

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES REVIEW FOR THE
MISSION BAY PROJECT SUBSEQUENT EIR,
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
(EIP Project No. 96555)**

Submitted to:

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BACKGROUND

In 1986-1987 David Chavez & Associates conducted a comprehensive cultural resources investigation for the Mission Bay Project. The results of that report, "Cultural Resources Evaluation for the Mission Bay Project, San Francisco, California (1987)" were incorporated into the "1990 Mission Bay Final Environmental Impact Report" ("1990 FEIR").

The project boundaries for this current review are generally the same as in the "1990 FEIR," and the purpose of this review is to revisit the "1990 FEIR" cultural resources documentation, and update and revise as necessary the setting, impact and mitigation discussions in relation to the current project plan.

Investigative efforts were initiated by reviewing the David Chavez & Associates 1987 cultural resources report, and the "1990 FEIR" setting, impacts and mitigation sections. An official record search was then conducted at the Historical Resources Information System Northwest Information Center at Sonoma State University (File No. 97-274). More recent cultural resources investigation reports for properties adjacent to the project area were reviewed; however, no new information was encountered that would alter the discussions presented in the David Chavez & Associates 1987 report.

SETTING

The cultural resources setting section from the "1990 FEIR" remains complete and relevant for inclusion in the Mission Bay Subsequent EIR. The project area boundaries are generally the same and the potentials for prehistoric and historic cultural resources remain the same.

Prehistoric Archaeological Resources

No recorded archaeological sites dating from the prehistoric (2500 B.C. to A.D. 1500) or protohistoric (1500s to 1700s) periods are located within the Mission Bay Project Area. The closest recorded resource is approximately

500 meters (1,500 feet) away. Most of the project area lay beneath the waters of Mission Bay during those times. However, three pre-fill land areas along the former shore of Mission Bay could be potential locations for prehistoric archaeological sites in the project area: the southern tip of Steamboat Point, south of the present intersection of Townsend and Third Streets; the northern shore of Mission Creek where it entered Mission Bay, southeast of the present intersection of Townsend and Seventh Streets; and the northern end of Point San Quentin, north of present-day Mariposa Street, between Pennsylvania Avenue and China Basin Street. The end of Mission Creek (now the western end of China Basin Channel) would have consisted of marshlands with considerably less archaeological sensitivity. The Steamboat Point and Point San Quentin areas would be more likely location for prehistoric habitation and resource gathering encampments.

Although the remainder of the project area has a low potential for the discovery of prehistoric cultural resources, the possibility of encountering cultural deposits in this area cannot be totally dismissed. Mission Bay was shallow throughout its existence, and it is possible that very early prehistoric sites (pre-2500 B.C.) may have been located along the perennial Mission Creek drainage in areas which were subsequently covered by Bay waters. Such sites would pre-date the historic configuration of San Francisco Bay and would be of considerable antiquity. The discovery of such a site would contribute greatly to the understanding of San Francisco's prehistory and would certainly meet Federal, State and City criteria as a significant cultural resource.

Historic Archaeological Resources

Between the 1770s and 1860s Mission Bay was almost entirely under water and only one known location may have significant deposits of cultural resources dating to those years: the Steamboat Point area, in the two blocks bound by Third, Fourth, Townsend and Berry Streets. The main part of Steamboat Point lay between Third, Fourth, Townsend and King Streets, but the tip of the Point extended past the King Street alignment and into the block enclosed by Berry, King, Third and Fourth Streets.

The Steamboat Point area consisted of shipyards during the 1850s and early 1860s, and maps and City directories indicate that buildings and dwellings were present. Subsurface remains of Gold Rush period shipyards, building foundations, historic artifacts and trash dumps could be located in that area. Since shipping and shipbuilding were important activities, there is also the remote possibility of encountering undocumented buried ship remains. Also, the presence of a Chinese fishing village near Bryant and Second Streets close to Steamboat Point suggests the possibility of Chinese maritime remains and other artifacts in that section of the project area.

