

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

APR 28 1976

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

JUN 24 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

West Martello Tower

AND/OR COMMON

Key West Garden Club

2 LOCATIONSTREET & NUMBER Monroe County Beach between
Reynolds and White Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Key West

VICINITY OF

Twelfth

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Florida

12

Monroe

087

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

☐ DISTRICT☒ PUBLIC☒ OCCUPIED☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ BUILDING(S)☐ PRIVATE☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ COMMERCIAL☒ PARK☒ STRUCTURE☐ BOTH☐ WORK IN PROGRESS☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ OBJECT☐ IN PROCESS☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ BEING CONSIDERED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ NO☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Board of Commissioners, Monroe County

STREET & NUMBER

Monroe County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Key West

VICINITY OF

STATE

Florida

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Monroe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Key West

STATE

Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The West Martello Tower Ruins are situated on the Monroe County Beach between Reynolds and White Streets on the south side of the island of Key West. They consist of the remnants of a Civil War period masonry fortification designed as an outlying support for Fort Zachary Taylor. The ruins are presently occupied by the Key West Garden Club, which has created a permanent horticultural exhibit on the grounds and makes use of the interior spaces for a variety of club activities.

The original fortification included these basic structural elements: a central tower; a casemated counterscarp on the north, or landward side; and a double tier of casemate batteries on the south, or seaward side. Apparently, the latter were never completed, only one tier of casemates having been built, and no armament was installed, as the fortification was obsolete long before construction was halted in November, 1866.

This original construction was later modified. Two concrete emplacements for light coast artillery guns were constructed on the original seaward casements, which were filled and covered with earth. Portions of the central tower were demolished. In addition to these alterations, extensive destruction and deterioration of the exposed brickwork of the counterscarp has occurred.

Entrance to the ruin is through a breach in the outer wall of the counterscarp. Several of the small, vaulted casemates of the counterscarp are in regular use as display and exhibit areas. Passing through those spaces the visitor emerges into an inner "courtyard," originally part of the dry moat that surrounded the central tower. This courtyard and the sodded area covering the casemates of the south side contain a wide variety of trees, shrubs, and flowering plants, both native and exotic, some growing naturally and some cultivated, in striking contrast to the brick and concrete remnants of military construction. The late period concrete gun emplacements overlook the ruins and also offer a vantage point from which to view the shoreline and the sea approaches to Key West.

The grounds are attractive and well maintained by the Key West Garden Club. The structural ruins are in a continuing state of slow deterioration. However, the Monroe County Development Department has included stabilization of the ruins in its planning program.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1861-1945

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The West Martello Tower is one of two such defensive works constructed on the south shore of the island of Key West during the Civil War period to supplement the main fortification, Fort Zachary Taylor. These structures represent the ultimate development of design and construction concepts in this type of defensive works in the era of masonry seacoast fortification. The East Martello Tower (already listed in the National Register) has survived in essentially the form of its original construction. The West Martello Tower, however, was subsequently modified, and continued to form a part of the harbor defense installations at Key West until the end of World War II. Thus, the West Martello Tower is significant for both its unique reflection of the evolution of coastal fortifications, and its connection with events important in the history of Key West and the nation.

The construction of outlying tower fortification on the island of Key West was first suggested in the 1840's by Captain George Dutton, of the Army Corps of Engineers (Williams, p. 5). Dutton was at that time in charge of the construction of Fort Taylor, which, with Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas, was intended to be a major link in the nation's coastal defense system. Dutton recommended the construction of five outlying towers, each mounting two guns, to prevent the landing of hostile forces on the beaches east of the fort, which would threaten the security of Fort Taylor itself.

Tower fortifications had proven effective for limited defense purposes, most notably in 1794 at the Bay of Martello in Corsica, when two British warships were repulsed by such an installation mounting a single gun (Lewis, p. 42). Several similar fortifications of various design, but commonly referred to as Martello towers, were built in the United States prior to the War of 1812. But subsequent coast defense planning emphasized more elaborate structures, and Dutton's recommendation was ignored.

Construction and armament of Fort Taylor were essentially complete by early 1860. As the Civil War approached, timely action by the local military commanders secured the fort and prevented the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 4 20 3 80 27 1 48 40
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William N. Thurston, Chief Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION

Div. of Archives, History & Records Mgmt.

