

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAR 27 1984

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

United States Naval Station

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Roughly Front, Whitehead, Eaton, and Caroline Sts.

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Key West

VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Florida

33040

Monroe

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

United States Government/Administered by General Services Administration

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Monroe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

500 Whitehead Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Key West

Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Key West Naval Architecture

DATE

1979

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Key West Preservation Board

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Key West

Florida

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1845</u> 1920

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The proposed historic district located at the U.S. Naval Station in Key West, Florida, is comprised of 23 structures built between 1845-1923, one erected in 1942, four fresh water cisterns and four elevated storage tanks. The built environment of the proposed historic district exhibits a varied and rich architectural legacy that well reflects the construction types that typify both the functionalist U.S. military architecture and the particularly unique site of this American base. These examples of Key West maritime architecture fall into two major categories: masonry buildings constructed of either brick or concrete, and Classic Revival style wood frame constructions set on concrete piers, with porches. The buildings include a marine hospital, surgeon's and attendants' quarters, barracks, storehouses, a power plant, pump house, machine shop, administration building and officers quarters. All the structures stand either one or two stories in height. Included in the proposed district boundaries are three buildings from the 1940's period. Only one of these structures, the Naval Administration Building, #124, contributes to the significance to the district. It is a 3-story steel and concrete edifice which served as the nerve center for naval defense and reconnaissance in Key West during World War II. Thus, the period represented by the proposed district is the period when the base was active militarily in a direct role rather than in a support role.

The proposed historic district on the Key West Naval Station site is situated at the north end of the Harry S. Truman Annex on the western edge of the island. An abundance of indigenous and exotic vegetation is found on the site. Coconut, Date, Washingtonian and other Palms, Sapodilla, Tamarind, Avocado, Mahogany, Tropical Almond, Geiger, Jamaican Dogwood, Ficus, Rubber, Banyan, Royal Poinciana, Woman's Tongue, Mango, Schefflera, and Sea Grape trees are to be found. Shrubs include: Oleander, Croton, Aralia, Ixora, Hibiscus, Spanish Bayonet, Elephant Ears, Bongainvillia, Flame and other vines predominate. Two champion specimens have been identified: a Sandbox tree, hura crepitans, on Front Street across from Storage Tank 58 and an Australian Pine, casuarina equisetifolia, at the parking lot adjacent to Butler Hut #169.

Proposed Key West Naval State Historic District: Components of the District

1. Building #7: Machine Shop, 1898. Neo-classical brick and stone structure with significant architectural details. Measures 208' x 60'.
2. Building #11: Smithery, 1904. Brick foundry which measures 48' x 68'. The smithery housed the forge requisite for naval ship repair and maintenance. In style it complements the Power Plant and Machine Shop.
3. Building #21: Power Plant, 1902. Neo-classical in design, Building #21 originally served the Key West Naval Station as an Equipment Storehouse, Tool Room, Electrical Workshop, Sail and Rigging Loft and Marine Barracks. In 1918 it became the Power Plant. It is one of the few surviving brick naval structures that date from the 1900 era.
4. #26: Fresh water cistern constructed of concrete and brick which dates from prior to 1889.
5. #27: Fresh water cistern constructed of concrete and brick which dates from prior to 1889.
6. #35: Cistern, with 260,000 gallon capacity. Concrete construction, pre-1920.
7. #36: Cistern, erected of concrete in 1904.

CONTINUED

Components of District (cont'd)

