HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT
GUARDHOUSE COMPLEX

ALCATRAZ ISLAND
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

PART I

January 25, 2002

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For nearly 145 years the Alcatraz Guardhouse has served as the main entryway to Alcatraz Island. Spanning the only road leading to the top of the island, the Guardhouse has witnessed all the island’s changes from harbor defense fort to Army prison to federal penitentiary to contemporary National Park and tourist attraction. Virtually every person who ever set foot on the island has walked through its rifle slit-lined passageway, and every artillery piece, cannon ball, stick of furniture, bale of hay, and barrel of concrete brought to the island has been laboriously hauled up its inclined roadway.

Designed as a combination defensive structure and security post, the Guardhouse was originally constructed in 1857 as a literal blockhouse armed with cannon that protected the island’s only roadway. During the Civil War it was pressed into service as a prison for Confederate sympathizers and suspected spies, and soon evolved into the centerpiece of a sprawling military prison that once dominated Alcatraz’ lee shore. In time, the Guardhouse’s original gunrooms and guard spaces were converted in a warren of closet-sized “dungeons” for military prisoners while a washroom and latrine were constructed in its basement. During the “Indian Wars” of the 1870s and 1880s, the U.S. Army increasingly used Alcatraz as a departmental prison where its worst felons, deserters, drunks and thugs could be sent for punishment.

In the course of this ill-planned evolution, the original Guardhouse sprouted numerous penal additions that included loosely organized wood cellblocks, a combination chapel and library wing, a bathhouse, a schoolhouse, and a cobbler shop. In time, many of these additions were demolished until today only the old prison library-chapel wing and original 1857 Guardhouse survive from the significant Lower Prison Era, although they are partly obscured by buildings constructed during the island’s later era as a Disciplinary Barracks.

The Alcatraz Guardhouse Complex thus takes its significance from both its original role as a defensive structure and also as the key element of the nineteenth century “Lower Prison” compound. The Guardhouse proper is the only surviving and intact portion of the pre-Civil War fortifications that once encircled Alcatraz Island and made it the key to control of San Francisco Bay – and all of California – during the Civil War. Simultaneously, the Guardhouse and Library addition are the only surviving elements of the embryonic nineteenth century prison that helped build the island’s original formidable reputation as “The Rock,” and where hundreds of “nameless and faceless men” spent uncounted hours within its brick confines. As such, the Guardhouse Complex has tremendous historic significance as well as overwhelming interpretive and educational values.

INTRODUCTION

This Historic Structures Report was prepared for the National Park Service by the firm of Lerner & Associates, Architects with Architectural Historian John Martini and Structural Engineer Sven Thomasen of Wiss, Janney, Elstner, Inc. The work was performed under a contract between Lerner & Associates and the Golden Gate
National Park Association (GGNPA), a designated National Park Service cooperating association operating under the NPS Cooperating Associations Policies, Standards and Guidelines, NPS-32. A percentage of the profits from the interpretive services and book sales provided by the Association to visitors is used to fund projects that provide specifically for the interpretation of Alcatraz Island.

PREPARATION

The principal in charge of the report was Arnie Lerner, AIA. Jason Hagin served as the Project Manager and the Project Designer was Toan Nguyen. The historical research was done by John Martini and the structural engineering analysis by Senior Engineer, Sven Thomasen of Wiss, Janney, Elstner, Inc.

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

The Alcatraz Guardhouse Complex is one of many buildings and natural features on Alcatraz Island. The island itself is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, for which the September 1980 General Management Plan/Environmental Analysis (GMP) is the main planning document. Subsequent to the 1980 Plan, there have been several Park Service reports directed specifically at interpretation of the Island. In 1980, 1983, and 1985, Wayside Exhibit Plans were written. Other documents include the Annual Statement for Interpretation and Visitor Services: Alcatraz Island, the first of which was completed in 1982 and the 1987 Interpretive Prospectus: Alcatraz, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, by the Division of Interpretive Planning, Harpers Ferry Center. The most recent Park Service Reports available for preparation of this historic Structures report are the July 9, 1993 Development Concept Plan and Environmental Assessment and the October, 2001 Alcatraz Island Historic Preservation and Safety Construction Program, Final Environmental Impact Statement. In addition to National Park Service planning efforts, the Golden Gate National Park Association sponsored a planning workshop for Alcatraz Island in 1988, in which leading private architects and planners, led by Lawrence Halprin, were invited to participate. The workshop resulted in a publication titled Alcatraz: The Future Concept Plan and Guidelines for Alcatraz Island, by Lawrence Halprin, et. al.

The major historical work on Alcatraz Island is Erwin Thompson’s Historic Resource Study: The Rock, A History of Alcatraz Island, 1847-1972 published by the National Park Service, Denver Service Center, 1980. This work is considered to be the most authoritative study yet produced on the Army and its role in the development of Alcatraz Island. Another relevant study is The U.S. Army on Alcatraz Island by Col. Herbert Hart, USMC (ret), 1969. This work, prepared for the City and County of San Francisco, is the seminal work pertaining to the military history of Alcatraz, and contains a valuable compilation of original documents pertaining to the island’s military development.

Locally, there are four sources of primary research materials: 1) The Historic Document Collection of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, located at the Park Archives and Records Center at the Presidio of San Francisco; 2) The Historic Document Collection of the Golden
Gate National Recreation Area currently managed by the J. Porter Shaw Library of the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park at Fort Mason, San Francisco; 3) The Sierra Pacific Area branch of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), located at San Bruno; 4) and the Main branch of NARA located in Washington, D.C. Specific record groups at NARA include RG 77, Records of the Corps of Engineers, RG 92, Records of the Quartermaster General, and Record Group 129, Bureau of Prisons’ Alcatraz Administrative Records.

In addition, several libraries in the Bay Area have collections that include historic photographs of Alcatraz, and which provide invaluable visual documentation of the development of the Guardhouse Complex. These include the San Francisco Public Library’s History Center at the Main Library, the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Society of California Pioneers and the California Historical Society, both located in San Francisco.

No records were available for this report for the time period 1963-1973 when the island was in the care of the General Services Administration. The only event that may have resulted in changes to the structure during this time was the occupation of the island by Native Americans from November 1969 to March 1971. Documentation of graffiti in the Guardhouse Complex dating from this period is contained in a report commissioned by the National Park Service: Inventory of Occupation Graffiti, 1969-1971, Alcatraz Island, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California by Jon Noxon.

Preservation and restoration efforts carried out by the National Park Service during the period 1973 to present were documented through oral interviews and written records provided by Mr. James Delgado, former historian for Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and current members of the NPS’ maintenance and preservation crews.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

[Add upon completion of PART II]

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Alcatraz Island was designated a National Historic Landmark on January 17, 1986 after having first been entered onto the National Register of Historic Places on June 23, 1976. It has been in the National Park Service since the creation of Golden Gate National Recreation Area in 1972 and has been open to the public for tours since October of 1973. The island remains one of the most popular tourist destinations in the National Park Service system, attracting more than 1.2 million visitors annually.

The Alcatraz Guardhouse Complex is a contributing structure to the National Historic Landmark District. The structure is designated as Management Category ‘A’ in the List of Classified Structures and must
be preserved. The 1980 *General Management Plan* states that historic preservation will be the primary concern on Alcatraz Island, and states that all the military fortifications should be preserved, if feasible. Under “Proposed Management of Historic Structures,” the GMP identifies these buildings for preservation and restoration.

The 1980 Historic Resource Study for Alcatraz prepared by historian Erwin Thompson contains the following recommendations for the Guardhouse Complex:

1. That a historic structure report (HSR) be prepared for the Complex;
2. That the report address itself to the feasibility of restoring the moat and drawbridge;
3. That the damaged archway of the Sally Port be restored (NPS completed in 1982);
4. That the two-story frame addition (Boathouse) be removed so that the howitzer embrasure may again be visible;
5. That the equipment for the small arms range be removed from the former Library-reading room, so that the “cornerstone” over the Sally Port may again be seen.

This Historic Structure Report was produced primarily through the compilation and interpretation of existing information and through the inspection and analysis of existing physical conditions without destructive testing. Field records are the property of the Architectural and Engineering firms who produced this document under contract to the Golden Gate National Park Association. There were no samples taken that should be catalogued and accessioned into the park’s permanent museum collection. The Historic Structure Report itself serves as an adequate record of the inspection, study and analysis performed by the investigators.
DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY

Historical Background And Context

The Guardhouse Complex is only one of a succession of structures built on the windswept island of Alcatraz between 1853 and 1941. The U.S. Government recognized the defensive value of Alcatraz Island as early as 1847 when Lt. William Warner of the U.S. Army’s Topographical Engineers prepared a field survey of the barren rock. In 1850, a joint Army-Navy board carried out surveys of the Pacific Coast to make recommendations for constructing harbor defenses. This board recommended two forts at the bay’s only entrance, at the narrows nicknamed “the Golden Gate” by early settlers. These two forts, one at the Presidio and one at Lime Point on the Marin shore, would set up a devastating cross-fire at a point where the Gate was only a mile wide.

To back up this “outer line” of defenses, the board recommended an “inner line” focusing around Alcatraz Island. On the island itself, gun batteries would be hacked out of the rocky slopes and sited so that their cannon fire could sweep the inner bay. Backing up the island’s batteries would be smaller fortifications located on the San Francisco waterfront and on Angel Island and Yerba Buena Island.

On November 6, 1850 President Millard Fillmore issued an Executive Order setting aside “for public purposes” hundreds of acres of shoreline for planned defensive sites. Included among these lands were several of the larger islands of San Francisco Bay, including “Alcatraces Island” as it was then known. After two years of initial surveys, budget allocations, and preparatory site work, actual construction began in early 1853 at two locations: Fort Point in the Presidio, and Alcatraz Island.

At Fort Point, the Corps of Engineers envisioned a large masonry fortification along the classic lines of the multi-storied forts they had constructed along the eastern seaboard. These “works” as they were known, included such well-known forts as Fort Pulaski at Savannah, Georgia, and Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. These forts, all examples of what military historians refer to as the “Third System” of American fortifications, all relied upon similar design features such as enclosed floor plans with a central parade, multiple stories of Gunrooms (or “casemates”) arranged so that the cannon fired through thick parapet walls, and sea level locations. This was the type of structure erected at Fort Point.

For Alcatraz, though, the Engineers decided to try something different. Recognizing that the island’s rocky cliffs and nearly inaccessible shoreline were already excellent defensive features, they decided to excavate an encircling belt of open (or “barbette”) gun batteries along the island’s upper slopes. Access to the batteries and barracks would be a single switchback road leading from the dock area on Alcatraz’ sheltered lee side to the top of the island.

This roadway, or ramp, was to be heavily defended. Even before actual construction began the Engineers recommended in August 1852, “A Guard house [be] placed at the upper end of the ramp enfilading it with 4 mountain howitzers or other small pieces.”1 In its original form, this structure was to take the form a blockhouse straddling the roadway
with four small cannon atop its roof, two facing towards the dock and two northward towards the batteries at the end of the island.

The Pacific Board quickly realized that the island’s original allocations were too small and in 1854 requested increased allotments for Alcatraz’ defenses. Among the modifications they proposed were construction of masonry retaining walls along the road from the wharf to the Guardhouse, and enlarging and relocating the Guardhouse closer to the dock so that it could effectively cover the road with guns of at least 24-pound caliber in size. [The earlier proposal had called for “mountain howitzers”, which were light weapons capable of firing only 12-pound shot].

In 1856 the Pacific Board of Engineers again made recommendations for the Guardhouse, and this time the yet-to-be-constructed building began to take on the form recognizable today. In this proposal, the roadway would pass directly through the Guardhouse via a Sally Port passageway protected at either end with thick wood doors. The Guardhouse itself would be protected additionally on the dock side by a dry moat, referred as a “ditch,” spanned by a drawbridge. In time of siege, this drawbridge could be raised, isolating the dock area from the rest of the island. The howitzers were now to be mounted within the Guardhouse itself instead of on its roof, positioned so that they could sweep the roadway and dock with their fire. The terreplein, or roof, would be supported by the cast iron and vaulted brick ceiling of the First Floor. Extending northwest from the Guardhouse would be a brick wall two feet thick and twenty feet high, rising four feet above the roadway to serve as a revetment for the rocky bank between the Guardhouse and North Battery, and also to provide protection to personnel using the roadway behind the wall.

In addition to mounting the 24-pound howitzers, the rooms flanking the Sally Port would also serve as space for the island’s guard detail, hence the origin of the name “Guardhouse.” The howitzer room on the inland side (Inner Gunroom and Guardroom) of the Sally Port would serve as the office and living quarters for the Officer of the Guard, while the water side howitzer room (Outer Gunroom and Guardroom) would serve as living space for the enlisted men assigned to guard duty. The basement of the outer room would serve as a general prison room where soldiers from the island’s garrison could be confined while undergoing punishment.

A set of plans accompanying this letter illustrated the proposed structure, and it contained many noteworthy features. The walls of the structure extended above the roof (or terreplein) by several feet, providing protection on three sides to riflemen stationed there. The inside of this high parapet was equipped with a raised firing step for the soldiers to use when firing down onto attackers. The Outer Gunroom was equipped with musket slits in all four walls, while the Inner Gunroom had slits only in the wall facing into the Sally Port. Two embrasures (cannon ports) for 24-pounder howitzers faced downhill towards the wharf, flanking the Sally Port and its drawbridge. The Outer Gunroom was fitted with another embrasure in the north wall, bringing the total to three howitzer positions. This last gun position was unique in that it faced away from the dock, oriented so that its fire could sweep the exterior of the 20-foot tall scarp wall stretching
northward from the Guardhouse to the batteries at the north end of the island.  

No exact start date has been found for actual construction of the Guardhouse, but work apparently began in 1857. In September that year, supervising engineer Lt. Frederick Prime wrote in his annual report that the site of the Guardhouse and its moat had been fully excavated and the counterscarp (outside wall of the moat) had been constructed of Alcatraz stone. The walls of the Guardhouse had been raised to the level of the Sally Port floor. The sills of the two gateways had been laid, and part of the Sally Port had been paved with granite. The walls of the Outer Gunroom stood at nine feet above the roadway, and two granite traverse circles for the howitzers and brick pavement had been laid. Prime stated that the embrasures for the howitzers were of the newest model, but that the room would be very much cramped with its two weapons. Finally, excavation had started on the brick scarp wall on the inside of the road leading from the Guardhouse to the wharf.  

The next year Lt. James Birdseye McPherson prepared the “State of the Works” report, in which he reported that the guardhouse was almost ready for occupation. The masonry was finished, the coping along the parapet was set, the terreplein was paved with flagging, the Gunrooms were paved with brick, floors were laid in the prison room, and the prison room windows were ready to put in. A flight of granite steps curved up around the back of the Guardhouse to the terreplein and the roadway above leading to the Citadel. A small retaining wall had been built and coped in the rear of these stairs. The doors to the Gunrooms had been hung, and the drawbridge and heavy doors closing the Sally Port were made but not yet installed. (McPherson was waiting until he had finished hauling the heavy construction material for the barracks through the Sally Port.) Also awaiting installation were the trap door and iron ladder leading down into the basement prison room, and the iron traverse rails for the three howitzers (see Figure 1).  

Alcatraz’ first garrison arrived on 30 December 1859 when 89 men of Company H, 3rd U.S. Artillery, took up quarters in the new fort. In the first monthly “Post Return” filed for Alcatraz, Commanding Officer Capt. Joseph Stewart reported 11 men in confinement, presumably in the Guardhouse basement. These prisoners, it should be pointed out, were members of the island’s own garrison, not convicts sent to the fort from outside areas. They were, however, forerunners of a long line of military and civilian convicts who would be sent to the island over the course of the next 104 years.  

**Operations of the Guardhouse**  

Little is written about day-to-day activities at the Alcatraz Guardhouse. If it functioned similarly to Guardhouses at other Army posts of the time, it would have served as a combination security station and jail for the fort. Each day, several enlisted men from the garrison were selected for guard duty and ordered to report to the Officer of the Guard in his office at the Guardhouse. There the soldiers would be broken into three shifts and dispatched to designated sentry posts around the island where they walked two-hour ‘on post’ shifts. During the following four-hour ‘off post’ shifts, the soldiers weren’t allowed to go back to their barracks but instead had to remain at the Guardhouse where they
remained on-call in case of emergency. The men spent their time there either sleeping or socializing in the Guardroom. A typical guard duty stint could last anywhere from one to three days.

The guard detail was usually comprised of: the “Officer of the Day” who supervised all aspects of security around the fort; a “Sergeant of the Guard” who assigned soldiers to the guard posts and checked up on them to ensure they carried out their duties; three “Corporals of the Guard” (one assigned to each guard shift); and as many enlisted men as were deemed necessary to provide security to the fort and the prison.

Aside from security, one of the major duties of the guard detail was to serve as a police force for the garrison. The guard detail was to respond to incidents of violence or disorderly conduct, and stop and detain any soldiers arriving at the island in a drunken condition. If necessary, the guards would put suspects under arrest and confine them in a large cell called a “general prison room,” which was similar in function and cleanliness to the drunk tank of a modern police station.

After being tried and sentenced, most prisoners were returned to the general prison room to serve out their sentences. Punishments in the nineteenth century Army could range from performing so-called “police duties” around the post such as cutting wood and cleaning out latrines, to corporal punishments such as carrying a ball and chain or hanging by the thumbs. Dangerous felons remained in the prison room at all times or were confined separately in individual solitary confinement cells.

On Alcatraz, the basement below the Outer Gunroom served as the general prison room, accessible only via a trap door in the floor of the Guardroom and a ladder leading down into its depths (getting unruly prisoners up and down this ladder must have been a challenge for the guards). The Alcatraz Guardhouse differed from other posts in one major feature. Its three solitary confinement cells were located within the Citadel atop the island rather than in the Guardhouse proper. The reasons for this physical separation are not clear, but perhaps were related to keeping hard-core convicts as far as possible from ‘general prisoners.’

At the Alcatraz Guardhouse, the Inner Gunroom flanking the Sally Port served both as an office and as living quarters for the Officer of the Day. The room would have been sparsely furnished with the authorized furnishings of one chair, one table, one bunk and mattress, and one lantern. It was palatial though, compared to the Outer Guardroom across the Sally Port where as many as eight enlisted men were quartered at one time. That space would have been dominated by a large wood bed called a “sleeping banquette” large enough to accommodate four to six men at a time, along with a musket rack, table and chairs, fire buckets, and the ever-present spittoons and oil lamps. There were no lockers or coat racks, though, because the men were not allowed to remove any clothing or equipment while on duty and were required to “sleep in their leathers.”

It is unclear how all these functions and furnishings could have fit within the confines of the two Gunrooms at Alcatraz, especially in the outer casemate where the Guard shared space with two hulking 24-
pound howitzers. It is likely that these howitzers may not have been mounted most of the time to provide space for the guard detail, and were only installed when threat of attack was high. The annual “Ordnance Reports” tend to support this theory, since they record that only in the years 1859, 1863 and 1866 were the howitzers definitely mounted in the Guardhouse. In every other year, the Reports unfailingly list the howitzers and carriages as being “on hand” and ready for emplacing.⁷

Evolution of Lower Prison

Badly lit and poorly ventilated by rifle slit windows, the general prison room immediately turned out to be a less than ideal place for confining prisoners. However, it did not deter the Army from making good use of the dungeon. In fact, the Alcatraz Guardhouse was considered so secure that other military posts around the west began sending their most troublesome prisoners to the Island nearly as soon as it was first garrisoned. With the start of the Civil War in 1861, the number of prisoners increased even more as Courts began to sentence civilians to the island as federal prisoners convicted of anti-Union activities.

Monthly post returns indicate that between 1861 and 1863 the Guardhouse prison room contained an average of 15 prisoners, living in vile conditions that can only be imagined. When overcrowding and sanitation problems caused an outbreak of illness in Fall 1861, the Commanding General of the Department of the Pacific ordered the prisoners temporarily into tents so that a “cleansing of the prison room” could be carried out, presumably with buckets of hot water and lye. According to the island’s commanding officer Capt. William Winder, at some unspecified time early in the war the number of prisoners actually overflowed the prison room, requiring him to house them in the Outer Gunroom. By September 1862 both he and the island’s engineering officer, Lt. William Elliot, were requesting authorization to build an additional prison building.⁸

Orders granting permission to construct a prison building were sent by the Departmental Commander on September 17, 1862, and the building presumably completed not long after that date. A local newspaper reported that the wood frame prison structure “would consist of two rooms, arranged for sleeping apartments, and a kitchen; the three [rooms] to be of good size, with iron grating at the windows.”⁹

Sometime in late 1862 or early 1863, the small cellblock was completed. Measuring 21’-0” x 62’-0” it sat at the rear of the Guardhouse directly outside the Sally Port, separated from the Guardhouse only by the granite staircase leading to the upper road. [This structure will be referred to as “Prison Building A” for the purposes of this study]. Together with the Guardhouse, this building, the first purely penal structure constructed on Alcatraz, would form the nucleus of what would soon come to be known as “Lower Prison” (see Figure 2). Exact figures on the number of prisoners during this early period are impossible to determine. No record whatsoever has been found concerning the number of civilians in confinement. In 1864 the average number of prisoners climbed to 24, and by the end of the war it reached 49. Available records indicate that convict turnover was constant, if not great in volume.¹⁰
By 1867 Alcatraz had taken on a permanent dual role as both harbor defense fortification and military prison. Following the close of the Civil War, regular Army garrisons slowly reoccupied the small Army posts on the Pacific Coast and the wartime use of Alcatraz as a place of confinement for a variety of prisoners declined. The average prison population on the island for three years (1865-1868) amounted to only 20, and most of these men came from posts around the Bay. Nonetheless, the concept of a prison at Alcatraz remained alive. This was demonstrated in 1867 by the tearing down of the wartime wood building behind the Guardhouse and replacing it with a brick cellblock of the same dimensions in the same location. This permanent prison building contained 45 cells in three tiers, with a small extension on its north side for the guard detail. [This structure will be referred to as “Prison Building B” for the purposes of this study]. The extensive brick foundations of this building still stand, now covered by a wood frame structure, Bldg. 89, known today as the “Electric Shop” from its last penitentiary use.11

The following year another cellblock was constructed, this time directly atop the Guardhouse on its terreplein. The supervising engineers had no objection to its construction inasmuch as it would not interfere with the fire of any guns and it could easily be removed in time of war. This cellblock, built of heavy planks and containing forty-eight single and four double cells in two tiers, was presumably constructed during the summer of 1868. [This structure will be referred to as “Prison Building C” for the purposes of this study].12

Simultaneous with the construction of building “C,” a large mess house and kitchen for the prison was constructed at the foot of the defensive wall just west of the Guardhouse. Almost at the Bay’s edge, this building would be expanded and rebuilt over the coming years to suit the needs of the growing prison complex lining the roadway above.

Also around this time, the basement prison room of the original Guardhouse was converted into a washhouse and bathroom for the prisoners. To provide access to this room, a wood staircase was constructed in the old moat in front of the Sally Port and doorway openings were cut through the brick walls at the north and south ends of the room. A latrine was also constructed on pilings over the Bay and connected to the Guardhouse basement washroom via a short wood trestle.

It was by now clear that the defensive value of the Guardhouse was rapidly becoming obsolete, and sometime around 1870 a large brick addition was constructed on the south side of the Guardhouse that served as a combination chapel and library for the burgeoning prison. Spanning the roadway on the south side of the Guardhouse, it consisted of an open main room on the Second Floor and an attic space that was alternately used for offices and storage space [This structure, sometimes known as Bldg. 22 or the “rifle range” will be referred to as “The Library” for the purposes of this study]. The Library addition had the unintended effect of totally blocking the inner 24-pound howitzer mounted in the Guardhouse and severely restricting the fire of one of the outer howitzers. This was an academic point though, since the guns had not been mounted since at least 1866.
In 1871 the Army constructed yet another wood cellblock adjacent to the Guardhouse, this time spanning the road on the north side of the original 1850s structure. The new cellblock measured approximately 75’-0” x 18’-0” and contained forty-two double cells in three tiers. [This structure will be referred to as “Prison Building D” for the purposes of this study]. Like the brick Library addition, this new cellblock was constructed so it rested in part upon the old defensive walls and allowed traffic to move unimpeded along the roadway below.

By 1887, the fourth and final wood cellblock had been constructed for the prison. It was a frame structure nearly identical in shape and size to block “D” and was quite literally tacked on to end of the earlier cellblock. [This structure will be referred to as “Prison Building E” for the purposes of this study]. Just as with Prison Building “D,” Prison Building “E” was also built over the roadway north of the Guardhouse to permit foot and wagon traffic to pass underneath. Prison Building “E” contained fifteen single cells on each of its three tiers, and its completion brought the total number of cells on Alcatraz to one hundred eighty-five.13

By the 1890s Lower Prison had taken on its final form, which appeared to some more like collection of barn-like structures than a prison. Going from south to north, the Complex consisted of the brick library/chapel wing, the brick Guardhouse with wood cellblock “C” atop it, and the two nearly identical, flat-sided prison buildings “D” and “E.” In front of the prison and along the foot of the old defensive wall, a one-story bathhouse and long mess hall lined the edge of the Bay. The island roadway passed beneath the main buildings, and for arriving visitors the sensation of traveling up the road was similar to passing through an exceptionally long covered bridge (see Figures 3-5).

The Spanish-American War of 1898 and the ensuing “Philippine Insurrection” led to a meteoric increase in the number of prisoners confined on Alcatraz. In January 1900, nearly 150 military convicts were crowded into the wood prison when word arrived that 135 more prisoners were en route from Manila. Emergency funds were authorized and a second prison was rapidly constructed on the island’s parade ground. Dubbed “Upper Prison” to differentiate it from the existing prison at the old Guardhouse, this new compound initially consisted of three wood cellhouses, a Guardhouse and a latrine, all surrounded by a twelve foot tall palisade wall complete with blockhouses and sentry walkways. In 1904, Upper Prison’s stockade and cell blocks were expanded with the addition of a mess hall, library and workshops, bringing Alcatraz’ prison capacity to a total of three hundred seven inmates.

All prisoners were moved into Upper Prison beginning around 1904, and the Lower Prison buildings entirely abandoned for housing convicts. The Alcatraz quartermaster submitted a request in July 1905 to demolish the three wood cellblocks of the old prison, but his request was denied and various units of the Complex continued to function for several more years.14

A decision had to be made about Alcatraz’ future and whether its role should continue to be as a harbor defense fort or whether it should be totally transformed into a military prison. In 1907 the War Department
issued a directive that Alcatraz Island would henceforth be called the “Pacific Branch, U.S. Military Prison” and all defensive roles would cease. Immediately upon making this decision, the Army assigned a new commandant to the island, Maj. Reuben Turner, whose job would be to replace the ramshackle assemblage of prison buildings dotting the island with state-of-the-art penal facilities.

Work began on remodeling Alcatraz in 1908 with the demolition of the old Citadel atop the island. Before long, the walls of a massive concrete prison building began to rise along the island’s summit, and as it grew the old remains of Lower Prison gradually disappeared. The first building to be demolished was the newest wood cellblock, Prison Building “E,” which disappeared from post maps in 1907. About the same time, Prison Building “D” was completely rebuilt as a single story workshop building. A 1910 map of the island recorded the uses of the Complex at that time: the Library addition housed a Gymnasium on the Second Floor and an Ordnance Storehouse in the Attic; the 1867 brick cellhouse Prison Building “B” was a Plumber’s Shop; the Guardhouse was designated “Saltwater Pump House” (a function previously housed on the wharf). The wood cellblock Prison Building “C” on top of the Guardhouse was not accounted for on the map, but the remodeled Prison Building “D” had found a new use as a Carpenter’s Shop. The last remaining structures of Lower Prison, its mess hall and kitchen, were labeled “Laundry” and “Civilian Employees’ Quarters” (see Figure 6).15

Disciplinary Barracks

The written record on the old Guardhouse becomes almost non-existent after 1910, but its uses can be inferred from various historic photographs and maps prepared by the U.S. Army and Bureau of Prisons.

Nearly all traces of Lower Prison disappeared by around 1915, almost as if the Army was trying to wash away the stain of its existence. Of the prison structures, only the Library addition (newly designated Building 22) still survived. Next to the Library, the original form of the 1857 Guardhouse had reemerged since the wood cellblocks atop its roof and on its north side were demolished. Surprisingly intact despite its years as a bathhouse and dungeon, the Guardhouse sported a tall brick and concrete chimney on its bayside for the saltwater pumping plant in the basement.16

In 1915 the Army officially renamed Alcatraz “Pacific Branch, U.S. Disciplinary Barracks.” The name change was not purely semantics. It reflected a new philosophy in the way the Army treated its prisoners. For several years the belief had been growing in military circles that, if at all possible, prisoners should be salvaged as soldiers. Instead of simply undergoing punishment, the rationale went, they should be disciplined, educated and retrained. As part of this reformist philosophy, it was decided to construct a new schoolhouse on Alcatraz.

Sometime between 1915 and 1922 (the exact date has not been determined) the Army erected a two-story reinforced concrete Schoolhouse atop the Guardhouse, which housed a classroom for
convicts on its First Floor and enlisted men’s quarters on its Second Floor. Located in the exact location of old Prison Building “B,” this new structure was built in the Mission Revival style, a style popular at the time. [Likely due to its somewhat ecclesiastical appearance, the Schoolhouse has been misidentified in recent years as an “Army Chapel,” though research has never substantiated this use].

The Army considered the new Schoolhouse and the old Guardhouse under it as a single structure and designated the Complex “Building 77.” [For the purpose of this study, “Building 77” will only refer to the two-story reinforced concrete rooftop addition]. The new Schoolhouse apparently housed various functions during the Disciplinary Barracks era in addition to a classroom. Identified uses included a Cobbler Shop, Hat Shop, and Dormitory (see Figures 6-8).

Each room of the building received its own designation. A map prepared by the post quartermaster in 1929 labeled the lower floor of the new concrete addition as “77-A School” while the top floor bore the cryptic notation “77-B Night Employees Quarters.” The original howitzer rooms in the Guardhouse were both labeled simply “Store Room” and designated “77-C” and “77-D.”

Throughout the remaining years as a Disciplinary Barracks, Building 22 (the Library) continued to function primarily as a Gymnasium on the Second Floor with a storeroom in the Attic. Sometime between 1922 and 1925 (again, exact dates for this period are difficult to determine) a wood addition was constructed on the east side of the Library. This addition served as offices on the First Floor and as a storeroom and (occasionally) Non-commissioned Officer (NCO) living quarters on the Second Floor. Over the years, this addition came to be known informally as a “Boathouse” because the island’s boat crews used it for miscellaneous storage of nautical equipment and supplies.

**Bureau of Prisons**

In 1933, the War Department transferred the entire island to the Department of Justice’s Bureau of Prisons (BOP) for conversion into a maximum-security penitentiary for civilian felons. This period saw a tremendous amount of remodeling work on the island, much of it required to house a greatly expanded staff of correctional officers who would have to live on the island. As part of this remodeling project, the two-story Schoolhouse atop the Guardhouse was converted into apartments for married guards (later, for security reasons, only bachelor guards were quartered in the building).

Just as it had since the years of Lower Prison, the island’s only roadway passed through a dim passageway beneath the floors of the Library and the Schoolhouse. This seemingly underground stretch of road became known familiarly to island residents as “the tunnel” and formed a slightly forbidding entry to Alcatraz. The old Guardhouse rooms flanking the Sally Port continued to serve the penitentiary for a variety of storage uses, and for a while the open area in front of the Sally Port entrance housed the Alcatraz fire truck.

The BOP continued using Building 22 as a gymnasium until about 1940. At that time, new construction on the west side of the island displaced the outdoor shooting range used by the guards for target
practice and forced the staff to find a new location for the range. The old library room in Building 22 was chosen as the location for the new range, and in 1940 its interior was modified with the construction of a heavy wood backstop and ‘firing positions’ for four shooters. Buildings 22 and 77 continued to be used, respectively, as an indoor target range and bachelor guards’ dormitory until the penitentiary closed in March 1963.
CHRONOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT AND USE

Timeline — Alcatraz Guardhouse Complex

1852
・First mention of Guardhouse in report prepared by Board of Engineers for Pacific Coast. Calls for positions for “four mountain howitzers.”

1854
・Guardhouse proposal updated. Made larger and repositioned further south along roadway. New plans call for positions for 24-lb. howitzers

1856
・Final proposal. Guardhouse takes on final appearance with prison room in basement, a Guardroom, and positions for three howitzers.

1857
・Construction begins sometime in spring. By September, walls of Outer Gunroom are 9 feet above road level.

1858
・June. Guardhouse complete except for hanging main doors, installing tracks for gun carriages, and emplacing howitzers.

1859
・Lt. McPherson reports three howitzers mounted in Guardhouse.
・December. First company of 3rd U.S. Artillery arrives on island. Eleven men confined in Guardhouse that month.

1861
・October. Lt. Elliot reports no howitzers mounted in Guardhouse.
・October. Capt. Winder reports outbreak of illness in prison room. Moves prisoners into tents and has prison room cleansed.

1862
・Winder suggests constructing separate prison building.
・October. Elliot also suggests building a prison near Guardhouse.

1863
・June. Three howitzers reported mounted in Guardhouse.

1865
・January. No howitzers reported mounted in Guardhouse.

1866
・June. One howitzer reported mounted in Guardhouse.
1867
- Frame prison demolished and replaced by permanent brick prison on same site. [Prison building “B”] Identical footprint as earlier wood structure.

1868
- Wood cellblock constructed on top of Guardhouse. [Prison building “C”]

1869
- No howitzers reported mounted in Guardhouse
- Kitchen and mess room for prison are constructed along base of defensive wall north of Guardhouse.
- Brick extension apparently constructed on south side of Guardhouse. Served as library and theater

1870
Prison described:
- Guardhouse contains 14 single cells and 2 double cells, in two tiers
- Prison building “C” atop Guardhouse contains 48 single cells and 4 double cells

1871
- Wood cellblock spanning roadway constructed on north side of Guardhouse [Prison building “D”]
- Mess room and kitchen apparently rebuilt

1872
- Guardhouse located in outer Gunroom

1874
- April. Post surgeon sets up temporary hospital and two storerooms “over the chapel [i.e., brick extension] of the prison buildings.”

1875
Prison described:
- Guardhouse contained 10 single cells and 4 dungeon cells
- Prison Building “C” contained 48 single and 4 double cells, in two tiers
- Brick extension as “chapel serving also as the reading-room and library for prisoners.” Attic contained temporary hospital and tailor shop.

1879
Prison described:
- Guardroom in Guardhouse has room for 7 or 8 guards
- Prison Building “C” contains 48 single and four double cells, in two tiers on each side [i.e., 12 single cells and 1 double cell on each tier]

1881
Prison described:
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- Prison Building “B”— 48 single cells and 4 double cells, in two tiers
- Brick addition — Prison library and reading room on main floor. Court Martial room and two workshops in attic.

1887
- Second wood cellblock constructed over roadway north of Guardhouse. [Prison “E”]

1892
- Solid wood doors replaced by riveted strap iron doors.

1893
Prison described:
- Guardhouse — Inner Gunroom contained 13 cells in two tiers, and 4 isolation cells on second tier.
- Prison Building “C” — 48 foot long rectangular building with central corridor and cells on both sides. Not currently in use. One end partitioned off and used as garrison’s Guardhouse.
- Brick addition — Prison library and reading room on main floor. A 19-foot area was partitioned off to store stage sets. Attic housed Tailor Shop, Printing Shop, and ‘Detained Witnesses Room’ in Attic.

1894
- Brick library addition now labeled “Chapel”

1907
- Prison Building “E” disappears from maps
- Prison Building “D” apparently remodeled into single-story structure

1910
- Post Exchange (Bldg. 65) constructed. Originally had open lower story spanning old Lower Prison Mess Hall
- Guardhouse — (Bldg. 77), Saltwater Pump House
- Brick Library — (Bldg. 22), gymnasium for garrison on Second Floor, ordnance storehouse in Attic
- Mess hall — (Bldg. 23) prison laundry

1911
- Mess hall for Lower Prison demolished

1929
Bldg. 22 designated “Warehouse”
- First Floor — auto passage and wood addition (“22-B”) containing two rooms: “Dept. Vocational Training Farm” and “Signal Corps Office”
- Second Floor — Quartermaster Warehouse (south half), and Temporary NCO Quarters (“22-A”) located in north half and wood Boathouse addition
- Attic — Warehouse (“22-C”)

Bldg. 77 designated “Night Employees Qtrs.”
- First Floor of Guardhouse — auto passage and two storerooms: “77-C” on inland side and “77-D” on waterside
• First Floor of Schoolhouse — School ("77-A")
• Second Floor of Schoolhouse — Night Employees Quarters ("77-B")

1933
• Bldg 22 — Gymnasium
• Bldg 77 — Storage (First Floor of Guardhouse, "77C" and "77D"), School (First Floor of Schoolhouse, "77A"), and Enlisted Men’s Quarters (Second Floor of Schoolhouse, "77B").

1940
• Bldg. 22 — Second Floor converted into indoor pistol/rifle range for guards

1943
• Bldg 77 — reported as containing two apartments (one on each floor) for married guards without children

1947
• Bldg. 77 — reported as containing “Inmates Change Room…where a home made [water] heater is now installed” for convicts working on dock — room not specified probably old Moat in basement of Guardhouse where shower and clothing hooks are still located

1949
• Bldg. 22 — inspection of rifle range states backstop composed of heavy timbers unable to stop 30.06 rounds — no mention made of steel backstop plate
• Bldg. 77 — serving as Bachelor Officer’s Quarters, with four unmarried guards living on each floor

1953
• Bldg. 22 — Accidental shooting of one officer by another during pistol practice — recommendation that existing partitions between firing booths be removed for safety
• Bldg. 22 — Photos taken following accident indicate steel backstop plate in place

1955
• Bldg 77 — “Bachelor’s Quarters” consisting of “two floors of exceedingly unsatisfactory individual rooms”
• Bldg. 77 — Proposal made to remove interior partitions and convert both floors to temporary dormitory-type quarters [Not done]

1959
• Bldg. 77 repainted with three coats of paint

1961
• Map shows Bldg. 77 and wood addition labeled jointly “BOQ & Boathouse”
• Bldg. 77 receives new Transite roof, gutters and downspouts

1982
• NPS restoration work on Guardhouse:
• Bricked up rifle slits in Sally Port re-opened
• portion of roadway removed in front of embrasure to reveal moat
Brick archway at north end of Sally Port repaired
Gunroom floors acid-washed to remove spilled paint and grease
All interiors whitewashed

1997
NPS installs historic 24-pdr. flank defense howitzer on replica wood carriage in inner Gunroom
Iron traverse rail fabricated and installed
Replica wood carriage rebuilt to fit dimensions of traverse circle
Guardhouse Physical Evolution

The Guardhouse Complex is composed of the original 1857 brick Guardhouse and three additions: the brick Library on its south side; the reinforced concrete Schoolhouse atop its terreplein; and the wood Boathouse addition on the east side of the Library. Each of these four parts corresponds to the evolving and interwoven uses of the Complex, and the modifications of each part will, by necessity, be described in relation to other affected parts of the building.

The physical evolution of each major space is described in this section. Descriptions are organized by time periods. The Illustrations from the previous section contain both an elevation and a plan drawing that show modifications to the Complex over the years. Where applicable, historic floor plans, drawings and photographs are also included.

Time periods:
- Original Guardhouse era: 1859 – 1870
- Lower Prison era: 1870 – 1915
- Disciplinary Barracks era: 1915 – 1934
- Bureau of Prisons era: 1934 – 1963
- Post-prison era: 1963 – present

Guardhouse

Original Guardhouse era

In its original configuration, the Guardhouse was a simple rectangular “blockhouse” structure constructed of brick on a sandstone foundation. Two stories tall, the Guardhouse was protected on its south face by a 13-foot deep dry moat, or ‘ditch’, spanned by a retractable wood drawbridge. The only road leading from the dock to the batteries passed directly through the Guardhouse via central Sally Port passageway. The Sally Port could be closed at both ends with heavy wood doors in order to further hinder attackers who might cross the moat and breach the drawbridge. Rifle slits on both walls and in the outer set of double doors allowed soldiers to create a devastating crossfire in the Sally Port.

To the east and west of the Sally Port were casemate gunrooms housing three 24-pounder flank defense howitzers, two facing south towards the dock and the third pointing north towards the batteries at the end of the island. These rooms also served as space for the island’s guard detail (hence the name “Guardhouse”) with officer’s quarters in the western Inner Gunroom and enlisted men in the eastern or Outer Gunroom. Directly below the Outer Gunroom was a basement general prison room for locking up unruly members of the post garrison.

On August 2, 1859, supervising engineer Lt. William McPherson prepared a report on Alcatraz’ defenses that provides a wealth of
detail on the original configuration of the Guardhouse and adjacent scarp walls:

Guard House and Defensive Walls

The heavy oak doors closing the Sally-port have been hung, the casemates finished, the iron traverse circles put down, and 3 24 Pdr flank howitzers mounted. The iron ladder and trap door leading from the Casemate to the prison room have been made and put in place, 392 running feet of Sand Stone coping has been set in that portion of the Defensive Wall between 10 Gun [North] Battery and the Guard House and 372 feet of Granite Coping on that portion between the Gd. House and the wharf, and the whole of it backed with brick masonry. A concrete slope 16” wide and 4” thick has been formed in advance of the latter portion to throw water from the foundation. The bank in the rear [of the wall] has been graded and the earth filled in behind the wall to within 4’ 3” of the top, the banquette arranged and sodded and an open concrete drain formed. The bank on the left of the Sally-port as you enter, between the different levels of the road leading to the S. Battery, has been cut to a slope of about 45° and sodded, which makes a good finish. [This last comment refers to the site of today’s “Electric Shop” building].

The last structural elements completed were apparently the drawbridges. In an inspection report dated November 1859, Chief of Engineers Joseph Totten pointed out several details in the island’s defenses that needed attention, including the fact that none of the three drawbridges installed at various locations had their counterweights in place. However, by the following year the defect had been repaired and Lt. McPherson reported that he had corrected most of the deficiencies that Totten had observed, including finally putting the three drawbridges into working order.

Nearly as soon as it was garrisoned, Alcatraz became a central prison for Army posts throughout the west. In 1861 this policy was made official when the War Department designated Alcatraz the first U.S. Military Prison. When the Civil War broke out in April 1861, the island’s Guardhouse also became a convenient holding site for Confederate sympathizers and other outspoken civilians opposed to Lincoln’s policies. Before long, the Guardhouse basement was filled with a combination of military prisoners and political prisoners.

By late summer of 1862 the situation had become so serious that the post commander Capt. William Winder complained in writing to the Adjutant General of Department of the Pacific:

ALCATRAZ ISLAND, CAL., September 10, 1862.
To Lieut. Col. R. C. DRUM, Assistant Adjutant-General, Dept. of the Pacific, San Francisco:

COLONEL: In view of the existing difficulties at home and the threatening aspect of our foreign affairs, I deem it my duty, as the commander of this most important post, to call the attention of the commanding general to the condition of its defenses. At present the caponiere [Guardhouse] at the entrance of the fortification, defending the approach from the wharf, is occupied by the guard and prisoners; the latter being so numerous they entirely fill the casemate on the right [east] of the entrance, rendering it necessary that the guard should occupy the corresponding one on
the left [west]. For this reason the howitzers intended for the defense of this approach have never been mounted, nor can they be until some other arrangement is made for the care of the prisoners.

Shortly after this letter was written, Winder received authorization to construct a separate cellhouse structure adjacent to the Guardhouse to confine the additional prisoners. The completion of the new prison building must have eased the crowding in the Guardhouse, because the Armament Report for June 1863 records that all three howitzers were again mounted in the Guardhouse. In that respect, the date of the report also coincides with a period of heightened fear of British or Confederate attack, which would have also increased the need for emplacing the guns.22

Lower Prison era

Following the end of the War, the prison’s penal use appears to have slacked off for a period, and then skyrocketed with the on-set of the “Indian Wars” in the late 1860s and a corresponding increase in the number of soldier-prisoners arriving from western Army posts. The need for housing increased numbers of convicts was demonstrated by tearing down the wartime wood cellblock in 1867 and replacing it with a permanent brick structure (Prison Building “B”) and by constructing another cellblock in 1868, this time directly atop the Guardhouse (Prison Building “C”). This new cellblock took away much of the defensive capacity of the Guardhouse since it occupied its terreplein, an open area designed for riflemen to fire down upon attackers. Probably to lessen this impact, the cellblock was constructed of wood so that it could be easily torn down in time of war.23

This latter structure was the first documented physical alteration to the Guardhouse, and indicated that the Army was beginning to consider it less of a defensive feature than during the war years. In 1881 the post quartermaster described that the wood cellblock, “built of stout plank contains 48 single and four double cells in two tiers” and with a average cell size of $8 \frac{1}{2}$ [feet tall] x 6 [feet deep] x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet [wide], thus giving to each an air space of 161 cubic feet.24

Sometime in 1869 or 1870, a two story brick addition with Attic was constructed on the eastern side of the Guardhouse to function as a combination library and chapel for the burgeoning prison (this structure will be discussed at length in the following section). The effect of this construction was immediate and devastating to the Guardhouse’s defensive role, since placement of the Library totally destroyed the effectiveness of the two howitzers facing the dock. In order to allow foot and vehicle traffic to continue to use the roadway though, the Library First Floor was left open so that the road passed through it (under the Second Floor) before entering the Guardhouse Sally Port.

Also in 1871, yet another wood cellblock (Prison Building “D”) was constructed adjacent to the Guardhouse, this time on its western side, resting partly on the Guardhouse and partly on Prison Building “B.” Again, in order to permit the free movement of traffic, this cellhouse
spanned the roadway that ran under it (the building was supported on the east by the brick defensive wall that extended towards North Battery).

At this point the defensive capacity of the Guardhouse was reduced to nothing, the building came to be considered more as the “core” structure of what would soon be known as Lower Prison and its uses were dedicated almost solely to penal functions. The Outer Gunroom continued for several years to house the guard detail, while the lower “general prison room” was converted into a washroom and bathroom for prisoners confined in the cellblocks. In order to reach this washhouse, a staircase was constructed in the “ditch” leading down from the drawbridge to the bottom of the moat where one of the original rifle slit windows of the prison room south wall had been enlarged into a doorway leading into the washroom. Similarly, a rifle slit on the north side of the room had been converted into a doorway to allow prisoners to walk out towards the mess hall complex.

On the main floor, the Inner Gunroom that had originally housed the Officer of the Day now served as a cell room for the most incorrigible convicts on the island. The 1881 quartermaster report stated the room contained “10 single cells and four dungeons. This part of the prison is now only used for temporary confinement of refractory prisoners.” As part of this conversion into a dungeon, the rifle slits in the inner Gunroom were bricked up to within a few inches of their tops, thus allowing only enough light and air into the room as the Army considered adequate for sustaining a human being.

A post surgeon penned a comprehensive description of the Lower Prison in 1893 and described the dungeons in more detail. He reported that thirteen cells in two tiers lined one side of the room, and five musket-slit openings, each 8 feet high and 4 ½ inches wide, stood in the opposite wall supplying air but were arranged so as to exclude light. At the end of the room a circular stair led up to the second tier of cells and nearby was an opening that led to an additional four cells (indicating that it was the landside Gunroom then being used as the dungeon; it has a small ell that may have housed these four additional cells). The surgeon said that these four cells were so far away from the ventilation openings as to be “simply villainous.” The dungeon
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Cells were only about one-quarter the size of the regular cells in the prison. Their dimensions were not given, but since each of them had a volume of only 139 cubic feet, they must have been more like coffins than cells. These cells still had solid wood doors with cracks at their tops and bottoms (4 inches and \(\frac{1}{2}\) inch) to allow air “circulation.” No heat was supplied to the room which was described as dry but very dark. (The report goes on to describe the other prison buildings and the latrine and mess hall in exhaustive detail.)

In 1900 a new prison complex known as “Upper Prison” began to be erected on the expansive parade ground at the island’s eastern tip. As this new facility grew, the need for “Lower” prison diminished until 1904 when all prisoners were moved to the newer compound. The only significant alteration made to the Guardhouse during this period occurred around 1907 when the former prison room/washhouse in the basement was converted into a saltwater pumping plant. As part of this conversion a large opening was cut through the south wall, probably to permit the installation of a boiler or large pump.

Eventually, most of the structures comprising Lower Prison began to be demolished, beginning with the large wood cellblocks “D” and “E” that spanned the road north of the Guardhouse. Photographs taken in 1914 document that all the prison buildings had been demolished except for the Library addition, and that the Guardhouse had again become visible and still retained most of its original defensive features including rifle slits, cannon embrasures and (apparently) the drawbridge.

