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Documentation for Dell Frenzi Park, Mercury, Area 23,  
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**DOE/NV/0003590-22, SR082018-1**

Evaluation of Dell Frenzi Park, Mercury, Area 23, Nevada National Security Site, Nye County, Nevada

**DOE/NV/0003590-22-FOE, LR082018-1-FOE**

Cultural Resources Report on the Finding of Adverse Effect and Proposed Mitigation for the Demolition of Dell Frenzi Park in Mercury, Nevada National Security Site, Nye County, Nevada

**DOE/NV/0003590-22-MIT, LR082018-1-MIT**

Cultural Resources Report for the Submission of Mitigation Documentation Related to the Demolition of Dell Frenzi Park in Mercury, Nevada National Security Site, Nye County, Nevada

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**DESERT RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY  
REPORT SR082018-1  
PROJECT NO. 1811123**

**Evaluation of Dell Frenzi Park, Mercury, Area 23,  
Nevada National Security Site, Nye County, Nevada**



*Prepared by*

**Ron Reno, Cheryl Collins, and Maureen King**

September 2018

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Cover Photograph: Aerial photo of Dell Frenzi Park taken in 1965, facing southeast (REEC0).

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National Nuclear Security Administration  
Nevada Field Office, Las Vegas, Nevada**

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**September 2018**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office (NNSA/NFO) plans to remove the ball courts and grade the area known as Dell Frenzi Park in the town of Mercury at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) in Nye County, Nevada. This activity is in support of the Mercury Modernization project.

The park is within the Mercury Historic District (Nevada State Historic Preservation Office [SHPO] Resource No. D230) (Reno et al. 2018). This district was recommended eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP or National Register) under Criteria A and C, but was unevaluated under Criteria B and D at that time. The park (SHPO #C300) is managed as a contributing element of the historic district during its period of significance corresponding to nuclear testing during the Cold War from 1951 through 1992. During most of the Cold War, the facility now called the NNSS was named the Nevada Test Site.

This project is an undertaking subject to review under Title 54 U.S.C. § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Title 54 U.S.C. § 300101, et seq., and its implementing regulations, 36 C.F.R. Part 800.

Further evaluation of this property for the present report indicates that it continues to contribute to the Mercury Historic District as a whole, but lacks attributes that would result in its eligibility to the National Register as an individual entity under any of the Significance Criteria established by the Secretary of the Interior.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The historic context and much of the evaluation for this report was primarily completed by Ron Reno, PhD, RPA, who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for Architectural Historian, Historian, and Archaeologist, with contributions by Maureen King of the Desert Research Institute (DRI). The remainder of the report was produced by Cheryl Collins. Historical research and document preparation were also completed by Cheryl Collins, with assistance from Susanne Rowe and Megan Stueve, all of whom are archaeologists at DRI. Collins did GIS for the project and prepared the maps, and JD Lancaster (DRI) drafted additional sketch maps and assisted with document preparation. Natalie Luvera, curator at the National Atomic Testing Museum, assisted with research on Dell Frenzi. King is also responsible for project administration and quality control.

Carrie Stewart, National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Officer for the NNSA/NFO, served as the program manager overseeing this project. Jacob Huffines, Indirect Support, Facilities Program Manager with Mission Support and Test Services LLC, administered the project for the NNSA/NFO.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office (NNSA/NFO) proposes to remove the ball courts and grade the area known as Dell Frenzi Park in the town of Mercury at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) in Nye County, Nevada. The park is within the Mercury Historic District (Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Resource No. D230) (Reno et al. 2018).

This project is an undertaking subject to review under Title 54 U.S.C. § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Title 54 U.S.C. § 300101, et seq., and its implementing regulations, 36 C.F.R. Part 800.

The NNSA/NFO has consulted with the SHPO and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding the demolition of and modification to resources in Mercury as part of a modernization project, and has developed the Mercury Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the SHPO that specifies the approach that NNSA/NFO will take to meet its statutory obligations toward historic preservation within the district.

The district is located in Sections 10–12, 14, and 15, T15S R53E, Mount Diablo Benchmark (BM) (projected) in Area 23 of the NNSS. In 2010, the Nevada Test Site became the NNSS, and will be referred to as such throughout this report as appropriate.

## II. RESEARCH DESIGN

### Objectives

This architectural resources evaluation was undertaken to comply with requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, for the NNSA/NFO to manage historic resources under its jurisdiction. In particular, it complies with the *Programmatic Agreement between the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer regarding Modernization and Operational Maintenance of the Nevada National Security Site, at Mercury in Nye County, Nevada* (Mercury PA or PA).

### Project Description

The Desert Research Institute received a request for the disposition of the existing tennis and basketball courts in the Dell Frenzi Park area as part of the Mercury Modernization project. Additional information provided by the project administrator expanded the activity to include grading of the entire area of the park.

### Area of Potential Effect

The direct area of potential effects (hereafter simply referred to as the APE unless otherwise noted) for this undertaking is bounded on the north by Hardtack Avenue and on the east by Teapot Street. The southern extent of the APE is defined by a drainage ditch, and to the west is Building 23-111 and its parking lot. Per the Mercury PA, the APE for direct effects in the event of the demolition of a contributing element includes its footprint and at least a 25 ft buffer. The demolition activities will be limited around the park to less than 25 ft along most of the boundary for the reasons discussed here. On the north and east sides, disturbance will be confined to the lot containing the park. The project does not involve any modification to the adjacent streets. On the west side, the existing building and its surrounding fence will reduce the available area to operate machinery along the central portion of APE on that side. Along the remainder of the APE on the west, the 25 ft buffer is added. The drainage ditch on the south side will not be impacted by the current undertaking. The resulting APE is 3.17 acres (1.28 hectares). The outlines of the historic district along with the APE are shown on a topographic map in Figure 1 and on a satellite image in Figure 2. A recent high-resolution aerial image of the park showing the APE is in Figure 3. Recent photos of the APE are in Figures 4-6.

The park area includes three adjacent segments, which were recorded as Accessory Resources (AR) during the district inventory: the tennis and basketball courts (AR1), the picnic area (AR2), and an empty lot that previously contained a field used for both baseball and softball (AR3). It is located in Section 11, T15S, R53E, Mount Diablo BM.

As stated in the Mercury PA (II.B), the APE for indirect effects coincides with the boundary of the Mercury Historic District. This is the area where indirect physical, visual, atmospheric, and audible

effects on historic properties could diminish the integrity of historic properties for which setting, feeling, and/or association are aspects of integrity. The APE for indirect effects—the boundary of the Mercury Historic District—is also considered the APE for cumulative effects.

### **Element Category Identification**

The NNSA/NFO and DRI, in consultation with the SHPO, are in the process of developing categories of elements within the Mercury Historic District for Appendix C of the Mercury PA. In the absence of a category list, DRI initially classified the park as a Category I property until it was formally evaluated. The results of the evaluation are reported in this document. Upon completion of the evaluation, which determined the park was not individually eligible to the National Register, Dell Frenzi Park was classified as a Category II property for the purposes of mitigation according to the stipulations of the Mercury PA. That the park is the only representative of its category within the district precludes it from being classified as a Category III property, pending the development of the category list.

### **Methods**

Field methods, documentation research, and this report were designed to meet requirements in the Mercury PA (VI.A-B) for evaluating Category I elements. Additional research on the individual property beyond what was accomplished for the original architectural inventory was carried out primarily by reviewing engineering records maintained at the NNSA/NFO North Las Vegas Facility in order to identify potential sources having information about the park design. In the case of Dell Frenzi Park, no engineering drawings were found, nor did a search of records at the National Atomic Testing Museum or the Nuclear Testing Archive provide any additional information about the park. Available copies of the *NTS News* were also reviewed for material of interest. A selection of historic photographs and a sketch map indicating the locations within the park they represent are included in this report.

One of the purposes of the enhanced research, along with further consideration of resources in the context of SHPO consultations, was to complete the partial significance evaluations of these resources in regard to possible individual eligibility to the National Register and to eligibility under Criteria B and D. The revised significance discussion is at the conclusion of this report. In addition, the Architectural Resource Assessment (ARA) form for the park will be updated and submitted as part of a separate submission per the terms of the PA. High-resolution digital color photography of the park taken in 2017 and 2018 was carried out by DRI archaeologists and will also be submitted where appropriate.

Buildings and major structures are identified on the NNSS by numbers or letters with the Area 23 prefix. These numbers were used when discussing buildings in this report because they are tied to existing documentation extending back through the entire Cold War period.

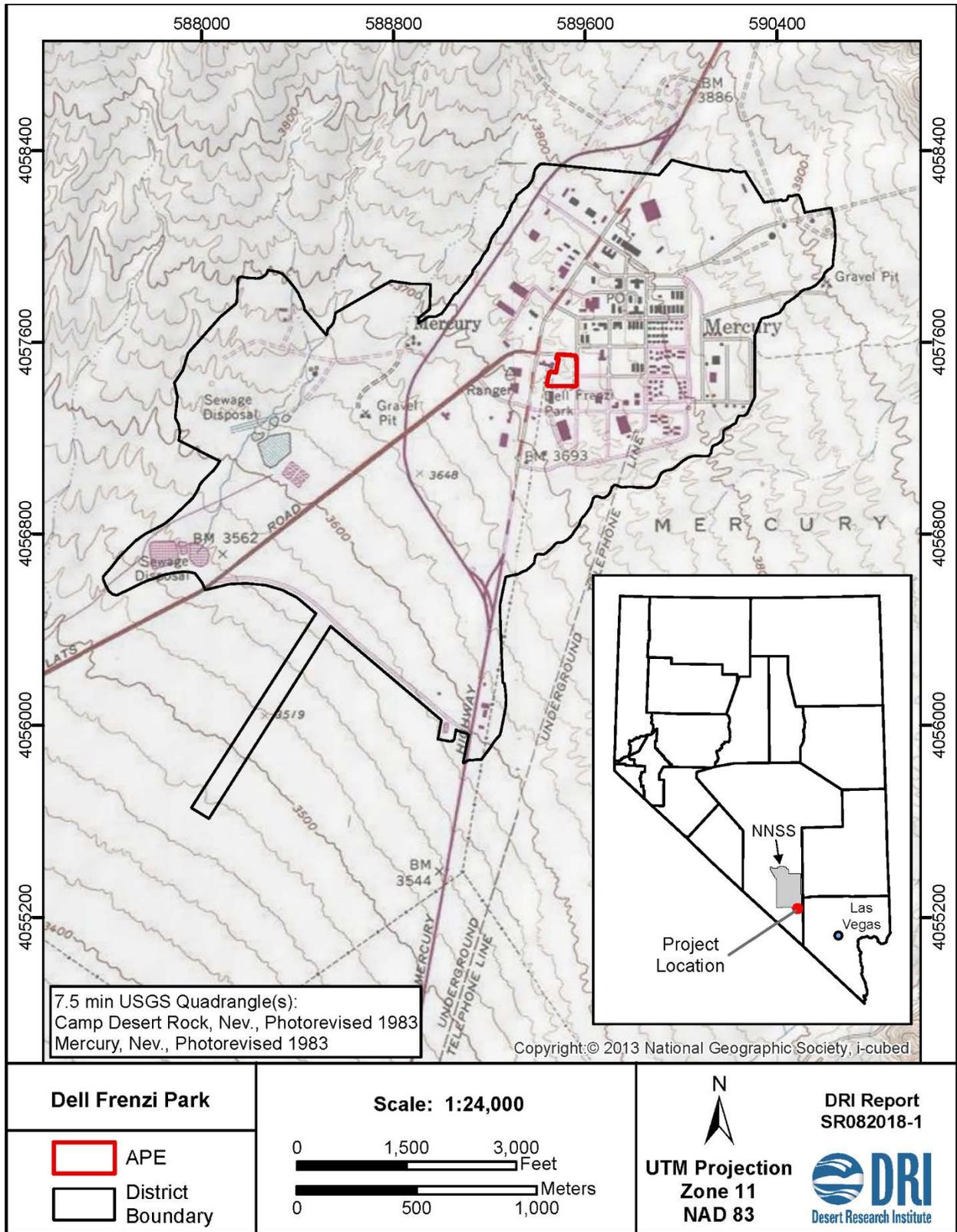


Figure 1. Map showing the location of the project within the Mercury Historic District and the NNSS.