During the last four decades of the nineteenth century, Mission Bay underwent extensive filling and the project area developed into a diversified industrial area with a variety of enterprises. Included were shipbuilding, glass-making, chemical manufacturing, lumber production and related industries, railroad operations, a major dump, oil operations and food processing as well as other businesses. Three types of industries stand out as resulting in potentially significant historic archaeological areas; these are glass-making, shipbuilding and the City dump.

By the early part of the twentieth century, Mission Bay had been completely filled. Industrial diversity of the area was decreased; industries prominent in the project area during the twentieth century--such as oil, lumber and railroads -- were not likely to leave important subsurface cultural resources.

Historic Structures

Previous studies have identified the following structures and features as possessing potential historic significance: the Third and Fourth Street Bridges dating from the 1930s, and the cut-basalt block pavement dating from the 1890s on King Street between Third and Seventh, and Sixth south of King Street. The basalt block pavement, considered of local historical importance but not eligible for the National Register in the "1990 FEIR," has been removed as a result of recent reconstruction of

King Street for the Muni-Metro LRV Extension and new I-280 on-and-off ramps.

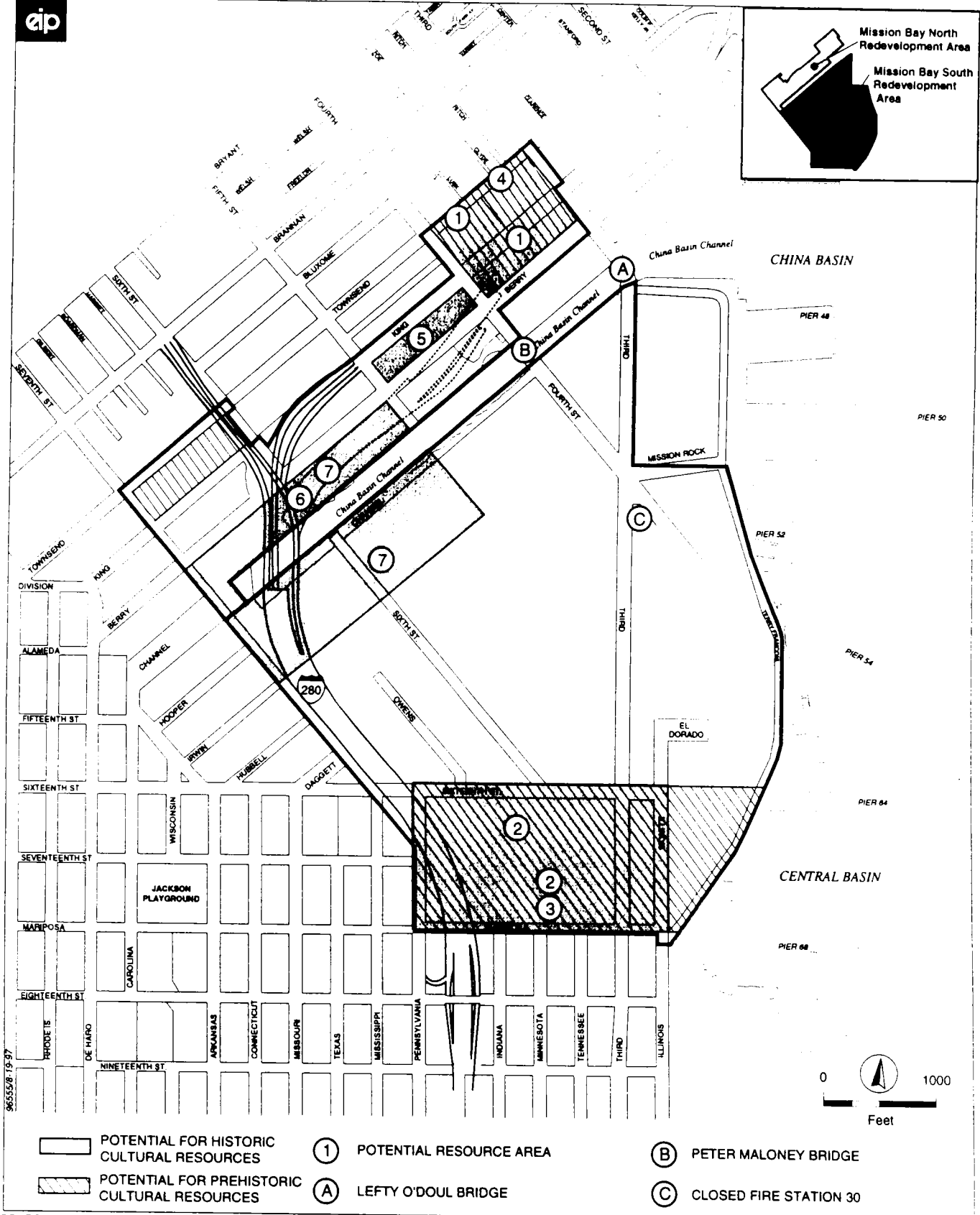
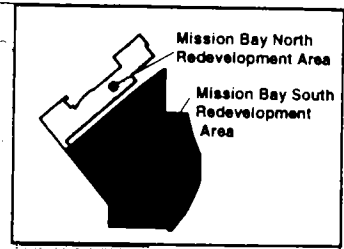
One structure within the project area was observed that may be of historical importance: closed Fire Station 30, at the southeast corner of Third and Mission Rock Streets; the station may be eligible for listing on the National Register. Other existing structures and features in the project area are of recent origins and no older than fifty years, generally the required age for structures to be considered by the State Historic Preservation Officer for National Register eligibility (although special circumstances can apply to buildings of lesser age).

