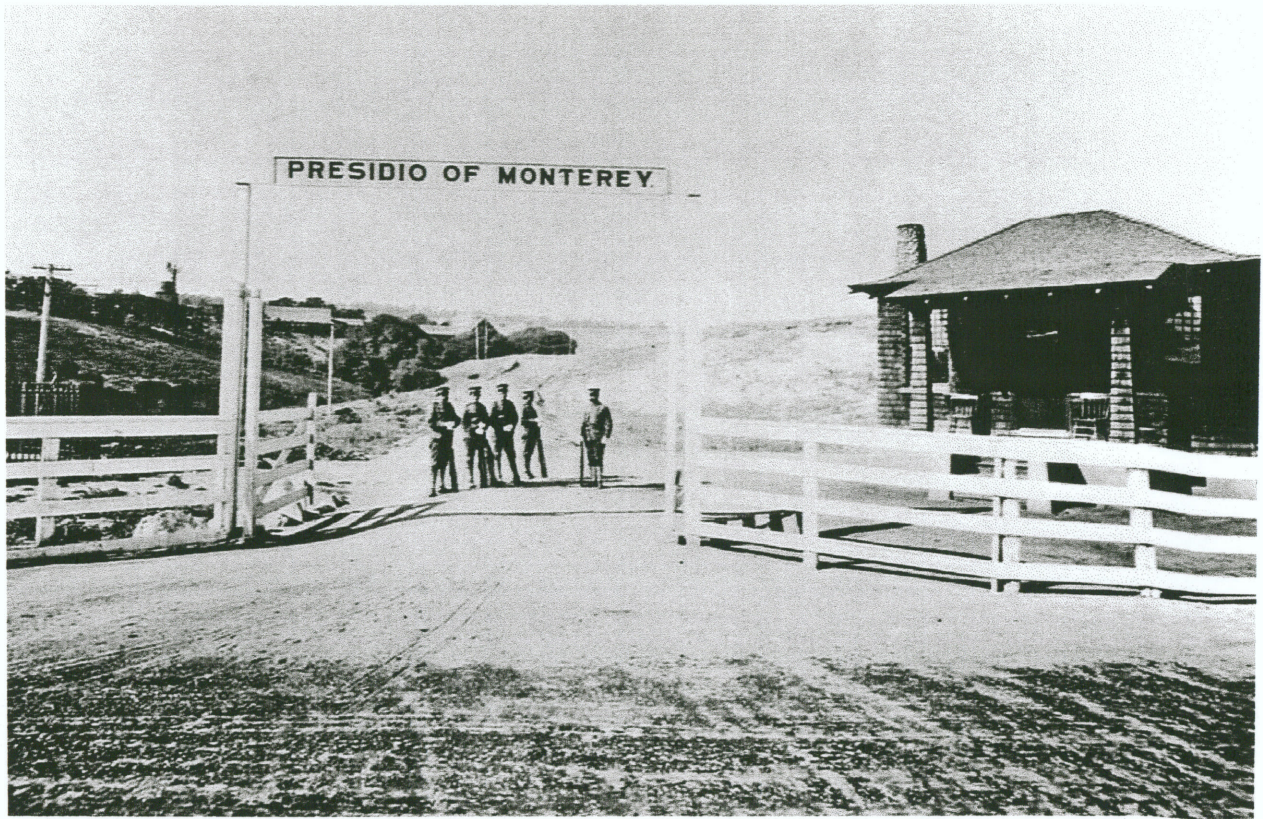


Interpretive Themes & Master Plan Recommendations



Interpretive Themes & Master Plan Recommendations

Every site has a "genius loci," Latin for the "essence of the place, the character of significance." It sums up the general values of the place, representing its "reason to exist," in French, its "raison d'être." These values are derived directly from the site's features, its cultural and natural resources. Recognition of the inherent values leads to an overall vision of the place. That vision dictates the underlying theme or themes to be interpreted. Typically, this "vision" is expressed in terms of interpretive themes communicated to visitors – the messages that they take away from their experience (Knudson et al. 1995:365-371).

THEMATIC PROPOSAL

Goal

To inspire respect, understanding, appreciation and awe for the natural, historical, and archaeological resources of the Presidio of Monterey (POM) in every park visitor. The objectives are as follows:

1. To inform the public of the importance of the political and military significance of the site; (make them value the lands that make up the lower Presidio).
2. To stimulate the public's curiosity about the very important history represented; (make them want to visit other sites like Custom House, Colton Hall, prehistoric sites in the area; read a book).
3. To instill respect in the public for archaeological sites, and the area's prehistory and history.
4. To provoke wonder about the combination of natural beauty and intellectual content of the site (make them glad they came, want to come back).
5. To prompt thoughts about the way in which natural history and cultural history are intertwined.
6. To relate the Presidio's history to the City of Monterey's history in the various historical periods.

