**Form No. 10-300**, Family 10-741

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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN "HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS"

**TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**

---

**1 NAME**

**HISTORIC**

Pearl Harbor

AND/OR COMMON

U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor; Pearl Lochs, Pearl River; Pu'u-loa.

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**2 LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER**

South coast of Oahu Island; eight miles west of Honolulu

**CITY. TOWN**

Honolulu

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**3 CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
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<td>X_OCCUPIED</td>
<td>X_MUSEUM</td>
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<td>_UNOCCUPIED</td>
<td>_COMMERCIAL</td>
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<td>ACCESSIBLE</td>
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<td>_GOVERNMENT</td>
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<td>_BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>_YES: UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>_SCIENTIFIC</td>
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<td>_NO</td>
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<td>Conservation</td>
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</table>

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**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**NAME**

U.S. Navy, Department of Defense

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**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.**

Real Estate Division, Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

**STREET & NUMBER**

FPO 96610

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**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE**

National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, John A. Hussey, Regional Historian

**DATE**

July 19, 1962

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, USDI, Washington, D.C.

**CITY. TOWN**

"Pearl Harbor is a double estuary formed by the 'drowning' of the valley of the Pearl River, so named because pearl oysters once abounded there. The ancient Hawaiians believed it was the home of the shark goddess, Kaahupahua. This fine harbor was known to early traders, but almost no use was made of it because a coral reef across the entrance blocked access by vessels drawing more than 10 feet of water. Yet its potential value was early recognized. Members of the Wilkes expedition examined it; and in 1845 Lieut. I. W. Curtis, 'an American marine officer,' pointed out the importance of the harbor for defense of the islands." (Hussey 1962)

(1972)
"The initial attempt to cut a deeper channel through the coral reef outside the harbor was made in 1900. The first vessel to enter the harbor was the gunboat USS PETREL, while the first large ship was the armored cruiser, USS CALIFORNIA.

"The Secretary of the Navy was authorized and directed to establish a naval station at Pearl Harbor by the Appropriation Act of 13 May 1908. That same year, the Navy Department engineers surveyed the barren acres to kiawe stubble, burnt cane and coral which were later to become the Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor. The government also let a contract for the dredging of a channel to the harbor in 1908.

"Work on Drydock #1 began in 1911. In February 1913, two years of labor became a mass of wreckage in one fateful minute when the bottom of a crib section failed. Hawaiians claimed that the disaster was the fault of the Mainland engineers, who refused to make the proper sacrifices to the 'shark god,' who made his home in Pearl Harbor. During the rebuilding of the drydock, a Hawaiian construction man is said to have slipped into the Yard in the dead of night to hold the proper ceremony for appeasing the 'shark god.' Due to the religious rites, advanced engineering techniques, or a combination of both, the drydock was completed without incident in 1919. It is still in use today.

"The Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor, grew by leaps and bounds during the next decade. The government began strengthening the base in 1935, and until 1945 there was a continual influx of Mainland workers, which exceeded the 24,000 mark in June 1943.... In 1945, the Navy Yard officially became the Naval Shipyard...an important and formidable center of defense, and a ship repair and fleet maintenance base second to none. It is the largest industrial activity, military or civilian, in the state of Hawaii." (Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Information Booklet, 1972, pp. 3-4.)

In common usage in Hawaii, the place names Pearl Harbor and naval base are interchangeable. Both are legally inexact but generic and popular terms for the inland port and adjacent lands that contain several separate and distinctly
SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

PREHISTORIC
1400-1499
1500-1599
1600-1699
1700-1799
1800-1899
1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC
AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE
ART
COMMERCE
COMMUNICATIONS
COMMUNITY PLANNING
COMMUNITY PLANNING
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
ENGINEERING
ENGINEERING
COMMUNICATIONS
COMMUNICATIONS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
RELIGION
RELIGION
INVENTION
INVENTION

SPECIAL DATES

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(1974)

Pearl Harbor is a large landlocked port which contributed to the rise of the United States as a major world power in the Pacific. Pearl Harbor's mission is support of the fleet, and for most of this century it has sheltered, armed and repaired naval ships, submarines and aircraft. Its mission will continue as long as the fleet exists, needs a protected harbor and Hawaii remains a strategic location. Construction for the base began in 1902 when a channel was dredged to admit deep-draft vessels to the inland anchorage. The United States Navy has regularly modernized the port to maintain its responsibilities for national defense. As naval technology changes, so changes Pearl Harbor's water and land uses, its buildings, structures and facilities for services to the fleet. Because of the effectiveness of Pearl Harbor's mission, the naval base was attacked by aircraft of the Japanese navy on December 7, 1941, an action which caused the United States to enter World War II. The USS Arizona, sunk that day with more than a thousand Americans entombed, is a national memorial and the only part of the active naval base open to the public.

