

MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD, CANTEEN & BRIG
(Building No. 934)
Railroad Avenue near Eighteenth Street
Vallejo
Solano County
California

HABS CA-1543-CT
CA-1543-CT

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
PACIFIC GREAT BASIN SUPPORT OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
600 Harrison Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD, CANTEEN & BRIG
(MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD, BUILDING 934)**

HABS No. CA-1543-CT

- Location:** Located within the Naval Ammunitions Depot, west side of Railroad Avenue near 18th Street, Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, Solano County, California
- U.S.G.S.: Mare Island, 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle, 1959, photorevised 1980
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10 564855 E, 4215522 N
- Present Owner:** 63D United States (U.S.) Army Regional Readiness Command (RRC)
- Present Use:** Classroom Space
- Significance:** Building 934, built in 1943, is considered significant for its association with U.S. Naval history and the Mare Island Naval Shipyard (MINSY), the first naval installation on the west coast of the U.S. Portions of the Mare Island Naval Shipyard comprise a National Historic Landmark. Building 934, however, is within the Mare Island Shipyard Historic District but outside of the Landmark. Building 934 was used as a canteen and brig from 1943 until 1953 by the Marine Corps Security Detachment unit assigned to guard the Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD). It is a contributing element of the successful base operations at Mare Island and is a representative example of support structure design, construction methods and materials used on the island during the World War II (WWII) era.
- Description:** Building 934, built in 1943, is located within the NAD area of Mare Island at the western side of Railroad Avenue, southwest of the Guard House and Barracks (Building 930). This area is immediately adjacent to the Shipyard South area of the island that includes the Finger Piers and other support buildings and structures that were built in the early 1940s at the onset of WWII. The building was used from 1943 until 1953 as a canteen and brig for the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment unit assigned to the NAD. In late 1967, early 1968 and again in 1983, the U.S. Navy renovated the building for new uses. Minor modifications to the interior have probably occurred since the CCC began using the building in 1996.

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Building 934 has a rectangular 1,250-square-foot footprint that is approximately 50 feet northwest-southeast by 25 feet northeast-southwest. The exterior walls are approximately 10 feet high above the foundation and the maximum height of the building; from floor level to the roof's ridge is about 15 feet. The building has a concrete foundation, concrete block exterior walls, and a wood-framed gable roof with corrugated metal surfacing and exposed rafter tails (with rounded ends). The gable areas of the northwest and southeast walls are corrugated metal-surfaced; the northwest gable area includes a rectangular wood louvered vent and the southeast gable area includes a pentagonal-shaped metal box, possibly an alarm. The concrete blocks used for the walls are standard eight-inch by eight-inch by 16-inch units.

The front (northeast side) of the building includes two entries, one at the southeast end and one at the northwest end (CA-1543-CT-1). Each entry includes a modern wood door with upper glazed area and a transom that was added in 1967 or later. The entry at the southeast end of the northeast side consists of four-foot, eight-inch wide by three-foot, eight-inch deep concrete stoop with a two-riser stair at the northeast side and two-inch-diameter pipe metal railings set into the northwest and southeast sides. This stoop was added in 1967, replacing an earlier one-riser-high concrete stoop.

The entry at the northwest end of the northeast side is accessed from an eight-foot-square concrete porch that is accessed from a two-riser concrete stair at its northeast side. Originally the porch was enclosed and included concrete block half walls and a shed roof. The roof and other elements above the half-walls of the original enclosed porch were removed in 1967. The southeast half-wall was probably removed sometime between 1967 and 1983 when repairs were made to the building. Therefore, the extant four and one-half-course-high half wall at the porch's northwest side is all that remains of the original enclosure. The porch was extended by the addition of twenty octagonal concrete landscaping pavers to the southeast; the pavers were probably added less than 25 years ago.

The windows on the southwest, northwest and northwest half of the northeast side are paired wood sash casements that are set high on their respective walls into approximately two-foot-square opening (CA-1543-CT-1, CA-1543-CT-2, CA-1543-CT-5). Each casement in the pair has four panes and measures about one foot wide by two feet high. One of the casement window pairs on the southwest side was added in 1967.

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The rest of the casement openings are original and initially were fronted by bars at the exterior; the bars were removed in 1967/1968. Three of the original casement pairs have been removed at unknown dates and their openings boarded over, screened or left open. The windows on the southeast wall (CA-1543-CT-3) and southeast end of the northeast wall (CA-1543-CT-1) are original wood sash double-hung one-over-one windows (with extended stiles). The double-hung windows are set into openings that measure about five feet, four inches high by four feet, four inches wide.

