

Hamilton Field, Link Trainer Facility  
(Facility No. 443)  
6th Street between Escolta and Hangar Avenues  
Novato  
Marin County  
California

HABS No. CA-2398-Y

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
1Y-

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  
Link Trainer Facility  
(Facility No. 443)

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
1Y-

HABS No. CA-2398-Y

**Location:** Hamilton Army Air Field  
Novato, Marin County, California  
Link Trainer Facility  
Facility No. 443 (6th Street between Escolta and Hangar Avenues)

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; 8: 544720/4212220;  
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

**Significance:**

Facility No. 443 housed one of the first flight simulator devices used by the Army for aviation training, the Link Trainer. Hamilton was one of the few air bases to receive one of these pioneering training devices. Building 443 is considered significant for its association with Air Force history in northern California, and with World War II actions in the Pacific Theater.

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 link trainer facility is a one-story L-shaped frame building, 4,202 square feet in size. It has a low-pitched gable roof with vented louvers in the gable ends; roofing material is composition shingle. Large capped metal ventilators project from the ridgeline. Siding is horizontal board clad in asbestos shingles. The perimeter foundation is concrete, with wooden subflooring. Doors are flush wood or solid-core wood with four lights over recessed panels. Fenestration consists of eight-over-eight-light wood sash double hung windows flanking the entrance; nine of these windows are along the side elevations of the building. The southeast side of the building was widened in the 1950s with a small rectangular addition. The addition has a flat roof, three-light metal sash windows, and horizontal board siding covered with asbestos shingles.

The interior has eight-inch-square vinyl asphalt tile flooring, gypsum walls, and suspended acoustical ceilings. It is divided into several equipment rooms and offices.

**Historical Context:**

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

Completed on February 14, 1941, for a total cost of \$5,850.00, this building has always been used as a training facility.

**Sources:**

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section 8 in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

See the project Field Record, roll 34, exposures 1-4; and roll 42, exposures 1-2.

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.

**HAMILTON FIELD  
Link Trainer Facility  
(Facility No. 443)**

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