**Disciplinary Barracks era**

The Guardhouse would not retain its original configuration for long, though. Sometime between 1915 and 1921, a two-story schoolhouse was erected atop the terreplein of the original Guardhouse. Constructed in the Mission Revival architectural style, a style popular at the time, the concrete building housed a classroom for military convicts on its First Floor and living quarters for enlisted men on its Second Floor. [This structure will be discussed at length in a following section].

The main alteration to the Guardhouse as a result of this new construction was the destruction (once again) of the terreplein on its roof. The walls of the Schoolhouse bore directly onto the granite

1892. Detail of Lower Prison. Offshore view shows Guardhouse chimney is not present.

Photo Credit: NARA, RG 92, Office of the Quartermaster General, General Correspondence.

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parapet and cornice of the 1857 structure, while the new building’s front wall enclosed the once-open area facing the roadway. The post quartermaster designated the new Schoolhouse “Bldg. 77.” He also considered the old Guardhouse it sat on to have the same building number.

The lowest level of the Complex, which originally served as the general prison room and later as a bathhouse for Lower Prison, continued to house a Saltwater Pump House until an undetermined date when a new pumping plant was built adjacent to the island’s Powerhouse. During the conversion to a pump room, a number of undocumented changes had occurred: a large concrete sump box and pump had been installed in the northwest corner of the room, a maze of steam and water pipes had been suspended by brackets from the ceiling, and the remaining rifle slit windows had been either bricked up or widened into windows (none remain in their original configuration today).

Most damaging to the integrity of the Guardhouse was the construction in the early 1920s of a two-story wood addition known as the “Boathouse” on the bay side of the Library. This shed-type structure was constructed in the inside corner of the ell made by the brick Library addition and the original south Guardhouse façade. It was supported partly by the two older buildings and partly by a reinforced concrete post and beam frame on its waterside. The effect of this addition was to obscure and alter much of the Library addition and what little remained of the Guardhouse south façade, particularly the howitzer embrasure facing the dock. This gun port was completely destroyed when the opening was enlarged into a doorway.

In 1929 the post quartermaster prepared floor plans for all the buildings on Alcatraz, and the drawings for Bldg 77 revealed that a number of alterations had taken place since the construction of the Schoolhouse. On the First Floor, the drawbridge had been removed and the moat paved over to form a solid roadway on the south of the Guardhouse. The Sally Port was labeled “Vehicle Passageway” and the howitzer gunrooms bore the simple notation “Storehouse.”

The Inner Gunroom was the more intact of the two, its only modifications being a large window in the north wall and an oversize doorway in the wall between the Sally Port and Gunroom. The outer
room bore little resemblance to its original configuration. On the east side overlooking the bay, the center rifle slit had been enlarged into a full-size window while the right-hand slit had been entirely bricked up. Both howitzer embrasures had also been destroyed, the north-facing one converted into an oversize window and the south-facing one into a large doorway leading through the exterior wall into the Boathouse. The 1929 plans make no mention of the basement room.

The final alteration to the Guardhouse during the Army era on Alcatraz also occurred sometime around 1930 when the ditch area (at that point covered by a concrete roadway) was enclosed on its bay side by the addition of an infill wall of asbestos fiber panels, wood windows, and a door. Also around this time the level of the ditch was raised approximately six to eight inches by the addition of a poured concrete pad covering the bottom of the original moat. This enclosed ditch area was accessed on the waterside via a set of three stairs to the doorway.

**Bureau of Prisons Era**

There are no specific records from the Bureau of Prisons era regarding the Guardhouse proper. Based upon oral history interviews with island residents, the original Gunrooms continued to serve as general storage areas for the island’s maintenance staff and boat crew. Physical traces of this use still remain in the Gunrooms, such as the imprints of 55-gallon drums and congealed paint spills on the floors.

The only physical changes believed to have occurred are the conversion of the enclosed area within the old ditch into a Changing Room for convict workers assigned to the dock crew. In 1947, a report to the warden recommended that a water heater be placed “in the inmates change room in building No. 77 for instance where a home made heater is now installed.”

Empirical evidence supports this use as a Changing Room, since it contains rows of clothing hooks along the wall and a shower pad in one corner. Tellingly, a wood locker mounted to the wall is defaced with convict graffiti.

**Post-prison Era**

There is no record of uses or alterations to the Guardhouse following the closing of the U.S. Penitentiary in March 1963 up until the time the National Park Service assumed control of the island in 1972. In
1971, following the occupation of the island by Native American activists, the building was briefly under control of the General Services Administration. During their tenure, several buildings on the island were demolished using heavy machinery that included a crane and wrecking ball. In order to move the oversize machinery through the Guardhouse Sally Port, a portion of its northern archway was cut away to provide additional clearance.

In 1982, the National Park Service undertook a preliminary clean up and restoration of the Guardhouse Complex, with primary emphasis given to the 1857 structure. Using the recommendations of Erwin Thompson’s historic resource study as a guide and operating under the supervision of the park’s historian and historic architect, significant work was completed during the period July to September 1982. Accomplishments included the following:

- Removing non-functioning pipes running through ditch (moat) and Guardhouse
- Cutting away road surface in front of surviving howitzer embrasure to expose moat
- Cleaning out moat
- Demolishing shower in moat
- Removing wood partitions in “L” room off Inner Gunroom
- Opening bricked-up rifle slits from Inner Gunroom to Sally Port and removing old riveted iron bars found in them
- Repairing damaged Sally Port archway to structural integrity
- Repairing damaged doorway from Outer Gunroom to Sally Port
- “Touch up” brick repair
- Scraping and painting iron door pintles and shutters on the howitzer embrasure
- Whitewashing Sally Port and both Gunrooms, using historic paint formula
- Acid washing of floors in both Gunrooms to remove accumulated paint and grease and to expose granite traverse blocks

Looking back on the project, the former park historian expressed regret over some of these actions since he now believes the crew may have unintentionally removed traces of the Lower Prison uses of the structure.\textsuperscript{28}

In 1997 the park continued its efforts to preserve and interpret the structure by emplacing a 24-pound flank defense howitzer on replica carriage in the Inner Gunroom. As part of this project, a traverse rail of proper dimension and arc was fabricated to fit on the granite blocks in the Gunroom floor, and affixed to the blocks using the original spike holes. Also, a Plexiglas panel was inserted in the original doorway leading from the Inner Gunroom to the outside of the Guardhouse, and plans prepared for constructing a similar insert for the non-historic doorway between the Sally Port and Inner Gunroom (At the time of this writing, the latter insert has not been installed).\textsuperscript{29}

During the period 1998-2001, in an effort to weatherproof the structure, park maintenance workers reinstalled windows in the Inner and Outer Gunrooms using existing frames and sash as a guide.\textsuperscript{30}
Library Addition

Lower Prison era

The brick Library addition to the Guardhouse is the only surviving element of “Lower Prison,” the first purely penal complex erected on Alcatraz Island. It was constructed in the years following the Civil War to serve as a combination library/chapel for the prisoners confined on the island, although it would serve a variety of additional purposes during the Lower Prison era such as temporary Hospital, Hearing Room and Theater.

The Library is a rectangular, two-story brick building with Attic measuring 73’-4” x 26’-0” that spans the roadway in front of the 1857 Guardhouse. On the east side it rests on a series of brick arches and on the west and north upon preexisting Civil War era structures: the Guardhouse on the north and the defensive wall leading to the dock on its west. The First Floor, an open area enclosing the roadway, connects to the Guardhouse Sally Port and allows the roadway to pass under the Library First Floor and through the Guardhouse.

In its original configuration, the Library consisted of an open First Floor, a single large room on its Second Floor and an Attic, or garret, which served initially as a storage space. Access to the Second Floor room was through a single doorway at its northwest corner, which penetrated the old defensive wall and led to the island’s roadway on the west side of the building. The Attic was accessed via an external staircase attached to the south, or front, façade of the building.

The exact construction date for the Library has not been determined, but it probably dates from the era of prison construction that began in 1867. The earliest document containing a date for the building is an Army Quartermaster report prepared around 1914 for the Immigration Service, which lists the building’s construction date as 1865 and its original cost as $1,000. [Many of the dates and costs in the Quartermaster report seem to be ‘guesstimates’ and this researcher believes the date to be ca. 1869].

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The first recorded mention of the building is believed to appear in an 1870 document titled “A Report on Barracks and Hospitals with Descriptions of Military Posts” for the years 1868-1869, which contains a lengthy description of Alcatraz’ barracks and prison buildings and includes the following notation: “A bowling alley, gymnasium and theater are at the disposal of the men for recreation and amusement.” These were all separate buildings, and the “theater” likely referred to the library/chapel room. [The Library definitely housed theatrical performances in later years].

An 1874 surgeon’s report on the prison stated: “adjoining these buildings are...a chapel serving also as the reading-room and library for the prisoners. In the loft of the chapel building are located a temporary hospital and a tailor shop.” The same report also documents the first recorded alteration to the structure when, following a fire that destroyed the hospital, “a ward for sick prisoners and two store rooms were established over the chapel of the prison buildings.”

In 1879, the “Outline Description of Military Posts in the Division of the Pacific” recorded that the building contained both a Tailor Shop and a Library, indicating that the hospital ward in the attic was short-lived and had been replaced by a tailor. By 1881, the Post Quartermaster reported that the attic had been adapted for additional uses and was “in part used as a room for Courts Martial, in part for the prison tailor shop and book binder’s shop.” Based upon his extensive research, historian Erwin Thompson observed, “It is probable that the Prison Dramatic Association held its performances in this structure, since there was no other suitable building on the island.”

Another post surgeon described the building in greater detail in 1893. He wrote that the main room measured 72 x 25 1/3 by 13-1/3 feet, with an area 19 feet long partitioned off at one end to store stage
settings (probably for the aforementioned Prison Dramatic Association). The main room had six long narrow windows, six panes high and two broad, on the bay side. The massive brick walls were not furred and were sometimes damp. In the ceiling there was a 2-foot square shaft that ran up through the attic to a small ventilator in the roof. A stove heated the room, the air of which was vile when crowded. The garret floor was divided into a tailor shop, a printing shop, and a room for “detained witnesses” (i.e. sailors from the Merchant Marine who were being held at San Francisco pending appearances at trials). He also observed that the seven small single-sash windows on this floor were inadequate for good ventilation.

Photographs taken in the 1900s reveal that the First Floor of the building (or “tunnel” beneath the Library) had been subdivided by an interior wall parallel to the brick defensive wall, extending the length of the building (physical evidence visible on the ceiling of the passageway indicate this was a wood frame wall). This wall, visible through the arches lining the waterside of the building, had several doors and windows opening onto the roadway and likely served as offices or storerooms for the prison.

The Post Quartermaster prepared a lengthy report on conditions of Upper and Lower Prisons in 1902, which included several photographs of the Library addition. At this time, the Second Floor served as the Prison Chapel while the attic housed the Overseer’s [sic] Squad Room and a cramped clothing room where hundreds of suits of prisoners’ uniforms were stored. Another photograph shows the roadway, drawbridge and portal to the Guardhouse and Sally Port, and includes structural details of the underside of the Chapel floor. The caption contains the disturbing notation, “all of the joists are rotted and in a very bad condition, as can be seen, even in the photo.” A century later, the same rotted joists are still in place.

When the Lower Prison began to be phased out starting in 1904, the Library building was given the designation “Building 22” by the Post Quartermaster. A 1910 map of the island shows the building converted once again, this time with the large open room serving as a Gymnasium and the Attic as an ordnance storehouse.

**Disciplinary Barracks era**

Building 22 retained its original exterior configuration until the 1920s, when a two-story wood addition was constructed on its waterside sometime between 1922 and 1925. This addition eventually became known as the Boathouse because the island’s boat crews used it for storage. This addition severely altered the waterside appearance of the Library addition by blocking off three of the five ground-level arches and two of the six windows on the Second Floor. One of these windows was enlarged into a doorway.

The 1929 building plans prepared by the island quartermaster show the First Floor as an open area designated as “Auto Passage” and “Storage Space”, with no indication of the interior wall that had been visible in photos taken as late as 1925. The Second Floor (i.e., the old Library) had been divided in half by a temporary wall to form two
25’x 36’-6” rooms. The southern half served as a “QM Warehouse” while the northern half and adjacent Boathouse rooms were labeled “Temporary NCO QTS.” Access to this floor was still via the narrow door in the old defensive wall. The Attic, designated “22-C”, was an open room labeled “Warehouse” accessed by three doors: one leading to the exterior staircase on the south façade, one opening through a gable-type doorway on the west side of the room, and one at the north end of the room that led to the First Floor of the Schoolhouse.39

The last documented military use of the Library appears in the 1934 list arranged by the Post Quartermaster in preparation for transferring the island to the Bureau of Prisons. In that document the Library is once again designated “Gymnasium.”40

**Bureau of Prisons era**

When the Army transferred Alcatraz to the Bureau of Prisons in 1934, their inventory of buildings on the island showed Building 22 being used for warehouse space on its upper two floors and as a storeroom and office on the ground level.41 Photographs taken at this time also reveal that the exterior staircase leading to the Attic had been removed from the south façade.

Under the Bureau of Prisons, Bldg. 22 remained unchanged until 1940 when the warden decided to convert it into an indoor target range for the correctional officers. Up to this time the penitentiary guards had been using an outdoor range on the west side of the island but had lost its use when the site was designated for a new industrial building. Initial plans for construction of another outdoor range eventually fell through and the decision was made to move the range into the old Library. By late 1940 the Second Floor of the building had been remodeled with the addition of heavy timber backstops at the north end and the construction of firing positions for four shooters at the south end. These latter positions were lightweight booths constructed of 2x4 lumber and Cellotex panels that visually isolated each officer from the adjacent man. A system of pulleys and ropes allowed the shooters to reel targets back and forth along the length of the room.42 Parts of these partitions and reels remain in the space today.
Photo Credit: NARA, RG 129, Alcatraz Administration Files

The construction of the range created safety hazards, especially from ricochet rounds, and several openings in the building were closed off. These included the original entry door and two windows on the west side of the room, and a single window on the east side. In place of the blocked-off entry door, a new entry was constructed at the east end of the room where a large window had originally been located. This window was converted into a doorway and a new catwalk/footbridge constructed leading from the doorway to the old defensive wall.

Although correctional officers on Alcatraz routinely carried .30 rifles and .45 pistols while on duty, these weapons were rarely fired in the new range. Former officers have described the noise from these guns as “ear splitting,” and to prevent hearing loss most rifle and pistol practice was carried out with .22 caliber weapons.43 [“Qualification shooting” with regular caliber arms was held periodically at the U.S. Army’s outdoor range at Fort Barry.]

Some target practice with .30 caliber rifles apparently did take place inside the building, especially during World War II when the Army’s range was unavailable. In 1949 Warden Edwin Swope ordered this practice stopped due to rounds penetrating the backstop heavy timbers.44 Sometime between 1949 and 1953, a heavy steel plate extending the width of the room was installed behind the wood backstops, angled forward so any rounds penetrating the wood timbers would be deflected downwards into a sand box several inches deep.

On 19 June 1953 an accidental shooting occurred when an officer, holding his weapon incorrectly, discharged his pistol sideways. The .22 round penetrated the Cellotex wallboard and hit the guard in the adjacent cubicle, striking him “in the fleshy part of the hip.”45 The injury wasn’t serious, and a follow-up inquiry in September recommended that the partitions be removed to promote visibility and safety on the range. The partitions were apparently removed shortly afterwards, and for the rest of the range’s use the firing points consisted of simple upright posts marking each shooter’s position.46

The last interior alteration to the structure appears to have occurred in November 1956 when volunteer staff cleaned out the shot-up wood bulkheads and installed “bullet traps” on the steel backstop plate. These traps, manufactured by the Detroit Bullet Trap Company, were hopper-like metal boxes designed to do a more effective job of
trapping and deflecting metal slugs away from the backstops and into the sandbox.\footnote{47}

In 1959, the island’s Chief of Mechanical Services complained that the roof of Bldg 22 was leaking so badly that when it rained, staff had to cover and move materials around inside the buildings to keep them dry. He mentioned that the present roof covered a layer of wood shingles, which would have to be removed. He went onto specify the use of 30 lb. roofing felt covered by asbestos shingles using heavy butts, of russet-red color. Total estimated cost: $3,275.\footnote{48} [It is believed the work was probably completed since adjacent Bldg. 77 was re-roofed about this time. However, corrugated asbestos Transite panels were used in place of the recommended shingles].

**Post-prison era**

Following the closing of the prison, no work was carried out on the Library addition until 2000. In that year, the National Park Service rebuilt the footbridge leading to the ‘new’ door to the rifle range, replacing its wood treads with new lumber and restoring all metal work. In June 2001, the NPS installed heavy timber bracing under the first floor joists directly beneath the heavy steel backstop plate. The metal straps that held the plate in place had started to fail, and one end of the backstop was bearing directly on the old rotted wood floor. Rather than remove the plate, the park decided to support it in place with temporary bracing until its historic significance could be determined.

**Schoolhouse Addition**

**Disciplinary Barracks era**

Sometime between 1915 and 1922 the Army erected a two-story concrete schoolhouse atop the old Guardhouse. Sitting directly on the terreplein and in the same location as Lower Prison Building “C,” the Schoolhouse served the dual roles of classroom for soldier convicts and housing for enlisted men. The post quartermaster designated it “Building 77.”

The new Schoolhouse apparently held a variety of uses in addition to classroom space. For example, a photograph in the 1930 sports program *Alcatraz Fights* shows convicts working in a cobbler shop on the First Floor of the Schoolhouse.\footnote{49} In another example, a long-time island resident recalled during an interview that a hat shop was once located in the building.\footnote{50} A map prepared by the Post Quartermaster in 1929 showed the First Floor of the new building designated “77-A Schoolhouse” and the upper floor “77-B Night Employees Quarters.”\footnote{51}

The first alteration to the Schoolhouse was apparently the construction of a partition wall separating a toilet in the northwest corner of the First Floor classroom. [The partition wall does not appear in the 1930 *Alcatraz Fights* photograph]. This toilet was presumably for prisoners attending classes.
The Schoolhouse appears to have retained these two uses until transfer to the Bureau of Prisons in 1934. In the quartermaster inventory prepared that year, the First Floor is still designated as a Schoolhouse with a capacity of 36 students while the Second Floor is listed as “Night Men’s Quarters” with a capacity of 10 enlisted men.  

**Bureau of Prisons era**

Under the Bureau of Prisons, the Schoolhouse was converted into two five-room apartments, one on each floor, originally designated as quarters for married officers. Each apartment consisted of a Parlor, two Bedrooms, Kitchen and Bathroom. To create these new rooms, the interiors were partitioned with sheetrock walls and the existing toilet enclosures at the north end on each floor were expanded into full-size bathrooms. A kitchen was also constructed on each floor adjacent to the bathrooms.

Although originally designed for two families, the building was considered less than desirable housing. Warden James A. Johnston described the quarters in a 1943 memo concerning island housing:

“[Bldg. 77] is a two-apartment building where, at one time, we had two married couples without children. There is no way in which it could be enlarged or remodeled in order to get extra rooms; but, while it was not much on appearance, we noted that while we had couples without children in it they seemed to be satisfied. In addition to the fact that it is outside of the fenced area, there is another drawback in its being used by families, and that is that the adjoining building [Library] houses our target practice range… I don’t think there would be any danger from the target range itself as the walls are well protected but it would be something of a nuisance to persons living in the building at such times as officers are taking practice.”

Despite the warden’s statement, former island residents remember that the two apartments occasionally housed families with children in the early years of the penitentiary. For most of the Bureau of Prisons era, though, the two apartments were used as a dormitory for bachelor guards. During this period, the two apartments seem to have each housed four bachelors, two in each bedroom, who shared a common sitting room, kitchen and bath. This housing was typically reserved for the newest arrivals on the guard staff.
The plainspoken Captain of the Guard painted a dreary picture of the bachelors’ quarters in 1955:

The newcomers – both bachelor and benedict – must of necessity usually occupy the less desirable quarters in Bldg. #77 and #64. Units in these buildings range in quality all the way down from ‘unfit for human habitation’ to ‘medium slum standard.’ Uncarpeted floors, uncurtained windows, sub-standard cooking & refrigeration equipment… it is no wonder that the people we want to attract to our service are repelled by what we have to offer.56

That same year Warden Paul Madigan wrote the director to request permission to convert the Schoolhouse to two dormitory-type bachelor quarters. He agreed with the Captain of the Guard: “At present this building consists of two floors of exceedingly unsatisfactory individual rooms…We do not plan to use Bldg. #77 for permanent housing of bachelors, but must have some space available for a temporary influx of new officers.” He proposed tearing out the interior partitions, upgrading the plumbing, and repainting. Rent would be $6 per month per officer.57

It doesn’t appear that any of this work was carried out, however. Instead, the building remained in its subdivided condition until the end of the penitentiary era. An idea of the number of officers assigned to the structure can be gained from the 1960 telephone directory, which identified five extensions to the upper story and four to the lower.58

The only alterations mentioned in the prison administrative records in the remaining years were both exterior ones, repainting and re-roofing. In 1959, a contractor repainted the Schoolhouse and the nearby apartment house Bldg. #64, applying three coats of paint. [It is not known if the Library was simultaneously painted].59

That same year the Chief of Mechanical services prepared an estimate for re-roofing the Schoolhouse, specifying that the existing tiles be removed and replaced with asbestos type shingles of russet red color. His estimate for the project was $990.60 The work was accomplished within the next year or so, since a 1961 inspection report stated the building had recently received a new Transite roof, gutters and downspouts.61
Post-prison era
The only alterations known to have occurred since the closing of the Penitentiary have been actions carried out by the National Park Service to “weather proof” the building. These modifications include re-glazing windows and re-hanging exterior doors on both floors to prevent vandalism and to maintain a bare minimum of weather and climate control over the structure.

Boathouse Addition
Disciplinary Barracks era
The Boathouse first appears in photographs of the island taken between 1922 and 1925, and was constructed as an addition to the original Guardhouse and Library. Nicknamed “Boathouse” because of its subsequent use by the island’s boat crews, it’s original use is unclear but appears to have been office space on the ground level and storage on the upper level.

This wood shed structure was constructed at the intersection of the brick Library ell and the original Guardhouse south wall. Its eastern, or bay, side is flush with the eastern edge of the Guardhouse and is partly supported by reinforced a concrete frame. On its west side, the Boathouse actually extends beneath the First Floor of the Library to encroach on part of the roadway space leading to the Sally Port.

To provide communication between the Boathouse and the existing buildings, doorways were cut between the new addition and the older structures. On the First Floor, an oversize doorway was cut through the south wall of the Guardhouse where one of the howitzer embrasures had been located. On the Second Floor, one of the original Library windows overlooking the Bay was converted into a doorway connecting the Library with the wood addition.

Quartermaster plans for the building show that the Army considered it be part of the Library addition, and gave it the same designation of “Building 22.” The 1929 building plans show that its First Floor (designated “22-B”) was divided into two offices: a small area at the south end for the Signal Corp and a large office at the north end for the “Dept. Voc. Training Farm.” A small toilet enclosure was located at the northeast corner of the latter room.

The Second Floor, designated 22-A, was a single large room used for Temporary NCO Quarters, a function also shared at the time by the north half of the adjacent Library. A large shower and a toilet enclosure were located at the east end of the room.  

Bureau of Prisons era
At the time the Army transferred the island to the Bureau of Prisons, the Boathouse addition was shown on plans as being used as a storeroom and office on the ground floor, and as a storeroom on the second floor.
During the Bureau of Prisons era, the ground floor rooms served primarily as storage space for the island’s launch crew. A 1959 memo prepared by the island’s Chief of Mechanical Services states that the lower part of the building contained a workshop for the boat operators, storage space for mooring lines for the water barge and launches, and storage for cement and fire hoses (unfortunately, the memo doesn’t mention which rooms were used for which purpose). The memo also noted that the covered roadway area outside the Boathouse provided shelter for the island’s fire truck.\(^6\)

**Post-prison era**

The only alterations known to have occurred since the closing of the Penitentiary have been actions carried out by the National Park Service to “weatherproof” the building. These modifications include glazing windows and fabricating replica exterior doors to prevent vandalism and to maintain a bare minimum of weather and climate control over the structure.
ALCATRAZ GUARDHOUSE COMPLEX – PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

This draft of the Report presents 3 alternatives including our recommended alternative “Preferred Alternative A” which includes some controversial recommendations for demolition, a second less favored and less controversial “Alternative B” and a “No Action Alternative.” One of the alternatives must be selected by the NPS before Part II of the Historic Structures Report can be completed.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE A

The Alcatraz Guardhouse Complex has seen many uses: defensive structure, dungeon and prison library, gymnasium, temporary hospital, workshop, rifle range, schoolhouse, warehouse, bathhouse, boathouse, and living quarters for correctional officers. These varied uses often overlapped each other or occurred simultaneously, giving the Complex a remarkably jumbled history.

