



North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources  
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper  
Secretary D. Reid Wilson

Office of Archives and History  
Deputy Secretary Darin J. Waters, Ph.D.

August 7, 2023

Ms. Anya Grahn-Federmack, Senior Planner  
Chapel Hill Historic District Commission  
405 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

RE: Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Naval Armory at UNC-Chapel Hill, 221 South  
Columbia Street, Chapel Hill, Orange County

Dear Ms. Grahn-Federmack:

Enclosed is a copy of the nomination for the Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Naval Armory at UNC-Chapel Hill, which is scheduled for presentation to the North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee on October 12, 2023. For more information about meeting details and updates on how to view the meeting, please visit the Secretary of State's Public Meeting Calendar at [https://sosnc.gov/online\\_services/calendar/Search](https://sosnc.gov/online_services/calendar/Search) and search "National Register Advisory Committee."

As a Certified Local Government, you have sixty (60) days in which to comment on the proposed nomination. If you do not respond by October 11, 2023 on the proposed nomination, approval of it will be assumed. Please note that the Chapel Hill Historic District Commission is to provide an opportunity for public comment on this nomination according to the terms specified in the certification agreement the town signed with this office. A copy of your notice to the public should be forwarded to our office along with any comments that the Chapel Hill Historic District Commission and Mayor Hemminger or the Chapel Hill Town Council wish to make on the nomination to satisfy federal and state requirements.

Please use the enclosed comment forms to send us the responses. If you have any questions concerning this nomination, we will be happy to help. Please direct any inquiries to our State Historic Preservation Office's National Register Coordinator, Jeff Smith, at [jeff.smith@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:jeff.smith@dncr.nc.gov).

Sincerely,

Darin J. Waters  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DJW/ssh

Anya Grahn-Federmack, Senior Planner  
Page Two  
August 7, 2023

Enclosures

cc: Mayor Pam Hemminger, Town of Chapel Hill

## CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE NATIONAL REGISTER

The federal and state guidelines for the Certified Local Government Program require that the CLGs participate in the process of nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places. This participation involves the review of nominations within the jurisdiction of the CLG by the CLG Commission and the chief elected local official. Opportunity for public comment must be provided during the 60-day comment period. The commission and the chief elected official are required to submit comments to the State Historic Preservation Office and the owner of the property relaying their findings as to the eligibility of the property under consideration for listing in the National Register. The attached forms are provided for you to facilitate your review of nominations and your submittal of comments to the State Historic Preservation Office. A copy of the criteria for listing in the National Register is also enclosed for your reference and use.

Although the federal regulations governing the CLG program call for the chief elected local official to provide comments on proposed National Register nominations within the CLG jurisdiction, North Carolina law stipulates that the mayor or chairman of the board of county commissioners may act only in an administrative capacity on behalf of the local governing board. If a certified local government has doubts about the legality of the chief elected official assuming sole responsibility for comments on proposed National Register nominations, it may wish to consider two alternatives: 1) having the governing board review the nominations or 2) having the governing board pass a resolution granting the chief elected local official the authority to furnish comments on behalf of the governing board.

In order to fulfill the required comment procedures, please complete the information below and the appropriate comment paragraph that is attached after you have reviewed the nomination. This information should be returned to:

**Jeff Smith, National Register Coordinator**

**State Historic Preservation Office**

**4617 Mail Service Center**

**Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4617**

COMMENTS ARE DUE IN THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE BY: **October 11, 2023**

1. Name of Certified Local Government: **Town of Chapel Hill**
2. Name of CLG Commission: **Chapel Hill Historic District Commission**
3. Property being reviewed for nomination: **Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Naval Armory at UNC-Chapel Hill**
4. Please attach documentation of the measures taken to provide for public comment during the nomination review and a record of any comments received, as per your certification agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office.
5. In approving local governments for certification, the SHPO may have stipulated that the Commission obtain the services of professional historians, architectural historians, or archaeologists when reviewing National Register nominations if those disciplines are not represented in the Commission membership. If this stipulation applies to you, please note the name of the professional you consulted below and his/her appropriate field. If you have any questions about the applicability of this stipulation to your commission, contact Kristi Brantley, Certified Local Government Coordinator, State Historic Preservation Office at 919.814.6576.

THE CLG COMMISSION SHOULD COMPLETE **ONE** OF THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS:

A. We, the **Chapel Hill Historic District Commission**, have reviewed and discussed the nomination for **Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Naval Armory at UNC-Chapel Hill** and find that the property **meets** the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as stated in Section 8 of the report. We, therefore, **recommend** that the property be submitted for listing in the Register.

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Commission chair's signature and date

B. We, the **Chapel Hill Historic District Commission**, have reviewed and discussed the nomination for **Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Naval Armory at UNC-Chapel Hill** and find that the property **does not meet** the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as stated in Section 8 of the report. We, therefore, **do not recommend** that the property be submitted for listing in the Register. The reasons for our findings concerning this nomination are stated below (use additional sheet if necessary).

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Commission chair's signature and date

**Representative Photos  
Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Naval Armory  
at UNC-Chapel Hill  
Orange County**



Primary (southwest) elevation of NROTC Armory with other resources, looking northeast.



Oblique view of northeast and northwest elevations, NROTC.

# United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Naval Armory at UNC-Chapel Hill  
Other names/site number: Temporary Navy Building, Naval Armory, OR1541  
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 221 South Columbia St.  
City or town: Chapel Hill State: NC County: Orange  
Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  N/A  
Mailing address: 221 South Columbia St., Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3325

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide X local  
Applicable National Register Criteria:  
X A B C D

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date  
North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official: Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title : State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

Public – Local

Public – State

Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box.)

Building(s)

District

Site

Structure

Object

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION—College

DEFENSE—Arms Storage

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION—College

DEFENSE—Arms Storage<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Note that the NROTC Naval Armory no longer stores working firearms, although “dummy” and non-functional weapons remain stored on site for drill purposes.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill  
Name of Property

Orange County, NC  
County and State

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS—Colonial Revival (Georgian Revival)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: BRICK

Walls: BRICK

Roof: ASPHALT—Shingles

Other: WOOD—Weatherboard (trim and columns)

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

**Summary Paragraph**

The Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Naval Armory at the University of North Carolina (UNC) in Chapel Hill is located on the south side of the sprawling campus at the northeast corner of the intersection of South Columbia Street, McCauley Street, and South Road. The Naval Armory is a one and a half-story, Flemish bond, brick building with a full basement located below the grade of the main elevation. Designed by renowned North Carolina architect Archie Royal Davis (1907-1980), the Naval Armory was one of several buildings designed by Davis during the militarization of the UNC Chapel Hill

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

campus during World War II. Like many of the buildings constructed on the Chapel Hill campus and

throughout the town of Chapel Hill during this period, the Naval Armory incorporates a pronounced Georgian Revival design intended to present a uniformity to the university's architecture of this period. While the interior has seen three substantial renovations, the exterior of the NROTC Armory remains virtually unchanged since its construction in 1943.

Two other resources are located on the grounds of the Naval Armory. The first, a contributing resource, is a three-inch, 50-caliber, anti-aircraft gun, one of two munitions-related features originally located on the southwest lawn of the Naval Armory. The other object is a conventional, aluminum flagpole that is not the original to the site and is therefore a non-contributing feature. Several other above-ground features are present on the southwest lawn, but given their temporary, non-contributing nature, or their functions as urban, non-Armory-related infrastructure, they are not included in the formal inventory.

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**Narrative Description**

*The Setting*

The Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Naval Armory at the University of North Carolina (UNC) in Chapel Hill is located on the south side of the sprawling campus at the northeast corner of the intersection of South Columbia Street, McCauley Street, and South Road. While South Road and South Columbia Street are today major arteries through campus, at the time construction began on the Naval Armory in late 1942, this portion of campus was largely undeveloped, aside from the buildings on the southwest side of South Columbia Street (the Carolina Inn and Whitehead Residence Hall) and the Chemistry building to the northeast of the NROTC Armory.<sup>2</sup> Nearby buildings today include Murray Hall

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<sup>2</sup>See A. C. Nash, "Study No. 2," August 26, 1942, Subseries 1.1, Flat Folder 14, Archie Royal Davis Papers, 1926-1980 (MC00241), Special Collections Research Center, NC State University Libraries. This collection is referred to hereafter simply as the "Archie Royal Davis Papers." Peabody Hall, Phillips Hall, and Memorial Hall to the northwest of the proposed Naval Armory site and part of the Chemistry building to the northeast were the

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

and the Morehead Labs to the east and northeast of the Naval Armory, Chapman Hall to the north, the

Brooks Computer Science Building to the northwest, and the Carolina Inn and the Whitehead Residence Hall to the west and southwest on the opposite side of South Columbia Street.

The Naval Armory is surrounded by a grassy lawn on its southwest elevation, with terrain falling away at the northwest and southeast ends of the building, exposing the northwest, northeast, and southeast exterior walls of the basement. A brick pathway leads from the sidewalk on South Columbia Street to the main (southwest) elevation of the Naval Armory, and several arrangements of memorial bricks are present in this walkway. This walkway is set off from the grassy areas of the southwest lawn by metal, stanchion-style fencing with metal chains. Several features are present on the southwest lawn of the Naval Armory. The first is a 3-inch, 50-caliber anti-aircraft gun that is stripped of some of its parts (almost surely for safety reasons) and mounted on a concrete pad to the southeast of the brick walkway. This is one of two such gun emplacements that originally appeared on the lawn; the other concrete pad is located to the northeast of the brick walkway but no longer contains its artillery. Nearby this second gun pad are a drain opening and cover that apparently help handle accumulating surface water on the lawn of the Naval Armory, a low metal sign identifying the Naval Armory, and a tall light pole with light arm that is part of the street lighting along South Columbia Street. Two manholes are also present near the street lighting pole and metal sign. Also on the lawn to the southeast of the brick walkway are a large, aluminum flag pole (not original to the site) and two low, mounted lights to illuminate the associated flag. Just to the north of the extant anti-aircraft mount is a short, red pole marking a gas line passing through the property. Finally, near the brick sidewalk along South Columbia Street are a campus security emergency call station, a directional sign for Route 86, and a directional sign for Memorial Hall, UNC Admissions, and

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nearest extant buildings in 1942. Nash's study proposed an addition to the Chemistry building, a future quadrangle to the north of the Naval Armory, an addition to Phillips, as well as other buildings to the northwest and north of the Naval Armory.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

UNC Athletic Facilities. A low fire hydrant is also located on the lawn to the southeast of the brick walkway. The extant anti-aircraft gun is the only contributing object related to the function of the Armory for this nomination, and given the ephemeral nature of the other listed elements (many of them utility-oriented), only the flagpole is classified as a noncontributing but permanent object related to the function of the Armory.

On the southeast end of the Naval Armory, a substantial, native stone retaining wall in a random rubble pattern with dark-colored mortar serves as a break from the higher elevation of the southwest lawn as the terrain descends to the southeast end of the building. The lawn to the southeast of the Naval Armory is peppered with various mature, hardwood trees and some shrubbery that abuts the southeast elevation of the building. Near the east corner of the building, a brick pathway extends toward South Road, where a native stone stairway of random rubble and light-colored mortar, flanked by native stone cheek walls, rises to the elevation at South Road. This same curving, brick pathway also extends the entire length of the northeast elevation of the Naval Armory, until it reaches a native stone stairway of random rubble and light-colored mortar, flanked by native stone cheek walls and metal handrails, near the north corner of the Naval Armory; this staircase rises to the elevation of the pathways immediately to the southeast of the Brooks Computer Science Building and Chapman Hall. Two lantern-style, metal lampposts are present at intervals along this pathway near the north and east corners of the Naval Armory. Just to the southwest of the pathway near this second stone staircase is a large, metal utility hub mounted on a concrete base.

Another such utility hub is mounted on a concrete pad just a few feet from the northwest elevation of the Naval Armory. As on the southeast elevation, a native stone wall of random rubble and dark-colored mortar manages the drop in grade from the southwest lawn to the northwest lawn. A large, metal, raised sewer grate mounted on a concrete pad is also present on the northwest lawn, along with several large shrubs and decorative plantings. Again, as all of these listed elements are relevant solely to the urban

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

infrastructure of the campus and not specifically related to the function or history of the Armory, they are not listed in the inventory for this nomination.

*Inventory*

*The Naval Armory—Contributing*

The NROTC Naval Armory building is a one and a half-story, Flemish bond, brick building with a full basement located below the grade of the main elevation. It contains a partial mezzanine that comprises the upper half story. Built in the Colonial Revival style from a design by noted architect Archie Royal Davis, the building incorporates high-end Georgian influences in its faux, paired, double end chimney stacks connected by a parapet and its use of a pronounced, dentiled, front-gabled porch supported by squared, vernacular, Doric order columns. Small, round windows above each of the three portico entries add another Georgian influence to the design. The cross-gabled roof appears to be clad in slate tiles, although it is possible that they are an asphalt shingle designed to resemble slate. Metal coping appears to cover the slate seam at the ridge beam. Curiously, the roof side of the low parapets of the gable ends appears to reveal painted concrete block, suggesting that the brick is a veneer over at least these parapet walls. Parapets and faux end chimneys are capped with limestone coping.

