Presidio of San Francisco
National Historic Landmark District
Historic American Buildings Survey Report

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service, Western Region
Division of National Register Programs
San Francisco, California

U.S. Department of Defense
Department of the Army
Headquarters, Presidio of San Francisco
San Francisco, California

1985

PHOTOS:

Front Cover, Left.
Buildings 101-105 (I):
Enlisted Mens' Barracks with mess (1895-1897).
See page 3.

Front Cover, Center.
Building 1000 (I):
Officer Family Housing—Letterman General Hospital (1902).
See page 47.

Front Cover, Right.
Building 575 (II):
Lombard Street entrance and detail of Presidio boundary wall (1894-1897).
See page 40.

Back Cover, Right.
Buildings 85-87 (II):
Barracks and Latrine (1862).
See page 33.

Back Cover, Center.
Buildings 1202-1208, 1216-1218 (I):
Enlisted Mens' Barracks—Fort Scott (1910-1912).
See page 50.

Back Cover, Left.
Building 130 (III):
Chapel (1932).
See page 6.

Presidio of San Francisco
National Historic Landmark District
Historic American Buildings Survey Report

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service, Western Region
Division of National Register Programs
San Francisco, California

U.S. Department of Defense
Department of the Army
Headquarters, Presidio of San Francisco
San Francisco, California

1985

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, WESTERN REGION
Howard H. Chapman, Director

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING
John D. Cherry, Associate Regional Director

OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
Douglas L. Griffin, Assistant Regional Director

DIVISION OF NATIONAL REGISTER PROGRAMS
Margaret M. Pepin-Donat, Chief

SURVEY PROJECT SUPERVISOR
Marjorie E. Baer, Historian

NATIONAL REGISTER PROGRAMS STAFF
Paul B. Alley, Architectural Historian
Marjorie E. Baer, Historian
Waverly B. Lowell, Archivist/Historian
Patrick W. O'Bannon, Historian

EDITOR
Waverly B. Lowell

FIELD TEAM
Mark L. Brack, Architectural Historian
James P. Delgado, Historian

Acknowledgments

The team historians, Mark Brack and James Delgado, wish to thank the following individuals and institutions for their assistance during the project: Majorie Baer, Project Director, NPS; Directorate of Engineering and Housing (DEH), Presidio of San Francisco; Larry Landon, Chief, Master Planning Division, DEH; Alex Macievich, DEH; Paul Alley, Patrick O'Bannon, Gordon Chappell, Roger Kelly, and Martin Mayer, all of the NPS, Western Region; Dr. John Langellier, former Director of the Presidio Army Museum; Eric Saul, Director, Presidio Army Museum; Ed Green and Kim Combs from the Presidio Army Museum; Colonel John Kern, Sixth United States Army; Aaron Gallup, of the California State Office of Historic Preservation; Gray Brechin and Ward Hill, of the Foundation for the Preservation of San Francisco's Architectural Heritage; Susan Rusev, Bancroft Library, University of California at Berkeley; Grace Baker, Society of California Pioneers; and Gladys Hansen, San Francisco Public Library.

Following completion of the survey, final copies of the HABS inventory cards were substantially revised and edited by Paul Alley and Patrick O'Bannon. Additional research, final editing, and production of this volume were accomplished by Consulting Archivist/Historian Waverly Lowell. Editing and production were directed by Paul Alley. Special assistance was provided by the NPS Regional Historian Gordon Chappell. All photographs were taken by Mark Brack unless otherwise noted.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments 2
Introduction 4
Prehistoric Background 6
Spanish-Mexican Period 7
Early United States Occupation: 1846-1860 . . 8
Civil War Period: 1861-1865 10
Indian Wars: 1865-1890 12
Nationalistic Expansion: 1890-1910 14
Early Twentieth Century: 1910-1920 17
From Crissy Field to the Bridge: 1921-1940 . . 19
The Second World War: 1941-1945 22
The Cold War Years to the 1970s 23
To the Present: 1970-1982 24
Footnotes 26
Bibliographic Notes 28
Photographs 30
Summary of the Maintenance Plan 56
List of Buildings 58

Aerial View of the Presidio of San Francisco. Courtesy of the Director of Engineering & Housing, Presidio.

Introduction

The Presidio of San Francisco was formally established on September 17, 1776, the third of four military garrisons built by the Spanish in upper California. From that date on, the Presidio has seen almost continuous use by the armies of several nations—first Spain, then Mexico, and finally the United States—each occupying it as a primary military and colonial outpost.

For nearly fifty years the Presidio played a key role in the extension of Spanish settlement into Northern California. From this outpost, the Spanish crown established four missions, two *pueblos,* a rancho, and an *asistencia*. Mexico succeeded Spain at the Presidio in 1822 upon gaining its independence and kept the post as its main base in Northern California until 1835, when it transferred headquarters to Sonoma. From then until 1846 the Presidio lay idle. The base was returned to active use following its acquisition by the United States as a result of the Mexican American War. During the Indian Wars of the 1850s and 1860s, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and the United States' territorial expansion into the Pacific basin, the Presidio was a cornerstone of U.S. military operations throughout the West. Although it currently occupies a lesser role in national defense, the Presidio retains an active mission as home to the Sixth U.S. Army and to Letterman Army Medical Center. The Presidio was designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior in 1960. It is recognized for its important role in the colonial and military history of the West.

Landmark designation acknowledges the national significance of the site, but the Presidio has also figured prominently in the history of the City of San Francisco. During the cataclysmic earthquake and fire of 1906, the post was a major center of rescue operations. The base sheltered thousands of refugees left homeless by the disaster. Less dramatic but no less significant was the Army's forestation program, which

turned the barren sand dunes upon which the base was established into verdant hills; one of San Francisco's "crown jewels."

Each successive use of the post has given rise to new construction, from the earliest log and adobe structures to the most recent steel-frame and concrete buildings. During the summer of 1981 a two-person team—one historian and one architectural historian—undertook an architectural and historical inventory of the Presidio, under the joint sponsorship of the National Park Service's (NPS) Western Regional Office and the U.S. Army. This inventory of historic structures represents the first phase of the National Park Service's professional consultation with the Army regarding the wide variety of cultural resources found on post.

The team surveyed all of the structures at the Presidio and prepared detailed inventory forms for those with the greatest historical significance—about 400. All structures were then classified into five historic preservation categories according to the level of contribution they make to the overall historic resource. Each structure was classified as one of the following:

I. Directly contributing to the National Historic Landmark (NHL) district; of particularly strong integrity. Restoration or rehabilitation is a realistic possibility and would be very beneficial to integrity and interpretation of the historic resource.

II. Contributing to the NHL, but more supportive to the NHL themes than of direct significance; of good integrity. Restoration of lesser importance at this time.

III. Contributing to the National Register (NR) historic district, but not to the NHL.

IV. Pertaining to the district but may be of insufficient age or integrity to contribute to historical significance. This includes structures that are neutral but may in time become category III, and buildings that require further research to verify significance. World War II structures generally fall into this category, as well as more modern structures.

V. Intrusions to either the NHL or the NR historic district. In rare cases, structures that ordinarily might be judged contributing or neutral are judged to be intrusions to a particularly significant and intact part of the district with which they do not conform.

These categories conform in general to the Army's categories of historic structures.

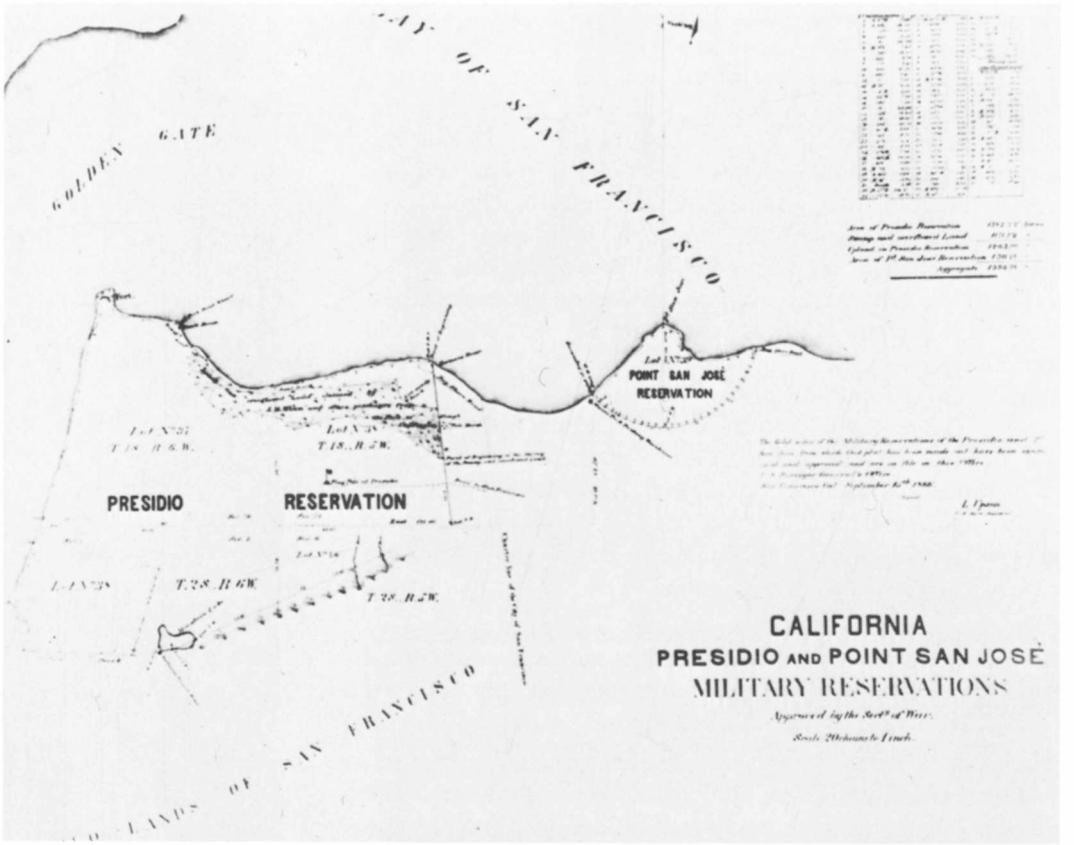
The overall goal of the project has been to provide technical assistance to the Army facilities engineers, who are responsible for maintaining and protecting this landmark property. The National Park Service used the inventory to assist in the development of a comprehensive maintenance plan for historic structures. The plan recommends specific conservation techniques appropriate to a historic army post while recognizing that the post remains in use.

The following report on the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) Inventory of the Presidio of San Francisco provides an overview of the history of the Presidio, reproductions of photographs and captions from the inventory, and a summary of the maintenance plan. Although the history is not comprehensive, it does provide a discussion of the physical, environmental, and architectural development of the post and a context for the historical evaluations included in the inventory.

Prehistoric Background

Early accounts of the San Francisco peninsula describe a series of low sand hills covered with a sparse growth of shrubs and grasses, an occasional scrub oak, and pockets of laurel trees. Large saltwater marshes and swamps dotted the bay shore, fronting the area between what is now the Main Parade Ground and Letterman Army Medical Center.

Human habitation of the area, like the vegetation, was sparse, with only a few small camps of thatched houses dotting the site. The aboriginal residents of these camps lived along the shores of the marshes, subsisting largely on shellfish taken from the bay.[1] The few native Americans who populated the area appear to have fled prior to the arrival of the Spanish settlers in the 1770s. Explorers reported back to the crown shortly after their arrival that they encountered few natives on the peninsula and surmised that this was due to warfare with neighboring native groups.



Map of Presidio and Point San Jose (c.1866). Courtesy of the Presidio Army Museum.

Spanish-Mexican Period

In 1776 the Spanish authorities in Alta[2] (upper) California, directed by the Crown to protect San Francisco Bay against possible Russian or British incursions, established the Presidio of San Francisco, northernmost of Spain's military garrisons on the Pacific Coast. Troops constructed a temporary mud and thatched quadrangle, near the present site of the Officers' Club (Bldg. 50), in the vicinity of a fresh water spring associated with the area's earlier aboriginal inhabitants. This spring, named El Polin, is located at the south end of MacArthur Avenue. In addition, a Royal Spanish Fort, Castillo de San Joaquin, was erected in 1794 where Fort Point now stands to guard the straight into San Francisco Bay.

Soon the first temporary buildings were replaced by a permanent adobe and stone quadrangle that included a house for the commander, church, slaughter house, warehouses, and quarters for the troops. These new "permanent" buildings, however, were ravaged by periodic floods, earthquakes, and storms and within a few years had fallen into disrepair. By the end of the eighteenth century, the post had entered a period of decline. Having secured the peninsula against English and Russian incursions, Spain turned its attention—and its finances—elsewhere. Without funds for repair and maintenance, the post's primarily adobe buildings continued to erode.

In the early nineteenth century, Spain's American colonies were engaged in wars for independence. The Crown was forced to reduce further its commitment to northern frontier garrisons like the Presidio of San Francisco. Mexico gained independence in 1822 and acceded to control of the Presidio. The new government did not, however, change policy toward the Presidio. If anything, Mexico was less interested in the defense of San Francisco Bay than Spain had been. It was far more concerned with the threat of the United States' expansion into the territory. In response, the Mexican Army abandoned the Presidio in 1835 and transferred its garrisons inland to Sonoma, closer to the overland routes that were beginning to bring white settlers to the region. Their tile roofs removed, the abandoned adobe buildings rapidly disintegrated. At the time of the United States' conquest of California in 1846-1847 only a few structures remained, surrounded by mounds of melted adobe, marking the remainder of the quadrangle.[3]

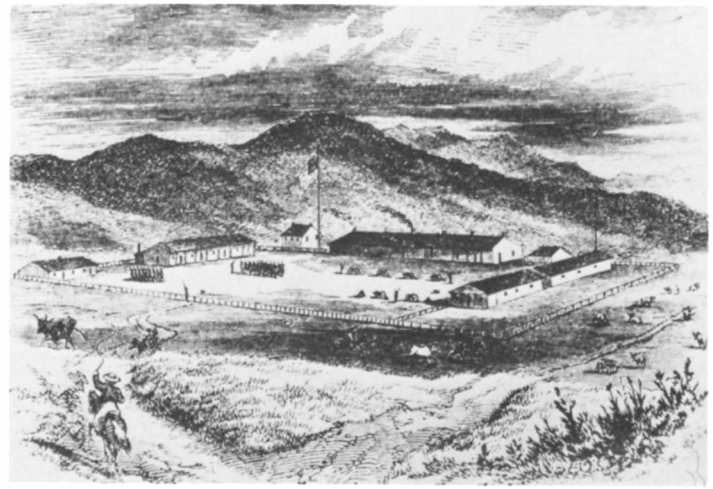
Early United States Occupation: 1846-1860

In March of 1847, two companies of the New York Volunteers, under Major James A. Hardie, occupied the abandoned Presidio. Organized by Colonel Jonathan Drake Stevenson, the New York Volunteers, also referred to as the Stevenson Regiment, constituted "the largest single body of United States troops" in California. Stevenson carefully selected his recruits "not exclusively for military experience or aptitude, but for good habits, variety of occupation, and the desire to remain in California."[4] By the end of March the men stationed at the Presidio were reported hard at work "repairing the quarters and storehouses, . . . building ovens and kitchens, and repairing the road from the Presidio to the beach."

Under the ministrations of the Volunteers, the crumbled and melted adobe quadrangle regained some of its former appearance, including adobe structures with wood shake roofs, a flagpole, and a perfunctory picket fence surrounding the buildings. As former residents of the East, Stevenson's men felt that wood was the proper rebuilding material. A detachment was sent across the bay to what is today Marin County to fell trees and erect sawmills for the production of lumber.[5]

By August 15, 1848, despite all efforts to rebuild the post, the Presidio again lay abandoned. It remained so for the next several years. The treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, ratified May 30, 1848, ended the Mexican War. The two companies of Volunteers stationed at the Presidio were among the first troops mustered out of service. Like so many other military installations in the region, the Presidio was also drained of personnel by Marshall's discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in January of 1848.

By summer, troops were deserting their posts in record numbers. Bound for the diggings in the Sierra foothills, these deserters left only a few dedicated officers to man garrisons throughout the region. Numerous plans were suggested to stem the tide of "gold fever" desertions including: moving forces closer to the mining areas, granting liberal leave to the enlisted men to allow them to try their hands at the diggings, and offering double pay (a raise to 40¢/day).[6]



"The Presidio of San Francisco" from *The Annals of San Francisco* by Frank Soule, John H. Gihon and James Nisbet. (New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1854) p. 263. Courtesy of the California Historical Society, S.F.

Although drawing soldiers away from the service at the Presidio, the rush for gold turned San Francisco into a regional entrepot, gateway to the mines. By late 1849, more than five hundred vessels lay at anchor off the waterfront and the small town had exploded into a major metropolis. The white population grew from less than 1000 in 1848 to an estimated 25,000 by late 1850.[7] This rapid growth spurred the United States government to establish formal military reservations near the town.

