

Faces of the Guard

A Portrait of the Willard Hirsch Panel Then and Now

Report prepared for
the South Carolina Army National Guard
Columbia, South Carolina

By the Applied Research Division
South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology
University of South Carolina
1321 Pendleton St.
Columbia, South Carolina 29208

Karen Y. Smith, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator, ARD-SCIAA

Draft May 2014; Revised July 2014

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	iv
I. Background	1
II. Hirsch Panel	2
III. Mitigation Plans	6
IV. Recommendations	9
V. References	11
VI. Hirsch Panels at Type B Armories, in alphabetical order	14

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Hirsch panel mold at the South Carolina Military Museum	2
Figure 2. Hirsch panel at the Barnwell Armory as it appears today.	3
Figure 3. Hirsch panel at the Myrtle Beach Armory as it appears today.	4
Figure 4. Cold-War era, Type B armory in Batesburg, S.C., as pictured on the armories website.	6
Figure 5. Interactive moving timeline of South Carolina Guard history.	7
Figure 6. Tablet-sized reproduction of the Hirsch panel.	8
Figure 7. Map of the armories with Hirsch panels surveyed during the project.	12

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Evaluated Type B armories.	1
Table 2. Type B armories with panels.	13

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A number of tangible products have already resulted from the South Carolina National Guard armories National Register evaluation and mitigation. The following report is the least of these but nevertheless could not have been completed without the assistance of many individuals. In particular, many thanks go to Bryan Hall, Conservation Manager with the SCARNG, for his leadership and patience throughout the process on this and related initiatives. The recent addition of Jason Moser as Cultural Resources Manager to the SCARNG staff has resulted in further progress on the cultural resources front. I appreciate Jason's careful review of the report draft and thoughtful consideration of the issues. Buddy Sturgis, lead curator at the South Carolina Military Museum, was generous with his time and expertise regarding the panel and associated mold, the latter of which is stored at his facility.

On the University side, I thank Steve Smith for the opportunity to take the lead on this project. Susan Lowe, SCIAA Business Manager, and staff in Sponsored Awards Management facilitated the contract. Staff at the Marlene & Nathan Addlestone Library of the College of Charleston were helpful and courteous, as always. John H. Gerdes, Jr., Associate Professor of Integrated Information Technology at USC, was immensely helpful with the 3D printing experiments of the Beaufort panel, even donating his own time to process the images prior to printing and hand delivering the printed result. It was a pleasure to collaborate with him on that aspect of the project.

Adorning dozens of National Guard armories across the state of South Carolina is a stunning 4-by-7 foot Art-Deco style, bas-relief cast in composite stone, featuring uniformed soldiers in the foreground and a Carolina palmetto and American eagle in the background. Commissioned by Heyward S. Singley, an important South Carolina architect, and designed by Willard Newman Hirsch, acclaimed artist and native of South Carolina, these plaques are (or were at one time) positioned to the left, or right, of main entryways to all Type B armories built in South Carolina in the 1950s and early 1960s. The following document summarizes a recent survey of the panels (*and only the panels*) at forty-one armories across the state. Recommendations for their treatment and for public and Guard outreach as it relates to the panel are included.

I. BACKGROUND

This report is one small component of a larger mitigation effort that began with plans to remodel the Allendale Readiness Center, in Allendale, South Carolina, a plan which triggered the Section 106 review process as an undertaking with adverse effects. After an initial evaluation of the Allendale structures that were more than 50 years old and with anticipated armory closures on the

Table 1. Evaluated Armories.

Name	Built
1: Allendale	1959
2: Barnwell	1955
3: Batesburg	1961
4: Belton	1961
5: Clemson	1964
6: Clover	1961
7: Conway	1960
8: Greenwood	1964
9: Hemingway	1956
10: McCormick	1960
11: Mount Pleasant	1963
12: Myrtle Beach	1963
13: Rock Hill	1965
14: Saluda	1960
15: Williamston	1956

horizon as further potential effects, the South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG) sought assistance from the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) in evaluating the eligibility of additional armories of similar age for inclusion in National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Toward this end in 2010, Eric W. Plaag, historian with SCIAA, conducted background research and photographic documentation of fifteen armories (**Table 1**). In 2011, the Keeper ruled that the South Carolina armories documented by Plaag *are eligible* for the National Register, a determination which officially made the armories historic properties and effectively charged the SCARNG with the mitigation of Allendale as well any other Cold War-era armories. With this determination, SCARNG, working with SCIAA, developed and began to implement two creative mitigations. The first was a three-part mitigation to compensate for anticipated future additions and alterations of four-



Figure 1. Hirsch panel mold at the South Carolina Military Museum. Inset image shows a major crack in mold.

teen of the fifteen eligible armories. The second mitigation was designed to evaluate the condition of the Hirsch panel mold and the cast panels as they appear on these Cold War era armories across the state to mitigate adverse effects for the closure/sale of the Clover, Belton, McCormick, and Williamston armories.

II. THE HIRSCH PANEL

Willard Hirsch, a sculptor and Charleston native whose work has been featured in popular magazines, local newspapers, and professional journals, was commissioned in 1953 by Architect Heyward S. Singley to create a panel for new South Carolina National Guard armories that would be both art and architecture (Hirsch 2012:35-36; Singley 1955). The tangible result of that commission was a mold that could be transported to each building site for use by the on-site contractor to cast a panel. Although we have almost no documentation of the commission or the manufacturing process (most references to the panel in the Willard Hirsch Papers located at the College of Charleston focus on a later period in the history of the panel), the original mold survives in storage at the South Carolina Military Museum (**Figure 1**). The cast panels mark almost four dozen Type B armory entryways throughout the state.



Figure 2. Hirsch panel at the Barnwell Armory as it appears today.

To faithfully and fully produce this particular piece of artwork, Hirsch conducted extensive research, reconstructing the details of uniformed dress unique to nine military campaigns that had involved the South Carolina Guard or earlier versions of the state militia (Doubrava, D.E., 1975, March 14. Noted Charleston Sculptor Plans to Picket Governor. *The News and Courier*). The panel features uniformed soldiers from the Indian Wars (1715-1763), the American Revolutionary War (1775-83), the War of 1812 (1812-15), the Mexican War (1846-47), the Civil War (1861-65), the Spanish-American War (1898), the Mexican Border Campaign (1910-19), World War I (1917-18), and World War II (1941-45).¹ Also reflective of Hirsch's artistic sensibilities, the panel fits an art deco bas-relief style of wall sculptures popular when Hirsch an art student in New York (**Figure 2**).

