

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, COMBAT INTELLIGENCE CENTER
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Station)
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Fleet Radio Unit, Pacific Fleet Building)
(Facility Nos. 251 & 252)
Makalapa Drive in the Makalapa Administration Area
Pearl Harbor
Honolulu County
Hawaii

HABS No. HI-426

HABS

HI-426

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Oakland, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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Location:

Makalapa Drive
Makalapa Administration Area
Pearl Harbor Naval Base
City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii

U.S.G.S. Pearl Harbor Quadrangle, Hawaii 1983
7.5 Minute Series (Topographic) (Scale – 1:24,000)
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 4.610300.2363100

Significance:

Facility 251 is significant because it housed the intelligence staff for Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet and Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Area, from April 1943 until the end of World War II. One of the most important of the intelligence groups was the Fleet Radio Unit, Pacific Fleet (FRUPAC), which was critical in helping the Allies win the war.

Description:

Facility 251 is mostly a two-story, wood-frame building; however, it has several concrete portions, including the splinterproof transformer station that is part of it, but which has a separate facility number (Fac. 252). The main part of the building has 1" x 8" drop siding and a slightly sloped gable roof, with hoods over the first-floor openings. The eaves are wide, with the roof overhangs measuring 4'-6" in width. The exposed soffits are tongue-and-groove boards. Most of the building originally had foundations of wood posts on concrete blocks, with board skirting, but the six bays at the northeast end have a concrete slab on grade foundation, with extra footings under the structural columns. There are bearing piers under the toilet rooms, because of their concrete floors (supported by wood framing). There is also a concrete loading ramp on the northeast end. The three-level concrete vault on the southeast side is the only portion of the building that has a basement.

The building is about 300' long and approximately 23' in height. The width of the building varies from about 60' to over 100'. Additions, each about 15' wide, were made to the building in 1945, on both the northwest and southeast sides. The one-story addition on the northwest side is six bays long, at the northeast end of the building. The wooden projection on the southeast side is two stories and runs over 2/3 the length of this side. At the southwest end of this projection

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is a three-level (two-story plus basement) concrete vault, which was added to the building in 1947. At the eastern corner of the building, the concrete transformer station (Fac. 252) was connected to the main wooden portion of Facility 251 by the end of 1943 with the construction of a concrete L-plan storage vault which filled in the space between the two briefly separate buildings. This transformer station portion of the building projects about 10' further than any other part on the southeast side. A two-story addition for a new interior stair was built in 1947 and projects out on the northwest side.

The main entrance was originally on the southwest end, via a small, enclosed, one-story projection. The drawing for the enclosed entry shows it was designed with a "blackout maze." That projection was later replaced by a porch and a porte cochere angled over the circular drive in front of the building. This more imposing entrance is no longer the main one, since the plain flush door on this porch is marked "Not a passageway." The ca. 1986 stairway addition on the northwest side provides the main access to both floors of the building. This entrance has a glass door and sidelight in an aluminum frame. There are two other glass-in-aluminum-frame doors. The other exterior doors are mostly flush wood doors. There are two exterior metal stairs to the second level on the southeast side. A metal stair and a handicap access ramp to a porch at the first floor are also located on this side. The large sliding door for Post Office opens onto the loading platform at the other end of the porch.

Most of the existing aluminum-frame windows have a configuration similar to the original wood-frame, one-over-one-light, double-hung type. A note on the 1943 elevation sheet notes: "All windows are same size, to be used from Makalapa housing inventory. Description and size: sash - 3'-6" x 4'-8" double-hung, clear glass, type A." The 1943 wall section drawing, however, notes that the window glass was to be replaced by plywood. It shows there were plywood blackout hoods angled over the screened openings above the windows. Now modern aluminum sash of the same size have been substituted for wooden sash, and the screened openings above the windows have been blocked up by plywood panels or drop siding (on the northwest side of the first floor). Two modern picture windows are now on the northeast end. Most windows remain in the original triplet grouping. Many have air conditioning units installed in one of the sash. Some first-floor air conditioning units are mounted on the ground, including two large units on the concrete ramp at the rear of the building.

The transformer station (Facility 252) portion of the building is built with 12"-thick concrete walls and ceiling and with protective covers over all door and other openings. This type of construction is called splinterproof, since it is designed to withstand shrapnel and other fragments from nearby bomb explosions. The 8'-0"-wide entrance opening was originally protected by an 18'-0" wall on the northwest

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side, which created a corridor to the door. As was typical in the construction of splinterproof electrical facilities during WWII, a large opening was needed to install the equipment, so the protective wall was built partially of concrete and partially with hollow tile (the term then used for concrete masonry units, or CMU). This CMU has now been removed to ease access to the electrical equipment, leaving an opening about 14' x 10'. Thus there is no longer a corridor, just a covered area in front of the large hinged door, which is constructed of horizontal boards and measures 8'-0" x 9'-0". The protective walls built over the two openings on the southeast side are unique at Pearl Harbor. See the drawing of the transformer room included with this report. A second-floor addition of wood-frame construction was built over a portion of the transformer station. The date of this addition is unknown.

The building has roll asphalt material on the visible roofs. Mechanical equipment has been added to the roof of the transformer station. A sunshade is suspended from the roof at the southwest end, over the second-floor windows. In the original part of the building, there are screened, rectangular vent openings between every other rafter. In the two-story addition on the southeast side, there are three screened holes instead of a rectangular vent, between every other rafter.

The interior of the first floor has been entirely modernized with new finishes and layouts. The only remaining historic features on this floor were several wood-louvered utility room and restroom doors of various designs, one of which has a bronze mortise lockset. Some of the door designs have panels (either two or five) of thick louvers that are flush with the rails and stiles. On the second-floor corridor there are some sections of historic partitions. Drawings from 1943 show the original partitions were designed with a frame of 2" x 3" boards around 3'-0" x 6'-0" canec panels that were held in place by quarter rounds. There were originally openings below (1'-0") and above (varied in height) the panels, to allow for cross-ventilation of the office spaces. The partitions that are extant on the second floor have no openings, and there is an additional horizontal 2" x 3" board with quarter rounds, about 3' from the floor. Probably these replacement walls were built in the style of the original partitions, but their date of construction is not known.

The original floor plans for the building are not in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific or Public Works Center Plan Files, and the layouts were probably frequently adjusted as the building was expanded during and remodeled after WWII. The 1947 floor plans (see at end of report) were quite different from the current layout. The big rooms in the 1947 plan have been divided into smaller offices. The two interior stairs, toilet rooms, second-floor corridor, and concrete portions are the least changed elements of the building. The concrete vault on the southeast side, added in 1947, has three levels. It measures 15'-0" square in footprint. The 10"-thick walls of the basement level are further strengthened by cross beams that are 8" x 12" at the walls and

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12" x 26" at the floor and ceiling. This lowest vault level also has a 14" square column at the middle. Entry to the basement vault is through a 30"-diameter manhole, with steel rungs set into the wall for access. The walls of the vault on the first- and second-floor levels are 8" thick. It is clear the basement level is more bomb resistant, but it is not evident what function it served. The other levels presumably were used for secure document storage.

