meet national defense needs.

World War I and the Establishment of March Field, 1917-1923.

Plans for expansion of the Aviation Section were incomplete when the United States entered World War I on April 6, 1917. Early in March of that year, the War Department sent General William L. Sibert, who became commander of the American 1st Division in France under General Pershing, to Southern California to look for a site to establish a west coast Army air field for coastal defense and pilot training. The Riverside Chamber of Commerce appointed one of its members, Arthur Sweet, a representative of the Riverside District Aero Club of America, and local attorney Miguel Estudillo to promote a site 10 miles southeast of Riverside on the Alessandro plains. Instructions from Washington, however, gave preference to a site nearer the ocean and General Sibert eventually chose to establish the west coast air field at the existing Camp Trouble site (renamed Rockwell Field) on North Island in San Diego harbor. Nevertheless, the War Department had been sufficiently impressed with the climate, topography, and general flying conditions in the vicinity of Alessandro that it soon established an emergency landing strip for student flyers from Rockwell Field on a vacant tract of land north of the old Alessandro railroad depot.

Members of the Riverside Chamber of Commerce continued to lobby for the establishment of a second southern California airfield at Alessandro. A permanent Aviation Committee was appointed by the Riverside chamber, led once again by Arthur Sweet and another prominent citizen, Frank Miller, owner of the Mission Inn. The committee prepared a comprehensive prospectus on the Alessandro site emphasizing its excellent flying conditions, freedom from flight hazards such as tall buildings or trees and overhead wires, its topographical advantages, good prevailing winds, persistent sunshine and general healthy conditions. As further inducement to the government, the chamber proposed to negotiate a

[1] During World War I, North Island was jointly occupied by the Army and Navy as a site for their respective aviation schools. In 1917-18 planning for permanent facilities in a simplified Spanish Colonial Revival style was begun at both the Naval Air Station San Diego and Rockwell Field. Joint occupancy remained a thorny problem for the two branches of the military until 1929 when a Joint Army/Navy Board recommended that Rockwell Field should phased out and a new Army airfield developed elsewhere on the West Coast. March Field became the West Coast training center for the Army Air Corps and North Island came under complete Navy control in 1935. Eusebio Garcia Palacios, "U.S. Army Rockwell Field Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, May 1990.

favorable lease of a 640 acre tract which they offered to the government rent-free with an option to purchase the entire tract at any time within three years for $100 per acre. With this prospectus in hand, an investigating committee comprised of Maj. Benjamin F. Castle (Signal Corps), Lt. Col. George H. Crabtree (Medical Corps), and Captain Alphonse Boyriven of the French Flying Corps arrived from Washington on January 18, 1918 to meet with Sweet, Miller, and other members of the Riverside Chamber of Commerce. After making a thorough inspection of the Alessandro area, the commission agreed to lease the 640 acre Hendrix Estate for the period from June 1918 through June 1923 for the sum of $1.00 with an option to purchase for the duration of the lease.[2]

The original boundaries of March Field encompassed 640 acres in the west half of section 24 and the east half of section 23 T3S R4W. Nine additional acres were purchased from the heirs of Charles French to construct an entrance road from the San Diego-Los Angeles inland highway one-half mile east to the base. These boundaries remained unchanged until October 1941 when the approaching crisis of World War II necessitated a quarter mile expansion of the boundary on all four perimeters.

Troops began arriving at the Alessandro Aviation Field from Rockwell Field on February 26, 1918. On March 20th the airfield was officially renamed March Field, in honor of 2nd Lt. Peyton C. March, Jr. (son of the Army Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Peyton C. March) who had been killed recently in an aviation accident at Fort Worth, Texas. The World War I era buildings at March Field were of standard Army design, one-story temporary woodframe structures clad in board-and-batten siding, and resting on wood foundations.

The wartime layout of March Field was based upon a standard army design replicated at several aviation fields erected during World War I, including Scott and Chanute Fields in Illinois, Brooks and Kelly Fields in Texas, and Mather Field near Sacramento, California. The buildings at March Field were stretched out along the north boundary of the military reservation. The main boulevard ran in an east-west direction, bordered on the south by a long row of hangars, and on the north by barracks, workshops, hospital, headquarters, warehouses, mess halls, and the commanding officer's quarters. North of the central boulevard residences and barracks were clustered on the two wings with the service and industrial facilities mixed together at the center surrounding a tall water tower. The 1918 base was never landscaped, in fact, the only trees appearing in historic photographs is a remnant grove of olives located near the commanding officers residence at the northeast corner of the base. Open spaces between buildings and the 50 acre landing strip were sown with grass to reduce dust. The remainder of the 640 acres were graded, leveled and treated with a coat of oil.[3]

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[2] R. Bruce Hartley, "The Beginnings of March Field, 1917-1918," *Southern California Quarterly* 53:2 (1971), 147-157.

[3] R. Bruce Hartley, *The March Field Story, 60th Anniversary, 1918-1978* March Air Force Base, CA: The Office of the Historian, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, 1978. p. 115-18.

Five training squadrons, each with 250 flyers and 19 airplanes, and 2,000 support personnel were assigned to duty at March Field during the remainder of the war. Training continued until mid-March 1919. By that time, 50 officer-students had graduated, and 170 cadets had successfully completed the primary aviation training course at Alessandro Field. After the final class graduated, the Air Service immediately discharged some 70 per cent of the enlisted personnel and many administrative officers were also released outright or transferred to other army installations. Six months passed before the War Department announced that March Field would remain open as an active installation. During its 1919 session, Congress passed a bill authorizing purchase of the 640 acre Alessandro site along with several other World War I cantonments located across the country. The federal government acquired a deed to the property on May 22, 1920.[4]

By the fall of 1920 the Army Air Service had resumed regular courses in primary pilot school at two sites: one was at March Field, California and the other at Arcadia Field, Florida. Graduates of these programs went to advanced training at Kelly Field, Texas.

The decision to resume flight training at the "Air Service Pilot School March Field" brought a request from the Army Air Service for Congress to provide funding in its 1922 appropriation bill for construction of permanent buildings at March Field. The Air Service instructed the Quartermaster Corps to prepare cost estimates for 35 sets of officers' quarters, one commanding officer's quarters, and a long distance radio hut. Influenced by the concerns of local citizens, Maj. Barton K. Yount, commanding officer of March Field, requested that the proposed structures be designed in a regionally appropriate architectural style -- a "Mission Type of architecture."

Yount had been in close consultation with Frank Miller, owner of the Mission Inn, about the construction of permanent facilities at March Field. Miller informed Yount that the Riverside community was anxious that March Field be designed in the Mission style by an established Southern California architect. Miller offered the services of Arthur B. Benton, architect of the Mission Inn, to draw up a "tentative plan" free of charge for the government. Yount consulted with Benton and later submitted blueprints and a proposal for laying out 35 Mission-style hollow tile and cement post officers' quarters arranged in a "court type" setting on a 25 acre tract of privately-owned agricultural land adjacent to March Field. According to the Benton-Yount plan, all permanent buildings constructed in the future at March Field would conform to this architectural style.

Major-General Mencher, chief of the Air Service, agreed with Yount's proposed building program, but the "call for retrenchment" in military spending during the early 1920s, wrote Mencher, made it impossible to construct any quarters at Army Service air fields for the next

[4] Hartley, 1978:19-23.

few years.[5] When the Washington Disarmament Conference forced Congress to reduce the number of personnel in the 1922 Army appropriation bill, the Air Service had no recourse but to phase out flight instruction at March Field. The Air Service Pilot School was discontinued and the detachment disbanded on October 1, 1921. A reduced pilot training program continued at Arcadia Field, Florida and March Field was garrisoned for a short period by the 19th Aero Pursuit Squadron and the 23rd Aero Bombardment Squadron. By the end of 1922, however, these squadrons transferred to foreign duty and only six officers and two civilian employees remained. On April 5, 1923 the base was placed in caretaker status.[6]

The Second Training Era, 1927-1931.

In March 1926, Congress enacted Public Law No. 45 which authorized the Secretary of War to dispose of 43 military reservations, and to deposit the money received from those sales into a special fund designated the "Military Post Construction Fund." This money was earmarked for permanent construction at military posts until fully expended. The act called for submission of annual estimates along with a statement of the specific construction projects covered under each estimate. The program was aimed primarily at taking care of the housing and hospitalization needs of the Army. Many of the buildings used to shelter the army were old and obsolete. Some had been constructed prior to the Civil War and many more were temporary structures erected during World War I. Lack of sufficient permanent shelter after the war necessitated use of these temporary buildings well beyond their intended life of two or three years. Furthermore, new military activities, such as that of the Army Air Service, required new and special types of technical buildings for support of military aviation.

The U.S. Army Air Service, separated from the Signal Corps in 1918, became the Army Air Corps by virtue of the passage of the Air Corps Act of July 2, 1926. The act left Army aviation under General Staff control, but it also increased the air organization's military strength and its prestige and influence within the War Department. New units of the Air Corps became priority locations for the expenditure of military post construction funds. As a feature of this renewed interest in Army aviation, Congress authorized a $147 million five-year program (1927-1932) to expand the Army's pilot training program and to modernize its tactical units. The Air Corps began with 919 officers, 8,725 enlisted men, and 1,254 airplanes. The 1926 act authorized a buildup that would roughly double the size of the Air Corps and vastly strengthen the United States' air forces at garrisons in Hawaii, the Canal Zone, and Alaska.

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[5] Yount to Mencher, November 29, 1920 and Mencher to Yount, December 7, 1920. Project Files: March Field, Box 2104, File 625. Central Decimal Files, 1917-1938. RG 18, Records of the Army Air Forces, National Archives. [hereinafter CDF 1917-38. RG 18, NA.]

[6] Inspection of March Field, December 19, 1922. Project Files: March Field, Box 2086, File 333-1a. CDF 1917-38. RG 18, NA.

Bombardment wings would be permanently deployed on the east and west coast and an attack wing on the southern border of the United States.[7]

Although the army maximized use of its only Primary Flying School at Brooks Field, Texas, alone it could not accommodate all of the flying cadets entering the Air Corps training program. One of the initial steps toward execution of the Air Corps five-year national expansion plan was a reorganization of the pilot training program that resulted in the reopening of March Field. The Air Corps rehabilitated March Field in two phases. To meet immediate needs, the Air Corps reconditioned the old and obsolete World War I facilities and opened a second primary air training facility at March Field for 40 officers and 400 students. By the end of its five-year program, the Air Corps planned to consolidate all the primary flight training programs of both March and Brooks Fields, as well as the training tasks of the advanced training program at Kelly Field, to a new 2300 acre site northeast of San Antonio, Texas, called Randolph Field. The Air Corps program would then provide for one air wing each on the east and west coasts, one in the southern United States, one each in Panama and Hawaii, one air group on the northern United States border, and another in the Philippines. By the end of the Air Corps five-year program, March Field would be the permanent home for the Air Corps west coast bombardment wing.

The Office of the Quartermaster General had primary responsibility for construction and maintenance of buildings of the Army and operating the utilities at the various military posts from 1885 until 1941. The task of carrying out the new building program authorized by Congress in 1926 fell to the Quartermaster General. The War Department construction program placed a priority on new barracks, officers' quarters, and hospitals. These building types were among the first erected at March Field, but new posts for the Air Corps provided additional problems because an entire new post had to be planned from the ground up. March Field is a significant example of military post planning because it was the first complete aviation post laid out and built by the Quartermaster Corps and the Army Air Corps during peacetime. Whereas the war-time Construction Division of the Quartermaster Corps emphasized expeditious procedures to meet War Department requirements, employment of temporary construction methods, and standardized plans for both base layout and individual structures, during peacetime the construction program of the Army established a different set of criteria. In contrast, peacetime construction emphasized input into the planning process from prominent city planners and architects, variety of structure and installation, beauty together with functional utility, and use of appropriate local building materials and architectural styles. These values were emphasized by both congressmen and army officials alike during the 1926 hearings of the Subcommittee on Military Affairs.[8]

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[7] Maurer Maurer, *Aviation in the U.S. Army, 1919-1939*. Washington, DC: Office of Air Force History United States Air Force, 1987. pp. 191-197.

[8] 1st Lieut. H. B. Nurse, "The Planning of Army Posts," *Quartermaster Review* September-October 1928.

The Construction Service of the Quartermaster Corps, organized in 1920, was the only office of the Army provided with a cadre of high quality, professional architects, planners, and designers. In addition to civilian architects employed through the civil service, Quartermaster General B. Frank Cheatham (1926-1930) employed George B. Ford, a leading figure in the "city beautiful" movement and internationally renown city planner, and Arthur Loomis Harmon, an equally prominent architect, to serve as consultants to review and advise on the layout and architectural design of major new army posts. Local constructing quartermasters also prepared plans and specifications, and occasionally private architects, working closely with a construction quartermaster, were employed to develop regionally appropriate architectural models. These drawings were submitted to the Design Section of the Construction Service which prepared all final plans, specifications, and working drawings. Once completed, these plans were submitted for approval and/or modification by the consulting architect and city planner. The approved sketches and post plans were forwarded through the Adjutant General to the Corps Area and Post Commanders, and possibly also to the Chief of the Military Branch (Air Corps), for comments and returned through the same channels. If there were objections, the project was redesigned; if not it went to the Secretary of War for approval. Once the Quartermaster General was notified of approval, the Building Section was free to proceed with preparing contract specifications which were forwarded to the Construction Quartermaster to advertise for bids.[9]

The Quartermaster General was also held accountable by Congress for wise and economical expenditure of funds appropriated. Congress set statutory limits on the cost of quarters for the army, which were raised in 1927 to $12,500 for company officers quarters, $14,500 for field officers' quarters, and $6,000 for non-commissioned officers' quarters. Company officers, captains and below, typically received an allotment of a single family residence with living room, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, two baths, and a maid's room with a bath. Field and general officers were given an additional bedroom. Married non-commissioned officers were often housed in duplexes and were given a living room, kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom. Quarters for most officers included a sleeping porch and a garage by the 1930s. Commissioned officers housing was set apart from non-commissioned officers' quarters and both were segregated from the business areas of the base.[10]

Colonel William C. Gardenhire, Quartermaster Corps, was appointed to oversee the reconstruction of March Field in the spring of 1927. Arriving from Louisville, Kentucky with his wife, he took up temporary headquarters at Frank Miller's Mission Inn in Riverside. Over the next five years Colonel Gardenhire became closely identified in the local community with the developments at March Field. He served as post quartermaster and constructing quartermaster at March Field until his retirement from the Army in 1932. Gardenhire's first

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[9] "General Correspondence, Geographic File, 1922-1935." Box 1218, File 600. RG 92, Records of the Quartermaster General. WNRC, Suitland, MD.

[10] Brig. Gen. Louis H. Bash, "Construction -- Present and Future," Quartermaster Review November-December 1929; L. M. Leisenring, "Quarters for the Army," *The Federal Architect* July 1937.

tasks at March Field were to survey the remaining World War I buildings and utilities, report on their condition, and develop a plan for rehabilitation of the old post for temporary occupation. Electrical hook-ups, construction of telephone lines, reconstruction of the water distribution system, sinking of wells in search of a reliable potable water supply, and procurement of a pumping plant were among his first priorities. Since permanent barracks and quarters would be erected shortly at March Field, the Quartermaster General instructed Gardenhire to repair the old temporary wooden barracks and residences only to the degree essential to make them habitable until permanent buildings were ready for occupancy. Underpinnings, stringers, joists, and floors were to receive minimal repairs, when necessary, and the buildings' exteriors were not to be painted. The Air Corps, which was responsible for funding repairs to technical Air Corps buildings, such as hangars, shops, dope houses, and the flying field, also anticipated the imminent construction of new facilities and only made minor repairs to its buildings.[11]

While Col. Gardenhire labored to rehabilitate the old post, local Riverside interests mobilized to influence the Army to construct a new army base that would harmonize with the image projected by the City of Riverside. Major J. A. Cummings of the Quartermaster Corps Reserves in Riverside, whom Gardenhire characterized as "the Self-Appointed Ambassador, without folio" traveled to Washington, DC in March to confer with the authorities at the Quartermaster General's Office on the type of architecture to be used in construction of March Field. Upon his return, he met with G. Stanley Wilson, a prominent Riverside architect who had designed 16 local schools and the Riverside Auditorium and Soldiers Memorial, and encouraged him to pursue a commission for designing the new post. Wilson wrote General Yates, chief of the Construction Service of the Quartermaster Corps, offering his professional services and lobbying for adoption of an architectural style for the new army barracks and quarters at March Field in keeping with the buildings and grounds that beautified the City of Riverside. Inspired by the Mission Inn, the architectural style that predominated in the city, he wrote, was elegant and graceful in its simplicity, and not extravagant or expensive. Major Cummings, who supported Wilson in his quest for the job as architect of the new post, sent recent photographs of Wilson's Riverside school buildings and the Mission Inn to General Yates as samples for his consideration. General Yates confided to Wilson in correspondence dated April 6, 1927 that the Quartermaster Corps had already decided to build in a style that would "harmonize with the best traditions of the historical architecture of Southern California," but he informed Wilson that planners and architects within the Quartermaster Corps in Washington, DC would be responsible for developing the layout and building plans.[12]

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[11] Brig. Gen. A. W. Yates, QMC to Quartermaster March Field, March 1, 1927. General Correspondence Geographic File, 1922-1935. Box 1218, File 600. RG 92, Records of the Quartermaster General, Washington National Record Center, Suitland, MD. [hereinafter RG 92, WNRC.]

[12] Wilson to Yates, March 29, 1927, April 26 and 28, 1927; Yates to Wilson, April 6, 1927 and May 3, 1927. Gen. Corresp. Geographic File. Box 1218, File 600. RG 92, WNRC.

While Cummings and Wilson lobbied General Yates, Colonel Gardenhire was working directly with Frank Miller of the Mission Inn, and "some of the finest architects in the country" to develop recommendations for a detailed site plan and a Mission or Spanish Colonial style architecture to submit to the Construction Service. One of the architects consulted by Miller and Gardenhire was Myron Hunt, a Director of the American Institute of Architects and a leading architect on the Pacific Coast, who had recently completed the St. Francis Atrio at the Mission Inn. The Atrio contains the Famous Fliers' Wall where many of the world's great pioneers aviators have sought the protection of St. Francis, patron saint of birds, by "signing" the wall of the chapel with inscribed copper wings. Another prominent advisor to Gardenhire was Charles H. Cheney, a graduate of the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, who specialized in city planning and claimed among his most more notable plans that of Palos Verde Estates near Los Angeles. Drawing upon available California models of community planning and residential architecture, Gardenhire and his consultants worked to develop several different types of Mission style houses and to create a setting for them that would "do away with the sameness of appearance" that detracted from the beauty of nearly all military posts.[13]

Besides the constructing quartermaster, Colonel Gardenhire, the other key military officer involved in planning March Field was the post commander. In April 1927 Major Carlyle H. Wash transferred from the advanced training facility at Kelly Field, Texas, to take command of the flying school at March Field. Major Wash brought with him the 47th School Squadron from Brooks Field to inaugurate the new training program. The 70th Service Squadron from Kelly Field arrived a month later to reactivate the base and rehabilitate the existing technical facilities. By the end of July, this task was nearly completed.

Shortly after his arrival at March Field, Major Wash began working on plans for the layout of the new airfield. Like Gardenhire, Wash also consulted with Myron Hunt on proposed layouts and architectural styles for March Field, although Wash was primarily concerned with how the new post would function as an airfield. On April 20th he forwarded to the Chief of the Air Corps, Major General Mason M. Patrick, three alternative plans (Plans A, B, and C) for the layout of permanent Air Corps technical buildings. The key to each of the plans from the post commander's perspective was the placement of six proposed 75 x 500 x 20 bomber hangars, their functional utility for pilots and maintenance crews, and the ability of the Air Corps to take advantage of prevailing winds.

Plan A, which was most economical because it utilized existing utilities, contemplated establishment of the permanent installation on an elongated site plan incorporating the area occupied by the World War I post. Plan B clustered buildings along the eastern boundary of the airfield allowing for construction of new buildings without interfering with training activities. Plan C concentrated buildings in an assemblage at the southeastern corner of the post. It contained many of the same advantages as Plan B. There were no obstacles to flight and all

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[13] Gardenhire to Yates, April 13, 14 and 21, 1927. Gen. Corresp. Geographic File, 1922-1935. Box 1218, File 600. RG 92, WNRC; Henry F. and Elise R. Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects* Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956; Zona Gale, *Frank Miller of Mission Inn* New York: D. Appleton-Century Co., 1938. p. 56.

take-offs and landings could be made against the prevailing wind out of the northwest, and with a minimum of taxying. Major Wash favored Plan B, while Col. Gardenhire preferred Plan C. In April 1927 both plans were forwarded to the Quartermaster General's Office and the Office of Chief of the Air Corps for their consideration.[14]

After contemplating Wash's three alternative plans, Major General Patrick, chief of the Air Corps, endorsed a modified version of Plan A.[15] On May 3, 1927, Brig. Gen. Yates of the QMC sent George B. Ford, his consulting city planner, a blueprint of General Patrick's plan for the permanent post. Most of the features of the plan were fixed by existing conditions and were not susceptible to rearrangement, wrote Yates. He left it to Ford to determine where to site the barracks and hospital, but he warned his consulting city planner that no radical changes were possible.[16]

After receiving a copy of General Patrick's modified Plan A, Major Wash drafted a second letter to his superior in Washington, DC. Apparently, the general had misunderstood Wash's previous recommendation. Gardenhire had recommended Plan C, but Major Wash had favored Plan B -- the one locating buildings along the eastern boundary. He asked General Patrick to reconsider his decision. To clarify his viewpoint, Wash sent a letter on May 9th to Patrick once again recommending Plan B, specifying as the best alternative one that placed "the center of the mass somewhat north of the center line of the field." Plan B, argued Wash, met all of the objections General Patrick had to Plan C, besides Plan B would permit gravity flow of waste, require shorter sewage and drainage lines than Plan A, minimize the potential inconvenience with dust, and provide the most efficient and safest layout. Plan B, concluded Wash, was the most satisfactory compromise between Plan C, an entirely new post, and Plan A, which sought to maximize use of existing facilities.[17]

The Air Corps and Quartermaster Department conducted further investigations before finalizing a plan for March Field. During the summer of 1927 the chiefs of both departments made separate trips to the West Coast to inspect the airfield and look over the proposed plans on-site. Brig. General Yates, head of the Construction Service QMC, arranged a meeting between Quartermaster General Cheatham, Hunt and Gardenhire during his inspection visit on June 16, 1927. Cheatham was guest of honor at a luncheon at the Mission Inn attended by

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[14] Wash to Maj. Gen Patrick, Chief of Air Corps, April 20, 1927. Project Files: March Field. Box 2102, File 600.1. CDF 1917-38. RG 18, NA; Gardenhire to Quartermaster General, April 21, 1927. Gen. Corresp. Geographic File, 1922-1935. Box 1218, File 600. RG 92, WNRC.

