

HICKAM FIELD, OFFICERS' HOUSING TYPE L
(Hickam Air Force Base, Building Nos. 552, 540 & 631)
702 Julian Avenue
Honolulu
Honolulu County
Hawaii

HABS HI-164-Z
HI-164-Z

HABS
HI-164-2

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HICKAM FIELD, OFFICERS' HOUSING TYPE L (Hickam Air Force Base, Building No. 631)

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- Location:** 702 Julian Avenue
City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii
U.S.G.S. Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Quadrangle 1999 (7.5 minute series)
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates 04.607520.2360340.
- Significance:** Building 631 is a part of the early development of Hickam Air Force Base as the Army Air Corps expanded its operations in Hawaii before World War II. It was built during the first phase of housing construction, which began in 1937, and was designed with features that adapt it well to the Hawaiian climate.
- Description:** Building 631 is a two-story building with a double-pitched hip roof with open eaves and clipped rafter tails that is covered with asphalt shingles. It has single-pitch hip roofs at the master bedroom wing of the second floor and at the single-story sections at the living room/ garage, and at the maid's area. Building 631 has a concrete slab on grade and a concrete wall foundation. The attached garage, at the northeast side, has two openings with cast stone sills in the rear wall and two decorative cast stone grilles in a four-diamond pattern which are high on the front-facing wall. The inset front porch has a centered square column with a simple stepped capital and a brown acid-stained floor with incised lines in a paving stone pattern. The front entry to Building 631 has a four-panel screen door of natural-finish wood, and a main door of five natural-finish vertical wood boards with three rows of five metal rosettes on the exterior.
- The interior of the building is typically hardwood tongue and groove flooring, painted plaster walls, and v-joint canec panel ceilings in a centered pattern. The walls have a picture rail set about ¼" from the ceiling. The entry hall has a brown acid-stained concrete floor that is scored in an irregular pattern to simulate paving stones. The other first floor areas that are set on the concrete-slab-on grade (living room and enclosed lanai) have carpeting over the original acid-stained concrete floors. The steps that lead from the slab-on-grade areas to the areas of the first floor set on the concrete wall foundation have natural finish oak treads and painted wood risers. Typical doors in the building are single-panel wood with brass knobs and escutcheon plates, and typical windows are one-over-one light double-hung wood sash with recessed pulls. The family room has jalousie windows and a ceiling of exposed beams and tongue-and-groove roof sheathing.
- The u-shaped stairway leading to the second floor has natural finish hardwood treads and painted wood risers. The newel posts are painted wood, about 5½" square, with chamfered corners and a beveled and stepped cap. The posts have circumferential incised lines near their bases and at about ⅔ of the way to the top. Unpainted wood handrails

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with ½" square painted iron vertical rails span the distance between the newels. Every other vertical iron rail is formed with a twist.

The kitchen retains an original built-in spice rack, the service porch an original built-in ironing board, and the pantry has original bin pulls on most of the flush wood drawers of its lower cabinets. The upstairs bathrooms have some of their original tile work; mosaic tile floors, and ceramic tile wainscot with tile base boards and bull nose top trim in a contrasting color. The bathrooms also have some original glazed ceramic accessories; towel bars, recessed soap dish, toothbrush holder, and toilet paper holder.

Historical Context: Building 631 was built in 1938. An aerial photo dated September 6, 1938 shows the building appearing complete (U.S Army Museum Hawaii 1938). A survey of the quarters dated January 20, 1939 lists the Type L officers' quarters as "completed" (Hickam Air Force Base History Office 1939). Original plans for Building 631 are dated August 18, 1937 and were prepared under the direction of Howard B. Nurse, the Captain of the Quartermaster Corps at Hickam Field. Building 631 was part of the first phase of housing construction at Hickam Field which began in late 1937 (*Honolulu Star Bulletin* 1937, 1). This building was one of thirty-nine officers' quarters built under the first phase of housing construction, and one of three Type L buildings constructed at Hickam. Construction was to begin after December 1, 1937. The project, which totaled eighty-one quarters for officers and non-commissioned officers was billed as "one of the most extensive housing projects ever undertaken in the territory" (*Honolulu Star Bulletin* 1937, 1).

Building 631 was part of the development of Hickam Air Base in the late 1930s as the Army Air Corps shifted its operations from Ford Island and utilized the larger area available to them in the new location. The housing planned for the new Air Base was designed "in keeping with the Hawaiian atmosphere and traditions" with some buildings placed on curving streets and amidst extensive landscaping plants, all planned to give a leisurely feeling to the community (Nurse 1938, 10).

The initial housing construction was done by Robert McKee Construction Company of Los Angeles CA. and was finished by July 1939 (*Honolulu Star Bulletin* 1936, 1; and Hunt ca 1940, 6).