While all of these uses are significant to the intertwined defensive and penal histories of Alcatraz Island, the period when the Complex took on its greatest significance is when it housed the assemblage of wood frame and brick buildings that would eventually be called “Lower Prison.” This era has been identified as the period from 1870 to 1915 when the defensive role of Alcatraz Island had begun to wane and the Army Post was taking on an ever-increasing importance as a penal island. During these years the grim cellblocks of Lower Prison began to give the island its reputation as a dreaded fortress-prison, and earned the island the sobriquet of “The Rock,” a name first known to the military and then to rest of the world.

The Government first designated Alcatraz as a military prison on August 27, 1861 when the Adjutant General for the Department of the Pacific ordered that the island serve as a central place of confinement for military prisoners from the Pacific Coast. This proclamation predates the similar designation of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, as an Army Prison by 13 years, and gives Alcatraz tremendous significance as the nation’s first designated military prison.

The new “Departmental Prison” had little impact on the island’s operation for the first few months, since any additional convicts were simply mixed in with the garrison prisoners already locked in the Guardhouse basement. Within a year though, overcrowding in the Guardhouse would lead to the construction of a specially designed wood cellhouse just north of the Sally Port, the first of more than a dozen loosely organized prison buildings that would eventually envelop the original Guardhouse.

Army prisoners on the island during this era suffered the extremes of military punishment: confinement in sweat boxes, being shackled to a ball and chain, branding or tattooing to identify repeat offenders, bucking and gagging, hanging by the thumbs, and confinement in coffin-sized solitary confinement cells appropriately (and officially) called dungeons. These latter cells were located in the original Guardhouse, and were so horrific that even by nineteenth century
standards that they were considered substandard and used only infrequently.

This was also the era when Native Americans captured by the Army were frequently sent to the island for punishment. Some of the better known Indian prisoners confined in Lower Prison included the two Modoc warriors Barncho and Slolux, the Apache chief Kae-e-a-te-na, and nineteen Hopi tribesmen sent to the island for refusing to submit to the government’s tribal reservation system. Some of these men endured Alcatraz and were eventually allowed to return to their tribes. Others died on the island and were buried in the cemetery on nearby Angel Island.

By 1900, the prison complex was filled to capacity by soldier-prisoners aptly described by historian Erwin Thompson as “a motley group of human beings, including both ordinary souls and bizarre characters.” The Spanish-American War and ensuing Philippine-American War led to a massive increase in the number of prisoners arriving on the island and forced the Army to erect a second prison compound. This new prison was located on the expansive parade ground at the southern tip of the island, and before long it became known as the “Upper Prison” to distinguish it from the older “Lower Prison” near the dock. In 1904 the Army greatly expanded Upper Prison and moved all the island prisoners into its walled compound, leaving Lower Prison’s cellblocks empty and available for other uses.

By the mid-1910s, all the buildings of Lower Prison had been demolished with the exception of the original Guardhouse and the Library wing. Their stout construction made them the perfect sites for further construction. Sometime between 1915 and 1920 a reinforced concrete schoolhouse was constructed atop the old Guardhouse in the location of one of the 1870s cellblocks, and almost simultaneously a wood addition, known as the Boathouse, was attached to the east side of the Library wing. These two additions not only detracted visually from what remained of Lower Prison but their construction also necessitated the demolition of features that had defined the original Complex: the dungeons were removed from inside the Guardhouse and the rooms converted into warehouse space, cannon embrasures and rifle slits were demolished and replaced with doorways and windows, and the original Guardhouse doors and drawbridge were removed and the moat covered over with a concrete roadway.

These additions to the Guardhouse and Library allowed the buildings to be adapted to new roles during the Disciplinary Barracks and Penitentiary eras, but these uses were generally of a ‘support’ nature and were not crucial to the roles of either defense or confinement. While these post-1915 uses are considered important stories, they pale in significance when compared to the military prison that existed in the same buildings during the Lower Prison era.

**Recommendations:**

Based on the preceding, the period of significance for the Guardhouse Complex is determined to be the Lower Prison era. The prison went through various stages of development, and the one that can be best represented is the configuration ca. 1890 when the prison consisted of
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Alcatraz Guardhouse Complex Historic Structures Report

January 25, 2002

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the original Guardhouse, the Library addition, Prison Building “B” on the site of the present Electric Shop, and Prison Building “C” atop the Guardhouse.

This era can be interpreted most effectively by removing post 1915 additions and by restoring missing or destroyed architectural features that will return the Complex to its early 1890s appearance. These actions include but are not limited to:

a. The Schoolhouse and Boathouse additions should both be removed and the exterior walls of the earlier prison buildings repaired.

b. All rifle slits and cannon embrasures should be returned to their original configurations, and various non-historic windows, utility and door openings be repaired.

c. The moat should be reopened to view and the Sally Port doors and drawbridge restored. The floor of the Library wing directly above the Sally Port should be partially removed to expose and allow visitors to view the entablature reading “ALCATRACES ISLAND 1857."

d. The brick chimney on the exterior of the guardhouse should be retained and restored to its original height.

e. The outline of Prison Building “C” should be recreated by erecting permanent story poles recreating its exterior envelope.

f. Several example cells should be reconstructed in the Inner Gunroom of the Guardhouse, using historic descriptions from the Surgeon’s Reports as a guideline.

g. The storerooms / offices that lined the west side of the roadway beneath the Library should be reconstructed.

h. The pipe running just below the road surface of the Guardhouse and Library ground floor appears to be a sewer pipe and it should be tested to see if it is in use and, if non-functional, it should be removed.

i. Limited destructive testing should be carried out to determine the original materials used in the roadway surface and the flooring of the terreplein and gunrooms.

j. Limited destructive testing should also be carried out to determine if the concrete in the Schoolhouse and Boathouse are of the same type and consistency. This testing may resolve questions about the construction dates of the two structures.

Additional Comments – Period of Significance

The Consultant Team understands the proposal to remove buildings and restore the Guardhouse Complex to an 1890s configuration is a controversial one. We would like to offer the following arguments to further explain our recommendation:

1. The preferred Period of Significance can be best interpreted by removing the Schoolhouse and Boathouse. The Guardhouse Complex had a number of different physical
appearances during its various eras, with additions repeatedly being added and removed. At one time up to nine additions surrounded the original Guardhouse. This proposal will provide a “historic snapshot” of the Complex during the early years of the Lower Prison era.

2. **This preferred alternative would return the Complex to an extremely close approximation of its appearance during the early years of Lower Prison.** During this period the Library was in place, the Guardhouse had not yet been greatly altered, and Prison Building “C” was in place atop the Guardhouse. (The recommended story poles outlining the dimensions of Prison Building “C” would complement this historic scene.) Prison Building “B” was also in place during this period, and although it is gone its foundations are incorporated into the present Electric Shop building, which replicates the cellblock’s dimensions and massing nearly exactly.

3. **Under the preferred alternative the roadway would be repaired and the storerooms beneath the Library reconstructed, providing additional staff space.** There is sufficient photographic and physical evidence to restore these rooms, thus completing the historic scene of the infamously gloomy tunnel leading to “Lower Prison.”

4. **There is a historic precedent for the Guardhouse Complex’ appearance without the two additions.** During the years following demolition of the last Lower Prison buildings ca. 1913 and the construction of the Schoolhouse and Boathouse ca. 1920, the Complex consisted merely of the original Guardhouse and the Library wing. Extensive photo documentation of this period has been located.

5. **Restoring the early Lower Prison configuration would still present an accurate interpretation of the island’s current historic landscape.** Between 1913-1920 the Guardhouse Complex looked very much as it did during the early years of Lower Prison, missing only Prison Building “B” atop the Guardhouse. During this same 1913-1920 period, though, many of the other character-defining structures that give Alcatraz its unique appearance were also in existence: the lighthouse and ‘new’ prison atop the island, the Post Exchange, the Commandant’s House, Building 64, and the powerhouse complex and smokestack. Thus, the visual appearance of Guardhouse Complex without the additions would not be out of keeping with Alcatraz’ familiar—and historic—arrangement and massing of structures.

6. **The Schoolhouse may never have existed without the Boathouse also being present.** Exhaustive research has been unable to locate any photos showing the Complex with only the Schoolhouse present, leading consultant team to believe the two buildings may have been constructed contemporaneously. The alternative also being considered of removing only the Boathouse addition and leaving the Schoolhouse would give a false ‘historic snapshot’ of the Complex.

7. **The Schoolhouse will need extensive renovations if it is to be preserved and used for modern activities.** The roof will need to be replaced, electrical and lighting systems refurbished, spalling concrete repaired, toxic materials abated, and all windows and doors replaced.

8. **Under the preferred alternative, the original configurations of both the Guardhouse and Prison Building “C” can be understood.** This proposal will include the restoration of the open terreplein atop the Guardhouse, allowing visitors to walk around its perimeter to gain a better understanding of the building’s original defensive role. The installation of the story poles on the terreplein outlining Prison Building “C” will illustrate the massing and location of the early cellblocks atop and adjacent to the Guardhouse.

**ALTERNATIVE B**

The Alcatraz Guardhouse Complex has seen many uses: defensive structure, dungeon and prison library, gymnasium, temporary
hospital, workshop, rifle range, schoolhouse, warehouse, bathhouse, boathouse, and living quarters for correctional officers. These varied uses often overlapped each other or occurred simultaneously, giving the Complex a remarkably jumbled history. Given this varied history, its configuration of a “core” 1857 Guardhouse with additions spanning fifty years of penal construction perfectly illustrates the varied uses of the island and its period of significance is determined to be the early days of the Disciplinary Barracks ca. 1920.

The Government first designated Alcatraz as a military prison on August 27th, 1861 when the Adjutant General for the Department of the Pacific ordered that the island serve as a central place of confinement for military prisoners from the Pacific Coast. Over the years, an assemblage of ramshackle cellblock buildings was erected around the original Guardhouse to house an ever-growing population of soldier miscreants from around the West.

By 1900 the prison complex was filled to capacity by soldier-prisoners aptly described by historian Erwin Thompson as “a motley group of human beings, including both ordinary souls and bizarre characters.” The Spanish-American War and ensuing Philippine-American War led to a massive increase in the number of prisoners arriving on the island and forced the Army to erect a second prison compound. This new prison was located on the expansive parade ground at the southern tip of the island, and before long it became known as the “Upper Prison” to distinguish it from the older “Lower Prison” near the dock. In 1904 the Army greatly expanded Upper Prison and moved all the island prisoners into its walled compound, leaving Lower Prison’s cellblocks empty and available for other uses.

By the mid-1910s, all the buildings of Lower Prison had been demolished with the exception of the original Guardhouse and the Library wing. Their stout construction made them the perfect sites for further construction. Sometime between 1915 and 1920 a reinforced concrete schoolhouse was constructed atop the old Guardhouse in the location of one of the 1870s cellblocks. This structure reflected changing times on Alcatraz, for it was designed as a classroom space where illiterate convicts were sent for remedial education. In the days when the island was merely a “Military Prison,” this type of education would have been unheard of. However, in 1915 Alcatraz had been re-designated as a Disciplinary Barracks and part of the prisoners’ incarceration now included training and schooling.

The Schoolhouse’s design was also important because beginning in 1910 the Army had been involved in a program of replacing aging nineteenth century frame buildings on posts around San Francisco Bay with permanent structures designed in harmonious styles. One of the most popular styles employed by the Army in California was the “Mission Revival” style, and they utilized it extensively in new buildings erected at Fort Mason, Fort Winfield Scott in the Presidio of San Francisco, and at Fort McDowell on Angel Island. On Alcatraz, the Army designed four structures in Mission Revival style: the Schoolhouse, the Commandant’s House, the Post Exchange, and the tiny Morgue.
Nearly at the same time that the Schoolhouse was completed a large wood addition was constructed adjacent to it and attached to the Library wing. Although no date for its construction has been found, architectural historians believe the “Boathouse” addition was built after the Schoolhouse was completed (this assumption is based upon architectural design standards and the differing construction techniques employed in the two buildings).

When the Bureau of Prisons assumed control of Alcatraz in 1933 they remodeled the interior of the Schoolhouse by subdividing both floors into apartments for guard staff living on the island. During this process new interior walls were added, kitchens constructed, and existing water closets enlarged into full baths. The building became known to island residents as the “BOQ” because it most frequently served as housing for bachelor correctional officers. During the Penitentiary era, the apartments in the old Schoolhouse became notable for being among the most miserable accommodations on the island, and were reserved for its newest staff arrivals. It served in this prosaic role until the closing of the federal penitentiary in 1963.

**Recommendations:**

Based on the preceding, the period of significance for the Guardhouse Complex is determined to be the Disciplinary Barracks era, specifically the period immediately following the completion of the Schoolhouse and before the construction of the Boathouse. This era is important because the during this period the Complex illustrated all the periods of the island’s history best: the original 1857 Guardhouse and its defensive role, the Library wing and the story of the evolution (and decline) of Lower Prison, the architecturally and sociologically significant stories represented by the Schoolhouse, and the general spacing and arrangement of the island that continued through the end of the Bureau of Prisons era.

The Disciplinary Barracks era can be interpreted most effectively by removing the Boathouse addition and returning the Schoolhouse’s interior spaces to their original configuration. To assist visitors in understanding the original defensive purpose of the Guardhouse, several Disciplinary Barracks era alterations to the 1857 structure should be repaired. These actions include but are not limited to:

a. The Boathouse addition should be demolished and its concrete foundations removed.

b. The brick and stucco chimney on the east side of the Guardhouse should be retained and restored to its original height.

c. Interior partitions erected by the Bureau of Prisons when converting the building into apartments should be removed.

d. The interiors of both floors should be returned to the configuration shown in the 1929 plans prepared by the Post Quartermaster.

e. The pipe running just below the road surface of the Guardhouse and Library ground floor appears to be a sewer pipe and it should be tested to see if it is in use and, if non-functional, it should be removed.

f. Limited destructive testing should be undertaken to determine if the concrete in the Schoolhouse and Boathouse are of the same type and consistency. This
testing may resolve questions about the construction dates of the two structures.

g. Alterations made to the Guardhouse during the Disciplinary Barracks era should be repaired and the Guardhouse returned to its original physical configuration. These alterations include rifle slits widened into windows, new doorways and windows cut through the original masonry walls, and the installation of plumbing fixtures in the offshore Gunroom.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

A No Action Alternative for the Alcatraz Guardhouse Complex is mentioned in the October, 2001 Alcatraz Island Historic Preservation and Safety Construction Program, Final Environmental Impact Statement in Section 2.1.4 under the name “Sallyport.” The description of the No Action Alternative that follows attempts to update the EIS in light of the information already presented in this report.

The Guardhouse Complex is made up of the Guardhouse Building, a brick civil war era blockhouse with Sally Port, the Library addition, a two story brick addition with Attic south of the Guardhouse, the Schoolhouse addition, a Mission Revival style steel reinforced concrete building on the roof of the brick Guardhouse, and the Boathouse addition, a waterside wood framed addition on the east side of the of the Library that abuts the Guardhouse and encroaches on the Library First Floor roadway space. The primary pedestrian route from the wharf to the other areas of the island passes through the Library First Floor roadway space and through the Guardhouse Sally Port. Though a bypass pedestrian route is possible through Building 64 and China Alley, the electric tram that provides disabled access (taking passengers from the wharf up the hill to the Cellhouse) has no alternate route.

The four structures, constructed at different times and of different materials, are tied together and are dependent on each other for structural support and stability. For example, the Schoolhouse addition is supported by the solid defensive brick walls of the Guardhouse, the wood framed Boathouse addition ties into the masonry walls of the Library addition and the old defensive wall is common to both the Guardhouse and the Library addition.

The Guardhouse has closely spaced heavy brick masonry walls and the First Floor has cast iron framed ceilings with brick infill. The masonry is not reinforced, but the bricks and the mortar appear to be in good condition and the building is built with tight header spacing. The floor system and its connection to the walls also appears to be in good condition. The Library addition has deficiencies in the floor and roof framing. The structure has brick masonry walls. The lower levels of the north and the west walls are heavy masonry construction while the east and south walls are 3-wythe brick construction. The structural capacity of these walls is reduced by the large arched openings in them. The roof and the floor provides no diaphragm action, and the wood framing is not properly anchored to the masonry walls and is rotted in some areas. The Schoolhouse addition has deficiencies in the roof framing. The structure has steel reinforced concrete walls with
concrete pilasters, a concrete framed first floor and a wood framed roof. The masonry of the Guardhouse parapet (on which the Schoolhouse is built) is not reinforced, but the brick and the mortar appears to be in good condition. The weakest element is the roof construction. The Boathouse addition is in poor structural condition. The structure includes a foundation that is a system of reinforced concrete columns and beams, while the floors, roof and walls are wood construction. The weakest portions of the building are the floor and roof construction.

No major structural repairs to the buildings that make up the Guardhouse Complex would occur under the No Action Alternative. Public access through the Library and through the Guardhouse Sally Port would eventually cease, due to the deterioration of the Library and Schoolhouse additions, making the route unsafe for pedestrian and motorized travel. The No action Alternative would clearly result in the permanent loss of the buildings dependant on the Guardhouse for structural support, and the inevitable loss of the entire Guardhouse Complex would represent a loss of a structure highly contributing to the National Historic Landmark status of the island.
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

System of Evaluation

The condition assessment of interior and exterior materials, fixtures, features and assemblies consists of a three-part valuation system from good to poor condition. This system allows for a general assessment of the conditions of materials. No destructive testing or laboratory analysis of the materials was performed and no rigorous analysis of the structural systems was undertaken. The objective is to assess the existing condition of materials and finishes that make up the Guardhouse Complex in regard to its present and its future usage and to indicate the amount of effort required for material stabilization, replacement and/or restoration. The following evaluation system was employed:

Good Condition: Item requires minor, if any, repair such as minor repointing of brickwork, scraping paint, patching small holes, etc., but is essentially intact.

Fair Condition: Item requires considerable amount of repair and/or minor replacement such as repointing of large areas of brickwork, repairs including some replacement, rebuilding walls, replacing fixtures and features, etc.

Poor Condition: Item has lost most of its physical integrity and requires major repair and/or replacement.

Guardhouse Complex Physical Description

The group of buildings referred to as the Guardhouse Complex is made up of the Guardhouse Building (brick civil war era blockhouse with Sally Port), the Library addition (brick and wood frame addition south of the Guardhouse), the Schoolhouse addition (concrete Mission Revival style steel reinforced concrete building on the roof of the Guardhouse), and the Boathouse addition (waterside wood frame addition east of the Library, abutting the Guardhouse and encroaching on the Library First Floor roadway space).

1. Guardhouse Building Physical Description

The two-story civil war era brick Guardhouse has a 54x29 feet footprint. The building straddles the roadway from the wharf to the upper parts of the island. A dry moat, originally crossed by a drawbridge but now covered with a concrete slab, is located on the south side. The Guardhouse is a rectangular projection of the scarp wall that runs north to south along the eastern edge of the island. The outer brick walls of the Guardhouse are 4 feet thick and taper to 3 feet 6 inches thick at the parapet above the roof slab. The brick is a running bond with 6th course header rows. The Inner brick walls that enclose the Sally Port are 2 feet thick. Blue sandstone from Angel Island was used to build the walls of the dry moat and the foundations for the brick walls. Granite was used sparingly throughout the building where a harder building material was desired. The First Floor has three main rooms: Inner Gunroom and Guardroom on the west side, Outer Gunroom and Guardroom on the east side and Sally Port...
in the center. The Inner Gunroom is approximately 21x16x15 feet high with a 16x5 feet extension in the southwest corner. A 24-pound Howitzer installed in 1997 is displayed in front of the gun embrasure in the inner room. It has a double wheel carriage that rides on a steel rail on top of an embedded semicircular segment of granite. The Outer Gunroom is approximately 21x13x15 feet high. The Sally Port is approximately 29x12x13 feet high.

1A. Guardhouse Building Exterior Features

1.0 Roof: The concrete roof slab, visible only through a small hole in the wood floor of the Schoolhouse, is framed by cast iron beams on the interior and is in good condition. The cast iron beams are in-filled with barrel vaulted brick which is in good condition. The roof slab would have been open to the exterior but is now hidden under the wood First Floor of The Schoolhouse. Its condition is assumed to be good.

2.0 North Wall: The majority of the elevation is visible. The 4 foot thick brick wall is painted yellow, dating from the Bureau of Prisons Era. The paint is delaminating due to its age and its exposure to the elements. The entire length of the granite coping at the parapet is visible. In general the brick wall is in good condition.

At the Basement level, a door opening measuring 2’-8” wide x 6’-4” high is visible. To the left of the door is a bricked up rifle slit window that is covered with concrete parging, parts of which are spalling. Above this opening are large steam pipes of the Penitentiary era, which enter the basement space through a large hole in the wall. The basement entry way is in fair condition. The pipes are in poor condition.

At the First Floor, the Sally Port opening is fully visible. At either side of the Sally Port are signs painted red with the word “slow” that are in fair to poor condition. These painted signs appear to have been painted more recently as there is evidence from paint scars that there may have been larger wood signs attached to the wall at those locations. The Sally Port archway has been restored and is in good condition although there are chipped bricks at the sides and top of the arch. To the right of the Sally Port opening is a semicircular arched
doorway to the Inner Gunroom. The arched doorway has been sealed with a 2 x 4 wood frame and Plexiglas infill panel. The arched doorway is in good condition. The doorway has iron pintles (part of the door hinge system) in good condition. To the right of the door opening is a window that measures 4'-3" wide x 7'-6" high. The window is divided into two sections, separated into 24 lights by narrow muntins. The window opening is in good condition. The window appears to be new. To the left of the Sally Port opening, where there once existed a gun embrasure, one new casement window measuring 4'-7" wide x 8'-0" high exists. The upper portion of the window is divided into 8 lights by narrow muntins. The lower hinged portion of the window is divided into 12 lights by narrow muntins. It is in fair condition. The window opening is in fair condition. The sill is cracked and the concrete is chipped and spalling. An exterior stair runs from the first floor level at the north elevation to the road above. The granite stair has a brick wall on the outside with a granite coping. The stairs and the brick wall are in good condition.

3.0 South Wall: The only exposed portion of the building on this elevation is the southeast corner of the building (which tapers from top down a total of 6” off plumb), including a portion of the granite coping at the parapet and the concrete chimney dating from the Bureau of Prisons Era. The 4 foot thick brick wall is painted white, dating from the Bureau of Prisons Era and is in fair condition. Visible through the arched opening of the Library addition at the ground level are one gun embrasure and the majority of the arched Sally Port opening. The granite entablature (which contains the original name of the island “Alcatraces”) above the Sally Port is obscured from view by the floor of the Library. Both of these openings are in good condition. The embrasure has double iron shutters that are in good condition. The Sally Port has iron door hinge pivot hardware (pintles) that is in good condition. The dry moat is located in front of the southern entrance to the Sally Port. The 10’-0” wide x 13’-0” deep moat is formed by a heavy masonry brick wall of the Guardhouse on the north and blue sandstone wall on the south. It has been covered with a concrete slab but an opening has been made along the west wall of the Guardhouse to allow visual access to the moat. Two rectangular openings for pulleys on either side and above the Sally Port are remnants of the lifting devices for the original drawbridge.

4.0 East Wall: The 4’-0” thick brick wall is painted yellow, dating from the Bureau of Prisons Era. The paint is delaminating due to its age and exposure to the elements. The entire length of the granite coping at the parapet is visible, except where it is covered by the chimney. The wall is in good condition. At the basement level there were originally 3 rifle slit windows. The rifle slit window to the left of center on the basement level is covered over by a 3’-4” wide brick chimney from the Lower Prison era (the top extension of this chimney was concrete and has broken off at the granite coping on the parapet. It now sits in the water). The remaining chimney is in good condition. The iron cleanout door is missing and
the chimney flue is clogged with debris. The center rifle slit window at the basement level has been modified to form an opening 4’-5” wide x 6’-10” high. This opening is empty and is in fair condition. The concrete parging is cracked and missing in some places. The right side rifle slit window at basement level has been enlarged vertically to extend down to the floor. There are deteriorating iron bars in the opening that are in poor condition. This rifle slit window opening is in poor condition. To the right of the rifle slit window is a large painting of a fist dating from the Native American Occupation of the Island in good condition.

At the ground level there were originally 3 rifle slit windows arranged symmetrically around the centerline of the façade. The rifle slit window to the left of center on ground level is covered over by a 3’-4” wide brick chimney from the Lower Prison era. The chimney is in good condition. Only one original rifle slit window measuring 1’-0” wide by 8’-0” high remains to the right of center and is in good condition. The center rifle slit window at ground level has been modified to include a 5’-0” wide x 7’-0” high window divided by 1” muntins into 20 lights, although a very small portion (1’-0” x 1’-0”) of the top of the rifle slit window is visible atop the newer window. The window appears to be new and is in good condition. Two 1’-2” wide x 10” high openings are visible below the window on either side. These are vent openings at floor level and appear to be in good condition. To the left of the vent openings adjacent to the chimney is a bent metal bar strap in poor condition and a bolt close to 6’-0” above the strap on the wall in good condition. The use for this hardware is uncertain.

5.0 West Wall: Not visible. This elevation is built into the island base rock. Only small portions of the scarp wall granite coping are visible at the foundation of the Schoolhouse. Originally the inside of the parapet wall would have been visible, but the Schoolhouse now obscures this feature.

6.0 Foundation: Blue sandstone in good condition.

1B. Guardhouse Building Interior Features:

0.0 Basement Level
0.1 Dry Moat:

0.1.1 North Wall: Heavy brick masonry partially painted in good condition. Paint is delaminating and some mortar joints require repointing in some areas. Vegetal growth that resembles moss is visible in one area. Other features include: Drain line for shower pan in poor condition, a wall mounted wood 2 x 4 with nails used for hanging clothing or tools in good condition, miscellaneous valves and plumbing pipes in poor condition.

0.1.2 South Wall: The wall is constructed of blue sandstone in a random pattern, painted white in the Bureau of Prisons Era. The paint is missing in some areas and the wall is in good condition. Other features include: a wood post support for the Boathouse floor in fair condition, a wood cabinet with open shelves in fair condition and a wall mounted wood 2 x 4 with nails used for hanging clothing or tools in good condition.

0.1.3 East Wall: Wood partition wall with exterior asbestos siding, 5 windows and 1 door opening, framed in the bay created by the Dry Moat and the Guardhouse south wall. All in poor condition.

0.1.4 West Wall: Heavy brick masonry wall painted white in good condition. Some mortar joints require repointing. Other features include temporary wood bracing installed to lend support to the floor joists of the Library First Floor.

0.1.5 Ceiling: Steel reinforced concrete slab of roadway above, partially open at the west end. A small portion near this opening is spalling and requires immediate attention. The slab is in good condition.

0.1.6 Floor: The floor is concrete raised off the surface of the original moat floor approximately 6 to 8 inches and is in good condition. A portion of the west end of the Moat that has the concrete shower pad is raised 7 inches off the concrete floor. It is has both square and geometric scored patterns. Other features include: concrete shower pan in poor condition.
0.2 Basement Room:

0.2.1 North Wall: Heavy brick masonry wall partially painted white in fair condition. Paint has been scraped and some mortar joints require repointing in some areas. There is 1½” thick concrete parging above and on the sides of the door opening that is spalling and is in poor condition. Other features include: Large pipes penetrating the wall above the doorway in poor condition, wood ductwork (attached to the concrete sump box) in fair condition and a bricked up rifle slit window with a pipe penetrating the patch.

0.2.2 South Wall: Heavy brick masonry wall partially painted white in good condition. Some mortar joints require repointing in some areas. There is one large opening to the moat with stairs where there were originally 2 rifle slit windows. This opening is in fair condition. The flat arch from the head of the rifle slit window on the right side has a crack that is in need of repair in order to stabilize the arched brick.

0.2.3 East Wall: Heavy brick masonry wall painted white in good condition. Some mortar joints require repointing in some areas. There is a large round opening to the chimney that is in poor condition. There is a painted window opening (window missing) with 2 x 6 jamb. The paint is delaminating and the wood jamb is in poor condition. Other features include: plumbing waste line pipes in poor condition and a steel plate with through bolt in fair condition and iron eye bolts in the wall in the hatch in good condition.

0.2.4 West Wall: Heavy brick masonry wall with concrete parging painted white in fair condition. Some mortar joints require repointing. Vegetal growth that resembles moss is visible in one area. A water source is visible near the floor on the south end of the wall. Ferns are growing adjacent to the water source. Portions of the brick foundation are missing and require replacement. Other features include: wall mounted electrical panel box in poor condition and a concrete sump box in good condition.
0.2.5 Ceiling: Barrel vaulted brick painted white with a hatch opening made of granite to Outer Guardroom above in good condition. Other features include pipes suspended on metal rods in poor condition, a portion of one of these pipes appears to have remnants of an asbestos wrapping, and a large metal eye hook that appears to have been related to the use of the room as the Pump Room.

0.2.6 Floor: Concrete and stone that is rough and uneven with depressions in fair condition. Other features include the outline of a machine bed and a remnants of a raised machinery platform.

1.0 First Floor

1.1 Inner Gunroom and Guardroom:

1.1.1 North Wall: The brick wall is painted white and is in good condition. There is one window that appears to have an older frame with new glazing. There is one arched door opening with hinge pivot hardware (pintles) in good condition that has been in-filled with Plexiglas.

1.1.2 South Wall: The brick wall is painted white and is in good condition with areas of concrete parging and a substantial amount of vegetal growth that resembles moss. There is a cannon embrasure with a ledge that has a granite coping used for the gun mount and is in good condition. There is one flue at the ceiling for ventilation of the cannon smoke that is bricked up.

1.1.3 East Wall: The brick wall is painted white with areas of concrete parging and is in good condition. There is one large rectangular door opening with parts of two rifle slit windows above it (the inner part of the opening is missing a concrete finish). There is one rifle slit window to the left of this opening and two rifle slits windows to the right of the opening. The rifle slit at the far right has been bricked up at the top. The portions of the windows remaining above the opening have rectangular holes with round terra cotta tiles within them that appear to be the vents for the cells that occupied the space in the Lower Prison Era. There is a large granite ledge for the positioning of the drawbridge counterweight at the south end of the wall in good condition. There are 3 new electrical lights.
1.1.4 West Wall: The brick wall is painted white and in good condition with areas covered with a light plaster finish. There is a wall mounted metal rod of unknown origin and use.

1.1.5 Ceiling: The ceiling is barrel vaulted brick supported by a cast iron structural frame in good condition (some areas of the brickwork require repointing). There is a hole in the “L” portion of the ceiling that contains a vent stack that could have been a vent from the Lower Prison Era.

1.1.6 Floor: The floor is brick with concrete and has one large semicircular granite traverse circle in good condition.

1.2 Sally Port:

1.2.1 North Wall: Brick painted white with arched opening in good condition. Features include pintles for missing doors that are in good condition and an electrical conduit penetration.

1.2.2 South Wall: Brick painted white in good condition. Features include two rectangular holes on either side and above the arched opening for the drawbridge counterweight cable (the hole at the left has one side of brick broken). There are two sets of hinge pivots for missing doors that are in fair condition. The two pintles at the bottom have been broken and need repair. Above the pinte at the bottom right is an iron ring in good condition of unknown origin and use.

1.2.3 East Wall: Brick painted white in good condition. There are 4 rifle slit windows in good condition, an arched door opening including some latch hardware, two vent openings at the base of the wall with flat steel bars in the openings, and a hole for the drawbridge counterweight chain with wall mounted pulley. The rifle slit window 2nd from the far north has a crack in the brickwork above it.

1.2.4 West Wall: Brick painted white in fair condition. There are three rifle slit windows in good condition, one large door opening in fair condition with part of two rifle slit windows remaining above it, and a hole for the drawbridge counterweight chain with wall mounted pulley. Other features include 1 surface mounted electrical conduit.
PART I

1.2.5 Ceiling: Barrel vaulted brick painted white supported by a cast iron structural frame in good condition. There is a single surface mounted light fixture with a metal eye hook directly adjacent to it of unknown use.

1.2.6 Floor: The floor is worn concrete with several cracks in good condition. There is a patch where a pipe that was under the surface has been removed (the pipe appears to be a sewer pipe that originates at the Electric Shop and continues into the Library roadway space).

1.3 Outer Gunroom and Guardroom:

1.3.1 North Wall: Brick painted white in good condition. There is a flue opening near the ceiling for ventilation of the cannon smoke, and one modern window in good condition. This wall would originally have had a gun embrasure.

1.3.2 South Wall: Brick painted white with wood infill in large opening to Boathouse. The brick is in fair condition. Some areas require repointing. There is a flue opening near the ceiling for ventilation of the cannon smoke that has been enlarged at the bottom and some of the bricks are missing at the bottom of the opening. At the far west side in the wall is a tiered brick pilaster divided into 9 parts by small steel lintels (believed to be a buttress for the arched wall to the Library building behind, built into the open space of the rifle slit window opening). This wall would have originally had a gun Port and 1 rifle slit window.

1.3.3 East Wall: Brick painted white with a light cement parging in good condition. There is one rifle slit window in good condition, one blocked rifle slit window and one modern window. There is concrete partially missing from the sill of the modern window. There are two rectangular vent openings at the floor that are blocked off.

1.3.4 West Wall: Brick painted white in good condition. There are four rifle slit windows in good condition, the far south window is enlarged toward the ceiling. There is an arched brick door opening with iron pintles in good condition. There are two rectangular vent openings at the floor, the opening to the north has been blocked off.
There is one hole for the drawbridge counterweight cable (granite counterweight ledge is missing).

1.3.5 Ceiling: The ceiling is barrel vaulted brick painted white supported by a cast iron structural frame in fair condition (some areas of the brickwork require repointing). The cast iron frame is rusted and exfoliating. Other features include plumbing pipe penetrations and ceiling mounted steel support straps.

1.3.6 Floor: The floor is presumed to be brick with concrete topping and has two large semicircular granite traverse circles in good condition (there are also holes for connecting the iron traverse circles). The surface of the floor is uneven, there is a one inch deep hole and there are a number of concrete patches. There is a wood hatch cover in good condition (having been recently replaced).

2. Library Addition Physical Description

The 1½ story high Library Building has a 78x28 feet footprint. It was constructed to the south of the Guardhouse on brick arches above the roadway from the wharf to the upper parts of the island. As an ell shaped brick and wood frame addition to the Guardhouse, the north wall of the Library is the south wall of the Guardhouse, and the west wall of the Library is the brick scarp wall constructed in 1857. The base of the ell shaped addition on the ground level has a 13 inch thick brick wall with a single arch spanning the roadway and an 13 inch thick brick wall along the waterside of the roadway made up of five arches (three arches are covered from view and enclosed within the Boathouse addition). The upper portion of the building is a 1½ story wood frame structure. The first floor forms a 73x25x13 feet high room. The joists of the floor span east to west from the scarp wall to the brick archway and are visible from the roadway as one approaches the Guardhouse. These 2x12 joists on 16 inch centers span the roadway a distance of 25 feet 4 inches without vertical support. Evidence of wood posts indicate that the span of these joists was originally designed to be slightly more than 16 feet. Only one of these support posts remains today. The Attic Floor forms a 73x25 feet room with a ceiling height varying from zero at the sidewalls to approximately 12 feet at the centerline. The Attic Floor of the addition is constructed of 2 x 10 wood joists on 16 inch centers. 2 x 6 wood rafters on 24 inch centers with 1 inch thick sheathing and wood shingles under corrugated Transite roofing compose the roof.

2A Library Addition Exterior Features

1.0 Roof: The edges of Transite roof panels and wood shingles in poor condition are visible at the roof gable. These roof panels were originally painted red. The paint is completely gone and they are covered in a mossy green vegetative material. Since they contain asbestos they also could present an environmental hazard. The roof planking and the wood ties into the brick wall are visible from the South and appear to be in good condition. Three wood dormers with new windows and one wood door dormer along the west slope are visible from the upper roadway on the west slope, as is the chimney and attic vent at the ridge. The attic ridge vent appears to be original.
and part of the Transite roof is missing, exposing the wood shingles beneath. The attic vent is in poor condition.

2.0 North Wall: The north elevation is not visible as it is the south wall of the Guardhouse. At the attic level, there used to be a passageway connecting the Library Attic to the Schoolhouse.

3.0 South Wall: The entire south elevation is visible upon the approach from the wharf. The gabled roof frames a tripartite arrangement of wall openings symmetrical about the centerline of the façade. The 13 inch thick brick wall is painted yellow, dating from the Bureau of Prisons Era. The paint is worn and delaminating in some areas due to its age and exposure to the elements. In general, the wall is in good condition, with some areas of the brick requiring repointing.

At the Attic Floor level, there is an attic floor entry door that measures 2'-9" wide x 7'6" high. The door frame appears to be original but the door appears to be a replacement and is in poor condition. The attic door has 2 double hung windows to each side measuring 2'-6" wide x 4'-6" high with steel bars. The windows are divided into four lights, the window frames appear to be original with new sash and are in good condition.

The catwalk that connects the upper roadway with the First Floor door opening has been restored. At the first floor level, a concrete lintel spans the opening in the wall for a wood entry door with four pane centered daylight opening that measures 3'-0" wide x 7'4" high. A large crack is visible extending from the bottom of the First Floor door opening down and to the right.

The large elliptical archway for the roadway on the Ground Floor has a brick missing in the arch. The 13" thick brick wall is a running bond with 6th course header rows, likely constructed with prison labor. A random brick pattern east of the archway appears to indicate a patch in that area. Other features include a painted “Stop” sign that is in good condition and a hole from a pipe penetration at the scarp wall at the far west side of the wall (the pipes have been removed but the hole remains).
4.0 East Wall: The north half of the Library addition east wall is obscured by the Boathouse addition. The wall openings in the elevation are arranged symmetrically around the centerline of the façade.

The entire east slope of the Transite roof is visible. Two skylight openings in the roof along the east slope are visible, as is the chimney and attic vent at the ridge.

The full elevation at ground level is characterized by an arcade of five semicircular arched openings in the 13” thick brick wall measuring 10”-0” wide x 7’-6” high at the top of the arch (Three of these arched openings are obscured by the Boathouse addition). Vegetal growth partially obscures the arched opening at the far left. One of these arched openings have been modified with low infill walls. In the arched opening at the right, adjacent to the Boathouse addition, a concrete stairway that leads down to the crawl space of the Boathouse and the Basement of the Guardhouse is visible.

At the First Floor level, three windows are visible (three more identical window openings are obscured by the boathouse addition). These wood frame fixed windows measure 3’-1” wide x 8’-6” high and are separated into 12 lights by 1 inch narrow muntins. The center window appears to be original while the 2 other windows appear to be modern replacements in good condition. The wall has a large amount of vines on the exterior that could indicate or allow water infiltration into the brick.

5.0 West Wall: The majority of the west wall is not visible as it is the scarp wall built in 1857. A portion of the brick wall of the First Floor rises above the granite coping of the scarp wall and is visible from the upper roadway. The wall is painted yellow from the Bureau of Prisons era. The paint is delaminating and the wall is in good condition with some cracks and some mortar joints that require repointing. There are five window openings (two are sealed off with concrete block). Of the three windows, there are two identical wood casement windows with old security screening on them that measure 3’-7” wide x 4’-10” high and are divided into six lights by narrow muntins. The third window measures 3’-7” wide x 3’4” high and is divided into four lights by narrow muntins. The windows are in fair condition. The blocked up openings measure 3’-11” wide x 3’-8” high, and likely had casement windows divided into four lights, similar to the existing windows. There is a tall arched door opening with metal pintles that is sealed off with concrete block. Other features include surface mounted electrical conduit in poor condition.

6.0 Foundation: The west wall of The Old Library is built on top of the original brick defensive wall and the north wall at the First Floor and Attic level is supported by the south wall of the Guardhouse. The south and the east brick walls have brick foundations that are supported directly on the island base rock. The foundation is in good condition.

2B. Library Addition Interior Features

1.0 First Floor
1.1 Roadway Space:

1.1.1 North Wall: Painted brick in good condition. Paint is delaminating in some areas. There is one cannon port in the Guardhouse wall that makes up the north wall of the Roadway space and is in good condition. There are two small rectangular slots that held the cable for the drawbridge above and on either side of the Sally Port arched opening.

1.1.2 South Wall: Painted brick with large arched opening in good condition. There is some delaminating paint and some areas that requiring minor re-pointing. There is a crack above the archway and a hole from piping penetrations at the west side adjacent to the scarp wall (the pipes have been removed but the hole remains). Other features include a wood support post in good condition and a surface mounted electrical conduit in good condition.

1.1.3 East Wall: Painted brick with arched openings in good condition. Brick infill walls in the arched openings require some repointing. There is some delaminating paint. Other features include a wood post in fair condition that is unattached at the bottom and hanging freely.

1.1.4 West Wall: Brick scarp wall painted white with sandstone quoins at the hinge point in the wall south of the Guardhouse. The wall is in good condition with some areas requiring minor repointing. There is a 2 x 12 wood ledger for the floor at the First Floor level anchored with large steel pegs that is in good condition. Adjacent to the sandstone quoins are two rifle slit windows of the Guardhouse Inner Guardroom and one modified recess where rifle slit windows used to be. Other features include temporary wood bracing for the deteriorated floor of the First Floor old library space, three small recesses in the brick wall near the moat opening of unknown origin and use and a light switch at the far south end of the wall.
1.1.5 Ceiling: The ceiling is the open joist floor of the old library space above made up of 2 x 12 joists at 16” on center in good condition. The joists run parallel to the south wall of the Guardhouse and thus do not intersect the east and west walls of the space at right angles. The joists directly adjacent to the Guardhouse have been greatly deteriorated and are severely water damaged. Temporary wood bracing supports the joists directly beneath the heavy steel plate penetrating the floor above, which was used as a backstop for a shooting range. Other features include iron tie rods, a wood beam element, hooks and two electrical ceiling mounted light fixtures.

1.1.6 Floor: The floor is a concrete slab with a raised “sidewalk” along the east wall. A portion at the northwest corner of the space over the Dry Moat has been cut away to allow a visual connection to the space below. Other features include a cast iron pipe embedded in a concrete curb that is partially exposed at the surface and is a tripping hazard, a pipe rail guardrail at the opening in the floor over the Moat, and a wood post and beam element offset from the east wall over the sidewalk that is missing four posts.

1.2 Boathouse Storeroom Encroachment:

1.2.1 North Wall: Painted wood partition wall with door in poor condition.

1.2.2 South Wall: 2 x 4 at 16” on center wood frame wall without interior finish and new door.

1.2.3 East Wall: 13” thick painted brick wall with arched openings in good condition. There is some delaminating paint.

1.2.4 West Wall: 2 x 4 at 16” on center wood frame wall in good condition with 1 x 3 tongue and groove siding and no interior finish.

1.2.5 Floor: 1 x 3 tongue and groove flooring in good condition.

1.2.6 Ceiling: Open 2 x 8 floor joists. Other features include plumbing piping suspended form the floor joists in fair condition.

1.3 Boathouse Office Encroachment:

1.3.1 North Wall: Painted brick wall of Guardhouse in good condition, some delaminating paint.

1.3.2 South Wall: Wood partition wall with door in poor condition.

1.3.3 East Wall: 13” thick painted brick wall with arched openings in good condition. There is some delaminating paint.

1.3.4 West Wall: 2 x 4 at 16” on center wood frame wall in good condition with 1 x 6 tongue and groove siding that changes to 1 x 8 siding at the door opening and partial interior finish that is a paper faced wood composition paneling in good condition. There is a new door.

1.3.5 Floor: 1 x 3 tongue and groove flooring in good condition.

1.3.6 Ceiling: Open 2 x 12 floor joists. Other features include plumbing piping suspended form the floor joists in fair condition.
2.0 Second Floor

2.1 Multipurpose Space:

2.1.1 North Wall: Brick wall of the Guardhouse with granite coping painted white in good condition, some repointing is required. Many of the bricks have been damaged by stray bullets when the space was used as a shooting range. Obscured from view by the shooting range backstop is a granite entablature (over the Sally Port opening below) engraved with the words “Alcatraces Island 1857.”

2.1.2 South Wall: Brick painted and showing evidence of numerous paint colors with concrete parging in some areas. There are a number of cracks and some delaminating paint. The wall is in fair condition.

2.1.3 East Wall: Brick painted white with paint delaminating in some areas in good condition. There are five window openings, two windows are new, one appears to be original and one window is missing. There is one window that has been in-filled with concrete block, and one window opening has been modified into a doorway opening into the Boathouse. Other features include a surface mounted electrical conduit and a wall mounted 2 x 4 with nails at the south end of the wall that appears to be a clothing rack.

2.1.4 West Wall: The west wall has five windows and one door opening that connects to an outside stair at the upper roadway, while the east wall also has five windows and a door that connects to a room in the boathouse. The door opening and three windows have been in-filled with concrete block. Other features include granite coping in good condition, electrical conduit and an electrical panel in poor condition.

2.1.5 Ceiling: The ceiling is painted tongue and groove wood planking in fair condition. Other features include fabric curtains in fair condition, electrical conduit in poor condition, wood bracing for the partition wall at the old firing positions in good condition, and wood supports for lighting the targets at the backstop.

2.2 Second Floor.

There is one door opening that is accessed from a low wood platform and a small wood stair to an outside wood and pipe rail catwalk. The door is in poor condition, the wood platform and stairs are in fair condition.
2.3.6 Floor: The floor construction is 2x12 wood joists in the east west direction at 16-inch centers with one inch tongue and groove wood flooring. The flooring is in fair condition with a total of about 15% rotted. There is 2 x 10 planking in front of and adjacent to the low 4 x 8 wood backstop of the shooting range. Other features include a radiator, two wood cabinets and remnants of a partition wall with posts that have wheels used to retrieve paper targets.

3.0 Attic Floor

3.1 Attic Space:

3.1.1 North Wall: Wood frame 2 x 6 construction with 1 x 6 tongue and groove siding unfinished on the interior. This wall is badly water damaged with many holes and in poor condition. There is a door opening with door missing that leads to a blocked off opening to the ground level of the Schoolhouse. Other features include several screen doors unrelated to the building stored against the wall and various plumbing pipe penetrations.

3.1.2 South Wall: Brick gable with interior canvas covering. The brick wall is in good condition and the canvas wall covering is in poor condition. There are two new windows and one door. The door is in fair condition and appears to be an interior door.

3.1.3 East Wall: The east wall is exposed roof framing painted white in fair condition. There is one opening that has been fitted with Plexiglas. There are remnants of a tongue and groove planking interior wall finish that is painted, there are remnants of old photos and old newspapers dating to 1913 applied to these panels and evidence of a four foot high knee wall.

3.1.4 West Wall: The west wall is painted exposed roof framing in fair condition. There are three dormer openings that appear to have been skylights and modified into dormers later. There is one large door dormer opening near the center of the wall with a door in fair condition. The uppermost northwest end of the wall is missing portions of the corner. Other features include a long wood rifle rack.

3.1.5 Ceiling: The ceiling is mostly exposed roof framing painted in fair condition. There are several holes. At the ridge of the roof is a brick flue supported by wood framing and a wood roof vent in fair condition. At approximately 60% of the roof where the roof meets the top plate of the wall, daylight is visible. Other features include electrical conduit with hanging light sockets in poor condition.

3.1.6 Floor: The floor is 1 x 3 tongue and groove flooring over 1 x 8 tongue and groove sheathing in fair condition. There are holes in the flooring and no flooring is present beyond where the knee wall would have met the floor surface, except at the west wall where floor patches exist. Other features include two old water tanks, two low benches and a large quantity of wood and paper debris.

3. Schoolhouse Addition Physical Description

The Schoolhouse Building has a footprint of 51x24 feet. The Mission Revival Schoolhouse addition is a vertical extension of the Guardhouse roof, and is founded on the granite coping topped brick parapet walls of the earlier Guardhouse roof. The two story Schoolhouse is constructed of steel reinforced concrete walls 12 inches thick, is a vertical extension of the Guardhouse roof and is founded on the granite coping topped brick walls of the earlier Guardhouse. The First Floor forms a 48x21x13 feet high room. The First Floor is a wood platform that rests on the concrete roof of the Guardhouse. The Second Floor forms a 48x25x10 feet high room. The Second Floor is concrete, supported by two concrete beams that span across the width of the building. The roof is constructed of 4 x 6 wood rafters and 2 x 10 wood ceiling joists. The roof was designed for a clay tile roof. Today cement asbestos composite tiles exist.