Historical Context: See HABS No. HI-392 for an overview of the history of the Makalapa administration support facilities. See also the specific HABS reports on the buildings in this area that housed the staff of the Commander-in-Chief Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas (CINCPAC-CINCPOA), or of the agencies that supported CINCPAC-CINCPOA. These include HABS No. HI-32 (Facility 250), HABS No. HI-427 (Facility 258), HABS No. HI-428 (Facility 259), and HABS No. HI-369 (Facility 17). The last report is most directly related to Facility 251, and it discusses the Quonset huts that accommodated an expansion of the activities from this building.

In April 1943 the Intelligence Center, Pacific Ocean Areas (ICPOA), including its Radio Intelligence Section and Combat Intelligence Unit (the latter had been used as a cover name for the whole outfit) moved from Shipyard buildings (Facilities 1 and 167) into Facility 251 (Holmes 1979: 14 & 130). The Radio Intelligence Center, although a small part of ICPOA, was the critical section in the early years of WWII. "In the defensive stages of the war, radio intelligence was not only the most important source of intelligence in the Central Pacific, it was practically the only source" (Spector 1988: 157). The name used on the original drawings for the building was "Combat Intelligence Center," and the 1943 site map (Drawing OA-N1-606) labels the building as the Combat Intelligence Center. In September 1943 the intelligence staff was reorganized to cope with the increased work load and to incorporate members from all military services; this was when ICPOA became Joint Intelligence Center, Pacific Ocean Areas (JICPOA). At the same time the Radio Intelligence Section was detached from ICPOA to be directly under the control of CINCPAC-CINCPOA; it was later renamed Fleet Radio Unit, Pacific Fleet (FRUPAC) (Holmes 1945: 4 & 6). When a separate building was constructed for JICPOA in 1944, Facility 251 was labeled as the FRUPAC building. The Estimate Section of JICPOA (which had developed from the Combat Intelligence Unit) stayed in Facility 251 to serve as the JICPOA point-of-entry for Ultra (intelligence obtained by decryption) material provided by FRUPAC (Holmes 1945: 23 and McDonald 2002). The 1943 site map and a detailed drawing of the fence (Drawing no. OA-N3-260) shows that three parallel fences of barbed wire surrounded the building; the center one was 8'-0" tall and equipped with alarm system, flanked by 4'-0" tall outer fences. This reflects the top-secret intelligence work being conducted in the building.

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The fact that this building had its own protected transformer station (Fac. 252) also suggests its importance.

This building was constructed by Contractors Pacific Naval Air Bases (CPNAB) and was one of the many in their multi-million dollar contract before and during World War II. The CPNAB contract report notes that the "radio and telegraphic equipment rooms are air-conditioned" (Contractors Pacific Naval Air Bases n.d.: A-1166). CPNAB also noted that the delay in receiving the air-conditioning, and the radio and telegraph equipment delayed their occupation of the building. The mechanical sheet shows that the air-conditioned rooms were the ones on the northeast end. This part had the slab on grade foundation and was located near the transformer station.

It is not clear if the building continued to be used for intelligence activities following World War II. Immediately after the end of the war most Navy intelligence personnel were released (McDonald 2001 and Spector 1988: 169). Drawings from 1947 show that the building was rehabilitated then, and the three-level vault on the southeast side was added, but the users of the building are not indicated. In the 1960s the staff of Commander, Service Forces Pacific occupied most of the building.

Sources:

The drawings for this building are on microfiche cards at the Plan Files of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific. The World War II ones are under P.W. Drawing numbers OA-N3-224 through OA-N3-237 (but no drawings OA-N3-230 to OA-N3-232). Some of these drawings have 1945 or 1947 dates because they include the numerous small revisions to the building during and after WWII. A set of 1947 renovation drawings for Facility 251 are filed under Drawing nos. OA-N3-836 through OA-N3-841. A portion of the building was renovated circa 1983, as shown on Y&D Drawing nos. 7045893 – 7045899 (and scattered numbers following those, up to 7045935). Around 1986 there was a major renovation of the building, as recorded in drawing numbers 7037895 – 7037945.

Contractors Pacific Naval Air Bases (CPNAB)

n.d. *Technical Report and Project History, Contracts NOy-3550 and NOy-4173, Pacific Naval Air Bases, Chapter XXXII – Various Projects.* Microfiche of report at library of Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific.

Holmes, W. J.

1945 *Report of Intelligence Activities in the Pacific Ocean Areas.* Prepared at Pearl Harbor, T.H., 15 October 1945. 57 pp plus appendices. Typed report provided by Captain Richard McDonald, who knew Holmes was author [no name on report].

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1979 *Double-Edged Secrets: U.S. Naval Intelligence Operations in the Pacific during World War II.* Naval Institute Press: Annapolis, Maryland. 231 pp.

McDonald, Richard (Captain, USN Ret.)

2001 Evolution of Joint Intelligence Center Pacific Ocean Areas. List of dates and events, 1941 to 1946, compiled by Captain McDonald.

2002 Interview and e-mails provided to Ann Yoklavich by Captain Richard McDonald.

Moore, Jeff

1998 JICPOA Lecture Handout, prepared for JICPAC, Pearl Harbor Honolulu, HI, 3 December 1998. Copy provided by Jeffrey Dodge, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific.

Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor

1944 Joint Intelligence Center Pacific Ocean Area, Location Plan and Services, Approved 1/12/44. Drawing no. OA-N3-456 (microfiche) at Plan Files of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific.

Spector, Ronald H.

1988 *Listening to the Enemy*, "Narrative, Combat Intelligence Center, Joint Intelligence Center, Pacific Ocean Area," report noted as "probably drafted by Captain W.J. Holmes." Scholarly Resources, Inc.: Wilmington, Delaware.

Project Information: In 2003, Commander Navy Region (COMNAVREG) Hawaii started the rehabilitation of Facility 251/252 for continuing use as an office building. The rehabilitation work was carried out in accordance with a Section 106 consultation process for this project. 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 Command, Pacific. The contract was funded through the Cultural Resources Program of COMNAVREG Hawaii. The photographic documentation was undertaken by David Franzen of Franzen Photography. Maps were prepared by Nestor Beltran of NAB Graphics. Ann Yoklavich of Mason Architects did the field work, research, and writing for this report.

