



# Archaeology and the Transbay Transit Center Program

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**TJPA**





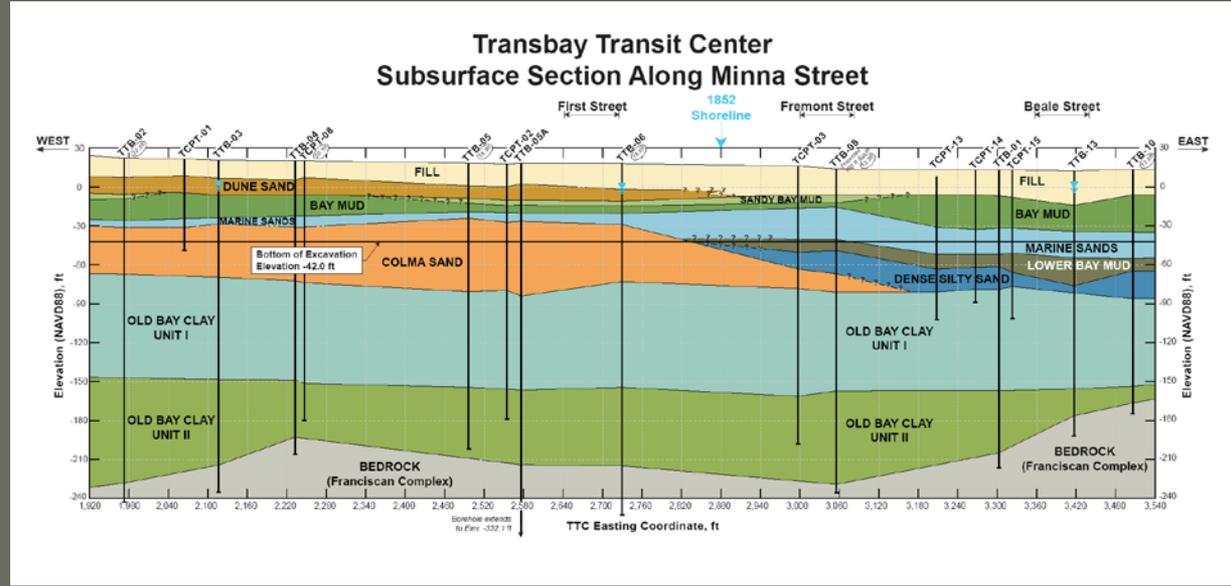
# Determining Where to Test



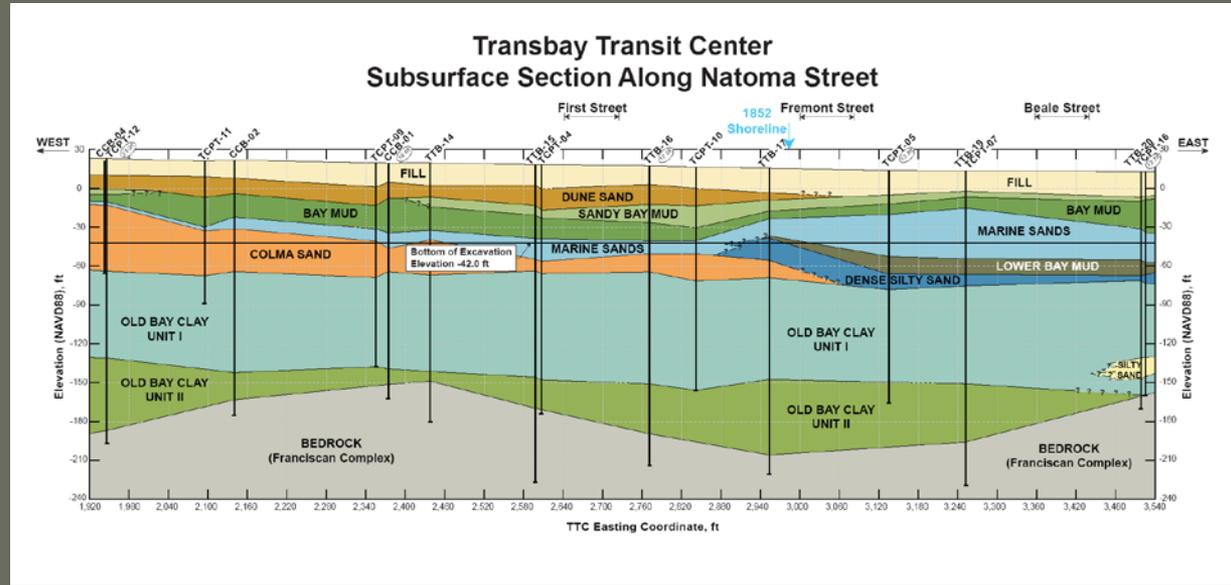
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# History of Land Formation

- Geotechnical bores provide a picture of how the land surface changed over time.



- Sequence helps establish potential for archaeological resources.

