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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
San Francisco, CA 94123



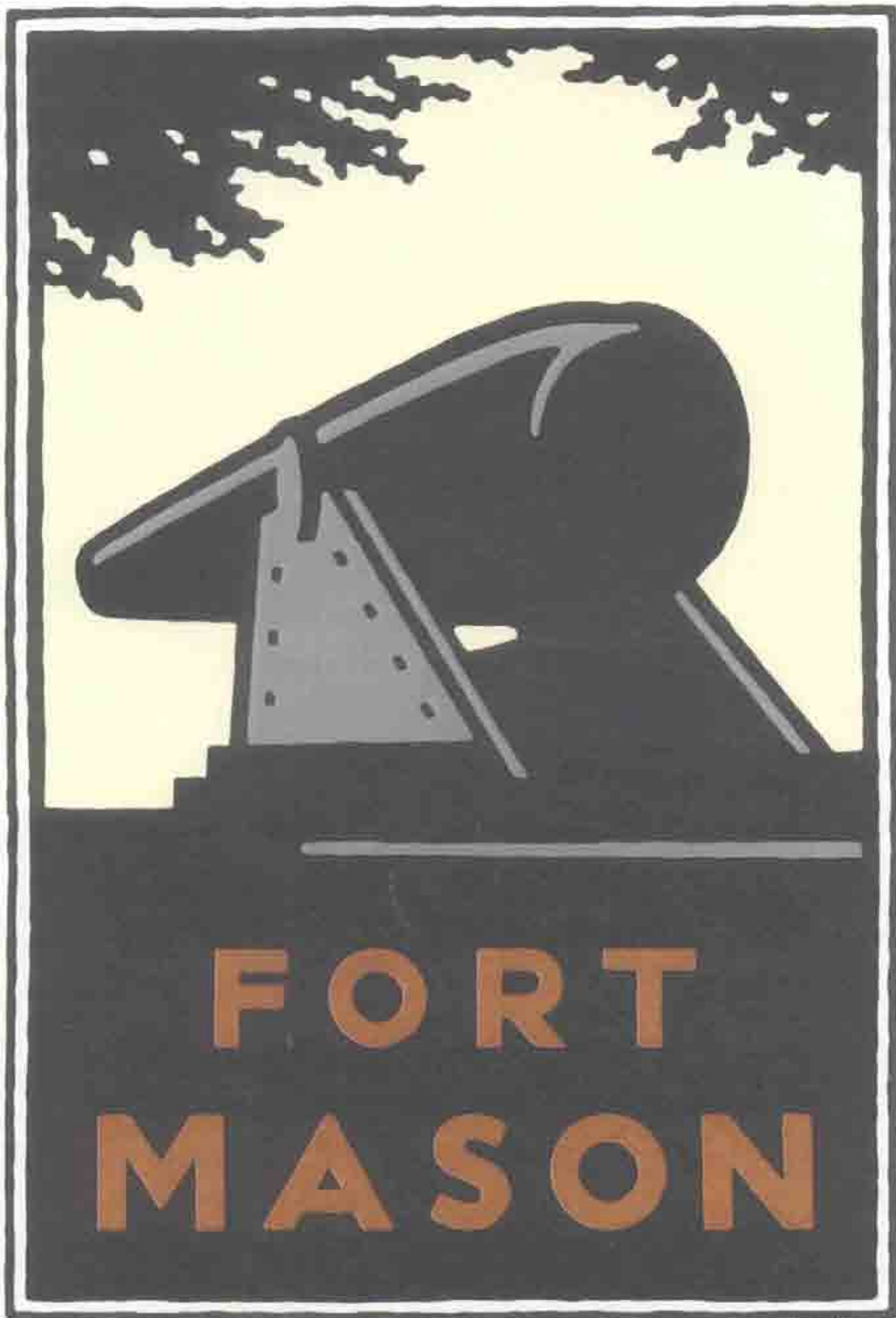
Fort Mason Officers Club

Historic Structure Report



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Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason, San Francisco, California 94123

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H2017 (GOGA-CRMM)

October 5, 2006

Dear Colleague:

Enclosed is a printed copy of the *Fort Mason Officers Club Historic Structure Report*, written by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, National Park Service. This document provides in-depth information regarding the building's interpretative and physical history. The document also contains a comprehensive collection of historic floor plans, building evolution illustration drawings, historic photographs and contemporary images that can be used as tools for future interpretation and building rehabilitation.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact me at (415) 561-4484 or kristin_baron@nps.gov

Sincerely,

Kristin L. Baron
Architectural Historian

Enclosure

Fort Mason Officers Club

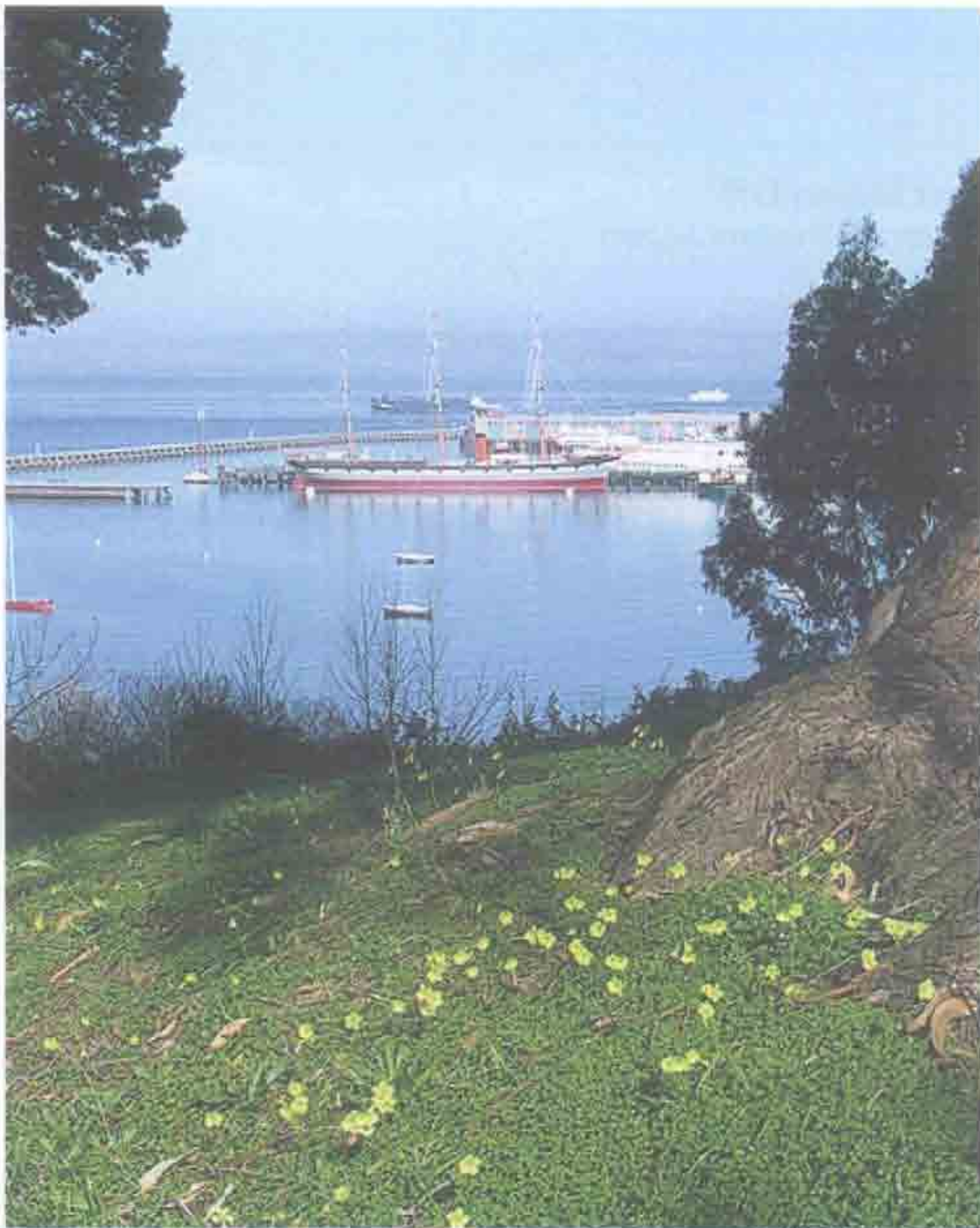
Historic Structure Report

Golden Gate National Recreation Area
San Francisco, CA 94123

Produced by the Cultural Resources and Museum Management Division
National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, DC

May 2005



The Officers Club is known for its spectacular views of the San Francisco Maritime Historical Park and the Bay beyond. (John Kalucki, 2002)

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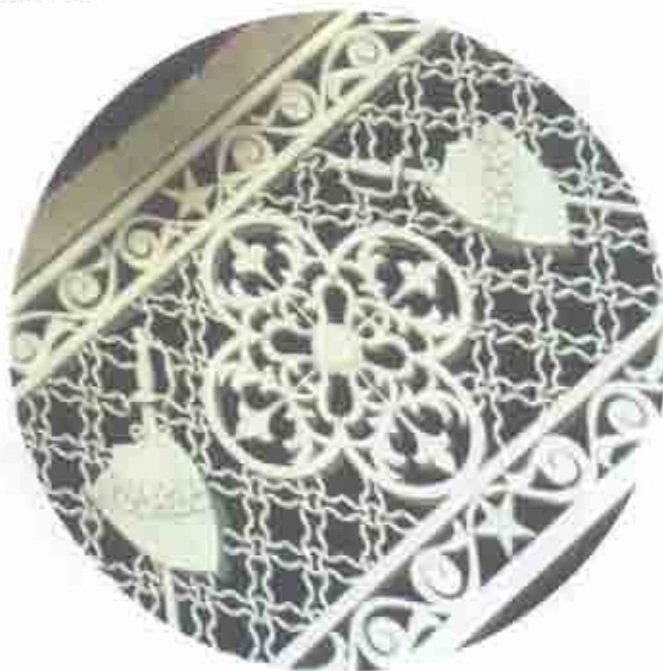
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MILITARY RESERVE
POINT SAN JOSE CAL.

January 1877



Introduction

This Historic Structure Report was prepared by the National Park Service (NPS), Division of Cultural Resources and Museum Management (CRMM), Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GOGA), with the assistance of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Parks Conservancy), a designated National Park Service cooperating association operating under the NPS Cooperating Associations Policies, Standards and Guidelines, NPS 32.

Preparation

The Historical Architect in charge of the report was Jane Lehman (NPS-CRMM). The report was co-produced by Jason Hagin of the Parks Conservancy and Kristin Baron, Architectural Historian (NPS-CRMM). John Martini, consulting with the Parks Conservancy, conducted the historical research.

Relevant Documents

The *General Management Plan/Environmental Analysis* (GMP, September 1980) is the main planning document for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Other relevant documents that related to the planning for the Fort Mason Officers Club include the *Fort Mason Historic Resource Study* (draft, 1979) written by Erwin Thompson and *Special History Study: Fort Mason, the Forgotten Crossroads* (2004) written by Rudy Evenson, Ph.D. The *Cultural Landscape Report for Fort Mason: Golden Gate National Recreation Area* (draft, 2003) written by the Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation, was also an important resource document. The *National Register Nomination Form for the San Francisco Port of Embarkation, U.S. Army* (1980) written by Erwin Thompson, provides important background information.

Locally, there are four sources of primary research materials: 1) The Historic Document Collection of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, located at the Park Archives and Records Center at the Presidio of San Francisco; 2) The San Francisco Public Library; 3) the Bancroft Library at University of California, Berkeley; 4) San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park. Outside of the Bay Area, the other areas for research were 1) California Society of Pioneers in Sacramento, California and 2) the Main branch of National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) located in Washington, D.C. Specific record groups at NARA include RG 77, Records of the Corps of Engineers and RG 92, Records of the Quartermaster General.

Executive Summary

The Fort Mason Officers Club contributes to the Fort Mason Port of Embarkation National Historic Landmark.

In 1877, this wood-frame Italianate building was constructed for General Irvin McDowell, who commanded the Military Division of the Pacific. Before the army had reclaimed this area and renamed it Point San Jose, it was formerly known as Black Point and was a neighborhood of wealthy San Francisco intellectuals and business men. From 1877 to 1943, this commanding general's quarters was used as both as a residence for many important generals and the site for important military functions. Over the years, many important generals both lived and occasionally worked out of this building. During the 1906 earthquake, General Funston commanded the military's involvement for the earthquake relief from this building. In 1943, the building was converted to an officer's club, providing social and dining space, as well as short-term accommodations. Over time, different army posts or installations operated and managed the Officers Club; the club was finally closed in January 2003.

The National Park Service has prepared this Historic Structure Report to both document and provide treatment recommendations for this important building. Primary and secondary historic research has been conducted and historic photographs have been analyzed to prepare the building's overall developmental history. Every room in the building has been surveyed, to document existing building features, assess historic fabric and to quantify existing conditions. Historic floor plans have been analyzed to identify changes to the building over time.

The historic core of the Fort Mason Officers Club stands much today as it was when it was originally constructed in 1877. The original historic rooms on the 1st floor are the library, the reception room, the parlor, the aide's room (now the women's restroom) and the conservatory.

Map of Point San Jose, 1877. Brooks-Grisar house, circled, is located in the lower left-hand corner of the post.

The existing kitchen wing, constructed in 1960, replaced the original kitchen wing that was part of a pre-existing 1855 structure. The social hall was constructed in 1948 and the dining room was added on in 1960. The 2nd floor consists of bedrooms and bathrooms and retains much of the original historic building layout.

The Officers Club is listed on the List of Classified Structures (LCS) and its structure number is FM0001.

Statement of Significance

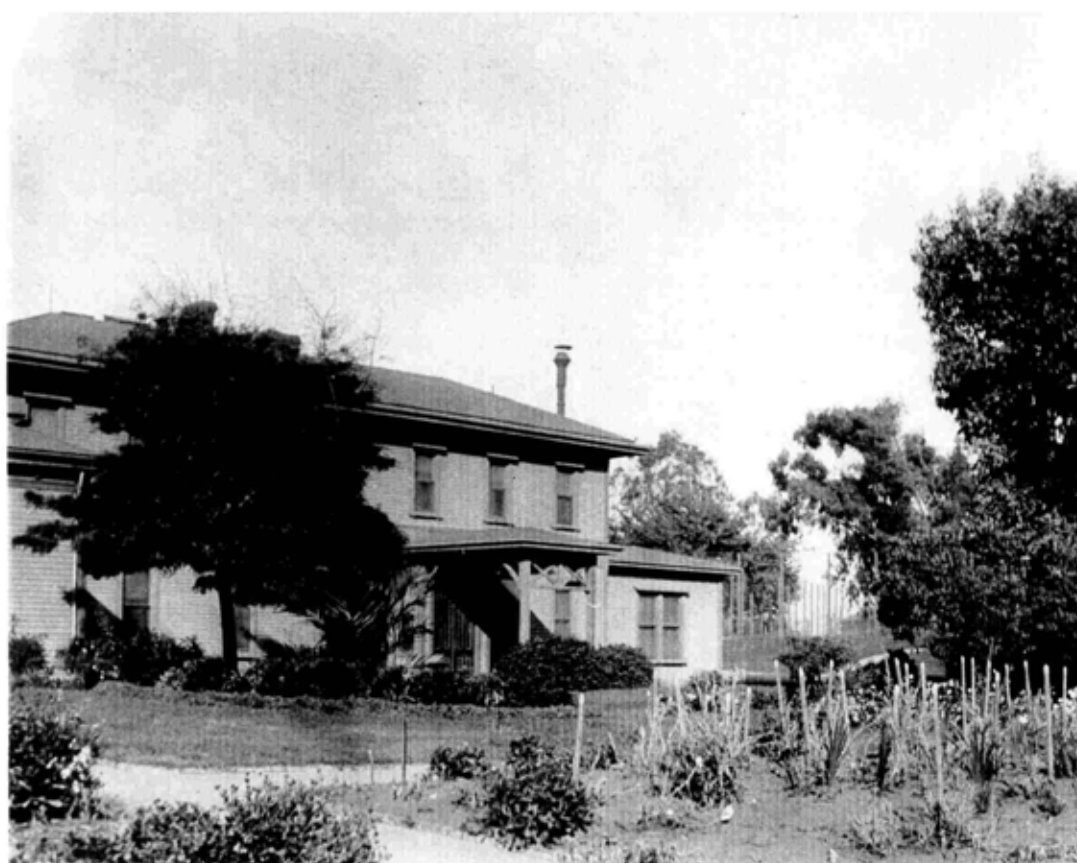
McDowell Hall at Fort Mason is one of San Francisco's nearly forgotten historic treasures. Tucked away in a tree-shaded hillside overlooking Aquatic Park, the building's origins stretch back to the end of the Civil War when the U.S. Army decided to seize and remodel a house on this location as the residence for the senior Command General of the army's vast Department of the Pacific.

Introduction

McDowell Hall's history began in 1877, when the modest house that was originally on this site was moved and a luxurious Italianate residence was built in its place – a structure more befitting the rank of the general residing there. It would also provide a symbol of the government's authority in the west when the general entertained visiting local and foreign statesmen. Between 1865 and 1943 virtually every significant general officer in the western states lived at the house including such famous (and infamous) personages as Irvin McDowell, Nelson Miles, Arthur MacArthur, Frederick Funston, and John DeWitt. In its role as the Commanding General's residence, the house was also the site of visits by numerous foreign and local dignitaries including military figures and at least two Presidents of the United States.

In 1943 the general's house was converted into an "open mess" for officers assigned to the San Francisco Port of Embarkation at Fort Mason and Oakland Army Terminal. For the next six decades it served an ever-expanding role as a dining facility and transient housing for active duty and retired military personnel, earning the reputation as one of the Army's most historic and scenic officers clubs. The Fort Mason club was so popular that even after the closure of the Oakland Army Terminal, the club continued to operate under the sponsorship of the faraway Presidio of Monterey. When the Fort Mason Officers Club finally closed in January 2003, its passing was mourned by military and civilians alike who had come to appreciate the structure's views, history, ambience, and important role in California and American history.

Quarters 1, circa 1900. Note the original wooden front doors and immature vegetation in front of the building. (GOGA 2316)



The Spaniards called the the peninsula "Punta de San Jose," but Yankee settlers nicknamed the area "Black Point" for the dark vegetation growing there that set the point apart from the surrounding sand dunes.

Over the years the residence experienced some modification and modernization, but its front facade and primary interior spaces remain relatively unchanged, so that the core building possesses considerable historical integrity today. It probably housed more illustrious residents than any other single house in San Francisco. Two Presidents of the United States were entertained there, Ulysses S. Grant in 1879 and Rutherford B. Hayes in 1880.

Gold Rush and Civil War

On November 6, 1850, President Millard Fillmore used his executive powers to set aside large tracts of land surrounding San Francisco Bay for eventual use as fortification sites and naval facilities. Included in this executive order was a small area at the northern tip of the San Francisco peninsula that Spaniards called "Punta de San Jose," but nicknamed "Black Point" by Yankee settlers for the dark vegetation growing there that set the point apart from the surrounding sand dunes.

