

Hamilton Field, Electric Facility Type A
(Transformer Vaults and Switch Stations)
East of Nave Drive
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-CH

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
ICH-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
ICH-

HAMILTON FIELD

Electric Facility Type A

(Transformer Vaults and Switch Stations,

Facility Nos. 101, 193, 225, 231, 241, 247, 251, 261, 295, 311, 344, 352,
419, 449)

HABS No. CA-2398-CH

Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Electric Facility Type A
Transformer Vaults and Switch Stations
Facility Nos. 101 (corner of San Pablo and Caliente Real), 193 (Hangar Avenue), 225 (North Circle), 231 (South Oakwood Drive), 241 (South Oakwood Drive), 247 (South Oakwood Drive), 251 (Caliente Real), 261 (San Jose Drive), 295 (Crescent Drive), 311 (Hangar Avenue), 344 (north Hangar Avenue), 352 (Hangar Avenue), 419 (corner of 4th Street and Hangar Avenue), and 449 (corner of 7th Street and Hangar Avenue)

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:

Ten of these electric switch stations and transformer vaults were constructed during the initial phase of base build up and were essential components to base operations. Four were added to the base during World War II, when the base population expanded twenty-fold. The 1930s buildings are significant as an example of the application of an important architectural trend (Spanish Colonial Revival) adapted to reflect California's mission heritage in a dramatic departure from traditional military architecture.

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 majority of the electric transformer vaults and switch stations were constructed between 1932 and 1934, although three were built in the mid 1940s. These 14 identified structures are apparently constructed from the same original plan and are small, one-story structures with low-pitched gable or shed roofs. The foundations and walls are of reinforced concrete and the floor is a concrete slab. They have metal or wood doors with louvers and

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some have industrial sash pane windows. A man hole and cover are present in the floor of some vaults. They measure 9 feet 6 inches by 12 feet 4 inches, or 19.2 feet by 13.3 feet.

Historical Context:

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

Three of these vaults (101, 311, 352) were constructed by Enri Cavasso, Contractor, in 1932 and 1933. Seven other vaults and stations were also constructed during initial base construction.

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 23, exposures 7-9 [Facility No. 352]; and roll 86, exposures 7-10 [Facility No. 251].

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.

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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

