



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARMY HONORED FOR PRESERVING ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii—At the height of WWII, with the war raging at its peak, something unusual was happening near Fort Shafter. Local workers were building an oasis in the heart of the industrial munitions-production installation known as the Hawaiian Ordnance Depot.

Today, nearly 70 years later, the Historic Hawaii Foundation, or HHF, is recognizing the rehabilitation and restoration of that historic oasis, Building 330, known commonly as the “Aloha Center,” as one of the recipient’s of its 2012 Preservation Awards.

HHF presented U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, or USAG-HI; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District; and small business contractor Alutiiq-Mele, LLC with the award at the 37th Annual Preservation Honor Awards ceremony, May 11, in Honolulu.

The awards are Hawaii’s highest recognition of projects supporting the state’s architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage, according to an HHF [release](#).

The Building 330 rehabilitation and restoration effort was a nearly two-year, \$7 million effort to preserve Army and Hawaii cultural heritage, and also an investment in sustainability, according to Ken Hays, architectural historian, Cultural Resources Program, USAG-HI. Hays’ job is to protect the historic properties on Hawaii’s Army installations and ensure compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

“It sounds like a lot of money, but when you consider a building that’s been around for 60 some years, and now it’s set for another 30 or 50 years, I think the investment is really worth it,” he said, adding that much of the cost came from bringing the building up to current security requirements.

Today the building is much stronger than it was in the 40s, but still looks much the same. The team took great care preserving the details—from the original windows and doors, to the siding, roof and paint colors.

“There was a lot of thought put into the building’s design, and that’s why we put the effort back into it,” Hays said. “(Building 330) is really one of our best designed buildings at Fort Shafter ... It has a refinement to it, and a beauty,” he added.

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AWARD 2-2-2

The building was built as the headquarters for the Hawaiian Ordnance Depot. It was the work of famous Hawaii landscape architect Robert O. Thompson, whose other projects included Tripler Army Medical Center, Doris Duke's Shangri La, the Governor's mansion Washington Place, and Punchbowl Cemetery of the Pacific.

Thompson's touches on Building 330 included the use of special molds to make the concrete walls look more like a brick building; large, plentiful windows for natural lighting and ventilation; a courtyard; outdoor hallways; and a formal flowering garden complete with trellises adorned with flowering vines.

Quality of life was just as important then as it is today. Everything was beautiful and green to promote a healthy working environment, Hays pointed out, right down to the outdoor hallways that are typical Hawaii design.

"You didn't stay cooped up all day. You had to go outside to see someone down the hall, and when you did, you could enjoy the garden," he said.

The Army still has copies of the original design and planting plan. While grass now covers most of the property, originally plants like honeysuckle, white ginger, star jasmine and philodendron adorned the grounds.

"Now if only we could get a garden club to recreate the grounds, we'd have another masterpiece on our hands," Hays sighed with a smile.

Building 330 is USAG-HI's tenth project to receive HHF recognition. This year the Army also received a Centennial Recognition for Battery Randolph in Waikiki.

– MORE/IMAGES –

AWARD 3-3-3



Photo1.HHFaward.BldgFront: The Historic Hawaii Foundation, or HHF, recognized the Army's rehabilitation and restoration of historic Building 330 on Fort Shafter with a preservation award during its 37th Annual Preservation Honor Awards ceremony, May 11, in Honolulu. After an approximately two-year rehabilitation and renovation effort, the building looks the same as it did back in the 1940s.

Photo credit: U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii



Photo2.HHFaward.BldgSide: The Royal Palms along the side of historic Building 330 at Fort Shafter were the design of famous Hawaii landscape architect Robert O. Thompson in the 1940s. U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District, took care to protect the palms during the rehabilitation of Building 330, as they were part of the original design plans.

Photo credit: U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii

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AWARD 4-4-4

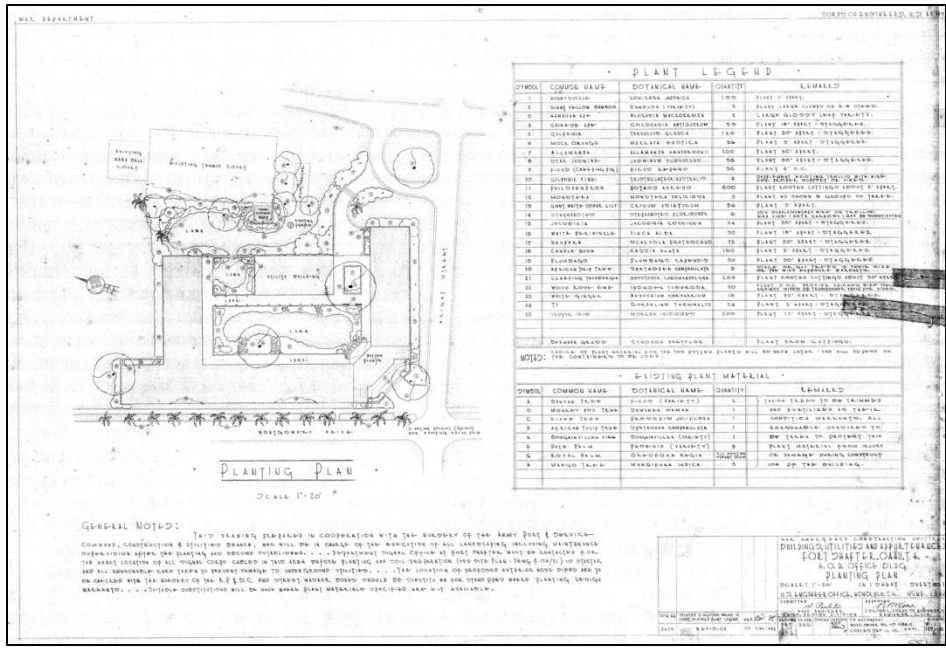


Photo3.HHFaward.PlantPlan: Historic Building 330 at Fort Shafter was the work of famous Hawaii landscape architect Robert O. Thompson from the 1940s. Today, the Army still has copies of the original design and planting plan, which featured a formal garden to enhance the quality of life and working environment during the height of WWII.

Photo credit: U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii



Photo4.HHFaward.BldgRehab: A team of U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii’s Cultural Resources staff; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District; and small business contractor Alutiq-Mele, LLC tackled years of termite damage to rehabilitate and renovate historic Building 330 on Fort Shafter. The building was originally built as the headquarters for the Hawaiian Ordnance Depot and was uniquely designed, balancing modernism and old Hawaiiana architectural styles.

Photo credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District

AWARD 5-5-5



Photo5.HHFaward.BldgInside: During the rehabilitation of historic Building 330 at Fort Shafter, Army staff focused on preserving the building's historic integrity, to include original paint colors and window designs, while also bringing the building up to current security requirements. The result is a functional historic building for current and future users.

Photo credit: U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii