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# Presidio



A Monthly Publication of the Presidio Trust

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Preserving the Presidio  
 as a Sustainable  
 National Park

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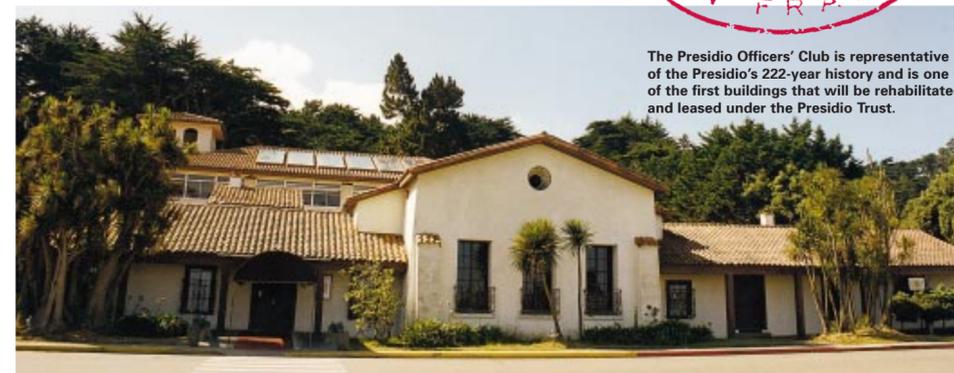
Join the Presidio Alliance and the Presidio Trust for a panel discussion about sustainable building practices on the Presidio. The panel will include architects, planners and developers with expertise in sustainable development and environmental design. Although most buildings on the Presidio are historic, discussion will focus on replacement construction. The panel will be held October 22, from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Call 561-3993 for information.

#### Proposed Regulations

On September 18, proposed rules for Presidio Trust operations were published in the Federal Register, initiating a 60-day public comment period. Comment should be directed to Karen A. Cook, General Counsel, at the Presidio Trust. Copies of the proposed rules are available at Kinko's on Fillmore Street at Lombard Street by calling 441-2995. The document can also be reviewed at the Presidio Trust's library at 34 Graham Street.

#### Board Meeting

The public is invited to join the Presidio Trust Board of Directors at the December 2 Board meeting. The topic will be future planning efforts at the Presidio to support the General Management Plan. Please contact the Presidio Trust at 561-5300 for details.



The Presidio Officers' Club is representative of the Presidio's 222-year history and is one of the first buildings that will be rehabilitated and leased under the Presidio Trust.

## HISTORIC REHABILITATION

REUSE OF BUILDING EMPHASIZES PRESIDIO'S RICH HISTORY

Historic features from the Presidio's buildings tell the story of the Post's 222-year history since its establishment by Spaniards in 1776. New tenancies in historic buildings provide the opportunity to preserve and interpret the Presidio's rich heritage.

One of the park's most familiar landmarks is the Presidio Officers' Club. A new tenant will be selected in the coming months. Recent archeological investigation on the historic structure is uncovering much new information about the early

Presidio: Italianate, Greek Revival, Mediterranean Revival, Mission Revival, and World War II era. This group of buildings will house organizations that fit the goals of the Presidio. Nonprofit and for-profit organizations that promote education, art, environmental studies, philanthropy and scientific inquiry will be among those considered for tenancy.

As buildings are rehabilitated, new tenants will be encouraged to create displays that illustrate each building's history. For example, a



A cloth mural possibly dating to the mid-nineteenth century was recently discovered behind drywall in the Presidio Officers' Club.

adobe construction and nineteenth century changes embedded in its walls. A cloth mural possibly dating to the mid-nineteenth century was recently discovered behind drywall.

Rehabilitation work on this and other historic buildings in the Presidio will prevent deterioration and preserve the "character-defining features" of the structures with upgrades needed for modern use. The tile roof, wrought-iron window grilles, stained glass windows and decorative elements of the Officers' Club are examples of character-defining features in the building added during a 1934 remodeling in the Spanish Colonial Revival style.

The Officers' Club's historic significance is one reason the Presidio was first designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1962. More than 500 other historic buildings also contribute to NHL status, which is reserved for places that "possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States."

