

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, NAVAL HOUSING AREA PEARL CITY

PENINSULA, MACINTYRE HOUSE

HABS No. HI-358-A

(Facility No. 636)

364 Laniwai Avenue

Pearl Harbor

Honolulu County

Hawaii

HABS

HI-358-A

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Pacific Great Basin System Support Office

National Park Service

San Francisco, CA 94107

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Location: The historic houses within the Pearl City Peninsula Housing Area are on the west side of the peninsula. The peninsula lies between East Loch and Middle Loch of the Pearl Harbor Naval Complex, on the south side of the island of Oahu, state of Hawaii. The peninsula lies outside the boundary of the Pearl Harbor National Historic Landmark. It is a largely modern residential area, except for one block of historic housing bounded by Lanakila and Laniwai Avenues, the Kaiapo Canal, and the Middle Loch shoreline (see HABS No HI-358 for a location map and map of the area). This house is located at 364 Laniwai Avenue, set back from the street and oriented to the south, rather than towards Laniwai Avenue on the east.

USGS Waipahu Quadrangle, Hawaii (scale - 1:24,000)
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 04.605940.2364620

Significance: This house is significant as an example of a civilian house built before the Navy acquisition of the peninsula. The architecture of this house is unique within the Pearl Harbor Naval Base. The building's style is difficult to categorize; it has some classical-revival style elements, but also local vernacular architectural features. It is also significant for its association with the McIntyre and Robinson families. The World War II history of use and acquisition of this house by the Navy is also significant.

Description: This historic portion of the Pearl City Peninsula Housing Area is made up of six single-story residences and several garage buildings. The house at 364 Laniwai Avenue is described in detail below.

Exterior

This one-story, gable-roofed house is one of only two remaining example of residences built on the shoreline of Pearl City Peninsula before World War II, when the area was still civilian owned. This wood-sided and wood-framed house is in good condition.

The dimensions of the rectangle enclosing the house are 35'-0" x 53'-0", which encompasses the projection of the living room in the front, but not the slight projection of the dining room in the rear. The net floor area of the house is 1,531 square feet (Mitsunaga & Associates, Inc. 1995: 147). The foundations are post-on-block, and all posts have termite shields and angled bracing. The natural grade slopes down to the north and the west, so the foundation posts are taller on those sides, but at the rear the grade has been built up to provide an outdoor patio, just two steps down from the dining room floor level. The foundation is screened by a horizontal board over a grille of expanded metal. The exterior walls are wood, mostly drop siding, but with portions of vertical 1" x 6" tongue-and-groove (T&G) boards. The rear of the house, the gable ends, and the areas around the windows flanking the projecting living room have the T&G siding. The horizontal siding is used on the rest of the house. The drop siding wraps around about three feet at the front corners and is also used between the flanking windows and the entry porch, giving an appearance of quoins at the front of the house. The house has double-wall construction and a wood-frame structural system.

Among the unusual features of the house are the bricks of the main entry stair and landing. Brick is a rarely used material in Hawaii, since most bricks are imported; there is no good local clay for bricks. The brick entry stair steps up to the landing from three sides in a pyramidal manner. The projecting part of the living room was once a porch, as evidenced by the wood railing and balusters. The kitchen stair is wood with a wood railing. The stair from the bedroom hall is wood also, without a railing. Neither wood stair has a landing.

The entry from the brick landing is through a wood-frame screen door and a two-light-over-one panel wood door. The main entry is flanked by paired posts that support a broken horizontal cornice. There are also paired posts at the corners of the projecting portion of the house, which was originally a porch, but is now part of the living room. The dining room has a pair of five-light sliding doors with matching sliding screen doors and fixed five-light sidelights. The kitchen has a modern flush wood door, with an interior screen door, with screening in upper half. The bedroom hall exit has a one-light-over-one-panel wood door and an exterior screen door, with screening in the upper half.

The house has a variety of window types, although most are six-over-six-light double-hung windows. There are also six-light-over-one-light, and one-light-over-one-light double-hung windows. The kitchen has a band of paired three-light casement windows, held open by long hooks. The living room has a pair of three-light sliding and two narrow, fixed, three-light windows on each side of the entry door. The living room also has a narrower pair of three-light sliding windows on each side wall. The two windows flanking the projecting living room have wood-louvered shutters, but are the only windows in the house with shutters. Shutters are an uncommon feature in Hawaii's residences, and are not used on any other house on the peninsula. Above these shuttered windows are lunette windows with ornamental muntins. These lunette windows are in the attic. The gable ends on the sides of the building have lunettes with wood louvers to ventilate the attic.

The roof has four cross gables, three in the front and one in the rear. The three front gables have broken horizontal cornices, which appear as caps to the "quoins" of drop siding or to the paired posts on either side of the main entry door. The vertical planes of the main gable end short of the side walls of the building, so the cross gables cover those portions of the house. The northeast corner of the house has a hipped intersection. The cross gable stops short of the rear wall at west side of the house. There is a shed roof over the bathroom on that side. There are low-pitch roofs on the storage and water heater cabinets attached to the house. There are small pent roofs over the two windows flanking the living room. The living room windows and entry door have had metal awnings added over them. There are larger pent roofs, supported by simple braces, over the windows and doors on the rear. The pitch of the pent roof over the dining room doors is different from the ones over the windows. The pent roof over the kitchen windows wraps around, with a hipped intersection, over the kitchen door. The roofing material is asphalt shingles, except the roof over the former front porch has built-up roofing. The eaves are narrow with boxed soffits and rake moldings.

Interior

The main entry leads into a large living room, which was created by combining the original entry porch and living room. The ceilings in all rooms are 9'-4", except the portion of the living room that was the porch has a lower ceiling. The master bedroom suite opens from the west side of the living room, and the dining room is directly north of the living room. There is also an L-shaped hall, opening on the northeast corner of the living room, which leads to

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two additional bedrooms and another bathroom. There is an unroofed patio, with large square concrete pavers, directly north of the dining room.

The flooring in the house is mostly wood, probably Douglas fir. The bathrooms have vinyl tile and the kitchen has sheet vinyl flooring. The interior walls and ceilings are mostly canec. In several rooms, there are corner trim boards at the wall intersections, as well as boards and moldings at the wall/ceiling intersections. The living room and kitchen have more elaborate moldings at their ceilings. There are simple 8" baseboards and quarter-round shoe moldings at the wall/floor intersections. The canec walls consist of horizontal panels, measuring about 2' high and as much as 10' long. The kitchen walls have vertical T&G boards with a center groove, and, in some of the upper portions, panels. The kitchen ceilings are board and batten. The interior of the house is plainly detailed. There are some built-in shelves in the kitchen, including some quarter-circle ones in the corner and two narrow ones with decorative brackets over the stove in the kitchen. Many of the kitchen cabinets have single-panel doors and some of the ones below the counter have butterfly hinges.

The interior openings have mostly single-panel wood doors, including most closet doors. The master bedroom has a non-original closet with sliding plywood panel doors. The kitchen door is a single-panel swinging door, with a diamond-shaped vision panel. All the door hardware appears to be recent, made of aluminum. Much of the window hardware appears original. The casement windows in the kitchen have no screens and large hooks, which can hold them open only in one position. The house was designed for natural ventilation, with each room having openings on two sides, or, in the case of the dining room, a free flow of air through the house.

Site

The house is sited in the northwest corner of a former lot that was about two acres in size. It is interesting that the house was placed almost entirely within the 40'-wide strip of land which was part of the extension of Ashley Avenue to the water in the original subdivision. When the lot was acquired by the Navy, it included a tennis court, swimming pool, boat house, wood pier, pavilion, chicken coop, and garage with attached dwelling unit. All but the last structure have long been removed. The Navy's 1945 map of this area shows there was also a pond in the low area along the shoreline. This is now all overgrown with vegetation, blocking the view of Middle Loch from the house. Concrete steps still lead down to this lower area. Concrete paths lead to all the doors. The circular driveway shown on the 1945 map remains, altered somewhat and now paved with asphalt. There are several large trees around the house, including some banyans.

