

PH0002364

HZ
No
LTR

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Florida

COUNTY:
Monroe

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
FEB 15 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Quarters "A"

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Little White House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Naval Station

CITY OR TOWN:
Key West

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Fifteenth

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
12

COUNTY:
Monroe

CODE:
087

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
U.S. Government

STREET AND NUMBER:
Property Holding Agency - Naval Station

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:
N/A

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Florida
COUNTY: Monroe
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

The "Little White House" was designed originally as a two-family residence and for that reason it has a symmetrical "double" facade emphasized by the two prominent cross gables on the main facade. Each gable is located over a single doorway with pent roof resting on slender wooden posts which are square in section. The entire building is covered with a low pitched roof with end gables. All bargeboards are simple vertical infill which serve to partially obscure the louvered vents contained within the gables. All porches, both first and second floor which were originally open or screened, are now covered with metal жалousies, painted white. This gives the entire exterior of the building a cohesive appearance, both in color and horizontal line. There are two brick chimneys, one each at the north and south ends, with corbelled caps.

The plan of the house is a long narrow rectangle. After many alterations, including its conversion to a single-family dwelling, the house is entered through a doorway to the right of center. This entrance leads into a hallway which interrupts a continuous porch which crosses the west front and returns two-thirds of the distance down the north and south sides. Alterations to the house include the enlarging of three of the upstairs bedrooms by extending them out into a back porch and extending ground floor porches on the south side. In addition, wiring and roofing have been replaced.

The building is partially obscured within a grove of trees which serves to cool the house and enhance the beauty of the setting.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1890**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion: Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Quarters "A", which later became known as the "Little White House" is located on 2.27 acres of land which were purchased by the United States Navy in January of 1854 at a cost of \$10,400. The house was built on the land in 1890 as a two-family dwelling. The paymaster occupied one side and the base commandant the other. The house was converted to a single family dwelling in 1946 when President Harry S. Truman began using it as a vacation home. According to a Truman biographer, Alfred Steinberg, the former president made two trips a year to Key West, one in February-March and the other in November-December. Steinberg states that:

"Here at the Naval Reservation, he (Truman) loafed, swam, lay in the sun, played horseshoes and wore loud clothes and a cap. Key West was his favorite vacation spot.....and he brought along such old friends as Les Biffle, Mon Wallgren, Chief Justice Vinson and Bill Boyle."

Truman continued to use the "Little White House" regularly until 1949. Thereafter his visits were erratic and the last was in March of 1969.

Although the building has undergone numerous renovations and some alterations, the architectural integrity has been retained. Certainly, however, its prime importance stems from its association with former President Harry Truman and his reference to it as the "Little White House."



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Monroe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 15 1974

(Number all entries) 9. Major Bibliographical References

Americas. Vol. 4, no. 5. May 1952, pp. 13-14. (magazine).

Monroe County Courthouse, Key West, Florida. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Monroe County Records. (Subgroup: deed book E, p. 539).

Public Affairs Office, Naval Station and Naval Base, Building 124, Key West, Florida. Miscellaneous files relative to the history of the "Little White House," particularly newspaper clippings.

Public Works Department, Naval Station, Key West, Florida. Real Estate Records, Quarters "A".

Steinberg, Alfred. The Man From Missouri, the Life and Times of Harry S. Truman. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1962, pp. 357-358.



Pearl Bank

OF
W A R

KEY WEST HARBOR
REAR RANGE LT

DREDGED AREA

FLEMING KEY

KEY WEST HARBOR
FRONT RANGE LT
TIDAL BM 1

FLEMING KEY 2

SLIP

U. S. GOVERNMENT

CHANNEL

H A R B O R

SEAPLANE LANDING
RAMP

Trumbo Island

Key West Bight

Garrison B

RADIO TOWERS

N W CHANNEL
INNER REAR RANGE LT

TIDAL BM 23

KINGFISH SHOAL LT

MAIN SHIP CHANNEL
REAR RANGE LT

$N 24^{\circ} 33' 21''$

NAVAL STATION LT

TIDAL BM 29

KEY WEST

U. S. GOVERNMENT
RESERVATIONS

Fort Taylor

MAIN SHIP CHAN
FRONT RANGE
LT

TIDAL BM 4
USE

Whitehead Spit

CUPOLA

Hotel

TOWER

H A W K



FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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

1. NAME

COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>
Quarters "A"	"Little White House"	FEB 15 1974

2. LOCATION

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Florida	Monroe	Key West

STREET AND NUMBER

Naval Station

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
U.S. Navy		Div. of Archives, History and Records Management

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

West elevation showing main facade.



GPO 932-009

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

1. NAME

COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Quarters "A"	Little White House	FEB 15 1974

2. LOCATION

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Florida	Monroe	Key West

STREET AND NUMBER

Naval Station

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
USGS Key West Quad.	1962	1:24000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.



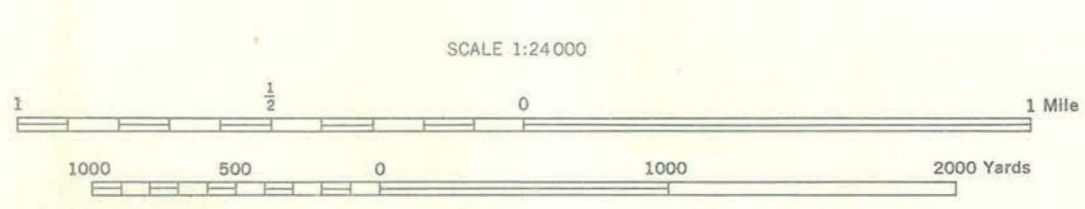
(SNIPES KEYS)



War Department mapping project.
Under direction of the Chief of Engineers.
Control by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.
Planimetry compiled from air photographs by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.
Planimetric topography and field edit by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, 1943.
Polyconic projection, North American datum of 1927.
This map complies with the national standard map accuracy requirements.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION 1943
Dependable hard-surface, heavy-duty road. U. S. route 74
Loose-surface graded, dry-weather road. U. S. route 74
Secondary, hard-surface, all-weather road. State route 26
Dirt road. State route 26
More than two lanes indicated by note along road with tick at point of change

TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION, 1943



MAXIMUM GROUND ELEVATION 12 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

REPRINTED FROM MILITARY EDITION FOR CIVIL USE 1982
SOLD AND DISTRIBUTED BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Recoverable horizontal control stations of less than third order accuracy are shown by circles.
Approximate low water line
Precinct boundaries not shown within city limits.
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown.

