

Naval Air Station Dallas, Pumhouse
(Naval Air Station Dallas, Building 33)
Enterprise Drive/Midway Loop
Dallas
Dallas County
Texas

HABS No. TX-3408-I

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Southwest System Support Office
Department of the Interior
Santa Fe, New Mexico

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NAVAL AIR STATION DALLAS,
PUMPHOUSE
(NAVAL AIR STATION DALLAS, BUILDING 33)

HABS No. TX-3408-I

Location: Enterprise Drive/Midway Loop
Dallas
Dallas County
Texas

U.S.G.S. Duncanville Quadrangle (7.5)
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
14.691140.3623695

Present Owner: United States of America
c/o Commander, Naval Reserve Force
4400 Dauphine Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70146-5000
Upon closure of the base, this building, which is owned by the Navy but is on land leased from the City of Dallas, will revert to the ownership of the City of Dallas

Present Occupant: Public Works Department

Present Use: Pumphouse

Statement of Significance: The Pumphouse is a small utilitarian building that served the mission of the Naval Air Station (NAS) Dallas in a secondary role as part of the drinking water system. It is significant as a representative element of the infrastructural system of the World War II era. It retains a high degree of integrity and conveys a strong sense of time and place.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date(s) of erection: 1943. No original plans or real property records showing the construction date were located during research efforts. However, Joseph Crews cites plans in his 1993 report. That citation is used here to provide information on date, architect, and builder.
2. Architect: Moore, Cooper, White & Moore, Architects & Engineers, Houston, Texas, with D. S. Cooper serving as project architect.

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3. Original and subsequent owners: United States of America, Department of the Navy
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Lt. Commander W. M. Powell, CEC, USNR, was the officer in charge of construction.
5. Original plans and construction: No original plans were located. However, Joseph Crews cites plans in his 1993 report. Because of base closure and reduction in personnel, some original materials cited by Crews are no longer available at the base.
6. Alterations and additions: Except for the addition of a small, wood-frame shed on the southeast elevation, the building appears unaltered. Changes to mechanical equipment housed in the building may have taken place over time as technological advances were made and repairs became necessary. The building retains a high degree of integrity and conveys a strong sense of time and place.

B. Historical Context:

As part of the third and final federal military construction project at NAS Dallas, the Pumphouse was built in 1943 when the United States was mobilizing for a push that would eventually result in victory in Europe and Asia. This last phase of Congressional appropriations coincided with the redesignation of Naval Reserve Air Base Dallas as an NAS. Continual personnel growth, expansion of operations, and previous building programs resulted in making the installation at Dallas similar to the large stations at Corpus Christi and Pensacola. By the time the base was redesignated, NAS Dallas had a total of 49 buildings and facilities.

The Pumphouse was designed by Moore, Cooper, White & Moore, Architects and Engineers, of Houston, Texas. D.S. Cooper acted as the project architect for the building, which cost \$3,105 out a total of \$2.1 million allotted for the entire building program. The Drill Hall and Gymnasium was built at the same time as the Pumphouse. The Pumphouse is a small utilitarian building that served NAS Dallas by providing drinking water for personnel at the base. It worked in tandem with the Heating Plant, which was constructed in the initial phase of base construction in 1941. The Pumphouse provided infrastructural support for several thousand people residing at Dallas every month during World War II.¹

Since World War II, the building has been unaltered except for the addition of a small, wood-frame shed on the southeast side of the building. However, it is

possible that many changes have been made to equipment within the building as technology has advanced. When NAS Dallas closes in 1998 as a result of recommendations by the Defense Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission, the ownership of the Pumphouse will revert to the City of Dallas, the entity which owns the land on that the building is located.

Notes

1. Crews, Joseph M., *A Historical and Architectural Assessment of the Dallas Naval Air Station, Dallas, Texas*, 2 vols. Prepared for the Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Civil Engineer Corps, Fort Worth, Texas, 1 June 1994, vol. 2, n.p.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Pumphouse is meritorious for its utilitarian form that is reflective of the theories of functionality associated with the design concepts of the Bauhaus.
2. Condition of fabric: The Pumphouse is in good condition with most of its original features intact.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The Pumphouse is a one-story, rectangular-plan building, which is 36 feet wide, 15 feet deep, and 10 feet high. Its interior consists of a single room measuring 540 square feet. A small shed addition is located on the southeast elevation.
2. Foundation: The buildings rests on a concrete-slab foundation.
3. Walls: The building is constructed of poured concrete and red brick laid in a five-course common-bond pattern. Between the concrete and the brick is a concrete belt course that also functions as sills for the building's four windows. A concrete cornice rings the top of the building. A small shed addition on the southeast elevation is wood-frame with vertical board siding.

4. Structural system, framing: The building utilizes load-bearing brick and concrete walls.
5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: A small concrete slab placed at grade at the base of the building outside each door functions as a stoop.
6. Chimneys: None
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are two entrances, one on the southwest elevation and one on the northeast elevation. Both have steel doors with six-light, fixed-pane windows set in steel door frames. These doors appear to be original. The front door has a metal entry lever. The rear door opens from the inside only. The shed addition also has a steel door.
 - b. Windows and shutters: The southeast and northwest sides each have two bays containing an original, 15-light, industrial steel-frame window. Inset in these windows are six-light awning windows.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The roof is a flat, concrete slab covered with built up tar and gravel.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: The roof has a wide concrete cornice and moderately projecting eaves finished with metal flashing. On the northwest side of the building is a metal downspout with a cast-iron drain base.
9. Additional exterior features:
 - a. Lighting: An incandescent bulb mounted in a metal cage fixture is located above the front entry.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:
 - a. First floor: The building has a single room containing a variety of machinery, including diesel engines, pumps, and numerous pipes.

