

**Main Post Undertaking  
Identified Historic Properties Report**

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**A. Executive Summary**

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TBD

**B. Summary of Section 106 Activities to Date**

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November 9, 2007 – Consultation begins with Notice of Intent, first consultation package mailed

December 11, 2007 – First consultation meeting

December 15, 2007 – Public scoping on the SEIS closes

February 26, 2008 – Second consultation meeting

March 18, 2008 – Second consultation package mailed

### C. Identified Historic Properties

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#### *Area of Potential Effect: Presidio of San Francisco National Historic Landmark District*

The Area of Potential Effect for these proposed undertakings has been identified as the Presidio of San Francisco National Historic Landmark District (NHL) (Figure 3.6.28). The Presidio of San Francisco was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) on June 13, 1962, including only the archaeological site of El Presidio and Building 50 (both located in the Main Post). In 1970, the landmark was expanded to include the entire military reservation, which today coincides with existing park boundaries, inclusive of Areas A and B. The 1993 Update to the National Historic Landmark District defines the period of significance for the Presidio of San Francisco NHL as 1776-1945. Although an update to the NHL began in 2008, preliminary determinations indicate that the period of significance for the Main Post will not extend into the Cold War era (1946-1989) or beyond.

#### *Proposed Project Area: Main Post*

The Main Post has the longest continuum of historic occupation within the landmark district, and has changed with successive waves of development. Beginning with the colonial party in 1776, which established a defensive quadrangle of residences and community buildings organized around a central *plaza de armas*, or parade ground, the overall development of the Main Post through the Spanish, Mexican, and U.S periods has retained and extrapolated upon this original rectilinear organizational structure. The first significant and lasting extension of the colonial plaza was the development of the Funston Ave. Officers' Quarters (4-16) and Civil War Barracks (86, 87 remain). Through wartime construction funds these buildings extended the plaza downhill and north to create the appropriately named Civil War Parade, or "Old Parade." During this time, a row of buildings for laundresses occupied the site between today's Montgomery Street and Taylor Road. These structures were situated at a distance from the central parade, across a stream ravine, and were considered on the outskirts of the Presidio. Beginning in 1893, plans for the stately Montgomery Street barracks were implemented. These massive structures replaced Laundress Row and the natural stream ravine was filled to create a drill field called the Main Parade. These actions effectively re-centered the Presidio and established a landscape order and division that still exists today.

For the remainder of the Presidio's history, the Main Post has included the buildings surrounding the two parade grounds (the *plaza de armas* turned Civil War-era parade ground north of Building 50 and the Main Parade east of Montgomery Street) (Figure B.1).<sup>1</sup> This includes buildings on

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<sup>1</sup> The term "Main Post" first begins to appear on historic maps of the Presidio in the early 1910's, likely to differentiate the area from the recently established post at Fort Winfield Scott (which was built beginning in 1910), and to reference the newly-completed parade ground between Montgomery and Anza Streets. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the area now identified as the Main Post was referred to on maps simply as "Presidio" or "Post", as differentiated from the "Presidio Military Reserve" or other features. After 1910, the words "Main Post" appeared on maps overlaying either the Main Parade (in which case the Civil War parade ground was labeled "Parade") or over both the Main and Civil War parade grounds. On nearly all maps, the term "Main Post" appears to reference the two

both sides of the primary circulatory streets (Montgomery Street to the west, Moraga Avenue to the south and Funston Avenue to the east), in addition to the Riley Avenue residences (123-129) and Post Gymnasium (122), Golden Gate Club (135) and chapel (130), Infantry Terrace (325-345, 375-383) and 1950's-era "Community District" (385-387), 19<sup>th</sup> century residences east of Funston Avenue (51, 56-59, 64, 65), Presidio YMCA (63) and the telephone exchange (67). The buildings included in this district primarily served residential (barracks and homes), community (chapels, entertainment, officer's clubs, gymnasiums), and administrative functions.

