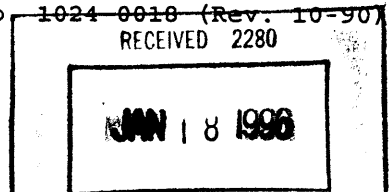


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Oakland Free Library Golden Gate Branch

other names/site number Oakland Public Library Golden Gate Branch

2. Location

street & number 5606 San Pablo Avenue/1098 56th Street not for publication

city or town Oakland vicinity

state California code CA county Alameda code 001 zip code 94608

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination / request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets / does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Signature of certifying official 12/27/95 Date

California Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets / does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 Signature of commenting or other official Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register [Signature] 2/10/96
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

Entered in the
National Register

[Signature] Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	objects
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture it Produced, 1899-1922

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>library</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
<u>EDUCATION</u>	<u>library</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>Concrete</u>
walls	<u>Brick</u>
roof	<u>Slate</u>
other	<u>Wood</u>
	<u>Concrete</u>

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Social History
Architecture

Period of Significance 1918-1946

Significant Dates 1918

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder Dickey, Charles W. (architect)
Donovan, John J. (architect)
Littlefield, R.W. (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Oakland History Room, Oakland Public Library;
Oakland City Planning Department

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing		Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>10</u>	<u>563260</u>	<u>4188030</u>	3	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betty Marvin

organization North Oakland Voters Alliance (NOVA), Friends of Golden Gate Library,
Friends of Melrose Library, Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC),
Temescal Neighbors Together date August 10, 1995

street & number 2646 Claremont Avenue telephone (510) 849-1959

city or town Berkeley state CA zip code 94705-1451

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for districts and properties with large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Oakland

street & number 1 City Hall Plaza telephone (510) 238-3301 (City Mgr.)

city or town Oakland state CA zip code 94612

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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RECEIVED 2280
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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Oakland Free Library Golden Gate Branch
name of property
Alameda County CA
county and state

Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture it Produced, 1899-1921
name of multiple property listing

7. Narrative Description

The Golden Gate Branch Library is a high one story and basement Georgian Revival library building, of dark red semi-clinker brick with white cast concrete and wood trim. It is sited on a corner lot, a long rectangle in plan with its long facade facing west onto San Pablo Avenue. Sanborn maps show its dimensions as about 100' by 30', 28' high, with a one story center rear office wing about 15' by 25' by 12' high. Brick walls are indicated as 12" thick. The slate-covered roof is a long, low gable with the peak parallel to the main facade, raised parapets at the gable ends, and a central cupola. The wide white frieze across the front is inscribed "Oakland Free Library Golden Gate Branch," below a molded cornice with dentils. The raised gables on the end walls have concrete coping, circular vents, short returns from the front and back cornices, and central false chimneys that were originally connected by geometric patterned cresting along the gable, similar to the existing roof railing on the small rear office wing. At the center of the roof is a cupola with chamfered corners and arched louvered vents on its four main faces, an arched dome, and a finial.

The symmetrical facade has a monumental central entry at split levels to the floors inside. The short flight of front steps has brick side walls with concrete coping. The white-painted entry is traditional Georgian, with a deep triangular pediment, frieze, dentils, engaged Tuscan columns, and a ten-light transom above paired eight-light doors. To either side of the entry on the main facade are three large evenly spaced double hung windows with 15 panes in each sash. Windows are set in plain recessed frames with radiating brick headers and white cast concrete stepped keystones. Each end of the building has two similar windows. At the rear of the building, the pattern of keystones and divided sash is continued, but the rear windows are smaller and higher, to leave wall space for shelves. All around the building, single-sash eight-light basement windows are placed below each of the main windows. A water table molding of white cast concrete and a brick soldier course divide the main floor from the basement. The corners of the building are quoined with brick rustication.

The roof cresting was removed at an unknown date, an inconspicuous wheelchair lift was added at the rear in 1981, and large glass and iron hanging lanterns at the entry were replaced by small plastic-clad light fixtures between 1981 and 1992; otherwise the exterior is unaltered except for temporary exhibit signs and banners.

