National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2001



Aquatic Park

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

Level II
Cultural Landscape Inventory
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park concurs the findings of the Level II inventory for Aquatic Park including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY A: **Must be preserved and maintained**

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: **Fair**

The Level II Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Aquatic Park is hereby approved and accepted.

William G. Thomas 9/18/2001

Superintendent, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park Date

Please return this form to the attention of:
Kimball Koch, CLI Coordinator,
National Park Service
Pacific Great Basin Support Office, Suite 700,

AQUATIC PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT
SAN FRANCISCO MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

California SHPO Eligibility Determination

Section 110 Actions Requested:

1) SHPO concurrence with a minor expansion of the Aquatic Park Historic District boundary to include the area west of Van Ness that was part of the original design boundary for Aquatic Park.
2) SHPO concurrence with the addition of structures to the List of Classified Structures (LCS). (See chart below)

___X_____ **I concur,** _____ **Additional information is needed to concur,** _____ **I do not concur** with the proposed boundary expansion for the Aquatic Park Historic District as described in the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI).

___X_____ **I concur,** _____ **Additional information is needed to concur,** _____ **I do not concur** that the **Setting** as described in the CLI contributes to the Aquatic Park Historic District (see the following landscape characteristics: spatial organization, land use, cluster arrangement, topography, and views and vistas).

The following structures, located within the historic district, are already listed on the National Register as contributing elements (no concurrence required):

LCS number	Structure Name
010180	Aquatic Park Bathhouse
010181	Aquatic Park Public Restrooms/Food Stand West
010186	Aquatic Park Public Restrooms (East)
010187	Aquatic Park Bleachers (East)
010189	Aquatic Park Seawall
010190	Aquatic Park Speaker Tower (West)
010191	Aquatic Park Speaker Tower (East)
058261	Aquatic Park Bleachers (West)
010182	San Francisco Municipal Pier
220312	Aquatic Park Paved Walkway System
220313	Aquatic Park Promenade
220314	Aquatic Park Bathhouse Ramps
220315	Aquatic Park Beach Street Sidewalk
220316	Aquatic Park Stone Curbing
220318	Aquatic Park Promenade Retaining Wall
220319	Aquatic Park Southwest Corner Retaining Walls
330107	Aquatic Park Sea Scout Building

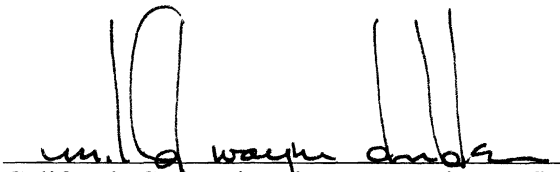
Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following previously unevaluated structures have been identified as **contributing** to the Aquatic Park Historic District:

LCS number	Structure Name	Structure Built	Concur	Do not Concur
021350	Beltline Railroad Tracks	1914, 1925-1936	X	
220322	Aquatic Park Van Ness Extension	1928-1930	X	
332655	Aquatic Park Concrete Lamp Posts	1939	X	
332653	Van Ness Avenue Sidewalks	1938	X	

Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following previously unevaluated structures have been identified as **not contributing** to the Aquatic Park Historic District:

LCS number	Structure Name	Concur	Do not Concur
NA	Wood Retaining Wall, East Bleachers	X	
NA	Anchors	X	
NA	Barbary Coast Markers	X	
NA	Bollards	X	
NA	Bus Shelter	X	
NA	Chain Fence	X	
NA	Chain Link Fences	X	
NA	Four Propellers	X	
NA	Historical Marker in Boulder	X	
NA	Metal Lampposts	X	
NA	Skylight Fences	X	
NA	Water Fountains	X	
NA	Concrete Retaining Wall	X	

Reasons/comments why 'Additional Information Is Needed To Concur' or 'Do Not Concur' were checked:



18 AUG 2004

California State Historic Preservation Officer — Date

Milford Wayne Donaldson

Please return forms to the attention of:
Kimball Koch
Cultural Landscape Program Lead-Oakland
National Park Service
Pacific West Regional Office-Oakland
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Oakland, CA, 94607
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Executive Summary

General Introduction to the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all historically significant landscapes within the National Park System. This evaluated inventory identifies and documents each landscape's location, physical development, significance, National Register of Historic Places eligibility, condition, as well as other valuable information for park management. Inventoried landscapes are listed on, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places, or otherwise treated as cultural resources. To automate the inventory, the Cultural Landscapes Automated Inventory Management System (CLAIMS) database was created in 1996. CLAIMS provides an analytical tool for querying information associated with the CLI.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures (LCS), assists the National Park Service (NPS) in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, NPS Management Policies (2001), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management (1998). Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report on an annual performance plan that is tied to 6-year strategic plan. The NPS strategic plan has two goals related to cultural landscapes: condition (1a7) and progress on the CLI (1b2b). Because the CLI is the baseline of cultural landscapes in the National Park System, it serves as the vehicle for tracking these goals.

For these reasons, the Park Cultural Landscapes Program considers the completion of the CLI to be a servicewide priority. The information in the CLI is useful at all levels of the park service. At the national and regional levels it is used to inform planning efforts and budget decisions. At the park level, the CLI assists managers to plan, program, and prioritize funds. It is a record of cultural landscape treatment and management decisions and the physical narrative may be used to enhance interpretation programs.

Implementation of the CLI is coordinated on the Region/Support Office level. Each Region/Support Office creates a priority list for CLI work based on park planning needs, proposed development projects, lack of landscape documentation (which adversely affects the preservation or management of the resource), baseline information needs and Region/Support office priorities. This list is updated annually to respond to changing needs and priorities. Completed CLI records are uploaded at the end of the fiscal year to the National Center for Cultural Resources, Park Cultural Landscapes Program in Washington, DC. Only data officially entered into the National Center's CLI database is considered "certified data" for GPRA reporting.

The CLI is completed in a multi-level process with each level corresponding to a specific degree of effort and detail. From Level 0: Park Reconnaissance Survey through Level II: Landscape Analysis and Evaluation, additional information is collected, prior information is refined, and decisions are made regarding if and how to proceed. The relationship between Level 0, I, and II is direct and the CLI for a landscape or component landscape inventory unit is not considered finished until Level II is complete.

A number of steps are involved in completing a Level II inventory record. The process begins when the CLI team meets with park management and staff to clarify the purpose of the CLI and is followed by historical research, documentation, and fieldwork. Information is derived from two efforts: secondary sources that are usually available in the park's or regions' files, libraries, and archives and on-site landscape investigation(s). This information is entered into CLI database as text or graphics. A park report is generated from the database and becomes the vehicle for consultation with the park and the

SHPO/TPO.

Level III: Feature Inventory and Assessment is a distinct inventory level in the CLI and is optional. This level provides an opportunity to inventory and evaluate important landscape features identified at Level II as contributing to the significance of a landscape or component landscape, not listed on the LCS. This level allows for an individual landscape feature to be assessed and the costs associated with treatment recorded.

The ultimate goal of the Park Cultural Landscapes Program is a complete inventory of landscapes, component landscapes, and where appropriate, associated landscape features in the National Park System. The end result, when combined with the LCS, will be an inventory of all physical aspects of any given property.

Relationship between the CLI and a CLR

While there are some similarities, the CLI Level II is not the same as a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR). Using secondary sources, the CLI Level II provides information to establish historic significance by determining whether there are sufficient extant features to convey the property's historic appearance and function. The CLI includes the preliminary identification and analysis to define contributing features, but does not provide the more definitive detail contained within a CLR, which involves more in-depth research, using primary rather than secondary source material.

The CLR is a treatment document and presents recommendations on how to preserve, restore, or rehabilitate the significant landscape and its contributing features based on historical documentation, analysis of existing conditions, and the Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines as they apply to the treatment of historic landscapes. The CLI, on the other hand, records impacts to the landscape and condition (good, fair, poor) in consultation with park management. Stabilization costs associated with mitigating impacts may be recorded in the CLI and therefore the CLI may advise on simple and appropriate stabilization measures associated with these costs if that information is not provided elsewhere.

When the park decides to manage and treat an identified cultural landscape, a CLR may be necessary to work through the treatment options and set priorities. A historical landscape architect can assist the park in deciding the appropriate scope of work and an approach for accomplishing the CLR. When minor actions are necessary, a CLI Level II park report may provide sufficient documentation to support the Section 106 compliance process.

Park Information

Park Name: San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
Administrative Unit: San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
Park Organization Code: 8520
Park Alpha Code: SAFR

Property Level And CLI Number

Property Level: Component Landscape
Name: Aquatic Park
CLI Identification Number: 725358
Parent Landscape CLI ID Number: 725357

Inventory Summary

Inventory Level: Level II

Completion Status:

Level 0

Date Data Collected - Level 0: 9/2/1998
Level 0 Recorder: Bright Eastman
Date Level 0 Entered: 9/2/1998
Level 0 Data Entry Recorder: Bright Eastman
Level 0 Site Visit: No

Level I

Date Level I Data Collected: 9/10/2000
Level I Data Collection Mark Luellen, Shaun Provencher
Date Level I Entered: 9/10/2000
Level I Data Entry Recorder: Mark Luellen, Shaun Provencher
Level I Site Visit: Yes

Level II

Date Level II Data Collected: 3/22/2001
Level II Data Collection Kathleen Fitzgerald, Shaun Provencher, Len Warner
Date Level II Entered: 3/22/2001
Level II Data Entry Recorder: Kathleen Fitzgerald, Shaun Provencher, Len Warner
Level II Site Visit: Yes
Date of Concurrence 9/18/2001
Explanatory Narrative:

The Level 0 Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Aquatic Park Historic District was entered into the national CLAIMS database on September 2, 1998, and the Level I Inventory was entered on September 10, 2000. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park has reviewed this Level II inventory for the Aquatic Park Historic District and agreed to the management category of "Must Be Preserved and Maintained" and a condition assessment of "Fair."

No future inventory efforts for San Francisco Maritime have been identified.

The Level II inventory was compiled by Mark Luellen, (PGSO Historian), Shaun Provencher (PGSO CLI Technician), Len Warner (PGSO CLI Technician) Kathleen Fitzgerald, (PGSO CLI technician), and Kimball Koch (PGSO CLI Coordinator).

Component Landscape Description

Aquatic Park, an area within San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, is located on San Francisco's waterfront immediately west of the Fisherman's Wharf area. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park consists of the Aquatic Park Historic District, the Hyde Street Pier, a collection of historic vessels, and Building E at Fort Mason, where the park's library and archives are located. Aquatic Park is an historic designed landscape covering approximately four acres in San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.

This urban park is located within the city of San Francisco, California and encompasses parklands as well as a portion of the Aquatic Park lagoon. Development of the landscape was a collaborative project between the Federal Works Progress Administration and the City of San Francisco Department of Public Works and dates to the 1930s and 1940s. Aquatic Park includes a number of major historic features including three buildings designed in the streamline moderne style, ten structures, the Sea Scouts Building, Municipal Pier and the portion of the bay it encloses, a seawall, complex circulation patterns, large open grassy areas, and some of the most significant views of San Francisco Bay, the Golden Gate Bridge, and Alcatraz Island.

The main building at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park is the Aquatic Park bathhouse, which was constructed between 1936 and 1939 as a joint project between the City of San Francisco and the federal Works Progress Administration. The Aquatic Park bathhouse currently serves as a museum facility that interprets San Francisco's maritime past. The building is mainly used as exhibit space. In addition to the Aquatic Park bathhouse, parklands include a bathing beach, lagoon and Municipal Pier.

The period of significance of 1920-1945 reflects the era of initial park planning; from the San Francisco Bureau of Engineering park development plan of 1920, through site grading and construction which ended in 1945.

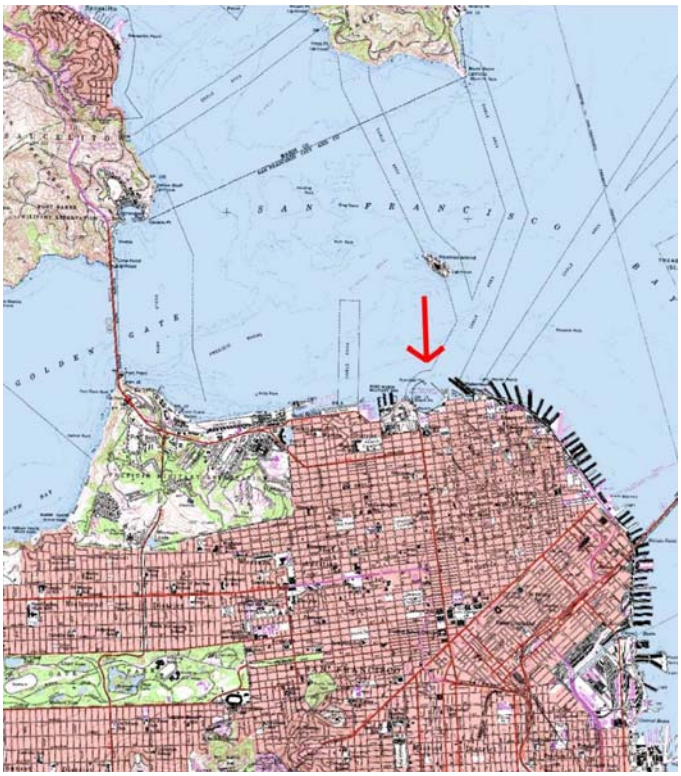
The district continues to fulfill its historic function as an aquatic recreation area, and the majority of the landscape characteristics contribute to the district's integrity as an historic designed landscape. These include spatial organization, cluster arrangement, buildings and structures, circulation, land use, topography, and views and vistas. Only vegetation, small-scale features, and natural systems and features have lost their integrity and do not contribute as landscape features.

As a whole, the cultural landscape of Aquatic Park is in fair condition, retains integrity, and contributes to the significance of the historic district.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory Hierarchy Description

The San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park cultural landscape is divided into two cultural landscapes: the Hyde Street Pier (enevaluated) and the Aquatic Park Historic District. These separate developed areas within the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park have been identified as distinct cultural landscapes because of their different character and origins.

Location Map



Aquatic Park's location on the northern waterfront of the city of San Francisco.

Boundary Description

INTRODUCTION
The boundary for the Aquatic Park cultural landscape inventory encompasses lands and waters in both San Francisco Maritime NHS and Golden Gate NRA including the Municipal Pier and portions of the bay developed by the City of San Francisco between 1920 and 1945.

The boundary used in this inventory is a modified version of the one established for the Aquatic Park NHL nomination. It has been modified to address changes made to the site since the period of significance.

The strip of land west of Van Ness Avenue and abutting Fort Mason has been excluded from the cultural landscape. Its current design displays non-historic landscape characteristics, including berms, a brick walkway, and plant materials that do not date to the period of significance. Its overall layout, however, does reflect the WPA-era proposed design for this space: a narrow strip of grassland between Van Ness Avenue and the Fort Mason retaining wall delineated by a sidewalk allee of trees. Research undertaken for this study did not produce specific information to determine the extent to which this space was developed during the period of significance. Park staff advised, however, that aerial photography exists (which was conducted in 1952 as part of a survey of the Presidio) that may provide further information about the character of the landscape in this location immediately following the period of significance. These aerial photographs may be consulted at the Cartographic Branch of the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. Should these photographs, or other period documentation, be discovered to provide evidence that this space was developed during the period of significance as period plans indicated, this space will be included in the boundaries of the cultural landscape. Until such time as this evidence is located, however, the area west of Van Ness Avenue is excluded from the boundaries of the Aquatic Park cultural landscape. Inventory, analysis and evaluation of the area, however, is included as part of this report.

Park development projects completed after the period of significance such as construction of Victorian Park, the cable car turnaround, and the bocce ball courts are excluded from this inventory and the boundary discussion. These areas do not contain any contributing features related to the original designed landscape for Aquatic Park. Furthermore, detailed landscape plans for these spaces were not included on period site plans. Unlike the space west of Van Ness Avenue, they reflect no formal association to the Aquatic Park landscape, and are excluded from the cultural landscape boundary.

BOUNDARY (See map, Supplemental Information #2)
The easternmost point of the Aquatic Park boundary is the northwest corner of the Dolphin Club on Jefferson Street. From here the boundary extends south for approximately 150 feet to the southern edge of the Jefferson Street railroad tracks, at which point it follows the tracks westward for approximately 400 feet. The boundary then turns south on the paved walkway to the east of the bleachers, following the eastern edge of the first two planting beds abutting the bleachers. The boundary extends past the east speaker tower, and along the west edge of three planting beds to the outer edge of the Beach Street sidewalk. The boundary then runs for approximately 800 feet along the Beach Street sidewalk edge to the eastern edge of the bocce ball court. Turning right ninety degrees, the boundary runs north along the outer edge of the court, past the water fountain to the paved path. Here it follows the southern edge of the path for approximately fifty feet until it encounters the southern edge of a stonemasonry wall. The boundary follows the southern edge of the masonry wall and extends in a straight line approximately 150 feet; crosses the retaining wall and Van Ness Avenue sidewalk, and extends to the west edge of the far

sidewalk. The boundary then extends northward along the sidewalk along Van Ness Avenue, past the San Francisco Pumping Station. From here the boundary crosses McDowell Road at a forty-five degree angle, to the seawall at the foot of Municipal Pier. Following the northwestern side of the pier, the boundary leaves the pier's easternmost point, and crosses the bay to end at the northwest corner of the Dolphin Club.

Regional Context

Physiographic Context

Aquatic Park is located on the northern tip of the San Francisco Peninsula, which is surrounded on three sides by San Francisco Bay. Due to its bayside location, the physiographic context of the area is essentially flat. Much of the western boundary, and all of the northern and eastern boundaries, are water-bound and bathymetric elevations within the park do not exceed thirty feet. Immediately outside of park boundaries, prominent landforms are Russian Hill, Nob Hill, and Pacific Heights, all of which reach elevations between 300 and 400 feet.

Political Context

Aquatic Park is located within the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, managed by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. Because of the park's urban location and its frontage on San Francisco Bay, its boundary encompasses portions of property managed by a number of local government agencies. The Port of San Francisco manages approximately one-half of the Aquatic Park lagoon. The city and county of San Francisco manages the western terminus of Jefferson Street and the northern terminus of Van Ness Avenue where it meets the bay. Municipal Pier, at the northern end of Van Ness Avenue, falls under the jurisdiction of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

All of the above areas are within the City of San Francisco, San Francisco County, California, in the eighth congressional district of California.

Cultural Context

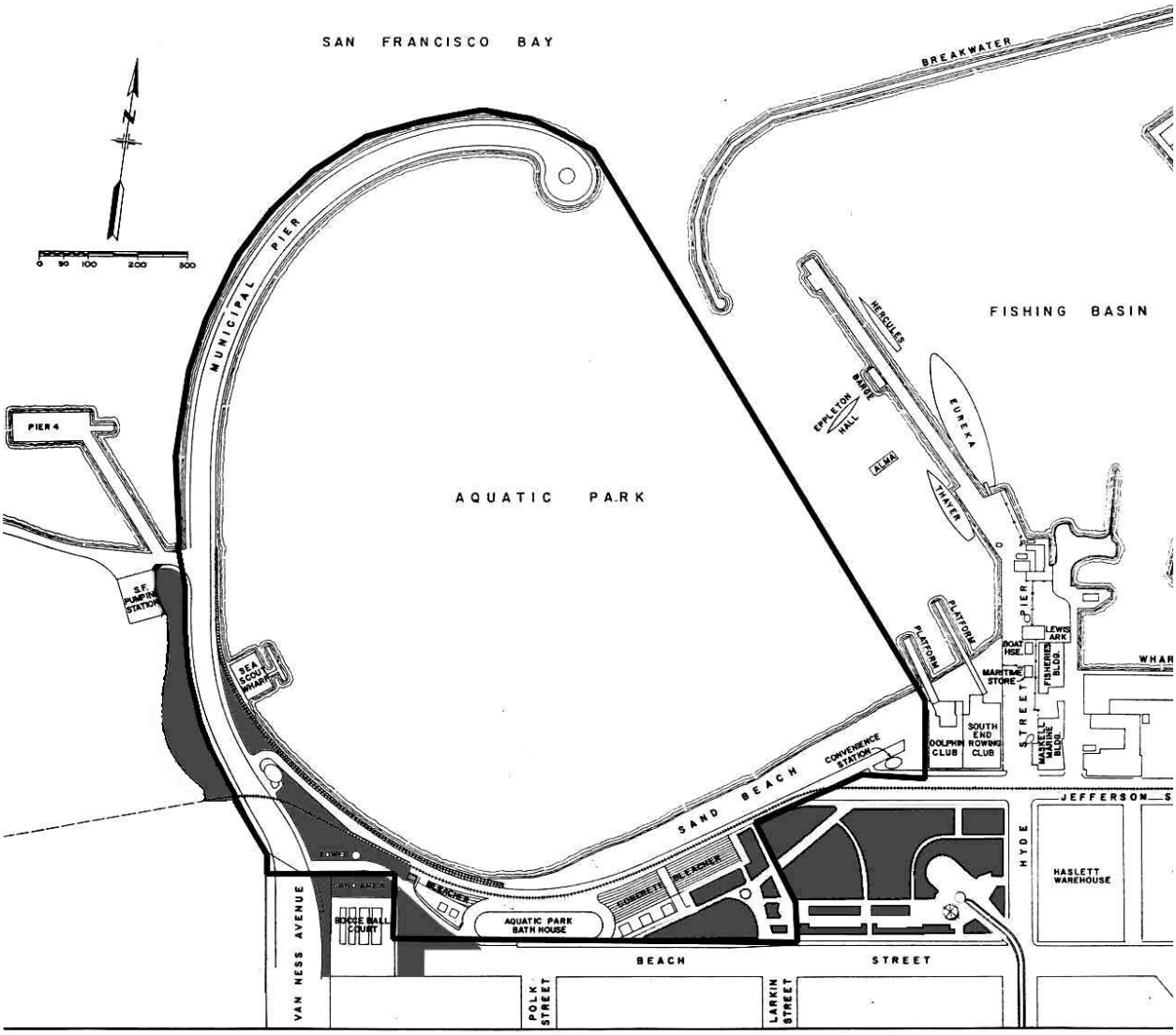
Cultural Traditions are the practices that have influenced the development of the landscape in terms of land use, patterns of land division, building forms, stylistic preferences, and the use of materials.

Aquatic Park, an area within San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, is located on San Francisco's waterfront immediately west of the Fisherman's Wharf area, a major tourist destination within the city. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park consists of the Aquatic Park Historic District, the Hyde Street Pier, a collection of historic vessels, and Building E at Fort Mason where the park's library and archives are located.

The main building at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park is the Aquatic Park bathhouse, which was constructed between 1936 and 1939 as a joint project between the City of San Francisco and the federal Works Progress Administration. The Aquatic Park bathhouse currently serves as a museum facility that interprets San Francisco's maritime past. The building is used mainly as exhibit space. In addition to the bathhouse, parklands, a bathing beach, lagoon and Municipal Pier comprise the Aquatic Park Historic District. Aquatic Park reflects the tradition of urban recreation and aquatic sports along San Francisco Bay dating from the nineteenth century to the present.

Site Plan

Site Map: Aquatic Park Cultural Landscape



Chronology

Year	Event	Description
1797 AD	Established	Black Point (Punta Medanos) is fortified by the Spanish who build a wood and adobe parapet to mount a cannon. The fortification is known as Bateria San Jose.
1822 AD	Abandoned	As Mexican rule in California began, the Spanish fort at Black Point is abandoned.
1850 AD	Established	President Fillmore establishes military reservation at Black Point Cove.
1852 AD	Settled	Homesteaders and industry begin moving into the area, including the Pioneer Woolen Mills, the San Francisco Water Company, and Selby Smelting and Lead Company, and build homes and factories near Black Point Cove.
1857 AD	Built	The San Francisco Water Company begins work on a city water supply system, building a pumping station at the present site of the bocce ball courts.
1858 AD	Built	The Pioneer Woolen Mill builds a complex of wooden buildings along Black Point Cove. The original building burned in 1861 but was quickly rebuilt with brick on a larger scale.
1871 AD	Built	The first mention of a bathhouse in the City Directory is made, listing “Sea Baths,” at Black Point. By 1877, it is known as “Neptune Bath House.”
1891 AD	Abandoned	Neptune and Mermaid baths close. By 1895 there are no bathhouses in the Black Point area.
1900 AD	Established	Three of San Francisco’s pioneer swimming and rowing clubs erect clubhouses, taking the place of the defunct bathhouses, along the shores of Black Point Cove.

1905 AD	Designed	Chicago-based architect and planner Daniel Hudson Burnham proposes an aquatic park to protect the character and recreational use of the cove. The plan never was implemented.
1906 AD	Neglected	Following the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, rubble is dumped at the cove, destroying the sandy beach.
1913 - 1914 AD	Built	The Panama Pacific International Exposition Company builds an elevated railroad trestle across the cove and a tunnel through Black Point to reach the exposition grounds. Excavated material is dumped in the cove alongside the completed trestle.
1917 AD	Land Transfer	Acquisition through condemnation of cove shoreline properties continues while the city plans for the park's development.
1917 AD	Purchased/Sold	The City of San Francisco acquires land in Black Point Cove from Southern Pacific Railroad and acquires additional lands in the cove area for an aquatic park.
1920 AD	Designed	The San Francisco Bureau of Engineering hires civil engineer John Punnett to prepare plans for Aquatic Park. Punnett's plans provide entrants in a city-sponsored design competition with a potential park design and development plan.
1920 AD	Graded	The city contracts to grade the parklands between Larkin Street and Van Ness Avenue.
1922 AD	Designed	The City approves a comprehensive park development plan by noted city architects John Bakewell, Jr., Arthur J. Brown, Jr. and John Bauer.
1922 AD	Land Transfer	Jurisdiction of the park passes from the Board of Supervisors to the city's Park Commission.
1922 - 1925 AD	Moved	The reconstruction of the State Belt Railroad of California trestle and the spreading of ballast and ties by the State Harbor Commission for the new route of the railway around the curve of Aquatic Park is completed under contract.

1924 AD	Land Transfer	The State Legislature approves the transfer of the submerged lands in Black Point Cove from the State Board of Harbor Commissioners to the city of San Francisco.
1925 - 1939 AD	Moved	Tracks for the elevated railroad are re-laid behind the new seawall (its present alignment) in Aquatic Park.
1927 AD	Moved	The rowing and swimming clubs are moved to a temporary location to allow for the extension of Van Ness Avenue.
1928 AD	Removed	Congress approves the removal of the Quartermaster's Pier for the construction of the recreation pier, provided the city builds a new structure for the military.
1931 AD	Built	A temporary seawall is built to shore up unconsolidated fill around Van Ness Avenue Extension.
1931 - 1934 AD	Built	The City of San Francisco builds Municipal Pier on pilings over the seawall that shelters Aquatic Park lagoon.
1931 - 1936 AD	Graded	The site is cleared and graded from Polk St. to Larkin St. and northward from Beach St. to the lagoon. Dirt is moved to make parking spaces off Beach Street, west of the future bathhouse building and to support the extension of Van Ness Avenue.
1934 - 1938 AD	Built	The cove seawall is constructed out of granite paving blocks removed from re-constructed San Francisco streets, and extends to Municipal Pier to take place of earlier temporary seawall.
1935 AD	Designed	John Punnett prepares a new set of plans, a scale model of the park is made and the building sites are selected.
1935 - 1936 AD	Altered	Van Ness Avenue is extended to meet the new Municipal Pier.

