

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

✓ N.E. 66000232

HISTORIC
The Presidio of San Francisco

AND/OR COMMON
Presidio Military Reservation

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE
California

CODE
06

COUNTY
San Francisco

CODE
075

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
The U. S. Army, Department of Defense, U. S. Government

CITY, TOWN
Washington

VICINITY OF

STATE
D.C.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Recorder's Office, Room 167

STREET & NUMBER
City Hall (Grove & Polk Streets)

CITY, TOWN
San Francisco

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

—EXCELLENT
X.GOOD
—FAIR

—DETERIORATED
—RUINS
—UNEXPOSED

—UNALTERED
X.ALTERED

X.ORIGINAL SITE
—MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Virtually all of the original Presidio of San Francisco, from the Spanish, Mexican, and early-American periods, has been lost. Nothing of the pallisade walls or the buildings remains, other than a portion of the adobe structure originally used as a commandant's house. This little building has been substantially changed and now is incorporated into a 20th century Army Officer's Club. Nothing remains of the second or third forts here.

The Commandant's House, the only remaining fragment of the original Presidio compound, was constructed 1776-1778, and was a one-story adobe with two rooms and a closet, having a tule roof covering. It was, according to the guess of the English explorer and visitor to the Presidio, George Vancouver, 30 feet long, 14 feet wide, and 12 feet high, in each of the two rooms. The floor was dirt, and the walls were once whitewashed, while the furnishings were what he called "rude," and the windows were even unglazed. In 1934, the Commandant's House was "restored" including the rebuilding of the roof and side walls of the assembly room, and the stuccoing over of the entire front of the building. The original structure was enlarged, additions made, and a conversion of the building to an Army Officer's Club was done.

The remainder of the Presidio compound today is a conglomerate of buildings used for many different military purposes by the U. S. Army. These uses range from the religious (chapel) to the recreational (a large golf course) to housing (quarters for service families, and unmarried personnel, including a trailer park) to administrative offices for the headquarters of the Sixth U. S. Army, to many other areas. Nothing ties the area together so much as the diversity of its functions. The attached general site map demonstrates many of the uses to which the buildings and land of the Presidio are now being put.

Specific Historic Sites

Officers' Mess- The Officers' Mess occupies the area which formed the original south wall of the Spanish and Mexican presidio. Architecturally the building's integrity has been greatly compromised due to numerous and extensive remodelings during the last one hundred and twenty-five years. It is not the oldest building in San Francisco since the original Spanish structures erected in the summer and fall of 1776 were destroyed by the severe storms during the winter of 1777-1778.

The Adobe Wall- This portion of the "Moraga Room" in the Open Mess dates from ca. 1810, although it could be as late as the 1840s when the New York Volunteers (Stevenson's Regiment) began to reconstruct the delapidated and abandoned Mexican outpost.

(Continued)

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES September 17, 1776

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Jose Moraga

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Presidio of San Francisco, guarding the finest harbor on the Pacific coast, played a significant role in extending Spanish settlement into Northern California. Because of the security afforded by this fortification, numerous missions, pueblos, a royal ranch, and an asistencia, were founded between 1776 and 1822. After 1792, the post became the northernmost bastion of the Spanish empire, and the chief barrier against British, Russian, and American expansion south of the Golden Gate.

History

Under the guarding aegis of the Spanish military presidio, four missions, two pueblos, one royal ranch, and one asistencia, were founded between 1776 and 1822. The Presidio was also the base for the Spanish exploring expeditions that penetrated the interior and area north of San Francisco Bay in 1817-1821. From an original population of only 63 in 1776, by 1820, the San Francisco district had grown to include 670 Spaniards and about 4360 mission Indians.

After 1792, the Presidio assumed an even more important role than suppressing Indians. It became the northernmost bastion of the Spanish Empire in America, and, as such, the chief barrier against British, Russian, and American expansion south of the Golden Gate. This considerable pressure forced the expansion of the Presidio in 1793-94, and 1797.

Following the winning of independence from Spain by Mexico in 1821, the San Francisco Presidio continued to serve as Mexico's main military base in Northern California until 1835.

Between 1776 and 1835, the adobe buildings of the presidio were rebuilt during the dry season, only to be washed away again during the wet season. The Spanish and Mexican authorities never adapted themselves to the different geographic conditions of Alta California, and persisted with the mud structures so fitted to the much drier south. Clearly, some new building material was called for, but the persistence of the adobe tradition prevented anything but the relatively impermanent structure of the Presidio--very few of which, quite naturally, have survived to this day. By 1792, 25 years after the establishment on the site, still only three of the four adobe pallisade walls had been completed.

The small, low, mud houses of the compound resembled, to Captain George Vancouver who was the first foreigner to sail into San Francisco Bay in 1794, nothing so

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 1460

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 0	5 4 5 2 2 0	4 1 8 4 8 6 0	B	1 0	5 4 9 0 0 0	4 1 8 4 8 4 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 0	5 4 9 0 0 0	4 1 8 2 3 0 0	D	1 0	5 4 5 3 2 0	4 1 8 2 0 0 1 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Although the Presidio of San Francisco consisted of a church, the commandant's house, a guardhouse, houses for the soldiers, and warehouses, it is more important for our current boundary considerations to recognize the overall prescription of a Presidio Reservation of 1564 acres, stipulated by Spanish law.

