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Western Regional Office
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Regional Director
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5/23/79

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H32(565)

MAY 18 1979

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region

From: Assistant Director, Cultural Resources

Subject: Entry in the National Register of Historic Places

Enclosed is the approved copy of the nomination "Fort Mason," Golden Gate National Recreation Area, as well as the official notice of its entry in the National Register of Historic Places, effective April 23, 1979.

F. Ross Holland, Jr.

Enclosures

United States Department of the Interior

HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H32-880

Re: Executive Order 11593

Dear Federal Representative:

We are pleased to advise you that the property owned by your agency and listed on the enclosed sheet has been entered in the National Register in compliance with Executive Order 11593.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Herrington
Chief, Branch of Registration
National Register

Enclosure

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE CALIFORNIA

Date Entered APR 2 1979

Name	Location
Fort Mason	San Francisco San Francisco County

Also Notified

Honorable Alan Cranston
Honorable S. I. Hayakawa
Honorable John Burton
Mr. David F. Hales,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Fish and Wildlife and Parks

State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. Knox Mellon
Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Parks & Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

PHOTOS 1-54

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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RECEIVED SEP 7 1978
DATE ENTERED APR 23 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Bateria San Jose; Punta Medanos; Battery Yerba Buena; Point San Jose; Black Point; Post of Point San Jose; Fort Mason

AND/OR COMMON: Fort Mason

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: On the water's edge, Northern San Francisco, bounded by Van Ness Avenue, Bay Street, and Laguna Streets, San Francisco Bay — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: San Francisco — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fifth

STATE: California — CODE: 06

COUNTY: San Francisco — CODE: 075

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
X DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	X MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	X PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	X EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	X GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	X MILITARY	OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS *(If applicable)*: National Park Service, Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER: 450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

CITY, TOWN: San Francisco — VICINITY OF

STATE: California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: San Francisco City Hall

STREET & NUMBER: Polk and McAllister Streets

CITY, TOWN: San Francisco

STATE: California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Historic American Buildings Survey, CAL-1119 and CAL 1877-1880

DATE: Late 1930's and January, 1959 — X FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN: Washington

STATE: District of Columbia

☒ DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_UNALTERED	XORIGINAL SITE
XGOOD	_RUINS	XALTERED	XMOVED DATE_____
_FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		(1 moved, 1877)

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

7. Description

Fort Mason is located on a point of land on the south side of San Francisco Bay, within the City of San Francisco. Originally, most of the land within the military reservation was composed of sand dunes (Punta Medanos). Some vegetation on the rocky promontory itself and on the sheltered east side gave a dark appearance to the point, particularly after early settlers on the point engaged in some horticulture, that resulted in the local name of Black Point. The entire military reservation of Fort Mason, as it was finally established in 1870 and enlarged in 1909 and as it remains today, is considered to be a historic district.

Spanish authorities had named the point Punta Medanos (sand dunes) and Punta San Jose. In 1797, the Spanish constructed earthworks on the point and mounted five 8-pounder guns. This battery was named, apparently, both Bateria San Jose and Bateria Yerba Buena. By the beginning of the Mexican period, 1822, only one gun remained. It is not known precisely where the battery was located; it probably was situated on the tip of the point at an elevation of about 100 feet. This area was later excavated by American troops, and no traces of this battery remain.

Although established as a military reservation by a presidential order in 1850, this post (Post of San Jose) was not immediately occupied by the U.S. Army. Meanwhile, unwitting squatters (the best known being John Charles Fremont) settled on the ridge along the east side and there constructed residences and landscaped their grounds. Today, three of these houses (FM2, 3, and 4), all dating from about 1855, remain. They were originally cottages of eclectic architecture involving several styles, including Gothic revival, but have been greatly modified and enlarged by the Army. One of these (FM2), then serving as the commanding general's quarters, was moved from its original site in 1877. Quarters No. 3 was called the Haskell House before the Army took it over. Here, in 1859, Senator David Broderick died following his famous duel with Justice Terry. The U. S. Army seized these three houses and other structures on the point when it occupied the reservation during the Civil War.

In 1877, a fourth, large residence (FM1) was constructed on the former site of FM2, as a new residence for the commanding general of the Pacific Division. The former kitchen and another ell of FM2 that had been left in their original locations were incorporated with the new structure. It is a fairly simple, late-nineteenth century house with Italianate elements used sparingly. It too has been altered to serve its present function as an officers' open mess.

A short distance north of the commanding general's residence is a simple concrete gun platform that formerly contained a salute gun. From here, visiting dignitaries were saluted according to protocol, and probably the morning and sunset guns were fired. The date of the construction of this yet unnumbered platform is still unknown. Until at least as late as circa 1900, salutes were fired from the regular batteries on the promontory.

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The grounds surrounding the four historic structures and the eastern slope of the point were planted with trees, shrubs, flowers, and grass by the Army. A network of walks was laid out. This area has long been considered a place of scenic beauty, especially when viewed from the city.

To the west, a row of simple frame structures was erected, paralleling officers' row and separated from it by Franklin Street. From north to south, the original functions of these buildings (constructed between 1864 and 1891) were: guardhouse (since replaced by FM241), hospital (FM239) (originally two separate structures--hospital and hospital steward's quarters), hospital steward's quarters (FM238), storehouse and office building (FM235), and three sets of noncommissioned officers' quarters (FM231, 232, and 234). All are typical nineteenth century military structures.

West of the hospital a small parade ground was laid out. And to the north of it were two simple frame barracks, side by side. These are today one building (FM240) that has been greatly enlarged and altered. The historic parade ground has foundations remaining from a later period structure. These foundations are an intrusion upon the historic scene.

