

**World War II Sites in Wilmington and Beaches
(New Hanover County, North Carolina)**

Wilmington - Downtown

1. **[Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center](#)** (2nd & Orange sts.).
Renovated, city-owned WWII USO building restored to wartime appearance, with lobby home front museum; hub of WWII commemoration activities in Southeastern N.C.; on National Register of Historic Places; popular community venue is perfect blending of the arts and history. Lobby museum exhibits:
 - County memorial to named 248 WWII dead servicemen
 - County memorial to aviators plus displays
 - Memorial to New Hanover High School's 2 WWII Medal of Honor recipients: Charles P. Murray, Jr., and William D. Halyburton, Jr.
 - Memorial to Wilmingtonian Lt. Gen. George S. Boylan, Jr, USAF, WWII bomber pilot
 - USO hostess mannequin
 - Uniforms worn by USO visitors
 - Photomurals of Wilmington USO and home front life
 - Original and repro posters, USO artifacts, toiletries, documents, furniture and furnishings
 - Hannah Block's wartime piano
 - Repro newspaper Wilmington newspapers on original rack
 - Labels describing wartime Wilmington
 - Model of Liberty ship SS *Virginia Dare* built here
 - Champagne bottle which christened Liberty ship SS *Roger Moore* in 1943
 - German POWs mess hall wall art
2. **[New Hanover County Public Library](#)** (3rd & Chestnut sts.) Main branch; WWII history holdings.
3. **Coast Line Convention Center Complex** (Front & Red Cross sts.) Atlantic Coast Line Railroad headquarters; [Wilmington Railroad Museum](#) exhibits.
4. **[Cape Fear Museum of History & Science](#)** (8th & Market sts.) WWII home front exhibit, numerous artifacts and uniforms; repository for Henry McMillan's European front paintings.
5. **[Thalian Hall/City Hall](#)** (3rd & Chestnut sts.) Scene of wartime plays, concerts, boxing and wrestling matches.
6. **Freedom Flame Memorial to War Dead** (3rd & Chestnut sts., on City Hall grounds)
7. **Memorial to Missing in Action of All Wars** (3rd & Chestnut sts., on City Hall grounds)
8. **Memorial Wall to Those Who Served** (Water St. at Wilmington Riverwalk)
9. **H.B. Eilers House** (5th & Orange sts.) Housed National Catholic Community Service

women's USO.

10. **Main U.S. Post Office** (Front & Chestnut sts.) Downtown activities hub including displays and information exchange; historic building.
11. [Burgwin-Wright Museum House](#) (3rd & Market sts.) A wartime officers' club.
12. **Finkelstein's Jewelers/Music** (Front & Market sts.) Only wartime downtown store still operating.
13. **Wilmington Historic District** (Between Front & 3rd sts., and Walnut & Orange sts.) On National Register of Historic Places; most buildings from wartime.
14. **Wilmington Light Infantry Armory** (409 Market St.) Marker to the WLI; 252nd Coast Artillery Battalion battery headquarters.
15. **Peabody Grammar School** (6th & Red Cross sts.) Northside elementary school.
16. **Temple of Israel** (4th & Market sts.) State's oldest Jewish synagogue provided services and recreation.

Wilmington - Elsewhere

17. **North Carolina Shipbuilding Company, a.k.a. Wilmington Shipyard** (N.C. State Port at Shipyard Blvd. & Burnett Blvd.). Owned by Newport News Shipbuilding & Drydock Co.; built 243 cargo ships for Navy and Maritime Administration; several wartime buildings on the property still used: 5- gabled mold loft, and International Seamens Center (foremen's building).
18. **Wilmington Shipyard Marker** (Shipyard Blvd. & Carolina Beach Rd., NE corner)
19. **WWII Public Housing Projects for war workers, still in existence:** Maffitt Village off Shipyard Blvd. Lake Forest near Greenfield Lake; Baptist church from Camp Davis; Greenfield Terrace at S. 14th & Greenfield sts.; Hillcrest at 15th & Dawson sts.
20. **Block Shirt Factory** (3rd & Greenfield sts.) Manufactured one million military shirts; now residences.
21. **Wilmington National Cemetery** (20th & Market Sts.) - gravesites of WWII and veterans.
22. [Oakdale Cemetery](#) (No. 15th St.) Gravesites of WWII dead and veterans.

