

MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD, STORAGE BUILDING  
(Building No. 936)  
Railroad Avenue near Eighteenth Street  
Vallejo  
Solano County  
California

HABS CA-1543-CS  
CA-1543-CS

HABS  
CA-1543-CS

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
PACIFIC GREAT BASIN SUPPORT OFFICE  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
600 Harrison Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD, STORAGE BUILDING  
(MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD, BUILDING 936)**

**HABS No. CA-1543-CS**

**Location:** Located within the Naval Ammunitions Depot, west side of Railroad Avenue, Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, Solano County, California

U.S.G.S.: Mare Island, 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle, 1959, photorevised 1980

UTM Coordinates: Zone 10 564878 E, 4215507 N

**Present Owner:** 63D United States (U.S.) Army Regional Readiness Command

**Present Use:** Storage

**Significance:** Building 936, built in 1943, is considered significant for its association with U.S. Naval history and the Mare Island Naval Shipyard (MINSY), the first naval installation on the west coast of the United States. Portions of the Mare Island Naval Shipyard comprise a National Historic Landmark. Building 936, however, is outside the landmark and instead part of the Mare Island Shipyard Historic District. The U.S. Marine Corps Security Detachment Unit assigned to guard the Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) initially used this building for heat plant equipment storage from 1943 to 1953. It is a contributing element of the successful base operations at Mare Island and is a representative example of support structure design, construction methods and materials used on the island during the World War II (WWII) era.

**Description:** Building 936, built in 1943, is located within the NAD area of Mare Island at the west side of Railroad Avenue, just west of the Guard House and Barracks (Building 930) and south of the former Quartermaster and Tailor Shop (Building 938). This area is immediately adjacent to the Shipyard South area of the island that includes the Finger Piers and other support buildings and structures that were built in the early 1940s at the onset of WWII. The building was used from 1943 until 1953 for housing a heating plant for nearby buildings associated with the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment unit assigned to the NAD. Sometime between 1953 and 1980 the heating

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plant was removed from the building. Building 936 has continued to be used as storage for the nearby buildings' subsequent uses to the present. Building 936 (CA-1543-CS-1, CA-1543-CS-2) has an approximately 121-square-foot footprint, with all four sides measuring approximately 11 feet long. The building has a concrete slab foundation, concrete block walls, and a wood-framed pyramidal roof with corrugated metal surfacing and exposed rafter tails. The building's walls are about eight feet high above its concrete slab foundation and the maximum height of the building, from floor level to the pyramidal roof's central peak is about 10 feet, six inches.

The building has one metal door on its northeast side (CA-1543-CS-1). The door measures four feet wide and six feet, nine and one-half inches high and includes metal strap hinges and a horizontal louvered vent at its bottom half. There are no windows or vents on the walls of this building. Metal utility boxes and conduit are attached to the northwest wall. Electric and other conduit is also at the northeast and southeast walls of the building.

There is a square cupola-style ventilator (with a pyramidal cap) that rises about one foot above the central peak of the building's roof (CA-1543-CS-1, CA-1543-CS-2). A cylindrical metal vent pipe extends up for about four feet from the roof, on a westward diagonal; it is located southwest of the cupola-style ventilator.

The concrete walkway extends perpendicularly from a main northwest-southeast aligned concrete walkway (to the northeast) to the door on the northeast side of the Building 936. The rest of the area immediately surrounding this building is earthen. Apparently the building earlier housed heat plant equipment; today the interior appears to be used for general storage and includes some modern wooden shelving.

**Historical Context:** Building 936 was constructed as part of the Mare Island naval facility located in Vallejo, California. The U.S. Navy established MINSY in 1854 as a shipbuilding and repair facility. This shipyard was the first west coast naval installation and was the only such facility in California for many years.

Mare Island's built environment is the product of over 100 years of military construction and consists of a blend of buildings that demonstrate many different historical functions, construction technologies and architectural styles. Building 936 was constructed in

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1943 as a heat plant equipment storage shed for a nearby building, which was associated with the Marine Corps Security Detachment unit stationed at the southern area of the island to guard the NAD.

In response to growing tensions in Europe, the U.S. Congress, in 1938, decided to expand the size of the American fleet by 20 percent. This expansion escalated at the end of 1941 with the entry of the U.S. into WWII. There was a massive expansion of aircraft and shipbuilding industries at Mare Island during WWII. Along with a fundamental redesign of the Shipyard South area at the brink of the U.S. entry into WWII, the adjacent NAD expanded its production and storage capacities. Buildings were constructed within this area of the island to support the bustling activity in the berthing areas and ammunitions depot. Many of these buildings, such as the guardhouse and barracks (Building 930) and storage building (Building 936), were erected in the early 1940s to support the U.S. Marine Security Detachment Unit, which was stationed in this area to protect the NAD.