KEY WEST, FLA.
N2430-W8145/7.5

National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2014

(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Little White House (Additional Documentation)

other names/site number Truman Little White House/MO244

2. Location

street & number 111 Front Street n/a not for publication

city or town Key West n/a vicinity

state Florida code FL county Monroe code 087 zip code 33040

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Barbara C. Mattick / DSHPO 12/17/2013
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Jay Sublett

2-3-2014

Little White House (AD)
Name of Property

Monroe Co., FL
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
1	0	structures
		objects
2	0	total

Name of related multiple property listings
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Institutional Housing

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Frame Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Wood: Weatherboard
walls Wood: Weatherboard

roof _____
other Metal: Aluminum louvers

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles; and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1946-1952

Significant Dates

1947

1949

Significant Person

Truman, Harry S.

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

U.S. Navy/U.S. Navy

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of Repository

#

Little White House (AD)
Name of Property

Monroe Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	4 1 8 2 8 5	2 7 1 6 0 4 9
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert Wolz, Ex. Director, HST Little White House & Barbara E. Mattick/DSHPO for Survey & Registration

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date December 2013

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name State of Florida, c/o Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, c/o Susan Grandin, Division Director

street & number Division of State Lands, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd. telephone 850-245-2555

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399-3000

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 Little White House (AD)
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

SUMMARY

The Little White House, at 111 Front Street, is located at the western end of Key West in the Truman Annex area of the U.S. Naval Station. The building is a two-story, frame vernacular building originally constructed in 1890 as quarters for the Commandant and Paymaster of the Station. It was altered several times, but has been restored to its configuration as it was when it was used by President Harry S. Truman as a presidential retreat and served as a “winter” White House, 1946-1952, during his time as President of the United States. The property is owned by the State of Florida and leased to Historic Tours of America.

SETTING

The Little White House is located at 111 Front Street, within the Truman Annex area of the U.S. Naval Station (Photo 1). The boundary of the nominated area is Front Street on the east, Caroline Street on the north, the western edge of a grassy area directly west of the Little White House building, and the iron fence line south of the Little White House building. Almost an acre of the original grounds have been retained surrounding the property. Many original trees have remained on site as well. The large naval Administration Building 124, constructed in 1942, remains to the west of the Little White House property. To the north of the Little White House property sits Building 21, constructed in 1901. This building is National Register-listed and served as a naval office building from 1939 through 1974. To the south of the property, the Naval Foundry and Machine Shop Buildings still stand, although they have been converted into residences.

The original 1890 historic iron fence remains largely intact on the south, east, and north sides of the property. The property was never fenced on the west side. One gate and several sections have been replicated to match the original fabric (Photo 2). The fence is counted as 1 contributing structure.

DESCRIPTION

The Little White House was designed in 1889 by architect George McKay as a two-family residence for use as the Key West Naval Station Commandant and Naval Station Paymaster’s homes. They were the first officer’s quarters on the Naval Station. Construction began on January 15, 1890, and was completed by May 30, 1890.

The building has a symmetrical “double” façade, emphasized by the two prominent cross gables on the main façade (Photo 3). Each gable is located over a single doorway with pent roof resting on slender wooden posts. The entire building is covered with a low-pitched roof with end gables. All bargeboards are simple vertical infill that partially obscure the louvered vents contained within the gables. All porches, on both the first and second stories, which were originally open or screened, are now covered with wooden jalousies, painted

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2 Little White House (AD)
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

white. This gives the entire exterior of the building a cohesive appearance both in color and horizontal line. There are three brick chimneys, one each at the north and south ends, and one on the rear center elevation of the house. All brick chimneys have corbelled caps and are painted white (Photo 4).

The plan of the house is a long narrow rectangle. Built in 1890 as two side-by-side, two-story frame homes with a single roof, it was remodeled in 1911 into a single dwelling for use by the Key West Naval Station commandant. In 1946, it was selected as a Presidential retreat. In 1949, at the request of the U.S. Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks, the Little White House was remodeled to better serve the needs of the President of the United States. The 1949 remodeling added approximately ten feet to the first floor south porch (Photo 5). The main entrance of the house, located on the west elevation, leads into a hallway. The hallway interrupts a continuous porch that crosses the west front and returns two-thirds of the distance down the north and south elevations. A sundeck was installed on the second floor above this south porch. The second floor bedrooms and bathrooms were enlarged into the porches on the eastern side of the house (Photo 6). The north hallway was ramped to eliminate stepping up and down. Wiring and roofing have been replaced and repaired, though most of the roof's metal shingles date from the 1911 remodeling. The flat roofs over the wrap-around porches on the second story were repaired in 2004 to prevent water intrusion in accordance with U.S. Department of Interior Guidelines for Historic Preservation.

Alterations over Time and the 1988 Restoration (Photos 7-15)

From 1956 through 1974, various naval officers redecorated the interior of the house. From 1974 through 1988, the house was boarded up and abandoned. In 1988, a major restoration of the interior and exterior was completed to return the building to its 1949 appearance. Two fire escapes on the eastern side of the building were removed for safety and security reasons. Safety glass was installed on the inside of all the louvered windows to control temperature and humidity. Central HVAC systems were installed to protect the collections. The only alterations to the exterior of the building occurred in 1949, when it was remodeled to serve as the functioning White House of the United States.

To more accurately interpret the site, Scalamandre Fabrics replicated the original wall coverings installed 1949. Schumacher Fabrics also replicated the original fabrics used for upholstery and draperies. A paint analysis was conducted in 2006 to replicate paint finishes and colors used in 1949. The structure has retained a very high degree of its 1890 integrity, such as 9-inch baseboards and 6-inch wide door and window casings in the main block of the building. Two 1890 fireplaces and one fireplace from the 1911 remodeling remain. The original wet bar constructed for President Truman's use in 1949 remains in the south porch.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 1 LITTLE WHITE HOUSE (AD)
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

SUMMARY

The Little White, originally known as Quarters A, is **nationally significant** under **Criterion A** in the area of **Politics/Government**. The most significant activities at Quarters A began when President Harry S. Truman started using the property as a winter vacation spot. From 1946 through 1952, Truman used the facility as his Winter White House. Each year, he made two trips to his winter retreat, usually from November to December and again from February to March. Truman made eleven trips to the Key West facility, totaling 175 days of his presidency. The first few trips were primarily for rest and relaxation, but this pattern of vacations radically changed after his re-election in November 1948. From that point on, President Truman spent up to a month each year in Key West, and the staff grew from 16 accompanying the President on the November 1946 trip to 57 staff members on the March 1952 trip (William Rigdon, *The White House Sailor*, 256). As Truman conducted more and more official business at the Key West facility, it was also referred to as the "Little White House."

HISTORIC CONTEXT

In the summer of 1889, following a number of complaints about the lack of officers quarters at the Key West Naval Station, congress authorized the building of a duplex to house the Station Commandant and Station Paymaster. This duplex was designated Quarters A & B. In the 1890s, the Key West Naval Station was a major naval base, with the *U.S.S. Maine* calling it homeport. The entire Atlantic Fleet was stationed in Key West in anticipation of the Spanish American War. During that war, Key West and Tampa were the major points of disembarkation for the troops going to Cuba and Puerto Rico (Wright Langley, *Key West and the Spanish American War*).