Although President Millard Fillmore had set aside the land as a military reservation, confusion grew among local civilian authorities over exactly what areas were indeed government lands. The army had no troops available to occupy Point San Jose, so numerous squatters laid claim to the area in the years that followed and the small army garrison at the Presidio of San Francisco was unsuccessful in repeated efforts to drive them off. Between 1850 and 1863, the Black Point area developed into an early suburb of San Francisco and some of the city's most distinguished citizens lived there, including merchants, bankers, politicians, and the renowned army explorer and adventurer John C. Fremont.

It was not until late 1863 when, pressed by the threat of Confederate naval attack on San Francisco during the Civil War, that the army finally occupied this military reservation and constructed artillery batteries at the tip of the point. Southeast of these batteries and in the heart of the reservation stood six private residences erected and occupied by squatters in the preceding years. Between 1863 and 1865, the army succeeded in evicting the squatters and seizing the six structures, three of which it turned into officers' quarters and three of which it demolished.

George Brooks, editor of the pioneer newspaper *Golden Era*, around 1855, had built the sixth and southernmost private residence on Black Point. It was a rambling 1-1/2 story wood frame structure with both Stick and Queen Anne style elements, which in ensuing years passed through several owners to a wool merchant named Emil Grisar. For a brief period in 1864-1865, Grisar leased the house to an army surgeon likely assigned to the new Point San Jose Military Reservation. On August 30, 1865, Major General Henry W. Halleck of Civil War fame arrived in San Francisco and took command of the newly formed Military Division of the Pacific – an enormous administrative area that encompassed roughly all U.S. lands west of the Rocky Mountains. The official residence for a general of such high rank and responsibility would normally have been the Presidio of San Francisco, which was located about three miles west of Division Headquarters in commercial building downtown. General Halleck, however, considered the Presidio too far a commute in that horse and buggy era and the army subsequently seized Grisar's house at Point San Jose and remodeled it for the general's new residence. During the remodeling, the house was

View of Fort Mason from Aquatic Park, circa 1890. Quarters 1, circled, is just visible, between the trees, to the right of the smoke stack. (SAFR-A11332pl)





Entry gate to Quarters 1, circa 1907. The bronze cannon serving as a fender post dates from the 18th century. It is now on display at the Presidio of San Francisco. (HABS)

reportedly extensively repaired and enlarged. In November 1865 Halleck moved in.

This original residence, referred to hereafter as the Brooks-Grisar House, was subsequently occupied up through 1877 by Major General George H. Thomas, Major General John M. Schofield and Brigadier General E.R.S. Canby, and Major General Irwin McDowell, all of Civil War fame.

Indian Wars Through World War II

In 1876, U.S. Army General Irvin McDowell, who had commanded the Army's "Department of the Pacific" in the mid-1860s, returned to San Francisco to command the newly organized "Division of the Pacific." McDowell decided he needed a newer and larger house, one that provided a better place for his official and semi-official entertainment of visiting dignitaries and San Francisco society. On July 7, 1877 the *Daily Alta California* newspaper reported the construction of a new residence for the Commanding General at the Post of Point San Jose.

An army inspection report of 1879 recorded that the main portion of the Brooks-Grisar house was moved a short distance to the north and an entirely new residence of Italianate style had been built adjacent to the 1850s structure's location. This new residence was oriented with its primary façade west towards the Presidio rather than facing east over the bay as the Brooks-Grisar residence had. During the new construction, a small wing from the 1850s house containing a kitchen and servants' bedrooms was likely retained and incorporated into the Italianate residence. This new structure became Quarters #1, Point San Jose Military Reservation.

The old Brooks-Grisar house, remodeled and enlarged at its new site, was officially designated

Quarters 2. It served for many years as the residence for the commanding officer of the Point San Jose post, which the army officially renamed Fort Mason in 1882, and later as the residence of the Commanding Officer of the San Francisco Port of Embarkation.

The first occupant of the new commanding general's residence was, naturally, Major General Irwin McDowell. As historians Thompson and Chappell summarized it, the structure would become the official residence for an astounding parade of military luminaries over the next several decades:

During the ensuing sixty-six years the residence housed one colonel and forty-four general officers, including sixteen brigadiers, twenty-five major generals, and four lieutenant generals; among them were four officers who each served two different tours there, and two of them served in different ranks. Many of them are obscure today, but among them were men famous in the Civil War (Irvin McDowell, John Schofield, Pope, O.O Howard, Nelson Miles and Gibbon), the later western Indian wars (again Pope, Howard, Miles and Gibbon, as well as Forsyth, William Shafter, Merriam and Maus), the Spanish-American War (Shafter), the Philippine Insurrection (Frederick Funston and Arthur MacArthur, father of Douglas), and World War I (Hines and Hunter Liggett), as well as officers of note in exploration and army modernization such as Adolphus W. Greely of Arctic fame. Even Douglas MacArthur lived there briefly as a major general in 1930. 1

Fire and Earthquake

The earthquake and great fire of 1906 did little damage to the Commanding General's house. The building was quickly pressed into service as the army's emergency headquarters for firefighting and relief activities in the aftermath of the disaster. The divisional commander, General Adol-

View of Fort Mason and the city beyond following the 1906 earthquake and fire. Quarters 1 is in the lower lefthand corner of the photo, 1909. (GOGA-TASC)



his Greeley, was not in San Francisco at the time of the earthquake so his second in command, Colonel Frederick Funston, assumed command until the general's return. It was Funston who realized that the Divisional Headquarters, located in a downtown San Francisco commercial building, had been grievously damaged during the earthquake. He assessed that the building would probably not survive the expanding fires and ordered an emergency command post established in Quarters I. Several photos taken the day after the earthquake show Funston and his staff conferring on the lawn outside the residence.

Officers Club

Midway through World War II, a new residence was constructed at the Presidio for the commanding general of the U.S. Army's western forces, a command area designated the Ninth Corps Area. Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt and Major General Kenyon A. Joyce, in charge of the Fourth Army and the Ninth Corps Area, were the two commanding general to live in Officer's Quarters No. 1 during World War II. When DeWitt transferred in September 1943 his successor, Major General Joyce, agreed on September 13 to turn the house over to Major General Frederick Gilbreath, commander of the San Francisco Port of Embarkation, for wartime use as an officers' open mess, or officer's club. Interestingly, Gen. Joyce maintained a private apartment upstairs in Quarters I for the first several months of the club's operation, despite the reverberations of what must have been a very energetic wartime officers club.

In 1948 the first major alteration to the structure took place when a spacious social hall addition was constructed adjacent to the southeast facade of the original residence. This new hall served as a ballroom and additional dining space for the new officers club. In 1959-1960, a much more extensive renovation occurred when a large dining room was added to the northeast side of the building and the kitchen rebuilt. In the process of remodeling, a kitchen wing likely dating back to Brooks-Grisar House was demolished and replaced with a new addition on the same footprint.

Despite the fact that major shipping operations at the Port of Embarkation were phased out in the 1950s, Fort Mason continued to serve as a residential area for the Oakland Army Terminal. During this time, the Officers Club in McDowell Hall continued to serve the needs of military personnel living at the post. It also provided temporary housing for visiting military personnel who were housed in the upstairs bedrooms. By the early 1970s, Fort Mason became the headquarters for Golden Gate National Recreation Area. During the 1970s through 1990s, fewer and fewer military families were living at Fort Mason and the club began to rely more and more on retirees and civilian employees working at Fort Mason for its clientele. Due to continuing base closure laws passed by Congress, the number of active duty military personnel in San Francisco plummeted during the 1990s. As a result, the club's clientele was almost exclusively composed of retirees and civilians, many from the nearby

Officers Club shortly before its closing in 2003. (John Kalutski, 2003)





Panoramic view of the Reception Hall. (2004, John Martini)

Marina who had come to think of the Fort Mason Officers Club as a sort of local bed and breakfast. Finally, the Army ordered the Oakland Army Terminal closed in 1997 and all semblance of military need for an officers club at Fort Mason ceased. For several more years, though, the club continued to operate under the sponsorship of the Presidio of Monterey, which is located approximately 100 miles south of San Francisco.

The end of the Officers Club finally came in late 2002 when the Presidio of Monterey announced it could no longer sponsor the Fort Mason club. In January 2003 the club formally closed down and the National Park Service's Golden Gate National Recreation Area assumed responsibility for McDowell Hall.

Present

Despite its many additions and modernizations, the historic core of McDowell Hall retains a considerable degree of historical integrity. On the ground floor, the front hall, reception room, parlor, and library (the general's office) are still intact. The east wall of the conservatory overlooking today's Aquatic Park has been extended and the room converted to a cocktail lounge. A large one-story social hall, or ballroom, was added in 1948 to the southeast part of the building, and in 1960 a large dining room was added to the northeast. The 1850s kitchen and servants' wing has been demolished, and the original dining room survives only as part of the cafeteria area, so due to post-1948 modifications the dining room no longer has historical integrity. Upstairs, modest modifications have occurred, mainly regarding bathrooms, closets, and the re-arrangement of the main hallway, leaving the second floor plan essentially intact. The general's bedroom is still identifiable, as are the other bed-

rooms originally designed for family members and visitors.

(Endnotes)

1 "Historic McDowell Hall, Fort Mason, San Francisco, California," 1981, written by National Park Service historians Erwin S. Thompson and Gordon Chappell as an interpretive handout for the annual convention of the Council On America's Military Past (CAMP), held that year in San Francisco.

Application of National Register Criteria of Evaluation

McDowell Hall has two periods of significance: First as a residence for the army's senior commanding general in the west (1877-1944), and second, as an officers club for the Port of Embarkation during World War II and the Korean War (1944-1953).

"Period of significance" means the span of time in which structures have attained the significance for which they meet the National Register criteria. The National Register is the nation's inventory of historic places and the national repository of documentation on the variety of historic property types, significance, abundance, condition, ownership, needs and other information. To qualify for the National Register, a property must be significant; that is, it must represent a significant part of the history, architecture, archeology, engineering, or culture of an area, and it must have the characteristics that make it a good representative of properties associated with that aspect of the past.

The Officers Club is a contributing element to the Fort Mason Historic District, which is on the National Register. The Officers Club, while not currently individually listed on the National Register, may be eligible for individual listing in the future. In accordance with the National Register, the historic context may relate to one of the following criteria:

McDowell Hall is considered to have significance to the National Register under Criteria A, B and C in the areas of Architecture, Military History, Politics/Government and Social History. This significance is primarily due to the structure's long-term association with the army's role in the history of the western United States, and in its social relevance to the history of San Francisco in particular.

Criterion A: Events

Social History. Military History. Politics/Government. National Level of Significance.

McDowell Hall is associated with two nationally significant events: The westward and Pacific expansions of the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries; and the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire and the army's associated relief efforts following the disaster.

During the last half of the 19th century the United States continued its westward expansion, increasingly bringing settlers into often-hostile contact with native peoples. Maintaining order in the western territories came under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army, and during the era designated the "Indian Wars," American soldiers were put in the untenable positions of protecting both tribal and settlers' rights. Violence was common, and the army mounted frequent campaigns to force nomadic tribes onto newly established reservations, track down raiding parties, or enforce other government policies. The importance of the western military during this period was overwhelming, and the authority of the commanders of the Department of the Pacific and successor commands was far-flung. The generals who commanded most of the army's western troops and who ordered many of the campaigns against Native Americans resided in Quarters 1 at Fort Mason, and their decisions had far-reaching impacts on America's history.

National Register Criteria

Criterion A: Event - Properties can be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Criterion B: Person - Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Criterion C: Design/Construction - Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

Criterion D: Information Potential - Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Beginning in 1898 America underwent another expansionist era, this time directed overseas, when the U.S. went to war with Spain and at its conclusion ended up with an "American Empire." Newly won territories in the Pacific included the Philippine Islands, Guam, parts of the Marianas Islands, and Hawaii. For several years, U.S. Army forces occupying parts of territories were under direct command of the generals residing at Fort Mason.

Following the devastating San Francisco earthquake and fire of April 18, 1906, Acting Division Commander General Frederick Funston established an emergency command post in Quarters 1, and for nine days he and General Adolphus Greeley (the actual Commander of the Pacific Division) directed the army's firefighting, evacuation, rescue and relief activities from the building. On April 27th, command responsibilities were moved to the Presidio when Quarters 1 became too crowded. Many of Funston's actions later came under severe scrutiny because of the extreme uses of military force he authorized during the emergency. These included using armed soldiers for crowd control, forced evacuations of civilians, dynamiting buildings to prevent the fires' spread, and together with the mayor, issuing shoot-to-kill orders against looters. Although martial law was not announced, it was considered by many to be a *de facto* situation.

A gentleman, who has a child had accompanied his father to Quarters 1 during this hectic period following the earthquake, later identified the first floor library as the room used by Funston as his initial headquarters. The army and California Historical Society later designated it "The Funston Room."¹

Criterion B: Persons.

Social History. Military History. Politics/Government. National Level of Significance.

Although McDowell Hall is associated with numerous high-ranking military personages it has significance for its association with three military officers who carried out nationally significant actions while working or residing in the structure

1. General Frederick Funston. Military. Politics/Government. Social History. As described above, Funston's actions in directing emergency military activities following the 1906 earthquake have national significance to the role of the government's response to civilian crisis as well as significance for the army's relief activities for civilians following a natural disaster. Although not actually the occupant of Quarters 1 at the time of the disaster,

Funston moved in on the night of April 18 and directed these important actions from its first floor library/office.

2. General Adolphus Greeley. Military. Social History. Greeley shares with Funston the significance associated with the U.S. Army's 1906 relief efforts since he was officially the Department Commander and resident of Quarters 1 at the time of the earthquake. Out of town on the actual day of the disaster, Greeley quickly returned to assume command. At the emergency headquarters at Fort Mason and the Presidio, he set up military command districts within the city and continued to direct emergency army aid activities which included distributing food, clothing, water and other supplies; constructing tent camps for refugees; and establishing medical and sanitation services. Working closely with city officials, General Greeley directed military relief activities for many months following the actual fire and earthquake. Greeley was in residence at Quarters 1 during this period of significant action.

3. General John J. DeWitt. Military. Politics/Government. Social History. At the start of World War II, General DeWitt commanded both the U.S. Army's 9th Corps Area and also the 4th Army. General DeWitt was also intensely suspicious of the loyalty and possibly seditious actions of Japanese nationals and Japanese-American citizens living on the West Coast. Shortly after Pearl Harbor he began planning the internment of these people. In spring 1942 he began enthusiastically carrying out this policy under Executive Order 9066, an action that has been called one of "the worst abuses of civil liberties in the history of the United States." He was head of Western Defense Command when a Japanese submarine shelled a military depot at Fort Stevens, Oregon, June 22, 1942. It was the first attack by a foreign power on a continental U.S. military installation since the War of 1812. Lt. Gen. DeWitt also commanded Operation Landgrab, the 1943 military battle that stopped the Japanese invasion of Alaska's Aleutian Islands. DeWitt was in residence at Quarters 1 during this period of significant action.

Criterion C: Design-Construction.

Architecture. State level of Significance.

McDowell Hall's exterior architecture and interior treatments reflect its governmental functions in several ways. Designed in a restrained Italianate style, the exterior reflects the prevailing tastes among upper class U.S. citizenry of the era. Constructed of wood instead of masonry, as was typical on the eastern seaboard, the structure represents a local California adaptation of a popular American architectural style of the 1870s.

Inside, important first floor public rooms such as the reception hall, foyer, parlor and library show a high degree of finish and detail typical of an upper-class residence of the era, and were meant to reflect the position and authority of the commanding generals. Interior details such as carved wood grills (fretwork), marble fireplaces, sliding pocket doors, grand staircase and extensive wood trim all evoke the original design and purpose of the spaces, i.e., the entertainment of visiting dignitaries. Upstairs, original bedroom and hall layouts are mostly intact and the spaces maintain their historic character, albeit upgraded. The primary façade on the west side is especially well preserved and appears virtually unchanged since 1877, even retaining its original circular carriage way and wooden porte-cochere where visiting dignitaries were greeted.

Following its completion in 1877, McDowell Hall was repeatedly modernized and upgraded to meet the demands of high-ranking military officers who resided there. After 1943, the original structure was enlarged and remodeled to fulfill its roles as Officers Club and military guest housing. Many of the former alterations illustrate changing tastes in interior décor and reflect the desire of its residents to project an image of contemporary style and elegance. Its alterations for use as an Officers Club, such as a construction of a bar in the basement and the addition of a ballroom on the southeast corner, equally reflect the important evolving use of the building during the Port of Embarkation era. Interior-remodeling efforts continued up until the closing of the Officers Club in 2002, primarily on the second floor, but the core of the 19th century residence remains primarily unaltered.

McDowell Hall is a significant example of late 19th century San Francisco freestanding Italianate architecture. Its non-historic additions do not greatly detract from the experience of the historic building at the core, especially where primary façade is concerned, and viewed overall it ranks among the most historic buildings in San Francisco.

(Endnotes)

¹ James Sullivan research notes on Fort Mason and 1906 disaster, Chapter XI, "The 1906 Earthquake and Fire: The Army Comes to the City's Assistance," Box 4, folder 2, "Sullivan Papers", GOGA 32475, PARC, GOGA.



1868 Survey Map. Brooks-Grisar House is circled.

Quarters 1 Developmental History

The site of today's Quarters #1 was originally the location of one of the many so-called squatters' residences built at Black Point in the 1850s. How it came to become the official residence of the highest-ranking U.S. Army officer in the west needs some background and explanation.

Gold Rush Era

On November 6, 1850, President Millard Fillmore issued an executive order reserving "For Public Purposes" several large tracts in and around the City of San Francisco. The wording of the executive order may seem oblique, but it merely repeated earlier Mexican land grant stipulations that the government might reclaim privately owned lands when needed for public works, or in modern terms, "eminent domain" projects. In Fillmore's proclamation the intent was to reserve the lands for military uses, and the reservations included such areas as the islands in the bay, the Presidio and the Marin Headlands. Among these parcels was an area at the tip of Point San Jose on the city's northern waterfront, described as the area encompassed by an arc with a radius of 800 yards from the tip of the point. The government's intent was to fortify the area as a back up to forts at the narrows of the harbor entrance.