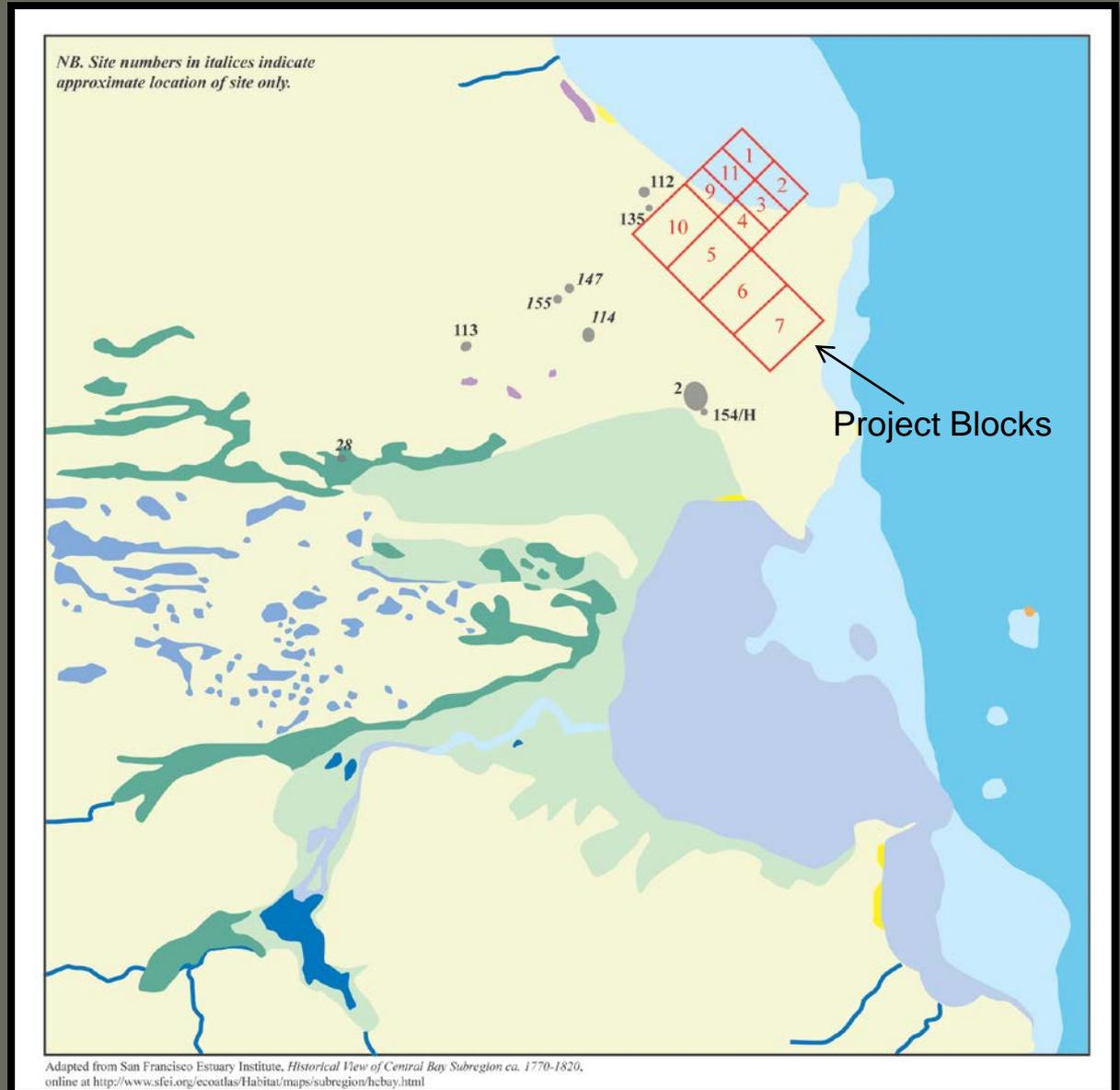




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# Prehistory

- Locations of known prehistoric archaeological sites allow archaeologists to create a predictive model for determining where unknown sites are most likely to exist.

