ERA, UNIVAC & Beyond:
An Expanding Minnesota Presence

ERA had its humble beginnings in an abandoned glider factory, but as the company expanded, it built additional facilities in the Twin Cities. Completing a new plant on Shepard Road in St. Paul, the company (now named UNIVAC) designated this as Plant 1. This was soon followed with more facilities in St. Paul, Roseville, and Eagan. At its height there were 28 Twin Cities locations including 12 in Eagan and a grand total of 13,000 employees in Minnesota.

Above: A picture from 1948 showing a Naval ceremony taking place in front of the 1902 Minnehaha plant. The Navy owned the land on which the plant was built and leased it to ERA and its successor companies.

Right: William Norris breaking ground in 1955 for the Remington Rand UNIVAC plant on Shepard Road in St. Paul. It initially served as the company's Twin Cities headquarters and also as a computer manufacturing facility. It expanded in 1965.

There were many separate company facility locations during the late 1950s through the 1960s and into the 1970s.

Keith Behnke
Former Sperry UNIVAC Employee

From the VIP Club (retirees) website

UNIVAC's Eagan plant was its first expansion across the Mississippi into Dakota County. Completed in 1967, the building cost approximately $3 million and it remained an important company facility until its closure by Lockheed Martin in 2012. It was known as Plant 8 and served as the headquarters for UNIVAC, and later Unisys, defense operations with other facilities located around the U.S. and the world.

Below: The Sperry UNIVAC plant in Eagan, located at the corner of Pilot Knob and Yankee Doodle Roads. It was then known as "UNIVAC Park." Its 1974 expansion brought its size to over 500,000 square feet.