

Oakland Army Base, Vehicle Maintenance Shop
(Building No. 99)
Attu Street at Corregidor Avenue
Oakland
Alameda County
California

HAER No. CA-125-H

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1-OAK,
125-H-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

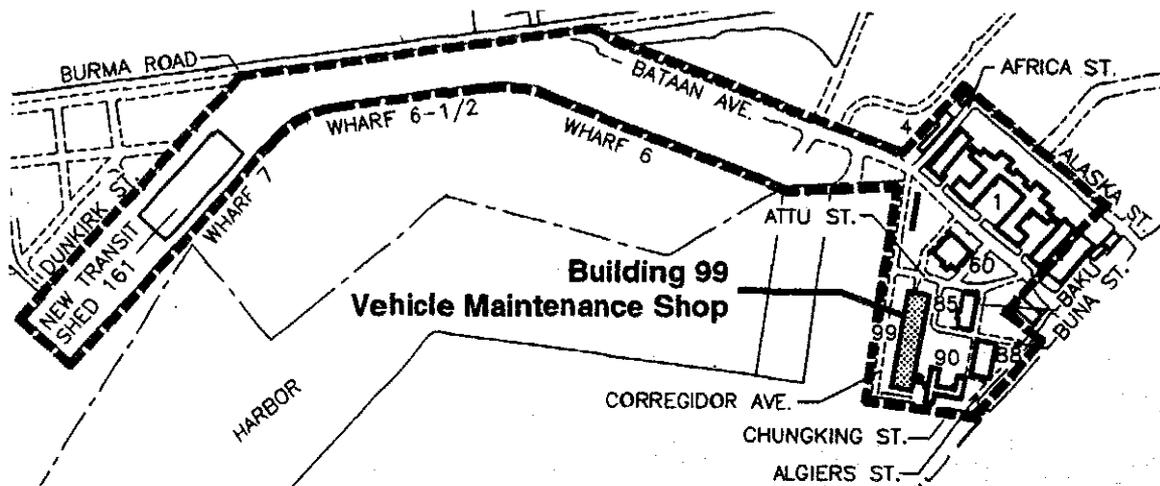
Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
OAKLAND ARMY BASE, VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP
(Building No. 99)

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HAER No. CA-125-H

- Location:** Attu Street at Corregidor Avenue
USGS Oakland West Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: Northing 4184900, Easting 560150
- Date of Construction:** 1918, by Union Construction Company
- Architect:** Not known.
- Contractor:** Contemporary buildings on OARB were constructed by builders, subcontractors and suppliers in the San Francisco Bay area. Although no specific records exist for this structure, it is likely that similar procedures were followed during its construction.
- Present Owner and Occupant:** Military Traffic Management Command, Western Area
Oakland Army Base, CA 94626-5000
- Original Use:** The building's original owner was the Union Construction Company, who erected the structure in 1918 on land leased from the City of Oakland. During this period, the building was used as a plate shop and mold loft. The building was later owned by Pacific Coast Engineering Company, which manufactured dredge pipe and accessories. In 1933, the building was sold to the City of Oakland; the Port Commission controlled the building. The U.S. Army purchased the land and Building 99 in January 1941.
- Present Use:** Vehicle Maintenance Shop
- Significance:** Building 99 was used in support of Oakland Army Base's World War II mission.



Original Plans: No As-Built drawings exist for this structure. Renovation drawings from 1937 were found in the offices of the Port of Oakland, 530 Water Street, Oakland, CA 94607. Additional drawings were located at the OARB Engineering Office. The latter consist of 2 sheets for revisions of Building 99 dating to 1942 and 1943.

Alterations: According to the 1941 appraisal by E.E. Malloy of "lands and structures known as 'Oakland Port of Embarkation' located [in] Oakland, California," when originally constructed in 1918, the building was a two story steel frame structure with a built up wood roof and wood siding. In addition to the building's enclosed ground floor of 38,573 square feet, there is also a mezzanine level of 1,581 square feet. When originally constructed, the building had a second floor of 22,026 square feet. Extensive remodeling took place in 1937 after the building reverted to City of Oakland ownership. At that time, the Port of Oakland, who controlled the building, tapped Works Progress Administration (WPA) funds for renovation. The Real Property Records indicate that the second floor was removed in 1967 by the U.S. Army. It is highly likely that additional remodeling has taken place in Building 99 over the 77-year life span of the structure.

I. GENERAL STATEMENT

Architectural Character. Building 99 is an unextraordinary steel frame industrial structure that has been modified repeatedly over time. Little remains of the original building but the shell.

Condition of Fabric. The building is in average condition.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTERIOR

Overall Dimensions. Building 99 has a rectangular footprint with a generally north-south orientation. It encloses 40,154 gross square feet on the ground and mezzanine floors. The overall dimensions are approximately 422'-4" long by 91'-4" wide (*Photographs CA-125-H-1 through CA-125-H-3, and H-7*).

Foundations. Concrete on piles.

Walls. The original wood siding on the building has been replaced with corrugated asbestos-cement siding.

Structural System. Steel frame with wood roof deck.

Porches, Stoops, Balconies. Roughly 1,421 square feet of exterior porches and stoops have been added to the building.

Chimneys. None.

Openings. Plans from the 1937 WPA renovation indicate that triple-wide wooden sliding doors were positioned along the east side and north end of the building, while

the south end had one double-wide sliding door. The western side had 13 large meshed screen doors hung on rails at top and bottom. All of the screen and wood doors have been removed, and replaced by roll-up metal doors. Nearly continuous lines of sash windows, in single and multiple units, were arranged in three tiers on all four sides of the building. Many of these have been removed and the openings walled in. Nearly all the windows in the upper two tiers are covered with green corrugated plastic.

Roof. The 3 in 12 sloped roof is surfaced with built-up mineral-surfaced roofing applied on a wood deck.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERIOR

Floor Plans. The interior of Building 99 has been divided and redivided many times, accommodating various activities. Most of the office space, restrooms, and supply rooms are concentrated in the south end of the building. The Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) has offices and a restroom along the west and east sides, respectively. The remainder of the floor space is utilized for vehicular maintenance (*Photograph CA-125-H-4*).

Stairways. Originally, wooden stairways accessed the mezzanine levels. A stairway still provides access to the mezzanine.

Flooring. Concrete slab.

Wall and Ceiling Finishes. All walls and the ceiling are unfinished, exposed structural frame. Offices walls are, for the most part, covered with sheetrock, and the ceilings finished.

Openings. Doors are standard wood hollow core. Cargo doors are metal roll-up.

Decorative Features and Trims. No distinctive decorative features are visible on either the interior or exterior of the structure.

Hardware. No notable hardware.

Mechanical Equipment. All utilities and mechanical equipment that may have existed when the building was originally constructed have been replaced and modernized.

Original Furnishings. None.

IV. SITE

General Setting and Orientation. Building 99 is located in the mixed land use area south of the Post Headquarters Building. To the south and west are port facilities operated by Port of Oakland. Maritime Street, a main surface transportation artery, borders this mixed land use area to the east.

Historic Landscaping Design. No plant material exists in the vicinity of Building 99.

Outbuildings. None.

V. SOURCES

Architectural Drawings. No As-Built drawings exist for Building 99.

Early Views. The 1941 appraisal by E.E. Malloy included a photograph of Building 99 as it appeared at the time the building and land were purchased by the U.S. Army (*Photograph CA-125-11*).