

HICKAM FIELD, OFFICERS' HOUSING TYPE E
(Hickam Air Force Base, Building No. 656)
301 Julian Avenue
Honolulu
Honolulu County
Hawaii

HABS No. HI-164-T

HABS
HI-164-T

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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- Location:** 301 Julian Avenue
City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii
U.S.G.S. Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Quadrangle 1999 (7.5 minute series)
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates 04.607180.2359910.
- Significance:** Building 656 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 656 is a two-story building with an irregular L-shaped footprint. It has a hip roof covered with clay tiles. There are single-story sections at the living room/ first floor bedroom area, screen porch, and nook. The eaves are closed and have decorative vents in the soffit and painted half-round gutters. The building is constructed of concrete hollow tile on a concrete slab-on-grade. A belt course of three flared bands circles the building between the floors. Typical windows are three-light sliding sash and one-over-one-light and two-over-two-light double-hung sash. There are glass block windows flanking the front entry and at the second floor level of the entry hall. Decorative concrete grilles cover screened openings to two bedroom closets.
- The front entry of the building is protected by a porte cochere with a hip roof covered in clay tiles. It is supported by two fluted columns, each about 8" in diameter with two hypotrachelium (Harris 1975, 259) grooves near the tops. The bases of the columns are set in square concrete planters. Two similarly designed pilasters flank the main doorway and its glass block sidelights. The doorway has a natural-finish wood outer door with two lights over three panels and a nine-panel natural-finish wood main door with a carved center panel.
- The interior of the building is typically carpeted, with plaster walls and canec panel ceilings in a centered pattern with painted wood splines. Bathrooms typically have ceramic floor tile, wainscot, and tub/shower surrounds. The kitchen and service area has vinyl floor tile, laminate countertops, and flush cabinet doors. Typical interior doors are flush wood with brass doorknobs and escutcheon plates. The dining room doors to the screen porch are double sliding, with large single lights and large side lights. Between the dining room and the enclosed lanai are three-light over single-panel pocket sliding doors. These doors have the lights covered with paint. Most windows in the building have vinyl shutters on the interior.
- The entry hall floor is covered with 6" x 12" marble tiles and the wall corners are radiused on either side on the front entry. The L-shaped

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stairway to the second floor is carpeted over wood risers and treads. The stairway has had its decorative iron railing enclosed by a gypsum board baluster with a wide, natural finished wood handrail.

North of Building 656 is a single-story guest cottage with a hip roof covered with clay tiles. Like the main house, the guest cottage is built of concrete hollow tiles on a concrete slab-on-grade. The cottage has two-over-two-light double hung sash windows. The entry has a four-light over two-panel door with a two-panel screen door. Adjacent to the entry is a storage area with a triple sliding door; each door has three solid panels. The interior of the guest house has walls of painted concrete hollow tile and vertical tongue-and-groove boards, canec ceilings, carpeted floors, single panel room doors, and flush sliding doors at the closets.

Historical Context: Building 656 was built in 1940 or early 1941. Original plans are dated November 32 1939 and were prepared under the direction of John A. Hunt, the Captain of the Quartermaster Corps at Hickam Field. Building 656 was part of the 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 is the only type E which was built at Hickam. It was intended for occupation by commissioned officers and their families. The appropriation for the phase of housing construction which included Building 656 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 E quarters (Hickam Air Force Base History Office 1941).

Building 656 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 (Hunt ca. 1940, 5). Much of the housing construction of the second phase, which began in 1939 (including Building 656) and finished during 1941, was done by E.E. Black, Ltd., of Honolulu.

Building 656 has undergone several alterations over the years. The lanai, which was originally screened, has been enclosed. A screen room has been added to the rear of the house, off the dining room. The pantry and service porch have been removed, enlarging the kitchen, and the maid's area has been reconfigured and the nook off the kitchen added. The doorway between the enclosed lanai and bedroom 4 on the first floor has been removed. The original stairway railing to the second floor has been covered with gypsum board and wood splines have been added over the v-joints of the canec panel ceilings.

