

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 16 1987
DATE ENTERED MAR - 2 1988

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Building 800 Austin Hall Air University Headquarters Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Second Street

___NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Maxwell Air Force Base

VICINITY OF Montgomery, AL

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alabama

01

Montgomery

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

U. S. Air Force

STREET & NUMBER

3800 ABW/CC Building 1

CITY, TOWN

Maxwell Air Force Base

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

AL 36112

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Real Property Office

STREET & NUMBER

3800 ABW/DEEP Building 78

CITY, TOWN

Maxwell Air Force Base

STATE

AL 36112

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Building 800 (Austin Hall) was constructed in 1931 by Samford Brothers, Inc. of Montgomery, Alabama, as the headquarters and classroom building of the Army Air Corps Tactical School (ACTS) at Maxwell Field. The building was designed by architects employed by the US Army Office of the Constructing Quartermaster. Originally the building was only half its present size. As first designed, Building 800 had an I-shaped plan, with the wings of each end being of equal size. In 1934 the south half of the present building was constructed and the original south wing, now the center wing, was enlarged (rooms and porches were added both up and downstairs) by Algernon Blair of Montgomery. After completion of the additions in 1934 Austin Hall had a total length of 360' (this includes both of the end wings). The two end wings measured 80'x40' and its center wing measured 115'x40' (Photographs 1-9; Figures 1-4).

Austin Hall is similar in style to the base Senior Officer's Quarters, which were described by the designing Army architects as being French Provincial. Some Italianate influences also appear to be present, i.e., the tile roof and Romanesque entryways. Originally the building was surrounded by open areas and it fit well into the park design favored for army base construction at that time.

A special effort was made to construct Building 800 of durable, permanent construction materials. Steel reinforced concrete and steel girders were used for the skeleton of the two story building. The roof is framed with wood rafters and posts and covered with red, straight barrel, mission tile. The basement and floors are of poured concrete reinforced with steel. The floor of the first story is 5' above the ground surface. Building 800 has a full-size basement. Outer walls are made of poured concrete or hollow tile covered with textured stucco. Currently the building is painted eggshell cream.

All original interior walls were constructed of hollow tile with a plaster finish. Bathroom walls were finished with ceramic tile. No reference could be found as to the original floor coverings; most rooms are now carpeted. Interior ceilings are approximately 10' high. Many of the interior doors are still original; these are solid wood with a multipane window, (most of the panes have been painted brown). The trim work consists principally of a simply baseboard approximately 5" high. Fluorescent lighting has replaced the incandescent system originally installed.

Five of the entrances to Austin Hall are framed by ornamental entryways. The two main entrances to Austin Hall are situated at the front of the building, equidistant between the wings. The low, broad steps (4) leading to these entries are of cut granite. Double doors surmounted by a semi-circular, multipane transom lead into the building (these transoms help light the

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

stairway landings). The doorways themselves are framed by a Romanesque ornamental archway made of sculpted limestone blocks. Each archway consists of two flat pilaster columns, the arch, a plain entablature, and two urns on pedestals (the urns have been removed from the north entry). The single windows immediately above these entries are framed by limestone pilasters and a lintel.

Another ornamental front entryway is centered on the north wing of the building (this is the part of the building constructed in 1931; there is no corresponding entrance on the front of the newer 1934 south wing). This entrance is similar in style but less elaborate than the other two front entries. This entry has no stairway leading to it, nor does it have a semi-circular window above it. The double doors are framed by pilasters, topped with a plain entablature. No decorative urns were ever placed on the entablature. An aluminum awning has been added over the doors.

Two additional entrances are also located on the end of the north wing. Each has double doors and is framed with limestone pilasters and a lintel with a decorative cornice. The first floor of the north wing was originally used as the ACTS auditorium, which may explain why it has three entries. The auditorium has now been divided into two large meeting rooms.

The side entry located on the south wing of Austin Hall has a high stairway (8 steps) of poured concrete leading to double doors. The doorway is framed by flat limestone pilasters, topped by a plain entablature. This entry has no decorative urns, arch or semi-circular transom.

Building 800 has been sporadically modified throughout its history as its function changed. After new classroom buildings were built for Air University, most of the class and conference rooms in Austin Hall were partitioned to make additional office space. The most noticeable change in appearance has been to the center front wing. When this wing was enlarged in 1934, porches were added both up and downstairs. The downstairs porch had five open decorative arches (three on the front and one on each side). The upper porch was open and airy, with the roof being supported by at least four sets of paired posts. At some time in the past the porch areas were enclosed and windows installed to make work and office space. The lower porch is now part of the office complex for the Commander of Air University. The two side archways have been completely filled in, while two of the front arches have had windows installed. A doorway for the Commander of Air University has been placed in the center arch. A small porch and concrete steps were constructed in front of the doorway. Awnings have been fitted over the two front windows and the Commander's door. A paved driveway and parking spot for the Commander was built in front of Austin Hall in 1983.