In addition to the Officers' Club, Requests for Qualifications are available this month for 12 other historic Main Post buildings representing five of the major architectural styles at the

small, recently rehabilitated building on the Main Post that houses Arnold Palmer Golf Management Company contains displays of pictures of the structure when it was used as a barracks and practice area for the Army band. Historic features of the building are preserved throughout, even though the space has been converted to offices with modern amenities.

Preserving and protecting the Presidio's historic buildings is a key mission of the Presidio Trust. To assist in this important work, the Trust hired Cherilyn Widell, former California Historic Preservation Officer, as its Compliance Manager.

### Historic Buildings Available for Lease

- 1. Italianate Style**
  - Building 36 on Lincoln Boulevard (1885)
  - Building 85 on Graham Street (1873)
  - Building 86 on Graham Street (1862)
  - Building 87 on Graham Street (1862)
- 2. Greek Revival**
  - Buildings 8, 9, 10 on Funston Ave. (1862)
- 3. Mediterranean Revival**
  - Building 35 on Mesa Street (1912)
  - Building 38 on Mesa Street (1940)
- 4. Mission Revival**
  - Building 130 on Fisher Loop (1932)
  - Building 220 on West Halleck Street (1939)
- 5. World War II Era**
  - Building 37 on Graham Street (1941)



1



1



3



3



5

Twelve Main Post buildings representing five architectural styles will be available for lease this fall.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARK

### RENOVATED APARTMENTS

San Francisco college students were some of the first to move into the renovated Wherry Apartments above the Presidio's Baker Beach. The short-term leasing program will provide needed housing to students and faculty through a consortium of colleges and universities. In the long term, people who work at the Presidio will rent all of the park's housing.



### GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE STAMP

In September, the U.S. Postal Service issued a new 32-cent stamp that shows the Golden Gate Bridge under construction. The bridge opened on May 28, 1937 boasting a 4,200-foot span.

### Legend

- 1 The Main Post
- 2 Crissy Field
- 3 Fort Point and the Golden Gate Bridge
- 4 Fort Scott
- 5 Coastal Bluffs
- 6 Presidio Forest
- 7 Cavalry Stables
- 8 San Francisco National Military Cemetery
- 9 Letterman Complex
- 10 Housing Areas
- 11 Presidio Golf Course
- 12 Public Health Service Center
- 13 Lobos Creek Valley



### TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Presidio residents, employees, neighbors and visitors joined the San Francisco Transportation Authority on September 28 to discuss countywide transportation planning and how to improve access to the park by public transit. The Transportation Authority is holding sessions throughout San Francisco to solicit input for its upcoming transportation plan.

### 25TH AVENUE GATE

The Presidio's natural resources group is restoring the native plant habitat around the entrance sign at the 25th Avenue gate to the Presidio. Planting, weed control activities and installation of a post-and-cable fence are part of the improvements being made to restore the Lobos Creek area's natural landscape.



**The Presidio Trust**

Amy Meyer has long been involved in preserving the lands at the Golden Gate. She helped draft the legislation that established the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) in 1972 and later worked on the 1996 legislation that created the Presidio Trust. She has served as Co-chair of People for a Golden Gate National Recreation Area since 1971 and as Vice-chair of the GGNRA Advisory Commission since being appointed by the Secretary of the Interior in 1974. Ms. Meyer was Chairman of People for the Presidio – a coalition of organizations that support the Presidio's conversion to a national park – before her appointment to the Presidio Trust Board of Directors in July 1997.



"Those of us who worked to establish the GGNRA intended to preserve the headlands of the Golden Gate for public use in perpetuity," said Ms. Meyer. "The Presidio was seen as the keystone of this effort. While I figured I'd be sitting in a rocking chair by the time the Presidio changed from military post to national park, Congressman Phillip Burton anticipated a much earlier closure. That's why Phil included all 1,480 acres of the Presidio within the GGNRA boundary in the 1972 legislation."