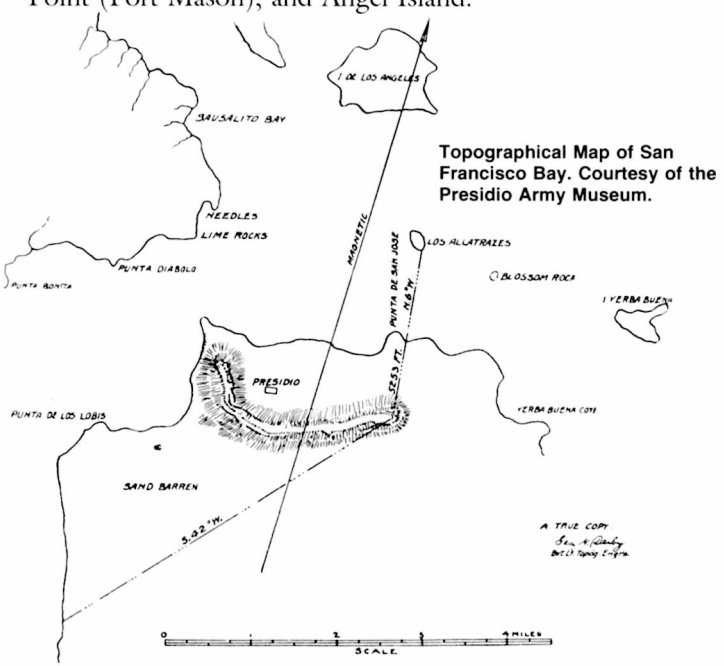
In November 1848 the Secretaries of War and Navy appointed a six-officer commission to select military sites around the bay. They investigated several locations including the Presidio, recently reconstructed by the New York Volunteers, as sites for future fortifications and military garrisons. The Commission's recommendations included the construction of lighthouses and the setting aside of Alcatraz, Yerba Buena and Angel Islands for defense purposes; Benicia for an arsenal and supply depot; and Mare Island for a shipyard.[8]

It took two years and the threat of encroachment by the burgeoning city for the government to act on the Commission's recommendations. Then, on November 6, 1850, President Millard Fillmore set aside several tracts of land, including the Presidio, as military reservations. The initial boundaries of the Presidio reservation included the present post, Fort Mason, and much of the western edge of the San Francisco peninsula, or basically everything northwest of a line starting at today's Fisherman's Wharf and ending at the Cliff House.[9] Local citizens protested the size of the reserve, and on December 15, 1851, Fillmore approved the boundaries presently in effect. Although it was officially set aside for military use, the post appears to have been garrisoned seldom, if ever, until after the excitement of the gold rush had subsided.

In May 1849 Captain Erasmus D. Keyes received command "of the post of San Francisco."[10] Within a few weeks, however, he had lost most of his eighty-six-man company to the gold fields. Keyes himself spent the next few years away from the Presidio, employing his remaining troops in the quelling of Indian uprisings in the San Joaquin Valley and Northern California. Up to the Civil War, fighting Indians constituted the major activity of the Presidio's garrison during Keyes' tenure as commander. The post during these years remained much as the New York Volunteers had left it, with adobe structures utilized as a laundry, barracks, and hospital.

Colonel J.K.F. Mansfield, assigned the duties of Inspector General, arrived in San Francisco in May 1854. In his view, a remodeling of the Presidio constituted a major priority. During the late 1850s a small improvement program resulted in the construction of picket fences and a two-story multi-purpose building to house two companies of artillery, stores, and a medical facility. In 1856 the Army let a contract to build a separate hospital which stood ready for use the following January. By 1859 only three of the surplus adobes remained.[11] Unfortunately, these new wooden structures proved unsound and were domolished to make way for the construction of a new post in 1862-63.

The principal program of military construction at San Francisco in the decade of the 1850s involved not the Presidio but work on a system of harbor defenses. The massive brick and granite fortress at Fort Point, located on the site of an old Spanish battery (El Castillo de San Joaquin), served as the key to the defenses. Construction began on emplacements at Alcatraz Island in the late 1850s, and plans were developed for harbor defense installations at Lime Point (Fort Baker), Black Point (Fort Mason), and Angel Island.



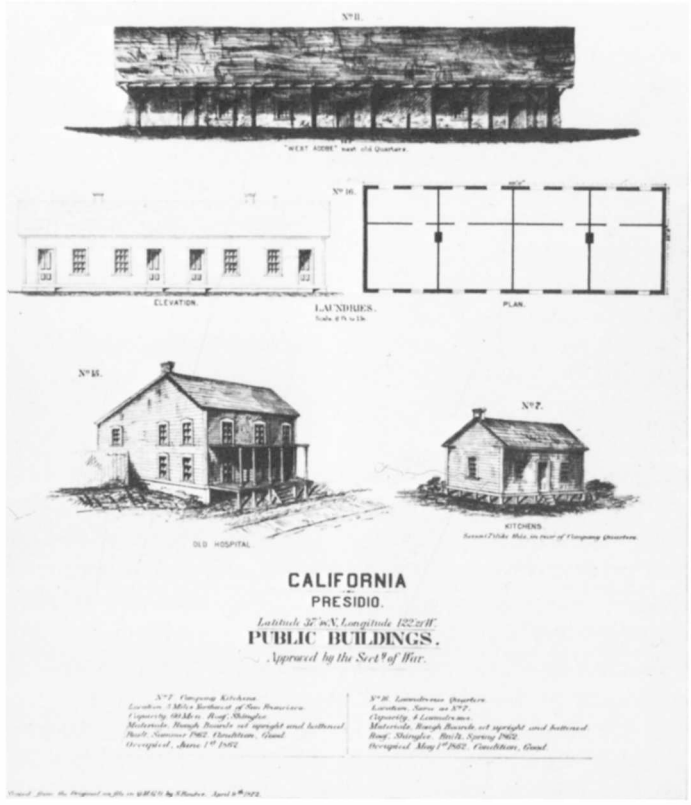
Topographical Map of San Francisco Bay. Courtesy of the Presidio Army Museum.

Civil War Period: 1861-1865

During this period the Presidio began to evolve from a frontier outpost to a military establishment that resembled its counterparts elsewhere in the nation. The outbreak of hostilities among the states in 1861 had immediate repercussions in California. The State became one of the Union's essential assets. Because the War cut the Union off from many of its resources, San Francisco harbor became increasingly important for its proximity to the gold mines, the rich silver lodes of Nevada, and the large quicksilver deposits at New Almaden near San Jose. Although there was a highly vocal pro-South faction in California, there was also substantial pro-Union sentiment. As a result of this new situation, the military mission of the Presidio changed:

> No longer were Indian troubles their major concern. A Southern Democratic party had dominated politics since statehood in 1850. The adherence of this party to the cardinal principles of state sovereignty and white supremacy, and the statements of its prominent leaders in speeches, letters, and the party press indicated that its members sympathized with the South in the coming struggle and wished California to form an independent Pacific Republic.[12]

In the eyes of the Union, the Presidio became a bastion against the Confederacy's schemes for California. Several minor incidents in the San Francisco Bay area—plans by a group of Southern sympathizers to seize the steamer *Golden Gate*'s bullion shipment, the plans of another group to use the schooner *J.M. Chapman* to raid Pacific shipping, and the activities of the Confederate raider *C.S.S. Shenandoah* against the Pacific whaling fleet—inflamed fears in Washington about Confederate elements in California.



"California Presidio: Public Buildings" copied from the original on file in Q.M.G.O., by S. Bootes. April 9, 1872. Buildings constructed 1862. Courtesy of the California Historical Society, S.F.

California's new-found importance spurred major expansion and building at the Presidio. For the first time, the boundaries of the main post were extended beyond those of the original Spanish-Mexican quadrangle. The Army laid out a narrow, rectangular parade ground, much in the fashion of other military posts of the time, and constructed a series of new wooden buildings to replace the "make-do" installation of Gold Rush and Indian-fighting days. A handsome row of officers' quarters, many of which exist today (Bldgs. 5-16 on Funston Avenue), delineated the eastern edge of the parade ground. A row of barracks for enlisted men faced the officers' quarters across the parade ground; only two (Bldgs. 86 and 87) have survived from this group, although their original appearances have been substantially altered.

Other construction during this period included a stone and concrete block powder magazine (Bldg. 95), built directly off the western edge of the parade ground, and a substantial new post hospital (Bldg. 2, now the Presidio Army Museum) at the northeast corner of the parade ground.[13] Three adobe structures remained in service as a laundry (demolished prior to 1900), an officers' quarters (demolished as a result of damage suffered during the April 1906 earthquake), and the officers' club (remodeled over the years and presently existing, in a greatly altered state, as the Officers' Open Mess, Bldg. 50).

While work progressed on rebuilding the main post at the Presidio, enlarged defense installations hastily appeared around the bay. Troops occupied Black Point in 1863, erecting barracks and batteries of eight-inch muzzle-loading guns. Emplacements appeared on Angel Island and Alcatraz, and several field guns were placed at the Presidio. There is no question that the Civil War engendered some disquieting fears in California; yet, with the exception of a few incidents, calm prevailed. By 1865 most Westerners believed that Indian tribes, supposedly emboldened by the diversion of the military's attention to the great conflict in the East, represented a greater threat to peace than the Confederacy.

Stereo view of the Main Parade Ground (c.1864-1872). Troops in light artillery dress uniform. Courtesy of the Society of California Pioneers.

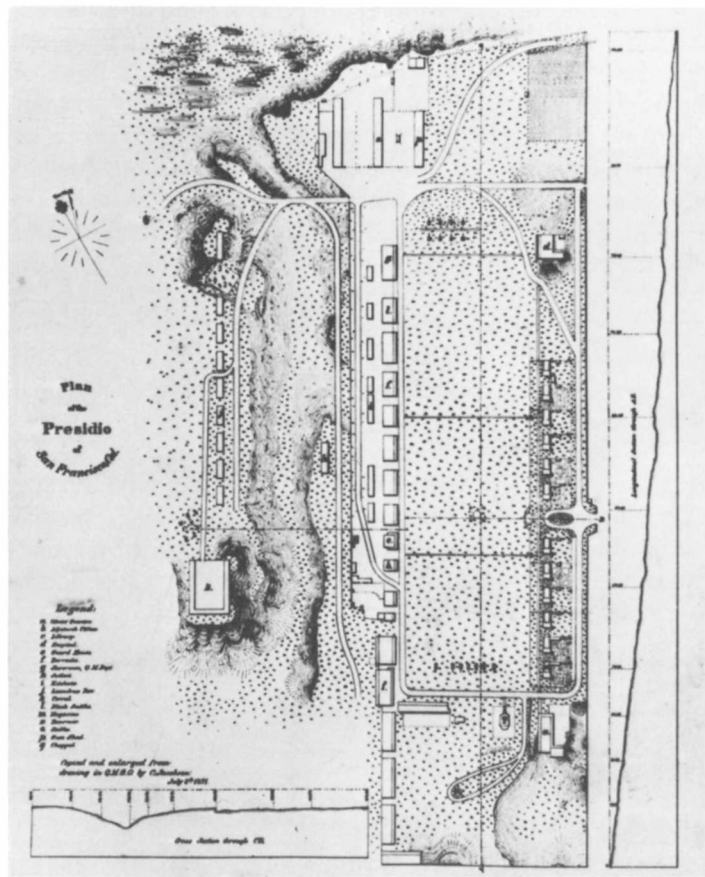
Indian Wars: 1865-1890

Following the end of the Civil War in 1865, the troops at the Presidio returned their attention to the Indian 'problem.' The Department of the Pacific, with its headquarters at the Presidio, reorganized immediately after the Civil War to permit more efficient handling of Indian problems in the Northwest. The Army also established a Department of the Columbia, headquartered at Fort Vancouver in Washington Territory. General George Wright, former Commander of the Department of the Pacific, left the Presidio in 1865 to assume command of that new Department.

Reorganization of the military presence on the Pacific Coast did not diminish the role of the Presidio. The post became the central deployment point for troops engaged in the Indian Wars on the West Coast. Troops from all over the nation arrived in San Francisco and billeted at the Presidio prior to entering the field. Companies from the Presidio participated in the Modoc War of 1870 and the Southwest Campaigns against the Apache, and suppressed various Indian uprisings along the Colorado River.

A number of major physical changes occurred at the Presidio during this period. Buildings were constructed in new architectural styles, and a major landscaping effort dramatically transformed the post's environment. The troops arriving to participate in the Indian War campaigns required new quarters, although only two of a series of proposed new barracks were ever constructed. Only one of these (Bldg. 36, Military Police Headquarters) survives today.[14] Two of the Civil War barracks (Bldgs. 86 and 87) on the west side of the parade ground underwent significant alteration, resulting in their conversion from one-story to two-story buildings.

Several new officers quarters were built opposite the Civil War-era cottages along Funston Avenue. About 1878 these cottages were themselves altered substantially when they were reoriented to face east onto Funston Avenue instead of west onto the parade ground as originally constructed.[15] The Army also landscaped Funston Avenue, turning it into the post's main entrance. Other extant structures built during the years of the Indian Wars include a post chapel (Bldg. 45), and the post sutler's or trader's residence (Bldg. 116). The sutler's



Map of Main Parade Ground following the Civil War (c. 1871). Courtesy of the Presidio Army Museum.

store operated as a trading post for the troops before the days of the post exchange.

Captain C.F. Humphrey, the Presidio's quartermaster, designed an even more ambitious expansion of the post during this period. Anticipating a move planned by the Department of the Pacific to relocate its headquarters from downtown San Francisco offices to the Presidio, he drew up plans for a new and substantial post to be constructed primarily of wood. The Army never approved Humphrey's elaborate Second Empire-style plans, and most of the structures were never built. However, a few altered versions of his original plans were constructed along Funston Avenue.

Two major developments during the Indian War era greatly altered the physical landscape of the Presidio. One came in 1884 when the Army designated the Presidio burial grounds a National Military Cemetery. The burial grounds, situated on a low hill west of the main parade ground,[16] were indicated by a few trees, curving roads, and a cast-iron enclosure. Ornate monuments—in contrast to the uniform and utilitarian headstones of later military cemeteries—dotted the area. Soldiers formerly buried at battlefields and abandoned posts throughout California and the West were disinterred and reburied at this cemetery. The original size of nearly ten acres was gradually expanded to its existing 28.3 acres.[17]

As substantial as the cemetery project was, it pales when compared with the massive and ambitious program of forestation initiated by Major W.A. Jones of the Army Corps of Engineers. In March of 1833, Jones submitted his planting plan to Department Commander Irvin McDowell. The plan called for planting trees—primarily pines, cypress, acacia, and eucalyptus—throughout the post on the higher elevations. Jones' concept was to "crown the ridges, border the boundary fences, and cover the areas of sand and marsh waste with a forest that will generally seem continuous, and thus appear larger than it really is...." As the "central and vital point of the composition" the main parade ground would receive "an imposing background of forest overlooking rolling stretches of greensward."

Jones called for the plantings to be arranged and maintained neatly in order to give a good civic impression, noting that "we are in the midst of a great and growing city ... the eyes of the people are upon us.... " In addition to providing a pleasant visual setting for the post, the plantings would "make the contrast from the city seem as great as possible, and indirectly accentuate the idea of the power of the government...."[18]

Motivation for the planting was practical as well as aesthetic and political. The trees formed effective windbreaks, mitigating the Presidio's well-founded reputation as a cold, windswept, and generally undesirable post. The "rolling stretches of greensward" anchored the post's sand dunes, stemming erosion problems and preventing sand storms. By the late 1880s the forestation program had been completed, and by the turn of the century the massive forests envisioned by Jones were in full growth. The Presidio now stood in sylvan contrast to the barren sand dunes south of the post and the progression of private homes that had begun to march over the dunes to the sea.

Woman and baby carriage at the Presidio of San Francisco (c. 1865-1870). Courtesy of the Presidio Army Museum.

Building 45 (IV): Chapel (1864, 1952, 1970). Photograph taken c.1902. Built as a simple wood-frame single-story church, in 1952 the building underwent major remodeling that seriously damaged its historical integrity. Only eaves, roof, bell tower, and board-and-batten siding of the original structure remain. Alterations in 1970 further enlarged nave, exit, choir, and predella. Courtesy of the Society of California Pioneers.

View of the Presidio (c.1899). Note tents used by troops going to the Philippines. Courtesy of the California Historical Society, S.F.

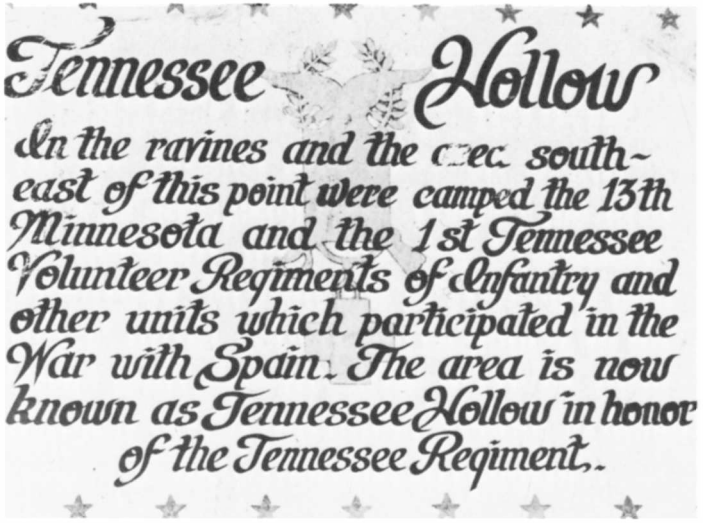
Nationalistic Expansion: 1890-1910

The end of the Indian Wars in 1890 and the Army's subsequent involvement in the Spanish-American War resulted in major changes in the military mission of the Presidio of San Francisco. The conclusion of the Indian wars led military planners to implement major changes in Army policy and to begin abandoning the many small frontier posts appropriate to an army engaged in Indian Wars. As men and materials were released by this process, the planners transferred them to larger posts—including the Presidio—located in or near major urban centers where accessibility to developed transportation systems permitted quicker and more efficient mobilization.

