

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, MERRY POINT BARRACKS
(Recreation Center)
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Station, Facility No. 89)
Between North Road & Quarry Loch
Pearl Harbor
Honolulu County
Hawaii

HABS HI-413
HI-413

HABS
HI-413

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
PACIFIC GREAT BASIN SUPPORT OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1111 Jackson Street
Oakland, CA 94607

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, MERRY POINT BARRACKS
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Station)
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Recreation Center)
(Facility No. 89)

HABS
HI-413
HABS No. HI-413
(page 1)

- Location:** Between North Road and Quarry Loch
Pearl Harbor Naval Base
City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii
- U.S.G.S. Pearl Harbor Quadrangle, Hawaii, 1999
7.5 Minute Series (Topographic) (Scale – 1:24,000)
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates 4.609800.2361480
- Significance:** Facility No. 89 is historically associated with the Merry Point wharfs and Pearl Harbor's oil storage tanks, all built about 1924. This building was constructed as a barracks for the men working in this area. These structures were all associated with the national Oil Reserves scandal which involved the Navy, the Department of the Interior, and the Pan American Petroleum and Transport Company. This building is a contributing element to the Pearl Harbor National Historic Landmark.
- Description:** Facility No. 89 was built on a mudstone ridge in the Merry Point peninsula, located between Merry Loch and Quarry Loch. Most of this highly altered peninsula is composed of fill land, which is lower and flatter than the area near Facility No. 89. There is landscaping (lawn, trees, and bushes) around this building, while the rest of the peninsula is mostly covered by pavement and buildings. This structure is located to the east of Facility No. 88, the Lubricating Oil Storage Building, and to the south of a row of storehouses, Facility Nos. 146, 147 and 148. A driveway is located to the south of the former barracks and an asphalt-paved parking area is to the east of the building.
- Facility No. 89 is a one-story building with a hip roof. Not including the added deck on the east end, it is rectangular in plan, measuring 93'-6" x 29'-0". The foundation is a combination of 9"-thick perimeter wall and 12"-square concrete piers, raising the floor level about 2' above grade. There are small screened openings in the perimeter wall to allow for ventilation. The perimeter foundation wall is U-shaped, and the concrete piers are along the edge of the original front lanai and along the axis of the center rooms. The foundation posts on the north side are screened by horizontal wood lath.
- There are asphalt composition shingles on the roof, which has exposed rafters and eaves that overhang the walls by approximately 3'. A chimney projects out from the building's east end wall and extends through the roof's eaves, with copper flashing at that intersection. The east side of

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, MERRY POINT BARRACKS
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Station)
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Recreation Center)
(Facility No. 89)
HABS No. HI-413 (Page 2)

the chimney steps out about 1' at the bottom. A shed roof extends about 4' or 5' from the east end of the eaves, supported by wood posts to create a covered entry area over a portion of the added deck. The building has semi-cylindrical metal gutters and a cylindrical downspout at the shed roof, but angular-profile gutters with rectangular downspouts on the north side and near the west-end door.

The building has stucco exterior walls on the south side, west end, and a portion of the east end. Original drawings of a typical wall section show that the building was designed with 2x4 studs covered by shiplap sheathing, asphalt felt, wire lath, and stucco on the exterior. The north wall and northern portion of the east wall are now covered by drop siding, a change from the original design, which is discussed in the history section below.

Facility No. 89 has single and paired windows, with the original double-hung sash now replaced by жалусies or infill materials. None of the west-end windows remain. The north side is also mostly windowless, with a blank wall replacing the original screened lanai. On the east end, one of the two original paired window frames remains. On the south side, two window frames are infilled with solid panels and a vent hood. Two other original windows openings on this side have been entirely removed and have been infilled to become part of the wall plane.

The main building entry is currently centered on the east end, although that was originally a secondary door into the pantry. The original door had been replaced by a modern flush door. There is a glass-covered bulletin board mounted on it. This entry is covered by the shed roof extension, but most of the added wood deck extends further east and is uncovered. The deck's wood railing is supported by simple rectangular posts and closely spaced rectangular banisters. Two sets of wood stairs and a wheelchair ramp lead down from the deck to grade level. Another entry is located at the west end of the building. A wood ramp and a stair lead to a small landing, all with simple railings made of 2 x 4s, in front of the flush double doors at this end. The interior layout and finishes have been entirely changed from their original construction.

Historical Context: Refer to HABS No. HI-389 for more information about the early fuel facilities at Pearl Harbor and for some history of the Naval Oil Reserves litigation, commonly known as the Teapot Dome Oil Reserve scandal.