In 1902 a new brick hospital (FM201) and a brick hospital steward's quarters (FM204) were constructed to the south of the developed area. The hospital followed the standard army plans for such a structure and was identical to a hospital built on Angel Island about the same time. This substantial 2 1/2-story building has a simple, straight-forward design typical of military architecture of the period.

During the Civil War the Army constructed two barbette batteries on the end of the point. Unofficially these were called East and West Batteries. The parapets were earthen, the breast height walls were brick, and the platforms were made of timber. An earth-covered, wooden magazine stood at each extremity of the work. West Battery was armed with six 10" Rodman smoothbores; East Battery had six 42-pounder banded rifles. Three 15" Rodmans were landed at Point San José, but they were never mounted. The guns of East Battery were dismounted in 1882 and the works allowed to deteriorate. West Battery continued to be serviceable, its main function being the saluting of dignitaries arriving to visit the commanding general. East Battery occupied the same general site as that of a residence owned by John Charles Frémont (circa 1859-1863) that the Army tore down in 1864 in order to construct the batteries.

During the Spanish-American War, 1898, a new battery consisting of two 8" converted rifles and a concrete, earth-covered magazine (FM250) were constructed to the west of West Battery. At this time the guns of West Battery were dismounted. The principal function of the new unnamed battery was to cover the submarine mine

field, which at that time was inside the harbor. Today a concrete wall still stands that is thought to be the breast height wall of the new battery. The concrete magazine is also still in place, its entrance way having recently been excavated.

In the modernization of the coastal defenses in the 1890s, the Endicott period, an 8" rifle on a disappearing carriage was emplaced on the point, behind and above the Civil War batteries. Named Battery Burnham (FM242), this emplacement was constructed along the lines typical of that period--massive concrete and earthen works with underground magazines. The gun was dismounted in 1909. During World War II the bombproof rooms served as an air raid shelter for Fort Mason. The present use of Battery Burnham is said to be that of the command post in time of war for the commanding general of the Oakland Army Terminal.

In 1889 funds became available for the submarine mine defense of San Francisco Harbor. At the foot of the eastern slope of Point San José, in a cut-and-fill location, a concrete mining casemate (FM23) was constructed. It served as a control room for the electrical firing of the mines via cables. After this casemate was abandoned, the Army constructed a masonry retaining wall in this area, and a locked steel door closes the casemate's entrance. It is not accessible and its condition is unknown.

On the outer edge of McDowell Avenue, the historic road that runs along the face of the point to Pier No. 4, a fixed coastal searchlight and its shelter were installed in 1911. This was the last element of the coastal defenses to be located at Fort Mason. The shelter still stands, in relatively good condition, and is one of the few surviving structures of this nature remaining in the Bay Area.

The western half and the southern third of the post remained as sand dunes until after the turn of the century. Following the earthquake of 1906, the southern portion of the post served as a refugee camp. Also, in the days immediately following the earthquake Fort Mason became the Army's headquarters for directing its efforts in the relief of earthquake victims.

As a result of America's expansion into the Pacific (Spanish-American War), army supply activity through the ports of San Francisco increased greatly. In 1908, the decision was made to concentrate this function at a general depot at Fort Mason. The submerged land to the northwest of the reserve was acquired through condemnation and, in 1910, construction began on what came to be called the San Francisco Port of Embarkation. This land acquisition increased the size of the reservation from 55 to 68.5 acres. Between 1912 and 1915 there were completed three large piers (FM316, 318, and 320) and four concrete two-story warehouses (FM310, 312, 314, and 315). Pier No. 3 (FM320) was greatly enlarged

in 1934. Eventually, three pier sheds were constructed (FM317, 319, and 321). Pier Sheds Nos. 1 and 3 (FM319 and 321) were reconstructed in 1934. A railroad tunnel was constructed under Fort Mason in 1914 and tracks were laid to the dock area. This tunnel is still under army administration. The Army considered the port of embarkation to be a project of great importance, and it employed the architectural firm of Rankin, Kellogg, and Crane, of Philadelphia, to plan the structures. These architects adopted the Mission Revival style, and the warehouses and pier sheds were the first army structures in the Bay Area to be built using this style, if sparingly (concurrently with barracks at Fort Winfield Scott). Later, additional permanent structures--the Marine Repair Shops (FM308), the Battery Charging Station (FM322), the Provost Marshall's Office and Identification Building (FM302), and an entrance gate (FM303)--were added to the port facilities. These structures are all in good repair. The exteriors will be preserved and the buildings are being put to adaptive uses.

In 1915 the Panama-Pacific Exposition made use of the southern portion of Fort Mason as part of its amusement area. All that remains from this phase of the fort's history is MacArthur Avenue, that enters the post at its southeast corner and runs across the reserve to its western boundary. It was constructed by the Exposition Company, replacing an earlier unimproved road. Originally, streetcar tracks ran along this road, terminating in a loop that ran around the Department Stable and Carriage building at the western boundary. The tracks are now gone, but a later Mission Revival-style waiting room (FM40) still stands in front of park headquarters. In succeeding years, the Army altered MacArthur Avenue, widening portions of it considerably. At the southeast entrance to this street is a handsome wrought-iron gate (FM12). Its date of construction is not now known, but it complements the historic scene.

Two other roads on the post are also considered to be historic: McDowell Avenue, which crosses the face of the point and leads from Pier No. 4 to the upper plateau (the date of its construction is not known, but it was built before 1877); and Franklin Street, from its intersection with MacArthur Avenue, north to its termination at the rear of Battery Burnham (it dates from 1864).