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

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

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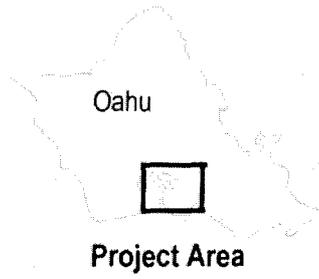
Project Information: This report was prepared as part of a project to privatize all military housing under the control of the 15 Airlift Wing. Approximately 656 of the 1332 base housing units to be privatized are within the Hickam Historic District. Because the units within the historic district will 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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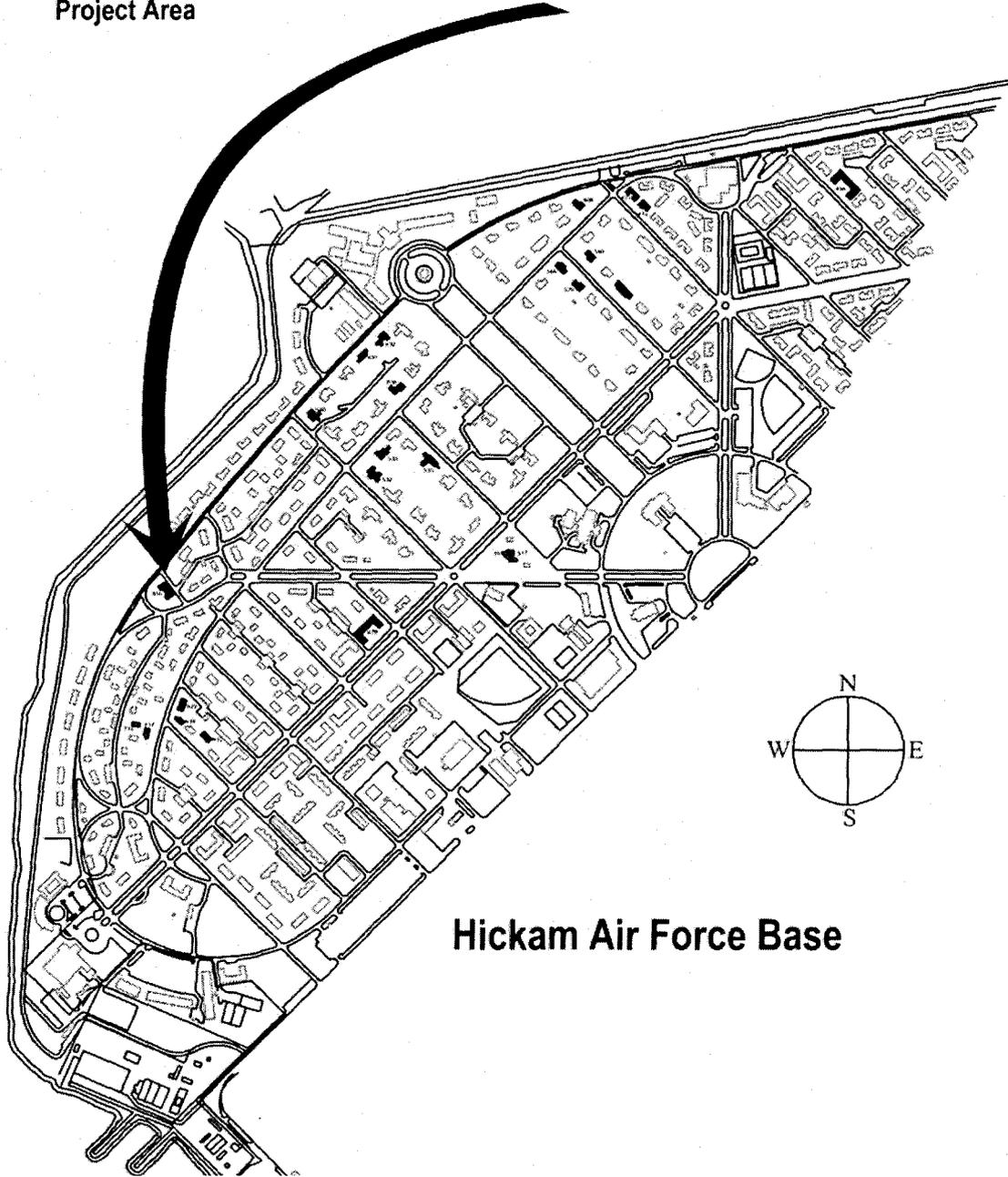
Date of Report: April 2007

