

HISTORIC MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE



DRIVING TOUR BOOKLET

WELCOME

Welcome to Historic Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. Maxwell AFB is of national importance for the role it has played in the history of American aviation. In 1910, the Wright brothers opened one of our nation's earliest flying schools here. The site served as an engine and repair depot during WWI. In 1920 it was purchased by the federal government for a permanent military airfield, a result of the Army Air Service's first comprehensive air-field development program. From 1931 to 1940, the Air Corps Tactical School (ACTS) was located at Maxwell. This was the country's first school to teach the tactics of aerial warfare. During WWII, Maxwell's mission was to train thousands of airmen needed for the war effort. It became the headquarters of the Army Air Forces Eastern Flying Training Command, the nation's largest pre-flight training school. Since 1946, the dawn of the Cold War era-Maxwell has served as the home of Air University, the educational and doctrinal center of the United States Air Force (USAF).



Officer Training School

Maxwell's growth over time reflects the nation's changing defense needs. As you drive around Maxwell, you will see both historic and modern buildings that illustrate the development of Maxwell from the late 1920s through the post-War period, when the airfield became Maxwell Air Force Base, up to its present educational mission as Air University. Most of the buildings on the Tour are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the official list of our nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation.

We hope this tour of Maxwell's historic sites will enhance your appreciation of our nation's military aviation legacy, a legacy that we are working to preserve at Maxwell AFB.

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Air Park

LIST OF HISTORIC SITES ON TOUR ROUTE

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AIR WAR COLLEGE (23)
AIR COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE (24)
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LAYOUT OF THE BASE

Although Maxwell's aviation history began in 1910, its oldest building dates back to 1927. The buildings at Maxwell reflect our nation's times of peace and war through distinctly different design. Peacetime construction between the World Wars produced stylish permanent buildings. The station was landscaped with shade trees and open park-like spaces. The Army Quartermaster Corps employed nationally known community planners, including George B. Ford and Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., who sought to maximize beauty, utility and efficiency.

Historically, the Air Corps Tactical School (ACTS) in Austin Hall (Bldg. 800) was the focal point of the airfield, both functionally and spatially. Buildings along the flight line (hangars, warehouses, operations) buffered the rest of the station from the noise of the airfield. The former parade ground provided additional separation of functions. Family housing for NCOs and senior officers was set at a distance from the business portion of the station.

In contrast to the peacetime program, wartime construction produced simple, functional, temporary buildings that could be rapidly erected. During World War II, masses of one-story barracks were built in every available open space to accommodate the thousands of airmen who came to Maxwell Field for training. In this time of racial segregation, the African-American 4th Aviation Squadron was housed in a separate section near the federal prison.

Air University (AU) was established shortly after World War II. Part of the AU campus, Chennault Circle, also known as the Academic Circle, has a distinctive circular plan. School buildings are connected by a network of underground tunnels that could have been used as bomb shelters, characteristic of early Cold War era construction.

"Air base" was not in common use until after the mid-1930s. Before then terms such as flying field, airdrome, aerodrome, and post were used, with post reflecting the air arm's Army roots. Army aviation ground facilities were most often referred to as stations in the 1920s and early 1930s the term used for references to Maxwell Field prior to WW II in this booklet.

As you tour the base, please remember that you are a visitor on an active U. S. military installation. A speed limit of 25 mph is strictly enforced, un-less posted otherwise, and pedestrians always have the right of way.

SENIOR OFFICERS' QUARTERS

Enter Maxwell AFB through the Maxwell Blvd Gate. Proceed on Maxwell Blvd. and turn right onto Inner Circle to view the Senior Officers' Quarters (1). Continue on Inner Circle and take the first right onto Sequoia Dr. Go to the end of the cul-de-sac to Curry House (2). Circle the cul-de-sac and backtrack on Sequoia Dr., taking the first right onto West St. Proceed on West St. to Brett Hall (3) and the Officers' Club (4). Continue on West St. until it merges with Poplar St. Take an immediate right from Poplar St. onto Ash St., leading to the next part of the tour-the His-toric Flight Line.

SENIOR OFFICERS' QUARTERS: BRIEF HISTORY

The Senior Officers' Quarters at Maxwell AFB are among the most elegant officers' quarters found on any U.S. Air Force base. They were built between 1932 and 1935 to house officers who attended and taught at the ACTS.