As a piece in the larger architectural design, the panel fit well too. In Hirsch's recollection, "one of the requirements was to produce a design which could be produced in the same material as the trim on the building. [Thus, Singley] ... made the production of the panel a part of the subcontract

¹Beginning dates represent America's entry, in the case of the world wars.



Figure 3. Hirsch panel at the Myrtle Beach Armory as it appears today.

for the trim to assure this unity of color” (letter from Willard Hirsch to Maj. General R. L. McCrady, dated Dec. 30, 1974, Willard Hirsch Papers, College of Charleston). That the commissioned panel was integral to Singley’s architectural vision for Type B armories is echoed in a letter written by David L. Parrott, architect in Singley’s firm at the time of the commission and Singley apprentice (Plaag, n.d.). Parrott recalls that the panel “was designed and executed with the purpose of becoming a part of the Architectural design of the building” (letter from David L. Parrott to Maj. General R. L. McCrady, dated Jan. 2, 1975, Willard Hirsch Papers, College of Charleston).

For those of us who like history, it might be considered oddly fortuitous that the feelings of Singley regarding the panel and its role the architecture of these armories were recounted by Hirsch and Parrott. I say oddly fortuitous because we would likely not know these details were it not for a controversial situation that first presented itself late in 1974, when Hirsch was alerted to the fact two of the panels in the Charleston area had been painted without his permission (**Figure 3**). In the first letter we have concerning the incident, Hirsch pens a strong appeal directly to Major General R. L. McCrady that “these panels [be] steam cleaned of [sic] what ever else is necessary to restore them to their original condition” (letter from Willard Hirsch to Maj. General R. L. McCrady,

dated Dec. 30, 1974, Willard Hirsch Papers, College of Charleston), and at the same time enlists the authoritative voice of Parrott as someone involved in the building design and as a representative for the deceased Singley. Major General McCrady's initial response was prompt but indifferent at best to the appeal for immediate correction, citing lack of available funds (letter from Maj. General R. L. McCrady to Willard Hirsch, dated Jan. 3, 1975, Willard Hirsch Papers, College of Charleston). Firing right back, Hirsch warned of escalation to the state government and the newspapers if "for the rest of my life I will have to see my work vandalized every time I pass the Hagood St. Armory" (letter from Willard Hirsch to Maj. General R. L. McCrady, dated Jan. 6, 1975, Willard Hirsch Papers, College of Charleston).

As Hirsch learned that more armory panels had received the same treatment and in the absence of any corrective movement from the Major General, Hirsch continued to enlist advocates for his cause, including representatives of the Charleston Artist Guild and the South Carolina Arts Commission, at one point even gaining sympathetic coverage from the Associated Press in an article that was reproduced in newspapers across the country in June 1975. Despite the pleas from a number of individuals, some of whom even cited their own ties to the Guard, nothing was done to the satisfaction of Hirsch. Some two years later, Hirsch was still writing letters appealing to anyone of authority in the matter but it wasn't until sometime in 1978 or 1979 that the Guard began to take action to remove the paint. Unfortunately, according to Hirsch, the sandblasting process used on the two Charleston panels that year did more harm to them than the paint, which prompted further calls for the use of a less destructive method of paint removal.

In what was no doubt a direct result of this incident, an amendment was introduced to the US House annually from 1977 to 1984 called the Visual Artists Moral Rights Amendment, "a bill to amend the copyright law to secure the rights of authors of pictorial, graphic, or sculptural works to prevent the distortion, mutilation, or other alteration of such works, and for other purposes." In fact, versions of this bill continued to be introduced, probably with some alternations, every two years until as recently as the 2011-12 session, though the phrase "Moral Rights" was dropped from the title after 1984. Despite the countless hours spent insisting the panels be restored, and restored properly, even today some 10 of the 41 armory panels documented remain polychromed.