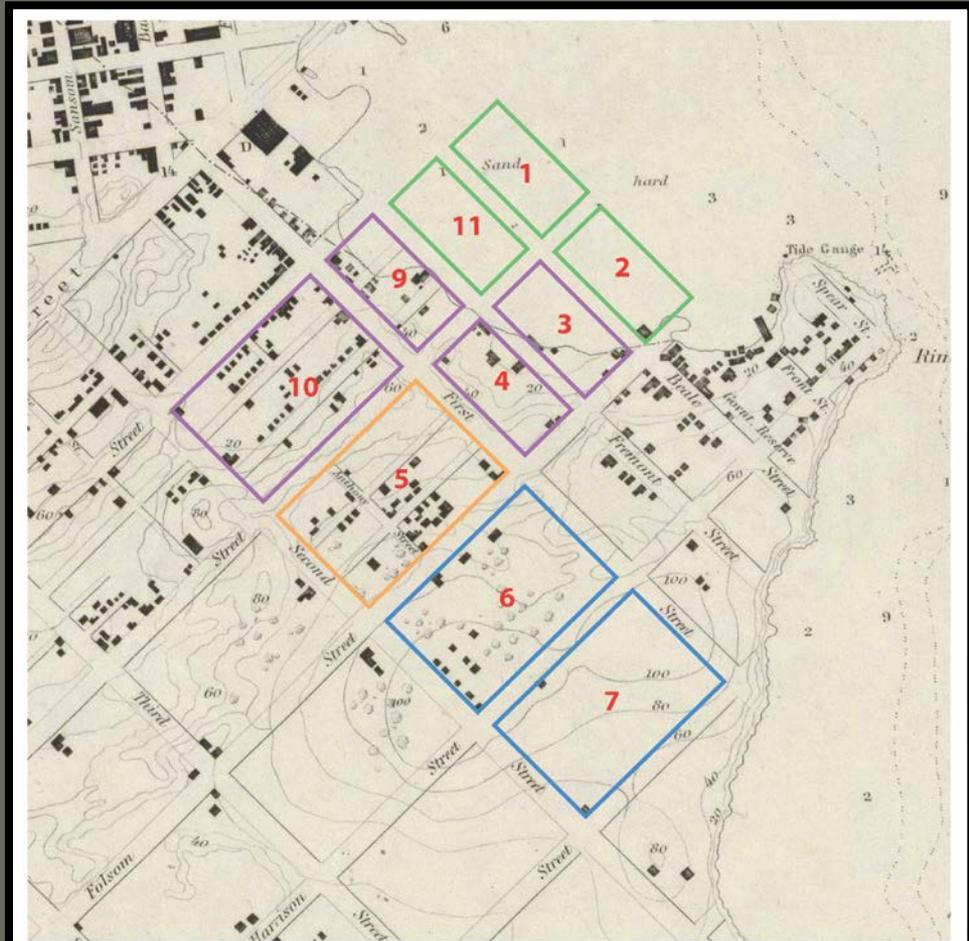




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# Gold Rush Era

- The US Coast Survey Map of 1853 depicts the historic shoreline of San Francisco.
- The project area is partially located in what was the waters of Yerba Buena Cove.