The irregular shape of Merry Point was transformed into a triangle when the fueling wharfs (Facility Nos. M 1 – M 4) were built in 1922-1923. This Barracks, the Lubricating Oil Building (Facility No. 88, see HABS No. HI-401), and the Boiler House and Foam Pumphouse (Facility 23, demolished before 1978) were the three main buildings located on this peninsula from their construction in the 1920s until the build up of the

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, MERRY POINT BARRACKS
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Station)
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Recreation Center)
(Facility No. 89)
HABS No. HI-413 (Page 3)

base, just prior to World War II. Probably, the barracks were for the men who worked in these adjacent buildings, wharfs, or other fuel oil facilities. Three Dry Provision Storehouses (Facility Nos. 146, 147, and 148, see HABS No. HI-414) were added just north of the barracks in 1940. Other WWII and more recent buildings were later added to the peninsula.

The Navy database lists the date of construction as 1923, but an aerial photo of Merry Point in October 1923 has no indication of construction having started on the barracks (National Archives II 1923). Historic photos show that work on this building was well along in March 1924 and completed by May 1924 (National Archives II 1924).

Facility No. 89, along with a few other fuel buildings and numerous oil tanks at Pearl Harbor, was built by the Pan-American Petroleum and Transport Company (PAPTC). In 1921 PAPTC had been awarded a government lease of Navy underground oil reserve land in California. PAPTC agreed, in exchange, to build fuel facilities for the Navy. The lease was a way for the Navy to obtain needed construction in the post-World War I era when congressional appropriations for military projects were limited. Facility No. 89 and other facilities were constructed under this agreement, generally between 1922 and 1924. Construction on most of these facilities was finished or nearing completion when it was revealed that the Secretary of the Interior, Albert B. Fall, had received bribes from oil companies in return for issuing the leases to the oil reserves. Fall was later convicted and sentenced to two years in jail. One oil company executive was also sentenced to prison, but Edward Doheny, owner of PAPTC, was found innocent.

This facility was designed by the J.G. White Engineering Corporation of New York. This is a major engineering firm that has been both designer and contractor for large civilian and military projects throughout the world (National Aeronautics and Space Administration 1987: 16; Motter 1952: 49). The title blocks on the original drawings note that the building was "designed for the Department of the Navy - Bureau of Yards & Docks." This company has been involved with other projects in Hawaii, starting as early as the 1914 Marconi radio stations in Kahuku and on Koko Head (Papacostas 2002).

The original drawings show the building had a row of rooms wrapping around a long screened lanai at the center of the north side, labeled "piazza" on the floor plan. The seven-bay inset lanai measured about 67' x 10'. Monel metal screens were specified on the drawings to enclose the lanai and for the vent openings in the concrete foundation wall. [Monel was a trade name used from 1907 to the 1950s for a corrosion-resistant alloy, named after the president of the International Nickel Company, Ambrose Monell (Bucher 1996:294)]. In the original layout the east-end bay of the building contained the galley, pantry, and laundry room. The central, larger rooms along the south wall were the mess hall, recreation

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, MERRY POINT BARRACKS
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Station)
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Recreation Center)
(Facility No. 89)
HABS No. HI-413 (Page 4)

room, six-bunk dormitory, and toilet room. The west-end bay contained a small living room, several closets, hallway, and a private bedroom. The private toilet and sink for this bedroom was located in the corner of the larger toilet room. The shower room, apparently shared by all, projected into the western bay closet area, but was accessed from the larger toilet room.

On the original drawings the roof is labeled as slate with a copper ridge cap, but the historic photos suggest that asphalt shingles were actually installed (National Archives II 1924). The drawings also indicate that the chimney was to be built of brick, but the 1924 photos suggest that it was built of concrete or of some material with a stucco cover. The 1923 drawings and 1924 photos show that the building had six-over-six-light double-hung windows (eight single and nine pairs) plus two small two-over-two-light double-hung windows in the toilet room. The historic photos and original drawings show that the foundation screening on the north side was originally diagonal lattice.

The lanai was reached by a central stair which led to a single door with one screened opening above a lower panel. On the east end there was a secondary entry which originally led into the pantry. This door had four lights over two panels. Between rooms, and from the lanai to the galley and living room, were five-panel wood doors. The eight doors from the mess hall, recreation room, and dormitory opening directly onto the piazza/lanai were 15-light, wood-frame doors.

Interior walls and ceilings were typically finished with wood lath and plaster. The floor was built with 1¼" by 4" boards. The galley and pantry each had a built-in "dresser." This was a 4'-4" wide, floor-to-ceiling unit which had a cabinet with double doors and two drawers below a counter. Above-the-counter shelves were enclosed with eight-light double sliding doors.