Approximately 1460 acres of the original Presidio reservation remains fundamentally intact, and there is no doubt that the designation of the San Francisco Presidio

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Boundary statement in item 7 prepared by James Dillon, September 1975.

All other material taken from previous special studies of the site in the National Landmark Files.

ORGANIZATION Historic Sites Survey, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER 1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN Washington STATE D.C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Boundary Certified
George F. Emery
 DATE June 1, 1978

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. D. Smith DATE 4/24/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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The Presidio of San Francisco

CONTINUATION SHEET History

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

much as a pound for cattle. The 333' by 322' area was walled on only three sides even then, the fourth being made up of a few bushes here and there fastened together and to the ground, with sticks. Vancouver's reports provided a valuable primary source of information on the appearance of the Presidio at that time, and is quoted extensively in other areas of the national historic landmark file on the San Francisco Presidio. What Vancouver's findings did, was inform Europeans of the defenselessness of the Golden Gate. He noted that the presidio had only two small cannon, one mounted on a carriage, the other on a log.

As a result of Vancouver's visit, and the Nootka controversy 1789-1790, Viceroy Rivella Gigedo directed that an additional fort be erected. The new fort (now Fort Point) was located at Punta del Cantil Blanco, one and one third miles northwest of the original Presidio. Construction began in 1793, and was completed in 1794, and when completed, mounted 12 cannon. That structure was destroyed when the United States Government built its masonry and brick fort there 1853-1861.

In 1797, a third fortification was erected at Point San Jose (later called Black Point, and then Fort Mason). These additional works at San Francisco made this the strongest military post in Spanish California. The garrison numbered 70 soldiers and 13 cannon in 1810, and 134 men and 20 guns in 1820.

In 1835, the Mexican successors to the Spanish in California decided to transfer the main defenses of Northern California to Sonoma, leaving just four men at the Presidio. The following year, these men were also withdrawn, and the ruined Presidio of San Francisco was abandoned as a military post, the ruined buildings thereafter occupied by only a retired soldier or two and their families.

United States troops occupied Fort Point and the Presidio in March of 1847, and the U. S. Army's Headquarters of the Pacific has occupied the Presidio from 1849, to the present.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET Boundary

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior in October 1962, was intended to commemorate the entire reservation as well as the building remains of the Spanish period. This important fact is reenforced by the minutes of the Secretary's Advisory Board (1962), summarized in a memorandum to the Secretary, saying that the Board "classifies the United States Military Reservation known as The Presidio, at San Francisco, California." A memorandum in the national historic landmark file, to the Director of the Western Region, National Park Service, from the Chief of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Dr. Ernest A. Connally, dated May 21, 1970, should also be referred to for its support of the clarity of the Advisory Board intent.

The official boundary then of the San Francisco Presidio, consists of approximately 1460 acres of land, as outlined on the accompanying "Master Plan General Site Map" prepared by Harl Pugh & Associates Engineers, South San Francisco, and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is dated March 24, 1975.

The area of course coincides with the perimeter ownership lines administered by the Department of Defense and the National Park Service. Within the perimeter, lies the San Francisco National Military Cemetery, administered by the Veteran's Administration, the Fort Point National Historic Site, administered by the National Park Service.

The Presidio occupies the far northwesternmost tip of the peninsula which is the city of San Francisco. The site is surrounded by urban development of all sorts. Beginning at a point on Baker Beach, the boundary line approximates Lobos Creek south and east from the Pacific Ocean, it skirts around the U. S. Public Health Hospital so as not to include it, and then continues east along a line just south of West Pacific Avenue, to a point near Broadway, where it meets Lyon Street. The boundary runs north from this point along the west side of Lyon Street, along the west side of Palace Drive, and again, where it resumes, along Lyon Street, directly north to a point 300 yards offshore beyond the low water mark. The boundary continues west and then south along a line 300 yards offshore beyond the low water mark, to a point 300 yards offshore directly west of the starting point at Baker Beach. The two points are then connected by an east-west line completing this boundary perimeter, enclosing the 1460 acres.

Only at a point near Marina Green on the northeast border of the Presidio, does the National Landmark boundary depart from the Corps of Engineers boundary. Just south of Marina Green, where Marina Boulevard meets Lyon Avenue, an additional piece of land is surveyed to the east, and referred to as "The Vicinity Map," wherein is shown that narrow strip of land along Marina Boulevard, to Van Ness Avenue, encompassing the Presidio's railroad right-of-way, and a railway tunnel beneath Fort Mason. None of this is included

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CONTINUATION SHEET Boundary ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 3

in the national landmark boundary. Instead, where the national historic landmark boundary meets the railroad at Marina Boulevard, it simply crosses the tracks and continues north along Lyon Street.

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The Presidio of San Francisco

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Stone Magazine-Completed in 1863, this magazine represents one of the most pristine examples of Civil War vintage architecture in the Bay Area. Because of its simplicity and functional design it managed to escape extensive alterations. Early architectural drawings and photographic evidence bear this statement out.

Station Hospital-Variouly named Station Hospital, Wright Army Hospital or the Post Dispensary, Building 2 is the oldest and indeed the first permanent structure built by the United States Army on the Presidio. Employed as a medical facility until the late 1960s the building has sustained numerous alterations which included the removal of a two story front wing and the addition of a rear wing and operation theatre during the late nineteenth century. Several descriptions of the building appear in the 1860s and 70s, the most useful of which dates from 1879. This report indicated the hospital's capacity at fifty patients, and that the facility among other things boasted hot and cold water. Dedicated as the Presidio Army Museum in June of 1973 considerable restoration has taken place over the past three years.