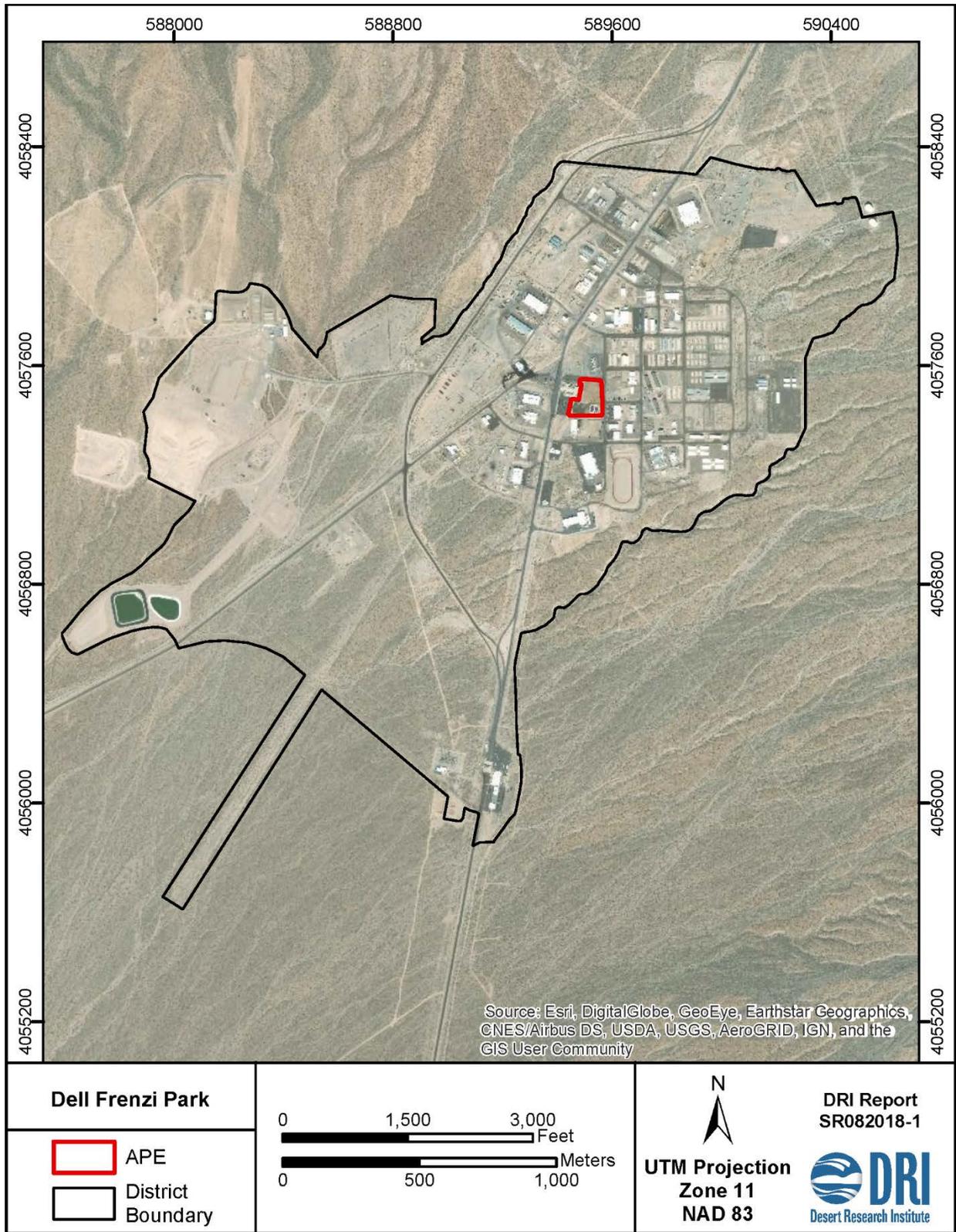


Figure 2. Satellite view of the Mercury Historic District showing the APE for the present project.



Figure 3. High-resolution aerial image of Dell Frenzi Park taken in 2016. The structure labeled 23-23 is a mobile trailer installed after 1992, the end of the Period of Significance for the district. The APE is shown in red in this and following map figures. Source: NSTec Product ID: 20170223-02-P002-R01, 2017.



Figure 4. View of the picnic area in the APE, facing east-northeast, with the courts in the background in the right half of the photo (DRI 2018).



Figure 5. The APE, facing south, with the former ball field in the foreground (DRI 2017).



Figure 6. View of the tennis and basketball courts in the APE, facing northwest (DRI 2018).

### 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 center of Mercury is at an elevation of approximately 3,700 ft. Red Mountain towers over Mercury to the north, and the valley is bounded by the Specter Range to the southwest. The Spring Mountains lie to the south. To the northeast is the Mercury Ridge, which shields Mercury from Frenchman Flat, where atmospheric nuclear testing occurred. The APE is located in the completely developed center of Mercury.

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

This historic context specifically addresses the area within and surrounding the APE for this specific undertaking within the Mercury Historic District. The district's relationship to larger national patterns of historic events known as the Cold War and nuclear testing are detailed in Reno et al. (2018) and will not be repeated here.

The continental nuclear test site has gone through a number of name changes from South Site, Alternate Test Site B, Site Mercury, and Nevada Test Site (NTS) in 1950-51 to Nevada Proving Grounds in 1952 and back to NTS in January 1955, which remained its name for the remainder of the Cold War. The facility is presently managed as the NNSS.

Mercury, located 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada, is toward the southern end of the NNSS. The town has always served as the principal entrance to the NNSS. Since 1951, it has provided a wide range of support for nuclear testing activities, including an extensive administrative role. Like many 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 site. Architecturally, there are elements similar to other small towns in the United States: administration buildings, infrastructure (airstrip, roads, power, communications, water, and sewer), residential buildings, community support (post office, church, healthcare, and 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 nuclear testing program from 1951 to 1992. Several other communities scattered around the United States provided support for the development and production of weapons, but Mercury supports the only location in the continental United States where a long series of nuclear explosive tests were undertaken. Over this time span, the town expanded and diversified to accommodate a growing workforce and a year-round testing schedule. Although most of the buildings in Mercury were not integral to nuclear testing mission requirements, support facilities such as those that are the subject of this report were critical to operations and the well-being of the workforce.

### *Camp Mercury: The Early Years (1951-1962)*

The beginnings and growth of nuclear testing at the NNSS in relation to Mercury is described in Reno et al. (2018). In summary, Nevada was selected as the location for a continental nuclear testing site, and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) began bringing in personnel to conduct tests in January 1951. Initially workers lived offsite, but after the first series of tests, it was decided a camp needed to be built closer to the testing areas.

Mercury's initial design followed a classic Roman military outpost or *castrum*. The design's usual gridiron street pattern aligned arbitrarily on the cardinal points of the compass was not suited to the local topography, which warranted a northwest to southeast orientation. This resulted in the construction of an array of cut-and-fill terraces that were either at ground level or somewhat sunken below grade at the northeast corners, as well as built-up berms, sometimes quite tall, at the southwest corners.

Initially, the camp, named Base Camp Mercury, was planned to provide minimum facilities for two or three test series a year, with a six-week time frame for each test. The camp initially included barracks, a mess hall, and administrative buildings. It was designed to accommodate 412 persons at peak periods of use for only 18 weeks a year. By late 1951, these expectations were already obsolete because the camp overflowed with 1,100 residents (Fehner and Gosling 2000:81). As more tests were scheduled, it quickly became apparent that 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 2013). The AEC expanded the base camp, adding more barracks, a second mess hall, a recreational facility, a warehouse, offices, and laboratory space (Fehner and Gosling 2000). Design of Mercury was shared between Holmes and Narver (H&N) and Silas Mason Company.

Over the decade, testing-related activities steadily increased and testing occurred on a year-round basis. Mercury grew to keep pace with a larger population, but there was no master plan and most structures were temporary constructions.

By the end of the 1950s, Mercury had expanded well to the west of the Mercury Highway. Extensive storage yards were packed with materials needed to conduct testing in the forward areas, and the parking lots were jammed with cars. Mercury had also acquired major outdoor recreational facilities by that time, including Dell Frenzi Park, constructed in 1957–58.

Arthur Benedict Associates (ABA) of Los Angeles, California, analyzed the functional layout of Mercury at the end of this period (Figure 7). Housing was concentrated in the southeast end of Mercury. Administrative buildings were scattered all around despite some concentration on Ranger Avenue. Fabrication and repair shops were concentrated on the northwest end of Warehouse Road. The motor pool and its support buildings were in the northeast end of town. The Department of Defense compound at the southeast corner of Mercury was also mainly motor pool support. Warehousing, including large outside storage areas, was in the north end of town on both sides of the Mercury Highway.

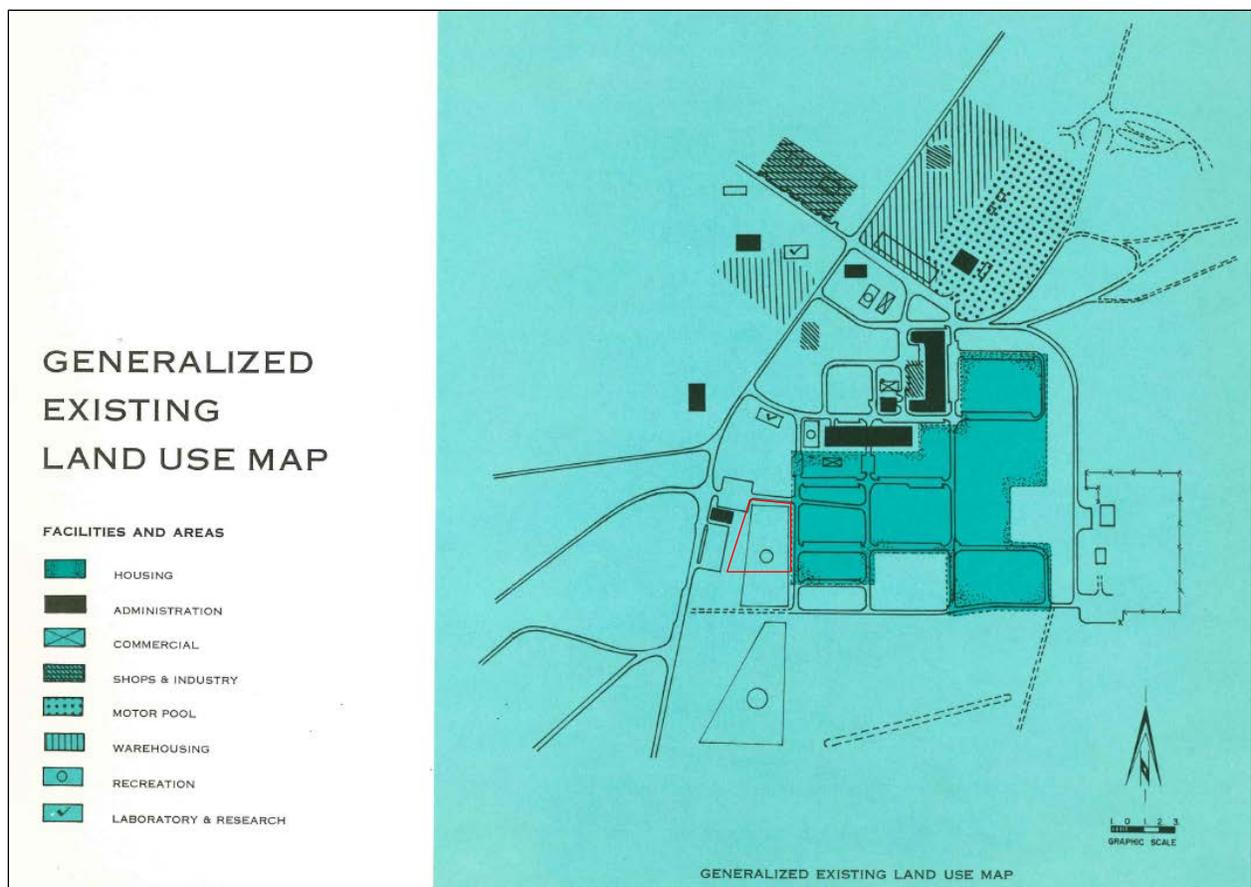


Figure 7. Land use map as of 1962 (ABA) showing the general location of the APE in red.

Recreational facilities were somewhat scattered, but Dell Frenzi Park was in the southwest quadrant of Mercury. Laboratory and research facilities were minimal at that time and spatially dispersed. Initially, the Mercury Highway was on the western edge of Mercury, but by the end of the 1960s, the base had expanded to the point that all traffic to the forward areas on the Mercury Highway had to pass directly through the developed part of Mercury.

***Mercury Becomes a Permanent Base (1963–1977)***

With the signing of the Limited Test Ban Treaty in August 1963, atmospheric testing ended. The last atmospheric test at what is now the NNSS took place in 1962. Although atmospheric testing ended, underground testing activities at the site 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 (Fehner and Gosling 2000:83; NNSA/NFO 2013). 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 2013). By June 1962, the AEC requested ABA 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 (the cafeteria and food handling areas, administrative buildings, laboratories, maintenance shops, warehouses, communications, and the Civil Effects Test Organization building), resident-oriented facilities (the dormitories, recreation hall, swimming pool, bowling alley, chapel, and health, medical, and safety building), circulation (the Camp Desert Rock airstrip, Highway 95 improvements, the Mercury Bypass, and primary and secondary streets), and utilities (a new power transmission line and sewage treatment plant). The Master Plan also advocated elimination of the uniformly drab green paint and replacement with variegated colors. In contrast with so many master planning efforts, this one was largely executed even in its smaller details. Therefore, the early 1960s represented a major 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 shown as it appeared at the height of this period in 1968 in an aerial photo in Figure 8 and on a map in Figure 9. Most of the major new buildings were in existence at this time. It can be seen that several of the larger buildings broke from the original town alignment and were oriented on contour instead. The bypass has been constructed and the area between the Mercury Highway and the bypass has been filled. Shops, the motor pool, and major laboratory buildings were shifted to the southwest end of Mercury and the new Main Gate facility was constructed south of town.

Architecturally, this is the period when various types of Mid-century Modern architecture entirely changed the character of Mercury. The new buildings were designed by a number of architectural firms from around the West, including several firms of national prominence. The use of a variety of firms is reflected by the corresponding variety of the buildings. It does not have the regimented similarity of research campuses designed by a single firm.