In contrast to the traditional "Officers' Row" of houses found at Army posts of earlier periods, Maxwell's

Senior Officers' Quarters were designed as a neighborhood and removed from the industrial area of the station. The 99 houses sit in a park like setting with open grassy areas, winding streets, sidewalks, and shade trees. The rear detached garages are a typical feature of early 20th-century automobile neighborhoods. This layout reflects the influence of two nationally known city planners, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and George B. Ford, who were hired by the Army Quartermaster Corps to ensure that construction for the Air Corps expansion program incorporated the most current civilian planning principles.

SENIOR OFFICERS' QUARTERS: ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

French Provencial Style

Senior Officers' Quarters at Maxwell are examples of what the Army Quartermaster Corps called the French Provencial style. In the late 1920s and 1930s, the Corps developed standardized plans for construction and selected architectural styles that reflected a sense of regional history and local building materials. The Quartermaster architects selected the Colonial style for construction at posts along the Atlantic Seaboard; Spanish Mission for the Southwest; and French Provencial for the Gulf states. The French Provencial style was employed at Maxwell because of the heavy French influence in south Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana during the colonial period.

Elements of French Provencial design include: symmetrical facades with projecting wings, steeply pitched roofs, dormers, arched windows, corner quoins, and decorative iron balustrades at the windows.

SENIOR OFFICERS' QUARTERS

1. Senior Officers' Quarter

Army housing distinguished between rank of officers. Housing for officers with the grade of captain and below included a living room, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, two baths, ample closets, and, whenever possible, a maid's room. An additional bedroom and bath were included in quarters for field officers and generals. Compared to military housing from earlier periods, these officers' quarters seemed luxurious. At Maxwell there are nine different house plans for Senior Officers' Quarters. Each varies in external details and interior arrangement. All houses share the same construction materials, red ceramic tile roofs and exterior walls of hollow-core tile covered with stucco.

Three different entry porches add variety:

One porch is a small, central, one-story portico with plain, square, wooden columns and capped with a decorative wrought-iron railing

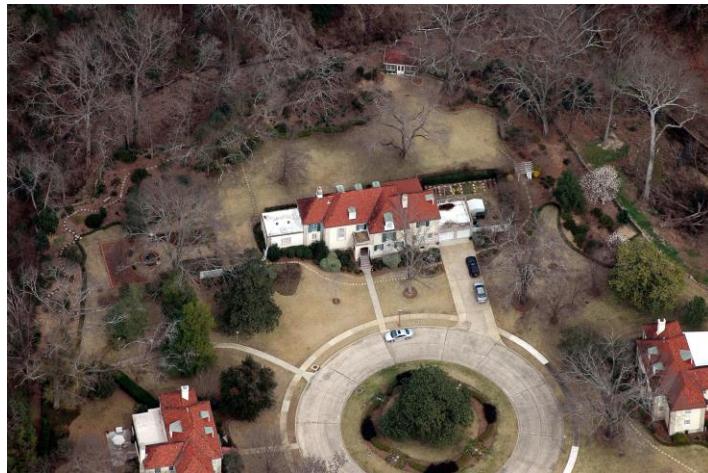
The second type is simply a small enclosed entry

The third features decorative wrought-iron columns



2. Curry House (Bldg. 337)

Only one of the Senior Officers' Quarters is referred to by name. The Curry House honors Maj. Gen. John F. Curry, its first occupant and the first commandant of the Air Corps Tactical School (ACTS) at Maxwell. Since completion in 1934, it has been home to Maxwell's highest ranking officers.



Curry House is the only example of its house type. It is the largest quarters at Maxwell, with five bedrooms, and is the only house with an attached two-car garage. Most officers' quarters shared detached garages.

The house sits on a large lot enhanced by formal and picturesque landscaping. Adjacent to the Curry House is a foot bridge that links the Officers' Quarters with the golf course, which was completed in 1934.

3. J. Brett Hall (Bldg. 110)

This building originally housed 18 bachelor officers. It was completed in February 1934 at a cost of \$54,000. Elements of the French Provencial style include: a high hipped roof and a two-story central section with one-story projecting wings to each side. Behind this dormitory, a row of garages could accommodate up to 19 cars. Brett Hall now serves as visiting General Officers' and Distinguished Visitor's quarters.



4. Officers' Club (Bldg. 144)

The Officers' Club was completed in April 1934 and enlarged in 1936. The French Provencial features on this building include a high hipped roof and corner quoins. It still functions as an officers' dining hall and club. An adjacent swimming pool, completed in 1934, was filled in and landscaped as an English tea garden in 2009.