IMPACTS

Mission Bay development may disturb possible cultural resources considered significant under criteria for the National Register of Historic Places. Significant resources are those historic and archaeological properties listed on the National Register or are potentially eligible for such listing./1/ Department of Interior regulations describe National Register criteria for listing, and provide the context for impact and mitigation discussions./2/

There is no archival evidence to suggest that prehistoric cultural deposits are actually present at Steamboat Point, Point San Quentin or the end of Mission Creek. Therefore, the potential for impacts on significant prehistoric resources at those three locations is considered to be low (see Figure 1). The potential for encountering Chinese maritime artifacts near Steamboat Point is also considered to be low. Because of the low potential for encountering prehistoric or Chinese maritime cultural resources in the project area, those resources are not discussed further in this impact analysis.

Numerous cultural developments, industries and enterprises and specific activity locations throughout the history of the project area are identified in the "1990s FEIR" setting section. Many of the described areas would not contain associated cultural deposits, features or artifacts, and it is



SOURCE: David Chavez & Associates

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FIGURE 1 CULTURAL RESOURCES

not likely that many of those areas that do contain cultural remains could be regarded as significant historic resources under National Register criteria./2/ However, the locations that may contain potentially significant historic archaeological deposits include:

- 1) Steamboat Point, a shipbuilding area of the 1850s and early 1860s. Steamboat Point was located in the two blocks bound by Third, Fourth, Townsend and Berry Streets.
- 2) Point San Quentin/Point Potrero, another early shipbuilding area, occupied beginning in the early 1860s, defined by Sixteenth, Illinois, Mariposa Streets and Pennsylvania Avenue. This area includes the 1860s and 1880s shipbuilding yards of P. H. Tiernan and the Dickie Brothers at Third and Mariposa Streets.
- 3) The east side of Minnesota Street between Mariposa and Seventeenth Streets -- the location of the Pacific Glass Works (1863-1876).
- 4) The south side of Townsend Street between Third and Fourth Streets -- the original site of the San Francisco Glass Works (1865-1870).
- 5) The block bound by King, Berry, Fourth and Fifth Streets -- the second location of the San Francisco Glass Works (1870-1886).
- 6) The south side of Berry Street between Fifth and Seventh Streets -- the area of the shipbuilding yards of Alexander Hay and Boole and Beaton (1880s).
- 7) The area bordered by Berry, Fifth and Seventh Streets, south to where a line extended from Irwin Street would meet Fifth Street -- the City dump from the 1870s to the early 1890s.