DATE

March, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Dept. of State, The Capitol

TELEPHONE

904-488-7365

CITY OR TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Robert Williams

Robert Williams

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

4/23/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *Charles D. ...*
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

6/24/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6.22.76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 2 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 24 1976

West Martello Tower

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

emergence of a Confederate civil administration in Key West (Camp, pp. 31-43). But the vulnerability of the island to amphibious assault was once more recognized. In August, 1861, plans were forwarded by the War Department to Captain Edward B. Hunt, in command at Fort Taylor, for the construction of two tower fortifications on the south shore beaches (Williams, p. 10).

The towers were built approximately one and one-half and three and one-half miles from Fort Taylor. The original plans, prepared by Brigadier General Joseph G. Totten, were an elaboration and refinement of the Martello tower concept. The traditional Martello tower consisted of a simple tower mounting one or two guns, without protecting glacis, ditch, or other outwork. Totten's plan called for a masonry tower fifty-six feet square and thirty-six feet high, containing magazines, kitchen, mess room, barracks, and officers' quarters, and topped by barbette emplacements for four heavy coast defense guns. The tower was surrounded by a dry moat twenty feet wide. On the seaward side of the moat, opposite the south corner of the tower, an earth cover face twelve feet high would provide protection from naval gunfire. On the landward side, an elaborate galleried counterscarp was constructed, with four casemated gun emplacements at each end, facing the east and west corners of the tower, from which 24-pounder howitzers could sweep the tower faces and moat in the event of assault by infantry. The entire counterscarp, including the casemates, was to be covered with earth to form a glacis. The counterscarp gallery and casemates were only accessible from inside the base of the tower through a covered way. The only access to the interior of the tower was at the second floor level, by way of a drawbridge from the top of the counterscarp glacis (Williams, pp. 10-12).

A subsequent revision of the plans substantially changed the nature of the two fortifications. In order to provide greater resistance to naval attack, casemated batteries were designed to replace the earthen glacis on the seaward side. These batteries, mounting twenty-eight guns in two tiers, would be returned at each flank to join the reverse casemates of the counterscarp. A wet ditch eight feet wide and six feet deep in front of the casemates was to extend around the flanks to join the counterscarp glacis at each end (Williams, p. 13).

Construction continued throughout the Civil War years, hampered and frequently interrupted by yellow fever epidemics,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 28 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 24 1976

West Martello Tower
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

storms, and the diversion of materials and labor to more pressing military needs. Although the masonry work was substantially complete by the end of the war, the outer works were never finished and no armament had been installed. The wartime development of rifled artillery had rendered masonry fortifications obsolete, and by November, 1866, construction on the Martello towers had been indefinitely suspended (Williams, p. 17).

As in many other areas, the obsolete masonry fortifications at Key West were subsequently modified to provide foundations for the complex coastal defense installations of the Spanish-American War and later periods. The West Martello Tower was thus partially demolished and modified to support a battery of light, rapid fire artillery. The property remained a part of the military reservation through World War II, after which it was declared surplus and subsequently sold to Monroe County.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 28 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 24 1976

West Martello Tower

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Camp, Vaughn, Jr. "Captain Brannan's Dilemma: Key West 1861."
Tequesta, XX (1960), 31-43.

Lewis, Emanuel Raymond. Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History. Washington, D.C.:
Smithsonian Institution Press, 1970.

Roth, Clayton D., Jr. "150 Years of Defense Activity in Key
West, 1820-1970." Tequesta, XXX (1970), 33-51.

Schellings, William J. "Key West and the Spanish-American War."
Tequesta, XX (1960), 19-30.

Williams, Ames W. "Stronghold of the Straits." Periodical
Journal of the Council on Abandoned Military Posts, VI
(Winter 1974-75), 2-20.