HISTORIC FLIGHT LINE

Proceed on Ash St. The second building on the right side of Ash St. is a **WWII Hangar (5)**.

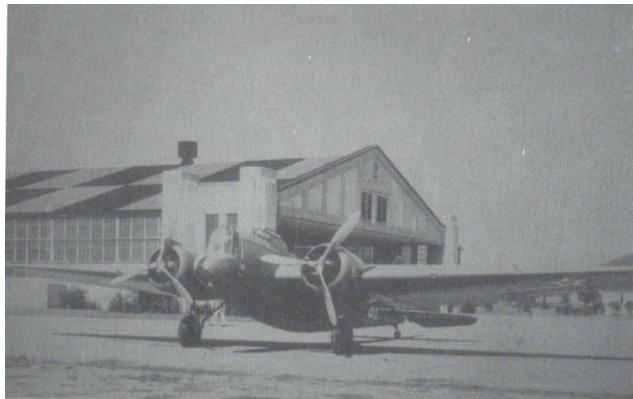
Continue to the end of Ash St., turn right onto Bay St. and stop in front of the cul-de-sac. From here you can see the Wright marker, a **1930s Hangar (6)**, and the **Operations Building (7)**.

Go around the circle and back out Bay St. Take the first right onto Arnold St. Cross Maxwell Blvd. and continue down Arnold St. to the **Quartermaster Warehouse (8)** on the right.

HISTORIC FLIGHT LINE TOUR

BRIEF HISTORY

Historically this area was the location of Maxwell Field's main operations. The large shed built to house the Wright plane in 1910 was located in this vicinity. During WWI, the Army leased the site for an Engine and Repair Depot. Characteristic of the temporary construction program taking place throughout the country as a result of the war, 52 simple wooden buildings were constructed in only 90 days.



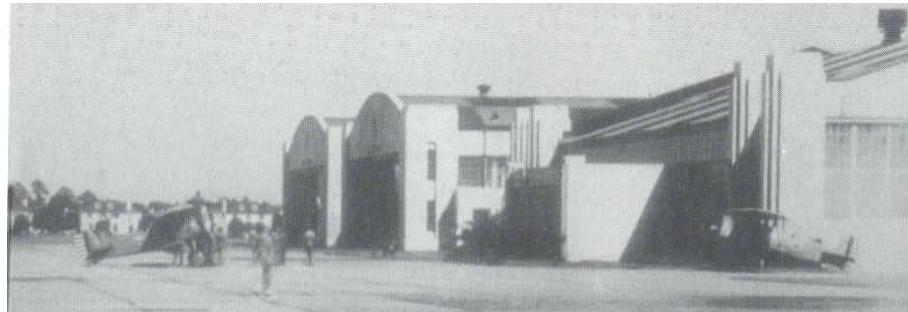
By the mid-1920s, these temporary wooden buildings were badly deteriorated and regarded as a disgrace to the U.S. Army. Congress enacted the Air Corps Act in 1926, which included a Five-Year Expansion Program (1927-1932) for the Army air arm. Construction funds to improve military housing were provided by the Army Housing Program, also enacted in 1926. WWI temporary buildings were demolished and replaced with stylish, substantial buildings designed by the Army Quartermaster Corps. All historic buildings on the flight line were constructed in the early 1930s as a result of this Air Corps expansion program, with the exception of the WWII hangars. These large hangars with arched roofs were constructed in 1945 to house B-29 bombers. In addition to hangars, buildings on the Historic Flight Line included warehouses, a machine shop, and an assembly shop.

HISTORIC FLIGHT LINE: ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

Standardized plans were developed to carry out construction for military development in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Four of Maxwell's hangars are identical to hangars constructed during this period at Randolph Field, Texas. Although basically utilitarian structures, these hangars display the elements of the Art Deco style.

The Art Deco style is one of the modernistic styles of architecture popular in America from the mid-1920s through the 1930s. The 1925 *Exposition des Arts Oeocratifs* in France gave birth to the Art Deco

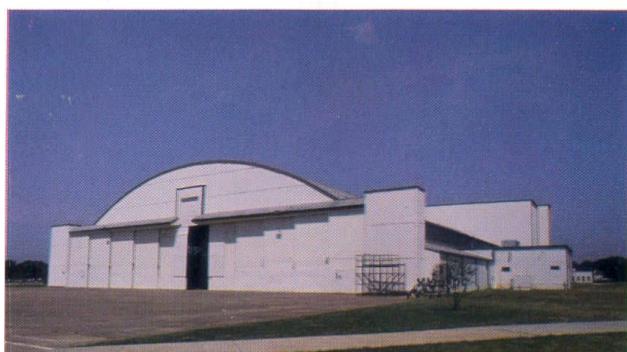
movement. At the very root of the term Art Deco is the word “decoration”. The smooth surface of an Art Deco building is typically ornamented with sharp linear designs.