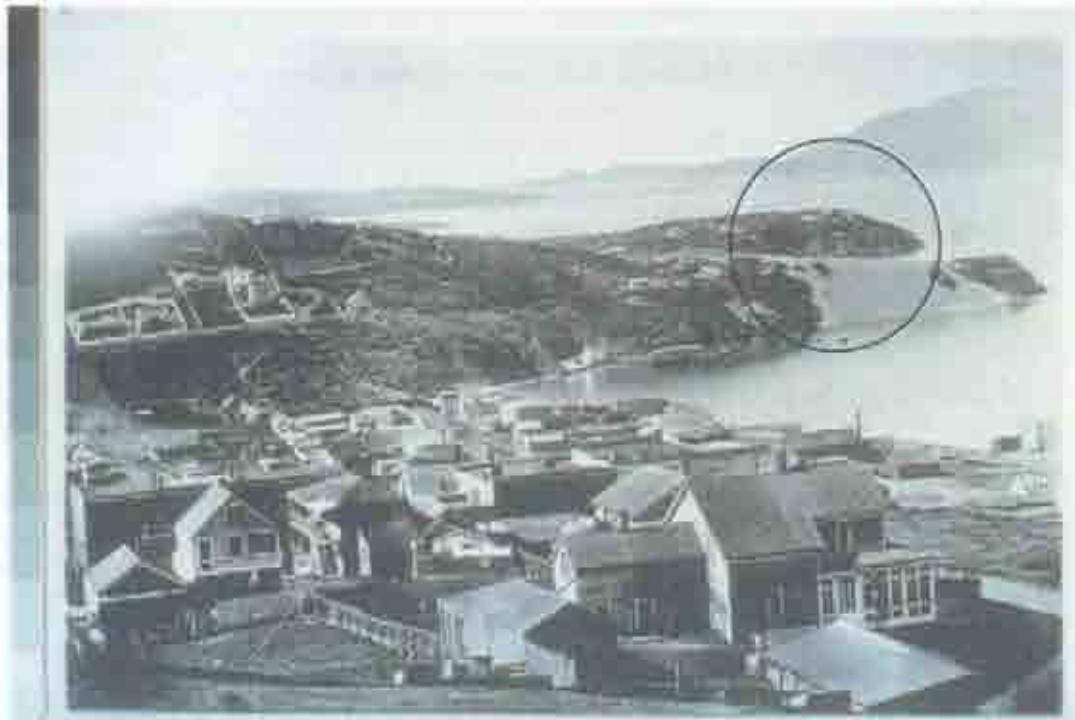
Declaring Point San Jose a military reservation was one matter, but keeping it from being settled by civilians was another. In the confused real estate market of Gold Rush-era San Francisco, squatters quickly moved on to the reservation and began erecting private residences – some of

them ignorant of the military's claim and many of them willfully hostile to it. The army repeatedly tried to evict the squatters by tearing down their fences and shelters, but the civilians always returned and actually filed suit against the government. Years later, General Irvin McDowell summarized the experiences of then-Captain Erasmus D. Keyes on one such expedition:

Combinations of land-grabbers and land-jumpers so harassed this officer that he wrote in despair that he could not protect the government property, and in one of his letters reports, 'They have seized on Point San Jose and have it in complete possession.'

Before long, the City of San Francisco began levying taxes on the residences on Point San Jose (or Black Point as it was popularly known), thus giving legal credence to the "squatters' rights" claims of the occupants. By the middle 1850s, private residences both large and small dotted the point, many of them erected by well-to-do banking and mercantile figures in the young city. The finest of these houses were located along the sheltered eastern edge of the bluff and enjoyed spectacular views over the sheltered cove now known as Aquatic Park. By the eve of the Civil War, its prominent occupants included U.S. Army

Figure 1 – Black Point, ca. 1860. (Bancroft Library-Graves)



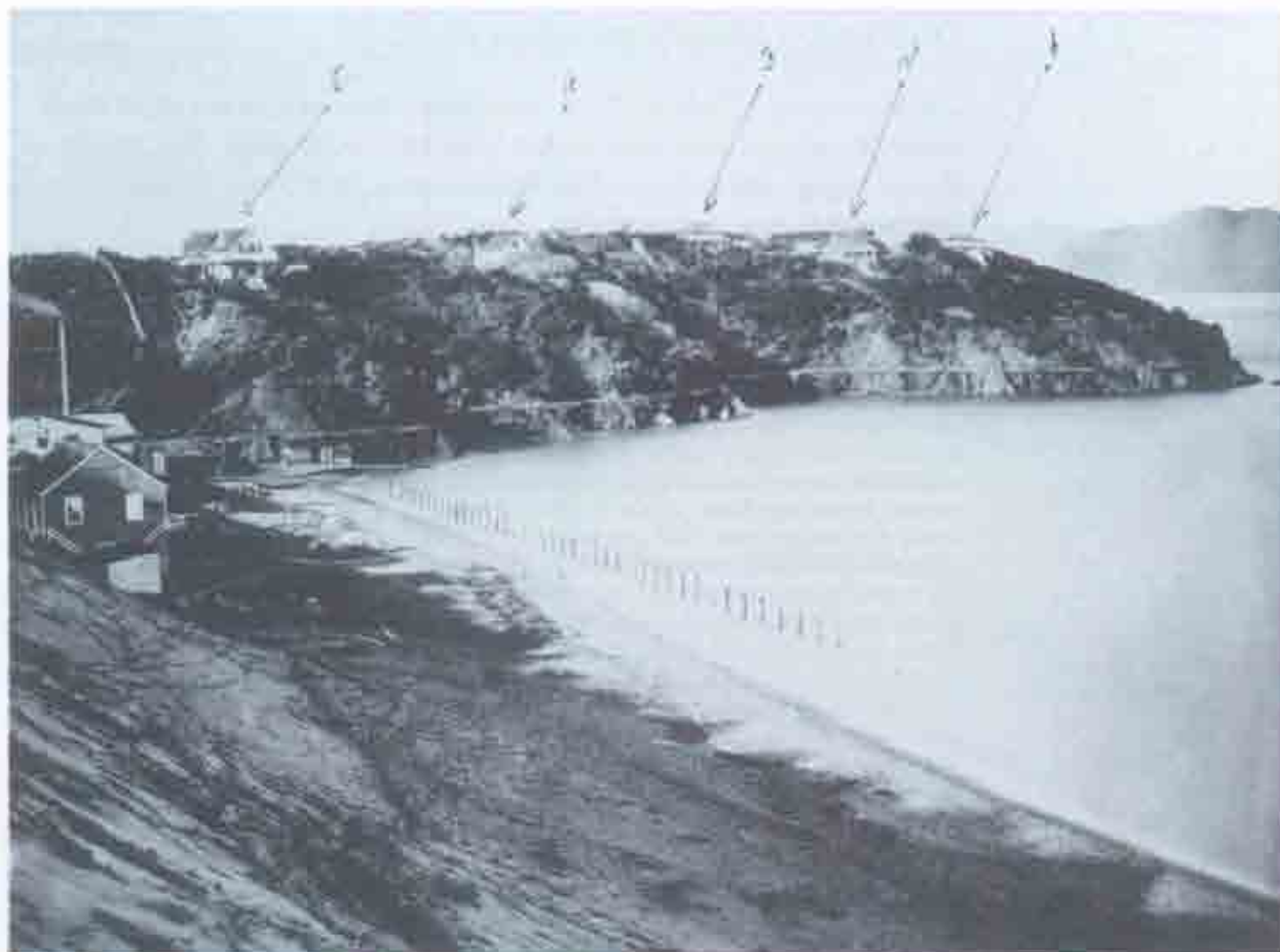


Figure 2 - Black Point in 1863 showing squatters residences. The earlier 1855 building, which was demolished in 1877 to make way for the current Quarters 1, is identified as building #5. (PARC-GOGA 78-c-55)

explorer and frontier man John C. Fremont and his wife, Jessie Benton Fremont, who often entertained notable figures of the era at their cottage at the north end of the point known as "Porter's Lodge."

The most spacious home at Black Point was located at the southerly end of the row of private homes on the approximate location occupied today by Quarters 1 (see figure 2). Originally constructed around 1855, it was a rambling structure, with Stick and Queen Anne style decorative elements, with a gable-roofed 1½ story tall central portion and several single-story additions. James Brooks, the editor of the newspaper *Golden Era*, built the house and lived in it for a time. He later sold the house to the banking firm of Haskell and Company, who in turn sold it to Mr. Charles Cook of Palmer, Cook and Company, another banking firm. Its last owner was Mr. Emil Grisar, a wool merchant, who bought the house near the start of the Civil War. Photographs of Black Point taken in the early 1860s show the Grisar house to be a large, gable ended house with a porch along its east facade overlooking the bay, with small wings on its north and south sides,

and an ungainly wooden addition on its west side and away from the view. (See figures 1 & 2)

Civil War Era

In 1863 the U.S. Army decided that Black Point had become critical to the defense of San Francisco Bay. The army had long envisioned a temporary battery at Point San Jose, situated so that its guns would intersect with cannon on Alcatraz and provide a crossfire covering the southern channel between the island and the city waterfront. The realities of Civil War now made this battery imperative, and the civilian residents of Black Point and their bucolic lifestyles would have to give way.

At 6 a.m. on October 3, 1863, General George Wright received a telegram from the War Department. "The Secretary of War directs that you take military possession of Point San Jose," it said, "and erect the battery proposed for its defense. The question of ownership will be determined later."²

A few days later a company of the 9th Infantry was ordered to Point San Jose to take and hold

military possession of such land as necessary for the erection of batteries. Almost immediately complaints were heard from occupants. The first was that the soldiers had destroyed some shrubbery.

Shrubbery removal was not the least of the Army efforts, however. The private houses were commandeered for officers' residence and those in the way of the engineers' plans were removed or leveled. The Fremont's "Porters Lodge" was razed, touching off a series of legal disputes that went as far as the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Grisar was left in relative peace for a while and seems to have retained his ownership during the initial flurry of army occupation, possibly because the Big House (as it was dubbed) lay at the opposite end of the post from the gun emplacements and out of the way of military construction. By contrast, the Fremont house sat directly on the site of the gun battery and was demolished almost immediately.

In 1864 Grisar leased the Big House to Dr. Ten Broeck, who was identified as a "Surgeon, U.S. Army Medical Purveyor" and was likely assigned to the new army post. He only lived in the house for a year, though, before both he and Grisar were evicted and the house transformed into a military residence.

On August 30, 1865, Major General Henry Halleck arrived in San Francisco and assumed

command of the army's newly formed Military Division of the Pacific. Halleck maintained offices in downtown San Francisco, but he balked at the idea of establishing his official residence the Presidio, which would have been appropriate since it was the principal army post in California. Instead, to save himself the long daily wagon ride over the dunes to his downtown office, Halleck decided to make his home at Point San Jose. On September 15, the army seized Emil Grisar's house and an adjacent residence for the use of Halleck and his aides, and its residents (including Dr. Broeck) were evicted. Extensive repairs and additions were quickly carried out and General Halleck took up residence in November.

The building continued to serve as the commanding general's residence until 1877. It was occupied in succession by Halleck, Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield, Brig. Gen. U.S. Canby, and Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell. In his unpublished history of Fort Mason, historian Erwin Thompson described life at the new fort shortly after the Civil War when the general first took up residence:

*The enlisted men assigned to the post must have found the general's presence trying. His residence was a hub of San Francisco's social life. Visitors and parties were regular occurrences. The artillerymen fired salutes for dignitaries. Spic and span infantry sentinels stood guard at the carriage entrance. If the post was like some other headquarters posts, privates probably found themselves taking care of flowerbeds.**

Figure 3 - This 1869 photo of the original Commanding General's house shows decorative elements such as overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends and the a carved wooden spire at the roof's ridge edge. (Bancroft Library)



Figure 4 - Series of Eadweard Muybridge photos showing the Commanding General's house at Black Point, 1869. Note the private pier in the lower right image, which was used by visiting dignitaries. (Bancroft Library)



A series of photographs taken about this time by the photographer Eadweard Muybridge show the Commanding General's house in some detail, surrounded by lush lawns, manicured gardens and verdant flowerbeds. In some of the views, a small pier and boathouse for the general's private use is visible at the foot of the bluffs just north of his residence. This pier served several functions: it provided a place where visiting naval dignitaries could land at the point when visiting the general; it functioned as a stopping place for government steamers plying the bay between the various army posts; and it served as a convenient stopping place for civilians arriving at Point San Jose who found travel by boat more convenient than taking a carriage over the city's unpaved streets. (See figures 3 & 4)

An entry in the 1871 *Outline Description of Military Posts* for Point San Jose painted a rather more dismal picture of the other officers' quarters at the fort:

There are four buildings used as officers' quarters. They are all frame, weather boarded, with shingle roofs. Three are lathed and plastered, and in good condition; the other is lined with boards, leaks badly, and the timber is rotten and giving way in many places, so much so that

the building has settled nearly one foot on one side. All these buildings were erected by citizens before the Government took possession; and at a time when timber was both scarce and high in prices, so that the material of which they were constructed was of very inferior quality. The buildings that are now in good condition have been almost entirely reconstructed by the Government. The largest and best of these quarters are occupied by the Department Commander.⁴

The exposed geography of Point San Jose seems to have caused problems for the officers and soldiers from the earliest days, and by 1876 records show that extensive fences and lattices were being erected around the post buildings and that troops were involved with seeding the reservation with lupine and barley in an effort to keep the blowing sand in check.⁵ One of the largest of these fences surrounded the general's house, providing privacy for its occupants as well as protection for the wind and grit.⁶

It would seem as if Nature determined to isolate this most beautiful spot (Black Point) by constantly shifting the sand surrounding the promontory, covering up roads in the course of a single night, compelling the inhabitants to wade through the deep sand-banks, formed, perhaps, in twelve hours time.

Indian Wars Era & New Construction

In 1876, General Irvin McDowell, who had earlier commanded both the Department of the Pacific and the Department of California, returned to San Francisco to assume command of the Military Division of the Pacific. Like most of his predecessors, he set up residence in the former Grisar house at Point San Jose. At that time the grounds around his and the other officers' residences were considered a place of beauty by city residents, but the majority of the post was still untamed dunes and scrub. McDowell was determined to beautify Point San Jose, and also to create a grander residence for himself and subsequent commanders than the aging and oft-remodeled Grisar house. To meet this goal, he ordered the existing structure moved to the north and a more dignified residence built on its approximate location.⁷

Little has been discovered regarding the early planning and construction of the new general's residence, but a newspaper reporter visiting the site in summer 1877 gave a description of the general's efforts to tame the landscape and the new edifice he was erecting as his official residence:

One of the prettiest and most romantic spots around the Bay of San Francisco is that neck of land called Black Point.... It would seem as if Nature determined to isolate this most beautiful spot (Black Point) by constantly shifting the sand surrounding the promontory, covering up roads in the course of a single night, compelling the inhabitants to wade through the deep sand-banks, formed, perhaps, in twelve hours time. This constant making of new roads, and the probability of the sand infringing upon the land devoted to the purpose of the garrison itself, induced Major-General McDowell to make an examination as to how the shifting sands would be stayed and the barren desert converted into a pleasant lawn.... As soon as the sand is completely conquered and the lupine has attained a reasonable hold, the area will be laid off as a Government park.

Among the buildings in the course of construction at the Point, is a fine structure for the Major-General commanding the Division of the Pacific, who will take up residence there, where he can entertain satisfactorily. Officers of foreign fleets can have their boats brought to the wharf at the foot of the Reservation, whence they ascend by a romantic winding path to the plateau where the house forms the center of a lovely picture. The roads from Van Ness and Larkin Street will give easy approach to the guests from the city proper.⁸

The new structure was designed from the start as a place for entertaining dignitaries, and its

architecture and floor plan reflected the prestige due the highest-ranking army officer in the west. Designed in the then-popular Italianate style, the general's new house differed immediately from its predecessor not only in architecture but also in layout. Unlike the old Grisar house, which had been oriented to the east to maximize views over the bay, McDowell ordered the new residence built so that its primary façade faced west towards the post and the carriageway leading to the site.

The main portion of the new house was roughly rectangular in floor plan, with "public rooms" for entertaining and dining on the first floor and bedrooms for the family and their guests on the second. A short wing on the south façade housed the general's office and library, while a larger wing on the north side housed the kitchen, laundry and servants' quarters. (This latter wing was actually a holdover from the old Grisar house that had been incorporated into the new structure.)⁹

McDowell's new house was definitely meant to impress. Upon arriving at the main entrance, a visitor first encountered an expansive porte cochere over the front doorway and extending the width of the carriageway. When entering the house, visitors would first pass through a short vestibule and then enter the Reception Hall, a 23'x26' room with 14' ceilings and a large fireplace dominating the far wall. To the right, a grand staircase led to the sleeping quarters upstairs, and beneath the stairs a short hall led to the general's office. To the left, another doorway opened onto the formal dining room and a passage led to the servant's area and kitchen wing. Flanking the fireplace in the Reception Hall were two sets of 10' tall double doors that opened on to the slightly smaller Drawing Room, a space designed for more intimate entertaining and provided with its own fireplace. From the Drawing Room, a pair of sliding pocket doors opened onto the general's Conservatory, a glass-enclosed sun porch facing east and overlooking the bay and city waterfront. (See figures 6 & 7)

Based on early Quartermaster reports and repair requests found in the National Archives, it appears the interior design was a reflection of the mid-Victorian era, with polished wood floors and dark wood trim in the main downstairs rooms and painted floors and woodwork in the bedrooms and servants' areas. Walls were papered in most rooms, and the ceilings either painted or "calcedined." In keeping with the availability of California building materials, most of the construction was redwood.

The new Quarters 1/Commanding General's residence was totally a product of 1877 construction, but with the incorporation of the old Grisar kitchen and servants' wing. The former Grisar house, reoriented to face north and greatly remodeled, survives today as Quarters 2 at Fort Mason.

Initially, the house appears to have been heated solely by fireplaces and lit with kerosene, since gas was not introduced for several years. Fresh water came from a pair of tanks located on the slight rise between Quarters 1 and Quarters 2, and sewage drained directly into the bay.¹⁰

At this point, a bit of Fort Mason mythology seems to have evolved. As mentioned previously, in the course of constructing the general's Italianate residence the old Grisar House was moved from its former location and relocated approximately 250 feet to the north. It was eventually remodeled to serve as the residence of the commanding officer of Point San Jose. During the construction of the new general's house, the Grisar kitchen and servants wing were retained on site, moved slightly and set on new foundations to serve the same function for the new house.

However, nearly as soon as the new general's residence was completed, the story evolved that it sat directly atop the foundations of the former Grisar house. By some accounts, the house was just a remodeling of the 1850s residence. On-site investigations and comparisons of historic maps, though, indicate the Grisar structure was actually located slightly northeast of today's Quarters 1, and there is no indication that any of its foundations were incorporated into the 1877 building. The new Quarters 1/Commanding General's residence was totally a product of 1877 construction, but with the incorporation of the old Grisar kitchen and servants' wing. The former Grisar house, reoriented to face north and greatly remodeled, survives today as Quarters 2 at Fort Mason.