The interior of the building appears to originally have had four spaces that were divided by partition walls. The floor surface of the southeast end was tiled and the floor surface of the northwest end was concrete. In 1967 the interior was renovated to have an open plan with a central approximately 10-foot-square bathroom section at the southwest side; all floors were newly surfaced with vinyl asbestos tiles and new plumbing fixtures were added. In 1983, a northeast-southwest aligned partition wall (with door) was added to the middle of the building to provide two main interior spaces (CA-1543-CT-4). The southeast wall of the existing bathroom area is an original concrete block wall. Existing interior finishes and details include sheet-rock surfaced partition walls, vinyl tile flooring, plastic baseboards, acoustic ceiling tiles and modern florescent lighting.

Historical Context: Building 934 was constructed as part of the Mare Island naval facility located in Vallejo, California. The U.S. Navy established MINSY in 1854 as a shipbuilding and repair facility. This shipyard was the first west coast naval installation and was the only such facility in California for many years.

Mare Island's built environment is the product of over 100 years of military construction and consists of a blend of buildings that demonstrate many different historical functions, construction technologies and architectural styles. Building 934 was constructed in 1943 as a canteen and brig for the Marine Corps Security Detachment unit stationed at the southern area of the island to guard the NAD. Architectural drawings and plans for the building identify draftsmen and contractors by initials only.

In response to growing tensions in Europe, the U.S. Congress, in 1938, decided to expand the size of the American fleet by 20 percent. This expansion escalated at the end of 1941 with the entry of the U.S. into WWII. There was a massive expansion of aircraft and shipbuilding industries at Mare Island during WWII. Along with a fundamental

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redesign of the Shipyard South area at the brink of the U.S. entry into WWII, the adjacent NAD expanded its production and storage capacities. Buildings were constructed within this area of the island to support the bustling activity in the berthing areas and ammunitions depot. Many of these buildings, such as the guardhouse and barracks (Building 930) and canteen and brig (Building 934), were erected in the early 1940s to support the U.S. Marine Security Detachment Unit, which was stationed in this area to protect the NAD.

The surviving buildings and structures from the WWII era represent an important collection of buildings, “arranged in a manner that enables an understanding of how the base functioned at that time” (JRP Historical Consulting with PAR Environmental Services, Inc. 1996: Section 8, page 53). Building 934 was initially designated as Building A900 (NAD inventory number) and served from 1943 to 1953 as the canteen and brig for the members of the Marine Corps Security Detachment Unit, which was stationed at the guard house and barracks (Building 930) to provide security for NAD.

In 1953 the building was vacated by the Marine Corps unit and was renumbered as Building 934 (a shipyard inventory number). In late 1967/early 1968, the building was renovated for use as U.S. Navy computer lab. In 1983 building was again renovated to provide two classrooms for the Education Center of the Navy Campus Program. The U.S Navy vacated the building in 1993 when the military base closed and the City of Vallejo acquired a use permit for the property from the U.S. Navy. In 1996, the CCC entered into a lease with the City to use the building as a weight room and classroom space for students of the CCC training program. In 1997 the U.S. Army Reserve received a use permit for the building from the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army Reserve allowed the CCC to continue leasing the property. On July 12, 2002, ownership of Building 934 was transferred from the U.S. Navy to the U.S. Army Reserve. The CCC moved out of the facility in 2003.

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Sources:

A. Architectural Drawings:

The following plans were consulted, but documented minor revisions to specific aspects of this facility. They were not reproduced for this effort because they provided limited information regarding the overall design or plan of the building.

U.S. Department of the Navy. *Building No. 934, Modifications for Computers*. Architectural, Mechanical and Electrical plans (NAVFAC Drawing No. 1174018), 1967. On file, U.S. Army Reserve, Vallejo, CA.

U.S. Department of the Navy. *Building No. 934, Miscellaneous Building Repairs* (NAVFAC Drawing No. 6192493), 1983. On file, U.S. Army Reserve, Vallejo, CA.

B. Historic Maps and Views:

No historic views or aerial photographs for this building were located during this effort.

C. Interviews

Volk, J. S. Telephone communication between Tracy Bakic, PAR Environmental Services, Inc. and J. Stephen Volk (Environmental Scientist [Adecco TAD], 63D U.S. Army Regional Readiness Command CST Environmental Division). Sacramento, California, August 18, 2002.

D. Bibliography

Bumatay, H. (Mare Island Naval Shipyard). California Department of Parks and Recreation Primary Record form for Building 930 (Guard House and Barracks), Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Mare Island, California, 1994. On file, California Office of Historic Preservation, Sacramento.

JRP Historical Consulting Services with PAR Environmental Services, Inc. *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Mare Island Historic District, Vallejo, California*, 1996. On file, California Office of Historic Preservation, Sacramento and U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

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D. Bibliography Cont'd.

