HOUSING AN AIR FORCE AND A NAVY:
THE WHERRY AND CAPEHART ERA SOLUTIONS TO THE
POSTWAR FAMILY HOUSING SHORTAGE (1949-1962)

Final Report

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IDENTIFIED WHERRY, CAPEHART, AND APPROPRIATED FUNDS SPONSORS AND ARCHITECTS
IDENTIFIED WHERRY, CAPEHART, AND APPROPRIATED FUNDS SPONSORS AND ARCHITECTS

The following tables of sponsors and architects associated with the Air Force’s and Navy’s Wherry, Capehart, and appropriated funds housing programs were compiled from several sources. These included: archival records at the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Archives at Port Hueneme, California; Air Force installation surveys; transcripts of Congressional hearings on military family housing; original drawings obtained during site visits; lists of Wherry housing project acquisitions and progress reports on Capehart housing projects located at Headquarters, Air Force Family Housing; and, drawings located in Record Group 385, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, at the National Archives and Records Administration. Additional architects were identified in cultural resources surveys prepared for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Engineering Field Division South (specific report titles are included in the bibliography) and a 1959 analysis of Capehart housing projects by the architecture firm Keyes, Lethbridge & Condon. Many more sponsors and architects are associated with housing under the three programs than the architects listed in the tables.

The names of Naval installations have changed over time. In the interest of simplicity, the names included in the tables that follow represent the current installation name.
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<td>Jonathan Woodner, Co., Washington, DC)</td>
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<td>Henry C. Beck, Sandia Housing Management Co., Kirtland Heights, Dallas, TX</td>
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<td>Texas Ideal Homes, Inc. (C. W. Murchison, Jr.)</td>
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**AIR FORCE, NAVY, AND MARINE CORPS - WHERRY SPONSORS**
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<td>Wyoming Builders, Inc. (A. K. Morely, Cheyenne, WY)</td>
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**NAVY**

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<td>John Carl Warnecke, San Francisco, CA</td>
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<td>S.H. Woodruff Associates, Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<td>Richards Building Co., Raleigh, NC</td>
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<td>Naval Air Station Quonset Point, and Bureau of Yards and Docks Supply Depot Davisville</td>
<td>RI</td>
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### AIR FORCE, NAVY, AND MARINE CORPS - WHERRY SPONSORS

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<td>Norman, Flax &amp; Lidsky Associates, Norfolk, VA</td>
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<td>Leland McArthur and Associates, Inc., Las Vegas, NV</td>
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### MARINE CORPS

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<td>Wynne-Grinnan, Dallas, TX*</td>
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<td>CA</td>
<td>Yousem, Myers, Russell Company, Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<td><strong>Marine Corps Supply Depot Barstow</strong></td>
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<td>S.H. Woodruff Associates, Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<td>Western Area Housing Company</td>
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<td>C.D. Spangler Construction Co., Charlotte, NC</td>
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<td>D.L. Phillips, Charlotte, NC</td>
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<td><strong>Parris Island Recruit Depot</strong></td>
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<td>Coconato &amp; Sons Construction Corp., Long Island City, NY</td>
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*Archival record does not indicate whether these units were constructed.
### Table B.2. Wherry Architects

#### AIR FORCE, NAVY, AND MARINE CORPS - WHERRY ARCHITECTS

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<td>Force</td>
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<td>Force</td>
<td>Neutra &amp; Alexander, Architects</td>
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<td>Frank L. Hope Organization</td>
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<td>Architect</td>
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# AIR FORCE, NAVY, AND MARINE CORPS – CAPEHART SPONSORS AND ARCHITECTS

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# AIR FORCE, NAVY, AND MARINE CORPS – CAPEHART SPONSORS AND ARCHITECTS

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### AIR FORCE, NAVY, AND MARINE CORPS – CAPEHART SPONSORS AND ARCHITECTS

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<td>WY</td>
<td>G.A. Goodwin and Associates</td>
<td>J.T. Banner Associates</td>
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**NAVY**

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# AIR FORCE, NAVY, AND MARINE CORPS – CAPEHART SPONSORS AND ARCHITECTS

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Table B.4. Appropriated-Funds Sponsors and Architects

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APPENDIX C

PROFILES ON SELECTED ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATED WITH WHERRY, CAPEHART, AND APPROPRIATED-FUNDS HOUSING PROJECTS
Appendix C presents biographical data on architects associated with Wherry, Capehart, and appropriated-funds projects. As discussed in Appendix B, architects were identified in several sources. A master list of architects was created, and was used to gather biographical data from the 1955, 1962, and 1970 directories of members of the American Institute of Architects. The profiles represent architects for whom biographical data was provided. Architects identified for this study represented a small number of the overall number of architects associated with Wherry and Capehart era family housing projects nationwide. Several architects completed multiple projects at different installations. The profiles are arranged alphabetically by firm name.

ARCHITECT BIOGRAPHIES

**Ned H. Abrams & Associates, Sunnyvale, California**

**Ned H. Abrams** received a bachelor’s degree in architecture in 1937 and a master’s degree in architecture in 1938, both from the University of Pennsylvania. After serving as a War Department architect and a draftsman, he formed his own firm in 1948. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings, mortuary structures, and city planning. Principal works included a cereal plant in Lodi, California, in 1948; the Ridpath Hotel in Spokane, Washington, in 1951; and, a public safety building in Sunnyvale in 1952 (Koyl 1962:2). In 1958, Abrams designed 500 units of Capehart housing at Travis Air Force Base with Irving Dickstein.

**Abreu & Robeson, Architects and Engineers, Atlanta and Brunswick, Georgia**

Francis L. Abreu
Thornton M. Deas
James L. Robeson
E. Mell Wayne Jr.
Matt L. Jorgensen
Henry V. Jova
Frank H. Griggs
W.S. Ledbetter Jr.
W. Montgomery Anderson

**Francis L. Abreu** earned a bachelor’s degree in architecture from Cornell University. Starting in private practice in 1924, he designed winter homes for Fort Lauderdale’s elite. He used barrel-tile roofs, twisted columns, arched walkways, antique lanterns, iron gates, and heavy, dark wooden doors in his designs. In 1928, his firm designed parts of the famous Cloister Hotel on Sea Island, Georgia. One of the other homes he designed on Sea Island was that of playwright Eugene O’Neill. Abreu and James Robeson formed Abreu & Robeson in 1929. Abreu’s projects included hospitals, banks, and government buildings (American Institute of Architects archival files 2006; The Abreu Charitable Trust 2002:1-2).

**James L. Robeson** received a bachelor of science degree in architecture from Georgia School of Technology in 1926. His principal works (all in Atlanta unless otherwise specified) included a housing project in Brunswick in 1941; the Beach Club on Sea Island and the Hughes Spalding Infirmary in 1950; Chatham Memorial Hospital in Savannah in 1955; State Farmers Market in 1957; Fulton Federal Bank Building in 1958; Hamilton Memorial Hospital in Dalton in 1959; Science
Center at University of Georgia, Athens, in 1960; Stephens County Hospital in Toccoa in 1967; an addition to Morton Plant Hospital in Clearwater, Florida, in 1968; Mid-State Baptist Hospital, Nashville, Tennessee in 1969; and Brunswick (Georgia) Junior College in 1969. His work comprised nine categories: commercial, recreational, health, public buildings, residential, educational, military, communications, and scientific structures (Koyl 1955:465; Koyl 1962:592; Gane 1970:770).

**Matt L. Jorgensen** received a bachelor’s degree from the University of California in 1927, a master’s degree in architecture from Harvard University in 1929, and a degree from the Cranbrook Academy of Art in 1935. From 1929 to 1942 he was an associate professor of design in the architecture department at Georgia School of Technology. He also operated his own practice from 1932 to 1940. From 1942 to 1944 he was a designer and chief draftsman for Abreu & Robeson, and became an associate with the firm in 1945. His principal works included the infantry school at Fort Benning, Georgia in 1961; the Morton Plant Hospital addition in Clearwater, Florida in 1968; Baptist Medical Center in Nashville in 1968; Trust Company of Georgia Office Building in Atlanta in 1969; and St. Joseph’s Hospital in Savannah in 1970 (American Institute of Architects archival files 2006:5; Gane 1970:465).

**Frank H. Griggs** received a bachelor of science degree in architecture from Georgia School of Technology in 1926. He operated his own architecture practice in Clearwater, Florida, from 1932 to 1935. Between 1935 and 1945 he worked for three architecture firms, and joined Abreu & Robeson in 1945 as the office manager and an associate architect (American Institute of Architects archival files 2006).

**Wallace Smith Ledbetter, Jr.** received bachelor’s and advanced degrees from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1952 and 1955. His principal works included Jane Macon Junior High School in Brunswick in 1960; public housing in Reidsville, Alma, and Waycross, Georgia, during the 1960s; and Candler County Hospital in Metter, Georgia, in 1962 (Gane 1970:531).

**Abreu & Robeson** was established in 1929. The firm was known early on for its design of Mediterranean Revival-style buildings in Fort Lauderdale and coastal Georgia. The firm later favored the International Style in the late 1930s. Between 1930 and 1940 the firm designed public housing, and between 1941 and 1946 designed war housing, both in Brunswick. The firm also designed the Archdiocese of Atlanta’s St. Joseph Infirmary when it was relocated in 1977 (Archdiocese of Atlanta 1971:1; Archdiocese of Atlanta 1975:2). Other projects included schools, private housing, a USO recreation building, and the Johnes Home for Aged Couples in Newburgh, New York. In 1946, the firm designed the “B” addition to the Art Deco-style W.W. Orr Doctors’ Building. The firm designed the Whitfield County, Georgia, Courthouse in 1961 in the Modern Style (Carl Vinson Institute of Government 2006:1).

**Anshen & Allen, San Francisco, California**

S. Robert Anshen
William Stephen Allen

**Anshen & Allen** was organized in 1940. Projects included the visitor center at the Dinosaur National Monument, operated by the National Park Service; U.S. Navy housing; the San Francisco ticket office for United Air Lines; architectural and interior design work on passenger accommodations in freighters, passenger ships, and cruise ships; and, the Chemistry Building at the University of California, Berkeley (American Institute of Architects archival files 2006).
S. Robert Anshen received a bachelor’s degree in architecture in 1935 and a master’s degree in architecture in 1936, both from the University of Pennsylvania. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, military structures, transportation, scientific structures, mortuary structures, city planning, landscape design, and interior design. Principal work included more than 3,000 homes in San Francisco for Eichler Homes Inc. in 1950 (Koyl 1962:17).

William Stephen Allen received a bachelor’s degree in architecture in 1935 and a master’s degree in architecture in 1936, both from the University of Pennsylvania. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, military structures, transportation, scientific structures, mortuary structures, city planning, landscape design, and interior design. Principal work included more than 3,000 homes in San Francisco for Eichler Homes Inc. in 1950 (Koyl 1962:10).

Belt, Lemmon & Lo, Honolulu, Hawaii
Cyril W. Lemmon

Cyril W. Lemmon studied at the University of Pennsylvania and Liverpool University in England. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, transportation, communications, scientific structures, city planning, and mortuary structures. Principal works included the Occidental Life Insurance Co. building in 1951, the Waikiki-Kapahulu Library in 1952, and the University of Hawaii Library in 1953 (Koyl 1955:327; Koyl 1962:414).

Bodman, Murrell & Smith, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Ralph Bodman
Richard C. Murrell
William Bailey Smith

Ralph Bodman studied at Tulane University and Columbia University. He co-founded Bodman, Murrell & Smith in 1934. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings and structures, transportation, communications, scientific structures, city planning, and interior design. Principal works included men’s housing at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge in 1948, industrial buildings for Ethyl Corp. in Houston in 1951 and 1952, buildings at Lake Charles Air Force Base in 1952 and 1953, the Baton Rouge city and parish municipal building in 1956, and the Louisiana State University library in 1957 (Koyl 1955:49-50; Koyl 1962:63).

Richard Murrell received a bachelor of science degree in architecture from Tulane University in 1926. He co-founded Bodman, Murrell & Smith in 1933. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings, military structures, communications, and scientific structures. Principal works included Dalton’s Department Store in Baton Rouge during the 1940s, the Louisiana State Penitentiary receiving station and hospital in Angola in 1949, and the State Times Building in Baton Rouge in 1953 (Koyl 1955:397; Koyl 1962:504).

William Bailey Smith received a bachelor of science degree in architectural engineering from Washington University in 1933. He was an architect with the National Park Service from 1937 to
1939, and worked as a draftsman, specifications writer, and associate for Bodman & Murrell from 1939 to 1952, when he became a partner and the firm was renamed Bodman, Murrell & Smith. His work encompassed the following categories: commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, and communications. Principal work included Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Lafayette in 1949 and an eight-story office building in Baton Rouge in 1955 (Koyl 1955:521).

**Bryan & Fairburn, Albuquerque, New Mexico**  
Garlan Diggs Bryan, Jr.  
Robert W. Fairburn

Robert W. Fairburn studied at Syracuse University, received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1949, and received a master’s degree in architecture and urban design from Cranbrook Academy of Art in 1950. He joined Flatow, Moore, Bryan & Fairburn in 1949. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, public structures, military structures, transportation, scientific structures, city planning, and mortuary structures. Principal work included the master plan for Kirtland Air Force Base in 1954 (Koyl 1955:164).

**Joseph H. Bryson, Jacksonville, Florida**

Joseph H. Bryson received a bachelor of science degree in architecture from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1928. His principal works were residential, and included Wherry and Capehart housing at Eglin Air Force Base, Capehart housing at Mayport Naval Station, and housing at Naval Auxiliary Air Station Whiting Field and McCoy Air Force Base. All of the installations were located in Florida (Koyl 1955:70; Koyl 1962:89; Gane 1970:116).

**T.H. Buell & Co., Denver, Colorado**

Temple Hoyne Buell

Temple Hoyne Buell received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the University of Illinois in 1916 and a master’s degree in architecture from Columbia University in 1917. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, educational, recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings and structures, military structures, transportation, communications, scientific structures, mortuary structures, landscape design, and city planning. Principal works included the Geology and Geophysics Building at the Colorado School of Mines in 1939, the Denver Post printing plant in 1950, and the Colorado State Highway building in 1955 (Koyl 1955:72; Koyl 1962:90).

**James T. Canizaro, Jackson, Mississippi**

James T. Canizaro received a bachelor of science degree in architecture from University of Notre Dame in 1928, and studied at the Center for Arts & Crafts in London. He started his own firm in 1937. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, health facilities, public buildings, and communications. Principal works included six buildings for the Armstrong Tire & Rubber Co. in Natchez from 1938 to 1946; the Narcotic &
Alcoholic Building in Whitfield in 1949 in association with architect J.T. Liddle; and, the municipal
courts and jail building in Jackson, Mississippi in 1953 (Koyl 1955:81).

Caudill, Rowlett & Scott, Houston, Oklahoma City, Stamford, Connecticut
William W. Caudill
John M. Rowlett
Wallie E. Scott, Jr.

William W. Caudill received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from Oklahoma State University in
1937 and a master’s degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1939.
He was a professor of architecture at Texas A&M University from 1939 to 1950, the head of the
architecture division of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station from 1946 to 1954, co-founded
Caudill, Rowlett & Scott in 1946, and became chairman of the architecture department at The Rice
University in 1961. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial,
religious, educational, recreational, penal institutions, public buildings, scientific structures, city
planning, landscape design, and interior design. Principal work included the Brazos County

John M. Rowlett received bachelor’s degrees in architecture and education from the University of
Texas in 1938. He was a partner in Caudill & Rowlett and in Caudill, Rowlett & Scott. His work
encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, religious, educational, recreational,
health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings and structures, scientific structures, and city
planning. Principal works included the Brazos County courthouse and jail in Bryan, Texas, in 1956
(Koyl 1962:602).

Wallie E. Scott, Jr. received a bachelor of science degree in 1943 and a bachelor’s degree in
architecture in 1947, both from Texas A&M College. He co-founded Caudill, Rowlett & Scott. His
work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, religious, educational,
recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings, scientific structures, and city
planning. Principal work included the Brazos County courthouse and jail in Bryan, Texas in 1956
(Koyl 1962:628).

Clark & Enersen, Lincoln, Nebraska
Kenneth Bowhay Clark
L.A. Enersen

Kenneth Bowhay Clark received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Nebraska College
of Architecture and Science in 1936, studied at the university’s College of Engineering, and received
a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design in 1940.
He co-founded Clark & Enersen in 1946. His work encompassed the following categories:
residential, commercial, religious, educational, recreational, city planning, health facilities, public
buildings, and landscape design. Principal work included work as a supervisory architect for the U.S.
Naval Training Center in Lincoln in 1948 and for the master plan for Lincoln Air Force Base in
1950; Capehart housing at Lincoln Air Force Base in 1957; and dormitories at the University of
Nebraska Agriculture College in 1958 (Koyl 1955:96-7; Koyl 1962:120).

L.A. Enersen received a bachelor of arts degree from Carleton College in 1931 and a master’s
degree in landscape architecture from Harvard University in 1935. His work encompassed the
following categories: residential, commercial, educational, health facilities, military structures, city planning, religious, recreational, public buildings, and landscape design. Principal work included Capehart housing at the Air Force Academy in 1960, in association with the firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, the student center at Peru State Teachers College in 1960, the student center at Chadron State Teachers College in 1961, and the master plan for the College of Agriculture at the University of Nebraska in 1961 (Koyl 1955:158; Koyl 1961:196).

George L. Dahl, Dallas, Texas

George L. Dahl received a bachelor of arts degree in architecture from the University of Minnesota in 1921 and a Master of Arts degree in architecture from Harvard University in 1922. He began his own firm in 1943. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings, military structures, transportation, communications, scientific structures, city planning, mortuary structures, landscape design, and interior design. Principal works included the Dallas Morning News building in 1950, the Dallas Red Cross building in 1951, and the Dallas Public Library in 1955 (Koyl 1955:122; Koyl 1962:150).

J. & G. Daverman Co., Grand Rapids, Michigan

Edward H. Daverman
Herbert G. Daverman
Joseph T. Daverman
Robert J. Daverman
Jacob H. Knol
Peter R. Van Putten
Jay H. Volkers

Herbert G. Daverman received a bachelor of arts degree from Calvin College in 1935 and a bachelor’s degree in architecture in 1937. That year, he joined J. & G. Daverman Co., which was formed in 1904. His work encompassed the following categories: commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings, transportation, scientific structures, mortuary structures, and city planning. Principal works included the science building at Calvin College in Grand Rapids in 1947; the Hospital for the Nervous in Cutlerville, Michigan in 1951; the Michigan State Prison in Ionia in 1955; and shopping centers in Omaha, San Antonio, and Iowa in the late 1950s in association with several other architects (Koyl 1955:124; Koyl 1962:154).

Joseph T. Daverman received a bachelor of arts degree from Calvin College in 1934 and a bachelor’s degree from University of Michigan in 1937. He joined J. & G. Daverman Co. in 1937. His work encompassed the following categories: commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings, military structures, transportation, scientific structures, mortuary structures, city planning, and communications. Principal works included the science building at Calvin College in Grand Rapids in 1947; the Hospital for the Nervous in Cutlerville, Michigan, in 1951; the Michigan State Prison in Ionia in 1955; shopping centers in Omaha, San Antonio, and Iowa in the late 1950s in association with several other architects; and the first phase of a new campus for Calvin College in 1962 (Koyl 1955:124; Koyl 1962:154).
John N. Douglas, Pasadena, California

John N. Douglas attended the University of Pittsburgh, University of Southern California, and the California Institute of Technology. His training included a year as a draftsman for Frank Lloyd Wright. Douglas conducted extensive research in reinforced concrete, especially in pre-casting, and was described as a “pioneer” in this field (American Institute of Architects archival files 2006).

Edwards, Pugh & McKimmon, Raleigh, North Carolina

James M. Edwards, Jr.
Edward St. Clair Pugh, Jr.
Arthur McKimmon, II


Amos B. Emery & Associates, Des Moines, Iowa

Amos B. Emery received certification from the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris in 1919 and received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1922. He began operating his own firm in 1930. His work encompassed five categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, and recreational. Principal works included the Great West Insurance building in Des Moines in 1930, Hills Department Store in Des Moines in 1936, the Des Moines Register & Tribune building in 1946, two television station buildings in Des Moines in 1955 and 1956, and housing at the Sioux City Air Force Base in 1959 (Koyl 1955:157; Koyl 1962:195).

Ferris & Erskine, Reno, Nevada

Lehman Ashmead
Graham Erskine

Lehman Ashmead studied at the University of Nevada. He operated his own firm until 1947, when he co-founded Ferris & Erskine. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, and communications.

Graham Erskine received a bachelor of arts degree from Columbia College in 1933, a bachelor’s degree in architecture from Columbia University in 1936, and a degree in architecture from the University of Rome, Italy, in 1937. He co-founded Ferris & Erskine in 1947. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, military structures, and communications. Principal work included housing at Stead
Air Force Base in 1957; Elko Hospital in Elko, Nevada, in 1959; and St. Mary’s Hospital in Reno in 1961 (Koyl 1962:198).

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**Edward H. Fickett, Los Angeles, California**

Edward H. Fickett studied at the University of Southern California. After working as a draftsman, he worked for Heusel & Fickett in 1946 and 1947 and began operating as an independent architect in 1948. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, city planning, and interior design. Principal works included military family housing at Edwards Air Force Base in 1960, and a Los Angeles County park, library, and community center in West Hollywood in 1960 (Koyl 1962:210).

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**Flatow & Moore, Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Max Flatow  
Jason P. Moore

Max Flatow received a bachelor’s degree in architectural engineering from the University of Texas in 1941. He operated as an independent architect for three years, and co-founded Flatow & Moore in 1950. Flatow, Moore, Bryan & Fairburn was organized in 1955. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, scientific structures, city planning, and landscape design. Principal works included a hospital for the Relief Society of Las Vegas in 1953; an Indian hospital in Gallup, New Mexico, in 1960; buildings for the University of New Mexico during the 1960s; and, the federal courthouse in Albuquerque in 1967 (Koyl 1962:216; Gane 1970:281).

Jason P. Moore studied at the North Texas State Teachers College and received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the University of Texas in 1939. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, transportation, scientific structures, city planning, landscape design, and interior design. Principal works included Las Vegas Hospital in New Mexico in 1951, housing at Holloman Air Force Base in 1959, a U.S. Public Health Service hospital in Gallup, New Mexico in 1960, and the Ferris Engineering Center at the University of New Mexico (Koyl 1962:493; Gane 1970:637).

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**Louis H. Geis, Kansas City, Missouri**

Louis H. Geis received a bachelor of science degree in architecture from the University of Nebraska in 1933 and a Bachelor of Science degree in structural engineering from Finlay Engineering College in 1948. He was a foreman architect for the National Park Service from 1936 to 1940 and an architectural examiner for the Federal Housing Administration from 1941 to 1947. He was a partner in Hansen & Geis from 1948 to 1949 and operated his own firm from 1949 to 1958. He co-founded Geis, Hunter, Ramos in 1958. His work encompassed three categories: residential, commercial, and religious. Principal work included the Ruskin Heights tract housing project in Hickman Mills, Missouri, in 1953; Capehart housing at Richards Gebaur Air Force Base in Jackson County, Missouri, in 1959, in association with architect George L. Dahl; and, an armed forces building in Kansas City in 1960 (Koyl 1955:193; Koyl 1962:242).
Hugh Gibbs, Long Beach, California

Hugh Gibbs received a degree from the School of Architecture at the University of Southern California. He became a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1969. His work encompassed schools, hospitals, office buildings, and apartment buildings. Projects included the U.S. Naval Hospital at Long Beach, and 200 housing units at George Air Force Base in California (American Institute of Architects archival file, Hugh Gibbs).

Norman Giller & Associates, Miami Beach, Florida

Norman Giller studied at Georgia Institute of Technology and received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the University of Florida in 1945. He began operating as an independent architect in 1944. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings and structures, military structures, transportation, city planning, industrial, mortuary structures, landscape design, interior design, and restorations. Principal work included buildings for the Miami Beach police station in 1953; Coral Way Village Homes in Miami in 1955; supervisory architect for the Miami Beach Housing Authority in 1952 and the Hillel Foundation building at University of Miami in 1954; Food Fair supermarkets and shopping centers in Florida between 1955 and 1960; and a 999-unit Capehart housing project and city plan for Cape Canaveral in 1957 (Koyl 1955:197; Koyl 1962:247-8).

Groll, Beach & Associates, Washington, D.C.

Elkan Wiley Groll
Howard P. Beach

Elkan Wiley Groll received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Minnesota in 1936, a master’s degree in landscape architecture from Harvard University in 1939, and a city planning degree from The George Washington University in 1942. He worked for several federal agencies, including as an architect for the Resettlement Administration in 1936 and 1937, an architect and site planner for the War Department from 1939 to 1943, and an urban development specialist for the National Housing Agency in 1946 and 1947. He worked as an independent architect from 1948 to 1952, and co-founded Groll, Beach & Associates in 1952. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, recreational, military structures, transportation, scientific structures, city planning, landscape design, and interior design. Principal works included airports in Iceland and the Azores in 1952; the master plan for Fort Belvoir, Virginia, in 1954; laboratory and engineering buildings at Aberdeen, Maryland, in 1955, housing at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii in 1958; and, the master plan for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton in 1959 (Koyl 1955:212; Koyl 1962:269).

Howard P. Beach studied at Catholic University, Columbus University, Southeastern University, and The George Washington University. From 1946 to 1951, he worked for private airport-related firms and as chief of the buildings division for the Civil Aeronautics Administration. He co-founded Groll, Beach & Associates in 1952. His work encompassed the following categories: industrial, recreational, military structures, transportation, scientific structures, and city planning. Principal works included the Washington National Airport terminal building in 1938, and work as a supervisory or consulting architect on airport terminal construction in Mexico and Philadelphia (Koyl 1955:31; Koyl 1962:40-1).
Alonzo J. Harriman, Auburn, Maine

Alonzo J. Harriman received a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Maine in 1920 and a Master of Arts degree in architecture from Harvard University in 1928. He began operating his own firm in 1939 and founded Alonzo J. Harriman & Associates in 1961. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, educational, recreational, health facilities, military structures, and communications. Principal work included the South Portland shipyard in 1943, a men’s dormitory at the University of Maine at Orono in 1955, buildings at Loring Air Force Base from 1946 to 1961, and buildings for New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. from 1946 to 1961 (Koyl 1955:230; Koyl 1961:289).

Ralph Haver, Phoenix, Arizona

Ralph Haver received an Associate of Arts degree from Pasadena Junior College in 1937 and a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the University of Southern California in 1941. After working as a draftsman for several firms, he began working as an independent architect in 1946. His work encompassed three categories: residential, commercial, and educational. Principal work included the Country Club Apartments in Phoenix in 1947, and housing in San Manuel, Arizona in 1954 (Koyl 1955:235; Koyl 1962:296).

Higgins, Webster, Pedersen & Tilney, Bangor, Maine

Ambrose S. Higgins
W.F. Pedersen
Bradford S. Tilney

Ambrose S. Higgins received a bachelor of science degree from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut in 1931 and studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He formed his own firm in 1943 and co-founded Crowell, Lancaster & Higgins in 1952. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings and structures, military structures, transportation, scientific structures, and mortuary structures. Principal work included buildings at Dow Air Force Base from 1954 to 1956 in association with architects Pedersen & Tilney, the Millinocket Community Hospital in 1955, buildings at East Maine General Hospital in 1959, the College of Education building at the University of Maine in Orono in 1960, and a Capehart elementary school at Dow Air Force Base in 1961 (Koyl 1955:247; Koyl 1962:311).

W.F. Pedersen received a bachelor of arts degree in 1931 and a master of arts degree in 1934, both from Harvard University. He operated his own practice from 1934 to 1940, when he co-founded Pedersen & Tilney. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, scientific structures, industrial, penal institutions, city planning, landscape design, and restorations. Principal works included Army, Navy, and Air Force facilities built between 1950 and 1955 (Koyl 1955:426; Koyl 1962:541).

Bradford S. Tilney received a bachelor of arts degree from Yale University in 1930 and a bachelor of fine arts degree from the Yale University School of Architecture in 1933. He worked in site and advance planning for the New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1942 and 1943,
and co-founded Pedersen & Tilney in 1946. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, transportation, scientific structures, city planning, landscape design, interior design, and restorations. Principal works included shop buildings at the Naval Submarine Base in New London, Connecticut; a National Guard hangar at Dow Air Force Base in association with the firm Crowell, Lancaster & Higgins in 1955; the town plan for East Windsor, Connecticut in 1958; a Coast Guard physical education building in Groton, Connecticut, in 1959; and, office buildings for IBM in Hartford, Detroit, and Baltimore in 1960 (Koyl 1955:560; Koyl 1962:706).

Highland & Highland, Buffalo, New York
John N. Highland
John N. Highland, Jr.

John N. Highland, Jr. studied at The George Washington University, University of Michigan, and Cornell University. He joined Highland & Highland in 1938, became a partner in 1947, and became the owner in 1949. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, mortuary structures, city planning, and landscape design. His principal work included a 290-unit housing project at Niagara Falls Air Force Base in 1960 and Clearfield Shopping Plaza in Amherst, New York in 1961 (Koyl 1962:312).

Holden, Egan, Wilson & Corser, New York
Arthur C. Holden
John Taylor Egan
William D. Wilson
John B. Corser, Jr.

Arthur C. Holden studied at Princeton University, and received a bachelor’s degree in architecture and a master of arts degree in economics from Columbia University in 1915. He was a draftsman for McKim, Mead & White from 1916 to 1919. He operated his own firm from 1920 to 1930, and was a partner in Holden, McLaughlin & Associates from 1930 to 1953. He co-founded Holden, Egan, Wilson & Corser in 1954. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, educational, recreational, and city planning. Principal work included an 800-family community in Dragerton, Utah, in 1942, in association with architect Edward Anderson; the General Charles Berry Houses in Staten Island, New York, in 1948 and 1949; faculty houses at Princeton University from 1948 to 1952; and, work as a consulting architect for the postwar plan for White Plains, New York from 1944 to 1946 and for the Norwalk, Connecticut, Redevelopment Agency (Koyl 1955:252).

William D. Wilson received a bachelor of arts degree in 1941 and a master of fine arts degree in 1948, both from Princeton University. He co-founded Holden, Egan, Wilson & Corser in 1954. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, educational, recreational, health facilities, military structures, and city planning. Principal work included work as a consulting architect for the Norwalk, Connecticut, Redevelopment Agency from 1951 to 1955 and the Biblical Seminary in New York from 1953 to 1955 (Koyl 1955:612; Koyl 1962:769).

John B. Corser, Jr., received a bachelor of arts degree in 1927 and a master of fine arts degree in 1930, both from Princeton University. He co-founded Holden, Egan, Wilson & Corser in 1954. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, educational, recreational, health
facilities, public buildings, and city planning. Principal work included the Wilbur Peck Court housing project in Greenwich, Connecticut, in 1953; the Berkeley Heights housing project in Waterbury, Connecticut, in 1954; a psychiatric outpatient department building in White Plains in 1956; and, the Bouyea and Stern housing projects in Plattsburgh, New York, in 1961 (Koyl 1955:110-1; Koyl 1962:137).

Frank L. Hope Organization, San Diego, California

Frank L. Hope studied at the University of California and the Carnegie Institute of Technology. He organized Frank L. Hope & Associates in 1928. His work encompassed the following categories: commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, transportation, communications, scientific structures, city planning, and mortuary structures. Principal works included Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla, California, in 1949; San Diego College for Women in 1952; and, a children’s hospital in South Dakota in 1954 (Koyl 1955:256; Koyl 1962:324).

Hudgins, Thompson, Ball & Associates, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

G. Ed Hudgins
V.G. Thompson
Ralph M. Ball
Herman E. Smith
Gene C. Cunningham

G. Ed Hudgins received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from Oklahoma State University in 1931. He operated his own firm in 1941 and 1942, and was a partner in Hudgins, Cobb, Thompson & Ball in 1942 and 1943. He co-founded Hudgins, Thompson, Ball & Associates in 1942. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, and transportation. Principal works included the Monitor Building in Oklahoma City in 1956, the science building at Northeastern State College in Tahlequah in 1957, and dormitories and housing at Eastern Oklahoma A&M College in 1961 (Koyl 1962:331).

Hummel, Hummel & Jones, Boise, Idaho

Frank K. Hummel
Frederick C. Hummel
Charles F. Hummel
Jedd Jones III

Frederick C. Hummel received a certificate of proficiency in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1909. After working in the family-owned firm Tourtelotte & Hummel from 1909 to 1945, he co-founded Hummel, Hummel & Jones in 1945. In 1962, he co-organized Hummel, Hummel, Jones & Shawver. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, communications, industrial, penal institutions, and transportation. Principal works included a post office building in Weiser, Idaho, in 1933; buildings for the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph company in Boise in 1953 and Pocatello in 1958; and, a building for the Idaho State Hospital in 1953 (Koyl 1955:263; Koyl 1962:333; Gane 1970:431).
Charles F. Hummel received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from Catholic University of America in 1950 and a master of science degree from Colorado University in 1953. His work encompassed five categories: residential, commercial, religious, educational, and transportation. His principal works included the Idaho State Capitol legislative chambers in 1967 and the U.S. Courthouse and federal office building in 1968 (Koyl 1962:333; Gane 1970:431).

Jedd Jones III received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1937 and a master’s degree in 1938. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings, military structures, transportation, communications, and interior design. Principal works included the State of Idaho Industrial Administration Building in 1957; buildings for the Idaho highway and law enforcement departments in 1960, in association with the firm Wayland & Cline; a library at Boise State College in 1964; and, renovation of the governor’s suite at the Idaho State Capitol in 1966 (Koyl 1962:357; Gane 1970:462).

A. Quincy Jones & F.E. Emmons, Los Angeles, California

A. Quincy Jones
F.E. Emmons

A. Quincy Jones received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the University of Washington in 1936. He operated as an independent architect from 1945 to 1950, and co-founded A. Quincy Jones & F.E. Emmons in 1950. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, public buildings, military structures, and mortuary structures. Principal work included consulting architect on the Pabco Linoleum Plant in New Jersey in 1948 and 1949, a ceramic studio and factory in Los Angeles in 1954, and the Consulate General office building in Singapore in 1961 (Koyl 1955:281; Koyl 1962:356).

F.E. Emmons received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from Cornell University in 1929. He practiced as an independent architect from 1946 to 1950 and co-founded A. Quincy Jones & F.E. Emmons in 1950. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, military structures, and mortuary structures. Principal work included the Sascha Brastoff Factory in Los Angeles in 1953; the Building Contractors Association building in Pomona, California, in 1954; and, buildings at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1959 and the University of Southern California (Koyl 1955:158; Koyl 1962:195-6).

Kelly & Gruzen, New York

Hugh A. Kelly
B. Sumner Gruzen

B. Sumner Gruzen received a bachelor’s degree in architecture in 1926 and a master’s degree in architecture in 1928, both from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He co-founded Kelly & Gruzen in 1928. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, transportation, city planning, landscape design, and scientific structures. Principal work included the U.S. Army Signal Corps School at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, in 1951; the Albert Einstein College

Keyes, Smith, Saterlee, & Lethbridge, Washington, D.C.
Arthur H. Keyes Jr.
Chloethiel Woodard Smith
Nicholas Saterlee
Francis D. Lethbridge

Arthur H. Keyes, Jr., received a bachelor of arts degree in architecture from Princeton University in 1939, a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design in 1942, and a certificate in Naval architecture from MIT in 1942. His work comprised the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, public structures, military structures, communications, scientific, city planning, landscape design, and interior design. Principal works included a redevelopment plan for Southwest Washington, D.C., from 1953 to 1955; development of Department of Defense housing standards in 1955, a residence and office building for the United States Embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay, in 1955; and, the National Institutes of Health administration building in 1961 (Koyl 1955: 297; Koyl 1962:376).

Chloethiel Woodard Smith received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from University of Oregon in 1932 and a master’s degree in architecture from Washington University in 1933. Before co-organizing the firm in 1951, she operated as an independent architect in Washington, D.C., and Canada between 1939 and 1941 and in Bolivia between 1942 and 1944. Principal works included a redevelopment plan for Southwest Washington, D.C., from 1953 to 1955; development of Department of Defense housing standards in 1955; a residence and office building for the United States Embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay, in 1955; and, the National Institutes of Health administration building in 1961 (Koyl 1955: 297; Koyl 1962:376).

Nicholas Saterlee received a bachelor of arts degree from Harvard College in 1938 and a degree from Harvard Graduate School of Design in 1941. He operated as an independent architect in 1949 and 1950 and in a partnership with Francis D. Lethbridge in 1950 and 1951. He co-organized the firm in 1951. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, recreational, health facilities, military, communications, and mortuary structures. Principal works included a redevelopment plan for Southwest Washington, D.C., from 1953 to 1955; development of Department of Defense housing standards in 1955; and, a residence and office building for the United States Embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay, in 1955 (Koyl 1955: 297; Koyl 1962:376).

Francis D. Lethbridge received degrees from Stevens Institute of Technology, University of Colorado, and Yale University School of Architecture. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, recreational, health facilities, military structures, transportation, communications, city planning, educational, public buildings and structures, scientific structures, landscape design, and interior design. Principal works included a redevelopment plan for Southwest Washington, D.C., from 1953 to 1955; development of Department of Defense Housing Standards in 1955; a residence and office building for the United States Embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay, in 1955; a U.S. Embassy office building in Lima, Peru, in 1959; and an administration building for the National Institutes of Health in 1961 (Koyl 1955:329; Koyl 1962:416).
Koehler & Isaak, Manchester, New Hampshire
Richard Koehler
Nicholas Isaak

Richard Koehler received a bachelor of science degree in architecture from the University of New Hampshire in 1934. He operated his own firm from 1936 to 1942, and co-founded Koehler & Isaak in 1946. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, penal institutions, public buildings, military structures, and communications. Principal works included St. Anselm’s Monastery in 1955, and Portsmouth Air Force Base in 1956 (Koyl 1955:308; Koyl 1962:390).

Nicholas Isaak studied at Saint Anselm’s College and received a bachelor of science degree from the University of New Hampshire in 1936. He co-founded Koehler & Isaak in 1946. Principal works included the New Hampshire State Industrial School in Manchester in 1948; housing in Manchester in 1950, in association with architects J.D. Betley and C.E. Peterson; Portsmouth Air Force Base in 1955; dormitories at the University of New Hampshire in 1956; the New Hampshire Employment Security Building in 1958; buildings at Saint Anselm’s College in 1960; graduate student housing at University of New Hampshire in 1959; and, the Manchester air terminal in 1961 (Koyl 1955:269; Koyl 1962:340-1).

Landry & Matthes, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Juan G. Landry
Carl E. Matthes
Juan E. Landry
Carl E. Matthes, Jr.

Juan G. Landry studied at Jesuit College in New Orleans and at the ICS Correspondence School. He operated his own firm from 1930 to 1937, and co-founded Landry & Matthes in 1937. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings, military structures, communications, mortuary structures, and city planning. Principal work included the U.S. Post Office in Hattiesburg in 1931; low-rent housing projects in Laurel, Mississippi, in 1938; war housing projects in Pascagoula, Mississippi in 1943; and, railhead facilities at Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg in 1951 (Koyl 1955:317; Koyl 1962:402).

Carl E. Matthes studied in Chicago and worked as a draftsman for two firms, including Howard Van Doren Shaw. He operated his own firm from 1920 to 1937, when he co-founded Landry & Matthes. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings, military structures, communications, mortuary structures. Principal works included low-rent housing projects in Laurel, Mississippi in 1938, war housing projects in Pascagoula in 1943, and railhead facilities at Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg in 1951 (Koyl 1955:372; Koyl 1962:471).

Juan E. Landry studied at Alabama Polytechnic Institute. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings and structures, military structures, transportation, communications, and city planning. Principal works included the Student Union building at Mississippi Southern College in Hattiesburg in 1956; family housing and men’s and women’s
dormitories at Mississippi Southern College in 1960; and, Veteran’s Administration buildings in Biloxi in 1961 (Koyl 1962:402).

Carl E. Matthes, Jr. received a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Mississippi State University in 1949, a bachelor of science degree from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1952, and a bachelor’s degree in architecture from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1953. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings, transportation, mortuary structures, city planning, and landscape design. Principal works included dormitories at Mississippi Southern College in Hattiesburg in 1959 and a gym at William Carey College in Biloxi in 1961 (Koyl 1962:471).

Long & Thorshov, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Roy N. Thorshov

Roy N. Thorshov received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota in 1928 and a diploma from the Fontainebleau School of Fine Arts in France in 1929. He also studied at the University of Minnesota graduate school. He worked for Long & Thorshov from 1928 to 1951 and Thorshov & Cerny, Inc., from 1951 to 1960. Beginning in 1960, he was a principal with Thorsen & Thorshov Associates, Inc. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings, and military structures. Principal work included Clearwater County Memorial Hospital in Bagley, Minnesota, in 1950; Hardware Mutual Life Insurance Co. in Minneapolis, 1955; Metropolitan Baseball Stadium in Bloomington, Minnesota, in 1958; and, the University of Minnesota School of Architecture building in 1960 (Koyl 1955:559; Gane 1970:917).

McGaughan & Johnson, Washington, D.C.
A.Stanley McGaughan
Hugh B. Johnson

A.Stanley McGaughan studied architecture at University of Michigan and economics at American University. From 1936 to 1947, he worked as an architect and engineer for the federal government and as an economist. He co-founded McGaughan & Johnson in 1947. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, educational, recreational, health facilities, military structures, transportation, communications, scientific structures, penal institutions, city planning, and landscape design. Principal work included being a consulting architect for the National Security Resources Board and the Defense Production Administration (Koyl 1955:353; Koyl 1962:446).

Hugh B. Johnson studied at Syracuse University. He operated his own firm from 1947 to 1950, and co-founded McGaughan & Johnson in 1950. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, industrial, educational, military structures, communications, scientific structures, commercial, religious, recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, transportation, city planning, and landscape design.
A.V. McIver & Associates, Great Falls, Montana
A.V. McIver
Knute S. Haugsjaa
William J. Hess

A.V. McIver received a degree from the University of Michigan in 1915. After he worked as a partner with several other firms, he formed A.V. McIver & Associates, Inc., in 1950. McIver, Hess & Haugsjaa was formed in 1953. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings and structures, military structures, transportation, communications, mortuary structures, and city planning. Principal works included a veterans hospital in Miles City, Montana, in 1950, associated with the architect firm Cushing & Terrell; Air Force housing in Great Falls, Montana, in 1953; 150 Capehart housing units at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana, in 1958; 300 units of military family housing in 1960; 260 units of military family housing in 1961; a men’s dormitory at Montana State College in Bozeman in 1960; and, the Montana State University library in 1965 (Koyl 1955:354; Koyl 1962:449; Gane 1970:579).

William J. Hess received a bachelor of science degree in architecture from Montana State College in 1937. After working for A.V. McIver from 1939 to 1953, he co-founded McIver, Hess & Haugsjaa in 1953. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, transportation, communications, mortuary structures, public buildings and structures, and military structures. Principal works included military family housing at Great Falls Air Force Base in 1951; a men’s residence hall at Montana State College in 1960; and, Capehart housing at Malmstrom Air Force Base in 1961 (Koyl 1955:245; Koyl 1962:309).

Angus McSweeney, San Francisco, California

Angus McSweeney studied the Beaux Arts movement at the University of Oregon. After operating as an independent architect from 1929 to 1967, he co-organized McSweeney and Schuppel in 1967. His principal works included apartment, office, and religious buildings (Gane 1970:584).

Melander, Fugelso & Associates, Duluth, Minnesota
A. Reinhold Melander
Norman Karl Fugelso

A. Reinhold Melander received a bachelor of science degree in architecture from the University of Minnesota in 1921 and a certificate from the University of Besançon. He operated his own firm from 1930 to 1957, when he co-founded Melander, Fugelso & Associates. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, transportation, communications, mortuary structures, and interior design. Principal works included St. Luke’s Hospital in Duluth in 1950, St. Mary’s Hospital in Duluth in 1953, housing at Duluth Air Force Base in 1956 and 1959, and buildings at the University of Minnesota between 1948 and 1961 (Koyl 1955:376; Koyl 1962:476).
Miller & Ahlson, Seattle, Washington
Charles T. Miller
Frederick T. Ahlson

Charles T. Miller studied at the University of Michigan. After working for the U.S. government from 1931 to 1945, he co-founded Miller & Ahlson in 1946. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, recreational, health facilities, military structures, and city planning.

Frederick T. Ahlson received a bachelor’s degree in fine arts from Yale University in 1930. He co-founded Miller & Ahlson in 1946. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, and city planning.

Neutra & Alexander, Los Angeles, California
Richard Josef Neutra
Robert E. Alexander

Richard Josef Neutra attended the Polytechnical College at the University of Vienna and the University of Zurich, from which he received a diploma with distinction in 1918. He received a doctorate degree at the Technical University of West Berlin in 1954. Neutra began his architecture career as a city planner in Switzerland from 1919 to 1923. He worked for several firms from 1923 to 1925, including Holabird and Root and Frank Lloyd Wright. He operated his own practice from 1926 to 1949. His partnership with Robert E. Alexander lasted from 1949 to 1961. His other partnerships included Neutra & Alexander & Donald Haines, 1959, and Neutra & Alexander & Carrington Lewis, 1960. He resumed his own practice in 1962. His principal works comprised twelve categories: residential, commercial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, public structures, military structures, city planning, landscape design, and interior design. His principal works (all in California unless otherwise specified) included the Channel Heights Housing Project, San Pedro, 1944; and the Northwest Mutual Fire Association building, 1950. Neutra also was the consulting architect to the government of Puerto Rico and several Latin American countries from 1944 to 1946, and to the civil government of Guam in 1951. He published several books and articles and received many national and international awards and honors throughout his career (Koyl 1955:403; Koyl 1962:512).

Robert E. Alexander received a bachelor of arts degree from Cornell University in 1930. He worked in several partnerships from 1935 to 1946 and in his own practice from 1946 to 1949. He partnered with Richard Neutra from 1949 to 1961. His principal works comprised ten categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health, public buildings, scientific structures, and mortuary structures. His principal works included Baldwin Hills Village, Los Angeles, 1940; Estrada Courts, Los Angeles, 1941; Oxnard Housing Project, Oxnard, California, 1951; Elysion Parks Heights housing, Los Angeles, 1951; Title VIII housing at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, 1954; fine arts buildings at San Fernando State College and the University of Nevada, 1958; Adelphia College library, Garden City, New York, 1958; University of Nevada library, Reno, 1959; University of California San Diego residence halls and central facilities building, 1966, and basic science facility, 1969; Camp Pendleton Theater, California, 1969; and Bunker Hill Towers first increment, Los Angeles, 1969. He was a consulting architect to the Home Builders Institute, 1948; the Washington, DC Public Housing Authority, 1950; the United Nations Mission to India, 1951; and, the government of Guam, 1951-52. Alexander published several books
and articles and received many national awards and honors throughout his career (Koyl 1955:6-7; Koyl 1962:8; Gane 1970:11).

The principal works of **Neutra & Alexander** includes Orange Coast College, California, 1957; Fernald School building at University of California Los Angeles, 1957; family housing, Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona, 1957; Mellon Hall and Francis Scott Key Auditorium at St. John’s College, Annapolis, Maryland, 1958; the Hall of Records and the Civic Center, Los Angeles, 1958; the National Park Service Visitor Center and Cyclorama Building, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 1958; the Painted Desert Community, Arizona, 1958; Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, 1959; San Fernando Fine Arts Building, Los Angeles, 1959; the United States Embassy, Karachi, Pakistan, 1961; Lemoore Military Housing, Los Angeles, 1961; and, Palos Verdes High School, California, 1961 (Koyl 1955:6-7, 403; Koyl 1962:8, 512, Gane 1970:11; Allaback 2000:2-3; Smith et al. 1999; Several 1998; St. John’s College 2006; UCLA Office of Academic Planning and Budget 2006:64).

Norberg & Coleman, Burlingame, California
Ernest L. Norberg
David Coleman

**Ernest L. Norberg** attended the Wilmerding School of Industrial Arts, Mark Hopkins Art Institute, and the University of California. After working with the firm Edwards & Norberg, he began operating as an independent architect in 1916. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, educational, recreational, military structures, mortuary structures, city planning, and landscape design. His principal works included Wherry housing at Hamilton Air Force Base in 1952; the U.S. Geological building in Menlo Park, California, in 1953; Wherry housing at March Air Force Base in 1953; a site plan at Hamilton Air Force Base in 1953; Wherry housing at Port Hueneme in 1954; and, Capehart housing at Hamilton Air Force Base in 1958 in association with architect David Coleman (Koyl 1955:407; Koyl 1962:517).

Pace Associates, Chicago, Illinois; Cleveland, Ohio
Wilbur H. Binford
Charles Booher Genther
John F. Kausal

**John F. Kausal** received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Illinois in 1934 and a master of arts degree from Harvard University in 1939. After working for Holabird & Root from 1936 to 1941 and a successor firm from 1941 to 1942, Kausal joined Pace Associates in 1946. His work encompassed the following categories: commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings and structures, military structures, transportation, scientific structures, and city planning. Principal works include an operations building at Glenview Naval Air Station in 1952 and barracks and mess hall buildings at Great Lakes Naval Training Center in 1957 and 1958 (Koyl 1962:367).

Paderewski, Mitchell & Dean, San Diego, California
Clarence Joseph Paderewski
Delmar Stuart Mitchell
Louis Abbott Dean
Clarence Joseph Paderewski received a bachelor of arts degree in architecture from the University of California in 1932. After operating as an independent architect, he co-organized Paderewski, Mitchell & Dean in 1948. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, transportation, communications, scientific structures, mortuary structures, and city planning. Principal works included Family Hospital for the 11th Naval District in San Diego in 1952; a California State Highway office building and Wherry housing in South Dakota, both completed in 1953 with architect Adrian Wilson; buildings for Palomar College in San Marcos, California, between 1952 and 1970; San Diego County University Hospital in 1963 with architects Wulff & Fifield; and, a terminal at San Diego International Airport in 1967 (Koyl 1955:417; Koyl 1962:530; Gane 1970: 688).

Delmar Stuart Mitchell received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Washington in 1939. He co-founded Paderewski, Mitchell & Dean in 1948. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, transportation, communications, scientific structures, city planning, and mortuary structures. Principal works included the Charactron Lab for the 11th Naval District in San Diego in 1952, and a California State Highway office building and Wherry housing in South Dakota, both completed in 1953 with architect Adrian Wilson (Koyl 1955:384; Koyl 1962:688).

Louis Abbott Dean received a degree from the Yale University School of Architecture in 1934. After working as an architect with the 11th Naval District Public Works Department from 1940 to 1947, he co-founded Paderewski, Mitchell & Dean in 1948. Principal works included the Charactron Lab for the 11th Naval District in San Diego in 1952; a California State Highway office building and Wherry housing in South Dakota, both completed in 1953 with architect Adrian Wilson; a terminal at San Diego International Airport in 1967; bachelor officer quarters and a mess hall at Camp Pendleton, California, in 1968; a United Airlines cargo facility in San Diego in 1968; a U.S. Naval Hospital outpatient clinic in San Diego in 1969; and, bachelor officer quarters and barracks with mess hall at Ballast Point in San Diego in 1970 (Koyl 1955:129; Koyl 1962:159; Gane 1970:210).

Parr & Aderhold, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

William G. Parr
George Aderhold

William G. Parr studied at Oklahoma A&M College. He co-founded Parr & Aderhold in 1941 and began operating his own firm in 1960. His work encompassed the following categories: industrial, religious, educational, penal institutions, public buildings, military structures, and communications. Principal works included the YMCA in Oklahoma City in 1951, the county jail in Denver in 1955, a distribution center for Safeway Stores, Inc. in Oklahoma City from 1951 to 1961, and the Oklahoma Bar Center in Oklahoma City in 1961 (Koyl 1955:421; Koyl 1962:535).

George Aderhold received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1933 and a master’s degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1936. He co-founded Parr & Aderhold in 1941, and became supervisory architect for the Department of Justice Bureau of Prisons in 1961. His work encompassed the following categories: industrial, religious, educational, penal institutions, public buildings, military structures, and communications. His principal works included the county jail in Denver in 1955, in association with architect G. Meredith Musick; the Oklahoma Art Center in Oklahoma City in 1958; consulting architect on the Florida Prison for Men in Raiford in 1958; the Numerical Analysis Lab at Oklahoma

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**Palmer & Krisel, Los Angeles, California**

Dan Saxon Palmer  
William Krisel

**Dan Saxon Palmer** received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from New York University in 1942. After operating as an independent architect, he co-founded Palmer & Krisel in 1949. His work encompassed three categories: residential, commercial, and health facilities. Principal work included Brown Shopping Center in Los Angeles in 1951 (Koyl 1955:418; Koyl 1962:531).

**William Krisel** received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the University of Southern California in 1949. His work encompassed three categories: residential, commercial, and health facilities. Principal work included Brown Shopping Center in Los Angeles in 1951, housing in the Fernando Valley of Los Angeles from 1953 to 1955, Mount Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles in 1955 (Koyl 1955:312; Koyl 1962:394).

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**J.N. Pease & Co., Charlotte, North Carolina**

J. Norman Pease, P.E.  
George S. Rawlins, P.E.  
J.A. Stenhouse  
J. Norman Pease Jr.  
R.A. Botsford  
Fred C. Hobson, P.E.  
John V. Ward


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**Pope & Kruse, Wilmington, Delaware**

George E. Pope  
Albert Kruse

**Albert Kruse** studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He co-founded George E. Pope & Albert Kruse in 1935. His work encompassed five categories: residential, religious, educational, public buildings, and scientific structures. Principal work included the State Highway Department administration building in Dover in 1941 and the state Supreme Court building in Dover in 1953 (Koyl 1955:313; Koyl 1962:396).

Lorimer Rich received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from Syracuse University in 1914. He worked for the firm McKim, Mead & White from 1922 to 1928. His work encompassed the following categories: educational, health facilities, public buildings and structures, military structures, city planning, and mortuary structures. Principal work included approaches to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, the Madison Square Post Office in New York in 1935, a dormitory at Oswego State Teachers College in New York in 1952, the men’s gym at Syracuse University in 1951 in association with architect Harvy A. & F. Curtis King, and a building at Allegheny College in 1954 (Koyl 1955:459; Koyl 1962:583).