In 1879, Captain Joseph Campbell, who was post commander of Point San Jose at the time, provided the earliest detailed description of the Commanding General's house in his entry for that year's annual *Outline Descriptions of Military Posts*:

Buildings. Quarters of the Division Commander – No. 1. These quarters were erected in 1877 and occupy nearly the site of the old quarters for the commanding officer. The main portion of this latter building [i.e., the Grisar house] was moved about 80 yards to the north and repaired into a set of quarters for the post commander. A wing (guests' chamber) and the kitchen were retained on the site and form part of the present Division Commander's quarters. The main part of the building which is new is 72' x 34' with a square projection on the northeast side 26' x 30'. This new part is two stories high. The guests' chamber (20' x 23') projects from the south-east end. The kitchen, laundry, etc., stands at the north-west corner. The foundation

of the main building is a stone wall with brick coping, giving a large cellar.

The old stables on the premises was moved about forty yards to the south-east of the present quarters; a small wing of the old house was moved to it and a carriage shed built on.¹¹

The captain's mention of a "guests' chamber" being retained from the old Grisar house is perplexing to modern researchers. The dimensions and location of the chamber clearly match the present Funston Room, but the dimensions of the Funston Room do not correspond with any of the rooms in the 1871 floor plan of the Grisar house, nor does an inspection of the Funston Room's construction indicate it was ever part of an earlier structure. By contrast, the kitchen and servants' wing matches nearly exactly the corresponding wing of the Grisar house. At the risk of casting aspersions on Captain Campbell's accuracy, it's possible that part of his 1879 report was inaccurate.

Later that same year, Gen. McDowell had an opportunity to show off his grand new residence during the visit of former President Ulysses S. Grant. As part of Grant's visit to San Francisco that summer, the Civil War hero was treated to whirlwind tour of the Bay Area and a seemingly endless series of receptions and dinners. On September 24th it was McDowell's turn, and the *Daily Alta California's* reporter gave a detailed description of the guests' arrival at Fort Mason and the ensuing reception:

GENERAL McDOWELL'S RECEPTION IN HONOR OF THE EX-PRESIDENT.

After filling the other engagements which had been made for him by the City's Committee, General Grant and Mrs. Grant prepared for the afternoon reception at the charming residence of Major General Irvin McDowell at Black Point (or Point San Jose, as it is called on the maps.) The Government steamer McPherson lands at a wharf sheltered by the north projection of Black Point, and from this by an easy grade, the visitors reach the prettily contrived villa which has the charm of presenting an attractive front from any point of view, though the real front is on the west side, where the carriages drive under a porte cochere. A sloping lawn and winding paths, bordered with pretty trees, make the foreground for a striking picture, the background being filled by the spacious mansion, which on this occasion was enlarged by an improvised pavilion made of flags, completing the beauty of the picture by the brilliant colors of the American ensign. The pavilion was devoted to the collation, which is no unimportant part of a grand reception.

"Major General and Mrs. McDowell request the pleasure of your company at Black Point, Saturday, September 11th, from 3 to 6 P.M. to meet the President and Mrs. Hayes"

The road to Black Point is by Bay street, past the Pioneer Woolen Mills, but as the road is at present broken up by the street work now in progress, the approach is from the westward, along a road just constructed by General McDowell. To facilitate drivers in keeping the road, a mounted sentinel was stationed at each turn, to give directions. From half past two o'clock until four, the road was lined with carriages, driving to one of the most distinguished receptions ever given in this city.

In the grand hall, Gen. Grant received the guests, who were introduced by General McDowell; in the parlor the guests were presented to Mrs. Grant by Mrs. McDowell. The Fourth Artillery Band, stationed at the north end of the pavilion, played a march, "General Grant's Welcome Home," when the distinguished guest entered the grounds, and during the afternoon played an overtureand waltzes by Strauss and Catlin. The Eighth Infantry band, at the south end of the grounds, played a grand march, a national potpourri, and an overture rendered by a string orchestra.

The reception lasted until six o'clock, General Grant returning a little before that hour to keep his engagements for the evening.¹²

The combination of blowing winds and the social events at Quarters 1 must have been severe; the week following the Presidential reception the deputy Quartermaster for the Division of the Pacific sent a letter to Washington with an estimate for "material and labor required for repairs at that portion of the reservation adjacent to the post of Fort Point San Jose, Cal, occupied by the General Commanding." His letter included the notation that although some of the funds were earmarked for sand fencing, "the remainder is needed to put the place in order and to preserve the wood work" of the nearly new house. The letter also specified colors that were to be used in the repairs: white lead, chrome yellow, chrome green, Prussian blue, drop black, yellow ochre, burnt umber and Paris white. (Unfortunately, there's no mention of which colors were to be applied where.)¹³

The next year, the general's house was decorated for yet another VIP reception when President Rutherford B. Hayes visited San Francisco, and General McDowell dutifully invited the President, Mrs. Hayes and General William T. Sherman to a luncheon at his Point San Jose residence. The presidential visit for the Hayes party was equally as elaborate as the previous year's reception for U.S. Grant, and the *Daily Alta California* again recorded the event, this time giving additional details about Quarters 1.

The *Alta* story is quoted here at length because of the information it contains about the Quarters 1, how it was decorated, and how the structure and grounds functioned during a state event:

HAYES AT BLACK POINT

The Brilliant Reception Tendered to President Hayes, by General McDowell, at Military Headquarters, Black Point – The President's Trip Around the Bay

President Hayes was an early riser yesterday.... After breakfast, having been called for by General McDowell, they were driven to the Washington Street wharf, where the McPherson, Captain Andrews, was in waiting, and at nine o'clock they started for a trip around the Bay....

Having visited the different posts, the McPherson steamed down the Bay to Black Point, where the President became the guest of General and Mrs. McDowell. At 1 o'clock lunch was served in the dining room, none being present but the Presidential party, ex-Governor and Mrs. Low, Mme. Bareda, Major Keeler, and the commanding officers of the different posts, who had joined the party during the excursion. Lunch disposed of, a quiet hour was spent to recover from the fatigues of the forenoon and to prepare for the grand reception to be held in the afternoon.

THE RECEPTION

Was not only the most remarkable in point of numbers ever given in this city, but it was emphatically a representative gathering – statesmen, jurists, officers of the Army and Navy, the Consular Corps, the officers of the foreign ships of war, now in port, being present in force. The ladies who were present represented the beauty and wealth, not alone of this city, but of the entire State, and the toilettes worn were universally acknowledged to surpass anything previously seen in San Francisco. In response to the following invitation – "Major General and Mrs. McDowell request the pleasure of your company at Black Point, Saturday, September 11th, from 3 to 6 P.M. to meet the President and Mrs. Hayes" – guests began arriving at the Point at 3 o'clock, from which time until 5:30 there was a constant stream of arrivals, and during the afternoon not less than 1500 visitors called and were presented to Mr. and Mrs. Hayes. The guests came in launches from Vallejo, Alcatraz and Angel Island, and by the McPherson from down town, but the majority came in equipages by way of the Presidio, being met by mounted orderlies and escorted to the residence of General McDowell. The decorations were confined mainly to a....



Sword and shield in screen above doorway from Reception room to Conservatory. (John Martini)

MAGNIFICENT DINING MARQUEE

Temporarily erected. Throughout the lower floor of the house were scattered numerous and handsome floral designs and bouquets. The marquee was placed on the portico, to the rear of the dining room, and was greatly admired for its beauty, and the good taste of General McDowell, under whose direction it was constructed. In length it was about sixty feet, and in width about twenty feet, the roof and ends being screened with enormous national flags. The rear was composed of shrubbery and plants, and the front throughout its entire length, opened on to the lawn. In the centre, running the whole length of the marquee, was a table, damask laid, embellished with the most brilliant of silver and crystal, decorated with flowers, and loaded with fruits, confectionaries, and more solid edibles. Over the centre of the table, to the rear, was a trophy of cavalry guidons, grouped with white and yellow roses, and from either end of the table arose a fern-covered mast, to the first of which was affixed a pair of silk flags, the national flag and the cavalry colors, and to the second, the national flag and infantry colors. Along the front of the table were entwined a number of smilax vines, and on the floor were rare Oriental mats and carpetings. The guests, upon their arrival, were received by Major Keeler, the General's Aide-de-Camp, who ushered them into.....

THE RECEPTION ROOM

Where the President and Mrs. Hayes had taken a position in the alcove of a bay window. Mrs. McDowell stood upon the left of Mrs. Hayes, and the General stood opposite the President, presenting and introducing the ladies and gentlemen. After four o'clock the visitors, anxious for presentation, crowded in so fast that the party left the room and took up a position on the lawn. General Sherman and Secretary Rainey, with Miss Rachel Sherman, stood on the other side of the reception room, and also greeted. General Sherman recognizing and greeting with his usual heartiness of manner, many old time associates. The reception continued until nearly six o'clock, the guests being invited into the marquee for refreshment previous to departure, and all retiring delighted with the cordial entertainment extended by Gen. And Mrs. McDowell. During the afternoon the 4th Artillery Band, stationed indoors, performed the following programme: [lengthy passage listing the musical numbers follows]. President Hayes and party returned to the city about 6:30.¹⁴

At an undetermined date during these early years, the maintenance responsibility for the general's residence was transferred from Point San Jose (or Fort Mason, as it was officially renamed in 1882) to the Presidio of San Francisco, and at this point it was redesignated from Quarters I to Bldg 58, Presidio of SF. The 1884 *Annual Report*

of Buildings at the Presidio gives a detailed inventory of the building's floors and rooms. Following is the section listing of the rooms believed to still remain in today's structure:

Bldg #58 Quarters of Division Commander Fort Mason

Main building - 2 story "frame" with basement and brick coping

1st floor:

Reception room	23'10" x 25'9"
Dining	19'9" x 31'10"
Hall	23'10" x 31' "
	[Error; should read 3'1"]
Butler's pantry	6'6" x 13'
Hall	3' x 32'
Bathroom Etc	6' x 10'
Cloak Room	11'7" x 9'11"
Hall from reception room to Library	4' x 10'
1 Wing, Library 1 st story	19'3" x 20'6"
1 Wing, Parlor	18' x 23'10" surrounded by conservatory
[measuring]	9'6" x 29' - 1 side
	4'6" x 18' - 1 end

1½ story Wing 30'6" x 39' [Dismantled in 1959; details omitted from this report]

Main Building 2nd floor

Chamber	14'10" x 15'8"
Sitting room	14'10" x 15'6"
Chamber	14'2" x 15'10"
"	15' x 15'2"
"	9'8" x 10'2"
"	9'8" x 10'2"
"	6'9" x 10'2"
Bathroom	6' x 6'8"
Dressing room	6' x 10"
3 halls	2'9" x 4'9", 3' x 26", 4' x 36"

The entry for Bldg 58 concluded with two remarks regarding maintenance:

Repairs made during current fiscal year up to date of report. Repairing plumbing, altering doors, cleaning, oiling & painting floors and repairs to fencing around quarters.

Repairs necessary to place in condition: Repairing roof & tin gutters, introducing new system of plumbing throughout, repairs to fences enclosing same, and painting buildings entirely[ly].¹⁵

Upgrades and First Remodeling

As a house ages, routine maintenance becomes critical and major repairs become more frequent. The elements at Fort Mason continued to take their toll on the general's house, because in

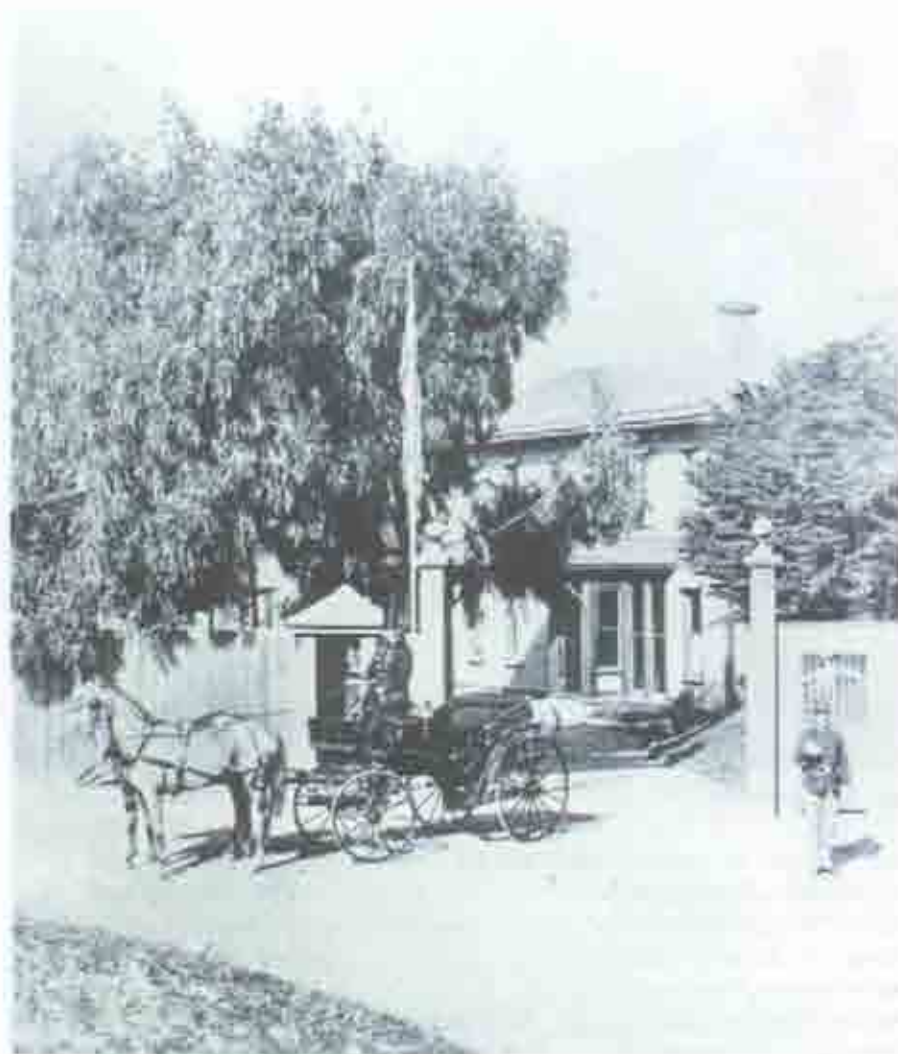


Figure 5 - Earliest known photograph of the new general's house, 1877. (HABS)

1885 a repair estimate was prepared for miscellaneous improvements included the ominous notation "Requires new roof and painting same", and specified a lengthy list of materials for the job. These included 34,000 shingles; 2,000 feet roofing tin; 40 lbs solder; 200 lbs nails; 400 lbs "Prince's Metallic;" and fifty gallons of boiled oil. Total cost including labor was \$520. Also included were items for extending fencing around the house, "putting up bath tubs etc," and unspecified concrete work for a cost of \$299.95.¹⁸

The work must have been delayed, though, because in 1886 the request for a new roof was again submitted together with a notation that the building now required interior painting.¹⁹

Regardless of ongoing maintenance needs, the general's house was still considered one of the most scenic locations in San Francisco. Duty at Fort Mason was good, and in his autobiography General O.O. Howard described his impressions of the house while commanding the Military Division of the Pacific from 1886 to 1888:

I took my family to reside in a charming spot

about halfway between the Presidio and the Oakland landing in San Francisco. There was here a large residence which General McDowell had remodeled, the very place where Mrs. Howard and I had been entertained by the McDowells some years before. The grounds of our main house were very charming - the trees of the southern and tropical growth, the hedges all around of geraniums, larger than I had ever seen before, and seventy-five varieties of roses beautified a square. After passing through a high gateway, and by the watchful sentinel, we were within a veritable paradise.²⁰

The earliest known photograph of the new general's house was taken around the time of Howard's occupancy. It shows the sentry mentioned by the general standing outside the carriageway leading to the front entrance, while a carriage and liveried driver wait just outside the gate. What's impressive about the scene is how little the front of the building has changed since the photo was taken. Aside from new gateposts and substantial tree growth, the residence looks virtually unchanged today. (See figure 5 and the front cover photograph.)²¹

Another photograph taken around the same time shows the east façade of the house - a view that would change dramatically over the next 120 years. In this photo the original exterior of this side of the building is still evident, unchanged by later dining room additions and window redesigns. Especially prominent are the ivy covered conservatory wing and the original second-floor window arrangements. In the distance, a tiny bandstand sits atop a gentle knoll separating the general's house from Quarters 2 (See figure 6).

Based on the old records, there appears to have been something of a push-and-shove between the Presidio and Fort Mason over which post was responsible for maintaining the general's home. In early 1887 the duty was bounced back to Fort Mason. In his *Report of Inspection of Public Buildings*, the Fort Mason quartermaster noted "This building was transferred to me on February 2nd 1887. Prior to that date, all repairs had been made by the Department Quartermaster at the Presidio." (You can almost hear the frustration in the quartermaster's handwriting.) He promptly designated the main house "Building No. A" and its stable "Building No. B", probably to differentiate them from the regular number system of other structures at the fort.²²

By 1887 the building was beginning to show its age. It was ten years old and had experienced several tenants, as well as enduring the continued exposure to sun, rain, fog and blowing sand that take their toll on all buildings. It was time for



Figure 6 - Quarters 1, circa 1885. The east elevation of this building has experienced much change. Note that in 1885 there was a bay window at the first floor and the Conservatory was rectangular shaped with a wall of glazing. (77-C-293)

Quarters 1's first complete renovation.

To spruce up the appearance of the residence the Fort Mason Quartermaster, Lt. Frank Price, prepared a detailed contract for repainting the main house and outbuildings. For the main structure's exterior he specified white lead, burnt umber, yellow ochre, turpentine, linseed oil, putty, and fireproof metallic paint. The estimate also called for "Calcimining, papering and painting

interior of building", for which Price specified whiting, wallpaper, assorted colors, white zinc and color, turpentine, linseed oil and putty. The interior would also be upgraded with repairs to bathroom plumbing and various windows and doors.³¹

In his next annual *Report of Inspection* Lt. Price reported that the painting and repair work had been completed, and that the walls and floors of several interior rooms had also been painted.

Figure 7 - Quarters 1, 1893. By 1893, modifications and improvements had occurred to the building, including the construction of projecting bay windows, probably at the general's 2nd floor bedroom. (RG92)



Figure 6 - General view of post, 1893. Today's Franklin Street is at center. The tall board-and-lattice fence and omnipresent sentry mark the location of the Commanding General's house.