1853 US Coast Survey Map. Courtesy David Rumsey Map Collection.



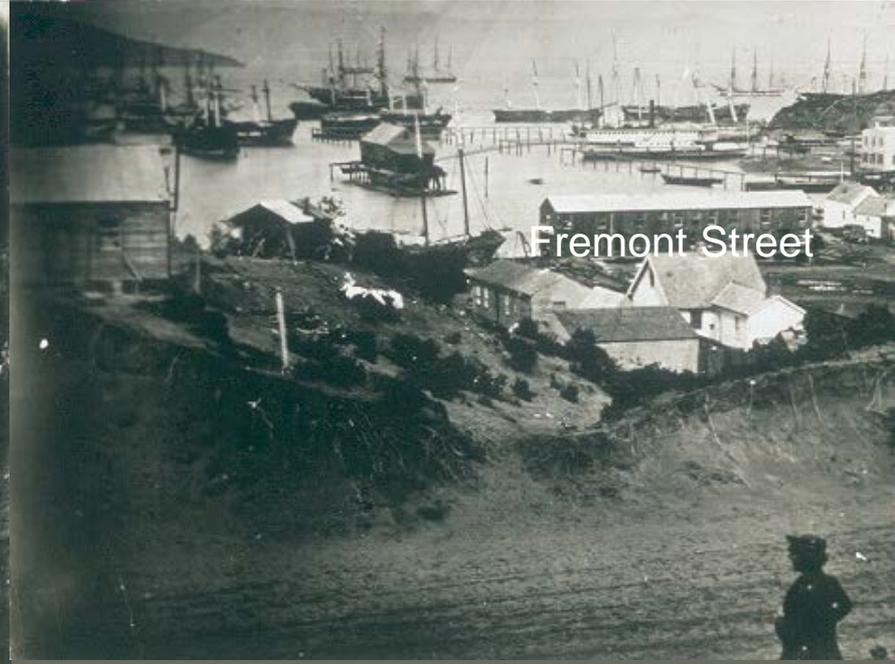
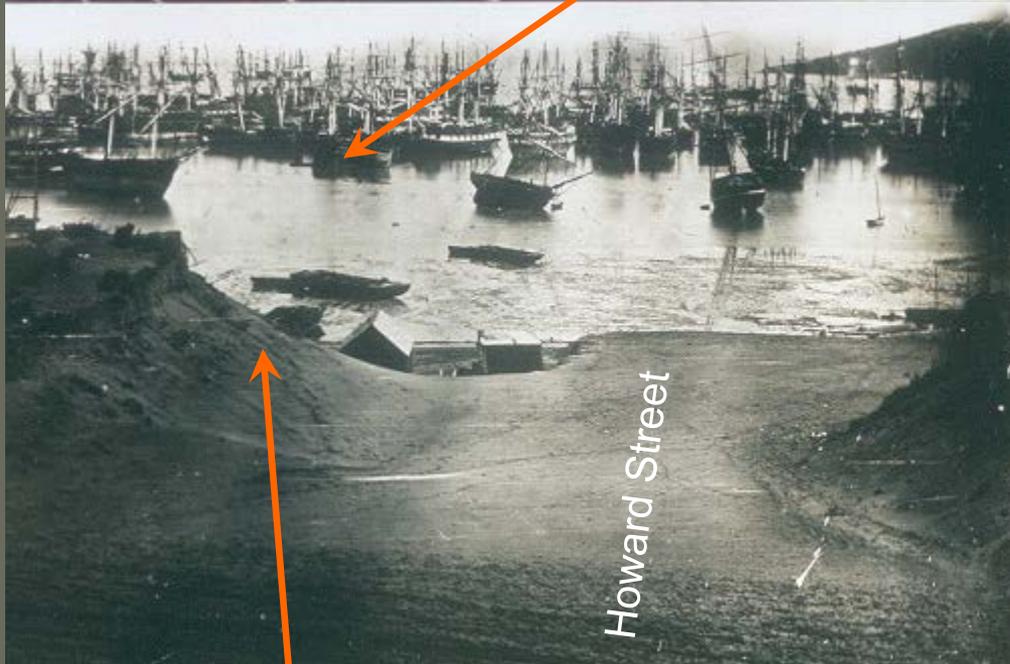
- Yerba Buena Cove
- Happy Valley
- Pleasant Valley
- Rincon Hill



