

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

FEB 24 1976
RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED JUN 23 1976

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

1 NAME La Isla de los Alcatrazes; Fort Alcatraz; Post at Alcatraz; Pacific Branch, U.S. Military Prison; U.S. Disciplinary Barracks, Alcatraz Island; Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary; Alcatraz Island

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Alcatraz

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Not applicable (Alcatraz Island)

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth

STATE

California

___ VICINITY OF

CODE
06

COUNTY

San Francisco

CODE

075

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- ___ BUILDING(S)
- ___ STRUCTURE
- ___ SITE
- ___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- ___ PRIVATE
- ___ BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- ___ IN PROCESS
- ___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- ___ OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- ___ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- ___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- ___ NO

PRESENT USE

- ___ AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- ___ COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- ___ EDUCATIONAL
- ___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ___ ENTERTAINMENT
- ___ RELIGIOUS
- ___ GOVERNMENT
- ___ SCIENTIFIC
- ___ INDUSTRIAL
- ___ TRANSPORTATION
- ___ MILITARY
- ___ OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

San Francisco City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

Polk & McAllister Streets

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey CAL-1792

DATE

Not known

FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

District of Columbia

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Alcatraz is a large rock in San Francisco Bay, originally barren and covered with white pelican droppings. It is about a half mile long, 525 feet wide and 140 feet high. Subsequent to American acquisition in 1848, it was turned into a fortress beginning in 1853. Throughout the 19th Century its buildings were mostly of masonry and brick (the fortifications, citadel, sally port, etc.) or wood frame (living quarters, warehouses, and other support structures). As the island's importance as a prison eclipsed its importance as a fortification, a complex of newer prison and support buildings was erected during the early part of the 20th Century. During this time the old fortifications and their support buildings were obliterated, partially obliterated, or altered, and replaced with buildings of steel-reinforced concrete.

On the summit of the island, the upper two floors of the old brick Citadel were demolished and in 1909 the main prison building was erected over the bottom story of the Citadel, using its brick/masonry walls as part of the foundation. Thus the bottom story of the old Citadel, in deteriorated condition, is preserved along with its dry moat in a basement beneath the cell block. Two cast-iron staircases and the granite portal with drawbridge pulleys of the old Citadel were salvaged and incorporated elsewhere into the new military prison. The original iron-barred cells of the 1909 army prison building were later partially replaced with tempered tool-resistant steel cells by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. This main prison building, of steel-reinforced concrete, and the remains of the Citadel, are in fair condition today.

At the southeast end of the island, during the early 1970s the General Services Administration demolished three guard apartment buildings, a duplex residence, and four small cottages, leaving piles of rubble which are there today. These buildings fortunately were of minimal historical significance themselves.

A more serious loss was the burning, during the Indian occupation, of the officers' club, warden's residence, medical officer's residence, lighthouse and light keeper's residence. The lighthouse was rebuilt by the U.S. Coast Guard. The warden's house and officers' club survive only as burned out concrete shells; there are only foundations of the others.

Above the dock, relatively unaltered, is an artillery casemate for cannon which once defended the dock from hostile landing. During the 19th Century, wood frame barracks stood on top of the casemate. In 1905 these were replaced by a three-story reinforced-concrete officers' quarters and barracks. Although having suffered vandalism during the Indian occupation, this building is intact.

Northwest of the dock, the original brick/masonry Sally Port of the 1850s was modified in later years with additional construction of a firing range and chapel over it, but the essential defensive features, illustrating its function as a Sally Port, remain today.

On the northwest end of the island are four industrial buildings: a power house built about 1915; a Quartermaster/Commissary building built during the 1920s; an industrial warehouse built in 1927; and an industrial shop and laundry built in 1940. The 1940 building is the only surviving building erected by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons while Alcatraz was a Federal Penitentiary; all other buildings on the island date from the military period. The 1927 building was erected on top of extensive 19th Century fortification brickwork. Of these four buildings, the power house is intact, but with its interior seriously vandalized during the Indian occupation. The other three are also intact, but all suffered some vandalism during the Indian occupation, and all buildings on the island are suffering decay from the effects of salt air on metal window sash, metal fixtures, and even the steel reinforcing the concrete, causing serious exfoliation and spalling. The overall condition of buildings on the island may be described as "deteriorated", although a few exceptions are "good" or "excellent".

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1853 - 1971 BUILDER/ARCHITECT U.S. Army, U.S. Bureau of Prisons

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Alcatraz is an island in San Francisco Bay which is of national historical significance in the categories of military history and social history (penology). During the mid-19th Century it was an impressive fortress guarding, along with Fort Point and, later, Angel Island, the entrance to San Francisco Bay. As a fortress, it was as nearly impregnable as technology of the time could make it--an "American Gibraltar"--and it was crowned with a brick/masonry "Citadel" which may have been unique in the annals of American military architecture. In later years it served as a military prison, and in more recent times became a Federal penitentiary and one of America's most famous penal institutions, with a reputation rivalling France's Devil's Island. As a Federal prison, it housed some of America's most dangerous criminals, those whom it was believed were too unmanageable for incarceration in other Federal prisons. Its location in the Bay rendered Alcatraz nearly escape-proof.

The above statement of significance is based on the following historical summary:

The word "Alcatraz" is an English corruption of the Spanish word "Alcatraces", which means "pelicans". A Spanish naval lieutenant, Don Juan Manuel de Ayala, gave this name in 1775 to what is now known as Yerba Buena Island in San Francisco Bay. What is now known as Alcatraz was then an unnamed, barren rock which, like Yerba Buena, played host to countless pelicans, which had covered both islands with their droppings. An English naval officer mistakenly transferred the name of La Isla de los Alcatraces to the rock, and in its corrupted form, the misnomer stuck.

