

HICKAM FIELD, NCO HOUSING TYPE 4
(Hickam Air Force Base, Building Nos. 566, 567, 572, 576, 580, 58,
588, 603, 609 & 612)
212 Tenth Street
Honolulu
Honolulu County
Hawaii

HABS HI-164-AH
HI-164-AH

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HI-164-AH

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
FIELD RECORDS

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HICKAM FIELD, NCO HOUSING TYPE 4 (Hickam Air Force Base, Building No. 580)

HABS
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- Location:** 212 Tenth Street
City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii
U.S.G.S. Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Quadrangle 1999 (7.5 minute series)
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates 04.607880.2360480.
- Significance:** Building 580 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 580 is single-story with an irregular rectangular footprint. It has a concrete wall foundation, concrete hollow tile walls with a painted stucco finish, and a double-pitched hip roof covered with asbestos shingles. The building has an attached garage with a single-pitch hip roof. At the rear is an attached screen room with a low-lope shed roof that is accessed only from the exterior of the building. The building foundation is vented at the front façade by decorative tile vents and at the rear and sides by large screened openings with concrete curbs. The eaves are open with clipped rafter tails and screened vents. Exterior window sills are cast stone. The front porch at the entry has a painted concrete floor with a painted iron railing of 2" x 5/8" rectangular stock. Concrete steps lead from grade level up to the porch. At the corner of the porch, a square concrete column (approximately 8" wide) with three incised circumferential lines near its top supports the roof. The attached garage has large-scale openings for a vehicle on both its front and rear sides. The side wall of the garage has two openings with cast stone sills.
- The front entry doorway has a wood door of five vertical boards with v-joints and an aluminum screen door. The rear entry, from the kitchen to the garage has a single-light over three-panel wood door. The interior of Building 580 typically has tongue-and-groove pine flooring, plaster walls, and canec panel ceilings with v-joints in a centered pattern. Most rooms have a picture molding that is located high on the walls, about 1/4" from the ceilings. The hall bathroom and kitchen have vinyl sheet flooring and plaster ceilings. The master bathroom has gypsum board walls and ceiling, and sheet vinyl flooring. Typical windows are one-over-one light double-hung sash and typical interior doors are five panel wood.
- The kitchen in Building 580 has been remodeled with laminate countertops and single panel wood door cabinets, but it retains an original narrow storage closet, called a "cooler" which was used to store semi-perishable vegetables. This cooler has a flush wood door that is 1'-1" wide. Near the bottom, the cooler has a louvered vent to the outside which encouraged airflow to keep food items fresh longer than in a sealed

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cabinet. Originally the cooler had six adjustable wood shelves and a screened vent through the ceiling. The kitchen also has an original built-in ironing board. An original telephone niche is built into the dining room wall. This has a phone recess about 12" wide and 1'-10" high above a 2¾" high shelf for a phone book and a panel with a perforated design.

Historical Context: Building 580 was built in late 1938 and early 1939. An aerial photo dated September 6, 1938 shows the building under construction with the roof appearing unfinished (U.S Army Museum Hawaii 1938). A survey of the quarters dated March 3, 1939 lists the Type 4 non-commissioned officers' quarters as "completed" (Hickam Air Force Base History Office 1939). Original plans for Building 580 are dated August 2, 1937 and were prepared under the direction of Howard B. Nurse, the Captain of the Quartermaster Corps at Hickam Field. Building 580 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 forty-two non-commissioned officers' quarters built under the first phase of housing construction, and one of ten Type 4 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 580 was part of the development of Hickam Air Base in the late 1930s and early 1940s 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 580 has undergone a number of alterations; One of the most noticeable is the concrete hollow tile addition off the east side of the house for a master bathroom and additional closet space. A screen room with low walls of concrete hollow tile has also been added at the rear of the building. Other alterations include the removal of a double acting door between the dining room and the kitchen, and the reconfiguration of closets at the bedrooms. The building's original roofing was clay tiles.

