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REPORT NO. SR041316-1
PROJECT NO. 163023

A Section 106 Evaluation of the Mercury Bowling Alley, Area 23, Nevada National Security Site, Nye County, Nevada, with Photographic Documentation Addendums

Prepared by

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Desert Research Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada

August 2018

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Prepared for

U.S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Nevada Field Office, Las Vegas, Nevada

Submitted by

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August 2018

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SUMMARY

The National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office anticipates demolition of the Mercury Bowling Alley (Building 23-517) on the Nevada National Security Site in Nye County, Nevada. An Area of Potential Effects of 4.5 acres was surveyed by Desert Research Institute, resulting in recording and evaluation of the Bowling Alley (Nevada State Historic Preservation Office Resource Number B14451) and one associated resource, AR1.

It is recommended that the Bowling Alley is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level of significance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Jacob Huffines, National Security Technologies LLC (NSTec), administered the project for NNSA/NFO.

Troy Leonard, NSTec, provided engineering drawings for the building from the files at NNSS.

Darwin "Kirby" Ward, NSTec, provided access to the building and kindly shared some of his experiences there during the 1980s.

Byron Ristvet, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, also shared detailed reminiscences of the Bowling Alley during the Cold War, particularly during "shot nights."

Jim Bertolini, kindly searched the SHPO architectural files for information regarding the architects.

Bert Bedeau (SHPO) engaged in a most useful background discussion about the history and characteristics of Googie architecture.

Mona Reno helped format the ARA form and provided access to several online search programs needed to develop the architectural context.

Special thanks to the staff of the Mercury Bowling Alley for hosting many fine evenings for myself (Ron Reno) and crew during the 1980s.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office (NNSA/NFO) anticipates demolition of the Mercury Bowling Alley (Building 23-517) on the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) in Nye County, Nevada (Figure 1). This survey was prompted by plans to construct new facilities at the Bowling Alley location to support NNSS's changing role in national security. The Bowling Alley has been largely vacant since the mid-1990s following the end of nuclear testing at what was then the Nevada Test Site (NTS). The building is suffering rapid decay.

An Area of Potential Effects (APE) of 4.5 acres was surveyed, resulting in recording and evaluation of the Bowling Alley (SHPO Resource Number B14451) and one associated resource (AR1). The APE is located in Section 11 T15S R53E MDBM (projected) at the principal NNSS base of Mercury in Area 23. In 2010, the NTS name was changed to the NNSS, and will be referred to as such throughout this report.

Fieldwork and report preparation were done by Desert Research Institute (DRI) cultural resources staff. Architectural descriptions and portions of this report specific to the architecture of the Bowling Alley were completed by Ron Reno, Ph.D., RPA who meets Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for Architectural Historian. Administration of the project was by Colleen M. Beck, Ph.D. Historical background regarding Mercury and the NNSS was developed by Maureen King. Beck photographed the building and its environs.

Copies of the building form and report are on file in the Nevada Cultural Resources Inventory System at the Nevada State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO); DRI, Las Vegas; and in the NNSA/NFO curation facility, Las Vegas.

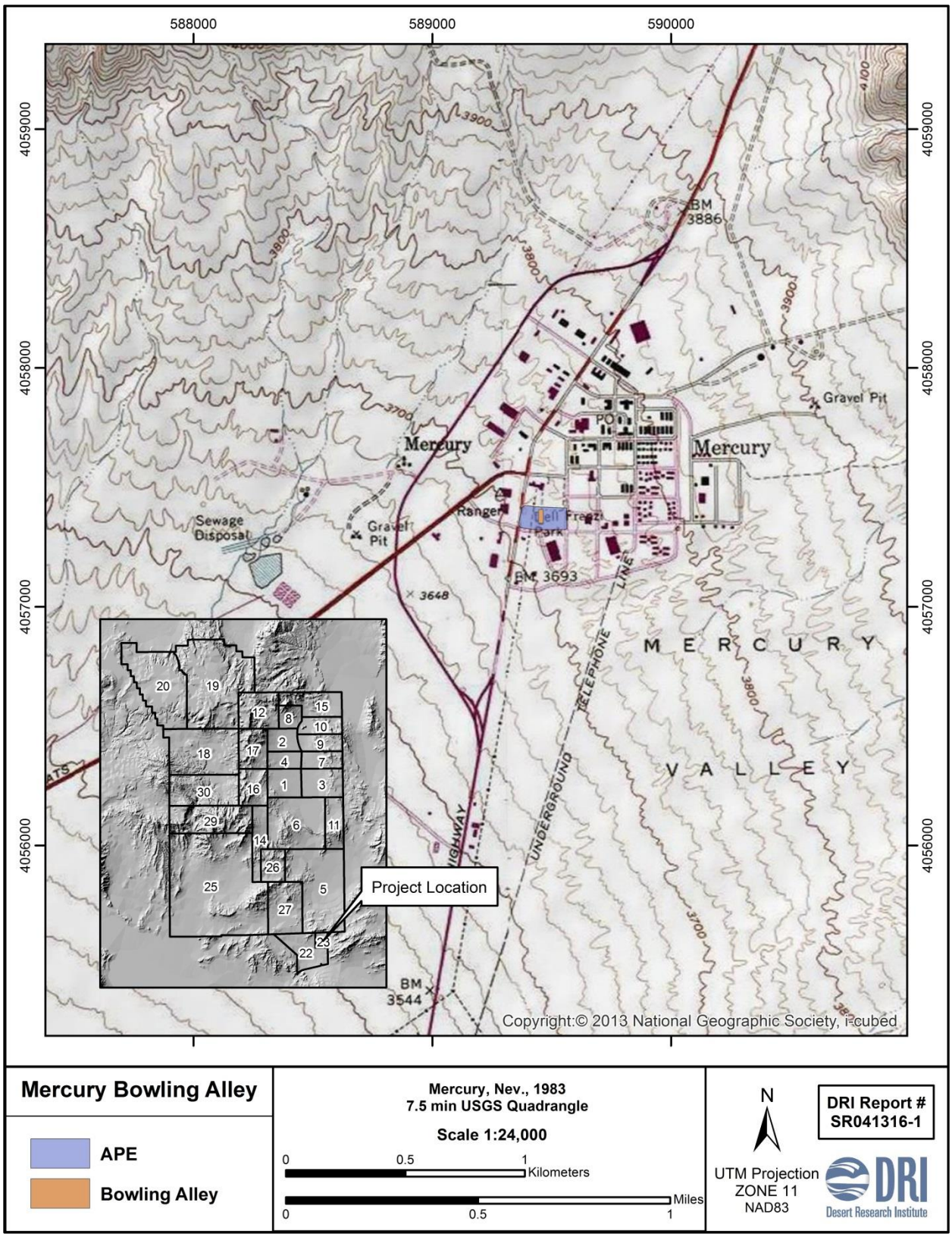


Figure 1. Map showing location of the project on the NNSS, the APE, and Bowling Alley.

II. RESEARCH DESIGN

Objectives

The survey was undertaken to comply with requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Survey Methods

Methods used for this survey were designed to comply with *Nevada Architectural Survey and Inventory Guidelines* (SHPO 2013). In addition to this report, findings are summarized in the Architectural Resource Assessment Form (ARA), included in Appendix A.

The general history of the NNSS is very familiar to DRI personnel from many years of research at the facility. Much of this is already in reports which were freely drawn upon for the present project. In addition, DRI maintains complete records of all cultural resources surveys and historic evaluations on the NNSS.

The specific history of Mercury and the Bowling Alley was researched at the Engineering Records Library at the NNSS. All of the available drawings were viewed at that facility, and a selection was made of those with sufficient informational content to warrant detailed examination. Electronic copies were made of these. One Mercury map and additional drawings of key construction details are included in this report. All are unclassified. Reminiscences about the Bowling Alley during the Cold War by NNSS employees are also utilized. Since Reno was present in Mercury for extensive periods from 1980 through 1989, his personal recollections of the Bowling Alley are used in this report in the first person.

The career of the architectural firm that designed the Bowling Alley was investigated by means of checks of repository holdings, including SHPO architectural files, a newspaper search, American Institute of Architects (AIA) directories, Ancestry.com, and supplementary sources regarding the principals.

The APE was determined to be a 4.5 acre area bounded on the south by Trinity Avenue, on the west by the Mercury Highway, on the east by Teapot Street, and on the north by a prominent terrace immediately south of a parking lot, park, and Tennis/Basketball Court (Figure 2). All demolition activities will be confined within this lot, which is bladed and partially covered with asphalt. It has ready access to the Mercury Highway and has ample room for heavy equipment and temporary storage of construction debris.

Figure 2. Aerial view of the proposed demolition APE. Also shown are the Bowling Alley (DOE Building 23-517) and the Garbage Enclosure foundation (AR1) (Digital Globe 5/4/2012). Mercury Highway runs along the left (west) edge of the APE.

The Visual APE was determined to be a half-mile radius surrounding the Bowling Alley. Beyond this distance the building cannot be readily distinguished from others in the immediate vicinity. No National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) properties occur within this radius, and all resources presently within it are managed by the same agency as the Bowling Alley.

Field inspection of the exterior of the Bowling Alley was conducted by Reno on April 13, 2016, supplemented by short visits to further inspect details such as remnants of original paint and internal condition on April 20 and 21, 2016. The building was photographed on May 4 and 10, 2016 by Beck and King (Figure 3). Due to what appears to be the rapidly declining condition of the building interior, far more photographs were taken than minimally required by SHPO survey standards, along with a provisional internal damage assessment during this survey. Supplemental documentation not utilized in the present report and ARA form are retained at DRI for possible future use should further documentation of the resource become necessary.

Figure 3. Overview of the Bowling Alley facing northwest (DRI 2016).

Expectations

Since this survey was aimed at a single resource within a well-defined town block it was possible to anticipate in advance of work the exact number of resources and the appropriate boundaries for the APE prior to fieldwork activity. The survey area corresponds to the APE boundaries shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Integration with Planning Process

This Architectural Inventory, including its visual elements, was designed to provide information to evaluate Building 23-517, the Mercury Bowling Alley. The Bowling Alley was an important recreational building during the era of nuclear testing. After testing ceased, the number of workers at the NNSS substantially decreased, eliminating the need for recreational facilities. Demolition of the Bowling Alley to prepare the area for new facilities supports the NNSS's changing role in national security. Mercury is identified in the Nevada Comprehensive Preservation Plan as a potentially NRHP eligible property due to its significant role in nuclear testing in Nevada (Tlachac 1991: 25-15).

III. HISTORIC CONTEXT

Natural Setting

Mercury is located on a southwest-facing bajada below the Spotted Range in the northeast corner of Mercury Valley. The Bowling Alley is built at an elevation of 3,720 feet. Red Mountain towers over Mercury to the north, and to the southwest the valley is bounded by the Specter Range. The Spring Mountains lie to the south. To the northeast is the Mercury Ridge.

Mercury, the Cold War, and Nuclear Testing at the NNSS

This historic context addresses the relationship between the town of Mercury to the national pattern of historic events known as the Cold War and nuclear testing. Mercury is a potentially NRHP eligible property due to its significant role in nuclear testing in Nevada (Tlachac 1991:25-19). Thus, the Cold War and nuclear testing at the NNSS are applicable thematic contexts for significance evaluations of the buildings in Mercury. This summary of thematic contexts is not comprehensive, but rather attempts to relate the overall development of Mercury to nuclear testing on the NNSS. Numerous works may be consulted for greater detail concerning the research domains associated with this project (e.g., Gaddis 2005; Walker 1995; Loeber 2002; Titus 1986; Fehner and Gosling 2000).

Studies of historic properties relating to nuclear testing activities on the NNSS have been presented by Drollinger and Edwards (1996), Drollinger et al. (2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014), Edwards and Goldenberg (2007), Edwards and Johnson (1995), Goldenberg and Beck (1991a, 1991b), Johnson (1994, 2002), Johnson and Edwards (1996, 2000), Johnson and Goldenberg (1998), Johnson et al. (2000), Jones (2003, 2004, 2005), Jones and Goldenberg (2004), Jones et al. (2005, 2006, 2013, 2014), and King (2015). Edwards (1997) researched Camp Desert Rock, a facility used to train U.S. military personnel for tactical atomic warfare. In addition, early research on the development of nuclear rocket and missile propulsion is reported by Beck et al. (1995, 1996, 2000, 2001), Drollinger (2004), Drollinger et al. (1997, 2000 a-d), and Jones et al. (1996). A total of 11 areas on the NNSS associated with NNSS activities are managed as Historic Districts. These are the Frenchman Flat Historic District (Johnson et al. 2000), the Apple-2 Historic District (Johnson and Edwards 2000), Yucca Lake Historic District (Jones et al. 2005), the Pluto Control Facility Historic District (Drollinger et al. 2005), Smoky Historic District (Jones et al. 2014), Shasta Historic District (King 2015), and five historic districts associated with underground nuclear testing tunnel complexes (Drollinger et al. 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014; Jones et al. 2006). Finally, the Sedan crater in Yucca Flat, the result of a Plowshare cratering detonation, is an NRHP-listed property.

Mercury is one of two permanent bases established on the NNSS to support nuclear testing. The Area 12 Camp was established near the north end of the NNSS, for supporting tunnel operations in Rainier Mesa and other testing-related activities on Pahute Mesa and Yucca Flat. The much larger

base is Mercury, a town 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, toward the southern end of the NNSS. Mercury served as the principal entrance to the NNSS. It is a distinct town center that has always provided a wide range of support activities, including an extensive administrative role. There are various other facilities throughout the NNSS, but all lack long-term residential components and related social and recreational facilities found only at Mercury and Area 12 Camp.

Like other government installations, Mercury resembles a typical company town. It is self-contained and established to provide facilities, services, and amenities for personnel working on the NNSS. Architecturally, there are elements similar to other small towns in the U.S.: administration buildings, infrastructure (airstrip, roads, power, communications, sewer), residential buildings, community support (post office, church, healthcare, recreation), and transportation corridors. However, unlike any other town, the origin and history of Mercury are inexorably linked to developments during the Cold War and the NNSS nuclear testing program from 1951 to 1992. Over this time span the town expanded and diversified to accommodate a growing workforce and a year-round testing schedule. While most of the buildings in Mercury were not integral to nuclear testing mission requirements, support facilities were critical for operational support and the wellbeing of the NNSS workforce.

The Cold War

The Cold War was a global conflict pivoting around themes of ideology, imperialism, strategic issues, and the nuclear arms race (Puzio 2013). It was a war fought via economic and cultural means, as well as a series of proxy wars, from 1947 to 1991 by the U.S. and the former Soviet Union and their allies (Walker 1995; Gaddis 2005). After World War II, the U.S. and former Soviet Union emerged as the only superpowers possessing intact heavy industry, large populations, and low international debt, as well as conflicting ideological outlooks (Gaddis 2005; Fink 2014). However, the U.S. was the only nuclear power in the world. This changed in August 1949 when the Soviets tested their first fission bomb. The U.S. response to the perceived Soviet threat was to expand production facilities and to accelerate development of nuclear weapons. On June 29, 1950, President Truman approved the development of a thermonuclear weapon, and a plan for a test series in the Pacific (named Greenhouse) was initiated. However, while this plan was underway, the onset of the conflict in the Korean Peninsula began.

U.S. military involvement in Korea created technical and logistical problems for continuing with the Pacific test location. This led the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Chair Gordon Dean to declare that it was "wise to reexamine the question of a continental site with the objective of having available a definite and specific site which could be recommended for use" (Fehner and Gosling 2000). In December 1950, the U.S. Air Force approved a plan to allow the AEC to use the Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range, a federal facility established in 1940 by President Roosevelt, for a proposed series of continental tests named Ranger (NNSA/NFO 2013a). On December 18, 1950, President Truman approved the choice and construction began the following month. After a series of name changes, the test area was named the NNSS on January 31, 1954. Additional land parcels were obtained under public orders and memorandums of agreement. Currently the NNSS

encompasses an area of approximately 3,522 square kilometers (1,360 square miles), spanning an area approximately 89 kilometers (55 miles) north-south and 50 kilometers (30 miles) east-west.

