

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, SIX-STORY GENERAL
STOREHOUSE
(Fleet and Industrial Supply Center)
(General Warehouse Depot)
(Facility No. 475)
Gaffney Street at Quincy Avenue
Pearl Harbor
Honolulu County
Hawaii

HABS HI-433

HI-433

HABS
HI-433

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
PACIFIC GREAT BASIN SUPPORT OFFICE

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
600 Harrison Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, SIX-STORY GENERAL STOREHOUSE (U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Fleet and Industrial Supply Center) (U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, General Warehouse Depot) (Facility No. 475)

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- Location:** Gaffney Street at Quincy Avenue
Pearl Harbor Naval Base
Pearl City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii
- U.S.G.S. Pearl Harbor Quadrangle, Hawaii, 1999
7.5 Minute Series (Topographic) (Scale - 1:24,000)
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates 4.609440.2362580
- Significance:** Facility No. 475 is associated with the build-up of facilities at the Naval Base in the early 1940s. It is part of a group of storehouses that transformed this section of Pearl Harbor, one of the additional storage facilities built on graded and fill land at Kuahua Peninsula. This storehouse, which held the headquarters of the Naval Supply Depot, played a vital role in meeting expanded storage needs both for the base and for supply of the advance lines during World War II. It has great integrity of design, location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Facility No. 475 is the only six-story concrete storehouse at the base and is a contributing element to the Pearl Harbor National Historic Landmark.
- Description:** Facility No. 475 is located on a portion of Kuahua Island, which became Kuahua Peninsula when the fishponds connecting it to the rest of Oahu were filled. This part of the island/peninsula was graded to create a flat building site, level with the adjacent filled land. Other storehouses of similar design and function are nearby, including Facility Nos. 474 and 479. This storehouse fills the entire block and is surrounded by streets on all four sides. The only landscaped area near here is Bauernschmidt Plaza, located across Gaffney Street from the main entry. Several of the peninsula's berthing docks are across Simms Street from the west end of the building.
- Facility No. 475 is a six-story, rectangular-plan building. Its smooth walls, flat roof, and lack of ornament classify it as an International Style design. Its structural system is all reinforced-concrete. It is arranged on a 20'-0" square structural grid which is six bays wide by twenty bays long, for an overall footprint of 120'-0" x 400'-0". The approximate height to the top of the parapet is 73'. The elevator towers extend about 14' above the parapet level, for a total building height of approximately 87'. The first-floor height is 14'-9", while the floor-to-floor height of each of the other five stories is 11'-0". Facility No. 475's columns, walls, and loading platforms are supported by pile foundations and perimeter foundation walls. The

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concrete slab floor of the first level, including the loading docks, is on a compacted fill base, raised about 3' above grade.

Loading platforms run the full length of the north and south sides. There are sloping ramps at each end of the both platforms. There are cantilevered concrete canopies above both loading platforms, at the height of the second-floor plate. Each side has two elevators opening onto the platform. All four openings are approximately 9' square with vertically bi-parting freight elevator doors and exterior-mounted roll-up doors for added security. Originally, the north-side platform also had three larger openings (12'-0" square) with roll-up steel doors and the south side had four. One roll-up door on each side has been removed. There are now three roll-up steel doors opening to the first-floor space on the south side and two on the north. Hinged gates, made of metal mesh on metal frames, have been installed on all of these openings. These gates are in front of the interior-mounted roll-up doors, to provide security and allow air circulation while the doors are open. At about the center of the north side of the building, there are double metal doors to the transformer vault. Each leaf has a louvered upper half above a lower panel. Originally there was only one standard-size door (approximately 3' x 7') on the north side; it led from the platform to the office space. Five new doors of varying sizes have been added on the north side of the building and two new ones added on the south side. The 1941 drawings show no doors on the east and west ends, but an August 1942 drawing shows that the entry door on the east end, with canopy over an entry landing and stair to that, was added by then. Another stair to this entry's platform was added later, as were the outer wind-protection glass panels. The large opening with steel roll-up door on the western end is not original. It has a sliding gate (unlike the hinged gates on the north- and south-side openings) of metal mesh on a metal frame. This door opens onto a roofed, but open-sided, loading platform; this concrete platform, measuring about 60' x 30', is at the same height as the side platforms; however it projects from the center of the west end, rather than running along that end wall.

On the lower levels of the building there have been numerous changes to the windows. Originally, the first floor typically had long sections of steel-frame multi-light windows between the doors. The first-floor windows, measuring 5'-2" tall, usually extended over two to four bays, except the one-bay window groupings at the toilet rooms. There was generally one pivoting six-light or eight-light section per bay, with the rest being fixed lights. Three original office bays on the first floor's north side were built with 9'-0" tall windows above a 3'-0" concrete wainscot, on either side of a central door. This window bank, located between the two elevator towers, originally had fixed, awning, and hopper lights in steel framing. Most of this has been infilled or covered up. Numerous modern window replacements of various types, plus blocked-up openings, have considerably changed the original fenestration pattern of the first floor.

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One area where the pattern appears to be original is around the transformer room's door, which has metal louvered sections and steel-sash windows. On the left of this door two window lights have been replaced by sheet metal, to allow conduits to pass through.

The five upper floors of Facility No. 475 originally had narrower bands (about 3'-6" tall) of steel-sash windows. These bands were almost continuous around the building, except where interrupted by the four elevator towers and by the columns at the building corners. The window bands are not interrupted by the interior perimeter structural columns, which are slightly indented just at the window bands. On the vertical elevator tower walls, there are recessed planes corresponding to the window band on every floor, from the second to the sixth story. Similar recessed planes are used at the corner columns to continue the lines of the window bands around all levels of the building. The original window design had one six-light or eight-light pivoting sash per bay, and the rest are fixed lights.

