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# Treasure Island Homes for Rent

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immaculate, and the streets are quiet and clean. The neighborhoods feature small parks and jogging paths, and that rarest of amenities in San Francisco — plenty of parking.

Most of the residences — 907 units that accommodated enlisted personnel — are on flat and sandy Treasure Island. The rest of the housing is bachelor quarters for officers and enlisted sailors. There are 1,000 rooms and 2,000 beds.

There are also just over 100 family homes on Yerba Buena Island, which is essentially a big hill that straddles the Yerba Buena Tunnel and connects the two halves of the Bay Bridge.

More than 280,000 vehicles roar through the tunnel on an average weekday, but Yerba Buena has the feel of a small town basking in the sun, with winding streets and pleasant groves of trees.

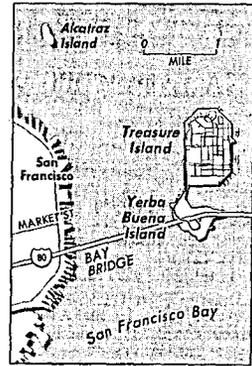
Here are small neighborhoods, with stunning views of the bridge, the towers of San Francisco and the Golden Gate. "It's a wonderful neighborhood," said Melinda Haddad, whose husband, Bryan, is a petty officer. They live in family housing on Yerba Buena.

It is pleasant and safe on the island, she said, and there is so little traffic that the children can play in the streets.

The Haddad family quarters are a little rundown, she said, because the Navy cut back on maintenance when the two islands went on the base closure list. With a little fixing up, the family apartment, part of a complex of buildings, would be worth a lot of money. "The view is just beautiful," she said, "And we get all this free." Like all Navy personnel, they must leave in September.

There are also larger and older houses on Yerba Buena that are now assigned to senior officers. The Nimitz House, which once housed the top brass, will be used for special events and for special guests of the city.

Renting the housing to the public would be only an interim use for Treasure Island, which will be turned over to the city when the



CHRONICLE GRAPHIC

Navy leaves September 30. The city's long-term plan calls for building a theme park and hotels on Treasure Island and using portions of Yerba Buena for conference and special events centers.

The city is presently subleasing three large buildings to television and film companies and plans to open a women's jail in the old Navy brig later this year. The Fire Department is also planning to open a training school in the near future.

But until the big plans fall into place, the two islands would be nearly empty if the residences were not rented out, Florin said.

Florin presented the idea on behalf of Mayor Willie Brown's administration to the Economic Development committee of the city's Board of Supervisors earlier this week. If all goes well, Florin said yesterday, the city will select a property management firm by the fall and be in a position to rent the housing within a year.

### Temporary Leases

The interim use might last as long as 10 years, Florin said. However, he said, it is not possible to rent out the housing permanently, because Treasure Island comes under the Tidelands Trust act, which prohibits housing on certain kinds of filled tideland.

Brown has submitted legislation to the supervisors to set up a

nonprofit Treasure Island Development Authority to oversee management and redevelopment of the islands.

In the meantime, the mayor also wants legislation that would allow the city to sublet the housing units, using a residential property management company.

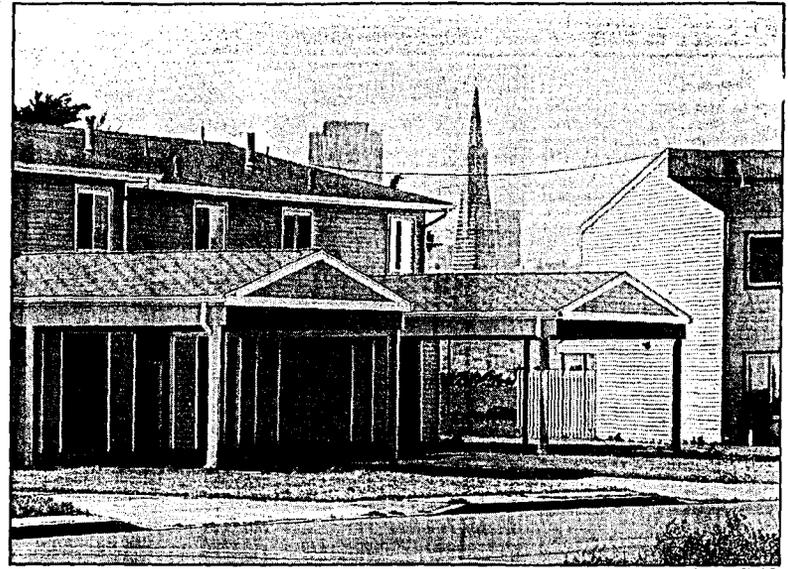
Florin said the mayor may propose giving preference to city police officers, firefighters and school teachers who are unable to find affordable housing in the overheated San Francisco real estate market.

