

Hamilton Field, Commissary
(Facility No. 802)
State Access Road east of Nave Drive
Novato
Marin County
California

HABS No. CA-2398-AU

HABS
CAL
21-NOVA,
IAU-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

HAMILTON FIELD
Commissary
(Facility No. 802)

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HABS No. CA-2398-AU

Location: Hamilton Army Air Field
Novato, Marin County, California
Commissary
Facility No. 802 (State Access Road east of Nave Drive)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/4212220;
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

Significance:

Building 802 is considered significant for its association with Air Force history in northern California, and with World War II actions in the Pacific Theater. This building was added to the base during World War II when operations there were greatly expanded.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

Description:

This is a one-story, cross-gable frame building with horizontal board siding and concrete floor and pier foundation. It measures 132 feet by 41 feet. Siding is horizontal board clad with asbestos shingles that were added in the 1950s. The south facing gable is a very low-pitched gambrel roof and a single-light fixed window flanked by one- over one-light double hung wood sash windows. The east and west facing gables have louvers, and there is a shed-roofed extension below the gable at the east end of the building. All roofs are covered with composition shingles. Fenestration consists of six- over six-light and eight- over eight-light double hung wood sash.

Access to the primary entrances on the east and west elevations is provided via concrete stoops; there is a bay on the south side. Exterior doors are solid core wood with four lights above three recessed panels. Fenestration consists of wood single-light sash windows; the exception is the south bay which has a large window flanked by sash windows.

The interior is divided into a kitchen, snack room, offices, pantry and bathroom. Floors are tongue and groove wood covered with eight-inch-square vinyl asphalt tiles. Walls are gypsum board with horizontal board wainscoting, now painted white. A large open storage

area, added onto the structure, has unpainted 11-inch-wide knotty pine wainscoting, 46 inches high. Ceilings are suspended acoustical tiles. Original lights are present in the corridor and are "schoolhouse" type with milk glass globes, mounted on the ceiling. Newer fixtures are eight-foot long two-tube fluorescent suspended from the ceiling. Heating is provided by a free-standing gas heater.

Two latrines, one designated for men and the other for women, are located at the western end of the building. Each contains a "Standard" flush valve toilet and a ceramic wall-mounted sink with a mirror.

Historical Context:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section 8 in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

Built in 1943 as part of war time expansion, Facility 802 was initially a commissary that served the families housed in nearby Lanham Housing. It is now used as offices and a snack bar by U. S. Navy personnel. The building is included in Navy base closure actions.

Sources:

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section 8 in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

See the project Field Record, roll 90, exposures 9-12; roll 96, exposures 11-12; and roll 97, exposures 1-2.

The line drawn sketches were drafted on site in 1994 by Keith Syda, scanned into a computer and drawn by Christopher MacDonald in 1995, and corrected and finalized by Claire Warshaw in 1996 (all PAR Environmental Services, Inc. staff).

Project Information:

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

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