PRESIDIO GOLF COURSE
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

THE PRESIDIO TRUST

September 2026



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Prepared for the Presidio Trust by MIG

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Presidio Golf Course comprises 157.5 acres of land in the historic Presidio of San Francisco. It is one of four component cultural landscapes that have been identified within the larger Presidio cultural landscape, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places with the highest level of distinction as a National Historic Landmark District. Initially created as a 9-hole golf course for military officers in 1895, the current 18-hole golf course has continued to provide recreation to the military and residents of San Francisco, California, for 130 years. It is situated on the southern edge of the Presidio on a hilly bluff southwest of the former military base's central Parade Ground. As a disappearing yet vital component of U.S. military bases, the Presidio Golf Course highlights the importance of morale and well-being for its personnel and their families, as well as the evolution of golf and golf course design in the late 19th- and early 20th-century recreational history in America.

Since assuming control of the golf course in 1998, the Presidio Trust, a federal agency entrusted with the responsibility of stewarding the inland portions of the Presidio of San Francisco, has developed key strategies to help sustain its place among the most historically significant golf courses in the western United States. These include initiatives aimed at increasing its use, preserving its authenticity, and implementing resources conservation measures. In 2025 the Presidio Trust commissioned the development of a CLR for the golf course to form a solid foundation of understanding about its historic development, based on comprehensive research and an assessment of the course's historic character and current condition. As the primary tool for planning and designing for historic landscapes, a CLR ensures that future preservation visions and site recommendations build on an informed baseline of knowledge to balance its historic character with future opportunities and challenges. When preserved and managed through a cultural landscape rehabilitation lens, the golf course will provide a vibrant historic recreational resource within the dense urban fabric of San Francisco, offering continuous access to nature and health benefits to residents for years to come.

Of the four identified cultural landscapes within the Presidio that were identified in the 2002 management plan, the golf course has received the least amount of research and analysis to date. It is the largest piece of the puzzle that has yet to have site specific guidance. The research and findings in this CLR identify key physical landscape characteristics and features, including how the holes are laid out over a series of hills and plateaus, how flat planes of grass combined with vertical stands of trees create linear rooms, and how circulation paths connect the areas together. These elements are integral to its unique character and appeal.

The Presidio Golf Course is currently preparing for a new operator. The updated lease agreement will differ from the existing contract, shifting some responsibilities from the Presidio Trust to the lessee, thereby giving more agency to the operator to make changes within the historic landscape. Therefore, this guidance is needed to ensure that any changes to the Presidio Golf Course cultural landscape meet the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards or the Treatment of Historic Properties*, as befitting a National Historic Landmark (NHL), and balance contemporary management of the golf course with protecting its historic character. The new lease will maintain the project site as an active golf course, but the game has evolved and this CLR is needed to modernization improvements with the course's historic identity that is a differentiator in the golf market. The overarching goal is to preserve the historic character of the place while enhancing its vibrancy through strategic modifications or additions.



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INTRODUCTION



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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

A Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) is a place-based research and planning document that ties information from documents, photographs, illustrations, and oral histories to a particular place, and from those sources focuses on how a place has developed and changed over time. That effort helps us understand the people and forces that have shaped a place and provides glimpses into the character of the landscape at different moments in time, which is a combination of the natural and built environment, and people and wildlife that inhabit and manage that environment. It is often challenging and requires a commitment to honor the layered histories and recognize changes that occur within the historic period of compelling landscapes like the Presidio Golf Course. Developing this CLR helps support the perpetuation of this place's significance and historic character as it is stewarded into the future.

A CLR includes two parts. Part 1 includes the Historic Context, Evaluation of Significance and Integrity, and Analysis and Evaluation of Landscape Characteristics and Features. The CLR Part 1 is often based on review of previously completed historical documents that are updated and supplemented with targeted primary research and field surveys. Part 1 lays the foundation for discussions about future management and the development of Part 2, which focuses on developing a vision for the historic landscape along with and planning and design recommendations. The CLR Part 2 includes identifying both an overall preservation treatment approach, and specific recommendations that balance the preservation of the cultural landscape's historic character while addressing contemporary challenges and opportunities, identifying implementation strategies that meet the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Cultural Landscapes*. The recommendations are designed to support the long-term stewardship of the cultural landscape.

Cultural Landscape Report Purpose, Methods, Project Boundary and Content

PURPOSE

A CLR is a recognized methodology and document that reveals the history and evolution of a significant place. While it delves into aspects of social history, it is primarily focused on revealing the development and transformation of the physical elements that make up a place so that a greater understanding of what exists today is rooted in what came before.

This CLR was developed according to several NPS guidance documents, primarily including: *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques* (NPS); *National Park Service Director's Order-28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline*; National Register Bulletins 15, 30, and 40; and the *Cultural Landscapes Inventory Professional Procedures Guide*.

The CLR addresses the cultural landscape associated with the Presidio Golf Course, focusing on the characteristics and features within the project boundary. The goals and purpose of this document are to:

- Provide a consolidated history of the golf course's development, complemented by historic period plans.
- Build upon the significance and evaluation of historic integrity established for the cultural landscape through previous National Register of Historic Places documentation.
- Describe extant landscape characteristics and features and determining if they contribute or do not contribute to the golf course's historic significance, complemented by existing conditions plans.
- Ensure that preservation treatment and management recommendations are compatible with the park's legislative purpose and the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of*



Figure 1.1 – (right) Location map of the San Francisco Bay Area indicating the location of the Presidio Golf Course with a red star symbol. The city is highlighted in pink and the Presidio of San Francisco is highlighted in green. (© lesniewski/Adobe Stock/with modification by MIG)

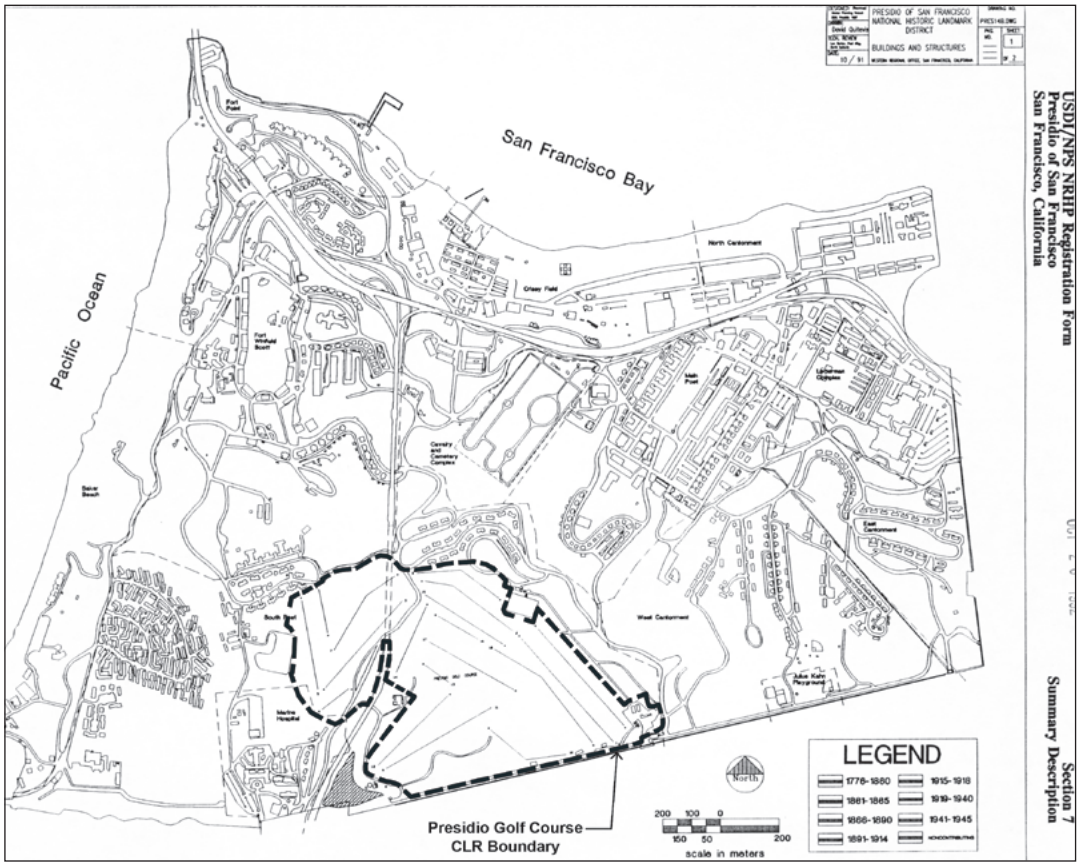


Figure 1.2 – Location map of the Presidio Golf Course within the Presidio of San Francisco. It should be noted that the basemap is the 1993 NHL site map and does not reflect current details within the Presidio. (NHL site map/with modifications by MIG)

Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes.
- Establish planning principles and guidelines that preserve the property's historic character and support its current and future use as a golf course.
- Provide written recommendations which are supported by illustrative treatment plans outlining future areas of intervention based on the property's integrity and use.

METHODS

This CLR is built upon findings of several previously completed studies and reports, updated documentation of the extant landscape characteristics and features, conversations with stakeholders and managers, and comprehensive but targeted primary and secondary research.

Specific steps to develop this CLR included:

- Reviewing and incorporating historic background documentation including, but not limited to previous National Register and National Historic Landmark nominations and updates, publications and studies by golf course architects and the National Golf Foundation, the Presidio files at the San Francisco Public Library History Room, and the Golf Course files at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area archives.
- Completing site visits in November 2025 which allowed the CLR team to update existing conditions documentation.
- Holding in-person and virtual discussions with Presidio Trust staff and partners throughout the project, including discussions about future treatment and management of the landscape.
- Conducting a comparative analysis of management and preservation objections with other nationally and internationally recognized golf courses listed in the National Register of Historic Places, located both in California and in other regions of the U.S.
- Submitting two review drafts for comment and discussion to the Presidio Trust prior to finalizing the written and illustrated analysis and recommendations in this CLR.

PROJECT BOUNDARY

The Presidio Golf Course is a component landscape located within the larger Presidio of San Francisco National Historic Landmark District. The boundary for the Presidio Golf Course CLR comprises 157.5 acres at the south edge of the district, adjacent to the Arguello Gates. It is located within an area roughly bounded by Pacific Avenue to the south, the former Marine Hospital campus and Battery Caulfield Road to the west, Washington Boulevard to the north and northeast, and Arguello Boulevard to the east (Figures 1.1 and 1.2).

The CLR boundary was determined with respect to the comprehensive development of the golf course during its period of significance. It considers both contributing and non-contributing features, which are outlined in Chapter 4 (Evaluation and Analysis of Existing Conditions). The boundary includes the current Presidio Golf Course Clubhouse, the putting green, the driving range, and all 18 holes of play. The boundary also includes a maintenance road/park trail that bisects the golf course down its center, and the maintenance sheds/garages and General Store that are located along the road/trail. The boundary does not include the Main Reservoir or Mountain Lake. The MacArthur Tunnel runs directly underneath the golf course, and through the Presidio, but is not considered to be located within the CLR boundary.

A smaller acreage within the CLR boundary (117.9 acres) is co-managed by the Presidio Golf Course operator (refer to Figure 1.3). The CLR boundary was identified in consultation with the Presidio Trust to include the full area to be managed by the operator, as well as some adjacent edges that contain contributing and non-contributing resources associated with the golf course (such as the Clubhouse parking area and the Historic Forest) that will continue to be managed by the Presidio Trust but may affect operations and maintenance practices at the golf course.



Figure 1.3 – Site map of the Presidio Golf Course showing the CLR boundary and the golf course operator boundary. (MIG 2026)

CONTENT

This CLR contains an executive summary, five chapters, a bibliography, and one appendix, whose contents are summarized below.

Executive Summary introduces the reader to the purpose and findings of the CLR.

Chapter 1 Introduction outlines the project settings and boundaries, objectives, scope, and methodology for the CLR, and provides an overview of the CLR's contents.

Chapter 2 Evaluation of Historic Significance and Integrity provides an overview of the significance of the Presidio Golf Course according to National Register criteria including a historic context of golf course design in the United States. The findings detailed in this chapter are based on the areas of significance established in the existing National Historic Landmark documentation and analysis completed for the Presidio of San Francisco, but expanded to relate directly to this cultural landscape.

Chapter 3 Site History describes the landscape's development through time with emphasis placed on the historic period. This site development history was based on existing documentation in past National Historic Landmark nominations and updates and supplemented with archival research from local repositories. Representative photographs of the landscape are included in this chapter focusing on areas associated with the site's significance. Historic photographs were sourced from the Presidio Trust, the San Francisco Public Library, and the Presidio Golf Course. Period plans are also provided, presenting what the Presidio Golf Course looked like over 60 years of development.

Chapter 4 Analysis & Evaluation of Existing Conditions includes narrative and graphic descriptions of the extant landscape characteristics and features within the CLR boundary. For each landscape characteristic and feature this section summarizes what is known about their historic development or associations and analyzes whether they contribute to the cultural and historic character of the landscape.

Chapter 5 Preservation Treatment establishes guidance for future treatment and management of the Presidio Golf Course cultural landscape including an overall framework, treatment approach, and recommendations. The approach and recommendations provide a range of opportunities and limitations for rehabilitating the landscape.

The **Bibliography** includes primary and secondary sources that were referenced during the development of this CLR.

Appendix A includes a glossary of golf course terminology and common terms used in association with cultural landscapes.



C. 1923 photograph courtesy of the Presidio Trust (Presidio Trust, 18-AA-25-057)

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EVALUATION OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE AND INTEGRITY



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CHAPTER 2. EVALUATION OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE AND INTEGRITY

This section summarizes past efforts to recognize, document, and evaluate the Presidio Golf Course's historic resources at the state and national level. It also re-evaluates the historic significance and integrity of the Presidio Golf Course using the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) criteria, based on an alignment of past efforts combined with research completed during the development of this CLR.

National Register Criteria

The National Register is a list of historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects in the U.S. that have been found historically significant based on the criteria listed below. To be eligible for listing in the National Register, a resource must demonstrate significance under one or more of the following criteria:

A. Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
B. Association with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
C. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
D. Yield, or have the potential to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

National Historic Landmark Criteria

The National Historic Landmark program uses six different, but related criteria to assess the national significance of properties.

1. Properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained.
2. Properties that are associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States.
3. Properties that represent some great idea or ideal of the American people.
4. Properties that embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for a study of a period, style, or method of construction,or that represent a significant, distinctive and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
5. Properties that are composed of integral parts of the environment not sufficiently significant by reason of historical association or artistic merit to warrant individual recognition but collectively compose an entity of exceptional historical or artistic significance, or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life or culture.
6. Properties that have yielded or may be likely to yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon periods of occupation over large areas of the United States. Such sites are those which have yielded, or which may reasonably be expected to yield, data affecting theories, concepts and ideas to a major degree.

Presidio of San Francisco National Historic Landmark

The Presidio of San Francisco National Historic Landmark District was initially designated on June 13, 1962, and therefore administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966 with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. It was also designated as California Historical Landmark 79 on September 18, 1965.

Documentation for the NHL was entered on May 25, 1993, to bring the Presidio of San Francisco National Historic Landmark District into compliance with contemporary preservation documentation and evaluation standards. That documentation established that the district is significant in the areas of military, exploration/settlement, Hispanic heritage, and historic archeology for the period of 1776-1945 and 1951 under National Register Criterion A, C, and D. Ten historic/designed component landscapes were identified in the 1993 update, including the Presidio Golf Course. No individual elements, such as buildings, structures or objects, within the Presidio Golf Course were listed as contributors in the NHL documentation.

The 1993 NHL update summarizes the significance of the Presidio as such:

> *"The Presidio of San Francisco is the oldest Army installation operating in the American West and one of the longest-garrisoned posts in the country. More than two hundred years of military occupation of the Presidio have resulted in the development of a complex historic district of several overlaid historic landscapes, each composed of buildings, structures, objects, sites and other features representing at least eight distinct phases of development. The breadth and diversity of contributing resources are vast and include a veritable outdoor museum of military and related architecture. The significance of the Presidio rests not only on resources within Post boundaries, but also on the preeminence of two adjacent and interrelated landscapes: the urban development of the City of San Francisco and the natural geography of San Francisco Bay. The spectacular siting of the Presidio, guarding the Golden Gate to San Francisco Bay, is unequaled by any post in the country. Further, no other military reservation within a major United States city is at once as large as the Presidio and so prominently located within the surrounding urban setting. For more than a hundred years, the Post has served San Francisco as a man-made forested reserve amidst the City's dense residential development; the lush character of the Presidio as a wooded reserve has endured to the present day. The important interrelationship between the Presidio and the City of San Francisco has been part of a broader interrelationship between the Presidio and the entire Bay area. As headquarters and protector of the Bay, the Presidio of San Francisco has remained strategically the most significant military post on America's Pacific Coast during most of its extended history."*[1]

In 2008, an update to the NHL was drafted in response to multiple changes at the Presidio following its 1994 transfer from the U.S. Army to the National Park Service (NPS). As part of that effort, all buildings and structures built between 1946 and 1994 were documented and evaluated, and based on that process the period of significance for the Presidio was extended to 1958. The NHL Criteria were also added to the documentation package in the 2008 update. The Presidio of San Francisco was found to meet four of the six NHL Criteria including Criterion 1, 4, 5, and 6. Although the draft update was not submitted to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C., the update is used by Presidio Trust Historic Preservation Staff and is referenced during project planning.

Presidio Golf Course

The Presidio Golf Course component landscape is a historic designed landscape within the larger NHL district. This statement of significance for the golf course complements the established significance for the Presidio of San Francisco outlined in the updated NHL documentation by providing additional information about the significance of the landscape's development under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of landscape architecture and recreation.

1 Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark, 1993, Section 8, 2.

The Presidio Golf Course was one of the earliest developed on the west coast, following quickly after golf courses were first established on the east coast of the U.S. during the 1880s. Initially established and operated as an 9-hole course in 1895 by the private San Francisco Golf Club within the military post,[2] the Presidio Golf Course expanded into an 18-hole course in 1910 and was further enlarged and entirely redesigned in 1920.