Beginning in World War I (1917), a number of temporary frame warehouses was added, both in the dock area and on the plateau above. A large, three-story frame building was annexed to the brick hospital, and the complex became the nerve center for both the port and the quartermaster's offices. This complex is today's park headquarters and visitor center. It is in a good state of preservation.

The southern third of the reservation contained a temporary tent camp during World War I. But not until 1933 did permanent construction occur here, when eight sets of officers' quarters (FM41-44 and 46-48), Mission Revival style, were erected

as a Work Projects Administration undertaking. These quarters are still occupied by the military and are in an excellent state of preservation.

World War II brought additional construction to the south portion of the reserve. In the southeast corner, seven sets of officers' quarters (FM33-39) and a laundry (FM32) were constructed. And in the southwest corner, a collection of temporary balloon frame barracks and accessory buildings for a military police company were added. These structures and the surviving warehouses and sheds in this same area are generally in a dilapidated state, and action has already been undertaken for their removal as nonconforming intrusions on the historic scene.

After the Army abandoned the western portion of Fort Mason, the General Services Administration removed nearly all the temporary warehouses and other buildings from both the dock area and the western portion of the post. All that remains today are some intrusive foundations that should be removed.

Other historic structures at Fort Mason include Pier No. 4 (FM16). This dock was first constructed in the late 1860s. The Army's harbor steamers, which carried passengers between the various posts, docked here on a scheduled basis. Also, it was not unusual to travel by water from downtown San Francisco to Fort Mason and the Presidio. Repaired and enlarged several times over the years, this wharf and its waiting room (FM17) were reconstructed in reinforced concrete and in a different configuration in 1931 to make way for the new Aquatic Park pier adjacent to Fort Mason. It is in good condition today and is used as a fishing pier. The exterior of the waiting room has been painted in non-historic colors.

In 1941 the construction quartermaster (stationed at Fort Mason but in charge of all army construction in the Bay Area) built a new office building for himself (FM 101). This structure also housed post headquarters. It is built in Mission Revival style, having a wood frame, stucco exterior, concrete floor slabs, and an H-shape. The covered porch across the front entrance has a tile pavement. The roof is covered with Mission tile laid uneven and varigated. The windows are the original plate glass. The three main offices in the structure were finished with mahogany.

A handsome if simple, Mission Revival chapel (FM230) was erected at Fort Mason, near park headquarters in 1942. This building, seating 350, is in excellent condition. While modern, it is the only chapel that the fort has had. It is compatible with the historic scene.

The present steel flagstaff (FM205) was erected in 1924. It is a substantial staff, in good condition, and is located adjacent to park headquarters. It replaced an earlier flagstaff at the same location and still earlier ones at other sites on the post.

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A set of noncommissioned officer's quarters (FM9), near the commanding general's residence, replaced an earlier set on the same site in 1934. It too is Mission Revival in style and, while fairly new, adds to the historic setting because of its location and because its occupant was a member of the general's personal staff.

Also adjacent to the general's quarters is a historic tennis court (FM14), that first appeared on maps of the post in 1892 but which undoubtedly existed long before that. And on the north side of the general's residence is a concrete platform on which was once mounted the salute gun. The date of construction is unknown, but it is believed to be after 1900.

Two large concrete retaining walls also contribute to the historic setting. When Van Ness Avenue was extended to the harbor's edge, it became necessary to construct a retaining wall on its west side. The first section of the wall, begun in 1900, was 438 feet long, 16.75 feet wide at the base, and five feet wide at the top. At its north end it measured thirty feet in height, gradually decreasing to zero feet at its south end at the corner of Van Ness and Bay Streets. In 1910, the wall was extended northward to its present terminus.

The other concrete retaining wall is in the dock area. Construction of it commenced in 1912. The first portion built was along the western slope of the bluff on the south side of the dock area. An extension constructed in 1938 is believed to be the wall on the east side of this corner of the dock area.

In the northeast corner of the reservation is Pumping Station No. 2, San Francisco Fire Department Auxiliary Water Supply System, that was constructed in 1912 by the City of San Francisco for the purpose of supplying water in the event of another great earthquake and fire. The federal government gave approval to its construction on the Fort Mason reservation. It has been nominated (April 1975) to the National Register of Historic Places.

In summary, Fort Mason today represents 100 years of army architecture, including the typical, modest structures of mid-nineteenth military; variations of styles used in the Victorian period; Mission Revival; and the clean lines of the Endicott battery. There are approximately eighty structures in the area, of which about fifty-five are considered to contribute to the historic scene.

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Buildings and sites contributing to the character of the district:

Fort Mason No. 1. Commanding general's quarters, 1877. Today an officers' open mess. Wood.

FM2. Officer's quarters, circa 1855. Originally a private residence. Wood. Served as commanding general's quarters from 1864 to 1877.

FM3. Officer's quarters, circa 1855. Originally a private residence. Wood.

FM4. Officers' quarters (duplex), circa 1855. Originally a private residence. Wood.

FM9. Noncommissioned officer's quarters, 1934. Occupied by a sergeant on the general's personal staff. Wood frame, stucco.

FM12. Entrance gate from Bay Street to MacArthur Avenue at southeast corner of the post. Masonry and iron.

FM14. Tennis court, 19th century. Concrete.

FM15. Searchlight shelter, 1911. Metal.

FM16. Pier No. 4, 1931, replacing an earlier pier, circa 1870. Reinforced concrete.

FM17. Waiting room on Pier No. 4, 1931, replacing earlier room. Reinforced concrete.

FM23. Mining casemate, 1889. Reinforced concrete.

FM32. Laundry, 1941, located within a group of officers' quarters. Stucco.

FM33-39. Seven sets of officers' quarters, 1941. Stucco.