1936 AD	Designed	San Francisco Architect William Mooser is selected to draft plans for the Aquatic Park buildings.
1936 AD	Moved	The three rowing clubhouses are moved to their present locations at the corner of Hyde and Jefferson Streets.
1936 - 1939 AD	Built	The State Belt Railroad trestles are removed, and WPA workers build concrete and stone seawall to encompass the project site and prepare a supported area for the proposed bathhouse at the foot of Polk St.
1938 AD	Built	By January, much of the external work of the bathhouse is completed. In April, work commences on the concrete bleachers over the men's and women's dressing rooms.
1938 AD	Built	The lawn area is graded and prepared for planting, concrete is poured for two large speaker towers at each end of the park, and work nears completion on two of the three comfort stations.
1938 AD	Moved	Final work is completed on the last relocation of the State Belt Railroad along a stretch of land between the seawall and the bathhouse.
1939 AD	Built	The bathhouse, speaker towers, restroom, concession stand are dedicated on January 22.
1940 - 1950 AD	Demolished	San Francisco Water Company pumping station, in operation until the 1930s, was torn down between 1940 and 1950.
1941 AD	Built	A wooden breakwater is constructed to prevent beach sand erosion. Later, a stone breakwater is built and concrete baffles are installed between the pilings of the pier to prevent the strong winter surge from removing sand from the east end of the beach.
1941 AD	Moved	Most of the sand for the new beach comes from excavations for the Union square underground parking garage in downtown San Francisco.

1941 AD	Rehabilitated	Men of Battery B, 216th Coast Artillery Battalion are quartered in the bathhouse. The vacent lot to the east of the park is used for the motor pool. Aquatic Park is designated off limits to the general public.
1943 AD	Built	The U.S. Army builds landing pier at the west end of the lagoon. This structure is later remodeled for its current function as a Sea Scout base.
1944 AD	Built	The east comfort station is completed and opened to the public.
1948 AD	Built	The S.F. Department of Public Works constructs the Hyde Street pumping station at the southwest corner of Hyde and Jefferson Streets to alleviate sewage problems in the cove.
1948 AD	Neglected	On-site sculptures by WPA artist Beniamino Bufano are vandalized. Others had been hauled away by the city during the army's occupation of Aquatic Park and laguished in a city storage yard until they were restored and moved to other public sites.
1948 AD	Rehabilitated	The army returns Aquatic Park to the city after making repairs to the bathhouse and Municipal Pier. The bathhouse is open five days a week. The rooms are available for social gathering and meetings.
1951 AD	Rehabilitated	San Francisco Maritime Museum Association opens a museum in the city-owned Aquatic Park bathhouse.
1953 AD	Restored	Swimming in the cove is allowed, and the bathhouse is used for its intended purpose -- showers and locker rooms are open to the public.
1980 AD	Abandoned	The Belt Line railroad becomes defunct.
1984 AD	Established	The Aquatic Park bathhouse and associated structures are designated as a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places.

1987 AD	Established	Aquatic Park is designated a National Historic Landmark.
1988 AD	Established	On June 27, 1988, Congress passes Public Law 100-348 establishing the maritime museum, park areas, and historic vessels at the San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park.
1993 AD	Altered	Reversible covers are installed over the bathhouse skylights. Metal tube fencing is installed surrounding the skylights.
1997 AD	Built	Barbary Coast Trail Markers, an educational project of the San Francisco Historical Society, are installed in the sidewalks.

Statement Of Significance

Aquatic Park was entered as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) District on May 28, 1987. The Aquatic Park Historic District includes the Sala Burton Maritime Museum Building (the former Aquatic Park bathhouse), Victorian Park, the landscaped grounds, beach and lagoon. The district possess significance related the period extending from 1920 to 1945 under Criteria A and C, as evaluated in the NHL nomination extending from the initial construction of the park by the city to the military's use of the site until the end of World War II. Aquatic Park's buildings, landscape, beach, and lagoon retain integrity according to the seven aspects or qualities (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association) defined by the national register.

Statement of Significance
Aquatic Park is regionally significant under Criterion A in the area of social/humanitarian movements, as one of California's most extensive and noteworthy results of the work relief programs of the 1930s. The large-scale development of Aquatic Park under the WPA and Federal Arts Project resulted in a grandiose and impressive development - one of the most costly WPA projects in California - that gained national recognition for its ambitious plan. A portion of the site is also nationally significant as the first formal senior citizen's center in the United States. Aquatic Park is also of local significance as the site of the San Francisco (now the National) Maritime Museum, an innovative and pioneering museum responsible for the preservation and public display of intact floating vessels in Aquatic park lagoon, and for unique exhibits of actual vessel parts and machinery.

Aquatic Park is also of regional significance under Criterion A in the area of military history as the headquarters for the Anti-Aircraft Defense of the Pacific coast states during the Second World War. The Sea Scout building was constructed during the military occupation of Aquatic Park.

San Francisco's Aquatic Park is of local significance under Criterion A in the area of recreation. The park has been a favorite spot for recreation in San Francisco since the Civil War. Extensive construction and development in the 1930s under the Works Progress Administration transformed the former industrial site and half-filled cove into a modern park with aquatically-oriented recreational facilities. The park is used today by swimmers, fishermen, local people, and tourists who like to experience that small, intimate part of San Francisco Bay.

San Francisco's Aquatic Park is of national significance under Criterion C in architecture and landscape architecture because of its outstandingly thorough and masterful design. The style in which the buildings of the complex are constructed - Streamlined Moderne - lends itself perfectly to the curvilinear shape of the Municipal Pier that swings a protective arm out into the bay. The roundness of the building walls, the repetition of the nautical elements such as porthole windows, and art works with aquatic motifs all combine into a common sense of design and purpose. The buildings and the site design are outstanding examples of Streamlined Moderne. The park has no architectural parallel on the west coast, and although on a smaller scale, it rivals the design quality of portions of Miami Beach, famous for its Deco and Moderne buildings.

The structures remain largely unaltered, and thus have extremely high architectural integrity. The art works inside the bathhouse (Maritime Museum) are outstanding examples of federally-funded art of the 1930s. The murals on the street-level floor and the work done in the Prismatorium (Ladies' lounge) were executed by internationally known artist Hilaire Hiler. The murals are Hiler's best-known works of art and are pioneering examples of his work in color theory. The art work on the marquee, the tile work on

the portico, and the relief over the main door on the fourth floor are outstanding examples of work by California black artist Sargent Johnson. The sculptures on the portico by Beniamino Bufano are outstanding examples of that San Francisco sculptor's work. Additional work by Richard Ayer and Charles Nunemaker are of the same high quality as the other Federal Arts Project contributions in the building.

The small murals beneath one of the stadia, executed by an unknown military artist, are of regional significance under Criterion C as a vernacular art form associated with the significant military use of the structure during World War II.

Aquatic Park is also of local significance under Criterion C in the area of community planning. The concept of an aquatic park at this locale was first advocated in 1866 by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. In his Preliminary Report in Regard to a Plan of Public Pleasure Grounds for the City of San Francisco Olmsted proposed a marine plaza, landing quay, and public park. The plan was not adopted. In 1905 architect and urban planner Daniel Burnham, by invitation of local citizens interested in the "City Beautiful" movement proposed a major redevelopment of San Francisco. The Burnham Plan suggested that the site be developed as a "bay shore park" with rowing and swimming clubhouses and a yacht harbor. Burnham's plan was also rejected, but in 1909 community efforts began to set aside the land for a public park devoted to aquatic sports. Initial successes in 1916 spurred further action and site development began in earnest in 1927.

History Summary
The site now occupied by Aquatic Park has been a popular recreation area for San Francisco residents since the 1860s. The concept of an aquatic park at Black Point Cove was first advocated in 1866 by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. In his Preliminary Report in Regard to a Plan of Public Pleasure Grounds for the City of San Francisco, Olmsted proposed a marine plaza, landing quay, and public park but his plan was not adopted. By the 1880s, a number of privately owned bathhouses, including the Golden Gate Sea and Neptune Baths, were operating near Black Point Cove on the shore of San Francisco Bay. In 1905, architect and urban planner Daniel Burnham, a proponent of the “City Beautiful” movement, proposed a major redevelopment of San Francisco. His plans for the city included a proposed “bay shore park” at Black Point Cove with rowing and swimming clubhouses, and a broad boulevard leading to a yacht harbor. Burnham’s plan was also rejected, but in 1909 community efforts began to set aside the land for a public park devoted to aquatic sports. In 1917, the Board of Supervisors committed the city to the acquisition of additional land in the Black Point Cove area for an aquatic park, and land acquisitions through condemnation began.

In 1920, as a start to a city-sponsored park design competition, the San Francisco Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works hired civil engineer John Punnett to produce a plan for the development of an aquatic park at Black Point Cove. Initial site grading commenced in 1920 and in 1923, a plan developed by the San Francisco-based architectural firm Bakewell, Brown, and Bauer was adopted by the Park Commissioners and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Bureaucratic and administrative delays prevented work from commencing until 1930 when construction of Municipal Pier began under city contract.

The construction of Aquatic Park occurred during an era when great public works projects such as the Golden Gate Bridge (1937), the Bay Bridge (1938) and Treasure Island (1939) were transforming San Francisco’s relationship to its waterfront setting. While an aquatic park at Black Point Cove had been planned for decades, it was not until financing and labor provided by the WPA was made available to the city of San Francisco in 1936 that actual construction began. The WPA was one of the nation’s most

extensive relief programs of the New Deal era, which commonly refers to the many agencies established by the Federal Government in the 1930s during President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration. The WPA differed from previous federal programs by addressing the employment needs of a wide cross-section of the work force. It assisted communities in expanding educational, library, health, and related community projects. Professional and white-collar workers found employment with "Federal One." Federal Projects No. 1 of the WPA was developed to give artistic and professional work to the unemployed who qualified. This innovative program consisted of the Federal Art Project (FAP), Federal Music Project (FMP), Federal Theater Project (FTP), the Federal Writers Project (FWP), and the Historical Records Survey (HRS).

WPA laborers started arriving on the job site in early 1936. Construction began on a concrete and stone seawall to encompass the project site and to prepare a reinforced area at the foot of Polk Street for the proposed bathhouse. Concrete foundations were constructed, and thousands of cobblestones were hauled to the site between 1931 and 1933. The cobblestones were taken from city streets, which were being modernized and widened to accommodate the increase in automobile traffic expected upon completion of the Golden Gate and Bay Bridges. Masons laid these stones to create a stepped seawall that ran along the rubble beach, gradually rising and curving along the shoreline until it reached the base of Municipal Pier.

Once the seawall was completed, work began on various park structures. In June 1936, city architect William Mooser drafted plans of the park's buildings. Due to limited project funds, not all of the structures planned for Aquatic Park were built immediately. Site development initially focused on construction of "a bath house to accommodate some 5,000 people, the greater part of which is below street grade and acts as a retaining wall for Beach Street." (WPA Project Files) A boathouse for Sea Scouts activities and a new boathouse and clubhouse for the various rowing clubs, whose existing buildings were slated to be removed, were also planned. Mooser designed three stylistically compatible comfort stations and located them efficiently throughout the site. Comfort Station #1 was located at the west end of the park near the end of the Municipal Pier on Van Ness Avenue. Comfort Station #2 was located at the east end of the park at the terminus of Jefferson Street, and Comfort Station #3 was located on the end of Municipal Pier.

In addition to the construction work in Aquatic Park, the WPA also provided funds to produce artworks for the completed structures. WPA artisans under the auspices of the Federal Art Project crafted tile and wax fresco murals, sculpture, lighting fixtures and terrazzo floors, creating a lavishly decorated public bathhouse building. Murals designed and executed by internationally known artist Hilaire Hiler distinguished the building's interior with fantastical, polychromatic images of undersea life. Sculptor Beniamino Bufano produced a number of stylized carved animal statues which were planned to decorate the building and grounds, and Sargent Johnson created the carved green slate door surround, as well as the marquee and tile work on the portico.

With the onset of World War II, the WPA began to focus on issues related to national defense, and by 1941 the entire effort shifted to war preparation. WPA projects were reduced and the agency was eliminated in July 1942. During World War II, the bathhouse was used as the headquarters for the Fourth Army Anti-Aircraft Command, which covered the defense of the Pacific coast. During the military occupation of Aquatic Park, the Sea Scout building, which had been planned for years, was finally constructed.

Physical History

1797-1915: Black Point Cove--Competing Uses

Black Point Cove and the Military
Black Point Cove, now known as Aquatic Park lagoon, derives its name from Black Point, which juts into San Francisco Bay between North Beach and the Marina District. Black Point was originally known as Punta Medanos ("Sand Dune Point") by the Spanish settlers of the area. Punta Medanos was renamed "Black Point" by the Americans possibly because of the large stands of deep green vegetation, or black rock, which made it stand out darkly on the shoreline. The Spanish military fortified the point in 1797 by building Bateria San Jose, a wood and adobe parapet on which a cannon was mounted (Hubert Howe Bancroft, History of California, [San Francisco: The History Co., 1884-90] Vol 1:702, n.12).

In 1822, the Bateria was abandoned when Spain relinquished its rule over California to Mexico. Until circa 1836, Bateria San Jose was the only structure standing in the vicinity of Black Point Cove. With the exception of a distant residence, the Black Point Cove area was uninhabited until Mexico ceded California to the United States in 1846 and U.S. troops occupied the various Spanish-Mexican fortifications of San Francisco.

The lack of fortifications at Punta Medanos did not blind American military engineers to its strategic importance, and the land was recommended along with Black Point cove for inclusion in a military post as early as 1848. In 1850, President Millard Fillmore established a large military reservation from Punta Medanos, stretching westward to the Presidio. In 1851, the boundaries were modified to create a separate military reservation, the "Point San Jose Military Reservation," which encompassed "an arc of eight hundred yards from its northern extremity, from shore to shore." With this reservation, the military use of Black Point Cove, which had begun in 1797 with the construction of Bateria San Jose, was continued (John W. Dwinelle, The Colonial History of San Francisco [San Francisco: Town & Bacon, 1867] 221-223, quoted in James P. Delgado, Historic Structures Report, Historical Data Section, Pioneers, Politics, Progress and Planning: The Story of San Francisco's Aquatic Park, 1981: 8).

Despite the designation of Punta Medanos and Black Point Cove as part of the military reservation, troops did not immediately occupy the lands; its low-lying setting on the bay limited the cove's utility as a defensive outpost. In reaction to the military's absentee status, private citizens built homes on the slopes of Black Point Cove as early as 1852, where they remained for decades. Unlawful tenants occupied the high ground on Black Point as well as the cove shoreline (see photo, History #1). Although the cove had been included in the expansion of the military reservation, many pioneer San Francisco businesses had begun operations there. These businesses would eventually succeed in wresting control of Black Point Cove from the military. In 1869, when the military finally decided to evict the "squatting" industries, substantial opposition mounted and on July 1, 1870, Congress reduced the size of the military reservation, excluding the cove and placing that land in the hands of the private speculators who occupied it (James P. Delgado, A Dream of Seven Decades: San Francisco's Aquatic Park, "California History" 64:4, Fall 1985).

Black Point Cove, like many other portions of the San Francisco waterfront, was filled with debris from the city as it expanded through the years. The first filling operations in Black Point Cove began in or around 1858-1860, when the San Francisco Water Company and the San Francisco Woolen Mills located on the cove's southwestern shore. The 1859 Coast Survey Chart shows structures having been constructed below what had been the high tide mark in this area. An 1867 map shows that more extensive filling had taken place with squared, filled bulkheads and wharves pushing out some twenty or

more feet beyond the original shoreline. The earliest known photograph of the cove, which was taken prior to October 1861, shows a wooden bulkhead on the shoreline with fill packed behind it, probably used as a wharf landing (see photo, History #2).

The first wharf, or pier, to be constructed in Black Point Cove was a small Army pier with a boathouse on the end known as the "General's Pier." This structure appeared in 1867-1868 maps of the area, in the approximate location of the present east portal to the Fort Mason railroad tunnel.

The pier may have been built as early as 1863, when the post was first garrisoned by the military. The wharf was reached by a road that led down the east flank of Black Point from the Commanding General's quarters to the General's Pier where guests to the post often arrived. The second military wharf to be built in Black Point Cove was constructed at the northwest edge of the cove, at the tip of Black Point. This wharf, known as the "Quartermaster's Wharf," was built around 1871 (Delgado, p. 43; Thompson, Historic Resource Study, Fort Mason, 24).

Black Point Cove: Recreational Uses
As early as 1866, pioneer landscape architect and planner Frederick Law Olmsted proposed that Black Point Cove be developed as a waterfront park. In a report to the mayor and board of supervisors, Olmsted outlined a preliminary plan for the construction of a "public pleasure ground." Olmsted's arguments supporting a waterfront park focused on the perceived need for an appropriately civic-oriented and recreational public space and a proper landing spot for dignitaries and foreign representatives arriving in the fast-growing, young city (Frederick Law Olmsted et als.; Preliminary Report In Regard to a Plan of Public Pleasure Grounds for the City of San Francisco. [New York: William C. Bryant & Company for Olmsted, Vaux & Company, 1866] :22). Firmly entrenched businesses on the shore of Black Point Cove and the military presence at Black Point prevented Olmsted's vision from being realized.

Beginning in the 1870s, Black Point Cove attracted picnickers, swimmers, and bathers to its clean, white beach, its protected clear waters, its moss-covered rocks, and its bulkhead on the east side. The Dolphin Swimming and Boating Club was the first aquatic sports club to locate at Black Point Cove (circa 1898), though it was only one of several pioneer rowing clubs in San Francisco. In 1873, the South End Boat Club (later called the "South End Rowing Club") was formed. In 1877, the Ariel Rowing Club (later called the "San Francisco Rowing Club") organized, followed in August 1877 by the founding of the Dolphin Swimming and Boating Club. North Beach listed three baths in the city directory for 1885 and 1886: Bamber and Berg's at the foot of Jones Street, Frahm Henry's at the foot of Hyde Street, and the Neptune Street Baths near the foot of Jefferson Street. Swimming in the cove was especially popular once the Ghirardelli chocolate factory at Beach between Polk and Larkin Streets began pumping streams of warm water into the cove as part of its water cooling system (Anna Coxe Toogood, "Historic Resource Study, The Bay Area Community: A Civil History of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area . . ." [Denver: National Park Service, 1980] Vol. 2: 117-121).

By the 1880s, other clubs had also organized to enjoy competitive rowing on the bay, among them the Tritons and the Station B Post Office crew, but these and the Pioneer Club did not live out the century. Possibly due to the construction of large indoor swimming pools such as Sutro Baths during the 1890s, the Neptune and Mermaid enterprises folded, so that by 1895 the deserted, dilapidated bathhouses lent an air of decay to the cove's surroundings. That same year, however, the sports enthusiasts in the Dolphin Swimming and Boat Club found the cove an ideal location for their new boathouse, thus maintaining the tradition of recreation in the still somewhat remote city outskirts.

Although Black Point Cove looked promising to the Dolphins as a location that would not be threatened

by the rapid expansion of the city's streets and waterfront, in 1895 it built its clubhouse at the foot of Van Ness Avenue so it could later be moved out of the line of encroaching waterfront development. In 1909, both the Ariel and South End Rowing Clubs' boathouses were relocated from the foot of Seventeenth Street to the foot of Van Ness Avenue, next to the Dolphin Boathouse. All three clubhouses, however, stood in the line of future developments. The expansion of the city not only threatened to put an end to aquatic sports in Black Point Cove, but also provoked the rowing clubs to agitate for a city park to secure a permanent spot for safe aquatic recreation on San Francisco's waterfront.

Many of Olmsted's points in favor of an aquatic park were echoed nearly forty years later in Chicago-based architect and city planner Daniel Burnham's 1905 plan for the re-design of San Francisco. Burnham's plan for the city emphasized the benefits to the populace of a new urban design. Like Olmsted, Burnham saw the new design as a way of instilling a sense of civic pride and patriotism by drawing comparisons between the "city beautiful" movement (of which Burnham was arguably the nation's most influential proponent, because of his participation in the design of the World's Columbian Exposition grounds in 1893) and classical architecture. Like Olmsted, Burnham proposed the use of statues and monuments, although Burnham's proposal for an aquatic park was much more restrained than Olmsted's earlier plan. Rather than a massive redevelopment of the area as a ceremonial "seagate" for the city, Burnham saw a waterfront park as a necessity to protect the character and recreational use of the cove. Under Burnham's plan, the only major change in the area would be the development of a yacht harbor in the marshy lands west of Black Point.

The Burnham plan was not adopted by the city, even when the opportunity for its implementation surfaced after the destruction of a major part of San Francisco in the earthquake and fire of 1906. Instead, Black Point Cove became the dumping ground for tons of earthquake debris and rubble, an undertaking that ruined the beauty and recreational qualities of the beach. Subsequent filling operations for the military post road (McDowell Road in Fort Mason) and the State Belt Railroad trestle only worsened the situation, as did the extension of Hyde Street on the eastern edge of the cove.
In addition, a bluff at the foot of Hyde Street, which was leveled and dumped into the bay and provided a building site for the San Francisco Gas Works, further deteriorated the recreational qualities of the cove.

Panama Pacific International Exposition and the State Belt Railroad
The Southern Pacific Railroad pursued the proposed extension of the State Belt Railroad, which would also aid the new Army transport wharves and warehouses on the northwest corner of the Fort Mason military reservation. Congress approved the tunnel beneath Black Point on January 8, 1909, when an Act of Congress designated a right-of-way across Fort Mason for the Southern Pacific Railroad. After several years, Southern Pacific had not yet begun excavations for the tunnel, and the Army began to agitate for its construction. In 1912, organizers of the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition (PPIE) petitioned the Board of Harbor Commissioners for approval to construct an elevated rail trestle across Black Point Cove, which was granted, providing that the PPIE fund construction of the railroad, which would revert to municipal ownership after the exposition. Simultaneously, Congressman Julius Kahn introduced legislation to transfer the right-of-way granted to Southern Pacific Railroad to the Exposition Company. Congress passed Kahn's legislation June 28, 1912 (Erwin N. Thompson, "A Brief History of the Construction of the Railroad Tunnel at Fort Mason, 1906-14" [National Park Service, Denver, Colorado, n.d.] p. 4, quoted in Delgado: 46).

Construction of the tunnel through Black Point began in early 1914. The trestle, which had been completed just a short time before, cut across the recently filled southern shore of the cove, and crossed the water beginning at the end of Polk Street, stopping at the as-yet-unfinished west end of the tunnel. Excavations through the rock and clay of Black Point took but a few months, and much of the excavated

material was dumped in the cove alongside the completed trestle. The project, completed in late 1914, initiated more than a half-century of rail service across the lands that would become Aquatic Park (see photo, History #3). In addition to serving as the rail line for supplies and equipment needed at the Panama Pacific International Exposition, the extension through the point also served the army port of embarkation at lower Fort Mason and later the Presidio of San Francisco as well as other industries along the line of the Jefferson Street extension. By this means, a large new waterfront area of desirable flat land was made available for factory and other commercial uses.

Filling operations in the cove ended in 1914 although the city continued dumping into the following year. The damage to the cove was tremendous; the sand beach was gone, covered with tons of rubble, mud, and rock, and much of the former cove was now dry land. Moreover, the railroad trestle interrupted access to the water, blocking the various rowers and swimmers. In 1915, the situation changed when the area around Black Point Cove was transferred from the Southern Pacific Railroad to the City of San Francisco.



History #1. View of Black Point Cove, looking north, 1893. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAB 6718)



History #2. View of Pioneer Woolen Mills at Black Point, from foot of Van Ness Avenue, looking southeast, 1868. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAC 7308)



History #3. View of State Belt Railroad tracks and trestle crossing Black Point Cove, looking east, ca. 1915. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAA 6723)

1915-1930: Aquatic Park: Early Plans Formulated

Construction of the State Belt Railroad trestle across Black Point Cove served as the impetus for intensive lobbying to preserve the cove and create an aquatic park. Following construction of the railroad tracks and trestle, citizens' groups, including the Dolphin Swim Club and the San Francisco Recreation League, began an "aggressive" campaign to preserve the cove for recreational use. Perhaps the increased development along the waterfront prompted popular opinion to side with conserving Black Point Cove where earlier conservation efforts had failed. Only five years before, in 1909, a bond measure sponsored by an Aquatic Park Improvement Association was placed on the municipal ballot but failed to win popular support (Toogood, Volume II: 122-126). The Swim Club and Recreation League's promotion of the waterfront park idea successfully galvanized public opinion. In December of 1917, the Board of Supervisors committed the city to the acquisition of additional land in the Black Point Cove Area for an aquatic park. Land acquisition continued for the next ten years while the city planned for the park's development.

In its 1920 annual report, the City Bureau of Engineering noted "It is proposed to develop the area at the foot of Van Ness Avenue bounded by Van Ness Avenue, Larkin Street, Beach Street and Jefferson Street, together with that which lies to the north of Jefferson Street between Fort Mason and Hyde Street as an aquatic park." In 1920, a preliminary study prepared by San Francisco civil engineer John Punnett was presented to the public. Punnett's park development plan was intended to serve as a starting point in the design process. For the purposes of "stimulating public interest in the development plan," the San Francisco Bureau of Engineering, through its Board of Public Works, authorized a "competition among architectural draftsmen," and appointed a committee to judge entries. The committee consisted of leading architects, park officials, and city engineers, including City Architect John Reid, Jr., City Engineer Michael O'Shaughnessy, and architect Arthur Brown, Jr. (San Francisco Bureau of Engineering Annual Report, 1920: 36-37).

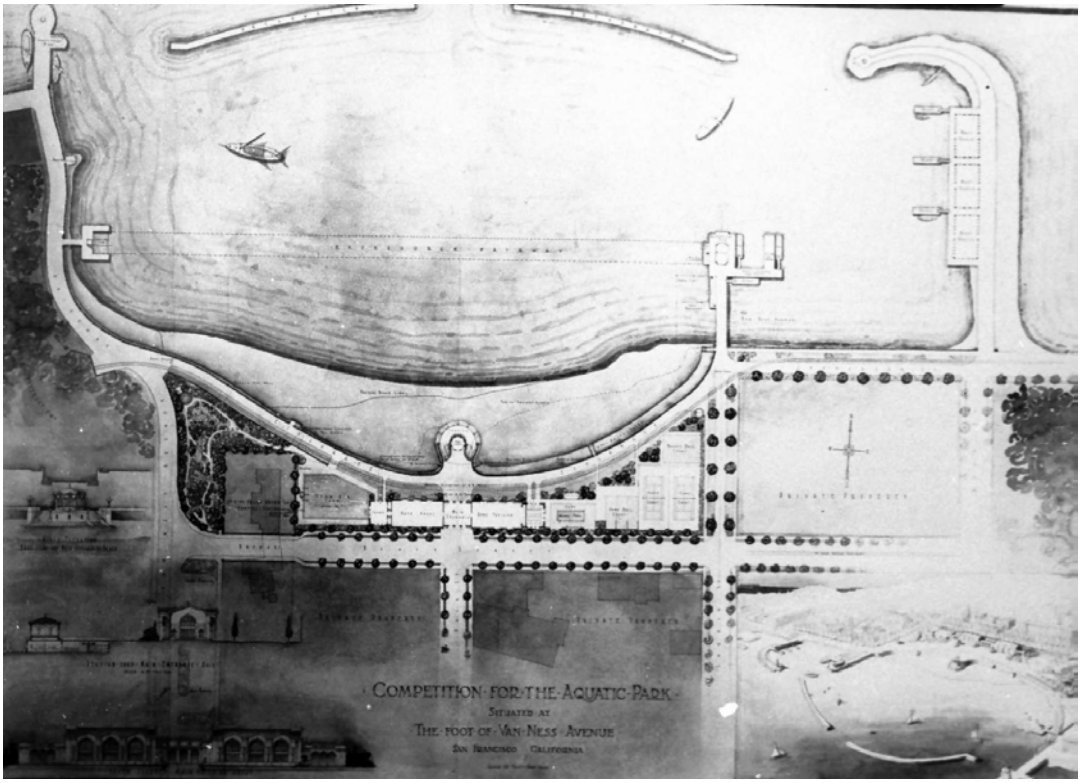
In the meantime, limited development of the parklands began. In August of 1920, the city contracted to grade the area between Larkin Street and Van Ness Avenue. In 1921-1922, the railroad trestle was removed and the tracks were re-laid along the shoreline. After the trestle was removed and the land graded, jurisdiction of the park passed from the Board of Supervisors to the city's Park Commission.

