

Existing Conditions Assessment - Summit

The Summit (Figure 3-69, 3-70) is the area that occupies the highest point of Alcatraz Island. It is a long, linear plateau that was excavated and flattened to provide a level area for the Island’s buildings and structures. Historically, the Island’s most prominent elements were placed on the Summit. These were also those uses that were central to its operations. These include extant buildings and structures - the Main Prison and Lighthouse on the southern and most prominent side of the Summit, the Morgue and Stockade/Recreation Yard in the center, and the Water Tower and Cistern on the north.

Beneath these extant buildings and structures are the remnants of buildings that previously occupied the Summit, primarily the Basement, Moat and Cistern of the 1859 Citadel (demolished in 1908 for the Main Prison), remnants of a Traverse Tunnel from the 1870s under the Morgue, and remnants of 1860s and 1870s Batteries underneath the Stockade/Recreation Yard.

Spatial Organization, Topography, Views and Vistas - Summit

The Summit is the long, linear plateau at the top of Alcatraz Island. Its topography consists of three large terraces that step down in elevation from south to north. The center terrace is primarily occupied by the large Main Prison and Stockade/Recreation Yard. The south terrace consists of the Lighthouse and remnants of two Keepers’ Quarters, and the large plaza in front of the Main Prison that is connected to the Main Road. This terrace also includes the overlook at the edge of the top of the escarpment, and the Warden’s House. The north terrace is the large open space to the north of the Stockade/Recreation Yard, and includes the Water Tower and the Cistern.

Table 2: Spatial Organization, Topography, Views and Vistas - Summit- Figure 3-69

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Bldg #</i>	<i>Figure #</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Condition</i>
Center Terrace		3-17	Center Terrace of the Summit that is primarily occupied by the Main Prison	Good
South Terrace (east of Main Prison)	68	3-17 3-18	Open area defined by Main Prison to north and escarpment wall and Lighthouse to south; connects to Main Road on east and west sides; includes small-scale features such as plaza, steps, railings, paving	Good
North Terrace (north of Stockade/ Recreation Yard)	1	3-17, 3-19	Area defined by Stockade/Recreation Yard on its south-side and defined by slope towards Industries on its north; includes catwalk footing remnants, cistern, walk to Industries	Good
View to San Francisco from Lighthouse	LH	3-20	View to San Francisco Skyline	Good

Table 2: Spatial Organization, Topography, Views and Vistas – Summit, continued –
Figure 3-69

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Bldg #</i>	<i>Figure #</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Condition</i>
View of Main Prison and Lighthouse from San Francisco	68, LH	3-21	View to Alcatraz from Fort Mason	Good

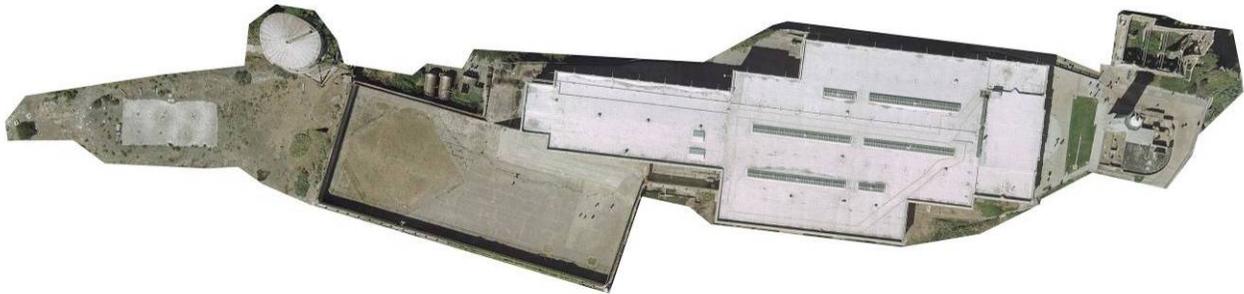


Figure 3 - 17. Aerial View of Summit Terrace. The Center Terrace is primarily occupied by the Main Prison and Stockade/Recreation Yard. South Terrace is the area in the image to the right of the Main Prison and the North Terrace the area to the left of the Stockade/Recreation Yard. (Photo Courtesy of Parks Conservancy (Summit.jpg))



Figure 3 - 18. South Terrace, Aerial View (Photo Courtesy of Parks Conservancy (South Summit Terrace Aerial.jpg))



Figure 3 - 19. North Terrace with Concrete Cistern, New Industries, and Model Industries, as viewed from north side of Stockade/Recreation Yard Wall (MBD DSC03144.JPG)



Figure 3 - 20. View towards San Francisco from Summit west of Lighthouse (MBD IMG_2917.JPG)



Figure 3 - 21. View towards Alcatraz from Fort Mason (MBD DSC00218.JPG)

Buildings - Summit

The most important and prominent building on Alcatraz Island, the Main Prison, occupies the Summit. Prior to its completion in 1912, the 1859 Citadel occupied this site. Its basement and moat (1859) remain beneath the Main Prison. The 1909 Lighthouse, and remnants of its two keepers' residences are also key buildings on the Summit, defining its southern terrace. On the north terrace, and covering the entrance to Fortification Bombproof Tunnel "J" is the 1910 Morgue. At the east edge of the Summit's south terrace are the remnant walls of the 1921 Warden's House and the foundations of its adjacent greenhouse.

Table 3: Buildings - Summit- Figure 3-69

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Bldg #</i>	<i>Figure #</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Condition</i>
Main Prison (1912)	68	3-22 3-23	Reinforced concrete building on site of Citadel – the prison, while in operation, could function as a self-contained unit with its own kitchens, hospital, morgue, and water supply cisterns	Good
Citadel (1859) (under Main Prison) ASM15 GOGA00251				
Citadel Moat, Access Stairs, and Perimeter Wall	1	3-24	First floor, located under Main Prison Extant features include brick walls of the original moat, concrete access stairs from Main Prison, storage bins/latrines, brick paving in bottom of moat, sewer tunnels, cisterns, graffiti, and technological elements	Good
Citadel Basement	1 68	3-25	First floor, located under Main Prison Extant features include sewer tunnels, cisterns, graffiti, and technological elements	Fair
Lighthouse (1909)	LH	3-26 3-27	Adjacent to location of original 1854 Lighthouse; reinforced concrete tower <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SR37 • SR38 Lighthouse provides an aid to navigation for ships plying the treacherous waters of the Golden Gate and San Francisco Bay.	Tower: Good Stairs: Good

Table 3: Buildings - Summit, continued- Figure 3-69

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Bldg #</i>	<i>Figure #</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Condition</i>
Lighthouse Keepers' Residences (2)		3-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concrete foundations of two Lighthouse keepers' residences (remnants) and adjacent concrete stairs to Main Prison 	Residence: Poor Stairs: Good
Warden's House (1921) with greenhouse foundation	76	3-29	Remnant Walls and Chimney remain from the Mission Revival Style building east of the Lighthouse Concrete foundations of its Greenhouse remain south of the building remnants	Poor
Morgue (1910), Magazine, Traverse Tunnel Entrance	66	3-30	Located east of the east wall of the Stockade/Recreation Yard. Accessed by the Main Road north of the third Switchback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building, covers the entrance to Fortification Bombproof Tunnel "J" 	Good



Figure 3 - 22. Main Prison as viewed from east of Lighthouse (MBD Cellhouse_adj.JPG)



Figure 3 - 23. Main Prison as viewed from Main Road at Switchback three (MBD P1000368.JPG)



Figure 3 - 24. Citadel Moat and Perimeter Wall, as seen at east staircase from Main Prison main floor (MBD DSC03163.JPG)



Figure 3 - 25. Citadel, Sewer Tunnel (MBD DSC03202.JPG)



Figure 3 - 26. Lighthouse tower from Main Road looking south (MBD P1000432.JPG)



Figure 3 - 27. Lighthouse tower from Main Prison with view to San Francisco in background (MBD Lighthouse Pan.JPG)



Figure 3 - 28. Remnants of two Lighthouse Keepers' Residences at base of Lighthouse tower from Main Road looking northwest; Main Prison in background at right (MBD DSC03060.JPG)



Figure 3 - 29. Warden's House with foundations of Warden's Greenhouse at far right. (MBD IMG_2895.JPG)



Figure 3 - 30. Morgue and Firebox #5 as viewed from Main Road, Switchback three - Fortification Tunnel and Bombproof "J" is located behind Morgue; Stockade/Recreation Yard in background (MBD P1000491.JPG)

Structures - Summit

The historic structures of the Summit consist of: the Stockade/Recreation Yard and associated features; the tunnels and bombproofs beneath the Yard (remnants of the Earthwork Fortifications period); and Cistern and Water Tower on the north terrace. Also included are: the Guard Station for Kitchen Basement Sallyport on the north balcony of the Main Prison; Oil Tanks No. 3 north of the Morgue; Firebox #5 south of the Morgue; and concrete Scarp wall west of the walk from the Morgue to the Main Prison Gift Shop entrance.

Table 4: Structures - Summit- Figure 3-69

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Bldg #</i>	<i>Figure #</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Condition</i>
Stockade/Recreation Yard				Fair to Poor
Stockade/ Recreation Yard		3-31	Open area within four concrete walls and the Main Prison, includes access to Main Prison on south and access to Industries on west	Fair
Concrete Enclosure Walls with Metal Fencing: SR52, SR53, and SR55		3-32	Concrete walls enclose the yard on four sides; connect to Main Prison Building on east side Sentry walk on top is disintegrating SR52, SR53 and SR55: Prison cyclone fencing, circa 1943	Walls: Fair Sentry Walk: Poor Fencing: Poor
Catwalk/Sentry Walk on Concrete Enclosure Walls with SR53 and SR52		3-33	Concrete walk approximately 3 feet wide around perimeter of Yard Wall. Bordered by railing SR53 to the outside and security fence SR52 to the inside.	Poor
Guard Stations on Concrete Walls		3-34 3-35	Remnants of metal enclosures at the northeast and southwest corners of the Stockade/Recreation Yard.	Poor
Concrete Terraced Steps		3-36	Located on east-side of Yard; with nine broad steps	Good
Concrete Steps from Main Prison to Stockade/Recreation Yard with SR56 railing		3-37	Located on the southeast side of the Stockade/Recreation Yard, leading to the Main Prison. SR56 Metal Pipe Railings are the handrails for these steps.	Steps: Good Handrail: Good

Table 4: Structures - Summit, continued- Figure 3-69

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Bldg #</i>	<i>Figure #</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Condition</i>
Stockade/Recreation Yard, continued				
Ballfield with SR54 fencing		3-38 3-39	Dirt ballfield on northern half of Yard; fences define northeast and northwest edge; paving defines south edge	Ballfield: Poor Railing: Good
Yellow Pavement Markings		3-40 3-41	Yellow Pavement markings signifying recreational activities including shuffleboard and horsehoes. Also are prisoner line-up markings for task details.	Poor
Fortification Bombproof Tunnel “I”		3-42	Masonry structure with Entrance below north wall of Stockade/Recreation Yard	Good
Fortification Bombproof Tunnel “J”		3-43	Masonry structure with Entrance via Morgue/east of Stockade/Recreation Yard	Good
Fortification Bombproof Tunnel “K”		3-44	Masonry structure with Entrance below south wall of Stockade /Recreation Yard	Good
Cistern	C	3-45	Concrete vault below grade; concrete cover visible on north terrace	Unknown
Water Tower	WT	3-46 3-47	Steel tank with six steel legs and reinforced concrete foundation, located northeast of Stockade/Recreation Yard MBSR17 – Metal Pipe Handrail along south edge of stairs leading to Water Tower MBSR18 – Non Extant MBSR21 – Metal Pipe Handrail along northern outer edge of Water Tower Foundation.	Tank: Poor Legs and Base: Good Railings: Fair
Guard Station for Kitchen Basement Sallyport	68	3-48	Eight foot tall structure with a metal frame and glass insets	Poor
Firebox #5	66	3-30	Concrete structure with wooden doors located south of the Morgue	Good

Table 4: Structures - Summit, continued- Figure 3-69

<i>Feature (Type)</i>	<i>Bldg #</i>	<i>Figure #</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Condition</i>
Oil Tanks No. 3		3-49	Two large, white oil tanks north of the Morgue	Good
Retaining Wall from Morgue to Shower Room Entrance		3-50	Concrete wall located on west side of walkway from Morgue to Main Prison Shower Room entrance	Poor
Foundations of Warden's Greenhouse		3-51	Concrete foundations south of Warden's House remnants.	Good
Warden's House Retaining Wall with SR35		3-52 3-53	Stone Retaining Wall with decorative concrete railing (SR35) Railing is deteriorating rapidly	Wall: Poor Railing: Poor
Collection Basin for Greywater System		3-53	Concrete basins on the west side of 68 south of the Recreation Yard	Fair



