

NAVAL AIR STATION CHASE, FIELD
BUILDING 1042 (BRIG)
Ofstie Road, 0.60 miles south-southeast
of the intersection of Texas State Highway
202 and Independence Street
Beeville Vicinity
Bee County
Texas

HABS No. 3397-E

HABS
TEX
13-BEEVILLE
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

NAVAL AIR STATION CHASE FIELD, BUILDING 1042
(BRIG)

HABS No. TX-3397-E

Location: Ofstie Road, 0.60 miles south-southeast of the intersection of Texas State Highway 202 and Independence Street, approximately 5 miles east of Beeville, Beeville Vicinity, Bee County, Texas

USGS Skidmore, Texas Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates
14/631220/3138960

Significance: Building 1042 (the Brig) is a small, three-celled jail constructed to hold naval personnel who committed relatively minor infractions of the military code. The brig is indicative of the everyday support facilities needed for successful operation of Naval Air Station (NAS) Chase Field. This building is one of the base's few World War II-era structures whose exterior remains virtually unaltered.

Description: Located at the east corner of the intersection of Ofstie Road and Essex Street, Building 1042 and its adjoining grounds are surrounded by a chain-link fence. The one-story, wood-frame building has a modified T-shaped plan and a concrete-slab foundation. Galbestos siding covers the exterior walls, and the flat roof has built-up tar-and-gravel roofing material. The two-part massing includes a ten-foot wing to the southeast (the stem of the T-shaped plan) and a twelve-foot section (the top of the T-plan) from southwest to northeast. The northeast facade is marked by a small, shed-roofed porch with square posts for supports. The windows are double hung with 6/6 lights. The northeast end of the southeast elevation has a continuous series of double-hung windows with metal prison bars. This window pattern and detailing is repeated on the northwest elevation. The prison cells were in this (the northeast) section of the building. Building 1042 remains virtually unaltered on the exterior, although it was converted into an armory in 1969.

Originally the brig for NAS Chase, Building 1042 has a utilitarian interior; however, its most distinctive feature is the cell for detainees. Most rooms, such as the cell and recreation room, have smooth-finished concrete rooms, although vinyl tile flooring has been installed in some of the offices. Wood-frame partition walls with gypsum board or wood paneling define most of the rooms. The notable exception is the large room containing the cell. A hallway encircles the cell, which is defined by metal bars that are three-quarters of an inch in diameter. The ceiling height is approximately nine feet and nine inches and the ceiling materials are gypsum board on wood framing.

History: Although Building 1042 was used to hold those guilty of minor offenses, personnel who committed more serious crimes were temporarily held and then transferred to NAS Corpus Christi which had larger, more secure facilities. The building served as a brig until 1969, when NAS Chase Field was at the height of its jet training program and approximately 5,000 military and civilian personnel were

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employed at the base. At that time, a modern detention center was constructed for the base and the brig was converted to an armory. While its use has changed, the physical appearance of Building 1042 remains virtually the same as when it was designed by Brown Bellows & Columbia from standard Navy Yards and Docks drawings for the original auxiliary air station in 1943. Building 1042 remained an armory from 1969 until 1993, when the base was decommissioned.

Sources:

Moore, David; Myers, Terri; and Goebel, Matt. *Historic Resources Survey & Assessments: NAS Chase Field, Beeville, Texas*. Austin, Texas: Hardy-Heck-Moore, [1992]. The building was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and a nomination is being prepared for submission to the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

U.S. Department of the Navy, Bureau of Yards and Docks. *Building the Navy's Bases in World War II: History of the Bureau of Yards and Docks and the Civil Engineer Corps, 1940-1946, Volume 1*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1947.

Historians: David Moore and Terri Myers, Hardy-Heck-Moore & Associates, June 1993.

