

ART AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (AARB)

Project Data Sheet

Revised February 6, 2025

(Due by 3:00 p.m. on the Friday two weeks before the meeting to AARB@dgs.virginia.gov)

Date Submitted: November 20, 2025, for the December 5, 2025 meeting

Agency Name: Virginia Tech

Project Name, Number, and Location [** must include the project number*]

Upper Quad Howitzer Installation
Blacksburg, Virginia

Representatives for the Agency and the Architect/Engineer

Agency Representative:

Sandra P. Graham, AIA

Director of Design

Division of Facilities

Virginia Tech

540-231-4961

spowell@vt.edu

Current Project Status/Phase and Schedule [** must select one of the following*]

- Preliminary Design Submission: ☐
- Final Design Submission: ☒

Installation is anticipated in the spring of 2026 following required approvals from state review.

Request for Consent Agenda: Yes: ☒ No: ☐

* Please refer to the *AARB Agency Project Submission and Presentation Guidelines* – Project Submission Section for additional information and guidance on the Consent Agenda versus Regular Agenda.

PLEASE NOTE: If you did not check the box for Consent Agenda, your project will be posted on the Regular Agenda and the agency will be required to attend the meeting to make a presentation to the board on the day of the meeting. ***Presentations are not to exceed 15 minutes.***

Project Description

The Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, located in the Northeast and Upper Quad District on Old Turner Street, serves as the home for Virginia Tech's Corps of Cadets administrative offices, the Rice Center for Leadership Development, Military Science programs, classrooms, and other Corps and ROTC training functions. The proposed Upper Quad Howitzer Installation will be permanently placed on the east side of the building within one of three designated display locations established as part of the site's original design. The other two display sites include the existing, previously approved Naval ROTC anchor and a future display location reserved for additional Corps recognition.

The Howitzer installation will represent the Army component of the Corps of Cadets program and serve as a visual complement to the existing Naval ROTC anchor. The display will be securely anchored to a concrete base in a landscaped area adjacent to the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building and located just north of Price Flag Plaza. Its proximity to the plaza visually connects it to the larger ceremonial setting while maintaining a distinct position appropriate to the broader composition of Corps display

features. Together, these displays reinforce the tradition, history, and identity of the Corps of Cadets as an integral part of the Upper Quad environment.

Architectural Aesthetic:

The Howitzer will be positioned to the east of the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, a three-story Collegiate Gothic structure clad in Hokie Stone and precast concrete. The building, along with Price Flag Plaza to the south, forms a ceremonial node within the Upper Quad, defined by formal landscape features, flag displays, and outdoor seating areas. The new installation will maintain the established material and spatial order of the existing site design while creating a balanced visual relationship with nearby display elements, including the Naval ROTC anchor.

The Howitzer will be restored to preserve its authentic appearance and finished in historically appropriate colors to ensure durability and integration with the setting. Its scale, orientation, and placement within the site have been selected to maintain proportional and visual harmony with surrounding landscape and building features, reinforcing the ceremonial quality of the Upper Quad and the prominence of the Corps of Cadets within the district.

Relationship to Approved Master Plan [** this section must contain information for Board review, do not leave blank*]

The project is consistent with the adopted 2018 Master Plan, Beyond Boundaries 2047: The Campus Plan, which identifies the Upper Quad as the symbolic heart of the Corps of Cadets program and calls for enhancing its visibility and recognition on campus. The installation supports the plan's goals of honoring institutional heritage, strengthening the Corps' identity within the built environment, and fostering meaningful connections between the academic and military communities. The project contributes to the continuing revitalization of the Upper Quad as a cohesive, ceremonial, and student-centered precinct aligned with the university's long-term vision for the historic core of campus.

Existing Architectural Context

The project is located within the Northeast and Upper Quad District, adjacent to the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building, the Cadet Outdoor Fitness Facility, and Price Flag Plaza, which contains the existing Naval ROTC anchor. The surrounding context features a blend of new and historic Collegiate Gothic architecture, including Hokie Stone and precast-clad buildings such as Pearson Hall, New Cadet Hall, and Lane Hall. This context defines the architectural identity of the Upper Quad and the Corps of Cadets.

