

HICKAM FIELD, OFFICERS' HOUSING TYPE G  
(Hickam Air Force Base, Building Nos. 526, 530, 535, 546, 550, 552,  
633, 637, 641 & 890)  
205 Seventh Street  
Honolulu  
Honolulu County  
Hawaii

HABS HI-164-V  
HI-164-V

HABS  
HI-164-V

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 G (Hickam Air Force Base, Building No. 535)

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- Location:** 205 Seventh Street  
City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii  
U.S.G.S. Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Quadrangle 1999 (7.5 minute series)  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates 04.607630.2360140.
- Significance:** Building 535 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 535 is a single-story building with an irregular L-shaped footprint. It is constructed of concrete hollow tiles with a painted finish on a concrete wall foundation. The foundation is vented with decorative tile vents at the front façade, and large screened openings with concrete curbs at the rear and sides. The building has a double-pitch hip roof over the main living area and rear bedroom wing, and a single-pitch hip roof over the maid's wing and the garage. Both sections of the roof have open eaves with screen vents and clipped rafter tails, and are covered with asphalt shingles. A section of shed roof supported by concrete masonry posts covers the concrete slab patio at the rear of the house.
- The building's main entry is accessed by concrete steps with a painted iron railing. The front doorway has a natural finish wood door with eleven molded and beveled panels and a six-panel natural finish wood screen door. The rear doorway from the hall to the covered patio has a painted three-light wood door and a wood two-panel screen door. The building has cast stone sills on the exterior of the window openings and the garage has two decorative painted wood grilles.
- The interior of Building 535 typically has original 2¼" tongue-and-groove oak flooring, painted plaster walls and v-joint canec panel ceilings in a centered pattern. A picture rail is located high on the walls, with the narrow (approx ¼") gap between it and the ceiling filled in. The maid's room and maid's bath have original tongue-and-groove pine flooring, and the kitchen, pantry, and service porch have vinyl tile. The bathrooms in the bedroom wing have plaster ceilings, and original mosaic-pattern ceramic tile flooring, tile wainscot and tub/ shower surround, ceramic bathroom accessories, and marble thresholds. Typical windows are one-over-one double-hung sash, with fixed sash windows at the enclosed lanai. Interior doors are typically single-panel wood. The door between the kitchen and the service porch is single-light over single-panel painted wood.
- The pantry has cabinets with painted flush wood doors and drawers. Original bin pulls are found on the drawers. Kitchen cabinets have

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painted flush metal doors and drawers, and laminate countertops are found in both the kitchen and the pantry.

The enclosed lanai has an original brown acid-stained concrete floor that is scored in an irregular pattern to resemble paving stones. The walls here are vertically oriented knotty pine boards with molded joints and a natural finish. Also in the enclosed lanai there are two pairs of surface-mounted sliding doors; one pair between the lanai and the dining room and the other between the lanai and the living room. These doors are finished on the lanai side with the same natural finish knotty pine boards as the walls. On the living/dining room sides these doors are single-panel. There is also a hinged door separating the enclosed lanai from the garage which has natural finish knotty pine boards on the lanai side. The two front bedrooms have two-light sliding sash windows with obscure glass which open into the hallway. These are set high on the wall, about 6'-0" from the floor.

**Historical Context:** Building 535 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 G officers' quarters as "completed" (Hickam Air Force Base History Office 1939). Original plans for Building 535 are dated August 13, 1937 and were prepared under the direction of Howard B. Nurse, the Captain of the Quartermaster Corps at Hickam Field. Building 535 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 ten Type G 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). 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).

Building 535 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 plants, all planned to give a leisurely feeling to the community (Nurse 1938, 10).

Building 535 has undergone several alterations over the years. The screened lanai at the rear of the house has been enclosed with wood-framed glazed panels. A covered patio has been added to the rear of the enclosed lanai. The double-acting door between the dining room and the pantry has been removed. The screen door at the service porch has

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been replaced with a flush door with jalousie panel. The building has been re-roofed with asphalt shingle replacing the original clay tiles.

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 "G")." Completion report of unit type on file in the Real Estate records. 20 January.

