

MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD, GUARD HOUSE & BARRACKS
(Building No. 930)
(Building No. A-196)
Railroad Avenue near Eighteenth Street
Vallejo
Solano County
California

HABS CA-1543-CW
CA-1543-CW

HABS
CA-1543-CW

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, GUARD HOUSE AND BARRACKS
(MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD, BUILDING 930)
(MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD, BUILDING A-196)

HABS No. CA-1543-CW

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 564893 E, 4215561 N

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

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Building 930, built in 1941, is considered significant for its association with United States (U.S.) Naval history and the Mare Island Naval Shipyard (MINSY), the first naval installation on the west coast of the U.S. Portions of the Mare Island Naval Shipyard comprise a National Historic Landmark. Building 930, however, is outside of the landmark and instead part of the Mare Island Shipyard Historic District. This building was initially constructed as a guard house and barracks for the Marine Security Detachment unit that provided security for the Naval Ammunition Depot during World War II (WWII). It is a contributing element of the successful base operations at Mare Island and is a representative example of barracks design, construction methods and materials used at the island during the WWII era.

Description: Building 930 is an approximately 22,000-square-foot, two-story building of a functional design (CA-1543-CW-1 to CA-1543-CW-10). It is located within the Naval Ammunitions Depot area of Mare Island at the western side of Railroad Avenue, just south of the South Fire Station (Building 726) that was built in the same year. 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. This building was used as a guard house and barracks for the Marine Detachment Unit stationed for security reasons at this area of the island from 1941

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until 1953. In 1953, it was abandoned and the building number changed from its original designation of A196 to Building 930, which effectively removed the building from the Naval Ammunition Depot Building Inventory and moved it to the shipyard's inventory. In the 1980s, it underwent renovation and was used as a Bachelor Enlisted Quarters (BEQ) until base closure. In 1996, California Conservation Corps (CCC) started leasing it from the City of Vallejo and then from the Army Reserve after they acquired use of the property in 1997. The CCC moved out of the building in 2003 and it is presently vacant.

The 1941 building's overall footprint measures 262 feet, six inches northwest-southeast by 76 feet northeast-southwest and includes seven major sections - a two-story central section, two two-story stairwells/halls, two two-story wings and two one-story wings. The maximum height (from first floor level to roof ridge) of the two-story portions of the building is approximately 33 feet, six inches, and the maximum height of the one-story wings is about 19 feet, six inches.

The central section (CA-1543-CW-2 to CA-1543-CW-4) measures 91 feet, six inches northwest-southeast by 35 feet northeast-southwest. The stairwells/halls each measure 10 feet, six inches northwest-southeast by 28 feet northeast-southwest, one at the northwest end and one at the southeast end of the central section. The two-story wings (CA-1543-CW-2, CA-1543-CW-4 to CW-6) each measure 76 feet northeast-southwest with a 41-foot, three-inch-long southwest side and a 35-foot-long northeast side. Each two-story wing is to the side of the stairwell/hall opposite the central section. The one-story wing at the northwest end of the building (CA-1543-CW-6) measures 31 feet northwest-southeast by 35 feet northeast-southwest. The one-story wing at the southeast end of the building (CA-1543-CW-10) measures 36 feet, six inches northeast-southwest by 35 feet northwest-southeast.

Building 930's foundation, structural columns and main walls (including exterior walls) are constructed of steel reinforced concrete. The foundation consists of concrete wall footings that fully support each major section of the building - the one- and two-story wings, mid-section and stairwells/halls. The 14-inch-square concrete interior support columns extend from the foundation, through the first floor, and are joined with the second floor's approximately 10-inch by 10-inch reinforced concrete floor beams; these columns have approximately two-inch-wide chamfered corners. The exterior one-foot-diameter octagonal reinforced concrete columns support the second story deck that overhangs the first story's main entry porch (CA-1543-CW-12, CA-1543-CW-14).

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The concrete main walls are nine inches thick and include the exterior walls and the interior walls that define the major building sections. The exterior walls of the building include one and one-half-inch-wide recessed horizontal channels that extend the full length of each side of the building just above and below the tops and sills of the windows. The exposed corners of the original concrete walls at the interior of the building have chamfered corners, approximately two inches wide. Extant original non-loadbearing interior walls are constructed of approximately one-foot-square by four-inch-thick hollow clay tiles (CA-1543-CW-19, CA-1543-CW-20). The majority of the existing partition walls between dormitory rooms and offices are six-inch sheet-rocked walls that were added around 1974.

The first and second-story floors are reinforced concrete slabs – four inches thick for the first floor (except for the boiler room which is six inches thick) and about six inches thick for the second floor. The ceilings of the one-story wings and of the second story of the two-story sections are wood-framed with two-inch by six-inch nominally dimensioned lumber spaced two feet on center. The second story's approximately 13-foot-deep deck (northeast side of the building) has a concrete slab floor and a nine-inch-thick solid concrete railing (CA-1543-CW-15). The floor of the deck slopes slightly downward from the building and historically has had built-up composition surfacing.

The building's hipped roofing is wood-framed with trusses constructed of lumber and boards of nominal one-, two- or three-inch thickness with varied nominal widths. The ridge beams are three-inch by 12-inch dimensioned lumber. The majority of rafters are two-inch by eight-inch lumber strengthened by trussing using one- by six-inch boards and two- by four-inch lumber components. Other simple rafters are set at the hip and valley areas of the roofing and have nominal two-inch thicknesses with varied nominal widths from six inches to 12 inches. All roof rafters are spaced two feet on center. The roof is sheathed with one-inch by six- or eight-inch wood boards and is surfaced with composition shingles.

Original exterior doors on the building were paneled wood, most with an upper glazed area. Although all original door openings still exist, it appears that all original doors were removed in 1961 or later and were replaced with modern metal (most with upper glazed areas) or flush wood doors. The flat concrete awnings over the doors on the southeast

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sides of the building are original (CA-1543-CW-11). Original concrete awnings over the doors of the northwest side of the building were removed during extensive renovations to the lounge, doors, and windows in the 1980s. The metal fire exit doors on the northeast sides of the two-story northwest and southeast wings (CA-1543-CW-2, CA-1543-CW-4, CA-1543-CW-5), as well as northeastern most metal door on the northwest two-story wing's northwest side, are later additions to the building that replaced original windows/window openings.

All but two extant window openings on the building are original. The majority of original window openings on both stories of all sides of the building are three feet, nine inches wide by six feet, five-and one-half inches high. Other original window openings on the building measure one foot, nine inches wide by four feet, four-and-one-quarter inches high; three feet wide by six feet, five-and-one-half inches high; three feet, nine inches wide by four feet, four-and-one-quarter inches high; three feet wide by six feet, five-and-one-half inches high; four-foot wide by 12 feet, nine-and-one-quarter inches high (at the stairwell areas); one foot, nine inches wide by two feet, four inches high (one beneath each large stairwell window); and three feet, nine inches wide by three feet high. Two southwestern-most window openings at the southeast side of the southern two-story wing (just above the roof of the adjacent one-story wing) were added sometime between 1961 and 1963 (CA-1543-CW-11).

Original windows were wood sash double-hung, fixed and hopper type windows. Except for the multi-paned fixed windows that frame the double-door areas of the northeast side's upper story (deck side), the building's windows were replaced in 1981 with aluminum framed; the majority of windows are single hung, many with upper infill panels, and a few smaller windows are awning-style.

The louvered vent openings at the covered northeast entry (to one side of each double-door) are original; the louvers in each opening are probably original. Louvered openings on the southwest side of the building appear to be post-1981 modifications (CA-1543-CW-8, CA-1543-CW-9). All original gutters, scuppers, leaders and other related drainage elements were removed and replaced in 1976. According to plans, the new drainage materials were to match the originals in size and shape. The wall-mounted metal fire alarm boxes on the northwestern-most exterior walls are original or early features of the building (CA-1543-CW-16).