While the present-day golf course encompasses the site of the original 9-hole course built in 1895, the existing plan and character of the 18-hole course more closely reflects the expansion and redesign undertaken in the 1920s, during what is known as "the golden age" of golf course design in the United States. The existence of an early golden age golf course on the Presidio is understood to be unique among urban military bases.[3]

The 1920s expansion of the golf course extended the park-like elements that were being established in other areas of the Presidio, namely newly forested areas that provided a counterpoint to the surrounding densification of urban residential neighborhoods. "Thus, during this important period of landscape development, the Presidio's character as a green reserve within an urban setting and its association with recreational uses were both firmly set."[4]

A civilian-run private club continued to fund and operate the Presidio Golf Course until 1956 when the U.S. Army's United Service Golf Club assumed complete control over the upkeep, maintenance, and management of the course.

GOLDEN AGE OF GOLF DESIGN

The general character of the Presidio Golf Course is most closely aligned with its redesign and expansion in the 1920s by noted golf course landscape architects Herbert Fowler and Tom Simpson. The renowned partnership of two established British golf course architects is associated with the golden age of golf course design, both in Europe and the U.S., which began in the early 20th century and continued through the 1920s.

The golden age ushered in an era of golf course design that exhibited intentional design and architectural skill, as well as high-levels of professional skill in the game. Courses transitioned to be more adaptive to their setting, responding to underlying topography and incorporating natural features that provided each course a unique character.

Course design standards were also codified during this period to include a set of desired characteristics and goals that responded to the increasingly high level of play. Course design wavered between courses that were penal, designed to punish a player by introducing hazards, and those that required strategy to navigate a skeletal layout that were rarely laid out in straight lines and included hazards in prominent locations. To achieve these goals, the terrain was manipulated to shape sections of tees, fairways, and greens. Trees were planted along the edges of fairways to delineate them and provide some level of hazards along their edges. A combination of short and long holes, some with bends in their fairways, were designed to provide experiential variety that required skill to navigate.

Incremental changes have occurred to the Presidio Golf Course's fairways, greens, and tees since the 1920s expansion and design, with modifications tied to the establishment of a Highway 1 access route associated with the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge, a major tree planting effort by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, and modernization of game play including the construction of a new clubhouse and the construction of a putting green and driving range.[5] However, the spatial arrangement,

2 The Presidio Golf Club was established and assumed management of the Presidio Golf Course from the San Francisco Golf Club in 1905.

3 Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark, 1993, Section 8, 12.

4 Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark, 1993, Section 8, 39.

5 Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark, 1993, Section 7, 159-160.

land use, public access, and overall character of the Presidio Golf Course continues to recall the golden age of golf course architecture and to stand out as an intact example of early twentieth century recreation design within an urban military reservation.[6]

PUBLIC RECREATION AT THE PRESIDIO GOLF COURSE

With the establishment of the Presidio Golf Course in 1895 a precarious and unusual relationship began between the private club and the military that persisted for over half a century. Upon opening, the club extended use privileges to the U.S. Army officers and managed the operations of the course from a clubhouse across the road, outside the Presidio reserve. While the exact conditions under which Presidio's commanding officer Colonel William M. Graham granted permission to build and operate the private golf course are unknown, given the absence of any written documentation, it is likely that the relationship began with a verbal agreement between the two entities. This mutual agreement continued through the shift in operation and management from the San Francisco Golf Club to the Presidio Golf Club (PGC) in 1905, with no formal signing of documents.

Though favorably received and enjoyed by the private club members and military officers alike, operated under an informal agreement wherein the course was maintained and financed by the PGC and the officers paid dues to the club, national military leadership consistently questioned the existence of private recreational use on a military reserve. Since as early as 1905 and through the following decade, the U.S. Army challenged the private operation, and in 1912 the Secretary of War directed the commanding Presidio Colonel Cornelius Gardner to discontinue the use of this area of a golf course. Upon strong protests from the locally-supported PGC, the War Department permitted a temporary continuation of use to February 1, 1913.

At the end of the permitted continuance of use, the Secretary of War directed that the privileges granted to the PGC be rescinded. The United Service Golf Club (USGC), comprising all armed forces officers, was subsequently formed to presumably assume responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the golf course. However, the directive from the War Department was vague and left room for interpretation. It commanded Col. Gardner to use the golf course for officers, their families, and former members of the PGC. The meaning of "former" was not specified and both the PGC and USGC conveniently interpreted it to mean that the private club could use the course so long as there was no interference with the Army, and reached an agreement wherein the operations on the golf course would continue as they had under the guise of Army control.[7]

This arrangement of golf course management and operation continued through the 1920s redesign and expansion, World War II, and the postwar years until about 1955. While the PGC had continued to carry the brunt of the financial burden for the operation, construction, and maintenance of the course and clubhouse until this time, an urgent need for a new automatic watering system posed too significant a financial strain on the private club. However, as a "non-Army-controlled operation," they were ineligible for welfare funds from the government. Consequently, the PGC agreed that the Army should take over the operation of the course and that the club would continue to manage the clubhouse. The USGC members would retain all the privileges of the clubhouse and the PGC would assist in the management of the course.

In 1956, the USGC formally assumed complete control over the upkeep, maintenance, and management of the course in both arrangement and practice. The Army funded $125,000 for the installation of a new sprinkler system and set up a Board of Governors, comprising a minimum of seven active duty officers elected semi-annually, to promulgate the rules and regulations for the course.[8]

6 Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark, 1993, Section 8, 55.

7 Levison, *A Short History*, 8-9; Erwin N. Thompson, *Defender of the Gate, The Presidio of San Francisco, A History from 1846 to 1995*, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1997, 248-249.

8 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 250; Art Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio, 1895-1995*, The Presidio Golf Club, 1994, 9; Levison, *A Short History*, 10.

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE (1895-1956)

The period of significance for the Presidio Golf Course as a component landscape is different than that of the National Historic Landmark District. Although the golf course is located within a military installation, it does not derive its significance from that alone. Rather, the period of significance for the Presidio Golf Course is associated with the landscape characteristics and features that exhibit the golf course's historic significance in the areas of landscape architecture and recreation. Therefore, the period begins in 1895 when the first recreational course was established at the site, extends through the mid 19th century during which time the intended design of the 1920 Fowler & Simpson golf course had reached maturation, and ends in 1956 when the U.S. Army formally assumed complete control over the operation of the golf course from the private club. This period encompasses the expansion and modernization of the course, responding to elevated game play and the urban densification of 20th century San Francisco.

Evaluation of Integrity

In addition to demonstrating historic significance under the National Register criteria, a property must retain sufficient historic integrity to be considered eligible for listing as a historic property. Integrity is evaluated based on the property's ability to convey its historical significance. To retain historic integrity, a historic site must exhibit some or all the seven aspects of historic integrity as defined by the National Register, including (in alphabetical order):

Association: is the direct link between an important historic event or person and historic property.

Design: is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.

Feeling: is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.

Location: is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.

Materials: are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.

Setting: is the physical environment of a historic property.

Workmanship: is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.

The Presidio Golf Course is significant under National Register criteria A and C as a designed landscape in the areas of landscape architecture and recreation. In assessing a property that is significant for landscape architecture, certain aspects of historical integrity are more important than others. Design, materials, and workmanship rise to the top. However, the Presidio Golf Course is also significant under Criterion A (associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history) for its recreational land use and development. Therefore, association is equally important in this discussion.

It is also critical to consider the nature of landscape in discussing the integrity of historic designed landscapes. The application of cultural landscape methodology recognizes a level of change that is inherent to large-scale landscapes beyond what may be acceptable for the relatively static design of a building. Additionally, the period of significance for a landscape is often broader than what is typical for a building, which allows for a broader degree of flexibility in evaluating for integrity.

The Presidio Golf Course, located on the lands along the middle of the Presidio's south boundary, is a major and distinct component element in the landscape of the former military reservation. While the present-day golf course encompasses the site of the original 9-hole course laid out in 1895, the existing plan and character of this much larger 18-hole course relate principally to a major expansion and improvement program undertaken in 1920. The expanded 18-hole golf course experienced further changes during the 1930s and through the 1950s, during which time the golf course was managed by

the U.S. Army and modernized to reflect rapid urbanization in San Francisco and elevated game play.

The course remains on its original site and reflects the layout that was designed during the 1920 golden age installation. Although the direction of play has changed over time and some holes have been shortened or lengthened, the 18 holes remain in their historic position. The golf course also retains its historic associations with both the Presidio (now managed by the Presidio Trust and NPS) and with the adjacent urban neighborhoods in San Francisco, which together comprise the urban park-like setting. Its continuous use as a public golf course and open green space in the heart of a major City underscores its associations and feeling as it continues to serve local residents of San Francisco. In sum, the Presidio Golf Course retains integrity of location, association, setting, and feeling.

Although the design, materials, and workmanship have shifted since the golf course was first expanded to an 18-hole course, the changes generally align with the golden age of golf principles that guided the 1920 expansion project. Compatible changes included a c. 1930s tree-planting program and continuous modernization of watering systems. Almost every green, except the ninth, has been rebuilt at least once, bunkering has been updated at various times, and some holes have been lengthened by longer tees or alternates. That being said, these changes do not diminish the overall character of the golden age design. The addition of trees extended a characteristic already present in the golf course, while also blending this site with other woodland areas within the Presidio, and the general spatial organization of the holes is retained. Other improvements, such as the construction of a new clubhouse and the insertion of a driving range and putting green, are compatible with the historic land use of the property and serve to extend its function as a public golf course. In sum, the Presidio Golf Course was modified several times during and after its period of significance, which has diminished its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Yet these aspects remain present in the overall course layout, vegetation, and use.

Overall, although the aspects that convey the property's significance in landscape architecture are diminished, the Presidio Golf Course retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic character as a golden age golf course. It exhibits the principles that guided the 1920 design and continues to function as a public golf course in an urban setting.

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C. 1929 bird's eye aerial photograph courtesy of the Presidio Trust

3

SITE HISTORY

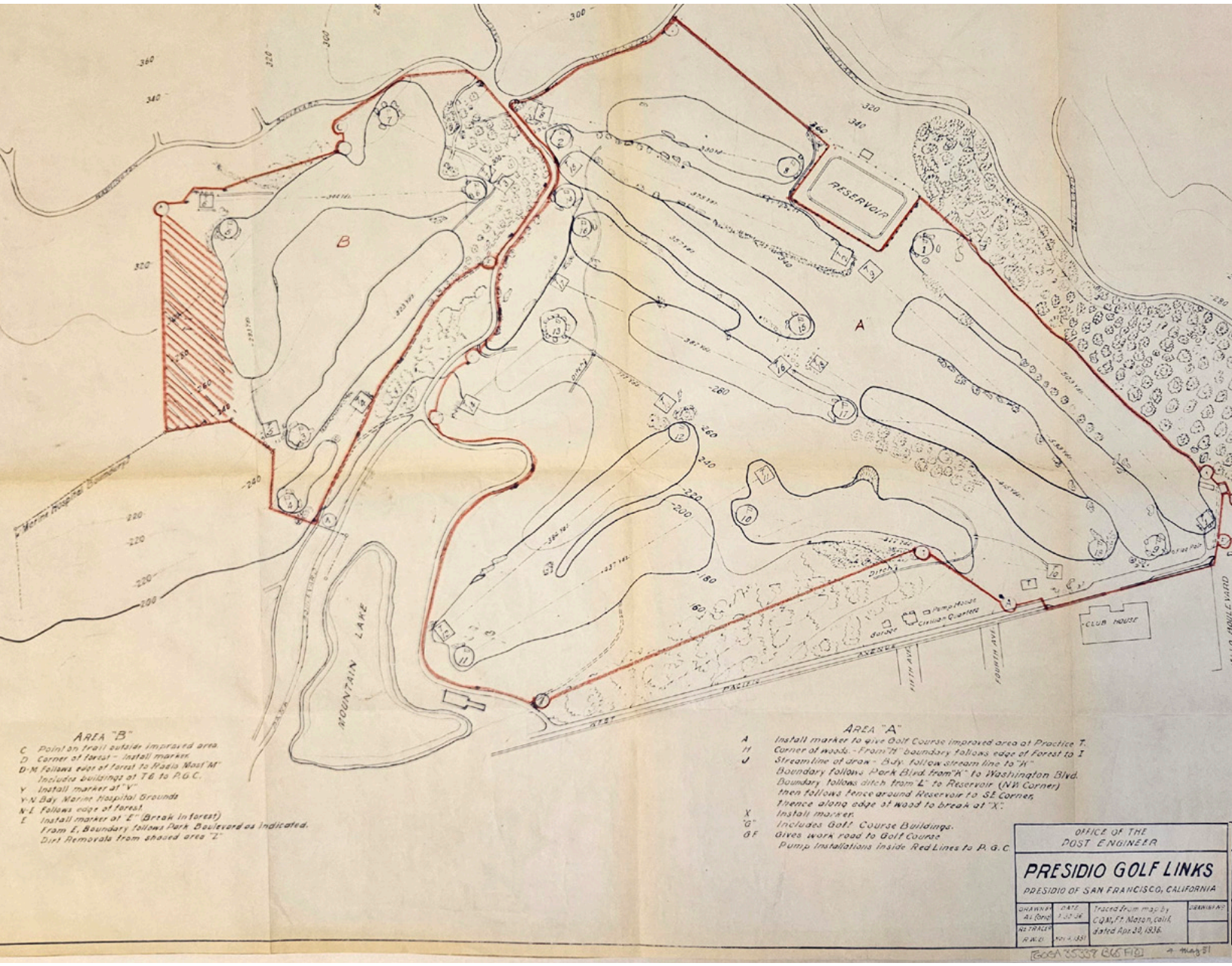


Figure 3.1 – May 1951 Plan of the Presidio Golf Links articulating boundaries of two areas (A and B) of the course separated by Park Boulevard. (GOGA Park Archives, Army Real Estate Records, GOGA 35338 B65F10)

CHAPTER 3. SITE HISTORY

The following historical narrative describes the development of the Presidio of San Francisco as a complex designed landscape, with a focus on the physical development of the Presidio Golf Course as a component landscape. The narrative is presented chronologically within successive periods of Presidio development, mimicking the format of the associated 1993 National Historic Landmark nomination and subsequent updates. The periods include: pre-contact (before 1776); Spanish-Mexican Settlement (1776-1846); Early United States Occupation (1846-1860); the American Civil War (1861-1865); Military Affairs and Nationalistic Expansion (1886-1914); World War I (1915-1918); Military Affairs between Wars (1919-1940); World War II (1941-1945); the Post War Development (1946-1973, 1956).

Wherever possible, this narrative utilizes general development history from the National Historic Landmark (1993) and the National Historic Landmark update (2008). The sections following the establishment of the Presidio Golf Course in 1895 are supplemented with site specific research on the physical development of the golf course that was completed in various in-person and online archives and is cited accordingly.

The narrative is punctuated with tables that summarize major physical modifications or events that affected the Presidio Golf Course following the discussion of the applicable period, and with a series of period plans to illustrate development of the course over time.

Pre-Contact (before 1776)

YELAMU VILLAGES

Indigenous peoples have inhabited the San Francisco area for thousands of years prior to first Spanish contact with what is now California in 1542. At time of first contact, the area presently known as the City of San Francisco was located within the territory of the Yelamu tribe of the San Francisco Bay Ohlone/Costanoan group (more specifically, the Ramaytush group of the larger Ohlone/Costanoan peoples). The Yelamu tribe comprised a population of about 200 people and spent the year divided among four village clusters.[9]

As described by early Euro-American accounts, the Indigenous landscape of the San Francisco Presidio was rich and varied. A large tidal marsh occupied low-lying areas at the north edge, while other lowlands included beaches and grassy dunes. The upland areas were home to dense shrub lands and woodland groves interspersed with wildflower-rich prairies. The lands were made habitable by the existence of several local springs with potable water, including the Spanish-named Ojo de Agua del Polin (now known as El Polin Spring) and Ojo de Agua de Figueroa.[10] The area including the present-day Presidio Golf Course largely comprised a coastal prairie with oak stands, and a central area of serpentine grassland and scrub.[11]

The native plant communities were affected by the ocean, wind, topography, and the sandy substrate. The early flora of the site has been described as follows in the Presidio of San Francisco Forest Plan:

> Evergreen woodlands, riparian thickets, chaparral, coastal prairies, and dune grasslands formed distinct botanical communities....The Anza expedition [1776] described the area near Mountain Lake and the high tableland,...extending northward to Fort Point, as treeless and covered with a growth of grass, yerba buena [a trailing perennial, evergreen herb], lilies, and wild violets....Not far

9 Randall Milliken, Laurence H. Shoup, and Beverly R. Ortiz, *Ohlone/Costanoan Indians of the San Francisco Peninsula and their Neighbors, Yesterday and Today,* Prepared for the National Park Service Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Prepared by Archaeological and Historical Consultants, June 2009, 4-5;
"The Ramaytush Ohlone," Association of Ramaytush Ohlone, accessed March 2026, https://www.ramaytush.org/ramaytush-ohlone.html.

10 Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark, 1993, Section 7, 26.

11 Presidio Trust, *Presidio of San Francisco, Vegetation Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, December 2001, 24, 28-29.

> to the east of Mountain Lake there was an abundance of live oaks....By 1820, the following trees had been described in the Presidio area by explorers:[12]

- Pacific madrone, *Arbutus menziesii*
- Toyon, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*
- Pacific wax myrtle, *Myrica californica*
- Holly leaf cherry, *Prunus ilicifolia*
- California bay laurel, *Umbellularia californica*
- Coast live oak, *Quercus agrifolia*
- California buckeye, *Aesculus californica*
- Yellow willow, *Salix lasiandra*
- Arroyo willow, *Salix lasiolepis*

While the initial contact in the sixteenth century left minimal impacts on the Indigenous peoples of San Francisco Bay, the arrival of the Spanish army under the Portolá expedition in 1769 and missionaries and settlers under the Anza expedition in 1776 marked the beginning of centuries of atrocities to the traditional lifeways and overall lives of the Native American communities.

Spanish-Mexican Settlement (1776-1846)

SPANISH EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT[13]

In 1776 Captain Juan Bautista de Anza formally took possession of the San Francisco headlands in the name of the king of Spain. During the winter of 1776-1777, Lieutenant José Joaquin Moraga oversaw the construction of a military camp in a sheltered vale inland from the headlands and named it the Presidio of San Francisco in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi. The garrison's duties included guarding the nearby Mission Dolores and regulating the coming and going of foreign ships, whether they were British, French, Russian, or American.

