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U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Theater.
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Station Ford Island)
(Building No. 89)
Hornet Avenue between Enterprise and Pokomoke Streets on Ford Island
Pearl Harbor
Honolulu County
Hawaii

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

**Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107**

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Theater
(Naval Station Ford Island, Building 89)

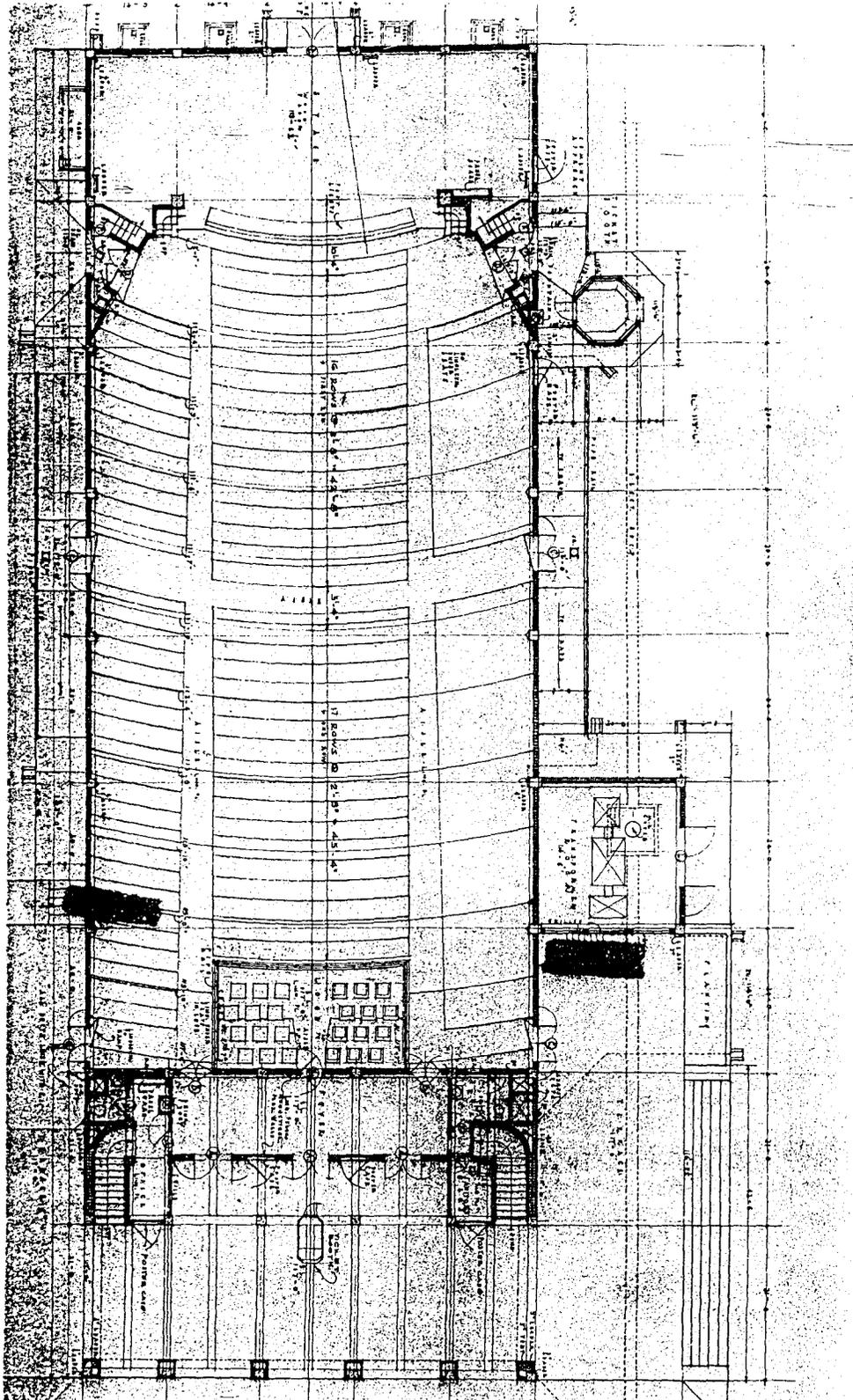
HABS No. HI-296

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- Location: Building 89 is located on Hornet Avenue between Enterprise Street and Pokomoke Street in Ford Island, Pearl Harbor
- USGS Puuloa Quadrangle, Hawaii
7.5 Minutes Series (Orthophotoquad)
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates
4.607580.2362760 (Scale 1:24,000)
- Significance: The Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, including Ford Island, was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1964, due to the crucial role it played in the Nation's defense during the twentieth century and the calamitous events which occurred on December 7, 1941. As a Category 3 facility (recategorized from original Category 2 by Hawaii State Historic Preservation Office, on 10 June 1981), Building 89 is determined to be of minor importance to the historic character of the National Historic Landmark.
- Description: Building 89 is a 3-story permanent structure consisting of concrete roof and floor slabs, masonry walls, concrete beams and columns, and built-up roofing. The building is 88-foot wide by 162-foot long and 12-foot high, with a total area of 17,012 square-foot in an irregular shape that houses a Theater (14,512 square-foot) and a Fallout Shelter (2,500 square-foot). The interior and exterior architectural elements such as doors, windows, stairways are not significant, in term of historical and architectural characteristic. And there is no murals or any other decorative features in the theater.
- History: Building 89 was built in 1943 to function as a Theater and a Fallout Shelter. There has been no occupancy change since then. The building has been routinely repaired and upgraded since its construction. However, due to the age of the building, the structure elements are severely deteriorated beyond economical repair, and the building is presently vacant.
- Prepared by: Warren Yap, Architect
Navy Public Works Center
Project Development Branch
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860-5470
- Date: June 1996

U.S. Naval Base, Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, Theater
U.S. Naval Base, Naval Station Ford Island, Building 89

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FLOOR PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

ADDENDUM TO:

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, THEATER

(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Station Ford Island, Building
No. 89)

Hornet Avenue between Enterprise & Pokomoke Streets

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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

**ADDENDUM TO
U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, THEATER
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Ford Island)
(Facility No. 89)
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

**U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, THEATER
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Ford Island)
(Facility No. 89)**

This report is an addendum to a 3 page report previously transmitted to the Library of Congress in 1996.

- Location:** Hornet Avenue between Pokomoke & Enterprise Streets
Pearl Harbor Naval Base, Ford Island
City and County of Honolulu, Hawai'i
U.S.G.S. Pearl Harbor, HI Quadrangle 1999 (7.5 minute series) NAD83.
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates 04.607870.2362380.
- Significance:** Facility 89 is located within the Pearl Harbor National Historic Landmark and is a contributing resource. It is significant for its association with the buildup of Pearl Harbor in the months leading up to World War II and for its association with the history of the Navy's provision of recreational facilities for the morale and welfare of the enlisted men and officers of the fleet when it became apparent that large numbers of men would be stationed at Pearl Harbor.
- Description:** Facility 89 is a theater building. The main area of the building has a rectangular footprint that measures 183'-0" long by 62'-6" wide. It has a three-story equipment area and a single-story equipment room projecting from the northwest side. The auditorium section of the building has a low slope gable roof with interior downspouts and a parapet. A flat roof covers the lanai/ promenade at the northeast side, facing Pokemoke Street. Facility 89's structural frame is constructed of reinforced concrete with concrete hollow tile¹ (CMU) infill with a 1" thick concrete stucco coating. The building rests on concrete footings and piles. The main auditorium floor is sloped downward slightly from the northeast (rear) end to a low point about 40' in front of the stage and is shown on original plans as a 6" thick concrete slab on coral backfill.²
- The building has recently undergone asbestos removal and partial lead based paint removal in preparation for demolition. Ceiling material, flooring, auditorium seats, and other interior materials are missing; as well as the three double exterior doors to the lobby, six double exterior doors to the auditorium, and a double exterior door to the stage area. Some of the auditorium seats, exterior doors, lighted signs, and stage equipment were observed salvaged in storage at a nearby building, Facility 43.

¹ Concrete masonry units are commonly referred to in Hawaii as concrete hollow tile (Neil 1972, 11).

² Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific Division: Plan files drawing numbered 165329. October 14, 1941.

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The main (northeast) façade of the building, facing Pokomoke Street, has a covered lanai, called a "promenade" on original drawings,³ with a cast concrete roof supported by 2'-8" square concrete columns. In the center of the promenade is a raised concrete slab where the ticket booth was originally located. Flanking the ticket booth slab are two 1'-6" square concrete columns. Originally, four poster cases were recessed into the building wall at the promenade. Now two are covered with plywood and two remain, one with its original wood-framed door. Two additional poster cases are located at the sides of the northwest auditorium entry door, near the octagonal ticket booth. These poster cases were typically lighted with fluorescent indirect light around the perimeter.

The painted finish of the promenade was removed down to bare concrete in most areas during recent lead based paint abatement. Some traces of blue paint remain at the promenade which appear to be the original color. Three doorways lead from the promenade to the foyer of the building. These originally had double wood doors with decorative wing and shield emblems carved in wood. These doors have been removed from Facility 89 and were observed in storage in another building. The emblems had a raised shield at the center which was bisected by the doors with a three-lobed wing extending out horizontally to either side. Side exit doors from the auditorium were also double doors made of wood with mortise and tenon joints but without the decorative wing carving. These had three solid panels with vertical striations in the center panel and 45° angled striations in the top and bottom panels. These side doors have also been removed from Facility 89 and were observed in storage in nearby Building 43.

A theater office is located at the southeast end of the promenade, near the stairway which leads to the mezzanine level projection room and ladies lounge. The northwest wall of the office, facing the promenade, is a decorative precast stone grille of 3" wide horizontal bands spaced 3" apart. The grille is finely finished with a smooth surface. At the opposite (northwest) end of the promenade from the office, a janitor's closet is located next to a stairway that leads down to the officer's and enlisted men's lounge in the basement. This stairway has stenciled lettering "Air Raid Shelter Cap 150 Decon Sta" on its interior wall. The stairways from the promenade that lead to the mezzanine level and the basement both have treads inset with square ceramic tiles which are shown on original drawings as impregnated with alundum grit, a substance made of fused alumina, for a non-slip surface.⁴ These stairways have continuous pipe handrails that each originate at the floor and follow the curved walls at the landings.