The involvement of the United States in imperial operations overseas created a new mission for some of these concentrated urban garrisons. As the primary post on the Pacific Coast, the Presidio of San Francisco played a significant role, serving as the major point of embarkation for troops and supplies bound for the Philippines and other points in the Pacific. Thousands of troops camped in tent cities on the Presidio grounds on their way to the Pacific. The site of the camp of the Tennessee Volunteers near Funston Avenue still bears the name "Tennessee Hollow." Tons of supplies and material also passed through the Presidio during this period, greatly increasing the need for additional structures. It was also during this period, between 1890 and 1914, that the Presidio served as the staging area for cavalry troops dispatched during the summer months to patrol Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks. Troop commanders managed those parks for the Department of the Interior as "Acting Superintendents."

As had happened during the Civil War, an extensive construction program was initiated on post, reflecting the closing of the American frontier and helping to define this shift in priorities. The Army, in order to emphasize its stability and strength at these urban posts, designated the Presidio for reconstruction in a more substantial and permanent fashion. Brick, stone, and concrete buildings replaced the impermanent, sometimes flimsy, wooden structures that had characterized the Indian War-era post.

This more imposing image was manifest through construction of a new, larger parade ground west of the Civil War-era parade ground and a number of brick buildings. The major extant structures dating from this program include a row of brick barracks, built between 1896 and 1909 along the western edge of the new parade ground (Bldgs. 100-106), and a brick guardhouse, built in 1900 and presently housing a bank and a post office (Bldg. 210).



Plaque. Courtesy of the Presidio Army Museum.

The Army also constructed a row of offices, warehouses, and shops for the ordnance, commissary, and quartermaster departments just north of the new parade ground along Halleck Avenue (Bldgs. 222-223, 225, 227-229). A new bachelor officers' quarters (Bldg. 42), known as Pershing Hall, was built in 1903 at the south end of Funston Avenue to replace a Civil War-era building that had burned. In addition to these major buildings, the construction program begun in the 1890s also resulted in several brick warehouses, utility buildings, and some wooden structures scattered across the post.

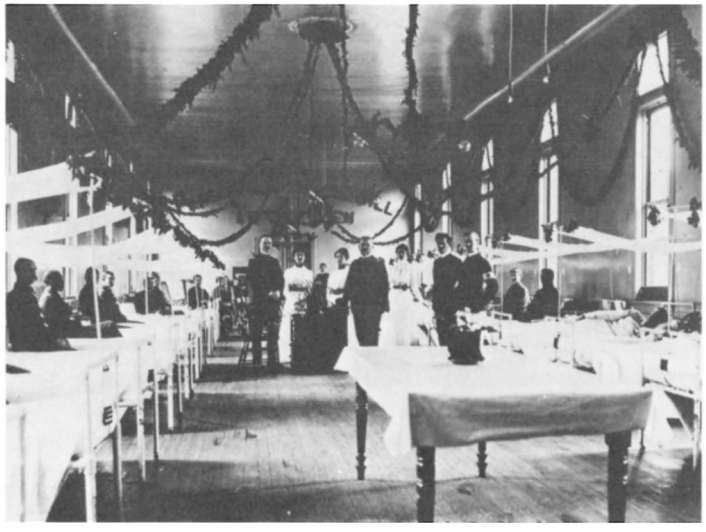
The Army also initiated a major program during this period to improve the coastal defenses of San Francisco Bay. The Spanish-American War added impetus to this program, which had originated with the report of the Endicott Board in 1886 and represented the latest manifestation of a long-maintained policy of fortifying the area. From the time of the earliest Spanish occupation, the security of the entrances to San Francisco Bay was a major military concern in the region. During the 1840s, when the United States assumed control of San Francisco Bay, the Army began developing a specialized and coordinated system of seacoast fortifications.

The first installations consisted of temporary earthwork batteries built upon the sites of the adobe and earthen fortifications of the Spanish and Mexicans. These were later abandoned in favor of massive brick and granite fortifications such as Fort Point. When rifled cannons rendered brick walls obsolete, military engineers devised earthwork batteries with brick gun mounts and magazines. Continued technical developments in artillery rendered these installations obsolete by the mid-1880s, and the fortifications of San Francisco harbor became woefully out of date and vulnerable.[19]

As a response to this decline in the nation's coastal defenses, in 1885 Secretary of War William C. Endicott convened a board charged with recommending a new program of large-scale fortification. The panel's recommendations were not implemented until the mid-1890s, when the Army built several reinforced concrete and earthwork batteries at the Presidio and other locations around San Francisco Bay.[20] The possibility of hostile actions against American ports during the Spanish-American War provided further stimulus for this construction program.

By 1910 a series of interrelated concrete batteries armed with modern breech-loading rifled artillery dotted the Presidio and ringed the harbor entrance. Several of these batteries remain under the jurisdiction of the Army and are located within the present Presidio boundaries. These include the experimental Battery Dynamite, built in 1894-1895 (Bldg. 1399), and Batteries McKinnon-Stotsenburg, Howe-Wagner, Saffold, Blaney, and Sherwood (Bldgs. 1430, 1287, 1354, 635, and 636 respectively).[21] Other batteries, historically a part of the Presidio, are managed at present by the National Park Service.

Detachment of the Hospital Corps, Presidio Army General Hospital (1901). From the Banta Album; courtesy of the Presidio Army Museum.



Christmas in the wards, Presidio Army General Hospital (c.1901). From the Banta Album; courtesy of the Presidio Army Museum.

A temporary hospital, established in 1898, proved incapable of handling the numbers of sick and wounded arriving at the Presidio from the Philippines and elsewhere in the Pacific. In response to the problem the Army developed the Presidio Army General Hospital in 1899, the first Army general hospital in the United States.[22] The new hospital was one of the major additions to the Presidio during this period. Washington approved the initial plans for a modern hospital facility on post, and local architect W.H. Wilcox was selected to design the complex. Wilcox laid out a quadrangle of hospital buildings, which the Army constructed between 1899 and 1902 at a cost of over $400,000.[23] Most of the complex was demolished in 1975 to make way for medical facilities intended to support the new hospital opened in 1969. However, several original portions remain, including the administration building (Bldg. 1016), one of the original wards (Bldg. 1007), and a row of officers' quarters (Bldgs. 1000-1004), which were separate from the original quadrangle.[24]

Between 1895 and 1896 the Army enclosed the reservation within a stone boundary wall, visually delineating the post's boundaries.[25] Construction of the boundary wall may have reflected the military's concern over the movement of San Francisco's population into formerly empty tracts of land adjacent to the post. Squatting on Presidio land was not a significant problem at the time of the reservation's enclosure, but the military authorities may possibly have sought to avoid a repetition of occurences in the late 1850s, when squatters occupied Army land at Rincon Point, the Presidio, and Fort Mason. The new stone wall, with it's ornate gunposts at Lombard Street, Broadway, and Arguello Boulevard, clearly marked the boundaries of the Presidio Military Reservation and, combined with Major Jones' plantings, conveyed a strong sense of government presence.

By the end of the nineteenth century, the Main Post area of the Presidio had attained essentially its present form: an expanded central parade ground fronted on the west by a row of distinguished brick barracks, officers' houses along Funston Avenue, the national cemetery, the General Hospital complex, and the rapidly maturing forest.

Early Twentieth Century: 1910-1920

At the turn of the century, military and private observers began to criticize the physical condition of the Presidio. The development of a reliable potable water system in 1909-1910 and the provision of electricity to most buildings on post by 1912 alleviated some of this criticism.[26] Until the late 1850s the post relied on Lobos Creek in the southern portion of the reservation for its water supply.[27] As the post grew in size, the creek became contaminated, and the Army constructed a series of small reservoirs similar to the extant 1897 structure near Battery McKinnon-Stotsenburg (Bldg. 1469). These provided a stopgap solution to the problem, but the need for an adequate water supply continued to plague the post.

In 1908, with the development of plans for a new coast artillery garrison at the western portion of the Presidio, the Army prepared to construct a new water plant with a large reservoir and purification facility at the mouth of Lobos Creek. Completed in 1911, this system directed pure water through a series of pipelines to reservoirs located throughout the post, including a six million gallon capacity main reservoir (Bldg. 313) located on the hill behind Infantry Terrace.[28] Adequate fire protection was finally made possible after several tragic fires had occurred. One of these cost several lives, including those of the wife and daughters (a son survived) of General John J. Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe during the First World War.

Despite improvements to the post, critics continued to describe buildings like the 1862-1863 frame officers' quarters along Funston Avenue as "picturesque," but "shabby ... small, old fashioned, too near the ground, and consequently damp in the winter. ... "[29] In 1905 the government approved plans for a new portion of the Presidio on the vacant western half of the reservation, appropriating $1,000,000 for construction. The San Francisco earthquake and fire of April 18, 1906, forestalled implementation of these plans, and money intended for construction was diverted for disaster relief.

On the day of the earthquake, only hours after the first tremors, Brigadier General Frederick Funston met with San Francisco Mayor Eugene Schmitz. As a result of this meeting, Funston directed Colonel Charles Morris, Presidio Commander, to report immediately, with his artillery command, to Portsmouth Square to assist the city in maintaining order. The Presidio was a major relief station for the stricken city during this crisis, providing shelter, food, and even clothing for many refugees.[30] Fortunately, the Presidio itself suffered little damage as a result of the earthquake and was untouched by the fire. The last of the old adobe buildings fell, and the original powerhouse for Battery Dynamite was demolished after a retaining wall collapsed.

No new appropriations were made for construction on the western half of the reservation until 1908, although the Army was able to begin construction that same year. Fort Winfield Scott, as the new installation was named, served the seacoast artillery forces that manned the harbor defenses.The name Fort Winfield Scott was first used in November 1882 for the fort at Fort Point. It reverted back to the name Fort Point in 1886. In design and plan the new Fort Winfield Scott differed greatly from the Main Post. Unlike the various wood-frame or brick buildings that characterized the Main Post, its concrete and stucco buildings were built uniformly in the Mission Revival style, which could be associated with the Spanish heritage of the Presidio.

The popular Mission Revival style was developed in California during the mid-1880s and appeared at military posts outside California as early as 1904. Its use for both public and private buildings earned widespread support in California as a way of reflecting the state's past and, more importantly, of

creating a visually romantic environment attractive to tourists and new residents.[31] Surprisingly, the style did not appear at the Presidio until construction of the new coast artillery installation in 1908. The desire to project a romantic image appears to have played a role in the decision to introduce the Mission Revival style into the Presidio's architecture: contemporary accounts claim that Fort Winfield Scott incorporated the "old mission style" in accordance with the wishes of a merchants' association.

Fort Winfield Scott marked the first effort to "Hispanicize" the Presidio, a theme repeated in the many later developments on the post that utilized Spanish-derived architectural idioms. The buildings surrounding the parade ground at Fort Scott form a rare, coherent, and well-preserved complex in the Mission Revival style.

The development of Fort Scott continued beyond the end of 1912 and added a new dimension to the Presidio by creating a new focal point on the western half of the reservation.[32] The local press appeared pleased with the project, praising the effort to make "the Presidio the Finest Army Post in the World."[33] Despite the success of Mission Revival architecture, a number of the officers' quarters to the south of the Fort Scott parade ground along Infantry Terrace were designed with architectural elements of the Georgian Revival. First adopted for post architecture in the 1890s,[34] the Georgian Revival style remained popular nationwide through the 1930s, as did the Spanish-derived styles.

The Spanish Colonial Revival and the Georgian Revival styles were linked by a conceptual similarity: they were considered at the time to reflect the "colonial" roots of the nation (although many of the architectural prototypes for what was perceived as the "Georgian Revival" certainly postdated the Anglo-colonial period). Moreover, due to the classical architectural origins common to both the Georgian Revival and the more "Mediterranean" phase of the Spanish Colonial Revival, stylistic elements from either Revival were highly compatible. The architectural unity of the Presidio attests to this compatibility, and the design of a single structure or group of structures on post may pertain to both styles simultaneously.

While construction progressed on the new installation at Fort Scott, a number of other areas of the post also underwent improvement. In 1913-1914 five stables (Bldgs. 661-663 and 667-668) were erected on McDowell Avenue. These buildings were constructed according to a standard military design used at other Western posts as early as 1878 and reflect the continued importance of the cavalry prior to the First World War, when technological developments rendered the military use of animal power largely obsolete.

During this same period, the role of the post's general hospital grew in importance. In 1911 the hospital was dedicated to Dr. Jonathan Letterman, Chief Surgeon of the Army of the Potomac. As Letterman General, the hospital's physical plant continued to expand along with its importance through the First World War.

In 1915, San Francisco was host to the Panama Pacific International Exposition, a world's fair held in honor of the opening of the Panama Canal and as a symbol of San Francisco's reconstruction following the city's destruction in 1906. This Exposition ultimately proved extremely beneficial to the Army and to the development of the Presidio. Portions of the exposition were constructed on several acres of reclaimed marshland along the bay shore.This reclaimed land reverted to the military after the close of the exposition and, in time, became the site of part of Crissy Field, the air base developed at the post in 1921, and the Presidio's main shipping and warehouse depot. Furthermore, transportation of men and

construction materials for the exposition required extension of the Belt Line Railroad, San Francisco's waterfront railroad, to the Presidio. This extension provided the Army with excellent access to rail facilities for future movement of men and supplies.

During the First World War the military constructed a large complex of "temporary" wooden warehouses and shipping stations in the northeast corner of the reservation on land reclaimed for the 1915 Exposition. Located alongside the Belt Line tracks, this complex served as the central depot and shipping station for Letterman Hospital and the post's quartermaster, commissary, and ordnance departments. By 1920 the Presidio approximated its present form and size, although the development of Crissy Army Airfield in 1921 and the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge and its approaches in the 1930s produced substantial changes in the post's appearance.

From Crissy Field to the Bridge: 1921-1940

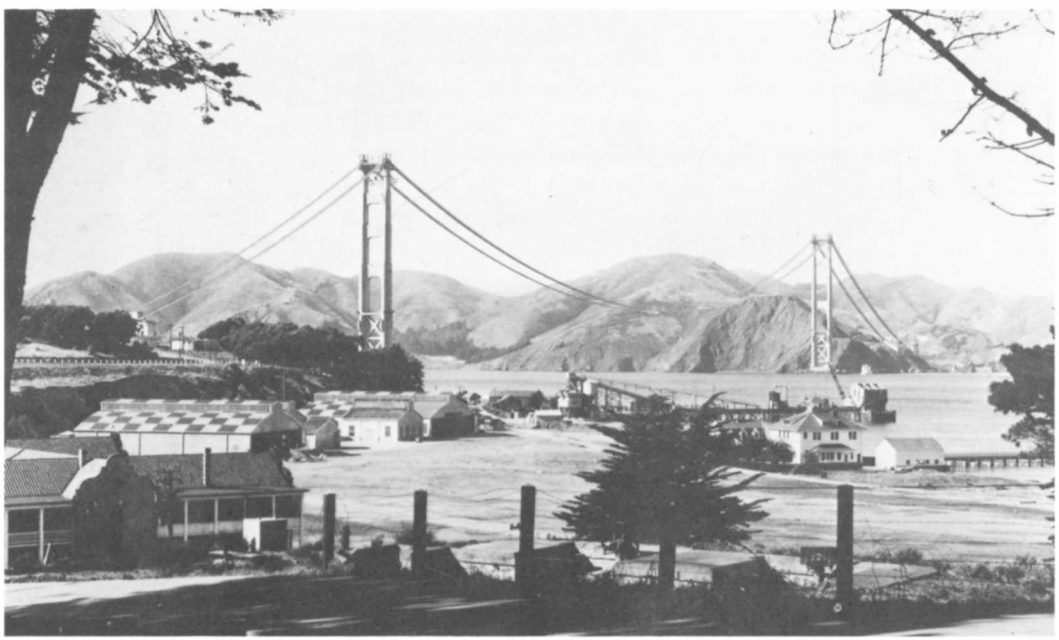
The 1920s were boom years in San Francisco, but at the Presidio the decade was a period of retrenchment and relative stagnation. However, the development of the air base at Crissy Field and subsequent aviation innovations stood in stark contrast to these trends and made a strong case for the retention of the Presidio as a base. In 1921 the Army established one of its first airfields on reclaimed land originally used as a racetrack and landing field for the Panama Pacific International Exposition. The site was selected in 1919 by Major Henry H. (Hap) Arnold, later a general in the Air Force and the Field's first commander.

View of Crissy Field (c.1915). Courtesy of the California Historical Society, S.F.

The new airfield played a role in the Army's transcontinental reliability and endurance tests during 1919. On the same day in October teams of Army fliers departed from the East Coast and San Francisco to see who would land in the opposite coast's field first. Major Dana Howard Crissy, commander of Mather Field near Sacramento, was killed when the De Haviland 4 plane he was flying crashed near Salt Lake City during the race. Crissy Airfield, dedicated to his honor,[35] served as headquarters for the aircraft attached to the harbor defense command at Fort Winfield Scott.

In 1920, the War Department authorized one million dollars for improvements at Crissy Airfield. Prior to the start of construction, the 91st Aero Squadron arrived for temporary duty to observe the coast artillery. The Squadron became the regular complement of the new airfield and served various missions including forest fire patrols, public relations flights, and aerial photographic assignments.[36]

Golden Gate Bridge under construction (1933-1936). Courtesy of the Presidio Army Museum.