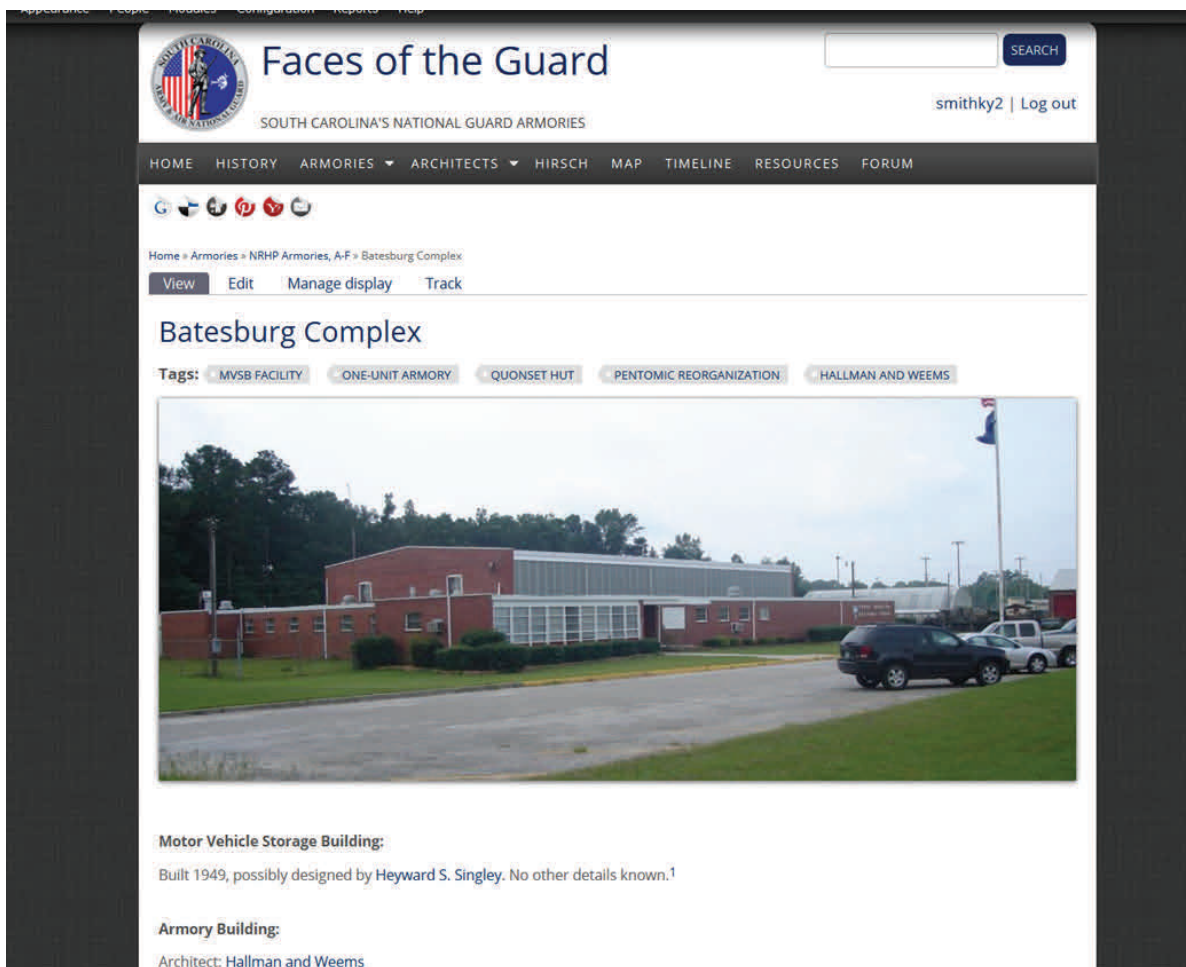


Figure 4. Cold-War era, Type B armory in Batesburg, S.C., as pictured on the armories website.

III. MITIGATION PLANS

Part I of the Cold War era armory mitigation involved the creation of a website featuring a visual and contextual exhibit of the fifteen evaluated SCARNG properties (Figure 4). The website also contains a brief history of the South Carolina Army National Guard through the Cold War, written by Plaag, as well as interactive pages, including a moving timeline of Guard and armory history (Figure 5) and a community forum, or posting board. At the time of this writing, the website is ready to go live but release of it awaits final decisions regarding where it will reside and what content, if any, should be password protected. The website is also designed to be expanded should SCARNG want to add additional content in the future.

Part II of the mitigation plan addresses the Hirsch panel, specifically, and is the focus of this report. Between June 2013 and April 2014, I visited a total of forty-one armories which either had

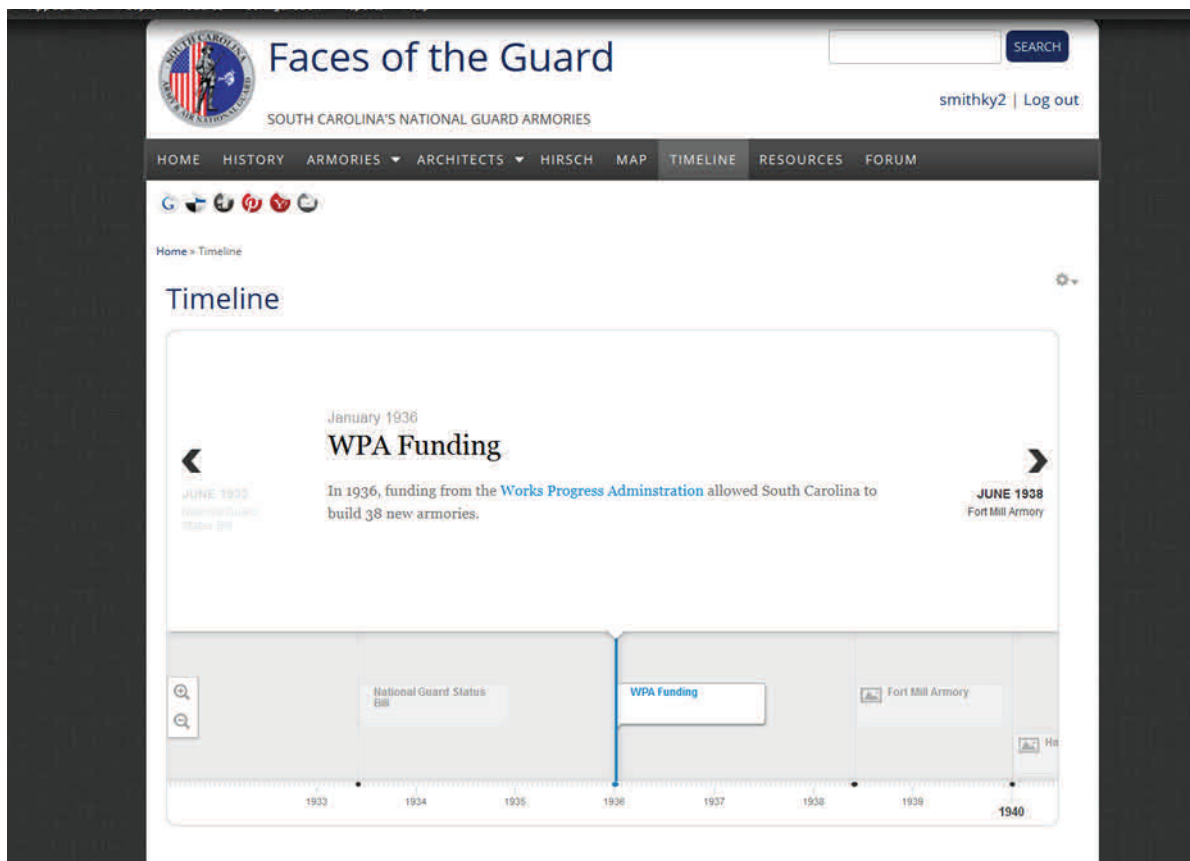


Figure 5. Interactive moving timeline of South Carolina Guard history.

or still have a Hirsch panel and the Museum where the mold is stored. To effectively research the panel's history, an inventory all extant Hirsch panels was needed, regardless of the SCARNG status of the facilities. A complete inventory would provide data for management going forward but, equally important, questions about the history of the treatment of certain panels could only be considered with a complete inventory in hand. Questions of interest include, for example, following up on a controversial move in the early 1970s to paint some of the panels in polychrome, one persistent question is which panels were actually painted? Further, can we see any patterns in the spread of the idea to paint the panels or in the move to correct this decision?

The survey work was achieved by visiting each town in which Cold War-era armories were either known or were suspected to be present. In two instances, one at Beaufort and the other at Sumter Guards in North Charleston, a Hirsch panel was located but was not attached to the original armory for which it was cast. In four instances, Allendale, Bishopville, Ridgeland, and St. George, the panel was either covered or missing. When present, I noted the condition of each panel, including

whether there were indications that it had been painted or sandblasted, and whether the panel was cracking or in otherwise bad repair. Photos of each panel were taken as further documentation of their varying conditions. Brief condition descriptions and other pertinent information are included along with key pictures as the bulk of the report here. Additional photographs taken during each visit are included on CD.