3A. Schoolhouse Addition Exterior Features

1.0 Roof: The south slope of the roof is visible from the upper roadway and is red cement asbestos composite tiles. The fascia along the north slope, visible from the roadway below, is missing, exposing the rafters. The gutter is in poor condition, the soffit is open with portions of the 1x3 tongue and groove eaves missing and the roof is in fair condition.
2.0 North Wall: The roof caps a façade divided vertically into three bays of equal proportion, separated by concrete pilasters. Each separate bay has one broad shallow radius semicircular arched window divided into five lights on the upper level, two rectangular wood casement windows measuring 3’-8” x 8’-9” divided into 12 lights that butt up against the pilasters on the lower floor level. The concrete wall is painted yellow and the paint is delaminating. The wall is in good condition.

3.0 South Wall: The south slope of the asphalt shingle roof is visible. The steel reinforced concrete wall, painted yellow during the Bureau of Prisons Era, is mostly obscured by the Old Library addition. One window on the lower level is visible to the left. Though the 3’-8” x 8’-9” frame appears to be original, the sash divided into twelve lights and narrow muntins is new. Two broad shallow radius semicircular arched windows on the upper floor are visible to the left and right side of the Old Library addition. These arched windows are divided into five lights, with the two lights on either side of the largest center light operable as casement windows. The sashes on these windows are original though the glazing is missing and Plexiglas has been applied to the sash for a weather barrier.

4.0 East Wall: The entire elevation is visible. The steel reinforced concrete wall is painted yellow, dating from the Bureau of Prisons Era. The characteristic Mission Revival gable of the roof organizes the façade, which is tripartite divided. Only the eaves of the roof are visible on either side of the concrete wall. On the left and right side, concrete pilasters that are 2’-7” wide and have gabled copings frame the elevation. At the attic level is a tall semicircular wood louvered vent, at the upper floor level, is one broad shallow radius semicircular arched window divided into five lights, with the two lights on either side of the largest center light operable as casement windows. On the lower floor level are two rectangular casement windows measuring 3’-8” x 8’-9” that butt up against the pilasters. The wood frame window is divided into twelve lights by narrow muntins.

5.0 West Wall: The entire elevation is visible. The steel reinforced concrete wall is painted yellow, dating from the Bureau of Prisons Era and is in fair condition with portions of the concrete spalling and exposed steel reinforcement at the surface around the louvered vent. The characteristic Mission Revival gable of the roof organizes the façade, which is tripartite divided. Only the eaves of the roof are visible on either side of the concrete wall. On the left and right side, concrete pilasters that are 2’-7” wide and have gabled copings frame the elevation. At the attic level is a tall semicircular wood louvered vent, at the upper floor level, is a double leaf wood door with fixed transom flanked by one double hung window on either side divided into four lights by narrow muntins. These windows are not identical and appear to differ slightly in the width of the muntins. The door is connected to a concrete stair in poor condition. On the lower floor level are two rectangular casement windows measuring 6’-5” wide x 3’-11” high and 4’-8” wide x 3’-11” high. One of the wood frame windows is divided into twelve lights by narrow muntins and is typical, and the other is divided into eight lights and is situated
directly below the double leaf entry door on the Second Floor Level. At the south end of the wall is a single leaf entry door with fixed transom in fair condition. This door appears to be original.

6.0 Foundation: The brick masonry walls of The Schoolhouse are bearing directly upon the heavy exterior brick walls of the Guardhouse, and appear to be in good condition.

3B. Schoolhouse Addition Interior Features

1.0 First Floor

1.1 Parlor:

1.1.1 North Wall: Painted half brick wall at the bottom and reinforced concrete at the top in good condition. There is efflorescence present on the bricks and the paint is delaminating. There are two rectangular casement windows with Plexiglas infill and part of the wood trim is missing. Other features include, 7 inch wide wood baseboards and 3 inch wide wood wall trim in fair condition, and a wall mounted wood shelf.

1.1.2 South Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8" thick gypsum board and two doors in poor condition.

1.1.3 East Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8" thick gypsum board and one light switch in poor condition.

1.1.4 West Wall: Painted steel reinforced concrete in fair condition. There are 2 windows with Plexiglas inserts. Other features include one electrical panel in poor condition and one surface mounted electrical conduit in poor condition.

1.1.5 Ceiling: The ceiling is painted reinforced concrete patterned by formwork boards in good condition.

1.1.6 Floor: The floor is a 2x3 built up platform on top of the concrete roof of the Guardhouse and has a 1x3 tongue and groove wood flooring in good condition.

1.2 Hallway:

1.2.1 North Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board and four doors in poor condition.

1.2.2 South Wall: Painted half brick wall at the bottom and reinforced concrete at the top in good condition. There is efflorescence present on the bricks and the paint is delaminating. There is one rectangular casement window with Plexiglas infill at the far west end of the hall, the wall has one inch diameter wood dowels equally spaced at the horizontal line formed by the joint of the brick and concrete where a wood trim used to be. There is 7 inch wide wood baseboard in fair condition.

1.2.3 East Wall: Painted wood frame 2 x 4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board in poor condition.
1.2.4 West Wall: Painted reinforced concrete with wood door and fixed transom window. The wall is in fair condition, the door is in fair condition and the hardware is in poor condition.

1.2.5 Ceiling: The ceiling is painted reinforced concrete patterned by formwork boards in good condition. There is surface mounted electrical conduit and two surface mounted light fixtures in poor condition at both ends of the hall.

1.2.6 Floor: The floor is a 2x3 built up platform on top of the concrete roof of the Guardhouse and has a 1x3 tongue and groove wood flooring in good condition.

1.3 Bedroom 1:

1.3.1 North Wall: Painted half brick wall at the bottom and reinforced concrete at the top in good condition. There is efflorescence present on the bricks and the paint is delaminating. There are two rectangular casement windows with Plexiglas infill, and one is half obscured by the east wall of the Bedroom. Other features include 7 inch wide wood baseboards and 3 inch wide wood wall trim in fair condition.

1.3.2 South Wall: Painted wood frame 2 x 4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board and one door and one light switch in poor condition. The door and door hardware is in fair condition. Other features include Graffiti from the Native American Occupation.

1.3.3 East Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board and one door in poor condition.

1.3.4 West Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board in poor condition. There is one surface mounted electrical receptacle in poor condition.

1.3.5 Ceiling: The ceiling is painted reinforced concrete patterned by formwork boards in fair condition. There is surface mounted electrical conduit and one surface mounted light fixture in poor condition.
1.3.6 Floor: The floor is a 2x3 built up platform on top of the concrete roof of the Guardhouse and has a 1x3 tongue and groove wood flooring in good condition. In the floor in the northwest corner of the room is a small hole where the concrete roof of the Guardhouse is visible.

1.4 Bedroom 2:

1.4.1 North Wall: Painted half brick wall at the bottom and reinforced concrete at the top in good condition. There is efflorescence present on the bricks and the paint is delaminating. There are two rectangular casement windows with Plexiglas infill, and both are half obscured by the walls of the Bedroom. Other features include 7 inch wide wood baseboards and 3 inch wide wood wall trim in fair condition.

1.4.2 South Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board and one door in poor condition. The door hardware is in fair condition. There is surface mounted electrical conduit and one light switch in poor condition.

1.4.3 East Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board and one door in poor condition. There is surface mounted electrical conduit in poor condition.

1.4.4 West Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board and one door in poor condition.

1.4.5 Ceiling: The ceiling is painted reinforced concrete patterned by formwork boards in fair condition. The concrete beam has a large crack where the concrete is spalling. There is surface mounted electrical conduit, one surface mounted light fixture, two surface mounted junction boxes and two recessed junction boxes in poor condition. Other features include one small hole.

1.4.6 Floor: The floor is a 2x3 built up platform on top of the concrete roof of the Guardhouse and has a 1x3 tongue and groove wood flooring in good condition.

1.5 Bathroom:

1.5.1 North Wall: Painted half brick wall at the bottom and reinforced concrete at the top in good condition. The paint is delaminating. There are two rectangular casement windows with Plexiglas infill, one is partially covered at the wall of the adjacent Bedroom. Other features include 7 inch wide wood baseboards and 3 inch wide wood wall trim in fair condition and one toilet in poor condition.

1.5.2 South Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board and one door opening with door missing in poor condition. The wall has one pipe penetration. There is surface mounted electrical conduit and one light switch, one recessed medicine cabinet with mirror door missing, one small shelf, one lavatory in poor condition.

1.5.3 East Wall: Painted half brick wall at the bottom and reinforced concrete at the top in good condition. The paint is delaminating. There is one rectangular window with Plexiglas infill in fair condition.
1.5.4 West Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board in poor condition.

1.5.5 Ceiling: The ceiling is painted reinforced concrete patterned by formwork boards in good condition. There is surface mounted electrical conduit, one surface mounted light fixture, a drain pipe stack and a vent pipe in poor condition.

1.5.6 Floor: The floor is a 2x3 built up platform on top of the concrete roof of the Guardhouse and has a 1x3 tongue and groove wood flooring covered in linoleum in poor condition. There is also one cast iron claw foot tub in poor condition.

1.6 Kitchen:

1.6.1 North Wall: Pink painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board and a wall mounted wood shelf in poor condition. Other features include a gas pipe in poor condition.

1.6.2 South Wall: Pink painted half brick wall at the bottom and reinforced concrete at the top in fair condition. There is one rectangular casement window with Plexiglas infill that opens out to the interstitial space between the Schoolhouse and the Library attic. There is a drop-in sink with two handle wall mounted faucet and a wood cabinet with linoleum covered counter in poor condition.

1.6.3 East Wall: Pink painted half brick wall at the bottom and reinforced concrete at the top in good condition. The paint is delaminating. There is one rectangular casement window with Plexiglas infill, one small wall mounted shelf, surface mounted electrical conduit and a surface mounted electrical outlet in poor condition.

1.6.4 West Wall: Pink painted wood frame 2 x 4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board one electrical panel and one built in cabinet in poor condition.

1.6.5 Ceiling: The ceiling is pink painted reinforced concrete patterned by formwork boards in fair condition. There is surface mounted electrical conduit and one surface mounted light fixture in poor condition.
1.6.6 Floor: The floor is a 2x3 built up platform on top of the concrete roof of the Guardhouse and has a 1x3 tongue and groove wood flooring covered with linoleum in poor condition.

2.0 Second Floor

2.1 Parlor:

2.1.1 North Wall: Painted steel reinforced concrete in good condition. The paint is delaminating. There one arched window with Plexiglas infill. Other features include brackets for hanging curtains, 7 inch wide wood baseboards and 3 inch wide wood wall trim in good condition. The crown moldings at the ceiling appear to be older than the other baseboards and trim.

2.1.2 South Wall: Painted reinforced concrete in good condition. The paint is delaminating. There one arched window with Plexiglas infill. Other features include brackets for hanging curtains, 7 inch wide wood baseboards and 3 inch wide wood wall trim in good condition. The crown moldings at the ceiling appear to be older than the other baseboards and trim.

2.1.3 East Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board with one door and one recessed receptacle in poor condition.

2.1.4 West Wall: Painted steel reinforced concrete in good condition. There are two double hung windows with Plexiglas inserts and a double leaf entry door with fixed transom. Other features include one light switch, surface mounted electrical conduit and one surface mounted electrical receptacle in poor condition. The crown moldings at the ceiling appear to be older than the other baseboards and trim.

2.1.5 Ceiling: The ceiling is painted 1x5 tongue and groove planks in fair condition. There is one surface mounted ceiling fixture and one uncovered hatch for access to the attic.

2.1.6 Floor: The floor is a built up platform on top of the concrete floor and has a 1x3 tongue and groove wood flooring in good condition.

2.2 Hallway:
2.2.1 North Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board and two doors in poor condition.

2.2.2 South Wall: Painted reinforced concrete in good condition. The paint is delaminating. There is an arched window at the east end partially obscured by the wall to the kitchen. There is a wood door in the hall that used to open out into the breezeway between the Schoolhouse and the Library attic connecting the two floors. The door is in poor condition. The crown moldings at the ceiling appear to be older than the other baseboards and trim.

2.2.3 East Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board in poor condition.

2.2.4 West Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board, one door and one light switch in poor condition. There is one recessed receptacle. There is Graffiti from the Native American Occupation.

2.2.5 Ceiling: The ceiling is painted reinforced concrete patterned by formwork boards in fair condition. There are two surface mounted light fixtures in poor condition at both ends of the hall.

2.2.6 Floor: The floor is a built up platform on top of the concrete floor and has a 1x3 tongue and groove wood flooring in good condition.

2.3 Bedroom 1:

2.3.1 North Wall: Painted steel reinforced concrete in fair condition. The paint is delaminating. There is one arched window with Plexiglas infill that is partially obscured by the bedroom partition wall. Other features include brackets for hanging curtains, 7 inch wide wood baseboards and 3 inch wide wood wall trim in fair condition. The crown moldings at the ceiling appear to be older than the other baseboards and trim.

2.3.2 South Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board and one door in poor condition. There is one light switch. There is Graffiti from the Native American Occupation.

2.3.3 East Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board with one door in poor condition. There is Graffiti from the Native American Occupation.

2.3.4 West Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board and one door in poor condition. There is one recessed receptacle. There is Graffiti from the Native American Occupation.

2.3.5 Ceiling: The ceiling is painted 1x5 tongue and groove planks in fair condition. There is one surface mounted ceiling fixture and two recessed junction boxes.

2.3.6 Floor: The floor is a built up platform on top of the concrete floor and has a 1x3 tongue and groove wood flooring in good condition. There is one radiator in poor condition.

2.4 Bedroom 2:
2.4.1 North Wall: Painted steel reinforced concrete in fair condition. The paint is delaminating. There are two arched windows with Plexiglas infill that are mostly obscured by the bedroom partition wall. Other features include 7 inch wide wood baseboards and in good condition. The crown moldings at the ceiling appear to be older than the other baseboards and trim.

2.4.2 South Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board and one door in poor condition. There is one light switch.

2.4.3 East Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board with 1 door in poor condition.

2.4.4 West Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board and 1 door in poor condition.

2.4.5 Ceiling: The ceiling is painted 1x5 tongue and groove planks in fair condition. There is one surface mounted ceiling fixture and two recessed junction boxes.

2.4.6 Floor: The floor is a built up platform on top of the concrete floor and has a 1x3 tongue and groove wood flooring in good condition.

2.5 Bathroom:

2.5.1 North Wall: Painted steel reinforced concrete in good condition. The paint is delaminating. There is 1 arched window with Plexiglas infill that is partially obscured by the wall of the adjacent Bedroom. Other features include 7 inch wide wood baseboards and in good condition, one radiator and one toilet in poor condition. The crown molding at the ceiling appear to be older than the other baseboards and trim.

2.5.2 South Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board and one door opening with door missing in poor condition. There is one light switch, one rectangular hole where a recessed medicine cabinet used to be, one small shelf, one lavatory in poor condition and one wall mounted tub filler spout in poor condition.
2.5.3 East Wall: Painted steel reinforced concrete in fair condition. The paint is delaminating. There is one arched window with Plexiglas infill that is partially obscured by the wall of the adjacent Kitchen. There is one cast iron bathtub in poor condition.

2.5.4 West Wall: Painted wood frame 2 x 4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board and one recessed receptacle in poor condition.

2.5.5 Ceiling: The ceiling is painted 1 x 5 tongue and groove planks in fair condition. There is one surface mounted ceiling fixture and 2 recessed junction boxes.

2.5.6 Floor: The floor is a built up platform on top of the concrete floor and has a 1x3 tongue and groove wood flooring covered in linoleum in poor condition. There is evidence of the location of a former partition wall.

2.6 Kitchen:

2.6.1 North Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board in poor condition. Other features include an access panel for bathtub and a hole for the medicine cabinet.

2.6.2 South Wall: Painted steel reinforced concrete in good condition. There is one arched window with Plexiglas infill partially obstructed by the hallway partition wall. There is a wall mounted sink with two handle wall mounted faucet in poor condition. The crown molding at the ceiling appears to be older than the other baseboards and trim.

2.6.3 East Wall: Painted steel reinforced concrete in fair condition. There is one arched window with Plexiglas infill partially obstructed by the Bathroom partition wall., one small wall mounted shelf, surface mounted electrical conduit and a surface mounted electrical outlet in poor condition. The crown molding at the ceiling appears to be older than the other baseboards and trim.

2.6.4 West Wall: Painted wood frame 2x4 partition wall with 3/8” thick gypsum board one door opening with door missing and one wood cabinet with hutch in poor condition.

2.6.5 Ceiling: The ceiling is painted 1x5 tongue and groove planks in fair condition. There is one surface mounted ceiling fixture and two surface mounted junction boxes. There is evidence of the location of a former partition wall.

2.6.6 Floor: The floor is a built up platform on top of the concrete floor and has a 1x3 tongue and groove wood flooring covered in linoleum in poor condition.

4. Boathouse Addition Physical Description

The two-story frame addition at the east elevation of the Old Library abutting the Guardhouse to the south has a footprint of 36x14 feet. The lower level of the Boathouse is a series of steel reinforced concrete frames supported by four steel reinforced concrete columns along the east elevation. The column footings are supported directly on the island base rock. The ground level floor is at the same level as the ground floor of The Old Library Building and part of the
Boathouse actually extends over the Library floor. The floor is framed by concrete beams and wood joists with painted wood sheathing. Part of the Library east wall with three brick arches runs through the room. A stud wall delineates the line between Library and Boathouse. Two doors in this wall provide access to the Boathouse.

4A. Boathouse Addition Exterior Features

1.0 North Wall: Not visible. The north elevation is the south wall of the Guardhouse.

2.0 South Wall: The line of the shed roof of the Boathouse addition is visible. The 2x4 stud wall, painted white during the Bureau of Prisons Era, has 6 inch wide wood clapboard siding. On both the ground level and the upper level, 2 double hung windows 2’9” wide x 5’-9” are visible behind wire security mesh.

3.0 East Wall: The entire shed roof is visible. The roof is Transite. The façade is arranged symmetrically about the building centerline. At the upper level, four double hung wood frame windows measuring 2’-9” wide x 5’-7” high are visible. On the lower level, four fixed windows measuring 2’-6” wide x 7’-0” high are visible. These windows are divided into 10 lights by narrow muntins.

4.0 West Wall: The west elevation is the east wall of the Library addition. The only visible portion of this elevation is in the Roadway space of the Library addition. Form the road to the floor joists of the Library, there is 1 x 6 tongue and groove lap siding with one door. The siding changes to 1 x 8 after the door until it meets the south wall of the Guardhouse adjacent to the Sally Port. The wall is in good condition.

4B. Boathouse Addition Interior Features

0.0 Basement Level

0.1 Basement Space:

0.1.1 North Wall: Concrete frame in good condition

0.1.2 South Wall: Open

0.1.3 East Wall: Concrete frame in good condition.

0.1.4 West Wall: Wood floor joists of Ground level and bluff rock in good condition.
PART I

0.1.5 Ceiling: Open 2x10 floor joists. Other features include three large pipes, one steel and one active fuel line, suspended from the floor joists in good condition.

00.1.6 Floor: Bluff rock.

1.0 First Floor

1.1 Storeroom Space:

1.1.1 North Wall: Wood partition wall with part torn down to create door opening in poor condition.

1.1.2 South Wall: 2x4 at 16 inches on center wood frame wall without interior finish that is badly water stained in fair condition. There are numerous holes in the siding and one plumbing piping penetration. There are two new double hung windows and one wood louver.

1.1.3 East Wall: 2x4 at 16 inches on center wood frame wall without interior finish that is badly water stained in fair condition. There is one large hole in the siding for a vent stack, electrical conduit and a drain pipe in poor condition. There are three new double hung windows.

1.1.4 West Wall: 13 inch thick painted brick wall of Library addition with arched openings in good condition. There is some delaminating paint. Other features include a 2x8 ledger through-bolted into the brick wall and having “S” shaped steel straps.

1.1.5 Ceiling: Open 2x10 floor joists. Other features include plumbing piping suspended from the floor joists in fair condition.

1.1.6 Floor: 1x3 tongue and groove flooring in good condition. Other features include old machinery and equipment storage

Photo Credit: Lerner + Associates Architects

1.2 Office Space:

1.2.1 North Wall: Painted brick wall of Guardhouse in good condition, some delaminating paint.

1.2.2 South Wall: Wood partition wall with door in poor condition.

1.3.3 East Wall: 13 inch thick painted brick wall with arched openings in good condition. There is some delaminating paint.
1.3.4 West Wall: 2x4 at 16 inches on center wood frame wall in good condition with 1x6 tongue and groove siding that changes to 1x8 siding at the door opening and partial interior finish that is a paper faced wood composition paneling in good condition. There is a new door.

1.3.5 Ceiling: Open 2x10 floor joists with tongue and groove wood planking remaining in some areas.

1.3.6 Floor: 1x5 tongue and groove plank flooring over 1x3 tongue and groove flooring in good condition.

2.0 Second Floor

2.1 Storeroom

2.1.1 North Wall: Painted brick wall of Guardhouse in good condition, some delaminating paint. There is also a 2x4 sloped knee wall on the parapet of the Guardhouse (enclosing the shed roof) in fair condition. The knee wall shows evidence of dry rot.

2.1.2 South Wall: Wood partition wall with door into shower room in poor condition.

2.1.3 East Wall: 2x4 at 16 inches on center wood frame wall in good condition with 1x6 tongue and groove siding and no interior finish. There are four windows and some plumbing piping.

2.1.4 West Wall: 13 inch thick painted brick wall with arched openings in good condition. There is some delaminating paint. There is one large door opening converted from a Library addition window opening, and one blocked up Library addition window opening.

2.1.5 Ceiling: Open 2x6 rafters with wood shingles visible.

2.1.6 Floor: 1x5 tongue and groove plank flooring with a large hole at the Library wall good condition.

2.2 Toilet Room

2.2.1 North Wall: Wood partition wall with door into storage room in poor condition.

2.2.2 South Wall: 2x4 at 16 inches on center wood frame wall in good condition with 1x6 tongue and groove siding and no interior finish.
2.2.3 East Wall: 2x4 at 16 inches on center wood frame wall in good condition with 1x6 tongue and groove siding and no interior finish. There is a large wood louver in poor condition and one plumbing supply pipe in poor condition.

2.2.4 West Wall: Wood partition wall in fair condition.

2.2.5 Ceiling: Open 2x6 rafters with wood shingles visible.

2.2.6 Floor: 1x5 tongue and groove plank flooring covered in linoleum in poor condition.

2.3 Shower Room

2.3.1 North Wall: Wood partition wall with door into storage room in poor condition.

2.3.2 South Wall: 2x4 at 16 inches on center wood frame wall in good condition with 1x6 tongue and groove siding and no interior finish. There are two original windows and some plumbing piping in fair condition.

2.3.3 East Wall: Wood partition wall in fair condition.

2.3.4 West Wall: 13 inch thick painted brick wall with one Library addition window opening in good condition. There is some delaminating paint.

2.3.5 Ceiling: Open 2x6 rafters with wood shingles visible.

2.3.6 Floor: Concrete shower pan in poor condition

Guardhouse Complex – Structural Evaluation

This structural evaluation is based upon a review of the available drawings and documents and visual observations of the configuration and the condition of the structure and its materials. No destructive testing or laboratory analysis of the materials was performed and no rigorous analysis of the structural systems was undertaken. The objective has been to assess the life safety of the Guardhouse Complex in regard to its present and its future usage and to evaluate the essential structural performance.

The Guardhouse Complex is comprised of four structures, constructed at different times and of different materials. These structures are, however, tied together and they are dependent on each other for support and stability. For example, the Schoolhouse addition, constructed with steel reinforced concrete, is supported by the solid defensive brick walls of the Guardhouse Building, the wood framed Boathouse addition ties into the masonry walls of the Library and the old defensive wall is common to both the Guardhouse and the Library.