Nuclear Testing and the NNSS

The NNSS played a crucial role in the U.S. nuclear testing program during the Cold War with the former Soviet Union. An escalating arms race for nuclear weapon superiority led to numerous nuclear explosions worldwide by the U.S., the former Soviet Union, and other foreign nuclear powers. The AEC (now the U.S. Department of Energy) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) conducted these tests for the U.S., and the NNSS is where most of the testing occurred. Major purposes of nuclear testing were weapons related (testing a device intended for a specific weapon system), weapons effects (evaluating civil or military effects of a detonation), safety experiments (confirming a nuclear detonation would not occur from an accidental detonation of the high explosive associated with the device), Joint US-UK testing (storage-transportation), Plowshare (application of nuclear explosions to peaceful uses), and Vela Uniform (improving the ability to detect, identify, and locate underground nuclear detonations) (NNSA/NFO 2015). In all, a total of 928 nuclear tests were conducted at the NNSS, with 120 performed in the 1950s, and 808 after 1961 following a short moratorium between 1958 and 1961 agreed to by both the U.S. and the former Soviet Union (Friesen 1995:6, 10). On August 5, 1963, the U.S. and former Soviet Union signed the Limited Test Ban Treaty. This treaty effectively banned testing of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere, ocean, or space, and atmospheric testing drew to an end. A second self-imposed moratorium on nuclear testing by the U.S. was established in 1992, and in 1995 President Clinton announced a total ban on all U.S. nuclear weapon testing. In September, 1996, the United Nations approved the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty prohibiting any nuclear explosion. However, the U.S. Senate fails to ratify this treaty.

Mercury: The Early Years (1951-1962)

Nuclear Testing at the NNSS began with the Ranger Series (January-February 1951) of five airdrop atmospheric tests over Frenchman Flat (NNSA/NFO 2015). Following the Ranger Series, the AEC moved to establish the area as a permanent proving ground for nuclear weapons testing. The nuclear testing target area was moved northward from Frenchman Flat to Yucca Flat, and a control point facility was established on the north side of a ridge between the two basins. This location provided a line of sight with tests on Yucca Flat. Originally, a basecamp to support the test operations and house personnel was planned for a site eight miles south of the control point in Frenchman Flat. However, due to DOD proposals for additional tests, Frenchman Flat was retained as an operational test area (Fehner and Gosling 2000), and the base camp was built in the present-day location of Mercury.

Initially, the basecamp, named Base Camp Mercury, was planned to provide minimum facilities for two or three test series a year, with a six-week timeframe for each test. The basecamp would include barracks, a mess hall, and administrative buildings. After use of the camp during the Operation Buster series of five atmospheric tests (October-November 1951) and the Operation Jangle crater

and surface tests (November 1951), it quickly became apparent the minimal facilities were insufficient. In 1951, a $6.7 million construction project was approved to meet the needs of the growing testing program and population (NNSA/NFO 2013b). The AEC expanded the basecamp, adding more barracks, a second mess hall, a recreational facility, a warehouse, offices, and laboratory space (Fehner and Gosling 2000). Over the decade, testing-related activities steadily increased, and testing occurred on a year-round basis. This required additional construction to accommodate personnel. By the mid-1950s, the camp had a U.S. Postal Service location and was given the official designation of Mercury, Nye County, Nevada (NNSA/NFO 2013b). Over the first 11 years, Mercury grew to keep pace with a larger population; however, there was no master plan, and most structures were temporary constructions.

Mercury: Nuclear Testing Continues (1962-1992)

With the signing of the Limited Test Ban Treaty in August 1963, atmospheric testing ended. The last atmospheric test on the NNSS was a surface test on July 7, 1962 named Little Feller II. Since then, all nuclear tests conducted in the U.S. have been underground, and the majority of these were on the NNSS (some tests were conducted on the Nevada Test and Training Range, central and northwestern Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, Mississippi, and Amchitka-one of the Aleutian Islands). Although, atmospheric testing ended, underground testing activities at the NNSS steadily expanded and testing occurred on a year-round basis. In addition, the Plowshare Program and the Nuclear Rocket Development Station brought increased activity to Mercury (NNSA/NFO 2013b). This required additional construction to meet demands for a wide range of facilities in Mercury. In 1962, an AEC supplemental appropriations bill provided funds to add to or replace most of the earlier temporary buildings and included a $15 million request for permanent NNSS construction (NNSA/NFO 2013b). By June 1962, the AEC requested Arthur Benedict Associates of Los Angeles, California develop a long range comprehensive Master Plan for the coordinated development of Mercury.

The Mercury Master Plan (ABA 1962) proposed an expansion of all facilities for a permanent site, including residential facilities for permanent and transient personnel. Facilities programmed for construction during fiscal years 1963 and 1964 were support facilities (cafeteria and food handling, administrative buildings, laboratories, maintenance shops, warehouses, communications, and the Civil Effects Test Organization building), resident-oriented facilities (dormitories, recreation hall, swimming pool, bowling alley, chapel, and health, medical, and safety building), circulation (Camp Desert Rock airstrip, Highway 95 improvements, by-pass highway, and primary and secondary streets), and utilities (a new power transmission line and sewage treatment plant). Thus, the early 1960s represented a building boom in Mercury. By the mid-1960s, Mercury was a developed town and contained facilities essential for supporting the nuclear testing effort.

Mercury is characterized by a planned development with all buildings, streets, and other structures constructed on a grid within an area about a half-mile square. Most of the grid is oriented on the cardinal directions, but the northern part of town and developments on the west side of the Mercury Highway are oriented to the northeast to conform with the direction of the highway as it heads

north into the NNSS where the actual work areas were primarily located. A second principal road, the Jackass Flats Road, heads west from Mercury to access the southwestern portion of the NNSS, including Yucca Mountain and the nuclear rocket development facilities.

Property Types Found in Mercury

During the Cold War, Mercury initially was made up of temporary or easily-demountable facilities such as trailers, Quonset huts, and larger prefabricated metal buildings. Many of these buildings were either World War II surplus or were of nearly the same design as wartime construction. The density of these temporary buildings is shown on a 1965 aerial view of this portion of Mercury (Figure 4). Gradually, frame and some cinder block, concrete masonry unit (CMU), buildings were introduced. Some of these buildings were quite large, though restricted to a single story until several two-story CMU dormitories were built near the end of the Cold War.

Figure 4. Early aerial view of the Bowling Alley. This view faces east along Trinity Avenue. It also shows the adjacent Pool facility. Tennis/Basketball Courts are at the center of the left margin (REECo Photo 3027-6, 1965).

Recreational Facilities Development Trends

Of particular relevance to the Bowling Alley is the progression of recreational facilities through time. A map of Mercury made several years prior to construction of the Bowling Alley shows no development of any kind south of Trinity Avenue, where the Bowling Area would later be located. The Tennis Court and Ball Park were already in their present locations. Vacant lots were set aside for separate women's and men's recreation areas. A U-plan building (Building 113) that is slightly larger than the typical dormitories of the time, served as a recreation hall (Holmes & Narver, Inc. Drawing 57344, 1959).

The Master Plan developed by Arthur Benedict Associates noted that facilities in Mercury were very limited and did not provide for "a wide range of diverting interests" (ABA 1962). Their plan recommended outdoor and indoor facilities that would offer recreational opportunities. Recreational facilities programmed for fiscal year 1963 included an Olympic-sized swimming pool and dressing room, and an adjacent bowling alley. The bowling alley was to be a non-combustible, permanent structure that would house the bowling lanes and snack bar (ABA 1962).

The Bowling Alley, Swimming Pool and associated Changing Room were part of the same contract. A gym was under consideration on the same block just east of the pool, but it, along with a proposed Library and Museum, were never built. By this time buildings were constructed south of Trinity Avenue (Koebig & Koebig Drawings 69267 & 69268, 1963). The eight lane bowling alley with a full service snack bar opened on February 1, 1964 (NNSA/NFO 2013b).

A 1965 overview (Figure 5) shows the core of recreational facilities at Mercury. By the mid-1960s the Recreation Hall was expanded by filling in the wings to form a rectangular building. By that time a large Crafts Building (710) was in use along with the popular Theater (125). The only formal outdoor recreational areas continued to be the Ball Park and Tennis Court. The Tennis Court now also is used as a Basketball Court (USAEC Drawing 105, 1966).

The 1973 Indian Springs BLM map identifies the area of the Physical Condition Track as Dell Frenzi Park.

By 1986, Mercury had reached its peak in recreational facilities, which remained essentially the same through the end of the Cold War. As shown in Figure 6, the facilities at this time include the Bowling Alley (517), Pool and Change Building (516), Rock [Lapidary] Shop (21), Theater (125), Gymnasium (W4), Physical Condition Track (W51), Driving Range, Softball Field, and the Tennis/Basketball Courts. The old Recreation Hall (113) is now abandoned. Not identified is the Archery Range in a Quonset hut near the east side of town. Also not shown is a tiny park immediately north of the Bowling Alley with grass, trees, barbecue grills and picnic tables.

Figure 5. Overview of the core of recreational facilities in Mercury, view south. The well-tended Ball Park is in the foreground. Behind it are the enclosed Basketball/Tennis Courts with the small incipient park to its right with a small trailer. Just beyond are the Pool and Bowling Alley. At upper left is the relatively undeveloped block where the Fitness Track would be located. Mercury Highway continues to the south where it intersects with U.S. Route 95 (REECo Photo 3028-13, 1965).

A 1992 map shows few changes at the end of the Cold War. The Gymnasium is now a Warehouse and the old Recreation Hall is reused by Reynolds Electrical Engineering Company, Inc. (REECo) as a support facility.

At present, the only interior recreational facility other than dormitory day rooms is at the Cafeteria, where it is usually available during weekday lunch hours only. The Tennis/Basketball Courts and the Track are still maintained.

Of all of these recreational facilities, only the Bowling Alley and the associated Pool Changing Room were of a design that made them appear different from all of the other utilitarian buildings in Mercury.

Figure 6. Plan map of Mercury. Recreational facilities are highlighted in blue (modified from Holmes & Narver, Inc. Drawing 286588, 1986).

IV. RESULTS

The Mercury Bowling Alley (SHPO Resource Number B14451; NNSS Building Number 23-517) is the only resource recorded and evaluated during this survey. Elevations as originally designed are shown in Figure 7.

The Mercury Bowling Alley is the principal recreational building in the town of Mercury, the main base camp at the NNSS. It is a 29 ft 4 in by 160 ft, one-story, rectangular-plan building with walls made of narrow (4 in) CMU blocks. The Mid-Century Modern building stands out among its restrained neighbors due to its flamboyant accordion roof and matching front porch. Also, prior to being repainted tan with dark purplish trim it was a brilliant white with turquoise trim which included all of the prominent fascia and pilasters. Due to these elements it can be regarded as an example of Googie architecture, the only one on the NNSS (Hess 2004). The only other example of this style was the adjacent Pool House, constructed at the same time as the Bowling Alley and created by the same design team. The Pool House and related pool have been demolished. In addition to the trim, the bright turquoise color was used inside the building for built-in furniture, trim on ball return and scoring machines, and was used for the ball return gutters. The pool had turquoise tile accents, fragments of which are still present on site.

The Bowling Alley was designed in 1963 by the prominent Reno architectural firm of Selden and Stewart Architects and Planners. Construction was completed in 1964. It, along with the associated Pool and Pool House, occupied a parcel facing Trinity Avenue to the south (Figure 8). An extensive asphalt parking lot, now in poor condition, is along Trinity. The west end of the lot is along the Mercury Highway, and the east end, with a gravel parking lot, borders Teapot Street. The northern border is delimited by a paved parking lot for a building further north and by the built-up terrace for a small park and Tennis/Basketball courts.

A concrete walkway extends from the paved parking area to the front entrance in the east façade of the building. The concrete continues around the southern and western sides and rear of the building. The entire lot has been bladed to form a shallow terrace as is typical throughout Mercury. The former pool area has been backfilled. Two mature willow trees survive between the Bowling Alley and pool area. The land between the Bowling Alley and Pool was originally covered with grass. A small area of plantings once occurred in a garden surrounded by pipe and chain railings adjacent to the main entrance but this is no longer watered. As originally constructed, this area was also grass-covered. A garbage enclosure was adjacent to the parking lot on the south side of the building, but only its concrete foundation survives (Accessory Resource AR1).

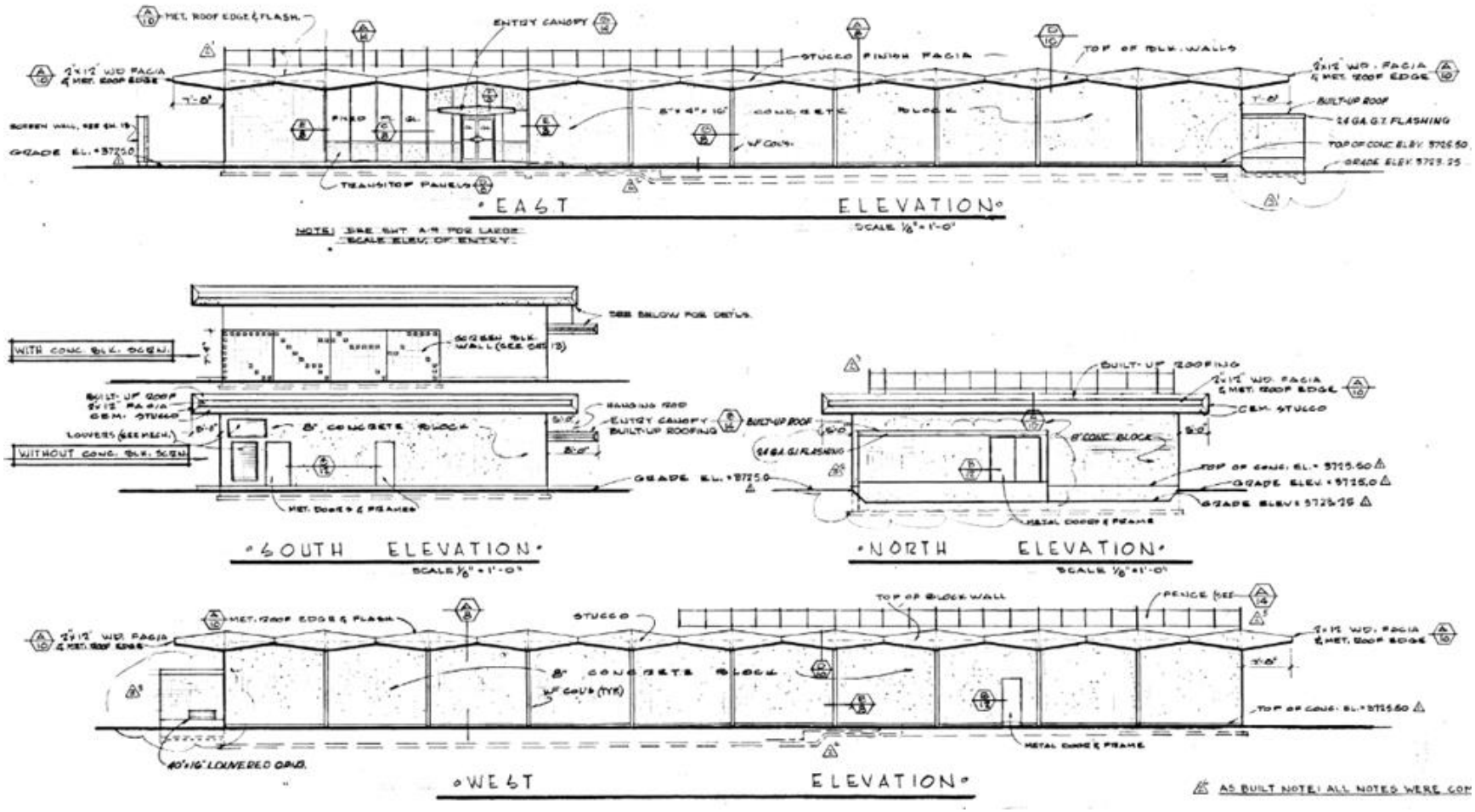


Figure 7. Original drawings of elevations for the Bowling Alley (Selden and Stewart Drawing 34423, 1963).

