

U.S. MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII KANEOHE BAY, ENLISTED MEN'S MESS HALL
(U.S. Marine Corps Base Hawaii Kaneohe Bay, Building No. 256)
Corner of Third and F Streets
Kailua Vicinity
Honolulu County
Hawaii

HABS
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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

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U.S. MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII KANEOHE BAY, ENLISTED MEN'S MESS HALL
(Building No. 256)

HABS No. HI-311-D

Location: Corner of Third and "F" Streets at Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH)
Kaneohe Bay, Mokapu Peninsula, Koolaupoko District, Kailua Vicinity,
Honolulu County, Hawaii.

USGS Mokapu Quadrangle, Hawaii
7.5 Minutes Series (Orthophotoquad)
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates
4.E628630.N2371810 (Scale 1:24,000)

Significance: Building No. 256 Enlisted Men's Mess Hall which was constructed in
1944, was most likely built by the Seabee's and supplemented a nearby,
larger, permanent, concrete mess hall (Building No. 212) within the
barrack complex. Building No. 256 is a semi-permanent, wooden
structure that provided additional dining spaces for personnel during the
war time period.

Description: Building No. 256 is an abandoned, single story, 10,420 square feet,
wooden, irregular shaped structure on a concrete slab foundation. The
frame, exterior walls, roof, and interior walls are constructed of wood.
Interior walls are also constructed of gypsum board on metal studs from
subsequent alterations. The roof consists of composite and built up
roofing. Building overall dimensions are 72 feet wide, 175 feet long and
15 feet high. The interior and exterior elements of the building are not
significant in terms of historical or architectural characteristic.

History: U.S. Marine Corps in Hawaii: The Marines have been present in Hawaii
for many years, beginning with the first visit of a United States warship to
Hawaii, the USS SIR ANDREW HAMMOND, on 23 May 1814. It was
followed by the U.S. Navy's USS DOLPHIN in 1826, manned by a
contingent of Marines. Between 1826 and 1843, Marines from the USS
PEACOCK VINCENNES (1829), POTOMAC (1832), ENTERPRISE AND
PEACOCK (1836), COLUMBUS and JOHN ADAMS (1839), and vessels
of the Wilkes Exploring Expedition (1840), visited the Hawaiian Islands
bearing Marine Corps troops. In 1843, Marines were serving on the USS
CONSTELLATION when she fired her historic salute to the Hawaiian flag
and to Kamehameha III king of the Hawaiian Islands. Lieutenant Joseph
W. Curtis, commanding the Marine Guard of the USS CONSTELLATION
in 1845, made a reconnaissance of Oahu and recommended that Pearl

Harbor was the logical place for the defense of the island against foreign aggression as well as a naval base.

Historically, the Hawaiian government welcomed the U.S. military presence and, indeed, often used it to their advantage. In 1852, King Kamehameha III requested the deployment of U.S. Marines to Hawaii to preserve the peace and maintain order. In 1874, Marines were landed to quell a riot following the announcement that David Kalakaua had been elected ruler vice Queen Emma (Star-Bulletin (12 May 28). Years later, in January 1893, during the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy and the establishment of the provisional government, the Marine Guard was bought ashore, ostensibly to protect American lives and property. In August 1898, Marines from the USS PHILADELPHIA and MOHICAN represented the Navy at the ceremonies attending the transfer of the Republic of Hawaii to the United States in front of Iolani Palace.

On 9 February 1904, the first permanent detachment of Marines arrived in Honolulu on the USAT SHERIDAN for duty as guard force under the command of Captain Albertus W. Catlin. The Marines were quartered in an empty coal shed at the Old Naval Station, constructed for temporary use at an expense of about \$1,000, where they remained for nearly four years. In 1907, the Marine Guard, consisting of ten officers and 391 enlisted men were put "under canvas" on a plot of land on the *makai* (ocean) side of Ala Moana Boulevard (later the site of Fort Armstrong). The camp was named Camp Very in honor of Captain Samuel W. Very, USN, the Commandant of the Naval Station. In 1909, Congress appropriated funds for construction of a permanent Marine Barracks at Pearl Harbor. In 1925, the "Grand Army and Navy Joint exercises" were held in the Hawaiian waters. The exercises included the Marine Corps Expeditionary Force, and set the precedent for Marine Corps involvement in amphibious activities in the Hawaiian Islands and the Pacific.

