

HICKAM FIELD, OFFICERS' HOUSING TYPE H
(Hickam Air Force Base, Building Nos. 527, 536, 541, 629, 638, 634
& 892)
208 Sixth Street
Honolulu
Honolulu County
Hawaii

HABS HI-164-W
HI-164-W

HABS
HI-164-W

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 H (Hickam Air Force Base, Building No. 532)

HABS
HI-164-W
HABS No. HI-164-W
(page 1)

- Location:** 208 Sixth Street
City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii
U.S.G.S. Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Quadrangle 1999 (7.5 minute series)
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates 04.607540.2360130.
- Significance:** Building 532 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 as officers' housing 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 532 is a single-story building in an irregular rectangular footprint with a double-pitch hip roof with open eaves and clipped rafter tails that is covered with asphalt shingles. It is built of concrete hollow tiles with a painted stucco coating and has cast stone window sills on the exterior. The main living areas; living room, dining room, lanai, family room, the front porch and the kitchen, pantry, and service porch are set on a concrete slab on grade. The bedrooms, bathrooms, maid's room, and maid's bath are set on a concrete wall foundation which is vented by decorative tile vents at the front facade and large screened openings with concrete curbs at the sides and rear. The front wall of the garage has two openings with cast concrete grilles in an "x" pattern.
- The covered front porch is flanked by two square pilasters with stepped capitals. There is a single square column centered between the pilasters, and an additional pilaster is located on the front wall of the building to the left of the porch. The porch has a coved ceiling and a brown colored acid-stained concrete floor with irregular incised lines in a paving stone pattern. The front entry doorway has a wood door of five vertical planks with three horizontal rows of metal rosettes on the exterior, and a four-panel screen door. The rear entry doorway, from the family room, has double doors with large jalousie panels. At the rear of the building, a concrete walkway extends from the rear doorway to a patio paved with irregular shaped stained concrete paving blocks which are set in concrete.
- The interior of Building 532 is typically plaster walls with a picture railing about ¼" from the ceiling and canec ceiling panels with v-joints in a centered pattern. The entry has a coved plaster ceiling. The concrete slab floors of the entry, living room, dining room, lanai, and lower hall have a brown acid-stained finish with incised lines in an irregular paving stone pattern. The floors of the bedrooms and upper hall are natural-finished oak tongue-and-groove, with some bedroom floors covered in wall-to-wall carpeting. In the hall, the two steps up from the slab-on-

HICKAM FIELD, OFFICERS' HOUSING TYPE H
(Hickam Air Force Base, Building No. 532)
HABS No. HI-164-W (Page 2)

grade to the bedroom level have painted wood risers and natural finish oak treads. At the maid's area, the steps up are painted cast concrete.

The lanai has walls of painted vertical knotty pine boards (Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files 1937, 397-2881) with molded joints and a coved plaster ceiling. 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 painted vertical boards as the walls. On the living/dining room sides these doors are single-panel.

Typical windows are one-over-one light double-hung sash, with jalousie windows at the family room and bathrooms. Interior doors are typically single-panel wood. There is a single-light-over single-panel door between the kitchen and the service porch. There is a recessed telephone niche in the hall which measures about 12" wide and 1'-10" high, set above a 2¾" high shelf for a phone book and a panel with a perforated design.

The bathrooms in the bedroom wing of Building 532 have original mosaic-pattern ceramic tile, ceramic tile base boards, and ceramic tile wainscot topped with bullnose. The bathrooms also have marble thresholds and some original ceramic accessories; towel bars, soap dish, and cup holders. The pantry has cabinets with painted flush wood doors and drawers; the kitchen has flush metal cabinet doors and drawers. Both pantry and kitchen have replacement laminate countertops.

Historical Context: Building 532 was built in 1938. An aerial photo dated September 6, 1938 shows the building substantially completed (U.S Army Museum Hawaii 1938). A survey of the quarters dated January 30, 1939 lists the Type H officers' quarters as "completed" (Hickam Air Force Base History Office 1939). Original plans for Building 532 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 532 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 H buildings constructed at Hickam. Construction was to begin after December 1, 1937. The project, which totaled eighty-one units 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 532 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).

HICKAM FIELD, OFFICERS' HOUSING TYPE H
(Hickam Air Force Base, Building No. 532)
HABS No. HI-164-W (Page 3)

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 532 has had a number of alterations since it was built. A family room has been added at the rear of the house, off the former screened lanai. The original stained concrete floors in the kitchen and service porch have been covered with vinyl tile and the screen door at the service porch has been replaced with a flush door with a jalousie panel. The double-acting door between the dining room and the pantry has been removed. The building has been re-roofed with asphalt shingles, original roofing was 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 "H")." Completion report of unit type on file in the Real Estate records. 30 January.

Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files. 1937. Historic plans of unit type H plan # 397-2861 and 397-2862. 18 August.

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

_____. 1937. "\$793,00 Housing Project At Hickam Field, With 76 Buildings, To Start Soon." 18 October.

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.

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. 1 July.

U.S. Army Museum Hawaii. 1938. Aerial photo # 1445. 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

**HICKAM FIELD, OFFICERS' HOUSING TYPE H
(Hickam Air Force Base, Building No. 532)
HABS No. HI-164-W (Page 4)**

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.

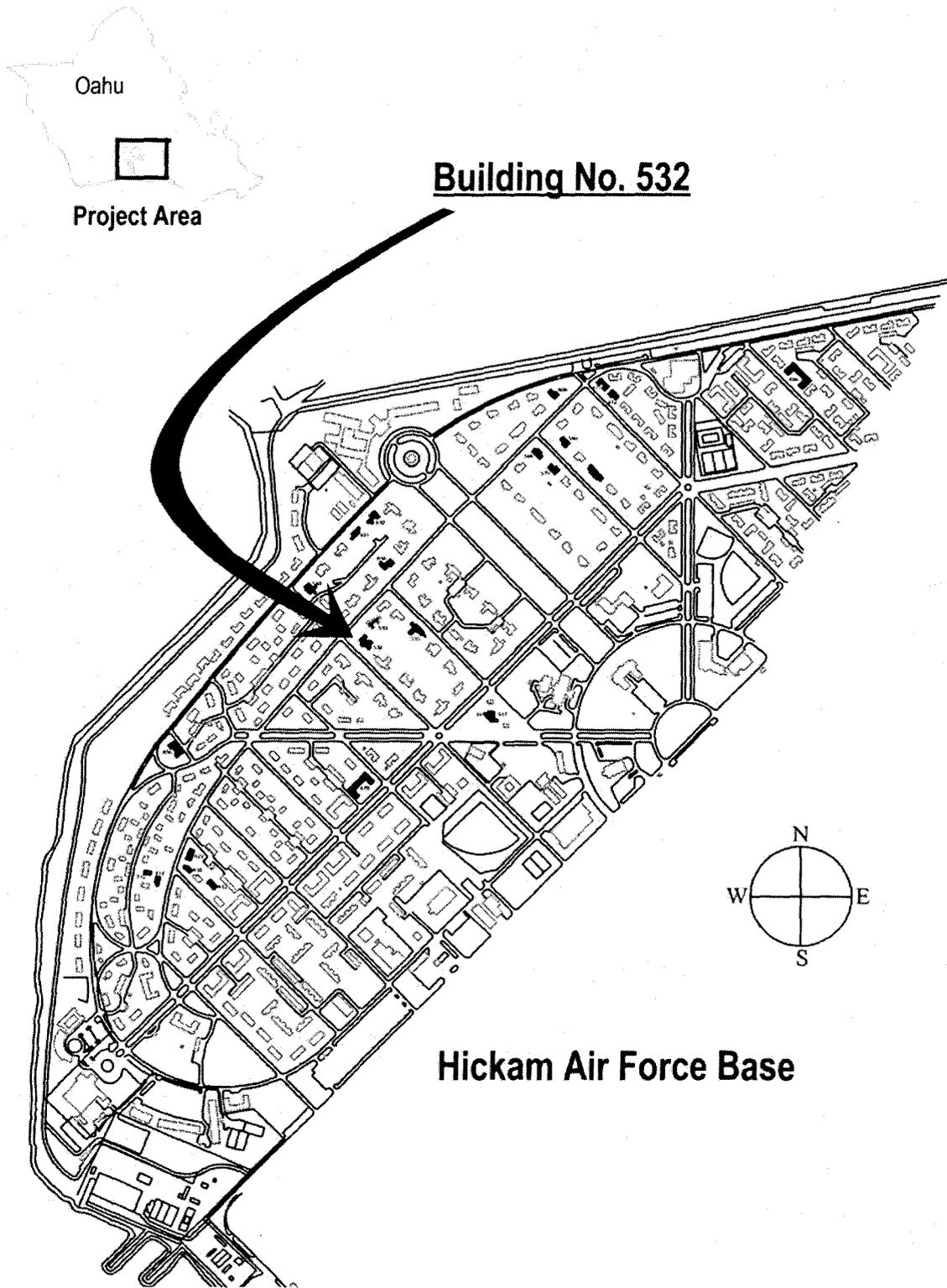
Prepared by:

