

U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION, JUNIOR OFFICERS QUARTERS NO.
9
(Quarters No. 9)
North Avenue
Pensacola
Escambia County
Florida

HABS FL-401
FL-401

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FL-401

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
100 Alabama St. NW
Atlanta, GA 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. Naval Air Station, Junior Officer's Quarters No. 9
(U.S. Naval Air Station, Quarters No. 9)

HABS No. FL-401

Location: North Avenue
Pensacola Naval Air Station
Escambia County, Florida

Significance: Built in 1918 as a quadruplex junior officer's quarters during the World War I era of expansion at the Naval Air Station, Quarters 9 is significant as a contributing structure in the 84-acre Pensacola Historic District (also known as the Pensacola Navy Yard) as is Quarters 10, an identical quadruplex on the same site. The junior officers' housing was only used as officer's residential quarters during its history and has never been converted to other uses (NR nomination, p.9). Both buildings are located on North Avenue across from senior officers' residential homes near the Pensacola Bay waterfront.

During World War I, the Pensacola Naval Air Station was one of five military aviation schools located in Florida. There were 35 nationwide. The Pensacola naval facility became the first permanent naval air station in the U.S., and the first to send pilots into combat in 1913. It was officially designated as the Pensacola Naval Air Station in 1918 (NR nomination). In 1917, when the U.S. entered World War I, NAS only had three instructors, 38 pilots and nine seaplanes, (History of Florida, p.369; Military Presence, p.119). By 1918 there were 45 aviators, 200 student officers, and a growing need for officer housing. By 1919, NAS had 438 officers assigned and had expanded to become one of the most important naval aviation facilities in the world (A History of Florida, pp. 369-370).

Description: The two-story side-gabled frame vernacular structure was originally sheathed in pine novelty siding and is identical to its sister building, Quarters 10, which stands next to it. Quarters 9 is undistinguished by decorative elements or ornamentation. The building was traditionally painted white and may have once had shutters, as was common in other 1918 buildings built in the area. The buildings are located in the center of a large rectangular site which faces north on North Avenue towards historical single-family homes reserved for commanding officers. The architect and builder are unknown.

The building's main component is a symmetrical rectangular footprint 90' x 30' wide augmented by rectangular porches (70' x 10'3") on the front (north) elevation which do not extend full-facade, but end ten feet from both the east and west elevations. The roofing is now constructed of conventional composition shingles.

Windows and doors:

The original windows were six-over-six double-hung sash, and many of these were replaced with modern metal framed windows, especially on the rear facade. Each of the four apartments has a two-panel, one-lite door with a transom opening onto a porch which has been modified with screening and additional framing. Transoms originally had three-lites, but many have been reduced to only one. The front facade has ten wooden casement windows with two three-lite panels on the north facade and additional casements of the same dimensions and type on the interior walls facing outward to the screened porches. Access to the building on the primary north elevation is through a single paneled central entrance door leading to an interior hallway with beaded 3.5" paneling and a staircase located in the center of the building.

Porches:

Porches have a sloped shed roof and originally probably extended as open porches across the front facade, beginning ten feet from the side of the building. The front porches appear to have been partially enclosed in the center of the building at an unknown date to create additional bedrooms in each apartment. The remaining open porches on the north front facade were reframed and screened in, with the original railing left substantially intact on the interior of the screening and framing.

Other alterations:

In the seventy years from 1918 to 1998, the building and its twin have been subjected to many alterations and additions in tandem. The most extensive alterations were additions to house kitchen facilities, rear porches and staircases on the southern rear facade. Both buildings were also sheathed in a white asbestos siding on all facades. Alterations were made to the interior, primarily consisting of installations of kitchen and bath facilities, HVAC, and modern carpet and resilient floor coverings during modernization renovations. Quarters 9 has an interior central staircase with several landings and 2" x 2" square railings.

The additions contain modern kitchens with stoves, sinks, cabinets and refrigerators and were constructed at an unknown date prior to 1954. The quadraplex has modern bathroom facilities with a half-bath and a full bath in each. Bathrooms were updated in 1984. Numerous interior alterations were made to accommodate HVAC and plumbing modernizations in 1996.

Notable Features: Triangular and rectangular built in glass-door cabinets in living and dining rooms. Center hall entrances with square 2" x 2" staircase railings, leading to the two upstairs apartments. Narrow 4-inch beaded interior paneling in the hallway. Ample rectangular porches have simple 2" x 2" square railings topped by a rounded cap.

Physical Condition of Structure: Quarters 9 is endangered due to demolition plans resulting from water intrusion and subsequent deterioration of interior framing and sills. Water has penetrated behind the asbestos siding and fungal rot has infiltrated the large supporting beam sills (6" x 6" heart pine), leading to extensive decay of supporting members. Further deterioration may be present in areas now hidden by asbestos siding. Primary damage is to the exterior beneath the siding and corner boards and to the peripheral supporting structure of the building. Extensive rotten wood was also found beneath an apartment's kitchen flooring in Quarters 9 during an interior renovation, leading to demolition plans for both Quarters 9 and 10. The interior has been well-maintained and some apartments were recently renovated, however supporting structural components were not inspected regularly for decay, leading to advanced deterioration due to woodrot and insect infestation.