As noted above, the pedimented, front gabled portico dominates the southwest elevation of the building. Its tympanum consists of horizontally laid weatherboard, while the raking cornices and the horizontal cornice feature a pronounced dentil pattern. Centered within the tympanum is a shield-shaped cartouche—apparently original to the building and designed by Richard Knight, a member of the first NROTC unit at UNC Chapel Hill—that features what is apparently the official seal of the university's

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

NROTC unit, including the NROTC acronym at the top of the shield.<sup>3</sup> The frieze and architrave, however, are unadorned. The column capitals each feature a pronounced abacus and echinus at the top of unusually elongated necking. The astragal for each column is simplistic and unremarkable. The squared, fluted columns terminate in a wide base resting on a concrete footing. All of these details are repeated in two pilasters on the outer ends of the portico to support the portico roof returns. Underneath the portico are three symmetrically set entries, each consisting of a set of three-paneled double doors with a twelve-light transom. Surrounds for each entry are deep, two-paneled, and ornamented with ears at the top of each frame, while the ceiling of each surround features a single panel as well. A name plate featuring the name of a branch of service—Navy, Air Force, and Army—is visible directly above each set of doors, reflecting the joint use of the building by these ROTC branches in recent decades. Behind these signs, the top of each doorframe features an ornamented band with closely arranged, vertical notches. Small, round, nine-light, deeply recessed windows are visible above each entry and feature concentric bands of recessing trim. Each of these window piercings is surrounded by a single circle of brick rowlocks. The ceiling of the portico reads as tongue-and-groove plank, although this is not certain. Three simple, glass-covered lighting fixtures protrude from the surface of the ceiling above each entry. Ornamented molding trims the space between the ceiling and the brick and cornice, while the bottoms of the cornice and cornice returns are single-paneled. Several items are affixed to the walls of the portico entrances—a bronze plaque honoring Lt. George Howard, Jr., an electronic card reader, a handicap entry button, a fire alarm bell, and a Ring-type camera and intercom system.<sup>4</sup> A key storage box and some conduit are also affixed to the brick just beyond the northwest end of the portico. The floor of the portico is poured concrete, with four concrete steps descending to the brick pathway. A metal railing rises at the center of

<sup>3</sup> On Richard Knight's design, see "New Armory for NROTC Nears Finish," *Daily Tar Heel*, 51:64, December 5, 1942: 1. All cited editions of the *Tar Heel* and *Daily Tar Heel* cited in this nomination are available at <https://www.digitalnc.org/newspapers/daily-tar-heel-chapel-hill-n-c/>.

<sup>4</sup> The plaque honoring Lt. Howard was installed in June 1947. See "UNC Gets Plaque Honoring Naval Hero," *Durham Sun*, June 5, 1947: 8.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

these steps, which are flanked by brick cheek walls capped with concrete that tie into the brick foundation of the portico. At the northwest end of the portico, a concrete, U-shaped ADA ramp with a concrete foundation and metal handrails—a late addition to the building—makes its way to the brick pathway in front of the building.

Flanking each side of the central, front-gabled portion of the building are slightly set back wings of four bays each, with each bay denoted by a twelve-over-sixteen, double-hung sash, wooden window with a wooden surround and sill. Grommets at the top of nearly every frame indicate that screens were originally designed for these windows, but none are present. Lintels composed of angled, Flemish bond brick cap each window opening. Cornice boards are obscured by metal gutters that have been strapped into the roofing, while relatively plain frieze boards are visible between the rooflines and the brick below, terminating in alignment with the northwest and southeast parapet walls at the side gable ends of the roof. Metal downspouts descend near each corner of the southwest elevation. The junction between each wing and the central front gable features an odd continuation of the brick walls of this central section in a manner that penetrates the roofline of both the central front gable and the rooflines of the wings. These protrusions are capped with what appears to be limestone coping. To the southeast of the portico in front of the southeast wing is a concrete vent with a metal grate, as well as an adjacent, low standpipe. A soldier course water table extends along the southwest elevation of each wing from the portico to each side of the building, terminating after briefly wrapping the corner onto the southeast and northwest elevations.

The southeast elevation is two and a half stories in height, counting the basement that is below the grade of the southwest elevation. Four bays wide, the southeast elevation features the aforementioned faux double chimneys at the center of the elevation, connected by a low parapet in between, with low parapet shoulders extending away toward either end of the elevation. The parapets and faux chimneys are coped

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

with limestone. On this elevation, a metal aerial antenna is strapped to the east faux chimney with metal strapping. At the mezzanine level, a circular opening is filled with what appears to be a metal vent. This opening is encircled with brick rowlocks and limestone keystones at each cardinal position. As on the southwest elevation, the four symmetrically spaced windows of the first floor are twelve-over-sixteen, double-hung sash, wooden windows with wooden frames and sills. Lintels are again of angled, Flemish bond brick. Directly beneath each of these four first-floor windows are the four basement windows, which are eight-over-eight, double-hung sash, wooden windows with wooden frames and sills, as well as the same angled, Flemish bond, brick lintel treatment, although here the wooden sills rest on concrete undersills.

The northeast elevation of the Armory features a single bay under a gabled pediment at the center of the elevation, although here the tympanum is blank (featureless brick and a narrow frieze board along the raking cornices), with no bottom cornice to the pediment. Directly below the gable, at the first-floor level, is a massive, triple bay, window opening set into a flat arch lintel of angled, Flemish bond brick with an ornate, limestone keystone at the top of the arch. The central window is a twelve-over-sixteen, double-hung sash, wooden window flanked by six-over-eight, double-hung sash, wooden sidelights, all with a wooden frame and sill. The space between the flat arch and the tops of the windows is filled with a wooden panel. An unusual, metal frame, purpose unknown, is attached to the brick just to the southeast of this window grouping. Directly below this first-floor window feature is another triple window grouping, this time with an eight-over-eight, double-hung sash, wooden window with flanking four-over-four, double-hung sash sidelights, also set in a wooden frame with a wooden sill and a concrete undersill. The lintel of this basement-level window grouping features angled, Flemish bond brick. Metal downspouts from the ends of the cornices of the main roofline essentially frame this central section of the elevation. A metal vent is visible just to the northwest of the northwest downspout, between the first floor and basement levels.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Name of Property

Orange County, NC

County and State

The southeast wing of this elevation is five bays wide and features a pronounced cornice obscured by metal guttering as well as an unadorned frieze board similar to that found on the southwest elevation. Five twelve-over-sixteen, double-hung sash, wooden windows with wooden frames and sills and an angled, Flemish bond, brick lintel treatment are visible at the first floor. The basement features four eight-over-eight, double-hung sash, wooden windows with wooden frames and sills, concrete undersills, and the angled, Flemish bond, brick lintel treatment. The fourth bay from the southeast on the elevation is occupied by a double doorway instead of a window and is denoted by a multi-layered surround with ears and a transom space filled with a single-paneled, wooden filler. Doors here and on the matching doorway to the northwest are metal and windowless; they do not appear to be original. The southeast doorway features a concrete threshold that steps down to a stoop with four steps that descend to grade. Immediately to the northwest of this is a small concrete patio area with three metal bicycle parking loops. The features of the southeast wing of the northeast elevation are mirrored on the northwest wing of this elevation, with the exception that the concrete stoop from the basement doorway only has one step down to grade. A metal utility box is also visible at grade between the first and second windows of the northwest wing of the northeast elevation, and a narrow, outflow pipe descends from the first floor to grade between the doorway and the third window from the northwest. Metal downspouts are also visible descending from the roofline to grade at the east and north corners of the northeast elevation.

The northwest elevation is nearly identical to the southeast elevation of the building with the exception that no aerial antenna is attached at this end, and several mechanical features and metal frames are appended to the northwest elevation at the basement.

*Interior*

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

The basement interior of the NROTC Armory was originally designed around a U-shaped hallway that extended from one of the rear (northeast) entries to the other. Outside the U were classrooms, a records room, and a rifle range, while the area inside the U and between the northeast entries were a storeroom, a residential attendant's rooms, and toilets for the facility. A machine room was located just beyond the rifle range and under the portico of the southwest elevation.<sup>5</sup> Today, the basement area still retains this general, U-shaped arrangement, except that the U has been inverted, with a long corridor extending northwest to southeast, just inside the southeast wall between the two exterior, ground floor entries. A third stairwell has also been added near the south corner of the building along the southwest wall, effectively cutting the old rifle range in half. The northwest portion of the rifle range, however, now used as a Navy lounge, still retains visual cues of its former use as a rifle range. Electrical and mechanical equipment remains stored under the portico of the southwest elevation. The remainder of the basement area is divided into classrooms, activity rooms, and offices that generally occupy similar spaces, albeit with slightly different configurations to take more efficient advantage of the pilasters and columns supporting the drill deck above. The extant bathrooms occupy the identical footprint of the men's toilet and officer's toilet on the original plans. Floors of the basement-level hallways are generally tile squares over what is presumably poured concrete, while floor coverings in the offices, classrooms, and activity spaces are generally commercial grade carpet, with the exception of one large classroom that also features tile squares. Brick along the outer walls of the basement is generally exposed but painted. Drop ceilings of acoustical tiles with fluorescent light fixtures are liberally applied throughout the basement area. Columns and pilasters are also of exposed, painted brick and readily visible throughout much of the basement. Interior walls that appear to be part of the original configuration are generally of painted concrete block, while other, newer walls are generally of drywall.

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<sup>5</sup> For detailed plans, see Archie Royal Davis Papers, 1926-1980, Collection MC00241, Series 1.1, Tube Box 123, NC State University Libraries, Special Collections Research Center. Copies of these plans are included in the historical photos with this nomination.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Name of Property

Orange County, NC

County and State

The main elevation of the NROTC Armory originally featured a massive drill hall with four offices at the northwest end of the drill deck. The original drill deck measured 58 by 114 feet (6,612 square feet) and featured high-grade maple flooring that still survives throughout the building. The main doorways of the southwest elevation opened directly into this drill deck. At the northwest end of the first-floor drill deck was a mezzanine erected over the officers' offices that was intended to mimic the bridge of a ship, with a twin set of open stairways descending to the drill deck floor. A compass and binnacle were also present on the "bridge deck," along with "two propeller revolution indicators and a steering wheel from a modern US destroyer." During drill, senior officers would issue commands from the "bridge."<sup>6</sup> Above these offices at the northwest end of the building was an open mezzanine reached by two staircases along the northeast and southwest walls. At that time the Armory opened, there was no mezzanine on the southeast end of the building.<sup>7</sup> However, sometime before 1955, a mezzanine was added with twin staircases and offices below, effectively mirroring the northwest end of the room except that the southeast mezzanine was enclosed with shuttered window openings that looked out onto the drill deck. In addition, an enclosed, single-level office space was built out from the northeast wall sometime before 1964, with various flags mounted to its roof.<sup>8</sup> No documentation of when these elements were added to the drill deck has been found, but the southeast mezzanine must have been added sometime before 1955, when it appears in an April 30, 1955, image of Pharmaceutical Association dance at the NROTC Armory.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> "New Armory for NROTC Nears Finish," *Daily Tar Heel*, 51:64, December 5, 1942: 1; and "Naval ROTC," *Yackety Yak*, yearbook, (Chapel Hill, NC: Students of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1943), 194-95. Additional images of the NROTC can be found throughout *Carolina Catapult*, the official publication of the NROTC at UNC Chapel Hill from 1940 to 1946, available at the Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill.

<sup>7</sup> For detailed plans, see Archie Royal Davis Papers, 1926-1980, Collection MC00241, Series 1.1, Tube Box 123, NC State University Libraries, Special Collections Research Center. Copies of these plans are included in the historical photos with this nomination.

<sup>8</sup> These features can be seen in John Grimes, "Scabbard and Blade Group," November 16, 1964, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Photographic Laboratory Collection, Collection Number P0031, Black and White Film Box 122, Image 26607-0001, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill.

<sup>9</sup> Roland Giduz, "Orange County—Chapel Hill—North Carolina, Pharmaceutical Association, April 30, 1955, Dance at Armory," Roland Giduz Photograph Collection, 1947-1970, Collection Number P0033, Black and White Film Box 9, Image 1705, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill  
Name of Property

Orange County, NC  
County and State

As a result of renovations completed before 1955, in 1962-1963, and in 1994-1995, the first floor has been subjected to several periods of significant alterations. While the four offices located at the northwest end of the building remain virtually identical in arrangement, the open staircases ascending to the mezzanine above these offices are now enclosed, as is the mezzanine level. At the southeast end of the building, the four offices built before 1955 essentially mirror those found at the northwest end of the building, with twin enclosed staircases rising in mirror form to the now fully enclosed mezzanine level above these southeast end offices. Both enclosed mezzanines are also divided and used for dummy weapon and equipment storage by each of the ROTC groups housed in the building. Inside the perimeter of the aforementioned staircases and offices at the southeast and northwest ends are corridors that essentially form an irregular, rectangular path around additional offices, restrooms, and the greatly reduced drill deck (now 1,215 square feet) located at the center of the first floor. Three offices added in 1994-1995 are also located along the northeast wall between the two mezzanine staircases. In many of the office spaces, commercial grade carpeting and other flooring treatments cover portions of the original maple floors, which are believed to be extant underneath, although the maple floor remains visible in the surviving drill deck space and most hallways. Drop ceilings of acoustical tiles with fluorescent light fixtures are also evident in most offices as well as the remaining drill deck, although the drill deck nevertheless retains double-height ceilings that are just slightly lower than the original, open truss arrangement. Original maple floors are also evident in the storage rooms of the northwest mezzanine. Most window openings are also covered with interior security screens or interior storm windows that make it difficult, if not impossible, to operate the original, weight and pulley, double-hung sash windows that remain extant.