The northern edge of the Main Post has historically been less well-defined. From the beginning of the American period (1846), when the wharf was moved east from its original Spanish-era location, to the formalization of the Main Parade in the 1890's, the area between Lincoln Boulevard and the waterfront contained service buildings, stables, temporary structures and transportation/shipping infrastructure. In the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many of the densely built utilitarian buildings on the upper bluff (between Lincoln Boulevard and the bluff edge) were replaced with formalized structures with clear functions and hierarchies (such as the guardhouse (210), fire station (218) and administration/training building (220)). During the same period, the land between the bluff edge and the waterfront resisted this formalization, continuing to serve more ad-hoc, temporary functions (such as stables, part of the Panama Pacific fairgrounds, and barracks for soldiers preparing for World War I). Major Harts' 1907 plan notes this distinction, referring to the waterfront area as the "Lower Presidio," envisioning it as part of the enormous "Drill Plain" (which would become Crissy Field) and formal stables. Construction of Doyle Drive, beginning in 1936, completed the partition of the waterfront from the Main Post.

Like the waterfront, the Halleck Street service corridor had been considered a more integral part of the Main Post until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The rail line that aligned with the north end of Funston Avenue and the extension of Halleck Street to the Presidio pier served as a transition from the formal Main Post on top of the bluff to the more utilitarian service and transportation area below. As the Letterman Hospital complex and its service district (centered on Thornburgh Road and Gorgas Avenue) developed, the east side of Halleck Street, along with Buildings 204 and 201, became more aligned with these utilitarian areas, and less connected to the residential and administrative functions of the Main Post. This shift completed the formalization of the Main Post's northern boundary as the west side of Halleck Street, sweeping around to the edge of the bluff north of Building 211. This is the boundary that will be considered the "Proposed Project Area" for the purposes of analyzing these undertakings (see APE diagram: Figure 3.6.28).

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parades and surrounding buildings only. Two available historic maps, however, expand the designation to include the Halleck Street and West Letterman buildings (1919) and Halleck, Gorgas, Mason Street warehouses, East Crissy, National Cemetery and Cavalry Stables (1935).

*Integrity Assessment: Presidio of San Francisco National Historic Landmark District*

The buildings, cultural landscape and archaeological features of the Presidio NHLD all retain high degrees of integrity, representing changes and developments conceived of and implemented by the military of three nations during a 220 year period of occupation. Location and setting of the Presidio have remained largely unchanged. The park is today differentiated from the surrounding urban environment of San Francisco, overlooking the Bay and Golden Gate from a promontory of land selected by Spanish explorers in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the built environment, the Presidio retains the essential hierarchies associated with a military post. These include the ceremonial relationships between built and open space, and an overall organization according to Army activities. The historic forest planted by the Army beginning in the 1880's is under restoration and is being maintained, while landscaped areas have been rehabilitated in most residential neighborhoods and along primary circulation routes. Architecture throughout the Presidio today is distinctly military in design, materials and workmanship, representing building styles ranging from the 1860's to the 1980's. Since the National Park Service, and later the Presidio Trust, began administering the park in 1994, half of the contributing structures in the NHLD have been rehabilitated according to the Secretary's Standards. Because the Presidio no longer functions as an active military base, most of these rehabilitations by necessity have been adaptive reuse projects.<sup>2</sup> Areas of change since 1994 have been concentrated in Crissy Field and Letterman Hospital Complex, and within the next five years these will be joined by the Public Health Service Hospital district and the Doyle Drive Corridor. Given the magnitude of these anticipated projects, combined with all previously performed work, retention of existing integrity throughout the Presidio remains an essential goal.

*Integrity Assessment: Main Post*

The 1993 National Historic Landmark Update refers to the Main Post as “the historic heart of the Presidio...where the concentration of historic, architectural, landscape and archaeological resources represents most of the Post's principal periods of development.”<sup>3</sup> As such, each of the National Register Criteria (A, C and D) and National Historic Landmark Criteria (1, 4, 5, and 6) apply to the Main Post as much as the Landmark as a whole. Similarly, the period of significance identified in the 1993 NHL for the Landmark (1776-1945) also pertains to the Main Post.

The 2002 document “Principles for the Future: A Cultural Landscape Assessment for the Main Post” examines this broad swath of time more granularly, however, identifying 10 thematic periods including the Cold War and Base Closure era (1946-1994). Based on ongoing analysis of

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<sup>2</sup> “Adaptive reuse” is the process of establishing a new program for a building while retaining its original form and historic features, and can be made to conform to Standard 1 of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Although criteria iv of the examples of adverse effects specifically mentions “use” adaptively reusing a building within the Secretary's Standards avoids an adverse effect determination.