The roof is flat with an encircling parapet, about 3' tall. The original drawings show composition roofing on top of several inches of "coral concrete" fill, with fifteen roof sumps/drains, one each at the center of eight bays. Reroofing has been done on the building, but the same pattern has been maintained. From the roof sumps the metal drain pipes run within the columns to connect to drain pipes under the first floor. The four elevator towers on the roof are topped by machine rooms. There is a stair adjacent to each elevator shaft providing access to each floor, but only the stairwell adjacent to the southeastern tower provides access to the roof. The elevator machine rooms are about 7' above the roof and are reached by steep steel stairs. Each machine room has two steel-sash windows.

There is a Mine and Bomb Observation Station on the northwestern corner of the storehouse, the corner closest to the harbor. It is built of concrete with 10"-thick walls and roof. The observation station's footprint measures 15'-0" x 8'-3¼" with a hexagonal tower on its west side, each face measuring approximately 4' in width. The top of the tower part of the structure is a little more than 15' above the main roof level, but the roof of the entry room is only about 8' higher than the main roof. Two steps lead from the roof to an entry landing. A steel-plate door, measuring 2'-6" x 6'-0⅜", leads into a small entrance room. There is a single opening on the east wall, measuring about 2'-6" square. That opening has a top-hinged steel-plate cover, with a stay bar to allow for air circulation. There is a steel ladder leading to a concrete platform 4'-5" above the entry room floor. That platform is the floor of the hexagonal observation tower. The low-ceilinged space below the tower floor is open to the entrance room and could have been used for storage. The hexagonal tower now has fixed windows in every face, but the original drawings indicated these openings were originally screened. These openings measure 2'-10" in

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height and are continuous around the hexagon, except at the corners where 1½"-diameter pipes support the roof. There is a circular metal band, painted with tick marks and figures up to 360, placed below the openings. This was used with a sighting rod to calculate the positions of the ships and the mines in the harbor.

The interior of the building was originally mainly open storage space, interrupted only by the structural columns. Columns are cylindrical, except for the perimeter ones, and their diameters are widest on the first floor and narrowest on the top floor. Each free-standing column has a conical flared capital (4'-6" diameter at the top) under a 7'-0" square drop panel. [A drop panel is the thickened portion on the underside of a concrete slab which surrounds a column capital.] Where the elevator shaft corners intersect the structural grid there are columns and capitals which have faceted, instead of conical, shapes. At the perimeter walls, the structural columns appear as rectangular-section pilasters with chamfered corners; each has a wedge-shaped bracket projecting from its interior face, rather than a capital. These columns are engaged with the walls above and below the windows, but have a slight recess on their exterior face to accommodate the window bands. The interiors of the lower floors have been altered so often that there are few remnants of their original office spaces. Originally, the first floor had an office space measuring approximately 100' x 60', adjacent to the set of 9'-0" tall windows on the north side. A transformer vault and toilet rooms were to either side of the office. The second through sixth floors originally only had a few bays devoted to office and toilet spaces. All were originally similar with only one office and toilets on the north sides, and toilets only on the south sides. Most of the first three floors have been changed over the decades into office space, with numerous alterations to those interiors, such as dropped ceilings, added walls or partitions, and new floor finishes. A stair connecting only the first and second floors is located near the east-end entrance.

Historical Context: See the report on warehouses (HABS No. HI-388) for an overview history of storehouses at Pearl Harbor. See also the reports on the similar buildings on either side, Facility Nos. 474 and 479 (HABS Nos. HI-519 and HI-434, respectively)

In the build-up for the expected war with Japan the need for increased storage facilities at Pearl Harbor was recognized. Once the war started, the demand for storage space increased even more, because Pearl Harbor became the issue point for the Pacific advanced bases, as well as for the entire Pacific fleet and for the installations around the Hawaiian islands. There was a struggle to find areas for salvage, repair, and work materials, plus storage for food, clothing and other necessities. In addition, new systems of control and distribution for the supplies had to be developed. The activities performed in Facility No. 475, as the

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headquarters for the new Naval Supply Depot (NSD), played a vital role in solving those critical wartime supply problems.

Most of the storehouses built or designed before the December 7, 1941 attack were permanent-type construction (i.e., masonry or heavy metal-frame), while temporary-type construction (wood-frame) was the rule for storehouses designed and built after that date. This concrete storehouse was designed in 1941, although not completed until December 1942 (Contractors, Pacific Naval Air Bases n.d.: A-709). It was part of the plan to develop new areas of Pearl Harbor for storage facilities. Kuahua Island, which had been the ammunition depot for the first few decades of the base, was available, since the Naval Magazine activity had moved to West Loch and Lualuaulei in the 1930s. Most of the buildings on the island were reused for storage, but Building 446 (built in 1925 as a Case Ammunition Filling House), was demolished in order to regrade the site of Facility No. 475. A 1942 map (drawing no. M-N26-111) shows that at least four other buildings on the south end of Kuahua Island were removed due to regrading. A 1932 map (drawing no. I-N1-110) shows these demolished building (Nos. 419, 422, 423, and 443) were then named, respectively, Loaded Shell House, Filling House No. 1, Filling House No. 2, and Storehouse and Ignition Ends.

Kuahua Island became Kuahua Peninsula by using spoils from harbor dredging operations, plus adding rock from the Red Hill tank excavations and from grading. This fill and grading was done to create more level land on the base for large warehouses. Rock from Red Hill was also used as aggregate in the concrete for this storehouse (*Center Relay* 1996: 7).

During World War II thousands of tons of stocks were dispersed every month through the storehouses of the NSD (Yard Supply [1945]: 33). The materials known to have been stored at and issued from Facility No. 475 were a wide range of products, including various tools, office machinery, electrical supplies, clothing, kitchen utensils, and pumps (*The Messenger* April 1944: 2). In the first year, food was also stored there, since a 1943 memo noted that Facility No. 475 was no longer to be used for storage of provisions, but just for general stores (Gaffney 1943: 12).