The Spanish and later Mexican governments of the province of Alta California made no use of the rock. It was still in its natural, barren, guano-encrusted state when acquired by the United States in 1848. President Millard Fillmore reserved use of the island for "Public" (governmental) purpose in 1850, and the United States Army soon included it in plans for the defense of San Francisco Bay, the only pre-Civil War fortifications to be erected on the Pacific Coast.

During the early 1850s, the Army developed plans to fortify three important points guarding the entrance to the Bay: Punta de Cantil Blanco on the south side of the narrow Golden Gate strait; Lime Point on the north side of the strait; and Alcatraz Island, three miles from the strait inside the Bay, but facing right down its throat. (Fort Point, now a National Historic Site, was built on the leveled cliff of Punta de Cantil Blanco; the fort at Lime Point was never erected.)

Beginning in 1853, construction of batteries, barracks, quarters, casemates, sally port, "Citadel", the first lighthouse on the Pacific Coast, and other facilities commenced on Alcatraz. Original plans called for 89 guns, although in 15 years there were 150 or more. The "Citadel" erected on the summit of the island was a brick and masonry three-story fortified barracks protected by a dry moat crossed by a drawbridge.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Cameron, Robert, Alcatraz - A Visual Essay. San Francisco: Cameron & Co., 1974. 96pp.
- Gardner, Roy, Hellcatraz, the Rock of Despair. N.p., 1939.
- Hart, Herbert, "The Army on Alcatraz." Ms., compiled by the Council on Abandoned Military Posts, 1969.
- Johnston, James, Alcatraz Island Prison. New York: Scribner, 1949.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 12.5

UTM REFERENCES

A	1.0	55.071.5	41.8.618.7.0	B	1.0	55.11.8.5	41.8.65.0.0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1.0	55.102.5	41.8.62.8.5	D	1.0	55.05.4.5	41.8.66.5.5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the historic district at Alcatraz is a rectangle lying with its long axis in a northwest-southeast direction encompassing all of the island and immediately surrounding waters, and is approximately 925 feet wide and 1,975 feet long, its corners delineated by the four UTM reference points listed above.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Revision of form prepared by Park Technician Lee Shenk, GGNRA, in February 1975)

NAME / TITLE

Gordon Chappell, Regional Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Western Regional Office

DATE

September 22, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

TELEPHONE

(415) 556-4165

CITY OR TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

OCT 14 1975

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE FEB 17 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

6/23/76

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

6.18.76

ATTEST:

Acting KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY FEB 24 1976 RECEIVED DATE ENTERED JUN 23 1976
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Item 8 SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

This Citadel featured bastions on two opposite corners, and was designed to be defended solely by rifle fire emanating from rifle slits on the first and second floors. The rifle embrasures were protected by iron shutters. Similar in design and construction to coastal artillery forts such as Fort Point, the Alcatraz "Citadel" was probably unique in that it was designed for defense entirely by rifle fire and contained no cannon.

Alcatraz never fired a shot in anger, however had it and Fort Point not existed during the Civil War, it is possible and even likely that Confederate commerce raiders such as the Shenandoah might have entered San Francisco Bay and played havoc with its shipping, with the city itself, and even with the naval yard at Mare Island and the arsenal at Benicia. Without ever firing a shot, Alcatraz and Fort Point very likely performed just precisely the job they were designed to do by serving as a deterrent to hostile attack or raid on San Francisco Bay. During the latter years of the war, partly because the Lime Point fort had not yet been built, additional batteries were erected on Angel Island, north of Alcatraz, to serve as a third point of defense of the entrance of the Bay.

During the Civil War, Alcatraz was one of the objects of a subversive Confederate plot hatched by Southern sympathizers in California, but the plotters, led by Asbury Harpending and Ridgely Greathouse, could not muster sufficient supporters to attempt seizure of the undermanned Bay forts. Abandoning that plan, they subsequently attempted to outfit a schooner as a Pacific Coast Confederate raider or privateer, but a garrulous plotter tipped their hand and the schemers were captured and subsequently imprisoned in the guardhouse at Fort Alcatraz. Thus Alcatraz played a dual role in the only important Confederate subversion on the Pacific Coast.

Alcatraz had served unofficially as a military prison since 1859, due to the difficulty of escaping from the island. Although located only a little over a mile from the San Francisco shore, strong currents and tidal action together with the cold temperature of Bay waters renders this a difficult swim even for the most accomplished and fit swimmers. Consequently, although Alcatraz's importance as a fortress declined rapidly after the Civil War due to the inability of its type of fortifications to withstand modern rifled artillery fire as demonstrated at Fort Pulaski and elsewhere during the war, the island's importance as a prison gradually grew. Soldiers sentenced by courts martial to long prison terms for serious offenses, Apache Indians, pacifists, and during the First World War, prisoners-of-war, were incarcerated on Alcatraz. During the latter part of the 19th Century the garrison was known as the "Post at Alcatraz" rather than as Fort Alcatraz, since especially after the introduction of the Endicott system of coastal defense in the 1880s it was no longer significant as a fortress. Increasingly used for a prison, in 1907 it was officially designated the Pacific Branch of the United States Military Prison, a designation changed in 1915 to U.S. Disciplinary Barracks, Alcatraz Island. It was during this time that most of the fortifications were modified, partly demolished or obliterated and new barracks, prison, and other structures were built.