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The metal exhaust stack at the southeast end of the building's southwest side is original (CA-1543-CW-10). The exhaust stack that is at the northwest side of the building, extending from the second story laundry room, appears to be a later addition (CA-1543-CW-6).

In 1941 the first floor of the building included over 20 spaces. The southern wings contained the boiler room, kitchen, cook's dormitory, utility storage and a mess hall. The central area was consumed by a large open space, the squad dormitory, flanked to each end by the stairwells to the second floor. The northern wings include a toilet room, shower room, dry room, guard dormitory, equipment room, dispensary, office and bedroom for the officer of the day, offices for the sergeant and commanding officer and a heater room. The second floor originally had around 17 spaces. The southern wing of the second floor had a large recreation room and a storage room. The central area was planned identical to the first floor in that it was consumed by a large open space – a second squad dormitory – flanked on each end by the stairwells. The northern wing of the second floor included a toilet room, wash room, dry room, linen room, toilet room three dormitory spaces, store room and a heater room. Both floors of the building included two alcoves for drinking fountains; at least one of these alcoves still exists.

The extant original stairwell areas include a 20-riser concrete stair, including 12 risers from the first floor to a concrete mid-landing (CA-1543-CW-16) and then eight risers to the second floor (CA-1543-CW-17). The stairs were designed with safety treads, each tread including five linear grooves for gripping. The extant metal pipe railings are original. The first floor storage closets beneath the midway landing of each stairwell area are original; however the original doors were removed and replaced with modern flush wood doors.

From 1941 to around 1961 the finished floors of the rooms were typically concrete. Other original or pre-1961 flooring finishes included quarry tile in the kitchen, ceramic tile in the shower rooms, asphalt tile in the recreation room and about half the rooms of the second floor north wing, including the corridor. The shower rooms also include six-foot-high ceramic tile wainscoting. Original partition walls were hollow clay tiles, as mentioned above. Original interior doors were typically paneled wood. The ceilings of the one-story wings and majority of second floor area were plasterboard.

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Between 1961 and 1963 the interior of the building was modified for use as a barracks for the U.S. Navy's guided missile and tactical data system training school. Changes included: the reworking of the original kitchen area to remove the kitchen use and accommodate more dormitory spaces; the addition of non-permanent partitions to create corridors and separate dormitory spaces within the original squad dormitories on both floors; the refinishing of most original floor surfaces with new asphalt tiles, vinyl asbestos tiles in toilet areas, and ceramic tiles (including wainscoting) in new shower areas. The extant fire escape stairs, doors and landings at the east sides of the two-story wings were added at this time, as well as a fire wall/door added to each of the second story stairwell areas

Around 1974 six-inch sheet-rocked walls were added, most notably in the central areas of the buildings where the non-permanent partitions were set in the 1960s. The new permanent walls created space, but the corridor alignments are different from the original floor plans of the building. Sometime between 1974 and 1976 the original mess hall area received sheet-rocked partition walls at its northeast end to create three rooms within the space, including a lounge and a TV room. In 1976 the lounge, a vestibule, stairwell areas, and most corridor areas received new flooring and the first floor's toilet, wash and dry rooms received new ceramic tile floors. In 1989 the first floor's lounge was remodeled to include a snack bar area and a watch station/office; new vinyl tile flooring was set in the main lounge area and the watch station, and a suspended acoustical ceiling with recessed lighting was installed.

The majority of spaces in the building presently have suspended acoustical ceilings. Original interior light fixtures appear to have been removed. The extant bathroom fixtures appear to date to 1961 or later.