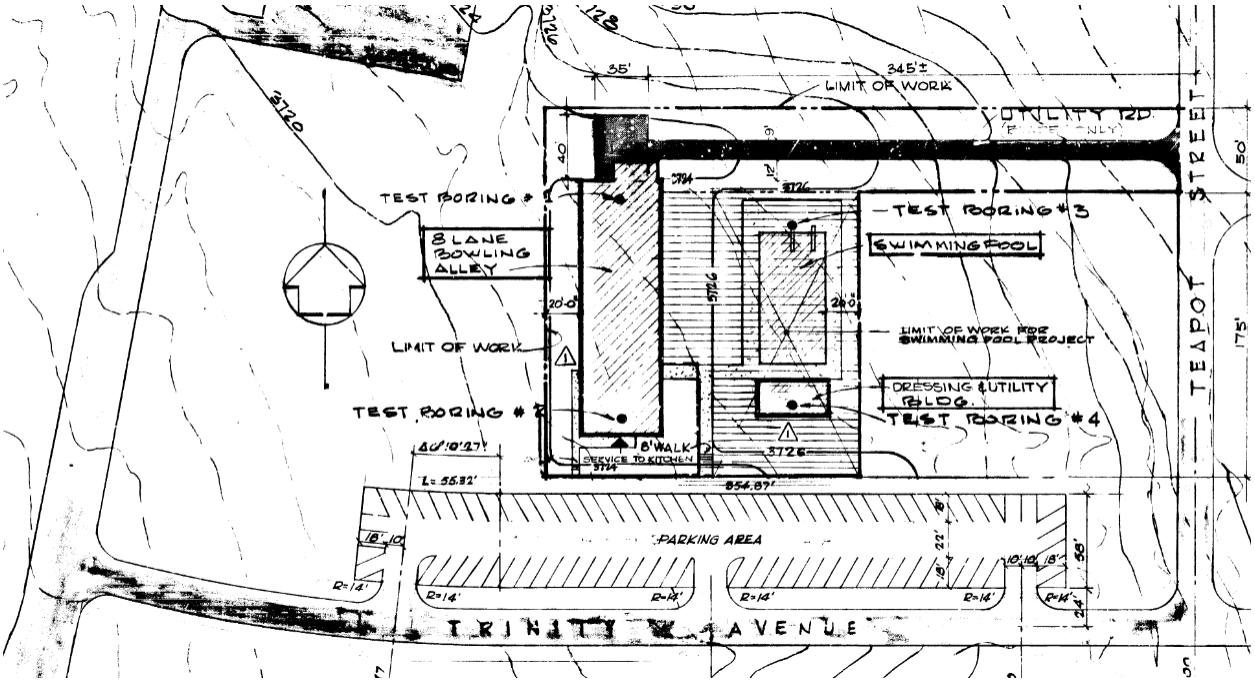


Figure 8. Construction drawing of the Bowling Alley, Swimming Pool, and Pool House (Selden and Stewart Drawing 34412, 1963). The Mercury Highway is at left.

The Exterior

The front façade faces east toward the former Pool House. It presents a very long and relatively low profile consisting of 10 evenly spaced bays separated by mortar pilasters (Figure 9). The top of each bay is pointed, following the underside of the accordion roofline. The pilasters continue without break along the underside of the roof as narrow frieze moldings. In most areas the concrete foundation is at or just below grade. The exterior reflects interior function. The entrance occupies the third bay north of the southeast corner of the building. It consists of a pair of aluminum-framed glass doors flanked on each side by two fixed steel-framed windows. A brass USAEC/REECo property tag stamped 997003 is riveted to the door frame. Below the windows and filling the upper part of the bay are pressed fiber "Transitop" panels painted to match the rest of the walls. The canopy over the door echoes the diamond-shaped cross section of the roof fascia. It is suspended from the roof overhang with two steel rods and has visibly sagged. The fascia and soffit are stucco. The bay immediately left of the entrance is almost entirely filled with fixed steel-framed windows set above a Transitop wainscot continuing at the same level as that in the doorway assembly.

The rest of the façade is entirely blank. When the pool was still in existence, all of the Bowling Alley north of the entrance formed the west wall of a grass courtyard with two willow trees. The pool was on the east side of this courtyard, and the south end was enclosed by a zigzag wall of narrow (5-5/8

in), hollow CMU blocks laid on their sides to create a semi-open screen. The north end of the courtyard was bounded by the steep cutbank along the north edge of the lot.

The rear (west) façade is prominently visible from the Mercury Highway. It presents an unbroken series of blank bays except for a flush steel door in the third bay from the southwest corner, another flush steel door in the second bay from the northwest corner, and a steel ladder for access to the rooftop mechanical area (Figure 10). Both doors have concrete stoops and incandescent light fixtures centered above them. The southerly door is at the end of a concrete walkway from the south end of the building. A later addition is a plywood windbreak framed with 2-x-6 studs. The wood side walls are mounted directly to the concrete stoop and are joined at the top with framing. This addition to the doorway is not roofed. The doorway enters into the rear of the Concourse. The other door is a later modification entering into the northwest corner of the Recreation Room.

Figure 9. Front façade of the Bowling Alley, facing west over the backfilled pool area (DRI 2016).

Figure 10. The rear (northwest) corner of the Bowling Alley, facing southeast. The storage room addition with its loading bay are prominent in this view (DRI 2016).

As originally built, the north end of the building was entirely blank except for a centered double door. The Storage Room was on the original plans, but for unknown reasons it was not constructed until later in 1964 after the main building was already completed. It was built according to those plans, except that standard height (8 inch) CMU was used, and recycled steel roofing was employed instead of the built-up roof specified by the plans (REECo Drawing 57625, 1964). The north wall of the Storage Room has flush double steel doors raised above ground level for use as a loading dock. One metal louver fan vent is located high in the east end of this wall, and another is set low in the west wall.

The south wall is quite complex. As shown on Figure 7, there is a centered flush steel door leading to the Kitchen. The Mechanical Room in the southwest corner of the building has its own flush steel door along with two large louvered vents. A concrete slab and a zigzag CMU screen wall of the same design as that by the front entrance were and remain in front of the west half of this façade. An outside walk-in refrigerator (now replaced with two more recent models) rested on the slab between the two doors. A later modification here was construction of a wood-framed screen porch over the kitchen door and refrigerator. In 1983, the slab was extended to the southeast corner of the building. Inscriptions in concrete as well as plans indicate this date. Another zigzag wall was installed, but in this case the CMU was of standard dimension, half-scored, and installed vertically,

presenting a solid reticulated surface. Another large walk-in refrigerator fills the space from the outside door to corner, and the screen porch was expanded to cover the entrance to the refrigerators. A flush plywood door with screen light was installed in the space between the two CMU walls, providing entry to the expanded screen porch.

The accordion built-up roof has large overhangs with stucco fascia and soffits. Metal flashing was later installed at the ends of the valleys to prevent water runoff from damaging the fasciae. The fasciae present a slightly zigzag plan, protruding slightly at the thickest part of each diamond-shaped segment. Large numbers of ducts and air handling equipment are situated on the southern half of the roof behind a steel railing with open steel mesh panels.

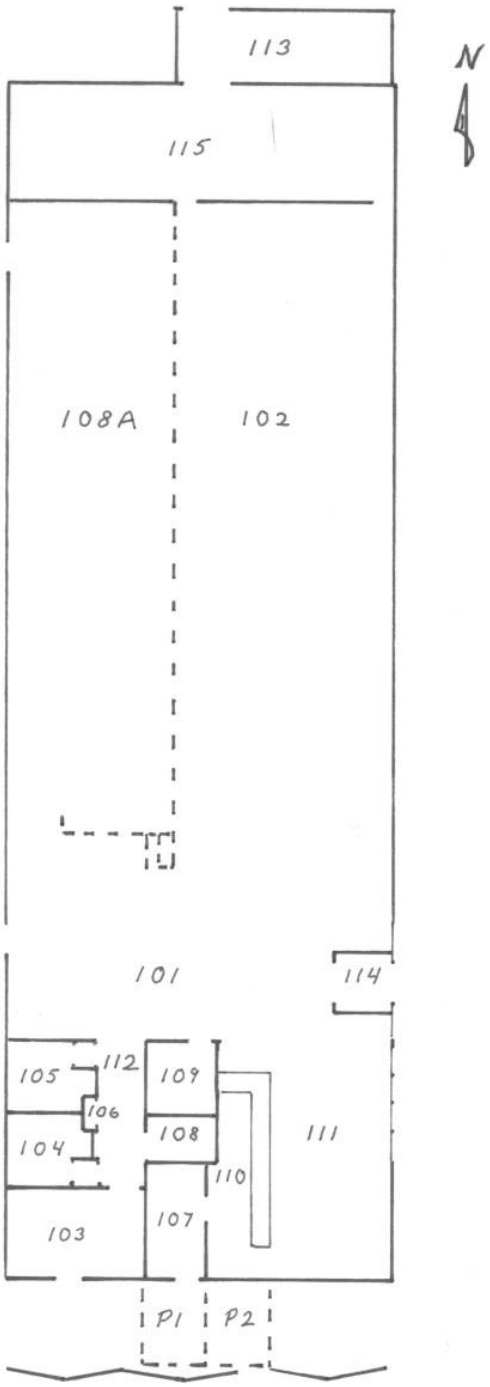
The Interior

A plan of the interior as it presently exists is shown in Figure 11. This plan shows how the building is essentially divided into two unequal parts by the Entry Vestibule (Room 114) and the Concourse just beyond it (Room 101) with its distinctly lowered ceiling (Figure 12).

To the right of the Concourse lie the bowling lanes, which originally had eight lanes and comprised about half of the entire building (Figure 13). At the end of the lanes is the mechanical room for the automatic pinsetters (Room 115). As a result of the 1980 remodel, the lanes were divided by a drywall partition leaving four bowling lanes (Room 102) and creating a large recreation room (Room 108A) for pool, shuffleboard, and table tennis. As part of the same remodel, a folding ceiling-suspended steel mesh curtain ran across the Concourse enabling the Recreation Room to be shut off from the Bowling Lanes. At the same time, the pinsetters for the four western bowling lanes were removed from Room 115 and the space was used to maintain the remaining machines. The 1964 Storage addition is at the extreme north end of the building.

Immediately left of the concourse is the Service Area (111) for bar and food distribution and consumption, the Bar (110), and the Kitchen (107) behind the bar.

Originally pale green, most walls have been repainted pale yellow or off-white. The exterior walls are exposed brick panels between mortar pilasters. Interior walls are drywall. Ceilings are covered with foot-square acoustic tiles.



101 Concourse
102 Bowling Lanes
103 Mechanical
104 Men's Restroom
105 Women's Restroom
106 Custodial
107 Kitchen
108 Storage
108A Recreation (1980 alteration)
109 Office
110 Bar
111 Service Area
112 Circulation
113 Storage (1964 addition)
114 Entry Vestibule
115 Pinsetters and Shop
P1 Refrigerator Screen Porch
P2 Refrigerator Screen Porch (1983 addition)

Figure 11. Bowling Alley plan. Room numbers reflect a composite of information derived from room identification tags and various construction drawings since all rooms do not have tags and no individual drawing has a complete set of room identity numbers.

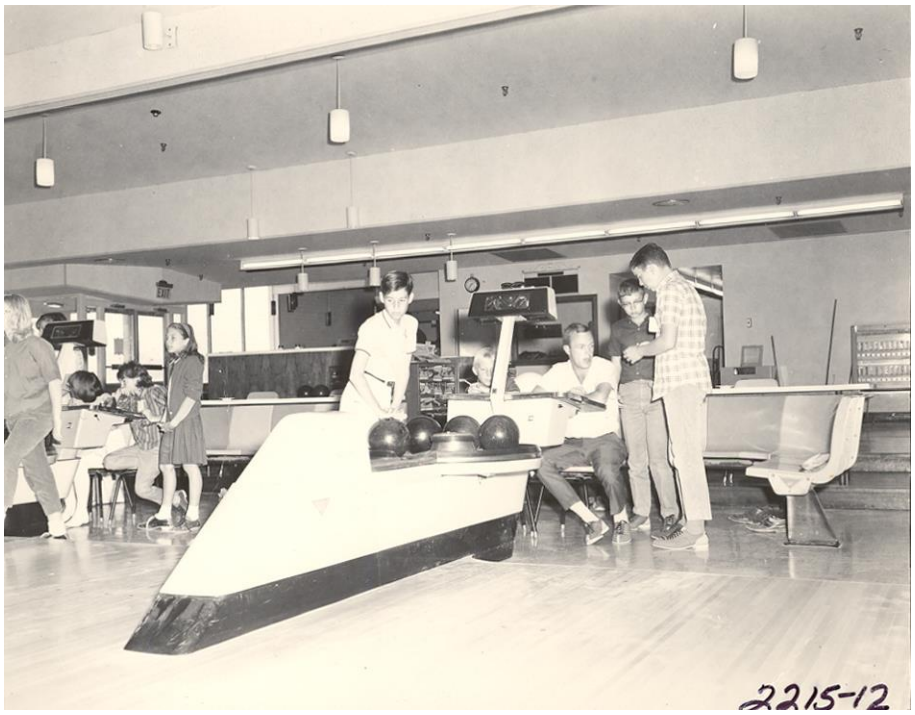


Figure 12. This southeast-facing photo shows the lowered ceiling of the central concourse which matches the bottom surface of the roof. At left is visible the prism of the ceiling for the entry foyer which continues outside to serve as a canopy over the main entry (REECo Photo 2215-12, 1966).

Figure 13. Bowling Alley interior. This north-facing photo shows all eight bowling lanes in use prior to splitting this area in half. The left half was converted to a recreation room. It also shows the Concourse prior to installation of carpeting (REECo Photo 2215-16, 1966).

Compressed into the southwest corner of the building is the service block, which includes the Mechanical Room (103), Restrooms (104, 105), Custodial Area (106), Storage Room (108), and the Office (109), along with a short Circulation Corridor (112).

The entire subfloor is concrete. In most areas the floor was covered by linoleum tiles, which were originally pale green to match the walls. The tiles have largely been covered with purple carpet. The laminated wood bowling lanes in the Recreation Room have been covered with plywood and surfaced with tan linoleum tiles.

Important for the interior character of the building is the flamboyant folded hood over the bar area (Figure 14). The bar was constructed according to original specifications, except that it was altered from a wide V-plan to an L-plan which opened up more floor space for tables.

Figure 14. Service area and bar. This northwest-facing image shows the distinctly lower ceiling above the Concourse and the even lower ceiling above the Entry Vestibule. In the background, a series of portable screens block the view into the bowling lanes (DRI 2016).

Interior Damage

Ceilings, walls, and floors have variously suffered extreme damage from water, resulting from a combination of roof leaks and leaky pipes installed in the ceiling. The leaking areas were directly observed due to portions of the inner ceiling falling away. As shown in the accompanying photo collage (Figure 15), damage is highest in the service area at the southwest corner of the building, with extensive damage also in the Concourse, Bowling Lanes, and Recreation Room. Other interior areas are undamaged by water.