The promenade is elevated about 5' above grade which allows for a small basement beneath it and the auditorium foyer. An uncovered terrace wraps about 26' around the southeast side of the building from the promenade to an auditorium side exit door. At this side, wide cast

³ NAVFAC Pacific Division: Plan files drawing numbered 165335. October 14, 1941.

⁴ NAVFAC Pacific Division: Plan files drawing numbered 165338. October 14, 1941.

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concrete steps with wide, sloped cheek walls lead up to the terrace from Hornet Street. Another terrace also wraps about 40' around the northwest side of the building from the promenade. This terrace extends to the equipment area stairs, which provide access to the fan room and compressor room on the second and third floors of the equipment area. On this (northwest) side of Facility 89, a narrow set of cast concrete steps with wide cheek walls lead up from grade to the terrace. A 2'-3" high cast concrete balustrade with 1' square balusters and a 1'-3" wide top rail is at the perimeter of the uncovered areas of the promenade. This balustrade design with large square balusters at the uncovered areas of the promenade is similar to the concrete balustrade design at Ford Island Building 78, designed by noted architect C.W. Dickey in 1939, two years before the design of Facility 89. Both of these buildings were constructed under the same contract, # NOY-4173.

At the promenade section which is roofed, between the 2-8" square concrete posts, the balustrade is also 2'-3" high but is filled with solid sections of concrete, instead of balusters. Light boxes for fluorescent lights are recessed into the interior side of the perimeter beam supporting the promenade roof at its exterior edges. A 4' wide cast concrete visor extends from the promenade roof around the remaining three sides of the building, protecting the auditorium exit doors at the sides of the building and the stage doors at the rear. Three window openings are in the northeast wall of Facility 89 above the promenade roof. These open from the mezzanine level and are covered on the exterior with plywood.

The equipment area at the northwest side of Facility 89 has machinery on three floors. It extends upward almost to the top of the parapet wall of the main auditorium and has a cast concrete roof with approximate 4' overhanging eaves. The first floor of the equipment area contains electrical equipment, and the upper two floors contain air handling equipment. The first floor of this equipment area has three sections of cast stone grilles at its northeast side. The grilles are similar to the grille on the office wall at the promenade and to the grilles on the interior of the auditorium. The first floor of the equipment room is about three feet above grade, accessed by a concrete stairway on the northwest side which leads to a concrete landing and the room's 8'-0" wide double-wood doors. The double doors to this room are the same three-panel pattern as the doors removed from the side exits of the auditorium, and appear to have an original brown stained finish on their interior surfaces. Near the steps to the first floor room, the top layer of white paint on the building is peeling away revealing what is presumed to be the original color of the exterior of the building, a light olive-tan. The upper two floors of the equipment area have large sections of fixed wooden louvers and are accessed by a cast concrete stairway leading up from the promenade level to the concrete visor which serves as a walkway to access the upper equipment rooms. The concrete stairway has a curved underside where it rises up from the promenade level. The stairway and the visor/ walkway have a metal pipe railing. The doorway to the second floor of the equipment area is off the visor/ walkway at the southwest side and is filled

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with a plywood panel, nailed in place. Access to the third floor is via an interior ladder from the second floor. From the third floor of this equipment area the catwalks above the auditorium ceiling can be accessed.

Facility 89 has an additional single-story equipment room adjacent to the three-floor equipment area. This equipment room is constructed of CMU with a wide screened band at the eaves and has a shed roof of corrugated metal. It has double five-panel metal doors with a lever handle latch. This room was added sometime after May 15, 1943. A photograph from the National Archives taken on that date shows an oblique view of the northwest side from Pokomoke Street without the single-story equipment room.⁵

A small octagonal ticket booth is located on the northwest side, just outside the west entry door to the auditorium. The booth is 9'-4" across and is built of reinforced concrete frame and brick set on a 7" high concrete slab. Eight cast concrete columns support a cast octagonal concrete roof that is 4" thick at its rim and overhangs the structure by 3'-6" on all sides. The side of the ticket booth facing Facility 89 is open for the ticket booth's entrance; the door has been removed. The remaining sides of the booth have their lower portions filled with brick laid in an alternating pattern of projecting and recessed horizontal rows which is covered with smooth cement plaster. The brick-infilled areas are each topped with a 1¼" thick piece of structural glass to form a countertop. Each section of countertop has an outer edge curved at a 7'-6" radius. Due to the booth's 7" high concrete slab, the countertops are 2'-11" high at the interior of the booth and 3'-6" high at the exterior of the booth. Original drawings show that Philippine mahogany was used to form an extended countertop on the interior of the booth at the level of the structural glass, with cash drawers and ticket machines below. The mahogany, drawers, and ticket machines have been removed but the metal pipe posts used to support the mahogany countertop remain in the interior of the booth. Originally the area above the countertop was filled with pieces of felt-cushioned plate glass in chrome plated brass supports.⁶

A double doorway providing access to the rear of the stage is centered at the rear (southwest) side of Facility 89, facing Enterprise Street. This doorway is elevated 2'-9" above grade, with a small concrete loading platform on the exterior at the level of the stage. There are no stairs or ramp from the platform to grade level. This platform is called a "loading stoop" on the original drawing.⁷ The area beneath the stage is ventilated by four screened openings on the Enterprise Street side and one screened opening on the Hornet Street side. These openings are below grade and set in light wells that have 1'-0" high well curbs of concrete topped with two horizontal metal pipe railings.

⁵ National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). 71-CB-100A-1. Exterior photo # 16531, taken May 15, 1943.

⁶ NAVFAC Pacific Division: Plan files drawing numbered 165341. October 14, 1941.

⁷ NAVFAC Pacific Division: Plan files drawing numbered 165332. October 14, 1941.

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The interior of Facility 89 is mostly comprised of the large main auditorium. Original plans called for 1001 seats in the main section of the auditorium and twenty-four seats in the loge. In addition to this room there is a stage area at the southwest end and a three-level section at the northeast end. This three-level section contains the theater foyer on the main floor with enlisted men's and officer's lounge in the basement. An office and janitor's closet are also located on the main floor, and women's lounge, projection room, generator room, projectionist's toilet, and poster room are on the second floor.

The main auditorium measures about 120' in length from the proscenium arch at the stage to the wall of the projection booth at the rear and 62'-6" in width. The low point of the sloping concrete slab floor is about 5' below the level of the floor at the foyer. The side walls are divided into six bays by the concrete frame and were covered with "acoustic plaster" as specified on original and repair drawings.⁸ Areas of the plaster containing asbestos have been removed, exposing the infilled CMU.

Both side walls of the auditorium have sections of cast concrete grilles (called "cast stone stria" on an original drawing) in the center four bays.⁹ These grilles are similar to the grilles on the exterior at the promenade and the equipment area. They have horizontal strips approximately 3" high alternating with spaces that are approximately 3" high. The sections of grille are set at a level about 8' above the foyer floor, just above the horizontal concrete framing members that span the bays. All of the grilles are backed with solid wall and are decorative (rather than functional) except for the grille in the northwest wall closest to the foyer. This grille is set into a section of the common wall between the auditorium and the equipment area, and is perforated to allow for a return air passage to the air handling equipment on the second floor of the equipment area.

Centered at the rear of the auditorium is a loge for officers' seating which is constructed of concrete with a low perimeter curb and a low metal pipe railing of about 1½" diameter. It is about 28' wide and extends about 15' into the auditorium from the foyer wall. The floor of the loge does not slope away from the foyer as does the main auditorium floor but is level with the foyer floor except for two raised areas on either side of the single center foyer door. This level floor results in a drop of about 1'-8" from the top of the low curb at the front of the loge to the sloping auditorium floor. The outside edge of the low curb at the front of the loge is curved from its mid-point to the corners, thickening from 6" wide at its mid-point to 1'-1" wide at its two front corners. A note on the original drawings states that this conforms to the curve of the seats in the auditorium.¹⁰ The low curbs on the sides of the loge have a rounded step at the front edge of the raised sections of loge floor. A low metal pipe railing with a downward

⁸ NAVFAC Pacific Division: Plan files drawing numbered 165334. October 14, 1941.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ NAVFAC Pacific Division: Plan files drawing numbered 165340. October 14, 1941.

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curving section at the rounded step tops the curb. Originally, a curtain was specified to be hung from this pipe rail.¹¹

The rear (northeast) wall of the auditorium was also originally covered with acoustic plaster. The finished plaster surface of this wall above the level of the 6' high hard plaster wainscot has been removed, exposing the rough undercoat surface. There are seven round openings through this wall into the projection room, and double doorways to the foyer are located at each side of the loge. Originally the auditorium had two aisles, one from each of these doorways down to the stage, with one cross-aisle at the middle side exit doors.

The auditorium has a ceiling suspension system at a level about 25' above the foyer floor. This is a metal framework which is shown on original drawings supporting an acoustic plaster ceiling. This plaster has been removed, exposing the metal framework and revealing ductwork (including five large round metal air diffusers) and a catwalk system above. The roof of the building is now visible from the auditorium, through the suspended metal framework. It is made up of steel trusses supporting the wooden boards of the roof deck, with numerous broken areas in the deck. Original drawings specified that the roof was to be "5 ply built-up roof on 2" planks."¹² At the front of the auditorium (southwest end) near the stage, the side walls of the end bays taper inward at about a 30° angle, called a "splay" on original drawings.¹³ Exit doorways are located in these angled sections at ground level. A doorway and stairs lead from these angled sections to the stage wings and ladders in the wings provide access to the flies. In the auditorium, at the ends of these angled sections nearest the stage, wood steps also lead up to the stage at the sides of the proscenium arch. The actual proscenium arch above the front of the stage has been removed, leaving a long reinforced concrete beam spanning the top of the stage. A row of colored floodlights extends across the ceiling just in front of the beam exposed by the removal of the proscenium arch. These lights illuminate the front of the stage.

The stage area of the auditorium is 21'-0" deep from the former proscenium arch to the rear wall. It has a tongue-and-groove wood floor which is badly termite damaged and side walls of unplastered CMU in a reinforced concrete frame. There is no ceiling in the stage area and the roof of the building is visible. As in the main auditorium, the roof deck is wooden boards with numerous broken areas and gaps. A plaster ceiling was also specified here¹⁴ and is no longer extant. The front edge of the stage is curved, with an approximate 52'-6" radius, and has a metal footlight trough at its edge.