In the years that followed, storms and earthquakes attacked the mostly adobe presidio and nearby fortification, Castillo de San Joaquin (near present day Fort Point). The small garrison force and Native American laborers made repairs when funds became available. Ignored by the Spanish crown and the viceroy of New Spain, who had their own problems in Europe and in the Americas, the Presidio of San Francisco declined steadily after 1810. With the collapse of Spain's colonial efforts in Mexico in 1821, officials in Upper California, including those at the Presidio, changed their allegiance to the new Mexican government.

MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE AND SETTLEMENT

The shift from Spanish to Mexican control in 1821 had little effect on the Presidio. Despite the change in allegiance to the Mexican government, the Presidio and the northern colonies in general received little attention from the new republic. Affairs at the Presidio continued without change for fifteen years until 1835 when Commodore Mariano Vallejo moved the garrison north to Sonoma, leaving only a small caretaking detachment at the Presidio. Outside of the bounds of the Presidio, however, the village of Yerba Buena (later known as San Francisco) on a cove east of the Presidio began to take shape. Its earliest inhabitants included Europeans, Americans, and Mexicans.[14]

During the Mexican occupation from the 1820s-1840s, a general decline in population and operations at the Presidio reflected the broader problems of Mexico's central authorities, who lacked the resources to effectively manage the extensive lands spanning from the Rio Bravo to northern California. The decline in operations at the Presidio of San Francisco was further exacerbated by the ultimate relocation of the Mexican garrison from San Francisco to Sonoma by 1834-1835 under the leadership of General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, Commandant of the Presidio.[15] Several nations looked with envy upon this prodigious and underutilized real estate, including the United Sates. The popular cry of Manifest

12 Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark, 1993, Section 7, 26.

13 This section is excerpted from the 1997 *Defender of the Gate, The Presidio of San Francisco, A History from 1846 to 1995* by Erwin N. Thompson, p.1.

14 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 2.

15 "The Sonoma Barracks," Sonoma Petaluma Parks, accessed March 2026, https://www.sonomaparks.org/location/the-sonoma-barracks/.

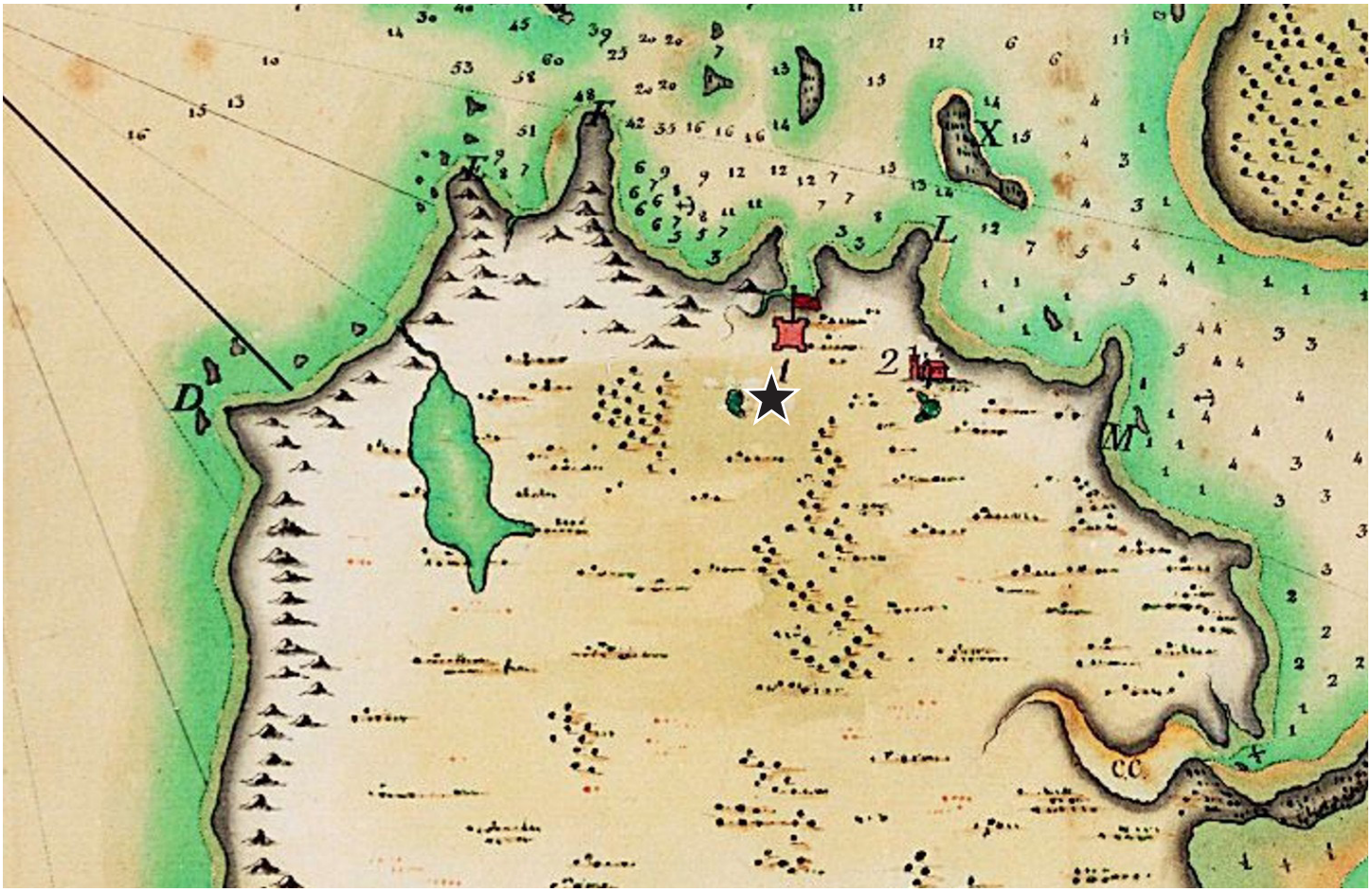


Figure 3.2 – A 1776 map of the San Francisco Peninsula shows that the Spanish development within the Presidio was positioned in the north central area of the peninsula, near the present-day Main Post, for ready access to Mission Dolores. The only other cluster of development during the Spanish period within the bounds of the Presidio was the Castillo (present-day Fort Point), located on the southern point overlooking the entrance to the bay (see Fort Scott CLR, 14). Mountain Lake, adjacent to present day Presidio Golf Course, is a prominent landmark. A black star symbol is added to identify the approximate location of the Presidio Golf Course. (Presidio Trust/with modification by MIG)

Density fired the spirits of adventurers in the United Sates, who sought to extend their already vast country yet farther westward. It took little provocation, then, to ignite a spark that burst into a territorial war between the United States and Mexico in 1846.[16]

Early United States Occupation (1846-1860) [17]

The American-Mexican War focused the United States' attention on the newly acquired lands of California and on the defense of the West Coast. The discovery of gold two years later brought still greater attention to these lands, along with a mass influx of prospectors and settlers. These developments elevated the importance of the Presidio and the fortification, which were recognized and developed for the protection of the Bay and the emerging boomtown of San Francisco. The United States Army's campaign against the Native Americans also commenced during this period.

As the American-Mexican War broke out in 1846, the United States feared that the French and British might, to their own advantage, interfere in the conflict. Additionally, the United States recognized the potential threat of rebellion by the disgruntled Californians in the disputed lands. These fears reached

16 Excerpted from Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark, 1993, Section 8, 22.

17 This section is adopted from the Presidio of San Francisco National Historic Landmark nomination, pages 8-24, except where otherwise cited.



Figure 3.3 – Captain J. Folsom, USGS Topographic Map crop, 1846. Yerba Buena Cove and the Presidio are noted, while the west side of San Francisco peninsula is written off as "Sand Barren". (Presidio Trust)

from California to Washington D.C., and contributed to a sense of immediacy to providing a Unites States military presence on the Pacific Coast and to establishing an effective coastal defense. As early as 1847, Colonel Richard Barnes Mason, commanding the 1st Dragoons and serving as Military Governor of California, told his representatives in the Bay Area to cooperate with the Navy in selecting land to serve as government property for defense. Captain J.L. Folsom, a Quartermaster officer, chose the lands of the Presidio on the San Francisco peninsula. During the following year, Mason directed that not only the Presidio and the old castillo should be set aside, but also the Spanish *Bateria de San Jose*, located at an early landing site to the east (within present-day Fort Mason). In all, Mason's staff recommended that some 10,000 acres be reserved in the area in defense of the United States western territories, and the Presidio of San Francisco was established as a U.S. Military Post in 1847.

The American Civil War (1861-1865)

New construction activities at the Presidio associated with the Civil War were far more concentrated and effectual than any undertaken previously under United States occupation. The Civil War-era improvement programs transformed the remains of the early Spanish-Mexican Presidio and included an expansion of the Main Post and parade grounds. While the construction of new buildings was considerable, broader improvements to the overall landscape of the reservation were not a principal part of Civil War-era development.[18]

18 Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark Nomination, 1993, Section 7, 32.

To support the expanded Presidio, a new gravity-fed water system was developed. The system, originating from an elevated cistern on Presidio Ridge, ran along the southeast side of the parade ground and then northward to a garden plot beyond the U.S. Army hospital. This plot was one of several gardens that provided fresh produce to supplement regular Army rations.[19]

By 1861 the street grid of the developing City of San Francisco had advanced westward, at least as far as Black Point (present site of Fort Mason), but was still some distance from the Presidio's east boundary. Lone Mountain Cemetery bounded the Presidio on the south, and access from this direction was via Presidio Boulevard. The comprehensive improvement of roads and access to the Post, however, did not occur until well after the War, as the urban development of San Francisco advanced much closer to the reservation.[20]

Military Affairs and Nationalistic Expansion (1866-1914)

Following the American Civil War the number of men at the Presidio varied greatly, but by 1867 the garrison had stabilized at a permanent strength of from 200 to 300 enlisted men; by 1889 that strength had increased to more than 570 men, including 38 officers. Correspondingly, comprehensive plans for Post expansion and improvements were formulated and partially realized during this period. Major new construction appeared in the area of the Main Post and at Fort Point as well as in three other distinct areas of new development associated with a Marine Hospital, a Lifesaving Station (originally under the United States Life Saving Service, later the U.S. Coast Guard), and a National Cemetery.[21]

In 1873, the war department granted 85 acres along the south boundary of the reservation to be used for the construction of a new Marine Hospital facility. The land included Mountain Lake and its water source, Lobos Creek. Begun in 1874, the new hospital complex opened its doors in 1875, replacing the existing facility located in the City at the corner of Spear and Harrison Streets. The hospital was sited on a natural terrace overlooking Mountain Lake. Today, the site occupied by the complex includes only some 37 acres, having been reduced by Act of Congress in 1927 and none of the 1870s buildings remain intact. The associated cemetery that served this facility, however, does remain and lies largely beneath a restored dune habitat area on a rise located near the northwest comer of the tract.[22]

Comprehensive road construction was another principal element of Presidio-wide improvements following the Civil War. In the 1870s, the main entrance to the Presidio from San Francisco was located at Lombard Street on the east boundary of the post. Secondary routes connected the Main Post with the Marine Hospital, with Telegraph[23] and Presidio hills, with El Polin and Queen Springs, and with Fort Point and its wharf. In the early 1880s, the main entrance was made more imposing with the construction of a gate house, an orchard or grove of trees, and a "picket" fence along the eastern boundary. By this time, another entrance led into the post from its southeast comer at New Cemetery Avenue (present-day Presidio Boulevard); the route crossed the existing sand dunes on the southern side of the reservation. The routes for present-day Lincoln, Washington, and Park Boulevards and for Barnard Avenue were established all or in part by the 1880s as well. An entrance was not established, however, at the southern border of the Post in the vicinity of the Marine Hospital; rather, the Main Post-to-Marine Hospital road continued west along the north side of Lobos Creek to the pumping station.

19 Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark Nomination, 1993, Section 7, 33.

20 Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark Nomination, 1993, Section 7, 32.

21 Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark Nomination, 1993, Section 7, 35.

22 Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark Nomination, 1993, Section 7, 42

23 Telegraph Hill is now known as Rob Hill, renamed to avoid confusion with the more famous Telegraph Hill in downtown San Francisco.

By 1890, the major routes for the majority of the Presidio's present-day roads had been established. Most of the primary routes originated at the Main Post and connected it with the other areas of the post. With the exception of rectilinear street layouts in special areas such as the Main Post, road construction generally followed the natural contours of the topography. Cuts, fills, and berms were used where necessary.

Despite the expansion of circulation systems throughout the post, the central areas of the reservation continued to function as pasture after the Civil War. Sloughs existed along the north shore, with beaches along the north and west shorelines. Large sand dune areas spread over the southeast and southwest corners of the reservation. Even the Main Post was dominated by dusty gravel-covered expanses, generally devoid of trees and other landscape amenities. Beginning in 1878, the largely undeveloped lands of the Presidio were planned to undergo sweeping improvements including extensive afforestation, the reorientation of buildings, the construction of fences and gates, and the introduction of landscape amenities around buildings and in other outdoor areas.

FORESTING THE PRESIDIO (1878-1906)[24]

The U.S. Army had paid little attention to the greening of the Presidio reservation prior to the arrival of the Division of the Pacific headquarters in 1878. Most of the reservation consisted of grass-covered sand hills. Cattle and horses grazed the treeless hills, while strong winds from the ocean brought drifting sand. The annual rainy season, however, produced acres of grasses and wildflowers.

While the early commanding officers made some improvements in the vicinity of the Main Post, with ornamental trees and flower beds gracing officers' row, a true landscaping program across the Presidio was not developed until the arrivals of Generals Irvin McDowell and John Schofield, and their staff engineer, Major William A. Jones, in the late 1870s and early 1880s.

General McDowell had a reputation for improving the appearance of military reservations, and, despite the difficulties in identifying correspondence on the subject of landscaping that bore his signature, received credit from his successors for expending much energy toward improving the Presidio and undertaking tree planting to a limited extent.

Following McDowell's retirement, Maj. William A. Jones drafted a forest scheme for the Presidio. Remaining on the division staff under McDowell's successor Major General Schofield, Jones wrote his now-famous plan for a Presidio forest. Self-proclaimed as being experienced in "Landscape Engineering and Forestry," he envisioned a scheme to "crown the ridges, border the boundary fences, and cover the areas of sand and marsh waste with a forest that will generally seem continuous, and thus appearing immensely larger than it really is." Jones strategically planned to leave the valleys uncovered or with a scattering fringe of trees along the streams to maximize the visual contrast in height from the city, to "visually accentuate the idea of the power of Government."

Although nominally a plan to guide afforestation, Jones' report actually addressed the creation of a park-like landscape at the Presidio. The creation of the Presidio Forest was a culmination of multiple driving factors ranging from the commonly accepted belief that the experience of being in nature, even a man-made one, promoted public health, prosperity, democratic equality, and social coherence; the nationwide fear of a potential "timber famine" and the adopted practice of mass tree plantings; the need for the military to appease the residents of the rapidly expanding City of San Francisco who wanted what was viewed as excess lands within the reserve to be relinquished to the City for residential development or a large urban park; and the need for the Army to more clearly delineate its control and ownership of the reservation. The planned Presidio Forest would not only improve the appearance of the reservation in the eyes of San Franciscans and create a visual boundary between the

24 This section is adopted from the 1997 *Defender of the Gate, The Presidio of San Francisco, A History from 1846 to 1995* by Erwin N. Thompson, p.221-233, unless otherwise cited.

Presidio and San Francisco but also stabilize areas of the reservation that consisted largely of shifting sand dunes and provide protection from prevailing ocean winds in the settled areas of the reservation.[25]

To achieve the larger goals of creating a park-like, sylvan landscape that would not only contribute to the delineation of the military's control of the reservation but protect and restore timber resources, Jones' plan provided practical guidance for the afforestation efforts at the Presidio. Jones identified three main species of trees that would dominate the Presidio plantings: eucalyptus (primarily *Eucalyptus globulus*), Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*), and Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*). To a lesser extent, blackwood acacia (*Acacia melanoxylon*) and coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) would also be planted. These species list was adopted from William Hammond Hall, who, during his development of Golden Gate Park, established that the trees grew quickly, were able to withstand local site and climate conditions, and were ideally suited to the goals and techniques of the late-19th century afforestation practices. Jones identified that the species should be planted in relationship to their ability to withstand the strong westerly winds and seasonal conditions, at a distance that takes into account is annual growth, and in irregularly-shaped groups that followed the contours of the topography.[26]

The earliest recording of the mass planting of trees on the Presidio occurred during the celebration of California's first Arbor Day late in 1886. School children planted about 3,000 tree slips that mining magnate Adolph Sutro had donated, on the slope southeast of the Main Post in the vicinity of Lovers Lane.

Through the 1890s, grazing cattle – cows belonging to military families and civilians having permits – continued to be part of the Presidio landscape. Army horses and mules also grazed when practical. Additional efforts were made during this period to establish and maintain crops, "25 acres of garden" "at points" not interfering with military functions to supply the garrison with vegetables the year round.

Improvements to the Presidio, including the planting of trees, finally received federal appropriations in 1889. U.S. Senator Leland Stanford introduced an amendment to the appropriations bill calling for $38,000 for roads and walkways leading to the National Cemetery, planting trees and shrubs, fencing, and for a roadway between Fort Mason and the Presidio. A contract for 50,000 trees was completed with the 1889 appropriations; the 1891 appropriation of $10,000 provided for the planting of 105,475 trees. The forest

25 Denise Bradley, ASLA, *Historic Forest Character Study, Presidio of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA*, prepared for the Presidio Trust, October 2009, 17, 19.

26 Bradley, *Historic Forest Character Study,* 40, 52, 77.



Figure 3.4 – C. 1870s Presidio before tree planting looking north. (NPS Gallery, GGNRA)



Figure 3.5 – Undated view young trees planted at the Presidio. (NPS Gallery, GGNRA)



Figure 3.6 – 1882 landscape view of tree planting at the Presidio as seen from the street car station. (GOGA Park Archives, GOGA 38793.4)

composition included eucalyptus, acacia, cypress, pine, bamboo, and California lilac (*Ceanothus*), with eucalyptus planted in the greatest numbers.