The mitigation plan also included exploration of alternative, modern means of reproducing the panel. John H. Gerdes, Jr., Associate Professor of Integrated Information Technology (IIT) at USC, recently acquired two 3-D printers, and John and I worked together to attempt to reproduce the Hirsch panel using this technology. He stitched together over 100 photographs taken from a series of angles around the panel in Beaufort, which is on a pedestal and no longer attached to a building, to produce a 3-D digital model which was then used to print one tablet-sized (**Figure 6**) and one index-card sized panel reproduction in a medium of dust and glue. Touch and color mirrored that of the original panels. However, the relief of the reproduction was not as crisp as what we had hoped to achieve. Nevertheless, it was a fruitful exploration of the technology—a good experiment. Any future work along these lines should include the use of a high-quality laser scan-

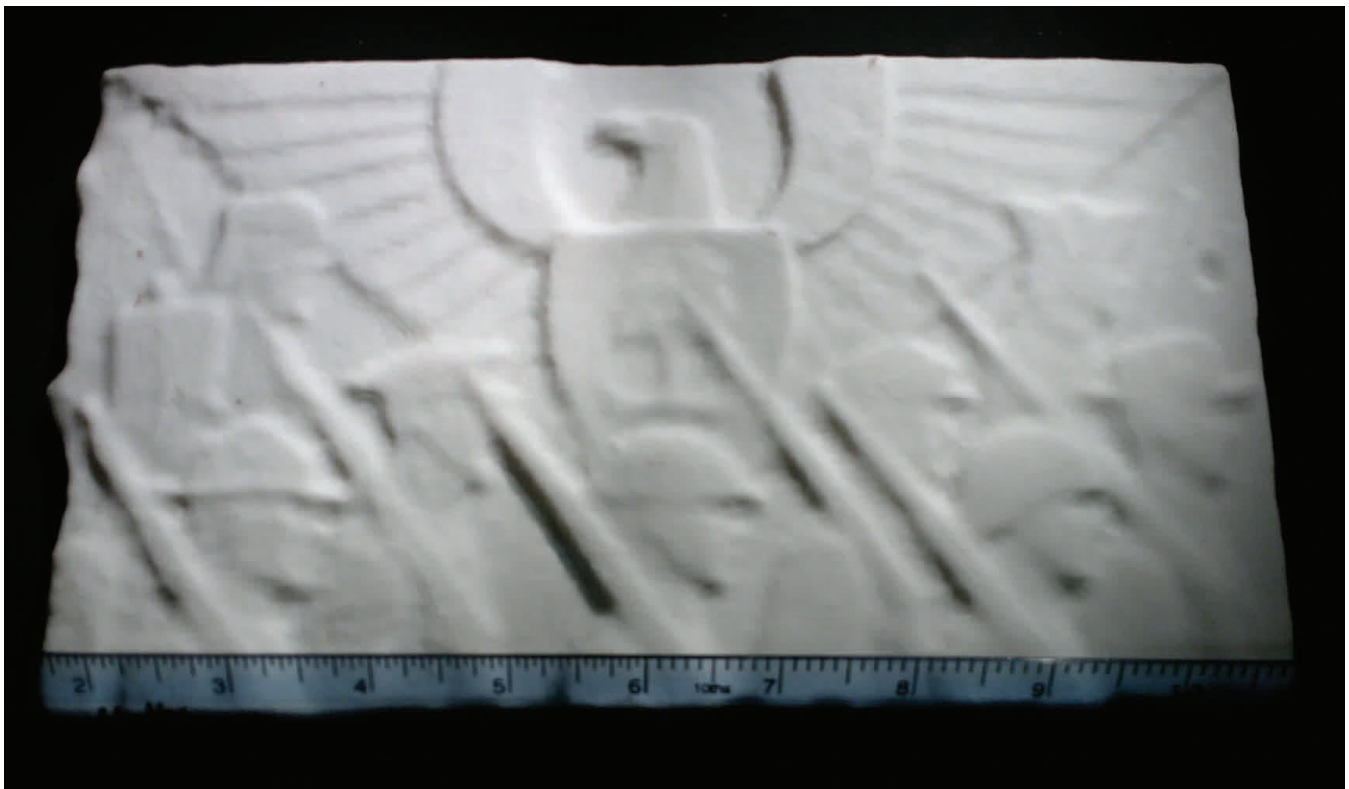


Figure 6. Tablet-sized Hirsch panel reproduction created by IIT-USC.

ner. It is likely that a more detailed, contoured digital model will print a more realistic example of the panel.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

In visiting the armories across the state, a couple of things were made very clear. First, these armories, whether open or closed, remain part of the collective consciousness of the small communities in which they are located. It did not matter who I spoke to, young/old, black/white, on a street corner or in a shop, everyone knew about their town's armory: where it was (or used to be) located and who currently owned it. Second, I met no one who actually knew the story of the panel, though several guardsmen said they had always wondered about it, and one guardsman at the new facility in Mullins remarked that he wished the panel (at the old facility) had been incorporated into the new facility. That the panel is an iconographic image of the South Carolina Guard is clear, it is also an image with a story that needs to be told. Toward this end, it would be very easy and probably not too costly to commission a small plaque describing the history of the panel that could be displayed next to them. The plaque might simply read:

Commissioned by South Carolina architect Heyward S. Singley and designed by noted South Carolina sculptor Willard Hirsch, ca. 1952, for display on National Guard armories across the state. This Art-Deco style, bas-relief panel cast in composite stone features, in the background, a Carolina palmetto and American eagle and, in the foreground, uniformed soldiers from the Indian Wars (1715-1763), the American Revolutionary War (1775-83), the War of 1812 (1812-15), the Mexican War (1846-47), the Civil War (1861-65), the Spanish-American War (1898), the Mexican Border Campaign (1910-19), World War I (1917-18), and World War II (1941-45).

Also discussed with SCARNG personnel is the possibility of creating an exhibit for the South Carolina Military Museum in Columbia. Such an exhibit should obviously describe the history of the panel, but the museum environment might present an opportunity to make the exhibit interactive. Interactive technologies would provide a great way to ask visitors to dig deeper into each

of the wars portrayed or into the symbolism of the eagle and palmetto tree. The exhibit also could pose some questions to visitors:

- Imagine you are an artist tasked with updating the panel, what changes or additions would you make?
- Do you agree with Hirsch's view that the panels should not be painted or otherwise altered? If not, why?

In addition to these standard ways of disseminating information about the history of the panel, the SCARNG might consider protecting of one of the extant buildings. For example, the Type B armory at Barnwell is one of the few surviving examples that reflects Singley's original vision for the panel: an unmodified (i.e., unpainted) panel made of the same compositional composite stone as the building's window sills, both cast elements in the architectural design. In fact, the Barnwell and Hemingway armories may be the only such examples that remain in the SCARNG inventory. Today, almost two-thirds of the extant panels have been painted either in polychrome, as Hirsch referred to it, or in white (**Figure 7 and Table 2**). Though it was not always clear, I suspect that the white-painted panels had at one time been polychromed—the white being an attempt to cover the paint job or mask the sandblasted pockmarks. In instances where one could see that the panel had been sandblasted, it was noted too.

