

PH0065889

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California	
COUNTY: San Francisco	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 25 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Mason (~~Historic Area~~) *Historic District*

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Black Point; Bateria San Jose; Punta Medanos

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Fort Mason (northeast corner), north and east of Franklin Street and *McArthur Avenue.*

CITY OR TOWN:
San Francisco

STATE California	CODE 06	COUNTY: San Francisco	CODE 075
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
United States Army - Western Area Traffic Management and Terminal *Service.*

STREET AND NUMBER:
Oakland Army Base

CITY OR TOWN:
Oakland

STATE:
California

CODE:
001

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Recorders Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
San Francisco City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:
San Francisco

STATE:
California

CODE:
075

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS Survey Nos. Cal 1119 and Cal 1877-1880)

DATE OF SURVEY: **late 1930's & Jan '59** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Federal Building (Room 14321)

STREET AND NUMBER:
450 Golden Gate Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
San Francisco

STATE:
California

CODE:
075

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The four buildings of greatest historical significance, along with the historic sites of the Fremont House (a one-storied cottage of wood construction with Gothic revival wood details) and Bateria San Jose, occupy a distinct area at the northeast corner of Fort Mason. The buildings and historic sites share a rolling lawn studded with flower beds atop the steep hillside overlooking San Francisco Bay and Aquatic Park. Paths descend the hill to the north and east. The gardens along these scenic walks have not been well-maintained in recent years but the effect has been to recapture somewhat the wild vegetation and appearance of the former Black Point.

McDowell Hall Old Brooks House #1 (Officers' Club) is a two-story wood-frame building over a basement, on a brick and stone foundation, with wood floors and shingle roof. Originally constructed as a private residence in 1855, its style today may be described as modified Victorian. The first floor, comprising living room, dining room, conservatory, den and kitchen quarters was finished in light and dark hardwood in a herringbone design; room porticoes have intricately carved wooden frescoes. The second floor is a profusion of bedrooms and baths displaying the long history of their occupants in a progression from 1866 of differing kinds of architecture and window design.

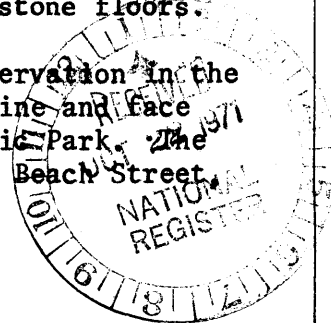
Quarters Two built in 1863-64 is a plain clapboard house with the stock details of the period and a certain army austerity. Designed to complement McDowell Hall, it is also a two-story wood frame building with a shingle roof.

The old rubble walls of the basement and first floor of Quarters Three are believed to be the original Moody House of 1855. The second floor was added later. The main room has fireplaces, a few of which are now closed. Although Quarters 1-4 had many of the same trim details, this house had walls and ceilings of beaded tongue-and-groove and very little plaster work.

Quarters Four is presently a duplex. The original house, dating from 1855, appears from old photographs to have been a one-story Gothic Revival cottage very much like the Fremont house to the north although the present two-story building bears stock Victorian details of the 1870's like the other Quarters. The plastered walls are generally papered. Baths have beaded 1 x 4 tongue-and-groove walls and ceilings with some soapstone floors.

These buildings are located on the Fort Mason Military Reservation in the area disclosed by the purple line intersected by the pen line and face generally north-northeast toward Alcatraz Island and Aquatic Park. The southern boundary is on a base road which runs parallel to Beach Street, San Francisco.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



4. SIGNIFICANCE

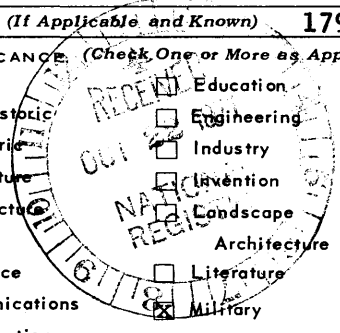
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1797, 1850-59**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This "park" of historic buildings in the northeast corner of Fort Mason figures prominently in Western American military history and previously had been an important post for the Spanish. The buildings themselves, dating from the 1850's, are among the oldest in San Francisco and have been the residences of persons significant to the history of San Francisco and the nation. Furthermore, the setting is one of the most beautiful in a city of noted views and has long served the public as a garden open space and access to San Francisco Bay.