It was not until 1934 that Alcatraz's role as a military prison ended and it became a civil penitentiary, operated from then until its closure in 1963 as the maximum security, minimum privilege facility of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. Title to Alcatraz was formally

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Item 8 SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

transferred to the U.S. Department of Justice in 1938. During the 29 years that it served as a civilian federal penitentiary, less than 1,600 men were confined there. Convicts normally were not sentenced directly to Alcatraz, but transferred there from other prisons when officials decided they were causing too much trouble. Thus Alcatraz housed the worst, most unmanageable convicts convicted of Federal crimes.

No prison is one hundred per cent escape-proof, not even Alcatraz surrounded by cold, forbidding waters. A total of 39 men attempted to escape from Alcatraz while it was a federal penitentiary. All but five are accounted for, and those five are presumed to have drowned. One man succeeded in swimming the three miles to Fort Point, but was at the stage of exhaustion when he reached there, only to be recaptured. Several swam only as far as "Little Alcatraz", the rock off the island's northwest corner, and had to be rescued.

Among the infamous criminals imprisoned on Alcatraz were Robert Stroud, "Birdman" of Alcatraz, Alfonse Capone, and "Machine Gun" Kelly. Just as such men have been the subject of Hollywood films, Alcatraz, too, has been featured in motion pictures and, more recently, television programs.

In 1963, the prison closed and the island was left vacant, its future in doubt. In 1969 radical Indian demonstrators took advantage of its vacancy and landed and occupied the island. From 1969 until 1971 Alcatraz was the focus of a continuing demonstration by Indian activists. During that time, four historic buildings burned and virtually all the others were seriously vandalized. The Indians occupied "The Rock" for eighteen months, until the last were removed by Federal marshals.

Following the Indian occupation, the General Services Administration, which administered the island, demolished three apartment buildings which had housed both married and bachelor guards, a duplex residence, and four small cottages, all on the southeast end of the island. Piles of debris from this demolition are still there today.

In 1972, Alcatraz was made a part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area under the National Park Service, which initiated tours of the island. By 1975, it had become San Francisco's most popular tourist attraction.

