

**HICKAM FIELD, NCO HOUSING TYPE 8
(Hickam Air Force Base, Building 496)
212E Thirteenth Street
Honolulu
Honolulu County
Hawaii**

HABS No. HI-164-AR

**HABS
HI-164-AR**

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HICKAM FIELD, NCO HOUSING TYPE 8 (Hickam Air Force Base, Building No. 496)

HABS
HI-164-AR
HABS No. HI-164-AR
(Page 2)

- Location:** 212E Thirteenth Street
City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii
U.S.G.S. Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Quadrangle 1999 (7.5 minute series)
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates 04.608300.2360600.
- Significance:** Building 496 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 496 is a two-story, nine-unit apartment building with a u-shaped plan that covers a footprint measuring 138'-8" wide and 71'-6" deep. The courtyard formed between the two wings at the front façade of the building is 95'-8" wide and 50'-0" deep. The building has a hip roof with open, vented eaves and clipped rafter tails that is covered with clay tiles. Each front-facing hip on the side wings has a fixed louver vent at the top. At the second floor, on each front-facing end of the two side wings, is a decorative cast concrete grill which vents storage areas. On the three sides facing the courtyard, the building has an 8'-2" wide concrete walkway that is covered by a clay-tiled hip roof supported by octagonal wood posts. Building 496 is built of concrete hollow tile on a concrete-slab-on-grade. Unit E is typical of the building's units; a two-story layout with two bedrooms on the second floor. There is one three bedroom unit (Unit D) in the building.
- The front entry of Unit 212E at Building 496 has a main door with six vertical v-joints and a vision panel, and an aluminum screen door. The rear entry to the service porch has an aluminum screen door only. Typically, the interior has v-joint canec panel ceilings, plaster walls with a picture rail about ¼" from the ceiling, and carpeted floors. Inside the front entry door is a small area where the original acid-stained concrete floor of the first floor areas is visible. On the second floor, a portion of the original tongue-and-groove oak flooring is visible at the stairwell edge of the bedroom hall.
- Typical doors in the unit are single-panel wood with brass doorknobs and escutcheon plates. The two bedroom doors have operational, single-light transoms with transom lifts. The door from the kitchen to the service porch is single-light over single-panel with typical doorknobs and a deadbolt. The unit has four-light sliding sash windows in the living room and kitchen. There are two-over-two light double-hung sash in the bedrooms, and one-over-one light double-hung sash in the bedroom hall. A two-light sliding sash is at the first floor of the stairway. Windows have brick sills on the exterior.

**HICKAM FIELD, NCO HOUSING TYPE 8
(Hickam Air Force Base, Building No. 496)
HABS No. HI-164-AR (Page 2)**

The L-shaped stairway to the second floor has an iron railing of 2" x 5/8" and 1 1/2" x 3/8" stock which joins a similarly designed railing of the same materials in the bedroom hall. In the kitchen, Unit 212E/ Building 496 has an original built-in ironing board and a built-in cutting board. The lower kitchen cabinets are metal and the upper cabinets are wood, with added surface-mounted wood doors on the large upper cabinets and flush wood doors on the small topmost cabinets.

Historical Context: Building 496 was built in 1940 or early 1941. Original plans are dated November 24, 1939 and were prepared under the direction of John A. Hunt, the Captain of the Quartermaster Corps at Hickam Field. Building 496 was part of a 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 was one of ten Type 8 apartment quarters of the same plan which were built at Hickam for occupation by non-commissioned officers and their families. Each building had nine apartments, eight apartments had two bedrooms, and one apartment had three bedrooms (Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files 1939). The appropriation for the phase of housing construction which included the Type 8 apartment buildings was approved on June 14, 1939 (*Honolulu Star Bulletin* 14 June 1939, 1). At the time that Building 496 was being built, a third of all NCO and officers' housing was in apartment-type units. Apartment housing was planned because "a number of local conditions suggested the desirability of a considerable proportion of compact, efficient apartments" (Hunt 1940, 77-78). Among the conditions cited were; the scarcity of domestic help, young families with few or no children and minimal household goods, and the billeting of reserve officers who would not move large amounts of household goods to Hawaii for a short tour of duty (Hunt 1940, 78).

The Type 8 apartment housing units were 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, 6). Much of the housing construction of the second phase, which began in 1939 and was finished during 1941, was done by E.E. Black, Ltd., of Honolulu.

Relatively few alterations were made to Unit 212E/ Building 496 since it was constructed. The original stained concrete floors have been covered with vinyl tile and carpet, and the breakfast nook built-in seat and table have been removed.

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

HICKAM FIELD, NCO HOUSING TYPE 8
(Hickam Air Force Base, Building No. 496)
HABS No. HI-164-AR (Page 3)

Sources:

Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files. 1939. Historic plans of unit type 8, plan #6812-397-3118. 24 November.

