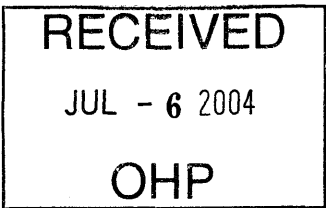


NPS FORM 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



OMB NO. 1024-0018

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. 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: **Golden Gate Park**

other names/site number: N/A

#### 2. Location

street & number: Bounded by Fulton St., Stanyan St., Fell St., Baker St., Oak St., Lincoln Way, and The Great Highway

not for publication: N/A

city or town: San Francisco

vicinity: Sunset and Richmond Districts

state: California code: CA county: San Francisco code: 075 zip code: 94117

#### 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 X does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant X nationally      statewide      locally. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*[Signature]* 24 AUG 2004  
Signature of certifying official 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 (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): \_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]* 10/15/04  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

**Golden Gate Park – San Francisco, California**

**5. Classification**

• Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

• Category of Property (Check only one)

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

• Number of Resources within

Contributing	Non contributing	
<u>37</u>	<u>20</u>	buildings
<u>47</u>	<u>12</u>	sites
<u>13</u>	<u>20</u>	structures
<u>36</u>	<u>4</u>	objects
<u>133</u>	<u>56</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 2

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Landscape Sub: Park

<u>Landscape</u>	<u>garden</u>
<u>Recreation &amp; Culture</u>	<u>museum</u>
<u>Recreation &amp; Culture</u>	<u>music facility</u>
<u>Recreation &amp; Culture</u>	<u>sports facility</u>
<u>Recreation &amp; Culture</u>	<u>monument/marker</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: \_\_\_\_\_ Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

Same as Historic Functions

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Mid -late 19th Century picturesque park landscape

Other: Olmsted-influenced landscape

\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_

roof \_\_\_\_\_

walls \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description: See continuation sheets, Pages 1 through 38.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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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:           Landscape Architecture, Recreation and Social History

Period of Significance:        1871 to 1943

Significant Dates:            N/A

Significant Person:           N/A

Cultural Affiliation:         N/A

Architect/Builder:           Hall, William Hammond  
                                      McLaren, John

Narrative Statement of Significance:    See continuation sheets, Pages 39 through 49.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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See continuation sheets, Pages 50 through 52.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property**

1017 Acres

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing						
1)	10	543160	4180380	3)	10	549320	4180600				
2)	10	548120	4180780	4)	10	548280	4179880	5)	10	543240	4179580

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

See continuation sheets, Page 53.

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

See continuation sheets, Pages 53.

**Golden Gate Park** – San Francisco, California

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: Douglas Nelson / Landscape Architect  
organization: Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey date: July 2003,  
Revised June 2004  
street & number: 225 Miller Avenue telephone: 415/383-7900  
city or town: Mill Valley state: CA zip code: 94941

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**Additional Documentation**

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Maps: See continuation sheets, Page 54.

Photographs: See continuation sheets, Page 54.

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**Property Owner**

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name Yomi Agunbiade, Acting General Manager  
City and County of San Francisco, Recreation and Park Department  
street & number McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park telephone 415/831-2701  
city or town San Francisco state CA zip code 94117

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**Golden Gate Park**  
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## 7. Narrative Description

### Summary

Golden Gate Park is a 1,017-acre urban park in the western section of San Francisco, California. It stretches 3.5 miles (by .5 miles wide) from the center of the city to the Pacific Ocean. The park consists of an expansive forest interspersed by open meadows and linked by a system of curvilinear paths and roads. Numerous gardens, lakes, and recreational features are located throughout the park, as well as naturalistic forest areas. It is designed as a picturesque park landscape that was influenced by the work of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. Many of the original features and elements from the period of significance are still present and the park maintains a high degree of integrity. This is a large property comprised of many elements. There are 135 contributing resources (including 2 already listed on the National Register) and 56 noncontributing resources.

Golden Gate Park was developed over many years from an original plan developed by William Hammond Hall. In the first few years of the park development, much of the park had been reclaimed and planted with seedlings that would become the park's forest. Many of the park roads were graded and completed within the first twenty years. Major park features including the Conservatory (1878), the Children's Quarters (1888) and Strawberry Hill and reservoir (1885) were completed in the early years. By 1890, most of the park roads were completed and the park would be very recognizable to someone from today. The 1894 MidWinter Fair resulted in a number of improvements including Stow Lake, the Recreation Grounds (Big Rec), the Japanese Tea Garden, and the Music Concourse. The first decade of the Twentieth Century saw continued landscape development, particularly in the western park with the addition of Mallard, Metson, and Spreckels Lakes. Public works programs during the 1930s resulted in several new recreation facilities including the Golden Gate Park Stables, the Angler's Lodge, and the Model Yacht Club. Crossover Drive and Park Presidio Bypass were constructed in the late 1930s as part of the approaches to the Golden Gate Bridge. In the second half of the Twentieth Century, there have been several minor features added such as gardens and additions to the museums, but the park has remained, in large part, as it appeared during the period of significance. (A more detailed record of the development of Golden Gate Park is illustrated on Maps 7 through 12.)

The site for the park was surveyed in 1870 by William Hammond Hall on lands that had recently been annexed to the City of San Francisco. Known as the Outside Lands, the area consisted primarily of windblown sand dunes stretching several miles to the Pacific Ocean. In 1871 Hall was appointed as the park's first superintendent, and he created an overall master plan for Golden Gate Park and directed the early construction. Hall served as superintendent from 1871 to 1876 and again from 1886 to 1889. Upon Hall's departure in 1889, John McLaren became Superintendent. McLaren would preside over the park, and continue the fulfillment of Hall's plan, for the next 53 years, ending with his death in 1943.

Golden Gate Park was conceived as a naturalistic pleasure ground park to provide a sylvan retreat from urban pressures for all citizens, rich and poor. The park's naturalistic design successfully created the illusion of nature, but in actuality, the park was created by transforming the windswept sand dunes in one of the most significant reclamation projects. With development spurred on by the park, the city grew up around the park and it is now a green oasis in a sea of urbanization. A man-made forest of over 30,000 trees covers the park,

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**Golden Gate Park**  
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interspersed with numerous meadows. The forest and meadows, along with a circulation system of roads and paths form the structure for the park's design, most of which is evident today. The park was largely a reality by the end of the nineteenth century, but additional features have been added over the years. The park is a collection of many individual features, but it was conceived, envisioned, and built as a unified whole.

Many elements and features contribute to the significance and integrity of Golden Gate Park. This section contains a table of counted resources in the park followed by a narrative description of general park features and individual park features. Although the park contains the individual resources listed here, it is important to view Golden Gate Park as a whole. Golden Gate Park was developed over many years, but it was conceived as a single creation that we now consider an historic designed landscape.

The remainder of this section includes the following contents:

- Listing of park resources
- Statement of Integrity
- General Park Character Defining Features narrative description
- Individual Park Resources narrative description

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Individual Park Resources

Zone and Resource	Type of Feature	Date	Contributing Resources	Non-Contributing Resources	Resource Category	Remarks
<b>Panhandle</b> (Baker Street to Stanyan Street)						
Panhandle	landscape feature	1872	1		site	
Panhandle playground	recreation feature	unknown		1	site	
William McKinley	monument	1904	1		object	
Panhandle restroom	structure	1930's	1		building	
<b>Kezar Complex</b>						
Kezar Stadium	structure	1924, 1990		1	site	historic use preserved in 1990 reconstruction
Kezar Pavilion	structure	1926	1		building	
Park Emergency Aid Station	structure	1902	1		building	City Landmark #201
Kezar parking lot	parking lot	unknown	NA		site	
Park Police Station	structure	1910	1		building	
<b>Children's Quarters</b>						
Sharon Building	structure	1888	1		building	City Landmark #124, determined eligible for NR
Carousel Building and Ticket Pavilion	2 buildings	1889	2		buildings	
Carousel	recreation feature	1941	1		structure	Built 1914, installed in GGP 1941
Children's Playground	recreation feature	1888		1	site	historic use (playground equipment not historic)
Sharon Meadow	landscape feature	1870s-1880s	1		site	
Children's Quarters restroom	structure	1930's	1		building	
Foresters of America Memorial	monument	1927	1		object	p
<b>Conservatory Valley</b>						
Conservatory of Flowers	structure	1878	On National Register		building	City Landmark #50, California Historic Landmark, listed on National Register
Conservatory Valley	landscape feature	1872	1		site	
Dahlia Garden	horticultural feature	1939	1		site	
Arizona Garden	horticultural feature	1894	1		site	
Tunnel under Main Drive	circulation feature	1890	1		structure	
James A. Garfield	monument	1885	1		object	
Conservatory Valley restroom	structure	2003		1	building	
<b>Maintenance Yard and Nursery</b>						
Maintenance Yard	maintenance facility	unknown	3	7	buildings	
Nursery	maintenance facility	1924	1		site	
Greenhouses	maintenance facility	unknown		12	structures	
<b>Music Concourse</b>						
Music Concourse	landscape feature	1900	1		site	
Music Concourse Tunnels	structure	2005		3	structure	Original tunnels ca. 1900, est. constr. completion
Spreckels Temple of Music	structure	1900	1		structure	
Bandshell Annex	building	unknown		1	building	
Rideout Fountain	water feature	1924	1		object	
Page Fountains	2 water features	1914	2		object	
Phoebe Hearst Fountain	water feature	1926	1		object	
California Academy of Sciences	structure	1916-1976		1	building	Historic use, structures severely altered, scheduled for demolition in 2004. A new building is scheduled for completion in 2008.
M.H. deYoung Museum	structure	2005		1	building	historic structure (1917) demolished 2003, new structure scheduled for completion in 2005
Pool of Enchantment	object	1917			object	Removed, to be reconstructed in new location, determined eligible for National Register
Japanese Tea Garden	horticultural feature	1894	1		site	
Japanese Tea Garden structures	structures	1894-1916	2	2	structure	pagoda, tea house, 2 non-contributing gates
Buddha	monument	1945		1	object	
North Tunnel (under JFK Drive)	circulation feature	1897	1		structure	
Miguel De Cervantes	monument	1916	1		object	
Sphinxes	2 objects	1903	2		object	
U.S. Grant	monument	1896	1		object	
Sundial	object	1907	1		object	
Leonidas (Roman Gladiator)	object	1884	1		object	
Lion	object	1906	1		object	
Robert Emmet	monument	1919	1		object	moving to new location in Concourse 2004 or 2005
Ludwig Van Beethoven	monument	1915	1		object	



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Zone and Resource	Type of Feature	Date	Non-		Category	Remarks
			Contributing Resources	Contributing Resources		
Giuseppi Verdi	monument	1914	1		object	
Goethe and Schiller	monument	1901	1		object	moving to new location in Concourse 2004 or 2005
Apple Cider Press	object	1894	1		object	
Frances Scott Key	monument	1888	1		object	City Landmark #96, moved to exist. location 1977
General John Pershing	monument	1922	1		object	
Padre Junipero Serra	monument	1907	1		object	
Thomas Star King	monument	1892	1		object	
Tour Bus Parking area	parking area	unknown	NA		site	
<b>Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens</b>						
Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Garde	horticultural feature	1937-present	1		site	
County Fair Building (Hall of Flowers)	structure	1960		1	building	
Helen Crocker Russell Horticultural Libr	structure	1972		1	building	
Strybing Arboretum Restroom	structure	2003		1	building	
<b>Stow Lake Area</b>						
Stow Lake	water feature	1893	1		site	
Stow Lake Boathouse	structure	1893 and 1946		1	building	
Stow Lake Restroom	structure	2001		1	building	
Huntington Falls	water feature	1893 & 1984		1	site	reconstructed 1984, historic feature
Chinese Pavilion	structure	1981		1	structure	
Sweeny Observatory	ruin	1891			site	destroyed in 1906 earthquake
Roman Bridge	circulation feature	1893	1		structure	
Rustic Stone Bridge	circulation feature	1893	1		structure	
<b>Other Eastern Park Resources (Stanyan Street to Crossover Drive)</b>						
McLaren Lodge	structure	1896	1		building	City Landmark #175
McLaren Lodge Annex	structure	1950		1	building	
Haight Street Gate	structure	1998		1	structure	
Alvord Bridge	circulation feature	1889	1		structure	National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark
Alvord Lake	water feature	1882	1		site	
Alvord Lake restroom	structure	1930's	1		building	
Arguello Gate	structure	1915	1		structure	
Stanyan/Fulton wall	landscape feature	1902	1		structure	
Tennis Courts	recreation feature	1901	1		site	
Tennis clubhouse	structure	1950		1	building	
Lawn Bowling Greens	recreation feature	1901-1928	1		site	
Lawn Bowling Clubhouse	structure	1915	1		building	City Landmark #181
General Henry Halleck	monument	1886	1		object	
Baseball Player	object	1891	1		object	
John McLaren	monument	1944		1	object	
Robert Burns	monument	1908	1		object	
Father William D. McKinnon	monument	1927	1		object	
Brown Gate (cougar and bear)	2 objects	1908	2		object	
Handball Courts	recreation feature	1902-1937	1		building	
Big Rec baseball grounds	recreation feature	1893	1		site	
Big Rec restroom	structure	1930's	1		building	
Shakespeare Garden	horticultural feature	1928	1		site	
Sunken Meadow	landscape feature	unknown	1		site	date unknown, but within period of significance
Sunken Meadow restroom	structure	1930's	1		building	
Horseshoe Courts	recreation feature	1922-1937	1		site	
Horseshoe Court Bas Relief	object	1937	1		object	
Horseshoe courts restroom	structure	1930's	1		building	
Peacock Meadow	landscape feature	1895	1		site	
Casino Meadow	landscape feature	1896	1		site	
de Laveaga Dell (Nat. AIDS Mem. Grove)	landscape feature	1902-present		1	site	altered with construction of the National Aids Memorial Grove
Quarry Lake	water feature	1902	1		site	
Tree Fern Dell	horticultural feature	1939	1		site	
Powell Street Railway Shelter	structure	1889	1		building	
Ninth Ave. playground	recreation feature	unknown		1	site	
Rhododendron Dell	horticultural feature	1942	1		site	
Heroes Redwood Grove	horticultural feature	1939	1		site	
Gold Star Mothers Rock	monument	1932	1		object	
Rose Garden	horticultural feature	1961		1	site	

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Zone and Resource	Type of Feature	Date	Non-Contributing Resource			Remarks
			Resources	Resources	Category	
Thomas Masaryk	monument	1962		1	object	
Doughboy Meadow	landscape feature	unknown	1		site	date unknown, but within period of significance
The Doughboy	monument	1930	1		object	
Pioneer Log Cabin	structure	1911	1		building	
Pioneer Mother	monument	1940	1		object	
Prayer Book Cross	monument	1894	1		object	
Rainbow Falls and Cascade	water feature	1930	1		site	
<b>Polo Field/Stables Recreation Area</b>						
Golden Gate Park Stadium (Polo Field)	recreation feature	1906-1909	1		site	
Golden Gate Park Stables	recreation feature	1939	6		buildings	
Park Police Stables	structure	1936	1		building	recently rehabilitated
Anglers' Lodge and Flycasting Pools	recreation feature	1936	1		building	
Polo Field restroom north	structure	1930's	1		building	
Polo Field restroom south	structure	1930's	1		building	
<b>Other Middle Park Resources</b> (Crossover Drive to Chain of Lakes)						
Breon Gate (19th Avenue)	structure	1924	1		structure	
Lloyd Lake	water feature	1892	1		site	
Portals of the Past	object	1909	1		object	
Speedway Meadow	landscape feature	1907	1		site	
Speedway Meadow restroom	structure	unknown		1	building	
Marx Meadow	landscape feature	1907	1		site	
Lindley Meadow	landscape feature	1902	1		site	
Spreckels Lake	water feature	1904	1		site	
Model Yacht Club	structure	1938	1		building	original structure from 1909
Senior Center (former Police Academy)	structure	1932	1		building	
Petanque court	recreation feature	1907	1		site	
Buffalo Paddock	recreation feature	1900	1		site	historic use dates to 1890 (different location)
Dog training field	recreation feature	1905	1		site	
Little Speedway Meadow	landscape feature	1907	1		site	date unknown, but within period of significance
Metson Lake	water feature	1906	1		site	
Mallard Lake	water feature	1909	1		site	
Urban Forestry Center	maintenance facility	1980's		1	site	
Elk Glen Lake	water feature	ca. 1935	1		site	
Elk Glen Meadow	landscape feature	unknown	1		site	date unknown, but within period of significance
Composting area	maintenance facility	1980's		1	site	
Reservoir and Pump Station	structure	2002		1	structure	
Mothers Meadow	landscape feature	unknown	1		site	date unknown, but within period of significance
Mothers Meadow playground	recreation feature	unknown		1	site	
Mothers Meadow restroom	structure	1936	1		building	
North Lake	water feature	1898	1		site	part of Chain of Lakes
North Lake restroom	structure	1930's	1		building	
Middle Lake	water feature	1898	1		site	part of Chain of Lakes
South Lake	water feature	1898	1		site	part of Chain of Lakes
<b>Western Park Resources</b> (West of Chain of Lakes)						
Golf course	recreation feature	1951		1	site	
Golf clubhouse	structure	1950's		1	building	
Archery field	recreation feature	1938	1		site	
Dutch Windmill	structure	1902	1		structure	City Landmark #147
Queen Wilhelmina Tulip Garden	horticultural feature	unknown	1		site	
On National Register						
Beach Chalet	structure	1925			building	City Landmark #179, listed on National Register
Roald Amundsen	monument	1929	1		object	
Murphy's Windmill	structure	1905	1		structure	City Landmark #210
Millwright's House	structure	1909	1		building	City Landmark #210
Beach Chalet Soccer Fields	recreation feature	unknown	1		site	
Beach Chalet Soccer Fields restroom	structure	1930's	1		building	
Bercut Equitation Field	recreation feature	unknown	1		site	
46th Ave. playground	recreation feature	unknown		1	site	
Western park entry monuments	monument	1998		1	object	

135	56
Total Contributing Resources	Total Non- Contributing Resources

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## Statement of Integrity

Golden Gate Park retains a high degree of integrity that conveys its significance. The location and boundaries of the park have changed little since its creation. The design of the park, in terms of its framework— the road system, the forests, and the meadows that were established prior to 1900, can be seen in the park today. The setting and feeling of the park has also been preserved, and this can be seen in how people use the park today, and how they used it in the past. Not only are the physical aspects of the park recognizable in historic photographs, but how people are using the park today remains remarkably unchanged. Picnicking, strolling, boating, bicycling, baseball, enjoying the gardens, and many other uses are as evident today, in the same locations, as they were a hundred years ago. This is testament to the strength of the original design. The experience of the ever-changing views that one can see as they move along the park's curvilinear roads has also been preserved. The roads were designed for use by carriages, but are now used by automobiles.

Although the landscape has matured and in some places been renewed, the integrity of the park, viewed in its entirety, is very strong. In an historic landscape such as Golden Gate Park, integrity should not be tied to any individual trees, or even specific species. It is the spatial relationships between the evergreen forest and the open meadows that is the significant feature. The ongoing reforestation program in the park, which was begun in 1980, has preserved the critical spatial relationships. The character of the forest canopy is changing, as older trees are removed and new ones are planted, but the overall effect and the essence of the original design remain. With the dynamic nature of plants as living organisms, it could be argued that change over time is the normal condition of historic landscapes, and that this should not diminish integrity.

The road system is largely as it was originally built, as these features have changed little over time. Some details such as streetlights and curbs have changed, but the overall design and experience of moving along the roads has changed very little. The forest and the meadows that they define have changed little. Many of the trees that exist today were among the early tree plantations that created the park. The integrity of individual park resources also is generally very high and is further discussed later in this section.

There has been some change in the park after the period of significance, but this is small compared to the overall scale of the park. There are a few new gardens, such as the National Aids Memorial Grove, a few road closures, and a few new buildings such as the County Fair Building and the tennis clubhouse. The two major museums in the park's Music Concourse, the de Young Museum and the California Academy of Sciences are currently building new structures, replacing the historic structures. Overall, the changes that have occurred since the period of significance are minor in the larger context of the entire park.

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**Golden Gate Park**  
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## General Park Character Defining Features

### Spatial Relationships

Golden Gate Park is roughly shaped as a rectangle, .5 mile wide and 3.5 miles long. The Panhandle is an additional appendage that extends from the east end of the park. The park is divided into two main regions divided approximately at Strawberry Hill. Each of the two parts has a somewhat different character that is still very evident today. The western park is the natural woodland park, and the eastern park is a more finished park with gardens and other features. This division was part of the original design as described by William Hammond Hall:

#### Western Park Character

*"It was designed that the six hundred or more acres of the reservation including and lying west of Strawberry Hill, and its connecting ridge, should be simply treated as a woodland or forest, with all the hills and ridges more or less heavily timbered, and the valleys covered with lower-growing shrubs or field grasses"*

William Hammond Hall, *The Development of Golden Gate Park*, 1886

#### Eastern Park Character

*"...the four hundred or less acres east of the hill and ridge should be treated as a more finished park, with its tree plantations in smaller masses or groups, principally on the higher grounds, and its several notable valleys occupied by such special features as a picnic ground; a garden - including a conservatory and semi-tropical exhibit; a children's quarter - including a dairy-house and play grounds; a recreation ground for sports of older people; a lawn, with lake and water terrace; a manor house and grounds, with concourses for carriages and pedestrians; and an open air concert auditorium"*

William Hammond Hall, *The Development of Golden Gate Park*, 1886

The structure of the park is composed of three major elements: the forest, the meadows, and the circulation system. On these three elements of structure, the features of the park are arranged. The roads were designed as curving paths providing an ever-changing series of vistas as one moves through the park. The series of meadows created by the forest plantings provide the main open spaces with the park and contribute to the changing vistas. These elements are largely intact today, contributing to the park experience.

The park is organized with a strong internal orientation and focus. There are no park elements on the perimeter other than entries and the Beach Chalet and the Kezar complex. The perimeter consists of solid planting that was meant to screen out the surrounding urban environment, reinforcing the park's role as an escape from all things urban. Although some understory planting has been lost in recent years, the park still has a strong internal focus.

Within the 1,017 acres of Golden Gate Park are many distinctive zones and features that have their own identities. Major distinct areas include: the Panhandle, the Kezar recreation complex, the children's area, Conservatory Valley, the Music Concourse, Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, Stow Lake, Big Rec

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baseball diamonds, the Polo Field and Equestrian Center recreation area, and the Chain of Lakes. All of these park features are from the period of significance and are still evident today.

**Topography and Grading**

Topography plays a key role in the shaping of Golden Gate Park. The park's topography is largely as it existed before construction of the park, with Strawberry Hill, several other rock hills, and numerous sand dunes and ridges being the major topographic elements. There was an early proposal (by a politician/grading contractor) to flatten the site into a smooth plain as was done in the city's squares. William Hammond Hall resisted. He saw the benefits of the existing topography and chose to work with it rather than alter it. The topography plays a key role in creating attractive micro climates for the meadows, which were windswept and barren prior to development of the park's forest. The trees were generally planted on the hills and ridges, with the valleys left open as meadows. This had the effect of exaggerating the existing topography and creating windbreaks that resulted in pleasant meadow microclimates. Topography also played a role in the location of the lakes, several of which were sited in low areas that were already seasonal ponds. One major grading effort was the creation of a terrace for Stow Lake, encircling Strawberry Hill, partway up its flank. Grading was used in the creation of the park's concert venues. Both the original music venue at Conservatory Valley, and today's Music Concourse, are sunken bowls that were created to lessen the effects of the wind. The park's topography and grading remain intact from the period of significance.

**Circulation System**

The circulation system of Golden Gate Park consists of roads, paved paths, and unpaved trails. The road system that exists today is largely the original system as built. The earliest as-built maps show a road system that is largely evident today. Once roads were built, there was no reason for major changes. The roads are curvilinear, and are generally quite wide. There are two main east-west drives in the park: Main Drive, renamed John F. Kennedy Drive in 1967, is, as its original name suggests, the park's main road running its entire length; and South Drive, now Martin Luther King Drive. Some roads have been removed and converted to meadows such as Speedway Meadow, the Rose Garden, and Marx Meadow. The park's First Biennial Report 1870-71 states that roadways were "macadamized" (an early form of asphalt paving), and park roads today are asphalt paved. There are few existing records that would allow each road and path to be dated, but following is the known chronology of the park's roads:

- 1871 South Drive contract spec. prepared
- 1872 Avenue Drive, North Ridge Rd. and portions of Main Dr. in trimmed and rolled
- 1872 Main Drive entrance complete
- 1873 North Ridge Road constructed
- 1879 South Drive: section completed
- 1888 Speed Road started
- 1890 Middle Drive constructed
- 1890 South Drive construction completed to beach
- 1895 Main Drive widened
- 1895 Stow Lake drive completed
- 1897 Bridle Road started at Strawberry Hill, running to ocean
- 1900 Music Concourse roads completed
- 1902 19th Avenue entrance constructed

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1902	North Lake Road constructed
1902	Tunnels constructed from Music Concourse under Main Drive
1907	Speed Road removed
1909	Middle Drive constructed
1909	Transverse Drive constructed, Stow Lake Drive widened
1939	Park Presidio Bypass constructed
1981	Marx Meadow Drive closed to automobiles
1981	Overlook Drive closed to automobiles
1982	Marx Meadow Drive landscaped

An extensive paved path and unpaved trail system provides circulation for pedestrians, bicyclists, and pedestrians to almost every part of the park. Paved paths are constructed of asphalt. Many of the unpaved trails are constructed of distinctive "red rock" crushed gravel. Most of the park paths likely date from the period of significance.

