

6 - Classroom (Ground School)

building. The classroom was heavily used, as about half of the cadets' instruction was carried on here.

7 - Hangars. During WWII there were three hangars. The hanger at the north end, Hangar 1, was destroyed by fire in the 1990's. During the War, the aircraft were maintained in the hangars, not housed there. Many of the mechanics were women. Currently, vintage aircraft are often seen in this area in various stages of restoration.

8 - Hangar 2. From time to time, restoration work occurs here. Some of the finest WWII aircraft currently flying or in museums have been restored in this building.

9 - The Canteen with Recreation Room was in this area as were tennis courts. Here cadets could relax and buy snacks and sundries. Barracks 2 and Barracks 3 had screened in porches like the Museum's, which is of the same style.

You may shorten the tour by following the walkway (red dotted line) toward the back of the Headquarters building (note the next object of interest #10 will be on your left). **Or** you may continue on Airport Circle (purple dotted line) passing object of interest #10 on your right.

10 - Barracks 4 and Barracks 8.

These two H-style barracks are joined by a courtyard.

11 - Mess Hall (no longer standing), the northernmost building of the base, was known for its excellent food. Continue to the tour's end at the Museum building.

History:

Originally a part of South Georgia College's pilot training program, the 63rd Army Air Forces Contract Pilot School (Primary) was established in response to the urgent demand for pilots during World War II (1941-1945). The School was run during the War by the Raymond-Richardson Aviation Company, which was under the supervision of the U.S. Army Air Forces. Over 5,000 aviation cadets learned to fly their first airplane here. The Stearman (PT-17) biplane was the training plane used.

About us:

The Douglas 63rd Preservation Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, runs the WWII Flight Training Museum, which is open Thursday to Saturday 11am-4pm. All donations are used for the museum. The property itself is owned by the City of Douglas.

Membership: \$50 per year. Any donations are gladly received.

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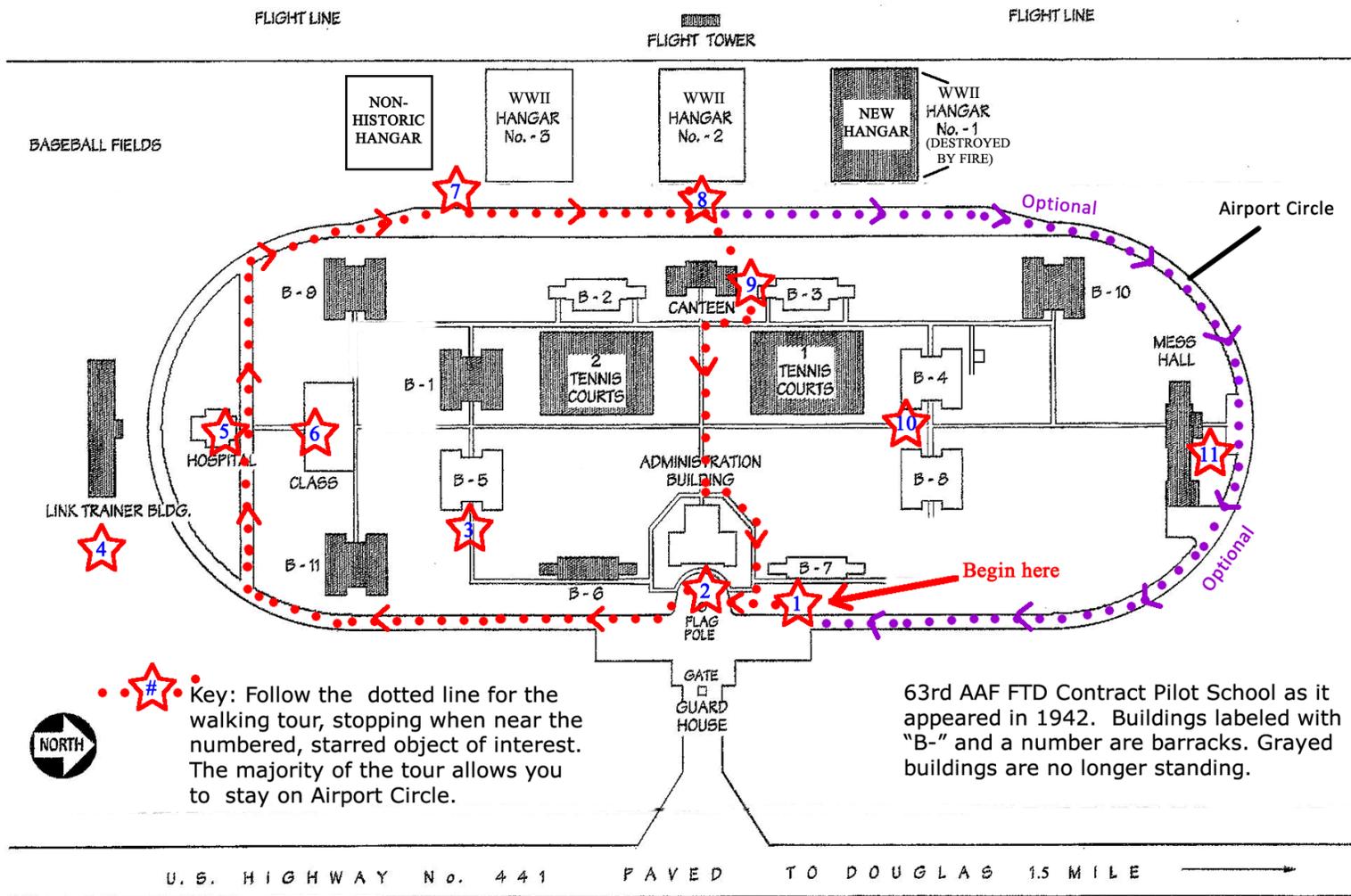


WALKING TOUR

of the 63rd Army Air Forces Contract Pilot School (Primary)

This base is on the **National Register of Historic Places**. The base was one of fewer than 75 World War II Primary Pilot Schools in the U.S. It was in the "primary school" that an aviation cadet soloed (that is, he flew the airplane alone). After primary school, the cadet continued to more advanced training elsewhere to become a bomber, fighter, or transport pilot.

The Walking Tour of the historic area is about a half mile in length. Caution should be used to avoid rough or uneven pavement. The interiors of all of the buildings have been altered from the World War II configuration. However, the exteriors of the buildings remain largely unchanged. Other than the Museum, none of the buildings are open to the public.



2 - Administration Building (Headquarters) and Guard House. The Headquarters dates from 1941 and has changed little on the exterior. The guardhouse is a reconstruction.

3 - Barracks 5, unlike the ranch style of Barracks 7 (the Museum), is of the "H" style and housed about 48 cadets. [Barracks 6 and 11 are gone.] Note that the base is laid out in an oval, making it easy for the cadets to access the common areas of the canteen, classroom building, and mess hall.

4 - The Link Trainer

building that housed the WWII "flight simulator" devices was in the field to the left [South]. Beyond that were the recreation fields. Exercise was an important part of cadet training.

5 - The Hospital (Infirmary). In this small hospital were 2 patient wards and areas for eye exams, dentistry, and pharmacy.

Objects of interest are indicated by numbered stars on map.

1 -The Museum building, constructed in 1941, was designated "Barracks 7" and housed 30 aviation cadets during their 9-week pilot training program here. Over the duration of the war hundreds of men lived in each of the barracks.

After the war the building was used by South Georgia State College as

housing for staff. Football coach Bobby Bowden, and later the Cincinnati Reds minor leaguers, lived here.

Barracks 7 currently houses the excellent collection of the WWII Flight Training Museum.

The same architecture was used at other training bases. The palm trees were planted in 1941 as part of the architectural plan of the base.

Key: Follow the dotted line for the walking tour, stopping when near the numbered, starred object of interest. The majority of the tour allows you to stay on Airport Circle.

63rd AAF FTD Contract Pilot School as it appeared in 1942. Buildings labeled with "B-" and a number are barracks. Grayed buildings are no longer standing.