I. Richmond & Co., Boston, Massachusetts

Isidor Richmond received a special certificate in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1916. After working as an independent architect, he co-organized Isidor Richmond & Carney Goldberg in 1946. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, transportation, communications, health facilities, public buildings and structures, military structures, mortuary structures, city planning, and interior design. Principal works included housing projects in Brookline, Massachusetts, in 1948; men’s and women’s dormitories at Salem State College, Massachusetts, in 1967; and, the Joseph M. Linsey Sports Center at Brandeis University in 1968 (Koyl 1955:460; Koyl 1962:585; Gane 1970:761).

Scholer & Fuller, Tucson, Arizona

Emerson C. Scholer
Santry C. Fuller

Emerson C. Scholer studied at Purdue University from 1935 to 1937 and received a bachelor of science degree in architecture from the University of Illinois in 1942. After operating as an independent architect from 1947 to 1950, he co-founded Scholer, Sakellar & Fuller in 1950. In 1956, the successor firm Scholer & Fuller was formed. Scholer’s work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, and military structures. Principal works included buildings at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in 1953 (Koyl 1955:491; Koyl 1962:623).

Santry C. Fuller received a bachelor of science degree in architecture from the University of Illinois in 1940. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, and public buildings and structures. Principal works included bachelor officer quarters field house at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, in 1956, and Capehart housing in Yuma, Arizona, in 1960 (Koyl 1955:186; Koyl 1962:234).

Gordon M. Severud, Miami, Florida

Gordon M. Severud received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the University of Minnesota in 1934 and a master’s degree from the Harvard University Graduate School of Architecture in 1935. He operated as an independent architect from 1940 to 1962, and co-founded Severud and Knight in 1962. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious,
educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, transportation, and landscape design. His principal work included Navy housing in Key West, Florida, in 1956; the Musicians Union Building in Miami in 1960; and, a motel in Everglades National Park in 1960 (Koyl 1955:498; Koyl 1962:633).

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Portland, Oregon
Louis Skidmore
Nathaniel A. Owings
John O. Merrill

Louis Skidmore studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He served as assistant to the general manager of the Chicago World’s Fair from 1929 to 1935, and co-founded Skidmore & Owings in 1935. The firm became Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in 1936. Skidmore retired in 1955. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings and structures, military structures, transportation, communications, scientific structures, city planning, landscape design, and interior design. Principal work included the Atomic Energy Commission town site in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, in 1945; Manufacturers Trust Company in New York in 1954, the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs in 1960, various facilities for the H.J. Heinz Co. of Pittsburgh, and buildings for the New York City Housing Authority (Koyl 1955:510; Koyl 1962:647).

Nathaniel A. Owings studied at the University of Illinois and received a bachelor of science in architecture from Cornell University in 1927. He worked for the Chicago World’s Fair from 1930 to 1934 and co-founded Skidmore and Owings in 1935. The firm became Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in 1936. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, transportation, communications, scientific structures, city planning, and mortuary structures. Principal work included the Atomic Energy Commission town site in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, in 1945; the Ohio State University Medical Center in Columbus in 1949; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers facilities for three installations in Okinawa in 1953; the Greyhound bus terminal in Chicago in 1953; the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs in 1960; and, the Chase Manhattan Bank office building in New York (Koyl 1955:416; Koyl 1955:529).

John O. Merrill studied at the University of Wisconsin and received a bachelor of science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1921. He was a partner in Skidmore, Owings & Merrill until he retired in 1958. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, transportation, communications, scientific structures, city planning, and mortuary structures. Principal works included the Atomic Energy Commission town site in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, in 1945, a Veterans Administration hospital in Brooklyn, New York, in 1948, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers facilities for three installations in Okinawa in 1953, U.S. Far East Command facilities in Japan, and the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs (Koyl 1955:377).

Steele, Sandham & Weinstein, Omaha, Nebraska
William L. Steele, Jr.
J.D. Sandham
Alex Weinstein
William L. Steele, Jr., was involved in government construction projects from 1941 to 1946, and co-founded Steele, Sandham & Steele in 1946. He co-founded Steele, Sandham & Weinstein in 1956. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, religious, educational, health facilities, public buildings and structures, military structures, communications, industrial, recreational, and scientific structures. Principal work included St. Vincent’s Home for the Aged in Omaha in 1952, the Agronomy Building at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln in 1952, Benedictine Seminary in Elkhorn in 1956, the student health center at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln in 1958, and the federal building and courthouse in Omaha in 1960 (Koyl 1955:532; Koyl 1962: 670).

J.D. Sandham studied architecture at Rose Polytechnical Institute in Terre Haute, Indiana. Sandham was involved in Kimball, Steele & Sandham from 1928 to 1945 and Steele, Sandham & Steele from 1946 to 1956, and co-founded Steele, Sandham, and Weinstein in 1956. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, religious, educational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, communications, and scientific structures. Principal work included a federal office building in Omaha in 1932, in association with architect George B. Prinz; a Northwest Bell Telephone building in Grand Island, Nebraska, in 1941; buildings for the State Hospital in Hastings in 1948; the Agronomy Building at University of Nebraska in Lincoln in 1952; St. Vincent’s Home in Omaha in 1953; a Northwest Bell Telephone building in Rapid City, South Dakota, in 1954; and, work as a supervisory architect on Beth Israel Synagogue in Omaha in 1951 and 1952 and on Temple Israel in Omaha in 1953 and 1954 (Koyl 1955:482; Koyl 1962:611).

Alex Weinstein received a bachelor of science degree in architectural engineering from Iowa State College in 1943 and a master’s degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1948. He joined Steele, Sandham & Steele in 1949 and became a partner in 1956. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, transportation, communications, and scientific structures. Principal works included St. Vincent’s Home in Omaha in 1953, work as a supervisory architect for Temple Israel in Omaha from 1953 to 1955, the student health center at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, in 1956, and the U.S. Post Office and the federal courthouse in Omaha, both in 1960 (Koyl 1955:592; Koyl 1962:747).

Stuart & Durham, Seattle, Washington
B. Dudley Stuart
Robert L. Durham


Swaim & Allen, Little Rock, Arkansas
Guy W. Swaim
William S. Allen
Guy W. Swaim received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from Alabama Polytechnic Institute in 1932. He co-founded Brueggeman, Swaim & Allen in 1933, and co-founded Swaim & Allen in 1950. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings and structures, military structures, transportation, city planning, and mortuary structures. Principal work included a federal veterans hospital in Little Rock in 1950 in association with the firm Erhart, Eichenbaum & Rauch, and the state Game and Fish building and the state welfare building, both in Little Rock, in 1950 (Koyl 1955:546; Koyl 1962:688).

Waasdorp & Northrup, Rochester, New York
Leonard A. Waasdorp
Charles V. Northrup

Leonard A. Waasdorp studied at the Museum of Fine Arts in Utrecht, Holland and at the Rochester Institute of Technology. He co-founded Waasdorp & Northrup in 1951, and Waasdorp, Northrup & Kaelber in 1961. His work encompassed the following categories: commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, transportation, communications, and scientific structures. Principal work included buildings for the University of Rochester Hospital and Medical School from 1925 to 1954, the atomic energy building and laboratories at University of Rochester in 1950, and the YWCA building in Rochester in 1950 (Koyl 1955:579-80; Koyl 1962:731).

Charles V. Northrup studied architecture at Cornell University. He co-founded Waasdorp and Northrup in 1951. His work encompassed the following categories: commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, transportation, communications, and scientific structures. Principal works included women’s dormitories at the University of Rochester in 1955 (Koyl 1955:408; Koyl 1962:518).

Weed, Russell & Johnson, Miami, Florida
Robert Law Weed
T. Trip Russell
Herbert H. Johnson

Robert Law Weed studied at Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He operated as an independent architect until 1950, when he co-founded Weed, Russell, & Johnson. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, transportation, communications, mortuary structures, and city planning. Principal works included housing and classrooms at the University of Miami in Coral Gables in 1947, air base plans and operations buildings at 15 bases in the southeastern United States and the Caribbean in 1952, Burdines Department Store in Miami Beach in 1953, and the Fleet Sonar School in Key West in 1953 (Koyl 1955:590).

T. Trip Russell received a bachelor of arts degree in architecture in 1934 and a master of arts degree in architecture in 1935, both from the University of Pennsylvania. He co-founded Polevitzky & Russell in 1936 and was associated with the firm until 1941. He co-founded Weed, Russell, & Johnson. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial,
religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, transportation, communications, city planning, and mortuary structures. Principal works included housing and classrooms at University of Miami in Coral Gables in 1947, air base plans and operations buildings at 15 bases in the southeastern United States and the Caribbean in 1952, Burdines Department Store in Miami Beach in 1953, and the Fleet Sonar School in Key West in 1953 (Koyl 1955:478).

**Herbert H. Johnson** received bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees in architecture from Rice Institute and a certification in Naval architecture from Michigan University. He co-founded Weed, Russell & Johnson in 1950. Principal works included housing and classrooms at University of Miami in Coral Gables in 1947, air base plans and operations buildings at 15 bases in the southeastern United States and the Caribbean in 1952, Burdines Department Store in Miami Beach in 1953, and the Fleet Sonar School in Key West in 1953, the National Airlines nose hangar in Miami in 1957, and the Miami Daily News plant in 1957 (Koyl 1955:478; Koyl 1962:352).

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**Williamson, Loebsack & Associates, Topeka, Kansas**

Thomas W. Williamson

**Thomas W. Williamson** studied at the University of Pennsylvania. He operated his own firm from 1912 to 1945, and co-founded Williamson, Loebsack & Associates in 1945. His work encompassed four categories: educational, health facilities, public buildings, and military structures. Principal work included high schools in Topeka and El Dorado Kansas during the 1930s, the National Bank of Topeka in 1935, Pratt County Hospital in Kansas in 1950, and the Washburn College administration building in Topeka in 1950 (Koyl 1955:609; Koyl 1962:766).

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**Adrian Wilson, Los Angeles, California**

**Adrian Wilson** studied at the School of Architectural Engineering at Washington University in St. Louis from 1917 to 1919, and took night-school courses in architecture and structural and mechanical engineering from 1924 to 1926. He was a partner in Webster & Wilson from 1930 to 1936, and he began his own practice in 1936. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings and structures, military structures, transportation, city planning, penal institutions, and communications. Principal works included five buildings at Los Angeles General Hospital from 1949 to 1955, buildings at air bases between 1952 and 1955, the Los Angeles Courthouse in 1956, the Las Vegas Convention Center in 1959, and the United States Embassy in Saigon in 1968 (Koyl 1955:610; Koyl 1962:767; Gane 1970:999).

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**Wise, Simpson, Aiken & Associates, Atlanta, Georgia**

James C. Wise

William M. Simpson

Hobert W. Aiken

**William M. Simpson** received a bachelor of science degree from Georgia School of Technology in 1942 (later known as Georgia Institute of Technology). In 1946 he joined James C. Wise, the firm’s predecessor. Simpson was a draftsman from 1946 to 1949, an architect from 1949 to 1952, an
associate architect in 1952, and later a participating associate. Projects completed for James C. Wise comprised six types: residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, health facility, and transportation. He was treasurer and a vice president for Wise, Simpson, Aiken & Associates (Koyl 1955:508-509; Koyl 1962:645).

**Hobert W. Aiken** attended Biltmore College from 1937 to 1939 and received a bachelor of science degree in architecture in 1941 and an advanced architecture degree in 1947, both from Georgia Institute of Technology. He worked in the Office of the Quartermaster General of the Army in 1941. He was an architecture instructor at Georgia Tech in 1947 and 1948. He was a draftsman for Lindsey M. Gudger from 1937 to 1939, followed by Anthony Lord from 1939 to 1946, and James C. Wise during 1947. His work comprised fourteen categories: commercial, industrial, educational, penal, public buildings and structures, military, transportation, scientific, restoration, residential, religious, recreational, and health (Koyl 1955:6; Koyl 1962:6).

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**Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson, Little Rock, Arkansas**

Gordon G. Wittenberg  
Lawson L. Delony  
Julian B. Davidson

**Gordon G. Wittenberg** studied at the University of Arkansas and received a bachelor of science degree in architectural engineering from the University of Illinois in 1943. He joined Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson in 1952. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, and scientific structures. Principal work included buildings at Little Rock Air Force Base, in association with architects Erhart, Eichenbaum & Rauch and Ginnocchio & Cromwell (Koyl 1955:615; Koyl 1962:773).

**Lawson L. Delony** studied at the University of Illinois and Columbia University (American Institute of Architects archival files 2006).

**Julian B. Davidson** received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from Washington University in 1928 and studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1944 and 1945. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings, military structures, and scientific structures. Davidson joined Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson in 1946. Principal works included a dormitory at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville in 1949, and Boone County Hospital in Harrison, Arkansas, in 1952 (Koyl 1955:125; Koyl 1962:154).

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**Yost & Taylor, Kenilworth, Illinois**

L. Morgan Yost  
D. Coder Taylor

**L. Morgan Yost** studied at Northwestern University and received a bachelor’s degree from Ohio State University in 1931. He worked as an independent architect from 1932 to 1952, and co-founded Yost & Taylor in 1952. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, and public buildings.
D. Coder Taylor studied at the University of Washington and received a bachelor's degree in architecture from the Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1935. He was associated with two other firms from 1940 to 1952, and co-founded Yost & Taylor in 1952. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, public buildings and structures, military structures, scientific structures, mortuary structures, city planning, landscape design, and interior design. Principal works included the St. Charles, Illinois municipal building in 1940 (Koyl 1955:551; Koyl 1962:694).

Zick & Sharp, Las Vegas, Nevada
Walter F. Zick
Harris P. Sharp

Walter F. Zick received a bachelor of science degree in architecture and a master of science degree in education in 1932, both from the University of Southern California. He co-founded Zick & Sharp in 1949. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings, transportation, mortuary structures, and city planning. Principal work included the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas in 1948, in association with architect Richard Stadelman; buildings at Nellis Air Force Base in 1953; the Moulin Rouge Hotel in Las Vegas and the River Queen and Silver Lode hotels in Reno, all in 1955; Capehart housing at Nellis Air Force Base in 1959; and, the Nevada Power Company office building and the Clark County courthouse, both in Las Vegas in 1961, in association with architect Welton Becket & Associates (Koyl 1955:628; Koyl 1962:790).

Harris P. Sharp studied at the University of Arizona and the University of New Mexico, and received a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Southern California in 1943. He co-founded Zick & Sharp in 1949. His work encompassed the following categories: residential, commercial, industrial, religious, educational, recreational, health facilities, penal institutions, public buildings, military structures, transportation, scientific structures, mortuary structures, and city planning. Principal works included the Southern Nevada Power Company in Las Vegas in 1955 in association with architect Welton Becket & Associates, and the River Queen and Silver Lode hotels in Reno and the Moulin Rouge Hotel in Las Vegas, both in 1955 (Koyl 1955:499; Koyl 1962:634).
APPENDIX D

AIR FORCE AND NAVY WHERRY, CAPEHART, AND APPROPRIATED FUNDS PROJECTS
Air Force and Navy Wherry, Capehart, and Appropriated-Funds Projects

Lists of Wherry, Capehart, and appropriated-funds projects built by installation are provided in Tables D.1., D.2., D.3., and D.4. The lists were developed from military and civilian newspaper articles and government documents from the period 1949 to 1962. Each time a project was mentioned, the number of units and the installation was tabulated for the appropriate fiscal year (FY). Table D.1. summarizes housing planned and built by program and service. For Tables D.2. and D.3., which list, respectively, Wherry and Capehart construction, projects in the planning stage are denoted with a “p” next to the number of units in the project. Projects under construction are denoted with a “uc.” Completed projects are denoted with a “c.” For Tables D.4., which lists appropriated-funds construction, projects are recorded in the following categories: “r” for requested, “auth” for authorized, “a” for awarded, “ud” for under design, “d” for deferred, and “c” for completed. “Unknown authorization” refers to family housing authorized in Public Laws that did not specify the number of units authorized. Instead, installations were authorized to spend a specific total dollar amount on various construction projects. The last column in each table contains the total number of completed units for each installation, with a grand total at the bottom of the column. The lists reflect installations that were active during the period, some of which are no longer active Navy or Air Force installations.

The tables reveal discrepancies. Several factors contributed to these discrepancies. Data sources were limited, particularly for those units constructed under the appropriated-funds program. Records of appropriated-fund housing built during the period of this study were difficult to find. Inventories of military family housing presented in transcripts of Congressional hearings or in internal military documents often provided total numbers of housing classified as public quarters, but did not specify when this housing was built. It would have been incorrect to assume these public quarters were built during the period of this study, because they could have been officer family housing built before the post-World War II period. Additionally, data occasionally conflicted among sources consulted. These sources included Air Force and Navy records; Congressional hearings reporting numbers of Wherry, Capehart, and appropriated-funds units authorized and approved; public laws that authorized construction of specific numbers of units for a fiscal year; documents located at the National Archives; information obtained from installations; and data provided by the Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Navy. The Air Force and the Navy databases identify the numbers and types of buildings currently under their management, and are presented in Appendix E. Building uses have changed since the database was compiled, making exact calculations difficult.

Table D.1. Air Force and Navy Family Housing Units Planned and Built (1949-1962)

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<th>Service</th>
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<th>Capehart Units</th>
<th>Appropriated Funds Units</th>
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<td>Total Units</td>
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*Indicates housing approved and either built or canceled
**Approximate. Public laws for some fiscal years did not provide figures for authorized appropriated-funds housing
***Available sources provided figures only for Air Force Wherry housing built, not housing planned but canceled

Note: See Appendix D for breakdowns by installation
Source: See Page D-1
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Key:
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uc = under construction  
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Key:
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uc = under construction
c = completed
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- uc = under construction  
- c = completed
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c = completed
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Key:
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uc = under construction
c = completed
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Key:
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c = completed
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uc = under construction
c = completed
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**Total Units**

77,208

Key:
p = planned
uc = under construction
c = completed
### Table D.4. Air Force and Navy Appropriated-Funds Projects by Fiscal Year

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Key: r = requested; auth. = authorized; ud = under design; a = awarded; c = completed; d = deferred to Title VIII, or delayed or cancelled for other reason (high bid, utility issues, etc.)
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APPENDIX E

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Table E.1. Air Force Wherry, Capehart, and Appropriated Funds Housing Inventory by Installation (1949-1964)** Data from RPI*

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- **Scheduled to be privatized November 2006
- **Scheduled to be privatized March 2007
- **Scheduled to be privatized May 2007
- **Scheduled to be privatized September 2007
- **Scheduled to be privatized September 2006
- **Scheduled to be privatized September 2005
- **Scheduled to be privatized September 2000
- **Scheduled to be privatized September 2007
- **Scheduled to be privatized September 2005

*Notes indicate the status of privatization plans for each installation.
## Table E.1: Air Force Wherry, Capehart, and Appropriated Funds Housing Inventory by Installation (1949-1964)**

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* RPI = Ronald Reagan Building and Investment Center

** Includes Wherry, Capehart, and appropriated funds housing on military installations

Notes:
1. Buildings and units are counted separately for Wherry and Capehart.
2. The total number of buildings and units includes both Wherry and Capehart.
3. The data includes installations that were privatized in the late 1990s or early 2000s.

Installation Notes:
- Keesler AFB: Scheduled to be privatized September 2007
- Hill AFB: Privatized September 2015
- Holloman AFB: Scheduled to be privatized November 2006
- Fairchild AFB: Scheduled to be privatized September 2007
- Keesler AFB: Scheduled to be privatized September 2007
- Hill AFB: Privatized September 2015
- Holloman AFB: Scheduled to be privatized November 2006
- Fairchild AFB: Scheduled to be privatized September 2007
## Table E.1: Air Force Wherry, Capehart, and Appropriated Funds Housing Inventory
### by Installation (1949-1964)**

Data from RPI*

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**Scheduled to be privatized:**
- **December 2006**
- **May 2007**
- **September 2007**
- **December 2006**
- **April 2003**
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Notes:
- Privatization to be determined.
- Privatized September 2006.
- Privatized May 2006.
- Privatized October 2003.
- Site decommissioned in 1997.
- Housing units inactive.
- Scheduled to be privatized September 2007.
- Scheduled to be privatized January 2007.
- Privatization schedule to be determined.
Table E.1  Air Force Wherry, Capehart, and Appropriated Funds Housing Inventory by Installation (1949-1964)**

Data from RPI*

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Notes:

* Data obtained from the Air Force 2005 Real Property Inventory (RPI) database.
** Table includes construction completion data through 1964 in order to capture housing appropriations through 1962.
*** Status current as of 1 Oct 2006. Gray rows indicate military family housing that has been privatized and is no longer in the Air Force inventory as of 1 Oct 2006. The current status of these units is unknown.
# Table E.2. Air Force Wherry, Capehart, and Appropriated Funds Housing Inventory

By Construction Program (1949-1964**)

Data from RPI*

* Data obtained from the Air Force 2005 Real Property Inventory (RPI) database.

** Table includes construction completion data through 1964 in order to capture housing appropriations through 1962.

*** Status current as of 1 Oct 2006.

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<td>VA</td>
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<td>WA</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>12</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Appropriated Funds</td>
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<td>2370</td>
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</table>

*Data obtained from 2005 Internet Navy Facility Assets Data Store Management System Database (INFADS)*
**Estimate of Navy housing privatization under the Public-Private Venture (PPV) program as of 2005**
***Total does not equal sum of construction programs because INFADS did not indicate construction program for some or all buildings listed for some installations***
****Total includes 13 buildings at Mitchell Housing Complex, Long Island containing 15 to 21 units in the following breakdown:
15 units: 1
17 units: 4
19 units: 1
16 units: 4
18 units: 1
21 units: 2
Table E.4. Marine Corps Wherry and Capehart Housing Inventory (1949-1962)
Data from iNFADS*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of units by type (single-family, duplexes, multi-family)</th>
<th>MCAS Beaufort</th>
<th>MCB Hawaii, Manama</th>
<th>MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay</th>
<th>MCAS Cherry Point, NC</th>
<th>MCAS Yuma</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Capehart</td>
<td>Wherry</td>
<td>Capehart</td>
<td>Wherry</td>
<td>Capehart</td>
<td>Wherry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of units by type</td>
<td>1,077 single-family</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>42 single-family; 126 duplexes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>218 single-family; 416 duplexes</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of buildings by type</td>
<td>1,077</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>42 single-family; 63 duplex</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>218 single-family; 208 duplex</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of buildings</td>
<td>1,077</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of garages/carports</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of units by construction program</td>
<td>1,077</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>634</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of buildings by construction program</td>
<td>1,077</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dates of major renovations</td>
<td>whole house repairs began in 1989; completed 1993</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Internet Navy Facility Assets Data Store Management System Database (iNFADS)
APPENDIX F

ANALYSIS OF CASE STUDIES TO DETERMINE PROPERTIES OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE
ANALYSIS OF CASE STUDIES TO DETERMINE PROPERTIES OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE

This appendix presents the results of archival research and field surveys for five Air Force, Navy, and Marine installations visited for case studies and to determine Properties of Particular Importance. Installations were chosen based on archival information and data provided by the Air Force Real Property Inventory (RPI) and the Navy’s Internet Navy Facility Assets Data Store Management System (iNFADS). Analysis of the data resulted in the identification of criteria for selecting installations for field surveys. Installations were selected for their potential:

- to illustrate the broad social history of military housing between 1949 and 1962 for the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps;
- to provide examples of Wherry, Capehart, and appropriated-funds housing to compare and contrast the types of housing constructed under each program, and the types of housing built based on rank;
- to illustrate neighborhood planning concepts and community amenities;
- to represent the work of important architects and designers, developers, and contractors;
- to illustrate the range of contemporary housing types and styles from geographically diverse locations; and,
- to retain large numbers of housing units in the active inventory from the period 1949 to 1962.

Table F.1 summarizes the installations and neighborhoods visited.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTALLATION</th>
<th>CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM</th>
<th>YEAR BUILT</th>
<th>TYPE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCAS Cherry Point</td>
<td>Wherry</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>Multi-family, single-family, and duplex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Capehart</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>Single-family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval Support Activity Mid-south</td>
<td>Wherry</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Multi-family, single-family, and duplex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Capehart</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Single-family and duplex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis AFB</td>
<td>Capehart</td>
<td>1958, 1962</td>
<td>Single-family and duplex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appropriated funds</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Single-family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Home AFB</td>
<td>Wherry</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>Single-family and multi-family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Capehart</td>
<td>1959, 1962</td>
<td>Single-family and duplex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appropriated funds</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>Single-family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval Base Ventura County</td>
<td>Wherry</td>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Multi-family, single-family, and duplex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Capehart</td>
<td>1958, 1959, 1962</td>
<td>Multi-family, single-family, and duplex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appropriated funds</td>
<td>1949, 1951, 1963</td>
<td>Multi-family, single-family, and duplex</td>
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</table>
Site investigations combined archival research and building surveys to describe fully the programs at each installation. Data were compiled on the respective construction programs, building types, dates of construction, features of note, architects, associated neighborhood or landscape features, and changes over time. These data were analyzed further for architectural design, building collection, historical association, alterations within the period of study, construction materials, property types, and military association.

The five installations were evaluated to determine if any merited further consideration as properties of particular importance. The evaluation of all five installations was based on data compiled from archival sources and the field surveys, and by applying the National Register of Historic Places criteria for significance and integrity.

The National Register criteria for evaluation establishes that for buildings to be eligible for listing in the National Register within an identified theme, they should (1) possess an association with events that made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of military history; (2) possess an association with a person significant in the past; (3) embody the distinctive characteristics of type, period, or method of construction; or represent the work of a master; or possess high artistic values; or, (4) yield, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

In order to meet National Register criteria for evaluation, a property must not only possess significance within a historic context, but also retain integrity to the period during which the building achieves significance. Integrity is a property’s ability to convey its significance through the retention of essential physical characteristics from its period of significance. The evaluation of Navy, Air Force, and Marine facilities for possible designation as a property of particular importance was completed with an assessment of the integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association for each resource in the real property inventories. Table F.2 summarizes the evaluations of resources at all five installations.

An analysis of the archival and field survey data, and the application of National Register criteria for significance and integrity, allowed for the determination of properties of particular importance. Generally, for a Capehart, Wherry, or appropriated funds housing area to merit consideration as a property of particular importance it must satisfy several of the following criteria:

- ability to physically convey the broad social history of military housing during the 1950s and 1960s;
- ability to represent the work of important architects, designers, developers, or contractors;
- ability to illustrate the range of contemporary housing types and styles;
- ability to represent the greatest number of units;
- ability to demonstrate post-World War II planning principles and suburbanization themes;
- ability to represent change over time; and,
- ability to retain integrity to the period of significance.

Table F.3 provides the matrix for evaluating properties of particular importance.
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<th>Installation</th>
<th>Type of Housing</th>
<th>Year Built</th>
<th>Construction Program</th>
<th>Design Description</th>
<th>Information Potential</th>
<th>Significance Notes</th>
<th>Integrity Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MCAS Cherry Point</strong></td>
<td>Multi-family, single-family, and duplex</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>The resources are associated with the Wherry Program</td>
<td>The resources are typical of those constructed during the Wherry and Capehart eras</td>
<td>Alterations and demolition limits the information potential of the resources</td>
<td>Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of design</td>
<td>Demolition of numerous buildings negatively impacts integrity of feeling</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MCAS Cherry Point</strong></td>
<td>Single-family</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>The resources are associated with the Capehart Program</td>
<td>The resources are typical of those constructed during the Wherry and Capehart eras</td>
<td>Alterations limit the information potential of the resources</td>
<td>Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of design</td>
<td>Privatization of officer housing in 2005, and extensive renovations negatively impacts integrity of feeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Naval Support Activity Mid-South</strong></td>
<td>Multi-family</td>
<td>1951-1952</td>
<td>The resources are associated with the Wherry Program</td>
<td>The resources are typical of those constructed during the Wherry and Capehart eras</td>
<td>Alterations and demolition limits the information potential of the resources</td>
<td>Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of design</td>
<td>Demolition of numerous buildings negatively impacts integrity of feeling</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Naval Support Activity Mid-South</strong></td>
<td>Single-family and duplex</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>The resources are associated with the Capehart Program</td>
<td>The resources are typical of those constructed during the Wherry and Capehart eras</td>
<td>Alterations limit the information potential of the resources</td>
<td>Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of design</td>
<td>Renovation of numerous buildings negatively impacts integrity of feeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Multi-family, single-family, and duplex</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>The resources are associated with the Wherry Program</td>
<td>The resources are typical of those constructed during the Wherry and Capehart eras</td>
<td>Alterations limit the information potential of the resources</td>
<td>Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of design</td>
<td>Renovation of numerous buildings negatively impacts integrity of feeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation</td>
<td>Type of Housing</td>
<td>Year Built</td>
<td>Construction Program</td>
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<td>INTEGRITY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travis AFB</td>
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<td>The resources are associated with the Capehart Program</td>
<td>Abrams and Dickstein, Angus McSweeney - archival research did not discover information to allow for a scholarly judgement on the contributions of any of the designers</td>
<td>The buildings retain integrity of design</td>
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<td>1957</td>
<td>The resources are associated with the Appropriated Funds Housing</td>
<td>Abrams and Dickstein - archival research did not discover information to allow for a scholarly judgement on the contributions of any of the designers</td>
<td>The buildings retain integrity of design</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Home AFB</td>
<td>Multi-family and single-family</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>The resources are associated with the Wherry Program</td>
<td>Hummel, Hummel, &amp; Jones; R.J. Neutra &amp; R.E. Alexander - the firm of Neutra &amp; Alexander is an architectural firm of national significance</td>
<td>The buildings retain integrity of design</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Home AFB</td>
<td>Single-family and duplex</td>
<td>1959, 1962</td>
<td>The resources are associated with the Capehart Program</td>
<td>Hummel, Hummel, &amp; Jones; R.J. Neutra &amp; R.E. Alexander - the firm of Neutra &amp; Alexander is an architectural firm of national significance</td>
<td>The buildings retain integrity of design</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SIGNIFICANCE**
- **Type, Period, or Year Built**: The resources are associated with the Capehart Program.
- **Method of Construction**: Abrams and Dickstein, Angus McSweeney.
- **Information Potential**: The resources are typical of those constructed during the Wherry and Capehart eras.
- **Alterations**: The buildings have not experienced major alterations; however, only 6 units were constructed limiting the information potential of the resources.
- **Demolition**: Alterations and demolition limits the information potential of the resources.
- **Design**: The buildings reflect the International style of architecture and is atypical of housing constructed during the Wherry and Capehart eras.
- **Feeling**: Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of design.
- **Association**: The resources retain integrity of association to the Capehart Program.
- **Materials**: Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of materials.
- **Workmanship**: Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of workmanship.
- **Setting**: Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of setting.
- **Location**: The buildings retain integrity of setting.

**INTEGRITY**
- **Design**: The buildings retain integrity of design.
- **Feeling**: The buildings retain integrity of feeling.
- **Association**: The resources retain integrity of association to the Appropriated Funds Housing.
- **Materials**: The buildings retain integrity of materials.
- **Workmanship**: The buildings retain integrity of workmanship.
- **Setting**: The buildings retain integrity of setting.
- **Location**: The buildings are in their original locations.

**Partial implementation of original landscape plans from 1958 and installation of new landscaping negatively impacts integrity of setting.**

**The buildings are in their original locations.**

**The remaining Wherry-era buildings are in their original locations.**

**The resources reflect the International style of architecture and are atypical of housing constructed during the Wherry and Capehart eras.**

**Archival research did not locate an original landscape plan for the neighborhood, and a scholarly judgement on setting could not be made.**

**The buildings retain integrity of setting.**

**Alterations and demolition limits the information potential of the resources as a district; however, three buildings retain sufficient integrity to merit further consideration as individual significance.**

**Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of design.**

**Demolition of numerous buildings negatively impacts integrity of feeling of the majority of the buildings; however, three buildings retain integrity of feeling.**

**Alterations of buildings negatively impacts integrity of materials of the majority of the buildings; however, three buildings retain integrity of materials.**

**Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of workmanship of the buildings; however, three buildings retain integrity of workmanship.**

**Alterations to original landscape plans and demolition of a large number of buildings negatively impacts integrity of setting.**

**Alterations to original landscape plans and demolition of a large number of buildings negatively impacts integrity of setting.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Installation</th>
<th>Type of Housing</th>
<th>Year Built</th>
<th>Construction Program</th>
<th>Significance</th>
<th>Integrity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Naval Base Ventura County</td>
<td>Multi-family and single-family</td>
<td>1954</td>
<td>The resources are associated with the Wherry Program</td>
<td>The designer of the buildings is not known. The resources are typical of those constructed during the Wherry and Capehart eras. Alterations limit the information potential of the resources. Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of design. Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of feeling. Renovation of numerous buildings negatively impacts integrity of association to the Wherry Program.</td>
<td>Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of materials. Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of workmanship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval Base Ventura County</td>
<td>Multi-family, single-family, and duplex</td>
<td>1959, 1962</td>
<td>The resources are associated with the Capehart Program</td>
<td>Hugh Gibbs, Victor J. Spotts, Porter, Urquhart, McCreary &amp; O'Brien - archival research did not discover information to allow for a scholarly judgement on the contributions of any of the designers. The resources are typical of those constructed during the Wherry and Capehart eras. Alterations limit the information potential of the Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, and San Miguel housing areas; however, the Catalina Heights housing area retains sufficient integrity to merit further consideration for significance. Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of design of the majority of the buildings; however, Catalina Heights retains integrity of design. Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of feeling of the majority of the buildings; however, Catalina Heights retains integrity of feeling. Renovation of numerous buildings negatively impacts integrity of association to the Capehart Program.</td>
<td>Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of materials of the majority of the buildings; however, Catalina Heights retains integrity of materials. Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of workmanship of the majority of the buildings; however, Catalina Heights retains integrity of workmanship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval Base Ventura County</td>
<td>Multi-family, single-family, and duplex</td>
<td>1949, 1951, 1963</td>
<td>The resources are associated with the Appropriated Funds Housing</td>
<td>Hugh Gibbs, Parsons-Aerojet - archival research did not discover information to allow for a scholarly judgement on the contributions of any of the designers. The resources are typical of those constructed during the Wherry and Capehart eras. Alterations limit the information potential of the resources. Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of design. Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of feeling. Renovation of numerous buildings negatively impacts integrity of association to the Appropriated Funds Housing.</td>
<td>Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of materials. Alterations to exteriors and interiors negatively impacts integrity of workmanship.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table F.3. Matrix for Determining Properties of Particular Importance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Installation</th>
<th>Housing Area</th>
<th>Year built</th>
<th>Ability to convey social history of Military housing</th>
<th>Ability to represent important architect or designer</th>
<th>Ability to illustrate range of contemporary styles</th>
<th>Ability to represent greatest number of units</th>
<th>Ability to demonstrate planning principles</th>
<th>Ability to represent change over time</th>
<th>Ability to retain integrity</th>
<th>Property of Particular Importance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCAS Cherry Point</td>
<td></td>
<td>1952</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCAS Cherry Point</td>
<td>Capehart</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval Support Activity Mid-South</td>
<td>Wherry</td>
<td>1951-1952</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval Support Activity Mid-South</td>
<td>Caphart</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis AFB</td>
<td>Wherry</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis AFB</td>
<td>Caphart</td>
<td>1958, 1962</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis AFB</td>
<td>Appropriated Funds</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Home ATB</td>
<td>Wherry</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Home ATB</td>
<td>Capehart</td>
<td>1959, 1963</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>XX</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval Base Ventura County</td>
<td>Bruns Park (Wherry)</td>
<td>1954</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval Base Ventura County</td>
<td>Santa Rosa (Caphart)</td>
<td>1959</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval Base Ventura County</td>
<td>Santa Cruz (Caphart)</td>
<td>1959</td>
<td>XX</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval Base Ventura County</td>
<td>Catalina Heights (Caphart)</td>
<td>1959</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval Base Ventura County</td>
<td>San Miguel (Caphart)</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval Base Ventura County</td>
<td>Santa Barbara (Appropriated Funds)</td>
<td>1949</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval Base Ventura County</td>
<td>Quarters F, G, &amp; H (Appropriated Funds)</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval Base Ventura County</td>
<td>Bard Estates (Appropriated Funds/Caphart)</td>
<td>1962, 1963</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval Base Ventura County</td>
<td>Coral Sea Cove (Appropriated Funds)</td>
<td>1963</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following properties were identified as possessing particular importance within the Wherry and Capehart era:

- Three Capehart senior officer houses at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, and
- The Catalina Heights neighborhood at Naval Base Ventura County, California as a collection of Capehart program dwellings that collectively convey the principles of postwar suburbanization adapted to a military context.

Detailed data on the above installations are included in Appendix G. The remaining properties investigated were not considered properties of particular importance because they no longer retained sufficient integrity to convey significance through the retention of character-defining features from the period of significance, 1949 to 1962.
APPENDIX G

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROPERTIES OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE
PROPERTIES OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE

This appendix provides details on the Properties of Particular Importance. Designation as a Property of Particular Importance is based on data provided from the Air Force and Navy real property records and the criteria for significance and integrity defined in Chapter 7 and Appendix F. To be considered a Property of Particular Importance, a property must achieve significance within the historic context and retain sufficient integrity to convey that significance.

Based on archival research and an analysis of data obtained during site investigation, the following properties were identified as possessing particular importance within the Wherry and Capehart era:

- Three senior Capehart officer houses at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, and
- The Catalina Heights neighborhood at Naval Base Ventura County as a collection of Capehart program dwellings that collectively convey the principles of postwar suburbanization adapted to a military context.

Mountain Home Air Force Base – Three Senior Officer Capehart Houses

The three senior officer houses designed in the International Style by Richard J. Neutra at Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB) represent the work of important architects for the military between 1949 and 1962. The three houses were constructed as part of a 270-unit Capehart project in 1959. The three buildings occupied one block in the center of the Old Capehart officer housing area known as Gunfighter Manor. The original drawings indicated that the houses were designed by “RJN,” although Charles Hummel, senior principal of Hummel Architects, identified Robert Evans Alexander as the actual designer (Mountain Home AFB 2006). These three senior officer houses exhibited the most qualities of the International Style and were strikingly different from the rest of the buildings in the officer neighborhood.

Neutra and Alexander was a prominent architectural firm, and both principals were highly successful individuals. Richard Josef Neutra was born in Vienna, Austria, on 8 April 1892. He attended the Polytechnical College at the University of Vienna and the University of Zurich, from which he received a diploma with distinction in 1918. He received a doctorate degree at the Technical University of West Berlin in 1954. Neutra began his architecture career as a city planner in Switzerland from 1919 to 1923. He worked for several firms from 1923 to 1925, including Holabird and Root and Frank Lloyd Wright. He operated his own practice from 1926 to 1949. His partnership with Robert E. Alexander lasted from 1949 to 1961. His other partnerships included Neutra and Alexander and Donald Haines, 1959, and Neutra and Alexander and Carrington Lewis, 1960. He resumed his own practice in 1962. His principal works (all in California unless otherwise specified) included the Lovell Health House, Los Angeles, 1929; Corona Avenue School, Bell, 1936; Channel Heights Housing Project, San Pedro, 1944; the Kaufman residence, Palm Springs, 1947; the Tremaine residence, Santa Barbara, 1948; and, the Northwest Mutual Fire Association building, 1950. Neutra also was the consulting architect to the government of Puerto Rico and several Latin American countries from 1944 to 1946, and to the civil government of Guam in 1951. He published several books and articles and received many national and international awards and honors throughout his career (Koyl 1955:403; Koyl 1962:512).
Robert E. Alexander was born in Bayonne, New Jersey, on 23 November 1907. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Cornell University in 1930. From 1928 to 1935 he worked with various firms in New York and Los Angeles, including Corbett, Harrison & McMurtry. He worked in several partnerships from 1935 to 1946 and in his own practice from 1946 to 1949. He partnered with Richard Neutra from 1949 to 1961. His principal works included Baldwin Hills Village, Los Angeles, 1940; Estrada Courts, Los Angeles, 1941; Oxnard Housing Project, 1951; Elysion Parks Heights housing, Los Angeles, 1951; Title VIII housing at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, 1954; the fine arts buildings at San Fernando State College and the University of Nevada, 1958; Adelphia College library, Garden City, New York, 1958; the University of Nevada library, Reno, 1959; University of California San Diego residence halls and central facilities building, 1966, and basic science facility, 1969; Camp Pendleton Theater, California, 1969; and, Bunker Hill Towers first increment, Los Angeles, 1969. He also was a consulting architect to the Home Builders Institute, 1948; the Washington, D.C. Public Housing Authority, 1950; the United Nations Mission to India, 1951; and, the government of Guam, 1951-52. Alexander published several books and articles and received many national awards and honors throughout his career (Koyl 1955:6-7; Koyl 1962:8; Gane 1970:11).

As a firm, the principal works of Neutra and Alexander included Orange Coast College, California, 1957; Fernald School building at the University of California Los Angeles, 1957; Mellon Hall and Francis Scott Key Auditorium at St. John’s College, Annapolis, Maryland, 1958; the Hall of Records and the Civic Center, Los Angeles, 1958; the National Park Service Visitor Center and Cyclorama Building, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 1958; the Painted Desert Community, Arizona, 1958; Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, 1959; San Fernando Fine Arts Building, Los Angeles, 1959; the United States Embassy, Karachi, Pakistan, 1961; Lemoore Military Housing, Los Angeles, 1961; and, Palos Verdes High School, California, 1961 (Koyl 1955:6-7, 403; Koyl 1962:8, 512, Gane 1970:11; Allaback 2000:2-3; Smith et al. 1999; Several 1998; St. John’s College 2002; UCLA Office of Academic Planning and Budget 2002:64).

The three senior officer houses at Mountain Home Air Force Base were low, one-story, wood-frame buildings set on concrete slab foundations and clad with brick veneer and vertical tongue-and-groove wood siding. The houses had flat roofs with raised sections over the living rooms. The windows were metal-frame fixed and sliding units. A brick-walled service yard was located in each front yard. Typical of the International Style, no ornamentation was present on the exterior of the buildings. The interiors also exhibited minimal ornamentation. Elements of the International Style were incorporated into the interior space, particularly as featured in the ceiling in the living and dining areas.

**Catalina Heights Neighborhood at Naval Base Ventura County**

Completed in 1958, the Catalina Heights neighborhood was an Air Force project to supply family housing to nearby Oxnard Air Force Base. The housing area was on base, and located about five miles from the base. As a Navy family housing area, Catalina Heights is approximately twelve miles from Naval Base Ventura County. The Capehart project provided single-family, duplex, and multi-family units for enlisted men, non-commissioned officers, and officers. The neighborhood was designed by the architectural firm of Porter, Urquhart, McCreary & O’Brien in partnership with Victor J. Spotts. Seventy-two buildings containing 315 housing units were constructed. In general, the neighborhood lacked formal landscaping; sidewalks lined one side of the street. Housing Area 27 embodies the typical characteristics of Wherry and Capehart era design and methods of construction as applied between 1949 and 1962. The housing area exhibits civilian suburban design ideals applied to a military context and retains integrity to its original period of construction.
The buildings constructed in Catalina Heights consisted of stucco-covered concrete-masonry-unit construction accented with vertical-board trim. The buildings were supported by concrete slab foundations. The one- and two-story buildings had shallow-pitched gable roofs. Windows were horizontal-sliding aluminum sash units. Original designs for Catalina Heights included attached carports for officers and non-commissioned officers. Detached, concrete-masonry-unit walls were constructed on the front of some units creating a small patio area. Retractable clotheslines were attached to privacy walls.

The interiors of the units were similar to other Capehart housing units. The primary doorways opened onto small entry areas. Additional entrances were located off the kitchens to provide access to the patio areas, and in the living rooms to provide access to the backyards. The kitchens were located at the front of the units, with living and dining rooms looking out on the backyards. The two-story units contained a half bath on the first floor with a full bath on the upper level. The second stories contained the bedrooms. The single-story units, both single-family and duplex, were reserved for officer housing. The interiors of the one-story buildings were similar to the other Capehart housing units with an entry hall, front-facing kitchen, and living and dining rooms overlooking the backyards. Narrow halls led to the bedrooms. Each unit contained two bathrooms, one of which was attached to the master bedroom.

Catalina Heights exhibited one of the highest levels of integrity of the Capehart era housing still in active use by either the Navy or the Air Force. Some roofing material and trim was replaced, but many buildings retained original windows, flooring, kitchen cabinets, hardwood floors, and bathroom tile wainscots. The neighborhood also retained its retail store and master TV antenna system.
### Table G.1. Recommendations for Properties of Particular Importance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Installation</th>
<th>Design</th>
<th>Building Type or Collection</th>
<th>Architect (i.e. work of master)</th>
<th>Historical Association</th>
<th>Alterations within Period of Importance</th>
<th>Method of Construction (i.e. materials technology)</th>
<th>Ability to Represent Class of Property Type</th>
<th>Military Association</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Home AFB</td>
<td>International Style</td>
<td>Three senior officer houses designed by Neutra &amp; Alexander</td>
<td>Neutra &amp; Alexander and Hummel, Hummel &amp; Jones</td>
<td>Capehart</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Wood and brick siding on concrete foundation</td>
<td>Single-family dwellings</td>
<td>Three houses constructed as part of larger Capehart project during expansion of base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval Base Ventura County</td>
<td>Ranch Style</td>
<td>Single-family, duplex, and multi-family units at Catalina Heights neighborhood</td>
<td>Urquhart, McCreary &amp; O’Brien</td>
<td>Capehart</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Poured, reinforced concrete foundation. Walls are concrete masonry units with wood trim and accents.</td>
<td>Single-family, duplex, and multi-family dwellings</td>
<td>Constructed as Capehart housing for Oxnard Air Force Base; the housing was transferred to Naval Base Ventura County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Design</td>
<td>Setting</td>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>Workmanship</td>
<td>Feeling</td>
<td>Association</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naval Base Ventura County</td>
<td>Unaltered</td>
<td>Minimal alterations made during period of significance. Low, rectangular; symmetrical façade; shallow-pitched hip roofs; prominent, overhanging eaves.</td>
<td>Unaltered. Neighborhood conveys suburban planning concepts. Regular intervals between buildings, uniform setbacks from the street.</td>
<td>Minor interior modifications; upgrades of appliances; bathroom fixtures.</td>
<td>Construction is characteristic of mass-produced housing that resulted from World War II mobilization efforts, and was refined during the postwar housing boom.</td>
<td>Unaltered. Neighborhood retains its master TV antenna and retail store. Unaltered. Neighborhood still retains its historic character and its association with Capehart program.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX H

FHA SQUARE FOOTAGES BY BUILDING TYPE
Table H.1 FHA Minimum Room Sizes for Separate Rooms

Dimensions are in square feet unless otherwise noted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARKET RATE</th>
<th>Single Family (1958 FHA Standards)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-Bedroom Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Room</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dining Room</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Bedroom</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Bedroom</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARKET RATE</th>
<th>Multi Family (1960 FHA Standards)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Living Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kitchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dining Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Bedroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minimum Bedroom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOW COST</th>
<th>(1961 FHA Standards)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Living Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kitchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dining Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Bedroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minimum Bedroom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the low-cost unit, the least dimension of first bedroom living unit, 9’4” minimum. The kitchen dimension for a low-cost housing unit allowed a minimum of 3 feet of clear passage space.

Source: Federal Housing Administration
APPENDIX I

FEDERAL HOUSING LEGISLATION
FEDERAL HOUSING LEGISLATION

Public housing is defined as housing built and owned by the Federal, state, or local government. This includes housing built for low- to moderate-income families and the military. The names of legislation, if provided, are the popular names of the bills. Once a bill is passed by both houses of Congress and signed by the President, the bill becomes a law, and is referred to as a public law or statute. Before a bill or resolution becomes a law, it is titled H.R. for House of Representatives or S. for Senate to indicate the chamber in which the legislation was introduced.

Table I.1. Federal Housing Legislation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing Legislation</th>
<th>Key Provisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Housing Act of 1934 (Public Law 73-479)</td>
<td>• Created the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to provide a uniform system of mortgage insurance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Created the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC) to insure savings accounts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 608 of the National Housing Act of 1934,</td>
<td>• Precursor to the Wherry Act, provided mortgage insurance for all construction of war worker housing,</td>
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<tr>
<td>as amended</td>
<td>and for rental housing for returning veterans.</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (Public Law 75-412)</td>
<td>• Authorized public housing programs.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Created the U.S. Housing Authority, which made loans or capital grants to local public housing agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 81-171)</td>
<td>(PHAs).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Declared that every American deserved “a decent home and a suitable living environment” accomplished</td>
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<td></td>
<td>through private enterprise.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Title I financed slum clearance under urban redevelopment programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Title II increased authorization of FHA mortgage insurance.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• Title III authorized the construction of 810,000 public housing units.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Act Description</td>
<td>Details</td>
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| Housing Act of 1954 (Public Law 83-560)                                         | • Introduced programs to encourage rehabilitation of housing in urban renewal areas.  
• Section 220 authorized FHA insurance for one- to four-unit dwellings in urban renewal areas.  
• Section 221 authorized FHA insurance for multi-family units.                      |
| Lanham Act, 1940 (Public Law 76-849)                                            | • Authorized construction of public war housing accommodations.                                                                       |
| Military Housing Insurance Act (Wherry Act), 1949 (Public Law 211) Title VIII of the National Housing Act, as amended | • Authorized construction of family housing units for the military through FHA-guaranteed mortgages. Private contractors built the units, and project sponsors owned, managed, and operated the units. |
| Armed Services Housing Mortgage Insurance (Capehart Act), 1955 (Public Law 345) Title VIII of the National Housing Act, as amended | • Like the Wherry Act, the Capehart legislation authorized construction of family housing units for the military through FHA mortgage insurance. The service requesting the units was responsible for acquiring the units from the sponsor after the buildings were placed in service. |
APPENDIX J

GLOSSARY OF TERMS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Term used by the Navy to denote a Naval base or installation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appropriated Funds Housing Construction</td>
<td>The line item in the Federal budget in which Congress designated that Federal funds be spent on construction of military family housing. Sometimes referred to as Military Construction (MILCON).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriation</td>
<td>Funds formally set aside by Congress for a specific use.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Architrave</td>
<td>A molded or decorative band framing a rectangular door or window opening.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Authorization</td>
<td>Approval granted by Congress to undertake an action.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic Allowance for Quarters (BAQ)</td>
<td>Money assigned to military personnel to pay for their housing. Also known as a housing allowance. Personnel living voluntarily in Wherry housing used their BAQ to pay rent. With Capehart and Appropriated Funds housing, the government kept the BAQ and used it to pay back the costs of construction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>An enclosed structure constructed for habitable use. In the case of residential buildings, the structure can consist of many dwelling units.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureau of Yards and Docks</td>
<td>Established in 1862, designed, constructed, and maintained all Naval facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casement window</td>
<td>A window with hinges on the upright side of its frame. This window opens outward from the center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Public Works Officer (DPWO)</td>
<td>Provided facilities engineering and public works services for the Navy’s Bureau of Yards and Docks. With respect to housing, the DPWO represented the Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, coordinated management, maintenance, and operation of public quarters, and oversaw management of the Wherry and Capehart programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double-hung window</td>
<td>A window with two vertically sliding sashes, each in separate grooves or window tracks and closing half of the</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dwelling unit</td>
<td>• The space within a building designed for living and consisting of a number of rooms, including a minimum of a kitchen, a bedroom, and a bathroom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fenestration</td>
<td>• Arrangement of windows, doors, and other openings on a building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gable</td>
<td>• The triangular portion of wall enclosing the end of a pitched roof from the edges of the two roof planes to their meeting point at the ridge or top of the roof.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horizontally sliding window</td>
<td>• A window with two or more sashes, of which at least one slides along horizontal grooves or tracks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation</td>
<td>• An Air Force or Naval base designated for “permanent” or long-term use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modular measure</td>
<td>• A construction system based on standardized building materials, such as the 4’ x 8’ plywood sheet and the eight-foot-long 2” x 4”. This building method minimized on-site preparation of materials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public housing</td>
<td>• Housing owned and managed by the Federal, state, or local government, also referred to as low-income or low-cost housing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Law</td>
<td>• A bill or resolution passed by Congress and signed by the President. Also referred to as a law or statute.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarters</td>
<td>• Living space of any type.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setback</td>
<td>• The distance from the footprint of a building to a boundary. Typically, the front setback is measured from the face of the building to the centerline of the street right-of-way. Side and back setbacks are measured to the property boundary. Or, the portion of a building that is recessed from the rest of the building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siding</td>
<td>• A weatherproof material used to surface the exterior walls of a frame building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-hung window</td>
<td>• A window having two sashes, of which only one is a movable window.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title VIII</td>
<td>• The section of the National Housing Act of 1934, as amended, in which the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wherry and Capehart Acts are located.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit</td>
<td>• A room or group of rooms, including a kitchen and a bathroom, that is designed for occupancy by a family for living and sleeping purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Army Corps of Engineers</td>
<td>• Acts as the construction contracting agent for the Department of the Army. The agency served this role for the Department of the Air Force during the late 1940s.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX K

LIST OF ACRONYMS
LIST OF ACRONYMS

ABD – Advance Base Depot
AFB – Air Force Base
AFIR – Air Force Installations Representative
AMC – Air Mobility Command
AMW – Air Mobility Wing
ASTM – American Society for Testing Materials
ATD – Acorn Training Detachment
ATW – Air Transport Wing
BAQ – Basic Allowance for Quarters
BUDOCKS – Bureau of Yards and Docks
CBC – Construction Battalion Center
DoD – Department of Defense
DPWO – District Public Works Officer
EFC – Emergency Fleet Corporation
FHA – Federal Housing Administration
FPHA – Federal Public Housing Authority
GNP – Gross National Product
HHFA – Housing and Home Finance Agency
ICBM – Intercontinental Ballistic Missile
iNFADS – Navy and Marine Corps Internet Navy Facility Assets Data Store Management System
MAC – Military Air Command
MATS – Military Air Transport Service
MAW – Marine Air Wing or Military Airlift Wing
MCAAS – Marine Corps Auxiliary Air Station
MCAS – Marine Corps Air Station
MCSC – Marine Corps Supply Center
NAAS – Naval Auxiliary Air Station
NADEP – Naval Aviation Depot
NAS – Naval Air Station
NAVFAC – Naval Facilities Engineering Command
NAWS – Naval Air Weapons Station
NBVC – Naval Base Ventura County
NHPA – National Historic Preservation Act
NMC – Naval Missile Center
NSA – Naval Support Activity
NSGA – Naval Security Group Activity
RPI – Air Force Real Property Inventory
SAC – Strategic Air Command
TAC – Tactical Air Command
USAEC – United States Army Environmental Center
USAMRAA – United States Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity
VA – Veterans Administration
APPENDIX L

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS WITH FORMER RESIDENTS OF WHERRY AND CAPEHART HOUSING
Appendix L presents the results of oral history interviews with former residents of Wherry and Capehart housing. Informants were sought through a notice circulated at Air Force and Navy post exchanges in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, associations of retired military personnel, military newspapers, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, D.C. Interviews were conducted by telephone and tape-recorded, and verbatim transcripts were prepared. The transcripts are included in this appendix. Photographs and unscaled floor plan sketches submitted by informants are included after the relevant transcripts.