Primary Theme for the Lower Presidio

The Presidio of Monterey has commanded the Monterey Bay for millennia because of its strategic geographic positioning. Helen Hunt Jackson said: "climate is fate;" here, geographic location and topography are fate as natural history shapes cultural history. The objectives are as follows:

1. The visitor will leave the site with the following realizations:
 - a. Geologic change dictated the shape of this land overlooking the Monterey Bay. Later, natural history shaped human history.
 - b. People – Prehistoric Native Americans, Spanish colonists, Mexican Republicans, and invading Americans occupied and fortified this hill because it overlooks the Bay. Potential enemies could be seen approaching by sea and from the mouth of the Salinas River.
 - c. The U.S. retained the Presidio of Monterey partly in honor of its strategic role through history, culminating in its central role in the events leading to California becoming a part of the U.S. This park recognizes the site's value and significance.

Secondary Themes

1. Man made primarily military history on this site because of its strategic defensive positioning. The importance of the military events that have taken place on this site demanded interpretation and monuments have been the traditional response.
 - a. The changing nature of the fortifications is a recurring theme: the appearance, the function and features of the two Hispanic El Castillo batteries, the bastion of Fort Mervine/Monterey Redoubt, the cavalry stables, and the WWII artillery garage.
 - b. Artillery is a recurring theme: the number, the caliber, the placement, the reach, even the names and designs of cannon are of interest to children and adults alike.
 - c. Military transport is another important sub-theme. The Spanish and Mexican armies were mounted, as was the U.S. Army until the

gradually phasing out of the cavalry and the advent of motorized transportation exemplified by the jeep. The horse drawn supply wagons were replaced by trucks.

2. Prehistoric village life is an important secondary theme. The Native American community has expressed an interest in the creation of a monument to commemorate the aboriginal people of this site. Appropriate ways to recognize the importance of the prehistoric occupation of the area will continue to be discussed, and involve dialogue with the Native American community.
 - a. Archaeology: Knowledge of the prehistoric village site gained from archaeology can be sensitively interpreted without identifying precise locations of significant features, or making mention of the highly sensitive deposits. Previous excavations of sensitive remains have desecrated the site from a Native American perspective – this issue may be resolved to some extent by re-interment of burials and associated artifacts.
 - b. Conservation of archaeological sites preserves their information potential intact for future study, testing of hypotheses, and honors their importance.
 - c. Habitations: Village life and habitation of the area can be represented in many ways. Some daily activities that may be commemorated are grinding, shellfish processing, construction of tule housing, hunting, and cooking.
 - d. Food and water supply is a significant factor in the Native American occupation of this site and adjoining sites below the hill extending around the beach. This includes the Serra Landing Site, the site of Lighthouse Avenue, to the Custom House by the Native Americans. All of this area contains middens of shellfish. Even after Native Americans no longer permanently inhabited this site, they continued to exploit its food resources.

Proposed Primary Theme for the Upper Presidio

The changing nature of coastal defense. With worldwide military interventions a 20th-century reality, the Presidio was reactivated not as a coastal defense fortification against invasion, but as to a training installation for an international military presence. (The upper Presidio today represents an important aspect of the military mission: language training essential to worldwide military effectiveness at the Defense Language Institute).

AUDIENCE

Several audiences have been identified as potential visitors to the Lower Presidio park. Local adults and families can be expected to visit the site, particularly if jogging trails are attractive and linked with the recreation trail in some manner. They visit the site year round. Local residents are one of the current primary visitor groups, and this pattern can be expected to continue.

Another primary audience is third and fourth grade school children brought to the site either in school buses or in private automobiles driven by parents. Site visits by school groups are restricted to the school year calendar. A challenge will be to provide specialized interpretation for children, while providing different detail and depth for the adult audience.

Another important audience is tourists visiting Monterey. Some will be adults in tour buses and others families visiting the California Missions with their youngsters. Others will be conference attendees staying at the Doubletree, Marriot, Hilton, and Monterey Plaza hotels. Tourist volume is somewhat seasonal, greater in the three summer months, early fall and late spring. The socio-economic profile of the tourists is largely expected to conform to that of tourists visiting the Monterey Peninsula generally as determined by the Visitor's and Convention Bureau. Male visitors with military experience are apt to find the site compelling. Women may be more attracted to the vistas and scenic beauty of the site than the military historical aspects. Still, the Serra landing

story and the significance of the site to Native American, U.S., and California history should appeal to visitors of all ages and sexes.

PSYCHOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE ISSUES

One of the aims of interpretation is to provoke thought. The Presidio of Monterey presents an opportunity to provoke thought on some potentially controversial issues. People of varying experience, education, age, and sex may view some issues central to the park in different ways, as there are both positive and negative associations related to them.