[15] Patrick to Wash, April 30, 1927. Project Files: March Field. Box 2102, File 600.1. CDF 1917-38. RG 18, NA.

[16] Yates to Ford, May 3, 1927. Project Files: March Field. Box 2102, File 600.1. CDF 1917-38. RG 18, NA.

[17] Wash to Patrick, May 9, 1927. Project Files: March Field. Box 2102, File 600.1. CDF 1917-38. RG 18, NA.

Hunt, Gardenhire, members of the Riverside Chamber of Commerce and other civic organizations. On the following day, Cheatham requested that the Design Branch of the Construction Service forward sketches of the proposed layout plans, perspectives of the hangars, and plans and elevations for the administration building, barracks, officers' quarters, and technical buildings to Hunt. These materials were sent to Colonel Gardenhire through H. M. Nurse of the Construction Service on June 24th.[18]

Three weeks after General Cheatham's visit, General Patrick of the Air Corps inspected March Field with orders from the Secretary of War to make a final determination of the best layout. On July 6th he visited the site with Major Wash and Col. Gardenhire and studied the proposed layout and sketches of the new buildings prepared by the constructing quartermaster, and post commander in consultation with Myron Hunt. On the following day, he notified his office in Washington, DC that he had approved a revised plan for the layout of new buildings at March Field. The general layout corresponded closely with Major Wash's proposed Plan B, but the precise location of individual buildings was as yet undetermined. General Patrick was especially pleased with the building design work noting that Gardenhire had "enlisted the services of an excellent architect." The officers and non-commissioned officers' quarters, wrote General Patrick, would be built in "the Spanish style, a front section with two wings enclosing a court in the rear. They will be low one story houses, of course with slightly different treatment of the front and of the main entrance in order to avoid too great monotony." Design details would be added to the new standard Air Corps hangars to make them compatible with the architectural style of the remaining structures on the post.[19]

Although Myron Hunt had taken ill and was hospitalized prior to General Patrick's visit, he took such interest in the March Field project that he had continued to refine the layout and buildings from his hospital bed in the weeks before the general's visit. When finally shown the layout as tentatively approved by General Patrick, Hunt was "exceedingly pleased" and had "no criticisms," wrote his business associate H. C. Chambers. The plan approved by the chief of the Air Corps was a collaborative effort of the architects of the Construction Service in Washington, the local constructing quartermaster (Colonel Gardenhire), the post commander (Major Wash), and local architects, chief among them Myron Hunt. The only known layout dating from this time is one found among the records of the Quartermaster General in the Washington National Record Center, Suitland, Maryland. It was developed by the Construction Service, under the direction of Lt. H. B. Nurse, and drawn by F. E. Hedrick, Superintendent of Construction and Civil Engineering for the Quartermaster Corps during the summer of 1927. It conforms closely to the post as built between 1928 and 1934. [see, "Proposed Plan of March Field, California, 1927]

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[18] Riverside Daily Press, June 17, 1927 and July 6, 1927; *Western Flying* April 1927, p. 14.

[19] Riverside Daily Press, June 17, 1927 and July 6, 1927; *Western Flying* April 1927, p. 14; Patrick to Office of the Chief of Air Corps, July 7, 1927. Box 2102, File 600.1. CDF, 1917-1938. RG 18, NA.

Hedrick's site plan was triangular in form. Seven hangars, two Air Corps plane assembly and repair shops, and the headquarters building extended northwest to southeast along the base, with a 5000 foot long runway in front. This location of the hangar line oriented the landing field toward the prevailing winds and provided the maximum distance for take-off and landing of large bombers. Placed in the center of the hangar group, the headquarters building was conveniently located for all personnel and where officers could easily supervise flying operations. Across the street from the hangars at the north end of the hangar line is where the Quartermaster and Air Corps warehouses were concentrated -- here a railroad spur line entered the post to serve them. Adjacent to the warehouses were the quartermaster's transportation pool, the post utilities buildings and equipment, a bakery, and the post laundry.

Much like the situation today at March Field, in Hedrick's plan officers quarters occupied most of the north and east sides of the triangle, with non-commissioned officers' quarters clustered near the southeast corner and a bachelor officers complex near the northwest corner. Individual officer's quarters were all "U-shaped" around a central patio and the buildings arranged in a redundant pattern at right-angle to the street front with uniform set-backs. Another significant difference from the as-built plan was Hedrick's placement of the commanding officers residence. He located it at mid-point along the north boundary of the site at the head of a formally landscaped circular drive containing three other officers' residences.

The Hedrick layout also contained a strong open axis running northeast from the mid-point on the diagonal base through the apex of the triangle. Occupying the southwestern half of this diagonal axis was an athletic field, track, and parade ground surrounded by two 300-man barracks that faced each other across the playing fields, a hospital complex on the southeast, recreational facilities on the northeast, and a large technical building, firehouse and guardhouse at the southwest. A divided boulevard with a planted median flanked by officers' residences ran along the northeastern portion of this central axis terminating at a formally planted road circle at the entrance to the base. Radio masts were located at the northeast entrance where they would least interfere with flying conditions.[20]

During the summer of 1927, the Construction Service of the Quartermaster Corps in Washington continued to study Hedrick's layout and suggested several modifications. On November 7, 1927 General Patrick of the Air Corps approved a blueprint entitled "Layout Plan of Technical Buildings March Field" in which he repositioned the hangars so that the long axis paralleled the flight line and added two hangars, removing the shops out of the hangar line and across the road into the Quartermaster's or warehouse sector of the post. The layout of Air Corps technical buildings was forwarded to the Quartermaster General "as a statement of the

[20] Gardenhire to Cheatham, July 20, 1927; Kilpatrick, QMC to Gardenhire, July 29, 1927; Chambers to Gardenhire, July 20, 1927; Gardenhire to Cheatham, July 22, 1927; F. E. Hedrick, "Proposed Plan of March Field, California," n.d. Box 1218, File 600. Gen. Corresp. Geographic File, 1922-1935. RG 92, WNRC.

wishes of the Chief of Air Corps to be coordinated with the final layout of the other buildings being prepared by the Construction Division."[21]

Shortly after receiving General Patrick's plan for the technical Air Corps buildings, the Construction Service forwarded a copy of its proposed general layout of March Field to George B. Ford, the advisory city planner. Ford later met with Quartermaster General B. F. Cheatham and Brigadier-General Horton, chief of the Construction Service, to discuss the plan. Subsequent to these meetings, Ford made important revisions to the road pattern, the spacial relationships among officers' quarters and non-commissioned officers' quarters, and the arrangement of buildings around the central parade ground. He slid the enlisted men's barracks slightly to the southwest, realigned the hospital to front parallel to the parade ground, replaced the old theater/gymnasium complex with a post exchange and chapel, and relocated the commanding officers' house to the northeast side of the parade ground on the formal axis between the headquarters building and the main entrance. In the residential section, the previous layout did not show a sufficient number of officers' quarters. Ford and the architects of the Quartermaster Corps rearranged residences, clustering them around courtyards in a series of tight "S's" and reserved open spaces between the residences and the parade ground for future officers' and N.C.O. housing, if needed. Other notable alterations to the formal layout included: removal of the road circle at the entrance to the post; combining the gymnasium and theater into one multi-purpose building; and relocation of the guard house, fire house, and photo-radio-parachute group to clear a sight-line from the northeast gates to the headquarters building. By early March 1928 the Quartermaster Corps had incorporated "the most satisfactory features of his [Ford's] plan" with those of the Chief of Staff and the Secretary of War. General Cheatham wrote to Ford asking for his concurrence on final adoption of the general layout. Ford endorsed the layout without reservation. On March 12th he signed a blueprint of the site plan enclosing with it this note to General Cheatham:

> I am delighted to return one print of your latest layout of March Field with my hearty concurrence.
>
> I congratulate you on your final approved layout and would be very glad indeed to have my name also attached to it as a collaborator.

Before construction began in 1929, residences in the commissioned officers housing section (but not the non-commissioned officers section) were repositioned in a more random "park-like" distribution, rather than the formal "S-shaped clusters proposed by Ford. With the exception of this change, later infills of open space, and a decision not to build officers' quarters along the northern boundary of the site in order to accommodate an officers' club, the Quartermaster

[21] Major Emmons to Harmon, December 1, 1927; Harmon to Fechet, December 7, 1927. Project Files: March Field. Box 2102, File 600.1. CDF, 1917-38, RG 18, NA.

Generals' plan approved by Ford on March 12, 1928 very closely approximates the as-built site plan.[22]

After completing preparations for establishment of the training school at March Field and overseeing preliminary planning and approval of a general plan for the new airfield, Major Wash was reassigned to a new command. Major Millard F. Harmon Jr., a graduate of the Army War College and commander of the flight training school at Brooks Field, took over as base commander to welcome the first cadets into the new Air Corps flight training school at March Field. Major Harmon served as post commander three years, from August 8, 1927 until August 5, 1930. Thus, Major Harmon was the post commander who oversaw the final planning and initial construction of the new post at March Field.[23]

The Air Corps set aside $400,000 for permanent technical buildings at March Field, and the supplemental 1928 appropriation bill appropriated $550,00 for barracks and $750,000 for officers' quarters at March Field. Funds for this construction became available shortly after January 1, 1928. The commanding officer at March Field recommended the priority of construction under the funds. The $750,000 would be used to build bachelor officers' quarters for roughly 25 persons ($110,000) and as many officers' quarters as possible, of as fine a type as the $14,500 and $12,000 limits permitted.

Officer's Quarters

During July 1927 draftsmen from the firm of Hunt & Chambers revised their preliminary drawings for three types of officers' quarters and three types of non-commissioned officers' residences. These sketches were submitted to the Construction Service through Colonel Gardenhire and according to correspondence in the Quartermaster General's records, they were very well received by the professional architectural staff in the Construction Service. Sketches of the field officers' quarters and company officers' quarters, wrote Major W. A. Daniels, QMC, "appear to be exceptionally well adapted to the War Department requirements and convey local traditions as to architectural feature admirably well." Daniels noted that the Quartermaster General's Office in Washington would prepare contract drawings to ensure compliance with

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[22] Horton to Ford, November 14, 1927; Ford to Horton, December 3, 1927; Ford to Cheatham, January 11 and 31, 1928, February 9, 1928 and March 12, 1928; Cheatham to Ford, February 6, 1928 and March 10, 1928. Gen. Corresp. Geographic File, 1922-35. Box 1218, File 600. RG 92, WNRC. Changes in the layout of the officers quarters into the "park-like" configuration was carried out at March Field by the post commander, the constructing quartermaster, and their advisors. M. F. Harmon, "March Field, CA Proposed Layout of Officers' Quarters," October 26, 1928. Project Files: March Field, 1917-35. Box 2104. RG 18, NA.

[23] Riverside Daily Press, August 11, 1927. Harmon became the commander of all US Army air forces on Guadalcanal and in the South Pacific islands during World War II. He was lost on a routine flight to Hawaii in 1945.

government specifications, but Gardenhire and Hunt would be given the opportunity to pass judgment on any final plans before they were sent out to bid.[24]

By the end of the year, the Construction Division had prepared at least three additional proposed designs for officers' quarters. Quartermaster General Cheatham entertained the idea of building a variety of Mission style structures in the housing sector of March Field to "relieve the monotony of repetition." He asked the Air Corps and Gardenhire to provide his office with ten or more additional designs of houses adapted for Southern California that might be duplicated at March Field for under $12,500. He was willing to purchase complete plans and specifications from local architects if any of their plans were eventually used.[25]

Myron Hunt contributed blueprints of a three bedroom house designed by his firm for James Johnson in Pasadena. The house had hollow concrete walls and was built at a cost of $10,000 for a two bedroom house. For $11,000 a similar three bedroom house could be built. The other models sent came from two pattern books, one showcasing buildings of the Weber Building Co., and the other a book showing houses of wood and stucco construction built for under $8,000. Lt. Colonel F. B. Wheaton, chief of the Construction Service, wrote to Gardenhire on January 10th: "Many features contained in the sketches, photographs, and other data furnished by you are being made free and full use of in the design of these buildings, in order that local traditions may be carried out to the fullest extent."[26]

Architects of the Construction Service had completed their work on the proposed designs for officers housing at March Field by the end of March. Issuance of plans and construction specifications for bids was delayed while the War Department awaited a report from the special committee appointed by the American Institute of Architects to review the plans for possible architectural defects. "These 36 sets of officers' quarters are the last to receive the masters touch of the famous architects," wrote Gardenhire on April 18th.[27] By May 5, 1928 the revised and improved plans for the 32 sets of company officers' quarters and the four sets of field officers quarters had arrived on Col. Gardenhire's desk.[28]

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[24] Chambers to Gardenhire, July 22, 1927; Gardenhire to QMG, July 23 and 27, 1927. Danielson to Gardenhire, August 11, 1927. Gen Corresp. Geographic File, 1922-1935. Box 1218, File 600. RG 92, WNRC.

[25] Fechet to Harmon, December 31, 1927. Project Files: March Field. Box 2104, File 625. CDF, 1917-38. RG 18, NA.

[26] Harmon to Chief of the Air Corps, January 10, 1928. Project Files: March Field, 1917-1938. Box 2104, File 625. RG 18, NA. Wheaton to Gardenhire, January 10, 1928. Gen. Corresp Geographic File, 1922-35. Box 1223, File 625. RG 92, WNRC.

[27] Riverside Daily Press, April 18, 1928.

[28] Riverside Daily Press, May 5, 1928.

With the original appropriation of $750,000 in 1929 the Army contracted for the construction of a bachelor officers' quarters capable of housing 26 officers; thirty-six sets of officers' quarters -- three "D" type, one "E" type, 14 "A" type, 12 "B" type; and six "C" type; and thirty-six garages. The Mittrey Bros. Construction Company of Los Angeles constructed the residences which were accepted by the quartermaster in April 1929. With one exception (Bldg. 142), all the officers' residences completed in this first wave of construction were contained within two well-defined sections of the post. One section contained 18 officers' residence south of Baucom Avenue and bounded by Gilley Street on the east, N Street on the South and Plummer Avenue on the west. The other section contained 17 residences, all west of Baucom Avenue south of M Street and north of B Street, terminating on the west side with Building 124 north of Adams and Building 121 south of Adams. The total cost for the 36 officers' quarters and the BOQ was $685,605, some $65,000 below the amount authorized by Congress.[29]

Many last minute details in the plans and specifications changed because the contractor's bid was below the authorized Congressional limits per structure. Full french doors were substituted for casement windows in the front of the living room of the 16 "A" type officers' quarters and in the master bedroom where iron-railed balconies were also added. French doors also replaced three casement sash openings from the corridor in the bedroom to the patio in the two "B" type officers' quarters. Select grade oak flooring supplanted edge grained Douglas fir. Instead of a cement finish, the front porches and rear patios of the residences were paved with 6' x 6' red brick tile.[30]

Buildings in the residential sector of the post were not painted to a uniform color. In order to prevent monotony (while still preserving a harmonious appearance), officers at March Field suggested that the quartermaster tint exterior walls in subtly different shades for different housing types. In August 1928 Major John D. Kilpatrick, QMC, approved the concept for the officers' quarters and accepted the color scheme for tinting and painting outside walls proposed by Gardenhire. Under this color scheme, the exterior walls of "B" and "E" type buildings were not tinted, but retained their natural cement wash. All exposed wood surfaces, except doors, were stained burnt turkey umber. The doors were painted either Cobalt Blue, or Bulletin Blue. The sixteen type "A" officers' quarters were colored buff with a cement wash with all exterior woodwork, except doors, stained the same burnt turkey umber. Doors on "A" type residences were painted Antwerp blue. The color scheme of the two "D" type officers' quarters mimicked the "A" type structures. The six type "C" officers' quarters were washed pure

[29] Gardenhire, "Completion Report on Construction of the Officers' Quarters," August 27, 1929. Completion Reports, 1917-18, Box 173. RG 92, WNRC.

[30] Kilpatrick to Gardenhire, August 28, 1928. Gen. Corresp. Geographic File, 1922-1935. Box 1223, File 625. RG 92, WNRC.

white with the same exterior trim stain as the other structures, but with doors painted copper verde green.[31]

The hollow concrete wall construction and the workmanship on the quarters was excellent, wrote Major Harmon in his report to the Adjutant General upon completion of the officers' quarters at March Field. The method of exterior wall construction that left the form lines of the lumber showing with the tinting of exterior walls presented "a very pleasing and harmonious appearance" to Harmon. Others such as General Cheatham complained of the board form lines. As for the contract specifications, they called for a certain pitted surface on the exterior of the houses suggested by Myron Hunt to the Quartermaster General's Office. He had in mind a surface like that on the Flintridge Country Club, near Los Angeles. There is no documentary evidence that this "pitted surface" was applied to any of the hollow concrete wall structures.[32]

Major Harmon and Colonel Gardenhire both noted that criticisms had arisen after completion of the residences with respect to design, interior arrangement, size of rooms and types of fixtures used. The most common criticism from occupants was that rooms were too small, especially the living rooms in the "A," "B," and "C" type residences. Since the type of construction used did not lend itself to changes and additions, Gardenhire and Harmon both recommended that "A" and "B" types be eliminated from consideration for future construction of field or company officers' quarters, and that future construction be confined to an enlarged "C" type, and the "D" and "E" models.[33]

Garden walls around the patios of the four field officers' quarters (Bldgs. 162, 164, 167, and 169) were added in 1930. Wrought iron ornamental arches over the gates of the garden walls and the hinges for the gates were manufactured in the Air Corps machine shops out of salvage material. In December 1931 Colonel Gardenhire issued another contract to W. J. Nethery and Son of Riverside to install patio walls and patios on 20 sets of officers' quarters. These walls were constructed of 8 inch concrete, washed to conform to the color of the house,

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[31] Kilpatrick to Gardenhire, July 10, 1928; Gardenhire to Kilpatrick, July 23, 1928; Kilpatrick to Gardenhire, August 17, 1928. Gen. Corresp. Geographic File, 1922-1935. Box 1223, File 625. RG 92, WNRC.

[32] Harmon to Major Spatz, November 2, 1928; and Harmon to Adjutant General, April 15, 1929. Project Files: March Field, 1917-38. Box 2104, File 625. RG 18, NA. Gardenhire, "Completion Report on Construction of the Officers' Quarters," August 27, 1929. Completion Reports, 1917-18, Box 173. RG 92, WNRC.

[33] Harmon to Chief of the Air Corps, October 25, 1928; Harmon to Major Spatz, November 2, 1928; and Harmon to Adjutant General, April 15, 1929. Project Files: March Field, 1917-38. Box 2104, File 625. RG 18, NA.

and the gates were painted to match the color of the doors of the houses. The patios were set with tile in four inch concrete.[34]

The Quartermaster Corps let two contracts for construction of officers' residences in 1931. DeCamp-Hudson-Seckles of Los Angeles won a contract for two field officers' quarters ("F" type) and eight company officers' quarters ("F" and "G" types); and C. T. and W. P. Stover of Claremont, California was awarded the second contract for four sets of field officers' quarters and six sets of company officers' quarters (all of the "F" type). The officers' residences constructed in 1931 were concentrated in three areas: east of Gilley Street and north of N Street (by C. T. and W. P. Stover); in the triangle north of the commanding officer's residence formed by Baucom Avenue, Plummer Avenue, and B Street; and on the extreme west edge of the officers' residential sector between M and B Streets (by DeCamp-Hudson-Seckles). In the new residential areas, the quartermaster let contracts to lay sidewalks, install lawn sprinklers, and concrete curbs. Where the old road network was still in place, the old oil-mixed roads were torn out and new concrete streets were laid down.[35]

The officers' quarters built at March Field in 1929 were criticized for being too small. In developing the Randolph Field (Texas) plans, the March Field plans were used as a model, but the rooms were enlarged. Some of the additional square footage was secured by using thinner hollow clay tile walls. The Randolph Field plans were used for construction of both field officers and company officers' quarters in 1931. The cost of the houses of the size built at Randolph Field were the maximum allowable under the law. While Gardenhire and the Air Corps wanted to continue using hollow concrete wall construction methods, it was impossible to do so without substantially increasing the outside dimensions of the building. This would require redesigning and redrawing the buildings and probably increase the cost beyond the authorized limits. Therefore, the Air Corps decided to construct the remaining officers' quarters, designated "F" and "G" types, of hollow tile and stucco. Accommodating larger residences required some slight rearrangement of the layout plan for the new officers' quarters.[36]

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[34] Gardenhire to Quartermaster General, January 18, 1930. Project Files: March Field. Box 2104, File 654. CDF 1917-38. RG 18, NA; Gardenhire, "Completion Report. Installation of Patio Walls and Patios in 20 Sets of Officers Quarters," February 1, 1932. Construction Division Completion Reports, 1917-19. Box 173. RG 92, WNRC.

[35] *Southwest Builder and Contractor* April 10, 1931; Riverside Daily Press, October 30, 1931; Gardenhire, "Completion Report, 10 Officers' Quarters," August 7, 1931 and December 18, 1931. Construction Division Completion Reports, 1917-19. Box 173, Folder 2. RG 92, WNRC.

[36] Major McNarney to Chief of the Air Corps, January 24, 1931. Project Files: March Field. Box 2102, File 600.1. RG 18, NA; Col. P. W. Guinney, QMC, to Gardenhire, January 24, 1931. Gen. Corresp. Geographic File, 1922-35. Box 1218, File 610. RG 92, WNRC.

Non-Commissioned Officers' (NCO) Quarters

The layout for non-commissioned officers' quarters as approved by George B. Ford in March 1928 allowed for construction of 70 buildings on the four blocks enclosed by N Street on the north, the east boundary of the military reservation, X Street on the south, and A Street on the west. The arrangement was an artistic grouping in harmony with the Mission style of architecture adopted for the field that also economized on utilization of space, a concept deemed "appropriate to occupation by non-commissioned officers." The arrangement of buildings formed a serpentine pattern of freestanding structures connected by walls with arched openings that created patios at the front and rear of each cluster of three structures.

In August 1929 Colonel Gardenhire let the first in a series of contracts for the construction of 25 sets of NCO quarters -- a partial build-out of those quarters fronting on Gilley Street, north of W Street. In studying the plans for the location of these quarters, Congressman W. Frank James of Riverside County decided that the number of buildings proposed per block was excessive and "would render the buildings practically uninhabitable." He requested a reduction from 15 buildings to 11 on each of the two blocks to prevent overcrowding. In as much as his recommendation changed the basic layout plan for March Field, the request required the approval of the Secretary of War. To adopt the suggestion made by Congressman James would ultimately require encroachment on ground reserved for other purposes west of A Street. The Acting Quartermaster General Brig. General H. F. Rethers, Chief of the Air Corps General Fechet both recommended adherence to the original plan because James' recommendation would increase the acreage per residence in the NCO area and exceed that provided for commissioned officers on the adjoining block. Following a re-study of the location plan for NCO quarters at March Field performed by the Quartermaster General's Office, the Secretary of War approved a reduction in the numbers of NCO quarters per block, excepting those shown in the study west of A Street. If the original rectangle proved insufficient to hold future NCO quarters, the location of overflow quarters would be decided upon at that time.

