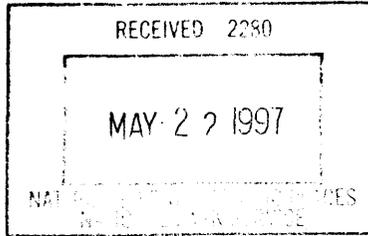


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name (Former) Sanford Naval Air Station Administration Building/Control Tower

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Airport Industrial Park N/A not for publication

city or town South Sanford, vicinity

state Maine code ME county York code 031 zip code 04073

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James Fitzgerald 5/16/97
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
 State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall 6/20/97
 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

(Former) Sanford NAS Admin. Bldg./ Control Tower
Name of Property

York, Maine
County and State

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Defense/Military Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: WWII Naval Control Tower

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Asbestos
roof Asphalt
other Control Tower at One End

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____

Military _____

Period of Significance

c. 1942-1945 _____

Significant Dates

c. 1942 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

United States Navy _____

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

(FORMER) SANFORD NAVAL AIR STATION ADMINISTRATION YORK, MAINE
BUILDING/CONTROL TOWER

Section number 7 Page 2

Located at the southwest corner of Sanford Municipal Airport, the (Former) Sanford Naval Air Station Administration Building/Control Tower is a two-story structure with an attached three-story tower surmounted by a glassed-in aircraft control cab. Built in late 1942 or early 1943, the building is of wood frame construction, sheathed in dark gray asbestos shingles, and supported upon a concrete block foundation. A one-story concrete block addition, probably built in the 1950's, runs off the administration building on the southeast elevation. At the intersection of the addition and the administration building is an exterior brick chimney which rises above the flat roof.

The administration building/control tower consists of a simple two-story rectangular building with a three-story tower and control tower set asymmetrically on the northwest elevation. Each of the exposed corners of the tower is chamfered and on the third floor, where it rises above the two-story administration building, the tower is essentially an octagon. The tower carries the aircraft control cab which is enclosed on eight sides by diagonally set panes of glass. A double railing constructed of steel runs around the perimeter on the roof of the cab and is punctuated on four corners by vertical rods fitted with red signal lights. The exterior of the control tower cab deck could originally be accessed from the roof of the administration building by a narrow wooden staircase. A wooden ladder also provided access to the roof of the tower cab. The exterior tower cab stairs and ladder are no longer extant. Areas of wood on the exterior of the tower cab are presently painted red and white.

The administration section of the building features six over six double hung wood sash set in pairs on three elevations of the building. Three pairs of six over six windows are set into the chamfered corners of the tower providing approximately 180° of window in these areas. In total, the building contains more than seventy-six double-hung sash. Six over six double hung sash are located on the northeast facade of the administration building. The seven bay northwest elevation of the building contains the main entrance to the building which is located asymmetrically next to the control tower. A centrally located porch projects from the rear of the administration building. It is surmounted by a small verandah accessed by a centrally located door on the second floor of the building.

Most of the original sheetrock on the interior of the administration building and control tower has been removed. The original floor plan of the building is discernable by the wall studs which remain intact. Many of the historic doors and mouldings remain intact and will be restored by the owner.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

(FORMER) SANFORD NAVAL AIR STATION ADMINISTRATION YORK, MAINE
BUILDING/CONTROL TOWER

Section number 8 Page 2

Probably constructed in 1942 or 1943, the (Former) Sanford Naval Air Station Administration Building/Control Tower is a rare example of a surviving World War II naval air control tower building. It is eligible for nomination to the National Register under Criterion A for statewide significance as a component of the United States Naval Air Base system established during World War II and Criterion C as a largely intact World War II Naval air control tower and administration building.

As late as 1938, only a handful of Naval Aviation establishments existed in the continental United States. Deteriorating world politics that year prompted an increase in the number of military aircraft manufactured for America's armed forces and commenced the prewar arms buildup. America's entry into World War II on December 7, 1941 heightened the need for the quick construction of Naval Air Stations throughout the country. One half of the 84 east coast air stations established during World War II were located at existing civil airports or airstrips in order to take advantage of existing infrastructures.

