

Hamilton Field, Nursery Entrance Pillars
Hangar Avenue at Northwestern Pacific Railroad
spur, near base of Reservoir Hill
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-DD

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
IDD-

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
Nursery Entrance Pillars

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
IDD-

HABS No. CA-2398-DD

Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Nursery Entrance Pillars (Hangar Avenue. at Northwestern Pacific
Railroad spur)

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:

The greenhouse and nursery area was the first construction effort at Hamilton and played an important role in base landscaping and beautification efforts. The stone nursery entrance pillars and curved entry walls are all that remain of the nursery. They are significant for their early association with the base and as visual reminders of the nontraditional approach taken during the construction of Hamilton and of Nurse's goal to create a beautiful "city" instead of a standard military post.

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 base nursery once contained greenhouses, a lathe house, incinerator and other structures. Today, the entry into the old nursery site is marked by granite buttresses flanking a drive at the end of a bridge over a culvert. The buttresses are 48 inches high and are square, with a pointed top. The buttresses mark the beginning and ending points of a curving rock wall. The wall is one foot wide and varies from two to three feet in height.

Historical Context:

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

The base nursery once contained several greenhouses, lathe house, and other structures. It was one of the first facilities constructed on base, primarily because of the important need to grow bermuda grass for the air field. Its buttresses and walls defined the entry and

complemented the landscape design of the base. It remained in use until World War II, when the formal landscaping phase ended at Hamilton.

Sources:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398).

See the project Field Record, roll 54, exposures 9-12.

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.

Text prepared by: Mary L. Manieri/Judith Marvin

Title: Historian/Architectural Historian

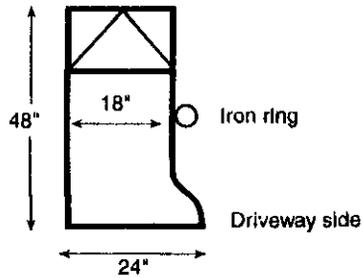
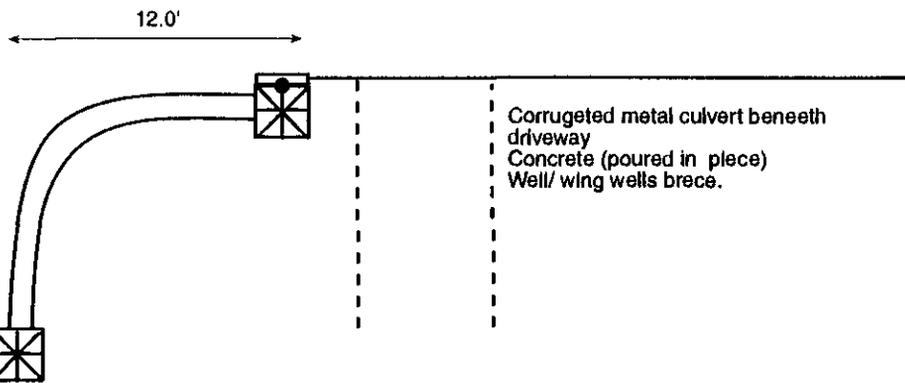
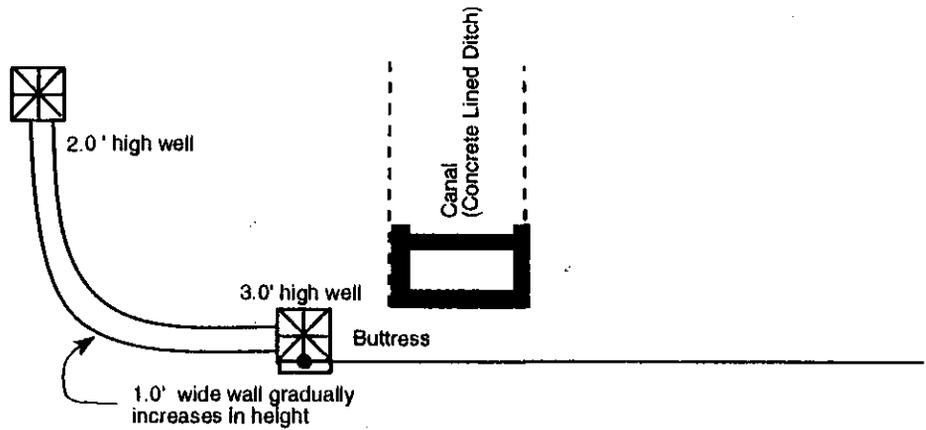
Affiliation: PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC., Sacramento, California

Date prepared: July 1995

Photography prepared by: David De Vries

Affiliation: Mesa Technical, Berkeley, California

Date of photographs: May 1993



Profile of Butress