The surviving buildings and structures from the WWII era represent an important collection of buildings, “arranged in a manner that enables an understanding of how the base functioned at that time” (JRP Historical Consulting with PAR Environmental Services, Inc. 1996: Section 8, page 53). Building 936 served from 1943 to 1953 as heat plant equipment storage for the buildings associated with the Marine Corps Security Detachment Unit, which was stationed at the guard house and barracks (Building 930) to provide security for NAD. Sometime between 1953 and 1980 the heating plant was removed from the building.

Since 1953, Building 936 has continually been used as a storage facility for the nearby building. The U.S Navy vacated the building in 1993 when the military base closed and the City of Vallejo acquired a use permit for the property from the U.S. Navy. In 1996, the CCC entered into a lease with the City to use the building for storage. In 1997 the U.S. Army Reserve received a use permit for the building from the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army Reserve allowed the CCC to continue leasing the property. On July 12, 2002, ownership of Building 936 was transferred from the U.S. Navy to the U.S. Army Reserve. The CCC moved out of the facility in 2003 and it is currently used by the 63D RRC for storage.

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**Sources:**

**A. Architectural Drawings:**

No architectural drawings or plans for this building are available.

**B. Historic Maps and Views:**

No historic views or aerial photographs of this building were located during this effort.

**C. Interviews**

Dodge, G. Telephone communication between Tracy Bakic, PAR Environmental Services, Inc. and Glynn Dodge, 2002.

Volk, J. S. Telephone communication between Tracy Bakic, PAR Environmental Services, Inc. and J. Stephen Volk (Environmental Scientist [Adecco TAD], 63D U.S. Army Regional Readiness Command CST Environmental Division), 2002.

**D. Bibliography**

Bumatay, H. (Mare Island Naval Shipyard) California Department of Parks and Recreation Primary Record form for Building 930 (Guard House and Barracks), Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Mare Island, California, 1994. On file, California Office of Historic Preservation, Sacramento.

JRP Historical Consulting Services with PAR Environmental Services, Inc. *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Mare Island Historic District, Vallejo, California*, 1996. On file, California Office of Historic Preservation, Sacramento and U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

PAR Environmental Services, Inc. *Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan for Army Lands at Mare Island National Historic Landmark, Vallejo, Solano County, California*, 2002. On file, California Office of Historic Preservation, Sacramento.

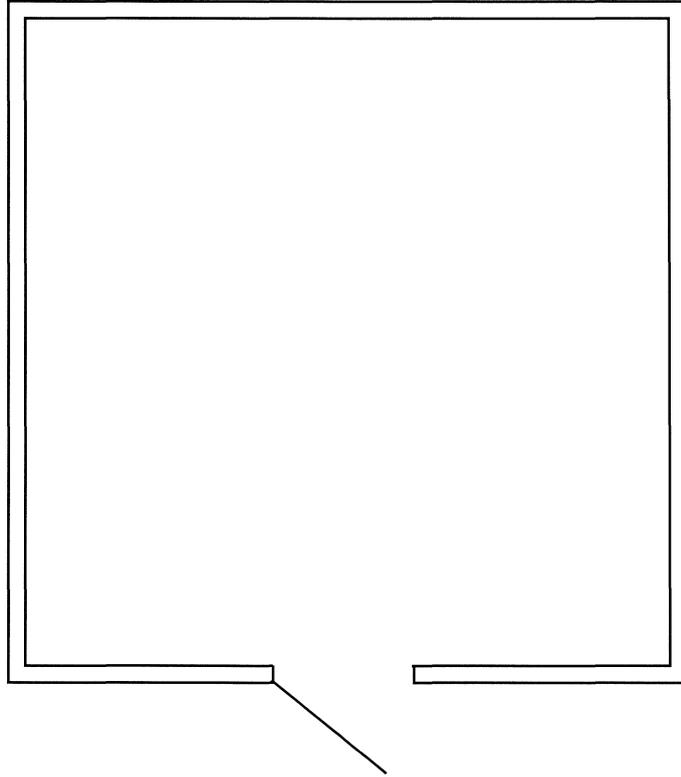
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**Project Information:** After the September 11 terrorist attack, new standards were implemented for federal facilities. Building setbacks from roads and parking areas have been greatly increased. The Department of Defense's Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings, 4-010-01 8 October 2003 Distances per United Facilities Criteria require minimum setbacks that are greater than the existing setbacks, thereby requiring this facility's removal. This undertaking has been approved in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement between the California State Historic Preservation Officer and the U.S. Army Reserve, pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f).