Art Deco buildings typically have metal window frames and sashes, smooth wall surfaces, setbacks or other linear design elements, and towers or other vertical projections. Setbacks are seen on the corner pillars of the airplane hangars at Maxwell.

5. World War II Hangar (Bldg. 689)

This large hangar with the arched roof was built during WWII to house B-29 bombers. Pilots and night engineers were trained to fly the B-29 Superfortresses at Maxwell Field. This is one of four identical airplane hangars constructed along the Historic Flight line in



6. 1930s Hangar (Bldg. 843)

This hanger is one of four identical airplane hangars constructed along the Historic Flight line in 1931 at a cost of nearly \$126,000. Hangars provide an enclosed space for maintenance and shelter for aircraft during storms.

7. Headquarters and Operations (Bldg. 844)

The two-story operations building was constructed in 1931. It originally served as a joint operations, headquarters, and parachute building and was located at the pivotal corner of the Historic Flight Line. The front of this building features a tall tower, which originally had a castle-like crenellated parapet. This was not an observation tower but a parachute room where open parachutes hung before they were folded into seat cushions for pilots. The building currently houses base operations.



A stone marker behind the building is a reminder of the site's association with the Wright brothers. Another marker commemorates Lt. Gen. Claire L. Chennault. Chennault was an instructor at the Air Corps Tactical School (ACTS) and leader of the "Three Men on a Flying Trapeze," a team of three pilots who performed aerial demonstrations for ACTS and the "Air Force's" first aerial demonstration team. One of Chennault's most legendary acts was flying under the old bridge across the Alabama River north of Montgomery on Highway 31.



By 1938, Maxwell Field had become a large military installation. The buildings on the right side of Arnold St. line the Historic Flight Line, and served as hangars, an engineering building, an airplane assembly building, supply building, and warehouses. To accommodate heavy equipment and aircraft, all floors were laid at ground level instead of elevated over basements. Built of concrete, these one-story buildings have large metal-framed glass windows.

8. Quartermaster Warehouse (Bldg. 850)

This storage building was constructed in November 1931. For the most part, "form follows function" on this long low industrial building. The entrance, however, is accented by an Art Deco design of a stepped parapet. The tall corner piers are also an Art Deco feature. The side elevations of this building consist of three gabled bays.



Straight ahead down Arnold St. is a Historic Entrance to Maxwell Field (9), where Selfridge and Arnold intersect. From Arnold St. turn left onto Shumacher Ave. The Flying Cadet Mess Hall (10) is on the right. On the left side is the rear of the 42nd Air Base Wing Headquarters (11). Proceed to the corner of Shumacher Ave. and LeMay Plaza. Across the street on the right is the International Officer School (12). From Shumacher Ave. turn left onto LeMay Plaza. Austin Hall, Air University Headquarters, (13) is on the right.

Maxwell's Center

During Maxwell's Golden Age (1930-1940) before WWII, Austin Hall, which housed ACTS, was the center of the station. Austin Hall faced a large parade ground. Near the south end of the parade ground, at the corner of Selfridge and Arnold Sts. was one of the historic entrances to the station. Bordering the parade ground to the west and providing a buffer to the field were the Historic Flight Line buildings. To the north of the parade ground were the NCO barracks and the flight line beyond.

During WWII, the parade ground was filled with rows and rows of low barracks to accommodate the thousands of airmen being trained at Maxwell, which had become the headquarters for the Southeast Air Corps Training Center. In the late 1980s, these barracks were demolished, and the Air Base Wing Headquarters Building was constructed in 1990.

Renaissance Revival Style

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, Army Quartermaster Corps architects designed Army buildings in a variety of historical styles. For large important buildings, such as Austin Hall, elements of style were borrowed from merchant palaces and public buildings of the 15th century Italian Renaissance.

Renaissance architecture is both formal and elegant. Massive stone or stucco buildings are topped with low-pitched, wide-hipped roofs with eaves extending to shelter the walls. Ceramic tile is a common roof building material. The overall shape is rectangular with shallow projecting wings. Windows are arranged symmetrically, and arched openings are common. The central entrance is often accentuated by classical features.