More work was needed, though. He recommended that the roof be painted with "fire proof metallic paint" to prevent the shingles from drying out and shrinking during the long dry season and causing leaks. He also stated that "Several rooms require papering and kalsomining" and that "some little repairing will be required to chimneys and ventilators and incidental repairs to will be required to doors, windows, bath rooms and water connections, etc." for a total estimated cost of \$600. (The re-designation of the general's house as "Bldg A" must have caused confusion, because in this report the quartermaster reverted to identifying the structure as "Bldg 58".)²²

Dutifully, Price prepared another request in 1888 to carry out the remaining interior painting, papering and plumbing work. This work estimate also contained requests to repair "Chimneys, flues and foundations" and carry out repairs to "floors, roofs, stairways, etc."²³

In 1893 the Quartermaster Department prepared photographic surveys of army buildings in the San Francisco area, and two views were made of the Commanding General's house and grounds at Fort Mason. The first view (figure 7) shows the east side of the building from a perspective similar to the view taken circa 1885. In this view, though, a large bay window has appeared at the corner of the bedroom directly over the parlor, which, given its location in the house, was likely the general's bedroom. The other view (see fig-

ure 8) shows the main entrance road to the post and the large fence enclosing the general's garden on the east side of the house. Although this photo does not show the residence itself, it provides quite a bit of detail on the plank-and-lattice fence that surrounded the general's home along with glimpses of the well-established and well-tended vegetation growing inside the fence.²⁴

Spanish-American War Era and Second Remodeling

Brigadier General William Shafter became commander of the Division of the Pacific in early 1897 and quickly became frustrated with the general's residence. It was now twenty years old and its interior had not been modernized since initial construction. In May, Shafter had his staff prepare a punch-list of improvements he wanted made. The list provides numerous insights into how the interior of the house appeared at the time, including items such as:

- Paper dining room and clean and polish wood work and floors
- Kitchen and laundry entirely done over; walls and wood work painted
- Paper walls and ceilings of "hall"; clean wood work and wax floors
- Thoroughly overhaul all plumbing and install two new bath tubs
- Thoroughly repair furnace
- New sinks in pantry and kitchen
- Range put in order. New one if necessary.
- Shades at all windows

- Electric bells and annunciator put in order
- Paper five bedrooms upstairs with "good paper", and paint all woodwork
- Gas fixtures taken down and cleaned and put in good order

There were also several elements specifically aimed at remodeling the general's first floor office:

- Paper and carpet office
- Repair and clean office desk and bookcases
- Purchase office chairs and lounge for same
- Repair and clean telephone room. Repaper and clean parlor; wax floor
- Install water closet in office hall²⁷

General Shafter got his way, and two weeks later a bid was prepared by E.J. Lawton of San Francisco, a "Practical Plumber, Steam and Hot Water Fitter", who was willing to tackle part of the project. He prepared a bid and specifications for refurbishing all the gas fixtures in the house ("numbering about sixty") and for remodeling/replacing most of the toilets, sinks and tubs in the residence. His total bid came to \$679.²⁸

Simultaneously, the Quartermaster for the Department of California prepared a more expansive estimate that included not only the gas and plumbing work but all the general's remaining wish-list items. He also stated his estimate "contemplates the use of enlisted labor as far as practicable" to keep costs down. His estimate came

to \$2103.46. Interestingly, the quartermaster also reported in the narrative for his estimate that "The quarters have not been occupied for about six years and considerable work is necessary..." (If accurate, this reference could indicate that not all Commanding Generals elected to live in the Fort Mason residence.)²⁹

This estimate represented a major expenditure of government funds, and correspondence went back and forth between the War Department and the Department of California discussing whether or not specific items should be approved. On June 11, a peeved General Shafter sent a telegram to the Adjutant General of the Army in Washington asking, "What action has been taken on estimates for repairs.... Anxious to begin work as soon as practicable. If funds are not available this year cannot allotment be made for funds of next?"³⁰ Five days later, the army's Quartermaster General responded that all work items had been approved except for furniture for the general's office and another toilet on the second floor.³¹

Work must have begun shortly afterward, but another surprise was encountered: the underpinnings of the building were sadly lacking and a new stone foundation would be needed. The Presidio Quartermaster described the situation:

The stone foundation of the building for a length of about 100 feet is only about 4 feet in depth, and rests on underpinning of earth in the form of a bench about 4 feet high, above the

Figure 10 - Fort Mason, circa 1900. Note Quarters 1 in the center of the photo with the tennis court and stables in the foreground. The Fontana building at right was leased for many years by the army as additional warehouse space for the San Francisco Port of Embarkation. (GOGA 18480.130)



Figure 9 - Quarters 1 from the north,
circa 1900. (GDGA 2316)



basement floor. This bench was left projecting out about two feet from the face of the wall and was apparently surfaced over at one time with a layer of concrete, to prevent caving of the earth. This concrete has now fallen entirely away and the earth at some points has caved to the edge of the wall. The only remedy to prevent, in time, the undermining of the building, is to construct a retaining wall to hold this earth underpinning, and the foundation wall resting thereon.

About 40 cubic yards of stone would be needed to construct the new retaining walls. That was the bad news. The good news was that stone could be acquired at 75¢ a yard at the government quarry on Angel Island and transported free using convict labor from Alcatraz. The local quartermaster could pay for the stone from his own budget, but he needed \$30 to rent a scow to haul the stone across the bay. The amount was quickly approved.⁴⁵

Later that month, the push-pull over which command was responsible for the residence again erupted, when General Shafter personally directed that the commanding general's house and its outbuildings "should be considered as attached to the Presidio for repairs placed under the charge of the QM & such labor required as can be performed the EM [enlisted men] should be supplied from the extra duty force at that post." This formality likely cleared the way for enlisted men from the Presidio to be put to work on the

general's house at Fort Mason.⁴⁶

All elements of the work as approved were completed by the fall of 1897, including the new retaining wall in the basement. In addition to the previously specified elements, the building also received a new roof and exterior paint job. "Pecos Bill" Shafter could now enjoy his remodeled residence at what the public still referred to as Black Point.⁴⁷

1906 Earthquake Era

Convict laborers from the military prison on Alcatraz were frequently employed at Fort Mason for a variety of work duties. These included road maintenance, landscaping, painting and other unskilled activities. Usually the men assigned to Fort Mason work details were screened to prevent potential escapees from getting access to the mainland. In April 1903, the *San Francisco Chronicle* trumpeted an unsuccessful escape attempt from just such a work party at the commanding general's house under the headline "Gag the Sentry and Make Their Escape - Daring and Successful Break from Liberty by the Prisoners at Fort Mason."

Four general prisoners from Alcatraz had been assigned to cleaning the walls in the general's basement, probably in preparation for repainting. After working for an hour under the supervision of a sentry, one of the convicts struck the guard on the cheek, wrestled the gun from him

and removed its bolt. The four men then stuck a towel in the guard's mouth and viciously beat and kicked him until unconscious. They then crawled out a coal scuttle leading to the outside where they hoped to make their break out the main gate leading to the city. Instead, a gardener saw them running and gave the alarm. One prisoner went back into the general's house and up to the second floor where he encountered a painter. He begged the painter to swap clothes with him so he could get away. The painter refused and the convict dropped out a window, only to be met by an armed soldier. All four men were recaptured, and the injured guard was taken to the hospital. The would-be escapees each earned an additional 18 months on the Rock.³³

Throughout the first years of the new century, routine maintenance continued to be submitted for Quarters 1. Many of these were for repeated paintings, which can be explained by the construction of a nearby coal gas plant erected by Pacific Gas & Electricity just outside the western border of Fort Mason. This factory, which produced natural gas by reducing coal, unleashed gaseous clouds that blew east over the post and repeatedly spoiled the general's paint job. Together with the smoke from a nearby power plant, Fort Mason was frequently inundated with toxic emissions and "smoke hung above and in the post like a blanket and deposits of soot and tar fell everywhere."³⁴

A 1905 work order noted that both an exterior paint job and an interior painting were needed. "So many coats of paint have evidently been laid on doors, base-boards, window-frames, etc., that it is falling off in scales, leaving the original surface of the wood exposed in hundreds of spots as large as a finger nail while the rest of the surface is still painted. The interior wood-work of this building, especially upstairs, is more in need of paint than that of any other officer's quarters on this reservation and is more unsightly." Also, it was an excellent opportunity for the army to carry out these repairs: "This matter is mentioned here to show the necessity of painting the Commanding General's quarters during the next fiscal year at any rate. The interior of the building is sadly in need of being painted at once and this is a most favorable opportunity for doing it during the temporary absence of Gen'l [Arthur] MacArthur in China."³⁵ Approval was granted the following month and \$308.25 allocated to repaint the house.³⁶

More repairs and repainting were needed the following winter and the Fort Mason quartermaster prepared another request for funding. The list of work items he attached provides some

clues to the original interior appearance of the public rooms on the first floor of the general's residence:

Beeswax floors parlor, reception room and conservatory - \$43.00
Varnish door-sills in parlor and reception - \$14.50
Paint floor and varnish woodwork in pantry - \$18.00
Stain staircase and varnish balustrade - \$10.00
Varnish vestibule - \$7.50
Paint exterior and roof - \$305.00
Total cost - \$401.00

The Quartermaster's request was approved only three days later, and was actually increased by \$100 to carry out unspecified other repairs. The request was made to prepare the house for its next occupant, Maj. General Adolphus Greeley, the newest commander of the Pacific Division of the western states. One endorsement to the request bears the notation "no repairs were made during the past year, and the house has been empty..." presumably during the absence of Gen. MacArthur while he was in China. Interestingly, Brig. Gen. Frederick Funston, a future resident of Quarters 1, granted approval for the funding. At the time Funston was commander general for the Department of California, a sub-command of the Division.³⁷

Only two months later, the great San Francisco earthquake and fire of April 18, 1906 would bring both General Funston and the Fort Mason residence into the national spotlight.

When the first major shocks hit at 5:13 AM on the morning of April 18, they awakened Brig. Gen. Frederick Funston at his residence at 1310 Washington St., near Jones. As noted above, Funston was commanding general for the Department of the Pacific at the time. However, division commander Maj. Gen. Greeley was out of town on a trip to Chicago to attend his daughter's wedding, and had left Funston as his designated replacement. Thus, at the time of the earthquake, Funston was the Army's senior officer in the west, serving as both Commanding General of the Department of California and also as Acting Commanding General of the Pacific Division.

Realizing the immensity of shock, Funston dressed hurriedly and headed downtown to the offices of the Department and the Division, both of which were in commercial buildings. While en route he could see columns of smoke rising from fires all over the downtown and South of Market. Realizing the city's police force would be inadequate in the scope of such a massive disaster, he decided to offer military help. Stopping

Figures 11 & 12 - General Funston in front of Quarters 1 following the 1906 earthquake; April 19, 1906. (SFPL)



a policeman, Funston learned the phones were out and sent the policeman to the Hall of Justice to advise civilian authorities and the mayor that federal troops were at their disposal.

Funston then ran to the Quartermaster stables on Pine between Leavenworth and Hyde, and sent a rider on horseback carrying a note to the commanding officer at the Presidio to send troops. The rider also stopped at Fort Mason en route and verbally advise the CO there of the same orders.³⁸ Additional troops were quickly brought in from Alcatraz Island, Fort Baker, and Angel Island, and telegraphic orders were sent to the commander of Vancouver Barracks in Washington State to proceed to San Francisco with the entire garrison of that post.

Realizing that the Department and Division offices could not be saved from the encroaching fires, Funston decided to move those administrative functions to a safer location. Funston later explained his decision to move to Fort Mason in his official report on his actions following the earthquake:

On the evening of this day [April 18] I considered it advisable to establish at some convenient point both Division and Department Headquarters. It was therefore decided to utilize the only Government building in the vicinity of the fire available for such purpose, this being the quarters of the permanent Division Commander at the post of Fort Mason, where I established my headquarters, using both the Division and Department staffs, without, for the time being, making any attempts to segregate the duties belonging to each.³⁹

The scene at Fort Mason must have been much more chaotic than Funston's dry report makes it sound. Photographs taken on April 19 show the general holding hurried, informal conferences on the lawn in front of Quarters 1 while soldiers and civilians wait anxiously nearby. Other photographs take that same day record a flood of refugees establishing temporary tent camps along the roads and grounds near the Division Commander's home.⁴⁰



Fort Mason itself was not out of harm's way, though, and was soon threatened by the advancing fires. Late on April 19 the U.S. Navy's Pacific Squadron arrived and offered to send sailors ashore to help with the firefighting and relief activities being carried out by army troops. Funston requested they be landed at Fort Mason and immediately put a detail to work helping defend the post from flames. By the morning of the 20th a threatening branch of the fire had worked its way along the slopes of Russian Hill above Broadway and was headed towards Fort Mason. Again, an excerpt from Funston's report:

All day on the 20th an heroic fight was made by soldiers, sailors, firemen and citizens to stop this fire, which had a frontage of about half a mile, and was working its way against the wind. A number of buildings were destroyed here by high explosives and back firing was resorted to. The fight at this place was greatly aided by water taken from the Bay at Fort Mason. For a time grave fears were felt for the safety of the post itself and I directed that fences and a number of outbuildings be torn down and that men be stationed on the roofs of buildings. The flames, however, did not reach Fort Mason, and by the most tremendous exertions were prevented from crossing Van Ness Avenue between that post and the point where it had once crossed and been fought out.⁴¹

One of the major administrative duties carried out by Funston at the Division Commander's home was coordinating the firefighting and relief activities between the various military and civilian agencies arriving on scene, and hurried organization meetings were held there. He explains in his report:

In order to avoid further confusion and possible conflict of authority on this score, a conference was held between Mayor Schmitz, Brigadier General Koster, commanding the National Guard of California, Chief of Police Dinan and myself on the 21st at Fort Mason, in which it was agreed that the city, for the time being, would be divided into districts, one each under control of the Federal troops, including naval contingent, the National Guard and the municipal

police.⁴²

Maj. Gen. Adolphus Greeley returned to San Francisco on April 22 and reassumed command of the Pacific Division from Funston, but Greeley continued to maintain the command post in his residence at Fort Mason for several more days. The interior of Quarters 1 must have been terribly overcrowded, though, for on April 27 Funston announced that the army emergency headquarters of would be moved from Fort Mason to the Presidio as speedily as possible. "The offices at Ft. Mason have been found inadequate to accommodate the amount of business conveyed to the Army by the late disaster." General Greeley's new Pacific Division headquarters would be located in "the first cantonment" at the Presidio, while Funston's Department of the Pacific would be at Tennessee Hollow.⁴³

(Sixty years after the disaster, Mr. Milton Danziger of San Francisco visited the Fort Mason Officers Club as a guest of the San Francisco Port of Embarkation and identified the library / office on the first floor as the command post of the relief operation. Danziger, 12 years old at the time of the earthquake, had been taken to the room in 1906 by his father who had some business to transact with the army command. Based on this recollection, the U.S. Army and the California Historical Society installed a commemorative plaque identifying the former library as the earthquake and fire command post. This room was subsequently renamed The Funston Room.)⁴⁴

The general's residence at Fort Mason seems to have survived the quake surprisingly well, and

the only mention of damage is a passing reference in a quartermaster report to unspecified repairs to the chimney, roof, and plaster required at the Commanding General's Quarters.⁴⁵ The interior of the house, though, must have been severely abused by the comings and goings of hundreds of people, most of who failed to scrape their boots and treat the general's house with proper respect, and in June an emergency request for \$100 was submitted for overhauling doors, locks, windows and thresholds. Damage must have been fairly widespread, since it was endorsed with the supporting comment, "In view of urgency of this case it is recommended that \$100.00, or so much as may be necessary, be allowed for this purpose and that the work be done immediately without formality of advertising for bids." Reading between the lines, it seems that Gen. Greeley wanted his house put back in proper order – and fast.⁴⁶

Army correspondence indicates that repairs to the general's residence were completed in stages. In December 1906 another request was submitted, this time for \$120, "to repair the reception room and hall's Division Commanders residence badly needed." Five months later, the Departmental quartermaster submitted yet another repair authorization for the structure, this time for \$500 to repair and refinish floors and walls. Both were quickly approved.⁴⁷

By late 1908 the general's house was again deemed ready for a thorough remodeling. It had been more than ten years since upgrades had taken place, and before the depredations of the post-earthquake command post activities. On September 11 the Commanding Officer of Fort

Figure 13 - Quarters 1, circa 1907. This image from an old postcard shows the sentry box at the left, the cannons flanking the entrance, and the arched entryway, guarded by a soldier. (John Martini collection)



Mason, 1st Lt. R.T. Ward, forwarded a report to the Department of California's Chief Quartermaster containing an estimate of repairs "required to place the Quarters of the Department [sic; should be Division] Commander in first class condition." He included several observations about the condition of the residence:

The hardwood floors are much scratched, several of the scratches being deep and long, necessitating either the substitution of new material, or scraping, sandpapering, and waxing.

The painting upstairs has been done over polished wood without removing the polish, and is badly chipped off in many places.

The roofs are in bad condition, and require to be entirely renewed. The gutters are badly rusted, and are eaten thru in a number of places. The downspouting is rotten by rust.

The basement is sadly in need of a thorough whitewashing, and a number of the sash have given way, allowing the vines to enter through the breaks.

The whole exterior of the building should be repainted after the other work is done. The flooring in the area should be renewed.⁴⁸

A list of proposed work elements and costs was attached, ranging from plastering to re-roofing to painting, and totaling \$2,673.00. This amount greatly exceeded what was available through the normal Departmental allocation for annual repairs to public buildings, so higher approval was sought. Eventually a revised total of \$1,091 was arrived at, and was funded from a combination of Departmental and Army allocations. Unfortunately, the records do not indicate which proposed work elements were revised or eliminated to reach this lower figure, nor do they record the repairs actually accomplished.⁴⁹

One of the responsibilities of the Chief Quartermaster of the Department of California was to carry out periodic inspections of buildings under his control, and in 1909 he visited the Commanding General's quarters at Fort Mason. Less concerned with décor than health and safety, he focused his comments on heating and drainage:

The Commanding General's quarters are heated with a hot air furnace, which appears to be in good condition. Complaint has been made that it permits smoke to penetrate into the rooms, which is probably chargeable to faulty methods of firing or heating and to the neglect of thoroughly overhauling the boiler after periods of disuse. Attention was called to the defects and suggestions given to remedy same.