Property

Alcatraz

San Francisco

76000 209

State

California

Working Number

2.24.76.2621

TECHNICAL

Photos *23*

Maps _____

CONTROL

cm

OK 3.5.76

HISTORIAN

accept

B Grosvenor

5/26/76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept

S Oldham

6/3/76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept

Colz

6.4.76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Harvey

6.18.76

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered *JUN 23 1976*

Federal Register Entry *8-3-76*

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74





















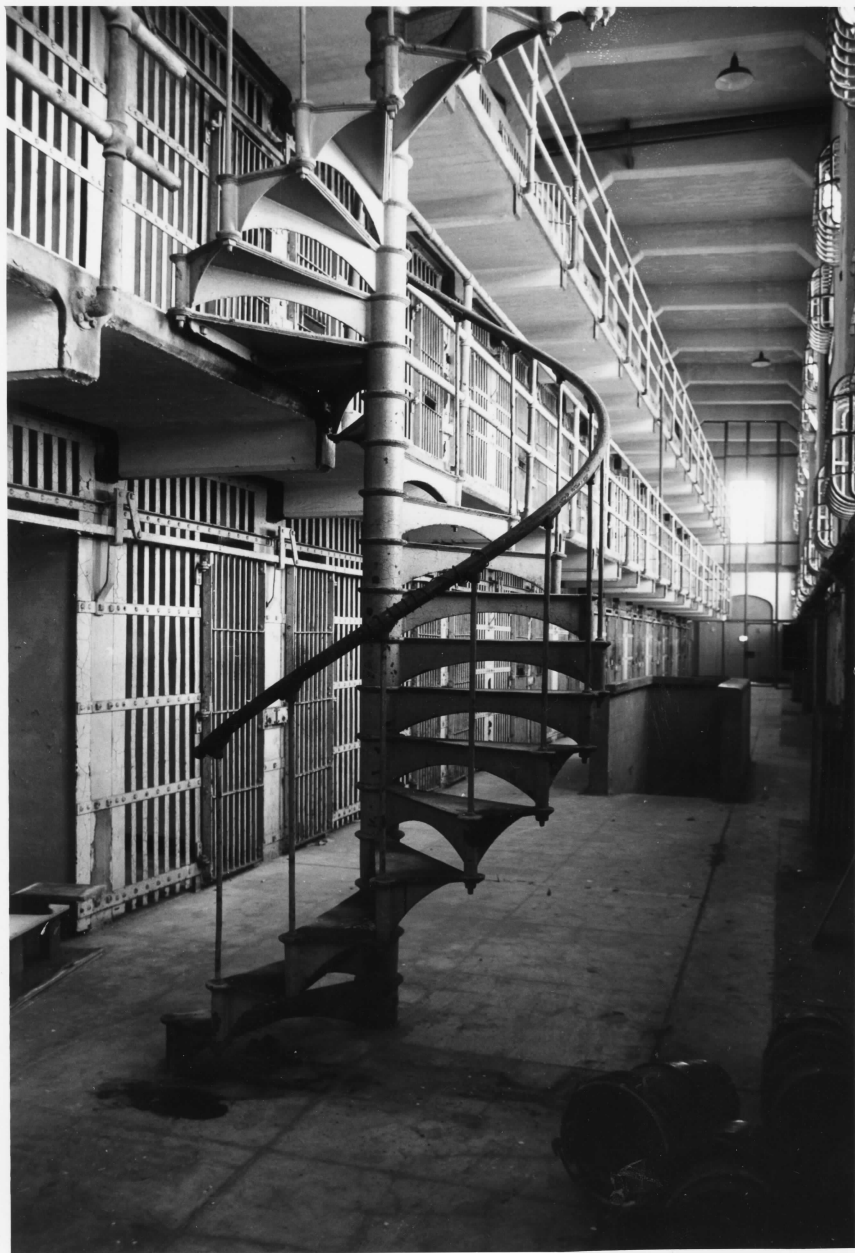


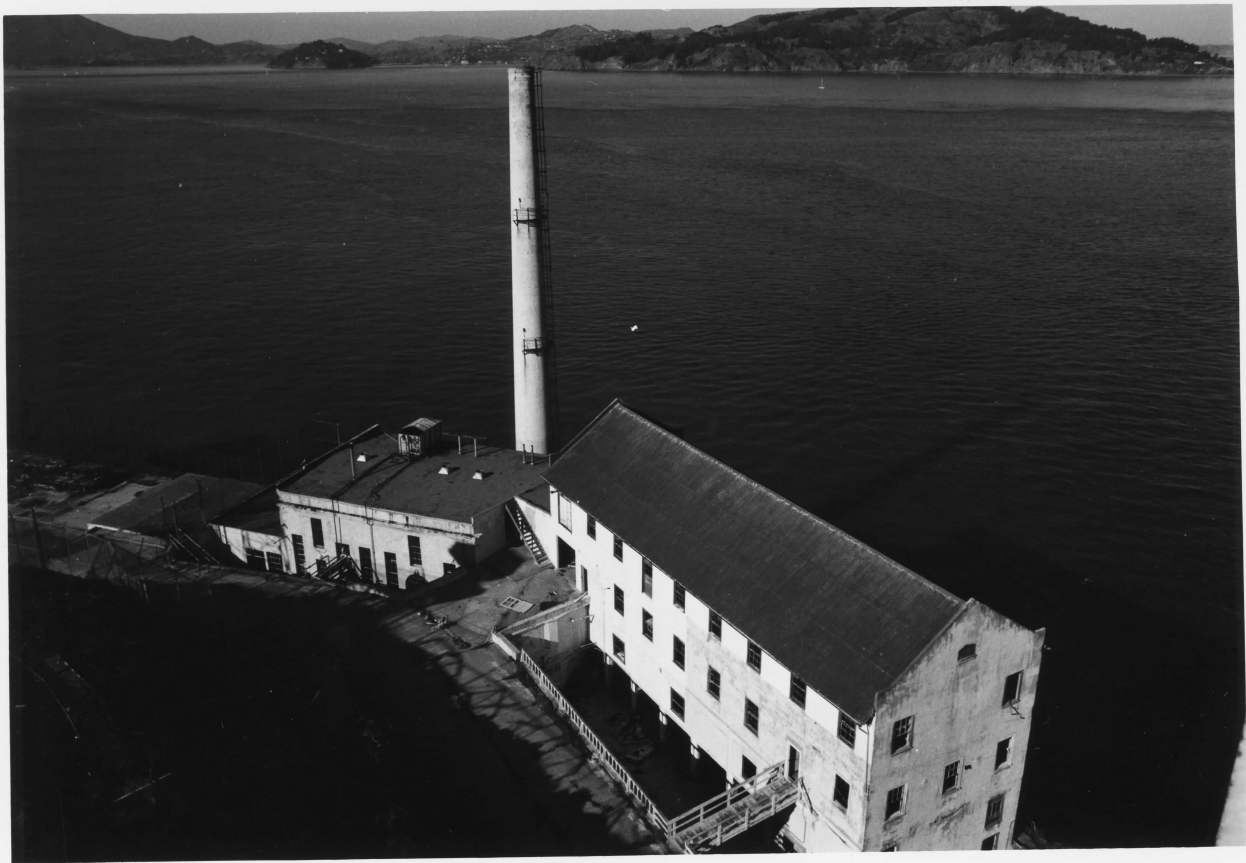










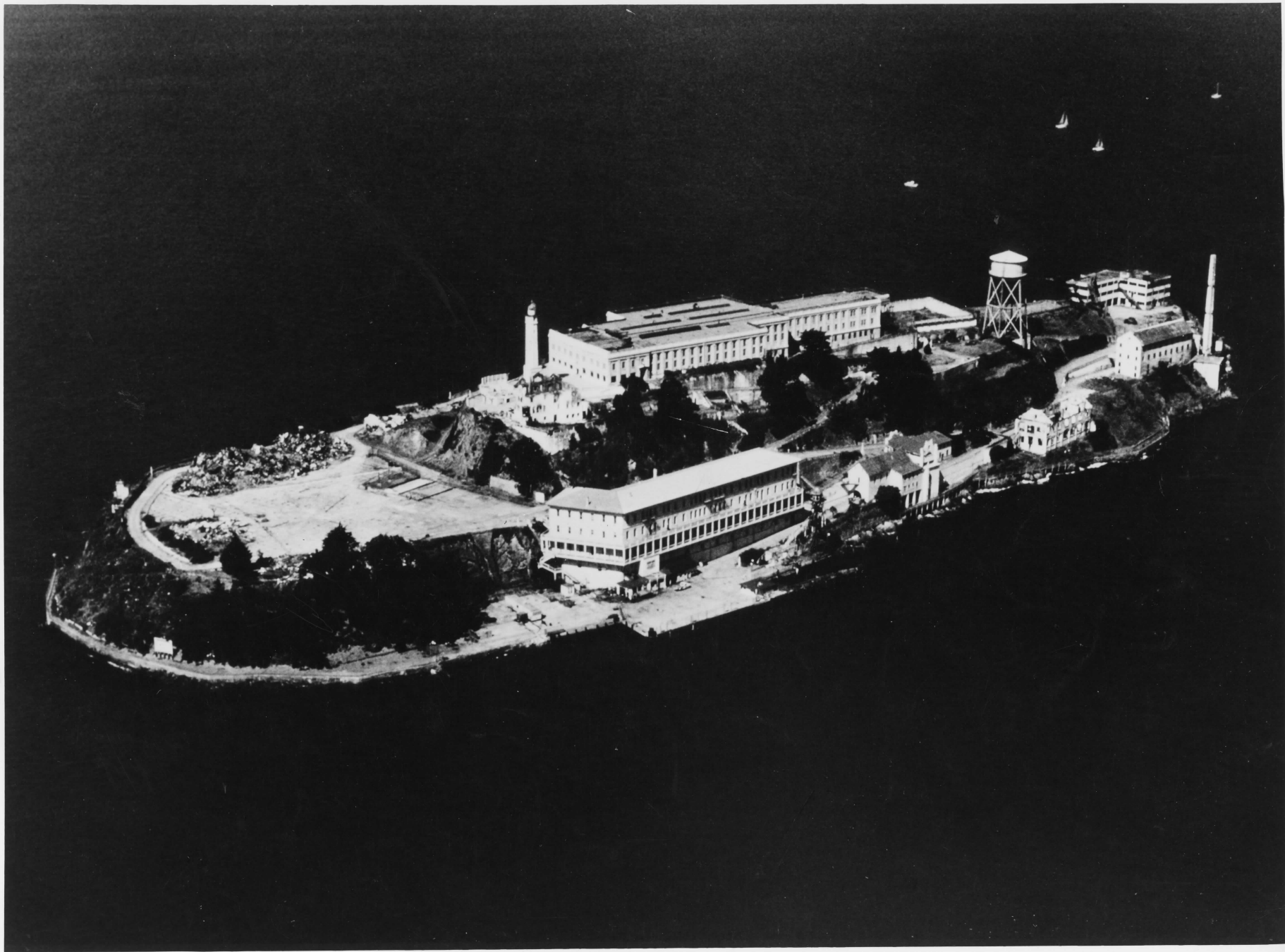




DANGER
No smoking or
open flames







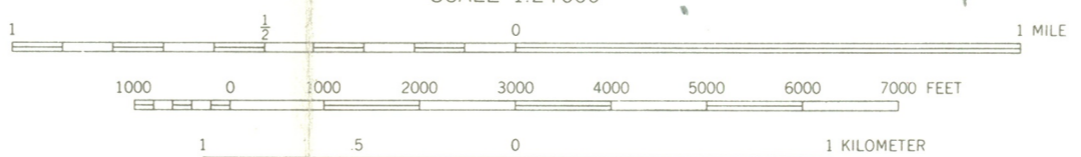
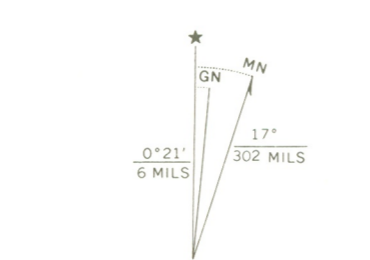


