



Ford Island houses in 1995; virtually no changes since 1936.

integral portion of the cultural landscape of Ford Island. Located in Battleship Row is the USS Arizona Memorial. Not only is this a solemn reminder to her lost crew, but it is a time marker signifying the ending of the era of battleships and the beginning of the reign of naval airpower. Just before arriving at the ferry landing, visitors will pass the boat house, still in operation today, that has been in use since 1935. The gray utility boats, although maybe not all original, are of the same style that traditionally have operated in the harbor. It is a utilitarian, vernacular style of harbor vessel.



Single-wall, wood-framed, Hawaiian plantation style houses constructed in 1922.

Ford Island is the residence for 39 military families who live in wood-framed, Hawaiian plantation style houses that were built in 1922 and 1936. These homes have retained their historic integrity. In addition to family quarters are the working buildings of the former naval air station, Ford Island's original naval mission. These structures have preserved the vernacular, non-styled institutional buildings that were commonly found on naval stations in the early half of this century. The combinations of these structures, the houses, service ramps for the seaplanes that once occupied the air station, hangers and other service buildings, not only provide reminders of the history of

Photos this page courtesy the author.

the island, but they also represent vernacular military service buildings that performed myriad functions. Their silhouettes all contribute to the cultural landscape of the island, especially as seen from the mainside areas of Pearl Harbor, Pearl City, and Aiea.

Ford Island represents the most intact cultural landscape within Pearl Harbor. Since its original development in the 1930s, it has escaped much of time's evolution for six decades, thus allowing us to experience some of the feelings from a past time. This is about to change as a bridge will be constructed in 1996, that will for the first time provide a physical linkage between Ford Island and the mainland of O'ahu. This bridge will interrupt the view from the shore to the island, altering its cultural landscape. The view from the USS Arizona Memorial will also be altered. The addition of the bridge will also cause changes to the lifestyle of those that live or work on Ford Island. No longer will the ferries be used and now the island will be accessible to more vehicular traffic. Noise and motion will increase; the sounds of the cultural environment will change. The building of the bridge is the forerunner of further construction on Ford Island for increased housing needs. Even though the plans provide for leaving the present historical buildings in place, the community as has existed, a community based on its own traditions and cultural landscape, will no longer exist. It is the environment and the non-tangible aspects of sounds and senses that will be drastically altered. It will be harder, if even possible, to feel the same historical sentiment. The alteration of Ford Island is the dilemma that the historic preservationist must weigh against the operating needs of the naval base.

#### Notes

- 1 The customary naval tradition of referring to ships in the female gender is used here.
- 2 *Submerged Cultural Resources Study: USS Arizona Memorial and Pearl Harbor National Historic Landmark*. Second Edition. Edited by Daniel J. Lenihan. Southwest Cultural Resource Center Professional Papers No. 23. Santa Fe, New Mexico (1990).
- 3 *Historic Preservation Plan for National Historic Landmark, U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor*. Commander U. S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, Ser 184, April 18, 1978. This plan is being revised.

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## Historic Military Properties in the Pacific

*The Midway power plant, designed with 6'-thick concrete roof, was one of the buildings hit during the Japanese shelling of the atoll on December 7, 1941. Photo by Augie Salbosa.*

*All photographs taken for Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command.*

*The revetments at marine Corps Air Station Ewa (now part of Naval Air Station Barbers Point) were built after the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941. A total of 75 of these protective structures for aircraft were constructed in anticipation of another attack. Photo by David Franzen.*

**I**n one way or another the entire nation was involved in the battles of World War II and over 300,000 U.S. citizens gave up their lives for this effort. Despite this commitment, and unlike participating countries in Europe, Asia, and Africa, the contiguous 48 states went through the war untouched by the battles and carnage of that war. Our cities were not bombed and our lands were not seized anywhere in the country—except in our Pacific territories. Even in the territories there remains little evidence of the war except on American military bases. As a result, these Pacific properties of the U.S. hold a special place in our country's heritage. In addition, the United States currently uses military bases in Japan that were important to that country before and during World War II.

Cultural Resource Management Plans and/or Cultural Resource inventories for most of these sites in the Pacific have been undertaken during the last five years, partly as a result of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and money that became available through the Defense Department's Legacy Program. These bases include those occupying nearly one-third of the island of Guam, all major military bases in Hawai'i, the island of Tinian, Midway Atoll, and several bases in Japan.

Despite the need to continually modernize military facilities to meet contemporary defense needs, these bases generally contain large numbers of extant structures built prior to the end of the war. The installations fall into three basic groups, based on their involvement in World War II.

The first group is composed of those bases that existed before December 7, 1941, and were attacked by the Japanese. These attacks were the direct cause of America's entry into the war.



In Hawai'i, these bases include, in addition to Pearl Harbor, the Marine Corps Air Station site at Naval Air Station (NAS) Barbers Point, Hickam Air Force Base, Wheeler Air Force Base, Schofield Barracks, Fort Shafter and Marine Corps Base at Kaneohe Bay (a naval air station at the time). Midway was attacked by Japanese forces on December 7, 1941, and was also involved in the Battle of Midway from June 3–5, 1942, considered a key turning point in the Pacific war. In each of these cases, the buildings involved in the Japanese attack are generally treated as significant historic structures.

The second category of bases were those whose buildings were mostly built after 1941 to accommodate the general military build-up. In Hawai'i, these include a base on the island of Kaua'i, and NAS Barbers Point, and a communications station on O'ahu. These bases played



important supporting roles in World War II and in the later Cold War period.

Most of the military bases on Guam fall into this second category. The U.S. detachment on Guam was attacked and overrun by Japanese forces in the 10 days following their December 8, 1941 invasion of the island. Although none of the buildings built by pre-World War II American forces are extant, Japanese-built fortifications exist from their 2-1/2 year occupation period and there are many buildings constructed by American forces shortly after the recapture of the island by Allies in 1944.

Many of the bases in the Pacific Islands were important as forward bases for Allied advances through the Pacific. They were developed strikingly quickly. Guam's population went from a pre-invasion level of about 40,000 people to over 260,000 in the space of six months. Just the development of infrastructure capable of supporting that many people in that period of time is notable.

The buildings on the Guam military bases constructed during the years of the war are wood or metal structures erected by Construction Battalion forces, and were usually meant to be temporary. Although most of these have been replaced, many still remain, including Quonset huts, Armco huts, offices, warehouses, and wood housing units. After the end of hostilities on the island, private contractors came in to continue the development of the forward bases.

The bases on Guam's neighboring island of Tinian were abandoned almost immediately after the conclusion of World War II. After the War, Tinian was deactivated and the metal buildings were sold as scrap. Today, what remains of Tinian's World War II-era buildings are mainly ruins, including many non-military buildings of Japanese origin dating from the 15+ years Tinian was used as a sugar plantation by the Japanese. Some of these ruins on Tinian will be forever important for their association with the construction and loading of the only atomic bombs ever dropped on human beings.

The third category of bases include those on foreign soil, particularly those that were formerly Japanese serving as military installations. These bases were appropriated by the Americans in the days immediately following Japan's surrender. Two of those bases, at Yokosuka and Sasebo, were among Japan's most important naval bases. Built by the

Japanese as they began to enter the modern world after years of isolation, some buildings still in use on these bases date back to at least 1888.

This last category of historically-important bases presents a challenging evaluation problem for the architectural historian. American preservation law prohibits actual listing of properties on the National Register, or even a determination of Register eligibility, if they are located on foreign land. The properties on these bases are supposed to be evaluated using whatever environmental standard is the most stringent. Although this usually turns out to be the United States' regulations, familiarity with the host nation's regulations is necessary to thoroughly evaluate the properties on the bases.

Since most of the important buildings at Yokosuka and Sasebo were built and used by the Japanese before and during the War, expertise in Japanese military architectural history is vital to the evaluation of the buildings. As important, if not more so, is the perspective of a Japanese national in placing these buildings in the context of their own experiences. As a result, our office hired Professor Emeritus Teijiro Muramatsu of Tokyo University to provide us that expertise and perspective during our work on those bases.

Although the historic sites located at bases on foreign soil cannot be listed on the National Register, the Management Plans treat them as historic sites, with the U.S. as custodian of those properties for the time we use them. All buildings on these bases are owned by the host nation. It is natural, then, that any changes to those sites are supposed to be approved by local Japanese authorities. The Status of Forces Agreement, which contains the Overseas Environmental Guidelines Document, reinforces these relationships.

For years, the greatest stress on historic military properties came from adaptations of the bases that were necessary to maintain a modern military

*This 1927 brick and concrete building was originally one of the main headquarters buildings of the Imperial Japanese Navy at Yokosuka Naval Base, with a war room on the second floor. Currently U.S. Navy officers occupy the first floor, and the second-floor room, with its exposed steel roof trusses, is still a large gathering space. Photo by Katharine Bouthillier.*





*This cave is part of the Hajima (Namashima) Battery Site at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, dating between 1890 and 1915. The battery is listed as a prefectural cultural asset. Photo by Katharine Bouthillier.*



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force. Today, the greatest stress comes from the base closures that are occurring in the Pacific, as they are in the rest of the United States. The Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC) will result in the closure of Midway and NAS Barbers Point in Hawai'i and the return of thousands of acres of land on Guam to the Guam government. These actions involve literally hundreds of historic buildings and archeological sites. The bases located on populated islands like O'ahu in Hawai'i or Guam are experiencing the same analysis and negotiation processes that many communities throughout the United States have gone through. In these cases, appropriate new uses for the historic buildings on those bases can be found.

The Midway example, however, is very different. This isolated island will be literally abandoned, to be used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a wildlife sanctuary. The presence of

buildings, historic or not, creates conflicts with the future primary mission of the atoll. These conflicts are made all the more acute by the remoteness and environment of the site. The compromises necessary to fulfill the new mission of the atoll and still preserve the important historic sites on it are still being crafted.

The resources contained in the many U.S. military bases in the Pacific are unique. In many cases, the only extant structures representing the World War II period are on military property. Even the Asan and Agat landing beaches on Guam, which are administered by the National Park Service as the War in the Pacific National Historical Park, have few structures within these park areas. Whether the uses of the military-controlled sites are changed due to the BRAC or the bases continue to operate, the inventories and management plans prepared for these bases are vital to the preservation of a legacy unique in the world.

#### **Suggested Readings**

- Costello, John. *The Pacific War* (New York: Rawson, Wade, 1981).
- Dower, John W. *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1986).
- Slackman, Michael. *Target: Pearl Harbor* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1990).

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