

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, STORAGE FACILITY
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Shipyard, Facility Nos. T15 &
T15A)
West end of Second Street
Pearl Harbor
Honolulu County
Hawaii

HABS HI-481

HI-481

HABS
HI-481

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, STORAGE FACILITY (U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Shipyard) (Facility Nos. T15 and T15A)

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Location:

West end of Second Street
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: 04.606820.2361360.

Significance:

Located within the Pearl Harbor National Historic Landmark, Facilities T15 and T15A are one of the few remaining examples of the numerous Quonset huts that were an ubiquitous element of Navy constructed installations in the Pacific during World War II. This building type embodies the distinctive characteristics of a period and method of construction. Quonset huts were erected as temporary buildings globally during World War II and became "the archetypal military building type of the war" (Albrecht 1995: 25). The Quonset hut represents a significant step in the trend to mass-produce prefabricated buildings using standardized components for easy shipping and erection. Quonset huts of this configuration were used early in World War II at advance-bases in the Pacific, especially Midway, Naval Air Station. Facilities T15 and T15A are the last Quonset huts of this storehouse type still existing on a Navy-owned base in the Pacific.

Description:

Facilities T15 and T15A take the Quonset hut name from Quonset, Rhode Island where manufacturers under a Navy contract initially produced the facilities with its characteristic prefabricated barrel, semi-cylindrical vault roof form with flat end walls. It is a one-story structure with a rectangular plan that measures 200'-8" x 41'-0" and stands 20'-6" high. The framing for the building consists of segmental arched, double channel steel ribs spaced 4'-0" on-center. The ribs are screwed to channels that are bolted to the concrete foundation. Supporting or "stiffening" the ribs are metal purlins and headers that span horizontally. The end walls are made of a steel bulkhead frame composed of studs and girts, which help support the roof and enclose the structure within the arch form. Corrugated sheet metal panels are used to side the structure; the roof panels run perpendicular to those covering the sides. The absence of insulation, interior walls or finishes exposes the framework and corrugated sheathing at the interior.

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There are no windows throughout this warehouse-type facility, only wood framed openings with metal mesh screens at the east and west end walls. There is no glazing, however wood muntins dividing the individual sashes indicate that glass may have been installed at one time. Paired openings are symmetrically aligned at the east wall with a triplet of openings centered above near the roof level. A corrugated metal awning with metal angle roof supports shades them. At one time the west end wall had a similar fenestration-like pattern with paired window openings flanking each side of sliding metal corrugated doors that operated on a hanger and track. However drawings indicate that sometime after 1978 the sliding doors and one window from each side of it were covered with corrugated metal and an overhead door with metal slats was installed. The same 1978 drawing shows that metal mesh and wood frame windows were located along the north and south elevations but have since been removed. Mirroring one another are protruding entrances located at the center of the north and south elevations, which is a unique feature to this warehouse-type of Quonset hut. These entrances have corrugated metal sliding entry doors with corrugated metal siding and shed-like roofs with composition roofing and overhanging eaves. The interior framework at the east wall suggests that a door(s) was planned for that location and never installed (or perhaps was once there but later removed). There are no drawings or resources to verify this.

Exposed at the interior are the structural materials of metal and steel that compose the building's shell. Minimal detailing as well as the absence of interior walls and finishes gives the structure a utilitarian appearance.

Historical Context:

It is on record in the Navy Data Base that Facilities T15 and T15A have two different dates of completion: T15 in 1943 and T15A in 1945. This phenomenon is quite unique since both facilities exist within the same structure. Most of the larger Quonset huts were nominally 40'-0" x 100'-0". Neither T15 nor T15A are shown on the June 30, 1943 or January 1, 1944 maps of the Naval Yard at Pearl Harbor but they are present, as one structure, on the June 30, 1949 map of this same area. This concludes that the date of construction is incorrect for the 1943 date and the 1945 date is more likely the construction date for this location. These facilities may have been previously relocated. This is quite possible, given the fact that Quonset huts were manufactured as mobilization buildings that could easily be erected and also transported to alternate locations if necessary.

There are only a few drawings on file for this building, of which only one dates back to March 1945 for the Radio Material Office and was prepared by the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks. The remaining drawings were all completed in 1978. Since that time only

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minor changes, mentioned in the description section, have been implemented. The original use of the building was as a Quonset hut storehouse for electrical materials. These facilities were later used by Production for storage of salvaged ship gear. Currently known as Maintenance S/S Storage – X99, this building is now used as Shop 99 Storage for crane maintenance supplies and plan storage.

Note: For additional written information regarding the history and development of Quonset huts please see HABS Nos. HI-279-B, HI-279-E, RI-397-A, and RI-397-B.

For an overview of the Naval Shipyard see HABS No. HI-483.

Sources:

Drawings for Facilities T15 and T15A are on digitally scanned images or microfilm at the Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC EFD Pacific) Plan Files. The following numbers were used: I-N1-167 (June 30, 1943), I-N1-274, and I-N1-296 (June 30, 1949).