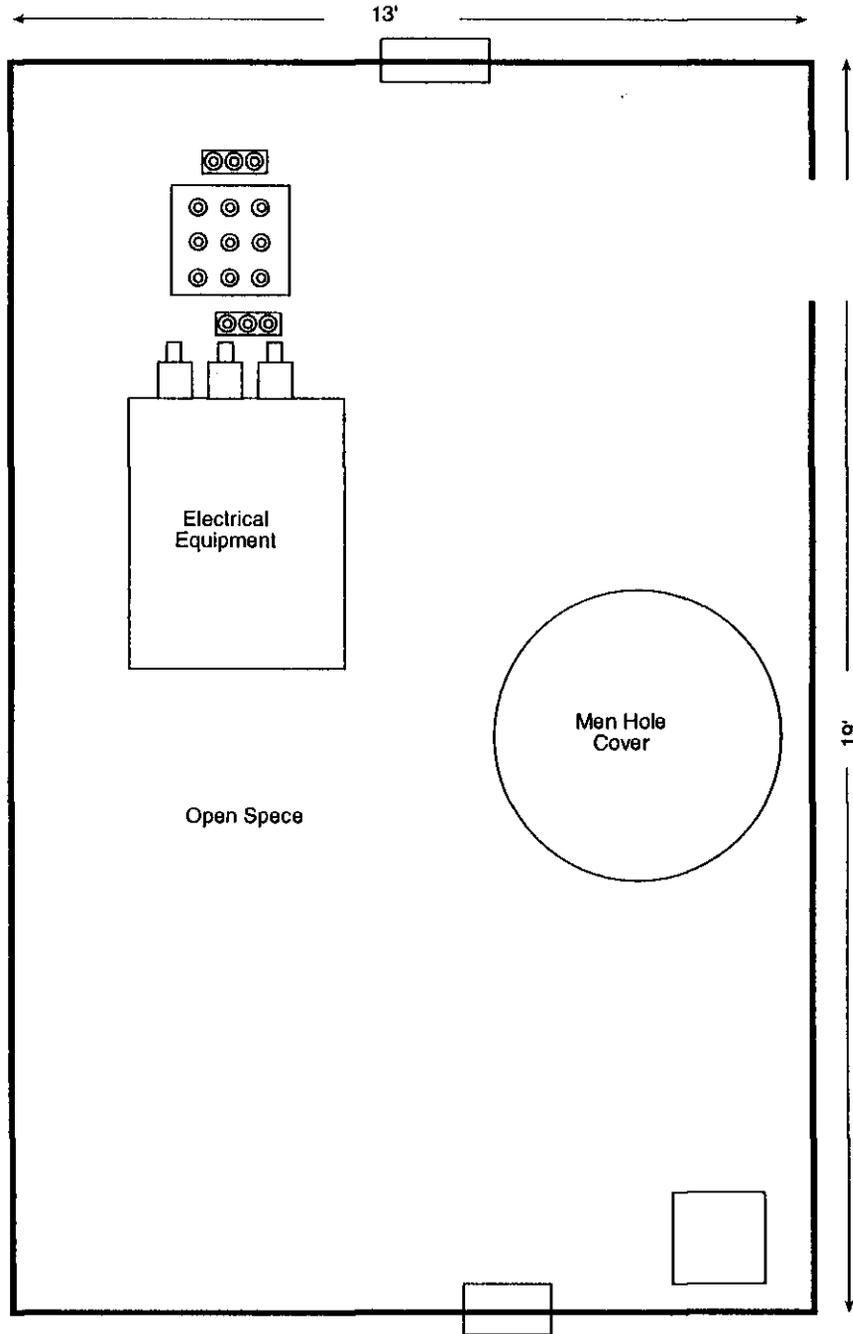
Affiliation: PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC., Sacramento, California

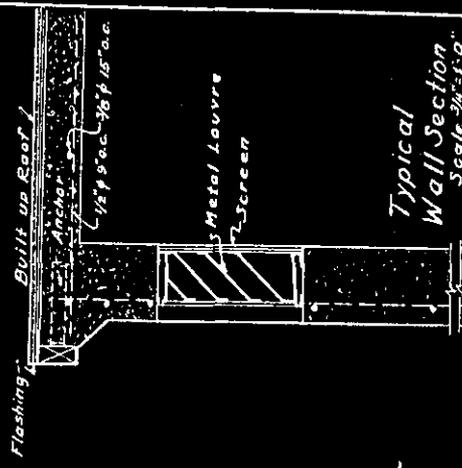
Date prepared: July 1995

Photography prepared by: David DeVries

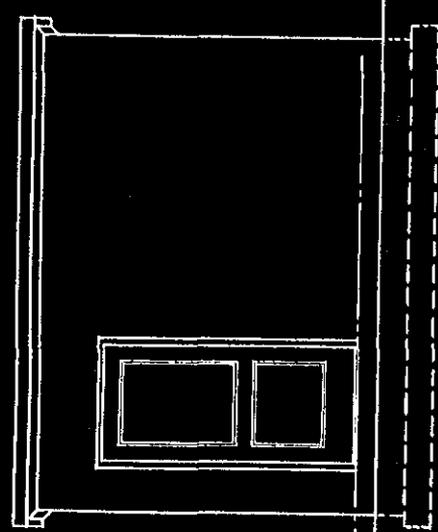
Affiliation: Mesa Technical, Berkeley, California