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

Sources:

Hickam Air Force Base History Office. 1939. "Completion Report, NCO. Qtrs. (Type #4)." Completion report of unit type on file in the Real Estate records. 3 March.

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Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files. 1937. Historic plans of unit type 4, plan # 397-2939 and 397-2940. August 2.

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

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Hunt, John A. 1940. "Construction of Hickam Field." *The Quartermaster Review*, November-December.

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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. 1938. "Hickam Field, The Army's Newest and Largest Airdrome." *Air Corps Newsletter*, 15th ABW History Office, Hickam Air Force Base. 1 July.

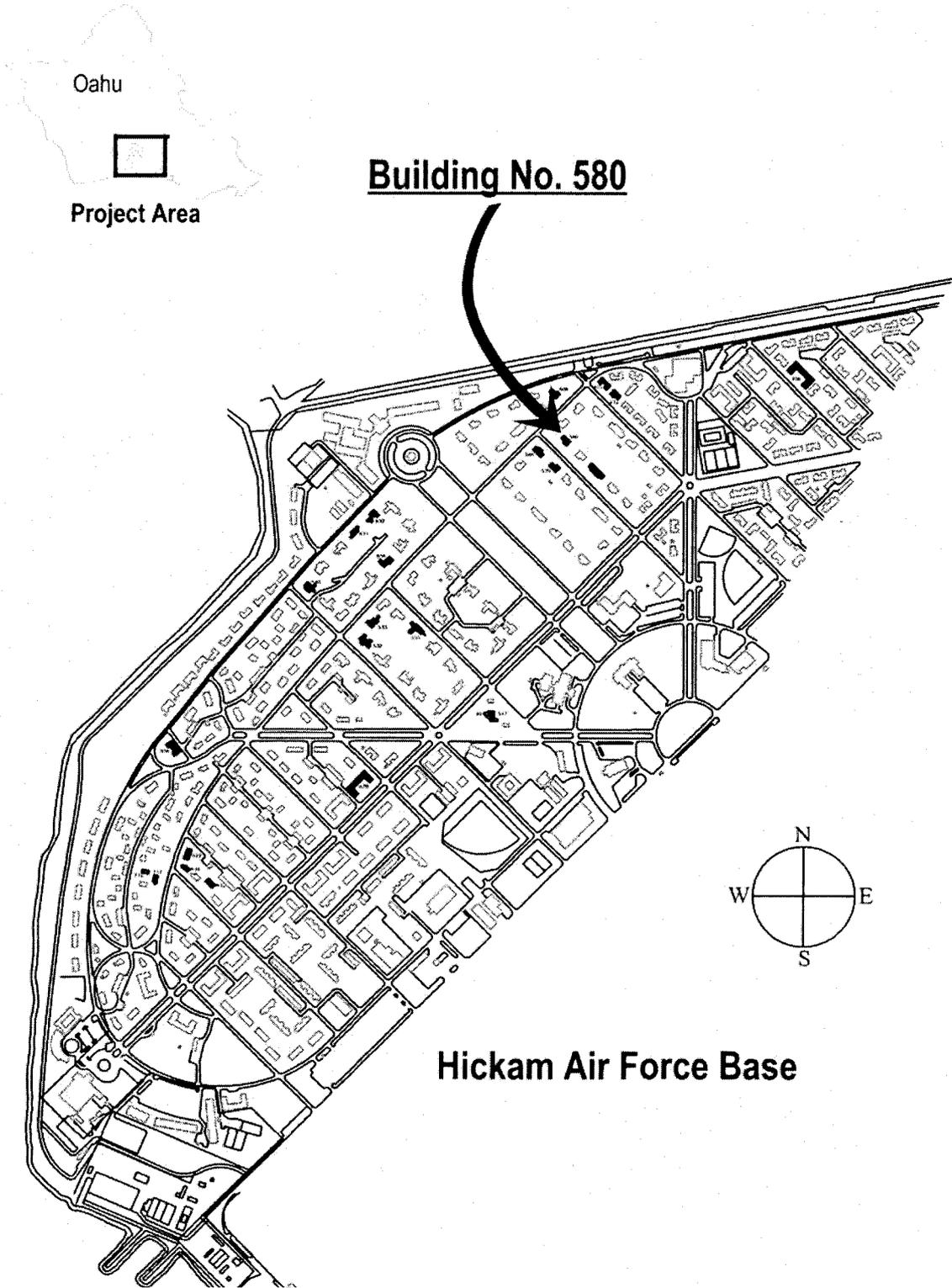
U.S. Army Museum Hawaii. 1938. Aerial photo # 1445, Ft. DeRussy Archives, Hawaii. 6 September.