As with the commissioned officers' quarters, the low bid for the construction of the 25 NCO quarters was well within the congressional allocation of $6,000 per building. The NCO buildings constructed in 1929-30 were of three types known as NCO types "A", "B", and "C. To spend the balance of the funds already appropriated Congressman James requested that inclosed sleeping porches be installed on the rear of each structure and that the front porches be enlarged to 8 x 16 feet. These modifications were added, but in doing so H. B. Nurse of the Construction Service reduced the number of buildings constructed under the appropriation from 25 to 22, covering the two blocks north of W Street. Twelve NCO quarters south of W Street and between A and Gilley Streets (except Bldgs. 247, 249, and 251) were also completed in 1930 under a separate appropriation.[37]

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[37] Major Emmons to Chief of the Air Corps, July 31, 1929; Brig. General Gillimore to Assistant Secretary of War, August 2, 1929; and General Fechet to Major Kennedy, August 24, 1929. Project Files: March Field, Box 2107, File 623. CDF, 1917-1938. RG 18, NA; H. B. Nurse to Quartermaster General, August 24, 1929. Gen. Corresp. Geographic File, 1922-1935. Box 1223,

The Air Corps built thirty-six additional NCO quarters at March Field in 1931, completing the build-out of the 70 sets contemplated in the 1928 site plan. Redrawn plans embodying various design changes that had been proposed by the Design Section of the Construction Service for use at Rockwell Fieldwere sent to the constructing quartermaster in order to prepare specifications for bids. The thirty-six NCO buildings erected in 1931 all were of hollow concrete wall construction with Mission tile roofs, hardwood floors, and steel window casements. They were built by C. T. and W. P. Stover, a company that completed another contract that year at March Field for construction of 10 officers' quarters. The new NCO buildings were located in two well-defined areas. They filled out the tiny open triangle remaining at the south foot of the block bounded by A, Graeber, and Gilley Streets (Bldgs. 247, 249, and 251) and the block south of W Street and west of Gilley Street. The NCO quarters also spilled over west of A Street at this time filling in the triangular area formed by A, R, and U Streets that was also occupied by the NCO swimming pool.[38]

The final three NCO quarters, two "C" and one "A" type were built west of the intersection of A and Graeber Streets in 1934.

Commanding Officer's Quarters

The original plans for March Field placed the commanding officer's quarters (Bldg. 176) on the north boundary of the post where the post commander would enjoy a splendid view of the surrounding country and mountains, the cooling summer breezes on the windward side of the field, and isolation from the disturbance of normal post operations and traffic. On the final approved site plan, the consulting landscape architect, George B. Ford, moved the commanding officer's quarters to a more prominent central location -- on the main formal axis of the post and fronting on the parade ground. The Chief of the Air Corps and the post commander both protested the relocation because it placed the commanding officer's house on the main line of traffic incoming and outgoing onto the post. Because of this change in site plan, it became necessary to retain a sentry post at the old entrance and maintain the road entering the post from the west for trucks and other traffic.[39]

The commanding officer's quarters was subject to the $14,500 limitation on construction cost for field officers' quarters imposed by Congress in 1927. As originally designed, the commanding officer's house was a "D" type building modified by increasing the size of the living room by 25 square feet, the dining room by 15 square feet, and each of the other rooms by nine square feet. An additional room was added to the rear of the master bedroom to be used

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[38] Gardenhire, "Completion Report. Construction of 36 Non-Commissioned Officers Quarters," December 21, 1931. Construction Division Completion Reports, 1917-19. Box 173. RG 92, WNRC.

[39] Harmon to Chief of the Air Corps, April 9, 1928. Project Files: March Field, 1917-38. Box 2102, File 600.1; Harmon to Headquarters, Chief of the Air Corps, May 10, 1928. Project Files: March Field, 1917-38. Box 2104, File 611. RG 18, NA.

as another bedroom or a study.[40] However, the Air Corps authorized Colonel Gardenhire in the fall of 1929 to have plans and blueprints for the commanding officers' quarters drawn up locally at March Field. According to Major Harmon, the post commander, Gardenhire was "given a free hand in its accomplishment." His plans were approved by the Chief of the Air Corps and specifications were hastily drawn up in November 1929 so that a contract might be awarded while the crews and equipment of the contractor who was building the NCO quarters was still on site. Under ordinary circumstances, the building designed by Gardenhire would far exceed the congressional cost limitation. However, the contractor had assured Gardenhire that if his bid was accepted in timely fashion, he could build the residence without exceeding the statutory limit. The plan was approved without delay in order to take advantage of the situation.[41]

Kenneth L. Colborn, Inc. of Pasadena, California, built the commanding officer's residence at March Field. It was an exceptionally well designed Mission style home with Spanish tile roof, hollow concrete walls, hardwood floors, and a tile floor on the rear porch. Work began in January and was completed on April 16, 1930. The main roads entering and leaving the post circled the commander's house. The house was constructed and set in the circle with the ultimate idea of constructing a garage on the one side to balance the composition of the building on its site. The garage was large to accommodate storage, not available in the house. Since roads encircled the house to provide some privacy plans called for erection of a garden wall around the south and east elevations. These structures were approved in October 1930 and built under a separate appropriation so as not to exceed the $14,500 congressional limitation.[42]

Bachelor Officers' Quarters (BOQ)

Until the new BOQ (Bldg. 100) was built, all bachelor officers lived in Riverside and commuted ten miles to March Field each day. The 27 two room apartments in the World War I bachelor officer barracks were used to house cadets at the flight training school. The cadets lived three to each two room apartment. In addition 20 cadets were accommodated in the large room at the center of the BOQ building. The remainder of the cadets slept in tents until the two Air Corps barracks were completed in the spring of 1929.

Two radically different plans received consideration for the BOQ. A one-story Mission style BOQ built in the shape of a hollow square with a patio in the center was drawn up by the

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[40] Harmon to Adjutant General, April 15, 1929. Project Files: March Field, 1917-38. Box 2104, File 625. RG 18, NA.

[41] Brig. Gen Base to Adjutant General, November 5, 1929. Gen. Corresp. Geographic File, 1922-35. Box 1223, File 625. RG 92, NA; Harmon to Congressman Frank, December 6, 1929. Project Files: March Field, 1917-19. Box 2102, File 600.1. RG 18, NA.

[42] Gardenhire, "Completion Report, Field Officer's Quarters," April 29, 1930. Const. Div. Completion Reports, 1917-19. Box 173, Folder 2. RG 92, WNRC.

Construction Service in consultation with their consulting architect, Arthur Loomis Harmon of New York. This plan, containing a large dining and lounging room separated by sliding doors, kitchen facilities, and apartments for 24 bachelor officers, four visiting officers, and three servants, was sent to March Field for review in December 1927.[43] The second plan for a BOQ, presented as an alternative to the one-story hollow rectangle, was proposed by post commander Millard F. Harmon in January 1928. Harmon favored construction of a two-story building enclosed on only three sides to take advantage of cooling winds. Ultimately the hollow square design was selected.[44]

One of the more elegant Mission style structures built at March Field between 1928 and 1934, the BOQ was favorably commented upon by all officers and civilians who inspected it. It was located across the street from the swimming pool and on the site of a World War I era schoolhouse. Construction began in September 1928 and was completed in April 1929. Built of hollow concrete wall construction at a cost of $112,374 by the Los Angeles Contracting Company and C. G. Wopschall, the bachelor officers quarters was designed in the form of a hollow rectangle 275 feet by 188 feet, one-story high, with a tiled patio in the center. The patio, measuring 112 by 64 feet, contained a fountain at the center and was surrounded by a continuous arcade. The building was constructed with a Mission tile roof and hollow concrete walls. There were 26 bachelor suites; each officer had his own living room, bedroom, bath and a large clothes closet. A large reception room or lounge with an elevated beamed ceiling was located at the main entrance. Adjoining the lounge was a central dining room for the bachelor officers, a large kitchen, and a number of suites for servants. A library, and lavatories for men and women guests at social functions were also provided for in the plans.[45]

Enlisted Men's Barracks

A standard army battalion barrack of the early 20th century was a two-story structure with a long central element and two short wings on either end. A single barracks accommodated from 300 to 400 men who lived collectively in squad dooms. The first floor contained a day room or lounge, the mess hall, a large kitchen and pantry, store rooms, and the administrative offices of the company with perhaps a separate room or two for non-commissioned officers. The upper floors were devoted to squad rooms for enlisted personnel with a certain number of smaller rooms for unmarried non-commissioned officers. Lavatories were typically located in the wings of the structure.

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[43] Emmons to Harmon, December 1, 1927. Project Files: March Field. Box 2102, File 600.1. CDF, 1917-38. RG 18, NA.

[44] Emmons to Harmon, January 4, 1928 and Harmon to Emmons, January 19, 1928. Project Files: March Field. Box 2104, File 625. CDF, 1917-38. RG 18, NA.

[45] Riverside Daily Press, August 24, 1928; Gardenhire, "Completion Report, BOQ," August 13, 1929. Construction Division Completion Reports, 1917-1919. Box 173. RG 92, WNRC.

The March Field barracks facilities (Bldgs. 311 and 400) were designed to house an Air Corps group consisting of three tactical squadrons, one service squadron, and one small headquarters detachment. Each two-story Mission style barrack was capable of housing 300 men, or two of the above Air Corps organizations of 150 men each. The two 1929 barracks fronting on the parade ground were constructed by the Mittrey Bros. Construction Company of Los Angeles at a cost of $331,000. The barracks were of reinforced hollow concrete construction with plastered exterior and clay tile roofs. As was typical of army barracks from this period, the structure was built with an elongated central element and wings at either end . In keeping with the Mission style of architecture, arcades were added to the barracks at March Field that ran the entire distance of both floors on the patio side of the building.[46]

Even with the construction of the two new barracks, housing for enlisted men was in chronic short supply. As early as 1931 Post Commander Major J. T. McNarney was requesting construction of a new 200 man barracks to house enlisted men of the 1st Bombardment Wing that occupied March Field in October. By the middle 1930s the number of enlisted personnel assigned to March Field had far outstripped the housing capacity of the two 1929 barracks. Under the table of organization for the 1930s, an Air Corps group comprised five major organizations instead of four: three tactical squadrons, one headquarters squadron, and one service squadron. For a few years, six Air Corps squadrons averaging about 125 men each crowded into in the two permanent barracks which had been designed to accommodate only 600 persons. Two other support squadrons lived in battered woodframe quarters assembled during World War I that were degenerating so rapidly repairs were uneconomical. The overcrowding was not relieved until December 1934 when the 7th bombardment group was reassigned to Hamilton Field, a new air base in Marin County built under the National Recovery Act.

A third barrack (Bldg. 456), nearly identical to the two 1929 barracks on the exterior elevations, was constructed north of the originals as a result of the emergency build-up of troops in 1939.

Hangars

The original layout for permanent construction at March Field, approved by Major-General Patrick in April 1927, contemplated construction of long and narrow 500 foot x 70 foot hangars. During the summer of 1927, the Air Corps reconsidered its options. Three designs were studied: two were of the long, narrow variety -- a March Field design, drawn up by Hunt & Chambers, and a standard cantilever hangar, based on the prototype at Wright Field, Ohio. The third design was a new variation on the standard type 110' x 200' x 20' Air Corps steel hangar.

The Hunt & Chambers "March Field Hangar" measured 70 x 448 feet and contained five 88 foot bays. The narrowness and length of the hangars conformed well with the overall layout of the airfield. Each bay had doors that opened on both sides of the building. Complete with

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[46] Major J. T. McNarney, AC, to Chief of Air Corps, October 30, 1930. Project Files: March Field. Box 2102, File 600.1. CDF, 1917-38. RG 18, NA.

tile roof, electronic doors, concrete aprons, lighting and storage, concrete floor, and brick or concrete ends, the cost was variously estimated at from $130,000 to $180,000 for a hangar to house 10 bombers. The standard Air Corps cantilever hangar measured 70 x 420 x 20 feet, contained 14 bays and could house 10 bombers with 75 foot wing spans. The cantilever hangar allowed movement of planes in and out only one side of the structure. The estimated cost of a cantilever type hangar to house 10 bombers was $135,600. The modified Air Corps standard 110 x 200 x 20 foot steel hangar was like the old bombing hangar, but with trusses and other roofing elements redesigned to support a Spanish tile roof. The standard type hangar had laterally rolling doors on each end. The estimated cost of a "double standard" hangar (i.e., a pair placed together) capable of housing 10 to 12 bombers was just under $80,000 -- a considerable savings over the other two hangar types.[47]

Major Harmon believed the advantages of the "March Field" type hangar fully justified its increased cost over the standard steel hangar and he recommended that the Air Corps approved it for construction at March Field. However, after weighing the advantages and disadvantages of the three types, the Chief of the Air Corps reluctantly concluded to select the Air Corps standard 100 x 200 x 20 foot design. The advantages of side opening hangars for a flying school or a pursuit group where a large number of planes were involved was justifiable, argued Major-General Patrick. But March Field was to be the ultimate home of a bomber group where side opening hangars were not so important. Furthermore, selection of either of the other two designs would necessitate going before the Budget Committee and Congress to ask for additional funds to construct a second and third hangar to house all the bombing airplanes of three squadrons. Finally, the Chief noted that the Air Corps standard hangar, modified with a Spanish tile roof with stuccoed sides below the double sash and stucco gabled ends would give a building of pleasing appearance that would "harmonize with the other construction at March Field."[48]

Subsequent cost studies led the Air Corps to substitute a corrugated concrete asbestos sheeting for the Spanish tile roof. The corrugated sheeting had 4" centers and a 1.5 inch depth so that from a distance it resembled Spanish tile when painted brick red. The corrugated sheeting was a fireproof industrial cast in a monolithic sheet using 45% asbestos fiber mixed in concrete. The top side was a smooth finished concrete surface which could be painted any color. In keeping with the practice of the period, the hangar roofs were not painted red, but in a checkerboard yellow chrome and black pattern that made them more visible to pilots approaching for a landing.[49]

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[47] Patrick to Wash, August 3, 1927; Major Emmons to Harmon, September 1, 1927; and Harmon to Congressman Frank Jones, August 30, 1927. Project Files March Field: Box 2104, File 634. CDF, 1917-38. RG 18, NA.

[48] Harmon to Patrick, September 12, 1927; Patrick to Harmon, September 15, 1927. Project Files March Field: Box 2104, File 634. CDF, 1917-38. RG 18, NA.

[49] Major Emmons to Harmon, December 29, 1927. Project Files March Field: Box 2104, File 634. CDF, 1917-38. RG 18, NA.

The Los Angeles Contracting Company won the contract to erected 10 hangars on the post on June 21, 1928 at a cost of $254,904 and an annex on the northeast elevation of each structure on the hangar line for another $954 per annex. Seven of the hangars were constructed to house airplanes: six for the 36 bombers assigned to the three bombing squadrons that come to March Field in 1931 (Bldgs. 300, 355, 373, 385, 436, and 440) and one for the airplanes of the Service Squadron (Bldg. 457). The eight hangar on the hangar line was used to assemble airplanes (Bldg. 438). [50] The Air Corps also used two new standard 110 x 200 x 20 foot hangars for shop buildings, one an Air Corps Warehouse (Bldg. 458) used by the Post Engineering Office, and an Air Corps Machine Shop (Bldg. 453) used to house machine, carpenter, metal and welding shops, motor overhaul, etc.[51] The standard hangar provided 22,000 square feet of storage and office space. When used as a warehouse, certain functional modifications became necessary, such as the addition of loading platforms, office partitions, material storage bins, shelving, and a revised end design that replaced laterally sliding doors with closed ends.[52]

Photo-Parachute-Armaments-Radio Huts

The Hedrick plan had provided for the photography laboratory, radio and parachute shops in a single U-shaped structure located at the southwest corner of the parade ground. The Air Corps later decided to construct three separate buildings. In the March 1928 plan approved by George B. Ford the three buildings, unified by an arcade running the full length of the facade, were located on south Graeber Street (the site of Bldg 356). The armaments activities of the post including repair, instruction and storage of machine guns, bomb sights, etc. were handled by adding a large room to the rear of the parachute building. The Los Angeles Construction Company won the contract to construct these buildings in June 1928. By that time, the site plan and building design for these buildings had changed for a third time. A single armament and parachute building and a separate photo lab were erected parallel to each other and fronting on south Graeber Avenue (now joined by an addition, Bldg. 356).

The radio hut (Bldg. 148) was located in a small 550 square foot structure built on the median of the main boulevard at the northeast entrance to the post and the below the two giant radio towers. It served as a combined radio station and a shelter for the sentry that controlled traffic into the post. A radio operator from the Signal Corps occupied the building 24 hours a

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[50] Major-General Fechet to Adjutant General, December 14, 1927. Project Files March Field: Box 2102, File 600.1. CDF, 1917-38. RG 18, NA.

[51] Major-General Fechet to Adjutant General, December 14, 1927. Box 2102, File 600.1; Emmons to Chief, Materials Division, A.C., Wright Field, Ohio, June 28, 1928. Box 2104, File 634. Project Files March Field: CDF, 1917-38. RG 18, NA.

[52] Major-General Fechet to Adjutant General, December 14, 1927. Project Files March Field: Box 2102, File 600.1. CDF, 1917-38. RG 18, NA; Gardenhire, "Completion Report, Construction of Hangars and Technical Buildings, March Field," August 18, 1929. Construction Division Completion Reports, 1917-1919, Box 173. RG 18, WNRC.

day. In June 1930 the Air Corps constructed a wire fence along the north and east boundary of the reservation and several months later a lighted, ornamental gate was erected at the northwest entrance to assist the guard in controlling access to the post.[53]

Headquarters Building

The headquarters and operations buildings were originally planned by the Quartermaster Corps as two separate structures, but because the building had so many functions the Air Corps decided to revise the plan and build a large two-story structure. Post operations occupied the first floor -- these offices included facilities for operations clerk and officer in charge, a map room, pilot's assembly room, parachute and locker room, meteorological office, telegraph, telephone, and radio receiving office. The second floor was devoted to offices for the post and group commanders and executive, adjutant, and personnel officers, together with their support staff.[54]

Plans for the headquarters building were developed at March Field by Harmon, Gardenhire and their architect advisors and were sent to the Chief of the Air Corps, together with a revised layout for the building in the latter months of 1927. Major Emmons of the chief's office noted that of all the buildings on the post, the headquarters ought to meet the approval of the post commander. He forwarded Harmon's revised plans to the Construction Service for development of detailed plans and specifications.[55]

The Los Angeles Constructing Company and C. G. Wopschall built the headquarters structure in 1929 at a cost of $40,000. The building was of hollow wall construction, but its construction method was somewhat unique. The contractor poured the first floor with a patented steel form inside and outside and collapsible steel cores. When this method proved unsatisfactory, it was abandoned and the second floor poured with wood forms and cores. Early sketches of the headquarters building shown on post layout plans suggest that it was designed originally as a monumental structure capped by a dome roof structure at the center of the second story. Instead the contractors built a square woodframe and glass observation tower with a canvass floor -- a temporary structural element which was later removed.[56]

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[53] Major-General Fechet to Adjutant General, December 14, 1927. Project Files March Field: Box 2102, File 600.1. CDF, 1917-38. RG 18, NA; Major McIntosh, AC, to Quartermaster General, June 16, 1930. Gen. Corresp. Geographic File , 1922-35. Box 1218, File 600. RG 92, WNRC.

[54] Major-General Fechet to Adjutant General, December 14, 1927. Project Files March Field: Box 2102, File 600.1. CDF, 1917-38. RG 18, NA.

[55] Emmons to Harmon, December 1, 1927. Project Files: March Field. Box 2102, File 600.1. CDF, 1917-38. RG 18, NA.

[56] Gardenhire, "Completion Report on Construction of Five Technical Buildings," September 10, 1929. Construction Division Completion Reports, 1917-19, Box 173. RG 92, WNRC.

Hospital

The World War I hospital at March Field was in relatively good condition and adequate to meet the needs of the training facility for a couple of years. March Field, however, was very isolated and cases of a serious nature had to be sent to the Army's Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco or in case of an emergency to the Naval Hospital in San Diego.[57]

The 1931 Army Housing Bill authorized $150,000 for construction of a hospital at March Field. The approved blueprint for the hospital, dated November 27, 1929, called for a two-story structure far in excess of the cost provided for in the housing bill. The revised plan submitted in January 1930 reduced the size of the building to keep within the funds being appropriated and provided for the construction of the full hospital complex in phases.[58]

R. J. Chute Company of Los Angeles built the original element of March Field hospital at a cost of $128,870. The building, designed by the Construction Division of the Quartermaster Corps in Washington, DC, was of hollow wall, reinforced concrete construction. Although only two stories in height, the hospital contained a full basement put in at the insistence of Air Corps officials that the building be low in order not to present a flying hazard. The original contract called for wood sash throughout the building, but while the job was out for bid the Surgeon General requested that steel sash be substituted and the specifications were amended.[59] The original plan for the hospital called for a two-story kitchen and mess detachment barracks in a separate building to the rear of the main building and connected to it by a corridor. Available funding did not permit construction of the wing as planned and a one-story kitchen and mess wing with a shorter corridor was built in 1931. A second story was added to the annex at a later date. The medical detachment was quartered in the hospital building proper, occupying one of the main wards until 1934 when the medical corps barracks (Bldg. 317) was constructed at the southwest corner of the hospital area in the vicinity of the other barracks for enlisted men.[60]

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[57] Harmon to Congressman Frank Jones, August 29, 1927. Project Files March Field. Box 2102, File 600.1 CDF, 1917-38. RG 18, NA.

[58] Col. P. W. Guinney, QMC, to Adjutant General, January 27, 1930. Project Files: March Field. Box 2104, File 632. CDF, 1917-38. RG 18, NA.

[59] *Southwest Builder and Contractor* April 24, 1931; Brig. General L. H. Bash to R. J. Chute Co., September 29, 1930. Const. Div. Completion Reports, 1917-19. Box 173., Folder 2. RG 92, WNRC.

[60] Col. P. W. Guinney to Adjutant General, August 27, 1931 and Major F. H. Poole to Surgeon General, December 1, 1931. Project Files: March Field. Box 2104, File 632. CDF, 1917-38. RG 18, NA.

