

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, SPLINTERPROOF SHELTER
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Shipyard, Facility No. S1115)
Seventh Street between Avenues E & G
Pearl Harbor
Honolulu County
Hawaii

HABS HI-478
HI-478

HABS
HI-478

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, SPLINTERPROOF SHELTER (U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Shipyard) (Facility No. S1115)

HABS
HI-478

HABS No. HI-478

(page 1)

Location: Seventh Street between Avenues E & G
Pearl Harbor Naval Base
City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii

This building falls within the UTM coordinates of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard as defined in the location section of the overview report HABS No. HI-483. This building's UTM coordinates are: 04.607830.2361520.

Significance: Facility S1115 is located within the Pearl Harbor National Historic Landmark. It is one of four types of air raid shelters that were constructed during the World War II period at Pearl Harbor, in direct response to the December 7, 1941 attack. This facility is a distinctive building type that is specifically associated with the expansion of the Shipyard during the war. It is the only extant example in the Shipyard of the "square-type" underground splinterproof shelter that was a common feature to the Navy Yard during World War II.

Description: Facility S1115 is a single-story splinterproof structure built below grade with an entrance at each end, at right angles to the long, narrow shelter space. Property records indicate that the building measures 179'-0" x 14'-0" and stands 13'-0" high. The foundation, floor, and walls are made of concrete except along the west (makai) end where the concrete tapers off and is replaced with natural rock walls. Since the building is below ground the concrete roof is covered with earthen. The basic rectangular plan is intruded upon by an intermediate pass-thru consisting of two, 10'-0" wide concrete partitions projecting from the north and south walls and spaced approximately 4' apart. The wooden formwork is evident, as the concrete was left unfinished.

The entrances are located at each end of Facility S1115 at right angles to the long narrow shelter. Each entry has a concrete stair that leads to a ground level opening with concrete curbs slightly above grade. Historic photos indicate that since at least 1977 the openings have been blocked up with multiple corrugated metal panels that are bolted to wood boards atop the concrete curbs. These metal panels and curbing are the only visible markers to this otherwise concealed underground facility. Similar photos also show that three roof ventilation stacks at one time projected from the roof of the building to above street level. They consisted of metal cylinders that stood about 6' tall with conical metal caps. At some unknown date these ventilators were removed.

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, SPLINTERPROOF SHELTER
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Shipyard)
(Facility No. S1115)
HABS No. HI-478 (Page 2)

The interior lighting for Facility S1115 comes from light bulbs suspended from wires running east to west along the ceiling. Apart from this lighting and the 8'-0" long wooden benches used for seating, the entire facility is empty. Historic documents from Contractors Pacific Naval Air Bases (CPNAB), the consortium of construction firms that built many facilities for the Navy at Pearl Harbor and other Pacific locations, indicate that toilet facilities were originally located in the shelter but are no longer present today. There is no record of drawings for this facility in the Pacific Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command; Plan Files index, so it is difficult to determine when the changes to this facility were made. However, with exception to the minor alterations stated above, Building S1115 appears to have remained fully intact.

Historical Context:

Facility S1115 is a type of protective building known as a "splinterproof" shelter that was used to house personnel in the event of an air raid. This building, along with many other types of protective structures, was erected in several locations around the Naval Base in response to the attack on Pearl Harbor with the expectation that additional attacks by the enemy would soon follow.

The distinct design characteristics of this building type were intended to protect against the "splinter" effect of large near-miss bombs, including shrapnel and other debris sent flying by the blast, as well as to provide protection from bullets or small projectiles during an attack. Splinterproof shelters such as this one were constructed with concrete because it was seen as a necessary material to provide the required protection from anticipated future attacks. Military installations in Hawaii are the only known locations for this type of construction.

Although no drawings were found for Facility S1115 the Navy database has listed the date of construction for this building as 1942. One drawing was found for rectangular-section splinterproof shelters. The drawing was listed under "Standard Definitives" on the Navy drawing database for two specific shelters in Honolulu near Punchbowl Street and Ala Moana Boulevard. This drawing could be used as reference to compare similarities in these shelters and Facility S1115. Today this building is used as a fallout shelter to protect from attacks of modern warfare. Its name has changed from that of a Splinterproof Shelter to a Personnel Protective Shelter.

Sources:

No drawings for this building were found. Information on new construction and facility improvements at Pearl Harbor during World War II was obtained from the Contractors Pacific Naval Air Bases (CPNAB) files. A property record card for Facility S1115 was copied at the Naval Shipyard Facilities files as well.

Bureau of Yards and Docks

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, SPLINTERPROOF SHELTER
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Shipyard)
(Facility No. S1115)
HABS No. HI-478 (Page 3)

1946 "Building the Navy's Bases in World War II, Vol. I and II,"
U.S. Government Printing Office.

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii
2000 Pearl Harbor Naval Complex, Cultural Resources
Management Plan, Pearl Harbor, HI.

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii
2002 Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan, Pearl
Harbor Naval Complex, Pearl Harbor, HI.