Figure 3 - 31. Interior of Stockade/Recreation Yard with ballfield in foreground and terraced concrete stairs and concrete wall in background. Security fence SR52 borders the Stockade/Recreation Yard (MBD P1000552.JPG)



Figure 3 - 32. Stockade/Recreation Yard west wall, disintegrating cantilevered sentry walk, rails (SR 53) and fence (SR52) as viewed from below from stairs to Metal Detector Shed. Condition is typical of all sides of Stockade/Recreation Yard (MBD P1000630.JPG)



Figure 3 - 33. Sentry Catwalk around Stockade/Recreation Yard from balcony north of Main Prison. Decorative concrete railing SR53 and security fence SR52 border the walk (MBD P1010095.JPG)



Figure 3 - 34. Stockade/Recreation Yard Wall and Water Tower base looking east from north terrace. Northeast Stockade/Recreation Yard Wall Guard Station in center of photo. (DSC00251.JPG)



Figure 3 - 35. Stockade/Recreation Yard west wall, disintegrating cantilevered sentry walk, rails and fence (SR52) from West Road. Guard Station is at southwest corner. (MBD P1000649.JPG)



Figure 3 - 36. Stockade/Recreation Yard Paving and Terraced concrete steps. Northwest side of Main Prison with Stockade/Recreation Yard walls visible. (MBD P1000577.JPG)

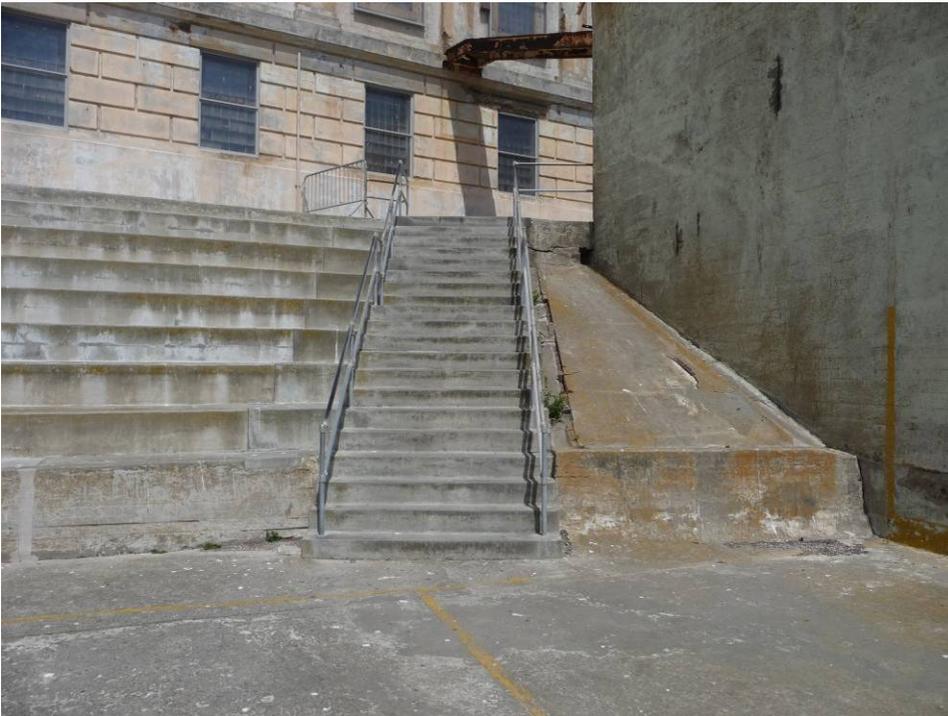


Figure 3 - 37. Steps from Main Prison to Stockade/Recreation Yard with NPS SR56 pipe railing. Steps originally had wooden handrails. (MBD P1010149.JPG)



Figure 3 - 38. Stockade/Recreation Yard dirt ballfield and backstop fences as viewed from terraced steps; Stockade/Recreation Yard wall with door to staircase to Industries in background (MBD P1000538.JPG)



Figure 3 - 39. Stockade/Recreation Yard Ballfield west backstop fence SR54. (MBD P1000554.JPG)



Figure 3 - 40. Stockade/Recreation Yard pavement markings as seen from terraced steps. Bright pavement markings around Shuffle Board Courts are non-historic safety measures (MBD P1000618.JPG)



Figure 3 - 41. Stockade/Recreation Yard prisoner line-up markings (MBD P1000592.JPG)