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# View from Rincon Hill, 1851

Block 11 within the waters of the cove



Block 9 sloping down to the water's edge

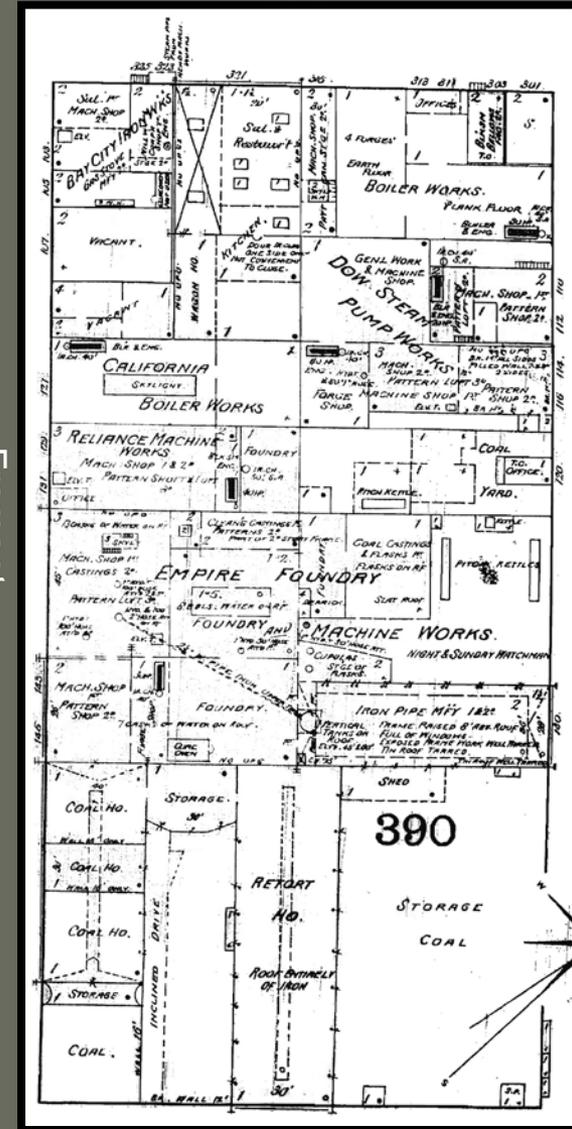


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# Industrial Expansion

Mission

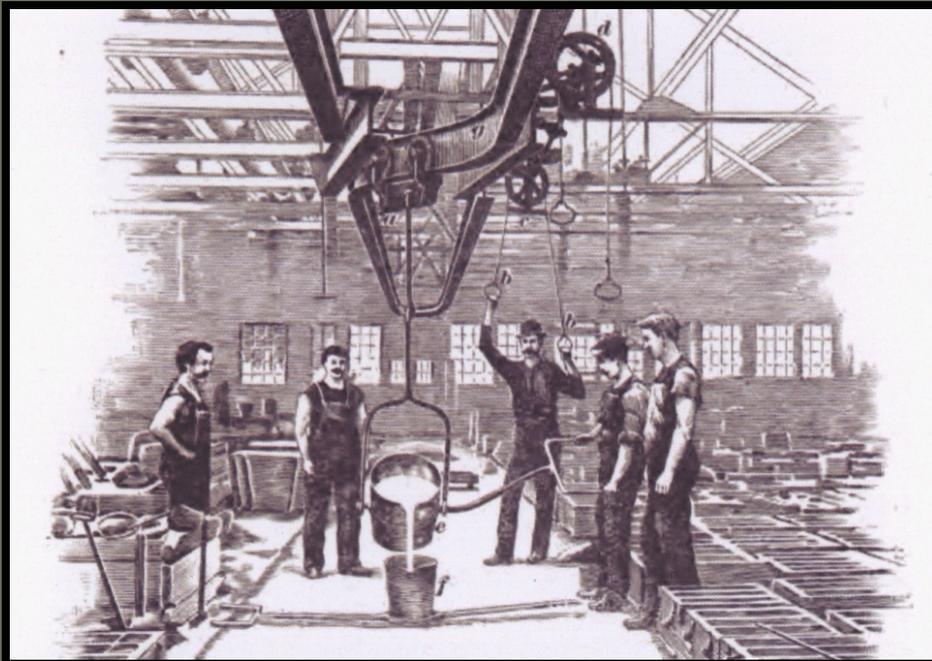
The 1887 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map provides detailed footprints of the many industrial enterprises, including foundries, machine works, boiler works, and pump works that were established in the project area.



Fremont

Beale

Howard





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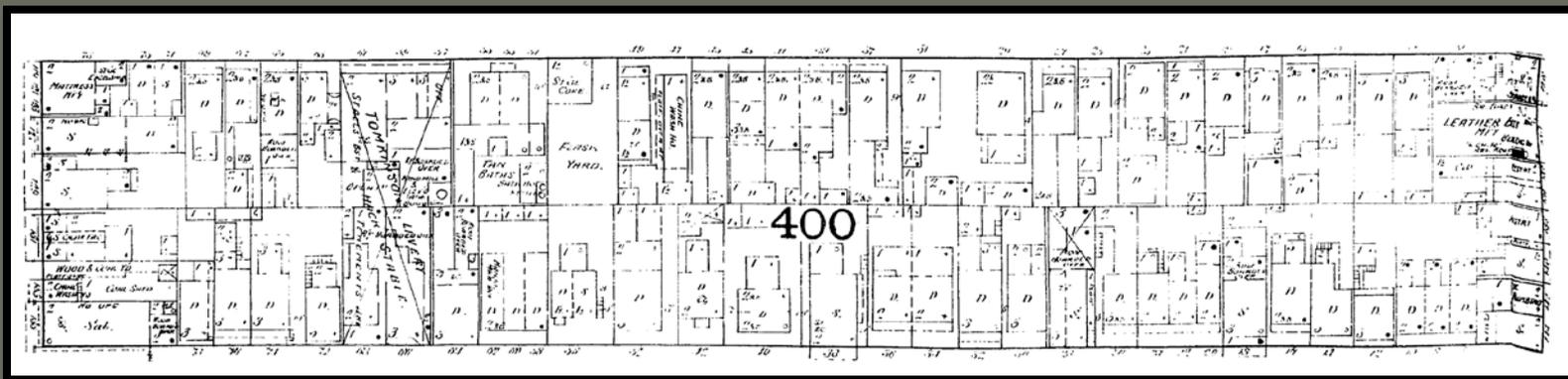
# Living in the Neighborhood

1880 Census

- Not far from the industries along the shoreline, small businesses like Tomkinson's Livery & Stable, a Chinese Laundry, a pork packing factory and a candy factory were interspersed among crowded working-class residences.
- Archaeological finds lack significance unless they can be connected to the men and women that created them. Census research allows archaeologists to better understand neighborhoods.

Francis Denmark	Male	21	Ironer	at home
Edward	Male	18	at home	
George	Male	15	at home	
William	Male	12	at home	
Mary	Female	10	at home	
Charles	Male	8	at home	
Elizabeth	Female	6	at home	
John	Male	4	at home	
William	Male	3	at home	
Thomas	Male	2	at home	
James	Male	1	at home	

Minna



Natoma



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# Previous Disturbance

After determining the history of land use within a parcel, archaeologists must determine the likelihood that deposits have survived.

- Testing is typically not conducted in areas that have been disturbed previously.