The concept of grade separation between roads and paths, as used by Olmsted in Central Park, is evident in Golden Gate Park. The eastern end of the park has several grade separations of internal park traffic. William Hammond Hall proposed two transverse drives to move north-south traffic across the park, but only one route, Crossover Drive and Park Presidio Bypass, was built with partial grade separation, in 1936-39 as part of the state highway leading to the Golden Gate Bridge. Three historic tunnels in the Music Concourse are being removed by the construction of a new underground garage. Two of the tunnels will be reconstructed in their original locations.

The oldest part of the circulation system, known then as "The Avenue" was built as a tree-lined curving roadway down the center of what is now the Panhandle. The trees protected carriage travelers from the strong winds. Only a small remnant of this road survives today, as its function is now carried on by Fell and Oak streets on either side of the Panhandle.

Public transit has always played a large role in bringing visitors to the park, particularly the less affluent that did not have their own carriages (or later automobiles). Early steam railroads and cable cars brought visitors along all of the streets surrounding the park. Today, electric and diesel busses continue this service.

**Vegetation**

The most important feature of Golden Gate Park is the forest that defines it. This plantation of approximately 30,000 trees successfully transformed the windswept dune environment into a "sylvan retreat" for all forms of recreation. That trees could grow here at all was debatable. Frederick Law Olmsted recommended against this site for a park because he did not believe trees could be grown here (among other reasons). William Hammond Hall applied a scientific approach, after studying beach reclamation efforts in America and Europe. He used trial and error to determine which plants would survive in the extreme environment. He first sowed grasses to stabilize the dunes and then shrubs and trees. Massive amounts of topsoil and manure were imported to create a suitable medium for plant growth. Although there are many species of trees in the park, the forest is primarily composed of pine, cypress, and eucalyptus. Much of the forest was planted between 1871 and 1910. The forest is now over-mature and experiencing an accelerated loss of trees, particularly during winter storms. A reforestation effort was begun in 1980 and continues today.

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The park's forests have a unique and distinctive look created by the evergreen pine (primarily Monterey Pine), Monterey Cypress, and eucalyptus. This contrasts with other parks of the period that more closely resembled their indigenous natural deciduous forests. The three primary species were distributed throughout the park, either in small stands of similar trees, or in mixed groupings. During its first decades, the forest was well managed. A thinning program was established in 1886 (after some controversy) to open the forest to allow trees to branch into fuller trees, allowing for a more appealing and naturalistic forest. (This contrast with the Presidio of San Francisco, where similar plantations were not thinned, resulting in dense forests with narrow branching trees.)

The forest thinning allowed for a significant understory planting that included more evergreen species such as leptospermum and myoporum. The edges of the park were particularly densely planted to reinforce the illusion of the sylvan retreat by blocking views out to the developing city. This created a landscape design that was purposefully inward looking.

As previously mentioned, the park was generally divided at Strawberry Hill, with the eastern park being a more finished park with gardens, and the western park being a more wild woodland with paths and trails.

The park's numerous meadows are covered with turf grasses. Among the park's primary attractions are the many gardens and horticultural displays. These include Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Garden, the Japanese Tea Garden, Conservatory Valley, the Rhododendron Dell, the Rose Garden, the Queen Wilhelmina Tulip Garden, and many others where the horticultural display is the primary feature.

In the eastern part of Golden Gate Park, some of the bedrock hills are covered with oak woodlands. This is the only surviving indigenous vegetation in the park.

**Natural Features**

As most of the park is man-made environments, there are only a few natural features. These include the previously mentioned oak woodlands, and a few lakes (Mallard Lake and Chain of Lakes) that existed as seasonal ponds before the park was constructed.

**Recreation Facilities**

Golden Gate Park was always promoted as a retreat for all citizens, rich and poor. As recreation has evolved over the years, so have the park's facilities. The earliest recreation was simply strolling through the "sylvan retreat." In 1882, the park's first band stand was constructed in Conservatory Valley, providing concerts of popular band music of the day. In this period before recorded music, attending concerts was a very popular activity. In 1889, the Children's Quarter, consisting of the a playground, a carousel, and the Sharon Building, was completed as the first area of a public park in the United States dedicated to children. In the 1890s, active sports recreation was gaining in popularity. The Recreation Grounds (Big Rec baseball diamonds) were added in 1893, followed by the tennis courts in 1894. Bicycling was also gaining in popularity and the park's first bicycle path, which paralleled Main Drive, was constructed in 1896. The Stow Lake Boathouse provided rowboats for visitors beginning in 1894. The Mid Winter Fair of 1894 resulted in the creation of the Music Concourse and deYoung Museum, which now form the core of the park's cultural center that continues today along with the California Academy of Sciences.

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The first decade of the 20th Century saw the addition of the Golden Gate Park Stadium (Polo Field), handball courts, lawn bowling, petanque, a dog training field, and a model yacht club. Kezar Stadium and Kezar Pavilion were added in 1924. The 1930s saw a flurry of new recreation facilities, made possible through the federal economic recovery programs during the Great Depression. These facilities include the archery field, the Equestrian Center, the horseshoe courts, and the Angler's Lodge and Flycasting Pools. Also during this period replacement structures were built for the Model Yacht Club, the tennis clubhouse, and the handball courts.

**Buildings and Structures**

With few exceptions, the buildings in Golden Gate Park support the recreational mission of the park. Buildings in the park were kept to a minimum because they were viewed as intrusions to the naturalistic landscape. The Conservatory may be the only building in the park that was actually intended to be an architectural attraction in its own right. Other buildings such as McLaren Lodge and the Sharon Building were built to house specific park functions. They were built with rustic stone that would complement the naturalistic landscape. The growth of recreation resulted in clubhouse buildings to support activities such as tennis, golf, lawn bowling, model boating, and fly casting. With the exception of the Conservatory, the buildings in Golden Gate Park are there for functional reasons rather than as primary design elements. Most of the buildings and structures in the park retain a high degree of integrity. Individual buildings are described in the discussion of individual park features.

There are several structures from the period of significance that no longer exist (most were removed during the period of significance). Buildings and structures that are no longer present include:

- 1874 - Several small rustic shelters
- 1874 - First Superintendent's Lodge
- 1881 - The Casino restaurant (removed 1896)
- 1882 - Original Music Stand in Conservatory Valley (removed ca. 1888)
- 1890 - Aviary
- 1891 - Suspension Bridge
- 1891 - Sweeney Observatory on Strawberry Hill (destroyed in 1906 earthquake)
- 1892 - New Aviary (removed ca. 1930)
- 1894 - Temporary buildings for the Mid-Winter Fair (removed after fair)
- 1937 - Richmond-Sunset Sewage Treatment Plant (removed 1996)

**Utilities and Infrastructure**

The park has a network of utilities including water, electric, telephone, and storm water/sanitary sewer. Various parts of these systems have been built and rebuilt over the years. Although vital to the functioning of the park, these facilities are largely out of view. A significant reconstruction of water and electric systems has occurred over the last decade from work funded by the 1992 Golden Gate Park Infrastructure Bond. Because of the mixed heritage of the utilities and infrastructure, this is considered a noncontributing element.



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## Individual Park Resources

The individual resources of Golden Gate Park are presented here by geographic area. The park is generally divided into eastern, middle, and western park sections with Crossover Drive and Chain of Lakes Drive as the dividing points. Within these sections, resources are organized by general groupings such as the Music Concourse. Resources not within a defined grouping are listed together as "other areas."

### **Panhandle**

#### **Panhandle (The Avenue), ca. 1872, Contributing Site**

The Panhandle is the oldest part of Golden Gate Park. The narrow strip, one block wide and eight blocks long, was constructed as a connecting carriage road from the edge of the developed city to the park. It was originally called The Avenue and consisted of a meandering roadway down the center, lined with trees and shrubs to mitigate the prevailing westerly winds and blowing sand for visitors heading to the park. William Hammond Hall explained his design as follows: *"to plan and plant this Avenue reservation as a park, to impart a wooded effect, and by the overlapping of suitable tree masses, to arrest the sweep of the winds through it..."* As the city developed around the park, city streets were built, eliminating the need for The Avenue roadway. In the 1920s Masonic Street was extended across the Panhandle. This was accomplished by voter approved ordinance over the objections of the Park Commission. Over many years, portions of the original roadway were removed. Today all that remains is its meandering course that can be detected from the layout of the trees. Being some of the oldest trees in the park, the Panhandle has lost many of its canopy trees in recent years. Two paths run the length of the Panhandle today, the northern path for bicyclists, and the southern for pedestrians.

#### **Panhandle Playground, date unknown, Noncontributing Site**

The Panhandle playground has changed over the years with new playground equipment and structures. A basketball court is adjacent to the playground. It is not known when the playground was first established. The current playground equipment was installed in 1996.

#### **William McKinley Monument, 1904, Contributing Object**

by Robert Ingersoll Aitken, bronze and granite.

Gift of the McKinley Monument Committee, 1904. Located at the eastern end of the Panhandle at Baker Street, the McKinley Monument commemorates the twenty-fifth president of the United States. The 15-foot-high bronze figure at the top of the pedestal represents "Justice." McKinley was shot on September 5, 1901, and died nine days later. The monument retains its historic integrity.

#### **Panhandle Restroom, ca. 1930s, Contributing Building**

The Panhandle restroom is a small concrete structure with an asphalt shingle roof. The exterior appears to be original.

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### **Kezar Complex**

The Kezar Complex includes Kezar Stadium, Kezar Pavilion, the Park Emergency Aid Station and the Park Police Station. This area is separated from the rest of the park by the busy Kezar Drive. The structures in this complex have little relationship to the rest of the park, and have a different character. The stadium and buildings face out towards the street, unlike most other facilities which are oriented inward to the park.

#### **Kezar Stadium, 1924 and 1990, Noncontributing Structure**

Kezar Stadium sits at the southwest corner of the park. The original Kezar Stadium was built in 1924 on the site of the former nursery. It was expanded in 1928 with a seating capacity of 65,000 and was home of the San Francisco Forty-niners until 1969. The concrete stadium stands were demolished in 1989 for a stadium reconstruction in 1990. The new, smaller scaled facility has a track and playing field with ground-level seating built into the bowl. The structure has lost integrity and is therefore noncontributing.

#### **Kezar Pavilion, 1926, Contributing Building**

The Kezar Pavilion is a gymnasium building with seats for 4,000. The Spanish Mission style building was designed by Masten, Bangs, Hurd, and Chace, Architects and Engineers, of San Francisco. Willis Polk was also involved in the design. The building is constructed of cast concrete walls with steel framing and a tile roof. The building fronts on Stanyan Street and is largely unchanged, retaining its integrity.

#### **Park Emergency Aid Station, 1902, Contributing Building**

The Park Emergency Aid Station was the first freestanding building of the San Francisco Department of Public Health's emergency hospital service. It served as an emergency aid station until 1978. From then until 1991, the building served as an ambulance station. The building's exterior is load bearing brick walls covered with stucco and plaster. The building fronts on Stanyan Street. The roofing material has been replaced, but the building retains most of its historic fabric and therefore retains its integrity.

#### **Kezar Parking Lot, date unknown.**

This site is an open space at the south east corner of the park that has been paved and operated as a fee parking lot.

#### **Park Police Station, 1910, Contributing Building**

The Park District Police Station is a concrete (or stucco) structure with a tile roof. The building includes an attached (formerly) stables annex, connected to the main building with a breezeway. The exterior appears unchanged and retains its integrity.

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### **Children's Quarter**

The Children's Quarter is one of the most historically significant precincts within Golden Gate Park. Dating from 1888, the Children's Quarter may be the first area of a public park in the United States that is dedicated to children. It consists of three primary elements: the Sharon Building, the Carousel, and the Children's Playground. The integrity of the Sharon Building and the Carousel remains high, with both resources in good condition. The Children's Playground has undergone extensive physical changes over the years as the playground equipment has changed several times over the years. While the physical makeup of the Children's Playground has changed, the function and use of this area remains the same. Despite the physical changes at the playground, the integrity of the Children's Quarter is still present.

#### **Sharon Building, 1888, Contributing Building**

The Sharon Building was built as a canteen for children and mothers visiting the park's Children's Quarters. The building was designed by architects George W. Percy and Frederick F. Hamilton and is an excellent and rare (for San Francisco) example of sandstone Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. The building was severely damaged in the 1906 earthquake and was rebuilt according to the original plans. A fire damaged the building in 1974. A phased restoration of the building was completed in 1992 that restored the exterior to its historic form. The building retains most of its historic fabric and its integrity remains high. The building is currently used as an art center. The building sits with Sharon Meadow on one side and the Carousel on the other.

#### **Carousel Building and Ticket Pavilion, 1889, 2 Contributing Buildings**

The carousel building was built in 1889 to house the original carousel which was replaced with the existing one in 1941. The building is essentially a circular Greek temple with its domed roof supported by sixteen fluted, tapered wood Doric columns. It was designed by noted San Francisco architect Arthur Page Brown. The building was originally open air, but a glass and metal enclosure was added in 1964 (in a way that preserves the historic design and is reversible). Stone steps originally created a pedestal for the building, but they were removed or hidden when the area was regraded to eliminate the need for steps. A small ticket pavilion sits next to the carousel. A 2002 rehabilitation included a new metal roof, returning it to its original appearance. Although there have been some changes, the building retains its integrity with its historic design and a majority of its historic fabric.

#### **Carousel, 1941, Contributing Structure**

The carousel was built in 1914 (some records say 1912) by the Herschell-Spillman Company of North Tonawanda, New York. It originally operated in Lincoln Park in Los Angeles and was used at the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition, before being purchased and installed in Golden Gate Park in 1941. It had a complete restoration in 1984 which retained much of the historic fabric.

#### **Children's Playground, ca. 1888, Noncontributing Site**

The Children's Playground contains a number of play structures and attractions for children. The play equipment has evolved and changed extensively over the years, but the historic use remains. The playground received a major reconstruction in 1978-80 and further renovation in 1990. New safety regulations will probably result in more updating of equipment. The playground, along with the other elements of the Children's Quarters, the Sharon Building and the Carousel, comprise one of the earliest children's facility located in a public park. Although the historic use remains, there is no fabric from the period of significance and the site is therefore non-contributing.

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**Sharon Meadow, ca. 1880, Contributing Site**

Sharon Meadow and adjacent open spaces provide significant view corridors into this area of the park. The Sharon Building sits at the head of the meadow, not unlike a manor house. The well sheltered, bowl shaped meadow is a frequent site of outdoor events. The meadow has changed little from the historic period.

**Children's Quarter Restroom, ca. 1930s, Contributing Building**

The Children's Quarter restroom is a concrete structure with a tile roof. It retains most of its historic materials and construction.

**Foresters of America Memorial, 1927, Contributing Object**

Located just west of the Sharon Building, this marble fountain honors foresters killed in World War I, 1917-1919.

## **Conservatory Valley**

**Conservatory of Flowers, 1878, Contributing Building**

The Conservatory of Flowers was the first building in Golden Gate Park and remains its most significant. The Victorian wood and glass conservatory sits on a terrace above the sculpted Conservatory Valley. The building is a city and state landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic of Historic Places. The conservatory was acquired for the park from an estate while it was still in crates and constructed in 1878. A site was created on a plateau overlooking Conservatory Valley, with excellent views to the building from Main Drive. The Conservatory quickly became the focal point of the park in its early years. A fire damaged the building in 1883, with repairs that enlarge the building made by 1885. The wood and glass building was damaged by storms 1995. The building has undergone an extensive rehabilitation that has preserved much of the historic fabric. The building has been upgraded with structural improvements and new mechanical systems.

**Conservatory Valley, 1872, Contributing Site**

Conservatory Valley was graded in 1872 under the direction of William Hammond Hall as a setting for a conservatory. The valley was intended to be for flower gardens, and was sunken to provide additional shelter from the strong ocean winds. Conservatory Valley has long been, and remains today the social center of Golden Gate Park and is the perfect setting for the "Sunday in the park" experience. Although originally designed as a setting for flower gardens, much of the valley was paved between 1882 and sometime in the 1890s when the park's first bandstand was located at the west end of the valley. It was paved so that visitors could sit in their parked carriages while enjoying concerts. Flower gardens were restored in the 1890s. Today, it continues to be filled with seasonal floral displays.

**Dahlia Garden, 1939, Contributing Site**

The Dahlia Garden sits in the center of the Conservatory access drive turnaround. The garden is planted with numerous varieties of dahlias, San Francisco's official flower. Developed in 1939, it may have been in conjunction with other park improvements for the influx of visitors for the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition at Treasure Island.

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**Arizona Garden, 1894, Contributing Site**

The Arizona Garden is a historic collection of succulent plants, located east of the Conservatory. The garden is among many park improvements in response to the 1894 Mid Winter Fair. It sits on the south-facing slope adjacent to the Conservatory driveway turnaround.

**Tunnel Under Main Drive (at Conservatory Valley), ca. 1890, Contributing Structure**

Increasing carriage traffic in the park led to a number of grade separation projects including the tunnel under Main Drive at Conservatory Valley. The tunnel, retaining wall, and balustrade are constructed of concrete. It is on axis with the Conservatory, and the balustrade above the tunnel overlooks the gardens. Together with a suspension bridge (long removed) over Bowling Green Drive, the tunnel provided a pedestrian connection from Conservatory Valley to the new music concourse (site of the present tennis courts). Grade separated pathways such as this were an important functional feature of Frederick Law Olmsted's Central Park in New York. There are several such features in Golden Gate Park and they demonstrate the desire and concern for pedestrians to have a pleasant experience in the park, free of urban worries such as busy streets. Metal gates have been added to the tunnel, but it is otherwise in its original form.

**James A. Garfield Monument, 1885, Contributing Object**

by Frank Happersberger, bronze and granite.

Donated by the Garfield Monument Committee, 1885. Garfield, the twentieth president, was shot and killed only months after his inauguration. A local committee was formed to raise monies, and it commissioned artist Frank Happersberger to create the monument. The monument stands on top of a small knoll east of the conservatory on John F. Kennedy Drive.

**Conservatory Valley Restroom, 2003, Noncontributing Building**

The original Conservatory Valley restroom, located just west of the Conservatory (see Map 14), was originally constructed in the 1930s. As part of the Conservatory rehabilitation, the restroom building was demolished and reconstructed with completely new materials.

**Maintenance Yard and Nursery**

**Maintenance Yard, dates unknown, 3 Contributing Buildings, 7 Noncontributing Buildings**

The park maintenance yard consists of a complex of about 10 utilitarian buildings of various sizes as well as a paved yard for storage of materials and vehicles. Three of the buildings appear in an aerial photograph from the historic period. This area lacks integrity due to its mix of structures and constant state of change.

**Nursery, 1924, Contributing Site**

The nursery consists of a large open area for propagation of containerized plants for use throughout the park system. This site was established in 1924 as a replacement for the original nursery which was located on the site of Kezar Stadium.

**Greenhouses, dates unknown, Noncontributing Structures**

There are approximately 12 greenhouses of various ages and construction at the north end of the nursery. All are likely not from the period of significance. Some of the greenhouses were added during expansions in 1965 and 1988. Most are aluminum or other metal frames with glass or fiberglass glazing.

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**Music Concourse**

The Music Concourse is a cultural center for the park with a bandshell, natural history museum, art museum, and the Japanese Tea Garden. The area was redeveloped following the 1894 Mid Winter Fair. It stands in contrast to the rest of the park as an island of formal, Beaux Arts design, in an otherwise pastoral and naturalistic park. The two museums are currently undergoing a major reconstruction that will demolish the existing buildings and create new ones. An underground parking garage is also planned for the Concourse that will result in the removal of all surface parking and a narrowing of roadways.

**Music Concourse, 1900, Contributing Site**

The Music Concourse proper is the large open space opposite the Spreckels Temple of Music (bandshell). In its larger context, the Music Concourse is the cultural center of Golden Gate Park, flanked by the deYoung Museum and the California Academy of Sciences, as well as the Japanese Tea Garden at the western corner. The general arrangement and layout of this area is a remnant of the 1894 Mid Winter Fair. The Music Concourse bowl is approximately ten feet below the surrounding roadway, connected with several steps and ramps. The surface is composed of asphalt paths with fields of decomposed granite at its southwest end, and turf at its northeast end. The design is formal and axial. A bosque of pollarded deciduous trees, a number of which are now missing, provides a canopy in summer months. The primary species are London Plane and Scotch Elm. Rows of moveable benches fill the southwest end as seating for the bandstand. In the center is the Rideout Fountain which was added in 1924. It is flanked by the two Page fountains. The east end is dominated by the Francis Scott Key monument which sits on a grassy slope. The monument, which dates from 1887, was originally located at the park's second bandstand (now the tennis courts), and later in front of the Academy of Sciences, before being moved to its current location in 1977. Most of the original design, spatial organization and some of the historic fabric remains to preserve its historic integrity.

**Music Concourse Tunnels, ca. 1900, 3 Noncontributing Structures**

Three tunnels pass under the surrounding roadway, connecting the Music Concourse with surrounding areas. They are all of slightly different design, but consist of simulated stone cast concrete. As of this writing (June 2004) one of the tunnels has been demolished, and the other two will be demolished, as part of the in-progress construction of an underground parking garage under the roadways on either side of the Concourse. Two of the tunnels are planned to be reconstructed with all new material. The design will be similar to the historic tunnels, but altered to meet current codes for head clearances. The third tunnel will have its portals reconstructed to serve as entrances to the underground garage. These changes will result in the loss of integrity for these structures, but their continued design presence and function are important for maintaining the integrity of the Music Concourse.

**Spreckels Temple of Music, 1900, Contributing Structure**

The Spreckels Temple of Music, also known as the bandshell, was built with funds donated by the sugar magnate Claus Spreckels. It is a masonry and concrete structure clad on the exterior with Colusa sandstone. Designed by the Reid Brothers architects, the structure consists of a central half dome bandshell with two flanking colonnades of eight pairs of ionic columns. The bandshell was damaged in the 1906 earthquake and again in the 1989 earthquake. An extensive restoration and seismic upgrade was completed in 1994. The 1994 project provided structural strengthening that is not visible on the exterior. An accessible intermediate level stage was added as part of the project. Other parts of the building were restored to historic condition. Despite the addition of the additional stage, the structure maintains its historic integrity well.

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**Bandshell Annex, date unknown, Noncontributing Building**

The concrete bandshell annex sits directly behind the Spreckels Temple of Music. The annex contains public restrooms and dressing rooms for performances. The building was added after the period of significance.

**Rideout Fountain, 1924, Contributing Object**

by M. Earl Cummings, cast stone

Bequest of Corinne Rideout (\$10,000) for the use of the Park Department in embellishing Golden Gate Park, 1924. In the center of the central fountain in the Music Concourse standing on a pedestal bowl is a saber-toothed tiger in combat with a cobra-headed serpent. The sculpture, originally intended for bronze, was completed in cast stone. The sculptural element has had previous repairs which are now contributing to the sculpture's deterioration.

**Page Fountains, 1914, 2 Contributing Objects**

The Page Fountains were a gift of the widow of Charles Page. These are two circular reflecting pools with granite coping were completed in 1914. The fountain hardware is likely not from the period of significance, but otherwise the integrity is retained.

**Phoebe Hearst Fountain, 1926, Contributing Object**

This fountain, a tribute to Phoebe Apperson Hearst, consists of a cast stone double tier fountain with a pair of flanking classical stair cases, also done in cast stone. The fountain and steps appear to be unaltered.

**California Academy of Sciences, 1916-1976, Noncontributing Building**

The California Academy of Sciences was founded in San Francisco in 1853. Its second building on Market Street was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and fire. In 1916 a new museum was constructed in the Golden Gate Park Music Concourse opposite the deYoung Museum. First built was the North American Hall (now Wild California) followed by Steinhart Aquarium, 1923; Simson African Hall, 1934; Morrison Planetarium, 1952; Cowell Hall, 1969; Wattis Hall (and the Middle Drive East entrance), 1976; the Fish Roundabout, 1977; and Life Through Time, 1990. All of the existing buildings, except for African Hall, are planned for demolition by 2005, and the construction of a new building is scheduled for completion in 2007 or 2008. The African Hall is being incorporated into the new structure, but there will be an overall loss of integrity.

