

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001380 Date Listed: 9/10/91

Quarters 1, Yerba Buena Island, Naval Training Station
Property Name

San Francisco CA
County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for *Antonio H. Alcega*
Signature of the Keeper

9/10/91
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: The Period of Significance is amended to read 1899-1916.

The Significant Dates should be amended to read 1899-1916.

This was confirmed with John Bernard Murphy, Federal Preservation Officer, Department of the Navy.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Quarters 1, Yerba Buena Island, Naval Training Station
other names/site number Residence of the Commander, Naval Base, San Francisco
Nimitz House

2. Location

street & number 1 Whiting Way, Yerba Buena Island not for publication
city, town San Francisco vicinity
state CALifornia code CA county San Francisco code 075 zip code 94130

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register none

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 9 August 1991
Signature of certifying official Date
Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (I&E)
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 7-19-91
Signature of commenting or other official Date
Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. [Signature] 9/10/91
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Military/Naval facility residence

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

same

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls woodframe/weatherboard siding

roof metal/standing seam

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Quarters 1, the Commandant's residence on Yerba Buena Island, is a two-story, rectangular building of 5,886 square feet with a wood frame, clad in weatherboard siding. The Classical Revival style building has a central block with a hip-roof from which two brick chimneys rise on the NE and SW ends. Three hip-roofed dormers are centered above the symmetrical SE facade. The central block is flanked by wings. Both wings have two stories capped by parapeted gable-roofs inserted into the main hip-roof on the back sides. On the front, the SW wing has a solarium on both floors; the NE wing has a solarium on the ground floor only. A three-bay porch with fluted Doric columns and paneled square columns at the corners is centered on the SE facade. The NW, or service, side is assymetrical and has several projecting elements: a one-story, boxlike bay supported on a square post with angled braces off the second floor on the SW end; a three-sided, two-story bay with a ground floor entrance in the center; and a one- and two-story rear wing on the NE end, which has a brick chimney rising through the ground floor roof. In 1934, a fire damaged the upper floor, but it was immediately rebuilt as it had been before the fire, except that the central dormer, originally larger than the other two, was rebuilt to match them. Other minor alterations that occurred before the 1934 fire were the closing in of the ground floor porches on the wings and the addition of the solarium up the upper level of the SW wing. The main, ground floor rooms: the livingroom, diningroom, study, and central reception hall, have handsome Classical detail and other features such as Ionic Columns. In summary, although the house has been modified since its construction in 1899-1900, the alterations occurred before 1940 and are therefore historic. The building is also in good condition.

In respect to the setting of Quarters 1, it occupies a site bounded by a driveway on the NE side and an access road on the SE side. A green-sward sweeps down toward the bay and up to the slope above the site on the SW side. On the NW side is a formal garden designed in 1938 by Landscape Architect Lucille Woolpert, which has a brick terrace with a sunken pool, clipped box hedges, and planted areas retained by brick walls on several levels. Flanking the driveway on the NW side of Quarters 1 are two wooden, Craftsman-style buildings with living quarters above automobile garages. To the NE of Quarters 1 are six houses which were built in 1900 to house the other officers staffing the Naval Training Station. The Classical Revival style houses were built from the same

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plans and have had minor modifications over time which have not resulted in a loss of integrity. The houses face a road that curves around to the NE and joins the access road to the compound.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR STYLISTIC FEATURES:

The Classical Revival style of Quarters 1 is embodied not only in the balanced, central hall plan and the symmetrical composition of the SE facade, but also in the molded cornices of the main roof, the roofs of the front porch, and those of the solarium. The central block has paneled, pilasterlike corner boards with molding caps like those on the front of the house. Two balconies project from the belt cornice on the front of the house; they are located in front of the upper floor windows on either side of the central porch. The balconies rest on paired, enriched consoles and have solid railings that have three raised, starlike motifs and paneled corners. The front door has a single light above a paneled apron; the side lights have paneled aprons; and above, a round-arched pediment with an architrave molding frames a transom with a wide central light and triangular side lights. The arched pediment springs from paneled pilasters with molding caps; engaged colonettes with Ionic caps occur on either side of the upper part of the door. The windows on the ground floor have molded architraves with straight, molded cornices; those on the upper floor and on the back of the house have flat wood frames. Typical windows have double-hung wood sash with one-over-one lights, but a few have a grid of 20 lights over a single light. The solarium have multiple-light, fixed sash.

The ground floor interiors have a variety of Classical elements. The central hall vestibule is divided from the reception area at the back by a cross hall. The hall is introduced by two Ionic columns standing on paneled wood bases. The columns support an entablature with an architrave, a blank frieze, and a dentil course below the cornice molding. This entablature also occurs in the reception area. The main stairway rises from the cross hall to a landing and, after a quarter turn, continues to the upper floor. The stair railing has turned balusters and ends on one side in a fluted newel post. On the other side, the staircase and handrail are attached to an Ionic column supporting the ceiling entablature. The vestibule has a paneled wainscoting; the doorways to the livingroom and diningroom have paneled surrounds with a step in the center of the head. The livingroom has a picture molding and a coved ceiling. Louvered doors with louvered transoms open into the solarium on both sides of the fireplace. The wood mantels in the livingroom, diningroom, and reception area have a variety of Classical motifs.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Military
Architecture