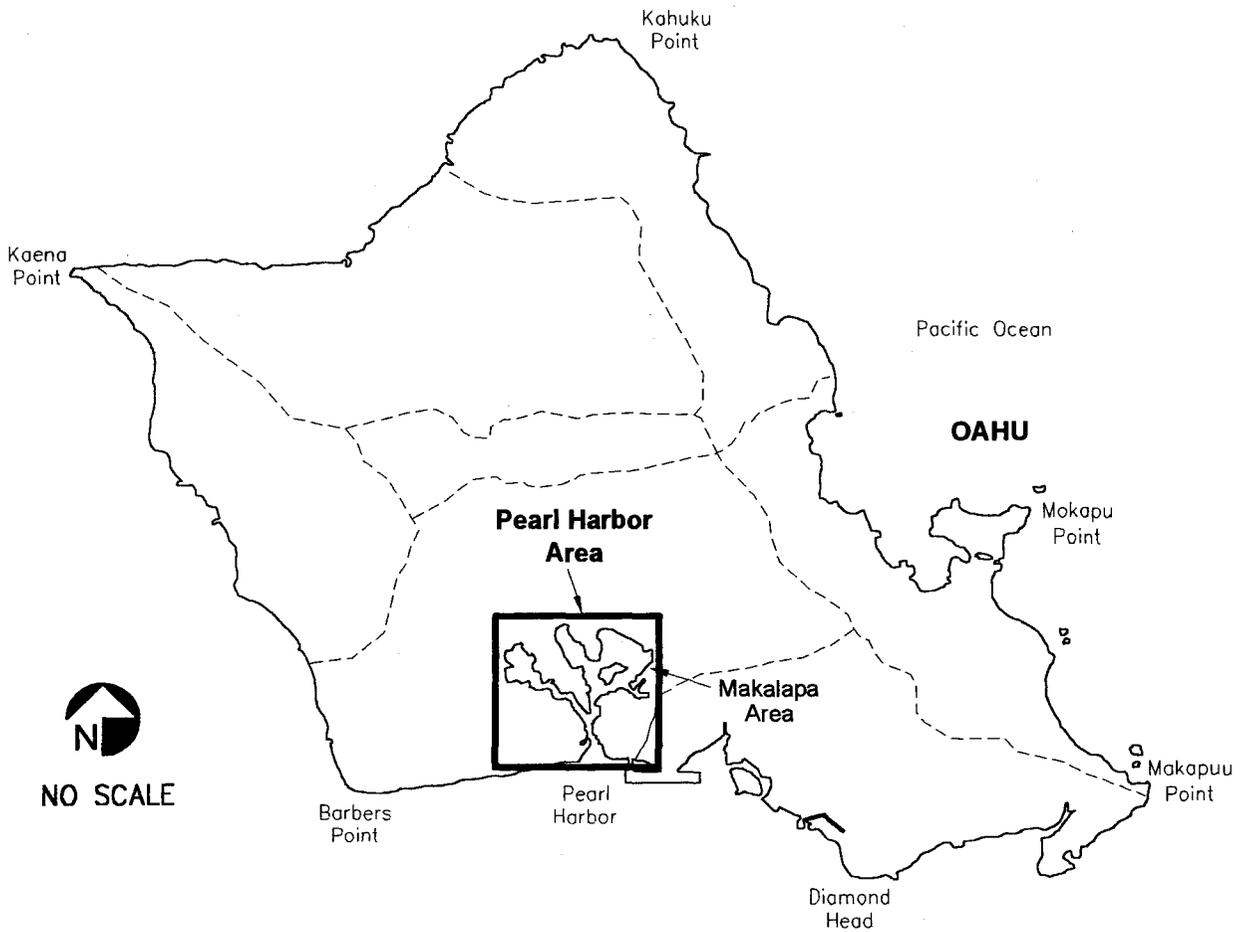
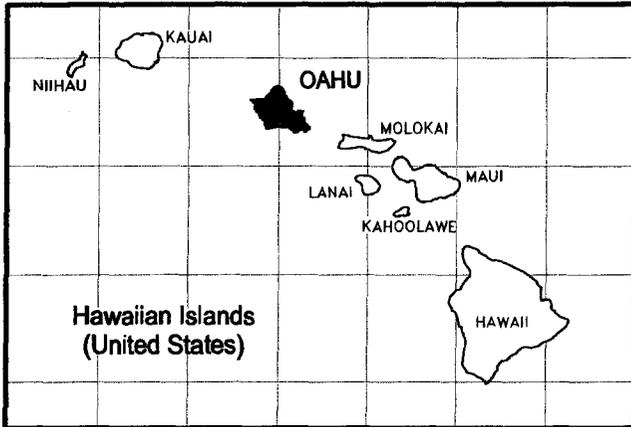
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Prepared by:

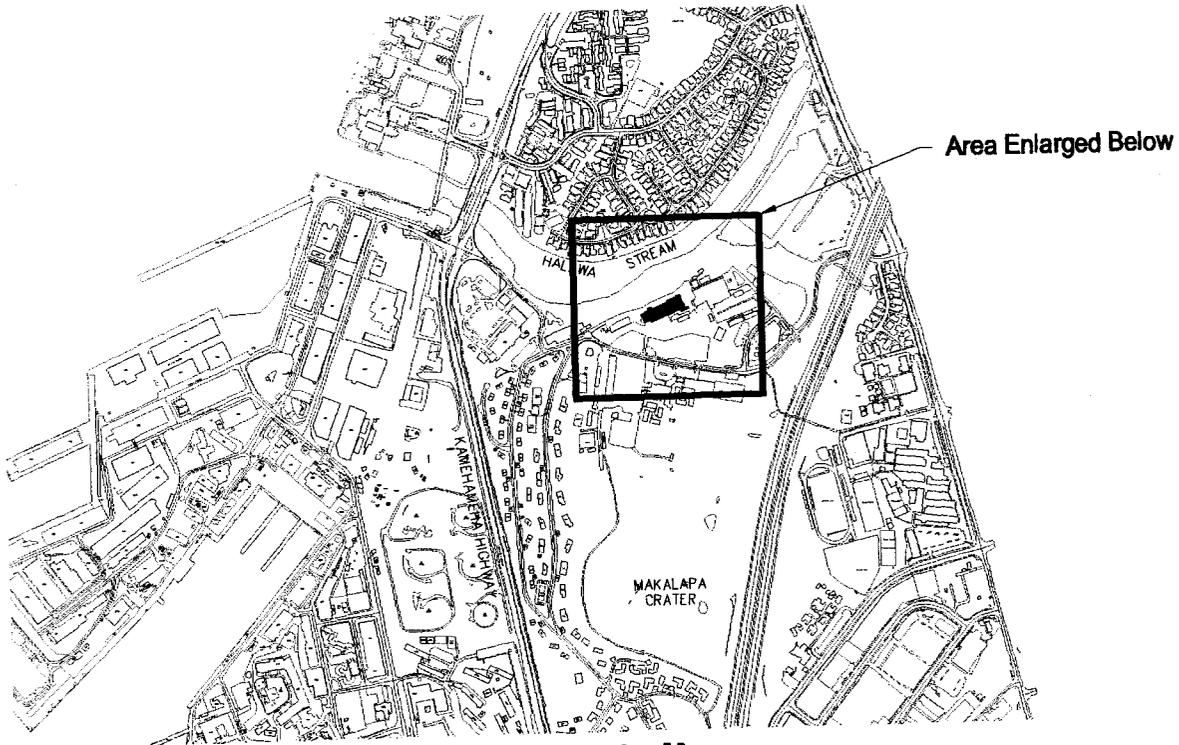
Ann Yoklavich, Architectural Historian
Mason Architects, Inc.
119 Merchant Street, Suite 501
Honolulu, HI 96813