**M.H. de Young Memorial Museum, 2005 (est. completion), Noncontributing Building**

The de Young Museum was created when the Egyptian Revival Fine Arts building of the 1894 Mid Winter Exposition was given to the Park Commission. In 1919, major portions of the existing building were completed in the Spanish Plateresque style. The central section and the tower were added in 1921, and the west wing in 1925. The original (1894) building was deemed unsafe and demolished in 1929. In 1949, the concrete ornamentation that covered the facades of the 1919 building was determined to be a hazard and removed. The Brundidge wing and a rear expansion were added in 1965. The buildings were demolished in 2003 and a new building is scheduled to be opened in 2005. There is no historic integrity.

**Pool of Enchantment, 1917, Contributing Object**

by M. Earl Cummings, bronze

Gift of Maria Becker, 1917. This sculptural grouping of a young Indian boy playing a musical pipe to two listening California mountain lions sat in the pool at the entrance to the now-demolished M.H. de Young Museum.

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The sculpture is planned for placement in a new Pool of Enchantment (different design from original) to be constructed adjacent to the new de Young Museum. The sculpture is currently not present and listed as noncontributing.

**Japanese Tea Garden, 1894, Contributing Site, 2 Contributing Structures, 2 Noncontributing Structures**

The Japanese Tea Garden was created by George Turner Marsh as a "Japanese Village" feature of the 1894 Mid Winter Exposition. Marsh, an Australian, had lived for several years in Japan and had an interest in traditional Japanese Gardens. To create the village, he brought materials and hired craftsmen directly from Japan. The Tea Garden was designed and constructed by Makoto Hagiwara. It used the "Hill and Water" landscape concept to create a traditional Japanese rural style garden. At the close of the exposition, the Hagiwara family was hired to maintain the garden. Originally one acre in size, the garden was expanded to five acres in 1902 and Makoto Hagiwara designed the expanded garden. The Hagiwara family continued to live and work in the garden until 1942 when the family was interned during World War II. The garden consists of a number of elements including entry gates, tea house, gift shop, pagoda, and several bridges. The landscape is primarily evergreen, with deciduous accent plants. Meandering paths follow and cross the small waterway and ponds. Stone is used extensively in many of the site elements. The Main Gate, which dated to 1894, was reconstructed in 1985. The South Gate was also reconstructed in 1985. The five-story pagoda was originally constructed for a Japanese village at the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition. It was purchased by the Hagiwara family and moved to the Tea Garden after that fair closed. The garden has remained one of Golden Gate Park's primary attractions for over 100 years. The exact age of certain elements of the Tea Garden is not known, but overall, the garden retains a high degree of integrity from its historic period. The bridges and gift shop are of unknown ages and are not counted in the resources.

**Buddha, Created 1790, Placed in Tea Garden 1945, Noncontributing Object**

Unknown, bronze

Gift of S. & G. Gump Company in memory of A. Livingston Gump - Alfred Gump and William Gump, 1945. *Amazarasti-no-Hotoke*, the bronze Buddha, was cast in 1790 in Tajima Province on Honshu for the Taioriji Temple. The Buddha was passed from one Japanese collector to the next until purchased by A.L. Gump in 1928. For fifteen years it sat in the downstairs Oriental Court of the Post Street Gump's store until remodeling banished it to storage. When a wooden Buddha in the Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park was destroyed by vandals, the Gump family donated the giant figure in memory of their father.

**North Tunnel (under JFK Drive), 1897, Contributing Structure**

This classical-style concrete and stone tunnel was completed in 1897 to provide a connection for pedestrians to the planned Music Concourse from Fulton Street where street cars terminated. The structure, designed by Coxhead & Coxhead architects, includes carved Rocklin granite arches that were loosely based on the Arch of Titus from ancient Rome. The tunnel is approximately 130 feet long, with balustrades on each side of Main Drive (now JFK Drive). It is another example of efforts to provide separation between park walkers and the busy drives. At some point in the past, the floor of the tunnel was raised at least 12 inches, and metal gates have been added. Otherwise, the tunnel retains its historic integrity.



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**Miguel De Cervantes Memorial, 1916, Contributing Object**

by Jo Mora, bronze and natural stone

Gift to the city by E.J. Molera and C.J. Cebrian, 1916. Miguel de Cervantes, Spanish novelist, playwright, and poet looks down at two of his fictional creations, Don Quixote and Sancho Panza, who kneel before him. This monument is located on Museum Drive just off John F. Kennedy Drive in the Music Concourse area.

**Sphinxes, 1903, 2 Contributing Objects**

by Arthur Putnam, cast concrete

The two cast sphinxes which flank the footpath entrance to the parking area of the de Young Museum were the result of an act of charity to the artist, Arthur Putnam. A wealthy patron wanted to assist the artist, who was destitute but too proud to accept charity, so she employed him to replace the sphinxes which had been part of the Egyptian Building at the 1894 Midwinter Fair. They were later placed at the original museum's main entrance.

**U.S. Grant Memorial, 1896, Contributing Object**

by Rupert Schmid, bronze and granite

Donated by a committee of San Francisco citizens chaired by Congressman O'Connor, 1896. The funds raised by the committee paid for sculptor Rupert Schmid's imposing statue to the memory of General Grant, who was the eighteenth president and Civil War general. The monument, located on the south side of Museum Drive in the Music Concourse, has had a cannon ball replaced by the Art Commission, but is still missing a major sculptural element on the front of the base.

**Sundial, 1907, Contributing Object**

by M. Earl Cummings, bronze and cast stone

Gift of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in California, 1907. The Sundial, which is on the north side of Museum Drive across from the Cider Press, was given as a commemorative piece for three great navigators: Sir Francis Drake, Juan de Cabrillo, and Fortuo Ximines.

**Leonidas (Roman Gladiator), 1884, Contributing Object**

by George Geefs, bronze and granite

Gift of the Midwinter Fair Committee, 1894. Only recently did the Art Commission learn the name of this heroic figure. Formerly called "Roman Gladiator," research for the Midwinter Fair has identified the figure as Leonidas, a Greek king. Leonidas, exhibited at the 1894 Midwinter Fair, was moved to mark the spot where M.H. de Young turned the first spade of dirt to begin construction of the fair.

**Lion, 1906, Contributing Object**

by R. Hinton Perry, bronze

Gift of Shreve & Co., 1906. Very little information exists about the gift of the bronze lion that sits contentedly upon a rock just north of the de Young Museum on Museum Drive.

**Robert Emmet Memorial, 1919, Contributing Object**

by Jerome Connor, bronze and granite

Gift of James D. Phelan and possibly the United Irish Society of San Francisco, 1919. This statue of Robert Emmet, commemorating the celebrated Irish Patriot and rebel hanged in 1803, stands on Academy of Sciences

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Drive, south of the aquarium in the Music Concourse area. The rendering of Emmet in the park depicts him delivering a famous eloquent speech from the docks. Eamon De Valera, President of the Irish Republic in 1919, spoke at the dedication. The bronze statue stands on a granite base.

**Ludwig Van Beethoven Monument, 1915, Contributing Object**

by Henry Baerer, bronze and granite

Gift of the Beethoven Maennerchor of New York, 1915. The monument dedicated to the memory of the famous deaf composer is located in the Music Concourse area of the park. At the August 15, 1915, dedication, the gift from the Beethoven Maennerchor of New York was presided over by the German-American Auxiliary to the Panama Pacific Exposition while the park band played selections from the composer. The statue is a replica of the one given the city of New York by the same society.

**Guiseppe Verdi Monument, 1914, Contributing Object**

by Orazio Grossoni, bronze and granite

Gift of the Italian Colony of San Francisco (Ettore Patrizzi, Chairman) and funded public subscription, and by special performances of Verdi operas at the Tivoli, 1914. The monument to Verdi is located to the south side of the parking area behind the Temple of Music Band Shell. Over 20,000 people attended the dedication of this 52-ton statue of Verdi in 1914. Also present was the opera singer Luisa Tetrazzini, who sang a selection from Verdi's "Aida." The statue was made in Italy, and all the materials came from that country.

**Goethe and Schiller Monument, 1901, Contributing Object**

by Ernst Friedrich Rietschel, bronze and granite

Gift of a committee of Lauchhammer citizens with funds from German residents in San Francisco, 1901. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, perhaps the greatest of German poets, and Johann Cristoph Friedrich von Schiller, poet, dramatist, and philosopher, were friends through a good portion of their adult lives. The monument stands east of the planetarium along a footpath off of the Music Concourse. Weimar, Germany, is also home to the same statue by Ernst Rietschel.

**The (Apple) Cider Press, 1894, Contributing Object**

by Thomas Shields-Clark, bronze

Purchased by M.H. de Young and presented to the city by the Executive Committee of the Midwinter International Exposition, 1894. The statue remains in its original location from the Midwinter Fair on Museum Drive in the Music Concourse area across from the de Young Museum. The press has been mistakenly identified as a wine press by some because of California's wine industry. The child at the feet of the worker hides an apple while holding a straw, which is missing. The statue was originally a drinking fountain (and some stories claim it held cider, not water).

**Francis Scott Key Monument, 1888, Contributing Object**

by William Wetmore Story, bronze and travertine

Gift of James Lick Bequest, 1887. The monument commemorates Francis Scott Key and the national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner." Lick was an apprentice in Baltimore at the time of the siege of Fort McHenry and therefore must have felt particular sentiment for Key and his poem. Dedicated July 4, 1888, the monument was originally located at the park's second band stand, the site of the present-day tennis courts. After the relocation of the Music Concourse, the monument was moved in 1909 to the courtyard

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entrance of the Academy of Sciences. The monument was placed in storage in 1966 with the redevelopment of the Academy entry. After a long period in storage, the monument was re-erected in its present location at the east end of the Music Concourse in and dedicated on July 4, 1977. A time capsule was placed in its base.

**General John J. Pershing Monument, 1922, Contributing Object**

by Haig Patigian

Gift of Dr. Morris Herzstein, 1922. North of the Francis Scott Key Monument in the Music Concourse, this statue honors General John J. Pershing, Commander in Chief of the American Expeditionary Force in World War I. Pershing lived in San Francisco while stationed at the Presidio. The monument was to a living hero, as Pershing lived until 1948. It is the only statue in Golden Gate Park with its own endowment fund which allows for the statue to receive regular ongoing maintenance.

**Padre Junipero Serra Monument, 1907, Contributing Object**

by Douglas Tilden, bronze and granite

Commissioned by James D. Phelan, 1907. Located at the junction of Museum Drive and Academy of Sciences Drive, across from the monument to Cervantes, the bronze figure of Padre Junipero Serra strides forward with a cross in his right hand and his other hand raised in benediction. This was Douglas Tilden's last monumental work. The base of the sculpture was designed by architect Edgar Mathews.

**Thomas Starr King Memorial, 1892, Contributing Object**

by Daniel Chester French, bronze and granite

Gift of the Starr King Monument Committee, 1892. Thomas Starr King was a Unitarian clergyman, a pastor in Boston and San Francisco. He played a big part in saving California for the Union at the outbreak of the Civil War. The monument is located at the intersection of John F. Kennedy Drive and the Academy of Sciences Drive in the Music Concourse area. Sculptor Daniel Chester French is famous for his "Minuteman" in Concord and his Abraham Lincoln in Washington, D.C.

**Tour Bus Parking, unknown**

The area between the Spreckels Temple of Music and MLK Drive has been developed into a tour bus parking area, consisting of a large asphalt area and a small kiosk for an attendant.

**Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens**

Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens is a park within a park. The 70-acre site consists of a series of geographic and thematic gardens. The arboretum has an overall design consisting of a series of paths, meadows, and gardens organized by a central axis.

**Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, 1937 to present, Contributing Site**

John McLaren first proposed an arboretum on this site in 1890, based on the idea of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum. Other than the planting of some trees, little happened until 1926 when Helene Strybing gave a gift to the Park Commission for development of the arboretum as a memorial to her late husband Christian Strybing. A 1930s master plan established the design concepts of the central axis and the geographic

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plant collections display theme. The arboretum officially opened in May 1940. Gardens have been added through the years, and 55 of the 70 acres are developed. There are several individual gardens and garden structures within the arboretum from various years (these have not been counted as resources).

**San Francisco County Fair Building, 1960, Noncontributing Building**

The County Fair Building, formerly known as the Hall of Flowers, contains an auditorium, meeting rooms, exhibition space, and offices for Strybing Arboretum. The Mid-century Modern building was designed by architects Appleton and Wolfard and is constructed of cast concrete walls that are scored into blocks and a metal pan roof. The name was changed in 1986 to avoid confusion with the Conservatory of Flowers.

**Helen Crocker Russell Horticultural Library, 1972, Noncontributing Building**

The horticultural library was designed by the firm of Yuill-Thorton, Warner and Levikow, and dedicated in 1972. The building is an extension of the County Fair Building and houses the library and arboretum offices. It is of similar construction as the County Fair Building with cast concrete walls scored into blocks and a metal roof.

**Strybing Arboretum Restroom, 2003, Noncontributing Building**

Newly built, concrete restroom building.

## **Stow Lake Area**

**Stow Lake, 1893, Contributing Site**

Stow Lake is a somewhat improbable site for the largest lake in Golden Gate Park. The 12.7-acre lake is built on the flank of Strawberry Hill, the largest bedrock hill in the park. Set on a broad terrace around the entire hill, the lake made Strawberry Hill an island. Stow Lake was completed, along with Huntington Falls, in 1893. When it was proposed, there were critics that said putting a lake on the side of a hill was impractical and foolish. It was built as an overflow lake for a major reservoir set on top of Strawberry Hill. The elevation of the lake and reservoir meant that there was a large storage capacity of irrigation water that could feed most of the park by gravity, ensuring that water would be available in the event of pump breakdowns. The lake was constructed with a 10-inch layer of clay on top of which was placed a 3-inch layer of crushed rock that was rolled into the clay. The lake edge is naturalistic, with plants and turf at the water edge. Boating continues to be a popular activity on Stow Lake, as it has been for over 100 years. Prior to construction of Stow Lake, Strawberry Hill was known as "The Island" because it was a vegetated hill in a sea of sand. Strawberry Hill provided spectacular views in all directions, and was a popular viewpoint of the Mid Winter Fair in 1894. A carriage road traversed up the side of the hill.

**Stow Lake Boathouse, 1893 and 1946, Noncontributing Building**

The Stow Lake Boathouse was first constructed in 1893 and later rebuilt in 1946. It is situated at the northernmost part of Stow Lake. The building provides space for boat rentals, a food concession, a gardeners' office, and concession office. Restrooms are located on the lower level. The gabled building has horizontal wood siding and an asphalt-shingled roof.

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**Stow Lake Restroom, 2001, Noncontributing Building**

The newly built, fully accessible concrete structure replaced restrooms in the basement of the boathouse.

**Huntington Falls, 1893 and 1984, Noncontributing Site**

Huntington Falls was designed as a spectacular waterfall feature connecting the Strawberry Hill reservoir and Stow Lake. It is situated in the east side of Strawberry Hill and provides a spectacular focal point when viewed from the east end of Stow Lake. Stairs and an overlook adjacent to the upper falls provide spectacular views of the park (and of the Midwinter Fair when it was in operation). The falls consist of concrete sculpted to look like natural rock and provide a cascade approximately 90 feet high. In 1962, a broken irrigation line undermined much of the concrete foundations for the falls, causing its collapse. The falls were completely reconstructed in 1984. The falls are named in honor of railroad magnate Collis P. Huntington.

**Chinese Pavilion, 1981, Noncontributing Structure**

The Chinese Pavilion was a gift from San Francisco's sister city Taipei, Taiwan. The wood and concrete structure was built in 1981 as a Chinese-style moon-viewing platform.

**Sweeney Observatory, 1891, Noncontributing Site**

The Sweeney Observatory was a two-story circular stone structure for viewing of the spectacular vistas from the top of Strawberry Hill. It was built with funds donated by Thomas U. Sweeney, who arrived in San Francisco with only \$15 in his pocket, and then proceeded to make a fortune in real estate. Sweeney was a squatter in the Outside Lands and benefited from the legal settlement when these lands were annexed by San Francisco. At its dedication, former mayor Frank McCoppin commented that *"Mr. Sweeney, though not by any means one of the largest beneficiaries, is the first and only one thus far to show a direct tangible appreciation of the benefits then conferred upon by a generous community..."* It should be noted that William Hammond Hall, and later John McLaren, was opposed to the adding of various structures in the park including Sweeney Observatory and the Mid Winter Fair. They saw these as intrusions on the park's integrity as a natural refuge. The observatory was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and never rebuilt. All that remains today is the circular concrete foundation and a few of the building stones. Historic integrity has been lost.

**Roman Bridge, 1893, Contributing Structure**

The Roman Bridge crosses the north side of Stow Lake and provided a connection to the carriage road to the top of Strawberry Hill. The bridge is a gentle arch and is constructed of iron-reinforced, smooth-finished concrete and designed by architect Arthur Page Brown. The Roman Bridge appears to have changed little from the historic period.

**Rustic Stone Bridge, 1893, Contributing Structure**

The Rustic Stone Bridge is a more steeply arching pedestrian bridge that crosses the south arm of Stow Lake. The bridge is probably a concrete structure but is covered with bulging rustic stones. This bridge was also designed by Arthur Page Brown. The bridge is unchanged from its historic period.

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**Other Eastern Park Resources (Stanyan Street to Crossover Drive)**

**McLaren Lodge (Park Lodge), 1896, Contributing Building**

McLaren Lodge is the administrative headquarters of the Recreation and Park Department. It was built in 1896 to house the (then) Park Commission and as a residence for Superintendent John McLaren. McLaren lived in the Lodge for forty-seven years. During his life, the building was known as the Park Lodge. It was designed in a Moorish-Gothic style by architect Edward R. Swain. The exterior walls are 18" thick ashlar basalt masonry with sandstone quoins. The building appears to be in its historic condition except for an accessible ramp that was added at the facade. The ramp blends well with the original architecture and does not mar the building's overall integrity. McLaren Lodge is San Francisco City Landmark #175.

**Annex, 1950, Noncontributing Building**

The Annex is located behind McLaren Lodge and houses additional offices of the Recreation and Park Department. The yellow brick and glass building was constructed in 1950. The annex is sited inconspicuously behind McLaren Lodge and the two buildings are connected by a breezeway.

**Haight Street Gate, 1998, Noncontributing Structure**

The existing concrete and stone gate was constructed in 1998. This was the site of two previous gates, an early one made of wood, and granite pillars and benches that were constructed in 1909 to commemorate William McCauley.

**Alvord Bridge, 1889, Contributing Structure**

Alvord Bridge was constructed to provide a safe, grade-separated path from the Haight Street entrance to the Children's Quarter. The bridge's significance extends beyond Golden Gate Park as it is the first steel reinforced concrete bridge in the United States. It was designed by engineer Ernest Ransome and is an ornamental structure with imitation stone finish on its exterior, and concrete stalactites hanging from inside the 20' span. Alvord Bridge was designated as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark in 1969. The only major change to the structure was the addition of metal gates added ca. 1998.

**Alvord Lake, 1882, Contributing Site**

Park Commissioner William Alvord donated \$200 for construction of a lily pond to grow hardy lilies. The pond was enlarged in 1889 at the time of the construction of Alvord Bridge, which required extensive grading. The pond is lined with concrete (unlike other park lakes which are lined with clay) and rocks including a small island.

**Alvord Lake Restroom, ca. 1930s, Contributing Building**

The Alvord Lake restroom is a small concrete structure with a tile roof. The exterior of the structure appears to be unchanged from its historic condition.

**Arguello Gate, 1915, Contributing Structure**

The park entry at Fulton Street and Arguello Boulevard consists of two large pylons and flanking walls. The structure is made of stone ornamented with polychrome terra cotta and copper metal urns and globes. The gate was a gift of Philomen Clark in memory of Crawford W. Clark. It appears unchanged from its historic condition.

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**Stanyan/Fulton Wall, ca. 1902, Contributing Structure**

The stone masonry wall extends along Stanyan Street from Fell Street and along Fulton Street to 2nd Ave. The wall is composed of rustic stone-like rectangular blocks and a concrete cap. It serves as a retaining wall over most of its length around the northeast corner of the park. It is not known exactly when the wall was built.

**Tennis Courts, 1901, Contributing Site**

With the completion of the Spreckels Temple of Music in 1900, the site of the park's second music stand was available for other uses. Eight tennis courts were originally installed in 1901. As of 1935, there were twenty-one courts, the same number that exists today, in the exact arrangement as they were during the historic period.

**Tennis Clubhouse, 1950, Noncontributing Building**

The Tennis Clubhouse is a modern style building constructed of brick and concrete. It was built in 1950 and replaced two previous clubhouses that were built in 1917 and 1939. The existing building was not present during the period of significance.

**Lawn Bowling Greens, 1901-1928, Contributing Site**

The first lawn bowling green was constructed in 1901 and is reportedly, the first public lawn bowling green in the United States. Another lawn bowling green for women was built in 1913, and a third green was completed in 1928.

**Lawn Bowling Clubhouse, 1915, Contributing Building**

The lawn bowling clubhouse is a flat-roofed, wood frame Edwardian style building, built in 1915 to replace an earlier clubhouse dating to 1902. The building contains locker rooms and restrooms. There is a small extension on the east side of the building that was added in 1971. This addition is modest and does not diminish the integrity of the original building. The lawn bowling clubhouse is City Landmark #181.

**General Henry Halleck, 1886, Contributing Object**

by Carl H. Conrads, granite

Gift of Major General G.W. Callum (General Halleck's best friend), 1886. The monument to Henry W. Halleck is nestled in a grove of trees on John F. Kennedy Drive across from Peacock Meadow. General Halleck, a West Point graduate, had a distinguished military career, but is also known for helping to frame the state of California's constitution, and for building the Montgomery block, San Francisco's first fireproof building.

**Baseball Player, 1891, Contributing Object**

by Douglas Tilden, bronze and sandstone

Gift from W.E. Brown of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Dedicated in 1891, placed in the park in 1892. The statue of the Baseball Player on John F. Kennedy Drive was presented to the city in honor of the sculptor, Douglas Tilden. Tilden, a deaf mute from early childhood, was one of California's most gifted and beloved artists. The badly spalling pedestal's dedication should read: "Presented to Golden Gate Park by a friend of the sculptor as a tribute to his energy, industry, and ability." Other works by Tilden in the city's civic art collection include the Mechanics Monument, the Native Sons Monument, the Spanish-American War Monument, and Father Junípero Serra.

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**John McLaren, 1911, Noncontributing Object**

by M. Earl Cummings, bronze

Gift of A.B. Spreckels, 1944. A life-size sculpture of John McLaren, the longest serving superintendent of Golden Gate Park (1890-1943), stands on a sloping hillside in the John McLaren Memorial Rhododendron Dell, on John F. Kennedy Drive opposite 6th Avenue. The bronze figure stands at ground level, absent the standard granite pedestal. The artist was a park commissioner and a good friend of McLaren's, but the superintendent refused to accept the statue made in 1911 in his honor. The work stood on Cummings' doorstep for years until its placement in 1944 after McLaren's death.

**Robert Burns Memorial, 1908, Contributing Object**

by M. Earl Cummings, bronze and granite

Gift of the Scottish people in San Francisco, 1908 (John D. McGilvray, chairman). This statue of the celebrated Scottish poet is on the south side of John F. Kennedy Drive, opposite the 8th Avenue and Fulton Street entrance. On the base is a bronze plaque with a rustic scene of a farmer and two horses, and Burns' poem "To a Mountain Daisy."

**Father William D. McKinnon, 1927, Contributing Object**

by D. John McQuarrie, bronze and granite

Gift of Bay Area Spanish-American War veterans and American Legion posts, 1927. Father McKinnon was a wartime chaplain of the First California Volunteers of 1898 and 1899. He was also a teacher at Santa Clara University. He was the first Catholic chaplain in Manila and is reported to have made many friends among the Filipinos. Originally, the statue did not please the donors and the Park Department refused to place it. Fifteen years later, in 1927, the statue was taken from an Oakland backyard, treated, and placed.

**Brown Gate (cougar and bear), 1908, Contributing Object**

by M. Earl Cummings, bronze and sandstone

The 8th Avenue and Fulton Street Gate was given to the park in 1908 by Suzanna Brown. Atop each side of the gate is a bronze sculpture, a crouching, snarling bear on the east side and a crouching, growling cougar on the other. In 1948 the road needed widening, so the gateway was moved several feet apart with aid received from the Beardslee Bequest Fund. The gate consists of rustic stone pillars and flanking rustic stone seatwalls.

**Handball Courts, 1902-1937, Contributing Building**

The handball courts consist of a concrete structure with glass skylight roof. Records indicate that handball courts were first constructed in 1902 and rebuilt in 1937. It is not known how extensive the 1937 reconstruction was, however all or part of the existing structure may date from that effort. The building has a furnace to prevent condensation from forming on the concrete walls.

