

U.S. COAST GUARD (USCG) FORT CROCKETT HOUSING,
JUNIOR OFFICERS' HOUSING UNIT
Fort Crockett Historic District
4117-4121, 4201-4205, 4209-4213, and 4217-4221 Sarna Court
Galveston
Galveston County
Texas

HABS TX-3480
HABS TX-3480

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SOUTHWEST SYSTEM SUPPORT OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
PO Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
JUNIOR OFFICER HOUSING UNIT

HABS No. TX-3480

Location: 4117-4121, 4201-4205, 4209-4213, 4217-4221 Sarna Court
Fort Crockett
Galveston, Galveston County, Texas

USGS Galveston Quadrangle (7.5')

Significance: This Fort Crockett Housing Unit, one of four Junior Officers' housing units, is a contributing element of the Fort Crockett Historic District which is significant for its role as a coastal defense installation and training center of the Texas and Gulf coasts from 1897 to World War II. Built in 1939, these housing units represent a second phase of housing construction that followed an earlier phase in 1910. These buildings possess a unified identify by virtue of their scale, form, massing, materials, and relationship to each other. The housing, along with the remaining structures and batteries, retain a sense of the overall importance of Fort Crockett and its significance in the history of Galveston and the Texas coast.

Description: The housing complex consists of fourteen buildings: a Commanding Officer's Unit, four Senior Officer Housing Units, four Junior Officer Units, and five Enlisted Units. As originally constructed, the buildings met the functional requirements of the Army, the climatic setting, and are in character with many of the other facilities at Fort Crockett. Built in 1939, this Junior Officer's Housing Unit is identical to three adjacent units located at 4117-4121, 4201-4205, 4209-4213 Sarna Court

This housing unit is a symmetrical, U-shaped, two-story duplex with a low-hipped roof. One-story projections appear on the side and rear walls. The unit exhibits characteristics of the Mediterranean style in its roof, arched entry way, and windows on the second story that are smaller than the windows on the first story. The overall massing and style of the unit continues the same Mediterranean theme as the earlier housing units on the base

reconstruction of the fort was undertaken by the United States Army Engineers. The Commanding Officer's Unit and the Senior Officers' Units were built in 1910, along Sarna Avenue, as part of the 1909 reconstruction of Fort Crockett. The Junior Officers' Units were built to the east of Commanding and Senior Officers' Units as the second phase of housing construction for the base.

A 1911 pamphlet mentions the earlier housing units and some of their amenities:

"With very few exceptions the buildings are of reinforced concrete construction and absolutely fireproof...The buildings have all been constructed to meet the requirements of the climate. Wide galleries have been provided and to a large extent the mission style of architecture has been carried out. The buildings all overlook the Gulf of Mexico...and there is not to be found in any part of the country a more pleasant spot for the location of Uncle Sam's fighters."¹

No garrison was assigned to Fort Crockett until 1911, when it became the mobilization center for 4,000 troops during the Mexican border troubles. In 1912, the 5th infantry Brigade arrived and remained until 1914, when they were ordered to Vera Cruz, Mexico, returning in November 1914.

World War I to 1939. Fort Crockett served as an assembly point for troops being sent overseas in World War I to France and as training grounds for heavy artillery troops for the expeditionary forces, while the Coast Artillery forces and their gun emplacements were ready for immediate action if necessary. After the war the Third Attack Group from Kelly Field was stationed at the fort in 1926 and an airstrip was built in 1927. Between 1927 and 1935 the fort was used to train coast artillery, anti-aircraft units and air corps.

World War II to present. 1940 saw more men assigned to the fort for coastal defense training. The fort was also used as a German prisoner of war camp during World War II, housing approximately 650 prisoners. Following the war in 1947, all harbor defenses were dismantled and shortly thereafter the Fort was reopened for use as a Fourth Army recreation center. In 1954, Fort Crockett was declared surplus and transferred to the

appears that the U.S. Coast Guard acquired the housing units from the Department of the Army on two separate occasions. In 1958, the U.S. Coast Guard acquired ten units on Sarna Court and all of the units on 53rd Street, and in 1966 acquired seven additional units of family housing which most likely consisted of the remaining three duplexes and the Commanding Officer's unit on Sarna Court. (Richter 1958, Department of the Army 1966).

Sources:

Department of the Army. Real Estate Disposal Report No. 222, January 31, 1966. Report notes four buildings of 1911 construction containing seven units of family housing.

Magee, Gregory H. Correspondence from Commander, USCG to Mr. James W. Steel, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission. n.d., response requested by February 1, 1990.

Post Engineer Office. Master Plan, Fort Crockett, Galveston, Texas: General Organized Recreation Areas. April 1949.

Ray Bailey Architects, Inc. and Walter P. Moore and Associates, Inc. Structure Investigation Report: Fort Crockett Senior Officers Housing (USCG) 4301-4409 Sarna Court, Galveston Texas. Prepared for the USCG Civil Engineering Unit, Miami, Florida, May 11, 1993. Source of historic background of Fort Crockett included in this form.

Richter, H. L. Comptroller, U.S. Army Engineer District, Galveston. Memorandum regarding transfer and date of construction of Fort Crockett housing units, October 13, 1958.