For World War II and Korean War Veterans, military aspects of the POM are likely to conjure up positive feelings of pride, patriotism and respect for the U.S. Armed Forces. Older Americans' pride in the United States and their education in American History may make them proud of our nation's extension from "sea to shining sea." For baby-boomers, whose parents were veterans of those wars, negative associations with the Vietnam War era and the Cold War may elicit mixed feelings.

Some Americans may feel sorrow about the segregation of Black soldiers in the defense of our nation. Others may feel pride about the representation of Black soldiers at the Presidio and in the park. And still others may feel regret about the historical treatment of the indigenous people who formerly inhabited this land.

Some people will be thrilled to realize that they are standing upon a site that was actually claimed for Spain by an early explorer. Others may have been exposed to the "Black Legend" that painted the Spanish and Catholics as wholly evil.

California is becoming increasingly Spanish speaking. Some people will be interested to know that Spanish-speaking people of Spain, then Mexico, erected and controlled these fortifications, and perhaps feel sad that Mexico lost them in the Mexican War. Others, who may be less aware of California's Hispanic cultural heritage, or unhappy about demographic change, may feel otherwise.

It is important that the presentation work to provoke thought about issues, not direct it towards any preconceived "correct" view.

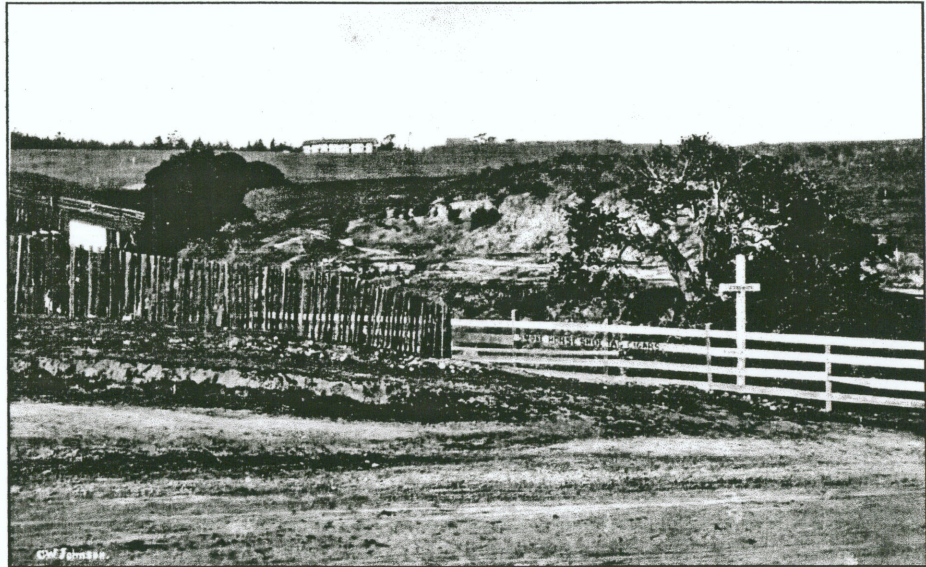
TRANSPORTATION & MODE OF ARRIVAL

Pedestrians may reach the site on foot via a pedestrian pathway from Van Buren Street, or from the parking area on the corner of Lighthouse and Scott, south of the site. Most visitors will probably come in buses or automobiles through the Artillery Street gate and will require parking near the museum. The latter will probably not experience the entry exhibits unless they purposely walk down Artillery to see them. It is important that the parking be immediately adjacent to the museum to encourage visitors to take in the museum orientation first, and then tour the site. Some means of directing the public from the Recreation trail over to the POM should be devised. Trails at POM could be an alternative to watching the seals, and the views here are equally wonderful. The average walker/jogger could experience a different route, and absorb some natural and cultural history along the way.

TREATMENT OF ENTRANCE TO THE PARK

Consistent with the site, entrances to the park should be developed historically. Gateway features should not create a false sense of history. We suggest orientation of the pedestrian visitor to the museum/visitor center initially at the base of the hill on the site of the turn of the century shingle style

guardhouse (which was quarried for granite gravel to construct the roads of the presidio).



Gravel quarry site in 1880s with barrack and blockhouse above at Fort Mervine. Pat Hathaway collection.

A small shingled segmented lineal structure, individual interpretive panels with tile or shingle roofs, or low unsheltered metal panels, could be arrayed at the entrance with native plants and the Alexis Nino monument moved to its rightful locale at the landing site where he was buried, not on the hill. A wide wheel chair accessible path could unite the two sidewalks (on Lighthouse and Artillery) around native-species grasses at the very corner. The panels need to be specifically designed for view by the special needs visitor.