The drawings for Facility No. 475 were prepared by the Fourteenth Naval District's Public Works Office (PWO) in November 1941. The building shows many similarities to the five-story concrete storehouse designed in June 1941 for the Navy Yard by Albert Kahn, Inc. (Facility No. 167, see HABS No. HI-497). However, a few differences between the PWO's and Kahn's designs are evident. The windows in Facility No. 475 form almost continuous bands around the building unlike the sets of windows around Facility No. 167. Also, the vertical stacks of windows on the stair towers of Facility No. 167 were not included in the design of Facility No. 475.

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The connections between Facility Nos. 167 and 475 were more than architectural. The Naval Supply Depot (NSD), headquartered in the latter building, evolved from the Navy Yard Supply Department (NYSD), headquartered in the former structure. The separation of NSD and NYSD was done to allow the latter to focus on the industrial yard activities; its workload of ship overhaul and modernization was growing tremendously during the pre-war and WWII years. NSD grew into a larger organization, responsible for supplying the Pacific fleet and shore installations of the 14th Naval District (Gaffney 1943: 1). The official separation of NYSD and NSD occurred July 1, 1943, but there were still overlapping functions and staff of NSD continued to occupy some space in Facility No. 167 after the split. These buildings were not close, so trucks, cars, and trains were used to transport sailors and other staff between Facility Nos. 475 and 167 (*The Messenger* 1944: 3).

Besides Kuahua, the areas under the control of NSD included Merry Point, Red Hill underground fuel storage, Waimalu Drum Storage, Ewa Junction fuel area, and outlying storage areas at Pearl City, Damon Tract, Dillingham Tract, Kewalo, Atkinson, Salt Lake, and Manana (Gaffney 1943: 12 and *The Messenger* 1944: 2). A World War II newsletter describes some of the problems, functions, and accomplishments of the Naval Supply Depot at its first anniversary:

The odds were heavy. Insufficient personnel, officers and equipment. Inadequate transportation, a crying need for more storehouses, ceaseless flow of cargo and an endless stream of ships which had to be replenished, stocked, loaded. The work did not stop. It had to continue and it did.

Weeks, months, and now a year has passed, . . . [T]he Pacific Fleet . . . will [soon] establish a stronghold on the Pacific which will pave the way to Tokyo and spell Japan's doom.

During this period, the Depot has been active. It had to be; for the Fleet has relied upon the Depot for its needs to carry the war to the enemy across the far-flung Pacific. The Depot has maintained those supply lines!

And in the interim, its expansion has been notable, rapid and astounding. . . . Officers have increased in number and are still coming in. Covering a radius of activity of 20 square miles, from one end of the island to the other, it includes many outlying areas. Its equipment has multiplied in number and its transportation facilities have been improved.

Besides its singular tasks of catering to the Fleet as a source of supply, the Depot has undertaken work that

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merits mention — salvaging dunnage, renovating winter clothing, and a material recovery unit which are destined to save the Navy Department thousands of dollars; training of hatchmen and winchmen who are assigned to ships as they proceed to forward areas.

In addition, it studies and adopts new methods of work and equipment; constructs its storehouses which spring up like mushrooms overnight in outlying areas, produces its own coffee and is rapidly rounding up its working program (*The Messenger* July 1944: 3).

The cover drawing of that July 1944 NSD newsletter shows Facility No. 475 as a boxy battleship shooting supplies from a big gun toward the advance bases in the southwest Pacific. The label on the drawing calls the NSD the “secret weapon of the Pacific.” The November 1944 newsletter cover shows NSD as a cornucopia of stores, supplying the road to Tokyo. (Both covers are reproduced in this report.) Varying types of supplies were stored in this building during World War II, as several divisions were juggled and moved in and out of various parts. General stores, clothing, and dry provisions were mentioned in connection with this building in the administrative history of the activity. The first floor was designated for receiving and shipping, the second level became increasingly dedicated to offices for the various divisions of NSD, and the upper decks were for storage (Naval Supply Depot 1945).

After Facility No. 475 was completed in 1942 (Contractors Pacific Naval Air Bases n.d.: A-709), at least two defensive additions were made to the building, a mine and bomb observation station and a gun position. During World War II the structure was painted in camouflage (Naval Facilities Engineering Command Archives 1945), as were several of the structures at Pearl Harbor, in anticipation of another attack.

The WWII gun position on the roof of the building was removed during the 1952 reroofing. The drawing for the reroofing also shows another addition on the roof to be removed. It was called a “training building,” so perhaps was built in WWII to train the hatchmen and winchmen, as mentioned in the quote above. In 1952 a wooden walkway (Facility No. S 798) was built at the third-floor level between Facility Nos. 475 and 474. During WWII a third floor had been added to Facility No. 474; this was removed in 1982, and since then the bridge has not been used. The conveyor part of Facility No. S 798 was added below the walkway about 1964, and a replacement conveyor was installed in 1998 (*Center Relay* 1998: 5). This runs from the second floor of Facility No. 474 to the first floor of Facility No. 475 and is still in use.

A rehabilitation project was completed in 1964 to repair cracks and spalling. Additional renovations occurred in 1980, 1990, and 1996. Renovation of the few remaining historic interior spaces is ongoing.

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Some original doors and hardware remain, including simple wainscoting used in the original command office spaces (Dodge 2003).

Many of the changes to the building cannot be precisely dated. Most of the window replacement projects have been minor ones, undocumented by drawings; but by 1990 at least one-third of the original windows on the first three floors had been replaced. In 1996 the Navy got approval to install bronze-tinted aluminum-framed one-light awning windows on the second floor, to replace the mixture of window types there (Hibbard 1996).