Streetcar line termination- Building 558 opened in 1920 as a Post Exchange and Restaurant was located at the turn-around for the streetcar serving the Presidio. While altered to a good degree, the site bears interest.

Constructed in 1939 the buildings composing the Central Magazine have association with the coastal defenses of the Bay. In sufficient data is available at this time to make any accessment as to the historical importance of this complex.

Guard House-The present Bank and Post Office served as an early guardhouse for the Presidio dating from 1900. It is not the original guardhouse technically speaking, but is the oldest extent building on the installation to serve this function. Its outward appearance is relatively unchanged, and in addition, the structure is linked closely to the barracks complex on Montgomery.

Building 650-Stilwell Hall was dedicated in memory of General Joseph "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell who served as commander of Sixth Army after its relocation at the Presidio in 1946. Stilwell died at Letterman, and shortly after his death in the spring of 1946 his family participated in a rather elaborate dedication and tribute to the late General. (See attached program). While the building had no relation to Stilwell per se it does bear retainion because of its architectural design, as well as its remote connection with Stilwell and the 91st Division, sometimes known as "San Francisco's Own."

(Continued)

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The Presidio of San Francisco

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

Funston Ave. and Alameda-Traditional the Alameda was the area where the trail from Yerba Buena entered the Presidio. In effect, it served as the main gate to the post during much of the late nineteenth century. The houses on the west side of Funston were completed in 1862 to serve as quarters for the officers of the Ninth Infantry Regiment, a unit who garrisoned the Presidio during the Civil War. Scattered along the entire West Coast, regiment headquarters under Colonel George Wright were located here. It is possible that these buildings were prefabricated construction as their counterparts were at Drum Barracks in Wilmington, California.

Brick Cavalry Stables-The 1913-1914 Calvary stables, and the barracks above form an important complex in the Presidio's resources. The role of the Cavalry on the frontier, and their service in the National Parks before the creation of the National Park Service bear preservation. Their setting and relatively unaltered exteriors further strengthen this position.

Funston Ave. East-The officer's quarters date from 1886-1893. Their architecture and association with the frontier Army merit note. They should be preserved, along with their earlier counterparts to the west as an associated complex for interpretation purposes.

O'Reilly Housing-These quarters dating from 1902-1904 came about as a direct result of a need for family dwellings imposed by the increasing importance of Letterman Hospital. They form a complex of some historic significance as a result of this association. Their architecture is such that they also should receive special attention.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SECOND REVISION

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE California	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. IV - Spanish Exploration and Settlement
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Presidio of San Francisco	4. APPROX. ACREAGE 1460 Acres
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) City of San Francisco	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) U. S. Government (Department of Defense)	

7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)

The Presidio of San Francisco, guarding the finest harbor on the Pacific Coast, played a significant role in extending Spanish settlement into Northern California. Under the guarding aegis of this post, from 1776 to 1822, were founded four missions, two pueblos, one royal ranch, and one asistencia; the Presidio was also the base for the Spanish exploring expeditions that penetrated the interior and area north of San Francisco Bay in 1817 and 1821. From an original population of 63 in 1776, the district of San Francisco had grown to include, by 1820, a total population of some 670 Spaniards and about 4,360 mission Indians.

In addition to its original function of suppressing the Indians, the Presidio, after 1792, assumed an even more important role; the post became the northernmost bastion of the Spanish Empire and the chief barrier against British, Russian, and American expansion south of the Golden Gate. Subjected to the greatest pressure in California, the original fortifications of the Presidio were accordingly expanded in 1793-94 and 1797. The Presidio succeeded in fulfilling both guardian roles until 1821, when Mexico won its independence from Spain. The San Francisco Presidio continued to serve Mexico's main military base in Northern California from 1822 to 1835.

The general site for the Presidio at San Francisco was selected by Lieutenant Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza on March 28, 1776. Construction, supervised by Lieutenant José Joaquín Moraga, began on July 26, and by September 17, 1776 enough progress had been made to permit a formal founding ceremony to be held.

The plan for the San Francisco Presidio included a church, commandant's house, guardhouse, houses for the soldiers, and warehouses. The buildings were constructed of logs in a very primitive manner--with palisade walls and flat roofs covered with sod or tules. A military reservation for the presidio was also laid out, which according to Spanish law, included 1,564 acres of land. By the end of 1776 the personnel of the Spanish establishments at the Presidio and the Mission San Francisco

(Continued on next page)

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

See Page Six.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, FABS, etc.)

Historic American Building Survey.

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* 618	11. CONDITION Altered & Restored	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Officers' Club & Parade Ground	13. DATE OF VISIT June 10, 1958
ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>			
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) Charles W. Snell	15. TITLE Reg. Chief, Br. Historic Sites	16. DATE Nov. 6, 1963	

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 3/4 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
California	Presidio of San Francisco

7. Continued:

de Asis (Dolores) (founded October 9, 1776) totaled 63, including 39 soldiers, 8 settlers, 13 servants, 2 priests, and the presidial storekeeper.