The names and uses of the building have changed several times since its construction, but the alterations that accommodated the new uses have not been well documented. On the early Fourteenth Naval District maps of Pearl Harbor, dated between 1929 and 1947, the building was not listed as a barracks, but as "Operators Building," which was probably the same use, just a name change. Between 1947 and 1951 this building was converted into "Dependent Public Quarters, Security Officer" (Fourteenth Naval District 1951). It is not clear if it was a single or duplex quarters in the 1950s, but a 1963 building inventory lists Facility No. 89 as a 2-Family Dependent Public Quarters (U.S. Navy, Bureau of Yards and Docks 1963: 3604). The same use was recorded in a 1966 inventory. A 1980 letter noted use of Facility No. 89 as Quarters, Religious Education Building, and mentioned a proposed use as an electronic calibration/repair facility (Naval Station Facilities Records 1980). It is not known if the building was ever used for that function. Sometime before

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, MERRY POINT BARRACKS
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Station)
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Recreation Center)
(Facility No. 89)
HABS No. HI-413 (Page 5)

1997 the building was converted to its current use as a YMCA recreation center. No drawings have been found showing the conversion to either housing or recreation center; dates of alterations are not known.

Since its construction the major changes to the building include: enclosing the lanai, removing some windows, replacing the original double-hung windows with jalousies, altering interior layouts, and modifying the doors. The east-end door became the main entry, since the north-side door was removed when the lanai was enclosed with drop siding. A new double door and ramp was added on the west end. The electric meter and other utility boxes have also been mounted on this end of the building. Air conditioning equipment and piping has been installed along the south wall. There is a recent shed-roof addition on the north side. There have been other minor alterations to the building, such as replacing the diagonal lattice under the former lanai with horizontal lath. Other changes include the added roof and deck on the east end.

Sources:

There are only three drawings for this building, numbers 98652 through 98654 -- all dated 1923, on microfiche cards at the Plan Files of Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific.

Fourteenth Naval District

- 1929 Map of the Yard and Adjacent Units Showing Developments to June 30, 1929, with notation "Plan Showing Outline and Location of Improvements Recommended in Annual Estimates for 1932, Submitted 1930." Drawing no. A-152. From National Archives, courtesy Earth Tech.
- 1932 Pearl Harbor, T.H., Showing Developments to June 30, 1932. Drawing no. 1-N1-110. From National Archives, courtesy Earth Tech.
- 1941 Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor, T.H. Drawing no. I-N1-144, filed as RG71, 1440-3-106 in Cartographic Section, National Archives II, College Park, Maryland.
- 1947 Building List: Submarine Base, Naval Supply Center, Naval Shipyard, Marine Barracks. Drawing no. I-N1-262. Microfilm from National Archives II, Roll 1042, Frame 78.
- 1951 Pearl Harbor, Oahu, T.H., Showing Conditions on 30 June 1951. Structure List is Drawing no. I-N1-322. Provided by Jeffrey Dodge of Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific Hawaii.

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, MERRY POINT BARRACKS
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Station)
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Recreation Center)
(Facility No. 89)
HABS No. HI-413 (Page 6)

Motter, T. H. Vail

1952 *United States Army in World War II. The Middle East Theater. The Persian Corridor and Aid to Russia.* Center of Military History, United States Army: Washington, D.C. On website <http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/books/wwii/persian/index.htm#contents>, accessed August 30, 2005.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

1987 *Engineer in Charge: A History of the Langley Aeronautical Laboratory, 1917-1958.* NASA History Series, Scientific and Technical Information Office, NASA: Washington, D.C. On website <http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4305/ch1.htm>, accessed August 30, 2005.

National Archives II

var. Historic photos in RG71CA of barracks dated March 4, April 4, and May 2, 1924 and an aerial photo of Merry Point and other parts of Pearl Harbor dated October 23, 1923 (order #71-CA-171B-10). All in Still Photo Section at College Park, Maryland.

Naval Station Facilities Records

1980 Letter in folder for Facility 89, discussing existing and proposed uses for Merry Point facilities. Notes taken during April 6, 1998 review of facilities folders.

Papacostas, C.S.

2002 "Know Your ASCE History." *Wiliki o hawaii/Engineer of Hawaii.* September 2002 (Vol. 38, No. 4), newsletter of Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers, p. 6.

U.S. Navy, Bureau of Yards and Docks

1963 *Detailed Inventory of Naval Shore Facilities -- Real Property Data.* NAVDOCKS P-164, Volume IV, District 14. In archives of Naval Facilities Engineering Command at Port Hueneme, California.