The stone door frame at Austin Hall illustrates several Renaissance elements, such as the classical Roman arch, pilasters (flat columns), and the cornice.



9. Historic Entrance to Maxwell Field

The corner of Selfridge and Arnold Sts. once served as one of Maxwell's entrances. Selfridge St. was originally the highway to Birmingham with railroad tracks running parallel. The highway and railroad tracks were relocated when WWII necessitated expansion of Maxwell Field.

10. Flying Cadet Mess Hall (Bldg. 910)

The Flying Cadet Mess Hall was built in 1942 for a little more than \$29,000. This long building, with hollow tile walls and a shingle roof, had a seating capacity of 1,000.

11. 42nd Air Base Wing Headquarters (Bldg. 804) Completed in November 1990, this building took two years to construct and cost \$13.8 million. In the opening ceremony, the building was dedicated to Alabama senator Lister Hill, known affectionately as the "godfather of Maxwell." Senator Hill, who died in 1984, used his political influence to bring the Air Corps Tactical School to Maxwell Field. With its red tile roof and stucco-like walls, this modern building was designed to be compatible with the historic buildings at Maxwell AFB. It is said to be the largest single building with a tile roof in the United States. It serves as the headquarters of the 42nd Air Base Wing.



The photograph shows the front of the building. The tour passes the back of the building at this point.

12. International Officer School (Bldg. 904)

This school prepares international officers to attend Air University (AU). In addition to language and communication skills, students learn about military history and U.S. culture. About 270 students from 96 countries attend AU each year.

12 Austin Hall (Bldg. 800)

Austin Hall was constructed to house the Air Corps Tactical School (ACTS), which relocated from Langley Field, Virginia, to Maxwell Field in 1931. It was named in honor of Lt. Charles B. Austin, an ACTS instructor known for his brilliant teaching techniques, who died shortly before the school's relocation. In front of the entrance, a wing and propeller monument commemorates the Air Corps Tactical School. The propeller was taken from a plane that was similar to those flown at the Tactical School.



Austin Hall was constructed in two phases. The northern portion was completed in 1931; an addition that doubled its size was constructed in 1934. ACTS facilities included a conference room, classrooms, a map room, a library, offices, and an auditorium with a stage.

The Tactical School was the Army air arm's first and only school prior to WWII that taught the tactics and techniques of military aviation. Most key air officers who served in WWII attended the school in the 1930s where they learned and developed the concept of air power so successfully employed during the war. At the end of the war, three of the Air Forces' four-star generals and 11 of the 13 three-star generals were graduates of ACTS. Austin Hall currently serves as Air University Headquarters.

HISTORIC HOUSING: ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

Spanish Mission Style

The Spanish Mission style was one of the architectural styles developed by the Army Quartermaster Corps in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Army Housing Program construction was designed to reflect a region's architectural traditions and building materials. Although the Quartermaster's name for the style was Spanish Mission, it is more commonly known as the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The style was popular in the 1920s and 1930s.



Maxwell's NCO quarters are examples of the Spanish Mission style. Simplicity of form is characteristic of the style. Buildings are typically rectangular in plan and capped with low, hipped roofs. Color and texture are expressed in the barrel shaped, red tile roofs and stucco walls. Recessed porch entries are common, and decorative wrought iron frequently accents the exterior facades.

HISTORIC HOUSING: TOUR

14. Enlisted Men's Barracks (Bldg. 836)

Building 836, on the far left, and the two buildings to its right (Bldg. 835 and 678) were originally dormitories for 163 enlisted men per building. Building 836, Maxwell's first permanent building, was completed in 1928 and served as the location of the Community College of the Air Force until 2008. Its interior has been substantially remodeled. The former barracks in the middle, Bldg. 835, was completed in 1931 and is now occupied by the 42nd Services Squadron. Bldg. 678 on the right, a former barracks, was completed in 1934.



A goal of the Army Housing Program was to provide showplaces of Army housing. Construction materials, chosen for durability and fireproofing, included steel framing and reinforced concrete. The red ceramic tile roof featured numerous dormer windows for ventilation. Poured concrete was used for the floors; exterior walls were made of hollow tile covered with stucco. Enlisted men were housed in open squad rooms and NCOs were provided with semi-private rooms. Toilet accommodations were ample. Large rear screened

porches on all floors were used as sleeping porches during the hot summer months. Every barracks had a mess hall and kitchen a tailor room , a barber shop, and store rooms.