Early in 1942, the Chief of Naval Operations designated major and minor Naval Reserve Aviation Bases (NRAB) around the country as "Oaks" and "Acorns" respectively. The primary mission of the NRAB was to train pilots and patrol coastal regions of the country. The establishment of the Oaks and Acorns heralded the beginning of a concept of functional componentry which developed as the war progressed and provided Naval planners and commanders with a means of ordering standardized units of personnel, equipment, and materiel to meet any special need in any area, in much the same manner as ordering from a mail order catalogue.¹ In January of 1943, Naval Reserve Aviation Bases around the country were redesignated Naval Air Stations (NAS) with no change of mission.

The Sanford Naval Air Station was one of five auxiliary naval air stations established in Maine during World War II, while the Brunswick Naval Air Station (established about the same time) functioned as the primary naval air base in the region. Sanford's airfield originally consisted of a single air strip and a hanger built by the Sanford Mills in the early 1930's. About 1940, the WPA expanded the field and added hard-surfaced runways. Sometime in late 1942 or early 1943 the control tower/administration building was constructed at the southwest corner of the airfield as were a number of frame barracks buildings. The Navy commissioned the station NAAS Sanford on April 15, 1943 and the facility went into operation immediately, staging training operations and launching radio controlled drones over Casco Bay. Of the five auxiliary naval air stations located in Maine during the period (including bases at Auburn/Lewiston, Long Island, Rockland, Bar Harbor), Sanford was the southernmost and considered to be second only to Brunswick in terms of facilities with 80 officers and 464 men. In 1944, the Navy erected an extant but altered 200 x 240 prefabricated wooden truss hanger which had originally been intended for an American Naval installation in Labrador. The same year one fighter squadron and one torpedo squadron were assigned to the base. At the end of the war Sanford NAAS went on caretaker status though it continued to be manned by the Navy until the early 1960's. During the early part of the 1950's, consideration was given to moving the state's major Naval Air Station from Brunswick to Sanford. However, Brunswick prevailed and today remains the only operational Naval Air facility in Maine.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

(FORMER) SANFORD NAVAL AIR STATION ADMINISTRATION YORK, MAINE
BUILDING/CONTROL TOWER

Section number 8 Page 3

While structures similar to the Sanford NAS Control Tower/Administration Building were constructed at the bases at Brunswick and Lewiston/Auburn and numerous other locations along the eastern seaboard, it is the only known surviving example of its type. The temporary nature evident in the design and construction of this building type, appears to have resulted in their destruction during the civil aeronautics boom of the second half of the twentieth century. Its simple, functional design is illustrative of the trend toward standardization and mass production in the American Forces during World War II. While Sanford NAAS never functioned as the primary base in the region, it did play an important role in pilot training and defense of the southern Maine coast in the period between 1943 and 1945. It survives as a rare example of the hundreds of military control towers that were quickly constructed as part of America's war effort during the Second World War.

William Kostis, the owner of the Sanford NAAS Control Tower/Administration Building is presently rehabilitating the structure and intends to rent the space for aeronautic related commercial purposes.

1. Shettle, M.L., "U.S. Naval Air Stations of World War II." Vol. 1 Eastern States. 1995: Schaertel Publishing Company. Bowersville, GA.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

(FORMER) SANFORD NAVAL AIR STATION ADMINISTRATION YORK, MAINE
BUILDING/CONTROL TOWER

Section number 9 **Page** 2

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Historic Aviation Properties." 1995.

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Schaertel Publishing Company. Bowersville, GA, 1995.

Trimble, William F., "Admiral William A. Moffet, Architect of Naval Aviation." Washington:
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

(FORMER) SANFORD NAVAL AIR STATION ADMINISTRATION YORK, MAINE
BUILDING/CONTROL TOWER

Section number 10 **Page** 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Sanford Tax Map R-18A, Lot 8, Sub-Lot 1.

Boundary Justification

Although the subject building was, during World War II, part of the much larger airport that is adjacent to it, it is no longer a functioning part of this facility (which has been expanded since the 1940s). Thus, the boundary is drawn to include only that plot of land that was originally and is presently associated with the building.