Ms. Meyer was a Recreation and Park Commissioner for the City and County of San Francisco from 1976 to 1988. She graduated from Oberlin College and has a Masters of Fine Arts degree in printmaking from the California College of Arts and Crafts. Ms. Meyer's art is displayed in several Bay Area collections.

**Board Members**

- John Berry
- Edward Blakely
- Donald Fisher
- Amy Meyer
- Mary Murphy
- William Reilly
- Toby Rosenblatt

**Staffing Update**

- Total employees** 84
- Central office staff members** 37
- Field staff members** 47
- Former Park Service employees** 31

**October**

Thursday, October 15, 1 p.m.

**Brown Bag Lunch**

"A National Park for the 21st Century: Golden Gate and the Transformation of the National Park Idea" is the last in a series of discussion sessions in celebration of the Golden Gate National Parks' 25th anniversary. Park Archives and Record Center on Cowles Street in the Presidio.

Thursday, October 22, 3:30 to 6 p.m.

**Sustainable Solutions**

Join the Presidio Alliance and the Presidio Trust for a panel discussion about sustainable development and design for replacement construction in the Presidio. Call 561-3993 for reservations and location. Please leave your name, phone number, and number of seats desired.



Friday, October 23

**Requests for Qualifications Available**

Pick up a Request for Qualifications from the Presidio Trust offices to lease space in 13 Presidio buildings. Responses are due in December.

Sunday, October 25, 1 to 3 p.m.

**Walk on the Wild Side**

Learn about the Presidio's plants, animals and geology with National Park Service rangers. Meet at the Presidio Visitor's Center. Reservations required. Call 561-4323.



Saturday, October 31, 8 to 9:30 p.m.

**Ghost Stories**

Ghost stories from the Presidio's past come alive at this Halloween program for grown-ups sponsored by the park rangers. Call early for reservations at 561-4323.

**Upcoming**

January 13 - 16

**America's Parks - America's People: A Mosaic in Motion**

Join the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and organizations from across the country for a three-day conversation on race, diversity and America's parks. For more information or to register, call 1-800-NAT-PARK.

*Executive Director's Column*

**PRESERVATION EFFORTS**

Preservation and enhancement efforts at the Presidio take many forms. With natural areas comprising almost 60 percent of the park and increases in open space planned, creating and enhancing restoration and improvement programs is of paramount importance. Over the next decade or so, we plan to spend \$50 million on natural area improvements, including replanting historic forest areas, expanding native plant habitat and increasing open space.

Volunteers are a critical component in efforts to sustain natural systems at the Presidio. Building on the exceptional success of the National Park Service's volunteer stewardship program will enable us to provide rich educational experiences for all age groups while protecting and enhancing important habitat.

The Presidio's concentration of historic buildings is a primary reason that the Presidio was designated as part of the national park system instead of being divided and sold as were other closed military bases. With more than 500 historic buildings representing at least six major architectural styles over more than two centuries, the Presidio offers visitors a rich educational experience.

The Presidio's designation in 1962 as a National Historic Landmark provides us with an extraordinary opportunity to preserve one of America's great historic places for the benefit of visitors and scholars from around the world. The Trust, working with Presidio tenant organizations, will preserve historic features while allowing buildings to be put to modern uses.

These buildings can now be rehabilitated because new tenants are moving into them and lease revenue will help pay for improvements. Significant architectural features will be preserved at the same time that buildings are being modernized for today's office and residential needs. The Presidio already has some excellent examples of historic rehabilitation work. Over the coming years, visitors to each historic Presidio building will be able to appreciate its past.

We look forward to continued enhancement of the Presidio through natural area improvements and historic building rehabilitation. The confluence of natural, scenic and historic attributes makes the Presidio one of the most fascinating units of the national park system.