Today the building has approximately 38 rooms on the first floor and approximately 30 rooms on the second floor. There appear to be at least eight original paneled wood doors inside of the building, including an original bathroom door on the first floor and original heater room doors on both floors (CA-1543-CW-19). The remaining extant doors were added during the various renovations made between 1961 and 1980s. The extant boiler room, laundry room, original bathroom areas and stairwells are amongst the few spaces that have retained their original ceiling heights. There is an original holding tank in the boiler room (CA-1543-CW-22).

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The extant landscaping to the northeast side of the building continues to be representative of the 1942 landscape plan in relation to the layout of the grass areas and walkways. Originally two 15-foot-wide concrete walkways extended from the two main entry areas to Railroad Avenue; however, the extant concrete walks do not extend passed the two-story wings and rock-lined asphalt walks (CA-1543-CW-12 and CW-13) extend the remainder of the distance to Railroad Avenue. If the 1942 landscaping plan was followed through and all proposed trees were planted, then it appears that many original plantings have been removed and new ones added. The southern walkway area most closely follows the 1942 plans with a tree to one side of the concrete stairs to the building entry and smaller trees lining each side of the walkway to the edge of the road. Originally the front lawn had a central concrete slab on which a canon apparently was set. Today this approximate area is rock-lined and includes a metal post and wood sign installed by the CCC (CA-1543-CW-3).

The areas to the northwest and southeast of the building are asphalt-surfaced. The area to the west of the building includes a large rectangular lawn area with a few trees (CA-1543-CW-9). At the opposite (southwest) side of this lawn are Buildings 934 (Canteen & Brig), 936 (Storage Building) and 938 (Quartermaster and Tailor Shop); all were built in 1943 as support facilities for the Marines stationed at Building 930. The sentry houses (Buildings A272 and A279), once manned by Marines guarding entry to the Naval Ammunition Depot, are located just north of Building 930.

Historical Context: Building 930 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 930, constructed in 1941 for use as a guardhouse and barracks manned by the U.S. Marine Corps, is located at the southern end of the island within the Naval Ammunition Depot area.

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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 Naval Ammunition Depot expanded its productive 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 guard house and barracks (Building 930) and sentry houses (Buildings A272 and A279) were erected in 1941 to support the U.S. Marine Security Detachment Unit stationed in this area to protect the Naval Ammunition Depot.

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). The Guard House and Barracks building was designed by San Francisco architects, Albert F. Roller and Milton Pflueger, with the assistance of San Francisco engineer, H. J. Brunner of Leland & Haley Consulting Engineers. Other than these identified contractors, all other draftsmen or contractors were identified by initial only. The building was initially numbered Building A-196 and served as the Marine Security Detachment Guard House and Barracks from 1941 until 1953. The building provided guarding, dormitory and office facilities for the Marines assigned to duties for the Naval Ammunition Depot.

In 1953 the building was vacated by the Marine unit and was renumbered as Building 930. In 1961 the building was renovated for use as a barracks for the U.S. Navy’s guided missile and tactical data system training school. In the mid-1970s more renovations were made, mainly at the interior of the building. By the 1980s, the building was used by the U.S. Navy as Bachelor Enlisted Quarters. Further renovations were made in the 1980s and 1990s for the more recent uses.

The U.S Navy vacated the building in 1993 when the military base closed and ownership 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 as a dormitory for the students of its training programs. In 1997 the U.S. Army Reserve received a

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use permit for the building from the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army Reserve has allowed the CCC to continue leasing the property. On July 12, 2002, ownership of Building 930 was formally transferred from the U.S. Navy to the U.S. Army Reserve. The CCC moved out in 2003 and the building is now vacant.

Sources:

A. Architectural Drawings:

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- Pflueger, M. T. *Naval Schools Command, Mare Island, Vallejo, California– Naval Guided Missile and Tactical Data System School, Building 930, First Floor Plan (Y & D Drawing No. 892274), 1961.* On file, U.S. Army Reserve, Vallejo, CA.
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B. Historic Maps and Views:

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

C. Interviews

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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).

