
II. HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. Introduction

This chapter examines historic and cultural resources associated with the navy Supply Corps School (NSCS) site. Information in this chapter was obtained from previous studies and reports including the *Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP)* for NSCS that was completed in November 2004.

B. Summary of Major Findings and Conclusions

- The Oglethorpe Avenue Historic District, listed in the national Register of Historic Places (1987), includes a portion of NSCS, as well as property along Oglethorpe Avenue and Normal Street in Athens, Georgia.
- The NSCS portion of the Historic District, which includes about 21 acres, was recognized for architecture, landscape features and the history associated with the Georgia State Normal School
- Seven NSCS buildings are located within the Historic District including Winnie Davis Hall (1902), Rhodes Hall (1906), the Carnegie Library (1910), Miller Hall (1917), Pound Hall (1927), the President's Cottage (1897), and the Cobbs House (1908).
- The Carnegie Library is probably the most significant building on the NSCS site. In 1974, the building was restored and now houses the Navy Supply Corps Museum. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.
- Kissing Rocks is the name given to a cluster of boulders on NSCS grounds along Prince Avenue. It is so named because of its popularity during the early twentieth century as a meeting place for female students at the State Normal School and their romantic interests. The site is also noteworthy for the prehistoric artifacts discovered during a 1951 excavation.
- The open space in front of Miller Hall, also known as the parade grounds, reflects the mature tree canopy along Oglethorpe Avenue and the overall campus character associated with the site.
- The NSCS site also includes several brick entrance posts at various locations.
- The 2004 ICRMP evaluated several other NSCS buildings and locations for architectural merit and historic association. None of the locations or buildings were found to satisfy the criteria for eligibility in the National Register.
- It is recommended that every reasonable effort be made to preserve and identify a compatible use for each of the seven historic buildings at NSCS that contribute to the Oglethorpe Avenue Historic District.
- All federally sponsored undertakings that affect National Register listed properties are subject to federal regulations and state agreements such as the existing Programmatic

Agreement between the Department of the Navy and the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer.

C. Historic Overview

1. Executive Summary

The Oglethorpe Avenue Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 5, 1987, is significant in the areas of architecture and education. The Navy Supply Corps School includes seven historic buildings that contribute to the district: Winnie Davis Hall (1902), Rhodes Hall (1906), the Carnegie Library (Navy Supply Corps Museum) (1910), Miller Hall (1917), Pound Hall (1917), the President's Cottage (1897), and the Cobb House (1908) (see Figure II-1). The Carnegie Library was listed individually in 1975. The President's Cottage and the Cobb House are single-family houses that relate in period and design to the surrounding residential neighborhood, as well as to the history of the Georgia State Normal School. The other buildings reflect Neoclassical style institutional buildings constructed in the early twentieth century for the Normal School.

Other significant cultural resources include paired brick piers located at four entrance gates along Prince and Oglethorpe Avenues; the parade grounds, a tree-covered greenspace in front of Miller Hall; and Kissing Rocks, a bolder cache along Prince Avenue that served as a popular rendezvous point for Normal School students and their dates. The site was excavated in 1951 and found to yield artifacts dating from the Late Mississippian and possibly the Late Archaic periods. In 1995, Kissing Rocks was recommended as eligible for listed in the National Register.

Federal and state agreements mandate that NSCS maintain and update every five years an Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP). The most recent ICRMP was completed in November 2004, by Hardlines Design Company. The ICRMP is a comprehensive inventory and evaluation of significant cultural resources on base. It includes detailed narrative histories, architectural descriptions, material conditions, and administrative resources pertaining to historic resources at NSCS. The report is comprehensive, accurate, and fully applicable to future redevelopment plans. The ICRMP should continue to serve as the governing document for current and future preservation planning efforts at NSCS.