Renting the housing is a good idea for the short run, said Gloria Root, chairwoman of the Citizens Reuse Committee, a group that helped draw up the master plan for the island approved by the supervisors last month.

"It helps to project a market presence to attract other uses," she said. "However, I hope we will still see the big picture with a theme park, hotels and recreational retail. Housing can't be a long-term use."

### Treasure Island's Creation

Treasure Island was created from a shallow portion of the bay as an artificial island for the 1939-40 Golden Gate International Exposition. When the fair ended, the plan was to turn Treasure Island



BY MICHAEL MALONEY/THE CHRONICLE

S.F. plans to lease Treasure Island housing such as these townhomes with magnificent views

into a midbay site for the San Francisco International Airport.

But before that could happen, it became obvious that the United States would soon be involved in World War II. The Navy took over in February 1941.

During the war, Treasure Is-

land and Yerba Buena were gateways to the Pacific theater of war, major training and processing centers. At one point, more than 12,000 sailors and Marines were processed through the islands in a single day.

Now the Navy presence in the

Bay Area is fading away. The aircraft carrier left Alameda earlier this year, and Treasure Island is winding down as a naval base. The fleet training school closed at the end of December, the processing center closed last month, and the daytime population of the base is down to about 700.

## Ultimate Rental — View Home on Treasure Island

### TREASURE ISLAND HOUSING

- **THE IDEA:** San Francisco plans to lease about 1,100 Navy family housing units on Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island to the public for about 10 years.
- **WHERE:** Most of the housing is on Treasure Island, but 104 units are on Yerba Buena Island.
- **WHO GETS THEM:** About 375 of the units would be reserved for homeless and low-income people. The rest would be open to the public, but the city is considering giving preference to firefighters, police officers and teachers.
- **WHAT THEY ARE LIKE:** There is

- a mixture of two and four-bedroom "townhouse" buildings. Some have spectacular views.
- **HOW MUCH:** The city would lease them at the market rate, except for the homeless and low-income section.
- **WHO'S THE LANDLORD?:** The city, through a property management firm.
- **FUTURE PLANS:** A theme park and hotels. Renting the existing housing is only an interim use.
- **INFORMATION:** Call the city's Treasure Island housing hotline: 415-274-0312.

By Carl Nolte  
Chronicle Staff Writer

The city of San Francisco plans to rent out hundreds of residences on Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island to the public after it takes over the islands from the Navy.

Within a year, rental of about 1,110 units of Navy housing would create a new neighborhood of townhouses and large apartments in the middle of San Francisco Bay, if the Board of Supervisors approves the proposal as expected.

The residences would be rented at market rates, except that about 375 of the units would be reserved for homeless and low-income people.

The dwellings on Treasure Island are among the newest housing stock within San Francisco's city limits. Some of the buildings, arranged like townhouses around cul-de-sacs, were built in the 1970s. Others are even newer, built less than 10 years ago.

The residential areas on Treasure Island and Yerba Buena are only 15 minutes from downtown San Francisco and a new shopping complex in Emeryville.

The islands, said Larry Florin, the city's Treasure Island project chief, have "fabulous views in a great location."

The Treasure Island housing is TREASURE; Page A7 Col. 1

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