

FORT BAKER, TEMPORARY WORLD WAR II WAREHOUSE
(Building No. 511)
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
East Road & McReynolds Road
Sausalito vicinity
Marin County
California

HABS CA-2643-C
CA-2643-C

HABS
CA-2643-C

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
PACIFIC WEST REGIONAL OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607

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FORT BAKER TEMPORARY WORLD WAR II WAREHOUSE
(BUILDING No. 511)

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Location: Corner of East Road and McReynolds Road, Fort Baker, Sausalito, Marin County, California.

USGS Zone 10, Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Coordinates: 4187795 (north); 546012 (east).

Present Owner: Golden Gate National Recreation Area, National Park Service.

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: Building 511 is significant for its role in supporting coastal defense activities that occurred at the Fort Baker, Barry and Cronkhite Military Reservations. The building is also representative of the United States Army's World War II mobilization 700 series building plans that rapidly and efficiently accommodated tens of thousands of soldiers.

Part I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Dates of Erection: Ca. 1942. Building 511 is based on the War Department's Standard Plan No. 700-5201, Utilities Office – Type O.B. - E.T.
2. Architect: The plans for this building were prepared by the War Department, Office of the Chief of Engineers, Construction Division, Washington D.C. While no specific architect designed building 511, Colonel Charles D. Hartman, who served in the Construction Division of the Quartermaster Corp, is credited with the design for the 700 series mobilization buildings.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The United States Army owned building 511 from 1942 to July of 2002, when the land property of Fort Baker was officially transferred to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, National Park Service.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: The Quartermaster General Office Form No. 117 was used by the army to track building costs and expenditure information; unfortunately, the form for building 511 does not provide the original building costs. The Quartermaster Form identifies building 511 as Type OB-E-T, T.O. 700-5201 (O. B. is an abbreviation for “office buildings”). The form states that the building was authorized for construction in September 1942. The original builders, contractors and construction cost for this building are unknown.
5. Original plans and construction: While original construction plans for this specific building do not exist, standard floor plans for this building type are available. Floor plans for building 511 are dated July 16, 1942 from the War Department, Office of the Chief of Engineers, Construction Division, Washington D.C., labeled “Office Buildings, Types OB-A-T thru OB-G-T, OB-K-T, OB-L-T, OB-O-T, Floor Plans, Drawing No. T.O. 700-5201.” These plans can be found in Drawer M-3, Folder No. T.O. 700-5000/6616 at the Presidio Archives and Record Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco, California. The building was originally numbered T180. In 1945, the building was renumbered 693 and in the 1970s, it was renumbered 511.
6. Alterations and additions: Building 511 appears to have experienced few alterations overtime and still matches the standard plans for T.O. 700-5201. The building's only deviation from the standard plan is that at some time, a third exterior door was constructed on the southeast elevation. Presumably this door was added to provide quicker access to the utilities warehouse (building 513), directly up the hill.

B. Historical Context

Fort Baker was one of the new state-of-the-art coastal defense installations constructed during the Endicott era of military expansion. In 1885, in response to the government's growing concern over the country's dilapidated military installations, the Board of Engineers for Fortifications was created to improve the future of the country's seacoast defenses. The Endicott Program, named after the board's chairman, Secretary of War William C. Endicott, made sweeping recommendations for all existing U.S. seaports and proposals to revive all seacoast fortifications. Through the efforts of the Endicott Program, hundreds of new batteries and posts were constructed, resulting in a golden age of coast artillery. The Endicott Program became an expression for America's new awareness of herself as a growing imperial power, the rise in the country's industrial strength, and the new developments in military technology.

Between 1885 and 1910, the War Department constructed new coastal defense batteries through out the Marin Headland's coastline. Fort Baker, built between 1902 and 1910, supported the new seacoast defenses and housed the soldiers assigned to arm and maintain these new technologically-superior guns. The Fort Baker post consisted of several barracks, officers' housing, non-commissioned housing, a post exchange, a hospital and a gymnasium buildings all clustered in a horse-shoe shape around the main parade ground. Fort Baker is a model Endicott period army post which represents the military's new focus in providing the soldiers with clean, healthy and sanitary living conditions.

By World War I, the post experienced little activity and almost no new construction, as the military's energy and large-caliber weapons were needed elsewhere. In the 1930s, Fort Baker received funds and labor from the Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) to improve existing facilities. During World War II, Fort Baker and other Marin Headlands military installations fell under the jurisdiction of the Harbor Defenses of San Francisco (HDSF). The HDSF was created to protect the coastline from enemy gunfire, to support land defenses against enemy beach assaults and to ensure the safety of friendly shipping access. One of Fort Baker's major role's during WWII was to guard the harbor through the use of underwater minefields. A mine depot was constructed at Horseshoe Cove and the Coast Artillery troops laid mines in the Golden Gate waters. Fort Baker soldiers ensured the maintenance of the mines and were prepared to trigger them to explode in the case of invading enemies.

Building 511 is an example of a standard World War II mobilization building. President Roosevelt authorized millions of dollars to facilitate the rapid construction of thousands of army barracks, mess halls, day rooms and warehouse across the country, in an effort to accommodate the growing number of conscripted troops. These temporary wood-frame buildings, labeled by the army's construction division as the "700 series building plans", were designed with speed and efficiency in mind; their architectural character was strictly utilitarian with no decorative features. The buildings, constructed in assembly-line fashion from

standard plans and pre-cut materials, represent one of the nation's greatest construction achievements.

Building 511, constructed as part of a Harbor Defense of San Francisco Project, appears on a plan dated January 15, 1943, titled "Fort Scott and Fort Baker Project No. HDSF T1-9: Fort Baker, Calif. Utilities Bldgs & Storehouses; Plot Plans and Utilities Completion." Building 511, constructed as the Utilities Office, was situated between a large utilities warehouse to the east (building 513) and a long rectangular utilities shop to the north (this building is no longer extant). The utilities office's function was probably to manage the supplies and activities that took place in the two adjacent warehouses. In subsequent years, presumably after the war, the army used the building as a library for the service men. The building was most recently used as storage.

Part II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Building 511 is a long, rectangular, one-story wood-frame building with a gable roof. The building is a utilitarian structure devoid of any decorative features.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is in poor condition. The exterior siding is deteriorated and both the roof and the siding show evidence of biological growth.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The building is a one-story building, 20' x 108' rectangular shaped structure.
2. Foundations: The building's foundation is 8"x 8" concrete footings, located every 7'4" feet.
3. Walls: The walls are wood-frame and covered with three layers of siding. The first layer, laid directly on top of the wood planks, is a red paper; the second siding is a black tar paper. The third layer is 24" x 11" asbestos shingles which now have significant mold problems.
4. Structural systems, framing: The building is constructed by wood platform framing construction.
5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: There are 3 small wooden steps leading to a door at the southwest elevation.
6. Chimneys: There is one small metal heating pipe at the northeast corner of the building.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The building contains three doors; one on the southeast elevation and two on the southwest elevation. The doors are 82" x 32" plywood doors with flat wooden casings.
- b. Windows and shutters: The building contains twenty-six 39" x 41 ½", 12-light sliding sash windows with flat exterior window surrounds. At some point, the glass was replaced as some point with plexiglass; currently all the windows are boarded-up with plywood.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The roof is a gable roof covered with red asphalt tiles. The roof tiles show evidence of biological growth.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The roof has overhanging eaves covered with galvanized metal fascia board.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans: Building 511 is a long rectangular, open-plan building, with a set of small rooms at either end. At the south end of the building there are two small adjoining offices. These rooms were probably private offices used by the officers who managed the work done in the building. At the north end of the building, there are two separate bathrooms.
2. Stairways: There are no stairways in building 511.
3. Flooring: The building contains wood-frame flooring covered with red linoleum, which is now deteriorated.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The interior walls are exposed wood-frame walls, painted seafoam green. The walls at the south-end offices have cross-bracing. The ceiling is exposed white painted roof rafters.
5. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are three interior 32" x 80" doors within the building: a 5-panel wood-frame door, a 3-panel wood-frame door with louvered vents and a 1-panel door. All the doors have flat wooden door surrounds.
 - b. Windows: There are no interior windows in this building.
6. Decorative features and trim: There are no decorative features or trim within this building.