The east end of the cellar is about eight feet below the ground surface outside, yet there is no provision for carrying off water which collects on the floor in winter. It is recommended that a three-inch tile drain be run from the sump hole in floor to the outside surface of the ground where there is ample drainage, and that the interior of the foundation walls be cement plastered to prevent ingress of water.⁵⁰

One of the remedies for the heating problems must have been the replacement of the hot air furnace, since later that year a new steam heating plant was installed in the building at a cost of \$1,250. Also in late 1909, the Quartermaster General listed numerous repairs and upgrades necessary to improve the general's quarters. These included the never-ending need to refinish hardwood floors in the downstairs rooms; patching and replastering where necessary; repapering the drawing room, reception hall, stairway and second floor hall; repairs to roof; and various repairs to the kitchen wing. (The estimated cost of \$775 seems to have been deferred until a more extensive repair program was carried out two years later.)⁵¹

During all these years, the Commanding General's house still retained the official designation of Quarters #58, Fort Mason. On December 11, 1909 the post's commanding officer report that the residence had a new designation, and that at the direction of the Commanding General of the Department of California the structure would henceforth be called Quarters #1, Fort Mason. Reasons for this re-designation are not stated, but likely it was to give the home a numerical status appropriate to the rank of its resident, the Commanding General.⁵²

The repairs requested in 1909 were approved in late 1911, and the list had expanded to include a much larger scope of work:

*Paint exterior - 2 coats
Paint shingle roof - 1 coat
Paint entrance gate & fence - 2 coats
Repair plaster of ceiling of a 2nd floor bedroom. Paper the new plaster and tint ceiling
Replaster loose plaster, laundry, 1st floor. Paint.⁵³*

On October 25, 1911 a contract was let with P.J. McGaffigan that would address these repairs as well as numerous other items:

*Convert coal bin in kitchen wing into servants' bathroom
New dresser in kitchen
Place one double-acting door and one single-acting in dining room
Construct 2 new closets on 2nd floor and alter three*

Under this new command structure, the fort would increasingly become an administrative headquarters for shipping troops and supplies to the army's far-flung Pacific bases, a role which would evolve by the 1920s into the San Francisco Port of Embarkation (SFPE).

others
 Paint all interior wood. Varnish all hardwood. Wax floors.
 Bronze radiators and piping
 Fix up mantles, fireplaces, electrified fixtures.
 Overhaul plumbing
 Repair leaks in gutters, valleys, decks, ridges, etc.
 Replace hardware and damaged woodwork and plaster
 Place fiberstone floors in bathrooms, laundry, pantry & kitchen
 Replaster kitchen and laundry.
 Stain roof shingles.
 Concrete cellar floor. Whitewash cellar. Make building rat proof.
 Place hardwood floor over all bed rooms in second floor and library.
 Place entire building in first class condition.⁵⁴

This was turning into another major upgrade to the house, and was to be funded by two allotments totaling \$4,500. However, the current resident of the house, Maj. Gen. Arthur Murray, also had some additional ideas about improvements to the structure and before the end of the year he had a memorandum submitted to the Construction Quartermaster at Fort Mason overseeing the project. Murray wanted a few changes:

General Murray desires that in addition to the work already provided for, that you will have the conservatory changed so as to make the west side the same width as the main part, i.e., 10'6" – the new addition to rest on concrete piers and have lattice under the same. Also have moved and changed china closets in the present butler's pantry so as to have them rest upon the east and south walls of that room, the soil pipe to be cased in. Also change the two windows in bedroom #8 into one large window. Also fix up the sump in basement with galvanized iron gratings so as to make it rat proof. Also change the two doors in drawing room so as to have the best side of the same exposed when doors are open. Also put up in bay window of dining room the fretwork now stored in the cellar.⁵⁵

The general seems to have gotten his way, even though it increased the cost of refurbishing the residence from \$4,500 to \$4,931.⁵⁶ Funds were located, though, and most of the general's 'wish list' items accomplished — as well as a few others. On March 1, 1912 a "Report of Changes" for Quarters 1 was filed that included:

*An addition was placed on the Conservator 5' x 22'6"
 New closet installed at end of hall, second floor, 2'6" x 9'
 An additional closet was provided in rear hall, second floor, 2'x8'. This space was cut off of*

*bathroom.
 All bathrooms, kitchen, laundry, and pantry changed to fiber stone floors
 Cellar floors concreted.*

In addition, the report included the notation that a gas main had been constructed to the residence for heating purposes to all fireplaces, and that gas logs had been put in each fireplace. Finally, wall radiators had been substituted for stand radiators.⁵⁷

On or about the same date, a handwritten document was prepared listing some of the furniture in various buildings at Fort Mason 1. The pieces listed were for Quarters 1 were: 1 bookcase; 4 chairs, arm, dining; 12 chairs, dining; 1 chair, arm, library; 3 chests of drawers; 1 desk, library; 1 refrigerator; 1 rack, hat; 1 sideboard; 1 table, dining; 3 tables, kitchen, and 1 table, parlor.⁵⁸

The remodeling of the general's residence corresponded with the construction of the new warehouses and transport wharves located at lower Fort Mason, and the transformation of the fort itself from an artillery post to a "Quartermaster General Depot." Under this new command structure, the fort would increasingly become an administrative headquarters for shipping troops and supplies to the army's far-flung Pacific bases, a role which would evolve by the 1920s into the San Francisco Port of Embarkation (SFPE). The Commanding General's residence and its support buildings would remain an isolated enclave within the fort, surrounded by high hedges that visually cut off its residents and activities from the rest of the post. However, the continuing maintenance and periodic upgrades to the residence remained the responsibility the fort's quartermaster — and his budget.

World War I – World War II Era

The First World War by-passed Quarters 1 for the large part, but the grounds of Fort Mason surrounding the residence erupted with a warren of temporary warehouses and barracks where troops bound for Europe waited before shipping out. Following the armistice, the residence hosted another dignitary when Gen. John "Black Jack" Pershing, the former commander-in-chief of the American Expeditionary Force, visited San Francisco and inspected its defenses. Following his tour of the bay forts, Pershing lunched at the commanding general's house at Fort Mason. Interestingly, Division Commander Maj. Gen. Hunter Liggett wasn't in residence at the time, leaving other local army brass to entertain Pershing.⁵⁹

Figure 14 - Fort Mason viewed from Aquatic Park, January 14, 1919. Quarters 1 is in the center of the photo up on the hill and the still rectangular conservatory is visible. (SFPL DPW 6134)



Detailed interior drawings of the first and second floors of Quarters 1 were prepared in April 1922. These plans and their annotations reveal many changes and alterations not documented in army correspondence. The most extensive of these changes was the replacement of the original conservatory on the east façade with a large, semi-circular conservatory that extended well into the lawn area. (After the residence was converted to an Officers Club this room would be known as the "Circle Room.") Although records don't provide a date for this modification, a photograph taken in 1919 from Aquatic Park shows the original conservatory wing still in place, allowing researchers to date its reconstruction to 1919 - 1922. The reason for the remodeling is unknown but likely it was done at the direction of one of the commanding generals in residence, whose intent may simply have been to expand the usable floor space of the aging structure.⁶⁰

Other changes shown on the 1922 plan are the realignment of the staircase leading from the reception hall to the second floor; the relocation of the doors and the short hall leading to the general's library/office; the expansion of the general's aide's room on the first floor; the relocation of the library fireplace from the north wall to the south; and the rebuilding of the pantry and several other spaces in the kitchen wing; However, with the exception of the semi-circular conservatory, the building remained remarkably similar to its original 1877 configuration.⁶¹

Alterations, renovations, redecoration and upgrades continued throughout the 1920s and 1930s, and were dutifully recorded in the post quartermaster's "Historical Record of Public Buildings" – an indispensable compilation of expenditures and alterations made to an army post's buildings and universally referred to as a fort's "Building Book." Entries made between 1908 to 1941 record a myriad of changes to Quarters 1, ranging from utility upgrades to replacing soap dishes. A complete listing would overwhelm the reader, so here instead are some samplings and highlights:

- Expended from 1887 to June 30, 1926 - \$20,437.78
- Dec 11, 1926 - Installed Automatic Premier Water heater, size #4 - \$188
- Mar 7, 1926- Installed 36 curtain rods - \$3.50
- Oct 4, 1927 - Installed two smoothbore cannon, Model 1857, Nos 82 & 222 - \$8
- June 11, 1927 - Installed brass plaque listing names of all residents of Qrtrs 1 - \$425
- May 1928 - Installed "Ray Automatic Oil Burner" - \$323
- June 1, 1931 - Painting exterior of Bldg by contract (9th Corps Area funds) - \$222.50
- July 7, 1931 - Cleaning and finishing floor in ball-room - \$24
- Feb 5, 1934 - Paper walls of library, two bedrooms and alcove; tinting ceilings of library, 3 bedrooms and alcove - \$86.35
- Jan 16, 1935 - Revising bronze name plaque - \$18
- Aug 25, 1939 - Installed 3 crystal chandeliers -

Figure 15 - This photo of Quarters 1 in 1941 shows the new chimney at the library wing, the functional portecochere and the original kitchen wing with a hipped roof. (75-C-41)



\$440.68

-June 6, 1940 - REMOVED: 3 crystal chandeliers
- n/c

The Building Book also reveals that two major upgrades to the building's bathrooms took place during this era, one in 1930 and another in 1938. The first was a contract job described as: "Repairs and alterations such as tiling bath floors and walls and installing necessary plumbing fixtures, papering, painting and sanding floors, contract No w-55238," and cost \$2,128.50. The second remodeling project seems to have been handled through in-house funds provided by the 9th Corps Area and included nearly fifty work items such as new floor registers, lighting fixtures, medicine cabinets, toilet paper holders, and lavatories.⁶² In a Completion Report filed that same year, the Assistant QM for Fort Mason reported that other improvements during the project included installing an additional bathroom on the second floor, replacing the roof, painting the building's interior and exterior, replacing knob-and-tube wiring with BX cable and conduit, replacing oak flooring and refinishing old floors, replacing old wallpaper, repairing gutters, refinishing wood trim, and miscellaneous carpentry and plastering repairs.⁶³

By the eve of World War II, the structure had been brought up to modern code, and an anonymous Post Quartermaster calculated that by August 1, 1940, repairs and expenditures to

Quarters 1 from the 1880s to date totaled \$46,884.92.⁶⁴

In 1936 a reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle* described a visit to Fort Mason and Quarters 1:

The house, a large rambling affair, rests at the top of a turfed knoll rolling down to the bay. The first floor, comprising living room, dining room, conservatory, den and kitchen quarters, is finished in light and dark hardwood, done in herringbone design. The second story is a profusion of bedrooms and baths, each room advancing a different kind of architecture and window design. The conservatory, a large, vine covered, windowed room, looks out on Alcatraz Island, a former army fortification.

Over the porticos separating the downstairs rooms are intricately carved wooden frescoes. One of these, picturing a cavalryman's saber under a shield studded with four stars, probably was added during the residence of Lieutenant General Phil Sheridan, highest ranking officer to use the quarters.⁶⁵ [N.B. The reporter erred here on two counts: Sheridan never occupied Quarters 1, and a lieutenant general only merits three stars.]

World War II Era & Officers Mess

From 1939 to 1943 Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt, commander of the U.S. Army's 9th Corps Area, occupied Quarters 1. In mid 1943 he was succeeded by Lt. Gen. Delos C Emmons, the last resident of the structure. According to James Sullivan,

the Public Information Officer and defacto post historian, Emmons was the key player in transferring the residence to the San Francisco Port of Embarkation (SFPE) for use as an officers' "open mess", or officers club. According to Sullivan's unpublished history of the fort, the Fort Mason

Officers Club had simple beginnings but high ambitions:

The Officers Club was initiated by General Gilbreath in mid-1942 and its "headquarters" was a dormitory-sized space in one of the Hostess

Figures 16 & 17 - Social events in the new Officers Club in 1947 and 1948. The top photo shows an event in the Circle Room (formerly the Conservatory); the bottom photo shows a function in the newly constructed Social Hall. (GOGA 32475)



House buildings [located south of today's Youth Hostel, Building 240].

When Lt. Gen. Delos Emmons, Army Air Corps, arrived in San Francisco to take over the Presidio command (I think it was then Hq, Western Defense Command) he told General Gilbreath he didn't want the entire Quarters 1. The San Francisco Port of Embarkation CG offered to remodel part of the second floor into "the finest apartment you can imagine" or words to that effect if Emmons would transfer building ownership to the Fort Mason Command. Emmons "bought" the deal and furthermore put it in writing, an action which was to prove invaluable and conclusive when some one at PSF indicated desire for repossession.⁶⁶

The official Building Book entry for Quarters 1 confirms this story in most respects, although actual transfer authority is credited to General Joyce at the Presidio: "Transferred to SFPE per 1st Ind. HNSC 9 Aug 1945 confirming agreement of Sept 23, 1943 between Cmdg Gen SFPE (Maj. Gen F Gilbreath) & Cmdg Gen. Western Defense Command (Maj. Gen. Kenyon A Joyce) MS'd 9/18/43 See Confidential file for copy of letter."⁶⁷ It also appears from official records that Lt. Gen. Emmons continued to occupy his upstairs apartment while the Officers Club set up operations downstairs, and apparently lived above the club until sometime in 1944.⁶⁸

According to Sullivan, an officer named Captain

John Paul Jones was named Club Officer. Jones, widely known as manager of the local Bellevue Hotel, the San Francisco and Silverado Golf Clubs, and various Carmel-Monterey hostelrys in post-war years, got his early experience running the new Fort Mason club. Although no details of wartime operations have been found, photographs indicate that the former dining room was converted to a cafeteria-type serving area and the conservatory became the primary entertainment and dining room, while the former parlor became a lounge. At some early date the basement was also converted into a downstairs "tap room" type bar, with the sandstone foundations of the house forming rustic walls and columns.⁶⁹

By 1948 the "San Francisco Port of Embarkation Officers' Club" was offering a full spectrum of dining and entertainment that included bingo, string music, formal dinner dances, "stag smoker - men only" events, and family night songfests. In addition, the club advertised "Poker, bridge and pool facilities available every night." At the time, the bar apparently didn't yet have a liquor license and it operated strictly a BYOL (Bring Your Own Liquor) affair, although bartenders hosted a daily cocktail hour and offered free drink setups to club members. A basement locker area provided storage space where members could leave their private bottles between trips to the bar.⁷⁰

Figure 18 - By the 1950s the Officers Club was cramped for space. Before the Dining Hall was constructed in 1960 the Conservatory was pressed into use as a dining room. Note the 1950s decor, with the long floral drapes and the formica table tops. View looking east, 1955. (GOGA 2316)





Figure 19 - Quarters 1 renamed "McDowell Hall" in honor of General Irving McDowell, July 22, 1958. (SFPL-AAD-6087)

The Officers Club must have been incredibly crowded during World War II, since Fort Mason was the administrative center of the Army's sprawling San Francisco Port of Embarkation, an organization that encompassed port facilities at a dozen locations around the bay. Barracks, administrative buildings, warehouses and shipping facilities occupied nearly every square inch of Fort Mason, and the Officers Club became a hub of after-hours relaxation by the port's officer cadre.

Activities barely slowed after the end of the war, since troops returning by the shipload from the Pacific Islands had to be processed and discharged by the SFPE staff. In addition, the port was now responsible for shipping supplies and replacement troops to Occupied Japan. By February 1948 work had begun on a new addition to the club and it was reported in the official Daily History Report that steel roof trusses from a warehouse being demolished in the pier area "have been utilized in the new social hall addition being built on the Officers' Club, Quarters 1."⁷¹

Later the same year, the first mention appears of the upstairs bedrooms being used for housing visiting personnel. In March, the Fort Mason History Report noted, "Two suites were established at the Officers' Club Annex to accommodate important guest." This may be the origin of the Army's long-standing tradition of allowing

high-ranking officers to use the upstairs bedrooms in Quarters 1 for temporary lodging while traveling through – or visiting – San Francisco.⁷²

The new Social Hall addition was completed and dedicated on June 4, 1948, greatly expanding the area available for entertainment and special events held at the club. Measuring 40'x 50', the Ballroom, as it was also known, was constructed adjacent to the original 1877 building at the southeast corner of the structure.⁷³ In September that same year, the Fort Mason "Historical Report" recorded that a Board of Governors had been elected for the Officers Club and that the new upstairs suites were proving exceedingly popular with VIPs; in the preceding three months, guests staying in the suites had included one brigadier general, four major generals, and one lieutenant general.⁷⁴

A 1949 Officers Information Booklet described the facilities and membership at the Officers Club:

The Officers' Mess is located in Bldg. 1, and includes a recreation room, library, bar, and dining room. Cafeteria lunches are served Monday through Friday from 1145 to 1330. Table service dinner is served from 1800 to 1930 daily.

All Officers assigned to Fort Mason automatically become members of the Officers' Mess upon assignment, but are not billed for dues the month of arrival. Dues for succeeding months will be

Figure 20 - By the 1960s, with the Transient Dining Room constructed, the Conservatory was free to be transformed into the Cocktail Lounge. Note the dramatic change from figure 16 & 18 - the windows were replaced, light cans were installed into new ceiling tiles and the decor was lighter, more open and more "modern". View looking northwest, circa 1960s. (GOGA 2316)



Figure 21 - This photo from 1971 shows the west elevation as it stands today, with the new, flat-roofed kitchen addition at the left hand side. View looking west. (GOGA-2316)



collected unless officer indicates he does not desire membership.

In addition to officers of this post, membership is extended to all Army, Navy and Marine Officers, either retired, reserve, or on active duty.

Dues for all members are \$2.00 per month with an addition fee of 50¢ per month if a liquor locker is desired.⁷⁵

In July 1958, the Army officially renamed Quarters 1 “McDowell Hall” in honor of Gen. Irving McDowell, the officer who had directed the residence’s original construction in 1877. The post carpenter constructed a large wooden sign-board with the building’s new name and hung it hung from the porte-cochere above the club’s front door.⁷⁶

Cold War Era, Reconstruction, & Post Inactivation

The next major modification to Quarters 1 occurred in 1958-1959, not as an effort to modernize the building but rather to provide additional dining space for the membership as well as for military personnel traveling through the Bay Area (see figure 18). This latter group, referred to by the Army inelegantly as “transients,” often included military families passing through San Francisco on their way to and from Pacific bases.

In early 1958 the Army prepared plans for a new dining wing measuring 59’x 34’ to be added to

the northwest corner of the original building. The remodeling would also include a total rebuilding of the still-surviving 1850s kitchen wing and a substantial upgrading of the former dining room/serving area into a state-of-the-art cafeteria. For a period during the design phase, the army considered converting the building in two phases: Phase I to include remodeling the serving area and kitchen, and Phase II to include the addition of the new “Transient Dining Room.” By the end of September 1958, though, the final plans called for all construction to take place simultaneously. Revisions were made through early 1959 and work began that year.