For any Type B building that is to be maintained by SCARNG, consideration should be given to the landscaping around the Hirsch panel itself. For example, shrubbery growing up from beneath the panel at the Florence armory obstructs the view of the lower portion of the panel. Same is the case with the Myrtle Beach armory. Another major consideration is whether to restore these panels, in the way Hirsch had wished, or to reproduce new panels using the original mold, still accessible though showing its age of 60 plus years. This report provides the SCARNG with a list of buildings which have panels and a sense of the condition those panels.

V. REFERENCES CITED

Hirsch, Jane Elizabeth, compiler

2012 *Art is a Powerful Language: Willard Hirsch – The Man, The Artist*. Home House Press.

Kitchens, Scott B., Steven D. Smith, and Tamara S. Wilson

2005 *Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of SCARNG Armory Facilities*. Report prepared for the South Carolina Army National Guard, Columbia, South Carolina. On file with the Applied Research Division, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Plaag, Eric W.

2012 *Historical Survey and Evaluation of 15 SCARNG Armory Complexes, South Carolina*. Report prepared for the South Carolina Army National Guard, Columbia, South Carolina. On file with the Applied Research Division, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Singley, Heyward

1955 National Guard Armories, South Carolina. *Southern Architect*, November 1955, 14-15.

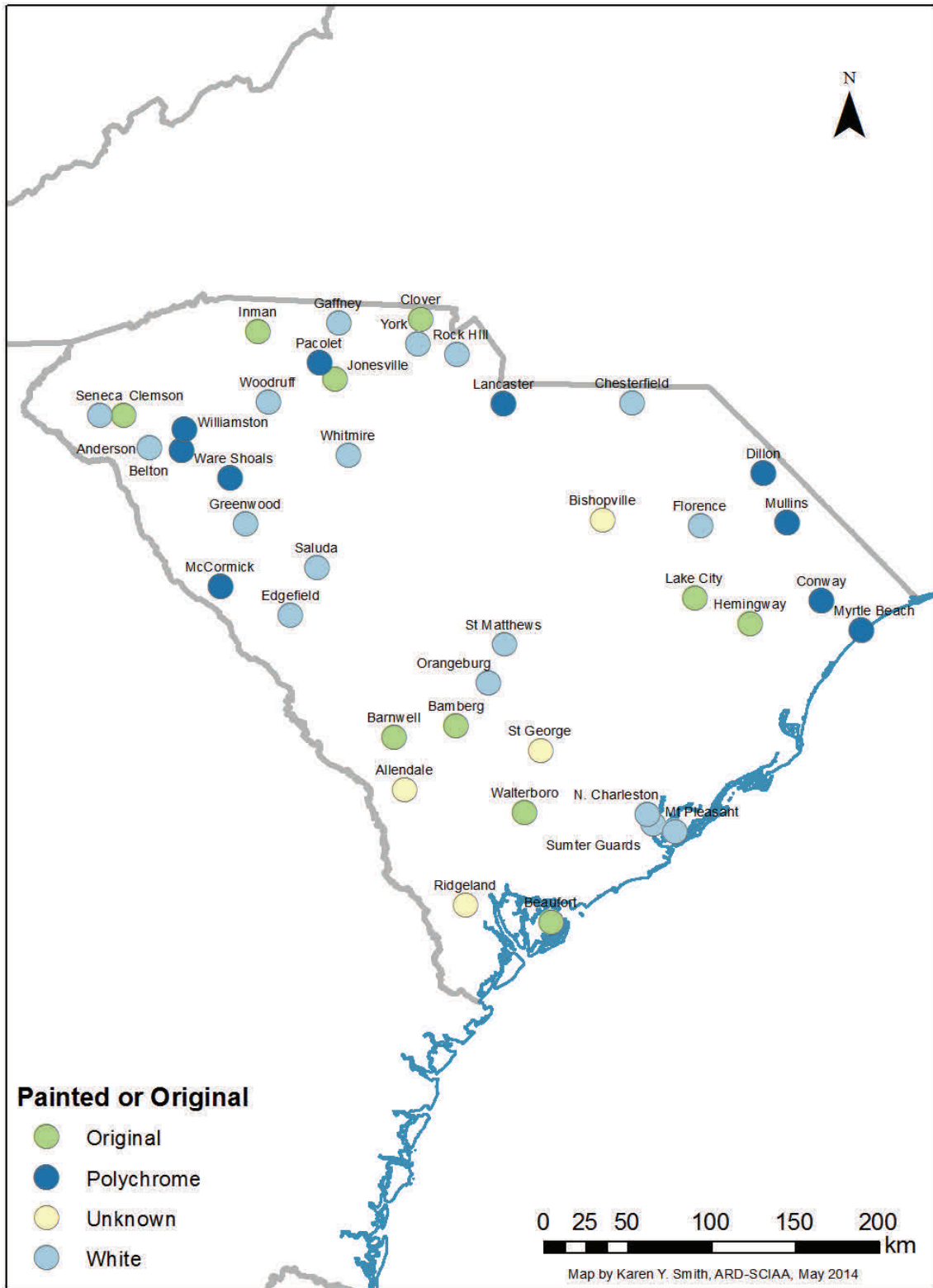


Figure 7. Map of the armories with Hirsch panels surveyed during the project. Colors refer to the condition of the panels, whether original, polychrome, or painted white.

Table 2. Type B armories with panels. The fifteen NRHP –eligible armories are shaded.