Like the windows, the conversion of interior space from storage to office use has typically been gradual, but sometimes was dramatic. The expansion of office uses into the storehouse space started almost immediately. The original 1941 second-floor plan shows only one small office in half a bay, as on all the upper floors. In the 1942 drawing of the second floor there are three small offices in two bays at the northeast corner. An April 1943 memorandum noted that "to accommodate all activities which must be stationed in the Supply Depot office space on the second floor of Building 475, plans will be instituted as soon as possible to . . . extend the office area . . . [for] an overall expansion of 20 bays" (Gaffney 1943: 13). This order-of-magnitude expansion was necessary because of the growth of Supply Depot office staff during WWII. For example, the Accounting Group of the Naval Supply Depot was not even established until July 1944, when it had 15 personnel, yet in less than 13 months expanded to a staff of 73 by the end of the war. This group was located in the rear of the second floor of Facility No. 475, which was "close to other departments of the NSD," and to the card-punch accounting machines installed in March 1945 (Naval Supply Depot 1945). The Public Works Division of the NSD also had its offices in this building. A September 1945 list shows that less than 10,000 s.f. of the second deck was used for storage while three-quarters of the 48,000 s.f. on this floor was used for offices. In the early post-WWII years storage space was converted not for personnel, whose numbers had shrunk after the war, but for large main-frame computers. In one such conversion, a portion of the third floor was set aside for the installation of IBM computers in 1950. Later office space conversions were probably due to consolidation of supply activity personnel from outlying areas at this building. Many of these office conversion projects are undated. The stair at the east end, between the first and second floors, was added in 1946.

The west end of Facility No. 475, facing the harbor, has the words "FLEET AND INDUSTRIAL / SUPPLY CENTER / 'SERVICE WITH ALOHA' SINCE 1942" attached to three of the upper bands of wall between windows in large black metal letters. The east end of the building, facing parking lots, has smaller letters on lower bands stating "Fleet and / Industrial Supply Center," and in even smaller font "Administrative Offices." Historic photos show that from the 1950s until

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the late 1990s, the signs were similar to the existing ones, but "Naval Supply Center" was the name instead of "Fleet and Industrial Supply Center." The building still serves as an active storage and office facility.

Sources:

The original drawings for this building are on microfiche cards at the Plan Files of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific, under numbers M-N06-260, -261, -262, -263, -278, -279 -280, -360, and -408, and Y&D numbers 179937 through 179951. Renovation drawings include Y&D numbers 516546, 977535-977542, 1038261, and 7029373 through 7029385.

Center Relay

1996 "The Most Spectacular Engineering Job in Hawaii's History," Special Edition, August 15, 1996, of Fleet and Industrial Supply Center newsletter.

1998 "33-Year Old Tote Pan Conveyor Replaced," Sept. 18, 1998 edition of Fleet and Industrial Supply Center newsletter.

Contractors Pacific Naval Air Bases

n.d. *Technical Report and Project History, Contracts NOy-3550 and NOy-4173*, on microfiche at library of Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific.

Dodge, Jeffrey

2003 Comments by Historic Architect with Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawaii on draft HABS report.

Gaffney, J.J. (Captain)

1943 Memorandum dated 6 April 1943, regarding "Tentative policy – separation of Naval Supply Depot from the Navy Yard," at end of "Yard Supply" report, an undated typescript in the Robert Walden Collection.

Helber Hastert & Fee, Planners

2002 *Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan, Pearl Harbor Naval Complex*. Prepared for Commander, Navy Region Hawaii.

Hibbard, Don

1996 Letter dated February 2, 1996 to Mr. Stanford Yuen, Naval Base Pearl Harbor, regarding replacement of windows in Building 475, from Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

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Naval Facilities Engineering Command Archives

1945 Kidder-Smith Photo Collection, historic photos of Facility No. 475 (numbers N191-3, N191-2, N191-5, and N195-12) at Port Hueneme, California.

Naval Supply Depot

1945 World War II Administrative History of the Naval Supply Depot, Vol. III / Pearl Harbor, T.H. Accounting Group section of unpaginated typescript in Significant Supply Department Records, 1942-1945, Box 2; Records of the Supply Officer, Fourteenth Naval District, RG 181; National Archives and Records Administration, San Bruno, California.

The Messenger

1944 "NSD Stores Personnel at 475," and "NSD On its First Birthday: Expansion – Sudden, Rapid," April 1944 and July 1944 editions, respectively, of the Naval Supply Depot, Pearl Harbor newsletter.

U.S. Navy, Bureau of Yards and Docks

1947 *Building the Navy's Bases in World War II*, Volume II. United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC.

Yard Supply

[1945] Anonymous and undated typescript, titled "Yard Supply" -- a report prepared at the end of WWII, in the Robert F. Walden Collection, donated to the University of Hawaii library.

Project Information: Replacement of windows in this building, and in two other similar ones nearby (Facility Nos. 474 and 479), has been proposed by the Navy, to meet anti-terrorism/force protection (AT/FP) requirements. 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. This report was prepared under a Historic Preservation Services contract (N62742-97-D-3502) awarded to AMEC Earth and Environmental, the prime contractor, by the U.S. Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific. The contract was funded through the Cultural Resources Program of COMNAVREG Hawaii. The photographic documentation was undertaken by David Franzen, of Franzen Photography. Location maps were made by Nestor Beltran of NAB Graphics. Between 1999 and 2001, the field work and the draft of this report were done by Dot Dye, AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc. The report was rewritten in 2006 by Mason Architects, Inc.