Roads, Sidewalks, Curbs and Culverts

Roads, sidewalks, and curbs were a fundamental part of the general layout for March Field and contracts were let for the construction of the traffic and pedestrian infrastructure as each sector of the base was developed. Plans and specifications for 40,000 square feet of concrete roads, 100,000 square feet of sidewalks, and 75,000 cubic yards of excavation for the drainage system at March Field were first announced in the *Southwest Builder and Contractor* in April 1929. The Mittrey Bros. Construction Company, the same company that won the contract for construction of the barracks and officers' quarters in 1929, won the bid for $97,377 worth of concrete road, curb and walkway work. This contract included several of the main arterial roads and service roads in the vicinity of the new construction.[61] During the second wave of construction in 1930 the quartermaster corps let another large contract for $25,000 to the Pasadena firm of Bartlett & Mathews to extend service roads to their connectors and complete all of the odds and ends of roads and curbs that formed part of the layout of March Field adjacent to the NCO housing. The roads were constructed of seven inch thick concrete to the specifications of the California Highway Department. A third contract completed the original road system in accordance with the layout of March Field. This contract with W. J. Brand Co. of Riverside included construction of the necessary roads, walks, curbs and grading around 61 buildings built during 1931. The main roads, 30 feet wide, and service roads, 18 feet wide, consisted of seven inch concrete. Walkways around the buildings varied from 5, 4, 3.5, and 3 feet according to their uses and were four inch concrete. The contract also included construction of the aprons to garages and warehouses.[62]

Home to the 1st Bombardment Wing, 1931-1941.

For the Army Air Corps the first half of the 1930s was an era of great transition. It was a time of rapid change in air doctrine, mission, organization, and equipment. Doctrinally, the period produced more clearly defined employment concepts. Likewise, it bred a fervent belief among Air Corps officers that independent strategic bombardment could achieve decisive results in warfare, and that air power alone could prevent a hostile invasion of the United States. Organizationally, it was an era of centralization. The War Department allowed the air arm's striking elements, previously divided among the various ground commanders, to be concentrated under a senior Air Corps commander in one General Headquarters Air Force (GHQ Air Force). The period also created a clear and immediate mission for the air arm -- the air defense of the United States and its overseas possessions. In addition, it was a decade of rapid technological advancement in aeronautics, spawning long-range, high altitude heavy bombers such as the B-17 that could turn the potential of air power into reality. These and other changes strengthened the Air Corps as a combat force and better prepared it to meet the challenges of World War II.

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[61] *Southwest Builder and Contractor* April 5, 1929; May 10, 1929; and May 24, 1929.

[62] Gardenhire, "Completion Report, Roads, Curbing, Culverts, etc." August 16, 1930 and 1932. Construction Div. Completion Reports, 1917-19, Box 173, Folder 2. RG 92, WNRC.

By October 1931 when March Field was occupied by tactical units that would be permanently stationed at the post, the construction of buildings designated in the 1928 post plan were not yet complete but March Field had taken on the appearance of a permanent Army post. The 9th and 31st Bomb Squadrons and the 17th Pursuit Group, with its accompanying 34th and 73rd Squadrons, were reactivated at March Field on July 15, 1931. Headquarters 7th Bombardment Group and the 11th Bomb Squadron, together with the 95th Pursuit Squadron, moved to March from Rockwell Field in October in anticipation of that base being turned over to the Navy. The 70th Service Squadron was reassigned from the Flying School to support the bomb group and the 64th to support the pursuit group. Supervising these two groups was the First Bombardment Wing, reactivated at Kelly Field in April and transferred to March Field in November 1931, under the command of Major Carl A. Spaatz. With the exception of the replacement of the 7th with the 19th Bomb Group, these units remained in place at March Field until 1941.

Under the reorganization of March Field to tactical units, Major (later Brig. Gen.) Henry H. Arnold was assigned base commander. He served in that capacity until 1936. Born at Gladwyne, Pennsylvania in 1885, Arnold after graduating in 1907 from the United States Military Academy at West Point, served two years in the Philippines where he conducted a topographical survey of the Island of Luzon. In 1911 he was detailed to the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps and underwent training at the Wright Brothers' flying school in Dayton, Ohio. Following completion of his flying instruction, Arnold was assigned to the Signal Corps Aviation School at College Park, Maryland. General Arnold established several aeronautical records including a new altitude record of 6,540 feet in 1912. He also won distinction as the first military aviator to make use of a radio to report observations of field artillery from an airplane. After America's entry into World War I, Arnold was placed in charge of the Information Service of the Aviation Division of the Signal Corps in Washington and was later appointed Executive Officer and Assistant Director of Military Aeronautics, a position which placed him in direct charge of over 30 flying schools, some 15,000 Air Corps officers and 125,000 enlisted men. He was an advocate of an independent air arm and encouraged the development of heavily armed four-engine bombers. In 1938 he became Chief of the Air Corps as a Major General. He became Commanding General of the Army Air Forces during World War II and received his fifth star late in 1944. The Officers' Club at March Field is named after General Arnold.[63]

When the squadrons of the 1st Bombardment Wing began arriving at March Field in October 1931, they found a station undergoing a tremendous amount of construction to get ready for their arrival. Twenty officer's quarters and 36 non-commissioned officers' quarters were nearing completion --the addition of the buildings would largely complete that sector of the post. Construction was also underway to complete several key buildings in the Quartermaster area of the post and in the vicinity of the parade ground. An extensive program

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[63] Parrish, Thomas and S. L. A. Marshall. *The Encyclopedia of World War II*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1978. pp. 29-30.

of planting and landscape planning to beautify the grounds of March Field was also underway.[64]

In an effort to hurry along construction in advance of the arrival of the Bombardment Wing, the Quartermaster Corps decided to utilize plans and specifications developed for the Air Corp for Maxwell Field, Alabama to build the quartermaster warehouse (Building 420), utilities shop (Building 430) and garage (Bldg. 441) as well as the fire station/guard house (Bldg 301), and the post exchange (Bldg. 466). The specifications and plans for these buildings at Maxwell Field were printed and forwarded to Gardenhire in January 1931 for use at March Field.[65]

The contract for the construction of these five buildings was let in one bid to the Bannister-Field Co., Ltd. of Los Angeles. Under the terms of the contract the Air Corps furnished the steel frames of these buildings, part of which was salvaged from steel buildings at March Field, Ross Field, and from army buildings in El Paso, Texas. The three quartermaster's buildings were unique in that none were roofed with Mission tiles. These structures has a four-ply composition roof that was partially masked by a parapet extension of the front and rear elevations. The fire station/guard house and post exchange were more in keeping with the dominant architectural theme of the post with their tile walls, stucco finish and Mission tile roof.[66]

The original World War I era water storage system located in the quartermaster area served the post until shortly after the arrival of the new tactical units at March Field in 1931. The water storage system consisted of one 100,000 gallon ground tank and one 75,000 gallon elevated tank, both of redwood stave construction. Both leaked, and had leaked ever since the re-occupation of the post in 1927. The post quartermaster had emptied, cleaned, caulked, and painted the tanks on the outside and tightened their bands, but without any noticeable effect on reducing the leaks. In 1930 a new sprinkler system consisting of 4,200 sprinkler heads had been installed on the post and a considerable amount of landscaping added in 1930-31. There were also two swimming pools with a combined capacity of 450,000 gallons on the post and domestic and industrial water requirements were expanding with occupation by the new tenants. Water consumption had escalated to the point that with Wells No. 1 (Bldg. 410) and No. 2 (under the corridor of the BOQ, Building 100) both pumping at maximum capacity (650 gpm) and the booster pump (Bldg. 411) running at its maximum output of 500 gpm, the elevated tank during the dry season would empty and the water level in the ground tank ground tank be

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[64] Air Corps News, October 18, 1932. Lieut. Stitt also landscaped the residential district at Fort Sill, Oklahoma (1929) and Wheeler Field, Hawaii (1932).

[65] Col. P. W. Guinney, QMC, to Gardenhire, January 24, 1931. Gen. Corresp. Geographic File, 1922-35. Box 1218, File 610. RG 92, WNRC.

[66] Gardenhire, "Completion Report -- Quartermaster Buildings, Fire and Guardhouse Combined, and Post Exchange," March 8, 1932. Construction Div. Completion Reports, 1917-19. Box 173. RG 92, WNRC.

reduced to a dangerously low level. The serviceable life of both wood stave tanks at age 15 was doubtful and if either failed, it would create a serious water supply problem at the station.

In order to meet normal demands and possible emergencies, Captain John W. Mayben, QMC, proposed in 1930 to provide 325,000 gallons of additional water storage. Funding was approved by the Secretary of War in fiscal year 1931 for new water storage facilities. To assure an adequate reserve supply the quartermaster corps erected an 110 foot tall elevated steel tank of 200,000 gallon capacity (Bldg. 407), a 200,000 gallon capacity cement ground tank (Bldg. 408), and a third pumping plant with a capacity of 460 gpm. (Bldg. 439) Water consumption continued to increase rapidly and in 1934 the storage capacity of the system was doubled with the erection of another reinforced concrete ground tank of 400,000 gallon capacity. (Bldg. 406) At this time, the quartermaster corps erected another pump house over the 225 gpm capacity Well No. 4. (Bldg 108). During the build-up associated with World War II yet another 400,000 gallon water storage tank was added. (Bldg. 409) All of the water tanks and all of the pump houses, except one (Bldg 108) on the northwest fringes of the officers' quarters, were located near the northwest corner of old March Field in the Quartermaster's sector of the base.[67]

Several construction projects that had been contemplated under the original 1928 site plan for March Field were finally undertaken during the Great Depression through the local reemployment bureau to relieve distress among Riverside's unemployed. Funds for the fiscal year 1933 Army Housing Program as authorized by the Emergency Relief and Construction Act of 1933 provided $226,400 for construction of the medical detachment barracks (Bldg. 317), an expansion of the main hospital building (Bldg. 323) to house a contagious ward, a post bakery (Bldg. 433) and laundry (Bldg. 434), an officers' club and mess (Bldg. 110), and the War Department theater (Bldg. 467).

War Department Theater

March Field was located 10 miles from the nearest town and was without any means of transportation connecting it to the post. The 1928 site plan designated a site near the northeast corner of the parade ground for a theater building. Because of the isolation of the garrison, as early as 1928 the post commander emphasized the need for a large theater where movies, plays, and other forms of entertainment could be held to entertain enlisted personnel attending the flight training school. Colonel Gardenhire repeatedly asked for authorization to construct a combination gymnasium and theater and had even advertised for construction of such a facility in 1931, but all bids were rejected.[68]

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[67] Office of the Quartermaster General, Building Completion Reports QM 117. Records of the March Air Force Base Historian; Captain L. S. Woods, QMC, "Completion Report 200,000 Gallon Steel Tank," August 25, 1932. Construction Div. Completion Reports, 1917-19. Box 173. RG 92, WNRC.

[68] Harmon to Patrick, September 22, 1927. Project Files March Field: Box 2102, File 600.1. CDF, 1917-38. RG 18, NA; *Southwest Builder and Contractor* October 30, 1931.

The War Department theater, built in 1933 fronting the parade ground opposite the hospital, was constructed from drawings previously used by the Army to build a post theater at Fort Huachuca, Arizona in 1932. On the exterior, the two theaters look like virtual replicas, however, the theater at Fort Huachuca is of hollow tile wall construction with a stucco covering, whereas to meet earthquake conditions at March Field reinforced concrete was used.[69]

Post Bakery and Laundry

The two industrial buildings located in the quartermaster sector are modified versions of the Maxwell Field-type quartermaster warehouse and are architecturally compatible with the other structures located in the area. The post bakery (Bldg. 433) and the post laundry (Bldg. 434) were both completed in September 1933 by H. G. Klusman of Cucamonga, California, who also built the officers' club and mess at March Field. The exterior walls and partitions were built with hollow clay tile which was exposed on the interior and covered with stucco on the exterior elevations. The built-up composition roof was supported by steel columns in the center and a steel ridge beam with wooden rafters.[70]

The boiler house (Bldg. 432) located on the northeast end of the laundry building was added in 1941.

Post Gymnasium

As early as 1928 Major Harmon, the post commander, asked for an appropriation to build a theater complex with removable seating that could double as a gymnasium for basketball and a dance floor for social functions. Col. Gardenhire advertised for construction of a one-story Mission style structure of hollow tile construction with stone trim and steel sash, 203 x 135 feet in area, that would contain a gymnasium, theater, locker and shower room with toilets. More than two dozen bids were received, but all were rejected.[71]

The Construction Service of the Quartermaster Corps developed plans for a post gymnasium building (Bldg. 465) with a basketball court, 440 seat balcony, and six bowling alleys and it was finally completed adjacent to the post exchange building in 1933.[72] A

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[69] Col. P. W. Guinney to Gardenhire, September 26, 1932. Gen. Corresp. Geographic Field, 1922-35. Box 1218, File 600. RG 92, WNRC; CAG to QMG, August 13, 1932. Project Files: March Field. Box 2104, File 600.1. RG 18, NA.

[70] Woods, "Completion Report, Bakery and Laundry," September 7, 1933. Construction Div. Completion Reports, 1917-19. Box 173. RG 92, WNRC.

[71] *Southwest Builder and Contractor* October 30, 1931.

[72] Air Corps News, January 31, 1933.

second bowling alley (Bldg. 463), now the aerobics center, was built during World War II just north of the original gymnasium.

Officers' Club and Mess

The March Field master plan designated an area west of the bachelor officers' quarters for an officers' recreation complex. The Air Corps planned to build the officers' club and mess adjacent to these facilities in an open space left by the removal of an old hangar. In 1930 development of the officers' recreation complex began with the construction of a swimming pool (Bldg. 414) and tennis courts. The following year bath houses (Bldgs. 491 and 492) were erected at the pool and sanitary conditions were improved with the addition of a swimming pool water treatment facility (Bldg. 497). By 1932, the Air Corps was ready to add the next element to the plan -- the officers' club house, but questions arose as to the appropriateness of the site.

In a letter addressed to the Chief of the Air Corps in October 1932, Post Commander Lieut. Col. H. H. Arnold argued for relocating the officers' club to a more convenient location east of the bachelor officers' quarters and nearer the great mass of officer's residences. The other location was entirely inappropriate because of its proximity to the industrial or quartermaster's sector of the post, with its loud shops and odorous laundry. The Air Corps would be subject to intense criticism by visitors to the club, argued Arnold, as they would dine on the terrace facing water tanks and a pump house and with a view of enlisted men marching about in their dirty work clothes. Arnold argued for construction of an "unpretentious building" -- a one-story club in keeping with California architectural traditions that would combine the functions of a mess, lounge, and assembly room.[73]

H. G. Klushman of Cucamonga, California secured the contract to build the Officers' Mess at March Field in late 1933 and completed the work by May 1934. The one-story building was of hollow concrete construction, with mission tile roof and quarry tile and oak floors. The original building was only a fraction of the size of the current officers' club complex; it consisted of 10 rooms: a lounge, bar, dining room, kitchen, card room, two rooms with baths, two restrooms, and an office.[74]

The construction program submitted by the War Department for March Field for Public Works construction in 1934 totaled about $267,000 and comprised certain miscellaneous shelters and Air Corps technical construction. Among the projects completed under this appropriation were: a gasoline storage system, bomb storage system, assorted sprinkler systems, telephone construction, warehouse improvements, magazines, radio building (Bldg. 417), ordnance

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[73] Arnold to Chief of the Air Corps, October 20, 1932. Project Files: March Field. Box 2102, File 600.1. CDF, 1917-38. RG 18, NA.

[74] Woods, "Completion Report -- Officers' Mess," May 10, 1934. Construction Div. Completion Reports, 1917-19. Box 173, RG 92, WNRC.

warehouse (Bldg. 435), sentry house (Bldg. 154), various field improvements, and road construction.

During the Great Depression, the Air Corps reduced flying hours, curtailed bombing practice, and postponed its annual maneuvers. The creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) training program in April 1933 seriously affected the Air Corps and other branches of the Army. March Field played a vital role in the CCC training program for the President's reforestation project on California National Forests. Some 7,000 enrollees passed through March Field's conditioning program in the first phase of enrollment during the summer of 1933. Fully one-third of the regular army officers stationed at March Field were assigned to CCC duties supervising 25 scattered forestry camps that were under the command of Lieut.-Col. Arnold as commanding officer of March Field. The CCC enrollees engaged in a variety of public works projects on the national forests in addition to their regular work as fire fighters. On the San Bernardino National Forest alone, during 1933 the crews from 16 CCC camps constructed some 91 miles of truck trails, 100 miles of firebreaks, built 27 rock-filled erosion control dams, build or reconstructed several bridges, and strung 31 miles of telephone line. [75]

In 1934 the 7th Bomb Group which had been stationed at March Field since 1931, moved to Hamilton Air Field. It was replaced by the 19th Bomb Group in October 1935. When the War Department reorganized the Air Corps into General Headquarters Air Force (GHQ) in 1935 combat elements were organized in to three wings at Langley, Barksdale and March Fields. The Headquarters of the 1st Wing at March Field was assigned two bombardment groups (19th and 7th) and the 17th Pursuit Group became the 17th Attack Group. These changes forced a reassignment of personnel to the attack group, confirmation of officers for the various command and staff functions, and new planes were received with which the attack squadrons were equipped. Lieut. Col. Hubert R. Harmon, brother of Lieut. Col. Millard F. Harmon, who was commandant of the Air Corps Primary Flying School at March Field from 1927-1930, was appointed Executive Officer and Operations Officer of the 1st Wing on August 13, 1935. He was a graduate of West Point and an authority on European military aviation.[76]

In 1933 the Murdoc bombing range (later Edwards Air Force Base) in the Mojave Desert was opened as an auxiliary installation for bombing practice by March Field pilots and their crews. Expansion of this facility in 1938 established March as the central base for bombing and gunnery training. Recognition of the increasing significance of bombing as a attack force further enhanced the reputation of March Field. As the buildup for World War II began GHQ Air Force constructed a temporary tent city for 280 men in an open area at the rear of one of the barracks. On July 29, 1938 a revised layout plan for March Field was approved that authorized construction of a new permanent barracks (Bldg. 456.)[77]

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[75] Air Corps News, June 30, 1933.

[76] Air Corps News, September 1, 1935.

[77] Col. C. D. Hartman to Chief of Air Corps, August 3, 1936. Project Files: March Field. Box 2106, File 621. CDF, 1917-38. RG 18 NA.

In 1940 the beginning of National Guard anti-aircraft training boosted the number of personnel at March Field. The number of people stationed at March increased from 125 officers and 1500 enlisted to 250 and 3,600 in the few months following the opening of this training program. By October 1940 the War Department had decided to open a new anti-aircraft artillery camp west of the main highway. This became Camp Haan, and later West March. By the end of the year the War Department more than doubled the size of March Field by adding 920 acres to the North, East, and South of the base. The Air Corps built new runways -- longer and with thicker paving. A great number of temporary woodframe buildings were also erected between 1940 and 1943, some of them within the historic triangle, but most outside the older base in the newly acquired regions of the post.

SIGNIFICANCE OF MARCH FIELD IN MILITARY HISTORY

March Field Historic District is significant at the State level in the area of military history for its association with the development of the Air Corps on the West Coast, serving as the key training and bombardment post on the West Coast during the period of significance from 1928 to 1943.

March Field had its beginnings as a World War I airfield. In 1917 as the United States entered the war, the Aviation Section of the U.S. Army Signal Corps had only a handful of usable flying fields, but this number expanded to exceed 40 by the end of the war. The March Field historic district includes one building, the old post bakery, from 1918, the only remnant from the World War I military base.

In the period between the world wars, the number of Air Corps flying fields decreased until only a relatively few were in use in 1939 when the country began to rebuild its land and air forces. The Air Corps established a few new air bases during this period (Randolph Field in Texas, Barksdale Field in Louisiana, and Wheeler and Hickam Fields in Hawaii) but most of those that survived the interwar years were World War I bases that underwent substantial reconstruction. Among this latter group was Langley Field in Virginia, Maxwell Field in Alabama, Kelly and Brooks Field in Texas, and Rockwell and March Field in California. All of these air fields were established or reconstructed as a result of the Air Corps Act of 1926 -- a milestone in the history of the U.S. Army's air arm. The March Field historic district is clearly the most significant tangible symbol in California of this historic era of Army aviation history.

March Field is also important in the area of military significance as an important example of military post planning because it was the first complete aviation post laid out and built by the Construction Division of the Quartermaster Corps and the Army Air Corps during peacetime. As such, it was not built with standardized plans, but developed as the collaborative effort of government and private planners and architects. March Field was also built during an era in which the Construction Service adhered to regional values and built using appropriate local building materials and architectural styles. Thus, the principles developed in laying out March Field were repeated elsewhere and the individual buildings designed for the post became models for all California and Southwestern Air Corps fields built afterward in the interwar period. The officers' quarters, barracks, bachelor officers' quarters, and other structures built

in 1930-31 at Rockwell Field, San Diego and at Randolph Field, Texas are virtual replicas of the buildings developed for March Field between 1927 and 1929 with respect to floor plan and architectural style. This phenomenon is also discussed more fully under the architectural significance statement below.

Finally, in United States military history, the district is strongly associated with the development and advancement of tactical military aviation under the Army Air Corps and with the War Department General Staff's efforts to strengthen Army aviation following World War I. Under the Air Corps Act of 1926, Congress authorized a $147 million five-year program to modernize and expand the Army's air arm. The ultimate objective of the program was to enlarge the number of units manned, equipped, and trained for tactical operations during peacetime as a base for mobilization. In caretaker status since 1923, March Field reopened in 1927 as one of three primary and advanced flying schools operated by the Army Air Corps nationwide. In keeping with the Five-Year Plan, March's primary training functions were transferred to Randolph Field in 1931 and March Field became the central base for West Coast bombing and gunnery training and so remained until 1941. During the period of significance, 1928-1943, it was an important cog in the national defense machinery -- the largest flying field on the Pacific Coast and home of the largest air armada west of the Mississippi River. It is one of the very few remaining examples of the airbases built under the direction of the Army Air Corps from this period between the world wars and is a significant symbol of the emergence of army aviation as a distinctive branch of the modern American armed services.

SIGNIFICANCE IN ARCHITECTURE

The March Field Historic District appears to be significant in architecture in three regards: as a monumental example of site planning, reflecting the influence of city planning ideas upon military base design during the 1920s; as an example of the work of Myron Hunt, a nationally known master designer from Pasadena; and as an exceptionally large and intact collection of hollow wall concrete buildings.

The March Field Historic District is significant as a distinguished example of a military base built explicitly according to prevailing city planning concepts. As such, it is important in the contexts of city planning and military base design as well as architecture. [This discussion is built around the theme of architecture because the plan was done entirely by architects and integrated building design with transportation planning, landscape architecture, and other disciplines associated with site planning. It is recognized that elements of other areas of significance, especially community planning and development and landscape architecture are also involved within the general area of site planning.] Influenced by City Beautiful ideals, city planners of the early 20th century aspired but were rarely given the opportunity to build entire communities along carefully laid plans.[78] The opportunity for such design control arose only when large assemblages of buildings were constructed at one time and by a single

[78] Wilson, William H. *The City Beautiful Movement* Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989.

party -- in college campuses, for example, or in planned residential communities or in military bases. March Field is an excellent example of the form of a military base when planned with significant input from city planners.