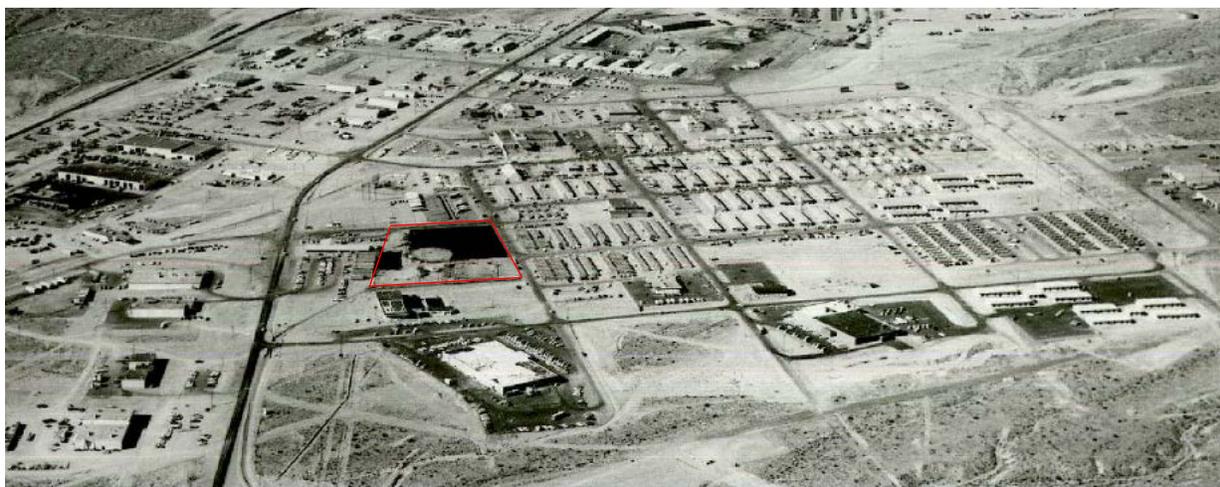


Figure 8. Mercury in 1968, facing north (Nuclear Testing Archive, Accession No. NV0174481).



Figure 9. Mercury in 1968 according to a modified directory map (AEC 1969).

### *Redevelopment in the Final Cold War Years (1978–1992)*

The Master Plan envisioned Mercury transitioning to a permanent suburban community tied to Las Vegas, which would have a large permanent residential area supporting family housing as well as more transient types of housing. An increase of the kinds of amenities that would make such long-term occupation livable was also envisioned. This vision would ultimately have created a community rather similar to that of Los Alamos, New Mexico. This kind of community development never took place, although living arrangements built in this period did allow for much greater privacy and personal space in dormitory arrangements.

Continued underground testing in the 1980s, along with the major activities such as the MX missile development and the Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage Investigations at Yucca Mountain created a need for increased infrastructure that created the last major building boom in Mercury. Mercury at the conclusion of the Cold War is depicted in Figure 10. Architecturally, this period is easy to spot on the landscape of Mercury because it is exemplified by the construction of new and distinctive buildings, including the construction of buildings with two stories for the first time. Gray or earth-tone split face concrete masonry became a common exterior design element. This architectural phase is so distinctive that it is convenient to regard it as a Late Modern development of the Modernist movement.

By the end of the Cold War the APE had changed considerably. All of the buildings along Ranger Avenue remained intact, but as shown on Figure 10, most of the 1950s dorms were removed. The concrete foundation slabs for 10 dorms north of Sandstone Avenue were re-used for recreational vehicle (RV) parking in which site workers provided their own housing in travel trailers. Over half of the old dorms south of Sandstone Avenue were removed for construction of the new 23-531–536 dormitory complex and attendant parking areas.

### *Mercury Since 1992*

With the cessation of nuclear testing and a pause in the controversial Nevada Nuclear Waste Storage Investigations at Yucca Mountain, Mercury's vital role as a base rapidly dwindled. This resulted in a great reduction of personnel and downsizing. Most service facilities were shut down, much of the resident population was security forces, and the structural footprint was reduced.

Much of the testing infrastructure was maintained in a mothballed state by a skeleton crew of site workers because of Presidential Decision Directive 15 (1993), which mandated that the site be prepared to resume nuclear testing within 24-36 months (Hopkins 2016:9). Subcritical nuclear experiments continued in addition to experiments with large amounts of conventional explosives.

During the mid-1990s, an attempt was made to rebrand the site. A new sign over the front guard gate was changed for a time to “Nevada Test Site/An Environmental Research Park” (Center for Land Use Interpretation 1996:12). A number of environmental research projects were initiated, but they had nowhere near the scope and funding of Cold War environmental projects coordinated through the Civil Effects Test Organization. Mercury still retained the aspect of a ghost town.



maintenance, so they decayed at varying rates depending on their construction and the occurrence of accidents, such as roof or plumbing leaks. Many buildings and structures were removed during this period while vehicles, furnishings, and any number of other objects were sold or surplused, a process that has continued to the present. In the APE, the grass in the outfield was no longer being maintained by 2006 according to Google Earth imagery. The courts were covered with a plastic snap-together paneling sometime between 2011 and 2013.

The current Mercury Modernization project is an indication of a renewed interest in support of current and future missions at the NNS. The goal is to consolidate facilities into a smaller footprint, reduce energy expenses, and provide a modern and sustainable infrastructure (NNSA 2017).

### ***Recreation at Mercury***

In the 1950s, there was no development of any kind south of Trinity Avenue. Dell Frenzi Park was in its present location by the end of the decade. Vacant lots were set aside for separate women's and men's recreation areas. A U-plan building (23-113, southwest corner of Tumbler and Snapper) that is slightly larger than the typical dormitories of the time served as a recreation hall, and the theater in the Quonset hut was popular (23-125, southeast corner of Ranger and Teapot).

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

The bowling alley and the swimming pool and associated changing room built on the north side of Trinity Avenue were all constructed under 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. The eight lane bowling alley and full-service snack bar opened on February 1, 1964 (NNSA/NFO 2013).

A 1965 overview (Figure 11) 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. The only formal outdoor recreational areas continued to be at Dell Frenzi Park.

Judy Golwyn interviewed a young secretary who lived on site at this time:

It's not a bad life. We have picnics out in the desert, ballgames in our very well-kept sports field, new movies every night at the theatre. Besides, the men out here outnumber us girls about ten to one, and we don't object to that. (*NTS News* March 12, 1965:6)



Figure 11. Overview of the core area of recreational facilities in Mercury in 1965, facing south. The ball field is in the foreground. Behind it are the enclosed ball courts with the small incipient park to its right containing a long white trailer. The grassy area to the right of the baseball diamond was used for recreational activities until the building on the right edge of the photo (23-111) was expanded to the east. Sometime after that, the area behind the trailer was seeded with grass, a small grill was installed, and a driveway up to the new park and parking spaces were paved. Just south of the trailer are the pool and bowling alley. At upper left, east of Building 23-600, is the relatively undeveloped block where the fitness track would later be built. The large cleared area at the edge of town just south of Building 23-600 is the golf driving range. Mercury Highway continues to the south where it intersects with U.S. Route 95 (REECO).

Test Director Ron Cosimi recalls:

I think all who spent time at the site will remember the raucous poker games in the dorms, the wild softball games, the exploring of the nearby canyons and mountains, the beer drinking at the bowling alley, and the long nights at the Mercury Steak House, and the innumerable pranks. (*National Security Science* Dec 2016:7)

An article in the *NTS News* described the atmosphere at a girls' ball game at the park:

When the NTS Teddy Bears (girls' softball team) play, every seat in the stands is taken and people are grouped all around the field. It's a wildly partisan crowd – every play made draws cheers and comments. The girls who come out from town to play

the Teddy Bears enjoy the good-natured enthusiasm for the home team, and find that their good plays are cheered, too. (*NTS News* August 18, 1965:8)

By 1986, Mercury had reached its peak in recreational facilities, which remained essentially the same through the end of the Cold War. Facilities at this time included the bowling alley (23-517), pool and change building (23-516), rock [lapidary] shop (Quonset hut 23-21), theater (23-125), gymnasium (23-W4), physical condition track (C305), golf driving range (previously demolished), and Dell Frenzi Park (C300). The old recreation hall (C-113) is now an office and training facility. Mercury had an outdoor archery range at the park, which was moved into a vacated Quonset hut near the east side of town by the 1980s. Of these facilities, only the repurposed recreation hall, the track, and Dell Frenzi Park (minus the softball field) still exist.

The park was named after long-time REECo employee Dell Frenzi, who was instrumental in developing it. According to a 1969 article:

Dell Frenzi, an Operating Engineer Superintendent, arrived at Mercury in 1952. He was concerned with improving the NTS and wanted a ball park for this favorite sport, baseball, which was then being played on a dirt field.

He spoke to his superiors and persuaded them to let him bring in dirt that would grow grass. He donated much free time to the project, the eventual result being the well-cared-for park which now is being used by NTS personnel.

The park was named in Dell Frenzi's honor after he died in 1958 (*NTS News* August 8, 1969:3).

## IV. RESOURCE DESCRIPTIONS

Dell Frenzi Park (SHPO #C300) is described below, followed by a series of historic photographs. Recent photos are in the updated ARA form.

### **Mercury Historic District (D230)**

Mercury is a planned development with most buildings, streets, and other structures constructed on a grid within an area that is approximately 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 the nuclear ramjet and rocket development facilities at Jackass Flats and more recently the proposed nuclear waste storage facility at Yucca Mountain.

A total of 154 individual Principal Resources—including landscapes, buildings, and structures—along with 346 Accessory Resources were recorded in the Mercury Historic District during an architectural inventory (Reno et al. 2018). Dell Frenzi Park was recorded as a landscape with three Accessory Resources: the ball courts, the picnic area, and the former softball/baseball diamond.

### **Dell Frenzi Park (C300)**

Dell Frenzi Park occupies the northeast corner of a large block bounded on the north by Hardtack Avenue and on the east by Teapot Street. It was adjacent to the bowling alley and pool complex to the south prior to their demolition. To the west of the park is Building 23-111. The park consists of tennis and basketball courts, a wooded picnic area, and a ball field, all of which were constructed on built-up terraces. Lighting was installed around the courts and ball field to allow activity at night. A temporary building for Sheriff's housing while on base (Building 23-23) was placed in the parking lot next to the picnic area circa 2003.

The three park components were individually recorded as Accessory Resources in the inventory for the Mercury Historic District (Reno et al. 2018). Prior to the eastward extension of Building 23-111, the area west of the diamond was covered with grass and used for volleyball and badminton (*NTS News* August 13, 1965:8), and, according to photographs, a location where tables and chairs could be set up for large picnics. The park appears to have been fully in operation by 1957 or 1958. It is first depicted on available Mercury maps in 1959. Figure 12 is a sketch map of the park, marked with the estimated locations and directions that the historic photos provided in Figures 13-23 were taken.

### ***Tennis/Basketball Courts***

Originally, both courts were set up for tennis, and they were surrounded by a tall wire mesh fence supported by wooden posts, which was replaced by the chain link fence that remains in use. The tennis courts doubled as basketball courts by the time the Master Plan was created (ABA 1962). More recently, one court was dedicated to tennis, and permanent basketball hoop fixtures were installed on the other court.

According to a 1963 map (Koebig and Koebig), the courts were paved with asphalt. They were later paved with concrete which was painted red around the green court rectangles. In about 2012 the deteriorating concrete was covered with a surface of blue and yellow plastic-mesh snap-together panels. The courts continue to be used today.

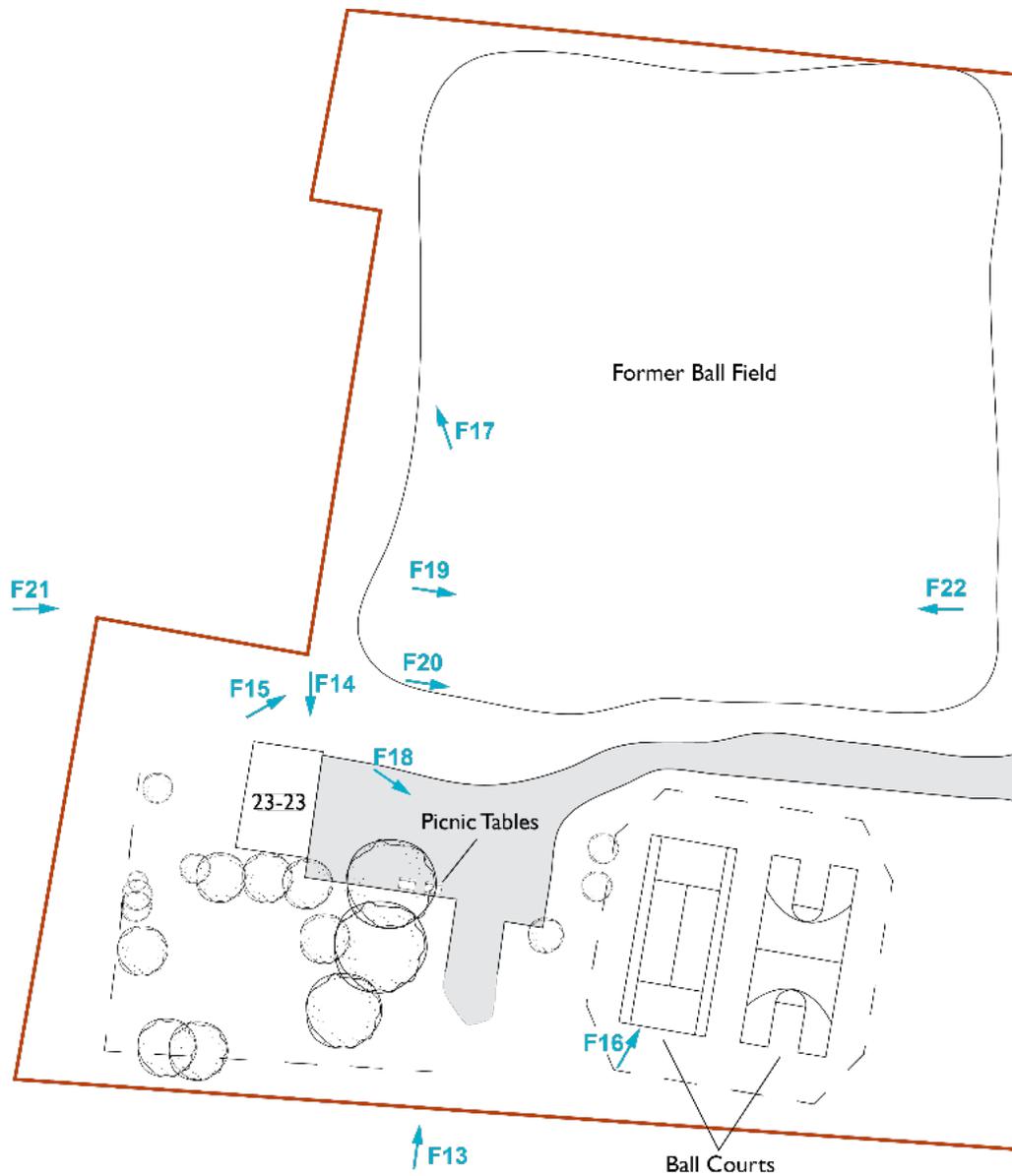
### ***Picnic Area***

The picnic area is a rectangular terrace at the southwest end of the complex which has a parking lot, elm trees, a sprinkler system that once supported grass, a single post barbecue grill, two portable wooden picnic tables, and a water bib. A dumpster and a portable storage unit are along one side. It is partly bounded on the west and south sides by chain link, steel mesh, and chicken wire fencing on T-posts, with a gate on the west side.