Inside, as in all the Oakland Carnegie Libraries of 1915-18, there is a split-level entry with an oak-paneled stair hall, lit by the window over the door. There is a central flight up to the main floor and side flights to the basement. Stair railings are oak, with turned balusters and square newel posts in keeping with the Colonial theme of the building. On the main floor are two large reading rooms (children's and adults'), to either side of the central lobby and main desk. Behind the central desk is the office in the small rear wing. Glazed partitions and double doors with transoms, oak pediments, and moldings separate the stairwell from the central lobby and the lobby from the reading rooms. The basement contains work rooms, restrooms, utilities, and an auditorium with a small stage. This layout is common to all three branches designed by Dickey and Donovan.

Window sash is operable, much of the old library furniture is still in use, and the interior is otherwise virtually intact except that original bowl-shaped hanging light fixtures have been replaced with fluorescents, original dark linoleum has been replaced with lighter colored floor covering, and some of the oak shelving and cabinets in the north reading room are now concealed by removable display panels of the current occupant, the African American Museum and Library at Oakland. The building continues in its historic use, as an active branch library and neighborhood meeting hall.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Oakland Free Library Golden Gate Branch
name of property
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county and state

Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture it Produced, 1899-1921
name of multiple property listing

There are several commemorative features associated with the building. A plaque on the front honors "Estella Phoebe Mincher - Golden Gate Librarian, 1899-1945." On the front lawn stands a large bronze bell, cast by neighborhood resident Louis DeRome for the Golden Gate firehouse in 1905, and "placed here as a souvenir of the early days of this district, 1926" by the Native Sons of the Golden West. In the lobby hangs a U.S. flag also presented by the NSGW, in memory of neighborhood resident Arthur Rood who died in World War I. Surroundings are densely built up, commercial along San Pablo Avenue and residential behind. The building is prominently placed on a major street. There is a 10 to 15' setback with lawn and trees in front, while the rear is now fenced and used as parking and for occasional events. The building appears in excellent condition and its integrity is excellent.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Oakland Free Library Golden Gate Branch, a Carnegie Library, meets the requirements for National Register nomination as set forth in the Multiple Property nomination entitled "Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture it Produced, 1899-1921." It was one of four architecturally similar but varied branches built under a 1914 grant to the city of Oakland, in four different North and East Oakland neighborhoods, designed by Oakland architects of statewide prominence. It has served continuously as an Oakland Public Library branch from its construction to the present. Physically it is virtually unchanged both inside and out.

Oakland pioneered branch libraries in California, opening branch reading rooms as early as 1878 and continuing to emphasize neighborhood branches as the city expanded. The Golden Gate and Alden branches in North Oakland were established in 1899, as promised to those neighborhoods during the annexation campaign of 1897. The original Golden Gate branch was located at 5893 San Pablo Avenue, two blocks from the present site, and moved to 5696 San Pablo in 1908. Branch libraries all over the city moved frequently from one set of rented quarters to another. By 1914 City Librarian Charles Greene was convinced that the city should house its branch libraries in distinguished, city owned buildings, and he personally renewed an earlier appeal for Carnegie funds for that purpose. The city's new application matched the current Carnegie philosophy; since Oakland's downtown Main Library had been funded in 1899, Carnegie's focus had shifted to small towns and, in metropolitan areas, branches, to bring books closer to the people.

Oakland received a grant of \$140,000 for four new libraries. The \$35,000 per branch was apparently a typical amount for a medium-large city. The four new libraries were to replace four of Oakland's ten existing branches. The sites selected were Golden Gate and Alden in North Oakland, and Melrose and 23rd Avenue in East Oakland. Oakland's match was to provide sites for the new branch buildings, and 10% of the grant amount per year to maintain the buildings and their operations. (The long-established working-class neighborhood of West Oakland, part of the original city, petitioned for a new library but was passed over; political considerations aside, it had a stable and apparently satisfactory branch location at 712 Peralta Street, in use from 1907 into the 1970s.)