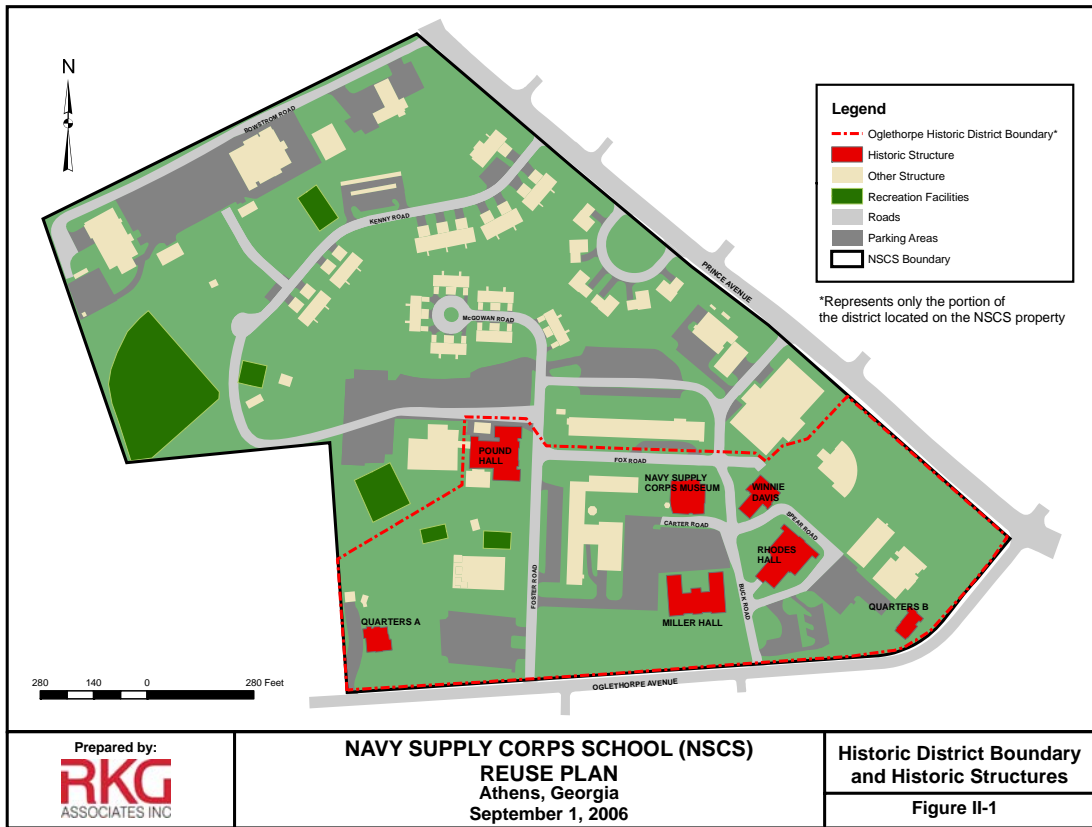


Figure II-1

D. Historic Buildings

1. Winnie Davis Hall (1902)

a) History and Significance

Winnie Davis Hall was built between November 1902 and October 1903 at a cost of \$21,419.25.¹ The building was designed by Charles E. Choate of Augusta, Georgia, and built by the Daughters of the Confederacy in honor of Jefferson Davis’ daughter. It served as a dormitory for the Normal School, which was later renamed the Georgia State Teachers College and then the Coordinate College of the University of Georgia. After the U. S. Navy acquired the property in 1953, Winnie Davis Hall was converted to administrative offices. Winnie Davis Hall is significant as an outstanding example of Neoclassical style architecture and as one of the oldest extant buildings associated with the State Normal School. It is also among the most elaborate and recognizable structures on the base and has served continuously since 1903 as the focal point of the Normal School and NSCS.