**Big Rec Baseball Grounds (Recreation Grounds), 1893, Contributing Site**

Originally shown on William Hammond Hall's 1870 plan for Golden Gate Park, the baseball diamonds were officially developed in 1893. Approximately 12 acres in size, the large open meadow once held as many as nine baseball games. Early diamonds consisted of turf and simple wood and screen backstops. Today, there are two regulation baseball diamonds with skinned infields and concrete stands. The east stands were constructed in 1950, and the other stands probably later. The grandstands are named in honor of James Nealon, founder of a benefit fund for injured ballplayers, and Charles Graham, first owner of the San Francisco Seals. Although the diamonds and stands are from after the period of significance, the site, overall, retains its historic integrity.



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**Big Rec Restroom, ca. 1930s, Contributing Building**

The Big Rec restroom is a Mission Style concrete structure with a stucco finish and a tile roof. It includes space for a recreation director's office.

**Shakespeare Garden, 1928, Contributing Site**

The Shakespeare Garden was created in 1928 from an idea of Alice Eastwood, Curator of Botany at the California Academy of Sciences. The garden contains numerous plants that are mentioned in Shakespeare's works. Formal in its design, the garden is approximately 1/2 acre in size and consists of hedges, turf and paved walks. The focal point is a brick wall which contains six bronze panels with 88 floral quotations from Shakespeare's plays and a recessed case containing a bronze bust of Shakespeare. The bust was a gift from the citizens of Stratford-on-Avon, England, and is a copy of the cast made in 1814 by George Bullock from a stone bust created by Garrett Jenson shortly after Shakespeare's death. The garden also has a cast iron and limestone sundial at its center which was created by L Cardini and installed in 1928. The brick and wrought iron gate at the garden's entrance was added during a 1988 renovation of the garden.

**Sunken Meadow, date unknown, Contributing Site**

Sunken Meadow is bisected by JFK (Main) Drive near 14th Ave. It is one of the numerous open spaces that form the spatial framework of the park. It is not known exactly when it was created, however it was likely formed with the park's original planting as part of the varied views as park visitors travel down the main drive. It is evident on the 1935 aerial photograph.

**Sunken Meadow Restroom, ca. 1930s, Contributing Building**

The Sunken Meadow restroom is a small Mission Style concrete structure with a tile roof.

**Horseshoe Courts, 1922-1937, Contributing Site and 1 Contributing Object**

The horseshoe courts are located on the side of Mt. Lick in the northeast corner of the park. The area includes 16 courts and they were reportedly first developed on this site in 1922. Additional work on the site, including the mortared rock work, likely happened in the 1930s as a Works Progress Administration project. At the end of the courts, on the hillside, is a monumental bas relief concrete horse created in 1937 by Jesse "Vet" Anderson of the Horseshoe Club.

**Horseshoe Courts Restroom, ca. 1930s, Contributing Building**

The horseshoe courts restroom is a small Mission Style concrete structure with a tile roof.

**Peacock Meadow (Peacock Lawn), 1895, Contributing Site**

Peacock Meadow is a small open space between Conservatory Valley and McLaren Lodge. The name likely derives from peacocks that once lived here, but it may also refer to the ladies in colorful costumes that paraded in the area.

**Casino Meadow, 1896, Contributing Site**

Casino Meadow is located west of the Conservatory and is the site of a casino originally built in 1882. The casino included a restaurant and meeting rooms and was rumored to host illicit activities. It was expanded with a second story in 1890 and apparently removed in 1896. The meadow now hosts the annual Shakespeare in the Park festival.

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**de Laveaga Dell (Deer Glen, National AIDS Memorial Grove), 1902-Present, Noncontributing Site**

The de Laveaga Dell is set in a natural glen, west of the tennis courts. It was developed into a landscape feature in 1902 by John McLaren, with funds donated by Joseph de Laveaga. McLaren used a natural seasonal spring and created a rockery cascade under the canopy of oaks and other indigenous vegetation. He planted numerous species of ferns. Prior to this development, the site was called the Deer Glen and was a fenced compound housing the park's deer collection. The area fell into disuse and became overgrown until 1991, when a volunteer group chose the site for the AIDS Memorial Grove. Extensive work was done to improve the site and several new features were added including paths, terraces, and planting. This work has transformed the site which has lost its historic integrity, but McLaren's rockery has been preserved.

**Quarry Lake (Lily Pond), 1902, Contributing Site**

Quarry Lake was created from one of several red rock quarries in the park. The lake is completely secluded by the surrounding hills. Its character is further enhanced by the gnarled trees clinging to the surrounding slopes and the exotic tree ferns that give the area a primeval feeling.

**Tree Fern Dell, 1939, Contributing Site**

Australian tree ferns were reportedly first brought to the park by Alice Eastwood, Curator of Botany at the California Academy of Sciences. The ferns thrived in the park and this grove was planted across JFK Drive from Conservatory Valley. Its unique primeval character makes this one of the most notable features in the park, and is one of the horticultural features that make Golden Gate Park's landscape so unique.

**Powell Street Railway Shelter, 1889, Contributing Building**

The Powell Street Railway Shelter was constructed in 1889 and as a gateway to the park for riders of the Powell Street Cable Car. It served the railroad until 1906, and now serves as a pedestrian entrance. The shelter is a gable-roofed rectangular structure that is open on both ends. The walls are a combination of wood, concrete, and brick. The roof structure is composed of exposed heavy timber trusses with mortise and tenon joints. Inside, continuous wooded benches line both sides. The building is a unique piece of the park's past as a reminder of how most visitors reached the park, and it has relevance today with efforts to reduce automobile impacts and encourage use of transit. The building appears to have no significant changes since the historic period.

**Ninth Ave. Playground, date unknown, Noncontributing Site**

This small playground, at Fulton Street and Ninth Ave., sits in a small meadow at the north end of the tunnel under JFK Drive. It is not known when this feature was established, but there do not appear to be any historic elements that would date from the period of significance.

**Rhododendron Dell, 1942, Contributing Site**

Among John McLaren's many contributions to Golden Gate Park was a great increase in the use and variety of rhododendrons, which grow in abundance in his native Scotland. The majority of his first rhododendron dell was destroyed with the development of Kezar Stadium. East of the music concourse, the new rhododendron dell stretches across 25 acres on the north facing slope of the park's middle ridge. A series of gravel paths meander through the tree-sized rhododendrons. It was started in 1942, and designated as the John McLaren Memorial Rhododendron Dell after his death in 1943.

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**Heroes Redwood Grove, 1939, Contributing Site**

The Heroes Redwood Grove is a 15-acre memorial appropriately set in a shaded ravine on the north side of the park between 10th Ave. and Park Presidio Blvd. It was dedicated by the Gold Star Mothers of San Francisco to their sons and daughters that lost lives in World War I.

**Gold Star Mothers Rock, 1932, Contributing Object**

Erected by the San Francisco Chapter No. 1, Gold Star Mothers of America in 1932, the 20-ton boulder was removed from Twin Peaks to be the main element of the Gold Star Mother's Rock. The boulder, inscribed with names of the sons and daughters from San Francisco who died in World War I, was erected and dedicated in what is now the Heroes Redwood Grove on the north side of the park near Fulton Street and 10th. Ave.

**Rose Garden, 1961, Noncontributing Site**

The Rose Garden was developed in 1961 on the site of what was once a roadway between 14th Ave. and Main (JFK) Drive. The roadway was removed when Park Presidio Bypass was built in 1939. The garden consists of a double row of rectangular beds and numerous varieties of roses.

**Thomas Masaryk Memorial, 1962, Noncontributing Object**

by J. Matatka, bronze and granite

The bust of Thomas Garrigue Masaryk, the principal figure in the creation of the Czechoslovakian Republic after World War I, stands at the entrance of the Rose Garden on JFK Drive. It was installed in the park in 1962 through a gift of the San Francisco Chapter of Sokol, a Czechoslovakian gymnastic association. The bust was previously exhibited at the 1939 World's Fair on Treasure Island.

**The Redwood Memorial Grove, 1930, Contributing Site**

The Redwood Memorial Grove was dedicated by the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West. The memorial honors members of that organization that were killed in World War I. The grove consists of 37 redwood trees, one for each fallen member. Doughboy Meadow is named for the doughboy statue that is part of the memorial.

**The Doughboy, 1930, Contributing Object**

by M. Earl Cummings, bronze and natural stone

Dedicated in 1930, the Doughboy memorializes members of the San Francisco Parlors of the Native Sons of the Golden West that were killed in World War I. Additional names were added after World War II to honor members who died in that war. The Doughboy statue, a hatless male figure holding a wreath to his chest, is flanked by two wood flag poles. The memorial is located north of JFK Drive near 16th Avenue.

**Doughboy Meadow, date unknown, Contributing Site**

This is a small meadow along the north side of JFK Drive, with the Doughboy memorial and flagpoles along its western edge. The date of its creation is unknown, but it is visible on the 1935 aerial photograph and was present during the period of significance.

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**Pioneer Log Cabin, 1911, Contributing Building**

The Pioneer Log Cabin was built as a meeting house for the Association of Pioneer Women of California. It was built in 1911 and expanded in 1931. The building is constructed of unpeeled redwood logs from Humboldt County and has two rustic masonry chimneys. It received an extensive restoration which was completed in 1995, preserving most of the historic fabric and integrity.

**Pioneer Mother, 1914/1940, Contributing Object**

by Charles Grafly, bronze and stone

Standing near the Pioneer Log Cabin at the entrance to Stow Lake off JFK Drive, the Pioneer Mother commemorates pioneer women and the role women played in settling the West. The monument was installed in 1940, a gift of the Native Daughters of the Golden West. The statue was created in 1914 and first exhibited at the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition. She was neglected at the Palace of Fine Arts for many years. She was finally rescued and exhibited briefly at the 1939-'40 Golden Gate International Exposition before being placed in the park.

**Prayer Book Cross, 1894, Contributing Object**

by Ernest Coxhead, sandstone

Prayerbook Cross, which stands on a hill on the north side of JFK Drive, opposite 20th Avenue, was erected by the Northern California Episcopal Diocese to commemorate the first religious service in the English language on the Pacific Coast, held by Francis Fletcher, chaplain to Sir Francis Drake, on the shores of Drake's Bay on June 24, 1579. The sandstone cross stands 57 feet high, and was modeled after a Celtic Cross on the Scottish island of Iona. It was unveiled on opening day of the Mid Winter Fair, January 1, 1894.

**Rainbow Falls and Cascade, 1930, Contributing Site**

Located just below Prayer Book Cross, Rainbow Falls is a man-made waterfall and rockery, with water pumped from Lloyd Lake. It was a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Fleishhacker, who returned from a trip to Paris in 1924 with pictures of a waterfall in the Bois de Boulogne. John McLaren recreated it in Golden Gate Park. The falls were originally constructed with colored lights (no longer functioning) behind the falls to give the impression of rainbows in the mist. The falls enter a small pool at the base and flow into a cascade rockery that carries the water downhill along the main drive, to flow into Lloyd Lake.

**Polo Field/Stables Recreation Area**

**Golden Gate Park Stadium (Polo Field), 1906-1909, Contributing Site**

The Golden Gate Park Stadium, more commonly known as the Polo Field, was built in 1909 as a scaled down version of what was planned to be the world's largest amphitheater designed by architect brothers James and Merritt Reid. The 1910 Park Commissioners Report referred to the stadium as a new idea which was setting an example that drew the interest of other cities across the country. In 1911 there was a plan to complete the stadium as part of the proposed 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition. There was even a ground breaking, but the plan was shelved when it was decided to move the exposition to what is now the Marina district.

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The 1924 Annual Report of the Park Commissioners referred to the Golden Gate Park Stadium as "The Temporary Stadium." The grand vision for the stadium had apparently fallen out of favor with park management due to its cold, exposed location in the western park, and due to its lack of transit access. With the coming of the automobile, horse use was decreasing, but interest in athletics was growing. There was a movement for a new stadium in Golden Gate Park. The site of the park nursery, at the southeast corner of the park on Stanyan Street was chosen and Kezar Stadium was developed.

One 200'-long, experimental section of the grand stadium was built in 1909. It was later modified and incorporated into the Golden Gate Park Stables in 1939. The stadium included a trotting track on the outside perimeter, a cinder path for bicycles inside the stadium, and space (lots of it) for polo and football in the center (large enough for six football fields). A 10'-high graded berm, with the trotting track on top encloses the 17-acre field. Eighteen sections of concrete stands line the embankment on the north side of the field, and another six sections on the south side. The remainder of the embankment is covered with turf. It is assumed that more concrete stands were planned but never built. Concrete tunnels on each side provide access to the fields without climbing over the berm. Being the largest open space in the park, the Polo Field has been the site of major gatherings and events such as concerts and festivals.

**Golden Gate Park Stables, 1939, 6 Contributing Buildings**

The Golden Gate Park Stables were a WPA project completed in 1939. The facility consists of a quadrangle of stables around a central riding ring. The buildings are concrete with gabled clay tile roofs. The structure on the south side consists of a concrete grandstand, facing south to the trotting track, with stables below. The grandstand structure was built in 1909 as part of the Golden Gate Park Stadium. The stables have had minimal changes since the historic period.

**Park Police Stables, 1936, Contributing Building**

Constructed in 1936, the Park Police Stables house the San Francisco Police Department's mounted unit horses. It is a two-story T-shaped concrete building with a red tile roof. The walls are finished with a cement plaster. A copper cupola sits on the ridgeline of the roof. The police stable was renovated, including a small expansion in 1995. This work retained most of the historic fabric.

**Anglers' Lodge and Flycasting Pools, 1936, Contributing Building**

The Anglers' Lodge and Flycasting Pools were constructed in 1936 with WPA funds. It is home to the Golden Gate Anglers and Casting Club, which was founded in 1890. The lodge is a single story wood frame rustic building situated on a rise overlooking the flycasting pools. It is surrounded by beds planted with shrubs and flower beds, asphalt paths, and flagstone terraces with low stone walls. The shutters have a carved fish motif. The roof is wood split shingles with copper gutters and downspouts. The exterior doors are made of heavy wood planks with decorative wrought iron straps and brass hardware. There is a wood trellis over a terrace at the southeast corner of the lodge. The lodge appears to have few changes after the period of significance. The flycasting pools are concrete with sloping sides, 450' wide by 185' long, and are divided into three sections.

**Polo Field Restroom North, ca. 1930s, Contributing Building**

The Polo Field restroom north is a Mission Style concrete structure with a tile roof and the characteristic arched doorways. It is larger than other park restrooms and has locker rooms.

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**Polo Field Restroom South, ca. 1930s, Contributing Building**

The south restroom at the Polo Field is similar to the north restroom but has an asphalt shingle roof.

**Other Middle Park Resources**

**Breon Gate (19th Avenue), 1924, Contributing Structure**

The Breon Gate is located at 19th Avenue and Lincoln Way. It consists of two large ornamented stone pylons. The inscription reads "This gateway dedicated by Cristine Breon to all who enter the park, 1924."

**Lloyd Lake, 1892, Contributing Site**

Lloyd Lake is a naturalistic reflecting pond 1.4 acres in size. The lake has a redrock path with a concrete coping edge along its southern bank, and a naturalistic edge around other parts of the lake. Water flows into the lake through stepping stones below a small rockery waterfall at end of the Rainbow Falls cascade. One of the lake's most prominent elements is the Portals of the Past (1909, see below). The lake is named in honor of Ruben Lloyd (1835-1909), park commissioner and distinguished citizen.

**Portals of the Past, 1909, Contributing Object**

Portals of the Past was the portico of the former mansion of A.N. Towne, President of the Southern Pacific Railroad. The mansion, designed by architect Arthur Page Brown, stood at California and Taylor streets until it was destroyed by the fire resulting from the 1906 earthquake. The only thing left standing was the stone portico which became an icon of post-earthquake photographs. The portico was donated to the park and erected in 1909. It is a fitting reflecting element for the lake, similar to architectural follies placed along lakes of the English landscape gardens.

**Speedway Meadow, 1907, Contributing Site**

In the 1890s the popularity of the park led to conflicts between equestrians that wanted to run their horses fast, bicyclists, and pedestrians. A "speed road" was completed in 1894 as a place to race horses. It was a straight road .9 mile long. Continuing conflicts led to construction of the Golden Gate Park Stadium (Polo Field) and the speed road was removed. The site was used as a camp for a while after the 1906 earthquake, after which it was returned to park use as a meadow. Today the long straight vista through Speedway Meadow is the only evidence of the speed road.

**Speedway Meadow Restroom, Date Unknown, Noncontributing Building**

The Speedway Meadow restroom differs from other park restrooms. It is a concrete and brick structure with a flat roof. It likely dates from the 1950s or 1960s.

**Marx Meadow, 1907, Contributing Site**

Marx Meadow is a curving open space flanked by hills on either side. It is named for Lawrence Marx, who was the Conservatory foreman for many years (another reference states that it was named for Johanne Augusta Emily Marx, who willed \$5,000 to the park for general improvements upon her death in 1914). In 1936, a road was built through the meadow as part of the construction of Crossover Drive. The road was closed to traffic in 1981, and returned to meadow the following year. It has been used for outdoor concerts and other events.

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**Lindley Meadow, 1902, Contributing Site**

Lindley Meadow is another linear meadow that is situated in a valley as are most of the park's meadows. It lies between JFK Drive and the central sand ridge in the western part of the park. Like other meadows, its depth is exaggerated by the tall trees that are planted on the ridge. It is a popular picnic spot. Historic photographs show that sheep were once used to maintain the grass. The meadow is named in honor of former president of the Park Commission, Curtis Lindley.

**Spreckels Lake, 1904, Contributing Site**

Spreckels Lake is approximately six acres in size. Its primary function, in addition to its role as a landscape feature, is for model boating. Unlike other lakes in the park, Spreckels Lake is surrounded by a concrete edge and sidewalk. It is not known exactly when this was added, but it was probably difficult to maintain a more natural edge with model boaters crowding its shore.

**Model Yacht Club, 1938, Contributing Building**

The Model Yacht Club was constructed in 1938 to house boats of the San Francisco Model Yacht Club. It is located near the west end of Spreckels Lake. The building consists of concrete walls with a hipped red tile roof. Two attached restrooms flank either side of the building. This building replaced an earlier clubhouse built in 1904.

**Senior Center (former Police Academy), 1932, Contributing Building**

The Senior Center was originally built as the San Francisco Police Training academy in 1932. It was converted to a senior center in 1965. The building is scored concrete with cast stone quoins at the corners and a glazed tile roof. A semicircular driveway connects the building to Fulton Street. The Senior Center is the only building in the park, other than the Beach Chalet and the Park Emergency Aid Station, that is not oriented internally within the park. Its orientation to Fulton Street and its non-park original function, set it apart from other park features. The building's exterior has changed little since the historic period.

**Petanque Court, 1907, Contributing Site**

The simple petanque court for the French game reportedly dates to 1907. The court consists of a gravel or dirt surface and low sideboards.

**Buffalo Paddock, 1900, Contributing Site**

Buffalo (correctly called bison) were introduced into the park in 1890 as part of a national effort to prevent their extinction. They were initially placed in a paddock near the de Laveaga Dell. The small herd was moved to the current location in the western end of the park around 1900. The paddock consists of a large fenced open space. A feeding shelter and isolation pens (dates unknown) are located at the west end of the paddock.

**Dog Training Field, 1905, Contributing Site**

The Dog Training Field is a 1.2-acre field located behind the Buffalo Paddock. It is surrounded by a low chain link fence.

**Little Speedway Meadow, ca. 1907, Contributing Site**

Little Speedway Meadow is a long, narrow meadow that lies between Chain of Lakes Drive and the Polo Field. The meadow is the western remnant of the speed road which was removed with the construction of the Polo Field in 1906.

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**Metson Lake, 1906, Contributing Site**

The construction of Metson Lake may have been related to construction of the Polo Field at about the same time. The lake is about one acre in size and is named for William Metson, a park commissioner at the time of the 1906 earthquake. At its east end is a contrived rockery from which water flows into the lake. At its west end, the lake is perched several feet above Middle Drive West.

**Mallard Lake, 1909, Contributing Site**

Mallard Lake is 1.4 acres in size and sits on the site of what was a natural seasonal fresh water pond. It is located along MLK Drive near 27th Avenue. Its function is as a naturalistic reflecting lake.

**Urban Forestry Center, 1980s, Noncontributing Site**

The Urban Forestry Center is a fenced maintenance compound that houses the department's forestry program. The compound includes "temporary" trailers and storage containers for offices and storage of tools and materials. Maintenance vehicles are also stored on the site. The site was originally occupied by the McQueens water treatment plant (ca. 1935) which was the first secondary water treatment plant. Its treated effluent was used for park irrigation.

**Elk Glen Lake, ca. 1935, Contributing Site**

Elk Glen had been a fenced compound for Roosevelt Elk that were once abundant all over northern California. The remaining elk were removed to the zoo in 1935, and Elk Glen Lake was created soon after. The 1.8-acre lake was created in this low valley for the purpose of additional reservoir storage for the park's water system.

**Elk Glen Meadow, date unknown, Contributing Site**

Elk Glen Meadow is the remnant of the larger meadow that existed before Elk Glen Lake was created in 1935. It lies just south of the lake, across MLK Drive.

**Composting Area, 1980s, Noncontributing Site**

The composting area provides space for the department's wood and landscape waste recovery and composting operation. The waste is diverted from landfills by recycling the material for landscape use throughout the city's parks.

**Reservoir and Pump Station, 2002, Noncontributing Structure**

The new reservoir and pump station is the focal point of the park's water system. The concrete structures were built with funds from the 1992 GGP Infrastructure Bond.

**Mothers Meadow, date unknown, Contributing Site**

Mothers Meadow is located along MLK Drive, directly south of Stow Lake. It is not known exactly when this meadow was created, but it is visible on the 1935 aerial photograph. It retains its historic spatial organization of a large grassy meadow defined by the park forest.

**Mothers Meadow Playground, date unknown, Noncontributing Site**

The playground in Mothers Meadow was refurbished in the 1980's and was most likely not present during the period of significance.



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**Mothers Meadow Restroom, 1936, Contributing Building**

The Mothers Meadow restroom is a Mission Style concrete structure with a stucco finish and a tile roof. As at other restrooms, it has characteristic arched doorways. A bronze plaque reads: *"Built by Works Progress Administration 1935-1936."*

**North Lake, 1898, Contributing Site**

North Lake is the northernmost of the Chain of Lakes. The 3.8-acre lake was constructed in an area that was a natural seasonal pond. It is the lowest lake in the park's water system. It was designed as the most wild of the park's lakes and most closely resembles the wilderness feeling of the picturesque style. There are several small islands that were connected with rustic bridges (no longer present). The islands are planted with wetland trees such as swamp cypress, weeping willows, and alders. The lake has undergone an extensive rehabilitation completed in 2004. The lake was relined with clay, as in the original construction, the edge was rebuilt and the surrounding slope replanted. The rockery waterfall at the south end was reconstructed. Overall, the lake has retained its historic design.

**North Lake Restroom, 1930s, Contributing Building**

The North Lake restroom is a Mission Style concrete structure with a stucco finish and tile roof. It has arched doorways as found on other park restrooms.

**Middle Lake, 1898, Contributing Site**

Middle Lake is the central part of the Chain of Lakes. It is 1.3 acres in size and is well hidden by tules and other dense planting.

**South Lake, 1898, Contributing Site**

At 1.1 acres, South Lake is the smallest of the Chain of Lakes. It is set in a somewhat more pastoral setting than Middle or North Lakes.

**Western Park Resources (West of Chain of Lakes)**

**Golf Course, 1951, Noncontributing Site**

The nine-hole golf course was created in 1951 and comprises an area of about 20 acres. The course is well hidden within the trees. It was not present during the period of significance.

**Golf Clubhouse, 1950s, Noncontributing Building**

The golf clubhouse is a small, flat-roofed, one-story building. The flat roof cantilevers to cover the adjacent walkway. The building was not present during the period of significance.

**Archery Field, 1938, Contributing Site**

The archery field consists of a meadow approximately four acres in size near the 47th Avenue entrance from Fulton Street. Archery targets are located at the east end of the meadow.

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**Dutch (North) Windmill, 1902, Contributing Structure**

The Dutch Windmill, also known as the North Windmill, lies at the northwest corner of the park. It was built in 1902 to pump water from wells near the windmill to the reservoir on Strawberry Hill. The Park Commission approved development of a "windmill of the Holland type." The Commission record also notes that the windmill "would lend to the landscape a picturesque feature." It was designed by Alpheus Bull, Jr., a mechanical engineer from the Union Iron Works and had a capacity of 30,000 gallons per hour. The structure is 75 feet tall, and has a 5-foot thick concrete foundation with a diameter of 33 feet. The tower is a wood frame structure covered with wood shingles. The pumps were electrified in 1913 but the windmill retained its role as a "picturesque feature." Over the years it has become an icon for Golden Gate Park. During World War II, the internal machinery was removed for the scrap metal drive. The windmill fell into disrepair. Funds were donated for a rehabilitation, which was completed in 1981 after several years of work donated by the U.S. Navy Construction Battalion (the Sea Bees). The rehabilitation replaced the windmill's spars and made repairs to the exterior, in keeping with its historic design. A caretaker's cottage was built adjacent to the mill in 1903. The cottage was demolished sometime after 1935. The windmill is City Landmark #147.