Fifty native trees were planted in small groups of two or three in the space southwest of the post reservoir and enclosed the road leading from the reservoir to McDowell (later Lincoln) Avenue.[27] At this time a reservoir stood south of the south end of the parade ground, but the description remains unclear.

The bamboo was planted in the west near the tules (lower Presidio or Mountain Lake). By November 7, 1892, the division quartermaster Major J.H. Lord pronounced that 329,975 trees had been planted within the Presidio; the post commander, Colonel William Montrose Graham, estimated up to 350,000. By 1895, the first phase of extensive tree planting in the Presidio had come to an end as leadership sentiments relating to Jones' plan shifted.

Through the second half of the decade, the topic of tree planting in the Presidio was one of contention between post commander Col. Graham and the quartermaster general of the Army. Graham opposed additional planting

27 *Washingtonia gigantea,* or Calaveras big tree, was identified in association with these native trees in the 1993 National Historic Landmark District documentation. This genus and species is not a currently accepted name.

of trees to preserve training grounds for the growing garrison, while the quartermaster general championed for the continuation of planting and improvements to the Presidio.

By the turn of the century, however, the general sentiments at the Presidio had collectively shifted in favor of a "systematic and permanent plan of improvement." In 1901, Major General Young observed that attention to the natural beauties of scenery would make the reservation more attractive to residents and visitors alike. Young recommended the appointment of a board of officers to consider such matters and the employment of a "landscape engineer." Gifford Pinchot, the chief of the Division of Forestry of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, offered full cooperation and services of an engineer. In addition to Young, Colonel Jacob B. Rawles, Artillery Corps, took a firm approach in the preservation and protection of the forest. Upon extensive discussions about the landscape with Pinchot, William L. Hall, the chief of the Division of Forest Extension, was appointed to undertake a study of the forest that guided a second phase of planting.[28]

In the fall of 1902, William L. Hall came to the Presidio to observe the forest's existing conditions and make recommendations. He organized the report by dividing the existing forest stands into six "Compartments" and described the existing conditions and generally identified the existing species of trees and their planting geometry and spacing. The general area of the golf course was assigned Compartment #4. He also discussed problems such as overcrowding and erosion, and made specific commendations for thinning and pruning. Hall's overarching determination was that the lack of an ongoing oversight and maintenance program had led to the overcrowded tree stands that were typical throughout the Presidio Forest. Hall also identified sixteen "blocks" where he recommended planting new stands of trees for specific purposes (visual screening, soil retention, or windbreaks). For each of these,

28 Bradley, *Historic Forest Character Study*, 57.

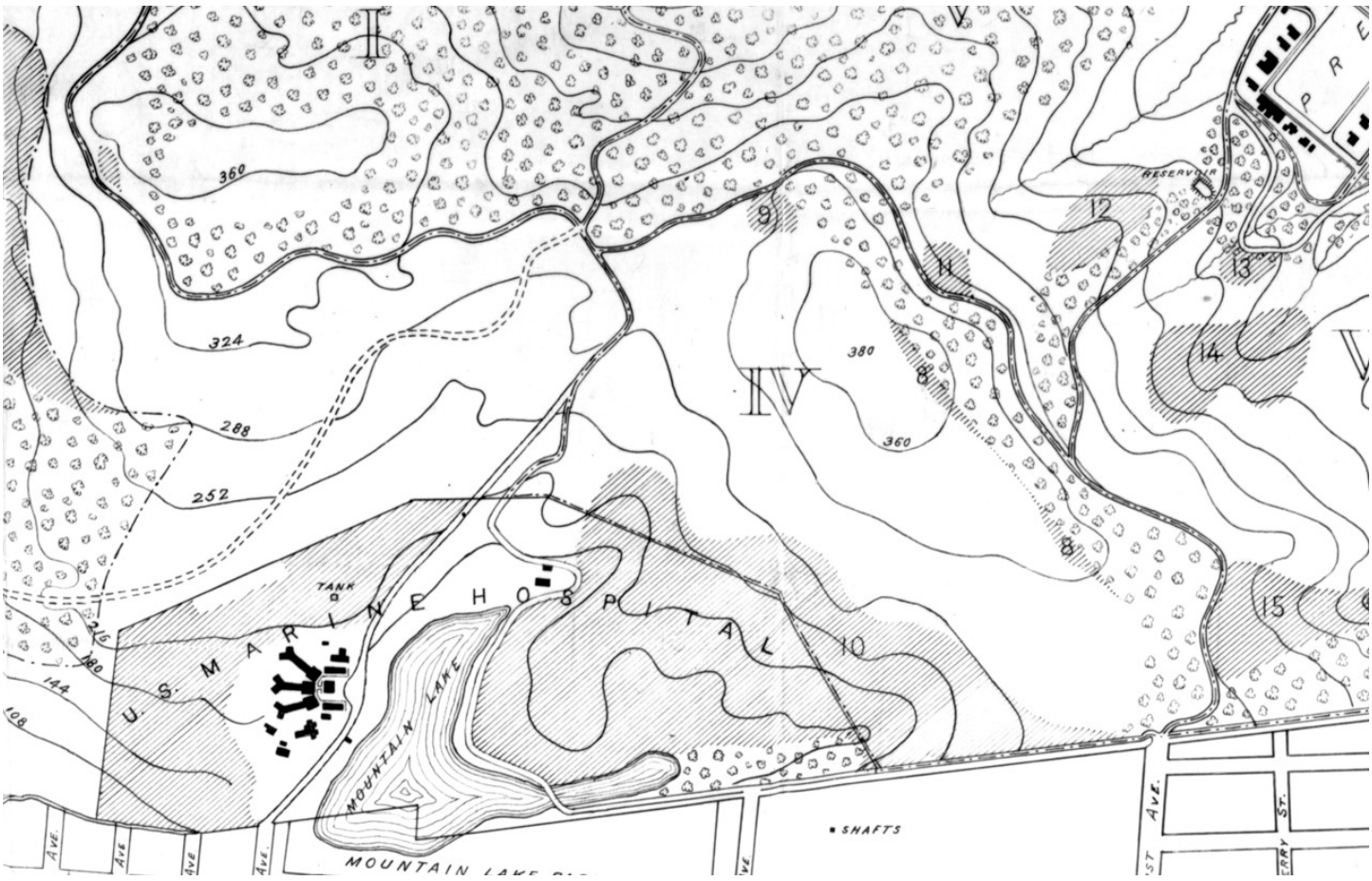


Figure 3.7 – William L. Hall, "Map of the Military Reservation of the Presidio of San Francisco, California, Showing Present Timber Area and Proposed Plantations," Bureau of Forestry Department of Agriculture, 1902. (Presidio Trust)

he specified the species of tree, the number of trees required, and planting direction for spacing. He recommended planting the same species found on the site, with occasional introductions of alternative species that he believed were better suited to the growing environment.[29]

Concurrent with Hall's 1902 recommendations and plan for the Presidio Forest, William Jones again made recommendations for the Presidio's forest and landscape in an essay titled "Suggestions in the matter of parking the U.S. military reservation of the Presidio of San Francisco." While this essay focused on using ornamental plants to enhance the setting and views within the reservation, and thereby serve as a companion to the forestry-oriented recommendations by Hall, it confirmed the generally held opinion that the forest trees were planted too closely together[30]

In the year following Hall and Jones' recommendations, a second phase of mass tree planting began in the Presidio. Major General Robert P. Hughes, who succeeded Young as commander of the Department of California, approved the implementation of Hall's plan. Agreeing with the report that there had been a lack of coordination and oversight in the previous planting efforts, he formalized this oversight under the control of the Board of Officers (renamed the Forestry Board in 1905). Under this planting program, several of the sixteen recommended planting "blocks" were planted, including Blocks 8 and 9 that comprised a narrow strip of trees added to the western side and northern tip of an existing stand located on the eastern side of the golf course. Additional areas not included in Hall's 1902 recommendations were also planted between 1902 and late 1906 including the expansion of an existing swatch of trees along the north side of West Pacific Avenue that ran along the southern edge of the golf course. Trees were also planted on either side of the east arm of Mountain Lake, likely to control erosion and to delineate the southern boundary of the golf course. Trees were also planted around the north end of the lake and in Mountain Lake Park. These, together with the trees along West Pacific Avenue, created a new picturesque setting around the lake and framed the views of the lake from the golf course. This second phase of mass tree planting under Hall's plan came to a close in 1906. After the 1906 earthquake, the Army focused its funding for tree planting on posts other than the Presidio.[31]

In general, the forests established under the two phases of mass tree planting exhibited the following characteristics: dense planting; even-aged trees within a stand; trees set out in a regular pattern with equidistant spacing; stands that were planted (a) with a single species, (b) with blocks or rows of different species planted side by side, or (c) with a row of a different species used to outline the edge of a sand; and a limited plant palette of predominantly evergreen trees. See the following table for a chronology of plantings relating to the golf course during. These events are outlined in Bradley's 2009 *Historic Forest Character Study*.

Foresting activities at the Presidio following the second phase of planting were primarily associated with the Army's missions at the Presidio. As the Army expanded facilities across the reserve, portions of the established forests were cleared to accommodate construction. By the mid-1930s, the cumulative size of the forest had been reduced by over one-third, from 420 acres in 1902 to approximately 300 in 1935. Construction and improvement activities through the decades resulted in further fragmentation of the historic forests; however, despite this reduced and disjointed footprint, the overall Presidio Forest continues to be an effective physical expression of the identify of the Presidio.[32]

For a summary, see Table 1: Physical Alterations to the Presidio Golf Course Relating to Afforestation Efforts.

29 Bradley, *Historic Forest Character Study*, 57-59.

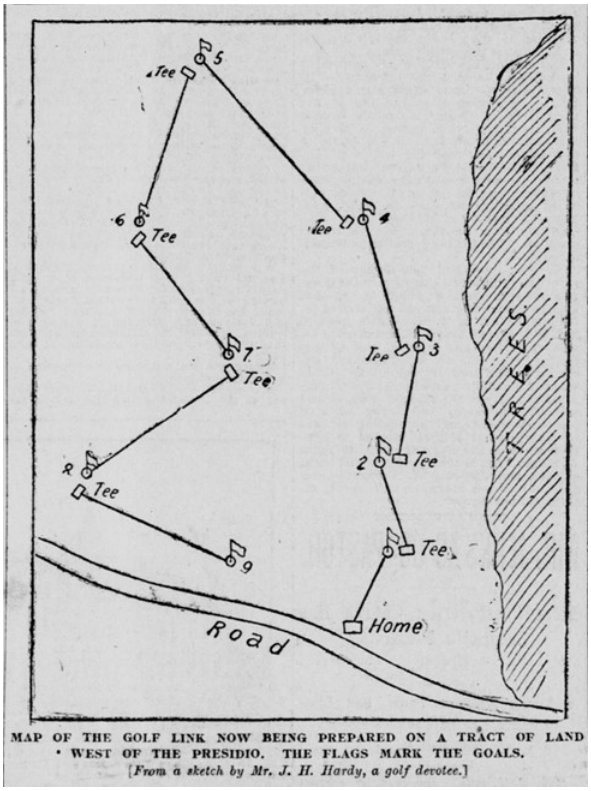
30 Bradley, *Historic Forest Character Study*, 59-60.

31 Bradley, *Historic Forest Character Study*, 63-66, 68.

32 Bradley, *Historic Forest Character Study*, 73-75.

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
Table 1: Physical Alterations to the Presidio Golf Course Relating to Afforestation Efforts

DATE	EVENT
1886-1895	A band of trees was planted along the western side of Arguello Boulevard (First Avenue) entrance, to the east of the golf course. A forest stand was also established bordering the eastern edge of the golf course.
1903-1906	Trees were planted around the Marine Hospital, Mountain Lake, and the southern and western edges of the golf course.
1912	Trees were removed from the forest stand bordering the eastern edge of the golf course to accommodate the construction of a reservoir.
1938	Additional golf course trees were planted, including the mixed canopy at the geographic center of the course. These plantings were not associated with the development of the Presidio Forest but with the development of the recreational facility. Based on the 1927 and 1938 aerial photographs of the area, the fairway allées had already been planted in the 1920s, associated with the Fowler & Simpson redesign of the golf course.
1939	Trees were removed to accommodate the construction of Park Presidio and the Golden Gate Bridge Apporach Tunnel. This created a division in the ridgetop stand along its alignment, removed trees in the vicinity of Mountain Lake, and, at its north end, created separate standes east and west of the new roadway.



MAP OF THE GOLF LINK NOW BEING PREPARED ON A TRACT OF LAND WEST OF THE PRESIDIO. THE FLAGS MARK THE GOALS.
[From a sketch by Mr. J. H. Hardy, a golf devotee.]

Figure 3.8 – Newspaper clipping from *San Francisco Call*, December 22, 1895.



Figure 3.9 – Undated photograph of Georgene Long photographed at the Presidio Golf Course. (GOGA Park Archives, GOGA 37025.14A-D)

GOLF COMES TO PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO (1895-1914)

Amidst the contentious years of tree planting in the Presidio of San Francisco, four San Francisco businessmen, A.B. Williamson, Lahn Lawson, R.B. Forman, and Thomas Binney of Balfour, Guthrie & Company, "true sons of Scotland," recognized the lack of a golf course in the city and established the San Francisco Golf and Country Club (SFGC) in 1895.[33] They identified the seemingly unused swath of land within the Presidio, and with the permission of the Presidio's commander officer, Colonel William M. Graham, constructed a 9-hole course on a sandy plateau on the reservation near its southern boundary. Located between the Marine Hospital and present-day Arguello Boulevard, the Presidio Golf Link (as it was called at the time) was crudely completed by December and scheduled to be formally ready by mid-January of 1896.

The game of golf had crossed the Atlantic Ocean from the United Kingdom and was introduced to the U.S. in the late-1880s. Quickly gaining popularity, the first bona fide American golf club was constructed at Yonkers, New York. The Saint Andres Golf Club played over a six-hole course in 1888, and the first 18-hole course in the country was constructed by the Chicago Golf Club in 1893. By 1895, the United States Golf Association (USGA) was organized and sufficient interest in the game had developed for national competitions. Concurrently with the Chicago Golf Club, the sport expanded west of the Mississippi and the Burlingame Country Club was organized in California.[34]

The designer of the original golf course at the Presidio remains unconfirmed. While the present-day operators of the Presidio Golf Course attribute the design and construction of the 9-hole golf course to Robert Wood Johnstone (1874-1937)[35], no primary sources have been identified to confirm his involvement. Rather, a precursory search shows that Johnstone arrived in the U.S. in 1900, five years after the establishment of the Presidio Golf Course, from North Berwick,

33 Philip Young, *History of San Francisco Golf Club*, San Francisco Golf Club, 2014, 6-7.

34 Levison, *A Short History*, 7.

35 Presidio Golf Course, accessed December 2025, https://www.presidiogolf.com/#learnmore.

Scotland joining an influx of Scottish and English golf professionals who immigrated at the turn of the century. He was a golf professional with the San Francisco Golf Club from 1900 to 1905. He is then recorded as being a professional at the Seattle Golf Club, a position he held for the rest of his life. He is attributed with laying out a new course for the Seattle Golf Club in 1907.[36] Some sources suggest that Johnstone "redesigned" the original Presidio Golf Link during his five years with the San Francisco Golf Club, but there are no records of formal redesigns to the course layout during these years. It is likely that, if involved, he contributed to the maintenance and alterations to the course during his tenure working with the club.[37] Another potential designer of the original golf course is William Robertson of Burlingame. An article from The San Francisco Call, December 22, 1895, states that "William Robertson of Burlingame, who is to be the instructor, will be ready with a perfect golf link by middle of January." However, this statement could also be interpreted as Robertson being ready to be the instructor on the perfected Presidio golf course.[38] To add to the mystery, *Golf at the Presidio, 1895-1995*, written by Art Rosenbaum in 1994, also states that John Lawson, in an interview with the author in the 1960s, had claimed that he had designed and supervised the first course.[39]

When completed in 1896, the new Presidio Golf Link was described as "admirably situated and arranged, affording opportunity for skill in every feature of the game."[40] The golf links comprised nine holes, both numbered and named. Hole 1 was 183 yards long (from tee to hole); Hole 2, named "Telephone Hole" for its location near a telephone pole, was 235 yards long; Hole 3, named "Summit Hole" for most of its distance being uphill on ground exposed to the winds, was 192 yards long; Hole 4, "Low Hole," was 341 yards long; Hole 5, "Short Hole," was 171 yards long, Hole 6, "Lake Hole," was 232 yards long; Hole 7, "High Hole," was 200 yards long; Hole 8, "Quarry Hole," was 194 yards long; and Hole 9, "Home Hole," was 393 yards long. The entire link distance measured approximately 2,141 yards.[41]

The links were considered a very good substitute for Scottish golfing grounds: sagebrush doing nearly as well as gorse, and the "inequalities" in the ground made up for the lack of sand hills. The links contained four grass-covered greens (achieved through ample application of fertilizer) and five sand greens (abundant in sand traps). Dirt and oil were mixed together to form the tees. Only the greens were kept watered.[42] Accompanying the golf link was a "handsome," nearly completed clubhouse.[43] And a line of trees formed the eastern boundary.

In the years following its opening, deficiencies on the links became increasingly apparent. Most prominently, the golf links layout was criticized as lacking variation, "five successive holes [. . .] just alike and offer[ing] no reward to the good playing and inflict[ing] no penalty on bad play."[44] Making matters even more difficult, cavalry troops increased their use of the golf links as military practice grounds as the country entered the Spanish American War. Until this time, the Army had made little use of the southern portion of the Presidio, concentrating their drills and other activities on the plateau of fairly level ground of the Main Post. However, with the construction of the Letterman General Hospital and camps for volunteers heading for the Philippines, the Army turned to the golf course for use as a drill field. Further, all the troops at Camp Merritt were ordered to be moved to the reservation from their original location (present-day Richmond district of San Francisco) due to reports of poor sanitation.

36 Martin Pool, "Jefferson Park Golf Course – a Centennial Celebration," Washington Golf, February 6, 2015.

37 Martin Pool, "Jefferson Park Golf Course – a Centennial Celebration," Washington Golf, February 6, 2015.

38 Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio*, 7.

39 Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio,* 7.