Building 631 has undergone several alterations over the years. A family room addition of concrete hollow tile has been built at the rear of the building, off the lanai. Original acid-stained concrete floors in Building 631 have been covered with carpet. The double-acting door between the dining room and the pantry has been removed. The screen door at the service porch has been replaced with a flush door with jalousie panel, and the house has been re-roofed with asphalt shingles, the original roofing was clay tiles.

For additional information, see HABS HI-164-AP Hickam Field, Hickam Historic Housing.

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Sources:

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Honolulu Star Bulletin. 1936. "\$802,000 Low Bid For New Hickam Units." 28 April.

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J.M. Waller Associates and Mason Architects, Inc. 2003. *Building Preservation Plan of Selected Historic Homes for Hickam Air Force Base*. Honolulu: Hickam Air Force Base.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. 1996. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: A. Knopf.

Nurse, Captain H. B. 1038. "Hickam Field, The Army's Newest and Largest Airdrome." *Air Corps Newsletter*, 15th ABW History Office, Hickam Air Force Base. 1 July

U.S. Army Museum Hawaii. 1938. Aerial photo # 1445, Ft. DeRussy Archives, Hawaii. 6 September.

Project Information: This report was prepared as part of a project to privatize all military housing under the control of the 15 Airlift Wing. Approximately 656 of the 1332 base housing units to be privatized are within the Hickam Historic District. Because the units within the historic district will be altered, a representative unit of each type was selected for preservation; to be restored as part of the Programmatic Agreement (August 2000) for Hickam's Historic District. This report documents the buildings before their restoration. The photographic documentation was undertaken by David Franzen, photographer. Dee Ruzicka, Architectural Historian at Mason Architects, Inc., wrote the written documentation and conducted field work (November 2005 – February 2006) and research for this report.

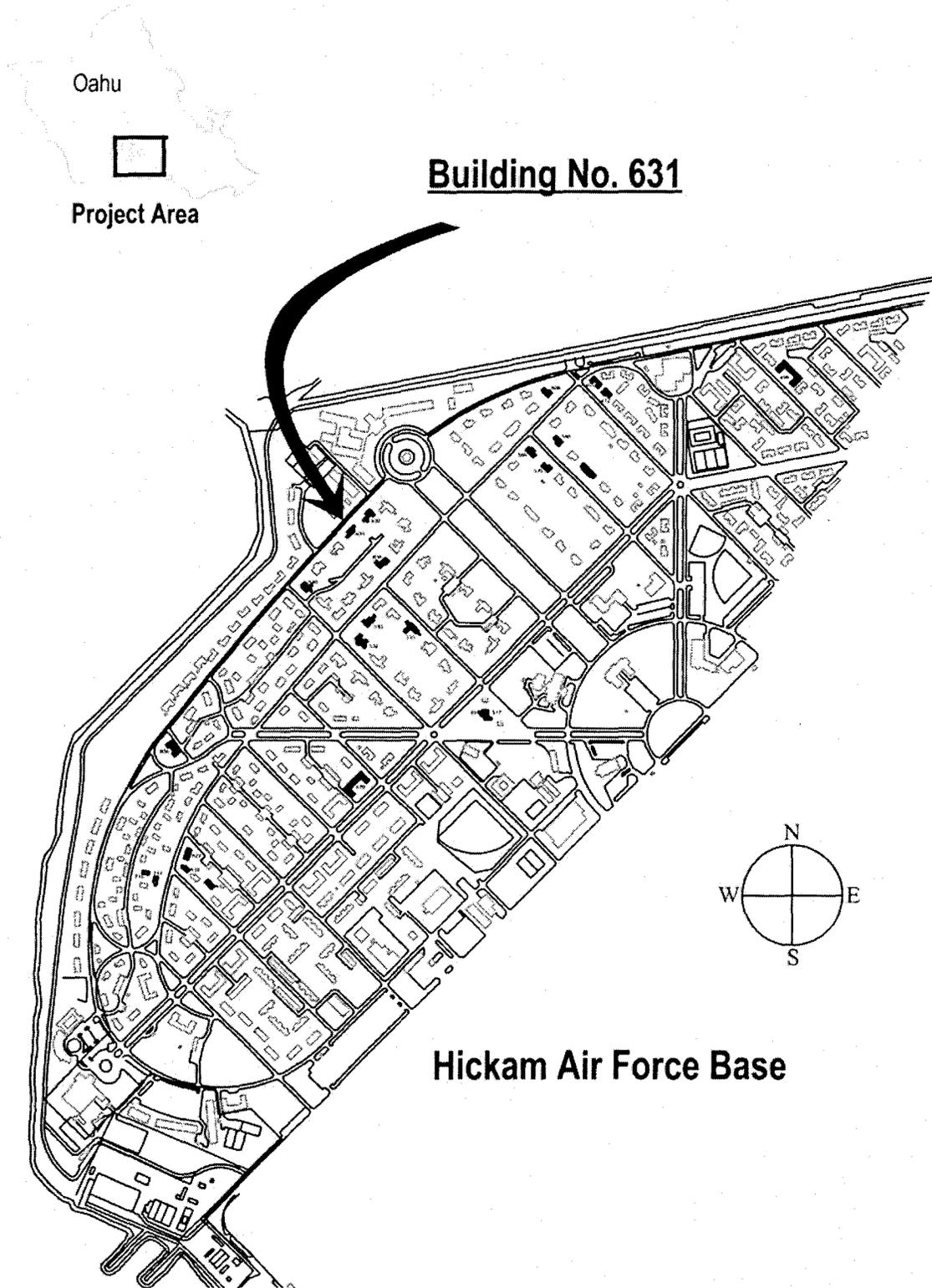
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Prepared by: Dee Ruzicka, Architectural Historian
Mason Architects, Inc.
119 Merchant Street, Suite 501
Honolulu, HI 96813