Figure 15. Interior water damage. Top left: Circulation Corridor (112). Top right: laminated bowling lane pushing through the Recreation Room (108A) floor. Bottom: ceiling above Bowling Lanes (102) (DRI 2016).

Structure

Only the end walls of the building are load-bearing. The rest of the structure consists of a series of 10 evenly-spaced bents. Uprights for each bent are steel I-beams resting on the concrete foundation, except at the entry where 8 inch rectangular-section steel posts replace three of the usual I-beams adjacent to windows and panels. A large glue-laminated (glue-lam) beam rests on top of each pair of uprights as shown in Figure 16.

Figure 16. Typical bent assembly. This photo of the northeast portion of the building during construction shows a bent assembly. The steel I-beam posts are visible in the wall prior to being covered by mortar pilasters. The principal roof support along the narrow axis is the glue-lam beam visible along the top of the photo. Supplementary framing surrounding the beam provided additional shear resistance along with provision for sound dampening, lighting, and air flow (REECo Photo 1673-6, 1963-1964).

As shown in Figure 17, the roof assembly consists of 10 scissors trusses linked at the bents. Two additional half-trusses provided the 8 ft overhangs at each end of the building. The truss system was so strong that the 16 ft spans between bents could be framed entirely with lightweight 2-x-4s. In most of the building the interior ceiling was applied directly to the sheathed undersides of the trusses. The glue-lam beams at the junctions of the trusses, along with supplementary cross-bracing, prevented any compression of the assembly. This lightweight construction was made possible by lack of snow loading in this area.

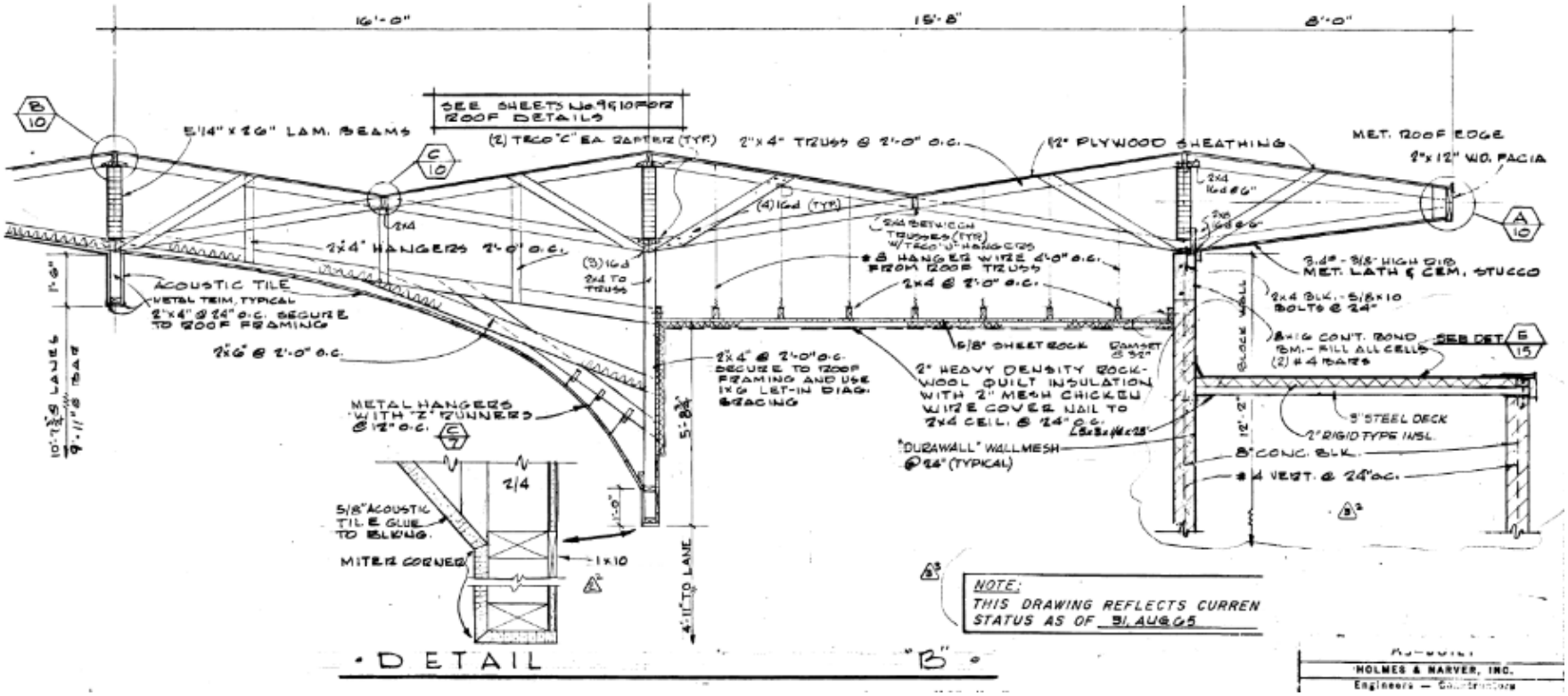


Figure 17. Longitudinal section of the roof truss. This section shows how the roof truss was constructed around a series of laminated beams. From left to right, it also shows the ceiling following the underside of the truss, a typical extension below a beam, the curved drop of the ceiling at the end of the alleys, a typical method of suspending a roof (in this case in the room containing the AMF pinsetting mechanisms), and the storage room at the north end of the building, which was constructed later with different materials from those indicated on this plan (Selden and Stewart Drawing 34414, 1963).

Figure 18 dramatically illustrates how the Pool House roof is fully self-supporting on its bents. Structurally, the curtain walls only served to protect against horizontal displacement of the structure through shear.

Figure 18. Pool House under construction. This photo illustrates the remarkable stability of the scissor-truss roof assembly and complete lack of load-bearing walls. It is identical to the Bowling Alley, other than its smaller scale and use of standard steel trusses to span each bent rather than glue-laminated beams (REECo Photo 1677-12, 1963-1964).

Garbage Enclosure (Accessory Resource AR1)

The only Accessory Resource directly associated with the Bowling Alley is the concrete foundation for a small 8 x 8 ft garbage enclosure. It is located adjacent to a sidewalk leading from the Kitchen porch area at the south end of the building to the paved parking lot. It was built in 1989 (REECo Drawing 206088, 1989) and, based on Google Earth images, was demolished prior to 2005. It was a prefabricated metal building with a nearly flat shed roof, flush door, and louver vents in the walls. A concrete ramp led from the sidewalk to the door of the building (Figure 19).

Figure 19. Garbage enclosure foundation, facing north, with the south porch of the Bowling Alley in the background (DRI 2016).

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

National Register Eligibility

Criterion A

The Bowling Alley (SHPO Resource Number B14451; NNSS Building Number 23-517) is eligible to the NRHP under Criterion A at the local level of significance from 1963 through the end of nuclear testing in 1992. Overall, the historic significance of Cold War resources related to nuclear testing on the NNSS is at the national level of significance. Sedan Crater is a good example of such resources that have already been listed. However, when considered as a single resource, the Bowling Alley was one of a variety of support buildings and structures which were critical to the well-being of people who worked at the site, but were not integral to mission requirements such as the Control Point building (CP-1) or the Device Assembly Facility. As such, it does not individually merit national significance and would only do so if it was considered eligible as part of a larger district, which is outside the scope of the present project.

Figure 20. Occasionally the Bowling Alley hosted families of NNSS workers (REECo Photos 2215-11 and 2447-16, ca 1960s).

I (Ron Reno) worked on the NNSS for most of the last decade of the Cold War. During that time, I lived in Mercury for extended periods. My first introduction to the Bowling Alley was on the first night there after working all day at Yucca Mountain, where I found a congenial atmosphere of

people sharing pitchers of beer, some supplementing drinks with snacks or light meals rather than going to the very institutional mess hall. Our work was quite physical so our crew members only occasionally ventured to engage in bowling, pool, shuffleboard, or ping-pong. For some reason our crews never included a bowler. It was a rare night in Mercury when at least some time was not spent at the Bowling Alley, escaping from the world of constant work and Spartan living conditions which characterized the place.

This experience was common among those who were separated from family and friends for extended periods, working in what was in effect the frontline of the Cold War. For example, when Kirby Ward unlocked the building for us to record it, he immediately began to recount memories of evenings he spent there devouring hamburgers after days working on drill rigs. As one of the few veterans to continue working at the NNSS after the Cold War, he also greatly misses the place and regrets its closing.

Byron Ristvet (2016) recalls that during shots (nuclear tests) when people could not go to forward areas, NNSS management would bring a band to the Bowling Alley to play for a standing room only crowd. Over 200 people were in there sometimes and a small dance floor was kept clear. People were bowling, and there was the snack bar with "really good hamburgers and onion rings and beer." Although only beer was served, you could bring in your own hard liquor. "It was a real gathering place…everybody would be there." The place was also very crowded during military maneuvers. During normal nights there were usually 20-50 people in the Bowling Alley.

These experiences, when multiplied by the enormous number of people who worked in Mercury over the years, combine to show that this modest building was for many the most important place on the NNSS. It was one of the special places that helped make working there, in isolated and often near-monastic conditions, bearable and even quite enjoyable. In turn, this helped to make the devoted workforce far more productive during working hours.

Criterion B

The Bowling Alley is not significant under Criterion B. Many important people used the facility, but this association does not relate to the portions of their active careers for which they were personally of importance. Although Ray's pizzas had a certain local notoriety during the 1980s, it was not the individual managers or employees that were critical for the Bowling Alley's local importance, but instead the cumulative friendly service they all offered through the years to an appreciative clientele.

Criterion C

The Bowling Alley is eligible to the NRHP under Criterion C at the local level of significance from 1963 through 1992. It was designed in 1963 by the prominent Reno, Nevada architectural firm of Selden and Stewart Architects and Planners. The firm was very well qualified to design the Bowling Alley because they had executed a much larger commission two years previously with the 16 lane Starlite Bowl (Figure 21). At the time, the "modernistic" Starlite, which cost over a half million dollars, was regarded as the largest bowling facility in Nevada. Its extensive facilities included a

restaurant, cocktail lounge, banquet rooms, and a snack bar. As at Mercury, it was equipped with the then-new Brunswick automatic pinsetters (NSJ Dec 10, 1961 37:3). After many years of active use, the Starlite finally went out of business in 2015.

A direct design transfer from the Starlite to Mercury was the use of two floor to ceiling bays for the aluminum-framed double entry door and extensive fixed windows to the left of the door (Figure 22).

Figure 21. The Starlite Bowl in Reno designed by Selden and Stewart in 1961 (R. Reno 2016).

Figure 22. Comparison of entrances between the Starlite Bowl at left (R. Reno 2016) and Mercury Bowling Alley at right (DRI 2016).

Theodore Emmett (Ted) Selden, the principal architect of the firm, was born in Seattle in 1930 (Figure 23). He received a Bachelor of Architecture at the University of Washington in 1954 and was registered to practice in six western states (Bowker 1962, 1970; RGJ Feb 26, 1997 5C:6). He was admitted to the Reno (Northern Nevada) Chapter of the AIA in 1960, the same year he formed the firm of Selden and Stewart in Reno (REG Sep 1, 1960 10:2). Selden immediately took up an active role in the organization, serving variously as Treasurer, Director, Vice President, and President from 1961 through 1970 (NSJ Jan 21, 1961 35:4, Jan 25, 1967 9:6; REG Jan 23, 1961 5:1). He also organized finances for the 10th annual conference of the Western Mountain Region of the AIA (REG Sep 20, 1961 16:1). Selden served as Assistant Manager of the State of Nevada Planning Board from 1959-1960 and was Secretary Treasurer of the Nevada Association of Architects in 1970.

Figure 23. Photo of Theodore Selden (Ancestry.com).

Allen J. Stewart, A.I.P. served principally as the planner for the firm, which evenly divided its commissions between planning and architectural design projects. Stewart also participated in the architectural end of the business, joining the AIA Reno Chapter in 1961 (Bowker 1962, 1970). It was Stewart who signed the design drawings for the Mercury Bowling Alley. Stewart brought an important local connection to the partnership through is wife Deane, a member of the influential Cafferata family. He organized transportation for the 10th annual conference of the Western Mountain Region of the AIA (REG Sep 20, 1961 16:1).

In 1961, the firm began design of what would be Phases I, II, and III at the Nevada State Minimum Security Prison at Stewart, near Carson City, executed in 1962, 1963, and 1967 (Bowker 1970; NSJ Sep 15, 1961 13:1, Nov 16, 1962 18:5; REG July 20, 1962 18:1). In 1962-1963 they collaborated with DeLongchamps and O'Brien in designing the Tom Sawyer Village, an extensive senior citizens housing project in Reno (NSJ Nov 16, 1962 18:5; Aug 23, 1963). From 1964 to 1965, Raymond Hellmann (designer of the Fleichmann Planetarium) briefly joined the group to collaborate in designing the Sparks Branch of the Washoe County Library (NSJ Feb 25, 1965 8:4; REG June 3, 1964 29:4). Another 1964 project was an office building for Gladys Cafferata (NSJ Aug 25, 1964 13:6).

In 1965-1966, the group designed the Nevada Air National Guard Headquarters Group O&T Building and Nye Hall at the University of Nevada, both in Reno, along with the Carson Mall Shopping Center in Carson City (NSJ Dec 12, 1965 47:2, Sep 25, 1966 19:6; REG Apr 22, 1965 19:5). They designed the Elges Chateau Convalescent Hospital, Reno in 1969 (NSJ Dec 14, 1969 3:1).

The group designed Carson High School in 1970, won a competition to design elementary school classroom facilities in Washoe County in 1971, and continued educational design in 1972 with their Metropolitan High School No. 5, again for the Washoe County School District. By 1970, Maurice Nespor had joined the group and was prominent in the educational commissions (Bowker 1970; NSJ June 21, 1972 6:2; REG Mar 10, 1971 32:2).

By 1976, Stewart had left the firm with Nespor and Dolven Larson taking his place as partners. In that year the firm was sold to Larson and continued with the new name of Dolven Larson Daniels.

Selden continued to work as a consultant with this and other firms, as well as in a small independent practice until his death in 1997 at the age of 66 (NSJ Jan 25, 1976 20:1; RGJ Feb 26, 1997 5C:6).

With the exception of the bowling alleys, the later work of Selden and Stewart was strongly in the mode of International Modernism with a tendency toward Formalism. It is something of a curiosity that the Mercury Bowling Alley did not simply follow this pattern to better fit in with the surrounding buildings. This approach was taken, for example, in the purely utilitarian design of the wartime bowling alley at the Hawthorne Naval Ammunition Depot. Instead, the lead of the Starlite Bowl was taken to create a Googie design which had maximum divergence from the rest of the architecture at Mercury. Most of the Mercury buildings were very obviously designed by engineers for engineers, typically Holmes & Narver, Inc. or Reynolds Electrical and Engineering Company (REECo).

From a distance, the Mercury Bowling Alley actually has a strikingly neoclassical Formalist mass (rectangular plan with regularly-spaced pilasters and low pointed arches in each bay formed by the underside of the roof and large overhangs) converted miraculously into Googie. This was accomplished by crumpling the flat roof into an accordion, extending a hood over the front porch (which nicely extends into the interior over the entry vestibule), and, of course, by liberal application of turquoise paint in a town where every other building was either white or galvanized during the Cold War. Similarly, the Starlite Bowl is basically a box converted to Googie by the decorative triangular art gizmos protruding from the roof, an arched entry, and again by a pretty spectacular color scheme. These designs indicate that Seldon and Stewart Architects really was not cut out for going all the way in Googie – their craziness was limited to decoration and never extended to the basic massing of their designs. In short, their application of Googie details was conservative.