8. #38: Cistern with pumphouse underneath, erected pre-1918. Concrete construction.
9. Building #45: Pump Plant for fresh water. Concrete structure with brick quoins, built in 1908; historically significant as component of the complex of extant structures erected prior to World War I.
10. #51: Storage tank for fuel oil storage; 1,520,000 gallon capacity, elevated. Erected pre-1920.
11. Building #48: Naval Storehouse. Constructed on concrete in 1910, the building is a fine example of functional military architecture. Utilized as a warehouse and later as administrative offices and U.S. Navy Post Office.
12. #58: Elevated Storage tank with 17,625 barrel capacity; constructed of concrete.
13. Building #66: Seamen's Barracks. Functional wood frame barracks, erected in 1918. Used to house sailors stationed at Key West during World War I.
14. Building #91: Post Office/Customs House. One of the finest examples of Romanesque Revival architectural style in Florida, this three-story brick building originally housed the U.S. Customs and Courthouse and was built in 1891. Designed by Architect William Kerr, the facade features a distinctive brick and terra-cotta checkerboard pattern. It was placed on the National Register in 1976.
15. Building #97: Small concrete structure, 1940's construction.
16. Building #124: Naval Administration Building, 1942. A three-story steel and concrete structure which served as the nerve center for naval defense during World War II. The site of John F. Kennedy's meeting with Prime Minister Harold MacMillan in 1961 during the Bay of Pigs debacle and in 1962 during the Cuban Missile Crisis.
17. Building #787: Small concrete structure, 1940's construction.
18. Quarters A: Completed in 1890. A two-story house with a symmetrical "double" facade emphasized by the two prominent cross gables on the main facade. The structure was utilized by President Harry Truman as his vacation Little White House in the 1940's and 1950's. Placed on the National Register in 1974.
19. Quarters M-1: Completed in 1915. A two-story wood frame set on concrete piers, L-plan, brick chimney, hip roof. Asphalt shingles have been added to the exterior.
20. Quarters M-2: Curtis House. A two-story, three-bay wood frame structure completed in 1874. The facade was lined by two porches with square posts and spindle balusters forming the balustrade. A dentilled cornice was set beneath the hip roof. Example of 19th century Classic Revival architecture. The house served as Surgeon's Quarters, Paymaster's Quarters and Marine Officer's Quarters.
21. Quarters D: A wood frame Classic Revival structure constructed in 1904 to house Marine Officers. Two-story, L-plan, gable roof, brick chimney, later served as Surgeon's Quarters and Commandant Aide's Quarters.
22. Quarters C: A wood frame Classic Revival structure constructed in 1906 to house Marine Officers. Two-story, L-plan, gable roof, brick chimney, later served as Surgeon's Quarters.
23. Quarters F: The Ferguson House. A pre-1889 building with the first floor a foot below the level of the ground and built of stone to about eight feet in height, above which was the frame part of the building. Altered by the addition of louvered porches and exterior fabric.
24. Quarters G: Completed in 1923, a 2-story wood frame fabrication set on concrete piers which is characteristic in style with other examples of Key West's Conch architecture.
25. Quarters T: Weather Bureau Building. A two-story masonry structure, with a three-bay facade, a second story balcony, keystones set over the entry double doors. Concrete quoins, the entablature and insignia medallion show decorative molding in relief. A stairway was added to the second level in 1951. Erected in 1912 and in excellent condition.

CONTINUED

Components of District (cont'd)

26. Quarters L: Surgeon's Quarters - a rectangular, masonry, hip-roofed edifice of two stories. Completed in 1918 and located along Front Street.
27. Quarters R: United States Marine Hospital: the oldest extant structure on the former Naval Station, completed in 1845. A three-story brick building, which in 1943 was re-modeled to accommodate multi-family housing. The masonry portion of the building remains intact.
28. Quarters P: Erected in 1912, a one-story wood frame structure which originally was built as the morgue.
29. Quarters Q: Attendant's Quarters: a two-story masonry building with a 3-bay facade, completed in 1918. Fenestration has been altered to jalousie windows and an exterior staircase added.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1845-1920

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The United States Naval Station, Key West, "Gibraltar of the Gulf," held for the United States a double strategic value because it linked the Atlantic and Gulf systems, protecting an internal line of communication. It was also an advance post invaluable in any forward step necessary to be taken to secure control in the Gulf and Caribbean. The role of Key West Naval Station in such actions as the campaign against Caribbean pirates, the Civil War blockade of the South, the beginning of the Spanish-American War, anti-submarine operations during World War I and support missions during World War II adequately enhances the national significance of this naval station.

The structures located on the Key West Naval Station comprise a substantial collection of naval architecture that dates from the mid-nineteenth century. The buildings exemplify two types of military architecture: Functional masonry structures which today still bear the stamp of careful craftsmanship; and wood frame residential buildings, similar in design and construction technique to the Conch houses that exist in the city of Key West, many of which are situated in the Key West National Register District. Taken as an aggregate, the Key West Naval Station buildings help to further define the special and unique heritage of Key West. The structures demarcate a specific period and tradition significant to American history.