2. Stairways: None
3. Flooring: Flooring consists of a concrete slab.
4. Walls and ceiling finishes: Interior wall surfaces are unfinished, with the structural concrete and brick walls exposed on the inside of the building. The ceiling is poured concrete.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Because the building is a single room, there are no interior doorways or doors. The steel framing of the exterior doors is visible on the interior.
 - b. Windows: The steel frames of the windows are set into the brick walls with no further treatment.
6. Decorative features and trim: Except for those elements described in other sections pertaining to the interior, no decorative features and trim were identified.
7. Hardware: Doors have metal lever handles, and windows have metal lever latches. Hardware appears to be original.
8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: As a utilitarian building designed to house mechanical equipment, there is no heat, air conditioning, or mechanized ventilation systems.
 - b. Lighting: Lighting is provided by three, ceiling-mounted metal fixtures with HID bulbs. Light fixtures appear to be original.
 - c. Interior machinery: Diesel engines, pumps, and numerous pipes form the bulk of the mechanical equipment in this building.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building faces southwest onto Enterprise Drive/Midway Loop. It is located in the industrial area of the installation, which contains buildings devoted to the maintenance, repair, and operation of the base

and of the aircraft around which the primary mission of the base revolved. The terrain is flat, with the Heating Plant directly to the west, the Water Tower to the northeast, and the Water Cistern to the east. Runways are found west of this complex of buildings and structures, and additional support buildings are located to the north and south. Mountain Creek Lake is to the east and south, and the administrative and personnel area is to the north. The original Hensley Field facility is to the north-northwest.

2. Historic landscape design: The area around the Pumphouse is industrial and, thus, landscaping, except for the occasional small area of grass, has not been included in the site design. This treatment, which allows large access areas for aircraft, vehicles, and equipment, is in keeping with the historic character of the area. The area immediately around the Pumphouse is landscaped with lawn.

3. Outbuildings: On the northwest side of the building are a number of mechanical devices associated with the function of the building.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original architectural drawings: No original plans or drawings were located for this building. However, Joseph Crews cites plans in his 1993 report. Because of base closure and reduction in personnel, some original materials cited by Crews are no longer available at the base. The drawings cited by Crews list Moore, Cooper, White & Moore, Architects & Engineers, Houston, Texas, as the architects of record, with D. S. Cooper serving as project architect and Lt. Commander W. M. Powell, CEC, USNR, as the officer in charge of construction.

B. Early views: One early, undated view of the Pumphouse was located. In addition to the Pumphouse, the photograph shows the Maintenance Hangar, the smaller Assembly and Repair Hangar, the Water Tower, the Water Cistern, the Paint and Dope Shop, the Heating Plant, and various other associated buildings. It appears to date from the late 1940s or early 1950s. Copies of this photograph, and others in the collection, can be obtained by contacting the Public Affairs Officer, NAS Dallas, Dallas, Texas. Other early views of the facility are held at the main branch of the Dallas Public Library in the NAS Dallas files.

C. Interviews: No interviews were undertaken to complete this form.

D. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

2. Secondary and published sources:

Crews, Joseph M. *A Historical and Architectural Assessment of the Dallas Naval Air Station, Dallas, Texas*, 2 vols. Prepared for the Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth, Texas, 1 June 1994, vol. 2.

E. Likely sources not yet investigated: Information on NAS Dallas may be held in the National Archives, Washington, D.C., or in the architectural collections of the archives in Suitland, Maryland. These repositories will not be investigated for the purposes of this project.

F. Supplemental Materials: N/A

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The decision by the Defense BRAC Commission to close NAS Dallas and relocate needed activities to NAS Fort Worth (the former Carswell Air Force Base) triggered an assessment of the property's potential eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The Texas Historical Commission determined 12 buildings and structures in a portion of the base built for and associated with World War II Navy activities and two single-family officer's houses and two adjacent lagoons built for and associated with Army Air Corps activities in the late 1920s and the 1930s to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Texas State Historic Preservation Officer, the Department of the Navy, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation are in the process of signing a Memorandum of Agreement requiring Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) Level I documentation of the 14 buildings and structures and two lagoon areas. Through its Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southern Division, with offices in North Charleston, South Carolina, the Department of the Navy contracted with Turner Collie & Braden, Inc., of Houston, Texas, to oversee the preparation of the HABS recordation. Under contract with Turner Collie & Braden, Hardy•Heck•Moore & Associates, Inc. of Austin, Texas, gathered historical and architectural information and, prepared a historic context and the HABS forms. Diane Elizabeth Williams served as principal investigator and project architectural historian. David Moore served as historian, Sara Kirtland was associate historian, and Elliott K. Wright gathered information for the architectural descriptions. Craig Melde, of ArchiTexas, Dallas, Texas, supervised the preparation of the measured drawings, Craig King served as project coordinator, and Stan Solamillo was the field coordinator. Measured drawings were drafted by members of the ArchiTexas staff. Tom Eisenhower recorded the historic resources with large-format black-and-white photographs.