Period of Significance

Late 19th and Early
20th centuries

Significant Dates

1898-1916
1900-1916

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

None

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Quarters 1, built in 1899-1900 as the Commandant's residence for the first United States Naval Training Station on the Pacific Coast, is significant under Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, the property contributes to the broad pattern of the development of military installations for the defense of the Pacific Coast in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Under Criterion C, Quarters 1 is an unusual example of a U.S. Naval residence in the Classical Revival style, which had become fashionable for private residences in the San Francisco Bay Area beginning in the 1890s, but was not typical of Naval base housing, most of which was built in later periods.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The island on which Quarter 1 is located was granted by Juan B. Alvarado to Jose Castro in 1838. The American possession of the 198-acre island was confirmed in 1850 when the first state legislature passed an act establishing the limits of San Francisco County and officially named the island Yerba Buena. In 1895, this name was officially changed to Goat Island--herds of wild goats had lived on the island since 1836--by the U.S. Geographic Board and so remained until June 1931 when the name Yerba Buena was reinstated by the same board. The military history of the island began when the U.S. Army established a post there in 1866. In 1867, men from the Army Corps of Engineers were shifted from Black Point to Y.B.I.; from 1892 to 1912, it was a Quartermasters Depot. Following an Executive Order issued by President McKinley on April 12, 1898 to set aside a "goodly portion" of the island for a Naval Station, the Navy acquired a site from the Army on the NE side of the island. On March 3, 1899, Captain Henry Glass brought his ship Pensacola from the Mare Island Naval Yard and took command of the station. At that time only a half-finished dock and a partial roadway to the barracks site existed. The Pensacola served as the headquarters and dormitory for Naval personnel until the shore facilities were built. The first barracks was occupied in January 1900. The Commandant's house was also completed

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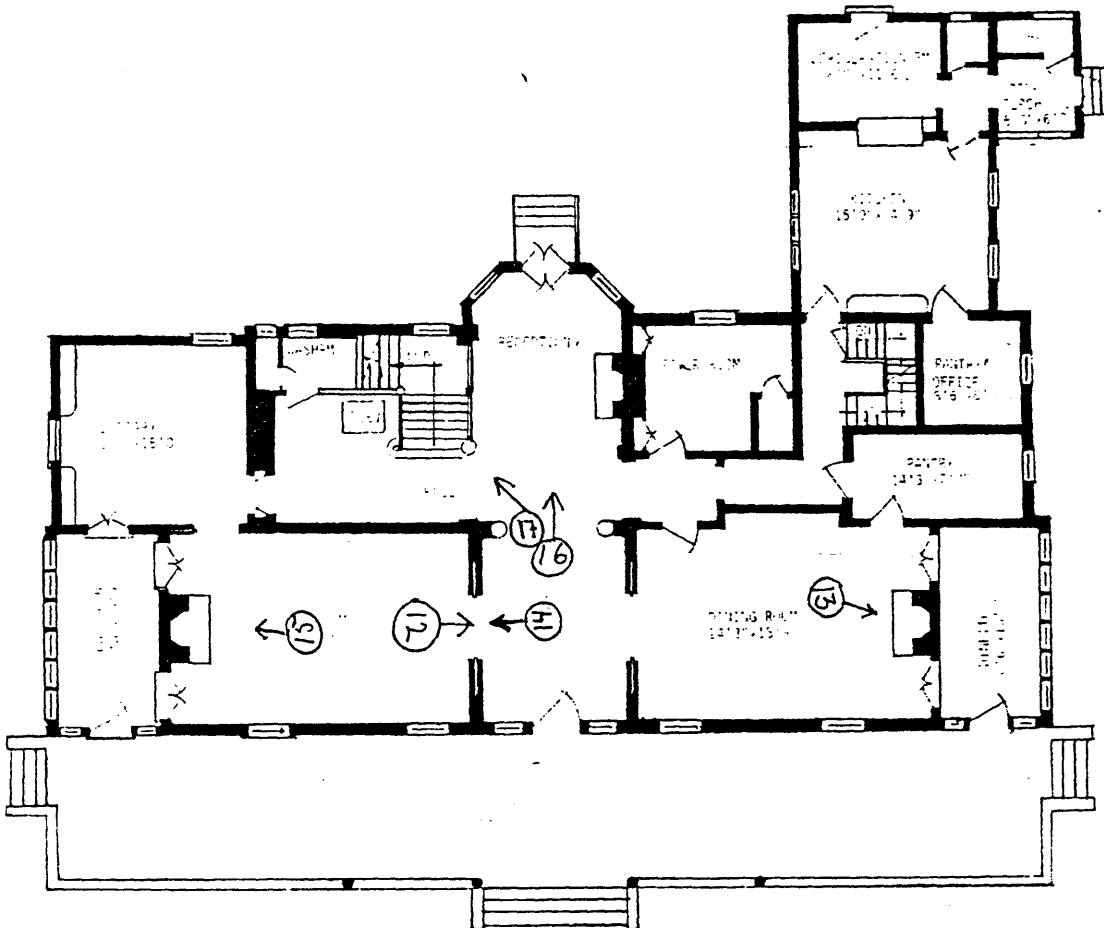
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in January 1900. The adjacent officers quarters were completed in March 1900. Extensive landscaping and floral gardening were carried out in the following years, and 9,000 feet of roadway was laid. The Naval Training Station closed in 1916, and the last Commandant departed. In that year the naval districts were created, and the house became the residence of the Commander of the Naval Base, San Francisco, which it is today.

The building is also known as Nimitz House for Admiral Chester William Nimitz, who died there on February 20, 1966 at the age of seventy-five. Admiral Nimitz had a most distinguished career in the U.S. Navy. On December 17, 1941, he was made Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, a position he held until 1945. In 1944, he was made Fleet Admiral of the Navy. From 1945 to 1949, he served as Chief of Naval Operations. Although Admiral Nimitz died in his residence on Yerba Buena Island, his principal home during his career was in the East Bay. Therefore, Quarters 1 does not qualify as significant under Criterion B.



FRONT ELEVATION



FIRST FLOOR PLAN - Photographs #12 - #17

Quarters 1. Yerba Buena Island