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TITLE ABCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR PROPOSED US NAVY PEARY COURT LOUSING PROJECT, KEY WEST, MONROE COUNTY,
FLORIDA AUTHOR(S) U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ARCHAEOLOGIST/HISTORIAN US ARMY CORPSOF ENGINEERS
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CORPORATION, GOVERNMENT UNIT, OR PERSON SPONSORING SURVEY NAME NAJAL AIR STATION, KEY WEST ADDRESS
DESCRIPTION OF SURVEY: NUMBER OF DISTINCT AREAS SURVEYED MONTH/YEAR DATES FOR FIELD WORK: START 10/30/1990 THRU 11/9/1990
TOTAL AREA ZO ha/ac IF CORRIDOR: WIDTH m/ft LENGTH km/mi
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architecturalunderwater
OTHER TYPE(S):
METHODS EMPLOYED (Use as many as apply): _unknown _archival _pedestrianshovel test X_test excavposthole _extensive excavauger surveycoringlocal informt _remote sensing _windshieldsurf.exposrs _probing
OTHER METHODS
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NAVAL AR STATION, KEY WEST
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NEWLY RECORDED SITES : COUNT LIST
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USGS MAP(S)_KEY WEST
TOWNSHIP/RANGE (list all township/range combinations eg, 04S/29E) $\leq \frac{1}{25}$
REMARKS (Use reverse if needed):
OUTLINE OR HIGHLIGHT SURVEY AREA ON FOOT COUNTY HWY. MAP.
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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE Jim Smith Secretary of State DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

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March 19, 1991

Hugh A. McClellan, ChiefIn 1Environmental Services BranchSusDepartment of the ArmyHisMobile District, Corps of Engineers(90Mobile, Alabama36628-0001Pro

In Reply Refer To: Susan M. Herring Historic Sites Specialist (904) 487-2333 Project File No. 910671

RE: Cultural Resource Assessment Review Request Archaeological and Historical Investigations for Proposed U.S. Navy Peary Court Housing Project Key West, Monroe County, Florida (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, March 1991)

Dear Mr. McClellan:

In accordance with the procedures contained in 36 C.F.R., Part 800 ("Protection of Historic Properties"), we have reviewed the above referenced project(s) for possible impact to archaeological and historical sites or properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the <u>National Register of Historic Places</u>. The authority for this procedure is the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), as amended.

We have reviewed the above referenced report and find it to be complete and sufficient. On the basis of the information presented, we concur with the results of the investigations performed by the Mobile District archaeologists. We also concur with the recommendations that construction be allowed at all areas within Peary Court except for the area of the Key West Cemetery with buffer zone, the well at Cistern 10, and the area of suspected wells under the loop road.

Archaeological Research (904) 487-2299 Florida Folklife Programs (904) 397-2192

Historic Preservation (904) 487-2333 Museum of Florida History (004) 488 1484 Mr. McClellan March 19, 1991 Page 2

Thus, with the provision that the Navy adhere to the above referenced stipulations and the conditions of the Peary Court Memorandum of Agreement, it is the opinion of this agency that project activities will have no effect on any archaeological or historic sites or properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the <u>National Register of Historic Places</u>, or otherwise of national, state, regional, or local significance. The project is consistent with the historic preservation aspects of Florida's coastal zone program, and may proceed without further involvement with this agency.

If you have any questions concerning our comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. Your interest in protecting Florida's archaeological and historic resources is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Land D. Jean

George W. Percy, Director Division of Historical Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer

GWP/smh

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ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR PROPOSED U.S. NAVY PEARY COURT HOUSING PROJECT KEY WEST, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA

REPORT PREPARED BY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS MOBILE DISTRICT FOR NAVAL AIR STATION, KEY WEST, FLORIDA



CRAT#910671

ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR PROPOSED U.S. NAVY PEARY COURT HOUSING PROJECT KEY WEST, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA

FINAL

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REPORT PREPARED BY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS MOBILE DISTRICT FOR NAVAL AIR STATION, KEY WEST, FLORIDA

6 March 1991

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Naval Air Station (NAS) Key West plans to construct a 160-unit Family Housing Project in Key West, Florida. On May 31, 1990, a Public Hearing was conducted for the construction of the NAS Key West Family Housing project in Key West, Florida. In the course of complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, a Case Alternatives Report was compiled which provides an analysis of potential location alternatives for siting of the 160-unit housing project. The review and analysis of sites for the housing project identified Peary Court as the most logical and cost effective site for the construction of the project. The Case Alternatives Report, in addition to discussing the historic architectural concerns that would be addressed by NAS Key West, also made note of the archeological potential at Peary Court. Accordingly, a commitment was made by the Naval Air Station to conduct an archeological survey of the area.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District archeologists began field work at Peary Court on October 30, 1990. NAS Key West provided a backhee and operator for mechanical excavations.

Originally, field investigations were scheduled to be completed on November 16, but NAS Key West extended field time to allow additional studies to be conducted. Field investigations were subsequently completed on November 19, 1990.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed in November 1990 by representatives of the Navy, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer. In accordance with the MOA, archeological investigations at Peary Court were conducted in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Identification (48 FR 44720-23), taking into account the National Park Service (NPS) publication, The Archeological Survey: Methods and Uses (1978). In addition, properties identified through this archeological site survey were evaluated in accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(c).

Archeological investigations at the U.S. Navy Peary Court property determined that burial relocation efforts in 1927 were incomplete and that human remains are still present at the Key West Post Cemetery. Subsequently, the Navy in consultation with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer and the Mobile District, has decided to set aside from any future development the area identified as the Key West Post cemetery. This will leave undisturbed those burials which were not moved in 1927 and obviate the need for additional archeological investigations in this area. In accordance with provisions of the Peary Court Memorandum of Agreement, a historic preservation plan has been prepared to outline the cemetery preservation and maintenance needs.

Within the Barracks area, only the artesian well, located adjacent to the remains of Cistern 10 and other wells thought to be under the southern portion of the Peary Court loop drive should be avoided. Their projected locations have been marked by Mobile District and provided to Naval Air Station Key West.

The archival research and archeological investigations conducted by Mobile District strongly indicate that no significant archeological remains will be found associated with the few surviving structural elements from the Key West Army Barracks. Demolishment of the Barracks buildings, erection and subsequent destruction of the Wherry housing units, and construction of the park ball fields have dramatically disturbed the Peary Court lands.

Although three semi-subterranean cisterns were located and more may be expected, none contained significant archeological materials or deposits. The Barracks cisterns appear to have been used and kept clean until their destruction in the 1940s. Because of their raised construction style, only a few concrete piers and brick column remnants may be expected to remain from the barracks, officer's housing, and public buildings. These sort of remains do not merit additional archeological investigations; the available maps and period photographs tell us more about the Barracks buildings than could formal excavations. Encountering such remains would not in our opinion constitute an emergency discovery situation under the provisions of the Peary Court Memorandum of Agreement.

No Army refuse dumps or outhouses were discovered by the Mobile District investigations. Although it is believed that Army refuse was hauled off post and that outhouses were emptied by "night carts", there is the possibility that an emergency discovery of these sort of features or even isolated burials could occur during construction of the new Navy housing. Therefore, if these sort of remains are encountered, the Navy should be prepared to implement the emergency discovery provisions of the Peary Court Memorandum of Agreement.

It is the opinion of the Mobile District that construction be allowed without notification at all areas within Peary Court except for the area of the Key West Post Cemetery and a buffer zone, the well at Cistern 10 and the area of suspected wells under the loop road. The required cemetery buffer zone lies on the north and northeast sides of the cemetery and consists of a 5' set back from the original fence post holes to a new wrought iron fence, a 25' set back from the original fence post holes to new dwellings, and a 50' setback from the original fence post holes to any storm water runoff ponds.

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Plate 1

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Frontispiece

Excavation of Trench 1

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INTRODUCTION

On May 31, 1990, a Public Hearing was conducted for the construction of the Naval Air Station (NAS) Key West Family Housing project in Key West, Florida. In the course of complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, a Case Alternatives Report was compiled which provides an analysis of potential location alternatives for siting of the 160-unit housing project. All known potential locations in the Key West area were analyzed, including those suggested during the Public Hearing.

The review and analysis of sites for the housing project identified Peary Court as the most logical and cost effective site for the construction of the project. The Case Alternatives Report in addition to discussing the historic architectural concerns that would be addressed by NAS Key West, also made note of the archeological potential at Peary Court. Accordingly, a commitment was made by the Naval Air Station to conduct an archeological survey of the area.

Discussions between NAS Key West and the Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in August 1990, led to agreement that Mobile District would conduct the archeological survey of Peary Court. Field work began on October 30, 1990, with the arrival of the District's field team. Mobile District archeologists Neil Robison, Jerry Nielsen, Ernie Seckinger and Dottie Gibbens conducted the field survey. NAS Key West provided a backhoe for mechanical excavations, and EOCN Matt Thingstad, a Seabee attached to the Naval Air Station, served as backhoe operator.

Originally, field investigations were scheduled to be completed on November 16, but NAS Key West extended field time to allow additional studies to be conducted. Field investigations were subsequently completed on November 19, 1990.

THE STUDY AREA

Peary Court is located on the north side of the City of Key West, Florida (Figure 1). It is Navy-owned land consisting of 28.65 acres situated east of White Street and south of Palm Avenue, across from the main entrance to Trumbo Point Annex. This triangular plot of land has in the past been the site of the U.S. Army Barracks (1831-1951) and Navy Wherry Family Housing (1951-1975). Following demolition of the housing, the land was licensed to the City of Key West at no cost. The City of Key West constructed two softball diamonds there for use by the City softball league.

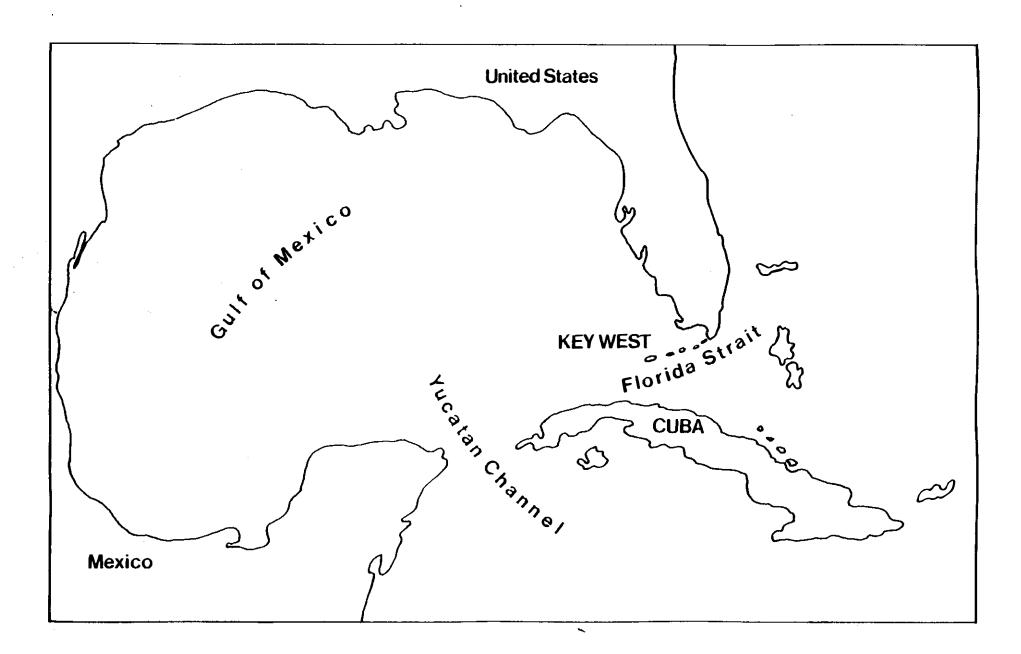
Of the 28.65 acres of land contained on the site, the Navy Federal Credit Union occupies approximately 1.0 acre, the existing roadway system occupies approximately 7.65 acres, and the remaining 20.0 acres is undeveloped and would be available for construction of the family housing.

Figure 1

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Key West, Florida, Location Map.



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FIGURE 1

GEOLOGY

The Florida Keys were created through eustatic elevation of limestone rock units. Two distinctive Pleistocene rock formations compose the upper portion of the islands. All of the Lower Keys are composed of Miami Oolite. These formations are soft, white to yellow, stratified to massive, cross-bedded and are constituted of pure calcium carbonate (limestone) which may contain shell fragments and minor quartz sand. Its major constituents are tiny ooliths which are spherical calcareous grains with concentric structure and cemented to form an oolite rock, referred to locally as cap stone. Key Largo limestone underlies the Miami Oolite on all of the Lower Keys. Its major constituents are the cemented remains of ancient coral, shell, algae and echinoderms. (Naval Facilities Engineering Command 1981)

HISTORY

Early History of Key West

The Florida Keys, including Key West, first appear in the historical record when the keys were claimed for Spain by Ponce de Leon in 1513. The occupants of the keys at that time were the Calusa Indians. When the Spanish landed on the island, they found human bones scattered across the ground, hence the name Cayo Hueso (Bone Key). This name was subsequently corrupted to the current Key West.

Between the Spanish discovery of Key West and the early 19th century Key West was sporadically occupied by Indian groups, pirates who preved on shipping traffic between Havana, Cuba, and New Orleans, and fishermen who provided seafood to Havana.

The following summary of the early history of Key West has been condensed from Key West, the Old and the New (Browne 1912).

Key West was ceded to Juan Pablo Salas of Havana, Cuba in a land grant from the then Governor of the Spanish colony on August 26, 1815. In 1819 the United States established a territorial government in Florida and this marked the actual beginning of permanent settlement of Key West. In 1822 Salas sold the island to John Simonton of Mobile, Alabama for the sum of \$2,000.00. Simonton subsequently sold interests in the island to John Warner and John Mountain, U.S. officials residing in Havana. The interests of Warner and Mountain were soon transferred to Pardon C. Greene. Two other quarter sections were sold to John Whitehead and John W.C. Fleming. There was some dispute over ownership of the island, Salas had apparently also made a provisional sale of the island to J.B. Geddes. In April 1822, with the support of Captain Hammersley and the U.S. Naval Schooner REVENCE, Geddes landed a small party and took possession of the island. The length of this occupation is not known, however, subsequent litigation found the provisional sale invalid and title to Key West was restored to the Simonton claimants.

In 1822, Lt. M.C. Perry of the U.S. schooner SHARK explored the island and renamed it Thompson Island in honor of the Secretary of the Navy. This designation was short lived and the island was soon renamed Key West.

The problem with pirates had become so severe that in 1823 - 1824 U.S. Naval Commodore David Porter was dispatched to clear the island and neighboring waters of these raiders.

Monroe County, named in honor of President James Monroe, was established in 1828. The city was surveyed and mapped in February, 1829 by William A. Whitehead. Although a very spacious and detailed town plat was drawn up, many of the major streets were not cleared for nearly a decade.

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Preparation for Military Occupation of Key West

In correspondence to P. B. Porter, Secretary of War from the Commanding General of the Army, dated December 17, 1828, the need to station a company of soldiers at Key West first appears. The justifications cited were to maintain the sovereignty of the United States on the island and to aid in carrying out the laws and mandates of the Civil Courts (Carter 1959: 118- 119). This correspondence recommended that a Company of the Fourth Regiment of Infantry be stationed at Key West

On December 24, 1828 the Secretary of War informed Joseph M. White, Florida member of the House of Representatives of the decision to station a Company of United States Artillery at Key West. One caveat noted was that "...a proper Site for the erection of the Military defences, and the accommodation of the Garrison, will be provided and continued without expense to the government, so long as it Shall be occupied for military purposes..." (ibid:124).

White responded to the Secretary of War on December 30, 1828 stating that the stipulation of land being provided for the Garrison had been submitted to the proprietors of Key West, but suggested that sufficient land could be purchased with very little expense, (ibid:125).

