

HICKAM FIELD, OFFICERS' HOUSING TYPE F
(Hickam Air Force Base, Building Nos. 533, 537, 538, 543, 545, 635
& 888)
602 Beard Avenue
Honolulu
Honolulu County
Hawaii

HABS HI-164-U
HI-164-U

HABS
HI-164-U

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HICKAM FIELD, OFFICERS' HOUSING TYPE F (Hickam Air Force Base, Building No. 533)

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- Location:** 602 Beard Avenue
City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii
U.S.G.S. Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Quadrangle 1999 (7.5 minute series)
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates 04.607550.2360160.
- Significance:** Building 533 is a part of the early development of Hickam Air Force Base as the Army Air Corps expanded its operations in Hawaii before World War II. It was built during the first phase of housing construction, which began in 1937, and was designed with features that adapt it well to the Hawaiian climate.
- Description:** Building 533 is single-story, built with an irregular rectangular footprint. It has a dual-pitch hip roof with open eaves and clipped rafter tails that is covered with asphalt shingles. There is a section of low-slope shed roof at the rear, over the family room. The building is built of concrete hollow tile with a painted stucco coating on a concrete slab-on-grade and a concrete wall foundation. Typical windows are one-over-one light double-hung sash, with jalousie windows at the family room. The building has cast stone sills at the exterior of the window openings.
- The covered front porch is one step up from grade, the step is flanked by low walls topped with beveled cast stone caps. The porch has an acid-stained concrete floor that is scored in a grid pattern. The front entry doorway has a main door of five natural finished vertical boards with three horizontal rows of metal rosettes on the exterior and a wood framed six-panel screen door with a natural finish. The rear entry to the family room has double doors that are jalousie panel-over single panel. The entry to the service porch has concrete steps and a flush door with a jalousie panel.
- The attached garage has two large side openings with beveled cast stone sills. The garage has an original overhead door made of painted vertical boards. The door is hung on rails and has an assisted opening device of two large coil springs on the interior, one on either side of the door.
- The interior areas of Building 533 typically have ceilings of v-joint canec panels in a centered pattern, plaster walls with a picture rail about ¼" from the ceiling, and carpeted floors. At the entry and the lower bedroom hall are sections of original acid-stained concrete floor with scored lines. The entry hall has a fixed-light window of amber-colored obscure glass with diagonal wood muntins which form a diamond pattern. The upper bedroom hall has original oak tongue-and-groove flooring. The steps at the bedroom hall, lanai, and dining room which lead up from the slab-on-grade areas of the house to the areas set on foundation walls have natural finished oak treads and painted wood risers. The dining room steps are flanked by a painted iron railing with vertical rails of ½" square

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iron. Every other rail is formed with a twist. Windows in the living room and dining room have painted wood valances that are 10" high and extend 6" from the wall.

The enclosed lanai has a coved painted plaster ceiling and wall paneling of painted vertical knotty pine boards (Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files 1937, 397-2871) with molded joints. Separating the enclosed lanai from the living room is a pair of surface-mounted sliding doors. These doors are finished on the lanai side with the same painted vertical boards as the walls. On the living room side these doors are single-panel. The family room, which was enclosed from the original screened porch, has an open beam ceiling and exposed roof sheathing of tongue-and-groove boards. The original vented eaves of the house are exposed where the family room roof joins the main building.

The pantry, kitchen, and service porch have plaster ceilings and vinyl flooring. The cabinets in the pantry have painted flush wood doors and drawers with original bin pulls. Kitchen cabinets have painted flush metal doors and drawers. Both pantry and kitchen have added laminate countertops. The built-in ironing board in the kitchen has been converted to recessed shelving.

In the bedroom wing, the two bathrooms have original mosaic-pattern ceramic tile floors, and ceramic tile baseboards and wainscot with bull nose top edge. In the wall of the bedroom hall is a built-in phone recess about 12" wide and 1'-10" high above a 2³/₄" high shelf for a phone book and a panel with a perforated design. Typical interior doors are single-panel with brass doorknobs and escutcheon plates. A double door of this type is found at the bedroom hall linen closet.

