

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 684511

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 19 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 1 1978

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC **Ferry Station Post Office Building**

AND/OR COMMON **Agriculture Building**

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
**Embarcadero at the foot of Mission Street**

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN  
**San Francisco**

VICINITY OF

**6**

STATE  
**California 94111**

CODE  
**06**

COUNTY  
**San Francisco**

CODE  
**075**

**CLASSIFICATION**

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

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
**San Francisco Port Commission**

STREET & NUMBER  
**Ferry Building**

CITY, TOWN  
**San Francisco, California 94111** VICINITY OF

STATE  
**California**

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET & NUMBER  
**City Hall, Room 167**

CITY, TOWN  
**San Francisco**

STATE  
**California**

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Agricultural Building, originally designed as the Ferry Station Post Office Building in 1914, is located on the Embarcadero opposite the foot of Mission Street. According to plans dated November, 1914, A.A. Pyle, State Department of Engineering, designed the building and R.T. Alden of the same office did the structural renderings. The entire project was carried out under the direction of the Architectural Division of the Department of Engineering, State of California. According to State Board of Harbor Commission notes, actual construction of the building was begun by Teichert and Ambrose on April 30, 1915. The original building was completed in August of 1915, and a second story rear addition in the same style added in 1918. On January 31, 1919 construction began on an extension on the dolphin between ferry slips 7 and 8.

Charles Hall Page & Associates, in their Survey of Cultural Resources commissioned by the Port of San Francisco and dated November 14, 1977, provide a definitive description of the Agriculture Building as it appears today, and of its interior space as originally designed:

The Agriculture Building is an excellent example of the Mediterranean Style, and is particularly notable for its fine detailing. It is a two-story steel frame structure with a tile hip roof, walls of 12-inch-long red pressed brick laid up in Flemish bond with light mortar, a granite base, artificial stone details of cement colored French ochre, and a copper cornice. The original building was 167 feet wide by 125 feet deep on the first floor. The second floor was the same width but only 58 feet deep. The 1918 addition added a second story to the south end of the building above the first floor and mezzanine, which projected beyond the end of the original structure and was supported over a driveway on steel columns.

The building was once connected to a large timber shed to the rear with 16,000 square feet for storage and additional work space. Between the original building and the shed behind it ran a covered walkway which linked the ferry slips to the Ferry Building. The old post office and the shed were connected by raised galleries over the covered walkway.

The principal facade is a well proportioned composition with a main central entrance and lesser entrances at each end. The end entrances are set off, as if they were separate pavilions, by wide piers of artificial stone that rise through the full height of the building. All the entrances are framed in this same artificial stone. There are bracketed lintels over the end entrances and a cast iron griffin and shield carrying a flag pole over the central entrance. The doors are set in frames of cast and wrought iron with classical colonettes and moldings and decorative transom grills.

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Horizontal courses of artificial stone divide the facade into a high first floor and a squat second floor. The high rectangular windows of the first floor are set in brick architraves outlined in a recessed course of bricks. Between the square windows of the second floor are elaborative decorative brickwork panels.

The finished design is carried around to the sides of the two-story front of the building. The high ground floor of the original rear of the building is crowned with an artificial stone band. Originally there was a handsome metal marquee on either side, cantilevered on chains from iron plates which are still visible near the tops of the walls. The marquees have been removed and the fenestration has been altered. On the south side of the building, the 1918 addition is visible as the top floor which extends from the back of the second vertical pier of artificial stone beyond the end of the original building over the roadway. This addition has a tiled hip roof, copper cornice, and the same brick as the original structure.

As a post office, the building's interior was designed with a finished public space on the northwest corner of the first floor and work space behind it, a central entrance and stair hall to second floor offices, and a vast workroom over the rest of the floor, with a mezzanine level of lookout galleries, distribution platforms, locker rooms, storage rooms, and toilets.

The main public space had a floor of pink Tennessee marble and elaborate stamp windows of ornamental iron with classical columns and moldings above a marble dado.

The second floor contained the offices of the postmaster and the superintendent of mails at the north end, the dead letter room at the south end, and a variety of postal offices served by dumb-waiters from the workroom below. There were public counters at the top of the stairs for special delivery. The offices of the postmaster and superintendent of mails were finished in wood paneling. Corridors were paneled in Vitrolite.

On April 30th, 1925, the Post Office Department vacated the building, and in August of 1925, the Ferry Post Office Building was assigned to Southern Pacific on a month to month basis. At that time the observation gallery and open balconies were removed, as well as the wooden staircase from the mezzanine floor up to the second floor.

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Further modifications took place over the years as occupancy changed. By 1930 offices of the Oakland-Alameda Ferry shared space with Southern Pacific. The Department of Agriculture is first officially listed as occupying the Ferry Station Post Office Building in the 1933 San Francisco City Directory. Board of State Harbor Commissioners' Minutes indicate that on July 1, 1933, the Department of Agriculture was assigned 12,134 sq. ft., 2nd floor, and 2,537 sq. ft., first floor of Annex "C" (Ferry Station Post Office Building). Today offices cut up the original interior space, and only the central stair hall remains of the original interior.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION	
1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE	
1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		__INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1915

BUILDER/ARCHITECT A.A. Pyle

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Agriculture Building, originally designed as the Ferry Station Post Office, is both architecturally and historically significant. The original concept for a building which would centralize San Francisco's postal services was announced in the May 1, 1896 San Francisco Call. At this time plans called for a frame building.

"Great Changes Promised in the Local Postal System."

"A Scheme to Centralize the Working Forces at the Water Front."

"The New Building to Centralize the Working Forces of the Waterfront."

"The idea is to centralize the business of the Post Office at the waterfront. This contemplated innovation is the result of the streetcar postal system introduced at Boston, Philadelphia, New York and other large cities." "The mail streetcars will receive and deliver the entire mail of the City, and as all streetcar lines terminate at the ferries it is thought San Francisco will be much better served." "The scheme is to centralize the working forces of the postal department at the waterfront."

In 1915, the present-day Agriculture Building assumed the task of "centralization," and until the Post Office moved into new and larger quarters in 1925, the Ferry Station Post Office was the central postal facility for the City of San Francisco.

Architecturally the building is a fine example of an early 20th century Mediterranean style government building. Between 1913 and 1915 the State Department of Engineering designed a number of waterfront structures for the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, and the Agriculture Building, designed by A.A. Pyle, survives as one of the finest examples of Mediterranean architecture executed by the State for the Harbor Commission.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Page, Charles Hall & Associates. Survey of Cultural Resources. November 14, 1977.  
 San Francisco Call, "Great Changes Promised in the Local Postal System." May 1, 1896.  
 San Francisco City Directory. 1933  
 State Harbor Commissioners, Board of. Biennial Report 1912-1914.  
 . Minutes. Vols. 32 and 35.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .58 acre (25,238 square feet)

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A 10 553629 4182940

B               

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*East side of The Embarcadero*

The Agriculture Building is located in the City of San Francisco and fronts on the east side of The Embarcadero at the foot of Mission, approximately 215 feet south of the Ferry Building.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Pamela McGuire, Staff Historian

February 8, 1978

ORGANIZATION

Office of Historic Preservation

(916) 322-8599

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 2390

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Sacramento, California

STATE

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Kenny M. Ellison*

TITLE

DATE SEP 8 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*for Charles A. ...*

DATE 12-1-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 ATTEST: *W. Ray ...*  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

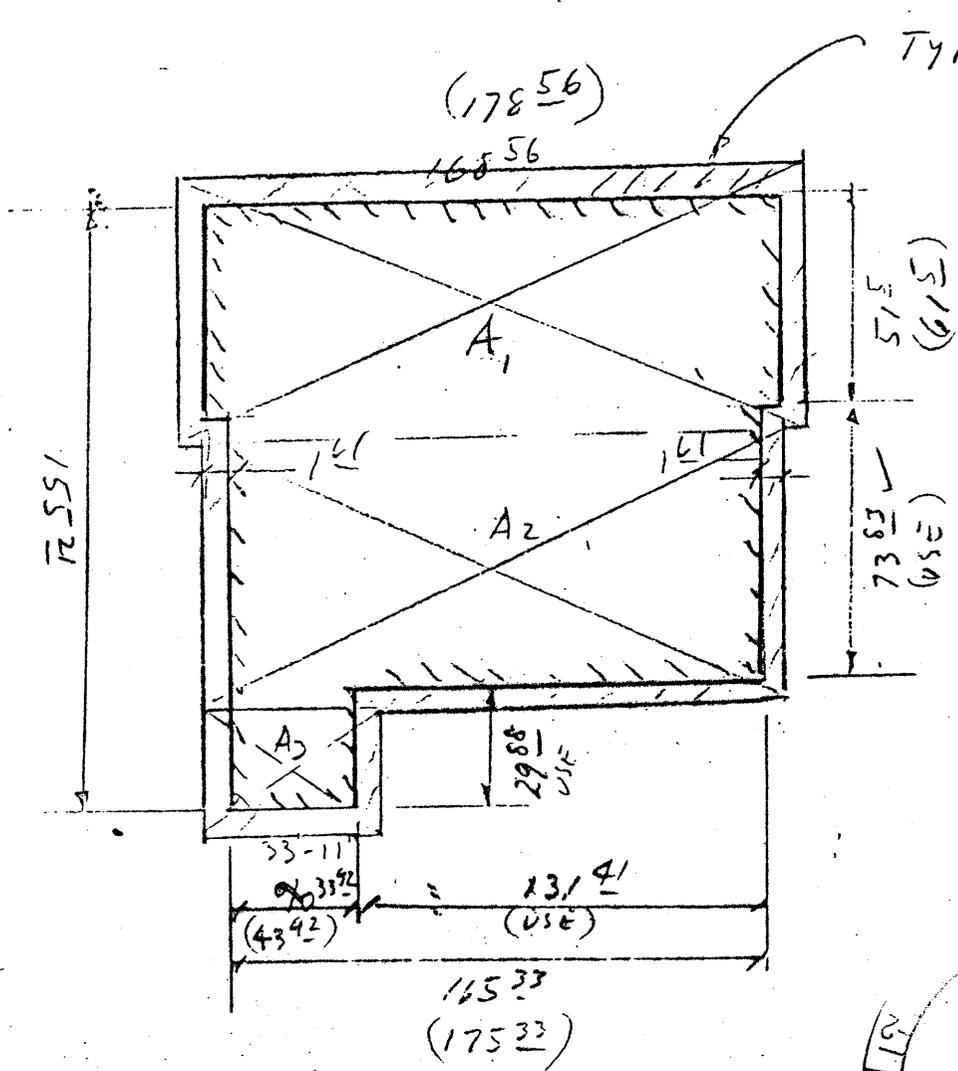
DATE Nov. 16, 1978

(FROM ADJUDICATION)  
SHT. + 20 278

103.71

103.71  
3.71  
107.42  
19.5"

7.50  
3.71  
11.21



103.71  
73.83  
-----  
29.88

168.56  
165.33  
-----  
3.23  
2 = 1.6



$A_1 = 178.56 \times 61.50 = 10,981.44$

$A_2 = 175.33 \times 73.83 = 12,944.61$

$A_3 = 43.92 \times 29.88 = 1,312.33$

$25,238.38 \text{ sq ft} = 0.5799 \text{ ACRES}$