

Hickam Heritage Trail

The Hickam Heritage Trail was originally developed and curated by Hickam Boy Scout Troop 97 and completed in 2013. It is a two-hour walking self-tour of Hickam's historical landmarks that starts and finishes at the JBPH-H Library.

Some practical considerations:

- Social distancing when approaching others on the trail
- Bring a mask along to wear as needed
- Wear comfortable footwear
- Stay hydrated
- Use sidewalks and designated crosswalks; avoid walking in the street
- When walking along the channel, show respect for residents' yards, and watch for joggers, bicycles, strollers and leashed dogs

Stop 1: Library Monument.

As you exit the library, you will see a stone monument on your left.

What previously stood on the library grounds?

Stop 2: Nelles Chapel.

As you leave the library, follow the sidewalk on the right and turn left onto 10th Street. Turn left again at the sidewalk running parallel with Signer Boulevard, and walk South towards the Nelles Chapel at the corner of Signer Boulevard and 9th Street. Notice the stone monument below the chapel windows.

Why was the chapel named after PFC Nelles?

Stop 3: Hickam Elementary School.

With the chapel to your back, cross Signer Blvd. Follow the sidewalk running parallel with 9th Street in the direction of Ewa (West). Notice the historic houses on the right that were built in the 1930s and survived the December 7, 1941 attack. Note the parade field on the left, and more historic houses facing the field. Cross Beard Avenue, then cross Julian Avenue and bear left, following the traffic circle to the statue of an Oahu Chief in front of Hickam Elementary School.

What is the name of the statue?

Stop 4: Freedom Tower.

With the statue to your back, cross over the traffic circle to the Freedom Tower. Walk to the front of the tower and read the information plaques facing the parade field.

When was the water tower renamed as Freedom Tower?

Hickam Heritage Trail

Stop 5: Pearl Harbor Channel.

Return to the Oahu Chief. With Hickam Elementary School on the right, follow the sidewalk along Julian. Notice the plants, flowers and trees. Before the school was built, the grounds served as a nursery. Notice the historic houses on the left, and after passing the portable classrooms, cross Julian Way. Look for the diagonal path heading toward the channel. Observe the Wai'anae mountains in the distance.

What is the name of the park along the channel?

Stop 6: Medal of Honor Memorial (MOH).

Turn left towards Makai/South and walk along the channel path. The path opens up to a large park; veer right. Look for a stone memorial on the right facing the channel. It is dedicated to USAF airmen who received the Medal of Honor.

Which MOH recipient was born outside of the US?

Stop 7: Missing Man Formation.

Continue Makai/South along the channel path. Look for the Wright Bros. Café on the left. Refreshments and restrooms are available when open. If not, there are restrooms in a neighborhood park along the trail about 10 minutes away. You may notice families feeding fish along the sea wall. Be careful in looking over the sea wall; you may see colorful fish. Look ahead to the brushed silver aircraft monument overlooking the channel mouth. Walk up to the information plaques. Then with your back to the monument, look for the time capsule.

When was the time capsule buried, and in honor of what?

Stop 8: Worthington Avenue Neighborhood Park.

Retreat back to the walking path; it will curve around and run Parallel to the Officer's Club. Be careful as you walk through the parking lot (no sidewalk) to the corner of Signer Boulevard.

(If you need to return to the library, cross the street and walk straight down Signer Boulevard, past Nelles Chapel to 10th Street. Turn right and follow the sidewalk to the parking lot).

To continue with the trail, turn right and follow the sidewalk along Worthington Avenue. The street curves past the lodging facilities on the right. Cross First Street. You will see a neighborhood park with public restrooms for your convenience.

Hickam Heritage Trail

Stop 9: Historic Hangars.

Follow the park path past the bathrooms, running parallel with Worthington Avenue. Cross 3rd Street, turn right, and walk toward the historic hangars. Stop at the brown sign labeled 1050. Look right to the historic hangars decorated in “Art Deco”.

Name one of the squadrons in the historic hangars.

Stop 10: The Big Barracks.

Keep walking along Vickers Avenue; being careful of the traffic. Notice the large office building coming into view. Before the traffic circle, notice the informational plaques on the right. Read the plaques and look for the bullet holes in the building.

Name one of the “businesses” in the Big Barracks.

Stop 11: Courtyard of Heroes.

Continue along the sidewalk along Vickers Avenue and turn right at the front of the PACAF building. Enter the double doors facing the parking lot. Feel free to look at the displays in the first room and take note of the large flag display on the left. Continue walking through to the Courtyard of Heroes.

Where was the flag displayed before “retiring” to The Big Barracks?

Stop 12: RB-26 Static Display.

Retrace your steps back to the informational plaques. Cross Vickers Avenue; turn right and follow the sidewalk towards the traffic circle. Veer left; cross Boquet Street continue to the RB26 Static Display (black airplane).

What distinguishes the RB-26 from other combat aircraft?

Stop 13: WWII Flyers Memorial.

Carefully cross into the traffic circle. Notice the various memorials. Walk towards the flight line to the WWII Flyers Memorial. In the distance is the historic operations center that now welcomes distinguished visitors to Hickam Field.

What is the name and number of the aircraft in the WWII Flyer’s Memorial?

Stop 14: 15th Medical Group (historic hospital)

Hickam Heritage Trail

Retrace your steps to cross the traffic circle; walk back to the RB-26; and turn right onto Boquet Street. Follow the sidewalk to the corner. Cross Scott Circle and turn right. Look for the informational plaque for the 15th Medical Group.

How many nurses are in the photograph?

If you walk to the left to the grassy area and look to the right, you will see a very tall tree with a monument below. The monument is dedicated to Monica Conter (Benning), who is pictured on the informational plaque. 2nd Lieutenant Conter was the nurse on duty during the December 7, 1941 attack. The tree was planted in the crater of the bomb two weeks after the attack as symbol of healing. Note the library has a copy of her book *A Real Nurse's Dream – An Army Nurse's Experiences During WWII* (2007), presented by the Hickam History Club.

Stop 15: 15th Wing Headquarters.

Retrace your steps to cross back over to Scott Circle; turn left; and walk towards the 15th Wing Headquarters. Notice the parade field on the left with the Freedom Tower in the distance. From the sidewalk, notice the "Art Deco" on the 15th Wing Headquarters building. Notice the Stone Monuments straddling the entrance.

In how many years will the time capsule be buried?

Stop 16: Return to the library.

Looking toward the parade field, turn right and walk along the sidewalk toward Mills Boulevard. At the corner, turn left, cross Scott Circle, and return to the library.