**Queen Wilhelmina Tulip Garden, date unknown, Contributing Site**

A garden has been associated with the site adjacent to the Dutch Windmill dating back to the early years of the windmill when a caretaker's cottage was present. There are some references to a garden maintained by the caretaker and his family. It is not known when the garden became a horticultural attraction, but the tulips and the windmill share their Dutch origins. Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands reportedly visited the site at some time. Upon her death in 1962, the garden was named in her honor.

**Beach Chalet, 1925, Contributing Building**

The Beach Chalet is the second structure of that name on the Great Highway. It sits at the western edge of the park, facing Ocean Beach. The first Beach Chalet was built in 1900 on the west side of the Great Highway. It was removed in 1925 with the construction of the new Beach Chalet which was the last commission of noted San Francisco architect Willis Polk. The building is a simple stucco Spanish-Moorish revival pavilion. The upper floor housed a restaurant and the lower floor had a public lounge and changing rooms for visitors to the beach. The interior was significantly enhanced in 1936 and 1937 with the addition of frescoes, mosaics and wood carvings. The work, funded by the Federal Art Project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), was designed by San Francisco artist Lucien Labaudt. The frescoes cover the walls of the first floor and depict scenes of San Francisco life. The Beach Chalet was used by the Army during World War II. After the war it was operated as a social hall and bar by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The building was closed for renovations by the city in 1981. The building's artwork underwent a restoration in 1987, but the building remained closed to the public until December 1996 when it reopened with a new restaurant on the second floor and the park's first visitor center on the ground floor. In 1981 the Beach Chalet was listed in the National Register of Historic Places and it is also City Landmark #179.

**Roald Amundsen, 1929, Contributing Object**

by Hans Jauchen, red Norwegian granite and bronze

This granite shaft and bronze plaque honors Roald Amundsen who completed the first crossing of the almost mythical Northwest Passage in 1906, ending the 400-year search. Amundsen made the voyage around the top of North America in a small sloop, the *Gjoa*, completing the journey in San Francisco. The crew was honored

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by the city, and the *Gjoa* was placed at Ocean Beach. The monument, located just north of the Beach Chalet, was dedicated in 1929. *Gjoa* remained at the monument until 1972 when it was returned to Norway where it resides today at an Oslo museum.

**Murphy's (South) Windmill, 1905, Contributing Structure**

The successful application of wind power at the Dutch Windmill and the increasing need for water led to the construction of a second windmill. With funds donated by Samuel Murphy, a larger windmill with a capacity of 40,000 gallons per hour, was built in 1905 at the southwest corner of the park. At 95 feet tall and a span of 114 feet, it was the largest windmill of its kind in the world. The structure has a massive concrete foundation supporting a wood-framed tower that is covered with slate roofing shingles. It was said to be designed after English style windmills and is sometimes referred to as the English Windmill. The windmill was not used for pumping water after 1913 when electric pumps were installed. It was retained as a park landmark but suffered from decades of neglect. A restoration effort is currently underway. The Murphy's Windmill, together with the Millwright's House, are City Landmark #210.

**Millwright's House, 1909, Contributing Building**

A millwright's house was constructed in 1909, just east of the Murphy's Windmill. The house is a small, two story brick building with a slate shingle roof. The house, designed by the Reid Brothers architects, is most significant when viewed in context with the windmill. The building is in fair condition and it is hoped to be part of the restoration project with the windmill. The Millwright's House and the Murphy's Windmill are listed as City Landmark #210.

**Beach Chalet Soccer Fields, date unknown, Contributing Site**

Soccer fields have been located at this site, just southeast of the Beach Chalet, since at least 1935.

**Beach Chalet Soccer Fields Restroom, 1930s, Contributing Building**

The restroom building located at the Beach Chalet soccer fields is a concrete structure with what appears to be a tar paper roof.

**Bercut Equitation Field, date unknown, Contributing Site**

The Bercut Equitation Field consists of a fenced arena with small grandstand and judging booth used for training of horses and riders. It is not known exactly when this use started at this site (sometime after 1935), which was the west end of the Speed Road. The equitation field was dedicated to Commissioner Peter Bercut in 1949, for his efforts in its establishment.

**46th Avenue Playground, date unknown, Noncontributing Site**

The playground near 46th Avenue and Lincoln Way consists of a round sand-surfaced area surrounded by a concrete walk and curb. The play equipment is generally modern, constructed of wood and steel. A lifeboat of unknown origin sits in the sand. It is not known when this playground was established, but it does not appear that any of the elements date to the period of significance.

**Western Park Entry Monuments, ca 1998, Noncontributing Objects**

Two large boulder groupings inscribed with *Golden Gate Park* are located at the Great Highway/JFK Drive and Fulton/MLK Drive entries.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Summary

Golden Gate Park, begun in 1871, has national significance for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, for landscape architecture, as one of the pioneering examples of the large urban park in the United States. It is the first application of Olmsted park design principles in the western United States. Golden Gate Park is also the first park to be created on reclaimed land that was barren and unwelcoming, resulting in a landscape transformation that was unprecedented. Golden Gate Park was also important in advancing the field of park design by successfully integrating active recreation features into the Romantic landscape. Golden Gate Park also has regional significance under Criterion A for recreation and social history as the first large urban space dedicated for outdoor enjoyment in the west. At the time of the park's conception, San Francisco was the only large city in the west. City leaders sought to provide its residents, both rich and poor, the social benefits afforded by a naturalistic park as a foil to the pressures of urban life. This was a major advancement for San Francisco, and the West, helping transform the city from a western outpost, to a progressive city comparable to its eastern counterparts. As a work of landscape architecture it has endured the test of time and remains a vibrant landscape of function and beauty. Much of the original park developed during the period of significance is still present and maintains its integrity. Its significance in social history is its role in advancing the importance of parks in society for improving the quality of peoples' lives. Golden Gate Park was a pioneering effort that required great vision and courage to develop.

### Period of Significance

The period of significance, 1871 to 1943, covers the years from the start of construction through the tenure of John McLaren as Superintendent. 1943 also marks the World War II years that brought an end to the New Deal construction projects, which included some significant recreation features such as the Angler's Lodge, the Model Yacht Club and the Stables. The period of significance encompasses all major elements in the park that are considered historic. It also includes the period that the park was under the leadership of William Hammond Hall and John McLaren. William Hammond Hall served as surveyor, park engineer, the park's first superintendent (1870-1876), and as a park consultant from 1886 to 1890. He is most responsible for the plan and initial development of the park. John McLaren was park superintendent from 1890 until his death in 1943. He is credited with implementing much of Hall's original vision. McLaren continued the development of the park and the addition of many significant features during his 53-year tenure. (Between Hall and McLaren, there were three other Superintendents — William Bond Prichard was appointed park superintendent in 1876 and served until 1881. F.P. Hennessey and John J. McEwen served as superintendents for short periods during 1881 and 1882, after which the position was vacant until William Hammond Hall's return in 1886.)

It is important, for this nomination, to view Golden Gate Park as a whole designed landscape. Although it contains many separate elements and features that were developed over time, it was conceived, planned, and viewed as a single creation. The nature of a large urban park is such that it must be developed over many years, but during the 72-year span of its period of significance, Golden Gate Park was created by the vision of William Hammond Hall and his protégé John McLaren.

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**Criterion C - Landscape Architecture - National Significance**

Golden Gate Park is most significant under criteria C because of its importance as a work of landscape architecture. The park is one of the pioneering large urban parks in the United States, and the first in the West. Golden Gate Park (1,017 acres) was conceived and begun only twelve years after Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux's Central Park (843 acres) in New York. The only other comparable parks that predate Golden Gate Park include Brooklyn's Prospect Park (1866 - 526 acres), Philadelphia's Fairmont Park (1867 - 8,900 acres), and St. Louis' Tower Grove Park (1867 - 289 acres). Chicago, Buffalo, and Baltimore were planning parks in the late 1860's, but were not developed until later. San Diego set aside 1,400 acres for what was to become Balboa Park in 1868, but the park was not developed until after the turn of the century.

It is the first major application in the west of Olmsted's park design principles that combined the picturesque and pastoral schools of landscape design. Golden Gate Park is also successful in integrating significant active recreation facilities within the designed landscape. These design principles, combined with the unique environment of San Francisco, resulted in a park that was quite unlike its eastern counterparts. The park's creator, William Hammond Hall, brought a scholarly approach to all his work. Hall studied the works and writings of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., the nation's preeminent park designer. He also maintained a correspondence with Olmsted, who had visited San Francisco in 1866.

Golden Gate Park is the first major park that was created on reclaimed land, as most of the 1,017-acre site was windblown sand dunes with very sparse vegetation and no trees. It is a completely man-made landscape, created in a remote area known as the Outside Lands. It took remarkable foresight and courage to conceive the park's vision and then make it a reality. Frederick Law Olmsted tried to dissuade the city from attempting to build a park in the Outside Lands, in part because he did not believe large scale tree plantations could be successfully grown there. The city fathers, however, saw the Outside Lands as a real estate opportunity to expand the city, and to provide cheap land for a major park that would not be feasible within the existing developed city. In an 1871 letter to Hall, Olmsted gave the following advice which puts some perspective on the magnitude of the challenge Hall faced:

*"... the conditions are so peculiar and the difficulties so great that I regard the problem as unique and that it must be solved if at all by wholly new means and methods. It requires invention, not adaptation."*

Hall studied beach reclamation techniques in this country and in the low countries of Europe where the science was most advanced. He applied those techniques and experimented extensively to find species of plants best suited to San Francisco. Through trial and error, Hall developed the plant palette for Golden Gate Park. The reclamation technique involved succession planting—grasses were established to hold the sand, and shrubs were planted to block the wind for tree seedlings. The most successful species became the dominant ones. Two other critical elements were needed—a more suitable soil and water. For the first, soil was excavated from areas south of the city and brought in on wagons. Street sweepings of manure were also added for fertilizer. As for water, it was soon discovered that an extensive untapped aquifer existed in the sands directly below the park. Hall devised an irrigation system with water pumped into reservoirs located on the hills. The

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water could then be gravity fed to the planting beds. The skillful use of the existing topography and careful planting of forests and meadows altered the microclimates, creating pleasant spaces for outdoor activities.

This total transformation from sand dunes to verdant landscape is a remarkable accomplishment that was unprecedented at the time. Although New York's Central Park was created on degraded land, it was essentially restoring a forested landscape that had previously existed. Other eastern parks were carved out of existing forests and natural conditions. In Golden Gate Park, Hall created a forested landscape where one had never existed and in spite of the harsh natural conditions. As Olmsted told Hall in his 1871 letter, the creation of a park on this site required "invention." Hall did adapt Olmsted's principals of park design, but his methods to accomplish the landscape were entirely innovative and pioneering. Rather than the deciduous forest of eastern parks, Golden Gate Park's forest is composed of evergreen pines, cypress, and eucalyptus. The result is a unique evergreen landscape that sets Golden Gate Park apart from the great eastern parks.

Golden Gate Park was also important for its role in advancing the art of park design. The earlier "pleasure ground" parks provided primarily passive type activities such as walking and enjoying nature within the city. With Golden Gate Park, we see a transition to the evolving forms of active recreation. Ball fields, courts, and playgrounds were considered "urban" intrusions that would conflict with the experience of nature that Olmsted strove to provide. In contrast, these features were skillfully added to Golden Gate Park in a way that preserved the naturalistic features of the landscape. Ball fields, tennis courts and other recreation amenities were located in areas off of the main drives in a way that did not impair the pastoral views of the meadows and changing landscape as one rode along the main drives. Large areas of the western park also remained as wild woodlands, providing the natural escape from urban life. It is also significant that the Children's Quarters (Sharon Building, carousel, and playground) may be the first area of a city park dedicated to children. Hall's original plan reserved the western part of the park as a natural woodland, and allowed for more park and recreation development in the eastern portion of the park:

On the western park character Hall wrote:

*"It was designed that the six hundred or more acres of the reservation including and lying west of Strawberry Hill, and its connecting ridge, should be simply treated as a woodland or forest, with all the hills and ridges more or less heavily timbered, and the valleys covered with lower-growing shrubs or field grasses"*

and on the character of the eastern park:

*"...the four hundred or less acres east of the hill and ridge should be treated as a more finished park, with its tree plantations in smaller masses or groups, principally on the higher grounds, and its several notable valleys occupied by such special features as a picnic ground; a garden - including a conservatory and semi-tropical exhibit; a children's quarter - including a dairy-house and play grounds; a recreation ground for sports of older people; a lawn, with lake and water terrace; a manor house and grounds, with concourses for carriages and pedestrians; and an open air concert auditorium."* (W. H. Hall, *The Development of Golden Gate Park*, 1886)

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As other parks were developed in western cities, Golden Gate Park remained unique. There are none that compare in scale, design, and age. San Diego's Balboa Park, as mentioned, is larger but much of that park is undeveloped natural landscapes and it was largely established in the Twentieth Century. Los Angeles has Griffith Park and Elysian Park, both of which contain large amounts of rugged, undeveloped terrain. Elysian Park, half the size of Golden Gate Park, was founded in 1886 with development beginning in the 1890s. Griffith Park was acquired in 1896 and largely developed after 1900. Portland's Washington Park was acquired in 1871, but is one-eighth the size of Golden Gate Park and was also largely developed after 1900. Seattle's Woodland, Washington, and Seward parks are all much smaller than Golden Gate Park and were developed in the Twentieth Century.

In 1870, San Francisco had a population of 149,473; the 10th largest of U.S. cities. San Francisco was experiencing phenomenal growth as it went from colonial outpost (population 812 in 1848) to mining boomtown (population 34,776 in 1852), to a permanent center of commerce and industry. Westward expansion of the United States, the discovery of gold and silver, and completion of the transcontinental railroad (1869) were major factors in the city's growth. The civic leaders of San Francisco were determined to create a world class city that would include a major urban park. With the timely and favorable settlement of San Francisco's claim to the Outside Lands in 1868, a vast undeveloped district was available to expand the city, and over a thousand acres of land in the new district was set aside for a park for San Francisco. With the creation of Golden Gate Park, San Francisco became the leader among U.S. cities in the amount of park land per capita, twice the amount of its closest rival, Philadelphia.

As a work of landscape architecture, Golden Gate Park is a masterpiece on several levels. The first, as previously discussed, is the technical feat of transforming the barren, windswept sand dunes into a verdant oasis within the city. The second is the strength and universal appeal of the landscape design to function so well as a park for well over a century. The delight of having nature in the city (even if that nature is artificially created) is as true today as ever. The pastoral landscape is perfectly suited with meadows for picnics, ball games and other group activities; forests for trails and the feeling of wilderness; and lakes and water features for visual accents and water related recreation. The curving circulation system is designed to provide the experience of traveling through the countryside with ever-changing vistas.

William Hammond Hall wrote extensively about his design intent for Golden Gate Park. Following are few quotes that give insight into the park's design:

On the picturesque style and pastoral landscape:

*"the class of pleasing scenery most easily attained to some degree of perfection within the limits of a city park reservation, will partake strongly of a pastoral nature. The monotony which would inevitably result from a too close adherence to this character of treatment, being broken by passages strongly contrasting therewith - namely in the picturesque. A park therefore, though containing within itself the appurtenances necessary for the comfort and pleasure of great masses of people, as a whole, should be an agglomeration of hill and dale, meadow, lawn, wood and coppice presenting a series of sylvan and pastoral views,*

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*calculated to banish all thought of urban objects, and lead the imagination to picture space beyond as a continued succession of rural scenes and incidents."*

(William Hammond Hall, Second Biennial Report, 1872-73)

On park roads:

*"The charm of a drive or ride is greatly enhanced by smooth and elastic roads, but reaches its fullness when these roads lead through varied scenes of interest and ennobling influence, under favorable climatic conditions."*

(William Hammond Hall, Second Biennial Report, 1872-73)

**Criterion A - Recreation and Social History - Regional Significance**

Golden Gate Park is also significant under Criterion A for social history because of its importance in the early parks movement of the 19th Century. The park was seen not just as an urban amenity, but as a force for social improvement and a benefit to the health of citizens. Golden Gate Park helped define what urban parks should be and, in the larger context, it helped define the role of parks in urban planning.

In the second half of the 19th Century, a 'parks movement' greatly influenced urban planning to counterbalance the industrial revolution that was forever changing the conditions of urban living. These changes included the establishment of great industrial districts, the social adjustment caused by industrial employment, and the great migration and growth of urban populations. The parks movement, with great foresight, strove to provide a more genteel urban environment within the cities. It may have also been an attempt to recapture the agrarian life that so many left behind during this period.

During the Nineteenth Century, most American cities, including San Francisco, had small parks, commons, and squares, but these could not fulfill the vision of large tracts of nature within the city. Although San Francisco had relatively small scale industrial development, its urban core was very densely populated and had its share of urban issues such as public health. When Golden Gate Park was conceived around 1870, the concept of a large urban park designed for recreation of rich and poor was a relatively new and experimental concept. Golden Gate Park was specifically designed to be inclusive of all classes. It was as much a social experiment as it was an urban planning experiment. At the time of its creation, Golden Gate Park was promoted as beneficial to the social health of its citizens, particularly the economically disadvantaged who could not afford trips to the country. This expression of benevolent government was likely part sincere and part entangled in the politics of the time. The park was very popular with the wealthy classes who arrived at the park by carriage, but there were also great efforts to bring public transit to the park to provide access for the all residents. (It should be noted that, at least in the early years, San Francisco's Chinese immigrants were probably not welcomed in the park.)

William Hammond Hall wrote the following in the Second Biennial Report (1873):

*"Parks have frequently been spoken of as the lungs of cities... Primarily, they are intended to provide the best practicable means for healthful recreation for people of all classes, and the influence which they thus exert upon society can scarcely be overestimated. With drives and*



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*rides for the rich, and pleasant rambles for the poor; quiet retreats for those who would be to themselves, and thronged promenades for the gayly disposed; sheltered nooks for invalids, and open grounds for lovers of boisterous sports; tracts adapted to the special wants of children, and arranged to insure their comfort and welfare— the modern urban park is, indeed, the municipality's open-air assembly room, acceptable alike to all, and pleasing to each of her citizens."*

Golden Gate Park was the first time that this social concept was applied in the West, and San Francisco became a model for other aspiring western cities that were emerging. It is not possible to state whether Golden Gate Park changed the politics of San Francisco, or whether it is a product of San Francisco politics, but to this day San Francisco remains a city of progressive politics. In this densely populated city, Golden Gate Park is a cherished place. Residents from all social classes are actively involved in the preservation of the park and protecting it from urban intrusions.

**Additional Notes on Significance**

The park's two creators, William Hammond Hall and John McLaren, were two completely different personalities. Hall, trained as an engineer, was an educated renaissance man with vision and ambition. He was well-read and was articulate in his writings that provide an excellent record of his life's work. John McLaren was trained as a landscape gardener in Scotland and spent his entire life in that task. He was, in contrast, not an articulate person, but he excelled in getting results and motivating his staff. McLaren left little written record of his work, but his 53-year tenure as Superintendent speaks for itself. He was not a political person, but he was successful in navigating the political currents in San Francisco's City Hall.

William Hammond Hall first gained experience with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a draftsman, surveyor, and engineer. At the age of twenty four, Hall obtained the commission to survey the lands set aside for Golden Gate Park, and through this work, gained an intimate understanding and knowledge of the land. Although lacking in previous experience, he was assigned the task to create a plan for the park and became its first Superintendent. Hall immersed himself in the science of dune and coastal reclamation (including trips to Europe), and in the art of landscape design, for which he studied the theories and work of Frederick Law Olmsted (with whom he maintained a correspondence). Hall oversaw the successful development of the park's early years. He was less successful in dealing with San Francisco's politicians than McLaren would later be, and he was forced out in 1876, although he continued to serve as an unpaid consultant. He went on to become California's first State Engineer and was credited with the creation of the state's water system, the key to California's future development. He returned to Golden Gate Park as superintendent for three years starting in 1886. It was during this tenure, that Hall brought John McLaren to the park.

John McLaren worked on several estates in Scotland as well as the Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh. Upon arrival in California in 1872, he worked on estates in San Mateo County, before Hall hired him to serve as assistant superintendent in 1887. McLaren, although small in stature, was a feisty and combative man who was sometimes described as a benevolent dictator. He was a tough and demanding boss, but he was also loved and revered by his staff. He handled the politicians and was a successful advocate and protector of the

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park. In 1917, at age 70, he avoided "mandatory" retirement, and continued in his position until his death in 1943. McLaren was also responsible for the landscapes at the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition and the 1939 Golden Gate Exposition on Treasure Island.

The overall landscape design of Hall and McLaren is the focus of this nomination, however it should be stated that several of the buildings and structures in the park were designed by notable architects including Willis Polk (Beach Chalet), Percy & Hamilton (Sharon Building), Edward Swain (McLaren Lodge), Reid Brothers (Spreckels Temple of Music and the Millwright's House), Coxhead & Coxhead (North Tunnel), Arthur Page Brown (Carousel, Roman and Rustic bridges at Stow Lake, and the Towne Mansion from which came the Portals of the Past), and Ernest Ransome (Alvord Bridge).

The park also contains a significant collection of statues and monuments. Like Olmsted, William Hammond Hall and John McLaren believed that the statues were an urban intrusion in the pastoral landscape and should be avoided. The Victorian preoccupation of physical tributes, however, led to many being placed in the park over their objections. McLaren had a habit of planting around them until they disappeared in the shrubbery. Despite this heritage, the park's sculpture collection is significant and represents the work of several noted sculptors. Daniel Chester French, a sculptor of national significance (Lincoln Memorial sculpture), created the bronze of Thomas Starr King. Douglas Tilden created the Baseball Player and Father Junipero Serra. Tilden's student, M. Earl Cummings has the most significant collection including the Ridout Fountain cougar, the Pool of Enchantment, the Sundial, John McLaren, Robert Burns, the Brown Gate's cougar and bear, and the Doughboy. The statues and monument represent a cross-section of religious, fraternal, and ethnic groups in San Francisco.

Also of some historical significance is the collection of projects in Golden Gate Park that were funded by Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration (WPA). Between 1935 and 1943 the WPA provided workers for many public projects throughout the United States. In Golden Gate Park, these projects include the Beach Chalet murals, the Model Yacht Club, the Equestrian Center, the Angler's Lodge and fly-casting pools, and several restroom buildings.

Golden Gate Park should rightfully and preferably be considered as a whole, there are parts of the park that have significance in their own right. The Conservatory of Flowers and the Beach Chalet are already listed on the National Register of Historic Places. One of the most significant features of the park is the 1888-1889 Children's Quarter composed of the Children's Playground, the Carousel, and the Sharon Building. This may be the first area of a public park dedicated to children. The play structures in the playground have changed over the years, but the three contributing elements are still intact. The Music Concourse is another feature of the park that has some significance in its own right. Although not a part of the original park design, the Music Concourse became the cultural center of the park following the Midwinter Fair of 1894. The de Young Museum was a remnant of the fair as was the Japanese Tea Garden. The Spreckels Temple of Music was added in 1900 and the California Academy of Sciences moved to the park in 1916. The Concourse itself became one of the important open spaces of the park serving as a place for musical performances and other events.

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**Additional Context for Golden Gate Park History**

In San Francisco's Gold Rush era, the area that is now Golden Gate Park was marked on maps as part of the "great sand waste," and untrammelled "Outside Lands," located well beyond the reach of the city's masses. By the end of the Civil War, the city of San Francisco emerged as the chief commerce center on the Pacific Coast, rich in the silver wealth of the Comstock and eagerly anticipating completion of a transcontinental railroad. The populace of the city, once teeming with transient fortune-seekers and speculators, now settled down to build a world-class metropolis.

In 1870 the large urban park was a revolutionary idea, and something of a social experiment. New York's Central Park (1858), Philadelphia's Fairmont Park (1865), and Brooklyn's Prospect Park (1866) were among the few comparable examples in the nation. The idea of a public pleasure ground for use by all classes of people was a new and democratic concept. Prior to Golden Gate Park, parks in San Francisco consisted of public squares, city blocks reserved as parks, such as Union Square, Portsmouth Square and Washington Square.

Frederick Law Olmsted, traveling in California in 1866, proposed a public park for San Francisco to enhance the health and morality of the citizenry, and attract capital and investment of the business community. Olmsted envisioned a series of parks: a promenade across the city to the bay, parade ground, and pleasure ground in sheltered Hayes Valley. At the same time, the federal government upheld the city's title to the Outside Lands against claims of squatters. During the course of lengthy litigation over the Outside Lands, local politicians, led by Frank McCoppin and other citizens, rallied for establishment of a public park in the western quarter of the city. A supervisorial committee subdivided the Outside Lands and proposed an arrangement whereby squatters could donate a portion of their claims for a public park in return for clear title to the remainder of their lands. The proposal won McCoppin the Mayor's office, and gained the approval of the state legislature. Olmsted's plan for a sheltered inland park and promenade was cast aside for economic reasons: the availability of cheap Outside Lands and support of speculators who had a direct financial interest in improvements in the western section of the city.