40 "Golf Not Now a Stranger," *San Francisco Chronicle*, September 10, 1896.

41 "Golf Not Now a Stranger," *San Francisco Chronicle*, September 10, 1896.

42 "Opening of a New Golf Club," *The San Francisco Call*, September 10, 1896; Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio*, 10.

43 "Opening of a New Golf Club," *The San Francisco Call*, September 10, 1896.

44 "Golfers Planning Trials of Skill on Various Links," *The San Francisco Call*, October 21, 1899.



Figure 3.10 – 1903 Visit of President Theodore Roosevelt to the Presidio. (Presidio Trust, GOGA 13266-84)



Figure 3.11 – C. 1903 Review at the Presidio. (Presidio Trust, AAC-1151)



Figure 3.12 – 1903 Visit of President Theodore Roosevelt to the Presidio. (Presidio Trust, "President Roosevelt Riding the Line")

The Presidio Golf Link was one of the sites designated to host troops.[45] Contracts were let for laying water pipes and constructing a sewer system at the Presidio, including in the vicinity of the golf course; where deemed too inconvenient or time consuming, water was supplied in carts.

Despite these brief and temporary changes in use, the SFGC continued its operation of the course. In response to the complaints of lacking variation, the SFGC began to discuss potential changes to the Presidio Golf Links, to rearrange the course to lengthen and shorten holes. While there is no evidence that these changes took place at this time, consideration for changing or updating the course seems to have continued into the early twentieth century.[46]

A few years after the original course was completed, the associated clubhouse at the 1st Avenue gate[47] proved inadequate and a deed of property was filed in October of 1898 for a property at the end of 2nd Avenue next to the Presidio reservation to be transferred to "The Golf Syndicate" for a consideration of $2650. A contract was let with William Bros. to erect a fine clubhouse, two stories in height, to cost $3435. The Tudor style clubhouse (present-day Concordia Club) was completed in January 1899, designed by Frank S. Van Trees.[48] This clubhouse would serve as the sole clubhouse for the golf course until 1956. Additionally, the SFGC began to update its infrastructure. In 1898, it requested permission from the Presidio to connect a water pipe with the Spring Valley Water Works' main on 1st Avenue (present-day Arguello Boulevard).[49] The request was likely approved at this time as the water pipe connection is visible in the 1939 map of the Presidio.

Even in the years immediately following the Spanish American War (1898), the Presidio Golf Links continued to host many military activities. In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt visited San Francisco and reviewed the command of over 1,200 troops on the golf links. The open grounds, minimally landscaped at the time with the exception of the planted forest bordering the east, proved to be optimal space for such displays. The same year, the Golf Links was also used as a thoroughfare during the construction of Battery Chamberlin in the southwestern area of the Presidio. The construction resulted in deep ruts caused by contractor-run wagons that traversed the grounds to reach the construction site. Despite orders from the engineers for contractors to stop using any route where there were no roads, the grounds of the links suffered damage.[50] Military-related impacts to the grounds furthered under the new Commanding Officer, Charles Morris of the Artillery Corps, who used the golf links for tactical requirements and any other military purpose without restrictions whenever deemed necessary. Bunkers on the course were razed for "military reasons."[51]

Likely influenced by the increasing military activities and the uncertain future of developing on federal land, the SFGC departed the Presidio Golf Links in 1905. They established a new course, the San Francisco Golf Club, between Junipero Serra Boulevard and Lake Merced Boulevard, east of the present-day Olympic Golf Club in the southern portion of the City of San Francisco.

In place of the SFGC, the Presidio Golf Club (PGC) was formed with 31 charter members, comprising a group of men in the insurance business who felt it would be a shame to let the course in the Presidio go to pieces. On June 28, 1905, the PGC was officially formed with Bernard Faymonville of Fireman's Fund Insurance Company as the president, L.B. Edwards as vice president, and F.B. Kellam, of the Royal Insurance Company, as the secretary. The PGC rented the existing clubhouse from Antoine Borel who had

45 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 245; "The Golf Players, All Waiting for the Liverpool Medal Contest Rules," *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 28, 1896.

46 "Golfers Planning Trials of Skill on Various Links," *The San Francisco Call*, October 21, 1899.

47 It is unclear what came of this building upon construction of the Tudor style clubhouse. It may have been demolished or re-developed post-1905 when Antoine Borel purchased the parcels in this area for the Presidio Terrace subdivision.

48 Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio*, 26-27.

49 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 248.

50 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 246.

51 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 246.



Figure 3.13 – 1906, Refugee Camp, Post-Earthquake. (NARA RG111 Series: Photographs of American Military Activities, c. 1918-1981)



Figure 3.14 – 1906 Refugee Camp near Golden Gate at Presidio. (1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire Digital Collection, BANC PIC 2004.004:24--PIC, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley)



Figure 3.15 – C. 1900 Two caddies on the Presidio Golf Course. (GOGA Park Archives, GOGA 37025-12A, B1, F1)

earlier in the year purchased the clubhouse from the SFGC as part of his Presidio Terrace subdivision, for $25.00 a month, beginning in August 1.[52] The PGC continued a relationship with the military, its by-laws including a provision that "the Council shall have the power to arrange for the extension of privileges of the club to officers of the Army and Navy of the United States upon such conditions as the Council may elect."[53]

Under the operation and management of the PGC, the Presidio Golf Links continued to be enjoyed by its club members, being described as "one of the most picturesque on the Pacific Coast" by *Pacific Coast Magazine* in 1905. The course was lauded for its "specially desirable proximity to the city," deemed "probably more accessible than any adjacent to a large city in the United States."[54] Shortly after organization, members of the PGC sought to further improve their club and grounds and began to rally for the expansion of the course to eighteen holes with all greens of grass, and to enlarge the clubhouse even though it was rented. However, the new club's ambitions were thwarted in 1906 when the earth shook and flames blazed through the city. While the 1906 earthquake and fire did not cause serious damage to the course or the clubhouse, it affected the membership, largely comprising insurance men. A combination of personal losses to offices and residences, as well as concern over the disaster claims, left little time for golf.[55] Additionally, a portion of the golf links grounds was designated one of four earthquake refugee camps established by the Army in the Presidio, with tents lining the grounds along the Presidio forest that lined the northeastern border of the course. The golf links was also designated a part of a larger area set aside for a mobilization camp in case of national emergency.[56]

Despite the disruption to operations, by the end of 1906, the PGC resumed regular operation of the golf course. PGC had become one of the six founding members of the Northern California Golf Association, and the club resumed planning for an expansion to the course in 1907.[57] The Main Reservoir,

52 Thompson, Defender of the Gate, 247; Levison, *A Short History*, 3; Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio,* 11, 27.

53 Levison, *A Short History*, 4.

54 Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio*, 13.

55 Levison, *A Short History*, 5; Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio*., 14.

56 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 248.

57 Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio*, 14.

servicing the entire Presidio, was constructed at the northeastern border of the golf links. The reservoir appears for the first time on a map in 1907, not marked as "proposed."[58]

The Army approved PGC's plans to expand the golf course in 1908. The existing course, would be expanded to eighteen holes, all grass. The course would become a fully watered course.[59] Following Army approval, the PGC swiftly established a money raising campaign among club committees and members, to ensure the desired expansion could be achieved without government funds. In 1910, a holding company, the Golf Realty Company, was formed to buy the land and improvements from Antoine Borel. In the same year, the PGC undertook the major expansion to enlarge the course to eighteen holes. The undertaking included larger "kept," or watered, areas of grass. Still, the landscaping was otherwise kept minimal: the greens were not contoured and there were few (if any) bunkers and traps created.[60]

The full 18-hole golf course as completed in 1911 was considered short by today's standards, with a par of 68 and no holes "over the road."[61] Despite the simplicity, however, the club described it as "the work of our own committee" and were "justly proud of it."[62] The "designer" of this major expansion is again uncertain. The present-day operators of the course attribute this expansion to the collaborative effort between Robert Wood Johnstone (same individual credited for the initial 1895 layout by the present-day operators) and William McEwan, of whom little is known.[63]

As the newly expanded golf course opened, the issue of federal land use permissions surfaced. On July 26, 1912, the War Department ordered Presidio commander Colonel Cornelius Gardner to halt the use of Presidio grounds for a golf course, bringing to realization some of the fears that ultimately caused the SFGC to leave their original golf links in 1905. While a strong reaction from the PGC and local leaders afforded the private club a continuation of use through February 1, 1913, the Secretary of War directed that privileges that had been granted to the PGC be rescinded. Official ownership, management, and control of the golf course would be moved to the U.S. government. Major General Arthur Murray, commanding the War Department, received authority to use the golf course for officers, their families, and friends. Col. Gardner was delegated to control the operations of the course.

As a result, the United Service Golf Club (USGC), comprising all armed forces officers, was formed in March 1913 and presumably assumed responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the golf course. Despite the orders to assume control of the golf links, it appears that the officers at the Presidio were satisfied with the existing informal agreement between the civilians and the military in which the officers enjoyed the clubhouse and greens, paying dues to the club, and the civilians bore the cost of the clubhouse and course, as evidenced by the resolution entered into in response to the orders from the War Department. A new arrangement was reached in which the PGC continued to collect all dues and its members received certificates stating they were "invited" members of the USGC. While the Army technically controlled the golf course, the details of the management were deliberately set up so that the PGC continued to operate just as it had before. The PGC Greens Committee continued to run the course as previously, but with one or two Army officers added. See Table 2: Major Events Associated with the Presidio Golf Course Between 1895 and 1914.

58 W.W. Harts, "Map of the Presidio of San Francisco, California, Showing the Proposed New Arrangement of Barracks , Officers Quarters, New Buildings, Roads, Gardens, and Forestration, Corps of Engineers, 1907." (UC Berkeley Digital Historic Maps of the Bay Area).
It should be noted, however, that the date of construction for the reservoir commonly accepted by the Presidio Trust is 1912.

59 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 248; Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio*, 15.

60 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 248; Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark Nomination, 1993, Section 7-49; Levison, *A Short History*, 6.

61 A typical course today has a par of 72.

62 Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio*, 15.

63 Presidio Golf Course, accessed April 2026, https://www.presidiogolf.com/#learnmore.



Figure 3.16 – Undated photography of the Presidio Golf Club (present day Concordia Club). (Presidio Trust, AAC-0997)



Figure 3.17 – Undated photograph of the parking area overlooking newly established tree planting in the golf course. (Presidio Trust, 2000.131)

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
Table 2: Major Events Associated with the Presidio Golf Course Between 1895 and 1914

DATE	EVENT
1895	The San Francisco Golf and Country Club (SFGC) constructed a 9-hole golf course on a sandy plateau on the Presidio reservation near its southern boundary.
1896	The Presidio Golf Link, as it was called at the time, formally opened to the public.
1898	The SFGC, with permission from the Presidio, connected a water pipe from the golf links with the Spring Valley Water Works' main on 1st Avenue.
1898-1902	The U.S. Army used the golf course area as a drill field during the Spanish American War.
1903	President Theodore Roosevelt reviewed the command of over 1,200 troops on the Presidio golf links.
1903	The Presidio Golf Links was used as a thoroughfare during the construction of Battery Chamberlin, resulting in deep ruts caused by contractor-run wagons that traversed the grounds to reach the construction site.
1905	The SFGC departed the Presidio Golf Links. In its place, the Presidio Golf Club (PGC) was established and assumed operation and management of the links.
1906	A portion of the golf links grounds was designated one of four earthquake refugee camps established by the Army in the Presidio.
1910-1911	The original 9-hole course was enlarged to 18 holes. The expansion was wholly funded by the PGC.
1912-1913	Under direction of the Secretary of War, official ownership, management, and control of the Presidio Golf Course was moved to the U.S. government, and the United Service Golf Club (USGC), comprising all armed forces officers, was formed to assume responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the golf course. Despite formal transfer of ownership, the operation of the golf course remained largely unchanged. A new arrangement was reached in which details of management were deliberately set up so that the PGC continued to operate just as it had before.

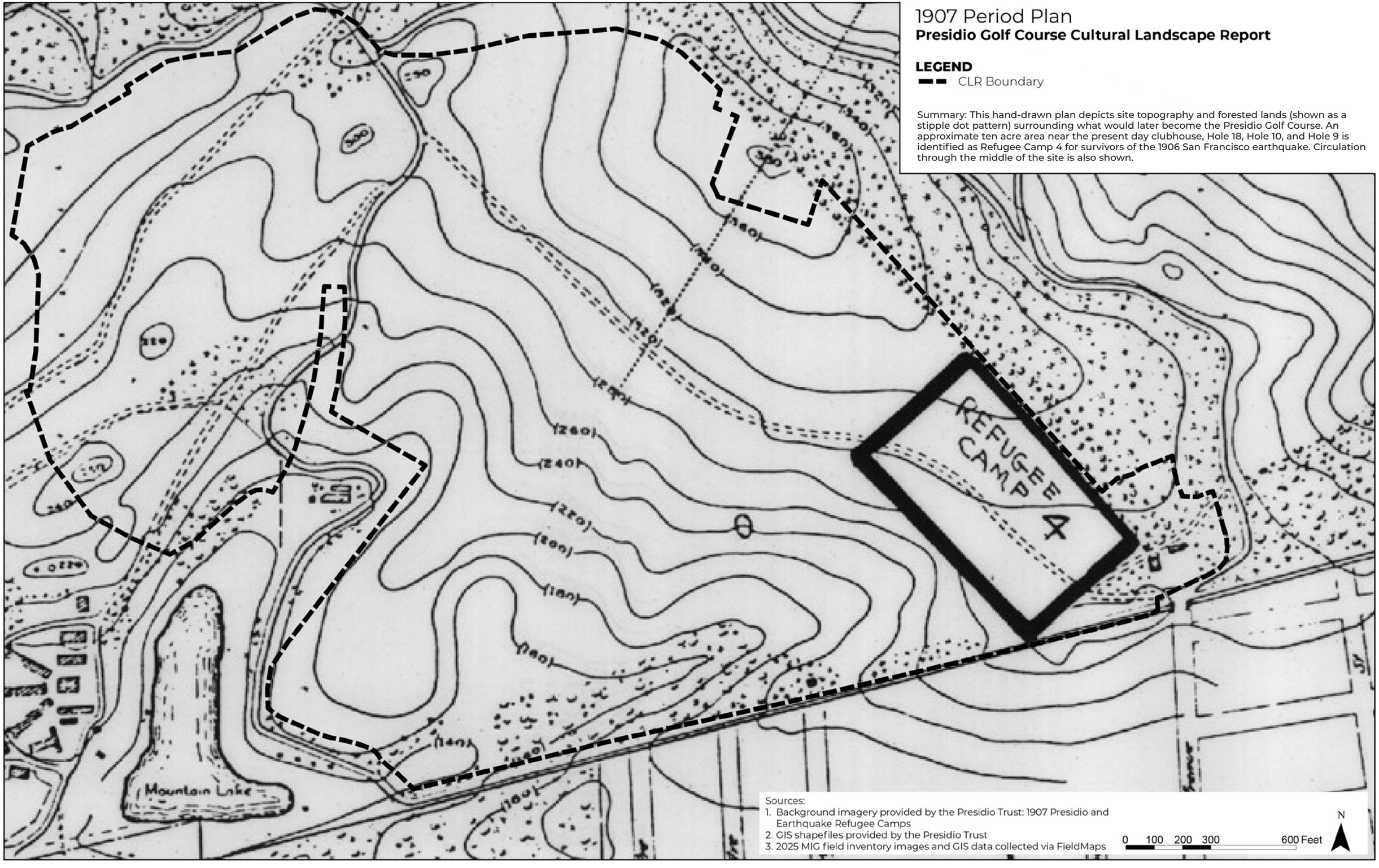
1907 Period Plan

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND

CLR Boundary

Summary: This hand-drawn plan depicts site topography and forested lands (shown as a stipple dot pattern) surrounding what would later become the Presidio Golf Course. An approximate ten acre area near the present day clubhouse, Hole 18, Hole 10, and Hole 9 is identified as Refugee Camp 4 for survivors of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Circulation through the middle of the site is also shown.



Sources:
1. Background imagery provided by the Presidio Trust: 1907 Presidio and Earthquake Refugee Camps
2. GIS shapefiles provided by the Presidio Trust
3. 2025 MIG field inventory images and GIS data collected via FieldMaps

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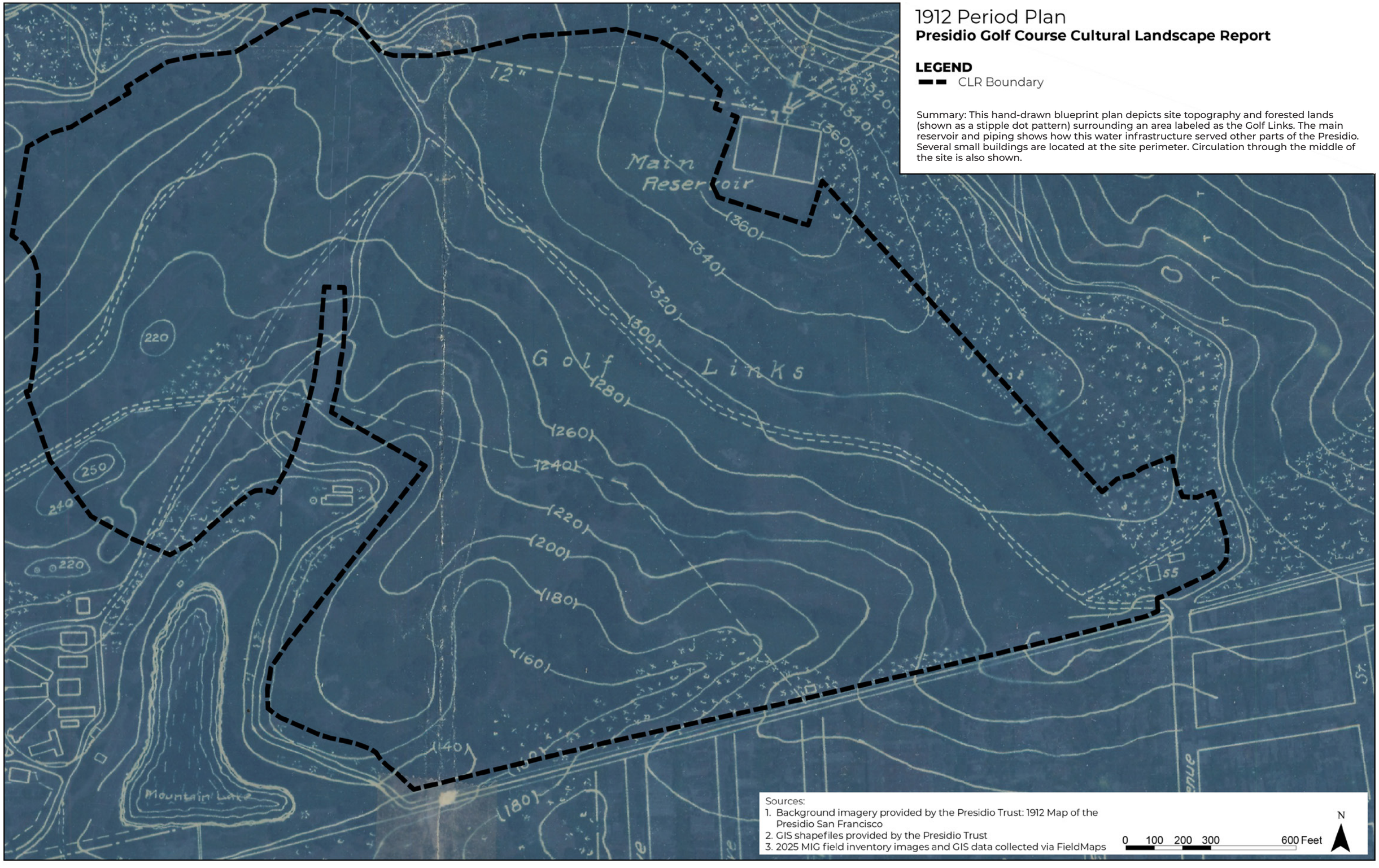
1912 Period Plan

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND

CLR Boundary

Summary: This hand-drawn blueprint plan depicts site topography and forested lands (shown as a stipple dot pattern) surrounding an area labeled as the Golf Links. The main reservoir and piping shows how this water infrastructure served other parts of the Presidio. Several small buildings are located at the site perimeter. Circulation through the middle of the site is also shown.