The Guardhouse Complex buildings are generally in good condition with only minor areas of deterioration, such as cracks in masonry, missing or loose bricks and dry rot in wood joists. The individual buildings in the Complex generally meet today’s standards in terms of life safety, but they have some deficiencies, discussed below, which should be addressed before these buildings are opened to public use.
The Guardhouse Building is in good condition and will not require much structural stabilization. The structure has closely spaced heavy brick masonry walls. The First Floor has cast iron framed ceilings with brick infill. The masonry is not reinforced, but the bricks and the mortar appear to be in good condition, and the walls are built with tight header spacing. Test results from similar walls on Alcatraz indicate that they might have the structural capacity to act as shear walls without additional stabilization. The floor system and its connection to the walls also appear to be in good condition and to have capacity to resist the expected demands.

The Library addition has deficiencies in its floor and roof framing. The structure has brick masonry walls. The lower levels of the north and the west walls are heavy masonry construction while the east and south walls are 3-wythe construction. The structural capacity of these walls is reduced by the presence of large arched openings. The roof and the floor provides no diaphragm action and the wood framing is not properly anchored to the masonry walls. The framing has to be properly anchored to the walls and the diaphragm capacity of the roof and floors has to be improved by bracing the framing or by installing plywood sheathing.

The Schoolhouse addition has deficiencies in the roof framing. The structure has steel reinforced concrete walls with concrete pilasters, a concrete framed first floor and a wood framed roof. The masonry of the Guardhouse parapet (that the Schoolhouse rests upon) is not reinforced, but the brick and the mortar appears to be in good condition. The weakest element is the roof construction. The roof framing has to be anchored to the walls and the diaphragm capacity of the roof has to be improved by bracing the framing or by installing plywood sheathing.

The Boathouse addition has deficiencies in its floor and roof framing. The structure, an addition to the Guardhouse building and to the Library, includes a foundation that is a system of reinforced concrete columns and beams, while the floors, roof and walls are wood construction. The concrete construction is non-ductile, which might be acceptable, considering the size of the structure. The weak portions of the building are the floor and roof construction. The floor and roof framing has to be anchored to the walls and their diaphragm capacity has to be improved by bracing the framing or by installing plywood sheathing.

Recommendations

Perform a structural assessment of the Guardhouse Complex and of the individual structures. The Guardhouse Building, a solid unreinforced masonry structure, is in good condition, but the Library, the Schoolhouse and the Boathouse have structural deficiencies. Before these buildings are opened for public access they should be strengthened to meet the minimum requirements of the Uniform Code of Building Conservation (UCBC) or the alternative provisions of the State of California Historical Building Code. The actual structural details of the building elements must be surveyed, material properties established by field testing and laboratory analysis, and a structural
analysis, based on the actual conditions of the materials, must be performed. Existing materials shall be used as part of the required vertical load or lateral force-resisting system and any new work required to protect and stabilize the structure shall be performed in accordance with accepted preservation practices.

In the Library addition, anchor the wood framing to the masonry walls and improve the diaphragm capacity of the floor and roof framing. Consider replacing the Transite roof panels with wood, concrete or asphalt shingles over plywood sheathing.

In the Schoolhouse addition anchor the roof framing to the concrete walls and improve the diaphragm capacity of the Attic floor and roof framing either by bracing or by installing plywood sheathing.

In the Guardhouse Building and the Library addition the major portion of the masonry is in good condition, but some sections have been damaged or are deteriorated. Remove organic and biological growth, restore cracked or damaged masonry, replace missing and secure loose bricks, re-point defective joints and repair damaged rendering and recoat delaminating paint.

If the Boathouse addition is to remain and to be opened to public access, then the floor and roof framing has to be anchored to the walls and the diaphragm capacity of the floor and roof framing has to be improved by bracing the framing or by installing plywood sheathing.

In the Library addition remove any remaining equipment from the former small arms range. As a precautionary measure, the sloping steel plate should be removed as soon as possible. Fix the leakage above the floor in the north end of the building and examine the joist framing to ensure it is sufficiently sound for the floor loading demand.
EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS AND FEATURES

Evaluation of Architectural Significance

The objective of evaluating the architectural significance of the Guardhouse Complex and its buildings is to rank the exterior envelopes and interior spaces of those buildings and the elements, features, and uses that define them so as to inform a plan for stabilization, replacement, removal, and/or restoration of the buildings of the Complex. The ranking is based on how important those buildings, elements, features, and uses are in defining the established historical period of significance of the Complex. Factors considered in the evaluation include:

1) Importance of the building in defining the Complex

2) Importance of the various spaces, elements, uses, or features in defining the buildings

3) Quality of materials and workmanship and

4) Uniqueness of the design and rare features.

The following evaluation system of defining the level of significance was employed:

**Most Architectural Significance:** Item has the greatest amount of architectural character relative to the Historical Period of Significance. The design, materials, and workmanship of these items are generally of a high quality. They are often unique volumes, elements or features, have age value and are usually highly contributing to the historic character of the building or Complex.

**Some Architectural Significance:** Item has a moderate amount of architectural character relative to the Historical Period of Significance. The design, materials, and workmanship of these items distinguish them from the more common elements. They are often unique volumes, elements or features, have age value and exhibit a careful attention to choice of materials or execution of details.

**Minor Architectural Significance:** Item has little architectural character relative to the Historical Period of Significance. The design, materials, and workmanship of these items are standard. They are often undistinguished and common volumes, elements or features.

**Negligible Architectural Significance:** Item has no architectural character relative to the Historical Period of Significance. The design, materials, and workmanship of these items are standard. They are often unexceptional, ordinary and small volumes, elements or features.

In borderline cases, the higher level of significance was assigned.
1A. Guardhouse Building Exterior Features

1.0 Roof: Most Architectural Significance

2.0 North Wall: Most Architectural Significance

Basement level

2.1 Door opening of Most Architectural Significance
2.2 Large steam pipes of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.3 Bricked up rifle slit window of Most Architectural Significance

Ground level

2.4 Sally Port opening is of Most Architectural Significance
2.6 Window to the right of the door opening of Negligible Architectural Significance.
2.7 Casement window to the left of the Sally Port opening of Negligible Architectural Significance.
2.8 Exterior granite stair and brick wall of Most Architectural Significance.
2.9 Wall signs of Some Architectural Significance (due to the outline of a larger area outside the area of the painted sign)

3.0 South Wall: Most Architectural Significance

Basement level

3.1 Dry moat of Most Architectural Significance

First Floor

3.2 Gun embrasure and iron door of Most Architectural Significance

3.3 Sally Port opening and drawbridge openings above Sally Port of Most Architectural Significance

4.0 East Wall: Most Architectural Significance

Basement level

4.1 Brick chimney of Most Architectural Significance
4.2 Window opening of Negligible Architectural Significance
4.3 Brick arch from rifle slit window above large window opening of Most Architectural Significance
4.4 Rifle slit window with deteriorating iron bars of Most Architectural Significance
4.5 Graffiti from the Native American Occupation (red painted fist at north corner) of **Architectural Significance**

**Ground level**

4.5 Brick chimney of **Most Architectural Significance**
4.6 Center window opening of **Negligible Architectural Significance**
4.7 Portion of rifle slit window above center window opening of **Most Architectural Significance**
4.7 Rifle slit window of **Most Architectural Significance**
4.8 Two vent openings at floor level Window opening of **Most Architectural Significance**
4.9 Metal bar of **Some Architectural Significance** (due to unknown use and age)

**5.0 West Wall: Not visible.**

**6.0 Foundation: Most Architectural Significance.**

**1B. Guardhouse Building Interior Features:**

**0.0 Basement Level**

**0.1 Basement Dry Moat: Most Architectural Significance**

0.1.1 North Wall: Most Architectural Significance

0.1.1.1 Drain line for shower pan of **Negligible Architectural Significance**
0.1.1.2 Wall mounted wood 2 x 4 with nails used for hanging clothing or tools of **Minor Architectural Significance**
0.1.1.3 Miscellaneous valves, plumbing pipes and a hanger for a sink on the wall of **Negligible Architectural Significance**

0.1.2 South Wall: Most Architectural Significance

0.1.2.1 Wood post support of **Negligible Architectural Significance**

0.1.2.2 Wood cabinet with open shelves of **Minor Architectural Significance**
0.1.2.3 Wall mounted wood 2 x 4 with nails used for hanging clothing or tools of **Minor Architectural Significance**

**0.1.3 East Wall: Negligible Architectural Significance**

0.1.3.1 Wood partition wall with exterior asbestos siding, 5 windows and 1 door opening, of **Negligible Architectural Significance**

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Photo Credit: Lerner + Associates Architects
0.1.6.1 Square and geometric scored patterns of Minor Architectural Significance
0.1.6.2 Concrete shower pan of Negligible Architectural Significance

0.2 Basement Room: Most Architectural Significance

0.2.1 North Wall: Most Architectural Significance
  0.2.1.1 Large pipes penetrating the wall above the doorway of Negligible Architectural Significance
  0.2.1.2 Doorway of Some Architectural Significance (due to numerous modifications)
  0.2.1.3 Wood ductwork (attached to the concrete sump box) of Negligible Architectural Significance
  0.2.1.4 Bricked up rifle slit window with a pipe penetrating the patch of Most Architectural Significance

0.2.2 South Wall: Most Architectural Significance
  0.2.2.1 Large opening to the moat with stairs of Some Architectural Significance (due to numerous modifications)
  0.2.2.2 Flat arch from the head of the rifle slit window on the right side of Most Architectural Significance

0.2.3 East Wall: Most Architectural Significance
  0.2.3.1 Rifle slit window of Major Architectural Significance and large round opening to the chimney of Some Architectural Significance (due to unknown use and age)
  0.2.3.2 Painted window opening (window missing) with 2 x 6 jamb of Negligible Architectural Significance
  0.2.3.3 Plumbing waste line pipes of Negligible Architectural Significance
  0.2.3.4 Steel plate with through bolt of Some Architectural Significance (due to unknown use and age)
  0.2.3.5 Two iron eye hooks in the hatch of Most Architectural Significance

0.2.4 West Wall: Most Architectural Significance
  0.2.4.1 Wall mounted electrical panel box of Negligible Architectural Significance

0.2.5 Ceiling: Most Architectural Significance
  0.2.5.1 Hatch opening made of granite to Outer Guardroom of Most Architectural Significance
  0.2.5.2 Hole trimmed in granite to Outer Guardroom of Most Architectural Significance
  0.2.5.3 Various pipes suspended on tie rods of Negligible Architectural Significance

0.2.6 Floor: Most Architectural Significance
  0.2.6.1 Concrete sump box of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.0 First Floor

1.1 Inner Gunroom and Guardroom: Most Architectural Significance
1.1.1 North Wall: Most Architectural Significance

1.1.1.1 Window that appears to have an older frame with new glazing of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.1.1.2 Ached door opening with hinge pivot hardware of Most Architectural Significance

1.1.2 South Wall: Most Architectural Significance

1.1.2.1 Cannon port with a ledge that has a granite coping of Most Architectural Significance
1.1.2.2 Flue at the ceiling of Most Architectural Significance

1.1.3 East Wall: Most Architectural Significance

1.1.3.1 Large rectangular door opening Negligible Architectural Significance
1.1.3.2 Parts of 2 rifle slit windows above door opening of Most Architectural Significance
1.1.3.3 Large granite ledge for the positioning of the drawbridge counterweight of Most Architectural Significance
1.1.3.4 New electrical lights of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.1.3.5 3 rifle slit windows of Most Architectural Significance

1.1.4 West Wall: Most Architectural Significance

1.1.4.1 Wall mounted metal bracket of Some Architectural Significance (due to unknown use and age)

1.1.5 Ceiling: Most Architectural Significance

1.1.5.1 Cast iron structural frame of Most Architectural Significance
1.1.5.2 Vent of Most Architectural Significance

1.1.6 Floor: Some Architectural Significance

1.1.6.1 Granite traverse circles of Most Architectural Significance
1.1.6.2 Concrete floor of Some Architectural Significance (due to unknown age)
1.1.6.2 Brick floor of Most Architectural Significance

1.2 Sally Port: Most Architectural Significance

1.2.1 North Wall: Most Architectural Significance

1.2.1.1 Iron door pintles of Most Architectural Significance
1.2.1.2 Electrical conduit penetration of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2.2 South Wall: Most Architectural Significance
PART I

1.2.2.1 Two rectangular holes for drawbridge cable of Most Architectural Significance
1.2.2.2 Two sets of pintles of Most Architectural Significance

1.2.3 East Wall: Most Architectural Significance
1.2.3.1 Rifle slit windows (4 total) of Most Architectural Significance
1.2.3.2 Arched door opening including some latch hardware of Most Architectural Significance
1.2.3.3 Vent openings (2 total) at the floor of Most Architectural Significance
1.2.3.4 Hole for the drawbridge counterweight cable and wall mounted pulley of Most Architectural Significance

Photo Credit: Lerner + Associates Architects

1.2.4 West Wall: Most Architectural Significance
1.2.4.1 Rifle slit windows (3 total) of Most Architectural Significance
1.2.4.2 Large door opening of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.2.4.3 Parts of 2 rifle slit windows remaining above door of Most Architectural Significance
1.2.4.4 Hole for the drawbridge counterweight cable with wall mounted pulley of Most Architectural Significance
1.2.4.5 Surface mounted electrical conduit of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2.5 Ceiling: Most Architectural Significance
1.2.5.1 Surface mounted light fixture of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.2.5.2 Cast iron structural frame of Most Architectural Significance

1.2.6 Floor: Some Architectural Significance (due to unknown age)

1.3 Outer Gunroom and Guardroom: Most Architectural Significance
1.3.1 North Wall: Most Architectural Significance
1.3.1.1 Flue opening near the ceiling of Most Architectural Significance
1.3.1.2 Window of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.3.2 South Wall: Most Architectural Significance
1.3.2.1 Wood infill in large opening to Boathouse of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.3.2.2 Flue opening near the ceiling of Most Architectural Significance
1.3.2.3 Tiered brick pilaster of Some Architectural Significance (due to unknown use and unclear identity)

1.3.3 East Wall: Most Architectural Significance
1.3.3.1 Rifle slit window of Most Architectural Significance
1.3.3.2 Blocked up rifle slit window of Most Architectural Significance
1.3.3.3 Modern window of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.3.3.4 Vent openings (2 total) at the floor that are blocked off of Most Architectural Significance

1.3.4 West Wall: Most Architectural Significance

1.3.4.1 Rifle slit windows (5 total) of Most Architectural Significance
1.3.4.2 Arched brick door opening with hinge pivot hardware of Most Architectural Significance
1.3.4.3 Vent openings (2 total) at the floor of Most Architectural Significance
1.3.4.4 Hole for the drawbridge counterweight cable (granite counterweight ledge is missing) of Most Architectural Significance

1.3.5 Ceiling: Most Architectural

1.3.5.1 Plumbing pipe penetrations and ceiling mounted steel support straps of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.3.5.2 Cast iron structural frame of Most Architectural Significance

1.3.6 Floor: Some Architectural Significance

1.3.6.1 Granite traverse circles of Most Architectural Significance
1.3.6.2 Concrete floor of Some Architectural Significance (due to unknown age)
1.3.6.3 Hatch of Most Architectural Significance (due to unknown age)

2A. Library Addition Exterior Features

1.0 Roof: Some Architectural Significance (due to modifications)

1.1 Transite roof panels of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.2 Roof planking and the wood ties into the brick wall that are visible of Most Architectural Significance
1.3 Wood window dormers of Some Architectural Significance (do not appear in 1903 photos)

1.4 Wood door dormer of Some Architectural Significance (does not appear in 1903 photos)
1.5 Chimney and attic vent at the ridge of Most Architectural Significance

2.0 North Wall: Not Visible

2.1 At the attic level, there used to be a passageway connecting the Library Attic to the Schoolhouse that was of Some Architectural Significance (age unknown)

3.0 South Wall: Most Architectural Significance

First Floor

3.1 Archway for the roadway of Most Architectural Significance
3.2 Painted “Stop” sign of Some Architectural Significance (age unknown)
3.3 Hole from a pipe penetration of Negligible Architectural Significance

First Floor Level

3.4 Wood entry door of Some Architectural Significance (age unknown)
3.5 Catwalk of Some Architectural Significance (age unknown)

Attic Floor Level

3.6 Entry door of Some Architectural Significance (age unknown)
3.7 Double hung windows to each side of entry door with steel bars of Most Architectural Significance

4.0 East Wall: Most Architectural Significance

First Floor

4.1 Arched openings (2 visible – 5 total) of Most Architectural Significance
PART I

4.2 Brick infill in arched openings of Negligible Architectural Significance

4.3 Concrete stairway of Minor Architectural Significance

First Floor Level

4.4 Casement windows (3 visible – 6 total) of Most Architectural Significance

Attic Floor Level

4.5 Openings on east roof slope of Some Architectural Significance

5.0 West Wall: Most Architectural Significance

First Floor Level

5.1 Scarp wall of Most Architectural Significance

Attic Floor Level

5.2 Surface mounted electrical conduit of Negligible Architectural Significance

5.3 Window openings (2 blocked up – 5 total) of Most Architectural Significance

5.4 Tall arched door opening with pivot hinge hardware (bricked up) of Most Architectural Significance

6.0 Foundation: Most Architectural Significance

2B. Library Addition Interior Features

1.0 First Floor

1.1 Roadway Space: Most Architectural Significance

1.1.4 West Wall:

1.1.4.1 2 x 12 wood ledger of Most Architectural Significance

1.1.1 Cannon port in the Guardhouse wall of Most Architectural Significance

1.1.2 Small rectangular openings above and on either side of the Sally Port of Most Architectural Significance

1.1.2 South Wall:

1.1.2.1 Hole from piping penetrations of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.1.2.2 Wood support post of Some Architectural Significance

1.1.2.3 Surface mounted electrical conduit of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.1.3 East Wall:

1.3.1 Wood support post of Minor Architectural Significance

1.1.1.1 Cannon port in the Guardhouse wall of Most Architectural Significance

1.1.1.2 Small rectangular openings above and on either side of the Sally Port of Most Architectural Significance

Photo Credit: Lerner + Associates Architects
1.1.4.2 Rifle slit windows (2 total) of Most Architectural Significance
1.1.4.3 Modified recess of Some Architectural Significance
1.1.4.4 Rifle slits at modified recess of Most Architectural Significance
1.1.4.5 Temporary wood bracing of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.1.4.6 Light switch of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.1.4.7 3 recesses in brick wall near moat opening of Some Architectural Significance (use unknown)

1.1.5 Ceiling:
1.1.5.1 2 x 12 joists at 16” on center open ceiling of Most Architectural Significance
1.1.5.2 Temporary wood bracing of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.1.5.3 Wood beam element of Some Architectural Significance
1.1.5.4 Piping of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.1.5.5 4 tie rods of Most Architectural Significance
1.1.5.6 2 metal hooks of Some Architectural Significance (use unknown)

1.1.6 Floor:
1.1.6.1 “Sidewalk” along the east wall of Minor Architectural Significance
1.1.6.2 Cast iron pipe embedded in a concrete curb of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.1.6.3 Pipe rail guardrail at the opening in the floor of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.1.6.4 Post and beam element of Some Architectural Significance

1.2 Encroachment - Boathouse Storeroom of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2.1.1 Interior door of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.2.1.2 South Wall:
1.2.1.3 Entry door of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2.2 South Wall:
1.2.2.1 Wall of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2.3 East Wall:
1.2.3.1 Brick wall with arched openings of Most Architectural Significance

1.2.4 West Wall:
1.2.4.1 Wall of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2.5 Ceiling:
1.2.5.1 Plumbing piping of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2.6 Floor:
1.2.6.1 Floor of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.3 Encroachment - Boathouse Office of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.3.1 North Wall:
1.3.1.1 Wall of Some Architectural Significance

1.3.2 South Wall:
1.3.2.1 Interior door of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.3.3 East Wall:
1.3.3.1 Brick wall with arched openings of Most Architectural Significance
1.3.4 West Wall:
   1.3.4.1 Interior finish of Negligible Architectural Significance
   New door of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.3.5 Ceiling:
   1.3.5.1 Plumbing piping of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.3.6 Floor:
   1.3.6.1 1 x 3 tongue and groove flooring Floor of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.0 Second Floor

2.1 Multipurpose Space: Most Architectural Significance

2.1.1 North Wall:
   2.1.1.1 Wall of the Guardhouse with granite entablature (over the Sally Port opening) engraved with the words “Alcatraces Island 1857” of Most Architectural Significance

2.1.2 South Wall:
   2.1.2.1 Entry door of Some Architectural Significance
   2.1.2.2 Wood platform and a short wood stair of Minor Architectural Significance

2.1.3 East Wall:
   2.1.3.1 Windows / window openings(6 total - 2 new, 1 old, one window missing, one in-filled with concrete block, and one modified into a doorway) of Most Architectural Significance
   2.1.3.2 Surface mounted electrical conduit of Negligible Architectural Significance
   2.1.3.3 Wall mounted 2 x 4 with nails (clothing rack) of Some Architectural Significance.