Those seven potential historic archaeological locations could be disturbed by land alteration activities (grading, trenching, excavation) for Mission Bay development and construction. Disturbance or removal of soils containing cultural features and artifacts would destroy the archaeological integrity of the deposits, thus diminishing research potential and the ability of those deposits to yield information important in the study and understanding of early San Francisco cultural history.

Subsurface construction activities in the north segment of the project area could result in impacts to the following potentially significant resources: 1) Steamboat Point shipbuilding area (1850s and early 1860s); 4) original site of San Francisco Glass Works (1865 to 1870); 5) the

second site of the San Francisco Glass Works (1870 to 1886); 6) Alexander Hay and Boole and Beaton shipbuilding yards (1880s); and 7) the City Dump (1870s to early 1890s).

Subsurface construction activities in the south segment of the project area could result in impacts to 7) the City Dump (1870s to early 1890s). The removal or reuse of closed Fire Station 30 could disturb the buildings architectural integrity.

Subsurface construction activities in the west segment of the project area could result in impacts to the following potentially significant resources: 2) Point San Quentin/Point Potrero shipbuilding area (early 1860s) and the P. H. Tiernan and Dickie Brothers shipbuilding yards (1860s and 1880s); and 3) the Pacific Glass Works (1863 to 1876); and 7) the City dump (1870s to early 1890s).

Subsurface construction activities in the UCSF segment could result in impacts to 7) the City dump (1870s to early 1890s).

Subsurface construction in the east segment of the project area would result in no presently discernable impacts to archaeological and historical resources.

MITIGATION

Prehistoric Archaeological Resources

The entire Mission Bay project area has at least some sensitivity for the presence of unknown archaeological remains. Prehistoric cultural deposits could be encountered in three identified areas and unknown historical features, artifact caches and debris areas could be located anywhere in the project area. Excavation crews should be instructed, the Environmental Review Officer (ERO) and President of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) should be notified, and recovery measures should be developed, as described in the following discussions. In the event that prehistoric archaeological deposits are discovered, consult local Native

American organizations; dialogue with the ERO, LPAB and the archaeological consultant would take place in developing acceptable archaeological testing and excavation procedures, particularly in regard to the disposition of cultural materials and Native American burials.

Historic Archaeological Resources

With the exception of some limited archaeological testing in the past, very little is known about the actual areal extent, specific nature and location of historic features and artifact caches, and depositional integrity of potential historic archaeological deposits. Specific information of that nature is important in determining the actual significance of archaeological resources and in developing appropriate mitigation plans. Pre-construction archaeological testing and construction monitoring would be appropriate for six of the seven identified historic resource areas; archaeological monitoring during construction only, rather than testing, would be appropriate for the seventh area, the location of the nineteenth-century City dump. The following procedures are recommended:

- A) Retain the services of a qualified archaeologist, because of the strong possibility of encountering the remains of cultural or historic artifacts or features in the six historic resources areas. The ERO in consultation with the President of the LPAB and the archaeologist would determine: 1) whether the archaeologist should instruct all excavation and foundation crews on the project site of the potential for discovery of historic archaeological deposits and artifacts, and the procedures to be followed if such materials are uncovered; and 2) prior to the commencement of foundation excavation, a program of archaeological testing.
- B) Retain a qualified historical archaeologist to supervise a pre-foundation excavation testing program for each phase of project area development or each construction site, as appropriate, using a series of mechanical, exploratory boring and/or backhoe trenches or other testing methods determined by the archaeologist to be appropriate. A qualified historical archaeologist would supervise the testing at

the site to determine the probability of finding significant cultural and historical remains. At the completion of the archaeological testing program, the archaeologist would submit a written report first and directly to the ERO and the President of the LPAB, with a copy to the project sponsor, which describes the findings, assesses their potential significance and proposes appropriate recommendations for any additional procedures necessary for the mitigation of adverse impacts to cultural resources determined to meet significance criteria.