Figure 3 - 42. Fortification Bombproof Tunnel “I” and adjacent embankment, viewed from north of Stockade/Recreation Yard (MBD DSC03146.JPG)

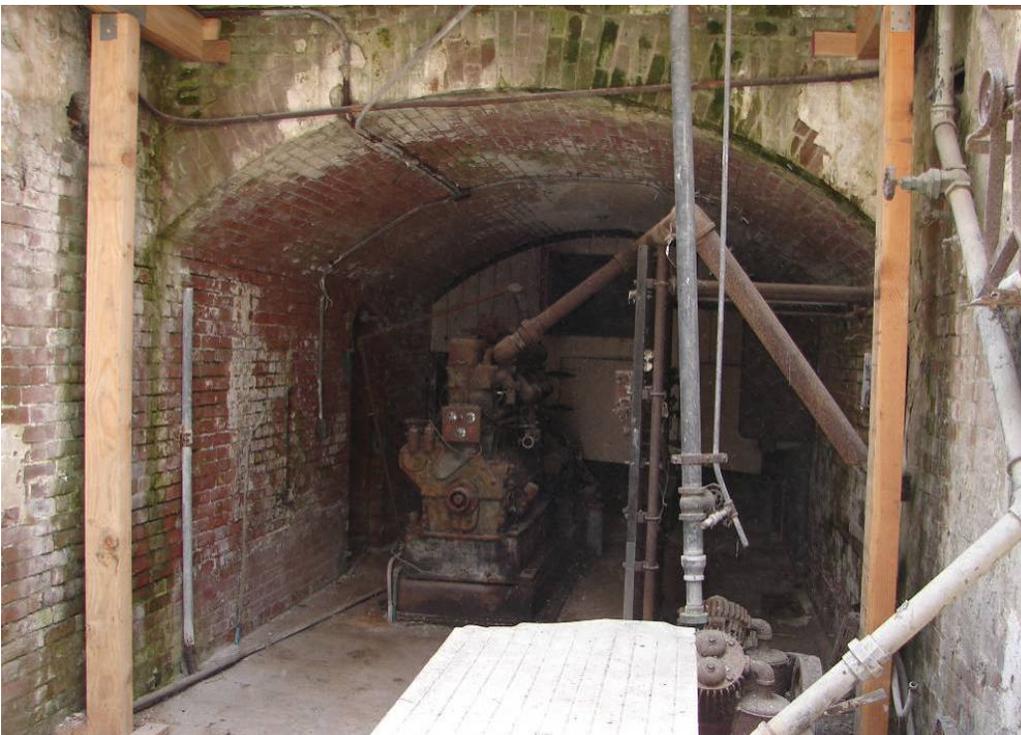


Figure 3 - 43. Fortification Bombproof Tunnel “J” with abandoned electrical generator, viewed from interior of Morgue (MBD DSC03218.JPG)



Figure 3 - 44. Fortification Bombproof Tunnel “K”, viewed from West Lawn area (Courtesy of Shelagh Fritz; Bombproof K.jpg)

