

U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, WELDING SLAB  
(U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Shipyard, Facility No. S1161)  
Intersection of Avenue G & Third Street  
Pearl Harbor  
Honolulu County  
Hawaii

HABS HI-512

HI-512

HABS

HI-512

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
PACIFIC GREAT BASIN SUPPORT OFFICE

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1111 Jackson Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### U.S. NAVAL BASE, PEARL HARBOR, WELDING SLAB (U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Naval Shipyard) (Facility No. S 1161)

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HI-512  
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- Location:** Intersection of Avenue G and Third Street  
Pearl Harbor Naval Base  
City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii
- This building is at the UTM coordinates 04.607530.2361220 and is within the boundaries of the Pearl Harbor, Naval Shipyard as defined in the location section of the overview report HI-483.
- Significance:** Facility S1161 is an intact example of a type of large welding slab built in the 1940s. It is associated with the expansion of the Shipyard area during World War II. It is located within the Pearl Harbor National Historic Landmark.
- Description:** Facility S1161 is a ground level rectangular slab that measures 252' x 83'. Resting on a slab-on-grade concrete foundation, the welding slab is enclosed at all sides by a chain link and barbed wire fence that stands at least 8' high. Facility S1161 is constructed of 3½" steel bars that are extruded in the shape of hat channels. These channels appear to be imbedded in concrete to create alternating rows of concrete and steel bars that span the 83'-0" width of the slab. The spacing between the steel bars varies from an average distance of 2'-2½" to 9½" at the north end of the slab. While there are no drawings or photographs to verify the construction method of the slab, it is also theorized that the steel bars may have just been bolted (secured) to the ground and then filled in on each side with poured concrete to give the illusion that the steel is imbedded in the concrete.
- Historical Context:** This facility, S1161, was originally constructed to serve as a large welding slab area for the Shipyard at Naval Station Pearl Harbor during World War II. The welding slab was built between June 30, 1943 and January 1, 1944. Maps with those dates show the conditions in the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard and document the appearance of the slab.
- Although constructed during World War II, the welding slab, as part of additions to the structural shop area, had been planned several years earlier. A letter dated 1937 from the Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks to the Chief of Naval Operations details a number of improvements at Pearl Harbor that were thought to be important in "the establishment of new naval bases and the strengthening of existing bases in the Pacific" (Moreell). It was proposed that the structural shop area for the metal trades, represented in part by the welding slab area, be increased eleven-fold from its 1937 size. This

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increase would "take care only of the peacetime needs of the Fleet. Wartime overloads would have to be taken care of by 3-shift work" (Moreell). The Facility S1161 welding slab portion of this projected increase was not undertaken before the Pearl Harbor attack.

The original slab that was constructed in 1943 was nearly two times larger than its current size. With military downsizing and improved technology over the years the use and need for such a large welding slab area declined. As a result in 1976-77 the eastern half of the welding slab and its surrounding fence were removed. This portion of the original slab is now a parking area for nearby facilities in the Shipyard. The original part of the welding slab that is still intact is now used as a storage area for staging material and parts utilized by the Navy.

The only two drawings for this facility are a location plan from 1944 and a demolition plan from 1977. Located in the west area of the Shipyard, this facility is closest in proximity to Facility 214A and S340.

For an overview of the Naval Shipyard see HABS No. HI-483.

**Sources:**

Moreel, B. Letter to the Chief of Naval Operations. January or February 1937. From NAVFAC Archives, Port Hueneme, Pearl Harbor folder.

NAVFACPAC: Plan Files.

Drawing showing Facility S1161 number I-N2-115. 1944.

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. Partial demolition plan. From the files of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. 1977.

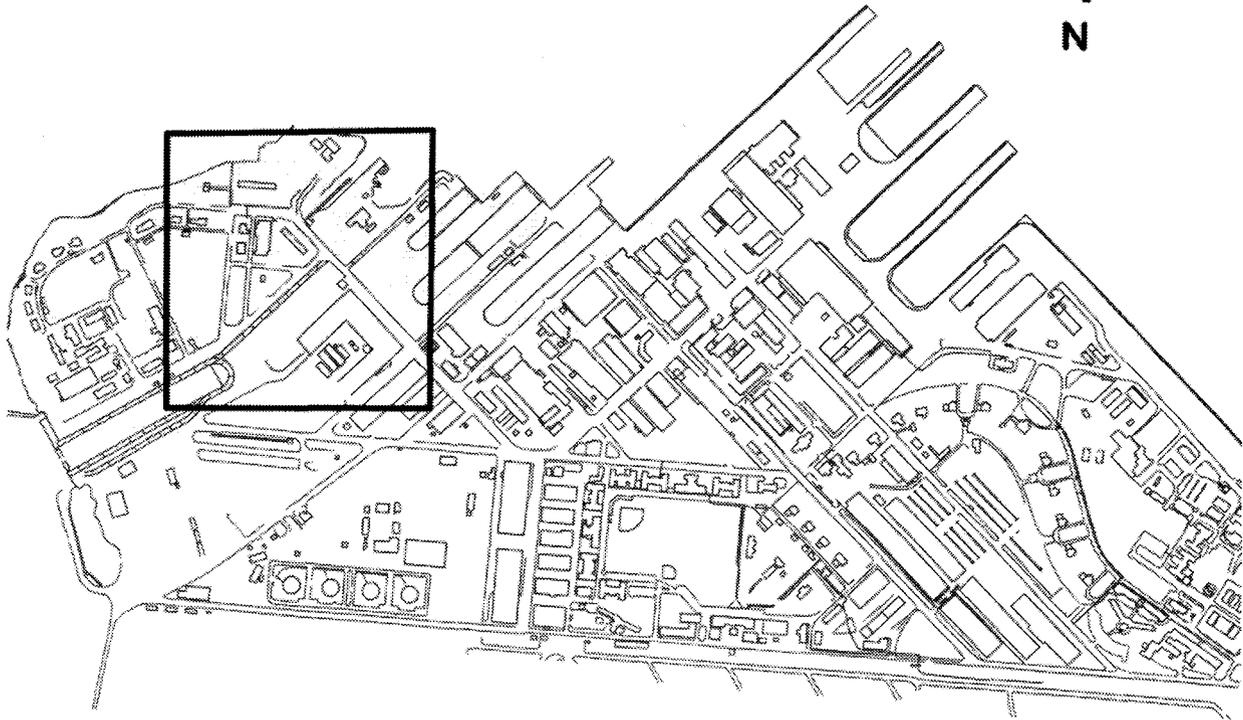
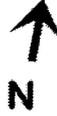
**Project Information:**

Photo documentation and recordation of this facility by the Navy has been done in anticipation of future alterations or potential demolition of the structure. Photo documentation of historic facilities by the Navy assists in expediting planned undertakings by having the documentation prepared prior to taking actions. Also, photo documentation assists the Navy in gaining more information about its historic facilities to assist in making proactive management decisions. This project is being supervised by Jeffrey Dodge A.I.A., Historical Architect NAVFAC Hawaii. The photographic documentation was undertaken by David Franzen, photographer. Joanmarie N. Orlovski Architectural Historian, of Mason Architects, Inc. prepared the written documentation. The field work and research was conducted for this report between July 2001 and December 2001.

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**Shipyard Map**

**SEE ENLARGED MAP**





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Fourth Street (Avenue G to Avenue H) Plan and Profile (Drawing No. I-N2-115,  
dated 5/8/1944) (reduced, not to scale)

