

Hamilton Field, Runway  
(Facility No. 1230)  
North side of Base  
Novato  
Marin County  
California

HABS No. CA-2398-J

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
15-

PHOTOGRAPHS

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  
Runway  
(Facility No. 1230)

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
15-

HABS No. CA-2398-J

**Location:** Hamilton Army Air Field  
Novato, Marin County, California  
Runway (Facility No. 1230) (north side of base)

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 air field runway is considered significant for its association with Air Force history in northern California, and with World War II actions in the Pacific Theater. The original air field was completed in 1934 and is an important contributing structure to the historic district.

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 runway and associated features are oriented northwest/southeast along the shoreline of San Pablo Bay, east of the hangars, and are bordered by the base's Perimeter Road. The runway is covered with asphalt and flanked by grassy borders. The entire field is below sea level, with a levee and pumps protecting it from the waters of the bay. Although the entire field was initially planted in Bermuda grass, the runway and taxi-mat areas were paved with concrete in 1941 and have been resurfaced numerous times over the years. The alignment and general appearance of the runway, aprons, and taxi-mat, however, has not changed since the historic period. The current length of the runway is 7,900 feet.

**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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Given its mission as an air defense base, the air field has always been a focal point of Hamilton. The first plants grown in the nursery were Bermuda grass for the runway. The runway is used sporadically today by the U. S. Coast Guard and civilian aero clubs.

**Sources:**

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

See also the project Field Record, roll 73, exposures 7-8.

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.

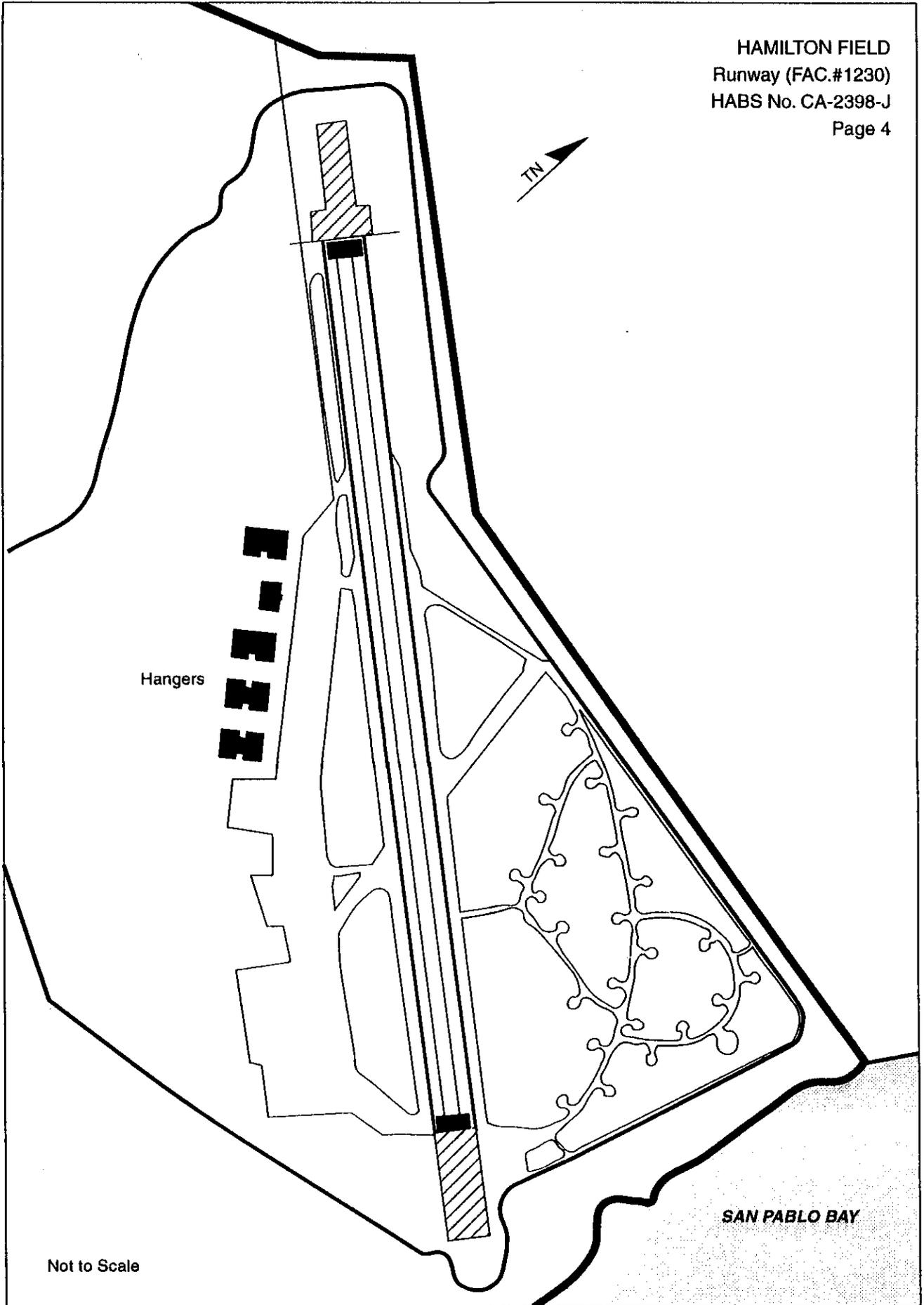
As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National 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 prepared: July 1995

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Photography prepared by: David De Vries  
Affiliation: Mesa Technical, Berkeley, California  
Date of photographs: June 1993



Hangers

SAN PABLO BAY

Not to Scale