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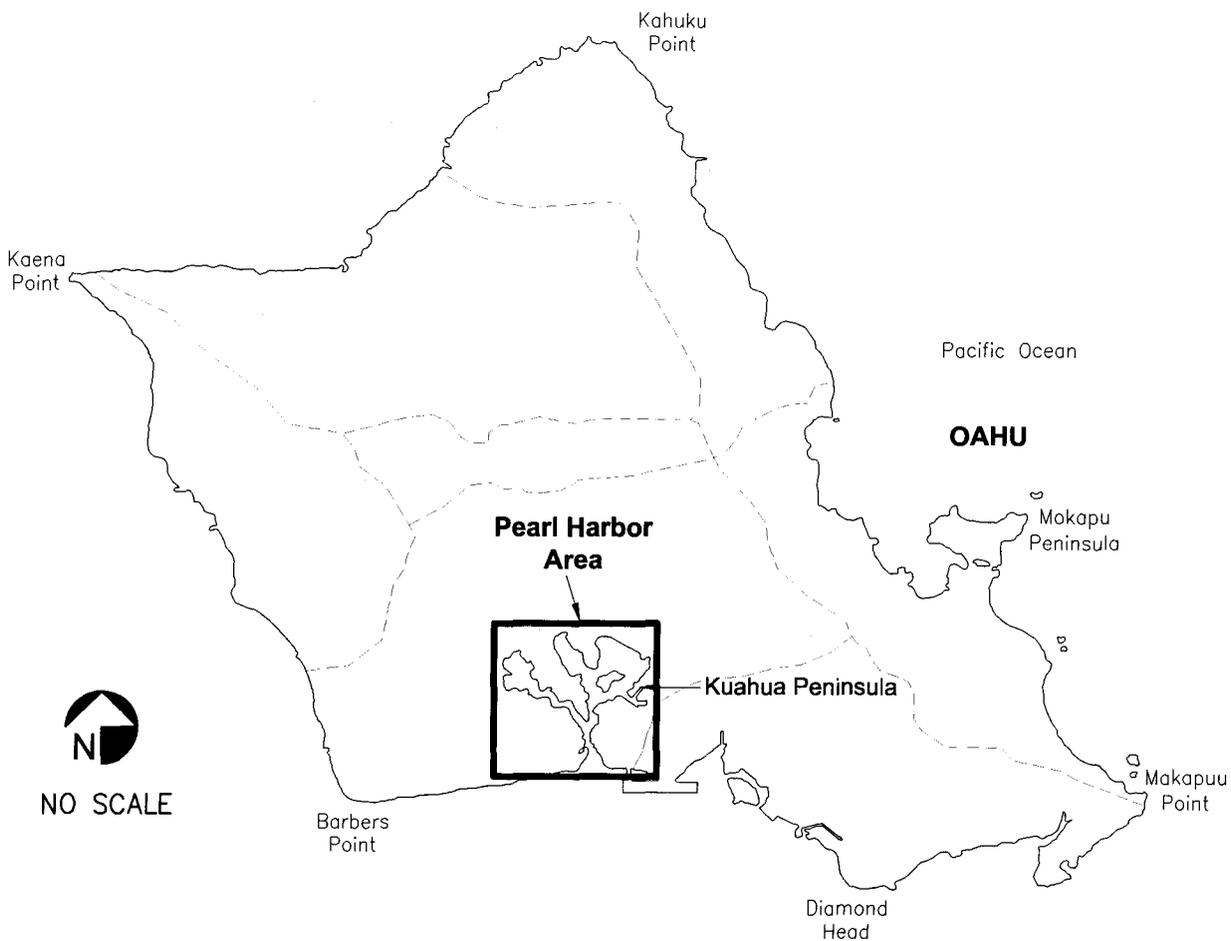
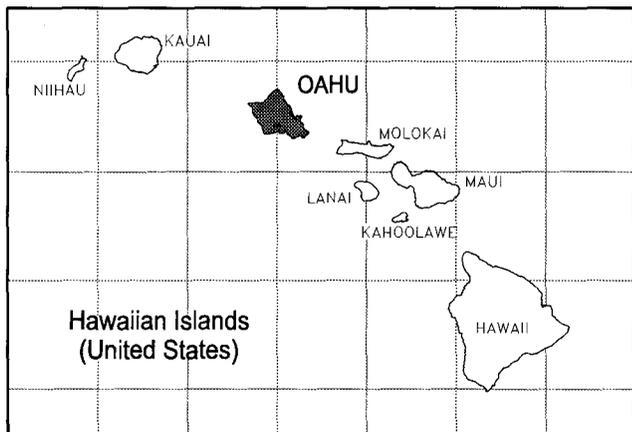
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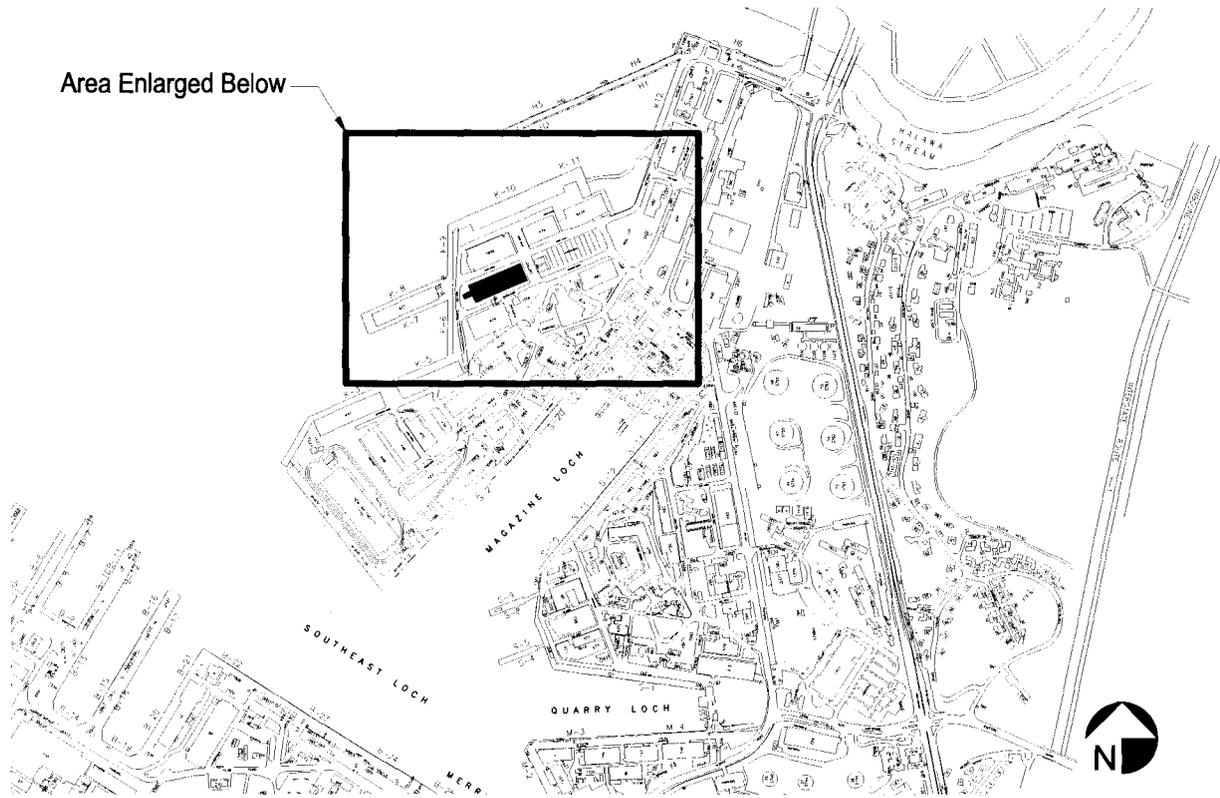
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Date of Final Report: April 2006

