



Historical and Architectural Overview of Aircraft Hangars of the Reserves and National Guard Installations from World War I through the Cold War

09-431

Background:

The history of the US armed forces in the twentieth century is inexorably linked with the development of aviation. The architectural history of military hangars and airfields has been thoroughly documented for the active branches of the military. This project resulted in a historic context that explores the history of aviation and hangar development in the Reserves and National Guard. This project is intended to complement previously developed historic contexts for military aviation and hangar construction and be used to streamline evaluation of these resources.



Yeager ANG Base, West Virginia 1

Objective:

The objective of this project is to build on the 1998 report to provide a context for understanding the history of National Guard and Reserve aviation history and hangar construction. The report can assist National Guard and Reserve cultural resource managers to identify and evaluate aircraft hangars for eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Summary of Approach:

Research was conducted using primary and secondary resources to develop a historic context for the evolution of aviation operations within each National Guard and Reserve branches of US armed forces. A component of this research included development of a historic context for hangar construction within each branch.

An inventory of extant hangars was created by contacting the National Guard and Reserve headquarters-level cultural resource managers and real property points of contact for information. A request was sent to installations to confirm the existence of hangars.

Other requested information included maps depicting hangar locations, available historic context information for the installations and hangars, and real property records for the hangars, including drawings and pictures. This data was assembled in a Microsoft Access database. The database associated with this report incorporates hyperlinks to photographs and drawings provided by installation cultural resource managers.

Benefit:

The study provides a framework and apparatus through which the National Guard and Reserves can identify historic hangars among their installations. This report produced for this project enables National Guard and Reserve cultural resource managers to better comply with the National Historic Preservation Act.

Accomplishments:

This study includes 408 hangars within the combined inventory of the National Guard, Navy Reserves, Air Force Reserves, and Marine Corps Reserves. No information regarding Army Reserve hangars was acquired during this study. Many, if not most, of the hangars managed by the National Guard and the Reserves were built using standardized plans developed by their respective regular, full-time service. The study provides a national level historic context for military aircraft hangars; however, local and regional historic contexts should be developed as well when evaluating hangar eligibility for the NRHP.

Based on the number of hangars and the fact that they were likely constructed from standardized plans, it is recommended that the DoD consider exploring alternative means for section 106 compliance for projects related to hangars including demolition, renovation, rehabilitation, and creative re-use.

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