On December 16, 1922, the Park Commissioner appointed the architectural firm Bakewell, Brown and Bauer to prepare a prospectus and plan for the entire park. (It is interesting to note that Arthur Brown, Jr., a judge in the design competition, was also a principal in the firm that won the commission.) The firm had gained prominence in San Francisco for their numerous designs for commercial and civic structures in the city reborn after the 1906 earthquake. Among their greatest architectural achievements were the new City Hall Building (1915) and the Horticultural Building of the Panama Pacific International Exposition. Their winning entry in the Aquatic Park competition retained many of the elements of the Punnett plan. The Bakewell, Brown, and Bauer plan also called for the construction of various buildings, bathhouses, boat-landings, beaches, driveways, approaches, plantings, and other landscape treatments for the entire park area. In the Bakwell, Brown and Bauer plan, an "amusement pier" would define the park's eastern boundary, while a matching pier on the cove's western boundary would accommodate a yacht harbor as well as three rowing clubhouses. A broad esplanade, with a centrally located bathhouse building, would frame the cove shoreline. In plan, the twin piers reinforced the formal symmetry of the overall site design (see photo, History #4).

Both the Park Commissioners and the Board of Supervisors approved the Bakewell, Brown and Bauer plan in 1923. To implement the plan, the city began to push for the acquisition of yet more land, mainly along the eastern edge of the Fort Mason Military Reservation as well as the submerged lands of the cove

under the jurisdiction of the State Harbor Commissioners. The legal proceedings for these acquisitions dragged on and delayed the construction process for several years. In 1924, the State Legislature approved the transfer of the submerged lands to the city. Approval from the War Department, which was necessary because of the planned removal of the Quartermaster's Pier and the use of some of the military lands on the east edge of the reservation, represented the only obstacle to construction.

Meanwhile, impatient with delays in Washington, the city authorized the expenditure of funds to extend Van Ness Avenue to the northeast tip of Black Point. This required the relocation of the various rowing clubhouses across the cove. In 1927, the structures were moved from the foot of Van Ness Avenue to the foot of Polk Street. In 1928, Congress approved the removal of the Quartermaster's Pier in order to begin construction on the recreational pier, provided the city build a new structure for the military. In 1928, the Board of Supervisors made another attempt to commit public funds to the nascent park project. Bond Issue 59 would have provided $950,000 to the Recreation and Park Department to develop Aquatic Park as part of a system of parks in San Francisco which, when completed, would be "unequaled in the world." The measure failed to pass. Following congressional approval of the pier construction plan, however, the city appropriated $100,000 for Aquatic Park out of its 1928-29 budget (Toogood, Vol. II: 136).



History #4. Bakewell, Brown & Bauer winning entry in Aquatic Park design competition, circa 1920. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAA 6903)

1930-1941: Construction of Aquatic Park

The first major construction project began in 1930, notwithstanding earlier efforts to grade and prepare the filled land that the city had purchased at Black Point Cove for a public park. The concrete municipal pier was built at the site of the former Army Quartermaster's Pier, at the northwest corner of Black

Point. This single action became the impetus for the city to fulfill the goal of an aquatic park for San Francisco, even though pier construction would not be completed nor public facilities built until the advent of federal funding in 1936, through the Works Progress Administration (see photo, History #5).

Municipal Pier
The Army Quartermaster's Pier at the northwest corner of the Black Point Military Reservation (now called Fort Mason) was the ideal location for the new city pier. After receiving approval for the government to build on the site, the Army contracted to remove and rebuild the wharf at the city's expense. The former seawall and small walkway around Black Point's east side was slowly filled in by thousands of cubic yards of fill to form a broad platform for an extended Van Ness Avenue running out to meet the pier. The road was not graded and completed until 1935-36. A crude seawall of concrete, rubble, and huge blocks was dropped into place to hold the unconsolidated fill. This wall was later demolished and its lower portions were used as the base for the stone seawall built by the Works Progress Administration.

At the same time the grading and filling was in full swing, casting for concrete pilings of the pier had begun. In addition to the grading and pier construction, forty-seven truckloads and twelve railroad carloads full of cobblestones salvaged from reconstructed San Francisco streets were hauled to the site and stockpiled in the park (Journal of Proceedings, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, City and County of San Francisco, Monday, Dec. 21, 1931, page 3459, quoted in Delgado, p. 61). These cobblestones were later used to build the seawall during the mid-1930s.

In July of 1931, the city contracted to build approximately 636 feet or about one-third of the eventual length of the completed structure. Construction of the concrete jackets for the supporting pilings began in August of 1931, and by the middle of 1933, the pier extended its full 1,850-foot length. The Board of Supervisors let a contract to construct the pier's concrete curbing, seats and parapet wall in October 1933. The work was completed in March of 1934, however, it had not reached its present form, as the rounded end and convenience station were not yet constructed (Toogood, Vol. II: 137).

Construction of Municipal Pier and preparatory hand grading for the proposed park proceeded with small amounts of money from the city. Work was completed with borrowed tools and salvaged materials, such as the lumber used for cribbing and the tons of granite cobblestones hauled to the site. It was clear that proposals for a series of buildings dedicated to aquatic pursuits, development of the sandy lagoon, and construction of an additional pier to enclose the site, called for in both John Punnett's 1920 plan and the 1922 Bakewell, Brown and Bauer plan, were prohibitively expensive. The city could not assume construction costs on its own. Construction at the site limped along in 1934 and 1935, in part with the aid of State Emergency Relief Administration (SERA) labor and private donations of equipment. In December 1935, a proposal submitted to the newly formed Work Progress Administration (WPA) was approved, although the approved construction program was changed numerous times. Plans were abandoned for many of the proposed structures and developed areas due to disorganization and financial mismanagement.

WPA Construction of Aquatic Park
Soon after the WPA accepted the Aquatic Park project in 1935, the city of San Francisco hired John Punnett to prepare a new set of plans. Punnett's new plans represented a modern interpretation of the 1922 Bakewell, Brown and Bauer design, although the major features of the earlier plan were retained. A 1936 scale model based on Punnett's plan shows a public bathhouse centrally located on a broad beach promenade, which followed the curve of Black Point Cove. The model shows the park buildings, circulation system, cove shoreline and complete landscaping plan envisioned by the city and the WPA. As it had been delineated in the 1922 Bakewell, Brown and Bauer plan, a curving pier on the western

boundary of the cove repeated the arc of the shoreline, and protected the lagoon from the "northers" that blew in from the Golden Gate. Punnett introduced an element of asymmetry to the updated site plan, however, and an entirely new architectural vocabulary for the structures. Where the Bakewell, Brown and Bauer plan evoked classical forms in a Mediterranean Revival style, Punnett's plan adopted a more contemporary, streamline moderne style (see photo, History #6).

Although it is not known to what extent the landscaping plan depicted in the 1936 model was implemented, the model is a useful analytical tool as it illustrates the way park planners intended to use the landscape to reinforce the streamline moderne architecture of Aquatic Park. Some of the landscaping elements shown in the 1936 model were eventually developed after the period of significance, including the allee of trees along the Van Ness Avenue extension, and the tall trees planted at the edge of the east bleachers. In addition, the shrubs along the Beach Street façade of the bathhouse were planted. It is likely that these shrubs were intended to serve a functional purpose rather than produce a strictly ornamental effect: the tall shrubs, aligned with the vertical elements of the building façade, emphasize the formal entrance to the park's main building. Other landscaping treatments shown in historic photographs, such as the massing and details of vegetation used around the walkways and at the base of the large speaker towers, diverge from the planting style shown in the 1936 model. In the model, the speaker towers rise from the grassy areas without landscaping at their bases and trees are shown along the beach promenade west of the bathhouse. The model also shows the broad sandy beach extending all the way to the base of Municipal Pier, and an extension of Larkin Street clearly separates Aquatic Park from the area now occupied by Victorian Park.

Works Progress Administration laborers started arriving on the job site in early 1936. Construction began on a concrete and stone seawall to encompass the project site and to prepare a foundation for the proposed bathhouse at the foot of Polk Street. The work required the movement of the State Belt Railroad further south toward Beach Street (see photo, History #7). Concrete foundations were prepared, and masons laid the thousands of cobblestones hauled to the site between 1931 and 1933 into a stepped seawall that ran along the rubble beach, gradually rising and curving along the shoreline until it reached the base of Municipal Pier. The former rubble and concrete seawall haphazardly constructed near Municipal Pier in 1931 was torn down. The seawall's base served as the foundation for the new wall. The debris, along with the rubble from the beach and earth graded from the site, was used to backfill the seawall and extend the land for Aquatic Park further into the cove.

With the seawall completed, additional fill was brought in to extend Van Ness Avenue to Municipal Pier. Tombstones from defunct city cemeteries were cut and shaped to make a flat plug between the original military seawall of 1911 and the new WPA seawall, closing the gap between the two walls and allowing for fill up to the end of Municipal Pier. Van Ness Avenue was graded and paved, permitting construction trucks and other vehicles onto the site.

Work began on the various park structures once the seawall was completed. In June 1936, City Architect William Mooser was selected to draft the plans of the park's buildings. Not all of the structures planned for Aquatic Park were built immediately since project funds were limited. Site development initially focused on construction of "a bath house to accommodate some 5,000 people, the greater part of which is below street grade and acts as a retaining wall for Beach Street" (WPA Project Files). Plans were developed for a boathouse for the Sea Scouts and a new boat- and clubhouse for the various rowing clubs whose existing buildings were slated to be removed. Mooser designed three stylistically compatible convenience and lifesaving stations (also known as the roundhouses) and located them efficiently throughout the site. One convenience station was placed at the west end of the park near the junction of Municipal Pier and Van Ness Avenue. The second convenience station was located at the east end of the park at the terminus of Jefferson Street, and a third convenience station was constructed on the end of

Municipal Pier. Landscaped grounds and gardens were also planned, which would be decorated by modern sculpture created by artists in the Federal Art Program of the WPA. Artisans working under the auspices of the Federal Art Project crafted murals in wax fresco and tile, sculpture, and terrazzo floors for the Aquatic Park bathhouse.

In January of 1938, most of the external work was done and the building was ready for painting. Work on the internal decorations and fixtures, however, dragged on. The graded lawn areas were prepared for planting, and final work was underway on the last relocation of the State Belt Railroad along the stretch of land between the seawall and the bathhouse. Concrete was being poured for two large speaker towers at each end of the park, and work was nearing completion on two of the three convenience stations. Gravel was laid for the concrete sidewalks behind the seawall and for a concrete retaining wall which would support the slope between Van Ness Avenue and Fort Mason (see photo, History #8).

Problems with the project began almost immediately. Site development was barely underway when difficulties were encountered regarding revisions to construction details. Reconstruction of the Belt Line railroad connecting Fort Mason with the piers caused considerable delay. After providing for its location along Beach Street, plans were changed in favor of a location between the seawall and the bathhouse.

In April of 1938, work commenced on the concrete bleachers over the men's dressing rooms on the east wing of the building and the women's dressing rooms on the west wing. Work was proceeding at a fast pace temporarily. Even with the bleachers poured and the various buildings painted in May and June of 1938, photographs of interior spaces continue to show vastly incomplete areas. No wall tiles had been applied, the showers were rough concrete areas, the murals in the main lounge were only halfway completed, and many of the finishing details were yet to be installed.

The project was plagued by lack of direction and purpose, and work on the bathhouse building dragged on for some two years. Due to delays and the slow pace of work, the boathouses were dropped from the project as there was simply not enough time or money to complete them as planned. Delays still plagued the project because the city and the concessioners to whom the city had leased the premises insisted upon construction changes. These delays eventually forced the WPA to withdraw from the project, leaving the work undone.

In January of 1939, the WPA turned the project over to the city. The work at Aquatic Park ground to a halt. The proposed boathouses and club buildings for the rowing clubs and the Sea Scouts were never built, nor was the additional pier that would have surrounded the lagoon on the cove's eastern edge. On dedication day, January 22,1939, many features of the "completed" structures were unfinished. Unpainted sections of murals were marked with chalk outlines, half of the tile mosaics were incomplete, and three convenience stations were only half finished.

Another fact marred the otherwise happy event of dedication; the supposedly public building had been leased to private concessioners, Leo and Kenneth Gordon and was, in fact, no longer public. The bathhouse was to be used as a restaurant and bar known as the "Aquatic Park Casino." The city was convinced that it would be unable to operate concessions at Aquatic Park without considerable loss. After much controversy and investigation from the WPA, the Gordons were evicted from the bathhouse in late 1940.

Following its dedication to the public, the San Francisco Park and Recreation Department continued planning for the complete development of Aquatic Park. In 1940, a plan was prepared for the construction of a 204-space parking area east of the bathhouse along Beach Street between Larkin and Hyde Streets, in the approximate location of the present Victorian Park. Plans approved by City Parks

Commissioner Herbert L. Fleishhaker indicated the city would plant thirty-seven street trees, approximately 2,200 shrubs, add 26,000 square ft. of lawn area, using 150 pounds of blue grass and rye seed, as well as 7,000 pieces of ground cover ("General Plan of Auto Parking Areas and Park for Aquatic Park," Drawing #3737-A, SAFR #HDC B15-6).

A 1941 drawing approved by the city's superintendent of parks, John McClaren, is another important source that illustrates park landscape plans developed during the period of significance (Drawing #HCD 555,B5.15-7). This drawing depicts a "preliminary plan of mother's and childrens' play area" in the space now occupied by the bocce ball courts. A flowing walkway system circulated around play spaces (including a sandbox, a slide and a merry-go-round) separated by grassy areas. Extensive plantings of shrubs and trees were shown encircling the open, interior grassy areas. This drawing provided a comprehensive landscape plan for the area, which could have been implemented upon removal of the Spring Valley Water Company pumping station. A key feature of this landscape, included in both the 1941 drawing and the 1936 site model, is the smokestack from the pumping station. Perhaps designers envisioned retaining the smokestack as an historical remnant, a gesture to the area's industrial past. In any case, the Spring Valley Water Company pumping station was not removed until the late 1940s and the area was not developed as the city and the WPA once envisioned it. The 1941 drawing also shows an extension of the Van Ness Avenue concrete retaining wall, as well as a new retaining wall on the eastern edge of the play area, which would have separated the space from the adjacent private development along Beach Street.



History #5. Municipal Pier under construction, and cove shoreline with State Belt Railroad tracks, 1932. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAC 2288)



History #6. Model of Aquatic Park, 1939, based on Punnett's development plan (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAC 2287).



History #7. State Belt Railroad tracks temporarily located along Beach St. Construction of the bathhouse was out of sight to the left (PGSO, CLI, SAFR-N-2-26).



History #8. View toward Aquatic Park under construction, from Van Ness Avenue extension, 1938. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR P88-C35.121n)

1941- 1948: Military Occupation

As part of the military troop mobilization plans for World War II, the men of Battery B, 216th Coast Artillery Battalion, arrived in San Francisco on December 2, 1941 and were quartered in the bathhouse (see photo, Land Use #4). When the military arrived at Aquatic Park, workmen were busily removing the last traces of equipment and furnishings left over from the Gordon's Aquatic Park Casino operation, as well as various maritime artifacts and ship models the city had stored in the building after the 1939-1940 Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island. As the headquarters for the Fourth Army Anti-Aircraft command, the building was organized into a specialized military post.

Prior to the arrival of the military the Park Commission was attempting to ready the beach for the public. The constantly moving beach sand was temporarily stabilized when wooden breakwaters were installed in 1941. In July of 1941, eighty million cubic feet of sand from excavations for the Union Square Parking Garage was hauled to the Aquatic Park beach. In later years a stone breakwater was created in the lagoon and concrete baffles were installed between the pilings of the pier to keep the strong winter surge from removing the sand to the east end of the park and exposing the broken rubble that lies underneath.

The military motor pool used a vacant lot to the east of the park that would eventually become Victorian Park. Sentries were posted throughout the park, the motor pool area was fenced off, and Aquatic Park became "off-limits" to the general public.

Over time the building lost its hastily thrown together military look. The Army also expanded into other areas of the park. The proposed hospital facility next to the men's shower area was utilized as a dispensary and medical aid station. In February of 1942 the Army proposed to utilize Municipal Pier. In July of the same year, a proposal was sent to the Board of Park Commissioners requesting the use of the eastern convenience station; both requests were approved. In addition, the Army also requested and received permission to build a small landing wharf at the west end of the cove near the west convenience station and terminus to the municipal pier. The facility was built in December of 1943. The same facility, later remodeled, now serves as the Sea Scout Base in Aquatic Park. Ironically, it is located on the proposed site of a boathouse for the Sea Scouts, which was planned, but never built, by the WPA.

As the war ended, the military began to make plans to transfer Aquatic Park back to the city, its role in protecting the Pacific coast from foreign attack was at an end. The last remaining soldiers vacated the building in February of 1946. Before the property was returned to the city, the Army restored the building, and repaired the structural damages resulting from years of military use of Aquatic Park.

The interior and exterior of the bathhouse suffered minor damage, and all traces of the military use were removed. The landing pier at the west end of the cove was also left behind, probably at the request of the city. The park would have been fully returned to the city had a tug not crashed into Municipal Pier. Once the required engineering studies were completed, actual repair work continued through 1947. The pier was returned to the city in early 1948 and the park once again came completely under the jurisdiction of the City of San Francisco.

During the war years, one of the Beniamino Bufano sculptures in the park was damaged. According to Bufano's biography, vandals wrecked the three-ton penguin, called "The Prayer," at the entrance of the park. Its stainless steel head was stolen and its stonework was smashed and broken. With financial assistance from individual donors Bufano was able to restore the sculpture (Howard Wilkining and

Sonia Brown, Bufano: An Intimate Biography, Berkeley: Howell-North Press, 1972: 159-160, quoted in Delgado, p. 86). As for the other Bufano sculptures, many had been hauled away by the city for storage during the war years. When Bufano looked for the statues in 1946, he found they had been dumped in the city storage yard behind Laguna Honda Hospital where they had suffered from neglect, and acts of vandalism.

After public protest, the city agreed to find out who had been responsible for neglecting the artworks and asked Bufano to personally restore or direct the restoration of the sculptures. The various pieces the city retained were eventually placed in other public spaces, outside Aquatic Park. A red granite seal similar to one still in the bathhouse was placed at the Hillsdale Shopping Center and a small black stone mouse and a rabbit, similar to a stylized toad still at Aquatic Park, were placed in the Valencia Courts Housing Project in San Francisco. The restored Prayer now stands in a protected enclave in San Francisco's Maritime Plaza.

The war years at Aquatic Park did see some positive changes. The shifting sand caused by a strong northwesterly current kept pushing the sand off the beach and piling it at the east end of the cove. In 1944, the problem was so bad that the undermined sea wall threatened to collapse. Additional sand was brought in and wooden groins were placed in the sand to prevent future erosion. The city also tackled the problem of unsanitary water. In March of 1946, a fifty-foot square lot of land was granted to the Department of Public Works to build a sewage pumping plant at the corner of Jefferson and Hyde Streets. A $70,000 appropriation was allotted in the city's 1947 budget to construct the pumping plant and to alleviate the sewage problem that had been plaguing the cove.

1948-Present: Changes to Aquatic Park

After the military vacated Aquatic Park, the situation remained much as it had prior to the war; the buildings were locked, and the promise of Aquatic Park as a public facility seemed forgotten. By 1948-1949, the lower decks of the bathhouse were once again used for sunbathing, although swimming was still forbidden. Despite the construction of a new sewer system, the Health Department's concern about the unsanitary conditions of the cove forced the closure of the beach.

In March of 1952, the unsanitary swimming conditions sparked a city proposal for the construction of an enclosed fresh water swimming pool at Aquatic Park at the site of the now demolished Spring Valley Water Company pumping station. An application was sent to the National Production Authority in Washington for the construction of four enclosed pools throughout the city; the San Francisco School Board and other community agencies endorsed the plan, which had been sanctioned by the voters in a 1948 school bond election. The NPA, however, turned down the plans. The Aquatic Park pool, which would have been an Olympic competition-size, 165- by 75-foot pool with a flat-roofed glass and steel structure covering it, was never built. Public protest eventually forced the issue into the open and swimming was allowed in July 1953, with the showers and locker room finally being utilized, like the sun decks, for their intended purpose.

After the Army returned the park's pier to the control of the city, Municipal Pier was reopened to the public and became a popular fishing spot. Unfortunately, the convenience station at the end of the pier, which was less than fifty percent complete when the WPA turned the project over to the city, was never finished. Only the rough concrete exterior of the building was constructed, and this was eventually sealed. Currently, the only access to the structure is by a bolted hatch on the roof. The pier itself was seriously damaged when it was rammed in a heavy fog by the freighter Harry Luckenbach on February 3, 1953. The ship hit the curve of the pier at its outer perimeter, cutting a twelve-foot V-shaped swath in

the pier's reinforced concrete.

The bathhouse at Aquatic Park also became the home of another community organization, the San Francisco Senior Center. Under the auspices of the Senior Center, the eastern end of the lower portions of the building has been converted or altered to better suit their purposes. The San Francisco Senior Center, established in 1947, is the oldest, private, non-profit senior center in the United States. The Senior Center still occupies the building and continues to serve San Francisco's elderly and retired population.

Other activities permitted in the area after the war included the use of the former military pier and structure at the west end of the cove and the use of the site of the pumping station (the proposed site of the enclosed swimming pool) for bocce ball courts.

In 1950, a proposal was advanced to make Aquatic Park the central focus of the San Francisco Maritime Museum. Under the plans of the proposal, the bathhouse would become the museum building. The Board of Park Commissioners approved the idea and Aquatic Park was inaugurated into new service as a museum.

The San Francisco Maritime Museum
The Maritime Museum was established and opened in May of 1951 after much hard work on the part of Karl Kortum, an avid sailor and maritime history buff, and his colleagues. The museum's first displays were ship models and paintings, as well as small maritime artifacts. Kortum brought in parts of actual sailing vessels, creating an innovative and exciting display technique.

In addition to displaying relics from historic ships, Kortum encouraged the San Francisco Maritime Museum Association to support the display of intact, preserved historic vessels in the cove. The Association acquired and restored the square-rigger BALCLUTHA, moored to the east at Fisherman's Wharf. In a parallel effort, the Sate of California, encouraged by Kortum and the Association, acquired and restored a small fleet of historic West Coast vessels for display at the Hyde Street Pier. The vessels moored in the lagoon under the administration of the State Parks included the schooner C.A. THAYER, the scow schooner ALMA, the ferryboat EUREKA, the steam schooner WAPAMA, and the steam tug HERCULES. The original concept Kortum proposed for Aquatic Park proved successful and preserved public use of the building. Unfortunately, this use also involved adverse alteration and destruction of some of the bathhouse's historic fabric.

The original displays of the maritime museum were encased in glass and maritime paintings were arranged around the various WPA-produced artworks and ornate fixtures of the bathhouse. The structure was not designed to function as a working museum, and many sacrifices were made to the building's interior in order for it to serve as an adequate museum facility. On the main façade of the building, a large model of a ship's stern with the name "Maritime Museum" was hung, the only major external alteration to the building's appearance. The painted legend "San Francisco Maritime Museum" was added to the east end of the building to further advertise its museum use.

Many interior alterations were made over the years. Holes were drilled into the murals and the entire eastern half of the second floor was radically modified to suit museum needs. As recently as 1976, the exhibits damaged and covered many of the murals and designs on the walls, including plywood and metal three dimensional design elements. The terrazzo floor with its intricate designs was covered with a carpet.

Additional alterations included the replacement of the original stairway banisters, which were brass

ended rope, with chromed metal railings. Two bathrooms were converted into office space, and the glass wall pantry was remodeled to function as a library, with internal wooden walls and a shelving system. In addition, the "yardarm" attachment on the flagpole, or "main mast" on the fourth floor roof was removed, and four perimeter flagpoles were added to the fourth floor roof.

Bocce Ball Court
The west end of Aquatic Park had become a largely undeveloped court for the popular Italian sport of bocce ball after the demolition of the Spring Valley Water Company Pumping Station in the late 1940s (see photo, History #9). The courts became a popular gathering spot for local bocce ball players and countless retired men who would sit on the sidelines. The area had been earmarked for a children's playground as part of the original WPA proposal, but like other components of the park, the playground was never funded or built. The property, which was owned by the city, was traded to the Eastman Kodak Company in the early 1950s for a warehouse on Rincon Hill which the city wanted to develop as an approach to the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. Despite the protests of the San Francisco Maritime Museum Association and other organizations, the land was transferred to Eastman Kodak which in turn transferred the property to the National Park Service and the area was graded and developed into the present structure. As a gesture to the local interests, Kodak did allot some land for a much reduced bocce ball court. In 1961 the bocce ball court and shelter were developed. The completed facility is still in use. A new roof structure was erected over the courts in 1993 by the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.

Victorian Park
The last portion of Aquatic Park to be developed was Victorian Park, at the east end of the property, at the former location of the nineteenth century bathhouses. The site was filled in with earthquake debris and other rubble, and by 1936 had become the construction yard and headquarters for the WPA project. In 1942, the lot was fenced in and used as the parking lot for the military's motor pool, but it reverted to a weed-choked empty lot after the war. The original proposal for the San Francisco Maritime Museum included an extension of the Hyde Street cable car line to the lot, with appropriate facilities and a landscaped park at the terminus as part of a waterfront revival envisioned by Karl Kortum and others.

A number of plans were proposed for the site of the present-day Victorian Park, some of which were prepared in collaboration with well-known landscape architects. The city still managed the property and planned to develop the southern half of the area as a landscaped 120-car parking lot and the northern half would be occupied by tennis and bocce ball courts. Planning for the eventual development of this area as a public park had begun in 1948, when a plan similar to that advanced in the 1950s was drafted; the earlier plan did not include the parking lot but added more open lawns and a playground in this area.

By the mid-1950s site planning centered on an exhibit building set in a park-like landscaped area. These plans sat on a shelf until 1955, when the cable car was extended into the lot. In 1956, the San Francisco architecture firm of Campell and Wong designed a triangular-shaped museum building for the Pacific Coast Chapter of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society. The modern glass building featured a central triangular courtyard, and the surrounding landscape designed by Lawrence Halprin's office. The plan included a layout of the park's plantings, circulation systems, recreational areas, and outdoor exhibits that complemented the museum building (HDC 555 drw B5.16-6).

In 1958, the State of California Division of Beaches and Parks, Department of Natural Resources drafted a development plan for Victorian Park. These plans included renderings for cast iron benches, gas lamps, planter boxes and wrought iron hand railings (HDC 555-drw B5.16-4). The City and County of San Francisco gave the land area of Victorian Park to the state circa 1960. In 1961, the California State Department of Public Works produced working drawing and a planting plan for the park's construction.

In 1966, landscape architect George Church was the design consultant for the proposed Queen Victoria Garage and Bridge. Church collaborated with the San Francisco firm of Osborne and Stewart to create a design for a subterranean parking facility and pedestrian bridge linking the garage with Ghirardelli Square. The structures were decorated with layers of metal tracery that recalled San Francisco's early Victorian architecture (HDC 555, drw B5.17-5). This plan was never implemented. In 1966, the San Francisco cable cars and their tracks were designated a National Historic Landmark. The cable car turnaround and its entrance to Victorian Park were altered in 1982; a kiosk, ticket booth, and drinking fountains were added to the site.

The San Francisco Maritime Museum Association, working with the State Department of Beaches and Parks, which was then setting up the San Francisco Maritime State Historical Monument on the Hyde Street Pier, approved the landscaping and development. After much wrangling between the Association and the state over a proper design, the 1960 park plans reflected much of the Maritime Museum staff's way of thinking. Cobblestone walks, gravel paths, Victorian-style bollards, and other features were designed by the museum staff to create the atmosphere of a modern interpretation of a "Victorian Park." The WPA never envisioned it, however the pseudo-Victorian embellishments of the Maritime Museum combined to create "An Eclectic Park Lit by Gaslight" (Notebook kept by SF Maritime Museum, n.d., circa 1961, quoted in Delgado, HRS, p. 97, n. 15). This Victorian-style design would have complemented the recently renovated Ghirardelli Square complex, across Beach Street.