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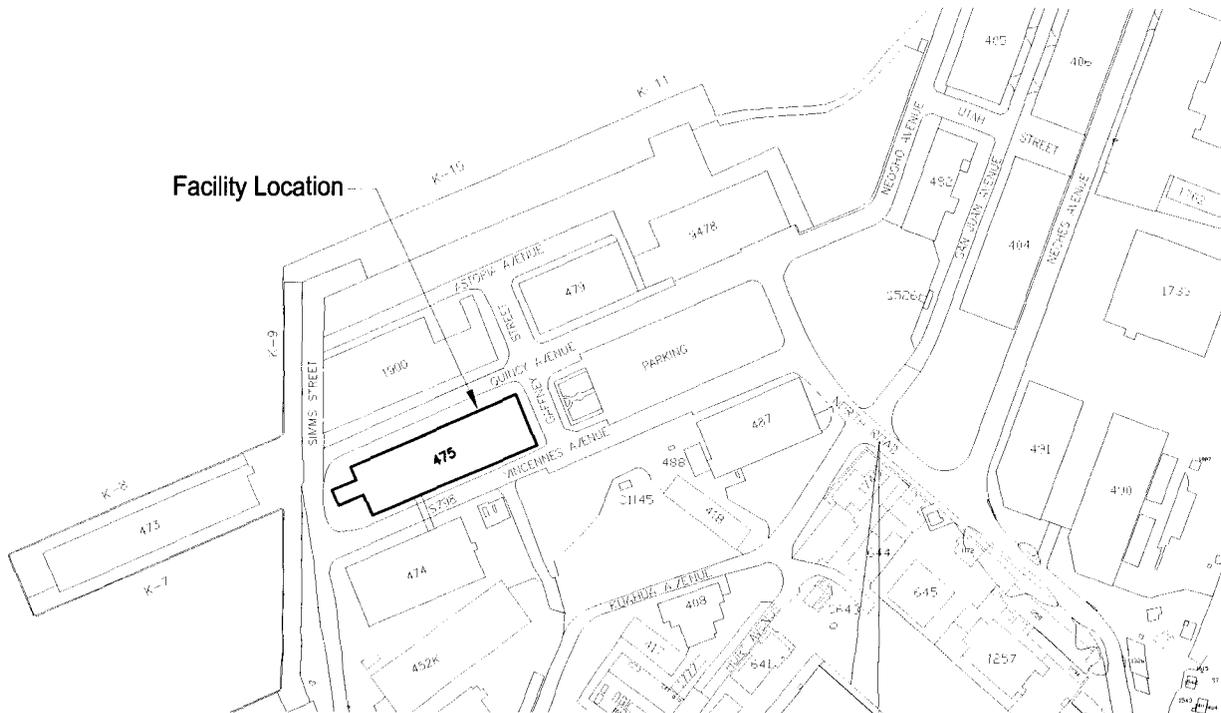


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Vicinity Map

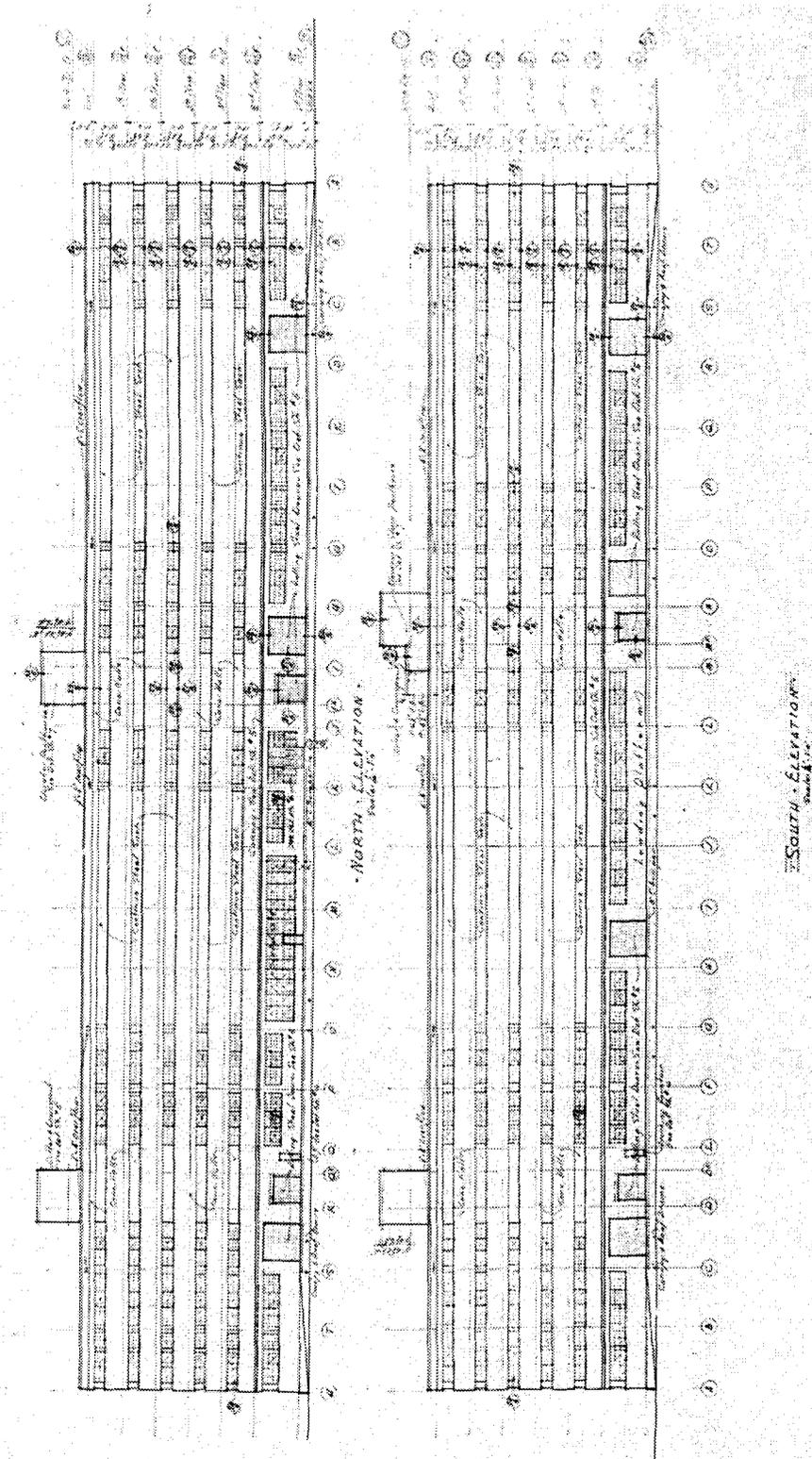
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Site Map