Examples:

- 1906 Earthquake and Fire rubble
- Post-quake Rebuilding
- Transbay Terminal and Ramp Construction

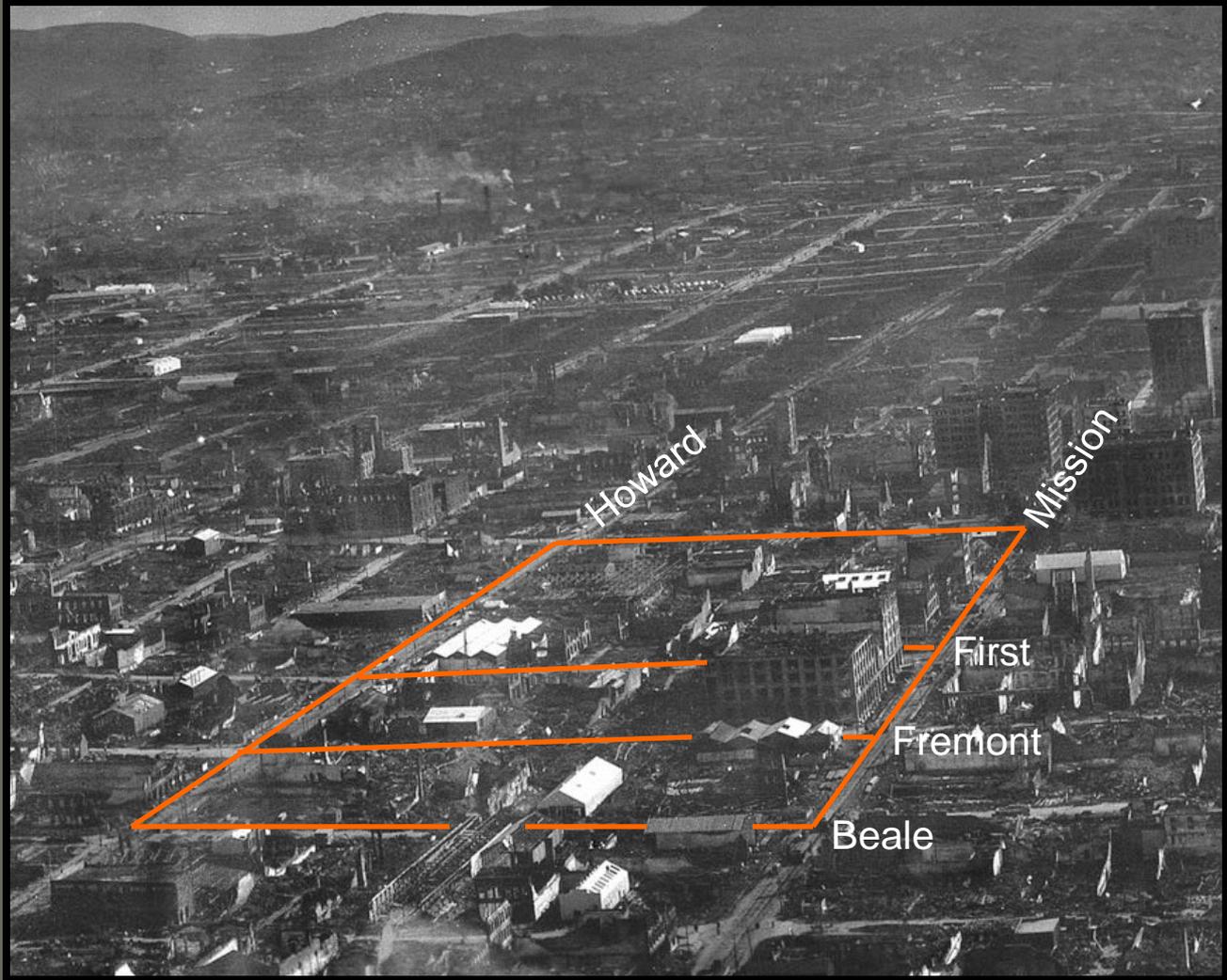




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# 1906 Earthquake & Fire

The earthquake and fire of April, 1906 decimated much of the South of Market neighborhood. A layer of earthquake debris is buried throughout much of the area.