Project Information: Commander Navy Region (COMNAVREG) Hawaii has embarked on a program of documentation of historic properties within its area of responsibility, with the goal of recording historic information about each property and establishing its context of significance. This information will assist COMNAVREG Hawaii in the appropriate management of these properties, be it routine repair and maintenance for continuing use, rehabilitation for continuing use / adaptive reuse, or demolition. At this time, specific action that may affect this facility has not been determined. This report was prepared under a Historic Preservation Services contract (N62742-97-D-3502) awarded to AMEC Earth and Environmental, the prime contractor, by the U.S. Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, MERRY POINT BARRACKS
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Station)
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Recreation Center)
(Facility No. 89)
HABS No. HI-413 (Page 7)

Command. The contract was funded through the Cultural Resources Program of COMNAVREG Hawaii. The photographic documentation was undertaken by David Franzen, of Franzen Photography. Location maps were made by Nestor Beltran of NAB Graphics. Between 1999 and 2001, the field work was done and the draft of this report was written by Dot Dye, AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc. The report was rewritten in 2005 by Mason Architects, Inc.

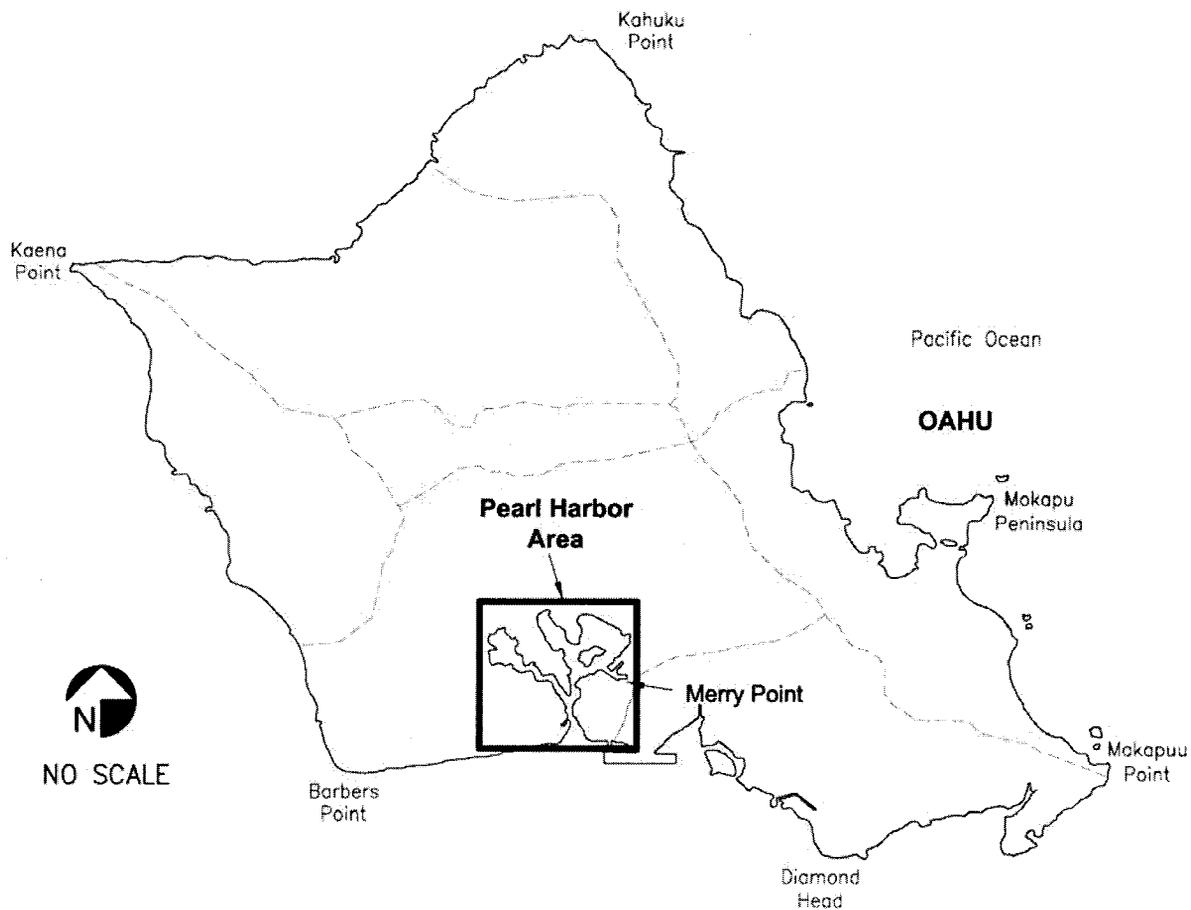
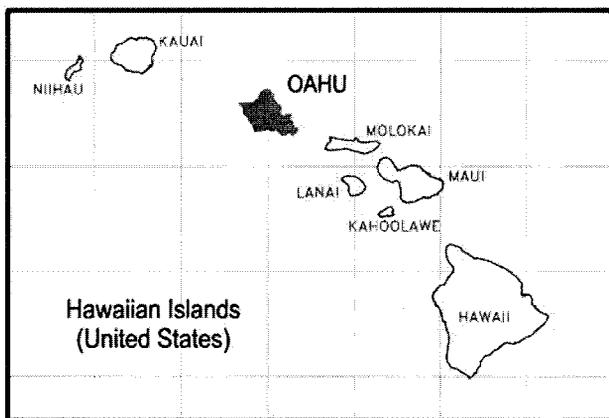
Prepared by:

Mason Architects, Inc.
119 Merchant St., Suite 501
Honolulu, HI 96813

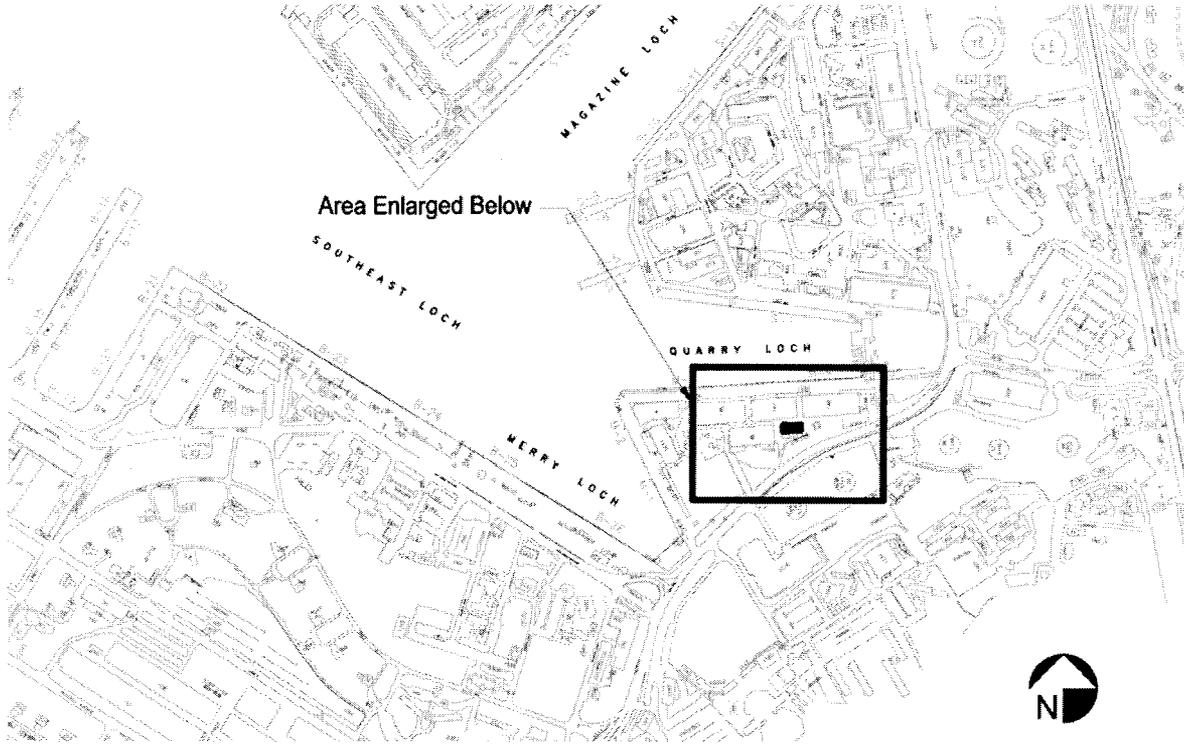
AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.
3375 Koapaka Street, Suite F251
Honolulu, HI 96819