At the northeast end of Facility 89, at the rear of the main auditorium, is a three-level section with the foyer, lounges, and projection booth. The

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² NAVFAC Pacific Division: Plan files drawing numbered 165334. October 14, 1941.

¹³ NAVFAC Pacific Division: Plan files drawing numbered 165332. October 14, 1941.

¹⁴ NAVFAC Pacific Division: Plan files drawing numbered 165334. October 14, 1941.

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foyer is located on the main floor between the auditorium and the promenade. Double doors with bright metal push plates and small vertical vision panel slits open from the foyer to the auditorium. Original drawings show that the foyer ceiling and the concrete pilasters of the walls were to have been decorated with a stenciled design (NAVFAC dwg. # 176975, October 14, 1941). The motif in the drawings is an Art Deco-like design of paired multi-lobed wings with a center star that was to be rendered in the ceiling between each of the beams. On the ceiling beams themselves, the frieze, and the pilasters there was to have been an orthogonal pattern with stars and tapering accents. The foyer walls between the pilasters were listed on the drawing with a natural plaster finish. There is no evidence that this decorative work was carried out. The original drawing states "Submit F.S. dwgs of stencils, for approval. All colors subject to approval...None but experienced decorators on this work."¹⁵ The foyer is now painted white and light green. The floor of the foyer is concrete with adhesive remnants from the removal of 9" composition floor tiles.

The basement, accessed by a stairway from the promenade, measures about 42' by 62'-6" and is located beneath the foyer and promenade areas of the main floor. It was originally the enlisted men's and officer's toilets and lounge. The basement has undergone recent demolition and all of the fixtures and interior walls have been removed. Sections of the floor and wall tile work in the former toilet areas remain. This tile corresponds to the specifications found on original drawings; the floor in these areas was 2" hexagonal tile in a light blue color with medium blue accents at the borders of the rooms and edges of the urinal steps. The walls were constructed of blue-grey color 6" x 12" glazed hollow tile. The floor in the remaining area of the basement is scored concrete with a brown colored acid-stained finish.

At the top of the stairway leading to the mezzanine level, above the foyer, is a decorative metal railing of horizontal metal bars and short vertical metal pipe posts. The mezzanine level has the only three windows in the e building. One is in the hall at the top of the stairway, and the other two in the ladies lounge, the adjacent room to the northwest. They are single-light steel-sash double casement windows with a center fixed light and a fixed transom. Original glazing was specified on construction drawings as "pol. pl. glass"¹⁶ but it appears to have actually been wire glass, the remains of which are found in two of the windows. Two of the windows have remnants of 2" wide metal-slat Venetian blinds with molded valances that are set into the window opening. These are most likely original, as Venetian blinds appear in a historic photo taken of the northeast façade on May 15, 1943 as the building was nearing completion.¹⁷ The ladies lounge originally had a vanity set on the northeast exterior wall between the two windows in that room. The vanity

¹⁵ NAVFAC Pacific Division: Plan files drawing numbered 179675. October 14, 1941.

¹⁶ NAVFAC Pacific Division: Plan files drawing numbered 165340. October 14, 1941.

¹⁷ NARA. 71-CB-100A-1. Exterior photo # 16531, taken May 15, 1943.

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had a 6'-0" x 6'-6" mirror with fluorescent lights recessed at its perimeter. It was flanked by two coil-spring leatherette seats with ceiling recessed light fixtures with obscure glass louvers.¹⁸ The vanity and seats have been removed. The floor in the hall, ladies lounge, and projection room is concrete; originally all these rooms had linoleum flooring.

At the northwest end of the mezzanine level is the ladies toilet. It is finished similarly to other toilets in the building, with 2" light blue hexagonal floor tile with medium blue accents, blue-grey glazed hollow tile walls, and painted steel cubicles.

The projection room has a number of features to minimize the possibility of a disastrous fire, a consequence of early motion picture films which were prone to spontaneous combustion due to the extreme flammability of early cellulose nitrate film. It had self-closing entry and generator room doors, and counter-weighted doors to the projection ports and ceiling ducts that were strung with fusible links to close them in the event of a fire.¹⁹ Metal film cabinets and counters and cupboards of sheet metal are still extant. The projection room has a metal ceiling suspension system framework. Original drawings specify a "hung plaster ceiling."²⁰ At the northwest end of the projection room is a toilet finished with typical 2" hexagonal floor tile and 6" x 12" blue-grey glazed hollow tile walls. A generator room is adjacent to the toilet. At the southeast end of the projection room, next to the stairway, is a "poster room" as labeled on original drawings. A steel ladder in this room provides access to the catwalks above the ceiling.

For a detailed photographic look at Facility 89 before it underwent the partial demolition associated with its reconstruction and asbestos and lead paint abatement, see the document "Building 89, Ford Island Theater: Interior Photos per MOA Stipulation I.B.1" which was produced by the Navy.²¹ This document contains photos of the original doors with wing and shield emblems, the interior of the auditorium (including the stage), and many original fixtures.

Historical Context: Before the build-up to World War II the recreational facilities at Pearl Harbor were designed for the military personnel stationed there and mostly focused on athletic facilities and special interests such as bridge clubs and camera clubs. "As late as 1938 the only recreation center at the Navy Yard Pearl Harbor was a YMCA for the enlisted personnel which ran movies three nights a week and sponsored special interest classes."²² The primary reason for the lack of facilities was seen as insufficient

¹⁸ NAVFAC Pacific Division: Plan files drawing numbered 165340. October 14, 1941.

¹⁹ NAVFAC Pacific Division: Plan files drawing numbered 165337. October 14, 1941.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Commander, Navy Region Hawaii. *Building 89, Ford Island Theater: Interior Photos per Stipulation I.B.1*. Pearl Harbor: Commander Navy Region Hawaii. n.d. (ca. 2004).

²² U.S. Navy. *Administrative History of the Fourteenth Naval District and the Hawaiian Sea Frontier*. Microfilm at NAVFAC Pacific Division Library. 1945.

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funding by the Navy and it was felt that personnel could find diversion by traveling to Honolulu.

As the Navy prepared for war it also acknowledged the need to provide activities for officers and enlisted men. "Early in the year 1941, when it became apparent that the main body of the United States Pacific Fleet would remain in the Hawaiian Area, Senior Officers of the Fleet realized that they were presented with a major problem, that was, the welfare and contentment of the thousands of young men who comprise the personnel of this tremendous Fleet."²³

In February 1941 the Navy requested \$800,000 for recreational facilities for the Fourteenth Naval District in a bill which went before the Naval Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives.²⁴ In a response to the Navy's recognition of the value that recreation contributed toward maintaining morale and fighting spirit of its officers and enlisted men, a Fleet and District Recreation and Morale Officer was added to the staff of the Fourteenth Naval District in May 1941.²⁵ The officer was seen as important in "attain[ing] the maximum benefits from the Recreation Centers planned."²⁶ The primary recreation center for the Naval Base, Bloch Recreation Center and Arena, was constructed in 1941. In keeping with the Navy's construction of recreational facilities being "more convenient to the growing numbers of personnel living and working in specific areas,"²⁷ Facility 89 was planned for Ford Island, which was accessible from mainland Oahu only by ferry. After World War II, as sailors passed through Pearl Harbor awaiting discharge, movie venues became so popular that the Navy proposed to construct a Motion Picture Exchange Film Storage Vault building to handle the films. Located at the Halawa Landing area just northeast of the Richardson Landing, the vault was to have been built of sections of splinterproof precast concrete air raid shelters.²⁸

Drawings for Facility 89 were produced by the Fourteenth Naval District. The earliest drawings, under Project 125 of CBNAB contract NOy 4173, were approved on October 14, 1941 and are signed by the Project Manager, T. L. Davey and Public Works Officer I. L. Johnson. They were drawn by Wm. H. P. The ground floor plan in this set of drawings shows that the promenade was originally planned with two 20' wide terraces at its northwest and southeast ends.²⁹ These would have extended about 60' along the sides of the building with 42' wide stairways down to grade level. These large terraces were not constructed, a drawing dated

²³ Pacific Fleet Recreation Division. *Fleet Recreation Activities*. Pamphlet at Hawaii War Records Repository at the University of Hawaii Hamilton Library. 1943.

²⁴ "Navy Asks \$800,000 for Recreation Facilities Here." *Honolulu Star Bulletin*. February 15, 1941. 4

²⁵ "Morale Officer Due to Supervise Play." *Honolulu Star Bulletin*. May 8, 1941. 5.

²⁶ Pacific Fleet Recreation Division. *Fleet Recreation*.

²⁷ Ann Yoklavich. *U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Recreational Facilities*. HABS HI-387. 2004. 3.

²⁸ National Archives and Records Administration II (NARA II). RG71 1440-34-79. Drawing SK-1205. *Fleet Motion Picture Exchange Film Storage Vault*. 1947.

²⁹ NAVFAC Pacific Division: Plan files drawing numbered 165332. October 14, 1941.

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February 23, 1943 shows them re-configured as constructed, except for 4" x 4" wood post railings specified in place of the cast concrete balustrade that was built.³⁰ A photo taken May 15, 1943 as the building was nearing completion shows the existing promenade as currently configured, with its cast concrete balustrade.³¹

At the time Facility 89 was designed, an extension to the building was proposed from its northeast end.³² This extension, which was never built, was to house a gymnasium and bowling alley. If constructed, the extension would have nearly doubled the size of the recreational facility.