Prior to its current configuration, this portion of the park was a dirt lot. Over the years it contained an archery range, various trailers and sheds, and concession stands for the ball games.

### ***Softball Field***

This entire area has now been bladed and all associated items have been removed. The field was once home to the NTS Teddy Bears women's softball team along with numerous male teams. Formerly it was equipped with a graded infield, a grass outfield surrounded by a short fence of slats wired together, overhead lighting on wooden poles, bleachers, an announcer's stand under a sign bearing the Dell Frenzi Park name, dugouts, a backstop, and a scoreboard.



<p>↑ <b>F22</b> Location and orientation of historic photos (F indicates Figure in report text)</p>	 <p>0 50 100 ft</p> <p>0 20 40 m</p>
---	--

Figure 12. Sketch map of the current park showing the estimated locations from which the following historic photos were taken. The APE boundary is shown in red.



Figure 13. An early photo of the park, an aerial view facing north-northeast (REECO Photo 943-12, 1961).



Figure 14. Joanne and Bob Parnell posed for a photo shoot organized by *NTS News* (REECO 1962). The archery range was located in what is now the picnic area, photo facing south.



Figure 15. Another view of the archers, showing the Dell Frenzi Park sign at the ball field in the background, facing northeast (REEC0 1962).



Figure 16. The Parnells playing a game of tennis on one of the courts, facing north-northeast (REECO 1962).

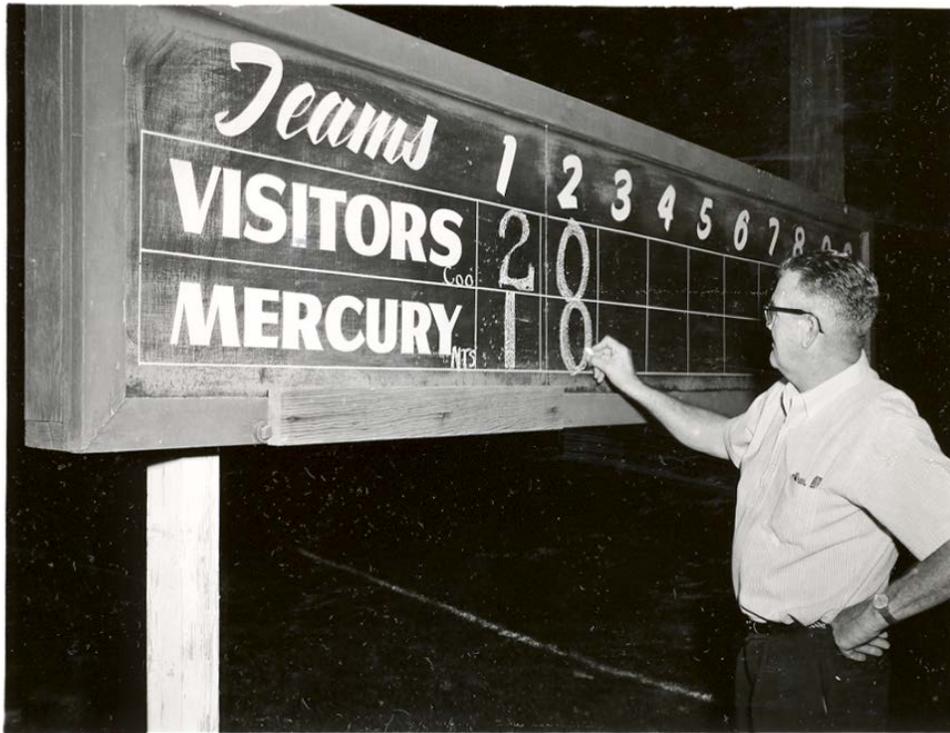


Figure 17. The scorekeeper during a baseball game (REECO 1963).



1676-3

Figure 18. Activity at the refreshment stand (REECO 1963).



1676-9

Figure 19. An action shot on the ball field (REECO 1963).

1476-10



Figure 20. Spectators on game night (REEC0 1963).

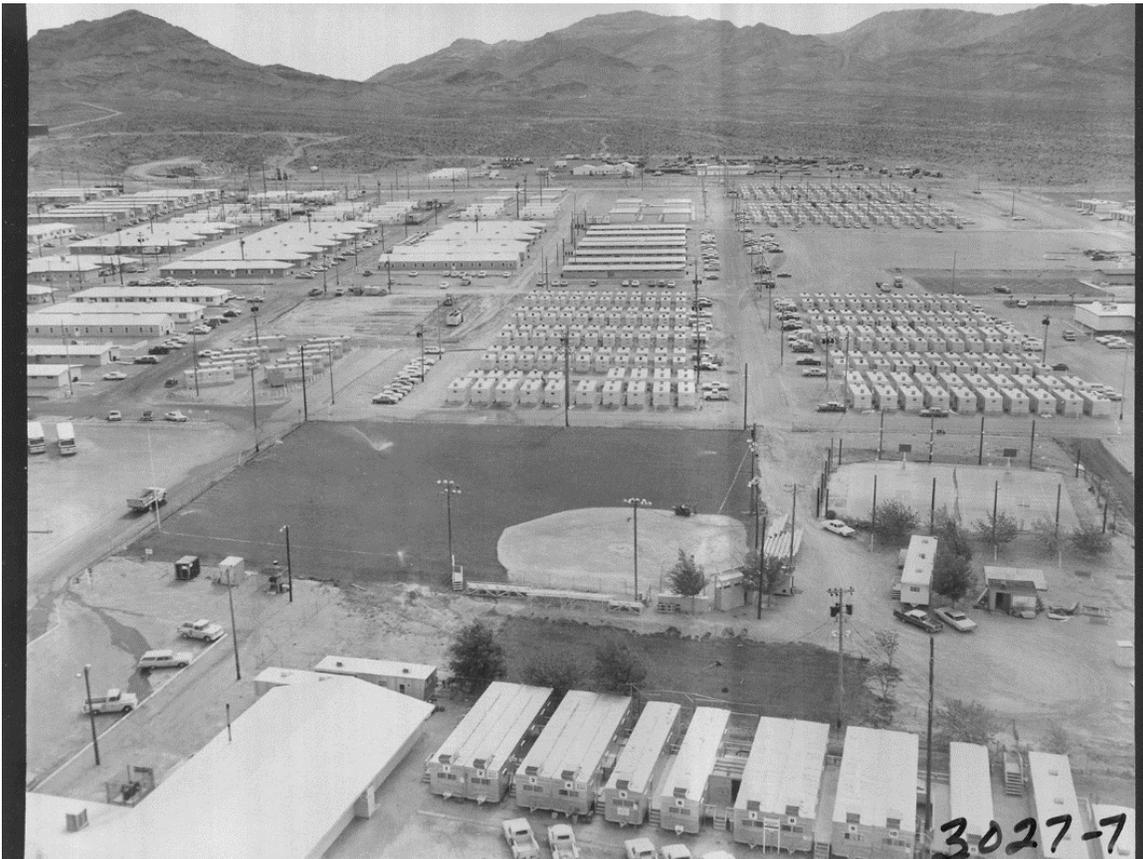


Figure 21. Aerial view of the park in 1965, facing east (REEC0).

2530-8



Figure 22. Security education meeting at the ball park, facing west (REECO 1967).



Figure 23. An enlargement of Figure 22, detailing the electrical panel, dugouts, backstop, and the announcer's stand immediately under the Dell Frenzi Park sign.

## V. RECOMMENDATIONS

### National Register Eligibility Reconsidered

The NNSA/NFO, in consultation with the SHPO, has determined the Mercury Historic District (D230) is eligible to the National Register under Criteria A and C at the national level of significance and importance in supporting nuclear testing and scientific research from 1951 through 1992. This period encompasses the entire era of nuclear testing at what is now the NNSS during the Cold War. The district is made up of 154 resources and 346 Accessory Resources.

Sufficient supplemental research, along with consultations undertaken during the process of writing the Mercury PA, now makes it possible to make informed recommendations regarding the significance of the resources in the APE in regard to eligibility to the National Register individually and under Criteria B and D.

Dell Frenzi Park continues to contribute to the significance of the district under Criteria A and C, but is not considered individually eligible to the National Register under any of the significance criteria, either at the local or national level.

#### *Criterion A*

The park was a major addition to Mercury to support the well-being of personnel from the time of its construction through the Period of Significance. In this regard, it still seems most appropriate to regard it as a contributing element of the Mercury Historic District. Individually, Dell Frenzi Park lacks any historical importance related to nuclear testing or scientific research. The initial evaluation under this criterion is unchanged.

#### *Criterion B*

The critical aspect of National Register eligibility under Criterion B is that the resource be directly associated with an important aspect of the career that makes a historical figure's achievements worthy of note. This type of association may be possible, especially with regard to scientists who worked in the laboratory and research-related buildings in Mercury. For the elements of the support infrastructure (housing, recreation, administration, and general site support), such as that in the APE, this kind of association is generally lacking.

Efforts to find additional information about Mr. Frenzi's relationship to Mercury have been unsuccessful. There is no evidence that he was directly related to any particular nuclear test in a manner that related to design or scientific research. Other than having been particularly appreciated by sports fans in Mercury for his efforts related to the park, his role in supporting operations at the site seems to have been similar to his peers.

Lacking a relationship with the life of a significant person in our past, the park is not recommended as eligible to the National Register under Criterion B.

### *Criterion C*

Regarding any distinctive construction characteristics at Dell Frenzi Park, the existing ball courts and picnic area are of the most basic designs, and are nearly identical in attributes to all other similar structures on military bases, schools, community parks, etc. The ball field lacks the integrity to be considered for eligibility. The park fails to include any distinguishable, significant or distinct components that would make it eligible to the National Register under Criterion C.

### *Criterion D*

The most important questions regarding the district as a whole relate directly to nuclear testing. Where this subject is reflected in individual resources, it is most likely to be found in laboratory/radiation related facilities. There is no potential for the resources in the APE to have this kind of research potential. The park is not recommended eligible to the National Register under Criterion D.

## V. REFERENCES

Historic photos credited to REECo are associated with the reference Reynolds Electrical & Engineering Co. 1982.

Additional references to larger topics, such as the Mercury Historic District as a whole, can be found in Reno et al. (2018).

---

ABA, see Arthur Benedict Associates

AEC, see U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

Arthur Benedict Associates (ABA)

1962 *Master Plan Mercury, Nevada*. Prepared for the United States Atomic Energy Commission by Arthur Benedict Associates of Los Angeles.

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*NTS Nems*, on file at the NNSA/NSO Nuclear Testing Archive, Las Vegas.

Reno, Ron, Cheryl Collins, and Maureen King

2018 *The Architecture of Mercury – Nevada's Atomic Boom Town: An Architectural Survey of Mercury, Area 23, Nevada National Security Site, Nye County, Nevada*. Cultural Resource Technical Report 115 Rev 1, DOE/NV/0003590-09, Desert Research Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Reynolds Electrical & Engineering Co., Inc.

1982 *Photograph Album Index (1958 – 1976)*. Photos and index on file at the Desert Research Institute, Las Vegas.

U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

1969 *As Built Fire Protection Systems*, hand drawn and dated 5/1/69 on a 1968 directory map of Mercury. U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)

2017 Nevada National Security Site breaks ground on new facilities. Electronic Document, <https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/articles/nevada-national-security-site-breaks-ground-new-facilities>, accessed September 25, 2018.

U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office (NNSA/NFO)

2013 *Nevada National Security Site History, Mercury, Nevada*. DOE/NV--1094. U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office, Las Vegas, Nevada.

**DESERT RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
CULTURAL RESOURCES FINDING OF EFFECT  
REPORT LR082018-1-FOE  
PROJECT NO. 1811123**

**Cultural Resources Report on the Finding of Adverse Effect and Proposed Mitigation for the  
Demolition of Dell Frenzi Park in Mercury,  
Nevada National Security Site, Nye County, Nevada**

**Prepared by**

**Cheryl Collins and Maureen King  
Division of Earth and Ecosystem Sciences  
Desert Research Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada**

**Prepared for**

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

**Submitted by**

**Maureen King, Project Director  
Division of Earth and Ecosystem Sciences  
Desert Research Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada**

**September 2018**

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The work upon which this report is based was supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office under Contract #DE-NA0003590.

**DESERT RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
CULTURAL RESOURCES FINDING OF EFFECT  
REPORT LR082018-1-FOE  
PROJECT NO. 1811123**

**INTRODUCTION**

The U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office (NNSA/NFO) proposes to remove the ball courts and grade the entire Dell Frenzi Park area in the town of Mercury at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) in Nye County, Nevada.