Date of Final Report: August 2004

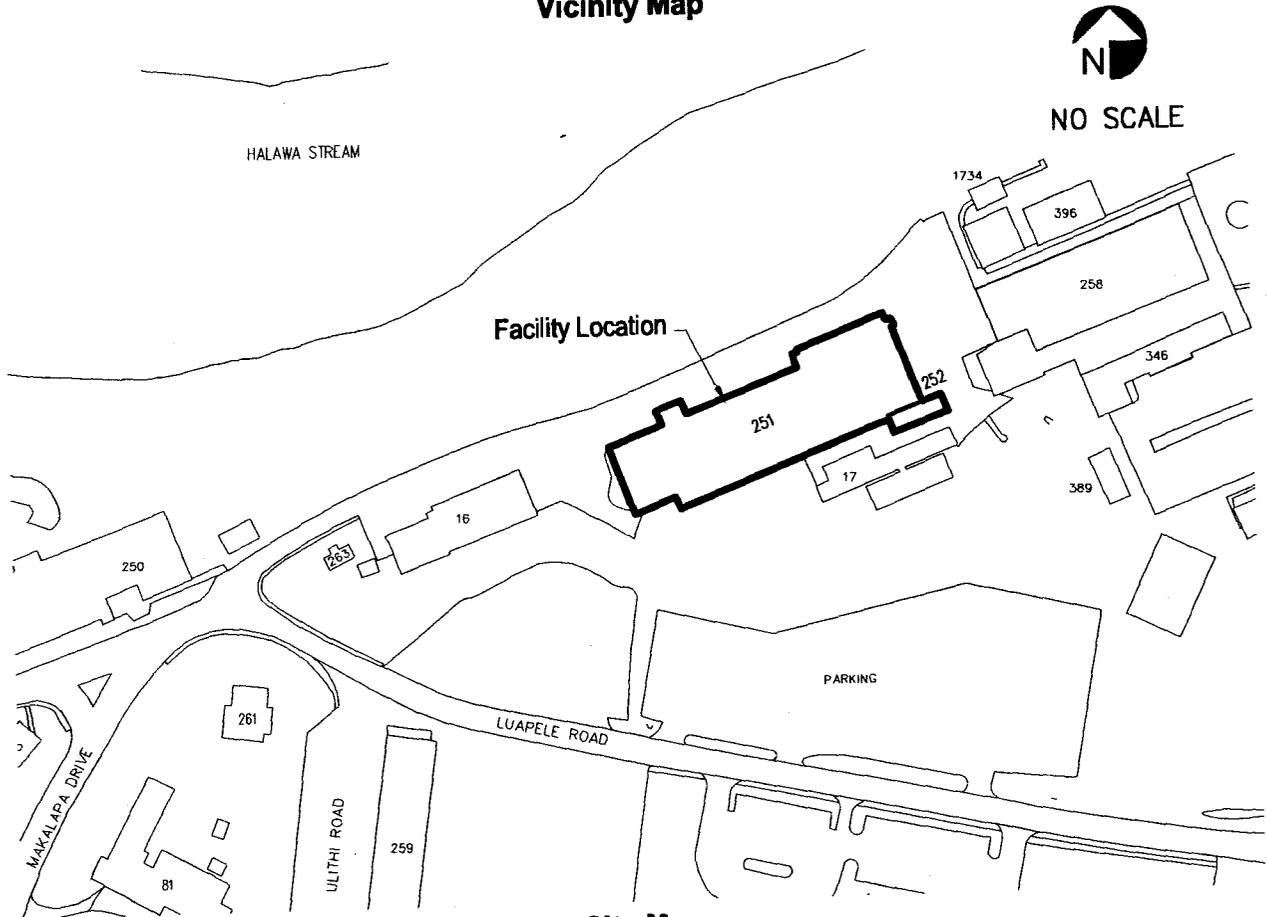
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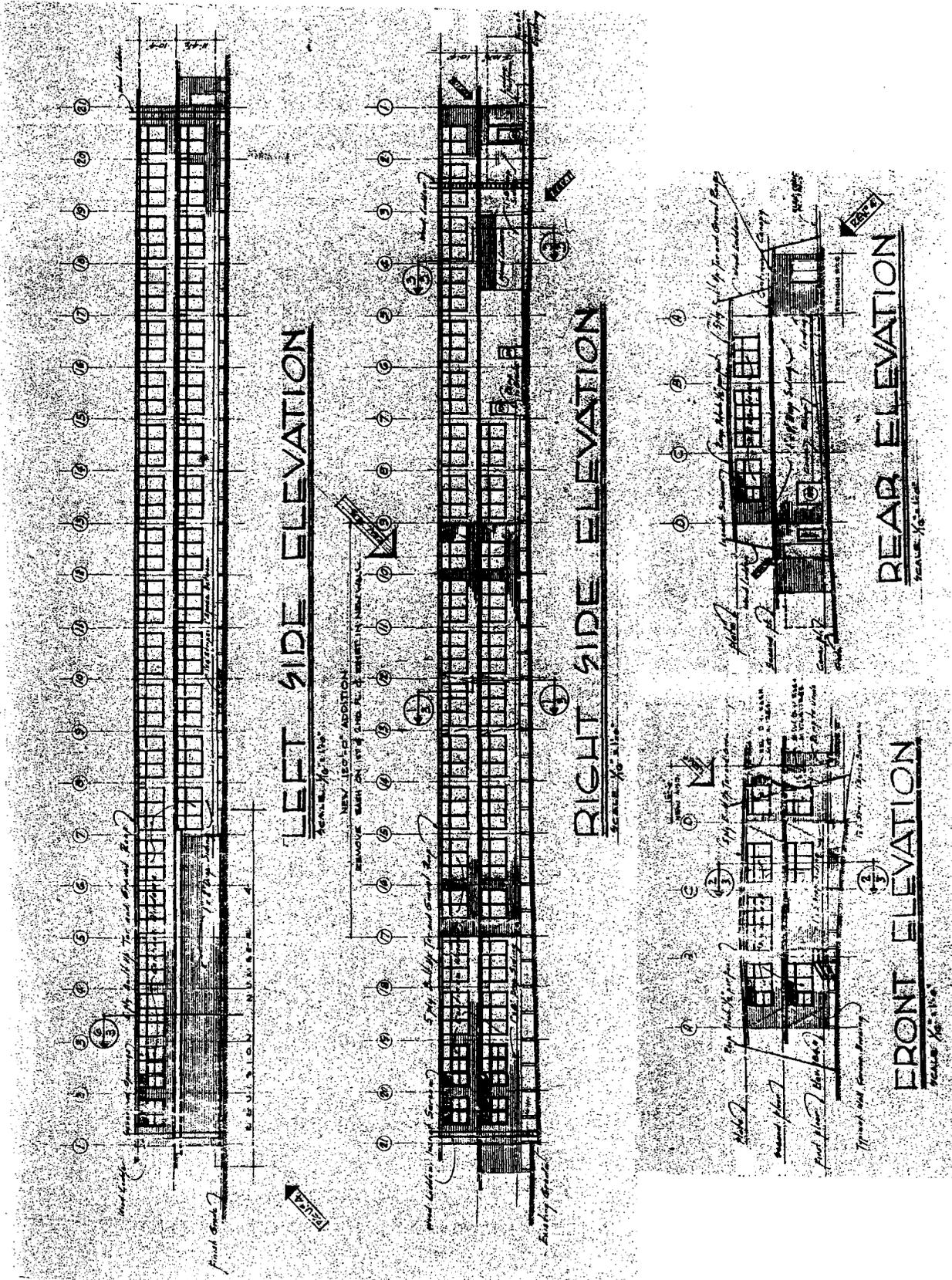
Vicinity Map