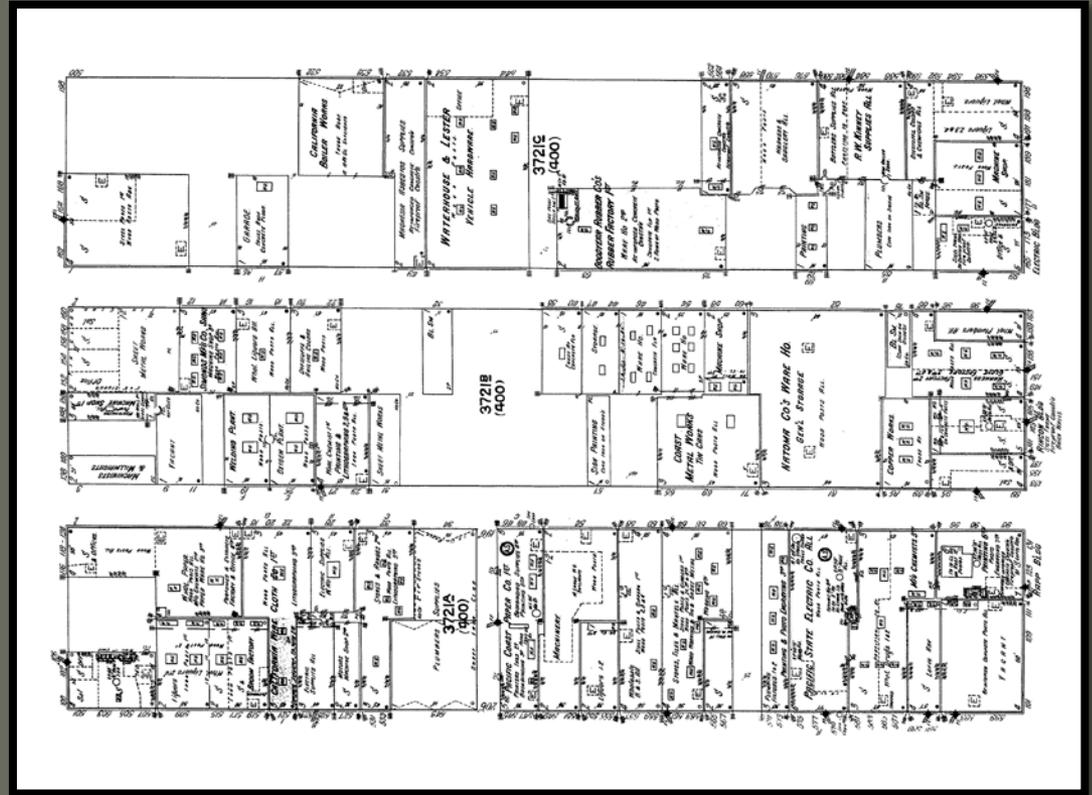
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# Post-quake Rebuilding

- The residents in the South of Market did not return to their old neighborhoods.
- Many lots remained vacant for several years.
- City services, like sewers, were often utilized when lots were rebuilt, lessening the likelihood that archaeological features were created in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Light industry, warehouses, and later parking lots and transportation infrastructure dominated the neighborhood.

Mission

Second



First

Howard



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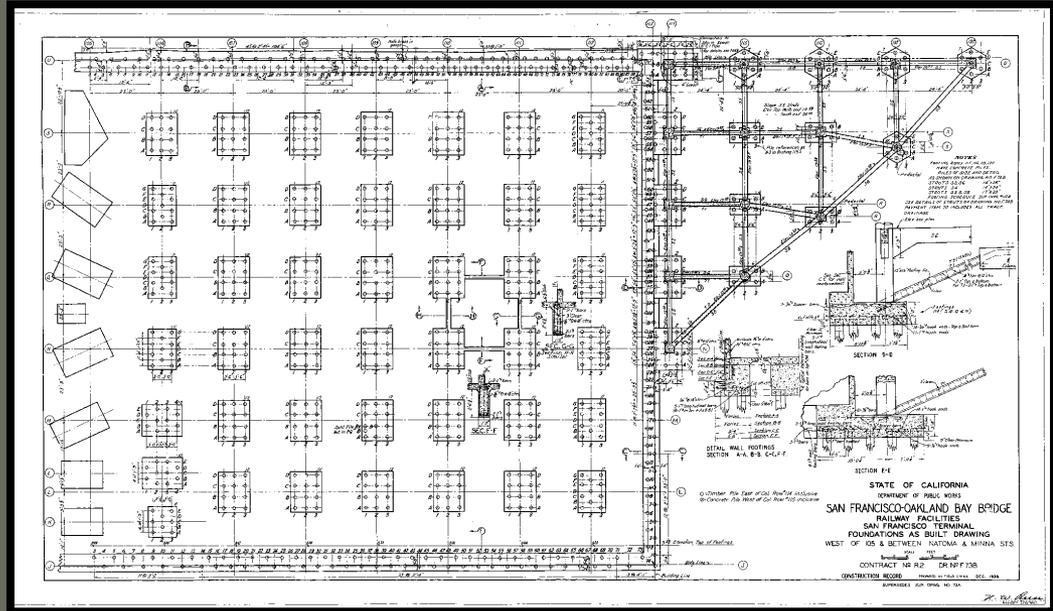
# Terminal Construction

- Construction of the original Transbay Terminal would have disturbed any archaeological features present in much of the building's footprint .
- Construction As-Builts helped guide the drafting of a testing plan by providing specific locations of previous disturbance.



Excavation for construction of the Transbay Terminal in 1937

Construction As-Built Plan from the Transbay Terminal in 1938





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# Implementing the Testing Plan



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# Areas of Testing

- Three phases of the project have been tested for archaeological resources in advance of construction: the Temporary Terminal; Shaft and Shoring Wall; and the Demolition, Utility Relocation, and new Transit Center Foundation Excavation (DURF).
- Upcoming phases for testing include the Bus Storage Facility and Bus Ramps (not depicted on map)





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# Methods of Testing

- Trenching and areal excavation are used to locate historic deposits.
- Coring is utilized when testing for deeply buried prehistoric deposits.
- Archaeologists are present to identify cultural material discovered during these activities.

