

U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Bachelor Enlisted Quarters
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Submarine Base)
(Building No. 654)
Cromwell Circle
Pearl Harbor
Honolulu County
Hawaii

HABS
HI,
2-PEHA,
30-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

**Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107**

HABS
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2-PEHA,
30-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Bachelor Enlisted Quarters
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Submarine Base)
(Building No. 654)

HABS No. HI-157

Location:

Naval Submarine Base at Cromwell Circle bounded by Nimitz, Morton, Waterfront and Pierce Streets within the triangular peninsula between Quarry Loch and Magazine Loch.
Pearl Harbor, City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii

USGS Pearl Harbor Quadrangle, Hawaii
7.5 minutes series (orthophotoquad)
Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates
4.609500.2362310 (Scale 1:24,000)

Significance:

The U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1964; due to the crucial role it played in the Nation's defense during the twentieth century and the calamitous events which occurred on December 7, 1941. As a Category I structure, it has been determined that Building 654 constitutes a prominent element of the National Historic Landmark and played a major role in the operation of the Pearl Harbor Naval Base.

Description:

Building 654 is a three-story, U-shaped, 54 feet high concrete structure with built-up roofing. Also, a mess hall was located in the basement of the South Wing.

History:

Building 654 was constructed in 1927 as a Bachelor Enlisted Quarters (BEQ) to house 1,200 men at a cost of \$8,568,806. At the same time, Building 655 (galley and storage) and Building 656 (laundry and boiler house) were built adjacent to the BEQ as supporting facilities. On 21 February 1938, a four-lane bowling alley opened in the base recreation center on the first floor above the mess hall. Circa 1943, a fourth floor was added onto Building 654 constructed of timber to house an additional 1,000 personnel but it was removed in the spring of 1945. Circa 1953, the barracks were renovated, new lounges and recreation rooms, with television sets provided expanded recreational activities for the enlisted personnel. Circa 1956, a new concept was adopted at the base mess hall; tables and chairs offered a four-man seating arrangement at meals. Gone were the long tables and folding benches. In July 1962, a manually controlled fire alarm system was installed. Circa 1967, an amusement center was opened, which included pool tables, pinball machines and other amusements. In November 1971, a fire destroyed

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216 mattresses. The fire was determined to have been caused by an overheated ballast in a fluorescent fixture. A major modernization of the BEQ from open type bunk areas to one to three-man rooms was completed on the South and half of the Center Wings in November 1975, and the North and the remaining half of the Center Wings in March 1988. The rooms were air conditioned and included bathrooms.

Sources:

Pacific Division Drawing Nos. 104041 through 104061, 104063, 104065 104073 through 104075 and 104080 dated 7/15/27 and 10/18/27.
NAVFAC P-164, Detailed Inventory of Naval Shore Facilities
Yarmin, Ray W. de, Curator, History of the Naval submarine Base, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Pacific Submarine Museum: 1984.

Historian:

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