

HONOLULU HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT
SURVEYED PROPERTY CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

TMK: 99003029

Historic Status: **PH NHL**

Portion of Alignment: **Airport portion**

Resource Name/Historic Name: **Richardson Recreation Center Pool Complex**
(Swimming Pool - Fac. S-21; Recreation Facility - Fac. 1; Bath House/Locker Room - Fac. 2; Handball Court - Fac. S-20)

Location: **Kamehameha Hwy & Salt Lake Blvd.**

Sector: **35 Richardson Recreation Center Sector**

Owner: **U. S. Navy**

Date-Original: **1941**

Station Block: **Aloha Stadium Station/
Kamehameha Hwy (if only Airport
portion is built, not Salt Lake)**

Source: ***Paradise of the Pacific* (Dec. 1941, 103)**

Present Use/Historic Use: **Military**

Architectural Description:

Fac. S-21, the swimming pool, is concrete, 100 feet square. Fac. 1, the Recreation Facility, is a two-story concrete building on the southeast side of the pool. The first floor, at pool level, was designed to provide lavatories, showers, a women's locker room, and storage. The second floor was designed to contain a lounge open on the pool side, with ship's service (bar), lavatories, and women's toilet/powder room. Steps on both sides of the building lead down to the pool area. Fac. 2, the Bath House/Locker Room, on the northwest side of the pool, is a single-story concrete building with a flat roof and high windows on the sides facing the pool and the Handball Court. The latter is Fac. S-20, and its concrete back wall parallels the Locker Room's southwest side. Projecting at right angles from that wall are five sloping walls, which form the four bays of the court. Fac. 51 is the ballfield to the south of the swimming pool complex. It once contained three softball diamonds but is now an open grassy field dotted with pavilions.

Integrity:

The Richardson Recreation Center Pool Complex maintain its integrity, although the overall recreation area has been changed in recent decades. The overall function of the pool complex remains the same and the main structures have not been greatly altered. The upper floor of the clubhouse (Fac. 1) was enclosed. Nearby recreational elements such as tennis courts, baseball and softball diamonds, bleachers, and a few restrooms have been removed, but this does not diminish the overall resource's contribution to the Pearl Harbor National Historic Landmark. The biggest change to the recreational center was the construction of the bridge to Ford Island in 1999. Fac. 51, the open grassy area to the south of pool, contributes to the integrity of the resource's setting, although altered from its WWII ballfield configuration.

Significance:

Richardson Recreation Center, located on the eastern shore of Pearl Harbor, was built to serve Navy personnel on visiting ships as well as those based at the installation. During the war years, ships ran hourly liberty boats to this center, which was open from 0900 to 1800 daily. The center offered the largest fresh-water swimming pool on the island, as well as playing fields and facilities for baseball, softball, track, tennis, handball, archery, boxing, and wrestling. Intramural teams from the ships played baseball or softball in the morning, barbecued food brought from the ships and picnicked in areas adjacent to the playing fields, then swam in the pool. The clubhouse also had a canteen and dance floor, and dances were held every two weeks. The recreational facilities are significant for their role in building morale among Pearl Harbor personnel during WWII (Criteria A).