During the mid-1920s, the Quartermaster Corps made a concerted effort to integrate the professional ideals and methods of city planners into the process by which bases were designed. Lois Craig summarizes the new attitude in her definitive study of Federal architecture, *The Federal Presence*: "In the mid-1920s public outcry over the postwar degeneration of army posts prompted Congress to finance a new look. Quartermaster General B. Frank Cheatham hired civilian planners to provide 'a deviation from the set type of military posts' and placed the architectural staff under officers associated with the architectural firms of Cass Gilbert and McKim, Mead and White."[79] Not only did Cheatham hire a new generation of planners and architects -- the planners were also architects -- he also contracted with well-known civilian city planners to review and approve all plans developed by his staff. The Quartermaster design staff of the mid-1920s was dominated by individuals familiar with the concepts of city planning, including officers and full-time civilian employees as well as on-call consultants. The Chief of the Engineering Division was Lt. Col. Francis B. Wheaton, who had worked at McKim, Mead, and White.[80]

The consultant on city planning was George B. Ford, professor of city planning at Columbia University and one of the major figures in early 20th century planning. Trained as an architect at Harvard and MIT, he practiced architecture until around 1910, after which he became active in the emerging field of city planning. Before 1926, Ford was involved in many massive planning projects, include the design of New Rochelle, New York and the rebuilding of various French cities after World War I, for which he was appointed a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.[81]

These officers and civilians went about the task of designing new bases with enthusiasm. Writing in 1928, Lt. H.B. Nurse, chief of the Design Branch in the Engineering Division of the Quartermaster Corps, elucidated the basic principles behind base design. He wrote:

> The planning of the modern Army post, as the term is applied in our military establishment, is likened to that of modern city planning, in that the main object in view is an attempt to exert a well-considered control over the development of the physical environment as a whole... Of all the construction work that is done, in peace or war, there is none that counts more in obtaining good results than the

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[79] Lois Craig, *The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in United States Government Building* Cambridge: MIT Press, 1978. p. 306.

[80] Bethany C. Grashof, *A Study of United States Army Family Housing, Standardized Plans, 1866-1940* Atlanta, GA: Georgia Institute of Technology, 1986. Vol. 1, p. 54.

[81] New York Times, August 15, 1930.

planning and preparation that goes before the actual performance. Every Army post should have a comprehensive plan of development.[82]

Nurse details the basic principles, or "laws" which should govern base design: Unity (a base must "proceed from a single impulse and be the embodiment of one dominant idea"); Consonance in Design ("the form of recurring geometrical figures, parallels, diagonals, and the like"); Diversity ("identity does not exclude individuality"); Balance ("the symmetrical disposition of the elements on either side of axial lines"); and Radiation ("the various parts of any organism radiate from and refer back to common centers").

A similar commitment to a balanced, axial base design was expressed by George B. Ford. Writing in 1929, Ford decried earlier bases which, while effective and practical, were unsightly and uncoordinated. Referring to one base, he notes: "Related services were convenient to each other, it is true, and from a practical working standpoint, the disposition of the buildings was quite satisfactory, but related buildings were not grouped and, as seen from the air, the layout of the post was an utter hodge podge." Ford was particularly fascinated with the aerial view, which corresponded with the plan view. He continued: "Perhaps, after all, it is aviation that has at last made us conscious of how utterly formless most of our Army or civilian layouts have been. Our new first view -- our first and often most lasting impression -- of a city or of an Army post or field is from the air. If the town or the post 'patterns' well; if it 'mosaics' well; if the buildings are grouped or so arranged that they present real attractiveness of form, then we get a distinct pleasure out of the animated map spread below us."[83]

Nearly all bases designed in the mid-1920s reflect the adherence to strong geometrical forms embraced by Nurse, Ford, and others at the Quartermaster Corps. Examples include Mitchell Field in New York, Randolph Field and Fort Sam Houston in Texas, and Fort Lewis in Washington. For example, Randolph Field, which like March Field an Air Corps training facility, was built around a circle with spokes radiating from the center. Its design was described by Ford: "As seen from the air, which after all is the usual way in which it will be seen, the post in its form and color will take on very much the appearance of some of the rose windows in the great cathedrals of Europe."[84] March Field, with its dominant triangular form, is an excellent example of this phase of geometrical base design by the Quartermaster Corps. The triangular form was dictated by miliary necessity but was built into a formal plan by the architects of the Quartermaster Corps. While many individuals had a part in its design, the layout is most clearly the work of the Design Branch, headed by Lt. Nurse, and of George B. Ford.

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[82] Lt. H. B. Nurse "The Planning of Army Posts," *Quartermaster Review* September-October, 1928. p. 14.

[83] George B. Ford, "New Army Posts for Old: A New Design and Layout for Army Posts and Fields," *The Quartermaster Review* November-December, 1929. pp. 19-20.

[84] Ford, 1928:21.

The chronology of planning efforts at March Field is presented in detail in the historical overview section above. Clearly, a number of individuals contributed to the distinctive triangular plan that dominates this historic district. That narrative demonstrates that the design of March Field was, like many governmental construction projects, a collaborative effort, with substantial contributions by Hunt, Nurse, and Ford, as well as several commandants at the field, the leadership of the Air Corps and others at the Quartermaster Corps. The initial concept appears to have been developed by Hunt, the mature formal plan by Nurse, and the final product by Ford. Of the three, Nurse was likely most responsible for the geometrical precision and formality of the plan. These qualities best characterize the layout of the base and make it a significant example of mid-1920s thinking out the ideal plan for cities and military bases.

The case for a State level of significance in this area is based upon an examination of the general layout of other known historic military bases in California. Pre-World War II California military bases may be roughly grouped in three general groups, with March Field being a rare if not the sole representative of its group. In the first group are those bases which experienced several generations of growth and development before 1941 and which, for that reason, do not embody the characteristics of any single period of design. This is true, for example, of the Presidio of San Francisco and Mare Island in Vallejo, both of which were built up before the Civil War and which were augmented during succeeding period of military expansion. In the second group are those early bases which conform with the kind of cantonment design described by George B. Ford as "practical" but "hodge podge." The Presidio of Monterey, listed in the National Register, is an excellent example of the pre-1920s, practical era of base planning. A third group includes those bases which, like March Field, were laid out during the mid-1920s and early 1930s according to rigid planning principles by practitioners familiar with the field. Military bases outside California exhibit these characteristics as well as if not better than March Field, including Randolph Field in Texas and Hickham Field in Hawaii. There does not appear to be another base in California, however, which illustrates this trend to the extent found at March Field. A case could be made for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) in San Diego, a National Register-listed property designed by Bertram Goodhue in 1918-9. There is no evidence, however, that Goodhue's layout of the base was influenced by prevailing city planning concepts. Rather, Goodhue, then at the prime of his career, drew upon his own great experience in the layout of large institutions -- college campuses, expositions, and the like. The MCRD was the product of Goodhue's unique vision and not the outgrowth of city planning ideals.

In discussing the importance of March Field as an example of the work of Myron Hunt, one must acknowledge at the outset that neither Myron Hunt nor any other single individual may lay claim to exclusive design of the buildings at March Field. Nonetheless, Hunt conceived the original layout and model designs for important buildings on the base and he, far more than any other individual, is responsible for the architectural unity of this property.

Hunt was born in Sutherland, Massachusetts in 1868, the son of a prosperous nurseryman, also named Myron Hunt. The family moved to Chicago in the 1880s, where the young Myron Hunt completed high school. He attended Northwestern University for two years, 1888-90, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1890-93, graduating with a degree in

architecture. He married Harriet Boardman in 1893 and the two spent three years in Europe, where Hunt studied architectural antiquities.[85] Between 1896 and 1903, he worked at the Chicago office of Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge, a prominent Boston firm. During this time, Hunt was involved chiefly in the design of expensive suburban homes in the Chicago area, drawing upon the innovative domestic designs that would be labelled the "Prairie School." In 1903, although very successful in his Chicago practice, he moved to Pasadena, California because his wife, Harriet, suffered from tuberculosis.

Although he lived in Pasadena, Hunt always maintained an office in Los Angeles, as an independent architect between 1903 and 1904, as a partner in the firm of Hunt and Grey, 1904-10, as an independent between 1910 and 1919, and as a partner in the firm of Hunt and Chambers between 1919 and his retirement in 1947. Hunt's most active and successful years were between 1904 and around 1930, during which time he and his firm designed some of the most famous landmarks in Southern California: the Valley Hunt Club in Pasadena (1907); the Huntington Library in San Marino (1910; 1920); the Occidental College Campus in Los Angeles (1910); the Huntington Hotel in Pasadena (1913); First Congregational Church in Riverside (1913); the courtyard wing of the Mission Inn in Riverside (1914); the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles (1919); the Flintridge Country Club (1922) and Flintridge Hotel (1927); Palos Verdes Public Library (1920); Pasadena Public Library (1927); the Rose Bowl (1920-4); as well as dozens of private homes for wealthy Southern Californians, including Henry Huntington and Howard Hawks.[86] The firm was far less active during the slow construction years of the Great Depression. Hunt, 62 in 1930, continued to work in the office although his role diminished. During World War II, he volunteered his service in the design of military structures at Camp Pendleton and several other California bases. A spinal condition forced his retirement in 1947 and he died in 1952, at the age of 84.

Hunt's career is not easily categorized from a stylistic standpoint. His earliest work in Chicago is associated with the Prairie School. His most famous works in California -- the Huntington Library and the Rose Bowl -- are in a grand neo-classical tradition. His courtyard wing at the Mission Inn is regarded as one of the most successful interpretations of the Mission Revival. Architectural historians observe that he was among the first -- perhaps the first -- architect to design in the lavish Churrigueresque idiom, later identified as the Spanish Colonial Revival style, in his 1913 Congregational Church in Riverside, which preceded by two years the Bertram Goodhue buildings at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Diego.[87] He also designed Craftsman Bungalow homes, including his own. Late in his career, his firm veered

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[85] Jean Block, "Myron Hunt in the Midwest," in *Myron Hunt, 1868-1952: The Search for a Regional Architecture* Santa Monica, CA: Hennessey & Ingalls, 1984. p. 9.

[86] *Myron Hunt ... 1868-1952* 1984:110-115.

[87] Alson Clark, "Myron Hunt in Southern California," in *Myron Hunt, 1868-1952: The search for a Regional Architecture* Santa Monica, CA: Hennessey & Ingalls, 1984. p. 37; Kevin Starr, *Material Dreams: Southern California through the 1920s* New York: Oxford University Press, 1990. p. 198.

toward the Streamlined Moderne. In short, it would be difficult to associate his long and very successful career with any particular fashion in architectural design. Hunt's broad range of styles was noted at length by Therese Hanafin in her thoughtful Master's thesis, "The Eclectic Architecture of Myron Hunt."[88]

Nonetheless, historians generally recognize Hunt as one of the leading proponents of an important development in Southern California architecture of the 1920s, a blending of Mission Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival, and, to a lesser degree, Italian Renaissance traditions, often called Mediterranean architecture. Kevin Starr calls Hunt the "leading Mediterraneanizer of Southern California,"[89] although that title is properly shared with others, especially George Washington Smith and Bertram Goodhue. The general term, Mediterranean, was used during the 1920s and is sometimes used today to refer to buildings that draw from the shared Spanish and Italian tradition that includes white plastered walls, red tiles on shallow-pitched roofs, round-headed arched openings, arcades, decorative balconies, and other common features. Hunt himself objected to the term as too general, although his alternative -- "California architecture" -- is equally ambiguous.[90] However called, this style was the dominant architectural motif in Southern California design during the 1920s and Hunt was among its key practitioners.

In the larger context of his career, March Field does not appear to be a signally important design by Myron Hunt, not when compared, say, to the Mission Inn, Rose Bowl, or Huntington Library. March Field is nonetheless an important example of his work in four regards: it exhibits his long history of public service work; it is the only known example of his military base design prior to World War II; it is a huge and very successful example of his design in the general Mediterranean style (here called Mission Revival); and it exhibits his fascination with emerging building technologies.

The story of Hunt's involvement with this project is told in detail in the Historic Overview section of this nomination. He became involved with March Field as a direct result of his friendship with Frank Miller, owner of the Mission Inn. Some of Hunt's best and best-known commissions prior to 1927 were in Riverside, including the aforementioned 1913 First Congregational Church and his 1914 Spanish Patio at the Mission Inn. Miller spent a lifetime sponsoring Mission Revival architecture in Riverside. He moved quickly to exert his influence over Lt. Col. Gardenhire, the Constructing Quartermaster for March Field, to ensure that the base would be designed in the Mission Revival style. It was Gardenhire who, at the insistence of Frank Miller, solicited the assistance of Myron Hunt to draw conceptual plans for the base. Gardenhire apparently asked Hunt and his partner, William Chambers, to make suggestions about the general plan of the base as well as the architectural theme. In April, 1927, Gardenhire wrote to the Quartermaster, observing: "As to the lay-out for the Field: I am

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[88] Therese Hanafin, "The Eclectic Architecture of Myron Hunt," MFA, San Diego State College, 1969.

[89] Starr, 1990:191.

[90] *Southwest Builder and Contractor* September 19, 1930, p. 31.

working on a recommended lay-out and being assisted by some of the finest architects in the country who are going to assist at the request of Mr. Frank Miller, who is the 'he man' in this country and who has developed Riverside with the Mission Inn as a background. I have carefully explained to these architects that what we put in is purely a recommendation and that this office has nothing to do with the final determination of the type of buildings of the lay out but are sending it in for information only."

Hunt remained involved throughout the planning and construction phases for the field. The final product clearly was a collaborative effort, involving Hunt, Gardenhire, and the Design Branch of the Quartermaster Corps in Washington, D.C. The design of particular buildings was also influenced to no small degree by advice from potential users -- bachelor officers for their quarters, married officers and their wives for the married officers' quarters, pilots for the hangars, and so forth. The central vision, however, was Hunt's and the March Field Historic District should be considered a significant example of his work.

As a final element of architectural significance, the March Field Historic District is significant as a very large -- perhaps the world's largest -- assemblage of hollow-wall concrete buildings. Hollow-wall concrete technology appears to have enjoyed short-lived popularity during the 1920s, associated chiefly (but not exclusively) with architect Myron Hunt. While not among the seminal developments in concrete building techniques, hollow-wall concrete illustrates clearly the inventiveness of engineers and architects who in the early 20th century explored the range of applications of concrete as a construction material.

Among modern building materials, reinforced concrete is of very recent origins. Developed in Europe in the mid-19th century, reinforced concrete was first used as a building material in the United States during the 1870s. Californians were at the forefront of developing reinforced concrete technologies, with California engineers such as Ernest L. Ransome, John B. Leonard, William Thomas and John Eastwood making major contributions to the field. By 1920, reinforced concrete was commonly used in California in most of the major applications for which it is used today -- in dams, bridges, warehouses, and large institutional buildings.[91]

Hollow-wall concrete, developed in the late 1910s or early 1920s, was one in a long line of marginal improvements in reinforced concrete building methods that were nurtured in California. Its history has not been thoroughly documented. This method of construction is not mentioned in general construction histories, such as Carl W. Condit, *American Building Art* or James M. Fitch, *American Building*.[92] The notion of hollow-wall concrete construction appears

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[91] The history of reinforced concrete design in California is summarized in several works, especially: John W. Snyder, "Buildings and Bridges for the 20th Century, *California History*, Fall, 1984. pp. 280-292; and Donald C. Jackson, "A History of Water in the American West: John S. Eastwood and the 'Ultimate Dam,'" PhD, University of Pennsylvania, 1986.

[92] Carl W. Condit, *American Building Art: The Twentieth Century* New York: Oxford University Press, 1961; James Marston Fitch, *American Building: The Forces That Shape It* Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1947.

to have been the product of many different inventors in different parts of the country; patent records from the late 1910s and early 1920s show dozens of patents pertaining to hollow-wall construction and construction equipment.[93]

As the name suggests, hollow-wall concrete involves reinforced concrete walls which include voids. Architectural and engineering journals from the 1920s praised hollow-wall concrete construction as retaining the general advantages of standard reinforced concrete while reducing materials and labor costs and producing superior insulation. In a 1929 article in *Southwest Builder and Contractor*, dealing with the construction of March Field, Donald L. Holmes remarked upon the popularity of hollow-wall concrete, observing: "This type of wall is one which is rapidly growing in favor, particularly for housing, due to the firesafeness, economy and insulation, as well as for permanency."[94] The same qualities were praised by John Taylor Boyd, Jr. in a 1921 article in *The Architectural Record*, dealing with the Flintridge Country Club, a large hollow-wall concrete building, also designed by Myron Hunt. Boyd praised its insulation values in particular, noting:

> Structurally the building is interesting, and should be understood in connection with the design. The walls are concrete, cast in metal forms, four feet thick with a twenty-inch air-space. The heating pipes run in the air-space, uninsulated, and heat the rooms by radiation from the walls, except in coldest weather, when the radiators are used.[95]

In addition to its fire safety and thermal qualities, the hollow concrete wall was an especially attractive construction method when executed in the Mission Revival style because the depth of the walls produced very deep reveals, mimicking the appearance of the thick adobe-walled rancho houses of the Mission era. It is not coincidental that all known uses of the technique, whether by Hunt or others, was also in the Mission Revival style.

It does not appear that the use of hollow walls in reinforced concrete buildings is an invention that can be attributed to any one individual. There were no doubt many different methods of hollow-wall concrete construction embodied in patented as well as un-patented systems. As one measure of the diversity, a June 1929 advertising brochure by the Riverside Cement Company, called *Riverside Plastite Progress*, illustrates two very different methods of hollow wall construction, both using Riverside Cement Company cement. One method was that used at March Field, utilizing a 12" air-space, surrounded by a 4" reinforced concrete shell, resulting in a 20" wall. The other, used in a private home in Beverly Hills, had walls with 2" air-spaces, the walls being 10" thick on the front and rear and 8" thick on the sides. Hunt

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[93] Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, "Annual Report," 1919-1926.

[94] Donald J. Holmes, "Army Post Embarks on Permanent Post Construction at March Field," *Southwest Builder and Contractor* March 29, 1929. p. 33.

[95] John Taylor Boyd, Jr., "The Flintridge Country Club, Flintridge near Pasadena, Cal., Myron Hunt, Architect," The Architectural Record December, 1921. p. 101.

himself used different types of walls on different buildings. As noted, the Flintridge Country Club has 48" walls with 24" air spaces, while the buildings at March Field have 20" walls with 12" air-spaces. Thus, while the general approach was probably similar from one building to the next, hollow-wall concrete construction comprised a wide variety of different systems.

Myron Hunt became interested in hollow-wall construction in 1921, according to his principal biographer, Alston Clark. In that year, he was contacted by James Johnson, a Southern California inventor and contractor living in South Pasadena. Johnson commissioned Hunt to design a home for Nora Johnson in South Pasadena, using the hollow-wall concrete methods he had developed.[96] This house, completed in 1921 and still standing at 811 Orange Grove Avenue in South Pasadena, was apparently the first hollow-wall building built to Johnson's specifications. Hunt, always interested in new technologies, was favorably impressed with the technique and continued to use it throughout the 1920s. In 1922, he completed a hollow wall house for Dr. George Watson Cole, librarian of the Huntington Library. Later that same year, he experimented in use of the technology on larger, non-residential structures. He was commissioned by former U.S. Senator Frank Flint to design a country club house for the suburban Los Angeles subdivision, Flintridge, which Flint was developing at that time. The handsome country club building, completed in 1922, drew national attention to the concrete hollow-wall technique. It was reviewed, as noted earlier, in *The Architectural Record*, in an article by John Taylor Boyd.

Hunt continued to design hollow-wall concrete buildings throughout the 1920s. Between 1922 and 1925, he designed a series of hollow-wall concrete hospitals in Artesia, Redlands, Riverside, Upland and Vista. In 1925, he designed a large hollow-wall concrete home in Montecito for the widow of automobile magnate, Harry E. Knight. In 1926, he designed perhaps the best-known of his many hollow-wall concrete buildings, the Flintridge Hotel in Flintridge. Although the hotel, later called the Flintridge Biltmore, never succeeded as a hostelry, it is still recognized as a major example of Southern California design.

The decision to use hollow wall concrete methods at March Field is attributable directly to the influence of Myron Hunt, who conceptualized the base design and drew preliminary plans for many of its buildings. The decision as to construction material and methods was made late in the planning process. In 1927 and early 1928, Quartermaster Corps and Air Corps planners labored over the layout and architectural theme for the base as well as the specific design for the hangars and industrial buildings, which were first to be constructed. Both the hangars and industrial buildings were built according to technical specifications of the Air Corps and Quartermaster Corps, and their designs were established before any hollow-wall concrete buildings were constructed. The hangars are steel frame with reinforced concrete walls; the industrial buildings are, for the most part, hollow tile. Discussions about the other buildings -- officers' quarters, barracks, recreational buildings, hospital -- related chiefly to the floor plans and general style. The agreed upon plans could have been executed in a variety of materials.

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[96] Clark, 1984:42-47; Interview with Alson Clark, December, 1991.

In August, 1927, Maj. M.F. Harmon, Commandant at March Field, wrote to the local congressman, discussing alternatives in wall materials for the residences. He listed eight alternatives -- wood, celotex, stone tile, hollow tile, a stone tile variant, solid concrete, hollow concrete, and concrete block -- with cost estimates for each. Of these, hollow concrete was the most expensive alternative; Maj. Harmon recommended a hollow tile.[97] He also recommending hollow tiles for the hospital. Available correspondence offers no clear explanation of why this seemingly more expensive technique was used on a grand scale.

One plausible explanation is that Hunt, a strong proponent of the technique, was able to impose his will on the situation. Clearly, Lt. Col. Gardenhire and others held Hunt in high esteem and called upon to him to resolve most major design problems. In January, 1928, the March Field commandant was ordered to study actual concrete residential buildings in Southern California as a way of determining cost and utility of plans for homes at March Field. At that time, the Quartermaster Corps already had in place floor plans and elevations for the various types of officers' quarters that would be built there. The commandant included as one example the 1921 residence for James Johnson -- Hunt's first use of the hollow wall concrete method -- which appears to have been Hunt's model for his original plans for housing at the base. In many other instances, the Quartermaster and Commandant at March Field turned to Hunt for advice on specific details for the planned construction. The likely explanation for the use of hollow wall concrete is that it was specified at the insistence of Hunt, the principal spokesman for the technology in Southern California.

In the absence of a major thematic study of the subject, it cannot be said how many hollow wall concrete buildings still stand in Southern California or elsewhere. It is likely, however, that the hollow-wall concrete buildings at March Field represents one of the largest and most diverse group of such structures anywhere in the world.

[97] Harmon to James, August 29, 1927. Gen. Correspondence File Box 2101, File 600.1, WNRC.