Whitehead's original 1829 plat of the City of Key West shows an irregular shaped area on the northeast shoreline of the island reserved as "United States Cantonment" adjoining platted squares 55 on the west and 43 to the north. The lands contained in the Cantonment area were subsequently sold to the United States Government by citizens of the island after the U.S. Army Barracks had been established there.

U.S. Army Barracks

The U.S. Army Barracks were established at the site of present day Peary Court on January 2, 1831, by Company H, 4th Infantry pursuant to Orders No. 65, The Adjutant General's Office, November, 13, 1830 (RG 393, Records of United States Army Commands). Major James M. Glassel arrived with infantry troops in February, 1831.

In correspondence dated February 28, 1831, Glassel informed the Adjutant General of his arrival on the ship ST. LOUIS. He noted in this correspondence that his only tailor had died in transit, and requested a replacement as soon as possible, Carter, 1959: 503-504).

Apparently, relations between the troops stationed at the Barracks and local residents were not always cordial during the early years. In October, 1832, Pardon C. Greene wrote to the Secretary of War, Lewis Cass, protesting the conduct of the soldiers. Specifically he complained that the soldiers were killing the cattle on the island that belonged to the citizens and ... "shooting throughout the town day and night..." (ibid: 503 - 504).

Major Glassel responded to Mr. Greene's complaint in a subsequent letter to the Adjutant General in which he stated that the soldier responsible for killing Mr. Greene's cow had been turned over to Civil authorities who declined to prosecute the soldier. Glassel further stated that he believed Mr. Greene's current complaints were the result his (Greene) being indicted for the unprovoked beating of one of Glassel's sergeants. Glassel questioned the veracity of Greene's complaints and his character by stating that Greene had abandoned his wife and family, been occupied in the slave trade for a number of years and had lived with a black woman from Nassau, by whom he had several children (ibid: 761 -764).

The animosity between the local residents and the military post did not preclude property transfers, for between 1833 and 1837, three tracts of land which encompass the major part of the U.S. Army barracks were sold by Key West residents to the United States Government, one of the sellers being Pardon C. Greene. The Sellers Name, Acreage, Date of Transfer and Cost are provided below.

Former Owner	Acreage	Date	Cost	
Mary P. Fleming, et al	14.79	12-14-1833	\$2,958. 00	
Pardon C. Greene	not stated	5-4-1835	811.11	
James Webb, et ux	8.00	6-1-1837	6,000.00	

On February 25, 1897, an additional .33 acre was acquired from Euphonia Maloney for the sum of \$1,000.00. This transaction was the result of a long standing dispute between Mrs. Maloney's husband, W.C. Maloney, over the barracks use of this tract for a burial ground. A more detailed discussion of this dispute is provided later in this section of the report.

When the post was originally garrisoned in 1831, temporary wooden quarters were constructed. Information about these quarters is extremely limited. In any event the post was abandoned in December, 1835 as a result of an outbreak of yellow fever. The post was sporadically reoccupied between 1836 and 1843.

In 1844, the temporary quarters were torn down and permanent facilities established. The permanent quarters were erected under the supervision of Major E.B. Ogden, Quartermaster, United States Army and in an 1875 report by Assistant Surgeon Harvey E. Brown were described as among the finest of their kind in the country. The following brief description of the post buildings is taken from Brown's 1875 report and Browne, 1912.

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In 1875 the officer's quarters consisted of 5 one story frame buildings, each 31 feet deep by 24 broad, with attic and basement. Each house was surrounded on all sides by a piazza 12 feet broad. The basement, or ground floor, was divided into a kitchen 16 feet 6 inches by 21 feet 4 inches with a ceiling height of 8 feet. Two small rooms for servants and a pantry also occupied the basement floor.

The main floor contained a parlor and dining room while the attic level contained two large bedrooms. A large cistern was attached to each of the officers quarters.

The men's barracks consisted of two frame buildings one story with basement, each 90 feet long by 34 feet wide. The squad room was 32 feet 6 inches with a ceiling height of 12 feet. The remainder of the space was occupied by the company offices and first sergeant's quarters. The basement contained the company's mess-rooms, kitchens, and store rooms. The men's barracks were also surrounded by wide piazzas.

Both officer's and enlisted quarters were in the same architectural style being built of wood, on stone and brick piers, 7 feet high with the above mentioned piazzas. Contemporary photographs of the officers quarters and barracks indicate that the "basement" level of the buildings was actually ground level, with main living areas occupying the first floor and attic. In some instances the "basement" level contained above ground cisterns. The officer's quarters occupied the northeast and and southwest sides of the parade ground. The soldiers' barracks were also on the southwest side of the parade ground.

A guard house built of stone was located between the barracks. This 34 feet by 24 feet building was divided into a guard room and prison room. The laundresses' quarters were described as a long frame building divided into five sets of quarters each 18 feet by 14 feet. Other buildings at the post included storehouses for the commissary and quartermaster, stable, adjutant's and quartermaster's offices, carriage house, carpenter and blacksmith shop. The dimensions and construction materials for this buildings were not described.

The post hospital, situated on the west side of the reservation was built in 1861. Its construction was described as being similar to the officers' quarters, having one main story with attic and basement and surrounded by a wide piazza. Its total dimensions were 90 feet by 34 feet, or including the piazza, 114 by 58 feet.

Between 1880 and 1892, the U.S. Army Barracks, Key West, were again unoccupied. In 1892, when the post was reoccupied, three additional sets of officer's quarters were constructed. An 1893 inspection report provides information on the construction materials of the Barracks buildings (War Department 1893). Descriptions for several of the 16 Barracks cisterns are also provided. All are said to be constructed of brick and wood with shingle roofs. From 1893 until the end of World War II the post was continuously occupied at varying levels of troop strength. The year 1906 saw an expansion of the post when additional sets of officer's quarters, and barracks for bandsmen were erected. Three companies of artillery with a regimental band under the command of a colonel garrisoned the post. A hurricane in 1909 badly damaged the post and the old quarters erected in 1844 were torn down. Two companies and the band were detached from the post.

The Key West Barracks were declared surplus by War Department Circular No. 189, July 22, 1947. On January 7, 1949 the Barracks were transferred from Army jurisdiction to control of the U.S. Navy. A tract containing 2.95 acres was retained by the Army for use by the Florida Army National Guard. U. S. Navy use of the property is discussed later in this section of the report.

Key West Post Cemetery

The Key West Post Cemetery was associated with the Barracks at the site of present day Peary Court . Historical records indicate the first interment was made at the cemetery in July of 1835. The cemetery, which was situated at the southern part of the Barracks at the intersection of White and Angela Streets, was apparently in use as late as 1920.

Much of the information contained in this section of the report about the cemetery has been taken from a paper prepared by Mr. Lewis G. Schmidt, Allentown, Pennsylvania (Schmidt, n.d.). Mr. Schmidt conducted extensive research in 1983 and 1984 while attempting to locate the grave of a family ancestor, George Smith, a Union soldier in Company B, 47th Pennsylvania Volunteers, who died in 1862 while stationed at Key West. Mr. Schmidt's past research and current willingness to share information on the cemetery have proved to be invaluable in writing this report. Collections in the Florida Room, Monroe County Library also contained useful information. Contemporary maps of the post show the general location of the cemetery in the southwest corner of the reservation. Unfortunately, no plat of the grave locations within the cemetery has been found.

As was noted previously, the U.S. Army Barracks at Key West were established in 1831 and abandoned in December, 1835 due to a yellow fever epidemic. The first deaths at the post are recorded in July and August of that year. After the post was reoccupied in 1850, the count of deaths reflect periods of epidemic with the highest death count of 14 being recorded at the post in a four month period during the summer and fall of 1854. During 1851, 1852, 1853, and 1859 only one death per year was reported.

No deaths were reported for 1860 - 1861, however, with the influx of Union troops who occupied Key West throughout the Civil War, the death toll increased dramatically. In 1862, the 47th Pennsylvania Volunteers, 90th and 91st New York Infantry were garrisoned on Key West. All of these units suffered heavy casualties from yellow fever and typhoid fever between 1862 and 1864. The 2nd Colored U.S. Infantry also suffered heavy losses to fever, particularly in 1864 - 1865. The high death counts among northern troops was attributed to their not being acclimated to the tropical climate of Key West. In the years following the Civil War, the death rate recorded at the U.S. Army Barracks decreased dramatically. There were several reasons for this decline. The need to quarantine fever victims was recognized and treatment facilities were established at Fort Jefferson on the Dry Tortugas islands. After the end of the war, the number of Federal troops occupying Key West was greatly reduced; in 1880 the U.S. Army Barracks were again abandoned for over a decade, and finally in the early 20th century the cause and treatment of yellow fever were identified.

It should be noted that civilians as well as soldiers were buried at Key West Post Cemetery. Burial records of St. Pauls Episcopal Church from 1831 - 1878 reveal the names of the wives and children of soldiers buried at the Army cemetery, including the wife and child of a Sergeant Doyle in June and September 1840. Information gathered by Lewis Schmidt reveals that at least one family, (Jeremiah Weaver and his wife and two children) died within 12 days of each other in 1880 (Schmidt, n.d.).

At noted earlier no formal plat showing the locations of grave rows or individual graves has been found for the cemetery. Maps of the post dating from the 1880's through the 1920's show the cemetery as an irregular shaped parcel bordering White Street on the west. Angela Street on the south was closed and the cemetery extended approximately one half block south of Angela Street towards Newton Street. The northern and eastern boundaries of the cemetery are within the boundaries of the post.

Microfilm copies of U.S. Army records dating to the 1880's on file at the Monroe County Library contain an interesting series of correspondence concerning the southern part of the post cemetery (i.e. the tract acquired from Euphemia Maloney in 1897). This tract was briefly mentioned earlier in the discussion of the acquisition of the post lands. The following information is extracted from <u>Record Group 92</u>, <u>Office of the Quartermaster General</u>, <u>General</u> <u>Correspondence and Reports and Record Group 393</u>, U.S. <u>Army Continental Command</u>, Key West Barracks, Record of Interment, (Vol. 1).

A "Proposal for Work at Key West Cemetery" was issued by the Quartermaster General on December 14, 1895. The work proposed included the following:

"Picket fence - 220 feet of wooden picket fence to be taken up on the north side and reset on a line 30 feet farther north. Add 30 feet extension of picket fence on the east side of the property going north. Both old and new fence to be set in a substantial and workable manner."

"Removal of Remains - 214 bodies to be removed from south part of cemetery and reburied in another part. Bodies were to be places in new boxes and headstones are to be removed and reset. The graves for reentrant shall not be less than 4 and one half feet deep."

"Removal and rebuilding of stone wall - 244 feet of stone wall on the south and east sides of the cemetery. Rebuild 130 feet of stone wall on newly established boundaries between cemetery and land of W. C. Maloney. New wall to be similar to that marking the west boundary of the cemetery." "All work to be completed before March 31, 1886."

Bids received to complete the work ranged from \$0.15 to \$0.50 per linear foot to remove and reset the picket fence; \$0.28 to \$0.75 per linear foot for new picket fence; from \$8.50 to \$12.00 per body for reinterment of remains, and \$1.00 to \$3.00 per linear foot for relocation and rebuilding of the stone wall. Subsequent correspondence between the Quartermaster General and prospective bidders in February, 1886 indicates that the contract for work at the Key West Post Cemetery had not been awarded.

On May 1, 1886, the husband of Euphemia Maloney, W. C. Maloney, wrote to Florida Senator Wilkinson Call complaining that the Government had taken possession of his property 21 years earlier since which time the land had been used as part of the post cometery. In response to Mr. Maloney's complaint, Senator Call wrote to Secretary of War, W.G. Endicott, requesting that the cemetery be moved from Maloney's land. Secretary Endicott responded to Senator Call's request on May 19, 1886 stating that funds had been appropriated for the purchase of the disputed tract of land by a Congressional Act of July 22, 1876. Mr. Maloney had refused an offered price of \$2,000.00. Furthermore, the health authorities of Key West had prohibited removal of the bodies. Endicott indicated that the War Department to not intend to continue to pursue the matter. It was not until 1897 that the Government acquired the tract of one third acre for the price of \$1,000.00 from Maloney's widow, Euphemia Maloney. It is uncertain whether any graves were relocated from this tract during the intervening years.

In February, 1927 articles in the <u>Key West Citizen</u>, indicated that 463 bodies were being removed from the Key West Post Cemetery and transferred to the military cemetery at Fort Barrancas, Pensacola, Florida. The February 2, 1927 edition of the <u>Key Largo Breeze</u> indicated that the work was being done by a Jacksonville undertaking firm. The name of the firm was not given.

In March, 1947 a series of articles pertaining to the Key West Barracks appeared in the <u>Key West Citizen</u>. The first, on March 15 announced the Army's intention to close the post. A second article on March 27, announced the Army's request for bids to remove 62 surplus buildings from Army facilities on Key West. One completely equipped latrine and 2 barracks were offered for sale at the U.S. Army Barracks. An article on the March 29 issue stated that the City of Key West was seeking to obtain control of the site of the Army barracks. It was hoped that a professional baseball team would use the site as a training camp. This transfer was apparently never completed, for in 1949 what is now Peary Court was transferred from Army to Navy control. Photographic archives in the Florida Collections, Thompson Memorial Wing, Monroe County Library contain contemporary photographs of the Key West Army Barracks from the late 19th and early 20th century, as well as photographs showing the removal of the last of the buildings in 1951. Several of the old barracks buildings are still in use on Key West and neighboring Stock Island.

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U.S. Navy Peary Court

The lands currently named Peary Court were transferred from U.S. Army to U.S. Navy control in two separate actions in 1949 and 1954. The first action was noted in the January 28, 1949 issue of the <u>Key West Citizen</u>. At that time, the Navy intended to renovate the Army Barracks, using 9 of the buildings for officer's quarters and 8 buildings for enlisted men's quarters. Renovation of these structures must have proved to be impractical, for a series of articles in the <u>Key West Citizen</u> between January and September 1951 noted that the former U.S. Army Barracks site was being cleared for Navy housing (Plate 2). The name Peary Court first appears in an article in the September 11 issue.

Peary Court housing was constructed in 1951 (Plate 3). The housing was demolished in 1975. One building was left in place, renovated, and currently houses the Navy Federal Credit Union.

Civilian Use of Peary Court

In 1975 the Navy entered into an agreement with the City of Key West by which Peary Court was licensed to the City for recreational use. Recreational facilities, including men's and women's baseball fields occupy portions of the former U.S. Arwy Barracks site. The only surface expression of the former Army post remaining today are the large, old mahogany trees that lined the north and south sides of the parade ground. Plate 2

Aerial View of Demolition of Key West Army Barracks.

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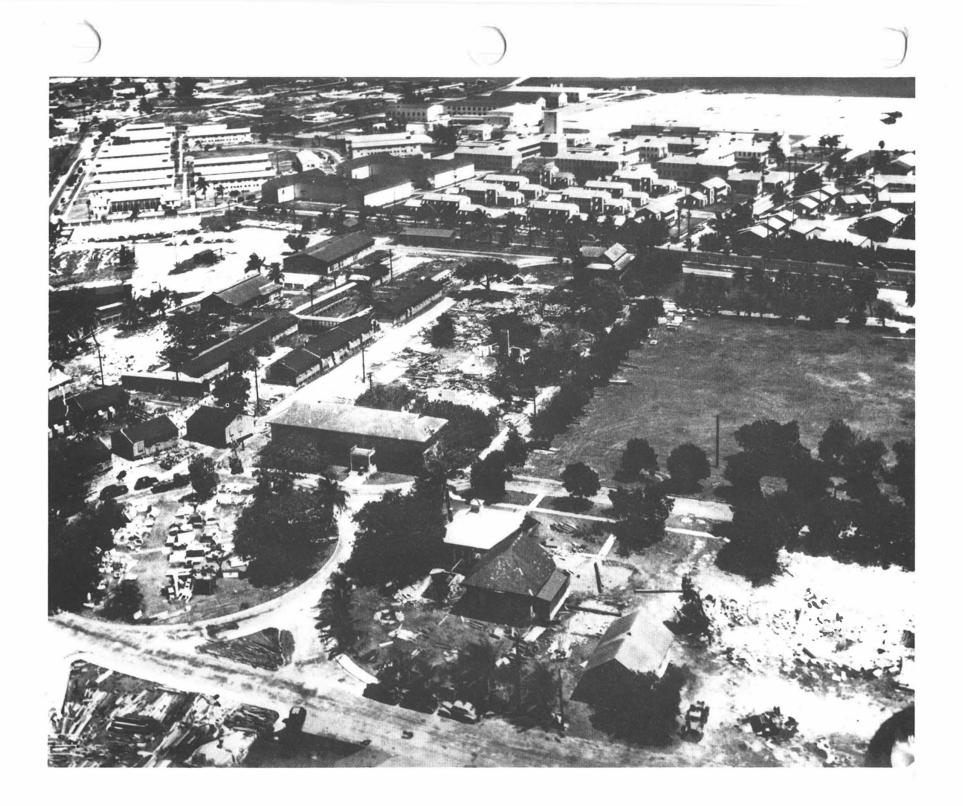


Plate 3

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Aerial View of Peary Court Wherry Housing.