The interviews were an important source of information about residents’ opinions of this housing. Former residents interviewed included: three former residents of Wherry housing at Air Force bases, two residents of Capehart housing at Air Force bases, one resident of Wherry housing at a Navy base, two residents of Wherry housing at Marine bases, and three residents of Capehart housing at Navy bases. These residents lived in Wherry and Capehart housing primarily during the period of construction, 1949 to 1962. Residents included military personnel, wives of military personnel, and children of military personnel.

The purpose of the interviews was to determine residents’ viewpoints on whether the objectives of the Wherry and Capehart housing programs were achieved. Therefore, the objective was not to gather detailed information about the physical features of the housing, which already is contained in the architectural record, but to gather information about aspects of the housing important to residents, such as whether the housing layout was conducive to family life or whether the house and neighborhood met the needs of children.

The interviews revealed that residents generally were pleased with Wherry and Capehart housing because it provided family housing adequate by standards of the 1950s in convenient locations on or near installations. The interviews largely confirmed several other conclusions drawn as a result of archival research, including:

- The housing and surrounding neighborhoods provided suburban amenities, such as landscaping and child-friendly environments, while reflecting government attempts to economize.
- The housing reflected post-World War II ideas about housing and neighborhood design, such as the open floor plan, curving streets, and cul-de-sacs.
- It reflected ideas of the period regarding house amenities, such as housing size, number of bedrooms, and number of bathrooms.
- It reflected regional construction practices, such as varying architectural styles, presence of garages or carports according to climate, presence or lack of basements and attics, and choice of building materials, such as stucco, brick, or wood.
- Capehart housing represented changing ideas about housing, such as the need for larger rooms, more bathrooms and bedrooms, more storage space, and individual car storage at the residence.
- While this housing was relatively attractive aesthetically, its appearance reflected its primarily practical purpose.

Original audiotapes, transcripts, and photos and other documentary information were submitted to the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, the Air Force Historical Research Agency, and the Naval Historical Center. Also submitted were a release form developed for this project and various forms required by the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.
SEEKING FORMER RESIDENTS OF
WHERRY FAMILY HOUSING
CAPEHART FAMILY HOUSING
AT AIR FORCE, NAVY, AND MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS

If you lived in Wherry or Capehart family housing during the 1950s, your memories are needed to help the Departments of the Air Force and the Navy document the history of this housing. On behalf of the Air Force and the Navy, R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., is interviewing former residents, including enlisted personnel, officers, and their dependents.

The Wherry and Capehart Acts represented the first large-scale federal effort to provide comprehensive military family housing. Wherry and Capehart housing was built at military installations throughout the United States from 1949 to 1962.

Individuals who lived in Wherry and Capehart housing at Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps installations between 1949 and 1962 are being sought for interviews documenting these important housing programs. Interview transcripts will be used in the historical documentation of these programs and will be maintained at military history repositories. Interview topics include:

- House layout
- Construction materials
- Yard appearance/landscaping
- Memories of neighborhood

PLEASE CONTACT US BY PHONE OR E-MAIL UNTIL JULY 15, 2006

Ms. Chris Heidenrich, Historian
R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.
241 E. Fourth St., Suite 100
Frederick, Md. 21701
800/340-2724
cheidenrich@rcgoodwin.com
Basic Biographical Information

1. Name
2. City and state of current residence
3. Branch of service
4. Number of years in service
5. Summary of service – starting and ending years; changes in rank; rank when lived in Wherry/Capehart housing
6. Career field during military service

Basic information about Wherry/Capehart residence

1. Summary of which housing program (Wherry or Capehart), installation location, and years of residence
2. Why were you or your military family member stationed at this installation
3. Name of housing area, if remembered
4. Type of quarters – single-family detached, duplex, etc.

Questions

1. What type of housing did you live in before you lived in Wherry or Capehart housing? How did it compare to the Wherry/Capehart housing you lived in?

2. Did your living conditions change dramatically when you moved to Wherry or Capehart housing? Was this housing an improvement over your earlier living conditions?

3. In general, did you like living in this housing? Why? Did the housing meet your family’s needs? Did you and your family members generally feel comfortable?

4. How did your housing compare to housing in the civilian sector?

5. Did the housing provide enough space for your family?

6. Did family members have privacy within the house?

7. Where was the closet and storage space? Did you feel that storage space was adequate?

8. If you were raising children in the housing, did you think it was adequate for children? Why and how? Was the neighborhood a good place for children to live?
9. One of the objectives of this housing was to provide “open” floor plans to create a feeling of spaciousness, to allow family members to congregate easily, and to allow parents to watch their children. Did your housing succeed in this? Was the housing layout/plan conducive to family life?

10. Did the housing and the neighborhood design help you feel a sense of community with the neighborhood?

11. How would you characterize your level of privacy in reference to the neighborhood? Did you feel that the housing provided privacy?

12. How would you characterize the amount of outdoor space available to your unit? What kind of outdoor space did you have, and was it adequate? What kind of views did you have of outdoor space from indoors?

13. One intent of these housing programs was to create a “suburban” environment. What feeling did the outdoor environment (such as landscaping and street layout) create, both around your house and in the neighborhood? Was it an appealing place to live?

14. This housing reflects the government’s desire to provide housing that was not excessive or too costly. Did you see evidence of attempts to economize? For instance, did all the closets and cabinets have doors? Did this economy affect your opinion of this housing?

15. What do you remember about the physical features of the house?

16. What physical features of the house did you like, and what features did you dislike?
RELEASE FORM FOR ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

HOUSING AN AIR FORCE AND A NAVY: THE WHERRY AND CAPEHART ERA
SOLUTIONS TO THE POSTWAR FAMILY HOUSING SHORTAGE (1949-1962)

I, ______________________________________, hereby give and grant to
(printed name of interviewee)

tape-recorded memoir as a donation for such scholarly and educational purposes as THE
determine. It is expressly understood that the full literary property rights, legal title, and
copyright of this memoir shall pass to THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY and that no rights whatsoever are to vest in me or my heirs
now or at my death.

Signature of Interviewee:_________________________________________________________

Address of Interviewee:__________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Signature of Interviewer:_________________________________________________________

Address of Interviewer:___________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Date of Agreement:______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
Audio and Video Recording Log

1. Name and address of collector or interviewer.

   Name of Collector/Interviewer ________________________________________________________
   Address ____________________________________________________________________________
   City __________________________ State ______ ZIP ______________ - ______________
   Telephone ( _______ ) - ________________________ Email ________________________________
   Organization or Affiliation (if any) ________________________________________________

2. Full name and birth date of the veteran or civilian being interviewed as it appears on the recording label and Biographical Data Form.

   Name of Veteran/Civilian____________________________________ Birth Date ________________
   Month/Day/Year

3. Recording format (please check)

   VIDEO type: Betacam □ VHS □ 8mm □ High-8 □ Digital □ Other □ (identify)
   AUDIO type: Cassette □ Microcassette □ CD □ Reel □ Digital (DAT) □
   If audio, is the cassette or reel recorded on both sides? Yes □ No □
   Is item: Original □ Copy □

4. Date of Recording __________________________________________________________________
   Estimated length of recording (in minutes) _____________________________________________

5. Location of recording __________________________________________________________________

6. Corresponding materials (please check)

   Have you included materials other than the recording? Yes □ No □
   If so, please complete the Photograph Log and/or the Manuscript Data Sheet.

7. Please summarize the topics discussed in the interview in their order of appearance on the recording.

   Meter Reading or Minute Mark __________________________________________________________________
   Topics presented in order of discussion on recording ______________________________________________
   __________________________ __________________________ __________________________
   __________________________ __________________________ __________________________
   __________________________ __________________________ __________________________
   __________________________ __________________________ __________________________
   (Continue on back or on additional sheets as needed.)

Library of Congress American Folklife Center VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meter Reading or Minute Mark</th>
<th>Topics presented in order of discussion on recording</th>
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</tbody>
</table>
Biographical Data Form

To ensure inclusion in our National Registry of Service, this form must accompany each submission. Please use a separate form or additional sheet for service in more than one war.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
Veteran □ Civilian □ ____________________________________________
Address ________________________________________________________
City __________________________ State ZIP ________________ —
Telephone ( ) — ------------- Email ________________________________
Place of Birth __________________________ Birth Date ________________
Race/Ethnicity (optional) __________________________ Male □ Female □
Branch of Service or Wartime Activity ______________________________
Battalion, Regiment, Division, Unit, Ship, etc. ________________________
Highest Rank ________________________________ Enlisted □ Drafted □
Service dates __________________________ to ________________________
War(s) in which individual served __________________________________
Locations of military or civilian service ______________________________
Was the veteran a prisoner-of-war? Yes □ No □
Did the veteran or civilian sustain combat or service-related injuries? Yes □ No □
Medals or special service awards. If so, please list (be as specific as possible):

Are photographs included? Yes □ No □ (If yes, please complete the Photograph Log in this kit.)
Are manuscripts included? Yes □ No □ (If yes, please complete the Manuscript Data Sheet in this kit.)
Does the veteran or civilian have field maps Yes □ No □ or wartime-related home movies Yes □ No □
that he or she would like to share with the Library of Congress? (If yes, we will contact you shortly.)

Interviewer (if applicable) __________________________________________________________________________
Partner organization affiliation (if any, i.e. AARP, etc.) ______________________________________________________________________

Please use reverse for additional biographical information.
Photograph Log

Photographic prints should be numbered with a soft (no.1) pencil on the back of the photograph in the lower-right corner. If the back is too slick to write on, enclose each photograph in a labeled envelope. Please do not use a pen or marker to label prints. Slides may be numbered on the frame housing. Photographers should sign a release form when possible. If more than five photographs are submitted, please make photocopies of the second page of this form to complete.

Name of Veteran/Civilian ____________________________ Birth Date ____________________________ month/day/year

PHOTOGRAPH # 1
Place __________________________________________ Date ________________

Person(s) left to right ________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

Description ________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

Photographer (if known) ________________________________________________________________

PHOTOGRAPH # 2
Place __________________________________________ Date ________________

Person(s) left to right ________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

Description ________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________

Photographer (if known) ________________________________________________________________

(Continue on back.)
Veteran’s Release Form

TO BE COMPLETED BY VETERAN OR CIVILIAN
(In cases of deceased veterans, to be completed by the donor of the material.)

I, __________________________________________, am a participant in the Veterans History Project (hereinafter “VHP”). I understand that the purpose of the VHP is to collect audio- and video-taped oral histories of America’s war veterans and of those who served in support of them as well as selected related documentary materials (such as photographs and manuscripts) that may be deposited in the permanent collections of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. The deposited documentary materials will serve as a record of American veterans’ wartime experiences; and may be used for scholarly and educational purposes. I understand that the American Folklife Center plans to retain the product of my participation as part of its permanent collection and that the materials may be used for exhibition, publication, presentation on the World Wide Web and successor technologies, and for promotion of the Library of Congress and its activities in any medium.

I hereby grant to the Library of Congress ownership of the physical property delivered to the Library and the right to use the property that is the product of my participation (for example, my interview, performance, photographs, and written materials) as stated above. By giving permission, I understand that I do not give up any copyright or performance rights that I may hold.

I also grant to the Library of Congress my absolute and irrevocable consent for any photograph(s) provided by me or taken of me in the course of my participation in the VHP to be used, published, and copied by the Library of Congress and its assignees in any medium.

I agree that the Library may use my name, video or photographic image or likeness, statements, performance, and voice reproduction, or other sound effects without further approval on my part.

I release the Library of Congress, and its assignees and designees, from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with the use of such recordings, documents, and artifacts, including but not limited to, any claims for defamation, invasion of privacy, or right of publicity.

ACCEPTED AND AGREED

Signature __________________________________________ Date _________
Printed Name ________________________________________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________________________________________
City __________________________ State ______ ZIP ______________ - _____________
Telephone (_________) - __________________
Interviewer’s Release Form

TO BE COMPLETED BY INTERVIEWERS, RECORDING OPERATORS, AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

I, ________________________________________, am a participant in the Veterans History Project (hereafter “VHP”). I understand that the purpose of the VHP is to collect audio- and video-recorded oral histories of America’s war veterans and of those who served in support of them as well as selected related documentary materials such as photographs and manuscripts that may be deposited in the permanent collections of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. The deposited documentary materials will serve as a record of American veterans’ wartime experiences; and may be used for scholarly and educational purposes. I understand that the American Folklife Center plans to retain the product of my participation as part of its permanent collection and that the materials may be used for exhibition, publication, presentation on the World Wide Web and successor technologies, and for promotion of the Library of Congress and its activities in any medium.

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I release the Library of Congress, and its assignees and designees, from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with the use of such recordings, documents, and artifacts, including but not limited to, any claims for defamation, invasion of privacy, or right of publicity.

ACCEPTED AND AGREED

Signature ________________________________________________________ Date______________

Printed Name __________________________________________________________________________

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if interviewer is a minor) ________________ Date __________

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian ______________________________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State ______ ZIP ____________ - __________

Telephone (________) - ________________

Relationship to veteran/civilian ____________________________________________________________

Library of Congress American Folklife Center VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT
Ms. Chris Heidenrich, M.A., a historian with R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., conducted a recorded interview with John W. Bacon via telephone on 29 August 2006. Mr. Bacon was interviewed for a project sponsored by the Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Navy to document the history of military family housing constructed under the Wherry and Capehart programs between 1949 and 1962. Ten other former residents of Air Force and Navy Wherry and Capehart housing were interviewed. A historic context, neighborhood design guidelines, and a tax-credit brochure also were completed for the project.

John W. Bacon served in the U.S. Air Force from 1950 to 1971 and worked in aircraft fuel system repair. He enlisted as an airman and retired as a master sergeant. Mr. and Mrs. Bacon and their three children resided in Wherry housing at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, from 1957 to 1960 and Capehart housing at Glasgow Air Force Base, Montana, from 1961 to 1962. He held the ranks of staff sergeant and technical sergeant during this period. The Wherry housing was a one-story, three-bedroom duplex with a living room, dining room, bathroom, kitchen, and basement. A detached garage was located next to the unit. The duplex was remodeled into a single-family house during the Bacon family’s residence; the Bacons lived in the house and the other family in the duplex moved to other housing. The Capehart housing was a two-story, three-bedroom fourplex with a living room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, and basement.

CHRIS HEIDENRICH: This is Chris Heidenrich from R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates interviewing John W. Bacon on August 29, 2006. OK, it’s on. If you could just acknowledge that you know you’re being recorded, that would be great.

JOHN W. BACON: Yes, I acknowledge that.

HEIDENRICH: OK, thanks. Well, first of all, I just want to say thank you for taking the time to speak with me about your experiences at the Wherry and Capehart housing. We appreciate your insights, and it will add to our understanding of the history of the housing, so thank you. And I just want to make sure that we have some basic information correct, and biographical information correct here. You were in the Air Force.

BACON: Yes, ma’am.

H: And you served from 1950 to 1971.

B: That’s correct.

H: What was your career field during your military service?

B: I was trained in aircraft maintenance. I specialized in aircraft fuel system repair.

H: OK. And what was your rank when you lived in the Wherry housing and the – let’s say from ’57 to ’62.

B: When I moved in, I was a staff sergeant, and when I left – well, at the end of ’62, I was a tech sergeant. I made master in 1967.

H: OK. So you went from staff sergeant to tech sergeant. OK. Your rank at enlistment?
B: I was an airman basic.

H: And the housing you lived in, Wherry housing at Fairchild Air Force Base from ’57 to ’60, and then the Capehart housing at Glasgow Air Force Base ’61 to ’62. And I know that you lived in other Wherry housing after that, but our period –

B: I also lived in Wherry housing at Ramey Air Force Base in Puerto Rico in 1962.

H: OK. Our focus is on the continental U.S. and Alaska and Hawaii, so we’ll stick with that. But certainly you have a lot of extensive experience with this housing, so I’ll be interested in your general impressions, not just the impressions of this housing. So, do you remember whether either of those two developments had names, or were they just referred to as the Wherry housing or the base housing, or the Capehart housing?

B: I think just base housing.

H: OK. Base housing. We found some of them had a subdivision-style name. The Wherry housing, I noted that it was first, it was a duplex, and then it was turned into a single-family house –

B: Yes, it was.

H: -- while you were there. OK. And that was the Wherry. What about the Capehart? What kind of housing was that? Single-family detached, duplex, et cetera?

B: It was a fourplex.

H: Fourplex, OK. And then was the duplex two-story or one-story?

B: It was single-story with a basement.

H: OK, and then what about that fourplex?

B: That was two-story with basement.

H: OK. And what other rooms were in the Wherry housing? You know, living room, dining room, et cetera.

B: Living room, dining room, bathroom, and three bedrooms, and kitchen.

H: OK, so one bath. Three bedrooms, kitchen. And then the Capehart.

B: It was much the same. I think there were – yeah, there was just one bathroom in it.

H: OK. And then living room, dining room, kitchen. And three bedrooms in that one, as well?

B: Yeah. Upstairs.

H: OK. And how many family members were there living with you in this housing? Your wife, and you had kids?

B: In both places, my wife and three children.
H: OK. Were they younger or teenagers, or what was their…

B: They were much younger.

H: OK, great. OK, well let’s – I’d like to focus on the Wherry housing, and then I’ll also ask you a few questions about Capehart. What type of housing did you folks live in before you lived in, before you moved into that Wherry housing at Fairchild, and how did it compare to the Wherry housing?

B: We lived in various apartments and private housing in Spokane, Washington. Nowhere compared with Wherry housing. It was much, much cheaper to live in Wherry.

H: OK. Was the, were those apartments and private housing nicer, or not as nice?

B: Some aspects were nicer, and some were not as good.

H: Yeah. So it kind of varied? It wasn’t overall the Wherry was so much better or anything like that?

B: The best part was that Wherry was on base. You didn’t have that long drive from Spokane twice a day. And it was close to the commissary and post exchange.

H: Yeah. I bet that made a big difference.

B: It surely did.

H: And like you said, the Wherry was cheaper for you, right?

B: Yes. We just surrendered our quarters allowance for that.

H: OK. So, did your living conditions change in any way when you moved to the Wherry? Was there any dramatic change?

B: Well, nothing dramatic, I don’t suppose.

H: Just basically, like you said, you had varied experiences in the previous housing. OK. What was your general impression of the Wherry housing? Did you like it, or did it meet your needs?

B: We liked it very much.

H: What did you like about it?

B: Besides being a good house, it also had a detached garage.

H: Your own garage?

B: Each housing unit had its own garage.

H: OK. Were the garages connected to each other?

B: No, ma’am.

H: It was part of your –
B: Stand-alone.

H: OK. So it was attached to your unit?

B: No. It was separated by a sidewalk, about ten feet.

H: Oh, OK, right. Detached. Of course. And so it was an actual garage, not a carport, I suppose because you were in the Northwest with the weather –

B: Yes.

H: -- that it was probably better to have a garage.

B: Definitely.

H: Yeah. And so did you feel, did everyone generally feel comfortable in this housing?

B: Yes, they did.

H: And how did it compare to a similar type of housing in the civilian sector? I know you just got through saying you had lived in some apartments. How did it compare with comparable civilian housing?

B: Well, I didn’t live in comparable civilian housing.

H: Yeah. Or any friends that you visited who lived in civilian housing?

B: Yes, there were several in Spokane.

H: And how did that compare to the Wherry housing?

B: I thought the Wherry was a lot better.

H: Oh, really?

B: Yeah.

H: In terms of what?

B: Building maintenance, mostly.

H: You mean where the government – did the government or was your housing still operated by a contractor?

B: No, it was government housing, and the Civil Engineering Squadron maintained it.

H: Oh, OK. So they paid more attention to maintenance than in the –

B: Mostly, yes.

H: Yeah. And did this Wherry housing provide enough space for everybody, for your family?
B: Yeah. We didn’t have to put anybody in the basement, unless they wanted to play.

H: Boy, that was nice that you had a basement.

B: Yes.

H: Did you use that for the children? Is that a play area?

B: They would go down there and play.

H: Oh, OK. Now, the basement, was that weather-related? I just haven’t come across a lot of housing with basements. Do you have any idea why yours had a basement?

B: Well, all the housing there in Wherry had basements.

H: Interesting. OK. I mean, did it serve any particular purpose as far as the climate? You know, any kind of unique reason to have – maybe if there are places, I suppose, that were closer to the water, maybe they couldn’t have basements. Maybe that was the distinction.

B: It was great in the winter.

H: Yeah?

B: Kept you nice and warm. You didn’t have to have the kids outdoors playing all the time.

H: Oh, OK. You were able to have them inside.

B: Oh, yes.

H: So space elsewhere in the house was good? I know that your children were young, and you know, they don’t need a lot of space.

B: Yeah, I thought it was good.

H: Where was the closet and storage space? Did each bedroom have a closet?

B: Each bedroom had its own closet.

H: Oh, OK. And then was there closet space elsewhere in the house, like maybe in the entryway, or…

B: Yes, there was, in the living room, just inside the entry door.

H: Oh, OK. What did you put in that?

B: Usually outside clothing.

H: Oh, OK. Coats and stuff.

B: Yes.
H: OK. So each bedroom had a closet, and then there was a closet inside the living room.

B: And the basement was a great storage place, too.

H: Oh, of course. And then you didn’t have to worry about flooding, probably.

B: No. We had no water near us.

H: Oh, that’s good. OK. And what kind of things were you able to store in the basement? I’ve just heard from many military families who’ve said, you know, we really couldn’t keep that much because we didn’t have a lot of room. But I suppose the basement gave you a lot of extra room to store things.

B: It did. There was off-season clothing down there. And like you were told before, we didn’t accumulate much because we had a weight allowance that was very dearly priced if you went over.

H: Oh, OK. So that governed how much you were able to have.

B: That’s right. Because it came time to move, everything was weighed very carefully.

H: Sounds like they were very strict about that.

B: Yes, ma’am.

H: Now, so you had the basement and those closets. What about the kitchen? Are you familiar, at the Wherry house, how the space was in the kitchen?

B: We had sufficient storage area in the cabinets.

H: So there was cabinet space. And was there any kind of pantry or anything in the kitchen?

B: I don’t recall one at Fairchild.

H: OK. The children, was the housing adequate for them, and was the neighborhood a good place for children to live?

B: The neighborhood was excellent. It was patrolled by the air police, very little vandalism. You’ve got to remember, Fairchild was a Strategic Air Command base, and Strategic Air Command had very strict rules for everything, including family behavior.

H: Oh, really.

B: Yes.

H: So, was there a lot of room outside for children to play?

B: We had a good-sized yard.

H: Back yard?

B: Yes, ma’am.
H: And what about a front yard? Did you have a front yard?

B: Small.

H: Yeah. Was the back yard fenced off?

B: Partly. Just between the two tenants' yards is all.

H: OK. And was there anything within the development for children, like a playground or anything like that?

B: I believe there was a small playground there.

H: OK. So kids used to be able to go there.

B: In those years, kids found lots of things to do right at home in the back yard.

H: Maybe a little more inventive than –

B: Especially with boys. They were always digging in the ground.

H: Right. Was your living room and dining room connected? Was it open between them, or were they separate rooms?

B: They were sort of combined.

H: OK. So, one of the objectives of this housing was to provide these open floor plans to create this idea of spaciousness.

B: I think so.

H: You think that your house accomplished that?

B: Oh, yes.

H: Did you like that design?

B: Yes, ma'am.

H: Was the kitchen sort of separated off from everything, or did the dining room lead into the kitchen?

B: There was a doorway leading into the kitchen. It was just a frame. There was no door in it.

H: Yeah. OK. And so did you feel that the layout of the house, and the kind of the plan of the house was conducive to family life, where everyone could gather…

B: Yes, I think so.

H: … and you could keep track of everyone. What about outside? Did you know your neighbors? Were people able to get to know each other?
B: Typical small-town atmosphere. Everybody knew everybody else. A lot of that came from everybody working together.

H: Yeah, yeah. How much do you think the housing and the design of the neighborhood helped foster that?

B: I think it was quite conducive to that.

H: How did the neighborhood do that?

B: Well, everybody was doing the same job. It was close living.

H: Where the houses were close together?

B: Yes.

H: Yeah. Now, was it a, were there curving streets, stuff like that, where it was safe to get outside and gather, and maybe cul-de-sacs? How was your neighborhood designed?

B: I don’t remember any cul-de-sacs there. It was mostly just through streets.

H: OK. Was it just in a grid, or was it curving streets?

B: No, they were pretty much straight streets.

H: What about your level of privacy in reference to the rest of the neighborhood? Did you feel that you had enough privacy as a family in reference to the rest of the neighborhood?

B: Yes, I did.

H: Despite the closeness of the housing? People couldn’t – were you able to hear, did you share a wall with the duplex?

B: Oh, yeah.

H: Were you able to hear?

B: Oh, yeah. Especially when they were fighting.

H: Oh, no.

B: We shared the duplex with a couple who were very heavy drinkers.

H: Oh. So you could hear them sometimes.

B: I was afraid they were coming through the wall sometimes.

H: Wow. So in that way, I suppose, there was a little bit, maybe not quite as much privacy as a single-family home, maybe. But in general, I mean, aside from that, you felt that…

B: About the only thing I never heard was gunshots.
H: Oh, from them?

B: Yes.

H: Oh, my. What was that – did something happen?

B: No. They just went to the NCO club too frequently and got drunk, came home and fought like tigers.

H: Oh, wow. And they were shooting guns?

B: No, I said the only thing we didn’t hear was guns.

H: Oh, you didn’t hear. Oh, OK. And they just fought a lot.

B: Oh, yes.

H: OK. So was that something that detracted from the housing, or just kind of not a major part of your existence there?

B: Well, it detracted a little bit, especially in the middle of the night.

H: But other than that, everything else was…

B: Everything else was great.

H: Yeah. Were there any other ways that you felt that you’re kind of not as private within the neighborhood, or was that the only way?

B: No. No. It was great.

H: What about outdoor space? You mentioned you had a nice, big back yard…

B: Not large, but it was adequate.

H: … and you had a little bit of a front yard. Yeah, OK. Was your window space, did you have good views of the outdoors from indoors?

B: Yes, we did. They were not large windows, but it was adequate.

H: Provided enough light?

B: Yes.

H: And another intent of the housing program was to create this suburban environment. What kind of feeling would you say that the outdoor environment created? Was there a lot of landscaping, or any landscaping?

B: There was a little bit.

H: Like what kind?
B: Small shrubs.

H: Like around your house?

B: Yes.

H: OK. Were there any trees?

B: In Washington State, there was a lot of pine trees everywhere.

H: OK. Did you have any on your property, on your unit?

B: No, I don’t think we did. There were lots of them on the base.

H: And just kind of around the neighborhood?

B: Yes.

H: OK. And was it a suburban environment?

B: Not like you’d have today.

H: In what way was it different?

B: For one thing, you didn’t have vendors up and down the street like you do today, selling ice cream from trucks and other things. You didn’t have a lot of door-to-door salesmen, either. It was not allowed.

H: Back then.

B: Yes.

H: But in general, the general appearance would you say was suburban?

B: Yes, I’d say that.

H: And the housing also reflects the government’s desire to economize and not provide excessive…

B: You could say that, yes.

H: So you did notice examples of that in your house?

B: Yes.

H: Any specific examples come to mind?

B: There wasn’t a great overabundance of light fixtures.

H: Any other examples?

B: Not that I can think of off the top of my head right now.
H: How did that affect your opinion of the housing?

B: After living in a civilian community for a long time, I thought Wherry was the best thing that ever happened to us.

H: Really?

B: Yes.

H: Why was that?

B: I felt we had a lot more room to ourselves.

H: OK, roomier.

B: Safer.

H: OK. And do you remember anything about any of the physical features of the house, interior or exterior? You know, building materials or other physical aspects of the house?

B: No.

H: Anything special, like a wood floor or anything like that?

B: I don’t think so.

H: Yeah. And what physical features of the house did you like, and what did you dislike?

B: I liked having that basement.

H: Anything that you disliked?

B: No, I don’t think so.

H: Now, you mentioned that your housing was remodeled from a duplex to a single-family house. So does that mean that the whole building, then, became one single-family house?

B: Yes.

H: What was that like? What was your opinion of those changes?

B: We didn’t live in it long enough after the modification. We got transferred to Montana.

H: How long did you live in it after the modification?

B: Probably six months.

H: OK. What kind of changes were made?

B: The wall between the two areas was done away with. You had free access from one end to the other. Boy, it was huge, too.
H: So you got a lot more space.

B: Oh, yeah.

H: Did kind of the general – was the layout similar, or did they enlarge some of the rooms? Or what did they do?

B: The bedrooms appeared to be larger. And of course, the basement was a lot larger.

H: I guess that would have been doubled in size.

B: Oh, yes.

H: OK. So there was a noticeable difference?

B: Very definitely.

H: How many more bathrooms did you have?

B: One.

H: OK, so you went from one bath to two baths.

B: The government didn’t go in for a lot of bathrooms.

H: Yeah, it’s funny, the Wherry housing in particular typically was one bathroom. So it’s interesting that they changed it to two. Some of the Capehart housing seems like that was more likely to have more than one bathroom. So that’s interesting.

B: I believe the Capehart housing they built there at Fairchild while I was still there had two bathrooms. That and Montana did.

H: So what did you think of the changes that were made from the duplex to the single-family house?

B: I think they waited too long to do it.

H: Yeah, you wish they had done it sooner.

B: Oh, yeah, much sooner.

H: Why? Because of the space reasons? What was your –

B: Yes.

H: How did this Wherry housing compare to the Capehart housing that you lived in?

B: The Capehart was brand new, so it was like the difference between night and day.

H: OK, so the Wherry, you were not one of the earlier tenants.

B: No. I think that was built in the late ‘40s and early ‘50s.
H: Oh, OK. So it must have been some of the earliest Wherry housing, then.

B: I think it was.

H: So you kind of caught it when it was maybe ten years old.

B: I expect so.

H: So the Capehart was newer. Did you notice any other details that reflected a change? Like maybe were there more – it seems like some of the Capehart residents I’ve interviewed have mentioned some little decorative features that maybe were not present in Wherry. Did you have anything like that?

B: There probably were. It was brand new houses. That was the biggest thing I noticed. With a lawn that had to be grown. A lot of mud up there in Montana.

H: Obviously, they installed the lawn, but did you have to maintain that?

B: Yeah. They had an inspection every week.

H: OK. And was it just – when you say newer, just everything was just generally nicer?

B: Yes.

H: OK.

B: Everything was brand new from the ground up.

H: And what about spacewise? How did it compare to the Wherry?

B: I thought the bedrooms were just a little smaller.

H: Oh, OK. That’s interesting. Anything about the basement was different? Did they just provide a standard, kind of unfinished –

B: Well, the basement was smaller, too, because instead of a long, single-story house, you had a shorter two-story.

H: How did you like having a two-story versus a one-story?

B: It just seemed to be warmer in the wintertime. Montana’s weather was very cold in the winter. The difference probably was that we had gas heat versus oil in the Wherry.

H: So how is gas heat better?

B: You don’t get the smell of oil. It had a big tank in the basement in Wherry. You could always smell oil.

H: And then someone had to come and put the oil in, right?

B: Oh, yeah. They came out real regular. Every month, they refilled the oil tank.
H: So, now, was it similar in some of the other ways that we were talking about, like the yard space and the –

B: I had a huge back yard in Montana.

H: And was it a good place there, too, for children?

B: Yes, and cows and everything else that wandered through.

H: You had some cows wandering through?

B: Yes, we did. Several times.

H: Through the development or through your yard?

B: Both. Montana was open range country.

H: OK. So they just kind of wandered through there.

B: I guess they’re more steers than cows.

H: So then, was it a recognizable difference between the Capehart and the Wherry?

B: Yeah, just the appearance of the housing alone was so much different.

H: In what way?

B: Two-story instead of one.

H: What about the attractiveness? Would you call either of the Wherry or Capehart housing attractive?

B: Yeah, I think so.

H: What was the building material for the Wherry house?

B: Wood with siding. Same thing in the Capehart.

H: OK. Well, what about any kind of inside or outside, any details of the Capehart housing versus the Wherry? Did you notice any difference in terms of the type of materials used, that maybe the materials in the Capehart housing were nicer, or anything like that that you noticed?

B: Only nicer because they were newer, I think.

H: OK. But just a similar approach to providing utilitarian housing, nothing really fancy.

B: No, ma’am.

H: OK. Anything else to add about your general impressions of either the Wherry or the Capehart housing that you lived in?
B: In the Capehart in Montana, we had some curvy streets and some cul-de-sacs.

H: OK. Versus the Wherry, where you didn’t. Anything else to add?

B: No, ma’am.

H: OK. Well, do you have any photos of either of those two developments?

B: No, I don’t.

H: OK. Well, if you happen to think of anything else that you’d like to add, please feel free to give me a call or e-mail. I’d love to hear from you, and I appreciate your taking the time to speak with us.

B: Oh, you’re welcome.

H: And this will be given to the Air Force Historical Research Agency and the Library of Congress.

B: OK.

H: So I thank you so much for your time.

B: Thank you.

H: OK. Take care.

B: Bye-bye.

H: Bye.

END
AUDREY CLARK

Ms. Chris Heidenrich, M.A., a historian with R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., conducted a recorded interview with Audrey Clark via telephone on 29 August 2006. Ms. Clark was interviewed for a project sponsored by the Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Navy to document the history of military family housing constructed under the Wherry and Capehart programs between 1949 and 1962. Ten other former residents of Air Force and Navy Wherry and Capehart housing were interviewed. A historic context, neighborhood design guidelines, and a tax-credit brochure also were completed for the project.

Audrey Clark was the wife of a U.S. Navy lithographer and photographer who served in the Navy from 1948 to 1969. She, her husband, and their four children resided in Capehart housing at Naval Air Station Lemoore, California, from 1962 to 1965 while her husband was a chief petty officer and an ensign. The Clark family lived in a one-story residence with three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a dining room, a living room, and a carport.

CHRIS HEIDENRICH: This is Chris Heidenrich from R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates interviewing Audrey Clark on August 29, 2006. OK, and if you could just acknowledge that you know you’re being recorded, that would be great. Just say you know you’re being recorded.

AUDREY CLARK: I know I’m being recorded.

HEIDENRICH: Great. Thank you. Well, I just also wanted to say thanks a lot for participating. I know that I’m looking forward to hearing what you have to say about your time in the Capehart housing. And it’s just very, you know, as you saw in the mailing, just the questions are about your impressions and stuff like that. So hopefully, it won’t be too taxing. Well, first of all, I want to make sure that we have some correct biographical information. Your husband was in the Navy.

CLARK: Right.

H: And do you know approximately – I know it’s you we’re speaking with, but just to gather a little bit more information on him, any idea of the years that he was in the service?

C: Yes, he was in for 21 years, from 1948 to ’69.

H: OK. Great. And what was his rank when you folks lived in this Capehart housing?

C: He was chief, and then he made ensign while we were there.

H: And that would be chief petty officer?

C: Yes. No, photo.

H: Photo?

C: Chief photographer.

H: Oh, chief photographer, OK. And are those enlisted ranks or officer ranks?
The chief photographer is enlisted, and he went up to what is called, for officer, an ensign. He made ensign while we were there. So that was the start of being an officer.

And what was his career field during his service?

Well, he started out as a lithographer, and then he switched over to photographer. And he ended up as an ensign, as a photo officer.

So, his rank at enlistment, did he start at the beginning, or where did he –

Yes. He enlisted in San Diego in 1948. (Well, San Jose, but he went to San Diego boot camp in 1948.)

OK, so like a seaman, I guess they would call themselves?

Mm-hmm.

And so you lived at Capehart housing at Lemoore Naval Air Station from ’62 to ’65. Did your housing area have a name, you know, like a subdivision? Or was it just referred to as Capehart?

Oh, you know, I can’t think right now. I think it did, but I can’t.

Well, if you happen to remember a little bit later, you know, that’s fine. You can just mention it. And your quarters, what kind of quarters was it? Was it single-family detached, or duplex?

Well, they were all sort of separate, but yet they were hooked on by a fence or something. Part of it, ours was, anyway, it was hooked up to the neighbor’s house. It was in a cul-de-sac. Ours was in a cul-de-sac.

OK. So was it, were they attached by a, through the carports?

Yes. One side was a carport with a neighbor, and the other side was their house.

So did you folks share a wall of living space?

No, we really didn’t. We didn’t, because the way it was, it was sort of, ours was one way, and then theirs was the other way, so it was just sort of on the end.

OK. So they were detached houses?

No. They were kind of hooked together, but it wasn’t really – how do I explain it? It wasn’t back-to-back wall.

Maybe through like a pathway.

Yeah. Sort of like that. And then the carport was on the other side, our carport.

OK, on the other side of that neighboring house.

So our cars were side to side.
H: Oh, OK. I see. Now, were the carports in the middle of the two houses then?

C: On the one side, yes.

H: OK. So the carports were next to each other, but they were not in the middle of the two houses. Or were they?

C: Well, let’s see. Well, from the front door, it would be on our left. The carports were together. Then on our right was other housing. You weren’t really hooked, but yet you couldn’t get out. They were closed in, where people couldn’t walk around your house.

H: I see. OK.

C: But it wasn’t really, you know, wall to wall, I’m trying to say.

H: And the types of rooms, you mentioned in your e-mail it was three bedrooms, two baths, dining room, and living room, and then a carport. Is that right?

C: Yes.

H: OK. Now, how many stories?

C: Just one.

H: One story. OK. And what type of housing did you live in before you lived in this Capehart housing? You mentioned, kind of referenced some of the housing you’d lived in, World War II housing.

C: Yeah. How far back do you want me to go?

H: Just right, I guess, right before the Capehart, unless it was kind of temporary for just a couple months.

C: Well, yeah, it was. Because, my husband was down at the Antarctic for 14 months, so the kids and I lived up here in San Jose in a duplex. And before that, we lived back at Quonset Point, Rhode Island, and that was in that old two-story World War II housing.

H: OK. Well, how did both of those sets of previous housing, how did those compare to the Capehart housing?

C: Oh, nothing. (LAUGHS) No way to compare. Like I said, it was like a palace for me.

H: Yeah. Yeah, that was a neat turn of phrase.

C: I guess it’s kind of dumb if people don’t know what you lived in, but it was so neat because, through all – it’s what, you know, like I said, what we lived in before was this here, there, and old, and then waiting in a motel for housing, that was pretty bad.

H: So definitely, your living conditions changed dramatically when you moved to the Capehart housing?
C: Oh, yes. Yes.

H: It sounds like it was a big improvement.

C: Oh, great. Yeah. I just couldn’t believe it, because we thought was going to have to rent from civilians down there at Lemoore, and all of a sudden, our name came through on housing. And we really had two choices of houses happened to be empty at that time. We were the second people to live in this one because, see, they moved Lemoore from the Bay area here. They moved all the jets down to the desert. And so they had just built this station down there. So everything was new and nice.

H: Oh, yeah. Makes a difference. Well, speaking of the civilian housing, how did this housing, the Capehart, compare to housing that was available in the civilian sector?

C: Well, that was all new, too, so it was sort of the housing there that we could have got into was practically first-time people moving in. This was all new down there.

H: Oh, OK, because of the new air station.

C: New base. There was other housing in town, but we really didn’t look there because they’d just started – they were just building all over down there then.

H: So would you have had to pay more for civilian housing?

C: Yeah, but don’t ask me how much, because I don’t remember.

H: Sure. No, that’s OK, just the fact that you had to pay more is certainly –

C: Oh, yeah. It would have been a lot more, and then it would have been a drive into the station, further away, because it was actually in the little town of Lemoore.

H: And so in general, did you – obviously, you sound like you really liked, you and your family liked living in this Capehart housing.

C: Oh, yes, definitely.

H: People felt comfortable, and it met your needs?

C: Yes.

H: OK. Now, what about space? Did the housing generally provide enough space for everybody in your family?

C: Oh, yeah, really. I had three kids when we moved down there, and the two girls shared a room, my son had his room, and we had our, the big master room, master bedroom with a bath off of it. So we had our own bath, and never had that before (LAUGHS)

H: Wow. That’s the first time I’ve heard about that in this housing.

C: Oh, yeah. It had the bathroom right off of the master bedroom, and then the other bathroom down the end of the hall that the kids used.
H: OK. So those were the two bathrooms in the house.

C: Right.

H: And so, did family members have privacy? I guess you mentioned you had three children. What was their age range at the time? Were they real young, or teenagers, or where did they fall?

C: Well, dear, now, let’s see. They must have been – I was going to have all this written down.

H: Oh, that’s OK.

C: The oldest one was born in ’54.

H: OK, so let’s see, in ’62, the oldest was eight.

C: Eight. And then my son was six, and then the little one was four. OK, four, six, and eight. Because the four-year-old started kindergarten there, I know.

H: So then it sounds like the kids were young enough maybe where they didn’t mind, the two kids who shared the room, maybe they didn’t mind doing that.

C: No, the two girls, they were fine. We had twin beds.

H: And so everybody had enough privacy?

C: Right.

H: Where was the closet and storage space? Did each bedroom have a closet?

C: Yes, it did. Each bedroom had a closet.

H: And was there other closets in the house? Like in the foyer?

C: You know, I don’t remember that now. I don’t know if we had – we must have had – I think there was one as you come in the door. Right around the corner or something. Yeah, I’m pretty sure, but, you know, (LAUGHS).

H: It’s hard to remember after all this time. I know. I see that you had a storage shed next to the carport.

C: Oh, yeah. That was great. That was great. A big storage shed. And we even put our deep freezer out there.

H: Those things make a difference when you’re able to have that kind of stuff.

C: Oh, yeah.

H: Did you feel that there was enough storage space in the house? You know, in general, including the –

C: Yes, plenty.
H: What about in the kitchen? Was there enough room in the kitchen?

C: There was a lot of room in the kitchen, and it was all sort of in one way, and it had windows all above the front of it. The sink and everything, you could look out all over. And the washer and dryer was right next to the sink. And we built a counter in the back of the room there, so we had counter space. There wasn’t a – we didn’t really have a kitchen table, but we had this counter that we built with stools and all, up high enough where you could sit there and look out the window. The opposite side of the counter and the sink and everything.

H: And there was enough cabinet space and other space in the kitchen?

C: Plenty.

H: Now, did you have to provide the washer and drier?

C: Yes, we did.

H: OK, but they provided the hookup, obviously.

C: Oh, yeah. Everything was there.

H: OK. And about the children, did you think the housing and the neighborhood were a good place for children?

C: Oh, definitely. Definitely. Because everybody had about the same age kids, so they had plenty of friends right close by, and it was, it felt safe enough they could walk from one cul-de-sac to the other. But most of the kids just sort of stayed in our own little neighborhood and walked to school together. And it just seemed like they had plenty to do.

H: Was there enough room for them inside the house to, you know, kind of run around if they wanted?

C: Oh, yeah. The living area was fairly large. And then the fenced-in back yard, that was a pretty good size.

H: OK, so the yards were all individually fenced for each unit.

C: Yes. The front yard, we kind of shared the front yard with our one neighbor, you know, because there was no fences in the front yard. But in the back yard, everybody had a fenced-in back yard.

H: Oh, OK. And the, was there sidewalks in the neighborhood?

C: Yes. Of course, we were in a cul-de-sac, so that was all paved, you know.

H: Was there any parks or kind of playground equipment provided in the development?

C: No, not right where we were. They had what the kids called the “rocky road,” and that was outside of all the places where they could play in the dirt and stuff. And then up at the school, they had playground equipment where they could walk to.

H: It sounds like, though, it was pretty safe in general for them.
C: Definitely. And then, like I said, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts was really popular. Everybody was involved in that. Our neighbors, the people that were the leaders just lived right in the neighborhood. And we kept in close touch with all of them, and we had one Girl Scout leader was very active.

H: Sounds nice.

C: Yeah, it was, compared to nowadays, it was really nice.

H: Now, so, the kids had enough room in the house to store all their stuff, like the things they wanted in their room and their games and toys. There was enough room for them?

C: Yes.

H: Now, in regards to the living room and dining room, when you say a separate dining room, was it –

C: Well, it wasn’t a separate room. It was at one end. It was sort of like an L shape.

H: OK. So, sort of an open, big open area.

C: Yes.

H: Now, that references the, kind of one of the trends of that era, kind of the open floor plan to create a feeling of spaciousness and allow family members to congregate. Did your housing succeed in this? It sounds like that definitely adhered, that open living room and dining room kind of adhered to that?

C: It was right off of the kitchen, and then the table was right there at the end of the L, and then the living area was in the other. And then the patio door was from the living room. And the back yard was right out there.

H: So everything was kind of open.

C: And then there was big windows.

H: OK. Where were the windows?

C: They were at the end of the living room, look out into the back yard.

H: OK. When you say big, sort of like picture windows?

C: No, we had regular, from floor to floor I think, because we had these big drapes, you know. Drapes were provided.

H: So the windows were not picture windows?

C: No. They were just regular patio windows.

H: Oh, like a sliding glass door?

C: Yeah, we had a sliding-glass door, and then another bigger window, or door right next to it so you could look out.
H: So did you like this open, you know, the idea of the connected living room and dining room?

C: Yes, it was very nice.

H: Just to get an idea of what you were just saying about the patio, was there a large patio out there?

C: Yes. It was a fairly-sized patio, and then grass and all through the back gate. We had a back gate.

H: OK. And was there room on the patio for like a picnic table? Or how big was it?

C: Yes, and a barbecue.

H: Oh, OK. That sounds big. Picnic table, barbecue. So sounds like the whole family could gather there if they wanted.

C: And then we ended up putting a swing I know out in the back yard. It was a pretty good size.

H: Oh, OK. Wow. Very spacious. And did you have a side yard?

C: Well, what was considered a side yard was really, maintenance took care of it. It was like, we could have taken care of it if we wanted it, but it was just opened up for other people outside. We really didn’t have – we had a front yard and a back yard.

H: And what was the sense of community within the neighborhood? Did people generally have that? I mean, did you know a lot of your neighbors?

C: Well, I think we knew everybody right in our own cul-de-sac.

H: How many people were in that cul-de-sac? I mean, how many homes?

C: How many houses? Let’s see, there was, I think we had eight in ours.

H: OK, so you knew everybody there.

C: Oh, yeah.

H: And did you feel that the housing and the – how did the housing and the neighborhood design contribute to the sense of community? I mean, it sounds like if you’re all arranged in a cul-de-sac, I mean that made it very convenient to know each other and for the kids to feel safe gathering in the middle of the cul-de-sac.

C: Yeah. Yeah, it was fun.

H: So, did you feel that that sort of helped create the sense of community? The design of the neighborhood?

C: Well, yes. Like I say, when people would move, we’d feel so sad because you know how military people do.

H: Moving around a lot.
L-37

C: Lose friends, yeah. And then new ones would move in, and it, you know, and we shared going to commissary together when we got together. And we took care of each other’s kids, and it was just a nice place.

H: Now, was the entire neighborhood – were there other cul-de-sacs, too?

C: Yes. The whole area there. It was, well, let’s see, what used to be on our side of the road, they had a main road going down to the housing area, and one side was for officers, and our side – and the other side was for enlisted. It was divided. They had a big ball park, and they had the Little League, and had a lot of stuff for the kids going on.

H: So, were there like cul-de-sacs coming off of the main road?

C: Well, yeah, you go in, you had to drive down this one main road. Well, there was two, really, main roads. We always went to the one, and then all the streets just went off of it. It was all, each cul-de-sac you could turn into off of the street.

H: How would you characterize your level of privacy in reference to the neighborhood? Did you feel like your family had enough privacy within the house compared to, you know, where people couldn’t look inside easily.

C: No, nobody could really look inside. The windows were up high enough. In the kitchen, they were all across the front, but you couldn’t see in. They were up high enough. And then, of course, the back, the fenced-in yard, you couldn’t see through there.

H: So did you generally feel then you had enough privacy within the neighborhood there?

C: Yes.

H: OK. Now, what kind of fence was that?

C: That was a wood fence.

H: A wood fence. So it was like a privacy fence –

C: Oh, yeah.

H: Where people couldn’t see –

C: And it was up high enough that you really couldn’t see over it. Really nice, with a gate in the back where the kids would go out when they walked to school. That’s how they went down the “rocky road.”

H: OK. Because somebody was telling me yesterday that they were only able to put up a chain-link fence.

C: Oh, well, this was already there when we moved in. We didn’t have to put it up.

H: But that one of their criticisms was that they didn’t feel like the back yard provided enough privacy because they weren’t allowed – I got the impression they weren’t allowed to put a fence where you couldn’t see inside.
C: Oh, really? That wasn’t at Lemoore, though.

H: No.

C: Oh, OK. No, these were already all in place all over the – that’s the way it was built, with the high fences.

H: And did you feel that you had enough outdoor space, then? It sounds like the back yard was huge.

C: Oh, yeah. Yeah. We planted stuff there, and I planted stuff in the front yard, and the trees.

H: So that brings to mind another focus of this type of housing is to kind of create a suburban-style environment. And so it sounds like you had landscaping?

C: Well, if you want to call it what I did. In our little area – now some people didn’t do anything. They just, you know, mowed the grass, and that was it. There was grass there when we got there, and some people didn’t plant any extra flowers or anything. And then there was one cul-de-sac that everybody in the cul-de-sac had a yard full of flowers and trees, and they had a committee that would come around and look at all the people that fixed up their yards. And they would give a tree to the one that week. My yard got looked at once, but I never got a tree. (LAUGHS) I didn’t win. But this one cul-de-sac, everybody did. Their cul-de-sac was full of trees because every month or – I don’t know how often they did this. Now I don’t remember. Anyway, they had trees all over it, so their cul-de-sac was, they’d win every time. (LAUGHS) Because everybody was interested in making the yard look good. And you could do anything you wanted to, you know, as long as it was an improvement. And they encouraged it, really.

H: Oh, yeah. So, did they provide any trees? You know, aside from these contests.

C: Yeah, yeah. They did give trees away. My eucalyptus tree, I got that one. I planted it in the front yard.

H: So, as the development was built, did it include – so it included some trees when it was built.

C: Oh, yeah. It was well-landscaped, and then everybody could do what they wanted in their own yard. But they did have trees out in the open places.

H: Did they provide any bushes or shrubs by your house, in front of your house or around your house?

C: I don’t remember if they were there or not. I had some there, but I don’t remember if I put them in or if they were there. I think some of them were already there. I think some of them – yeah, I think some of them were provided on each one of the places.

H: Would you call it – is it accurate to call your neighborhood a suburban-type of neighborhood, the way it was designed?

C: Oh, well, I would think so, yeah. You didn’t really feel like you were, you know, out in the boonies somewhere. It was a nice neighborhood.
H: Also, the housing reflected the government’s attempts to economize and provide housing that wasn’t too excessive or too costly, and I was wondering if you saw any evidence of attempts to economize in your housing.

C: No, I really didn’t. A couple walls were with that cinderblock, you know, but it worked out real well. I don’t know if that was economizing or not.

H: Like any of the materials that were used, you know, in addition to that cinderblock. Some extreme examples were some housing that didn’t have maybe a door for some of the shelving.

C: Oh, no. Everything, we had closet doors. I can’t think if we were out of anything.

H: So nothing really comes to mind as an example of economizing.

C: No, other than you say maybe instead of putting wallboard up, they had just left the cinderblocks, but it was so it looked all right.

H: So was it cinderblock all throughout the house?

C: No, just on the end of the living room, I remember, and the end of my son’s bedroom. His was the one on the end.

H: OK, so just along one wall.

C: On the end of the – let’s see. In the living room, I know we had it, and there was a bedroom back to it, and then another bedroom, and the second bedroom back had cinderblock. So there was two rooms, really, that had cinderblock for a wall.

H: And do you remember anything in particular about the physical features of the house, like maybe what the floors were made of, or just any specific details about the physical features, either inside or outside?

C: Well, I don’t really remember now what we even had on the floors. I guess we must have had – you know, I don’t remember.

H: Anything like, was there any kind of decorative details that were used, or architectural details, or anything like that?

C: I don’t maybe understand what you mean by that.

H: Like somebody mentioned that the windows had mullions, you know, like the dividing pieces of wood to make windowpanes. Or maybe there was some crown molding or, you know, some of the officer housing was probably – I talked to an officer, and he had a fireplace. Stuff like that.

C: Yeah, I guess they were considered – we didn’t have a fireplace, no.

H: Yeah. But anything like that that you recall.

C: No, I think it was just good living rooms and quarters. Nothing really fancy. It was just what we needed and which was adequate.
H: And what physical features of the house did you like, and what features did you dislike?
C: Well, I can’t think of anything I disliked, and what I liked was the two bathrooms. (LAUGHS)
H: Makes sense. And they were two full baths?
C: Oh, yes.
H: And would you say that the house was attractive?
C: Well, they all looked alike. There wasn’t any much difference to them, you know. They were all built, just all sort of, the whole area looked the same.
H: What was the house, the exterior material, building material?
C: I think it was stucco.
H: OK. Was it painted?
C: Yeah, it was painted.
H: Any recollection of the color?
C: It was a light color.
H: OK, like off-white or something?
C: Yeah.
H: OK. Well, do you have anything else to add, any other recollections about the housing?
C: I can’t think of anything.
H: I guess I’m noticing that, just reviewing your e-mail a little bit more…
C: What else did I say in it?
H: You had a swamp cooler?
C: Yeah, a swamp cooler. Yeah. That’s how you had your air conditioning was a swamp cooler.
H: Now, that wasn’t central air, was it?
C: No, it was up on top of the house, run with water through it in some way.
H: And let’s see here. Oh, I saw that the eucalyptus tree had remained. You saw that it remained.
C: Yeah. It may not be there now, but it was when we went down there, because, see, they tore all that out. And they were building all around, so it may be gone by now.
H: OK. Well, do you happen to have any photos of the house?
C: You know, we took pictures like crazy, and I looked up some, and I’ve given my kids some, but, you know, I’m going to go through our stuff. I was wondering about that, if you wanted photographs because we took a lot of slides, you know.