FM40. Waiting room for a former streetcar line. Stucco.

FM41-44 and 46-49. Eight sets of officers' quarters, 1933. Stucco.

FM101. Construction Quartermaster's office and post headquarters, 1941. Stucco.

FM201. Hospital, 1902. Later became headquarters for the San Francisco Port of Embarkation. Brick. Large frame addition built in 1917.

FM204. Hospital steward's quarters, 1902. Brick.

FM205. Flagstaff, 1924. Replaced an earlier flagstaff on the same site.

FM230. Chapel, 1942. Stucco.

FM231. Noncommissioned officer's quarters, 1891. Wood.

FM232. Noncommissioned officer's quarters, circa 1864. Wood.

FM234. Noncommissioned officer's quarters, 1878. Wood.

FM235. Originally, post headquarters and storehouses, 1864. Later, converted to noncommissioned officers' quarters. Wood.

FM238. Hospital steward's quarters, 1891. Wood.

FM239. Hospital, 1864. Originally two separate structures--hospital proper and steward's quarters. By 1884, they had been combined into one structure. Later, noncommissioned officers' quarters. Wood.

FM240. Barracks, 1864. Originally two buildings. Later, they were combined and the structure was enlarged several times. Its late function was a finance office for the Port of Embarkation. Wood.

FM241. Originally, a guardhouse stood here, 1864. It was moved and, later demolished. By 1913, the present structure had been built. It first served as a school. Later, it was designated as a barracks and as transient bachelor officers' quarters. Wood.

FM242. Battery Burnham, one 8" gun, 1900. Used as an air raid shelter in World War II. Reinforced concrete.

FM250. Powder magazine, 1898, Spanish-American War. Reinforced concrete.

FM302. Provost marshall's office and identification building for Port of Embarkation, date unknown. Stucco.

FM303. Gate and guard station to Port of Embarkation, date unknown. Masonry and iron.

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FM308. Marine repair shop for Port of Embarkation, 1934. Reinforced concrete.

FM310 and 312. Warehouses for Port of Embarkation, 1912. Reinforced concrete.

FM314 and 315. Warehouses for Port of Embarkation, 1912. Reinforced concrete.

FM316. Pier No. 1, Port of Embarkation, 1912. Reinforced concrete.

FM317. Pier shed, Pier No. 1, Port of Embarkation, 1917. Reinforced concrete. Rebuilt in 1934.

FM318. Pier No. 2, Port of Embarkation, 1912. Reinforced concrete.

FM319. Pier shed, Pier No. 2, Port of Embarkation, 1912. Reinforced concrete.

FM320. Pier No. 3, Port of Embarkation, 1912. Enlarged in 1934. Reinforced concrete.

FM321. Pier shed, Pier No. 3, Port of Embarkation, 1934, replacing an earlier pier shed. Reinforced concrete.

FM322. Battery charging station, Port of Embarkation, 1935. Reinforced concrete.

Structures or sites not (yet) having numbers:

Parade ground, circa 1877 to 1928, when a now-demolished structure was built on it.

MacArthur Avenue, built by Panama-Pacific Exposition Company, 1915. Asphalt.

McDowell Avenue, before 1877. Asphalt.

Franklin Street, north of MacArthur Avenue, 1864. Asphalt.

Retaining wall, along Van Ness Avenue, 1900 and 1910. Reinforced concrete.

Retaining wall, dock area, Port of Embarkation, 1912 and 1938. Reinforced concrete.

East and West Batteries, 1864. Site only. Site too of John Charles Frémont's home that was demolished in 1864 (built circa 1854).

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Structures that are not significant, do not contribute to the historic district or to the historic scene or the historic setting, and which in certain instances are intrusions detrimental to aspects of other historic structures and/or historic scenes and/or settings.

Fort Mason does not have the kind of overall integrity that lends the whole complex significance from any particular period or from all periods. What it does have are a number of subdistricts (such as the old Fort Mason Historic District) which represent certain periods or qualities of significance and have an integrity of their own. In specifying certain buildings which do not contribute to the historic scene or the historic setting and which lack significance, this factor is taken into consideration.

FM-5 This building is a two-stall garage with a one-stall addition. It is not significant and does not contribute to the historic district or its historic scene or historic setting. Furthermore, it stands partly on top of and within FM-242, Battery Burnham, an 8-inch rifled gun emplacement built in 1900, and as such is a detrimental intrusion on an earlier historic structure and an earlier historic district, historic scene and historic setting.

FM-7 Officers' Quarters, 1941. This structure is located in the midst of the Old Fort Mason Historic District which represents a 19th century historic scene and historic setting, the next most recent building in its vicinity having been built in 1877, others dating from the 1850s. It is an intrusion which is detrimental to the historic scene and historic setting of the 19th century buildings; FM-7 is a standard World War II vintage officers' quarters of "temporary" construction which has no individual significance historically or architecturally and which is an intrusion on other significant historic values. Furthermore, this type of structure is recognized in yet another subdistrict in this nomination, as FM-33, FM-34, FM-35, FM-36, FM-37, FM-38 and FM-39 are of identical style and represent a subdistrict of seven of these quarters typical of World War II "temporary" officers' quarters. As an isolated example, and thus atypical since these quarters were usually grouped, FM-7 possesses no values which are significant or which contribute to the historic district or its historic scene or historic setting.

FM-50 Officers' Quarters, 1941. This is another isolated example of the style of building discussed above under FM-7. It, too, is duplicated by the seven sets of quarters in the FM-33 through FM-39 subdistrict. It is located in the south central portion of Fort Mason where it represents an intrusion at one end of a subdistrict of eight sets of Mission Revival officers' quarters built in 1933. FM-50 lacks significance, does not contribute to the historic district or to its historic scene or historic setting.