The final development of the area surrounding Aquatic Park and the San Francisco Maritime Museum created an atmosphere of a pseudo-Victorian ambience with a touristy air. The mooring of the historic ships in Aquatic Park lagoon, the presence of the old rowing club building at the foot of Jefferson and Hyde, and the crowds of thousands of vacationing tourists made Aquatic Park the gateway to the shopping and restaurant complex at Fisherman's Wharf.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the National Maritime Museum
Under city management, the grounds of Aquatic Park slowly degenerated. Trash pickups were infrequent, transients slept in the park, and a swimming ban was in effect between 1960 and 1970. Problems began to develop in the bathhouse as the facility began to turn from a crisp white to a dulled shade of gray. The roof was in poor condition, with its cracked and leaking skylights originally intended to provide natural light for the dressing rooms. Leaking windows began to peel the murals in the main lounge and plaster in the area below the men's bleachers, where the Maritime Museum had converted the Boy's Showers and Dressing Rooms into a storage facility. The majority of the interior on the main floor area was overcrowded with the museum's large collections.

On January 3, 1978, Aquatic Park was transferred to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, becoming a unit of one of the country's major urban national parks. The Maritime Museum remained a separate entity until June of 1978, when it too became part of the National Park Service and was joined with the historic ships of the State Historic Park to become the National Maritime Museum of San Francisco. The National Park Service inherited many problems both with the facilities and with the use of the area. Criminal activities were common in the park, and the facility was in poor condition. Maintenance had been minimal; nothing had been painted for years, windows were broken, plumbing was bad, and the beach was eroded and polluted. Initial Park Service actions intended to upgrade the facilities consisted of installing trashcans throughout the park, cleaning the beach, repainting the locker rooms, replacing lockers, repainting the entire exterior of the bathhouse, and repairing broken windows. In addition, weed-infested planting beds were replanted, two temporary plywood lifeguard towers were erected, and seawall street lamps were repaired.

Several other changes were made to the structure to better serve as a National Park Service facility. Parking meters were removed, and bars were installed outside the windows of the former medical facility in the bleacher area, allowing the installation of a permanent lifeguard office with showers, rescue equipment, a scuba dive equipment locker, and an emergency first aid station. One major alteration was the installation of new door to the men's shower area.

In July 1978, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area eliminated the museum's entrance fees and the result was that 1,111 people visited the museum the first day of free admission, as compared to 300 visitors the day before. Subsequent attendance statistics revealed that visitation levels were up 200 to 300 percent from preceding years' levels.

In 1984, the Aquatic Park bathhouse and associated structures were listed as a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1987, Aquatic Park was designated a National Historic Landmark.

On June 27, 1988, Congress passed Public Law 100-328 establishing the maritime museum, park areas, and the historic vessels as the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. On July 18, 2003, management of the San Francisco Municipal Pier was transferred from Golden Gate National Recreation Area to San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.



View of Aquatic Park, circa 1940. See also Vegetation #2. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR A11,35,508n)



History #9. Area residents enjoying bocce ball games, circa 1950. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR A12.16,417n)

Analysis And Evaluation

Summary

Aquatic Park retains integrity as determined by the seven aspects, or qualities that in various combinations define integrity according to National Register standards: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The historic designed landscape contributes to the significance of Aquatic Park under Criteria A and C. The historic landscape characteristics that retain integrity include spatial organization, land use, cluster arrangement, buildings and structures, circulation, topography, and views and vistas. Small scale features and vegetation do not retain integrity due to the loss of a significant amount of original fabric and the introduction of new elements.

Landscape Characteristics And Features

Buildings And Structures

For the purposes of the CLI, buildings are defined as elements primarily built for sheltering any form of human activity, whereas structures are functional elements constructed for purposes other than sheltering human activity. Engineering systems are considered structures and include both mechanical and structural systems. The CLI references the List of Classified Structures (LCS) and records buildings and structures as features of the landscape. As features, buildings and structures contribute to the spatial organization, circulation, and integrity of the landscape. The LCS Program is the National Park Service's inventory for buildings and structures. It provides details that are not typically found in the CLI and should be referenced for more definitive structure information.

There are four historic buildings and ten historic structures in the Aquatic Park Historic District in San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park . The park's List of Classified Structures (LCS) contains fourteen entries for Aquatic Park. All of the buildings and structures date from the period of significance (1920-1945).

BUILDINGS

Bathhouse (AP-0001)
The bathhouse is a four-story reinforced concrete structure designed in the streamline moderne style by William Mooser. Construction activities began in 1936 and the building was completed in 1939. It currently houses the San Francisco Maritime Museum and the San Francisco Senior Center.

The bathhouse is concrete and steel frame construction, 125 feet long, elliptical in plan; its rounded ends are largely glazed with metal sash. In profile it assumes a three-tiered form. Although the building contains four levels, only three levels are visible from Beach Street; the lower level is below grade. The second story is set back on a deck-like terrace with metal railings. The flat roof is decorated with several "masts," or flagpoles, which surround a larger central flagpole. Air vents on the roof were constructed in the shape of ship's funnels. A carved, green slate entrance canopy and door surround defines a central recessed entrance on the Beach Street (south) elevation. The Beach Street entrance features three glass doors with brass-plated handles shaped like halves of ship's wheels. A glass transom window spans the entry doors. The entrance is flanked on each side by sets of three vertical metal sash windows and three round, "porthole" windows. The concrete exterior walls of the building are painted white. A WPA report stated "Like a huge ship at its dock…with rounded ends, set back upper stories, porthole windows and ship rails, its resemblance to a luxurious ocean liner is indeed startling" (WPA Fact Sheet; "A Palace for

the Public." 1939. Quoted in Delgado: 76, n. 1) (see photo, Buildings and Structures #1).

The interior of the bathhouse is lavishly decorated and features many original artworks with nautical motifs executed by various artists working under the auspices of the WPA. The murals, sculptures, and other artworks were completed by Hilaire Hiler, Sargent Johnson, John Glut, Richard Ayer, and Beniamino Bufano. Hiler supervised the overall design of the building interior. The interior decorations repeat the nautical themes of the building's exterior: a mosaic floor is designed to represent a naval chart of San Francisco Bay, and murals in the main lounge depict highly stylized undersea scenes.

Following its construction, many alterations were made to the interior and exterior of the structure. In 1947, the San Francisco Senior Center occupied the lower floors of the bathhouse. Funds were raised for the renovation and installation of an elevator from the first to second floors according to designs by retired local architect George Applegarth. The elevator was installed in the east end of the open portico on the rear of the bathhouse, and was carefully designed to imitate and use the original design elements; it blends into the background and is not easily distinguished from the original fabric. These alterations date to circa 1963.

Additional work consisted of remodeling the Blue Room, the former restaurant and first maritime museum, into the "Bayview Room," which now functions as a community recreation hall and kitchen providing low-cost senior meals. Alterations to the original fabric in this area consisted of the removal of painted wooden plaques that represented the flags of various yachting clubs. The room was also repainted from its varied shades of blue (hence the name) to white, and the original door at the sidewalk level was removed and replaced with a new wheelchair-accessible door. On the first floor, many of the former offices and portions of the shower and dressing areas were converted into offices and classrooms separated by plywood walls. The former concession stand, which occupied the central room, was also removed. The four pillars that served as the corners of the concession counter still stand, now sheathed in paneling.

The occupation of the bathhouse by the Maritime Museum also added to the destruction and removal of original elements. In fact, the entire eastern half of the second floor was radically modified to better suit museum needs. Some of the alterations included the replacement of the original stairway banisters, which were brass ended rope, with chromed metal railings. Two bathrooms were converted into office space, and the glass block wall pantry was remodeled to function as a library, with internal wooden walls and a shelving system and which now houses exhibits. In addition, the "yardarm" attachment on the flagpole, or "main mast" on the fourth floor roof was removed, and four perimeter flagpoles were added to the fourth floor roof. As recently as 1976, the exhibits damaged and covered many of the murals and designs on the walls and floors. These included the multicolored murals, as well as three-dimensional design elements constructed of plywood and metal.

In 1993, the park installed covers over the existing skylights on the building's exterior. The reversible covers were installed to prevent water leakage into the basement of the Maritime Museum where offices, workshops, and a photographic darkroom are housed below-grade. In 1998, the women's shower room was rehabilitated into park maintenance offices. The space now accommodates two staff people, a tool room, and a workshop.

West Convenience Station (AP-0001)
(LCS structure name: Public Restrooms/Food Stand West)
Historically referred to as Convenience Station #1, the building contains a concession stand and restrooms and is located at the foot of Van Ness Avenue at the approach to Municipal Pier (see photo, Buildings and Structures #2). This WPA-constructed building was designed as part of the Aquatic Park

complex, and its architecture reflects the same rounded, nautically inspired, streamline moderne elements as the other buildings in the group. The two-storied building measures twenty-seven feet by thirty-three feet and is embellished with two bands of a wave design along the upper part of its concrete walls. The fixed metal sash restroom windows are shaped like portholes. The building also contains a partial basement for storage. Changes to the building include the construction of a new concrete floor, the addition of new kitchen equipment and a stainless steel counter, as well as the addition of an awning over the counter and serving windows. A curvilinear concrete planting bed was constructed at the west side of the building. A stairway leading to the roof and observation deck wraps around the exterior of the building. The deck has built-in benches and a small shelter, designed to provide lookouts for lifeguards. The roof deck is bordered by a parapet, which retains its original metal rail, similar to the metal parapet on the bathhouse.

East Convenience Station (AP-0011)
(LCS structure name: Public Restroom East)
The east convenience station is adjacent to the Rowing Club buildings at the terminus of Jefferson Street. The building was completed and opened to the public in 1944. The oval-shaped building has a white stucco exterior, similar to the west convenience station (see photo, Buildings and Structures #3). Its principal design elements are stylistically consistent with the other buildings of the complex: its elliptical form, banded wave designs, and the staircase that wraps around the exterior. The roof of the building was also designed for use as a lifeguard station.

Sea Scouts Building (No Structure Number)
During its occupation of Aquatic Park (1941-1948), the Army received permission to build a small landing wharf at the west end of the cove near the west convenience station and the terminus of Municipal Pier. The facility was built in 1943 and later remodeled; it now serves as the Sea Scouts Building (see photo, Buildings and Structures #4). The one-story, wood-frame building, accessed by narrow concrete stairs from the Van Ness Avenue, is near the entrance to Municipal Pier and was constructed on pilings over the cove. The building has been remodeled and contains many small rooms used for storage, offices, and classrooms. It also features a docking and boat repair facility for the Sea Scouts organization. The WPA plans for the development of the park included a building on this location to accommodate the rowing clubs, which was never constructed.

STRUCTURES

East and West Bleachers. (AP-0016A, AP-0016B)
The bathhouse is flanked on its northern side by concrete bleachers (see photo, Building and Structures #5). The east bleachers (65’ x 250’) are the larger of the two structures, and feature eleven rows for seating. The west bleachers (30’ x 100’) contain four rows of seats. Streamline moderne design details are incorporated into the bleacher wingwalls.

Between the bathhouse and the bleachers, vehicular ramps lead from Beach Street to the promenade. These ramps curve around the east and west ends of the bathhouse, and repeat the elliptical forms characteristic of the complex of Aquatic Park buildings and structures. Metal handrails, similar to those forming the bathhouse parapet rails, separate the bleachers from the promenade and line the entryway, in the center of the east bleachers, to the bathhouse changing rooms.

Constructed in 1938, the bleachers were originally intended to seat “many thousands who desire to watch athletic events, races and the large crowd at play…” (WPA Press release, 1939) The bleacher seats are now the setting for outdoor concerts and are a resting place for tourists. The east bleachers originally

accommodated the Aquatic Park hospital and first aid station beneath its benches.

On the outer edge of the west bleachers, a stairway connects the upper plateau of Aquatic Park with the beach promenade. A non-historic retaining wall, approximately eighteen inches tall, meets the base of the stairs at a right angle.

Seawall (AP-0018)
The seawall provided a reinforced shoreline for the proposed bathhouse, and was one of the initial construction projects on the site (see photo, Buildings and Structures #6). Concrete foundations were prepared, and thousands of cobblestones taken from San Francisco streets during a city-sponsored modernization project were hauled to the site between 1931 and 1933 and were used to construct the seawall. The wall gradually rises from seven to ten steps as it moves westward, maintaining a level elevation as it follows the slope of the cove shoreline and stretches toward the base of Municipal Pier. The earlier rubble and concrete seawall, haphazardly constructed in 1931 near Municipal Pier, was torn down and its base served as the foundation for the new wall. The debris, along with the rubble from the beach and earth graded from the site, was used to backfill the seawall and extend the land for Aquatic Park further into the cove (Delgado, p.63). The seawall extends from the eastern end of the park near the west convenience station to meet Municipal Pier. Where it meets Municipal Pier, the seawall is largely above grade and acts as a barrier between Van Ness Avenue and the rubble-filled shoreline.

East and West Speaker Towers (AP-0019, AP-0020)
In 1938, two reinforced concrete speaker towers were constructed to the east and west of the bathhouse. The concrete pier of each tower artfully flanges out toward the speaker housing at the top, thirty-five feet above the park (see photo, Buildings and Structures #7). The speaker housing is circular in plan, and has a series of concentric horizontal bands shielding the speaker opening. The metal ladder once bolted to the concrete base which provided access to the speaker housing has been removed. The cover grille on the east speaker tower has been removed and will be replaced. The towers are of the same streamline moderne design as the other WPA structures, and are key sculptural elements in the historic landscape. Planting beds were established at the base of the towers.

San Francisco Municipal Pier (FM0-400)
(GGNRA LCS structure name: Fort Mason Municipal Pier)
Construction of Municipal Pier began in 1931 and concluded in 1933. The pier, which was built by the City of San Francisco, was constructed on the site of the Army Quartermaster's Pier at the northwest corner of Fort Mason (see photo, Buildings and Structures #8). The pier was designed as a recreational facility, but also functioned to protect the cove from the currents of the open bay. It was outfitted with electrical and water lines, which supplied power and water for the street lamps that line the pier and the convenience station at its terminus. Upon its completion, the San Francisco Board of Park Commissioners noted that "the use of the Pier by bass fisherman has proven …[so] popular [that] certain portions of the concrete structure were sealed in 'Konset,' a cement-finishing material, in order to keep it in a sanitary condition" (Minutes of the Board of Park Commissioners, 19 July 1934, p. 49).

Municipal Pier is built of reinforced concrete on pilings over the rubble breakwater that shelters Aquatic Park cove. The pier has a curvilinear plan with a round, bulb-like end. The pilings are concrete and support a wood, concrete, and asphalt deck. Concrete curbs along the outer edges of the pier mask utility pipes and separate vehicles from pedestrians and fishermen. Concrete benches and streetlights are located at even intervals along its length. The streetlights no longer function; the lighting fixtures have been broken or removed, and only the poles remain. The pier railing was designed to accommodate the placement of the concrete benches. Notches in the railing opposite the benches provide easier access for fishing and improve sight lines while seated.

During the military occupation of the park (1942-1948), an Army tug crashed into the pier, causing severe structural damage. Repairs were made in 1947, and the pier was returned to the city in early 1948. The pier was also seriously damaged when it was rammed in a heavy fog by a freighter on February 3, 1953, and repairs to the structure were estimated to cost over $10,000 (Delgado, p. 93). Although Municipal Pier is within the cultural landscape boundary for the Aquatic Park Historic District, it is located outside the boundary of the maritime park in Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Unfortunately, the combination convenience/lifesaving station at the end of the pier, which was less than fifty percent complete when the WPA turned the project over to the city, was never finished. The circular building was intended to match the other two convenience stations in the park. Only the rough concrete exterior was constructed. Access to the unfinished building is by bolted hatches on the roof, which lead to interior rooms filled with rubble and water.

Aquatic Park Southwest Retaining Wall (AP-0029)
Two retaining walls support the grade change at the southwestern corner of the park. Based on early maps, and a 1935 photograph, the stone masonry retaining wall pre-dates most of the park's construction. The stone masonry retaining wall has concrete coping and granite piers topped with concrete acorn finials, and forms the northern edge of the site of the former water pumping station (see photo, Building and Structures #8). The wall was significantly altered during the construction of Aquatic Park. The original configuration was longer; the western end was curved and the eastern end was either angled or curved. Today, the western end is buried in soil except for one acorn finial, which still rises above ground. It is unclear if the entire western end is still intact and would require archeological research to make this determination. A portion of the eastern end of the wall, including its angle/curve, was removed at an unknown date.

The concrete retaining wall, which runs parallel to the east side of Van Ness Avenue, meets the west end of the stone masonry wall at a ninety-degree angle . A 1938 WPA construction photograph shows the concrete retaining wall adjoining the stonemasonry retaining wall adjacent to the east Van Ness Avenue sidewalk (see photo, Buildings and Structures #9). The stone masonry wall and concrete retaining wall, along with the change in grade, serve to separate the pedestrian walkways from the lawn areas and the bocce ball courts below.

Promenade Retaining Wall (No Structure Number)
At the western end of the promenade a concrete retaining wall terminates the park's slope as it meets the beach promenade, serving as a transitional element between the two. The wall begins at the separation of the promenade and the State Belt Line railroad and curves to the north side of the west convenience station, enclosing a small lawn area. The retaining wall is nineteen inches wide, highest at its center, and tapers lower at its ends. The wall appears in a March 18, 1938 historic photograph (see photo, History #8) of the park and is also shown on Punnett's 1938 park plan.

Concrete Retaining Wall (Non-Contributing)
At an unknown date after the period of significance, a concrete retaining wall was established parallel to the State Belt Railroad tracks, adjacent to the West Bleacher stairs.

Summary
Although the addition of one building and one additional wall has occurred since the period of significance, as a whole, the buildings and structures in Aquatic Park are almost identical to those found during the period with only minor modifications. Accordingly, the buildings and structures retain integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic of Aquatic Park.



Buildings and Structures #1. Aquatic Park bathhouse, looking west along Beach St., August, 2000 (PGSO, CLI, SAFR, AP 0001)



Buildings and Structures #2. West comfort station, looking southeast, August 2000. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR, DSCN-0002)



Buildings and Structures #3. Looking northeast along Jefferson St., ca. 1938. The buildings to the right of the east convenience station are the clubhouses that were moved from Aquatic Park cove. (NA, FERA State Series 1933-1936, California 651.109)



Buildings and Structures #4. Sea Scouts building and docks, August 2000. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR, DSCN-0003)



Buildings and Structures #5. East bleachers, with beach promenade and cove shoreline, looking east, August 2000. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR, DSCN-0004)



Buildings and Structures #6. Aquatic Park cove seawall, looking west, August 2000. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR, DSCN-2706)



Buildings and Structures #7. West speaker tower, looking southeast, August 2000. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR, DSCN-0005)



Buildings and Structures #8. Municipal Pier, looking northeast from Fort Mason, ca. 1935. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAC 2282)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Aquatic Park Bathhouse	Contributing	Aquatic Park Bathhouse	10180	AP-0001
East Bleacher	Contributing	Aquatic Park Bleachers (East)	10187	AP-0016A
East Convenience Station	Contributing	Aquatic Park Public Restrooms (East)	10186	AP-0011
East Speaker Tower	Contributing	Aquatic Park Speaker Tower (East)	10191	AP-0020
Promenade Retaining Wall	Contributing	Aquatic Park Promenade Retaining Wall	220318	AP-0028
San Francisco Municipal Pier	Contributing	San Francisco Municipal Pier	010182	FMO-400
Sea Scout building	Contributing	Aquatic Park Sea Scout Building	330107	
Sea Scout stair	Contributing	Aquatic Park Sea Scout Building	330107	
Seawall	Contributing	Aquatic Park Seawall	10189	AP-0018
Stone curbing	Contributing	Aquatic Park Stone Curbing	220316	AP-0027
Van Ness Avenue Retaining Wall	Contributing	Aquatic Park Southwest Corner Retaining Walls	220319	AP-0029
West Bleacher	Contributing	Aquatic Park Bleachers (West)	58261	AP-0016B
West Convenience Station	Contributing	Aquatic Park Public Restrooms/Food Stand (West)	10181	AP-0002
West Speaker Tower	Contributing	Aquatic Park Speaker Tower (West)	10190	AP-0019
concrete retaining wall	Non-Contributing			
Wood Retaining Wall, East Bleachers	Non-Contributing			

Archeological Sites

Archeological sites inventoried by the CLI include the location of ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts in the landscape and are evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features.

Archeological resources within the Aquatic Park Historic District have been identified in "Archeological Resources of Golden Gate National Recreation Area," and "Historic Objects from Fort Mason 'Mini Park,' Van Ness Avenue at Aquatic Park," GGNRA, San Francisco." (Kelly, 1976 and 1980) An aboriginal habitation site at the corner of Hyde and Beach streets is registered as SFr-23, although an archeological analysis was never conducted prior to urbanization impact. Archeological sites at Black Point are registered as SFr-29, 30 & 31 and have been preserved. Black Point U.S. Army battery was partially excavated and restored in the 1980s.

The lagoon at Aquatic Park was used in the nineteenth century as an anchorage for ships with shallow drafts, however, the potential for underwater archeological resources related to this maritime activity is considered unlikely. The cove also contains rubble dumped following the 1906 earthquake. Some burned items, including utensils, tools, bottles, coins, and non-organic building materials were encountered in the fill at the foot of Van Ness Avenue during construction activity in 1976. Other submerged archeological resources may include the remnants of a U.S. Army pier (ca. 1871) and a State Belt Railroad trestle (1914) crossing the lagoon at Aquatic Park. Although these two features may have existed early on during the period of significance, their removal was necessary in order to complete plans for the construction of Aquatic Park.

Summary
Although there is an abundance of evidence of past human activity on the site, little of it relates to the primary period of significance established for Aquatic Park (1920-1941). Accordingly, archeological sites are not considered a contributing landscape characteristic of Aquatic Park.

Circulation

Circulation within a landscape is defined as spaces, features, and applied material finishes, which constitute systems of movement in a landscape.

The circulation system within Aquatic Park consists of several components dating from the period of significance. These include the State Belt Railroad tracks, Municipal Pier, Van Ness Avenue extension, the promenade, vehicle ramps, pedestrian walkways and stairs, and the Aquatic Park cove. In 1938, Civil Engineer John Punnett produced a site plan that identified most existing circulation elements (see photo, History #6).

The circulation system in Aquatic Park utilizes the sloping topography through this relatively narrow strip of shoreline to create a transition between the rigid grid system of the surrounding city streets and the recreational spaces of the historic district. Within the park, the paths and roads tend to avoid making right angles and flow around buildings and lawn areas, complementing the park's streamline moderne architecture. Visitors approach the park from the west using either McDowell Street through Fort Mason or Van Ness Avenue. To the south and east, the park is approached from Jefferson, Polk and Beach Streets. Moving into the bay at the Aquatic Park cove, the water provides aquatic sports enthusiasts a means to travel through the cove and thereby contributes to the overall pattern of user circulation within the historic designed landscape.

State Belt Railroad Tracks (FMO-330)
The design of Aquatic Park incorporated the existing State Belt Railroad tracks and Municipal Pier into its circulation system. The State Belt Railroad tracks, which were originally constructed in 1914 on trestles over the lagoon as a single standard gauge track, were incorporated into the beach promenade when they were realigned between 1925 and 1936 during development of the park. The State Belt Railroad of California, renamed the San Francisco Belt Railroad circa 1969, consisting of rails with a flangeway spiked to wooden crossties, crossed Aquatic Park from east to west. The tracks extended from the Embarcadero to the Fort Mason tunnel and beyond to lower Fort Mason and the Presidio, separating the walkway near the promenade's western terminus. The portion of track between the stairs west of the women's shower room and Van Ness Avenue appears to have been paved in the 1970s when the railroad fell out of use (see photo, Circulation #1). The tracks retain integrity and carried trains at least until 1976, although the flangeways have been filled with asphalt to reduce hazards to pedestrians and bicyclists. They are a contributing structure in the landscape.

Van Ness Avenue Extension (AP-0030)
As part of the original development plan for site, the city of San Francisco extended Van Ness Avenue in order to provide access to the planned recreational pier for Aquatic Park. Van Ness Avenue was extended approximately 150 feet northward toward the bay, to the foot of the Municipal Pier. Prior to extending Van Ness Avenue, however, the various rowing clubhouses located on the western shore of the cove were moved to the eastern side. Sidewalks on either side of the extended street allowed pedestrian access to Municipal Pier. The extension of Van Ness Avenue allowed direct automobile access to the base of the pier.

Municipal Pier (FMO-400)
The City of San Francisco built Municipal Pier between 1931 and 1933. It is located at the terminus of Van Ness Avenue and functions as an extension of the beach promenade, continuing the semi-circular circulation system around the cove. It is approximately ¼ mile long and terminates north of the bathhouse, across the lagoon. It was designed to serve as an aquatic recreational facility accommodating rowing and yacht clubs, while also providing for pedestrians, fishing enthusiasts and sightseers. In

addition to its recreational qualities, the pier serves a utilitarian purpose as it shelters the cove and a portion of Fisherman's Wharf from the currents of the bay (see photo, Circulation #2).

The Promenade (AP-0024)
City engineer John Punnett used the term "promenade" in site plans to define the shoreline walkway as well as the walkway connecting Van Ness Avenue with the bathhouse. This designation suggests the character of the pedestrian circulation system throughout Aquatic Park: a series of broad, relatively level sidewalks. For the purposes of this discussion, however, the term "promenade" specifically refers to the walkway extending along the cove shoreline, abutting the seawall.

The concrete-paved promenade has a uniform width of approximately fifteen feet. It begins at the eastern end of the park's seawall, adjacent to the east convenience station, and continues along the cove to the west convenience station and Van Ness Avenue. The promenade provides access to the beach, the east and west convenience stations, the bleachers, the bathhouse, Van Ness Avenue, and Municipal Pier (see photo, Circulation #3). Pedestrians access the promenade from Jefferson Street to the east, Van Ness Avenue to the west, from two paved walkways on the outsides of the bleachers, and via two vehicular ramps between the bathhouse and the bleacher structures. The concrete vehicular ramps curve around both sides of the bathhouse and descend to the promenade (see photo, Circulation #4). The area at the bottom of the ramps adjacent to the promenade is currently used as a vehicle parking area for park staff.

Walkway System (AP-0023)
In addition to the pedestrian promenade along the bay, a system of paved walkways throughout the district date from the period of significance.

The first contributing portion, an asphalt-paved walkway approximately ten feet wide, extends from Van Ness Avenue, past the west speaker tower, to the outer end of the women's changing rooms. From there, a stairway of nineteen concrete steps, approximately twelve feet wide with a central metal tube railing, leads down to the promenade. From the top of these steps, the walkway leads to the west end of the bathhouse, where it meets the terminus of the Beach Street sidewalk.

The second contributing section of walkway begins at the intersection of the east vehicle ramp and the Beach Street sidewalk. From this intersection, the walkway extends diagonally toward the east speaker tower. Midway along this walkway, a short spur provides a connection to the center of the east bleachers, where direct views of the cove are available. Where the walkway forks at the east speaker tower, one branch provides access to the east end of the bleachers, and the other section continues into Victorian Park. A third section of this walkway veers south to connect with the Beach Street sidewalk (see photo, Circulation #5).

Along the outer edge of the east bleachers, a short, steep, asphalt-paved access ramp, approximately eight feet wide, leads to the shop room underneath the bleacher seats. This access ramp to the space below the bleachers dates from the period of significance and is therefore a contributing landscape characteristic of the historic district.

Two brick walkways from Van Ness Avenue to the tanks above the pumping station were installed as elements in a landscaping project undertaken in 1975. Therefore, these brick walkways are not considered to be contributing landscape features.