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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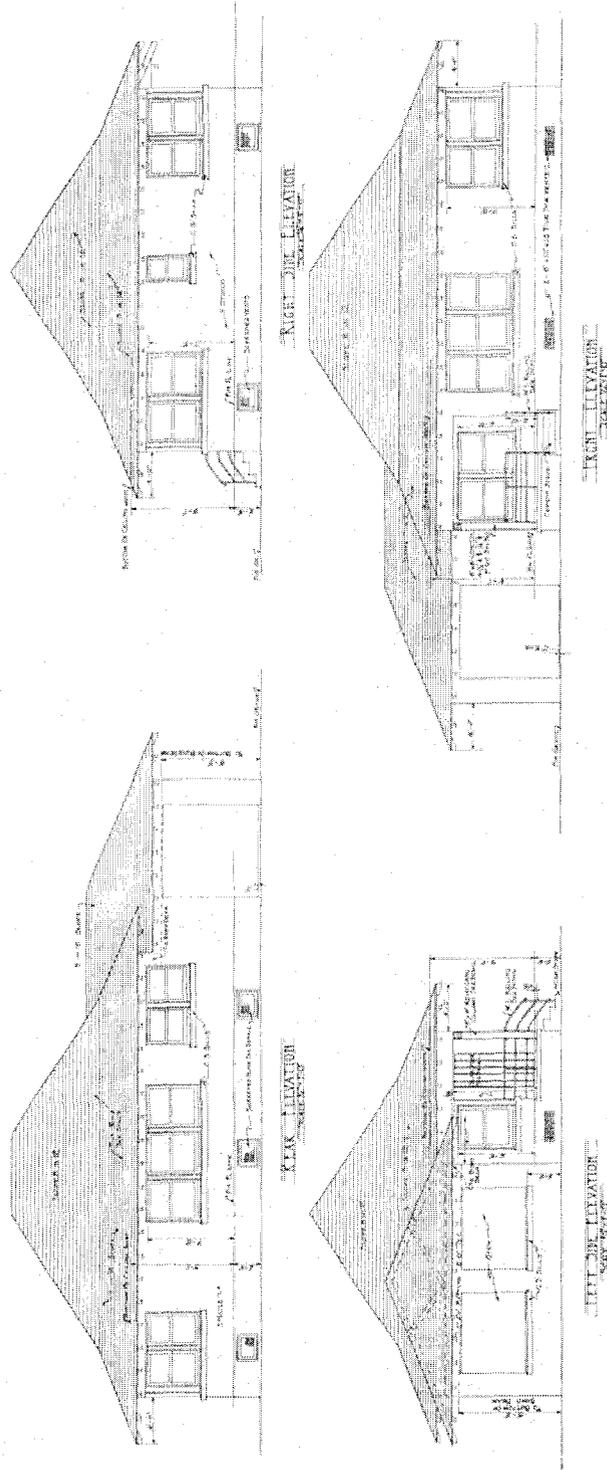
Date of Report: April 2007

Building 580 location map (not to scale)



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Portion of original drawing of Building 580, Type 4, dated August 2, 1937. Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files 1937, 397-2940.



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Portion of original drawing of Building 580, Type 4, dated August 2, 1937. Hickam Air Force Base Plan Files 1937, 397-2939.