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FM-102 Non-commissioned officers' open mess, later converted to a recreation hall; built in 1941. This structure has been highly altered on the interior and exterior since its historic use during World War II. It lacks integrity; it lacks significance, and does not contribute to the historic district or to its historic scene or historic setting.

FM-111 Post Office and Library, built c. 1941. This structure has been altered inside and out, is not significant, and does not contribute to the historic district or to its historic scene or historic setting.

FM-112 Post Exchange, converted to a band practice room, built c. 1941. Altered. This building lacks integrity, is not significant, and does not contribute to the historic district or to its historic scene or the historic setting.

FM-124 Warehouse, built 1921. Located west of and across the road from Building 50, this building is not significant and does not contribute to the historic district or to its historic scene or historic setting. It is deteriorated and altered.

FM-141 Storehouse and Offices, 1940. This structure is located at the southwestern corner of Fort Mason and is the sole remnant of a group of buildings demolished in the years since the Korean War. The building is not individually significant, and due to its location and isolation from the remaining significant elements of the historic district, it does not contribute to the historic district or to the historic scene or historic setting.

FM-246 Garage. This building, erected in 1932 adjacent to FM-9, is not significant and does not contribute to the historic district or to its historic scene or the historic setting.

No number. Concrete platform for a salute gun, located immediately north of FM-1. This structure is not significant and does not contribute to the historic district or to its historic scene or the historic setting, and represents an intrusion on the Old Fort Mason Historic District which represents a 19th century district of buildings.

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Foundations of demolished buildings in the western half of Fort Mason south of the pier area, most representing "temporary" structures erected during World War I and World War II: The World War I structures were generally north of Mac Arthur Avenue, while the World War II structures were generally south of it. These were greatly altered by the Army and the General Services Administration after the Korean War and many were removed before acquisition of Fort Mason by the National Park Service, and the National Park Service completed removal of some of the World War II temporary structures. The foundations do not have significance, do not have integrity, have been evaluated by the Regional Historical Archeologist Roger Kelly as lacking historical archeological significance, and they do not contribute to the historic district or to its historic scene or historic setting. They are intrusions upon the historic district because at no time during Fort Mason's historic period were there foundations in this area, although at times it was open land unoccupied by buildings.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
_PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	_COMMUNITY PLANNING	X LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	_RELIGION
_1400-1499	X ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	_CONSERVATION	_LAW	_SCIENCE
_1500-1599	_AGRICULTURE	_ECONOMICS	_LITERATURE	_SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	_EDUCATION	X MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	_ART	_ENGINEERING	_MUSIC	_THEATER
X 1800-1899	_COMMERCE	X EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	_PHILOSOPHY	X TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	_COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		_INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8. Significance

Summary

The Fort Mason military reservation in its entirety is highly significant as a historic district. Commencing in 1797, and lasting through the Spanish and Mexican administrations of Alta California, Fort Mason was one of two sites in San Francisco Bay that was armed with artillery for the defense of the harbor. For over forty years under the American administration, it played a role in the coastal defenses of the bay from the Civil War to post-Spanish-American War. It also served as an important element in the first submarine mining of San Francisco Bay, in the Spanish-American War. From the Spanish-American War to the Korean War, Fort Mason's role as the headquarters of the San Francisco Port of Embarkation was of national significance historically. Through it moved millions of men and millions of tons of supplies, providing evidence of the United States' expansion and growing interests in the Pacific. A long list of distinguished generals, commanding the Military Division of the Pacific, maintained their residence at Fort Mason, in structures Nos. 1 and 2, giving national significance to these two sets of quarters.

The collection of military structures dating from the 1850's to the Korean War illustrates the evolution of an Army post (and coastal fortifications to a lesser degree) over a period of 100 years. The contrasts and many moods of the architecture, the effect of the Army's caste system on the quarters, the charm of the earliest officers' row, the simple lines of the Endicott battery, the WPA architecture of the Great Depression, the Army's determination in landscaping--all these blend together to present a history of this place and its times. While many of the structures by themselves possess only local historical significance, together they build a district possessing both historical and architectural significance ranging from the local to the national level.

Discussion

Fort Mason was the site of many facets of American history. Here the Spanish constructed a battery to guard the magnificent harbor of their northernmost settlement, San Francisco. After the American conquest of California, prominent San

Francisco people, including General John Charles Frémont, occupied homes on this point of land. During the Civil War, two batteries were constructed here to help guard the harbor against Confederate raiders and other potential foes. Another battery guarded the bay from here during the Spanish-American War--should the Spanish squadron at Manila have sailed east. A modern battery of the Endicott period continued to defend the harbor early in the twentieth century.

For eighty years, the commanding general of the Military Division of the Pacific maintained his residence at Point San José, entertaining presidents and foreign dignitaries. Following the earthquake of 1906, Fort Mason was the headquarters of the Army's efforts to maintain order and supply relief for the city. Through three great wars the San Francisco Port of Embarkation maintained its headquarters at this post, supplying the armies with men and materials the length and breadth of the Pacific. The collection of structures dating from the 1850s to World War II illustrates the evolution of an army post over a period of 100 years.

The Presidio of San Francisco was founded in 1776. Not until 1793 did the Spanish fortify the entrance to San Francisco Harbor by erecting a battery at Fort Point, the narrowest part of the channel of the Golden Gate. War with England caused Spain to further strengthen the harbor's defenses by the construction of a second battery at Punta San José or Punta Medanos (sand dunes). Although the earthwork was designed for eight guns, only five 8-pounders were mounted. Neglected in following years, the battery contained but one gun when the Mexican regime established itself in 1822. Apparently Point San José was abandoned during the Mexican period. When the Americans took over the defenses in 1846, they did not mention this old work.