Soon after the founding of the Presidio in 1776, mounted soldiers patrolled the sand dunes along San Francisco Bay from the garrison to the highest point of the promontory, Punta Medanos, a mile and a half to the east. Punta Medanos, commanding the anchorage to the east as well as the passage between the mainland and Alcatraz, was fortified in 1797 and named Bateria San Jose. Neglected shortly thereafter, this branch fortification reverted to sand dunes covered with scrub brush and laurel so dark that the area came to be called Black Point, a name which it retained until 1882 when it was renamed Fort Mason in honor of Colonel Richard B. Mason.

As Military Governor of California between 1847 and 1849, Colonel Mason surveyed military installations acquired by the United States when it took possession of California in 1846-47; it was this survey that led President Millard Fillmore to issue an Executive Order in 1850 which resulted in reserving Black Point (Fort Mason) for public use.

The United States Army did not immediately occupy Fort Mason. New residents, pouring into the City in the wake of the Gold Rush, began to settle at the Point, unaware that the area belonged to the government. Property was freely bought, sold and mortgaged. Among these residents was John Charles Fremont, the famous explorer of the new West, who in 1859 bought a tract of twelve acres and a cottage on the Point's northernmost tip, which he and his family occupied until 1861.

In 1863, with the outbreak of the Civil War and the threat of a Confederate privateer at large in the Pacific, the Army reoccupied and fortified the Point. Private residents were removed, their buildings were converted into quarters, and the Fremont house was razed to make room for gun emplacements. Four of the quarters converted from private houses remain in use today: McDowell Hall (Quarters One), Quarters Two, Quarters Three and Quarters Four. (Continued...)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The Story of Fort Mason, Historic U. S. Army Post in San Francisco." Information Office, U. S. Army Transportation Terminal Command, Pacific 1964.

"Under the Guns of Fort Mason." S. F. Examiner, March 1, 1896.

Junior League of San Francisco, Fort Mason File

letters in the files of the San Francisco Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37° 48' 25"	122° 25' 33"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
10/55653
4184350

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **8.22 Acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Ralph A. Mead, Secretary**

ORGANIZATION **San Francisco Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board** DATE **July 1, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER: **100 Larkin Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **San Francisco** STATE **California** CODE **06**

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name *Ralph A. Mead*

Title State Liaison Officer

Date October 11, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/25/72

ATTEST:

William H. Bennett
Keeper of The National Register

Date APR 25 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

ST. California	
COUNTY San Francisco	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (continued)

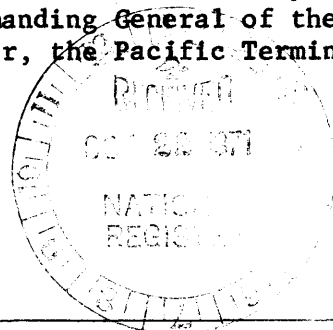
McDowell Hall was originally built in 1855 as a residence for Joseph Brooks, a member of the Gold Rush mining company that came to San Francisco in the ship Balance. In 1864, the house was divided into two parts and one part was removed. Quarters Two is sometimes called Brooks House Number Two and may contain parts from the removed portion of the original building. After the Civil War, the original portion of Brooks House was designated as Quarters One and made the official residence of the Commanding General of the Western Army, in which capacity it served continuously from 1866 to 1943, when the official residence was established at the Presidio.