A fairly extensive discussion of the structural system of the Bowling Alley was included above to support the argument that the Bowling Alley, despite its small scale, is quite a remarkable design from a structural point of view. The roof-framing system creates a distinctive exterior look that continues in a remarkably unified manner to many other building details. From the exterior, it creates the distinctive rhythm of the series of bays separated by pilasters, which echo the underlying structural system. Since the roof requires no interior supports, much of the distinctively folded lower surface could be used and enhanced in various ways in the interior to work appropriately with the different functions of various parts of the building. The bents were often enhanced with dropped webs for the same reason. Particularly striking is the way the ceiling is dropped in the concourse area to separate the bowling lanes from the snack bar and service area. Since the walls are not load bearing, this also enabled deletion of the CMU in two bays to provide the striking window treatment at the entrance as well.

Criterion D

The entire APE has been heavily bladed so there is no possibility of intact prehistoric remains on it. It does not appear that any research questions related specifically to the architecture could reasonably be developed for this resource.

Integrity

The Bowling Alley retains integrity of location and setting on its original lot in Mercury. Although the town has had buildings removed, it still retains a sense of feeling and association with a type of recreation during the Cold War period of significance. Regarding the exterior of the building, design, materials, and workmanship all are retained. Color changes could easily be reversed. Additions are minor and well within the period of significance. The only external damage is water damage to a valley and soffit near the northwest corner of the roof.

Splitting the lanes in half and remodeling the west half as a Recreation Room occurred within the period of significance and does not detract from the significance of the building. The principal problem with the interior is the extensive water damage which has badly degraded the materials and workmanship in the service areas in the southwest corner of the building, the Recreation Room, and in the roof over the remaining bowling lanes as noted earlier. The integrity of the interior has also been compromised by removal of hanging incandescent light fixtures visible in historic photos, and by removal of many of the kitchen and bar appliances.

Management Recommendations

In conclusion, it is recommended that the Bowling Alley is eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C at the local level of significance for the period 1963 through 1992. Either demolition of the building or its continued decay will constitute an adverse effect to the resource.

Following are some suggestions for mitigation. However, NNSA/NFO will determine appropriate measures in consultation with SHPO; therefore, other mitigation approaches may be considered.

- Production of a two-page front/back handout on the subject of recreation at the NNSS following the format of the existing series on *Nevada National Security Site History* for distribution to NNSS workers and visitors. Racks holding these handouts are already present in places such as the Mercury Cafeteria and the Nevada Support Facility building in North Las Vegas.
- Reworking the information contained in this report regarding the firm of Selden and Stewart for electronic publication on the Nevada SHPO web page as part of a new initiative by SHPO to disseminate information regarding Nevada architects and builders.
- Prepare an appendix to this report with detailed room-level interior description and extended digital photographic documentation beyond that included here and in the appended ARA form.
- Salvage of laminated wood from the bowling lanes for incorporation in a new NNSS building. If this occurs, the building should carry a plaque identifying where the salvaged materials came from and their historic significance.

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Arthur Benedict Associates

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APPENDIX A

ARA Building Form

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1. SHPO Resource Number: B14451
Other ID Number: 23-517

For SHPO Use Only
Lead Eligibility _____
SHPO Concurrence Y / N

NEVADA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT **(ARA)**
BUILDING FORM

2. PHOTO

3. PROPERTY OVERVIEW

URBAN X	RURAL	
ADDRESS	NNSS Area 23	
CITY, ZIP CODE	Mercury, 89023	
ASSESSOR'S PARCEL #	N/A	
CONSTRUCTION DATE	1963-1964	
SURVEY DATE	4/13/2016	
ACCESSORY RESOURCES TOTAL	1	
ACCESSORY RESOURCES FORM(S) ATTACHED?	Yes X	No
IMACS FORM(S) ATTACHED?	Yes	No X
DISTRICT #	N/A	

4. WRITTEN DESCRIPTION

The Mercury Bowling Alley (Building 23-517) is the principal recreational building at the main base camp for the Nevada Test Site (NTS), now known as the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). It is a one-story rectangular-plan building with cinderblock, concrete masonry unit (CMU), walls. The Mid-Century Modern building stands out among its restrained neighbors due to its flamboyant accordion roof and matching front porch. Also, prior to being repainted tan with dark purplish trim it was a brilliant white with turquoise trim which included all of the prominent fascia and pilasters. Due to these elements it can be regarded as an example of Googie architecture, the only one on the NNSS.

The Bowling Alley, constructed in 1963-1964, was designed by the prominent Reno architectural firm of Selden and Stewart Architects and Planners. It, along with the associated Pool and Bath House (both now demolished), occupied a parcel facing Trinity Avenue on the south. An extensive asphalt parking lot, now in poor condition, is along Trinity. The west end of the lot is along the Mercury Highway while the east end, with a gravel parking lot, borders Teapot Street. The northern border is delimited by a paved parking lot for a building further north and for the built-up terrace for a small park and tennis/basketball courts.

A concrete walkway extends from the paved parking lot to the front entrance in the east façade of the building and wraps around the southern and western side and rear of the building. The entire lot has been bladed to form a shallow terrace as is typical throughout Mercury. The former pool area has been backfilled. Two mature willow trees survive between the Bowling Alley and pool. A small area of plantings once occurred in a garden surrounded by pipe and chain railings adjacent to the main entrance but this is no longer watered. A garbage enclosure was adjacent to the parking lot, but only its concrete foundation survives (Accessory Resource 1).

THE EXTERIOR

The front façade faces east toward the former Pool House. It presents a very long and relatively low profile consisting of 10 evenly-spaced bays separated by mortar pilasters (page 13 of 14). The top of each bay is

CONTINUED

IF FURTHER SPACE NEEDED FOR WRITTEN DESCRIPTION, PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE CONTINUATION SHEET.

5. *REPORTED BY: R. Reno* *AGENCY REPORT NUMBER:* DRI SR041316-1

4. WRITTEN DESCRIPTION (continued)

pointed, following the underside of the accordion roofline. The pilasters continue without break along the underside of the roof as narrow frieze moldings. In most areas the concrete foundation is at or just below grade. The exterior reflects interior function. The entrance occupies the third bay north of the southeast corner of the building. It consists of a pair of aluminum-framed glass doors flanked on each side by two fixed steel-framed windows. A brass USAEC/REECo property tag stamped 997003 is riveted to the door frame. Below the windows and filling the upper part of the bay are pressed fiber "Transitop" panels painted to match the rest of the walls. The canopy over the door echoes the diamond-shaped cross section of the roof fascia. It is suspended from the roof overhang with two steel rods and has visibly sagged. The fascia and soffit are stucco. The bay immediately left of the entrance is almost entirely filled with fixed steel-framed windows set above a Transitop wainscot continuing at the same level as that in the doorway assembly.

The rest of the façade is entirely blank. When the pool was still in existence, all of the Bowling Alley north of the entrance formed the west wall of a grass courtyard with two willow trees. The pool was on the east side of this courtyard, and the south end was enclosed by a zigzag wall of narrow (5-5/8 in), hollow CMU blocks laid on their sides to create a semi-open screen. The north end of the courtyard was bounded by the steep cutbank along the north edge of the lot.

The rear (west) façade is prominently visible from the Mercury Highway. It presents an unbroken series of blank bays except for a flush steel door in the third bay from the southwest corner, another flush steel door in the second bay from the northwest corner, and a steel ladder for access to the rooftop mechanical area (page 13 of 14). Both doors have concrete stoops and incandescent light fixtures centered above them. The southerly door is at the end of a concrete walkway from the south end of the building. A later addition is a plywood windbreak framed with 2-x-6 studs. The wood side walls are mounted directly to the concrete stoop and are joined at the top with framing. This addition to the doorway is not roofed. The doorway enters into the rear of the Concourse. The other door is a later modification entering into the northwest corner of the Recreation Room.

As originally built, the north end of the building was entirely blank except for a centered double door. The Storage Room was on the original plans, but for unknown reasons it was not constructed until later in 1964 after the main building was already completed. It was built according to those plans, except that standard height (8 inch) CMU was used, and recycled steel roofing was employed instead of the built-up roof specified by the plans (REECo Drawing 57625, 1964). The north wall of the Storage Room has flush double steel doors raised above ground level for use as a loading dock. One metal louver fan vent is located high in the east end of this wall, and another is set low in the west wall.

The south wall is quite complex. As shown on an original drawing (page 10 of 14), there is a centered flush steel door leading to the Kitchen. The Mechanical Room in the southwest corner of the building has its own flush steel door along with two large louvered vents. A concrete slab and a zigzag CMU screen wall of the same design as that by the front entrance were and remain in front of the west half of this façade. An outside walk-in refrigerator (now replaced with two more recent models) rested on the slab between the two doors. A later modification here was construction of a wood-framed screen porch over the kitchen door and refrigerator. In 1983 the slab was extended to the southeast corner of the building. Inscriptions in concrete as well as plans indicate this date. Another zigzag wall was installed, but in this case the CMU was of standard dimension, half-scored, and installed vertically, presenting a solid reticulated surface. Another large walk-in refrigerator fills the space from door to corner, and the screen porch was expanded to cover the entrance to the refrigerators. A flush plywood door with screen light was installed in the space between the two CMU walls, providing entry to the expanded screen porch.

The accordion built-up roof has large overhangs with stucco fascia and soffits. Metal flashing was later installed at the ends of the valleys to prevent water runoff from damaging the fascia. The fascia present a slightly zigzag plan, protruding slightly at the thickest part of each diamond-shaped segment. Large numbers of ducts and air handling equipment are situated on the southern half of the roof behind a steel railing with open steel mesh panels.

CONTINUED

4. WRITTEN DESCRIPTION (continued)

THE INTERIOR

A plan of the interior as it presently exists is shown in the Bowling Alley plan (page 12 of 14). This plan shows how the building is essentially divided into two unequal parts by the Entry Vestibule (Room 114) and the Concourse just beyond it (Room 101) with its distinctly lowered ceiling.

To the right of the Concourse lie the bowling lanes, which originally had eight lanes and comprised about half of the entire building. At the end of the lanes is the mechanical room for the automatic pinsetters (Room 115). As a result of a 1980 remodel, the lanes were divided by a drywall partition leaving four bowling lanes (Room 102) and creating a large recreation room (Room 108A) for pool, shuffleboard, and table tennis. As part of the same remodel, a folding ceiling-suspended steel mesh curtain ran across the Concourse enabling the Recreation Room to be shut off from the Bowling Lanes. At the same time, the pinsetters for the four western bowling lanes were removed from Room 115 and the space used to maintain the remaining machines. The 1964 Storage addition is at the extreme north end of the building.
Immediately left of the concourse is the Service Area (111) for bar and food distribution and consumption, the Bar (110), and the Kitchen (107) behind the bar.

Originally painted green, most walls have been repainted pale yellow or off-white. The exterior walls are exposed brick panels between mortar pilasters. Interior walls are drywall. Ceilings are covered with foot-square acoustic tiles.

Compressed into the southwest corner of the building is the service block, which includes the Mechanical Room (103), Restrooms (104, 105), Custodial Area (106), Storage Room (108), and the Office (109), along with a short Circulation corridor (112).

The entire subfloor is concrete. In most areas the floor was covered by linoleum tiles, which were originally pale green to match the walls. The tiles have largely been covered with purple carpet. The laminated wood bowling lanes in the Recreation Room have been covered with plywood and surfaced with tan linoleum tiles. Important for the interior character of the building is the flamboyant folded hood over the bar area. The bar was constructed according to original specifications, except that it was altered from a wide V-plan to an L-plan which opened up more floor space for tables.

INTERIOR DAMAGE

Ceilings, walls, and floors have variously suffered extreme damage from water, resulting from a combination of roof leaks and leaky pipes installed in the ceiling. The leaking areas were directly observed due to portions of the inner ceiling falling away. As shown in a photo collage (Page 14 of 14), damage is highest in the service area at the southwest corner of the building, with extensive damage also in the Concourse, Bowling Lanes, and Recreation Room. Other interior areas are undamaged by water.

STRUCTURE

Only the end walls of the building are load-bearing. The rest of the structure consists of a series of 10 evenly-spaced bents. Uprights for each bent are steel I-beams resting on the concrete foundation, except at the entry where 8 inch rectangular-section steel posts replace three of the usual I-beams adjacent to windows and panels. A large glue-laminated (glue-lam) beam rests on top of each pair of uprights.

The roof assembly consists of 10 scissors trusses linked at the bents. Two additional half-trusses provided the 8 ft overhangs at each end of the building. The truss system was so strong that the 16 ft spans between bents could be framed entirely with lightweight 2-x-4s. In most of the building the interior ceiling was applied directly to the sheathed undersides of the trusses. The glue-lam beams at the junctions of the trusses, along with supplementary cross-bracing, prevented any compression of the assembly. This lightweight construction was made possible by lack of snow loading in this area.

6. INTEGRITY & CONDITION

Integrity:	Original	Intact	Altered X	Moved	Date(s): 1964, 1980, 1983
Condition:	Excellent	Good	Fair X	Poor	Other
If Other, Describe:					

7. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Historic Name	Mercury Bowling Alley
Current/Common Name	Mercury Recreation Building
Original Owner	U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Current Owner & Mailing Address	National Nuclear Security Administration Field Office
Architect/Engineer/ Designer	Selden and Stewart Architects and Planners, Reno, Nevada
Building/Contractor	Unknown

8. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Architectural Period	Post-World War II
Architectural Style	Mid-Century Modern
Architectural Sub Style	Googie

9. UTM LOCATION/REFERENCE(S)

ZONE: 11 NAD83 EASTING: 589450 mE NORTHING: 4057380 mN

10. TOWNSHIP/RANGE/SECTION/MAP

Township: 15 S Range: 53 E Section: 11 (BLM Projection) USGS Map/Date: Mercury 1967 rev 1983

11. THREATS TO RESOURCE

Extreme internal water damage due to pipe failures and possible roof leakage. Building is abandoned and demolition is anticipated.

12. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY

NR Listed	Date NR Listed:			
Eligible Under:	Criterion A X	Criterion B	Criterion C X	Criterion D
Not Eligible				
Unevaluated				
Historic Themes:	Government and Politics / Federal Government / Nuclear Testing			
Eligibility Justification: Please attach continuation sheet.				

13. ELIGIBILITY JUSTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY

Criterion A

The Bowling Alley (SHPO Resource Number B14451; NNSS Building Number 23-517) appears to be eligible to the NRHP under Criterion A at the local level of significance from 1963 through the end of nuclear testing in 1992. Overall, the historic significance of Cold War resources related to nuclear testing on the NNSS is at the national level of significance. Sedan Crater is a good example of such resources that have already been listed. However, when considered as a single resource, the Bowling Alley was one of a variety of support buildings and structures which were critical to the well-being of people who worked at the site, but were not integral to mission requirements such as the Control Point building (CP-1) or the Device Assembly Facility. As such, it does not individually merit national significance and would only do so if it was considered eligible as part of a larger district, which is outside the scope of the present project.

I worked on the NNSS for most of the last decade of the Cold War. During that time, I lived in Mercury for extended periods. My first introduction to the Bowling Alley was on the first night there after working all day at Yucca Mountain, where I found a congenial atmosphere of people sharing pitchers of beer, some supplementing drinks with snacks or light meals rather than going to the very institutional mess hall. Our work was quite physical so our crew members only occasionally ventured to engage in bowling, pool, shuffleboard, or ping-pong. For some reason our crews never included a bowler. It was a rare night in Mercury when at least some time was not spent at the Bowling Alley, escaping from the world of constant work and Spartan living conditions which characterized the place.

This experience was common among those who were separated from family and friends for extended periods, working in what was in effect the frontline of the Cold War. For example, when Kirby Ward unlocked the building for us to record it, he immediately began to recount memories of evenings he spent there devouring hamburgers after days working on drill rigs. As one of the few veterans to continue working at the NNSS after the Cold War, he also greatly misses the place and regrets its closing.