Another change in planning involved the kitchen wing. As noted above, this wing was a still-surviving portion of the 1850s Brooks-Grisar house that had been incorporated into the “new” general’s residence in 1877. Initial remodeling plans called for retaining the historic wing and building a new kitchen within its historic envelope, including the original hipped roof and dormer windows. However, structural conditions in the century-old addition must have been too abysmal to allow its being retained. On August 19, 1959 revised plans were prepared that specified “Kitchen Demolition and Reconstruction,” and showed a total replacement of the historic kitchen and servants’ wing. Demolition and new construction eventually took place within the 1850s wing’s historic footprint.⁷⁷

Construction continued throughout 1959 and was apparently completed in early 1960, and a set of plans dated February 1 that year show in detail the new Transient Dining room, cafeteria, and rebuilt kitchen wing (see figure 21). The same plans also reveal that the former Conservatory had been converted from a dining area to a bar called the "Circle Room" (see figure 20), and that the historic general's office on the first floor served as a library.⁷⁸

The addition of the Transient Dining Room and the remodeling and rebuilding of the dining room and kitchen wing were the last major modifications to Quarters 1. From 1960 until present the building's exterior appearance and interior room arrangement would remain largely unaltered. Tastes in décor would continue to change, though, and the historic drawings of the Officers Club now preserved by the National Park Service record a multitude of remodelings and upgrades that took place over the next forty years. Some of the more extensive modernizations to the structure included:

- Installation of aluminum and glass front doors (June 1961)
- Extended and remodeling the first floor ladies lounge (1967)
- Exterior repainting (July 1968)
- Misc. alterations including electrical upgrades, new colors, etc (August 1970)
- Remodeling of the bar and replacing the front doors (April 1974)
- Interior repainting (April 1981)
- Redecoration of club interior and rebuilding the cocktail lounge (June 1981)
- Re-roofing the cocktail lounge (August 1981)
- Adding a new store room on the northeast corner of the building (May 1983)
- Renovation of bar to its present configuration (August 1985)
- Replacing the food service counter (May 1985)
- Renovating the kitchen receiving and storage area (May-June 1986)⁷⁹

The last major remodeling effort occurred in summer 1986 when all interior bathrooms within the building were redecorated in a faux-Victorian

Figure 22 - Aerial view of Officers Club and Fort Mason, March 1970. This photo shows the building as it stands today. (GOGA 2316)



style. Fixtures included pedestal sinks, pull chain toilets, brass faucets and towel rods, and extensive use of wood tongue-and-groove paneling. (Drawings prepared by the architect indicate that most if not all were off-the-shelf "home renovation" items.) At the end of this final upgrade, the interior of McDowell Hall had reached its most recent configuration.⁸⁰

Actual military activity at Fort Mason continued to dwindle throughout the 1960s and subsequent years as more and more administrative duties were transferred to the Oakland Army Terminal. In 1962 the Department of Defense ordered all remaining transport operations moved to Oakland, and in July 1963 directed the major part of Fort Mason be declared surplus.⁸¹

In 1966, the Army transferred the now-vacant western portion of the post and the pier complex to the General Services Administration, retaining only the housing area, Officers Club and a handful of administration buildings at the eastern end of the post. By 1971, the Fort Mason club was officially listed as an annex of the Oakland Army Base Officers Open Mess, and membership in one included membership in the other.⁸² The following year Congress created the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and the National Park Service established the new park's headquarters in Fort Mason.

During the 1980s and 1990s the military continued to reduce its activities in the Bay Area, partly as a result of cutbacks and partly as a result of Congressionally mandated "Base Realignment and Closure Acts" (BRAC). The Fort Mason Officers Club continued to serve a dwindling population of active duty military personnel, and the club increasingly relied upon retirees and local San Francisco residents as its primary clientele. In 1997 the Oakland Army Terminal closed down and all military families depart Fort Mason. The club could not continue operating without sponsorship by an active military command, so subsequently the Fort Mason Officers Club was "adopted" by the Defense Language Institute at the Presidio of Monterey, located 100 miles south of San Francisco.

By 2002 it was obvious that the club could no longer claim status as an active military support function, and the club closed in the fall of that year. In early 2003, the National Park Service's Golden Gate National Recreation Area assumed ownership and maintenance of Quarters I.

(Endnotes)

¹ California State Military Museum website [www.militarymuseum.org]

² *Ibid*

³ Erwin Thompson, unpublished manuscript, *History of Fort Mason*, pg 20. In Thompson's research notes collection, accession #GOGA-2974, Park Archives and Records Center (hereafter PARC), Golden Gate National Recreation Area (hereafter GOGA)

⁴ *Outline Description of Military Posts, Department of California, Point San Jose, California*, 1 January 1871

⁵ *Post Returns for Point San Jose, California*, entries for November and December 1876

⁶ This fence is clearly visible in photo illustration #8.

⁷ Charles Kinnaird, *The Army At The Golden Gate*, pg 25, in Thompson note collection, GOGA-2974, PARC, GOGA

⁸ *Daily Alta California*, "Black Point Reservation", 7 July 1877, pg 1

⁹ The actual orientation of the long axis of Quarters 1 is actually northwest-southeast, with the primary façade facing southwest. As a convenience, the authors of this report have use a north-south axis as a reference, with the primary façade thus facing west.

¹⁰ Capt. C.F. Humphrey, Asst. QM, Depart QM Office, Presidio, to Chief QM, Dept of Calif., March 28, 1884. OQMG, General Correspondence. File, Fort Mason, RG 92, NARA, and various post maps at GOGA

¹¹ *Outline Description of Military Posts in the Military Division of the Pacific, Fort, Point San Jose, California*, 1879. Pg 87-88

¹² *Daily Alta California*, "General McDowell's Reception In Honor of the Ex-President", 25 September 1879, page 1

¹³ S.B. Holabird, Deputy Quartermaster General (QMG), Mil. Division of the Pacific, to Quartermaster General, 2 October 1879. Consolidated Correspondence File, Fort Point, Office of the Quartermaster General (OQMG), Record Group (RG) 92, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

¹⁴ *Daily Alta California*, "Hayes At Black Point", September 12, 1880, pg 1.

¹⁵ Capt. C.F. Humphrey, AQM, Division of the Pacific, 6 June 1884. *Annual Report of Buildings at Presidio of San Francisco*. Entry 225, Presidio - Box 850, OQMG, RG92, NARA

¹⁶ *Report of the Annual Inspection of Public Buildings at Presidio of San Francisco...and Estimate of Additions, Alterations and Repairs thereto*, 1 June 1885, Entry 225, Box 852 Presidio, OQMG RG92, NARA

¹⁷ *Annual Report of Inspection of Buildings at Presidio of San Francisco, 1886*. File 778, Entry 225, Presidio Box 852, OQMG, RG92, NARA

¹⁸ O.O. Howard, *Autobiography*, pg 545-546 {date and publisher needed}

¹⁹ The photograph is from the HABS collection

at the Library of Congress. No source is given, but the photo is dated as 1877. This researcher believes the photo was actually taken in the 1880s.

²⁰ 1st Lt. F.S. Rice, AAQM, Fort Mason, to QMG. *Report of Inspection of Public Buildings*, 31 March 1887. Consolidated Correspondence File, Fort Mason, OQMG, RG92, NARA

²¹ *Estimate of Material and Labor Required for the Service of the Post of Fort Mason for Fiscal Year ending 30th day of June 1888*. N.D. #1106, Entry 225, Fort Mason Box 616, OQMG, RG92, NARA

²² 1st Lt. F.S. Rice, AAQM, Fort Mason, to QMG. *Report of Inspection of Public Buildings*, 31 March 1888. Consolidated Correspondence File, Fort Mason, OQMG, RG92, NARA

²³ *Estimate of Material and Labor Required for the Service of the Post of Fort Mason for Fiscal Year ending 30th day of June 1889*. N.D. #1219, Entry 225, Fort Mason, Box 616, OQMG, RG92, NARA

²⁴ Both images from RG92, Still Picture Branch, NARA

²⁵ Single-page memo, unsigned "Improvements desired by the Commanding General to his quarters at Fort Mason", received at Department of California HQ, 4 May 1897. Doc #103113, Entry 89, Box 1423, OQMG, RG92, NARA

²⁶ No signature. Letterhead of E.J. Lawton, Practical Plumber, San Francisco., to Dear Sir, 20 May 1897. Doc #103113, Entry 89, Box 1423, General Correspondence, OQMG, 1890-1914, RG92, NARA

²⁷ AQMG, Dept of California, to Adjutant General (AG), Dept of California, 22 May 1897, Doc #103113, Entry 89, Box 1423, General Correspondence, OQMG, 1890-1914, RG92, NARA

²⁸ Telegram, B.G. William Shafter to AG, Washington, D.C., 11 June 1897. Doc #103113, Entry 89, Box 1423, General Correspondence, OQMG, 1890-1914, RG92, NARA

²⁹ Letter, QM, US Army to Chief QM, Dept of California, 16 June 1897. Doc #103113, Entry 89, Box 1423, General Correspondence, OQMG, 1890-1914, RG92, NARA

³⁰ AQMG, Presidio, to Chief QM, Dept of California, 20 July 1897, Doc #103113, Entry 89, Box 1423, General Correspondence, OQMG, 1890-1914, RG92, NARA

³¹ Letter from Departmental Commander to Assistant Adjutant General (AAG), Dept. of California, 31 July 1897, Register of Letters Received, Vol 36, E3, RG 393, NARA

³² Letter, AQMG US Army to Chief QM, Dept of California, 15 October 1897, Doc #103113, Entry 89, Box 1423, General Correspondence, OQMG, 1890-1914, RG92, NARA

³³ *San Francisco Chronicle*, "Gag the Sentry and

Make Their Escape", 14 April 1903

³⁴ QM, Fort Mason, to QMG, US Army, 22 March 1905, Doc #216622, entry 89, box 4906, OQMG RG92, NARA

³⁵ *Ibid*

³⁶ Maj. I.W. Little, OQMG, to QM, Fort Mason, 24 April 1905, Doc #216622, Box 4906, Entry 89, OQMG RG 92, NARA

³⁷ 2nd Lt. James J. Bain, QM, Fort Mason, to Chief QM, Dept. of California, 20 Feb 1906; and approval by Brig. Gen. Frederick Funston, CG Dept of California, 23 Feb 1906, Document #226501, Box 5319, Entry 89, OQMG RG 92, NARA

³⁸ James Sullivan research notes on Fort Mason and 1906 disaster, Box 4, folder 2, "Sullivan Papers", GOGA 32475, PARC, GOGA.

³⁹ "Report of Brig. Gen. Frederick Funston", pg 8, in Box 4, folder 2, "Sullivan Papers", GOGA 32475, PARC, GOGA

⁴⁰ See historic photographs of Fort Mason refugee camps following the 1906 Earthquake in various collections of Park Archives and Records, Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

⁴¹ "Report of Brig. Gen. Frederick Funston", pgs 10-11, in Box 4, folder 2, "Sullivan Papers", GOGA 32475, PARC, GOGA

⁴² *Ibid*, pg 11

⁴³ *Presidial Weekly Clarion*, edition of April 27, 1906

⁴⁴ Sullivan unpublished Fort Mason history, Chapter XI, "The 1906 Earthquake and Fire: The Army Comes to the City's Assistance," Box 4, folder 2, "Sullivan Papers", GOGA 32475, PARC, GOGA

⁴⁵ "Report on Earthquake Damage, All Posts", J. Clem, Office of the Chief QM, Dept. of California, Presidio of San Francisco, 20 June 1906, OQMG General Correspondence, 1890-1914, RG92, NARA

⁴⁶ "Special Requisition", 12 June 1906, Doc #216622, Box 4906, Entry 89, OQMG RG 92, NARA

⁴⁷ Acting Chief QM, Dept of California, to QM General, 12 December 1906; and Chief QM, Dept of California, to QM General, 15 May 1907, Doc #216622, Box 4906, Entry 89, OQMG RG 92, NARA

⁴⁸ 1st Lt. R.T. Ward, CO, Fort Mason, to Chief QM, Dept. of California, 11 Sept 1908, with endorsements and approvals, Document #216622, Box 4906, Entry 89, OQMG RG 92, NARA

⁴⁹ *Ibid*

⁵⁰ Lt. Col. R.R. Stevens, Chief QM, Dept of California, to Adj. Gen., Dept of California, 28 June 1909, Doc #25641, Box 6452, entry 89, OQMG RG 92, NARA

⁵¹ QMG J.B. Aleshire, to AG USA, 4th endorsement, 8 December 1909, OQMG

General Correspondence, 1890-1914, RG92, NARA

⁵² 2nd Lt. R.A. Jones, CO Fort Mason, to AG USA, 11 December 1909, OQMG RG 92, NARA

⁵³ "Specifications for Repairs to Certain Buildings at Fort Mason", 1911, General Correspondence, 1890-1914, OQMG RG 92, NARA

⁵⁴ Contract with P. J. McGaffigan, 25 October 1911, Doc #341615, OQMG RG 92, NARA

⁵⁵ Capt. M. Craig, Headquarters, Western Division, to Lt. Col. Williamson, Construction Quartermaster, Fort Mason, 29 December 1911, General Correspondence, 1890-1914, OQMG RG 92, NARA.

⁵⁶ Williamson to QMG, 2 January 1912, General Correspondence, 1890-1914, OQMG RG 92, NARA

⁵⁷ "Report of Changes to be made in Historical Record of Public Buildings, CG's Quarters No. 1", 1st Lt. Robert B. Parker, QM Fort Mason, 1 March 1912, General Correspondence, 1890-1914, OQMG RG 92, NARA

⁵⁸ Handwritten record of furniture at Fort Mason, possibly prepared by 1st Lt. Robert B. Parker, QM, Fort Mason, on or about 1 March 1912, General Correspondence, 1890-1914, OQMG RG 92, NARA

⁵⁹ "Pershing 'Takes Stock' of San Francisco", *San Francisco Chronicle*, 26 January 1920

⁶⁰ Photograph "DPW 6134" dated 14 Jan 1919 in Dept of Public Works Collection, San Francisco Public Library.

⁶¹ Drawing "Commanding General's Residence, Fort Mason, Cal.", Job 6616, 4 April 1922, PARC, GOGA

⁶² "Historical Record of Public Buildings, Fort Mason" (hereafter "Building Book"), forms 173 and 173 for Quarters 1, PARC, GOGA

⁶³ Capt. Clifford Smith, Asst. QM, "Completion Report for Alterations and Rehabilitation of Bldg. No. 1, Fort Mason", n.d., RG77, NARA [According to NPS Historian Erwin Thompson this document was at NARA's Suitland, MD record center when he saw it c1980.]

⁶⁴ Building Book, GOGA, PARC

⁶⁵ Lawley, Murray "Presidio Structure Home of 36 Army 'Greets'", *San Francisco Chronicle*, 1 June 1936

⁶⁶ Sullivan papers, Box 1, folder 1, GOGA 32475, PARC, GOGA

⁶⁷ Building Book, PARC, GOGA

⁶⁸ Sullivan papers, "Narrative Description of Quarters 1, Post Engineer Files, 1943-1944," Box 8, Folder 3, PARC, GOGA

⁶⁹ Drawing, "Fort Mason Officers Open Mess", SFPE No. 1113, Drawer 233, Folder 1, PARC, GOGA, and various photographs, Sullivan Collection, GOGA 32475, PARC, GOGA

⁷⁰ "San Francisco Port of Embarkation Officers Mess" menu, March 1948, Sullivan papers, Box 8, Fldr 18, GOGA 32475, PARC, GOGA

⁷¹ "Daily History Report, Headquarters, Fort Mason." Entry for 13 February 1948. Sullivan Papers, GOGA 32475, Box 7, Folder 5, PARC, GOGA

⁷² *Ibid.* Entry for 5 March 1948.

⁷³ *Ibid.* Entry for 4 June 1948.

⁷⁴ "Historical Report for Third Quarter, SF Port of Embarkation", entry for 10 September 1948, Records of U.S. Army Command, 1942 on, RG 338, NARA

⁷⁵ "Fort Mason Officers Information Booklet", U.S. Army, 1949. Unfortunately, historian Thompson who transcribed this booklet did not note its repository.

⁷⁶ Photograph, "Century old Quarters No. 1 at Fort Mason Gets New Name," 22 July 1958, Photo AAD-6087, SF Public Library

⁷⁷ Various drawings "Additions & Modifications to Open Mess", dated 6 June 1958, 11 June 1958, 11 July 1958, and 19 August 1959.

Drawer 233, Folder 1, PARC, GOGA

⁷⁸ Drawing, "Transient Dining Room, Bldg. #1, Fort Mason," 1 February 1960, Drawer 233, Folder 2, PARC, GOGA.

⁷⁹ Various drawings, Drawer 233, Folder 3, PARC, GOGA

⁸⁰ Drawings, "Renovate Bathrooms, Building 1, Fort Mason", 23 June 1986, Drawer 233, Folder 3, PARC, GOGA

⁸¹ "Fort Mason Officers Club General Information and Membership Application Brochure," US Government Printing Office, 2002

⁸² "1971 Unofficial Guide and Directory, Oakland Army Base", Sullivan Collection, Box 8, Folder 20, GOGA 32475, PARC, GOGA

General Officers occupying Quarters 1

Fort Mason¹ 1877 – 1944



Major General Irvin McDowell



Major General John M. Schofield

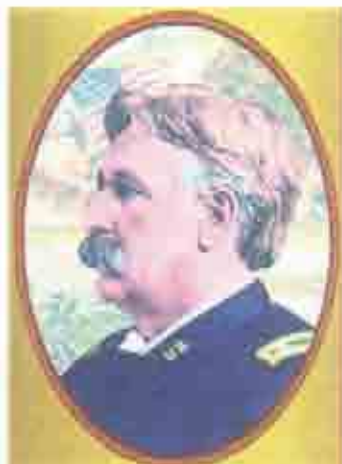


Major General John Pope



Brigadier General Nelson A. Miles

<i>Major General Irvin McDowell</i>	<i>1877 – 1882</i>
<i>Major General John M. Schofield</i>	<i>1882 – 1883</i>
<i>Major General John Pope</i>	<i>1883 – 1886</i>
<i>Major General Oliver O. Howard</i>	<i>1886 – 1888</i>
<i>Brigadier General Nelson A. Miles</i>	<i>1888 – 1890</i>
<i>Brigadier General John Gibbon</i>	<i>1890 – 1891</i>
<i>Brigadier General Thomas H. Ruger</i>	<i>1891 – 1894</i>
<i>Brigadier General James W. Forsyth</i>	<i>1894 – 1897</i>
<i>Brigadier General William R. Shafter</i>	<i>1897 – 1898; 1899 – 1901</i>
<i>Brigadier General H. C. Merriam</i>	<i>1898 – 1899</i>
<i>Major General S. B. M. Young</i>	<i>1901 – 1902</i>
<i>Brigadier General R. P. Hughes</i>	<i>1902 – 1903</i>
<i>Major General Arthur MacArthur</i>	<i>1903 – 1905; 1906 – 1907</i>
<i>Brigadier General Francis Moore</i>	<i>1905</i>
<i>Major General S. S. Sumner</i>	<i>1905 – 1906</i>
<i>Major General Adolphus W. Greely</i>	<i>1906</i>
<i>Brigadier General Frederick Funston</i>	<i>1907 – 1908</i>
<i>Brigadier General Frederick A. Smith</i>	<i>1908 – 1909</i>
<i>Major General John F. Weston</i>	<i>1909</i>
<i>Major General Thomas H. Barry</i>	<i>1909 – 1910</i>
<i>Brigadier General Tasker H. Bliss</i>	<i>1910 – 1911</i>
<i>Major General Arthur Murray</i>	<i>1911; 1912 – 1915; 1917 – 1918</i>
<i>Major General J. F. Bell</i>	<i>1915 – 1917</i>



Brigadier General William R. Shafter



Major General Arthur McArthur



Brigadier General Frederick Funston



Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt

<i>Brigadier General William L. Silbert</i>	<i>1917</i>
<i>Lieutenant General Hunter Liggett</i>	<i>1917 – 1919 – 1921</i>
<i>Brigadier General Charles G. Treat</i>	<i>1918</i>
<i>Brigadier General C. H. Muir</i>	<i>1921</i>
<i>Major General W. M. Wright</i>	<i>1921 – 1922</i>
<i>Major General C. C. Morton</i>	<i>1922 – 1925</i>
<i>Major General Charles T. Mencher</i>	<i>1925 – 1926</i>
<i>Major General James H. McRae</i>	<i>1926</i>
<i>Major General J. L. Hines</i>	<i>1927 – 1930</i>
<i>Major General Malin Craig</i>	<i>1930 – 1935</i>
<i>Major General Paul B. Malone</i>	<i>1935 – 1936</i>
<i>Major General George S. Simonds</i>	<i>1936 – 1938</i>
<i>Lt. General Albert J. Bowley</i>	<i>1938 – 1939</i>
<i>Lt. General John L. DeWitt</i>	<i>1939 – 1943</i>
<i>Lt. General Delos C. Emmons</i>	<i>1943 – 1944²</i>

(Footnotes)

¹ At various times this command was titled Division of the Pacific, Department of California, Pacific Division, Western Division, and Ninth Corps Area. Some of the appointments were very brief and it is possible that one or more of the generals did not physically occupy Quarters 1, although authorized to do so.

