

UPDATED: Old Fire Station at Pope Army Airfield

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March 12
Here's a nifty vintage photo that was posted a couple years back to the [Air Force Firefighters / Fire Dogs](#) group on Facebook. Courtesy of Robert Anderson. (Visit that page and search on "Pope" for many more great vintage images.) Click to enlarge:



March 10
Found this building on base on Sunday, while visiting Fort Bragg. It's a former fire station at Pope Army Airfield, which is formerly Pope Air Force Based, which was originally Pope Field. It's also listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is part of the [Pope Air Force Base Historic District](#).

Building 300 is located at the corner of Maynard and Reilly Roads. Built in 1934, it was expanded circa 1956, the same year the nearby airside fire station was constructed. The fire station became Station #2 and served as the structural fire station for the base. Was closed circa 1979 and the building was converted to a medical supply and maintenance building. (The building still bears a sign reading "Medical Supply.") Click to enlarge:



Mike Legeros, Bing Maps, National Register of Historic Places photos

We've been discussing the building in this [Fire Trucks at War thread](#) on Facebook, as well as this [Air Force Firefighters / Fire Dogs thread](#). Some of what we've learned from there and other sources:

- During World War II, apparatus at the station included a 1944 Brockway/American LaFrance Class 155 crash truck.
- In later decades, structural apparatus at Station #2 included first-run Class 750A and Class 530B pumpers.
- Extended room in the back of the building was used by Tech Services and doubled as a bunk room for Shift A/C.
- On the left side of the building to the back of the building was a "truck and hose wash rack."
- By 1975, the station housed two structural pumpers, one of which was used for rotational maintenance. One fire company of four cross-training firefighters and one extra man to monitor the phone was stationed there.
- That year the fleet's structural apparatus consisted of a P-8 pumper, a P-12 pumper (750), a Class 530-B pumper, and two Class 750A pumpers in storage.
- Circa 1979, when closed, the structural equipment was moved to the airside fire station. That's presently Fort Bragg Fire Station 7. The base was absorbed by Fort Bragg on March 1, 2011.
- Army plans to replace the 1956 station in 2018. Was previously planned for replacement along with the new Air Traffic Control Tower. Though the tower was replaced, the fire station project was cancelled when the Air Force learned of the planned base closure.
- The fire department also utilizes Building 182 at the airfield, where tech services (inspections) were located. Fire inspections occupies one side of the building, and fire logistics uses the other half.

From the National Register of Historic Places nomination form, here's detailed information about the structure:

"Bldg. 300, a one-story building at the corner of Maynard and Reilly Streets, originally functioned as a fire station and is now Medical Supply . It was completed in 1934 at a cost of \$6,690. Exterior dimensions of this gable-roofed structure are 20.5 x 53.7 feet. According to as-built plans, it had a concrete and smooth-faced tile floor, hollow tile masonry walls, Spanish tile roof, painted stucco facade, and stone window sills. Circular, louvered vent openings occur in the gable ends of the roof. The original floor plan was designed to house two fire trucks, an apparatus room, office, closet, toilet, and heater/boiler room at the rear. The fire truck entered the station through two overhung, garage-type bays .

"The major modification to the plan and exterior of Bldg. 300 was the addition of an asbestos-sided wallboard building on the north side of the building ca. 1956 . This addition housed sleeping quarters and a lounge, toilet, and showers. Space in the original building was converted to a kitchen and an additional office. The heating system was also converted from steam boiler to oil at this time. Asphalt

shingles replaced the roof tiles in 1958.

"Major changes to the interior floor plan of Bidg. 300 were instituted ca. 1979, when the fire station was converted to its present use as a Medical supply and maintenance building. These changes do not appear to have affected the exterior facade, however. Under the use conversion, a medical warehouse was located in the former apparatus room, and a suspended ceiling was built in the warehouse area. Technical services were located in the old office and kitchen, and storage and mechanical space replaced the old boiler room. In addition, medical supply issue was located in the old sleeping quarters; administration was moved to the old lounge. A new vault, mechanical room, and security cages were built at the back of the warehouse, and new ventilation and fire protection systems were installed. Storm windows were added to the building in 1978."

Sources:

- [Air Force Firefighters / Fire Dogs thread](#) on Facebook
- [Fire Trucks at War thread](#) on Facebook
- [Histories of Military Fire Departments in North Carolina](#) by Mike Legeros
- [National Register of Historic Places photo via Flickr](#)
- National Register of Historic Places Registration Form - December 1, 1990 - [Read document](#) (PDF)
- [Pope Air Force Base Early Expansion MPS](#)
- [Pope Field Wikipedia entry](#)
- Structural Fire Protection/Prevention Consolidation Study for Fayetteville, NC Area, U.S. Army - November 1975 - [Read document](#) (PDF)

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