

**MANAGEMENT PLAN  
UNITED SERVICES ORGANIZATION (USO) BUILDING  
JACKSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

**Significance of the USO Building**

The Jacksonville USO building was completed in early 1942. The United Services Organization (USO) had been formed only a year earlier by a request from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. At the beginning of World War II Roosevelt planned to rely on private organizations to provide on-leave recreational facilities for the armed forces. Six organizations formed the USO: the Salvation Army, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), National Catholic Community Services, National Jewish Welfare Board, and the Traveler's Aid Association. The building was constructed by the Federal Works Agency using appropriations passed as part of the Lanham Act, which included provisions for the construction of 51 USO buildings in 19 states. Of the original 51 USO buildings that were part of this original building campaign and consequently became designated as "Type A," only three survive. Besides this one in Jacksonville, N.C., the other two are located in Wilmington, N.C., and DeRidder, La. The last in DeRidder was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1992 (Anderson 2004).

The Jacksonville USO was formally dedicated April 19, 1942. Two other buildings not specifically built for the USO was used by the African-American Marines and the Marine Corps Women's Reserve. Both of these centers ceased operation at the end of World War II. The USO was disbanded by Congress in 1947 and officially reactivated in 1952. The ownership of the Jacksonville USO was transferred to Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune in 1954. Since that date the base had leased the building to the Jacksonville USO.

**Treatment of Built Environment Categories**

The USO Building is a Category 1 resource worthy of long-term preservation and investment because it possesses a very high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, and feeling, and good integrity of materials and workmanship, and because it (a) possesses central importance in defining and maintaining the historic character of a significant aspect of MCB Camp Lejeune; (b) has outstanding architectural characteristics; (c) has unusual importance for the interpretation of Camp Lejeune's history and military organization; (d) represents a major investment of resources that should not be wasted if such waste can be avoided; (e) has considerable potential for continuing or adaptive reuse by the Marine Corps; and (f) is highly valued by MCB Camp Lejeune and the Marine community.

**Treatment Goals for the USO Building**

- Maintain the historical integrity of the historic property.
- Continue to use the historic building in manners consistent with its historic character and that minimize major alterations.
- Utilize modern materials, such as vinyl siding and aluminum, in ways that maintain the building's historic exterior appearance.
- Avoid adding intrusions onto the historic property.

## **Design Standards for the USO Building**

### 1. Contributing Elements of Building Configuration and Orientation

- Central lobby with symmetrical wings
- Main entrance flanked on either side by four ribbon windows
- Aluminum canopies and the front of both eastern and western wings

#### *Appropriate Treatments*

- Maintain elements that unify the historic building complex: common rooflines and shapes, scale, and external symmetry.
- Avoid additions or other alterations that disrupt the external symmetry and ornament of the main block, especially along its south or main elevation.

### 2. Contributing Elements of Building Exteriors

- Raised cinderblock foundations
- Chimney placement
- Gable and flat roofs
- Main entrance flanked on either side by four ribbon windows
- Aluminum canopies above the windows on south façade of both eastern and western wings
- Original USO sign mounted on southeastern corner of the building

#### *Appropriate Treatments*

- Maintain the building's heights, its roof shapes and rooflines, and its exterior symmetries.
- Replacement elements should visually resemble the original elements.
- New vinyl siding and aluminum elements should maintain a building's historic exterior appearance and be compatible with original in terms of visual qualities.

### 3. Contributing Characteristics of Wall Openings

- Main entrance flanked on either side by four ribbon windows
- Five ribbon windows on the south façade of each wing
- Aluminum canopies above the windows on south façade of both eastern and western wings

#### *Appropriate Treatments*

- Maintain traditional spacing, size, shapes, and ornament of openings.
- Maintain traditional locations of entrances.
- When blocking openings, recess the infill to maintain consistent wall relief, in a material compatible with existing exterior walls.
- New vinyl or metal windows or fiberglass or metal doors should maintain traditional appearance.

#### 4. Contributing Characteristics of Interiors

The qualities of association and design that make the USO Building eligible for the National Register are expressed through external characteristics as discussed above.

##### *Appropriate Treatments*

- Alter interior spaces in ways that avoid changes to building exteriors.