The majority of the circulation system in the historic designed landscape retains integrity, although there are a number of noncontributing elements to the walkway system. The semicircular bricked footpath in

the grassy area west of Van Ness Avenue near the Fort Mason tunnel is the site of a former traffic turnabout and was installed between 1976 and 1982. The configuration of the walkway past the east speaker tower appears to be the only instance where the walkway pattern differs from the original, 1938 Punnett plan. The walkway around the east speaker tower is currently laid out in a less attenuated "Y" configuration than that delineated in the 1938 Punnett site plan. The Punnett layout featured a narrow junction of the two pathways at the base of the speaker tower; the two arms of the "Y" followed independent, serpentine paths: toward the beach promenade in one direction, and the Beach Street sidewalk in the other. This section of walkway was most likely reconfigured during development of the abutting Victorian Park; east of the speaker tower the walkway's surface widens, and asphalt paving replaces what were indicated on the Punnett site plan as turf areas (see Supplemental Information #6).

In addition to the walkways and beach promenade, another walkway was introduced into the circulation system at Aquatic Park. A short, straight path leading from the Van Ness Avenue sidewalk to the Sea Scouts building was constructed after the period of significance and is considered a non-contributing landscape feature.

Sidewalks (AP-0026)
Concrete sidewalks along Beach Street and Van Ness Avenue provide access to the park. The Van Ness Avenue sidewalk runs along the east and west sides of the street, past the western convenience station, and terminates at Municipal Pier. The Beach Street sidewalk runs along the north side of the street bordering the park. Its surface at the entrance to the bathhouse is distinguished by green terrazzo paving. The terrazzo sidewalk was replaced in kind in 1984. The work was accomplished by the same firm that had done the original work, by a crew headed by the son of the man who had laid the original terrazzo. The aquatic-inspired wave design is composed of different shades of green and complements the building's slate entrance façade. Currently, a gangway-styled ramp on the sidewalk provides access from Beach Street to the bathhouse lobby (see photo, Circulation #6). Historic photographs indicate the sidewalk did not continue to the west past the terrazzo section. Both the Beach Street and Van Ness sidewalks were completed by 1938 and remain intact, although alterations appear to have occurred over time. Spaces for sidewalk trees were cut in the Van Ness sidewalk; however, despite these alterations, the general layout of the sidewalks appears to follow the historic sidewalk design.

Summary
Although further research would be required in order to ascertain the original materials used in construction of the walkways, the location and character of these components of the circulation system delineated by Punnett remain largely unaltered. Despite minor changes to the circulation system within Aquatic Park, circulation retains integrity as a contributing landscape feature of Aquatic Park.



Circulation #1. State Belt Line railroad tracks follow the alignment of the beach promenade. Looking southeast, August 2000. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR, DSCN-0081)



Circulation #2. Municipal Pier, looking north from the beach promenade, August 2000. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR, DSCN-0075)



Circulation #3. Beach promenade, looking west toward the bathhouse, August 2000. Note historic State Belt Railroad tracks. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR, N-0001-22)



Circulation #4. Concrete vehicle ramps curve around east and west ends of the bathhouse, looking southeast, August 2000. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR, DSCN-0076)



Circulation #5. A paved walkway connects the park circulation system with the Beach Street sidewalk, looking northeast, August 2000. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR-N-0001-01)



Circulation #6. Terrazzo wave pattern along Beach Street sidewalk in front of bathhouse, looking west, August 2000. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR DSCN-0077)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Aquatic Park Beltline Railroad Tracks	Contributing	Aquatic Park Beltline Railroad Tracks	364504	FMO-330
Aquatic Park cove	Contributing			
Aquatic Park sidewalks along Van Ness Ave.	Contributing	Aquatic Park Van Ness Avevenue Sidewalks	332653	AP-0026
Bathhouse ramps	Contributing	Aquatic Park Bathhouse Ramps	220314	AP-0025
paved walkway system	Contributing	Aquatic Park Paved Walkway System	220312	AP-0023
promenade	Contributing	Aquatic Park Promenade	220313	AP-0024
Van Ness Avenue Extension	Contributing	Aquatic Park Van Ness Avenue Extension	220322	AP-0030

Cluster Arrangement

The cluster arrangement of a landscape refers to the location and patterns of buildings, structures, and associated spaces.

Aquatic Park was planned by civil engineer John Punnett and its layout reflected the need to accommodate a wide range of different aquatic activities planned to occur around the cove. Located within a long narrow strip of land along the bay, the core of the developed area is concentrated around the bathhouse, its speaker towers, changing rooms, bleachers and beach which form the center of the park. Here, swimmers, sunbathers and sightseers were to meet and recreate along the cove's temporarily sandy shore. To accommodate all of the various user groups, certain aquatic activities needed to be separated to avoid user conflicts, and were located around the cove to best suit the various activities.

To the west, Municipal Pier provided opportunities for fishing enthusiasts and those who wanted to walk out along the pier for the wonderful views of the city from the bay. Although never completed, the convenience station at the end of the pier was deliberately sited to meet the anticipated needs of these and other users.

The rowing clubs, and eventually the Sea Scout building were located on opposite sides of the cove, away from the shallow sandy shoreline. These locations on the inside of the cove sheltered the clubhouses from the stronger currents of the bay while still providing users with a short and easy access into the waters of the bay. In addition, these sites for the Sea Scouts and the rowing clubs ensured boaters and competitive rowing events would not interfere with the recreational swimmers and sunbathers using the cove beach.

The bathhouse, its changing rooms, the two bleacher structures and the speaker towers comprised the core of the park where the majority of people were meant to congregate. The bathhouse and bleachers also functioned as a sort of visual barrier between the adjacent industrial activities of the city and the recreational users at the beach. The east and west convenience stations mark the east and west extent of the beach area. As the tallest and largest structure in the park, the bathhouse is a focal point, both visually and functionally. Although it no longer serves its original function as a bathhouse its relationship to the overall cluster arrangement of the park remains intact.

Summary
The cluster arrangement of the site, which was based on coordinating the variety of activities that occurred throughout the park, retains integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic of Aquatic Park.

Land Use

Land use is defined by the principal activities in the landscape that have formed, shaped, or organized the landscape as a result of human activity.

Military, industrial and recreational activities were the principal historic land uses associated with Aquatic Park. These land uses occurred largely within the existing boundaries of the district. Currently, recreation, tourism, and museum-related activities constitute the primary land uses at Aquatic Park.

Military: 1797 - 1870
In 1797, the Spanish military fortified the area near Black Point Cove by building Bateria San Jose, a wood and adobe parapet on which five cannons were mounted. (Hubert Howe Bancroft, History of California, [San Francisco: The History Co., 1884-90] Vol 1:702, n.12)

In 1822, the Bateria was abandoned when Spain relinquished its rule over California to Mexico. Until around 1836, Bateria San Jose was the only structure standing in the vicinity of Black Point Cove. The area near Black Point Cove was uninhabited until Mexico ceded California to the United States in 1846 and U.S. troops occupied the various Spanish-Mexican fortifications of San Francisco.

In 1850, President Millard Fillmore established a large military reservation, stretching along San Francisco's northern waterfront, which included the area now occupied by Aquatic Park. In 1851, the boundaries were modified to create a separate military reservation, the "Point San Jose Military Reservation," which encompassed "an arc of eight hundred yards from its northern extremity, from shore to shore." With this reservation, the military use of Black Point Cove, which had begun in 1797 with the construction of Bateria San Jose, was continued. (John W. Dwinelle, The Colonial History of San Francisco… [San Francisco: Town & Bacon, 1867], 221-223, quoted in James P. Delgado, Historic Structures Report, Historical Data Section, Pioneers, Politics, Progress and Planning: The Story of San Francisco's Aquatic Park, NPS:1981: 8)

Industry: 1852 - 1909
Despite the designation of Punta Medanos and Black Point Cove as part of the military reservation, troops did not immediately occupy the lands; its low-lying setting on the bay limited the cove's utility as a defensive outpost. In reaction to the military's absentee status, private citizens built homes on the slopes of Black Point Cove as early as 1852. Unlawful tenants occupied the high ground on Black Point as well as the shoreline of Black Point Cove. (see photo, History #1)

Soon after President Fillmore designated the military reservation in 1850, the US Army began negotiating with squatters on the shores of Black Point Cove. Although the cove had been included in the expansion of the military reservation, many pioneer San Francisco businesses had already begun operations there, including the San Francisco Water Company, the Pioneer Woolen Mills, and the Selby Smelting and Lead Company. These firms were instrumental in eventually wresting control of Black Point Cove from the military. In 1869, when the military finally decided to evict the "squatting" industries, substantial opposition mounted and on July 1, 1870, Congress reduced the size of the military reservation, excluding the cove and placing the land in the hands of the private speculators who occupied it. One building that borders Aquatic Park remains that reflects this historically industrial nature of the area: the Ghirardelli Chocolate Company building. (James P. Delgado, A Dream of Seven Decades: San Francisco's Aquatic Park, California History 64:4, Fall 1985)

Recreation/Tourism: 1860s - 2001
Black Point Cove's use as a recreational area began as early as the 1860s. The sheltered cove, the sandy

beaches, and its proximity to the city made Black Point Cove a favorite spot for swimming and other forms of aquatic recreation, despite the area's industrial use and appearance. Entrepreneurs established small bathing concessions near the beach to meet the needs of these swimmers. These businesses later gave way to private rowing and swimming clubs, which became the strongest advocates for preserving Black Point Cove for its recreational value to the citizens of San Francisco. The rowing clubs built clubhouses which were originally located at the foot of Van Ness Avenue, but were moved to their present locations, outside the park boundary on Jefferson Street, in 1926 (see photo, Land Use #1). The bulk of Aquatic Park's development occurred between 1936 and 1939, during which time the beach was used by the general public and rowing clubs alike (see photos, Land Use #2 and #3). None of the existing rowing clubs is located within the boundaries of Aquatic Park Historic District.

Prior to WPA involvement in the development of Aquatic Park, the San Francisco Department of Public Works began construction of the first recreational structure in the district, Municipal Pier, in 1931. The structure was designed for use as a fishing pier as well as to provide sightseers with panoramic perspectives on San Francisco Bay and the city skyline. (see photo, Small Scale Features #2). These recreational uses of Municipal Pier continue to the present day. Although the pier was an integral recreational component of the site development plan approved by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, it also served an important utilitarian function; baffles were constructed between its pilings to protect the cove from winter tidal surges.

After its dedication in 1939, Aquatic Park was mired in controversy and its development was hampered by city mismanagement. In the early 1950s, local residents urged construction of bocce ball courts near the district's western boundary. It was not until 1953 that the general public finally utilized the bathhouse and locker rooms. The beach, lagoon, the open lawn areas and Municipal Pier are currently used by tourists as well as local residents.

Transportation: 1914-1970
The State Belt Railroad was built along Black Point Cove in 1914 to aid in the construction of the fairgrounds and buildings for the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition (see photo, History #5). A tunnel through Black Point and a trestle across the cove had been completed a short time before. The railroad also proved useful for the army's new transport wharves and warehouses constructed at Fort Mason, immediately to the west of Black Point Cove. The railroad trestle was removed in 1924 and the tracks were moved to a more southerly alignment behind the sea wall, reestablishing the pre-1914 shoreline. The tracks in their new alignment on dry land through Aquatic Park were continually used by the State Belt Line railroad well into the 1970s and became defunct sometime after 1976. Currently the tracks are preserved as an historic feature. Local businesses are strongly supporting converting the tracks and Fort Mason tunnel into an extension of the city's historic streetcar line, which now extends along the waterfront as far west as Fisherman's Wharf.

In recent years local businesses have objected to re-using the tracks as part of a waterfront transportation system.

World War II
In 1941, as part of World War II mobilization plans, the men of Battery B, 216th Coast Artillery Battalion, arrived at Aquatic Park. Initially quartered in temporary cots, the soldiers eventually moved into the bathhouse (see photos, Land Use #4 and #5). The bathhouse served as quarters for the soldiers until they moved out in the summer of 1945. In 1943, the army built a small landing wharf at the west end of the cove, near the western convenience station. The same facility, later remodeled, now serves as the Sea Scouts base and is within the boundaries of the Aquatic Park Historic District. The facilities were not returned to the city until 1948, after the army restored the bathhouse building.

San Francisco Senior Center: 1947-Present
In 1947, a portion of the bathhouse building was converted into the first formal senior citizen's center in the United States (see photo, Land Use # 6). The former concessionaire's restaurant became a community recreation and dining hall to serve the city's senior community. The senior center currently operates under a special use permit from the park.

Maritime Museum/National Historical Park 1951-Present
The San Francisco Maritime Museum Association, established as a private non-profit organization, opened a maritime museum in the city-owned Aquatic Park bathhouse in 1951. Three years later, the museum association acquired its first historic ship, the Balclutha. In 1957, the state of California established a state park unit to display historic vessels at the Hyde Street Pier. The vessels C.A. THAYER, WAPAMA, EUREKA, and ALMA were acquired for the San Francisco Maritime State Historical Park. The state-owned ships became part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in 1977. The museum association transferred ownership of its vessels to the national recreation area in 1978-1979. In 1988, the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park became a separate administrative unit of the National Park Service.

Aquatic Park is now used primarily as a public park focused on the interpretation of American maritime history. It is also a significant waterfront recreational area for city residents as well as tourists. Recreational and interpretive activities are the primary land uses of Aquatic Park, although the bathhouse also accommodates offices that support park administrative and maintenance functions.

Summary
Although some land uses within the park have been modified over time, the park's purpose is still focused on both the recreational and aquatic use of the area. Accordingly, land use retains integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic of Aquatic Park.



Land Use #1. Rowing clubhouses next to east convenience station, along Jefferson St., looking northeast, circa 1939. (PGSO, CLI, NA RG69, WPA, Box 902, File 651.109, Aquatic Park)



Land Use #2. Amateur oarsmen practice in Aquatic Park cove, March 1939. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAA 6750)



Land Use #3. Lifeguards look out over crowd enjoying beach and promenade, September 1939. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAA 6733)



Land Use #4. Soldiers temporarily quartered in Aquatic Park bathhouse. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAA 6766)



Land Use #5. San Francisco Marine Reserve infantry battalion practice manouvers on beach in front of bathhouse, October 1948. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAA 6714)



Land Use #6. First formal senior citizen's center in the U.S. occupies space on the main floor of the Aquatic Park bathhouse, 1947. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAA 6751)

Natural Systems And Features

Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development of a landscape, including geology, climate, and native vegetation.

Aquatic Park lies at the northern tip of the San Francisco Peninsula within the San Francisco Bay. The site rests between the San Andreas fault, which enters the Pacific Ocean a few miles southwest of the city, and the Hayward fault in the East Bay at the foot of the Berkeley Hills (see photo, Natural Systems and Features #1).

Although two distinct rock units--the Cretaceous granitic rocks and the Franciscan Formation--constitute the base formations of the San Francisco Bay area and the Coast Range region of California, Aquatic Park rests exclusively on the latter. The Franciscan Formation is a heterogeneous group of marine sedimentary and volcanic rocks, however, metamorphic are a small but distinctive and characteristic part of the Franciscan assemblage.

Prior to industrial and recreational development of the area, Black Point Cove probably contained areas of salt marsh including cordgrass and pickleweed. Like similar areas of the bay, the marsh was probably an abundant resource for enormous bird populations, including very large communities of ducks and migrating birds such as Canadian geese, egrets, herons, osprey, and seagulls visiting the salt marsh. The area was also a setting for Native American settlement, with access to land-based game such as deer, elk, and waterfowl and marine game such as seals, sea lions, sea otters, fish (salmon, surf perch, white sea bass, jacksmelt) and shellfish (red abalone, oysters, clams).

The varied topography and marine surroundings of San Francisco combine to produce a number of extremely varied microclimates. Aquatic Park's climate is further modified by its location on the northern end of a peninsula, surrounded on three sides by the relatively cool waters of the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay. Cool marine air and persistent coastal stratus and fog characterize summertime in San Francisco with maximum temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Winter temperatures range from highs between 55 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit and lows between 45 and 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Over 80 percent of San Francisco's seasonal rain falls between November and March. The amount of rainfall varies considerably every year. The average is between twenty-two inches and eighteen inches.

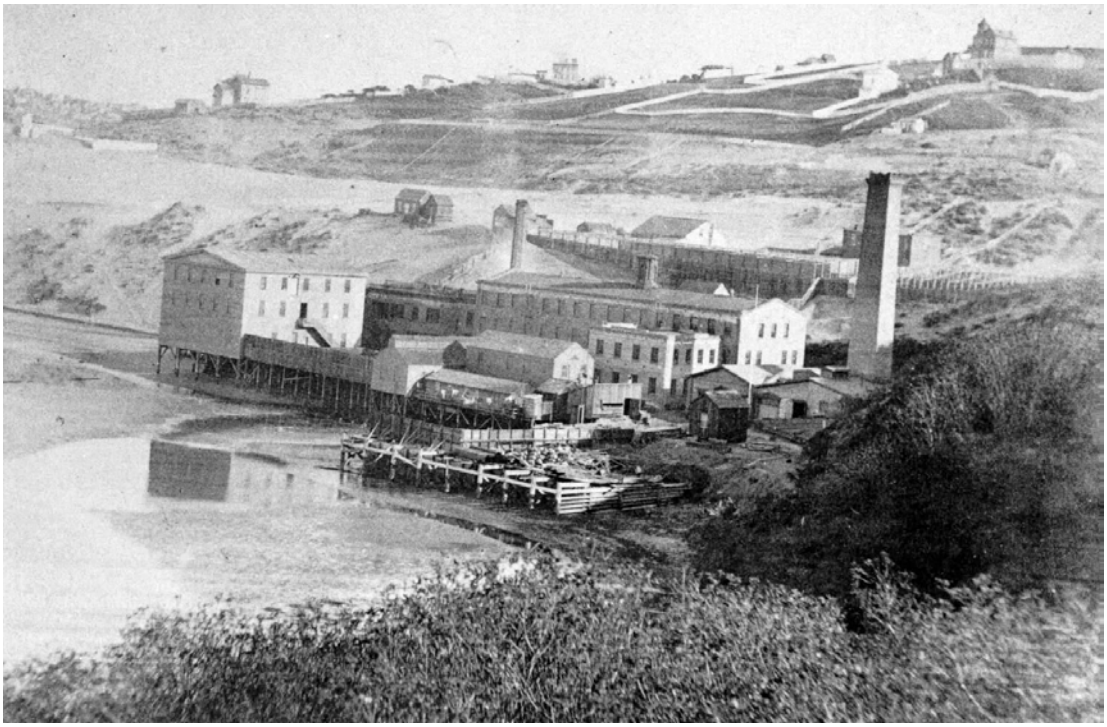
Today, the site bears little evidence of the natural systems and features that originally characterized Black Point Cove. Based on an historic photograph of the Pioneer Woolen Mill from 1868, (see photo, Natural Systems and Features #2) representatives of native plant communities appeared only in the adjacent coastal hills (see photo, Natural Systems and Features #3). None of the native vegetation remains today.

The existing slopes and beach at Aquatic Park have been highly modified over time as the site moved from industrial to recreational use. The park is a product of the many attempts to alter the cove's natural shoreline (see photo, Topography #3 and Natural Systems and Features #4). Examples include the use of rubble from the 1906 earthquake for fill within Black Point Cove and the sand excavated from beneath Union Square in 1941 that was used to replenish the beach.

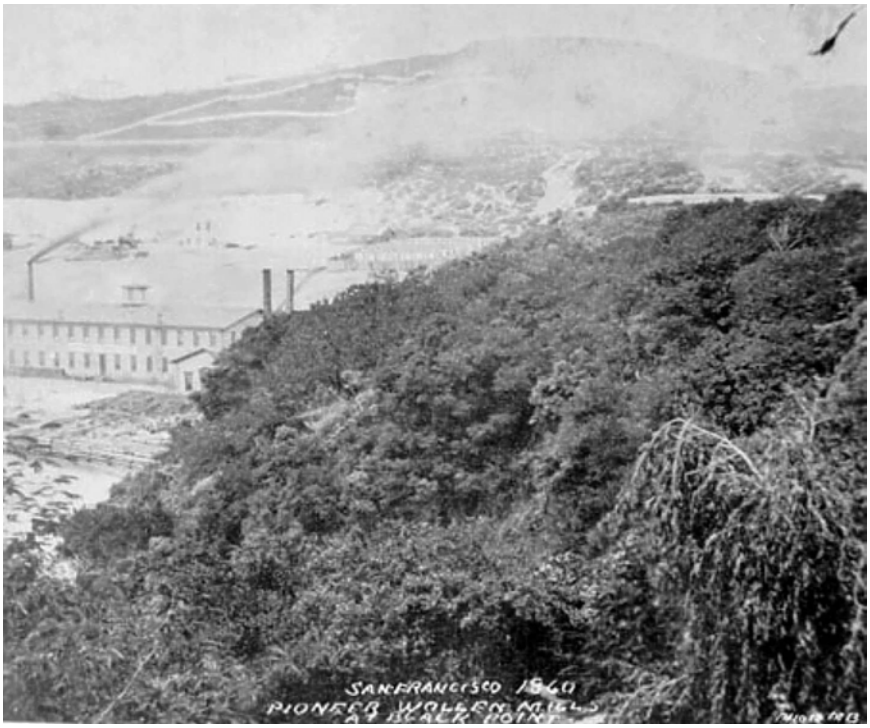
Summary
Urban encroachment both on and around the site had highly modified or eliminated most terrestrial and aquatic features before the park was even developed. Accordingly, Natural Systems and Features is not considered a contributing landscape characteristic associated with the primary period of significance for Aquatic Park.



Natural Systems and Features #1. Physiographic context of Aquatic Park within the San Francisco Bay Area.



Natural Systems and Features #2. Pioneer Woolen Mill, from the foot of Van Ness Avenue, 1868. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, "Pioneer Woolen Mills" folder)



Natural Systems and Features #3. Pioneer Woolen Mills at Black Point, 1860. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAC 7307)



Natural Systems and Features #4. Repeated attempts to replenish beach sand involved agitating the sand with water and respreading it at the other end of the beach, 1939. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAA 6708)

Small Scale Features

Small-Scale Features are the elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. Examples of small-scale features include fences, benches, monuments, road markers, flagpoles, signs, isolated patches of vegetation, curbstones, trail ruts, culverts, foundations and minor ruins.

CONTRIBUTING SMALL SCALE FEATURES
Bleacher Rails
Welded steel tube railings were constructed along the front and the sides of the east and west bleachers. These railings remain and are contributing features (see photo, Small Scale Features #1).

Promenade and Municipal Pier Lampposts
Formed concrete lampposts with metal collars and glass globes installed between January and March 1939 along the promenade and Municipal Pier (one is located on Beach Street near the bocce courts) are the only extant light standards dating from the period of significance. These regularly spaced lights along the promenade and pier remain in their original locations although most of the globes along the Municipal Pier have been destroyed (see photo, Small Scale Features #2).

Municipal Pier Benches
Twenty-three formed concrete benches along the length of the Municipal Pier have been in place since the period of significance (see photo, Small Scale Features #2). They remain in their original locations and are relatively unaltered with the exception of painted areas covering graffiti.

Stone Curbing
Original stone block borders exist in a number of locations throughout the district. Stone block curbs are located along the paved walkways into both the men's and women's restrooms in the east convenience station and along the northwestern planting bed at the west comfort station. Historic curbing stones are also located along the edge of the lawn adjacent to the Sea Scouts building, from its entrance path southward to the seawall, although there is a section, approximately sixteen feet long, that has been damaged (see photo, Small Scale Features #3). The stone curb borders are constructed of blocks turned on end and are the same material, salvaged from reconstructed city streets, used to construct the seawall (Delgado, 1981: 63). A photograph taken March 18, 1938, during construction of the park clearly show the blocks installed along the sidewalk near the west end of the beach promenade and Van Ness Avenue (see photo, History #8).

LOST SMALL SCALE FEATURES
Breakwaters
Wooden breakwaters installed around 1940 temporarily solved the problem of a constantly eroding sandy beach (see photo, Small Scale Features #4). The breakwaters were constructed of wooden planks and piles secured in the sand. In later years a stone breakwater was created in the cove and concrete baffles were installed between the pilings of the pier to prevent the strong winter surge from removing sand from the east end of the beach. The wooden breakwaters no longer exist.

Wooden Rail Fence
A photograph from 1942 shows a wooden rail fence was constructed along the Van Ness Avenue retaining wall, as well as along the adjacent brick and rubble retaining wall. It was most likely constructed to keep people away from the steep grade changes in the area but has since been removed and replaced with a cyclone fence than runs along the Van Ness Avenue wall.

Sculptures
The WPA commissioned artist Beniamino Bufano to create several sculptures for installation at Aquatic Park. WPA documents note that eleven pieces were "originally intended" for Aquatic Park, however, it appears that only three statues were ever installed on the site: "the Seal;" "the Penguin" and "the Mouse." While it is unknown what the original locations were for the Seal and the Mouse, the location of the Penguin is recorded in a photograph from August 1946, which shows the sculpture at the easternmost corner of the west bleachers, near the railroad tracks. (Memorandum: Acting Park Historian to Chief, Division of Resource Management and Planning, 2 January 1985, GOGA).

NONCONTRIBUTING SMALL SCALE FEATURES
Van Ness and Beach Street Lampposts
By 1941, electric lampposts were installed on pedestrian walkways throughout much of the district, including the promenade, along Van Ness Avenue, Beach Street, and on Municipal Pier. The lampposts along Van Ness and Beach Street were replaced at an unknown date following the period of significance with taller metal poles and cobra-style globes.

Water Fountains
In 1967, a concrete memorial drinking fountain was installed east of the bocce ball courts. The plaque on the fountain, which has since disappeared, stated "Gift Of May J. McLean, 1883 1938, In Memory Of Her Family, Pioneers Of San Francisco, Grandparents – John And Marie Phillippi, Parents- Joseph R. And Henrietta McLean, 1966."

The National Park Service has also installed two drinking/washing fountains near the eastern convenience station at an unknown date.

Skylight Fences
In 1993, the NPS installed metal fences for public safety reasons around the six surface skylights near Beach Street.

Historical Marker Boulder
The California Department of Parks and Recreation installed a state historical marker south of the east bleachers in 1975. It memorializes the SAN CARLOS, "the first ship to enter San Francisco Bay," in 1775.

Barbary Coast Markers
Four Barbary Coast Trail Markers are located throughout the park, primarily along the main asphalt walks. The markers were installed by the San Francisco Historical Society in 1997 and are part of a 3.8 mile walking tour that connects twenty historic sites associated with the early history of San Francisco.

Chain Link Fences
A chain link fence extends along the Van Ness Avenue retaining wall, above the bocce ball courts.

Chain Fence
A post and chain fence flanks the concrete steps leading to the Sea Scouts building.

Signs
Few signs are found within Aquatic Park and all are non-contributing, including the wayside at the base of Municipal Pier, the "Maritime Park" signs on the promenade lampposts, and signs on drinking

fountains.

Spotlight
A non-historic in-ground spotlight, which illuminates the east speaker tower, was installed in 1991.

Bollards
Wooden and metal bollards are located at the base of Municipal Pier and at the end of Jefferson Street to prevent automotive traffic from entering the pier and park.

Portable Toilet
A portable toilet was moved to Municipal Pier at an unknown date.

Propellers
Two large boat propellers have been installed in planting beds adjacent to the east convenience station. The installation date is unknown.

Anchors
Two large anchors have been installed in planting beds north of the bathhouse. The installation date is unknown.

Telephones
Two contemporary pay-telephones have been installed at an unknown date at the west convenience station.

Benches
Non-historic benches were added at an unknown date along Van Ness Avenue; thirteen benches were installed in the semi-circular brick pathway west of Van Ness, and four benches were put on the sidewalk in front of the west convenience station, and along the stonemasonry retaining wall.

Bicycle Rack
A single bicycle rack has been installed at an unknown date at the east west end of the bathhouse along Beach Street.

Mow Strips
Concrete strips have been introduced to facilitate mowing along the bleacher facades.

Bus Shelter
The San Francisco Municipal Railway transit system installed a bus shelter on the Beach St. sidewalk.

Summary
The loss of original small scale features combined with the introduction of a number of noncontributing small scale features has compromised the integrity of the district. As a result, the small scale features have lost integrity and do not contribute as characteristic landscape features of the Aquatic Park.