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EXCAVATIONS

Archeological excavations at Peary Court had two main goals: 1) to determine the aerial extent of the cemetery and whether it had been completely moved in 1927, and 2) to determine whether there was a potential for preservation of archeological features associated with the Key West Army Barracks. Documentation shows the project area has undergone considerable land disturbance since the Army occupation. In 1951 the Army Barracks were torn down and construction of the Navy Wherry housing development was started. The Wherry housing units, in turn, were demolished in 1975. Subsequently, the land was licensed to the local community and two baseball fields were installed.

The exact location of the Post cemetery and other Army Barracks structures was, in large part, made possible by the availability of a 1906 map of the Key West Army Barracks. A copy of this map is included in Appendix 2. No other early map displayed in such detail the locations of the Barracks structures and their attendant utilities. All Army Barracks structure numbers referred to in this report are taken from the 1906 map. This map is on file at the Historic Florida Keys Preservation Board and was generously loaned to the Mobile District archeological team by Mr. Wright Langley. Two sewer manholes depicted on this map were located by the investigators near the men's baseball field. By using these manholes and scaling off distances on the map, it was possible to determine Barracks structure locations for testing. A transit and measuring tapes were used to lay out backhoe trench placements. All measurements for these investigations are expressed in feet and tenths.

The relationships of Wherry housing units and streets to the Barracks structures were determined by making a copy of the 1906 map which could be placed over an equal scale map of the Wherry housing development. Barracks structures which lay under the current street system, the Credit Union or its parking lot, the recycling center, or the men's baseball field, were not considered for excavation by these studies. However, structures comparable in function or construction were sought out elsewhere in Peary Court.

A backhoe was used extensively to conduct the text excavations at Peary Court. The Navy supplied the backhoe and an operator, EOCN Matt Thingstad, a Navy Seabee stationed at Key West. Trenches were laid out at expected structure locations and excavated with the backhoe. Depths of excavations varied depending on when cap stone or structure remains were encountered. Cap stone is the local name for the colite limestone strata which lies near the ground surface in most areas of Peary Court. All backhoe excavations were halted when structural features or a solid layer of cap stone was exposed. Features dug into or placed on the cap stone were easily discerned by the investigators after it was cleaned by shoveling and troweling. The following discussions of the excavations are broken into two major parts: cemetery excavations and cantonment area excavations. Excavations within each of these categories are broken out by Trench number and results.

Cemetery Excavations

Excavations at Peary Court were initiated in the southernmost projection of the property, where historic maps show the Post cemetery to have been located. This area is partially bounded by White and Angela Streets. Shovel test pits were first excavated throughout the area to determine the general soil profile and to potentially locate some of the grave pits prior to utilizing power equipment to strip the topsoil from larger areas of the site. Generally, six to twelve inches of dark brown topsoil overlay either the cap stone or disturbed soils which were believed to be part of grave pits. The disturbed soils were often mixed in nature and contained large amounts of cap stone rubble.

A historic photograph of the cemetery shows the graves to have been laid out in rows which were oriented roughly north/south (Plate 4). In order to locate the grave pits a backhoe was used to cut four trenches within the suspected cemetery area. Trench 1 was placed diagonally across the land projection at the south end of Peary Court (Figure 2, Front Pocket; Plate 1, Frontispiece). It was thought that orienting the trench in this fashion would allow it to cut across the maximum number of grave rows. Trenches 2, 3, and 4 were placed so as to define respectively the northern and eastern boundaries of the cemetery. The backhoe was used to remove a majority of the soil overlying the cap stone level. Grave pits encountered during the trench excavations were marked so that a sample could be excavated later to determine whether the burials had, in fact, been removed. Human and artifactual remains noted in the four excavated grave pits, and from the tops of Grave Pits 4 and 6, are shown on Tables 1 and 2.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was approximately 175 feet long and five feet wide, oriented roughly northwest by southeast (Figure 2 and Plate 1, Frontispiece). The cap stone level in Trench 1 was found in the northwestern and central portions of Trench 1 but was not present in the southeastern part. In the southeastern portion of the trench a whitish soil horizon was encountered that appears to consist of weathered colite limestone. After a majority of the soil overburden was removed by the backhoe, shovels, trowels, and brooms were used to clean the trench floor. Grave pit locations were marked as Trench 1 was cleaned. Numbers were assigned to each obvious or potential grave pit, starting with number 1 at the southeastern end of Trench 1. Twenty-eight grave pits and one brick burial crypt were located in Trench 1 (Figure 3 and Plates 5 and 6).

Grave Pit 2, the northern portion of which extends into Trench 1, was the first to be excavated. Based upon the present ground surface, Grave Pit 2 appears to have been excavated to a depth of 4.3 feet below the current ground surface. The pit is 3 feet wide, and 3 feet of the grave pit extends into Trench 1. Isolated phalanges, metatarsals, metacarpals, tarsals, carpals, and rib

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Plate 4

Historic Photograph of Key West Army Barracks and Post Cemetery.

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			Buria	1 Pit	
	2	_6	24	25*	34
phalanges, first (foot)	2	_	-	-	2
phalanges, third (foot)	2	-	1	-	3
metatarsals	2	1	-	-	2
calcaneum, right	1	-	-	_	
tarsal fragments	7		-	-	2
femur, distal condyles (left)	-	-	1	-	-
femur, trochanter epiphyses		-	-	_	2
phalanges, first (hand)	1	-	2	-	4
phalanges, second (hand)	4		7	_	8
phalanges, third (hand)	1	-	2	-	4
phalange epiphyses (hand)	-	-	-	-	2
metacarpals and fragments	6	-	4	-	4
carpal fragments	-	-	1	-	1
ulna, proximal head (right)	-	-	-	-	1
ulna, distal epiphysis (left)	-	-	-	-	1
radius, distal epiphysis (left)		-	-	-	1
humerus, proximal head fragment	-	-	1	-	-
innominate fragment	-	-	-	-	1
illiac crest epiphysis fragment	-	-	-	-	1
lumbar vertebra fragments	-	-	-	-	3
thoracic vertebra fragments	-	-	-	-	6
cervical vertebra fragments	-	-	1	-	1
atlas vertebra fragments	2	-		-	-
indeterminate vertebrae fragments	-	-	-	-	8
rib fragments	2	-	1	-	18
parietal fragment	-	-	1	-	-
mandible fragment	1	-		-	-
central incisors (maxillary)	-	-	1	~	1
lateral incisors (maxillary)	-	-	1	-	2
central incisor (mandibular)	-		1	-	-
lateral incisors (mandibular)	-	-	-	-	2
canines		1	-	-	_
premolar	-	-	1	-	-
molars		-	-	4	-
indeterminate bone fragments	6	-	18	-	89

Table 1 Human Remains From Key West Post Cemetery

* Burial Pit 25 contained an entire, in situ burial.

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	Burial Pit					
Item	2	4	6	24	25	34
Ceramic						
Whiteware red transfer print	1	-	-	_	-	-
Metal						
Coffin nails	191	2		74	*2	523
Iron pin or bolt	14	-	-	-	-	-
Copper percussion cap	-	-	_	2	-	
Copper disc	_	-	-	15	-	-
Copper fragment			-	_	1	-
Lead strip w/3 nail (?) holes	-	-	-	_	_	1
Glass						
Window pane fragment	1	-		-	-	-
Light green bottle fragment	1	-	_	-	_	
Dark green bottle fragment	26	-		-	_	
Clear pressed glass fragment	1	-	-	1	-	-
Clear plate glass fragment	1	-	-	-	-	
Clear glass fragment	-	-	_	3	-	
4 hole opaque glass button	-	-	-	1	_	4
Other						
1978 Jefferson nickel	1	_	_	-	-	-
Roofing slate fragment	1		-		_	-
Wood fragment	1	17	1	_	2	1
Charcoal fragment	-	-		1●	_	-
Brick fragment	-	-	-	2	-	-
4 hole bone button	-	-	-	1	-	-
White marble headstone	-	_	-	18	-	19

Table 2 Artifacts From Key West Post Cemetery

 $^{1}\mbox{Linear}$ rusted metal fragments, presumed to be coffin nails. Three have wood adhering.

²Numerous coffin nails noted in fill above burial, one with wood adhering.

344 had wood adhering.

⁴Two inches long.

 $^5 \rm Disc$ is 3/4 inch diameter with cloth fragments adhering. May be copper clad, not solid.

⁶One is a neck fragment, probably a case gin bottle.

⁷Probable picket fragment.

⁸Broken headstone, upper portion only.

⁹Complete headstone, but broken in two pieces.

Figure 3

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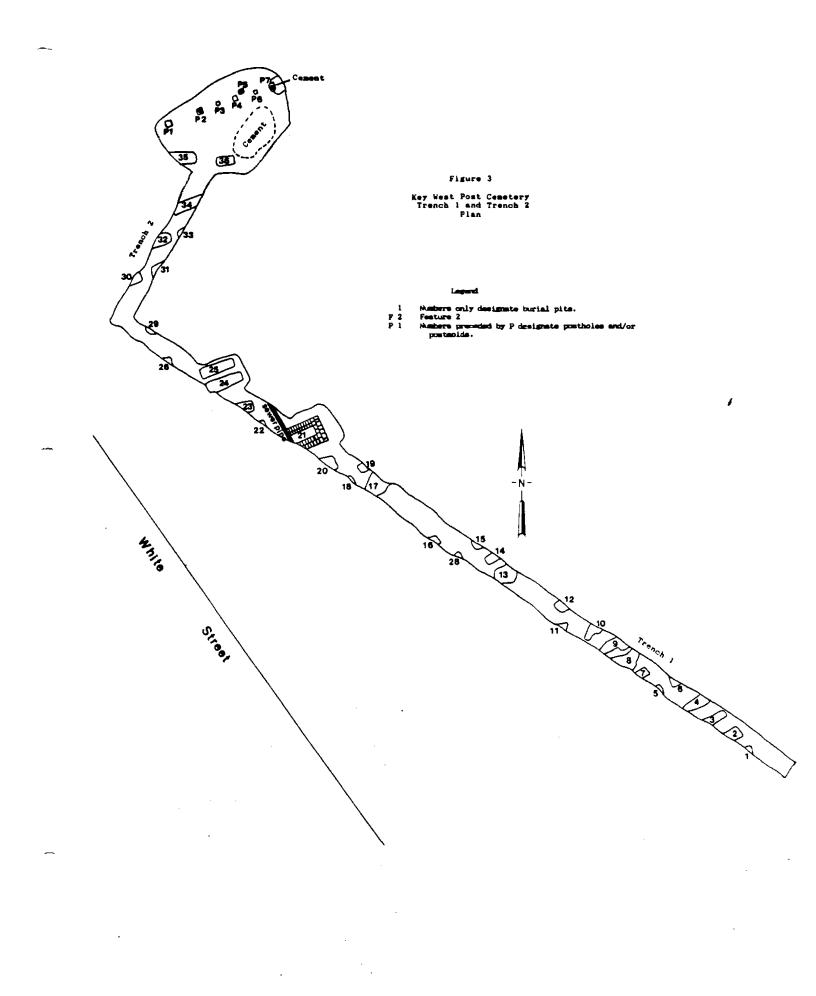
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Plan View of Trenches 1 and 2.

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Left

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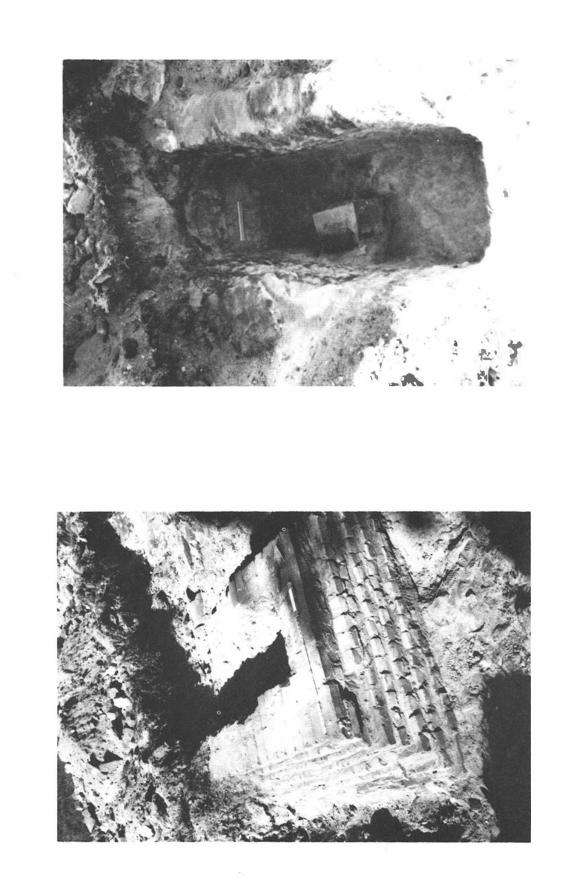
Plate 5

Trench 1, Grave Pit 21, Brick Crypt.

Right

Plate 6

Trench 1, Grave Pit 24, Excavated Pit with Pedestaled Headstone.



fragments were found scattered throughout the fill of this grave pit. No long bones or axial skeletal remains were found within grave pit 2. This is the situation that would be expected if burials were removed by crews unfamiliar with human osteology, using only shovels and no screens. The Mobile District archeological crew used a 1/4 inch mesh screen to recover these human remains. Following definition of the pit on the trench floor, all excavated fill was screened. Small, extremely rusted iron fragments, thought to be the remains of coffin nails or hardware were also found in the grave pit fill.

Grave Pit 24 was the next to be excavated. This grave was excavated to approximately 4.6 feet below the present ground surface, most of the depth having been cut through the cap stone found in this area. The grave pit was approximately 3 feet wide and 8 feet long. Human remains included in the fill of this grave pit included teeth, the articular condyles of a femur, the articular head of a humerus, phalanges, and fragments of metacarpals and ribs. Also included in the pit fill, near the bottom of the grave, was the top of a broken marble headstone, presumably the one associated with this grave pit (Plate 6). The following inscription was found on the headstone:

> 99 Jesse Ketchum CO.I 90TH N.Y.INF.

The September 13, 1862 issue of the <u>New Era</u>, a Key West newspaper, noted that Private Ketchum had died on September 4, 1862, at the age of 20. The cause of death was not given. Except for a handful of miscellaneous human skeletal fragments the remains of Ketchum were obviously removed from the grave in 1927.

Grave Pit 25, which lies immediately adjacent to Grave Pit 24, was the third to be excavated in Trench 1. Unlike Grave Pits 2 and 24, Grave Pit 25 still contained the remains of the individual buried within it. For some reason, the mortuary company in charge of removing the burials at this cemetery failed to move the occupant of this grave. Portions of the cranium, right humerus, right ulna and radius, right clavicle, right scapula, ribs, pubic bone, and right femur were exposed to verify that the entire burial was, in fact, present within the grave pit. Following their discovery and partial exposure, the remains of this individual were reburied since the purpose of these investigations was to determine whether the burials had been removed, not to conduct skeletal studies. Grave Pit 25 was approximately 8 feet long and 3 feet wide. Although not fully excavated, probing showed the pit to be approximately the same depth below ground surface as Grave Pit 24, 4.6 feet.