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Telephone Interview with Elizabeth Chester, curator, architectural collection, College of Environmental Design, University of California, Berkeley, November 6, 1991.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries for March Field Historic District are those shown on the attached Sketch Map and as described below:

The point of origin is the southwest corner of the intersection of Meyer Drive and Riverside Drive in March AFB. The boundary continues east along the southern curb line of Meyer Drive to Graeber Street. It proceeds southeasterly along Graeber Street to the northeasterly plane of Building 436. The boundary follows that plane in a southwesterly direction, to the southwestern corner of the building. From that point, the boundary follows a plane defined by the rear (southwesterly elevation) of the 8 original hangars (Buildings 436, 440, 452, 457, 300, 355, 373, and 385). The boundary then follows northeasterly along the southeastern plane of Building 385, to a point of intersection with the southeastern curb of Graeber Street. The boundary follows that curb line to its intersection with the southern curb of X Street. The boundary proceeds easterly along that curb line to its intersection with the western curb of Riverside Drive. The boundary follows that curb line north to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above described boundaries conform with the area of March Field that was built up during the period of significance, while excluding major intrusions at the northwestern and southeastern corners of the triangle, as defined by Meyer and Riverside Drives and Graeber Street. No extant buildings that were built or occupied during the period of significance are excluded from these boundaries. The boundaries do, however, exclude the 1928 flightline (runway). The 1928 flightline has changed dramatically since 1943, now serving as a staging area rather than a runway; the operating runway is located far to the southwest.

Building Number	Date of Construction	District Status	Comments
100	1929	Contributing	
102	1932	Contributing	
108	1934	Contributing	
110	1934	Non-Contributing	Modified 1941, 1959, 1965, 1983
112	1929	Contributing	
113	1929	Contributing	
115	1931	Contributing	
116	1929	Contributing	
117	1931	Contributing	
118	1931	Contributing	
119	1931	Contributing	
120	1931	Contributing	
121	1929	Contributing	
122	1931	Contributing	
123	1929	Contributing	
124	1929	Contributing	
125	1929	Contributing	
126	1929	Contributing	
127	1929	Contributing	
128	1929	Contributing	
129	1929	Contributing	
130	1929	Contributing	
131	1929	Contributing	
132	1929	Contributing	
133	1929	Contributing	
134	1929	Contributing	
135	1929	Contributing	
136	1929	Contributing	
137	1929	Contributing	
138	1929	Contributing	
139	1929	Contributing	
140	1931	Contributing	
141	1929	Contributing	

Building Number	Date of Construction	District Status	Comments
142	1929	Contributing	
143	1931	Contributing	
144	1931	Contributing	
145	1929	Contributing	
146	1931	Contributing	
147	1929	Contributing	
148	1929	Contributing	
149	1929	Contributing	
150	1931	Contributing	
151	1929	Contributing	
152	1931	Contributing	
153	1929	Contributing	
154	1932	Contributing	
155	1929	Contributing	
156	1931	Contributing	
157	1929	Contributing	
158	1931	Contributing	
159	1929	Contributing	
160	1931	Contributing	
161	1929	Contributing	
162	1929	Contributing	
163	1929	Contributing	
164	1929	Contributing	
165	1929	Contributing	
166	1929	Contributing	
167	1929	Contributing	
168	1929	Contributing	
169	1929	Contributing	
170	1931	Contributing	
171	1931	Contributing	
172	1931	Contributing	
173	1931	Contributing	
174	1931	Contributing	
175	1929	Contributing	
176	1930	Contributing	

Building Number	Date of Construction	District Status	Comments
177	1931	Contributing	
178	1931	Contributing	
179	1931	Contributing	
180	1931	Contributing	
181	1950	Non-Contributing	
200	1930	Contributing	
201	1930	Contributing	
202	1930	Contributing	
203	1930	Contributing	
204	1930	Contributing	
205	1930	Contributing	
206	1930	Contributing	
207	1930	Contributing	
208	1930	Contributing	
209	1930	Contributing	
210	1930	Contributing	
211	1930	Contributing	
212	1930	Contributing	
213	1930	Contributing	
214	1930	Contributing	
215	1930	Contributing	
216	1930	Contributing	
217	1930	Contributing	
218	1930	Contributing	
219	1930	Contributing	
220	1930	Contributing	
221	1930	Contributing	
222	1931	Contributing	
223	1930	Contributing	
224	1931	Contributing	
225	1930	Contributing	
226	1931	Contributing	
227	1930	Contributing	
228	1931	Contributing	
229	1930	Contributing	

Building Number	Date of Construction	District Status	Comments
230	1931	Contributing	
231	1930	Contributing	
232	1931	Contributing	
233	1930	Contributing	
234	1931	Contributing	
235	1930	Contributing	
236	1931	Contributing	
237	1930	Contributing	
238	1931	Contributing	
239	1930	Contributing	
240	1931	Contributing	
241	1930	Contributing	
242	1931	Contributing	
243	1930	Contributing	
244	1931	Contributing	
245	1930	Contributing	
246	1931	Contributing	
247	1931	Contributing	
248	1931	Contributing	
249	1931	Contributing	
250	1931	Contributing	
251	1931	Contributing	
252	1932	Contributing	
253	1932	Contributing	
254	1932	Contributing	
255	1932	Contributing	
256	1932	Contributing	
257	1932	Contributing	
279	1942	Non-Contributing	
300	1929	Contributing	
301	1932	Contributing	
311	1929	Contributing	
315	1936	Contributing	
317	1934	Contributing	
323	1931	Contributing	

Building Number	Date of Construction	District Status	Comments
328	1931	Contributing	
329	1931	Contributing	
330	1931	Contributing	
331	1932	Contributing	
332	1931	Contributing	
333	1931	Contributing	
334	1931	Contributing	
335	1931	Contributing	
336	1931	Contributing	
337	1931	Contributing	
338	1931	Contributing	
339	1931	Contributing	
340	1931	Contributing	
341	1931	Contributing	
342	1931	Contributing	
343	1931	Contributing	
344	1931	Contributing	
345	1931	Contributing	
346	1931	Contributing	
355	1929	Contributing	
356	1929	Non-Contributing	Modified 1967
362	1932	Contributing	
364	1932	Contributing	
373	1929	Contributing	
378	1954	Non-Contributing	
381	1934	Contributing	
382	1934	Contributing	
383	1934	Contributing	
385	1929	Contributing	
386	1931	Contributing	
394	1952	Non-Contributing	
400	1929	Contributing	
405	1938	Contributing	
406	1934	Contributing	
407	1932	Contributing	

Building Number	Date of Construction	District Status	Comments
470	1929	Contributing	
408	1932	Contributing	
409	1940	Contributing	
410	1947	Non-Contributing	
411	1927	Contributing	
412	1943	Contributing	
413	1917	Contributing	
414	1930	Non-Contributing	Modified 1980
415	1987	Non-Contributing	
417	1934	Contributing	
418	1943	Contributing	
420	1931	Contributing	
426	1964	Non-Contributing	
429	1929	Contributing	
430	1931	Contributing	
431	1929	Contributing	
432	1941	Contributing	
433	1933	Contributing	
434	1933	Non-Contributing	Modified 1941, ca. 1945
435	1934	Contributing	
439	1932	Contributing	
440	1929	Contributing	
441	1931	Contributing	
442	1974	Non-Contributing	
444	1958	Non-Contributing	
449	1941	Non-Contributing	
452	1929	Contributing	
453	1929	Contributing	
454	1980	Non-Contributing	
456	1939	Contributing	
457	1929	Contributing	
458	1929	Contributing	
463	1943	Contributing	
465	1933	Contributing	
466	1931	Contributing	

Building Number	Date of Construction	District Status	Comments
467	1933	Contributing	
468	1942	Non-Contributing	
472	1925	Contributing	
479	1938	Contributing	
486	1968	Non-Contributing	
488	1933	Contributing	
491	1931	Non-Contributing	Modified 1980s
492	1931	Non-Contributing	Modified 1980s
497	1931	Contributing	
20004	1941	Non-Contributing	Modified 1980s
drainage canal	1942	Contributing	
Nine aircraft outside museum	various	Non-Contributing	

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information is common to all photographs:

Name of Property: March Field Historic District
County and State: Riverside County, California
Photographer: Stephen D. Mikesell (Except for photographs 1 and 7, which are historic photographs, copied by Mikesell. Original photographers are unknown.)
Location of Negative: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District

In the following list, photographs are identified by: number; building number or feature being illustrated; date of photograph; angle of camera.

Photograph Number: 1
Feature: Aerial view of March Field
Date of Photograph: 1933
Angle of Camera: downward

Photograph Number: 2
Feature: Streetscape of Graeber Street
Date of Photograph: January 29, 1992
Angle of Camera: Northwest

Photograph Number: 3
Feature: Baucom Avenue streetscape, from Parade Ground
Date of Photograph: January 29, 1992
Angle of Camera: West

Photograph Number: 4
Feature: Baucom Avenue Streetscape, between Gate House and Commanding General's House
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: Southwest

Photograph Number: 5
Feature: Plummer Avenue Streetscape
Date of Photograph: January 29, 1992
Angle of Camera: Southeast

Photograph Number: 6
Feature: Construction photograph, hollow concrete movable core
Date of Photograph: 1928
Angle of Camera: Unknown

Photograph Number: 7
Feature: Buildings 201, 203, 205
Date of Photograph: January 29, 1992
Angle of Camera: West

Photograph Number: 8
Feature: Building 221
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: North

Photograph Number: 9
Feature: Building 211
Date of Photograph: December 10, 1991
Angle of Camera: West

Photograph Number: 10
Feature: Building 237
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: North

Photograph Number: 11
Feature: Building 163
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: Northeast

Photograph Number: 12
Feature: Building 121
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: North

Photograph Number: 13
Feature: Building 133
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: North

Photograph Number: 14
Feature: Building 164
Date of Photograph: January 29, 1992
Angle of Camera: North

Photograph Number: 15
Feature: Building 162
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: Northeast

Photograph Number: 16
Feature: Building 120
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: South

Photograph Number: 17
Feature: Building 176
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: Northeast

Photograph Number: 18
Feature: Building 175
Date of Photograph: December 9, 1991
Angle of Camera: South

Photograph Number: 19
Feature: Building 154
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: Southwest

Photograph Number: 20
Feature: Building 148
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: Southwest

Photograph Number: 21
Feature: Building 429
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: Northwest

Photograph Number: 22
Feature: Building 440
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: Southeast

Photograph Number: 23
Feature: Building 470
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: Southeast

Photograph Number: 24
Feature: Building 441
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: Southeast

Photograph Number: 25
Feature: Building 435
Date of Photograph: December 9, 1991
Angle of Camera: Northeast

Photograph Number: 26
Feature: Building 434
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: Northwest

Photograph Number: 27
Feature: Motor pool, water treatment area
Date of Photograph: December 9, 1991
Angle of Camera: East

Photograph Number: 28
Feature: Building 417
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: North

Photograph Number: 29
Feature: Building 323
Date of Photograph: October 10, 1991
Angle of Camera: Southeast

Photograph Number: 30
Feature: Building 456
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: East

Photograph Number: 31
Feature: Building 467
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: Northwest

Photograph Number: 32
Feature: Building 400
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: Southwest

Photograph Number: 33
Feature: Building 100, Patio
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: Northwest

Photograph Number: 34
Feature: Building 100, eastern entryway
Date of Photograph: December 9, 1991
Angle of Camera: West

Photograph Number: 35
Feature: Building 102
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: Northeast

Photograph Number: 36
Feature: Building 413
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: West

Photograph Number: 37
Feature: Stone lined Drainage canal
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: South

Photograph Number: 38
Feature: Flagpole
Date of Photograph: October 30, 1991
Angle of Camera: Southeast

Photograph Number: 39
Feature: Aircraft at Museum
Date of Photograph: January 29, 1992
Angle of Camera: West

LEGEND

District Boundary

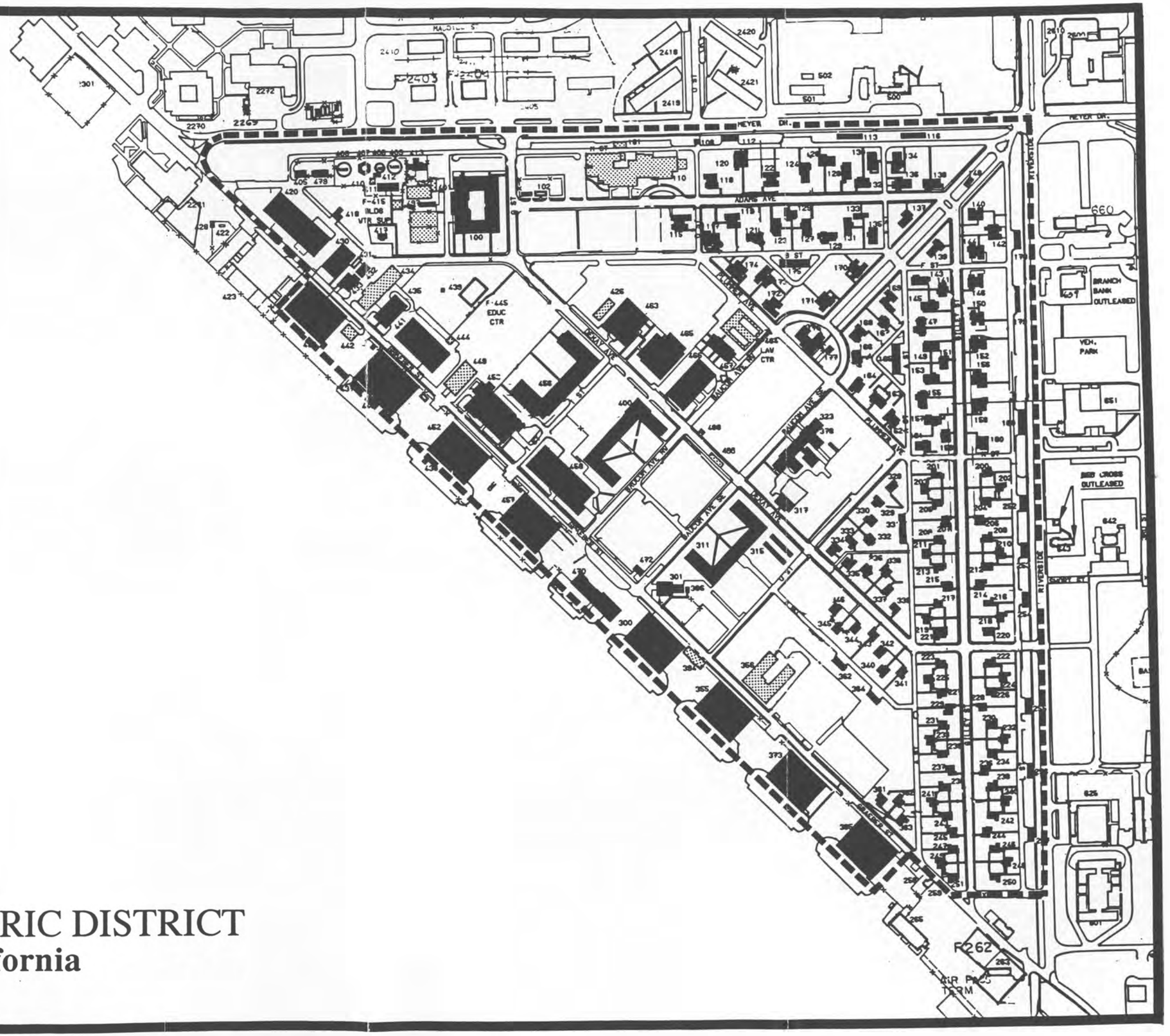
Contributing

Non-Contributing

0 100 200 400

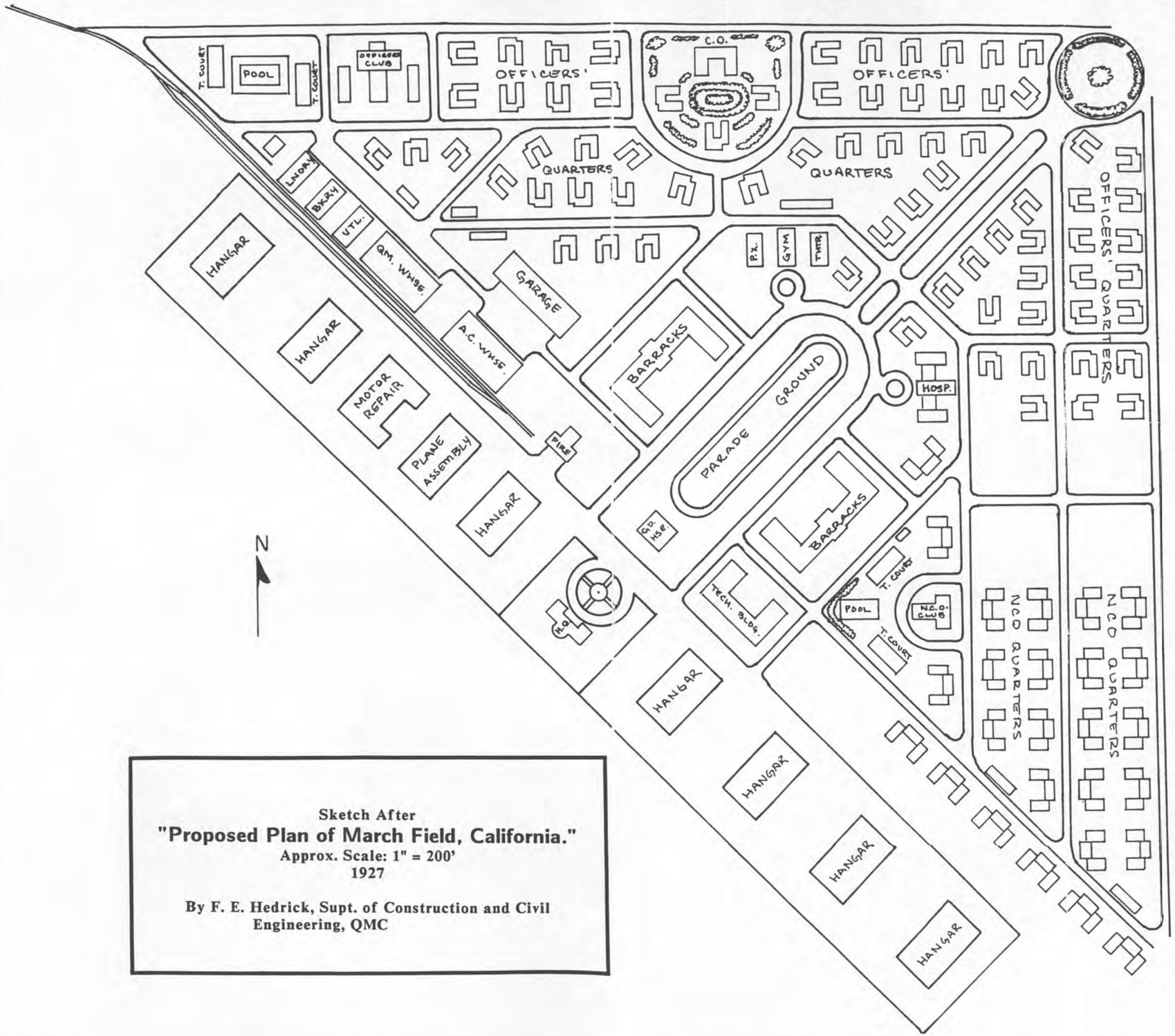
Scale: 1" = 200'

N



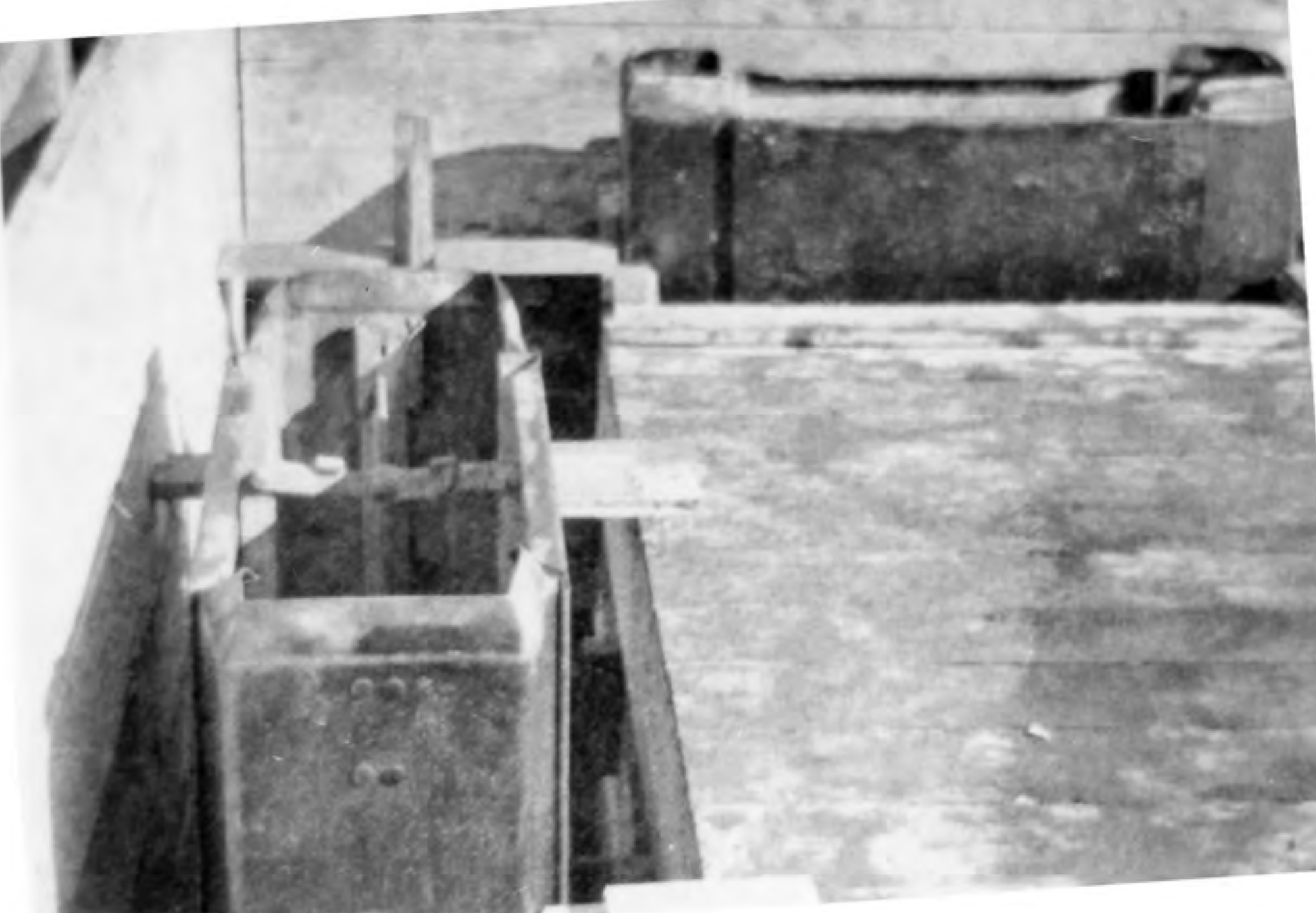
MARCH FIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT

Riverside County, California



Sketch After
"Proposed Plan of March Field, California."
Approx. Scale: 1" = 200'
1927

By F. E. Hedrick, Supt. of Construction and Civil Engineering, QMC




148


426


440


444


435
Thrift Shop


417


Physical Fitness
Center


Base Testing Facility


MCBRIDE SUITES THE MARCH


41

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

RIVERSIDE EAST QUADRANGLE
CALIFORNIA—RIVERSIDE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

2552 II SW (FONTANA)
2552 III SE (SAN BERNARDINO SOUTH)
2552 II SW (REDLANDS)
2551 IV SW (RIVERSIDE WEST)
2551 I NW (SUNNYMEAD)
2551 IV NW (LAKE MATHEWS)
2551 I SW (PERRIS)
2551 IV SE (STEELE PEAK)

117°22'30" 34°00' 117°15' 33°52'30"

1 690 000 FEET
660 000 FEET
630 000 FEET

SAN BERNARDINO 9 MI. 6 MI. TO INTERSTATE 10
ONTARIO 15 MI.
ANAHEIM 27 MI. (DISNEYLAND) 7 MI. 13 MI.
NAPOLEON 19 MI. 10.7 MI. TO CALIF. 91
ARLINGTON 5 MI.
SUNNYMEAD 0.7 MI. BEAUMONT 16 MI.

