

**HICKAM FIELD, OFFICERS' HOUSING TYPE D  
(Hickam Air Force Base, Building No. 717)  
111 Beard Avenue  
Honolulu  
Honolulu County  
Hawaii**

**HABS No. HI-164-S**

**HABS  
HI-164-S**

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

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

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## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### HICKAM FIELD, OFFICERS' HOUSING TYPE D (Hickam Air Force Base, Building No. 717)

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**Location:**

111 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 04.607150.2359680.

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**Significance:**

Building 717 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 second phase of housing construction, which began in 1939, and was designed with features that adapt it well to the Hawaiian climate.

**Description:**

Building 717 is a two-story building with a rectangular footprint. It is built on a concrete slab on grade, with concrete hollow tile walls, and a hip roof with open eaves and clipped rafter tails that is covered with clay tiles. The building has a single-story section at the enclosed lanai and family room. The enclosed lanai has a hip roof that extends partially across the front façade of the building, covering the front entry. The eaves of the enclosed lanai roof and the section extending across the front are closed, with decorative vents in the soffit. The family room has a low-slope shed roof. A belt course of three flared bands circles the building between the floors, and the windows of the building have brick sills at the exterior. The front entry doorway has a painted flush wood door with a small (4' x 12") vision panel and an aluminum screen door. The rear door from the service porch is flush wood with a jalousie panel and the family room entry door is flush wood with a single light.

The interior of the building typically has plaster walls with a picture rail about ¼" from the ceiling, which is v-joint canec panels in a centered pattern. Floors are typically carpeted on the first floor and are oak tongue-and-groove on the second, with vinyl flooring in the kitchen, service area, and maid's bath. There are mosaic pattern ceramic tile floors in the second floor bathrooms. The second floor bathrooms also have ceramic tile base boards and accessories, and 6'-8" high asbestos cement wall board wainscoting that is scored to resemble 4" ceramic tile and is topped with a horizontally scored molding. Bathroom one, which is accessed from the master bedroom has an open transom above the shower doorway. Typically the doorways of the second floor have no thresholds.

In the corners of the dining room area are two built-in china cabinets of painted wood which have flush upper and lower cabinet doors and a rounded countertop edge. In the living room area, under the stairs, is a recessed, built-in book case approximately 4'-0" high and 2'-0" wide. A flush wood crawlspace door in the rear wall of this bookcase leads to storage space under the stairs. The L-shaped stairway has natural finish

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oak treads and painted wood risers and a painted iron railing of 2" x 5/8" stock that is set on top of the half wall between the stairs and the living room. A similar rail is mounted on the opposite wall of the staircase.

Typical doors in Building 717 are single-panel wood with brass knobs and escutcheon plates. Some of the bathrooms have nickel plated knobs and escutcheon plates on their interior sides. The door separating the living room from the enclosed lanai is three-light over single panel painted wood door. Typical windows are two-over-two-light double-hung sash on the front façade and the two sides of the building. Typical windows at the rear side are one-over-one-light double-hung sash. There are jalousie windows in the enclosed lanai and family room. The service porch has a built-in ironing board.

**Historical Context:** Building 717 was built in 1940 or 1941. Original plans are dated March 4, 1940 and were prepared under the direction of John A. Hunt, the Captain of the Quartermaster Corps at Hickam Field. Building 717 was part of a second phase (*Honolulu Star Bulletin* 10 August 1939, 1) of housing construction at Hickam Field which began in late 1939 (*Honolulu Star Bulletin* 6 November 1939, 1). This building was one of fifteen Type D officers' quarters of the same plan which were built at Hickam. The appropriation for the phase of housing construction which included the Type D buildings was approved on June 14, 1939 (*Honolulu Star Bulletin* 14 June 1939, 1) and the building was completed by August 7, 1941, the date noted on the completion report for the type D quarters (Hickam Air Force Base History Office 1941).

The Type D housing units were 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 (Hunt ca. 1940, 6). Much of the housing construction of the second phase, which began in 1939 and was finished during 1941, was done by E.E. Black, Ltd., of Honolulu.

Building 717 has undergone several alterations over the years. The screened lanai has been enclosed with jalousie windows. A family room of concrete hollow tile has been built at the rear of the house, adjoining the original lanai. Original concrete floors on the first floor have been covered with carpet and vinyl composition tile. The screen door at the service porch has been replaced with a flush door with jalousie panel. In the kitchen, the original built-in spice rack has been removed.

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

**Sources:**

Hickam Air Force Base History Office. 1941. "Completion Report, Buildings & Structures, Type "D" Field Officers' Quarters." Completion report of unit type on file in the Real Estate records. 7 August.

Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files. 1940. Historic plans of unit type D plan # 6812-397-3091-A. 4 March.

*Honolulu Star Bulletin*. 1939. "Big Program for Air Field Building Here." 14 June.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1939. "10 Million To Be Spent at Hickam." 10 August.

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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. July 1.

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

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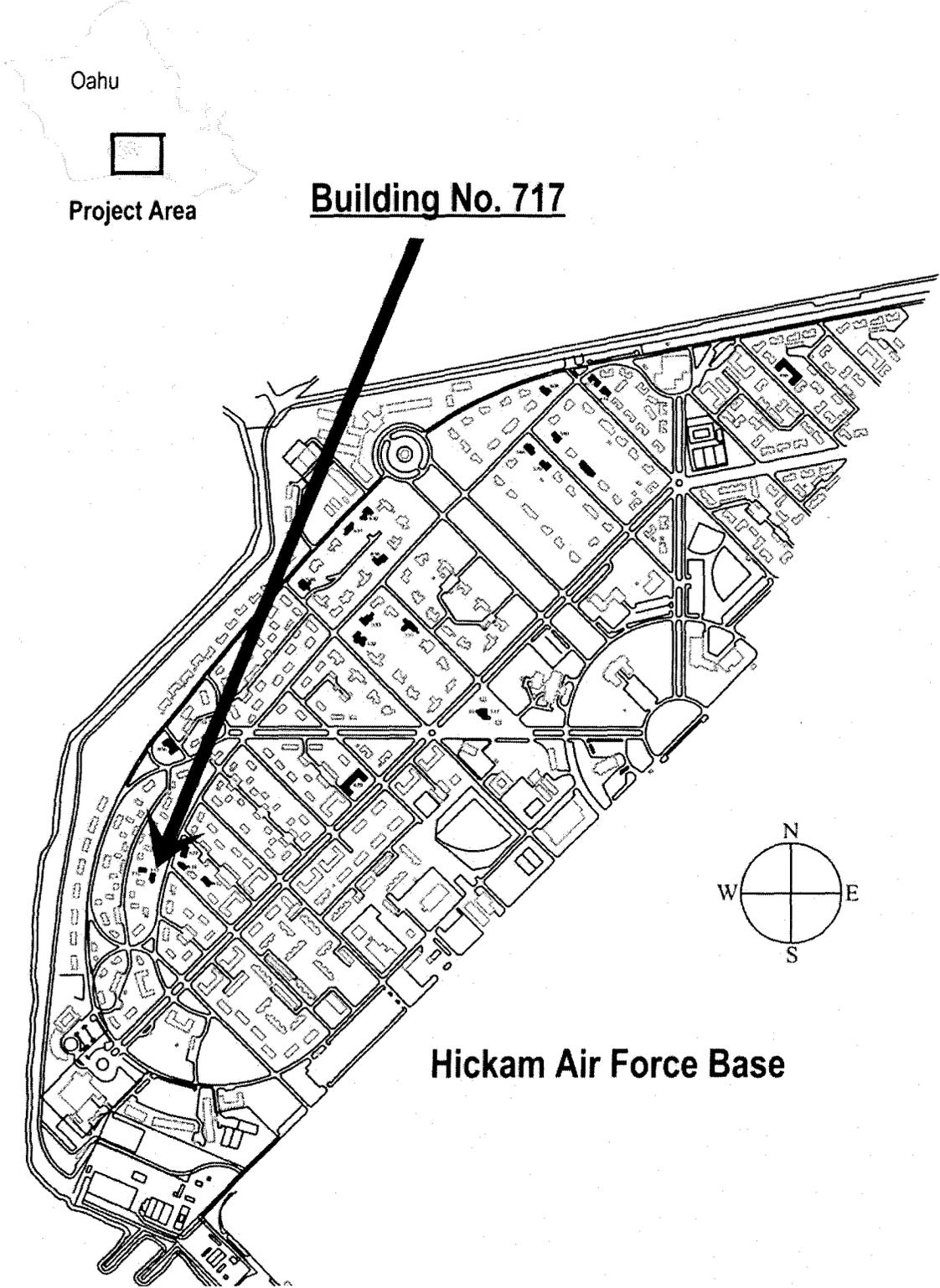
Mason Architects, Inc., wrote the written documentation and conducted field work (November 2005 – February 2006) and research for this report.

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Building 717 location map (not to scale)



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Portion of original drawing of Building 717, Type D, dated March 4, 1940. Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files 1940, 6812-397-3091-A.