23. [New Hanover High School](#) (14th & Market sts.) NHHS county high school; hundreds of men joined military.
24. **Wilmington College Marker** (13th & Market sts.) UNCW began in NHHS postwar for veterans
25. **Medal of Honor Memorial** (NHHS 14th & Market sts.) Masonry memorial to graduates Pharmacists Mate Second Class William D. Halyburton, Jr., USNR (1943; posthumous, KIA 1945), and Captain Charles P. Murray, Jr., USA (1938)
26. **Williston Industrial High School** (10th & Ann sts.) Now Williston Middle School.
27. **German Prisoner of War Camp Markers** (at Shipyard Blvd. & Carolina Beach Rd. and 10th & Ann sts.); held 550 *Arika Korps* troops captured in 1943.
28. **Wilmington Army Airfield, a.k.a. Bluethenthal Field** (1740 Airport Blvd.) Currently [Wilmington International Airport](#); anti-submarine patrol and P-47 base; some wartime runways still used.
29. **New Hanover County War Memorial** (Long Leaf Park, So. College Rd.) Partial listing of WWII dead.
30. **William Madison Randall Library** ([UNC-Wilmington](#), 601 S. College Rd.) Wartime exhibits and programs; personal papers collections and oral histories.
31. **St. Andrews-Covenant Presbyterian Church** (15th & Market sts.) History Corridor plaque lists 94 military members; hosted weekend servicemen.
32. **St. James Episcopal Church** (3rd & Market sts.) Memorial Hall plaque memorializes Lt. Jimmy Lynch, P-51 pilot.
33. **The Bottoms Neighborhood** (near downtown) Established, mixed-race neighborhood; surrounded main POW camp and Williston High School.

New Hanover County Beaches

34. [Carolina Beach Boardwalk](#) (Carolina Beach Ave. S. & Harper Ave., Carolina Beach) Town center; arcades, shops, restaurants.
35. **Ethyl-Dow Chemical Company** (Marker at Kure Beach) Plant that produced bromide for aviation gasoline; fired on by German U-Boat in July 1943.

36. **German U-Boat Attack Historic Marker** (Atlantic Ave. at Gregory cottage, Kure Beach) Wartime residents witnessed attack.
37. [Fort Fisher State Historic Site](#) (1610 Fort Fisher Blvd. S., Kure Beach) Army anti-aircraft artillery advanced base exhibit.
38. [Federal Point History Center](#) (1121-A N. Lake Park Blvd., Carolina Beach) Fort Fisher exhibits.
39. **North Carolina Military History Museum** (Fort Fisher AirForce Recreation Area, Kure Beach) Artifacts; Ethyl-Dow photo citing U-Boat attack.
40. **Seabreeze Community** (Intracoastal Waterway north of Snow's Cut) During WWII this was a beach resort for African Americans.
41. [Wrightsville Beach Museum](#) (303 W. Salisbury St., Wrightsville Beach) Exhibit, photographs, and research materials.
42. **Intracoastal (Inland) Waterway** (Harbor Island drawbridge, Wrightsville Beach) Main U.S. Coast Guard patrol base; barge shipping.
43. [Roberts Grocery](#) (32 N. Lumina Ave., Wrightsville Beach)

New Hanover County- Remainder

44. [Battleship NORTH CAROLINA](#) (1 Battleship Rd.) Moored in the Cape Fear River across from downtown Wilmington; the WWII museum ship is the State's memorial to veterans and dead.
45. **Pearl Harbor Survivors Memorial** (Battleship Park, 1 Battleship Rd.)
46. **WWII Submarine Service Memorial** (Battleship Park, 1 Battleship Rd.)
47. **Veterans Park** (Halyburton Drive, between Carolina Beach Rd. and River Rd.) Location of Eugene Ashley High School (Vietnam posthumous Medal of Honor) and Murray Middle School.
48. [William D. Halyburton, Jr., Memorial Park](#) (4099 S. 17th St.) Named for Medal of Honor recipient; visitors center citation.

49. **Charles P. Murray, Jr., Middle School** (see Veterans Park) Named for Medal of Honor recipient; lobby citation.
50. **Halyburton Drive** (see Veterans Park) Named for William D. Halyburton, Jr., Medal of Honor recipient.
51. **Congressional Medal of Honor Portrait Montages** (various locations honor 3 of Wilmington's 4 recipients (Halyburton omitted in error).