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Panama-Pacific International Exposition and World War I (1915-1918)

The first major event of this period that informed the physical development of the Presidio did not relate to the world war, but rather to an enormous world's fair, the Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915. The bulk of the site selected for the Exposition was located just east of the Presidio, but also included some 287 acres of Presidio lands in the northeast.

In preparation for the exposition, a substantial amount of fill had to be undertaken for the lands of the Presidio along the Bay. New construction for the exposition undertaken on Presidio lands was extensive and included the State Pavilions and the Foreign Pavilions; the United States Government Building; the United States Army Hospital Exhibit; the livestock exhibit area and associated buildings and corrals; a vast athletic field, race track, and drill ground; and service yards. Most of the exposition buildings were intended only as temporary exhibits and are no longer extant.

New construction at the Presidio during and in the years following the exposition was less extensive than during the preceding period. However, numerous important buildings and groups of buildings were added to the Post that are extant today. The areas of major new construction during this period include the North Cantonment, the Letterman Complex, the East Cantonment, and Fort Winfield Scott. Some of the most notable buildings of the period are "temporary"-type warehouses created as part of the mushroom construction program precipitated by United States' involvement in the War and constructed nationwide. Through this program, the Presidio gained some 216 buildings, principally barracks and warehouses. The majority of these buildings, including all the barracks, were demolished during subsequent periods of development.[64]

A major expansion and improvement program underway for the then popular Presidio Golf Course was halted in 1917 as a result of the expanded military operations connected with World War I. The large open area occupied by the course was to be used as a combat training area for trench warfare maneuvers. During this period, the area of the golf course, as well as many other parts of the reservation, were closed to civilians.[65] The USGC and the new arrangement with PGC faded into obscurity during World War I.[66]

Military Affairs Between Wars (1919-1940)

During this period, new construction expanded the two most focal of the defined areas of the Presidio: the Main Post and Fort Winfield Scott. Building activities flourished in other areas of the reservation as well, including Letterman complex, the North Cantonment, the East Cantonment, the West Cantonment, the National Cemetery, and the Marine Hospital. Further, a major building program was undertaken, that defined a whole new area of Post construction, Crissy Field; much of this new airfield was located on landfill that had been completed only some five years before for the 1915 exposition. These building activities between the World Wars substantially increased the functions of the Post, along with the physical extent of construction within the landscape of the reservation. Design features associated with the "Spanish Colonial Revival" (first termed "mission style") dominated Post construction during this period, thus advancing the already established tradition of Spanish-derived architecture at the Presidio.

One major public works project that greatly affected the landscape of the Presidio was the erection of the Golden Gate Bridge, from 1933-1937; the Bridge's chief engineer was Joseph B. Strauss. Spanning the Golden Gate Strait into San Francisco Bay, the Bridge connects the southernmost point of the Marin Headlands with the northernmost point of the San Francisco Peninsula. The Bridge's approach roads, viaducts, abutments, and toll plaza, all located on Presidio lands, impacted the reservation. The two major access roads to the Bridge, Doyle Drive and Park Presidio Boulevard, were laid out through existing development in the reservation. The Park

64 Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark, 1993, Section 7, 49.

65 Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark, 1993, Section 7, 52

66 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 249; Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark, 1993, Section 7, 52, 588, 118.

Presidio Boulevard installation included construction of the MacArthur Tunnel underneath the Presidio Golf Course.

The new tunnel approach adopted as its alignment one of the southern branches of Park Boulevard, one of the oldest roads in the reserve, and became the primary north-south axis that bisected the Presidio. Despite the visual dominance of the approach road, however, the historic Park Boulevard continued to provide internal circulation within the Presidio, connecting Mountain Lake to the north shore of the San Francisco Peninsula as it had since at least 1895. To accommodate for the introduction of the new bridge approach road, Park Boulevard shifted slightly to the west around the southern tunnel entrance to incorporate the western branch of its southern alignment as its primary course out of the Presidio. Today, this internal road is known as the Maintenance Road/Park Trail.

Other public works projects that informed the physical development of the Presidio through the 1930s were associated with the Works Progress Administration (WPA), a government work organization formed in 1934 to alleviate unemployment experienced during the Great Depression. At the Presidio, improvement projects associated with the WPA included the construction of numerous new buildings, the upgrading of utilities, the implementation of selected tree planting programs, and the introduction of practical amenities such as curbs, steps, and retaining walls, often constructed in stone or scored concrete. For a summary, see Table 3: Physical Alterations to the Presidio Golf Course Between World War I and World War II.[67]

67 Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark, 1993, Section 7, 53.



Figure 3.18 – 1923 bird's eye aerial of the the Presidio Golf Course. (Presidio Trust, 18-AA-25-0257)

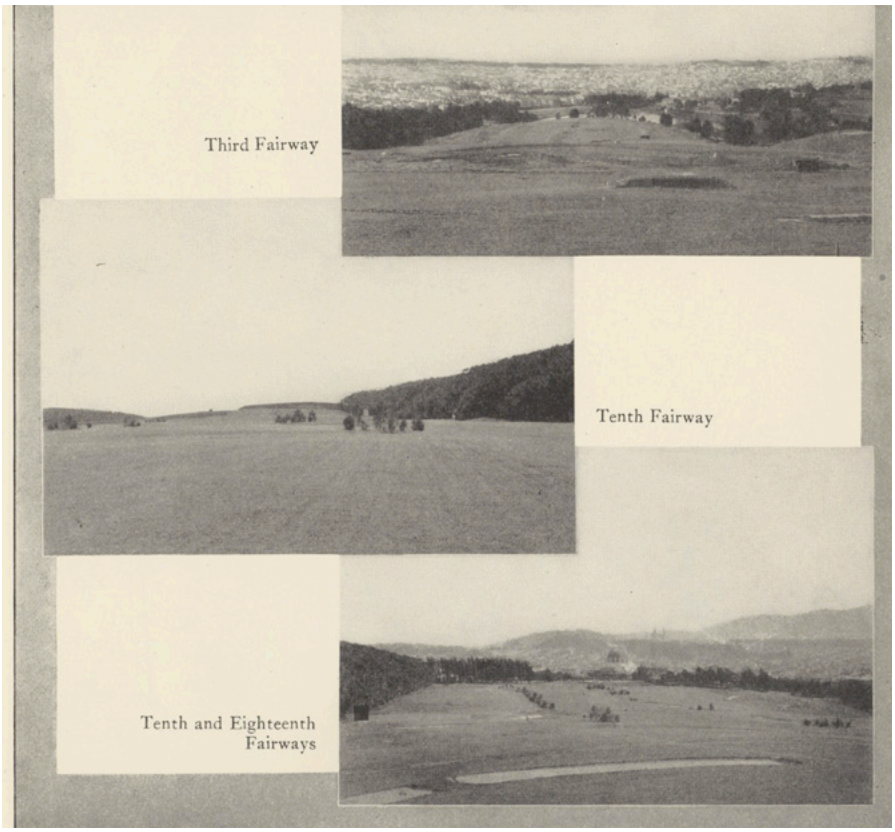


Figure 3.19 – C. 1928 collection of three undated photographs from the golf course. (Presidio Trust)



Figure 3.20 – 1931 photograph of a golf tournament with newly planted trees in the foreground. (Presidio Trust, AAC-0996)



Figure 3.21 – 1938 photograph of the beginning of the bridge approach of the MacArthur Tunnel construction. (San Francisco Historical Photograph Collection, AAD-0697 , San Francisco HIstory Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 3.22 – 1939 photograph of the MacArthur Tunnel construction. (San Francisco Historical Photograph Collection, AAD-0786 , San Francisco HIstory Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 3.23 – 1940 photograph of the bridge approach of the MacArthur Tunnel. (San Francisco Historical Photograph Collection, AAD-0724 , San Francisco HIstory Center, San Francisco Public Library)



Figure 3.24 – Undated photograph of the newly completed MacArthur Tunnel with golf course above. (Presidio Trust, AAD-0714)

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
Table 3: Physical Alterations to the Presidio Golf Course Between World War I and World War II

DATE	EVENT
1914-1918	The area of the golf course, as well as many other parts of the Presidio reservation, were closed to civilians during World War I. The large open area occupied by the course was used as a combat training area for trench warfare maneuvers.
1917	A major expansion and improvement program for the golf course was halted in 1917.
1921	The Presidio Golf Club (clubhouse) was renovated around the same time the golf course was redesigned.[83]
1920s	When the twelfth hole was built, the fairway sloped off sharply on both sides, and it was soon realized that the hog back had to be flattened out. The Post Commander volunteered to send several lightweight tanks with scrapers up to the course, and the fairway was contoured expediently.[84]
1927	Col. G.M. Cralle, commandant of Alcatraz, provided assistance to the PGC by sending prisoners from the Island to work the fairways in the construction of the new holes.[85]
1930s	During the 1930s, the WPA established a tree nursery on the Presidio (Crissy Field) and 15,000 of the saplings were planted at the golf course with the full consent and support of the Post Commander.[86]
1932	A structure labeled pump house is located at the end of Fifth Avenue along West Pacific Avenue by this time. A building (96) labeled "CIV. QTRS" is located immediately to its west.[87]
1938-1940	The western end of the golf course was altered during the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge Approach tunnel (1,300-foot General Douglas MacArthur Tunnel). Likely financed by the WPA, the approach road and tunnel opened to Golden Gate Bridge traffic on April 21, 1940. The road became the primary north-south axis road that bisects the Presidio. The bridge approach road necessitated the relocation and redesigning of Hole No. 3, 6, and 7. This work was supervised by Leigh Hulbert, course superintendent at the time, During this relocation and redesign effort, club members played an abbreviated course. Meeting minutes of a 1938 Council meeting confirms that while an ordinary surface road could have intersected the golf course towards the Golden Gate Bridge, an Army spokesman proved to the State legislature that the course should not be cut up, and so workers dug down below the surface, and "re-created" the course upon completion of the tunnel.[88]
c.1938	The 1938 QMC map of the Presidio shows that the water tanks that serviced the Presidio Golf Course were in place along the northeastern side of Mountain Lake and the parking lot along the south wall were in place by 1938.

83 Levison, *A Short History,* 6.

84 Levison, *A Short History*, 9.

85 Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio*, 43.

86 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 249; *Levison, A Short History*, 10.

87 Presidio Map, 1932, Sheet 1 75657 D311 F2, (Presidio Trust).

88 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 452; Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio*, 38, 41.

FOWLER & SIMPSON GOLF COURSE EXPANSION (1920-1921)

Following the close of World War I, the PGC received authorization from the War Department on October 31, 1919, to extend the golf course some 700 yards, making the links a championship course. This extension would add some 25 acres, making a total area of about 125 acres, and lineal measurements of approximately 6,100 yards, and reorganize the course for Holes 9 and 18 to end at the clubhouse. Plans were also made to extend Hole 3 to 600 yards and Hole 4 to 450 yards, and to install an elaborate watering system to maintain the golf course at a professional quality.

This approved golf course expansion was intended to extend to the west side of Park Presidio Boulevard, where a large garden and a Chinese cemetery were reportedly located.[68] While several historic maps of this area confirm that there was a cemetery associated with the Marine Hospital in this vicinity, it does not specify that it only interred people of Chinese decent. The source of this information is unclear. However, there was a refugee camp in Fort Winfield Scott, established after the 1906 earthquake and fire for those of Chinese descent, which may have relevance to this claim.

British Golf Architects Fowler & Simpson were hired to expand the golf course at a total cost not to exceed $30,000. Plans were underway to build three new greens on the new territory granted by the War Department, four new greens on the present course, and installing a watering system to keep the fairways green throughout the year. The eventual cost turned out to be $96,000 for the course and $40,000 for the water improvements.[69]

As completed, the expanded golf course opened on July 16, 1921. The course included Hole No. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 to the west side of Park Presidio Boulevard and a tunnel was built for foot traffic of the golfers. The new course is described as more challenging than its former iteration.[70] Fowler and Simpson likely removed the trenches dug in the golf course (during World War I) during their redesign of the course.[71]

Though there are no drawings or planning documents available for this redesign and expansion, an analysis of historic aerial photographs and maps confirms that the 1921 layout aligns with the general characteristics of the Golden Age golf courses as studied and laid out by Tom Simpson in 1929 (see side bar: General Character Study of Golden Age Golf Courses). Consistent with the Golden Age golf course designs, many of the fairways were delineated with tree allées. These plantings are discernible as light linear features in the 1920s aerials and become more distinctive through the 1930s and 1940s images as the trees mature (see 1938 Period Plan). While the species are unidentifiable in the available historical graphics, on-site investigations confirm that, based on the maturity of extant Monterey cypresses and the consistency in alignments between the existing allées and those visible in the historic aerials, the Fowler & Simpson-era plantings comprised Monterey cypresses. Additionally, aerials also confirm that the 1920s Fowler and Simpson course design incorporated both penal and strategic schools of thought in their fairway layout, placing direct fairway bunkers for immediate penalties in some, while carefully laying obscuring the alignment of the fairway, bunkers, and greens in others for cumulative challenges through the rounds. While course layout maps show linear fairways across the golf course until 1960, aerials show that many of the fairways were mown to assume subtle bends and variation rather than simple straight lines, further reflecting the strategic school of thought in golf course design.

68 Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio*, 38.

69 Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio*, 18.

70 Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio*, 38; "Lincoln Golfers Ready to Play," *San Francisco Bulletin*, July 14, 1921.

71 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 249, Footnote 477.

Golf Course Architects Herbert Fowler and Tom Simpson:

Herbert Fowler (1856-1941), an avid golfer and a member at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club and later the Honorable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, Muirfield, began his career in golf course architecture in 1899 with the design of Walton Heath Old in Surrey, England. On the verge of bankruptcy as a partner in a banking firm, the success of his first golf course reversed his fortunes and invited additional remodeling and design projects. Fowler's early career included the Ganton Golf Club in North Yorkshire, Burnham & Berrow Golf Club in Somerset, Huddersfield in West Yorkshire, Beau Desert Golf Club in West Midlands, Bull Bay Golf Club in Anglesey, Wales, and Delamere Forest Golf Club in Cheshire. Fowler's work ranged from consultation, redesigns of specific holes, expansions, to new designs. Fowler's work was described by his contemporaries and successors as understated. His designs reflected simple tee sites, with many on native grade, sparing and strategic use of bunkers, and incorporation of the natural topography of the terrain into the challenges of his course. Fowler's philosophy was one of sparing touches to the natural landscape.[72]

Tom Simpson (1877-1964) was a wealthy Cambridge-educated lawyer who, inspired by the work of John Low and Stuart Paton, pioneers of modern, strategic golf, penned a series of letters appearing in Golf Illustrated in 1908 and 1909 that described the merits of golf course architecture. With an appreciation for effective design, Simpson joined Herbert Fowler's architectural firm in 1910 and launched a new career in golf course design. Some of his most noteworthy work was conducted at the very start of his design career in France, where he laid out the 9-hole Valliere course at Mortefontaine and extended the 9-hole Fontainebleu course to an 18-hole layout. In the latter half of the 1920s, he returned to work at Mortefontaine and Chantilly, in addition to laying out new courses at Chiberta Deauville. In his designs, Simpson emphasized four main qualities – classicism, cerebral, artistic, and vitality – as essential to good golf. He believed that design should not depart from the Scottish model, intention, and spirit of game; a course should present as much challenge to the golfer's mental ability as to his physical ability; a course should decorate a landscape and not disfigure it; and that a course should feel alive. Simpson's philosophy was to avoid artificial construction as much as possible and to ensure organic harmony across the course while offering a variety of challenging and entertaining holes.[73]

During the partnership that would last through the end of the 1920s, Fowler worked to expand their clientele base in the United States and Simpson in continental Europe. They collaborated on several projects and shared similar philosophies in golf course design. In 1929, Simpson co-authored *The Architectural Side of Golf* with H.N. Wethered that outlined these philosophies.

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72 "Herbert Fowler," Evalu18, Great Golf Evaluated, accessed April 2026, https://evalu18.com/architect/herbert-fowler/; "Herbert Fowler," Top 100 Golf Courses, accessed April 2026, https://www.top100golfcourses.com/architects/herbert-fowler.