H: If you happen to come across any, that would be great. We’re planning to complete this work in early October, so if it works out for you to provide copies of those photos, that would be great.

C: I’ve tried to get rid of stuff like that, you know. (LAUGHS) My kids don’t have to throw it all away. I’m going through photos now, and I was thinking, I was just wondering if you wanted any, because I know we took pictures all the time of everything. Of course, mostly the kids were in it, but we were always taking pictures.

H: Sure, yeah, we would love to include those, definitely.

C: So if I find any, then I should send them to your address here, in Maryland?

H: That’s right. Yes. That would be great. And if you want to indicate whether we need to return them, we’d be happy to just scan them here in the office and then just return them.

C: OK. I’ll get busy now and see what I can find, because I know, like I said, we were always taking pictures.

H: OK, well…

C: I noticed that I didn’t send this letter. It says “Veterans Release Form,” but it said completed by veteran or civilian, where I sign it for the Library of Congress? I didn’t send that. I’ve just got it with all these papers.

H: If you wouldn’t mind mailing that, that would be great. I know that you yourself are not a veteran. But the Library of Congress, even though we interviewed some people who are not veterans, they’re still interested because it’s a military issue. So if you wouldn’t mind returning that, that would be great.

C: OK, yeah, I’ll do that. I was just going over my notes here. I don’t think I’ve left out anything. Like I said, it was nice the kids could walk to school. And our – I guess that’s about the main thing. If I think of anything else…

H: Yes. Please e-mail me or call me. I’d be happy to hear from you. And then the photos, too, definitely. Thank you so much for your time. I appreciate it.

C: OK. Thank you.

H: OK. And take care.

C: And I guess this is going to be in a book or something?

H: We’re giving this report, I guess you could say, to the Air Force and the Navy, and it’s to help them document the history of this housing. And so we’ve interviewed about 11 people who used to live in the housing, and talking about the history of the housing from their perspective, what it was like for them to actually live in it. You know, we have all this information about, from historians and just
people who did research, and from the raw documents that were preserved about the construction and the program, just the overall program, but nothing with residents talking about what it was like.

C: Yeah, well now, when we did live there, like I say, my husband did make officer, and we were asked to, if we wanted to move across the road to the officer housing. But I liked my place so much that I said no. I was happy to stay where I was. (LAUGHS) So we stayed there until we got orders down to Miramar. Like I said, we really did like it, and I, it was just like a palace.

H: Yeah. That’s a good testament to the housing. Very interesting. Great. Well, if you think of anything else, please feel free to call.

C: OK, will do. Thank you for calling.

H: OK. Sure. Take care.

C: OK. Bye-bye.

H: Bye-bye.

END

ADDENDUMS

Mrs. Clark later called to clarify that their fourth child, a daughter, was born during the family’s residence at Lemoore. The baby was born in July 1964 and slept in her parents’ bedroom, which was large enough to accommodate a crib. The girl slept in the crib until the Clarks moved out of the Capehart housing in April 1965.

In addition, Mrs. Clark later clarified via e-mail that her husband’s enlisted rank during their residence in Capehart housing was chief petty officer.
Figure L.1. Two views of the front elevation of a Capehart house at Naval Air Station Lemoore, California, photographed when the Clark family lived there from 1962 to 1965. (Courtesy of Audrey Clark)
ROGER W. DAVISON

Ms. Chris Heidenrich, M.A., a historian with R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., conducted a recorded interview with Roger W. Davison via telephone on 22 August 2006. Mr. Davison was interviewed for a project sponsored by the Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Navy to document the history of military family housing constructed under the Wherry and Capehart programs between 1949 and 1962. Ten other former residents of Air Force and Navy Wherry and Capehart housing were interviewed. A historic context, neighborhood design guidelines, and a tax-credit brochure also were completed for the project.

Roger W. Davison served in the U.S. Air Force from 1946 to 1970 as a parachute and fabric supervisor and an aircrew protection superintendent. He retired as a senior master sergeant.

The Davisons resided in Capehart housing at Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois, from 1959 to 1963 while Mr. Davison held the rank of senior master sergeant. Mr. and Mrs. Davison and their two children lived in a two-story duplex consisting of four bedrooms, a kitchen, a combined living room-dining room, a bathroom, and a basement.

CHRIS HEIDENRICH: This is Chris Heidenrich of R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates interviewing Roger W. Davison on August 22, 2006. All right, and if you wouldn’t mind just acknowledging that you know that you’re being recorded.

ROGER W. DAVISON: Certainly. I acknowledge and approve. No problem.

HEIDENRICH: OK. Great. Thanks. Well, I definitely just wanted to first of all say thank you for participating in our project here, to document Wherry and Capehart housing, and thanks for taking the time to speak with me. I appreciate that.

DAVISON: Well, Chris, it’s – I don’t know whether I mentioned it or not, but it was a tremendous step up from what we were living in in south Texas when we moved into a brand-new Capehart, you know?

H: That’s the impression that I got from your information you provided.

D: It was just like – you can’t imagine the difference in floor space and facilities and just overall environment. And it was important at the time. We had two small children then, and, you know, at times you can go along with certain things for a certain period of time, but then enough’s enough’s enough. (LAUGHS)

H: Right. Exactly.

D: So I’ll be quiet now.

H: Oh, that’s OK. Well, I wanted to just get some, make sure I’m clear on some biographical details here. You served in the Air Force from ’46 to ’70.

D: That’s right.

H: And your career field was for ten years you were a parachute and fabric supervisor…
D: That’s right.

H: … and then for fourteen years you were an aircrew protection superintendent.

D: Correct.

H: OK. And then during your time living in the Capehart housing, you were a senior master sergeant.

D: That’s correct.


D: Correct.

H: OK. And now, the housing did not have a particular name, it was just referred to as the Capehart housing area, is that right?

D: No, they just called it the Capeharts.

H: OK. Some of them had – it may have just been the Wherrys, but some places had, like, kind of a suburban subdivision-type name. So I just like to ask that.

D: They had Wherrys there at Chanute. And that was the Wherry. And then we were the Capeharts.

H: And then you lived in a duplex?

D: Yes.

H: OK. Do you remember how many bedrooms and what other rooms were there?

D: OK. You entered into a foyer like, and then to the right was the kitchen. In the front was a huge, was a cathedral-ceiling living room. Steps leading upstairs to the left. And let’s see. There was one, two, three, four bedrooms, yeah, upstairs. All upstairs. There was a full basement underneath. And I don’t know if you’ll get into it later, but the only problems we had was with the basement flooding.

H: And did you have a separate dining room?

D: Well, we made one in the huge living room, right outside the door of the kitchen. The kitchen was relatively small. I mean, there was a table, a small table there, and what have you, but we had a dining area with a hutch and what have you. The longer we were there, the more beautiful the furniture got, too. (LAUGHS)

H: Oh. They provided it, or you provided it?

D: Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

H: They provided the furniture?

D: They certainly did. And because it was new housing, why, we got new furniture. And it was beautiful, good stuff. Again, you know, we knew we were being blessed.
H: Yeah. How many bathrooms did you have?

D: Just the one. Let me think. I’m trying to think if there was a bathroom downstairs at all. No, no. Just the main bathroom upstairs.

H: OK. One bath. OK. And so who constituted your family? You were married and you had how many children?

D: Two.

H: OK. And so you had an extra bedroom?

D: Yeah, right. And it was nice. For the first time – see, my home’s over in northern Indiana, which was roughly 150 miles from where we lived there at Chanute. And my ex-wife was from Dubuque, Iowa, which was about 200 miles from us. So we could ask people if they wanted to come over and visit, and put them up. Yes, it was nice. A couple of times, my niece, for instance, was in the WAF, W-A-F, Women’s Air Force, and worked in the hospital there at Chanute. She lived with us for a while until she got settled into her quarters. My brother-in-law from northern Indian, who retired as full colonel in the Air Force, was periodically called to active duty from the Indiana National Guard, and one of the schools he attended was there at Chanute. He lived with us for six, eight weeks. And, you know, things like that. It was nice to have the extra bedroom.

H: Yeah, wow, that does sound nice to be able to have – you know, this housing, military housing in general, I’m sure, has sort of a reputation of just being a little more utilitarian.

D: Right.

H: And then to be able to host overnight guests in your house must have been nice. Well, now, the housing you lived in before this…

D: Oh, yes.

H: … what was that like?

D: OK, well, first of all, it was the City of Haringen housing project.

H: And where was that?

D: In Harlingen, Texas. And that, if you’re looking for it, is go as far south as you can in Texas, clear down at the very tip, right across from Metamoras, Mexico, and that’s where Harlingen-Brownsville’s at. Brownsville’s the city of any size down there. Harlingen’s just a – well, it’s not a small city, but you know what I mean. But it’s the –up until about 20 years ago, why, people, even a lot of people in Texas would say, oh, Arlington, yeah, I know where that – and no, no, not Arlington. Har, h-a-r. And then they’d say, where’s that at? You know. Well, down south and what have you. You had to be going there to get there, if you know what I mean.

H: It was a destination. You don’t know of it until you go there.

D: And it was, like I said, the city of Harlingen. We had, oh, well, we moved into a two-bedroom place. Everything was tiny. Everything was small. And in a quadrex, four units stretched into a row. You know what I mean?
H: Mm-hmm. Like a rowhouse, rowhouses.

D: Yeah. It left a lot to be desired, I’ll tell you.

H: Why was that?

D: Well, first of all, it was not furnished by the city, Harlingen, you know, at all. It was just the building itself. There were very little maintenance performed on them. If anything was done and you wanted to do it, that was fine. That type of thing. Very low rent, but two or three times – see, remember, I was down there for five and a half years, a long tour of duty. And we twice seriously considered moving into, buying our first home down there to get away from those conditions that we were living under, cramped and what have you. And it was beautiful homes, relatively inexpensive now, by our terms now. For instance, one time we looked not too far from where we lived. A brand-new duplex, all brick, beautiful facilities and everything else, you know, $23,000.

H: Oh, my.

D: Yeah. I mean, well, part of it was because they had cheap labor from Mexico. It was a case where they could just build them like that. And every time when we would seriously consider it, we got to thinking, well, we’ve been here two or three or four years, their chances of moving us was pretty good, so, no, we better not. Well, sure enough, what happened, we didn’t buy down there. When we transferred up to Chanute, within a year, Harlingen closed. And everybody that did own property around there suffered horribly.

H: Oh, no. So that was an Air Force base?

D: Yes. Yeah, they closed the base. It was a reserve base. It had been activated when the Korean War come along, and deactivated when no longer needed. And you know, so, in that respect, we were fortunate, but we suffered for it, too, quite truthfully. We were very, very well pleased at Chanute. The only drawback as such is that we had to put in our yards ourselves.

H: Oh, you mean like grass, or –

D: The whole works out there. Right. All it was was dirt. (LAUGHS) And they furnished everything for us – the grass seed and the implements and everything like that, but it was up to the owners, to the homeowners, to put in the yards. And it was – we had a lot of yard, too, I’ll tell you.

H: Oh, did you?

D: Oh, yeah, because where they located us was the end of one of the runways. An awful ways from it, and, really, Chanute didn’t have that much air traffic out there. Once in a while. But, yeah, we had, as a matter of fact, my older daughters both remember when it used to snow, and what have you, why there was like a pond created in the back yard. I mean, it was a pretty good size two or three times. The kids did ice skate on it. It wasn’t but maybe six, eight inches thick. You know, just enough to make a big plate of ice out there. And the kids used to get out there and play and have all kinds of fun. And if it cracked, no problem. You didn’t fall very far, and no water. How’s that? Yeah, that was nice. But like I said, mowing that was something else again.

H: So you had to maintain the yard as well?

D: Right.
H: Now, did they provide any, like, trees or shrubs or anything?

D: Oh, yeah. There was a few around. Yeah. Like I say, when we moved there, everything was brand-new, and they came in and planted a few trees. There weren’t many. We came back and visited, oh, about four years after we left, and what have you, and was surprised at how much they had grown, you know?

H: Oh, of course, yeah. So then definitely it sounds like your living conditions improved a great deal when you moved to this housing.

D: Oh, yes. For sure.

H: And so it’s safe to say that your family liked the housing and that it met everybody’s needs and people felt comfortable?

D: We had a huge basement. Like I say, a full basement. And the kids had a third of it down there to play in, you know, what have you. In the wintertime, that’s important. And the first year, the first spring we were there, the basement flooded. And so we learned a lesson to put everything up on about – let’s see, if I’m not mistaken – about a foot, on platform like, like the refrigerator-freezer we had down there and things of that nature, and so forth. And we learned to live with it. It was a reverse plumbing problem is what it was.

H: Oh, no.

D: Yeah. And fortunately, the plumbing inside the house, no problem. We had an outside stairwell that you could have access to the basement. Well, water would come in there, drain at the drain at the bottom of that, into the basement. Or, it would clog up out there and build up behind the door. You opened the door and here was a tidal wave. (LAUGHS) So until we learned what was going on, and they had to reroute some of the plumbing – or the, you know – what am I trying to say? – not the plumbing, but the actual pipes. That’s what I’m trying to say, coming in. And then, finally, the last couple years we were there, we didn’t have the problem anymore. They finally got a handle on it.

H: Oh, OK. So then, was it – the property, the housing was maintained by the government? They provided the maintenance?

D: Right. We had a phone number to call in the work orders and what have you. And another – if I remember, yeah, I remember one area that was, when we first moved in. It was all hardwood floors. Very nice, very nice. However, when they put in – they were about eight-inch squares on the hardwood floors. When they put them down, they used a glue of some kind that oozed out of the edges all the way around. And it looked like the very devil. And you couldn’t polish it or anything like that until you cleaned that up. So we spent several weekends on our hands and knees on the floor with knives, scraping, getting the excess glue from those tiles off. And then we could polish them. (LAUGHS)

H: Oh, my.

D: It was quite a feat, but we did it. I mean, we were so pleased to have good quarters, doing that and putting in the yard was secondary to having very nice quarters. How’s that?

H: Yeah, definitely. Definitely. So, how did your housing compare to housing that was available in the civilian sector? I know that you were near Rantoul, which isn’t a very big town.
D: Well, Champaign-Urbana, University of Illinois, is just north of there a smidgen. And also, I was fortunate, a good friend of my ex-wife’s lived in Champaign-Urbana. They grew up and went to school together in Dubuque, Iowa. And we visited them. And he was a builder. (LAUGHS) And he visited us and remarked, wow, he says. He was in the Army during World War II. He was a paratrooper, and what have you. So he says, wow, he says, the government’s come a long ways, haven’t they? And they had. It compared favorably, how’s that?

H: OK, so you had better, your housing was better than what was available. Is that what you mean?

D: That’s right. That’s right.

H: Do you think that you could afford – if you went to the civilian market to get housing, would you have paid more?

D: Oh, no. No, no. Uh-uh. Would have, to get what I had, number of bedrooms, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera downtown would have easily taken 50 percent or more of housing allowance. Right. Yeah. See, all this Capehart cost me was forfeiting my housing allowance.

H: So you would have had to pay more to get worse housing.

D: Oh, yes. Very definitely. (inaudible) and what have you. I mean, let’s face it, you heat your house in the wintertime – you ever lived up north?

H: Yes.

D: (LAUGHS) You know what I’m talking about.

H: I’m from Chicago, so yes.

D: Oh, well.

H: Actually, I went to University of Illinois, too, so kind of familiar with that area.

D: That wind cuts through you like you can’t believe. (LAUGHS)

H: Yes. I can remember walking from, like the last day of exams, across the quad, just bitter, bitter cold. So I know exactly what you mean.

D: To this day, the tips of my ears are frostbitten.

H: Wow. Oh.

D: They still peel a little bit. You know, like a little bit of athlete’s foot, you know? And that’s caused from when I was at Chanute. There was one huge building. And then across the street, why, they had smaller ones for, oh, for odds and end. And one of them was a barbershop. I left the main building and walked just across the street in a freezing wind. The wind comes – and the wind froze the tips of my ears. Just in a matter of a few minutes. And I remember going to the barbershop, walking in, and my ears tingling, and to this day, like I say, it never seems to heal. The tips of ears were frostbitten, courtesy of Chanute.

H: Oh, wow. That’s quite a legacy. Yeah. Now, your neighborhood, was it all duplex?
D: Right, right.

H: OK. So everybody lived that way. Was it like a subdivision?

D: No, it was brand-new, meaning there was no other housing out there, that area, at all. The Wherry was on further into the base area, and no, we drove out to our own, and it was all – as a matter of fact, let me give you a little history on what happened there. We moved up there in about September or October of ’59, I think it was. And I went out to the base the day before I was required to sign in, to check on housing, whether or not, you know, like, get your name on the list and find your housing, you better take the kids back home, or what have you. You know what I mean.

H: Yeah.

D: And so I went to the base housing, and lo and behold, it was, I don’t know, not a big building, not a small one, but a building out there. And a whole bunch of people there. Whole bunch of cars and everything else. And went inside and it was jammed. And I was looking around to see if somebody worked there as to what was going on. And somebody said, Davison. I turned around, and would you believe there was a lieutenant colonel that I had known from Randolph Field back in ’48, ’49, and ’50? And we shook hands, and he says, what are you doing here? He says, you got one of these houses? And I said, no. I said, Colonel, I said, I just got here and I’m trying to figure out what’s available. And he says, you want a Capehart? And I said, what’s a Capehart? I didn’t know what they were. And he says, well, they’re brand-new. And he says, come here. He said, Dave, I’m base housing officer.

H: Oh, perfect.

D: And he says, I have got to open these units. Now what had happened, two or three months before, they were supposed to open. And Congressman was bearing down on him like crazy. Why aren’t they open? You say you need housing, and then it sits there. You know what I’m saying?

H: Yeah. Yeah.

D: And he was under the gun. So he took me by the arm, and we made our way over to this huge board that depicted all the units. He looked up there, and he said, who’s got so-and-so? Well, the NCO working the desk said, nobody signed up. He says, give me the keys. (LAUGHS) He turned around to me, and he says, Dave, be at this address tomorrow morning at 8 o’clock. If other people are there, they have no claim to it because you have the keys. It had been a bitter political battle to get moved into Capehart. You see what I mean? The people that were there wanted priority, and et cetera and et cetera and et cetera. And it was just going around and around and around. And he had to settle it down. So this is what he was doing in his own way. So he gave me the keys, and I walked out, and Shirley and the kids were in the car. (LAUGHS) And I said, we’ve got a Capehart. Let’s go find out what they look like. (LAUGHS) And we drove out there, and they were beautiful, I mean in comparison, like I said, to what we expected.

H: Yeah. Yeah. Well, what did they look like?

D: Like I say, if you can imagine a new house subdivision with the trees not developed yet and no yards and a lot of construction equipment still roaming around, you know, trying to fix things and so forth and so on. The building itself was pretty utilitarian, you might say. It had the cathedral point at the top, and when you, out facing it, had big bay windows for our downstairs in the living room and the dining room area, looked out into the houses across the street, and what have you. The back yard,
like I said, not to far over was the end of the active runway. And, but other than – I’m trying to think. It reminded me in some respects of a church. You know, sort of a big building with a single peak on top, tapering down. Then of course the people that shared the other side of us had that half. And to the left was our half.

H: OK. So the peak was in the middle of the whole building.

D: Right.

H: OK. Not each – each side didn’t have its own peak.

D: No, no. It was shared. But the huge building itself was that. And then everything was contained in it. Now, it had a carport, covered. And my neighbor across from me, oh, I don’t know, it was easily 50, 60 feet away from your closest neighbor except, you know, your duplex, had half of it. And plenty of privacy. No problem there.

H: What about within your house? Did everybody have enough privacy?

D: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. See, my kids – Patty, well, let’s see. Patty was born in ’53, and we moved there in ’59, so she was six. Yeah, yeah. She started first grade there, and what have you. So – Patty was six, and Sandy was three. See, they were pretty small when we moved there.

H: Yeah, so they don’t really need much privacy.

D: Right.

H: OK. And then closet and storage space, you said here that you had a lot.

D: Plenty. Each room had quite a bit, you know. No problems there at all.

H: Was there like any other storage space? I know you had that basement.

D: No, just the basement.

H: Attic, or anything like that?

D: No. No.

H: How was the kitchen? You mentioned that was kind of small.

D: Yes. Yeah. It was really – we didn’t eat most of our meals in the kitchen. We ate most of the meals right around the partition, you might say. And it was kind of open, if you know what I mean.

H: Between the kitchen and the eating area?

D: Right. It had a doorway into the kitchen, yes. And then you go short round to the right, and there was the huge living room, of which we took the first third and made into a dining area. How’s that?

H: Yeah, OK, I can imagine that.

D: We put down some rugs, but mostly just left the hardwood floors, because they were nice anyhow.
H: Yeah, sounds nice. And did the kitchen have enough storage space?

D: Oh, yeah, yeah. Shirley never complained about that. There was a lot of cabinets all over. Right.

H: What were the appliances provided?

D: Let me think. There was a dishwasher, garbage disposal, and stove, of course, oven, kind of stuff. Can’t remember any other than that.

H: Did they provide a washer and dryer?

D: No.

H: OK. Did you provide that?

D: Right. We put that down in the basement. And we had our, had a refrigerator upstairs, but a refrigerator/freezer down in the basement.

H: Now, was the basement finished, or was it, you know, like cement floors?

D: No, it wasn’t finished. But it was not rough either, if you know what I mean. It was nice enough to where we didn’t ever consider finishing it. You know what I mean?

H: Yeah.

D: No, the girls had all the space they needed down there to play in, and all the storage space we needed, no problem. I can remember keeping my – the windows, we had, you know, storm windows, stored down there in the summertime. Took them off in the spring and put them back on in the fall. My tires for the car, snow tires down there in the summertime. But yeah, we had plenty of storage space, no problem there at all.

H: So, did all the housing have this type of availability?

D: Yeah. They were all in this same floor plan and the basement and so forth.

H: Oh, OK. Now, about your children, I noted that you said that it was very adequate for kids. It was a lot of places for kids to play, and stuff like that?

D: Yeah, right. You could put up your own playground stuff in your back yard if you wanted to. We did somewhat, but mostly the kids, well, they played inside quite a bit, and especially in the wintertime. The school system was perfect, too. The buses came right up to the house, no problem.

H: Now, was that a school on base?

D: No, no. Downtown. In Rantoul.

H: OK. And another, as you read in the questions here, just one of the objectives of the housing was to provide this open floor plan to create spaciousness and let people gather easily and let parents watch over their children. Did you feel that your housing succeeded in this?
D: Oh, yes. Very definitely. I can remember, after the first year or two, everybody had their yards in, and we were socializing more and more. And a family moved in across the street. Had girls a little older than mine. And my kids used to play together all the time with them. And I can remember in the evening when it started to cool off a little bit, why, going out and sitting on the curb and talking just across the street with the neighbors, if you know what I mean. And that was when Sputniks were going up. At a certain time, we’d agree to meet out there, you know, and we’d bring thermoses of coffee, (LAUGHS) you know, that type of thing. But yes, it was conducive to family life, right.

H: OK, so outside as well, the whole neighborhood was.

D: Sure.

H: So, do you think as far as this community aspect, this sense of community, do you think that was created by the housing and the neighborhood, or did the fact that you all were in the same boat play a role as well?

D: Well, we all knew the fact that we couldn’t afford what we had downtown. You know what I mean? That it’s just pure and simple with the housing allowance. And if you feel like you can’t afford to rent downtown, the only alternative is that mom and the kids got to go someplace. And a lot of the airmen worked for me, what have you, that’s exactly what happened until they finally got on the housing list or got notified, you know, they had Wherry or Capehart.

H: They couldn’t live with their – the families couldn’t live with them.

D: That’s right. Well, they couldn’t afford it.

H: So, but this community, kind of being able to congregate with your neighbors and everything, do you think that was created by the housing and the neighborhood design or by, you know, the fact that you all were in the same military and the same employer and the same type of job?

D: Well, we were all grateful to the service for providing it. I don’t know, of the two, and certainly we all were in the same military. But it, well, like I say, I can’t really answer the question except to say that we did appreciate it, that it was something that Congress was doing that benefited us immeasurably and helped us do our jobs. You do a better job when you know your family’s taken care of. And part of the reason you stay for 20, at least, is because you know that you can roam around while the family will be taken care of.

H: Yeah. If you have to do some other mission somewhere else, they have housing.

D: I was fortunate from that time on, anytime I made a move. Being senior master helped, of course. That’s why I moved into base quarters every place I went. It was nice having that available to me, and it was easier to put in 24. How’s that?

H: Yeah, definitely. Makes sense. Back to the outdoor space issue, you mentioned that you had bay windows. Is that right?

D: Right. Each side looked out into the front.

H: You mean each side of the duplex building?

D: Right.
H: OK. So in the front you had bay windows.

D: Right.

H: Did you feel in general that you had enough window space and enough outdoor views?

D: Yes. Oh, yeah. All the rooms upstairs, all the bedrooms, of course, had big windows. And the double window downstairs there, the bay window, the kitchen, and so forth. Yeah.

H: I know that was another idea about this type of housing during the postwar period is creating an expansive view of the outdoors. Now, was your – you had kind of mentioned, too, that you had landscaping and you had – just, it sounds like it was a very suburban environment. Is that true?

D: It was. Right.

H: How were the streets designed? Were they straight or curved?

D: No, no. Typical housing project. No, not on the square. They were curved and, you know – let’s see, I wasn’t on a cul-de-sac. It was, let’s see. Trying to think. One, two, three – four, maybe six, I can’t really remember, houses on the pulloff around. Well, yeah, there was, counting on both sides of the street.

H: OK. On your road?

D: Right. On the road. And it was just one of the turnoffs off the main road. How’s that? You follow me?

H: Oh, I see. OK. But it wasn’t a cul-de-sac.

D: No, it wasn’t a cul-de-sac. It was a loop off of it.

H: Oh, OK. I see.

D: And there was, if I remember correctly, three or four of those. I’ve been trying to remember how many units were up there, but it seems to me like almost 100. Oh, yeah. It was not a small thing. Maybe it wasn’t quite that many, but I would say at least 75.

H: Buildings, with two units in each building?

D: Right.

H: Oh, wow, that’s pretty big. Now would you say your housing was attractive?

D: Attractive?

H: Yeah.

D: Oh, yeah. Very definitely.

H: What was the exterior material?
D: Oh, not tile. Oh, rats. You know, it was painted dark brown. It was nice. I know that.

H: So it wasn’t wood or brick, it sounds like.

D: No, no. It wasn’t wood or brick. Well, I’ll be darned. Anyhow, it was like a ceramic and what have you. It was good color schemes throughout the units.

H: And the housing also reflects the government’s desire to economize, you know, not provide housing that is excessive or too costly. Did you see evidence of that in your house?

D: Not in the least.

H: Really?

D: No. They – I won’t say the worst – well, for instance, like we putting in our own yards and things of that nature. When Shirley would call in a work order, sometimes they’ll say, well, we haven’t got any of those in stock. It’ll be a while before that could be replaced. Well, that’s because some people called in for light bulbs. Well, phooey, you know, I know how to put in a light bulb. You know, things of that nature. But the important stuff, why, no problem at all. Like I said, we had beautiful furniture, living room furniture, and – I mean, dining room furniture. Now, living room furniture I had to get myself. I mean, there were certain things that they furnished, and certain things they didn’t.

H: OK. So you provided your own living room furniture. They provided dining room furniture. And then you probably provided your own bedroom furniture, too.

D: Right. Right.

H: And did they provide the typical stuff like a couch, chair, coffee table, in the living room?

D: No. Like I say, the living room was all mine.

H: Oh, I’m sorry. I meant the dining room. Did they provide just table and chairs?

D: The dining room was real nice, dining room table, seated eight. And a nice hutch to match it. And six chairs. Yeah, you know. Very nice.

H: And I noticed that you said that they could have provided more shrubs and trees, that you thought maybe that would have been...

D: But then that’s something that every unit, housing unit is that way to begin with.

H: When it’s new.

D: Right, when it’s new.

H: So, do you remember anything distinctive about the physical features? You mentioned like the cathedral ceiling in the living room. Was there anything else, wood floors?

D: No, not really.

H: Just other things were pretty indistinct?
D: Like I say, there was no air conditioning, which now is seen as a minus. But then, we suffered with living down south Texas a hell of a lot worse. (LAUGHS) I used to tell people that I knew the existence of every Tastee Freez in south Texas. Because, see, when you’ve got kids in the car, you go from one ice cream place to the next. I’m sorry, what did you say?

H: No, just nothing else was very distinctive?

D: No.

H: OK. And what physical features of the house did you like, and what features did you dislike?

D: OK, the openness, the more than adequate space. Again, my family was still pretty small. You know, the girls were pretty young yet and what have you. And the overall feeling of support. You know, you feel better and more comfortable with your family being located on base than downtown. I mean, you don’t have to worry about them, so to speak, you know. We knew their police patrolled out there, and what have you. No, just the overall feeling that – thank you, Air Force, for taking care of mine.

H: Yeah. Now, you said that the open carport construction could have been a little bit better.

D: Well, you know, just open versus enclosed. You know what I mean?

H: OK. Yeah, maybe in that climate during the winter would have been better.

D: And, you know, you had to shovel off that driveway, and it would drift. You know those winds up there. The snow would drift around the house, and sometimes you could get out and sometimes you couldn’t.

H: Right. Right. There was – I talked with somebody yesterday who was stationed where there was a lot of sand. And so he said, yeah, the sand would drift into his carport, so that’s kind of interesting.

Well, do you have anything else to add as far as your experience with the Capehart housing?

D: No. Just except if this helps at all in the future, authorizing them or constructing them, that type, why I’m glad to be part of the survey.

H: OK. And do you have any photos that you would be interested in sharing?

D: No, not really. I looked. That stuff just doesn’t make it when you move. My middle daughter, Sandy, is the family historian. You remember Chanute. But you know what the kids remember? This is silly. When you pulled into the gate to come on to Chanute area, there was a housing gate, the one we used down there. Well, you pulled in for a little ways, and then you hit a big circle. And you took off on about four streets from that circle. Well, we’d be coming home from a trip to either Shirley’s up in Iowa or over in Indiana, or just maybe the family was out for a drive. And we get to the circle, and the first thing the girls would say: Do it, Daddy! Meaning, two or three times, go around the circle. In other words, right past our turnoff, you know. About the second time, I’d look over, and Shirley was looking at me like, let’s go home. (LAUGHS) And then the kids are saying, oh, do it, Daddy! Do it, Daddy! Isn’t it funny what you remember?

H: Yeah, that’s great. That’s great. Definitely. It sounds like they thought of it as home, too, just that they were relaxed there.
D: Oh, yeah. That four years at Chanute, see, Patty started school, and Sandy started school. And you know, Sandy remembers, too, she had a kitten there. Things of that nature. By the way, we were authorized to have any pets we wanted. No problem.

H: Great. Well, I thank you so much for your time and for sharing your experiences. This helps us document.

D: Hey, Chris, you make it easy, you know. You talk to an old man about reminiscence.

H: Oh, it’s fun. It’s fun. I really enjoyed hearing your stories and experiences, definitely.

D: I’m glad I could help, Chris.

H: Thank you so much. If you think of anything else, feel free to call.

D: All righty, and good luck to you.

H: Thank you. Take care.

D: Bye-bye, Chris.

H: OK. Bye.

END
Ms. Chris Heidenrich, M.A., a historian with R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., conducted a recorded interview with William L. and Bette Evans via telephone on 16 August 2006. Mr. and Mrs. Evans were interviewed for a project sponsored by the Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Navy to document the history of military family housing constructed under the Wherry and Capehart programs between 1949 and 1962. Ten other former residents of Air Force and Navy Wherry and Capehart housing were interviewed. A historic context, neighborhood design guidelines, and a tax-credit brochure also were completed for the project.

William L. Evans was an aviation electronics technician and an avionics weapons officer in the U.S. Navy from 1947 to 1977. Mr. Evans entered the Navy as a seaman and retired with the rank of lieutenant.

The Evanses resided in Wherry housing at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, California, from 1953 to 1955 while Mr. Evans held the rank of 1st class petty officer. Mr. and Mrs. Evans lived in a duplex building, in a unit consisting of two bedrooms, one bathroom, a living room, a dining room, and a kitchen. For one year during their tenancy, Mrs. Evans worked for the contractor who had built and was managing the development.

CHRIS HEIDENRICH: This is Chris Heidenrich of R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates interviewing William L. and Bette Evans on August 16, 2006. OK, so the tape recorder is on. And would you both just acknowledge that you know that you’re being taped.

WILLIAM EVANS: Roger, we are being taped.

HEIDENRICH: OK.

BETTE EVANS: Yes.

H: Great. Thank you. Well, first of all, thanks a lot for participating, and thanks for sending back all that paperwork. I’ve got the information. I just want to ask a couple of other biographical questions. First of all, I know that you served in the Navy, Mr. Evans, from ’47 to ’77. I was wondering what your rank was when you lived in the Wherry housing. You mentioned you lived in Wherry housing at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, California.

W. EVANS: I believe I was E-5, 1st class petty officer.

B. EVANS: Now, wait a minute.

W.E.: Yes, because I had not made chief yet until I moved down to –

B.E.: San Diego.

W.E.: Yes, that’s correct.

H: OK. E-5. OK. And what was your rank when you entered the service?

W.E.: When I went into the service?
H: Yeah.

W.E.: (LAUGHS) I guess you’d call me a seaman recruit.

H: OK. OK. And then, did you have a particular career field when you were in the service?

W.E.: Yes. I was an aviation electronics technician, to be then converted when I got my commission to an avionics weapons officer.

H: OK. So I see that you retired as a lieutenant. Right?


H: Now, as I said, you had mentioned you lived in Wherry housing at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, California. Do you recall what years those were?

W.E.: Well, I’ll think about it. You got an answer, Bette? We were married in ’51. We spent Memphis in ’52. I’d say ’53, ’54, and ’55. I don’t think –

B.E.: Somewhere around in there.

W.E.: It’s right around there.

H: OK. Great.

W.E.: It was right – by the way, it was at the time that Wherry housing opened there at El Toro. It had just got started by the time we got there.

H: Oh.

B.E.: We were some of the first ones to move in.

H: Oh, OK. OK. Great. And what – was there a neighborhood, did it have a neighborhood name?

W.E.: No. But we were, the Wherry housing was on the side of the base – the opposite side of the base from where the main gate was. In fact, you could almost say it was the back of it. And it went up onto this hill. Bette, there wasn’t nothing on either side of the housing, right?

B.E.: Capehart was first.

W.E.: Where was that?

B.E.: You came up to – we called it Tobacco Road. It’s Trabuco Road (LAUGHS). You came off of whatever the highway was from Santa Ana. And you came up to Trabuco Road and you turned off there, and there was Capehart housing there, which was completely different from what we had.

H: Oh, OK.

W.E.: There was nothing on either side of us, though, right?

B.E.: No. The base was on – we were on the back side of the base.
W.E.: There was no housing on either side of Wherry housing.

B.E.: No. There was just Capehart, and then there was the fields.

H: And what type of quarters did you live in? Was it single-family detached, a duplex, et cetera?

B.E.: No, if I remember correctly, I don’t think it was a fourplex. I know it was at least a duplex, because I remember the other side. We just moved, and I can’t find any pictures or anything. I’ve got pictures and all that stuff. And we just can’t find it.

W.E.: I agree with my wife, but I think it was a duplex. I don’t think it was a fourplex. But the garages were detached. They were out behind the house on a separate sort of entranceway.

H: OK. Now, how many bedrooms, and what other rooms were there?

B.E.: There was a living room and an L-shaped dining room, then a kitchen, and we were in a two-bedroom, one bath.

H: And did you have any kids with you at the time?

W.E.: No.

B.E.: No.

H: OK. Now, just to shift to the open-ended questions here, what type of housing did you live in before you lived in this housing? How did it compare?

B.E.: (LAUGHS)

W.E.: (LAUGHS)

H: You’re laughing.

B.E.: In the town of Santa Ana, there was some – well, it was like the in-town. It was a new building, but the – I don’t know what you’d call it, but the bed came out of the wall in the living room.

H: Oh, like a Murphy bed.

B.E.: Like a Murphy bed. And that’s what we had. I don’t know how long we lived there. I just can’t remember. It wasn’t too long.

H: That was an apartment?

B.E.: Ma’am?

H: That was an apartment?

B.E.: Yeah, it was like two rows you – there was a sidewalk down the middle, and then there was about four or five, probably four little apartments on either side. It was a private thing.

W.E.: We were where we were before that for 30 seconds.
H: You weren’t there too long, huh?

W.E.: Well, what happened was, when I arrived out at El Toro, I went for base housing. And they offered me base housing at the testing lighter-than-air facility there. And it was a half Quonset hut from World War II.

B.E.: (MAKES NOISE SHOWING DISPLEASURE)

H: Oh, my.

W.E.: And my wife walked in, and she turned right around and says, “I’m not staying here.”

H: (LAUGHS)

W.E.: We had came there, which is probably more appropriate, from the Naval Air Technical Training Center in Millington, Tennessee, which is Memphis, Tennessee. And at Millington, they had this base housing right outside the base, which Bette could guess, but I’d say it almost had to go back to World War II or shortly thereafter.

B.E.: Yeah, there were little duplexes.

W.E.: Very small duplexes. Of course, we thought they were neat, because we were just married, but that was it. And, yeah, that was (inaudible) housing before. It was military housing, but nowhere near as wonderful and great as Wherry was.

H: Ah, OK. So you thought your Wherry housing was a drastic improvement.

W.E.: Oh, big upgrade.

B.E.: Yeah. Roomy. (LAUGHS)

H: Yeah. So is that the major difference, is its roominess?

W.E.: No. It was new, lot of yard space, roominess, like you said. Everything about it was great, as far as we were concerned.

H: And so the housing generally met your needs, and you were comfortable?

B.E.: Yeah.

W.E.: Very much so.

H: Yeah. How was the kitchen space?

W.E.: I wouldn’t know. I never go in there. Bette?

B.E.: It was adequate, but it was small. I don’t think it’s any smaller than this place we have now. We came from a great big country kitchen in Arkansas, in a home we owned. And this condo has, it’s got a huge living room and everything, but boy, I’ll tell you, that kitchen, there’s really a lot to be desired.
W.E.: In our motor home.

B.E.: We have a motor home also.

W.E.: What’s next?

H: So how did the housing, the Wherry housing compare to housing in the civilian sector?

W.E.: Well, that’s California, you know, southern California. I’d say for our income bracket, it was very good in comparison to – I really couldn’t tell you. We had friends from the church who had their own private, individual, separate housing. Those were nice houses, which obviously were better than —

B.E: What we had.

W.E.: Go ahead, Bette.

B.E.: They were better than what we had. We never compared oranges and apples. We always were very satisfied with what we had.

H: Sure. Of course. And did your housing – it sounds like the Wherry housing provided you enough space.

B.E.: Oh, yeah. There was plenty of space there, yeah, for the two of us.

H: What was the closet space and the storage space like?

W.E.: Don’t ask me.

B.E.: I don’t remember.

H: Did the bedrooms have closets?

B.E.: Oh, yeah.

H: Yeah. And was there a front storage closet?

B.E.: No. I don’t think so.

H: Was there any other storage space in the house, like an attic?

B.E.: Oh, no. We didn’t have an attic.

W.E.: You’ve got to understand, this is early in our marriage, so we had not accumulated 50 years of stuff.

B.E.: (LAUGHS) Today, it’s completely different. It’s horrible.

H: (LAUGHS) Right. And did you feel that you each had enough privacy within the house?

W.E.: Oh, absolutely. You talking about privacy between she and I or with the neighbors?
H: I was going to ask about the neighbors a little bit later, but yes, between each of you as an individual.

W.E.: Oh, yes. Bette, you agree?

B.E.: Yeah.

H: And I know that you said that you didn’t have children while you were living in this housing, but was the neighborhood adequate for children?

B.E.: Oh, yeah, a lot of play area. And I think there was actually a swing and slide area for the kids.

H: Did you know anybody with children, where they, you know, expressed –

B.E.: Yeah, we had a couple of friends that had children.

H: And it seemed adequate for them?

B.E.: Yeah, they never complained.

W.E.: Understand that I think we put it in our information there that Bette went to work for the housing project.

H: Yes, I did note that. And –

W.E.: And so she was probably more aware of what was going on throughout the project. See, the enlisted men were on the bottom of the hill, and as you went up the hill, it got higher in rank, so at the very top of the hill, you probably had, what, majors –

B.E.: Yeah.

W.E.: -- Marine majors and so forth living up there.

H: I see. OK. And –

W.E.: By the way, she would know what those conditions, those Wherry houses were in comparison to ours.

B.E.: Oh, they were all separate houses.

H: Single family?

B.E.: Yeah.

H: This would be the officer housing area?

B.E.: This was the officer housing, yeah.

W.E.: She had the responsibility of checking them out. And it was really an eye-opener for us. You know, but some of those officers left horrible conditions in the housing.
B.E.: They were dirty.

H: Oh, really?

B.E.: Yeah.

W.E.: They’d be redone by the housing authority there and put on ready for the next group. But she knows a lot more about the whole property than just our own house.

H: Oh, yes. Yes, I actually did write up some extra questions to ask you about that. I guess as long as we’re talking about that, I could ask you about that right now. So, your main role in working for the contractor was to do home inspections, is that right?

B.E.: Yeah, when the people were going to be transferred, then I went up there before – mostly, I think – I don’t know if we gave, we had to pay a damage deposit. I think so. Before we’d give them their money back, why, I’d go out and I’d look at the house. And sometimes it was amazing how dirty people were. I mean, refrigerators had mold in them, and, you know, just – they weren’t clean people, that’s all. And you know, there was little fingerprints up on the ceilings of the closets, and but a lot of instances, they were all right.

H: And did you work for the contractor the whole time that you folks lived in that Wherry housing?

B.E.: No, what happened was, it was really dirty. There was a couple, Margaret and Paul Bowman (PHONETIC) was their name. And they had no children at all. And they were civilians. And I don’t know how they got the job. I had no idea. But we were friends with them as well as worked – I worked with them. And they ran the thing, and I was just, you know, I was the go-fer or helper. I worked with them. It happened really quickly. They got ousted out of the job. Somebody else took over. I don’t know who it was. And we were out of the job, too.

W.E.: On the very day after I had bought a brand-new car.

H: Oh, no.

B.E.: We bought a great big Oldsmobile 98, which we had no business having. We bought that and had to pay $90-a-month notes on it, and I was out of a job. (LAUGHS)

H: Oh, no. So how long had you worked for them?

W.E.: I don’t know, a year or so.

B.E.: I guess a year or so. I don’t actually remember.

H: OK. So they were the contractor, this Margaret and Paul?

B.E.: I don’t know where they came –

H: Maybe they represented the contractor?

B.E.: Yeah, they were involved with the contractors, I know, but in what, you know, way, I don’t know that much about it.
H: Yeah. OK. Now, as far as how the contractor operated, I guess, what did they, was it sort of like a management company?

B.E.: Yeah.

H: So did they collect, they collected the rent and maintained the property?

W.E.: Wasn’t it just automatically taken from our pay as our housing allowance?

B.E.: Housing allowance, I think.

W.E.: We didn’t actually go up there and pay anything directly, did we, Bette?

B.E.: I don’t remember. I don’t think so, though.

H: Yeah, that sounds right that they took it out of your pay. And did the contractor, was it any kind of, any other aspects to their job other than maintaining the property?

B.E.: Well, it was quite a job. That was a great big housing area. And, you know, there was always upkeep work on the houses. I think Paul, he did some of the, you know, some of the work, you know, fixing them up and in between families living in there. It was all brand-new when we moved there. Up on the hill, where the officers lived, I don’t think it was hardly even finished yet. And it was muddy dirt roads. We lived right down on the main “Tobacco” Road.

H: And what was the actual name of the street?

B.E.: Trabuco, T-R-A-B-U-C-O.

W.E.: She remembers the addresses for 50 years of marriage.

H: I know. That’s great. And did the residents like that arrangement, you know, dealing with the contractors kind of as if it’s a private entity?

B.E.: I don’t think they had much to do with any of them. The houses had been passed over to the government, and they dealt with our office if there was any problems.

H: I see. So the houses were no longer owned by the contractor. They were owned by the government?

B.E.: As far as I know. I don’t know that much about it.

H: Oh, OK. OK.

B.E.: All I know is it was Senator Wherry from Nebraska. It was named for him.

H: Right. Right. Now, you already mentioned some generalizations about the housing based on your inspection work. Is there anything else you would want to add, your impressions of the housing based on –
B.E.: Bill and I have never been fussy fussy about housing. We were glad they provided for us, and we always took advantage of housing except for those Quonset huts. We always took advantage of the housing if they had it.

H: Did you notice anything else in particular about Wherry housing that you noticed as part of your job while you were doing your job with the contractor?

B.E.: No. It was just, you know, just everyday, mundane, you know, upkeep of keeping your records and files straight. And I felt very fortunate because I only lived a block or a block and a half from the housing office. The people lived, the contract – Margaret and Paul, lived in the other half. They lived in a duplex, I know, because they lived in the other half of it.

H: I see. OK.

B.E.: They got let out. They got a dirty deal on it, whatever it was. We came along with the program.

W.E.: We didn’t live in too many different military housing. The other part we lived in was, we told you about outside the base at NATDC. But eventually, we ended up going back and living on base housing there at NATDC.

B.E.: Memphis.

H: OK.

W.E.: So it was mostly World War II stuff, except for the new officer housing. So we thought this Wherry housing was just fantastic.

B.E.: It was really nice. It was plush compared to what we had in Memphis there. It was a two-bedroom duplex on each side, but there was stairs and only one bathroom. And we adopted a little boy while we were there. So it was hard living in that place.

H: Well, back to a few more questions about the Wherry housing. One of the objectives of the Wherry housing was to provide a so-called open floor plan to create a feeling of spaciousness. Did your housing, did you feel that your housing succeeded in this? Was the layout conducive to family life?

B.E.: Oh we weren’t – yeah. Of course, we didn’t have a lot of furniture. Had just the essentials, a bedroom suite and, you know, a couch and a couple of chairs, and just a chrome dining room table and chairs, and you know, that was all. I remember we had an old gas refrigerator.

H: Oh, OK. Was that provided as part of the housing?

B.E.: Yeah.

H: OK. And did they provide any other appliances? They must have provided a stove and –

B.E.: Oh, yeah. I think it was just a little, you know, four-burner stove, one of the small ones. I believe. I’m not really – I can’t really remember. It was a small refrigerator, and, you know, that’s all we needed back then.

H: Did they provide a washer and drier?
B.E.: Oh, no.

H: Did the housing and the design of the neighborhood, how did that affect your sense of community? Did it provide a sense of community?

B.E.: They were all alike.

H: Yeah. The housing was all alike, OK.

W.E.: They were Marines and I was Navy. No. We didn’t really have that much – most of my community relationships, we established in the city with our church, and I was deeply involved in Boy Scout adult leadership roles, so that was where most of my social life – but as far as, Bette could tell you about people right there in the neighborhood. She knows people that I didn’t even know, since she met them on a business as well as a neighborly basis. So it was like she says, you knew some children. I don’t even remember the children. Bette, go ahead.

B.E.: Well, I couldn’t tell you who had kids, and who didn’t. I don’t remember any names or anything like that.

H: What did the neighborhood look like? What were the streets – were they, you know, straight streets or curving streets?

B.E.: They were laid out similar to a subdivision.

H: Like a subdivision.

B.E.: Yeah.

W.E.: And it went right straight up the hill.

B.E.: Main Street went right up the hill.

H: Was it like a suburban-style neighborhood?

B.E.: Yeah, I guess you would say so. The houses, they were nice. They were, you know, all alike. Painted green. Painted a light green. All painted the same inside.

H: And was there landscaping outside?

B.E.: Barely, yeah. I know the officers had – we didn’t have any patio out in back. But the officers had a patio, you know, sliding-glass door and patio. But they lived up right next to the top of the hill. And it wasn’t anything for them to have snakes curled up in the sun, poisonous ones.

H: Oh, wow. Wow.

B.E: And then we had also up at the very top of the hill, it was around the holiday time. Some kid got loose of a, on a – he was from a training, some kind of a training school. And he borrowed somebody’s car illegally. And he drove straight up the hill, and he was being chased, apparently, and he went through somebody’s living room. And they had company. Some officer’s living room.

H: Wow. Was he part of the neighborhood?
B.E.: No, the kid wasn’t.

H: Oh, wow. That’s pretty scary.

B.E.: That was our excitement for the –

H: For the year. Well, now, as far as the yard, we were just talking about. So you didn’t have any kind of a concrete slab or anything for the patio.

B.E.: I don’t remember it, no.

W.E.: I don’t think so.

H: Was there a front porch, like a little entryway.

B.E.: Just to get out.

H: OK. And did you have a back yard?

B.E.: It was all open.

H: OK. Grassy?

B.E.: Yeah. No – it wasn’t fenced in or anything.

H: OK. Was there any outdoor storage?

W.E.: Not that I recall.

H: You said that you had a detached garage. Is like a group garage?

W.E.: Yes.

H: Back behind your units. OK.

B.E.: Like four garages together.

H: I see. And did you feel that your personal unit provided you enough privacy from – as far as the rest of the neighborhood?

B.E.: Oh, we never worried about that.

W.E.: I’d say yes.

H: You didn’t feel like people were right on top of you.

B.E.: No, those people were picky. (LAUGHS)

H: And did you like the amount of outdoor space? Do you feel that was adequate?

B.E.: Oh, yeah.
B.E.: We never utilized it or anything. I don’t even know if we had a – no, I don’t think we even had a cooker. You know, a little barbecue then.

H: Oh, a grill. Yeah. And did you like the window space – number of windows? Did you feel that you had enough?

B.E.: Yeah, it was just windows.

H: Yeah. I just – the designs were kind of roughly based on these suburban ideas of the postwar period, and so that was all big on openness inside the house and lots of views of the outside, and so we’re just trying to ascertain whether the housing, you know, whether people perceived that occurring.

B.E.: I remember, I think it was tile floors.

H: Tile floors.

B.E.: I believe, yeah.

H: Yeah. OK. So, did you feel that the neighborhood and housing was an appealing place to live in general?

B.E.: Well, it was open enough that, you know, you never bothered with the neighbors much. You came out and talked at night, or something like that. We’d talk in front of our houses, but other than that, why – I know some of the women worked, I guess.

W.E.: It wasn’t the kind of neighborhood that I would say like we had later on where you developed block parties and things like that where the girls get together for coffee klatches and stuff like that. If it went on, we were not aware of it because, A, it was a new neighborhood, we were Navy –

B.E.: They were Marines.

H: OK, those are good points.

W.E.: She worked. And so – I’m not saying anything against the housing. We just did not get involved in that sort of situation.

H: Yeah. Those are good points.

W.E.: It might have been very adequate, but we were not aware of it.

H: Also, the housing was built to be economical and not excessive. Did you see –

B.E.: This was not excessive.

H: Yeah. Did you see evidence in your house of attempts to economize, the government’s attempts to economize?

B.E.: Oh, well, yes.
H: Yeah. What were some examples of that?

B.E.: There was no luxuries, you know, like in the bathrooms, you know, like you have today. Everything was just all plain-Jane.

H: Yeah. No molding on the ceilings or –

B.E.: No. You mean crown molding?

H: Yeah.

B.E.: Oh, heavens, no. (LAUGHS)

H: Some of the housing that we’ve looked at, Wherry, some of the cabinets didn’t have doors, and –

B.E.: Oh, no, we had doors, as much as I remember. And I didn’t like that gas refrigerator. That was, you know – I put a pumpkin pie up on top one time, and you know, just until we could use it up, and not realizing there was gas heat up there. It turned the pie green. (LAUGHS)

H: Oh, no. You mean like on top of the refrigerator?

B.E.: Yeah. (LAUGHS)

H: Oh, no.

B.E.: It was the only gas refrigerator we ever had.

H: Yeah, wow.

W.E.: There was a lot better – you’ve got to understand, this is 55 years ago.

H: Sure, sure.

W.E.: So she remembers a lot of this stuff that I never even have any idea about.

H: Right. Right. Now, what else do you remember about the physical features of the house?

B.E.: It was just all, you know – well, we didn’t have a lot of furniture then.

W.E.: There was a lot of room.

B.E.: A lot of room.

H: Yeah. Was there – you said there was tile floors.

B.E.: I think so. As much as I remember.

H: Was there any extra decoration –

W.E.: Oh, no.
H: -- you know, like around the windows or anything like that?

B.E.: No, they were just like a double window in the front of the house. I think toward the back, it wasn’t a sliding-glass – I don’t believe it was sliding-glass door. But it was, you know, it was like three windows across the back of the living room. That made it, you know – but that was all the windows in the living room and the dining room both. And then a small window and back door.

H: So nothing ornate or overly –

B.E.: Oh, no. Very basic.

H: Yeah. Yeah. Well, what physical features of the house did you like, and what features did you dislike? I think you kind of touched upon some of those.

B.E.: I said I wasn’t picky.

W.E.: They were just really nice, you know?

B.E.: It was very adequate, and I never gave it too much thought. I was just glad to get a clean house.

W.E.: Nice, clean.

B.E.: We’ve moved in behind some real people that were, I mean, they were really filthy. Civilian housing, I mean. One place in San Diego, we rented a two-bedroom house, and it took us a week to get it ready to even move into. We cleaned one room a night when we were working.

H: My goodness.

W.E.: The main point I think my wife is making there is that there were rules and policies and security deposit, and her inspections ensured that new people moving in after users had a very clean and usable space instead of going into some crummy place. I would say the management and control of the housing was above average and, therefore, did a great job for people moving in.

H: Oh, OK. OK. So that worked out well.

B.E.: Yeah, Margaret and I were – I mean, we were really, you know, we were picky to –

W.E.: Nitpickers.

B.E.: -- make people clean before they left. And on many a time, I had people move and leaving town and not getting their money back. They got it back eventually, I guess. I don’t know what happened, but –

W.E.: Then what happened? Did the company then go ahead and hire somebody to come in and clean?

B.E.: Yeah. No, we didn’t clean or anything, but we had people that did clean.