(1972)

"Because of its strategic location, Pearl Harbor has been a key to the development and maintenance of American naval power in the Pacific. The USS California officially opened the base in 1911. In 1916 Pearl Harbor became headquarters of a Naval District and later the command center for the Pacific Fleet. Here Japan struck with a carrier-borne air force on December 7, 1941, catching most of the American fleet at anchor. This attack precipitated the United States into World War II. The USS Arizona, sunk that day with more than 1100 men entombed within, is now a memorial to all those who gave their lives at Pearl Harbor. The shrine on the ship's superstructure, which alone remains above water, is reached by motor launch." (The National Register of Historic Places, 1972, USGPO, Washington, p.120.)

(1962)

"Significance: The splendid, landlocked anchorage at Pearl Harbor was one of the principal reasons for early United States interest in Hawaii, and undoubtedly the strategic importance of this bay was a factor leading to annexation. The possession of the harbor and the development of a naval base and headquarters there
**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

See Continuation Sheet

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4,599; water: 8,508; Total: 13,107.

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**FORM PREPARED BY**

Amended by Benjamin Levy, Historian, Historic Sites Survey Division, May 1978

Russell A. Apple, Pacific Historian

National Park Service, State Director's Office

February 8, 1974

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 512

Honolulu

Hawaii

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated under the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Boundary Justification. On the basis that a fundamental quality which defines the
U.S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor as a national historic landmark was its historic
function (as an active naval base with mission to support the U.S. fleet) that was
performed to date and continues in the 20th century; as well as the attack on
December 7, 1941; then the boundaries of the landmark include those water and land
areas historically, intimately and directly associated with that function and action.
These boundary criteria exclude much of the land areas added pursuant to this
function during World War II. Portions of land areas added during World War II are
now being diverted piecemeal to civilian or non-governmental uses, but all or
parts of these land areas may lie within the setting of the landmark. All of the
water areas of Pearl Harbor are included within the boundaries along with certain
adjacent lands.

The Landmark's Setting includes the surrounding land and fresh water courses, and
the reefs, ocean floors and sea waters adjacent and offshore, where undertakings
could change the quality or quantity of waters within the landmark boundaries,
or effect that quality of the land which caused it to be included within the
landmark boundaries.

Additionally, the survey categories of important buildings discussed in item 7,
description, indicate a broad dispersion of historic features throughout the
base justifying the base boundary as essentially the boundary for the landmark,
with certain adjustments in the water areas included as part of the setting.

VERBAL DESCRIPTION OF BOUNDARIES

1. Beginning at a point offshore of the Fort Kamehameha Military Reservation,
which point has the geographical coordinates of 21°17'30" north latitude and
157°56'30" west longitude, and proceeding due north approximately 1.9 miles to
the shore near Kumumau Point;

2. thence westerly along the shore toward Pearl Harbor entrance to the Breakwater,
and continuing northerly along the easterly shore of the entrance, past Bishop
Point, to a point on the shore opposite the gate on the road which separates the
Naval Shipyards from Hickam Air Force Base, a distance of approximately 3.4 miles;

3. thence along the fence line south of and parallel to South Avenue to the far
or northeast side of the Main Gate (Nimitz Highway gate), a distance of
approximately 1.4 miles;

4. thence following and continuing along the fence line by its changing directions
along Sixth Street, etc. (to the south and then east of Bloch Arena grounds) to
the place of its meeting with Kamehameha Highway, a place-of-meeting approximately
different naval activities, each with its own commanding officer, staff, facilities, mission and assigned land and/or water areas. In addition to the naval shipyard, tenants at Pearl Harbor with real estate include a branch of a naval ammunition depot; a Marine barracks; several fleet training centers; a naval station; a supply center; an inactive ship maintenance facility; a deperming facility; a public works center; a submarine base; a naval district headquarters; and on Ford Island, a runway assigned to a nearby naval air station. Official titles for these commands/services are not listed here, for titles modernize as well as do the facilities they use. For instance, the "Navy Yard" is now the "Naval Shipyard."