A number of important events in the early history of aviation are associated with Crissy Airfield. These include the United States air mail inaugural flight in September 1920 and Lt. Russell L. Maughan's touch-down at Crissy Field at the completion of the first "dawn-to-dusk" transcontinental flight June 23, 1924. Many of the field's original structures are still extant, including the hangars and support facilities on the airfield, the pilots' quarters on the hill above, and the installation's headquarters (Bldg. 951).[37] As at Fort Scott, most of the Crissy Field buildings are reinforced concrete structures built in the Mission Revival style.

By 1925, improvements at Crissy included construction of a new hangar (Bldg. 643) and lengthening the runway by 1300 feet.[38] However, space limitations soon presented insurmountable problems for continued use of the airfield. Bounded as it was by the bay on the north, steep terrain on the south and west, and by the city on the east, Crissy Airfield could not be expanded as required by the growing need and technology. In addition, crowding, difficult weather conditions, and the obstacles posed by the newly constructed Golden Gate Bridge all influenced the decision to abandon the air base. Finally, in 1936, the Army abandoned Crissy Field as a primary aviation facility and transferred planes and personnel to the newly built Hamilton Field across the bay in Marin County. Several concepts for the reuse of Crissy Field were developed, but none were implemented.[39]

Plans for closing or changing the use of the Presidio military reserve were raised repeatedly in the 1920s and 1930s. In 1920 a proposal to convert the entire Presidio into an enlarged Letterman Hospital came to naught. In 1927 local interests launched a campaign calling for sale of the post, presumably to real estate agents eager to subdivide the prime lands.[40] The Presidio seemed to be on its way to being declared surplus property. Many of the coastal batteries were disarmed and used as storage facilities following a review that declared most of them obsolete. Despite these apparent threats of closure, the Army maintained the post and kept it continuously manned and prepared to defend San Francisco Bay.

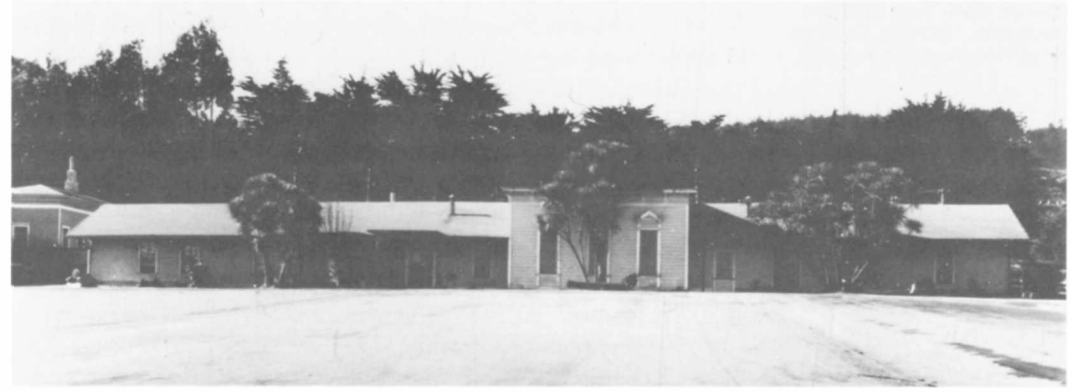
Two major events of the 1930s brought dramatic alterations to the appearance of the Presidio: the bridging of the Golden Gate (1933-1937) and the Great Depression. Because the approaches to the proposed new Golden Gate Bridge were to lie on Army land, local commanders voiced opposition to the project. In the end, however, their objections were overruled by the grudging approval of the Secretary of War.[41] The approaches to the south end of the bridge divided the Presidio into four parts. An elevated approach, Doyle Drive, ran along the extreme southern edge of Crissy Field, while Park-Presidio Boulevard crossed the post from north to south. The Funston Avenue approach and the Park-Presidio Tunnel were opened to bridge traffic in 1940.

In exchange for use of Presidio land and for the four structures that had to be relocated or demolished for the bridge, the Bridge District constructed a number of new buildings on post. The new buildings included several fire control stations for the coastal defense batteries, a rifle range, a series of maintenance shops, quarters for two general officers, gas stations, a central ammunition magazine, and drainage and sewage systems. Most of these are located in the vicinity of Fort Winfield Scott. The Bridge District also erected three small reserve ammunition magazines (Bldgs. 631-633) at Crissy Field.[42] Total cost of improvements at the Presidio associated with the construction of the bridge amounted to $575,000.[43]

The Depression of the 1930s also resulted in new construction at the Presidio. Several public relief projects took place on post toward the end of the decade. Massive unemployment associated with the economic decline resulted in a marked rise in military enlistments, as well as in the creation of large "armies" of public workers in the Works Progression Administration (WPA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and other programs. At the Presidio, much of the construction connected with the Golden Gate Bridge used these labor pools.

In 1934, under the direction of Quartermaster Captain Barney Meeden, WPA workers extensively remodeled the post officers' club (Bldg. 50). Meeden felt strongly that rebuilding the officers' club in the Spanish Colonial Revival style constituted a "restoration" of the original adobe portions of the structure. The result is a handsome and serviceable building which certainly would be viewed today as a modern interpretation rather than as restoration. The Army declared the officers' club a landmark, with its ornate "restoration," and incorrectly ascribed 1776 as the original construction date of the building. Meeden also oversaw construction of a post theater (Bldg. 99), located at the end of the brick barracks on the west side of the Main Parade Ground, and a new post chapel (Bldg. 135), situated next to the national cemetery and overlooking the Main Parade Ground. Both of these buildings exhibit the Spanish Colonial Revival style.[44]

Officers' Open Mess prior to "restoration." Courtesy of the Presidio Army Museum.



Officers' Open Mess following "restoration" (c.1933). Courtesy of the Presidio Army Museum.

The WPA projects constructed under Meeden's supervision were the impetus behind an Army program in the late 1930s and early 1940s to "restore" the Hispanic appearance of the Main Parade Ground, site of the original Spanish Presidio. In 1940 the Army erected two large concrete barracks (Bldgs. 38-39) along the eastern flank of the Main Parade Ground. Stylistically, these barracks reflect a more generally "Mediterranean" phase of the Spanish Colonial Revival and strengthen the impression of a stucco and red-tile U.S. Army interpretation of the Spanish Presidio. The officers' quarters constructed on Simmonds Loop in 1940 (Bldgs. 510-539) mark the last major use of these Spanish-derived styles on post.

The Second World War: 1941-1945

The Presidio continued to change and develop during the Second World War. The post, which formerly had been open to the public, was placed off-limits and the army positioned armed sentries at the gates. Under the provisions of Executive Order 9066, Sixth Army Commander General John L. DeWitt, headquartered at the Presidio (in Bldg. 35), declared much of the West Coast off-limits to and ordered the internment of thousands of Japanese and Japanese-Americans living in California, Oregon, and Washington. The Army established its first foreign language training school at the Presidio in a former hangar at Crissy Field (Bldg. 643). Ironically, the military used the school during the war to train Nisei (first generation United States-born children of Japanese immigrants) as translators, interpreters, and interrogators for the field forces.[45]

The Presidio served as the post from which General DeWitt commanded forces used in the assault of the Aleutian Islands, and Letterman Hospital served as a receiving facility for the wounded from the Pacific. With the exception of these activities, the Presidio played only a minor military role in the Second World War. Fort Mason, designated the Pacific Port of Embarkation, handled the troops and supplies bound for overseas duty. The Presidio did not even serve as a training ground as it had during the First World War, when the area now occupied by the golf course was turned into a "no-man's land" of trenches and barbed wire entanglements for the preparation of troops headed for France.[46] Letterman Hospital, however, became the largest debarkation hospital in the country, handling thousands of wounded and sick pouring in from the Pacific campaigns.[47]

The Army reactivated the Presidio's dormant harbor defense system during the war. Initially, headquarters for the San Francisco Harbor Defense were located in the Battery

Dynamite powerhouse (Bldg. 1398) at Fort Winfield Scott but by the end of the war a new underground facility served as the seacoast defense headquarters and control point for the entire bay. This installation was deactivated shortly after the end of hostilities.[48] A group of subsidiary structures at the Presidio, including reserve magazines, fire control stations, and a radio relay center, provided essential support services for the new sixteen-inch guns emplaced north and south of the Presidio, two each at Forts Cronkhite and Funston.

The Army constructed several dozen wooden temporary structures, mostly barracks, on post during the Second World War. Many of these buildings are extant, although they have been slated for demolition. Included in this category are a complex of barracks located at the end of the old runway at Crissy Field, a smaller group at French Court on the northern edge of the Main Parade Ground that were built as part of the wartime expansion of Letterman Hospital, the present offices of the Presidio Army Museum (Bldg. 3), and two bachelor officers' quarters (Bldgs. 40-41) located just off the Main Parade Ground near the officers' club.[49] Another complex of barracks built for Letterman Hospital stood near the present Department of Engineering and Housing complex in the northeast corner of the reservation, but these were razed in the 1970s.

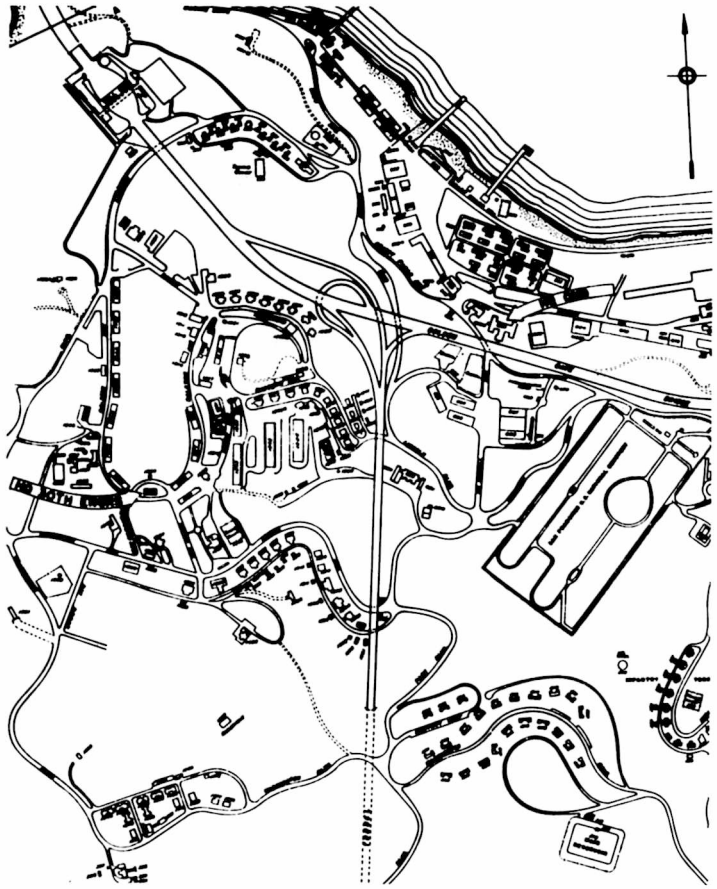
By the end of the Second World War the Presidio had undergone most of its major development and changes and looked much as it does today. The role of the post declined after the war, with many of its functions as headquarters for the Department of the Pacific removed to other locations. In 1946, with the closure of the Army's Coast Artillery School at Fort Scott and the disarmament of the remaining seacoast batteries, the future of the Presidio as an active post appeared in jeopardy.

The Cold War Years to the 1970s

Between 1945 and 1970 Army activity in the Presidio declined sharply. This situation resulted in renewed thoughts of closing the post or converting it to non-military uses. Despite these proposals, two major building programs took place on post during this period. In 1947-1948, as a result of a housing shortage associated with the return of thousands of soldiers from overseas, the Army converted many buildings into housing, including the Civil War-era officers' quarters along Funston Avenue, "an old radio station ... and administrative offices at Letterman. ... "[50] Construction also began on a new eighty-family housing project on the hill above Infantry Terrace. "Project Eucalyptus" logged and stripped the hillside of the dense forest planted under Major Jones' direction in 1883. Crews finished preparing the site in the summer of 1947 and the new housing (Bldgs. 401-425) opened for occupancy in 1948.[51] In 1953 a major construction project was launched in the southwest corner of the Presidio where the Army logged a large tract and contracted for the erection of the huge Wherry Housing complex for rental to families of enlisted soldiers.[52]

This work proceeded despite mounting cries for the post's closure. In 1946 the Truman administration offered, pending Congressional approval, to donate the Presidio reservation as a site for the headquarters of the United Nations if San Francisco was selected as its permanent meeting place. High replacement costs for Presidio real estate if the military moved out[52] and the choice of New York City for the home of the U.N. eliminated this potential world role for the Presidio.

Local real estate speculators, hoping to erect high-rise apartments at both the Presidio and Fort Mason, campaigned vigorously for the abandonment of the posts. However, United States involvement in the war in Korea brought increased



Map of Fort Winfield Scott. Courtesy of the Presidio Army Museum.

troop strengths to the Presidio. War also meant that increasing numbers of sick and wounded soldiers were brought to Letterman Hospital, which by the 1950s was the largest and most active operation on post. Coastal defense continued to play a part in the Presidio's mission but surface-to-air Nike missiles had replaced the artillery of earlier days. The Presidio served as the headquarters for the Nike missile sites scattered around the bay.

During the 1960s Letterman General Hospital continued to grow in size, particularly as American involvement in Southeast Asia escalated. In 1969, in order to cope with the increased demands on the hospital, the Army erected a ten-story reinforced concrete hospital building east of the existing Letterman Army Medical Center. A theater added to the north side of this structure in 1975 further expanded the Medical Center. In 1976, the Medical Center was joined by the Western Medical Institute of Research, later known as the Letterman Army Institute of Research, to form the present Letterman Army Medical Center complex. Several substantial officers' family housing projects also reached completion in the decades of the 1960s and 1970s.

In the early 1970s, agitation to close the Presidio began anew amidst plans of environmentalists and other concerned citizens to incorporate military lands around San Francisco Bay into an urban national park.

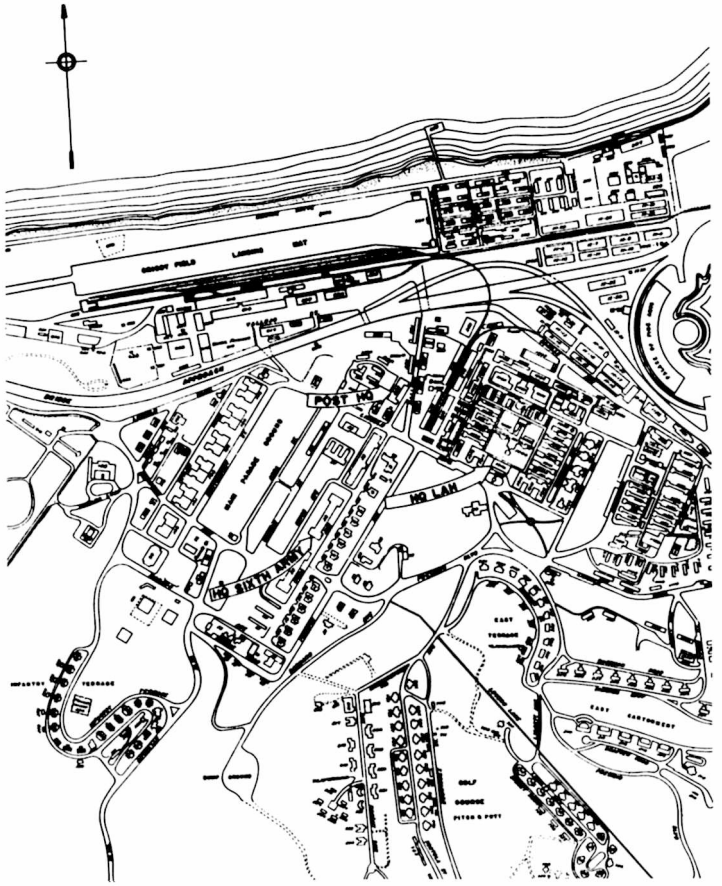
To the Present: 1970-1982

In 1971 Congress established the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) under the National Park Service, one of the nation's first urban national parks. The Presidio was thus saved from the possibility of being subdivided and developed

by private real estate interests in the event that the Army closed the facility.[54] The military, resisting plans for private development on post, wished to avoid closing the base. Included in the terms creating the Golden Gate National Recreation Area was an agreement with the Army that any land deemed surplus by the military would be turned over to the National Park Service for management.

The Army undertook little new construction on post during this period, concentrating instead on updating and centralizing existing services. Projects in this vein included construction of a new gymnasium, commissary, and post exchange. Unfortunately, several historic structures were judged surplus or outmoded and were destroyed. The last remaining building on the post from the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition and much of the original Letterman Hospital complex, possibly the single most historic complex of buildings on the entire post, were demolished during this period. This destruction, however, awakened a new concern for the post's significance and its historic structures. In 1974 the post established the Presidio Army Museum, and a series of investigations were undertaken to evaluate and assess historic structures at the Presidio.

In 1979 military and local officials successfully avoided a move to close the post and transfer the property in its entirety to the National Park Service. Additional legislation sought to preserve Presidio open space by requiring demolition of old structures equal in square footage to any new construction. More recently, the continued need for the Presidio and Letterman Army Medical Center has been publicized and plans for the post include several proposals for modernization.[55] It is hoped that this inventory of the Presidio's historic structures will assist the Army in maintaining the post as a useful and well-functioning establishment while retaining the historic character and values that have made it a National Historic Landmark.



Map of the Main Parade Ground. Courtesy of the Presidio Army Museum.

Footnotes

[1]Two aboriginal habitation sites, yielding human remains carbon-dated to 740 A.D. have been located on Presidio lands. Roger S. Kelly, *Archaeological Resources of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area* (San Francisco: National Park Service, 1976), p.47; L.L. Loud, *Notes, Loud Mound 417,* Mss., Lowie Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley.

[2]Alta California refers to upper California, the part now belonging to the United States as opposed to lower or Baja California. The term Alta California was first used by Eusebio Francisco Kino when he discovered that California was not an island during his exploration of the Colorado River in 1702. The current border was fixed by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848. David Lavender, *California: A Land of New Beginnings.* (NY: Harper & Row, 1972), p.33.

[3]John P. Langellier, *Bastion by the Bay: A History of the Presidio of San Francisco, 1776-1906,* unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KN (1982), pp. 90-92.

[4]Donald Biggs, *Conquer and Colonize: Stevenson's Regiment and California.* (San Rafael, CA: Presidio Press, 1977), p.xv.

[5]*Ibid,* p.98.

[6]Langellier (1982), pp.70-71.

[7]Gladys Hansen, *The San Francisco Almanac* (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1975), p.10.

[8]Langellier (1982), p.97.

[9]John W. Dwinelle, *The Colonial History of the City of San Francisico* (San Francisco: Towne and Bacon, 1867), p.221.

[10]Erasmus D. Keyes, *From West Point to California* (Oakland: Biobooks, 1950), p.5.

[11]Langellier (1982), pp.101-103.

[12]Robert J. Chandler, "The Velvet Glove: The Army During the Secession Crisis in California, 1860-1861," *Journal of the West* v. 20 (October 1981), p.35.

[13]See the plans for the Civil War buildings at the Presidio in the National Archives, Record Group 77.

[14]D.D. Wheeler, *Plan for a Set of Company Quarters at the Presidio.....*(July 1885), National Archives, Record Group 77, drawing 90.

[15]C.F. Humphrey, *Plan for Constructing an Additional Story to Barracks for Foot Companies at the Presidio....* (c.1884-85), National Archives, Record Group 77.

[16]*Outline Description of Military Posts and Reservations in the United States and Alaska and of National Cemeteries* (Washington: GPO, 1904), pp.378-383.

[17]Anonymous, *History of the Presidio* at the San Francisco Public Library—San Francisco History Collection.

[18]W.A. Jones, *Plans for the Cultivation of Trees Upon the Presidio Reservation* (San Francisco: Engineer's Office, 26 March 1883), pp.2-3.

[19]Emanuel R. Lewis, *Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History* (Annapolis: Leeward Publications, 1966).

[20]Erwin N. Thompson, *Historic Resource Study: Seacoast Fortifications, San Francisco Harbor, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California* (Denver: National Park Service, 1979), pp.134-180.

[21]John A. Martini, "List of Presidio Artillery Coastal Defense Batteries," in Gordon S. Chappell, ed., *The Presidio of San Francisco, 1776-1976: A Collection of Historical Source Materials* (San Francisco: National Park Service, 1976), pp.338-347.

[22]Langellier (1982), p.196.

[23]H.H. Rutherford, *History of the U.S. Army General Hospital, Presidio of San Francisco* (San Francisco: U.S. Army, 1905), pp.5-6; and Paul Pinckney, "Our Largest Army Hospital," *The Overland Monthly,* 2nd series, v.36 (July-December 1900), p.489.

[24]*Building Book: Fort Winfield Scott* (1910-1943). Presidio Army Museum, San Francisco.

[25]*San Francisco Chronicle* (11 December 1895).

[26]*Building Book: Fort Winfield Scott.*

[27]James P. Delgado, *The Bensley Water System: The Politics, Planning, and Construction of San Francisco's First Permanent Water Supply System* (1980). Mss at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, National Park Service, San Francisco.

[28]*San Francisco Call* (21 April 1911).

[29]*San Francisco Call* (21 April 1911).

[30]*Ibid.*

[31]David Gebhard, "The Spanish Colonial Revival in Southern California: 1895-1930," *Society of Architectural Historians Journal* (May 1967), pp.133-134.

[32]*Building Book: Fort Winfield Scott.*

[33]*San Francisco Call* (21 April 1911).

[34]Marcus Whiffin, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles* (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1969), p.213.

[35]Joseph Jeremiah Hagwood, Jr., *Engineers at the Golden Gate: A History of the San Francisco District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1866-1980* (San Francisco: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1981), p.220.

[36]*The Historic Presidio of San Francisco.* A series of historical essays written and compiled by NPS Historian Gordon Chappell and distributed by the Presidio Public Relations Division.

[37]*Building Book: Fort Winfield Scott.*

[38]John P. Langellier, *Birdmen Over the Bay: Early Bay Area Aviation, 1849-1936* (1980). Mss at Presidio Army Museum, San Francisco, p.16.

[39]*Ibid.*, p.19.

[40]John P. Langellier, "The Presidio: Is It Too Tough to Die?," *Star Presidian* (23 March 1979), p.6.

[41]Thompson (1979), pp.289-290.

[42]*Building Book: Buildings 500-699* (1910-1943). At Presidio Army Museum, San Francisco.

[43]Joseph B. Strauss, *The Golden Gate Bridge: Report of the Chief Engineer to the Board of Directors of the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District* (San Francisco: Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District, 1938), pp.31-52.

[44]Strauss (1938), p.58.

[45]Interview with Eric Saul, Director, Presidio Army Museum (9 August 1981).

[46]Interview with J. Edward Green, Curator of Collections, Presidio Army Museum (27 August 1981).

[47]Langellier, *Star Presidian,* p.6.

[48]Thompson (1979), p.378.

[49]*Building Book: 1-199.*

[50]*Star Presidian* (3 June 1947).

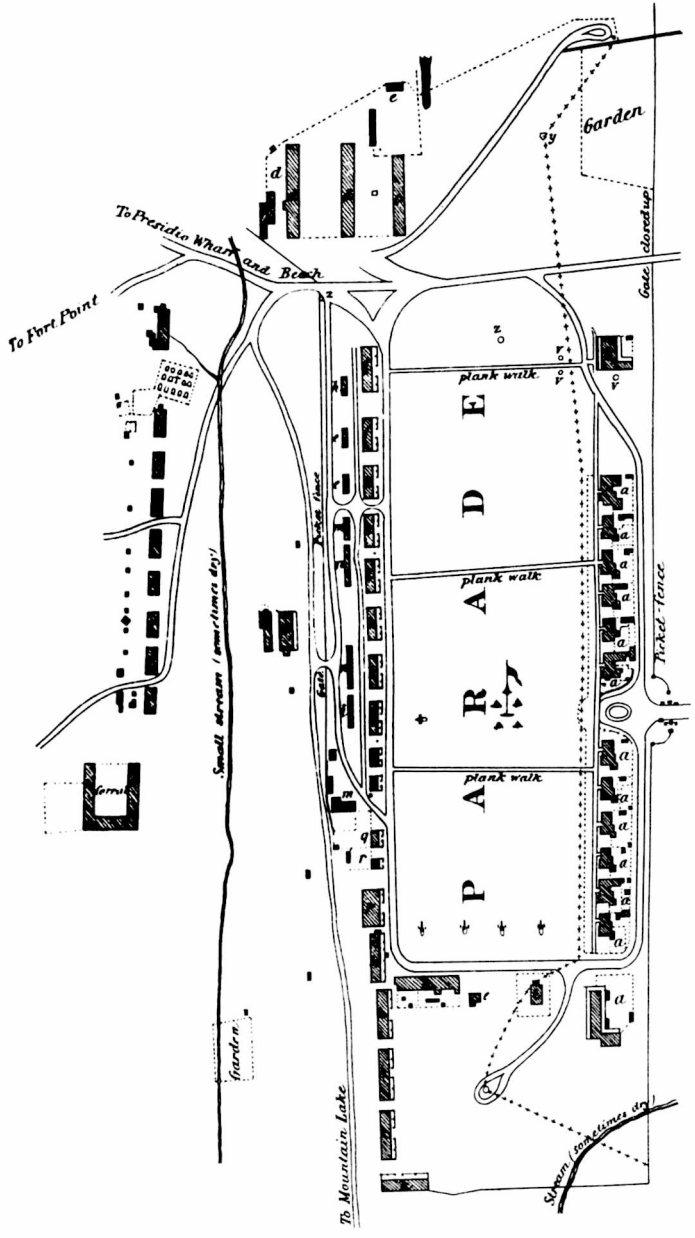
[51]*Building Information Schedule: Presidio of San Francisco (AR 210-20)* (1980).

[52]*Ibid.*

[53]Langellier, (1982), p.276.

[54]John Hart, *San Francisco's Wilderness Next Door* (San Rafael, CA: 1978).

[55]Presidio of San Francisco, Directorate of Facilities Engineering, *Master Plan Map* (1980).



Bibliographic Notes

Several excellent studies have been made of various aspects of Presidio history. These should be consulted for information regarding the general history of the post and its significance in the development of the Pacific slope. A partial, annotated list of these studies follows.

John P. Langellier's *Bastion of the Bay: A History of the Presidio of San Francisco, 1776-1906,* Kansas State University (Manhattan, KN), 1982, an unpublished doctoral dissertation, is an invaluable source on the general history of the Presidio. Langellier makes good use of original documents held in the National Archives. Future publication of this study is anticipated.

Gordon S. Chappell, Regional Historian for the National Park Service's Western Region, has assembled a useful collection of historical documents dealing with the Presidio. *The Presidio of San Francisco, 1776-1976: A Collection of Historical Source Materials* contains the compilation of sources assembled in the 1930's by William Howard Knowles for the Historic American Building Survey (HABS), as well as several hard-to-find official reports written between 1854 and 1904 which discuss the Presidio.

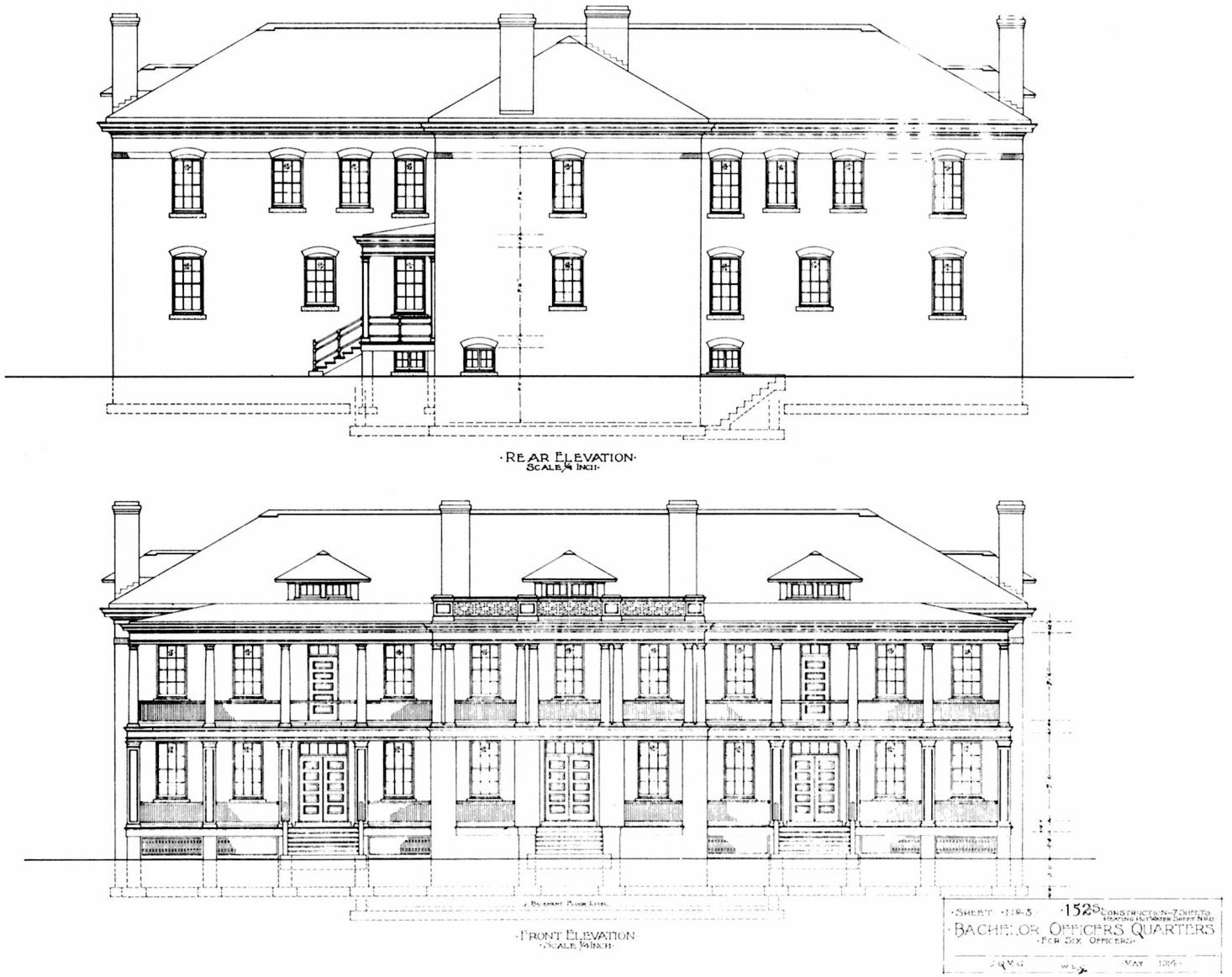
A particularly useful source of information on the coastal defense installations at the Presidio is Erwin N. Thompson's *Historic Resource Study: Seacoast Fortifications, San Francisco Harbor,* prepared by the National Park Service in 1979. Thompson discusses in great detail the progress of seacoast defense in the region from the time of the earliest Spanish batteries to the Nike missile system. The study was printed for internal use by the Park Service, however, copies are available in many major libraries and through the National Technical Information Service.

The important role played by Presidio troops in the preservation of the National Parks has received little attention. H. Duane Hampton's *How the U.S. Cavalry Saved Our National Parks,* published by the Indiana University Press in 1971, partially rectifies this problem.

Eric Saul and Don DeNevi's *The Great San Francisco Earthquake and Fire, 1906,* discusses in detail the Presidio's role in the relief effort mounted after the disaster.

A useful history of the Army's role in Northern California was compiled by the Workers of the Writers' Program of the WPA in Northern California. The publication of *The Army at the Golden Gate: A Guide to Army Posts in the San Francisco Bay Area* was co-sponsored by the Press Relations Officer, Headquarters Ninth Corps Area, U.S. Army, Presidio of San Francisco.

Another regional history that includes information on the Presidio is *Engineers at the Golden Gate: A History of the San Francisco District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1866-1980.* Produced under the direction of historian Joseph Jeremiah Hagwood, Jr., the book was published in San Francisco in 1981 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Elevation of Building 1330, Bachelor Officers' Quarters (1914). Courtesy of the Department of Facilities Engineering.

Building 2 (I): Army Hospital, later Wright Army Hospital (1864, 1878, 1889, 1897). Built to replace an earlier medical facility (c.1856); originally faced west onto the parade ground but was reoriented toward the east in 1878 along with other buildings on Funston Avenue. A morgue, since removed, built of brick and topped by a wood-frame prisoners' ward, stood at the SE corner of the building. A kitchen and dining room were added to the NW corner in 1889. A two-story octagonal ell was added to the north facade as a laboratory in 1897 by contractor A. McElroy. The building served as the main medical facility until the establishment of the Army General Hospital. It presently houses the Presidio Army Museum.

Buildings 5-16 (I): Officers' Quarters (1862, 1878, 1883-1884, 1947, 1965). Built as part of the Presidio expansion during the Civil War; were occupied by officers of the 9th Infantry Regiment in September 1862. In 1878 they were remodeled to face east onto Funston Avenue. Principal officers, including the Post Commander, Departmental Inspector General, Post Chaplain, Departmental Chief Quartermaster, and various field grade officers have occupied the residences. Exterior alterations and the addition of plumbing took place in 1883-1884; electricity was added in 1912. Several alterations have approximately doubled the size of the buildings which were converted to duplexes about 1947. Carports were erected at the rear of the houses in 1951 and reinforced concrete foundations added c.1965.

Building 36 (II): Military Police Headquarters (1885, 1900, 1940). Designed by Capt. Charles F. Humphrey, a locally stationed quartermaster officer. This two-story wood-frame structure is one of a pair of artillery barracks. A small wooden shed-type addition was added to the rear elevation in 1900 and electricity installed in 1912 when the building served as administrative offices. Before 1940 the top level of the veranda was enclosed with glazing, the original wooden sill and brick pier foundation was replaced with concrete piers, and modern fixtures were introduced. The lower portions of the veranda were glazed after 1940.

Building 42 (I): Pershing Hall (1903). Constructed by James Campbell as a Bachelor Officers' Quarters, replacing an earlier structure that burned in 1900.

Buildings 38-39 (III): Enlisted Men's Barracks (1940). Doorway detail to one of two massive structures, nearly identical in form, facing the Main Parade Ground.

Building 50 (III): Commandancia—Officers' Open Mess (1821-1830; 1934). The remnants of the original adobe walls—the sole surface remains of pre-U.S. structures at the Presidio—were enclosed in lathe and plaster and are now located at the front of the building. In 1847 occupying U.S. troops rebuilt the crumbling adobe and joined the two wings of the Commandancia with a plaster and wood infill structure. The building underwent extensive remodeling during the summer of 1934 by the WPA under the supervision of Quartermaster Barney Meeden. Considered a "restoration" at the time this Spanish Colonial Revival dramatically reveals the state of the art and philosophy of historic preservation in the 1930s.

Buildings 51, 64 (I): Officers' Family Housing (1889, 1927, c.1965). Built by contractor S.J. Wilkens. These single-story wood-frame houses were patterned after buildings at Fort Thomas, Arizona Territory.

Buildings 56-59 (I): Officers' Quarters (1885). The only Queen Anne/Stick Style structures at the Presidio; designed by Capt. Daniel D. Wheeler of the Presidio Quartermaster's Office. Troops built the foundations and basements in concrete, brick, and rubblework. Contractor John J. Crowley built the structures above the foundations.

Building 65 (I): Officer Family Housing (c.1893, c.1965). Built by J.K. Dalmas. This is the only building at the Presidio exhibiting elements of the Second Empire style. A new brick and concrete foundation was added in the mid-1960s.

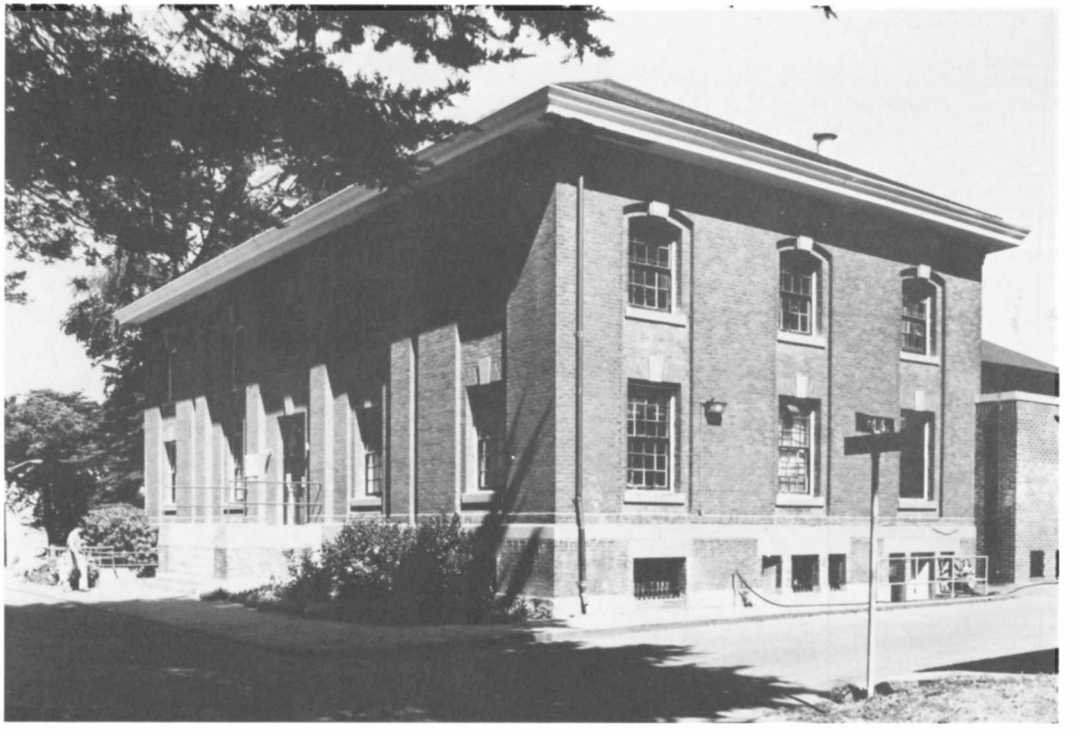
Buildings 86-87 (II): Barracks (1862). Built during the first major expansion of the Presidio. These two buildings comprised part of a row of single-story infantry barracks along the west side of the Main Parade Ground. In 1885, during substantial alterations associated with the building programs of the Indian Wars (1865-1890) the barracks received an additional story, either by removing the roof and constructing a new story or by jacking up the original structure and constructing a new story below (if the former is the case then very little of the original design remains). About 1912 electric lights were installed and the second story verandas enclosed with wood siding and glazing to provide office space.

Building 95 (II): Ammunition Storage (1863). Constructed of local stone, this 23′ x 28′ structure served as the post magazine and stood outside the boundaries of the original Main Parade Ground. During the 1890s when the Army developed the new Main Parade, the magazine was abandoned because of its proximity to the new parade. The present Spanish tile hipped roof was constructed in 1940.

Building 106 (I): Band Barracks with Mess (1909). Traditionally, barracks for military bands were superior to those for regular troops as seen in this 37-man military band barracks (as compared to Bldgs. 101-105).

Buildings 101-105 (I): Enlisted Men's Barracks with Mess (1895-1897). Five barracks fronting the western edge of the Main Parade Ground built at costs ranging from $36,900 to $54,700. Frederick Funston, then commander of the Presidio, believed them overly strong and disliked their aesthetics, preferring concrete Mission Revival style structures. Architectural Historian David Gebhard considers this row to form "one of the city's finest street facades."

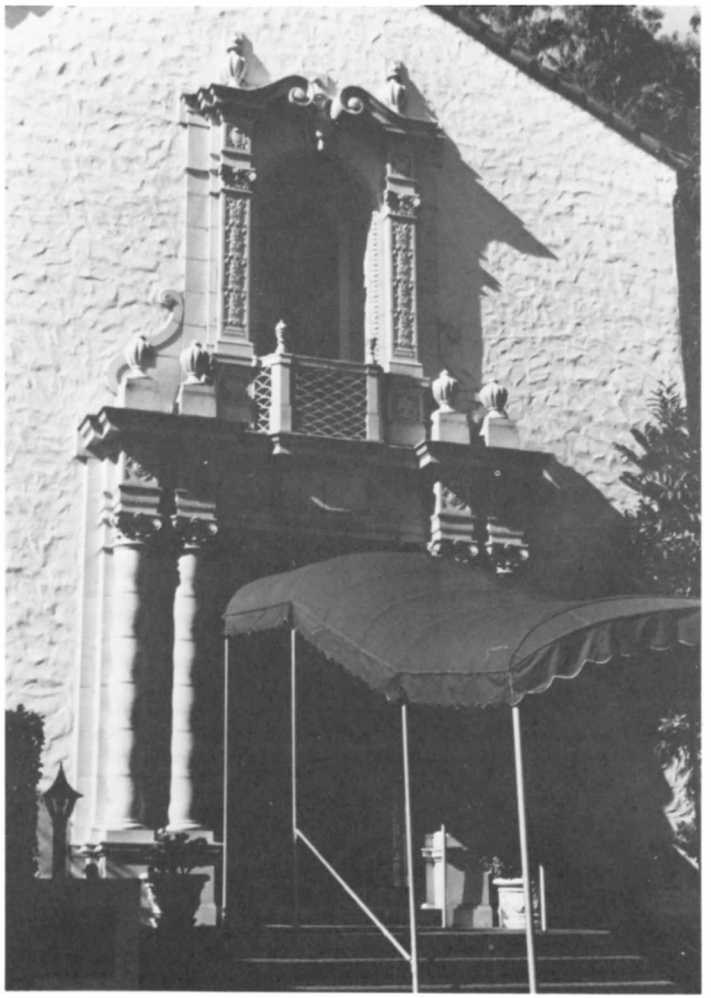
Building 116 (I): Sutler's House (1885,1897). Built for Italian immigrant Angelo Barreta, operator of the Presidio's sutler's or post trader's store. The sutler operated the contract service that was the forerunner of the modern post exchange and commissary. In 1891 the Army acquired the building and in 1897 adapted it for use as an enlisted men's barracks. This is the only structure on the post constructed for civilian commercial purposes. It now houses the chaplain's and other offices.



Building 122 (II): Gymnasium (1904, 1974). Imposing classical facade originally used for the post gymnasium; currently used for offices and a craft shop. The south side brick addition was added in 1974.

Buildings 124-126 (II): Enlisted Family Housing (1909). The first brick duplexes built at the Presidio, they served as models for other groups of brick duplexes built during the 1930s.

Building 130 (III): Chapel (1932). This two-story cruciform church in the Spanish Colonial Revival style was completed by the Works Progress Administration. A large interior wall mural entitled "The Peacetime Activities of the Army" was painted in 1935 by Victor Arnautoff and assistants as a California Emergency Relief Administration project.



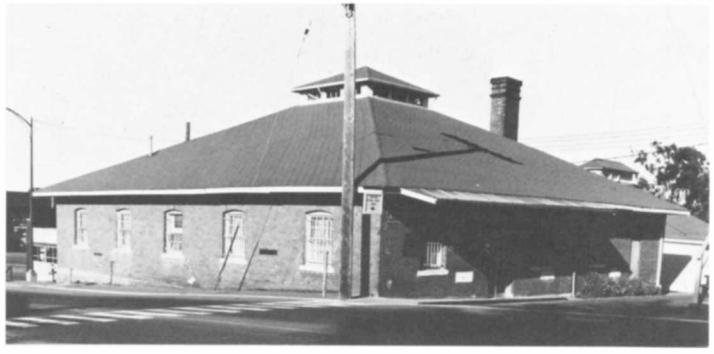
Building 156: Pacific Garrison Memorial (1897). Dedicated to the Regular Army and Navy Union by the Pacific Coast Garrison. San Francisco National Military Cemetery established by the U.S. Army at the Presidio in 1884.

Building 204 (II). Exchange Store (1896). One of the oldest extant exchange stores on post. Built during the Presidio's expansion in the late 1890s and early 1900s in response to the increased U.S. presence in the Pacific.

Building 218 (II): Fire Station (1917). Built in the wake of a series of tragic fires at the post; the only fire-fighting facility at the Presidio and one of the first fire stations to be built on an American military post.

Buildings 223, 227 (II): Warehouses (1897). Built as part of the complex of Quartermaster, Commissary, and Ordnance warehouses along Halleck St., just north of the new Main Parade Ground. Complex is part of the major construction and reconstruction of post in brick begun about 1890.

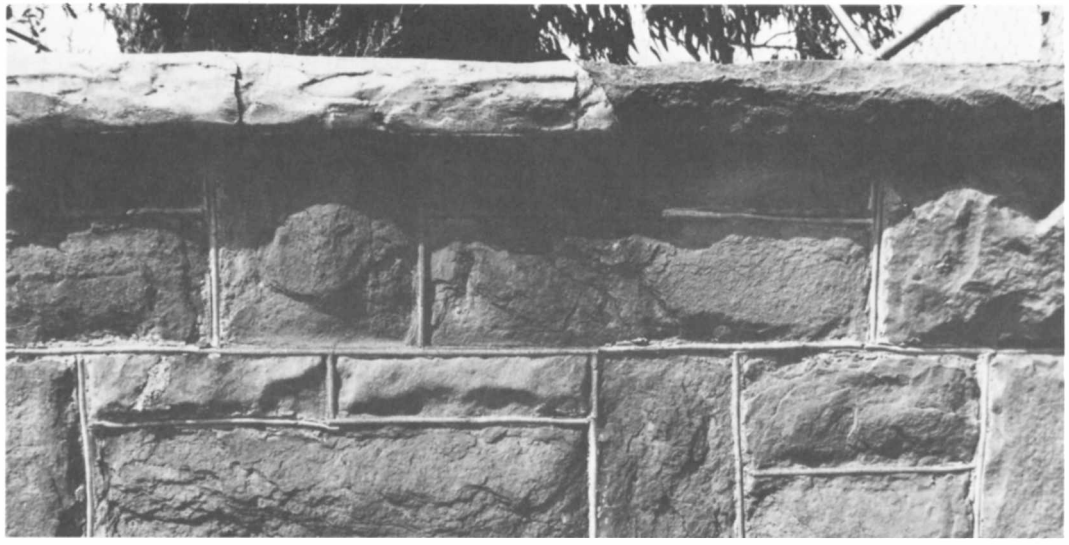
Building 225 (II): Storage (1910). Part of the warehouse complex on Halleck Street.



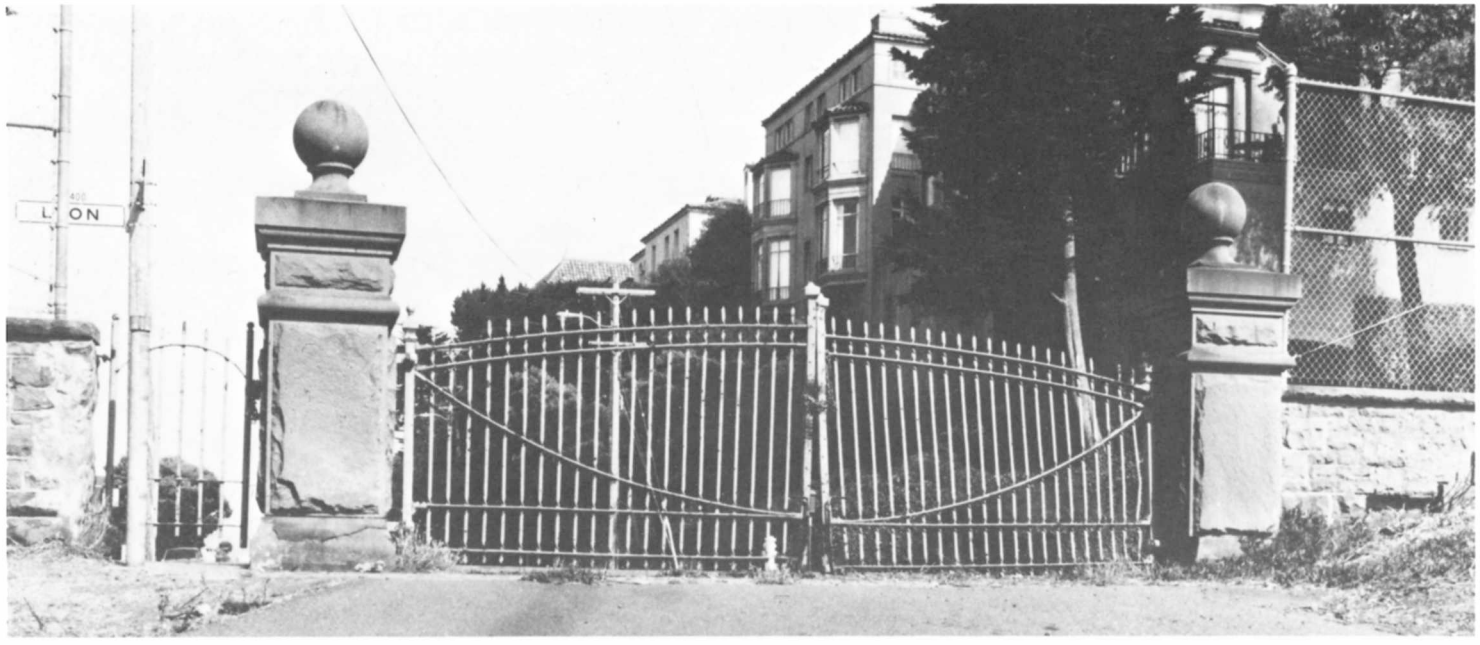
Building 228 (II): Bakery (1909). Now used for a dry cleaner and laundry.

Buildings 540-541, 542, 546, 548, 550-551 (II): Officer Family Housing (1917). Seven nearly identical duplexes stylistically representing an early and simple example of the Mediterranean phase of Spanish Colonial Revival.

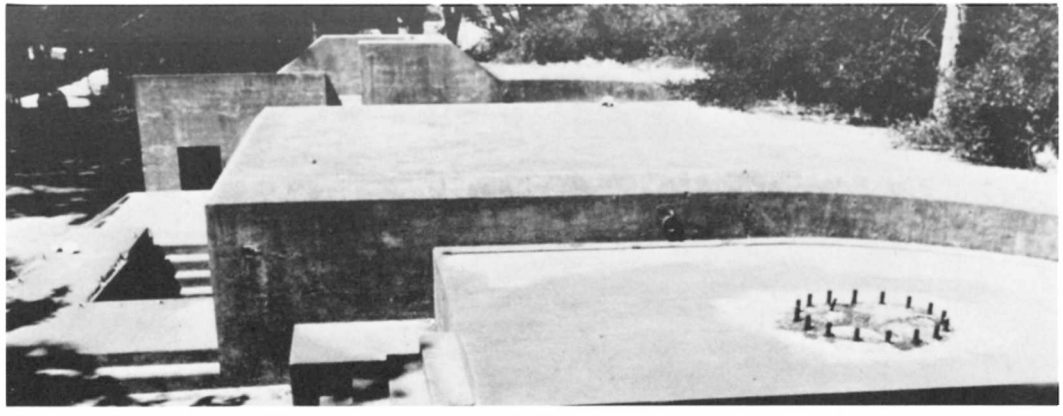
Buildings 563, 566-567, 569, 772 (I): Enlisted Barracks without Mess (1903, 1909). Single-story cavalry barracks; housed troops, many belonging to black regiments who patrolled California's national parks prior to the creation of the National Park Service in 1916.



Building 575 (II): Lombard Street Entrance and Detail of Presidio Boundary Wall (1894-1897). Boundaries of Presidio, established in 1850, remained unenclosed until 1896. The capped stone wall, rock-faced stone pylons, and iron gates were designed by architect J.B. Whittemore. Carving on pylons at Lombard Street entrance include military insignia and representations of "Liberty" and "Victory."



Building 578 (II): Broadway Street Entrance Gates (c.1896-1897). Erected as part of the original enclosure of the Presidio.

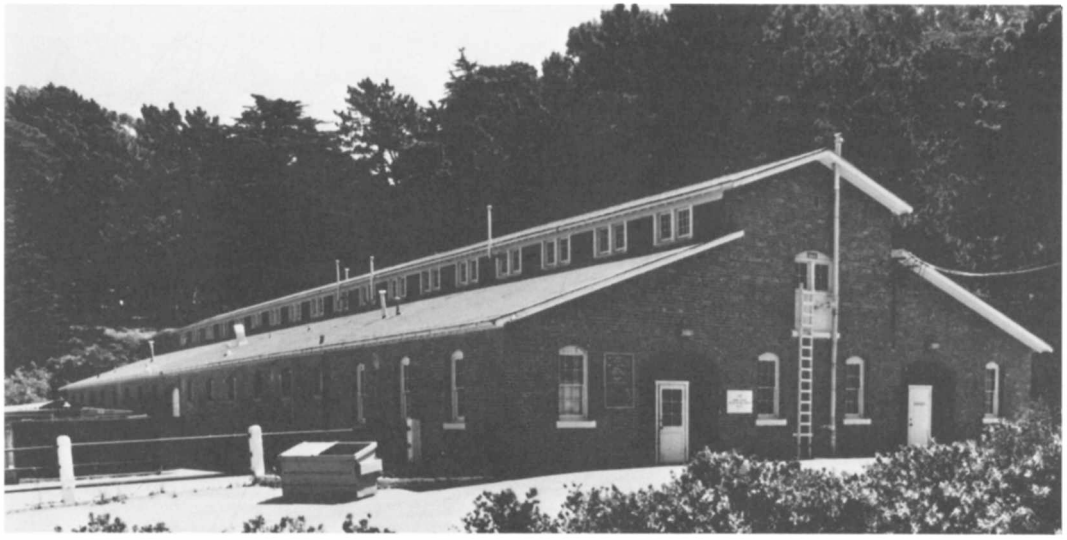


Building 636 (I): Battery Sherwood (1900-1901, 1920). Structure flanked by two elevated command and observation posts reached by stairways; only battery of its type in San Francisco coastal defenses. Work began on this emplacement following the government's 1899 approval of the construction of a battery for two five-inch nondisappearing rapid fire guns for San Francisco seacoast defenses.

Building 635 (l): Battery Blaney (1901, 1920). Built just below the national cemetery; part of a national program of seacoast defenses initiated by the Endicott Board. Located on a bluff overlooking San Francisco Bay, the reinforced concrete structures, designed to cover the area of an inner minefield inside the Golden Gate, are protected by earthworks and covered with vegetation. The two-story structure had four depressed semi-circular gun pits, originally mounting four 15-pounder, 3-inch rapid fire guns on Driggs-Seabury balanced pillar mounts. Its guns removed in 1920, the battery served as an air raid shelter and storage facility during the Second World War.

Building 643 (l): Aircraft Hangar—Crissy Field (1923). Built as an aircraft hangar for the Army's air base; housed the Defense Language Institute, first of its type in the nation, during the Second World War.

Building 650 (l): Enlisted Men's Barracks with Mess—Crissy Field (1921). Built as enlisted men's barracks for the airfield and now used as offices; named Stillwell Hall in 1946 for General Joseph Stillwell.



Buildings 661-663, 667-668 (I): Stables (1913-1914, 1963-1964). Last stable complex constructed prior to Army's substitution of motor for animal transport. The stables, along with the former animal crematorium and pet cemetery, form a cohesive grouping that architecturally defines the small valley in which it is located. The buildings are currently used as warehouses, an auto shop, and veterinary hospital.

Building 682 (I): Enlisted Men's Barracks with Mess (1902). Built on a hill above the complex of stables, this barracks was intended to house cavalry troops. It is the best example on post of a Colonial Revival structure realized in wood and the only extant wooden barracks on post of this type and style.

Buildings 718, 722, 726, 730, 750, 753-754, 757-758 (III): Enlisted Family Housing (1939). These residences help to form the Presidio's coherent and well preserved Georgian Revival neighborhood and document the style's evolution in the post's twentieth-century domestic architecture.

Buildings 727, 731 (III): Enlisted Family Housing (1933). Simple examples of Georgian Revival style common for domestic buildings.

Building 935 (I): Aero Storehouse—Crissy Field (1921). Part of the original Crissy Army Airfield complex, one of the first Army air bases in the U.S.; now used for offices.

Building 984 (I): Torpedo Wharf (1908, 1941). Originally built by the Quartermaster Department as a mine (torpedo) loading wharf. It was completely rebuilt in reinforced concrete with concrete piles in 1941. It is presently used as a fishing pier—part of Fort Point National Historic Site.

Buildings 952-964 (II): Officer Family Housing—Crissy Field (1921). Roughly identical two-story houses with architectural features from both Colonial Revival and Mediterranean phase of Spanish Colonial Revival; built as quarters for pilots based at Crissy Field.

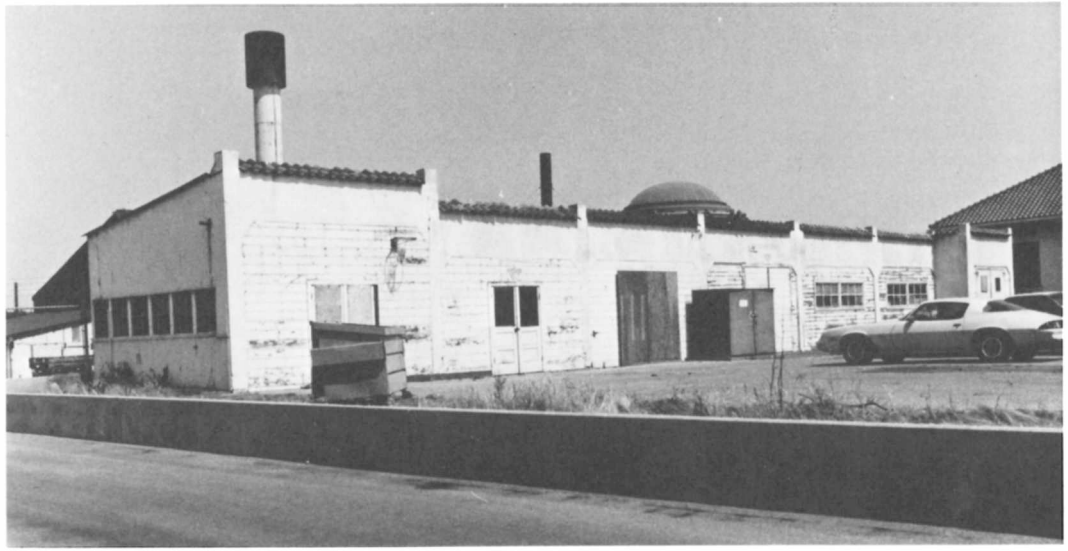
Buildings 985-986 (I): Mine Loading Houses (1908). One of the three mine depots that formed a vital part of the harbor defense of San Francisco Bay through the Second World War.

Building 1000 (I): Officer Family Housing—Letterman General Hospital (1902). One of a series of officers' residences along O'Reilly Street associated with the original Army General Hospital complex.

Building 1002 (I): Officer Family Housing—Letterman General Hospital (1908).

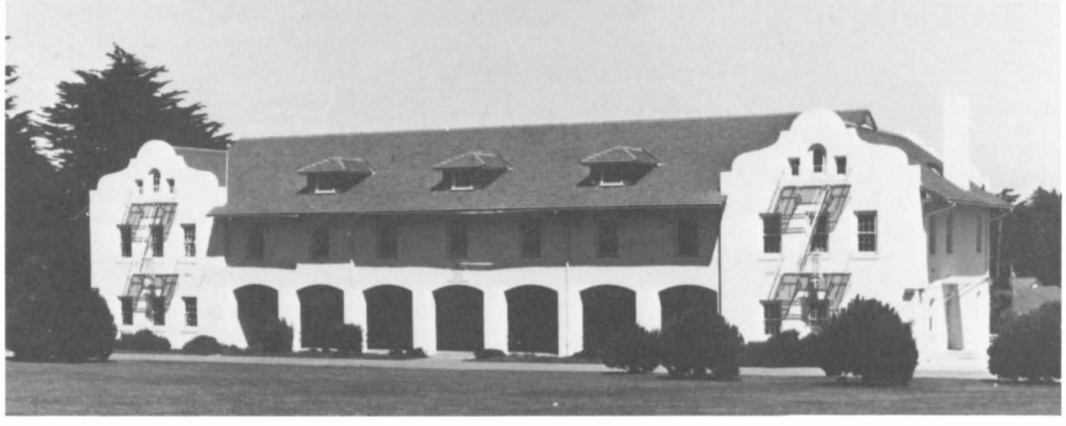
Buildings 1020, 1022, 1024, 1026 (II): Nurses' Quarters-Letterman General Hospital (1915-1916, 1930-1931, 1936). One of a series of four interconnected buildings, originally nurses' quarters and now used as the Thompson guest house.

Buildings 1160-1163, 1167, 1169-1170, 1182-1188 (II): Warehouses (1917-1919). These two First World War-era complexes comprise the largely intact district of "typical" temporary support facilities constructed in large numbers at Army posts during this period. This area of the post served as the Presidio's major supply depot through the Second World War.



Building 1065 (II): Post Exchange Service Station (1919). Originally built as a service station associated with the post exchange; substantially altered for its present use as an incinerator and store house.

Building 1201 (l): Coast Artillery District Headquarters—Fort Scott (1912). Part of the Fort Winfield Scott complex, one of the major building projects in the Presidio's history. The development of Ft. Scott created a new social and administrative complex somewhat competitive with the older center of the main post.



Buildings 1202-1208, 1216-1218 (l): Enlisted Men's Barracks—Fort Scott (1910-1912). Built to house the Coast Artillery troops stationed at Ft. Scott.

Building 1213 (I): Post Stockade—Fort Scott (1912, altered). The large double brackets, geometric frieze, and lack of the characteristic curvilinear parapets make this structure unusual for the Ft. Scott parade ground.

Building 1214 (I): Artillery Band Barracks—Fort Scott (1912). Part of the cohesive Ft. Scott complex demonstrating the Mission Revival phase of the Spanish Colonial Revival. The Band Barracks is more embellished than the other barracks at Ft. Scott, again demonstrating the tendency to provide superior quarters for band personnel.

Building 1308 (I): Officer Family Housing—Fort Scott. (1910).

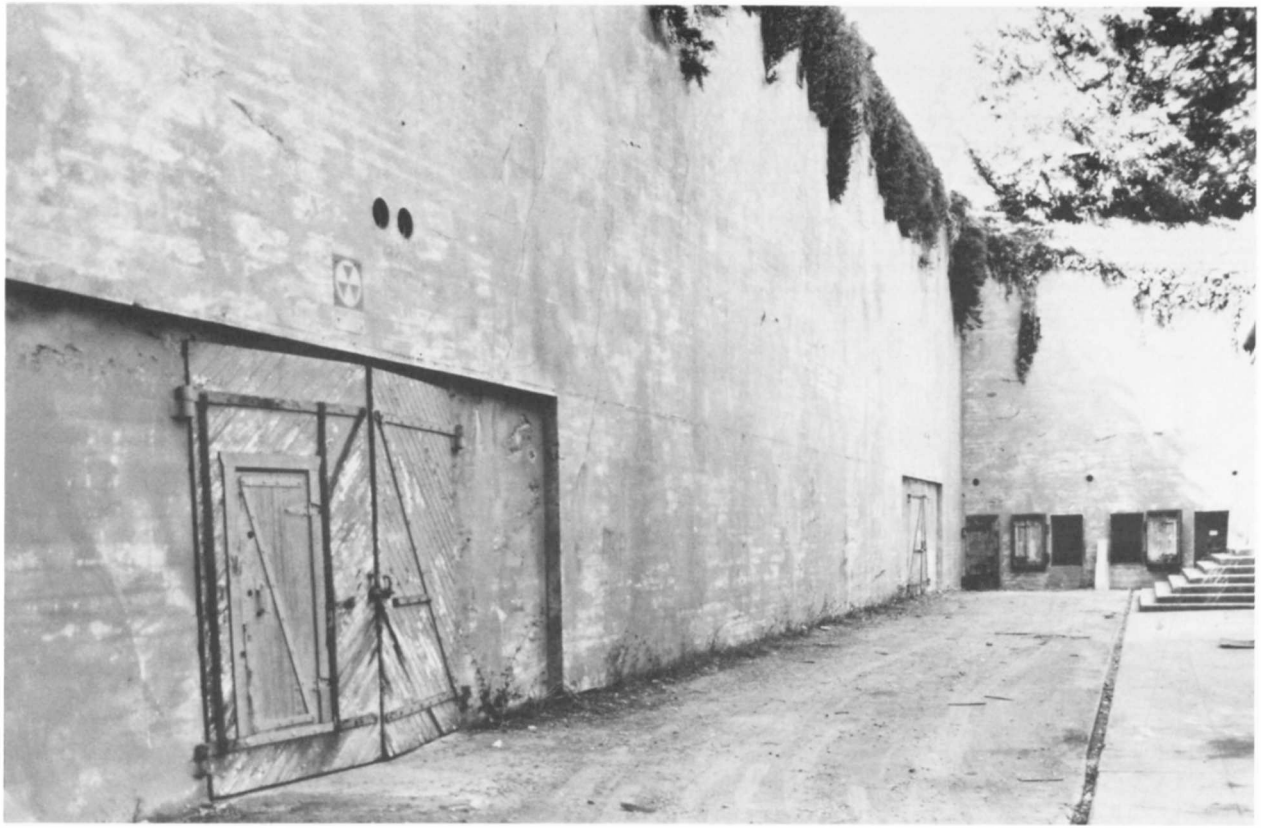
Building 1224 (I): Infirmary—Fort Scott (1912). The 12-bed infirmary is presently used for offices.

Buildings 1314, 1322, (l): Officer Family Housing—Fort Scott (1912). Built as officer family housing for the Coast Artillery garrison at Fort Scott.

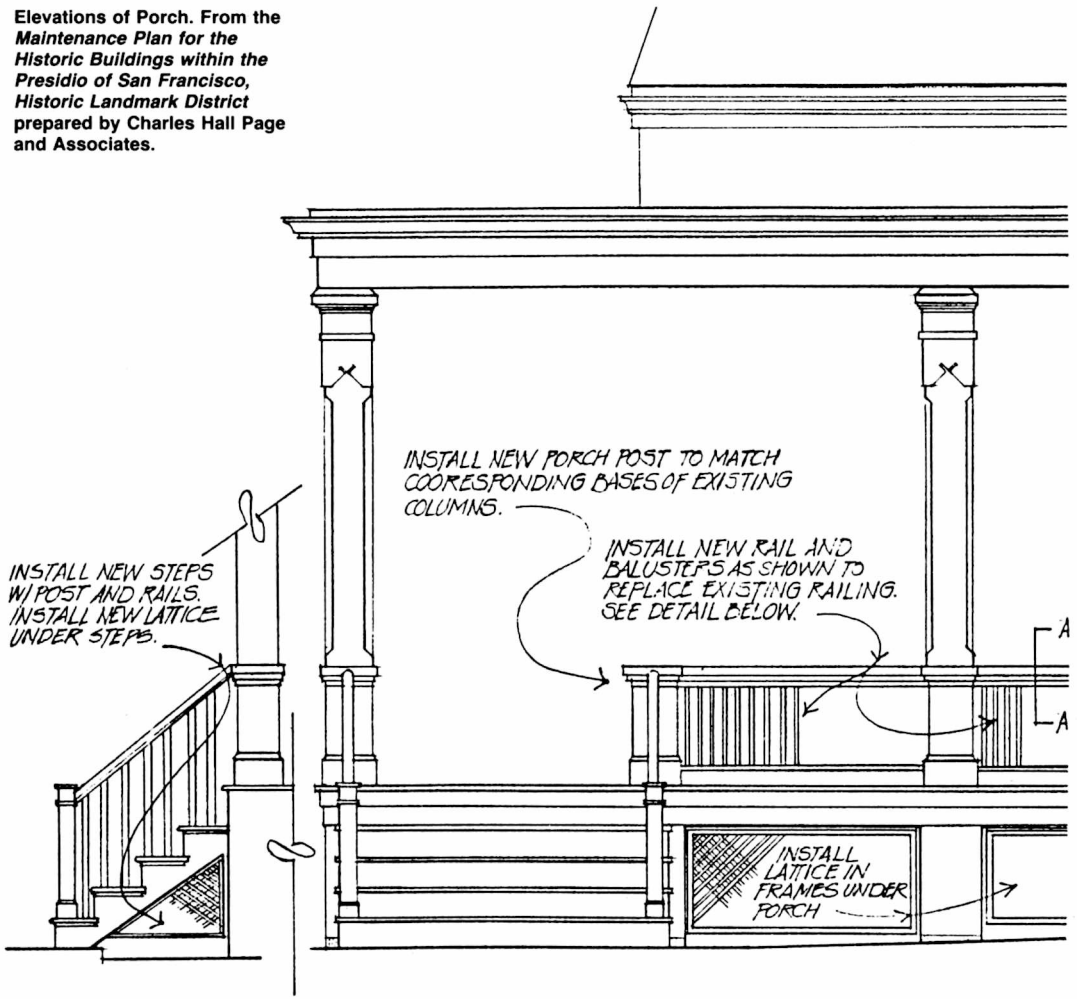
Building 1334 (l): Officer Family Housing—Fort Scott (1912). Predominantly Colonial Revival officer family housing built for Coast Artillery troops at Fort Scott still in use for its original purpose.