Site Map

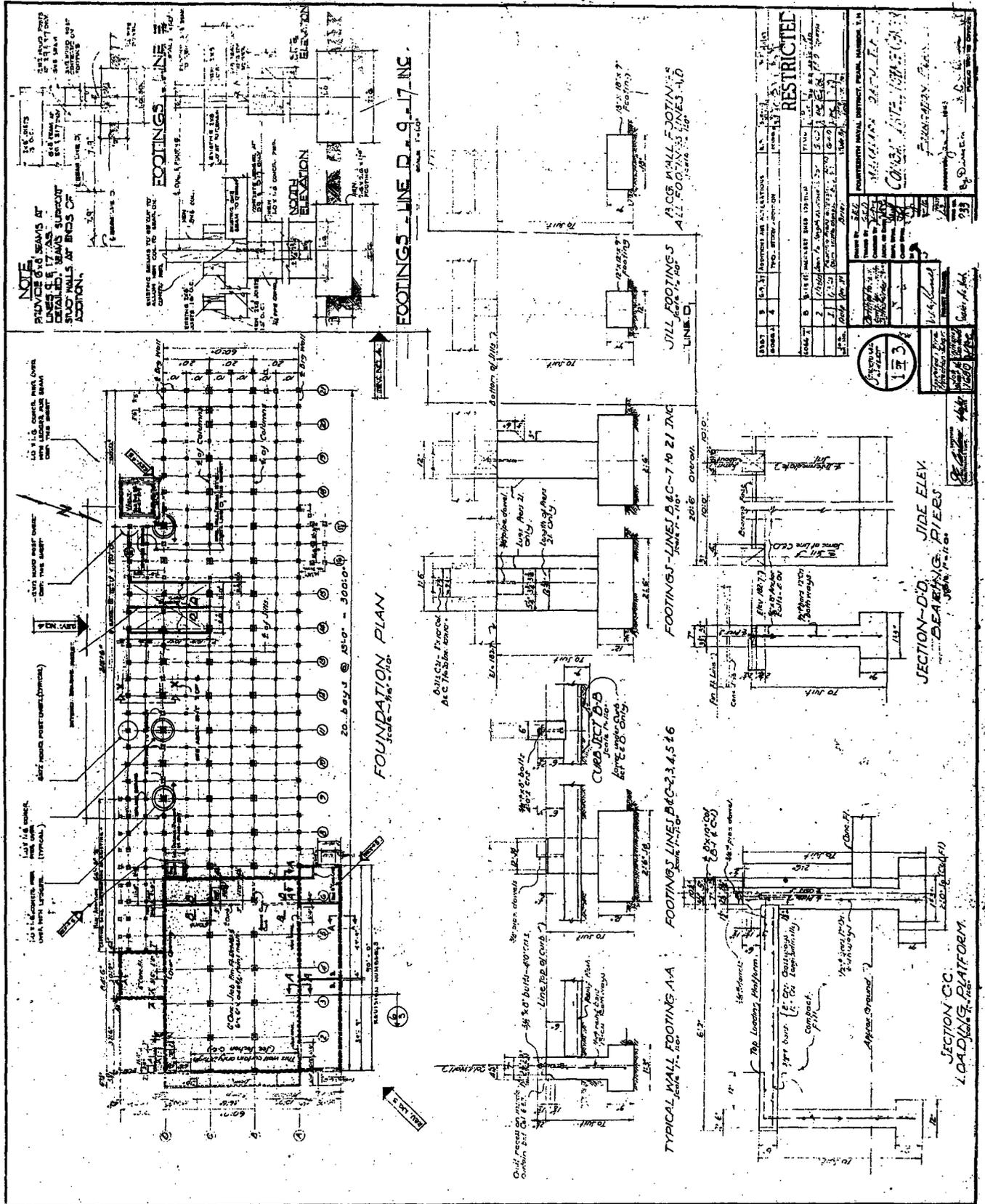
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Original Elevations (portion of 14th N.D. Drawing no. OA-N3-224)
(showing alterations through March 1945)