Property

West Martello Tower

MONROE

State Florida

Working Number

4.28.76.3176

File # 76000602

TECHNICALPhotos 4
Maps 1**CONTROL***OK fl*
*4.29.76***HISTORIAN***Accept*
E. Smith
5-5-76

*Much more altered than ^{the} East Martello Tower
but just as important to the history of the
area.*

*I think alterations have to be
expected.*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Nominated
for int. sign.*

Accept
Lebovich
5.5.76

ARCHEOLOGIST**OTHER****HAER**Inventory *BAB* *5/17*✓ Review *Accept* *Endy*
*5/24***REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Accept
Colz
5.5.76

BRANCH CHIEF**KEEPER**

2/21/76
6.23.76

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered

JUN 24 1976

Federal Register Entry

8-3-76

Re-submit

INT:2106-74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 28 1976

DATE ENTERED

JUN 24 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

West Martello Tower

AND/OR COMMON

Key West Garden Club

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Key West

____ VICINITY OF

STATE

Florida

COUNTY

Monroe

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

William Thurston

DATE OF PHOTO

1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Div. of Archives, Dept. of State
The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Ruins of outer wall of casemated counterscarp, north
side

PHOTO NO.

1 of 4

GPO 892-454

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number

6/24/76

Title:

West Martello Tower

Monroe Co, Fla

Loc.

Ruins of outer wall of
casemated counterscarp,
north side

1 of 4



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 28 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 24 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

West Martello Tower

AND/OR COMMON

Key West Garden Club

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Key West

____ VICINITY OF

STATE

Florida

COUNTY

Monroe

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT William Thurston

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Div. of Archives, Dept. of State
The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

West Martello Tower ruins as seen from the east

PHOTO NO.

2 of 4

TY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ber

6/24/76

West Martello Tower

Monroe Co, Fla

West Martello Tower

ruins as seen from

the east

2 of 4



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 28 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 24 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

West Martello Tower

AND/OR COMMON

Key West Garden Club

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Key West

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Florida

COUNTY

Monroe

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT William Thurston

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Div. of Archives, Dept. of State
The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Remains of southwest wall of central tower

PHOTO NO.

3074

Number

6/24/76

Location:

West Martello Tower

Monroe Co, Fla

Remains of Southwest

Wall of central tower

3074



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 28 1976

JUN 24 1976

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

West Martello Tower

AND/OR COMMON

Key West Garden Club

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Key West

____ VICINITY OF

STATE

Florida

COUNTY

Monroe

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT William Thurston

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Div. of Archives, Dept. of State
The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Spanish War period gun emplacement in ruins of
original casemates.

PHOTO NO.

4 of 4

GPO 892-454

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number

6/24/76

Title:

West Martello Tower
Monroe Co, Fla

Loc.

Spanish War period gun
emplacement in ruins of
original casemates 4 of 4

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 28 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 24 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

West Martello Tower

AND/OR COMMON

Key West Garden Club

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Key West

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Monroe

STATE

Florida

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE USGS Key West Quad

SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1971

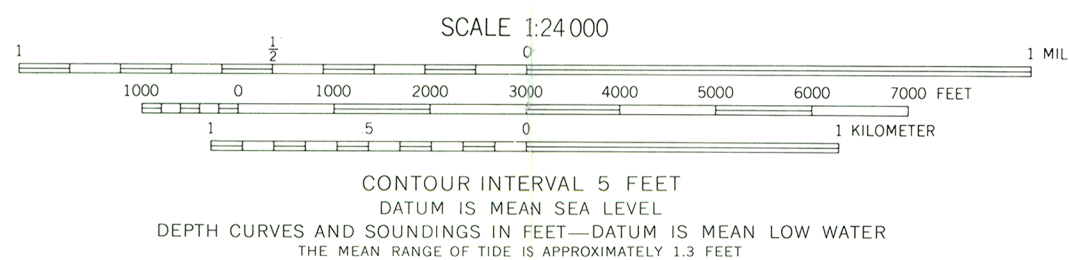
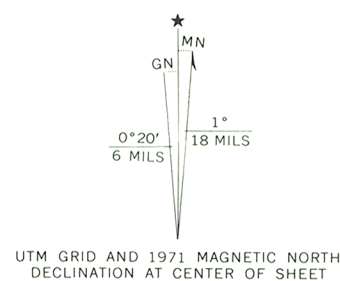
4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