Alcatraz Island
San Francisco Bay

UTM Coordinates

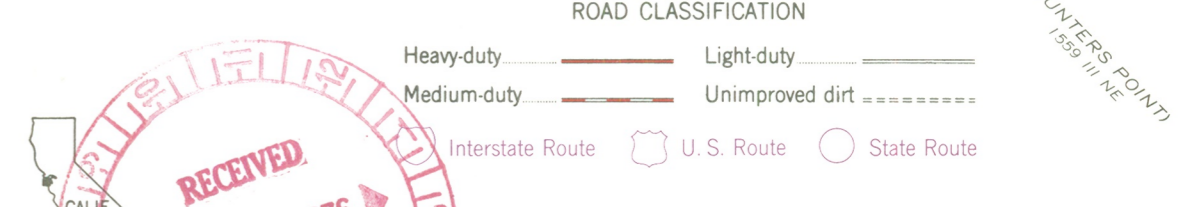
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S	10	5/51/025	41/86/285
W	10	5/50/515	41/86/655

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and California Lands Commission
Topography by multiple methods from aerial photographs
taken 1946. Culture and partial contour revision from
aerial photographs taken 1956. Field checked 1956
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS charts 5532 and 5535 (1956)
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on California coordinate system, zone 3
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator Grid ticks,
zone 10, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1968 and 1973. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