In 1906, the American DeForrest Company created the Caribbean Radio Network, linking Colon, Panama; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Pensacola, Florida. The radio antennas surrounded the commandant's house, and Building 21, located to the immediate north, served as the power station (Lee DeForrest, *Father of Radio: The Autobiography of Lee DeForrest*).

In 1911, Quarters A & B were merged into a single dwelling and renamed Quarters A, and the Seventh Naval District Headquarters were moved to Key West. This district covered all naval operations south of Charleston, South Carolina. The naval station expanded to include a submarine base, naval air station, and surface ships.

In 1912-1915, Captain Edward Everett Hayden lived in Quarters A, serving as naval station commander and conducting research in hydrography and meteorology, primarily relating to hurricanes (Library of Congress Manuscript Collection). Hayden had served as the secretary to the National Geographic Society (1895-97). He

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2 LITTLE WHITE HOUSE (AD)
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

was in charge of time service at the U.S. Naval Observatory from 1902 to 1910. Key West suffered severe hurricanes in 1909 and 1910, which may be the reason Hayden came to the Key West command. A few years later, in 1918, Thomas Alva Edison resided in the house for six months, conducting research in underwater explosives and the electrical systems of submarines then operated by Edison batteries. Forty weapons were developed while he was in Key West.

The years between World War I and World War II were relatively calm. From 1931 to 1937, the naval station was closed except for the Caribbean Radio Network. For this reason, President Franklin D. Roosevelt did not use Quarters A when he attended the opening of the Overseas Highway, a road between the southeastern tip of the Florida peninsula and Key West, in 1938. During World War II, the Key West Naval Station played an important role in protecting the shipping lanes in the Straits of Florida and the Gulf of Mexico. The Fleet Sonar School was established at the Station, and both American and Allied sailors trained here, with numerous governmental leaders stay at Quarters A. After the war, the Key West Naval Station grew in importance for its weapons development and submarine detection programs.

SIGNIFICANCE

(directly from Wolz chapter in National Security Legacy of HST, combined with proposal verbiage, with BEM edits)

In November 1946, Truman had just completed nineteen demanding month in office. The decision to drop the atomic bomb, the conclusion of World War II, the daunting tasks of rebuilding Japan and Europe, and the conversion of the nation's wartime production to a peacetime economy had taken their toll on the president's health. A few months earlier, he had attempted a vacation on the USS *Williamsburg* (AGC-369), the presidential yacht, but this had to be cut short. The president wrote to his wife, Bess, on 22 August 1946, "The Maine coast cruise ended in a blow up. Everybody and his brother whom I didn't want to see tried by every hook or crook to rope me into letting him come aboard or having me be seen with him. So I just cancelled the trip" (Margaret Truman, *Harry S. Truman*, 334).

Dr. Wallace Graham, the president's physician, was alarmed at his patient's health and ordered the president to take a warm vacation with a minimum of distractions. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz immediately suggested the Commandant's Quarters on the Key West Naval Station as a retreat for the president. The climate was warm and the site offered maximum security and complete privacy. Earle Adams, a local news reporter, speculated that the real reason might be that Nimitz wanted the president to be favorably impressed with the Navy's experimental operations and thereby build support for naval appropriations (Earle Adams, "Truman Discovered Key West By Purpose," *Miami Herald*, 7 December 1947).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3 LITTLE WHITE HOUSE (AD)
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

Soon after Truman arrived for his first Key West vacation, he wrote to Bess: "This place is what I hoped it would be and what I was certain it would not be. I'm in a house built on a Southern plan with galleries all around, upstairs and down. It is the house of the commandant of the submarine base. They have no commandant at present so I'm not ranking anyone out of his house" (Harry S. Truman to Bess Truman, 18 November 1946, in *Dear Bess: The Letters from Harry to Bess Truman 1910-1959*, ed. Robert H. Ferrell, 540). Truman described his routine in Key West as follows:

I have arranged a schedule so that I get up at 7:30 (two hours later than I usually do), go over and have a swim, have breakfast at nine and then go to a nice sand beach a half mile away and get sun and sea water. Come back at noon, have lunch at one and then a nap and sit around and talk until dinner at seven, go to bed when I get ready and then do it over. I've just returned from the beach after trying out the schedule and my cough and cold are nearly gone already (M. Truman, *Harry S. Truman*, 324).

Truman could rest, swim in the warm waters, and walk around the base with complete security and privacy. He inspected the air station and submarine base and enjoyed being a tourist. On 21 November 1946, the president and his party of twenty-two boarded the captured German submarine U 2513 and set out to sea. According to the trip log, reporters were barred from the trip "because of many secret experimental devices installed on board" (William M. Rigdon, *Log of President Truman's [First] Vacation Trip to Key West, Florida, November 17-23, 1946*, 11). While underway, the submarine commenced a dive to 440 feet (John Vosburgh, "President Submerges 440 Feet," *Key West Citizen*, 21 November 1946). Other activities included trips to Fort Jefferson and deep-sea fishing. The president was completely rejuvenated by his visit to Key West and, when asked by the press, he promised to return for additional Key West vacations. The U.S. Navy and the Soviets both captured these top-secret World War II German submarines and were extracting technology to use against one another. The Key West Underwater Weapons School was developing new weapons to sink Soviet submarines. New bombsights for bombardiers were being developed at the Naval Air Station, and the Fleet Sonar School was perfecting submarine detection techniques. The underwater Swimmers School was developing SCUBA diving. All these training facilities were a response to the beginnings of the Cold War.

The next year, the president planned a Caribbean vacation, to begin on 8 March 1947 that would include a brief stay in Key West and a fifteen-day sail on the *Williamsburg*. An Associated Press release of 7 March stated, "The White House announced that the president's Caribbean vacation had been postponed because of developments." While the White House did not reveal what those developments were, it was generally recognized to mean the growing crisis in Greece. The Associated Press added on 8 March 1947, "Truman sat in the White House, rather than in Key West, weighing the most momentous decision since war's end -- whether to reshape historic American foreign policy by calling for the direct intervention in the internal affairs of Greece" (Associated Press release, 8 March 1947).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 4 LITTLE WHITE HOUSE (AD)
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

Communist-backed rebels were threatening civil war in both Greece and Turkey. Britain was disengaging its influence from the region by withdrawing 40,000 troops and ending their foreign aid to these nations; as a result, the governments in Greece, Turkey, and Iran were in danger of collapsing. President Truman addressed Congress in early March 1947, asking for \$400 million in military and economic aid to the three countries. This major relief effort initiated what became known as the Truman Doctrine, and marked the beginning of a new foreign policy for the United States.

