

JUL 7 2005

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name: Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics Aircraft Hangars  
other names/site number: World War II Aircraft Hangars

**2. Location**

street & number: Bruce Campbell Field, 7496 Old Canton Road  
city or town: Madison  
state: Mississippi code: MS county: Madison code: 089  
not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
zip code: 39110

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally X statewide \_\_\_\_\_ locally. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Vernith H. P. Paul July 8, 2005  
Signature of certifying official Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
✓ entered in the National Register,  
\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

for Edson H. Beall 8/27/05  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

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**Ownership of Property:**

Public-local

**Number of Resources within Property:**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

**Category of Property:**

Buildings

**Contributing**

3

**Noncontributing**buildings  
sites  
structures  
objects  
Total

3

0

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**0

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions:**

Transportation/Air-related

**Current Functions:**Transportation/Air-related

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification(s):****Materials:**

foundation: Concrete

roof: Metal

walls: Metal

other

**Narrative Description:**

See Continuation Sheets

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

- X    **A**    Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B**    Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- X    **C**    Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D**    Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

Military History  
Architecture

**Period of Significance**  
1940-1944

**Significant Dates**  
1940

**Criteria Considerations:**

Property is:

- \_\_\_ **A**    owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- \_\_\_ **B**    removed from its original location.
- \_\_\_ **C**    a birthplace or a grave.
- \_\_\_ **D**    a cemetery.
- \_\_\_ **E**    a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- \_\_\_ **F**    a commemorative property.
- \_\_\_ **G**    less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Significant Person(s)****Cultural Affiliation(s)**

**Architect/Builder**  
International Derrick & Equipment  
Company, manufacturers  
McGee, W.J. & Son and  
Wetmore, W.G., contractors

**Narrative Statement of Significance:**      See continuation sheets.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**      See continuation sheet.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- \_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- \_\_\_ previously listed in the National Register
- \_\_\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- \_\_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark
- \_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
# \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record  
# \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- X   State Historic Preservation Office
- \_\_\_ Other State agency
- \_\_\_ Federal agency
- \_\_\_ Local government
- \_\_\_ University
- \_\_\_ Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: 2.21 acres

UTM References:	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
	15	772140	3593200

**Verbal Boundary Description** See continuation sheet.**Boundary Justification:** See continuation sheet.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title:	Steve Hickok	date:	January 2005
organization:	City of Madison	telephone:	601-856-7116
street & number:	P. O. Box 40	zip code:	39130
city or town:	Madison	state:	MS

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner(s)**

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name:	City of Madison	telephone:	601-856-7116
street & number:	1004 Madison Avenue	zip code:	39211
city or town:	Madison	state:	MS

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 7 Page: 1

Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics Aircraft Hangars  
Madison, Madison County, Mississippi

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**DESCRIPTION:**

Located in the City of Madison on the east side of Old Canton Road are three large metal hangars built in 1940 to house the airplanes used to train pilots in primary flight requirements for the Army Air Forces Flying Training Command. The three hangars and concrete ramp are located on a 2.21 acre parcel of the Madison Airport (Bruce Campbell Field) in Madison County, Mississippi.

Each hangar is 100 feet wide, 170 feet long and 29 feet 9 inches tall excluding the 3 air vents equally spaced along the crown of the roof. The hangars are 40 feet apart. They consist of metal framework on a concrete pad with corrugated metal sheets forming the outer skin of the walls and roof. The hangars are identical except for minor modifications made over the years. These modifications can easily be restored to the original configuration. Aircraft access to the hangars is on the south end through metal sliding doors which consist of 4 door panels, ten feet two inches wide by fifteen feet eight inches tall on each side, that rest on two 9 inch cast iron wheels that travel on a cast iron track and are suspended on two 9 inch cast iron wheels that ride on a metal track to stabilize the door tops. There are eleven 12-light metal framed windows on each side (east and west) of all hangars. There is walk-in access on the east side through an 89 inch high, 33 inch wide metal door with a 4-light window located approximately 17 feet from the south end of the building. The middle hangar has two walk-in doors on the west wall; one approximately 17 feet from the south end and a second door toward the north end between the second and third 12-light metal windows from the north end. Hangar #1 (west nearest Old Canton Road) has been modified with the addition of a concrete block structure that is attached and covering the original three 12-light metal windows and walk-in door toward the south end of the west wall. This concrete block addition will be removed in the near future and the windows and door restored. The north end of the hangars are identical with five 12-light metal windows and one walk-in metal door with 4-light window in the top half. The walk-in doors are located approximately 17 feet from the east corner. There are two sliding metal doors with 12-light windows located in the middle of the north end with three 12-light metal windows to the west and two to the east. Each of the sliding doors is 57 and 1/2 inches wide and 124 inches high. There is a security light on the north end of each hangar centered above the sliding doors.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 8 Page: 2

Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics Aircraft Hangars  
Madison, Madison County, Mississippi

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

The three World War II hangars at the Madison Airport (Bruce Campbell Field) are significant under Criterion A in the area of Military History because they are the best surviving examples in Mississippi of the facilities built for training military pilots during World War II. The buildings also have significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as some of the most intact surviving examples in Mississippi of the prefabricated metal aircraft hangars that were typical of these aviation training facilities.

These three hangars were constructed in 1940 by W. J. McGee and Son and W. G. Wetmore of Jackson, Mississippi under contract with the Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics (MIA). This construction was a direct result of a verbal agreement, later supported by a thirty day contract with the U.S. Government, between General "Hap" Arnold, Commander of the Army Air Corps and Mr. Oliver L. Parks, President of Parks Air College, East St. Louis, Illinois. General Arnold wanted Mr. Parks to build facilities for the training of fliers to support the expansion of U.S. air forces by 50,000 airplanes a year for an anticipated conflict with the German Luftwaffe who were decimating our European allies.<sup>1</sup> Parks Air College operated numerous small aviation schools under contract with the United States government. The aviation school that provided flight instruction to military pilots at this airfield was the Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics.

The World War II era hangars are significant for their direct support to the training of over 3000 pilots in primary flying requirements between September 1940 and July 1944. The airfield at which these three hangars are located was originally named after General Augustine Warner Robins, who oversaw and organized the logistics portion of the air arm just as the country began its massive expansion for World War II.<sup>2</sup> The airport was officially named Robins Field on 21 February 1941<sup>3</sup> with ceremony in June 1941.<sup>4</sup> In the fall of 1941 the airport was renamed Augustine Field to allow the airfield in Welleston, Georgia, the forerunner of Robins Air Force Base, Georgia to take General Robins' last name while the Madison airfield took his given name.<sup>5</sup> The current airfield name, Bruce Campbell Field, was an action taken by the Madison City Council to honor Bruce Campbell, 1907 – 1952, a Civil Aeronautics Administration District Airport Engineer, for his promotion of Civil Aviation in Mississippi.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *History of 62<sup>nd</sup> Army Air Forces Flying Training Detachment, Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics, Inc.*, Jackson, Mississippi, 1 April 1944.

<sup>2</sup> William Head, *Every Inch a Soldier: Augustine Warner Robins and the Building of U.S. Airpower* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1995).

<sup>3</sup> *History of 62<sup>nd</sup> Army Air Forces Flying Training Detachment, Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics, Inc.*, Jackson, Mississippi, 1 April 1944, p. 32.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 34.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 37.

<sup>6</sup> Town of Madison, Mayor and Board of Alderman minutes, April 7, 1953, Resolution changing the name of the Madison Airport.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics Aircraft Hangars  
Madison, Madison County, Mississippi

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Primary flying training consisted of five weeks of ground and air training using Boeing PT-17 "Kaydet", commonly called Stearmans. The first ten Stearmans arrived on 1 September 1940 followed shortly by three more.<sup>7</sup> These thirteen airplanes were used in the first class of thirty-two cadets who received their initial ride on 14 September 1940 with the inception of Class 41-C.<sup>8</sup> By October 1941 the MIA was operating sixty planes.<sup>9</sup> In November 1943 single-wing airplanes, the Fairchild PT-19, began arriving to supplement the PT-17 bi-wing aircraft.<sup>10</sup>

The original staff of the MIA included Mr. L. M. "Frenchie" Jacob, a certified aircraft mechanic with a degree from Parks Air College. He now resides in the Jackson, Mississippi area.<sup>11</sup> In October 1941 Mr. James R. White was hired as an aircraft mechanic by MIA and remained until operations ceased in 1944. He also had a degree from Parks Air College and he resides in Jackson, Mississippi.<sup>12</sup>

The airport property including the three World War II hangars was deeded to the City of Madison on 5 March 1948 with the restriction that the property be used for public airport purposes.<sup>13</sup> The airport with facilities has been in continuous use since construction in 1940. The hangars retain their original structure with minor modifications that can be readily restored and are now used to hangar privately owned aircraft.