Construction on the Presidio continued in 1778. The first palisade walls were to be replaced with adobe walls, but progress proved to be very slow, as the rainy weather caused the adobe brick to deteriorate so rapidly that it was necessary to begin rebuilding before the original work was even completed. Indeed, Spanish officials seemed unable to comprehend that a different type of construction was needed at San Francisco from that used in the drier South.¹ Year after year, from 1776 to 1835, adobe buildings were constructed or repaired at San Francisco in the dry season, only to be washed out in the rainy season. Earthquakes also damaged the presidio structures. In 1792, 25 years after the establishment of the San Francisco Presidio, only three out of four of the adobe walls had been completed.

On November 14, 1792, Captain George Vancouver sailed his ship Discovery through the Golden Gate, the first foreign ship to enter San Francisco Bay. The English captain reported: "We rode up to the presidio, an appellation given to their military establishments in this country, and signifying a safe-guard. . . . Its wall, which fronted the harbor, was visible from the ships; but instead of a city or town, whose lights we had so anxiously looked for on the night of our arrivals, we were conducted into a spacious verdant plain, surrounded by hills on every side, excepting that which fronted the port. The only object which presented itself, was a square area, whose sides were about 200 yards in length [actual size was 333 by 322 feet], enclosed by a mud wall, and resembling a pound for cattle. Above this wall the thatched roofs of their low small houses just made their appearance. On entering the Presidio, we found one of its sides still unenclosed by the wall, and very indifferently fenced in by a few bushes here and there, fastened to stakes in the ground. The unfinished state of this part, afforded us an opportunity of seeing the strength of the wall, and the manner in which it was constructed. It is about 14 feet high, and five feet in breadth, and was first formed by uprights and horizontal rafters of large timbers, between which dried sods and moistened earth were pressed as close and as hard as possible; after which the whole was cased with earth made into a sort of mud plaster,

¹ There was a lack of good building materials available in the immediate vicinity of San Francisco.

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STATE California	NAME(S) OF SITE Presidio of San Francisco
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7. Continued:

which gave it the appearance of durability, and of being sufficiently strong to protect them, with the assistance of their fire-arms, against all the force which the natives of the country might be able to collect.

"The Spanish soldiers composing the garrison amounted, I understood, to 35, who with their wives, families, and a few Indian servants, comprised the whole of the population. Their houses were along the wall, within the square, and their fronts uniformly extended the same distance into the area, which is a clear open space, without buildings or other interruptions. The only entrance into it, is by a large gateway, facing which, and against the center of the opposite wall or side, is the church; which, though small, was neat in comparison to the rest of the buildings. This projects further into the square than the houses, and is distinguishable from the other edifices, by being whitewashed with lime made from sea-shells, as there has not yet been any lime-stone or calcareous earth discovered in the neighborhood. On the left of the church, is the commandant's house, consisting, I believe, of two rooms and closet only, which are divided by masonry walls, similar to that which encloses the square, and communicating with each other by very small doors. Between these apartments and the outward wall was an excellent poultry house and yard, which seemed pretty well stocked; and between the roof and ceilings of the rooms was a kind of lumber garret: These were all the conveniences the habitation seemed calculated to afford. The rest of the houses, though smaller, were fashioned exactly after the same manner; and in the winter, or rainy season, must at the best be very uncomfortable dwellings. For though the walls are a sufficient security against the inclemency of the weather, yet the windows, which are cut in the front wall, and look into the square, are destitute of glass, or any other defense that does not at the same time exclude the light.

"The apartment in the commandant's house into which we were ushered, was about 30 feet long, 14 feet broad, and 12 feet high, and the other room, or chamber, I judged to be of the same dimensions, excepting in its length, which appeared to be somewhat less. The floor was of the native soil raised about 3 feet from its original level, without being boarded, paved, or even reduced to an even surface; the roof was covered with flags and rushes, the walls on the inside had once been white-washed; the furniture consisted of a very sparing assortment of the most indispensable articles, of the rudest fashion, and of the meanest kind, and ill accorded with the ideas we had conceived of the sumptuous manner in which the Spaniards live on this side of globe."

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STATE California	NAME(S) OF SITE Presidio of San Francisco
---------------------	--

7. Continued:

Vancouver's observations had quickly revealed that the Golden Gate was defenseless against Europeans. He noted that the presidio had only two small cannon, one mounted on a carriage and the other on a log.

As a result of the Nootka controversy, 1789-90, and Vancouver's visit in 1792, Viceroy Revilla Gigedo directed that an additional fort should be erected at the San Francisco Presidio. The site for the new work was situated on a rock promontory named Punta del Cantil (now Fort Point), located about one and one-third miles northwest of the original Presidio. The new fort, named Castillo de San Joaquin, was located about 100 feet above the shoreline of the Golden Gate. Construction began in 1793 and was completed in 1794. The Castillo was an irregular-shaped quadrilateral whose exact shape and dimensions have been subject to dispute, probably due to modifications of the fort's shape during later repairs and construction. Dimensions as given by various authorities vary from 100 by 120 feet to 140 by 240 feet.

When completed, the fort mounted 12 cannon. The heaviest guns overlooked the sea and the Golden Gate; the adobe walls on this side were faced with brick and were 10 feet thick. Lighter cannon faced inland and here the walls were only 5 feet thick. In the center of the Castillo was located a one-story barracks, built of adobe bricks, roofed with tules, and containing 2 rooms. In 1796 the 35-man garrison of the presidio was increased to 79, of whom 20 were on guard duty at the two missions and 2 pueblos. Including families, the population of the presidio was about 225 persons.

