

NAVAL AIR STATION BARBERS POINT,
TORPEDO AND BOMBSIGHT SHOP AND STOREHOUSE
(Facility No. 115)

HABS No. HI-279-N

Midway Street between Enterprise and Ranger Streets
Ewa Vicinity
Honolulu County
Hawaii

HABS
HI
2-EWA.V
1N-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Pacific Great Basin System Support Office
National Park Service
San Francisco, California 94107-1372

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NAVAL AIR STATION BARBERS POINT,
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HABS No. HI-279-N

Location: The Torpedo & Bombsight Shop and Storehouse (Torpedo Shop) is located on Naval Air Station Barbers Point between Midway Street and taxiway "P", directly across from Building 140. Naval Air Station Barbers Point is situated in the southwest corner of the island of Oahu, City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii.

Significance: The Torpedo Shop is significant for its association with the primary purposes of Naval Air Station Barbers Point. It is one of the earliest permanent structures built on the Base and the only World War II shop building built with permanent materials. It is a distinctive building type and the location of this building close to the runways and the core buildings of the station also indicates its importance.

Description: The Torpedo Shop is a single-story poured-in-place concrete structure 80'-0" long and 70'-2" wide. The main interior space is the craneway and shop area located in the center of the building. It is accessible from the outside through 12'-wide and 14'-high wood door pairs at each end of the space. These original wood doors are made of diagonal wood boards in a wood frame. The door at the east end of the building has had a smaller hinged door cut into the right-hand sliding door for pedestrian access. On either side of the east door are two steel ladders, each attached to the lower roof on the north and south sides of the building.

The roof overhangs are 4'-0". The overhangs are supported by cantilevered beams at the column lines on the long elevations and at closer spacing on the shorter elevations. All exterior walls are concrete except for some concrete masonry infills between columns on all sides. These were part of the original design and "Future Windows" were called out in those locations on the original plans. The original louvers in the upper parts of those openings have now been replaced with windows.

The craneway and shop space has a clear 30'-high space with clerestory louvered openings all along the 80' length of the space and with a louvered opening at each end above the doors. Starting at the underside of the roof slab over the rooms on either side of this craneway/shop space is a concrete beam upon which rests the bridge crane rails. The bridge crane can traverse the length of the craneway and shop space. The louvers are set back from the face of the beam to allow for crane travel.

On either side of the craneway and shop space are a series of rooms, currently used for offices. The spaces on the north side were originally used, in order from the west end, as an office, toilet room, bombsight storage room, bombsight work shop and torpedo storage. This last space was open to the craneway and shop and contained a rack that held 42 torpedoes. The open bay at that location has been filled in with a concrete block wall. All other walls on this side are poured-in-place concrete that extend the full height of the rooms.

On the south side was a large air compressor room, a smaller gyro storage room and two bays for storing a total of 105 torpedoes. The torpedo storage rooms have also been enclosed and a mezzanine added in the center two bays.

History: The original drawings for the Torpedo Shop are dated April 21, 1942 and the building was finished that year. A note on the First Floor Plan says that the drawings are reproductions, with some modifications, of the "Torpedo Storage Building, Key West, Florida." The torpedo

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shop and bombsight shop functions were originally planned to be housed in two separate buildings. The change to a single building was “made to effect savings of critical materials” (Contractors, Pacific Naval Air Bases n.d.: A-376).

Note: For additional written historical information please see main entry for Naval Air Station Barbers Point, HABS No. HI-279.

Sources:

Architectural drawings for the Torpedo Shop are on microfilm at the Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Plan File Room. The original Yards & Docks drawings include those numbered 199585, 199586, 180119 through 180124, and 06628.

