

Hamilton Field,
Wing Maintenance Administration
(Facility No. 383)

HABS No. CA-2398-I

Northeast of Hangar Avenue between 7th and 8th
Streets, adjacent to northeast side of Facility No. 380

Novato
Marin County
California

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
II-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HAMILTON FIELD
Wing Maintenance Administration
(Facility No. 383)

HABS
CAL
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Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Wing Maintenance Administration
Facility No. 383 (northeast of Hangar Avenue between 7th and 8th
Streets, adjacent to northeast side of Facility No. 380)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/4212220;
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

Significance:

Facility No. 383 is a typical war-era cantonment building, constructed for use as temporary offices instead of barracks. Building 383 is considered significant for its association with Air Force history in northern California, and with World War II actions in the Pacific Theater.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

Description:

Facility No. 383 is a rectangular, single-story wood-frame building with a low-pitched composition gable roof and asbestos shingle siding. It sits on a concrete foundation. It has raised roof ventilators capped in sheet metal. This building is approximately 37 by 94 feet, and has a central entrance that faces west and is accessed by a concrete stoop with metal rails and three concrete steps. Fenestration consists of sets of six-over six-light wood sash double-hung windows in the northeast and southwest facades, and single six-over six-light double hung windows in the east and west facades. A small addition has been added to the northeast corner of the building, creating an office. This addition has large fixed single pane windows facing the runway and it has a central louver. It is located on the west edge of the air field flightline, adjacent to Hangar Facility No. 380. This building is in a deteriorating condition but remains intact.

The interior of Facility No. 383 is divided into six rooms, not including the office addition. The floors are tongue and groove timber covered with eight-inch-square vinyl asphalt tile. Walls are gypsum board and there are some wood temporary partition walls. The northwest

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side of the building has tongue and groove four-inch vertical board wainscoting. The walls in the addition are acoustical tile. The center of the building has exposed six-inch-square roof beams supported by knee braces. Offices in the southeast side of the building have suspended acoustical tile ceilings.

A central air and heat system has been installed in the space between the tile ceiling and the original beam ceiling. A large MARS brand furnace, model H210, manufactured by the Pacific Gas Heating Company in San Francisco, is present in an exterior heating and equipment room. Lighting is provided through two-tube florescent fixtures, suspended from the ceiling on chains. A ROC brand drinking fountain is outside the bathrooms. The bathrooms contain "Standard" flush valve toilets, urinals, and wall-mounted hand sinks. Stall partitions are wood. The northwest end of the building has a classroom that has a six-inch raised platform with a screen and board for displays.

Historical Context:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

Built in 1941, this building is situated between the hangars and air field and was constructed to house and train "readiness" crews, men who were available to go from beds to the air in under five minutes in case of attack or emergencies. In the 1950s the crews were moved to the northwest end of the runway in new jet hangars and this building was converted for use as an administrative wing maintenance and control office.

Sources:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

See the project Field Record, roll 24, exposures 4-9; and roll 92, exposures 3-4.

The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

Project Information:

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

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