- C) Retain an archaeologist to supervise a program of on-site monitoring during site excavation in the identified historic resource areas, following site clearance and pre-excavation testing. The archaeologist would record observations in a permanent log. Should cultural or historic artifacts be found following commencement of excavation activities, the archaeologist would assess the significance of the find, and immediately report to the ERO and the President of the LPAB. Upon receiving the advice of the consultants and the LPAB, the ERO would recommend specific mitigation measures, if necessary. The monitoring program, whether or not there are finds of significance, would result in a written report to be submitted first and directly to the ERO and the President of the LPAB, with a copy to the project sponsor.
- D) Suspend excavation or construction activities which might damage discovered cultural resources for a total maximum of four weeks over the course of construction at each site to permit inspection, recommendations and retrieval, if appropriate.
- E) Implement an appropriate security program to prevent looting or destruction, if cultural resources of potential significance are discovered. Any discovered cultural artifact assessed as significant by the archaeologist upon concurrence by the ERO and the President of the LPAB would be placed in a repository designated for such materials or possibly exhibited in a public display. Following approval of the archaeological testing and monitoring program

reports by the ERO and the President of the LPAB, a final report would be sent to the Historic Resources Information System Northwest Information Center at Sonoma State University, the Foundation for San Francisco's Architectural Heritage and the State Office of Historic Preservation.

In conjunction with the above measures, archaeological exploration programs should be developed, for pre-identified sensitive historic archaeological areas that should include the following:

- A) Define specific research parameters and prepare a written study plan in consultation with the ERO and LPAB prior to subsurface exploration, with emphasis on National Register determination of historical significance and the maximum retrieval of archaeological data.
- B) Examine large-scale exposure of soil profiles.
- C) Complete detailed field records, including photographs and drawings, to document subsurface soil profiles, archaeological deposits and integrity of such deposits.
- D) Complete a detailed report of findings to describe research and exploration methodologies, testing results, all archaeological finds and recommendations for resource management.

Regarding the late-nineteenth-century City dump site, archival review suggests that depositional integrity has been lost because of scavenging while the dump was in operation; however, important historical artifacts may still be present. Pre-construction archaeological testing is therefore not recommended. Archaeological monitoring during construction would be the appropriate mitigation measure for the area. Therefore, it is recommended that the services of a qualified archaeologist be retained. The ERO in consultation with the President of the LPAB and the archaeologist would determine whether the archaeologist should instruct all excavation and foundation crews, in the area of the nineteenth-century City dump, of the potential for discovery of cultural and

historical artifacts or features. If such artifacts or features are uncovered, the above-described procedures for suspension of construction activities, notification of the ERO and President of the LPAB, and development of recovery measures should be followed as appropriate.

Historic Structures

An architectural historian should be retained to prepare an evaluation of the architectural integrity and historical importance of closed Fire Station 30. If the building were found eligible for National Register nomination or for City Landmark designation, preservation of the architectural integrity and reuse of the building could be carried out consistent with Department of the Interior guidelines for National Register properties, or City guidelines for historic landmarks. The historian would complete a full archival and photographic record of the building. Upon completion, a copy of the report would be provided to the ERO and the President of the LPAB.

If the closed Fire Station 30 were found to be eligible for the National Register or for City Landmark designation, demolition of the structure would require additional mitigation measures as follows: prepare an "Historic American Building Survey," including the precise recording of the structure through measurements, drawings and photographs. Provide sufficient detail in the documentation such that after demolition, the historical structure could be reconstructed from the survey data. File copies of the records and documents with the appropriate Federal, State and City agencies. Include in the mitigation program salvage and selective re-use of building materials once the survey is completed. Upon completion, a copy of the report would be provided to the ERO and the President of the LPAB.

REFERENCES

- /1/ "35 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties Regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Governing the Section 106 Review Process." Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Washington, D.C., Effective October 1, 1986.
- /2/ "Section 106, Step by Step." Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Washington, D.C., October 1986.