Byron Ristvet (2016) recalls that during shots (nuclear tests) when people could not go to forward areas, NNSS management would bring a band to the Bowling Alley to play for a standing room only crowd. Over 200 people were in there sometimes and a small dance floor was kept clear. People were bowling, and there was the snack bar with "really good hamburgers and onion rings and beer." Although only beer was served, you could bring in your own hard liquor. "It was a real gathering place…everybody would be there." The place was also very crowded during military maneuvers. During normal nights there were usually 20-50 people in the Bowling Alley. These experiences, when multiplied by the enormous number of people who worked in Mercury over the years, combine to show that this modest building was for many the most important place on the NNSS. It was one of the special places that helped make working there, in isolated and often near-monastic conditions, bearable and even quite enjoyable. In turn, this helped to make the devoted workforce far more productive during working hours.

Criterion B

The Bowling Alley does not appear to be significant under Criterion B. Many important people used the facility, but this association does not relate to the portions of their active careers for which they were personally of importance. Although Ray's pizzas had a certain local notoriety during the 1980s, it was not the individual managers or employees that were critical for the Bowling Alley's local importance, but instead the cumulative friendly service they all offered through the years to an appreciative clientele.

CONTINUED

13. ELIGIBILITY JUSTIFICATION (continued)

Criterion C

The Bowling Alley appears to be eligible to the NRHP under Criterion C at the local level of significance from 1963 through 1992. It was designed in 1963 by the prominent Reno architectural firm of Selden and Stewart Architects and Planners. The firm was very well qualified to design the Bowling Alley because they had executed a much larger commission two years previously with the 16 lane Starlite Bowl (Figure 1). At the time, the "modernistic" Starlite, which cost over a half million dollars, was regarded as the largest bowling facility in Nevada. Its extensive facilities included a restaurant, cocktail lounge, banquet rooms, and a snack bar. As at Mercury, it was equipped with the then-new Brunswick automatic pinsetters (NSJ Dec 10, 1961 37:3). After many years of active use, the Starlite finally went out of business in 2015.

Figure 1. The Starlite Bowl in Reno designed by Selden and Stewart in 1961 (R. Reno 2016).

A direct design transfer from the Starlite to Mercury was the use of two floor to ceiling bays for the aluminum-framed double entry door and extensive fixed windows to the left of the door (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Comparison of entrances between the Starlite Bowl at left (R. Reno 2016) and Mercury Bowling Alley at right (DRI 2016).

Theodore Emmett (Ted) Selden, the principal architect of the firm, was born in Seattle in 1930. He received a Bachelor of Architecture at the University of Washington in 1954 and was registered to practice in six western states (Bowker 1962, 1970; RGJ Feb 26, 1997 5C:6). He was admitted to the Reno (Northern Nevada) Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1960, the same year he formed the firm of Selden and Stewart in Reno (REG Sep 1, 1960 10:2). Selden immediately took up an active role in the organization, serving variously as

CONTINUED

13. ELIGIBILITY JUSTIFICATION (continued)

Treasurer, Director, Vice President, and President from 1961 through 1970 (NSJ Jan 21, 1961 35:4, Jan 25, 1967 9:6; REG Jan 23, 1961 5:1). He also organized finances for the 10th annual conference of the Western Mountain Region of the AIA (REG Sep 20, 1961 16:1). Selden served as Assistant Manager of the State of Nevada Planning Board from 1959-1960 and was Secretary Treasurer of the Nevada Association of Architects in 1970.

Allen J. Stewart, A.I.P. served principally as the planner for the firm, which evenly divided its commissions between planning and architectural design projects. Stewart also participated in the architectural end of the business, joining the AIA Reno Chapter in 1961 (Bowker 1962, 1970). It was Stewart who signed the design drawings for the Mercury Bowling Alley. Stewart brought an important local connection to the partnership through is wife Deane, a member of the influential Cafferata family. He organized transportation for the 10th annual conference of the Western Mountain Region of the AIA (REG Sep 20, 1961 16:1).

In 1961, the firm began design of what would be Phases I, II, and III at the Nevada State Minimum Security Prison at Stewart, near Carson City, executed in 1962, 1963, and 1967 (Bowker 1970; NSJ Sep 15, 1961 13:1, Nov 16, 1962 18:5; REG July 20, 1962 18:1). In 1962-1963 they collaborated with DeLongchamps and O'Brien in designing the Tom Sawyer Village, an extensive senior citizens housing project in Reno (NSJ Nov 16, 1962 18:5; Aug 23, 1963). From 1964 to 1965, Raymond Hellmann (designer of the Fleichmann Planetarium) briefly joined the group to collaborate in designing the Sparks Branch of the Washoe County Library (NSJ Feb 25, 1965 8:4; REG June 3, 1964 29:4). Another 1964 project was an office building for Gladys Cafferata (NSJ Aug 25, 1964 13:6).
In 1965-1966, the group designed the Nevada Air National Guard Headquarters Group O&T Building and Nye Hall at the University of Nevada, both in Reno, along with the Carson Mall Shopping Center in Carson City (NSJ Dec 12, 1965 47:2, Sep 25, 1966 19:6; REG Apr 22, 1965 19:5). They designed the Elges Chateau Convalescent Hospital, Reno in 1969 (NSJ Dec 14, 1969 3:1).

The group designed Carson High School in 1970, won a competition to design elementary school classroom facilities in Washoe County in 1971, and continued educational design in 1972 with their Metropolitan High School No. 5, again for the Washoe County School District. By 1970, Maurice Nespor had joined the group and was prominent in the educational commissions (Bowker 1970; NSJ June 21, 1972 6:2; REG Mar 10, 1971 32:2).

By 1976, Stewart had left the firm with Nespor and Dolven Larson taking his place as partners. In that year the firm was sold to Larson and continued with the new name of Dolven Larson Daniels. Selden continued to work as a consultant with this and other firms, as well as in a small independent practice until his death in 1997 at the age of 66 (NSJ Jan 25, 1976 20:1; RGJ Feb 26, 1997 5C:6).

With the exception of the bowling alleys, the later work of Selden and Stewart was strongly in the mode of International Modernism with a tendency toward Formalism. It is something of a curiosity that the Mercury Bowling Alley did not simply follow this pattern to better fit in with the surrounding buildings. This approach was taken, for example, in the purely utilitarian design of the wartime bowling alley at the Hawthorne Naval Ammunition Depot. Instead, the lead of the Starlite Bowl was taken to create a Googie design which had maximum divergence from the rest of the architecture at Mercury. Most of the Mercury buildings were very obviously designed by engineers for engineers, typically Holmes & Narver, Inc. or Reynolds Electrical and Engineering Company (REECo).

From a distance, the Mercury Bowling Alley actually has a strikingly neoclassical Formalist mass (rectangular plan with regularly-spaced pilasters and low pointed arches in each bay formed by the underside of the roof and large overhangs) converted miraculously into Googie. This was accomplished by crumpling the flat roof into an accordion, extending a hood over the front porch (which nicely extends into the interior over the entry vestibule), and, of course, by liberal application of turquoise paint in a town where every other building was either white or galvanized during the Cold War. Similarly, the Starlite Bowl is basically a box converted to Googie by the decorative triangular art

CONTINUED

13. ELIGIBILITY JUSTIFICATION (continued)

gizmos protruding from the roof, an arched entry, and again by a pretty spectacular color scheme. These designs indicate that Seldon and Stewart Architects really was not cut out for going all the way in Googie – their craziness was limited to decoration and never extended to the basic massing of their designs. In short, their application of Googie details was conservative.

A fairly extensive discussion of the structural system of the Bowling Alley was included above to support the argument that the Bowling Alley, despite its small scale, is quite a remarkable design from a structural point of view. The roof-framing system creates a distinctive exterior look that continues in a remarkably unified manner to many other building details. From the exterior, it creates the distinctive rhythm of the series of bays separated by pilasters, which echo the underlying structural system. Since the roof requires no interior supports, much of the distinctively folded lower surface could be used and enhanced in various ways in the interior to work appropriately with the different functions of various parts of the building. The bents were often enhanced with dropped webs for the same reason. Particularly striking is the way the ceiling is dropped in the concourse area to separate the bowling lanes from the snack bar and service area. Since the walls are not load bearing, this also enabled deletion of the CMU in two bays to provide the striking window treatment at the entrance as well.

Criterion D

The entire APE has been heavily bladed so there is no possibility of intact archaeological remains on it. It does not appear that any research questions related specifically to the architecture could reasonably be developed for this resource.

Integrity

The Bowling Alley retains integrity of location and setting on its original lot in Mercury. The town still retains a sense of feeling and association with the Cold War period of significance. Regarding the exterior of the building, design, materials, and workmanship all are retained. Color changes could easily be reversed. Additions are minor and well within the period of significance. The only external damage is water damage to a valley and soffit near the northwest corner of the roof.

Splitting the lanes in half and remodeling the west half as a Recreation Room occurred within the period of significance and does not detract from the significance of the building. The principal problem with the interior is the extensive water damage which has badly degraded the materials and workmanship in the service areas in the southwest corner of the building, the Recreation Room, and in the roof over the remaining bowling lanes as noted earlier. The integrity of the interior has also been compromised by removal of hanging incandescent light fixtures visible in historic photos included above, and by removal of many of the kitchen and bar appliances.

It is recommended that the Bowling Alley is eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C at the local level of significance for the period 1963 through 1992.

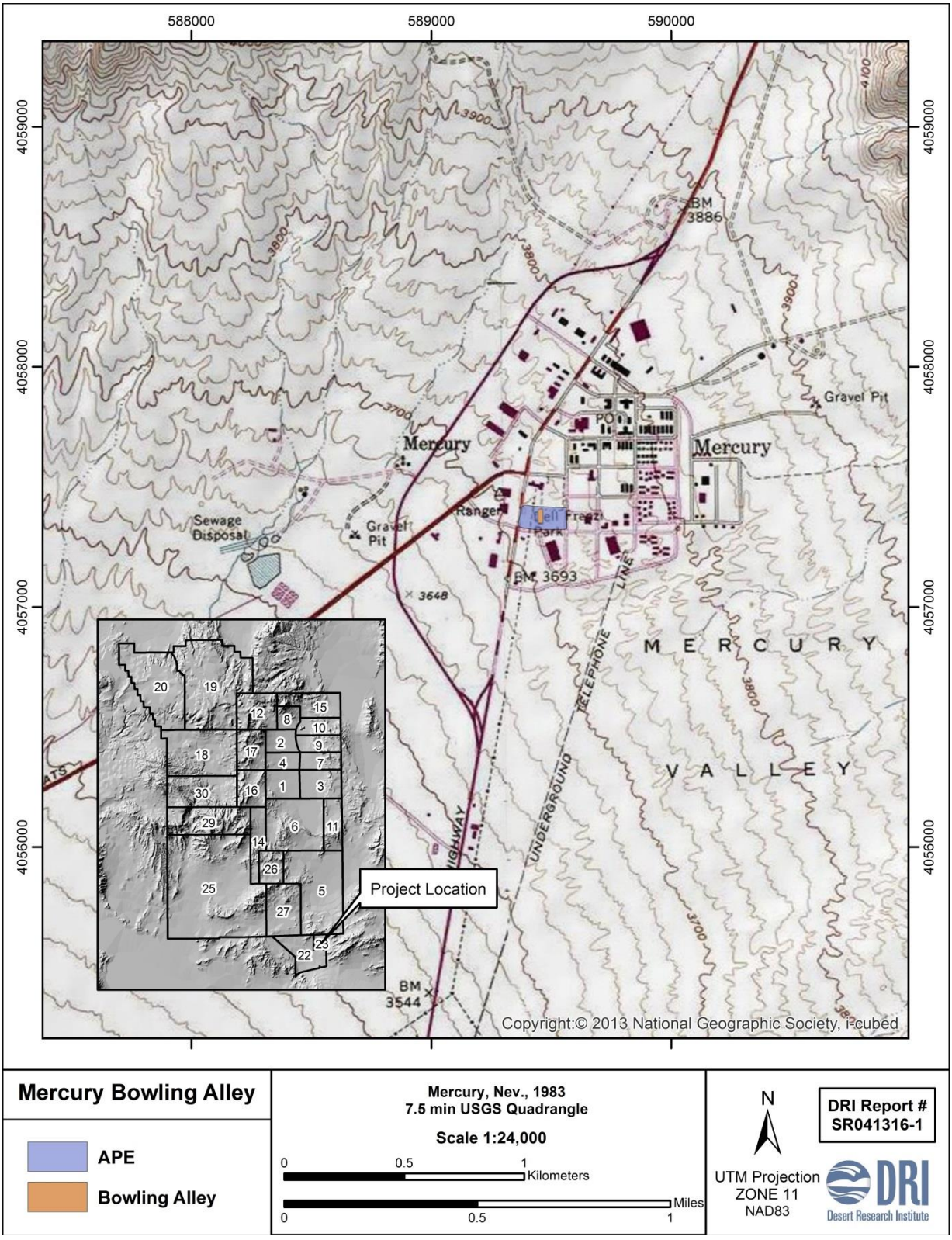
REFERENCES

Engineering drawings are cited in text by the firm responsible for creating the drawing, the, NNSS drawing number, and the earliest year found on the drawing. All drawings are on file at the NNSS in Mercury either in digital format or as aperture cards.

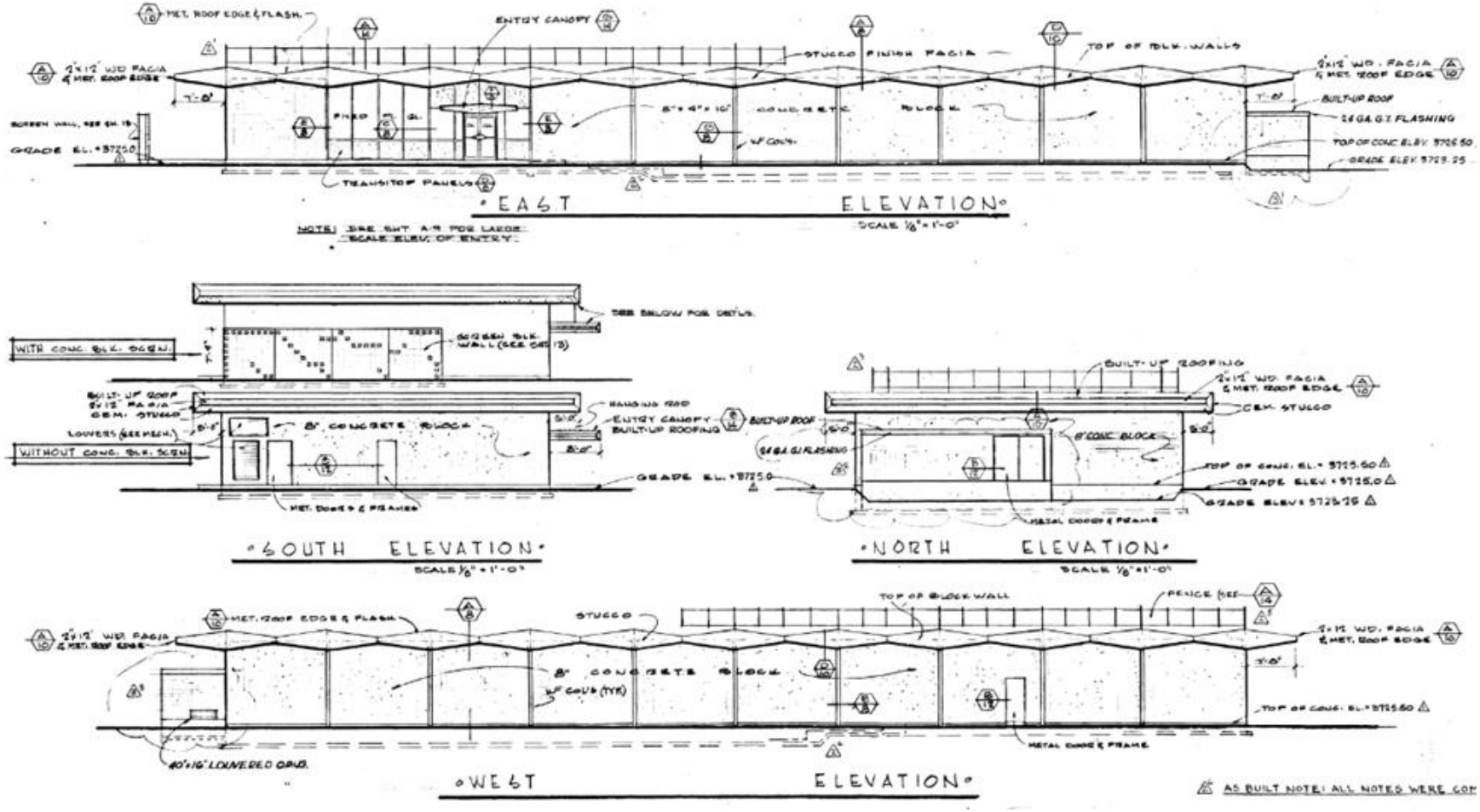
Newspapers consulted included the Reno Evening Gazette (REG), Reno Gazette-Journal (RGJ) and the Nevada State Journal (NSJ).