On April 4, 1870, the state legislature passed "An Act to provide for the improvement of Public Parks in the City of San Francisco." Soon after, the newly-formed park commission advertised bonds to fund park improvements. Enough bonds were sold to finance a topographical survey of Golden Gate Park and its approach. Surveyor and engineer William Hammond Hall won the contract to survey the park land. He completed his report on February 15, 1871, and in August that year was appointed as engineer of the park.

Hall created a plan for the park that clearly laid out the picturesque and pastoral design that was seen as a foil to the expanding urban environment. There were curvilinear drives that carried visitors through a landscape of meadows, lakes, woods, and other naturalistic features. The plan took careful note of the topographic survey Hall had previously completed. Hall used the existing landforms with meadows in the low areas, defined by trees planted on the slopes, and trails curving up the hills to provide views to overlook the park. There were practical considerations to the design as well. The curving nature of the drives and spaces would make it easier to protect them from the harsh winds by strategically planting groves of trees. Although the original

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plan was not carried out exactly, many of the plans features are recognizable in the park today. The plan laid out a system of drives and paths that clearly separated pedestrian and carriage circulation. There were only a few structures noted on the plan.

Hall and his work crews took on the task of transforming the sandy, sparsely vegetated 1,017 acre park tract between Stanyan Street and the ocean into a pleasure ground which would convey "warmth, repose, and enlivenment" to citizens. Hall started work on the 270 acres in the eastern end of the park, a locale suitable for features such as a picnic ground, gardens, play and recreation area, and the avenue of approach now known as the Panhandle. He envisioned a woodland forest on the 600 acres west of Strawberry Hill, but first the extensive sand drifts had to be reclaimed with vegetation. Experiments revealed that lupine seed sown with fast-growing barley successfully sheltered delicate lupine stands from harsh winds and shifting dunes. Initial work completed in 1871 included grading, fencing, drainage and irrigation work, and development of a park nursery. The following year, 22,000 hardy and quick growing trees were set out, park roads built, and visitors began to arrive by the thousands (W.H. Hall, in Report of the Park Commissioners, 1872).

Park use reflected the recreational activities of all San Franciscans, and included band concerts, floral displays, picnicking, croquet, tennis, and racing carriages on the speed road. Facilities arose on park land to attract visitors, including a conservatory erected on North Drive in 1878, an adjacent music stand completed in 1882, and the children's quarters and playground, dedicated in 1888.

The new pleasure ground provided an aesthetic balance to the harsh realities of city life. Weary city residents could relax in the hygienic atmosphere of the park, surrounded by sublime scenery of trees, shrubs, gardens and picturesque lakes. The park also fulfilled a higher purpose of social reform. In the Gilded Age of the 1870's, parks were seen as a tonic of nature which exerted positive influence on the morals of the common citizen and contributed to physical and mental health. The concept of parks as a vehicle for social reform continued into the next century, but park use moved gradually from aesthetic appreciation to utilitarianism.

Political corruption and chicanery tainted city government and vexed park management in the nineteenth century. Park Superintendent Hall became the target of political attacks when he resisted corrupt politicians. He resigned his post in 1876, and for the next decade the park languished due to lack of funds. A change in city administration in 1886 heralded the overhaul of the Board of Park Commissioners, and the return of William Hammond Hall's involvement in Golden Gate Park. Hall, then California State Engineer, examined the condition of the park's forest and general state of affairs. In 1886, Hall's mentor Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. commented on the reclamation and progress of work in the park, stating that, while obviously far from its finished state, the park was "an achievement far exceeding all that I have believed possible" (F.L. Olmsted to Board of Park Commissioners, 1886). In 1890, John McLaren became park superintendent and held the post for over half a century.

In the wake of the widely acclaimed World's Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago in 1893, San Francisco's park commissioners approved deviation from traditional park use and agreed to host the California Midwinter International Exposition in an undeveloped area east of newly-constructed Stow Lake. Promoters hoped a California world's fair would help pull the state from the depths of a nationwide recession and showcase San

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Francisco's salubrious winter climate. The California Midwinter International Exposition opened on January 27, 1894, amid parades, bands and military salutes. When the fair closed six months later, over two million visitors had passed through the turnstiles, and the fair recorded a modest profit. The 200-acre Midwinter Fair left an enduring legacy on Golden Gate Park. Several exposition displays continued as park attractions, including the Japanese Tea Garden, and the Egyptian-style Fine Arts Building, which, filled with objets d'art from the fair, became a permanent museum. The fair's Grand Court was redesigned to become the Music Concourse. Other fair structures were demolished, and with considerable effort by Superintendent John McLaren and his crews, the bulk of the fair site returned to parkland.

At the turn of the century, under a new city charter, the park came under the direct jurisdiction of the city government instead of the state legislature. New additions included a park lodge, music stand donated by Claus Spreckels, a chain of lakes, and windmills. The growing popularity of the horseless carriage fostered new user conflicts and enforcement challenges for the park police squad.

In 1906, the park served as a place of refuge for thousands of displaced citizens in the wake of the earthquake. A number of park structures sustained heavy damage during the temblor: the Sweeney Observatory atop Strawberry Hill twisted grotesquely and was completely destroyed, and the Children's Quarters, art museum, emergency aid station, and Spreckels Temple of Music suffered severe damage. By the new year, the park refugee camps closed, and key park structures were repaired. One new structure, Portals of the Past, commemorated the disaster.

The Richmond and Sunset neighborhoods surrounding the park resounded with new building as the city's population moved from the devastated area into the spacious Outside Lands. In 1910, voters approved a proposal to move the California Academy of Sciences from its earthquake wrecked downtown quarters into the park.

Several new facilities were added to the park in the 1920's, including Kezar Stadium and pavilion, Willis Polk's Beach Chalet, the Shakespeare Garden, and expansion of the Academy of Sciences with the addition of the North American Hall and Steinhart Aquarium.

The 1930's brought an increased acceptance of parks and recreation as a necessity of modern life rather than a moral tonic. Americans experienced an increase in leisure time brought about by shorter work weeks, technological innovation, or the high unemployment rates during the Great Depression. The Depression also fueled New Deal construction of the Angler's Lodge, Model Yacht Club, Police Stables, Crossover Drive, the Park Presidio Bypass, and visitor comfort stations. During the war years, San Franciscans tended victory gardens in the park along 9th Avenue.

There have been relatively few changes to the park since the end of the period of significance. The changes include the addition of several garden features such as the Queen Wilhelmina Tulip Garden, the Redwood Memorial Grove, the Rose Garden, and the National AIDS Memorial Grove in the de Laveaga Dell. These features complement the park themes and purpose. Kezar Stadium was reconstructed which resulted in the grandstands being demolished and replaced by ground level seating, but its purpose as a community sports

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facility continues. A golf course was added in the western part of the park and two new buildings were added, the County Fair Building and the McLaren Lodge Annex. The County Fair Building is constructed of concrete and glass, typical of the period in which it was built (1961) and does not contribute to the park's significance. The McLaren Lodge Annex is also a modern type building, but is generally well hidden. Overall, the changes that have occurred since the period of significance do not detract from the Golden Gate Park's significance or substantially diminish its historic integrity.

Golden Gate Park remains as vibrant and essential to San Francisco's quality of life today as it has for past generations. The vision of the park's creators can be seen and enjoyed today. The enduring vision is Golden Gate Park's greatest significance.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

The historical development of Golden Gate Park is not easy to trace. There are few definitive records on the design and development. Very few construction plans exist for the early development of the park. What plans might have once existed may have been destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and fire, or it may be more likely that the construction was designed and directed in the field. The plans printed in the early biennial reports seem to be generalized plans that do not necessarily reflect exactly what was built. It is difficult to know exactly when a particular section of road was built or a meadow created other than what is specifically mentioned in the biennial and annual reports, which are the best historical records. They generally list the improvements year by year. William Hammond Hall's writings are an excellent record of the original conditions of the site, the methods used for reclamation, and his design intent. Early photographs have been useful for tracing development when they can be dated with known facts. Early guide books and maps provide intermediate stage maps. The 1935 aerial photograph is a valuable record that shows many of the trees at an age where each individual tree can be seen.

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## 10. Geographical Data

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

From the corner of Fulton Street and The Great Highway, proceed east along the south curb of Fulton Street, approximately 16,300 feet to the corner at Stanyan Street. Proceed south along the west curb of Stanyan Street approximately 1,040 feet to a point intersected by a line extending from the south curb of Fell Street. Proceed easterly from that point, along the south curb of Fell Street, approximately 2,700 feet to the corner at Baker Street. Proceed along the west curb of Baker Street in a southerly direction approximately 275 feet to the corner at Oak Street. Proceed westerly approximately 2,700 feet along the north curb of Oak Street and along the line extending to the west curb of Stanyan Street. From that point, continue in a southerly direction along the west curb of Stanyan Street to a line extending from the rear wall of the building on the corner of Stanyan and Frederick Streets. Proceed along the rear wall of the two buildings approximately 385 feet to the edge of asphalt at the Kezar Stadium land. Proceed approximately 110 feet to the north curb of Frederick Street and then westerly along the north curb of Frederick Street which curves and becomes Lincoln Way near its intersection with Arguello. The boundary continues westerly along the north curb of Lincoln Way to the intersection at the Great Highway. Proceed northerly approximately 2,600 feet along the east curb of The Great Highway, returning to the point of origin.

### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary of Golden Gate Park is generally well defined by its surrounding streets. The one exception is at the corner of Stanyan and Frederick Streets where the existing (non-park, residential) buildings on that corner are excluded from the park boundary. The line generally follows the curb on the park side of the surrounding streets and extends across intersecting roadways to the continuation of the curb. All roads crossing the boundary are considered within the park. This is the existing and historical boundary of the park.

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## Maps

The maps on the following pages have been prepared to provide additional information for this report.

- Map 1 Location and Boundary Map
- Map 2 Golden Gate Park Resources- East
- Map 3 Golden Gate Park Resources- West
- Map 4 Golden Gate Park Resources- Monuments and Statues
- Map 5 Topographic Map of Golden Gate Park Site by William Hammond Hall, 1871
- Map 6 Plan of Golden Gate Park 1875
- Map 7 The Development of Golden Gate Park 1870-1889
- Map 8 The Development of Golden Gate Park 1890-1899
- Map 9 The Development of Golden Gate Park 1900-1909
- Map 10 The Development of Golden Gate Park 1910-1929
- Map 11 The Development of Golden Gate Park 1930-1939
- Map 12 The Development of Golden Gate Park 1940-Present
- Map 13 Historical Development of Conservatory Valley - Circa 1881 and 1886
- Map 14 Historical Development of Conservatory Valley - Circa 1906 and 1915

## Photographs

### Supplemental Photographs:

These photographs are presented in addition to the archival photographs.

- Photo Page 1 Aerial view of Golden Gate Park
- Photo Page 2 Music Concourse
- Photo Page 3 Japanese Tea Garden
- Photo Page 4 Lawn Bowling Greens
- Photo Page 5 Curvilinear Road System
- Photo Page 6 Speedway Meadow
- Photo Page 7 Dutch Windmill and Queen Wilhelmina Tulip Garden
- Photo Page 8 Conservatory of Flowers
- Photo Page 9 Stow Lake
- Photo Page 10 Lindley Meadow
- Photo Page 11 Children's Quarters
- Photo Page 12 Carousel

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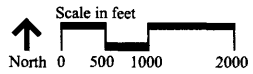
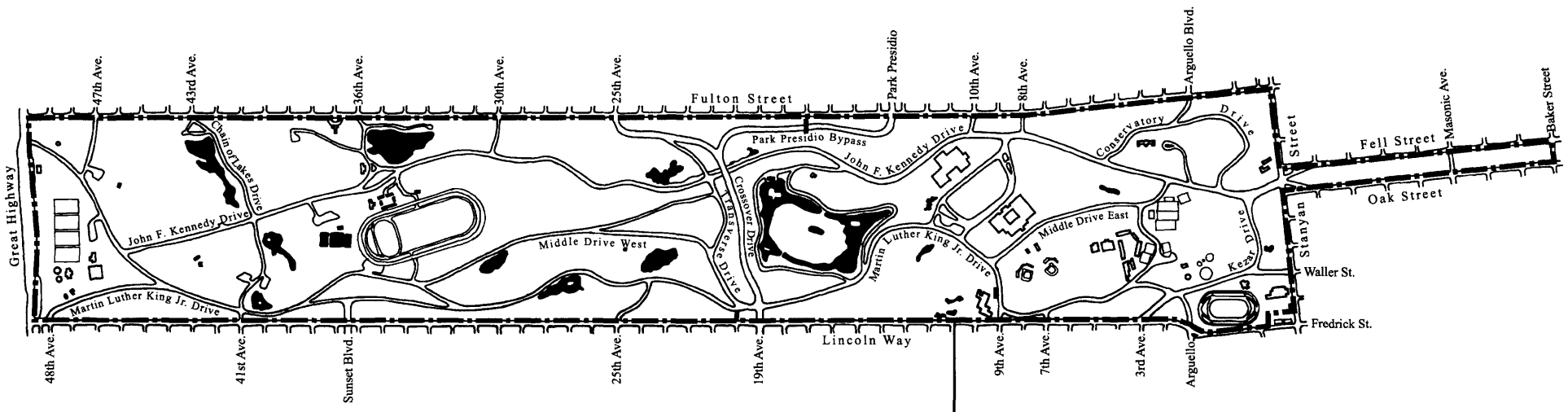
**Golden Gate Park**  
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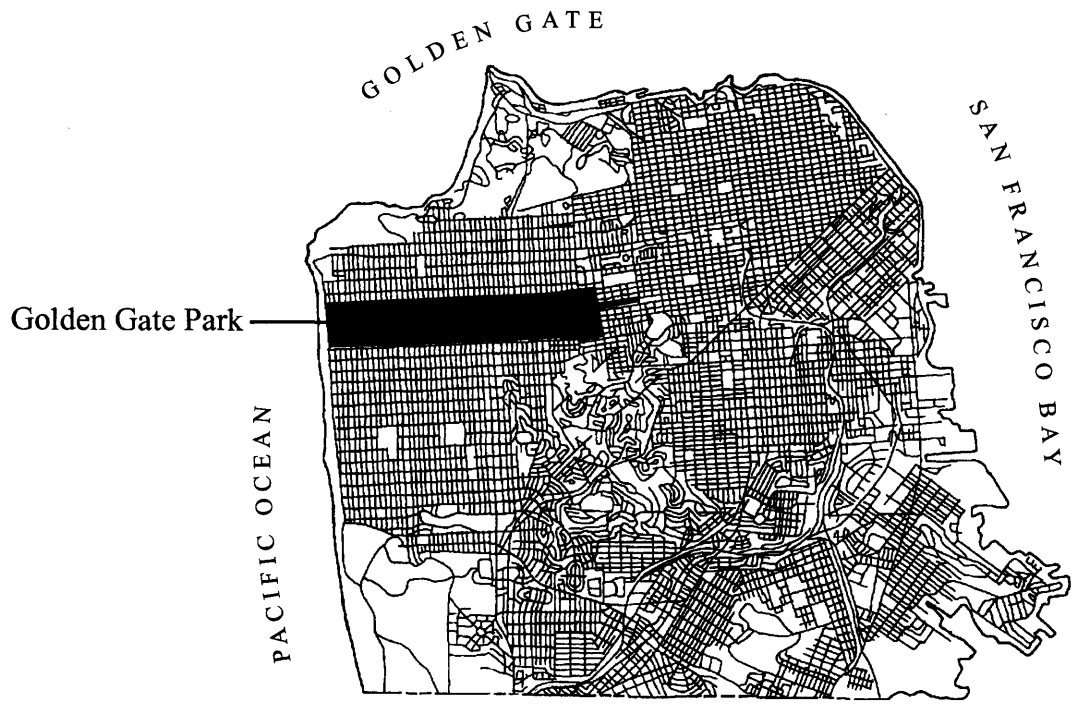
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Archival Photographs:

- Photo 1:      **Photographer:** Douglas Nelson  
                 **Date:** July 20, 2004  
                 **Negative:** held by photographer  
                 **Description:** Conservatory of Flowers and Conservatory Valley looking north
- Photo 2:      **Photographer:** Douglas Nelson  
                 **Date:** July 20, 2004  
                 **Negative:** held by photographer  
                 **Description:** Speedway Meadow looking west
- Photo 3:      **Photographer:** Douglas Nelson  
                 **Date:** July 20, 2004  
                 **Negative:** held by photographer  
                 **Description:** Carousel and corner of Sharon Building looking south
- Photo 4:      **Photographer:** Douglas Nelson  
                 **Date:** July 20, 2004  
                 **Negative:** held by photographer  
                 **Description:** JFK (Main) Drive looking east at Speedway Meadow
- Photo 5:      **Photographer:** Douglas Nelson  
                 **Date:** July 20, 2004  
                 **Negative:** held by photographer  
                 **Description:** Stow Lake and Rustic Bridge looking southeast
- Photo 6:      **Photographer:** Douglas Nelson  
                 **Date:** July 20, 2004  
                 **Negative:** held by photographer  
                 **Description:** Japanese Tea Garden looking north
- Photo 7:      **Photographer:** Douglas Nelson  
                 **Date:** July 20, 2004  
                 **Negative:** held by photographer  
                 **Description:** Dutch (North) Windmill and Queen Wilhelmina Tulip Garden looking northwest
- Photo 8:      **Photographer:** Douglas Nelson  
                 **Date:** July 20, 2004  
                 **Negative:** held by photographer  
                 **Description:** Beach Chalet looking northeast

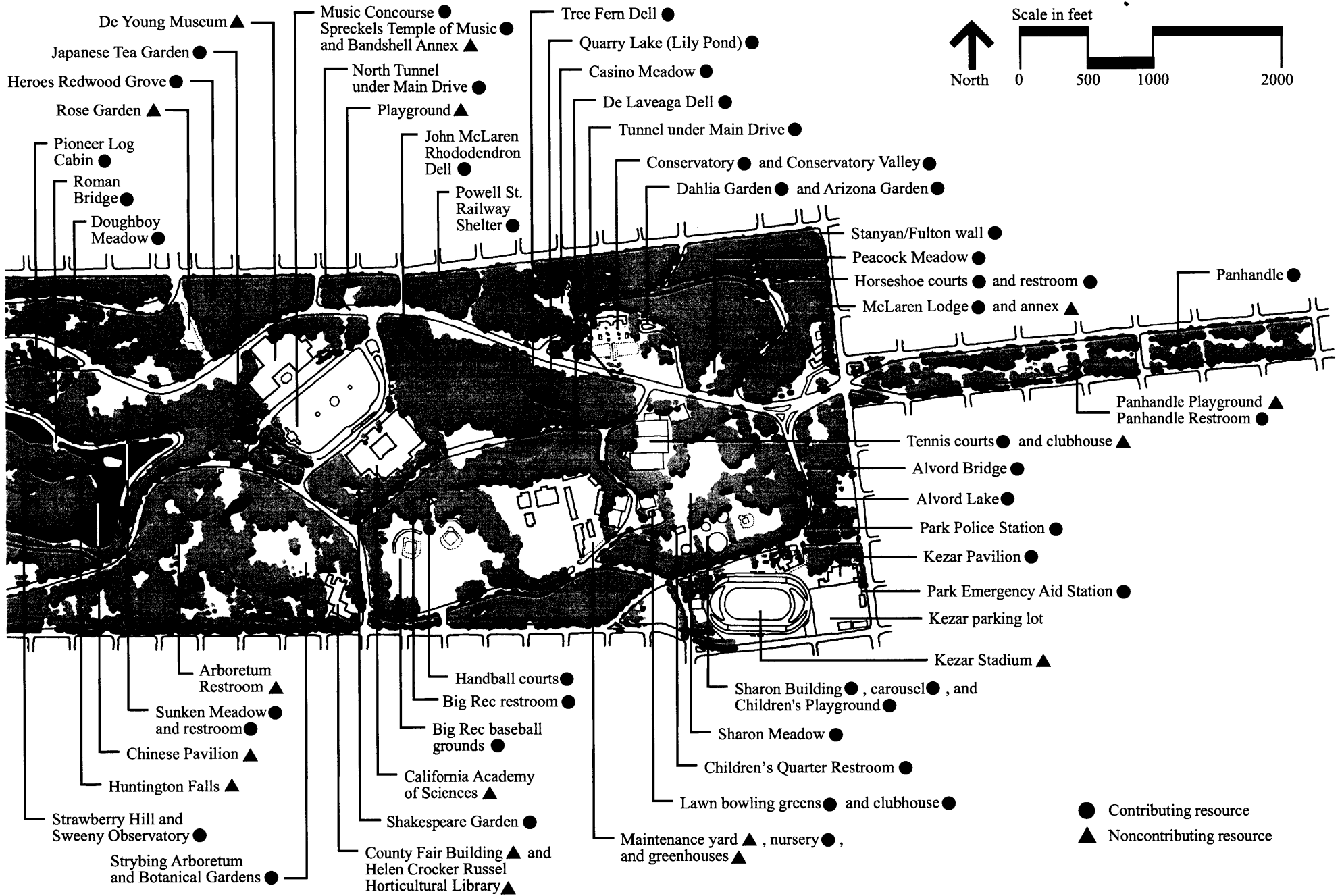


Boundary

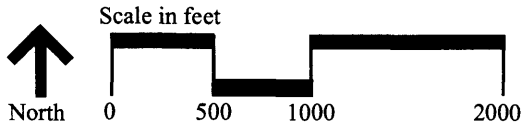
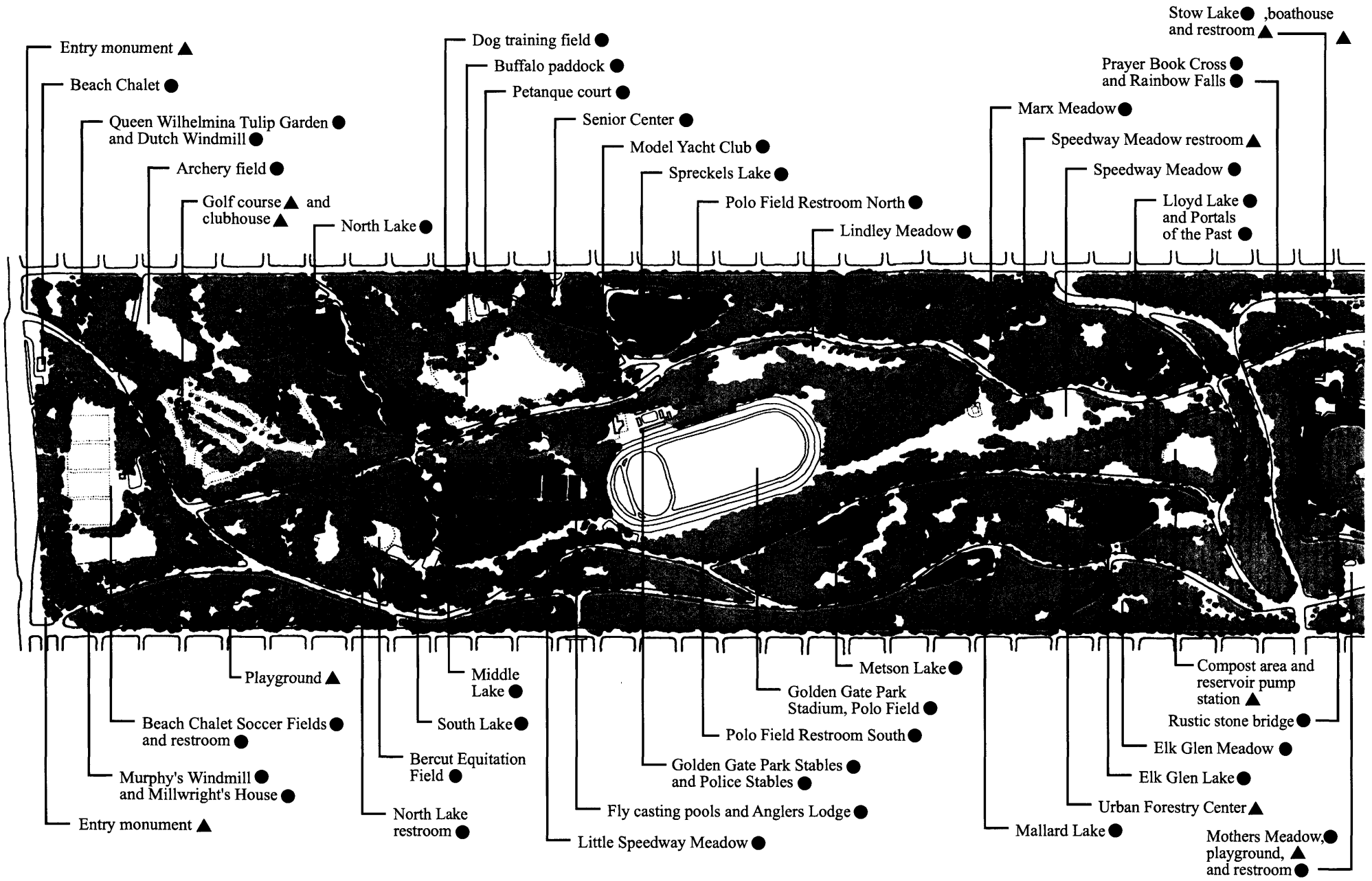