Throughout the first floor of the building, the steel bracing collars and brackets from the 1962-1963 renovation are typically open and visible, as the original wooden trusses and brackets would have been,

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

except where they disappear into newer drywall or ceiling elements. This can look a bit odd in the places

where interior walls were added during the 1994-1995 renovations, as brackets simply disappear into the drywall or the drop ceiling, leaving the uninformed visitor to wonder what they actually support. The compass, binnacle, and steering wheel—originally located on the mezzanine over the drill deck—are now present in the entry hallway of the first floor along the southwest side of the building. Floors of the pre-1955 mezzanine on the southeast end of the building are also of maple, but boards are clearly of a broader width than those found elsewhere in the building, underscoring the area's later construction date.

### *Anti-Aircraft Gun—Contributing*

The anti-aircraft gun currently mounted on a concrete pad on the southwest lawn of the NROTC Armory has murky origins. The gun resembles other three-inch, 50-caliber deck guns that were typically mounted on small surface ships and submarines during the 1930s and 1940s, but this iteration appears to be missing some of its equipment. Local NROTC personnel have been unsuccessful in trying to determine its origins, although local tradition has placed it at the site since at least 1949, and perhaps earlier.<sup>10</sup>

Circumstantial evidence suggests that the extant gun may be original to the NROTC Armory, except that it was originally located inside on the drill deck. In an April 1943 article about the opening of the Armory, this description appeared: "A historical old three-inch field piece used in landing operations from the US Man-o-war squats beneath the bridge at the south end of the floor. Actually in use for more than 30 years the gun is also a gift of the Navy Department. Although chiefly ornamental, it also is used occasionally for instruction."<sup>11</sup> In 1949, the *Yackety Yack* yearbook published an image, possibly taken in

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<sup>10</sup> Andrew Hertel to Sandy Henkel, email correspondence shared with author, April 19, April 20, and May 5, 2022. See also Robert Thomason, "Armory Gun Gets Sprucing Up; NROTC Cadets Repaint WWII Relic," *Daily Tar Heel*, March 23, 1978: 1.

<sup>11</sup> H. C. Cranford, "UNC Midshipmen Finally Secure Anchorage," *Daily Tar Heel*, 51:154, April 25, 1943: 1, 4.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

1946, showing both of the guns that at one time stood on the southwest lawn, including the present gun

that remains on the lawn.<sup>12</sup> Given the likely presence of this anti-aircraft gun at the NROTC Armory from shortly after its completion, it is considered to be a contributing object, even though it was moved to the lawn at some point fairly early in the building's history.

The second gun seen in the 1949 image, mounted near the northwest end of the lawn, was less stout and has also not been identified; it remained on the southwest lawn through at least 1965 but is no longer present.<sup>13</sup> Another image, taken probably in the mid-1950s, shows a large, mounted torpedo on the southwest lawn close to the northwest end of the building, although this item does not appear to have remained on the lawn for long.<sup>14</sup> Also present in images throughout the late 1940s to the 1960s are a changing rotation of munitions and guns mounted on the cheek walls of the steps to the southwest portico. None of these objects are present today.

***Flagpole—Noncontributing***

While the original armory featured a flagpole acquired from a nearby high school site, the current flagpole erected at the same location on the southwest lawn is clearly not the original.<sup>15</sup> It is therefore considered to be a noncontributing object.

<sup>12</sup> For a copy of the original print, including a marginal notation of "46—Armory," see University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Photographic Laboratory Collection, Collection Number P0031, Print Box 13, Image 50080-2434, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill. This image was published in "Navy ROTC," *The 1949 Yackety Yack*, (Chapel Hill, NC: Students of the University of North Carolina, 1949), 252.

<sup>13</sup> For the 1965 view, see Ronald Lambe, "Morehead Scholars in NROTC," April 29, 1965, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Photographic Laboratory Collection, Collection Number P0031, Black and White Film Box 123, Image 27135-0001, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill.

<sup>14</sup> University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Photographic Laboratory Collection, Collection Number P0031, Print Box 13, Image 50080-16494, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill.

<sup>15</sup> Archie Royal Davis, "Change Order #11," February 18, 1943, Archie Royal Davis Papers, 1926-1980, Collection MC00241, Series 1.3, Box 55, Folder 7, NC State University Libraries, Special Collections Research Center.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Name of Property

*Integrity*

Orange County, NC

County and State

The NROTC Armory at UNC Chapel Hill remains in its original location and its exterior is virtually identical to the building unveiled in January 1943. Minor exterior modifications include the addition of the ADA ramp to the northwest side of the portico on the southwest elevation and alterations to the rear (southeast) doors at ground level, but all other major components of the building's exterior remain unchanged. Its design, materials, and workmanship thus remain almost entirely intact, and Archie Royal Davis's original architectural design is instantly recognizable on the building's exterior. In addition, the NROTC Armory has maintained its association with the NROTC and other ROTC programs since the building first opened in 1943, and it continues to be used for NROTC training. Exterior and interior visual cues and design continue to convey the feeling of the architectural and historical patterns present during the World War II-era expansion of the UNC Chapel Hill campus to accommodate the United States Navy and its various training programs. Its relationship to adjacent, historic buildings, including the Carolina Inn and Whitehead Residence Hall (both landmarks at the time of its construction), as well as the unchanged nature of the nearby streets (South Columbia Street, South Road, and McCauley Street) help to convey the original setting in which the NROTC Armory was constructed, and the surrounding terrain—designed specifically with the NROTC Armory in mind—only amplifies that sense of setting.

The interior of the NROTC Armory has experienced three major interior renovations. The first, which occurred at an unknown date prior to April 1955, added offices, twin staircases, and an enclosed mezzanine to the southeast end of the drill deck, as seen in the aforementioned images. The second, in 1962-1963, involved the replacement of the original, wooden roof trusses, several of which had failed and threatened the collapse of the building, with steel trusses, brackets, and collars that were attached to the extant wooden columns in the outer walls. The third occurred in 1994-1995, precipitated by the merging of all ROTC programs on campus into a single building, which resulted in the enclosure of much of the drill deck space and led to the rearrangement of the basement classroom spaces and the closure of the rifle

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

range. A fourth, less significant renovation in 1982 updated several mechanical systems in the building.

Nevertheless, numerous physical elements still survive within the building to convey the missing interior components in small scale. For example, portions of the rifle range's inner brick walls are still visible in the basement and serve as an obvious reminder of the use of this space. Similarly, the main floor still contains a large, open space that is still called the drill deck and used for various ceremonial and training events. While these interior alterations likely prohibit nomination for architectural significance under Criterion C, the NROTC Armory as a whole retains sufficient integrity, inside and out, to convey its significance under Criterion A as described below.

***Statement of Archaeological Potential***

The Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Naval Armory at the University of North Carolina (UNC) in Chapel Hill is closely related to the surrounding environment and landscape. Archaeological deposits, such as structural remains of unknown earlier structures that may have been on the parcel, are unlikely to be present, but debris that accumulated on the property during its use as an armory and training facility, remnant landscape features, and other remains that may be present, could provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the NROTC Naval Armory. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the NROTC Naval Armory. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is possible that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill  
Name of Property

Orange County, NC  
County and State

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION  
MILITARY

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill  
Name of Property

Orange County, NC  
County and State

**Period of Significance**

1943-1970  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1943  
1945  
1970

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Archie Royal Davis (1907-1980)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Naval Armory at the University of North Carolina (UNC) in Chapel Hill is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of Military and Education significance. Specifically, the NROTC Naval Armory at UNC-Chapel Hill is significant within the context of "Part One: Mobilization and Its Impact" of the October 2007 National Historic Landmarks Theme Study entitled *World War II & the American Home Front*.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>16</sup> John W. Jeffries, "Part One: Mobilization and Its Impact," *World War II & the American Home Front: A National Historic Landmarks Theme Study*. Marilyn M. Harper, Project Manager, (Washington, DC: National Park Service, October 2007), 9-49.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

The selected period of significance (1943 to 1970) corresponds to the years during World War II when the use of the Naval Armory was vitally important to the broader war effort in the United States, the continued use of the NROTC Armory during the Cold War period for the training of NROTC midshipmen, and the anti-war protests associated with the Vietnam War in the 1960s and the Kent State Massacre in 1970.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

***Criterion A: Education and Military Context***

The National Historic Landmarks Theme Study entitled *World War II & the American Home Front* defines various property types that are typically associated with the theme study. Among these are “places associated with manpower,” defined by the theme study as “those that supported the defense industry and the military workforce to meet phenomenal wartime productivity demands,” including “places...where troops and their supplies traveled across the country and overseas as thousands of new recruits entered the military.”<sup>17</sup> The NROTC Armory at UNC Chapel Hill is an excellent example of a significant resource that meets the definitions outlined in the NHL Theme Study on *World War II & the American Home Front* and is therefore nominated under Criterion A for its significance at the local level as a result of its association with this NHL Theme Study.

In his context section on “Mobilization and Its Impact” in this theme study, John W. Jeffries notes, “Meeting the nation’s production needs and the requirements of the armed forces required major efforts in mobilizing man and womanpower during the war. It also required a significant expansion of the role of the federal government; first in conscripting men for the military and then in ensuring adequate labor supply and allocation on the home front.” Jeffries also notes that six million Americans joined the armed

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<sup>17</sup> Harper, *World War II & the American Home Front*, 128.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

forces outside of the Selective Service System, with the Navy and Marine Corps taking only volunteers

until 1943. As Jeffries adds, “In the military, many young men, black and white, received better nutrition and medical care than they had ever experienced and gained important educational opportunities, as well as military training and experience—and the postwar G. I. Bill.”<sup>18</sup>

Jeffries says little if anything about the role of the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (or any ROTC program) in preparations for fighting in World War II, nor does Jeffries explicitly discuss the role colleges and universities played more broadly in training young men and women for military service through expanded ROTC programs and other new initiatives.<sup>19</sup> But primary sources from the period illustrate just how important these training programs—and particularly the NROTC forces at UNC Chapel Hill—were to the war effort. In a section entitled “Shortage of Manpower and Resulting Problems” in Albert Coates’s *Guide to Victory*, a lengthy, May 1943 article on civilian defense in UNC’s *Popular Government* journal, Coates explained how the University of North Carolina was doing its part to address manpower training:

The University of North Carolina may be taken as an illustration of the process of converting higher institutions of learning from the business of peace to the business of war.

The process of conversion began in May 1940, twenty months before Pearl Harbor, with a telegram from the President of the University of North Carolina placing faculty, laboratories, and equipment at the service of the government in the national defense. This action was confirmed and extended by the Board of Trustees at its August meeting.

<sup>18</sup> Jeffries, “Part I,” Harper, *World War II*, 20.

<sup>19</sup> Jeffries, “Part I,” Harper, *World War II*, 9-49. Jeffries makes brief mention of the role of universities in “developing what might be called the military-industrial-scientific-academic complex” in his section “Mobilizing Science and Technology” (p. 16), but his entire section on “Mobilizing Manpower” (pp. 19-26) lacks a single mention of the important role of colleges and universities in this process.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill  
Name of Property

Orange County, NC  
County and State

It went forward: (1) with an inventory of faculty skills, including military experience and knowledge of foreign languages and countries, together with an inventory of laboratory facilities for research on military problems in the fields of physics, chemistry, and allied sciences; (2) with a formal request in June for a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps unit, which was granted in the fall of 1940; (3) with compulsory physical training for students of all classes beginning September 1940; (4) with the formation of the Carolina Volunteer Training Corps and the beginning of the War Information Center in December 1941; (5) with a pre-induction curriculum for all students entering military service in the winter of 1942—a curriculum late expanding into the College for War Training.

It gathered momentum with (6) the establishment of the Naval Pre-Flight School in the spring of 1942, which expanded from 850 cadets to 1,875, occupying 13 dormitories, and sharing University classroom, auditorium, gymnasium, and training school facilities; (7) the coming of pre-meteorology and aviation units in the winter and spring of 1943; (8) the coming of the V-12 Naval unit, including 1,300 or more men on July 1, 1943.<sup>20</sup>

The Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Program was first established in 1926, with the intent of encouraging young, college-bound men to pursue careers in the United States Navy. As described by the Navy Department in the 1920s,

The primary object of the Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps is to provide systematic instruction and training at civil educational institutions, which will qualify selected students of

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<sup>20</sup> Albert Coates, "Guide to Victory," *Popular Government*, 9:1-4, May 1943: 160-61. Emphasis added by the author of this nomination.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

such institutions for appointment as officers in the Naval Reserve. The Naval Reserve Officers'

Training Corps will be expected to supply sufficient junior officers to the Naval Reserve and thus assist in meeting the demands for increased commissioned personnel in wartime.