Ristvet, Byron
2016 Interview regarding the NTS Bowling Alley, May 26, 2016, Desert Research Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada.

14. LOCATION MAP & PLANS



14. LOCATION MAP & PLANS



Original drawings of elevations for the Bowling Alley (Selden and Stewart Drawing 34423, 1963).

14. LOCATION MAP & PLANS

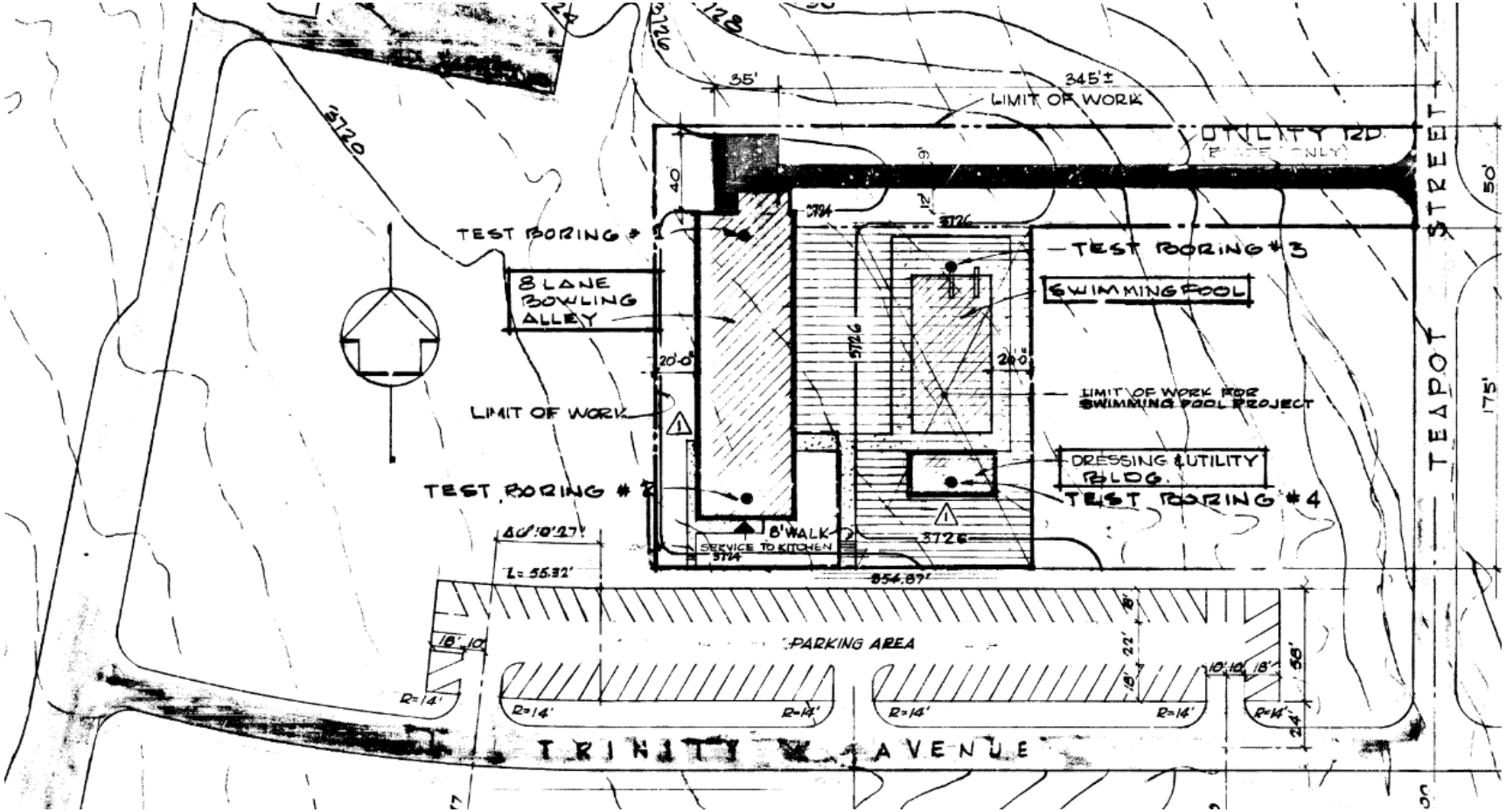
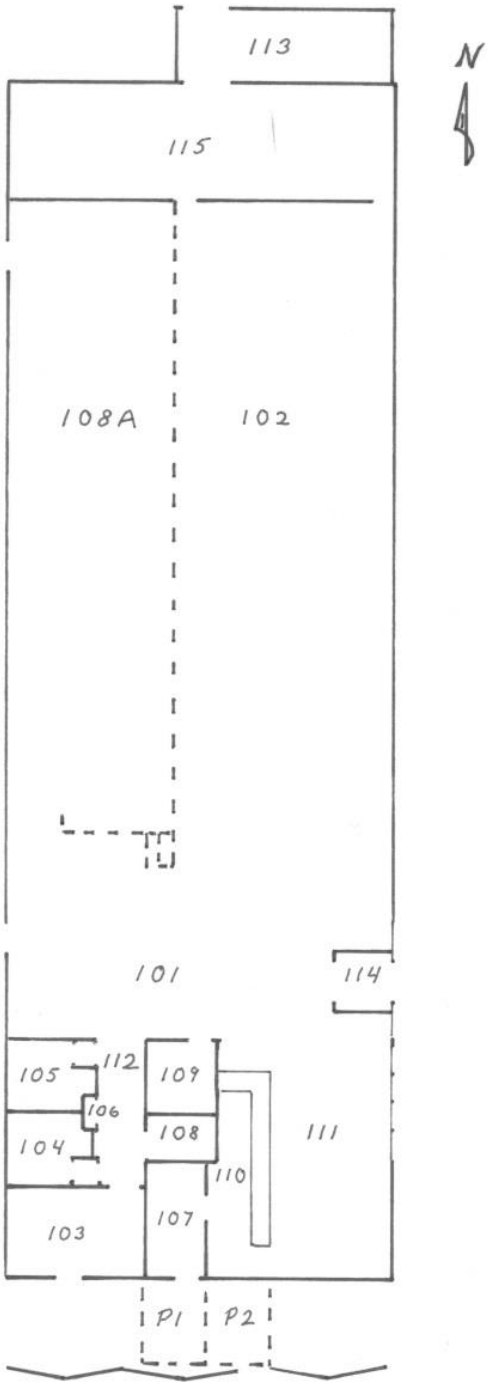


Figure 8. Construction drawing of the Bowling Alley, Swimming Pool, and Pool House (Selden and Stewart Drawing 34412, 1963). The Mercury Highway is at left.

14. LOCATION MAP & PLANS



101 Concourse
102 Bowling Lanes
103 Mechanical
104 Men's Restroom
105 Women's Restroom
106 Custodial
107 Kitchen
108 Storage
108A Recreation (1980 alteration)
109 Office
110 Bar
111 Service Area
112 Circulation
113 Storage (1964 addition)
114 Entry Vestibule
115 Pinsetters and Shop
P1 Refrigerator Screen Porch
P2 Refrigerator Screen Porch (1983 addition)

Bowling Alley plan. Room numbers reflect a composite of information derived from room identification tags and various construction drawings since all rooms do not have tags and no individual drawing has a complete set of room identity numbers.

15. PHOTOGRAPHS

Façade: Front Facing: W Photographer: C. Beck Date: 5/4/2016

Façade: Rear corner Facing: SE Photographer: C. Beck Date: 5/4/2016

15. PHOTOGRAPHS continued

Interior water damage. Top left: Circulation Corridor (112). Top right: laminated bowling lane pushing through the Recreation Room (108A) floor. Bottom: ceiling above Bowling Lanes (102) (DRI 2016).

1. ***SHPO Resource Number: B14451***
Other ID Number: 23-517

NEVADA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT **(ARA)**
ACCESSORY RESOURCES FORM

IF INVENTORY INVOLVES ACCESSORY RESOURCES, PLEASE INCLUDE THIS FORM WITH THE CORRESPONDING ARA FORM.

2. District Summary

OF **CONTRIBUTING** RESOURCES: N/A
NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES: N/A
TOTAL # OF RESOURCES: N/A

3. Photo

4. Resource

NAME: AR1	
RESOURCE TYPE: Garbage Enclosure	
DESCRIBE SUBORDINATE NATURE OF RESOURCE: Pre-fabricated 8 x 8 ft metal building with shed roof, flush door, and louver vents in walls. Only concrete slab foundation with curb and access ramp remain (REECo Drawing 206088, 1989). Demolished prior to 2005 based on Google Earth image.	
CONSTRUCTION DATE:	1989
CONTRIBUTING	YES: NO: X
INTEGRITY:	
ORIGINAL INTACT ALTERED X MOVED	
IF MOVED, LIST DATES AND DESCRIPTION ABOVE:	
CONDITION:	
EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR POOR X	
OTHER DESCRIBE:	

5. Photo

6. Resource

NAME:	
RESOURCE TYPE:	
DESCRIBE SUBORDINATE NATURE OF RESOURCE:	
CONSTRUCTION DATE:	
CONTRIBUTING	YES: NO:
INTEGRITY:	
ORIGINAL INTACT ALTERED MOVED	
IF MOVED, LIST DATES AND DESCRIPTION ABOVE:	
CONDITION:	
EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR POOR	
OTHER DESCRIBE:	

7. RECORDED BY: R. Reno

AGENCY REPORT NUMBER: DRI SR041316-1

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ADDENDUM I

Large Format Black and White Photography

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BUILDING SURVEY

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

MERCURY BOWLING ALLEY DRI REPORT NO. SR041316-1
Nevada State Historic Preservation Office Resource Number B14451
Mercury Historic District (D230)
Mercury
Located within the Nevada National Security Site, Area 23
Nye County
Nevada

INDEX TO BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Steven Carragher (Remote Sensing Laboratory), Photographer, December 2017

1 GENERAL VIEW OF FRONT FACADE FACING THE WEST (EAST ELEVATION)

2 GENERAL VIEW OF REAR FACADE FACING THE EAST (WEST ELEVATION)

3 PERSPECTIVE OF EAST AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS FACING THE NORTHWEST

4 PERSPECTIVE OF WEST AND NORTH ELEVATIONS FACING THE SOUTHEAST

5 PERSPECTIVE OF WEST AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS FACING THE NORTHEAST WITH DOORS, VENTS, LADDERS, AND UTILITY CONNECTIONS

6 CLOSER VIEW OF FRONT ENTRANCE ON EAST ELEVATION FACING THE WEST

7 CLOSER VIEW OF ENTRANCE AREA ON EAST ELEVATION FACING THE NORTHWEST

8 CLOSER VIEW OF TRIANGULAR WINDOW NEXT TO ENTRANCE ON EAST ELEVATION FACING THE WEST

9 CLOSER VIEW OF 1964 STORAGE ADDITION ON NORTH ELEVATION FACING THE SOUTH

10 INTERIOR, VIEW OF CONCOURSE AND ENTRY VESTIBULE FACING THE EAST

11 INTERIOR, FULL BAR FACING THE NORTHWEST

12 INTERIOR, TRIANGULAR WINDOW FACING THE EAST

13 INTERIOR, FULL BAR FACING THE SOUTHWEST

14 INTERIOR, ACCORDIAN OVERHANG OVER BAR FACING THE WEST

15 INTERIOR, KITCHEN FACING THE SOUTH-SOUTHWEST

16 INTERIOR, RECREATION ROOM FACING THE NORTH

17 INTERIOR, VIEW OF BOWLING ALLEY SCORING TABLES AND LANES FACING THE NORTHEAST

18 INTERIOR, GENERAL VIEW OF BOWLING ALLEY SCORING TABLES AND SEATING FACING THE NORTHWEST

19 INTERIOR, BOWLING LANES FACING THE NORTH

20 INTERIOR, CLOSER VIEW OF PIT AREA FACING THE NORTHEAST

Large Format Black and White Photography Plan Map

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MERCURY BOWLING ALLEY
Nevada State Historic Preservation
Office Resource Number B14451
Mercury Historic District (D230)
Mercury
Nevada National Security Site, Area 23
Nye County
Nevada

PHOTO NO. 1 GENERAL VIEW OF FRONT FAÇADE FACING THE WEST (EAST ELEVATION)

PHOTO NO. 2 GENERAL VIEW OF REAR FAÇADE FACING THE EAST (WEST ELEVATION)

PHOTO NO. 3 PERSPECTIVE OF EAST AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS FACING THE NORTHWEST

MERCURY BOWLING ALLEY
Nevada State Historic Preservation
Office Resource Number B14451
Mercury Historic District (D230)
Mercury
Nevada National Security Site, Area 23
Nye County
Nevada

PHOTO NO. 4 PERSPECTIVE OF WEST AND NORTH ELEVATIONS FACING THE SOUTHEAST

MERCURY BOWLING ALLEY
Nevada State Historic Preservation
Office Resource Number B14451
Mercury Historic District (D230)
Mercury
Nevada National Security Site, Area 23
Nye County
Nevada

PHOTO NO. 5 PERSPECTIVE OF WEST AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS FACING THE NORTHEAST WITH DOORS, VENTS, LADDERS, AND UTILITY CONNECTIONS

MERCURY BOWLING ALLEY
Nevada State Historic Preservation
Office Resource Number B14451
Mercury Historic District (D230)
Mercury
Nevada National Security Site, Area 23
Nye County
Nevada

PHOTO NO. 6 CLOSER VIEW OF FRONT ENTRANCE ON EAST ELEVATION FACING THE WEST

MERCURY BOWLING ALLEY
Nevada State Historic Preservation
Office Resource Number B14451
Mercury Historic District (D230)
Mercury
Nevada National Security Site, Area 23
Nye County
Nevada

PHOTO NO. 7 CLOSER VIEW OF ENTRANCE AREA ON EAST ELEVATION FACING THE NORTHWEST

MERCURY BOWLING ALLEY
Nevada State Historic Preservation
Office Resource Number B14451
Mercury Historic District (D230)
Mercury
Nevada National Security Site, Area 23
Nye County
Nevada