The United States Navy has been linked to Key West for more than 150 years. This connection began when the U.S. took possession of the island on March 25, 1822. In 1823, the West Indian Anti-Piracy Squadron base was established in Key West. Commodore David Porter had orders to protect American Commerce in the area and set up a depot to supply his vessels. Porter waged combat against the approximately 2,000 pirates who plundered cargoes in the West Indian waters. Key West's connection with the military dates from this early period and her fortunes were henceforth often limited to federal decisions about the extent of the military presence. The Station was closed in 1826 due to yellow fever, but was re-opened in 1856.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Key West served as a center of Naval operations from 1861-1865 which focused on the strategic blockade of the Confederacy. As the only Confederate port held by Union forces throughout the war, Key West's own strategic importance made it a determining factor in the outcome. The Eastern Gulf Blockading Squadron, based in Key West, captured 299 blockade runners. With Key West designated the only open port for general traffic within the limits of the Eastern Blockading Squadron, the harbor presented a constant scene of wartime activity. There were more ships of war here than at any other U.S. port. On June 9, 1865, Key West settled down to years of peace.

During the Spanish-American War period, Key West was the nation's most significant Navy base geographically--the entire Atlantic fleet was based here at one state of the conflict. With the beginning of World War I, considerable construction was begun at the Naval Station. It became headquarters for the Seventh Naval District and responsible for supplying and maintaining the forces afloat. It was again active during World War II.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Smith, Milo and Associates, Inc. Re-Use Plan: Surplus Naval Properties. Key West, Florida, 1975.
- Naval Station Records. Public Works Department. Compiled by C.B. Harvey, 1974. On file at Historic Key West Preservation Board Office, Key West, Florida.
- Wells, Sharon. Naval Architecture of Key West: A Survey of Historic Structures at the former U.S. Naval Station. 1978. Historic Key West Pres. Board files.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 12 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	4	1,85,05	27	15	83,5	B	17	4	1,8	23,3	27	15	61,70
	ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING		ZONE			EASTING			NORTHING
C	17	4	1,82,33	27	15	89,9	D	17	4	1,8	29,4	27	15	55,26
	ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING		ZONE			EASTING			NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sharon L. Wells

Historian

June 16, 1982

ORGANIZATION

Historic Key West Preservation Board

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

500 Whitehead Street

TELEPHONE

Monroe County Courthouse

305/294-7511

CITY OR TOWN

Key West

STATE

Florida

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

George W. Perry
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Charles W. Entwistle

TITLE

Dep Asst Sec'y of the Navy

DATE

19 MAR 1984

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carl Duhon

DATE

5/8/1984

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Verbal Boundary Description
(Refer to Master Shore Station Development Plan Map)

Beginning at Point A--indicated on the map--proceed northwest 1160', more or less, to a point; thence westerly 300', more or less, to a point; thence southwesterly 100', more or less, to a point; thence easterly 100', more or less, to a point; thence southwesterly 75', more or less, to a point; thence easterly 125', more or less, to a point; thence south 125', more or less, to a point; thence east 135', more or less, to a point; thence south 200', more or less, to a point; thence west 125', more or less, to a point; thence south 140', more or less, to a point; thence west 50', to a point; thence south 180', more or less, to a point; thence west 140', more or less, to a point; thence south 250', more or less, to a point; thence east 225', more or less, to a point; thence south 125', more or less, to a point; thence west 25', more or less, to a point; thence south 450', more or less, to a point; thence west 45', more or less; thence south 400', more or less, to a point; thence east 85', more or less to a point; thence northeast 100', more or less, to a point; thence north 540', more or less, to a point; thence northeast 180', more or less, to a point; thence north 285', more or less, to a point; thence west 130', more or less, to a point; thence north 255', more or less, to a point; thence northeast 175', more or less, to a point; thence southeast 100', more or less, to a point; thence northeast 60', more or less, to a point; thence southeast 378', more or less, to a point; thence northeast 140', more or less, to the point of beginning.