¹ *Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan, Navy Supply Corps School, Athens, GA, Final Report November 2004, by Hardlines Design Company*

**Winnie Davis Hall****Winnie Davis entry hall****b) Architectural Description and Character-Defining Features**

Winnie Davis Hall is a three story, yellow-brick building with a T-shaped form. Built in the Neoclassical style, the most prominent exterior architectural feature is the full-height portico with fluted Ionic columns. The entrance features an ornate cast-stone surround and entablature bearing the building's name. Leaded-glass windows flank either side of the doors. Other exterior ornamentation includes the classical cornice, masonry quoins, and decorative consols above one-over-one double-hung windows. The rear portion of the building, not visible from the front, is decidedly less formal and lacks the architectural ornamentation and finishes described above. The interior has been updated, including removal of a central stairway in 1953 and the addition of dropped ceilings throughout much of the building. Portions of the plan and certain materials like plaster walls and wood moldings appear to be original. The entry hall and adjacent parlor, both restored, feature original pressed-tin ceilings and cornices, as well paired wood columns and moldings.

c) Development Implications

Winnie Davis Hall is one of the most significant buildings on base and is perhaps more closely associated with the Normal School than any other. Accordingly, it should be preserved in place and incorporated into any redevelopment plan. In particular, the grand exterior of the primary portion of the building should be maintained and respected. Significantly, Winnie Davis Hall is oriented to the northeast and commands a clear, tree-lined view to Prince Avenue. Future development should, to the extent possible, preserve the relationship between the building and the road. Restored interior finishes in primary spaces at the front of the building also should be respected. In its present configuration and physical condition, Winnie Davis Hall can accommodate a number of compatible adaptive uses that would preserve its character-defining architectural features.

2. Rhodes Hall (1906)

a) History and Significance

Rhodes Hall was built in 1906 as a dining facility for the Normal School. It was designed by Haralson Bleckley of Atlanta.² Rhodes Hall is the only remaining building of four that once formed a quadrangle at the center of the Normal School campus. It was erected in response to an ambitious building campaign launched by President Eugene C. Branson in the early twentieth century. The campaign, funded in part by the Carnegie Foundation, George Foster Peabody, James M. Smith, and Daughters of the Confederacy, resulted in the construction of several Neoclassical style buildings presently included in the Oglethorpe Avenue Historic District. In 1933, the Coordinate College converted a portion of the building into use as a dormitory. The building was renamed in 1947 for Alexander Rhodes, a former business manager of the Normal School. Rhodes Hall was renovated by the Navy in 1953, but continued to serve as a dining hall and dormitory facility. Additional renovations in 1958 included construction of a one-story rear addition. From 1971-1985, the building housed the Navy Supply Corps Officers' Club and the Navy Exchanged. Subsequently, Rhodes Hall served as an office building for various naval support departments. Rhodes Hall is a fine example of Neoclassical style institutional architecture and is significant for its association with the Normal School.

b) Architectural Description and Character-Defining Features

Rhodes Hall is a two-story, red-brick building with a T-shape form and classical ornamentation. Most significantly, it features a full-length, one-story front portico with single and clustered Ionic wood columns and a tongue-and-groove ceiling. A thick, but modest entablature runs along the building near the roofline. Windows are paired with one-over-one, double-hung sashes. The interior of Rhodes Hall has been altered significantly, particularly on the first floor. A stairwell off the entry hall appears to be in its original location, however, one half of the stairs have been removed and covered. Upstairs, narrow hallways lead to individual offices. One of the unique features of this building is an interior rooftop area. The design allows natural light to enter the windows of interior spaces on the second floor.



Rhodes Hall

Rhodes Hall portico

² *Oglethorpe Avenue Historic District*, National Register of Historic Places nomination, June 4, 1987, prepared by Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Georgia State Historic Preservation Office.

c) Development Implications

As the only remaining building on the original Normal School quad, Rhodes Hall should be reused. With over 26,000 square feet, the interior plan is well suited for continued office use or possible residential space. Many of the interior partitions are non-original, and the reconfiguration of the floor plan would not compromise the remaining physical and associative integrity of the building. Paramount consideration should be given to the exterior of the original portion of the building. In particular, the triple loaded, full-length colonnade is the signature architectural feature of Rhodes Hall and should be maintained. The current location and orientation of Rhodes Hall might encourage a cohesive pattern of new development that better addresses Prince Avenue and relates to the existing historic buildings.