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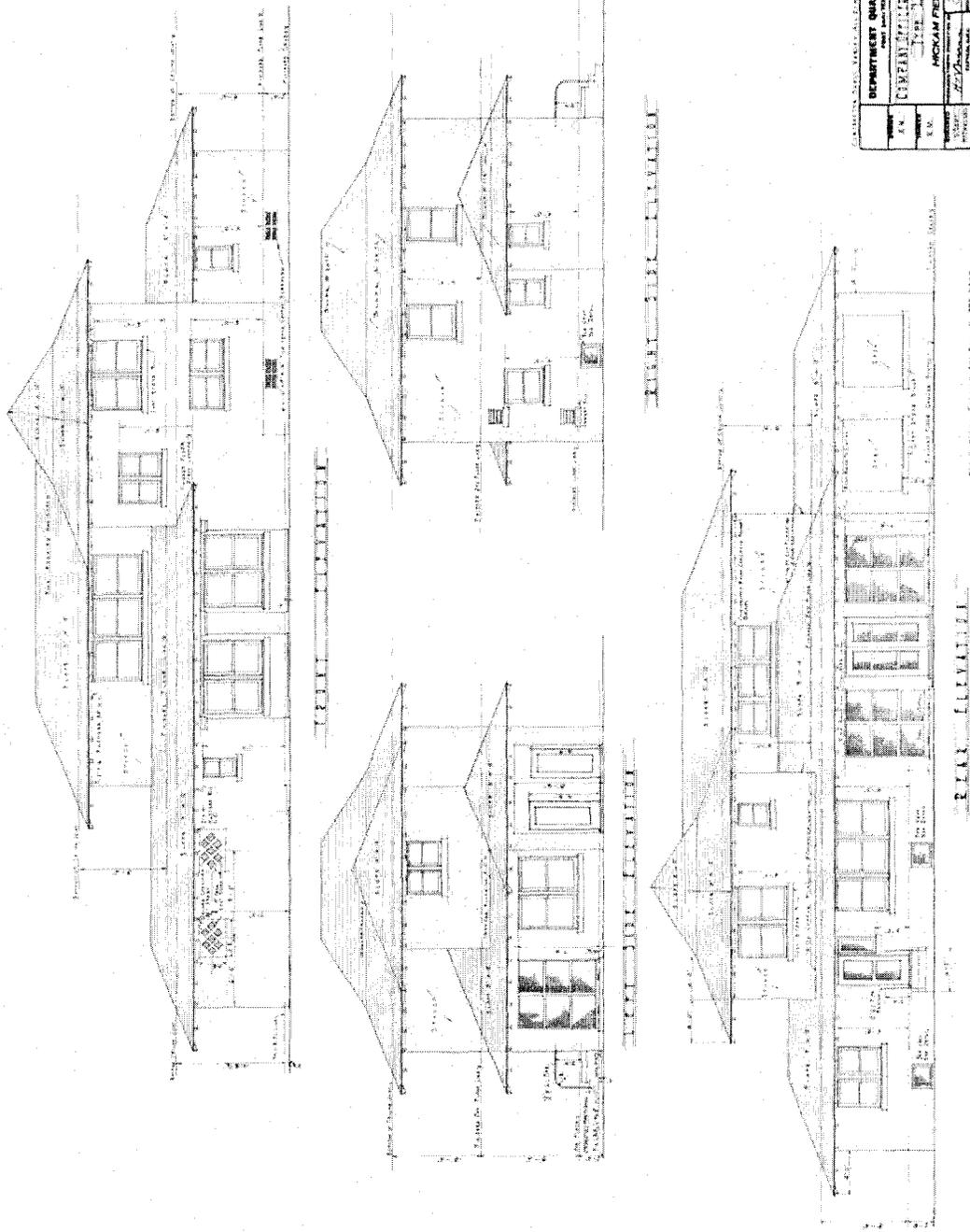
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Building 631 location map (not to scale)