<sup>3</sup> 1993 NHL Update, p. 8-3

Cold War era structures at the Presidio, the majority of buildings in the Main Post that are eligible for the National Register for Cold War-era association are those associated with Sixth Army command (buildings 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39). These buildings are already listed as contributing to the NHLD. All other construction that occurred in the Main Post after 1945 would not qualify for Register listing. The sole exception is building 386, the Post Library, constructed in 1958 and a rare example of a purpose-built library structure on a Cold War-era Army post. Due to these findings, specific changes that occurred in the Main Post between 1945 and 1994 diminished the integrity of the NHLD. Changes after 1994, when the Presidio transferred from the Army, were conducted according to the Secretary's Standards and did not diminish the integrity of the landmark.<sup>4</sup>

The 10 thematic periods identified by the 2002 Cultural Landscape Assessment (CLA) are:

- Early Spanish Colonization (1776-1792)
- The Spanish & Mexican Community (1793-1845)
- The Early American Period (1846-1860)
- Civil War Expansion (1861-1870)
- Division Headquarters (1871-1890)
- A Grand Post (1891-1908)
- World War I (1909-1920)
- Peacetime Activity (1921-1940)
- World War II (1941-1945)
- Cold War & Base Closure (1946-1994)

All documents describing the Main Post agree that its "primary historic value lies in its complex and layered composition, with no one period possessing clear integrity."<sup>5</sup> The 2002 Cultural Landscape Assessment (CLA) states that "the Main Post exists today as a series of layers and

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<sup>4</sup> There are several minor exceptions to this statement; see the cumulative effects summary for each alternative in the finding of effects section below for details.

<sup>5</sup> CLA, p. 4

fragments from multiple eras of significance with no one period having a clear integrity.”<sup>6</sup> In order to arrive at an overall integrity statement for the Main Post, the seven criteria identified by the National Register for considering the integrity of a property should be addressed. These are: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Integrity is assessed in “real time” or as the property exists now in relationship to its period of significance. Looking at the Main Post from the perspective of the current moment, the integrity of the site for its total history would be high. However, as shown in the CLA, each successive period of development in the growth of the Main Post through 230 years of history changed or eroded the integrity of the earlier periods.

*An overall integrity assessment for the Main Post, using the aspects of integrity, follows:*<sup>7</sup>

### **Design, Materials, and Workmanship**

The Main Post district is a museum of the changing tastes in design, the evolving methods of construction, and the craftsman’s building arts that were prevalent or popular for each period of growth in the development of the Presidio. While the majority of Spanish and Mexican period resources have been removed, the evidence of design, construction materials, and workmanship can be found in the remaining archaeological remains as well as within the walls of the Officers’ Club. Removal of buildings and the changing of landscapes associated with each successive period of growth eroded the integrity of prior periods. Building materials favored by the military for their utilitarian character (such as wood, brick and concrete) have either been retained or carefully restored. However, taken as a whole, the integrity of the Main Post district as exhibiting its entire period of occupation is extremely high.

In particular, the design integrity of the Main Post district remains highly intact even though individual structures or landscape elements have been changed or removed. Established by the location, layout, and orientation of El Presidio, the Main Post site plan still conveys the entire developmental growth of the Presidio over its 230 year history. It is the sole planning district in the Presidio that represents the entire NHL period of significance of 1776 through 1945. The overall site design of the Main Post epitomizes standard military planning. The post aligns along an axis that has the former headquarters building (now the Officers’ Club) at the head, support structures at the foot, and each side flanked by housing and barracks. The spatial relationship between open spaces and buildings remains largely intact as does the grid of streets that connect these elements. Intact, as well, are the rhythms of buildings that line the streets and parade grounds. Though uses changed in buildings over the 230 year history, the original building use is clearly reflected in their standard military architecture.

### **Location and Setting**

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<sup>6</sup> CLA, p. 3

<sup>7</sup> National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation (1995), p. 44.

The integrity of the location and setting of the Main Post is also high. Though greatly expanded from its beginnings as a Spanish outpost, the Main Post still commands the Presidio's central valley and strategically overlooks the Golden Gate and the San Francisco Bay. The military of *Nueva España*, or New Spain settled here for defense purposes. The Main Post remained at this location as the command center for the Army in the Pacific for much the same reason. Although the Army modified the setting by planting trees, leveling hills and filling streambeds, essential features such as topography, the historic forest, landscaped areas and native plant communities remain or have been enhanced since the base closed (Figure X.55). These landscape features tie together the many disparate building programs, and in many ways sustain the overall integrity of the Presidio's location and setting. Though San Francisco has grown up around the Presidio, the purpose of the Main Post's strategic location, and its separation from the surrounding urban environment, can still be seen whether looking from the Post to the Bay or from the Bay to the Post.