2.1.4 West Wall:
   2.1.4.1 Windows (5 total) of Most Architectural Significance
   2.1.4.2 Arched door of Most Architectural Significance
   2.1.4.3 Granite coping of Most Architectural Significance
   2.1.4.3 Electrical conduit and electrical panel of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.1.5 Ceiling:
   2.1.5.1 Tongue and groove wood planking of Most Architectural Significance

2.1.6 Floor:

Photo Credit: Lerner + Associates Architects
2.1.6.1 One inch tongue and groove wood flooring (part at south is 1x5) of Most Architectural Significance
2.1.6.2 2 x 10 planking of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.1.6.3 4 x 8 wood backstop of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.1.6.4 Radiator of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.1.6.5 2 wood cabinets of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.1.6.6 Remnants of a partition wall with posts that have wheels used to retrieve paper targets of Some Architectural Significance

3.0 Attic Floor

3.1 Attic Space: Most Architectural Significance

3.1.1 North Wall:
3.1.1.1 Door opening with door missing of Some Architectural Significance
3.1.1.2 Screen doors stored against the wall of Negligible Architectural Significance

3.1.2 South Wall:
3.1.2.1 Interior canvas covering of Minor Architectural Significance
3.1.2.2 New sashes of Negligible Architectural Significance
3.1.2.3 Door frame of Some Architectural Significance

3.1.3 East Wall:
3.1.3.1 Remnants of a tongue and groove planking interior wall finish of Negligible Architectural Significance

3.1.4 West Wall:
3.1.4.1 3 dormer openings that appear to have been skylights and modified later of Some Architectural Significance
3.1.4.2 Door dormer with door of Some Architectural Significance
3.1.4.3 Long wood rifle rack of Some Architectural Significance (interpretive potential)

3.1.5 Ceiling:
3.1.5.1 Brick flue of Most Architectural Significance
3.1.5.2 Wood roof vent of Most Architectural Significance
3.1.5.3 Electrical conduit with hanging light sockets of Minor Architectural Significance

3.1.6 Floor:
3.1.6.1 1 x 3 tongue and groove flooring of Most Architectural Significance
3.1.6.2 1 x 8 tongue and groove sheathing of Most Architectural Significance
3.1.6.3 Various plumbing or heating components of Negligible Architectural Significance

Photo Credit: Lerner + Associates Architects
3A. Schoolhouse Addition Exterior Features

1.0 Roof: Negligible Architectural Significance

1.1 Concrete asbestos shingles of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.0 North Wall: Negligible Architectural Significance

First Floor Level

2.1 6 rectangular wood casement windows of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.0 South Wall: Negligible Architectural Significance

First Floor Level

3.1 2 rectangular wood casement windows of Negligible Architectural Significance

Second Floor Level

3.2 2 semicircular arched windows of Some Architectural Significance (interpretive potential)

4.0 East Wall: Negligible Architectural Significance

First Floor Level

4.1 2 rectangular wood casement windows of Negligible Architectural Significance

Second Floor Level

4.2 Semicircular arched window of Some Architectural Significance (interpretive potential)

Attic Level

4.3 Tall semicircular wood louvered vent of Some Architectural Significance (interpretive potential)

5.0 West Wall: Negligible Architectural Significance

First Floor Level

5.1 2 rectangular wood casement windows of Negligible Architectural Significance

Second Floor Level

5.2 3 semicircular arched windows of Negligible Architectural Significance

3.0 South Wall: Negligible Architectural Significance

First Floor Level

3.1 2 rectangular wood casement windows of Negligible Architectural Significance

Second Floor Level

3.2 2 semicircular arched windows of Some Architectural Significance (interpretive potential)
5.2 Single leaf entry door with fixed transom of Negligible Architectural Significance

Second Floor Level

5.3 Concrete stair of Negligible Architectural Significance

5.4 Double leaf wood door with fixed transom and 2 double hung windows of Negligible Architectural Significance

Attic Level

5.5 Tall semicircular wood louvered vent of Some Architectural Significance

6.0 Foundation: Most Architectural Significance

3B. Schoolhouse Addition Interior Features

1.0 First Floor

1.1 Parlor: Minor Architectural Significance

1.1.1 North Wall:

1.1.1.1 2 rectangular casement windows of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.1.1.2 Wood baseboards and wall trim of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.1.2 South Wall:

1.1.2.1 Partition wall with 2 doors of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.1.3 East Wall:

1.1.3.1 Partition wall with 2 doors of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.1.4 West Wall:

1.1.4.1 2 windows of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.1.4.2 Electrical panel of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.1.4.3 Surface mounted electrical conduit of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.1.5 Ceiling:

1.1.5.1 Exposed concrete patterned by formwork boards of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.1.6 Floor:

1.1.6.1 1 x 3 tongue and groove wood flooring of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2 Hallway: Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2.1 North Wall:

1.2.1.1 Partition wall with 4 doors of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2.2 South Wall:

1.2.2.1 Rectangular casement window of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2.2.2 Wood dowels of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2.3 East Wall:

1.2.3.1 Partition wall with 1 door of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2.4 West Wall:

1.2.4.1 Wood door and fixed transom window of Negligible Architectural Significance

Significance
1.2.5 Ceiling:

1.2.5.1 Exposed concrete patterned by formwork boards of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.2.5.2 Surface mounted electrical conduit of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.2.5.3 2 surface mounted light fixtures of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2.6 Floor:

1.2.6.1 1 x 3 tongue and groove wood flooring of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.3 Bedroom 1: Negligible Architectural Significance

1.3.1 North Wall:

1.3.1.1 2 rectangular casement windows of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.3.2 South Wall:

1.3.2.1 Partition wall with 1 door of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.3.3 East Wall:

1.3.3.1 Partition wall with 1 door of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.3.4 West Wall:

1.3.4.1 Partition wall with 1 door of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.3.4.2 Electrical receptacle of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.3.5 Ceiling:

1.3.5.1 Exposed concrete patterned by formwork boards of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.3.5.2 Surface mounted electrical conduit of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.3.5.3 Surface mounted light fixture of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.3.6 Floor:

1.3.6.1 1 x 3 tongue and groove wood flooring of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.4 Bedroom 2: Minor Architectural Significance

1.4.1 North Wall:

1.4.1.1 2 rectangular casement windows of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.4.1.2 Wood baseboards and wood wall trim of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.4.2 South Wall:

1.4.2.1 Partition wall with 1 door of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.4.2.2 Surface mounted electrical conduit of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.4.2.3 Light switch of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.4.3 East Wall:

1.4.3.1 Partition wall with 1 door of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.4.3.2 Surface mounted electrical conduit of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.4.4 West Wall:

1.4.4.1 Partition wall with 1 door of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.4.5 Ceiling:

1.4.5.1 Exposed concrete patterned by formwork boards of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.4.5.2 Surface mounted electrical conduit of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.4.5.3 Surface mounted light fixture of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.4.5.4 2 surface mounted junction boxes of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.4.5.5 2 recessed junction boxes of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.4.6 Floor:

1.4.5.6 1 x 3 tongue and groove wood flooring of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.5 Bathroom: Negligible Architectural Significance

1.5.1 North Wall:

1.5.1.1 2 rectangular casement windows of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.5.1.2 Wood baseboards and wood wall trim of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.5.1.3 Toilet of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.5.2 South Wall:

1.5.2.1 Partition wall with 1 door opening of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.5.2.2 Surface mounted electrical conduit of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.5.2.3 Light switch of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.5.2.4 Recessed medicine of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.5.2.5 Small wall mounted shelf of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.5.2.6 Lavatory of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.5.3 East Wall:

1.5.3.1 Rectangular window of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.5.4 West Wall:

1.5.4.1 Partition wall of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.5.5 Ceiling:

1.5.5.1 Exposed concrete patterned by formwork boards of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.5.5.2 Surface mounted electrical conduit of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.5.5.3 Surface mounted light fixture of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.5.5.4 Drain pipe stack and a vent pipe of Negligible Architectural Significance
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1.5.6 Floor:

1.5.6.1 1 x 3 tongue and groove wood flooring of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.5.6.2 Linoleum in poor condition of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.5.6.3 Cast iron claw foot tub of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.6 Kitchen: Negligible Architectural Significance

1.6.1 North Wall:

1.6.1.1 Partition wall of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.6.1.2 Small wall mounted wood shelf of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.6.1.3 Gas pipe in poor condition of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.6.2 South Wall:

1.6.2.1 Rectangular casement window of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.6.2.2 Drop-in sink with two handle wall mounted faucet of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.6.2.3 Wood cabinet of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.6.2.4 Linoleum covered counter of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.6.3 East Wall:

1.6.3.1 Rectangular casement window of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.6.3.2 Small wall mounted shelf of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.6.3.3 Surface mounted electrical conduit of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.6.3.4 Surface mounted electrical outlet of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.6.4 West Wall:

1.6.4.1 Partition wall of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.6.4.2 Electrical panel of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.6.4.3 Built-in cabinet of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.6.5 Ceiling:

1.6.5.1 Exposed concrete patterned by formwork boards of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.6.5.2 Surface mounted electrical conduit of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.6.5.3 Surface mounted light fixture of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.6.6 Floor:

1.6.6.1 1 x 3 tongue and groove wood flooring of Negligible Architectural Significance
1.6.6.2 Linoleum in poor condition of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.0 Second Floor

2.1 Parlor: Negligible Architectural Significance

2.1.1 North Wall:
   2.1.1.1 Arched window of Negligible Architectural Significance
   2.1.1.2 Brackets for hanging curtains of Negligible Architectural Significance
   2.1.1.3 Wood baseboards wood wall trim of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.1.2 South Wall:
   2.1.2.1 Arched window of Negligible Architectural Significance
   2.1.2.2 Brackets for hanging curtains of Negligible Architectural Significance
   2.1.2.3 Wood baseboards wood wall trim of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.1.3 East Wall:
   2.1.3.1 Partition wall with 1 door of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.1.4 West Wall:
   2.1.4.1 2 double hung windows of Negligible Architectural Significance
   2.1.4.2 Double leaf entry door with fixed transom of Negligible Architectural Significance
   2.1.4.3 Light switch of Negligible Architectural Significance
   2.1.4.4 Surface mounted electrical conduit of Negligible Architectural Significance
   2.1.4.5 Recessed electrical receptacle of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.1.5 Ceiling:
   2.1.5.1 Exposed concrete patterned by formwork boards of Negligible Architectural Significance
   2.1.5.2 Surface mounted ceiling fixture of Negligible Architectural Significance
   2.1.5.3 Uncovered hatch for access to the attic of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.1.6 Floor:
   2.1.6.1 1 x 3 tongue and groove wood flooring of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.2 Hallway: Negligible Architectural Significance

2.2.1 North Wall:
   2.2.1.1 Partition wall with 2 doors of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.2.2 South Wall:
   2.2.2.1 Arched window of Some Architectural Significance
   2.2.2.2 Wood entry door of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.2.3 East Wall:
   2.2.3.1 Partition wall of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.2.4 West Wall:
   2.2.4.1 Partition wall with 2 doors of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.2.5 Ceiling:
   2.2.5.1 Exposed concrete patterned by formwork boards of Negligible Architectural Significance
   2.2.5.2 2 Surface mounted ceiling fixtures of Negligible Architectural Significance
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2.2.5.3 Surface mounted electrical conduit of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.2.6 Floor:

2.2.6.1 1 x 3 tongue and groove wood flooring of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.3 Bedroom 1: Negligible Architectural Significance

2.3.1 North Wall:

2.3.1.1 Arched window of Some Architectural Significance
2.3.1.2 Brackets for hanging curtains of Negligible Architectural Significance of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.3.1.3 Wood baseboards and wood wall trim of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.3.2 South Wall:

2.3.2.1 Partition wall with 1 door of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.3.2.2 Light switch of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.3.3 East Wall:

2.3.3.1 Partition wall with 1 door of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.3.4 West Wall:

2.3.4.1 Partition wall with 1 door of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.3.4.2 Recessed receptacle of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.3.5 Ceiling:

2.3.5.1 1 x 5 tongue and groove planks of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.3.5.2 Surface mounted ceiling fixture of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.3.5.3 2 recessed junction boxes of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.3.6 Floor:

2.3.6.1 1 x 3 tongue and groove wood flooring of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.4 Bedroom 2: Negligible Architectural Significance

2.4.1 North Wall:

2.4.1.1 2 Arched windows of Some Architectural Significance
2.4.1.2 Wood baseboards and wood wall trim of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.4.2 South Wall:
2.4.2.1 Partition wall and door of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.4.2.2 Light switch of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.4.3 East Wall:
2.4.3.1 Partition wall and door of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.4.3.2 Light switch of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.4.4 West Wall:
2.4.4.1 Partition wall and door of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.4.5 Ceiling:
2.4.5.1 1 x 5 tongue and groove planks of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.4.5.2 Surface mounted ceiling fixture of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.4.5.3 2 recessed junction boxes of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.4.6 Floor:
2.4.6.1 1 x 3 tongue and groove wood flooring of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.5 Bathroom: Negligible Architectural Significance

2.5.1 North Wall:
2.5.1.1 Arched window of Some Architectural Significance
2.5.1.2 Wood baseboards and wood wall trim of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.5.1.3 Radiator of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.5.1.4 Toilet of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.5.2 South Wall:
2.5.2.1 Partition wall and door opening of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.5.2.2 Electrical conduit of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.5.2.3 Light switch of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.5.2.4 Small wall mounted shelf of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.5.2.5 Lavatory of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.5.2.6 Wall mounted tub filler spout of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.5.3 East Wall:
2.5.3.1 Arched window of Some Architectural Significance
2.5.3.2 Cast iron bathtub of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.5.4 West Wall:
2.5.4.1 Partition wall of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.5.5 Ceiling:
2.5.5.1 1 x 5 tongue and groove planks of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.5.5.2 Surface mounted light fixture of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.5.5.3 2 recessed junction boxes of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.5.6 Floor:
2.5.6.1 1 x 3 tongue and groove wood flooring of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.5.6.2 Linoleum of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.6 Kitchen: Negligible Architectural Significance

2.6.1 North Wall:
2.6.1.1 Partition wall and door opening of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.6.1.2 Access panel for bathtub plumbing of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.6.2. South Wall:
2.6.2.1 Arched window of Some Architectural Significance
2.6.2.2 Wall mounted sink with two handle wall mounted faucet of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.6.3 East Wall:
2.6.3.1 Arched window of Some Architectural Significance
2.6.3.2 Small wall mounted shelf of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.6.3.3 Surface mounted electrical conduit of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.6.3.4 Surface mounted electrical outlet of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.6.4 West Wall:
2.6.4.1 Partition wall and door opening of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.6.4.2 Wood cabinet with hutch of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.6.5 Ceiling:
2.6.5.1 1 x 5 tongue and groove planks of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.6.5.2 Surface mounted light fixture of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.6.5.3 2 recessed junction boxes of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.6.6 Floor:
2.6.6.1 1 x 3 tongue and groove wood flooring of Negligible Architectural Significance
2.6.6.2 Linoleum of Negligible Architectural Significance

4A. Boathouse Addition Exterior Features

1.0 Roof: Negligible Architectural Significance
1.1 Transite roof panels of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.0 North Wall: Negligible Architectural Significance
2.1 Not visible. The north elevation is the south wall of the Guardhouse.

3.0 South Wall: Negligible Architectural Significance
Ground Floor level
3.1 2 double hung windows of Negligible Architectural Significance

First Floor level
3.2 2 double hung windows of Negligible Architectural Significance

4.0 East Wall: Negligible Architectural Significance
Ground Floor level
4.1 4 double hung windows of Negligible Architectural Significance

First Floor level
4.2 4 fixed windows of Negligible Architectural Significance

5.0 West Wall: Most Architectural Significance
Ground Floor level
5.1 Door of Negligible Architectural Significance
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6.0 Foundation: Some Architectural Significance

4B. Boathouse Addition Interior Features

0.0 Basement Level

0.1 Basement Space: Negligible Architectural Significance

0.1.1 North Wall:
   00.1.1.1 Concrete frame of Minor Architectural Significance

0.1.2 South Wall: Open

0.1.3 East Wall:
   00.1.3.1 Concrete frame of Negligible Architectural Significance

0.1.4 West Wall:
   00.1.4.1 Wood floor joists of Negligible Architectural Significance

0.1.5 Ceiling:
   01.1.5.1 Wood floor joists of Negligible Architectural Significance
   01.1.5.2 Pipes suspended from the floor joists of Negligible Architectural Significance

0.1.6 Floor: Bluff rock.

1.0 First Floor

1.1 Storeroom Space: Negligible Architectural Significance

1.1.1 North Wall:
   11.1.1.1 Wood partition wall of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.1.2 South Wall:
   11.1.2.1 2 new double hung windows of Negligible Architectural Significance
   11.1.2.2 Wood louver of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.1.3 East Wall:
   11.1.3.1 Electrical conduit of Negligible Architectural Significance
   11.1.3.2 Drain pipe of Negligible Architectural Significance
   11.1.3.3 3 new double hung windows of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.1.4 West Wall:
   11.1.4.1 Brick wall of Library addition with arched openings of Most Architectural Significance
   11.1.4.2 2x8 ledger through-bolted into the brick wall and having “s” shaped steel straps of Minor Architectural Significance

1.1.5 Ceiling:
   11.1.5.1 Plumbing piping suspended from the floor joists of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.1.6 Floor:
   11.1.6.1 1 x 3 tongue and groove wood flooring of Negligible Architectural Significance
   11.1.6.2 Old machinery and equipment storage of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2 Office Space: Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2.1 North Wall:
   11.2.1.1 Painted brick wall of Guardhouse of Most Architectural Significance
1.2.2 South Wall:

1.2.2.1 Wood partition wall with door of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2.3 East Wall:

1.2.3.1 Brick wall of Library addition with arched openings of Most Architectural Significance

1.2.4 West Wall:

1.2.4.1 Paper faced wood composition paneling of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2.4.2 New door of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2.5 Ceiling:

1.2.5.1 Open 2x10 floor joists with tongue and groove wood planking remaining in some areas of Negligible Architectural Significance

1.2.6 Floor:

1.2.6.1 1x5 tongue and groove plank flooring over 1x3 tongue and groove flooring of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.0 Second Floor

2.1 Storeroom: Negligible Architectural Significance

2.1.1 North Wall:

2.1.1.1 Painted brick wall of Guardhouse of Most Architectural Significance

2.1.1.2 2x4 sloped knee wall of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.1.2 South Wall:

2.1.2.1 Wood partition wall with door into shower room of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.1.3 East Wall:

2.1.3.1 4 windows of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.1.3.2 Plumbing piping of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.1.4 West Wall:

2.1.4.1 Brick wall of Library addition of Most Architectural Significance

2.1.4.2 Large door opening converted from a window opening of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.1.4.3 One blocked up window opening of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.1.5 Ceiling:

2.1.5.1 Open 2x6 rafters with wood shingles visible of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.1.6 Floor:
   2.1.6.1 1x5 tongue and groove plank flooring of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.2 Toilet Room: Negligible Architectural Significance

2.2.1 North Wall:
   2.2.1.1 Wood partition wall with door of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.2.2 South Wall:
   2.2.2.1 Wood frame wall with 1x6 tongue and groove siding and no interior finish of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.2.3 East Wall:
   2.2.3.1 Large wood louver of Negligible Architectural Significance
   2.2.3.2 Plumbing supply pipe of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.2.4 West Wall:
   2.2.4.1 Wood partition wall in fair condition of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.2.5 Ceiling:
   2.2.5.1 Open 2x6 rafters with wood shingles visible of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.2.6 Floor:
   2.2.6.1 1x5 tongue and groove plank flooring covered in linoleum of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.3 Shower Room: Negligible Architectural Significance

2.3.1 North Wall:
   2.3.1.1 Wood partition wall with door of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.3.2 South Wall:
   2.3.2.1 2 windows of Negligible Architectural Significance
   2.3.2.2 Plumbing piping of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.3.3 East Wall:
   1.3.3.1 Wood partition wall of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.3.4 West Wall:
   2.3.4.1 Brick wall of Library addition of Most Architectural Significance
   2.3.4.2 Large window opening of Most Architectural Significance

2.3.5 Ceiling:
   2.3.5.1 Open 2x6 rafters with wood shingles visible of Negligible Architectural Significance

2.3.6 Floor:
   1.3.6.1 Concrete shower pan of Negligible Architectural Significance
APPENDIX A: DRAWINGS
APPENDIX B: PHOTOGRAPHS
APPENDIX C: FOOTNOTES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

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7 Email, William L. Brown III, National Park Service, to author, 25 July 26, 2001. Bill Brown is one of the nations’ leading experts on the United States Army and its material culture, especially uniforms and furnishings. He first proposed the theory that the howitzers could have been removed from their casemates to provide space for the garrison.
9 Department of the Pacific, Letters Sent, 11: 199, 200, 203; Daily Alta California, 16 September 1862.
10 Elliot to Humphreys, 17 June 1869, “Letters Received 1867-1870 (A File),” OCE, RG 77, NARA; Post Returns, Alcatraz, February 1862, Roll 14, Microcopy 617, NARA
11 Col. George Mendell to Maj. J. P. Sherburne, Army Adjutant General (AAG), 5 August 1867, and Mendell to Humphreys, 22 June 1869, “Letters Received 1867-1870, (A File),” OCE, RG 77, NARA
12 Mendell to CO, Alcatraz, 11 June 1868, “Letters Received 1867-1870, (A File),” OCE, RG 77, NARA
13 Mendell to Chief of Engineers, 3 January 1887, “Letters Received 1886-1887”, OCE, RG 77, NARA
14 Extracts from a report by the Judge Advocate Genera (JAG) to the Secretary of War, 25 October 1905, on the military prison on Alcatraz, “General Correspondence, 1890-1914”, OQMG, RG 92 NA
15 “Map of Pacific Branch United States Military Prison, Alcatraz Island, California,” prepared by Lt. Col. Reuben S. Turner, November 1910, Blueprint File, RG 92, Cartographic Archives Division, NARA. The Saltwater Pump House would have supplied the island with saltwater, used predominantly for the flushing of toilets and fighting fires.
16 Photograph “Alcatraz c. 1914,” Immigration and Naturalization (INS), Subject Correspondence, RG 85, NARA
17 “Historical Record of Buildings,” prepared by post quartermaster, Alcatraz Island, May 1929
18 [NARA correspondence re rifle range and building 77 dated 1945?]
19 Letter, McPherson to DeRussys, 2 August 1859, “Letters Received 1838-1866,” OCE, RG 77, NARA
20 Letter, Totten to Secretary of War John B. Floyd, 9 November 1859, Totten’s Correspondence 1860-1861, Official Papers, vols. 8 and 9, OCE, RG 77, NARA; and Totten to Floyd, 6 March 1860, Land Papers, OCE, RG 77, NARA; and Wright to McPherson, 2 May 1860, OCE, RG 77, NARA
21 Letter, McPherson to Totten, 26 July 1861, “Letters Received 1838-1866,” OCE, RG 77, NARA
22 Letter, Elliot to Totten, 3 September 1863, “Letters Received 1838-1866,” OCE, RG 77, NARA. Actually, the report states under the category “Guns mounted”: “19 24-pounder flank howitzers in casemates.” Since there positions for only 19 such weapons on the entire island, it can be inferred the Guardhouse guns were in place.
23 Mendell to CO, Alcatraz, 11 June 1868, “Letters Received 1867-1870, (A File),” OCE, RG 77, NARA
24 Lt. G. L. Anderson, QM, Alcatraz, to Chief QM, Division of the Pacific, 31 March 1881, Consolidated Correspondence File, QMG, RG 92, NARA
26 Memo, Thomas F. Butterworth, Chief Mechanical Inspector, to James A. Johnston, Warden of Alcatraz, 11 February 1947. General Correspondence, 1944-1963, Box 1, Alcatraz Admin Files, RG 129, NARA.
27 Site visit, 23 July 2001
28 Phone interview, James P. Delgado, retired park historian, Golden Gate NRA, 23 April 2001; and email, Delgado to author, 17 April 2001.
29 Site visit and interview with Jim Adams, Blue and Gold Fleet, 25 August 1998.
30 Site visit, 23 July 2001
“Buildings now existing at Alcatraz Island,” n.d. but ca 1914, “General Correspondence 1890-1914,” OQMG, RG 92, NARA.

War Department, Surgeon General’s Office. Washington, 5 December 1870.

“A Report on the Hygiene of the U.S. Army with Descriptions of Military Posts.” War Department, Surgeon General’s Office, 1 May 1875

Lt. G. L. Anderson,QM, Alcatraz, to Chief QM, Division of the Pacific, 31 March 1881, Consolidated Correspondence File, OQMG, RG 92, NARA


Capt. A.M. Fuller, Quartermaster, Alcatraz, to Chief QM, Dept. of California, 20 March 1902. General Correspondence, 1890-1914, Office of the Quartermaster General, RG92, NARA

Exact construction date unknown. The date used in this report is based upon a comparison of historic photographs of Alcatraz taken at confirmed dates.

“Historical Record of Buildings, Alcatraz Island: Building No. 22 - Warehouse.” April 1929. Alcatraz Island “Class 4” files, RG 129, NARA

Exhibit ‘A’, Section III, Plans of All Buildings and Structures On Alcatraz Island, etc.”, prepared June 1934. Army Transfer Vouchers, Box 15, Alcatraz Admin Files, RG 129, NARA

Exhibit ‘A’, Section III, Plans of All Buildings and Structures On Alcatraz Island, etc.”, prepared June 1934. Army Transfer Vouchers, Box 15, Alcatraz Admin Files, RG 129, NARA. No plans were found in these files, only building descriptions and uses.

Phone interview with Philip Bergen, retired Captain of the Guard, 26 July 2001

Bergen


Memo, Swope to Director, BOP, 22 June 1953, File “Accident/Injury, 1939-1959,” Box 8, Alcatraz Admin Files, RG 129, NARA

Memo, Swope to Acting Director, BOP, 2 September 1953. File “Accident/Injury, 1939-1959,” Box 8, Alcatraz Admin Files, RG 129, NARA


Alcatraz Fights program, 5 March 1930 issue.

Interview, Mrs. Mary DeMaeyer, Mill Valley, California, 1990.

“Historical Record of Buildings, Alcatraz Island: Building No. 77 – School and Night Employees Qtrs.” May 1929. Alcatraz Island “Class 4” files, RG 129, NARA

“Summary of Equipment Transferred from the War Department,” 1933. Folder “Escapes & Reward Enclosures, 1931-1963,” Box 21, Alcatraz Admin Files, RG 129, NARA

Johnston to James V. Bennett, Director, BOP, “Quarters for Prospective Employees”, 5 May 1943. Folder “Subsistence, 1938-1963”, Box 9, Alcatraz Admin Files, RG 129, NARA

Joyce Ritz, interview, Alcatraz Island, 12 August 2001. Joyce and her family lived in the upper apartment in 1934 when she was 12 years old.

Frank Heaney, interview, Alcatraz Island, 12 August 2001. Former correctional officer Heaney shared one of the “BOQ” apartments with three other officers when he began working on Alcatraz in 1948.


Madigan to Director, “Building #77,” 15 June 1955. Folder “General 1953-1958,” Box 1, Alcatraz Admin Files, RG 129, NARA

One-page document titled “Telephone Directory” effective 1 April 1960. Box 1, Jack Fleming Collection, GOGA 3087, Park Archives & Records Center, Golden Gate National Recreation Area


Casey to Kelley. 19 August 1959. Folder “General, 1958-1961”, Box 1, Alcatraz Admin Files, RG 129, NARA


Historical Record of Buildings, Alcatraz Island: Building No. 22 – Warehouse.” April 1929. Alcatraz Island “Class 4” files, RG 129, NARA

Exhibit ‘A’, Section III, Plans of All Buildings and Structures On Alcatraz Island, etc.”, prepared June 1934. Army Transfer Vouchers, Box 15, Alcatraz Admin Files, RG 129, NARA

Casey to Kelley. 19 August 1959. Folder “General, 1958-1961”, Box 1, Alcatraz Admin Files, RG 129, NARA