A 1944 historic map (No. I-N1-167) was referenced in the Historical Context of this report. It is part of an undated, anonymous typescript report in the Robert F. Walden collection, located at the University of Hawaii Hamilton Library, Hawaii and Pacific section. A 1951 map (No. I-N1-321) from NAVFAC EFD Pacific, Code 23 was also referenced in the Historical Context section of this report.

Bureau of Yards and Docks

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.

Historic American Buildings Survey

1993 Advance Base Depot, Davisville, Building A-130;
HABS No. RI-397-A. [two joined 16'-wide Quonsets].
Prepared by Angela Edwards.

[1993] Advance Base Depot, Davisville, Building T-17;
HABS No. RI-397-B. [40' x 100' Quonset].

1995 Naval Air Station Barbers Point, Quonset Hut Type 1
- 40' x 100', Facility Nos. 1506, 1520, & 1523; HABS
No. HI-279-B. Prepared by Ann K. Yoklavich.

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1995 Naval Air Station Barbers Point, Quonset Hut Type 2
- 40' x 200', Facility Nos. 1144, 1149, 1150, 1152, &
1153; HABS No. HI-279-E. Prepared by Ann K.
Yoklavich.

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

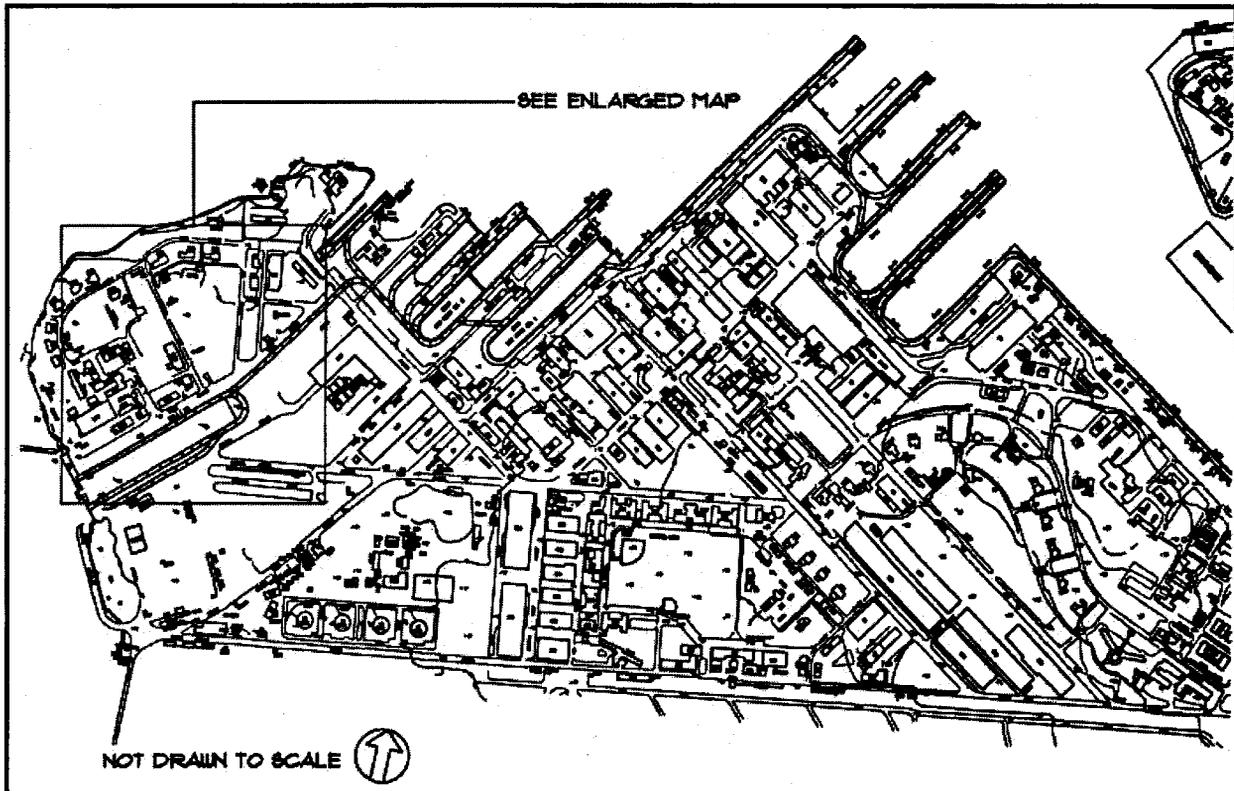
1992 Historic Preservation Documentation Program,
photocopied document dated 15DEC92 including
Appendix B Historic Inventory.

Project Information:

Photo documentation and recordation of this facility by the Navy has been done in anticipation of future alterations or 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.

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Shipyard Map



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Enlarged Area Map (reduced, not to scale)



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Exterior Elevations (Drawing No. 7022475, dated 6/28/1978) (reduced, not to scale)