Date of photographs: October and November 1994

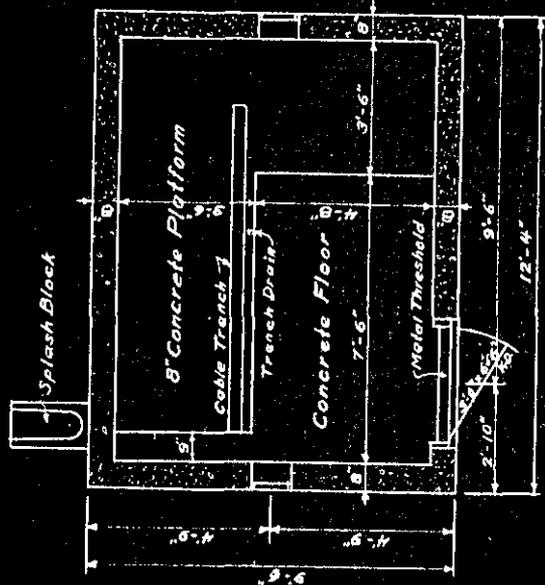




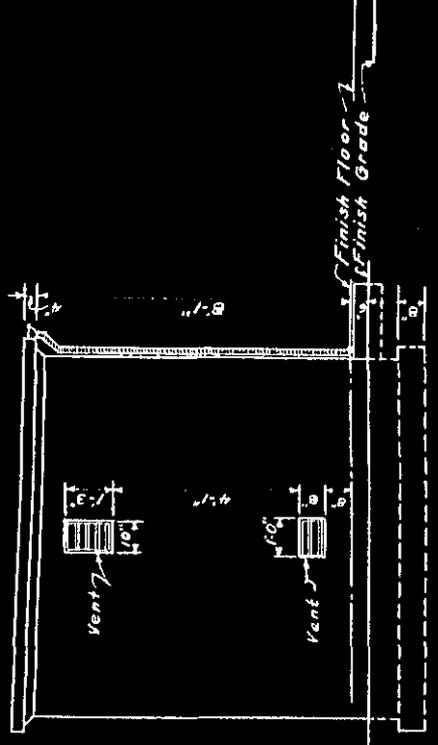
Typical Wall Section
 Scale 3/4"=1'-0"



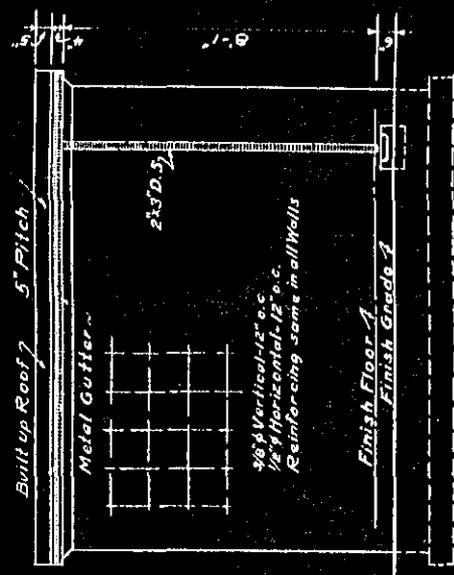
Front Elevation
 Scale 1/4"=1'-0"



Floor Plan
 Scale 1/4"=1'-0"



Side Elevation
 Both Sides Similar
 Scale 1/4"=1'-0"



Rear Elevation
 Scale 1/4"=1'-0"



Detail of Splash Block
 Scale 3/4"=1'-0"