The old turn-of-the-century wood gate or the heavier later version could be reconstructed with the sign to read "Presidio of Monterey Historic Park." In recognition of the Native American contribution to the site, the first panel encountered by the visitors could read like a simplified version of the text

about the prehistoric village in the historical overview. This will also serve as an admonition to respect the site.



The early 1900s shingle style gatehouse was referred to as "pagoda like." Pat Hathaway collection. A later version of the entrance gate did not include fencing.

The bottom or side of this introductory panel could list and have a symbol for each aspect of what's atop the hill as an incentive to hike or drive up.

- 1) Prehistoric Indian Village Site. Possible symbols: abalone shell or domed tule house.
- 2) Interpretive Military Museum. Possible symbol: building.
- 3) El Castillo de San Carlos battery sites. Possible symbol: Spanish cannon
- 4) Fort Mervine and the Sloat Monument. Possible symbol: fort plan shape.
- 5) Calvary Stables. Possible symbol: horse.
- 6) Artillery. Possible symbol: cannon on wheels.
- 7) Upper Presidio Resources. Possible symbol: helmet or school.

These symbols can be used recurrently to alert the visitor to the topic, similar to the function of City of Monterey's signage indicating a crab for fisherman's wharf. If there were to be one symbol or logo used for the whole park throughout the town, an oak tree is the most evocative and least tied to a specific time frame.

The second panel encountered by the site visitor could explain the State Historic Park across the street so as to leave its small area pristine. It could deal with the Viscaino/Serra/Portola landing story: conquest by cross and sword. The story would not be repeated on the hill except in the museum. It could explain the monuments at the base of the hill.

A third panel could tell about the natural aspects, geology and geography of the site (appropriate as the granite outcrops are visible here and as one walks up the road at some times of the year). It could also discuss the stream providing fresh water for ships going to sea on their left as they ascend the hill.

PROPOSED INTERPRETIVE STATIONS WITH PANELS

- 1) Indian Village – prehistoric times
- 2) El Castillo I and the Bouchard Raid of 1818
- 3) Mexican Independence, El Castillo II and the Mexican War
- 4) Sloat Landing (uphill)
- 5) American Fort Mervine/Monterey Redoubt and Sloat Monument (uphill)
- 6) Cavalry stables (down hill)
- 7) World War II artillery garage and former blacksmith shop (down hill)

Each station can consist of abbreviated text and graphics to tell the story in the historical overview narrative. Surplus narrative can be incorporated into the museum brochure, if desired. The stations may be designed to resemble the proposed panels at the base of the hill, perhaps with small overhanging roofs

of shingles, tile or corrugated metal and weather resistant panels. There are a number of materials available. Alternatively, metal plates are incredibly durable, do not require a roof, and are less intrusive. Etched or enameled metal plates are easily attached to a wood post at an easy viewing angle. This type of interpretation is also unobtrusive. If it is selected, less text can be utilized (so the type can be large enough to be read by a standing visitor as well as one in a wheel chair), but a written walking tour guide can be provided to every visitor at the museum as was done in the past at the site. A publication about the site with all of the graphics can be developed and sold as well. There could also be an illustrated booklet or small publication telling the story of the various types of cannon, explaining how they were manufactured, mounted and fired, and about their destruction through spiking. Alternatively, the cannon narrative could be a unifying sidebar on each of the appropriate panels.

CANNON

Some large replica cannons made out of some (to be researched) material that look like the period ones, but weigh little would be desirable. Examples of authentic Spanish cannon at the Presidio of San Francisco are incredibly impressive. Note: The West Point Museum is certain that the POM cannons are not in their collection. According to Langelier, the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, has some six original Peruvian-made 17th-century cannon that are designated as "Taken by the Navy in California in 1847." They are: S. Albaro, 1673 (located at the class bench at the intersection of Tribling and Chambers walks); Jesus, 1675 (class bench near the intersection of Moffett and Stribling walks); S. Damien, 1684 (northeast corner of the Mexican War Monument); S. Cayetano, (west of the entrance to the administration building); San Leon, 1687, (south side of the entrance to Mahan Hall); S. Joseph, 1687, (northwest corner of the Mexican War Monument). A S. Bruno, 1686, is located west of the U.S. Marine Corps Museum. The author speculates that the above cannon may have been taken

from San Francisco or Santa Barbara Presidio on board the Lexington in 1848. It appears that the cannon named Jesus of 1675 is from Monterey.

