

Hamilton Field, Ammunitions Bunkers  
(Facility Nos. 751-760)  
Around the base of Igloo Hill  
Novato  
Marin County  
California

HABS No. CA-2398-AZ

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
1AZ-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HAMILTON FIELD  
Ammunitions Bunkers  
(Facility Nos. 751-760)

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
IAZ-

HABS No. CA-2398-AZ

**Location:** Hamilton Army Air Field  
Novato, Marin County, California  
Ammunitions Bunkers  
Facility Nos. 751 - 760 (around the base of Igloo Hill)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)  
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)  
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/4212220;  
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

**Significance:**

Buildings 751 through 760 are considered significant for their association with Air Force history in northern California, and with World War II actions in the Pacific Theater. Igloo Hill and the ammunition magazines contributed to the World War II defense mission at Hamilton.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

**Description:**

The ammunitions area contains one large contributing structure consisting of nine concrete bunkers buried around the base of a partially man-made hill of soil, referred to as Igloo Hill. Each bunker measures 26 feet 5 inches by 60 feet eight inches and is solid concrete. Bunkers are excavated into the hill and are buried. According to the Base Installation Officer, the bunkers are intact and alterations have been minimal.

**Historical Context:**

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

Prior to World War II, ammunition was stored in insulated buildings on base. With the outbreak of the war came the threat of enemy air strikes and a need to protect ammunition. These underground bunkers were finished in June 1943 at a cost of \$15,278.99 each and were part of a new defense system put in place during the war years.

**HAMILTON FIELD  
Ammunitions Bunkers  
(Facility Nos. 751-760)**

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**Sources:**

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

See the project Field Record, roll 84, exposures 3-10.

The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

**Project Information:**

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

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