Armory	Built	Status	Painted/Original
1: Allendale	1959	Open	Unknown
2: Anderson	1965	Closed	White Paint
3: Bamberg	1958	Closed	Original
4: Barnwell	1955	Open	Original
5: Batesburg	1961		Not Visited
6: Beaufort	1963	Relocated	Original
7: Belton	1961	Open	Polychrome
8: Bishopville	1955	Closed	Unknown
9: Chesterfield	1962	Closed	Original
10: Clemson	1964	?	Original
11: Clover	1961	Closed	Original
12: Conway	1960	Open	Polychrome
13: Dillon	1969	Open	Polychrome
14: Easley	1969		Not Visited
15: Edgefield	1955	Open	White Paint
16: Florence	1972	Open	White Paint
17: Gaffney	1954	Closed	White Paint
18: Greenwood	1964	Open	White Paint
19: Hampton	1967		Not Visited
20: Hemingway	1956	Open	Original
21: Inman	1961	Closed	Original
22: Jonesville	1961	Closed	Original
23: Lake City	1961	Closed	Original
24: Lancaster	1968	Open	Polychrome
25: McCormick	1960	Open	Polychrome
26: Mount Pleasant	1963	Open	White Paint
27: Mullins	1953	Closed	Polychrome
28: Myrtle Beach	1963	Open	Polychrome
29: North Charleston		Closed	White Paint
30: Orangeburg	1969	Open	White Paint
31: Pacolet	1962	Closed	Polychrome
32: Ridgeland		Closed	Unknown
33: Rock Hill	1965	Open	White Paint
34: Saluda	1960	Open	White Paint
35: Seneca	1955	Open	White Paint
36: St. George	1963	Closed	Unknown
37: St. Matthews	1955	Closed	White Paint
38: Summerville	1959		Not Visited
39: Sumter Guards in North Charleston		Relocated	White Paint
40: Walterboro	1969	Open	Original
41: Ware Shoals	1956	Closed	Polychrome
42: Whitmire	1961	Closed	White Paint
43: Williamston	1956	Open	Polychrome
44: Woodruff		Closed	White Paint
45: York	1955	Closed	White Paint

VI. HIRSCH PANELS AT TYPE B ARMORIES



ALLENDALE ARMORY

Image Folder: 102ALLEN

Visit Date: June 2013

SCARNG Status: Open
(Renovations)

Refs: Kitchens et al. 2005;
Plaag 2012

As seen in the picture above, the Hirsch panel was covered in plywood at the time of the visit because the Allendale Armory was being remodeled. The condition of the panel could not be documented as a result. The Allendale Armory is one of the original fifteen **NRHP-eligible** complexes.



ANDERSON ARMORY

Image Folder: 144ANDER
Visit Date: March 2014
SCARNG Status: Closed
Refs: Kitchens et al. 2005

The vacant Anderson Armory, located on Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd., has a Hirsch panel that has been treated with a thin coat of white paint which is peeling or fading, particularly in areas of high relief. Some cracks and staining are also present on the panel.



BAMBERG ARMORY

Image Folder: 117BAMBE

Visit Date: Sept. 2013

SCARNG Status: Closed

Refs: Kitchens et al.
2005:15

The Bamberg Armory is owned by the City of Bamberg, according to signage, and the Cold War-era structure functions as a civic center. A Hirsch panel is present to the right of the entryway, if facing the building from the street, and is in good, probably original, condition. Some staining from normal weathering is present, particularly on the far left eighth of the panel.



BARNWELL ARMORY

Image Folder: 101BARNW

Visit Date: June 2013

SCARNG Status: Open

Refs: Kitchens et al. 2005;

Plaag 2012

The Barnwell panel is one of the few panels documented during the project that is in original and good condition. Light cleaning of the composite stone would reduce the staining attributed to normal weathering and would probably be all that is required to restore it fully. Because of its good condition, Willard Hirsch's initials are clearly visible in the lower right corner. The Barnwell Armory is one of the original fifteen **NRHP-eligible** complexes.



BEAUFORT ARMORY

Image Folder: 118BEAUF

Visit Date: Sept. 2013

SCARNG Status: Cold War
-era Facilities Closed

After several years in storage, the Hirsch panel in Beaufort is now artfully displayed in front of the new Beaufort Readiness Center, built in 2002 on the Marine Corps Air Station (Kitchens et al. 2005:18). It is the only panel documented that can be viewed in the round. Visible on the upper back are two metal hooks presumably used to mount the panel on Type B armory exteriors. The panel itself is in good condition. No paint but some pitting is present.



BELTON ARMORY

Image Folder: 146BELTO

Visit Date: March 2014

SCARNG Status: Open
(Closure Pending)

Refs: Kitchens et al. 2005;
Plaag 2012

The Belton Armory, located at the corner of Murdock Rd. and Blue Ridge Ave. in Belton, has a polychrome painted Hirsch panel in a unique, earthy color palette that emphasizes olive green instead of dark blue (see Ware Shoals Armory for comparison). At the time of the visit, the building appeared vacant, though the unit sign was still posted. The Belton Armory is one of the original fifteen **NRHP-eligible** complexes.



BISHOPVILLE ARMORY

Image Folder: 114BISHO

Visit Date: June 2013

SCARNG Status: Closed
(pre-2005?)

The Bishopville Armory is privately owned, according to signage. The Hirsch panel is no longer visible on the exterior of the Type B building. At the time of the visit, it was unclear whether the panel was covered by current signage or removed altogether. In a subsequent unrelated trip to Bishopville, colleague Keith Stephenson spotted the Hirsch panel, in original condition, set in a building front next to the South Carolina Cotton Museum on W Cedar Lane.



CHESTERFIELD ARMORY

Image Folder: 126CHEST
Visit Date: Feb. 2014
SCARNG Status: Closed
(pre-2005?)

The Chesterfield Armory, located on Watson St., is owned or leased by the Sherriff's Department, based on the signage. A Hirsch panel is present and is moderate condition. The panel has a crack running across the center. Also visible on the surface is a thin light-colored coat (paint?) that is wearing off on the higher relief surfaces. Paint may not be the right word, as the surface coat looks natural compared to other paint surfaces documented on these panels.



CLEMSON ARMORY

Image Folder: 143CLEMS

Visit Date: March 2014

SCARNG Status: ?

Refs: Kitchens et al. 2005;
Plaag 2012

The Cold War-era Clemson Armory is located within sight of a newer facility. This Hirsch panel has not been painted and the original composite stone described by Hirsch is clearly visible. However, there is prominent staining present and, more significantly, several cracks running throughout the panel which would no doubt prohibit its intact removal from the brickwork. The Clemson Armory is one of the original fifteen **NRHP-eligible** complexes.



CLOVER ARMORY

Image Folder: 130CLOVE

Visit Date: Feb. 2014

SCARNG Status: Closed
(?)

Refs: Kitchens et al. 2005;
Plaag 2012

The Clover Armory on Memorial Dr. has a Hirsch panel to the right of the front entrance. The panel is in excellent condition. However, uniquely, the panel's composite stone continues both to the right and left, outside the panel itself. In no other instance, was this extended framing observed. The material does differ slightly from the sill (below the panel). The Clover Armory is one of the original fifteen **NRHP-eligible** complexes.



