



Betty Wallar Alcatraz Collection

GOGA 19200



Golden Gate National Recreation Area
ATTN: Park Archives and Records Center
Building 201, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123
[Mailing Address]

Park Archives and Records Center
Presidio of San Francisco
Building 667 McDowell Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94129
[Physical Address]

www.go.nps.gov/gogacollections

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Introduction

Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Park Description

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), a unit of the National Park Service, was established by an Act of Congress on October 27, 1972. The 80,000-acre park encompasses a great diversity of cultural and natural resources in and around the Bay Area of San Francisco, California. It includes Muir Woods National Monument and Fort Point National Historic Site.

The park holds almost five million three-dimensional and documentary artifacts dating from the time before European contact to the present. They are preserved and maintained for the public by the Division of Cultural Resources and Museum Management, which includes the Park Archives and Records Center (PARC).

Park Archives and Records Center (PARC)

Historical Note

GGNRA and the sites within it have been collecting records since their inception. The PARC was established in 1994 to receive records and archival collections from the U.S. Army and the Presidio Army Museum after the closure of the Presidio of San Francisco as an Army base. The collections continue to grow through the donation of materials by private individuals, transfer of inactive park records by staff, and acquisition of relevant documentary materials.

Scope of Collections

The archival collections in the custody of the GGNRA document the history and activity of the various sites and groups associated with the park, described in the park's Scope of Collection Statement (2009).

The PARC contains U.S. Army and National Park Service facility records for the Presidio of San Francisco, forts and coast defense sites in the area, and various GGNRA sites. Subjects and sites documented include the United States Army (Bear Flag Revolt, Civil War, Spanish-American War, Mexican War, World War I, Army Air Service, Coast Artillery, Army medical facilities and issues, World War II, Army support during natural disasters, Viet Nam War, and Operation Desert Storm); Alcatraz Island (Army fortress, Army Disciplinary Barracks, U.S. Penitentiary, and Indian Occupation); the natural resources conservation movement resulting in the establishment of Muir Woods National Monument; agriculture in the Marin Headlands; Point Reyes Peninsula and Bolinas Lagoon areas; U.S. Lifesaving/Coast Guard Services; San

Francisco Earthquake and Fire of 1906; Panama Pacific International Exposition of 1915; natural resources and environmental issues; and preservation of open space in the Bay Area. Also included in the PARC are many of the GGNRA administrative records that document the development and expansion of this park.

Visiting the PARC for Research

The PARC is located in an historic brick building, formerly a cavalry stable, on the Presidio of San Francisco. Collections and archives support services are available for walk-in research during open hours or by appointment. Please contact the PARC (see below) for the current schedule of reference hours.

Copy Services

Black and white photocopy services for standard and oversize materials are available on-site. Color photocopying, photographic duplication, and duplication of other media are available by special arrangement. Researchers are charged for all duplicates on a cost-recovery basis.

Rights and Publications

Copies are provided under the Fair Use provisions of the Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.). Researchers must complete a Permission to Publish Contract form with the Park Archivist for any other intended use of these materials (such as publication or exhibit). Researchers should consult with staff regarding their needs for commercial or public use of materials.

Legal Status of Holdings

Many holdings of the PARC were acquired/transferred prior to the establishment of the archives program, and have little documentation on their provenance (source/chain of custody). All materials received after 1994 have been accessioned and documented. If provenance cannot be determined, the PARC assumes that it owns the property rights, but does not own the copyright. Staff will provide assistance, but it is the responsibility of the researcher to acquire permission from the copyright holder to cite, quote, or reproduce collection materials.

Collections developed by or for government organizations or operations are in the public domain and may be used, cited, and quoted without restriction, provided they are properly credited to the PARC. The archives contain no national security classified materials.

Donations to the Collections

The PARC welcomes donations of a variety of historic materials that meet the criteria in the Scope of Collections Statement and do not duplicate existing holdings. Collections are maintained for research use in perpetuity; there is no guarantee that items will be exhibited. If

you own materials that may be relevant to the themes of GGNRA and would like to deposit them in the PARC, please consult with an archivist.

How to Use This Finding Aid

This document contains information on the contents and significance of an archival collection. It includes descriptive information; repository information; collection history; biographical or historical information on creators of the collection; and a container or folder list of everything in the collection. After reviewing the finding aid, please discuss your specific needs with the archivist who will locate and retrieve the relevant materials.

How to Use the Collections

Please follow all rules and regulations regarding research, the use of the research facility, and the handling of collection materials. This will protect the collections so they continue to be available and usable for generations to come. If anything appears to be out of order or damaged, please notify a staff member.

Contacts

For additional information on the use of archival collections at GGNRA, please contact the Park Archives and Records Center:

Mailing Address:

National Park Service
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Attn: Park Archives and Records Center
Fort Mason, Bldg. 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Physical Address:

Park Archives and Records Center
Presidio of San Francisco
Building 667 McDowell Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94129
Phone: (415) 561-2807
Fax: (415) 441-1618

Betty Wallar Alcatraz Collection

Title

Betty Wallar Alcatraz Collection

Dates

Inclusive: 1928-1960

Bulk: 1938 to mid-1950s

Collection Number

Catalog Number GOGA 19200 (Accession Number GOGA-3050, GOGA-585, GOGA-1625, GOGA-1730)

Provenance

The collection was donated by Betty Wallar, daughter of Earl Wallar, an Alcatraz employee from 1936 through the mid-1950s.