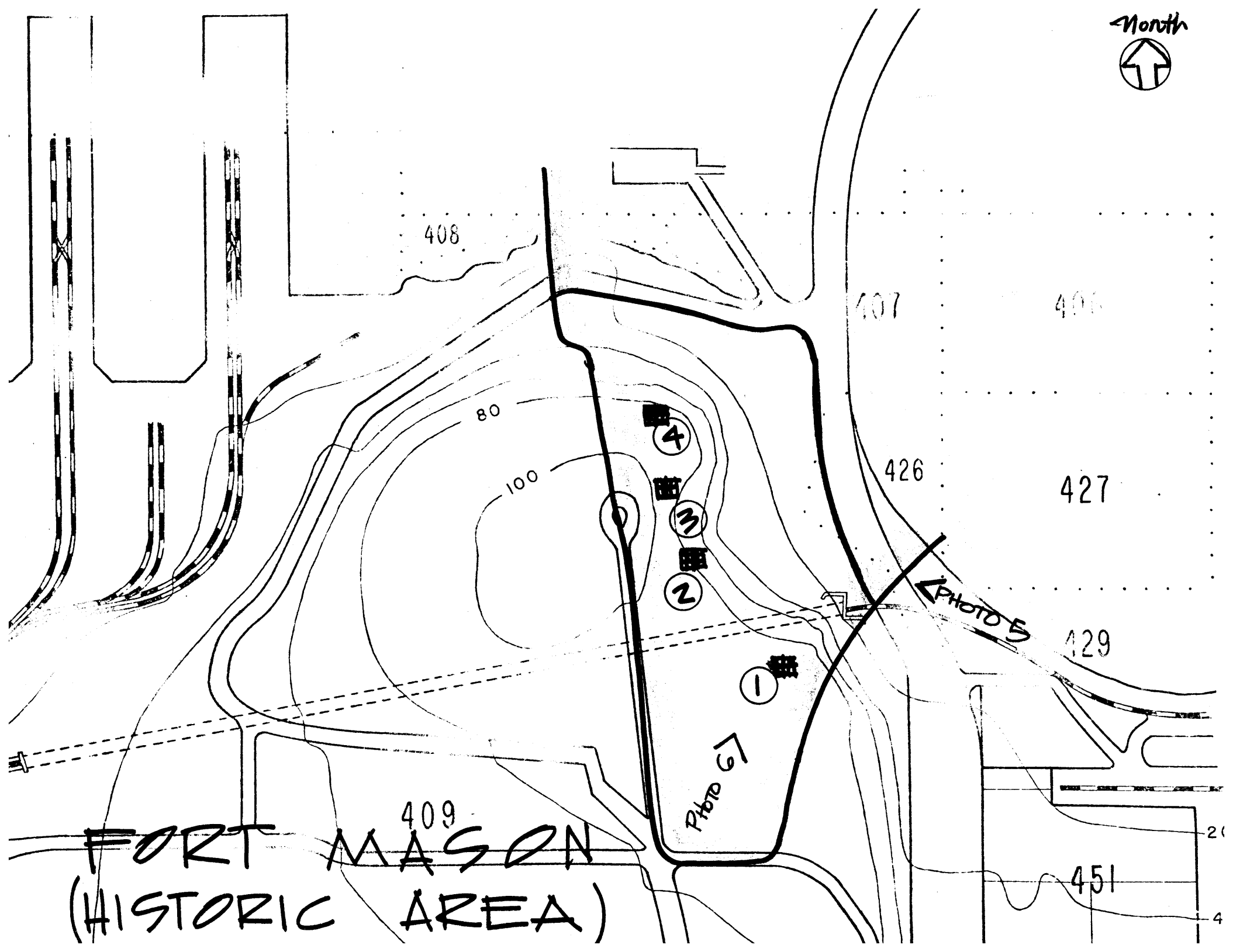
The first Commanding General to occupy the newly designated quarters was Major General Irvin McDowell. General McDowell was interested in landscaping - after his retirement he remained in San Francisco and served on the commission which created Golden Gate Park - and it was he who originally laid out the terraced gardens and walks which remain today, enhancing the scenic beauty of the Point and giving the old quarters their park-like surroundings. Among the thirty-eight commanding generals who lived at McDowell Hall were such distinguished officers as Generals Ord, Schofield, Sheridan and Nelson Miles of the Indian Wars, Major General Arthur McArthur, the Arctic explorer Major General A. W. Greely, and Major General Funston, who directed the Army's relief efforts during the 1906 Earthquake and Fire and made Fort Mason a refugee camp for hundreds of homeless civilians.

Quarters Three is believed to be the house built in 1855 by Captain Edwin Moody, the Bay's first yachtsman, who later founded the San Francisco Yacht Club. The house was sold in 1857 to Major Leonidas Haskell, a friend of Fremont and of U. S. Senator David Broderick. It was to this house that the mortally wounded Broderick was brought after his duel with California Supreme Court Justice David Terry on the morning of September 13, 1859, and it was here that he died.