NNSA/NFO will implement this undertaking in accordance with the *Programmatic Agreement between the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Modernization and Operational Maintenance of the Nevada National Security Site, at Mercury in Nye County, Nevada*, hereafter referred to as the Mercury PA.

The park was constructed in 1957-58 in support of the community living at the site to work on nuclear testing activities at the NNSS. The town of Mercury and the immediate surrounding area have been designated the Mercury Historic District (SHPO Resource #D230), a property eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C for its importance in supporting nuclear testing and scientific research from 1951 through 1992.

During the initial architectural survey (Reno et al. 2018), the park (SHPO Resource #C300) was identified as contributing to the eligibility of the Mercury Historic District. Its three components are recorded as Accessory Resources to the park (Table 1). All fall within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for direct effects from the proposed activity.

Table 1. Resources within the APE.

<b>SHPO Resource</b>	<b>Designation</b>
C300, AR1	Tennis & Basketball Courts
C300, AR2	Picnic Area
C300, AR3	Former Ball Field

The ball courts and picnic area are still intact. The last of the individual features composing the ball field were removed in approximately 2012.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

DRI received a request for an evaluation of cultural resource compliance for the proposed demolition of the existing tennis and basketball courts in the Dell Frenzi Park area as part of the Mercury Modernization project. Additional information provided by the project manager expanded the activity to include grading of the entire area of the park. The resulting APE is 3.17 acres (1.28 hectares).

## **FINDING OF EFFECT**

After informal consultation with the DRI subject matter expert and applying the criteria of adverse effect, the NNSA/NFO Cultural Resource Manager (NFO/CRM) has determined the planned activities will alter, directly and indirectly, the characteristics that qualify the Mercury Historic District for inclusion in the National Register. Therefore, the proposed ball court removal and grading of the Dell Frenzi Park area will have an **Adverse Effect** to a historic property. The park is a contributing element to the Mercury Historic District; however, it is not individually significant under any of the Secretary of Interior's Significance Criteria.

As specified in the Mercury PA under Stipulation VII.C, the NNSA/NFO is submitting this finding of adverse effect from the proposed demolition with documentation, including a description of the proposed mitigation consistent with Stipulation VIII of the Mercury PA. This documentation will be submitted concurrently with the National Register evaluation report (SR082018-1).

## **ELEMENT CATEGORY IDENTIFICATION**

The NNSA/NFO and DRI, in consultation with the SHPO, are in the process of developing categories of elements within the Mercury Historic District for Appendix C of the Mercury PA. In the absence of a category list, Dell Frenzi park was treated as a Category I property. DRI formally evaluated the park and upon completion of the National Register evaluation of the property, recommended that although the park continues to contribute to the significance of the district under Criteria A and C, it is not individually eligible to the National Register under any of the significance criteria, either at the local or national level. Therefore, Dell Frenzi Park is classified as a Category II property for the purposes of mitigation according to the stipulations of the Mercury PA.

## **MITIGATION FOR CATEGORY II ELEMENTS**

The following steps are proposed to mitigate the park:

- An updated ARA form will be completed for Dell Frenzi Park (VIII.C.1.a);
- High-quality digital images will be taken of the remaining resources within the APE consistent with the plan for photography found in Appendix D of the Mercury PA (VIII.C.1.b.);
- A current annotated sketch plan, copies of historic landscape architecture plans, and a photo plan will be added to the updated ARA form (VIII.C.1.c); and
- A description of the park will be completed including a discussion of the park's significance within the context of the historic district (VIII.C.1.d). For this project, the description will be submitted in a separate report (SR082018-1), which also serves as the evaluation report required under Stipulation VI.B.

## **REVIEW OF STANDARD MITIGATION FOR CATEGORY II AND III ELEMENTS**

The size of the files for these ARA form updates and digital photography are not compatible with an electronic submission per Stipulation VIII.D.1. Therefore, documents including ARA forms and digital images of the element classes prepared in accord with Stipulation VIII.C will be submitted in hard copy.

## REFERENCE

Reno, R. L., Collins, C. M., King, M. L.

2018 *The Architecture of Mercury – Nevada’s Boom Town: An Architectural Survey of Mercury, Area 23, Nevada National Security Site, Nye County, Nevada*, Desert Research Institute Technical Report TR 115 Rev. 1, DOE/NV/0003590-09, Desert Research Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada.

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**DESERT RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
CULTURAL RESOURCES MITIGATION SUBMISSION  
REPORT LR082018-1-MIT  
PROJECT NO. 1811123**

**Cultural Resources Report for the Submission of Mitigation Documentation Related to the  
Demolition of Dell Frenzi Park in Mercury,  
Nevada National Security Site, Nye County, Nevada**

**Prepared by**

**Cheryl Collins and Maureen King  
Division of Earth and Ecosystem Sciences  
Desert Research Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada**

**Prepared for**

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

**Submitted by**

**Maureen King, Project Director  
Division of Earth and Ecosystem Sciences  
Desert Research Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada**

**September 2018**

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**DESERT RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
CULTURAL RESOURCES MITIGATION SUBMISSION  
REPORT LR082018-1-MIT  
PROJECT NO. 1811123**

**INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this letter report is to submit documentation related to the demolition of the Dell Frenzi Park area in the Mercury Historic District (SHPO Resource #D230). This submission is intended to comply with the stipulations in the *Programmatic Agreement between the National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Modernization and Operational Maintenance of the Nevada National Security Site, at Mercury in Nye County, Nevada*, hereafter referred to as the Mercury PA. Table 1 provides a list of the resources addressed by this letter report.

Table 1. Resources within the APE.

<b>SHPO Resource</b>	<b>Designation</b>
C300, AR1	Tennis & Basketball Courts
C300, AR2	Picnic Area
C300, AR3	Former Ball Field

In accordance with the Mercury PA, treatment of adverse effects to these properties was completed. These treatment measures included supplemental historical research, enhanced significance discussions, and digital photographic documentation.

**MITIGATION FOR CATEGORY II ELEMENTS**

Upon completion of the National Register evaluation of the resources in the APE, it was found that none meet the national-level individual eligibility standards under the Secretary of Interior’s Significance Criteria. That the park is the only representative of its category within the district precludes it from being classified as a Category III property; therefore, it is addressed as a Category II resource for the purpose of mitigation.

The following steps were undertaken to mitigate Dell Frenzi Park:

- An updated ARA form was completed for the park (VIII.C.1.a);
- High-quality digital images were taken of the remaining resources within the APE consistent with the plan for photography found in Appendix D of the Mercury PA (VIII.C.1.b.);
- A current annotated sketch map and high-quality digital photo plan were added to the updated ARA form (VIII.C.1.c); and
- An updated description and historic context were addressed. While researching the park for the National Register evaluation, very little additional information about the park’s planning and design was found. As such, the descriptions of the resources within the park were rather short and were completely copied from the evaluation report (SR082018-1) into the updated ARA form. The updated historic context for the park is located in the evaluation report (VIII.C.1.d).

## **REVIEW OF STANDARD MITIGATION FOR CATEGORY II AND III ELEMENTS**

The size of the files for these ARA form updates and digital photography are not compatible with an electronic submission per Stipulation VIII.D.1. Therefore, documents including ARA forms and digital images of the element classes prepared in accord with Stipulation VIII.C are being submitted in hard copy.

### **ENCLOSED DOCUMENTATION**

The following documentation is attached for SHPO review and comment to meet standard mitigation requirements for Category II elements (VIII.D.)

- An updated ARA form (VIII.C.1.a).
- A current annotated sketch plan and digital images with a keyed photo plan have been added to the updated ARA forms (VIII.C.1.c). The high-quality digital imagery is presented in Attachment A.



NEVADA  
**STATE HISTORIC  
 PRESERVATION OFFICE**

### Architectural Resource Assessment (ARA) Form

For SHPO Use Only		SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:	
Survey Date	June 20, 2017; <b>August 20, 2018</b>	Recorded By	Reno, Menocal, Shimer; <b>King, Menocal</b>	Agency Report #	TR 115; <b>SR082018-1</b>

Resource C300 was revisited by DRI in August 2018. The overall condition of the property is unchanged. This update documents additional historical research undertaken since that time and includes a revised significance discussion. The original significance evaluation of the property has been modified to address the potential individual eligibility of the resource rather than only discussing it in the context of contributing to the Mercury Historic District, and the property's eligibility under Criteria B and D is also updated.

#### 5. NRHP Evaluation

Eligible Under:	Criterion A <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>
	Not Eligible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unevaluated <input type="checkbox"/>		

Contributes to the district under Criteria A and C; not individually eligible to the National Register at the national, state, or local level.

#### 6. Narrative Eligibility Justification

Dell Frenzi Park continues to contribute to the significance of the Mercury Historic District under Criteria A and C, but is recommended as not individually eligible to the National Register under any of the Significance Criteria, at the local, state, or national level. The integrity evaluation related to the park as a contributing resource is unchanged since the architectural inventory took place.

##### Criterion A

This resource has already been identified as contributing to the significance of the Mercury Historic District under this criterion at the local level. It supported the community in its commitment to nuclear testing and other projects. In this sense, it is best regarded as a contributing element to the Mercury Historic District rather than singling it out for individual eligibility to the National Register.

##### Criterion B

Most of the individuals important at the national level to the nation's nuclear programs or other programs that were tested or developed at what is now the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) had far more important ties elsewhere. Eligibility under this criterion normally requires that the resource be directly associated with an important aspect of the career that makes that person's achievements noteworthy. Since this is only a recreational facility, there is no potential for significance related to the career of a scientist.

The park was named after long-time REECo Operating Engineer Superintendent Dell Frenzi, who was instrumental in developing it. Efforts to find additional information about Mr. Frenzi's relationship to Mercury have been unsuccessful. There is no evidence that he was directly related to any particular nuclear test in a manner that related to design or scientific research. Other than having been particularly appreciated by sports fans in Mercury for his extensive efforts related to the construction of the park, his role in supporting operations at the site seems to have been similar to his peers according to available documentation.

Lacking a relationship with the life of a significant person in America's past, the park is not recommended as eligible to the National Register under Criterion B.

Criterion C

The park has already been identified as contributing to the significance of the Mercury Historic District under this criterion at the local level. Regarding any distinctive construction characteristics at Dell Frenzi Park, the existing ball courts and picnic area are of the most basic designs, and are nearly identical in attributes to all other similar structures on military bases, schools, community parks, etc. The ball field lacks the integrity to be considered for eligibility. The park fails to include any distinguishable, significant or distinct components that would make it eligible to the National Register under Criterion C.

Criterion D

The most important questions regarding the district as a whole relate directly to nuclear testing. Where this subject is reflected in individual resources, it is most likely to be found in laboratory/radiation related facilities. There is no potential for the resources in the APE to have this kind of research potential. The park is recommended not eligible to the National Register under Criterion D.

**7. Narrative Architectural Description**

Additional research into the design of the park has had minimal results. No engineering drawings related to its construction were found in the records archive at the NNSA/NFO North Las Vegas Facility, nor were any additional resources identified in the catalogs of the Nuclear Testing Archive or the National Atomic Testing Museum.

A review of photographs and maps enabled descriptions of the individual resources to be updated somewhat, which are presented here.

A series of historical photos related to the park is included in the associated National Register evaluation report, SR082018-1.

**AR1: Tennis/Basketball Courts**

Originally both courts were set up for tennis, and it was surrounded by a tall wire mesh fence supported by wooden posts, which was replaced by the chain link fence that remains in use. Lighting was installed around the courts to allow activity at night. The tennis courts were doubling as basketball courts by the time the Master Plan was created (ABA 1962). More recently, one court was dedicated to tennis, and permanent basketball hoop fixtures were installed on the other court.

According to a 1963 map (Koebig and Koebig), the courts were paved with asphalt. They were later paved with concrete which was painted red around the green court rectangles. In about 2012 the deteriorating concrete was covered with a surface of blue and yellow plastic-mesh snap-together panels. The courts continue to be used today.

**AR2: Picnic Area**

The picnic area is a rectangular terrace at the southwest end of the complex which has a parking lot, elm trees, a sprinkler system that once supported grass, a single post barbecue grill, two portable wooden picnic tables, and a water bib. Along one side are a dumpster and a portable storage unit. It is partly bounded on the west and south sides by chain link, steel mesh, and chicken wire fencing on T-posts, with a gate on the west side.

Prior to its current configuration, this portion of the park was a dirt lot. Over the years it contained an archery range, various trailers and sheds, and concession stands for the ball games.

**AR3: Ball Field**

This entire area has now been bladed and all associated items have been removed. The field was once home to the NTS Teddy Bears women's softball team along with numerous male teams. Formerly it was equipped with a graded infield, a grass outfield surrounded by a short fence of slats wired together, overhead lighting on wooden poles, bleachers, an announcer's stand under a sign bearing the Dell Frenzi Park name, dugouts, a backstop, and a scoreboard.