Historical Context: Building 533 was built in 1938. An aerial photo dated September 6, 1938 shows the building (U.S Army Museum Hawaii 1938). A survey of the quarters dated January 20, 1939 lists the Type F officers' quarters as "completed" (Hickam Air Force Base History Office 1939). Original plans for Building 533 are dated August 18, 1937 and were prepared under the direction of Howard B. Nurse, the Captain of the Quartermaster Corps at Hickam Field. Building 533 was part of the first phase of housing construction at Hickam Field which began in late 1937 (*Honolulu Star Bulletin* 1937, 1). This building was one of thirty-nine officers' quarters built under the first phase of housing construction, and one of seven Type F buildings constructed at Hickam. Construction was to begin after December 1, 1937. The project, which totaled eighty-one quarters for officers and non-commissioned officers was billed as "one of the most extensive housing projects ever undertaken in the territory" (*Honolulu Star Bulletin* 1937, 1).

Building 533 was part of the development of Hickam Air Base in the late 1930s and early 1940s as the Army Air Corps shifted its operations from Ford Island and utilized the larger area available to them in the new location. The housing planned for the new Air Base was designed "in keeping with the Hawaiian atmosphere and traditions" with some buildings placed on curving streets and amidst extensive landscaping

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plants, all planned to give a leisurely feeling to the community (Nurse 1938, 10).

The initial housing construction was done by Robert McKee Construction Company of Los Angeles CA. and was finished by July 1939 (*Honolulu Star Bulletin* 1936, 1; and Hunt ca. 1940, 6).

Of numerous alterations to Building 533, the most noticeable is the enclosed family room addition at the rear of the lanai. The dimensions of this addition closely correspond to the enclosed porch shown on original drawings. The exception being the rear wall, which is built about 2'-0" inside the location shown for the rear wall of the original porch. Most of the original stained concrete and tongue and groove hardwood flooring has been covered with carpet and vinyl tile. The original double-acting door between the dining room and pantry has been removed, and the building has been re-roofed with asphalt shingles, the original roof covering was clay tile.

For additional information, see HABS HI-164-AP Hickam Field, Hickam Historic Housing.

Sources:

Hickam Air Force Base History Office. 1939. "Completion Report, Company Officers' Qtrs. (Type "F" – Rev.)." Completion report of unit type on file in the Real Estate records. 20 January.

Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files. 1937. Historic plans of unit type F, plan # 397-2871, 397-2872, and 397-2873. 18 August.

Honolulu Star Bulletin. 1936. "\$802,000 Low Bid For New Hickam Units." 28 April.

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Hunt, John A. 1940. "Construction of Hickam Field." *The Quartermaster Review*, November-December.

_____. Ca. 1940. *Hickam Field*, T.H. Pamphlet at Hawaii State Library.

J.M. Waller Associates and Mason Architects, Inc. 2003. *Building Preservation Plan of Selected Historic Homes for Hickam Air Force Base*. Honolulu: Hickam Air Force Base.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. 1996. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: A. Knopf.

Nurse, Captain H. B. 1938. "Hickam Field, The Army's Newest and Largest Airdrome." *Air Corps Newsletter*, 15th ABW History Office, Hickam Air Force Base. July 1.

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U.S. Army Museum Hawaii. 1938. Aerial photo # 1445, Ft. DeRussy
Archives, Hawaii. September 6.

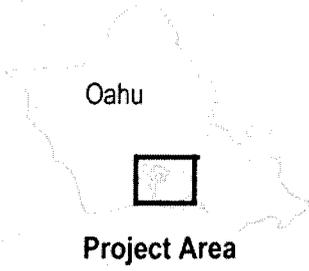
Project Information: This report was prepared as part of a project to privatize all military housing under the control of the 15 Airlift Wing. Approximately 656 of the 1332 base housing units to be privatized are within the Hickam Historic District. Because the units within the historic district will be altered, a representative unit of each type was selected for preservation; to be restored as part of the Programmatic Agreement (August 2000) for Hickam's Historic District. This report documents the buildings before their restoration. The photographic documentation was undertaken by David Franzen, photographer. Dee Ruzicka, Architectural Historian at Mason Architects, Inc., wrote the written documentation and conducted field work (November 2005 – February 2006) and research for this report.