As early as President Truman's second visit to Key West in March 1947, national and international concerns were discussed at the Little White House. On 12 March 1947, Truman addressed a joint session of Congress, announcing the Truman Doctrine, the "policy of providing economic and military aid to any country threatened by communism or totalitarian ideology," and requested \$400 million in economic and military aid to Greece and Turkey to keep them from being overrun by the Soviet Union. The following day, the President left for much needed rest in Key West. A constant stream of communication between Truman, Secretary of State George Marshall, and foreign leaders followed (*Miami Herald*, 13 March 1947).

Given such international tensions, one of President Truman's main concerns was national security. To address this issue, after much debate about the need to curb the power of the military, Congress passed legislation and Truman signed into law the National Security Act of 1947 on July 26th. This act established a unified military command initially known as the National Military Establishment to replace the Department of War; and created the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Council, the National Security Resources Board, the United States Air Force (formerly known as the Army Air Corps), and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The National Military Establishment was placed under the authority of a newly created post, Secretary of Defense, the appointees to be confirmed by the Senate. On 17 September 1947, James V. Forrestal was designated as the first Secretary of Defense. The National Military Establishment was renamed the Department of Defense on 10 August 1949.

The events leading up to this speech were exhausting. Dr. Graham told United Press International that Truman had "positive instruction for absolute rest" (United Press International release, 12 March 1947). The following day, 13 March 1947, Truman left for Key West and wrote to his daughter, Margaret: "We had a pleasant flight from Washington. Your old Dad slept for 750 or 800 miles—three hours, and we were traveling from 250 to 300 miles an hour. No one, not even me (your mother would say) knew how very tired and worn to a frazzle the Chief Executive had become. This terrible decision I had to make has been over my head for about six weeks" (Roy Jenkins, *Truman*, 102). Arriving for his second visit to Key West, the president said to Key West mayor William Demerett, "I told you I would be back. This is my favorite vacation spot" (Earle Adams, "Truman Lands in Key West," *Miami Herald*, 13 March 1947). Truman wrote to Bess, "I am getting some

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 5 LITTLE WHITE HOUSE (AD)
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

much needed rest and already feel and look much better” (Harry S. Truman to Bess Truman, 15 March 1947 in *Dear Bess*, ed. Ferrell, 544).

Special conferences took up much of this second vacation. The president received reports from Secretary of State George Marshall on the Soviet Union’s reaction to the Truman Doctrine and he had meetings with Paul Porter, special envoy to Greece. Truman was in constant contact with Washington in regard to the Truman Doctrine. Congress took a bipartisan stand and supported the president, as did most Americans. This allowed Truman to enjoy some relaxation while on his Key West vacation.

Truman’s third visit to Key West was truly more of a vacation, though on 6 December 1947, he took a daylong trip to Naples and Everglade City, Florida, where he dedicated the Everglades National Park in a ceremony attended by 5,000 people, including 150 members of the Seminole tribe.

President Truman continued to use Quarters A much as later presidents would use Camp David: as a place to relax and restore body and mind. But unlike Camp David, the Little White House, as Quarters A came to be known, became a functioning seat of government. The president conducted the affairs of state from his Key West vacation spot. National and international leaders met with the president, correspondence arrived in quantity every few days and was handled, and legislation was enacted. On 28 February 1948, the president, writing to Mrs. Truman, confirmed the use of Quarters A as a functioning White House: “Have been resting well, but the work comes along just the same. I’ve been reading and signing messages, executive orders, statements, letters etc. at the usual rate” (Harry S. Truman to Bess Truman, 28 February 1948, in *Dear Bess*, ed. Ferrell, 553).

In February 1948, while vacationing in Key West, the “complex problem in Palestine” took much of the Truman’s time. The State of Israel was established on May 14, 1948, and was recognized by President Truman that same day. The work of the president and the world’s need for diplomacy continued. In March 1948, Secretary of Defense Forrestal “summoned the Joint Chiefs and their aides, in the seclusion of the Key West Naval Station [Little White House]” to implement the details of the National Security Act of 1947. The resulting agreements are known as the “Key West Accords” (The Forrestal Diaries, 390). Their purpose was to create the unified command called for in this security act. Because of lingering tensions between the military service branches, Truman asked General Dwight Eisenhower in March 1949 to hold additional discussions about the new arrangement among the military branches at the Little White House with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. These meetings resulted in the creation of the Department of Defense as we know it today (David McCullough, *Truman*, 739).

The fourth trip to Key West allowed President Truman to combine his Key West vacation with a goodwill mission to Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He also received and

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 6 LITTLE WHITE HOUSE (AD)
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

carefully reviewed the text of a U.S. policy address on the Palestine refugees while in Key West. He may have officially been on vacation, but his diplomatic work continued.

Press conferences were usually held on the lawn of the Little White House each Thursday, and Truman's press secretary held daily news briefings, fending off hot topics with "no comment" or "I don't know" (Paul White, "Little White House on Florida Island," *Tampa Sunday Tribune*, 2 December 1951). On one such occasion, the public was informed that "the Little White House at Key West confirmed that the President has received a letter direct from Chiang Kai-shek, president of the Chinese government," asking for direct United States military and economic aid against the Chinese Communists (Paul R. Leach, "New Force to Cover Evacuation," *Miami Herald*, 18 November 1948). The president's staff confirmed that "Defense Secretary James V. Forrestal will fly here from Washington to talk with President Truman, probably about critical Asiatic and European affairs" (Earle Adams, "Cabinet Job May Be Decided," *Miami Herald*, 18 November 1948). Truman refused, but the very fact that the letter was considered shows the continual work of the President (*Miami Herald*, 16 November 1948). The annual State of the Union address as well as the annual budgets were developed at the Little White House, as they were each November.

November 1948 saw President Truman, along with his family, come to the Little White House to recover from the hard-fought political campaign in which Truman had a surprise upset against Republican Thomas Dewey in the presidential election. The president had traveled over 31,000 miles that summer campaigning on his whistle-stop train tour. The entourage included Truman's staff and advisors to work on the administration's program and on his inaugural address. Vice President-Alben Barkley and Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn also joined the president.

This was Bess Truman's first visit to the Little White House. Captain Cecil Adell, commanding Key West Station, and Rear Admiral J.J. Manning, USN Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, realized that Mrs. Truman would be coming more often since Truman had just been reelected to a full four-year term, so they decided that the Quarters A should be redecorated in a style more suitable for the First Family. They hired Miami-based interior decorator Haygood Lassiter to completely redecorate the house and to make some structural improvements. Some floors were leveled or ramped to eliminate deep steps, and several upstairs bedrooms were enlarged by absorbing the porches on the east side of the house into the floor plan. The south porch—which the president used as a recreation room—was enlarged to accommodate the increasing number of staffers coming to Key West. Its furnishings included a prized solid mahogany poker table that had been presented to the president by the naval base's cabinet shop.