R. 5 W. R. 4 W.

RIVERSIDE
Riverside Junction
Canyon Crest Heights
Belvedere Heights
Sugarloaf Mtn
Pigeon Pass
Box Springs
Box Springs (Siding)
Sunnymead
Edgemont
Moreno Valley
Woodcrest
West March
Arnold Heights
March Field
Alessandro
Lawless Ranch
Poorman Reservoir

UNIVERSITY OF CALIF. RIVERSIDE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA EXPERIMENT STATION
Victoria Golf Course
Canyon Crest Golf Course
Box Springs Golf Course
Sheriff Academy
Box Springs
Arroyo Tequesquite
Victoria Hill
Sycamore Canyon
Pigeon Pass
Landing Strip
Gravel Pits
Towers
Water Tanks
Water Tank
Trailer Park
Sewage Disposal
Fire Station
Fire Control Station
Forest Fire Lab
Box Springs Corporate Yard
Box Springs Corporate

MARCH AIR FORCE BASE
RESERVATION BOUNDARY

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1951 and planetable surveys 1959. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967

Polyconic projection
10,000-foot grid based on California coordinate system, zone 6
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 11, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 1 meter north and 83 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern are subject to controlled inundation

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

UTM GRID AND 1980 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
GN MN 0°10' 3 MILS 14½° 258 MILS

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1978 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1980

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

SCALE 1:24 000
1 MILE 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 10-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

CALIF
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty — Light-duty
Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route — State Route

RIVERSIDE EAST, CALIF.
N3352.5—W11715/7.5

1967
PHOTOREVISED 1980
DMA 2551 IV NE—SERIES V895

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1980
1984

March Field Historic District
Riverside Co., CA.
UTM References:
1. 11/475840/3751180
2. 11/476740/3751180
3. 11/476740/3750210

National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2017

AD 9400142D

NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: March Field Historic District (Amendment)
Other names/site number: March Air Force Base (currently March Air Reserve Base)
Name of related multiple property listing: March Field Historic District
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: N/A
City or town: March Air Reserve Base State: CA County: Riverside
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national ___statewide ___local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B ___C ___D

/Air Force Federal Preservation Officer 24 February 2017

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

U.S Air Force - Environment, Safety & Infrastructure

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

15 December 2016

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

State Historic Preservation Officer California Office of Historic Preservation

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

March Field Historic District — Riverside, California

Name of Property — County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

_x_ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___removed from the National Register

_x_ other (explain:) Accept Additional Documentation

Paul R. Lusignan — 04/10/2017

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	☐
Public – Local	☐
Public – State	☐
Public – Federal	☒

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	☒
District	☐
Site	☐

March Field Historic District — Riverside, California

Name of Property — County and State

Structure ☐

Object ☐

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
191	15	buildings
		sites
5	14	structures
1		objects
197	29	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 199

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Defense
Air Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Defense
Air Facility

7. Description

March Field Historic District

Name of Property

Riverside
California

County and State

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Mission Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Concrete, metal, membrane roofing
Terra-cotta tile, plaster

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph
March Field Historic District (as it was known at the time of the listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is significant at the State level in the area of military history for its association with the development of the Air Corps on the West Coast, serving as the key training and bombardment post on the West Coast during the period of significance from 1928 to 1943.

The proposed amendment to the NRHP's original listing for March Field Historic District includes the removal of two (2) contributing buildings (Bldg. 385 and Bldg. 441) from said listing due to the demolition of said fabrics. The referenced buildings were demolished based on a proposal from The United States Air Force (USAF) Space Optimization and Utilization Initiative.

Brief Descriptions of the Demolished Buildings:
Bldg. (385): Building 385 was built in 1929 and was the southernmost hangar of the eight hangars built along the length of the runway per the 1927 Base's Site Plan. The building was not functioning as a hangar any longer. It was a *'contributing building'* within March Field Historic District and was part of the base's National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The hangar was designed by Myron Hunt, Architect and preserved its Mission Revival Style with exposed, poured-in place concrete walls, sets of sliding doors and exterior concrete aprons. The building was reused as March Air Reserve Base's (MARB) Passenger Terminal & Troop Deployment.

Bldg. (441): Building 441 was located in the Historic Quartermaster Corps sector of the Base. It was a component to the March Field Historic District and was built as a part of a series of basic, utilitarian buildings indispensable to the operations of the Base and the adjacent hangars. Building 441 was built in 1931 as The Quartermaster Garage and later adapted and reused as a training facility. It was a *'contributing building'* within March Field's Historic District. The garage was built following design by architect Myron Hunt's Spanish Mission Revival Architectural Style used during construction of the Base. The building was not functioning as a garage any longer.

The garage preserved its painted, plastered exterior surfaces, structural and roofing systems along with most of its original metal windows. The building was reused as March Air Reserve Base's (MARB) Field Training Facility.

Building 441 was one of several similar buildings used as warehouses and all shared the same façade design that included gambrel roofs and repetitive Scottish Gables at the east and west elevations. (Gambrel: a roof with two slopes on each of two sides, the lower steeper than the upper. Webster's Dictionary p. 554)

Narrative Description

Brief History:
The Historic District of March Air Reserve Base is conscribed basically in the central, triangular area designed by Myron Hunt adjacent to the original runway. In the original application for the listing of the property in the National Register of Historic Places, the area where Building 385 was located was referred as:

> *"The southwestern side of the triangle is defined by a row of 1928 hangars with only the vast asphalt and concrete runways beyond. The historic district is easily recognizable by its lush and mature vegetation, which contrasts with the modern base beyond, where landscaping is generally minimal."* (Section 7, p.1)

Due to their typology, nature of their design, materials and construction methods used, the buildings' fabrics survived well. Building 385's original envelope was created to house a large, interior space (the maintenance hangar) flanked by a collection of smaller rooms dedicated to activities related to aircraft needs. Building 441 was designed and built to house the Quartermaster's Garage which meant that the building was erected as a large container with few interior partitions.

The Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan, March ARB informs that one of the historical merits of the base is that: *"... March Field in Riverside, California, was laid out and constructed during peacetime by the Quartermaster Corps and the Army Air Corps."*

Bldg. 385: According to the *'Maintenance Manual for Buildings Within the March Field Historic District, March AFB, Riverside, California'*, Hangar 385: " ... was placed in service on January 1, 1929. ... The core of the building is what the 1920's designers of military hangars call *"a standard 110' x by* 200*' clear span area"*. In 1938, additional Lean-To's were added on each side of the hangar bay built with poured-in-place concrete walls that supported a flat roof. During the mid-fifties the hangar was decommissioned. Documents located in the Base Inventory inform that "[Hangar 8] was permanently re-designated from being Hangar #8 and becoming the Shop Arm & Electronic; Shop A/C Maintenance Organization on July 5, 1956 (Present Value Form 5-47)". During its adaptation, the central bay was internally partitioned into two sections: half of the hangar bay became a 'holding tank' (deployment area); in the second half, an 'interior building' was erected on top of the original concrete floor slab. This interior building was built with framed walls and painted gypsum boards. A 'dust-cover' was placed on top of the added partitions to separate it from the open hangar structure above.

Building 385 continued to be used supporting the multiple wars that followed World War II. Its functions did not change since its adaptive reuse in 1956. The over-all image of the historic

building did not change through the years; its exterior looked like it was after the Lean-To's were built.

Bldg. 441: The Quartermaster Garage (Q.M.) was built during 1930 flanking Graeber Street across from where the 1928 original maintenance Hangars # 1 and 2 (now buildings 436 and 440) were already in operation. Building 441 was placed in service on January 1, 1931. The structure of the garage was subdivided into three modules (bays) 69' wide x 103' deep forming a continuous interior space of 207 feet wide x 103 feet deep. The roof of each bay was supported on a steel framing system and its perimeter walls were built with plastered and painted clay-tile. Most of its original windows survived in place.

Documents located in the Base entitled "Real Property Accountable Record – Buildings" inform that: *"[on] ... 5 Jul 56 (July 5th, 1956) ... [Building 441 had a] permanent re-designation from Q.M. Garage to Academic Classroom."* Subsequently the garage was internally partitioned; offices, training and meeting rooms and latrines were built. Since its redesignation, the subdivided garage continued to have partial renovations.

Architect, Builders:
Myron Hubbard Hunt (February 27, 1868 – May 26, 1952) *"Myron Hunt; A Biography"*(p. 01) was an American architect whose numerous projects became noted landmarks in Southern California. Notable buildings include the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, The Mission Inn in Riverside, La Arcada Court in Santa Barbara, The Valley Hunt Club in Pasadena, The Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, private homes, etc. A plaque commemorating Hunt located on a building post on La Arcada Court reads:

"MYRON HUNT - ARCHITECT
1868-1952
Myron Hunt was one of the leading architects
involved in the development of regional architecture
... Mediterranean look ... [that] resulted in a very
distinctive regional style and identity throughout
Southern California.
La Arcada, *"A Santa Barbara Gem"* (p. 01)

Hunt re-organized the pre-existing Alessandro Field that dated from 1918 designing a triangular site plan with its hypotenuse facing the air field. Hunt also participated on the design selection of the types of hangars and other utilitarian and accessory buildings like Bldg. 441. The plan, the streets, the buildings, the structures and objects located within and adjacent to the original triangular area is what was listed in the 1994's March Field Historic District Nomination.

Regarding the buildings' builder, the 1992 Nomination Form's in the section dedicated to Architect/Builders, the document informs that 'The Los Angeles Contracting Company' built both Buildings 385 and 441 and further states that:

> "Winning the contract to erected 10 hangars on the post ... Seven of the hangars were constructed to house airplanes: six for the 36 bombers assigned to the three bombing squadrons that came to

March Field in 1931 ... and one for the airplanes of the Service Squadron (Bldg. 457). The eighth hangar ... was used to assemble airplanes (Bldg. 438). The standard hangar provided 22,000 square feet of storage and office space." (Section 8, p.54)

Historic and Current Physical Conditions: The base's Historic District remains in good conditions and with valid integrity. The base has had a very good record of maintaining and up-keeping the historic area and its buildings in sound conditions. The historic area is un-adorned and the landscaping is sparse other that the large trees that populate the open areas. The original street pattern has not been altered and the historic buildings continue to be used; there are no redundant buildings in the base.

The palette of the base is a light yellow, kind of dessert color with brown trim. This is most evident in the historic area where the buildings designs by Myron Hunt survive. Not only the tone of the yellow color is pleasant, but the texture given by Architect Hunt to the walls (they were poured-in-place, exposed concrete walls) is interesting since the wood boards used as forms left their imprints. This architectural language became a Southern California expression used profusely by Hunt. March Field Historic District is known for its large collection of surviving, original buildings with exposed concrete walls in Mission Revival style.

During the late 1920's and early 1930's, the base experienced a comprehensive construction plan. With the arrival of WW II, the base extended its functions and level of military training. From those days to the current ones, the base has always been in service meaning that the original historic buildings had not remained idling for any length of time. This fact has assured the continuous maintenance of is fabrics. The original character given to the historic district by Hunt's designs continues to survive and is now protected with the NRHP's listing. The base's former and actual directors had offered the historic buildings a continued use and care.

The demolition of two of its original buildings affected not only the base's inventory of historic buildings, but affected the historic ensemble and its unity. Fortunately the voids left by the demolition of the two buildings did not leave a larger 'lacunae' (a void or a hole in the texture of the built environment) as it could have been the case if they have been built adjacent to each other. The buildings were located at opposite ends of the Historic District.

1. 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.

[X] 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.)

[ ] 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.)
Architecture
Military

Period of Significance
1928 - 1943

Significant Dates

_____

_____

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
Undefined

Architect/Builder
Hunt, Myron
US Army Quartermaster Corps
The Los Angeles Contracting Company

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph:
The March Field Historic District was listed in 1994 due to the architectural and military history across the years of service. In the 1992 Nomination Form's Summary Statement of Significance, the base was described being:

> " ... significant at the State level of significance in the areas of military history (National Register Criterion A) and architecture (National Register Criterion C). Under architecture, the district is significant in three respects. First, it is a distinguished example of a military base laid out according to city planning principles of the 1920's, ... Second, it is an important example of the work of architect, Myron Hunt (work of a master), being the only known military base designed by him. Finally, it is an extraordinarily large assemblage of buildings built using hollow wall concrete construction methods. ... Under military history, it is significant at the State level for its association with the development of the Air Corps (Air Force) on the West Coast, serving as the key training and bombardment facility on the West Coast during most of the period of significance."

The original 1994 nomination and listing will be affected by the reduction of the number of contributing buildings. The military history of the Base will be altered by the demolition of

Bldgs. 385 and 441 and the removal of said buildings will be entered into the historic annals of the Base. On the other hand, the base will continue to render its designated service to the military community and the nation.

Physically the Historic District of the base will be altered with the absence of two former contributing buildings. The volumetric values generated by the presence of one of the hangars and one of the former garages within the Historic District will be affected by the absence of said fabrics. The architectural history of the base and the number of works within the base associated with Architect Myron Hunt will be also affected. Following the demolition of the two buildings in reference, seven other similar hangars survived and several other buildings of the same typology as Bldg. 441 survive as well.

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

Statement of Significance: March Air Reserve Base significance has already been proven through the years; the base has served the military community well and at the same time, the base has provided great care to its installations, particularly the March Field Historic District. The base has tendered well and respected the original urban planning, the architectural elements (buildings, structures and objects) included in the historic district and beyond, and the legacy of the landscape architecture including its roads and street furniture. The base has retained its historic character, building typologies, open spaces, etc. by remaining an active base under good care and with a comprehensive collection of historic resources that continue to be used daily.

Historic Overview: In the 1992 Nomination Form's Statement of Significance, the base's Historic Overview included the following information:

> "In August 1907, the United States Army, Signal Corps established a small Aeronautical Division to take *"charge of all matters pertaining to military ballooning, air machines, and all kindred subjects."* From the Civil War until 1907, the Signal Corps had acquired only 10 observation balloons and it was not until August 1908 that the corps began testing its first airplane. ... During 1916, Congress ... allocated $13,781,000 for military aeronautics and the purchase of land for airfields. Under the National Defense Act ... [and] under the Aviation Section, the Signal Enlisted Reserve Corps [was created] ...." (Section 2, p.30)

The above mentioned Nomination Form continues to inform that:

> "March Field Historic District is significant ... with the development of the Air Corps on the West Coast [and] serving as the key training and bombardment post. ... March Field is also important in the area of military significance as an important example of military post planning because it was the first complete

> aviation post laid out and built by the Construction Division of the Quartermaster Corps and the Army Air Corps during peacetime. As such, it was not built with standardized plans, but developed as the collaborative effort of government and private planners and architects." (Section 8, p.64)

Significance in Architecture: Architecture in March Air Reserve is comprehensive; it covers a span of almost a century (1918 – 2016) and its architecture had to adapt to new military requirements and hardware. With the change in military hardware, training also had to vary in order to render the new technologies useful. Training required a different type of interior spaces and building typologies so the base had to adapt.

The Base: Regarding the significance of the base's architecture, the previously referred 1992 Nomination Form's Significance in Architecture continued to state that:

> "The March Field Historic District appears to be significant in architecture in three regards: as a monumental example of site planning, reflecting the influence of city planning ideas upon military base design during the 1920s; as an example of the work of Myron Hunt, a nationally known master designer from Pasadena; and as an exceptionally large and intact collection of hollow wall concrete buildings. The March Field Historic District is significant as a distinguished example of a military base built explicitly according to prevailing city planning concepts. ... March Field is an excellent example of the form of a military base when planned with significant input from city planners. " (Section 8, p.65)

Bldg. 385: The existing nomination described this building as:

> "The core of the hangar sector comprises the 8 hangars. ... The hangars are essentially identical [with] minor differences, relating to post-1929 modifications. ... The 8 hangars were built in 1929, constructed by the L.A. Contracting Company. Each includes a core hangar space measuring 200' X 110'. ... While all 8 hangars are essentially intact and are regarded as contributing to the significance of this historic district, each has been modified to one degree or another. " (Section 7, p.14)

Bldg. 441: The existing nomination described this building as:

> "Building 441, representing a free-standing example of [utilitarian buildings (warehouses)] ... includes the features characteristic of the other buildings: shallow gambrel roof, solid piers at the corners, long window curtains at the side elevations and concrete

> parapet with coping at the roof line. ... An industrial building type, similar but not identical to that in Buildings 420, 430, and 441, is illustrated in Building 433, the old bakery, Building 434, the old base laundry, and Building 435, the old ordnance warehouse." (Section 7, p.16)

Significance in Landscape Elements-Plantings, Roads, and Street Furniture: Myron Hunt's comprehensive design took into consideration architecture, transportation and landscape architecture. Furthermore, the previously referred 1992 Nomination Form's Significance in Landscape stated that:

> "Because the plan included the road system at March Field which was inseparable from the overall base design ... the roads are the principal elements defining the geometrically complex plan. In saying that the plan is intact, one is effectively observing that the road system retains integrity of location. The road system also generally retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship." (Section 7, p.27)

Effects on the Historic District's Significance after the Demolition of Buildings 385 and 441: Once the two buildings were demolished, the base's significance was altered to the extent of the absence of both buildings. The site plan, street patterns, distribution of historic assets and built environment did not changed. The demolition of the buildings created 'voids' in the district and relationships between the demolished buildings and other adjacent structures were broken.

Urban Planning: Significance in the Absence of Buildings 385 and 441: *'The Triangle'* was originally conceived by Architect Myron Hunt as a strict geometrical form in which (or around from) a collection of buildings were to be built to render a determined function: a military air base. Mr. Hunt selected the hypotenuse side of the triangle to be adjacent to the existing airfield and placed a linear arrangement of eight, same size hangars along the edge of the triangle separated at the center by Headquarters Building 470. Then the triangle was bisected basically east-west by a formal parade route and open green grounds separating the northwest area from the southeast area. The area located north of the parade route and away from the runway was used basically for maintenance, service and administrative buildings while the south portion was basically designated for living quarters. It is within these two latter mentioned areas that both of the demolished buildings were located. The demolition of one building in each one of the two different segments of the base inevitable affected the original organization of the buildings' volumes within their vicinities and surrounding open spaces. After demolition, a new relationship between the surviving and existing buildings and open spaces was created.

Bldg. 385: Having been the southernmost of eight (8) hangars built in a row alongside the runway, now said row has been shortened in length and the symmetrical balance of four (4) and four (4) hangars built at each side of the Headquarters Building 470 (located at the end of the parade route and at the center of the hangars), has been broken. On the other hand, having been the southernmost hangar, the areas located within *The Triangle* and across Graeber Street are not

dense in construction like it was at the norther portion of the triangle where Bldg. 441 was located. There were no associated and/or service buildings located within the vicinity of Bldg. 385; there were no additional demolitions exercises other than the hangar.

Bldg. 441: Building 441 was related to the rest of the northern historic hangars since it was built as the Quartermasters Garage amidst the administrative, institutional and service areas located within the historic triangle. This building was located across the street (Graeber Street) from the rest of the hangars and faced Graeber Street with its rear elevation facing an open field. The eastern-side (rear elevation) of Bldg. 441 was still facing the above mentioned open field that separated the area dedicated to living quarters in the northern portion of the triangle from the service hangars. The impact of the missing Bldg. 441 within the urban plan is that now the open field with the remotely located living quarters further to the east will be visible from Graeber Street.

Architecture: Significance in the Demolition of Buildings 385 and 441:
For architects and builders seeing a building being demolished can be sad or can be seen as a new opportunity. It is not easy for those architects and dedicated persons involved in historic preservation to propose demolition of buildings with special history, architectural validity and working structures with practical values. In the case of March Air Reserve Base, this situation was rendered more difficult since both buildings were contributing to the ensemble of the Historic District. The decision of selecting and demolishing these two buildings came from higher command after the base was designated to accomplish new functions. The demolition of these two buildings inevitable affected the rest of the architectural ensemble.

Bldg. 385: Building 385 having been part of a linear arrangement of hangars along the flight line was adapted and modified along its life. As stated before, the existing nomination described that: " *...While all 8 hangars are essentially intact and are regarded as contributing to the significance of this historic district, each has been modified to one degree or another.* " (Section 7, p.14). The demolition of Bldg. 385 removed from the base's historical record the process by where an active maintenance hangar was reused as a deployment center after being decommissioned. Many service personnel used the renovated building in their way out or returning from active and/or training missions. To persons with affinity to the base, the physical disappearance of a large volume building became noticeable. For personnel in-transit that used the repurposed building (a deployment center) it became an important landmark in their lives, thus, created vivid memories.

Bldg. 441: The demolition of Bldg. 441 also removed from the base's historical record the process by where an active Quartermaster Garage and shops was reused as a training facility after being decommissioned. The existing nomination described this building as: *"Building 441, representing a free-standing example of [utilitarian buildings (warehouses)]* ... " became proof of its versatility and 'utilitarian building' by nature. Bldg. 441 was intrinsically linked to the activities of the maintenance hangars on the northern sector and the administrative activities of the base. The absence of this facility in the base will be felt not only for the personnel living and working within the base, but by those persons that at one time or another, trained in said facility and upon departure, their lives changed. The demolition of Bldg. 441 also removed the architectural record of a fabric built well, following the standards of the era, the technology of

materials and the equipment that housed. The removal of the fabric also left an open space along Graeber Street where a continuum of similar facades once stood.