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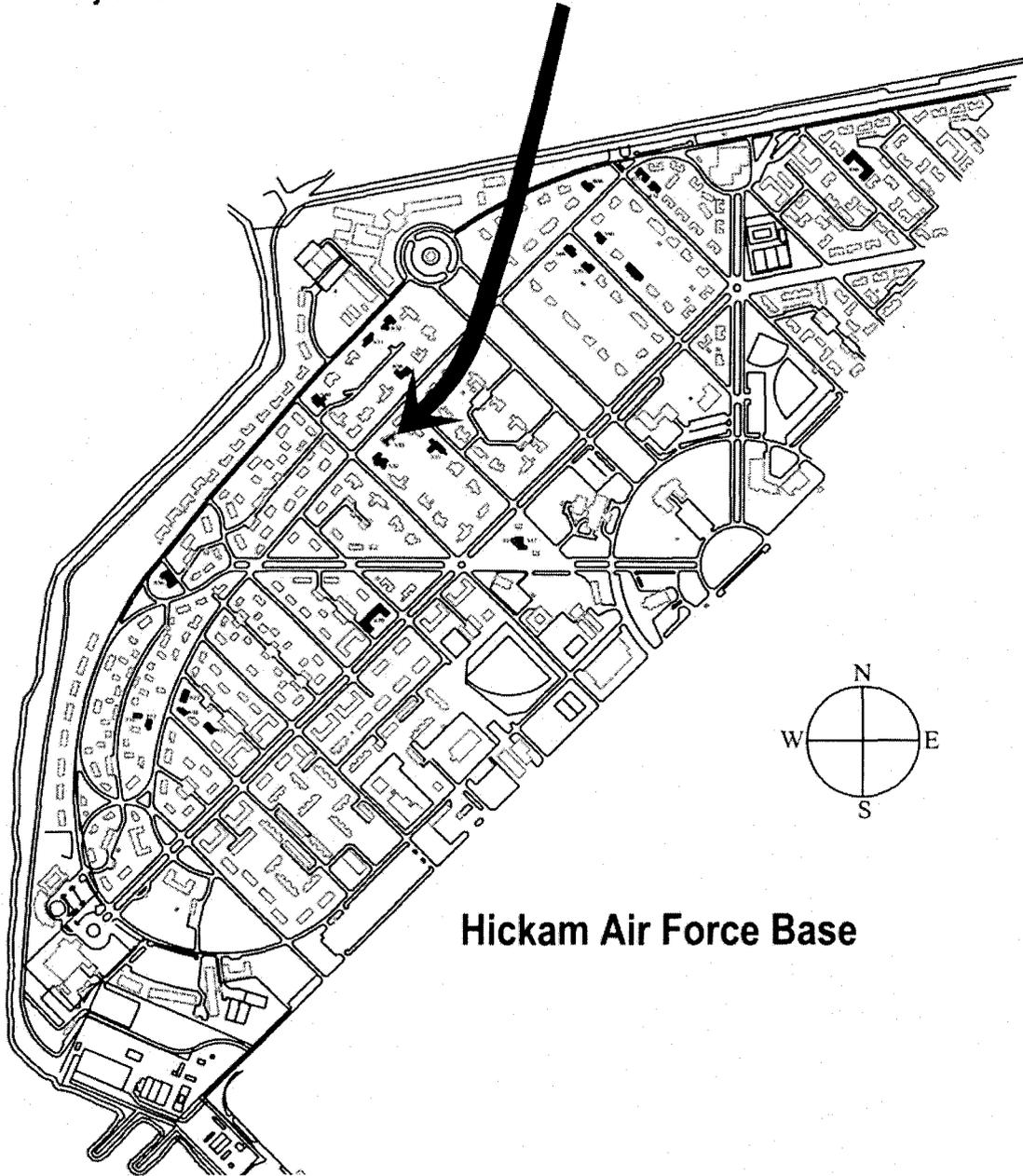
Date of Report: April 2007