San Francisco

# Location Map and Boundary

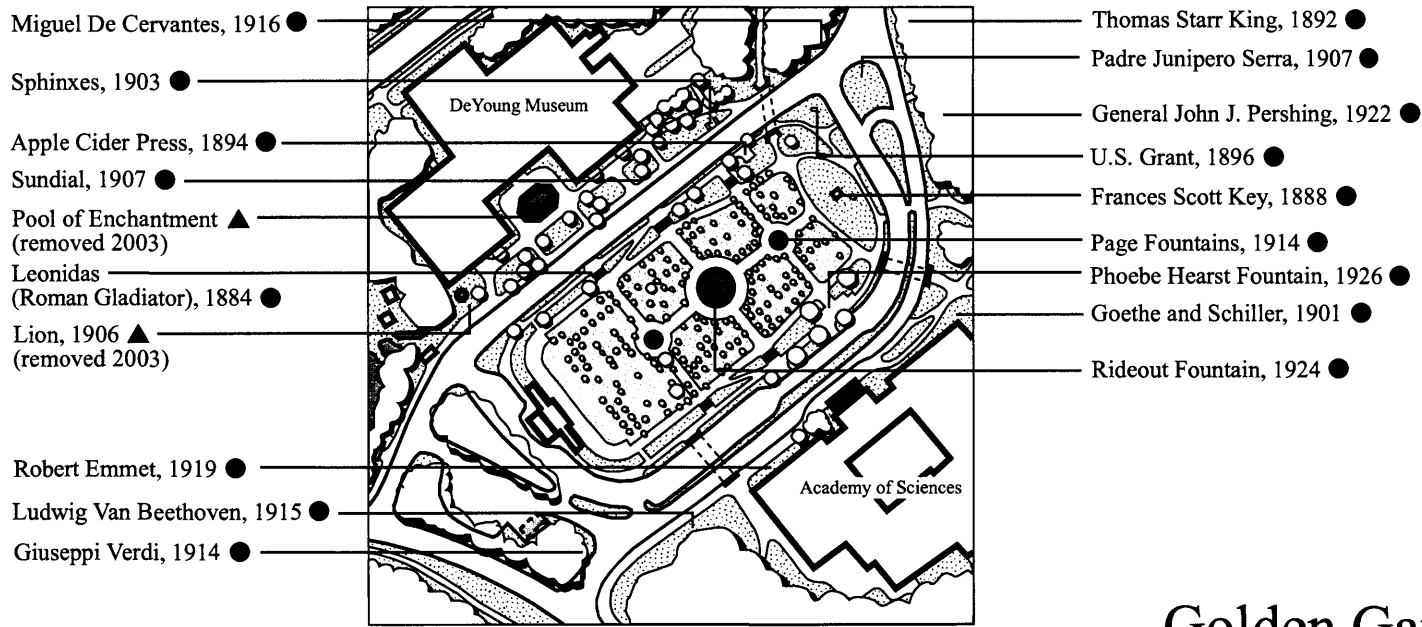
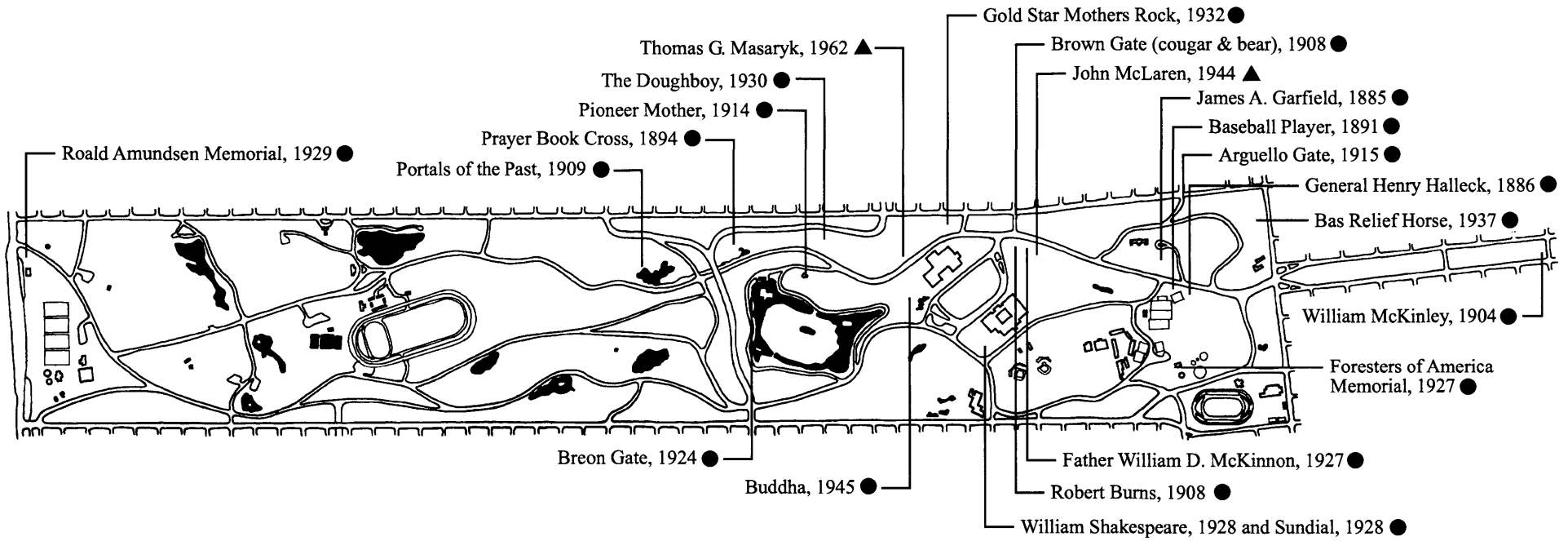


# Golden Gate Park Resources East



● Contributing resource  
▲ Noncontributing resource

# Golden Gate Park Resources West



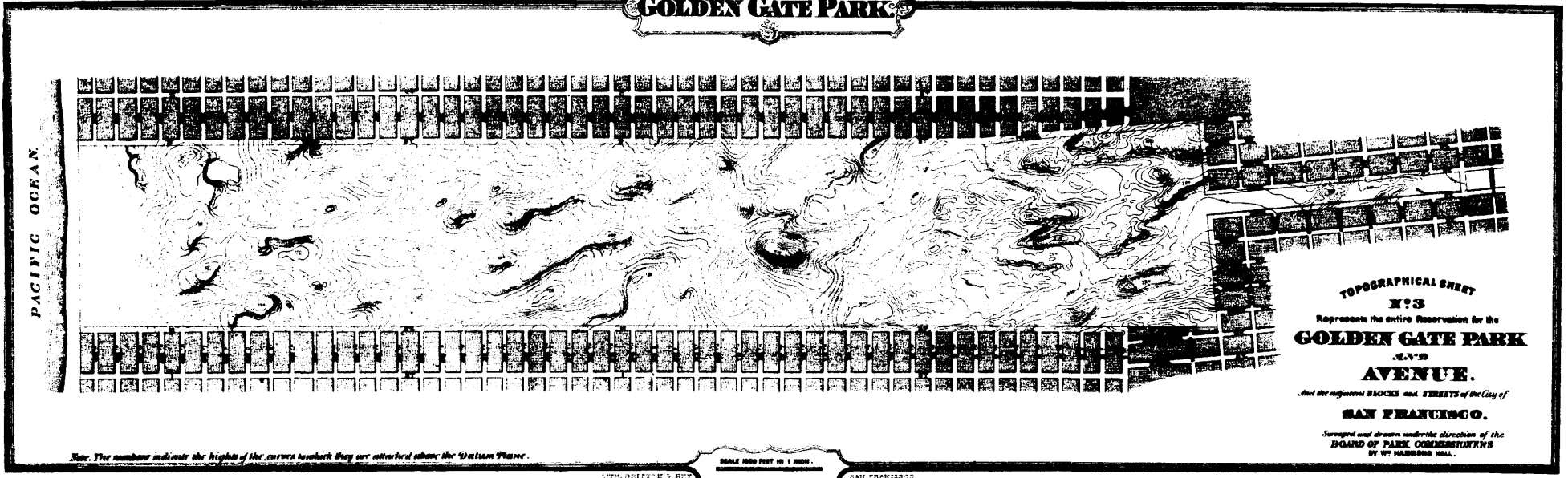
Music Concourse Area

● Contributing resource  
 ▲ Noncontributing resource

## Golden Gate Park Resources Monuments and Statues



**GOLDEN GATE PARK**



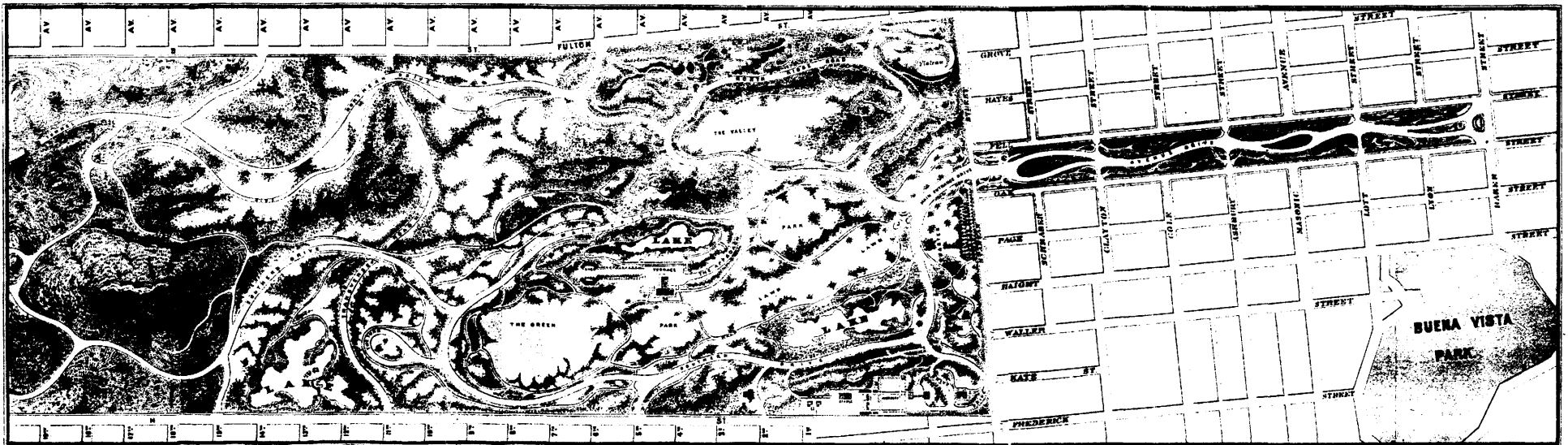
**TOPOGRAPHICAL SHEET**  
**N°3**  
Represents the entire Reservation for the  
**GOLDEN GATE PARK**  
**AND**  
**AVENUE.**  
*And the adjacent BLOCKS and STREETS of the City of*  
**SAN FRANCISCO.**  
*Surveyed and drawn under the direction of the*  
**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**  
*BY* **W. H. HALL.**

*Note: The numbers indicate the heights of the curves to which they are attached above the Datum Plane.*

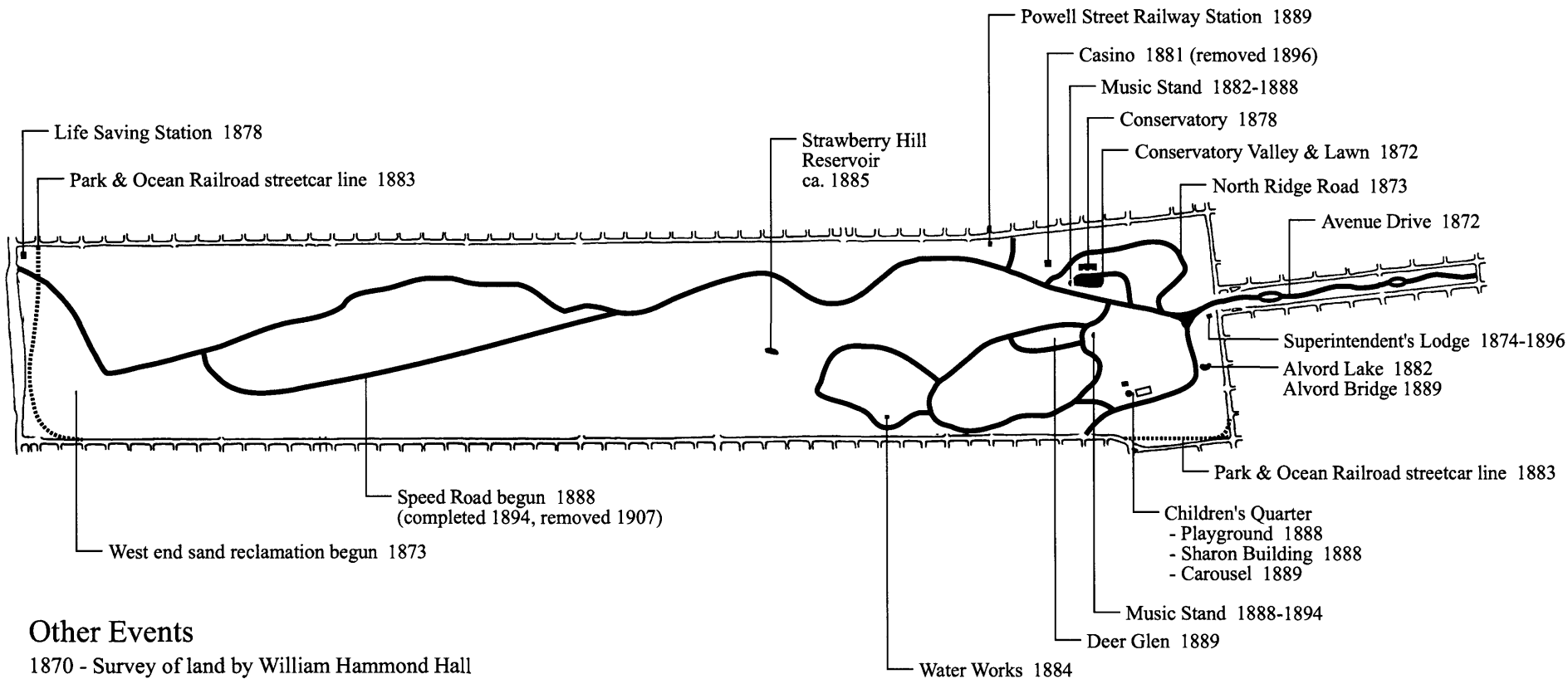
SCALE 1000 FEET IN 1 INCH.

W. H. HALL, SAN FRANCISCO.

**Topographic Map of Golden Gate Park Site  
Prior to Development of Park, ca. 1870**

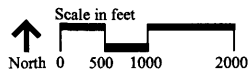


William Hammond Hall's Plan for Golden Gate Park, 1875  
Third Biennial Report of the San Francisco Park Commissioners

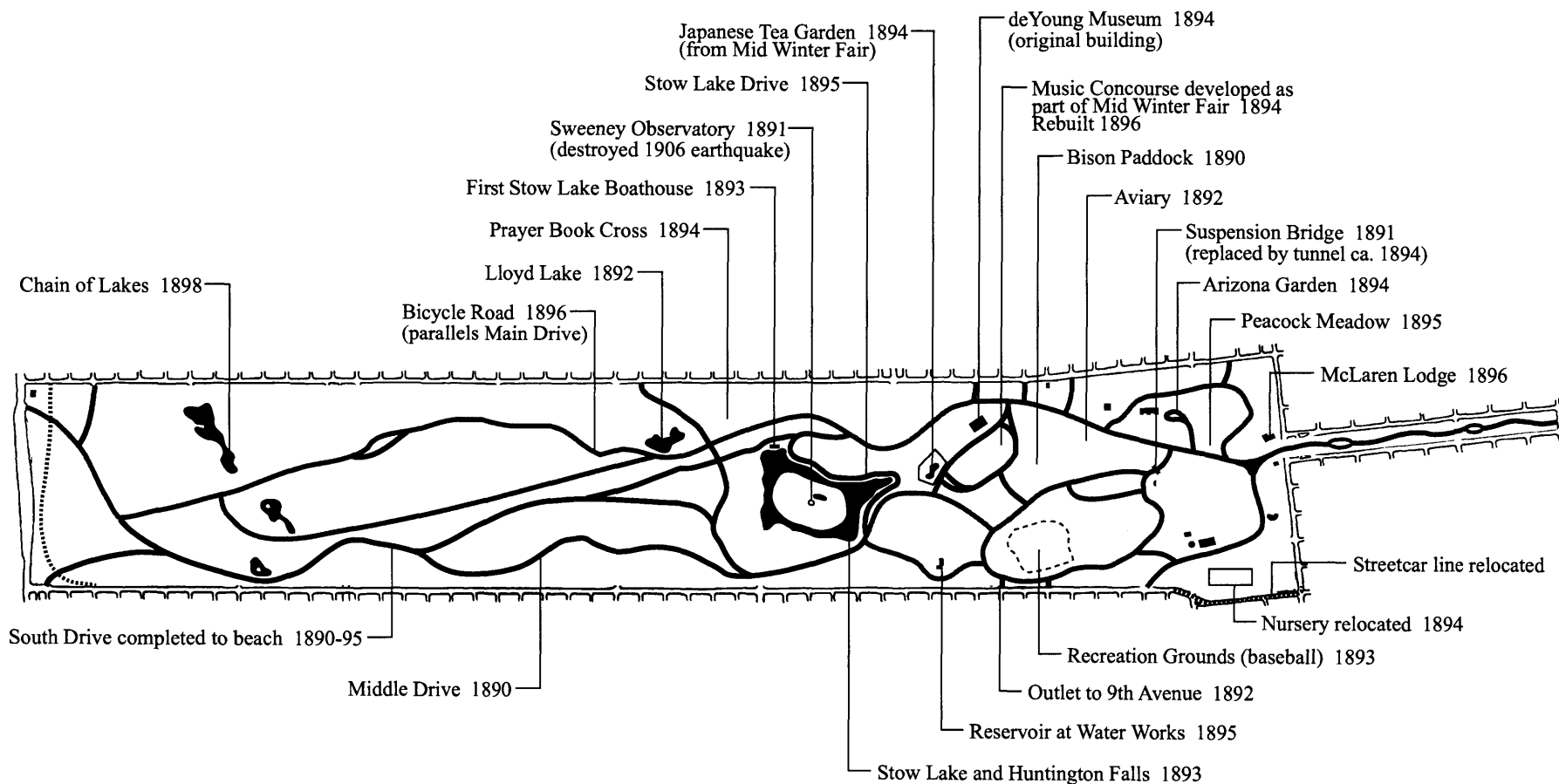


### Other Events

- 1870 - Survey of land by William Hammond Hall
- 1871 - East end fenced
- 1871 - Nursery and greenhouse on present lodge site
- 1871 - William Hammond Hall appointed Engineer of the Park
- 1874 - Four rustic shelters constructed in northeastern park (designed by Anton Gerster)
- 1886 - Frederick Law Olmsted visits Golden Gate Park
- 1887 - John McLaren appointed Assistant Superintendent

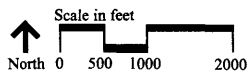


## The Development of Golden Gate Park 1870-1889

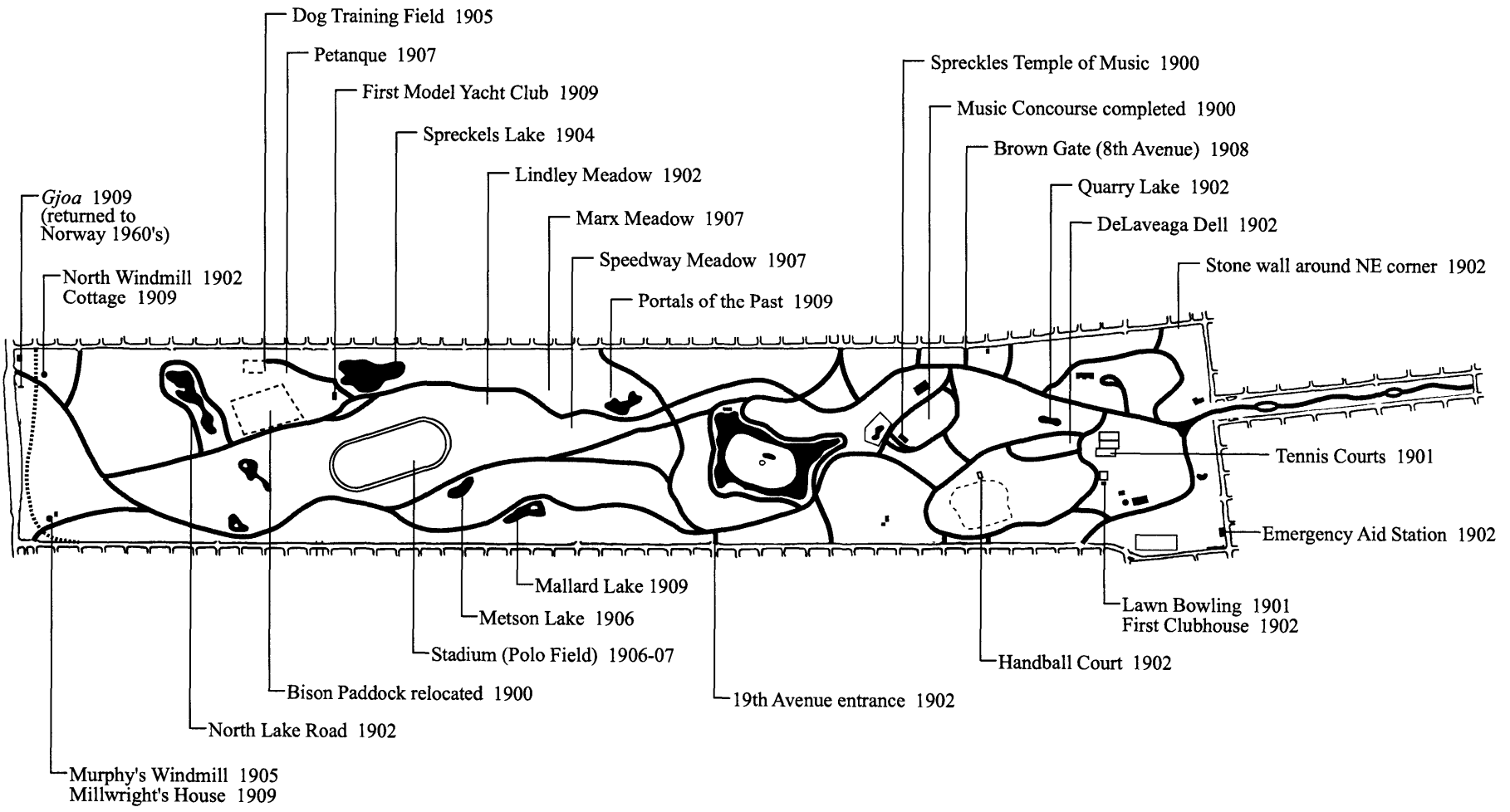


### Other Events

- 1890 - John McLaren appointed Superintendent
- 1894 - Mid Winter Fair
- 1896 - Casino Removed
- 1899 - Park placed under jurisdiction of City rather than State Legislature