CONWAY ARMORY

Image Folder: 109CONW

Visit Date: June 2013

SCARNG Status: Open

Refs: Kitchens et al.
2005:30; Plaag 2012

The Conway Armory on 16th Ave. has a Hirsch panel to the right of the entryway. The Hirsch panel is painted in polychrome but is otherwise in good condition. In fact, in several areas on the panel the original composite stone shows through as clearly as if it had never been painted—the white paint has been completely worn away. The Conway Armory is one of the original fifteen **NRHP-eligible** complexes.



DILLON ARMORY

Image Folder: 112DILLO

Visit Date: June 2013

SCARNG Status: Open

Refs: Kitchens et al.

2005:34

The Dillon Armory located on Hwy 34 West appears to be a later construction; however, a Hirsch panel is present to the left of the entryway. The panel is painted but is otherwise in good condition.



EDGEFIELD ARMORY

Image Folder: 150EDGEF
 Visit Date: March 2014
 SCARNG Status: Open
 Refs: Kitchens et al. 2005

The Edgefield Armory, on Augusta Rd. in Edgefield, has a Hirsch panel painted in white. The white paint has weathered, staining the brick framing below but, aside from the paint, the panel's condition is good.



FLORENCE ARMORY

Image Folder: 113FLORE
Visit Date: June 2013
SCARNG Status: Open
Refs: Kitchens et al. 2005

The Florence Armory, on S. Greer Rd., has a Hirsch panel on the left side of the main front entryway. The panel has been painted or washed in white, and some pitting is present which may indicate it has been sandblasted. The initials “WH” are clearly visible in the lower right corner of the panel.



GAFFNEY ARMORY

Image Folder: 132GAFFN

Visit Date: Feb. 2014

SCARNG Status: Closed
(pre-2005?)

The Gaffney Cold War-era armory complex is no longer owned by the SCARNG but may be managed by the local school system.

These guard facilities were replaced by a modern complex in 1996 (Kitchens et al. 2005:43). The Hirsch panel is present to the left of the main entrance. The panel has been painted in white and some staining is present.



GREENWOOD ARMORY

Image Folder: 148GREEN
Visit Date: March 2014
SCARNG Status: Open
Refs: Kitchens et al. 2005;
Plaag 2012

The Hirsch panel at the Greenwood Armory, like so many others, has been painted white. In addition, there are cracks present in the panel itself and the paint is peeling in various places (seen as slightly darker areas in the panel photos). The Greenwood Armory is one of the original fifteen **NRHP-eligible** complexes.



HEMINGWAY ARMORY

Image Folder: 110HEMIN

Visit Date: June 2013

SCARNG Status: Open

Refs: Kitchens et al. 2005;
Plaag 2012

The Hirsch panel at the Hemingway Armory is in good and original condition, with some staining present particularly across the center and left eighth of the panel. Willard Hirsch's initials are plainly visible on the lower right. The panel itself is displayed on the left-hand side of the front entrance to the Type B building. The Hemingway Armory is one of the original fifteen **NRHP-eligible** complexes.



INMAN ARMORY

Image Folder: 140INMAN

Visit Date: March 2014

SCARNG Status: Closed
(pre-2005?)

The Cold War-era armory building at Inman is no longer owned by the SCARNG. A Hirsch panel is present and in good condition. Some staining and weathering was observed but there are no indications that the panel has ever been painted or sandblasted (to remove paint).



JONESVILLE ARMORY

Image Folder: 134JONES
Visit Date: Feb. 2014
SCARNG Status: Closed
(pre-2005?)

The Jonesville Armory on Gilead St. has a Hirsch panel which is in good original condition. No indications of painting or sandblasting were observed. The building itself appeared at the time of the visit to be in private hands.



LAKE CITY ARMORY

Image Folder: 122LAKEC

Visit Date: Sept. 2013

SCARNG Status: Closed

Refs: Kitchens et al.
2005:57

The Lake City Armory on Calhoun St. is being remodeled for use by the Boys and Girls Club of Lake City, according to on-site construction workers. The Hirsch panel is in good condition with no evidence that it has ever been painted. Some mold or staining is present, particularly on the left quarter. The long-term outcome of the panel is not known, though there were no indications during the visit that the panel was going to be removed.



LANCASTER ARMORY

Image Folder: 128LANCA

Visit Date: Feb. 2014

SCARNG Status: Open

Refs: Kitchens et al. 2005

The Lancaster Armory on Nichols Road, still owned and managed by the SCARNG, has a Hirsch panel which has been painted in polychrome. Tall brush blocked the view of the panel from the front. Unlike some of the armories that date to the Cold War-era, this building did not have composite stone window sills.



McCORMICK ARMORY

Image Folder: 149MCCOR

Visit Date: March 2014

SCARNG Status: Open
(Closure Pending)

Refs: Kitchens et al. 2005;

Plaag 2012

The McCormick Armory, located on Bradley St., has a Hirsch panel that is painted in polychrome. However, the colors have faded so significantly with time that at a distance the panel appears white. The McCormick Armory is one of the original fifteen **NRHP-eligible** complexes.



MOUNT PLEASANT ARMORY

Image Folder: 107MTPLE

Visit Date: June 2013

SCARNG Status: Open

Refs: Kitchens et al.
2005:65; Plaag 2012

The Mount Pleasant Armory's Hirsch panel has been painted white. The paint, for the most part, is intact, and covers a heavily pitted surface that appears to be the result of sandblasting (image, lower right). The Mount Pleasant panel is inset more than some of the others recorded during the survey. The reasons for this are unclear but may relate to the age of the building. The Mount Pleasant Armory is one of the original fifteen **NRHP-eligible** complexes.



MULLINS ARMORY

Image Folder: 111MULLI
Visit Date: June 2013
SCARNG Status: Closed
(pre-2005?)

The Mullins Armory, on W Marion St., is now owned by the City of Mullins but sits unused from all appearances. The Hirsch panel, located to the left of the main entrance, is painted in polychrome. The color palette is olive green to brown. Willard Hirsch's initials are visible in the lower right corner.



MYRTLE BEACH ARMORY

Image Folder: 108MYRTL

Visit Date: June 2013

SCARNG Status: Open

Refs: Kitchens et al.
2005:67; Plaag 2012

The Myrtle Armory is one of the original fifteen **NRHP-eligible** complexes. A Hirsch panel is present, located to the left of the main entrance. Like many panels documented during the project, this panel is painted in polychrome. The initials "WH" are present but are difficult to read and may be obscured by subsequent etching (image, lower right).



NORTH CHARLESTON ARMORY

Image Folder: 106NTECH2
Visit Date: June 2013
SCARNG Status: Closed
(pre-2005?)