### **Feeling and Association**

The integrity of the feeling of the Main Post as a military post and its association as the site of a long and important military history are clearly intact as well. The buildings and landscapes of the Main Post retain the character of their military origins as a grand and powerful hub of military activity. Although the Army's departure in 1994 reduced the daily level of activity at the Presidio, the Main Post historically had the feeling of a populated and bustling area, with residential, recreational and administrative activities running at all hours. Its successive waves of building styles conveys to an observer the connection with the Army command that presided over the Spanish American War and two world wars, and the soldiers that supported these efforts. While little remains to allow an observer to connect with the Spanish and Mexican history at the Presidio, the archaeological remains of El Presidio remain intact below grade and in building patterns, organizational structure and the street alignment, and can be interpreted to the visitor.

Based on this analysis and the National Register Bulletin's guidance, the Presidio at the time of transfer in 1994 "retain[s its] integrity as a whole, [since] the majority of the components that make up the district's historic character...possess integrity." As stated earlier, due to the non-contributing status of Cold War-era and later structures, post-1945 changes have undermined the integrity of the Main Post. However, most of the buildings from this era – with the notable exceptions of buildings 93 and 34 – lie outside of the core organizational scheme of the historic Main Post, and together comprise a relatively small proportion of the overall built environment. Thus, although the Cold War-era and later structures do compromise the integrity of buildings from the period of significance, the combined strength of these earlier eras conveys the feeling and association of the pre-Cold War Presidio.

Listed below are all identified resources, contributing and non-contributing in the Main Post Project Area:<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> These resources are listed as described in the 1993 National Historic Landmark Registration Form.

Draft 5/27/08

List of Contributing Resources

*Structures (Listed by number and historic use)*

2 – Post Hospital

3 – Temporary Barracks

4 – Officer Quarters

5 – Officer Quarters

6 – Officer Quarters

7 – Officer Quarters

8 – Officer Quarters

9 – Officer Quarters

10 – Officers' Family Housing

11 – Officers' Family Housing

12 – Officers' Family Housing

13 – Officers' Family Housing

14 – Officers' Family Housing

15 – Officers' Family Housing

16 – Officers' Family Housing

35 – Enlisted Men's Barracks and Mess Hall

36 – Artillery Barracks/Military Police Offices

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37 – Administration Building

38 – Enlisted Men's Barracks and Mess Hall

39 – Enlisted Men's Barracks and Mess Hall

40 – Bachelor Officer Quarters

41 – Bachelor Officer Quarters

42 – Pershing Hall (Bachelor Officer Quarters)

44 – Garage

45 – Chapel of Our Lady

46 - Storage

47 - Garage

48 - Garage

49 – Officer Family Housing

50 – Officers' Club

51 – Officer Quarters

53 – Water Pressure Reducing Station

56 – Officer Quarters

57 – Officer Quarters

58 – Officer Quarters

59 – Officer Quarters

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64 – Officer Quarters

65 – Officer Quarters

67 – Main Telephone Exchange

86 - Barracks

87 – Barracks

94 – Main Parade Ground

95 – Magazine

96 – Tennis court (west of Arguello)

97 – Red Cross Building

99 – WPA Theater

100 – Enlisted Barracks

101 – Enlisted Barracks

102 - Enlisted Barracks

103 – Enlisted Barracks

104 – Enlisted Barracks

105 – Enlisted Barracks

106 – Band Barracks

107 – Switching Station

108 – Storage Building (Electricians Shop)

Draft 5/27/08

113 – Garage

116 – Post Trader (Post Exchange, Quarters, Administration/Office)

118 – Garage

122 – Gymnasium

123 – Garage

124 – Enlisted Family Quarters

125 – Enlisted Family Quarters

126 – Enlisted Family Quarters

127 – Enlisted Family Quarters

128 – Enlisted Family Quarters

129 – Enlisted Family Quarters

130 - Chapel

135 – NCO Club

201 – Exchange Store

204 – Exchange Store

210 – Guard House

218 - Fire Station

220 – Bakers' and Cooks' School and Barracks

222 – Warehouse

Draft 5/27/08

223 - Warehouse

224 – Flammable Storage

225 - Storehouse

227 - Warehouse

228 - Bakery

229 - Bakery

230 - Warehouse

325 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

326 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

327 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

328 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

329 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

330 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

331 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

332 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

333 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

334 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

335 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

336 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

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337 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