The secondary object of the Naval ROTC is to further acquaint the college authorities and the student bodies with the Navy and what it means to the nation. The present influence on American public opinion of colleges and universities and the future of influence of present-day students make this secondary object of considerable importance to the Navy.<sup>21</sup>

At first, there were only six NROTC programs on college and university campuses in the country—University of California at Berkeley, Georgia Institute of Technology, Northwestern University, University of Washington, Harvard University, and Yale University, producing just 126 midshipmen in the first graduating classes of 1930.<sup>22</sup> As war signals emerged from Europe in the late 1930s, the Navy added another 21 NROTC programs at US colleges and universities—two in 1938, one in 1939, ten in 1940, and eight in 1941.<sup>23</sup> As part of the university's aforementioned comprehensive plan to aid the war effort, UNC officials lobbied their elected officials and Navy representatives hard in the late summer of 1940, and just a few weeks later, on September 11, 1940, the Navy announced the designation of a NROTC program at eight universities, including UNC Chapel Hill.<sup>24</sup> Indeed, the establishment of the

<sup>21</sup> Quoted in C. W. Nimitz, "The Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps," Reprint in *Proceedings*, 99/10/848, October 1973: 82-83, online at <https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/1973/october/naval-reserve-officers-training-corps>.

<sup>22</sup> Nimitz, "Naval Reserve," 82; and "About," Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps, website, United States Navy, online at <https://www.netc.navy.mil/Commands/Naval-Service-Training-Command/NROTC/About/>.

<sup>23</sup> William Exton, Jr., "Readying the Naval ROTCs for War," *Proceedings*, 68/6/472, June 1942: 814, online at <https://www.usni.org/magazines/proceedings/1942/june/readying-naval-rotcs-war>.

<sup>24</sup> James Forrestal to Carl Vinson, September 11, 1940, Academic Affairs, College for War Training, August 10-31, 1940, Collection 40074, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill. Similar attempts in 1940 and 1941 to establish an Army ROTC program at UNC Chapel Hill were not successful. See, for example, Henry L. Stimson to Frank P. Graham, August 23, 1940, Academic Affairs, College for War Training, August 10-31, 1940, Collection 40074, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill, in which Stimson wrote, "The War Department does not contemplate the

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

NROTC program at UNC Chapel Hill was the first such program in the entire state of North Carolina and remains one of only three ever to be established within the state.<sup>25</sup>

From the start, Navy personnel were frustrated by the lack of a dedicated armory building at Chapel Hill. At first, the NROTC program was quartered in "the new and beautiful Woollen Gymnasium, in quarters that are comfortable and quite adequate for a unit of one class," but Navy personnel were deeply concerned that "further expansion will present a serious problem, particularly in view of the university's broad and highly commendable program of physical education, which is just now getting well underway."<sup>26</sup> A storeroom, rifle range, ammunition storage, and instruction space for a four-inch gun were located in the basement of "the university dining hall." Infantry drills took place at Emerson Stadium and the Tin Can (UNC Chapel Hill's old gymnasium). Anticipating that the NROTC program would outgrow this patchwork of facilities by September 1943, Navy officials asked for a new armory at an estimated cost of \$130,000 using Works Progress Administration (WPA) funds.<sup>27</sup> Meanwhile,

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establishment of new units of the ROTC at this time to any of the many schools desiring such training. This is based on the fact that officer personnel required cannot be spared from necessary duty with combat forces."

<sup>25</sup> The NROTC program at Duke University did not begin until July 1941. See "Naval ROTC, About, History," Duke University, Trinity College of Arts and Sciences, online, <https://nrotc.duke.edu/history>. An NROTC Armory was also added about 1943 but is not believed to survive. See "Naval Reserve Training Unit Enlarged, Equipment Increased," *Durham Sun*, July 6, 1944: 9. North Carolina State University added a joint program with UNC Chapel Hill in 1979, and a separate unit established at NC State in 1988. See "Naval ROTC, About, History," North Carolina State University, online, <https://naval.dasa.ncsu.edu/about/history-2/>.

<sup>26</sup> R. S. Haggart to Lyal A. Davidson, December 7, 1940, General Administration: Controller & Vice President for Finance, Subgroup 1: General Files, National Defense: Navy: ROTC, 1940-1957, Collection 40011, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill. Charles T. Woollen Gymnasium opened on the UNC Chapel Hill campus in 1938.

<sup>27</sup> R. S. Haggart to President, University of North Carolina, January 10, 1941, General Administration: Controller & Vice President for Finance, Subgroup 1: General Files, National Defense: Navy: ROTC, 1940-1957, Collection 40011, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill. Based on subsequent communications, it appears that "basement of the university dining hall" was a reference to Lenoir Hall, which opened in 1940 and was the active dining hall in 1941, but a subsequent image of the NROTC Armory, probably taken in early 1943 for an unidentified University publication, indicated that "the building, recently completed, has approximately the same dimensions as the main part of Swain Hall, where the NROTC was formerly quartered." See "New Naval ROTC Armory," undated clipping from unknown publication in Scrapbook Volume III, Elle Goode Hardeman Papers, 1917-1946, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill. Communications cited below explain the sequence of building occupations.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

applications for membership in the NROTC were so overwhelming that half of them were turned down in Fall 1941 because of quota limitations.<sup>28</sup>

The new NROTC armory at UNC Chapel Hill was apparently first proposed in 1941, and as originally conceived, it was intended to be used by “the Naval Reserve unit as well as other allied services located on the campus.”<sup>29</sup> In design, it differed substantially from the NROTC Armory that was ultimately built, but the proposed design in 1941 offers some insight into the rationale for later design decisions: “The building will consist of a two-story head house with small basement and one-story drill hall wing at the rear with a rifle range located in the basement below this unit. The construction is to be fireproof throughout. The exterior walls will be of brick with stone trim and will be Georgian Colonial design to match the adjacent buildings on the University campus.”<sup>30</sup> In February 1941, however, the WPA indicated that they would not be able to cover the full cost of construction, in part because they could not provide tradespeople accounting for roughly one third of the proposed cost. The Navy then shifted their attention to university funding to help make up the shortfall.<sup>31</sup> In March 1941, Undersecretary of the Navy James Forrestal categorized the proposed new armory as “important for military or naval purposes.” Throughout 1942, Navy personnel continued to push for the armory to be completed by September 1943, specifically suggesting that the new armory be “similar to one of those approved for Duke University, North Carolina State College, University of South Carolina, or [University of] Virginia.”<sup>32</sup> By May 1941,

<sup>28</sup> John Kerr III, “Installation of V-12 Unit Here Maintains University’s Naval Tradition,” *Daily Tar Heel*, 52:45, June 13, 1944: 13.

<sup>29</sup> “Outline Description, Proposed Armory for United States Naval Reserve, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC,” [1941], 1, General Administration: Controller and Vice President for Finance, Subgroup 2: UNC-CH Files, Series 3: Business and Property, Buildings and Property: Naval Armory, 1941, Collection 40011, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill. After first reference, all UNC collections are referred to by their folder name and collection number.

<sup>30</sup> “Outline Description,” [1941], 1.

<sup>31</sup> R. S. Haggart to F[orrest] U. Lake, February 26, 1941, Academic Affairs: Department of Naval Science (Naval ROTC), Naval Armory, 1940-1943, 1962-1963, 1975, 1984, 1988, 1992-1995, Collection 40083, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill.

<sup>32</sup> C. W. Nimitz to James Forrestal, March 4, 1941, and James Forrestal to C. W. Nimitz, March 8, 1941, and W. S. Popham to President, University of North Carolina, January 27, 1942, General Administration: Controller

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

concerns over budget, as well as consulting architect Arthur Cleveland Nash's (1871-1969) intrigue over "highly desirable" portions of UNC's South Campus, had put the original proposal on pause, despite the continued pressure from NROTC advocates.<sup>33</sup>

The unsettled nature of the NROTC's accommodations became problematic by August 1942. Writing to UNC's president, Frank Porter Graham, Professor of Naval Science and Tactics W. S. Popham highlighted the chaos: "During June 1-9, 1942, two months ago, the Naval ROTC, pursuant to official decision by the University, moved from Woollen Gymnasium and from the basement of Lenoir Hall into Swain Hall. The latter building did not and does not meet the standard NROTC minimum as to space, arrangements, and suitability, but it will suffice and be practicable for the next several years or until more suitable quarters and facilities can be provided." Popham proceeded to explain that the proposed temporary quarters, consisting of four separate buildings to which the NROTC was supposed to move at the beginning of its third year (Fall 1943), were "completely inadequate," noting that the "proposed, non-existent quarters will neither be sufficient nor suitable for the NROTC when completed, either in design, adaptability, or permanency."<sup>34</sup>

& Vice President for Finance, Subgroup 1: General Files, National Defense: Navy: ROTC, 1940-1957, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill.

<sup>33</sup> Arthur C. Nash to William D. Carmichael, Controller, UNC Chapel Hill, May 22, 1941, Buildings and Property: Naval Armory, 1941, Collection 40011, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill. Nash served as a consulting architect for UNC Chapel Hill from 1922 into the 1940s. See "Arthur C. Nash, 97, Architect, Is Dead," *New York Times*, September 27, 1969: 33.

<sup>34</sup> W. S. Popham to President, University of North Carolina, August 1, 1942, Academic Affairs: Department of Naval Science (Naval ROTC), Naval Armory, 1940-1943, 1962-1963, 1975, 1984, 1988, 1992-1995, Collection 40083, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill. The University of North Carolina consolidated in 1931, and during the war period, communications to the president of the University of North Carolina were being directed to Frank Porter Graham, president of the consolidated system. Meanwhile, Robert Burton House served during the war period as the dean of administration, overseeing operations of the UNC campus at Chapel Hill and reporting to Graham as his superior. For more on the NROTC shifting from Lenoir to Swain, see Helen Highwater, "Swain Hall Conversion Ends Dec. 1," *Daily Tar Heel*, 51:39, November 6, 1942: 1.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

It is important to understand that the NROTC was often in competition for accommodations with other

Navy programs that debuted in 1942 and 1943. As UNC Chapel Hill converted dozens of buildings and other facilities to accommodate the needs of the US Navy as part of the ramped-up war effort, numerous military training programs emerged at the university that threatened to render NROTC obsolete. On December 16, 1942, Army and Navy officials issued "Special Bulletin No. 1" to explain the vast variety of these programs on college and university campuses, ranging from the College of War Training (designed to train pre-collegiate young men) to specialized Army and Navy training programs for college-aged men. In the Navy context, these programs included V-1, V-5, and V-7 reservists and students engaged in the V-12 program.<sup>35</sup>

Beyond the existing NROTC program, UNC Chapel Hill sponsored V-5, V-12, and Pre-Flight programs. The V-5 program for aviation cadets operated at Horace Williams Airfield near Chapel Hill and served students from both Duke University and UNC Chapel Hill. After completing an eight-week program of 240 hours of ground work and 35 hours of flight training, along with half of the bachelor's degree requirements, cadets were placed on active duty and enrolled in the Pre-Flight program at one of four training locations throughout the country (including the one at UNC Chapel Hill). Following eight months of pre-flight and flight training, successful cadets were commissioned into the US Navy. The Pre-Flight program at UNC Chapel Hill was officially commissioned on May 23, 1942, with the first class of 242 cadets arriving about a week later.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> "Special Bulletin No. 1: Joint Statement of the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy on Utilization of College Facilities in Specialized Training for the Army and Navy," December 16, 1942, Chancellor's Records: R. B. House Series, Subseries 1: Office of the Chancellor, National Defense: World War II: College for War Training, 1942, Collection 40019, Folder 93, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill.

<sup>36</sup> Julian M. Pleasants, *Home Front: North Carolina During World War II*, (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2017), 189, 195-197.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

The V-12 program was a different animal from the V-5 and Pre-Flight programs and utterly unrelated to either, and it was the V-12 program that temporarily absorbed the NROTC program from 1943 to 1945.<sup>37</sup> Established nationwide on July 1, 1943, the V-12 program used college and university faculty to teach the course of study, and UNC Chapel Hill's July 1943 inaugural class of V-12 candidates totaled 1,300 men, placing severe pressures on the university in terms of both dormitory and mess hall space, especially since it was already reeling from accommodating the Pre-Flight program. In the V-12 program, the goal was to provide bachelor's degrees to future naval officers. After completion of a baccalaureate program, usually completed in four years of three terms each unless prior credit had been earned, successful V-12 students were then sent to US Navy Reserve Midshipman School (the V-7 program, not offered at UNC Chapel Hill). Following successful completion of the latter, they were commissioned as ensigns in the US Naval Reserve and often entered active duty. In some cases, V-1 and V-7 transfers who had already completed those requirements, as well as students with past college work, were often credited for these past experiences and received reduced V-12 term requirements. In addition, the V-12 program also allowed some candidates to complete their baccalaureate requirements in just two semesters by combining the V-12 requirements with their major requirements simultaneously. Within the V-12 program, there were four curricular areas: basic, engineering, premedical, and NROTC, so that it was possible to be a NROTC candidate in the V-12 program or be a V-12 candidate without having a NROTC designation.<sup>38</sup> Existing

<sup>37</sup> On the partial absorption of the NROTC program, see "Set-Up Has Been Completed for New Navy V-12 at UNC," *Durham Sun*, June 14, 1943: 5. As this article explained, NROTC students became apprentice seamen, Class V-12, but the NROTC program retained "its separate identity, uniforms, staff, and instructional program."