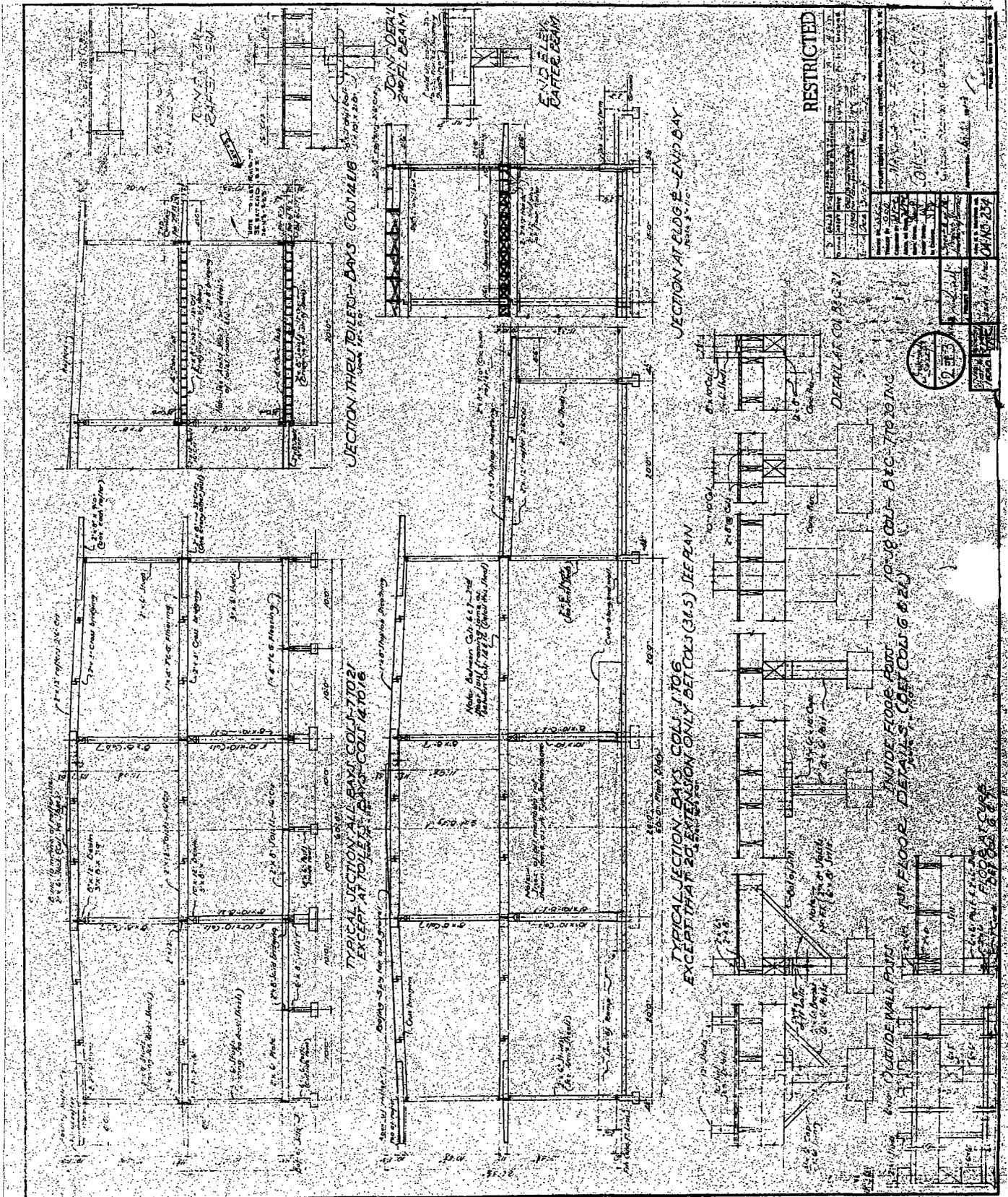
U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, COMBAT INTELLIGENCE CENTER
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Original Foundation Plan (14th N.D. Drawing no. OA-N3-233)
 (showing alterations through June 1947)



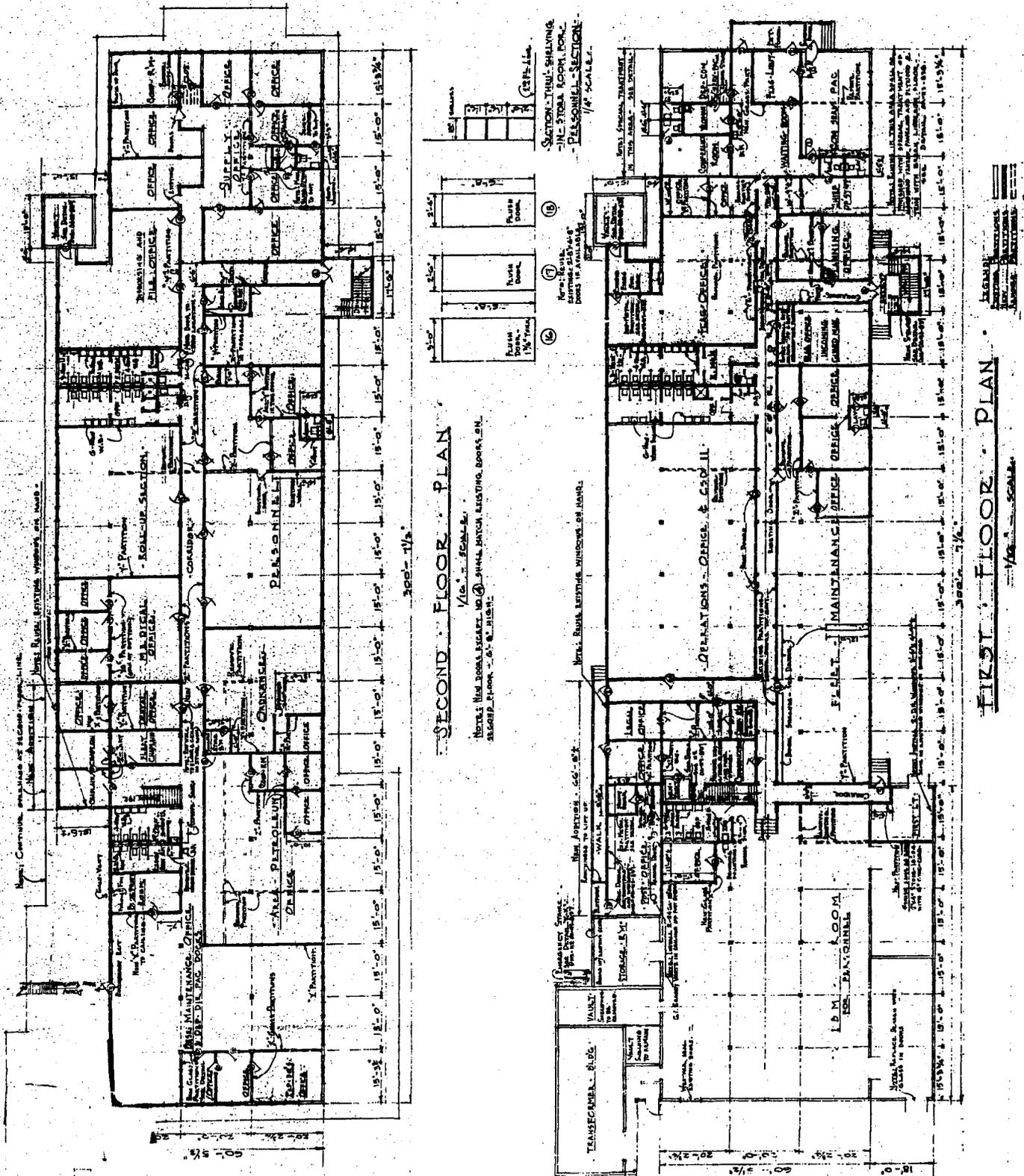
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**Original Cross Sections and Details (14th N.D. Drawing no. OA-N3-234)
(showing alterations through March 1945)**