When Facility 89 was built Ford Island had an existing theater, Facility 65, which was a wooden structure, a combination gymnasium and theater built in 1932. Facility 65 was located about 400' west of Facility 89 just west of what would become the intersection of Lexington Boulevard and Enterprise Street.³³

On August 27, 1941 four test piles were driven at the corners of the site of Facility 89 to depths varying from 32' to 92'. Two of these piles were located at what would become the rear (east) corners of the stage area and two were driven at the front corners of the promenade.³⁴ The technical report by Contractors Pacific Naval Air Bases (CPNAB) which was written detailing elements of Pearl Harbor construction during World War II states that 106 piles were driven for the foundation of the building, of both pre-cast and wood types.³⁵

On June 1, 1942 Facility 89 was not yet completed; it is shown on a Public Works map of that date as a proposed facility.³⁶ An aerial photograph taken on June 7, 1942 from an oblique angle at 1000' altitude shows a rectangular pattern of small shapes at the site of Facility 89, probably the foundation pilings.³⁷ Four and a half months later, on October 30, 1942 the building's framework was erected, needing to be infilled with CMU and roofed to complete the shell.³⁸ In mid-January of 1943 Facility 89 appears to have had its exterior walls infilled, but it was still lacking a roof.³⁹ The building was completed soon after that, a photo dated May 14, 1943 shows the front façade of the finished theater.⁴⁰ After Facility 89 was completed, almost the entire block that it is situated on (bounded by Hornet, Pokemoke, and Enterprise Streets and Lexington

³⁰ NAVFAC Pacific Division: Plan files drawings numbered V-NO4-369 & 370. February 23, 1943.

³¹ NARA. 71-CB-100A-I. Exterior photo # 16531, taken May 15, 1943.

³² NAVFAC Pacific Division: Plan files drawing numbered 165334. October 14, 1941.

³³ NARA II. RG71-1405-3-33. Map V-N1-120, *Naval Air Station Pearl Harbor T.H. showing conditions on June 30, 1940*. 1940.

³⁴ NAVFAC Pacific Division: Plan files drawing numbered 06797. September 20, 1941.

³⁵ Contractors Pacific Naval Air Bases (CPNAB). *Technical Report and Project History, Contracts NOy-3550 and NOy-4173*. Microfilm at NAVFAC Pacific Division Library. N.d. A-588.

³⁶ Jeffrey Dodge. Map 509, *Ford Island Conditions as of June 1st, 1942*. Map received from Jeffrey Dodge in 1999.

³⁷ NARA. 80-G-411232. Aerial photo. April 14, 1944.

³⁸ NAVFAC Archives, Port Hueneme. TI 1/4, Hawaiian Islands, Oahu, Pearl Harbor, Oahu, T.H. (NAS /Aerial views). Aerial photo. October 30, 1942.

³⁹ NARA. 80-G-451260. Aerial photo. January 15, 1943.

⁴⁰ NARA. 71-CB-100A-I. Exterior photo # 16531, taken May 15, 1943.

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Boulevard) was filled with various recreation facilities.⁴¹ A baseball diamond, still extant, was located next to Facility 89, and to the northwest, a boxing ring and a boxing pavilion.

In 1956 repairs were made to Facility 89. In the main auditorium cracks had developed in the acoustic plaster of the interior walls and plaster was loosening from the ceiling. Repairs were made by chipping out plaster at the wall cracks and apply a new finish coat of acoustic plaster. A 6' high wainscot of hard plaster was constructed on the walls by removing the acoustic plaster below that level and applying new plaster. All loose and deteriorated plaster from the ceiling was removed, metal lath was repaired where needed and a new acoustic plaster coat applied over the entire auditorium ceiling.⁴²

The basement men's lounge area was designated as an air raid shelter. This might have been done during World War II after Facility 89 was constructed, or during the Cold War era. Extant signage on the stairway wall leading to the basement indicates that it was also designated as a decontamination station. This designation as a shelter was likely an expedient use of the basement, there is no reference on original plans to the basement area as a shelter. Before the building underwent partial demolition, the basement contained emergency toilets constructed of metal (55 gallon) drums laid on their side with openings and toilet seats added.⁴³ The building was used as a theater until the late 1970s or early 1980s. The last date on tags from fire extinguishers which were removed from Facility 89 by the asbestos remediation crew in 2005 was June 1978. An inventory card dated December 1966 from the Pearl Harbor Naval Station property files shows that the building's primary use at that time was still as a theater, with its secondary use listed as an air raid/storm shelter. In February 1978 plans were approved to install timer control units on air conditioning equipment in the ground floor and mezzanine levels of the three-level equipment area.⁴⁴

Sources:

A. Architectural Drawings:

Historic drawings are available as electronic scans only, and can be viewed on the NAVFAC Pacific Plan File data base at Building 258, Makalapa, Pearl Harbor. Scans can be viewed and printed on 11" x 17" paper only.

⁴¹ NARA II. RG71-1405-3-41. Map 971, *Ford Island Conditions as of October 1, 1943*. 1943.

⁴² NAVFAC Pacific Division: Plan files drawings numbered 709177 & 709178. February 3, 1956.

⁴³ Commander, Navy Region Hawaii. *Building 89, Ford Island Theater: Interior Photos per Stipulation I.B.1*. Pearl Harbor: Commander Navy Region Hawaii. n.d. (ca. 2004). N. p.

⁴⁴ NAVFAC Pacific Division: Plan files drawing numbered 7021469. February 22, 1978.

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B. Early Views:

Aerial photos are available at the National Archives and Records Administration, and the Admiral Furlong Collection at the Hawaii State Archives (HSA). The photos of the Admiral Furlong Collection were taken under the direction of Admiral William R. Furlong, Commandant of the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard. Photos in both archives were created by a U.S. federal agency (U.S. Navy) and are considered in the public domain.

Additional photos are found in the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum Archives at Port Hueneme, CA.

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Mason Architects, Inc., and Helber Hastert & Fee Planners. *Historic Context Report and Historic Preservation Plan for World War II Defensive Accessory Facilities*. 2004.

National Archives & Records Administration. 71-CB-100A-1. Exterior photo # 16531 taken May 15, 1943.

_____. 71-CB-103C-3. Interior photo # 16537 taken May 15, 1943.

_____. 80-G-229787. Aerial photo taken April 14, 1944.

_____. 80-G-411232. Aerial photo taken June 7, 1942.

_____. 80-G-451260. Aerial photo taken January 15, 1943.

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National Archives & Records Administration II, RG71 1405-3-33. "Naval Air Station Pearl Harbor T. H. showing conditions on June 30, 1940." Map V-N1-120.

_____. RG71 1405-3-41. "Ford Island conditions as of October 1, 1943" Map 971.

_____. RG71 1440-34-79. "Fleet Motion Picture Exchange Film Storage Vault." Drawing SK-1205. 1947.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Pacific Division: Plan Files. Drawings for Facility 89 numbered 6797, 165324 to 165341, 176975 to 176979, 179988 to 179991, 7021469, 709177 to 709178, V-N04-367 to V-N04-371.

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Yoklavich, Ann. "U.S Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Recreational Facilities." HABS report HI-387. 2004.

Project Information: The partial demolition of Facility 89 for the construction of a conference center has been proposed by the Navy. In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800, implementing regulations of Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act, Commander Navy Region (COMNAVREG) Hawaii has consulted with the Hawaii State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and other consulting parties. This photo documentation and recordation is a partial fulfillment of the mitigations stipulated in the Memorandum of Agreement among COMNAVREG Hawaii and SHPO.

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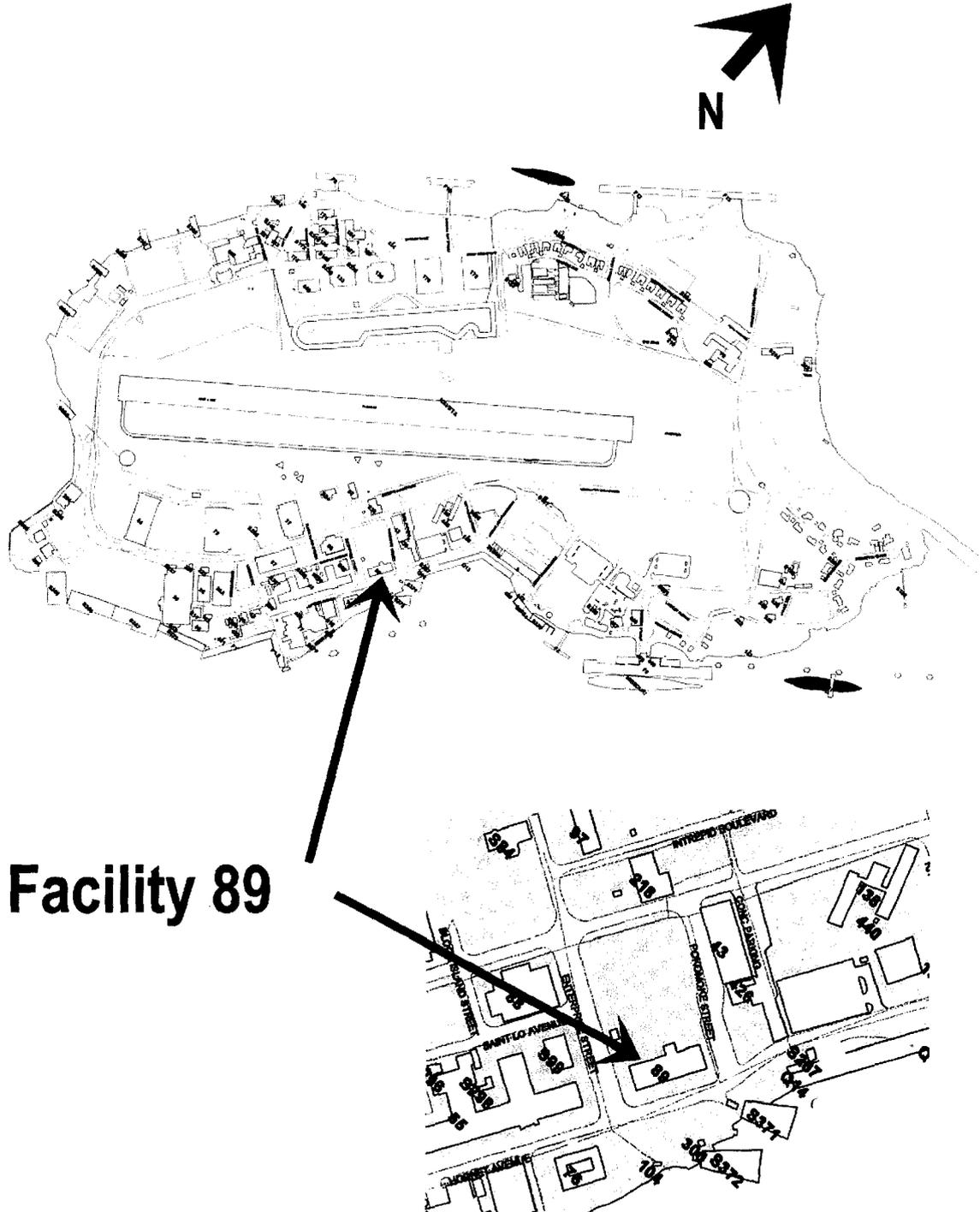
This report was prepared under a Historic Preservation Services contract (N62742-04-D-1855) awarded to International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc., the prime contractor, by the U.S. Navy, Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command. This project is being supervised by Jeffrey Dodge, Historical Architect, NAVFAC Hawaii. The photographic documentation was undertaken by David Franzen, photographer. Dee Ruzicka, Architectural Historian at Mason Architects, Inc., wrote the written documentation. The field work and research was conducted for this report by Dee Ruzicka in April 2005.