Lightweight nonfunctional replicas of period cannon could be mounted upon each the two battery sites (Fort Mervine and El Castillo II) to help the public better visualize the use of the features. Alternatively, heavy bronze replica cannons could be placed up near the museum for children to climb on (as at the Presidio of San Francisco, and also similar to the life-size whale sculpture at the City Museum, Santa Cruz). Cannons are all important to understanding this site and stirring the imagination. Spanish-and Mexican-period replica cannon may not need to be mounted actually upon the features, but are desirable on site. Cannons from all of the periods represented can be compared and contrasted and firing demonstrations done of more recent artillery pieces. If it is possible to have them manufactured, and they can be operated safely, replicas of early cannon that could be fired would be desirable.



Seventeenth-century Spanish cannons at the Officer's Club, Presidio of San Francisco. Edna E. Kimbro photograph.

FLAGSTAFFS

The Mexican and Spanish batteries and Fort Mervine all had flagstaffs. A socket to hold a portable flagstaff could be installed near the Sloat monument, the site to be proposed by Monterey History and Art Association Sloat re-enactment committee chairman. The Serra Monument occupies the site of the Mexican flagstaff on the upper Castillo site (Pritchard 1968:26). The monument has been located where it is for over 100 years and should not be moved from its historical location, no matter how incongruous it may seem.

EXISTING MONUMENTS

A stone Conservator should be consulted regarding the Serra and Sloat monuments and the cupules rock. A recommendation can be obtained from the Getty Conservation Institute. A higher iron fence might be desirable to protect Serra from vandalism designed in the same Victorian style. The missing hand of the statue will require restoration.

The wood cross is not a fitting commemoration for the non-Christian Indians buried there. It is not desirable to alert the public to the graves on site. This monument sends the wrong message and should be removed. It also represents visual clutter.

The Alexis Nino memorial should be moved down to the landing site where he was buried near the Celtic cross. The memorial has not yet achieved historic status in its current location.

The landscaping surrounding the Sloat monument is clumsy, unlovely and non-historic. In consultation with the Sloat re-enactment committee, improved landscape surroundings can be designed and incorporate accommodations for a flagstaff. The parking facilities near the monument are intrusive upon the earthworks of Fort Mervine and detract from the public's ability to understand the historic fortification from below. The parking can be

pulled back from the edge of the feature and the ditch that bordered it can be redefined and interpreted.

PROPOSED NEW MONUMENT

The Native American community has expressed interest in a sculptural monument commemorating the prehistoric village site. A juried competition is proposed in which artists and Native Americans collaborate to design the proposed monument. The monument is proposed to be sited in a manner calculated to balance the prominence of the Father Serra monument on the prow of the hill.

ROADS & LANDSCAPE PLANTING

Early drawings suggest there was little vegetation on-site except for grasses. It would be desirable to remove as much excess pavement as possible and replant grass or appropriate groundcover or mulch depending upon archaeological conservation requirements. In this manner, something of the appearance during the mid-19th century and the period 1902-1911 would be suggested. The existing roads other than Artillery and Infantry have been determined to be non-historic and non-contributing to the historic district (See Map of the Presidio of Monterey District, Amended Contributing and Non-Contributing Structures in Corbett and Minor, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form and 523 Forms, Presidio of Monterey 1992; Page and Turnbull, Map 10.2 Historic Landscape: Management Zones Plan, Historic Preservation Maintenance Manual, Presidio of Monterey, Section 10-Landscape Evaluation 1994:37).

In the Hispanic era there would have been no landscaping introduced to fortifications. Where possible, remove non-native vegetation and replant with historic vegetation used by indigenous peoples. In the open space areas where events are anticipated, the existing grasses may remain for durability. The

PARKING

It is critical to provide parking close to the museum to get the visitor inside as efficiently as possible. The museum can rent headsets with tapes to tell the story as people walk around the site in a controlled manner on trails and offer free self-guided tour brochures. To anchor the specific places and vistas the headset directed visitors should see, and to reach casual visitors who do not want to get that involved in the site, stations with interpretive panels and perhaps benches where the vistas are best can be constructed, connected by a stabilized soil cement or decomposed granite path with embedded hardware cloth to discourage gopher holes.

Parking can be relocated close to the museum on the south side so as to isolate the Cavalry and later buildings as a military complex or zone. This would be particularly important if the stables are to be used as such. Corrals and paddocks could be located nearby where aerial photographs indicate there were once buildings and paddocks. If the two buildings on the south and eastern part of the site are removed as scheduled, the east side of the site will be pristine to view as the visitor drives up Artillery and the Spanish period and prehistoric resources will set apart better without distractions. The prehistoric village archaeological site is known to lie beneath these buildings so its great extent could be more fully understood.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

A large greensward could be made available for Frisbee tossing or kite flying on the southern part of the knoll, low impact activities unlikely to damage the prehistoric archaeological site, particularly if the site is filled, capped, and conserved. Bikes, skateboards, and in-line skates would be prohibited on site as they are at the Presidio of San Diego.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Pow-wows, gatherings, and historical re-enactments or living history of various eras are expected to be popular special events on site. Concerts and outdoor theatrical presentations are also a potential type of special event suitable on site.