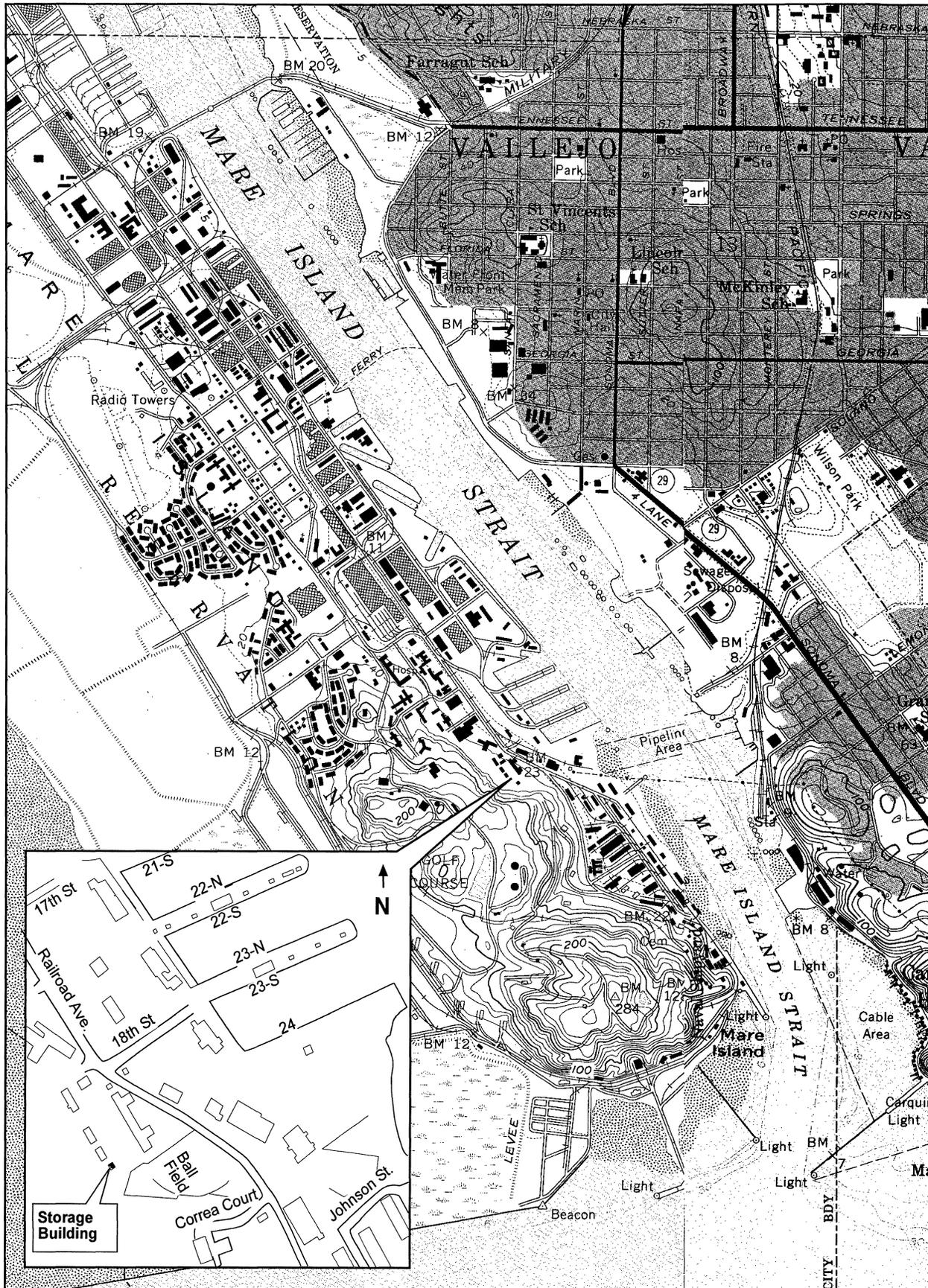
**Prepared By:** This report was prepared by Tracy Bakic, cultural resources specialist with PAR Environmental Services, Inc., Sacramento, California. Photography and the associated photographic index were prepared by David DeVries, Mesa Technical, Berkeley, California.

**Submitted By:** 63D U.S. Army Regional Readiness Command Headquarters, 4235 Yorktown Avenue, Los Alamitos, CA 90720-5002

**Inventory Date:** November 6, 2002 (Updated April 18, 2005)



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Location Map and Site Plan (Inset) of Mare Island Naval Shipyard Storage Building  
(Building No. 936) (USGS: Benicia and Mare Island, CA 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle,  
Both 1959, Photorevised 1980)