Prepared by: Dee Ruzicka, Architectural Historian
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Date of Report: May 2005

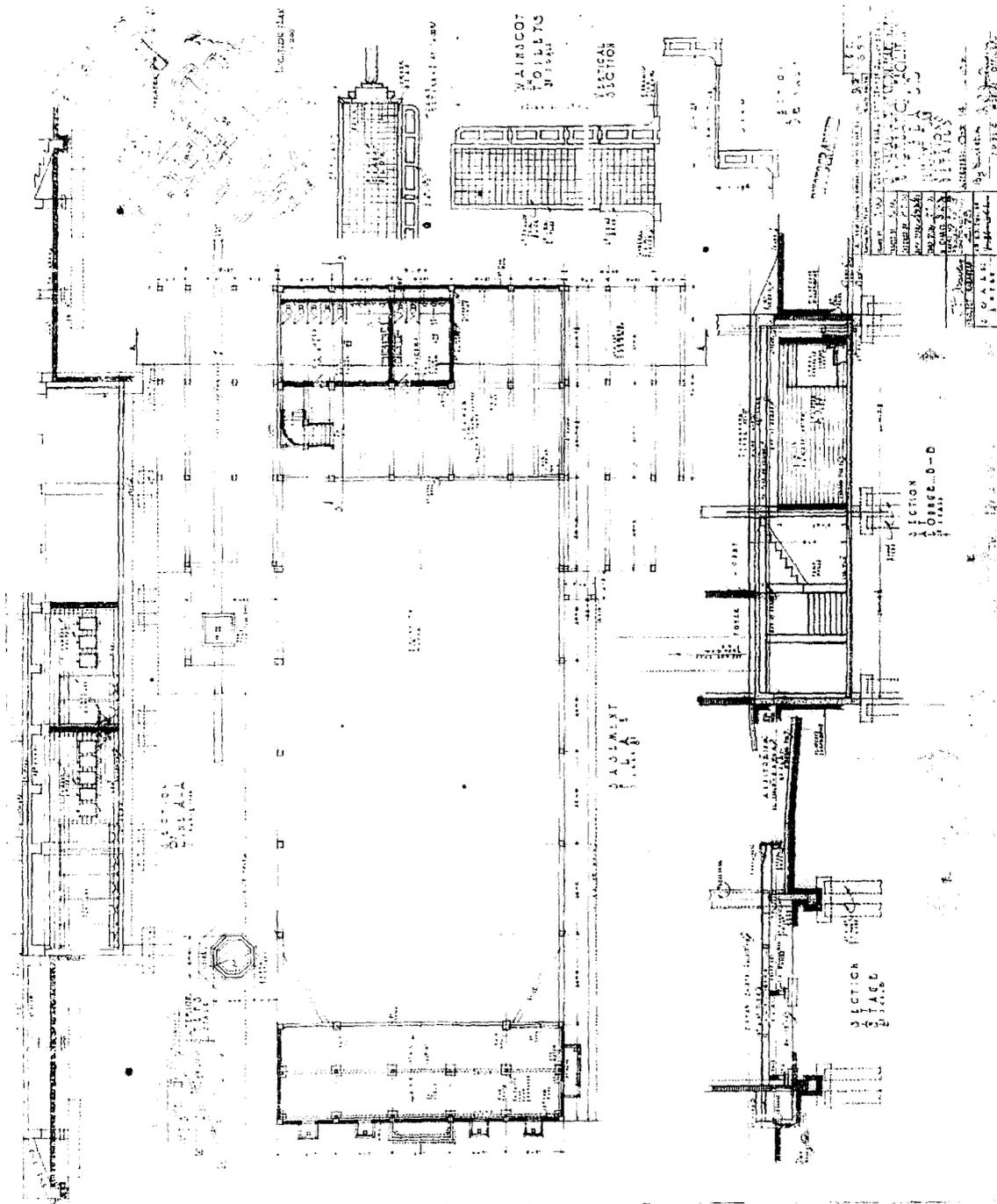
U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, THEATER
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Facility 89 Location Map on Ford Island (not to scale)



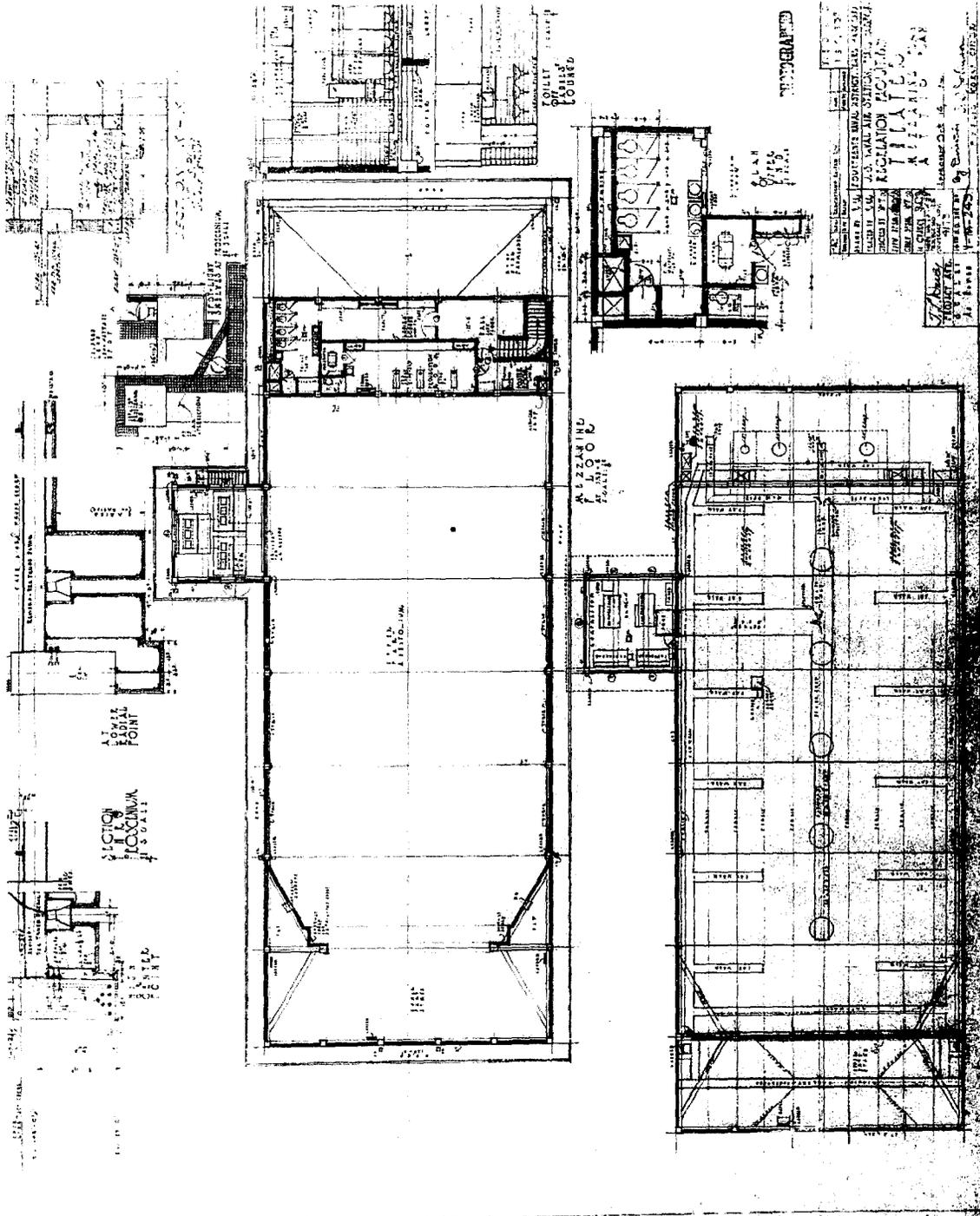
U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, THEATER
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Facility 89, Basement Plan, Sections, Details
(NAVFAC Drawing No. 165331, dated October 14, 1941)