Contractors Pacific Naval Air Bases

n.d. *Technical Report and Project History, Contracts NOy-3550
and NOy 4173: On digitally scanned images or microfilm
at Pacific Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command
(NAVFAC EFD Pacific) Library.*

HABS/HAER Documents

var. dates For those resources on the Navy database at the time
the CRMP (Contract No. NB62742-93-D-0502) was
prepared, the HABS/HAER numbers assigned have been
included in the electronic database as an additional field,
as noted in Appendices: Pearl Harbor Naval Complex
Cultural Resources Management Plan, 1998, p. A-6.

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

1992 Historic Preservation Documentation Program,
photocopied document dated 15DEC92 including
Appendix B Historic Inventory.

Yoklavich, Ann

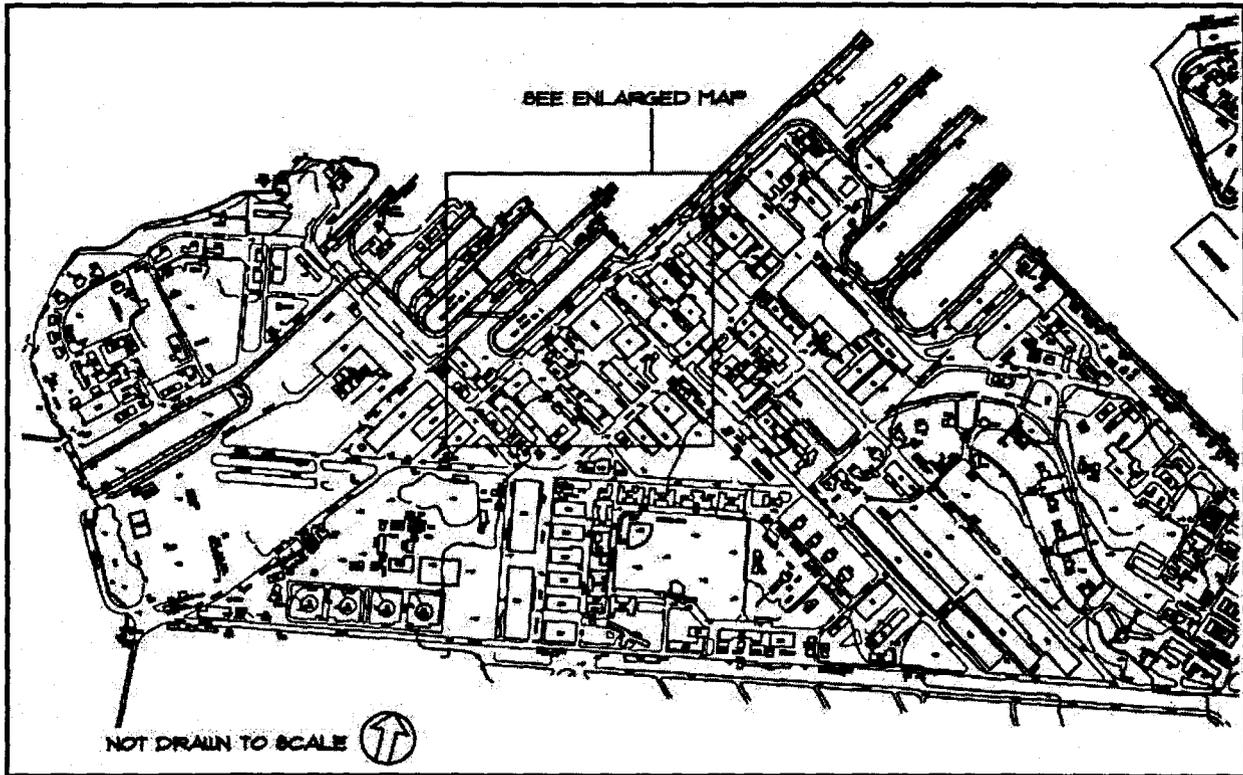
2000 U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, World War II Splinterproof
Shelters, Overview Report, HABS No.HI-390. Prepared for
Pacific Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command
(NAVFAC EFD Pacific).

**U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, SPLINTERPROOF SHELTER
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Shipyard)
(Facility No. S1115)
HABS No. HI-478 (Page 4)**

Project Information: Photo documentation and recordation of this facility by the Navy has been done in anticipation of potential demolition of the structure. Photo documentation of historic facilities by the Navy assists in expediting planned undertakings by having the documentation prepared prior to taking actions. Also, photo documentation assists the Navy in gaining more information about its historic facilities to assist in making proactive management decisions. This project is being supervised by Jeffrey Dodge A.I.A., Historic Preservation Specialist at the Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC EFD Pacific). The photographic documentation was undertaken by David Franzen, photographer. Joanmarie N. Orłowski, Architectural Historian, of Mason Architects, Inc. prepared the written documentation. The field work and research was conducted for this report between July 2001 and December 2001.

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, SPLINTERPROOF SHELTER
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Shipyard)
(Facility No. S1115)
HABS No. HI-478 (Page 5)

Shipyard Map



U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, SPLINTERPROOF SHELTER
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Shipyard)
(Facility No. S1115)
HABS No. HI-478 (Page 6)

Enlarged Area Map (reduced, not to scale)