<sup>38</sup> Pleasants, *Home Front*, 191-94. For the V-12 College Training Program curriculum, see *The Navy College Training Program, V-12*, (N.P.: US Navy Training Division, Bureau of Naval Personnel, [1943]), online, [https://books.google.com/books?id=ykxAAAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs\\_ge\\_summary\\_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=ykxAAAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false). For a detailed discussion of curricular requirements, including credit for past collegiate training or V-1/V-7 completion, see *Navy V-12 Curricular Schedules, Course Descriptions*, Bulletin Numer 101, November 1, 1943, (N. P.: US Navy Training Division, Bureau of Naval Personnel, 1943), online, <https://archives.gac.edu/digital/collection/p15292coll4/id/25215>. For a detailed manual on the operation of the V-12 program, see *Manual for the Operation of Navy V-12 Units*, Navy V-12 Bulletin No. 200, March 15, 1944, (Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office, 1944), online [https://books.google.com/books?id=uhZIAQAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs\\_ge\\_summary\\_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=uhZIAQAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false).

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

NROTC students who predated the December 1942 announcement of the V-12 program also saw their

curricula modified to meet the new requirements, as explained in the December 1942 joint statement:

“Present Naval ROTC units will be continued and Naval ROTC students will be selected at the end of the first two semesters, from students inducted in the new program. The present Naval ROTC curriculum will be modified so that all professional subjects will be given subsequent to the first two semesters. All Naval ROTC students inducted in the Naval Reserve will be placed on active duty.”<sup>39</sup>

Plans for the NROTC Armory finally began to coalesce in August and September 1942, although tensions between architect Archie Royal Davis and UNC Chapel Hill’s consulting architect, Arthur C. Nash, were readily apparent in the correspondence between the two men in late 1942. Writing to Davis in August 1942, Davis said, “I confess to being greatly puzzled as to why you have so completely ‘missed the boat’ in this matter of cooperating with your consulting architect.”<sup>40</sup> Indeed, the two men sparred during those two months over Davis’s initial plans, with Nash frequently complaining that Davis’s buildings looked too much like one another or were imperfect in their proportions.

After months of exchanging plans for the NROTC Armory, Davis and Nash finally agreed in mid-September on a final set of plans. Local press reported that the new Armory would include “an indoor rifle range, storage rooms, classrooms, one large room for drills, and a navigation room.” The press also stated that the NROTC Armory was “designed by architect Archie Davis to conform with the colonial architecture of the Carolina Inn,” located across South Columbia Street from the new armory site.<sup>41</sup> R. K.

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<sup>39</sup> “Special Bulletin No. 1,” 7. Enrollment of college students in the V-1 program was terminated in March 1943. On the two-semester accelerated V-12 program, see Kerr, “Installation,” 13.

<sup>40</sup> Arthur C. Nash to Archie Royal Davis, August 20, 1942, Archie Royal Davis Papers, 1926-1980, Collection MC00241, Series 1.3, Box 55, Folder 7, NC State University Libraries, Special Collections Research Center.

<sup>41</sup> “Induction of 90 Freshmen Today Begins Third Year of NROTC Unit on Campus,” *Daily Tar Heel*, 51:1, September 23, 1942, Section 3: 3.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Stewart and Son served as the contractors, who interacted frequently with Davis throughout the design

and construction process. Final cost came to just over \$41,000.<sup>42</sup> As correspondence between Davis and Nash indicated, the NROTC Armory was clearly intended to be temporary, "inasmuch as it is planned to construct the large armory after the war. At that time this building will be used for alumni offices and storage warehouse in the basement."<sup>43</sup>

The basement level of the NROTC Armory was designed around a U-shaped hallway that extended from one of the rear (northeast) entries to the other. Outside the U were classrooms, a records room, and a rifle range, while the area inside the U and between the northeast entries were a storeroom, a residential attendant's rooms, and toilets for the facility. A machine room was located just beyond the rifle range and under the portico of the southwest elevation. The main elevation featured a massive drill hall with four offices at the northwest end of the drill deck. Above these offices at the northwest end of the building was an open mezzanine reached by two staircases along the northeast and southwest walls. At that time, there was no mezzanine on the southeast end of the building.<sup>44</sup>

The NROTC Armory officially opened for use by the NROTC in January 1943, replete with the aforementioned mezzanine at the northwest end of the building, towering over the drill hall below, to be used as a ship's bridge during vessel handling drills.<sup>45</sup> Classrooms were in use by January 7, 1943,

<sup>42</sup> Many of the records and invoices from R. K. Stewart & Son to Davis for the work on the NROTC Armory, as well as other documentation, can be found in Archie Royal Davis Papers, 1926-1980, Collection MC00241, Series 1.3, Box 55, Folders 6, 7, and 8, NC State University Libraries, Special Collections Research Center.

<sup>43</sup> Archie Royal Davis to Arthur C. Nash, August 5, 1942, Archie Royal Davis Papers, 1926-1980, Collection MC00241, Series 1.3, Box 55, Folder 7, NC State University Libraries, Special Collections Research Center.

<sup>44</sup> For detailed plans, see Archie Royal Davis Papers, 1926-1980, Collection MC00241, Series 1.1, Tube Box 123, NC State University Libraries, Special Collections Research Center. Copies of these plans are included in the historical photos with this nomination.

<sup>45</sup> For this January date, see Madison Wright, "NROTC Takes Over Armory; Landlocked 'Ship' Complete," *Daily Tar Heel*, 51:78, January 19, 1943: 1. A student history of the NROTC at UNC Chapel Hill gives a date, without citation, of April 25, 1943, for the opening of the NROTC Armory. See Jep Jonson and Second

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

although the building still needed some finishing touches, particularly in the rifle range area.<sup>46</sup> To

celebrate the opening of the NROTC Armory, the NROTC held the annual Navy dance, with the Navy B-1 Band serving as the musical act.<sup>47</sup> Throughout the war period, the Armory continued to be the venue for frequent dances and other social functions, no doubt because of the sprawling drill deck on the building's first floor.<sup>48</sup> Many of these dances and social events featured performances by the Navy B-1 Band and the Carolina Pre-Flight Orchestra.<sup>49</sup> Meanwhile, the rifle range in the NROTC Armory basement was also frequently the site of Hearst and NROTC rifle competitions featuring NROTC units from around the country.<sup>50</sup>

In 1944, plans percolated for the "temporary" NROTC Armory to be "replaced by a permanent structure, which will be located in a more convenient location and will provide greatly improved facilities for the

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Lieutenant Huskey, "The History of the US Navy at the University of North Carolina, Revised with an Emphasis on NROTC," Spring 1980, 5, Academic Affairs: Department of Naval Science (Naval ROTC), Naval Armory, 1940-1943, 1962-1963, 1975, 1984, 1988, 1992-1995, Collection 40083, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill. This assumed date may be a reference to an article of that date, noting that the NROTC Armory was finally in use. See "UNC Midshipmen Finally Secure Anchorage," *Daily Tar Heel*, 51:154, April 25, 1943: 1, 4.

<sup>46</sup> "Swain Opens on Time; Cooley Resigns Post," *Daily Tar Heel*, 51:68, January 7, 1943: 1; and "Rifle Matches Slated for NROTC Marksmen When Range Finished," *Daily Tar Heel*, 51:72, January 12, 1943: 1.

<sup>47</sup> "Naval ROTC," *The 1943 Yackety Yack*, (Chapel Hill, NC: Students of the University of North Carolina, 1943), 198; and "Pre-Flight Band to Play at NROTC Dance Friday," *Daily Tar Heel*, 51:102, February 16, 1943: 1. This event was reported by the *Yackety Yack* writers to be the "formal dedication."

<sup>48</sup> For examples, see "Navy Graduates Sponsor Dance in NROTC Armory," *Daily Tar Heel*, 52:12, February 12, 1944: 1; "Social Events Feting V-12 Men Will Terminate Navy Trimester," *Daily Tar Heel*, 52:15, February 22, 1944: 1; and "Ball Features Catapult Queen and Galaxy of Lovely Belles," *Daily Tar Heel*, 53:53, May 5, 1945: 1.

<sup>49</sup> For an example of an early Armory dance that appears to have featured the US Navy B-1 Band, see "Annual NROTC Dance to Be Held Tonight in Unit's New Armory," *Daily Tar Heel*, 51:105, February 19, 1943: 4. The Carolina Pre-Flight Orchestra should not be confused with the US Navy B-1 Band, authorized in April 1942 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt as one of the "good Negro bands" selected for each of the Pre-Flight School sites in the country. Composed of Black enlisted men serving as musicians, second class, the B-1 group was the first integrated Black naval unit whose members held a rank higher than the mess, cook, and steward positions previously available to Blacks in the US Navy. The B-1 Band performed widely in Chapel Hill and across campus, but they were sent into service in Hawaii in February 1944. For more on the B-1 Band, see Pleasants, *Home Front*, 201-05. For what was likely the B-1 Band's final performance at the NROTC Armory, see "Rabinoff Concert Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> in Memorial Hall," *Durham Sun*, February 15, 1944: 5. Another group that routinely performed at dances was the Cloudbusters of the Navy Pre-Flight School, a popular dance band, which may be the group referenced in the February 1943 article. See "Marines Here Stage Ball and Picnic," *Daily Tar Heel*, 53:76, August 7, 1945: 4.

<sup>50</sup> "NROTC Riflemen to Enter Two Famous Competitions," *Daily Tar Heel*, 51:116, March 4, 1943: 3.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Department of Naval Science and Tactics, which is a permanent part of the University and will continue after the war.” These same campus expansion plans also called for a colosseum to be constructed for use by the NROTC. Ultimately, though, these plans never came to fruition.<sup>51</sup>

As World War II came to a conclusion, university officials made clear that they had no desire to continue with multiple Navy programs. Writing to Commander James P. Raugh of the US Navy Pre-Flight School at UNC-Chapel Hill in September 1945, R. B. House, Chancellor of UNC-Chapel Hill, explained,

We eagerly desire to keep on doing business with the Navy...but whatever is done about an enlarged Navy program here, we should like to see it combined at the University level with the NROTC type of organization and made an integral part of the University's regular work for a degree and a commission. We do not think it would be wise as a peace-time policy to continue a separate allocation of facilities for a program so independent of our regular work.... What we gladly adjusted to in war would prove disruptive in peace.<sup>52</sup>

Nevertheless, the university did intend to expand the facilities at the NROTC Armory, proposing a new wing in August 1945, presumably as part of the consolidation of Navy programs at the university, as specific Navy programs were brought to a close.<sup>53</sup> In September 1945, for example, UNC-Chapel Hill held a formal University Assembly entitled “Farewell Program to the Navy Pre-Flight.”<sup>54</sup> Meanwhile, the

<sup>51</sup> “Dean House Announces New Plans for Long-Range Expansion,” *The Tar Heel*, 53:9, October 17, 1944: 1.

<sup>52</sup> Chancellor R. B. House to Commander James P. Raugh, September 7, 1945, Chancellor Records: R. B. House Series, Subseries I: Office of the Chancellor, National Defense: World War II: Navy Pre-Flight School (V-5), 1944-1947, Collection 40019, Folder 102, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill.

<sup>53</sup> Robert Morrison, “False Rumors Produce Peace Demonstration,” *Tar Heel*, 53:77, August 14, 1945: 1; and “Navy Training Unit Will Remain Stable,” *Tar Heel*, 53:76, August 11, 1945: 4.

<sup>54</sup> “University Assembly, Farewell Program to the Navy Pre-Flight, September 27, 1945,” Collection 40019, Folder 102, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

V-12 program was formally concluded as well, with remaining candidates absorbed into an expanded

NROTC program.<sup>55</sup> As a result of the closure of the Pre-Flight and V-12 programs and the consolidation of all Naval Unit elements at UNC Chapel Hill, officers who had once had their offices in Navy Hall saw themselves transferred to the NROTC Armory.<sup>56</sup> Expansion of the NROTC Armory never came to fruition, however, despite preparation of detailed plans by Archie Royal Davis.<sup>57</sup>

University officials, however, continued to see the NROTC Armory as a temporary building in the years after the war. Writing to the Assistant Secretaries of the Navy and the Air Force in 1949, UNC's President Frank P. Graham referred to the extant NROTC Armory as "a temporary armory which offers acceptable equipment and facilities" but expressed hope "that at some future date a permanent armory type Military Science Building can be erected which will be completely satisfactory for the requirements of ROTC units of all three armed services."<sup>58</sup> Despite these sentiments, the NROTC continued to use the Armory building in the decades after World War II. In addition, the large drill deck area of the first floor also remained a common venue for dances, particularly those held by the University Veterans Association.<sup>59</sup>

*Alterations to the NROTC Armory Within a Cold War Significance*

<sup>55</sup> Pleasants, *Home Front*, 193-94; Jonson and Huskey, "History," 7.

<sup>56</sup> E. E. Hazlett, Jr., to All Deans, Department Heads, and Other Administrative Officials, November 15, 1945, Academic Affairs, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Records, Series 2: Academic Programs, Subseries 1: Historical Files, College of War Training: Navy V-12 Programs, 1944-1946, Collection 40076, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill.