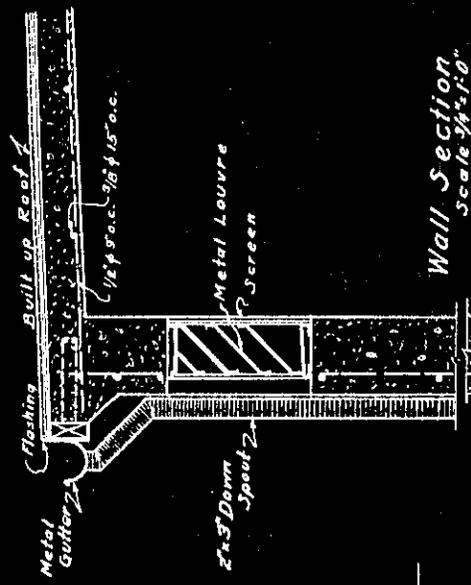


Vaults Nos. 2 & 4 Similar

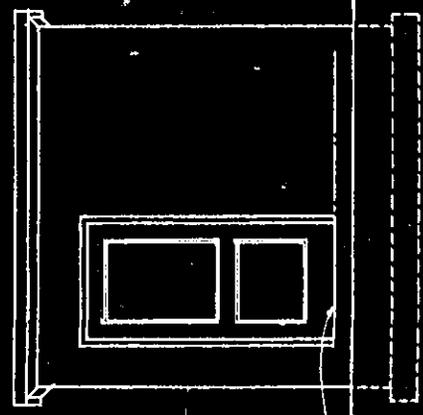
Drawn B.E.E.	000M.G.Plan
Traced B.E.E.	5754-200
Checked	Post Plan
Scale 1/8"=1'-0"	373/5-34
Date 2-25-34	Capl. E.M.C.
	Constr. Quartermaster

WAR DEPARTMENT
 OFFICE CONSTRUCTING QUARTERMASTER
 HAMILTON FIELD, CALIF.

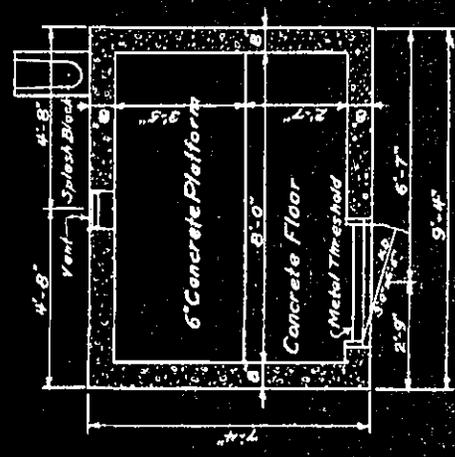
TRANSFORMER VAULT No. 1



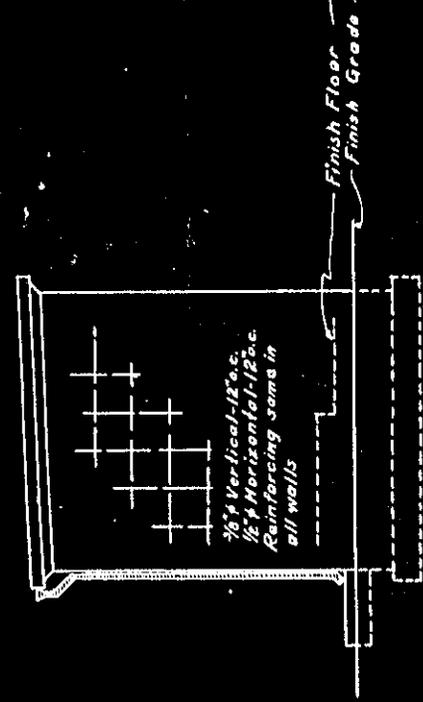
Wall Section
Scale 3/4" = 1'-0"



Front Elevation
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"



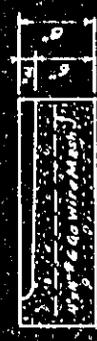
Plan
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"



Side Elevation
Both Sides Similar
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"



Rear Elevation
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"



Detail of Splash Block
Scale 3/4" = 1'-0"

WAR DEPARTMENT OFFICE CONSTRUCTING QUARTERMASTER HAMILTON FIELD, CALIF.	
TRANSFORMER VAULT No. 2	
Drawn BY Traced BY Checked BY Scale 1/4" = 1'-0" Date 2-23-34	O.C.M.G.Plan 5234-200 J.B. NUSS Capt. U.S.A.C. Constr. Quartermaster Bldg. No. 28