In 1797 a third fortification was erected, known as the Battery at Yerba Buena, and located at Point San Jose (later called Black Point and then Fort Mason). Located about 2 miles to the southeast of Castillo de San Joaquin, the new battery was constructed of brushwood, fascines and earthworks hastily put together. With eight embrasures, it mounted 5 cannon. No permanent garrison was kept at this new post, which covered the anchorage at Yerba Buena Cove, but a sentinel visited it daily.

These additional works at San Francisco made this the strongest military port in Spanish California: The garrison at San Francisco numbered 70 soldiers and 13 cannon in 1810, and 134 men and 20 guns in 1820. By 1806 the soldiers had succeeded in placing a tile roof on the commandant's house, but the other structures were still covered with tules. Weather and severe earthquakes in June and July 1808 again caused heavy damage to the forts, and a program of rebuilding was conducted almost annually.

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NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
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STATE

California

NAME(S) OF SITE

Presidio of San Francisco

7. Continued:

The Presidio of San Francisco also remained the major Mexican military installation in California until 1835. In 1830 its garrison totaled 70 men and 14 cannon, of whom 25 soldiers were detached to guard the missions and pueblo. Its fortifications, however, were reported by visitors to be in a very poor state of repair. In 1834 the Mexican troops numbered about 48 men and 8 cannon. It was then decided to transfer the military headquarters of Northern California to a new post to be established at Sonoma. When this was done in 1835, only 4 soldiers were left at the San Francisco Presidio. The following year these men were also withdrawn, and the ruined Presidio of San Francisco was abandoned as a military post. The ruined buildings were thereafter occupied by only one or two retired soldiers and their families.

Present Appearance: The Presidio of San Francisco still includes about 1,460 acres of the original Spanish reservation of 1,564 acres.

The site of the 1776 Spanish fort forms the southern portion of the present U.S. Presidio parade ground, and is situated on Moraga Avenue, between Graham and Mesa Streets. With the exception of the commandant's house, there are no surface remains of the old Spanish fort. The fort site, however, is open and clear of intrusions.

Four of the original Spanish cannon are located on the parade ground, and two more are situated at Fort Mason.

The one surviving Presidio building--the Commandant's house, is located on the south side of Moraga Avenue and opposite the intersection with Graham Street. The house is a one-story adobe structure that was erected in 1776-78 as the headquarters and residence of Lieutenant José Joaquín Moraga. The U. S. Army occupied the Presidio in 1847. The Commandant's house was slightly remodeled in 1850 and further altered in 1900. Electric fixtures were installed in 1912 and additional changes made in the house in 1915.

In 1934, under a Federal and local Civil Works Administration project, the Commandant's house was "restored" to its original architecture. This project included the rebuilding of the roof and side wall of the assembly room, reconstruction of "Spanish ceilings," remodeling to a "Spanish fireplace," and stuccoing of the entire front of the building. The original structure was also much enlarged; additions were made to the rear (south) side of the building to convert it to its present use as an Officers' Club. In spite of these considerable alterations, the front portion of the building still incorporates about 75% of the original adobe walls.

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STATE California	NAME(S) OF SITE Presidio of San Francisco
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7. Continued:

Castillo de San Joaquin, built in 1793-94, was located at the site now occupied by Fort Point. All traces of this Spanish fort were destroyed in 1853, when the great cliff on which this work formerly stood, was lowered by some 90 feet to permit the construction of the present Fort Point.

The site of the Spanish battery at Yerba Buena, built in 1797, is now included in Fort Mason. There are also no remains of this battery, but the former site, located in the small park north of the loop at the north end of Sheridan Road, is marked by a historical marker.

8. Bibliographical References: George Vancouver, Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean and Around the World (6 vols., London, 1801), III; Herbert H. Bancroft, History of California (7 vols., San Francisco, 1884-90), I, 279-297, 331, 470-72, 610-11, 692-702; II, 125-130, 370-73, 583-591; III, 698-702; IV, 264; Russell C. Ewing, "The Founding of the Presidio of San Francisco" (California Registered Historical Landmark Series No. 79) (Typescript, Berkeley, 1936); George Tays, "Castillo de San Joaquin" (California Registered Historical Landmark Series No. 82) (Typescript, Berkeley, 1936); Captain E. L. Meeden, "Army's Finest Club Building-- Restoration of the Officers' Club at the Presidio of San Francisco," The Quartermaster Review (November-December, 1934).

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NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE CALIFORNIA		2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. IV-Spanish Exploration and Settlement	
3. NAME(S) OF SITE San Francisco Presidio (Castillo de San Joaquín and Battery at Yerba Buena) - 7			4. APPROX. ACREAGE 1,460
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) San Francisco			
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) U.S. Government (Department of Defense)			
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)			

Historical Significance: The Presidio at San Francisco, guarding the finest harbor on the Pacific Coast of North America, played a significant role in extending Spanish settlement into Northern California. Under the guarding aegis of this post, from 1776 to 1822, were founded four missions, one pueblo, one royal ranch, and one asistencia; the Presidio was also the base for the great Spanish exploring expeditions that penetrated the interior and area north of San Francisco Bay in 1817 and 1821. From an original population of 63 soldiers, settlers and priests in 1776, the district protected by the Presidio had grown to include, by 1819, a total Spanish and Mexican population of about 670 individuals; and the Indian neophytes of the missions numbered about 4,000 more.