<sup>57</sup> Plans for the NROTC Armory expansion can be found in Archie Royal Davis, "Specifications, Alterations and Additions to Temporary Navy Building," September 1945, Series 1.3, Box 55, Folder 5, and Archie Royal Davis, "Proposed Addition to UNC Temporary Navy Building, NROTC Armory," May 12, 1945, Series 1.1, Flat Folder 15, both in Archie Royal Davis Papers, 1926-1980, Collection MC00241, NC State University Libraries, Special Collections Research Center.

<sup>58</sup> Frank P. Graham to John Nicholas Brown and C. V. Whitney, March 7, 1949, General Administration: Controller & Vice President for Finance, Subgroup 1: General Files, National Defense: Navy: ROTC, 1940-1957, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill.

<sup>59</sup> For one example, see "UVA Entertains Coeds at Open House Tonight," *Daily Tar Heel*, 55:61, November 12, 1946: 1.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

The NROTC Armory is also significant at the local level under Criterion A in an Education and Military

context for its ongoing association from 1945 to 1970 with several aspects of the ongoing Cold War. As the NROTC Armory continued to be used for training during the Cold War period (1945-1991), several minor modifications were made to the facility to accommodate training in new, Cold War technologies. One of these was the installation of the "Attack Teacher," a fabricated battleship interior replete with a sonar room, a bridge, and a plotting room located in the basement of the Armory. Installed in the early 1950s, the Attack Teacher was still in use in the early 1970s and was an excellent example of hands-on training facilities utilized during the Cold War to educate NROTC midshipmen for their Cold War military service.<sup>60</sup> While the NROTC Armory at UNC Chapel Hill does not cleanly match any of the property types identified in John Salmon's 2011 draft NHL Theme Study, "Protecting America: Cold War Defensive Sites," the NROTC Armory is nevertheless an outstanding example of a Cold War training facility in the local context of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, particularly as UNC attempted to find a balance between meeting military education training needs without vast expenditures on new facilities to replace the NROTC Armory that they still considered to be a "temporary" structure.<sup>61</sup>

In 1962, the structural roof system of the NROTC Armory at UNC Chapel Hill failed, apparently as a result of an engineering flaw from the original installation that "overstress[ed] the tension joints in the bottom cord [of each truss] considerably." Examination of the three failed trusses indicated that "the material used to construct these trusses in 1942 was of a lesser quality than the type of lumber assumed to have been used in the design." To address this failure, the existing wooden roof trusses were removed, "one at a time, and replaced with new steel trusses using the same roof deck and purlins." The work was

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<sup>60</sup> Bob Chapman, "NROTC Teaches Sub Detection," *Daily Tar Heel*, 78:22, April 12, 1970, mislabeled as April 11 on masthead: 1.

<sup>61</sup> John S. Salmon, "Protecting America: Cold War Defensive Sites, A National Historic Landmark Theme Study," October 2011, National Historic Landmarks Program, Cultural Resources, National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, online, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/tellingallamericansstories/upload/ColdWarDefense-Sites.pdf>.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

apparently accomplished without removing the roof itself.<sup>62</sup> The budgeted work was also intended to involve the replacement of the wooden columns, located inside the interior finished walls of the Armory and on which the wooden trusses rested, with steel columns, but structural examination of these columns once they were exposed found them to be intact and sound. Instead, steel collars extending from knee braces around the wooden columns to the new steel trusses provided additional stability for the roof, and the wooden columns were not replaced. Total cost came to approximately \$25,500 for this work, which was completed by Clancy and Theys Construction Company as the general contractor in 1963.<sup>63</sup>

A second set of renovations costing approximately \$17,000 occurred in 1982, when interior space configurations were altered to improve efficiency of space use, and the electrical and air conditioning systems were updated.<sup>64</sup>

*Anti-War Protests at the NROTC Armory*

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<sup>62</sup> M. J. Hakan to J. S. Bennett, April 11, 1962, Academic Affairs: Department of Naval Science (Naval ROTC), Naval Armory, 1940-1943, 1962-1963, 1975. 1984, 1988, 1992-1995, Collection 40083, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill. For the complete engineering report on the structural failure, see Ezra Meir to M. Joseph Hakan, March 27, 1962, Records of the Office of Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance, Engineering and Construction, Series 1: Project Files, 1320 R1 Naval Armory, 1962-1963, Collection 40095, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill. For more records on this project, including Ezra Meirs's detailed report on the proposed work, see Records of the Construction Administration Department, Subgroup 2: Project Files, Series 3: Classroom Buildings, Research Laboratories, and Libraries, Naval Armory, Structural Renovation, 1962-1963, Collection 40099, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill. An image of the scaffolding holding up the roof over the drill hall in 1962 can be seen in "Naval Armory Won't Collapse, Hollowell Says," *Daily Tar Heel*, March 1, 1962: 1.

<sup>63</sup> Business Manager to Division of Property Control, July 2, 1963, Academic Affairs: Department of Naval Science (Naval ROTC), Naval Armory, 1940-1943, 1962-1963, 1975. 1984, 1988, 1992-1995, Collection 40083, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill. For more complete documentation on this project, see Records of the Office of Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance, Engineering and Construction, Series 1: Project Files, 1320 R1 Naval Armory, 1962-1963, Collection 40095, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill. Much of the overage for the steel columns was instead applied to repainting the entire Armory interior.

<sup>64</sup> "Naval Armory," Fall 1984, Academic Affairs: Department of Naval Science (Naval ROTC), Naval Armory, 1940-1943, 1962-1963, 1975. 1984, 1988, 1992-1995, Collection 40083, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill. Detailed accounts of the 1982 renovations can be found in NROTC Doors, Business and Finance, Facilities Planning Office Records, Subgroup 2: Planning Project Files, Series 3, Collection 40100, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Beginning in the 1960s, anti-war protests centered around the Vietnam War began to take place

frequently on the UNC Chapel Hill campus. Between these protests and efforts by faculty committees to disassociate the university from the military, ROTC programs became a frequent target of campus criticism. One of the earliest examples of anti-war vandalism on campus involved the painting of the Student Peace Union insignia on various UNC military buildings and the anti-aircraft gun in front of the NROTC Armory in November 1961.<sup>65</sup> On April 22, 1965, vandals painted "Get out of Vietnam" on the side of the same gun in the middle of the night, which NROTC officials dismissed as a "childish prank."<sup>66</sup>

On February 5, 1969, however, further antiwar agitation finally led campus faculty to hold a public discussion on cutting ROTC programs from campus all together. This resulted in the appointment of a Faculty Council committee to investigate ROTC at UNC Chapel Hill. The Taylor Committee, so named for its chair, Professor George V. Taylor from the History Department, recommended the creation of a separate curriculum on Peace, War, and Defense that would absorb the Naval Science and Aerospace programs typically associated with the NROTC presence on campus but nevertheless retain the ROTC programs as training options for students. Meanwhile, Navy officials expressed concern about a possible arson attack taking place at the NROTC Armory, given other arson events on campus that year, prompting them to ask for an automatic sprinkler system in the building, as well as an alarm system.<sup>67</sup>

Despite sustained efforts by faculty and administration at keeping the peace on campus, violence nearly broke out across the UNC Chapel Hill campus in 1970 in the wake of the Kent State massacre. During a demonstration against US involvement in Cambodia on May 5, 1970, 2,000 students marched from Polk Place in a loop that brought them past the NROTC building. Once there, protestors rushed the flagpole

<sup>65</sup> "Student Peace Union Insignias Make Appearance on Campus," *Daily Tar Heel*, November 7, 1961: 1.

<sup>66</sup> "War and Peace," *Daily Tar Heel*, 72:140, April 25, 1965: 4.

<sup>67</sup> V. J. Anania to Arthur N. Tuttle, October 27, 1969, Naval ROTC, Business and Finance, Facilities Planning Office Records, Subgroup 2: Planning Project Files, Series 3, Collection 40100, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill. The request does not appear to have been funded.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

and lowered the flag to half staff for the students killed at Kent State University just a day earlier.

NROTC students then clashed with the protestors, securing the flagpole and raising the flag back to full staff. In response, one protestor mounted the anti-aircraft gun on the lawn of the NROTC Armory, Slim Pickens-style, and encouraged the marchers to continue on to South Building, where that building was vandalized.<sup>68</sup> These demonstrations culminated in a student strike on the UNC Chapel Hill campus that same week.<sup>69</sup> Later that year, amidst widespread campus debate over the future of the ROTC programs on campus, students again marched on the NROTC Armory on December 3, 1970, and served an eviction notice on the NROTC program. Led by two 1969 West Point graduates, the eviction notice hurled various allegations at UNC's ROTC program, suggesting that the revised curriculum had "strengthened ROTC" by making "it more palatable in the eyes of the students who are against war and militarism."<sup>70</sup> Despite these protests, ROTC programs continued at UNC Chapel Hill, and the NROTC Armory continues to be used as a ROTC training center to this day.

*Additional Historic Context*

*Archie Royal Davis (1907-1980)*

Born at Morehead City, North Carolina, on July 17, 1907, Archie Royal Davis earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from North Carolina State College in 1930 and his engineering degree from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1934. He married Frances Carlton Davis in 1936 and fathered two daughters, Frances and Charlotte. In July 1936, Davis was hired as the supervising architect on the Hill Building at 111 Corcoran Street in Durham, North Carolina—a skyscraper designed by Shreve, Lamb,

<sup>68</sup> Rick Gray, "2,000 Students Protest War with Tuesday Rally," *Daily Tar Heel*, May 6, 1970: 1. An image of two students on the anti-aircraft gun accompanies this article.

<sup>69</sup> Rick Gray and Jessica Hanchar, "'The Largest Turnout in UNC History': Thousands Joined Protest Against Cambodian Action," *Daily Tar Heel*, 78:1, September 15, 1970: B4-5.

<sup>70</sup> Jonson and Huskey, "History," 11-12; Harry Smith, "Students Seek ROTC 'Eviction,'" *Daily Tar Heel*, 78:61, December 1, 1970: 1; Tom Gooding, "Officers Could Shed New Light on ROTC," *Daily Tar Heel*, 78:62, December 2, 1970: 6; and Harry Smith, "West Point Grads Denounce Military," *Daily Tar Heel*, 78:64, December 4, 1970: 1.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

and Harmon of New York, NY, who also designed the Empire State Building. Davis later kept his professional offices in this building.<sup>71</sup>

During his career, Davis designed numerous residential properties in Greensboro, Durham, High Point, Winston-Salem, Burlington, Goldsboro, Morehead City, Wilson, and Chapel Hill. He was also responsible for dozens of commercial and institutional buildings beyond the war period additions at UNC Chapel Hill for the NROTC and Pre-Flight programs. Among these other projects were Southern High School in Durham, the Orange County Courthouse in Hillsborough, the Montgomery County Hospital in Troy, the Belk-Leggett Store Building in Durham, the Durham County Courthouse and Office Building, Orange High School in Hillsborough, West Carteret High School in Morehead City, the Forsyth Country Club in Winston-Salem, several motel and bank buildings, the Chapel Hill Fire Station #2, the Durham Technical Institute, and Patterson Hall, the Field House, and the Bell Tower at North Carolina State.<sup>72</sup>

Davis was appointed to the State Board of Architectural Examination and Registration in 1961.<sup>73</sup> He also served for 22 years on the Durham Planning and Zoning Commission. Professional memberships included the North Carolina Board of Architects, the Southern Conference of the National Council of Architects' Registration Board, the Professional Engineers Society, and the American Institute of Architects, where he served as secretary and treasurer of the North Carolina chapter. He died on October 29, 1980, in North Carolina.<sup>74</sup>

<sup>71</sup> "Biographical Sketch of Archie Royal Davis," Box 1, Folder 2, Archie Royal Davis Papers, 1926-1980, Collection MC00241, NC State University Libraries, Special Collections Research Center; and American Society of Civil Engineers, "Hill Building," archived at [https://web.archive.org/web/20100730112438/http://nc.asce.org/CE%20Trails/web\\_pages/hillbldg.htm](https://web.archive.org/web/20100730112438/http://nc.asce.org/CE%20Trails/web_pages/hillbldg.htm).

<sup>72</sup> "Biographical Sketch of Archie Royal Davis," Box 1, Folder 2, Archie Royal Davis Papers, 1926-1980, Collection MC00241, NC State University Libraries, Special Collections Research Center.

<sup>73</sup> "Davis Named to Board of Architecture," *Durham Morning Herald*, July 11, 1961, clipping in Box 1, Folder 2, Archie Royal Davis Papers, 1926-1980, Collection MC00241, NC State University Libraries, Special Collections Research Center.