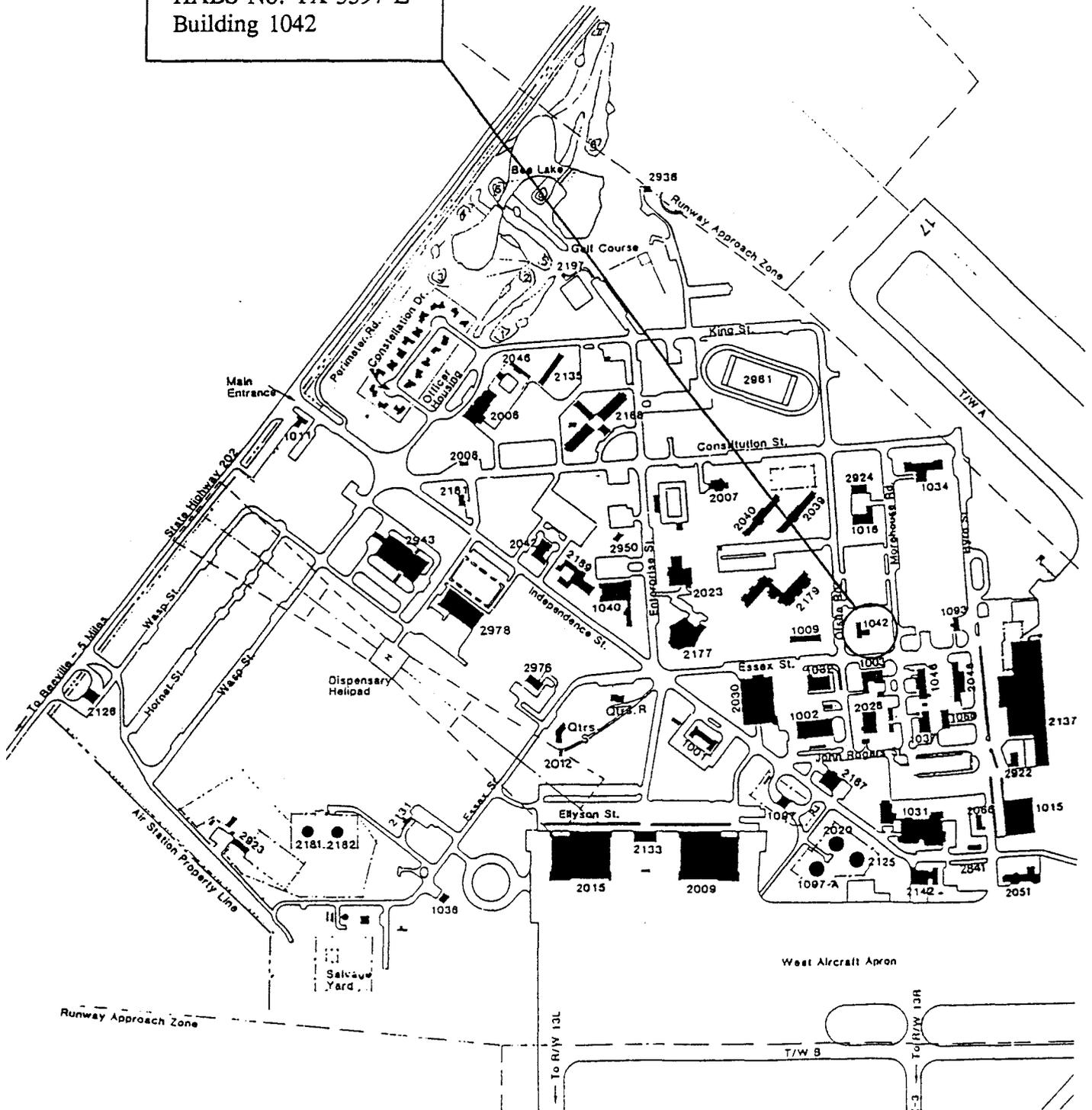
NAVAL AIR STATION CHASE FIELD, BUILDING 1042

(BRIG)