In addition to its original function of suppressing the Indians, the Presidio, after 1792, assumed an even more important role; the post became the northernmost bastion of the Spanish Empire and the chief barrier against British, Russian and American expansion south of the Golden Gate. Subjected to the greatest pressure in California, the original fortifications of the Presidio were accordingly expanded in 1793-94 and 1797. The Presidio succeeded in fulfilling both guardian roles until 1822, when Mexico won its independence from Spain.

(cont'd)

¹Missions founded: Mission San Francisco, October 9, 1776; Mission Santa Clara, 1777; Mission Santa Cruz, 1791, and Mission San Jose, 1797. Royal Ranch - Rancho del Rey, founded in 1777 with 115 cattle, had 1,215 head by 1791. The Pueblo of San José Guadalupe was founded at San Jose in 1777. The Asistencia at San Rafael, the first Spanish establishment on the north side of San Francisco Bay, was founded in 1817.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

George Vancouver, Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean and Around the World (6 vols., London, 1801) III, 9-13.
Russell C. Ewing, "The Founding of the Presidio of San Francisco," (Typescript, Berkeley, 1936) California Registered Historical Landmark Series, No. 79, 28 pp.

(cont'd, last p)

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)

Lawrence Kinnard, "History of the Golden Gate and its Headlands - Part I - From the Beginning to 1846," First six chapters, 135 pp. (Typescript, San Francisco) completed for N.P.S. by Dr. Kinnard in Sept. and Dec., 1961).

10. PHOTOGRAPHS ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION 1 altered	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Officers Club and Parade Ground	13. DATE OF VISIT June 1958
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) Charles W. Shell	15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE 21 Mar 2/60	

(cont'd, last p)

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

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SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

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STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
CALIFORNIA	San Francisco Presidio (Castillo de San Joaquín and Battery at Yerba Buena)

7. Importance and Description (cont'd):

The general site for the Presidio at San Francisco was selected by Lieutenant Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza on March 28, 1776, and the work was executed by his lieutenant, José Joaquín Moraga.² Construction began on July 26, 1776, and by September 17 of the same year enough progress had been made to permit a formal founding ceremony to be held. The Presidio at San Francisco was the third of the four presidios to be erected by the Spanish in California.³

The plan for the San Francisco Presidio included a church, commandant's house, guardhouse, houses for the soldiers, and warehouses. The buildings were constructed in a very primitive manner -- with palisade walls and flat roofs covered with mud or tules. Along with the fort, a military reservation for the fort or presidio was laid out, which, according to Spanish law, included 1,564 acres of land. By the end of 1776 the personnel of the Spanish establishments at the Presidio and the new mission totaled 63, including 39 officers and soldiers, eight settlers, 13 servants, two priests, and the presidial storekeeper.

Construction on the Presidio continued. The first palisade walls were to be replaced with adobe walls, but progress proved to be very slow, as the rainy weather caused the adobe brick to deteriorate so rapidly that it was necessary to begin rebuilding the adobe portions before the work was even completed. Indeed, Spanish officials seemed unable to comprehend that a different type of construction was needed at San Francisco from that used in the drier Southwest. Year after year, from 1776 to 1822, adobe buildings were constructed or repaired at San Francisco in the dry season, only to be washed out in the rainy period. In 1792, twenty-five years after the establishment of the San Francisco Presidio, and in spite of constant effort, only three out of the four original walls had been completed.

The finest description of the early Spanish fort is provided by Vancouver (see also 1792 Spanish Map).

(cont)

²The original site selected by Anza was the point on which Castillo de San Joaquín was erected in 1793-94 and later Fort Point in 1853; Moraga built the presidio on site about 1¹/₃ mile southeast of the spot picked by Anza.

³Three other presidios in California were: San Diego, July 1, 1769, becoming officially a presidio in 1774; Monterey, established in June 1770; and Santa Barbara, established April 21, 1782.

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STATE CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO	NAME(S) OF SITE San Francisco Presidio (Castillo de San Joaquin and Battery at Yerba Buena)
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7. Importance and Description (cont'd):

On the evening of November 14, 1792, Captain George Vancouver sailed his ship Discovery through the Golden Gate and anchored in Yerba Buena Cove, the first non-Spanish ship, insofar as existing records show, to enter San Francisco Bay. Vancouver inspected the presidio and wrote:

"We rode up to the presidio, an appellation given to their military establishments in this country, and signifying a safe guard . . . Its wall, which fronted the harbor was visible from the ships; but instead of a city or town, whose lights we had so anxiously looked for on the night of our arrival, we were conducted into a spacious verdant plain, surrounded by hills on every side, excepting that which fronted the port. The only object which presented itself, was a square area, whose sides were about 200 yards in length, enclosed by a mud wall, and resembling a pound for cattle. Above this wall the thatched roofs of their low small houses just made their appearance. On entering the Presidio, we found one of its sides still uninclosed by the wall, and very indifferently fenced in by a few bushes here and there, fastened to stakes in the ground. The unfinished state of this part, afforded us an opportunity of seeing the strength of the wall, and the manner in which it was constructed. It is about 14 feet high, and five in breadth, and was first formed by uprights and horizontal rafters of large timber, between which dried sods and moistened earth were pressed as close and as hard as possible; after which the whole was cased with earth made into a sort of mud plaster, which gave it the appearance of durability, and of being sufficiently strong to protect them, with the assistance of their fire-arms, against all the force which the natives of the country might be able to collect.