338 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

339 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

340 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

341 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

342 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

343 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

344 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

345 – 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Officer Quarters

375 - Garage

376 - Garage

377 - Garage

378 - Garage

379 - Garage

380 - Garage

381 - Garage

382 - Garage

383 – Garage

384 – Tennis courts (inside Infantry Terrace loop)

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*Properties Previously Determined as Non-Contributing but may be Eligible<sup>9</sup>*

386 – Post Library (1958)

*Roads and other Site Features (Listed by name and/or location description)*

Anza Street

Appleton Street

Arguello Boulevard

Bank Street

Bliss Road

Clark Street

Cowles Street

Fisher Loop

Funston Avenue

Gibbon Court

Graham Street

Halleck Street

Infantry Terrace

Keyes Avenue

Lincoln Boulevard

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<sup>9</sup> These properties will be treated as contributing under Stipulation of the 2002 Presidio Trust Programmatic Agreement

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Martinez Street

Mesa Street

Moraga Avenue

Ord Street

Pena Street

Riley Avenue

Sheridan Avenue

Sibley Road

Taylor Road

Thomas Avenue

Torney Avenue

Alameda Circle (traffic circle between Mesa Street and Funston Avenue)

Original American parade ground

Main Parade Ground

Stone retaining wall south of Building 67

Stone curb on w side of Infantry Terrace west of Building 387

Stone curb north of Building 325

Stone retaining wall pierced by 16 concrete stairways flanked with ball-joint iron pipe railings extending from north side of bldg 330 eastward along the south side of Infantry Terrace to its junction with Arguello Blvd then south along the west side of Arguello Blvd to the north corner of its junction with Thomas near bldg 345

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Stone retaining wall around principally the east side of the island of trees in Sibert Loop east of Building 335 and west of Building 381

Concrete stairs across Sibert Loop Road east of Building 338A

Concrete stairs across Sibert Loop Road east of Building 339

Concrete stairs across Sibert Loop Road from Building 341 and north of Building 383

Concrete retaining wall at northeast edge of Building 383

Concrete stairs across Sibert Loop Road west of Building 343

Concrete stairs across Sibert Loop Road behind bldg 344A

Concrete stairs across Sibert Loop Road behind (west of) Building 344B

Stone retaining wall inside Sibert Loop north and east of Buildings 381 and 382

Stone gutter south of Thomas Avenue extending west from Building 380

Concrete stairs extending west from Infantry Terrace tennis courts uphill to Infantry Terrace (with noncontributing pipe railing)

Concrete stairs east of tennis courts 384 extending uphill to Infantry Terrace (with noncontributing pipe railing)

Concrete stairs extending from Infantry Terrace near bldg 325 downhill to a point southwest of Building 387

Spanish bronze cannon cast in 1628, named "S Domingo", on a noncontributing replica carriage, moved from presumed original site at the Castillo de San Joaquin on Fort Point, located now on lower porch on east side of Building 2 west of Funston Avenue

Spanish bronze cannon cast in 1673, named "Poder," on a noncontributing concrete mount, moved from presumed original site at the Castillo de San Joaquin at Fort Point, located now on the east side of entrance to Building 50 (Presidio Officers' Club), south of Moraga Avenue with noncontributing bronze plaque

Spanish bronze cannon cast in 1673, named "San Pedro," on a noncontributing concrete mount, moved from presumed original site at the Castillo de San Joaquin at Fort Point, located now on the west side of entrance to Building 50 (Presidio Officers' Club), south of Moraga Avenue, with noncontributing bronze plaque

Spanish bronze cannon cast in 1679, named "San Francisco," on a noncontributing concrete mount, moved from presumed original site at the Castillo de San Joaquin at Fort Point, located now on the east side of main flagstaff at Pershing Square, with noncontributing bronze plaque

Spanish bronze cannon cast in 1693, named "La Birgin de Barbaneda," on a noncontributing concrete mount, moved from presumed original site at the Castillo de San Joaquin at Fort Point, on west side of main flagstaff at Pershing Square, with noncontributing bronze plaque

Rodman cannon cast in 1885, originally located at Fort Point, on a noncontributing concrete mount to the southwest of main flagstaff at Pershing Square

Rodman cannon cast in 1886, originally located at Fort Point, on a noncontributing concrete mount to the southeast of main flagstaff at Pershing Square

