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Recommendation to the Pacific Grove City
Council regarding the building located at 1352
Lighthouse Avenue regarding its historical significance

Uhlinger, Eleanor

<http://hdl.handle.net/10945/70922>

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Note: On 28 September 2022 the Pacific Grove Historic Resources Committee voted unanimously to recommend historic listing for this former federal building.

DT: 26 September 2022
TO: Pacific Grove Historic Resources Committee
FR: Eleanor Uhlinger, Private Citizen and University Librarian Emerita, Naval Postgraduate School
RE: Comment in support of 9/28/2022 Agenda item 8c. re 1352 Lighthouse Ave (2 pages)

I ask the Historic Resources Committee to make a recommendation to the Pacific Grove City council that the City contract with a qualified individual and/or firm to evaluate the building located at 1352 Lighthouse Avenue and prepare a Phase I report using the criteria established in PGMC Section 23.76.025.

The former federal building located at 1352 Lighthouse Avenue, now in private hands, played a significant role in local naval history during the Cold War era. The Naval Air Intercept Training Facility, Point Pinos, was located at the site from 1954-1961 and in 1964 the Fleet Numerical Weather Facility Communications Division moved into the building (leaving in 1974 for a new facility). This building was the site of unique facilities that contributed to and supported U.S. naval training and operations. As such, the building should be added to Pacific Groves register of historic resources, exemplifying Pacific Grove's role in our region's more than 175-year military history.

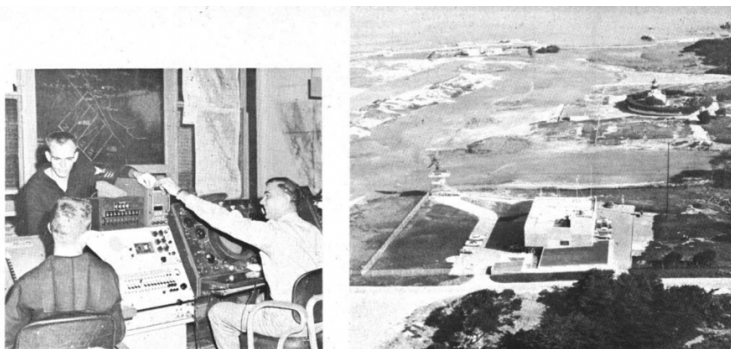
Details excerpted from sources cited below:

In August 1954, the Naval Air Intercept Training Facility (NAITF), Point Pinos, was made operational under the administrative control of the Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Facility, Monterey, and coordination control of Commander, Naval Air Bases, Twelfth Naval District.

In July 1956, the mission was to maintain and operate facilities and provide services and material to support the aviation requirements of the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, and to support operations of those activities and units designated by the Chief of Naval Operations.

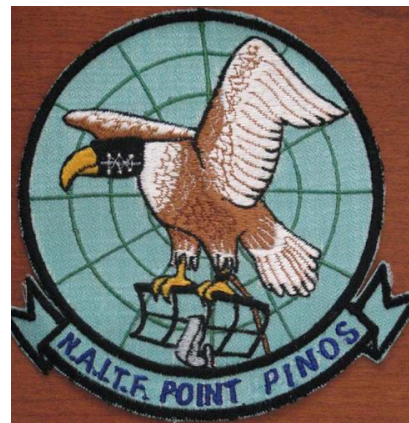
The facility's radar station was at the extreme tip of pine-covered Monterey Peninsula, overlooking the Pacific. This location was important to the facility's main purpose -- to train pilots and air controllers in the latest techniques of radar-controlled intercepts. (An intercept in this case means vectoring a fighter plane to a target plane.) The facility also assisted U.S. Navy carriers operating off the northern California coast by tracking their aircraft and relaying each plane's flight plans to shoreside officials. In 1960 NAITF, Point Pinos handled 6,290 intercepts and 2,292 aircraft. During 10 months of operation in 1961 NAITF, Point Pinos handled more than 1,000 intercepts and provided support to more than 900 fleet aircraft.

NAITF, Point Pinos, terminated air operations on November 10, 1961, in accordance with Twelfth Naval District directives. Equipment was preserved and Point Pinos was placed into inactive status early in 1962 by the Chief of Naval Operations.



PINOS PERSONNEL man intercept gear. Rt.: Naval Air Intercept Training Facility, Point Pinos, is viewed from plane.

Naval Air Intercept Training



1964 saw the completion of the new Fleet Numerical Weather Facility (FNWF) Computer Building on the Naval Postgraduate School Grounds. The Point Pinos facility was reactivated and became the offices and shops of the FNWF Communications Division. The facility scored a first in high-speed Radio Frequency transmission of weather data in 1964 when a series of tests were conducted using SYNCOM Communications Satellites. Raw data and finished charts were transmitted error free from Monterey to Hawaii and Guam at rates averaging better than 3,000 wpm.

Sources

1. *U.S. Naval Air Facility Small but Active* (article)

<https://calhoun.nps.edu/handle/10945/59197>

2. *U.S. Naval Air Facility, Monterey, California Command History 1960*, page 2

<http://hdl.handle.net/10945/63923>

3. *All Hands* magazine, March 1961, page 15

<https://media.defense.gov/2019/Apr/27/2002122231/-1/-1/1/ah196103.pdf>

4. *U.S. Naval Air Facility, Monterey, California Command History 1961*, page 2

<http://hdl.handle.net/10945/63924>

5. *U.S. Naval Air Facility, Monterey, California Command History 1962*, page 1

<http://hdl.handle.net/10945/63925>

6. *The Classmate* magazine, July-August 1963, page 20-21

<http://hdl.handle.net/10945/46835>

7. *NPS Annual Report, 1964*, page 20

<https://calhoun.nps.edu/handle/10945/48925>

8. *Navy patch collectors' forum*

<https://www.usmilitariaforum.com/forums/index.php?/topic/202130-naval-stations-shore-commands-navsta-centers-schools-facs-if-it-dont-float/page/3/>