On 7 December 1941, a Japanese carrier force inflicted heavy casualties on the American force at Pearl Harbor; 2,280 persons were killed and 1,109 wounded, 188 planes were destroyed and 19 ships sunk. Marine losses on the island included 111 men killed or missing and 75 wounded and 33 aircraft destroyed and 12 damaged.

In 1944, the Headquarters for Commanding General, V Amphibious Corps was established in Camp Catlin (activated in the Salt Lake area of Honolulu in April 1942; deactivated in April 1950) and in the same year redesignated Fleet Marine Force, Pacific (FMFPAC). In May, Camp Catlin at Oahu was detached to the Commanding General, Administrative Command, V Amphibious Corps. On 1 May 1944, Marine

Garrison Forces, 14th Naval District was organized as a designation change from Marine Forces, 14th Naval District. On 17 September 1944, after having gone through several changes of designations, the old Administrative Command became Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific located at Camp Catlin. In October of that year, the V Amphibious Corps headquarters was moved to Pearl Harbor to facilitate planning for the Iwo Jima operations. Lieutenant General Holland M. Smith became its first Commanding General. On 5 February 1945, the U. S. Marine Corps Women Reserve Battalion was activated, and disbanded 7 December 1945. In January 1946, the Marine Corps Institute (Pacific Branch) was organized at Pearl Harbor.

The post World War II years saw an almost complete overhaul in the organizational structures of both Marine and Navy units throughout the world. In the Pacific, Marine Barracks were re-designated Pacific Ocean Area Marine Security Forces and came under the direct command of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, Headquarters (FMFPAC). Major organizational changes to the Marine Corps were also taking place in Hawaii. The Marines began moving all their air operations in Hawaii to Kaneohe in March 1949, and the Naval Air Station was, in January 1952, officially re-designated as the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Kaneohe Bay. MCAS Kaneohe Bay was designated the home of the 1st Marine Brigade (1st MARBDE) in 1956.

In 1956, HQ FMFPAC moved to Camp H.M. Smith. The Headquarters had been located at Pearl Harbor since April 1950. The Camp, named after the first Commander of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, General Holland M. ("Howling Mad") Smith, is located on Halawa Heights in the Aiea area of Oahu. In 1957, the Commander in Chief, Pacific, shifted his headquarters to Camp Smith.

In 1976, the three Marine Barracks on Oahu (Pearl Harbor, Barbers Point and Lualualei) were consolidated and renamed Marine Barracks Hawaii. Guard Company West Loch and Wahiawa brought the total complement to almost 600 Marines involved in security tasks throughout the island of Oahu. The Marine Guard Pearl Harbor was assigned perimeter and internal security of the Naval Base, and flag and staff complexes within the Pearl Harbor area, as well as providing internal security for various Naval installations on the island. The Headquarters and Services Company was responsible for administrative and personnel accounting, maintenance, food services, club supply and logistic functions, including the Marine liaison at Tripler Army Medical Center and staffs for flag officers headquartered at Pearl Harbor. The Marines also participated in honor guards, burial details, color guards and parades. In 1986, the Barracks experienced a reorganization to include the deactivation of Guard Company Barbers Point, Guard

Company Lualualei, and turning over security responsibilities for the gates at Naval Station, Pearl Harbor. On 29 July 1994, as a result of the "downsizing" of the military, the Marines vacated the Marine Barracks facility at Pearl Harbor and moved to other facilities elsewhere on the base.

