

Hamilton Field, Storm Drain Pump Station
(Facility No. 41)
Northeast corner of airfield on Perimeter Road
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-CB

HABS
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21-NOVA,
ICB-

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
Storm Drain Pump Station
(Facility No. 41)

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Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Storm Drain Pump Station
Facility No. 41 (northeast corner of air field on Perimeter Road)

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:

Constructed in 1943 during the war years, this facility was an important component of the base support facilities during the heavy build up necessitated by the escalation of war time activities.

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:

This structure is a rectangular frame building with low-pitched composition gable roof with two raised roof ventilators. It measures 20 feet square and is elevated on an eight-foot-high concrete foundation. It has exposed rafters under the eaves. The structure is clad in asbestos shingles over the original horizontal board siding. There are four windows on the side elevations. These are metal sash casement with eight lights in each side. A four-light transom is over each window. Exterior doors are four-panel solid-core wood. The interior is accessed by a staircase with 13 concrete stairs and a concrete landing. The main room contains four engines connected to four pumps sitting on a concrete floor. The room is lit with two, eight-foot-long fluorescent fixtures, each with two tubes. Four drop lights with metal shades are original to the building. A small office is partitioned in one corner. A small tool room that contains a water heater, bench, and electrical panel is located below the pump room at ground level.

Historical Context:

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

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As hundreds of barracks and temporary administrative buildings were erected on base during the war years, the original support facilities became overloaded. This structure was built in 1943 as an auxiliary sewer storm drain station to augment the original system. After 1966 it was converted to use as an emergency electrical power plant.

Sources:

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

Field Record, roll 27, exposures 7-12; and roll 27, exposures 1-9

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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Date of photographs: May 1993