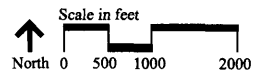


## The Development of Golden Gate Park 1890-1899

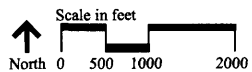
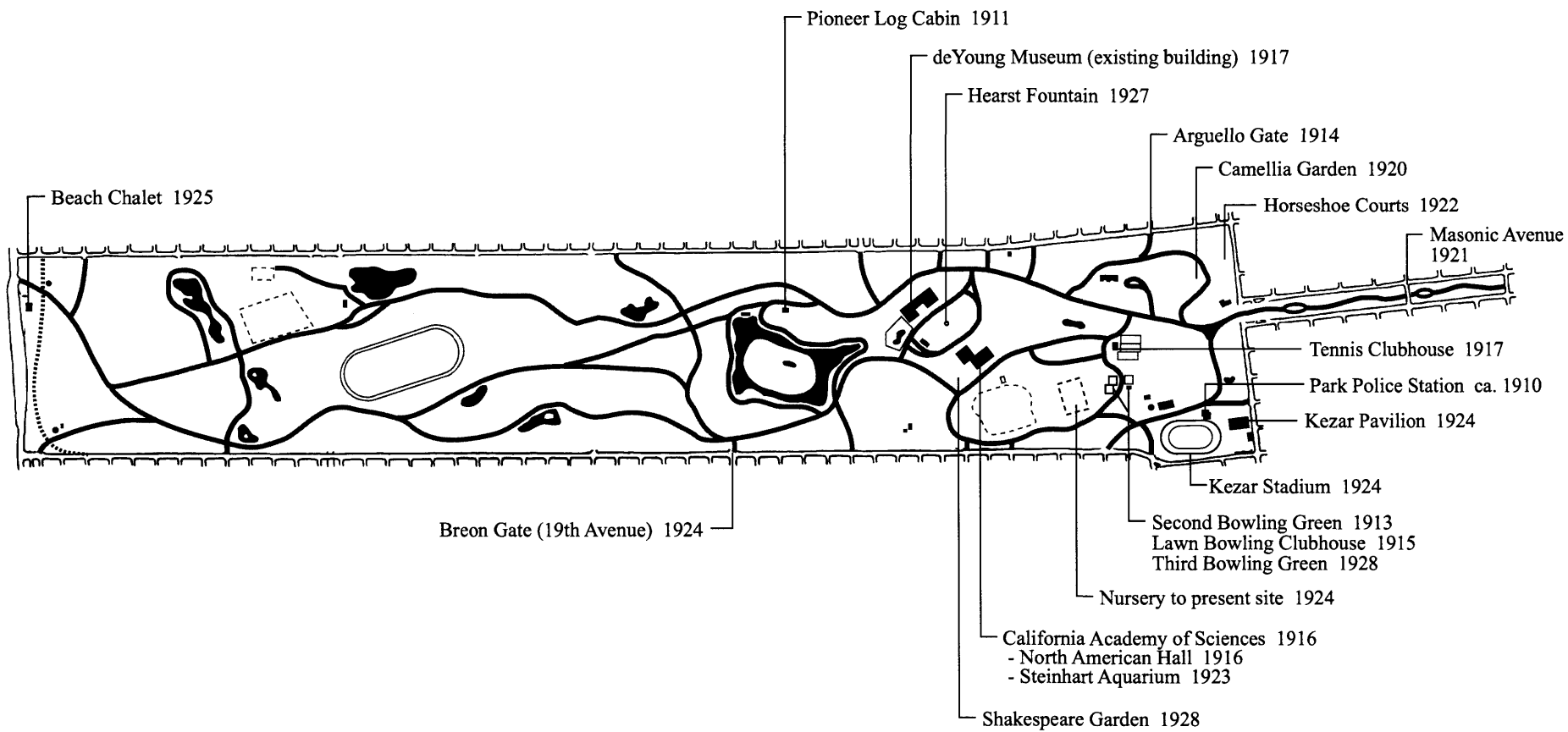


### Other Events

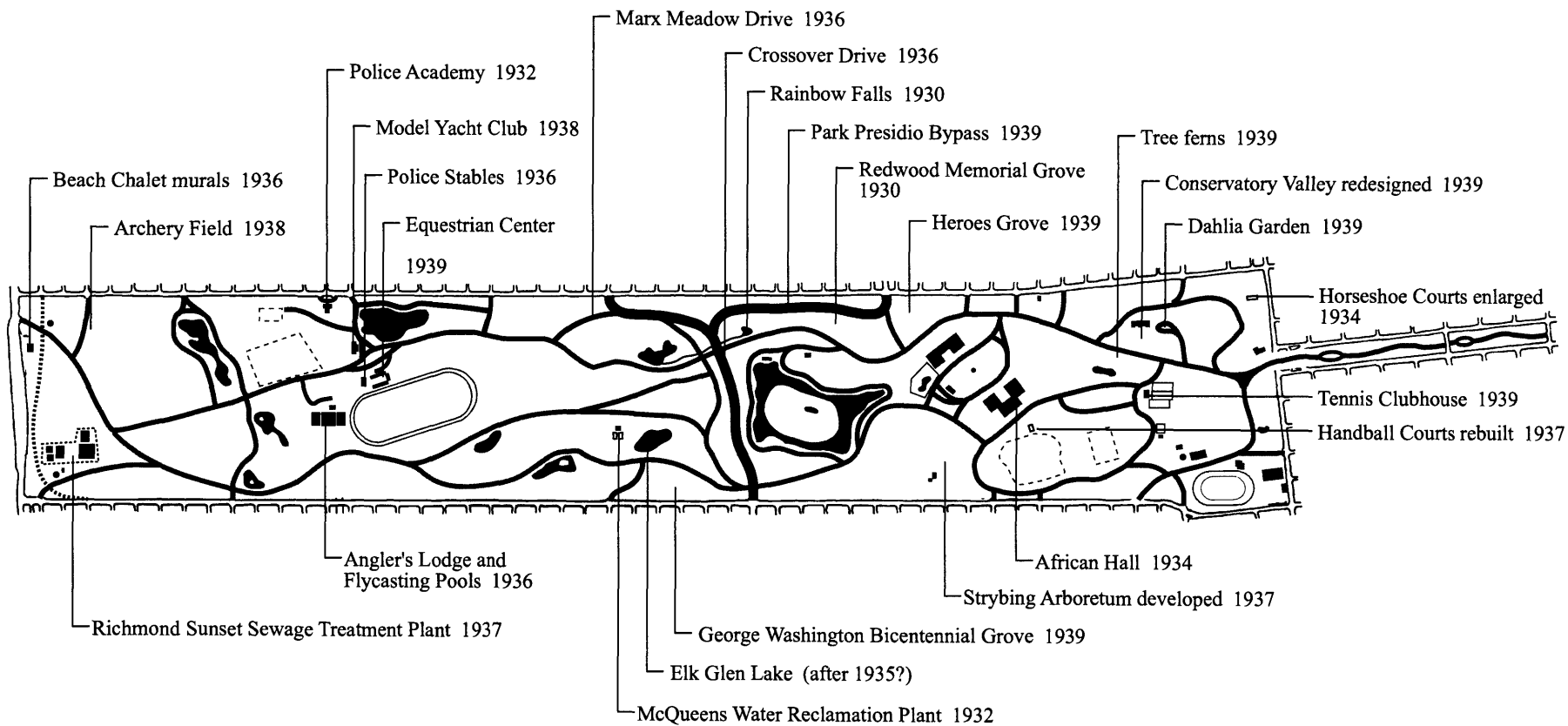
- 1901 - First automobile permit
- 1906 - San Francisco Earthquake
- 1907 - Speed Road removed



## The Development of Golden Gate Park 1900-1909

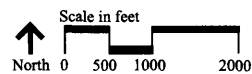


## The Development of Golden Gate Park 1910-1929

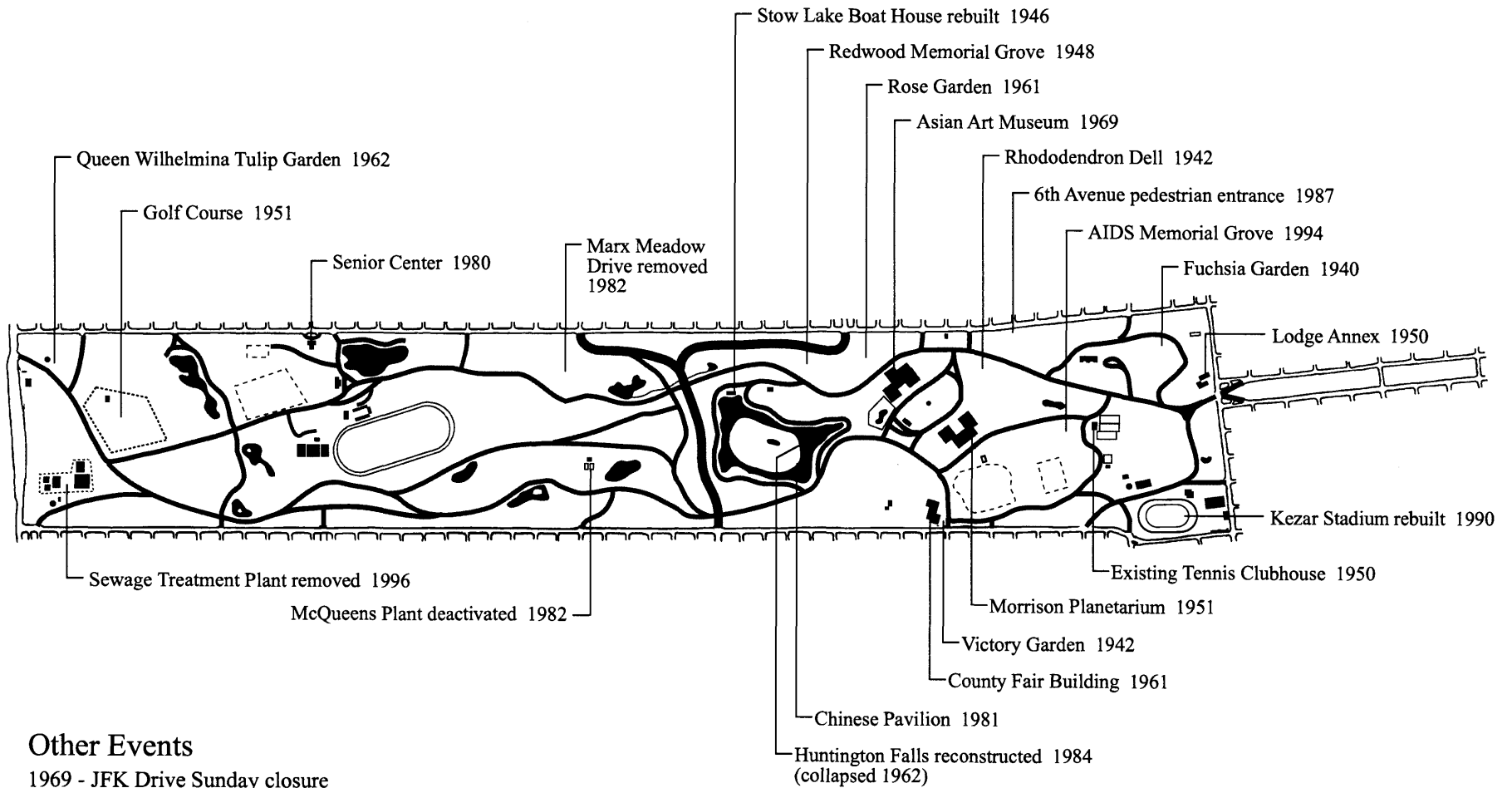


### Other Events

1930's - Works Progress Administration and other federal programs  
 1930's - Aviary removed

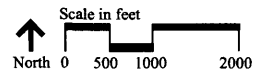


## The Development of Golden Gate Park 1930-1939



### Other Events

- 1969 - JFK Drive Sunday closure
- 1979 - Objectives and Policies for park adopted
- 1980 - Reforestation program started
- 1981 - Marx Meadow Drive removed
- 1981 - 6th Avenue entrance closed to vehicles
- 1985 - Transportation Management Plan adopted
- 1993 - Sunset Richmond Sewage Plant closed

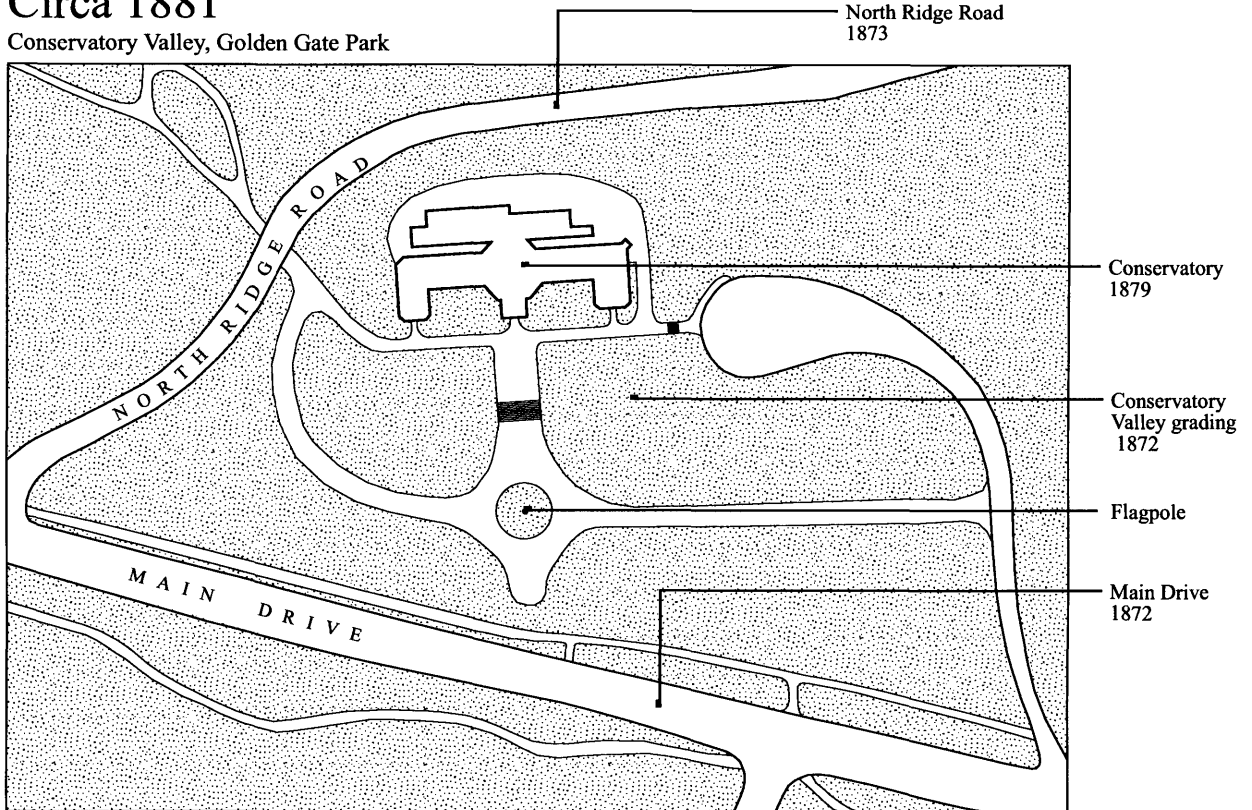


## The Development of Golden Gate Park 1940-Present



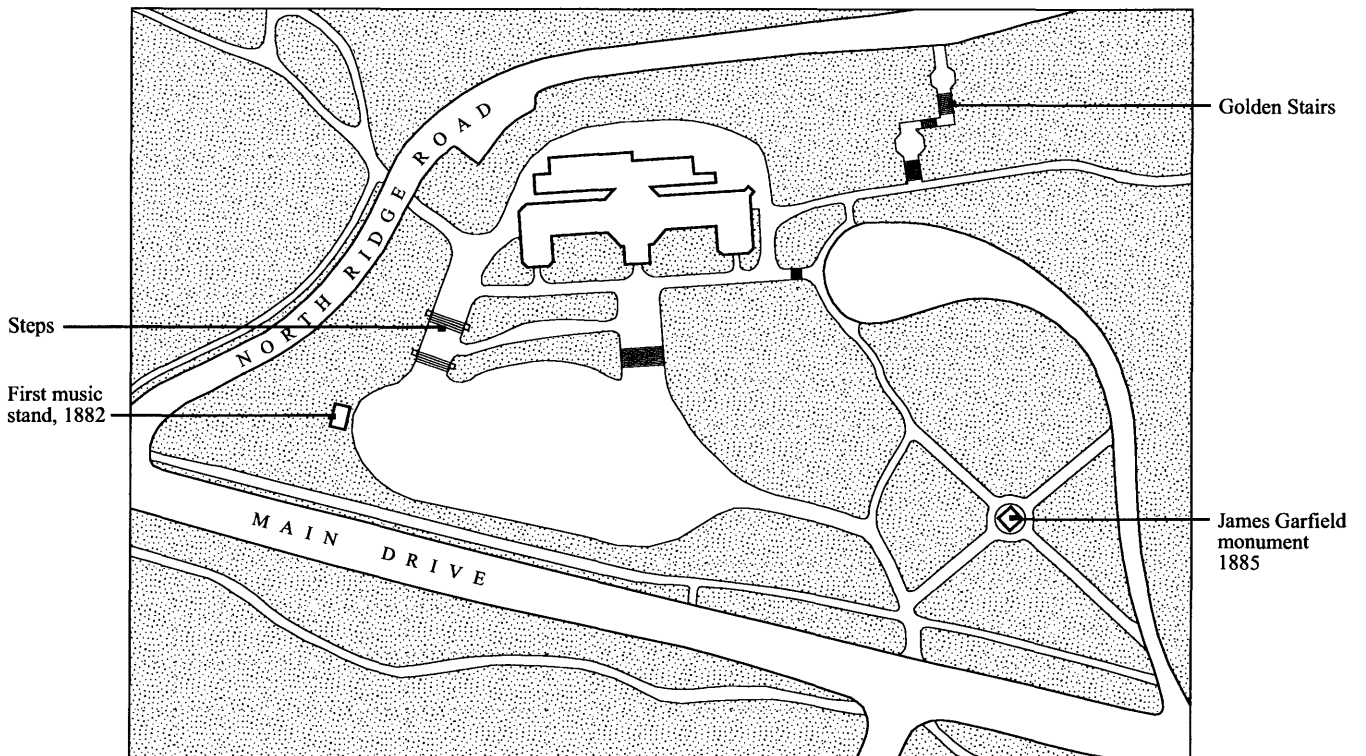
# Circa 1881

Conservatory Valley, Golden Gate Park

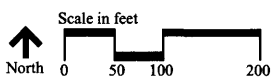


# Circa 1886

Conservatory Valley, Golden Gate Park

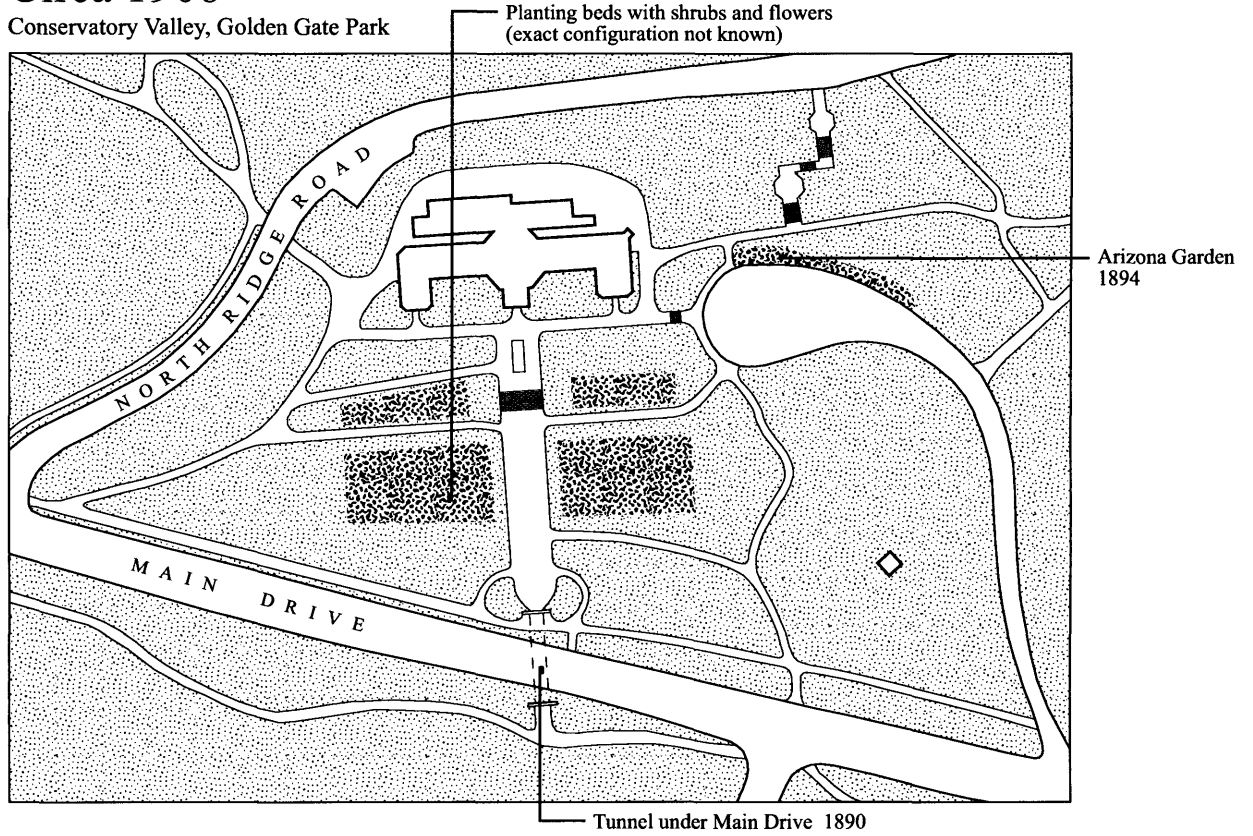


## Development of Conservatory Valley Golden Gate Park



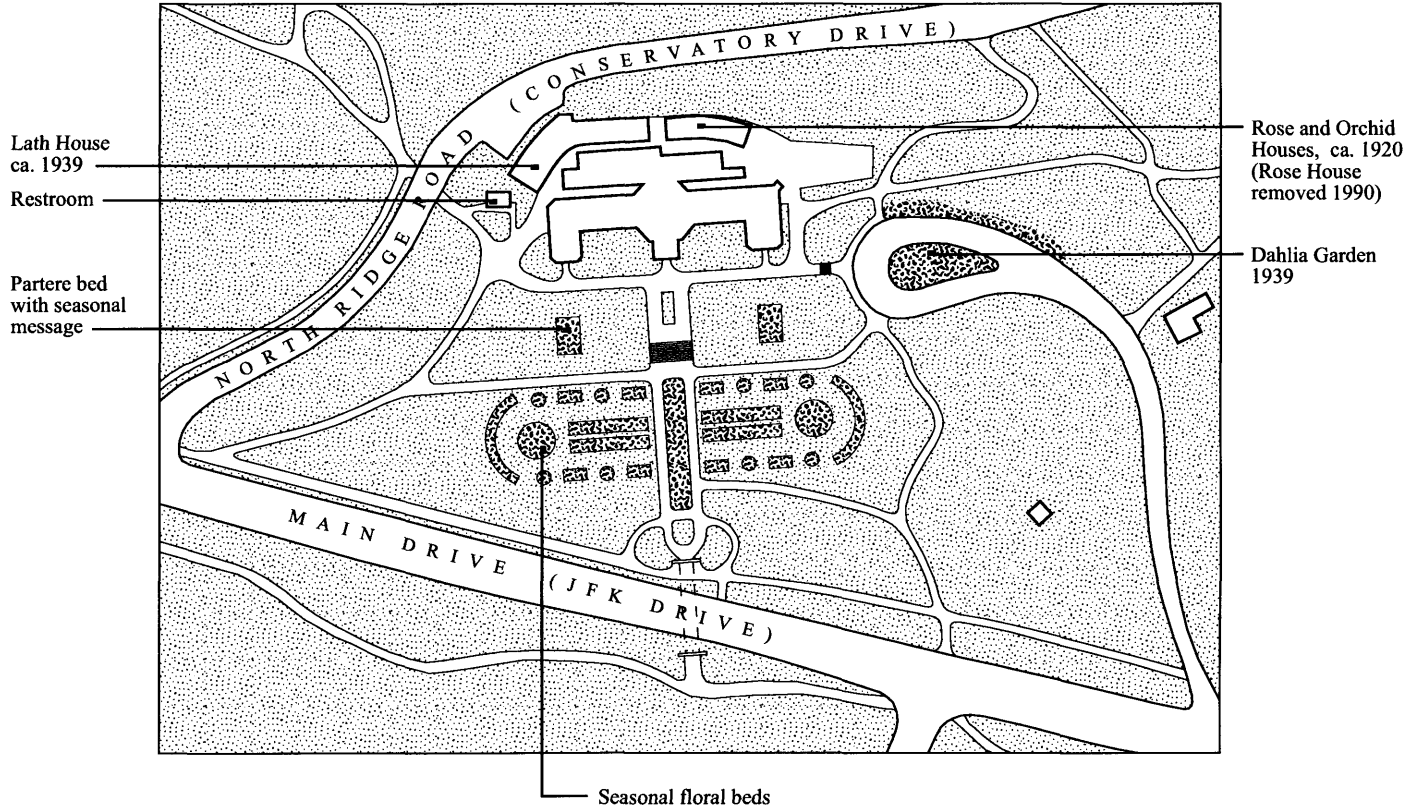
# Circa 1906

Conservatory Valley, Golden Gate Park



# Circa 1915-Present

Conservatory Valley, Golden Gate Park



## Development of Conservatory Valley Golden Gate Park