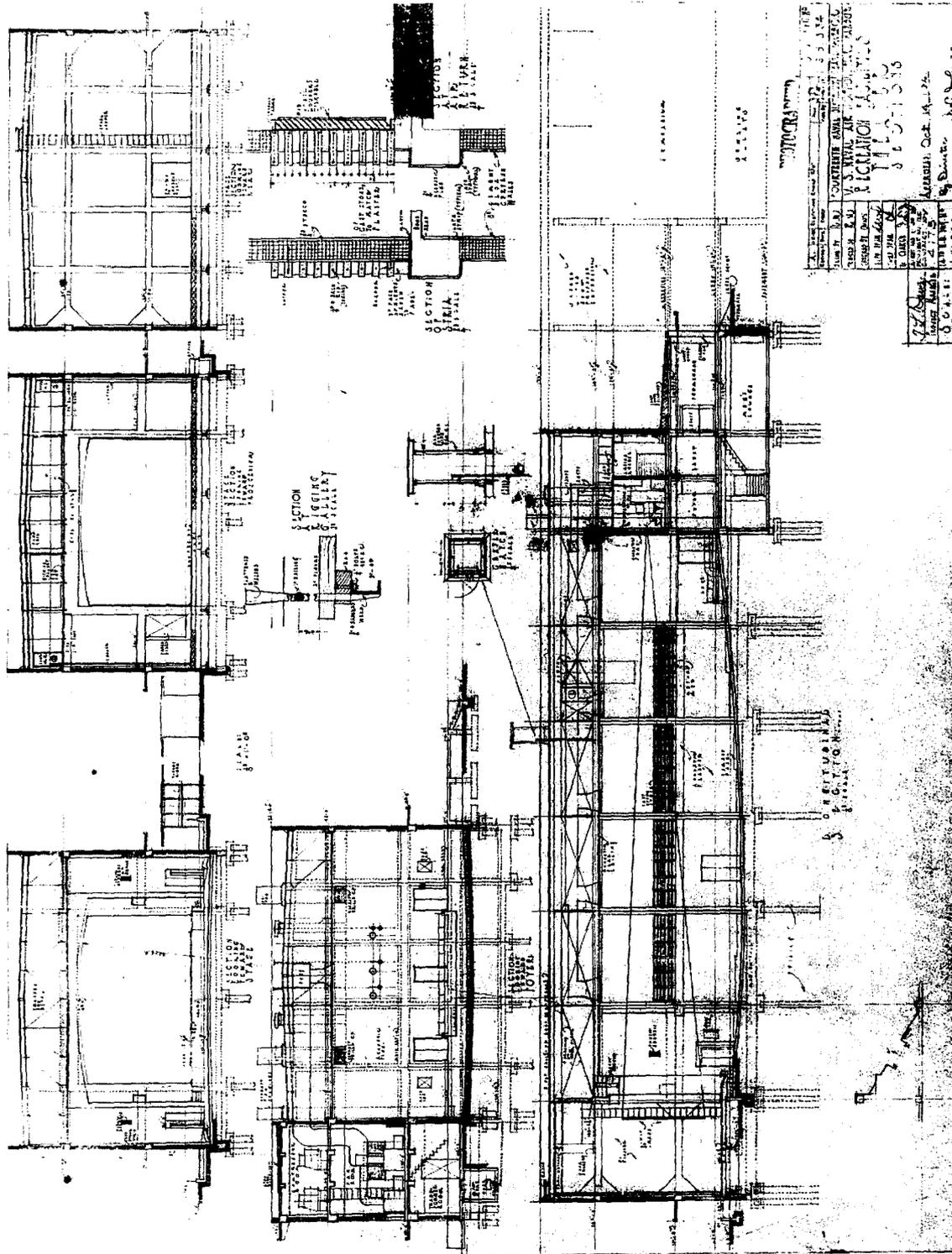
U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, THEATER
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Facility 89, Mezzanine Plan, Attic Plan
(NAVFAC Drawing No. 165333, dated October 14, 1941)



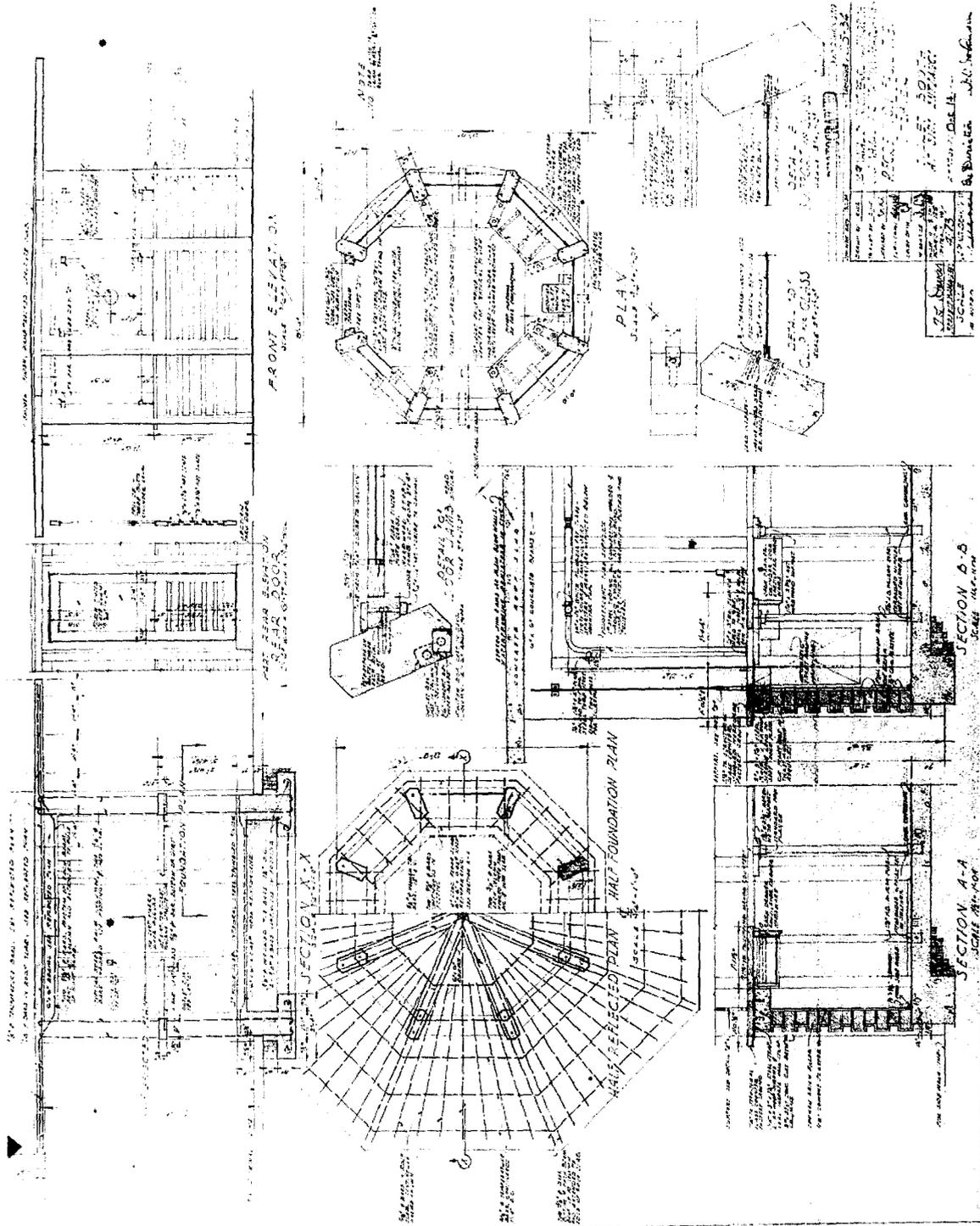
U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, THEATER
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Facility 89, Sections
 (NAVFAC Drawing No. 165334, dated October 14, 1941)



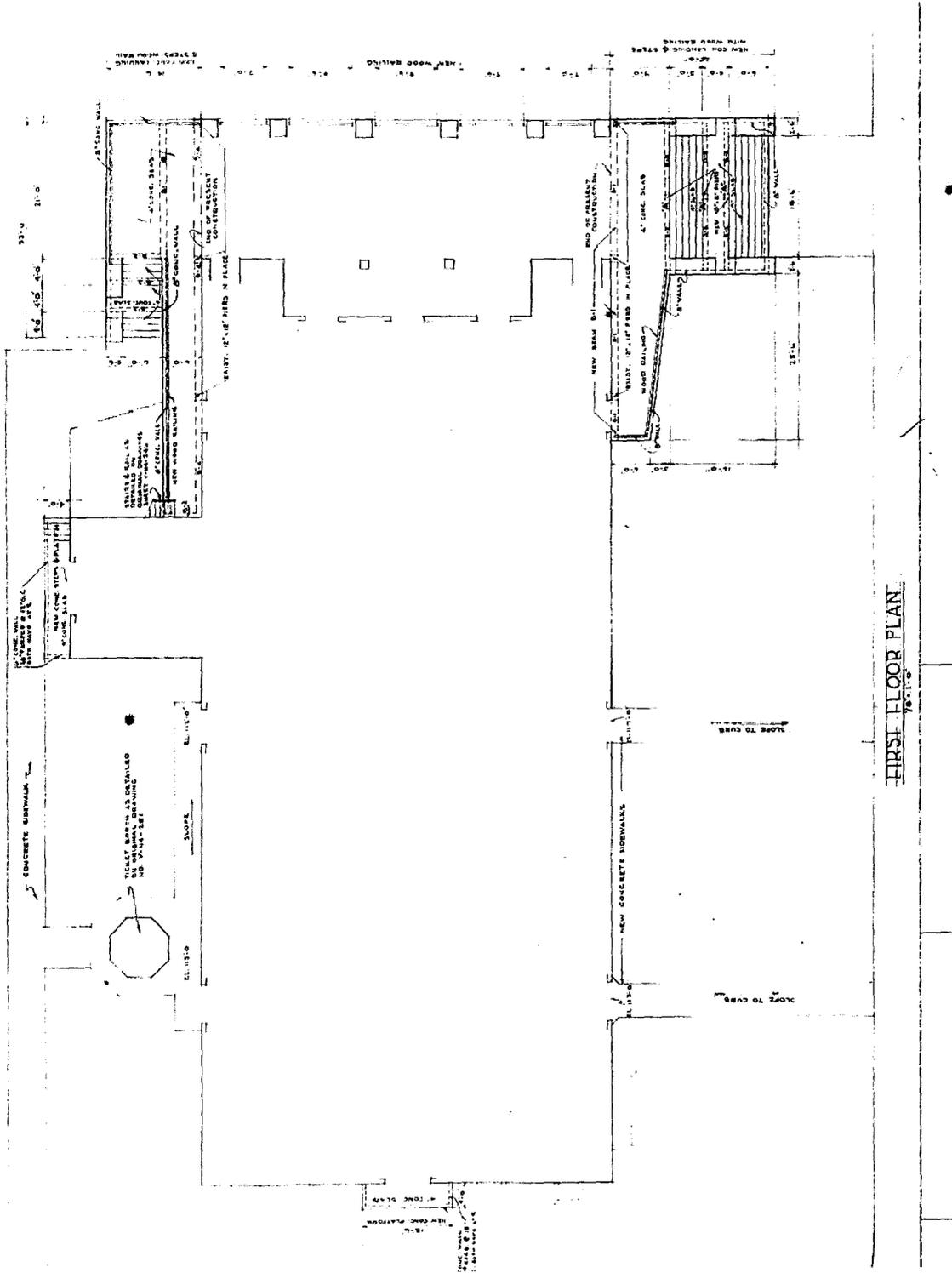
U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, THEATER
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Facility 89, Ticket Booth at Side Entrance
(NAVFAC Drawing No. 165341, dated October 14, 1941)