7. Hardware: The left-hand office door at the south elevation contains metal door knobs.

8. Mechanical equipment

a. Heating, air condition, ventilation: There are two standing gas space heaters located along the west side of the building.

b. Lighting: There are non-historic fluorescent lights attached to a plywood piece that runs the length of the building.

c. Plumbing: There are toilets and sinks in the two bathrooms, as well as a water fountain, located at the north end of the room.

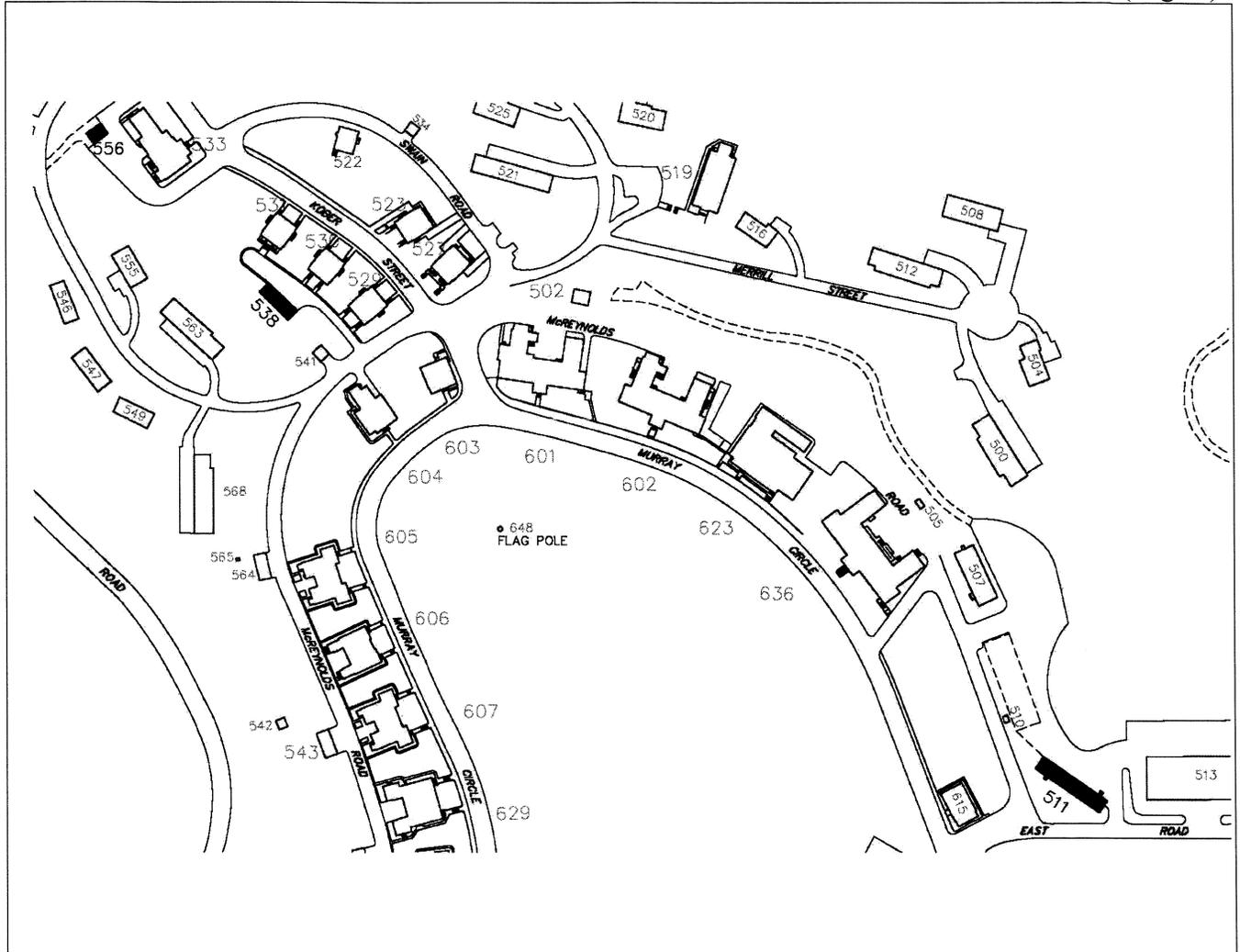
9. Original furnishings: There are no original furnishings remaining in the building.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Building 511 is situated on a slight bluff at the corner of East Road and McReynolds Road. The façade of the building faces northeast. A warehouse (building 513), used by the National Park Service maintenance division, is up the hill, to the east of building 511. The Fort Baker historic guard house (building 615), is down the hill to the west of building 511.