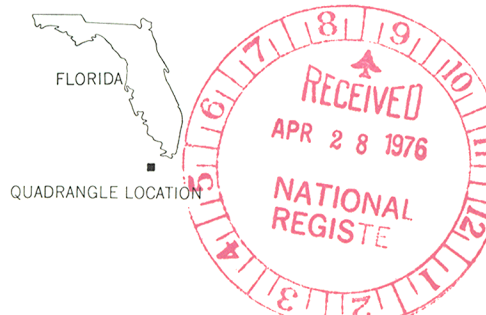
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Orthophotomap prepared from aerial photograph taken
April 4, 1970. Topography by planetable surveys 1971
Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1943
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 576 (1971) and
584 (1970). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Florida coordinate
system, east zone (transverse Mercator)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum
Where omitted, land lines have not been established
or are not shown because of insufficient data
Only landmark buildings indicated in urban area



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface ——— Light-duty road, hard or improved surface ———
Secondary highway, hard surface ——— Unimproved road ———
Trails ———
○ Interstate Route ○ U. S. Route ○ State Route

KEY WEST, FLA.
N2430—W8145/7.5

1971

AMS 4633 III SE—SERIES V847

HP-52 BB

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

December 12, 1934

*File in
Survey
Martello
Tower*

Memorandum for Mr. Coleman:

Mr. Donald Corley, Coordinator of F.E.R.A. projects at Key West, who recently visited our office, is very much interested in two forts in that city, built in the 1840's and called the East Martello Tower and the West Martello Tower. According to Mr. Corley there are several Martello Towers elsewhere which suggests that Martello was a military architect of wide influence as he was undoubtedly one with original ideas. Mr. Corley would like to know more about this military man's life.

In view of the fact that these areas may possibly come under our jurisdiction at some future time and since they are closely related to Fort Jefferson, it is desired that a brief investigation be made into the life of Martello and a report prepared on the subject.

Ronald F. Lee
Ronald F. Lee,
Acting Chief Historian

File

Memorandum to Mr. Lee:

Re: Martello Towers.

During the time of Charles V an engineer, who lived on the island of Corsica, erected a round tower on a point of land later known as Martella Point, which could be used as an observation station to warn the inhabitants in case pirates should appear, and to serve as a place of refuge for the population should the pirates land. Others were later constructed along the shores of Sardinia and Sicily. The engineer was named Martello or Martella, and the towers were given his name.

In 1794 an English fleet, commanded by Lord Hood, gave support to the Corsican insurgents but was unable to destroy a small Martello tower near Corsica. The resistance of this tower to their cannonade so impressed the English that they constructed similar towers along the south and east shores of England.

Where towers of this nature have been constructed they have, in most cases, been called Martello towers, and it is logical to assume that the East and West Martello Towers in Florida were named for this ancient and almost unknown engineer.

Submitted By:

Historical Division,
Branch of Research and Education.

H. L. Garrett
H.L. Garrett,
Historical Assistant.
December 29, 1934.

REFERENCES:

The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia, vol. 8, p. 6406.

The above work states that there seems to be some dispute as to how the word Martello came to be applied to the towers. One explanation, according to this dictionary, is that the word is "derived from the hammer (It. Martello) used to strike the alarm bell with which such towers built on the Italian coasts as a defense against pirates by Charles V were furnished."

The Encyclopaedia Britannica, 14th Ed., vol. 14, p. 981.

Enciclopedia Universal Ilustrada (Spanish), vol. 33, p. 442.

Piccola Enciclopedia Hoepli (Italian), vol. 2, p. 2868.

Appleton's New Practical Cyclopedia, vol. 4, p. 199.

Everyman's Encyclopaedia, vol. 8, p. 745.

June 22, 1976

We are sending this resolution
as a comment to be appended to
the West Martello Tower pend-
ing National Register nomina-
tion.



KEY WEST ART & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



MARTELLO GALLERY & MUSEUM
SOUTH ROOSEVELT BOULEVARD

LIGHTHOUSE MILITARY MUSEUM
938 WHITEHEAD STREET

KEY WEST, FLORIDA

33040

Division of Archives
History & Records Management

Resolution:

WHEREAS, West Martello Towers, a Civil War Fort, on the Island of Key West has for twenty years been operated as a tourist attraction by the Key West Garden Club and WHEREAS, along with the Monroe County Commission, request the Florida Review Committee consider this important attraction to be instituted as a Historic Site.

