

# Hospital Point Walking Tour



Welcome to Hospital Point! The historic houses here were primarily built between 1915 and 1930 for the U.S. Naval Hospital and the Naval Radio Station at Pearl Harbor. These residences are excellent examples of Navy architecture from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Hospital Point is part of the Pearl Harbor Historic District, which was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964.

For security reasons, during the tour, please stay within the housing area. Photographs of the exteriors of houses on the tour are permitted. All other photography is prohibited.

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## History

### U.S. Naval Hospital, Pearl Harbor, 1915-1941

In 1911, Congress authorized the construction of a hospital on the naval base at Pearl Harbor. At that time, construction of the shipyard, Marine barracks, and ammunition depot at Pearl Harbor was just beginning, and dredging of the harbor was nearly complete.

U.S. Naval Hospital, Pearl Harbor was laid out on 43 acres on the east side of the harbor entrance. The shipyard, Marine barracks, and yard officers' housing (Hale Ali'i) lay to the east and southeast of the hospital grounds. On July 23, 1917, the 74-bed hospital admitted its first patient. In the 1920s, additional buildings were constructed, reflecting the growth of the naval base and shipyard.

In the late 1930s, fearing war with Japan, the Navy began expanding installations throughout Oahu. The influx of naval personnel during this period led to crowded conditions at the hospital. In 1939, the Navy announced plans for a new, larger hospital at Aiea Heights, which it believed would be less vulnerable to attack than the Hospital Point site. Construction of the new hospital began in July 1941.

### December 7, 1941

At 0745 on December 7, 1941, approximately twenty Japanese planes flew low over the hospital towards the air station on Ford Island and the U.S. ships moored in Pearl Harbor. The sounds of explosions from the harbor soon followed. Anticipating the arrival of casualties from the attack, the doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and corpsmen who lived on the grounds rushed from their quarters to the hospital. By 0915, the entire hospital staff, including those who lived off-base, had reported for duty.

By 0900, casualties were flooding into the hospital. The hospital admitted 452 patients on December 7<sup>th</sup>, and treated hundreds more for minor injuries. At the end of the day, the hospital had 960 patients in a facility intended for 500.



The Japanese did not attack the hospital. However, at approximately 0755, the hospital staff saw a Japanese plane that was on fire heading straight for the hospital wards. Fortunately, the plane veered left and crashed in an open space between the hospital laboratory and some vacant Chief Petty Officers' (CPO) quarters. The laboratory was damaged, and one of the CPO quarters caught fire and was destroyed.

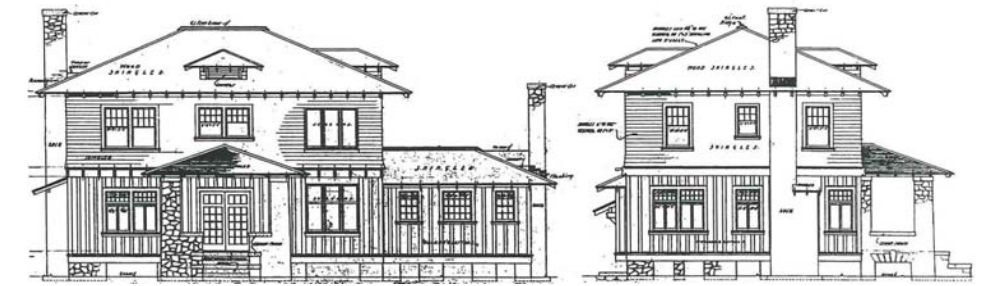
### Hospital Point, 1942-present

The new hospital at Aiea opened in November 1942. Some proposed closing the hospital at Pearl Harbor and using the buildings for housing, which was in short supply. However, it remained open until 1944.

After the hospital closed, the Navy developed the area along the shore of Hospital Point into a housing area for Pearl Harbor personnel. The area continues to serve as Navy family housing.



U.S. Naval Hospital, Pearl Harbor, 1929



Surgeon's Quarters (Site 3), original drawings, 1913

## Architecture

The historic housing at Hospital Point was designed by the Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks, which oversaw all construction on shore installations. The Surgeons' Quarters (1915) and the Commanding Officers' Quarters (1921) were similar to the houses that were constructed in 1914 in nearby Hale Ali'i for the senior officers and commandant of the Navy Yard. The hospital Commanding Officer's Quarters and Surgeons' Quarters displayed Craftsman-style features such as shaped rafter-ends, decorative wood braces, and masonry (lava rock) porches with square columns that extended to the ground. (The lava rock porches on the Surgeons' Quarters were replaced in 1953.)