Date of Final Report: August 2005

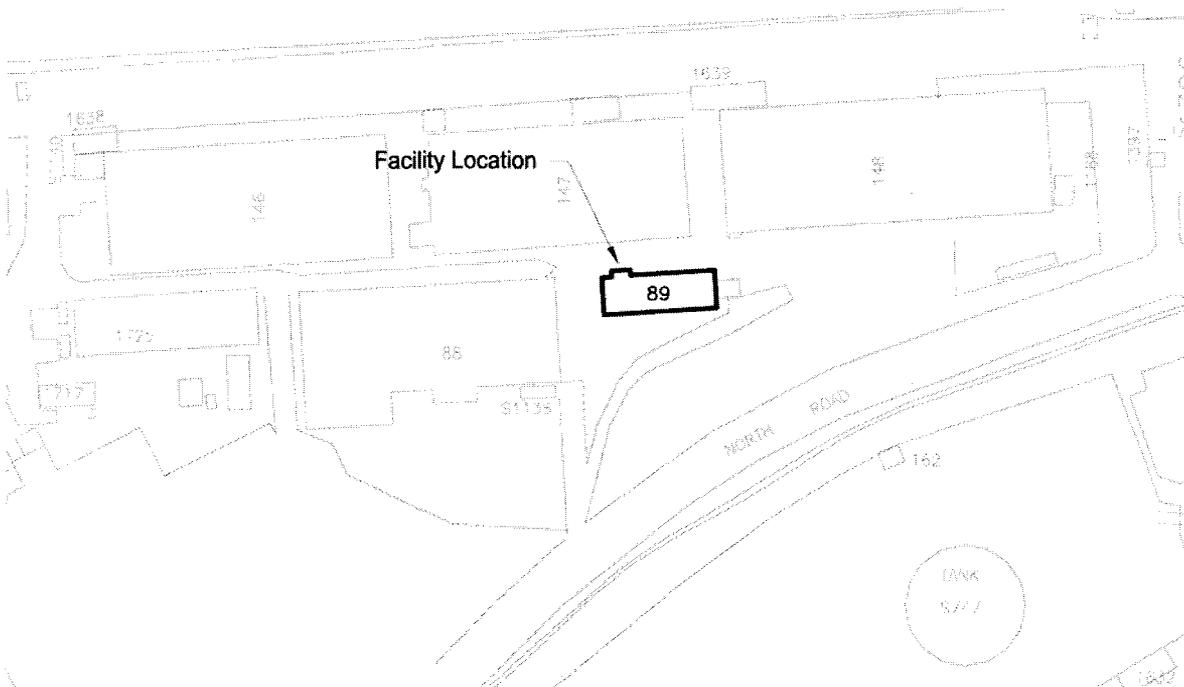
U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, MERRY POINT BARRACKS
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Station)
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Recreation Center)
(Facility No. 89)
HABS No. HI-413 (Page 8)



U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, MERRY POINT BARRACKS
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Station)
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Recreation Center)
(Facility No. 89)
HABS No. HI-413 (Page 9)