73 "Tom Simpson," Evalu18, Great golf Evaluation, accessed April 2026, https://evalu18.com/architect/tom-simpson/; "Tom Simpson," Top 100 Golf Courses, accessed April 2026, https://www.top100golfcourses.com/architects/tom-simpson.

Four ages of golf described by Tom Simpson in *The Architectural Side of Golf*:

In his book, Simpson identifies four ages of golf through the history of the sport. He characterizes these as: Ice Age, Feather Age, Stone Age, and the Golden Age.

The Presidio Golf Course is characteristic of the fourth and final age, designed and constructed towards the end of the Fowler and Simpson partnership and immediately preceding the era in which Simpson published his history. Each era is defined below.

Ice Age: "Ice Age" of golf is dated to the 17th century and prior, and is identified by Simpson and co-author H.N. Wethered as the beginning of golf. A 17th century Dutch painting shows early forms of golf played on ice, similar to curling, known as "kolven." This early iteration of the game showed similarities to modern golf such as elements similar to putting, but also differing in that the target were vertically visible. The game at this time and setting was regarded chiefly as game for children.[74]

There is some contention in this origin of golf as presented by Simpson and Wethered in 1929. More commonly accepted origin of golf dates sometime before the 1457 Act of Parliament by King James II banning "golfe" in Scotland for interfering with archery practice. Two reigns later in 1502, King James IV became an avid golfer himself, and the development of the royal nature of the game was underway. While it is uncertain exactly how long golf was being played before the 1457 ban, it can be conjectured in light of the claim that if it was prevalent enough to be banned, it had been an established game for quite some time.

While games of sticks and balls were played by the earliest peoples, evidence suggesting that games involving sticks and balls were played by the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Chinese, and Japanese, among others, the distinction of the game of golf is identified in its connection with the golf course. It is the distinction of the limitless and ever-changing playing ground and the element of playing across the land that sets golf apart from other games and pastimes. This distinction is discernible in the Scottish "golfe," a cross-country game, where "kolven" is largely believed to have been played in courtyards, through villages, and very often, on ice.[75]

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74 H.N. Wethered and Tom Simpson, *The Architectural Side of Golf*, (Longmans, Green, and Co., 1929), 4-5.

75 Forrest L. Richardson, *Routing the Golf Course, The Art & Science that Forms the Golf Journey*, (Wiley, 2002), 6-9.

Feather Age: "Feather Age" of golf is dated c. 18th-19th centuries and refers to the period during which golf migrates from ice of the "barren wastes" along the seashores of Scotland (within the framework of Simpson and Wethered who identify the Dutch game of kolven, played on ice, as the original of modern golf). Boiled feather balls are introduced to the game during this period to achieve the new purposes of game, flight.[76]

Stone Age: "Stone Age" of golf spans from the mid-19th century to the turn of the 20th century and refers to the period during which golf becomes a vastly more stabilized game. During this time, courses were lengthened, feather balls were superseded by solid gutty that accorded a greater distance, and game championships were instituted. The term "golf architecture" was spoken for the first time, with the first notions of breaking away from the conventional, unimaginative, and traditional course construction. Rubber balls were also introduced to the game at the end of this period.[77]

Golden Age: "Golden Age" of golf began in the early 20th century and continued through the 1920s at the time of Simpson's writing. This period refers to the time during which golf courses transitioned to adopt flexibility and adaptability to its setting, to have character and individuality. Course design requirements were identified: 1) a course must provide opportunity for pleasure of practicing an athletic art; (2) provide an adequate test of skill; (3) provide a disciplinary scheme by which the virtuous cannot be rewarded without a penalty being inflicted on the sinner.

Two schools of thought were established in architecture during the "Golden Age": (1) penal – the school of thought that directly punished the player by factor of the bad shot being trapped in a hazard; (2) strategic – the school of thought that presented additional challenges as the result of a bad shot as a player proceeded, affected by the strategic skeletal layout of the course. In this school of thought, holes were never to be laid out in straight lines with direct fairway bunkers; instead, it required angles and calculations

Palatial clubhouses were instituted and pristine maintenance of grounds were implemented during this period. Golf became more refined and its standards of play and customs were altered under American influences. Women were also no longer confined to the narrow limits of their own diminutive courses.[78]

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76 Wethered and Simpson, *The Architectural Side of Golf,* 6-8.

77 Wethered and Simpson, *The Architectural Side of Golf,* 8-9.

78 Wethered and Simpson, *The Architectural Side of Golf,* 9-10, 32.

General character study of Golden Age golf courses, as laid out by Tom Simpson in *The Architectural Side of Golf:*

- Following points should be noted in any scheme of general construction:[79]
  - The length should not exceed 6,350 yards.
  - There should be as much triangulation as possible, to prevent having to play any two consecutive holes with or against the wind.
  - The ninth green should be as close to the clubhouse as can be conveniently managed.
  - At least five one-shot holes should be included.
  - As few holes as possible should face due west, so as to avoid the afternoon sun.
  - Layout should avoid anything in the nature of parallel fairways as well as out-of-bounds on the slice side.
  - All the two-shot holes should incline to be "dog-legged" that compels the golfer to play to the side of the fairway than down the middle of the course.
  - Courses should avoid set-square shape as much as possible in teeing ground, especially the straight "railway embankment" type. The whole of the tee should be allowed to merge evenly into the surround ground by imitating artificially the small mounds and depressions an so make them blend characteristically.
- Additionally, an "ideal course" should afford:[80]
  - At least as much opportunity for mental agility as it does for physical capacity.
  - Good visibility - the player must be able to see the target. On a short shot, one should see the hole; on longer shots, the green as a whole may be the target and therefore the pin and hole could well be obscured to present further challenges.
  - From start to finish, a course must stimulate thought and provide mental excitement – must be a course not too exacting for everyday purposes.
  - A course as a whole should derive from the strategic rather than from penal school of architecture.
  - A course must have its imperfections and care must be taken to introduce attractive discord.
  - A course should include at least one "thoroughly amusing but bad hole" for sake of variety and brief interval of mental tranquility, and another that is open to criticism.
  - Aesthetic considerations should not be allowed to have any weight at the price of other important qualities of a course.
- Anything approaching a uniform degree of excellence is the one thing in golf which must be avoided at all cost.[81]

79 Wethered and Simpson, *The Architectural Side of Golf*, 59-60.

80 Wethered and Simpson, *The Architectural Side of Golf,* 48-49.

81 Wethered and Simpson, *The Architectural Side of Golf*, 49.

"Each portion of a hole has to be considered by itself because the fairway and the putting green are concerns with entirely different conditions of the game. Even the bunkers, without which it is impossible to visualise a golf course, assume a different complexion as they guard a green or govern the play on the fairway. In the first case they are acting as part of the defensive; in the other they are indications of the route by which the greens are to be approached."

-Tom Simpson
The Architectural Side of Golf

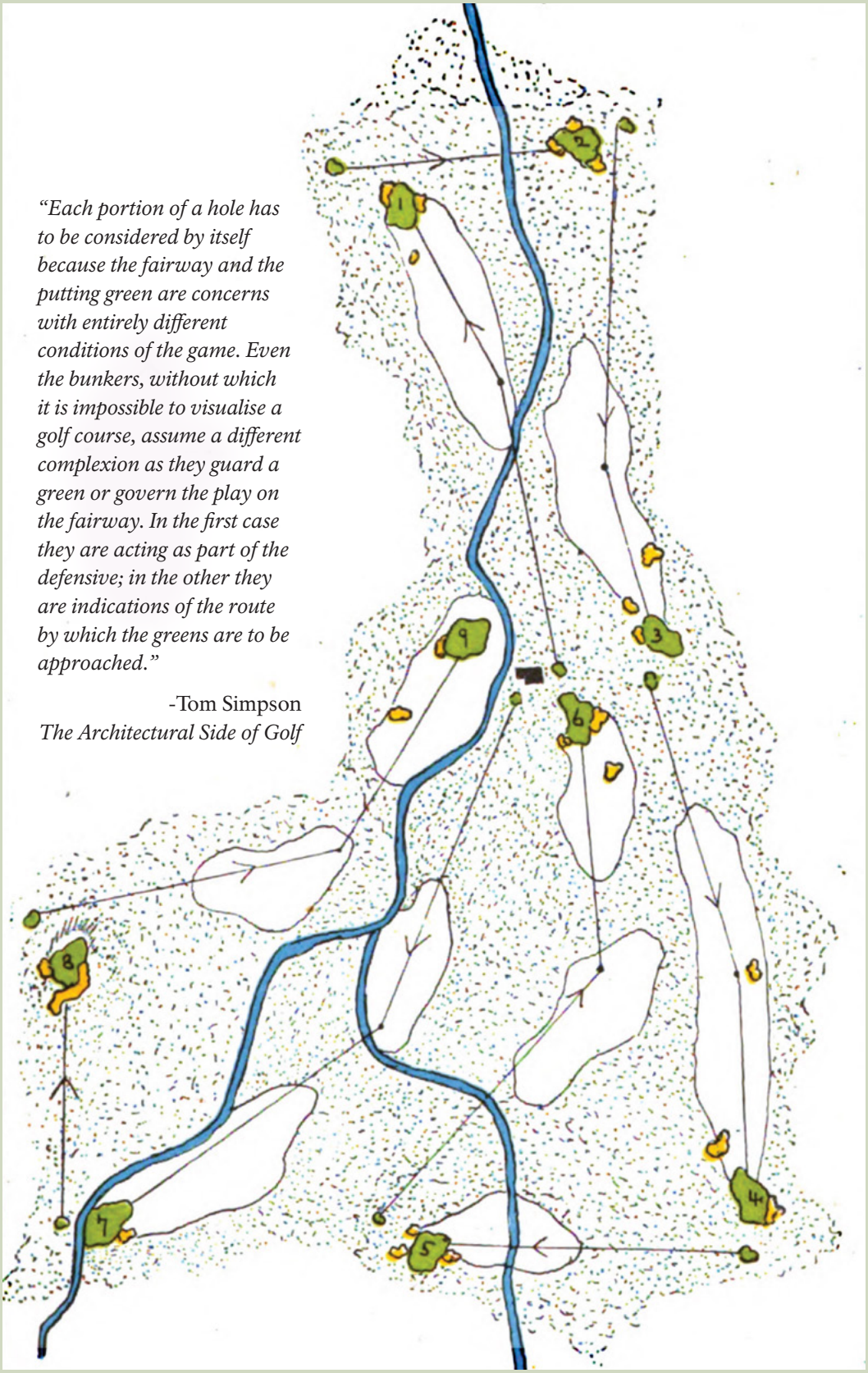


Figure 3.25 – Simpson hand sketch of a nine-hole course reconstruction that takes full advantage of a narrow stream, which was rechanneled to create bends in its direction in order to govern the play over the majority of the holes. (*The Architectural Side of Golf,* Plate xxxvi: Nine Hole Course after reconstruction)

- Golf course features and fairway layouts commonly studied and employed by Simpson in his designs include:[82]
  - Tree allées or borders along fairways, as utilized in Simpson's design of the Chiberta golf course in France.
  - An "island" green framed by bunkers as a source of worry from start to finish to the inferior player. This type of layout subscribes to the penal school and offers a "thoroughly amusing but bad hole" for sake of variety.
  - "Dog-legged" fairways that obscures visibility of the green from the tee, which requires calculation and thoroughness in the matter of attack. This layout subscribes to the strategic school of play.
  - Carving forests to give artistic feeling to a fairway. To achieve this, one should aim to carve organic, irregular shapes that contribute to both aesthetic values and strategic challenges. Many more trees may have to be cut than are strictly necessary from the golfing point of view.

Fully visible floor of the green for a one-shot hole (under 150 yards), and optionally obscured floor for holes over 400 yards. Theses greens should avoid being absolutely flat, formal in shape, and large in extent, as it means that there is no room for scientific design.

82 Wethered and Simpson, *The Architectural Side of Golf,* Front Matter, Plate iii, xxxiii, xxxviii, 39.

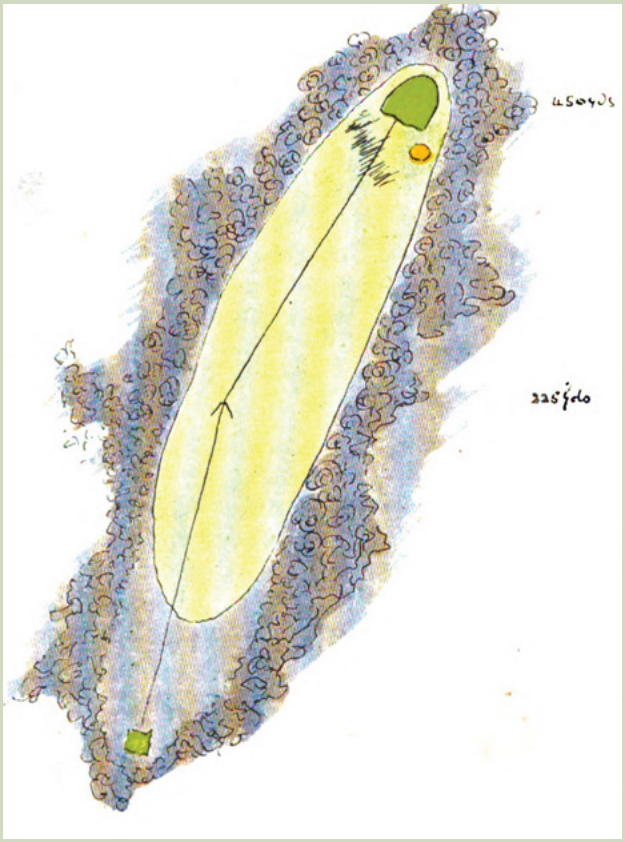


Figure 3.26 – Simpson hand sketch illustrating the wrong way to carve a fairway and rough out of a forest, resulting in a hole lacking challenge. (*The Architectural Side of Golf,* Plate xxxvii: Wrong Way to Carve Fairway out of a Forest)

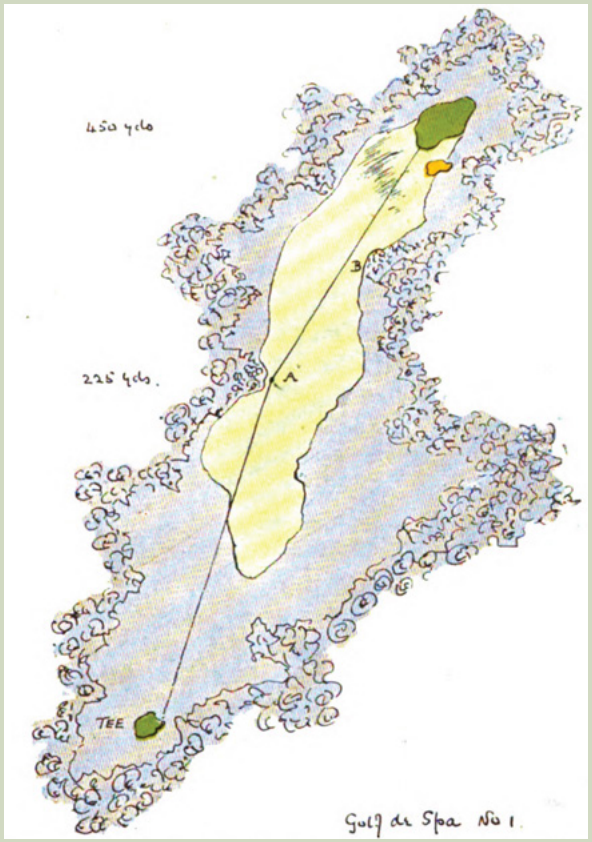


Figure 3.27 – Simpson hand sketch of an ideally laid out hole with trees carefully carved around the fairway to reveal the green at point B. (*The Architectural Side of Golf,* Plate xxxviii: Right Way to Carve Fairway out of a Forest)

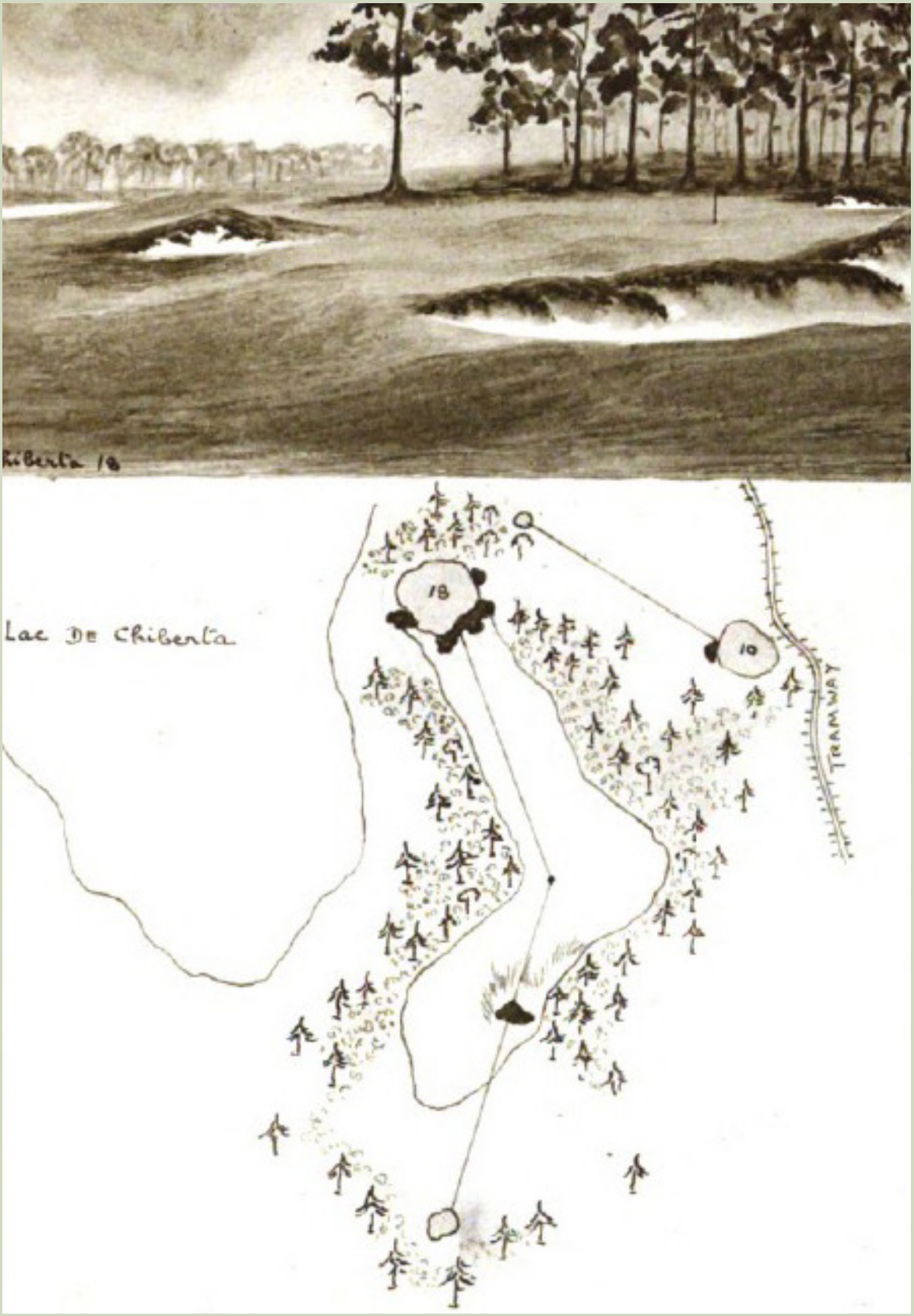


Figure 3.28 – Simpson hand sketch in perspective and plan illustrating a dogleg hole design where the green is not visible from the tee, a design feature that increases player challenge. (*The Architectural Side of Golf,* Plate xxxiii: Chiberta-Biarritz, No. 18)