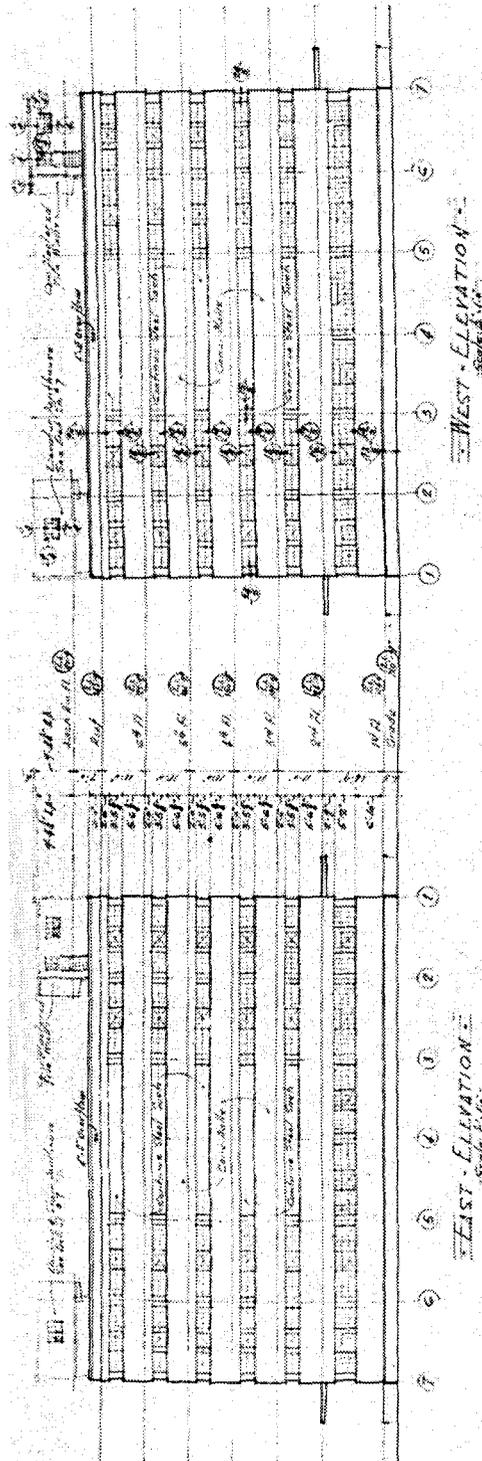
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Portion of Drawing No. 179937, dated November 25, 1941 (North and South elevations)