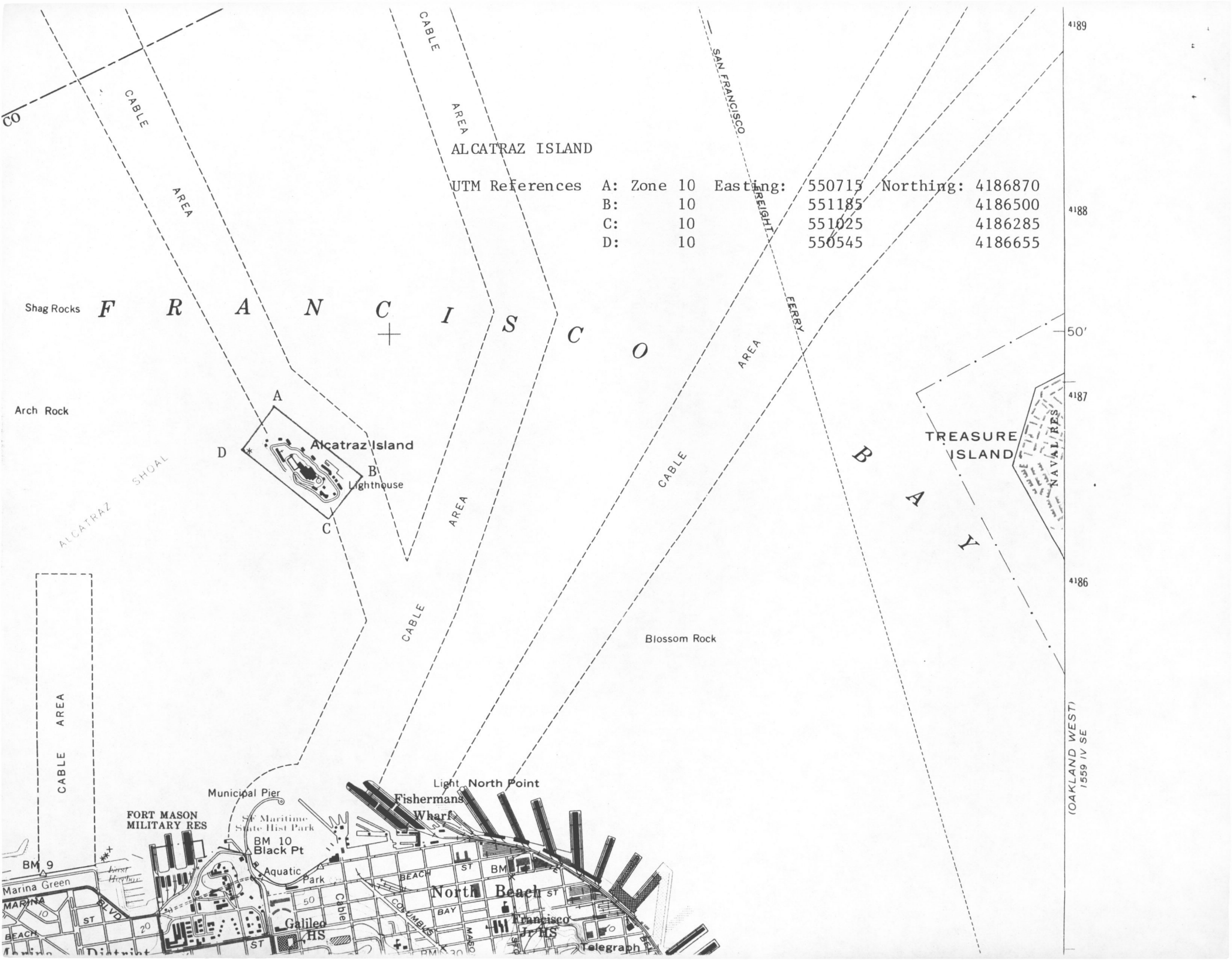
CONTOUR INTERVAL 25 FEET
DASHED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOWER LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 4 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



SAN FRANCISCO NORTH, CALIF.
N3745—W12222.5/7.5

1956
PHOTOREVISED 1968 AND 1973
AMS 1559 IV SW—SERIES V895

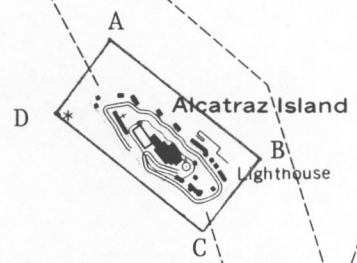


ALCATRAZ ISLAND

UTM References	A: Zone	10	Easting:	550715	Northing:	4186870
	B:	10		551185		4186500
	C:	10		551025		4186285
	D:	10		550545		4186655