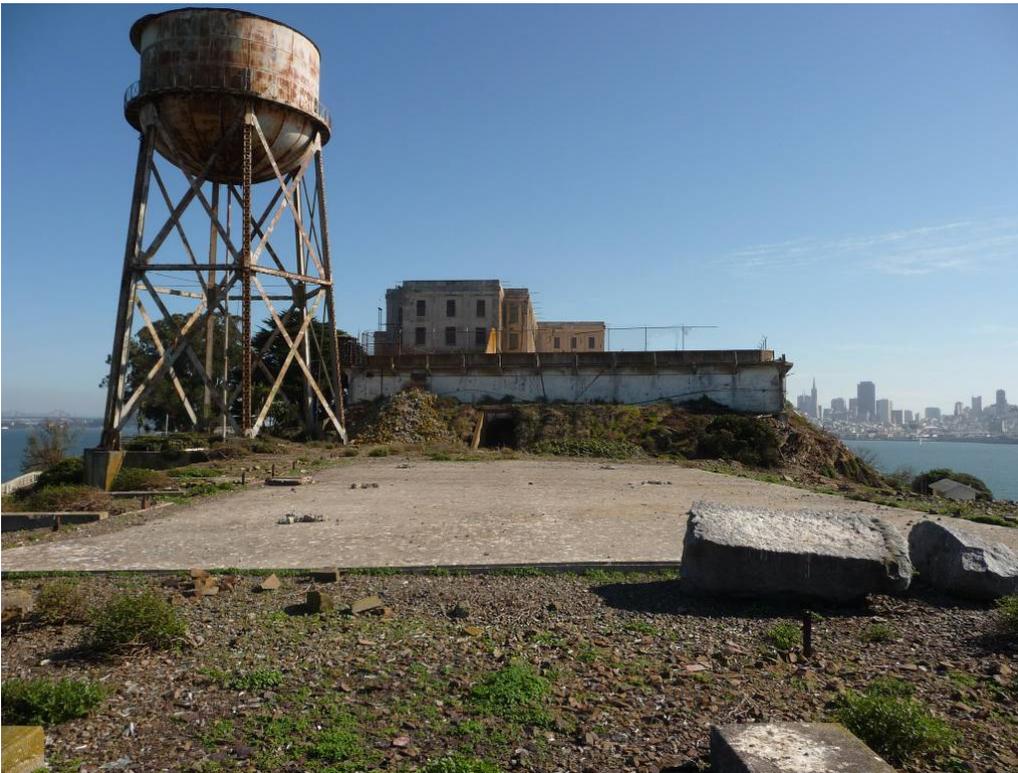


Figure 3 - 45. Concrete Cistern on North Terrace, Water Tower, and Stockade/Recreation Yard, as viewed from north end of terrace (MBD P1020964.JPG)

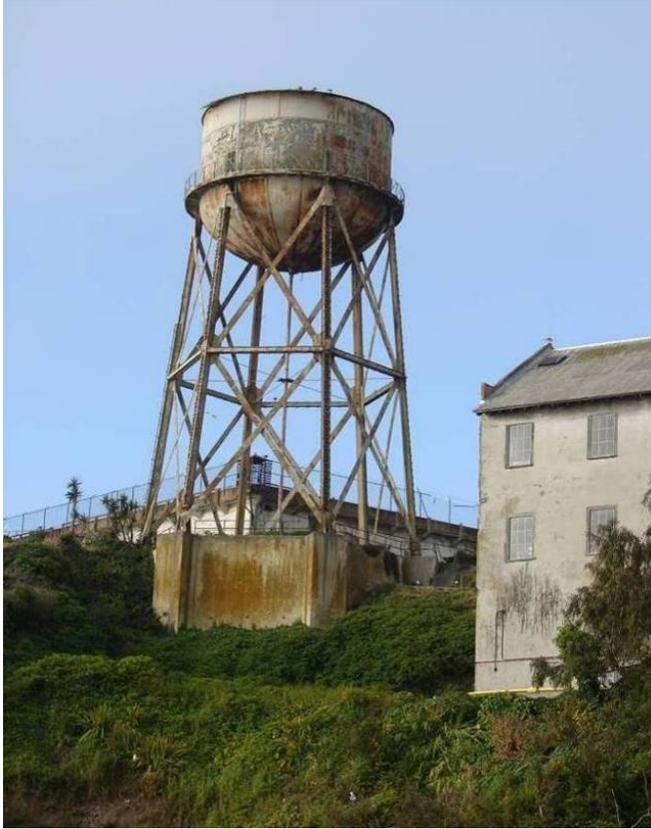


Figure 3 - 46. Water Tower (left) and Shops and Storage Building (right), view from water (MBD DSC02987.JPG)



Figure 3 - 47. Water Tower Railings MBSR17, MBSR18, MBSR21 (MBD DSC00243.JPG)



Figure 3 - 48. Guard Station for Kitchen Basement Sallyport (MBD P1010121.JPG)



Figure 3 - 49. Looking south towards Morgue from Water Tank Terrace. Oil Tanks No. 3 located at right of photo. (MBD P1020973.JPG)



Figure 3 - 50. Concrete Retaining Wall west of walk from Morgue to Main Prison Gift Shop Entrance (MBD P1000494.JPG, P1020972.JPG)



Figure 3 - 51. Warden's House Retaining Wall with remnants of decorative concrete railing SR35 (MBD WH Retaining Wall.JPG)



Figure 3 - 52. Warden's House retaining wall with decorative concrete railing SR35 (MBD IMG_2885.JPG)



Figure 3 - 53. Collection Basins for Greywater System on west side of Main Prison, south of Stockade/Recreation Yard, looking north.(courtesy of Shelagh - Fritz Greywater catchment.jpg)