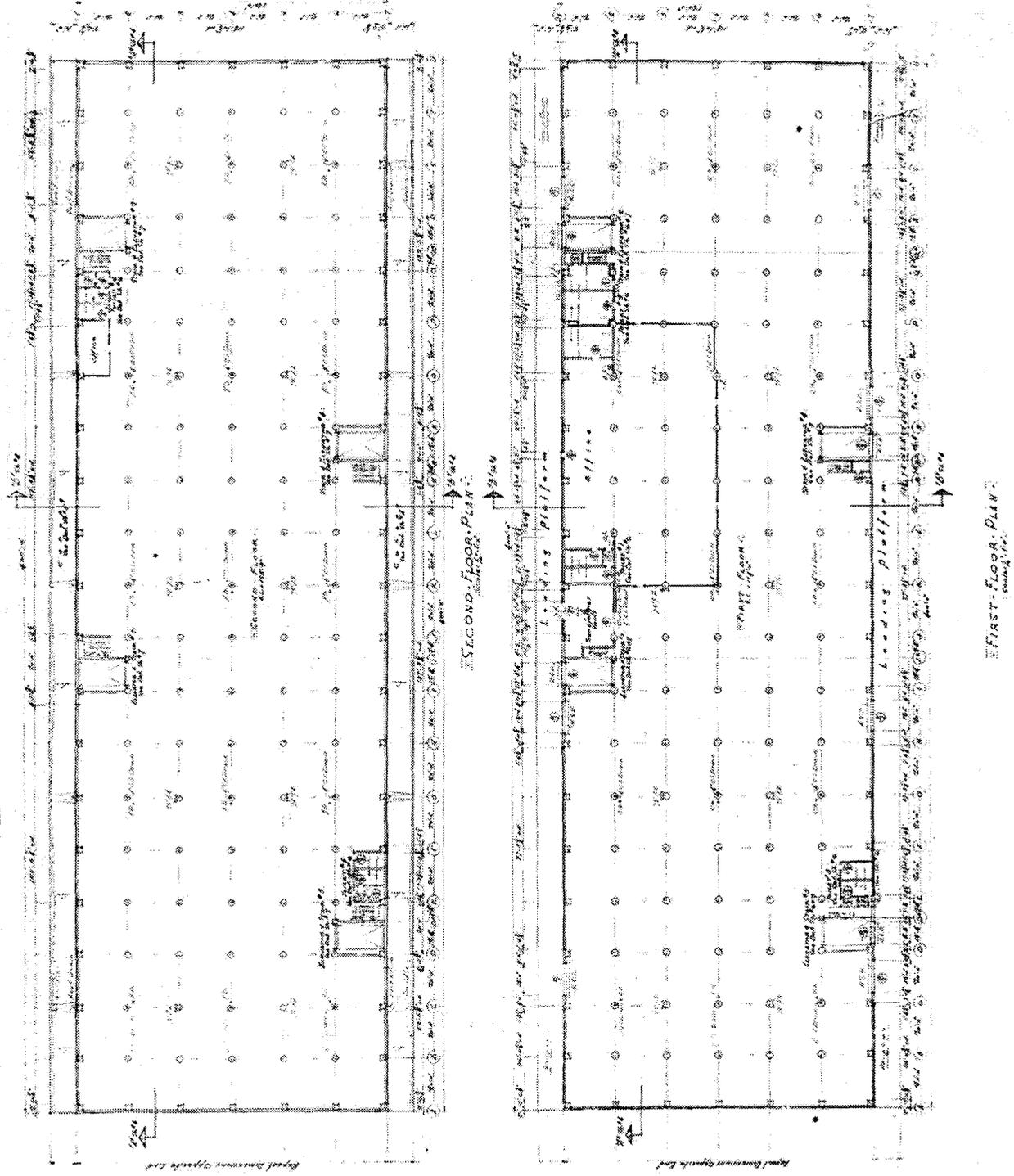
U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, SIX-STORY GENERAL STOREHOUSE
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Portion of Drawing No. 179937, dated November 25, 1941 (East and West elevations)



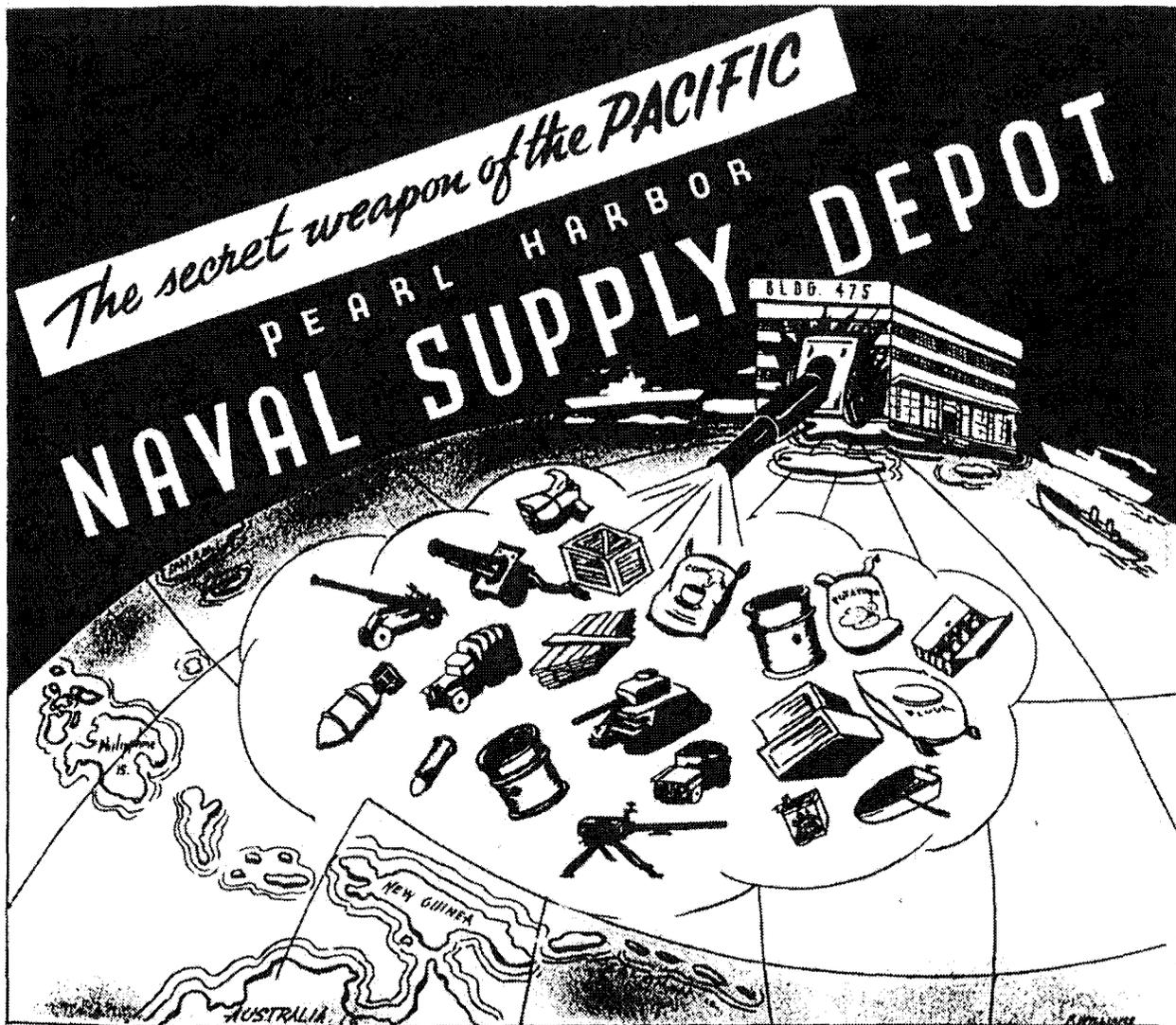
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Drawing No. 179938, dated November 25, 1941 (First- and Second-floor plans)



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