Honolulu Star Bulletin. 1939. "Big Program for Air Field Building Here." 14 June.

_____. 1939. "10 Million To Be Spent at Hickam." 10 August.

_____. 1939. "Bids On New Jobs Will Be Opened on Dec. 8." 6 November.

Hunt, John A. 1940. "Construction of Hickam Field." *The Quartermaster Review*, November-December.

_____. Ca. 1940. *Hickam Field, T.H.* Pamphlet at Hawaii State Library.

J.M. Waller Associates and Mason Architects, Inc. 2003. *Building Preservation Plan of Selected Historic Homes for Hickam Air Force Base*. Honolulu: Hickam Air Force Base.

Nurse, Captain H. B. 1938. "Hickam Field, The Army's Newest and Largest Airdrome." *Air Corps Newsletter*, 15th ABW History Office, Hickam Air Force Base. 1 July.

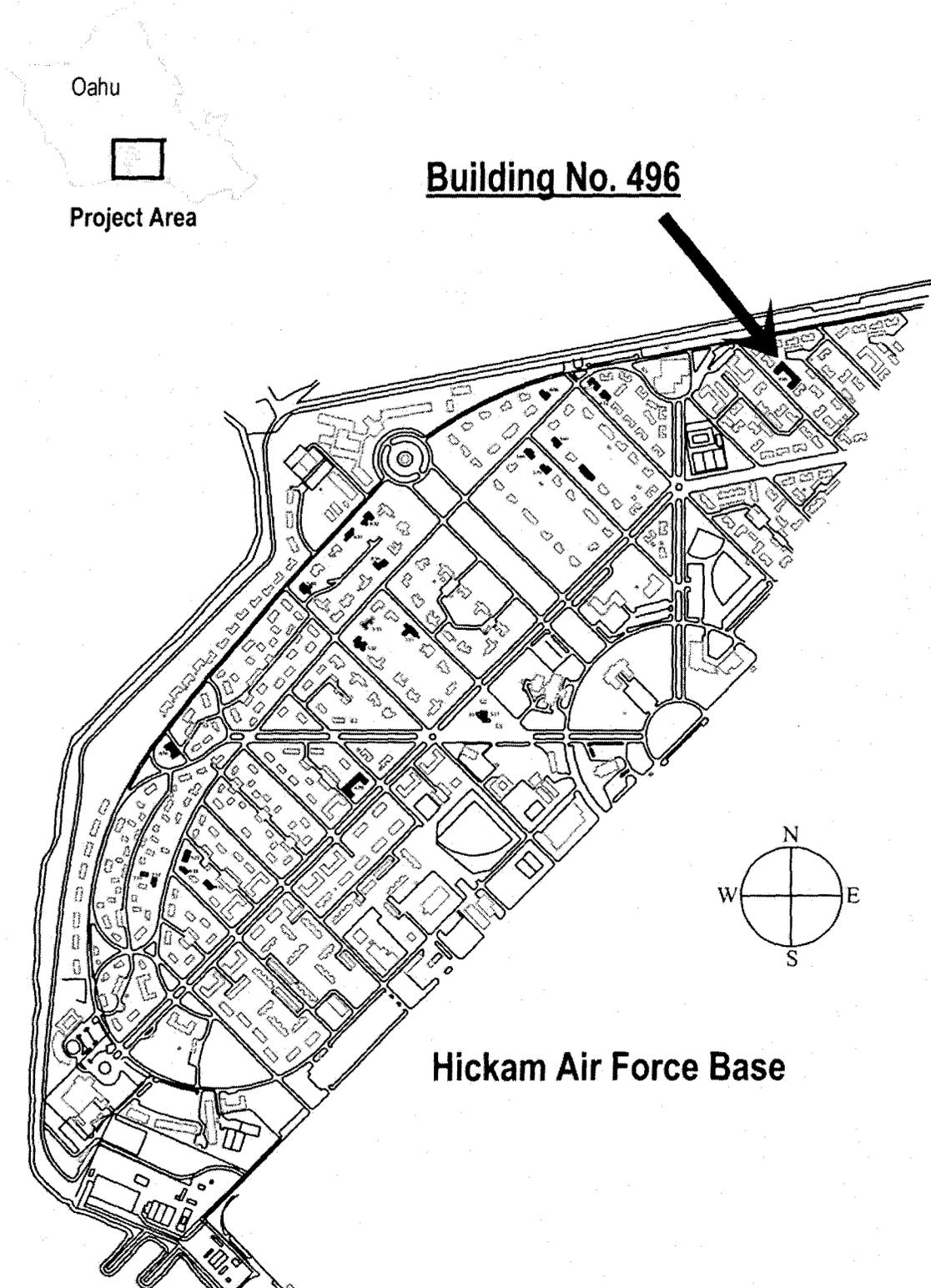
Project Information: This report was prepared as part of a project to privatize all military housing under the control of the 15 Airlift Wing. Approximately 656 of the 1332 base housing units to be privatized are within the Hickam Historic District. Because the units within the historic district will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