Shag Rocks **F R A N C I S C O**

Arch Rock



TREASURE ISLAND

Blossom Rock

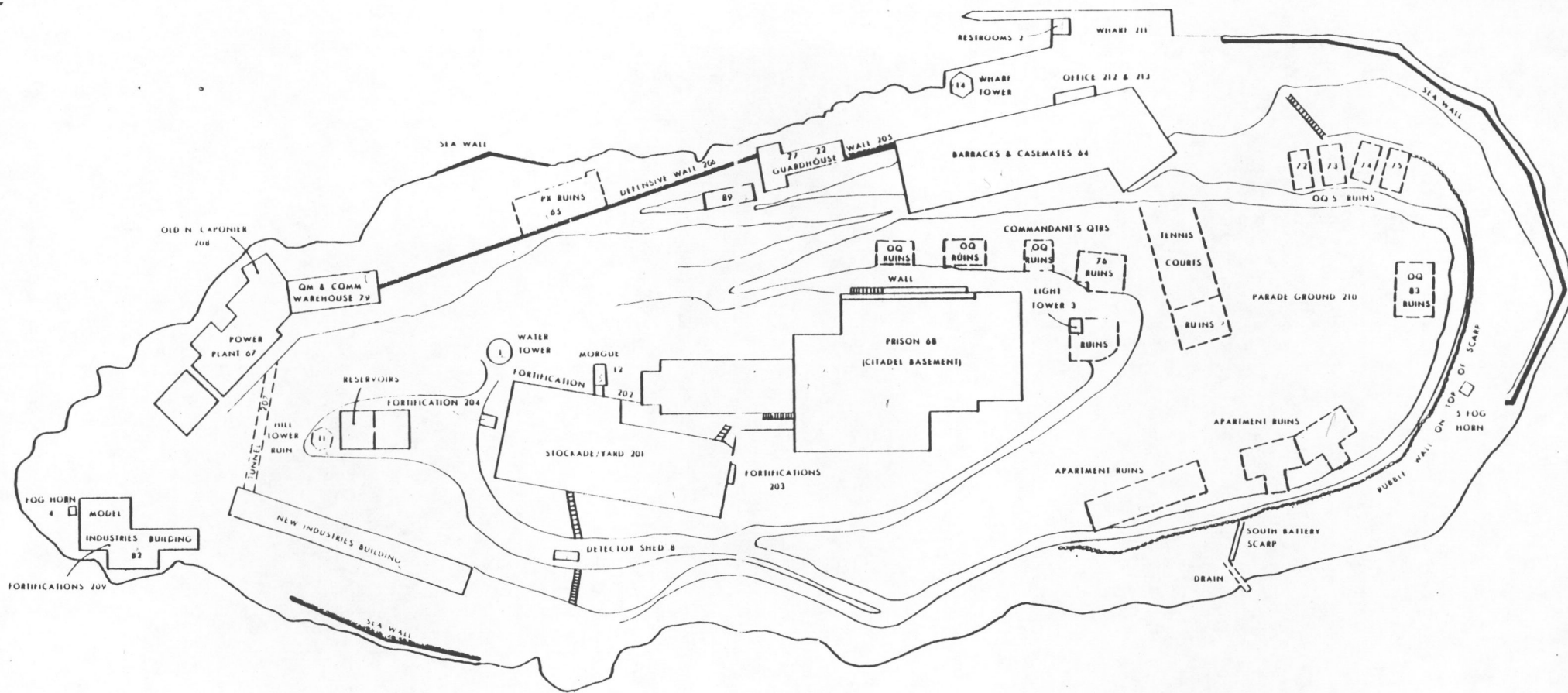
FORT MASON MILITARY RES

Marina Green
MARINA
BEACH

Municipal Pier
SF Maritime State Hist Park
BM 10 Black Pt
Aquatic Park
Galileo HS

Light North Point
Fisherman's Wharf
North Beach
San Francisco
Telegraph

4189
4188
50'
4187
4186
(OAKLAND WEST) 1559 IV SE



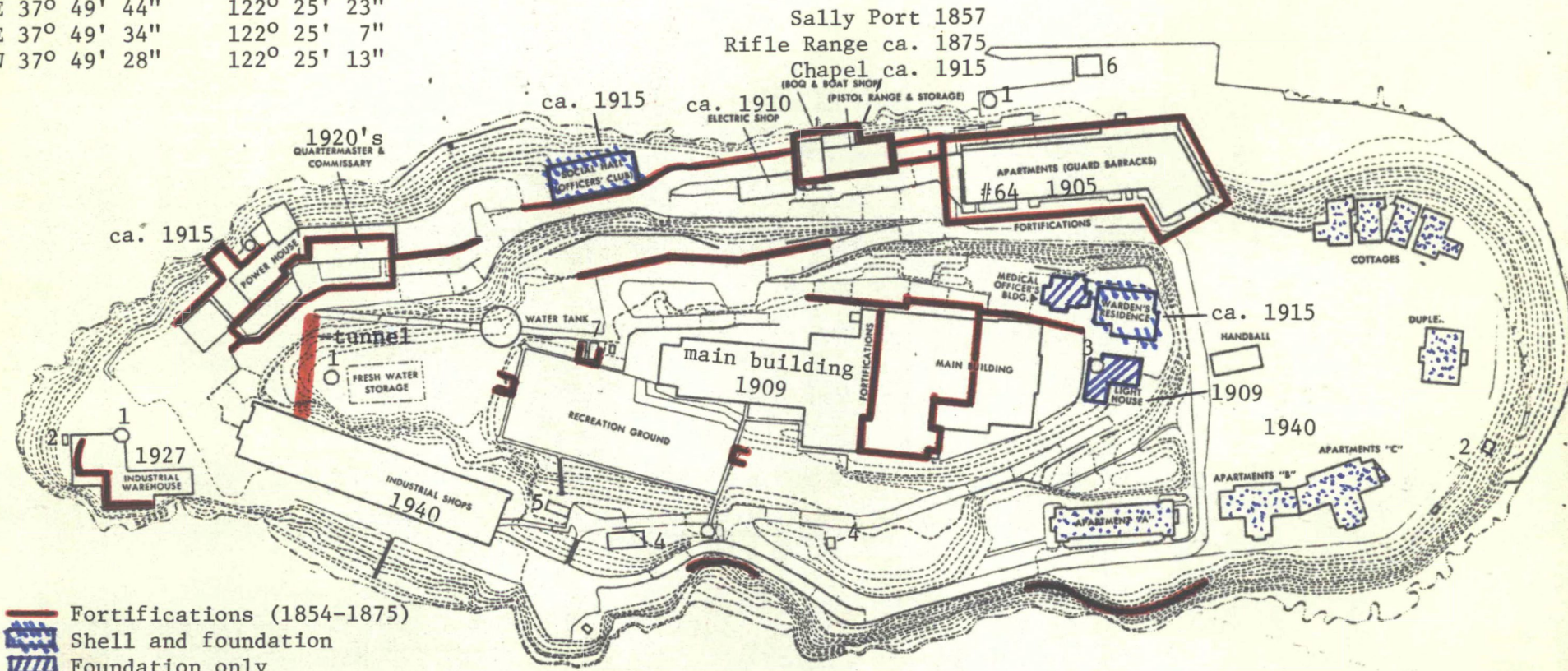
HISTORICAL BASE MAP
ALCATRAZ ISLAND 1977





