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ecology and environment, inc.

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International Specialists in the Environment

MEMORANDUM

TO: Paul Doherty, EPA/DPO

FROM: Janis Desneux, E & ETAT *JAD*

THRU: Joe Chandler, E & ETATL *JCC*

DATE: July 10, 1992

SUBJECT: Trip Report: Emory Plating Co., 3929 E. 14th Street,
Des Moines, Iowa.
TDD#: T07-9206-044
PAN#: EIA0317SAA
EPA/OSC: Wood Ramsey

INTRODUCTION

The Ecology and Environment, Inc., Technical Assistance Team (TAT) was tasked by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Emergency Planning and Response (EP&R) Branch, under Technical Direction Document (TDD) T07-9206-044 to perform a site reconnaissance of the Emory Plating site in Des Moines, Iowa. Specifically, TAT was tasked to assess site conditions and to conduct an inventory of all remaining drums and containers abandoned at the facility. TAT member (TATM) Janis Desneux was assigned project manager.

BACKGROUND

The Emory Plating Company was a small electroplating facility with one full-time employee located at 14th and Fleming streets in Des Moines, Iowa (Figure 1: Site Location Map). The property was owned by Richard Hansen prior to June, 1985. The property was sold to Douglas Musser on June 21, 1985, according to EPA/RCRA records. Emory Plating began operation in July, 1985, and was abandoned by the owner/operator, Musser sometime on or before November of 1991. Known past violations include the facility being sited for RCRA violation for not determining if the facility's waste was hazardous prior to disposal and a notice of violation for cyanide storage was issued by the Des Moines Fire Department (DMFD).

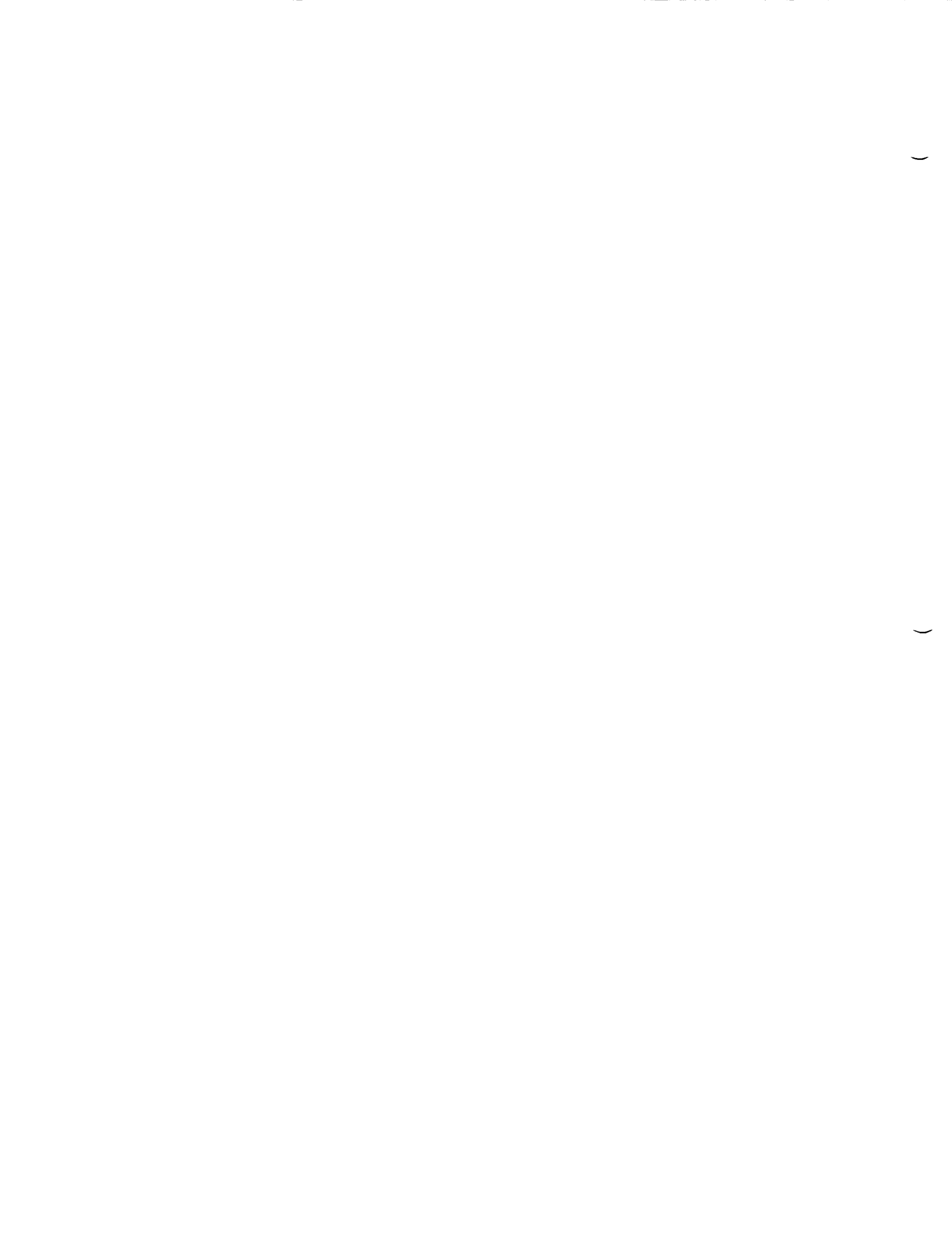
After closure of the facility, the State of Iowa referred the Emory Plating Site to the EPA for a removal assessment.

JD/JH



EIA0317SAA/9206044/F

S00083038
SUPERFUND RECORDS



SITE ACTIVITY

On June 25, 1992, TAT member Desneux and the EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Wood Ramsey departed for the Emory Plating site in Des Moines, Iowa, arriving on site at 1034 hours. Desneux and Ramsey were met on site by Matthew Woody, Senior Inspector of Hazardous Materials (Haz-Mat) for the DMFD, and police officer Ron Vestall. Woody informed Ramsey that on two previous occasions when air monitoring was conducted inside the building, no readings above background were detected. Woody did not indicate what type of air monitoring had been conducted.

The site perimeter was inspected for any visual evidence of potentially hazardous substances. A pile of sand thought to be used as polishing abrasives was located outside the east garage door (Figure 2: Site Map). One drum labeled Rust Veto, a combustible liquid, (Table 1) was found east of trailer 1 (Site Map). Five unlabeled drums of unknown contents (Table 1) and several empty drums were located east of the building, in and around the two trailers left on site. At least two of the unknown drums were deteriorated and leaking. The trailers were approximately 20 feet long and 10 feet long. Both trailers were filled with empty drums and debris.

Initial entry was made into the building with the police and fire department present. All utilities to the building had been disconnected and most of the windows and doors were boarded up. The facility was cluttered with debris, apparently scattered by vandals.

Upon initial entry into the structure by Ramsey, a cyanide Draeger tube indicated 2ppm cyanide in Room 1 (Site Map). The garage door on the east side was opened for ventilation. Further air monitoring by Desneux in each of the five rooms indicated that no cyanide vapors were present. A Foxboro Model 128 flame ionization organic vapor analyzer (OVA) was used to monitor ambient air. An initial survey of the facility with the OVA was performed with readings at background level. The combustible gas/oxygen meter indicated that no combustible vapors were present.

A container by container inventory was conducted within the building, recording the location and description of each container, contents and its manufacturer, if available, from the label information (Table 1). Drums ranged from good to very poor condition with at least two of the metal drums rusted and leaking. One fiber drum was leaking. Not all drums were closed. Drums were shifted to estimate the quantity of contents rather than opening the drum for visual inspection.

The building contained seven concrete vats, one 100-gallon tank, two 55-gallon drums, four 30-gallon drums, six five-gallon containers, one two-gallon acid carboy, 10 one-gallon containers and an approximately 1.5 feet by 1 foot piece of sodium hydroxide (Table 1). Labeled containers of cyanides, corrosives, metals and combustible materials were inventoried as were unlabeled containers including the concrete vats.



TABLE 1
DRUMS AND CONTAINERS

➤	CONTAINER SIZE	QUANTITY	MANUFACTURER	LABEL NAME/COMMENTS
NW-Room 1				
5	1 gal pl jug	full	Harshaw	Anti Pitting Additive
1	5 gal pail	full	unknown	unknown
1	500 gal vat	1/2 full	NA	unknown
1	500 gal vat	2/3 full	NA	unknown
N Middle-Room 2				
1	500 gal vat	2/3 full	NA	unknown/West wall
1	500 gal vat	1/2 full	NA	Sludge
1	500 gal vat	1/4 full	NA	unknown/Center of room
1	200 gal vat	2/3 full	NA	unknown/East wall
1	150 gal vat	unknown	NA	cleaning vat/North wall
1	100 gal tank	1/2 full	NA	unknown
1	1 gal pl jug	full	unknown	Aqua Ammonia
1	55 gal	unknown	unknown	Water displacing liquid
1	30 gal drum	1/2 full	unknown	unknown/NE corner
1	30 gal open	1/2 full	unknown	unknown/NE corner
1	2 gal carboy	unknown	unknown	Nitric Acid
2	5 gal plastic	unknown	unknown	unknown
1	piece	1.5'x1'		Sodium Hydroxide
NE-Room 3 and Office-Room 4				
No containers				
SE-Room 5				
1	5 gal pail	1/4 full	Sherwin Williams	"Latex Laq"(hand written) Labe Strippable Coating /Lacquer Reducer
1	5 gal		unknown	Enthon Alumon D Liquid (corrosive)
3	1 gal pl jug	full	Harshaw	Bright Nickel Adjustor
1	1 gal	unknown	Mac Dermid	Copper Addition Agent, S-1
1	5 gal pl pail	1/4 full	unknown	unknown
1	30 gal fiber	part full	unknown	Zinc Cyanide
1	55 gal fiber	unknown	Enthone	Enbond, S-64
1	30 gal metal	unknown	Cyanogran	Sodium Cyanide
Outside building				
1	55 gal Ot dr	1/8 full	unknown	Rusty water?

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TABLE 1 (CONTINUED)
DRUMS AND CONTAINERS

*	CONTAINER SIZE	QUANTITY	MANUFACTURER	LABEL NAME/COMMENTS
1	55 gal Ct dr	1/8 full	unknown	Rusty water?
1	55 gal Ot dr	1/4 full	unknown	Rust Veto, 4214 (Combustible liq)
1	55 gal Ct dr	1/8 full	unknown	Rusty water?
1	5 gal m pail	1/8 full	unknown	Black oil-tar/between trailers
1	55 gal drum	unknown	unknown	unknown/tan trailer
38	Total			

At 1335 hours after completing the inventory and securing the building Desneux and Ramsey departed from the site.

SUMMARY

The building was an abandoned masonry and wood structure with most of the windows and doors boarded up. In the area at the rear of the building two trailers contained empty drums, trash and site related debris.

Five 55-gallon drums of unknown materials were located east of trailer 1 (Site Map) along with an additional drum labeled as Rust Veto, a combustible liquid.

The building contained 32 containers including vats, drums, and small containers as well as the uncontainerized sodium hydroxide. Labeled containers of cyanides, corrosives, metals and combustible materials were inventoried as were unlabeled containers including the concrete vats.

A total of 38 containers of known and possible hazardous materials including the uncontainerized sodium hydroxide were found on site.

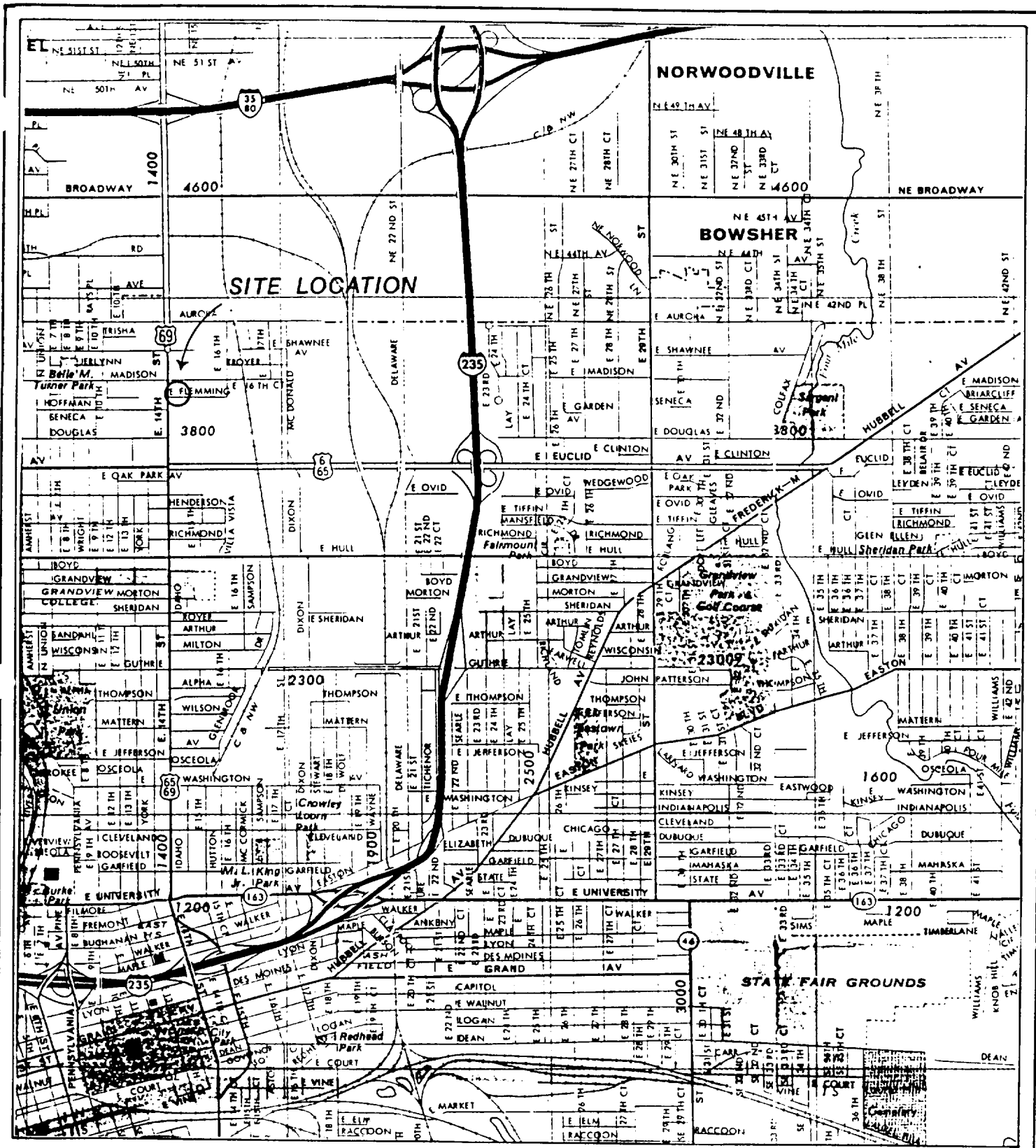
A site visit is planned for July 13, 1992, to clearly identify containers, complete a final inventory, perform a field screening on samples from the vats, drums, and unknown containers. Samples will be submitted to the Region VII EPA Laboratory for analysis for total metals, hexavalent chrome, cyanide, and pH.

ATTACHMENTS

- Figure 1: Site Location Map
- Figure 2: Site Map Site Map

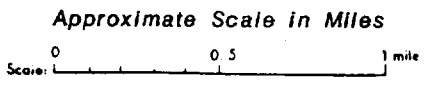
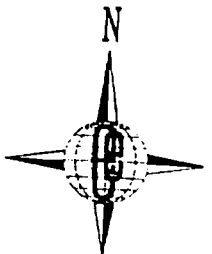
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Emory Plating

Des Moines, Iowa



Prepared by Janis Desneux
 Ecology & Environment Inc./TAT
 June 1992
 TDD# T07-9206-044
 PAN# EIA0317 SAA

Figure 1: Site Location Map

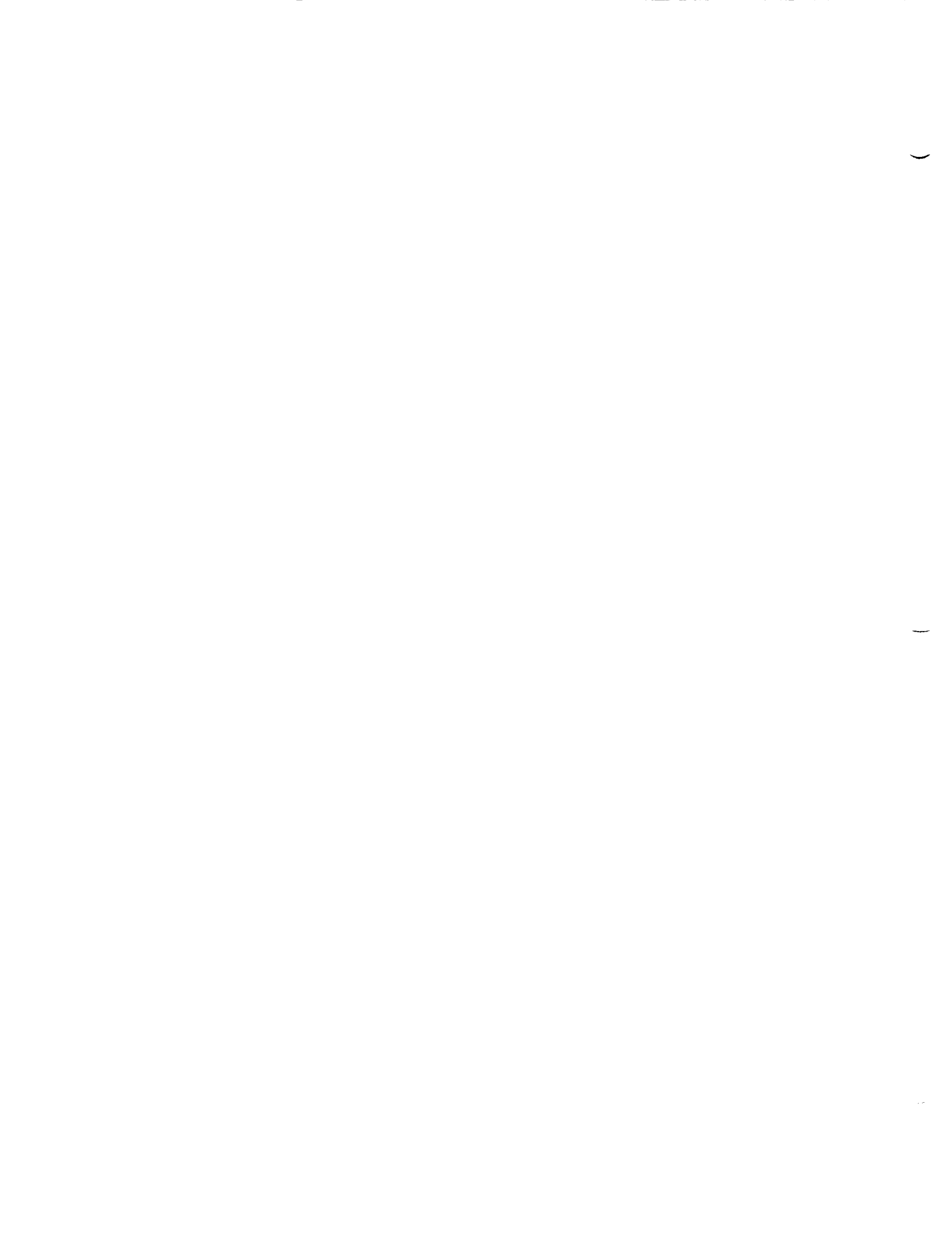
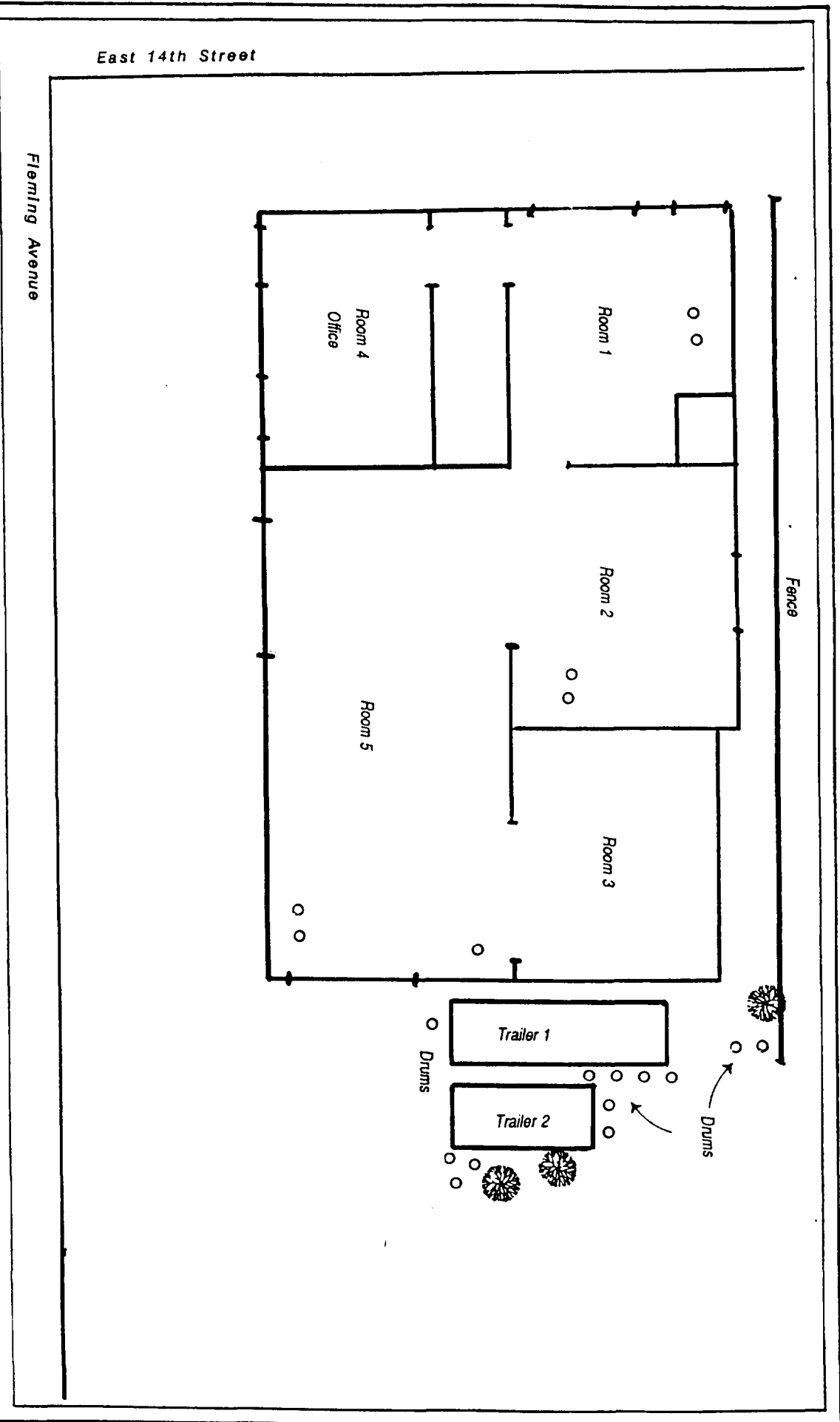


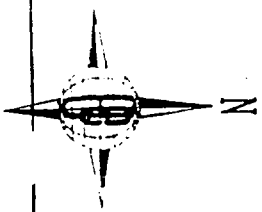
Figure 2: Site Map



Emory Plating

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