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Building 656 location map (not to scale)

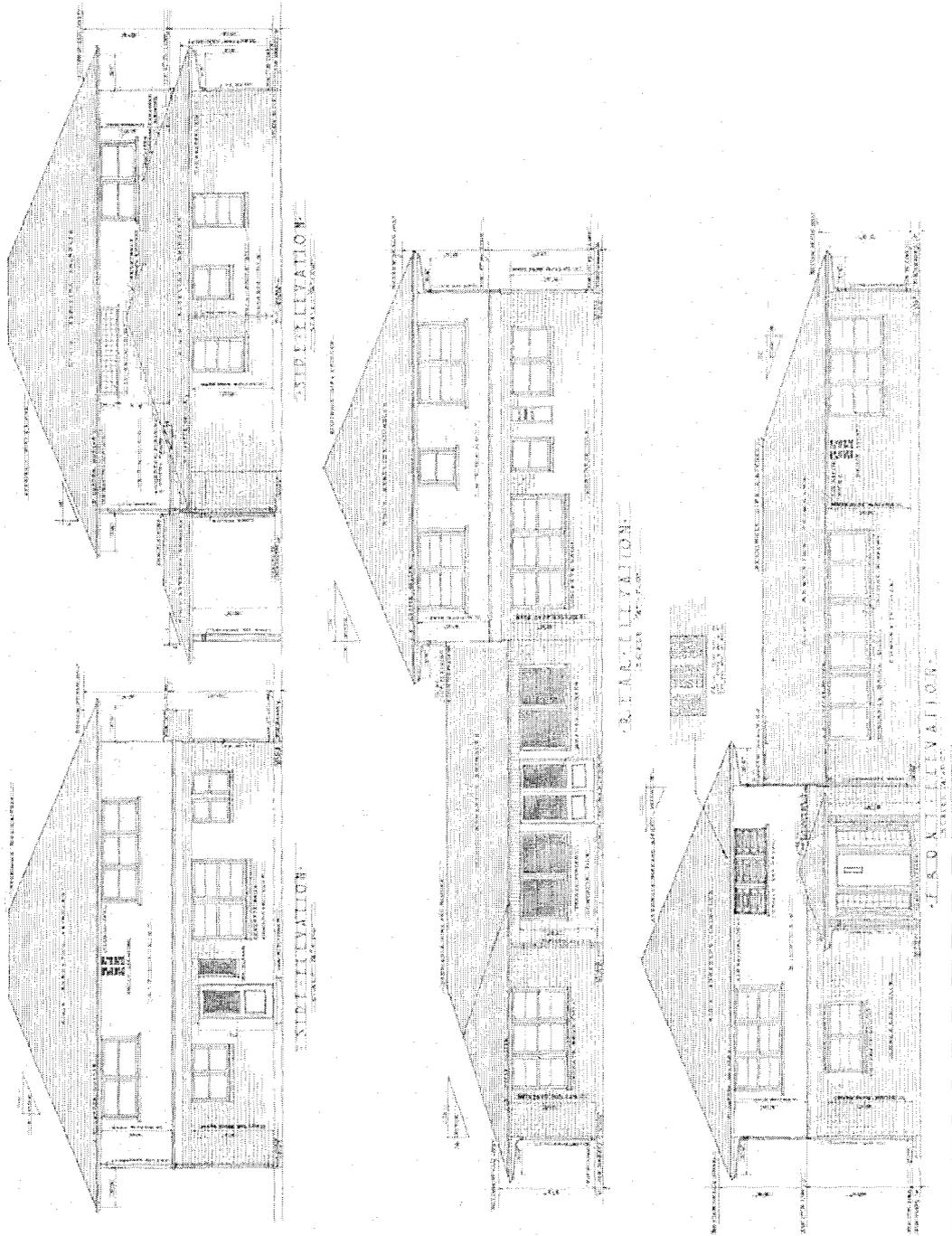


Building No. 656



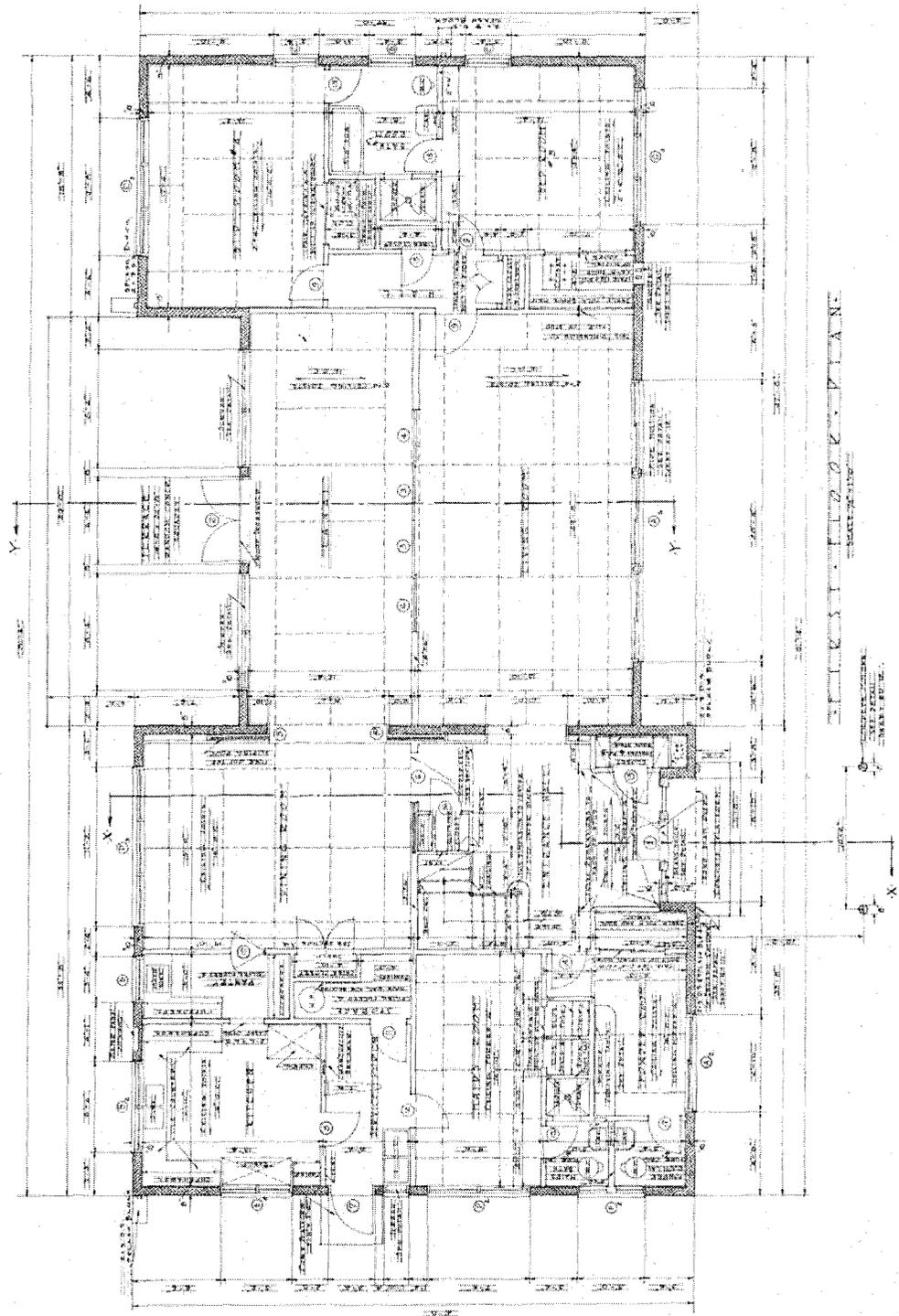
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Portion of original elevation of Building 656, Type E. Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files
1939, 6812-397-3097.



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Portion of original plan of Building 656, Type E. Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files 1939,
6812-397-3096.



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Portion of historic photo (undated) showing Building 656. Note the second floor windows above the porte cochere are still decorative grilles. Caption on the backside of the photo reads "General M. F. Harmon's residence." Harmon commanded the Army Air Forces Pacific Ocean from August 1944 until he was lost at sea on February 26, 1945 and resided in the building when he was in Hawaii (Hickam Air Force Base History Office 2004, 47). Photo from NARA, 342FH-3A-40813.