SIGNAGE

All of the signage should be coordinated in color, texture, design and impact. It should be uniform and distinctive throughout the park and have some military element: possibly olive drab and khaki with red accents? The park will require a logotype. An appropriate symbol is an olive green oak tree, emblematic of the Viscaino/Serra oak and of the oak as an important Native American food source. The tree symbol could perhaps be placed in a circle or oval. Color coded areas such as Artillery - red; Cavalry-yellow; Infantry- blue, could be used.

CONSERVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES & SITES

The Presidio of San Diego is a historical park comparable in some ways to the Presidio of Monterey. Many years ago the archaeological features there were covered with soil to protect them. Scientific research by the Getty Conservation Institute and the National Park Service indicates that archaeological sites should be covered with fill to protect them from damage by the elements, plant roots, and human intrusion. Following the precedents set by the backfilling and site reburial research of National Parks Service and New Mexico Monuments, we propose to identify the historic features and define them with banked fill dirt with permanent markers to highlight their location and morphology and protect them at one and the same time. We tentatively propose to follow the recommendations of a recent archaeological conservation project at the Presidio of San Diego and mulch the surfaces of the historic features to protect them from invasive plant growth (Crosby et al.

INTERPRETIVE THEME

1999). Any trees found to be growing upon the features or atop the midden shall be cut down as they die, without attempts to forcibly remove them or their roots. No vegetation should be allowed to intrude upon the features.

When non-contributing buildings are demolished on site, it is critical that the foundations be removed very carefully to avoid subsurface disturbance, perhaps leaving the below grade components in situ. We recommend that the City consult Anthony Crosby, the architectural and archaeological site conservator who prepared the conservation report for the San Diego Presidio park site. It should be noted that the downhill site of El Castillo I excavated by Dietz may pose more complex conservation problems than the relatively flat fortification excavated by Pritchard.

The Native American community does not want the Native American prehistoric components of CA-MNT-101, CA-MNT-298 and CA-MNT-15 identified by the public. Because of this, it may be more difficult to protect them properly. In San Diego, the Native American community supported the importation of additional fill dirt to cover the historic contact period burials adjacent to the Presidio chapel site to prevent the bones of ancestors from surfacing due to erosion. At the Presidio of Monterey, fill dirt could be brought in to cover the midden and native shallow-rooted grasses or groundcovers could be replanted instead of using mulch that might draw attention to the extent of the prehistoric site if adverse impacts to the site were found to occur. (The Spanish and Mexican battery features could be mulched and stand out, but the entire prehistoric site could be made much less obvious). These issues should be addressed by the archaeological sites conservator in consultation with the Native American community.

No irrigation should be done in the immediate vicinity of the batteries and other features as they contain vulnerable adobe components. Typically, conservation practice would preclude planting any trees on a sensitive

archaeological site because of damage to the site caused by invasive roots. As some Cypress trees have already been grown near CA-MNT-15 and currently screen it from view (as desired by the Native American community), it is proposed to retain them. When these trees die, it is proposed not to replant Cypress trees, but to develop a different, non-invasive means of screening and protecting CA-MNT-15. Cypress trees are not native to the site, but they are to the peninsula. No additional trees should be planted in or around the Lower POM boundary, to avoid disturbing sensitive archaeological materials.

While it is not proposed to reconstruct either of the two batteries because of the unacceptable adverse impacts upon the unique National Register archaeological sites, the sites may need to be identified on the ground or ground-truthed through limited archaeological testing. We may need to understand the precise locations of these features in order to situate the stations near them, but not be intrusive into them. As stated above, the proposed mounding and mulching will define the location of these features for the public while conserving them.

A potential problem exists as previous landscape studies may not have taken into account the extent of CA-MNT-298, that was reported upon in Heritage on the Halfshell (Roop et al. 1978). There is a zone that was not developed near the Doud House, Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library, and the parking garage because of the existence of CA-MNT-298. The report indicates that the site boundaries appear to extend into the ravine where new trails have been discussed, linking the Lower Presidio with Van Buren Street. This matter requires close scrutiny to ensure that no new trees are planted on any of the archaeological sites.

INTERPRETATION ZONES

Thinking of interpretation of the Lower POM in terms of zones, there can be an open space zone, a monument and historical archaeological site zone, a

proposed mounding and mulching will define the location of these features for the public while conserving them.

A potential problem exists as previous landscape studies may not have taken into account the extent of CA-MNT-298, that was reported upon in Heritage on the Halfshell (Roop et al. 1978). There is a zone that was not developed near the Doud House, Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library, and the parking garage because of the existence of CA-MNT-298. The report indicates that the site boundaries appear to extend into the ravine where new trails have been discussed, linking the Lower Presidio with Van Buren Street. This matter requires close scrutiny to ensure that no new trees are planted on any of the archaeological sites.