<sup>74</sup> "Deaths in Durham, Nearby Counties: Archie R. Davis," *Durham Sun*, October 31, 1980: 10-A; and "Archie Royal Davis," *American Architects Directory*, Third Edition, 1970, John F. Gane, ed., (New York: R. R. Bowker and Company, 1970), 205, online,

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Name of Property

Orange County, NC

County and State

*Confusion of the NROTC Armory with Buildings of the Navy Pre-Flight Program*

In trying to decipher the history of the NROTC Armory, many past midshipmen, cadets, and officers have mistakenly associated the Navy Pre-Flight program with the NROTC Armory, even though there was almost no association between Pre-Flight buildings and the NROTC Armory whatsoever.<sup>75</sup> As described previously, the Pre-Flight program officially commenced on May 23, 1942. Portions of the V-5 instruction, which was the precursor “indoctrination course” for Pre-Flight candidates, were offered at intervals at UNC Chapel Hill beginning in August 1942, when instructors for the V-5 program were themselves put through the curriculum. This program consisted of rigorous athletic training in at least nine sports, with an emphasis on philosophies embracing “no substitute for winning” and “gracious defeat [should] be forgotten.” V-5 training later incorporated survival skills training and reflexive behavior tests.<sup>76</sup>

To facilitate both V-5 training and the Pre-Flight training program, UNC Chapel Hill effectively created a campus within the campus, inclusive of dormitories, training spaces, and social spaces, much of which was isolated from contact with regular students at the university. Two of the buildings that were constructed as part of the Pre-Flight building boom are frequently confused with the NROTC Armory but in fact had no relationship whatsoever to the NROTC program. Both of these buildings were also

<https://aiahistoricaldirectory.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/AHDAA/pages/20873518/1970+American+Architects+Directory>.

<sup>75</sup> For an example of this, see Duncan Young, “ROTC a Bastion of UNC’s History, Pride,” *Daily Tar Heel*, April 10, 1995: 11. Young was the battalion commander of UNC’s NROTC in 1995.

<sup>76</sup> See “V-5 Instructors Finish Course Today,” *Cloudbuster*, 1:2, September 26, 1942: 1. On the second interval of instruction, see “V-5 Instructor Course Begins Here Monday,” *Cloudbuster*, 1:11, November 28, 1942: 1. On a new slate of V-5 inductees, see “Noted Athletes Begin V-5 Officer’s Training,” *Cloudbuster*, 1:17, January 16, 1943: 1. For a comprehensive history of the athletes involved in the Pre-Flight program, see Anne R. Keene, *The Cloudbuster Nine*, (New York: Sports Publishing, 2018). For more on the V-5 Pre Flight program, see Donald W. Rominger, Jr., “From Playing Field to Battleground: The United States Navy Preflight Program in World War II,” *Journal of Sports History*, 12:3, Winter 1985: 252-64. Quoted material is cited in Rominger.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

designed by Archie Royal Davis. One of these was frequently labeled as “Temporary Navy Office

Building” or “Hostess Building” on Davis’s 1942 building plans, thus only adding to confusion among laypeople, archivists, and historians in the decades that followed.<sup>77</sup> Later known as Navy Hall, this building was initially conceived as a combination office space and residence for Pre-Flight commanders, but by the time of its completion, it was designated as “the official visitors’ entrance to the Pre-Flight School” by university and Navy officials. The building provided recreation space for cadets, as well as offices for the Pre-Flight program. It opened in March 1943, including a public reception on March 21, 1943.<sup>78</sup>

Following the war, Navy Hall was turned over to the Monogram Club, an organization of student athletes who had lettered in various university sports. After complaints that the building was underutilized, the university encouraged the Monogram Club to open the building to all students and paid for renovations to the facility. Conversion into a new version of the Monogram Club was completed on September 18, 1948, at which time the building was opened to all university students and featured a dining room in the basement of the building, as well as a first-floor lounge known colloquially as the “Elephant Room” or “Circus Room” because of a massive wooden carving by university employee Carl Boettcher that featured a 25-foot-long, three-foot-high, circus parade behind the soda fountain.<sup>79</sup> In 1961, the Monogram Club

<sup>77</sup> Davis’s original plans and specifications for Navy Hall, labeled as “Temporary Navy Office Building,” can be found in Archie Royal Davis Papers, 1926-1980, Collection MC00241, Series 1.1, Tube Box 123, and Series 1.3, Box 55, Folder 6, NC State University Libraries, Special Collections Research Center. Many of the plans for Navy Hall, the Pre-Flight Armory, and the NROTC Armory are mingled together in the Archie Royal Davis Papers as if they are the same building, further adding to confusion for those not familiar with the distinctions among these buildings.

<sup>78</sup> For images of the front entrance and the cypress-paneled main lounge as they appeared in March 1943, see “Public Invited to Visit Navy Hall Tomorrow,” *Cloudbuster*, 1:26, March 20, 1943: 1. On the official opening in early March, see “Navy Hall Opens as Recreation Spot for Cadets,” *Cloudbuster*, 1:25, March 13, 1943: 1.

<sup>79</sup> Bill Pritchard, “Monogram Musings,” *Daily Tar Heel*, 57:12, October 7, 1948: 5; and Charlie Gibson, “Monogram Club Opens Doors to All Students at University,” *Daily Tar Heel*, 57:5, September 29, 1948: 1, 4. This carving is now located in the staircase of the George Watts Hill Alumni Center at UNC Chapel Hill. See “Names in Brick and Stone: Histories from UNC’s Built Landscape,” *History/American Studies* 671: Introduction to Public History, UNC Chapel Hill, online, <https://unchistory.web.unc.edu/building-narratives/jackson-hall/>.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

building was converted into the Faculty Club—again because of underuse.<sup>80</sup> The building was turned over to the Admissions Department in 1971 and renamed Jackson Hall—after Dr. Roberta Jackson and Dr. Blyden Jackson—in 1992. It remains the home of the Admissions Department.<sup>81</sup>

The second building often confused with the NROTC Armory was the Navy Pre-Flight Armory building, also designed by Archie Royal Davis and initially referenced strictly as “Rifle Range” in the earliest Pre-Flight planning documents.<sup>82</sup> Described in press accounts as “semi-prefabricated,” the Pre-Flight Armory was completed in October 1942 and located near the campus tennis courts, a short distance from Navy Hall.<sup>83</sup> Following the end of the war, initial plans called for the demolition of the Pre-Flight Armory to make room for a new dormitory.<sup>84</sup> Instead, the Pre-Flight Armory was converted into a “Scuttlebutt,” a soda fountain, bookstore, and social spot on the UNC Chapel Hill campus, the second such location after the original Scuttlebutt, a Pre-Flight canteen during the war years.<sup>85</sup> This secondary use was brief; in Fall 1948, students returned to campus to find that the store had been closed, likely because of the opening of

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<sup>80</sup> Steve Vaughn, “Club Trades Shoulder Pads for Cap & Gown,” *Daily Tar Heel*, 69:150, April 28, 1961: 1; and Lou Bonds, “Planning Group to Decide Who Will Get Faculty Club,” *Daily Tar Heel*, 78:28, April 19, 1970: 1.

<sup>81</sup> “Cashwell in Charge of Student Admissions,” *Daily Tar Heel*, 80:1, August 31, 1971: 11; and Tom Parks, “Opening a New Era,” *Chapel Hill Newspaper*, 70:75, June 26, 1992: 1.

<sup>82</sup> For budget and construction planning documents for these two Pre-Flight buildings, see “Rental and Operating Cost Payments, Operating Cost Budgets, Costs of Construction, Alterations, and New Equipment for the Naval Aviation Pre-Flight School at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, undated [1942], General Administration: Controller and Vice President for Finance, Subgroup 1: General Files, National Defense : Navy: Commissioning/Decommissioning, 1941-1942; R. K. Stewart and Son to Archie Royal Davis, October 5, 1942, General Administration: Controller and Vice President for Finance, Subgroup 1: General Files, National Defense: Navy: Pre-Flight Correspondence, Sept.-Dec. 1942; and W. D. Carmichael, Controller, University of North Carolina, to Chief of Naval Personnel, Naval Department, undated draft memo [August 1944], in General Administration: Controller and Vice President for Finance, Subgroup 1: General Files, National Defense: Navy: Pre-Flight Correspondence, 1944, all in Collection 40011, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill.

<sup>83</sup> “More Middies Hit Hill,” *Daily Tar Heel*, 51:9, October 2, 1942: 1.

<sup>84</sup> “New Buildings Are Planned,” *Daily Tar Heel*, 54:60, April 23, 1946: 4.

<sup>85</sup> “Men’s Dorms to Have Three in Each Room,” *Daily Tar Heel*, 53:104, December 8, 1945: 1; and “Scuttlebutt Opened in Former Armory in Lower Quadrangle,” *Daily Tar Heel*, 54:82, May 17, 1946 (misdated as May 16 in masthead): 4. It appears that the Pre-Flight Armory may have been moved as part of its conversion. See “Aycock Calls for Scuttlebutt,” *Daily Tar Heel*, 54:80, May 16, 1946: 2. The Scuttlebutt once located at the intersection of Cameron and South Columbia Streets and demolished in 1996 was not the Pre-Flight Armory but a 1943 Pre-Flight canteen also built as part of the World War II-era Pre-Flight building program. See Jamie Griswold, “Scuttlebutt Razed Following 52 Years of Feeding Students,” *Daily Tar Heel*, 104:92, October 21, 1996: 1.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

the Monogram Club and its Circus Room in the former Navy Hall building nearby.<sup>86</sup> In a stunning

example of beating students to their own protest, university officials demolished the Pre-Flight Armory building on October 6, 1948, the same day they were scheduled to meet with student petitioners advocating for preservation of the Scuttlebutt. As bulldozers began their work, university officials failed to show for the meeting they had scheduled.<sup>87</sup>

As further evidence that Pre-Flight use of the NROTC Armory building rarely occurred in any official or unofficial capacity, only two references to the NROTC Armory appear in *Cloudbuster*, the official publication of the Pre-Flight program, between 1942 and 1945. Both were for the same wedding reception held in the expansive training deck; the groom was a Marine V-12, not a Pre-Flight student.<sup>88</sup>

*Other Alterations*

In 1993, pressure from the Army ROTC and Air Force ROTC units, who were seeking more permanently dedicated space within the NROTC Armory, brought to light the perceived flaws of the NROTC Armory, given its origins: "The problem is the building...; it is a shell, uninsulated and unairconditioned, constructed hastily and cheaply 50 years ago for World War II. It leaks from several sides. It probably isn't worthy of any major investment or even saving, and it probably isn't big enough for all three organizations.... We all thought the best solution was razing the building and constructing a nice six-story

<sup>86</sup> Stover Dunagan, Jr., "Scuttlebutt Wanted," and Erie Cofield, "Cofield Is Annoyed," *Daily Tar Heel*, 57:10, October 5, 1948: 2.

<sup>87</sup> Gordon Huffines, "Emerson Scuttlebutt Razed as Negotiations Prepared," *Daily Tar Heel*, 57:12, October 7, 1948: 1. A statement from the UNC administration issued at the time of demolition read, "After thorough consideration, it was felt that the best location for permanent, sanitary, and healthful refreshment facilities for the expanding east campus would be in the area of the Monogram club building. At that time the Monogram club very graciously consented to permit the club to be opened as a recreation facility for the entire student body, particularly serving the east campus, and work was immediately begun to build quarters which we believe are as handsome and healthful as are to be found in any university in America."

<sup>88</sup> Ann Onomus, "Crew-cial News," *Cloudbuster*, 3:51, September 14, 1945: 3; Ann Onomus, "Crew-cial News," *Cloudbuster*, 3:49, August 31, 1945: 3; and "Top Kick Marries," *Daily Tar Heel*, 53:81, September 8, 1945: 1.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

(or so) multi-purpose facility for ROTC and various other college and university needs.... The building is presently so dilapidated that the facilities people won't even paint it, but with the Commander-in-Chief probably coming in October, it needs spiffing up."<sup>89</sup>

Ultimately the decision was made to renovate the NROTC Armory to accommodate all three branches of the ROTC (Navy, Army, and Air Force), which required substantial renovation of the interior spaces of the Armory. As planning for the renovations began in February 1994, tests of the former indoor firing range in the basement discovered substantial lead contamination, including on overhead pipes throughout the basement. Lead decontamination thus became an important part of the 1994 renovations.<sup>90</sup> All told, the University planned to spend more than \$400,000 on the 1994 renovations, with the expectation that the facility would be the long-term home for the ROTC programs.<sup>91</sup> These alterations ultimately led to substantial reconfigurations of the basement classroom and recreation areas, as well the addition of significantly more office and storage space on the drill deck and mezzanine levels, as previously described.

<sup>89</sup> Richard H. Kohn, Chair, Curriculum in Peace, War, and Defense, to Richard L. McCormick, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, July 26, 1993, Academic Affairs: Department of Naval Science (Naval ROTC), Naval Armory, 1940-1943, 1962-1963, 1975, 1984, 1988, 1992-1995, Collection 40083, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill.

<sup>90</sup> Ray Hackney to Robert B. Avery, March 17, 1994, Academic Affairs: Department of Naval Science (Naval ROTC), Naval Armory, 1940-1943, 1962-1963, 1975, 1984, 1988, 1992-1995, Collection 40083, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill. Lead contamination had been a known issue for decades. In 1983, funds were requested for an updated ventilation system for the firing range to address this problem. Evaluation in 1994, however, determined that the ventilation system had failed to address the problem. On the 1983 request, see A. M. Koster to Gordon Rutherford, July 7, 1983, NROTC Doors, Business and Finance, Facilities Planning Office Records, Subgroup 2: Planning Project Files, Series 3, Collection 40100, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill.

<sup>91</sup> Stephen S. Birdsall, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, to Robert B. Avery, Michael Smiley, and Peter Guild, June 2, 1994, Academic Affairs: Department of Naval Science (Naval ROTC), Naval Armory, 1940-1943, 1962-1963, 1975, 1984, 1988, 1992-1995, Collection 40083, Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill. The three recipients were the commanders of the various ROTC programs.