Man-caused physical change has been since 1902 a continuing process and a necessary attribute of Pearl Harbor as an active naval base. The process of change in physical facilities at Pearl Harbor is part and parcel of the process of change in naval technology. National Historic Landmark designation in 1964 recognized an active naval base because of its success in its mission to support the fleet and its related historic role in the expansion of the United States as a Pacific power. The 1941 enemy attack on Pearl Harbor is one result of the effectiveness of its mission and role.

Recently a partial historical survey was commissioned by the Department of the Navy and incorporated into the Naval Bases', "Historic Preservation Plan, U. S. Naval Base, Pearl Harbor, National Historic Landmark," dated February 1978, prepared by the Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Facilities Planning Department. This document is incomplete in several ways: (1) It does not describe significant historic features in detail; (2) It does explain the significance of particular buildings or sites; (3) It does not relate historic features to their role in the attack of December 7, 1941; (4) It concentrates on buildings and disregards sites, structures, and other areas. Nevertheless it does contain a lengthy list of buildings categorizing them by five levels of significance. That document is included here by reference.

The significance categories and summary distribution of the 1172 buildings evaluated are contained on pages ES-2 and 3 of the Preservation Plan, copies of which are contained herein. As can be seen nearly 300 buildings have been identified as of important to major significance. Furthermore, these buildings are fairly widely dispersed throughout the Naval Base. Even so, there are features which without question rate the highest level of significance--Drydock #1, Arizona and Utah Memorials, and moorings F6, 7, and 8, and perhaps other features that an adequate survey will identify.
125 feet south of the center of Makalapa Gate, a distance along the fence line of approximately .85 miles;

5. thence northerly along the fence line which parallels and is on the Pearl Harbor side of Kamehameha Highway, past and through Makalapa and Halawa Gates, to its end on the eastern shore of Aiea Bay, a distance of approximately 1.9 miles;

6. thence westerly along the shores of Pearl Harbor, around and excluding most of McGrew Point, to a point on the western side of McGrew Point, thence inland along the western and southern edges of the naval housing area to include within the boundaries swamps and fishponds, reaching the shore again at the eastern edge at the mouth of Kualoa Stream, a distance of approximately 1.2 miles;

7. thence across the mouth of Kualoa Stream and westerly along the shores of Pearl Harbor around and excluding most of Pearl City Peninsula, (including within the boundaries the inland shores of any fishponds along the shores of Pearl Harbor when such shores are the boundaries), to a point on the western side of Pearl City Peninsula, then inland along the northern and western edges of the developed area and continuing northwesterly along the northeastern edge of the secondary road to the bridge across Waiawa Stream, then along the east bank of Waiawa Stream northward to the Navy fence line, then westward along the fence line to and across the mouth of an unnamed stream which enters at the northeast corner of Middle Loch of Pearl Harbor, a distance of approximately 6 miles;

8. thence westerly and then southerly along the shores of Pearl Harbor to a point on the eastern side of Waipio Peninsula, then inland and westward across Waipio Peninsula along the Navy fence line to the eastern side of the mouth of Kapakahai Stream, a distance of approximately 2.3 miles;

9. thence westerly and then northwesterly across the mouth of Kapakahai and Waikele Streams, then southerly along the shores of West Loch of Pearl Harbor, around Honouliuli Peninsula to the point on the shore where the Navy fence line meets the shore, which point-of-meeting is approximately 1,000 feet west of the "salt evaporators," a distance of approximately 2.4 miles;

10. thence southerly and inland along the fence line for a distance of approximately 1,600 feet to a corner; then easterly continuing along the fence line, across Arizona Road to a curve in the fence line, a distance of approximately 5,500 feet; then continuing along the fence line southeasterly and paralleling "A" Avenue and railroad sidings for a distance of approximately 1.6 miles; then continuing easterly along the south side of Main Street, a street
sometimes called Brave Road, to its intersection with "H" Avenue, a distance of approximately 2,500 feet;

11. thence southeasterly along the southwesterly side of "H" Avenue to its intersection with Eighteenth Street, a distance of approximately 3,000 feet; then easterly along the southside of Eighteenth Street to the shore on the west side of Pearl Harbor entrance, a distance of approximately 4,300 feet;

12. thence southerly along the shore, past Hammer Point and continuing along the shore southwestardly, past Keahi Point, and then westerly to point on the shore directly north of the offshore point whose geographical coordinates are given in 13 below, a distance of approximately 1.5 miles;

13. thence directly south, or due south, to a point offshore which has the geographical coordinates of 21°17'30" north latitude and 157°59'00" west longitude, a distance of approximately 1.9 miles;

14. thence directly east to the point of beginning, a distance of approximately 2.65 statute miles.