Mikesell, S. D. California Department of Parks and Recreation Building Structure Object Record form for Building 930 (Guard House and Barracks), Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Mare Island, California, 1995. State of California Office of Historic Preservation, Sacramento.

PAR Environmental Services, Inc. *Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan for Army Lands at Mare Island National Historic Landmark, Vallejo, Solano County, California, 2002.* On file, California Office of Historic Preservation, Sacramento.

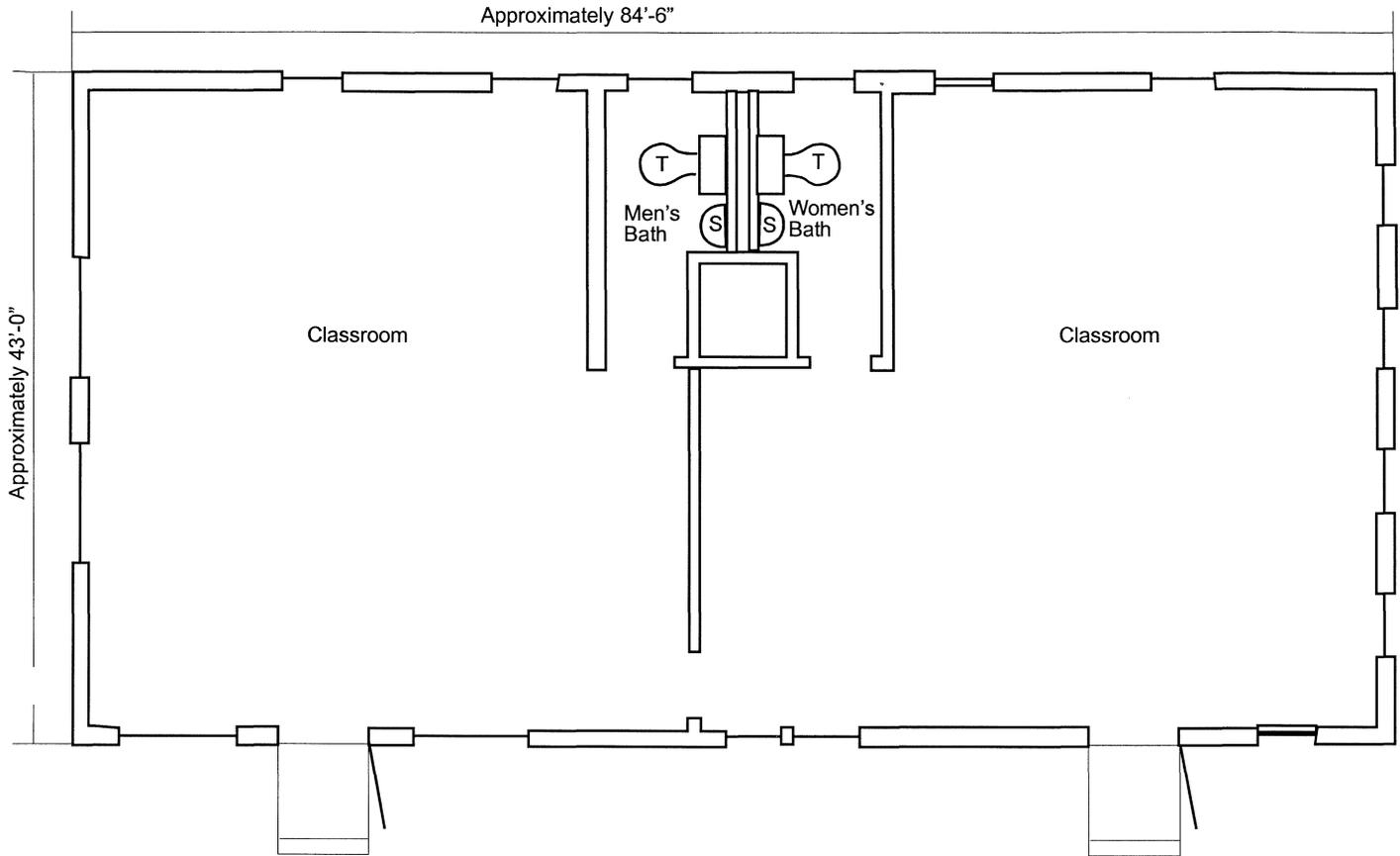
Project Information: After the September 11 terrorist attack, new standards were implemented for federal facilities. Building setbacks from roads and parking areas have been greatly increased. The Department of Defense's Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings, 4-010-01 8 October 2003 Distances per United Facilities Criteria require minimum setbacks that are greater than the existing setbacks, thereby requiring this facility's removal. This undertaking has been approved in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement between the California State Historic Preservation Officer and the U.S. Army Reserve, pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f).

