

PH0002364

H2  
No  
1171

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

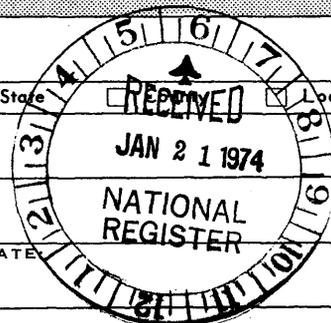
OWNER'S NAME: U.S. Government  
STREET AND NUMBER: Property Holding Agency - Naval Station  
CITY OR TOWN: Key West STATE: Florida CODE: 12

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:



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**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



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **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/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached sheet.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N24° 33' 21"	W81° 48' 28"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: *less than 10 acres*

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Mrs. Ida W. Barron, Public Information Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Public Affairs Office - Naval Station      DATE: 7-19-73

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P. O. Box N1024

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National  State  Local

Name: *Robert Williams*

Title: Historic Preservation Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*A. R. Markese*  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *2/15/74*

ATTEST:

*Georgette Emery*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: *Feb 15, 1974*

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(Continuation Sheet)

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COUNTY Monroe	
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	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  
HARBOR

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

HARBOR

SEAPLANE LANDING  
RAMP

Trumbo Island

Key West Bight

Garrison B

N W CHANNEL  
INNER REAR RANGE LT

TIDAL BM 23

STACK

RADIO TOWERS

KINGFISH SHOAL LT

MAIN SHIP CHANNEL  
REAR RANGE LT

IVY

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

NAVAL STATION LT

TIDAL BM 29

KEY WEST

U. S. GOVERNMENT  
RESERVATIONS

RADIO  
TOWERS

CUPOLA

PIRE

PIRES

TANK

RAIL

RAI

RAI

TOWER

Fort Taylor

MAIN SHIP CHAN  
FRONT RANGE  
LT

TIDAL BM 4  
USE

CUPOLA

Hotel

Whitehead Spit

HAWK

N