The North Charleston Armory on Lakawanna Blvd., now owned by the City's Recreation Department, has an intact Hirsch panel that has been painted white. The paint, for the most part, is intact, and covers a pitted surface that appears to have been sandblasted. Original composite stone in excellent condition can be seen in the structure's window sills (image, lower right).



ORANGEBURG ARMORY

Image Folder: 116ORANG

Visit Date: Sept. 2013

SCARNG Status: Open

Refs: Kitchens et al.

2005:72

The Orangeburg Armory, on Stonewall Jackson Blvd., has a Hirsch panel on the left side of the main entrance. Like many Hirsch panels, this one has been covered in a white paint or wash. Pock or pitted marks, likely from a previous sandblasting episode, are clearly visible across the panel's surface (image, lower right).



PACOLET ARMORY

Image Folder: 133PACOL

Visit Date: Feb. 2014

SCARNG Status: Closed
(pre-2005?)

The Pacolet Armory is in significant disrepair and no signage is present which would indicate current use or ownership. A Hirsch panel is present and is painted in polychrome. The paint is peeling in areas of panel, particularly the higher relief portions.



RIDGELAND ARMORY

Image Folder: 119RIDGE
Visit Date: Sept. 2013
SCARNG Status: Closed
(pre-2005?)

The Ridgeland Armory, located on Grays Hwy, is occupied by Jasper County Emergency Services, according to signage. The Hirsch panel is no longer visible on the exterior of the Type B building. Whether it is covered by current signage or removed altogether is unclear.



ROCK HILL ARMORY

Image Folder: 129ROCKH

Visit Date: Feb. 2014

SCARNG Status: Open

Refs: Kitchens et al. 2005;

Plaag 2012

The Rock Hill Armory on Airport Road is owned by the SCARNG and is one of the fifteen original Cold War-era **NRHP-eligible** armories discussed in Plaag (2012). The Hirsch panel is present at Rock Hill. The panel has been painted white and may have been sandblasted at one point.



SALUDA ARMORY

Image Folder: 151SALUD

Visit Date: March 2014

SCARNG Status: Open

Refs: Kitchens et al. 2005;
Plaag 2012

The Saluda Armory Hirsch panel has been thinly covered in a white paint. Some peeling of the paint is present. This is one instance in which the shrubbery was too close and too tall to permit close photo documentation, but it did appear that some surface pitting was also present which would indicate a previous sandblasting episode. The Saluda Armory is one of the original fifteen **NRHP-eligible** complexes.



SENECA ARMORY

Image Folder: 142SENEC

Visit Date: March 2014

SCARNG Status: Open

Refs: Kitchens et al. 2005

The Seneca Armory has a Hirsch panel which has been painted in white. Some peeling is present but otherwise the panel is in descent condition.



ST GEORGE ARMORY

Image Folder: 120STGEO
Visit Date: Sept. 2013
SCARNG Status: Closed
(pre-2005?)

The St George Armory is occupied by the St George Police, according to signage. The Hirsch panel is no longer visible on the exterior of the Type B building. Close inspection indicates the panel may still be present but covered by current signage.



ST MATTHEWS ARMORY

Image Folder: 115STMAT

Visit Date: Sept. 2013

SCARNG Status: Closed

(pre-2005?)

Like many of the panels documented during the project, the Hirsch Panel at St. Matthews Armory has been thinly covered in a white paint or wash, which is wearing off some high-relief parts of the design. The armory complex is city owned and slated for a community center though lacking funds, according to a local passerby. The cold war-era structure is in one of the worst conditions seen, and yet the community is in great need of such a facility.



SUMTER GUARDS

Image Folder: 105SUMTE

Visit Date: June 2013

SCARNG Status: ?

The Sumter Guards panel, located on Cosgrove Ave. in North Charleston, is framed in brick but stands detached from whatever Armory for which it had originally been cast. The panel has been painted white and the surface coat is peeling away from the original composite stone. Pock marks in the panel that may indicate a sandblasting episode of the sort that upset Hirsch following a Guard decision to remove polychroming.



WALTERBORO ARMORY

Image Folder: 103WALTE

Visit Date: June 2013

SCARNG Status: Open

Refs: Kitchens et al. 2005

The Walterboro panel is in good condition. Though no cleaning is needed, it is not clear whether the condition is the result of previous cleaning, long-term good care, or a slightly different material composition. The panel appears somewhat whiter and brighter than many of the others visited and the building itself appears to be a later Cold War era construction, leading one to suspect the composition is a little different.



WARE SHOALS ARMORY

Image Folder: 147WARS

Visit Date: March 2014

SCARNG Status: Closed
(pre-2005?)

The Ware Shoals Armory, now part of Greenwood City Parks & Recreation, has a vividly colored, polychrome-painted Hirsch panel to the left side of the entrance. Some of the paint may represent a more recent attempt to brighten the look of the panel; whereas, other painted guardsmen appear to be faded. The background white paint is peeling or faded in spots and the original composite stone shows through. The panel also is cracked in places.



WHITMIRE ARMORY

Image Folder: 135WHITM

Visit Date: Feb. 2014

SCARNG Status: Closed
(pre-2005)

The Whitmire Armory has not been owned by the SCARNG for some time but appeared to be in private hands. A Hirsch panel is present to the left of the main front entrance. The panel appears to have been painted white at one time. Most of this surface coat has worn off.



WILLIAMSTON ARMORY

Image Folder: 145WILLI

Visit Date: March 2014

SCARNG Status: Open
(Closure Pending)

Refs: Kitchens et al. 2005;
Plaag 2012

The Williamston Armory has a polychrome painted Hirsch panel located to the right of the entranceway. Some cracks in the panel were observed, most noticeably around the eagle's head. The polychrome paint is bright and suggests a more recent paint episode compared to some of the other polychrome panels. The Williamston Armory is one of the original fifteen **NRHP-eligible** complexes.



WOODRUFF ARMORY

Image Folder: 139WOODR
Visit Date: March 2014
SCARNG Status: Closed
(pre-2005?)

The Woodruff Armory, on Armory Rd., is currently utilized by the local Fire Department. A Hirsch panel is present. The panel is covered in a coat of paint that seems not to have adhered well to the composite stone. Peeling is significant, particularly in the lower right corner (image, lower right).



YORK ARMORY

Image Folder: 131YORK_
Visit Date: Feb. 2014
SCARNG Status: Closed
(pre-2005?)

The York Armory on Lincoln Rd. has been repurposed as the York County Law Enforcement Training Center. The Cold War-era building was undergoing renovations at the time of the visit, but the Hirsch panel remains intact and located to the left of the exterior front entryway. The panel has been painted or washed in white but is otherwise in good condition.