Landscape Elements; Significance in the Demolition of Bldgs. 385 and 441: As mentioned before in the paragraph entitled 'Significance in Landscape Elements - Plantings, Roads, Street Furniture', *"Hunt's comprehensive design took into consideration architecture, transportation and landscape architecture."* (Section 8, page 16). Furthermore, the previously referred 1992 Nomination Form's Significance in Landscape also stated that: *"Because the plan included the road system at March Field which was inseparable from the overall base design ... ".*

With the demolition of Buildings 385 and 441, the landscape values in the Historic District change. The original plantings at the adjacent areas of the demolished buildings were lost long time ago and the existing plantings were scarce. The adjacent roads and mainly their common street (Graeber Street) remained untouched and there was no street furniture associated with either building. The perimeter of both buildings was basically paved-over except small areas at the front facing Graeber Street.

Significance of the Over-all Integrity of the Historic District: The over-all integrity of the Historic District has been affected with the demolition of the two referred buildings. Due to their former locations (being completely apart), having different sizes, volumes, purposes and materials, their disappearance affected the tout-ensemble and affected the spatial organization. Seven (7) of the original eight (8) hangars survive, as well as, the rest of the buildings with the same typology as Bldg. 441.

It is considered that the current March Field Historic District's nomination is still eligible for the National Register under the current criteria. The demolition of the referred buildings definitively created voids where they once stood, but did not created 'lacunae' in the district's fabric since larger areas of contributing architectural elements were not demolished. The character, scale and architectural styles within the district did not changed once the two buildings were demolished.

The significance of the entire Historic District did not change with the absence of the two buildings in reference. The district till remains as a unity, with its intrinsic historic values, functions and character. The original master plan designed by Myron Hunt still prevails along with all the rest of the built environment. *'The Historic Triangle'* remains without considerable alteration since the demolished buildings were individual components to the larger group instead of being pivotal anchors to the master plan (e.g.: The Headquarters Building 470 set half-way between the eight original hangars facing the airfield and being the anchor element for the parade route dissecting 'The Tringle').

Status of the Original 1994 Nomination: The original 1994 nomination can remain as-is except for the removal of the two (2) contributing Buildings 385 and 441 from the Historic District's listing. The historic area within 'The Triangle' has not been affected by recent construction and/or demolition other that what is herein proposed. The current nomination can remain as-is because only the number of Contributing Resources has been affected. None of the other historic resources listed previously will be removed and/or altered except the demolition of Bldgs. 385 and 441.

As indicated before, the original nomination noted: " ... 193 Contributing and 15 Noncontributing buildings, along with 5 Contributing and 14 Noncontributing Structures, and 1 Contributing Object for a grand total of 199 Listed Contributing Resources along with 29 Noncontributing Resources".

> [Note: With the demolition of the two above referenced buildings, the number of Contributing Buildings will be reduced from the 193 originally listed buildings to the proposed 191 Contributing Buildings for a grand total of 197 Listed Contributing Resources. Since none of the other categories were affected by the demolition of Bldgs. 385 and 441 (the listing of 15 Noncontributing buildings, 14 structures, and cero (0) objects), the current nomination does not need to be amended further].

The March Field Historic District has not been affected by recent changes either by the presence of new construction, removal of histoiric resources, or by existing resources achieving significance.

The 1994's status of the March Field Historic District has not changed since the date of its nomination's acceptance. The proposed amendment to remove from the nomination the demolished two (2) buildings identified as Buildings 385 and 441 from the original National Register of Historic Places Nomination (included herein) is the first and only formal procedure proposed by the base to amend the listing.

2. Major Bibliographical References

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

"Architectural Compatibility Guide; March Air Force Base" prepared by Sverdrup Corporation, St. Luis, Missouri, 1992.

"Aviation; From Sand to Sonic Booms; A New National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary"; retrieved Nov 10, 2015

"Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan; March Air Reserve Base (March ARB), Riverside County, California" prepared by JRP Historical Consulting, LLC, Davis, California, April 2011.

"Joint Regional Cargo Deployment Facility, Phase 2, Bldg. 391"; DD Form 1391, March Air Reserve Base, California, dated 20150611.

'Los Angeles Plaza Historic District, Los Angeles", Los Angeles County, California, National Register #72000231, 1972.

"Maintenance Manual for Buildings Within the March Field Historic District, March AFB, Riverside, California" prepared by JRP Historical Consulting Services, Davis, CA, November 1995.

"*March Field Historic Districts, March Air Force Base, United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service; National Register of Historic Places – Registration Form dated April 10, 1992 and entered in the National Historic Register on December 6, 1994.* Form prepared by Stephen D. Mikesell and Stephen R. Wee, JRP Historical Consulting Services, Davis, California 1992

"March Field; 75 Years of Service; 1918 – 1993" compiled and edited by TSgt. Randolph J. Saunders, Office of the Historian, 22d Air Refueling Wing, March Air Force Base, California. (The document does not include a date of publication).

"Team March; Total Force, Total Quality"; Base's Facilities Record Book, (In-House Record and compilation). Non-published document that includes photographs, pamphlets, data and information regarding the buildings in the Historic District and areas beyond. (The document does not include a date of publication)

"History of March Air Force Base"; Marchfield.org, retrieved November 21, 2015.
"Myron Hunt, Architect"; Living Places, The Gombach Group, www.gombach.com, retrieved November 8, 2015.

"Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Between the Unites States Air Force Reserve Command and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) Regarding the Demolition of Hangar 385 and Building 441 and Construction of Building 390, March Filed Historic District, March Air Reserve Base, Riverside County, California", 2014.

"Myron Hunt; A Biography"; Pacific Coast Architecture Database (PCAD), University of Washington Library; retrieved November 19, 2015.

*National Register of Historic Places Listings in Riverside Co*unty, *California,* National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior; retrieved Nov 14, 2015.

'Transfer and Acceptance of [Department of Defense] *DoD Real Property';* March AFB; DD Forms 1354, 1430:

Various documents of this kind located in the Base's archives were found and consulted upon. Following is the list of entries with dates in chronological order:

- October 12, 1931
- February 2, 1948
- January 1, 1954
- June 30, 1956
- July 5, 1956
- February 11, 1957
- March 13, 1958
- May 4, 1962
- January 3, 1964
- February 28, 1964
- March 31, 1966
- December 27, 1966
- May 26, 1969
- September 9, 1977
- December 3, 2003
- June 2, 2009
- November 5, 2012

Webster's New World Dictionary of American English, Third College Edition; Webster's New World, New York, 1988

Additional Sources:
www.nps.gov/nr/travel/aviation/mrc.htm; retrieved Nov. 10, 2015.

https://livingnewdeal.org/projects/march-field-riverside-ca/; retrieved Dec 3, 2015

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/March_Joint_Air_Reserve_Base; retrieved Dec 3, 2015

https://www.usa.gov/; retrieved Nov 14, 2015

http://focus.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/94001420; National Register of Historic Places; March Field, Riverside County, California; retrieved Dec. 3, 2015.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
__X__ previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
__X__ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # CA-2353-C (Bldg. 385) and,
CA-2353-D (Bldg. # 441)
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
__X__ Federal agency
__X Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: ___March Air Reserve Base_____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

---

3. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 158 acres (the entire base)_____

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)
1. Latitude: Longitude:

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 11	Easting: 475840	Northing: 3751180
2. Zone: 11	Easting: 476740	Northing: 3751180
3. Zone: 11	Easting: 476740	Northing: 3750270
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The March Field Historic District boundaries were not affected by the demolition of Buildings 385 and 441. The recorded boundaries will remain as stated in the 1994 National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) since current boundaries are not changing.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The March Field Historic District boundaries were not affected by the demolition of Buildings 385 and 441. The recorded Boundary Justification will remain as stated in the 1994 National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) since boundaries are not changing.

---

4. Form Prepared By

name/title: Donald del Cid, Preservation Architect; David Gustaf, Project Manager
organization: Jacobs Engineering
street & number: 777 Main Street
city or town: Fort Worth state: TX zip code:76102
e-mail: david.gustaf@jacobs.com
telephone: 817-347-7606

date: November 9, 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

  N/A

- **Note:** Location Map is not included due to the fact that there are no proposed changes to the boundary of the district and its contributors.

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

March Air Reserve Base Building 385 Photo Key Map

March Air Reserve Base Building 441 Photo Key Map

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

  N/A

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property:	March Field Historic District March Air Reserve Base
City or Vicinity:	Riverside, Moreno Valley
County:	Riverside County State: California
Photographer:	Falke PHOTOGRAPHY; Larry A. Falke, Photographer
Date Photographed:	December 2015
Location of Original Digital Files:	25551 Sawmill Lake Forest, CA 92630

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

March Field Historic District
Riverside Co., CA
Bldg. 385 - Graeber St.
March Air Reserve Base
Photo 1 of 8: View From Graeber Street; Northwest and Northeast Elevations. Note sliding hangar doors beyond the security wall between Graeber Street and apron/runway. Camera facing south.

March Field Historic District
Riverside Co., CA
Bldg. 385 - Graeber St.
March Air Reserve Base
Photo 2 of 8: View From Runway Side; Southwest and Southeast Elevations. Note exterior structure for sliding hangar doors' header tracks. Lean-To's were added in 1938. Camera facing north.

March Field Historic District
Riverside Co., CA
Bldg. 385 - Graeber St.
March Air Reserve Base

Photo 3 of 8: View From Graeber Street; Northeast Elevation. Photograph taken across Graeber from the existing open, green area. Camera facing northwest.

March Field Historic District
Riverside Co., CA
Bldg. 385 - Graeber St.
March Air Reserve Base
Photo 4 of 8: Interior View; Original hangar bay used as Deployment's Waiting Lounge. Note interior wall; It was the southwest elevation of the interior building built in 1956 after hangar's redesignation. Camera facing north.

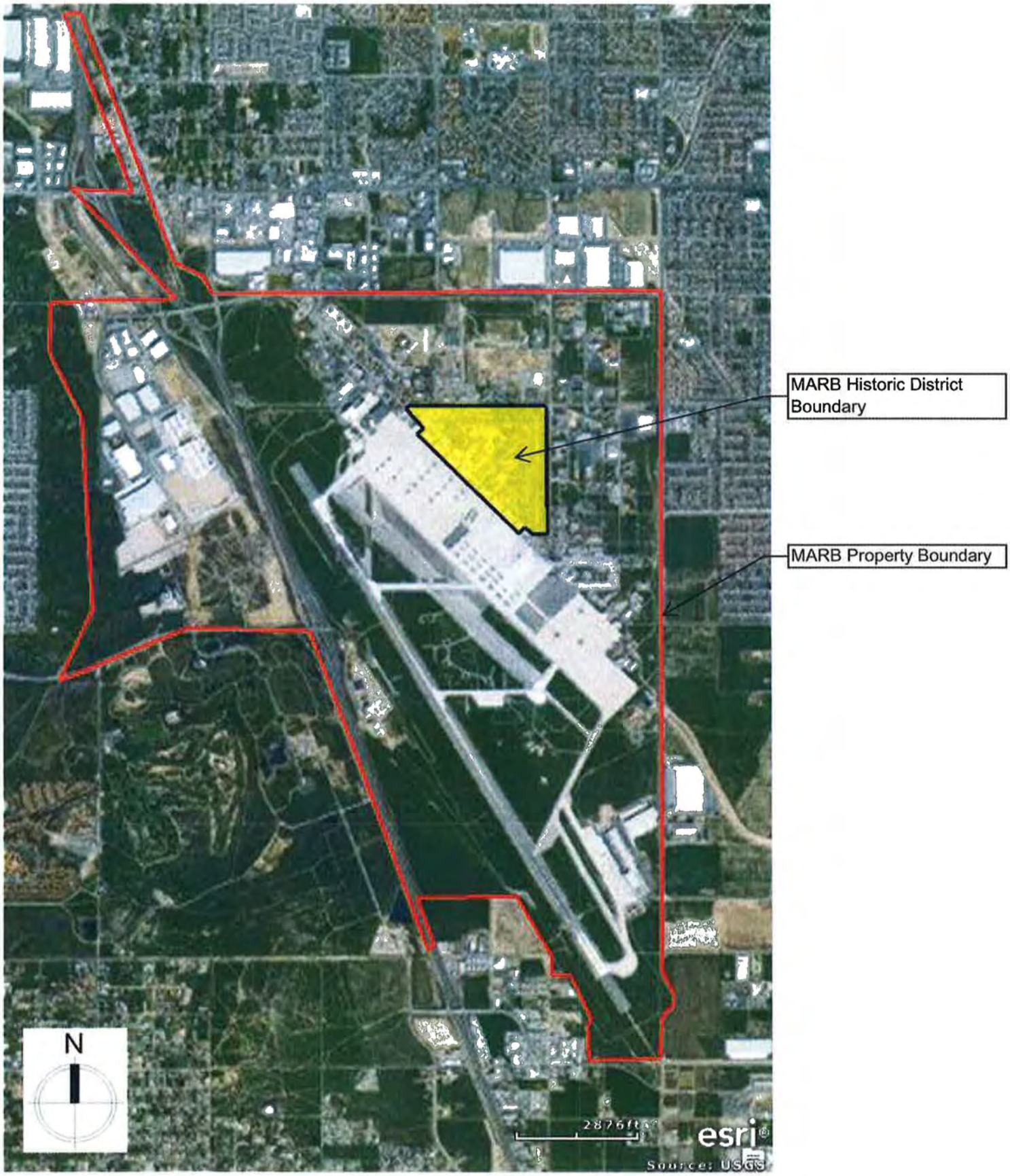
March Field Historic District
Riverside Co., CA
Bldg. 441 - Graeber St.
March Air Reserve Base
Photo 5 of 8: View From Graeber Street; Northwest and Southwest Elevations. Note cobble stone used as landscaping and original doors openings modified to include different types and sizes of doors. Camera facing east.

March Field Historic District
Riverside Co., CA
Bldg. 441 - Graeber St.
March Air Reserve Base
Photo 6 of 8: View of Rear Elevation; Northwest and Southeast Elevations. Note lost landscaping and paved, parking areas up to the building. Camera facing west.

March Field Historic District
Riverside Co., CA
Bldg. 441 - Graeber St.
March Air Reserve Base
Photo 7 of 8: Interior View. Former carburetor shop's door towards the southwest exterior door. Camera facing west.

March Field Historic District
Riverside Co., CA
Bldg. 441 - Graeber St.
March Air Reserve Base

Photo 8 of 8: Rear View. Northeast Elevation. Note open field beyond paved parking areas. Camera facing southwest.



March Air Reserve Base Site Plan

March Air Reserve Base Historic District Enlarged Map


Photo #1


Photo # 2


Photo # 3


Welcome to
Red Patch
Country
We Proudly Support Our Military!

Photo # 4


Photo # 5


Photo # 6


Photo # 7
EXIT


Photo # 8

National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.
Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: March Field Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Riverside

DATE RECEIVED: 11/04/94 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/15/94
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/01/94 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/19/94
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 94001420

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	Y	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	N	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT_____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The March Field Historic District is eligible under National Register Criteria A and C, in the areas of Military History and Architecture. The cohesive district is significant for its role in U.S. military aviation training and the early development of the Army Air Corps during the period 1928 to 1943. The field's distinctive plan and intact Mission Revival architecture represent significant examples of early twentieth century military planning and design.

March Field served as the Army's key training and bombardment facility on the West Coast during most of the period of significance and was the first complete aviation post laid out and built by the Quartermaster Corps and the Army Air Corps during peacetime, allowing for a focused emphasis on overall planning and design that became a model for later construction efforts. The documentation represents an excellent, well-researched nomination for a site of clear regional significance in the area of military history.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept. A+C
REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignan
DISCIPLINE Historian
DATE 12/6/94

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

B:\March.txt

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect -
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 22D AIR REFUELING WING (AMC)

USAF 920428A

RECEIVED
SEP 08 1993
OHP

30 AUG 1993

FROM: 22 ARW/CC
2145 Graeber St Ste 117
March AFB CA 92518-1667

SUBJ: March Field Historic District National Register Nomination

TO: Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Parks and Recreation
Attn: Mr Steade Craigo
Post Office Box 942896
Sacramento CA 94296-0001

1. The March Field Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Submitted herewith is the only original copy of the nomination form for your signature. Your concurrence of our district eligibility is noted in the 11 Mar 93 letter, a copy of which is also enclosed.

2. Please return the document by special mail handling to:

Ms Janice Hester
840 MacDill St (Bldg 2506)
March Air Force Base CA 92518-2145

Ms Hester may be contacted at 909-655-5631.

STEPHEN R. LORENZ, Colonel, USAF
Commander

2 Atch
1. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
2. SHPO Ltr, 11 Mar 93

Post-it™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 | # of pages ▸ 2

To Paul Chrisman	From Cynthia Hanna
Co.	Co. OHP-CA
Dept.	Phone # 916-653-9454
Fax # 202-343-1836	Fax #

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

OCT 27 1994

SAF/MIQ
1660 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330-1660

Ms. Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
Interagency Resources Division
National Park Service
P. O. Box 37127
Washington DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull

The attached package documenting March Field Historic District, March Air Force Base, California, is provided for your review and nomination for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The California State Historic Preservation Officer has approved the nomination package which is fully supported by the Air Force.

The 191 buildings, five structures and one object combine to create a significant cultural resource of national scope. March Field Historic District embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Mission Revival style. In addition, the district is significant in its display of city planning principles of the era, the extraordinarily large assemblage of buildings built using hollow wall concrete wall construction methods, and as a work of the architect Myron Hunt.

Points of contact for this effort are Lt Col Tom Lillie and Mr. John Walewski, HQ USAF/CEVP. They can be reached at (703) 695-6118, Fax (703) 695-8943.

Sincerely

THOMAS W. L. McCALL, JR.
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
(Environment, Safety and Occupational Health)

Attachment:
Nomination Package

Air Force Environmental Planning

*the Pentagon * Washington, DC*

facsimile coversheet

from:
JOHN WALEWSKI
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
1260 AIR FORCE PENTAGON, ROOM 5B269
WASHINGTON, DC 20330-1260
telephone 703 695 6118
DSN 225.6118
facsimile 703 695 8943
DSN 225.8943

to:
Ms. Paul Lusigman
National Park Service
National Register Division
District of Columbia
Facsimile 202.343-1836

re: March AFB, CA Nomination

comments:

Paul,

Per your request the "paper trail" for signature from the California SHPO regarding the March Historic District.

Please call if you have any questions or comments.

Thanks. jw

date: December 6, 1994 *pages: cover + four*

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 7220 AIR REFUELING WING (AMC)

FROM: 22 ARW/CC
2145 Graeber St Ste 117
March AFB CA 92518-1667

SUBJ: March Field Historic District National Register Nomination

TO: Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Parks and Recreation
Attn: Mr Steade Craigo
Post Office Box 942896
Sacramento CA 94296-0001

1. The March Field Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Submitted herewith is the only original copy of the Nomination Form for your signature. Your concurrence of our district eligibility is noted in the 11 Mar 93 letter, a copy of which is also enclosed.

2. Please return the document by special mail handling to:

Ms Janice Hester
840 MacDill St (Bldg 2506)
March Air Force Base CA 92518-2145

Ms Hester may be contacted at 909-655-5631.

- Signed -

STEPHEN R. LORENZ, Colonel, USAF
Commander

2 Atch
1. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for March Field Historic District
2. SHPO Ltr, 11 Mar 93

40918|60

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 722D AIR REFUELING WING (AMC)

16 May 94

MEMORANDUM FOR HQ AMC/CEV
ATTENTION: COL JACOB D. DUSTIN

FROM: 722 ARW/CC
2145 Graeber St Ste 117
March AFB CA 92518-1667

SUBJECT: Nomination of the March Field Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places - ACTION MEMORANDUM

1. In accordance with the Historic Preservation Programmatic Agreement between March Air Force Base, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the National Advisory Council, the nomination form for listing March Field Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places is forwarded to you. Request you forward it through Air Force channels to the National Park Service Keeper of the Register.

2. If you need additional assistance, please contact Ms. Janice Hester, Historic Preservation Officer, 840 MacDill Street (Building 2506), March AFB, CA 92518-2145, or telephone her at DSN 947-5631. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

STEPHEN R. LORENZ, Colonel, USAF
Commander

Attachment:
Nomination Form w/d

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR MOBILITY COMMAND

0 8 SEP 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR HQ USAF/CEV
ATTENTION: COL L. DEAN FOX

FROM: HQ AMC/CEV
507 A Street
Scott AFB IL 62225-5022

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination for March Air Force Base

1. We have attached a 722 ARW/CC letter, dated 16 May 94, with the National Register nomination for the March AFB historic district. The AMC/CC has been informed and approves the listing of this district on the National Register of Historic Places.

2. If the members of your staff have any questions, please have them call our POC, Dr. Robin Burgess, HQ AMC/CEVP, DSN 576-2233.

JACOB D. DUSTIN, Colonel, USAF
Chief, Environmental Programs Division
Directorate of Civil Engineering

Attachment:
722 ARW/CC Ltr, 16, May 94, w/Atch

cc: 722 ARW/CC
722 ARW/CECP (Ms. Hester)
HQ AFBCA/CV

CEVP
What say you? Let's discuss pls. AT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA — THE RESOURCES AGENCY

PETE WILSON, Governor

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

P.O. BOX 942896

SACRAMENTO 94296-0001

(916) 653-6624

FAX: (916) 653-9624

March 17, 1994

Ms. Janice Hester
840 MacDill Street (Building 2506)
March Air Force Base, California 92518-2145

Subject: March Field Historic District
National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Hester:

I have certified the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the March Field Historic District so that the Department of the Air Force may forward the document to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D. C.

As you know, the property was formally determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register through a consensus decision between my office and the Corps of Engineers on October 19, 1992.

I appreciate the Air Force's efforts in documenting and nominating this property to the National Register pursuant to Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. If you need additional assistance in this matter, please call Cynthia Howse of my staff at (916) 653-9054.

Sincerely,

Charilyn E. Widell
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED
SEP 0 8 1993
OHP

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name March Field Historic District

other names/site number March Air Force Base

2. Location

street & number ☐ not for publication

city or town March Air Force Base ☐ vicinity

state California code CA county Riverside code 065 zip code 92518

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

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

[signature] SHPO 3/17/94

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

California Office of Historic Preservation

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:) ____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Additional Documentation
Property Name:	March Field Historic District
Multiple Name:	
State & County:	CALIFORNIA, Riverside

Date Received:	Date of Pending List:	Date of 16th Day:	Date of 45th Day:	Date of Weekly List:
2/24/2017			4/10/2017	6/30/2017

Reference number:	AD94001420
Nominator:	Federal Agency
Reason For Review:	

X Accept _____ Return _____ Reject **4/10/2017** Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:	The additional documentation records the demolition of two historic resources at March Field (Bldgs # 441 and 385). The buildings were contributing resources, but their removal did not affect the integrity of the larger district.
Recommendation/ Criteria	Accept Additional Documentation.

Reviewer Paul Lusignan Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229 Date

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.