Volume

Three (3) document boxes, 1.5 linear feet, two (2) 16x20 oversize boxes, .6 linear feet, two (2) oversize folders, .2 linear feet, two (2) books, .2 linear feet

Description

This collection is comprised of Earl Wallar's personal papers, notes, scrapbooks, photographs, and manuals/instructions that depict his work and time spent as a locksmith on Alcatraz. There is an extensive collection of drawings, sketches, poems, art notes, and instructional art books that was created by and belonged to inmates on Alcatraz. The included artists are John Paul Chase, Bernard Paul Coy, Earl Eagar, and James Widmer. The collection is organized in three series:

Series I: Earl Wallar Alcatraz Materials

Series II: Alcatraz Inmate Artwork

Series III: Alcatraz Images

History

Earl Wallar was a locksmith and then tower guard for Alcatraz from 1936 through the mid-1950s. His family moved with him to live on the island in 1938. Earl was a photographer and was requested by the United States Government to take various photographs for government record. It is reported that he enjoyed photography so greatly; he continued to take photographs of prison daily life, of the island and its change over

time and, indirectly of historic views of San Francisco.¹

Preferred Citation

“Golden Gate NRA, Park Archives, Betty Wallar Alcatraz Collection, GOGA 19200”

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Negatives
Paper
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Safety Film
Chase, John Paul
Coy, Bernard Paul
Eagar, Earl
Wallar, Betty
Wallar, Earl E.
Widmer, James

Formats

Books
Booklets
Correspondence
Drawings
Images
Manuals
Newspaper
Notes
Scrapbooks
Sketches
Telegram

Processing Information

Processed by Horton
Completed in 2000
Recataloged by Terryn Liljedahl
Completed April 2016

¹ Information on Earl Wallar was taken from the Catalog Folder, GOGA 19200, from the appraisal of the collection by Melissa Shanley.

Box and Folder List

Collection Title: Betty Wallar Alcatraz Collection

Collection Number: GOGA 19200

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1	2		Alcatraz war work signs
1	3		Basic instruction manual
1	4		Manual of safes
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1	8		Menus
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1	10		Correspondence re: 1923 press leak; timeline, 1936-1938
1	11		Correspondence to and from inmates
1	12		Notebooks on inmates
1	13		Theodore Cole and Ralph Rowe "Wanted" posters
1	14		Speeches and articles
1	15		Alcatraz-related magazine articles
1	16		Newspaper and magazine articles
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			Series II: Alcatraz Inmate Artwork
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1	19		"The Mole" prisoner poetry
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1	21		Coy pencil, water color, and pen & ink drawings
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3	7	.334-352	Additional images of Alcatraz, no descriptions
3	8		Photographic copies of safety negatives
O.S. 16x20			
			Series I
1	1		<u>The National Weekly</u> , July 29, 1939, “Why Alcatraz is a Success,” by Homer Cummings

			Series II
1	2		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner—Pen, ink and pencil drawing, showing a prison inmate inside his cell, sitting on his bunk, with his head on his hands, 1934-1963
1	3		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner—Pen and ink drawing of industrial machine shop at Alcatraz, shows inmate working at the machine with pipes stacked to the left and animal prints in the center, 1944
1	4		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner—Pen and ink drawing of blacksmith shop at Alcatraz, shows four inmates working at various jobs in the the work process for double picked mattocks, 1944
1	5		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner—Pen and ink drawing of industrial model shop at Alcatraz showing 2 inmates #238 and #_39, working at the wood planning machine with stacks of cut lumber to the sides (cellophane tape on the corners), 1944
1	6		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner, John Paul Chase—Pena nd ink drawing of industrial belt-sanding work shop at Alcatraz. Shows 4 prison inmates working at various jobs, belt sander is in foreground with stacks of wooden drawers. Tape at lower right and upper left corners, 1944
1	7		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner, John Paul Chase, #238—Pen and ink drawing of the industrial band-saw and split-ripping machine shop at Alcatraz. Shows prison inmate (#238) working at the machine. Fold mark at the top of paper and tape on the lower right corner, 1944
1	8		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner, Earl Eagan, #266 —Pen and ink on off-white tagboard stapled to cardboard, caricature Alcatraz con working at laundry pressing machine, WWII-era “Buy War Bonds” sign and WWII propaganda style Japanese being pressed, September 18, 1944
1	9		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner, Bernard Paul Coy—Architectural drawing of a 3 bedroom house, front of finished home with landscaping is top half of drawing, bottom half shows 1 st and 2 nd level floor plans. Signed by Coy at lower right, 1934-1963
1	10		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner—Incomplete drawing of a young woman in hat and scarf, holding out her purse. Depicting top of woman from just below her shoulders, darkened purse and hair area has slightly smeared, 1934-1963
			Series III
1	11	.354-.358	Oversize photographic prints (copies)
O.S. 16x20			
			Series I
2			Two scrapbooks with newspaper clippings on various Alcatraz stories, created by Earl Wallar

O.S. Map Folder	SC Range		
			Series II
	1/2		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner, James Widmer—Pen and ink drawing with 6 separate sections showing the clothing made by Alcatraz inmates, includes army twill trousers, khaki trousers, filed jackets, prison inmates work clothing and discharge clothing, C 1944
	2/2		Drawing by Alcatraz prisoner, John Paul Chase—Pen and ink drawing of model shop on Alcatraz, shows inmates working at cutting, sanding, painting, planning, cleaning and using a lathe machine on wood. Center oval shows end products of boxes, drawers, and fids, 1944
Rare book Cab			
			Series II
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardbound book, “Loomis Figure Drawing,” 1943, drawing of female in yellow on front cover, confiscated from Alcatraz prisoner, signed by Bernard Paul Coy on inside cover • Hardbound book, “Color” by Herbert E. Martini, 1928, from Alcatraz Library, signed by Bernard Paul Coy on inside cover