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill  
Name of Property

Orange County, NC  
County and State

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Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

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NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Photographic Laboratory Collection (P0031). Wilson Library,  
UNC Chapel Hill.

*Yackety Yak.*

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Wilson Library, UNC Chapel Hill  
Special Collections Research Center, NC State  
DigitalNC.org  
Newspapers.com

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): OR1541**

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** Approx. 0.603 Acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 35.909115

Longitude: -79.052811

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Name of Property

Orange County, NC

County and State

**Or**  
**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The National Register property boundary is a roughly rectangular space 136 feet (southwest to northeast) by 193 feet (northwest to southeast) using the interior sidewalk line of South Columbia Street and the stone staircase near the north corner of the building as anchoring points. These dimensions are estimated using the HPOWeb GIS ruler tool.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The National Register property boundary follows the boundaries historically associated with the NROTC Armory and its use. Given that the resource is part of an enormous, singular parcel making up the campus of UNC Chapel Hill, there are no conventional parcel lines as points of reference for the NROTC Armory itself nor any defined parcel lines in association with the building's construction and use.

**Current Owners:**

Name: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Address: Dr. Kevin M. Guskiewicz, Chancellor, Office of the Chancellor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 104 South Building, CB #3000, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3000  
Phone: (919) 962-2198

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill  
Name of Property

Orange County, NC  
County and State

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Eric Plaag, PhD  
organization: Carolina Historical Consulting, LLC  
street & number: 703 Junaluska Rd.  
city or town: Boone state: NC zip code: 28607  
e-mail: ericplaag@gmail.com  
telephone: (828) 773-6525  
date: June 21, 2022

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

The following information pertains to all photographs listed below:

Name of Property: NROTC Naval Armory, UNC Chapel Hill  
City or Vicinity: Chapel Hill  
County: Orange County  
State: NC  
Photographer: Eric Plaag  
Date of Photographs: December 16, 2021

NROTC Naval Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill

Orange County, NC

Name of Property

County and State

Location of Original Digital Files: 703 Junaluska Rd., Boone, NC 28607

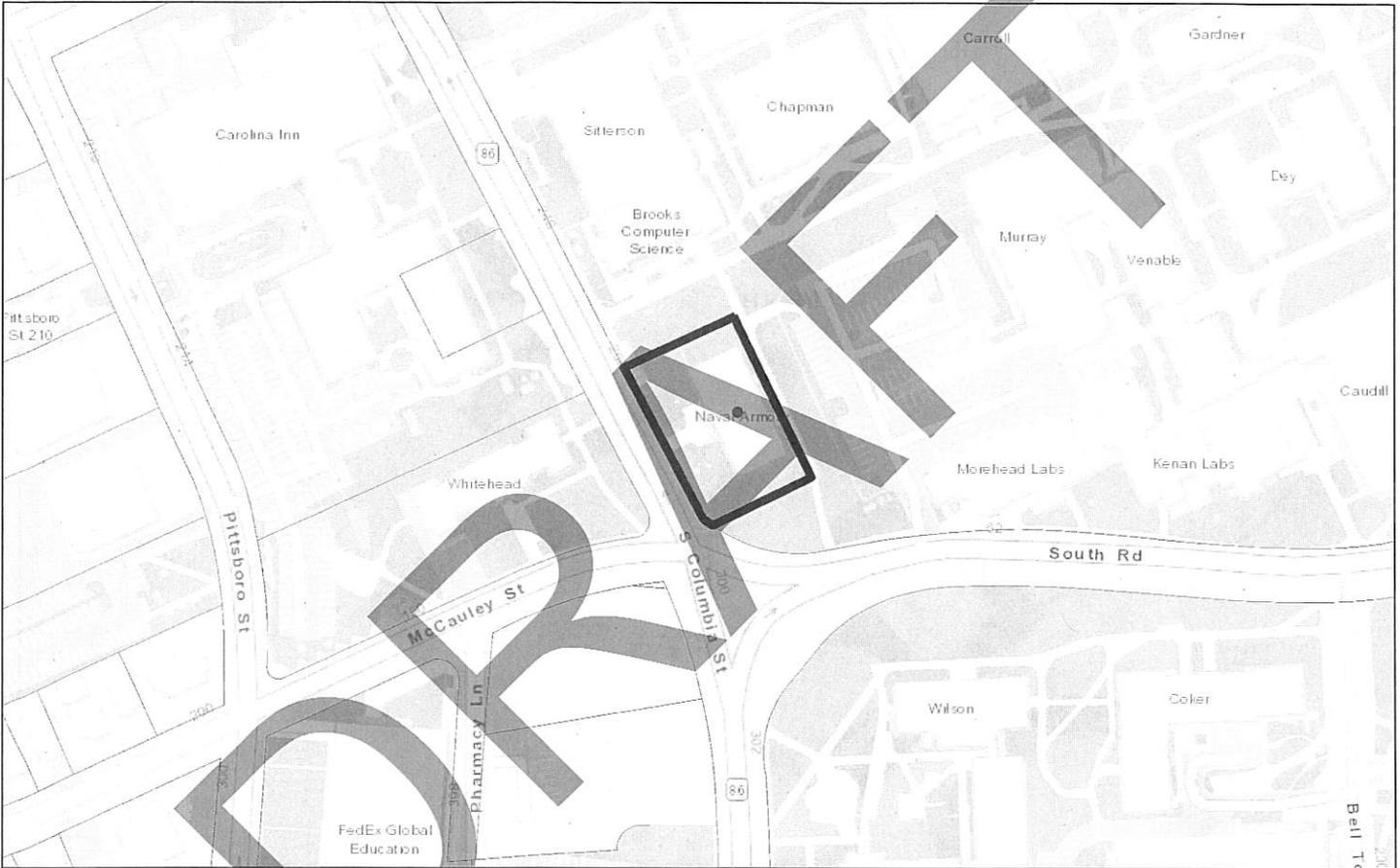
1. Primary (southwest) elevation of NROTC Armory with other resources, looking northeast
2. Oblique view of southwest and southeast elevations of NROTC Armory, looking north
3. Oblique view of southwest and southeast elevations of NROTC Armory, looking north
4. Southwest entry and pediment detail, NROTC Armory, looking northeast
5. Window and masonry detail, NROTC Armory, southeast end of southwest elevation, looking northeast
6. Southwest entry door detail, NROTC Armory, looking northeast
7. Oblique view of southeast and northeast elevations, NROTC Armory, looking west
8. Oblique view of northeast elevation, NROTC Armory, looking west
9. Oblique view of northeast and northwest elevations, NROTC Armory, looking south
10. Oblique view of northwest elevation, NROTC Armory, looking south
11. Detail view of anti-aircraft gun, NROTC Armory, looking west
12. First floor hallway, NROTC Armory, looking southwest
13. Drill deck, NROTC Armory, looking east
14. First floor office, northeast corridor, NROTC Armory, looking east
15. First floor entry, southwest corridor, NROTC Armory, looking northwest
16. South corner basement classroom, NROTC Armory, looking south

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



# National Register of Historic Places Boundary Map

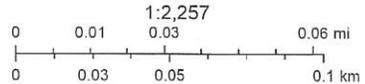


6/21/2022, 2:16:45 PM

 Parcels  
 National Register Boundary  
 (corresponds to the Verbal Boundary  
 Description in Section 10  
 of the National Register Nomination Form)

**NROTC Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill**  
**221 South Columbia St.**  
**Chapel Hill, Orange County, NC**

Map created by Eric Plaag  
 Carolina Historical Consulting, LLC  
 June 21, 2022

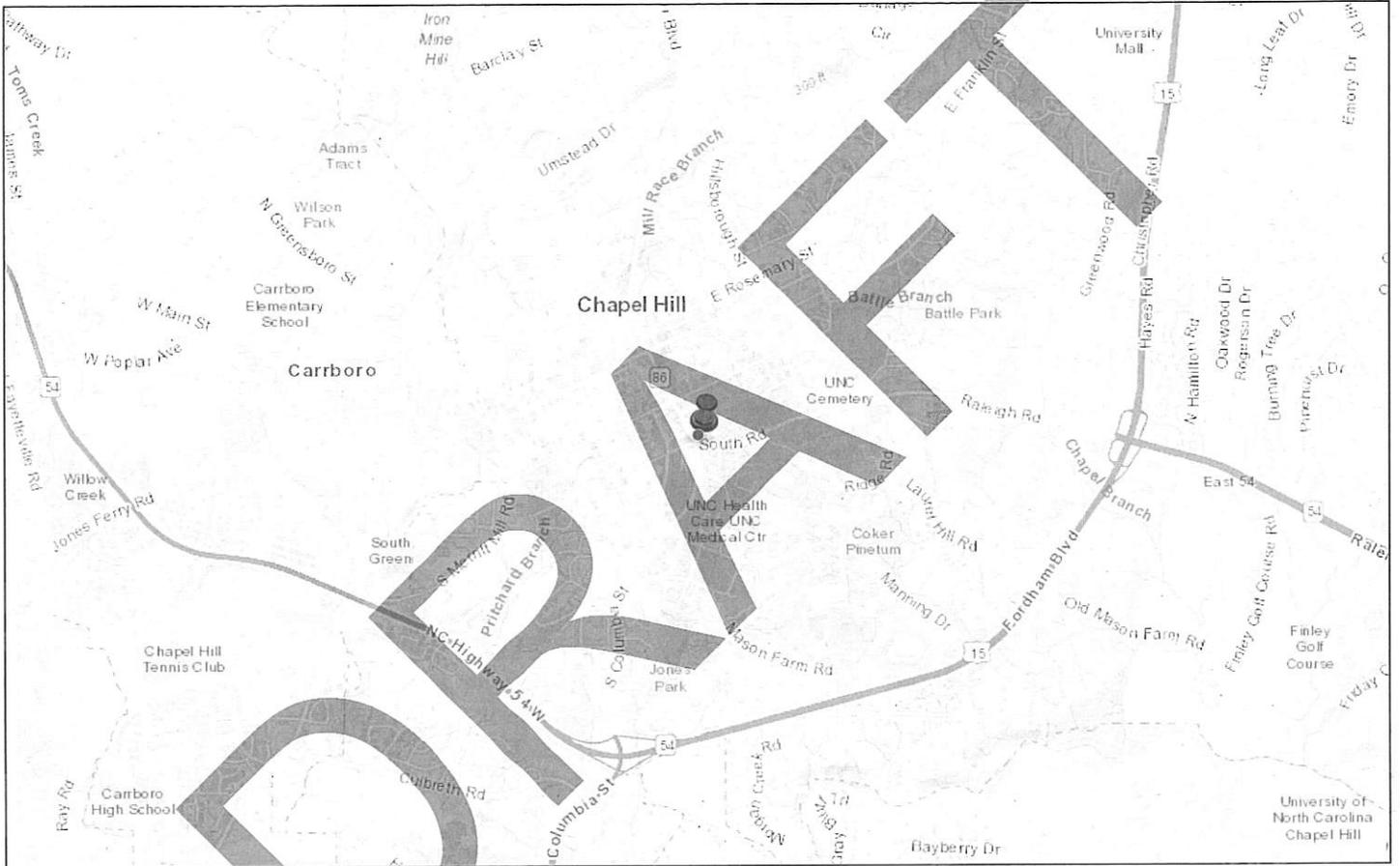


Town of Cary, Town of Chapel Hill, Orange County, NC, State of North Carolina DOT, Esri, HERE, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc., Intermap, NGA,

North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office

Participating NC Counties, NCCGIA, NC OneMap, US EPA | Esri, HERE | Town of Cary, Town of Chapel Hill, Orange County, NC, State of North Carolina DOT, Esri, HERE, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc., NGA, USGS |

# National Register of Historic Places Location Map



6/21/2022, 8:20:44 AM

**NROTC Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill**  
 35.909115, -79.052811

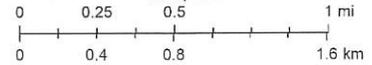
DATUM=WGS84

**NROTC Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill**  
 221 South Columbia St.  
 Chapel Hill, Orange County, NC

Map created by Eric Plaag,  
 Carolina Historical Consulting, LLC  
 June 21, 2022



1:36,112



UNC, Town of Cary, Town of Chapel Hill, Orange County, NC, State of North Carolina DOT, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA, EPA, USDA, NPS

North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office

Participating NC Counties, NCCGIA, NC OneMap, US EPA | Esri, HERE | UNC, Town of Cary, Town of Chapel Hill, Orange County, NC, State of North Carolina DOT, Esri, HERE, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc., USGS, METI/NASA, EPA, USDA |

# NRHP Site Plan



7/27/2023, 9:06:54 AM

CB=Contributing Building

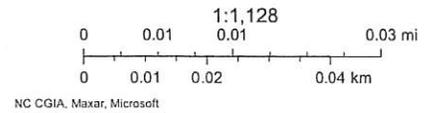
CO=Contributing Object

NCO=Noncontributing object

 National Register Boundary

NROTC Armory, UNC-Chapel Hill  
221 South Columbia St.  
Chapel Hill, Orange County, NC

Map created by Eric Plaag  
Carolina Historical Consulting, LLC  
July 27, 2023



NC CGIA, Maxar, Microsoft

North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office  
NC CGIA, Maxar, Microsoft |