

U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION, AIRCRAFT HANGAR
(U.S. Naval Air Station, Recreation Offices & Gymnasium)
(U.S. Naval Air Station, Building No. 632)
Radford Boulevard
Pensacola
Escambia County
Florida

HABS No. FL-501

HABS
FL-501

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Southeast Region
Department of the Interior
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION, AIRCRAFT HANGAR (U.S. Naval Air Station, Recreation Offices & Gymnasium) (U.S. Naval Air Station, Building No. 632)

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Location: Radford Boulevard, U.S. Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida.

Significance: Constructed in 1940, Building No. 632 is one of eleven new hangars erected between 1937 and 1940 as part of a massive expansion of Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola's facilities and aviation training program. Building No. 632 was designed by the Navy's Bureau of Yards & Docks (BuDocks) as an aircraft hangar, and its original function supported the direct mission of NAS Pensacola—cadet and officer aviation training. In the late 1980s, NAS Pensacola converted the 105,151 square feet of floor space into recreation offices and a gymnasium, a function that supported base personnel rather than the mission. Building No. 632 is individually eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places due to its historic affiliation with World War II aviation training and the overall context of U.S. Naval aviation history. With its red brick exterior walls, decorative quoins, and limestone detailing, the hangar is an excellent local example of an industrial building that incorporates architectural elements of the Georgian Revival style. The resource has undergone some alterations since its construction, but it retains its historic character and integrity to a noteworthy degree. Building No. 632 is one of many buildings at the station that sustained damage by Hurricane Ivan in September 2004.

Description: Located directly north of the coastline in the southern portion of NAS Pensacola, Building No. 632 is an irregular-plan, steel-frame hangar. The resource is oriented to the east and sits atop a large paved concrete apron/parking lot. Building No. 632 consists of a central, one-story, gabled-roof hangar bay that is flanked by lower one- and two-story, flat- and shed-roofed lean-tos. A large batten seam copper canopy is positioned above each set of hangar doors. The building has a concrete continuous raised perimeter foundation with concrete footings supported by driven piles. Exterior walls are constructed of hollow clay tiles and are clad with red brick and limestone detailing. The building's west facade displays a bank of twelve massive horizontal-sliding, steel doors with multiple lights. Each of these doors is constructed of a steel-frame that is covered with riveted steel panels. A small number of these doors have hinged, steel, pilot doors. Three-story, flat-roof pylons flank the west facade doorway. An altered identical doorway on the building's east facade, which is now inoperable, has been altered with the application of ribbed metal panels over two of its original horizontal-sliding doors. Two sets of paired, aluminum-frame, hinged doors with full-length vision panels have been added to this facade. A third, non-historic entrance that consists of three, aluminum-frame, hinged doors with aluminum-frame transoms and sidelights is on the building's east facade. A flat aluminum awning shelters this entrance. Additional entrances, located on the building's north and south facades, include hinged single, flush-panel, metal doors—some with vision panels—and paired louvered, flush-panel, metal doors. Windows are primarily paired, single-hung, aluminum-sash units located along the building's south facade addition and combination single-hung and fixed aluminum-frame units located along the building's north and south facade two-story lean-tos. In addition, the building's hangar bay has combination center-pivoting and fixed-light, steel-frame window units on its north and south facades. Fixed, anodized, aluminum-frame units, the building's fourth window type, are located at each pylon. The Georgian Revival style building displays a number of noteworthy decorative details, including articulated brick and limestone quoins and limestone door surrounds. Alterations to the building include the replacement of most original windows, the addition of three doorways and application of ribbed metal to the east facade, the partial

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enclosure of one north facade doorway, and the application of plywood panels over a number of the building's windows and doors. A shed-roofed wing was also added to the building's south facade.

History: The Works Progress Administration funded the construction of Building No. 632 in conjunction with mobilization prior to World War II at NAS Pensacola, which helped accommodate increased training activities and personnel levels at the base. BuDocks designed Building No. 632, and Standard Construction Co. of Columbus, Georgia, carried out the construction effort. Completed in 1940, Building No. 632 was located within a complex of World War I-era seaplane hangars and in proximity to seaplane ramps. Building No. 632 served as a hangar for most of its life, first as a seaplane hangar and later as an aircraft maintenance facility; however, in 1986, NAS Pensacola converted the facility into recreation offices and a gymnasium.

