

NAVAL TRAINING STATION, BUILDING NO. 267
(Naval Station Treasure Island, Garage for Officers' Quarters No. 10)
Naval Station Treasure Island, Yerba Buena Island
San Francisco
San Francisco County
California

HABS CA-1793-M
CA-1793-M

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CA 1793-M

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
PACIFIC GREAT BASIN SUPPORT OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
600 Harrison Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

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- Location: Naval Station Treasure Island
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San Francisco County
California
UTM: 10. 555985.418137, USGS Quad Oakland West, 1959 (rev. 1980)
- Significance: Constructed in 1948, Building 267 is significant in relation to Quarters 10, as the only residential construction on Yerba Buena Island in the immediate post-war period. The residence and garage are stylistically similar, as they employ many significant characteristics of Modern and International style architecture. Several characteristics in particular relate it to Bay Tradition, a local expression of the modern movement. Designed and constructed during a period of transition in military residential style, this structure represents the drive for modernity while still striving towards pleasant, attractive, and high-quality design.
- Description: Building 267 is a one-car garage located at the intersection of Northgate and Macalla roads, just northeast and uphill of Quarters 10. The building sits approximately 3' north of Macalla Road and about 1'-6" below road grade although at the same level as the second floor of Quarters 10. A low, reinforced concrete retaining wall wraps from the roadway into the concrete driveway. At its highest point the wall measures approximately 1'-8". The building is rectangular in plan, measures approximately 25' long and 12' wide, and is constructed of poured concrete. As with Quarters 10, narrow lapped siding covers the exterior concrete walls starting below the frieze and terminating at the water table. A modern metal garage door is located on the east sides of the building. Two single-leaf doors are located on the north and west sides of the building. They are half glass doors composed of four divided lights. A small four-light window is located on the west side of the building as well. The building is covered with a flat roof with overhanging eaves, exposed rafters and a wide frieze.
- Historic Context: Note: Please refer to **HABS No. CA 1793-A** for a detailed historical context of the Senior Officers' Quarters District. Additional documentation for Yerba Buena Island can be found in **HAER No. CA-233-A, Torpedo Assembly Building**, and for the Naval Training Station

on Treasure Island in **HABS No. CA-2785, Golden Gate International Exposition.**

For most of its early history, Yerba Buena Island, as with other islands in San Francisco Bay, remained sparsely populated with limited settlement on the island prior to 1867.¹ The permanent military presence began in 1866 when the Army established a post on the island and was continued when the Navy was granted a portion of the island in 1898 for use as a training station. The Yerba Buena Island Naval Training Station became one of four Navy training facilities in the United States, and the only one on the West Coast.²

An ambitious project from the outset, the 300-acre island had limited usable land, only approximately 150 acres with no room for expansion, and remained ill-suited for use as a training station. Even so, the island remained a key facility from 1900 to 1923 before Navy operations were moved to San Diego. After the training station was moved to San Diego, Yerba Buena remained a Navy facility for a more limited “receiving ship” function. A “Receiving Ship” was a transient station for sailors awaiting assignment to duty on ships at sea. It appears that relatively few men were stationed at the facility in association with this function; those that were stationed there re-occupied the barracks and utilized the other buildings that had been previously built for the Training Station.³ In 1946, the Receiving Ship function was transferred to Treasure Island.

Yerba Buena Island was used for various functions, although it never served as headquarters for a navy command again. New functions were assigned to the training station, unrelated to any previous uses there, and Yerba Buena Island effectively functioned as part of Naval Station (NAVSTA), Treasure Island. This functional re-orientation had the most profound impact on Yerba Buena Island, transforming the island into an officers’ housing compound to serve the training center of Treasure Island. As a result, virtually all non-residential buildings were converted for residential uses or demolished and rebuilt as family housing units. The Senior Officers’ Quarters still served as housing for the senior officers’, however the Commander’s residence was moved from Quarters 1 to Building 62 in 1946. Later one additional officers residence was

¹ Sally M. Woodbridge, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, “Quarters 1, Yerba Buena Island, Naval Training Center, January 2001,” Statement of Significance.

² E. Hice and D. Schierling, “Historical Study of Yerba Buena Island, Treasure Island, and Their Buildings,” Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Base Realignment and Closure, Revision 1, prepared for Environmental Department, Naval Station, March 1996, 1-14.

³ E. Hice and D. Schierling, “Historical Study of Yerba Buena Island, Treasure Island, and Their Buildings,” 1-39.

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constructed, Quarters 10 which included a detached garage.⁴ Oddly enough, it was the only residence constructed in the post-war period. Building Quarters 10 was consistent with the Navy's new use for Yerba Buena, as all officers were housed on the island.

Additionally, the Navy transferred many of the individual services, such as medical, dental, supply, and public works offices to Treasure Island, and the original hospital was demolished in 1961. Newer residences were built on the west side of the island, an area little used by the Navy before 1945. Older buildings were transformed into residential units, such as Building 240, a World War II-era dispensary converted into apartments, or Building 66, a Hospital Corps barrack also converted into apartments. Enlisted personnel were transferred to housing on Treasure Island by 1966; the large training station barracks on Yerba Buena Island was demolished in 1960.

Another significant change after World II was the transfer of property to the US Coast Guard, who assumed responsibility for policing San Francisco Bay and took over the Lighthouse Reservation. Subsequently, personnel were continually removed from the Naval Station on Yerba Buena Island and land was transferred from the Navy to the Coast Guard. Thus, the Coast Guard became the primary user of the island, and the Naval presence diminished. Finally in 1993, NAVSTA Treasure Island was identified for closure and in 1997, the Federal Government officially closed the base.

Sources:

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⁴ City and County of San Francisco, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering, Plan files for Yerba Buena Island, Public Works Contract 78,214, and Drawings Y.B.I. 10-188, Sheet 1 and 3. A complete set of original plans is on file for Quarters 10 with the City of San Francisco, although the designer is not acknowledged on any of the sheets.

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Project Information: This project was undertaken to fulfill the requirements of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Navy and the California State Historic Preservation Officer for the layaway, caretaker maintenance, interim leasing, sale, transfer, and disposal of historic properties on Naval Station Treasure Island.

Amanda Blosser and Toni Webb of JRP Historical Consulting prepared this document for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) and the Navy. Both Ms. Blosser and Ms. Webb conducted the fieldwork, wrote architectural descriptions, and the historic context. Both Ms. Blosser and Ms. Webb conducted research for this project at the California State Library, Treasure Island Museum, County and City of San Francisco, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering. William B. Dewey produced the photography.

LOCATION MAP