Prepared By: This report was prepared by Tracy Bakic, cultural resources specialist with PAR Environmental Services, Inc., Sacramento, California. Photography and the associated photographic index were prepared by David DeVries, Mesa Technical, Berkeley, California.

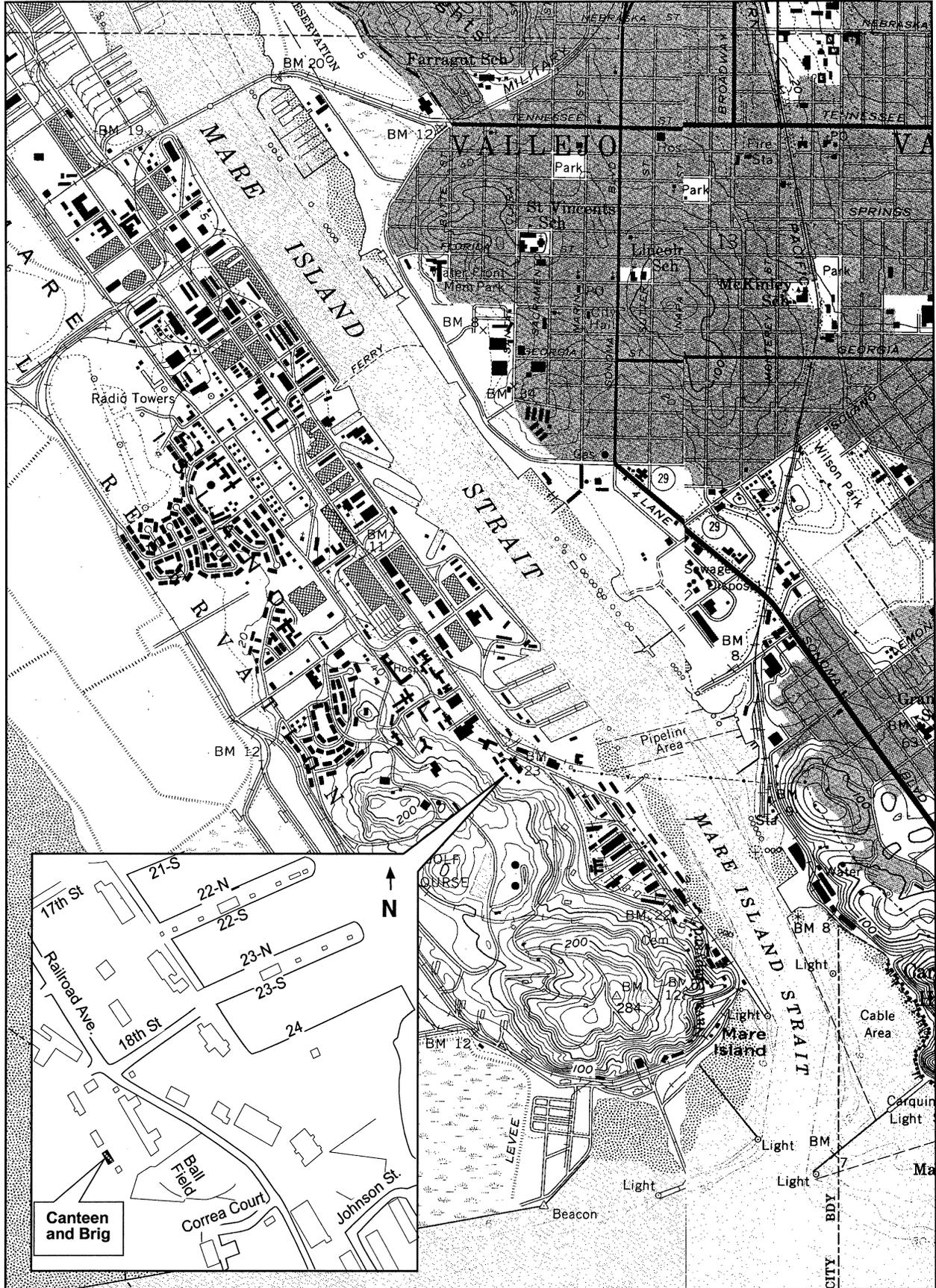
Submitted By: 63D U.S. Army Regional Readiness Command Headquarters, 4235 Yorktown Avenue, Los Alamitos, CA 90720-5002

Inventory Date: November 6, 2002 (April 18, 2005)

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Location Map and Site Plan (Inset) of Mare Island Naval Shipyard Canteen and Brig
(Building No. 934) (USGS: Benicia and Mare Island, CA 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle,
Both 1959, Photorevised 1980)