

FORT POINT

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE • CALIFORNIA

CAUTION

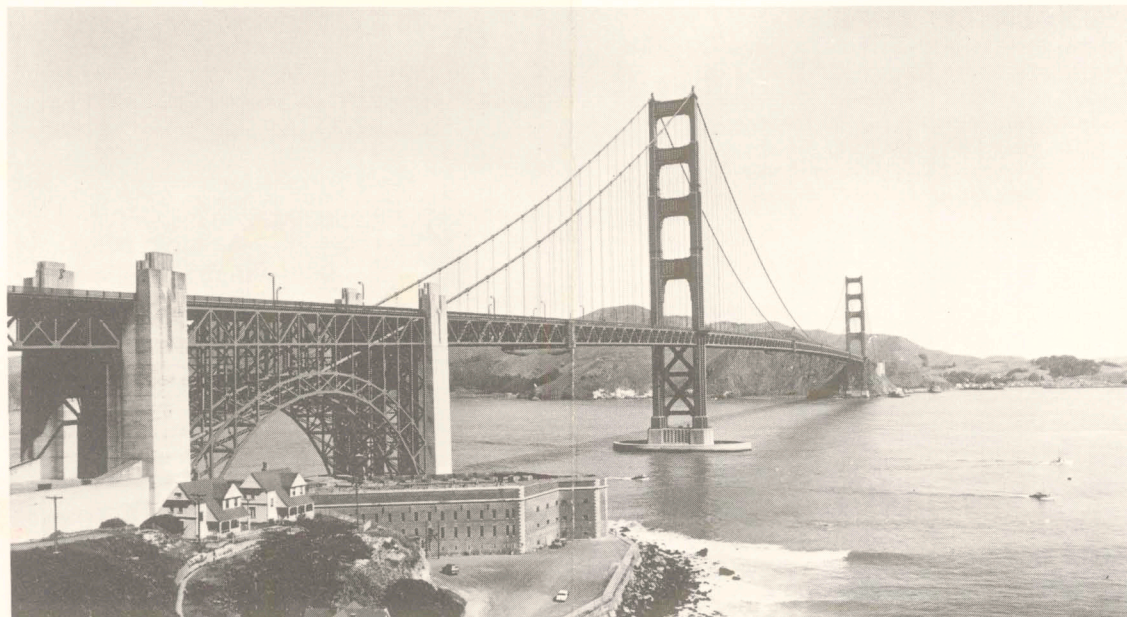
Fort Point, constructed over 110 years ago, is a prime historical resource. As such, however, there are hazards not present in today's modern buildings. Stairs are steep and narrow. Walls are dangerous, if climbed. Therefore, we ask your cooperation while visiting the fort in making your visit safe and enjoyable. Please keep children under close control. Use caution while climbing or descending stairs. Stay on established walkways and off walls.

SPANISH PERIOD

The site of Fort Point was at one time a high, white cliff, where in 1776 Spanish Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza raised the Spanish flag and chose the site as the location for a Presidio. In 1794 an adobe brick fort, the Castillo de San Joaquin, was built on the cliff to protect the Presidio of San Francisco, which was subsequently built in a sheltered valley about one and one-half miles southeast of the location selected by Anza.

AMERICAN PERIOD

The Presidio was garrisoned in 1848 by Company M, 3rd U. S. Artillery, commanded by Captain Erasmus D. Keyes. At this time the U. S. Army placed four 32-pounder cannon and two 8-inch siege howitzers in the old Spanish fort. However, such defenses would have been little protection in the event of war with a European power. In 1853 the old fort and the hill on which it stood were leveled by U. S. Army Engineers to make way for the building of Fort Point.



Fort Point stands a brooding sentinel under the shadow of the majestic Golden Gate Bridge. It is a classic example of brick seacoast forts built to protect the harbors of the United States during the 1800's. The houses seen here quartered the Fort Point lighthouse crew during its operation.

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