## 9. References

ABA, see Arthur Benedict Associates

Arthur Benedict Associates (ABA)

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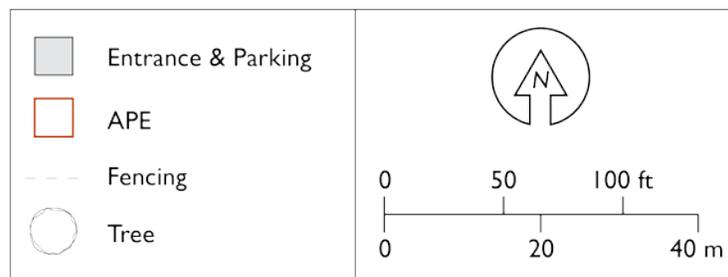
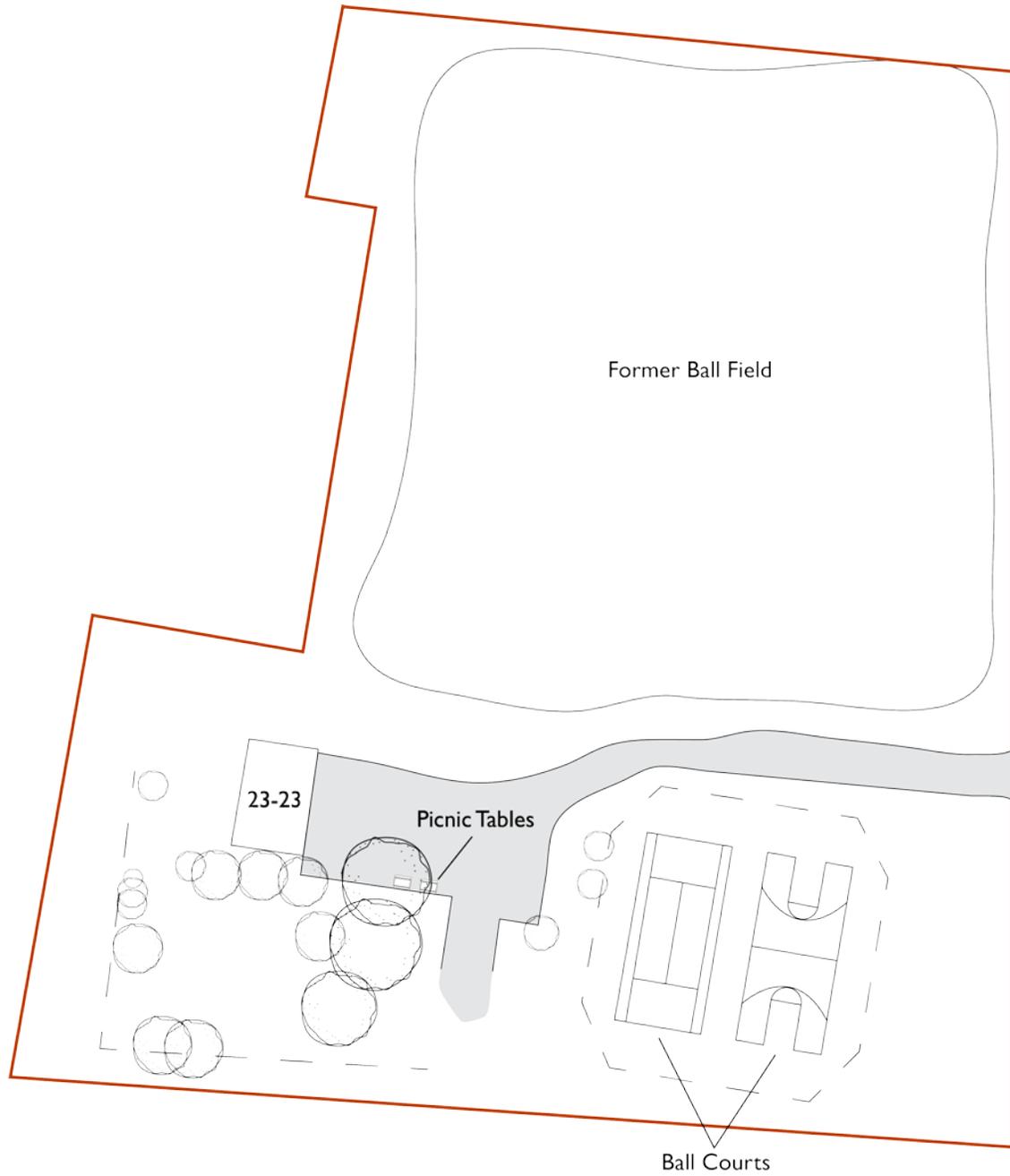
Koebig & Koebig, Inc.

1963 Mercury, Nevada Utilities Sewage Collection System Plan Area D-3. Drawing NV-71-07-021, Sheet 68 of 162. U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Nevada Operations Office, Las Vegas, Nevada.

*NTS News*, on file at the NNSA/NSO Nuclear Testing Archive, Las Vegas.

Reno, Ron, Cheryl Collins, and Maureen King

2018 *The Architecture of Mercury – Nevada's Atomic Boom Town: An Architectural Survey of Mercury, Area 23, Nevada National Security Site, Nye County, Nevada*. Cultural Resource Technical Report 115, Desert Research Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada.



Sketch plan of current park configuration.



Basketball court, facing north (DRI 2017).



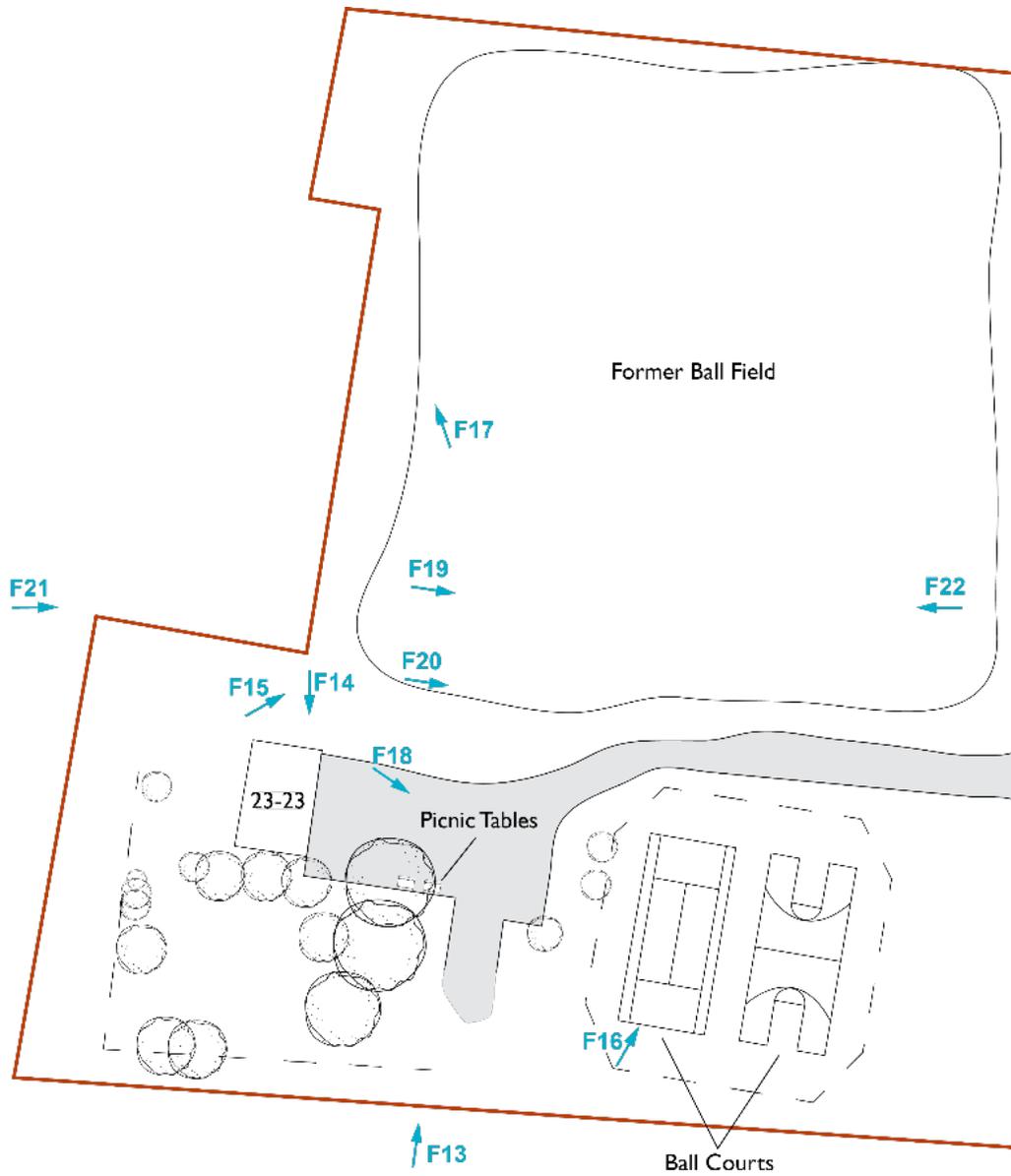
Detail of barbeque grill in the picnic area (DRI 2017).



A water bib in the picnic area, facing northwest (DRI 2017).



Gate separating the picnic area from the parking lot to the west, facing southwest (DRI 2017). The fencing that extended northward from the right side of the gate has been completely removed.



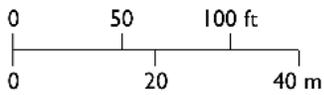
<p> <b>F22</b> Location and orientation of historic photos (F indicates Figure in report text)</p>	 
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Photo key for historic photos.



F1. An early photo of the park, an aerial view facing north-northeast (REECO Photo 943-12, 1961).



F2. Joanne and Bob Parnell posed for a photo shoot organized by *NTS News* (REECO 1962). The archery range was located in what is now the picnic area, photo facing south.



F3. Another view of the archers, showing the Dell Frenzi Park sign at the ball field in the background, facing northeast (REEC0 1962).



F4. The Parnells playing a game of tennis on one of the courts, facing north-northeast (REEC0 1962).



F5. The scorekeeper during a baseball game (REEC0 1963).



1676-3

F6. Activity at the refreshment stand (REEC0 1963).

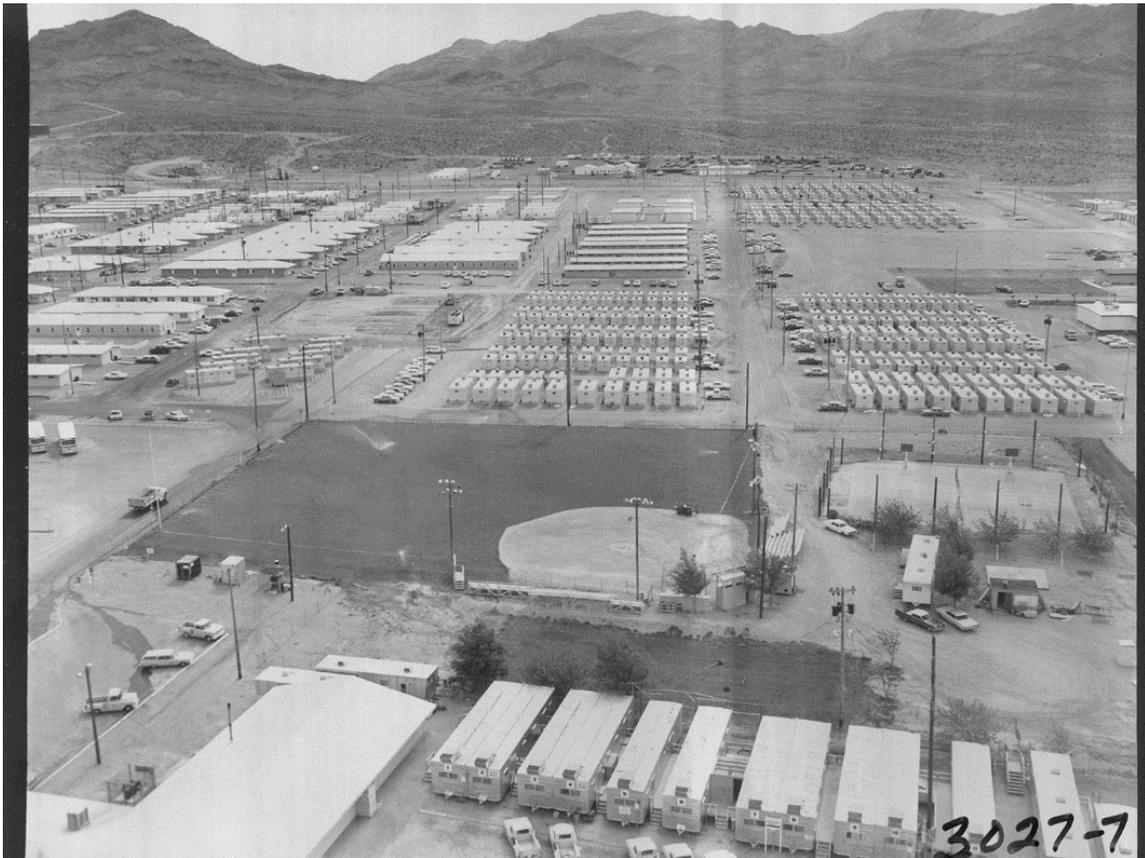


1676-9

F7. An action shot on the ball field (REEC0 1963).



F8. Spectators on game night (REEC0 1963).



F9. Aerial view of the park in 1965, facing east (REEC0).

2530-8



F10. Security education meeting at the ball park, facing west (REEC0 1967).



Fi11. An enlargement of Figure 22, detailing the electrical panel, dugouts, backstop, and the announcer's stand immediately under the Dell Frenzi Park sign.