Prepared by:

Dee Ruzicka, Architectural Historian
Mason Architects, Inc.
119 Merchant Street, Suite 501
Honolulu, HI 96813

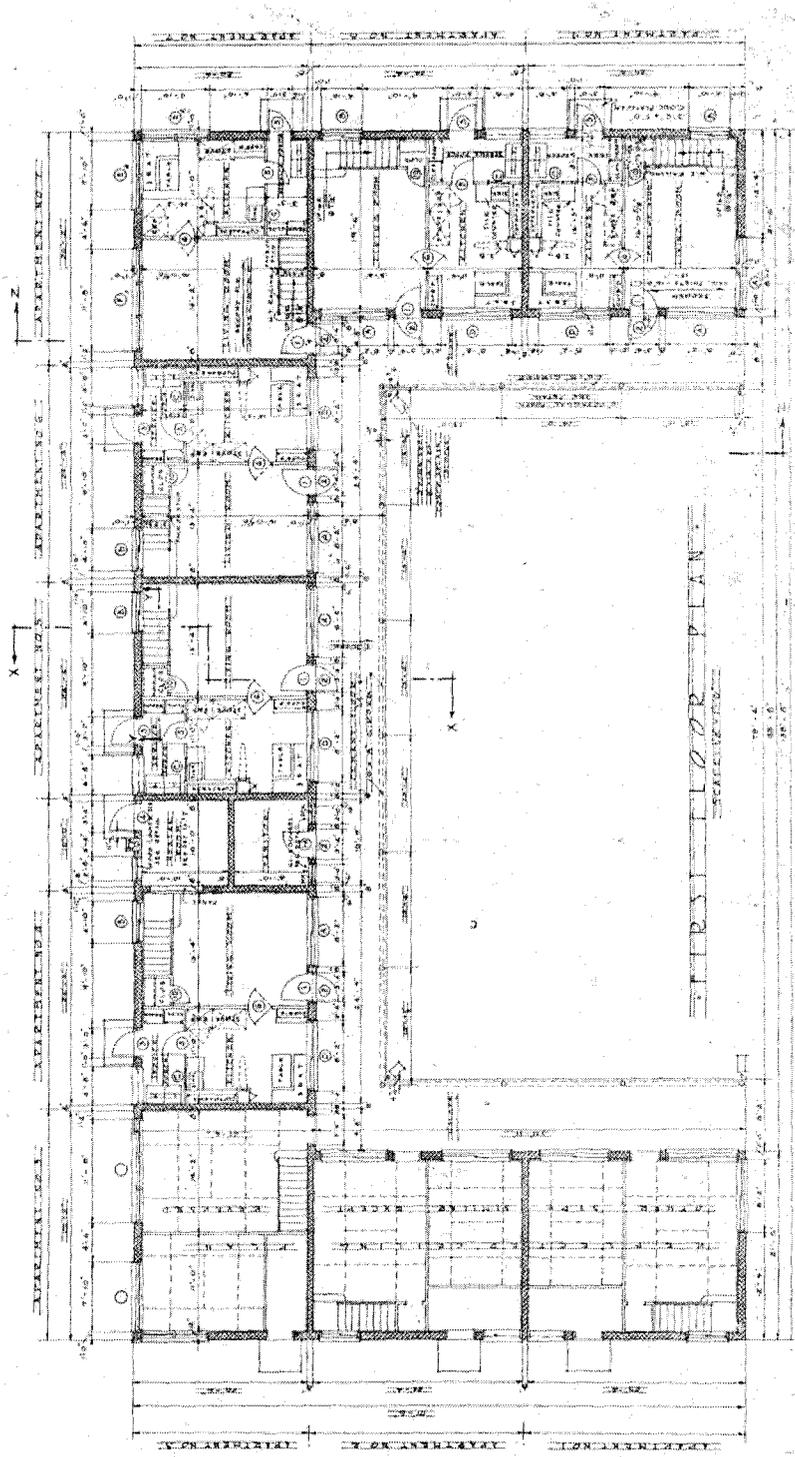
Date of Report: April 2007

Building 496 location map (not to scale)



HICKAM FIELD, NCO HOUSING TYPE 8
(Hickam Air Force Base, Building No. 496)
HABS No. HI-164-AR (Page 5)

Portion of original plan of Type 8 apartment buildings, showing the first floor. Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files 1939.



HICKAM FIELD, NCO HOUSING TYPE 8
(Hickam Air Force Base, Building No. 496)
HABS No. HI-164-AR (Page 6)

Portion of original plan of Type 8 apartment buildings, showing the second floor. Note that apartment no. 4 (now called apartment D) is a three bedroom unit. Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files 1939.

