

EXPLODER BUILDING

(Building 81)

Pacific Coast Torpedo Station, Keyport Industrial District

Dedrick Drive

Keyport

Kitsap

Washington

HABS WA-261

WA-261

HABS

WA-261

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PACIFIC WEST REGIONAL OFFICE

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700

Oakland, CA 94607

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### EXPLODER BUILDING (Building 81)

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**Location:** The Exploder Building, Building 81, is located on the west side of Dedrick Drive, south of Building 134 and north of Building 80, at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Keyport, Kitsap County, Washington.

USGS Suquamish, Washington, Quadrangle  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 10.528736.5282770.

**Present Owner:** United States Department of the Navy

**Present Use:** Industrial shop.

**Significance:** Building 81 is one of 29 major buildings constructed or renovated at the Naval Torpedo Station, Keyport, during mobilization for World War II. This building is a good example of the industrial vernacular adaptation of the Art Moderne style typical of the period. Building 81 has been continuously used as an industrial shop. Although there is a contemporary metal shed addition on the west façade, and a more recent stairway for emergency exit on the north façade, the building's integrity and original features, including the windows, cladding, and plan, remain intact.

### PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

#### A. Physical History:

1. **Date of erection:** The Exploder Building, Building 81, was constructed in 1941-1942.
2. **Architect:** No architect is known, but standard plans for the buildings are filed in the Building 81 plans folder. These plans were drawn by the Public Works Office, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton.
3. **Original and subsequent owners:** The United States Department of the Navy.
4. **Builder, contractor, suppliers:** This information is not known.

5. Original plans and construction: Building plans are on file at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Keyport, Washington. Drawings used in this study include Nos. 42-34-81-5, 42-34-81-9, 42-34-81-10 and 42-34-73-38.
  6. Alterations and additions: A contemporary, shed-roof addition with metal siding is attached to the west façade and a fire escape has been added on the south side.
- B. Historical Context:
1. For additional written historical context and descriptive information, please see the main entry for the Pacific Coast Torpedo Station, Keyport Industrial District, HABS WA-255.
  2. Building History: Building 81 was constructed as a facility for overhaul and storage of exploders for torpedoes and continues to be operated as an industrial shop.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement and condition of fabric:  
Building 81 is an industrial vernacular building with Art Moderne elements. The flat roof, repetitive fenestrations, and smooth-wall finish, devoid of surface ornamentation except for symmetrically placed pilasters, create a streamlined appearance. The building's historic fabric is intact.
- B. Description:
1. Overall Dimensions: Building 81 is rectangular and measures 126'-0" x 62'-0".
  2. Foundations: Concrete.
  3. Walls and structural systems: Brick.
  4. Openings: The original steel-frame, multi-light windows and fold-in, warehouse-style door remain intact.
  5. Roof: Building 81 has a flat roof with a cast-stone parapet.
- B. Site:  
Building 81 is oriented north to south, parallels Dedrick Drive, and is surrounded by other industrial buildings and concrete and asphalt pavement.

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings: Plans of Building 81 are on file at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Keyport, Washington.

B. Bibliography:

Harvey, David W. Torpedo Storehouse, Field No. 18-81, Historic Property Inventory Form. Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia. Completed in 1991.

Kipp Associates. Naval Undersea Warfare Engineering Station, Keyport, Washington, Historic-Architectural Survey of Buildings and Structures. Tacoma, Wa: Kipp Associates, 1991.

Poole, Lisa. Torpedo Town, U.S.A. Keyport, Wa: Diamond Anniversary Publishing, 1989.

C. Supplemental Material: Historical photographs on file at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Keyport, Washington

### PART IV PROJECT INFORMATION

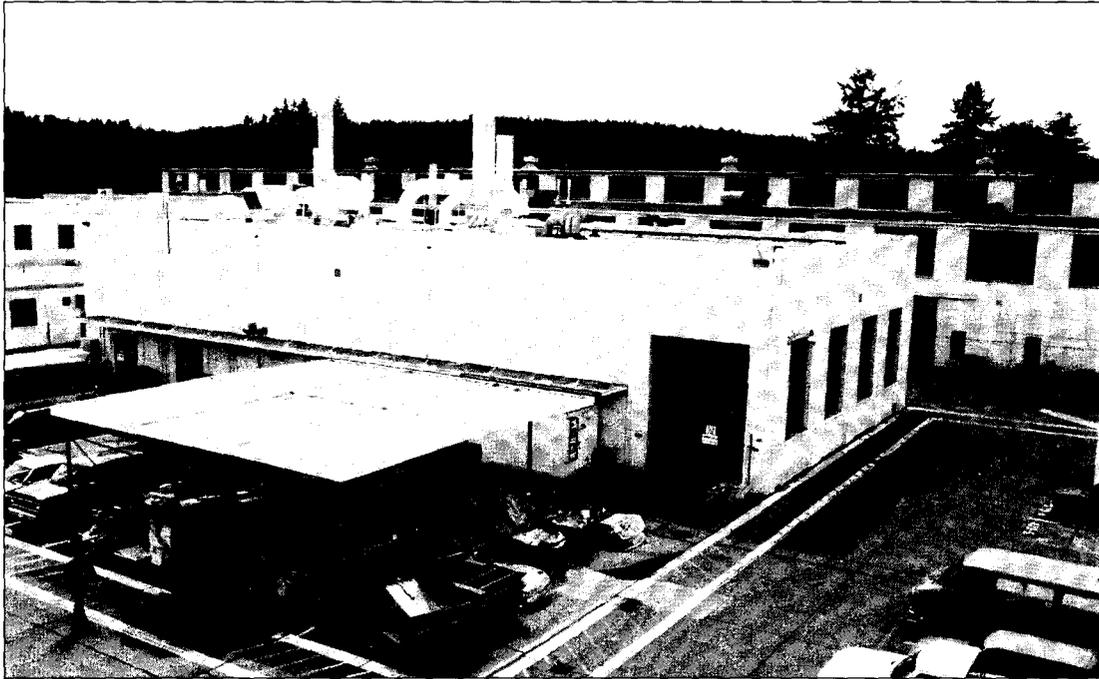
This documentation was prepared as part of the mitigation for the redevelopment of the Pacific Coast Torpedo Station, Keyport Industrial District, which is located at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Keyport. This project was funded by the United States Department of the Navy. Historian Sharon A. Boswell prepared the historic context and Lorelea Hudson, historic preservation specialist, and Eileen Heideman, architectural historian, compiled the individual building narratives. All three are on the staff of Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc., Seattle. Building descriptions relied primarily on previous work by historian David W. Harvey. Maps, plans, and historical and large-format photographs were provided by the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Keyport.

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**Figure 1. Building 81 in 1986; view to the southwest. Original image located at Command Staff Code OOTMA, Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Keyport, WA.**