INTERPRETATION ZONES

Thinking of interpretation of the Lower POM in terms of zones, there can be an open space zone, a monument and historical archaeological site zone, a military building zone, a museum and parking lot zone related to the latter, a path up to the earthworks of Fort Mervine/Monterey Redoubt and Sloat Monument zone, and an amphitheater. The military building zone could be expanded to the northwest to include a horse paddock/corral zone if desired. Proposed zones are the following:

- 1) Fort Mervine/Monterey Redoubt and Sloat Monument on the West
- 2) Museum Zone on the Southwest
- 3) Open Space and Prehistoric Site Zone: Southeastern Knoll on the East
- 4) Cavalry and WWII Military Buildings Zone on the Northeast
- 5) Monuments and El Castillo I and II historical archaeological sites on the Northeast
- 6) Amphitheater South of the museum

The open space zone and the historical archaeological site zones would be inclusive of the prehistoric site.

1. Fort Mervine/Monterey Redoubt and Sloat Monument on the West

The path proposed to Fort Mervine and the Sloat Monument would meander through the cypress trees and offers an opportunity to discuss the native vegetation in a wayside panel, particularly the sad fate of the Monterey Pines (pitch canker disease) that were present when the Americans came in 1847. The fact that the Monterey Cypress trees are native to the area, but not to the site can be explained.

The immediate landscape surroundings of the Sloat Monument are artificial looking and appear to be relatively recent. The parking lot could be re-configured to be more visually attractive and recede from the edge of the earthworks of Fort Mervine. It might be desirable aesthetically to eliminate it; however, the needs of the Army for a helicopter pad and the Sloat Monument re-enactment every year require it.

Research needs to be done, possibly including testing to ascertain if there were more ditches or water features associated with the fortifications of Fort Mervine. If there were, there could be a path around the base of the earthworks to define it. The public should be made aware of the appearance of Fort Mervine as seen from above, and to the existence of the ditch below through an interpretive wayside station or panel. The spring noted in the 1847 Warner map should be investigated.

Fort Mervine/Monterey Redoubt may be an appropriate area for re-enactments as it has supported the Sloat Landing ceremony re-enactment for many years. There is room for tents below it, which seems appropriate as historic graphics indicate that the U.S. Army pitched tents there during the occupation era. However, it is not clear how sensitive a historical archaeological site it may

be. If necessary, this may be addressed by some archaeological conservation work, such as fill-capping of the area proposed for intensive usage.

2. Museum Zone on the Southwest

Prior to the City's ownership, the area south of the museum was used as a ball field. This area is no longer used as such, although the footprint of the former ball field remains perceptible. As the land has already been leveled and cleared, it seems an appropriate location for some museum parking. This zone should also be a place to reflect, to enjoy the view, or perhaps picnic on the grass. It is also appropriate as an area for public programming and potential earthwork amphitheater as suggested by the Native American community. Such a feature would facilitate performing arts and other programs.



1960s era photograph showing the museum site. Pat Hathaway collection.

If any screen plantings or landscaping are contemplated, however, the parking lot site would have to be tested for a prehistoric component and appropriate mitigation done as required. It is important to remember that the midden elsewhere on site is 7 feet deep. It is not clear how much of this area was cut. The archaeological site may also be covered by fill for protection.

The museum was the focal point of a bilaterally symmetrical campus plan for many years as shown by aerial photographs. All of the Cultural Resource Management reports and DPR-523 forms comment upon the non-historical appearance of the museum building (Building 113). It is not eligible for the National Register as it has been altered beyond recognition. Its appearance creates an interpretive problem because it architecturally resembles an adobe building, but no Monterey style Mexican era adobes were located on the Presidio at any time. There were tile roofed Spanish period adobes on the hill, but not in this location. The building would be much easier to deal with from an interpretive perspective if it were re-modeled to resemble its pre-1967 appearance clad in corrugated metal like the other military buildings nearby and the industrial buildings of Cannery Row. Then it could be presented in conjunction with the military building zone and its use continue to be adaptive. As it is, it represents an incongruity. If in the future the building requires further renovation, the above proposal of appearance-alteration should be considered.

3. Open Space Zone: Southeastern Knoll on the East

As for constructing new buildings, or rehabbing old ones for community usage, the upper more developed part of the Presidio might be more suitable for such activities. The Lower Presidio is a nationally significant site that could be nominated as a National Historic Landmark. It includes archaeological sites and features (the earthworks of Fort Mervine) that are potentially eligible as National Landmarks. The Lower Presidio was the site of an Indian

prehistoric village, and the site of Spanish, Mexican and American fortifications dating from the 18th century on.

