

PH0012441/4/73

No 477

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

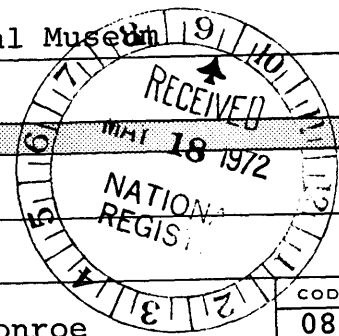
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida	
COUNTY: Monroe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 19 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Martello Gallery--Key West Art and Historical Museum

AND/OR HISTORIC:
East Martello Tower



2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
South Roosevelt Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN:
Key West

STATE: Florida CODE: 12 COUNTY: Monroe CODE: 087

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Monroe County (leased to Key West Art & Historical Society)

STREET AND NUMBER:
500 Whitehead Street

CITY OR TOWN: Key West STATE: Florida CODE: 12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Monroe County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
500 Whitehead Street

CITY OR TOWN: Key West STATE: Florida CODE: 12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

STATE: Florida

COUNTY: Monroe

ENTRY NUMBER: JUN 19 1972

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DATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

East and West Martello Towers received their name from their design--Martello--a type of fortified tower which served as an outworks to a main fortification, in this instance Fort Zachary Taylor. Their military purpose was to secure the island and the land side of Fort Taylor against enemy landing forces. Originally four towers were planned but construction began on only two, of which East Martello is by far the best preserved.

Built of brick with arched casement batteries to the sea, a center tower and galleries, or storerooms, on the land side, the Towers were begun in 1862. They were never completed, for in 1866 orders were issued to cease building. No armament was ever installed.

Unlike the true Martello towers which were circular, the central tower or citadel of East Martello is built in a square, 56 feet on a side at the base and 36 feet high. Its walls on the sides facing the sea are 8 feet-4 inches thick, and on the land side 5 feet-4 inches thick. In the center is a ten-foot mass of brickwork enclosing a circular stairway. The roof is supported by using cross or groin vaulting of brick--a series of four arches joined together and resting on the side walls. Foundations and all super-structures are concrete except for brick facings and interior arches.

Since 1950 when East Martello Tower was converted into an art and historical museum, there has been a good deal of work to stabilize the building. Only one major change was made when a doorway was cut to afford more convenient access to the building by the public. In 1969-1970 it was necessary to do extensive work on the roof to prevent water damage to the exhibits. Regrettably, no work has been done on the central tower which is deteriorating and is in dangerous condition.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1862-1866**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Key West History</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

In the early 19th Century a program was begun to build fortifications along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts from Maine to Louisiana. After 1821, when Florida became a territory of the United States, the opportunity to establish defenses on the Florida Reef was added to this program. Forts on Key West and Dry Tortugas were proposed. Construction was delayed until 1845 on Fort Taylor and Fort Jefferson when the Mexican War made it obvious that these fortifications were needed to protect American maritime commerce and prevent these strategic harbors from falling into enemy hands. Work on the Martello Towers, however, did not begin until 1862 when fear of the island being attacked by Confederate forces prompted their construction.

In 1866 orders were received to suspend work on the Towers. They were never completed or armed, as this type of structure had been proven obsolete when the new rifled artillery came into use during the Civil War.

During the Spanish American War and World Wars I and II, these buildings were used for various defense purposes, but in 1944 they were declared surplus by the government and eventually turned over to Monroe County.

West Martello was leased by Monroe County to the Key West Art and Historical Society as its first museum. Later the Society secured East Martello which, being in a better state of preservation, provided more area for exhibits. The new museum opened in 1950 and West Martello was turned over to the Key West Garden Club for a Garden Center.

Both forts are today supported by their organizations and are open to the public. Their use has provided important educational and recreational facilities to the community and its visitors.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Attached Sheet)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N 24° 33' 07"	W 81° 45' 18"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1.63 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Joe Allen - Betty Bruce

ORGANIZATION: **Monroe County Historical Restoration & Preservation Commission** DATE: **2/8/72**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Monroe County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: **Key West** STATE: **Florida** CODE: **12**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name State Liaison Officer

Title *Robert William*

Date May 10, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert W. Gentry
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/19/72

ATTEST:

William H. Hunt
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Florida	
COUNTY	
Monroe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 19 1972

(Number all entries)

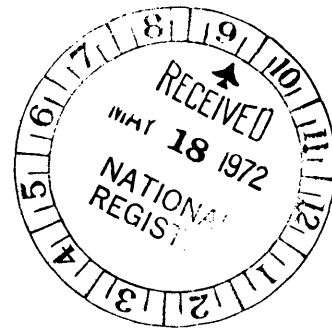
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES.

Garnett, Bert. The Martello Towers and the Story of Key West. Key West: Key West Press, 1953.

Monroe County Courthouse. Monroe County Records. Clerk of the Circuit Court's Office (Subgroup: Deeds).

Phillips, George. "History of Fort Taylor, Key West, Florida, October, 1879." RG 77 Fortification Division, National Archives.

Williams, Ames W. "Stronghold of the Straits, Ft. Zachary Taylor," Tequesta. No. 14, (1954), pp. 3-24.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE		Florida
COUNTY		Monroe
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	JUN 19 1972	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Martello Gallery--Key West Art and Historical Museum
 AND/OR HISTORIC: East Martello Tower

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
South Roosevelt Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN:
Key West

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Florida	12	Monroe	087

3. MAP REFERENCE

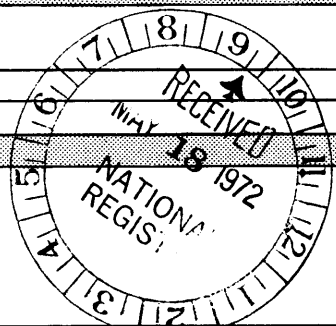
SOURCE:
USGS Key West Quadrangle

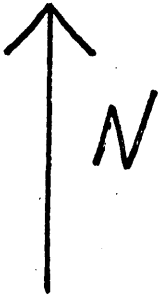
SCALE: 1:24,000

DATE: 1943

4. REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
 2. North arrow.
 3. Latitude and longitude reference.





DREDGED AREA FOR SEAPLANE LANDING

Dredgers Key

Salt Pond
Keys

PRECINCT 8
Stock I

MIAMI 156 MI.

U. S. GOVERNMENT RESERVATION

PLANE LANDING
RAMP
Island

CAA 43

Swimming
Pool

TIDAL BM 1

Garrison Bight

RADIO TOWERS

BX 2

MEACHAM FIELD
U. S. Naval Air Station

RADIO
MASTS

CAA 43

(BOCA CHICA)

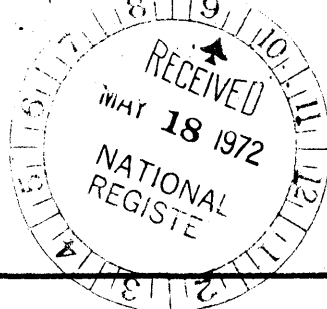
TOWER

TOWER

24°33'07"

ROOSEVELT BLVD

KEY WEST ISLAND



181,570.18 M

32°30'

EAST MARTELLO TOWER
KEY WEST, FLORIDA