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<sup>7</sup> *History of 62<sup>nd</sup> Army Air Forces Flying Training Detachment, Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics, Inc.*, Jackson, Mississippi, 1 April 1944, p. 18.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 21.

<sup>9</sup> *The Madison County Herald*, October 24, 1941, p. 1.

<sup>10</sup> *History of 62<sup>nd</sup> Army Air Forces Flying Training Detachment, Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics, Inc.*, Jackson, Mississippi, 1 April 1944, p. 73.

<sup>11</sup> Jacob, L. M., Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics employee, Interview, 29 September, 2004.

<sup>12</sup> White, James, Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics employee, Interview, 9 December, 2004.

<sup>13</sup> Deed, March 5, 1948, filed with Madison County Court Clerk on March 25, 1948, Book No. 39 on Page 475.

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics Aircraft Hangars  
Madison, Madison County, Mississippi

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Deed, March 5, 1948, filed with Madison County Chancery Clerk on March 25, 1948, Book No. 39 on page 475.

Head, William, *Every Inch a Soldier: Augustine Warner Robins and the Building of U.S. Airpower*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1995.

History of 62<sup>nd</sup> Army Air Forces Flying Training Detachment, Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics, Inc., Jackson, Mississippi, 1 April 1944.

Jacob, L. M., former employee of Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics. Interview by Steve Hickock, November 29, 2004.

Madison County *Herald*, Canton, Mississippi.

Madison, Town of, Mayor and Board of Alderman Minutes, April 7, 1953, Resolution to change the name of the Madison Airport.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi. Letter, dated April 2, 1998 with enclosures, to Mayor, City of Madison.

White, James R., former employee of Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics. Interview by Steve Hickock, December 9, 2004.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:**

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The boundary of the nominated property consists of an area 400' X 240' in size. Beginning at the corner common to Sections 16, 17, 20 and 21, Township 7 North, Range 2 East, Madison County, Mississippi, and run thence due South for a distance of 50 feet, more or less, to a point, said point being on the East R.O.W. line of Old Canton Road; run thence due East for a distance of 90 feet, more or less, to the Point of Beginning. Run thence East for a distance of 400 feet to a point; run thence South for a distance of 240 feet to a point; run thence West for a distance of 400 feet to a point; run thence North for a distance of 240 feet to the Point of Beginning. This property is located in the NW1/4 of Section 21, Township 7 North, Range 2 East, Madison County, Mississippi and contains 2.21 acres, more or less.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundary was selected to include the three World War II era hangars constructed in 1940 and includes the concrete apron associated with the hangars. The boundaries exclude all structures post-dating the period of significance.





Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics Aircraft Hangars  
Madison, Madison County, MS  
Photo by Richard Cawthon  
February 1998 (field checked 2005)  
Negatives: MS Dept. of Archives & History  
view from southeast  
photo 1 of 7



Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics aircraft hangars  
Madison, Madison County, MS  
Photo by Richard Cawthon  
February 1998 (field checked 2005)  
Negatives: Miss. Dept. of Archives & History  
Eastern hangar, viewed from southwest  
Photo 2 of 7



Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics aircraft hangars  
Madison, Madison County, MS  
Photo by Richard Cawthon  
February 1998 (field checked 2005)  
Negatives: MS Dept. of Archives & History  
North ends of the 3 hangars, viewed from northwest  
Photo 3 of 7



Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics aircraft hangars  
Madison, Madison County, MS  
Photo by Richard Cawthon  
February 1998 (field checked 2005)  
West side of western hangar, viewed from n.w.

Photo 4 of 7





Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics aircraft hangars

Madison, Madison County, MS

Photo by Richard Cawthon

February 1998 (field checked 2005)

Door and window on one of the side walls

Photo 5 of 7

THE  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
**DERRICK & EQUIPMENT**  
COMPANY  
Columbus Ohio Los Angeles

Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics aircraft hangars  
Madison, Madison County, MS  
Photo by Richard Cawthon  
February 1998 (field checked 2005)  
Manufacturer's nameplate  
Photo 6 of 7



Mississippi Institute of Aeronautics aircraft hangars  
Madison, Madison County, MS

Photo by Richard Cawthon

February 1998 (Field checked 2005)

Negatives: MS Dept. of Archives and History

Interior of ~~eastern~~ hangar, view to north

photo 7 of 7