2. Historic Landscape design: The character of the building's landscape is utilitarian and industrial. Low-scale, overgrown vegetation surrounds the building. A concrete path exists on the west side of the building, leading up to one of the exterior doors.

3. Outbuildings: There are no outbuildings associated with this structure.



Fort Baker, Sausalito, California

Part III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural drawings: Floor plans for Office Buildings, Type OB-A-T thru OB-G-T, T.O. 700-5201 can be found in Drawer M-3, Folder 700-5000/6616 at the Presidio Archives and Record Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, building 667, Presidio of San Francisco, California, 415-561-4807. The building was originally numbered T180. In 1945, the building was renumbered 693 and in the 1970s, it was renumbered 511.

B. Historic views: To date, no historic views of this building, including Quartermaster General photos, have been found.

C. Interviews: No interviews were conducted for this document.

E. Bibliography:

Archive collections, including plans, photographs and the Quartermaster General Office Form No. 117, were consulted at the Presidio Archives and Record Collection, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Building 667, Presidio of San Francisco, 415-561-4804/4807.

Forts Baker, Barry, Cronkhite National Register Nomination Form, 1973.

Fort Baker Construction Completion Reports, 1917-1941. Record Group 77 (Records of the Chief Engineer), Entry 391 & 391 B, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

National Park Service's List of Classified Structures.

Martini, John. "Guide to Fort Baker Building Numbers", National Park Service, 2000.

Quartermaster General Office Form # 117 (1926-1941). Golden Gate National Recreation Area Park Archives and Record Center, San Francisco, CA.

Thompson, Erwin N. "Historic Resource Study: Forts Baker, Barry, Cronkhite of Golden Gate National Recreation Area". Denver Service Center, National Park Service, 1979.

E. Likely sources not yet investigated: In the future, oral history information may be available and would be retained at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Park Archives and Record Center.

F. Supplemental material:

1. "Office Buildings, Types OB-A-T thru OB-G-T, OB-K-T, OB-L-T, OB-O-T, Floor Plans, Drawing No. T.O. 700-5201"; the War Department, Office of the Chief of Engineers, Construction Division, Washington D.C., July 16, 1942.
2. "Fort Scott & Fort Baker, Project No. HDSF T 1-9: Fort Baker, Calif. Utilities Bldgs & Storehouses; Plot Plan and Utilities" dated January 15, 1943
3. *Quartermaster General Office Form # 117 (1926-1941)*. Golden Gate National Recreation Area Park Archives and Record Center, San Francisco, CA.

Part IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The purpose of the HABS recordation is for mitigation recording of historic buildings that are removed as part of implementation of the Fort Baker Plan. Under the Fort Baker Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, removal of Building 511 was accepted as part of a site-wide rehabilitation plan. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the National Park Service and the California Office of Historic Preservation contains the following stipulation:

"1. Prior to the demolition of any or all of the buildings listed in the List of Buildings Proposed for Demolition or other Adverse Effect attached hereto as Appendix B, NPS shall contact the Regional HABS/HAER Coordinator at the Pacific West Regional Office, NPS...to determine what level and kind of recordation is required for the properties."

The HABS report was prepared by Kristin L. Baron, architectural historian, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, National Park Service.

HABS photography was provided by Lewis Watts Photography, 29 Oregon Street, Point Richmond, CA. 1-510-484-8462.

The HABS records were prepared between November 2005 and February 2006. All existing condition HABS photographs were taken in January 2006.