H: Yeah. What kind of, what did they do besides cleaning, to spruce up the place for the next tenant? Did they paint?
B.E.: Well, the houses were all new. Some of them had to be painted, because as I said, when you have fingerprints on the ceiling and food on the walls. People really live like scumbugs.

H: Right. Rental housing, right.

B.E.: You know, they don’t have any sense of owning a place. We always tried to treat a place as if we owned it, and keep it clean. But everybody doesn’t live that way. We have our faults, but that wasn’t one of them.

H: Yeah, right. Now, actually, I never asked, was your house one story or two stories?

B.E.: Just one. I don’t think there was any, there was no two-storys in those houses.

W.E.: When we saw the pictures in the Navy Times, we noticed that one of the pictures they ran was a two-story facility.

B.E.: That was someplace else.

W.E.: Different part of the country, I guess.

H: Yeah, I can’t quite remember where those pictures were from, but, yes, some two-storys.

W.E.: Like she said, we were among enlisted. We were in a multiple group, where the officers were in single housing. Which is typical in the Navy and the Marine Corps, by the way.

B.E.: Some of the officers had duplexes. When they got higher up, you know, senior officers, well then they rated a single house.

W.E.: That was all Wherry housing.

H: And your house, was it – what was the exterior material?

B.E.: Stucco. Everything was stucco.

H: Stucco. OK.

B.E.: Pale green stucco. And then some of them were a tan stucco. A lot of houses in California are made of stucco.

H: Oh, yeah, I can imagine.

W.E.: You asked for something negative. I’ll give you something negative. Right across the main street, there was a fence and a back area where the Marines did night maintenance on their jets. And then the jets would then turn up, you know, full engine power for checking out the engines. So, well into the night, and sometimes all night, you would hear a very large amount of jet noise. We got used to it, but if I was to make a recommendation to housing, I would not put it right on top of a flight line or right on top of a run-up line.

B.E.: We had a very basic TV then, but you couldn’t even hear the TV across the room at all when those jets were turning up, getting ready to take off. They really blasted you.
W.E.: It’s an item worth noting, you know, in your report. The location of the housing in relationship to the military flight line.

B.E.: Well, I don’t think they even do that anymore now, from what I’ve seen.

H: OK, well, is there – do you have anything else to add, any more general impressions or any other thoughts about the housing?

B.E.: Well, I don’t know that we’ve been much help, but that’s – we lived plain-Jane down there.

H: You definitely were a lot of help. It’s definitely true – that’s what people have been saying, that the housing was very basic, but better than where they had come from earlier, and it was better in comparison to what they could afford on the civilian market.

B.E.: Oh, yes.

H: That definitely adds to our understanding of the housing. Well, I thank you for the photo, by the way, Mr. Evans. It’s a very distinguished-looking photo.

(GENERAL DISCUSSION ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT AND THE EVANSES’ ATTEMPTS TO FIND PHOTOS OF THEIR WHERRY UNIT)

W.E.: You know, we’ve seen a lot of military housing over the years, both in and out of the Navy. And I’d say in our case – at least in mine. I don’t know about Bette – but in my case, it was the very best military housing we were ever exposed to. Very best. You know, understand, we were enlisted men. We were not – I wasn’t even a chief yet. And to me, it was great. You know? It was very – I complained about the noise, but it was also right outside the gate, so I had almost very short distance to drive. But we’ve seen military housing down in San Diego. We’ve seen it in a variety of places around the United States. And none of them looked as nice and good as that did to us at that time. I know today, when I even see Navy Times running articles on new barracks they’re talking about building down in San Diego –

B.E.: Oh, I can’t believe it.

W.E.: -- those enlisted men’s barracks are going to be better than Wherry housing or any other military housing.

B.E.: Probably nicer than this eleventh-floor condo we have now.

W.E.: I understand, you know, the government’s got to balance off, you know, the amount of money they have to spend. But, you know, the biggest thing in military housing is keep it up. They need to ensure, and I did this in business after I got out of the Navy, maintenance costs and maintenance support dollars are just as important, if not more so, than new construction dollars.

You can put that in your report that that was not very important to us in our Wherry housing because it was new. But after you have military housing for, I don’t know, five years, ten years, and 20 years, you better have a good amount of maintenance and support. Because otherwise, those neighborhoods deteriorate, and deteriorate bad. And I’m sure you drove around Washington or other places where you see old military World War II housing, which you wouldn’t even put your dog in.
B.E.: Memphis was especially bad for that. They had military housing, and it was – well, I’ll tell you, in Memphis, there’s the same old duplexes still being rented today.

H: Oh, my. Long time.

B.E.: I couldn’t believe that. We were up there, oh, six, eight months ago. We live close to there now. I keep forgetting where we live. (LAUGHS)

(GENERAL DISCUSSION ABOUT CONSTRUCTION COSTS, IMPRESSIONS OF CURRENT MILITARY HOUSING AT AIR FORCE AND NAVY BASES, DESIRE FOR GOVERNMENT TO PUBLICIZE RESULTS OF THIS PROJECT, LOCATION OF TRANSCRIPTS, PARAMETERS OF WHERRY AND CAPEHART PROGRAMS)

H: Well, I thank you very much, and if you think of anything to add, please don’t hesitate to call me.

W.E.: All-righty.

B.E.: We will.

H: OK.

B.E.: Thank you very much –

H: Take care.

B.E.: -- for giving us the opportunity.

H: Oh, you’re quite welcome.

B.E.: Bye-bye.

H: OK. Bye-bye.

END
Figure L.2. Navy Lt. William L. Evans, 1977.  
(Courtesy of William L. Evans)
Ms. Chris Heidenrich, M.A., a historian with R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., conducted a recorded interview with Mr. George H. Gentry, Jr. via telephone on 15 August 2006. Mr. Gentry was interviewed for a project sponsored by the Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Navy to document the history of military family housing constructed under the Wherry and Capehart programs between 1949 and 1962. Ten other former residents of Air Force and Navy Wherry and Capehart housing were interviewed. A historic context, neighborhood design guidelines, and a tax-credit brochure also were completed for the project.

Mr. Gentry was an infantry officer in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1951 to 1977. After receiving a commission from the Navy Reserve Officers’ Training Corps at the University of Texas, Mr. Gentry entered the Marines as a second lieutenant. He retired as a colonel.

Mr. Gentry resided in the Tarawa Terrace #2 Wherry housing at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., from 1955 to 1957, while holding the rank of captain. Mr. Gentry, his wife, and their infant daughter lived in a one-story duplex consisting of two bedrooms, one bath, a combined living-dining room, and a kitchen.

CHRIS HEIDENRICH: This is Chris Heidenrich of R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates interviewing George H. Gentry, Jr. of Cibolo, Texas by telephone on August 15, 2006. OK, now the tape is on. And would you just acknowledge that you know that you’re being recorded?

GEORGE H. GENTRY, JR: My name is George Gentry, and I know I’m being recorded.

HEIDENRICH: Thank you. OK. Well, first of all, I just wanted to get some basic biographical information out of the way. We do have the questionnaire that you filled out, but just a couple of other details. What was your rank when you lived in Wherry and Capehart housing?

GENTRY: That’s correct. That was when I was stationed at the Naval Training Command in Bainbridge, Maryland. And I can give you the addresses of these places.
H: Oh, great, sure. What was the Camp Lejeune address?

G: My Camp Lejeune address was 3405 Hagaru Drive.

H: How is that spelled?


H: OK. Number 2, OK.

G: And that’s in North Carolina.


G: That’s correct.

H: OK. And now the Bainbridge, what address was that?

G: OK, I lived in actually two different quarters, but they were in the same Capehart housing. The first place I lived in was at 16A Barton Road, Manor Heights, M-A-N-O-R Heights. And the mailing address was Port Deposit, Maryland.

H: All right.

G: And after I’d lived there for about a year, I moved across the street to 11B Barton Road. And that’s Manor Heights, Port Deposit, Maryland. And like I say, that period of time went from 1957 to 1960.

H: OK, great. OK, now, since you’re not sure if that was Wherry or Capehart, I thought we could focus on the Camp Lejeune period. And what type of quarters were those?

G: This was a duplex that I was in, and it was sort of a one-story duplex. It had two bedrooms and one bath. It had a combined living and dining area with a kitchen. And there was no garage or anything with it. It was a parking space out in front of it.

H: OK. And let’s get into a little bit more now of the open-ended questions here. These are along the lines of what I had mailed to you.

G: All right.

H: Just to compare between the Wherry-Capehart and previous housing that you had lived in, did you live in previous military housing before the Wherry housing?

G: No. When my wife and I got married, we moved into an attic apartment above a house, and it was in Portsmouth, Virginia. And the address at that was 2007 Leckie Street, Portsmouth, Virginia.

H: OK. And so that was private housing, right?

G: That was private housing.

H: OK. Well, how did that compare to your Wherry housing?
G: Well, of course, being living in an upstairs above a house, it was fairly cramped and limited space up there. But, and we had to go upstairs to get to it, an outdoor stairs to get to the house, to the quarters there. We lived there a little more than – well, about a year after we got married. And then we moved from there to Camp Lejeune, or to Tarawa Terrace.

H: OK.

G: And the Tarawa Terrace, I won’t say that we were one of the first people in that quarters, but they hadn’t been built long in 1955, to my knowledge. There were two different terraces, Tarawa Terrace 1 and Tarawa Terrace 2. And we lived in 2. I believe, now of course I can’t guarantee this, but I believe that Tarawa Terrace 1 was basically enlisted housing. And this is off-base, but right next to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

H: OK. And that was where Marine families lived.

G: That’s right. There were Marine and Navy families there.

H: OK. And, so the Wherry housing, then, it sounds like it was an improvement over what you had earlier.

G: That’s correct.

H: Yeah. And in general, did you like living in this Tarawa Terrace housing?

G: Well, yes, because I had nothing to compare it with, other than that initial thing. I did enjoy living there. However, if I had been assigned to that base longer than I was there – I was there two years – I would have moved onto the base and moved into base quarters.

H: Why is that?

G: Well, there was just limited numbers of quarters available on the base, and you had to wait until one of those quarters became available before you could move in. And so, basically, you took the Wherry housing as an intermediate step to going into the base. In other words, I was only there two years. If we’d have been there another year, I’m sure I would have been on the base, and not stayed out there at Tarawa Terrace.

H: Well, was it just a matter of the fact that the Wherry housing was off-base, or that the base quarters were nicer? What made you say that you would want to move to base housing?

G: Well, one thing, it would be on base. You wouldn’t have to drive. We had to drive about ten miles to get to the commissary and exchange. In other words, it was that far off-base. And if we’d have been on base, it would have only been a mile or so to drive to get to the quarters.

H: I see.

G: And like I say, we had never lived in base housing, so we didn’t know too much about it. But we had friends that did, and we visited their quarters, and it was roomier on the base. Their quarters were roomier. They had more room. And they, like I say, had the advantage of being closer to the facilities, particularly the wives on the base.
H: I see. OK. So then it sounds like then it was about – the base quarters were bigger and just simply closer to everything on the base that you were using.

G: That’s right.

H: OK. Aside from that, though, the Wherry housing, now, was it just you and your wife, or did you have other family members?

G: We had a child. We had a little – when we moved, our daughter was three months old. (LAUGHS)

H: Oh. When you moved in?

G: Yeah. So she got to grow up there. She spent her first two years of her life in there.

H: I see. So did you and your family members generally feel comfortable living in the housing?

G: We did. We were – like I say, I think we did. We had, like I say, nothing to compare it with, of being better than it was. So, it was good living, and we had next-door neighbors who were in the other part of the duplex that we knew, and of course the neighbors on the other side of us. And we socialized with both of those families. And they had young children, about the same age as our daughter.

H: I see.

G: So, it all worked out.

H: Yeah, it really sounds like people developed a community. The housing enabled people to get to know their neighbors, and –

G: That’s right. That’s exactly true.

H: -- just meet other people in their same situation. And I know that you mentioned living in the apartment above the house before that, but as far as your general knowledge about housing at the time in the civilian sector, would you say that – how did this Wherry housing compare to housing available in the civilian sector?

G: (LAUGHS) Once again, I was a bachelor up to the time we moved into that one little apartment. And I had nothing to compare it with. I lived in a bachelor officer’s quarter. Actually, at the time that we were living in the Portsmouth quarters, I was on sea duty, aboard a ship, so I didn’t have any place – it wasn’t like living on a ship, by any means.

H: Oh, of course, of course, right. But I guess, so you just had no experience with other types of civilian housing to really know.

G: Not while I was in the military. In other words, it wasn’t like what I left behind when I went in.

H: OK. What about the housing you grew up in and left as an adult?

G: We had a nice home. I lived in three different towns. I was born out in west Texas in Big Spring, and we moved into a house there, and although we left there when I was ten, my knowledge of
remembering it is very limited. And then we moved to Temple, Texas, in 1939, and I spent most of those years there, including before I went off to college. And we had a nice, big old home with big rooms, high ceilings. One bath.

H: Oh.

G: There was never a multi-bath place. We had plenty of storage space. Had a big yard, a fenced yard. And then we moved from there. When I went off to college, we moved to Baytown, Texas. And once again, the housing there was very nice. It was probably not more than four or five years old, but still, once again, we were dealing with one bathroom. And two bedrooms downstairs, and then there was an attic bedroom, and that’s where they let me stay when I came back from college. My brother, who was younger than myself stayed in the other place. But I was very happy with it.

H: Yeah. I see.

G: Of course, I lived in a dormitory while I was in college the first three years, and then I moved out into a garage apartment my senior year in college. So I had a lot of places I lived before I ever went to Wherry housing, but they were all civilian.

H: Mm-hmm. OK. So it sounds like maybe the Wherry was a little – although you said it provided for your needs, it sounds like maybe it was a little bit smaller than –

G: It was smaller.

H: -- a family home in the civilian sector.

G: Yes. It was smaller.

H: Now, just to touch on a couple of other issues in relation to just general thoughts, did the housing provide enough space for everybody?

G: Well, once again, we were a small family. We just had one little girl and my wife and I. And we didn’t have much to compare it with, military-wise. We had seen, like I say, the base quarters, which we had visited friends that were living on base quarters. And their space was a little more – it was larger.

H: Yes.

G: But whether that meant more to them or not, I don’t know. I know that years later, when we were stationed out on the West Coast at Camp Pendleton, I lived on base. And we had three bedrooms, two baths, upstairs, downstairs, so -- and that was base housing. And I was a lieutenant colonel at that time, so I had a little better quarters.

H: I see. OK. And as far as closet and storage space in your house, the Wherry house, did you feel that it was adequate?

G: Well, it was, you know, basically because my daughter didn’t have much with a baby. She didn’t need a lot of things. So, we were able to use the closet space in her room for any overflow of clothes or things that we had. Although we didn’t have that many clothes at the time. In other words, I was a junior officer and didn’t have that much to spend on clothing. But we seemed to have gotten by with the space that we had in there.
H: So, did each of the bedrooms, the two bedrooms have a closet?

G: Yes, they both had a pretty good-sized closet in both bedrooms.

H: OK. And then, I guess, was there a front-hall closet or any closet in the main room?

G: I’m just trying to recall that. I can’t recall that. There may have been, but I don’t really remember.

H: And in the kitchen, do you have a general understanding of whether that space was adequate, the storage space?

G: I think it was more than enough shelf space in there for our pantries. And we had room for a washer and a drier. Up in the kitchen area, there was connection places there where we could do that. And that was good to have it with a three-month-old baby.

H: Oh, I’m sure, yes.

G: (LAUGHS) Because you didn’t have the throwaway diapers in those days. You had cloth diapers.

H: Oh, right. Right. So then, you had a washer and drier. And was that provided?

G: Well, no. We had a washer. I didn’t have a drier. We did all our washing. But we had an area between the Capehart – or between the Wherry housing units there were driers, one of these spin driers, poles –

H: Oh, poles.

G: -- yeah, that you can hang clothes on, and it goes around and around. Rather than long clotheslines, it was a spinner-type. And they were well-used. All of the neighbors all did the same as we did.

H: Mm-hmm. OK, so each unit had its own spinner.

G: That was for outdoor drying. We didn’t own a drier. We owned a washing machine, but not a drier.

H: OK, so they provided the connection, and you provided –

G: Right. They had the connections there, electrical and the outlets.

H: I see. OK. And then elsewhere in the kitchen, you said there was a pantry, and then I assume there were some cabinets for dishes and stuff.

G: Right. And we had a stove with an oven, I would say a regular-sized electric stove. It wasn’t gas. Electric. And we had a refrigerator. And that stove and refrigerator were part of Wherry housing. We didn’t have to buy that. We didn’t have to do that.

H: I see. OK. And was there any other storage space, like any kind of a, I don’t know, extra room?
G: I don’t remember any storage space outside, if you’re talking about an outside storage. I don’t remember it. And there might have been some storage space in the attic, but I don’t remember that, either.

H: So you’re not sure if there was an attic? Is that what you mean?

G: No. Like I say, we had very limited furniture and things like that. We were basically just married.

H: OK. Well, speaking of outdoor space, was there a carport?

G: No. There was – in the, let’s see, I’d say an offset on the street. You didn’t have to park on the street, but there was a place to park that had been cut into the sidewalk so that your car wasn’t on the street but it was not covered.

H: OK. I see. And so there was no outdoor storage either.

G: No. Not to my knowledge. I cannot recall any. I know that if you got on the base you would have had a garage and you would have had some outdoor spaces. I do know that. But once again, that was on-base housing, and it was not part of Wherry or Capehart.

H: I see. OK. Well, in regards to children, I know that with your daughter having been so young, that you didn’t need things like playground quite yet.

G: No.

H: But in general, did you think that, just as a parent, did you think that the area was adequate for children?

G: Well, I would say, you know, by the time she was two, she could play outdoors. And there was no, there was plenty of room for her to run and ride her tricycle on the sidewalks and things like that. We had a slide for her out back that I rigged up, and things like that. So it was – the area around it was play area, but it was not a playground as such.

H: I see.

G: There may have been some there, but, you know, at that young age, we weren’t taking our child or letting them go off at two years of age to a playground, if there was one available. She just stayed around close to the house.

H: I see. And so, did you get an impression, a positive impression from the other parents who maybe had older children that it was, whether it was a good place for children?

G: Well, most of the parents’ children were the same age as ours. They were various – two, three years of age. And like I say, they were young Marine officers like I was. Their families were young. There was no more senior type. Now, like I say, if you’d been on the base, you’d have seen the more senior officers with older children, where you might have seen them. I never had that to contend with or look at. I didn’t see it – in fact, when we moved out to California, it was really the first time I could say our children got away from home with an area to play.

H: OK. But in your particular area, there was enough room in a kind of backyard area for you to put in a slide?
G: There was a front yard and a back yard. There was plenty of room to play for the children, for a small child, in other words.

H: I see. Now, back inside the house, I guess one of the objectives of this housing when it was designed, in general, was to provide an open floor plan to create an idea of spaciousness and allow family members to get together easily and allow parents to watch their children, sort of more conducive for families. Did you have this open plan? I guess you did mention that the living room and the dining room were together.

G: Yeah. We did have that.

H: Did you – and again, I know that you were a very young family, and you didn’t have a lot of people. But did you feel that the layout and the plan, the design were conducive to family life in that way?

G: Yeah, I thought so. We weren’t even, ever felt crowded or anything like that. When the weather was bad, there was plenty of room for the little girl to play.

H: OK. Did you like how the living room and dining room were, you know, sort of one big space?

G: Yes. There wasn’t any problem with that at all. In other words, we didn’t have that much furniture. We had a couch and some chairs. And then of course, we had a table and chairs for dining. And we had, I guess you could call it some kind of a dining table for our daughter that we could put her in, and so it was fine.

H: And the design of the neighborhood, did that help you feel a sense of community with the neighborhood? You know, the housing together, layout of the neighborhood, did it foster a sense of community?

G: Well, it did in the fact that everybody that lived around me were normally of the same rank that I was. And they might not have been in the same unit that I was a member of, but they went to work every morning like I did, and they came home at about the same time I did, and other than the duties that they pulled on base, they stayed in the general area. They weren’t people who left the area, left where they were living to go elsewhere.

H: I see.

G: In other words, we had good neighbors on our right, and good neighbors on our left, and across the street we knew them. So the camaraderie was there, and all of the wives could of course get together and commiserate on their family problems while the husbands were at work.

H: (LAUGHS) Perfect. I guess, I mean, it seems like from what you’re describing that people could see each other from across their back yards, and it didn’t seem like, it just seemed like, also, too, everybody coming home could see each other, and leaving could see each other.

G: That’s right. In other words, you knew when a person was, you know, everybody basically left at the same time, came home at the same time. But you knew if somebody was on a Med cruise that their family was there, and you sort of took care of them.

H: What was that word? Med?
G: Med cruise, in other words, the Marine Corps kept a battalion in the Mediterranean.

H: Oh, OK.

G: They would leave Camp Lejeune, or the Camp Lejeune area, and they would be deployed for six months in the Mediterranean. And if they were gone, like I say, the husbands would be gone, but the wives and children would stay there and live in the quarters available there. And everybody knew whose husband was gone, so the wives would sort of help take care of any needs. Basically, they got along real well.

H: OK. And so how did – I guess – maybe I’m getting at some sort of abstract concepts here, but did the neighborhood help foster that camaraderie?

G: Well, I would just think it was because we were all in the same service and we all went to the same base, so the camaraderie was there. Whether we had known each other before or not didn’t make any difference. In other words, we had all been to similar jobs or similar places, and we’d served in, you know, where would we be? Like I came from sea duty, and before that I’d been in Quantico, Virginia, and before that, I’d been to Korea, and before that, Camp Pendleton. So I’d been to a lot of places as a bachelor. And I knew that the rest of my career would be spent on many, many bases and things, so when I got married, I had to indoctrinate my young wife on this. Of course, she wasn’t too hard because she was a Navy nurse. She understood some of it.

H: As far as your home in reference to the rest of the neighborhood, how would you characterize your level of privacy? Did you feel that the housing provided you enough privacy?

G: Oh, yes. It was a private place. Nobody was looking over your shoulder. And you mentioned behind the house. Well, actually, we had some ground behind our house, but there was nobody, no other quarters behind us. There was a big drainage ditch behind us.

H: Oh, perfect.

G: And from behind that drainage ditch was some woods, so there was nobody there behind us. And it just sort of ran behind the quarters. Now, that was not true of the quarters across the street from us. They did have people backing up to them. And there would be back yards that they could – not that they were fenced or anything, but they had similar back yards where they used the same back space. But I didn’t have that problem.

H: Right, with the drainage ditch. So was there fencing that separated the back yards?

G: I don’t think so. Like I say, I really don’t.

H: But you still felt that there was enough privacy where you could have your own space and people weren’t able to really look in or notice.

G: That’s correct.

H: Just back to the outdoor space, just to make sure that we’ve got that clear, there was front-yard space, green space, and backyard space. Did you have any, like a porch or a little patio in the front or the back?
G: No, it was just basically a slab, the entryway in the front and a slab entryway in the back. I’d say 4 feet by 6 feet slab in both places.

H: OK. And was the back door just a regular door?

G: Regular door.

H: No patio door.

G: No patio door.

H: OK. And did the units – did you have, just along the lines of this idea of openness, did you feel that you had enough windows? What kind of a view of the outdoors did you have?

G: Well, each of the bedrooms had two windows, and the kitchen had two windows, and the living-dining room had two windows. So there was plenty of light to come in.

H: Oh, that’s good. So you felt like you had enough windows.

G: Oh, yeah. Yes.

H: Another intent of this program, Wherry and Capehart housing programs, was to create this suburban environment, and what kind of feeling would you say the outdoor environment created as far as a suburban environment goes? Was there a lot of landscaping? Was there kind of winding streets? How would you describe the environment?

G: The streets were winding. It was not block. They were winding. The landscaping was not very much. We had a small growth of a tree that wasn’t very big in our front yard, and so did our next-door neighbor. But they weren’t hardly any growth at all in the way of the trees. They were new planted. That’s why I feel like I may have been one of the first – we might have been one of the first couples to live there. It might have been that the Wherry housing was no more than four or five years old, is what I’m trying to say, because the trees were so small. There wasn’t any really landscaping in front.

H: Just a couple of trees, small trees?

G: Yeah, little trees. To my knowledge, I was trying to see if there was any plant life around the front of the house or anyplace else, but I can’t recall it.

H: And the back yard, was there –

G: It was open. It didn’t have any trees or anything, but across the drainage ditch there was more than enough trees there. They were big trees.


G: It was vacant, right. It was something that was not developed. It was undeveloped.

H: I see. OK. And was it, would you say it was a suburban environment?

G: Yes. Definitely, but it was like I say, to us, it was just off-base housing. We were not a part of Jacksonville, North Carolina, which of course is the town closest to Camp Lejeune.
H: You’re making the point that you were not part of the town. You were just part of the military –

G: We were just in the land that was between Jacksonville and the base itself. The quarters were that far away.

H: I see. OK. And also, so overall, it was an appealing place to live, the appearance, the landscaping, and the environment?

G: At that time.

H: OK. And another aspect of this housing is that it reflected the government’s desire to provide housing that wasn’t excessive or overly costly.

G: That’s right. It wasn’t elaborate, by any means. It was just enough to take care of you, and you had to make do with what they provided. And if you wanted any additional things like a washing machine or an air conditioner – in other words, we had no air conditioning, so I had to go out and buy an air conditioner. And it was a window unit that we had to put in. The heat that we had, and I was trying to be sure of what it was, but I think it was a gas heat. It was a stove located near the kitchen. But it was the only heat we had in the whole house. There wasn’t a furnace or anything like that that pumped hot air throughout the house.

H: OK, no furnace, just an actual stove?

G: Yeah, a big stove.

H: OK. That was the heat source.

G: That was the heat source. And we had one air conditioner, and we had that in our room, in our bedroom.

H: I see. OK. So the stove, was that like kind of one of those old-fashioned stoves?

G: It was sort of like, it wasn’t like a pot-bellied stove that you would put logs or coal in, but it was an older-type stove. And I’m really trying to remember whether we had to have fuel oil to heat it, or whether it was gas. But I think it was a gas stove, natural gas.

H: Oh, my. OK. And so, was there any other evidence that you remember of the government’s attempts to economize? For instance, some of the housing that we’ve seen, some of the cabinets did not have doors?

G: No, no. As far as I can recall, all of the cabinets in the kitchen or in that area had doors.

H: Would you say that, was there any other examples of attempts to economize, or are you thinking of the amount of space or the types of materials that were used in the construction?

G: I was trying to think of what the materials was. As I recall, there was sort of a stucco.

H: On the outside?

G: On the outside. I’m not positive about that. I think there was, though.
H: OK. So what gives you the impression that this housing was economy-type housing?

G: Well, you could tell it was all alike. If you came into the housing area, you’d see a duplex, then a single house, and then a duplex, and a single house, and duplex all along the street. The single house was no larger than the duplex together. In other words, the duplex together would be larger than the single house. But it served two families, where the single house only would serve one. But they all had basically the same floor space – I won’t say floor plan, but floor space.

And like I say, if there were any larger than two bedrooms and one bath, then I just don’t remember. I’m sure there must have been some, but I can’t remember them, because most of the families that were living there were young families. They were not with older children.

H: I see. OK. And did this kind of economy type of approach affect your opinion of the housing?

G: No. To me, it was better than trying to go out and find a place on the civilian market. If we’d have had to do that, we’d have had to go into Jacksonville, and Jacksonville, North Carolina, did not have at that time the houses necessary for junior officers, like I was, that we could afford, for one thing. And they didn’t just have enough to take care of them all. If Wherry housing had not been built where it was at, I don’t know where I would have had to put my wife and child. It was just a big savings. Even though we looked forward to going on the base, base housing was so limited that it really made a big difference.

H: Yeah, definitely the different Congressional hearings and examinations of the issue before the Wherry housing was built went into all the detail about how a lot of service members were being taken advantage of by high prices and very inadequate housing on the civilian market.

G: That’s correct.

H: Now, as far as the physical features of the house, you mentioned that it was a one-story duplex, two bedroom, one bath, combined living room-dining room, and a kitchen. What do you remember about the physical features?

G: Not a lot.

H: Pardon me?

G: (LAUGHS) Not a lot.

H: OK, yeah. Like when you entered, did you enter into the living room?

G: No, you came in and you came into – the kitchen was to your left, and directly ahead was the dining room-living room. And then there was a small hallway that went off to the right. And when it went off to the right, there was a bedroom and a bathroom and the other bedroom were to the right. And that was the layout.

H: I see. OK. So then it was in a square? A total layout of a square?

G: I would say it was a square. Of course, like I say, it was a duplex, so it would have been a rectangle.

H: OK, the whole building footprint was –
G: The other side of the duplex was identical to what we were in.

H: So it was like two squares coming together into a rectangle.

G: That’s right.

H: OK. Did you have any kind of features like a fireplace or anything like that?

G: No, no.

H: What physical features of the house did you like, and what features did you dislike?

G: Well, of course, once again, my wife and I had nothing to judge it by. We did not expect that we’d be living in housing like we had lived in in a civilian community. We didn’t expect that. We were both hoping that we would be able to move onto the base, the base housing, but it appeared that the time I was there was such, it was two years. And by the time we came up to go on to the base – there was houses available – I had orders to go to Bainbridge, Maryland, so there was no use for us to pick up and move to the base for two or three months. And we didn’t.

So, we really didn’t have a lot to compare it with. It was larger and roomier than the one we lived in, the apartment over the – the attic apartment. It was larger than that. But once again, we were fairly well away from the base, and therefore you needed to use the facilities, the commissary and exchange, to make your money stretch. And if you did have to go shopping, I think that there was a, I won’t call it a shopping center, a grocery store or filling station or something like that that was located right near where the Wherry housing was at. And you could drive there if you had to make some type of quick purchase.

H: So, but as far as – I mean, I know that maybe it’s fuzzy at this point, all these specific details – was there anything like a particular amount of counter space in the kitchen or some kind of nice wood floor or any particular feature that you can remember that you liked?

G: I can remember that it wasn’t wood floors. I can remember that we had linoleum floors. And the housing was on a slab, in my estimation. It was a cement slab, and they just put linoleum down. And we put in throw rugs in the bedrooms, and the living room, and the dining room areas.

H: So no particularly memorable physical features that were just outstanding. OK. Any features of the house that you didn’t like?

G: Well, like I say, it was just a place to live. And we didn’t have that much to compare it with.

H: Sure.

G: Now, when we moved from there up to Capehart housing up in Bainbridge, Maryland, it was a little better. It was two stories. They had four units, two downstairs, two upstairs units. And as I recall, they might have had some hardwood floors there in Bainbridge in the Capehart housing, but once again, that’s hard for me to recall everything on even it, because we lived there from 1957 to 1960.

H: OK. Well, is there anything else that you wanted to add about your experience living in this Wherry housing at Camp Lejeune?
G: Well, I was glad to have it. I'll guarantee you that. It was something that I was very glad to have. I had nothing to compare it with, like I say, as I went into it. But it was something I didn’t have to worry about. It provided us a place to live.

H: OK. And I meant to ask you earlier, did you have a career field during your military service?

G: Yes. I was an infantry officer.

H: Infantry officer.

G: Yes, and I retired as a colonel.

H: OK. So your career field during your military service was infantry officer.

G: Right.

H: OK. And then when you lived in this Wherry housing, you were a captain.

G: That’s correct. I was a company commander at that time.

H: Company commander.

G: Right.

H: Is that the same thing as captain?

G: Yeah, well, no. Captain was my rank, but I commanded a rifle company.

H: I see, so that’s where the infantry officer comes in.

G: Right.

H: OK. And then, do you happen to have any photos of that time period of the housing or the neighborhood.

G: I really don’t think so. My wife and I had a 50th wedding anniversary a couple of years ago, and our children, who are in their 50s now, they took a lot of our photos and things, tried to give us a book of memorabilia. They took all of them and didn’t return what they didn’t use.

H: OK. Well, if anything else comes up that you remember, you know, you may feel free to give me a call, or if you have anything else to add, or you happen to stumble across a photo, feel free to give me a call.

G: Be glad to.

H: OK. And I want to thank you for your time, and actually, one last question is, what was your rank when you first enlisted?

G: I was a second lieutenant when I first went into the Marine Corps. I went in there from the Naval ROTC at the University of Texas is how I got my commission.
H: OK. Great. OK, well, again, thank you very much for contacting us, and just on behalf of the Air Force and the Navy — Navy specifically, I suppose — I just wanted to say thanks for your participation, and really appreciate your comments. They’ll be helpful to us in documenting the history of this housing.

END
DONALD B. LEACH

Ms. Chris Heidenrich, M.A., a historian with R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., conducted a recorded interview with Donald B. Leach via telephone on 21 August 2006. Mr. Leach was interviewed for a project sponsored by the Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Navy to document the history of military family housing constructed under the Wherry and Capehart programs between 1949 and 1962. Ten other former residents of Air Force and Navy Wherry and Capehart housing were interviewed. A historic context, neighborhood design guidelines, and a tax-credit brochure also were completed for the project.

Donald B. Leach served in the U.S. Navy from 1949 to 1974 as a surface warfare officer specializing in undersea surveillance. He entered the Navy as an ensign and retired as a commander.

The Leaches resided in Capehart housing at Naval Facility Cape Hatteras, North Carolina from 1965 to 1967 while Mr. Leach held the rank of lieutenant commander and was commanding officer of the base. Mr. and Mrs. Leach and their two children lived in a one-story single-family detached house consisting of four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living room, a dining room, a kitchen, a sun porch, and an attached single-car carport.

CHRIS HEIDENRICH: This is Chris Heidenrich interviewing Donald B. Leach on August 21, 2006. OK, the tape is on, and if you wouldn’t mind just acknowledging that you know that you’re being recorded, I’d appreciate it.

DONALD B. LEACH: I acknowledge I’m being recorded.

HEIDENRICH: OK. Great. Thank you. Well, first, I just wanted to thank you for participating. You’ve been really helpful. I appreciate all the photos and the floor plan that you mailed me, and of course all the biographical information. It gives us a lot of good information that we’ll include with our materials. I’ll include it at the end of your interview.

LEACH: I hoped the floor plan would add a little bit of something to give you a feel for what it actually looked like inside.

H: Yes. It definitely does. It definitely does. I wanted to just get some, make sure I’m clear on all the biographical information and then ask you a couple other biographical questions. OK, first, you were in the Navy. You served from ’49 to ’74, and you lived at Capehart housing at Naval Facility Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. That period was ’63 to ’67.

L: No, that period was ’65 to ’67.

H: OK, that’s what I was just going to ask. I think there was some confusion. So you lived in the housing from ’65 to ’67.

L: Yes.

H: OK. As commanding officer?

L: Yes.

H: I see. OK. So ’63 to ’65 is not part of this?
L: No. No, no. I was on board a ship during that period.

H: I see. OK. What was your – I know you were a commanding officer. Is that – I guess commander, is that the rank that you were when you lived there?

L: No, I was a lieutenant commander at the time, but I was in charge of the base.

H: OK. And what was your career field during your military service?

L: Well, most of the time, I was a surface warfare officer, and my specialty was undersea surveillance. That was the mission of the naval facility at Cape Hatteras. It was part of a network of 26 or so similar stations around the East and West Coast of the United States and in the Caribbean that tracked via underwater listening devices the movements of Soviet submarines.

H: I see. OK. Well, that sounds really interesting. I did do a little online research, and I saw a little bit about that. And what was your rank when you entered the service? Did you enter with a commission?

L: Yeah, as an ensign.

H: OK. And that’s an officer position?

L: Yeah. That’s the lowest of the low officers. (LAUGHS)

H: I see. OK. Now, it looked like that housing area maybe was, I’m sure the base was not very large. And I don’t know if that housing area had its own name, or was it just referred to…

L: No, it didn’t have a name. It was just the quarters, the family quarters at the Naval Facility Cape Hatteras. We had 60 acres of land in the property that was owned by the National Park Service. We were kind of tenants in their property, one of these long, long leases. And at the time – this was before they moved the Cape Hatteras lighthouse – we were about, oh, 100 to 150, 200 yards from the old Cape Hatteras lighthouse.

H: OK. So it was, just like you said, a smallish sort of base, 60 acres.

L: We had about 150 enlisted people and about 17 officers, and I’d gather close to 200 dependents.

H: OK. So then those were the, were those the only family quarters on the installation?

L: Yes, they were. The only other housing was the enlisted barracks, and the bachelor officer quarters.

H: OK. OK. Now, your house was a single-family detached, right? You said you lived in one of the five…

L: Yes, single-family detached. There were five units like it, officer housing, and then there were 22 units of the duplex, all single-story ranch.

H: OK. Yeah, I was reviewing your e-mail correspondence this morning, and I noticed that. I’m glad you said that, because I was just going to read that. And I guess just to add that, they were made of cinderblock with decorative redwood siding panels?
L: They were made of partially of cinderblock and partially of lumber.

H: OK. And they had attached carports?

L: Yeah. In the single-family, the carports were at one end. And in the duplex, the dual carports were right in the center between two units.

H: Oh, OK. OK. And, now, your family. I saw some nice family photos in your submission there.

L: (LAUGHS)

H: (LAUGHS) Nice to see just kind of the impression of some family life. How big was your family?

L: At that time, we had two. We had one that became eight years old while we were there, and one that was three. Two boys.

H: And now, realizing that your high position at that time, some of these questions maybe were more designed for people who were enlisted before they lived in the housing and didn’t have very good quarters to choose from, but I’ll just ask anyway and just get an impression of what your experience was like. What type of housing did you live in before you lived in this Capehart housing, and how did it compare?

L: Well, the Capehart housing was about as nice a housing as I’ve ever lived in, aside from the house I’m in now. It definitely would – in fact, well, to quote my wife, she said she could have lived there on and on and on.

H: Oh. That’s a good reference.

L: Yeah. We had just come down from Portsmouth, New Hampshire. And for a couple of years in Portsmouth, we lived in a second-story apartment, an old, old building, and then we moved – our second son arrived during the time at Portsmouth, so we moved to a ranch-style detached house in the suburbs of Portsmouth.

H: Oh, not military housing?

L: No. Neither one of them were military.

H: Oh, OK. So even though you were officer status, it sounds like you didn’t have a great deal to choose from as far as housing.

L: No. We just went on the economy of each place we lived. Prior to Portsmouth, we had lived in half of a home in Castine, Maine, that was built in 1812. And our half of the house had 13 rooms.


L: Yeah, $75 a month.

H: I suppose at that time, that was quite a steal. So, now, then, would you say that your living conditions changed dramatically when you moved to Capehart?
L: They did change, but the housing was an improvement. The remoteness of the base makes it a little difficult down there. But this base was so well planned out and organized, with all of the facilities of a major base, only on a small scale. We had twice a week, sometimes three times a week, deliveries from the commissaries in Norfolk and the exchange system. We had our own medical department. We had visiting dentists that came in. We had a movie theater, a bowling alley, a fire department, our own ambulance for the base. It was very, very complete.

H: Well, that’s very good, then, that you were able to take advantage of all those accommodations. So, did your family, you and your family, including your kids, generally like living in this housing?

L: Oh, yes, we loved it. And the two sons loved it because there was so much for them to do, and they had the freedom of the base, and we didn’t really worry a great deal about them because there were so many sets of eyes of all the people living there and of the security features of the base that kept them under control.

H: So it sounds like the housing felt like a home to your family.

L: Yes, very much like a home. And it was, I think, to all of the enlisted people who were there during that time. I correspond with many of them still, and they always talk about how great it was to live there.

H: Oh. So everybody felt like there was enough space, and people felt comfortable with it?

L: Yeah. There was plenty of space in all of the quarters. We had a couple of families for a while that had five or six children, and they were a little cramped, but aside from the ones with big families, it was more than adequate.

H: Well, that’s nice that people had that opportunity. How about compared to the civilian sector? Do you know how your housing, either your own house or what you know of the enlisted housing, how did that family housing compare to what was available at that time in the civilian sector?

L: It was much superior to anything south of – well, let’s say within 60 miles.

H: Is this because, I guess it’s just small towns around, that there just really weren’t very many options?

L: Yeah, that was it. There were little towns of 100 or so people or less scattered all along the Outer Banks at that time. Nowadays, it’s just a massive array of condominiums for miles and miles and miles. But back then, you could go north of where we were about seven miles to a little town called Salvo. And the post office at Salvo was six foot by six foot, a little shack sitting on cinderblocks.

H: Wow, that’s small.

L: Yeah, and the nearest big village was Hatteras Village, and there were probably, year-round, probably 200 or 300 people.

H: Oh, OK. Yeah. So it sounds like there just really weren’t, for a family, with…

L: No, they weren’t set up for just going out on the market and renting. We always kept track of available rentals along the, within, say, ten miles of the base, because we did have people that weren’t, they were married but couldn’t get on base because we only had a limited number of units.
H: And I know that, as far as going back into your own house, the privacy issue. Did you and your wife feel like you just both each had enough privacy, where, I know the children wouldn’t quite need as much. But did you both feel there was enough?

L: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. Plenty of that. Each of the boys had their own room, and then there was a bathroom for them, and of course, we had the one quarters. I used the spare bedroom – there were four bedrooms there – I used the spare for kind of an office.

H: Oh, how nice. Yeah. That’s right, I meant to verify that, too. You said that your house was four bedrooms, two baths, a living room, dining room, kitchen, sun porch, and a single carport. Is that right?

L: Yes.

H: OK, and then the living room, one wall, solid-brick wall with a raised-hearth fireplace.

L: Yeah, you could see that in that picture.

H: Yeah. Very nice. And let’s see – kitchen provided with a washer and drier, dishwasher, and room for a table for two. (LAUGHS) So I guess you always ate in the dining room, huh?

L: Yeah.

H: Now, storage space. Curious about, did each bedroom have a closet, or where was the closet space?

L: Yeah, each bedroom had a big closet, more than ample for things that we had to put away. And then there was a closet out in the hallway, and then the two working closets out in the carport. And they all had doors, the cabinets all had doors, the cabinets in the kitchen. Plenty of room to store all the kitchen utensils.

H: So you said there were two closets in the carport?

L: Yeah.

H: What did you use that for, things just like outdoor equipment?

L: I had a lawnmower out there and gardening tools, because one of our rules was that everybody looked after their own yard. And the base, the base personnel did all of the maintenance and repair for the quarters. And after each family moved out, then we showed the new family coming in the options on colors for paint, and we repainted.

H: Outside or inside?

L: Inside. Because, you know, some people didn’t care for blue, and others didn’t care for just a plain color, so we gave them a chance to decide which color they’d like to have to go with their furniture.

H: And so, there was a hallway closet, a closet in each bedroom, and storage space in the carport.

L: Mm-hmm.
H: That does sound like a lot. Was there any kind of an attic or anything?

L: No. There was an attic, but it wasn’t anything usable.

H: Oh, OK. I actually had somebody who lived in a Wherry house who – it was like a duplex, and someone was up in their attic and their foot went through the ceiling.

L: (LAUGHS)

H: So, yeah, they were messing with an antenna or something, so definitely not usable. Well, in regards to your children, did you think – it sounds like you think the house was adequate for children. Did you feel that – did everybody think that, and was the neighborhood a good place for kids to grow up and live?

L: Oh, yes. It was a great place. There were, you know, baseball fields, softball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts.

H: Was that provided by the development, within the development?

L: No, that was on the base itself. But the kids had, with the exception of a couple of working spaces like generator buildings and the operations building, the kids had the run of the base. You never knew where they were going to show up.

H: Oh, well, I guess then it was a very safe environment, people felt.

L: The only problem that we had to deal with as far as the children and dependents and enlisted and officer people were that that area does, in fact, have copperhead snakes, timber rattlers, and cottonmouth moccasins. And I was in continual go-around with the National Park Service biologist because, in the spring, when the weather started to warm up and the snakes came out, I had a patrol of a Jeep with a driver and two men going around. And they were armed, and their job was to, in the morning and in the afternoon, look for and eradicate snakes. And the park biologist, of course, insisted that snakes were there before we were and had the right of way.

But we only had one dependent that suffered snakebite during the time that I was there.

H: Oh, that’s good, did they get – were they OK?

L: Oh, yeah. A lady. She reached into a pair of her son’s shoes that were left outside the door because of our sand, and there was what they call a canebrake rattler in the shoe, and it bit her hand. And so we got the snake and we got her, and we sent them both 125 miles up the road in our ambulance to the hospital in Elizabeth City, and that took care of that.

H: That’s good. I guess she figures better her hand than her son’s foot. Even though I’m sure it was very painful, I’m sure she was glad to not have it be her son’s foot. So, what kind of yard space was there, then, just going along with the places for kids to spend time? Was there a back yard and front yard?

L: Oh. (LAUGHS) The whole area was available for kids to play. Our particular yard was about, I’d say 80 feet by about 40 feet deep.

H: OK. And now you were saying that it was landscaped, right? You were able to plant grass?
L: Yes. Mm-hmm.

H: Now, so, then, it was, I guess it's kind of, the installation was located on a spit, so it was pretty sandy, right?

L: Oh, everything was sand. But during my time, I managed to beg and cry enough to a couple of the big seed companies that they started shipping me grass seed for free. And out of our 60 acres, I think we got close to 40 acres with grass growing. It was a major – everybody said we were crazy, we couldn’t grow grass in sand. But we did. And one of the things that did was to cut down on the problem we had with carports that would get six and eight inches deep in sand during sand storms. When the wind came up, it would blow the sand into the carports.

H: OK, because they were obviously completely open.

L: Yes.

H: OK. Wow, that’s definitely part of the, you know, negotiating with Mother Nature wherever you get stationed, I guess.

L: We had a lot of that down there. And we had a lot of negotiating with the Coast Guard. You can see in the picture of our quarters that it had those front windows in the living room, and we looked out at the Cape Hatteras lighthouse. And we watched the light at night, but occasionally, it would lose power, and the tourists – and there were a lot of them in the summer, 50,000 a week – would call the Coast Guard. And the Coast Guard would give them my phone number at home to get the light fixed.

H: Oh, even though you really didn’t have anything to do with the…

L: Oh, no.

H: I guess that’s one of the things you have to deal with when you’re in leadership.

L: Their commanding officer was tweaking me.

H: Oh. Well, just back to your house, in regards to some of the ideas behind the design of this housing, one of them was to provide these open floor plans to create a feeling of spaciousness and let people gather easily and, you know, let also the parents interact with their children and keep an eye on their children. It sounds like maybe your housing did this. I mean, it was a ranch, and it looked pretty open. Would you say that was the case?

L: Oh, yes. The floor plan was very open except when you got back towards the bedroom area, which was where you wanted your privacy. But you can see in the floor plan the dining room and living room could be accessed like one large room, and then right off the corner was the screened porch.

H: OK, yeah. I see that. Yeah. And right, a lot of these places have the open living room and the dining room, and I see that here. And then, of course, the hallway going off to the bedrooms. And did you – you’ve kind of touched upon this a little bit. The sense of community, was there, did the housing and the layout of the neighborhood and the design help create a sense of community?

L: Oh, yes. We were like a big family. And we were very meticulous. On Friday afternoon was zone inspection. And we divided base up into about four different sections. And I inspected one, and the executive officer inspected one, and we picked two other officers to make an inspection of the other
two. And the quarters were included in that inspection. We would come around and look and make sure that our residents were keeping their homes nice and tidy. We had trash service from a contractor, came through and picked up trash right in front of each set of quarters once a week. And we had good, fast fire response. My youngest son one day pulled the fire alarm for our residence and caused quite a stir when the fire truck and all of the emergency people showed up. (LAUGHS)

H: Yeah. So that was a false alarm?

L: Oh, yeah. He was riding around on a tricycle and saw this box, red box on the telephone pole, so he climbed up on the seat to investigate, and reached up and pulled the handles.

H: Oh, whoops. So, then do you think that, I guess did the neighborhood, like the housing itself and the neighborhood foster that? Or, some people have told me, well, gee, you know, we already, we all had the same job. We all were kind of doing the same thing. We were all in the same boat. So it didn’t matter really that much where we lived. But did the housing play a role in that at all, this community, this sense of community?

L: I think this housing allowed people a lot of flexibility. There was an area about the size of a baseball field right in the middle of the quarters where the kids used to play. They could put up kites. They could play baseball or soccer or whatever they wanted out there.

H: It sounds like a suburban subdivision.

L: It really was. Then we kept things fairly busy on the base. Two or three times – I guess three times a year, we would hold an “all hands” get-together. Maybe one of them would be a fishing contest, and then in the evening after the contest, we’d have a big fish fry.

H: Oh, that sounds nice.

L: And then we had a luau, where we actually got a couple of young pigs and roasted them over the fire, and we had Western night, and then we had celebrated the Navy birthday with a ball. And the sailors all got dressed into their dress uniforms and let the wives get their hair all fancied up and get some nice long dresses. We tried to do things like that and with the kids because we were isolated.

H: The base was isolated.

L: Yeah, it was 150 miles south of Norfolk, and out there, if you look at a map of the Outer Banks, you realize it’s pretty remote on our little spit of land. Just north of the base by a couple of miles, there was an area where between the ocean and Pamlico Sound it was only about 200 feet, so you could stand in the middle of the highway and throw a baseball into the ocean or into the Sound.

H: Oh, OK. Very nice. So then basically the whole base was kind of this family, and then of course the neighborhood, the design of the neighborhood encouraged that as well, played into that.

L: Yes, very much so.

H: OK. Well, especially with the central area for the kids, that definitely – and I think, too, I see some of the roads and the cul-de-sac, just the non-grid format of the roads.

L: Just that long road down, and the base, the housing area was not, you didn’t have to go through security to get into the housing area. But the secure controlled entry onto the base was only about 50
feet below that road you see going into the housing, which meant that the guards on the gate were able to keep an eye on the whole housing. If you look at that photograph with all of the writing on it, and you see that long row of housing with the road coming into the housing area, right where that road meets the, at the end, towards the ocean, you’ll see a little tiny building, and that was the guard location. And this was nice because, this way, people could have friends that came to visit without having to go through a guard-type of evolution.

H: Kind of, maybe a little intimidating.

L: Yeah.

H: OK. I see. Well, I’m sure that definitely did provide a nice environment for people, and safe, and that’s good. Now, as far as your house and maybe how other people felt as well, how would you characterize your level of privacy in your house in reference to the neighborhood? Did your family feel like you had enough privacy within the neighborhood?

L: Oh, yes.

H: Like the people weren’t right on top of each other, or the housing? People couldn’t look inside readily?

L: No. You notice how you have that long row of housing. You can see that it’s separated nicely from the base and has the road out front. There was no crowding up of houses like they’re building nowadays, where they’ve got these McMansions that are ten feet apart.

H: Right. Right. Also, I’m sure it helped that the carports were in the center of each duplex so that it was kind of a way to separate the housing, maybe.

L: Yeah, and you’ll notice that as you look at the roofs of these, there were different designs to the houses, so it wasn’t all like a whole bunch of houses that had been just plopped down on the ground all being duplicates of every other one.

H: Didn’t look like institutional.

L: No, not at all.

H: OK. I’m sure people appreciated that, too. So then people felt like they had enough privacy.

L: Yes. And this was shared because it isn’t just my thought. It was the common feeling, because we did hold, periodically, meetings with all the residents just to see what issues, if any, they had, and what things they would like to suggest being done.

H: So you were able to learn how people felt about their housing.

L: And of course, periodically, we would ask them if there was any objection if we, during a zone inspection, we just randomly picked two or three houses and they gave us unqualified permission, come on in. Come on in and see how we live.

H: And then in regards to the landscaping, we talked about the grass. I see that your house had some bushes in the front and on the side there. Were there any trees? It looks like there weren’t that many trees.
L: Hatteras is not noted for trees, except for when you get into the middle of this particular island.

H: OK, right. If it’s right on the coast, I guess there wouldn’t really be any trees.

L: There’s a lot of low scrub. The lower part of that map or picture with all the writing on it, you’ll see ground cover. And that’s probably five- and six-foot, just kind of gnarled old pines and really tough, tough – looks like big bonsai, most of it.

H: Oh, OK. So did you think that the landscaping that was provided was enough to make you feel like, you know, it was a nice, appealing-looking place to live?

L: Sure.

H: OK. Well, I guess part of that was, you know, the whole suburban approach to kind of trying to create a suburban-style environment. I know that was one of the general ideas behind this housing as well, is to try and create this type of suburban environment.

L: Yeah, and you’ll notice in that photograph of my quarters, taken from the opposite side of the circle, you’ll notice the grass. We did get it growing.

H: Definitely. It looks like it’s pretty healthy there. One other thing I was wondering about was economy. The housing was intended, as I’m sure you’re aware, to be providing – it was intended to serve the purpose of providing housing but not be excessive or ornate or, you know, costly. And I was wondering if you noticed any evidence of attempts to economize. I don’t think it would be in your house, but like some houses early on didn’t have cabinet doors or stuff like that.

L: There were no indications anywhere in our quarters – and I refer to our quarters as the 27 units – of any attempt to economize. But they weren’t overly done. They were just nice. They were – and they were finished out so you felt like you had a home rather than just a building that had been thrown there. You see the little trelliswork next to the carport in the picture. All the houses had these.

H: Oh, wow. Even the enlisted housing.

L: Oh, yes.

H: I think a little touch like that is something that maybe was added to Capehart housing. Because it sounds like the people I’ve spoken to who have lived in Wherry housing, the earlier program, were, didn’t quite have some of those details, so that definitely makes it nicer.

L: Before we moved here, I mentioned we were in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. And a couple of, two or three times we were invited to the homes of some of the ship’s officers who lived in Wherry housing at Kittery, Maine. And really, that was grim. They were small. They were cramped. There, you saw the economy. But I suspect part of it was that it was a different era when they were built.

H: Exactly. Right. Just right after the war, when that got started, versus the late ’50s when the ideas were sort of advancing around what people needed for housing.

L: Well, those Wherry units even had lots of structural problems and leaks in plumbing and electrical problems.

H: Somebody told me they called their Wherry housing “weary” housing, like w-e-a-r-y.
L: (LAUGHS)

H: They moved into it a few years after it had been built, so a couple of other families had already lived in it. Well, I appreciate the picture, and I guess I was wondering, I obviously see the physical features of your house, but was there anything besides the trellis that you just mentioned that would be distinctive, that you would consider particularly memorable?

L: That jalousied porch. That was a great place during the winter because it warmed up very nicely with the sun shining. And it was a great place for the kids to play. That’s where you see the birthday party going on there. And that became a play spot for a lot of the neighborhood kids.

H: OK. Any other memorable physical features?