The garage and attached dwelling (Facility 640) that are on the lot are listed in the Navy database with a 1944 date. However, its shed-roofs and jalousie windows suggest this was a later replacement of an earlier garage and servant's quarters.

History: See HABS No. HI-358 for a history of the Pearl City Peninsula Housing Area. The details of the construction history and of the use of this house during the World War II years are not very clear. It is not known when this house was built; the 1944 "year built" date listed in the Navy database is incorrect. The architect and contractor are also unknown, and no original plans have been found.

Land records from the State Bureau of Conveyances show that the owners of the land from 1918 until 1935 were Malcolm and Florence Hall Macintyre. After Malcolm died in 1934,

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Mrs. Macintyre sold the property to Iwalani Amelia Robinson. The deed mentions "buildings," so it is likely the Macintyre family built the house and some now-demolished outbuildings. Malcolm Macintyre was an insurance company executive and Florence Hall Macintyre was the granddaughter of the missionary E. O. Hall, who was a distinguished figure in Hawaii's history. "He was the editor of a publication called the Polynesian . . . he served as a minister in the cabinets of King Lunalilo and Kalakaua; and he was an early trustee of Punahou School" (Hawaii Newspaper Agency).

The Navy officially purchased the property in 1945 from Iwalani Amelia Robinson. She was described in her obituary as a "kamaaina resident . . . widow of T. Edgar Robinson, attorney" (Hawaii Newspaper Agency). Her grandson knows the Robinson family frequently visited the house, as a country get-away, in the late 1930s; and believes the Navy obtained use of it early in World War II (Brandt 2000).

The Navy use of this property during World War II is uncertain. It is likely it was used as a residence for one of the senior officers of the Section Base or the Naval Air Transport Service, which were the adjacent Navy activities on Pearl City Peninsula. Since World War II, the house has been used for Navy Officer housing.

The house has undergone several major alterations over the years, but almost all are undocumented by drawings, so the dates are unknown. The evidence of the alterations is in the house itself. As noted above, the front porch was enclosed and incorporated into the living room. The Navy's 1945 site plan shows the northeast corner of the house was different. Sometime after that date, there was a small addition here, which squared up the corner. The floor of the bedroom in this corner, as well as the foundations posts show evidence of this. The addition apparently allowed the bedroom to shift over and the creation of the portion of the bedroom hall that leads to a rear door. It appears that, prior to that addition, access to the second bathroom was through the northeast bedroom.

There are two drawings of alterations planned in 1948 and in 1956, which were apparently never carried out. In 1948 there was a plan to add a fourth bedroom on the east side of the house. In 1956, the rear patio was to be enclosed with a flat-roofed addition. The electrical drawing notes that this work was omitted from the contract for work at Pearl City Peninsula.

Sources: Architectural Drawings: No original drawings for this house or garage were located. Besides the alteration drawings mentioned above, only one schematic floor plan of the house and one very sketchy drawing of the elevations of the house, for a painting project, were found in the Pacific Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Plan File Room, Pearl Harbor Hawaii. Copies of the elevations and of a floor plan obtained from the Navy housing office are included in this report.

Land records that were researched included the Tax Office of the City and County of Honolulu, their microfilmed historic tax map key files, and the deeds at the State Bureau of Conveyances, including Book 1281, page 179 and Book 495, page 379. James Toland (current resident) also provided the records he was given from the Navy real estate office.

Brandt, G. Rex

2000 Phone interview with grandson of Mrs. Iwalani Amelia Robinson, on August 15, 2000.

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Hawaii Newspaper Agency

var. Hawaii Newspaper Agency clippings file on microfiche at Hamilton Library, University of Hawaii. Fiches on Robinson, Mrs. Iwalani Amelia, and on Macintyre, Florence Hall.