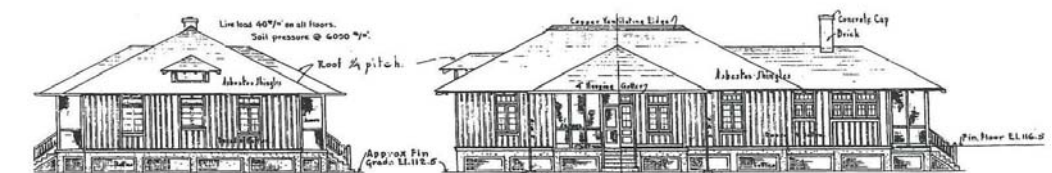


Rear of Commanding Officer's Quarters, 1921

The radio station quarters (1917-1919) and the 1920s pharmacists' and junior officers' quarters lacked the decorative flourishes and lava rock porches of the earlier houses but shared key design elements, including the low-pitched hipped roofs, exposed rafter-ends, and board-and-batten siding. Local architectural influences were evident in the ventilation dormers, lanais, raised foundations, and the use of lava rock for the chimneys, fireplaces, and foundation piers.

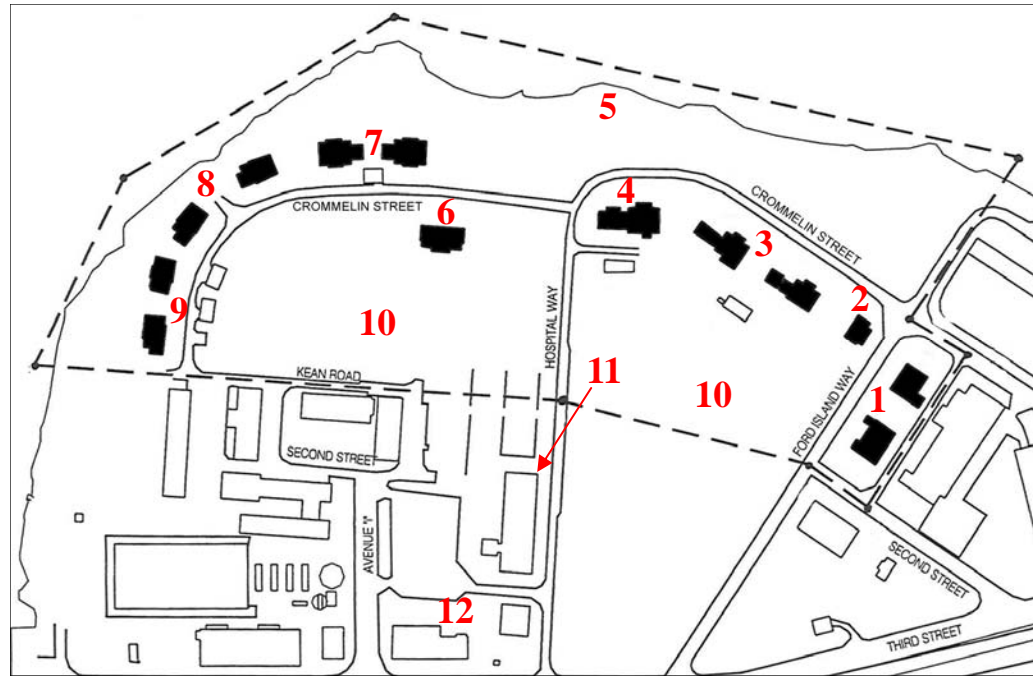
The landscaping helped distinguish among the medical buildings, the hospital officers' quarters, and the radio station quarters. Originally, royal palms were planted along Hospital Way in front of the ward and administration buildings. Date palms lined the road in front of the hospital Commanding Officer's and Surgeons' Quarters, while monkeypod trees lined Ford Island Way in front of the radio station quarters.

Like all early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Navy housing, the Hospital Point neighborhood illustrated the military hierarchy. The hospital officers' quarters occupied large lots with waterfront views. In contrast, the quarters for CPOs and civilian employees were closely spaced along an inland road near the hospital buildings. The size and design of the houses also reflected the rank of the occupant. For example, the house for the officer in charge of the radio station was a single-family home with a bedroom for a servant, while the radio operators lived in duplexes. The hospital Commanding Officer's house was the largest residence at Hospital Point and had several rooms for servants. It and the Surgeons' Quarters were the only two-story dwellings in the hospital housing area. The quarters for pharmacists and junior officers were smaller, one-story dwellings with fewer architectural embellishments.



Junior Officers Quarters (Site 7), original drawings, 1927

## Walking Tour



### 1. Radio Station Quarters (1917-1919)

Built in 1917 as a radio operator's house, the duplex (2158-2160 Ford Island Way) was one of the first buildings constructed at the U.S. Naval Radio Station at Pearl Harbor. The station's three towers, which stood behind these houses, could transmit radio signals as far as the Philippines.

The house at 2166 Ford Island Way was built in 1918-1919 to house the officer in charge of the radio station. In 1936, the Navy constructed a new, more powerful transmitter at Lualualei. The following year, the radio station at Pearl Harbor closed and the towers were dismantled.



This photograph, taken from one of the radio towers, shows the radio station quarters (right foreground), the Surgeons' Quarters (background right), and the hospital Commanding Officer's Quarters (background left) as they appeared in 1921.