3. Carnegie Library (1910)

a) History and Significance

The Carnegie Library is probably the most significant building on the NSCS property. It was constructed in 1910 as part of a \$41 million pledge by Andrew Carnegie to fund public libraries across the country.³ The building served as a library for the Normal School, Coordinate College, and Navy Supply Corps School. In 1974, the library was restored and converted to the Navy Supply Corps Museum, a function it continues to serve today. The building is significant for its architecture, as an outstanding example of a local Carnegie Library, and for its association with the Normal School. The building was listed on the national Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on November 11, 1975.⁴



Carnegie Library



**Carnegie Library
Interior Entrance**

b) Architectural Description and Character-Defining Features

The Carnegie Library is an exceptional example of early twentieth century Neoclassical architecture. One of the most striking buildings on base, it is characterized by the heavy ornamentation along the exterior. The entrance features

³ *Oglethorpe Avenue Historic District.*

⁴ *Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan, Navy Supply Corps School, Athens, page 34.*

Doric columns, a highly decorative pediment, and a large classical frieze that runs around the entire building. Bold window frames and intricate transoms give the building a sophisticated, formal appearance. The brickwork is elaborate, including decorative patterns beneath the windows and corbelled masonry on all sides. The interior of the Carnegie Library is largely intact. The entrance vestibule features stained wood moldings and transoms, as well as engaged columns with Exotic Revival style capitals. The columns are repeated throughout the primary space, forming an octagonal atrium with square-shaped clerestory windows. Smaller spaces are accessible around the perimeter of the building. At the rear of the space, a reading loft is reached by a single set of stairs.

c) Development Implications

The Carnegie Library has been restored and well-maintain. As an individually listed property, both exterior and interior features should be carefully preserved. Exterior ornamentation – including masonry, trim, and windows – should all be retained. Likewise, the interior spatial arrangement should be respected and left open, as it is vital to conveying the historic function of this space. The Carnegie Library is unique in that much of its significance is derived from its history of public use. For this reason, and because of its inherent size and design, the library should be considered as a venue for public or cultural uses.

4. Miller Hall (1917)

a) History and Significance

Miller Hall was built in 1917 as a women's dormitory for the Normal School. It was designed by A. F. Wysong of Princeton, West Virginia, and named for B. S. Miller, who was the chairman of the board of trustees for the Normal School.⁵ The building was used as a dormitory by the Normal School and Coordinate College. The Navy used it as Bachelor Officer and Enlisted Quarters until 1978, when it was abandoned. In 1986, Miller Hall was renovated and converted to staff offices.



Miller Hall (parade grounds in foreground)



Miller Hall entry hall and central staircase

⁵ *Oglethorpe Avenue Historic District.*

b) Architectural Description and Character-Defining Features

Miller Hall is significant as a representative example of Neoclassical style architecture and for its close association with the Normal School's growth in the early twentieth century. Miller Hall is a two-story, red-brick building with an H-shaped plan. The exterior features minimal decorative details, with the exception of masonry quoins at the building's corners. Miller Hall is oriented toward Oglethorpe Avenue, overlooking a tree-shaded lawn known as the parade grounds. The most significant architectural feature is a one-story portico that runs the length of the center section of the front facade. The portico has Doric columns, a turned balustrade, and a tongue-and-groove wood ceiling. The rear façade has a small, one-story portico with clustered Doric columns. Inside, plaster walls and wood moldings are in good repair. The interior plan is largely unaltered, including wide, double-loaded corridors that access individual offices. The most prominent interior space is the entryway, which features a grand central staircase in its original configuration.

c) Development Implications

Adaptive use of Miller Hall could be accomplished with minimal disruption to the exterior and interior character of the building. Despite some inefficiency associated with the large hallways, the building contains 24,000 square feet and is ready to accommodate a variety of commercial or residential uses. Paramount consideration should be given to retention of the front portico and entry hall. Like Winnie Davis Hall and Prince Avenue, Miller Hall is oriented, somewhat discretely, toward Oglethorpe Avenue. The open space in front of Miller Hall occupies some of the most attractive land on the base. If infill development is considered in this area, it should accommodate a clear line of site between Miller Hall and the road to maintain the historic relationship between the two.

