

Hamilton Field, Storage Magazines  
(Facility Nos. 780, 781)  
Igloo Hill Road  
Novato  
Marin County  
California

HABS No. CA-2398-BA

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
IBA-

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 Storage Magazine (Facility Nos. 780, 781)

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
IBA-

HABS No. CA-2398-BA

**Location:** Hamilton Army Air Field  
Novato, Marin County, California  
Storage Magazine  
Facility Nos. 780 Explosives Handling Shop and 781 Ammunition  
Storage Magazine (Igloo Hill Road)

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:

Buildings 780 and 781 are considered significant for their association with Air Force history in northern California, and with World War II actions in the Pacific Theater. The ammunitions storage magazines contributed to the World War II defense mission at Hamilton Army Air Field.

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:

These two storage magazine structures were constructed on the south side of Igloo Hill. The magazines are simple rectangular structures with low-pitched gable roofs covered with composition shingles. Base facility documents indicate that these structures have sand-filled concrete tile walls to contain the impact of possible explosions. Facility No. 780 on the west is approximately 25 x 48 feet and No. 781 is 10 x 40 feet. Facility No. 780 is covered with wood siding.

Facility No. 780 is a one-story concrete block rectangular building. It has a low-pitched end-gable roof with two metal ventilators. The foundation and subfloor are concrete. Windows are six- over six-light double hung wood sash; there are five on the north rear wall, two each on the east and west elevations, and two on the south front. The building has three entry doors, all on the south front elevation. The westernmost one is a sliding wooden door with diagonal boards; the central door is solid core wood with four lights over three recessed panels, while the easternmost double doors are solid core wood, covered with plywood. They have Von Duprien locks, thumbblatch brass locksets, and interior brass panic bars. The interior

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of the building consists of two rooms, both with eight-inch-square vinyl asphalt tile flooring. The westernmost room has a plywood enclosure, otherwise the rooms are devoid of furniture.

Facility No. 781 is a one-story rectangular storage magazine constructed of concrete block, laid in a common bond pattern. The building has a shed roof, sloped to the rear. The foundation and flooring are concrete. There are six metal doors across the south front elevation; each has a screened vent above. There are six electrical power switches on the exterior of the building. The interior consists of six separate storage vaults; some with wooden shelving. Lighting fixtures are enclosed in a metal cage.

**Historical Context:**

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

These magazines were built in July 1943. Facility 780 cost \$4,062.45 and Facility 781 totalled \$1,410.96 in construction costs.

**Sources:**

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

See also Field Record, roll 58, exposures 4-12, photographed in May 1993.

**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.

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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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Date prepared: July 1995

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