

HICKAM FIELD, OFFICERS' HOUSING TYPE K
(Hickam Air Force Base, Building Nos. 640 & 886)
304 Sixth Street
Honolulu
Honolulu County
Hawaii

HABS HI-164-Y

HI-164-Y

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HI-164-Y

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 K
(Hickam Air Force Base, Building No. 640)**

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- Location:** 304 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 04.607440.2360220.
- Significance:** Building 640 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 640 is a two-story building with an irregular L-shaped footprint. It has a double-pitch hip roof with open eaves and clipped rafter tails that is covered with asphalt shingles. The building has single-story sections at the enclosed lanai, maid's area, and garage which have single-pitch hip roofs. Building 640 is constructed of concrete hollow tiles with a painted stucco coating and rests on a concrete wall foundation. The attached garage has large openings with cast stone sills on the rear (northeast). The front-facing (southwest) wall of the garage has cast stone grilles in a double "x" pattern that are placed high on the wall.
- The front entry to Building 640 has a natural-finished wood door with eleven molded and beveled panels and a six-panel natural-finished wood screen door. The service porch entry has a flush wood door with a jalousie panel and a two-panel painted wood screen door.
- The interior of Building 640 typically has tongue and groove wood flooring, single-panel wood doors with nickel plated brass knobs and escutcheon plates, and one-over-one light double-hung sash windows with recessed pulls. Most rooms have v-joint canec panel ceilings in a centered pattern and painted plaster walls with a picture railing approximately ¼" from the ceiling. Typically this narrow space between the picture railing and ceiling is not filled in. The living room, enclosed lanai, and two upstairs bedrooms are carpeted, and the kitchen and maid's areas have vinyl flooring. The doorway leading from the kitchen to the service porch has the bottom half of a double-acting Dutch door. The kitchen cabinets are single-panel door lower cabinets and eight-light upper cabinets. The pantry has some original cabinets with flush wood doors and drawers with nickel plated bin pulls.
- The enclosed lanai has a coved painted plaster ceiling and wall paneling of painted knotty pine (Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files 1937, 397-2891) with vertical molded joints. A wide molding of natural finish knotty pine circles the room above the level of the windows and doors. Two painted wood surface-sliding doors separate the enclosed lanai from the living room and from the dining room. These doors have the same painted

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knotty pine paneling with molded joints on the lanai side and are single-panel on the side facing the living room and dining room. The dining room has a five-panel double-acting door leading to the pantry and set of single-panel double doors that open to a built-in china cabinet.

The U-shaped stairway leading to the second floor has natural-finished wood treads and painted risers. The newel post is painted wood, about 5½" square, with chamfered corners and an unpainted beveled and stepped cap. The post has circumferential incised lines near the base and at about 2/3 of the way to the top. An unpainted wood handrail with ½" square painted iron vertical rails extends up from the newel post to the upper floor. Every other vertical iron rail is formed with a twist.

The upstairs bathrooms have original marble thresholds and mosaic-pattern ceramic tile floors. They also have original ceramic tile wainscot with tile baseboards and bull nose top trim, and glazed ceramic accessories; towel bars, and recessed fixtures.

Historical Context: Building 640 was built in 1938. An aerial photo dated September 6, 1938 shows the building appearing complete (U.S Army Museum Hawaii 1938). A survey of the quarters dated February 2, 1939 lists the Type K officers' quarters as "completed" (Hickam Air Force Base History Office 1939). Original plans for Building 640 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 640 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 two Type K 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 640 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).

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 640 has undergone several alterations over the years. The lanai, which was originally screened, has been enclosed with plywood panels and jalousie windows. A patio, covered by a shed roof supported by masonry posts, has been added to the rear of the house. The door between the kitchen and the service porch has been changed to a Dutch door. The screen door at the service porch has been replaced with a

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flush door with jalousie panel, and the house has been re-roofed, original roofing 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' Quarters. (Type "K")." Completion report of unit type on file in the Real Estate records. 2 February.

Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files. 1937. Historic plans of unit type K, plan # 397-2891 and 397-2892. 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.