1876 Centennial Tree, enclosed in a white picket fence, with noncontributing bronze plaque

*Predicted Historic Archeological Features (listed by name and approximate dates of use)*

F1 - Presidio de San Francisco (1776-1846)

F2 - Spanish/Mexican Cemetery (1776-1860)

F9 - United States Quadrangle: West Side (1846-1890)

F14 - United States Quadrangle: East Side (1862-1890)

F16 - Non-Commissioned Staff Quarters (1866-1890)

F17 - Sutler Residence (1866-1890)

F18 - Laundress and Enlisted Quarters (1866-1890)

F19 - Sutlery (1866-1890)

F20 - Stream Ravine Dump Area (1866-1910)

F21 - Quartermaster Complex (1866-1890)

F22 - Main Post Water Control (1866-1890)

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List of Non-Contributing Resources

*Buildings (Listed by number and historic use)*

34 – ADP Communications Center (1968)

63 – Gymnasium (1971)

93 – Bowling Alley (1989)

68 – Emergency Generator (1955)

85 – Lobby for Buildings 86, 87 (2004)

98 – Garage (1949)

211 – Cafeteria (1968)

215 – Transit Center (2005)

385 – Exchange Store (1955)

387 – Child Care Center (1988)

*Roads and other Site Features (Listed by name and/or location description)*

Hardie Avenue

Hicks Road

McRae Street

Murray Court

Owen Street

Piper Loop

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Sal Street

Vista Court

Wallen Court

Concrete wall around garden W of Building 45

Concrete retaining wall SE of Building 42

Concrete stairs between Funston Ave and Barnard Ave opposite Building 16

Sloped stone landscaping along S side of Moraga Ave N of Building 385

Concrete block retaining wall S of Building 204

Concrete retaining wall SW of Building 204

Concrete stairs with pipe railing from NE of Building 214 to W of Building 204

Concrete retaining wall along S side of Young Street between Building 211 and Doyle Drive

Concrete stairway with pipe railing from NE of Building 106 between N side of Lincoln Blvd and W side of Bank St

Concrete retaining wall on N side of Lincoln Blvd N of Building 106

Post Chapel Sign Structure on S side of Fisher Loop at Infantry Terrace

Concrete slab retaining wall on W side of Thomas Ave W of Building 325

Memorials 1, 2, 5, 8, 25 (Bronze plaques)

French bronze cannon SW of intersection of Funston Ave and Lincoln Blvd

Spanish bronze cannon SW of intersection of Funston Ave and Lincoln Blvd

Two Spanish bronze cannons on lower porch of Building 2

## **D. Recent Efforts to Identify Resources**

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### *2008 National Historic Landmark Form Update*

Beginning in January of 2008, the Presidio Trust has initiated an effort to update the National Historic Landmark Form, which was last updated in 1993. Preliminary findings from that project are included in the archaeology characterization and determination of effect, but the entire update will not be completed until later in 2008. This document will be updated as more information becomes available.

### *Archaeology Characterization*

Because the archaeological resources of the Presidio are not readily observable on the surface, Trust archaeology staff and its consultants performed a series of investigations that would begin to characterize some of these predicted features and better inform the decision making process. This effort included a review of the information contained in the 1993 NHLD update and draft 2008 update, new archival research, GIS analysis, and geo-archaeological assessments of Presidio soils and sediments. This information was then used to develop a subsurface work plan at specific locations where substantial excavation associated with potential new construction could occur in the proposed action.

**National Historic Landmark District Review** This analysis began with a review of the list of NHLD contributing archaeological features in the Main Post district. A Predicted Historical Archaeological Features map, prepared for the National Historic Landmark update in 1993 (Figure 3.6.31), was developed as a planning tool and to guide future investigations. These predicted and known features spatially overlay 55 percent of the district and encompass the entire length of the NHLD's period of significance for archaeology. Some revisions to this map are underway as part of the 2008 NHLD update and will consolidate resource identification information gathered since the 1993 update. In the recent update, specific features have been mapped using state-of-the-art GIS technology and geo-referencing, with some spatial allowance for error among historic maps and for the expected sub-features associated with a structure or building (e.g., privies, gardens, yards) that would yield valuable information but that would not have been noted on most historic maps. Likely changes to the contributing archaeological features in the 2008 NHLD update were taken into consideration, but for the most part the 1993 NHLD update formed the basis of estimates and impact analysis.