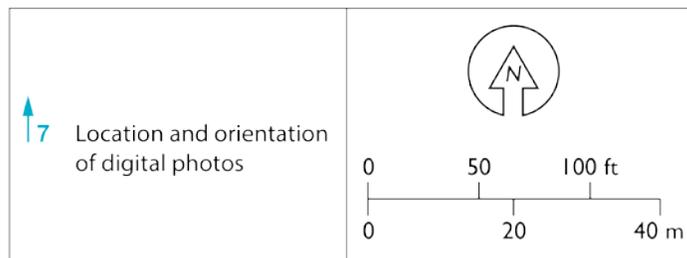
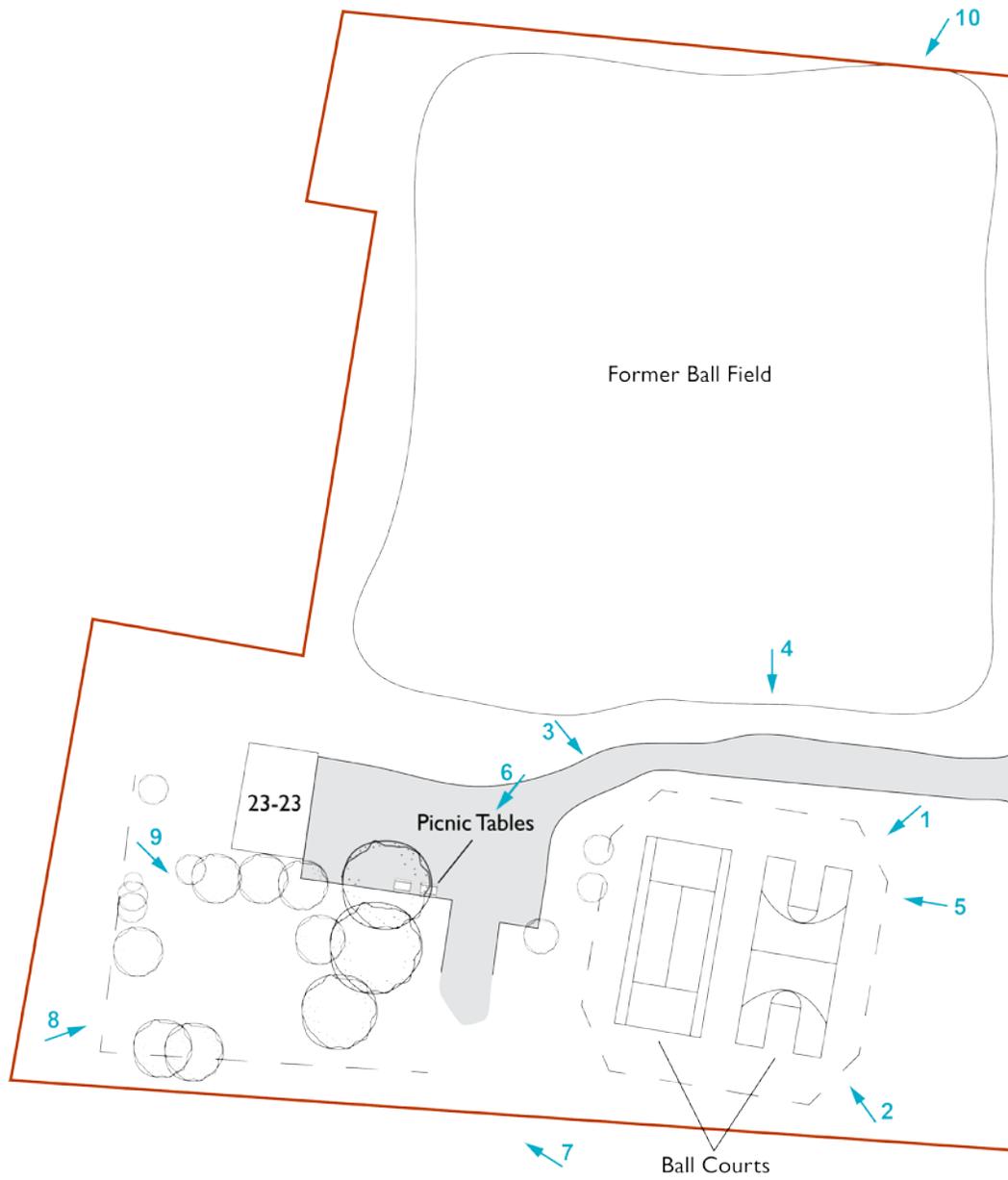


Photo plan for high-quality digital photography.

**ATTACHMENT A**

**INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS**

Dell Frenzi Park  
Mercury Historic District  
Mercury  
Nye County  
Nevada

Update to SHPO Resource # C300

**INDEX TO HIGH-QUALITY DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS**

Desert Research Institute, Photographer, 2018

- 1 VIEW OF BALL COURTS FACING THE SOUTHWEST
- 2 VIEW OF BALL COURTS FACING THE NORTHWEST
- 3 VIEW OF BALL COURTS FACING THE SOUTHEAST
- 4 VIEW OF BALL COURTS FACING THE SOUTH
- 5 CLOSER VIEW OF RECENT PLASTIC-MESH PANELS COVERING OLDER RED CONCRETE
- 6 VIEW OF PICNIC AREA FACING THE SOUTHWEST
- 7 VIEW OF PICNIC AREA FACING THE NORTHWEST
- 8 VIEW OF PICNIC AREA FACING THE NORTHEAST
- 9 VIEW OF PICNIC AREA FACING THE SOUTHEAST
- 10 VIEW OF THE FORMER BALL FIELD FACING THE SOUTH-SOUTHWEST (2017)



PHOTO #1: VIEW OF BALL COURTS FACING THE SOUTHWEST.



PHOTO #2: VIEW OF BALL COURTS FACING THE NORTHWEST.



PHOTO #3: VIEW OF BALL COURTS FACING THE SOUTHEAST.



PHOTO #4: VIEW OF BALL COURTS FACING THE SOUTH.



PHOTO #5: CLOSER VIEW OF RECENT PLASTIC-MESH PANELS COVERING OLDER RED CONCRETE.



PHOTO #6: VIEW OF PICNIC AREA FACING THE SOUTHWEST.



**PHOTO #7: VIEW OF PICNIC AREA FACING THE NORTHWEST.**



**PHOTO #8: VIEW OF PICNIC AREA FACING THE NORTHEAST.**



PHOTO #9: VIEW OF PICNIC AREA FACING THE SOUTHEAST.



PHOTO #10: VIEW OF THE FORMER BALL FIELD FACING THE SOUTH-SOUTHWEST (2017).



NEVADA  
**STATE HISTORIC  
 PRESERVATION OFFICE**

### Architectural Resource Assessment (ARA) Form

For SHPO Use Only		SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N		Date:	
Survey Date	June 20, 2017	Recorded By	Reno, Menocal, Shimer	Agency Report #	TR 115

**1. Property Type**

Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape (non-archaeological site) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**2. Property Overview and Location**

Street Address	NNSS Area 23, Block 15, Trinity – Mercury Hwy.				
City, Zip	Mercury, 89023				
County	Nye				
Assessor's Parcel #	N/A	Subdivision Name	N/A		
UTM Location (NAD 83, UTM Zone 11 North)	Easting: 589497		Northing: 4057456		
USGS Info	Township: 15S	Range: 53E	Section: 11	USGS 7.5' Quad & Date: Mercury, Nev. 1983	
Ownership	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted-Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Multiple <input type="checkbox"/>
Should the property's location be kept confidential?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

**3. Architectural Information**

*(Insert primary photograph below.)*

Construction Date	1957-1958	
Architectural Style	N/A	
Architectural Type	N/A	
Roof Form	N/A	
Roof Materials	N/A	
Exterior Wall Materials	N/A	
Foundation Materials	N/A	
Window Materials	N/A	
Window Type	N/A	
Accessory Resources?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Number?: 3	



Dell Frenzi Park, view south (2017).

Condition of Resource(s)?		
Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Poor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Explanation: Tennis court enclosure is in good condition but picnic area is not well maintained. The ball field has been totally bladed and associated fixtures have been removed.		

**4. Existing Listing & Potential District**

Is the property listed in the National Register?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		If yes, provide:	Date Listed:
						NRIS #:
Contributing to a listed historic district?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If yes, provide:	Name:		NRIS #:
				Date listed:		
If no, is there a potential district?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	If so, is this resource contributing?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>
District Name:				SHPO #: D230		

**10. NRHP Evaluation**

*If not already listed, complete the information below:*

Eligible Under:	Criterion A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criterion B <input type="checkbox"/>	Criterion C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Criterion D <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Not Eligible <input type="checkbox"/>	Unevaluated <input type="checkbox"/>				
Area(s) of Significance	Nuclear Testing, Townsite Development					
Period(s) of Significance	ca. 1957-1992					
Integrity – Does the resource possess integrity in all or some of the 7 aspects?						
Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Materials <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Workmanship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Setting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feeling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
General Integrity:	Intact <input type="checkbox"/>	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Date(s):		
Threats to Resource:	Redevelopment					
Historic Name	Dell Frenzi Park					
Current/Common Name	None					
Historic/Original Owner	U.S. Atomic Energy Commission					
Current Owner	U.S. Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Field Office					
Current Owner Address	Nevada National Security Site					
Historic Building Use	Recreation					
Current Building Use	Recreation					
Architect/Engineer/Designer	Unknown					
Builder/Contractor	Unknown					

**11. Narrative Eligibility Justification**

For purposes of the present survey, the resources in Mercury were evaluated only as they relate to the Historic District as a contributing versus non-contributing element. It is the nature of most of the individual elements of the district that they would not be individually eligible, but rather that, in the aggregate, they combine to create the unique significance of the district as a whole, which is presently recommended eligible to the National Register under Criteria A and C and unevaluated under Criteria B and D as detailed in the District form.

Since so many elements of the district have already been lost, those remaining elements from the period of significance have more comparative importance than they would have had otherwise. If a resource still retains visible elements which date to the period of significance, it is considered contributing to the significance of the district both for its historic importance in relation to nuclear testing under Criterion A and as a part of the distinctive design and construction of the district under Criterion C. The companion question asked was if that resource was to be removed would the district lose some of its overall significance. In nearly all cases there is sufficient integrity to answer this question in the affirmative.

Due to the extensive resource-level of research beyond the capabilities of the present survey required to make justifiable recommendations regarding eligibility, this resource remains unevaluated under the criteria at this time. It is anticipated that such enhanced recording and evaluation will occur in the future as redevelopment plans mature.

This park served as a support facility in Mercury for nuclear testing at the Nevada Test Site throughout much of the Cold War. It represents a successful collaborative effort between management and base personnel to create a multi-purpose outdoor recreation area for Mercury. The Tennis/Basketball Court and Picnic Area retain to a large degree all aspects of integrity, contributing to the Mercury Historic District under Criteria A and C as essential parts of the recreation complex at the site. The Ball Field retains only integrity of location and no longer contributes to the significance of the Mercury Historic District.

The park was named after long-time REECo Operation Engineer Superintendent Dell Frenzi, who was instrumental in developing the park. He died in 1958 (NTS News 8/13/1965; 8/8/1969). Although further research is warranted, this resource may be significant under Criterion B at the local level due to this unusually close association with a person important for the development of Mercury.

## 12. Narrative Architectural Description

*Provide a detailed description of the resource, including all character defining features, potential construction methods, potential alterations (both historic and non-historic), and any accessory resources.*

Dell Frenzi Park occupies the northeast corner of a large block bounded on the north by Hardtack Avenue and on the east by Teapot Street. It adjoins the Bowling Alley and Pool complex to the south, and to the west is Building 23-111. It consists of a combination Tennis and Basketball Court, a wooded Picnic Area, and a Ball Field, all of which are individually described as Accessory Resources. At one time the park grounds extended westward to include the area now occupied by a recently-installed temporary building for Sheriff's housing while on base (Building 23-23). This area was covered with grass and used for volleyball and badminton (NTS News 8/13/1965).

The park appears to have been fully in operation by 1957 or 1958. It is first depicted on available Mercury maps in 1959.

There are three Accessory Resources, each on its own cut and fill terrace.

### **AR1: Tennis/Basketball Court**

AR1 is the Tennis/Basketball Court. Originally it had a tall wire mesh fence supported by wooden posts which was replaced by the chain link fence that remains in use. It is paved with concrete which has been painted red. Recently the deteriorating concrete has been covered with a surface of plastic-mesh snap-together panels.

### **AR2: Picnic Area**

AR2 is the Picnic Area. It is a rectangular terrace at the southwest end of the complex which has elm trees, a sprinkler system that once supported grass, barbecue grill, and two wooden picnic tables. It is partly bounded by chain link, steel mesh, and chicken wire fencing on T-posts.

### **AR3: Ball Field**

AR3 is the ball field, once home to the NTS Teddy Bears women's softball team along with male teams. Formerly it was equipped with graded infield, grass outfield, overhead lighting on wooden poles, bleachers, and concession stands. This entire area has now been bladed and all associated items have been removed.

## 13. References

*List references used to research and evaluate the individual property.*

Holmes & Narver, Inc.

1959 Plot Plan Mercury Nevada. Engineering drawing BD-M-P-1. U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Las Vegas Branch Office.

1986 Mercury Nevada / Area 23 Building Directory. U.S. Department of Energy Nevada Operations Office.

NTS News

1965 Desert Oasis. 13 August: 8. Retrieved from NNSA/NSO Nuclear Testing Archive, Las Vegas, Accession No. NV0112441.

1969 Ball Park Named For Former NTS Employee [sic]. 8 August: 3. Retrieved from NNSA/NSO Nuclear Testing Archive, Las Vegas, Accession No. NV0112140.