15. NCO Quarters (One-Story Bungalows)

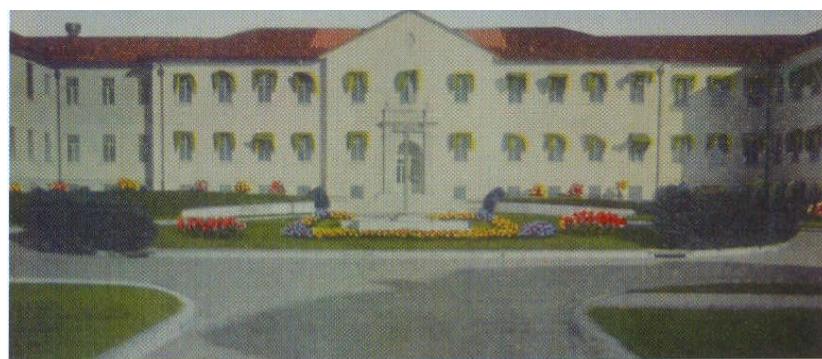


The NCO family residences on Hansell St. were completed in 1928. They were built with funds provided for Maxwell's first permanent construction and are among Maxwell's oldest buildings. These one story quarters are examples of a house type known as a bungalow. The term bungalow has an interesting origin. In Bengal, India, low houses with wide roofs and deep porches were common. Our word "bungalow" is a corruption of the Hindu adjective meaning "belonging to Bengal." All 13 single family residences were constructed for a total cost of about \$71,000. Originally, they had wood framed screened porches, which have since been enclosed. The Quartermaster Corps was so proud of Maxwell's well built NCO bungalows that they featured them in the *Quartermaster Review* in 1928.

16. Civil Air Patrol Headquarters (Bldg. 714)

The Civil Air Patrol Headquarters building was constructed in 1931 as the station hospital. It was situated away from the noisy flight line and operations/industrial section of the station.

Hospital plans and details were worked out by the Quartermaster General with the Surgeon General. Their goal was to provide facilities for sick soldiers that were equal to the very best available in any civilian institution.



Today the hospital building serves as the national headquarters of the Civil Air Patrol. The mission of this volunteer organization is to provide emergency services such as search and rescue civil defense and, disaster relief. Although it is a federally chartered auxiliary of the Air Force, there is no military obligation involved in the voluntary organization. With its headquarters at Maxwell, the Civil Air Patrol has 52

wings, one in each state, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.

17. NCO Quarters (Two-Story Duplexes)

NCO family quarters were limited to a \$ 7,000 construction budget, and two-story duplexes met this requirement most economically. The first 12 duplexes were completed in 1931; an additional 20 were completed by 1934. These NCO quarters are also examples of the Quartermaster's Spanish Mission style. The front chimney with the wrought-iron "S" lends a Spanish accent.



The residences are situated in a neighborhood setting with curving streets, sidewalks, shade trees, and an open common area used for a children's playground. Each housing unit was designed with a living room, dining room, and kitchen on the first floor; three bedrooms and a bath on the second floor; and attic space for storage. Two- and four-car garages were constructed in 1931 and 1934 behind some of the quarters, with access provided by a separate service road.

18. World War II Barracks

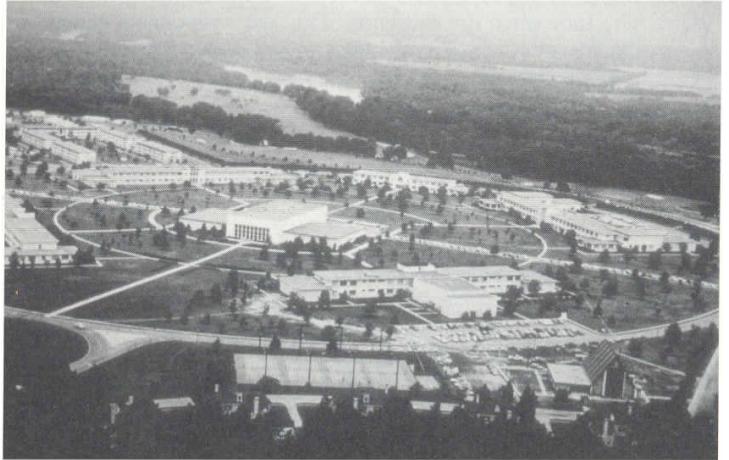
In anticipation of the U.S. entering WWII, the headquarters for the Southeast Air Corps Training Center (SEACTC) was established at Maxwell Field in 1940. SEACTC was re-designated the Army Air Forces Eastern Flying Training Command in 1943, which was responsible for all pilot, navigation, and bombardier training of Air Corps cadets in the Southeast. It became the nation's largest pre-flight training school. Row after row of long rectangular one-story barracks were built to accommodate the thousands of airmen assigned here. The wartime demand for housing was so great that these barracks sprung up in every conceivable open space on the station.