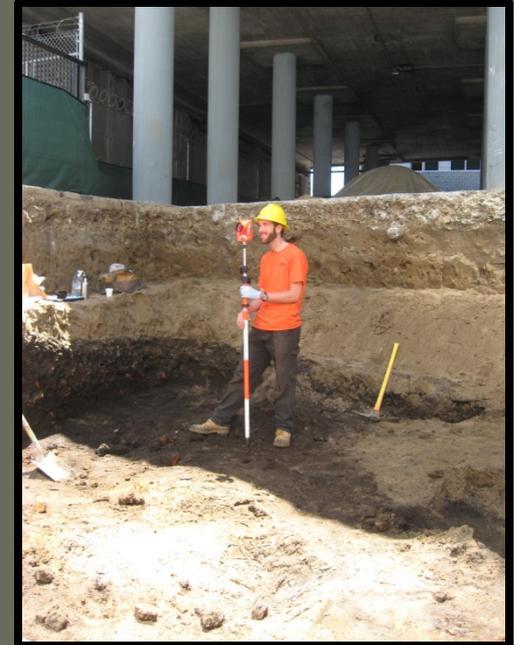




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# Data Recovery

- Significant archaeological features found during the testing phase are carefully excavated by hand, then photographed and drawn to scale.
- With the aid of historic maps and modern GIS technology, it is often possible to link these features to specific households and businesses.





# What We've Found



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# Archaeological Features

Privy in profile before it is excavated by archaeologists, north side of Natoma Street



Remains of a wood barrel after the contents have been excavated, north side of Natoma Street



Privy in plan view as it's being excavated, south side of Natoma Street

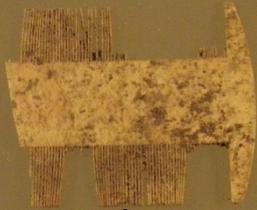


Remains of small, mid 19<sup>th</sup> century structure, north side of Natoma Street



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# The Chinese Laundry



bone comb



ginger jar



soy sauce jar



rice wine jar



rice/soup bowl



opium pipe bowl



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# Personal Items

Schenk's Pulmonic Syrup



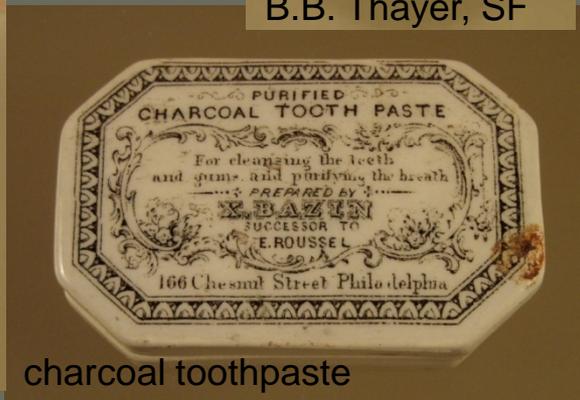
B.B. Thayer, SF



perfume



chamber pot



charcoal toothpaste



bone toothbrush



comb



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# Home Life



woman's belt buckle



figurine



doll



dog collar



pipe



marbles



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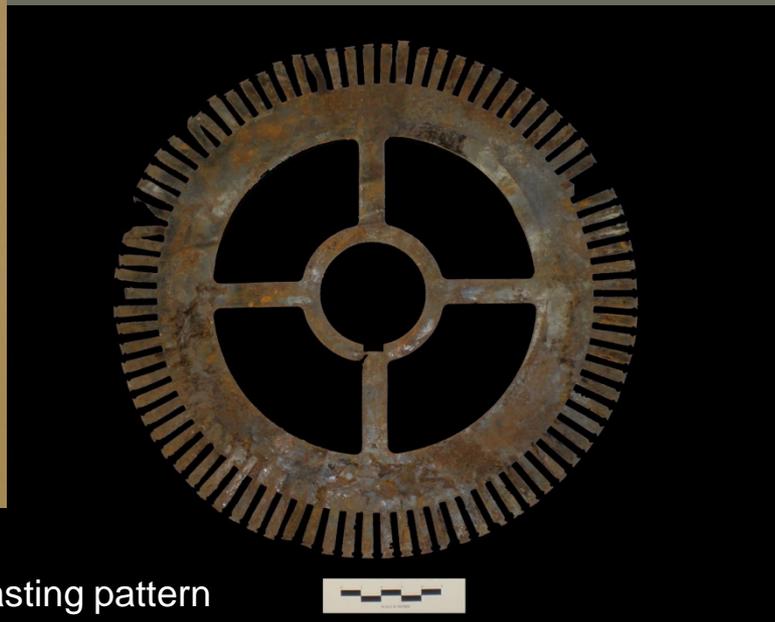
# At Work



crucible



crucible



casting pattern



pulley wheel



chisel

# Public Outreach

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- The recently installed exhibition at 201 Mission Street uses artifacts and historic documents to recall the lives of the people who lived and worked in the project area.
- This exhibit gives the public a rare glimpse into the history of the neighborhood.