However, U.S. Army engineers recognized the strategic importance of this point of land and, in 1850, President Fillmore established a military reservation here by executive order. A second order in 1851 adjusted the boundaries of the reserve. The Army's decision to construct fortifications at Fort Point and Alcatraz Island first resulted in the total neglect of Point San José--the name preferred by the Army, whereas civilians called the site Black Point. Local citizens, believing the land open to settlement, took out claims on it and constructed residences. Three of these residences remain standing.

Early Officers' Quarters and Frémont House

Frémont House. In 1859 John Charles Frémont purchased a house, the one farthest north on the point, and twelve acres of land for his wife. The house had been built apparently in 1854 and had had a succession of owners. With the outbreak

of the Civil War, the Frémonts returned to the East. In 1863 the Army finally decided to occupy the point and within a year tore down the residence on the basis that the Frémonts were illegal squatters on a government reserve. The area occupied by the house was excavated and two batteries were built on the site. For several succeeding generations the Frémont family vainly attempted to obtain compensation from the federal government for this property.

Three other houses, all said to date from 1855, were seized by the Army in 1863 and used down to the present as officers' quarters. FM2, officer's quarters, then stood where FM1 now does. FM2 may have been built by James Brooks, editor of *Golden Era*. Brooks sold it to Charles Cooke, an attorney, who then sold it to Emile Grisar. When Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell became commander of the Division of the Pacific, he occupied this house as his quarters. It continued to be the commanding general's quarters for much of the time down to 1877. The following generals most probably lived in it: Irvin McDowell, Henry Halleck, George Thomas, John Schofield, and E.R.S. Canby. In 1877, the structure was moved from its original site to its present location about 300 yards to the north. It then served for many years as the quarters for the commanding officer of Fort Mason. It has been altered considerably and enlarged over the years. In more recent times it housed the commanding general of the Port of Embarkation. Today it serves as a field officer's quarters. Because of the distinguished officers who lived in it, the structure is considered to possess a national level of significance, even though it is not on its original site.

Farther north is FM3, officer's quarters. This house may have been constructed by a Commodore Moody. Leonidas Haskell then took possession of the structure and lived in it until 1862. Its last civilian occupant was Mr. Taaffe, the Danish consul in San Francisco. For most of the army years this set of quarters was occupied by the post surgeon. It too has been considerably altered and enlarged over the years. Today it is occupied by a field grade officer. It is considered to possess a local level of significance.

FM4, officers' quarters, was built by Haskell and Company and sold to Joseph Palmer of Palmer-Cooke and Company, who lived there until 1863. The Army greatly enlarged this building making it into a duplex for junior officers. In the 1930s, it was occupied by aides to the commanding general. Today it houses field grade officers. It is considered to possess a local level of significance.

FM1, commanding general's quarters. When General McDowell resumed command of the division, he had the old commanding general's quarters, FM2 above, moved from its original site in 1877, leaving behind the kitchen and another ell. On the original site he had today's large residence constructed, incorporating the old ells. This handsome house continued to serve as the general's residence to

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1943. Many famous army leaders lived within its walls, including McDowell, Schofield, O.O. Howard, Nelson A. Miles, John Gibbon, William R. Shafter, S.B.M. Young, Arthur MacArthur, A.W. Greely, Frederick Funston, Tasker H. Bliss, Arthur Murray, Hunter Liggett, John L. DeWitt, and many more. Contrary to local tradition, Generals Sherman and Sheridan did not live in the house, they being commanding generals of the division for brief periods on paper only. Many renowned visitors were received there over the years, including Presidents Grant and Hayes. In 1943, these quarters were converted into an officers' open mess. Several alterations were made including the addition of a dining room. Yet a considerable portion of the structure retains its integrity. It is considered to be nationally historically significant because of its long list of highly distinguished occupants and for its architecture. A forthcoming National Park Service historic resource study will recommend the preparation of a historic structure report for this building as a step toward its eventual restoration as the general's residence.

Other Early Structures

Across Franklin Street from officers' row, the Army erected the necessary barracks and administrative buildings for the small two-company post that Fort Mason was destined to be during the rest of the nineteenth century. Always pressed for adequate funds, the quartermaster had by necessity to erect these in an economical manner. They were simple yet comfortable in architectural style, each reflecting typical military design of the 1860s-90s. The earliest structures that still survive were two one-story barracks (now one building, FM240), 1864; hospital and hospital steward's quarters (now one building, FM239); post headquarters, quartermaster office and storeroom, and commissary office and storeroom (FM235), circa 1864; and the ordnance sergeant's quarters (FM232), circa 1864. Later structures in this area included commissary sergeant's quarters (FM234), 1878; quartermaster sergeant's quarters (FM231), 1891; and a new hospital steward's quarters (FM238), 1891. South of the barracks and west of the other structures, the army laid out a parade ground. Year in and year out little occurred to interrupt the quiet routine. Each of these structures, some of them modified and altered over the years, is considered to possess a local level of historical significance. One of them, the former barracks (FM240), requires an architectural investigation to determine the degree of original fabric that remains.

American Fortifications

Fort Mason was armed with coastal guns from 1864 to 1909, a total of forty-five years. These guns represented three phases of the history of San Francisco's coastal defenses: the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and the Endicott

period. Concerned about the possibility of Confederate raiders entering the harbor and also worried about the strong British fleet in the Pacific, the engineers constructed two batteries on the tip of Point San José in 1864. The twelve guns of East and West Batteries, along with the guns on Alcatraz Island, covered the channel between the two. Following the war, these batteries continued to play a role in the defenses, at least in the planning. But because the engineers concentrated their limited funds on other places in the bay, such as Lime Point, Fort Mason's batteries in fact were neglected. Only the site of these two batteries and a faint outline of West Battery remain today. The site, however, is considered to possess a local level of historical significance.