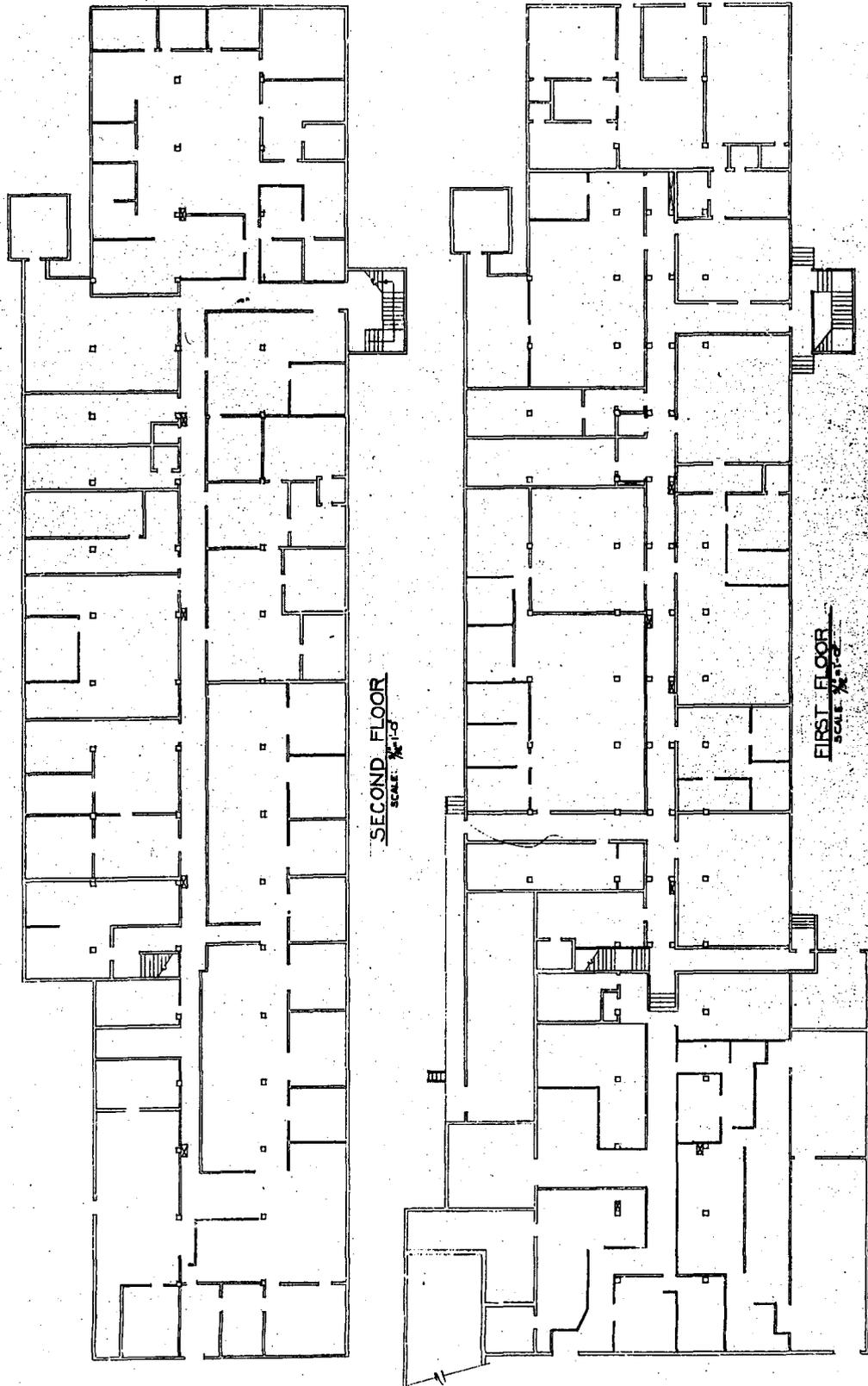
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1947 Rehabilitation Floor Plans (P.W. Drawing no. OA-N3-836)



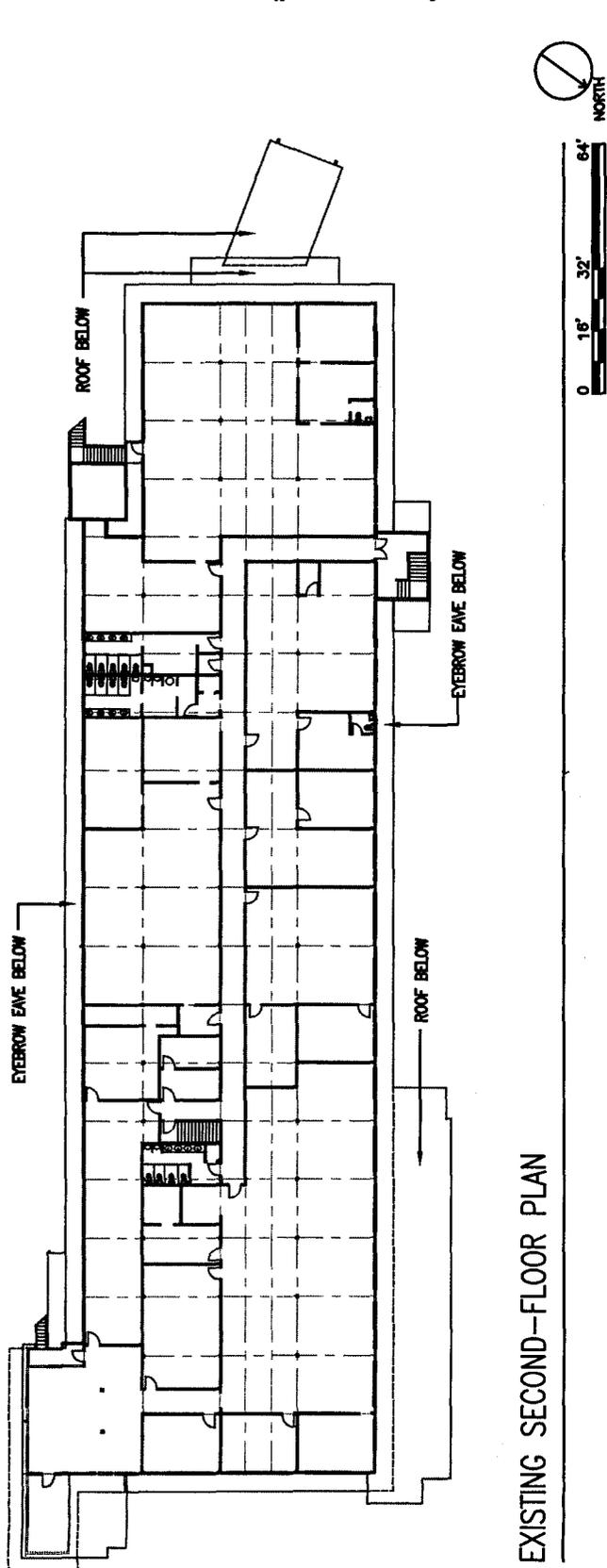
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1967 Floor Plans (NAVFAC Drawing no. 1160644)