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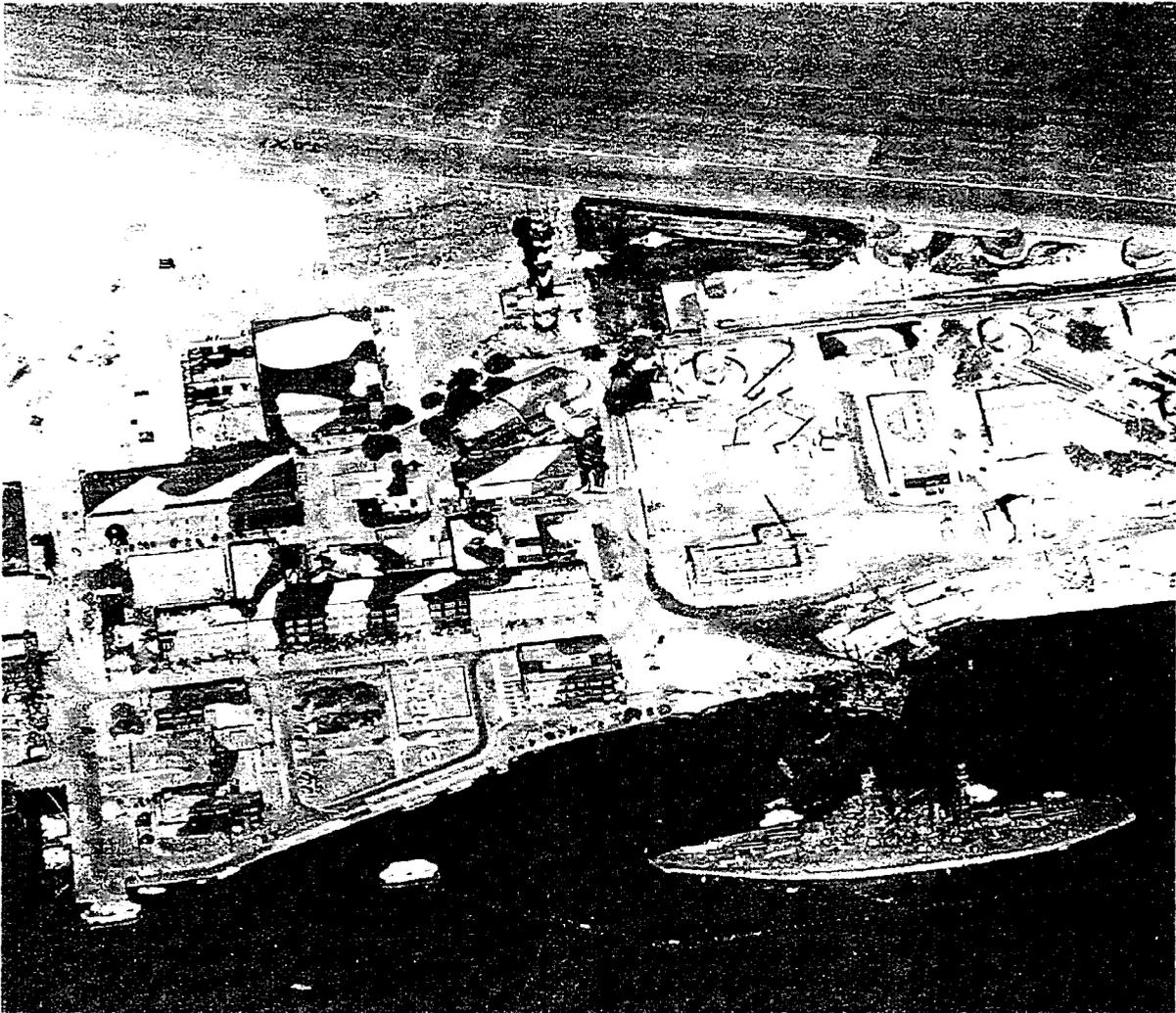
Facility 89, Steps & Grading
(NAVFAC Drawing No. V-N04-369, dated February 23, 1943)



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
7/8" = 1'-0"

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**Historic photo showing Facility 89 under construction just above the moored vessel.
(NAVFAC Archives, Port Hueneme, TI 1/4, Dated October 30, 1942).**



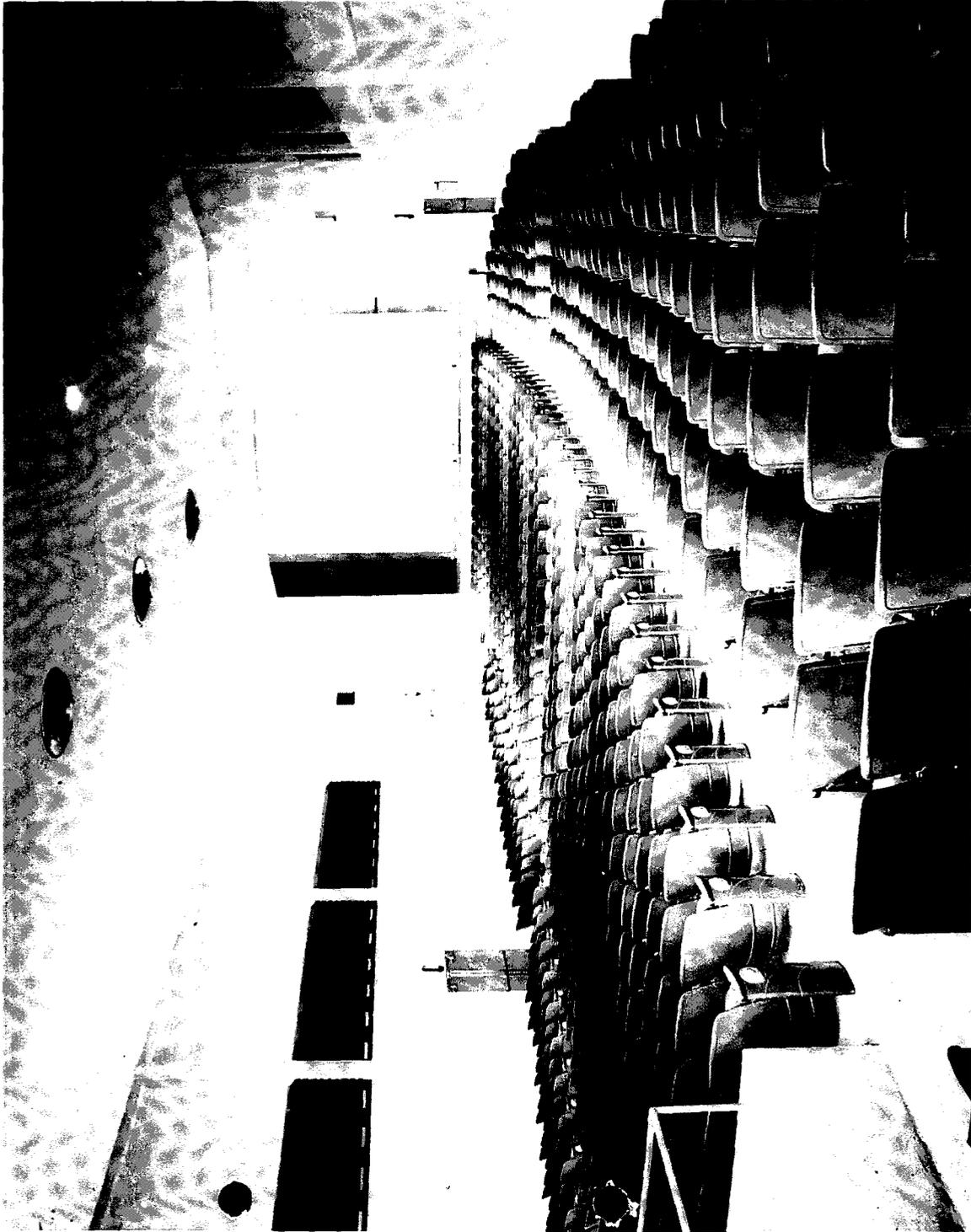
U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, THEATER
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Historic photo showing Facility 89 at completion. (NARA, 71-CB-100A-1, Dated May 14, 1943).



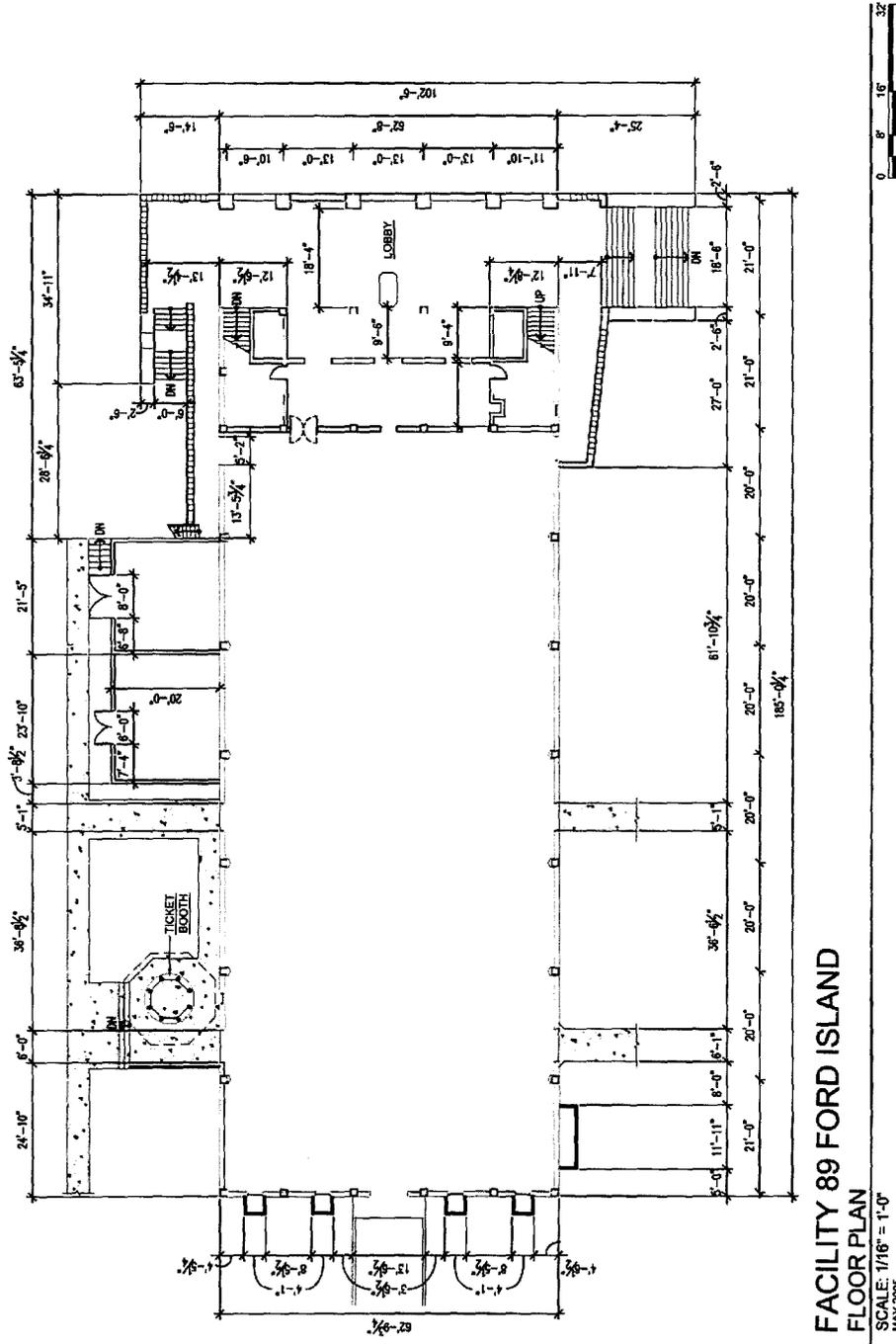
**U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, THEATER
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**Historic photo showing the interior of Facility 89 at completion. (NARA, 71-CB-103C-3,
Dated May 14, 1943).**



