

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC San Francisco Bay Discovery Site

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Sweeney Ridge

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
Pacifica

VICINITY OF

STATE
California

CODE
06

COUNTY
San Mateo

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Useless

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mayor, the City of Pacifica

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Pacifica

VICINITY OF

STATE
California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER
401 Marshall Street

CITY, TOWN
Redwood City

STATE
California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site of the "discovery" of San Francisco Bay consists essentially of two knolls from which the members of the expedition acquired the view. No structures are there now nor have likely ever been there. The view of course has changed considerably with the growth of the Bay Area, now including broad industrial and residential building development. It is nevertheless a breath-taking sight to see the tremendous expanse of the Bay Area spread beneath one's feet in one sweep. The 18.15 acre site is identified on the accompanying USGS map by a red line.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1769

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

San Francisco Bay is the most important harbor on the Pacific Coast and one of the greatest anchorages in the world. Its discovery may be referred to as one of the greatest events in the establishment of the Spanish in Alta California. Speculation suggests that had the great harbor not been found, the entire history of California would have been different, and ultimately the whole course of American history.

History

Captain Gaspar de Portola and his party of sixty men (with a caravan of 200 horses and mules for riding and the pack train) had come from San Diego in search of Monterey Bay, but from their overland approach, they had failed to recognize it. They had come north, climbed over San Pedro Mountain and had made camp in Pedro Valley, now in the city of Pacifica. Though already within today's Bay Area, they were still unaware of the Bay's existence.

The following morning, November 1, 1769, Sergeant Ortega with a squad of scouts began a three-day reconnoitering tour. Somewhere along the five mile stretch between Mussel Rock and the summit (Point Reyes), Ortega saw San Francisco Bay on his first day of scouting. When Ortega returned to camp on November 3, Portola's next move was an attempt to go around this new found "estuary" to examine the vicinity of Point Reyes. From the camp on San Pedro Creek, the Captain and his men followed the beach to the north, then entered the hills and from the summit beheld the great estuary.

Three days of slow travel brought the expedition to the site of Modern Palo Alto where a new base camp was made to await Ortega's probing of the east side of the estuary. Ortega returned in four days with discouraging news. He had encountered aggressively hostile Indians and had observed great stretches of burned-over land leaving no pasture for the expedition's livestock. A council was then called and the decision made to return to San Diego.

The Portola Expedition ultimately accomplished its purpose of finding Monterey Bay. The San Francisco region was further explored by Lieutenant Pedro Pagas in 1772 and by Juan Bautista de Anza in 1776. The importance of the inland bay was further emphasized by the establishment of a presidio and two missions in the environs of the bay.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hubert Bancroft, History of California, (San Francisco, 1884).
 Herbert Bolton, Fray Juan Crespi, (Berkeley, 1927).
 Charles Chapman, A History of California: The Spanish Period, (New York, 1921).
 John Caughey, California, (Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1957).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 18.15

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,0	54,78,4,0	4,16,18,8,0	B	1,0	54,80,6,0	4,16,19,6,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,0	54,83,8,0	4,16,16,0,0	D	1,0	54,82,6,0	4,16,14,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY Original form prepared by; James Dillon, Architectural Historian

NAME / TITLE
 Cecil McKithan, Historian

ORGANIZATION
 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

STREET & NUMBER
 1100 L Street, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN
 Washington

DATE
 June 1978

TELEPHONE
 523-5464

STATE
 D. C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

May 23, 1978
 Boundary Certificate
 George J. Emery
 DATE: MAY 25, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *[Signature]* DATE *11/24/78*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE

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San Francisco Bay Discovery Site

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Located in the Town of Pacifica, California, the site of the discovery of San Francisco Bay consists of the point at which the Portola Expedition, 1769, crossed over Sweeney Ridge, and for the first time, came to view one of the world's largest sheltered anchorages. From the top of Sweeney Ridge one can see not only inland to the Bay, but north along the ocean coast as far as Point Reyes.

Total acreage is approximately 18.15. No structures are on the site, nor in the immediate vicinity.

Boundary

Beginning at a point on Sweeney Ridge, said point being 3,000 feet, more or less, from the south boundary of the Military Reservation; proceeding thence in a north easterly direction 825 feet, more or less, to a point; continuing thence in a southeasterly direction, 1,700 feet more or less, to a point; continuing thence in a southwesterly direction 825 feet more or less, to a point; continuing thence in a northwesterly direction 2,150 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning.