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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

DATE OF DOCUMENT [Date of Interview] = 10 - 04 - 67  
OFFICE OF PRIME RESPONSIBILITY = JSC  
NUMBER ON DOCUMENT = 00  
TYPE OF DOCUMENT [Code for Interview] = 1  
PROGRAM [3-letter Program Archive code] = INS  
AUTHOR [Interviewee's Last Name] = PECK  
LOCATION OF DOCUMENT [Numeric Shelf Address] = 091-3

SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT: [use relevant bold-face introductory terms]

Oral history interview with Robert K. Peck  
[full name of interviewee]

about Relocation in Houston (see Parker for  
[main focus of interview]  
more detailed account)

Title: 1962 - Support Branch, Procurement & Contracts Div, Admin  
[interviewee's current and/or former title and affiliation]

1968 - Material Mgt ofc, Admin Services

Interview conducted by Robert B. Merrifield - Staff  
[interviewer's name/position]

Historian at MSC  
[location of interview]

Transcript and tape(s). [for inventory only: # pages 2; # tapes     ]  
(Sketchy)

**CONTENTS:**

**Biographical** - [date/place of birth; family background] \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

**Education** - \_\_\_\_\_

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**Career Path** - \_\_\_\_\_

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**Topics** - 2 stores at Gullgate Shopping Center;  
NASA insistence window display  
had to go; Fixers furnished office  
furniture; IBM office machines - interim  
no charge; vacated Gullgate Mall  
Nov 1961. ?

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## Interview with Robert Peck

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Peck arrived in Houston, Sunday, October 1, 1961. Bill Parker had arrived the preceding day, Peck believes, and stayed overnight with friends in Meyerland. On Sunday night, Parker joined Peck and the two roomed together at the Carrousel Motel. Peck believed the other later arrivals from MSC Langley were Vincent, Turner and Welsh (Personnel), Marty Byrnes and Frank Hickey, in that order.

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On Monday, Oct. 2, Peck and Parker went to the New Federal Building to meet GSA officials and discuss arrangements for obtaining transportation vehicles. The GSA pool cars were rejected as being unsatisfactory for heavy service, and GSA agreed to issuing a contract for GSA rental vehicles from Houston Rentacar.

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Early Monday afternoon, around 1:, while Peck was in the office of Mr. Claude M. McLarty local GSA administrator, discussing arrangements Peck was making to visit the FT.Worth GSA Store Stock Depot, Parker came with the news that he had just received ~~XXXXXXXX~~ notice that Houston had been officially announced as the site for MSC. Peck's Fort Worth trip was cancelled. It was agreed that office supplied and furniture would be made thru the <sup>GSA</sup> catalog from Fort Worth.

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Parker apparently had received word from Langley that NASA Hq had had an offer of a vacant office space at #224 Gulfgate Mall, in the Gulfgate Shopping Center. This offer had come, apparently from the manager of the Shopping Center, Mr. John P. Sommers. Peck and Parker left GSA immediately and drove to Gulfgate where they met Sommers and his assistant, Mr. Marvin Kaplin. That afternoon, Oct. 2, the four

men examined the proffered space and also #210, and arrangements were made for their use.

134 The #210 space was partially occupied (display windows, only) by a display of men's clothing. Initial arrangement were such that the displays would remain, and a curtain or other screening devices would be used to separate the display from the NASA activities. When Marty Byrnes arrived several days later, he insisted that NASA's appearance to the world would not be from behind men's clothing. The owner of the merchandise was unhappy and voiced his displeasure, but moved out.

134 Occupation of 210 and 224 began the next day using makeshift equipment until office furniture arrived. No general storage capability existed in either of these rented facilities, and an existing/contract with Central Forwarding, Inc., of Houston, Texas was used to receive, store, issue, deliver, assemble, and maintain accountability for office supplies and equipment. Central Forwarding delivered items as needed. GSA ~~XXXX~~ freight forwarding area

138-1 Fingers furnished office furniture on an interim basis. IBM furnished office machines, also on an interim basis--both without charge. There were several days before furniture was delivered; Peck believes it was not until the 10th before furniture arrived.

Occupation of 210 and 224 Gulfgate Mall ceased Nov. 16, 1961. No other quarters were occupied/within the Gulfgate Shopping Center complex. ever by MSC personnel