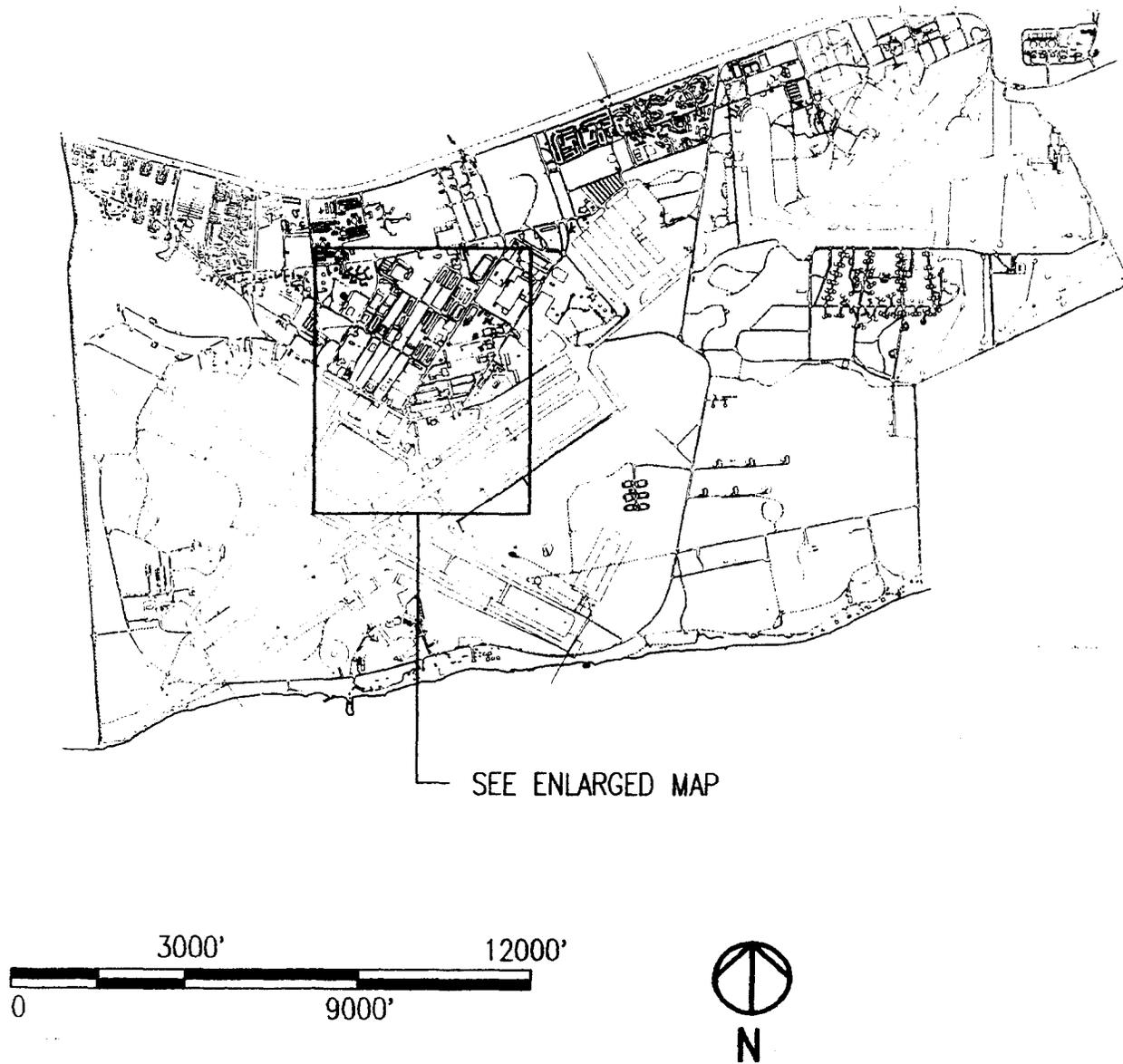
Contractors Pacific Naval Air Bases

n.d. *Technical Report and Project History: Contracts NOy-3550 and NOy-4173: Pacific Naval Air Bases and Aviation Facilities, Dredging, Buildings, Accessories, Quay Walls, Berms, and Oil and Gasoline Storage at the Naval Station, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and Pacific Islands.* 11 volumes (Chapter IX on Barbers Point, and Chapter XXVIII on Ewa). Microfilmed report in Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Library.

Historian: Glenn Mason, Historical Architect, Spencer Mason Architects, 1995.

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Figure 1. Overall Station Map



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Figure 2. Enlarged Map, showing location

