U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Submarine Dive Tower
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Submarine Base)
(Structure No. S659)
Intersection of Clark and Morton Streets
Pearl Harbor
Honolulu County
Hawaii

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Submarine Dive Tower
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Submarine Base)
(Structure No. S659)

HABS No. HI-284

Location: Submarine Base, along south end of North Waterfront Road of Magazine Loch, Pearl Harbor, City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii.

USGS Pearl Harbor Quadrangle, Hawaii 7.5 minutes series (orthophotoquad) Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates 4.609330.2362280 (Scale: 1"=24,000')

Significance: The U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1964 due to the crucial role it played in the Nation's defense during the twentieth century and the devastating events which occurred on December 7, 1941. As a Category 1 structure, it has been determined that Structure S659 constitutes a prominent element of the National Historic Landmark and played a major role in the operation of the Pearl Harbor Naval Base.

Description: The Submarine Diving Tank is made of steel constructed cylindrical in shape 18 feet in diameter. The tank was designed to hold 280,000 gallons of fresh water 119 feet deep. Four air locks allow entrance or exit at various depths. The loft tower is approximately 135 feet high directly above the cylindrical tank. Access to the tower is primarily by the elevator. The tank is wrapped around by a spiral stairway to serve as a secondary access to the tower in case the elevator malfunctions or needs repair.

History: Due to major losses of submarines during the 1920's, the Navy developed and implemented new submarine escape and rescue methods. Congressional Funding was appropriated for the construction of an adequate training facility on the Submarine Base to train submariners in these new methods. The Submarine Dive Tower was constructed in 1932 to provide a training facility at a cost of $109,635. Renovations included the following:

1944: Provided hot water system
1948: Decommissioned signal tower atop the escape training tank
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1950: Replaced windows, repaired stairs and installed new roof for tower loft
1951: Installed equipment room standby circulating pump
1953: Alteration to interior lighting of tank
1955: Exterior painting to tank and elevator shaft
1956: Installed ampeometric residual recorder on the roof
1959: Replaced three filter tanks, overhauled escape training tank and added a small recompression chamber at the tower loft level
1960: Rerouting of drain line and storage tank
1962: Repaired observation loft and floodlight blisters and installed communication system
1963: Converted open tank area to classroom
1966: Provided diving bell alarm system, repaired air locks, installed heat exchanger and overhauled training tank floor
1967: Repaired doors and gaskets on recompression chamber
1968: Rehab communication system and installed steam meter
1969: Installed fire alarm system
1970: Repaired compressed air piping system
1977: Repairs to recompression chamber tank
1978: Replaced DC hoist
1979: Installed compressor
1980: Repair elevator shaft leaks
1981: Installed water recovery system and additional storage
1983: Decommissioned the escape training tank
1984: Relocated recompression chamber, repaired elevator, installed public address system, installed tank cover flooring and compressor and painted dive tower exterior
1985: Painted interior of tank
1986: Re-roofed and replaced decking
1987: Provided tower loft with head facility
1990: Replaced tower windows
1992: Re-roofed tower

Sources: PACNAVFACENGCOM (PACIFIC DIVISION NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND) Drawing Nos. Z-N08-102 through Z-N08-104; Z-N08-129; 482946-482948; 834442; 834446; 841891; 841898; 841914; 1118153; 1222258; 1222262; 1230033; 1311917-1311920; 7028543; 7062803-7062806
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PWC (PUBLIC WORKS CENTER) Drawing Nos. 1076242; 1076244; 1076249; 1076250; 1104597; 1104760; 1162140; 1192999; 661050; 661055; 7460145; 7460749; 7461326; 7461992; 7462376; 7465345-7465348; 7465675; 7466247; 7466295; 7467583; 7470609; 7472256; 7480152; 7482717

NAVFAC P-164: Detailed Inventory of Naval Shore Facilities. U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, National Historic Landmark, Historic Preservation Plan

History of the Naval Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, by Ray W. de Yarmin dated 4/26/84

U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, National Historic Landmark, Historic Preservation Plan

Historian: Darren Y. Uchima, Civil Engineer
Navy Public Works Center, Pearl Harbor Project Development Branch
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860-5470
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