Location Maps: USGS map (Barrancas), NAS historical maps dated prior to and after 1918 construction also provided from archives of Naval Air Station. Xerox copies of 1997 Navy Base maps.

Photographs: Al Audleman, photographer, ASA Photographics, Pensacola (4"x5" negs).

Sources: Adams, George R., "Pensacola Naval Air Station Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1976.

Coker, William S., Editor, The Military Presence on the Gulf Coast, Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference, Pensacola, 1978.

Tebeau, Charlton, A History of Florida, University of Miami Press, Coral Gables, Florida, 1971.

Florida Master Site File, Site Files 8ES1616 (Jr. Officers Quarters 9) and (Jr. Officers Quarters 10) 8ES1617, R.A. Gray Building, Tallahassee, Florida, 1985.

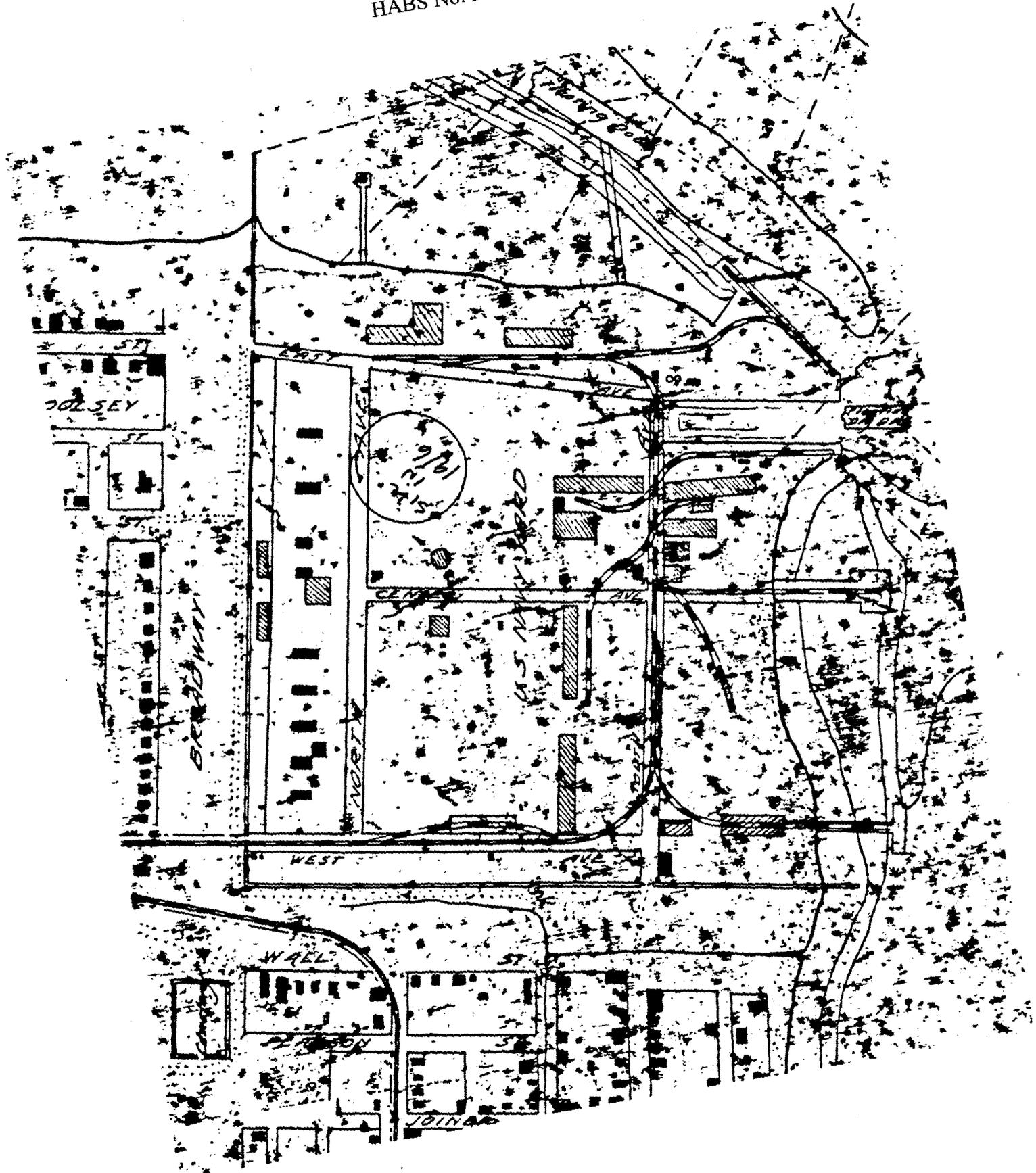
Historic American Building Survey, Naval Air Station, Escambia County,
Florida Library of Congress, 1972.

