

Hamilton Field, Squadron Headquarters
(Facility No. 600)
State Access Road west of
Escolta Avenue intersection
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-AF

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
IAF-

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
Squadron Headquarters
(Facility No. 600)

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Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Squadron Headquarters
Facility No. 600 (State Access Road west of Escolta Avenue
intersection)

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:

Building 600 is considered significant for its association with Air Force history in northern California, and with World War II actions in the Pacific Theater. This temporary headquarters building was converted to a laundry dispensary when the base population increased dramatically during World War II and special services were required to process the many air groups en route to overseas theaters.

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 squadron headquarters is a one-story L-shaped frame building measuring 40 by 70 feet, originally rectangular in shape. The roof is a low-pitched gable, well ventilated with louvers in the gable ends and metal roof vents. The siding is horizontal board clad in asbestos shingles. The foundation is concrete wall, with a wood tongue and groove subflooring. After the building was converted to a laundry dispensary, an elevated concrete loading dock and two warehouse doors were added to the east elevation. A sliding bay on hanging tracks is on the south side. The wall facing the loading dock has a metal railing supporting hanging wooden doors over the two bays. Five four-over-four-light wood sash double hung windows flank the bays. Other exterior windows have eight-over-eight-lights. Additions to the original mass of the building consist of a small wing on the west end, a lean-to on the east end, and a small wooden awning supported by two posts covering a door on the laundry dock; all were added during conversion to a laundry dispensary.

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The interior has a large room with a laundry counter and racks at one end, a small office and latrines. Floors are covered with eight-inch-square vinyl asphalt tiles in an alternating green and grey pattern. Walls are gypsum board with wood wainscoting. Rooms are divided with temporary wood partitions. Ceilings are suspended acoustical tiles, covering the roof truss system. Heat is provided by a MARS furnace forcing air through exposed ducts. Lighting is ceiling-mounted two-tube fluorescent fixtures with metal hoods.

Historical Context:

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

The squadron headquarters was finished in May 1942 for a cost of \$9,999.37 but was later converted to a base laundry.

Sources:

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

See the project Field Record, roll 7, exposures 1-3; roll 17, exposures 1-6; and roll 18, exposures 1-3.

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

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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. Maniery/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, CA 95816
Date of photographs: May 1993

