

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 24 1975
DATE ENTERED SEP 19 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Columbia Arsenal

AND/OR COMMON

Columbia Military Academy

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West Seventh Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

COUNTY

Maury

CODE

119

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Columbia Military Academy Trustees

STREET & NUMBER

West Seventh Street

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Maury County Register's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Columbia Arsenal, built by the United States government c.1890, is known today as the Columbia Military Academy. The original arsenal site is located on West Seventh street in Columbia, Tennessee. The main entrance is adjacent to the L&N Railroad crossing, at the northeast corner. Other entrances and the various pedestrian gates are connected to walkways which traverse the parklike landscape of the academy. The original arsenal site consists of a 67 acre tract of land encompassed by a stone and masonry wall topped by iron pickets and featuring iron gates. The same gate and fence are in use today.

The most visually identifiable characteristics of the site are the nine original arsenal buildings. Four of these buildings were built of Bowling Green stone. These buildings are located on the main drive adjacent to the main entrance. The five remaining original buildings are constructed of brick. They are located behind the main buildings and at various points where the main drive makes a circuit through the property. Additional buildings and utility buildings built to accommodate the academy include the new residence halls, classroom buildings and athletic facilities built after the 1940s. The academy has a football stadium, baseball field and several tennis courts for outdoor sports activities.

The nine historic buildings built to accommodate the Columbia Arsenal have been adapted to various uses. Major alterations have consisted of various attempts to reorganize the interior plan. Basic room lay-outs have changed from time to time. The structural plan and the authentic architectural features of the exteriors have remained unchanged. The four main buildings constructed of rusticated Bowling Green stone have not been altered and these buildings are distinctly recognizable in early photographs of the school.

The Arsenal Guard House is located at the main entrance. Constructed of Bowling Green stone, the picturesque architecture is characteristic of the popular romantic styles of the late nineteenth century, medieval revival. The building is in its original form and it serves as headquarters for the officer of the day.

The old Arsenal (Main building) is the largest building in the complex. Constructed of Bowling Green stone, it is approximately 192 feet long and 82 feet wide in the center section. At one time, the third floor was used for an indoor drill field. Administrative offices, classrooms and the main dining room are located in this building today.

Two of the most outstanding buildings in the complex are located on the main drive, above Seventh street. Ragsdale Alumni Hall and Academy Hall are constructed of rusticated Bowling Green stone masonry and the architectural designs for these two structures are typical of the late nineteenth century Victorian styles. Featuring wide veranda style porches, stained glass lights and other refinements, both of these structures remain unchanged as they appear today. Ragsdale Hall is currently being used as the alumni center. The larger of the two buildings, Academy Hall, was formerly known as the junior school, and at various times it has housed upper classmen, the commandant and faculty members. Due to the hillside characteristics of the lot, both buildings have open basements across the back elevations. Documented in various early photographs

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 24 1975
DATE ENTERED	SEP 19 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

and yearbooks, the architectural characteristics are original. The cast iron fountain located at the northwest corner of the drive is original and it has been photographed in the various records of the school.

Black Hall is the largest of the original brick buildings. Located behind the main building, it is one of the original arsenal buildings. The design for the building is in keeping with the classical vernacular style of late Georgian architecture in Tennessee. The two story structure consists of eleven symmetrically spaced bays across the front and it is three bays wide at the end wall elevations. Pediment style porches have been erected at the central main entrance and at each of the end wall entrances.

Moore Hall is built of brick manufactured in Columbia for the arsenal. Stone for the foundation wall was cut from the Lynnville Quarries. This structure housed faculty apartments. It is designed in the late Georgian or classical style often seen in Tennessee. A two story building, it features a hip roof and central entrance fronted by a full length veranda style porch. Whitthorne Hall was originally the stable. The brick structure has a second story added after the arsenal became the academy. The rectangular shape and gable style roof are adaptable to the vernacular style of the other brick buildings.

Frierson Hall is typical of the two and one-half-story late Georgian style architecture. The structure, built of locally made brick, features a balustraded two-story veranda style porch, central hall and full basement which is open across the rear elevation due to the placement of the building on the lot. This building is currently used for faculty apartments and homes. Robert E. Lee Hall once housed the Academy swimming pool. Converted for use as a residence, it is the home of the Commandant.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1891

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Columbia Arsenal was authorized by an Act introduced and sponsored by Congressman W. C. Whitthorne of Tennessee. The act was signed by President Cleveland in 1888.

There are twenty original military arsenals located in the United States and built before the 1890s. Of this number, four of the original arsenals are located in the southern states and three of the original twenty remain active today.

The Columbia Arsenal was built between 1890-1891. Nine original buildings including quarters and extensive storerooms for munitions and war magazines, shops for the repair and manufacturing of munitions, and other military items were erected within the original 67 acre tract of land designated for the Columbia Arsenal.

Colonel T. T. Wright of Nashville is noted for his special interest in promoting the building of the arsenal in Tennessee. Acting as a sponsor for its creation, Colonel Wright spurred local interest which resulted in the donation and adoption of tracts of land located in the 9th Civil District of Maury County, which amounted to the sum of \$15,250 for its establishment.

The arsenal was constructed during the Benjamin Harrison administration. Major Comley of the Ordinance Bureau was assigned to supervise the construction work. The laying of the cornerstone of the main structure was a celebrated event attended by the governor of Tennessee, Bob Taylor, and invited guests and officials representing the south central states.

Frank Goodwin was awarded the \$175,000 government contract to build the arsenal. He contracted with the Lynnville Quarries at Hurricane Switch for rock used to build the buildings' foundations. Bowling Green Quarries supplied rusticated stone for the four main buildings of the arsenal and five additional buildings were constructed of brick manufactured on Mt. Pleasant Pike by the Frank Farrell brickyard. The original 67 acre tract was fenced by the contractor as the arsenal buildings were constructed.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Trotwood's Monthly, July Issue-1906, E. E. Sweetland
 Deed Abstracts-Maury County Courthouse
 Maury Democrat microfilm, The Daily Herald, Columbia, Tennessee.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 67

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	4,9,4	8,6,0	3,9	4,1	3,1,0	B	1,6	4,9,5	0,6,0	3,9	4,0	8,9,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
C	1,6	4,9,4	5,7,0	3,9	4,0	6,3,0	D	1,6	4,9,4	4,2,0	3,9	4,1	3,5,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Columbia Arsenal is bounded on the north by West Seventh Street or Hampshire Pike, on the east by the railroad, on the south by Trotwood Avenue or Mount Pleasant Pike, and on the west by Academy Lane.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Reuben C. Algood, President and Gail Hammerquist, Tennessee Historical Comm.
 ORGANIZATION DATE

Association for the Preservation of Tenn. Antiquities 11-29-75
 STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

170 Second Avenue North (615) 741-2371
 CITY OR TOWN STATE

Nashville Tennessee

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Herbert L. Hays

TITLE Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission DATE 11/20/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>9/19/77</u>
ATTEST: <u>Charles Adams</u>	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>9/17/77</u>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 24 1975

DATE ENTERED SEP 19 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

During the 1890s the entire manufacturing facilities were moved from Columbia to the Jeffersonville Depot, Jeffersonville, Indiana. The Columbia Arsenal was used as training quarters for Spanish-American War troops during the Benjamin Harrison administration. This activity ceased in 1902, and after the war, the arsenal was declared surplus government property. The facility was eventually reopened, c. 1904-1905, as the Columbia Military Academy, a college preparatory school for boarding students.

The historic Columbia Arsenal is currently owned by a board of trustees and leased to a second board of trustees for the operation of the Academy. According to the current catalog, the school offers a program for day students and boarding students with ROTC training, grades 9-12. During the seventy year history of the academy there have been many graduates who have excelled in their careers. Graduates of the academy include Congressman (Captain) William R. Anderson, Commander of the Nautilus, General Hugh Pate Harris and Medal of Honor Winner, Congressman Nathan G. Gordon.

Columbia, Tennessee, attained national recognition with the building of the arsenal in 1890. The Columbia Military Academy is a community landmark. Additional facilities built to accommodate the school are all located within the original 67 acres. Subsequent additions and facilities for the school have had minimal effect on the visual identity of the arsenal complex and the nineteenth century landscape. Time has had little effect on the historic architectural integrity of the nine original arsenal buildings. Early yearbooks and photographs serve as an accurate record, representing each era of the military history and more recent educational history of the Columbia Military Academy.

INVENTORY: HISTORIC STRUCTURES

1) Guard House c.1891

Picturesque, original guard house of the Columbia Arsenal and gate house for the Columbia Military Academy. Built of Bowling Green stone by the U.S. Corps of Engineers, under the supervision of Major Comley of the Ordinance Bureau. One story, coursed stone masonry bearing wall, portico entrance, stone chimney and full basement half exposed. Features include slit style windows of medieval type.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 24 1975

DATE ENTERED SEP 19 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

2) Main Building c.1891

The original arsenal building, served as the "assembly building" and subsequently as the "main" building for the Columbia Military Academy, 1904. Large three story structure, full basement, rectangular shape, Bowling Green stone masonry bearing walls and foundation materials from Lynville quarries.

3) Ragsdale Alumni Hall c.1891

An original building of the Columbia Arsenal Complex. Bowling Green stone masonry bearing walls, two story with open basement at rear. A wide veranda porch encircles the first, main story.

4) Academy Hall c.1891

An original building of the Columbia Arsenal Complex. Impressive, three story, stone and masonry structure. Raised basement and asymmetric plan features Romanesque elements in its design, including the handsome Roman arch at the main entrance which features carved wood panels and stained glass-lights as door enframements.

5) Old Fountain c.1904

Cast iron basins and assembly with decorative cast iron rim. The fountain is featured in Columbia Military Academy yearbooks.

6) Moore Hall c.1891

An original building of the Columbia Arsenal Complex. Built of brick manufactured for the arsenal by Frank Farrell on the Old Mt. Pleasant Pike. Stone for foundations came from the Lynville Quarries. Two story, hip roof, Georgian Revival Style with one story, full length veranda style porch, central entrance and doorway enframed by rectangular shape transome and side lights. Boxed eaves and corbel brick cornice detail.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 24 1975
DATE ENTERED	SEP 19 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

7) Robert E. Lee Hall c.1891

An original building of the Columbia Arsenal complex. This building once housed the Columbia Military Academy swimming pool. Two story, hip roof with stone foundation walls. Subsequent alterations, undetermined.

8) Frierson Hall c.1891

Originally built as part of the Columbia Arsenal this two and one-half story, Georgian Revival style structure features a two story veranda style porch across the front and traditional Georgian style.

9) Whitthorne Hall c.1891

Built as a stable for the Columbia Arsenal, the second story addition resulted as the structure was equipped for new use as a dormitory. Two story, brick, gable roof and chimney at the end wall. Features Georgian style arch window enframement, brick flat jack arch and recessed, double hung sash type windows. 6/6 light.

10) Black Hall c.1891

Built as one of the original arsenal buildings this two story brick structure features horizontal and vertical symmetry, 11 x 5 bay spacing, gable roof, Georgian type windows and attached wood portico porch at the centered, main entrance.

INVENTORY OF NON-HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

1. Quadrangle
2. Steam plant
3. Science Building and Recreation Hall
4. Johnson Hall
5. Denham Hall (Junior School)
6. Football Stadium complex
7. Hospital building
8. Baseball field complex
9. Main Gym and Pool
10. Little Gym
11. Band Hut
12. Jackson Hall
13. Military Displays
14. Garages
15. Tennis courts and facilities

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

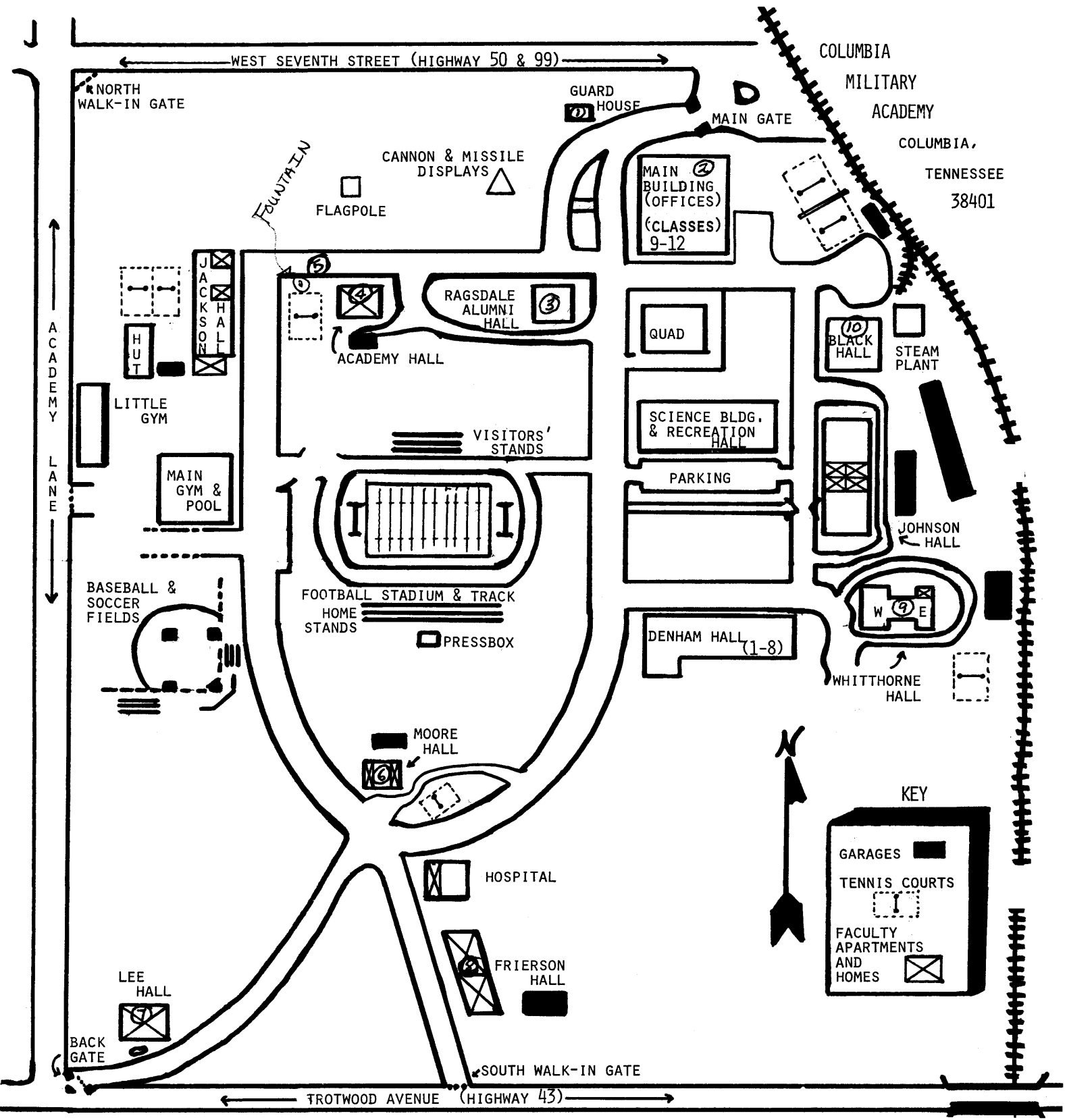
RECEIVED AUG 12 1976

DATE ENTERED SEP 19 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

11. Quadrangle - Four strips of pavement used for military formations by companies
12. Steam plant - Operational structure located to the east side of Black Hall
13. Science Building and Recreation Hall - Built ca. 1960 for the high school science building, this two story brick structure houses the academy's recreational facilities and band hall.
14. Johnson Hall - Ca. 1940, this building has four faculty apartments on the first and second story.
15. Denham Hall - Built for the junior school, this two-story, brick building has a new addition attached to the west end erected in 1968.
16. Football Stadium - Built in the 1920s and '30s, this outdoor stadium facility includes a press box and bench-type bleachers placed on grass banks on either side of the track and field.
17. Hospital - This one story building is used for the student infirmary.
18. Baseball field and Soccer field - Built ca. 1920-30, this outdoor facility is located to the west side of the main drive and south of the main gym. The facility includes a grandstand for visitors; the soccer field was added in 1960.
19. Main Gym and Pool - This building, ca. 1940, includes an indoor pool located on the lower floor.
20. Little Gym - The annex for the main gym, built in the '50s, is located to the west side of the main gym and is used primarily for wrestling.
21. Band Hut - This one-story frame building is currently used as a facility for the drama department. A large fireplace is located on the south elevation.
22. Jackson Hall - Built in several phases beginning in the 1940s, this building is currently used as a dormitory.
23. Military Display - The outdoor displays of military cannons, aircraft, vehicular arms, and military equipment are mounted on concrete pads adjacent to the main building.
24. Garages - Garages and storage facilities are located adjacent to the various buildings and are contemporary in design.
25. Tennis Courts - There are seven outdoor tennis courts which include three basketball courts; these are located in each region of the campus.



COLUMBIA
 MILITARY
 ACADEMY
 COLUMBIA,
 TENNESSEE
 38401

WEST SEVENTH STREET (HIGHWAY 50 & 99)

NORTH WALK-IN GATE

GUARD HOUSE

MAIN GATE

FOUNTAIN

CANNON & MISSILE DISPLAYS

FLAGPOLE

MAIN BUILDING
 (OFFICES)
 (CLASSES)
 9-12

JACKSON HUT

ACADEMY HALL

RAGSDALE ALUMNI HALL

QUAD

BLACK HALL

STEAM PLANT

LITTLE GYM

MAIN GYM & POOL

VISITORS' STANDS

SCIENCE BLDG. & RECREATION HALL

PARKING

JOHNSON HALL

BASEBALL & SOCCER FIELDS

FOOTBALL STADIUM & TRACK

HOME STANDS

PRESSBOX

DENHAM HALL (1-8)

WHITTHORNE HALL

MOORE HALL

HOSPITAL

FRIERSON HALL

LEE HALL

BACK GATE

SOUTH WALK-IN GATE

TROTWOOD AVENUE (HIGHWAY 43)

KEY

- GARAGES [Solid black rectangle]
- TENNIS COURTS [Dashed outline rectangle]
- FACULTY APARTMENTS AND HOMES [Rectangle with 'X' inside]