Small Scale Features #1. Beach promenade, State Belt Line tracks, bleacher rails and wingwall detail, looking west, August 2000. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR, AP 0029)



Small Scale Features #2. Fishing scene, Municipal Pier, July 1940. Note lamposts and benches. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAC 2293)



Small Scale Features #3. Historic curbing stones along walkway west of Sea Scouts building (left) and along walkway to west comfort station (right), August 2000. (PGSO, CLI, AP 0030)



Small Scale Features #4. Aquatic Park cove, with breakwaters extending from seawall, looking west, August 1946. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAA 6697)



Small Scale Features #5. Wood post and rail fence atop Van Ness Avenue retaining wall provided a safety barrier between grade change, October 1942. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAA 6717)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
bleacher rails	Contributing	Aquatic Park Bleachers (East)	010187	AP-0016A
Municipal Pier benches	Contributing	San Francisco Municipal Pier	010182	FMO-400
promenade and Municipal Pier lampposts	Contributing	Aquatic Park Concrete Lamp Posts	332655	
stone curbing	Contributing	Aquatic Park Stone Curbing	220316	AP-0027
anchors	Non-Contributing			
Barbary Coast markers	Non-Contributing			
bollards	Non-Contributing			
bus shelter	Non-Contributing			
chain fence	Non-Contributing			

chain link fences	Non-Contributing
four propellers	Non-Contributing
historical marker boulder	Non-Contributing
historical markers	Non-Contributing
metal lampposts	Non-Contributing
mow strips	Non-Contributing
portable toilet	Non-Contributing
public telephones	Non-Contributing
signs	Non-Contributing
skylight fences	Non-Contributing
spotlight	Non-Contributing
water fountains	Non-Contributing

Spatial Organization

Spatial organization is defined as the three dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in the landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces. Spatial organization includes the elements that shape circulation systems, views and vistas, areas of land use, natural features, cluster of structures, and division of property.

Aquatic Park was historically surrounded by the industrial and commercial activities found along the city streets and the shore of Black Point Cove. Its development as a recreation area is closely aligned with the topography of the site, which slopes gently toward the bay.

Early plans for Aquatic Park relied on anticipated extensions of the city's grid to form the park's boundaries at the edge of Black Point Cove. City engineers planned to extend Van Ness, Larkin, Polk, Tonquin, Jefferson, and Lewis streets into the cove on fill, however, these street extensions were not built as originally conceived; only Van Ness Avenue and Larkin Street were extended. The extended lines of both Larkin Street and Van Ness Avenue define the east and west boundaries of the site. (see photo, Topography #1) The park's principal structure, the bathhouse, is symmetrically arranged to reflect the axis of Polk Street where it intersects with Beach Street. (see photo, Spatial Organization #1)

The spatial organization of Aquatic Park is essentially horizontal, with three primary planes developed within the contours of the site: the beach, the promenade, and the upper plateau, which encompasses the space between Beach Street and the bleacher structures. The beach level includes the water of Black Point Cove on San Francisco Bay, as well as the shoreline below the seawall. The promenade level extends the length of the park from the eastern border, past the bathhouse to Van Ness Avenue, and terminates at the end of Municipal Pier. The promenade level also includes the bleachers, which offer a viewing area for the promenade and cove. The majority of recreational activities within the district are centered along the promenade level, which functions as a corridor to funnel bicycle and pedestrian traffic between Hyde Street Pier and Municipal Pier. The upper plateau of the park is the most open area in the park, and includes the turf areas above the bleachers along Beach Street and adjacent to the bocce ball courts. These open areas are generally used for sunbathing and games. They are bisected by a number of paved walkways generally oriented in an east-west (Van Ness Avenue to Victorian Park) and north-south (from the upper plateau to the promenade and beach) direction. The Beach Street sidewalk forms the southern edge of this area, which pedestrians use to move from the Beach Street shops to the Maritime Museum (bathhouse) and western portion of the park.

Summary
The spatial organization of the site retains integrity as a contributing landscape feature of Aquatic Park.



Spatial Organization #1. View corridor along Polk St, looking north, August 2000. (PGSO, CLI, DSCN AP-0024)

Topography

Topography is defined as the three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features (such as slope and articulation) and orientation (such as elevation and solar aspect).

Topography Prior to 1920
The first documented major impacts to the topography of Black Point Cove occurred when the San Francisco Water Company and the San Francisco Woolen Factory built out into the cove behind protective wooden bulkheads around 1860. In addition, a bluff at the foot of Hyde Street was leveled and dumped into the bay, which provided a building site for the San Francisco Gas Works. These expansions of the waterfront altered the character of the city shoreline as industrial uses were introduced to Black Point Cove; however, the most extensive modifications to the site's topography were the result of wide-scale dumping following the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire. This was one of many sites throughout the city where the rubble from the ruined downtown core was hauled and dumped, extending the shoreline further into the bay on rubble fill.

In 1913, the City of San Francisco issued a "Plan of Proposed Aquatic Park." A similar map was produced again as part of the park design competition sponsored by the city Bureau of Engineering (NPS, Denver Technical Information Center Files, GOGA 41956). This site map included three proposed Black Point Cove topographic features (see photo, Topography #1). These included a "rock fill" leading from the current location of Victorian Park to the shoreline. This fill operation was completed by 1914, using debris from the railroad tunnel through Black Point. The second feature was another area of "rock fill" along what is now the end of Van Ness Avenue (see photo, History #5). This fill was completed by the military in 1913 in order to connect Van Ness Avenue with Fort Mason's McDowell Road. This fill section appears to have brought the shoreline approximately thirty feet out into the bay, creating the extension of Van Ness Avenue that would ultimately connect with Municipal Pier. The third feature was a "top of bank" contour running along the entire length of Black Point Cove. Construction of this feature called for a drop from the existing grade to the beach below. If this feature ever was constructed, it was most likely obliterated during grading operations in 1920 in preparation for the construction of Aquatic Park.

With the construction of the State Belt Railroad trestle in 1914, the shoreline of Black Point Cove was altered again. The trestle cut across the cove from east to west and subsequent filling operations, again using fill from the Black Point tunnel, closed the gap between the shoreline and the trestle (see photo, History #3 and #5).

Site Grading
Grading operations directly involved with the construction of Aquatic Park began in 1920 and mark the beginning of the period of significance. In August of 1920, the land between Larkin Street and Van Ness Avenue was graded. For the next ten years, no grading occurred on the site. Between the years of 1931 to 1936, the area along Beach Street between Polk and Larkin Streets was graded to accommodate the construction of the bathhouse. Some fill was relocated along Beach Street for a parking area. By 1933, the seawall was constructed between the State Belt railroad tracks and the shore. In preparation for its construction the site was excavated below the tracks and toward the beach from Larkin Street to a point near the Rowing Club. Fill was moved west for the extension of Van Ness Avenue. In 1938, the lawn areas were graded and prepared for planting.

In July of 1941, eighty million cubic feet of sand from construction excavations for the Union Square Parking Garage were hauled to the Aquatic Park beach, further extending the shoreline into the cove. This action produced a broad, clean sandy beach in place of the existing rubble-filled shoreline. Over the

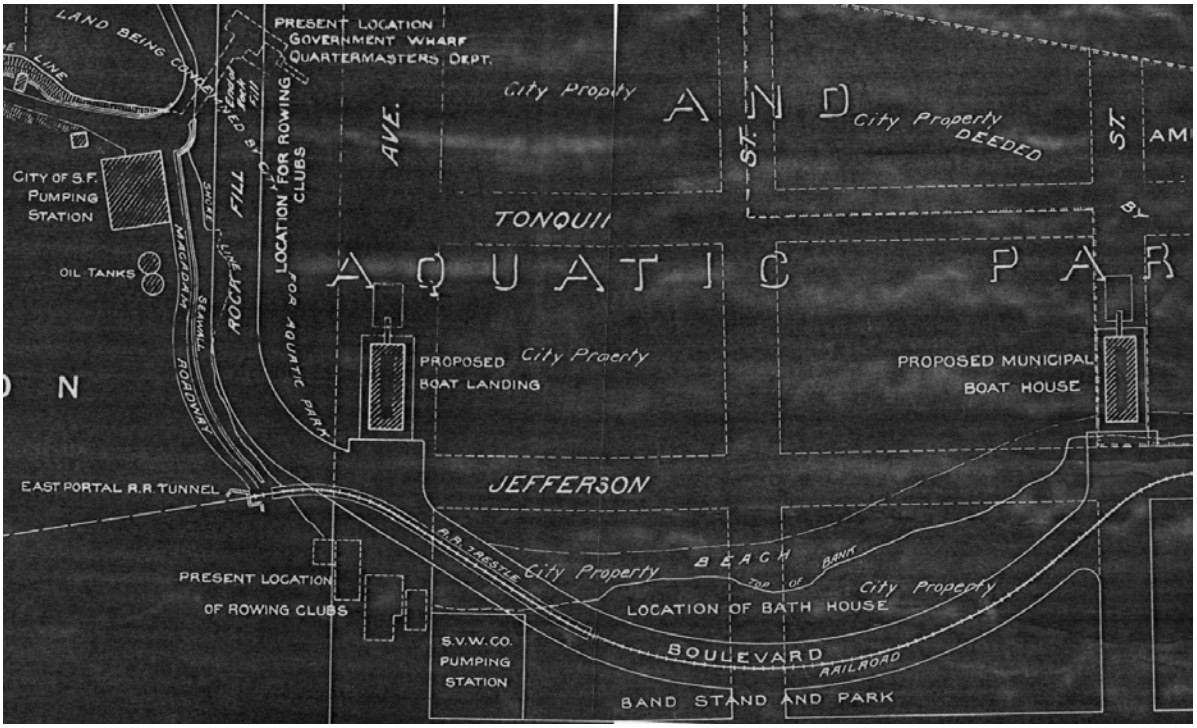
years, the sand was repeatedly replenished in order to maintain the shoreline as a sandy beach appropriate for use by swimmers (see photos, Topography #2 and #3).

In 1975, the Park Service redesigned the area west of Van Ness Avenue. The plan called for the addition of three berms. The berms were designed to work as a unit mimicking the form of the retaining wall abutting Fort Mason. The 1975 planting plan suggests the berms be built up to a height of three to four feet high. Currently, the berms are in evidence, though they do not reach the height called for in the plan.

Current Topography
The major topographic characteristic of the existing landscape is its gentle uphill slope from the shore of the bay toward Beach Street. Low tide exposes the gently sloping sand and rubble beach, which is bracketed on its southern boundary by the seawall. Constant maintenance is required to replenish the sand on the beach, which washes away in the tides. Each year the park bulldozes sand from the southerly end of the beach toward the bathhouse. The seawall forms the base of the promenade, that runs the entire southern edge of the beach within the district (see photo, Topography #4). On the western end of the district, the promenade rises as a pathway to Van Ness Avenue, where the land levels on the street and continues to the end of Municipal Pier. The grassy strip that abuts the retaining wall on the eastern boundary of Fort Mason (the western boundary of the Aquatic Park Historic District) has a mildly undulating surface. At the southeastern edge of the district, the grade above the seawall follows the level, paved extension of Jefferson Street westward, to the footpath east of the east bleachers. Above the bleachers and bathhouse the grade levels again, forming an upper plateau adjacent to Beach Street. The gentle uphill slope from the water toward Beach Street is reflected in the slope from the bleachers to the upper portion of the park.

Along Aquatic Park's boundary with Victorian Park, the area stretching from the east speaker tower to the Beach Street sidewalk was recently bermed for the purpose of creating a planting bed. The addition of the low berm and plantings breaks with the simple intent of the early designs for the park.

Summary
Although the topography of the site was extensively manipulated to create Aquatic Park, relatively few modifications have been made since the period of significance. Accordingly, the topography of the site retains integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic of Aquatic Park.



Topography #1. City of San Francisco plan for Aquatic Park, ca. 1920. (PGSO, CLI, TIC File #GOGA 41956)



Topography #2. Sand moved from the Union Square parking lot excavation to fill in the beach, May 1941. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAA 6699)



Topography #3. Spreading sand to create Aquatic Park beach, July 1941. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAA 6701)



Topography #4. Promenade and cove, looking southeast from west comfort station roof deck, April 2001. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR-S-0001-14)

Vegetation

Vegetation analysis includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape. Examples of vegetation features include functional and ornamental trees and shrubs, garden allees, shelter belts, forest, and grasslands.

Historic photographs are the primary source of information that provide evidence of the type and size of vegetation that was planted at Aquatic Park during the period of significance. No as-built planting plans have been located, possibly due to the lack of a fully executed, comprehensive plan for the park, however, further research might produce additional information. Plans that were located dating from the 1920-1941 period of significance include a 1937 "Landscape Plan" for the area to the west of Van Ness Avenue (see map Supplemental Information #6) and 1938 plan by John M. Punnett (see map Supplemental Information #7). A 1975 "Planting & Irrigation Development" plan for the areas west of Van Ness Avenue (see map, Supplemental Information #8) was also used to determine changes since the period of significance. In addition, photographs of a model built circa 1935 for the entire Aquatic Park area provide additional clues as to how the project was envisioned. Since the extent to which these plans were implemented is not known, these landscape plans can only offer potential patterns, not precise layouts.

Aquatic Park is a highly designed landscape, intended to complement the sophisticated streamline moderne architecture of the park structures. The park's landscape provided an open setting for features like the bathhouse, bleachers, convenience stations, promenade, beach and Municipal Pier. Extensive use of grass and low shrubs provided good visibility across the site. The paths which cross the park created boundaries for the lawn and shrub plantings. Historic photographs show that both the location and content of the planting beds changed frequently.

In an effort to document the transformation of the historic designed landscape at Aquatic Park, a historic vegetation map as well as an existing vegetation map have been appended to this report as Supplemental Information Sheets #4 and #5. The historic vegetation map is a representation of the planting patterns that can be seen in photographs taken during the period of significance. There are large gaps in that photo-documentation, however, so the plan documents only those areas within the park where sufficient evidence exists to determine the historic planting patterns.

AREA DESCRIPTIONS

West of Van Ness Avenue

As noted earlier in this report, the space west of Van Ness Avenue and east of the Fort Mason retaining wall has been excluded from the boundaries of the Aquatic Park cultural landscape, pending further research to determine the extent of its development during the historic period of WPA construction of the park. The following discussion and landscape analysis of this space is included in order to document its existing conditions.

A 1928 photo indicates that little to no formal planting had yet occurred alongside the wall at Fort Mason or the pumping station (see photo, Vegetation #1). A 1937 landscape plan for the park contains a mixture of planting beds and lawn. The planting beds undulate in depth along the retaining wall that separates the park from Fort Mason. The plans contain what appear to be a combination of trees and shrubs but unfortunately, the species are not called on this plan. The plan shows a lawn extending from Van Ness Avenue up to the shrub beds which line the Fort Mason boundary retaining wall, to the edge of the

railroad tunnel and extending all the way down to the city pumping station, ending at McDowell Avenue. Because no detailed photographs of this area have been located, it is not known if, or to what extent, this plan was actually implemented and no historic photographs have been located showing any of the landscaping that occurred in this area during the historic period.

Landscape architect John B. Sage of the National Park Service Western Regional Office redesigned this area in the mid-1970s (1975/6 Planting and Irrigation Development Plan: TIC, SAFR 80016, 1975). The design extended from the railroad tracks to the path leading up the stairs to Fort Mason. Between that path and McDowell Avenue, the plan provided only recommendations for future plantings that were based upon the construction of an information center and restrooms that were never built. With the exception of street trees, the 1975 planting plan does not provide evidence of any existing plant material in the area west of Van Ness Avenue that might have been part of the original design. The plan calls for the entire open area (20,500 sq. ft.) to be planted in grass. Four bermed areas in the lawn, approximately three to four feet tall, are included in the plan. These berms create the shape of an informal arc in the middle of the grass area extending down toward the city pumping station. Plant species include twelve sweet gums (Liquidambar styraciflua "Palo Alto"), nine Canary Island pines (Pinus canariensis) and at least one weeping willow (Salix babylonica). A semi-circular brick path lined with benches is proposed that is ringed by eight sweet gums. The interior planting area, encircled by the brick path, is filled with fortnight lily (Moraea iridiodes). The three Indian laurel figs (Ficus macrocarpa) and the London plane trees (Plantanus acerifolia) that are located along the west side of Van Ness Avenue appear to be an existing condition at the time the 1975 plans were drawn up. To the north of this area, in front of the pumping station, three "fut. pines" are called as part of the construction of the "future information center and restrooms" which were never constructed.

Today, the layout of the 1975 plan appears to be relatively intact and includes the three berms, the lawn area and the semi-circular brick path. The planting bed ringed by the brick path is currently planted with low shrubs and is still surrounded by the eight sweet gums. Also evident today are four of the nine Canary Island pines and two of the four sweet gums not surrounding the brick path. No evidence that would document the weeping willow called for in the plans has been found. The London plane trees, which appear to predate the 1975 plan, still line Van Ness Avenue. The three Indian laurel figs are still growing in the notched areas of the sidewalk, which was apparently cut for their planting. None of the shrub beds along the retaining wall from the 1937 plan remain, if indeed they ever existed. Two of the three pines called for in the plan in front of the city pumping station were planted and appear to be approximately the same age as those in the rest of this area, indicating that they may have been planted at the same time. The 1975 plan shows an unidentified bed in front of the city pumping station which today contains shrubs, apparently to provide some screening of the building's utilities. Today, this planting bed contains an assortment of hydrangea (Hydrangea macrophylla), oak-leafed hydrangea (Hydrangea quercifolia), tobira (Pittosporum tobira variegata), star jasmine (Trachelospermum jasminoides), and nasturtiums (Tropaeolum majus).

Between Van Ness Avenue and the Bathhouse

In 1940, the long, thin triangular planting bed located in front and to the south of the Sea Scout building, appears to have been planted with some type of small shrub or beach grass (see photo, Vegetation #2). By 1941, a low row of shrubs was planted adjacent to the promenade connecting with Van Ness Avenue (see photo, Topography #3). The detail in the photo is limited but shows an area next to the promenade that is lighter in color, indicating that it may have been cleared of the groundcover, or planted in grass. The planting area further north is still dark green indicating a possible transition of plant materials. By 1946, the shrubs along the eastern edge of the promenade were removed (see photo, Vegetation #3).

The most significant change to the landscape in this area occurred in 1943, after the period of significance, when a small walkway was constructed to provide access to the Sea Scout base from Van Ness Avenue, which split this planting area in two. The remaining section of grass that extended to the north of the walkway was subsequently paved over. Today, a large Monterey cypress, surrounded by buckling concrete, is located in this space. Although there is no photo documentation that the cypress was planted during the period of significance, its size suggests that it might date back to this period but additional research would be necessary to verify this. To the south of the walkway leading to the Sea Scout Base, the bed was filled with grass that still exists today.

The west convenience station is located immediately south of the western terminus of the promenade at Van Ness Avenue. The planting beds surrounding this convenience station are broken into four areas. The first planting bed, located on the west side immediately to the left of the snack bar concessioner window, is bounded by a low concrete edging painted white. It originally contained an unidentified low shrub (see photo, Vegetation #2). Today, the stump of a shrub pruned close to the ground in 2000 is all that remains.

The second planting bed abutting the west convenience station is located on the building's north side, adjacent to the men's room entrance. It is bounded by the northern terminus of the promenade retaining wall and by the original stone curbing along the sidewalk. In 1941, this area was planted with a single row of shrubs. The rest of the bed appears to have been planted with either grass or a low ground cover (see photo, Vegetation #2). Today, this bed is planted with mirror plants (Coprosma repens) and contains the stump of an Australian brush cherry (Syzygium paniculatum).

The third and largest of the planting areas around the west convenience station is located on the eastern side of the building by the women's entrance and extends to the southeast. In 1939, the landscape and slope was planted with low shrubs (see photo, Vegetation #4). By 1941, the southern portion of the bed was planted with what appears to be either groundcover or seasonal flowers (see photo, Vegetation #2) and extends several feet east before ending. The turf area east of this bed narrowed and ended where the two walkways converge along the promenade retaining wall (see photo, Vegetation #3). In 1939, shrubs had been planted at the convergence of the two walkways. Today, the area planted in shrubs has been replanted with a variety of shrubs and perennials. Wooden railroad ties now delineate the transition between the shrubs and the grass. Additional evidence would need to be found to determine whether this represents the original extent of the planting bed.

The fourth small planting bed at the west convenience station is located on the south side of the building, to the left of the women's entrance. Original stone curbing lines both sides of the walkway. The bed appears to have been landscaped in a similar manner to that of the larger planting bed, adjacent to the path leading into the restroom (see photo, Vegetation #3). A Monterey cypress (Cupressus macrocarpa) was removed from this area in 2001 because of the structural damage it was causing to the building and its potential hazard to visitors. Park staff dated the tree to 1970 by counting growth rings (Conversation with park historian Ted Miles, SAFR, 2001). All the vegetation in this bed has been removed.

To the south and upslope of the west convenience station is a large grass area that slopes downward towards the railroad tracks and harbor. It is bounded on the north by the State Belt Railroad tracks, to the west by Van Ness Avenue, to the south by the promenade, and to the east by stairs. In 1939, the majority of the northwestern end of this area was covered with what appears to be a massing of a single species of low (about three feet-tall) shrubs (see photo, Vegetation #3). This planting extended through the period of significance. By 1946, most of this shrub mass had been replaced with grass. It is unknown when the single hawthorn (Crataegus sp.) was planted. None of the shrubs from the area exists today.

In the center of this lawn area, Grecian laurels (Laurus nobilis) were planted between 1939 and 1941 around the foundation of the west speaker tower (see photo, Vegetation #3). A row of shrubs was planted as a low hedge surrounding the Grecian laurels and speaker tower. This shrub bed, surrounded by grass, extended down slope about twenty-four feet, narrowing until it ended at a point (see photo, Topography #3). Subsequent to the period of significance, the laurel stopped being pruned as shrubs and was allowed to grow into trees. In 2000, maintenance staff cut these trees back within a couple of feet of the ground to encourage stump sprouting. Stump sprouting has occurred and the laurels are being restored to their original appearance as shrubs. Today, a small-leafed variety of escallonia has been planted to replace the shrubs that previously surrounded the laurels.

The grass area continued east of the speaker tower and ended in a shrub bay adjacent to the stairs leading down to the promenade. Originally, the shrub bed was over forty feet in length and at least eighteen feet wide. A narrow strip of grass (about four feet) was maintained below this shrub bed and connected the main lawn area to the base of the west staircase. Today, the grass strip has been replaced by paving and a non-historic concrete retaining wall approximately eighteen inches high, which forms the bottom of the planted slope. At the center of this planted area, the shrub massings have been replaced with lavender cotton (Santolina chamaecyparissus) and surrounded by ox-eye daisy. The lavender cotton has been pruned to spell out the words “Aquatic Park."

Immediately south of this planting area, a hedge of escallonia has been planted between the path and the entire length of the masonry wall. Photos from the period of significance do not show any hedge planted in this area. The first hedge appears to have been planted in the late 1940s (see photo, Small Scale Features #4). What was planted in this location prior to the escallonia hedge remains unknown, due to a lack of documentation. No historic photographs or planting plans have been located that would provide evidence of the plant material originally used in this space.

East of the bocce courts, the open grass area was originally used as an unpaved parking lot for Aquatic Park. The Punnett plan of 1938 calls for a shrub and tree border surrounding an open lawn on the southern and western sides, creating a boundary between Aquatic Park, the proposed playground, and Beach Street. An acacia is shown on a planning map from 1952 and is discernable in an aerial photograph of the dirt parking lot. This area was subsequently planted with lawn and trees sometime between 1952 and 1972. Currently, five of the original six Lombardy poplars (Populus nigra) line Beach Street (see photo, Vegetation #9).

A steeply sloped planting area was created in the narrow space between the west bleacher staircase and the bathhouse . The original configuration appears to have been a sloped strip planted with low shrubs (see photo, Vegetation #3). This small planting area is now denuded of vegetation. Above the women’s shower room, low shrubs were planted in the grass to surround and screen the two skylights. Low shrubs were also planted along the south façade of the bleachers, and in the turf area above the west bleachers (see photo, Vegetation #5).

The Bathhouse

Along the Beach Street entry to the bathhouse, two planting beds were installed along the foundation of the building on either side of the fountains flanking the doorway. These beds, installed by 1938 and removed after 1952, were planted with small trees, shrubs and perennials. The configuration, species and style of pruning changed during the period of significance. Today, these beds have been paved over with asphalt and no vegetation remains (see photo, Vegetation #6).

On the north side of the bathhouse, facing the cove, are two oblong planting beds with concrete curb

borders. A 1939 photograph shows these beds as turf with a newly planted shrub border. Since then, these beds have had large wooden anchors placed in them and were planted with cape fuchsia (Phygelius capensis) in 1991 to replace the hypericum, which suffered from extensive rust (Communication with park gardener, Jack Lee, April 2001). Along the north side of the bathhouse in 1941 ten columnar junipers were planted in front of each vertical wall element of the lower façade (see photo, Vegetation #7). These shrubs were planted in concrete-curbed beds. Today, only the six junipers in the center six beds remain and are in fair condition; the other planting beds have been paved over. The westernmost bed has been planted with a species of Hebe.

East of the Bathhouse

A 1938 photo shows shrubs approximately four feet tall planted as a hedge along the east bleacher wingwall. This wall, perpendicular to the Beach Street sidewalk, defines the edge of the east vehicle ramp leading to the beach promenade (see photo, Vegetation #6). By 1939, this shrub continued as a hedge along the south side of the east bleacher wall, interrupted by the central break for pedestrian access to the bleachers from Beach Street. These hedges were removed between 1949 and 1952 (see photos, Vegetation #6 and #8) and a dirt strip marks their former location. The three large skylights above the East Bleachers were originally enclosed by hedges and surrounded by grass, both of which have since been removed (see photo, Vegetation #5).

South of the walkway that borders the large skylights are three smaller skylights which were also originally enclosed by hedges. These are located in the large triangular grass area along Beach Street. The hedges around these skylights were in place until at least 1952, lasting longer than those along the bleacher wall. The grass area remains primarily the same, however, a planting bed associated with the expansion of Victorian Park into the Aquatic park grounds has occurred along the east edge of the grass area. This intrusion is out of character with the open lawn area that historically existed in this area.

To the north, the lawn area east of the pedestrian access to the east bleachers contains a Monterey pine (Pinus radiata) which may have been planted during the period of significance (see photo, Vegetation #8). A second and larger Monterey pine planted nearby was removed as a hazard tree in 1999 and the area was paved with asphalt, changing the historic configuration of the planting bed in this area. The area east of the pine is currently turf. No documentation from the historic period has been discovered which shows this area.

In 1939, a small planting bed circling the east speaker tower was planted with Grecian Laurel (Laurus nobilis) similar to those around the west speaker tower. A 1952 photograph shows these shrubs were still extant (see photo, Vegetation #8). Over the years, these shrubs grew into trees. In 2000, they were pruned within several feet of their base to encourage stump sprouting.

North of the east speaker tower, a row of deciduous shrubs was planted along the foundation at the southeastern corner of the east bleachers. They appear to have been planted by 1946 (see photo, Vegetation #3). Today, the bed has been terraced with small wood retaining walls. The historic plantings have been replaced with a variety of plants including Pieris, azaleas, abutilon, and perennials such as Japanese anemones, none of which were planted during the period of significance.

No photo documentation has been discovered that records the existence of landscaping at the east convenience station. There are currently no plantings in either of the concrete-curbed planting beds that were designed as integral components of the building's architecture.

SUMMARY

Aquatic Park was originally designed as an open park in the midst of an urban setting. The majority of the park was planted with lawn, but included trees, shrubs and seasonal plant materials that were used as foundation plantings and controlled the movement of pedestrians in the steeper areas of the park. Photos from the period of significance provide evidence that the plantings were often changed, reflecting the temporal nature of the plant material as well as modifications made for the actual use of the site by the public. Today, most of the site is still maintained as open lawn although many incremental changes relating to the size and extent of these areas have occurred over time. Historic plantings have been removed and non-historic plantings added; several planting beds have been completely paved over. Several large Monterey pine and cypress still remain on site although it is unclear whether they were planted during the period of significance. During the mid-1970s, significant modifications were made to the landscape west of Van Ness Avenue.