At the outbreak of the war with Spain in 1898, emergency measures (all of them unnecessary in the end) were undertaken at the several posts in San Francisco Harbor. At Fort Mason a battery of two 8" converted rifles (muzzle loading) was mounted west of old West Battery. Its primary mission was to cover the submarine mine field (the first in San Francisco Bay) that was laid in the harbor at the same time. These guns, however, were already obsolete and they would have no role in the future. The concrete, earth-covered magazine and the concrete breast height wall of the emplacements that remain are considered to have a local level of significance.

In 1890, a new modernization project for the defenses of San Francisco Bay was prepared. It resulted in the installation of a single, modern 8" gun mounted on a disappearing carriage for Fort Mason. Battery Burnham, as it was called, was completed in 1900, and its massive form of concrete and earth took its place in the defenses. But its life span proved short indeed. The engineers were planning still newer batteries on the headlands at Point Bonita (Fort Barry) and Point Lobos (Fort Miley) farther to the west. Burnham was obsolete and abandoned by 1909. It is in quite good condition today and is still under army administration. It is considered to possess a local level of significance.

For a brief time, in the 1890s, Fort Mason played a role in the submarine mine defense of the harbor. One of the first three mining casements, for controlling the mines, was constructed here. This casemate was the first to be completed; thus it has a degree of significance in that fact. When the harbor was mined in 1898, the casemate was still in use. However, the new century would see the mines being moved to outside the Golden Gate, and this concrete and earthen pioneer became obsolete. It has a local level of historical significance.

Finally, when electrification came to the fortifications, a network of coastal searchlights was developed for San Francisco. Fort Mason was selected to be the location of one of these fixed 60" lights (FM15). Today the metal shelter for this light is one of the few that remain, it is in a relatively good state of

repair, and it is the most accessible for interpretation. It possesses a local level of historical significance.

Port of Embarkation

The most important function ever assigned to Fort Mason was the San Francisco Port of Embarkation. Following the Spanish-American War, the various branches of supply (Quartermaster, Signal, Medical, and Engineer) found their activities at San Francisco greatly increased as they now served the garrisons of America's new possessions in the Pacific--Hawaii, Philippines, and Guam, as well as Alaska. Later, Fort Mason supplied North China and the Siberian Expedition. In 1925, Panama was added to the list. For a time these activities were scattered over San Francisco in leased warehouses and piers. In 1908 the decision was made to concentrate them, along with personnel "pipelines" at Fort Mason. The first structures of the Port of Embarkation were completed in 1912. Operations commenced promptly with the docking of army transports arriving on their regular schedule. By 1915, all depot activities in the Bay Area had been transferred to Fort Mason.

A spurt in activities in 1917, World War I, resulted in the construction of several temporary warehouses, now all removed, and the addition of a three-story frame structure to the brick hospital. This latter complex became the headquarters for the port, the nerve center from which all the port's activities were directed.

Until 1925, the operation was called the San Francisco Intermediate Depot, when it was renamed the San Francisco General Depot. The term San Francisco Port of Embarkation (SFPE) was adopted in 1932.

In 1939, on the eve of World War II, the military and civilian personnel assigned to the port numbered 831. The tons of cargo that passed through the port that year amounted to 48,000. World War II witnessed a tremendous increase of activity. Fort Mason remained port headquarters and directed supply operations at the Oakland Army Base and manpower requirements at Camp Stoneman, California. Fourteen other harbors on the Pacific Coast became sub-posts. Although the Attu expedition (Aleutian Islands, Alaska) was mounted at San Francisco, Seattle became an independent port in 1942 and assumed responsibility for Alaska from then on. Fort Mason remained the primary port for the Central, South, and Southwest Pacific Areas. By 1945, 1,644,242 soldiers had embarked and 1,120,766 debarked to and from the Pacific war zones at the San Francisco Port of Embarkation. A total of 23,589,466 ship tons of cargo were handled by the port. There were no fewer than 40,000 personnel on the roles. All the original permanent structures of the port of embarkation are in relatively good condition and together they are considered to possess a national level of historical significance. They are: Administrative

Offices (FM201), Storehouse "D" (FM310), Storehouse "C" (FM312), Storehouse "B" (FM314), Storehouse "A" (FM315), Pier No. 1 (FM316), Pier Shed (FM317), Pier No. 2 (FM318), Pier Shed (FM319), Pier No. 3 (FM320), and Pier Shed (FM321). Later permanent structures associated with the port are considered to have only a local level of historical significance. They are: Battery Charging Station (FM322), Marine Repair Shops (FM308), Guard Station and Gate (FM303), and Provost Marshall's Office (FM302).

WPA Architecture

In 1933, under the auspices of the Work Projects Administration, eight sets of officers' quarters were erected as one complex in the south-central portion of the reservation. These handsome structures, in Mission Revival style with their white stuccoed walls and red tile roofs, illustrate graphically the important improvements made at military posts throughout the nation by WPA during the Great Depression. They also furthered the concept of the military employing Mission Revival architecture, which had its origins at Fort Mason for west coast posts with the construction of the Port of Embarkation buildings in 1912. This group of structures, *in toto*, is historically significant on the local level for its contribution to the historic scene and military architecture of the area.