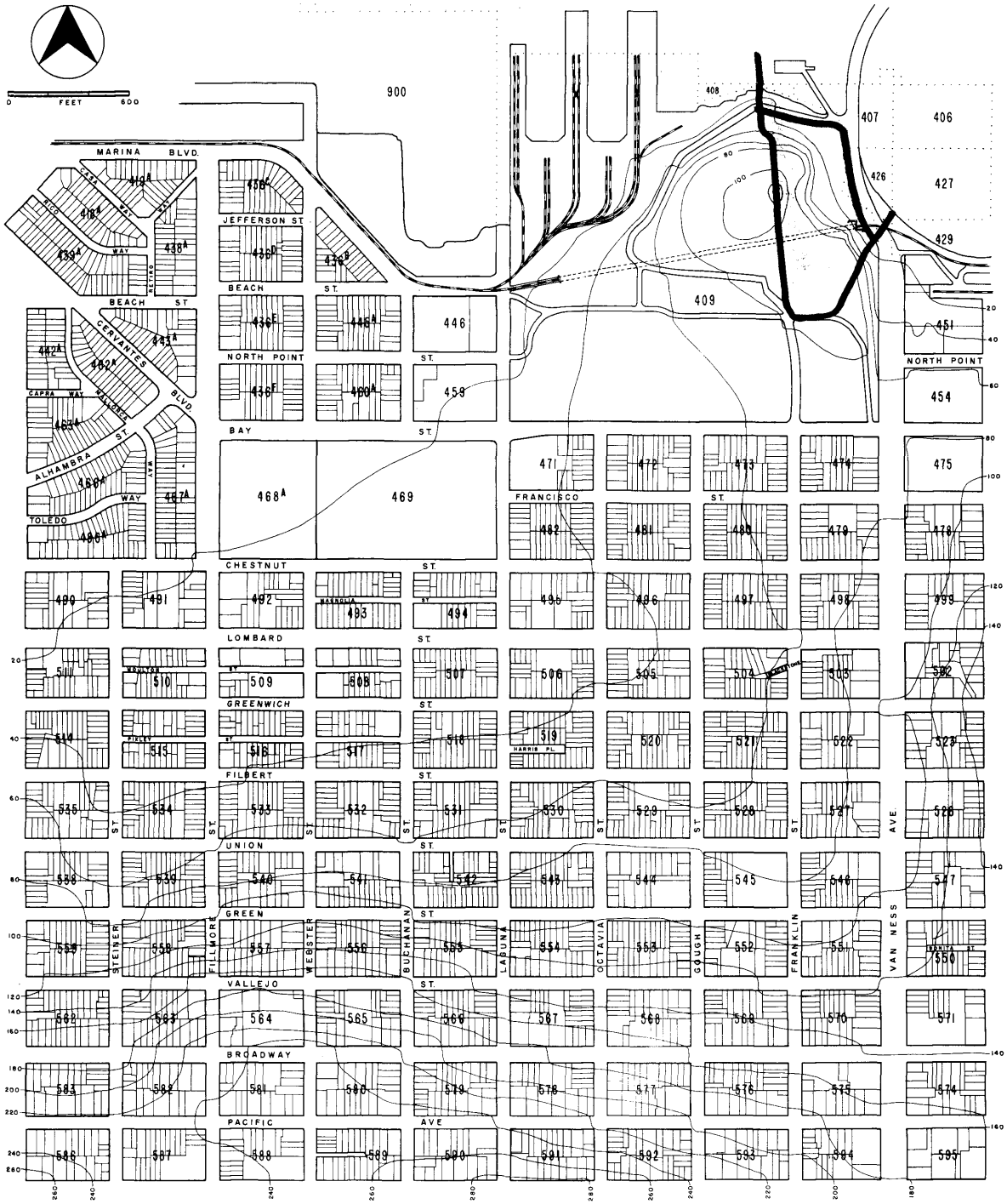
Quarters Four, northernmost in the row of old quarters, was built by Major Haskell about 1855 and then sold to his friend Joseph Palmer, of the early banking firm of Palmer, Cook and Company, who was associated with Fremont in political as well as financial matters.

Following their conversion from private houses, Quarters Two, Three and Four served as residences for the officers ranking next below the commanding general, many of whom were famous in the service of their country. In modern times, Quarters Two has housed the Commanding General of the San Francisco Port of Embarkation and its successor, the Pacific Terminal Command.





FORT MASON
(HISTORIC AREA)



COMMUNITY AREA LAND USE STUDY

MARINA - PACIFIC HEIGHTS

COMMUNITY 3 · PLANNING AREA 2

LATITUDE
 37° 48' 25"
LONGITUDE
 122° 25' 33"

**FORT MASON
 (HISTORIC AREA)**