Rusted cut nails, many with fragments of wood adhering to them, were encountered just above the burial. These are thought to be the remains of the coffin in which this individual was buried. Based upon the nearly identical size and physical proximity of Grave Pits 24 and 25, they are believed to have been dug at the same time. The individual buried in Grave Pit 25, may also have been a member of the 90th New York Infantry regiment.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was placed at the northwestern end of Trench 1 and is oriented generally north/south (Figure 2). This trench was located so as to define the northern limits of the cemetery. Since an early photograph showed that a picket fence surrounded the cemetery, it was felt that the postholes excavated for fence supports should be observable once the the cap stone was exposed. Trench 2 was excavated in two stages. The first excavation episode consisted of a trench approximately five feet wide and 60 feet long. When postholes were not immediately observable the northern end of Trench 2 was expanded with the backhoe into a block excavation. A series of 6 postholes, thought to be associated with the cemetery picket fence were found within the Trench 2 excavation block (Figure 3). These postholes were aligned roughly east/west in a straight line. Seven burial pits were also found within Trench 2. Gravel Pit 36 is smaller than most and was probably excavated to accommodate a child's burial. Feature 1 in this trench consists of a concentration of bird bone found just beneath the ground surface.

Grave Pit 34 was excavated within Trench 2. A majority of the pit was located within Trench 2, with only small portions of each end located within the trench walls. It was found that the burial had been moved. As with grave pits 2 and 24, a number of small human bone fragments, predominately hand and foot bones, were found in the pit fill. A number of unfused long bone epiphyses were also found, suggesting that the individual was under 20 years old (Bass 1971). As with the other burials, these are the sort of small bones that one would expect an unskilled crew to miss during removal of the graves. The most interesting artifact found within the grave pit was a marble headstone broken into two parts but otherwise complete. The headstone was 42 1/4 inches long, 10 1/4 inches wide, and 2 inches thick. A raised line marking the depth the base of the stone was to be buried, was found 13 1/2 inches up from the bottom. The stone was identical in dimensions to the one found in Grave Pit 24. The following inscription was found on the stone:

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IRA	BATES
CO.K	
110TH	
N.Y.INF	

Again, it is presumed that this headstone belongs with Grave Pit 34 and was thrown into the pit after the burial was removed.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was excavated in the area suspected to have been the eastern edge of the cemetery, before the postholes were discovered in Trench 2 (Figure 2). Trench 3 is oriented roughly north/south, and is approximately 50.5 feet long. When first opened the trench was thought to contain 2 burial pits. Investigations found, however, that one of the pits was cut to bury an iron pipe and the other was part of Feature 2, a large hole apparently excavated just before the construction of the Wherry housing. Not all of Feature 2 was excavated, but that portion within Trench 3 was at least 30 feet long and 4.5 feet deep. The feature contained both 19th and 20th century artifactual remains jumbled together. The feature was apparently excavated with heavy machinery since teeth marks from a heavy equipment bucket were present at its base. Lenses of wood ash and coal cinders were present throughout the feature, suggesting that it may have been excavated to bury debris from the removal of the Army barracks in 1951. Part of a concrete foundation, probably from a Wherry housing unit, lay on top of the feature.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was sited to locate the easternmost boundary of the cemetery (Figure 2). The location of the trench was determined by consulting the 1906 Key West Barracks map which showed the eastern boundary of the cemetery to lie approximately 225 feet from White street. The orientation of the line was determined by siting the transit along the row of postholes found in Trench 2 and measuring 225 feet from White Street. Trench 4 was approximately five feet wide and L shaped. The trench was made L shaped to locate where the cemetery fence made a turn to the south. This turn would mark the easternmost boundary of the cemetery. After clearing the overburden from the trench a series of postholes was found with a turn being made in the expected location. The fence line had obviously been rebuilt since a number of the postholes parallel each other in a slightly different alignment. No burials were noted in Trench 4.

Cantonment Area Excavations

As stated earlier in this report, locating the Post cemetery and other Army Barracks structures was largely made possible by the availability of a 1906 map of the Key West Army Barracks. A copy of the map is included in Appendix 2. This map is on file at the Historic Florida Keys Preservation Board and was generously loaned to the Mobile District archeological team by Mr. Wright Langley. Two sewer manholes depicted on this map were located by the investigators near the men's baseball field. By using these manholes and scaling off distances on the map, it was possible to determine Barracks structure locations for testing. A transit and measuring tapes were used to lay out backhoe trench placements.

The 1906 map structure numbering system was used to identify all buildings and cisterns uncovered during these investigations. The 1906 map is accompanied by a legend identifying each structure by number and description keyed to the respective location on the map. No other map displayed in such detail the locations of the Barracks structures and their attendant utilities.

Trench 5

A 1906 map of the Key West Barracks depicted at least 14 water wells locatedadjacent to and paralleling Angela Street. The wells were spaced approximately 5 feet apart. Trench 5 was excavated within a portion of the area thought to contain the wells (Figure 2). An area measuring approximately 30 feet east/west by 19 feet north/south was excavated along Angela Street in an effort to locate one or more of the wells. This area consists largely of fill over the native cap stone The fill was evidently brought in when the Barracks structures were demolished since 19th century materials were found mixed with artifactual remains from the mid 20th century. No evidence was found of any wells within this trench. Consultation with a number of local informants and examination of maps has convinced the investigators that the wells were covered over when Angela Street was expanded.

Trenches 6 and 7

Trenches 6 and 7 were excavated parallel to the south side of the former Barracks parade ground in an attempt to locate a line of cisterns (numbers 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 13) shown on the 1906 Barracks map (Figure 2). No cistern remains were found within these trenches; it was later determined they were located closer to the men's baseball field than initially estimated. During the excavation of Trench 6 it was noted that a rectangular hole (3' E/W by 4' N/S) had been cut through the cap stone At first it was thought that the hole might represent a latrine pit. Following its excavation, however, the pit was found to contain a waterline and fire hydrant stem and valve. The location of this hydrant approximates that of a hydrant shown as part of a salt water fire fighting system on the 1906 Barracks map.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was excavated at the east end of the men's baseball field in an attempt to locate Cistern 6, which was shown on the 1906 map to be sited along the south end of the Barracks parade ground (Figure 2). The backhoe trench was 66 feet long and oriented east/west. A concrete Wherry housing foundation was located at the east end of the trench. Other construction items encountered in the trench include a ceramic sewer pipe, an iron water pipe, a PVC pipe, and a buried electric line; however, no evidence was found for the cistern. As will be seen later, based upon the results of excavations in Trench 17, it appears that Cistern 6 was constructed above ground and that the foundations were removed when the Barracks structures were demolished or the Wherry housing constructed.

Trench 9

The Barracks artesian well, W 1, and Cistern 10 were located by Trench 9, see Figure 2. Cistern 10 was found to have been built above ground of concrete strengthened by reinforcing bar with a square cross-section. The foundation remains show that the cistern was 73 feet long and 20 feet wide. Most of the walls for Cistern 10 were removed, but remnants (approximately one foot high) were found. Slightly over one foot of fill had been brought in to cover the cistern foundation. No early artifactual remains were found within the fill overlying the cistern floor. This cistern had been resurfaced at least two times, as evidenced by the different concrete layers on the cistern floor. Foundations and portions of a concrete floor from a Wherry housing unit were found over parts of the cistern floor. The artesian well, which was found at the east end of Cistern 10, is a circular brick construction approximately 15 feet in diameter. Most of the well is covered by the root system of a seagrape tree; only portions of its western wall were exposed by Trench 9. A small test pit found that at least the upper portions of the well were filled with concrete and cement rubble, probably from Cistern 10. The 1906 Barracks map notes that this was an old well that had been drilled to a depth of 87 feet. There is potential for the older dug portion of the well to contain artifactual remains under the recent fill from the Barracks demolition. No further investigations were conducted within the well since the Navy plans to retain the seagrape tree as part of their landscape scheme, thus preserving the well.

Trench 10

Trench 10 was oriented to intersect with the location of Cistern 16 and Building 11, the Barracks stable, as shown on the 1906 map (Figure 2). Following backhoe testing this cistern was found to be a semi-subterranean type (Plate 7). Cistern 16 measured 22.6 by 16.6 feet on its exterior, while the interior measurements were 20.0 by 12.6 feet. The depth from the ground surface to the cistern floor is approximately five feet. The cistern walls consisted predominately of cut blocks of cap stone, mortared together. The average wall width was approximately .6 feet. At least two different layers of cement had been applied to the interior of the cistern over its life. The interior layer appears to have had a thin coat of tar applied to enhance its water retention capability.

The fill pushed into Cistern 16 consisted largely of its own upper walls and concrete roof slab. A concrete support pillar, perhaps from a nearby building, was also in the fill. The investigators encountered no smaller artifactual remains or the trash one would expect to find in a long abandoned cistern. It is believed that Cistern 16 was in use and, therefore, kept clean until nearly the day it was demolished.

Following the excavation of Cistern 16, Trench 10 was extended in an effort to locate Building 11, the Quartermaster's stable. Early pictures show the stable to be a low set building, while most other Barracks structures were constructed on high piers. It was thought that lost artifactual remains might have been more common under the stable floor. The backhoe trench failed to find any features or artifactual remains associated with the stable. This area was heavily impacted by concrete foundations associated with the Wherry housing units. Only Cistern 16 appears to have survived the one construction and two demolition episodes in this locality.

Trench 11

Trench 11 was excavated in an attempt to locate Cisterns 3 and 4 (Figure 4, Back Pocket). Four trenches were excavated parallel to each other as subsets of Trench 11; they were each given letter designations beginning with A and ending with D. The trenches were oriented approximately north/south and were spaced about 15 feet apart. Neither cistern was located within these trenches. On the average the cap stone was found approximately one foot below the ground surface.

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Plate 7

Cistern 16, Trench 10.

Bottom

Plate 8

Cistern 15, Trench 13.



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Within the Trench 11 segments were found the base of a telephoñe pole, several water pipes, and two trenches cut into the cap stone to hold additional pipes, now removed. This area appears to have undergone considerable disturbance from past construction and demolition activities. It is believed that Cisterns 3 and 4 were above ground constructions that were removed when the other Army Barracks structures were demolished. Cisterns 3 and 4 were paired respectively with officer's quarters 1 and 2.

Trench 12

Trench 12 was placed to intersect with the location of Cistern 1 on the east side of the Barracks property (Figure 4). Cistern 1 is depicted on the 1906 map as the largest of the Barracks cisterns. Following excavation with the backhoe, the concrete floor for Cistern 1 was located approximately 1 foot below the present ground surface. Recent fill and concrete lay on top of the cistern floor. No attempt was made to expose the entire floor since it was obvious that the cistern had been built above ground and completely demolished prior to construction of the Wherry housing. This area is reported to have been the location of a concrete plant used during the construction of the Wherry housing.

Trench 13

Cistern 15 was found along the north side of the girl's softball field within Trench 13 (Figure 2 and Plate 8). This cistern was a semi-subterranean construction, built partially of bricks and cut cap stone blocks. Below present ground surface, the cistern was constructed of cap stone blocks mortared together, while above the ground surface, brick were apparently used for the cistern walls. Immediately below the sod the foundation consisted of bricks, in alternating courses, in some cases laid side by side five wide. Outside wall measurements for Cistern 15 were 22.2 feet x 14.7 feet, while interior measurements were 20.0 x 13.2 feet. From the present ground surface, the cistern is 3.4 feet deep. The interior walls of the cistern were covered with at least 3 separately applied layers of concrete sealer, which were still doing the job since Cistern 15 was partially filled with water. Fill removed from the cistern included numerous bricks from the walls and flat concrete slabs, thought to be from the roof of the cistern. The roof slabs used crushed brick aggregate in the concrete. No other artifactual remains were discovered within the cistern. Again, it appears that the interior of the cistern was kept clean until the day it was pushed in. Cistern 15 was located on the west side of the Artillery Barracks, Building 19, and is presumed to be identical to Cistern 14 on the east side of the barracks.

Trench 14

Trench 14 was placed to intersect the suspected location of Building 40, which was identified on the 1906 map as a lavatory (Figure 4). A 1918 map, however, noted that this same building was used as a personnel office. Obviously a rather radical change in structure use occurred between 1906 and 1918. Since it was not known if the lavatory was just a wash-house or also contained toilet

facilities, it was hoped that the excavations would shed more light on this matter. Trench 14 was first excavated in an east/west direction and uncovered two concrete piers, each with the remnants of brick columns placed on top. After the two concrete piers were found, Trench 14 was extended to the south to locate other foundations associated with Building 40. Two additional concrete piers, each with brick column remnants, were found in the trench extension. Foundation spacing east/west was 20 feet, while north/south they were 6 feet apart. The concrete piers were square (2.4 feet on each side) and 1.5 feet deep. The brick columns were each 1.1 feet square and consisted of four complete outer bricks with a partial brick laid on the interior of the square. Excavations were conducted on the interior of Building 40, between the concrete piers, in an attempt to determine whether the lavatory also contained toilet facilities. The soil was removed to the base of each concrete pier, but no subsurface pits or remains were recovered. Based upon excavation evidence, the lavatory was elevated on brick piers and did not have any subsurface features, other than the concrete piers, associated with it.

Trench 15

An attempt was made to locate the northern portion of the Barracks hospital, Building 14, and Cistern 18 in Trench 15 (Figure 5, Back Pocket). Based upon measurements obtained from the 1906 map the southern portion of the hospital and Cistern 19 would have been located under the area now used as a community recycle center. According to the 1906 map, Cisterns 18 and 19 were apparently located under the Barracks hospital. The 1906 drawing did not indicate whether these were surface or semi-subterranean cisterns. Trench 15 was extended for 67 feet in an attempt to locate these structures. However, only numerous Wherry housing foundations and water and sewer pipes were found in the area where the hospital and Cistern 18 should have been located. It is presumed that the cistern was an above ground type and that the hospital was built on brick columns with no extensive foundation system. Both structures were apparently entirely removed when the Barracks structures were dismantled and the Wherry housing was built.

Trench 16

Trench 16 was placed to cut across portions of both Building 39, a N.C.S. Quarters, and Cistern 17 (Figure 5). Two square concrete foundation piers from Building 39 were partially uncovered by the the excavations. On each foundation were found the lower remnants of brick columns used to elevate The remains of Cistern 17 were found at the south end of the Building 39. trench. Cistern 17 was a semi-subterranean structure constructed of brick and cut blocks of cap stone The inside of the cistern was made up of a single wall of bricks sealed with at least two layers of concrete. The outer cistern wall was made up of cut blocks of cap stone held in place by mortar. The fill inside Cistern 17 consisted of brick, cap stone, and concrete rubble, apparently from the walls and roof slab of the cistern. Two metal climbing rungs were found on the inside wall of the southeastern corner of Cistern 17. On its exterior the cistern measures approximately 19.0 by 22 feet, while the interior measurements were 13.4 by 16.6 feet. The cistern was approximately 4.9 feet deep from the present ground surface. No early artifactual remains or garbage debris were found within the cistern. Again, it is apparent that the

cistern was in use and kept clean until nearly the day it was demolished.

Trench 17

Trench 17 was placed to locate Cistern 24, which was the northernmost of a series of cisterns associated with the officers quarters on the west side of the parade ground (Figure 5). This trench was initially oriented north/south and cut through an asphalt parking lot and nearly two feet of fill before encountering the floor and wall remnants of the cistern. A cross trench (considered to be part of Trench 17) was then cut in an east/west direction across the first trench to determine the exact size of the cistern. The remnants of the western wall were found but the eastern wall and part of the floor were removed when the structure was originally demolished. Both the floor and the side walls of the cistern were made of concrete supported by square 1/2 inch reinforcing bar. The remains of the side walls are approximately .5 foot wide and average .8 feet high. An examination of the trench profile shows that Cistern 24 was constructed on the original ground surface but the remaining foundations were covered with fill prior to constructing the Wherry housing asphalt parking lot. At least two layers of concrete were used at different times to seal the interior of the cistern. No artifactual remains were encountered during the excavation, nor would any be expected since all the overburden over the cistern is modern fill. Since Cistern 24 is shown on the 1906 map to be the same size as all other officer's quarters cisterns, it is presumed that they were all identical in construction.