Building 1354 (I): Battery Saffold (1896-1897, c.1943). Two-story reinforced concrete structure with earthworks, two recessed gun pits, battery command stations, and underground magazines. Battery Saffold originally mounted two 12-inch rifles on Barbette carriages. Saffold was the only battery in the San Francisco defenses that could fire both seaward and into the bay. The guns were removed c.1943.

Building 1430 (I): Battery McKinnon-Stotsenberg (1897-1900). Battery Stotsenberg originally mounted sixteen 12-inch mortars. In 1906 two pits were separated from the rest of the battery and renamed Battery McKinnon.



Building 1399 (I): Battery Dynamite (1894-1895, 1898-1900, 1906, 1940s). This installation was one of two coastal batteries in the U.S. to mount dynamite guns experimentally; weapons using compressed air to fire charges of high explosive. The Pneumatic Torpedo & Construction Co. of N.Y. fabricated the three 15-inch dynamite guns, each weighing 50 tons with a 50-foot long barrel. Guns originally sat in the open, and in 1898 work began on a complex system of earthen traverses and concrete retaining walls to shelter the weapons and the brick powerhouse containing the engines and air compressors needed to fire the weapons. Construction was completed in 1900, the weapons declared obsolete in 1901, and all guns and machinery sold and removed from the site by 1904. The original brick powerhouse collapsed during the 1906 earthquake, as did the extant reinforced concrete structure built to serve as the central power plant for all the coastal batteries at Fort Scott. Two pillbox-style observation posts, connected to the main battery by tunnels, date from the period when the battery was used as a command post during the Second World War.



Elevations of Porch. From the *Maintenance Plan for the Historic Buildings within the Presidio of San Francisco, Historic Landmark District* prepared by Charles Hall Page and Associates.

Maintenance Plan

In September of 1981 the National Park Service, acting as agent for the U.S. Army, awarded to Charles Hall Page and Associates, Inc., San Francisco, a contract to provide a *Maintenance Plan for Historic Buildings within the Presidio of San Francisco Historic Landmark District*. This document provides a comprehensive maintenance plan that includes specific recommendations to the Presidio Facilities Engineer for the long-term, preservation-based maintenance of historic buildings of the Presidio National Historic Landmark District.

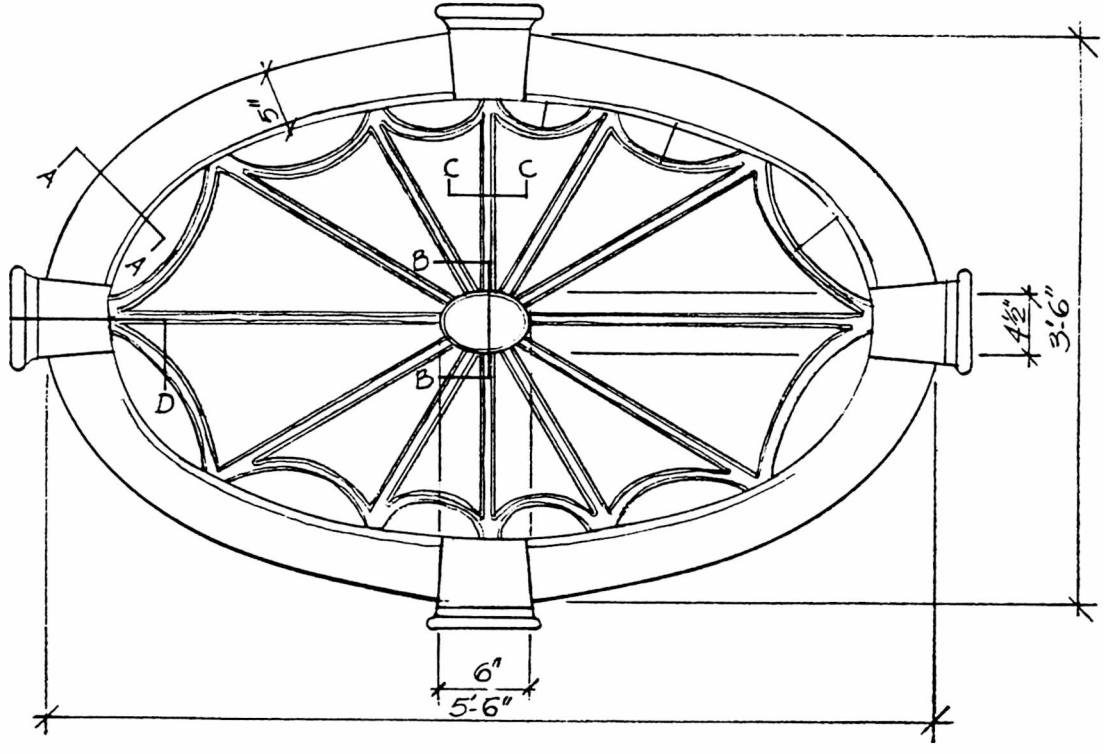
The issues involved in historic building maintenance cover a broad and complex spectrum. An attempt to develop a truly comprehensive maintenance plan for over 235 historic structures could easily have resulted in a "monster" plan so complex and intimidating that it would spend its life on the shelf. The format of the maintenance plan for the Presidio, however, has been specifically developed by the consultants, with guidance from the National Park Service and the Facilities Engineer's staff, to result in a document that is easy to *understand,* easy to *reference,* and easy to *use*. The format, as developed, is simple but not simplistic, consisting of five separate but interrelated sections: "Introduction" (I), "Maintenance Recommendations and Procedures" (II), "Drawings and Illustrations" (III), "Appendix" (IV), and "Historic Building Portfolios" (V). Complete instructions for the use of each section are provided.

The "Introduction" describes what the plan is and how it is to be used. As the major text of the report, it should be read by everyone who is to use or refer to the plan. The second section, "Maintenance Recommendations and Procedures," contains written recommendations that respond to the preservation problems identified at the Presidio. The third section contains the drawings necessary to illustrate the recommendations and procedures section, and the Appendix contains all reference materials for the plan.

The fifth and final section consists of the Historic Building Portfolios and constitutes the major portion of the plan. There are 53 individual dossiers, one for each building type covered in the plan. These dossiers are separate from the text portion of the report; however, they are to be used in conjunction with the text. All five sections of the plan should be kept together as a unit to ensure proper coordination among the parts: the sections are indexed by a multiple decimal point system for quick referencing and cross-referencing.

Ultimately, the *Maintenance Plan for Historic Buildings within the Presidio of San Francisco Historic Landmark District* will be incorporated into the Army's master plan for the overall management of the post.

Elliptical-Gable Window. From the *Maintenance Plan for Historic Buildings within the Presidio of San Francisco, Historic Landmark District,* prepared by Charles Hall Page and Associates, Inc.



NOTE: WINDOW CAN BE MADE OPERABLE BY INSERTION OF PIVOT BAR @ CENTER.
ALL PANES ARE CLEAR GLASS

Building Types

CATEGORY 1 STRUCTURES

Building Number(s)	Historic Name (Common Name)
2	Wright Army Hospital (Presidio Army Museum)
4	Officer Family Housing
5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12, 13,14,15,16	Officer Family Housing
42	Pershing Hall (Officers' Guest House)
51,64	Officer Family Housing
56,57,58,59	Officer Family Housing
65	Officer Family Housing
100	Enlisted Men's Barracks w/Mess
101,102,103,104,105	Enlisted Men's Barracks w/Mess
106	Band Barracks w/o Mess (Administration Building)
116	Sutler's House (Relig. Ed. Bldg.)
563,566,567,569,572	Enlisted Men's Barracks w/o Mess (Thrift Shop, Nursery, Kindergarten, Day Care Center,Nursery)
636	Battery Sherwood
643	Aircraft Hangar (Electrical Maintenance Shop)
650	Enlisted Men's Barracks w/Mess (Stillwell Hall)
651	Administration Building
654	Guard House (Procurement Building)
661,662,663,667,668	Stables (Warehouse, Autoshop, Warehouse, Storage/Guest House, Animal Hospital)

CATEGORY 1 STRUCTURES

Building Number(s)	Historic Name (Common Name)
682	Enlisted Men's Barracks w/Mess (Religious Facility)
920	Motor Repair Shop (Parachute Rigging Shop)
926,937	Hangars (Maintenance Shops)
933	Shop w/Dope and Boiler Houses (Storage Shed)
934	Motor Test Building (Maintenance Shop)
935	Aero Storehouse (Administration Building)
983	Warehouse
984	Torpedo Wharf (Fishing Dock)
985,986	Mine Loading Houses
989	Plumbing Shop
996	Seawall
1000	Officer Family Housing
1001	Officer Family Housing
1002	Officer Family Housing
1003,1004	Officer Family Housing
1201	Headquarters—Ft. Scott (Military Intelligence)
1202,1203,1204,1205, 1206,1207,1208,1216, 1217,1218	Enlisted Men's Barracks (Enlisted Men's Barracks, Education Center, Administration)
1213	Post Stockade—Ft. Scott (Postal)
1214	Band Barracks—Ft. Scott (Orderly Room)

CATEGORY I STRUCTURES

Building Number(s)	Historic Name (Common Name)
1219	Quartermaster's Storehouse/Bowling Alley—Ft. Scott (Classroom)
1220	Quartermaster's Office—Ft. Scott (Military Intelligence)
1224	Infirmary—Ft. Scott
1226	Gymnasium Assembly Hall, Post Exchange —Ft. Scott (PX and Assembly Hall)
1287	Battery Howe—Wagner
1300,1310	Officer Family Housing
1302	Officer Family Housing—Ft. Scott
1304	Officer Family Housing
1308	Officer Family Housing
1314,1322	Officer Family Housing
1320,1324,1326,1328	Officer Family Housing
1330	Bachelor Officer Quarters (Barnard Hall)
1334	Officer Family Housing
1337	Officer Family Housing
1344	Fire Control Station
1354	Battery Saffold
1398	Battery Dynamite Powerhouse (Telephone Exchange)
1399	Battery Dynamite
1430	Battery McKinnon—Stotsenberg

CATEGORY II STRUCTURES

Building Number(s)	Historic Name (Common Name)
35	Enlisted Men's Barracks w/Mess
36	Enlisted Men's Barracks (Military Police Headquarters)
85-87	Enlisted Men's Barracks w/Mess
95	Ammunition Magazine
122	Gymnasium (Craft Shop)
124,125,126	Enlisted Family Housing
150,151,152,153 154,155,156,167 158	San Francisco National Military Cemetery
201	Exchange Store
204	Exchange Store
210	Guard House (Bank, Post Office)
218	Fire Station
222	Warehouse (Military Courtroom)
223,227	Warehouses
225	Storage
228	Bakery (Dry Cleaners/Laundry)
229	Bakery (Credit Union)
301	Arguello Avenue Entrance Gate
325,326,327,328,329, 330,335,338,344,345	Officer Family Housing
331,334,336,337,339, 340,343	Officer Family Housing
332,333,342	Officer Family Housing
341	Officer Family Housing
540,541,542,546,548, 550,551	Officer Family Housing
543,545,547,549	Officer Family Housing
574	Presidio Boulevard Entrance Gate
575	Lombard Avenue Entrance Gates
578	Broadway Street Entrance Gates

CATEGORY II STRUCTURES

Building Number(s)	Historic Name
951	Bachelor Officer's Quarters (Scott Hall)
952,953,954,955,956, 957,958,959,960,961, 962,963,964	Enlisted Family Housing
966	Radio Receiving Station (Officer Family Housing)
1006	Bacteriological Laboratory—Letterman General Hospital
1007	Enlisted Women's Barracks (Medical Photo Lab)—Letterman General Hospital
1008,1009	Wards—Letterman General Hospital
1012,1013	Wards—Letterman General Hospital
1014	Outpatient Clinic—Letterman General Hospital
1016	Administration Building—Letterman General Hospital
1020,1022,1024	Nurses Quarters—Letterman General Hospital
1026	Thompson Guest House—Letterman General Hospital
1047	Disinfecting & Sterilizer Plant—Letterman General Hospital (Laundry)
1049	Bakery/20-Bed Ward—Letterman General Hospital
1050	Psychiatric Ward—Letterman General Hospital
1051	Detention Ward—Letterman General Hospital
1056	Animal House—Letterman General Hospital
1059	Combustibles Storage (Linen Service)—Letterman General Hospital
1060	Medical & Surgical Warehouse—Letterman General Hospital

CATEGORY II STRUCTURES

Building Number(s)	Historic Name (Common Name)
1062	Quartermaster's Shops
1065	Post Exchange Service Station (Storage & Incinerator)
1160,1161,1162,1163 1167,1169,1170,1182 1183,1184,1185,1186 1187,1188	Warehouses
1227	Quartermaster Shop & Paint Shop — Ft. Scott
1230	Warehouse
1231	Blacksmith Shop—Ft. Scott (Electric Motor Repair)
1240	Enlisted Family Housing—Ft. Scott
1261,1262,1265,1268	Enlisted Family Housing—Ft. Scott
1263	Enlisted Family Housing—Ft. Scott
1266,1270	Enlisted Family Housing—Ft. Scott
1272,1273,1274	Enlisted Family Housing—Ft. Scott
1300,1310	Officer Family Housing
1363	Ordnance Shop—Ft. Scott
1469	Reservoir
1770,1771,1773 1776,1778,1779	Water Treatment Plant
1781	Enlisted Family Housing

CATEGORY III STRUCTURES

Building Number(s)	Historic Name (Common Name)
38,39	Enlisted Men's Barracks
50	Commandancia (Officers' Open Mess)
67	Main Telephone Exchange
99	Theater
123	Garage
127,128,129	Enlisted Family Housing
130	Chapel
220	Bakers' & Cooks' School & Barracks
230	Warehouse
310	Valve House
311	Pump
312	Radio Receiving Station
313	Reservoir
314	Mars Station
315	Water Pump House
510,511,512,513,514	Officer Family Housing
530,531,532,533,534 535,536,537,538,539	Officer Family Housing
558	Post Exchange & Restaurant (Medical Services, LAMC)
603	Commissary (Photo Lab, Film Library)
609	Warehouse

CATEGORY III STRUCTURES

Building Number(s)	Historic Name (Common Name)
617	Enlisted Men's Barracks
631,632,633	Ammunition Warehouses
669	Animal Crematory (Document Pulverizer)
680	Electrical Substation
705	Garages
715,716,717,718,719, 720,721,722,723,724, 725,726,727,728,729, 730,731,732,733,734, 735,736,737	Enlisted Family Housing
742,743,744,745,746, 747,748,749,750,751, 752,753,754,755,756, 757,758,759,760	Enlisted Family Housing
761,762,763	Garages
934	Motor Test Building (Maintenance Shop)
935	Aero Storehouse (Admininstration Building)
1000	Officer Family Housing
1001	Officer Family Housing
1002	Officer Family Housing
1003,1004	Officer Family Housing
1040	Powerhouse & Steam Plant
1088	Fuel Oil Tank
1201	Headquarters—Ft. Scott (Military Intelligence)
1202,1203,1204,1205 1206,1207,1208,1216 1217,1218	Enlisted Men's Barracks (Enlisted Men's Barracks, Education Center, Administration)

CATEGORY III STRUCTURES

Building Number(s)	Historic Name (Common Name)
1213	Post Stockade—Ft. Scott (Postal)
1214	Band Barracks—Ft. Scott (Orderly Room)
1219	Quartermaster's Storehouse/Bowling Alley—Ft. Scott (Classroom)
1220	Quartermaster's Office—Ft. Scott (Military Intelligence)
1224	Infirmary—Ft. Scott
1226	Gymnasium Assembly Hall, Post Exchange (PX and Assembly Hall)
1275,1276,1277	Enlisted Family Housing—Ft. Scott
1289,1290,1291	Enlisted Family Housing—Ft. Scott
1293,1294,1295	Enlisted Family Housing—Ft. Scott
1297,1298	Enlisted Family Housing—Ft. Scott
1299	Non-Commissioned Officers' Club—Ft. Scott (Recreation Center)
1300,1310	Officer Family Housing
1302	Officer Family Housing
1304	Officer Family Housing
1308	Officer Family Housing
1314,1322	Officer Family Housing
1320,1324,1326,1328	Officer Family Housing

CATEGORY III STRUCTURES

Building Number(s)	Historic Name (Common Name)
1330	Bachelor Officer Quarters (Barnard Hall)
1331	Officer's Recreation Center—Ft. Scott
1334	Officer Family Housing
1337	Officer Family Housing
1338	Flammables Storage Shed
1339	Ordnance Repair Shop (Storage)
1340	Ordnance Storage
1344	Fire Control Station
1398	Battery Dynamite Powerhouse (Telephone Exchange)
1470,1471	Central Magazine

PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Category I | Category II | Category III

N

400 0 400 800 1200
Scale in Feet

PACIFIC OCEAN

SAN FRANCISCO BAY

FORT POINT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE (DOI)

FORT POINT U.S. COAST GUARD STATION (DOT)

Area Irrevocably Permitted to GGNRA (DOI)

CRISSY US ARMY HELIPAD

Presidio Golf Course

U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE HOSPITAL (DHEW)

SAN FRANCISCO NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERY (VA)

GOLDEN GATE USAR CENTER 600 MN

HARMON HALL USAR CENTER 300 MN

MAIN POST EXCHANGE

LETTERMAN ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

LETTERMAN ARMY INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH

MAIN PARADE GROUND

ENLISTED MEN'S BARRACKS

OFFICER FAMILY HOUSING

ENLISTED FAMILY HOUSING

Mountain Lake

Lobos Creek

Baker Beach

Baker Beach State Park

Presidio Heights Playground

Julius Kahn Public Playground

SAN FRANCISCO