Project information: This project is a mitigative recording required by a Memorandum of Agreement executed by the U.S. Coast Guard, the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer, the General Services Administration, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. An historic preservation covenant conveys with the property regarding the preservation, maintenance, and development of the properties.

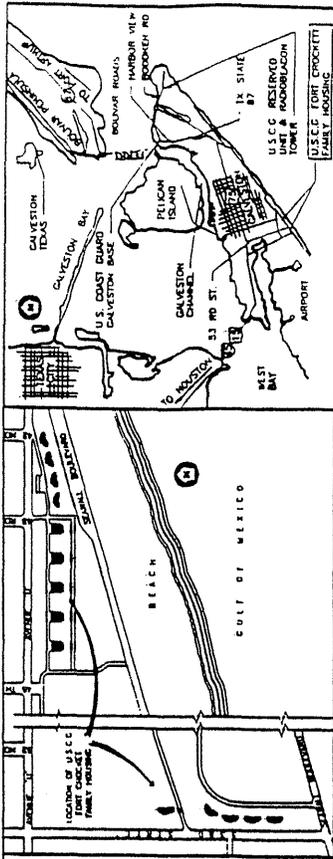
Woodward-Clyde Federal Services completed mitigation documentation for this project between July and September 1997. Nicole Cawlfild prepared the photographic documentation and Susan Cianci Salvatore compiled the Architectural Data Form based on information supplied by the U.S. Coast Guard.

JUNIOR OFFICER HOUSING UNIT

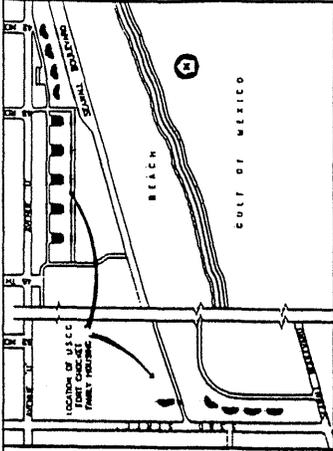
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SITE PLAN

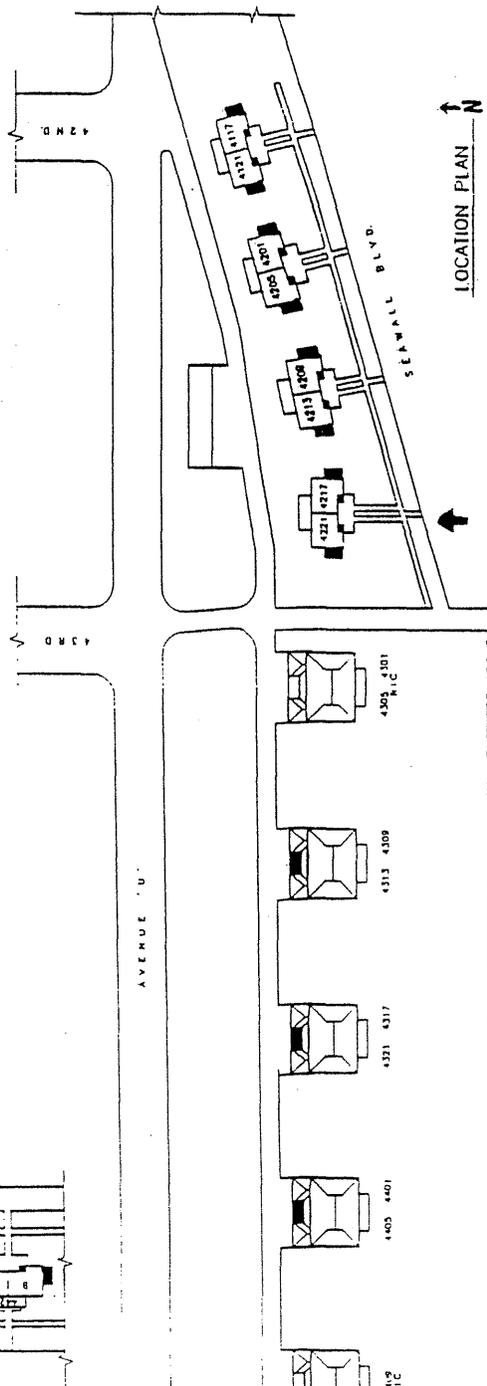
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VICINITY MAP
SCALE: NONE



LOCATION MAP
SCALE: NONE



LOCATION PLAN

NO.	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION
1	10/17/68	JRT	U.S. COAST GUARD MIAMI, FL
2	11/10/68	JRT	CIVIL ENGINEERING UNIT
3	11/10/68	JRT	ROOF REPLACEMENT
4	11/10/68	JRT	FORT CROCKETT HOUSING
5	11/10/68	JRT	TEXAS
6	11/10/68	JRT	CALVESTON
7	11/10/68	JRT	CIVIL VICINITY & LOCATION MAPS
8	11/10/68	JRT	APPROVED:
9	11/10/68	JRT	TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
10	11/10/68	JRT	DATE
11	11/10/68	JRT	DRAWING NUMBER
12	11/10/68	JRT	SCALE: AS SHOWN
13	11/10/68	JRT	SHEET 1 OF 2

P/N 08-0663

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PHOTO KEY

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