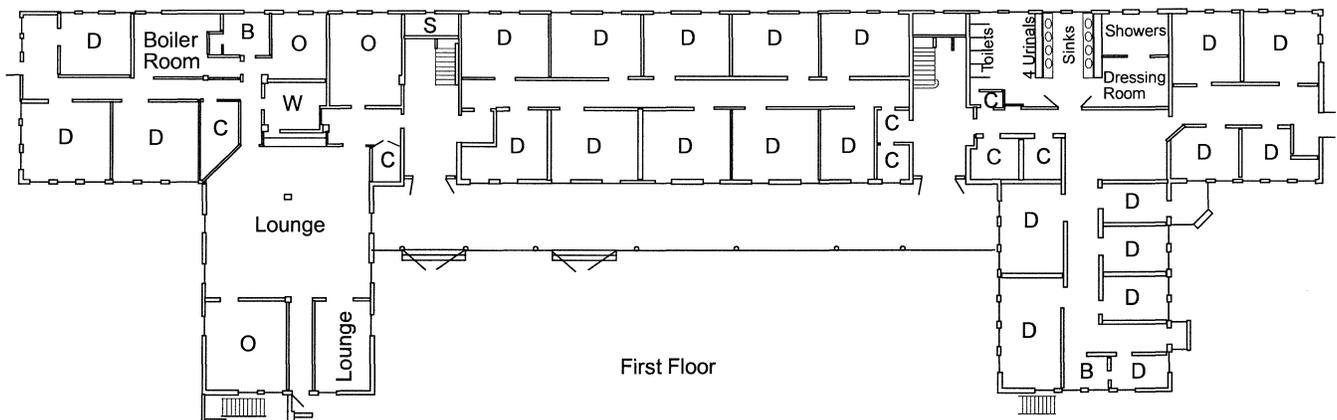
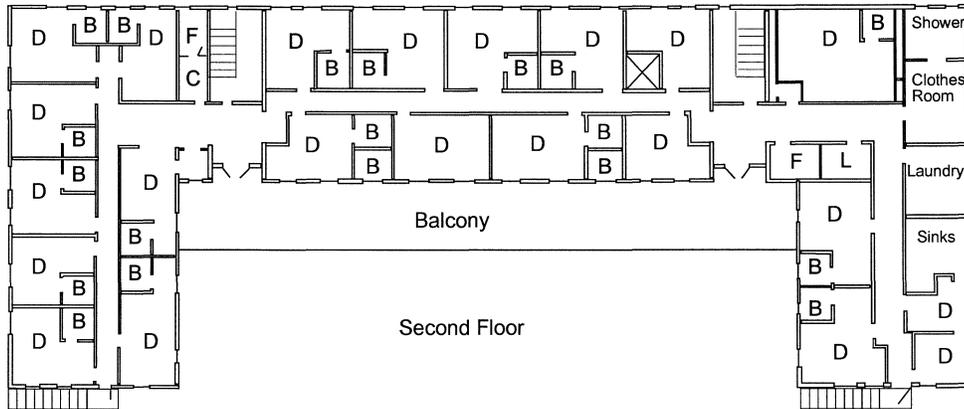
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Prepared By: This report was prepared by Tracy Bakic, cultural resources specialist with PAR Environmental Services, Inc., Sacramento, California. Photography and the associated photographic index were prepared by David DeVries, Mesa Technical, Berkeley,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

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

Inventory Date: November 7, 2002 (Updated April 18, 2005)