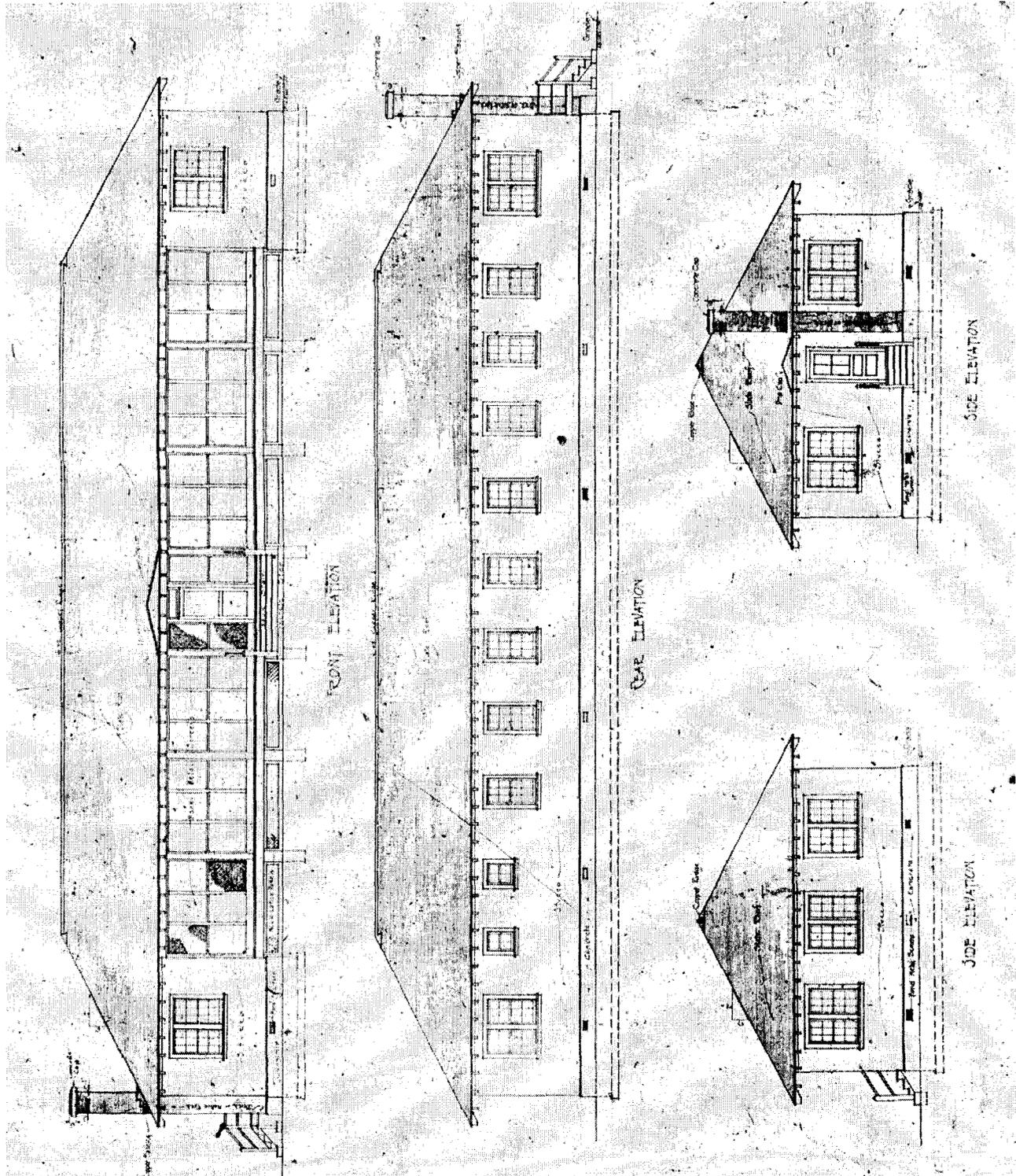
Vicinity Map



Site Map

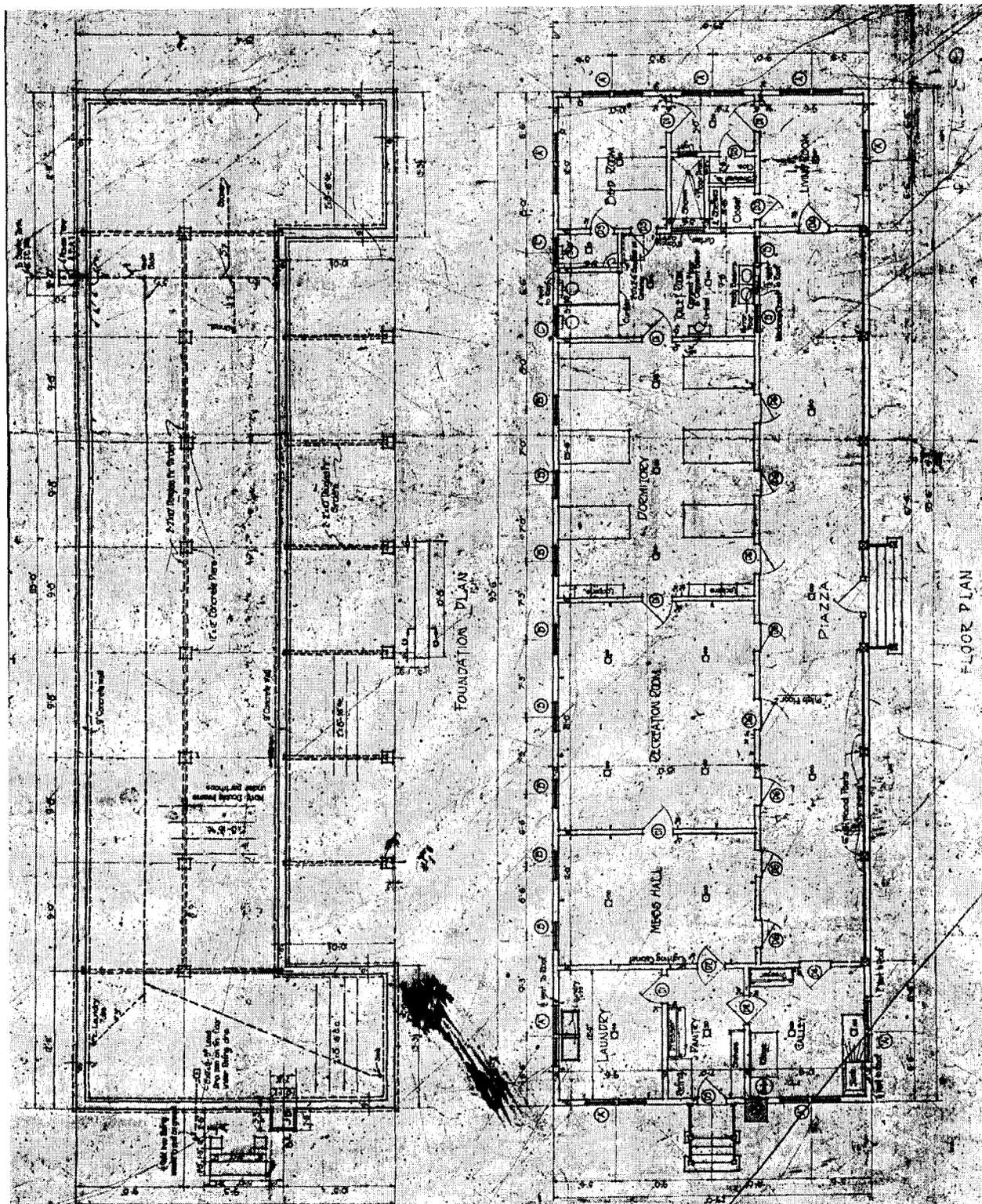
U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, MERRY POINT BARRACKS
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Station)
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Recreation Center)
(Facility No. 89)
HABS No. HI-413 (Page 10)

Portion of Drawing No. 98653, dated April 13, 1923. Elevations.