GOLDEN GATE
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
CALIFORNIA



NO SCALE

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	37° 49' 41" N	122° 25' 36" W
NE	37° 49' 44" N	122° 25' 23" W
SE	37° 49' 34" N	122° 25' 7" W
SW	37° 49' 28" N	122° 25' 13" W

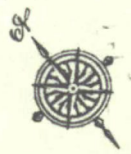


-  Fortifications (1854-1875)
-  Shell and foundation
-  Foundation only
-  Rubble

- 1 Guard towers
- 2 Fog horns (2)
- 3 Light (Coast Guard maintained)
- 4 Garden structures - greenhouse, storage
- 5 Guard shack - checkpoint
- 6 Dock building - visitor waiting area
- 7 Morgue

ALCATRAZ ISLAND

Existing Structures and REMAINS



SCALE (approximate):
1"=160'

10-100
10/10 (subscript)

10/10
10/10



10/10
10/10
10/10

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE CALIFORNIA

Date Entered JUN 23 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Alcatraz	San Francisco San Francisco County

Also Notified

Hon. Alan Cranston
Hon. John V. Tunney
Hon. John L. Burton
Mr. Douglas Wheeler, Deputy
Assistant Secretary for
Fish and Wildlife and Parks
Mr. Robert M. Utley, Asst. Director
Park Historic Preservation

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Herbert Rhodes
Director, Department of Parks
and Recreation
State Resources Agency
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

Regional Director, Western Region

PR Mott 7/2/76

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 5/26/76
Reviewer: INITIALS: 86
DOE JUN 23 1976

HABS photos
no training
NR
SEC.

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Alcatraz

OTHER NAMES: La Isla de los Alcatrazes; Fort Alcatraz; Post at Alcatraz; Pacific

LOCATION: Branch, U.S. Military Prison; U.S. Disciplinary Barracks, Alcatraz Island;
STREET & NUMBER: Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary; Alcatraz Island

CITY, TOWN: Alcatraz Island CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 5th

STATE: San Francisco VICINITY OF: San Francisco COUNTY: San Francisco code: 075
California 06

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline): NPS: HABS.
FEDERAL AGENCY NAME: National Park Service

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR EXTERIOR ENVIRONS
- Substantially intact-1 - Substantially intact-2 - Substantially intact-3
- unknown - 4 - unknown - 5 - unknown - 6
- not applicable - 7 - not applicable - 8 - Not applicable-9

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - EXCELLENT DETERIORATED UNALTERED ORIGINAL SITE
- GOOD - RUINS - ALTERED - MOVED
- FAIR - UNEXPOSED - Reconstructed - Unknown
- Unexcavated - Excavated

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- fort, military prison, federal (civil) penitentiary
now- park

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW/Gov't/politics
- LITERATURE
- 18 MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)
- entertainment
- health
- recreation
- settlement
- 30 socio/cultural
- urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

Neo Classical Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival and vernacular structures

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role & appropriate date)

events:

1) imprisoned Confederate sympathizers who planned a subversive plot during Civil War.
2) site of radical Indian demonstrations, 1969-1971.

institutional

U.S. Army 1850 - 1934 ; U.S. Bureau of Prisons, 1934-1963
National Park Service, 1992-present

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1853

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1909, 1915, 1920's, 1940, 1970's

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1848 - 1963

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

National Park Service

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

10.5

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

HABS (CAL-1792)

Extensive prison complex

~~Alcatraz is a former military complex and, later, penal institution built on a barren rock island about 1/2 mile long, 555' wide, and 140' high. includes late-19th to early-20th c. Island first used as fortification site - brick citadel and lighthouse built 1853 to guard entrance to San Francisco Bay; served as military prison during the Civil War, 1862-66; became Federal penitentiary facilities expanded and complex became Federal penitentiary; became one of America's most famous penal institutions housing some of the country's most dangerous criminals such as Al Capone and "Machine Gun" Kelly. Older fortifications were destroyed, replaced, or altered. Many of the 20th century buildings were vandalized or gutted during the 1969 Indian demonstration.~~

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

During the mid-19th century, Alcatraz was an impressive fortress guarding the entrance to San Francisco Bay. Later it served as a military prison, and in more recent times became a Federal penitentiary and one of America's most famous penal institutions, housing some of the country's most dangerous criminals, including Al Capone and "Machine Gun" Kelly.

Alcatraz Island
(Resource Name)

76000299
(Reference Number[s])

8 / 10 / 12
(Date form completed)

San Francisco
(County)

CA
(State)

Jelly
(Completed by)

STATUS:

1. MISSING ___ 2. REMOVED/ DEMOLISHED ___ 3. NHL 4. TR ___ 5. MRA ___ 6. OVER-SIZED ___ 7. NPS - UNDOCUMENTED ___ 8. DOE - OWNER OBJECTION ___ 9. RESTRICTED ___

EXPLANATION:

1. Missing Status: Entire Folder (); Nomination (); Map(s) (); Photos ()
Available on: Microfiche (); Optical Disk ()

2. _____
(Cause for removal) / /
(Date Removed)

3. NR in 1976 NHL in 1986
(NHL Name, if different than NRHP Name) 01 / 17 / 1986
(Date Designated)

4. _____
(If multi-state/county TR, state/county where filed and location)

(TR or MRA Name)

5. _____
(If multi-state/county MRA, state/county where filed and location)

6. _____
(Location of oversized file)

7. _____
(Current source of partial documentation) / /
(Target Date)

COMMENTS: _____
(Where found, or source of replacement) / /
(Date Found/Replaced)