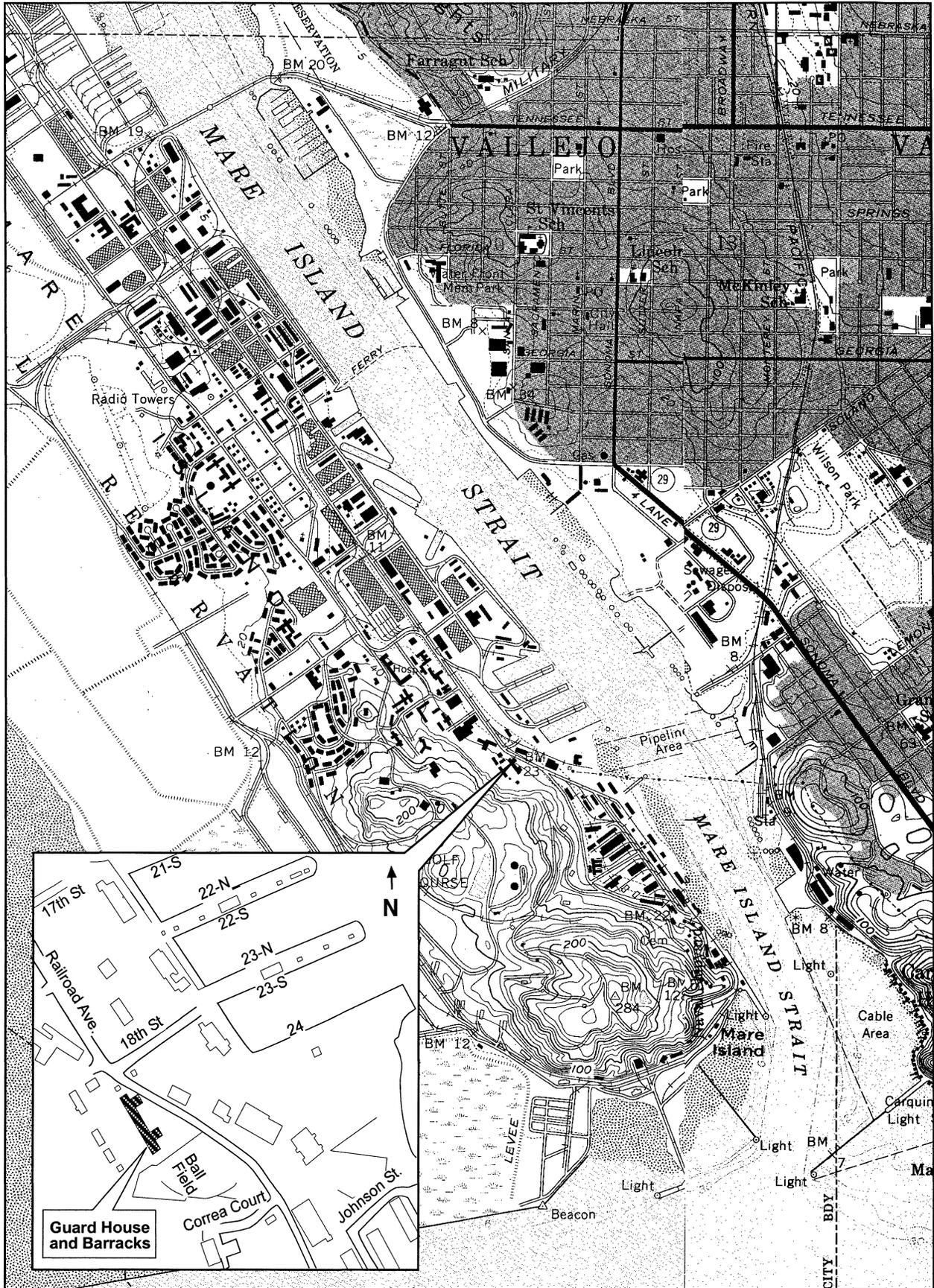
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20 Feet



- D Dorm Room
- B Bathroom
- F Furnace Room
- S Supply Room
- C Closet
- W Watch Room
- L Locker Room
- O Office



Location Map and Site Plan (Inset) of Mare Island Naval Shipyard Guard House and Barracks (Building No. 930) (USGS: Benicia and Mare Island, CA 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle, Both 1959, Photorevised 1980)