### 2. 4935 Crommelin Street (1919)

Originally, this house stood in a housing area for civilian employees and CPOs. Due to the construction of a bombproof power plant for the shipyard during World War II, the house was moved to its present location, where it continued to serve as civilian quarters.

### 3. Surgeon's Quarters (1915)

These two surgeons' quarters (4943-4945 and 4953-4955 Crommelin Street) were among the first buildings constructed for the naval hospital. In 1953, to meet the postwar military housing shortage, the Navy converted them from single-family homes into duplexes.

### 4. Commanding Officer's Quarters (1921)

Until the hospital closed in 1944, this was the residence of the commanding officer of the naval hospital. In 1953, the house was divided into three units: two in the main house (4969 and 4971 Crommelin Street) and one in the former servants' quarters (4973 Crommelin Street).

### 5. USS Nevada Historical Marker

### 6. 4997 and 4999 Crommelin Street (1944/1947)

Constructed in 1944 as a chapel at an unknown location on the Pearl Harbor naval base, this building was moved to its present location in 1947. At that time, the Navy was developing the former hospital grounds into a housing area, and it converted this former chapel into a duplex.

### 7. Junior Officers' Quarters (1929)

These two houses (5004 and 5012 Crommelin Street) were constructed as part of the expansion of the housing and medical facilities at the hospital in the 1920s.

### 8. Pharmacist's Quarters (1929)

5022 Crommelin Street originally stood on the other side of the 1925 pharmacists' quarters (Site 9). By 1943, it had been moved to its present location. 5032 Crommelin Street remains in its original location.

### 9. Pharmacists' Quarters (1925)

These two pharmacists' quarters (5038 and 5044 Crommelin Street), as well as the ones built in 1929 (Site 8), originally faced the water. A road ran along the shoreline until the late 1930s or early 1940s when the shoreline was cut back.

### 10. Open Spaces – No photography allowed

In the 1920s, a garden and orchard that provided fresh fruits and vegetables for the patients was located in the area near the pharmacists' quarters (Sites 8 and 9); a row of mango trees remains from the orchard. During World War II, temporary hospital wards and barracks were constructed in these two open spaces.

### 11. Hospital Ward (1921)

#### No photography allowed

This is the only remaining building from the main hospital complex, which was constructed between 1915 and 1921. In this photograph (right), taken in 1921, the administration building (1921) is in the center of the complex; the 1915 hospital ward stands to its right, and the 1921 hospital ward stands to its left.

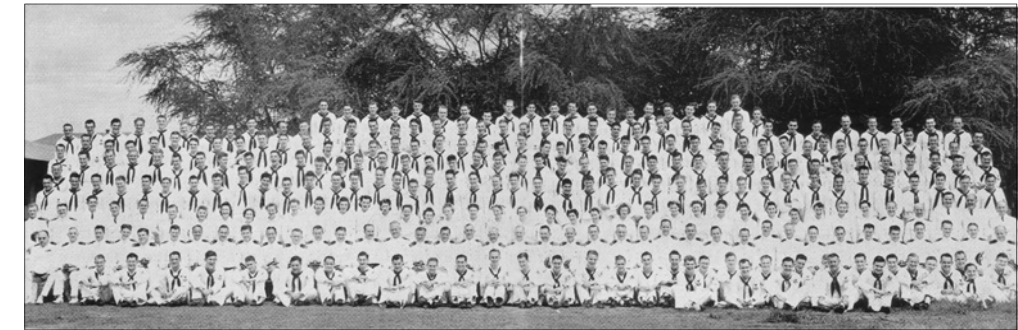


### 12. Japanese Bomber Crash Site (approximate) – Not accessible

On December 7, 1941, a Japanese plane crashed in this area. The small building nearby on Hospital Way was the hospital laboratory at that time.

*I was proud of them, especially of my nurses and hospital corpsmen. Many of these were youngsters doing their first hitch. But they stood their baptism of fire well. As soon as the enemy planes started to roar over and around us, they dashed from their quarters to the main hospital building through a shower of anti-aircraft shell fragments and stray machine-gun bullets. Their first thought was to care for their patients and to get ready for those who they knew would soon be coming. After the raid, all hands worked until they dropped. You never had to keep them at it.*

Captain Reynolds Hayden, MC, USN  
Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Hospital, Pearl Harbor



Staff of U.S. Naval Hospital, Pearl Harbor, 1941

### Photo and Map Credits

The 1921 aerial photograph and the photograph of the commanding officer's quarters are from the 14<sup>th</sup> Naval District Photographic Collection, USS Arizona Memorial, National Park Service. All other historic photographs are from the library of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Department of the Navy, Washington, D.C. The historic architectural drawings are reproduced from Historic American Buildings Survey documentation of the Hospital Point housing area. The 1929 map of Hospital Point can be found in the Cartographic Division, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland. The source for the quotation from Captain Reynolds Hayden is Charles M. Oman, *Doctors Aweigh* (1943), page 8.

This brochure was prepared by History Matters, LLC.