"The Spanish soldiers composing the garrison amounted, I understood, to 35; who with their wives, families, and a few Indian servants, composed the whole of the inhabitants. Their houses were along the wall, within the square, and their fronts uniformly extended the same distance into the area, which is a clear open space, without buildings or other interruptions. The only entrance into it, is by a large gateway; facing which, and against the centre of the opposite wall or side, is the church; which, though small, was neat in comparison to the rest of the buildings. This projects

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STATE

CALIFORNIA

NAME(S) OF SITE

San Francisco Presidio (Castillo de San Joaquín and
Battery at Yerba Buena)

further into the square than the houses, and is distinguishable from the other edifices, by being whitewashed with lime made from sea-shells; as there has not yet been any lime-stone or calcareous earth discovered in the neighborhood. On the left of the church, is the commandant's house, consisting, I believe, of two rooms and closet only, which are divided by masonry walls, similar to that which encloses the square, and communicating with each other by very small doors. Between these apartments and the outward wall was an excellent poultry house and yard, which seemed pretty well stocked; and between the roof and ceilings of the rooms was a kind of lumber garret: These were all the conveniences the habitation seemed calculated to afford. The rest of the houses, though smaller, were fashioned exactly after the same manner; and in the winter, or rainy seasons must at the best be very uncomfortable dwellings. For though the walls are a sufficient security against the inclemency of the weather, yet the windows, which are cut in the front wall, and look into the square, are destitute of glass, or any other defense that does not at the same time exclude the light.

"The apartment in the commandant's house into which we were ushered, was about thirty feet long, fourteen feet broad, and twelve feet high; and the other room, or chamber, I judged to be of the same dimensions, excepting in its length, which appeared to be somewhat less. The floor was of the native soil raised about three feet from its original level, without being boarded, paved, or even reduced to an even surface; the roof was covered in flags and rushes, and the walls on the inside had once been white-washed; the furniture consisted of a very sparing assortment of the most indispensable articles, of the rudest fashion, and of the meanest kind; and ill accorded with the ideas we had conceived of the sumptuous manner in which the Spaniards live on this side of the globe...."

Vancouver's observations had quickly revealed that the Golden Gate was defenseless. He noted that the presidio had only one brass cannon, a three-pounder mounted on a carriage that was beginning to fall apart, and that the only other cannon had no carriage at all, but was mounted on a log at the headlands.

(cont'd)

⁴George Vancouver, *Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean and Around the World* (6 vols., London, 1801) III, 9-13.

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6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

STATE CALIFORNIA	NAME(S) OF SITE San Francisco Presidio (Castillo de San Joaquin and Battery at Fort Buena)
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7. Importance and Description (cont'd):

In 1788 foreign intrusion into the North Pacific led to renewed activity in the Spanish empire. Reports of Russian and English advances into this region, and of the appearance of the first American ships caused new Spanish exploration. In 1789 Jose Martinez found a small English tradingpost and English and American ships at anchor at Nootka Sound. Acting on orders, Martinez seized the English vessels and dismantled the tradingpost. As a result of her difficulties and diplomatic defeat by the British at Nootka Sound, Spain decided to strengthen her strategic position at the Golden Gate. Vancouver's visit in 1792 further alarmed the Spanish; the Viceroy Revilla Gigedo decided to build a new fort at the San Francisco Presidio. The site for the new work was situated on a rock promontory named Punta del Cantil, located about one and one-third miles northwest of the original Presidio. (See 1794 plan.) The new fort, named Castillo de San Joaquin, was located about 100 feet above the shorelines of the Golden Gate. Construction began in the summer of 1793 and was officially completed on December 8, 1794. Total cost was over 6,000 pesos. The Castillo was an irregular-shaped quadrilateral whose exact shape and dimensions have been subject to dispute, probably due to modifications of the fort's shape during later repairs and reconstruction. Dimensions as given by various authorities vary from 100x120 feet to 140x240 feet.

When completed, the fort had about 12 cannon. The heaviest had four wheel carriages and were positioned to overlook the sea and the Golden Gate. The wall on that side, 10 feet thick, was faced with brick, but had an adobe core. Within the wall was an esplanade approximately twenty feet wide, and constructed of heavy timbers, upon which was spiked a heavy plank flooring. The gun carriages rested on this esplanade. On the land side the walls of the Castillo were only about five feet thick. The guns on this side were smaller and were mounted on two-wheeled carriages which rested on the ground, since an esplanade was constructed for the heavy guns only. In the center of the Castillo was located a barracks, containing two rooms, built of adobe bricks and roofed with tules.

⁵The American ships in 1788 were the Columbia and Lady Washington, captained by James Kendrick and Robert Gray.

⁶This was the point that Anza had chosen on March 26, 1776 as the proper site on which to erect the Presidio.

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STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
CALIFORNIA	San Francisco Presidio (Castillo de San Joaquin and Battery at Yerba Buena)

In 1793 the original armament was increased from two to eleven cannon. Six of these guns are still in San Francisco. In 1796 the 35-man garrison of the presidio was increased 100% by the arrival of 26 Catalan volunteers, eight artillerymen and additional cannon.

In March, 1797 construction was begun on a third fortification, known as the Battery at Yerba Buena. This work was located at Point San Jose (or Yerba Buena, later Black Point and now Fort Mason), about two miles to the southeast of Castillo de San Joaquin. The new battery was completed in June, 1797 and was constructed of brushwood, fascines and earthworks hastily put together. The battery had eight embrasures and mounted five eight-pounders. No permanent garrison was kept at this post; a sentinel paid it a daily visit.