L: Well, the fireplace in mine. And a couple of things that weren’t so memorable, we listened to TV down there. Of course, that was before you got all these fancy big TV antennas and cables. So we very seldom had a picture, but we had sound. And the other thing was that any time you started a fire in that fireplace, you had to make sure you turned the thermostat way down.

H: In your house.

L: Yeah. Because otherwise, when the furnace came on, it would draw the air down the chimney and smoke out the house.

H: Oh, right. Yeah.

L: Oh, the kitchen also, you know, had the refrigerator and all that stuff in it.

H: Were those appliances all provided, or did you have to provide like…

L: Oh, no, they were all provided.

H: And what about for the other service members who lived in that development?

L: Same thing.

H: Oh, the washer and dryer was provided?

L: Yeah.

H: Oh. And you mentioned about a couple of the physical features there, but was there anything else that you didn’t like, other physical features?

L: No. (LAUGHS) The sand getting in the carport.

H: Right. Did you consider the housing attractive?

L: Yes, all of it. I think you can see it in the background on some of the pictures during that visit by the two captains. And that’s exactly the way it – those are the duplex units. You can see the double carport in the center. And you can see the siding on them, and you can see in the one with the two captains showing, you can notice that on the left house, you can see that they’ve got a jalousied porch, too. And that’s all enlisted housing.
H: Oh, that’s nice that an enlisted house had the porch as well. So in general you would say that people were happy, not only your family but all the other service members and their families generally were happy with this housing?

L: Yes, I think they were. When they looked at the alternatives out of town, they became much happier. The only ones that weren’t happy were the ones that I don’t think really felt very happy about being in the service.

H: Oh, OK. So they had other problems as well.

L: Yes, and it wasn’t anything to do with the base or the housing.

H: Yeah. And particularly as the commanding officer, you felt that the housing was adequate to meet the needs of your personnel and kind of helped the Navy and the installation serve its mission?

L: Oh, yes. I had a very high re-enlistment rate.

H: Oh. Do you think the housing played a role in that?

L: I’m sure it did.

H: That’s interesting, because definitely very early on before the Wherry program started, there were some different letters and memos that surfaced in the different hearings about poor housing, and it said, I just had my valued such-and-such employee resign from further service, and he said he and his wife can’t stand the house that they live in.

L: No, this housing, the base was commissioned initially in January 1956. And this is the way it looked, of course, about nine years later.

H: OK, so you know that it hasn’t been, it had not been remodeled before you got there.

L: No. And it wasn’t afterwards. The only thing that was added afterwards was the TV tower. Now, the base was closed in June of 1982, and the quarters and the base itself, less some of the operational buildings, were turned over to the Coast Guard, and it became their headquarters of the Coast Guard group Cape Hatteras. And their people took over the housing. And a few years later than that, one of those big, massive hurricanes came along and took the roofs off about half of the housing. And I gather the Coast Guard decided it would be too expensive to replace all the housing, so they turned the housing back to the National Park Service. And however the operation came about, it is now – that area where you see the housing is now a gated community of two- and three-story townhouses.

H: Oh. Totally – did they demolish everything, then?

L: Oh yeah, it’s gone. Competely.

H: Oh, wow. Now…

L: I speak from recent knowledge. I spent a week down in the area last April and took the opportunity to drive down to the base, and the caretaker, Coast Guard caretaker – they’ve even moved off the base now, but the caretaker gave me permission to go around through the old base and take pictures.
H: Oh, I’m sure that brought back many memories.

L: Oh, it sure did.

H: Yeah. So now, you did not have anything to do with the contractor who built the housing, right?

L: No.

H: OK. Do you know when it was built?

L: Well, it had to be in place sometime in 1956.

H: OK, for the base to open.

L: Yeah. Now, the base did open a little bit prior to all of the facilities being completed, and the first people that arrived were officer and enlisted with no families, and they lived in tents.

H: Oh, really? Wow. Sort of like the previous century.

L: Yeah. And that was while the base was being completed. See, the base, it was complete. We generated our own electric power, we had our own waterworks, we had our own sewerage treatment. We had everything that a major base would have, only in a miniature scale.

H: Oh, OK. So, very self-sufficient.

L: Yeah.

H: Yeah. Well, I believe that’s everything I wanted to know. Is there anything else you want to add about, you know, your own house or the other part of the Capehart development?

L: I was just looking through my notes here. Well, let’s see. I guess not.

H: OK. Well, if you think of anything else or if you happen to stumble upon even more photos or maps or whatever, feel free to give me a call, and I’ll be happy to accept those as well. And I thank you very much for your time and your insights, and I appreciate the photos and everything.

L: Well, I’ve got other things that I’m going to dig through, and if it’s any written stuff I can just fax it and send it up. I’ve got the fax number on the letterhead

H: OK. That sounds great. We’ll be probably completing this work by October, if that gives you a sense of what our deadline is.

L: Yeah. I was thinking here – I’ve got one little note. Possibly the only weak link in this whole little base, and it always concerned me, was medical. We had excellent talent, independent hospital corpsmen, but there’s a limit as to how much an enlisted man can do. And the nearest hospital then was 125 miles away, so we wore out ambulances at about two-year intervals.

H: Well, with all the dependents there, the kids that you were mentioning.

L: Well, it wasn’t so much the dependents. It was the fact that that area receives about 50,000 tourists a week. And the tourists were continually getting in trouble. They were getting into the surf and
drowning, they were getting snakebites, they were stepping on broken glass, you know, all the myriad of medical problems that people generate, mostly by their own carelessness. And so, nowadays, it’s changed because they have a hospital, a 40-bed hospital, and good medical facilities. But we did get a doctor in while we were there, as resident in the village of Hatteras. And we immediately put him on our bowling team.

H: (LAUGHS) Make friends with him.

L: (LAUGHS) And we had excellent rapport with this doctor, which helped a great deal.

H: Oh, that’s good. Yeah, I’m sure that provided a little more service there that was missing. Well, great, I’m really happy that you have such a good memory. And I appreciate your time and sharing all this great information with us.

L: Oh, here’s my note. My answer to one of your questions, number 15: one of the nicest places we have ever lived in, except for our current home. I’m sitting here right now in my little study on the second floor of the house, looking out into 500 acres of woods. And those woods are the, George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate.

H: OK, I was there recently. I think I know…

L: We share the property line with them.

H: Oh. Boy, yeah, that’s beautiful out there.

L: Oh, yeah. In fact, the day before yesterday at dinnertime, we had six wild turkeys out back and two buck deer with all their antlers all showing.

H: Oh, that’s nice. It’s nice to commune with nature that way.

L: That’s the location that I ended up at after – returned from the Navy, I worked for TRW in Mclean, and then when I retired from them after 15 years, I went to work over here at Mount Vernon, and I was the dockmaster in charge of the waterfront and the wharf.

H: Oh, yeah. I visited there recently, and I remember that part.

L: You want to get back in October or November, because the new education building will be opening. That’s all that construction.

END
Figure L.3. Rear elevation of Capehart housing, in background, at U.S. Naval Facility, Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, 1956-57. (Courtesy of Donald B. Leach)
Figure L.4. Front elevation of a Capehart house at the U.S. Naval Facility, Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, 1956-57. (Courtesy of Donald B. Leach)
Figure L.5. Unscaled floor plan sketch of commanding officer’s quarters, U.S. Naval Facility, Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, 1965-67. (Courtesy of Donald B. Leach)
Figure L.6. Labeled aerial view of U.S. Naval Facility, Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, 1956-57, with Capehart housing located at mid-left. (Courtesy of Donald B. Leach)
Figure L.7.  Aerial view of U.S. Naval Facility, Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, 1956-57, with portion of Capehart housing located at mid-right. (Courtesy of Donald B. Leach)
Figure L.8. Aerial view of U.S. Naval Facility, Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, 1956-57, with portion of Capehart housing located at mid-left. (Courtesy of Donald B. Leach)
Figure L.9. Interior views of the Capehart residence of Donald B. Leach, who lived there with his family while serving as commanding officer of U.S. Naval Facility, Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, from 1965 to 1967. (Courtesy of Donald B. Leach)
Ms. Chris Heidenrich, M.A., a historian with R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., conducted a recorded interview with Jerome Levy via telephone on 18 August 2006. Mr. Levy was interviewed for a project sponsored by the Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Navy to document the history of military family housing constructed under the Wherry and Capehart programs between 1949 and 1962. Ten other former residents of Air Force and Navy Wherry and Capehart housing were interviewed. A historic context, neighborhood design guidelines, and a tax-credit brochure also were completed for the project.

Jerome Levy served in the Medical Corps in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1947 and 1957 to 1975. He entered the Navy as an apprentice seaman in the V-12 program and retired as a captain.

The Levys and their three children resided in the Arundel Estates neighborhood of Wherry housing outside Naval Station Annapolis, Maryland, from 1959 to 1960 while Mr. Levy held the rank of lieutenant. Mr. and Mrs. Levy and their three children lived in a six-unit building, in a two-story unit consisting of three bedrooms, a living room, a dining room, a kitchen, and a bathroom.

CHRIS HEIDENRICH: This is Chris Heidenrich from R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates interviewing Mr. Jerome Levy on August 18, 2006. All right, the tape is now on, and if you wouldn’t mind, could you please indicate that you know you’re being recorded.

JEROME LEVY: I know I’m being recorded. My name is Jerome Levy.

HEIDENRICH: Great. Thanks a lot. And just first of all, I just want to say thanks a lot for taking the time to participate in the interview. I’m looking forward to hearing about your experience. I appreciate your also sending the paperwork. I got some good biographical information from that. Basically, you served in the Navy, and from ’44 to ’47 and ’58 to ’75.

LEVY: Active duty from ’44 to ’45, and reserve from ’45 to ’47. Well, actually, it was longer than that, but that’s not important.

H: OK. And then you resumed service in ’58.

L: Actually, ’57.

H: ’57, OK. And what was your career field during your military service? I guess something medical, right?

L: I was in the Medical Corps. Originally in ’44 and ’45, I was in the V-12 program, the officer training program.

H: What was your rank when you lived in Wherry housing?

L: Lieutenant.

H: OK. And when you first enlisted, I know that, I see that you were in school, so did you enlist as an officer?

L: Officer training. I was an apprentice seaman in the V-12 program. That’s V as in Victor, 12.
H: OK. And you lived in Wherry housing at Naval Station Annapolis from 1959 to 1960.

L: Actually, it was not on the Naval Station property. It was adjacent to the academy. The Naval Station was across the river, across the Severn River.

H: OK. I can visualize that. And that was Arundel Estates, right?

L: Right. We called it A-Run-Down Estates.

H: Oh, I heard that from someone else. And what type of quarters did you live in, like single-family detached or duplex, or –

L: It was a rowhouse with six units.

H: And how many stories?

L: We had two.

H: So it was a two-story building that was in a rowhouse form with a unit kind of one after the other?

L: Yes, except that the two end units were single-story, one-bedroom units.

H: OK. And did you live in – how many bedrooms was your unit?

L: Three.

H: Three bedrooms. OK, and I assume that was two stories. One of the two-story units.

L: Yes.

H: OK. What other rooms were in your unit?

L: We had a living room, dining room, the kitchen, and the three bedrooms, and all I can remember is one bath, for some reason. I don’t think there was more than one bath, but I’m not sure.

H: Wow, for three bedrooms. Wow. I’m finding that – we found that many of the Wherrys only had one bathroom, and I think that was one of the improvements they made when the Capeharts were built. And so it sounds like maybe you had some children. Who was in your – who did your family consist of?

L: Let’s see. At that time, we had three children.

H: OK. You and your wife and your three children.

L: Yes.

H: OK. And what were approximately the age range of the three children? Like are we talking infants or young teenagers?

L: No, they were young. No, no. I think the – let’s see. I think I had one 9-year-old, and about a 4-year-old, and an infant.
H: Oh, OK. That’s quite a range. OK. And just to start out with talking about the housing that you lived in before you lived in this housing, was that military housing?

L: No. It was civilian housing, and it was in Newport, Rhode Island. It was in an old house, but it was quite adequate, and, I mean, it was really old. And the living conditions didn’t change dramatically when we moved, but I think they were an improvement. In addition to which, the housing at Annapolis was convenient to the place of work.

H: Oh, OK. So it was right outside the base. OK. So you’re saying the Wherry housing was a dramatic improvement from this house in Newport.

L: As far as condition, yes. It was kept up pretty well.

H: OK, I see. And in general, did you like the Wherry housing? Did your family feel like the housing met your needs?

L: It met our needs quite adequately. Nothing spectacular, but certainly adequate. And we felt comfortable. I think it was equivalent to the housing in the civilian sector. And space was sufficient. Of course, we would have liked to have had another bedroom.

H: Sure. I guess one of your children – or two of your children shared a bedroom.

L: Yes. The two oldest. And other than that, there was privacy. In other words, the bedrooms were upstairs, and all the other rooms were downstairs. And the storage space, which is your next question on your sheet, I can’t remember much about the closets, but I will tell you that we have never been completely satisfied with the amount of closets, no matter where we were. We did have attic storage space, and it was adequate. We did well. We didn’t have cartons lying all over the place.

And it was adequate for the children. We would have liked to have had another bathroom, obviously. The neighborhood was great for the kids because there was a swimming pool down the road in the complex. I don’t know whether that was mentioned by other people.

H: No. Was that built by the developer?

L: Yes. And it was down near the entrance to the development, and it did belong to the development. And it was great. That’s where I think two of our kids learned how to swim. And in addition to which, as far as schooling was concerned, there was a private school, an Annapolis private school up to the lower grades, nearby. And it was strictly for the Navy people, and it was pretty good.

H: Oh, OK. Now, when you say private, did you have to – you paid a tuition, your own?

L: I believe we did. I’d have to check with the Mrs., but I can’t remember paying much, if we did. I remember the kids actually were taking French, and this is before – this is preschool. By that, I mean a kindergarten-type thing. And they were teaching them French. (inaudible) foreign language.

H: Wow. And so this school was separate from the base altogether. It was –

L: I think it was on the golf course, near the golf course. And it was convenient enough. I believe we delivered the kids there ourselves. I don’t remember a school bus. But it was a great school.
H: Yeah. It sounds like it. So this was a totally private school that wasn’t affiliated with the base, for –

L: It was on Navy property, but the Navy did not run it.

H: Oh, OK. I see. Now, just to go a little bit more into detail about the children, did they – you mentioned the swimming pool. Your property, your individual property, was there enough yard space for them?

L: Well, it’s funny. It was a common space. There was no divider between the various unit back yards, so it was one big back yard. So the kids socialized with each other quite well in the back. In other words, they played with each other in the back. And there were quite a few kids. And I remember we had an inflatable pool in the back, and the kids could splash around. And I remember one of my sons kept picking on a young girl that was next door, the Connollys (PHONETIC). I remember the names of everybody in the housing development when we were there. And especially in our unit. There was George Connolly next door, and there was the Hockmans (PHONETIC) on the other side of us. Then there was the LaSources (PHONETIC) that were on the end unit, no kids. And so, there was a sense of community, obviously.

H: Yeah, definitely sounds like it. Now, I’m finding people are saying even though you had this suburban-style development where there was these common spaces for people to gather and these attached units where people were not on these half-acre, isolated lots, but still it was more the fact that you were all in the same boat as far as your professions and your stations in life that made the camaraderie happen, rather than the neighborhood.

What’s your perspective? Did the neighborhood, like the design or the layout or the amenities play any role in creating this camaraderie?

L: Well, our unit was particularly close, and by that I mean the six units. And I’ll give you an example. They had a common TV antenna in the attic, OK? And there was no flooring in the attic. They had the joists, you know, up there that you could step on. And our neighbor – and I won’t name which one – felt that it was ridiculous for the management to charge us for the use of the antenna, which is what happened. In other words, it was a common antenna for our unit. So he took it upon himself to go into the attic and rewire all the antennae so that we all could get the signal on one charge. So that was how close we were.

In the process of which we had a hysterical event, because he fell through the ceiling of our unit stepping in between the joists (inaudible) floorboard that was the ceiling. Came through halfway. And so we were downstairs, and we heard this tremendous crash, so we ran upstairs, and there’s this flashlight playing on the floor, and George – oops – sticking halfway out of the opening in the ceiling: “Where am I?”

H: Oh, no.

L: We were pretty close up there. And we’re all in the same boat, as you said. When, for example, when it came to Halloween, we all dressed up, we had a party at our unit, I remember, then we all peeled off begging for drinks at all the other units. So it was pretty funny. The neighbors across the street, the Waltmyers (PHONETIC), he found an old boat, and several of us reconstructed the boat with the half that was left, and we worked on it all together. When we launched it, he got in it, and it immediately sunk, but we fixed it again.
H: In the Severn River or something?

L: Yeah. There was an offshoot near the housing units.

H: Oh, OK.

L: As far as the privacy was concerned, it was fair, I would say, because when my neighbor played his hi-fi, we could hear the base come thumping through our house. But otherwise, it was OK. You could hear an argument, you know. But you couldn’t hear too much noise. We would have liked some more sound-proofing.

But I would say the amount of outdoor space was adequate. There was some openness between the kitchen and the dining room so, you know, you could pass food through. And the area was large enough for us to have a party. I can remember that.

H: In your home?

L: Vividly. Yeah, we have movies that reconstruct the events for us, you know, if we see that. That’s how I have a memory of all this stuff, even though it’s over 40 years. But if it wasn’t for the pictures, I don’t think I’d remember all this.

H: So you mean like photos, or you said movies.

L: I have photos and movies.

H: Oh, OK. Home movies, did you say?

L: Yeah. Indoor and outdoor.

H: Oh, great.

L: So, another example of things that were funny that we appreciated – I don’t know whether you want anecdotes.

H: Sure, yes. It sounds wonderful.

L: OK. Well, the front of the house, the living room, had a number of mullions in the windows, you know, that divided into small panes. And what we did was we took a piece of graph paper, and we copied one of Moreau’s Christmas card paintings. And we copied from the graph paper onto the mullions – I mean, using the windows, rather, using the mullions as squares so that we could copy it pretty exactly. You know what I mean? It’s like transferring something like paint-by-numbers type of thing. Because if you had it on the graph paper and used the square on the graph paper as the equivalent of a pane of glass, you could transfer something pretty easily.

So we won a prize one year, which is hysterical, for that Moreau painting. When the committee started to leave, they said, incidentally, what is it supposed to be? They weren’t familiar with Moreau, I guess, but anyway.

The views that we had were zilch, except that we could see the neighbors across the street. And that was about it.
H: You mean where there wasn’t really a lot of landscaping?

L: No, the postage-stamp front lawn, you know. Thankfully, somebody else mowed it. You know, they came around with the gang mowers and mowed all the lawns at once. The upkeep was good.

H: OK. Now, were you living there at the time that the contractor still operated the property, or was this the government that operated it?

L: You know, I don’t know. And frankly, I didn’t care, as long as it was kept up. I really can’t remember.

H: Yeah. The government – the Wherry program was where the contractor was supposed to own the buildings for 50 years, and then the government would take them. But that changed, and the government decided to buy up all the Wherry properties and took them over.

L: What year was that?

H: I would say it was in the mid-’50s when they decided to do that. When they made changes to the Wherry program and started the Capehart program, that was supposed to be one of the improvements is that the contractor would no longer own the building. They would just turn it over to the government right when it was finished.

L: Yeah, I guess that was true when we were there. That’s maybe why it was kept up pretty well.

H: And so the landscaping, were there any trees?

L: No. None that I remember.

H: No trees. Or any small bushes in front of the house?

L: In the back – no, not in the front, but in the back, there were, sort of a screen from whatever was behind us. So that added to the privacy, not between units or between different sets of units. There was no privacy there. You could go from one to the other.

H: OK, like back through the back yards or the front yards?

L: Yes.

H: So there wasn’t any little fence separating in any way the units?

L: Don’t recall that at all.

H: Was there any patio space or porch space?

L: Ha. You’ve got to be kidding. There was a small concrete slab in back of the back door. And I remember my wife used to feed our kids back there. As a matter of fact, it was like a sidewalk running in back of all the units, and that came up to where the back steps were in the mudroom. It was a laundry room.

H: Oh, there was a separate laundry room.
L: Yeah. We called it a mudroom, because that’s what it was.

H: Now, did you have a washer and dryer back there?

L: I believe so. Yeah.

H: And that was – you provided that, right?

L: Yeah. I don’t recall the Navy providing it. I’m pretty sure it was ours. I wouldn’t swear by it. There was no air conditioning, and it was in Annapolis, if you know what I mean. Because you’re in Washington, you’re nearby. So that made sort of – we had fans. There was no – well, I mentioned no downstairs bath, which was rather inconvenient.

H: To always have to go upstairs.

L: But the neighbors – I can remember another incident we had. An Academy graduate was our next-door neighbor, and he used to get upset with us doctors. He considered us non-military. So he would conduct, on the front porch, he would conduct shoe-shining inspections for the two doctors that were in our unit.

H: Oh, wow, to teach you the proper, theoretically.

L: Learn how to spit-shine. Of course, I knew how to do this from way before because I had been in the line. I had a line commission originally, so I sort of giggled at it. The guy next to me couldn’t give a darn. He was a (inaudible), what they called a (inaudible). And so George had to take him in hand.

So, what we didn’t like was what I mentioned: no downstairs bath, no air conditioning. We did like the rather open feel in the house.

H: And did you mention, was the living room and dining room sort of together?

L: Contiguous.

H: OK, yeah. It seems like that’s the way it typically was. Now, about the economy question, did you notice any – I know you kind of touched on some things. Did you notice any other examples of attempts, the government’s attempts to economize?

L: I thought that one of their attempts to economize was having no fences, because then they could simply do their landscaping by going from one house to the other in a continuous line. Same for the back. There wasn’t much to take care of back there. And I thought that this was their economization. Except I don’t remember – you asked about the closets, and I don’t remember whether they had doors or not. And I imagine they did. I think they had sliding doors.

H: Oh, OK. I think some of the kitchen – in some areas, the kitchen cabinets didn’t, occasionally didn’t have doors.

L: I don’t think that applied to us, but I’m not sure. That wasn’t my department.

H: OK. But just to touch on the kitchen, actually, come to think of it, was it just a typical, you know, refrigerator, stove?
L: No compactor, none of that.

H: Yeah, sink, et cetera.

L: Nothing spectacular. Utilitarian, if you want to put it that way.

H: Did your wife, do you recall her complaining or commenting in any way about the space, like the, not only the cabinet and shelf space but things like the counter space or not enough room to move around?

L: No. It was a small kitchen, but yeah, I remember a couple of times – she likes an island in the kitchen, and I don’t think there was any such thing. That type of thing. At that time, we needed something like a compactor because we had a tremendous amount of garbage from three kids. We later had four kids, and of course, we increased it by another third. But at the time, we could have used more.

H: Sure, yeah. Do you remember anything else about the physical features about the house? Like was there any particularly striking, I don’t know, architectural detail or building material?

L: I told you about the mullions. There was a direct entry into the living room, as I remember. There was no hall leading in. I don’t recall any hallway. In other words, you open the door, and bang, you’re in the living room. And most people usually like to have a hall closet there. If we had a closet, I don’t recall.

H: OK. OK. And was there any parking? A garage or a carport or anything?

L: None whatsoever. That was another inconvenience feature, which I completely forgot about until you mentioned it. We had our car, we had our one car at that time, I think, parked outside in the street.

H: OK. No special spot created or anything?

L: No. There was absolutely nothing of that kind. And we would have liked to have had that.

H: Sure. Well, even though Annapolis is not known for its winters, I’m sure that it got cold enough at times where you would have preferred to have –

L: Well, there’s a story about that, too. When it snowed one or two inches, everything closed.

H: Yeah. I’m from Chicago, and I’ve definitely noticed that. It’s amazing.

L: Paralysis. And nobody knew how to drive in the snow, that’s for sure.

H: Yeah. So it was just a space, just a spot on the street, no indentation in the curb or anything like that.
L: No, or anything like that. I’m surprised nobody mentioned that swimming pool. I thought that was great.

H: Yeah. Actually, I only heard from one other person in Arundel Estates, and I’m not interviewing them because they lived there a little bit later than you, and I decided I wanted to interview someone a little bit earlier than them.

L: I have other stories about – well, I don’t know. When George went through – whoops, I keep mentioning his name. When he came through our ceiling, he says, don’t tell anybody. Well, of course it went all over the Academy grounds. And in fact, it reached the ward room, where I used to take care of the – what do you call it? – the auxiliary living ship that held the stewards for the base.

H: Did you say “ward room” earlier?

L: Yeah. It had a ward room on board. The ship had no engines. It was just moored there. And a ward room is where, you know, the officers sleep and eat. And so it was all over the base that he had come through. This guy was in charge of, second in charge of all the eating facilities. He was on the supply corps (phonetic). And the story went that he came through the ceiling and interrupted lovemaking in the bedroom and used his flashlight. The next day, it was all over the base. All he did was tell one person. It was a chief that was working for him. And the whole – they thought it was hysterical. So the story got magnified and went through the whole base in one morning.

H: Oh, that’s funny. (LAUGHS)

L: But anyway, he was very straight-laced. He was the Academy graduate. And so what he did is, he says, don’t tell anybody. We’ve got to paint over the ceiling. And of course, the paint he got from the maintenance people – I guess it must have been Navy – the paint he got from the maintenance people didn’t match the paint that we had. So when we moved out, he showed up on our doorstep the day we were moving. He says, do you mind if I come in and paint the spot that I covered because it doesn’t match. And when they have the inspection, they’ll wonder what happened.

H: Oh, no. Wow. That was at least conscientious, I guess.

L: He was very conscientious. But we didn’t ask for maintenance to repair that. And oh, yeah, he would run around disconnecting antennae from other people that moved in so that nobody would be suspicious.

H: Trying to cover his tracks. Oh, gosh.

L: That’s funny.

H: Yeah, yeah. Great. Well, I think you touched on most of the questions. I guess we talked about just noticing the privacy. I’m curious about your children and their overall impression. I mean, I’m sure the two older children maybe didn’t want to share a room necessarily, and I guess you kind of mentioned that, but were they satisfied with the amount of space and the privacy?

L: Oh, yeah. They didn’t know much better. But they did play a lot in the back with the neighbors, you know, the neighbor kids. And they enjoyed that very much.

H: Oh, that’s good. And was there any, did you put any playground equipment back there, or did anybody?
L: Yeah, we did. Remember, I mentioned the blowup swimming pool? You know, one of those horrible things you blow up. We had that, and I think we had a couple of swings back there that we put in. I don’t remember the Navy supplying any. But we did our own. It was a community.

H: Yeah. Gee, it sure sounds like everybody pitched in and made a group effort.

L: Oh, yeah. Some hysterical events, of course, like I told you.

H: Yeah. Great. Well, is there anything else you’d like to add about your experience there?

L: No, except that I think the fact that we were all in the same boat, so to speak, made the living there much more enjoyable. And you touched on that when you first asked your questions. And I think that made us feel comfortable. The house, it was adequate, nothing spectacular. But it certainly served the purpose.

H: Yes. It seems like that’s everybody’s general impression. But I’ve only talked with people who lived in Wherry housing, so perhaps the Capehart people will have…

L: Better?

H: Yeah. Apparently, you know, that was supposed to be a little bit…

L: I hope they had air conditioning.

H: I can’t remember what the policy was. I think there was a policy for certain, they had a certain temperature level for a certain number of days a year, and then they would qualify for air conditioning.

L: I’m surprised we didn’t. (LAUGHS)

H: Yeah. I would be surprised as well.

L: Well, it was early in the century – well, mid-century. Maybe that was one of the reasons. Remember, this was, well, what, ’59.

H: That makes sense.

L: Yeah. Not everybody had air conditioning then.

H: Now, you had mentioned, I think, when I very first spoke with you that you had some photos. And if you’re willing to share those, if you want to make some copies, or if you need to have me make copies, I’d be happy to do that.

L: I could have copies. I think I have more movies than anything else. Then I would have to go researching in thousands and thousands of pictures we’ve accumulated.

H: Oh, OK. OK.

L: Remember, I’m ancient. I have my 80th birthday coming up.

H: Oh, congratulations.
L: Thank you. I’d have to look.

H: Sure. If it works out, feel free to contact me, and I see you did check for the Library of Congress that you have movies, so maybe they would contact you separately. That’s a separate thing.

L: It’s up to them?

H: Yeah. OK, well if you think of anything else to add, feel free to contact me, and I thank you very much for your time.

L: Well, you’re welcome, Chris.

H: OK. Take care.

L: OK.

H: OK. Bye.

L: Bye.

END
DAVID L. PATTON

Ms. Chris Heidenrich, M.A., a historian with R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., conducted a recorded interview with David L. Patton via telephone on 17 August 2006. Mr. Patton was interviewed for a project sponsored by the Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Navy to document the history of military family housing constructed under the Wherry and Capehart programs between 1949 and 1962. Ten other former residents of Air Force and Navy Wherry and Capehart housing were interviewed. A historic context, neighborhood design guidelines, and a tax-credit brochure also were completed for the project.

David L. Patton was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force from 1952 to 1984. He entered the Air Force as a pre-cadet and retired as a brigadier general.

The Pattons resided in Wherry housing at Lockbourne Air Force Base, Ohio, from 1955 to 1964 while Mr. Patton held the ranks of second lieutenant, first lieutenant, captain, and major. Mr. and Mrs. Patton lived in a four-unit building, in a two-story unit consisting of two bedrooms, kitchen, living room, dining room, bathroom, mechanical/storage room, and a rear detached garage. Later during their residence in Wherry housing at Lockbourne AFB, the Pattons lived in a three-bedroom home. During their residence in Wherry housing, the Pattons had two children.

CHRIS HEIDENRICH: -- just acknowledge that you’re being recorded.

DAVID L. PATTON: I’m being recorded.

HEIDENRICH: OK. And you’re David L. Patton, and this is August 17, 2006. Well, first of all, I just want to get some biographical details out of the way. Oh, first, though, very first, I want to just say thank you for your time. I really appreciate your being willing to participate in the project. Looking forward to hearing about your experiences.

But about the biographical details, we’ve got the forms you filled out, and you were in the Air Force from 1952 to 1984, and you lived in Wherry housing at Lockbourne Air Force Base. And I know that I accidentally put a different date on your letter, and that in truth you lived there from 1955 to ’64?

PATTON: Correct.

H: OK. Now, what was your rank when you lived in the Wherry housing?

P: Started at second lieutenant, first lieutenant, captain, then major.

H: OK. So this was all during the period that you lived in the housing, during the ’55 to ’64 period.

P: Yes.

H: OK. And did you have a career field during your military service?

P: Pilot.

H: Pilot. OK. Now, what was your rank when you first enlisted?

P: Enlisted before I was commissioned as an officer?
H: Yes. I guess you just kind of started out – I wasn’t sure if some people went to school first.

P: I started out as an enlisted man, but I was designated when I enlisted as a pre-cadet. And I did that for one year, served as one year. Then I went to aviation cadet training to learn to be a pilot, the completion of which I was commissioned as second lieutenant, and also got my pilot wings. That program doesn’t exist anymore.

H: And then, let’s see here. Was there a neighborhood name to the area that you lived in, besides just being known as Wherry housing?

P: No, we always called it Wherry.

H: OK. Some of the areas on the installations had different kind of suburban subdivision-type names. What kind of quarters were they? Single-family, duplex?

P: They were in courtyards attached together, so it would be some had – let’s see, I’m trying to picture – I think it was four with a single bedroom on either end. My particular one was a unit of four, two-story, and there were one, two, three, four, five – five units, making a semi-circle around in the units together.

H: OK. So you lived in one building that had four different units to it?

P: That’s correct.

H: OK. And then your particular area there had five of these buildings like that?

P: That’s correct. They weren’t exactly the same, because some of them had a little one-bedroom attached on either end.

H: Oh, I see. OK. And how many bedrooms did your unit have?

P: When I started, two. But it was renovated while I was there. Actually, we moved among houses. We moved twice in there while they renovated, and wound up with three bedrooms.

H: Oh, OK. So for part of the time you lived in two bedrooms, and then you were able to move to a three-bedroom.

P: That’s correct.

H: OK. And so did you live in the same neighborhood during this period?

P: Close. Within three minutes’ walking distance.

H: OK. And what else was in the unit in terms of rooms?

P: Had a living room with an “L” off for dining. Had a kitchen off the dining room, stairs leading upstairs to two bedrooms, and a mechanical room, which also served as a storage room, and a bathroom upstairs, single, one bath upstairs, full bath. And at the end of the semi-circle, there were two rows of garages, and we had a single-car garage there.

H: I see. OK. And so those garages were sort of grouped together for everybody who lived there.
P: That’s correct.

H: OK. And how many family members did you have?

P: I started with just my wife and me, and two of our three children were born in Wherry.

H: OK. And then, speaking of just trying to get an idea of the way that this housing compared to previous housing you lived in, what type of housing did you live in before you lived in this Wherry housing? Was it military housing?

P: No, we rented an apartment in Columbus, Ohio, awaiting the completion of Wherry housing.

H: OK. And how did the apartment compare to the Wherry?

P: (LAUGHS) Very small. About all a second lieutenant could afford.

H: So then your living conditions changed dramatically when you moved to the Wherry housing?

P: I had a lot more living room.

H: So it sounds like it could be considered an improvement, then.

P: Yes.

H: Yeah. Did you like the Wherry housing in general?

P: We were happy, because my job caused me to either be on home alert, which was like being locked up in a prison for a week, or deploying overseas about every six to eight weeks for three weeks at a time. And it was comforting to have, for my wife to live in a military community close to neighbors in the same situation, because most of us were pilots and we deployed at different times, and there was always a husband home to help with things.

H: So the housing, it sounds like the housing met your needs? Would you say that it met your needs, then?

P: Yes, I was comfortable in it.

H: And was it – like you just said, it was comfortable. OK. That’s one of the questions I wrote down. Do you know – I know that – it sounds like you were quite young when you moved into Wherry, but do you know how your housing compared to housing in the civilian sector, similar housing?

P: Several of my squadron members bought homes. One had three kids, so he didn’t have much to it. They had more room, and a lot of them had garages on their place, fenced-in yards, things like that.

H: So the Wherry was not quite up to the civilian market. Obviously, it sounds like it provided what you needed, but it wasn’t quite as nice or quite as spacious.

P: That’s true. However, the commute was at least 30 minutes to those homes, where it took me about four minutes to get to the squadron operations.

H: So that definitely served your needs in that way.
P: Because it was Columbus, Ohio, and then in the winter, they get some pretty good snow dumps.

H: So, right, driving in the weather wouldn’t be a very good idea. And what kind of storage space was there in the housing? Did the rooms have closets?

P: The rooms had closets. We had adequate closet space, but for all of the other junk that you accumulate, luggage and things like that, it was tight. Storage was one of the weak parts. There was some room in the garage to put some things, but I would not call the storage one of the stronger points of the housing.

H: So besides the closet space, and you mentioned the mechanical room had some room for storage, it sounds like that was pretty much it then, aside from the garage, the room in the garage.

P: Exactly.

H: And, well, as long we’re talking about, just kind of storage, just extra space, how was the kitchen space? Did that have – I know some of the kitchens had pantries. Did you have a pantry, and was there enough cabinet space?

P: I don’t recall my wife particularly complaining about the kitchen. I know dishwashers were new at the time, and we had a portable in there for dishwashing, and it hooked up to the faucet. It was on wheels. And that made it a little tight in space. You were always bumping around that. By the time you got a refrigerator in there, a refrigerator/freezer combo and a table with chairs, there wasn’t a whole lot of room left in the kitchen.

H: And was that your own portable dishwasher, or was that provided?

P: My own.

H: Your own. Yeah. Did you have a washer and dryer?

P: Yes.

H: And that was your own as well?

P: Yes.

H: OK. And it sounds like you – compared to some of the other folks I’ve spoken with who had very young families, it sounds like maybe you had a couple more people in the family, and I was wondering whether everybody felt like they had enough personal space, enough privacy in the house.

P: Well, as to privacy, it was just my wife and me, and we felt OK. Our first two children were quite small, very small. They were both born there, in that house -- in Wherry housing, not that specific house.

H: So the children being small enough, there was enough kind of personal space for everybody to feel that they weren’t real cramped?

P: That’s a true statement. I wouldn’t call cramped the descriptive word for it. And one nice thing, with this huge courtyard out front in the semi-circle of homes, everybody could toss their kids out
there, and everybody watched everybody else’s kids. So there was plenty of room for them to run and play.

H: Oh, that’s nice. Speaking of children, I was going to ask about that next. I’m wondering if you thought that the neighborhood was a good place for children to live. Did it accommodate children, and did your house accommodate children very well?

P: Yes. It was a great place for children. They were safe, traffic was closely controlled, and no high-speed streets or anything to contend with, no animal problems.

H: And was there any playgrounds in the neighborhood, or did you have room for any kind of play equipment in your yard?

P: Yes, there was room, and some individuals put them up, and they were shared by all.

H: Oh. So there wasn’t a neighborhood playground that was provided as part of the neighborhood?

P: Come to think of it, I believe there was a little fenced-in area. I can’t picture it that well right now, but yes, I have to say there was something provided. But most of it was people putting up their own swing sets. Swing sets with the little seesaw and a sliding board were the only things that were vogue in that day, not the big elaborate things that you see nowadays around homes, wooden structures, and things like that. We didn’t have that at that time, at least not where we were. So it was just small swing sets.

H: Yeah. So there was room in the back yard if somebody wanted to put up something like that?

P: Yeah. There was plenty of yard room. There was never a problem with yard room.

H: Now, was it – did people have fenced-in yards, or was it just kind of common back space?

P: Common. The entire area was fenced from the – our particular house backed up to the main gates, and there was a fence shielding the Wherry housing from the traffic at the main gate. But there were no fences for individuals or anything. Some people would put up a little chicken-wire thing or something for a small dog behind their house, but that would be the only thing you’d see.

H: And did people feel that was not an intrusion, in terms of not having fencing provided, that that was acceptable?

P: Yeah. And we all got along together. We were all doing the same job. We were all the same age, the same profession, and we all babysat for each other and partied together. So it was like one big family, rather than a neighborhood.

H: Yeah, that sounds like those commonalities made it easier for everyone to live together. And back inside the house, one of the objectives of the housing was to provide this open floor plan, attempting to create a feeling of spaciousness, kind of based on the suburban ideals of the housing of the postwar, post-World War II period. And I was wondering if your housing was built along those lines. Did you feel like it was open inside?

P: It was very open. You came in the front door, and you could see everything in the living room and the dining room. And there was an open door into the kitchen. And that constituted the entire downstairs.
H: Living room, dining room, kitchen?

P: Yes.

H: OK. Right. And then the stairs led to the bedrooms.

P: That’s correct. And the bath. You had to go upstairs to the bath.

H: OK. And you already kind of touched upon the community, but so I guess is it safe to say the neighborhood fostered a sense of community? Or at the same time I know that it was easier because everybody was doing the same thing. So did the neighborhood play a role in the community, or was it more that people just had all these commonalities already?

P: I’m not real sure how to answer the question. When you say community, what are you referring to, the civilian community surrounding the base?

H: No, you folks in the neighborhood.

P: OK.

H: Yeah. Did everybody – did the housing and the neighborhood help create a sense of togetherness and community, or was it more like everybody had so much in common that it didn’t matter what your housing looked like or how your neighborhood was structured?

P: Oh, I would say probably 60 percent would be the commonality of the community, because although most of us were pilots and did the same thing, there were others, like judges, doctors, and finance officers and things that were not fliers that did not go (inaudible) overseas with the frequency that we did. But they would live in there, too, and they shared our lives with us.

H: Oh, OK. So it was all kinds of people living in Wherry housing that were affiliated with the base, not just…

P: Not everyone was a pilot.

H: I see. OK. Now, as far as personal privacy for your own house, did you feel like you had privacy in reference to the neighborhood? Did the housing provide you enough privacy?

P: Oh, yeah. When you go – if you wanted to be alone, you go in and you close your door.

H: Definitely. I guess, it wasn’t like all the housing was kind of too close together, or people’s windows were on top of each other, or anything like that?

P: No, we didn’t have that kind of problem because of the structure of the housing.

H: You talked a little bit about outdoor space. You said there was enough backyard and front-yard space. Did you have any patio space? Was there maybe a concrete slab or a front porch?

P: Very, very small front porch by the door, enough for two lawn chairs.

H: OK. Anything in the back?
P: No. Nothing.

H: OK. So it was just totally grassy in the back there?

P: Uh-huh. Well, there was a pavement that led from the back door to the garage area, but nothing that you would call a patio or anything.

H: OK. Sort of like a sidewalk, maybe?

P: Yes.

H: OK. And what about the windows? That was another kind of idea behind suburban development of this period, is a lot of open window space. You know, you think of a ranch-style building just having a lot of window space. Did you feel that that was accomplished in your housing?

P: Yeah, there was a lot of window space. It was light and airy.

H: Where were the windows? Each room had a window?

P: At least one, if not two.

H: So you felt that you got sufficient views of the outdoors from inside?

P: Yeah. Like our main bedroom had windows on the – we had an end unit, so we had windows on the side and windows on the back, or the front, I guess you’d call it. Windows in the dining room, windows in the living room, windows in the kitchen.

H: Another thought behind this housing was, in order to make it appealing, was to create a suburban environment. And I was wondering whether the outdoor environment, like landscaping and the way the streets were laid out, whether that created a kind of suburban environment. And did that make the neighborhood appealing?

P: Yeah, it did. They were curved streets, so you could not stand at one end of the street and see all the way, you know, a mile to the other end. There were winding streets and cul-de-sacs, so it lent itself to a development that you would see today, when a developer sets up a homesite.

H: And what kind of landscaping was there? Did you have any trees in your yard, or bushes?

P: There were occasional trees, but not a whole lot of trees.

H: Yeah. Any kind of bushes or anything that touched the house, you know, that were right in front of the house?

P: Neighbors, different neighbors put in different things, so we had little gardens and things like that, but nothing dramatic. Remember that when – I waited to move into these, and these were built from scratch, so at that time, there were no major – they looked like they saved some of the larger trees, but like builders do today, they kind of clean off the place and then start from spare ground up. So there was not a lot of time for big vegetation to have grown. And it was Columbus, Ohio, so you only had three-quarters of a year or half a year growing season.
H: OK. OK. Also, another aspect of the housing was that the government was trying to economize and provide housing that was not excessive or too costly. Did you see evidence of attempts to economize in the construction of the housing or any of the amenities that were provided?

P: Well, it was built primarily, from what I know today, builder-grade materials. There was no luxury-type things in there. But it was pretty basic, but adequate for a young family just starting out. We didn’t have any particular needs that weren’t provided.

H: Did you – some of the housing we’ve seen, some, for instance, some cabinets didn’t have doors, and you know, that was an attempt to economize. Did you see any other examples like that?

P: As I recall, we had doors on our cabinets.

H: Besides the building materials, did you see any other examples of attempts to economize, any specific –

P: Not that I was aware of at the time.

H: Yeah. But everything functioned properly, the windows, and, you know, everything.

P: Well, if anything didn’t function, that was another advantage of living on base. You just called civil engineers, and they sent somebody in a pretty timely manner to repair it.

H: And did you live there during a time when a contractor operated the neighborhood, or had you lived there only after the government started taking over?

P: There was a contract office. Now, the relationship, I’m not real sure, but there was a central office that wasn’t military, as I recall. Now, remember, we’re talking 1955, so give me a break.

H: Yeah. (LAUGHS)

P: But there was a small office near the entrance at one point in time. I don’t know whether that was there the whole time we were there or not. But evidently, that was what you’re referring to, a contractor office. I hadn’t even thought of that until you brought it up this time.

H: So there was a point earlier on in your living there that – I guess if your pay was taken directly out of your – I mean, if your rent was taken directly out of your pay, you didn’t really deal with them unless you had a maintenance issue.

P: That’s exactly right.

H: OK. And then there was a point later where there was no more contracting office?

P: I’m not sure of that. I didn’t know if they were still there when we left or not.

H: OK. OK. But it wasn’t something that you really dealt with very much.

P: Right. Didn’t have a lot to do with them.

H: Yeah. Do you remember any details about the physical features of the house, any of the building materials, or maybe was there any kind of decorative details?
P: They were pretty stark. Not a lot of filigree or anything like that on them. They were very basic-looking houses. Not unattractive, but not anything that would just jump out and say what a Parade of Homes type.

H: And what was the material that your house was made of? What was the exterior?

P: I want to say brick and stucco. It was not wood. It was like stucco.

H: OK. And was there just like a regular gable roof or flat roof?

P: No, it was a gable roof.

H: OK. And so there were no really – I’ve seen some pictures, and it may have been Capehart housing and not Wherry, but a couple fireplaces maybe, or, I saw a picture where one house had kind of wood beams going across the ceiling, kind of a rustic look.

JEAN PATTON (WIFE): This was Wherry, because the Capehart didn’t even exist in Lockbourne.

H: OK. Yes, Wherry. So you had no little details like that.

P: No.

JEAN PATTON: We do have a picture.

H: Oh. I was going to ask, actually, if you were able to create a copy or e-mail it, or if you were willing to do that.

JEAN PATTON: It’s mostly with our kids in front of it. (LAUGHS)

H: Oh, that’s OK. If you’re willing to provide it, that would be great. One last question here. What physical features of the house did you like, and what features did you dislike? And I know that you just got through saying that it was very basic and stark, but does anything strike you as that you particularly liked or disliked?

JEAN PATTON: I guess just from – I’ll answer that since I haven’t been answering any questions. Basically, I liked that – I mean, I was a newly married woman. From the time I was – well, actually, girl, because I was only 19 -- until we left there, so it was the security of being where I was. Not having to worry if something went wrong and my husband was gone. You know, like the plumbing or whatever. It was a little small, even without kids, and it got a little smaller when we had kids. But basically, the convenience of the location, and we had friends and neighbors, and we all could get together, and it was one big happy family, basically, you know, in each court.

It was adequate – oh, and the storage. I definitely think we would need more – today, I would say, oh, my gosh, we didn’t have any storage. At the time, I didn’t have anything, so it didn’t matter. So, you know, it was like the start of his career. When we later went to Tucson and lived for three years in Tucson on base – I honestly don’t remember, I think it was Capehart – we got tired of it because it was small. But that was later in my life. The kids were older, you know. So then we bought a house. I think a lot of it was the times. Of course, in those days, you didn’t work. Women didn’t work because they were officers’ wives, and so they stayed home because that was what they were told to do. And that made it a lot nicer to be on base and have the friendship of the people on base, and we could all get together, and stuff like that. That’s my take on it.
H: OK. So, are there – and thank you for that. And actually, before I forget, Mrs. Patton, could I get your first name?


H: J-E-A-N. OK, great. Thanks. Do you folks have anything else to add about your general impressions of the housing, your particular homes that you lived in, the Wherry housing, and the neighborhood, and anything else to add?

P: No. It was a lot of fun, but now in my older years, I enjoy the privacy of my house here. Though we’re in a neighborhood – we’re not isolated – we’re on half-acre lots. And I enjoy the tranquility.

H: OK. All right. Well, I – let me make sure that I didn’t forget anything here.

JEAN PATTON: Do we have your e-mail address?

H: I’d be happy to give it to you again. Is that how you would transmit the photos is through e-mail?

JEAN PATTON: Yeah.

(TAPE TURNED OFF)

JEAN PATTON: Well, in those days, we only had one car because that’s all we could afford. Everybody only had one car. Everybody, you know, husband and wife didn’t have separate cars. So for a while there, we had just the one car, so it was definitely very, you know, convenient.

H: Right, with the single-car garage.

JEAN PATTON: Well, single-car garage, plus the fact that if I wanted to go someplace, I could just drop him off at work, and there was no problem.

H: Oh, OK. Oh, yeah, right, because it was so close. Great.

P: There’s another thing that, if they want to do another survey, a lot of – well, I don’t know a lot, comparatively, but there are many installations that have historic homes, and that might be of interest, too. We served a two-year term at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming, which was old Army Fort Crook, and lived in a house that had 8,000 square feet and three stories, and it was kind of different.

H: Wow. Yeah, gee, that sounds like quite a change from Wherry housing.

P: My son, as we speak, is the commander of the, in the Navy, the commander of the Point Loma, California, sub base. And he lives in a historic old home that looks out on the water. It’s just a beautiful place. These are all old, old, old places. But there are quite a few of them throughout the United States, and that might be of interest to a historian sometime to gather information about those homes, too.

H: Yeah, definitely. That is sort of along the lines of why we’re doing this. And they hopefully have done that as well with those. And I can’t say that they’ve done it with all of them, but yeah, this is part of some very specific federal laws related to historic preservation, so, to at least know the historic significance of the property. Yeah, historic preservation is part of the requirement.
P: I mean, to me, it was a real thrill because I was the commanding general of the base up there at F.E. Warren, and my predecessor all the way back in the Army during the cavalry days on the frontier lived in the same home. In fact, his office was in the house at that time. But, so, it’s kind of interesting.

H: Yeah. The military definitely has an extensive history of historic properties. Definitely. That’s a lot of, some of our work is helping them document the history of these buildings. Well, thank you again.

P: You’re quite welcome.

END
SHERRY BILLINGS RAMSEY

Ms. Chris Heidenrich, M.A., a historian with R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., conducted a recorded interview with Sherry Billings Ramsey via telephone on 28 August 2006. Ms. Ramsey was interviewed for a project sponsored by the Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Navy to document the history of military family housing constructed under the Wherry and Capehart programs between 1949 and 1962. Ten other former residents of Air Force and Navy Wherry and Capehart housing were interviewed. A historic context, neighborhood design guidelines, and a tax-credit brochure also were completed for the project.

Sherry Billings Ramsey was the daughter of a sonar technician with the U.S. Navy. She and her family resided in Capehart housing in the Anchorage neighborhood at Newport Naval Base, Rhode Island, from 1962 to 1966 while her father was a senior chief petty officer. The Billings family lived in a two-story duplex consisting of three bedrooms, one and a half bathrooms, living room, and dining area. A carport was attached to the unit. The Billings family lived in Wherry housing at Newport Naval Base from spring to fall 1962 while the Capehart housing was being completed.

CHRIS HEIDENRICH: This is Chris Heidenrich from R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates interviewing Sherry Billings Ramsey on August 28, 2006. OK, and if you could just acknowledge that you know you’re being recorded, that would be great.

SHERRY BILLINGS RAMSEY: OK, I know I’m being recorded. (LAUGHS)

HEIDENRICH: (LAUGHS) That’s all I need. Super. Thanks. Well, first of all, I just want to say thank you very much for being willing to participate. It’s nice to have the perspective of somebody who was young and a child at the time of their residence. You know, obviously, we have military people and military spouses. Just good to get perspective on the housing from somebody who was a young teenager like you were. So, thank you.

And just to go over some of your biographical details here, your dad was in the Navy. Now, you said that his rank at the time was senior chief petty officer. Is that right?

RAMSEY: Yes. He was an E-8.

H: E-8.

R: Yeah. He didn’t become a master chief, I think, until we returned to Key West.

H: OK, and so master chief, is that the next level of enlisted?

R: That would be E-9, and that’s the top of the enlisted ranks for the Navy.

H: And do you know if he had a career field during his military service?

R: Yes. He was a sonar technician.

H: OK. Great. And then you folks lived in Capehart housing at Newport Naval Base from 1962 to ’66.

R: Actually, we lived in Wherry housing first.
H: OK, that’s right. You lived there from spring to fall of ’62, right?

R: Right. I think just before school started that year, which would have been 1962, we moved into the Capehart housing at Newport. And the Capehart housing, the unit that we moved in, was brand-new. We were the first family to occupy it after its completion. We were only in Wherry housing because when we got there, there wasn’t anything available for us. And because of my dad’s rate and the number of children, because we had three, and our ages – we were 12, 10, and 7 at the time, I being the oldest – we really were in substandard housing. But we were, you know, we needed a place to live. We were glad to have a place. So they just put us there until the housing that we were qualified for opened.

H: OK. And then you were, like you said, 12, and so –

R: I was 12 when we moved there. My birthday’s in January, and we moved there in April 1962. I was already 12, and I was in the sixth grade.

H: OK. And you were 16 when you moved out, right?

R: Correct. I had just finished my junior year at Middletown High School, and we moved in, I believe, June or July. Because we took leave at the time because we were driving so far, and my grandmother was on the way and everything. We took leave and visited my grandmother, so I know we were in Key West by July or August. Because we waited for housing down there for a little bit, too. Not very long.

H: OK. And now you said that your housing area, the Wherry housing area, was called the Anchorage, or was that the style of the house?

R: That was the name of the place.

H: The Anchorage.

R: It was called the Anchorage. My mom said that the Capehart housing was also called the Anchorage. Because they were right by each other. I mean, one was like the – the Wherry Anchorage housing was kind of in front, I think, of the other, but there were spaces because there were so many streets. But it was all in the same general area. When we moved to the Capehart, we overlooked Newport Naval Base. If you went down a couple of hills and across the street, you could get to it, but of course, it was fenced. But we were actually sort of outside the base. I mean, we were still government property. I’m guessing that, because base housing’s usually always on government property and patrolled, you know, by the government and stuff. But I mean, when we went into our back yard, we could see the Newport Naval Base just down the hills from us.

H: And the Capehart, it was a, I know you said a two-story, three-bedroom. Was that a single-family detached house or a duplex?

R: No, it was a duplex. It was like two townhouses – it was like a townhouse kind of thing with two families. You know, you shared the building, and then there was a wall, the walls between you. And, you know, they were duplicate, but kind of, you know, side-to-side thing. One unit, and then on each end would be your carport and your storage area outside. The middle part would be your residence. It was all one building, for only two families.

H: So it was a two-bedroom, and you mentioned –
R: No, it was three bedrooms.

H: I mean, excuse me, I’m looking at the “two” for two-story. OK. Three bedrooms. There was a half bath off the foyer and then a living room, a dining area, and a kitchen on the first floor.

R: Correct.

H: OK. And then upstairs, a full bath and a walk-in hall closet, and then three large bedrooms.

R: Correct. And downstairs there was a large storage closet, too. Off the dining area, it was kind of like, the way we had our table set up, the stairway going upstairs was kind of to the side. When we were sitting at the table, the side I sat on, my back was to the stairway. And my dad always sat at the head of the table. And where he was at, right behind him was the storage closet. Unless I reversed where he sat from where my mom sat. My mom sat on one end. My dad sat on the other. One of them was right next to a huge walk-in storage closet. There was also a closet as you came in the front door. If you went straight, you would smack right into the wall, and that was like a coat closet. It was big, though. It had sliding doors, and it was real big.