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**2005 floor plan (produced by Mason Architects, Inc.)
 Reduced , not to scale. Refer to scaled copy of this drawing in the Field Records.**



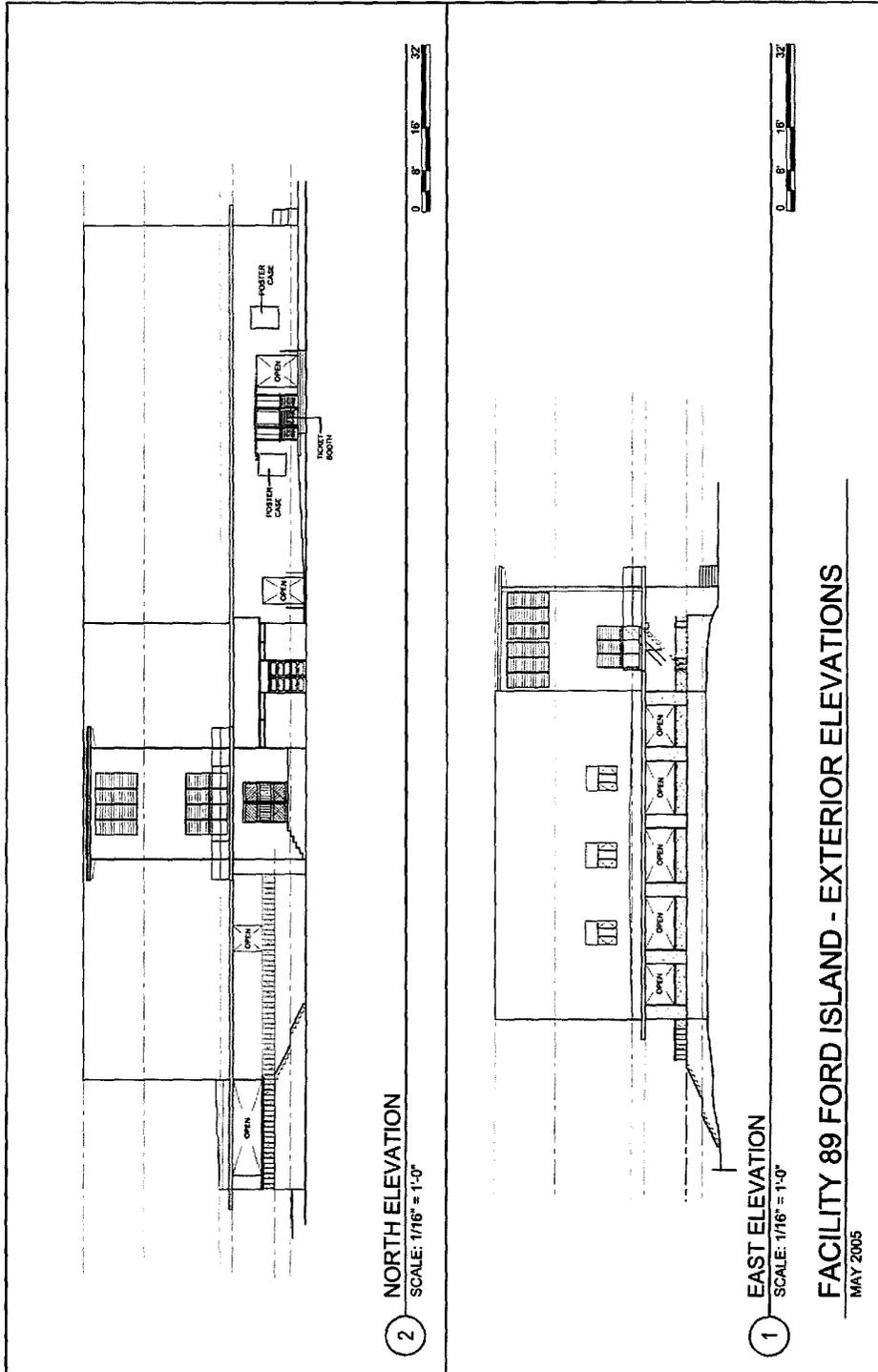
FACILITY 89 FORD ISLAND

FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"
 MAY 2005

1

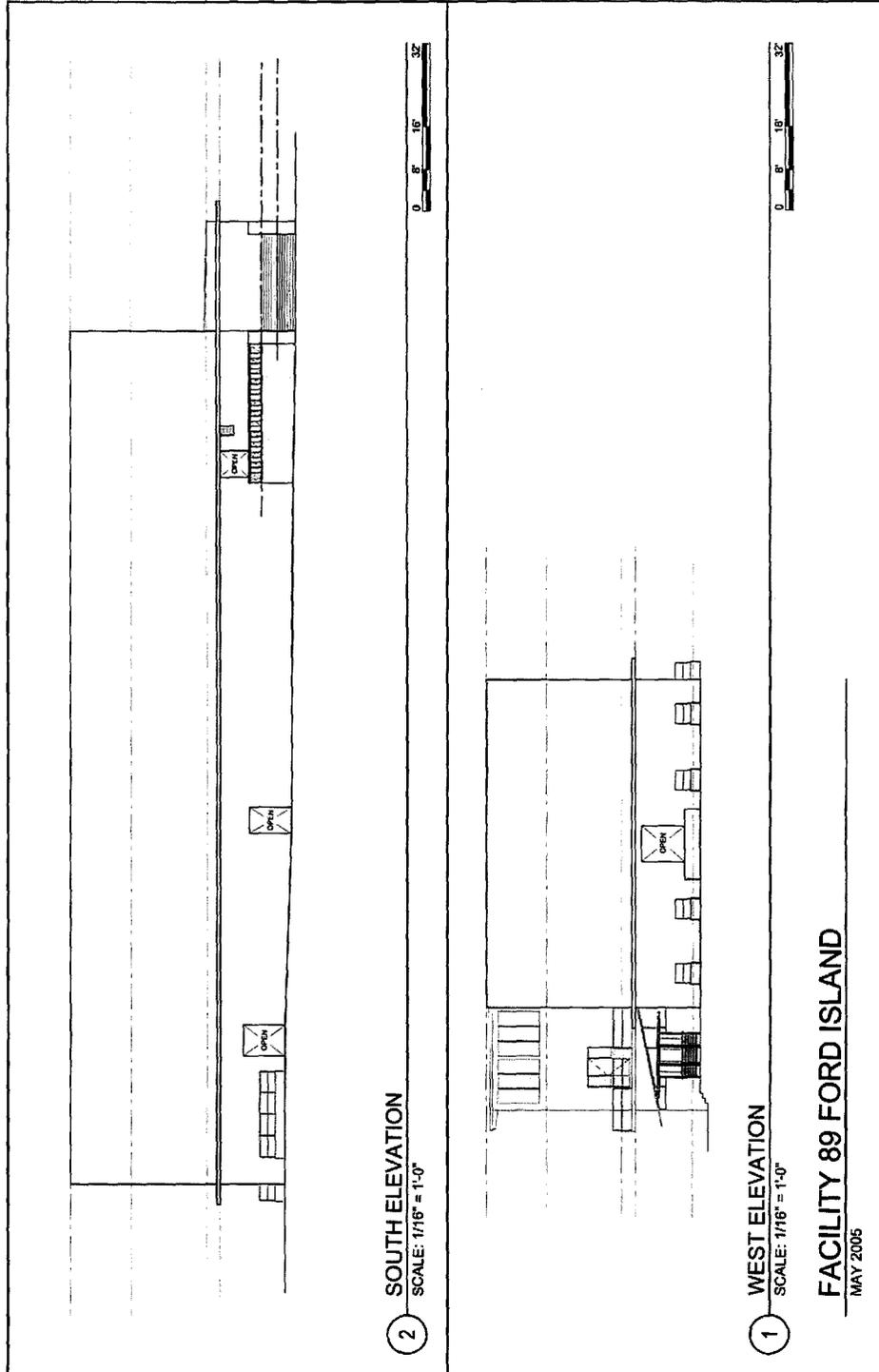
U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, THEATER
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2005 elevations (produced by Mason Architects, Inc.)
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2005 elevations (produced by Mason Architects, Inc.)
Reduced, not to scale. Refer to scaled copy of this drawing in the Field Records.



2005 elevations (produced by Mason Architects, Inc.)
Reduced, not to scale. Refer to scaled copy of this drawing in the Field Records.