Maxwell's WWII barracks were extremely well built and adapted to the hot, humid southern climate. Like Maxwell's prewar construction, the buildings' walls were hollow-core tile covered with stucco. This material was not only fireproof and low maintenance but also provided excellent insulation. Barracks had a full-length screened porch, a feature that made humid hot summers more bearable. Most of Maxwell's WWII barracks have been substantially remodeled or demolished.

AIR UNIVERSITY'S ACADEMIC CIRCLE: TOUR

From Maxwell Blvd. take a left onto Poplar St. and continue to the intersection of Poplar St. and Chenault Circle. Look straight ahead, across the street to view the Muir S. Fairchild Research Center and USAF Historical Research Agency (19). Take a left on Chenault Circle. The first building on the right is the Squadron Officer College (2) followed by the Ira C. Eaker Center for Professional Development (21), the Le May Center (22), the Air War College (23), and the Air Command and Staff College (24). After completing the circle, turn left onto Twining St. and view Air park (25). Park and walk around the Air Park, if time permits. Continue down Twining St. to Maxwell Blvd. Turn Left and proceed down Maxwell Blvd. to the Maxwell Blvd Gate and exit Maxwell AFB.



AIR UNIVERSITY'S ACADEMIC CIRCLE: BRIEF HISTORY

In November 1945, at the end of WWII and the dawn of the Cold War era—a time when the existence of nuclear weapons redefined conventional warfare, the Army Air Forces School, which had been consolidated the ACTS, relocated from Orlando, Florida, to Maxwell. Four months later, the school was re-designated Air University (AU).



Providing an education comparable to a graduate school for civilians, AU's principal objective is the professional development of USAF officers. AU is comprised of a number of professional schools, most of which are located on Chenault Circle, also known as the Academic Circle.

Gen. Muir S. Fairchild conceived the idea of Air University and was its commandant from 1946 to 1948. He expressed its Cold War mission as follows:

We conceive it to be the high and noble goal of Air University to educate and to aid in producing the planners and future leaders of the Air Force. It is our earnest belief that the most nearly capable our future Air Force is of adequately dealing with any situation that may confront it, the less will be the likelihood of its employment in war. Should Air University succeed in educating and producing such planners and future leaders that they may design an Air Force so adequate that it need never be used, we shall have completely fulfilled our mission.

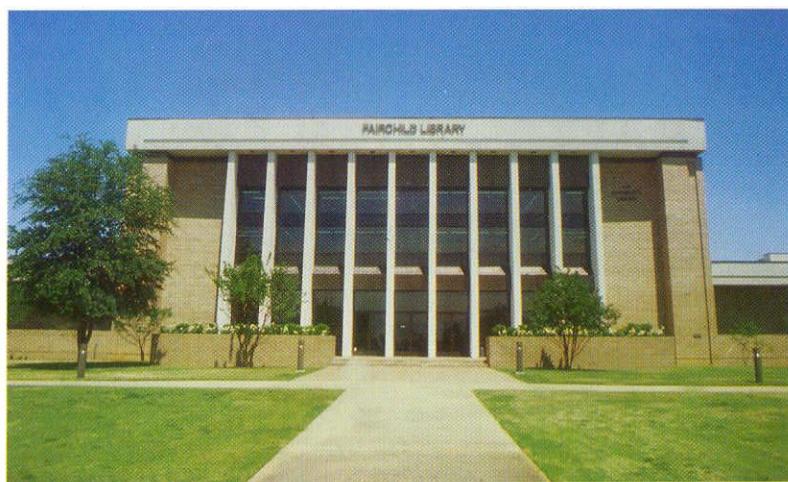
American International Style

Air University's Chennault Circle campus was created in the mid- 1950s. The streamlined, two-story, buff-colored brick buildings which form the circle are examples of the International style, which came into being in Europe in the 1920s. The stark modern buildings of this style expressed the industrial age. Typical features include multi-level flat roofs and smooth uniform wall surfaces. Use of steel frames and reinforced concrete allowed buildings to have large expanses of glass for the first time.