H: OK. So it sounds like there was a lot of space in general.

R: It was. And having, prior to living in the Wherry housing, when we were living in Key West, we lived in a mobile home. And back then, a big mobile home was 10 by 50, 10 by 55. So, yeah, even the Wherry housing seemed kind of like the rooms were large to us. Because we were only used to going, like, fore and aft. (LAUGHS) In mobile homes you don’t – you didn’t used to could go side to side. You can now, because I live in a double-wide now, so you can do that. But otherwise you just spend all your time going back and forth. (LAUGHSH)

H: Right. That’s actually what I was going to ask is the comparison between the housing you lived in before you lived in the Wherry and the Capehart housing. And obviously, it sounds like it was much smaller.

R: My parents raised us to be pretty much grateful for everything you get. And, you know, to kind of roll with the punches. When you’re military and you move a lot, you’ve got to be very adaptable. So, I mean, you know, with five of us in the two-bedroom, it was a little crowded, but you know, we weren’t uncomfortable or anything particularly. You know, we were glad to have a place to live.

H: Yeah. And so then, you said even the Wherry was a little bit bigger than the mobile home.

R: Mm-hmm. Because it had – you know, I don’t really remember a whole lot about it. I do remember the layout sort of vaguely, which seems kind of weird. Because we lived in Jones Street just a few months later in the bigger housing. But I had been sick for quite a while before we moved, and I continued to be not too well. And I didn’t – you know, I went to school for like half a day and then I’d come home, and mostly I just slept. I had mono real bad. And so I was sick. They weren’t even sure when they moved me to the seventh grade, whether – I had missed so much school that whether or not I was going to have to be put back or anything. But I wasn’t, and – that’s why I said, when I went – I hadn’t thought about it in years, and when I, you know, my mom told me about the, my brother saw the thing about the article and that you were looking for people that had lived in housing. And so that was when I really started to think about it again.

And I only had an impression of the first house. You know, I remembered that you came in the door, and you were in the living room, and the kitchen was to the left, and the bedrooms were in the back
with the bathroom kind of between them. But, you know, dimensions, it seems like the living room was a good size. And the bedroom had to be, because we put, like, a double bed in one corner of the room and a single bed on the other corner. And we had, like, wardrobes down the middle of the room, kind of like a dividing line. Reminds me of that movie, “It Happened One Night.” (LAUGHS) With the curtain and stuff.

But, you know, so it, you know, to me it seemed spacious enough, you know. I mean, of course, the ideal would have been that my sister and I would have had our own room, and my brother would have had a room, which we did as soon as we moved to Capehart.

H: Yeah. So then the Capehart was obviously an improvement over the Wherry.

R: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. It was very nice. It was (inaudible) for the time frame, because that would have been, that was, you know, like I said, fall of ’62, and I was going into seventh grade. And at Middletown that time, they had, the high school went seventh to twelfth grade. So if I’d have stayed there, you know, I would have gone to the same school for five years. You know, so, it was – well, actually, it may have been more than five years. But anyway, it ended up that I didn’t stay there the whole time. We got orders and went back to Key West.

H: I guess one of the downfalls of being in the military.

R: Yeah, I didn’t have my high school in one, in Newport – well, actually, it’s Middletown. It’s Newport Naval Base, but it’s actually – it was Middletown at that time. The town was Middletown, because there’s, like, three towns on the island there.

H: OK. And so in general, then, did you like living in the Capehart housing?

R: Yeah. Yeah, I did.

H: What did you like about it?

R: Oh, well, for one thing, it was a nice, new house, and I’d never remembered living in a house before. (LAUGHS) We had nice rooms. The neighborhood was good. A lot of the kids I went to school with, well, when you ride the bus, they come through and pick you all up, so you’re all military kids on the bus, and you all live in the same neighborhood and have a lot in common, and went on to the same school, and so I saw some of the same people at school that lived in the area. So it was like any other neighborhood. We just happened to have dads that were in the service.

H: And I don’t know if being young at the time if you would know this, but maybe you have more of an idea now, or maybe talking with your parents about it. Do you know how that Capehart housing compared with housing in the civilian sector? Or maybe you visited some of your friends who were in the—

R: Gosh, yeah, I did have a friend – I remember I had a couple of friends that lived in civilian housing. In fact, they lived close to me, because I remember walking to one of them’s house. I don’t really remember – I guess they owned their own house. I can’t honestly say much about the house, though, a whole lot. I visited both of them. I mean, you know, in Newport on weekends, we’d drive around, but we looked at what were estates, you know. Then you would be impressed. You know, that was like people like Auchincloss and people like that. Now, that was Mrs. Kennedy’s parents. You know, that was her mom and her stepdad. And, you know, The Breakers and all those kind of places like they filmed in “Gone with the Wind.” I mean, we didn’t go inside them, but even from a
distance, when you saw how far back from the road they were, and just how – they looked like – they were mansions.

But just regular houses that I visited? Oh, I would think we compared real well with people that were, you know, in our income bracket, and, you know, having to buy on the market. I think we compared fairly well.

H: Yeah. I actually had some people who had lived in these houses as adults, and so who knew the financials involved, and they said they were very grateful for this housing because it was cheaper than having to buy or find housing on the civilian market.

R: I’m in an interesting position now. My husband and I own a mobile home park, so we’re landlords. Plus, I have friends that have lived on base here. I live right by Camp LeJeune. And I’ve seen the base housing here now, and it’s beautiful. They’ve redone a lot. They’ve built a lot of new housing, and they’re very nice. Because housing here out in our area, you would think there was gold under the land with what they want to charge for just a very average, nothing-fancy kind of house. Less than maybe 2,000 square feet, you’re talking over $100,000. You know, and we’re not even a real metropolitan kind of area. We’re kind of a bedroom community for Jacksonville, but even Jacksonville isn’t huge. I think Onslow County has 150,000 population, and Jacksonville’s the biggest city.

H: Oh, OK. Yeah. So did your Capehart house, then, provide enough space for the family?

R: Oh, yeah. Well, initially, we didn’t have a lot of stuff. When we moved to Newport, we bought furniture. Practically all of our furniture was new, because all of our bedroom sets – we didn’t have bedroom sets. When you live in a mobile home, used to be everything was built in, and your bed, all you had room for was like one of those metal frames and the mattress and box spring. So, we bought all new stuff – a washer and dryer, and beds, and chests of drawers, and vanities. And we had those the rest of our lives, I mean, until we left home. My parents, I think they had theirs until not too long ago. They went on and bought some more stuff because they ended up with quite a bit of places they traveled to.

H: Now, how did you feel sharing a room with your sister? Did you feel that was an imposition on you, or just kind of the way things were?

R: No, I wouldn’t have thought it was an imposition, because I was already 12 years old, and I’d always shared a room with my sister. You don’t really complain about something you’ve never known different. I mean, you just take that as a “that’s the way things are” kind of thing.

H: Yeah. Well, it seems like kids today are used to having their own rooms. But back then, and certainly when I – I’m 36, and when I was growing up, I mean, I shared a room with my sister.

R: Well, when we lived in one of our trailers that we had, because we lived in, like, one, two, three – at least I lived in three different trailers. I think my parents lived in four or five different trailers, because they were still moving around when I left home to go to college. One of them, I know my dad built a bed – the old trailers, when you walked to the bathroom, you walked through somebody’s bedroom. The hallway was part of their bedroom. And your bed was kind of like in a nook, you know? And that was your room. You got on the bed or you were in the hallway. My dad built a bed, like a bunk bed over top of our bed, and when my brother was little, he used to sleep up there, and my sister and I slept down below it. And, you know, my dad was quite ingenious and quite handy with things.
H: Yeah, so then, compared to that, it seemed like you had a lot more privacy and space.

R: Yes. Of course, I was a lot younger then. I'm talking about maybe when I was six years old. But, you know, as we got older, my brother always had his room and my sister and I shared a room.

H: So as you got older, it didn’t make a difference?

R: No, no. Like I said, because I was already used to it. And my sister was only two years younger than me. So we were fairly close. We were like night and day, but we were. (LAUGHS) You know, one is always neat and one's always messy, and now it’s reversed. Unfortunately, I should have kept the neat, like I was. Now she’s the neat, and I’m the messy.

H: And so the closet and storage space, I just want to be sure I understand this. There was a closet in the foyer, there was a storage closet in the dining area –

R: And it was quite large. It was a walk-in. Large.

H: Nice.

R: It kind of ran under the stairs, I think. That’s what made it big, because it ran diagonal. Let me see. It ran like at a 90-degree angle to the stairs. But I think it might have gone under part of the stairs. Because it was a fairly big closet. Like I said, it was a walk-in, big storage area.

H: I see. And then there was a closet up in the hallway upstairs.

R: Correct. Another walk-in closet with shelves and things. And each of us had a closet in our bedrooms, you know, good-sized closet for our clothes and everything, so that’s three more closets upstairs.

H: What kind of things did your parents store in the hallway closets in the foyer and the dining room?

R: The closet as you came in the house?

H: Yeah.

R: Coats. You know, up there we had to have a lot of winter clothes, so we all had winter coats. And my dad may have hung some of his uniforms in there. I’m not sure. It was a fairly good-sized – you know, his dress uniforms. It was a fairly good-sized closet, though.

H: And the other two closets?

R: Uh, gosh, the one downstairs, I think my mom had, I think she kept her mending in there and maybe her sewing machine and some odds and ends and stuff. And upstairs we kept, like, I think there was linens and pictures and games. Because it had shelves and things. Oh, Christmas decorations and things were in one of them. It was either downstairs or upstairs. I’m not sure which. And then in the bedroom we had, each of our bedrooms, we had regular stuff. We had our hang-up clothes, you know, and I guess we kept some of our personal toys and stuff. We had games that the whole family used together, and then we had stuff that belonged to each of us. So my sister and I would keep, you know, our things in our room, and then my brother had his things in his room, and my parents had their things in their room. But I know, you know, our room was a pretty good size, because I had a double bed in our room. We had a vanity with a mirror. I’m not sure – I think we had
a chest of drawers, too. And we had a couch in our bedroom. We had a couch that we brought with us. I guess they couldn’t figure out where to put it. That’s where it ended up.

And downstairs, I think our furniture came from the base, because back then, they would give you furniture, too. And so our living room was the only thing that I remember was from the base, because my dad and mom had bought bedroom sets for each of us. My brother only had, like, a single bed, probably a chest of drawers and stuff. Because he was, you know, he was still pretty young. And he was into baseball and all that kind of stuff, so he had a lot of sporting things and stuff in his room.

H: So did the base provide both the living room furniture and dining room furniture?

R: No, we bought our own dining room set. I remember that. And we had a washer and dryer, which my mom and dad bought, and a dishwasher, which they had, that we bought. They had the kind then that you could roll to the sink and hook up and run it. But as far as I remember, the washer, the dryer, and the dishwasher were all in the kitchen, so the kitchen had to be pretty good-sized too, because there was space for that. And they just provided us with the living room furniture. And I think it was just like a sofa and a chair, and I don’t know if it was like the coffee table and the end table, too. Basically, I think Mom and Dad only asked for what we didn’t have. And my dad built a big cabinet that we put in the living room that had our stereo on it and records and things, and then we had our television and stuff like that. In fact, we had a television upstairs in my parents’ room and one downstairs, too.

H: Oh, OK. Now, speaking of the kitchen, do you remember – being a kid, I know, but do you remember if there was enough space in there? I mean enough cabinet space, counter space.

R: I don’t really remember what the cabinets were like or anything. I know the kitchen came with a refrigerator, and then it had a space for a hookup for a washer and dryer. And like I said, I’m not sure where my mom stuck the dishwasher, but I know it was in the kitchen. I’m just not sure where she positioned it at. I don’t remember her ever complaining about anything, but my mom hardly ever complained about anything. Like I said, military families have to be adaptable. If you’re a good military wife, you’ve got to be able to handle it all and not complain.

H: And do you remember if there was any kind of like a pantry or any kind of, you know, additional space in the kitchen besides cabinets?

R: No, I don’t. I remember talking to my mom – you know, I said, after we looked at the thing, I talked to her about it. Because I, you know, I told her what I remembered and asked her if this was accurate, and she said yes. And I don’t remember us ever saying about there being a pantry, so I don’t know if there was or not. I don’t remember one, but that doesn’t – you know, that may have been something that I didn’t consider at the time to be important. And it’s been a lot of years. I’m 56 years old, so it happened a long time ago.

H: Sure. Yeah. In regards to outdoor storage, you mentioned there was a carport. Did you park a car there?

R: Yes, we did. We only had one car at the time, and we pulled in. It was roofed over with open sides like posts. And you had – I think you had one of those concrete parking things like you find in some parking lots to hold the car up so it keeps you from going up too far. I believe there was one of those. And then on the other side of that was where the storage area was. And, you know, out there we would keep things like bicycles and whatever we needed for outside. I’m guessing we might have had a mower. I don’t remember whether we had to cut our own grass or not. I’m kind of thinking we
did, but I’m not positive about that. But I’m guessing we did. I know when we moved to Key West, we had to maintain our own yard, so I’m guessing that we did up there, too. So, you know, just normal stuff that people would keep in an outside storage thing.

H: Yeah. Did you feel that the housing was adequate for you and your brother and sister as children, and for other children?

R: Yeah. Yeah, I thought it was adequate, and we had a good play area. I don’t know exactly how much of it was our yard, but because of the way the houses were placed, you know, between us and the next row of houses, the next row of houses down faced another street, and so we had this big open area. So we used to sled out there behind our house in the winter. And in the summer, we played baseball with, you know, just my brother, my sister, me, my dad. He’d get out there, and my brother played Little League, and he’d throw balls, and we got to field, and we got to bat. And we kind of played parallel to our house, so that if we hit the ball, it wasn’t going to go down to the next houses. It would run between the houses kind of thing. So we had a good amount of space.

Also, we were in a section of the housing where the people across the street from us were all officers. That was all officer housing. And their housing was a little different from ours in that I don’t think theirs was two-story. I think theirs was more like ranch style. And then right next to our building going up there was, I think, the admiral’s quarters. So I kind of think that, you know, I don’t think that our house was any different from others, but I think that might have added to the yard and stuff, you know, the way we were laid out and the area. And my mom said that they were very careful about what enlisted people they put in that area because everybody else was officers. They didn’t want any rowdiness.

Across the street, I know one of the families moved out. And we were watching them, and we never saw such a bunch of cars come to work on a place before. I mean, it was like bees just swarming. And they were out there doing all kinds of stuff to the yard, and my mom said you’d think an admiral was moving in. And that’s what was happening. They were preparing his quarters, and he had to have temporary quarters, and they moved him into one of the regular officers’ houses across the street from us. So, boy, they went out there, and they were like raking the yard with a comb. (LAUGHS)

H: Yeah, right. (LAUGHS) That’s a spectacle. Right. So now, the front yard, was that anything to speak of?

R: It wasn’t all that big. We were fairly close to the street. There was a sidewalk out in front, a sidewalk on the street. I don’t remember the yard being very big at all. You wouldn’t like come out the door and fall into the road kind of thing, but it was probably, you know, an average distance for a development kind of thing. It wasn’t real big, though we didn’t usually play in the front yard very much. We usually always played in the back yard.

H: OK. So there was no fencing between the units?

R: No, no.

H: Or between the buildings either?

R: No.

H: OK. And the neighborhood in general, was that hospitable to kids? Was there like enough – were you able to ride bikes in the street? And was there a park or anything like that?
R: Yeah, I think we – I don’t remember if I rode bikes on the street or I rode on the sidewalk. I know I rode sometimes. I think I did ride in the street sometimes. I went places on my bike. I know I remember that I always felt safe. I guess the idea that the military, you know, security was going to be looking out for everybody, you know, made me feel pretty safe.

H: So there were sidewalks?

R: Yes. Yeah, we had sidewalks. Because I had to walk a good distance to the bus stop, but it was still within the base housing, and it was still kind of on, well, when my street kind of met a cross street a ways up, it was probably just a few blocks. Because we weren’t but maybe, oh, I’m guessing three miles from school. It seemed like a long way because I walked out a few times, too, coming home. Sometimes I’d miss the bus and have to walk home. (LAUGHS) You never wanted to do that in the winter, though, in Rhode Island. I don’t think I ever missed in the winter.

H: Back inside, one of the objectives of this housing, or one of the styles that it kind of followed in general was this open floor plan to create spaciousness and allow the family members to gather easily. Did your housing have this?

R: Yeah. When you came in the front door, once you, like I said, if you walked straight, you were going to walk into the closet, because that was, as you opened the front door and came in, you had just an area there to stand, and you could take off your coat and hang it up kind of thing. And if you went to the right, you’d be in the bathroom. If you went to the left, you were in the living room. As soon as you took a couple of steps past that and were in the living room, you could see the living room and dining area all the way to the kitchen door. So it was pretty open.

And it was, I think the walls were probably a cream color. I’m guessing. I know they were light. And they were all the same color throughout the whole house. So it was either a white or a real light beige. And so that gave you kind of a feeling of lightness and airiness about it, you know. It made it bright. And there was a lot of windows, too.

H: Oh, OK. That’s what I was going to ask, too.

R: The living room had, I’m guessing we had at least three windows across that faced the street. And upstairs, you know, we had a window or two. Gosh, we may have had, I think we had a window on the side and then a couple of windows facing the street on the bedroom. And I think my mom’s bedroom had the same. I think they had a window – well, one of our bedroom windows kind of overlooked the top of the carport, and I think that’s the same for my mom. And then she had a window that, you know, looked out towards the Newport Base. It’s on the back yard. Now, my brother’s room only had windows on the backside, because his room was on the other side and it wasn’t on the corner. It was like next to my mom and dad’s room. His was as you came up the stairs and you went past the walk-in closet, and you took a right, and you would be in his room. And you went straight, and then you could go left or right, and you either went into our room, my sister and mine, or my mom’s and dad’s. But, yeah, it was a light color. Yeah, we liked it. We liked living there.

H: OK. And did you feel – a lot of people are saying that the housing was certainly nice, but that it wasn’t the only thing that created a sense of community, that another factor was that everybody was in the same boat. Everybody was in the military, and they were all doing similar jobs. So what was your perspective?
R: I think that’s probably true, because the other thing is that two, I think at least two of the families that were up there when we were had been other duty stations we’d been. Of course, you know, if you’re sonar, if you guys are sonar techs, they tend to go to the same places. In fact, with Navy, if you pretty much told somebody as a child, I lived in Norfolk, Virginia, Key West, Florida, and Newport, Rhode Island, they know your dad was in the service. (LAUGHS) That just kind of designates it, where you were.

But I know that at least two of the families we knew, maybe more, had been other duty stations with us. And so, my parents tended to stay in touch with people they had known from other places. So it didn’t make changing over such a distance quite so hard because you felt like there was at least somebody you already knew, you know, kind of thing. And we got together and did things, but mostly we did stuff as a family because my dad worked five to six days a week. He was on the DESLANT staff.

H: The which staff?

R: DESLANT. COMCRUDESLANT staff. He was stationed aboard a ship, and I’m guessing this was supposed to be his sea duty. But he actually was like an aide to one of the officers there, and worked there. And so as a result of that, he had a pretty stressful job. And when he left work, he wanted to be with us. You know, we did things like Little League games, and we traveled, and we’d go on picnics, and we did historical outings. We went to Boston, and sometimes we’d go visit my grandparents because they lived in Maine. And then in the summer, we always went and visited my other grandmother, who lived in North Carolina.

Our vacations every year pretty much were visit one grandmother or the other. Usually, we’d visit both of them. He would take 30 days, and we’d spend two weeks with each, along with travel time and stuff. When he was first, when he was lower-rated, we went like every other year, and once he got higher-rated, we went every year. We kept pretty close ties with our family, even though we traveled and were a long ways away.

H: OK. Actually, could you spell that term that you used? It sounded like “concrete.”


H: I’ve found that in doing some of our work.

R: Yeah. I believe his records were aboard the Yosemite, that he was aboard the Yosemite. And the Yosemite was a carrier, I think, and it never went out. And if it did, they just transferred his papers somewhere else until it came back, because it would never be gone for long. So, you know, when we were at Key West, we were on shore duty. Down there, he was at the fleet sonar school at Key West. Like I said, he was a sonar tech.

H: Yeah, so just to follow up on the sense of community question, how much would you say the housing, your house, and the neighborhood design contributed to a sense of community in the neighborhood?

R: Gosh, I don’t know. I don’t really know how to answer that because, well, I mean, the way they were laid out, your neighbors were all close. And I know my sister was friends with some of the people across the street. Now, even though, like I said, the housing across the street was officers, for the most part that didn’t interfere with us, you know, being friends with them or anything. I mean as
far as the kids. Most of the kids didn’t care anything about rank or anything. Some of them did. (LAUGHS) Some of them were much more uppity than their parents. Of course, you run into that too with military wives. Sometimes the wife wears the rank more than the husband, you know, kind of thing.

But for the most part, we were just kids of military people. And you know, like I said, we saw each other at school. We played together after school. I guess the idea that the houses were close to each other, and, you know, we felt that the neighborhood was safe and secure. And of course, we didn’t hear all the stuff that you hear nowadays about if your kid is out of your sight. So we were allowed to, you know, go places. And, you know, my parents always had to know where we were going and tell us when we were going to be back, and that kind of thing. In other words, we were allowed to walk alone to a friend’s house if it was a reasonable distance and they knew about it. Nowadays, you have to kind of like know their life history before you let your kid go anywhere. Back then, I don’t remember ever being afraid of any of those kind of things. I mean, my parents gave me certain warnings about things, but, you know, they didn’t scare me, so I wasn’t afraid of everything.

H: Another thing is a lot of these developments were developed in a sort of suburban style with a lot of landscaping and curving streets. Did your neighborhood give off that impression?

R: Yeah. Jones Street, you know, curved, and I’m sure the other ones did. I was more familiar with Jones Street because that’s the one I lived on. And, yeah, and I walked it a lot. I had to go to the bus stop every day, you know, up and back. And it wasn’t real far. And we were close to stuff. I mean, like one of the schools was near us. I think it was supposed to be the Anchorage, but it became, when John F. Kennedy was assassinated, it became, I think it was called Kennedy – John F. Kennedy is probably what they named it. But it hadn’t even been – I don’t even know if the school, I think the school had barely opened when they changed the name. But that was very near us, but that was an elementary school. And I think my brother went there, because like I said, when we moved there, he was in elementary school. And that was kind of in front – it was very close to the first housing we lived in, but we would still be in the district, even on Jones Street.

Yeah, I would think our housing, you know, even comparing it to developments now, like in the area I’m at now, just regular civilian developments, it looks pretty similar. You know, had the yards, and the houses were all laid out at a certain distance, and the only difference was all these houses looked pretty much alike. (LAUGHS) They would be the same color. I don’t know that they do base housing exactly that way now, but back then, they looked exactly alike. (LAUGHS)

H: OK. A little more uniformity.

R: Yeah.

H: OK. And do you remember what the landscaping looked like? Did you have any bushes surrounding your house?

R: I’m trying to remember if there was any by the house or not.

H: Or any trees in the yard?

R: No. The front of the yard, no. And I don’t remember – now, the only trees, gosh, they were off to – when we went out to play baseball and stuff, if I was standing, if I came out my back door and was just standing there, they would have been to my right, but they wouldn’t have been in my yard. They
were off more by the admiral’s quarters. They weren’t in their yard either, because the admiral’s quarters had a chain-link fence around it. They were kind of like outside the fence.

H: OK. So there were trees in the neighborhood, but not really on your property.

R: No, but it didn’t look like, it didn’t have a look of not being, you know, like they bulldozed everything. It was a lot of green because we had a lot of grass in the front and the back. And like I said, I guess there were, I remember there being trees off to the right. And in the housing itself, I don’t really remember any. But it may have been when they built all that housing, they needed all the land for the housing. And I can’t remember if there was any shrubs around. There might have been. I would have to go back and look at old pictures to really know. I know I have pictures of my sister and me that were out in front of our house, but I can’t remember. I remember it looked nice. It was pretty. The yard was pretty and well-maintained. And like I said, I don’t know if my dad cut the grass or they came around then and cut the grass.

H: OK. Did your family feel and did you feel like you had enough privacy in reference to the rest of the neighborhood?

R: Yeah. Yeah. I mean, when we really wanted to be, we just took off. (LAUGHS) But no. You know, friends came over once in a while, but usually only if we were expecting them. I don’t remember that we had a ton of company, but we had company sometimes, and we had get-togethers with people. But like I said, my dad pretty much, when he wasn’t working, he wanted to be with us.

H: Yeah, but people couldn’t readily see inside, and –

R: No. I think we had either curtains or blinds. Gosh, I don’t even remember. I’m pretty sure we had blinds. I remember, I know we did – like shades. Maybe we had shades, because I know in the bathroom, I think, in the upstairs bathroom I remember having a shade, and I’m thinking downstairs we did, too. And I think we probably pretty much left them down most of the time. And the front windows, I’m guessing we had curtains or stuff. If you left those open, yeah, you could see in, because we had a lot of windows. But my mom’s really, you know, she keeps all that closed up. But it wasn’t dark in our house. So like I said, I’m thinking that maybe she had them open during the day or something.

H: Did you think that the housing generally was attractive?

R: Yes. It was real nice. The outside was a light color, too. I believe it was either white or cream-colored also. And it seems like I remember it being white, and then the numbers on our house were black. Because they were well-marked so people could find you if they were looking for you. And I think it had some brick, too, like around the bottom or something. So they were quite nice-looking.

H: So it sounds like maybe it was brick accents but –

R: Right. That’s kind of what I remember, down toward the bottom. And I remember we had, like, steam heat for the house.

H: OK. What was the overall construction material, just wood?

R: It was sided. I’m sure we had siding. That’s what I think. Don’t hold me to that. But that’s my – as I think about it, it was like it was sided, with brick accents. And like I said, it looked quite attractive. We were very pleased when we got our house and got to move in.
H: Yeah. That’s great. And do you remember any, was there any physical features of the house that were distinctive that you recall?

R: I don’t know. I just, overall, to me, the rooms were big. Coming out of a mobile home, (LAUGHS) they were huge. Because we had a good-sized table, because when we sat down, we had five people at our dinner table. So we had a good-sized table that we used. And we didn’t take up the whole room. There was still space on the other side of the table before you got to the windows that overlooked the back yard. I really liked the idea that we had two bathrooms. (LAUGHS) You know, in those days, that was pretty great. It still is, but I mean, now it’s sort of, you expect it. Back then, it was a nice surprise. (LAUGHS)

H: That’s really interesting. Well, I know that a lot of the Wherry housing only had one bathroom.

R: Yeah. We did only have one there. We only had a bath and a half in the Capehart. Now, when we moved to Key West and lived in the Capehart there, we had two full bathrooms. So that was really great. (LAUGHS)

H: And the housing also reflects the government’s attempts to provide housing that wasn’t excessive or too costly. And did you happen to notice or anybody recall any attempts, evidence of any attempts to economize? I guess maybe the fact that there were no distinctive little decorative features maybe.

R: Yeah. The closet coming in had sliding doors. The half bath, of course, had a toilet and a sink, and it had a regular interior house door that you would have. And our closet, our big closet downstairs and our big closet upstairs both had like regular interior doors. But yeah, I don’t remember anything fancy about it. It was just a straightforward house. But we liked it. (LAUGHS) And it had, you know, just regular lines, clean, neat lines, not a lot of decorative molding. In fact, I don’t remember any. I just remember – I know it had molding, but you know, just what does the job kind of thing. But yeah, as a kid, it isn’t one of the things I would have thought about. I just looked at was my room big, was all my stuff going to fit. (LAUGHS)

H: And those things were satisfied?

R: Yes. Yes, they were. Oh, I also – we had a desk in our room, too. Yeah, we had a desk, and that was next to the vanity. And then, so, you know, to do our homework, I could sit at the desk, and I could kind of look out the window. And we had a good amount of wall space because I remember I had a really long poster of the Beatles on the wall. Individual pictures, and it ran down the whole wall. I mean, it was one big poster, but it was like individual pictures that had been stuck together in a poster. It was all down the, it was down the side of the wall. We were typical teenagers for the times, the ’60s.

H: Yeah. Was there any features of the house that you disliked, that the family disliked?

R: I can’t remember Mom ever saying about anything, and I can’t remember personally of anything I didn’t like. I mean, I liked all the storage and stuff. You know, it would have been nice to have your own room, but like I said, when you’re used to sharing a room with your sister, it’s not a big deal. You just, that’s the way it’s always been kind of thing.

H: OK, well, do you have anything else to add?

R: Gosh, I can’t think of anything. Now, my brother and my sister and my mom would all be willing to talk to you too if you needed a slightly different perspective, you know, because my brother was a
lot younger, and my sister’s only two years younger, and of course, my mom’s still around. And she’s 77 now. And they had all said they would be willing to talk to you if you want to.

H: Great. Well, that’s very nice of them. We’re only able to select a certain number for the project, but if for some reason that changes—

R: You could get back to me and I could give you their numbers.

H: Sure. That would be great.

R: Because my brother lives in Florida, my sister lives in Texas, and my mom normally lives in Florida, but she spends part of her time in North Carolina. So she’s over near Charlotte right now. We’ve spread out. Fort Lauderdale, Stephenville, and Landis.

H: Yeah. All over the place.

R: Yeah. All over the place.

H: And do you have any photos?

R: I have pictures probably of my sister and me in front of the house or something. I would have to look in my album and round up and see what I could find.

H: Well, if you happen to, you know, come across anything that shows the house, inside or out, feel free to get back with me if you’d like to share those. That would be great.

R: Oh, OK. So they’re just preparing an overall history about housing and what people thought of it?

H: This is part of a larger project to document the history of this housing, Capehart and Wherry. And the oral history of former residents is one of the pieces of the project. But we did an overall history of the program and how it fit in with design and civilian suburban trends going on at the time in the civilian world and what had been happening before that, and military housing before that, and just how much of a change this was.

R: The other thing is the amount of money that the people got for the housing in that time frame. When we were in Key West, my dad’s housing allotment, I think, when he retired was $120 a month. There’s no way we could have gotten a house in Key West for that. We lived practically on the water. The water – well, it’s hard to live anywhere in Key West that’s not by the water. But we were like across the street from the water. And down there the houses are like ranch-style duplex. And there you had – I guess you would still call it a carport because it wasn’t enclosed in the front. But they built the carport in the middle of the house, and the residences went to each side from that. So you shared – when you came out to get into your car, if your neighbor was getting in their car, you would be right by each other. That really kind of gave you a little more quiet and privacy, because your house was divided by this area where nobody would be but just for a short time, usually. So that made it nice and stuff down there.

We were living there when I left for college, because we moved there in ’66 and lived there until – well, I lived there until ’68. I think they moved in ’69. I left for college in 1968. But we liked living down there, too. I mean, we were fairly close to everything. We were near the water. You could go fishing. I mean, it was just great. (LAUGHS)
H: Wow, yeah. And do you know if that housing had been remodeled before you moved in there?

R: In Key West?

H: Yeah.

R: Gosh, no, I don’t know, because I’m not even sure how old that was. We lived in Sigsby Park, but Sigsby Park had been built in a lot of phases, and the older housing was probably more like the Wherry kind of housing. The part we lived in was not. We were kind of as you – when you go into Sigsby Park, the way the road is, when you turn in, there’s a lot of road going across water before you get to the housing. Because I’m pretty sure they probably dredged the land out of the ocean and put it there and then built on it. So when you got kind of, not too far after you went past the road part and across the water, and you took a right, you could go into the housing. So we were in the, like, some of the first housing as you came into Sigsby Park. The older housing, you had to go further down the road to get to it.

But our housing, like I said, was a ranch style. The carport’s in the middle of the house, and then you went off to the side, so everything was on one floor. And we lived in a three-bedroom, two-bath house. And I think while we were there, we did put a fence up around our back yard, because we had a dog. Off the living room, they had sliding glass doors, and you could go outside onto a patio for a nice recreational area. And there was trees and stuff around those houses. Florida and Key West has a lot of lush, tropical kind of stuff. The yards were real nice. And I remember we did cut our own grass down there. And my dad had a boat, and sometimes he had the boat under the carport, but I think for most of it, he had the boat off to the side of the house in our side yard near one of the trees. That way, because we had – after we’d been there for a while, we got two cars, and that way, we could park one car behind the other in our driveway/carport area.

Yeah, the house was real nice. I don’t know that it was remodeled. I don’t know that it, you know – they probably clean and paint and whatever they need to do before you move in, because I remember it was nice. Like I said, after we got to Key West, my dad became an E-9, so he was at the top of his rates. And then he retired in ’69. And he did do, like, 23, 24 years in the military. And he always said after he retired, he said, give me 10 minutes and I’ll get back in my uniform. Yeah, he loved the Navy.

H: Yeah. Sounds like it. Yeah. I was just curious about the remodeling because we’re trying to focus on housing that, as it originally was built. Because the remodeling, of course, adds things sometimes don’t reflect the original period of construction.

R: Yeah, I’m not sure, because I’m not sure when that housing was built. I don’t even know if my mom knows. I know Sigsby Park was there before we moved to Rhode Island, but I don’t know that the housing that we lived in when we went back was. The old housing was like brick apartment kind of thing. But this was not. This was a ranch-style house and was very nice. We liked it. I mean, we had three nice-sized bedrooms, two full baths. I’m not sure if we had quite as much storage space as we had when we were in Newport.

But the living room was a good size. The way the living room and the dining area were, oh, gosh, when you walked in the front door, you had a latticework to your left, kind of a stone latticework. So you could kind of, you know – I think it was like concrete block with cutouts. And it kind of carried through the theme from outside, because when you were in the carport, you could kind of look into the back yard because there was a latticework right there, like a concrete-type latticework. So you come in the door, and it kind of goes right into your house. So you could see into the living room, but that
did obstruct your view a little bit. But once you went – and I’m thinking there was a coat closet or a hall closet right there. As you came into the foyer, there was a closet there.

You go to the left in the living room, and the living room and the dining area formed an “L,” and the living room, like I said, part of one wall was sliding glass doors and stuff. And that went out onto a concrete area. I think we had a picnic table out there. When we cooked out, we went out there and stuff. And if you followed the “L” on around, you went into the kitchen. If you came to the foyer and just went straight, you went into the kitchen. And so the kitchen was kind of a long ways, lengthwise, you know. It was more longer. There again, I think our washer and dryer was in our kitchen.

And then there was a door. You could kind of almost go straight from the front door out the back door, I believe. If you went through the kitchen, you could go right out to the side yard, which is where my dad used to have the boat. It was out there. And then instead of – when you come through the foyer, if you didn’t go left into the living room, and you went right, you went down the hall, and that’s where the bedrooms and bathrooms all were.

H: So it sounds like that housing maybe was just a tiny bit nicer even than the Newport Capehart.

R: Maybe slightly more fancy. I don’t remember – well, by the time we moved there, I was 16 years old. And I liked the idea of not having to go up and down stairs. (LAUGHS) You know, and our bedroom was on the end. Now, my parents took the first bedroom and – on the hallway and to the left, and we got the second bedroom. And then as you went down the hallway on the right was the bathrooms. There was one bathroom and then there was another bathroom, and then there was my brother’s bedroom. My brother’s bedroom shared a wall with our bedroom. So we were on the – our two bedrooms faced the street. And my parents’ bedroom was the first one as you came in the house and started down the hallway. They had the first bedroom.

So, you know, it was – like I said, and we had good lighting. I think we had windows on both sides of our bedroom. I’m thinking my brother probably only had one, because his would have been kind of near the carport, so I don’t think – you know, one wall of it would have been – I don’t think he had a window on that side. I think his window just faced the street. I think we had a window facing the street and one facing the side yard. Yeah, it was nice. That’s the only thing fancy I remember about it. And I don’t even think I thought of it being fancy. You know, like I said, it’s like a latticework. Instead of a wall, they had a concrete thing with kind of holes in it.

H: OK. Yeah, that sounds interesting, the little flourish there.

R: Yeah, and of course then like sliding glass doors and stuff. But you know, the different areas of the country, you’ve got to look at what housing was like in Florida compared to what housing would be like in Newport. In Newport, you want to build for keeping the heat in and not having to, you know, use so much on heat in the winter. And then in Florida, you want to keep it as cool as possible all the time. And so I think that was the difference. You know, patio doors is kind of a thing that in Florida they allow – pretty much all of the houses probably have them, or a good many of them.

H: OK. You didn’t have patio doors in Newport.

R: No. No. Just regular house doors. We had two downstairs doors, one facing the front of the, you know, out to the street, and one off the kitchen going into the back yard.

H: OK. And I forgot to ask, was there any, was there like a concrete slab out there in the back? Any kind of a patio?
R: No. Just where the carport was, and that was all. In the yard, no. And I think my mom had like a – gosh, I’m thinking she had a clothesline out there. I know she did. And I don’t know, she may have had one in Key West, too, a clothesline. Back then, they had the – I can’t think of the – like an umbrella-type clothes thing. It comes on a pole, and you open it up, and it has lines and it forms a square. We had that in Rhode Island, and I’m guessing she may have had that in Key West also, even though we had a drier.

H: Yeah. I guess people preferred that maybe.

R: Yeah, I think they were saving energy, and in Florida, things dried real fast. My mom always was one to conserve. She still is. She believes in ecology, all that before its time.

H: That’s good. Yeah. Great, well, I thank you very much for taking the time to share all these memories.

R: No problem. I enjoyed it.

H: Good.

R: If you have any further questions or anything that I can, you know, offer anything about, feel free to call me.

H: OK, and if, you know, same thing, if you have anything to add, feel free to be in touch with me as well. And as I mentioned in a couple of the correspondences, this will be shared with the Library of Congress and the – not sure, since you’re Navy, if the Air Force, that’s one of the repositories we’re providing the information to, but it may not – I think they only want Air Force. But there may be a Navy, eventually a Navy repository that will take our Navy interviews, too. But definitely the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.

Thank you for your time, and if you have any photos as well, feel free to be in touch.

R: All right. Sure thing. Thank you. Nice talking to you.

H: And you, too. Thanks a lot.

R: Bye-bye.

H: Bye.

END
WARREN TREKELL

Ms. Chris Heidenrich, M.A., a historian with R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., conducted a recorded interview with Mr. Warren Trekell via telephone on 30 August 2006. Mr. Trekell was interviewed for a project sponsored by the Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Navy to document the history of military family housing constructed under the Wherry and Capehart programs between 1949 and 1962. Ten other former residents of Air Force and Navy Wherry and Capehart housing were interviewed. A historic context, neighborhood design guidelines, and a tax-credit brochure also were completed for the project.

Mr. Trekell worked in personnel for the U.S. Air Force from 1946 to 1974. He enlisted as a private and retired as a senior master sergeant. Mr. Trekell resided in Wherry housing at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, from 1951 to 1955 and at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, from 1960 to 1962, while holding the ranks of technical sergeant and master sergeant. At Keesler, Mr. Trekell, his wife, and their children lived in two houses, both one story: a one-bedroom duplex with a kitchen, living room, and bathroom, with one child; and a two-bedroom duplex with a kitchen, living room, and bathroom, with two children. At Patrick, the family – increased to three children – lived in a detached, one-story, four-bedroom house with a kitchen, combined living room/dining room, two half baths with shared tub/shower, and a garage.

CHRIS HEIDENRICH: This is Chris Heidenrich from R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates interviewing Warren Trekell on August 30, 2006. OK. And if you wouldn’t mind just acknowledging that you’re aware that you’re on tape.

WARREN TREKELL: Yes, I know you’re taping me.

HEIDENRICH: OK, great. Thanks. Well, first of all, I just want to say thank you very much for taking the time to speak with me about your experiences in your Wherry housing. And it will definitely add to the Navy and the Air Force’s understanding of residents’ perspective on this housing, so thank you. I want to get some biographical details out of the way first. I can’t remember what you had said. Did you ever receive our paperwork with the release forms and everything?

TREKELL: Yeah.

H: Is it possible to mail that back to us, if you could just sign those?

T: I thought I had. Either that or a deep hole has grabbed it.

H: Well, I’ll look through my files again and see if I somehow missed finding it. If I don’t find it, I’ll just mail you another copy. I’ll be happy to do that, with a return envelope inside.

Well, first of all, how many years were you in the service, what years to what years?

T: I was in from July of ’46. I was active duty. July of ’46 until July of ’74.

H: OK. And then what was your rank when you lived in the Wherry housing. I guess that would at Keesler Air Force Base, ’51 to ’55.

T: Yeah, I was at Keesler and…
H: Patrick.

T: Let’s see, I believe I had just made tech.

H: So that would be a tech sergeant?

T: Mm-hmm.

H: And then at Patrick from ’60 to ’62, were you still a tech sergeant?

T: No. I was a master sergeant then.

H: What was your career field during your service?

T: I was a personnelist all the way.

H: Say that again?

T: Personnel.

H: Personnel. OK. And did you enlist just at the beginning of the enlistment ladder there, or where was your rank when you enlisted?

T: Everybody’s a private when they enlist. Everybody. They have no rank. I was called active duty because I was in the reserves. The Army was sending me to college from ’45 to ’46. I was in the reserves, and I was called to active duty in July of ’46.

H: And then, let’s see. So you lived in Wherry housing at Keesler Air Force Base ’51 to ’55, and then again at Patrick Air Force Base 1960 to ’62. Now I know you also lived in Capehart housing at Clinton-Sherman from ’65 to ’67, but our period of interest is the period where you lived in those two Wherry developments, so I think we’ll focus on that. But did either of those two housing have a name, like a subdivision name, or was it just referred to as the base housing or Wherry housing?

T: Well, I was in two different ones at Keesler, and one of them was on base and still exists today, or it did until the last, until Katrina. I don’t know. And the other one was off base, and it seems to me like it was the Howard, the Howard Street – no, it’s not Howard, because Howard, I think, is the name of the main street. You’re talking about a long time ago. It was off base about three or four blocks. And after that, they built a bunch more west of Keesler, a mess of them, but I wasn’t involved in any of those.

H: OK. So no specific neighborhood name at Keesler or Patrick.

T: No, no. Just (inaudible).

H: OK. And the type of quarters in Keesler and Patrick, the Wherry housing, was it duplex or single-family detached, or how would you describe them?

T: At Keesler, it was duplex, and at Patrick, I had, well, it was mixed units there, but I had one all to myself. It was a three-bedroom, and the three bedrooms were a unit unto themselves.

H: OK, so just like a house, detached house.
T: Yeah. Across the street were duplexes.

H: OK. And then what rooms were in each of them? How many bedrooms, you know, kitchen, living room, dining room, et cetera?

T: Well, let’s see. In the first one, there was a kitchen, living room, bedroom, and bath.

H: How many bedrooms?

T: One.

H: Oh, really?

T: In the first one. Then when the kids, when more than one – when the second one arrived, I was upgraded and moved over to a two-bedroom house.

H: OK. Same, kitchen, living room.

T: Only it had two bedrooms. Now the other end of the duplex, in the one-bedroom, had three bedrooms.

H: Say that again?

T: (LAUGHS) The other end had three bedrooms.

H: Oh, OK, the other side of the duplex.

T: Yeah. So, it was just a matter of how they placed a wall at times, whether they had two and two or one and three.

H: I see. So then, the first one at Keesler had a one-bedroom.

T: One bedroom.

H: And then the second one at Keesler had two bedrooms.

T: Had two.

H: And then when you moved to Patrick later, three bedrooms.

T: I had three, and it was by itself. Different plan.

H: OK, and did they all have dining rooms?

T: No.

H: Oh, OK. So there was like – you ate in the kitchen.

T: Yeah, at Keesler.

H: OK. No dining room. For both of them at Keesler.
T: At Patrick, it was one big dining/living room, like a great room. And on the one side at the doors leading out to the screened patio porch was where we put the table. And it was possible to – it had a counter that split the little kitchen from the great room that you could put stools up to and eat there.

H: Oh, OK. Now, at Patrick, how many bathrooms did you have?

T: OK, now this is nice. You had a three-room unit of which there was a half bath and a half bath at each end, and then the center was a tub/shower. And you could enter from the hallway into the – let’s see, OK. You could enter from the hallway into one of the bathrooms, one of the half baths, into the shower, and you entered from the master bedroom into one of the half baths. But they had doors then between the two half baths and the bath.

H: Oh, how interesting. I hadn’t heard about those before.

T: Yeah, it was an interesting use of space. It gave you the two baths for privacy, but you also had a – you only needed one bathtub.

H: Oh, yeah. That makes sense. And who was in your family at the time? You had a wife and how many kids for each?

T: OK. At Keesler, a wife and one kid, and then two kids. And at Patrick, there was three. I had to think there because the fourth one was generated down there.

H: OK, so the fourth kid didn’t – wasn’t there yet.

T: Later on. She never got to enjoy Patrick.

H: What type of housing did you live in before the Wherry housing at Keesler, and how did it compare to the Wherry housing?

T: Let’s see. Right after we got married, we moved to Biloxi and to the second floor of an apartment house. Old house. It had been upgraded into many rooms, and I guess there was about four families in the various levels.

H: OK. What was that like?

T: Oh, it wasn’t bad. For a first time, it was pretty good. There was enough room, and the apartment had a bath and a kitchenette and kind of a living – you’ve got to remember, that was poor times, too. (LAUGHS)

H: What’s that?

T: That was poor times, too.

H: Yeah, yeah. Right after the war.

T: Well, yeah. Korea broke open just a little bit after that.

H: And so how did that compare to the Wherry housing that you moved into?
T: Oh, the Wherry was much better. The end of a house on ground level that was my own, and brick, and plenty of room. And nice-size kitchen. The kitchen was a nice size.

H: Oh, really? It had enough space?

T: Yeah, it was a fair-size space.

H: And now you said the first one you lived in at Keesler had only one bedroom, but you had a child with you, right?

T: Well, he was born there.

H: OK. So when you moved in you didn’t have…

T: Yes, I did have him. Yes, he was – I’m having to remember just about – I guess maybe he was about, because we lived at her mother’s for a while, and then I got the housing. And I guess he probably was two months old or something, about that size when we got in there. And of course, the bedroom was big enough for a bed, our bed, and his crib, and dresser, and everything else.

H: OK, so it was big enough to accommodate a crib.

T: Yeah.

H: Oh, that’s good. OK. So then it sounds like the Wherry was better than the apartment that you’d been living in.

T: Oh, definitely.

H: An improvement. OK.

T: Better concept, because you were, you had been upgraded.

H: Yeah, sounds like it. In general, did you folks like living in the Wherry housing?

T: Yeah, it was very interesting. Your neighbors were like you. And some of your working neighbors lived close by, and you could visit. The Wherry there, the cars had to be parked down the street, because the units were platted in a U-shape with a big common area, yard. And let’s see, now at the first place, I was only about, oh, 30 or 40 feet from the car. It wasn’t too bad. In the second one, about half a block.

H: Now, was this where – did you just park on the street, or did they provide a…

T: Yeah, yeah. It was strictly on the street. Now remember, this is – one, this is Mississippi, and you didn’t, it wasn’t absolutely necessary to have a garage. And it was the first shot at housing like this, because the housing it replaced was – you’ve heard the term “shotgun housing.”

H: Uh-huh.

T: OK. It was on base, but it was shotgun housing. No, I won’t say that. It looked like it, but you go inside, and it would be a lot better than what it looked. But that was also the kind that was torn down. In fact, some of it was even converted barracks.
H: Oh, really?

T: Yeah. Yeah. They had taken barracks and turned it into, seems like it was two apartments to a level, so that one barracks, old barracks would be four apartment. That’s the kind of thing that that replaced, Wherry replaced.

H: I see. And so did the Wherry housing meet your family needs, and did you folks feel comfortable in the housing?

T: Oh, yeah. Yeah, the only thing it didn’t have that later housing did have was air conditioning. And AC was just coming on, and you looked with envy at a neighbor over there that didn’t have any kids, and money like yours, and he had a window unit.

H: Where they were able to afford to purchase a window unit.

T: You’d sneak over and visit once in a while. (LAUGHS)

H: Definitely. Do you know – go ahead.

T: In Mississippi, you needed the AC because it was hot and humid.

H: Oh, sure. Yeah. Do you know how your Wherry housing compared to housing in the civilian sector?

T: It was much better at that time.

H: You mean like it looked better?

T: Well, yeah, it even looked better, because these were brick houses. And in an area of frame construction. Have you seen pictures of Biloxi after Katrina?

H: I’m sure I have.

T: I mean, there was nothing. Those areas were loaded with houses, and they were wiped out. I mean, they were that kind of construction. They were gone. All that was left was a concrete slab.

H: Oh, yeah, I just heard about that on the radio yesterday, that just strictly concrete slabs.

T: It’s hard for me to imagine – well, I wouldn’t want to go back – I went through that area after the one in ’69, and I couldn’t hardly believe some of the things that disappeared. Well, Katrina, even more disappeared.

H: Yeah. I’ve heard some people say that they were able to use their housing allowance to pay for their rent in their Wherry house, but the housing allowance would not have covered enough of what they needed to live in a civilian house.

T: Well, I don’t know about – I think, let’s see. I’m having to think what it was. OK, I made tech sergeant, and that was one of the reasons I was able to move up to that. My housing allowance at the time was, I think, $67.50. It doesn’t sound like much, does it? It was $67.50, and I believe it was $57.50 for the rent, and that included, they paid water, electric, and gas. And that was very
reasonable, so that left, if you’re big enough that you wanted to go out and get a telephone, why, that’d take care of that, too. But we didn’t have phones in quarters in those days.

H: Oh, really? How did you…

T: No, that was just something you didn’t have. You just weren’t accustomed to having it. If they wanted you, they sent somebody after you.

H: Well, you were close enough, I guess. Yeah, that makes sense. Did the housing provide enough space for your family, I guess both of those at Keesler?

T: Well, seemed to. It’s not like today. You didn’t just have a world of possessions. I mean, I’m trying to – you didn’t need a lawn mower. If you wanted a spade, you built a little shed and put it behind, and put garden tools in it, if you wanted to. But the base had a mowing team that went around and mowed all those areas.

H: OK. This was at Keesler?

T: Yeah. And let’s see. What did we have at Patrick? That had a garage. I had a mower then.

H: OK, so you had a garage at Patrick.

T: Yeah.

H: Was that a carport?

T: Oh, no. No, no, no.

H: It was a garage.

T: Because, see, we were only about six blocks from the beach, and you had a lot of heavy salt air. And so all those places had a garage.

H: I see. To protect your car.

T: Yeah.

H: I see. And was that garage attached to your house?

T: Yeah. Yeah, the utility room was, with the AC unit, and the place for the washing machines and the freezer, it was in between the garage and the house.

H: I see. So it sounds like your Wherry housing at Patrick had been remodeled.

T: No.

H: It hadn’t.

T: No. They started building that base, building it up – I’ll put it that way, because it was a Naval air station during World War II – when it came into prominence for the missile program. And that started
– let’s see. We went down there in ’60. And I think we were probably the second family that had
been in that house.

H: Well, then maybe that housing was the last, one of the last Wherry projects.

T: I think it was. I think it was. And it was very well built. They had to dredge up the land. It had
been old – I’m trying to think what kind of – if it was out in the southwest, it would be sagebrush land,
but it wasn’t down there. Palmetto land, that was what I was thinking of. Because that’s what it was
just on the other side of the brick fence we had across our back yard. You go down there today and
it’s solid houses and stores and everything there for the next ten miles. It wasn’t then.

H: So you’re sure that the Patrick housing was Wherry that you lived in, and not Capehart.

T: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Because that was the Old Galley Wherry housing, Old Galley being our post
office. Or south Patrick. It had a lot of different names.

H: Did your family members have privacy within the house? It sounds like your kids were pretty
young and maybe didn’t need as much privacy, but did you and…

T: In the second house, the kids, being very young, had their own bedroom. And at Patrick, yeah,
there was three kids and three bed – I said three bedrooms. That was a four-bedroom house.

H: Oh, that was a four-bedroom.

T: Yeah. The master and three across the north end.

H: Oh, OK. So each child had their own room.

T: Yeah.

H: OK. So everybody had enough privacy within all the houses that you lived in, the Wherry and
Capehart – I mean, the Wherry?

T: Yeah.

H: And where was the closet and storage space? Was it – did each bedroom have a closet?

T: I have to go in there and wake my wife up. (LAUGHS) Yeah, yeah, yeah, they did. Not big ones.
I’m thinking down at Patrick. Let’s see, we had a small closet – yeah, they had small closets in the
Keesler ones.

H: And was there any other closet or storage spaces in the houses, like maybe in the foyer?

T: There wasn’t any foyer. You walk right into the living rooms in all of them. Oh, now, wait a
minute. Patrick’s a little different. Let’s see. You came in – yeah, there was a – you came in and
turned to the right and you walked into the great room. Straight ahead, you walked into the kitchen
area, and to the left was down the hallway, and then dogleg and down the other hallway. And there
was a small hall closet.

H: OK, and this was at Patrick?
T: Yeah.

H: But no hall closets or other closets in Keesler, besides the bedrooms.

T: No, no. No, they weren’t terribly big units, and they made you use what they had.

H: So there was no other storage space then at Keesler, like outside or anything like that?

T: Unless you provided it yourself.

H: Oh, you could build? I think you mentioned building a shed.

T: Yeah, yeah. You could build a small shed.

H: But at Patrick, you had a storage room with the washing machine.

T: Yeah. It was a connector between the house and the garage, and, well, that’s where the air conditioning unit and the water heater and everything else because, see, everything was ground-level. And they stashed it in that area. It was just a walk-through. It had enough room in it there. That was a good – there in a hurricane, that was where the barbecue unit was doing some cooking because the electricity was out, and you didn’t have gas. Everything was electric at Patrick.

H: So you lived through a couple hurricanes down there?

T: Well, I went through one. We got to see Donna.

H: Oh, OK. Did you think that both at Keesler and Patrick that the housing and the neighborhood were good places for children to live?

T: Oh, yeah, because there were lots of other children running around there, too.

H: And it was adequate for children? It provided enough play space?

T: Oh, yeah. Like I said, well, at the first house at Keesler, too small. Don’t know. The second one, it was like a big, humungous yard. I said the units were U-shaped. I mean arranged in a U. But between the left and the right one, maybe over 100 feet. So that made for a big yard for a lot of community playing.

H: Oh, I see, sort of like a common back yard behind each unit.

T: Yeah. Well, a front yard and back yard. And I know they played together because I caught the mumps, and I know the kids brought them home, because I didn’t make contact with the people in the area that had it. (LAUGHS)

H: Was there any playground space provided in the developments?