Unlike the Melrose and 23rd Avenue branches, no site was donated for either Golden Gate or Alden, and it was necessary to obtain the North Oakland sites through condemnation, a process that involved hearings and negotiations with property owners over a two year period. In June 1916 the neighborhood newsletter Querculi reported:

After two years of red tape and the customary delay which precedes any public action, definite steps forward toward the building of the new Carnegie Branch Library have been taken.

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Oakland Free Library Golden Gate Branch
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Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture it Produced, 1899-1921
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Shortly after the Golden Gate District was selected by the Library Trustees as the site of one of the fine libraries, a piece of [unimproved] property at Fifty-sixth and San Pablo was decided upon as the premier location.... Last week a committee of local business men acted as appraisers and made the semi-final arrangements...

Mr. Green [sic], Librarian of Oakland Library, is very enthusiastic about our future building.... "As soon as the title is in the hands of the City Attorney the actual work will begin. Your branch will be the second one completed, the Melrose branch being the first." ...

Mr. Carnegie's gift has attracted national attention, and many well known architects are making extensive inquiries as to the nature of the library.... Therefore, Mr. Citizen of Golden Gate, when the tax man comes around for his dollar or so per lot to get money to pay for the site of the new building, meet him with a welcome hand, for it will be the best dollar you ever spent.

In fact building permit #47380 was not issued until December 22, 1917, for a two story brick library, with an estimated construction cost of \$23,887 on the main permit issued to builder R.W. Littlefield, plus additional amounts totalling about \$6000 for plumbing, electrical work, and the cupola. The permit for Alden was issued the same day, and both buildings were dedicated in December 1918, Alden on the 10th and Golden Gate on the 15th. Golden Gate's dedication was under the auspices of "Clubs and Lodges of Golden Gate"; speakers included Librarian Charles Greene and Mayor John Davie.

The Golden Gate, Alden, and 23rd Avenue branches were all designed by Charles W. Dickey and John J. Donovan; the first branch constructed, Melrose, was by reinforced concrete expert William Weeks. The three Dickey and Donovan libraries had virtually identical plans and programs, and different period costumes: Golden Gate is said to be the only example of Georgian Revival architecture among all the California Carnegie libraries. Reportedly escalating construction costs for the elaborate Spanish Colonial 23rd Avenue branch diverted funds from the Alden and Golden Gate branches, not yet begun. The relatively austere Colonial and Tudor styles chosen for Golden Gate and Alden apparently absorbed any economy measures with good grace.

The Oakland Examiner of July 1, 1917, gave an excellent collective description of the three libraries:

C.W. Dickey and John J. Donovan are the architects for three libraries which remain to be built. The branch to be next constructed [23rd Avenue] will be of Spanish architecture with warm colored stucco walls over brick and a variegated Cordova roof. The Alden branch library... will be of modern English design with walls of dark red brick. The Golden Gate branch library... will be of Colonial design with red brick walls with white trimmings. While the external appearance of the three buildings will be totally different, they will have the same interior requirements and fittings.

Each library will be two stories in height, the main entrance being halfway between the two stories, with broad stairs leading up into the central delivery room, and other stairs leading to the ground floor. The delivery desk is to be so placed that the librarian in charge will have complete command of the two reading rooms flanking the delivery room and of the main entrance.

The reading rooms will each be about thirty-two by forty-one feet, lined with book shelves capable of accommodating 15,000 volumes, besides magazines and newspapers. The rooms will be lighted from three sides in the daytime and by semi-direct electric fixtures at night. The openings from the reading rooms to the delivery room will be so large that the three rooms will architecturally count as one. Back of the

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Oakland Free Library Golden Gate Branch

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delivery room will be the librarian's private office and the book bindery with a private staircase leading to the lower floor.