The contract awarded \$35,000 to the interior designer for the renovation, and all the rooms received a fresh new look described by Lassiter as "Georgetownish." Comfortable reading chairs with good lighting filled the spaces in this pre-television home. The radio-phonograph in the living room was a popular diversion for the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 7 LITTLE WHITE HOUSE (AD)
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

president and his staff, who enjoyed prizefights, sporting events, and music. The president often worked while listening to Chopin recordings. Leather-inlaid mahogany tables and Hepplewhite-style furnishings brought a new elegance. The colors were those popular in the 1940s: avocado green, grays, lime green, deep blues, gray green, tomato red, and bright yellow. The designs reflected a tropical atmosphere, especially the floral and banana leaf prints and natural jute fibers.

In less than four months the remodeling was completed. When the presidential party returned on 16 March 1949, Truman was delighted. He wrote to Bess, "They have fixed you up a palatial bedroom next to mine. You've never seen a nicer one. The place is all redecorated. The porches have been leveled up so there are not steps from the dining room—new furniture and everything. I've a notion to move the Capitol to Key West and just stay" (Harry S. Truman to Bess Truman, 13 March 1949, Files Pertaining to Family Business and Personal affairs, Truman Presidential Library).

It was mid-November 1951, while on a brief visit to the Little White House, that Truman let his staff know that he had decided not to run for a second full term. His decision was to be kept a secret, but he wanted to let them know, so far ahead of the April 1952 Democratic National Convention, so they could start making their own plans for the future. No staff member ever leaked this information, and the press continued to speculate whether President Truman would run for reelection or not.

The last visits in 1951 and 1952 were during the Korean War. As might be expected, the Little White House was even more involved as the site of government activity, with much stricter security measures, Marine Corps guards, and increased Secret Service protection. The Little White House clerical staff was increased by three stenographers. On 5 March 1951, while at the beach, the president had a conference call with Vice President Barkley, Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, Senate Majority Leader E.W McFarland, and House Majority Leader John W. McCormack. This is but one of several conference calls Truman held while in Key West.

The Korean War (25 June 1950 – 27 July 1953) saw a higher level of activity and security during presidential visits. The losses in Korea were staggering. President Truman, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and many in the Congress feared a third world war would result, with the Soviet Union joining the Chinese and North Koreans. Members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff flew in and out of Key West to brief Truman on various operations. This was especially true during Truman's vacation March 2-22, 1951.

It was then that President Truman learned for the first time that the Allied Forces were successful in Korea. The State Department as well as the Department of Defense were optimistic that a cease-fire could be achieved and felt the time was right to prepare a ceasefire proposal. On 20 March 1951, the president submitted a draft proposal to the other seventeen nations with troops in Korea. In October 1950, President Truman had met with the general on Wake Island, where an understanding was reached that Washington would issue any

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 8 LITTLE WHITE HOUSE (AD)
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

policy statements, and on 20 March 1951, General Douglas MacArthur, head of the Allied Forces in Korea, received the following communiqué: “State planning Presidential announcement shortly that....United Nations now prepared to discuss conditions of settlement in Korea” (Truman Library document 20 March 1951). In spite of this notification of Truman’s intentions to make an official announcement, on 23 March 1951, MacArthur released his own statement: “The enemy must by now be painfully aware that a decision of the United States to depart from its tolerant effort to contain the war to areas of Korea, through an expansion of our military operations to his coastal areas and interior bases, would doom Red China to the risk of imminent military collapse” (William Manchester, *American Caesar: Douglas MacArthur 1880-1964*, 388). MacArthur’s statement blatantly violated the agreement he had with the President to allow policy decisions to be announced from Washington. Truman, just returning from Key West, found that “It was an act totally disregarding all directives to abstain from any declarations on foreign policy. It was an open defiance of my orders as President and as Commander in Chief. This was a challenge to the President under the Constitution. It also flouted the policy of the United Nations” (*Truman Memoirs* Vol. 2, 441-442). Truman relieved MacArthur from command of the Allied Forces in Korea, causing a firestorm of protest in Congress, and replaced him with General Matthew Ridgway. Thousands of Americans could not believe the president would do such a thing to a beloved war hero like MacArthur. Most historians today agree that replacing MacArthur was one of President Truman’s greatest opportunities to demonstrate the American principal that the civilian government has supremacy over the military.

Truman’s eleventh and final presidential visit to Key West was from 7 March to 27 March 1952. The following month, he announced his intention not to seek reelection.

At the same time so many intense international affairs going on during the early Cold War era, domestic affairs also demanded President Truman’s time. During World War II, strikes were not permitted, but during the post-war era pent up labor grievances heated up, sometimes resulting in strikes, such as those led by John L. Lewis for coal miners, and other strikes by railroad workers and steel workers. The Taft-Hartley Act (Labor Management Relations Act of 1947) restricted the activities and powers of labor unions. It became law despite Truman’s veto of the Act. These matters were topics of discussion at the Little White House.

Also on the domestic front, Charles E. Wilson, Chair of the President’s Committee on Civil Rights, made several trips to Key West. On 3 December 1951, at the Little White House, President Truman drafted and enacted Executive Order 10308 “Improving the Means for Obtaining Compliance with the Nondiscrimination Provisions of Federal Contracts.” Under the order, Federal contractors could not exclude minorities (Public Papers of the President: Harry S. Truman 1951, 640). This was Truman’s fourth Executive Order affecting Civil Rights.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 9 LITTLE WHITE HOUSE (AD)
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

President Truman's vacations in Key West provided much need rest and relaxation, but the significance of the work he accomplished at the Little White House should not be underestimated. All the important decisions made at the Little White House will never be known. The amount of correspondence, legislations, appointments and bills came to the Little White House for official responses was voluminous. Every other day, large mail bags were flown in on naval planes for the President. As reported by David Lawrence in the *New York Herald Tribune* of 20 March 1950, "President Truman has found here rest and seclusion - a chance to think through some of the major problems that bother him. He gets a vacation, of course, from the pressures of a daily calling list and from the hour-by-hour demands on his time from heads of departments and government agencies. But the task of being President never ceases for a moment."

Commander William Rigdon, Truman's assistant naval aide, kept careful logs of each of the president's trips, detailing all the daily activities. A careful reading of his logs reveals the transition of the Little White House from a brief vacation spot to a functioning White House, and provides historians with rich insights into the Little White House and Truman's presidency. Commander Rigdon noted: "On our first visit, in 1946, the President's needs were provided by sixteen persons, including cooks, stewards, clerical and communications personnel, but not including the ever-present force of Secret Service agents. On the eleventh and final outing there, in 1952, a second house in addition to the Little White House and the Presidential yacht was needed to accommodate the fifty-seven staffers and service assistants" (William Rigdon, *The White House Sailor*, 256)

The Little White House experience also reflects the creation of the modern presidency in that, because of mid-twentieth-century advances in transportation and communications capabilities that enabled the development of a "mobile White House," one that followed the President everywhere. As reported in the *New York Herald Tribune*:

Anything that comes here [Little White House, Key West] for action is of topmost significance- and much of what is done here isn't publicized at all. ...This is readily accomplished because of the airplane and the telephone. The President can send for any one and bring him here by air in a few hours for a conference. He can do business by telephone if he wishes to work faster than the airplane can carry his letters or orders. Even the idea of a three-way hook-up with two or three other persons participating in a telephone conference has been developed for the President's benefit...(David Lawrence, *New York Herald Tribune*, 21 March 1951).