Be it hereby resolved, the Board of Directors of the Key West Art and Historical Society do hereby endorse the recommendations of the Key West Garden Club and request your consideration in having it become an Historic Site.

Done this 17th Day of June, 1976 in regular session at Key West Florida.

Charles Munder, President
Key West Art & Historical Society

Attest:

Second Vice-President
Fred Cole



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **FLORIDA**

Date Entered **JUN 24 1976**

Name

Location

West Martello Tower

**Key West
Monroe County**

Also Notified

**Hon. Lawton Chiles
Hon. Richard (Dick) Stone
Hon. J. Herbert Burke**

**cc: Regional Director,
Southeast Region**

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

PR:MMott:cam:7/1/76

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE		2. APPLICANT'S APPLICATION	3. STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER	4. NUMBER
1. TYPE OF ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> PREAPPLICATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPLICATION (Mark appropriate box) <input type="checkbox"/> NOTIFICATION OF INTENT (Opt.) <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT OF FEDERAL ACTION		b. DATE 19 <u>77</u> Year <u>4</u> month <u>27</u> day	3. STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER SAI 77-0222	4. NUMBER b. DATE ASSIGNED 1976 9 17
4. LEGAL APPLICANT/RECIPIENT a. Applicant Name : Div. of Arch., Hist. & Rec. Mgt. b. Organization Unit : Department of State c. Street/P.O. Box : The Capitol d. City : Tallahassee e. State : Florida f. Contact Person (Name & telephone No.) : William Thurston (904)487-2333			5. FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO. 59-6001874	
6. TITLE AND DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT West Martello Tower Development, Phase I. This project will accomplish preliminary architectural research and planning for future stabilization of existing remnants of Civil War period fortification. Source of state match is funds provided by the owners The Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County.			7. TYPE OF APPLICANT/RECIPIENT A-State B-Interstate C-Substate D-City E-School District F-Special Purpose District H-Community Action Agency I-Higher Educational Institution J-Indian Tribe K-Other (Specify): Enter appropriate letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A	
8. AREA OF PROJECT IMPACT (Names of cities, counties, States, etc.) Key West, Monroe County			9. TYPE OF ASSISTANCE A-Basic Grant B-Supplemental Grant C-Loan D-Insurance E-Other Enter appropriate letter(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A	
10. PROPOSED FUNDING a. FEDERAL \$ 2,500 .00 b. APPLICANT 2,500 .00 c. STATE .00 d. LOCAL .00 e. OTHER .00 f. TOTAL \$ 5,000 .00			11. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS BENEFITING 100,000	
12. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF: a. APPLICANT 2 b. PROJECT 15			13. TYPE OF CHANGE (For 12a or 12b) A-Increase Dollars B-Decrease Dollars C-Increase Duration D-Decrease Duration E-Cancellation Enter appropriate letter(s) <input type="checkbox"/>	
14. PROJECT START DATE Year month day see #34			15. PROJECT DURATION 36 Months	
16. ESTIMATED DATE TO BE SUBMITTED TO FEDERAL AGENCY 1977 4 27			17. EXISTING FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 12-77-00172-00	
18. FEDERAL AGENCY TO RECEIVE REQUEST (Name, City, State, ZIP code) Department of the Interior, National Park Service			19. REMARKS ADDED <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
20. THE APPLICANT CERTIFIES THAT a. To the best of my knowledge and belief, data in this preapplication/application are true and correct, the document has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant and the applicant will comply with the attached assurances if the assistance is approved.		b. If required by OMB Circular A-95 this application was submitted, pursuant to instructions therein, to appropriate clearinghouses and all responses are attached: (1) State Clearinghouse <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Regional Clearinghouse <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (3) <input type="checkbox"/>		
21. CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE a. TYPED NAME AND TITLE Robert Williams, State Historic Pres. Officer		b. SIGNATURE 		
22. AGENCY NAME Department of the Interior		c. DATE SIGNED 5/4 19 77		
23. ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT National Park Service		24. APPLICATION RECEIVED 19 77 5 9		
25. ADDRESS 18th & C Sts., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240		26. FEDERAL APPLICATION IDENTIFICATION 12-77-00172-00		
27. ACTION TAKEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a. AWARDED <input type="checkbox"/> b. REJECTED <input type="checkbox"/> c. RETURNED FOR <input type="checkbox"/> d. DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> e. WITHDRAWN		28. FUNDING a. FEDERAL \$ 2,500 .00 b. APPLICANT 2,500 .00 c. STATE .00 e. OTHER .00 f. TOTAL \$ 5,000 .00		
29. ACTION DATE 19 77 06 06		30. CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Name and telephone number) same as #35		
31. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 ACTION a. In taking above action, any comments received from clearinghouses were considered. If agency response is due under provisions of Part 1, OMB Circular A-95, it has been or is being made.		b. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 OFFICIAL (Name and telephone no.) same as #35		