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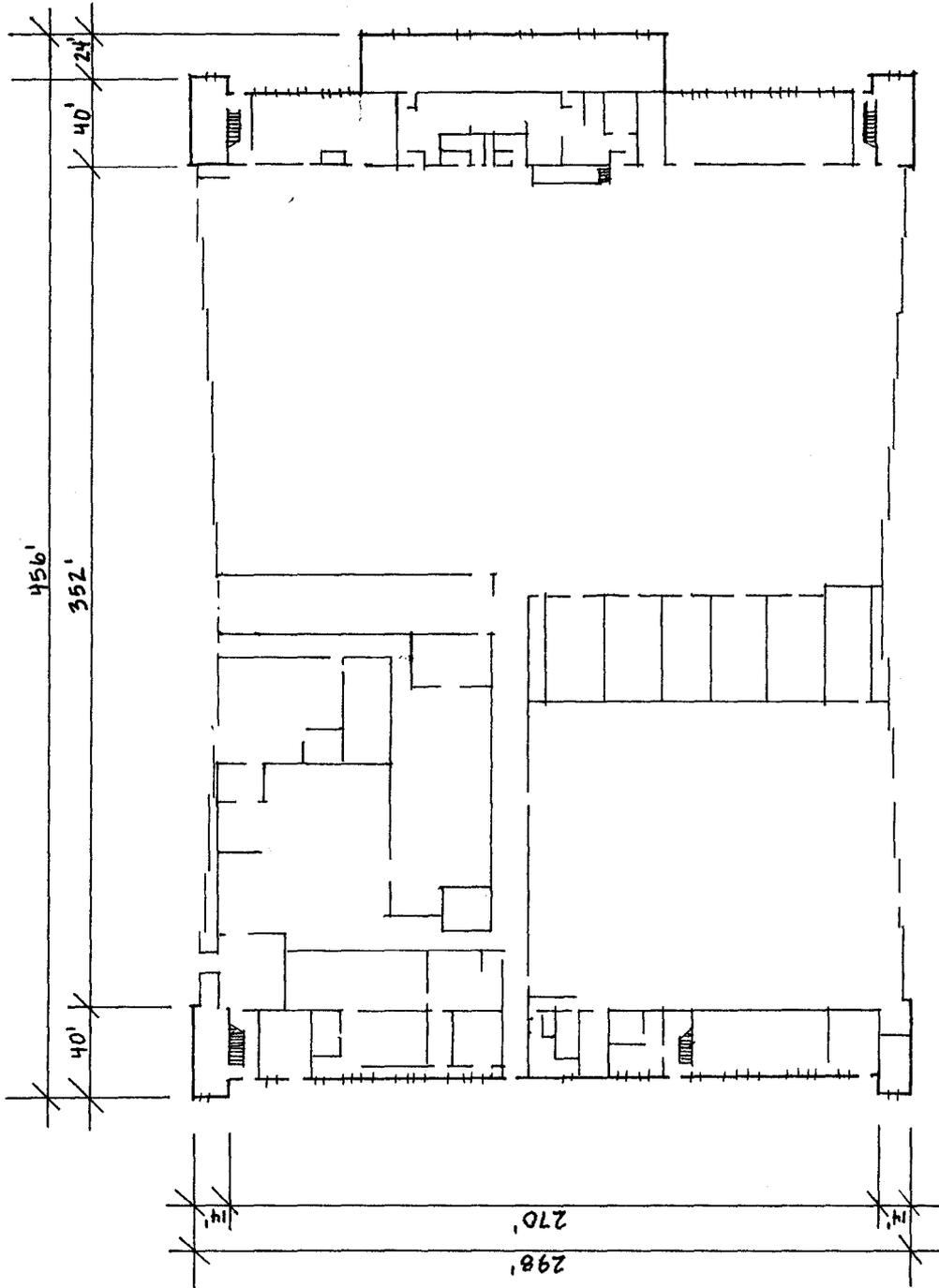
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April 29, 2005
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NORTH