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. 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 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.

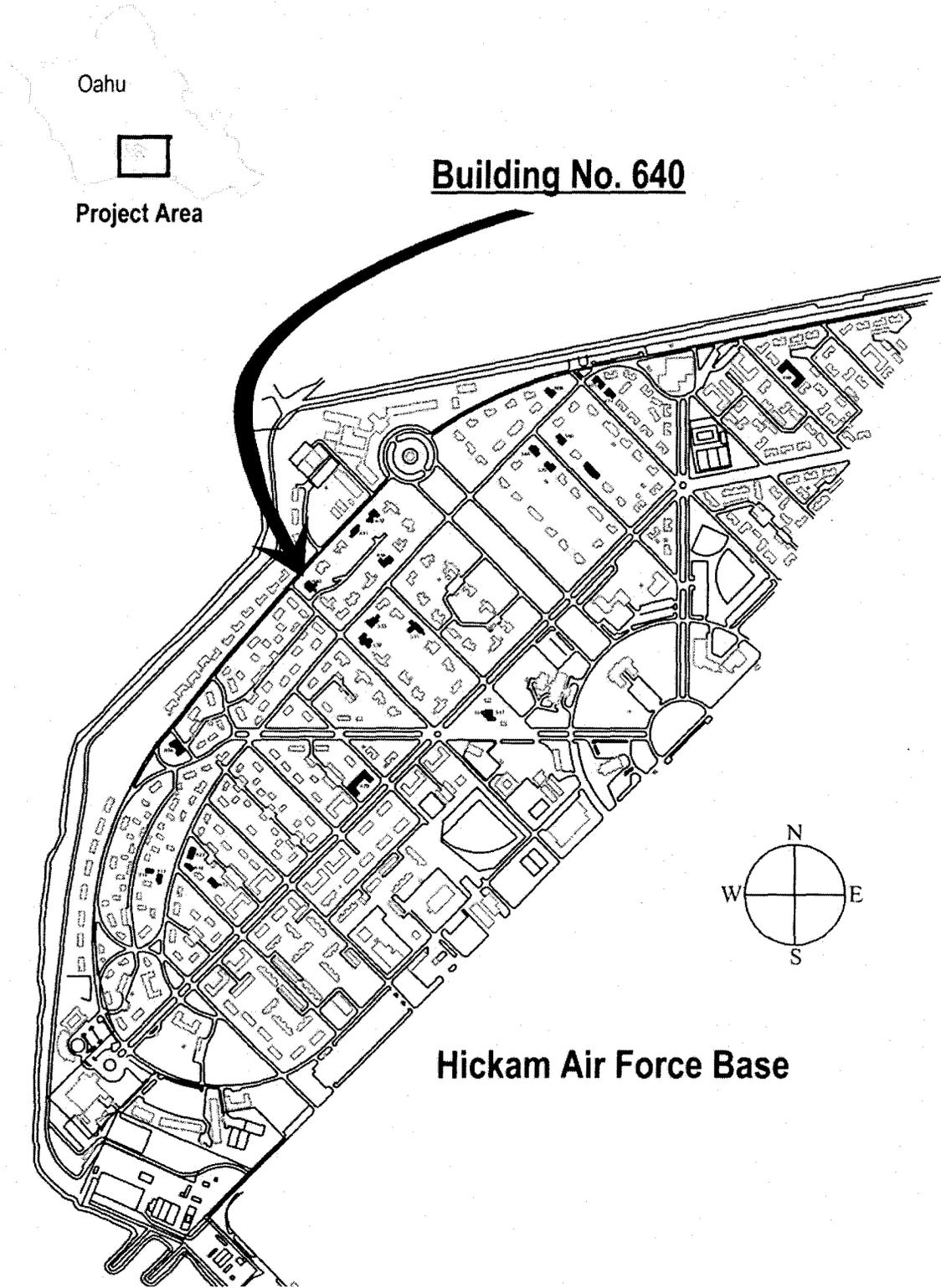
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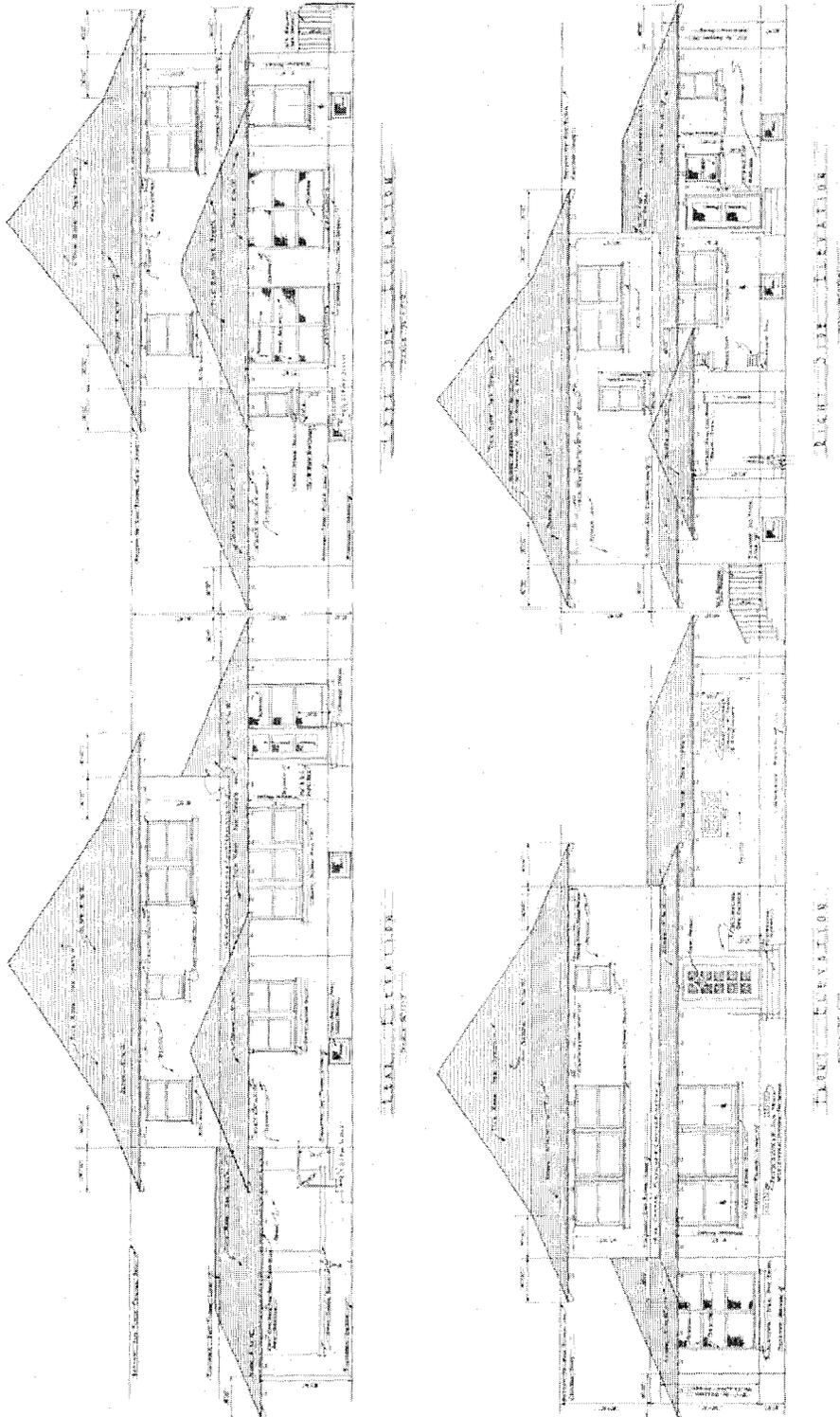
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Building 640 location map (not to scale)



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Portion of original drawing of Building 640, Type K, dated August 18, 1937. Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files 1937, 397-2892.



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Portion of original drawing of Building 640, Type K, dated August 18, 1937. Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files 1937, 397-2891.