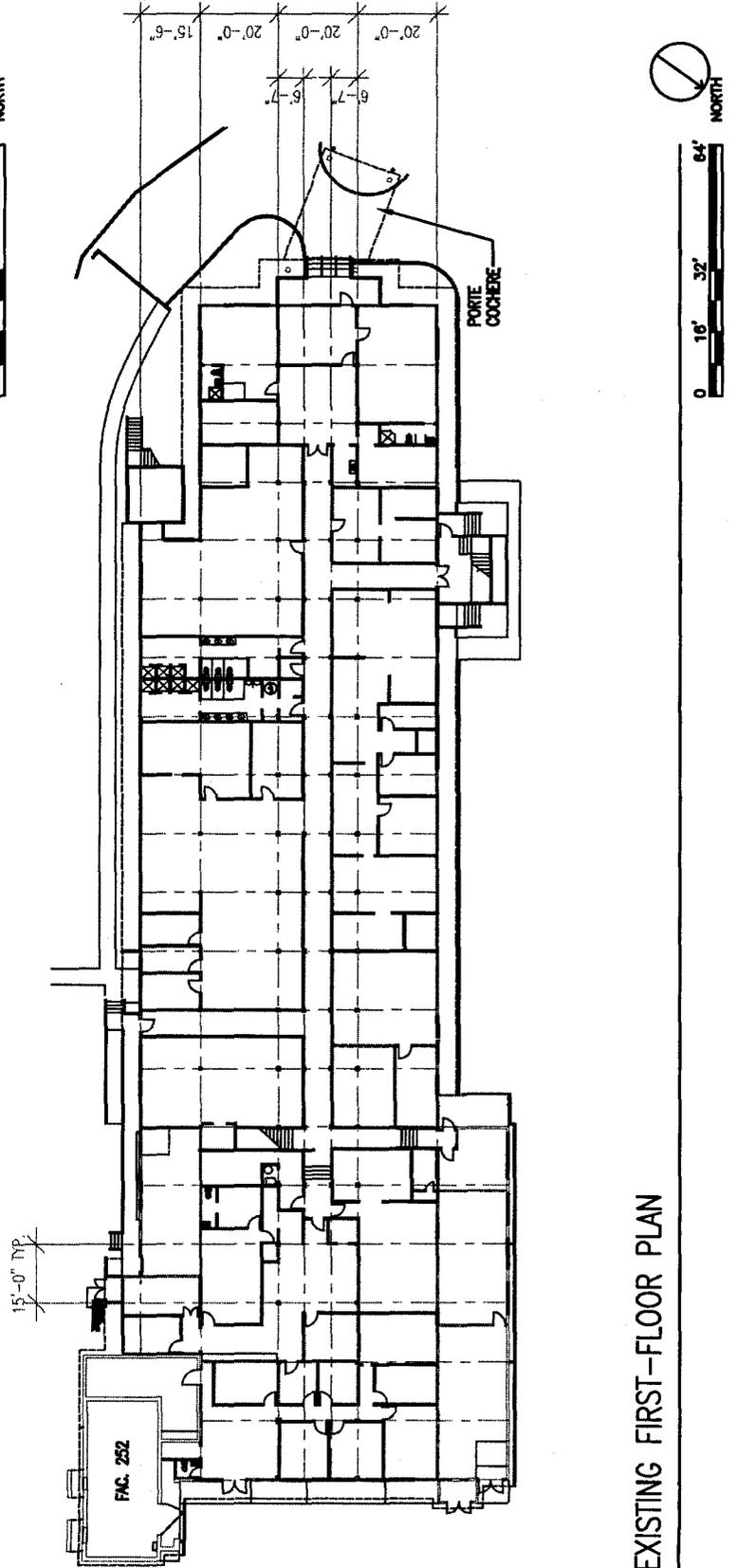


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2002 Floor Plans (produced by Mason Architects, Inc.)



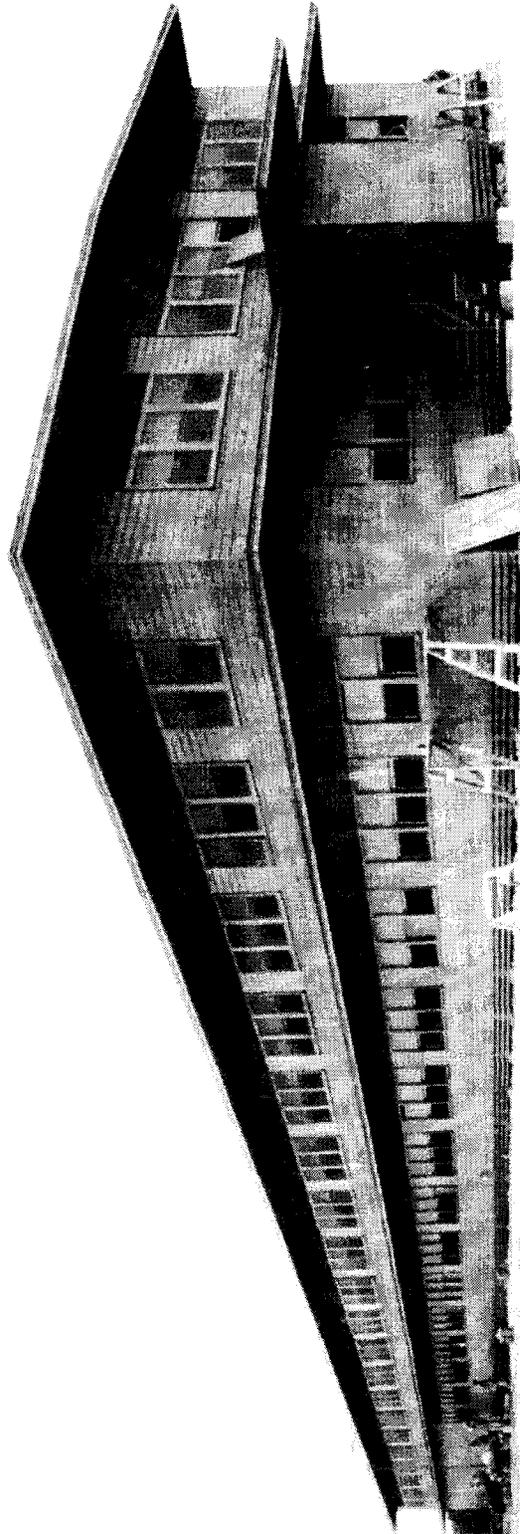
EXISTING SECOND-FLOOR PLAN



EXISTING FIRST-FLOOR PLAN

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1943 Photo (National Archives RG 71 CB, Box 100)



16306 NOV-4173-1 2-19-43 986-43
FOURTEENTH NAVAL DISTRICT, PEARL HARBOR, T.H.
INTELLIGENCE CENTER BUILDING, MAKALAPA
PROJECT #1081, SHOWING SUBJECT BUILDING PRAC-
TICALLY COMPLETED