Kaneohe Marine Corps Base: The first documentation of land use on the Mokapu peninsula occurred in 1848 and involved small dryland gardening, salt (pond) production, and use as grazing land (Devaney *et al.* 1976; Maly 1995:32-35). In 1918, the first use of the area by the military took place near the center of the peninsula at Kuwaaohē with the establishment of an army base (this area was variously designated Kuwaaohē Military Reservation, Camp Ulupau, and Fort Hase). In the late 1920s, parts of Pali Kilo and the Heeia Dunes were subdivided for residential lots while the majority of the Mokapu Peninsula remained undeveloped ranch land (Fiddler 1956). Construction commenced in September 1939 at Kaneohe to support five squadrons of seaplanes (DON Y&D 1947). The initial base was constructed under a Pacific Naval Air Base contract using a consortium of contractors.

Construction of an air base at Kaneohe was high on the priority of recommendations for strategic defenses made by the Hepburn Board and submitted to Congress in December 1938 (DON Y & D 1947). The station was originally planned as a seaplane base with facilities to support five squadrons. By 7 December 1941, contractors had begun work on five seaplane ramps, seaplane taxiways, pier, four hangers several warehouse/office buildings, administrative buildings, dispensary, mess, barracks, officers' houses, ammunition storage structures, fuel farm, water tanks, and some recreational facilities. Except for the ammunition areas, excavation into the hills on the west side of the runway, most of the permanent construction at the Naval Air Station (NAS) was carried out in the area south of Puu Hawaii-loa and east of the runway. Most of the extant 1940 and 1941 buildings at the base were built of reinforced concrete, except for the hangers (some of which were constructed of corrugated cement asbestos panels) and officers' houses (which were wood). The first Marines at Kaneohe were stationed there as mounted security forces during the construction, and their temporary quarters were located at the west side of the runway.

Immediately following the 7 December 1941 attack, contractors built several bombproof structures. In the first eighteen months of the war, many structures at Kaneohe NAS were built with whatever materials were available and expedient, including wood and corrugated metal. In April 1943, the Seabees took over construction efforts, building a bombproof powerhouse and an electrical distribution system which included 14 concrete substations, support buildings for assembly and

repair, engine testing, and engine overhaul, and a second runway. Major construction at the Naval Air Station was completed by May 1945. A 4 November 1942 order from the Secretary of the Navy stipulated that war structures should be temporary with stability sufficient to meet needs during the period contemplated for war use, therefore many of the Seabee-built structures were constructed with corrugated metal or wood, rather than concrete.

In addition to the ships at Pearl Harbor, the Kaneohe airfield and its support facilities were also attacked by Japanese aircraft on 7 December 1941. At time of the attack, Building No. 101 (Hangar No. 1) and Building No. 103 (Hangar No. 3), the adjacent seaplane ramps, and the runway had just been completed. As a result of the bombing, secondary fires started in Hangar No. 1 and burned most of the structure down to its steel frame while Hangar No. 3 was "crumpled from a bomb's direct-hit" (Fiddler 1956:16). Hangar No. 2 and Hangar No. 4 were still under construction and were completed in 1942.

Following the end of World War II, the importance of the station slowly declined. In 1949, the Kaneohe Naval Air Station was deactivated. However in 1951, construction of new facilities was undertaken and in January 1952, the Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station was activated. In 1985, the squadron was reassigned and the Kaneohe installation changed designation from "air station" to "base". Known today as the Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), Kaneohe Bay, this facility occupies virtually the entire peninsula and houses thousands of military personnel and their dependents.

Building: Building No. 256 was built in 1944 at a cost of \$97,554 as an Enlisted Men's Mess Hall and was designed by the 14th Naval District at Pearl Harbor. In 1951, the building was converted to offices and the building was renovated to accommodate the Legal Service Center. In 1987 central air conditioning was install to provide cooling comfort for the office personnel, and in 1988, fire sprinklers were install to correct fire safety code violations. Currently, the substandard and termite damaged single story building was abandoned in 1996 when Legal Service Center relocated to a new building and the building had deteriorated conditions beyond economical repair. Also, the paint on the exterior is peeling. Non-friable asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) are present in the black & gray floor tiles and gypsum board joint compound. Pipe insulation which contains ACBM is friable and in poor condition. The piping is located in a utility trench below the concrete walkway adjacent to the building. The pipeline range in size from 1 ½-inch 3-inch in diameter. The lines run along the southeast and northwest sides of the building and then on towards Building No. 230. There is an asbestos

warning sign above the access hatch in the concrete walkway on the southeast side of the building.