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Building 533 location map (not to scale)

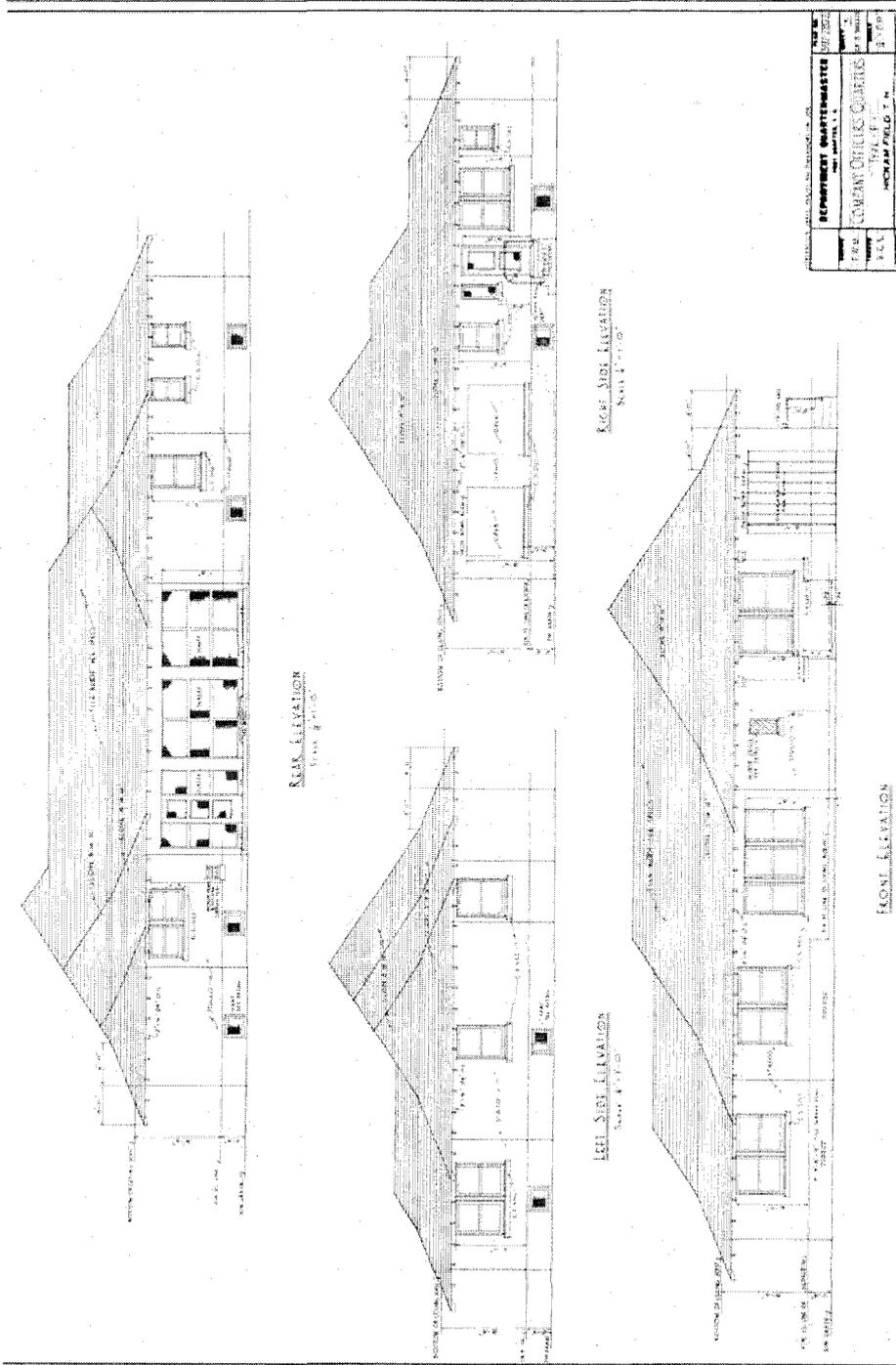


Building No. 533



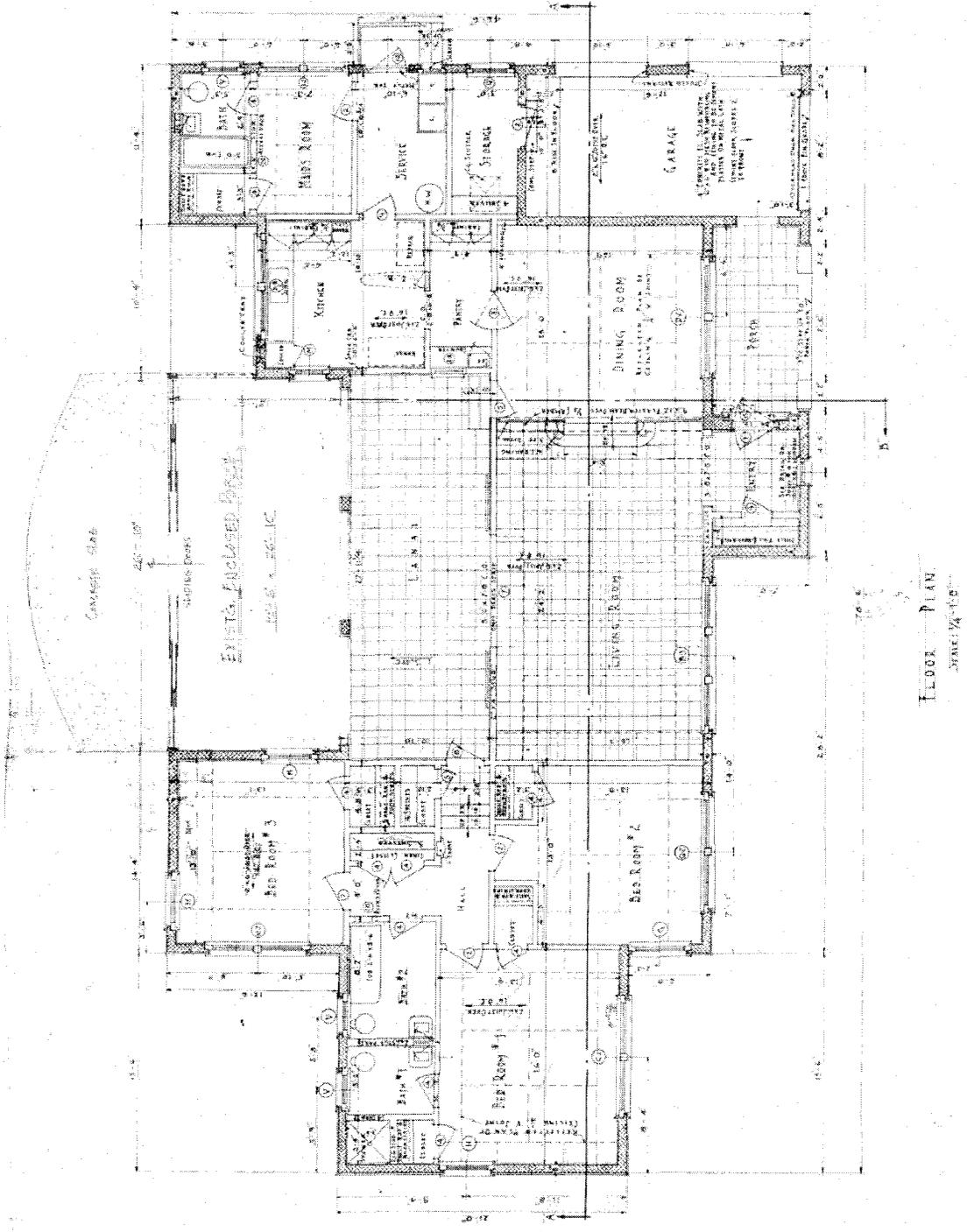
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Original elevation of Building 533, Type F. Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files 1937, 397-2872.



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Portion of original plan of Building 533, Type F. Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files 1937,
397-2871.



FLOOR PLAN
DATE: 7-1-37