Building 226, Administrative Support Facility Annex, at NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas

Built in December 1962, Building 226, Administrative Support Facility Annex, was the first building constructed for NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center (MSC) in Houston, Texas. The facility is identifiable as a long, rectangular building in an aerial photo taken of the primary construction site. Building 226 was originally designed to support the U.S. Corps of Engineers' efforts to inspect and supervise the primary construction phases of the MSC. Major additions to the building were complete in 1968, giving the facility its current U-shape. Conference rooms were installed in 1988 when the facility began transitioning into various incarnations to support the Institutional Safety Contract operations.

Beginning in 1989, the facility supported the Quality Assurance Division of the Safety and Mission Assurance Office (NA), which developed and implemented an integrated occupational health, industrial safety, and environmental program for JSC. During this time, the NA/Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate support contractor for the Quality Assurance Division occupied Building 225, which was located within the U shape of Building 226, and operated the Safety Learning Center (SLC) in the north wing of Building 226. Two computer laboratories were also operated in Building 226 to support NA operations. In 1999, NA operations moved back into Building 45 and the support contractor shifted into the main wing of Building 226. The SLC remained in Building 226 until December 2012 when they were integrated back into the NA facility in Building 20.

In 2004, the Center Institutional Safety Support (CISS) contractors who had been recently located in Building 225 also moved into Building 226 where they stationed Performance Evaluation Profile (PEP) survey functions across NASA for a number of years. Subsequently, Building 225 became a Source Selection Board facility.

Building 226 was a U-shaped facility located on Sixth Street directly south (from Plant North) of Building 225. The facility comprised a single-story main building connected via a small foyer (1VS) to the "west" wing (located due south of the main building) and a second foyer (1VN) to the smaller "east" wing (located due west of the main building). The largest section was a long, rectangular building original to the facility, which was located on the eastern margin of the facility complex. It had aluminum-sided exterior walls and had approximate dimensions of 147 feet in length and 32 feet in width. The main building consisted of two rows of divided office spaces separated by a central corridor. The "west" wing exhibited a brick exterior and was 32 feet in length and 67 feet in width. The "east" wing exhibited aluminum-sided exterior walls and measured 59 feet in length and 122 feet in width. The "west" wing layout differed from the main building and consisted of a central core of conference and smaller office rooms surrounded by a rectangular main hallway edged with offices. Alternatively, the "east" wing layout consisted of divided office space with two larger, open areas (Rooms 174 and 180). The facility had an overall capacity of 14,437 square feet. Original construction features included a concrete slab foundation, asphalt tile floors, steel walls, and a steel roof.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for this project is Building 225, Administration Support Facility; Building 230, Utility Annex; Building 231, Custodial Storage Building; Building 232, Custodial Administration Facility; Building 228, Environmental Hygiene Laboratory; Building 229, Environmental Support Facility; Building 259, Astronaut Selection and Isolation; Building 260, Training and Test Facility; Building 267, Space Materials Research Laboratory; Building 261, Planetary and Earth Sciences Lab; Building 263, Health Physics Laboratory; Building 262A,

Storage Building No. 1; Building 266, Medical Data Support Facility. Building 225 has been surveyed as part of the Johnson Space Center's "*Historic and Architectural Survey and Evaluation of Facilities that have Reached the Age of 45-50 Years*" and was determined not to be individually eligible but could contribute to a historic district. The other 12 buildings are being surveyed as part of JSC's Historic Survey but a determination of their eligibility has not yet been finalized.

Over the years, Building 226 had deteriorated to the point that it was no longer cost effective to maintain and operate. The roof was rusted and deteriorated and had a foam coating on top to temporarily stop leaks. The air conditioning chiller unit was deteriorated and rusty and needed replacing and had created mold issues inside the building. The exterior siding was rusting at various locations and required replacement. The sound soak, baseboards and paneling had fallen off in various locations. Floor tile was loose and cracked throughout the building. The foundation was uneven between building sections. The restroom fixtures had deteriorated over the years. As JSC's Maintenance and Operations budgets continued to decline over the years coupled with the requirement to reduce the Federal footprint, the older, deteriorated and inefficient buildings are being targeted for demolition rather than restoration.

Building 226 has been surveyed as part of JSC's 50-Year Historic Survey. It consists of architectural features and construction commonly known in the area and across Government installations in the 1960s, but the National Register criteria does not dismiss resources as insignificant simply because there are numerous examples of the type. National Register eligibility for any property, including Historic Period sites, depends largely on integrity and significance. Integrity for a Historic Period site or district is based on the presence of features and whether or not they can tell us something about the location. An architectural inventory was conducted at Building 226 to determine if unique features are present. It was determined that no specific features that "embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction" (Criterion C). Most of the basic construction components (e.g. foundation, framework, siding) retain their original integrity with a major addition in 1968, and minor changes to the interior layout and construction materials used. Integrity alone, however, does not automatically include or exclude this site as eligible for the National Register.

Interviews and in-depth historic research revealed Building 226 was the first building constructed at the Manned Space Center. Building 12 had been suspected as the first building built, but research concludes that Building 226 was undoubtedly the first building constructed at the MSC. The building and its occupants were the cornerstone of all initial construction at MSC and as such had significant associations with the founding of the Center. While Building 226 appears to lack a unique design and any other unusual physical characteristic, the significance of the building lays with the association of the building to events that were of national importance (Criterion A). Whether Building 226 is contributing or non-contributing to a historic district will be determined in the coming months once a complete evaluation of JSC is finalized.

NASA determined that the demolition of Building 226 constituted "an adverse effect" under CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties. NASA developed a Memorandum of Agreement for the mitigation of the demolition activities which include a historic narrative, oral histories and photographs of the building including activities that took place inside the building. These historic elements will be placed on the JSC Historic Preservation Website. Building 226 was demolished on November 14, 2014.