An artificially created cultural village is not appropriate on this site. An attempt to create one here would not be in keeping with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, specifically those in opposition to non-historic reconstructions. The existing buildings (all three: 104, 106, 105) should be removed as they are non-contributing and this portion of the knoll restored as open space (prehistoric archaeological site) with uninterrupted views of the bay. The area should be tested for archaeological remains of the adobe building shown in the vicinity in the 1842 lithograph and in the Guillou sketch. Open space is an appropriate complement to the archaeological/monument zone adjacent to the north overlooking the bay.

4. Cavalry and WWII Zone on the Northeast

The remaining stables (Buildings 118 and 119) relate to the Cavalry soldiers and were constructed in 1922 (JRP and FWARG 1985:53). While they were not built for the 9th Cavalry in 1902, they could present an opportunity to acquaint the public with the role of Black Americans in the segregated military through exhibits presenting the entire history of the cavalry at the Presidio. It is important to note that the black cavalry was quartered off base in New Monterey segregated from the white military and that they left the post in 1904. The early cavalry post was located "further up the hill to the west of the infantry buildings" (JRP and FWARG 1985:21).

In this zone, an aerial photograph of the Lower Presidio with the buildings and corrals keyed as it was before (with corrals) and during WWII (without corrals) would be helpful to orient the visitor on the land. This is important because the lower Presidio can present "samples" of different eras—the flow of history. The blacksmith shop, later garage of World War II (Building 121), can be

retained with perhaps examples of early jeeps inside so that the buildings can be illustrative of the change made from horses to jeeps around WWII. This gradual shift in military transport represents an interesting aspect of change in the military. Moving the remaining artillery building (Building 105) to this zone from the south could make sense in order to present the new types of artillery introduced in displays inside this building. The WWII olive drab artillery will contrast with the ornate Baroque Spanish cannons much as olive drab Jeeps contrast with horses. This approach, involving the presentation of different aspects of the site in designated zones, differs from an approach that would eliminate most (but not all—remembering the museum) of the non-contributing buildings and attempt to present the 1902-1940 historic district.

Restoration and maintenance of these buildings (and moving Building 105) will represent a substantial expense. It is necessary to weigh the costs against the interpretive potential of this zone. Signage could direct visitors to a WWII interpretive zone at the barracks near High Street. Possibly the cavalry could be interpreted in the Upper Presidio National Register District which largely represents the 1902-1940 Presidio where the 9th Cavalry was trained. There are certainly many buildings in the Upper Presidio to represent that era. However, the contrast between stables and garages and Spanish and later artillery will not be able to be achieved above in such a manner—side by side.

If the decision were made to proceed with demolition of most of the buildings in this zone (which is legal as they have been determined to be non-contributing to the National Register Historic District), then the entire east side of the Lower Presidio would assume an open space character more nearly like that of the Hispanic era and more nearly like 1902-1911. It is no longer possible to present the Lower Presidio as it was in the entire National Register period of significance (1902-1940) as many of the buildings (multiple stables erected in the 1920s) are no longer extant.

One advantage to retaining the buildings is that there would be considerable space available in them for museum storage and preparation areas as well as room for Native American artifacts on site. The local Native American community foresees a time when they will need a secure place for artifacts recovered. Potentially a portion of the buildings could be used to store and present such artifacts in a museum-like setting. This could add a whole new dimension to the site and increase its appeal as the Holman collection of the Pacific House does not relate to local Indians.

What is proposed is that the Lower Presidio Historic Park be acknowledged as not representing one single period of interpretation. Rather, selected resources from several periods can be presented and a serious effort made to make the public understand that they are viewing representatives SAMPLES of what was there at different times.

5. Monuments and El Castillo I and II Site

The sites of El Castillo I and II, the Mexican adobe barrack, and the Serra Monument comprise a zone at the northeast part of the site shared with a prehistoric village site component dramatically overlooking the bay. Wayside panels depicting Gunner Meyers' watercolor of the taking of the Mexican fort in 1842 will enable the public to visualize the scene. A simulation of the foundation of the nearby adobe barrack can be outlined on the ground. Potentially a Cortan steel frame structure could be erected there to further assist in visualization of the barrack building. A wayside panel can explain too the inaccuracy of the statement etched in stone on the Serra monument. Mass was not said atop the hill on June 3, 1770, but below 20 paces from the shore by the stream.

INTERPRETATION FOR CHILDREN

In thinking of third and fourth grade school children, it is important to recall childhood games like "capture the flag" and playing castles with dirt barricades on construction sites lobbing dirt clods, activities with a military spin. The POM can potentially be more attractive and comprehensible to children than the California Missions and historic adobe dwellings of