On the ground floor will be located an assembly room about thirty by forty feet, capable of seating about 250 persons and fitted with a stage and electric connections for a moving picture machine. On this floor there will also be a study room sixteen by thirty-one feet, a staff room with a kitchenette, a furnace room, men's and women's toilets and a large shipping and receiving room with a fumigating closet and book lift to take books to the second floor.

Each of the buildings will cost \$35,000: the construction, finish, heating and ventilation will be modern and first class in every respect.

Architects Charles Dickey and John Donovan were associated on three Oakland Carnegie libraries in 1917, and designed Oakland schools in the 1910s and 20s. Charles Dickey (1871-1942) was born in Alameda and studied architecture at MIT. He practiced in Oakland from about 1903 to 1924 and thereafter in Honolulu, where he is considered to have created a distinctive Hawaiian style of architecture. His numerous major Oakland works include the Claremont Hotel (1907), the 15-story Oakland Bank of Savings at 1200 Broadway (1907; one of Oakland's first skyscrapers), Kahn's Department Store (1913), and University High School (1922). MIT-trained John Donovan (1877-1949) came west in 1911 as supervising architect for Oakland City Hall, representing the New York firm of Palmer & Hornbostel. He stayed to become Oakland City Architect, supervising architect for the Oakland Auditorium and Oakland's \$2.6 million school construction program of 1911-19, an authority on school design, and an architectural consultant for the Bay Bridge.

Located in what in the 1910s was a neighborhood of "clerks, laborers, and mechanics," the Golden Gate branch has a long tradition of neighborhood support and neighborhood activity: site of plays, flower shows, and "Americanization" work, repository of World War I and fire department mementos donated by the Native Sons of the Golden West, subject of correspondence from the Golden Gate Merchants Association as early as 1927 watching threatened cuts in library appropriations. In 1975 Golden Gate became the home of the East Bay Negro Historical Society, now the African American Museum and Library at Oakland, and the Golden Gate Library has its own active Friends group. In uninterrupted use as a neighborhood branch library since its construction, Golden Gate is an Oakland City Landmark, designated November 4, 1980, in a group designation of the city's four Carnegie branch libraries.

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Oakland Free Library Golden Gate Branch
name of property
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county and state

Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture it Produced, 1899-1921
name of multiple property listing

9. Major Bibliographical References

Significance statement, lists, and brief forms on Oakland libraries from National Register Multiple Property Nomination, "Carnegie Library Development in California and the Architecture it Produced, 1899-1921"; Oakland brief forms based on reports by William Sturm, librarian, Oakland History Room.

City of Oakland Office of Planning and Building records: building and alteration permits, Sanborn maps, City Landmarks case file # LM 80-326.

Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey, City Planning Department: architect files, Citywide Unreinforced Masonry Building Survey files, Primary Record on Golden Gate Branch submitted September 30, 1994.

Oakland Public Library history files (by branch), at Oakland History Room, Oakland Public Library: correspondence, clippings, financial records, photographs, ephemera, etc.

Brokl, Robert, et al., National Register of Historic Places nomination for University High School, Oakland, Alameda County, CA, April 22, 1992 (C.W. Dickey)

Jay, Robert, The Architecture of Charles W. Dickey: Hawaii and California, Honolulu, University of Hawaii Press, 1992.

McArthur, Tay, et al., National Register of Historic Places nomination for Oakland Technical High School, Oakland, Alameda County, CA, June 25, 1985 (John Donovan)

Van Slyck, Abigail, "Helping Those Who Help Themselves: Carnegie Libraries and Rational Philanthropy in Oakland, California," U.C. Berkeley student paper, MS copy at Oakland Cultural Heritage Survey, Oakland City Planning Department.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: Assessor's parcel number 015 1307 013 00

Boundary Justification: This is the lot historically associated with the property.

