

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, AREA 3,
BUILDING 8, SIGNAL CORPS SPECIAL FORCES HANGAR
DAYTON VILL.
GREENE COUNTY
OHIO

HAER No. OH-79-41

HAER
OHIO
29-DAYT.V
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF DRAWINGS

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, AREA B,
BUILDING 6, SIGNAL CORPS SPECIAL FORCES HANGAR

HAER No. OH-79-M

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Location: On flightline at southeast corner of 11th and C Streets; Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Area B, Dayton Vicinity, Greene County, Ohio.

Date of Construction: 1943.

Consulting Engineer: Roberts and Schaefer Co., Chicago, IL.

Construction Contractor: Simpson Construction Co., Chicago, IL.

Present Owners: USAF.

Present Use: Wright Field Fitness Center.

Significance: Part of the Wright Field flightline complex constructed during World War II, this hangar was used during the war by the Signal Corps Special Forces for radio and antenna installation.

Project History: This report is part of the overall Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Area B documentation project conducted by HAER 1991-1993. See overview report, HAER No. OH-79, for a complete description of the project.

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, AREA B,
BUILDING 6, SIGNAL CORPS SPECIAL FORCES HANGAR
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DESCRIPTION: The Signal Corps Special Forces Hangar is a steel-frame concrete structure of 55,161 square feet, with a five-section, barrel-vaulted roof and interstitial columns. The north end has two rows of steel-sashed, factory-style, tilt windows across the whole facade. The west side consists of telescoping multi-paned wire-reinforced glass and metal hangar doors, with rectangular concrete towers at each end. A rectangular concrete building is attached to the east side of the hangar, providing 5,302 square feet of office space.

HISTORY: Building 6 was built in 1943 as the Signal Corps Special Forces Hangar. Roberts and Schaefer Co., of Chicago, was consulting engineer, and Simpson Construction Co., of Chicago, was the contractor. Like the Engineering Shops (Building 5) the hangar was designed with a barrel shell roof which meant that the forms employed in the construction of the shops building could be reused here, although they had to be raised on trestles because of the additional height of the hangar.

At first the building was primarily used by the Signal Corps for installing radios and antennas, and after the war it became a facility for retrofitting and modifying planes. In February 1948 a tower and control room were added; these were demolished in 1986. Wright Air Development Center and the Aircraft Maintenance Organization Shop both occupied the building in 1959. During the 1960s and 1970s the facility was apparently used for developing special projects until they were found to be viable and were handed over to another laboratory. From 1964 to 1981 it housed the Air Force Orientation Group. In 1974 a sound studio was constructed in the hangar. Currently the building houses the Wright Field Fitness Center.

For bibliography, see Wright-Patterson Air Force Base overview report (HAER No. OH-79).