

From surveys to satellites, NGA's history on display in St. Louis

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FROM CONTINENTAL SURVEYORS AND MAPMAKERS to modern-day GEOINT analysts, more than two centuries of hard work and traditions of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and its predecessor agencies are on display at the NGA Museum in St. Louis.

Originally constructed in 1906 as part of the U.S. Army's St. Louis Arsenal, the building that houses the museum was used as the post commander's quarters before taking on a variety of other purposes throughout the following century, according to the NGA's history department.

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper opened the building as a museum Oct. 15, 2005, while serving as NGA's director, and since then, more than 500 visitors pass through its walls annually.

The museum is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Central time. School groups and other public visits can be coordinated with the museum manager at 314-676-3246. ✨



This pocket stereoscope and its carrying case were made by Abrams Instrument Corp. Stereoscope variations are still essential tools in imagery analysis, allowing the viewer to see the image in three dimensions.



Last calibrated in 1981, this Vietnam-era altimeter made by Wallace & Tiernan was used by the U.S. Army.



Imagery analysts used camera sets, such as this set by Leica, for close proximity work and training exercises.



Found during an excavation in 1986, this pick axe head dates to the late 19th or early 20th century.