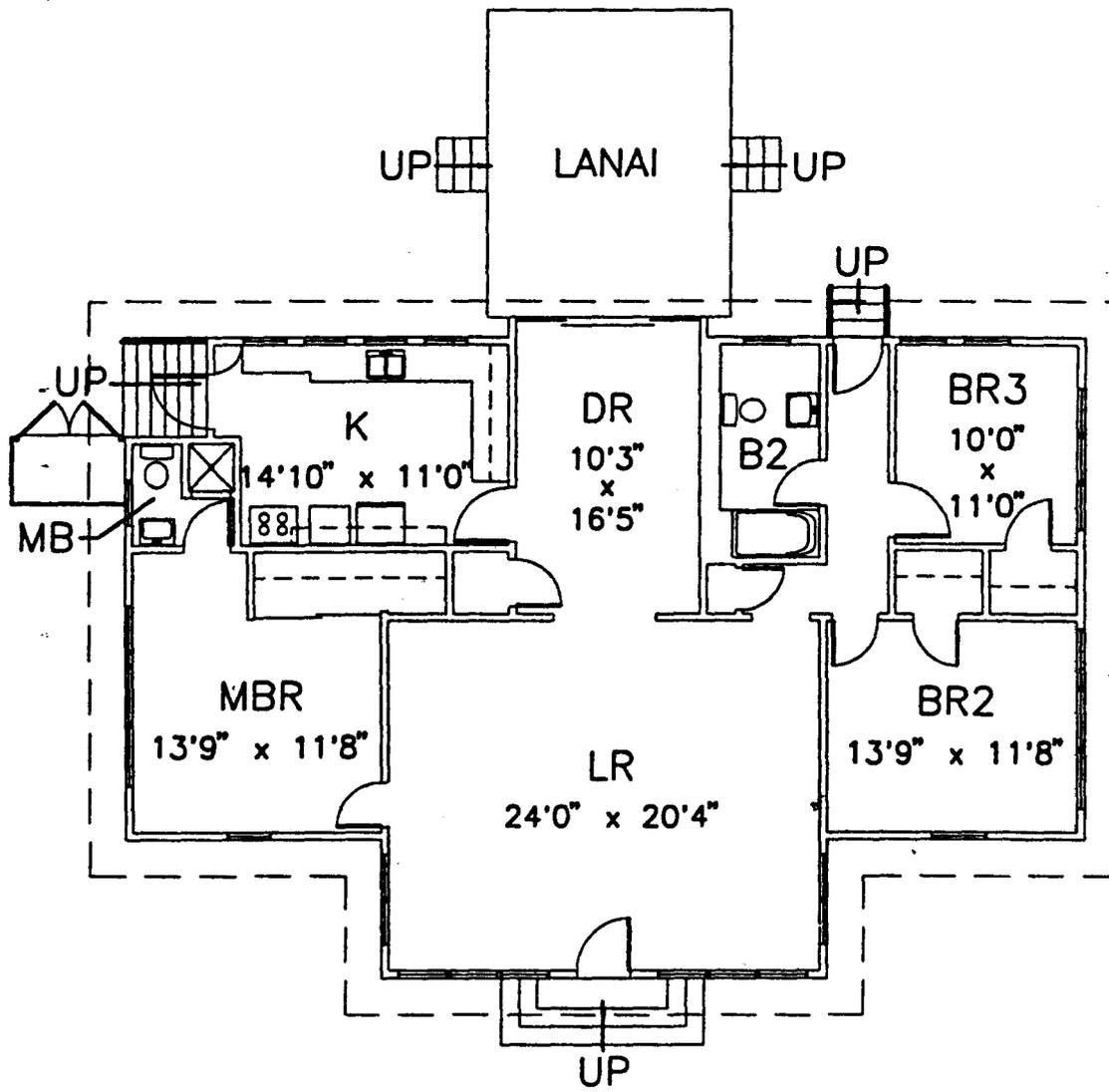
Mitsunaga & Associates, Inc.

1995 *Addendum 3, Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan: Family Housing – Pearl City Peninsula*. Prepared for Commander, Naval Base Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii, United States Navy. Prepared under the direction of Headquarters, United States Army Pacific & Pacific Ocean Division, US Army Corps of Engineers.

Historian: Ann Yoklavich, Mason Architects, Inc., September 2000.

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1995 Floor Plan – sketch from Navy Housing Office
Mitsunaga & Associates, Inc. (1995) *Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan, Family Housing Pearl City*, p. 215.



EXISTING FLOOR PLAN