Yours very truly,

Jim Meadows

**BRINGING HISTORY ALIVE**

*The Presidio Officers' Club is at the core of the Presidio's rich history as a military post. Situated prominently on the Main Post, it has been a dominant structure on the Presidio for more than two centuries.*

*In 1776, the same year the Declaration of Independence was signed, Spanish Lieutenant Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza led an overland expedition northward from Sonora, Mexico and established the Presidio, or military garrison. The Spanish built several buildings and a courtyard with adobe building material - essentially mud and stone - that was popular in the dryer climate of Mexico.*

*Remnants of adobe walls from the original residence of the Spanish commandante are still embedded in the building now known as the Presidio Officers' Club. The building is a major reason that the Presidio earned National Historic Landmark status in 1962. Now 24,500 square feet in size, the Officers' Club has seen numerous expansions over the years. The most significant changes to the Officers' Club occurred in 1934 when the building was remodeled in the Spanish Colonial revival style.*

*During Army years, the Presidio Officers' Club was the center of professional and social activity on the Main Post. It was used for business and social gatherings for military personnel and civilians. Now vacant, the building will soon resume its past stature as a focal point for activities on the Presidio. A tenant is being sought to rehabilitate the building and reuse it for restaurant, conference or exhibit space.*



A rendering (right) and model (above) of the original adobe fort on the Presidio show how the post appeared in 1776, when Spaniards settled the land. The walls of one of the original adobe buildings are now part of the Presidio Officers' Club. Archeological research is underway in cooperation with local universities.



**TREES SAVED ON CRISSY FIELD**

GIANT TREE SPADE MOVES 56 TREES ELSEWHERE ON THE PRESIDIO



MOVING DAY: A giant tree spade moves the first of 56 trees on Crissy Field. The trees are being moved to make way for a restoration project that will transform Crissy Field into a dynamic shoreline park, including restoration of beaches, the promenade, wetlands and an historic grass airfield.

The Presidio Trust was able to save 56 trees along the Presidio's Crissy Field that may otherwise have been cut down or moved off site. Palm, cypress and olive trees, as well as various shrubs, were moved to other areas of the Presidio in September in partnership with the National Park Service and the Golden Gate National Parks Association.

A giant tree spade lifted the trees from the ground to make way for a \$25 million restoration project that includes native dune habitat, an improved promenade, wetlands and 22 acres of an historic grass airfield. The trees have been temporarily replanted near the Public Health Service Complex on the Presidio until permanent homes for them are found.

The Golden Gate National Parks Association - the park's

nonprofit support partner - is managing the Crissy Field restoration project in cooperation with the National Park Service, which oversees the Presidio's coastal areas. The park's interior is overseen by the Presidio Trust, a federal executive agency charged with preserving the park while achieving financial self-sufficiency by 2013.



**PRESIDIO TENANT ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT**

**SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATION CORPS**

On the Presidio, it doesn't take long to notice the crews of San Francisco Conservation Corps working on park grounds and coming and going with their vans of equipment.

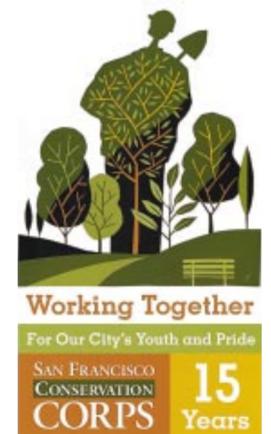
Corpsmembers at the Corps' newest site - the Restoration Center at the Presidio - are planting native species at Crissy Field, leading educational activities for park visitors, and restoring and maintaining the Presidio and other areas of the Golden Gate National Parks. Opened in 1997, the Restoration Center is one of four program centers and serves as home base for the SFCC's Presidio Maintenance and Sustainable Stewards crews.

"We are thrilled to finally be a tenant organization and offer young people the chance to report to work at the Presidio every day," said Ann Cochrane, Executive Director of the

Corps. "Involving young people in purposeful, public service work is the most effective way to increase their personal growth and civic awareness."

The SFCC is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year and has trained more than 2,000 young people since 1983 to serve the community through projects such as environmental restoration. While preserving and improving natural areas and participating in other service projects, Corpsmembers participate in academic programs, leadership training and career development courses.

Since its founding in 1983 by then-Mayor Dianne Feinstein and the Honorable J. Anthony Kline, the SFCC has grown to serve more than 500 Corpsmembers between the ages of 12 and 24 annually.



Forty-five corps members now serve at the Restoration Center in the Presidio. For more information, please call 928-SFCC or visit www.sfcc.org.