**Archival Research** Archival research was undertaken at the Presidio Archaeology Lab and the Park Archives and Records Center to further document the land use history for specific areas of the district where contributing archaeological features coincide with proposed new construction. Historic photographs and maps indicate that the fill used to level the stream ravine and create the Main Parade may have buried intact historic features from the 1870s or earlier within the ravine (Reese 2008). Some of the most helpful archival documents for analyzing large scale change to the landscape are topographic maps. These maps document substantial landform modifications that in some cases may have preserved archaeological sites, while in other cases may have destroyed them.

**GIS Analysis** The Trust developed a Cut/Fill Map 1871-2000 (Figure B-2 in Appendix B) in an effort to better understand potential archaeological deposits on a Presidio-wide scale. A detailed topographic map from the year 1871 was the earliest record available for this modeling. The cut/fill map represents the positive or negative change in elevation between 1871 and 2000. These elevation changes allow archaeologists and planners to assess the likelihood that archaeological features are at or near the current ground surface, are buried under fill, or have been destroyed by land modifications.

**Geo-archaeological Research** The Trust archaeological staff and their consultants also reviewed geo-archaeological data, such as soil borings undertaken by the U.S. Army, which might explain natural processes and human activities that have altered the Presidio's landscape and buried archaeological sites in certain locations, particularly the area of the filled stream ravine. The preliminary results of this research stated that given the presence of freshwater from the spring this area is highly sensitive for prehistoric archaeological resources. Due to the nature and timing of the geologic sequence, all of the layers situated between the Pleistocene Colma Formation (27.5 feet - 76 feet below surface) and the artificial fill are considered sensitive for buried prehistoric archaeological materials (Kaijankoski 2008). This research also confirmed that fill soils include cultural materials, and that there is a potential for as of yet undiscovered archaeological deposits that may be deeply buried below the ground surface.

**Subsurface Testing** The above information was employed to develop and locate a subsurface work plan that consisted of two types of investigations. First, twenty soil cores were taken to a depth of up to fifty feet within the building footprint of the proposed contemporary art museum (under Alternatives 2 and 2A). This type of site characterization was the most practicable choice given the extensive depth of historic fill material into the former stream ravine (F-20: Stream Ravine Dump). These cores were then analyzed by a geo-archaeologist to verify if possible the depth to historic ground surfaces and likelihood of prehistoric and historic deposits. While buried Holocene paleosols<sup>10</sup> were encountered, no prehistoric materials of human manufacture were encountered. The absence of prehistoric archaeological material cannot be interpreted as a lack of human use or occupation in this area. Given the limited scope of this investigation (17 cores, two inches or less in diameter), buried deposits could have been missed. Historic period artifacts conforming to expectations for F-20 were encountered in several of the cores within the building footprint in Alternatives 2 and 3, including colonial period ceramics and 19<sup>th</sup> Century glass. It is important to reiterate that given the limited number and small diameter of these cores it is impossible to conclude from the absence of artifacts that certain areas are devoid of archaeological features. The historic ground surface in this area (varying between 5 and 25 feet below ground surface) is considered highly sensitive for both prehistoric and historic archaeological features (Kaijankoski 2008).

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<sup>10</sup> Former surfaces with soil development within human history

The second subsurface explorations consisted of four backhoe trenches that were placed within the building footprint of the lodge (under Alternative 2 and 2A). Excavations were undertaken in March 2008 specifically to further assess the sensitivity for prehistoric and historic deposits within the proposed lodge footprint. This area has a low sensitivity for prehistoric remains given the relatively shallow deposition. It is, however, within the boundaries of F-9: United States Quadrangle West. Preliminary archaeological testing at this location in March 2008 determined that subsurface components of F-9 still exist such as building foundations, building materials, and some historic trash deposits. This area is also within close proximity to F-1: El Presidio and has been found to contain some colonial period artifacts (Meyer 2008) and may contain significant archaeological habitation or trash features outside of El Presidio's north wall (Voss 1999, 2002). This recent excavation work has determined that the project area contains a variety of important archaeological deposits from the Spanish Colonial period and the early U.S. Army periods.

Both types of site characterization confirmed the presence of historic artifacts associated with these NHLD contributing features and provided more information regarding their location and especially their depth and the challenges associated with reaching archaeological features at these depths. What is currently unclear is the overall integrity of these features within the APE, and what information they may yield that would realize their established significance.