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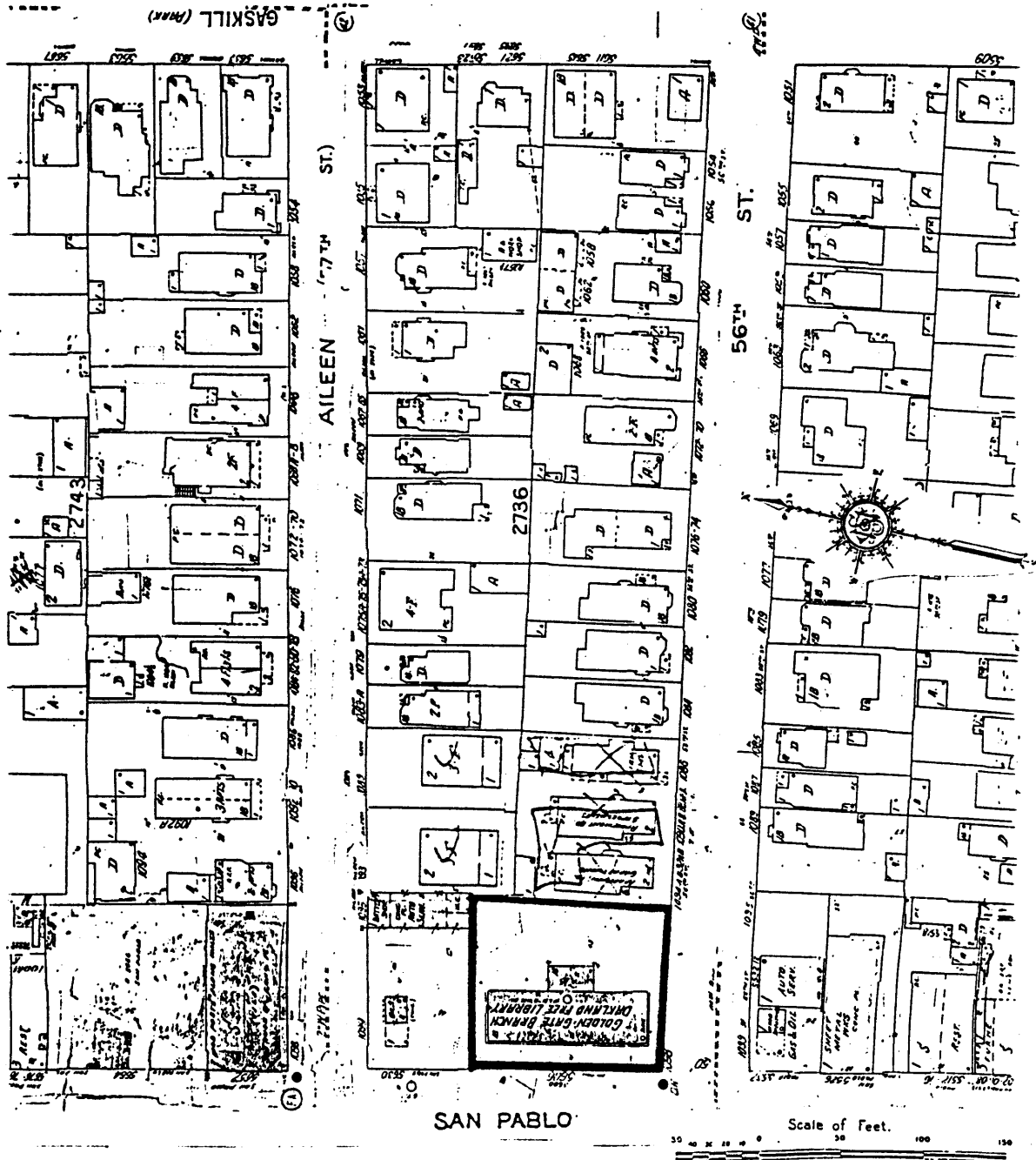
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Sketch Map showing boundaries and footprints

Adapted and reduced from Sanborn insurance map, 1951 update, page 287,
Oakland City Planning Department



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Alameda County Assessor's Parcel Map showing location

Parcel 015 1307 013 00

As reproduced, about 1" to 100'