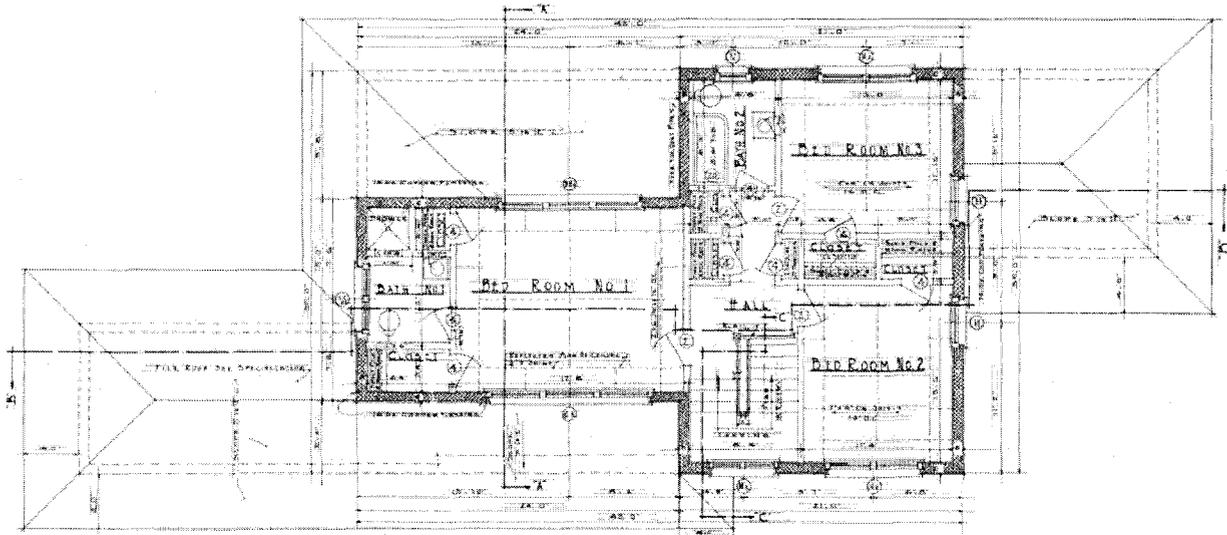
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Portion of original drawing of Building 631, Type L, dated August 18, 1937. Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files 1937, 397-2897.

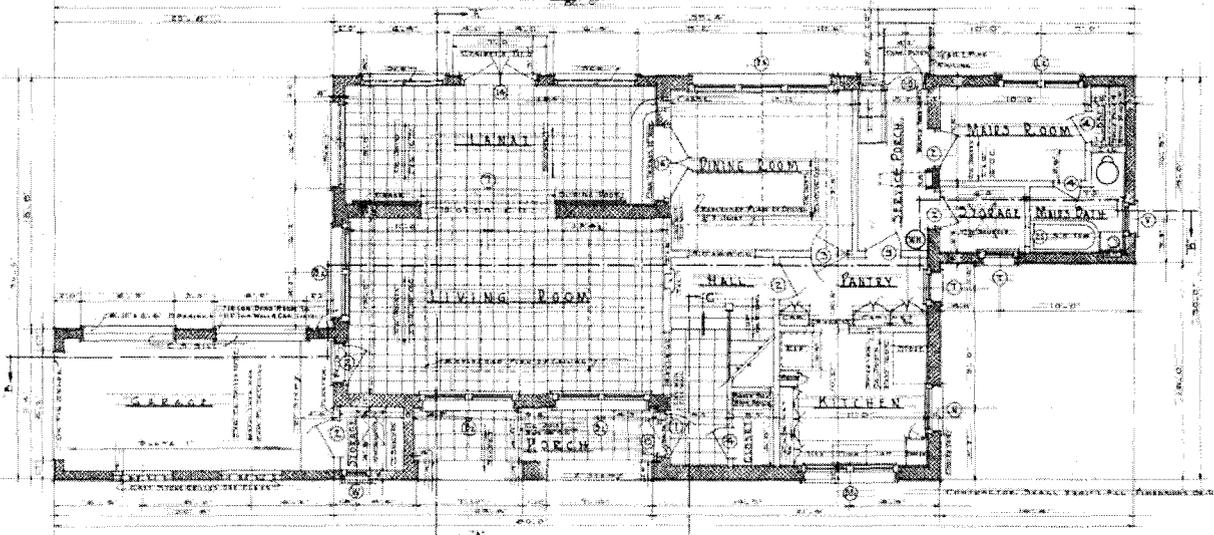


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Portion of original drawing of Building 631, Type L, dated August 18, 1937. Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files 1937, 397-2896.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN & FIRST FLOOR ROOF PLAN
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"