President Truman himself described the Little White House in much the same way in a letter written 9 April 1951, to his cousin, Ethel Noland:

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 10 LITTLE WHITE HOUSE (AD)
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

My purported vacation was a farce – except for a change of scenery. There are half a dozen bedrooms with twin beds where my immediate secretaries stay. Press, appointment, correspondence, legal, special, etc. etc. ad lib. I keep them all busy... Then I have executive assistants by the half dozen. Military aide, naval aide, air aide and their assistants, a medical aide-Air Force, a medical aide-Naval with assistants who dose me, beat me and keep me generally healthy.... What I'm saying is that the business of the government never stops no matter where the President goes – it follows him" (Monte Poen, ed., *Letters Home by Harry Truman*, 235).

Use of the Little White House after Truman

Truman's second term in office ended with the inauguration of General Dwight D. Eisenhower as President of the United States in 1953. The Little White House returned to being the Naval Station Commandant's Quarters. President Eisenhower, however, used the grounds and command center to recover from a heart attack in December 1955 and January 1956. His 1956 State of the Union address was drafted from Key West.

Over the years, the Little White House was used by other presidents for strategic and diplomatic meetings. On 26 March 1961, President John F. Kennedy hosted a one day summit with Britain's Prime Minister Harold Macmillan. Officially, this meeting dealt with the developing crisis in Laos. Some historians question its possible connection to the planned Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba just three weeks later.

In the early 1970s, the Key West Naval Station was one of the largest experimental bases on the east coast prior to its disestablishment in 1974. The Fleet Sonar School located there brought many high ranking officials, both American and Allied, to the Little White House. Notably among these are Vice President Hubert Humphrey, Francis Cardinal Spellman, and King Hussein I of Jordan. The house served as the Naval Station commandant's house until March 1974, when, because of the Navy's conversion from diesel to nuclear submarines, the submarine base closed.

From 1974 through 1986, the house was boarded up and abandoned. On 1 January 1987, however, it was deeded to the State of Florida and is held in trust as a public museum. Almost a million dollars was spent to restore the house to its 1949 appearance in 1990. The Key West Harry S. Truman Foundation, a 501 (c) 3 foundation, continues restoration efforts and holds educational conferences on Truman's impact upon today's society. In 1991, the house opened as a State Historic site and museum, and is now leased to Historic Tours of America.

Despite its conversion into a house museum, the Little White House continues to serve international and national figures. In April 2001, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell hosted foreign leaders there at the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 11 LITTLE WHITE HOUSE (AD)
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

Nogorno-Karabakh Peace Conference, led by Minsk Group Co-Chairman Carey Cavanaugh, between President Robert Kocharian of Armenia and President Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan. Accepting a standing invitation to current and past U.S. presidents, Jimmy Carter and Bill and Hilary Clinton have dined and relaxed in the Little White House, using it as a weekend retreat. The Carters came in December 1996 and the Clintons stayed there in January 2005.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**LITTLE WHITE HOUSE (AD)
Key West, Monroe Co., FL**

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Resources

- Ferrell, Robert. *Dear Bess: The Letters from Harry S. Truman 1940-1959*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1983.
- Millis, Walter, ed. *The Forrestall Diaries*. New York: Viking Press, 1951.
- Poen, Monte, ed. *Letters Home by Harry S. Truman*. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1984.
- Truman, Harry. *Memoirs*, Vols. I & II. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Co., 1955.
- United States. President. *The Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Harry S. Truman, 1952-53*. Washington, DC: General Services Administration, National Archives and Records Services, Office of the Federal Register, 1966.

Manuscripts

- Files Pertaining to Family Business and Personal Affairs, Truman Presidential Library
- William Rigdon Presidential Trip Logs – Trips to Key West #1 to 11, Harry S. Truman Library.
- Secretary Vertical File, Truman Library

Newspapers

- Adams, Earle, "Truman Lands in Key West," *Miami Herald*, 13 March 1947; "Truman Discovered Key West By Purpose," *Miami Herald*, 7 December 1947.
- Leach, Paul R., "New Force to Cover Evacuation," *Miami Herald*, 18 November 1948.
- New York Herald Tribune*, 20 March 1950; 21 March, 1951.
- Vosburgh, John, "President Submerges 440 Feet," *Key West Citizen*, 21 November 1946.
- White, Paul, "Little White on Florida Island," *Tampa Sunday Tribune*, 2 December 1951.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

LITTLE WHITE HOUSE (AD)
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

Section number 9 Page 2

Secondary Resources

- DeForest, Lee. *Father of Radio: The Autobiography of Lee DeForest*. Chicago, IL: Wilcox & Follett, 1950.
- Jenkins, Roy. *Truman*. New York: Harper & Row, 1986.
- Langley, Wright. *Key West and the Spanish American War*. Key West, FL: Langley Press, 1998.
- Manchester, William. *The American Caesar: Douglas MacArthur 1880-1964*. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Co., 1978.
- McCullough, David. *Truman*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992.
- Parks, Arva Moore. *Harry Truman and the Little White House in Key West*. Miami, FL: Centennial Press, 1991.
- Rigdon, William. *The White House Sailor*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Co., 1962.
- Truman, Margaret. *Harry S. Truman*. New York: William Morrow, 1973.
- Walsh, Kenneth. *From Mount Vernon to Crawford: A History of the Presidents and Their Retreats*. New York: Hyperion, 2005.
- Wolz, Robert and Hayo Barbara. *The Legacy of the Harry S. Truman Little White House – Key West: Presidents in Paradise*. Key West, FL: Historic Tours of America, 2004.
- Wolz, Robert J. "Truman in Key West," in *The National Security Legacy of Harry S. Truman*, edited by Robert P. Watson, Michael J. Devine, and Robert J. Wolz. The Truman Legacy Series, Vol. 1. Kirksville, MO: Truman State University Press, 2005.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page _____ LITTLE WHITE HOUSE (AD)
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

PHOTOGRAPHS

- 1 1) Little White House
 2) Key West, Monroe Co., FL
 3) Photographer: John Penney of Blackdog Advertising, Miami, FL
 4) July 2009
 5) Location of original negative: Blackdog Advertising, Miami, FL
 6) North and west elevations, camera facing SSE
 7) Photo 1 of 15

Items are the same as above unless noted otherwise.