5. Pound Hall (1917)**a) History and Significance**

Pound Hall was built by the Normal School in 1917 as a 2,500-seat auditorium. It takes its name from Jere M. Pound, president of the Normal School from 1912-1932. The building was designed by A. F. Wysong of Princeton, West Virginia.⁶ The Navy acquired and reconfigured the building for recreational purposes. It briefly served as the base commissary in the 1970s. The building was renovated and expanded in 1989 and presently includes the base fitness center, library and chapel. In 2003, Wheeler Hall was constructed at the rear of Pound Hall and attached by way of a one-story corridor. Wheeler Hall appears to meet the Secretary's Standards as a contemporary, yet compatible addition to the historic building. Pound Hall is significant as a fine example of Neoclassical architecture and an important building on the Normal School campus.

⁶ *Oglethorpe Avenue Historic District.*

**Pound Hall****Pound Hall, side facade**

b) Architectural Description and Character-Defining Features

Pound Hall has a symmetrical, articulated façade. The central entry is pronounced with a large classical transom and pediment. The central bay features a shallow portico supported by four Ionic columns, two of which are engaged. Other significant exterior features include a modest cornice near the parapet and decorative, recessed brickwork. Pound Hall has been renovated on numerous occasions and few of its original interior features remain. The dual central stairways appear to be in their original configuration, although the materials likely are not original. The historic character of the auditorium itself has been compromised, and only the stage remains in place. One of the most unique features of the building is not historic. Stained glass was introduced in the chapel windows as part of a 1987-1988 renovation. The Navy has indicated its intention to remove the stained glass windows when the school relocates.

c) Development Implications

Pound Hall features a commanding façade and a prominent location on the property. With over 20,000 square feet, it offers ample space for redevelopment. The exterior of Pound Hall should be maintained. Interior spaces, however, maintain little integrity and offer an opportunity to be reconfigured into a more efficient design that would accommodate a variety of uses. New interior construction would not compromise the architectural integrity of Pound Hall.

6. President's Cottage (1897)

a) History and Significance

The President's Cottage was built in 1897 as a residence for the State Normal School president. Samuel D. Bradwell was responsible for raising funds for the house and several other buildings, including those discussed above.⁷ The house was used as the president's home by the Normal School and the Coordinate College. The U. S. Navy continued its residential use as Quarters B, home of the executive officer.

⁷ *Athens, a Pictorial History*, June 1981, by James K. Reap.



President's Cottage

President's Cottage entry hall

b) Architectural Description and Character-Defining Features

The President's Cottage is a two story, wood-frame Queen Anne style house with an irregular plan and complex roof form. The house is oriented to the east and overlooks green space at the corner of the property near the intersection of Prince and Oglethorpe Avenues. The front façade features an irregular porch, a portion of which has been screened. The screened porch and several of the windows are fitted with metal awnings. Vinyl siding covers the exterior. The rear of the house has a covered porch with classically inspired columns and a metal roof. The interior of the house is well preserved. Hardwood floors, plaster walls and ceilings, and wood trim is intact throughout the house. Several fireplaces feature original Victorian mantels. The most important space is the front parlor, which features an elaborate stairwell with turned baluster and paneling, and a bank of rising windows along the south wall. The kitchen and bathrooms have been updated, and a sleeping porch at the rear of the house was enclosed at an undetermined date.

c) Development Implications

The President's Cottage is the oldest building on the NSCS property. It is significant not only for its early association with the State Normal School, but also for its integration with the surrounding residential neighborhood, which features similar Queen Anne style houses. The President's Cottage is best suited for continued use as a single-family residence, though it could easily accommodate professional offices. Adaptive use of the President's Cottage should consider removal of non-original siding and awning materials and should maintain the irregular massing and residential character of the building. Inside, primary consideration should be given to the formal rooms, which feature the most elaborate finishes.