Dee Ruzicka, Architectural Historian
Mason Architects, Inc.
119 Merchant Street, Suite 501
Honolulu, HI 96813

Date of Report: April 2007

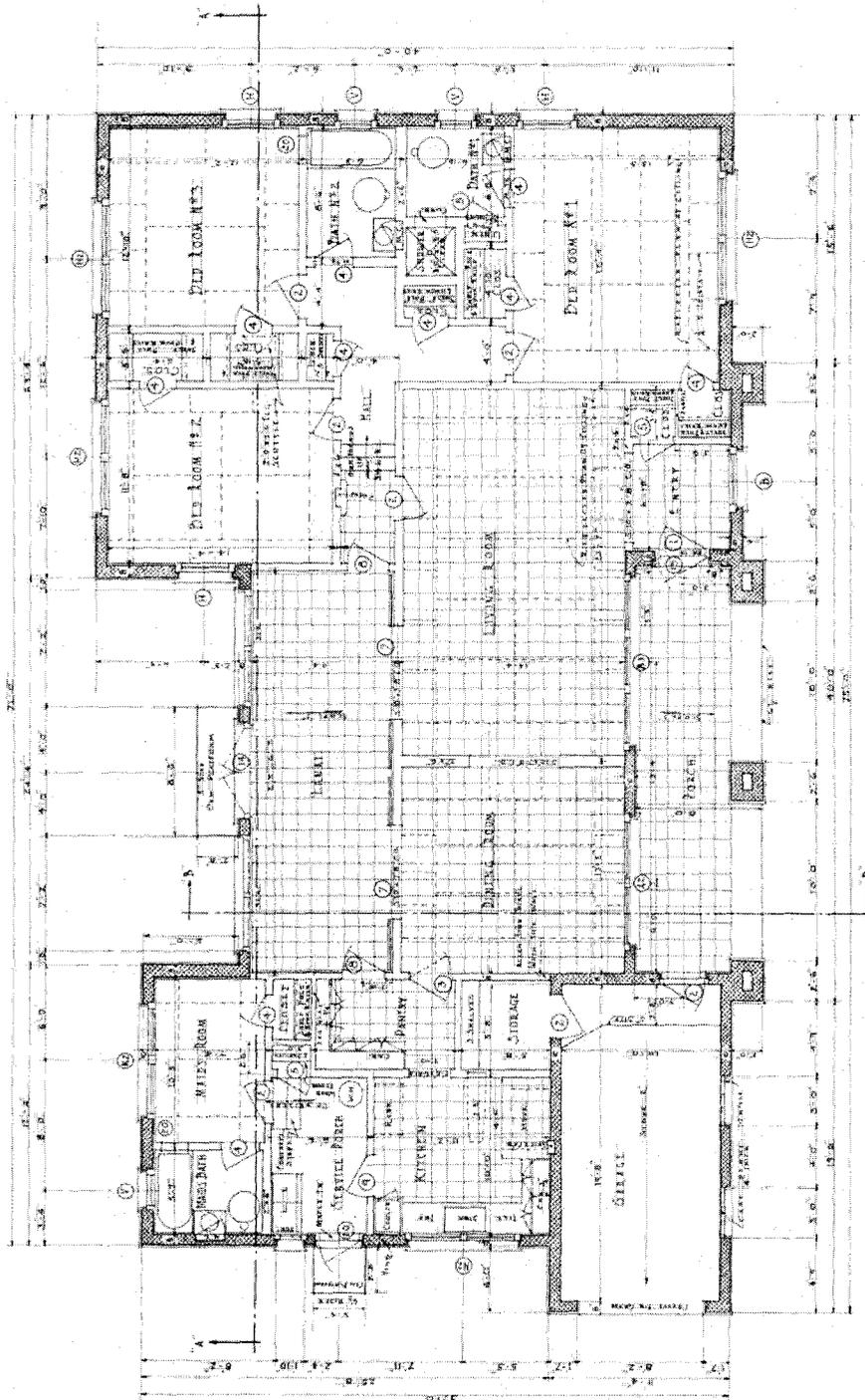
HICKAM FIELD, OFFICERS' HOUSING TYPE H
(Hickam Air Force Base, Building No. 532)
HABS No. HI-164-W (Page 5)

Building 532 location map (not to scale)



HICKAM FIELD, OFFICERS' HOUSING TYPE H
(Hickam Air Force Base, Building No. 532)
HABS No. HI-164-W (Page 7)

Portion of original plan of Building 532, Type H, dated August 18, 1937. Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files 1937, 397-2882.



FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"