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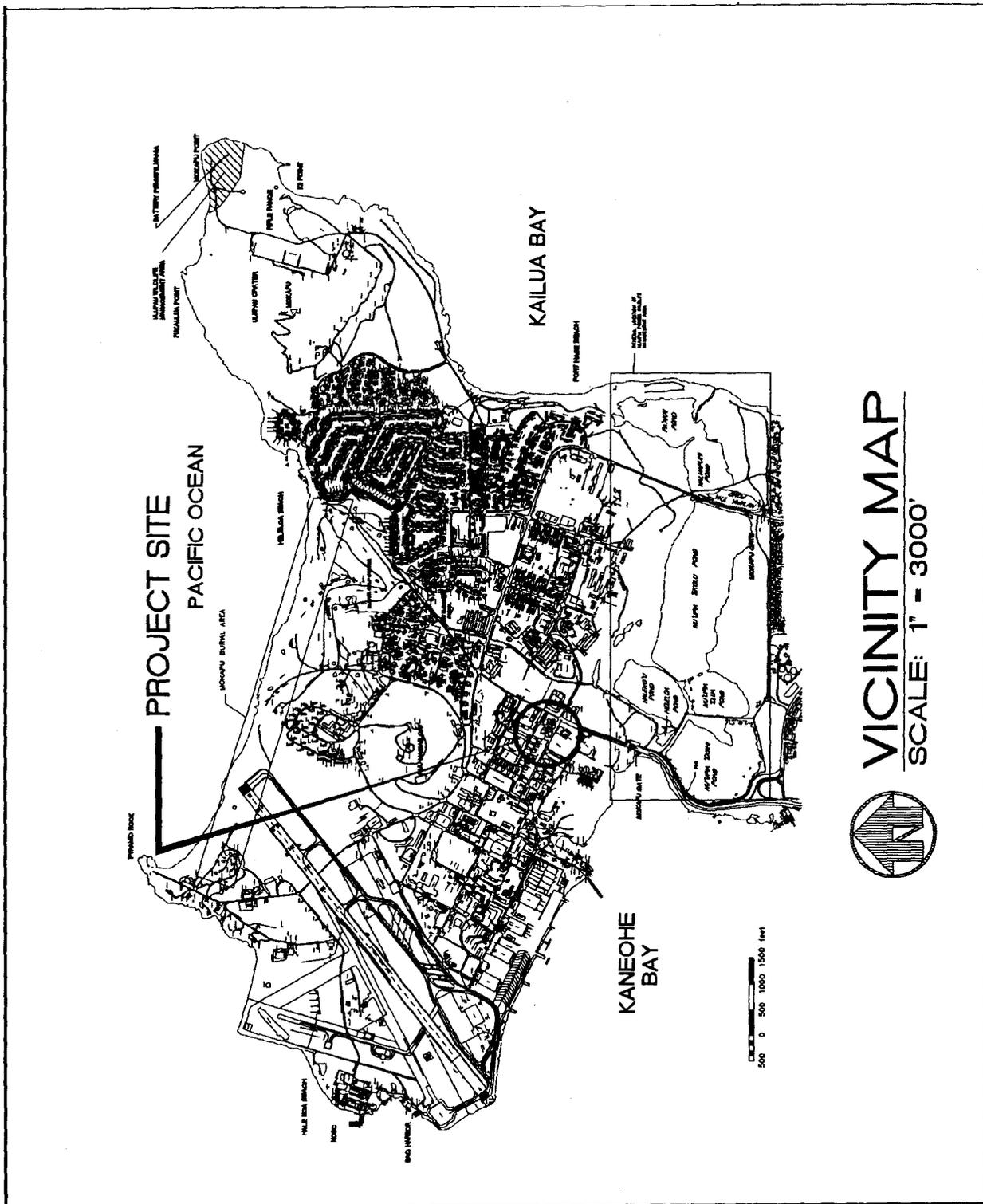
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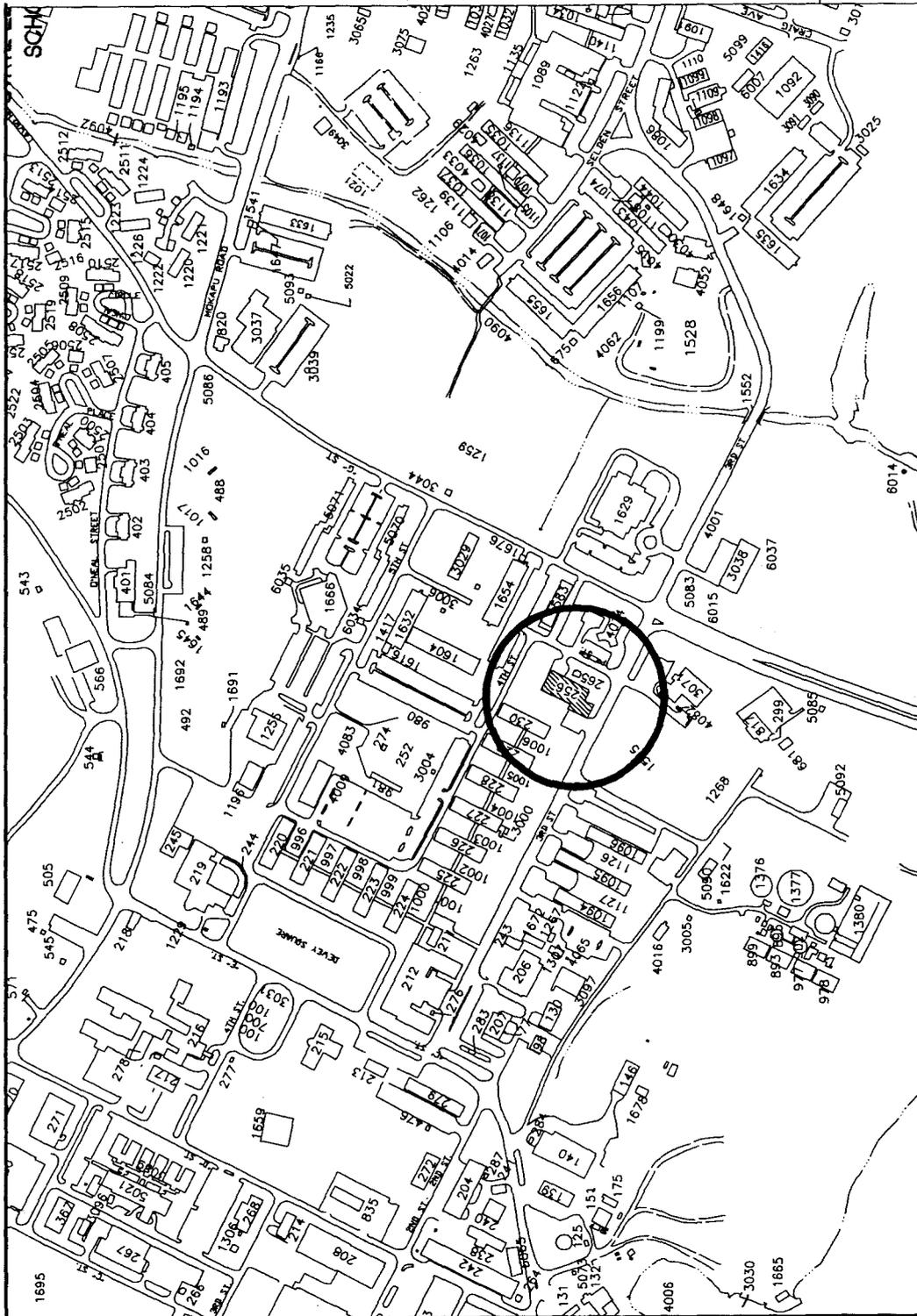
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LOCATION PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 600'

U.S. MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII KANEOHE BAY, ENLISTED MEN'S MESS HALL
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Pacific Division Drawing No. OA-N04-1600, ENLISTED MEN'S MESS HALL,
 Building No. 256; September 17, 1943: Floor Plan (Reduced).