The Upper Quad Howitzer Installation will integrate seamlessly with this setting, preserving open sightlines around the east side of the Corps Leadership and Military Science Building and maintaining visual relationships with nearby pedestrian routes and open spaces. Its placement and materials will complement the established architectural vocabulary and landscape framework, reinforcing the character of the Corps precinct and its role within the campus core.

AARB History (for return presentations on the same project): [** this section must contain information for Board review, do not leave blank / if this section does not apply to your project, please indicate with N/A*]

- State when previous presentation(s) were made to the Board on the project. N/A
- Restate previous Board comments. N/A
- Show actions taken to address Board comments; use visuals to compare previous renderings with updates. N/A

DESIGN REVIEW for UPPER QUAD **HOWITZER INSTALLATION**

ART AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

December 5, 2025

PROJECT LOCATION



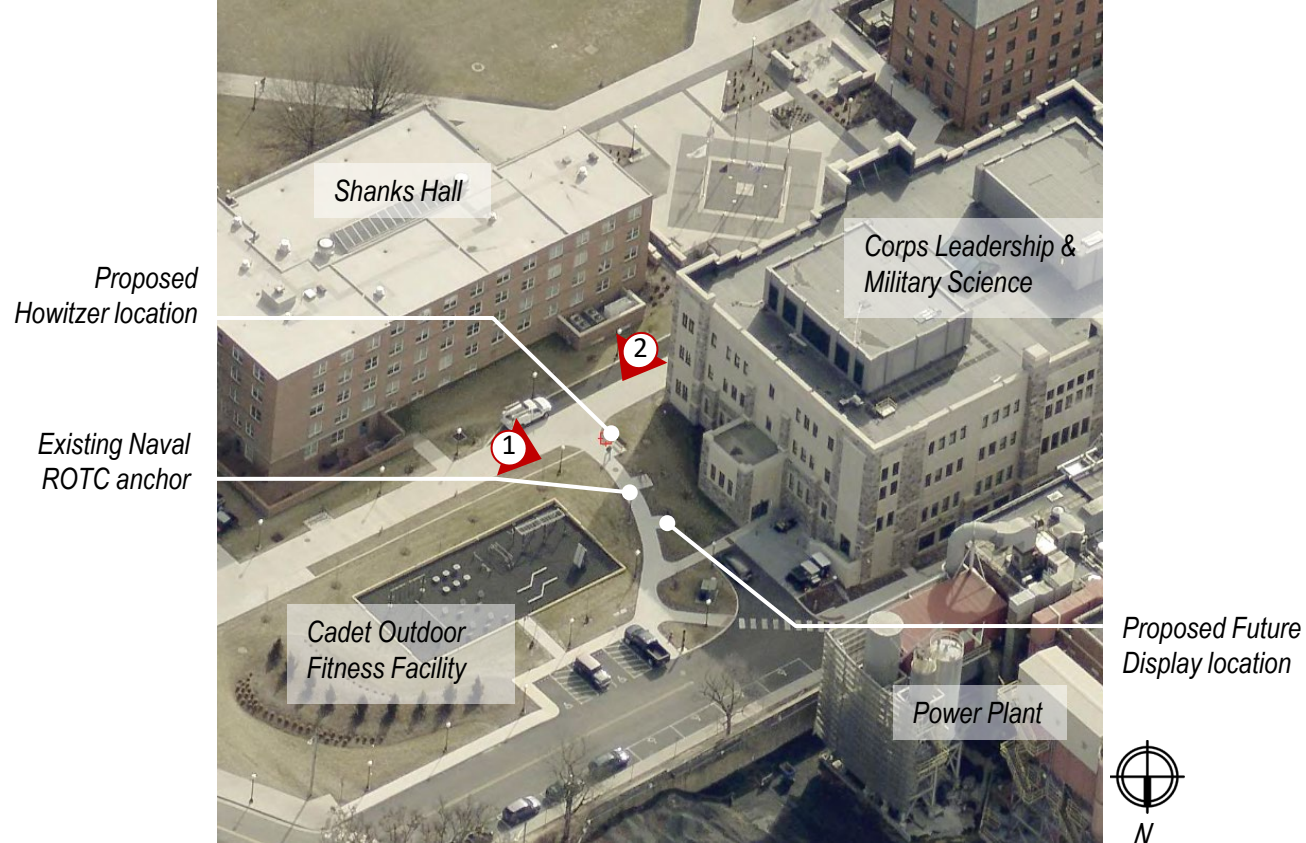
BLACKSBURG
CAMPUS MAP



PROJECT
SITE



SITE LOCATION



EXISTING CONDITIONS

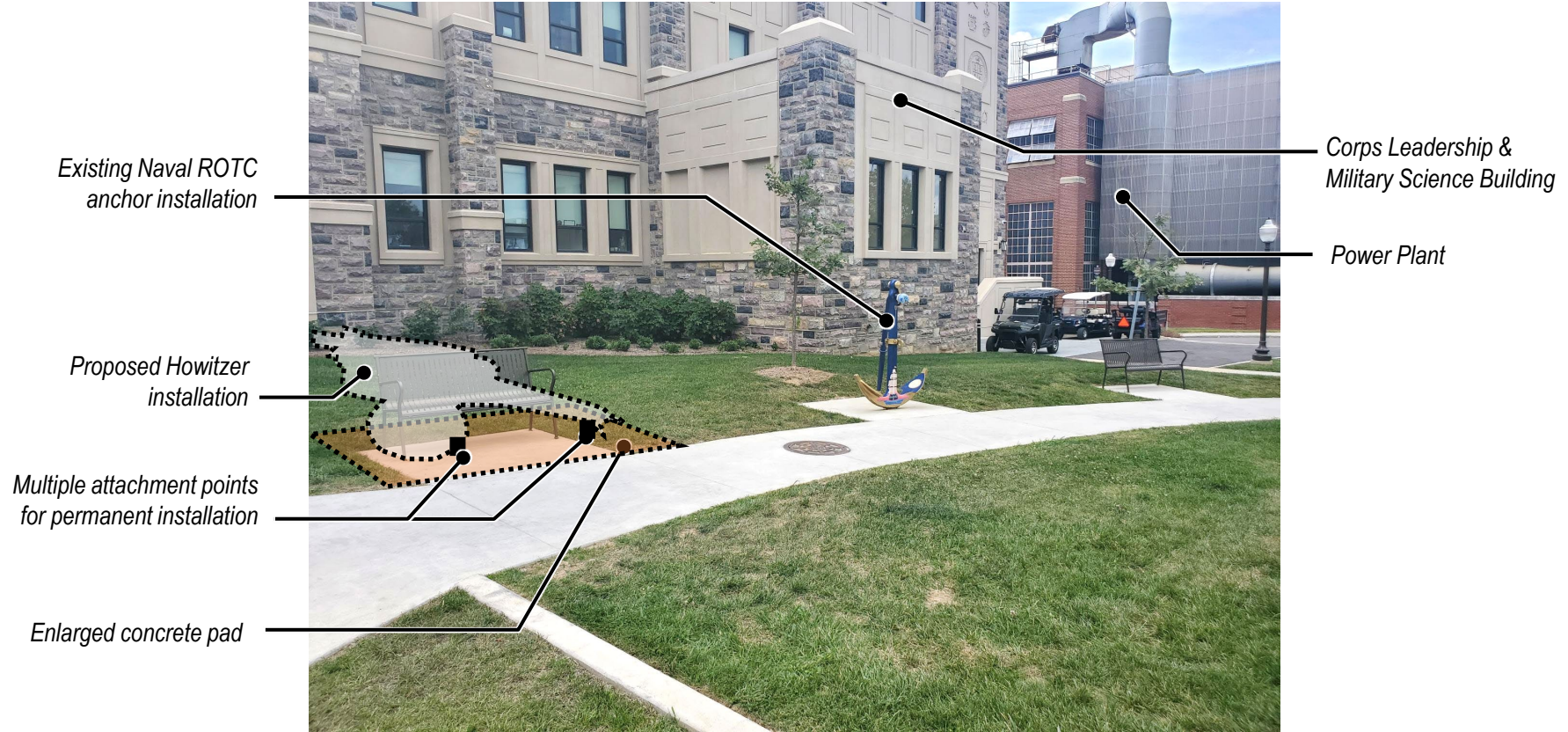


① VIEW TO THE NORTHWEST



② VIEW TO THE NORTHEAST

EXISTING CONDITIONS



CHARACTER IMAGES