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

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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*, 15<sup>th</sup> ABW History Office, Hickam Air Force Base. 1 July.

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

**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.

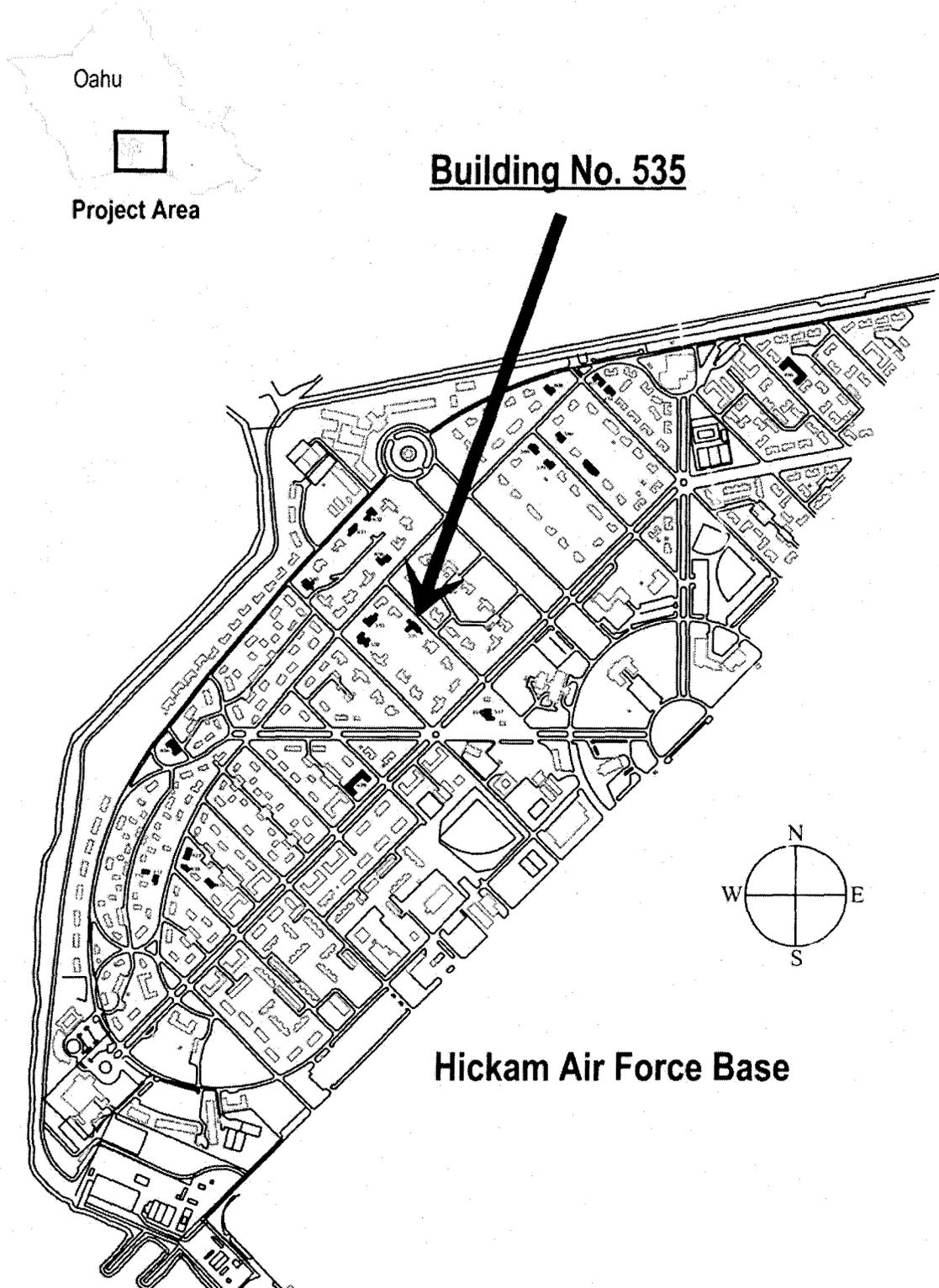
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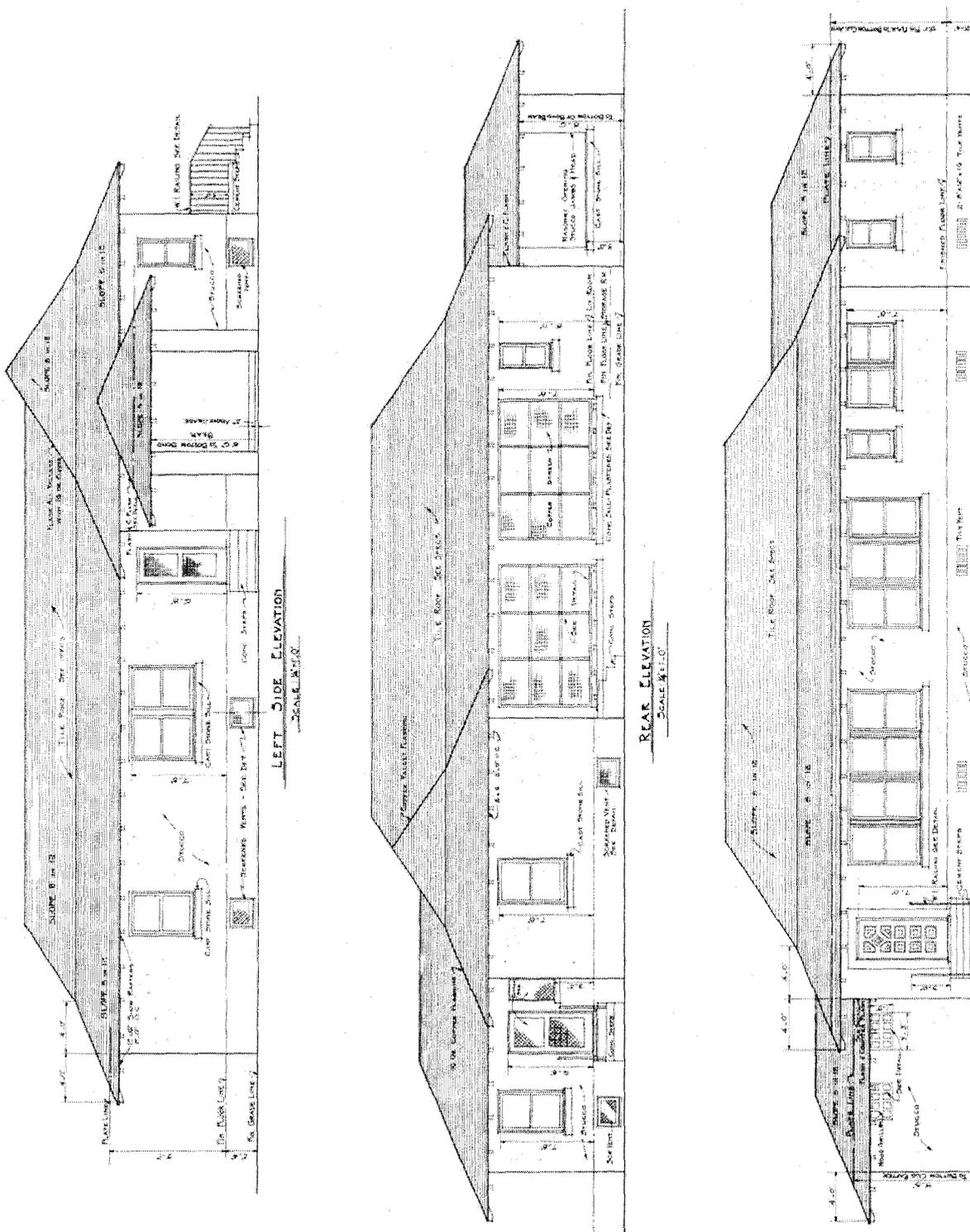
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Building 535 location map (not to scale)



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Portion of original drawing of Building 535, Type G. Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files  
 1937, 397-2877.



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Portion of original drawing of Building 535, Type G. Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files  
1937, 397-2876.

