

## YERBA BUENA ISLAND - HISTORICAL TIMELINE\*

compiled by Michael Wood, Wood Biological Consulting

1578	Sir Francis Drake sails by San Francisco Bay, failing to see its entrance.
1768	Caspar de Portola documents San Francisco Bay.
1775	Juan Manuel de Ayala makes first confirmed sea entry into the Bay. Names the island "Isla de Alcatrazes" (Pelican Island).
1776	San Francisco Presidio and Mission established by Juan Bautista Anza.
1826	English cartographer Captain Beechey misinterprets Ayala's maps; renames it Yerba Buena Island.
-1830s	Island used as a fishing camp by the Tuchayunes Indians.
1835-1867	Period of private ownership. Island is known by such names as Sea Bird Island, Wood Island, Goat Island.
1836	Capt. Gorham Nye - first claimant; Mexican land grant from Governor Alvarado.
1838	Juan Jose Castro supposedly also granted title to island to inhibit smuggling.
1836-1849	Nathan Spear and John Fuller. Ownership affirmed by the U.S. Land Commission.
1849	Edward King purchases island from Spear.
1850	Elbert Jones claims to have purchased grant from Castro.
ca1853	Joel Polack buys Castro grant from Jones and ownership claim from King.
1856	Thomas Dowling and John Jennings; longest residents.
1864	Egbert Judson and John Center lease portion for quarry. Jones claims he purchased the grant from Castro in 1848. Litigated until the 1940s.
1866	T. Dowling, Charles Scott and John Vandewater claim the island in a partnership.
1867	Benjamin Brooks buys all claims to the island, then sells it to Egbert Judson.
1850	Mexican control ends. President Fillmore claims all coastal islands for the U.S. government.
1867	U.S. Army sends detachment to take post on the island.
1868	U.S. Army claims ownership and establishes artillery base on east cove. U.S. Land Commission rejects all private claims to the island.
1871	U.S. Army Fourth Artillery Detachment assigned to island.
1872	U.S. Army base is officially listed as an Army Quartermaster Depot.
1879	Fourth Artillery Detachment transferred to the Presidio.
1875	Lighthouse built by the U.S. Lighthouse Service.
1887	California's first Arbor Day. Exotic trees planted on island.
1891	U.S. Army torpedo station built on east end of island.
1895	U.S. Geographic Board changes official name to "Goat Island".
1898	Control of island transferred to U.S. Navy
1899-1946	Receiving Ship, San Francisco established at island.
1917	13,000 trainees stationed on the island.
1923	Naval Training Station closed, Training Command transferred to San Diego.
1931	Native Daughters of the Golden West successfully convince U.S. Geographic Service to change name back to Yerba Buena Island.
1933	Construction of the Bay Bridge begins.
1936	Construction of the Bay Bridge is completed.
1937	Construction of Treasure Island completed.
1939	U.S. Coast Guard takes over operation of lighthouse. Golden Gate International Exposition opens.
1946	Receiving Ship, San Francisco transferred to Treasure Island.
1973	Navy transfers ownership of a portion of the island to the U.S. Coast Guard.
1997	Navy ceases operations at Yerba Buena Island and Treasure Island.

\*Adapted from Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Environmental Technical Division, 1996