



# The Architecture of the Department of Defense: A Military Style Guide

Project # 09-449

## Background:

This project showcases the wealth of historic, adaptively reused military architecture on closed DoD installations. This project and publication is necessary from a regulatory standpoint. DoD is a Federal agency and is responsible for the stewardship of historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. As part of the Section 106 process, DoD cultural resources managers need to determine a variety of potential paths for their historic building inventory. Adaptive reuse is one of those paths. This booklet is to be used as a guide for the cultural resources manager and other DoD staff in determining how to best manage and adaptively reuse their historic buildings through what has already been accomplished by the private (and public) sector.

## Objective:

The objective was to provide a user-friendly and comprehensive catalog of adaptive reuse on Department of Defense installations that have been closed and turned over either to the private sector or to other government agencies. Some of these installations bear almost no resemblance to a military installation like the Lowry Air Force Base in Colorado and others look like the military left the installation just yesterday like at Fort Omaha, Nebraska.

## Summary of Approach:

The approach used the wealth of historic and present-day photographs gathered through the 2006, Legacy funded "DoD Military Support Buildings Historic Context" and also through a variety of ERDC-CERL projects spanning the country. The catalog includes a brief history of each adaptively reused building and brief history of each closed installation and what that closed installation is currently used for today.

## Benefit:

The Department of Defense (and the old War Department and Navy Department) have been adaptively reusing buildings for decades. The War Department transformed countless hotels and department stores into general hospitals during the Civil War. The Navy Department transformed a girls' boarding school into offices for decoding submarine transmissions in World War II. The adaptive reuse ideas presented in this catalog are intended to be the starting point for any adaptive reuse project of historic

DoD buildings. Some may state that DoD does not have the resources to adaptively reuse its historic buildings in a similar manner to the private/public entities as shown here; however, it remains the task of historic preservation personnel to seek out ideas prior to demolition. Who would have thought twenty years ago that an Air Force hangar could be a public library or that an arsenal building could be classrooms or that a headquarters could be a Hilton Hotel. Adaptive reuse of historic buildings can be complex, but with a wide and varied construction team the missions of both the DoD and cultural resources management can be satisfied.

## Accomplishments:

The booklet, "Adaptive Reuse: A Catalog of Historic Military Building for Public and Private Use" was completed in December of 2011. Only a limited number of copies were printed and distributed throughout the DoD. A poster was presented at the 2011 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

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