Reynolds Electrical and Engineering Co., Inc. (REECO)

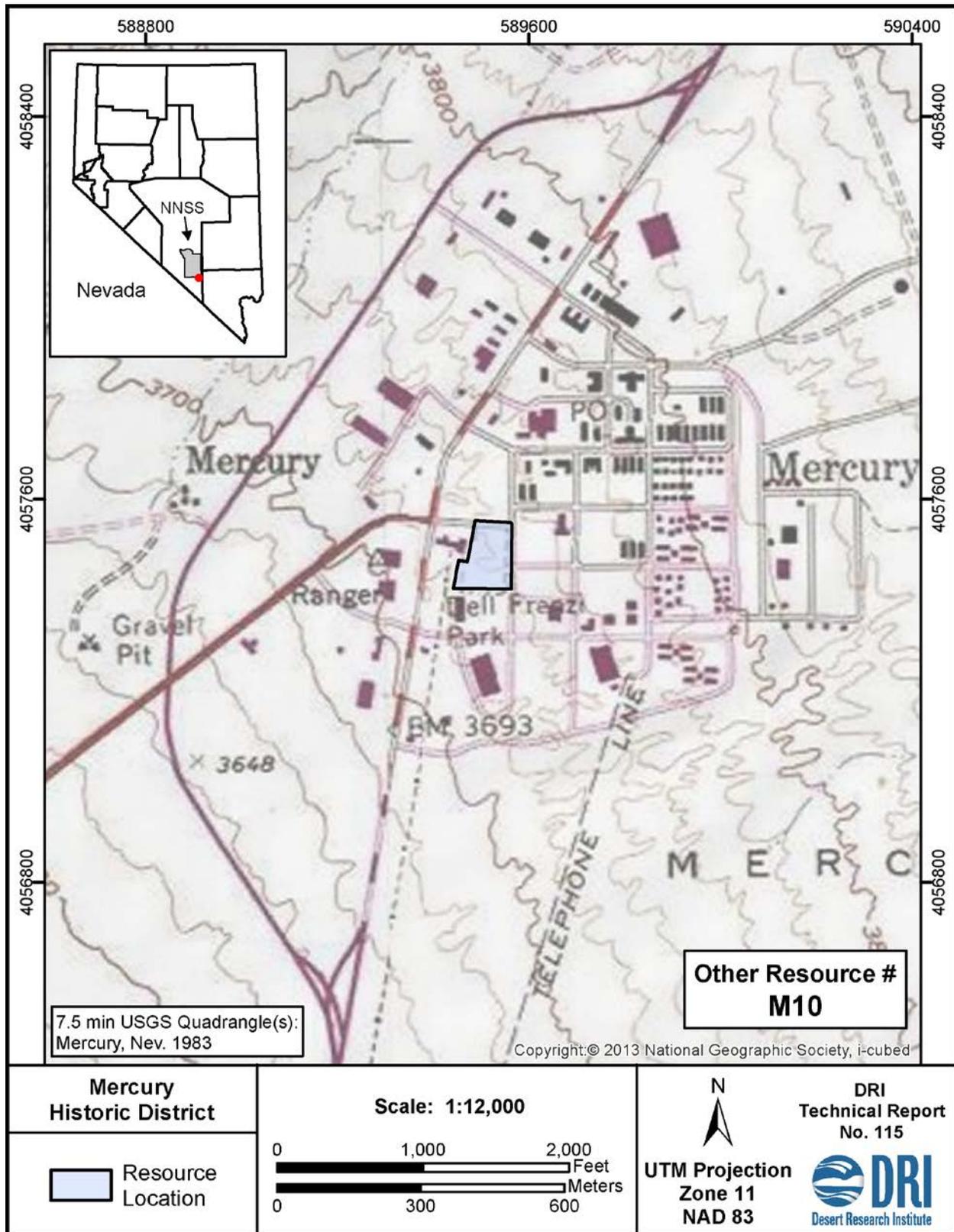
1982 Photograph Album Index (1958-1976).

U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

1968 Mercury Nevada (map). U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

### 14. Area Location Map

Use a USGS quadrangle map at large extent to show general area of resource.



**15. Site Plan Map**

Use aerial imagery, drafting software, or a hand-drawn sketch (to scale) showing, at minimum, building/structure footprints and relationship to associated features. Attach extra maps if needed.



**16. Photographs**

*Include as many photographs as needed to accurately depict the resource.*



Overview of Dell Frenzi Park.

Elevation: N/A

Direction facing: Northwest

Photographer: Menocal

Date: 06/20/2017



Overview of the tennis courts.

Elevation: N/A

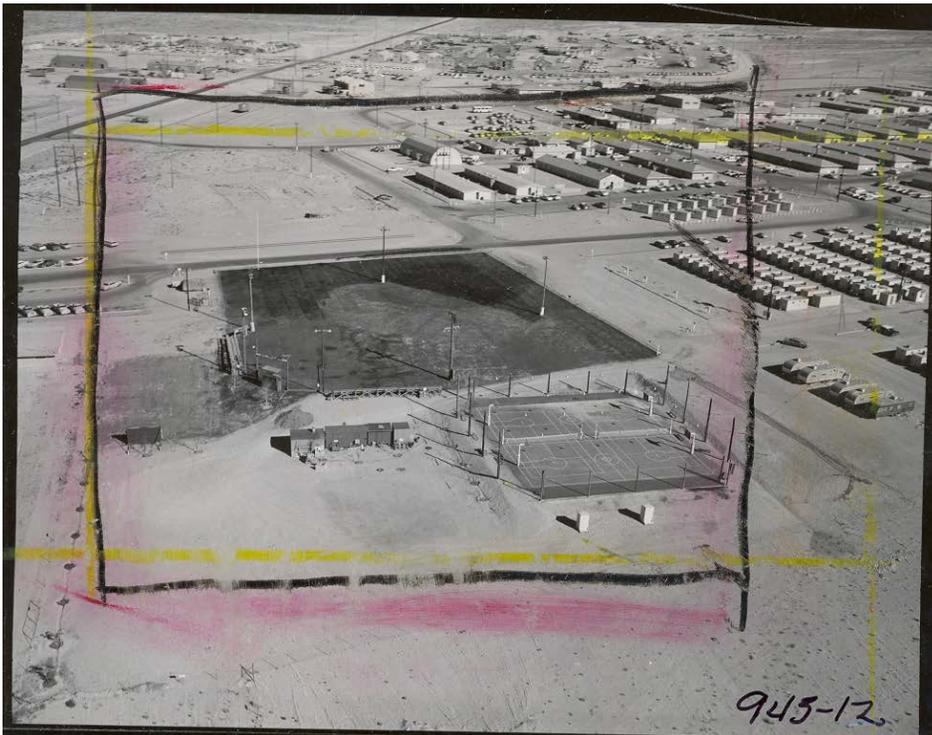
Direction facing: Southeast

Photographer: Menocal

Date: 06/20/2017

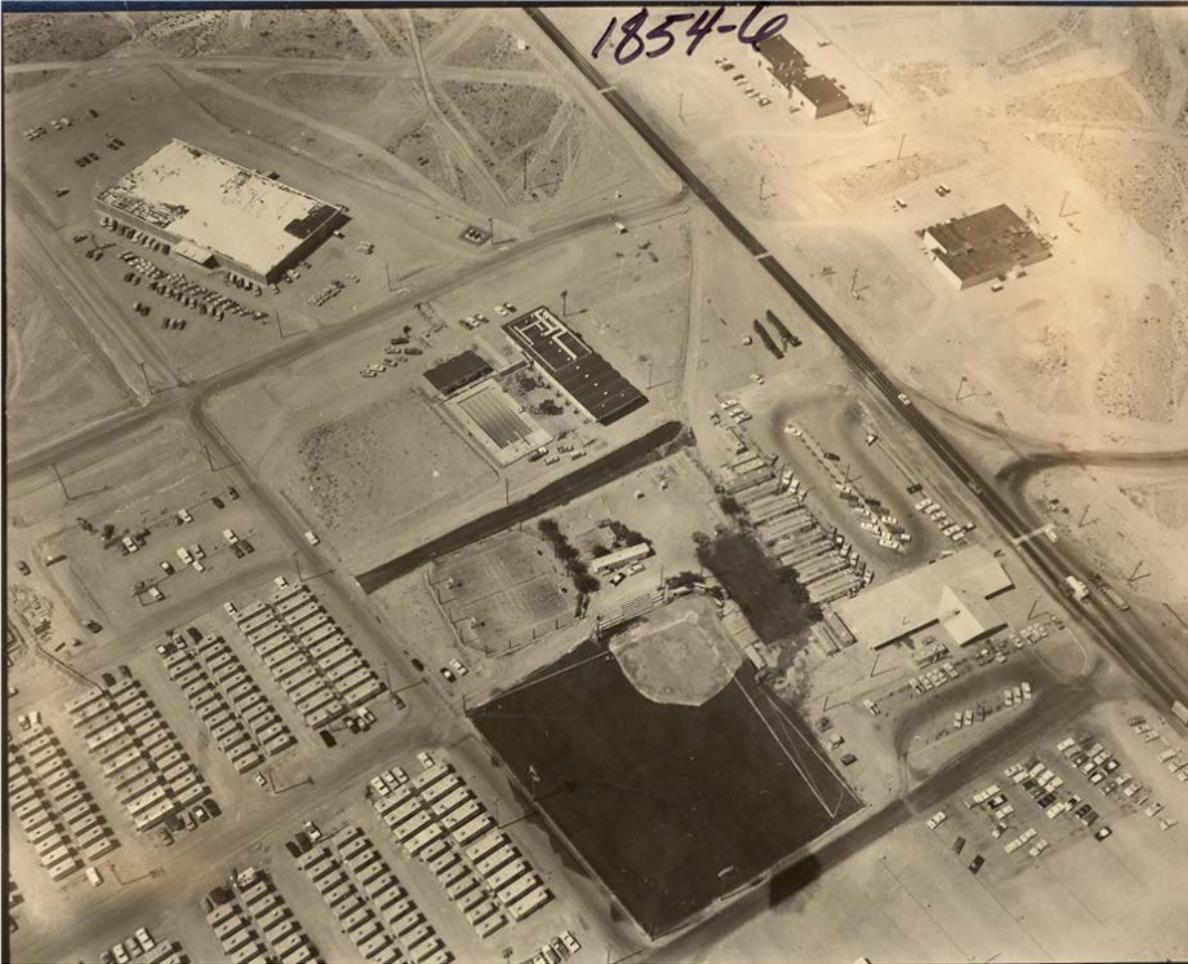


Elevation: N/A      Direction facing: Southwest      Photographer: REECo (1982)      Date: 1961

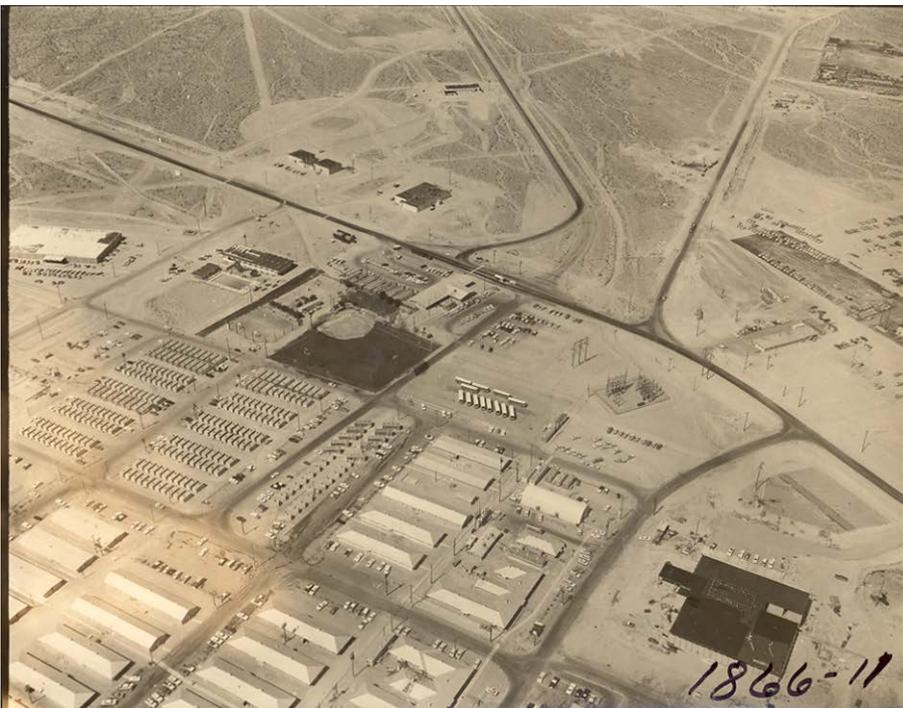


Elevation: N/A      Direction facing: North      Photographer: REECo (1982)      Date: 1961

*Note: Best copy available*



Elevation: N/A      Direction facing: Southwest      Photographer: REECo (1982)      Date: 1964



Elevation: N/A      Direction facing: Southwest      Photographer: REECo (1982)      Date: 1964

**17. Accessory Resources**

Complete only if Accessory Resources are present. Include as many extra entries as necessary.

**Accessory Property Type**

Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape (non-archaeological site) <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Accessory Resource Overview**

Accessory Resource Name	AR1 Tennis/Basketball Court		
Construction Date	ca. 1957	Contributing?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
UTM (NAD 83, UTM Zone 11 North)	Easting: 589523	Northing: 4057463	



Elevation: N/A      Direction facing: South      Photographer: Menocal      Date: 06/20/2017

**Accessory Property Type**

Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape (non-archaeological site) <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Accessory Resource Overview**

Accessory Resource Name	AR2 Picnic Area		
Construction Date	ca. 1957	Contributing?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
UTM (NAD 83, UTM Zone 11 North)	Easting: 589491	Northing: 4057459	



Elevation: N/A      Direction facing: Southwest      Photographer: Menocal      Date: 06/20/2017

**Accessory Property Type**

Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape (non-archaeological site) <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Accessory Resource Overview**

Accessory Resource Name	AR3 Ball Field		
Construction Date	ca. 1957	Contributing?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
UTM (NAD 83, UTM Zone 11 North)	Easting: 589522		Northing: 4057511



Elevation: N/A      Direction facing: South      Photographer: Menocal      Date: 6/20/2017