

Hamilton Field, Flagpole  
(Facility No. 1)  
Northeast end of Palm Avenue,  
in front of Facility No. 500  
Novato  
Marin County  
California

HABS No. CA-2398-M

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
1M-

PHOTOGRAPHS

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  
Flagpole  
(Facility No. 1)

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
1M-

HABS No. CA-2398-M

**Location:** Hamilton Army Air Field  
Novato, Marin County, California  
Flagpole (Facility No. 1) (northeast end of Palm Avenue, in front of  
Facility No. 500)

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:**

The base flagpole and the surrounding landscaped area in front of the headquarters building occupies an important position on the base and was designed to create a formal atmosphere at the entrance to the base headquarters. The architectural detail of the flagpole's base is reflective of the Spanish Eclectic theme found throughout the installation. This monument is the only contributing object within the Hamilton Army Air Field Historic District.

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:**

The base flagpole was erected along the axis point at the front of the hub configuration that forms the core of the main base area. A concrete sidewalk extends from the entry of the headquarters building and past the flagpole to the outside edge of the semi-circular lawn that forms the top of the hub. Around the flagpole is a circular area containing four concrete seating benches.

The 75-foot-tall steel flagpole rests in a octagonal corniced three-foot-diameter cast-iron base placed on a stepped octagonal platform of concrete. The bottom of the platform is 10 feet in diameter. The base has a bronze collar and the top is capped with a 10-inch-diameter, 20-ounce copper ball.

In 1944, the base dedicatory plaque in the memory of Lloyd A. Hamilton was moved from the base entrance and was cemented onto the flagpole's platform. The bronze plaque indicates that Hamilton Field was dedicated to the memory of Lloyd Andrews Hamilton, a 1st

Lieutenant in the 17th Aero Squadron who was killed in action over Lagnicourt, France in 1918. An additional commemorative plaque was placed beneath the original during the 1960s, on an extension made to the concrete pole platform.

**Historical Context:**

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-239B) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-239B-F.

The flagpole was designed by Nurse's staff of architects to reflect the Spanish Eclectic theme on base. Built in 1934, the pole graced the entry to the administration core on base, the headquarters building, and still occupies a prominent spot in the base design.

**Sources:**

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-239B) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-239B-F.

See also the project Field Record, roll 75, exposures 7-B.

Copies of representative floor plans of Facility No. 1, dated in the 1930s and prepared by the Quartermaster's General Office are attached to this form.

**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 B00, 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,

**HAMILTON FIELD  
Flagpole  
(Facility No. 1)**

**HABS No. CA-2398-M Page 3**

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.

Text prepared by: Mary L. Maniery/Judith Marvin

Title: Historian/Architectural Historian

Affiliation: PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC., Sacramento, California

Date prepared: July 1995

Photography prepared by: David De Vries

Affiliation: Mesa Technical, Berkeley, California

Date of photographs: September 1994