7. Cobb House (1909)

a) History and Significance

The Cobb House was built in 1909 by prominent Athenians Lamar and Ann Olivia Newton Cobb. Mr. Cobb was the son of Georgia governor General Howell Cobb. Originally known as Hill Crest, it was home to the Cobbs until 1930, when the Coordinate College acquired it for use as a dormitory.⁸ The Navy later used it as the Commanding Officer's house, also known as Quarters A.

⁸ *Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan, Navy Supply Corps School, Athens.*

**Cobb House****Cobb House entry hall**

b) Architectural Description and Character-Defining Features

Cobb House is a two story, wood-frame house with Colonial Revival influenced ornamentation. Wood-framed, the exterior clapboard siding was covered with stucco by the Navy in the 1950s. The house has a hipped metal roof, added in the early 1980s. A wraparound veranda is supported by squared columns and features a wide pediment at the center. The entryway has double doors surrounded by leaded-glass fanlight and sidelights. The most striking interior space is the large entry hall at the center of the house. A dramatic stairwell with a curved landing and elaborate spindlework wraps around the central hall. Coffered paneling lines the sides of the stairwell. Extensive woodwork in the house includes five-paneled doors, fireplace mantels, built-in bookshelves and nooks. The interior finishes reflect the prominence of the Cobb family and the quality craftsmanship of the early twentieth century.

c) Development Implications

The Cobb House is a grand house that could continue to operate as a private residence or could be converted to office, hospitality or entertainment, among other uses. The exterior materials have been changed, but the original symmetrical form is intact. Any additions or modifications to the structure should be focused at the rear of the house, as not to compromise the Colonial Revival character. The exceptional craftsmanship and interior finishes should be preserved to the maximum extent possible. Like the President's Cottage, the interior plan is intact and the arrangement of primary spaces should be respected wherever feasible.

E. Archaeological Site

1. Kissing Rocks

a) History and Significance

Kissing Rocks is the name given to a cluster of boulders on the NSCS grounds along Prince Avenue. It is so named because of its popularity during the early twentieth century as a meeting place for female students at the State Normal School and their romantic interests. Additionally, the site is noteworthy for the prehistoric artifacts discovered during a 1951 excavation by William Sears. According to state archaeological records, the excavation yielded shards from at least two vessels, as well as burned bone and lithics. The artifacts are attributed to the Late Mississippian

or possibly the Late Archaic cultural periods, and the site is classified as unique to the area.⁹ In 1995, Kissing Rocks was recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

b) Development Implications

Recent investigations estimate the site has been significantly compromised (greater than 50% disturbance). Nonetheless, the site is significant as an important social gathering place for Normal School students and for its potential to yield further information about prehistoric cultures in the area. Future infrastructure improvements and new development should avoid further disturbance of the archaeological site. From a practical standpoint, geological constraints suggest that development should avoid this isolated archaeological site.



**Kissing Rocks
archaeological site**



**Brick entrance posts at the
intersection of Prince and
Oglethorpe Avenues**

F. Other Significant Features

NSCS features a few additional significant landscape features within the Oglethorpe Avenue Historic District that warrant consideration throughout the redevelopment planning process.

1. Parade Grounds

The open space in front of Miller Hall, also known as the parade grounds, reflects the mature tree canopy along Oglethorpe Avenue and the overall campus character associated with the Normal School. Because open space has long been a defining quality of the property, development on or around the parade grounds should be limited in scale and designed in harmony with the surrounding historic buildings and natural environment. New construction should not entirely obscure the front facade of Miller Hall.