World War II

The Construction Quartermaster's Office and the Post Headquarters building (FM101) was constructed on the eve of America's entry into World War II, 1941. The construction quartermaster was responsible for all army construction in the Bay Area. Therefore, it is not surprising that his own offices were completed in a fine degree of workmanship. The red Mission tile roof surmounting the white stucco walls of the single-story building presents a most pleasant example of Mission Revival architecture. It possesses a local level of historical significance.

Not far away, the post chapel (FM230), completed in 1942, graces the historic scene. It too is an example, even if austere, of Mission Revival architecture. This wartime building probably was built in the substantial manner that it was because of the fact that the commanding general lived at Fort Mason. This was, so to say, his church. It was the first post chapel that Fort Mason had in its nearly eighty years of existence. Although not old, this structure is fully compatible with the historic scene and adds significantly to the historic architecture of the post. It possesses a local level of historical significance.

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An additional group of seven sets of officers' quarters was added to the southern portion of Fort Mason about 1941. They are numbered FM33 through 39. In the midst of them is a communal laundry building (FM32). All were completed in the style employed by the Army during that time of rapid expansion of military strength, and in a manner decidedly inferior to the WPA 1933 quarters, the FM40s. A modest attempt was made to fit these structures into their environment by the use of white stucco walls and red composition roofs. Despite their deficiencies in architectural finesse, these structures contribute to the history of military architecture at Fort Mason, they being representative of the army's rapid expansion on the eve of America's entry into World War II. They are of local historical significance only.

The following structures, described in Item 7 above as having historical/ architectural significance, are considered to contribute to the historic setting of the Fort Mason Historical District and they all contribute to the historic scene. Each of them possesses a local level of historic significance. They are:

FM9, Noncommissioned Officer's Quarters
FM12, Entrance Gate
FM14, Tennis Court
FM16, Pier No. 4
FM17, Waiting Room
FM40, Waiting Room
FM205, Flagstaff
FM241, School
Parade Ground
MacArthur Avenue
McDowell Avenue
Franklin Street
Retaining Wall, Van Ness Ave.
Retaining Wall, dock area.

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Pier No. 1 (FM-316) out into San Francisco Bay to a point beyond Pier 1 selected arbitrarily (because the historic property boundary of Fort Mason cut off the ends of the three piers); From that point the historic district boundary runs east to meet the eastern boundary of the district. The latter follows the west side of Van Ness Avenue north from Bay Street until the Avenue begins to curve to the west; at that point, the boundary of the historic district diverges from the property boundary continuing north in a straight line out into San Francisco Bay until it meets the line aforementioned running eastward from a point north of the west corner of Pier 1. The boundary is thus a rectangle with the northern axis longer than the eastern axis, and it is an arbitrarily selected boundary because no natural or property boundary included all of the significant structures; portions of piers 1, 2 and 3 (Structures FM-316, 318 and 310 respectively) and the buildings on the piers (FM-317, 319 and 321) extend beyond the history property boundary into San Francisco Bay, as does the historic Alcatraz Pier, Structure FM-16 and Building FM-17 thereon; the natural boundary formed by the shoreline includes even less of these piers than does the historic property boundary.

The Fort Mason boundary encompasses a large acreage because it includes all of a military post which once contained more than 80 buildings and structures, many of them large in size. The boundary is in fact the historic boundary except on the north portion of the fort, where the historic boundary omitted portions of four piers and pier buildings. Thus the 111.82851 acres within the nomination boundary was once well-filled with buildings and structures, and approximately three quarters of it still is.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 111.82851

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	10	550618	4184590
B	10	550705	4184040
C	10	550125	4183940
D	10	550050	4184510

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The southern boundary of the Fort Mason Historic District starts at the northwest corner of the intersection of Van Ness Avenue and Bay Street, City of San Francisco. From this point it runs west along the north side of Bay Street to the northeast corner of the intersection of Bay Street and Laguna Street. From this point it runs north along the east side of Laguna Street, continuing along the west side of

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Erwin N. Thompson, Historian — Nov. 4, 1977

ORGANIZATION — DATE

Denver Service Center, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER — TELEPHONE

755 Parfet Street — 303-234-4582

CITY OR TOWN — STATE

Denver — Colorado 80225

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ✓ NO ___ NONE ___ JUL 17 1978

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ___ National ✓ State ___ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Act. Asst. Dir., Cultural Resources — DATE 8/11/78

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION — DATE 4/23/79

ATTEST: — DATE March 29, 1979

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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PRESIDIO SHOAL
CABLE AREA
Municipal Pier
FORT MASON MILITARY RES
Maritime State Hist Park
Anita Rock
Light
BM 10
Black Pt
BM 10
Coast Guard Station
BM 8
BM 9
Yacht Harbor
Marina Green
Aquatic Park
CRISSY FIELD
Winfield Scott Sch
Marina District
Palace of Fine Arts
Funston Playground
Marina Jr HS
Galileo HS
Letterman General Hospital
LITARY RESERVATION
Sherman Sch
Reservoir
Grant Sch
Town Sch
Pacific Heights Sch
Gough Sch
Nob
Kahn Playground
GOLF COURSE
Alta Plaza
Lafayette Square
Madison Sch
Emerson Sch
Redding Sch
Western Addition
Roosevelt Jr HS
Geary Sch
Star of the Sea School
Franklin Jr HS
French Hosp
Columbarium
San Francisco College for Women
Lone Mtn
Anza Sch
Rossi Playground
Fremont Sch
Opera House
Veterans Bldg
Civic Center
UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO
Lowell HS
SP Hosp
Lombard Sch
Unified School District
Conservatory
Young Museum
Academy of Sciences
SAN FRANCISCO
Buena Vista Park
St Agnes Sch
Duboce Park
McKinley
Armory
Hosp