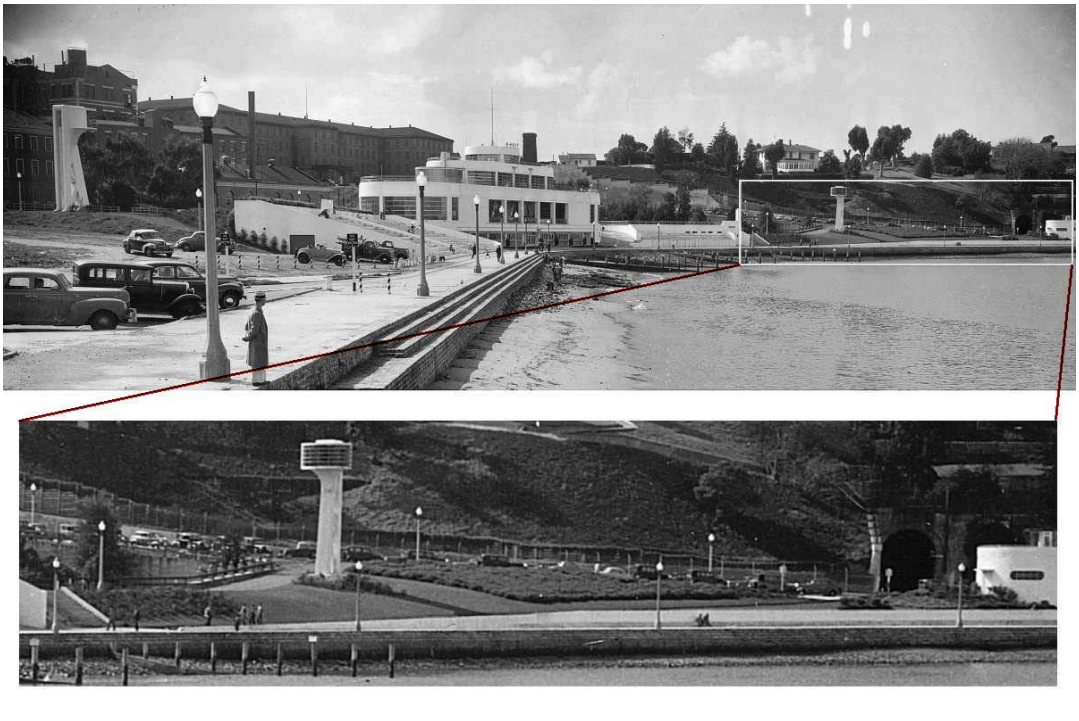
Without a vegetation management plan in place to guide maintenance activities, the integrity of the landscape will continue to deteriorate over time. It is important to note, however, that the vegetation in the area still reflects much of the original design intent for the site as seen in the extent of open space retained and the scale and massings of plant materials used. Because of the extent of changes over time, little of the vegetation dates to the period of significance. Accordingly, the vegetation no longer retains integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic of Aquatic Park, although individual vegetation features do contribute.



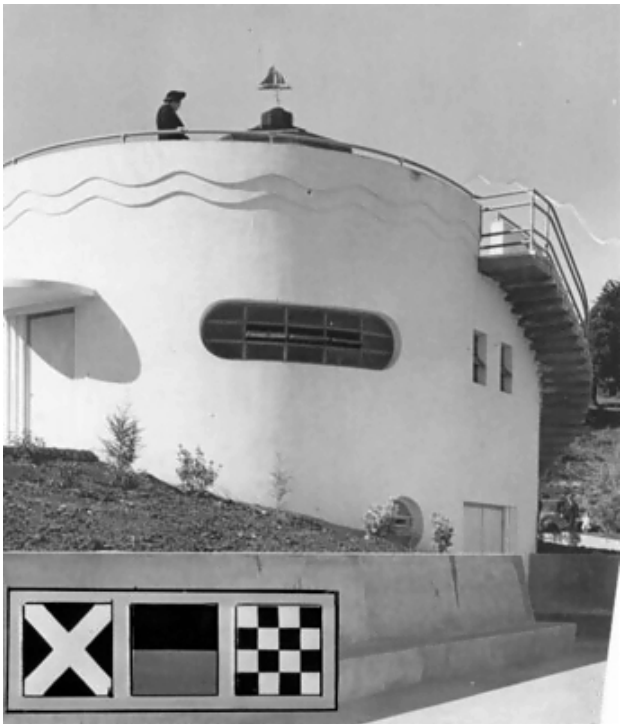
Vegetation #1. San Francisco Fire Department pumping station at foot of Van Ness, showing west boundary of Aquatic Park cove, looking south. (San Francisco Historic Photograph Collection, AAA 6726)



Vegetation #2. View of Aquatic Park, circa 1940. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR A11,35,508n)



Vegetation #3. Planting patterns and landscape details west of bathhouse, circa 1939. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR, A12.17,505n)



Vegetation #4. Planting bed at west comfort station, January 1939. Semaphore flags spell out "Men" on photo of convenience station. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAA 6756)



Vegetation #5. Oblique aerial view of Aquatic Park, ca. 1950. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR A11.28.254n1)



Vegetation #6. Comparison showing bathhouse south façade, circa 1940 (left) and 2000 (right). (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAA 6745; PGSO, CLI, AP 0025)



Vegetation #7. North elevation, Aquatic Park bathhouse, showing planting beds, n.d. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAA 6748)



Vegetation #8. Panoramic view of Ghirardelli Square and Aquatic Park, April 1952. (San Francisco Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, AAC 4816)



Vegetation #9. Detail of trees along Beach St., looking southeast, April 2001. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR-DSCN-AP0023)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Grecian laurels around the east and west speaker towers	Contributing			
Six junipers on the south side of the bathhouse	Contributing			
All shrubs and perennials not identified as contributing	Non-Contributing			
Lombardy poplars	Non-Contributing			
London plane trees	Non-Contributing			
Monterey pine east of the east bleachers	Non-Contributing			

Views And Vistas

Views and vistas are the prospect afforded by a range of vision in the landscape conferred by the composition of other landscape characteristics and associated features. Views are typically expansive or panoramic, while vistas are more controlled and linear.

The views created by Aquatic Park's buildings and structures are central to the experience of the district. The bathhouse was constructed parallel to Beach Street at the park's highest elevation and is the primary viewpoint in the historic district (see photo, Views and Vistas #1). The multi-level bathhouse building was designed to allow the visitor to take in views of the bay and the adjacent cityscape. Each of the building's floors contains sizable observation decks. Views from these decks encompass Hyde Street Pier, Alcatraz Island, the Golden Gate Bridge, and Angel Island (see photos, Views and Vistas #2). The primary function of the bleachers that flank the bathhouse on both sides was to direct views toward the beach promenade, Municipal Pier, and the cove. The views from the bleachers are similar to those from the bathhouse (see photo, Views and Vistas #3).

The appreciation of views was an integral aspect of the designs for the east and west convenience stations. A stair wraps around each building to reach the roof, and is open to the public. The rooftops afford views of the promenade, cove, and the adjacent cityscape, and were originally intended to serve as lifeguard lookout stations. From the roof of the east convenience station visitors can see ships docked at Hyde Street Pier, adjacent Victorian Park, the Haslett Warehouse across Beach Street, as well as the expanse of San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge.

The beach promenade offers pedestrians an expansive view of the city skyline, Hyde Street Pier, Black Point Cove, Fort Mason, the Golden Gate Bridge, and San Francisco Bay. Views unfold sequentially as pedestrians follow the curve of the lagoon. As the beach promenade curves around to meet Municipal Pier, the view is directed toward the open bay. The pier's terminus provides yet another vista. As Municipal Pier curves back toward the lagoon, views are directed to the promenade, bathhouse, and cityscape (see photo, Views and Vistas #4). From this vantage point, Aquatic Park is seen on the edge of Black Point Cove with the slope of Russian Hill rising behind it.

Viewshed Alterations
Due to the maturation of planted material in Aquatic Park, some elements of the viewshed have been altered. As trees in the upper portion of the district have matured, they have begun to screen views of the lower portions of Russian Hill from the promenade and cove. In addition, vegetation on the eastern edge of Fort Mason has obscured views of some of the homes on top of Black Point. The most significant alteration to the views of Aquatic Park occurred in the 1970s when the Fontana Apartment buildings were erected on Bay Street above Aquatic Park (see photo, Views and Vistas #5). The twin tower apartment buildings rise sixteen stories above their surroundings. These towers can be seen from almost any point within the park, interrupting the cityscape views.

Summary
Some of the views and vistas within the park have changed because of the growth of vegetation in and around the park and from the alteration of the city skyline. The vast expansive vistas characteristic of the site, as envisioned by the original designers, however, still provide visitors to Aquatic Park outstanding views of the bay and city. Accordingly, views and vistas retain integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic of Aquatic Park.



Views and Vistas #1. Bathhouse, beach promenade, seawall, and bleacher structure, looking east, August 2000. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR, AP 0026)



Views and Vistas #2. Panoramic view of Aquatic Park cove from bathhouse viewing deck, April 2001. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR, AP 0027)



Views and Vistas #3. Scow Alma underway in Aquatic Park cove, as viewed from east bleachers, April 2001. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR, AP-0028)



Views and Vistas #4. Aquatic Park bathhouse and cove as viewed from terminus of Municipal Pier. (PGSO, CLI, DSCN 0065)



Views and Vistas #5. Aquatic Park, circa 1970, looking southwest. (PGSO, CLI, SAFR A12.40,891n)

Management Information

Descriptive And Geographic Information

Historic Name(s): Black Point Cove

Management Unit:

Tract Numbers:

State and County: San Francisco County, CA

Size (acres): 4.20

Boundary UTM

Boundary UTM(s):	Source	Type	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	551225	4184790

GIS File Name:

GIS File Description:

National Register Information

National Register Documentation: Entered -- Inadequately Documented

Explanatory Narrative:
The Aquatic Park Historic District was entered on the National Register of Historic Places on January 26, 1984 with an NRIS number of 84001183. While a number of landscape features such as the cove and seawall are described in the nomination, no description of the landscape outside of the most prominent structures is given. The nomination should be amended to clearly include descriptions of the landscape characteristics, spatial organization, and circulation system that contribute to the significance of the district.

NRIS Information:

NRIS Number:	01000281
Primary Certification:	Listed In The National Register
Primary Certification Date:	6/27/1988
Other Certifications:	Date Received/Pending Nomination
Other Certification Date:	6/19/1988
Name In National Register:	San Francisco Maritime National Historic Site

National Register Eligibility: Eligible -- Keeper

Explanatory Narrative:
Aquatic Park was declared a National Historic Landmark on May 28, 1987. In addition, the California SHPO concurred with the findings in this CLI on August 18, 2004.

Date of Eligibility Determination: 1/26/1984

National Register Classification: District

Significance Level: National

Contributing/Individual: Individual

Significance Criteria: A -- Inventory Unit is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

C -- Inventory Unit embodies distinctive characteristics of type/period/method of construction; or represents work of master; or possesses high artistic values; or represents significant/distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction

Period Of Significance

Time Period: 1920 - 1945 AD

Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Historic Context Subtheme:	Recreation
Historic Context Facet:	General Recreation
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Historic Context Subtheme:	Architecture
Historic Context Facet:	Moderne Art Deco (1920-1945)
Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Historic Context Subtheme:	Social and Humanitarian Movements
Historic Context Facet:	Poverty Relief And Urban Social Reform

Area Of Significance:

Category:	Architecture
Priority:	1
Category:	Social History
Priority:	2
Category:	Community Planning And Development
Priority:	3

National Historic Landmark Information

National Historic Landmark Status: Yes

Date Determined Landmark: 5/28/1987

Landmark Theme: Architecture and Landscape Architecture

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status: No

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Historic Designed Landscape

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Use/Function Category:	Recreation/Culture
Use/Function:	Recreation/Culture-Other
Detailed Use/Function:	Recreation/Culture-Other
Type Of Use/Function:	Current

Ethnographic Information

Ethnographic Survey Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Adjacent lands contribute to the historical significance of Aquatic Park as they illustrate the industrial, recreational, and military uses found in the immediate area during the period of significance. Black Point Cove, now Aquatic Park, was once part of the military reservation that became Fort Mason. Fort Mason Historic District, adjacent to the east, (NR 04/25/72) is part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Construction of the State Belt Railroad through the site to the Army piers at Fort Mason led to efforts to preserve the cove, and spurred public opinion to establish Black Point Cove as a public park devoted to aquatic sports.

To the south of the park, across Beach Street is the Pioneer Woolen Mills Building, 600 North Point Street, (NR 04/29/82), which was incorporated into the Ghirardelli Chocolate Company. This adjacent industrial complex contributed to the popularity of the cove as a swimming place, due to the warm waters discharged from the factory into the bay. (See photo, Natural Systems and Features #2) The Haslett Warehouse, 680 Beach Street, (NR 11/15/75) on the west side of the park was built between 1907 and 1909 and is owned by the National Park Service. The site's proximity to the waterfront and to the State Railroad allowed the adjacent California Fruit Canners

Association warehouse to receive fresh produce by boat and to distribute canned goods by rail. The warehouse is another remnant of San Francisco's industrial waterfront that once occupied the land that is now Aquatic Park.

The Dolphin Club and the San Francisco Rowing Club maintain clubhouses at the northeast corner of the park. The clubhouses were moved out of Black Point Cove to their present location in 1936, to land that is currently managed by the City and County of San Francisco. Since the late 1800s, these rowing and swimming clubs have been at the center of recreational aquatic activity on the bay and were the first to form a plan for the preservation and protection of the cove for continued use as an aquatic park.

These rehabilitated industrial buildings provide a dramatic backdrop for Aquatic Park, one that has become synonymous with historic San Francisco, and reflects the historic military, industrial and recreational uses associated with the site.

The area west of Van Ness Avenue and east of the Fort Mason retaining wall was included in original plans for the development of Aquatic Park. Further research is required to determine the extent of the landscape development of this area during the period of significance. Although the current design displays many landscape characteristics that are not consistent with the moderne landscape design for Aquatic Park, the sidewalk allee of trees along Van Ness Avenue reflects a key element of the original design concept for this area.

General Management Information

Management Category: Must Be Preserved And Maintained

Management Category Date: 9/18/2001

Explanatory Narrative:
Aquatic Park was declared a National Historic Landmark on May 28, 1987 and therefore falls under Category A.

Condition Assessment And Impacts

The criteria for determining the condition of landscapes is consistent with the Resource Management Plan Guideline definitions (1994) and is decided with the concurrence of park management. Cultural landscape conditions are defined as follows:

Good: indicates the landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character-defining elements will cause the landscape to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

Undetermined: Not enough information available to make an evaluation.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/30/1998

Date Recorded: 09/30/1998

Park Management Concurrence: Yes **Concurrence Date:** 9/18/2001

Level Of Impact Severity: Moderate

Stabilization Measures:

Impact:

Type of Impact: Erosion
Internal/External: External
Description:
Original sand replenishment at the cove beach has eroded over time.

Type of Impact: Other -- Additions
Internal/External: Internal
Description:
Berms were added to the area west of Van Ness and the eastern edge of the district in 1975 altering the topography. A single, non-historic lamppost has been installed along the western border of the walkway between Aquatic Park and Victorian Park. This lamppost matches the non-historic ones installed in Victorian Park; it is incompatible with the streamline moderne design of Aquatic Park, and tends to blur the distinction between the two spaces.

Type of Impact: Planting Practices
Internal/External: Internal
Description:
Following the period of significance, a path was constructed from Van Ness Avenue to the Sea Scouts base, replacing grass with pavement. A large shrub bed in the space between Van Ness Avenue and the beach promenade was removed and replaced with turf. Above the west bleachers, the area historically planted with shrubs has been replaced with turf. Alternatively, other areas that were historically planted with grass are now planted with shrubs, including the low-bermed planting area along the walkway between Aquatic Park and Victorian Park. Ships' anchors have been placed in shrub beds that historically were planted with grass and edged with shrubs.

Railroad ties used as retaining walls, asphalt pavement over the belt line railroad tracks, and introduction of new planting materials have occurred around the west comfort station. The new planting beds around the west comfort station were historically planted with a mass of shrubs. Planting beds along the Beach Street elevation of the bathhouse have been paved over and no longer function according to their original design intent. It appears, however, that the bed edging was simply covered with asphalt so these features could potentially be restored. Metal rail fences have been installed around the skylight windows above the bleacher structures in lieu of hedges which were planted historically.

A pine and the dirt area around it were removed and replaced with asphalt. Trees have been added when none were planted historically.

These practices have occurred, possibly because no vegetation management plan or cultural landscape report is in place to provide appropriate guidance to the maintenance crews about preservation of the site. As historic plant materials die out or are deliberately removed, a variety of decisions have been made which cumulatively have had a negative impact the overall integrity of the site.

Type of Impact:	Structural Deterioration
Internal/External:	Both Internal and External

Description:

The concrete fabric of Municipal Pier has deteriorated significantly and is exhibiting major spalls due to rebar oxidation as well as a major slump in the deck. In 1995, the LCS assessed the pier as condition to be poor with a severe level of impact. The pier is considered a safety hazard. Both bleacher structures display evidence of concrete spalling and exposed rebar. The east and west comfort stations are showing signs of deteriorating concrete, with spalling and exposed rebar. Further information on the condition of the individual buildings is available in the LCS. A number of lampposts have been vandalized, are falling apart, have broken and missing globes, and exposed wiring.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement: Cooperative Agreement

Expiration Date: 01/01/2002

Explanatory Narrative:

A cooperative agreement exists between San Francisco Maritime and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area for groundskeeping services. This agreement is renewed on a yearly basis.

Management Agreement: Cooperative Agreement

Expiration Date: 01/01/2006

Explanatory Narrative:

A cooperative agreement exists between San Francisco Maritime and the Sea Scouts for use of the Sea Scout structure.

NPS Legal Interest: Fee Simple

Explanatory Narrative:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined

Approved Treatment Document: General Management Plan

Document Date: July 24, 1996

Explanatory Narrative:

"As defined in the NPS Management Policies, [a cultural zone] would include lands managed for the preservation, protection, and interpretation of cultural resources and their settings and for use and enjoyment by the public. Cultural resources that are key to the purposes of the park would be included in this zone. Development in the cultural zone must be compatible with preservation and interpretation of cultural values. Consistent with policies for preservation and use of cultural resources, historic structures could be adaptively used for utilitarian or other purposes. Types of cultural subzones would include preservation, adaptive use, and commemoration. This zone would include the Aquatic Park Historic District, which encompasses the Aquatic Park bathhouse and associated public artwork, bleachers and basement spaces, concession stand and restroom buildings, east/west speaker towers, seawall, Sea Scout base, Belt line railroad tracks, the integrated landscaped portions of Aquatic Park, and Aquatic Park lagoon and beach." ("General Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement", Denver Service Center, National Park Service, 1996, page 17-18)

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Cost

LCS Structure Approved Treatment Cost: $9,208,000

Landscape Approved Treatment Cost: $172,000

Cost Date: June 1, 1999

Level of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities

Cost Estimator: Park

Explanatory Description: The approved treatment costs, outlined in the GMP, include rehabilitation of the bathhouse, its driveways and bleacher seats, rehabilitation of the Sea Scout base and seawall, the east and west comfort stations, and the nautical play area. The "Other Approved Treatment Cost" refers to site and landscape preservation and improvements as approved in the GMP.

Stabilization Costs

LCS Structure Stabilization Cost:

Landscape Stabilization Costs: $39,000

Cost Date: July 12, 2004

Level Of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities

Cost Estimator: Park

Explanatory Description: The following landscape stabilization projects are found in PMIS.

PMIS 74159
Project Title: Restore Aluminum Grillwork in the East Speaker Tower in Aquatic Park
Project Total Cost: $9,000.00
Fabricate and install missing aluminum grillwork and deteriorated rear-entrance door for the east-most speaker tower located in Aquatic Park near the Hyde Street Cable Car Turn-Around.

PMIS 74183
Project Title: Rehabilitate Windows in the Jefferson Street Bathouse in Aquatic Park
Project Total Cost: $30,000.00
Remove 6 aluminum non-historic windows from Jefferson Street bathouse, and replace with steel sash window frames to replicate original. It will be necessary to hire a contractor capable of fabrication, installation of new steel window frames, and glazing with historic wire glass.

Documentation Assessment and Checklist

Documentation Assessment: Fair

Documentation:

Document: General Management Plan
Year Of Document: 1996
Amplifying Details: The General Management Plan, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, 1996
Adequate Documentation: No
Explanatory Narrative:
The General Management Plan identifies the Aquatic Park Historic District as an entity needing further research and therefore provides adequate documentation.

Document: Other
Year Of Document: 1981
Amplifying Details: Historic Structures Report
Adequate Documentation: No
Explanatory Narrative:
James P. Delgado. Historic Structures Report: "Pioneers, Progress and Planning: The Story of San Francisco's Aquatic Park." San Francisco: NPS: 1981. The document focuses only on the architectural qualities of the resource.

Document: Resource Management Plan
Year Of Document: 1996
Amplifying Details: San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, Resource Management Plan, 1996.
Adequate Documentation: Yes
Explanatory Narrative:
The Resource Management Plan addresses elements, mainly structural, of the Aquatic Park Historic District but does not address the district as a unique entity.

Appendix

Bibliography

Citations:

Citation Author:	San Francisco Burea of Engineering
Citation Title:	Plan of Proposed Aquatic Park
Year of Publication:	1913
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Number:	GOGA 41956
Citation Type:	Graphic
Citation Location:	PGSO, Tic Files, GOGA 41956

Citation Author:	Anna Coxe Toogood
Citation Title:	The Bay Area Community: A Civil History of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Year of Publication:	1980
Source Name:	Historic Resource Study
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	PGSO

Citation Author:	James P. Delgado
Citation Title:	Historic Structures Report: Pioneers, Politics, Progress and Planning: The Story of San Francisco's Aquatic Park
Year of Publication:	1981
Source Name:	Historic Structures Report
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	PGSO

Citation Author:	James P. Delgado
Citation Title:	National Register Nomination, Aquatic Park Historic District
Year of Publication:	1981
Source Name:	National Register Nomination
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	PGSO

Citation Author:	Elna Bakker
Citation Title:	An Island Called California: An Ecological Introduction to Its Nature.
Year of Publication:	1984
Source Name:	PGSO
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	PGSO

Citation Author:	Roger Kelly
Citation Title:	Archeological Resources of Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Year of Publication:	1976
Source Name:	PGSO
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	PGSO Cultural Resources Library

Citation Author:	Roger Kelly
Citation Title:	Historic Objects from Fort Mason "Mini-Park"
Year of Publication:	1980
Source Name:	PGSO
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	PGSO Cultural Resources Library

Citation Author:	John Punnett
Citation Title:	Plan of Aquatic Park
Year of Publication:	1938
Source Name:	San Francisco Maritime Library
Citation Number:	B5.15-8
Citation Type:	Graphic
Citation Location:	San Francisco Maritme National Historical Park Library

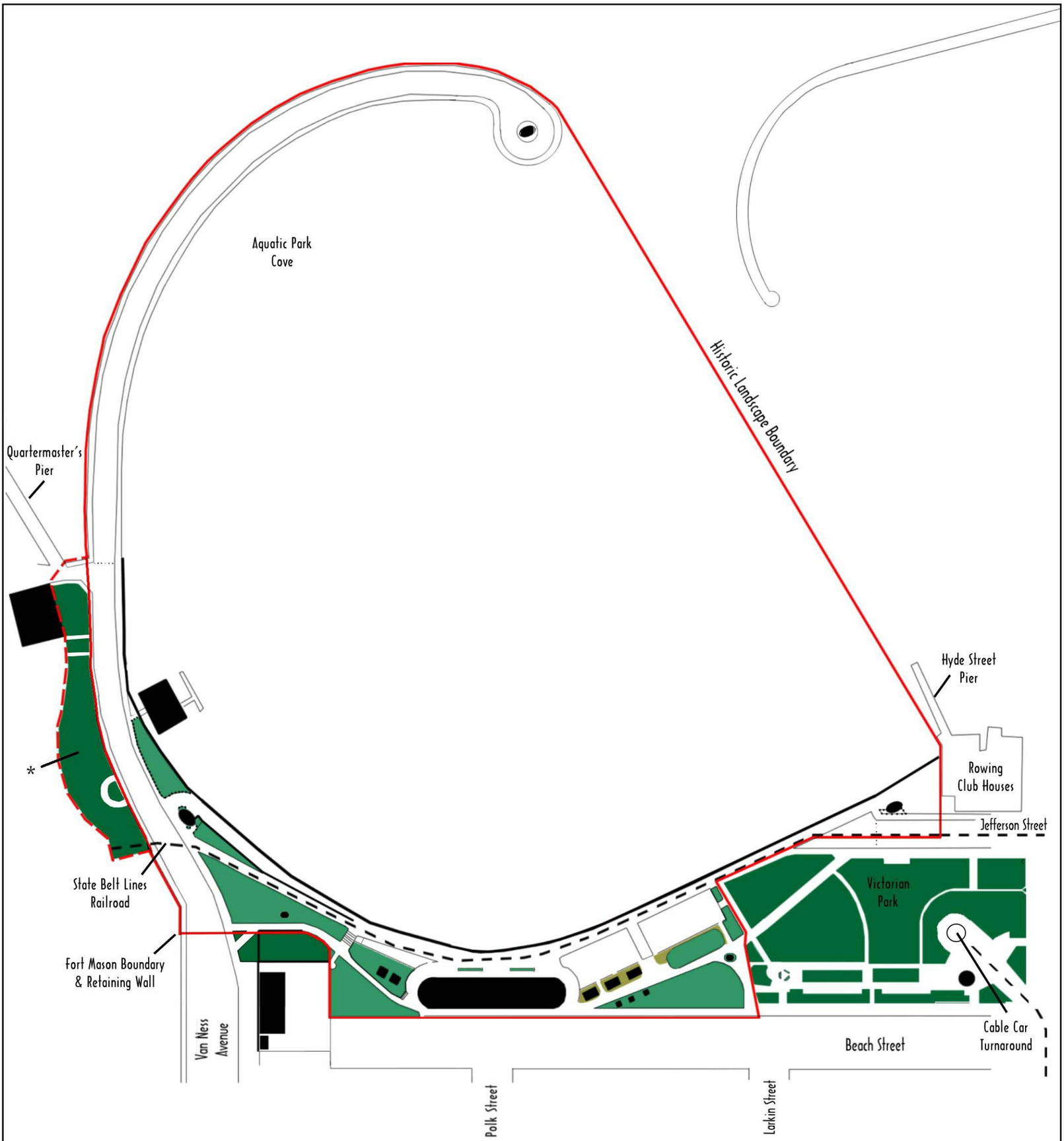
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Citation Title:	Historic Photograph Collection, Images, Parks, Aquatic. Plans and Proposals
Year of Publication:	1935
Source Name:	San Francisco Public Library
Citation Number:	Parks, Aquatic. Plans and Proposals
Citation Type:	Graphic
Citation Location:	San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco History Room, Historic Photograph Collection

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Citation Author:	Southeast Archological Center, NPS
Citation Title:	5,500 Years of History in the Vicinity of Seventh and Mission Streets, San Francisco
Year of Publication:	1994
Source Name:	www.cr.nps.gov
Citation Number:	www.cr.nps.gov/seac/sfprehis.htm
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	http://www.cr.nps.gov/seac/sfprehis.htm

Supplemental Information

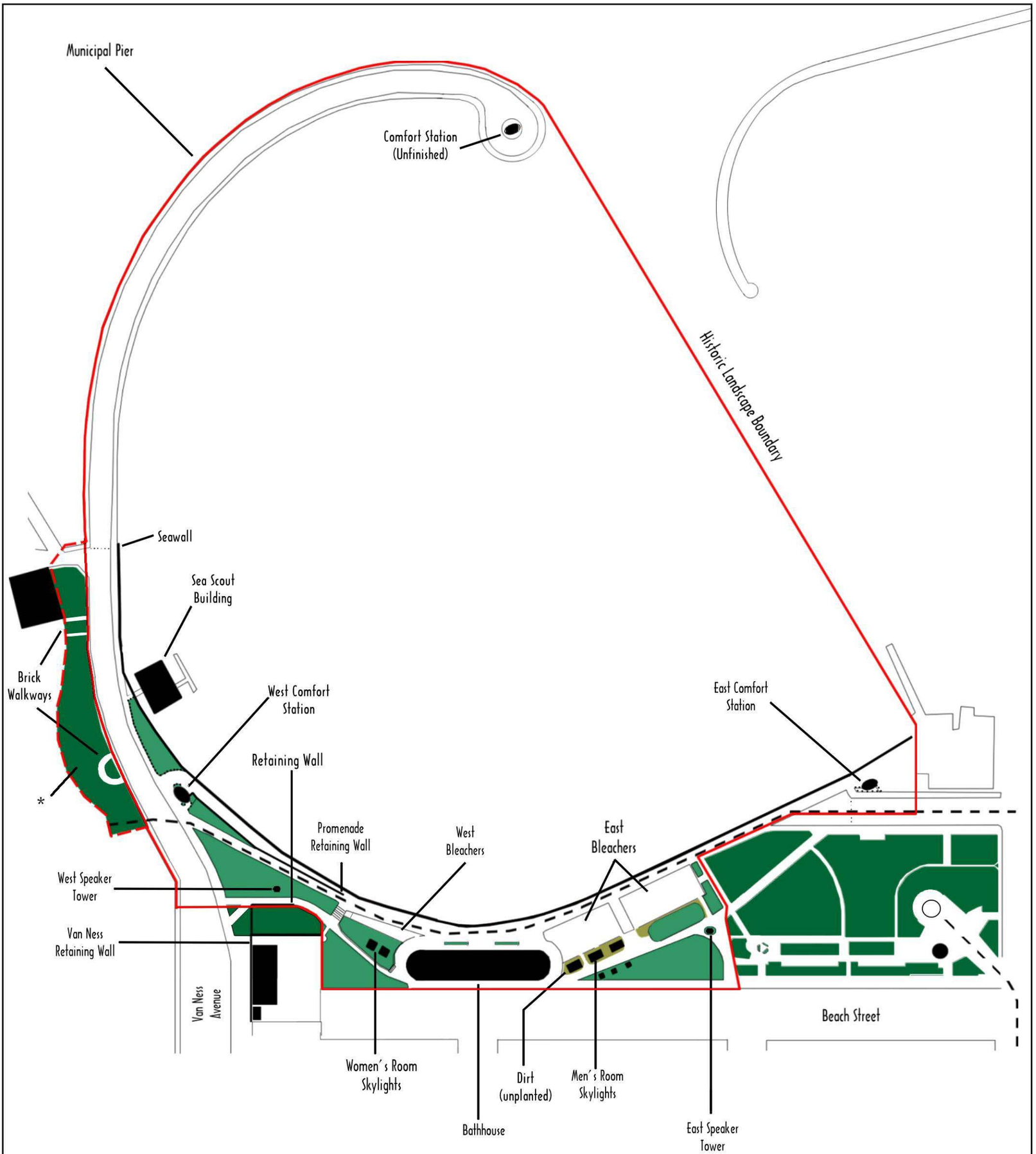


* Further research is needed to determine if area was developed during the period of significance.

United States Dept.of the Interior
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Pacific Great Basin Support Office
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Supplemental Information #1
Site Map
SF Maritime National Historical Park
Oakland, California
November, 2001

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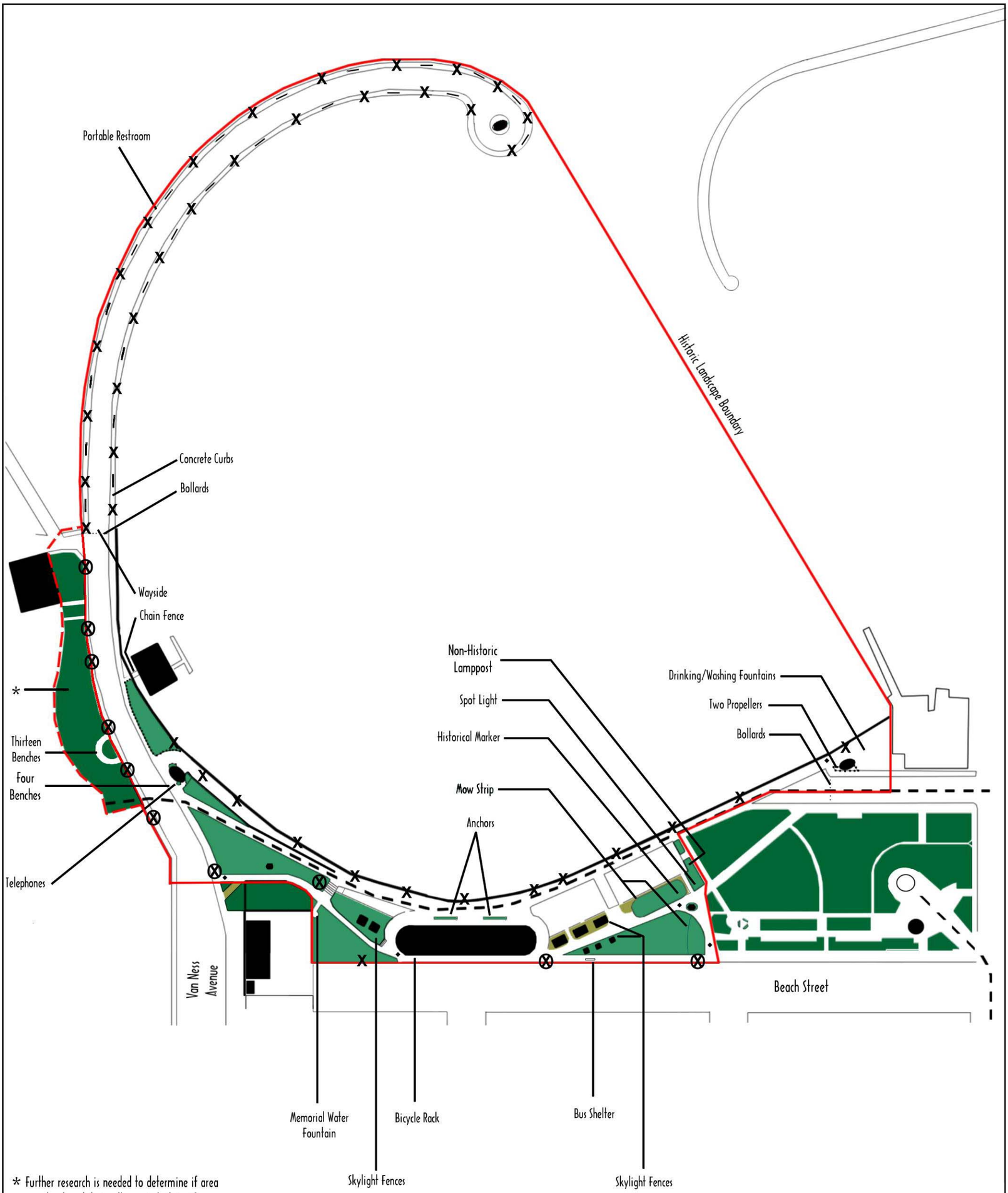


* Further research is needed to determine if area was devloped during the period of significance

United States Dept.of the Interior
National Park Service
Pacific Great Basin Support Office
Oakland, CA

Supplemental Information #2
Buildings and Structures Map
SF Maritime National Historical Park
Oakland, California
November, 2001

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0 50 100 200 ft.



* Further research is needed to determine if area was developed during the period of significance.

United States Dept.of the Interior
National Park Service
Pacific Great Basin Support Office
Oakland, CA

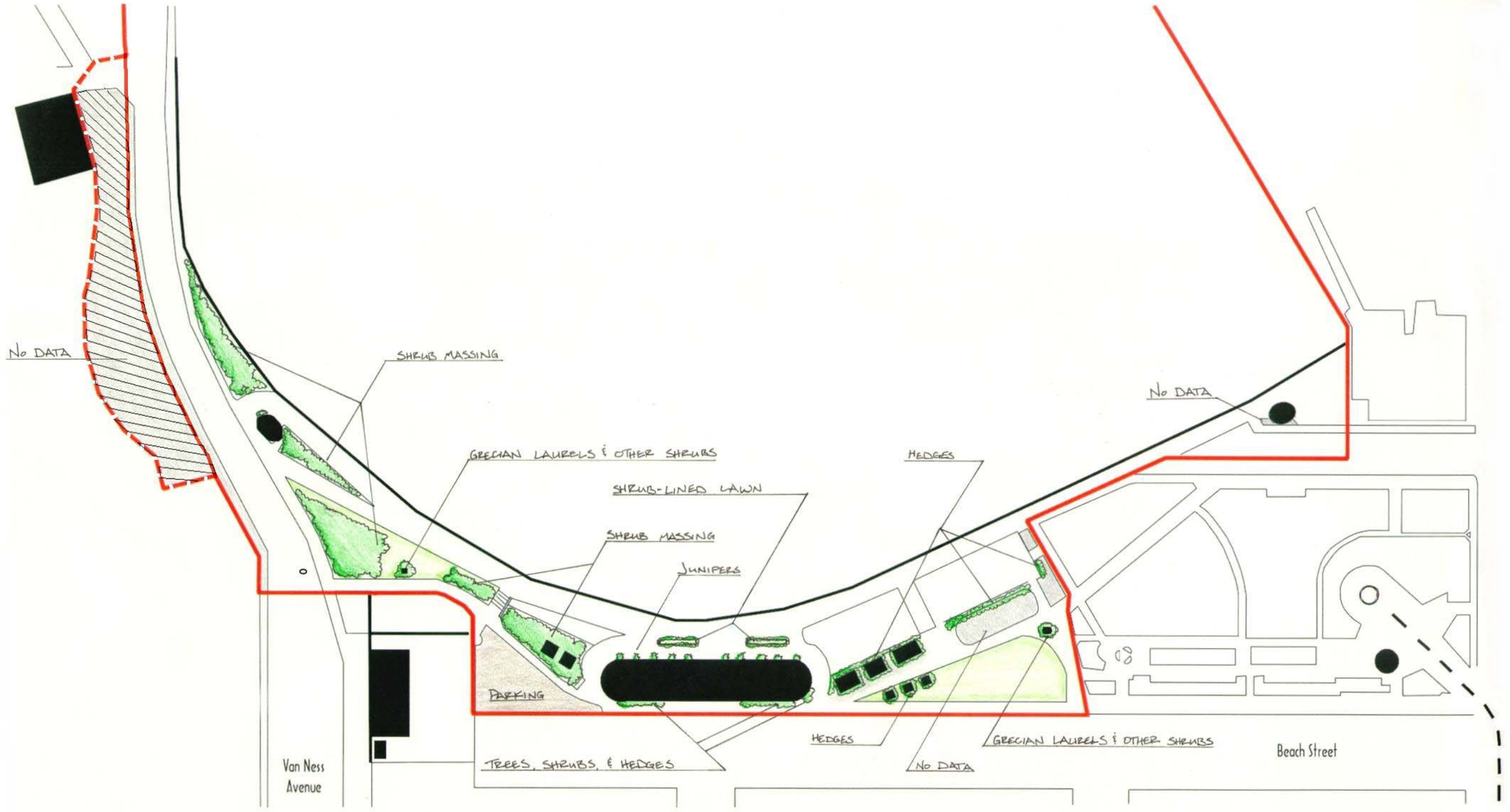
Supplemental Information #3
Small Scale Features Map
SF Maritime National Historical Park
Oakland, CA
November, 2001

Legend

- X Historic Lampposts
- ⊗ Non-Historic Lampposts
- — Historic Benches
- • Barbary Coast Markers
- Stone Curbing
- Railroad Tracks

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0 50 100 200 ft.



United States Dept.of the Interior
National Park Service
Pacific Great Basin Support Office
Oakland, CA

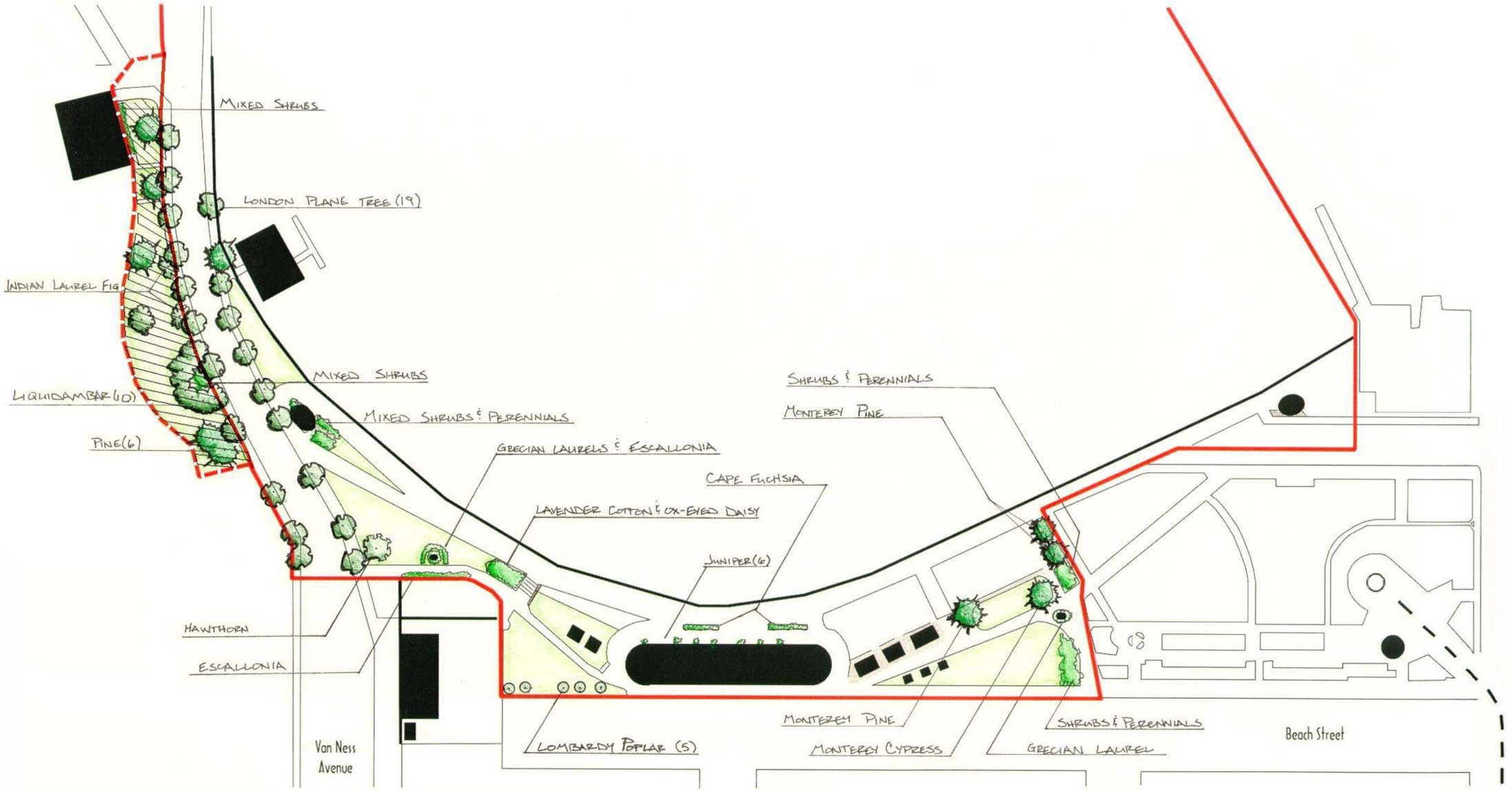
Supplemental Information #4
Historic Vegetation Map
SF Maritime National Historical Park
Oakland, CA
November, 2001

Notes:
This map was compiled using photos from the period of significance, including photo numbers AAA 6726, AAA 6745, AAA 6713, & AAA 6756 from the Aquatic Park Collection in the San Francisco History Room at the San Francisco Main Library.

Further research is needed to determine if the hatched area west of Van Ness Avenue was developed durign the period of significance.

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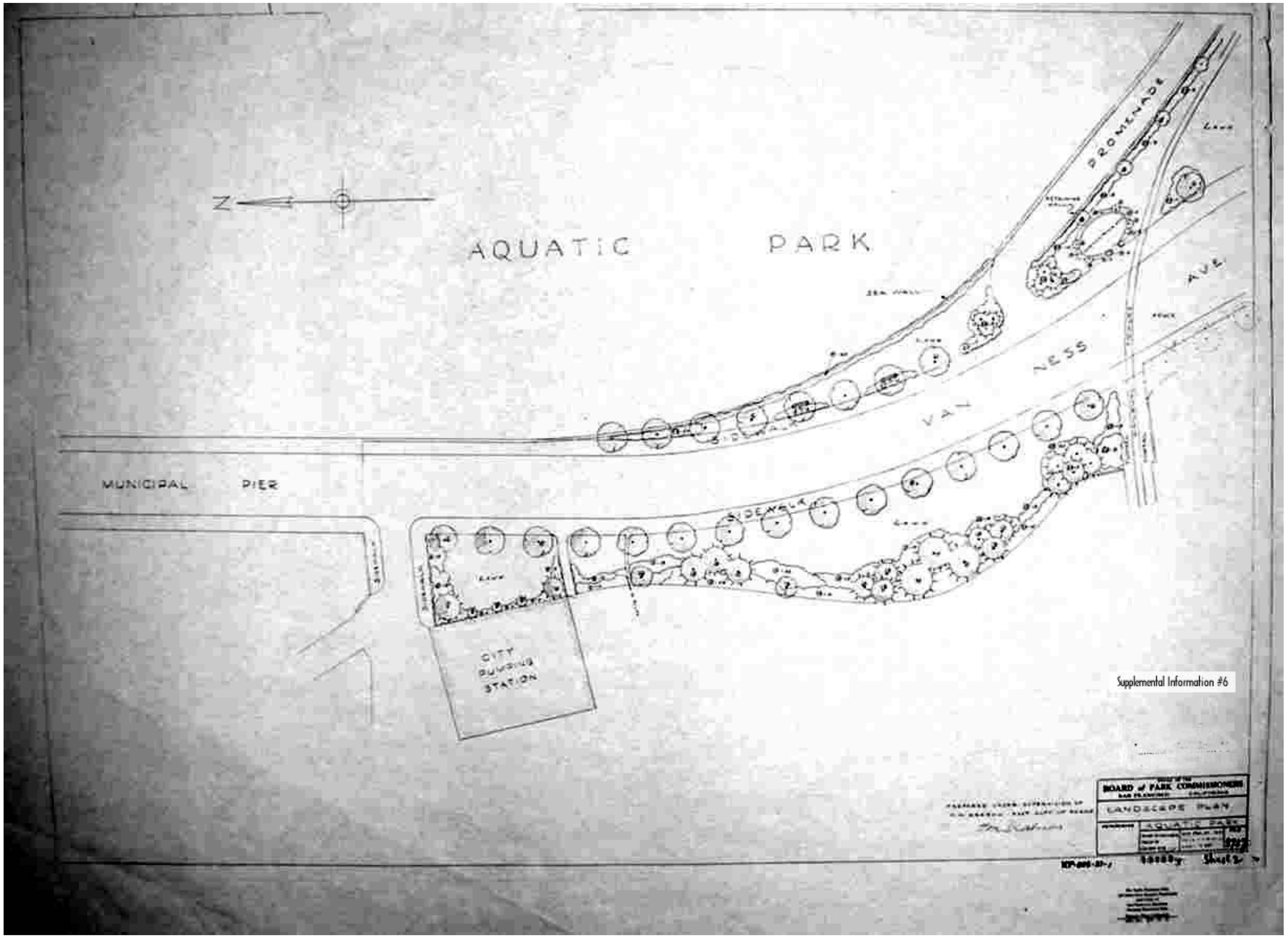
United States Dept.of the Interior
National Park Service
Pacific Great Basin Support Office
Oakland, CA

Supplemental Information #5
Existing Vegetation Map
SF Maritime National Historical Park
San Fransisco, CA
November, 2001

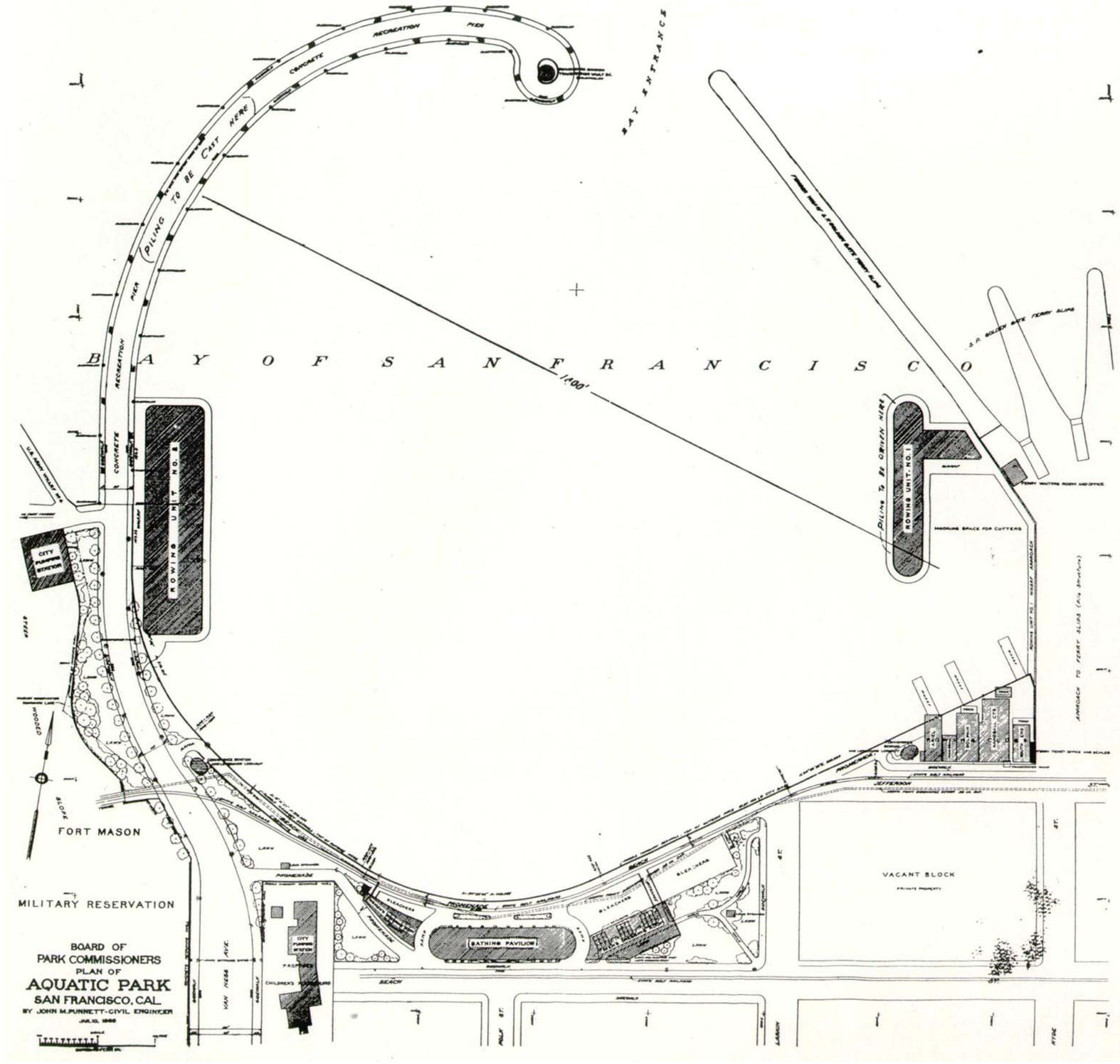
Further research is needed to determine if the hatched area west of Van Ness Avenue was developed during the period of significance.

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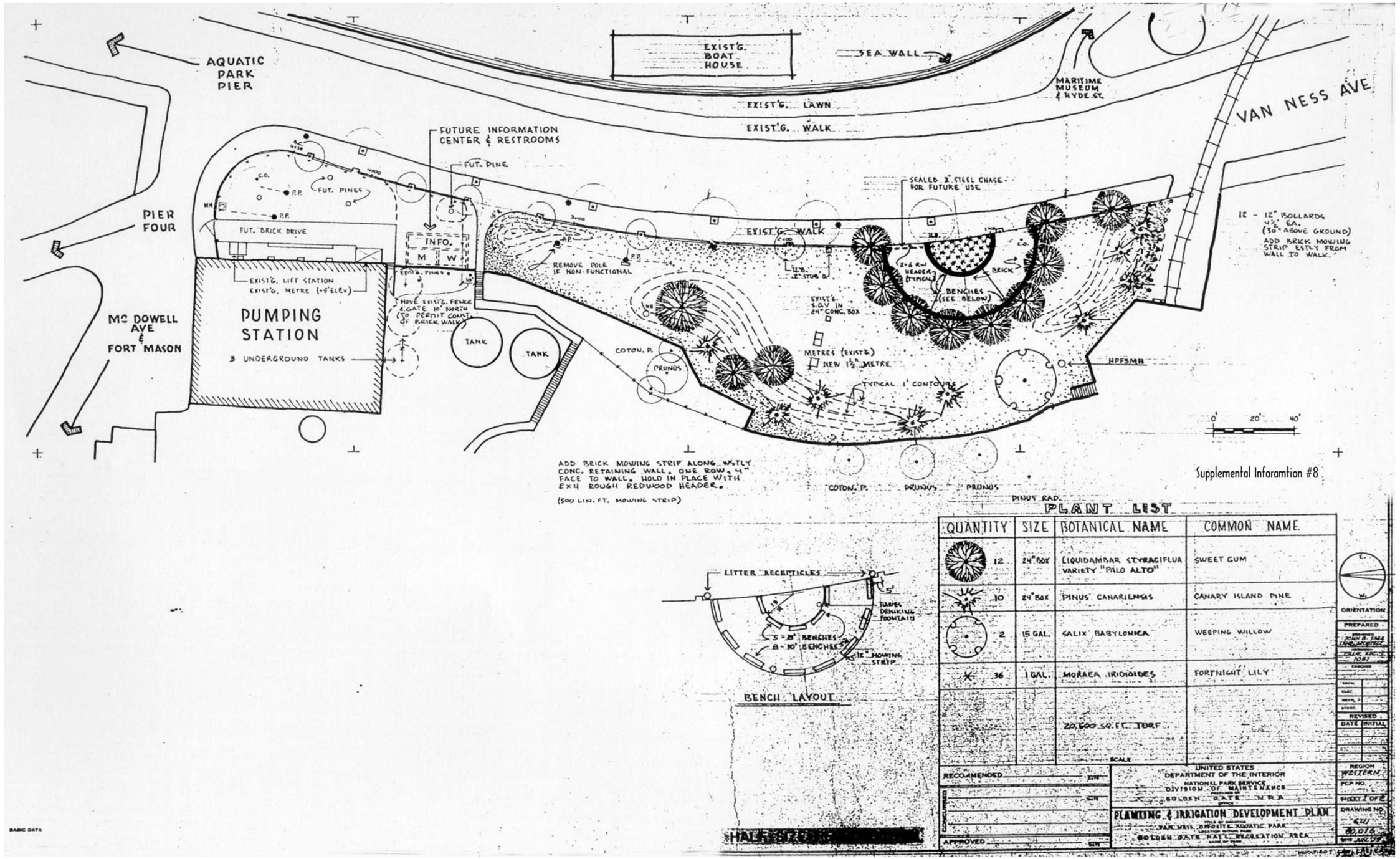


Supplemental Information #6



Supplementel Information #7

For Study Purposes Only
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San Francisco Maritime
National Historical Park
Museum Plans Collection
HDC 555, B5.15-8



Supplemental Inforamtion #8