

Hamilton Field, Exchange/Snack Bar
(Facility No. 654)
D Street at State Access Road
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-CX

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
ICX-

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
Exchange/Snack Bar
(Facility No. 654)

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HABS No. CA-2398-CX

Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Exchange/Snack Bar
Facility No. 654 (D Street at State Access Road)

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; C: 541040/4212600

Significance:

Building 654 is considered significant for its association with Air Force history in northern California, and with World War II actions in the Pacific Theater. This building functioned as a temporary exchange and snack bar within the World War II expansion area of the base. Other services for the enlisted men or women that occupied this area were a chapel and a gymnasium or recreation center.

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:

This frame building measures approximately 37 by 84 feet and has a gable roof with composition strip shingle roofing with louvered vents in the gable ends and overhanging eaves. Metal ventilators are present on the roof ridgeline. It has a concrete pier foundation. The walls are horizontal board siding clad with asbestos shingles. The building has a front porch with a wood railing and wood posts supporting a shed roof. A small elevated concrete dock was added to the east side and has two-inch metal pipe rails. It was used as a loading dock. Fenestration is six- over six and eight- over eight-light double hung wood sash. Doors are wood panel on the central entry and loading bay.

The interior has a large room and small offices, one bathroom, and a kitchen and dining area used as a snack bar. Walls and ceilings are covered in gypsum board and the floor is tongue and groove wood subfloor clad with eight-inch square vinyl asphalt tiles. Doors are solid-core wood with recessed panels. Heating system consists of forced air gas heater with exposed ductwork. Original lighting fixtures were probably of the "schoolhouse" type with a canopy and suspended milk glass bowl shade. Replacement lights are two-tube fluorescent.

Historical Context:

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

Completed in 1942 for \$16,670.43, this building served as an exchange sales store for enlisted men living in the surrounding barracks. It retained this function, expanding services to include a snack bar, until base closure in 1974.

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 1, exposures 11-12; roll 2, exposures 1-2, 9-10; and roll 54, exposures 3-4.

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 Warsaw 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

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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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Affiliation: Mesa Technical, Berkeley, California

Date of photograph: May 1993