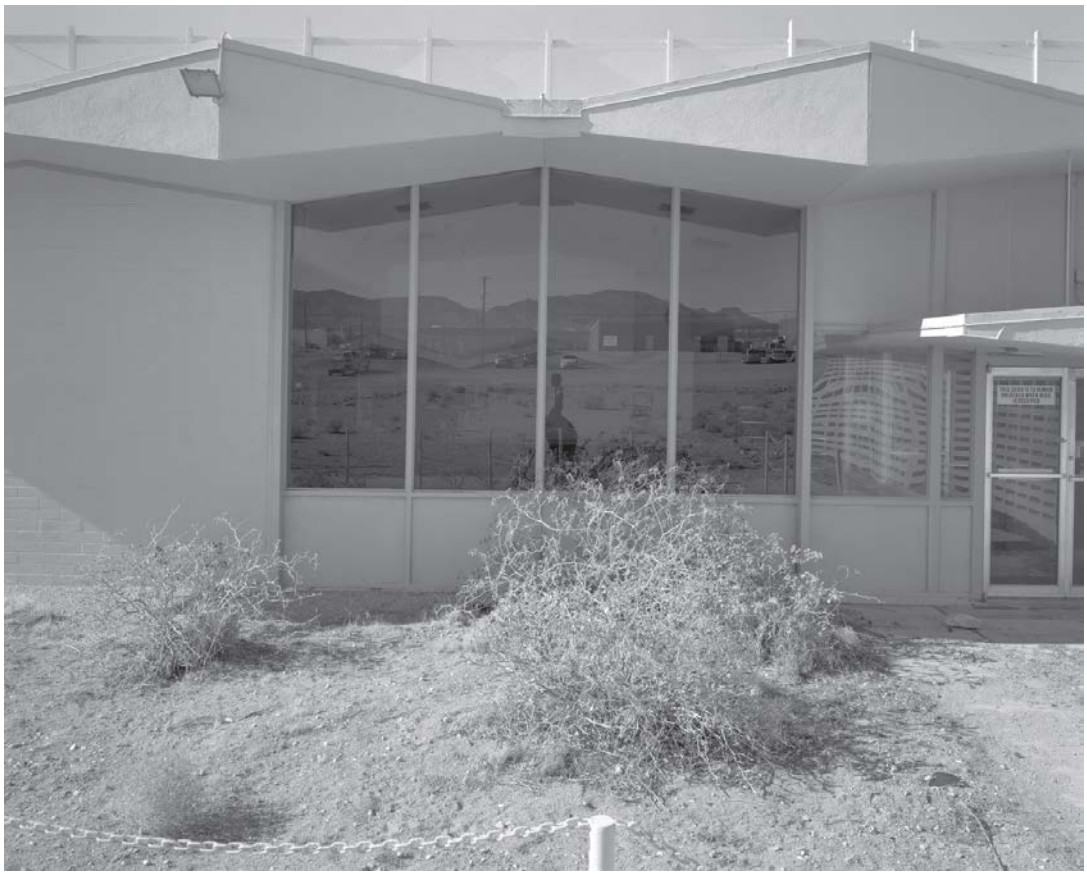

PHOTO NO. 8 CLOSER VIEW OF TRIANGULAR WINDOW NEXT TO ENTRANCE ON EAST ELEVATION FACING THE WEST

PHOTO NO. 9 CLOSER VIEW OF 1964 STORAGE ADDITION ON NORTH ELEVATION FACING THE SOUTH

PHOTO NO. 10 INTERIOR, VIEW OF CONCOURSE AND ENTRY VESTIBULE FACING THE EAST

MERCURY BOWLING ALLEY
Nevada State Historic Preservation
Office Resource Number B14451
Mercury Historic District (D230)
Mercury
Nevada National Security Site, Area 23
Nye County
Nevada

PHOTO NO. 11 INTERIOR, FULL BAR FACING THE NORTHWEST

PHOTO NO. 12 INTERIOR, TRIANGULAR WINDOW FACING THE EAST

PHOTO NO. 13 INTERIOR, FULL BAR FACING THE SOUTHWEST

MERCURY BOWLING ALLEY
Nevada State Historic Preservation
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Mercury Historic District (D230)
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Nevada National Security Site, Area 23
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PHOTO NO. 14 INTERIOR, ACCORDIAN OVERHANG OVER BAR FACING THE WEST

PHOTO NO. 15 INTERIOR, KITCHEN FACING THE SOUTH-SOUTHWEST

PHOTO NO. 16 INTERIOR, RECREATION ROOM FACING THE NORTH

MERCURY BOWLING ALLEY
Nevada State Historic Preservation
Office Resource Number B14451
Mercury Historic District (D230)
Mercury
Nevada National Security Site, Area 23
Nye County
Nevada

PHOTO NO. 17 INTERIOR, VIEW OF BOWLING ALLEY SCORING TABLES AND LANES FACING THE NORTHEAST

MERCURY BOWLING ALLEY
Nevada State Historic Preservation
Office Resource Number B14451
Mercury Historic District (D230)
Mercury
Nevada National Security Site, Area 23
Nye County
Nevada

PHOTO NO. 18 INTERIOR, GENERAL VIEW OF BOWLING ALLEY SCORING TABLES AND SEATING FACING THE NORTHWEST

MERCURY BOWLING ALLEY
Nevada State Historic Preservation
Office Resource Number B14451
Mercury Historic District (D230)
Mercury
Nevada National Security Site, Area 23
Nye County
Nevada

PHOTO NO. 19 INTERIOR, BOWLING LANES FACING THE NORTH

PHOTO NO. 20 INTERIOR, CLOSER VIEW OF PIT AREA FACING THE NORTHEAST

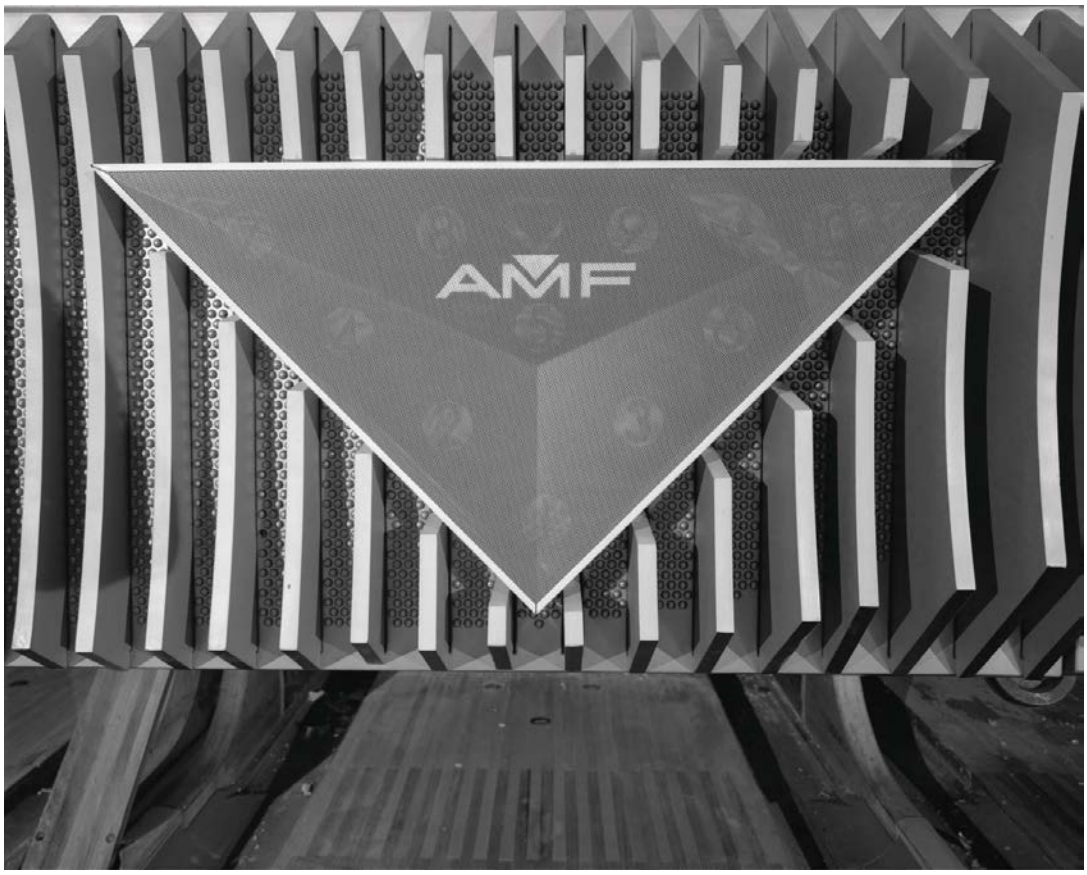

PHOTO NO. 21 INTERIOR, DETAIL OF MASKING UNIT FACING THE NORTH

PHOTO NO. 22 INTERIOR, MECHANICAL PINSETTERS FACING THE SOUTHEAST

MERCURY BOWLING ALLEY
Nevada State Historic Preservation
Office Resource Number B14451
Mercury Historic District (D230)
Mercury
Nevada National Security Site, Area 23
Nye County
Nevada

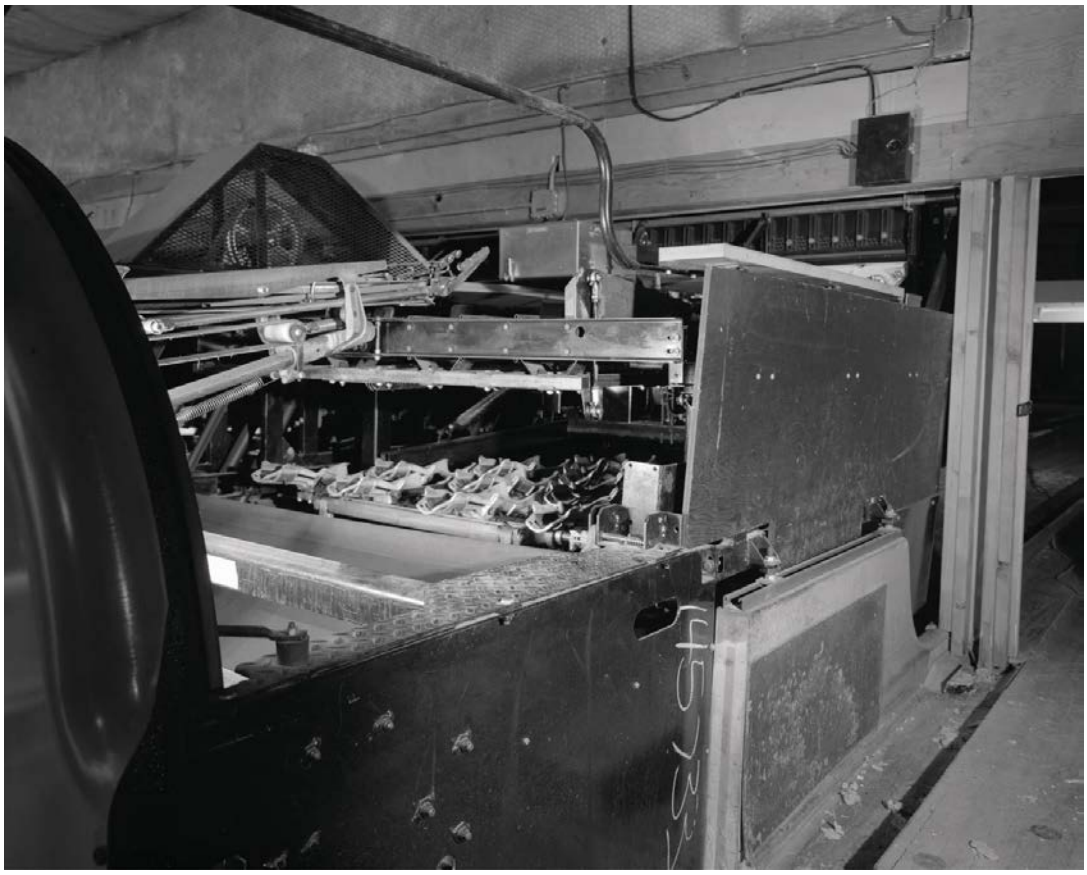

PHOTO NO. 23 INTERIOR, DETAIL OF PINSETTERS

PHOTO NO. 24 INTERIOR, FACILITIES HALLWAY FACING THE SOUTH

MERCURY BOWLING ALLEY
Nevada State Historic Preservation
Office Resource Number B14451
Mercury Historic District (D230)
Mercury
Nevada National Security Site, Area 23
Nye County
Nevada

PHOTO NO. 25 INTERIOR, VIEW OF OFFICE SPACE FACING THE SOUTHWEST

PHOTO NO. 26 GENERAL VIEW OF GARBAGE ENCLOSURE FOUNDATION, SOUTH ELEVATION IN BACKGROUND, FACING THE NORTH

MERCURY BOWLING ALLEY
Nevada State Historic Preservation
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Mercury Historic District (D230)
Mercury
Nevada National Security Site, Area 23
Nye County
Nevada

PHOTO NO. 27 GENERAL VIEW OF BOWLING ALLEY SETTING SHOWING SURROUNDING BUILDINGS IN BACKGROUND, FACING THE WEST

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ADDENDUM II

Digital Color Images

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BUILDING SURVEY

Mercury Bowling Alley, Mercury, Nye County, NV, Nevada National Security Site
Nevada State Historic Preservation Office Resource Number B14451
Digital Color Images, December 2017

INDEX TO DIGITAL COLOR IMAGES

Steven Carragher (Remote Sensing Laboratory), Photographer

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IMAGE NO. 4 CLOSER VIEW OF TRIANGULAR WINDOW NEXT TO ENTRANCE ON EAST ELEVATION FACING THE WEST

IMAGE NO. 5 PERSPECTIVE OF WEST AND NORTH ELEVATIONS FACING THE SOUTHEAST

IMAGE NO. 6 CLOSER VIEW OF ENTRANCE AREA ON EAST ELEVATION FACING THE NORTHWEST

IMAGE NO. 7 GENERAL VIEW OF GARBAGE ENCLOSURE FOUNDATION, SOUTH ELEVATION IN BACKGROUND, FACING THE NORTH

IMAGE NO. 8 PERSPECTIVE OF WEST AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS FACING THE NORTHEAST WITH DOORS, VENTS, LADDERS, AND UTILITY CONNECTIONS

IMAGE NO. 9 GENERAL VIEW OF REAR FAÇADE FACING THE EAST (WEST ELEVATION)

IMAGE NO. 10 PERSPECTIVE OF EAST AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS FACING THE NORTHWEST

IMAGE NO. 11 CLOSER VIEW OF 1964 STORAGE ADDITION ON NORTH ELEVATION FACING THE SOUTH

IMAGE NO. 12 INTERIOR, FULL BAR FACING THE WEST

IMAGE NO. 13 INTERIOR, ACCORDIAN OVERHANG OVER BAR FACING THE WEST

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IMAGE NO. 21 INTERIOR, RECREATION ROOM FACING THE NORTH

IMAGE NO. 22 INTERIOR, VIEW OF SCORING TABLES AND BOWLING LANES FACING THE NORTH

IMAGE NO. 23 INTERIOR, VIEW OF BOWLING ALLEY SCORING TABLES AND LANES FACING THE NORTHEAST

IMAGE NO. 24 INTERIOR, GENERAL VIEW OF BOWLING ALLEY SCORING TABLES AND SEATING FACING THE NORTHWEST

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IMAGE NO. 26 INTERIOR, CLOSER VIEW OF PIT AREA FACING THE NORTH

IMAGE NO. 27 INTERIOR, CLOSER VIEW OF PIT AREA DECORATIVE ELEMENTS SHOWING FULL RANGE OF GREEN (LEFT) TO BLUE (RIGHT) COLOR VARIATION

IMAGE NO. 28 INTERIOR, VIEW OF PIT AREA FACING THE NORTHWEST SHOWING GREEN SIDE OF DECORATIVE ELEMENTS

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IMAGE NO. 30 INTERIOR, DETAIL OF MASKING UNIT FACING THE NORTH

IMAGE NO. 31 INTERIOR, MECHANICAL PINSETTERS FACING THE SOUTHEAST

IMAGE NO. 32 INTERIOR, DETAIL OF PINSETTERS