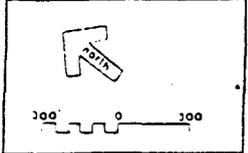
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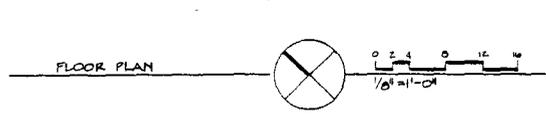
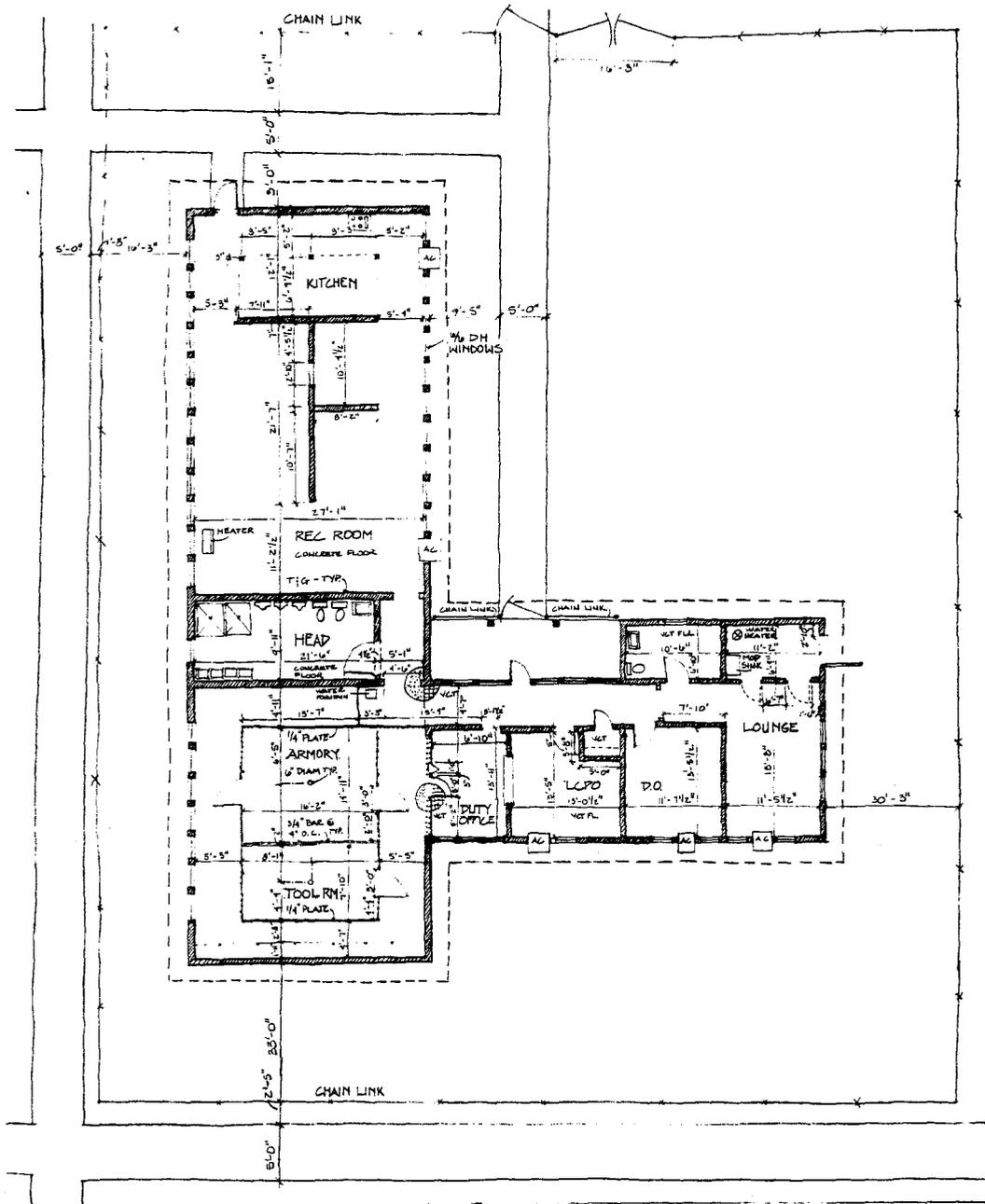
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Building 1042



Source: NAS Chase Field
Public Works Office



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 CHASE NAVAL AIR STATION
 BUILDING 1042
 5 MAY 1945
 B. DUNNIGAN, C. KING