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11/10/87

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The original steel windows in Austin Hall were replaced in 1981 with bronze colored aluminum frame windows. The new windows are tinted and have a bottom panel that tilts out. Window air-conditioners have been installed in two of them. Although the new windows do not resemble the original multipane windows, it is felt that they do not significantly detract from the appearance of the building.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1931 and 1934

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Samford Brothers, Inc.,
Algernon Blair

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site of Maxwell Air Force Base has a long history of association with flight training and US military aviation. In March 1910 the Wright brothers established the world's first civilian aviation school here and trained a number of students before they closed the school in May of the same year. Aviation activities at this site lapsed until the establishment of the Army Air Repair Depot in April 1918. This facility assembled and repaired aircraft only, no flight training was conducted at the base. Following the end of World War I activity at the base was very low key until the transfer of the Army Air Corps Tactical School (ACTS) to Maxwell was authorized in December 1928. Operation of the school at Maxwell Field did not actually start until June 1931.

Although the initial building operations under the Air Corps Five Year Expansion Program had started in 1927, the transfer of the ACTS to this facility greatly expanded the scope of the planned construction work. A school building, quarters for officers, noncommissioned officers, and enlisted men, and support facilities were to be constructed. Most of the World War I structures were removed at this time.

Building 800, Austin Hall, was one of the first buildings to be constructed for the Air Corps Tactical School; it served as the home for this school from 1931 until 1941. Austin Hall was constructed in two phases. Construction of the first portion of the building was undertaken by Samford Brothers, Inc., of Montgomery, Alabama, in September 1930 and completed on 30 June 1931. The size of the building was doubled by an addition which was completed on 31 August 1934 by Algernon Blair of Montgomery. In September 1931, Building 800 was named after 1st Lt Charles B. Austin, an early and influential teaching instructor attached to the Army Air Corps Tactical School.

The Air Corps Tactical School was founded to teach flight officers strategy, tactics, and techniques of the employment of air forces. Tactical employment of the four general classes of military aviation - attack, bombardment, pursuit, and observation - were emphasized. By December 7, 1941, 916 officers had graduated from ACTS. The tactics and strategy employed by the US Army Air Forces in the European and Pacific theaters of the war were largely formulated at Maxwell during the 1930s. The Air Corps Tactical School furnished a majority of the US Army Air Force leadership during World War II. At the close of the Second World War 320 of the general officers on duty with the Army Air Force were graduates of the school.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (See continuation sheet)

Chambers, John S. "Quarters for our Army," Quartermaster Review (March-April 1928): pp. 24-26.

Dubina, George. Fifty Years of Aviation History at Maxwell Air Force Base: 1910-1960. Office of Information (Historian), Headquarters, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, ca. 1960.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1.82 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	16	561060	3582320	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of this property is the lot upon which Building 800 is situated. This lot is outlined in red on the accompanying U.S.G.S. topographical map.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Neil D. Robison Archeologist

ORGANIZATION

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

DATE

10/12/84

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 2288

TELEPHONE

205/694-4112

CITY OR TOWN

Mobile

STATE

Alabama 36628

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Deputy for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health DATE 9 September 87

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3/2/88

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

In 1940 concern about the outbreak of war in Europe caused a cessation of ACTS classes and a severe reduction in the school's staff. The US military at this time was being placed on a war footing and the Army Air Corps was beginning a rapid expansion. The Southeast Air Corps Training Center (SEACTC) (redesignated the Army Air Force Eastern Flying Training Command in 1943) was officially established at Maxwell on July 8, 1940 and took over the facilities used by the Tactical School. Austin Hall was made the SEACTC headquarters building.

SEACTC was responsible for all pilot, navigation, and bombardier training of Air Corps cadets stationed in the southeastern portion of the US. Later a flight instructors and a specialized four engine pilot school (first for the B-24 Liberator and finally for the B-29 Superfortress) were established at Maxwell. Over 100,000 aviation cadets received instruction at Maxwell during World War II. At the end of the war Maxwell served as a separation center for Army Air Force personnel who lived within 300 miles of Montgomery. The Eastern Flying Training Command was inactivated late in 1945.

The Army Air Forces School was transferred from Orlando, Florida, to Maxwell Field on November 29, 1945. On March 12, 1946 the school was redesignated as Air University. Headquarters for Air University was set up in Austin Hall, where it remains today. Air University was established to educate Air Force officers in the study, formulation, and teaching of theories and methods of aerial warfare. Graduates of Air University are prepared for command of major Air Force units and for staff duties appropriate to such positions.

Austin Hall is also significant as being the building where the Order of Daedalians, an Air Force pilots association, was founded on 24 March 1934. There were 35 charter members, most of them students at the Tactical School. Business meetings were regularly held in Austin Hall.

In summary, the principal significance of Building 800 lies in its long and active association with the development and training of the air forces of the United States. Secondly the building is historically significant as an extremely well preserved example of an architectural style adopted as part of the 1927 Army Air Corps Five Year Expansion Program.

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11/16/87

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

9

PAGE

1

George, Harold L., Lt Gen, USAF (Retired). September 5, 1984 letter on the establishment of the Order of Daedalians. Letter on file at Office on History, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL.

Fine, Lenore and Jesse A. Remington. United States Army in World War II, The Technical Services, The Corps of Engineers: Construction in the United States. Office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army, Washington, D.C., 1972.

Swanberg, Arnold Frederick. The Development of the Army Planning Process: A Case Study of Fort Lewis. A Master's Thesis submitted to the Department of Urban Planning, University of Washington, 1982.

Wheaton, Francis B. "The Architecture of the Army Post," Quartermaster Review (September-October 1929): pp. 10-13.