Precise boundaries, as described above, are recorded on copies of U.S. Geological Survey maps: Puuloa and Waipahu Quadrangles, Hawaii, 7.5 minute series (Topographic), 1968, on file with the Historic Sites Survey Division, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.
after 1898 were important factors in the rise of United States naval power in the Pacific. The disputing of this power by Japan, in turn, eventually contributed to the precipitation of war between the United States and Japan, the significant opening shots of which occurred at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The site, then, appears intimately associated with the rise of the United States as a world power.

"As early as 1864 American Minister James McBride suggested that the cession to the United States of land at Honolulu for naval depot purposes should be made a condition of granting Hawaii a reciprocity treaty, a recommendation considered by historians as 'one of the early antecedents of the Pearl Harbor Question.' The real beginning of American governmental interest came in 1873 when Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield and Bvt. Brig. Gen. B.S. Alexander were sent to Hawaii to examine defensive and commercial capabilities of various ports. Their report emphasized the value of Pearl Harbor. At that time Hawaii was anxious to negotiate a reciprocity treaty with the United States, and it was suggested that Pearl Harbor be leased to the United States as an inducement to sign the treaty. The Hawaiian government actually made such an offer in 1873 but later withdrew it, and such a measure was not included in the treaty which went into effect in 1876.

"When that treaty was renewed in 1887, however, it did give the United States the exclusive right to maintain a coaling and repair station at Pearl Harbor. But the United States did not exercise this right until after annexation in 1898, although surveys were made earlier during the 1890's. The need for an island base during the Spanish American War had been one of the arguments used by annexationists.

"Funds for improving the harbor entrance were voted by Congress in 1900, and that same year negotiations were started for the acquisition of adjoining land for a naval station. The bar at the entrance was dredged to a depth of 35 feet in 1902 after interesting ceremonies to placate Hawaiian gods for the destruction of a fishpond and fish god shrine. Not until 1908, however, did Congress authorize and vote funds for the development of a major base. A huge drydock was started in 1909 but it collapsed and was not completed until 1919. The Hawaiians attributed the failure to the construction of the drydock over the traditional home of the shark queen's son. Shops, docks, and other structures were started with the 1908 appropriation, and in 1911 the USS California entered the harbor, officially opening the base and being the first large ship to enter the bay. An administration building was completed in 1915, and the next year Pearl Harbor became the headquarters of a Naval District; and it was well on its way to becoming the command center for naval operations in the Pacific.
"In order to knock out of action the Pacific Fleet based there, the Japanese staged a surprise air attack on Pearl Harbor on the morning of December 7, 1941, sinking or damaging 18 ships out of the 97 in Pearl Harbor. This action precipitated United States participation in World War II. The USS Arizona, with more than 1,100 men entombed within, still rests where she settled during the attack and, spanned by an enclosed memorial bridge, has been dedicated as a shrine to those killed on December 7, 1941.

"Condition of the Site: Pearl Harbor is still an active naval base, and general public visitation, except to the USS Arizona Memorial as part of boat cruises of the harbor, is not permitted. Public visits to the USS Arizona Memorial as part of National Park Service-sponsored boat tours permit the viewing of a plaque recognizing the significance of the entire base."

(Hussey, National Survey, July 19, 1962.)
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Fourteenth Naval District, Your Visit to Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, n.d.

Goodrich, J.K., The Coming Hawaii.


Millis, Walter, This is Pearl! The United States and Japan, 1941, 1947.


Snowbarger, W., Development of Pearl Harbor, PhD. Diss., U. of Calif., 1950.
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A. 04 610380 2364500
B. 04 609780 2354820
C. 04 605600 2354790
D. 04 605440 2358940
E. 04 601120 2362110
F. 04 600960 2362960
G. 04 601310 2364670
H. 04 604820 2365990
I. 04 607660 2365840