Trench 18

Although early maps of the Barracks show the northwest corner of the Peary Court property to be vacant, Trench 18 was placed in this area to determine whether it might have been used as a garbage dump during the Army occupation (Figure 5). During World War II four warehouses were erected in this area fronting White Street. The buildings have been removed, but their concrete foundations remain. Trench 18 was oriented southwest by northeast and was located east of the warehouse foundations. The trench was 82 feet long and averaged four feet in width. Excavated trench depth varied between two and three feet. The general trench profile consisted of a thin sod zone underlain by a layer of crushed cap stone mixed with layers of ash and cinders, in turn underlain by a zone of light gray, saturated clay. A layer of dark, large grained sand was found below the saturated clay. The upper levels of the profile consist of materials brought in to fill a low wet area. The saturated clay and the sand in the lower portion of the profile suggest a former beach or backwater area. This is consistent with the history of the area since much of the surrounding land, including Trumbo Point, was created by fill episodes. No cultural materials or features were found in any of the stratigraphic levels.

SUMMARY

As noted earlier in the text, archeological investigations at Peary Court can be divided into two major categories: 1) the Post cemetery, and 2) the Key West Barracks buildings. For the cemetery, the chief goal of the excavations was to determine whether the burials had, in fact, been moved in 1927 as reported. Excavations of Key West Barracks structures were conducted to determine the preservation of the structure remains, and most significantly, whether they contained materials or information that would be important in interpreting the past lifeways of the military occupants. Photographic evidence and informant interviews convinced the investigators that little evidence would remain from most of the barracks and officer's guarters. Most were completely dismantled or, in some cases, moved elsewhere on the island. Few foundation remains would have survived since nearly all of these structures appear to have been elevated on columns of concrete or brick. Therefore the investigations centered on locating and conducting sample excavations of those structures which might be best preserved and most likely to contain period artifactual remains. It was thought that wells, latrines, and subterranean cisterns might be the most likely candidates to possess this sort of information.

Physical constraints dictated in some cases the Army Barracks structures that could be selected for excavation. Structure locations under the current streets, the Credit Union and its parking lot, the recycling center, and the men's baseball field were not considered for excavation. It was, however, believed that representative structure types were available elsewhere at Peary Court.

Archeological investigations at Peary Court were sufficient to determine that the 1927 relocation efforts at the Key West Post cemetery were incomplete. Of the four grave pits excavated, three had been moved; the mortuary crew had overlooked only a few small skeletal elements in each. One of the grave pits, however, contained a complete, in-situ, burial. After finding this complete burial, efforts at the Post cemetery shifted to delineating the cemetery's northern and eastern boundaries so that it can be preserved and set aside from further development. These boundaries were defined in Trenches 2 and 4 by the discovery of postholes that were dug into the cap stone for posts to support a picket fence that surrounded the cemetery. The other cemetery boundaries are currently defined by Navy property boundary fences.

Cisterns were the major category of Key West Barracks building examined by these investigations. Nearly every building at the Key West Barracks had one or more cisterns associated with it. Prior to the waterline being extended to Key West in 1942, nearly all potable water supplies came from water collected in cisterns (Miami Herald, July 28, 1968). Attempts were made to locate ten Barracks cisterns. Six were found. Three of these were semi-subterranean cisterns (numbers 13, 16, and 17) and three were built above ground (1, 10 and 24). Based upon their construction techniques, the semi-subterranean cisterns appear to have been built earlier than the above ground varieties. The semi-subterranean cisterns were constructed predominately of cut cap stone blocks with some brick being used. The semi-subterranean construction method allowed part of the water volume to be supported by the surrounding soil and cap stone The use of concrete strengthened by reinforcing bar made possible the construction of large above ground cisterns. An examination of Barracks photographs showed that some of the cistern roofs were changed over time. Earlier photographs show that the cisterns had gable roofs covered with shingles (Plate 9). Later photographs show the same cisterns to have flat concrete slabs for roofs (Plate 10). An 1893 Inspection report describes all cisterns at that time as being constructed of brick and wood with shingle roofs (War Department 1893). The older cisterns may have routinely received their new roofs at the same time as the above ground concrete cisterns were constructed. Another possibility is that the 1909 hurricane badly damaged the wood and shingle roofs, necessitating their replacement.

Although it was hypothesized by the investigators that the Barracks cisterns might contain artifacts and refuse from the time of the Army occupation, this was found not to be true. Above ground cisterns were either removed completely or only the floor was preserved below recent fill brought in when the Wherry housing was constructed. Semi-subterranean cisterns contained only rubble from their own destruction or from buildings surrounding them. They appear to have been kept clean and to have been used until they were destroyed. Based on the sample of cisterns investigated by Mobile District, it is believed that additional excavations of this structure category is not warranted.

An attempt was also made to locate a number of the wells depicted on the 1906 map of the Key West Barracks. As with the cisterns, it was thought that wells might contain artifactual materials from the Army occupation of the Barracks. Local informants told the investigators that wells at Key West were generally shallow, less than ten feet deep, and frequently went dry or turned salty. The first wells to be addressed were a series of at least 14 located adjacent and parallel to Angela Street. The 1906 map depicted these wells as being laid out in a row, approximately six feet apart. Trench 5 was excavated specifically to locate several of these wells. In spite of expanding the trench to an area measuring 30 by 19 feet, none of the wells were found. It appears that Angela Street was expanded over these wells at some point in the past.

Another very large well was located next to Cistern 10. This well is shown on the 1906 map and is described as being an old well into which a pipe was apparently driven 87 feet to create an artesian well. Only a small test pit was excavated in the well to determine the content of the upper fill layers. Concrete fragments and cement plaster were recovered from the test pit. These are thought to be from Cistern 10. A number of the cement plaster fragments had been painted an olive drab color. Additional excavations were not planned for the well since the large seagrape tree located adjacent to and partially within the well is to be saved in the planned development.

Plate 9

Historic Photograph of Key West Army Barracks.

Building 19 and Cistern 14 in left foreground, note gable roof on cistern. Building 13 and Cistern 17 in left background.

Building 25 in center of photograph.

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Building 14 in right background, Cisterns 18 and 19 are included in the first floor of this building.

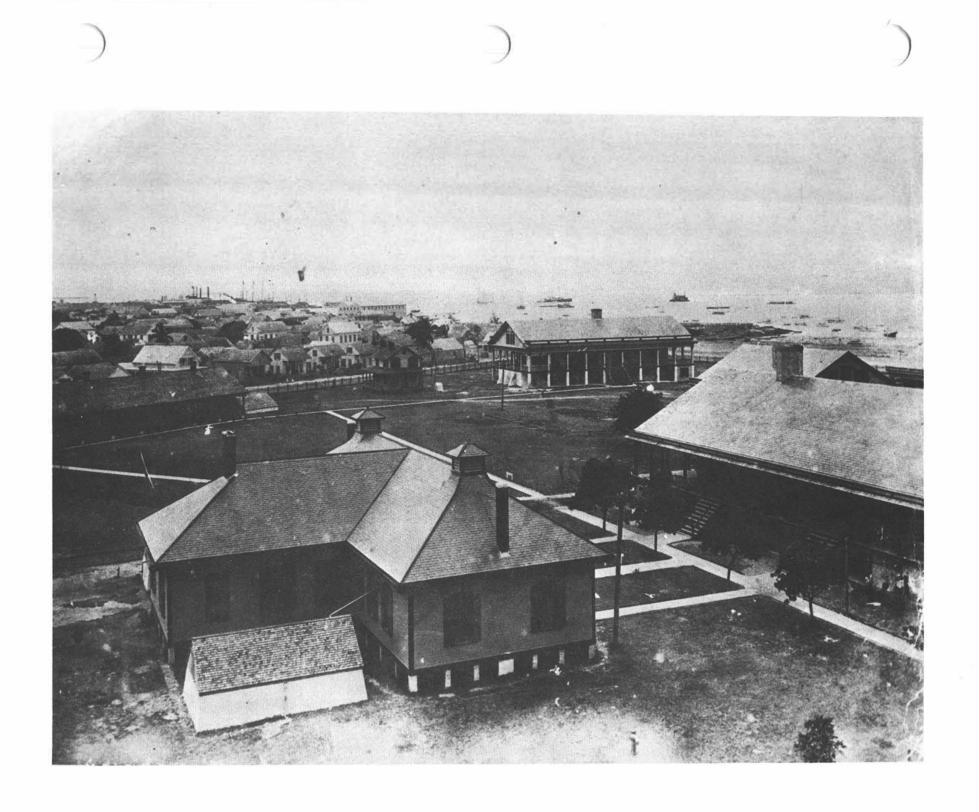


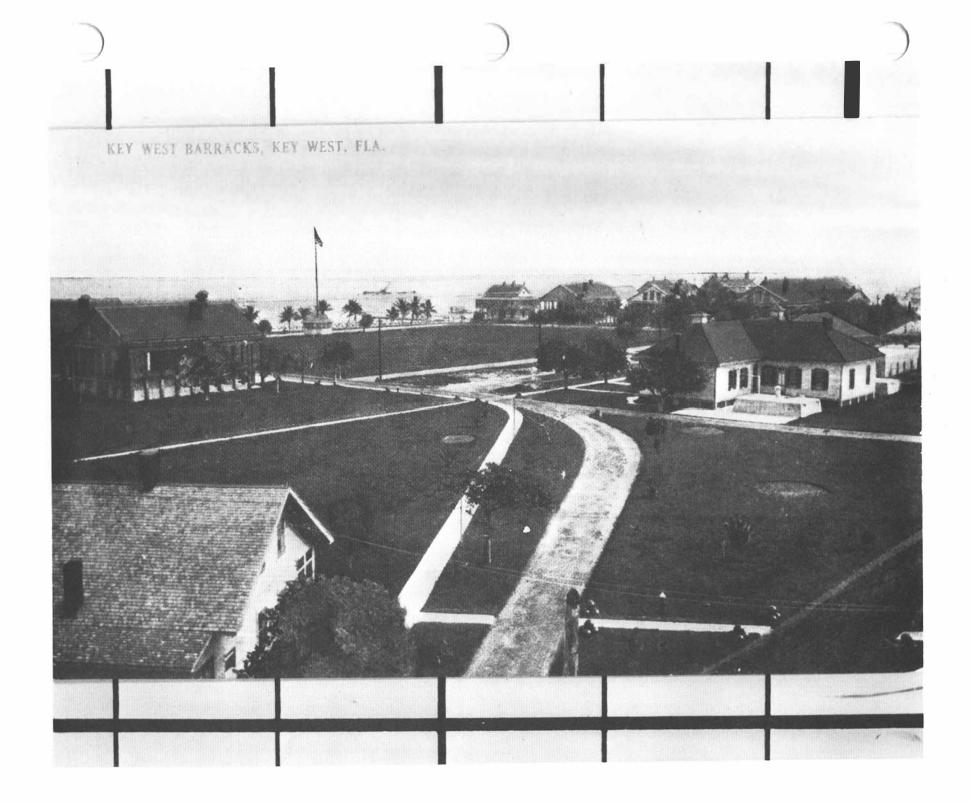
Plate 10

Historic Photograph of Key West Army Barracks.

Building 19 and Cisterns 14 and 15 in right foreground, note concrete slabs have replace i gable roofs on cisterns. Building 15 in left background.

Building 39 is thought to be in left foreground.

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Based upon measurements taken from Key West Army Barracks maps dating to 1906 and 1918, at least two wells are believed to be located under the southern portion of the loop street circling Peary Court. The general locations of these wells have been pointed out to the Navy, and an effort will be made to preserve them in place. If this does not prove feasible excavations will be necessary.

Excavations were also conducted at the location of Building 40, designated on the 1906 map as being a lavatory. A 1918 map of the Army Barracks indicates that the building was then being used as a personnel office. Early references note that at least the officer's outhouses were emptied regularly by "night carts" (War Department 1893). This would indicate that the outhouses used boxes that could be pulled out or that the pits were rather shallow. It was hoped that the excavation of Trench 14 within the lavatory building could shed light on this matter.

Trench 14 revealed four square concrete piers, each with brick column remnants, at the location of Building 40. The lavatory building was obviously set above the ground surface on brick columns. No below ground latrine pits were found associated with this structure. It is therefore presumed that the building was a washhouse rather than a latrine. The location of the outhouses or latrine is still problematical since none of the historical maps consulted by the investigators has these types of structures identified.

Excavations conducted at the location of the Barracks hospital proved negative. The area was crisscrossed with Wherry housing concrete foundations and it is thought that the piers supporting the hospital were removed at the time the Barracks were demolished or by construction of the Wherry housing. Also, no evidence was found for Cistern 18, which is shown on the 1906 map as being within the hospital footprint.

Trench 10 was excavated through the location of Building 11, the Quartermaster's stable. No structural remains or subsurface features or even diagnostic artifacts were found at this location. A Wherry housing unit was located at this site and it is presumed that that all traces of the stable were removed during its dismantlement and the subsequent erection and demolition of the Wherry housing.

Trench 16 was placed to bisect both Building 39, a N.C.S. Quarters, and Cistern 17. Other than two concrete foundation piers, no subsurface remains from the Barracks occupation were encountered. One of the piers still possessed the base of a brick column. As with most other Barracks buildings, Building 39 is believed to have been elevated on brick columns and to have had no substantial ground floor features which would have survived the numerous building and demolition cycles which have occurred at Peary Court.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon the archeological investigations at the U.S. Navy Peary Court property and subsequent discussions between the Navy, the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Mobile District, and in accordance with the Peary Court Memorandum of Agreement, it is recommended that the Navy set aside from any future development the area identified as the Key West Post cemetery. This would leave undisturbed those burials which were not moved in 1927 and obviate the need for additional archeological investigations in this area. As per discussions with the Florida SHPO and provisions of the Peary Court Memorandum of Agreement, a historic preservation plan has been prepared to outline the cemetery preservation and maintenance needs. Appendix 1 contains this plan.

Within the Barracks area, only the artesian well, located adjacent to the remains of Cistern 10, is recommended for avoidance and future preservation. At least two other wells are thought to be under the southern portion of the Peary Court loop drive. Figure 2 shows the location of the well at Cistern 10 and the suspected location of the other wells. It is presently anticipated that these areas will be avoided by construction activities. The well at Cistern 10 will be left in its present undeveloped state as part of the preservation of the adjacent seagrape.

The suspected wells are located under the present loop road at Peary Court. It is planned that no subsurface activities will occur at this location, only repaying over the existing pavement.

There has been no historic preservation plan prepared for either the well at Cistern 10 or the suspected wells. There will be no required maintenance eforts at these sites and they will be noted as areas for avoidance of subsurface activities. If it is determined that either location cannot be avoided and they will be affected by construction additional archeological investigation will be required.

The archival research and archeological investigations conducted by Mobile District strongly indicate that no significant archeological remains will be found associated with the few surviving structural elements from the Key West Army Barracks. Demolishment of the Barracks buildings, erection and subsequent destruction of the Wherry housing units, and construction of the park ball fields have dramatically disturbed the Peary Court lands.

Although three semi-subterranean cisterns were located and more may be expected, none contained significant archeological materials or deposits. The Barracks cisterns appear to have been used and kept clean until their destruction in the 1940s. Because of their raised construction style, only a few concrete piers and brick column remnants may be expected to remain from the barracks, officer's housing, and public buildings. Although scattered remains of building piers and supports, as well as cisterns, are anticipated to be

uncovered during construction activities, these sort of remains do not merit additional archeological investigations. The available maps, particularly the 1906 map, and period photographs tell us more about the Barracks buildings than could formal excavations. Encountering such remains would not in our opinion constitute an emergency discovery situation under the provisions of the Peary Court Memorandum of Agreement.

No Army refuse dumps or outhouses were discovered by the Mobile District investigations. Although it is believed that Army refuse was hauled off post and that outhouses were emptied by "night carts", there is the possibility that an emergency discovery of these sort of features or even isolated burials could occur during construction of the new Navy housing. Therefore, if these sort of remains are encountered, the Navy should be prepared to implement the emergency discovery provisions of the Peary Court Memorandum of Agreement.

In summary, it is the opinion of the Mobile District that construction be allowed without notification at all areas within Peary Court except for the area of the Key West Post Cemetery and a buffer zone, the well at Cistern 10 and the area of suspected wells under the loop road. The required cemetery buffer zone lies on the north and northeast sides of the cemetery and consists of a 5' set back from the original fence post holes to a new wrought iron fence, a 25' set back from the original fence post holes to new dwellings, and a 50' setback from the original fence post holes to any storm water runoff ponds.

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War Department

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HISTORIC FRESERVATION PLAN Key West Post Cemetery Florida

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN Key West Post Cemetery Florida

Introduction

In May 1990, a Public Hearing was conducted for the construction of the Naval Air Station (NAS) Key West Family Housing project in Key West, Florida. In the course of complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, a Case Alternatives Report was compiled which provides an analysis of potential alternatives for the siting of the 160-unit housing project. All known potential sites in the Key West area were analyzed, including those suggested during the Public Hearing.

The review and analysis of sites for the housing project identified Peary Court as the most logical and cost effective site for the construction of the project. The Case Alternatives Report, in addition to discussing the historic architectural concerns that would be addressed by NAS Key West, also made note of the archeological potential at Peary Court. Accordingly, a commitment was made by the Naval Air Station to conduct an archeological survey of the area.

Discussions between NAS Key West and the Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in August 1990, led to agreement that Mobile District would conduct the archeological survey of Peary Court. Originally, field investigations were scheduled to be completed on November 16, but NAS Key West extended field time to allow additional studies to be conducted. Field investigations were subsequently completed on November 19, 1990.

Peary Court is located on the north side of the City of Key West. It is Navy-owned land consisting of 28.65 acres situated east of White Street and south of Palm Avenue, across from the main entrance to Trumbo Point Annex. This triangular plot of land has in the past been the site of Navy Wherry Family Housing, which was demolished in 1975. Following demolition of the housing, the land was licensed to the City of Key West at no cost. The City of Key West constructed two softball diamonds there for use by the City softball league.

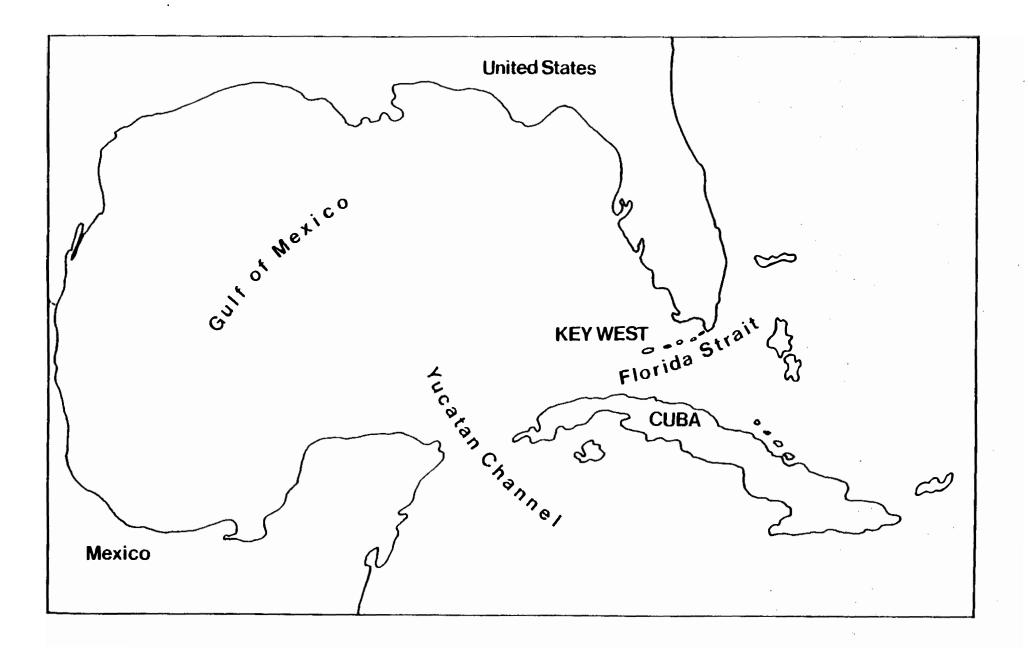
Of the 28.65 acres of land contained on the site, the Navy Federal Credit Union occupies approximately 1.0 acre, the existing roadway system occupies approximately 7.65 acres, and the remaining 20.0 acres is undeveloped and would be available for construction of the family housing.

Figure 1

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Key West, Florida, Location Map.

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Historical Background

The cemetery was associated with the U.S. Army Barracks at Key West, established January 2, 1831, by Company H, 4th Infantry pursuant to Orders No. 65, The Adjutant General's Office, November, 13, 1830 (RG 393, Records of United States Army Commands). Major James M. Glassel arrived with infantry troops in February, 1831.

Much of the information contained here has been taken from a paper prepared by Mr. Lewis G. Schmidt, Allentown, Pennsylvania (Schmidt, n.d.). Mr. Schmidt conducted extensive research in 1983 and 1984 while attempting to locate the grave of a family ancestor, George Smith, a Union soldier in Company B, 47th Pennsylvania Volunteers stationed at Key West who died there in 1862. Mr. Schmidt's past research and current willingness to share information on the cemetery have proved to be invaluable in writing this report. Collections in the Florida Room, Monroe County Library also contained useful information. Contemporary maps of the post show the general location of the cemetery in the southwest corner of the reservation. Unfortunately, no plat of the grave locations within the cemetery has been found.

As was noted previously, the U.S. Army Barracks at Key West were established in 1831 and abandoned in December, 1835 due to a yellow fever epidemic. The first deaths at the post are recorded in July and August of that year. After the post was reoccupied in 1850, the count of deaths reflect periods of epidemic with the highest death count of 14 being recorded at the post in a four month period during the summer and fall of 1854. During 1851, 1852, 1853, and 1859 only one death per year was reported.

No deaths were reported for 1860 - 1861, however with the influx of Union troops who occupied Key West throughout the Civil War, the death toll increased dramatically. In 1862, the 47th Pennsylvania Volunteers, 90th and 91st New York Infantry were garrisoned on Key West. All of these units suffered heavy casualties from yellow fever and typhoid fever. Mr. Schmidt's family ancestor, George Smith died of typhoid fever on July 6, 1862. Another fatality Jesse Ketchum, Company I, 90th New York Regiment died on September 4, 1862, his death being one among many reported in the September 13, 1862 issue of the <u>New Era</u>, a Key West newspaper. Ketchum's gravestone was uncovered during archeological excavations at the cemetery.

The years 1862 and 1864 saw the greatest number of victims of yellow fever an typhoid fever, with heavy casualties being recorded among the New York and Pennsylvania Regiments discussed above. The 2nd Colored U.S. Infantry also suffered heavy losses to fever, particularly in 1864 - 1865. The high death counts among northern troops was attributed to their not being acclimated to the tropical climate of Key West.

In the years following the Civil War, the death rate recorded at the U.S. Army Barracks decreased dramatically. There were several reasons for this decline. The need to quarantine fever victims was recognized and treatment facilities were established at Fort Jefferson on the Dry Tortugas islands. After the end of the war, the number of federal troops occupying Key West was greatly reduced; in 1880 the U.S. Army Barracks were again abandoned for over a decade, and finally in the early 20th century the cause and treatment of yellow fever were identified.

It should be noted that civilians as well as soldiers were buried at the Key West Post cemetery. Burial records of St. Paul's Episcopal Church from 1831 -1878 reveal the names of the wives and children of soldiers buried at the Army cemetery, including the wife and child of a Sergeant Doyle in June and September 1840. Information gathered by Lewis Schmidt reveals that at least one family,(Jeremiah Weaver and his wife and two children died within 12 days of each other in 1880 (Schmidt, n.d.).

It was noted earlier that no formal plat showing the locations of grave rows or individual graves has been found for the cemetery. Maps of the post dating from the 1880's through the 1920's show the cemetery as an irregular shaped parcel bordering White Street on the west. Angela Street on the south has been closed and the cemetery extends approximately one half block south of Angela Street towards Newton Street. The northern and eastern boundaries of the cemetery are within the boundaries of the post.

Microfilm copies of U.S. Army records dating to the 1880's on file at the Monroe County Library contain an interesting series of correspondence concerning the southern part of the post cemetery (i.e. the tract acquired from Euphemia Maloney in 1897). This tract was briefly mentioned earlier in the discussion of the acquisition of the post lands. The following information is extracted from <u>Record Group 92</u>, Office of the <u>Quartermaster General</u>, <u>General</u> <u>Correspondence and Reports</u> and <u>Record Group 393</u>, U.S. <u>Army Continental Command</u>, <u>Key West Barracks</u>, <u>Record of Interment</u>, (Vol. 1).

A "Proposal for Work and Key West Cemetery" was issued by the Quartermaster General on December 14, 1895. The work proposed included the following:

"Picket fence - 220 feet of wooden picket fence to be taken up on the north side and reset on a line 30 feet farther north. Add 30 feet extension of picket fence on the east side of the property going north. Both old and new fence to be set in a substantial and workable manner."

"Removal of Remains - 214 bodies to be removed from south part of cemetery and reburied in another part. Bodies were to be places in new boxes and headstones are to be removed and reset. The graves for reentrant shall not be less than 4 and one half feet deep."

"Removal and rebuilding of stone wall - 244 feet of stone wall on the south and east sides of the cemetery. Rebuild 130 feet of stone wall on newly established boundaries between cemetery and land of W. C. Maloney. New wall to be similar to that marking the west boundary of the cemetery."

"All work to be completed before March 31, 1886."

Bids received to complete the work ranged from \$0.15 to \$0.50 per linear foot to remove and reset the picket fence; \$0.28 to \$0.75 per linear foot for new picket fence; from \$8.50 to \$12.00 per body for reinterment of remains, and \$1.00 to \$3.00 per linear foot for relocation and rebuilding of the stone wall. Subsequent correspondence between the Quartermaster General and prospective bidders in February, 1886 indicates that the contract for work at the Key West Post Cemetery had not been awarded.

On May 1, 1886, the husband of Euphemia Maloney, W. C. Maloney, wrote to Florida Senator Wilkinson Call complaining that the Government had taken possession of his property 21 years earlier since which time the land had been used as part of the post cemetery. In response to Mr. Maloney's complaint, Senator Call wrote to Secretary of War, W.G. Endicott, requesting that the cemetery be moved from Maloney's land. Secretary Endicott responded to Senator Call's request on May 19, 1886 stating that funds had been appropriated for the purchase of the disputed tract of land by a Congressional Act of July 22, 1876. Mr. Maloney had refused an offered price of \$2,000.00. Furthermore, the health authorities of Key West had prohibited removal of the bodies. Endicott indicated that the War Department to not intend to continue to pursue the matter. It was not until 1897 that the Government acquired the tract of one third acre for the price of \$1,000.00 from Maloney's widow, Euphemia Maloney. It is uncertain whether any graves were relocated from this tract during the intervening years.

In February, 1927 articles in the <u>Key West Citizen</u>, indicated that 463 bodies were being removed from the Key West Post Cemetery and being transferred to the military cemetery at Fort Barrancas, Pensacola, Florida. The February 2, 1927 edition of the <u>Key Largo Breeze</u> indicated that the work was being done by a Jacksonville undertaking firm, whose name was not given.

In March, 1947 a series of articles pertaining to the Key West Barracks appeared in the <u>Key West Citizen</u>. The first, on March 15 announced the Army's intention to close the post. A second article on March 27, announced the Army's request for bids to remove 62 surplus buildings from Army facilities on Key West. One completely equipped latrine and 2 barracks were offered for sale at the U.S. Army Barracks. An article on the March 29 issue stated that the City of Key West was seeking to obtain control of the site of the army barracks. It was hoped that a professional base ball team would use the site as a training camp. This transfer was apparently never completed, for in 1949 what is now Peary Court was transferred from Army to Navy control. Photographic archives in the Florida Collections, Thompson Memorial Wing, Monroe County Library contain contemporary photographs of the Key West Army Barracks from the late 19th and early 20th century, as well as photographs showing the removal of the last of the buildings in 1951. Several of the old barracks buildings are still in use on Key West and neighboring Stock Island.

Historic Setting

NAS Key West wishes to set aside the area of the Key West Post Cemetery and preserve it as a historical park. Although the cemetery is marked on several old maps, only a single historical photograph, Plate 1, of the cemetery has been found. The photograph has been heavily used as a reference to describe the cemetery in an original setting.

Fencing

As can be seen in the photograph, the cemetery was enclosed on the northern side by a wooden picket fence. The picket fence appears to have extended northeast from White Street, then turned southeast to Angela Street. During archeological excavations at the cemetery, a fragment of one of the pickets is believed to have been found. Measuring 2 9/16" wide and 11/16" thick, the fragment shows evidence of having been whitewashed. Wood type has not been determined, but it appears to be pine or cypress. Height of the pickets in the photograph appears about 4'.

The pickets seen in Plate 1 appear to be pointed, but it is difficult to see whether it is a decorative or simple point. Archeological investigations revealed that the fence posts had been reset at least once and spaced about 5 feet apart. Posts seen in the photograph also appear to be about 5' apart, although there is some variation. A postmold was located in Trench 2 where cement had been poured to support the post. Measuring 4" x 6" the post was likely a gate support post and may mark the location of the main entrance gate. Fence posts would have probably not been as large, more likely 4" x 4".

Along White Street and the half block southern extension, the cemetery was apparently enclosed by a wall. Plate 1 shows a portion of this wall, apparently of cut cap stone, either dry laid or mortared. The uneven top edge to the wall seen in the photograph was likely a result of years of neglect rather than purpose. The wall along White Street is today a plastered brick, but it may have originally been similar to that in the photograph.

Gates

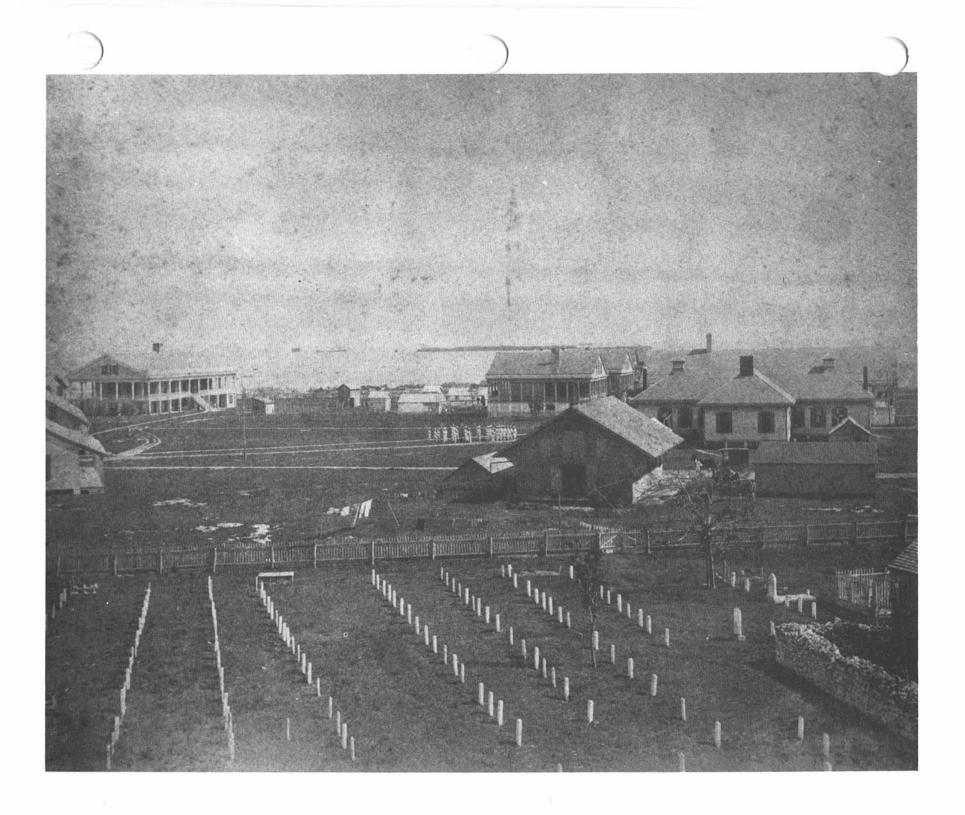
A double gate is seen in the photograph, apparently leading to the Quartermaster's Stable. A small corral is seen on the 1906 Post map, which shows this gate. Opening outward, towards the stable, the placement of this gate is somewhat confusing. It seems unlikely that the main gate to the cemetery would open to the stables, and it is probable that the cement supported post in Trench 2 marks the location of an entrance gate. It may be that horses were allowed to graze in the cemetery, thus feeding the stock and maintaining the grass Plate 1

Historic Photograph of Key West Army Barracks and Post Cemetery.