The AU buildings are examples of an American version of this style, which developed after WWII. In contrast to the decorative style of the Senior Officers' Quarters, this style rejected the use of ornament and historical association. Rather than the European approach of placing a building on a site like a piece of sculpture, the American International style typically sought to integrate the building into the landscape. A buff-colored brick veneer was added in the 1960s, to soften the original appearance of these concrete buildings.

19. Muir S Fairchild Research Information Center, USAF Historical Research Agency, School for Advanced Air and Space Studies (Air University Library, Bldg. 1405)

The Fairchild Library-named after Gen. Muir S. Fairchild who con-ceived the idea of Air University-is an integral part of AU. It is the largest Department of Defense library outside of Washington, D.C., containing over one million military documents, books, periodicals, and maps. The Historical Research Agency's holdings exceed 65 million pages, representing the largest and most valuable organized collection of historical documents on U.S. military aviation in the world. This archive was moved here from Washington, D.C., in 1949. Air University's School of Advanced Air and Space Studies (SAASS), a component of the Spaatz Center, is the US Air Force graduate school for airpower and space power strategists. A highly qualified and motivated faculty, a small and very carefully selected student body, a coherent and challenging curriculum, outstanding educational and research resources, and a well-designed facility combine to produce tomorrow's senior military leaders who are experts in the employment of air and space forces.



20. Carl A. Spaatz Center for Officer Education.— Squadron Officer School (Bldg. 1403)

The Squadron Officer School is the first professional school in the AU system, preparing junior officers for command and staff duties at lower organizational levels. Each year about 650 captains, lieutenants, select civilians, and international military officers enroll. There are several seven-week classes per year, where

leadership, officership, and communication skills are taught.

21. Ira C. Eaker Center for Professional Continuing Education (Bldg. 1404)

Center for Professional Development consists of several schools including: Academic Instruction School, Human Resources Management School, Technology Management School, the Chaplain Service Institute (located at Ft. Jackson) and the National Space Studies Institute (located at Colorado Springs). Each year more than 75 continuing education courses are taught at the center for 6,000 Department of Defense, international military and civilian personnel.



22. Curtis E. LeMay Center for Doctrine Development and Education. (Bldg. 1400, 1400A, 1406, 693)

At the Curtis E. LeMay Center for Doctrine Development and Education, students research military strategy and doctrine. LeMay Center serves as the Air Force's focal point for computerized wargaming. The Wargaming Institute is located behind the LeMay Center HQ, near the center of the circle. Here, approximately 40 war games are conducted annually involving over 9,000 players.

23. Carl A. Spaatz Center for Officer Education — Air War College (Bldg. 1401)

Air War College is the senior professional school at AU, preparing senior officers (lieutenant colonels and above with 15 to 22 years of experience) for high command. Each year about 160 USAF officers and 80 international officers enroll in this school. The curriculum here focuses on warfare studies, joint and contingent theater operations, and national security policy issues.

24. Carl A. Spaatz Center for Officer Education — Air Command and Staff College (Bldg. 1402)

This school prepares majors and lieutenant colonels with less than 16 years of service for command and staff duty at intermediate organizational levels. Each year about 400 U.S. officers and 170 officers from other countries enroll for 10 months to study military theory, air campaign concepts, and application of air and space power.



25. Air Park

This park includes a number of monuments as well as historic air-craft, some of which were actually flown during battle campaigns. Here you will see: the RF-101 *Voodoo*, the F-4D *Phantom*, the F-105D *Thunderchief*, the F-100D *Super Sabre*, the F-86A *Sabre*, the B-25 Mitchell, and the B-52D *Stratofortress*. The Wright Flyer is a replica of the Wright brothers' airplane that flew in Montgomery in 1910. The Wright brothers taught flying for two months that year on the site that eventually became Maxwell Field.

Across the street from the Wright Flyer is the Richter statue. At 23 years old, 1st Lt. Karl Richter was the youngest USAF pilot to shoot down a North Vietnamese MiG. During the Vietnam War, he flew over 200 successful missions in the F-105D. This monument was funded largely by the private sector and honors the "fighting spirit" of all military men and women who serve their country

END OF TOUR

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Comment:

In 2008, reorganization of AU resulted in the realignment of Officer Professional Military Education under the Spaatz Center, Enlisted Professional Military Education under the Barnes Center, Air Force Doctrine and Research under the LeMay Center, and Accessioning Programs under the Holm Center.