These improved fortifications were the result of Spain's European wars with France and England, as well as the result of increased British activities in the North Pacific.

On April 5, 1806 a new intruder arrived on the California scene, when Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov, imperial inspector of the Russian establishments in America, sailed into San Francisco on the Russian-owned ship Amg. Seeking a supply of food to provision the Russian post at Sitka, Rezanov, after overcoming the many difficulties placed in his way by the Spaniards, attaining his goal and left San Francisco for Sitka on May 21, 1806. Rezanov died in Siberia during his return trip to Russia, but his visit to San Francisco had a strong influence upon Russian plans for expansion into California.

Rezanov recommended the acquisition of a site on the California coast where agriculture might be developed to support the Russian posts in Alaska and trade could be initiated with the Spaniards. He considered it safe to ignore Spanish claims to land north of San Francisco Bay and, after establishing a foothold on that coast, Rezanov believed that Russia might eventually seize all Spanish California. In 1809, Ivan A. Kuskov, sailing

7 Douglas Watson, "San Francisco's Ancient Cannon, An Inquiry into their History and Origin," California Historical Society Quarterly, XV, No. 1 No. 1 (March, 1936), 58-59. These guns are reputed to have been cast in Peru between 1628 and 1693.

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STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
CALIFORNIA	San Francisco Presidio (Castillo de San Juanin and Battery at Yerba Buena)

from Sitka in the Kodiak, arrived at Bodega Bay in Northern California. Here he remained until August, exploring the region, constructing temporary buildings, and trading with the Indians. In 1812 the Russians established a strong post at Fort Ross, and Russian and Aleut hunters soon appeared in the San Francisco Bay region in pursuit of the sea otter.

From 1810 to 1816, the San Francisco presidio, as Spain's northern-most outpost, was subjected to the greatest Russian pressure, and at a time when the presidio was completely isolated from the mother country. During this period Spain was completely helpless as a result of her European conflicts and the wars of independence which were disrupting the Spanish colonial empire. Mexico was torn by insurrections, and the viceroy had little power left to deal with problems on the fringes of New Spain. Six years were to pass before the first supply ship from Mexico was able to reach San Francisco again. Only the wealth of the missions and an illegal trade for Russian goods, in the San Francisco area, saved the Spanish military forces in California from disintegration.

In 1817, with order restored, the presence of the Russians at Bodega and Fort Ross again stimulated Spanish interest in the region north of San Francisco and in the Sacramento Valley. Even as the last years of the Spanish empire approached, the Spaniards at San Francisco began to push their frontiers north of the bay.

News arrived in California in March, 1822 that Mexico had won its independence from Spain. On April 11, the soldiers and citizens of Monterey took the oath of allegiance to the Mexican government. The formality was repeated at San Francisco on April 13, and the days of the Spanish empire in California had ended.

Condition of the Site (Spanish Period):

The Spanish military reservation of the presidio contained 1564 acres in 1776. Today, this reservation contains about 1460 acres of the original reservation.

²In 1884 and 1894 a total of 25 acres of the presidio were set aside as the San Francisco National Cemetery. On May 9, 1876, Congress granted a strip of land 80 feet in width, contained 62.79 acres, along the eastern side of the reservation to the City of San Francisco for street purposes. In 1928 10 acres of land on which the Palace of Fine Arts is situated was given to the City of San Francisco.

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STATE CALIFORNIA	NAME(S) OF SITE San Francisco Presidio (Castillo de San Joaquin and Battery at Yerba Buena)
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The site of the 1776 fort or presidio, which by 1792 measured 333 by 322 feet, now forms the southern portion of the Presidio parade ground.² With the exception of the altered Commandant's house, there are no surface remains of the Spanish fort. The fort site, however, is open and clear of intrusions.

Four of the original Spanish cannon are located on the parade ground and two other original guns are situated at Fort Mason.

The one surviving Presidio building -- the Commandant's house, is now known and utilized as the Officers' Club. The structure is located on the south side of Moraga Avenue and opposite the intersection with Graham Street. The building is a one-story adobe structure that was erected in 1776-78 as the headquarters and residence of Lieutenant Jose Joaquin Moraga. The house was slightly remodeled in 1850 and further altered in 1900. Electric fixtures were installed in 1912 and additional changes made in the house in 1915.

In 1934, under a Federal and Local Civil Works Administration project, the Commandant's house was "restored" to its original architecture. This work included the rebuilding of the roof -- using "Spanish Tile" -- and side wall of the assembly room, reconstructing "Spanish ceilings," remodeling to a "Spanish fireplace, and stuccoing the entire front of the building. The original structure has also been much enlarged by later additions made to the rear (north) side of the building. In spite of these considerable alterations, the front portion of the building still incorporates about 75% of the original Spanish Adobe walls.³

Castillo de San Joaquin, built in 1793-94, was located at the site now occupied by Fort Point. All traces of the Spanish fort were destroyed in 1853 during construction of the American fort at this site.

²The south wall of the presidio ran about 75 feet south of and parallel to Moraga Avenue. The east wall was bounded by and parallels Moss Street. The west wall was situated a few feet west of and ran parallel to Graham Street.

³The original adobe walls remaining in 1934 are clearly shown on the plan "Original Presidio Boundary -- Survey made by C. St. Croix in 1939 under direction of Major James D. Carter." Plan included in Historic American Buildings Survey report.