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A double gate, wide enough to allow passage of a horse drawn hearse, would likely have served as entrance to the cemetery, although there may have been smaller ones for visitors. Hinge and latch hardware would have been simple and sturdy, probably strap hinges and a slide bolt.

Landscaping

As seen in the photograph, the cemetery is grassed, probably with a hardy, native variety. Trees were also growing in the cemetery.

Maintenance

Beyond keeping the grass trimmed, possibly by allowing horses to graze, and periodically painting the picket fence there is little evidence in the photograph for maintenance activities at the cemetery.

Archeological Excavations

Archeological excavations at the Key West Post Cemetery began on 31 October 1990. Excavations at Peary Court were initiated in the southernmost projection of the property, where historic maps show the Post cemetery to have been located. This area is partially bounded by White and Angela Streets. Shovel test pits were first excavated throughout the area to determine the general soil profile and to potentially locate some of the grave pits prior to utilizing power equipment to strip the topsoil from larger areas of the site. Generally, six to twelve inches of dark brown topsoil overlay either the cap stone or disturbed soils which were believed to be part of grave pits. The disturbed soils were often mixed in nature and contained large amounts of cap stone rubble.

Plate 1 shows the graves to have been laid out in rows which were oriented roughly north/south. In order to locate the grave pits a backhoe was used to cut four trenches within the suspected cemetery area. Trench 1 was placed diagonally across the land projection at the south end of Peary Court. It was thought that orienting the trench in this fashion would allow it to cut across the maximum number of grave rows. Trenches 2, 3, and 4 were placed so as to define respectively the northern and eastern boundaries of the cemetery. The backhoe was used to remove a majority of the soil overlying the cap stone level. Grave pits encountered during the trench excavations were marked so that a sample could be excavated later to determine whether the burials had, in fact, been removed. Figure 2 (Front Pocket) shows the location of these trenches. Figure 3 presents a plan view of Trenches 1 and 2, showing the location of the grave pits uncovered.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was approximately 175 feet long and five feet wide, oriented roughly northwest by southeast. The cap stone level in Trench 1 was found in the northwestern and central portions of Trench 1 but was not present in the southeastern part. In the southeastern portion of the trench a whitish soil horizon was encountered that appears to consist of weathered oolite limestone. After a majority of the soil overburden was removed by the backhoe, shovels, trowels, and brooms were used to clean the trench floor. Grave pit locations were marked as Trench 1 was cleaned. Numbers were assigned to each obvious or potential grave pit, starting with number 1 at the southeastern end of Trench 1. Twenty-eight grave pits and one brick burial crypt were located.

Grave Pit 2, the northern portion of which extends into Trench 1, was the first to be excavated. Based upon the present ground surface, Grave Pit 2 appears to have been excavated to a depth of 4.3 feet below the current ground surface. The pit is 3 feet wide, and 3 feet of the grave pit extends into Trench 1. Isolated phalanges, metatarsals, metacarpals, tarsals, carpals, and rib fragments were found scattered throughout the fill of this grave pit. No long bones or axial skeletal remains were found within grave pit 2. This is the situation that would be expected if burials were removed by crews unfamiliar with human osteology, using only shovels and no screens. The Mobile District archeological crew used a 1/4 inch mesh screen to recover these human remains. Following definition of the pit on the trench floor, all excavated fill was screened. Small, extremely rusted iron fragments, thought to be the remains of coffin nails or hardware were also found in the grave pit fill.

Grave Pit 24 was the next to be excavated. This grave was excavated to approximately 4.6 feet below the present ground surface, most of the depth having been cut through the cap stone found in this area. The grave pit was approximately 3 feet wide and 8 feet long. Human remains included in the fill of this grave pit included teeth, the articular condyles of a femur, the articular head of a humerus, phalanges, and fragments of metacarpals and ribs. Also included in the pit fill, near the bottom of the grave, was the top of a broken white marble headstone, presumably the one associated with this grave pit. The following inscription was found on the headstone:

> 99 Jesse Ketchum CO.I 90TH N.Y.INF.

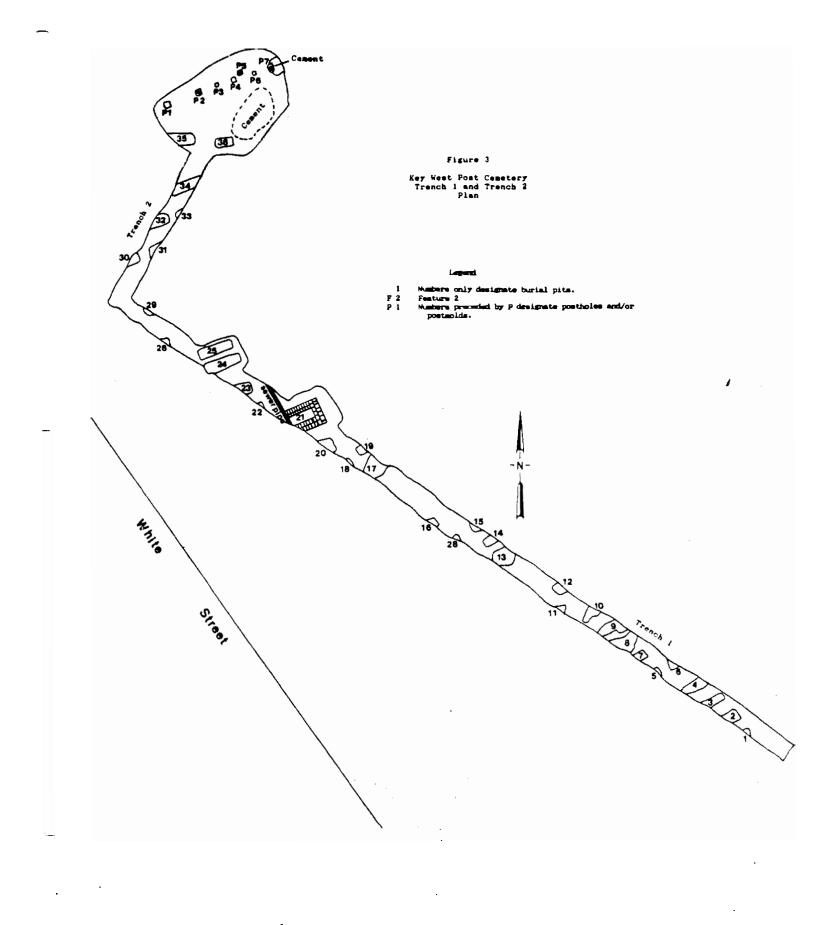
The September 13, 1862 issue of the <u>New Era</u>, a Key West newspaper, noted that Private Ketchum died on September 4, 1862 at the age of 20. The cause of death was not given. Except for a handful of miscellaneous human skeletal fragments the remains of Mr. Ketchum were obviously removed from the grave in 1927.

Grave Pit 25, which lies immediately adjacent to Grave Pit 24, was the third to be excavated in Trench 1. Unlike Grave Pits 2 and 24, Grave Pit 25 still contained the remains of the individual buried within it. For some reason, the mortuary company in charge of removing the burials at this cemetery failed to move the occupant of this grave. Portions of the cranium, right humerus, right ulna and radius, right clavicle, right scapula, ribs, pubic bone, and right Figure 3

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Plan View of Trenches 1 and 2.



femur were exposed to verify that the entire burial was, in fact, present within the grave pit. Following their discovery and partial exposure, the remains of this individual were reburied since the purpose of these investigations was to determine whether the burials had been removed, not to conduct skeletal studies. Grave Pit 25 was approximately 8 feet long and 3 feet wide. Although not fully excavated, probing showed the pit to be approximately the same depth below ground surface as Grave Pit 24, 4.6 feet.

Rusted cut nails, many with fragments of wood adhering to them, were encountered just above the burial. These are thought to be the remains of the coffin in which this individual was buried. Based upon the nearly identical size and physical proximity of Grave Pits 24 and 25, they are believed to have been dug at the same time. The individual buried in Grave Pit 25, may also have been a member of the 90th New York Infantry regiment.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was placed at the northwestern end of Trench 1 and is oriented generally north/south. This trench was located so as to define the northern limits of the cemetery. Since an early photograph showed that a picket fence surrounded the cemetery, it was felt that the postholes excavated for fence supports should be observable once the the cap stone was exposed. Trench 2 was excavated in two stages. The first excavation episode consisted of a trench approximately five feet wide and 60 feet long. When postholes were not immediately observable the northern end of Trench 2 was expanded with the backhoe into a block excavation. A series of 6 postholes, thought to be associated with the cemetery picket fence were found within the Trench 2 excavation block. These postholes were aligned roughly east/west in a straight line. Seven burial pits were also found within Trench 2. Gravel Pit 36 is smaller than most and was probably excavated to accommodate a child's burial. Feature 1 in this trench consists of a concentration of bird bone found just beneath the ground surface.

Grave Pit 34 was excavated within Trench 2. A majority of the pit was located within Trench 2, with only small portions of each end located within the trench walls. It was found that the burial had been moved. As with Grave Pits 2 and 24, a number of small human bone fragments, predominately hand and foot bones, were found in the pit fill. A number of unfused long bone epiphyses were also found, suggesting that the individual was under 20 years old (Bass 1971). As with the other burials, these are the sort of small bones that one would expect an unskilled crew to miss during removal of the graves. The most interesting artifact found within the grave pit was a white marble headstone broken into two parts but otherwise complete.

The headstone was 42 1/4 inches long, 10 1/4 inches wide, and 2 inches thick. A raised line marking the depth the base of the stone was to be buried, was found 13 1/2 inches up from the bottom. The stone was identical in dimensions to the one found in Grave Pit 24. The following inscription was found on the stone:

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157 IRA BATES CO.K 110TH N.Y.INF

Again, it is presumed that this headstone belongs with Grave Pit 34 and was thrown into the pit after the burial was removed.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was excavated in the area suspected to have been the eastern edge of the cemetery, before the postholes were discovered in Trench 2. Trench 3 is oriented roughly north/south, and is approximately 50.5 feet long. When first opened the trench was thought to contain 2 burial pits. Investigations found, however, that one of the pits was cut to bury an iron pipe and the other was part of Feature 2, a large hole apparently excavated just before the construction of the Wherry housing. Not all of Feature 2 was excavated, but that portion within Trench 3 was at least 30 feet long and 4.5 feet deep. The feature contained both 19th and 20th century artifactual remains jumbled together. The feature was apparently excavated with heavy machinery since teeth marks from a heavy equipment bucket were present at its base. Lenses of wood ash and coal cinders were present throughout the feature, suggesting that it may have been excavated to bury debris from the removal of the Army barracks in 1951. Part of a concrete foundation, probably from a Wherry housing unit, lay on top of the feature.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was sited to locate the easternmost boundary of the cemetery. The location of the trench was determined by consulting the 1906 Key West Barracks map which showed the eastern boundary of the cemetery to lie approximately 225 feet from White street. The orientation of the line was determined by sighting the transit along the row of postholes found in Trench 2 and measuring 225 feet from White Street. Trench 4 was approximately five feet wide and L-shaped. The trench was made L-shaped to locate where the cemetery fence made a turn to the south. This turn would mark the easternmost boundary of the cemetery. After clearing the overburden from the trench a series of postholes was found with a turn being made in the expected location. The fence line had obviously been rebuilt since a number of the postholes parallel each other in a slightly different alignment. No burials were noted in Trench 4.

After encountering the intact skeleton, discussions by representatives of NAS Key West and the Mobile District with Mr. Louis Tesar of the office of the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer and Mr. Jim Miller, Florida State Archeologist, led to the decision to rebury all bones, associated artifacts and the headstones in the graves from which they were recovered. Reburial of all items was subsequently accomplished. NAS Key West then decided to preserve the cemetery and set it aside as a historical park, thus avoiding it. Excavations were conducted to determine the boundaries of the Key West Post Cemetery. Backhoe trenches were excavated at the northwest edge and northeast/east edge of the cemetery. Posthole alignments were found remaining from the original wooden fence surrounding the cemetery, and coordination was made with NAS Key West for accurate survey location of the fence to be rebuilt around the cemetery.

In accordance with Stipulation 2.b. Archeological Resource Protection, <u>Treatment</u>, of the Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Key West Family Housing Project, this preservation plan has been developed in consultation with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer for the Key West Post Cemetery.

Preservation Actions

1. Preserve the cemetery in a partially original state. Place a picket fence along the west side (White Street) and south side only. One gate would be placed at White Street on the west to allow pedestrian traffic. No cap stone wall would be built and the picket fence would be placed as close as possible to original alignment. No further excavations would take place. The same wrought iron fence to be installed elsewhere on White and Angela Streets shall be installed along the north and northeastern sides of the cemetery.

The picket fence will be built to approximate that shown in Plate 1 and described in the <u>Historical Setting</u> of this Plan. Dimensions will be approximately as follows:

- Pickets: 2 9/16 inches wide, 11/16 inch thick, 4 feet tall and pointed on the end.
- Posts: 4 x 4 inches thick, approximately 4 feet tall (above the ground), set approximately 5 feet apart. Gate posts appear to be 4×6 inches thick, also set 4 feet above the ground.
- Gate: double type construction, using same size pickets as above with single diagonal support, see Plate 1. Simple T-strap hinges and slide bolts will be used on the gate.

The existing low wall along the White Street side of the cemetery does not appear in historical photographs of the Barracks and is apparently not original. For this reason we recommend placement of the picket fence along White Street. The existing low wall may be removed to allow installation of the picket fence.

2. Place a permanent type historical marker or small monument describing Barracks history and the presence of the Key West Post Cemetery within the cemetery grounds.

3. Maintain the cemetery area in some variety of native or other appropriate grass, keeping existing mahegany trees pruned and fertilized, and grass cut. Periodically the picket fence will be painted white, and all weeds around the fence will be kept trimmed. A privately owned storage building encroaches onto Government land and the original cemetery area at the eastern side at Angela Street. It is possible that graves are present under the structure and a portion of the intersection of Angela and Gonzalez Streets in front of the structure. The owner of the structure, as well as the City planning and building agencies should be notified of the fact that the cemetery extends under the structure and the intersection of Angela and Gonzalez Streets. This building will act to enclave the eastern side of the cemetery. As such, no permanent fencing will be installed along the western side of the building. The intersection of the cemetery, probably due to past street widening. The City planning and building agencies should also be notofied of this possibility. It is probably more practical to place the cemetery fence along the boundary of these streets, rather than considering street realignment.

Caution must be taken that future construction activities do not, however, disturb those cemetery areas preserved under the pavement at the intersection of Gonzalez and Angela Streets. Of particular concern would be ground disturbing work by the City of Key West, such as relocating storm or sewer lines, and removal of pavement and grading.