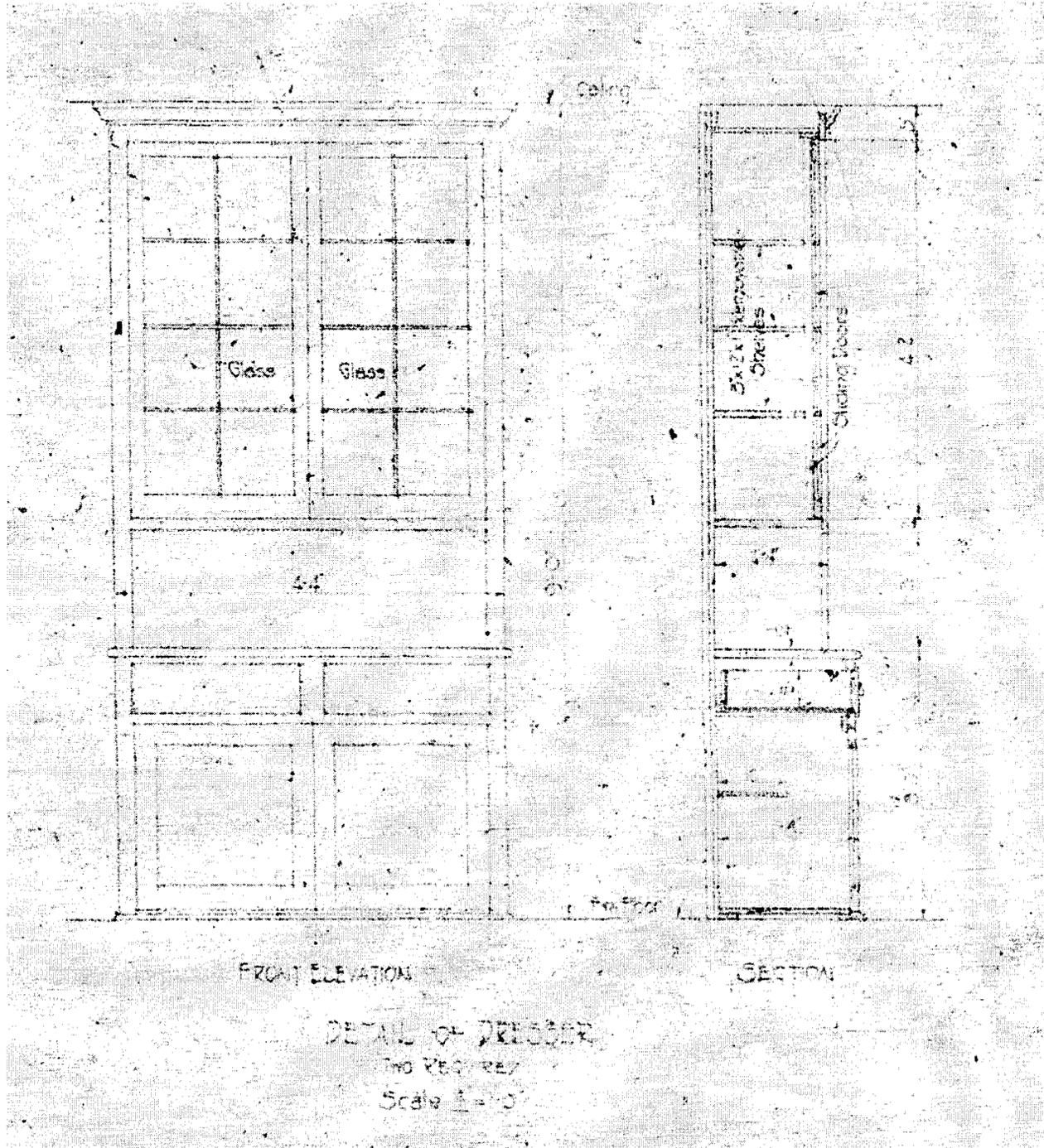
U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, MERRY POINT BARRACKS
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Station)
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Recreation Center)
(Facility No. 89)
HABS No. HI-413 (Page 11)

Portion of Drawing No. 98652, dated April 13, 1923. Foundation Plan and Floor Plan.



U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, MERRY POINT BARRACKS
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Station)
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Recreation Center)
(Facility No. 89)
HABS No. HI-413 (Page 12)

Portion of Drawing No. 98654, dated April 13, 1923. Detail of dresser in pantry and galley.



U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, MERRY POINT BARRACKS
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Station)
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Recreation Center)
(Facility No. 89)
HABS No. HI-413 (Page 13)

Historic photo dated April 4, 1924. View of Barracks facing southwest.
(Source: National Archives II, in RG 71 CA).