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

Totten
General Joseph G. Totten

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role

&
appropriate date)

personal

George Dutton - first suggested south fortification (at this location), 1840s

events

Civil War fortifications 1860-1865.

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

✓ 1861-1866

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

Unknown

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

1861-1945

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre) *1.5*

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Original walls are of masonry but, ^{extensive} deterioration has occurred. The fort was never completed; construction was halted in 1866.

Remains of Civil War masonry fortification which originally featured ~~extensive~~ ^{later modified} central tower, casemated counterscarp and a tier of ~~casemates~~ ^{casemates}; no fortification was ever installed.

*(in East Manatee Town, FL)
One of a defensive works built on the S shore of Key West during the Civil War to supplement defense from Ft. Zachary Taylor; became part of military reservation after the Civil War and served as such until WWII, presently used as part of historical exhibit.*

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

as such until WWII, presently used as part of historical exhibit.

West Martello Tower is one of two such defensive works constructed on the south shore of Key West during the Civil War to supplement the main fortification, Fort Zachary Taylor. Following the Civil War, it remained a part of the military reservation through the Spanish-American War up to World War II.

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 5-5-76 mjl
 Reviewer INITIALS: EPL
 NR DOE 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER:

West Martello Tower

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Monroe County Beach between Reynolds and White Streets

Key West

Florida

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

12th

COUNTY

code 089

OWNER OF PROPERTY:

(Circle)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION:

(CIRCLE)

N. ATLANTIC

MID ATLANTIC

SOUTHEAST

MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN

WEST

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR

Substantially intact-1
 unknown - 4
 not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR

Substantially intact-2
 unknown - 5
 not applicable - 8

ENVIRONS

Substantially intact-3
 unknown - 6
 Not applicable-9

Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

Unexcavated

UNALTERED

ALTERED

Reconstructed

Excavated

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED

Unknown

ACCESS -

Yes-restricted

Yes-unrestricted

No access

Unknown

historic district?

YES

NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?

YES

NO

IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?

YES

NO

IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE:

YES

NO

Saved?

YES

NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then-

Fort Gratiot

now-

~~Gratiot Club House, 1200 N. ...~~

SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHAEOLOGY PREHISTORIC

ARCHAEOLOGY HISTORIC

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

ART

COMMERCE

COMMUNICATIONS

CONSERVATION

ECONOMICS

EDUCATION

ENGINEERING

EXPLORATION

INDUSTRY

INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

LAW/GOV'T/politics

LITERATURE

MILITARY

MUSIC

PHILOSOPHY

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

RELIGION

SCIENCE

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER (SPECIFY)

entertainment

health

recreation

settlement

socio/cultural

urban & commun

planning

Claims

"first"

YES

NO

"oldest"

YES

NO

"only"

YES

NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role

&
appropriate date)

personal

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

~~Original walls are of masonry but extensive deterioration has occurred. The fort was never completed; construction was halted in 1866.~~

Ruins of Civil War masonry fortification which originally featured central tower, casemented counterscarp and a tier of casements; later modified; east shore tower unaltered, west shore tower updated until WWII, illustrating evolution of coastal fortification. One of 2 defensive works supplementing Fort Zachary Taylor during Civil War; part of military reservation until WWII; presently part of horticultural exhibit.

2

Civil War remained a part of the military reservation through the Spanish-American War up to World War II.