Lastly, to maintain visual attractiveness and to provide a safety factor around the cemetery, it is recommended that a buffer be provided outside of the original picket fence. It is possible that past realignments of the cemetery fence resulted in isolated burials being located outside the fence line discovered by Mobile District. This buffer will help to insure that potential isolated burials would be avoided by construction. The required cemetery buffer zone lies on the north and northeast sides of the cemetery and consists of a 5' set back from the original fence post holes to a new wrought iron fence, a 25' set back from the original fence post holes to new dwellings, and a 50' setback from the original fence post holes to any storm water runoff ponds.

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War Department

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War Department

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War Department

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APPENDIX 2

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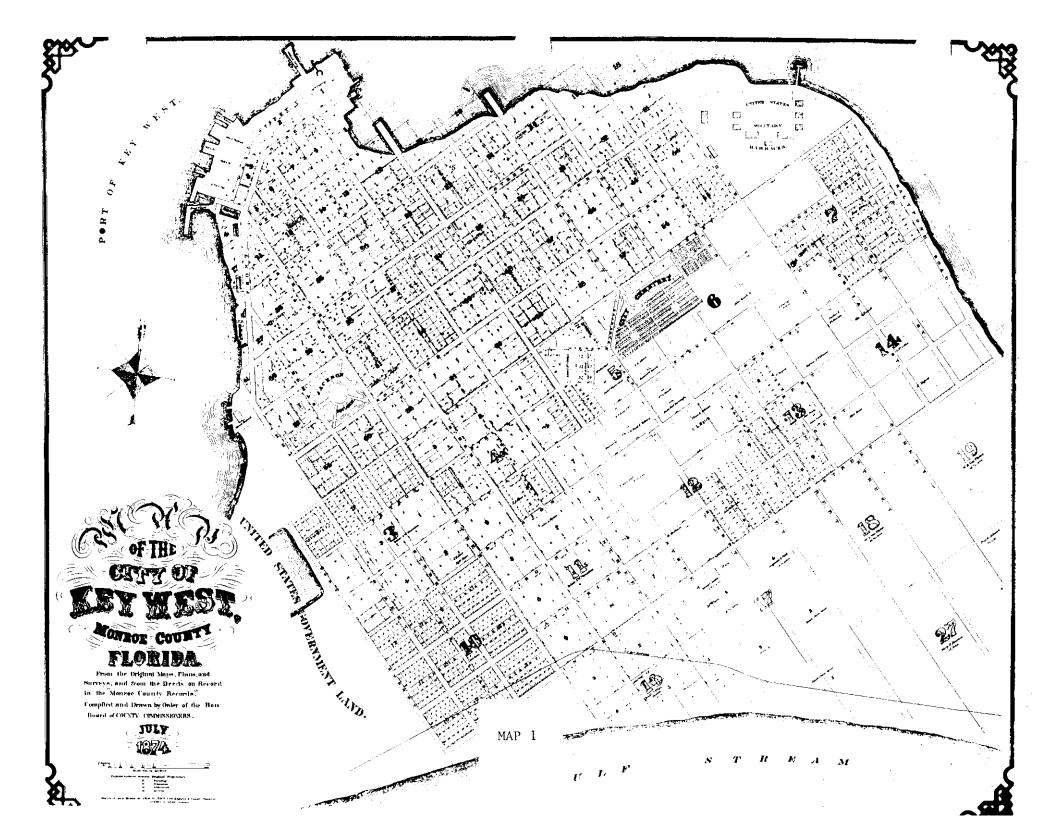
Reference Maps

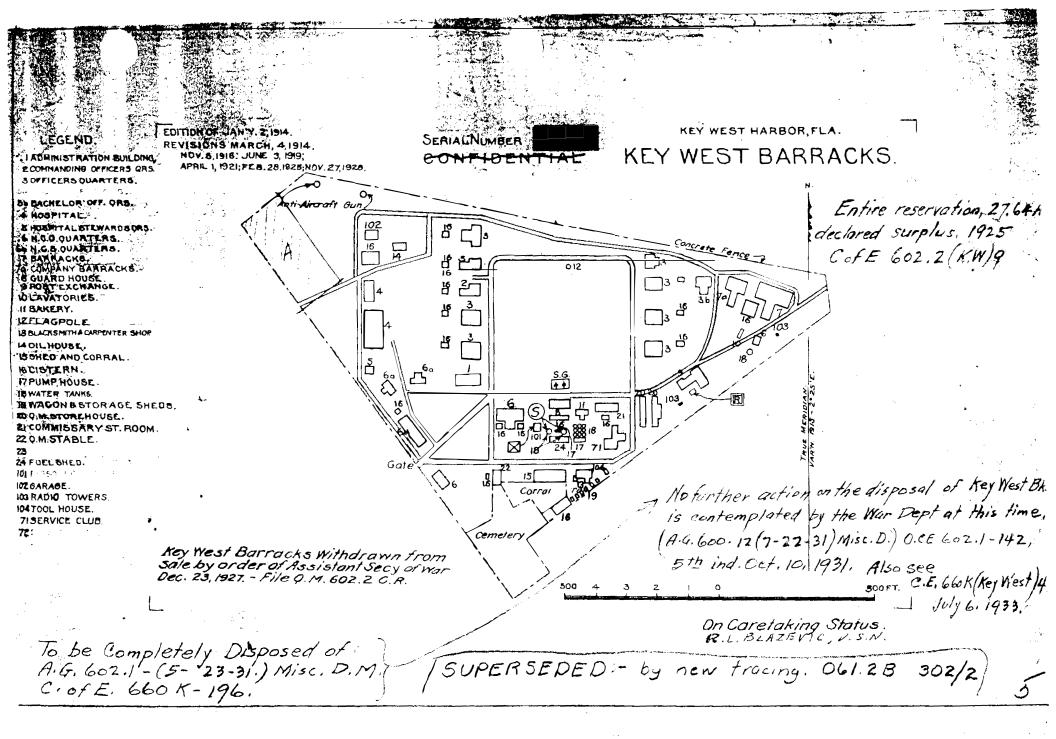
Reference Maps

<u>Map #</u>	Description
1	July 1874. <u>Map of the City of Key West, Monroe</u> <u>Court, Florida.</u> "From the Original Maps, Plans and Surveys, and from the Deeds on Record in the 'Monroe County Records.' Compiled and Drawn by Order of the Hon: Board of COUNTY COMMISSIONERS."
2	Edition of Jan 2, 1914, Revisions March 4, 1914, Nov. 8, 1916; June 3, 1919; April 1, 1921; Feb. 28, 1925; Nov. 27, 1928. <u>Key West Barracks, Key West</u> <u>Harbor, Fla.</u> U.S. War Department.
3	Naval Establishments, Key West Island, 1918. U.S. Naval Station, Key West, Fla. Public Works Department, Bureau of Yards and Docks. Scale 1"=200'. Date: Nov. 20, 1918.
4	Map of present road system at Peary Court with 1918 plan overlaid. Prepared by NAS Key West, Public Works Department.
5	<u>A Map of Key West Barracks, Key West, Fla.</u> Surveyed and Platted in December 1906, Under Direction of 2nd Lieut. Paul Bunker, A.CQ.M., by George H. Bevons- Civil Engineer & Supt. of Construction.

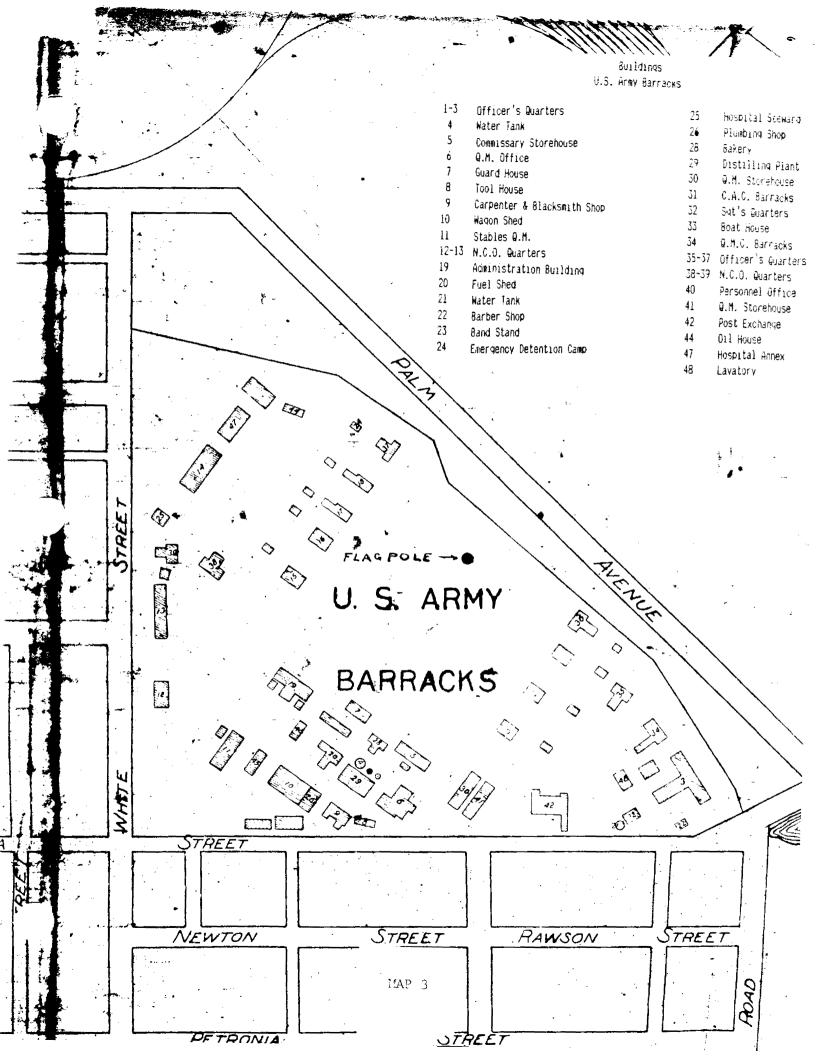
Note: Copies of all maps on file at NAS Key West, Public Works Department.

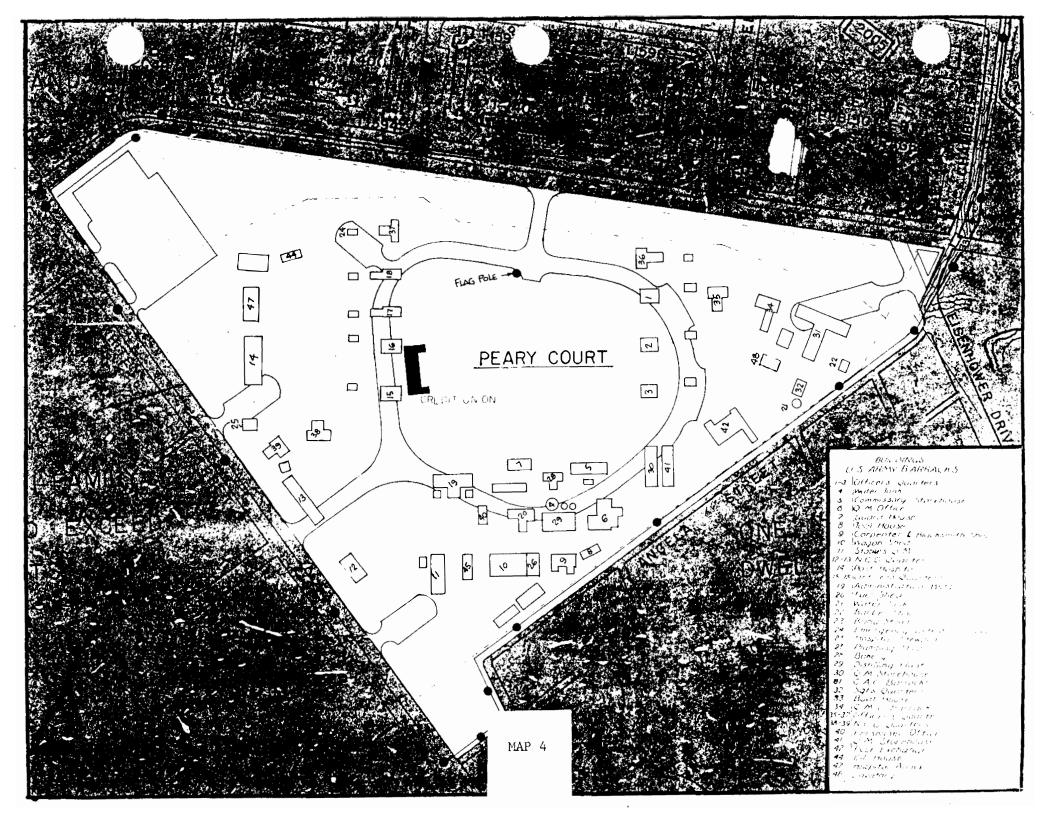
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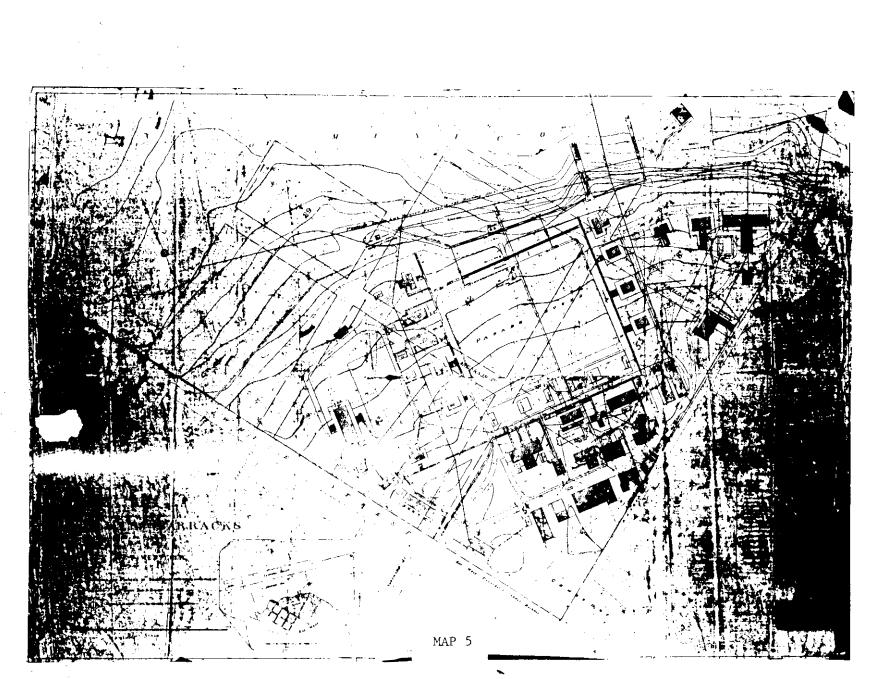




MAP 2







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A Map of Key West Barracks, Key West, Fla. Surveyed and Platted in December 1906 No. Key to Building 1 Officers Quarters 2 11 ... 11 3 4 Artillery Barracks 5 Commissary Storehouse 6 Quartermaster (Q.M. Office & Sales Office) 7 Guard House 8 Artillery Barracks 9 Bake House, Carpt'r & Bl'cksm'th Shops 10 Wagon Shed 11 Quartermasters Stables 12 Administration Building 13 N.C.S. Quarters 14 Post Hospital 15 Officers Quarters 16 17 ... • • 18 19 Artillery Barracks 20 Fuel Shed 21 Boat and Bath House 22 Officers Bath House 24 Gun Shed 25 Hosp. Stewards Quarters 26 Plumbers Shop 28 Lavatory 29 Distilling Plant 30 Quartermasters Storehouse 31 Artillery Barracks 32 Lavatory 33 Boat House 34 Band Barracks 35 Bachelor Officers Quarters 36 Officers Quarters 11 37 38 N.C.S. Quarters 39 40 Lavatory 41 Q.M. Storehouse 42 Post Exchange and Bowling Alley