² On September 23, 1943, Gen. Emmons transferred Quarters 1 to the San Francisco Port of Embarkation for use as an Officers Club. However, he maintained an apartment upstairs until 1944.

Fort Mason Quarters 1 Timeline



The original 1855 Commanding General's House at Black Point, 1869. (BANC)

1850s Original structure on the site built by James Brooks, editor of *Golden Era*, who occupies it briefly, then sells it to Haskell & Co. House is sold again to Charles Cook of Palmer-Cooke & Co.

1861 House sold to wool merchant Emil Grisar who lives there for three years.

1864 Grisar leases house for one year to U.S. Army surgeon Dr. Ten Broeck (identified as "Surgeon, U.S.A. Medical Purveyor"), probably during period between the army's initial occupation of Black Point and before the final eviction of remaining 'squatters'

1865 August U.S. Army takes full control of Grisar's house and remodels it for the residence of Gen. Henry Halleck, Commanding General of Dept. of the Pacific. House repaired and enlarged for his use.

1865 November Halleck moves into former Grisar house.

1869 CG's house photographed by Eadweard Muybridge.

1871 Army reports in *Outline Description of Military Posts* that four old civilian structures at Black Point have been turned into officers' quarters. "The largest and best of these quarters are occupied by the Department Commander."

1876 Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell assumes command of Dept. of the Pacific and secures \$9,998.74 from Congress to remodel the CG's residence.

1877 July 7 July 1877 - *Daily Alta California* reports "a fine structure" under construction at Black Point for the major general "where he can entertain satisfactorily." Location is mentioned, "Officers of foreign fleets can have their boats brought to the wharf at the foot of the Reservation." The location was reportedly more accessible by boat than carriage. In the process of construction, old Brooks-Grisar House is moved 80 yards north to site of today's Quarters 2. Two wings are reportedly left behind and incorporated into the new CG's residence.

1878 New structure (today's Qrtrs 2) is completed. Constructed out of main portion of old Brooks-Grisar house. Intended as residence for the Commanding Officer of Point San Jose Military Reservation.

1879 September 25 September 1879. President U.S. Grant visits San Francisco and is entertained at CG's residence by Gen. McDowell.

1879 October 2 October 1879. Estimates prepared by Deputy QMG for upgrades and repairs to CG's house. Items include wind fencing, sand control (plantings?), preservation of woodwork inside the house, and unspecified work needed "to put the place in order." Also included is a bandstand north of the residence. The paint included white lead, chrome yellow, chrome green, Prussian blue, drop black, yellow ochre, burnt umber, and Paris white. (Funds approved on 29 October 1879)

1880 September 12 September 1880. President Rutherford B. Hayes, Mrs. Hayes and Gen. William T. Sherman entertained at CG's residence by Gen. McDowell. "Lunch was served in the dining room at 1 o'clock."

1883 December House formerly occupied by Fort Mason's Commanding Officer (today's Qrtrs 2) reassigned to the senior aide to the Division Commander.

1884 June CG's residence identified in *Annual Report of Buildings at Presidio of SF* as Bldg. 58 "Quarters of Division Commander, at Fort Mason." Described as follows. First floor of main structure contains Reception Room, Dining Room, Hall, Butler's Pantry, Hall, Library, Parlor surrounded by a Conservatory, Bathroom, etc, and Cloak Room. Second floor contains a Sitting Room, seven "Chambers", three halls, two Dressing Rooms, two bathrooms. Dimensions given for all. (Same for kitchen wing.) Annual repairs noted. Repaired Plumbing, altered doors, painted floors, repaired fences enclosing quarters.

1884 July 30 July 1884. Post described in *Daily Alta California*. "Fifty yards from the outside line of the Reservation is a gate, ornamented on each side with a brass cannon bearing the date of 1673, and just beyond it is [the] residence of Major-General John Pope..." Grounds described as "wonderfully beautiful with lawns, shade trees and flowers... A high lattice fence separates the officers' residences from those of the garrison, and in many places is covered with flowering vines to its full height of twenty-five feet."

1886 Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard mentions Fort Mason and Qrtrs 1 in his autobiography. "The grounds of the main house were very charming -

the trees of the southern and tropical growth, the hedges all around of geraniums larger than I had ever seen before, and seventy-five varieties of roses beautified a square. After passing through a high gateway, and by the watchful sentinel, we were within a veritable paradise."

1887 2 February 1887. CG's residence transferred to control of Fort Mason and redesignated "Bldg No. A, Division Commander's Quarters". Described as having nine rooms on ground floor and eight rooms on second.

1888 "Report of Inspection of Public Buildings at Fort Mason" identifies structure as Bldg 58. Annual repairs included repainting exterior of house, fences and various outbuildings; repairs to doors, floors and windows; and water connections of both main and outbuildings. Walls and floors of several rooms and halls repainted. Total cost \$681.73. Repairs needed: roofs of main building and outbuildings should be painted with fireproof metallic paint. Several rooms require papering and "kalsomining." Close board fence in front of building will require considerable repairing. Some little repairing to chimneys and ventilators. Incidental repairs to doors, windows, baths, water, etc. \$600 estimate.

1888 "Estimate of Material and Labor Costs for Fiscal Year 1888." Bldg 58. New designation Bldg "A". Paint exterior of building. White lead, yellow ochre, etc. Calcimining, papering and painting inside of building. Whiting, wallpaper, assorted colors, white zinc, and colors. Repair of bathroom and fixtures. Repairs to doors, windows, etc. Painting outbuildings and fences: White lead, burnt umber, yellow ochre, etc. Repairs of fences and outbuildings

1892 December Storms blow down trees near CG's house damaging about half the fencing surround tennis court.

1897 May Extensive inspection report and recommendations on repairs and upgrades to CG's residence. Items include refurbishing gas fixtures and globes "about sixty in number"; install bathtubs and sinks, and replace/upgrade plumbing and toilets (specs and brands included).

1897 June "Improvements desired by the Commanding General to his Quarters" Gen. Shafter's extensive list. Wallpapering, cleaning and polishing wood, remodeling kitchen and laundry, two new tubs, electric bells and enunciators, repair range (new one if needed), paper and paint five upstairs bedrooms, paper and carpet office, install toilet near office, and other misc. items. [Not clear how much accomplished]

1897 July 20 July 1897. Request for 40 yards of building stone transported from Angel Island for repairs to foundation. All quarrying and loading to be done by Alcatraz convicts.

1897 July 31 July 1897. Dept. Commander requests his quarters be attached to Presidio for repairs, and such labor as can be carried out by Enlisted Men should be supplied from the extra duty force of that post.

1897 August 4 August 1897. Letter sent by adjutant at Presidio to Quartermaster, Presidio, asking for information on date he began superintending the work on the CG's house at Fort Mason, and by whose authority. Second letter same date asking what allowances, if any, allotted to the repairs and how many men employed on the quarters.

1897 September The following repairs and upgrades to CG's house are reported complete: New furnace, repairs to range, repairing and replacing gas fixtures. Electrical repairs. New bathtubs, [water] closets, and general repairs For refitting the general's office: 70 yds "Brdy" [burgundy?] Brussels Carpet laid. Repairs to desk and book cases. Revolving chair. 1/2 dozen office chairs Lounge

1897 October "\$600 for repairs to paint and woodwork of CG's quarters...completed" Other work includes retaining wall in cellar, exterior painting of quarters, repairs to roof, and painting of stable.

1903 January Letter with sketch map prepared showing walks surrounding CG's house and other officers' quarters. CG's house still designated #58.

1903 April 14 April 1903. Four Alcatraz prisoners working in basement of CG's house stage break, overpowering and beating guard, gagging him, and escaping through a coal chute. All caught.

1905 April \$308.25 authorized for painting the interior of the CG's house

1906 February 20 February 1906. Estimate prepared for repairing Division Commander's Quarters No. 58, Fort Mason: Beeswax floors parlor, reception room & conservatory. Varnish door sills in parlor, reception room, and woodwork in conservatory. Paint floor and varnish woodwork in pantry. Stain staircase and varnish balustrade Varnish vestibule. Paint exterior and roof. (Approved)



Chinese Vice Consul and representative merchants calling upon General Funston at Fort Mason, 1906. (SFPL AAC-2674)

1906 April 18 April 1906. General Frederick Funston, acting commander of Pacific Division, establishes headquarters at CG's residence following disastrous earthquake and directs army's firefighting and relief activities.

1906 April 22 April 1906. Gen. Adolphus Greeley, CG of Pacific Division, returns to his residence at Fort Mason and assumes control of relief activities.

1906 June 20 June 1906. Report on earthquake damage, all posts. CG's house at Fort Mason needed repairs to chimney, roof, plaster, etc.

1906 December 13 December 1906. QMG authorizes \$120 to repair reception room and halls.

1907 May 16 May 1907. QMG authorizes \$500 for repairs to floors and walls.

1908 September 11 September 1908. CO of Fort Mason forwards estimate to put CG's quarters in first class condition. \$2,673 estimate. Long list that includes: Renewing hardwood floors; Repainting upstairs where paint was applied over polished wood; Repairing roof and gutters; Whitewashing basement [2nd reference to this practice] 'Whole interior needs repainting.' Specifications include: Kalsomine ceiling of vestibule; Painting exterior, roofs and trim work, two coats; Repairs to woodwork, including scraping, sandpapering & waxing hardwood floors. Approval received for \$1,091 on 9 December 1908.

1909 circa. Floor plan prepared for interior when steam heat was being put in.

1909 June 28 June 1909. Inspection of Fort Mason. Memo describing CG's quarters reports that CG's structure is heated with hot air furnace. "Complaint has been made that it permits smoke to penetrate into the rooms..."

1909 December 10 December 1909. Funding authorized to replace hot air furnace with steam heating plant. Other work recommended includes: Renewing floors in Reception Hall, Dining Room and Drawing Room; Patching and replastering where necessary; Repapering Drawing Room, Reception Hall, stairway and 2nd floor hall; Repairs to roof.

1909 December 11 December 1909. CG's residence renumbered from Fort Mason #58 to Fort Mason #1.

1911. Specifications for repair and repainting Qrtz 1: Paint exterior - two coats; Repair shingled roof and paint - one coat; Paint entrance gate

and fence - two coats; Repair plaster of ceiling of a 2nd floor bedroom. Paper the new plaster and tint ceiling.

1911 October 25 October 1911. Contract let to make changes in CG's house, including: Convert coal bin into servant's bedroom [probably in kitchen wing]; Place one double-acting door in dining room and one single-acting; Construct two new closets on 2nd floor and alter three others; Paint all interior wood. Varnish all hardwood. Wax floors, bronze radiators and piping, fix up mantles, fireplaces, electrical fixtures. Overhaul plumbing; Repair hardware and damaged woodwork and plaster; Place fiberstone floors in bathrooms, laundry, pantry and kitchen; Stain roof shingles. Concrete cellar floor. Whitewash cellar. Make building rat proof. Place hardwood floor over all bed rooms in second floor and library.

1911 December 29 December 1911. Maj. Gen. Arthur Murray wants following changes in addition to work already in progress: Rebuild conservatory "so as to make the west side the same width as the main part, i.e., 10'6" - the new addition to rest on concrete piers and have lattice under the same. Rearrange china closets in butler's pantry and case in the soil pipe. Change the two windows in bedroom #8 into one large window. Change the two doors in the drawing room so as to have the best side of the same exposed when doors are open. Put up in bay window of dining room the fretwork now stored in the cellar.

1912 March 1 March 1912. Report of changes made to Qrtz 1: Addition placed on Conservatory measuring 5'x26'. New closet built in Butler's pantry; Coal bin change to servant's bathroom; New closet installed at end of second floor hall, 2'6"x9'. Additional closet provided in rear hall, second floor, 2'x8'. This space was off a bathroom. All bathrooms, kitchen, laundry, and pantry changed to fiber stone floors; Cellar floors concreted; New gas main constructed from stable to building for heating purposes to all fireplaces, gas logs put in each fireplace. Wall radiators substituted for stand radiators.

1912 March. Record of furnishings prepared for Qrtz 1. 'Chairs, tables,' etc. but no details regarding materials or styles.

1913 February 28 February 1913. Electrical lighting system upgraded at cost of \$84.63.

1920 January 26 January 1920. General John J. Pershing visits San Francisco, inspects defenses, and has lunch at CG's house. *San Francisco Chronicle* reports that the CG (Lt. Gen. Hunter



Holiday party at Officers Club, circa 1950s. (GOGA)

Liggett) was absent, though.

1930s Network of concrete walkways surrounding the structure assumes its present configuration

1931 September 26 September 1931. Completion report of alterations to heating system in CG's residence. "Removing old Sunray hot water boiler and oil burner equipment and installing a new steam boiler for oil burning, new oil burning equipment, and new radiators, and providing a Thrush heating system for rapid circulation." (Numerous technical details in report)

1936 Qrts 1 repainted with two coats, lead and oil paint. [No colors specified]

1938 March Completion report for Alterations and Rehabilitation of Bldg 1, Ft Mason: Modernized plumbing and installed new fixtures in bathrooms; Installed additional bathroom on second floor; Installed tile on walls and floors of all bathrooms. Also medicine cabinets; Replaced roof; Painted interior and exterior; Replaced open wiring with BX cable and conduit; Replaced oak flooring and refinished all floors. Replaced old wallpaper. Repaired gutters; Refinished wood trim

1939 December 15 December 1939. Two cannon reported at Qrts 1, Fort Mason "1684 San Martin" and "1628 San Domingo". One is in front of and one behind the CG's quarters.

1943 September Building transferred to Port of Embarkation for use as Officers Club by last resident, Maj. Gen. Kenyon A Royce, on 13 September 1943.

1948 June 4 June 1948. Formal opening of new one-story Social Hall addition (sometimes called "Ballroom"), added to SE corner of Qrts 1.

1949 *Officers Information Booklet* describes Officers' Mess: "The Officers' Mess is located in Bldg 1, and includes a recreation room, library, bar, and dining room. Cafeteria lunches are served Monday through Friday from 1145 to 1330. Table service dinner is served from 1800 to 1930 daily.... Dues for all members are \$2.00 per month with an additional fee of 50¢ per month if a liquor locker is desired."

1958 June Boring log prepared for expansion of kitchen and construction of new dining room at NE corner of building. 6 June 1958. First plans drawn up for "Additions and Modifications to Open Mess", showing a new dining room and extensive remodeling of kitchen wing. Former

dining room to become cafeteria-serving area.

1958 June 11 June 1958. Another set of plans with same title, but with major change: Dining Room is labeled "Future" and each sheet contains notation "Omitted Portion of Dining Room (Future Construction)."

1958 July 11 July 1958. Plans updated to show construction in two phases; Phase I to include remodeling of kitchen and converting former dining room into cafeteria, and Phase II to include construction of a new dining room. 22 July 1958. Army officially renames Quarters 1 "McDowell Hall" in honor of Major General Irvin McDowell.

1959 August 19 August 1959. Revised plans call for "Kitchen Demolition and Reconstruction", showing total replacement of historic kitchen and servants' wing. New construction to take place within the existing footprint.

1959 September 30 September 1959. "Dining Room Addition and Modification" plans, this time showing again both the new dining room and the kitchen modifications.

1960 February 1 February 1960. "Transient Dining Room, Bldg. No. 1, Fort Mason" plans. 12 sheets. Conservatory now labeled "Circle Room" and Library still "Library." (Plans reflect 2004 floorplan almost exactly.)

1961 June 6 June 1961. Drawing "Installation of Aluminum Doors." Double glass doors with fixed glass transom, with emblem of Transportation Corps etched/painted on transom glass.

1967 "Alterations and Improvements to Ladies Lounge and Restroom." New toilet room added to south end of present room and intruding into the Social Hall/Ballroom. Also shows domed ceiling in main lounge room.

1968 July 18 July 1968. "Exterior Painting - Building 1, Fort Mason." Lots of notes to contractor, but no color specifications.

1970 August 13 August 1970. "Proposed Alterations, McDowell Hall." Lots of details such as electrical work, colors, etc. (currently unknown if this proposal was implemented)

1971 May 13 May 1971. "Replace Lawn Sprinkler System." Shows Officers Club lawn. No traces of previous formal garden beds.

1974 April 23 April 1974. "Renovation of Fort Mason Officers Club." Rebuild bar. New alumi-

num front doors.

1981 June 8 June 1981. "Fort Mason Officers Club Renovation." 6 sheets. Extensive interior work including moldings, chair rails, wall treatments, light fixtures, etc. Social Hall called "Ballroom" and Circle Room "Cocktail Lounge." Pretty much reflects 2004 interior except for bar and bathrooms.

1981 August 25 August 1981. "Reroof Cocktail Lounge Area of Officers' Club."

1983 May "Construct Store Room Fort Mason Officers Club." Located at NE corner of kitchen wing and adjacent to dining room. Includes other minor interior detail changes.

1985 May 2 May 1985. "Replace Existing Food Serving Counter." Drawings reflect appearance and details of present cafeteria serving area.

1985 August 29 August 1985. "Renovation of Officers' Club Bar." 8 sheets. Drawings reflect appearance and details of present lounge.

1986 June "Renovate Receiving Area Bldg 1 Fort Mason." Shows extension of enclosed receiving dock and refrigerator area at NW corner of kitchen. Drawings reflect appearance and details of present receiving area.

1986 June 23 June 1986. "Renovate Bathrooms, Bldg 1." 12 sheets. Bathrooms on all floors (except kitchen wing) remodeled as "Victorian Design Bathrooms" with brass faucet and fixtures, pedestal sinks, pull-chain oak toilet tanks, etc. Illustrations included of fixtures. Drawings reflect appearance and details of present bathrooms.

1995 "Fort Mason Officers Club Entrance Renovation" proposal. Shows front entrance reconstructed for accessibility by raising level of carriage drive to height of front door threshold. Not constructed.

2003 January Fort Mason Officers Club closes. Golden Gate NRA assumes responsibility for structure. First floor rooms rented out by Special Park Use Group (SPUG) for meetings and special events, but no kitchen service.