- 2 6) Gate on Front Street, leading to rear (east) elevation, camera facing SW
 7) Photo 2 of 15
- 3 6) West (main) elevation, camera facing E
 7) Photo 3 of 15
- 4 6) Typical brick chimney, camera facing E
 7) Photo 4 of 15
- 5 6) East (rear) elevation, camera facing NW
 7) Photo 5 of 15
- 6 6) Enclosed porch
 7) Photo 6 of 15
- 7 6) Typical window surround
 7) Photo 7 of 15
- 8 6) Harry S. Truman's bedroom
 7) Photo 8 of 15
- 9 6) Bess Truman's bedroom
 7) Photo 9 of 15

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page _____ LITTLE WHITE HOUSE (AD)
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

- 10 6) Living room, with authentically reupholstered furniture
7) Photo 10 of 15
- 11 6) Dining room
7) Photo 11 of 15
- 12 6) Truman's poker table in Florida Room
7) Photo 12 of 15
- 13 6) Truman's bar, interior side, off kitchen
7) Photo 13 of 15
- 14 6) Truman's bar, front side
7) Photo 14 of 15
- 15 6) Foyer and stairway, showing restored wallpaper
7) Photo 15 of 15

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1 Little White House (AD)
Key West, Monroe Co., FL

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

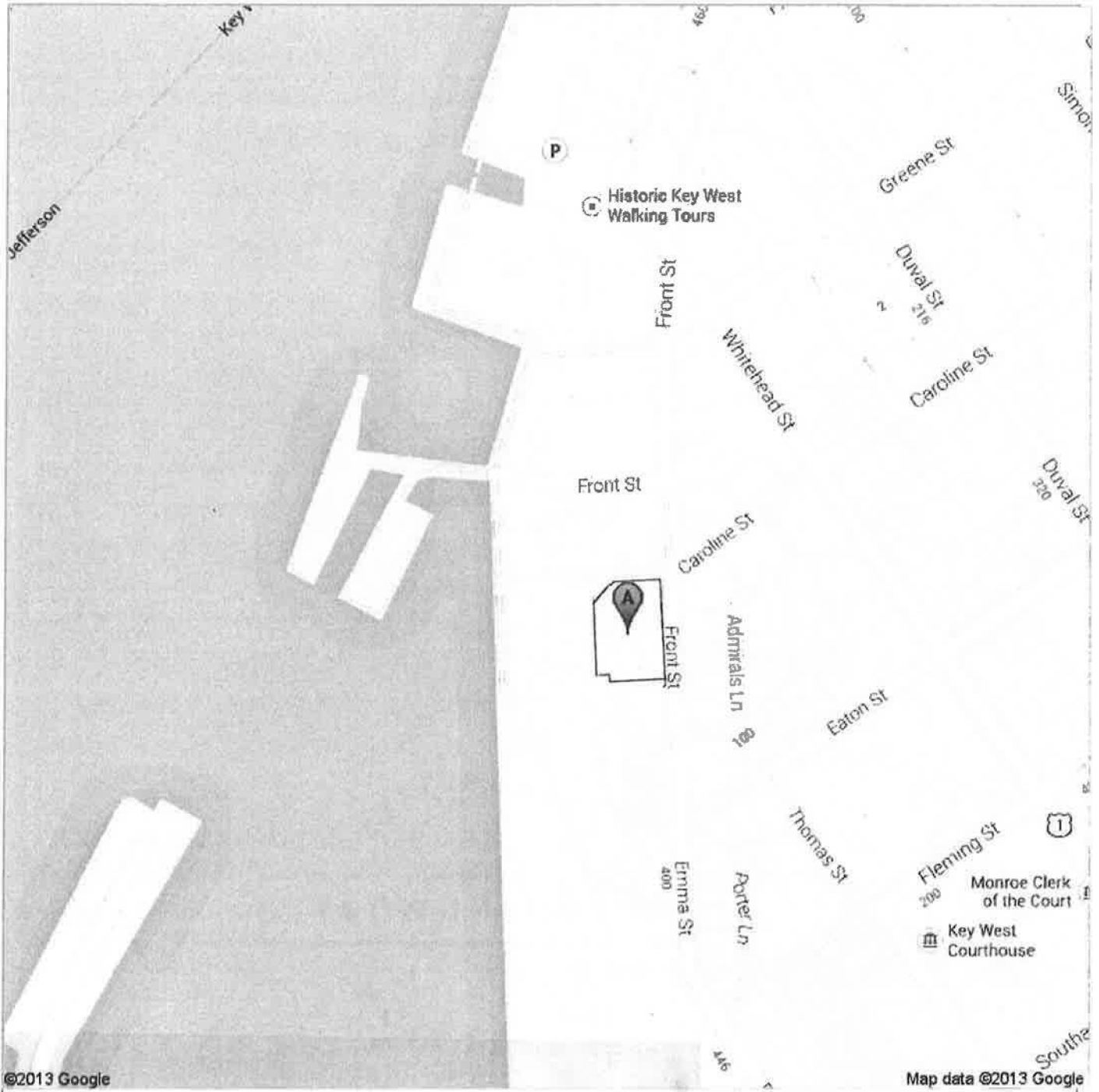
The Little White House is located within the Truman Annex area of the U.S. Naval Station. The boundary of the nominated area is Front Street on the east, Caroline Street on the north, the western Edge of a grassy area directly west of the Little White House building, and the iron fence line south of the Little White House building. See the accompanying site plan.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