Some included information was based on interviews with Dan Gregory
and Dan Bowen, civil service cultural resource officers at NAS and retired
civil service cultural resource officer Dick Callaway.

Further records may exist in naval records in the National Archives but
current civil service staff do not have historical records or photographs
relating to Quarters 9 and 10. NAS has an extensive collections of
blueprints and photographs, but materials pertaining to Quarters 9 and 10
were scarce.

Historian:

Dr. Diana Jarvis Godwin, 2086 Las Vegas Trail, Navarre, Fl 32566,
Architectural Historian.
February, 1998



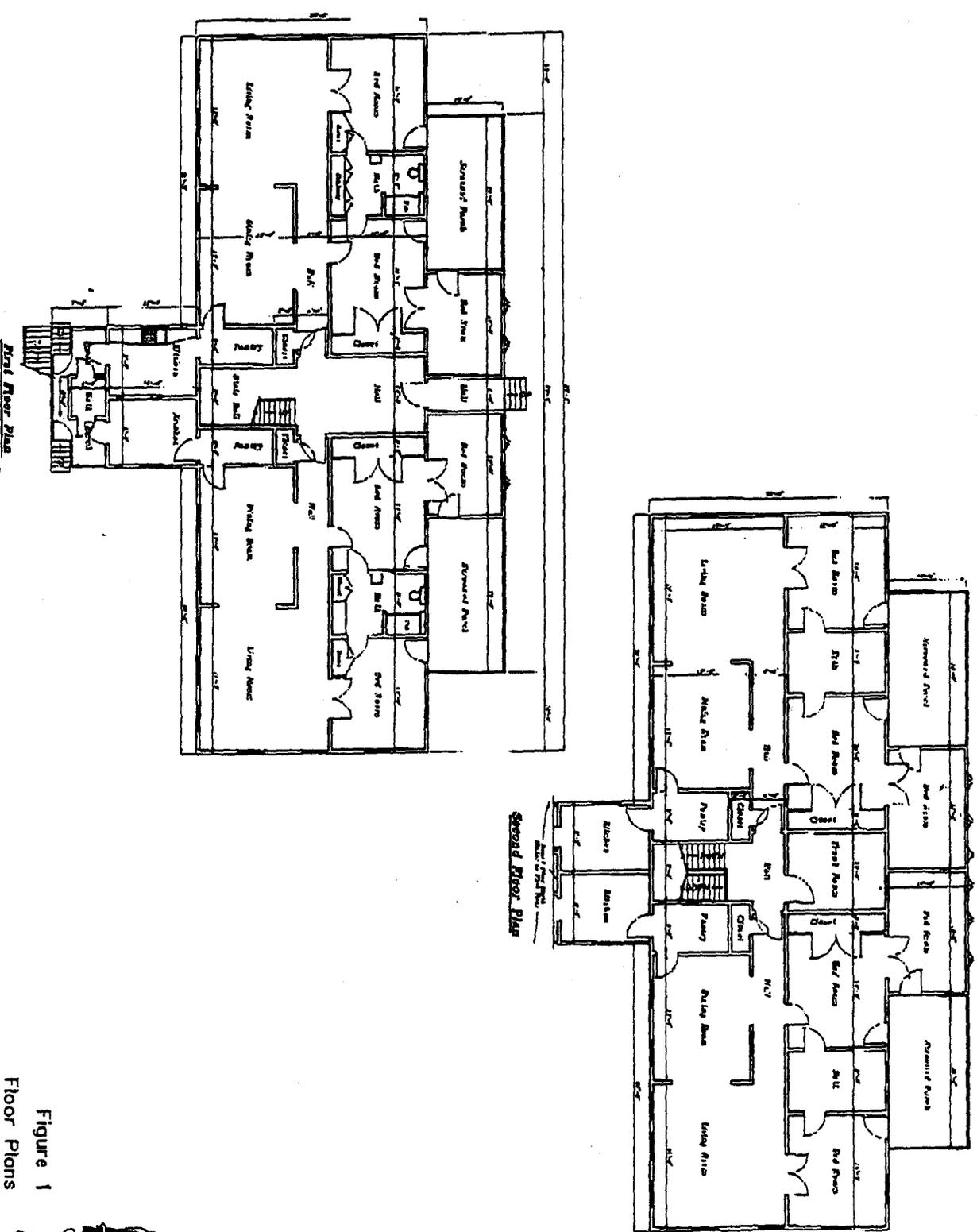


Figure 1
Floor Plans



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U.S. Naval Air Station
Quarters 9 and 10
Pensacola, Florida

Project No. EJ96148
Date: August 1998
Scale: N.T.S.
Drawing No. 1 of 1