T: They didn’t have money for things like that then, so, no. Today’s bases would have it. But not then.

H: And were there sidewalks? I mean, was it safe to have kids outside playing?
T: Yeah, there were sidewalks.

H: And one of the objectives of this housing was to provide an open floor plan to create this feeling of spaciousness and allow people to congregate easily. Did your housing succeed in this? It sounds like you had the combined – well, you didn’t have a dining room in the Keesler houses, but the combined living room/dining room, I guess, at Patrick sort of had that.

T: That unit had a high-hipped, I guess you – yeah, cathedral is the word for that so-called great room. It had a south exposure on it and you had alternating glass and louvers, sections that were, oh, about three, they were about three foot, I guess.

H: Are these the windows? Windows you’re talking about?

T: Yeah. But think of a window that runs from the floor all the way up to the top, to a cathedral-type ceiling. It got kind of high at one point. And, oh, yeah. During Donna, I saw that wall bow in about three inches from some of the gusts. If you looked down there, you’d say, oh, look there. (inaudible)

H: Wow. So that was at Patrick, the cathedral.

T: Yeah. But there was enough room in there. Heck, even when you put the Christmas tree up, there was plenty of room.

H: Did you like that, that open floor plan?

T: Oh, I lost you there for a bit.

H: Oh. Did you like the open floor plan?

T: Oh, yeah. We were so happy to have a house like that.

H: What did you like about that?

T: We had lots of room. The kids had lots of room. That house also, like I said, had a big screened patio porch. You could go out from the great room or from the master bedroom. Like I said, it was screened because that’s mosquito country. But if you wanted to have a lot of lawn furniture on it, it was a good place to sit in the evening, too, when it cooled down.

H: That was big enough for a picnic table?

T: Yeah.

H: OK. Now, I forgot to ask you, in all your houses, was it one-story or two-story?

T: All those were one story.

H: OK. Keesler and Patrick.

T: Yeah.

H: OK. And so did the Keesler housing have any patio space in the back?
T: Only if you went out on the grass.

H: OK. So they didn’t provide a concrete slab or anything.

T: They were not into that kind of thing then. They were so happy to provide the houses. You know the money just provided the houses. They didn’t have enough for AC, well, they didn’t know what AC was, except down in the classrooms. And they had to have it in the classrooms. I can remember those radio operators when they were going to school in the hangars, and they had both doors open, and it was still hot.

H: Well, I bet that was unpleasant. So, how much did the houses and the neighborhood design contribute to a sense of community in the neighborhood? I know that also another contributor was that you were all in the same boat and you all were doing similar jobs and, you know, were serving similar purposes. But did the housing and the neighborhood design contribute to any sense of community?

T: Oh, yeah. Well, like I say, you made friends with the people all around you. You had to. If you didn’t, you might get run out. They might go to the base commander and say, hey, we want him out of here. He doesn’t get along. That kind of thing.

H: So I guess the housing was pretty close together. I mean, it’s not like these huge wooded lots like you would find today. So that probably contributed to…

T: Well, yeah, let’s see. You’d probably have 25 feet between units, between the ends of units, I’ll put it that way. And let’s see. I’m thinking of the second place that – there was our unit on the right side of the U. Ours was down at the end. There was that unit. And then there was another unit. There was three units on a side. So there were six families on that row. And was it one or two units across the end? Seems like it was one.

H: So then your – at Keesler, the first building you lived in was a duplex, but the second one, it sounds like…

T: It was a duplex. Both of them were duplexes.

H: Where there was two units per building?

T: Yeah.

H: It sounded like you were saying there was three or four –

T: Well, I’m thinking of the number of the buildings. On the side we were on, there was three buildings. There were six families there.

H: Oh, within your immediate vicinity.

T: And then across the end, there was probably, trying to remember whether there was one or two buildings. I think it was one now. So there was two families there. And then right across the way from us, there was another six families.

H: I see. OK. And you said one of the neighborhoods was in a U shape.
T: That’s the one. And that particular one there, there was 14 families there on that U.

H: OK. So then it sounds like the streets were maybe – were there curving streets, and it sounds like there was cul-de-sacs?

T: They were curving. I don’t recall any cul-de-sacs. And on the base, there were strictly squares. They were built on existing square blocks.

H: So you mean when the housing was on the base, it was in squares.

T: Yeah.

H: And one of these at Keesler was on base, and one was not on base.

T: Yeah.

H: And Patrick was not on base?

T: No, no. It was an area that was two miles south of the base.

H: OK. And how would you characterize your level of privacy in reference to the neighborhood? Did you feel that you had enough privacy within the neighborhood? I mean, somebody was saying yesterday that their wall was thin enough where they could hear the neighbors.

T: No, ours was better than that, but mind you, down at Keesler, we didn’t have AC, and so you had a lot of open windows. And if you had a loud one going on someplace, you knew about it. (LAUGHS)

H: (LAUGHS) You knew who was having problems.

T: Right.

H: But did you generally feel that you had enough privacy, or what’s your assessment?

T: Oh, yeah. All you had to do is just keep your mouth shut. Not get loud.

H: And the outdoor space. Did you feel that you had enough outdoor space?

T: Oh, yeah. Well, of course, my kids were young, very young, down at Keesler. Well, in the second house, when they were old enough to play outside, yeah, they had a ton of space.

H: Now, were the back yards fenced in any way?

T: No. At Patrick, the only fence we had was our back fence, and that was a concrete-block fence about four feet high.

H: That was fencing your individual property?

T: No, it was just fencing off the government property from whoever’s land on the other side. But in between the units, no, there were no fences. I could still remember my dog would chase other dogs across our back yard and to that invisible line, and she’d stop at the halfway point. (LAUGHS)
T: Well, dachshunds, female dachshunds are very – they like their territory. Possessive. But she would take a collie or a big shepherd right across the yard if they were passing through, and give them a “don’t stop here” sign.

H: Territorial.

T: Yeah, very. No, there was no fencing in between houses.

H: You mentioned the cathedral style at the Patrick house.

T: Just on the four bedrooms.

H: OK. Did you have enough views of the outdoors from the indoors in all these houses?

T: (LAUGHS) You had a lot of view in that one.

H: What about in the other two at Keesler?

T: Yeah, windows was one thing that they had plenty of – well, of course, the bedrooms only had one window, but the living room seemed like it had about three.

H: OK. And so did you feel you had enough windows in general?

T: Oh, yeah. Well, you needed the windows there to open up so that – oh, I said they didn’t have AC, but they did have a ceiling fan – not a ceiling fan, an exhaust fan in the hallway. And it drew air in, and that’s one of the reasons the windows were open, and you had more windows.

H: And did you have any landscaping in any of the houses? Bushes near your house or any trees on your property?

T: Well, you had tons of pine trees down at Keesler. In fact, I had one just outside the living room at the first house, and I shinnied up it and nailed my TV antenna to it. (LAUGHS)

H: Wow. That’s ingenious.

T: And yes, we had trees. They had these pine trees, probably 60 feet tall.

H: Oh, so those were sprinkled throughout the development and on your property as well.

T: Well, yeah, they were there, and they just never cut them down.

H: OK. Did you have any shrubs or bushes?

T: Seems like there were some, but you didn’t – Uncle didn’t have a lot of money for shrubs for those first houses. At Patrick, yes, we did, because I can remember the kids playing through the bushes on the north corner of the house. Playing with the ones across the street, coming over there.

H: I see. Yeah. And would you characterize this – in all the three areas that you lived, would you characterize those as suburban environments?
T: Oh, yeah.

H: So, did that make it appealing? Did that add to the appeal at all?

T: Well, yes, because it was a different world. For instance, at the first area at Keesler, it was a different world from one block over. It was a totally different world. There, I was three blocks from work. And like I say, it was a different world.

H: You mean when you came into your neighborhood from the rest of the base?

T: Oh, yeah, because the rest of the base was lots of troops, and there it was just families.

H: I see. OK.

(PHONE CONNECTION CUT, INTERRUPTING INTERVIEW)

H: Turning the tape recorder back on. Let’s see. Where were we here? My next question was going to be about economizing. The housing reflected the government’s desire to provide housing that was not excessive or too costly, and I was wondering if you saw evidence of that, of the government’s attempts to economize.

T: Well, they used a common plan. And yeah, well, and judicious use of space. And well, it was so much better than what we had, it didn’t look like economizing. But for Keesler to go to brick housing, that was a big step. Then again, when you stop and think about it, it cut down on (inaudible) termites, and everything else. Termite maintenance down there was one thing that they had to worry about.

H: So, did you see any other examples of economizing, like use of particular types of materials.

T: Well, like I said, the brick was long-lasting. Because I have visited, let’s see, I was on TDY at Keesler.

H: You were on what? I’m sorry.

T: Temporary duty. When I was up here at Scott, I went to a lot of places as a civilian to meetings. And Keesler was one of the places they held the meetings. And drove by my old house, and it was still there. Still a good-looking area. In fact, it was just a block over from where I was staying. I didn’t realize that kind of building had gone on. They built a base hotel just a block away.

H: Do you remember anything in particular about the physical features of the houses you lived in, these three houses, aside from what you just mentioned about the brick? Was there any other physical features that you recall, like wood floors or, you know, anything like that?

T: Well, yeah, there was hardwood wood floors.

H: Oh, at all three?

T: No. Down at Patrick, we had, seemed like it was inlaid tiles. Yeah, it was. It was inlaid tiles.

H: At Patrick?

T: Yeah. Easier to keep clean.
H: And wood floors at Keesler?

T: Yeah.

H: OK. Any other physical features that stick out in your mind of either, any of the housing?

T: Well, all of them were on concrete slabs. I can remember the heating in the Keesler housing. It was a glass tube heater on the wall, and radiant – yeah, glass tube radiant heating. Fire went up through it, and it got hot, and man, it would radiate like mad. Well, I had tonsillitis at one time. I got into alternating chills and fever. And sometimes, I couldn’t get any closer to that heater unless I crawled into it to get warm, and then other times I was so hot, I couldn’t get far enough away from it. I can recall that. I’d forgotten that heater for a second.

H: Anything else? Some people mentioned, maybe there was a little architectural detail.

T: Well, they were just rectangular brick houses. And those get pretty common. Now, the one at Patrick, it was not brick. It was concrete-block, I believe. But it was arranged nicely. And the fact that they had used that area between the garage and the – I just remembered one family down the way with 13 kids. Yeah. I was at the hospital at that time, and he was over, worked over in the dental clinic. And yeah, they had – and they turned the garage into a bunkroom for the boys. Put plywood up on the screened porch. They were allowed to plywood it up, and some of the girls turned that into a bunkroom, too.

H: Oh, boy. They could have just moved back into the barracks. Very interesting. Well, what physical features of the housing did you like, and what did you dislike?

T: Well, Keesler, sure would have liked air conditioning. We did have it at Patrick, because we had the heat pump. And it adequately cooled you in the summertime, but times in the winter, it wasn’t enough. Because it could take care of 15 degrees, and I remember 32 degrees on Christmas of 1960.

H: Oh, that’s pretty cold for down there.

T: Yeah, it was. (LAUGHS) And I went fishing. But yeah, it was 32, and you could only get about 45 to 47 degrees in that house, so it was a cold time there for a day or two.

H: Now, your, the two experiences at the two installations were definitely at the front and back ends of the Wherry housing program. And so I was wondering if you could offer general comparisons of the two experiences at Keesler and Patrick.

T: Well, of course, being the kids were all a different size, that made a big difference on the experiences. But early on, that was totally adequate. Later on, it was totally adequate, too. So I really can’t argue there. And going into the Capehart we had out at Clinton-Sherman, that was totally adequate, too, so I don’t know.

H: So it just happened to all come together to meet your needs at the particular time of your life that you were at, where the Keesler, even though it seems very spare today, it just was what you needed at that time.

T: Yes, yes.

H: I see.
T: And any, the young ones that get into those – well, those one-bedroom houses today, it would be good enough for their needs, probably. But I imagine that there’s been some things added on to the back sides of those. You know, like some of these small storage sheds the government buys up now from time to time, that I’ll bet they have it today.

H: Yeah. So was the Patrick house generally nicer than the other two as far as just kind of the quality of the materials or just the general...

T: Well, the fact that it was a four-bedroom, by itself made it totally different. Because you went right across the street, and there’s duplexes over there of two and three bedrooms. And although those were pretty nice over there for the people that had them. I just had more kids and got a bigger house.

H: Was this housing, both at Keesler and at Patrick, would you call it attractive, or how would you describe the appearance?

T: Oh, yes. Even today, if you took a picture – well, I don’t know about the Patrick now, because my daughter was down there within the last year, and went by, and she had never got to live there, but she took some pictures and then described it, and everything had changed. But I’ve seen in the later years the Keesler, and you could still take pictures, and it looked like a storybook back there. With those big trees all around, and you take a picture, it would still look nice.

H: So the housing at Keesler, both of those were brick. And did you say the Patrick housing was brick, too?

T: It was concrete block.

H: That’s right. Concrete block.

T: Concrete block and stuccoed a little on the outside. And it didn’t make – well, built more for the hurricane season. You see more of them in Florida than you do in Mississippi. Although ’49 and ’69 and ’04 – or ’05, they had some humungous ones out there. Because in ’49 there was one tore up Biloxi, and in ’69, there was one tore up Biloxi, and in ’05 destroyed Biloxi.

H: So even the brick, I guess I don’t know if the housing is still standing.

T: I’ll bet it’s still there.

H: You think so?

T: Yeah. It’s other parts of the base that got hurt.

H: OK. Well, do you have anything else that you’d like to add? Any other general comments about anything?

T: Well, my response has been mostly on your prompting here and there on something you wanted to find out about. So I don’t know.

H: Any general comments about your impression of the housing, you know, your opinions of it, anything like that?
T: Oh, I was terribly happy to have it at the time, because what was available out there otherwise, no. It would cost a lot more, and definitely good for the money I was making at the time.

H: Well, that’s good.

T: Because I’ve added up my pay back then. Current times, and – let’s see, what was it? I sat down the minute we got married. I think I was getting $348 a month, and I was a staff sergeant, older staff sergeant. And NCOs got paid more money. But $348. No, wait a minute. I said $348? No, $248. So, not very much money. You bought a car and that was about it. And it was a used one at that.

H: OK. Well, do you happen to have any photos of any of these three houses?

T: No, I sure don’t.

H: Well, if you happen to stumble on something, we’d love to – if you’d be willing to share it with us, we could always scan something here at the office and get it back to you, or…

T: Or if somebody’s down at Patrick, take a look at 100 South Pine.

H: OK, 100 South Pine, OK. Well, I thank you so much for your time, and if you think of anything else that you’d like to add, feel free to get in touch with me.

T: OK.

H: Thank you very much.

T: Well, I’m happy to be of service.

H: OK. Thank you. Take care.

T: Bye.

H: OK, bye.

END
Figure L.10. Map showing two locations of Wherry housing at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, where Warren Trekell and his family lived from 1951 to 1955. (Courtesy of Warren Trekell)
Figure L.11. Map showing location of Wherry housing at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, where Warren Trekell and his family lived from 1960 to 1962. (Courtesy of Warren Trekell)
MARY L. WAXLER

Ms. Chris Heidenrich, M.A., a historian with R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., conducted a recorded interview with Mary L. Waxler via telephone on 28 August 2006. Ms. Waxler was interviewed for a project sponsored by the Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Navy to document the history of military family housing constructed under the Wherry and Capehart programs between 1949 and 1962. Ten other former residents of Air Force and Navy Wherry and Capehart housing were interviewed. A historic context, neighborhood design guidelines, and a tax-credit brochure also were completed for the project.

Mary L. Waxler was the daughter of a U.S. Air Force non-commissioned officer in charge at a survival equipment shop, who later was a first sergeant with a missile wing headquarters squadron. She, her parents, and her two sisters resided in Capehart housing at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, from 1958 to 1964 while her father was a master sergeant. The Waxler family lived in a one-story duplex consisting of three bedrooms, one bathroom, a living room, and a dining area. A carport was attached to the unit.

CHRIS HEIDENRICH: This is Chris Heidenrich from R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates interviewing Mary Waxler on August 28, 2006. All right, and if you could just acknowledge that you’re being recorded, that would be great.

MARY WAXLER: OK. When, now?

HEIDENRICH: Yeah.

WAXLER: OK. I acknowledge that I’m being recorded.

H: OK, great. Thanks. Well, first of all, I just want to say thank you very much for participating. Glad to be able to get your perspective on living in this housing, especially a younger person, and feel that’s important, too.

W: You’re welcome.

H: I wanted just to clarify or make sure that we have the correct, some bibliographic – biographic information for you. Your father was in the Air Force. And do you recall what rank he was when you lived in this housing?

W: Well, when we left base housing, he was an E-7, and we lived on base for six years, so I would probably say he was E-6, E-7 when we lived there.

H: OK, that’s fine. It kind of just gives us a general idea of the type of housing that you might have had access to. I guess that would be a non-commissioned officer.

W: Right.

H: OK. And what was his career field during his service?

W: He was an – well, prior to us living at Little Rock, he was in aircraft maintenance. And then when we moved to Little Rock Air Force Base, he was in the fabrication shop, and later became a first sergeant of a squadron.
H: OK, great. And then as you just mentioned, it was at Little Rock Air Force Base, Capehart housing, from ’58 to ’64, right? OK. And you were between the ages of 6 and 12 years old?

W: Yes.

H: OK. And did your housing area have a name, like kind of like a subdivision?

W: No.

H: Just referred to as the Capehart housing?

W: Well, yeah, just base housing. They just had two parts on base. They had NCO and officer, and there was a clear dividing line, if you will, with one of the divided streets and a lake on base, and officer housing was to one side, and NCO the other, so just NCO housing is what it was referred to.

H: I see. OK. And then, so you were at the NCO housing?

W: Yes.

H: OK. And is it, it was a duplex, right?

W: Yes.

H: OK. How many stories was that?

W: One.

H: OK. One-story duplex. And you said that it was three bedrooms, one bath, a kitchen, living room, a carport and storage room, and then another storage room.

W: In the back.

H: OK. Separately? Attached to the house?

W: Attached to the house. One was attached to the carport, and then one was attached on the back of the, actually on the back of the carport, but the door was off the back patio into it. It was on the same wall as the storage room that was on the carport. Two different rooms, two different entrances.

H: Oh, wow. OK. All right, well, to get into the questions here, first of all, what kind of housing did you live in before you lived in this housing, and how did it compare to the Capehart housing?

W: Well, the house we lived in when we first got assigned to Little Rock, because the housing on base wasn’t quite ready for people to move in yet, was very small, just a little, gosh, tiny little wooden house. It was a rental. I don’t recall having a carport. I remember in older years my mom, you know, driving by and saying, that’s where we lived when we first got here. And it was just a small, I mean, it probably wasn’t 900 square feet. It was tiny.

Now, prior to that, we lived in Alaska at Eielson Air Force Base. And we lived in base housing up there. And so we went from that base housing in Alaska down to Arkansas, and we were off base just a few months, not long, maybe four or five months, and then moved into base housing.
H: OK. Now, was the Eielson housing, was that Capehart or Wherry?

W: You know, I don’t know. I remember it was two-story with a basement, but I don’t know.

H: OK. And how did that housing compare, if you are able to remember that, since you were so young?

W: I don’t really remember. I mean, I remember that it was – all the bedrooms were upstairs. The living room, kitchen, and dining room were downstairs. And then it had a basement downstairs, which is where we had a washing machine. I remember that. We had the old ringer washer. And that was downstairs. But as far as the layout or, you know, amenities, I don’t remember that one.

H: OK. Do you remember whether it was comparable to the Capehart housing at Little Rock? It sounds like it was, sort of.

W: Yeah, yeah. I mean, it had three bedrooms, because there were three kids, and two of us shared and one had a room to their selves and my parents had a room. So it was, you know, three bedrooms, living room, kitchen, dining room. Now, the housing at Little Rock, it was a living room/dining room combination. You know, it was sort of like an abbreviated “L” shape, if you will. And so the dining room was, you know, kind of really was part of the living room. And I don’t recall the layout in Alaska.

H: OK. Did your family, and you in particular, in general did you like the Capehart housing? Did everybody like living there?

W: Oh, yeah. Yeah, I mean, it was – we enjoyed the house. I recall when we first moved there, and this may sound funny, but you know, we would have a thunderstorm, and the wind would just howl terribly through the door jambs because there wasn’t really weatherstripping in those days, if you will. And so every little crack, the wind would howl, and we would take a towel and roll it up and put it by the door to keep the wind from a bad storm from howling through. But yeah, it was comfortable. I mean, we had air conditioning, and in the South at that time, a lot of people didn’t. You know? So it was very comfortable. I think the rooms, you know, were comfortable. I mean, you know, my sister and I shared a room. It was fine.

H: You both felt like you had enough space in your room?

W: Yeah.

H: OK. Oh, and so just to clarify, there were three of you, three of you siblings and your parents.

W: Yes.

H: OK. And where did you fall into that age range?

W: I was the youngest.

H: OK, so the other two kids were older than you.

W: Yes.

H: OK. And so everybody felt generally comfortable living in the housing, and there were no…
W: There were no – you know, not that the walls were thin, but, you know, you could occasionally hear a neighbor bump his furniture. The bedrooms were connected in the duplex, and so if someone were in the bedroom yelling out to someone in the living room, maybe, you know, like from one end of the house to the other, you might hear a voice. But, you know, it wasn’t – and of course, you know, every time somebody PCS’d [moved to another base after receiving Permanent Change of Station orders], you had new neighbors. You never knew if you were going to get quiet neighbors or not. We were lucky in general. (LAUGHS) Not a lot of complaints there. But, you know, that was probably maybe the only complaint.

H: So then, you mean from the neighboring unit or from…

W: Right, yeah. But I mean, generally, you know, people are in the bedrooms in the evenings. Like, if we were in our living room, we couldn’t hear them in their bedroom or in their living room. But if we were in the bedroom the same time they were in the bedroom, and somebody in their bedroom bumped a piece of furniture, we would hear it. Or if somebody from the bedroom yelled from one end of the house to the other, and we were in the bedroom and they were in the bedroom, we would, you know, you would hear it. Maybe not hear what they’re saying, but you would hear the voice.

H: Yeah. OK. And I know that you were so young at the time, but maybe looking back from your perspective now or even just going to visit other friends in the civilian sector, do you know how this Capehart housing compared to housing available at that time in the civilian sector?

W: Well, I think it was pretty nice, actually. It was a small town when we got there. And, you know, I don’t know, there weren’t the neighborhoods like there are now, with, you know, big sprawling homes of, you know, 2 and 3,000 square feet.

H: The McMansions?

W: Yeah. They just – they weren’t. It was a small town, and so, you know, I think of moderate income for most of the people. Because, I mean, I grew up there. Even after we moved off base, I continued to live there. So I know what the older part of town is, and how it’s expanded over the years. And my family still lives there. And so, looking back at the, you know, original town, if you will, and its housing, not how its – you know, all towns expand out now, with big Wal-Mart megacenters and such. But looking back at the original town, I think it was, you know, comparable. It was base housing. It was a duplex. It wasn’t an individual home. But for the times, I think it was nice.

H: And, I guess, going back to your, referring to your sister and you sharing a room, but just in general, did everybody feel like they had privacy within the house? Did people – you know, parents or your other siblings complain at all about any lack of personal space or privacy?

W: Well, you know, I think as my sisters got older, my two sisters are four and six years older than me, so as you can imagine, when I was, you know, 10, they were 16, and when I was 12, they were 18. And, you know, having privacy and a room to yourself and having to share with someone younger, and you know, and the houses weren’t that big. But, you know, I don’t know, because – I don’t know, maybe back in those days, your house was your house. You didn’t really think about everybody’s going to have a room to their self. And you know, you had one TV in the house, and everybody went in the living room to watch it. So it’s not like I want privacy in my bedroom to watch TV like nowadays. You know, it was a different kind of lifestyle. But the houses weren’t big, but we were all right. I know my sisters probably wanted more space because they were teenagers. But me being 7, 8, 9 years old, I was fine.
H: Yeah. And so did you have enough room for all your stuff? I know that kids today have so much more stuff.

W: Well, now, that was one thing. We have often said in looking back that we never kept anything because there wasn’t space to keep anything. You know, when military families move from place to place anyway, you’re allowed so much weight, and so you sent out a lot of things, and maybe some of those keepsakes, you just get rid of. And so we really didn’t have storage in that regard. It was like what we were using is what we had space for.

H: I see. So did you feel like you were able to keep enough of your own personal toys and things that were important to you?

W: You know, I was able to keep the things that I played with at the time, but I will tell you I have nothing from my childhood. We didn’t have space. If something new came in, something went out. See, right now, my house here, you know, I’m able to save things for my grandkids. And you know, my kids who are not in the military have homes where they’re storing keepsakes, and my daughter who’s in the military is giving me her stuff to keep for her kids because she can’t keep it.

H: The perennial problem. So a little bit more on that. The closet and storage space. Was there – I guess we’ve already established that maybe it was a little bit lacking in general just because it was military housing, but it sounds like a little bit of an improvement over this – I don’t know if you’re familiar with Wherry housing. That was the earlier program. But I guess you said you had a storage room in the house – or no, no, excuse me, a storage room in the carport and then the other storage room.

W: We had a storage room on the carport, which is, you know, like where the lawnmower went and tools. Then we had a storage room in the back, which maybe the bicycles went there and you know, maybe Christmas decorations. I recall we had a hall linen closet that was just sliding doors, two sliding doors. That was a hall linen closet. One of the bedrooms had double closets. I guess the master. And then the other two had single closets. All of them with the sliding doors as opposed to a single opening door. So, you know, pretty good width anyway of closets. And that was it. In the kitchen, we had all the cabinets and a space in the kitchen for a washer and dryer, and cabinet storage over it. And I’m trying to think if maybe we had a tiny little broom closet in the kitchen next to the washer and dryer. I can’t recall, but like for the vacuum cleaner, you know, a single little closet somewhere where you put the vacuum cleaner and ironing board.

H: Slide that in there. And so did you say that all the bedrooms had at least one closet?

W: Yes.

H: OK. But one of them, presumably the master…

W: Yeah, I remember one of them having two. Two on one wall.

H: So for your, at least for your everyday needs, regardless of not being able to store kind of nostalgia items or just old baby clothes for the next kid, was there enough storage in the house for just sort of the day-to-day needs, like your clothes that you’re wearing at the time?

W: Yeah, as far as I recall, yeah.
H: OK. And about your particular experience as a kid and maybe if you recall your sisters, did you think that the housing was adequate for children, and was the neighborhood for a child to be?

W: You know, it was fabulous. It was fabulous. We had – I mean, you’ve got to look at my age living there, elementary school. We had sidewalks, we could roller skate, we could play hopscotch, there were big open spaces behind the houses that we could play. You felt very safe living there. I mean, you just went out and played. You could ride your bike. There was a theater on base, and they would do a Saturday matinee. And tons of kids from base housing would walk to the base theater for the Saturday matinee. It was 25 cents to get in, and for another 25 cents you could get popcorn and a soda. And the theater would be packed. Every seat would be packed. And it was just a great place as a kid to live. It was a lot of fun.

H: Was there a park or any play area?

W: Yeah, not maybe by today’s standards. But I do recall, and I don’t know how many of them there were on base, but I know at the end of our street – our street was shaped like a horseshoe, and in the bottom of the horseshoe, out behind a couple of houses, there was actually space between two of the duplexes that you could actually walk through, there were common area swingsets and slides. The old metal, you know, swingset with the – I don’t know what kind of seat it had. I want to say like the leather hooped, you know, seat in it, and the slides. And I think we had, if I recall, we had a little merry-go-round, little tiny little merry-go-round. Now, how many of those they had on base housing, I have no idea.

H: So was that part of the development then?

W: Yeah. It was not someone’s yard. It was a common playground, if you will. Of course, that didn’t prevent you from having your own swingset in your own back yard.

H: Oh, OK. Did some people do that?

W: Yes.

H: OK. And were the back yards fenced off?

W: No.

H: OK. Were all the streets curved? Was the development just centered around the horseshoe?

W: You know, pretty much a lot of base housing was like that. As I recall, there was like a main boulevard, if you will, on the east side of housing. And it was a divided road, one way each way. And then you had housing on both sides of it. Residential streets on both sides of it. And when you pulled into a residential street, it typically curved around, either in a horseshoe shape or in a large half-circle shape, or maybe it weaved in and out. But usually, it had an entrance, and somewhere down, it had an exit. I know like to get to my street, all the streets were named after states.

H: OK, you lived on Mississippi Loop, right?

W: I lived on Mississippi. So like the street Missouri was like a large half-circle, and in the middle of that half-circle off of it was a horseshoe that was Mississippi Loop. And then on the inside of that Missouri half-circle was a tiny little circle, and that was another street. So all the streets just kind of curved off of that main boulevard. And then at the other end of housing, kind of in the middle of the
base, was another two-lane divided road. And it had officer housing, and the lake on the one side of it, with the rest of enlisted housing on the left side of it. And all those streets just curved and weaved in and out.

H: OK. Well, now, that calls to mind another question. These Capehart housing, and Wherry housing to a certain extent, too, were designed according to these suburban ideals of that period. Did it look like – would you say it was sort of a suburban environment? The streets sound like…

W: Yeah. Yeah, I would. I would. You know, because you’ve got to remember, when I moved there, you know, it was brand-new, so all the landscaping was just getting planted. You know, it was pretty barren. But as years passed, you know, the trees and the shrubs were all filled in. But, yeah, you know, we had neighbors out behind us. We had quite a bit of space between our house and their house behind us. They were on a different street behind us. And your house sat reasonably close to the sidewalk. You had like a strip of grass, and then you had the sidewalk, and then you had your front yard. So your driveway could probably get one good-sized, you know, SUV in it, maybe, and then a car in the carport. So that’s kind of how far off your house, back from the main street it was. And I recall we only had sidewalks on one side of the street, though.

H: So the front yard, there really wasn’t a huge front yard.

W: No, not too big.

H: Another objective of the housing was to provide these open floor plans and try to create this, kind of how the ranch style is open and there’s not really very many walls. It’s an attempt to create a feeling of spaciousness and allow family members to congregate easily and let parents watch their kids. Was your housing this way? Did you feel that it kind of provided that? Was it a living room/dining room combination?

W: It was. The kitchen – if I could describe the house, as you walked into the front door of the house, you had a small hallway right in front of you, like a small entrance way. To the right was a doorway into the kitchen. A couple of steps further in to the left was a hallway that took you back to the bedrooms. It was actually an L-shaped hallway back to the bedrooms. And then as you walked all the way in, it opened up into the living room. And as you walked into the living room, if you were to turn back around to the right, you would have seen the dining room, and another door leading into the kitchen. So the kitchen had actually three doors in it: one into it from the carport, one into it from the dining room, and one into it from the hallway main entrance. So you could close that off if you wanted to, and then the living room and dining room were all open, so everybody was kind of there together. And then, to go to the bedrooms, you would go down this hallway. And I recall the bathroom was on the front, and there was a bedroom on the front, and then as you turned the L in the hallway, the other two bedrooms were to the back of the house. So a little bit of privacy from the living room, if you will, because they were back around.

H: Yeah. Separation of the private and public spaces.

W: Right.

H: How did that compare to the housing that you lived in in Alaska? Did you have that?

W: Yeah, I don’t really remember. Yeah. I don’t remember. But I would tell you that my parents built a ranch house that we moved into in 1964, and I didn’t see that the house off base, although the floor plan was different, it was still pretty much – I mean, I live in Florida right now, and I’m living in
a house that’s got high ceilings and is very open. Very open. A lot of glass, you know, and a kind of Southern Life floor plan down here. So, you know, the house had a big double-pane window on the back of the house, so you had a lot of light coming in the living room. And you had a back door from the living room out to the back patio. Not a sliding-glass door, now. Just a door. And as I recall, it had a window in it. It wasn’t a solid door. So you had a lot of light coming in. And in the dining room was a window off of the carport that allowed light in. So, yeah, I mean, as you say, the public area was very open. Now, by today’s standards, some living rooms and kitchens are all open with the half-bar counter that, you know, opens out into your family room. And it did not do that. The kitchen was completely closed off from the dining room and the living room.

H: OK. So, there were enough windows. That was something I was going to ask. It sounds like there was enough windows to provide enough light?

W: Oh, yeah.

H: And bigger windows, it sounds like, too.

W: Yeah, on the back of the house. And all the bedrooms had windows. But you know, I don’t recall if the larger bedroom had like a double window in it or not. I don’t recall. But I know of course they all had windows.

H: And do you feel that the housing and the design of the neighborhood, especially that sort of suburban feel, did it promote community within the neighborhood? I know that this is a unique situation where it’s not just anyone kind of moving in from anywhere, but it’s military people, and you’re all in the same boat, and people even are doing similar jobs or have similar ranks, so obviously that is community as well. Did the housing and the neighborhood contribute to that community at all?

W: Well, I mean, we knew our neighbors, and did things with our neighbors. I know our neighbors out back, we did things, you know, like barbecue in the back yard. And I think the housing area lent itself to that. You know, I know where I live right now, I’m very close with our neighbors, but you hear a lot of people say, gee, I don’t even know who my neighbors are. But we knew who our neighbors were, and when someone new moved in, you know, oh, hey, where’d you come from? You know, that’s military bonding that goes on there anyway. But now were there block parties, community housing things? Not that I recall. But we did know our other neighbors and went over to other people’s houses for – my parents, you know, for coffee or for a barbecue or a beer or whatever. And the kids played with each other.

H: Yeah. OK. Did you feel that your housing, looking back, provided enough privacy in reference to the rest of the neighborhood?

W: Well, the back yard didn’t.

H: The back yard didn’t.

W: Well, there was no fence. And even now, I mean, when I lived there, I don’t recall that we could have – I think we had, we could put up not even chain-link by today’s standards, but the old square wired fence, if you had a dog. And we had a dog. So we could put up a little fence for the dog. But you know, like, to have a privacy fence for privacy if you wanted to sit in your back yard and lay out and get a suntan, or have a barbecue you didn’t invite your neighbors to, you didn’t have a lot of privacy from that. It was kind of wide open.
H: So you weren’t allowed to put up a fence?

W: Well, you had to get permission from housing, and they had to know what kind it was, and they had to know your purpose. As I recall, back then, if you had a dog, you could put up a fence. Now, I think you can put up a fence just if you want to put up a fence. But it has to be chain-link. You can’t put up a privacy fence.

H: Oh, I see. Where there’s really no privacy with even a chain-link fence.

W: Right. So basically, you’re keeping your kids in or your dog in, but no privacy fence.

H: Well, about the back yard, actually, I meant to ask, you mentioned a patio. Did you have a patio back there, like a concrete…

W: Yes. A concrete slab patio.

H: Was there enough to – what would you put out there, like a picnic table? What did you do out there?

W: No. It was small. You know, like the barbecue grill, maybe a couple of chairs to sit on while my dad was grilling. And then we would put lawn chairs in the grass. Probably, I don’t know, 8 by 10, 10 by 10.

H: OK. Yeah. Kind of small.

W: Yeah.

H: And you said the door was not a sliding-glass door. It was just a regular door.

W: Right.

H: OK. And another aspect of the housing was that it reflected the government’s desire to not provide excessive housing or extra costly housing, and I was wondering if you remember any evidence of attempts to economize.

W: Yes, we – actually, when I first moved there, I don’t know what age I was, or I’m not even sure if it was when we still lived there. Like I said, we moved off when I was 12, but I still lived in the area. But when we first moved on base, although the houses were modest, OK, I’ll say that, they were modest homes, but like utility-wise, the best place to go at Christmas, to drive around and look at everybody’s Christmas lights was base housing. Because everybody would decorate Christmas lights, because nobody had to pay the electric bill.

Now, they would do water. They would say if you live on the even side of the street, you water on certain days, and odd side, you water on certain days. And if the water got to be low, they’d tell you you can’t water at all and wash your cars, that kind of thing. So water, they did conserve on. And we did not have dishwashers. Dishes were washed by hand. I’m trying to think at one point if they ever put dishwashers in them. But we washed dishes by hand. But then, later on, as the energy was starting to become an issue for the whole country, they did put meters on all the houses, and kind of was like, OK, this would be considered reasonable. If you go over this, you might get charged, and you’d start reserving. And then they started cutting the – you can’t have Christmas lights, and you
know, they started conserving energy a little bit more. And so they kind of tightened up on that a little bit.

H: And what about any physical features of the house that were distinctive? Do you remember anything in particular about the physical features of the house?

W: I mean, I can picture the house perfectly in my head. I’m just not sure what you mean.

H: I guess, like, was there anything that comes to mind, like a particular way that the windows looked. Someone said that they had mullions, stuff like that.

W: No. I want to say that the back door that was glass was half solid wood with a glass window on the top, as I recall. And I think the front door was solid. I remember all the closet doors in the house were brown wood. The floor in part of the, most of the house was parquet wood tile. There was no carpet. It was parquet wood tile. And I can’t recall if the kitchen had tile or linoleum. But I do recall that the bedrooms and living room and everything else had the parquet wood flooring. You know, I know all the colors – the houses were all sided, and they were all pastel colors.

H: OK, and you said yours was blue, right?

W: Ours was a very light blue, and they had yellow, and then they had kind of a, I don’t know, pink isn’t really the color, but kind of a pinkish beige, if you will.

H: And you mentioned that the outside, it was wood siding?

W: You know, I’m not sure if it was wood or if it was metal siding. Because, you know, quite honestly, I don’t ever recall the house being painted. So, you know, I can’t say. But it was, the style of the siding was the long, horizontal wood-looking, you know, like a clapboard house. But other than that – and the carport had, was open. The carport was closed in back with this storage shed. And it had the little concrete barrier to stop you from running into the shed. And then it had a couple of posts on the side for the, to hold up the carport. I don’t recall any attic space. I don’t recall my dad ever going into the attic.

And then, like I said, we had sidewalk on our side of the street, so there was the driveway, and then there was the grass, and then a piece of sidewalk, and then another little piece of grass, and then the curb. And it was a proper curb, too, which nowadays, it’s, you know, your grass and your street are all flat together. This was a proper step-up onto the curb, like a city street, stepping onto.

H: So did your family feel that the house was attractive?

W: Yeah, I don’t recall anybody complaining.

H: Did you think it was attractive?

W: Yeah, it was all right. I was a kid. (LAUGHS)

H: Yeah. Right. What did you need, yeah, in terms of an attractive house?

W: Yeah. I know when we moved off base, the one thing my mother wanted was, you know, nice big trees. The lot where we were building a house, she had them save some of the big trees. And I think it
was just because when we moved in, it was brand new, so everything was small. Takes a while for trees to grow. But I don’t recall her complaining.

H: Was there particular physical features of the house that you liked, and you know, anything that spoke to you as a young person, or your siblings, and any features that you disliked?

W: Well, you know, it’s kind of odd because years later, when I actually got married, I actually moved into that housing as a wife. And one of the things that I liked about the house as a wife, because, you know, as a kid when I was there, you know, I could care less. I liked being able to close off the kitchen. I liked that feature, you know, closing it off, so if you had somebody come in the front door and you had dirty dishes, you just close the door and they don’t see it. They just come in, you know?

But, you know, I think the thing that I didn’t like is that the washer and dryer was in the kitchen. It had no closet. It was in the kitchen. It sat out as an appliance, just like your refrigerator and your stove. You didn’t have it sitting, like, in a closet with double folding doors to hide it, and so that was a feature I think that, you know, I didn’t particularly care for.

I liked the fact when I was a kid, I stayed in one of the bedrooms in the back, and so if my family was out watching a TV show, I could go back in the bedroom and play.

H: Do your own thing.

W: Yeah. And, you know, my girlfriend, same thing, go to her house. And so we had a little bit of privacy. You know, it was nice because – I know it was a pain for my dad because they were very strict on yard maintenance. I mean, you want to talk about strict housing covenants. Base housing has very strict covenants for living there. But that makes it also a nice-looking place, because the yards are all mowed and edged and swept, and you don’t have a lot of toys laying out all over in the front yard. Even though there were a lot of children in base housing, you were not allowed to leave bicycles and toys and cars, you know, up on jacks, those kinds of things. They had very strict rules.

H: Interesting. And inspections, right?

W: Yes. They would do weekly inspections. They would drive around base housing, and if you didn’t have your yard in order, you would get a little note telling you that you needed to get your house in order. On the outside. I mean, they never came in your house. It was just strictly the outside appearance.

H: OK, well, is there anything else you wanted to add about just the housing in general, the neighborhood, your experience as a young person?

W: No. I know my mother told me the other day that our house has now been torn down. They are building a new house. The new housing is going in. So it was there for 48 years. You know, I just, at the time that I was there as a kid, it was a great place. And, you know, with a family of three, it was adequate space. But if you had four or five kids, three-bedroom house with one bath was the largest house.

H: Oh, in your development?

W: Yeah. The whole base. I think officers may have had a fourth bedroom, but – we just had three-bedroom houses. And so, you know, for our size family, my size family that was there, it was
adequate. And for the age of us, it was adequate. Had we lived there and all of us were teenagers, you know, 15, 13, 12 kind of age, you know, it might have been a little cramped. But when we moved there, I was six, and my sister was 10, and my other sister was 12, when we moved in. And so, for us, it was fine.

H: Yeah. Well, I meant to ask, how did your family feel about everyone sharing one bathroom?

W: Well, you know, that’s all we knew. That was pretty much the norm no matter where you lived. Grandma had one bathroom, we had one bathroom, our friends off base had one bathroom. That was pretty much the norm.

H: Yeah. That’s really interesting how standards have changed.

W: Oh, yeah. You don’t have a house with two bathrooms in it now, oh my gosh. You know? But back then, it was the norm for everybody, on base, off base. You were rich if you had a house that had a bath and a half in it. You know, a powder room. And especially two bedrooms – or two bathrooms.

H: That’s really interesting, because it seemed like when they started building the Capehart housing – this earlier Wherry housing typically had one bathroom. But it seemed like the Capehart housing, they were trying to build at least a bath and a half, so I was intrigued to find a Capehart development that still only had one bathroom. So everybody, that was the norm.

W: We only had one. Now, I don’t recall officer housing. Officer housing was different, was a little bigger. Rank really did have its privileges. But did it have a half-bath in the master bedroom or any O-6 or general’s quarters, did they have, you know, a bathroom? I couldn’t tell you. I couldn’t tell you. But, yeah, you know, and it is amazing just the way we have evolved as a culture, if you will. Because really, I mean back then, I mean, I can remember we got our first TV. We had one car. We had one bathroom. We had one TV, and it was black and white, and we were happy to have it. And it’s not that we were poor. We were middle America. You know, this is, we were a typical family, and we felt typical. You know, we didn’t feel like we were, you know – oftentimes, people will, you know, sarcastically maybe refer to base housing as, yeah, I live in the slums. But we didn’t feel that way. You know, it was nice housing, it was new, it was air conditioned, we had hardwood floors. You know, it was, we were quite comfortable.

H: Yeah. It sounds like, very nice. Did your family provide the air, or was that part of the house?

W: Did my family provide what?

H: Did you bring your own air, window units?

W: Oh, no, no. It was central air conditioning.

H: Oh, OK.

W: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. See, now, when we lived off base, before we moved in, the house we lived in off base did not have air conditioning. And we had a little window unit that we had in the kitchen and living room for cooking. But at night, we slept under a sheet with like a little T-shirt and our underwear on with the windows cracked open. We did not have air conditioning. So when we moved on base and had central air with a unit out in the back of the house, we were in hog heaven.

H: Oh, I can imagine. What a luxury.
W: Yeah. Yeah, it was.

H: All right, well, thank you very much for spending your time sharing your memories of your childhood experience in the Capehart housing.

W: I have the paperwork. In fact, I think I mailed it today.

H: Oh, great. OK.

W: I got it all ready and asked my husband to slip it in the mailbox outside.

H: Oh, great. OK, well, I appreciate that. Do you have any photos of this housing?

W: You know, I don’t know if I do here, but I know my mother does.

H: Well, if it ever is convenient, you know, for you to share that with us, that would be great.

W: OK. Well, I’ve got your e-mail address. And my sister lives in the same town as my mother. I can ask her to maybe dig up a couple of photos. I remember when my sister got her first car. There’s a picture of her standing in front of the car in front of the house. You know, maybe we can grab a picture or two and scan them in and send them to you. So I’ll ask.

H: That would be nice, yeah. And we’re hoping to wrap this up by – I think we’re going to be submitting all of our final materials in early October, so if you’re able to do that before that time, that would be great.

W: OK, great.

H: So, thank you so much again.

W: You’re welcome.

H: I appreciate it. If you have any more questions or anything else to add, feel free to call me.

W: All right. I sure will.

H: OK, thank you.


H: OK, bye.

END

ADDENDUM

On 9 October 2006, Mrs. Waxler e-mailed to correct the portion of the transcript in which she discusses her father’s rank during the family’s residence in Capehart housing at Little Rock AFB. He advanced from E-6 to E-7 prior to moving to Little Rock, and was an E-7/master sergeant throughout the family’s residence on the base. The introduction contains this correct information.
APPENDIX M

RESUMES OF KEY PROJECT PERSONNEL
Kathryn M. Kuranda, M. Arch.Hist., Sr. Vice-President - Architectural Services, directs the architectural history and history programs of R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. Ms. Kuranda holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies from Dickinson College and a Master of Architectural History degree from the University of Virginia, where she was a Thomas Jefferson Fellow. Ms. Kuranda's professional qualifications exceed those established by the Secretary of the Interior in the field of architectural history. She is a court-qualified architectural historian.

Prior to joining Goodwin & Associates, Inc., Ms. Kuranda served as the architectural historian with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, where she coordinated the state's program for built resources, and as Architectural Historian with the Bureau of Reclamation at their headquarters office in Denver. Since joining Goodwin & Associates, Inc. as a Senior Project Manager in 1989, Ms. Kuranda has served as Principal Investigator on numerous architectural identification, evaluation, planning, and management projects, both in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area and across the nation.

Architectural survey projects have ranged from single building evaluations to state- and nation-wide multiple-resource efforts. She has directed the development of nationwide historic contexts for the evaluation of Department of Defense resources constructed between 1790 and 1940, the Navy Guided Missile Program, World War II Permanent Military Construction, Army Fixed Wing Air Fields, and Army Housing Constructed under the Capehart, Wherry, and MCA Programs during the Cold War Era. She has directed architectural historical investigations at over 140 military installations, from Alaska to Florida, and from New England to the West Coast, as well as in Iceland and Puerto Rico. Level I and II HABS/HAER projects have included the recordation of eight industrial complexes on the site of Oriole Park at Camden Yards, Baltimore; 3 buildings on the site of the Maryland Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Baltimore; the Kelly Springfield Tire Company, Cumberland, Maryland; Canal Street Car Barns in New Orleans; and, the Caryville Bridge, Florida. Recent bridge experience includes the Harford Road Bridge, Baltimore, Maryland. Preservation planning studies include Cultural Resource Management Plans for the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.; Langley Air Force Base, Langley, Virginia; and the Washington Aqueduct System, which included revisions to the NHL documentation. Ms. Kuranda also has experience in local preservation planning issues and has provided historic preservation expertise for such projects as the rehabilitation of the Francis Scott Key Hotel, Frederick County, Maryland; St. Timothy's School, Baltimore County, Maryland; and Brown's Tavern, in Prince George's County, Maryland.
KIRSTEN PEELER, M.S.
PROJECT MANAGER

Kirsten Peeler, M.S., Architectural Historian, received a Master of Science degree in Historic Preservation in 1996 from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mount Holyoke College. Ms. Peeler has extensive experience in conducting architectural surveys and evaluations, and in mitigation. Ms. Peeler exceeds the Secretary of the Interior’s professional qualifications for architectural history.

As an architectural historian at Goodwin & Associates, Inc., Ms. Peeler completed a nationwide context on Army family housing constructed between 1949 and 1962. This historic context was the component in an innovative strategy developed by the Department of the Army and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. As part of the project, she developed design guidelines for Army neighborhoods built during the 1950s and early 1960s. A 20-minute broadcast quality video documentary on three neighborhoods was produced as part of the project. Ms. Peeler wrote the script and provided project oversight on all aspects of the project, including the filming and editing process.

Ms. Peeler wrote alternative procedures for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 for Fort Benning, Georgia. The final document will be approved by the Georgia and Florida State Historic Preservation Officers and certified by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. She also researched, wrote, and developed a guidebook and accompanying regional maps of Department of Defense historic resources located on active military installations. The materials will be used to promote heritage tourism and to raise public awareness of DoD-owned historic resources.

Ms. Peeler participated in the architectural survey for the National Register nomination for Baltimore East/South Clifton Park Historic District. As an architectural historian at Goodwin & Associates, Inc., she has conducted surveys and evaluations applying the National Register criteria on numerous projects in Maryland, Texas, Georgia, Arizona, Virginia, Michigan, North Carolina, and Missouri.

Prior to joining Goodwin & Associates, Inc., Ms. Peeler was the historic preservation planner for the City of Frederick, Maryland. While at the City, she provided technical assistance to the Historic District Commission and property owners in the Frederick Town Historic District, and authored design guidelines for the Frederick Town Historic District. Ms. Peeler also gained practical preservation experience while at the Historic Warehouse District Development Corporation (HWDDC), a non-profit community development organization in Cleveland, Ohio, from 1996-2000. In Cleveland, Ms. Peeler staffed the organization’s design review committee and represented the non-profit at Cleveland Landmarks Commission hearings. While at HWDDC, she managed the City’s Storefront Renovation Program, a city program that provides technical and financial assistance to property owners undertaking rehabilitation projects.
CHRISTINE HEIDENRICH, M.A.
HISTORIAN

Ms. Chris Heidenrich, Historian, received a Master of Arts degree in public history in 2001 from Loyola University Chicago, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in history in 1993 from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Since joining Goodwin & Associates, Inc., in 2002, Ms. Heidenrich has served as an historian for many cultural resources management projects. She has conducted archival research and provided historical analysis for Phase I and II architectural and archeological surveys in Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Louisiana, Virginia, Washington, and Kansas; for National Register of Historic Places nominations; for cultural resources management plans; and for Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties forms. She has experience researching local primary documents such as land records, deeds, wills, and tax records to support archeological and architectural documentation projects. Her other project experience with Goodwin & Associates, Inc., includes writing state park histories for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources State-Owned Cultural Resources Assessment Program; writing a popular history of construction at military installations for the Department of Defense Heritage Showcase tourism program; and researching and writing copy for a plaque and interactive computer exhibit on the former Brown’s Tavern in College Park, Md. In 2003, Ms. Heidenrich wrote the monograph, Frederick: Local and National Crossroads (Arcadia Publishing), a popular history of Frederick, Md.

Before joining Goodwin & Associates, Inc., Ms. Heidenrich conducted oral history interviews for Loyola University Chicago archives; served as researcher and writer for the historical marker program for the Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest, Ill.; and researched ownership histories of riverfront tracts in northwestern Wisconsin and northeastern Minnesota for the National Park Service history entitled Time and the River: A History of the Saint Croix. She also collaborated on development of the history of lead paint for a litigation-related project, and for an exhibit on the history of the parcel now occupied by a Chicago nature center.
Ms. Katherine Grandine, Senior Project Manager and Historian, received a Master of Arts degree in American Civilization with Emphasis on Historic Preservation in 1983 from the George Washington University, Washington, D.C. She has been professionally active in the field of historic preservation since 1981. Her project experience includes historic research for nationwide context studies and for local history, architectural surveys in numerous states, Historic American Buildings Survey documentation, National Register of Historic Places nominations, local landmark and historic district nominations, historic property mitigation documentation, and cultural resources planning documents.

Since joining Goodwin & Associates, Inc., Ms. Grandine has served as an historic preservation specialist in the development of nationwide historic contexts, including the National Historic Context for DoD Installations from 1790 to 1940, support and utility structures from 1917 to 1946, and Air Force and Navy Wherry and Capehart housing. She has performed reconnaissance-level and intensive-level architectural surveys at numerous DoD installations, including Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; Charleston Naval Base, South Carolina; Fort Knox, Kentucky; Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania; FISC, Cheatham Annex, Virginia; Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Virginia; Naval Base Norfolk, Virginia; and, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. She has conducted literature searches for Phase I archeological surveys, performed architectural surveys, and undertaken archival research for Phase II and Phase III archeological studies for projects in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. She has extensive experience in researching in local primary documents including land records, deeds, wills, and tax records to support archeological and architectural documentation projects. She has managed numerous architectural survey and evaluation projects and written National Register nominations for individual properties and large historic districts. She has co-authored integrated cultural resources management plans and numerous technical reports, and provided technical support for a variety of cultural resources projects.
DEAN A. DOERRFELD, M.A.
SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER / ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Mr. Dean Doerrfeld, Senior Project Manager and Architectural Historian, received a Master of Arts Degree in Urban Affairs and Public Policy with emphasis on Historic Preservation Planning and Policy from the University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware in 1993. He has been professionally active in the field of historic preservation since the 1980s. His project experience includes architectural surveys in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, and Kentucky; survey, fieldwork, measured drawings, and large format photography for Historic American Buildings Survey / Historic American Engineering Record documentation in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Kentucky; researching and writing National Register of Historic Places nominations and local landmark and historic district nominations; preparation of applications for the issuance of Historic Preservation Tax Credits; development of local zoning ordinances and design guidelines; and the development of local and statewide preservation plans. Mr. Doerrfeld’s professional qualifications exceed those established by the Secretary of the Interior in the field of architectural history.

Prior to joining R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., Mr. Doerrfeld worked extensively in the Ohio River Valley completing projects for diverse clients including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Forest Service, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the Ohio Department of Transportation, state and local governments, telecommunications providers, and local non-profit organizations. He has authored nearly 100 technical reports on preservation issues ranging from early-twentieth century industrialization in Delaware to the evolution of the Kentucky agricultural landscape from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. Mr. Doerrfeld also has extensive experience in local preservation planning and policy issues serving as Senior Administrative Officer to the Mayor of Lexington, Kentucky and as Local Preservation Officer. Duties during his tenure with the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government included the administration of the Division of Historic Preservation and compliance issues within the locales fourteen, locally designated historic districts. Mr. Doerrfeld has served as Principal Investigator on numerous architectural identification, evaluation, planning, management, and documentation projects throughout the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic Regions. As adjunct faculty to the University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky and Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, Virginia, Mr. Doerrfeld has instructed at both the under-graduate and graduate levels in architectural history, land use and preservation planning, and field methods in architectural documentation.