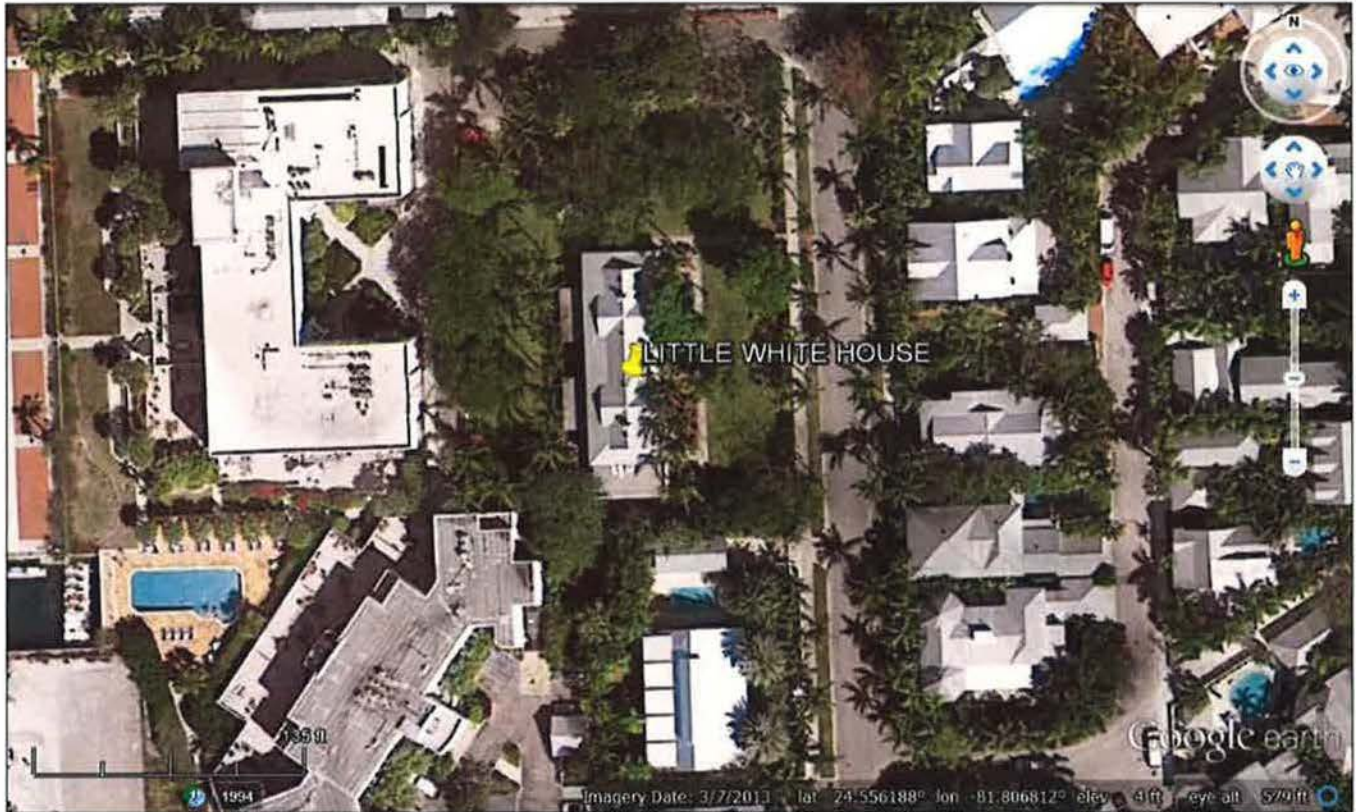
The boundary encompasses the area that has been historically associated with the building during the time it was associated with the presidency of President Harry S. Truman from 1946 to 1952, when he used it as his "Little White House" while on, what turned out to be, "working vacations."



Address **111 Front St**
Key West, FL 33040



Little White House, 111 Front Street, Key West, FL 33040



LITTLE WHITE HOUSE
111 FRONT STREET
KEY WEST, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Latitude: 24.5566229°

Longitude: -86.806877°

UTM References

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
17	418285	2716049



The HARRY S. TRUMAN
LITTLE WHITE HOUSE

1515 W. FLORIDA AVENUE, ST. AUGUSTINE

Open Daily 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Admission Free

For more information

visit www.trumanlibrary.org

or call 1-800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

800-451-1111

— ENTER HERE —
HARRY S. TRUMAN
LITTLE WHITE HOUSE
— MUSEUM —
OPEN DAILY
9:00 AM to 4:30 PM
NATIONAL REGISTER of HISTORIC PLACES



























National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

Quarters "A" - - - Florida

WORKING NUMBER 1. 21. 74. 124

TECH REVIEW

Photos 1

Maps 1

Ref # 74000652

CONTROL REVIEW

Date is missing SHPO signed. #10 acreage is missing.

cm
1.24
74

otherwise

OK

HISTORIAN

Accept
RL
2/6/74

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
J.T.
2/8/74

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF Waive waiving 50yr. requirement.

Accept
COE
2/6/74

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept
ead
2-15-74

KEEPER

Lt. Col. George Demoy USNR (ret)
for Wm J. Mustagh
2/15/74

National Register write-up 3-19-74

Federal Register entry 4-2-74

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered

FEB 15 1974



IR
INSTALLATIONS AND LOGISTICS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

14 JAN 1974

PH JAN 17 REC'D

Dr. Ernest Allan Connally
Director, Office of Archeology and
Historic Preservation
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240



Dear Dr. Connally:

In compliance with the provisions of Executive Order 11593,
May 13, 1971, we are pleased to forward for your consideration
the nomination of Quarters "A", Little White House, located at
the Naval Station, Key West, Florida, to the National Register of
Historic Places.

Sincerely,

for Edward J. Sheridan
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Installations and Housing)

Enclosures - 4
Nomination Form
Form 10-301 w/map
Form 10-301A w/photos
Federal Representative Certification

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION
(Block 12)

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate The Little White House, located at the Naval Station, Key West, Florida, to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed the required time in which to evaluate its significance and affix his signature in Block No. 12 of Department of Interior Form 10-300 (since replaced). The recommended level of significance is NATIONAL.

Allan S Kerr

Allan S. Kerr
Federal Representative Signature

1/10/74
Date

Director, Base Requirements, OASD(I&L)
Title



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **FLORIDA**

Date Entered **FEB 15 1974**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Little White House (Quarters "A")	Key West Monroe County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward J. Gurney
Hon. Linton Mainor Chiles, Jr.
Hon. Dante B. Fascell

Director, Southeast Region

PR MMott 2/19/74

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Robert Williams, Director
Division of Archives, History and
Records Management
Department of State
401 East Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Mr. Allan S. Kerr, Department of Defense

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Little White House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Monroe

DATE RECEIVED: 1/02/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/18/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 74000652

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2-3-2014 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Raises level of Significance to National
Demonstrates that Truman utilized this Retreat as a working
location, not just a vacation house. It served as an official work station,
complete with full staff. Evidence that some significant Presidential
decision making and Policy Meetings held here.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A

REVIEWER J. Gaby DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE



RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Department of Interior
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

December 20, 2013

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are additional documentation and materials (nomination form, continuation sheets, site plan, GIS data, digital images and disk) for

Little White House, Key West, Monroe County, Florida

74000652

The 1974 nomination for the Little White House in Key West is woefully inadequate and erroneously states that little of consequence occurred at the facility, and that it served solely as a vacation venue for President Harry S. Truman and later presidents and officials and dignitaries. To be fair, the original recorder, Ida Barron, the Public Information Officer of the Naval Station, did not have access to presidential files and classified documents that are now available. Even personal papers of President Harry S. Truman were not available for research until after Mrs. Truman's death in 1982. The following data, gleaned from formerly classified sources, and newspaper coverage of Truman stays in Key West shows that events, of both international and domestic importance, occurred at the property in the early twentieth century and well into the Cold War era.

Given this information, we are nominating the property for listing in the National Register for its national significance. We request that the Little White House also be evaluated for National Historic Landmark designation. We are aware that there are other NHLs associated with President Truman, but we believe the importance of the work he did at the Little White House (as he called it) and the property's level of integrity, warrants its addition to the list of Truman NHLs.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-6364 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,
Barbara E. Mattick
Barbara E. Mattick, Ph.D.
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
for Survey & Registration

Enclosures



DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES
R. A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250
Telephone: 850.245.6300 • Facsimile: 850.245.6436 • www.flheritage.com
Commemorating 500 years of Florida history www.vivaflorida.org