2. Entrances

The grounds include four pairs of brick entrance posts. The National Register nomination describes them in the following locations: (1) Buck Road entrance; (2) Prince/Oglethorpe intersection; (3) Prince Avenue entrance to the Winnie Davis Plaza; and (4) one located between (2) and (3) on Prince Avenue, which features a sweeping

⁹ *Georgia Archaeological Site Form*, October 19, 1995, prepared by Richard Stoops, Jr, Garrow & Associates.

brick wall as part of the post arrangements.¹⁰ The masonry posts feature concrete bases and capitals, wrought iron ornamentation, and acorn streetlamps.

G. Post-War Resources

The 2004 ICRMP evaluated several buildings and structures on NSCS property constructed after World War II. Specifically, they were evaluated with respect to architectural merit and historic associations within the context of post-war/Cold War construction. The following buildings and structures were identified and found not to satisfy the criteria for eligibility in the National Register:

- Flagpole (1953)
- Swimming Pool (1953)
- Maintenance Shop (1953)
- Brown Hall (1953)
- Central Heating Plant (1953)
- Gilmore Housing (1956)
- McGowan Housing (1956)

The utilitarian buildings were constructed as part of the Navy's initial building program after acquiring the site in 1953. The public works buildings were designed by the architectural firm of Edwards & Heery and the engineering firm of Morris, Lindstrom, Edwards & Trammel, both of Atlanta.¹¹ They are representative, though not exceptional examples, of the International style of architecture. Each of the buildings has been altered significantly since construction. Individually and collectively, the buildings and structures lack outstanding historical association and architectural value. This analysis concurs with the conclusion of the 2004 ICRMP that the post-World War II resources lack the significance and integrity requisite of National Register-eligible properties.

H. Reuse Implications

1. Preservation and Adaptive Use

It is recommended that every reasonable effort be made to preserve and identify a compatible new use for each of the seven historic buildings at NSCS that contribute to the Oglethorpe Avenue Historic District. The architectural and historic significance of the buildings is well documented. The structures are physically and functionally sufficient for a variety of compatible adaptive uses. The preservation and use of each individual building will depend largely on the overall vision for the entire site. It is difficult, therefore, to suggest a specific use or to identify the exact preservation treatment for a particular building. Rather, the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* should guide the adaptive use of individual historic

¹⁰ *Oglethorpe Avenue Historic District.*

¹¹ *Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan, Navy Supply Corps School, Athens.*

buildings. In particular, character-defining features – noted in this chapter and identified in detail in the ICRMP – should be respected. Except in the case of the Carnegie Library, exterior treatments generally warrant stricter adherence to the standards because the buildings are contributing rather than individually listed properties and because in many instances the character and material integrity of interior spaces has been compromised by previous renovations. Quality infill development within the historic district can enhance the property, including existing historic resources. However, infill development should be compatible with the overall character of the site. Specifically, new construction should respect the scale, density, style and orientation of the contributing historic residences, institutional buildings, and landscape features within the Oglethorpe Avenue Historic District.

2. Historic Preservation Tax Incentives

A number of financial incentives may apply to redevelopment plans that incorporate the sensitive adaptive use of existing historic buildings. The Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit program offers a federal income tax credit equal to twenty percent of qualified rehabilitation expenses for income-producing properties that are also certified historic buildings. Georgia provides a state income tax credit equal to ten percent of rehabilitation expenses, up to \$5,000. State law also authorizes local governments such as Athens-Clarke County to offer preferential property tax assessments. Each of the programs require compliance with the Secretary's Standards. Preservation tax incentives should be considered as part of the financial feasibility analysis for the redevelopment of NSCS.

3. Regulations

All federally-sponsored undertakings that affect National Register listed (or National Register eligible) properties are subject to federal regulations such as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and state agreements such as the Programmatic Agreement between NSCS and the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office. A complete list of applicable regulations and procedural documents are included in the index of the 2004 ICRMP.