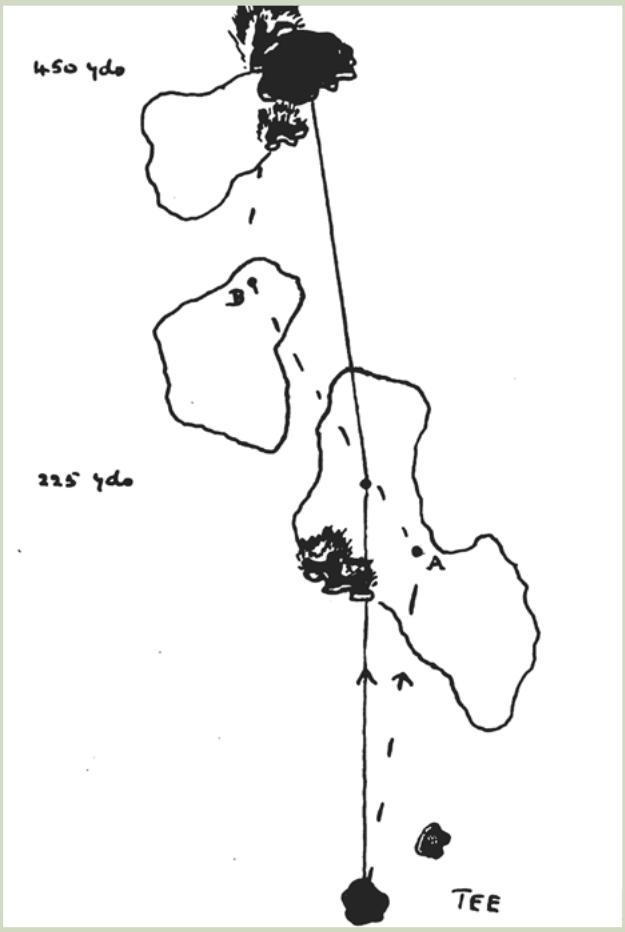


Figure 3.31 – Simpson hand sketch depicting how holes should be designed to account for varying player skill. The solid line depicts the likely strategy of a high-skilled player, while the dotted line shows a longer route a medium-skilled player. (*The Architectural Side of Golf,* Plate xlii: Original Plan)

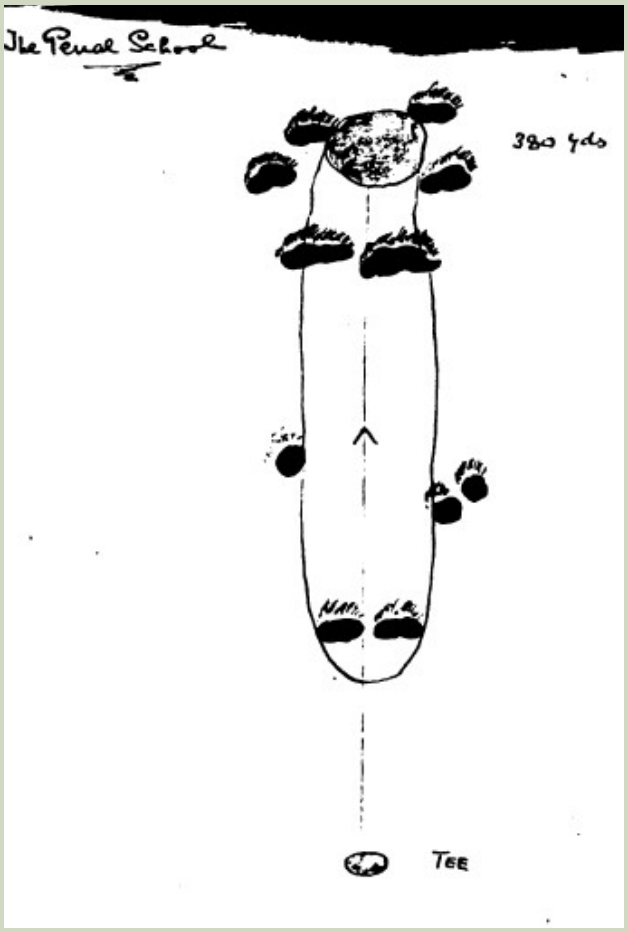
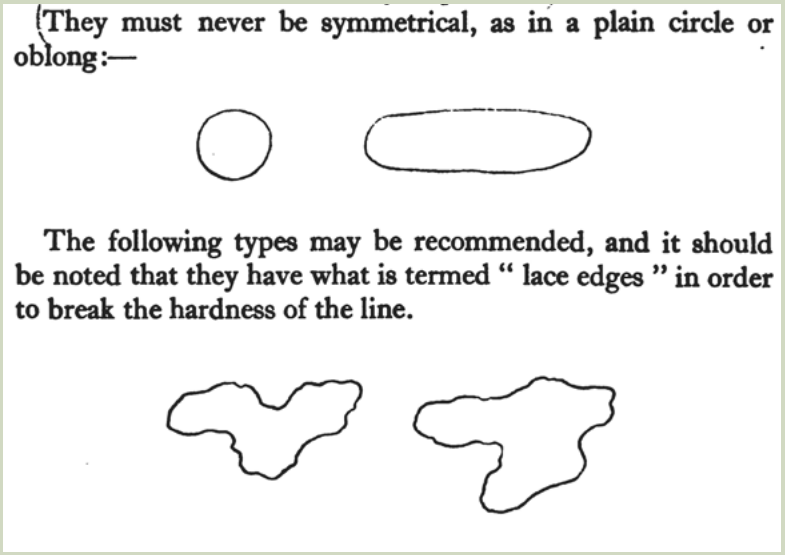


Figure 3.32 – Simpson hand sketch of an island green surrounded by bunkers, similar in design to Hole 4 at the Presidio Golf Course. (*The Architectural Side of Golf,* Plate iii: The Penal School)


They must never be symmetrical, as in a plain circle or oblong:—

The following types may be recommended, and it should be noted that they have what is termed " lace edges " in order to break the hardness of the line.

Figure 3.29 – Excerpt from book with Simpson plan diagram sketch of bunkers, reflecting his preference for perimeter variation he dubbed "lace edges." (*The Architectural Side of Golf,* Figure x, 86)

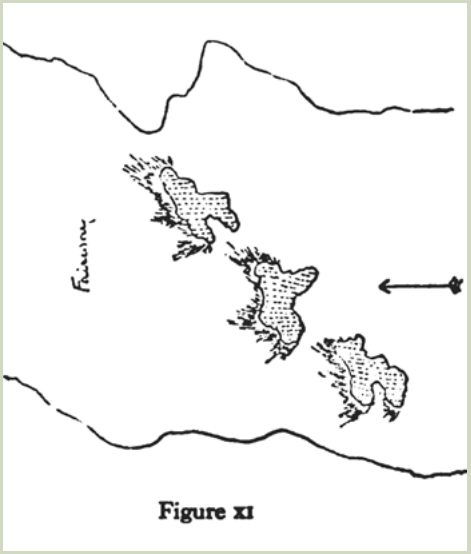


Figure 3.30 – Simpson plan diagram sketch of bunkers, depicting the approach for the design of a series of bunkers that avoid a straight line and have varied form. (*The Architectural Side of Golf,* Figure xi, 87)

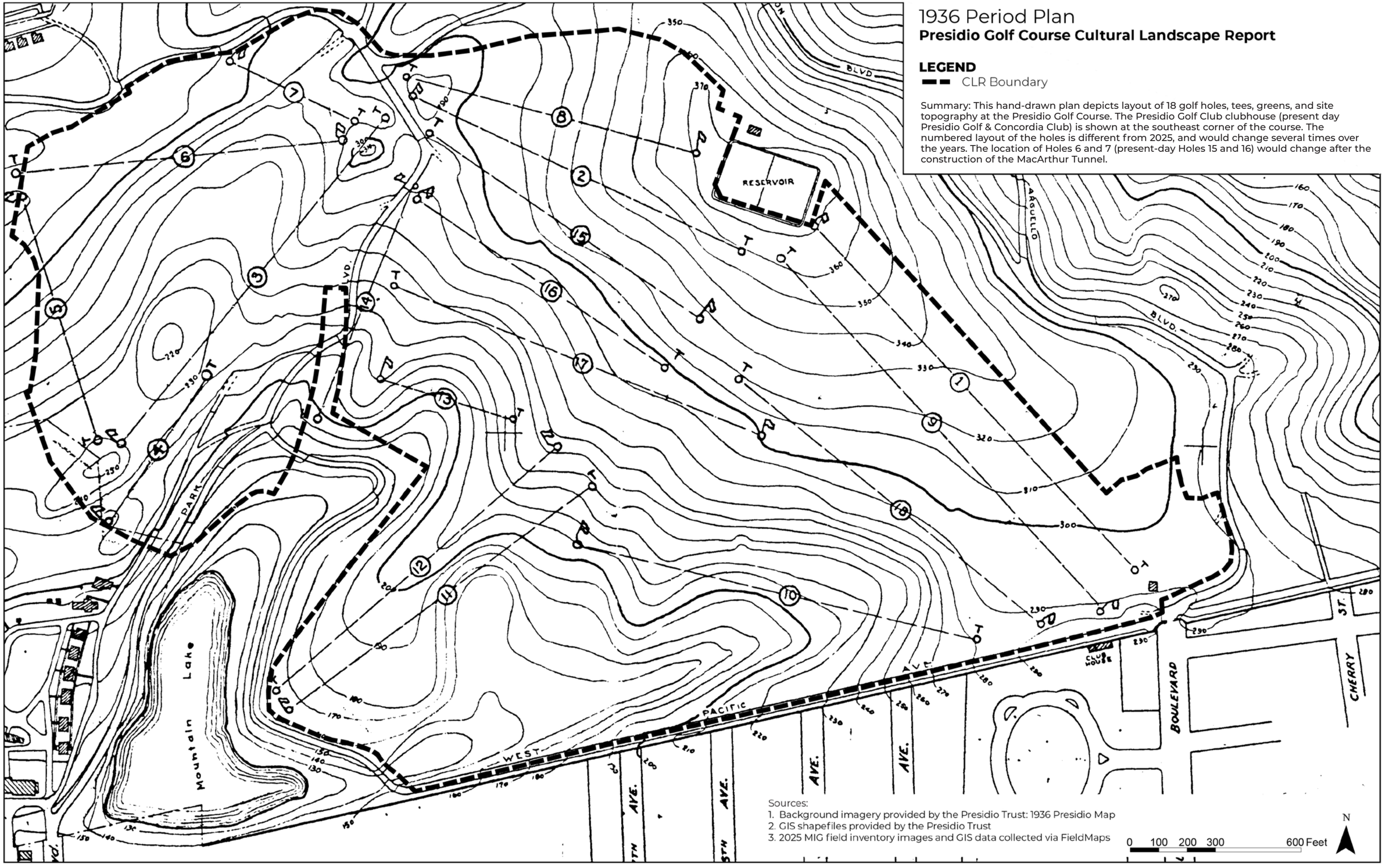
1936 Period Plan

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND

CLR Boundary

Summary: This hand-drawn plan depicts layout of 18 golf holes, tees, greens, and site topography at the Presidio Golf Course. The Presidio Golf Club clubhouse (present day Presidio Golf & Concordia Club) is shown at the southeast corner of the course. The numbered layout of the holes is different from 2025, and would change several times over the years. The location of Holes 6 and 7 (present-day Holes 15 and 16) would change after the construction of the MacArthur Tunnel.



Sources:
1. Background imagery provided by the Presidio Trust: 1936 Presidio Map
2. GIS shapefiles provided by the Presidio Trust
3. 2025 MIG field inventory images and GIS data collected via FieldMaps

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1938 Period Plan

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND

CLR Boundary

Summary: This aerial photograph dated August 1939 of the Presidio Golf Course shows the layout of 18 golf holes, tees, bunkers, and greens. Faint paths are visible in the landscape. Planted allées of young Monterey cypress trees are shown in more locations than the 1938 hand-drawn map. The Presidio Tunnel is not yet shown as construction began in October 1938. Features such as the bunkers surrounding the present-day 4th Green are visible. An alcove for parking is shown near present-day Hole 9. Overall, the course is much more open and exposed than in 2025.

Sources:
1. Background imagery provided by the Presidio Trust: 1938 Ryker Mosaic
2. GIS shapefiles provided by the Presidio Trust
3. 2025 MIG field inventory images and GIS data collected via FieldMaps

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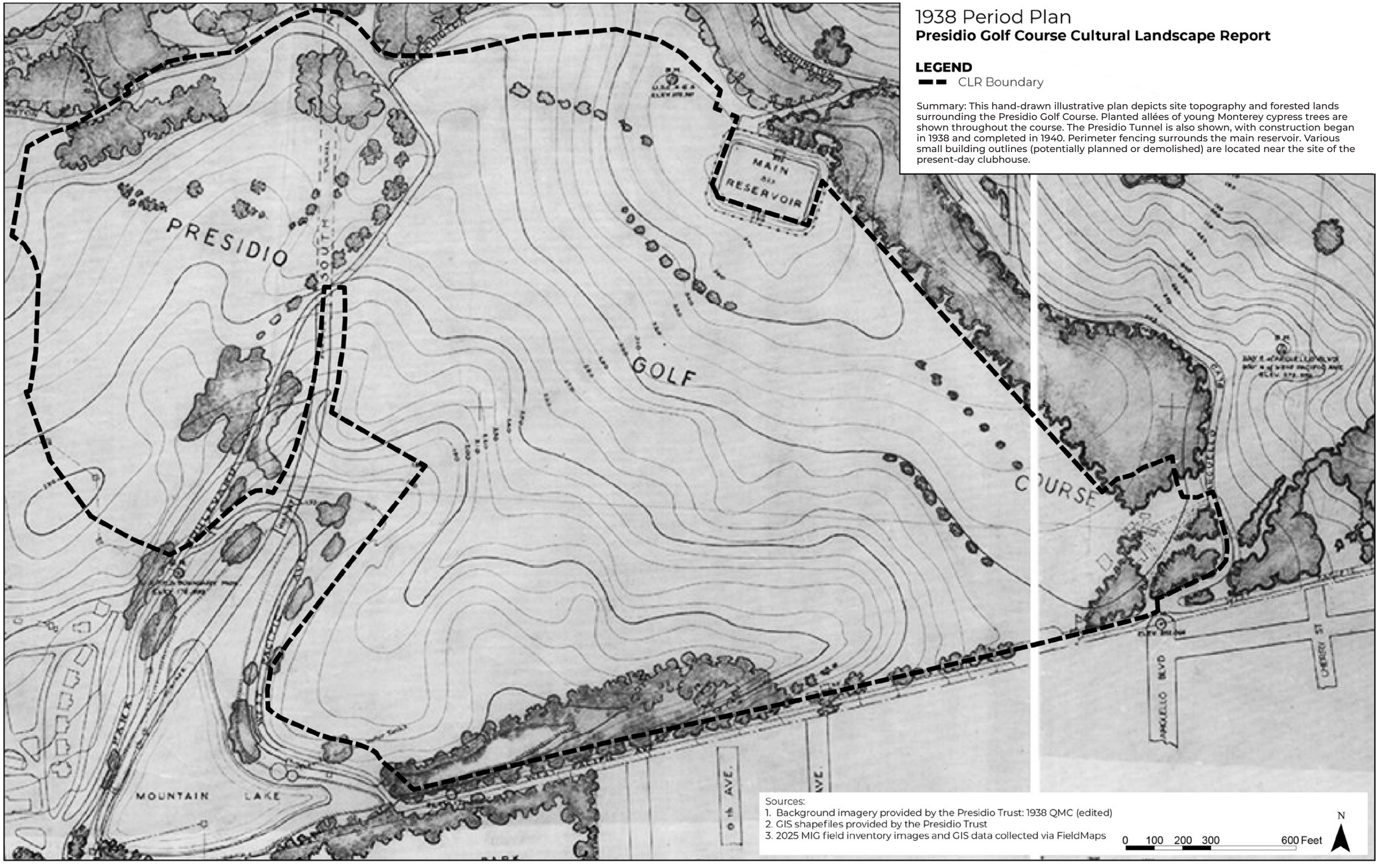
1938 Period Plan

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND

CLR Boundary

Summary: This hand-drawn illustrative plan depicts site topography and forested lands surrounding the Presidio Golf Course. Planted allées of young Monterey cypress trees are shown throughout the course. The Presidio Tunnel is also shown, with construction began in 1938 and completed in 1940. Perimeter fencing surrounds the main reservoir. Various small building outlines (potentially planned or demolished) are located near the site of the present-day clubhouse.



Sources:
1. Background imagery provided by the Presidio Trust: 1938 QMC (edited)
2. GIS shapefiles provided by the Presidio Trust
3. 2025 MIG field inventory images and GIS data collected via FieldMaps

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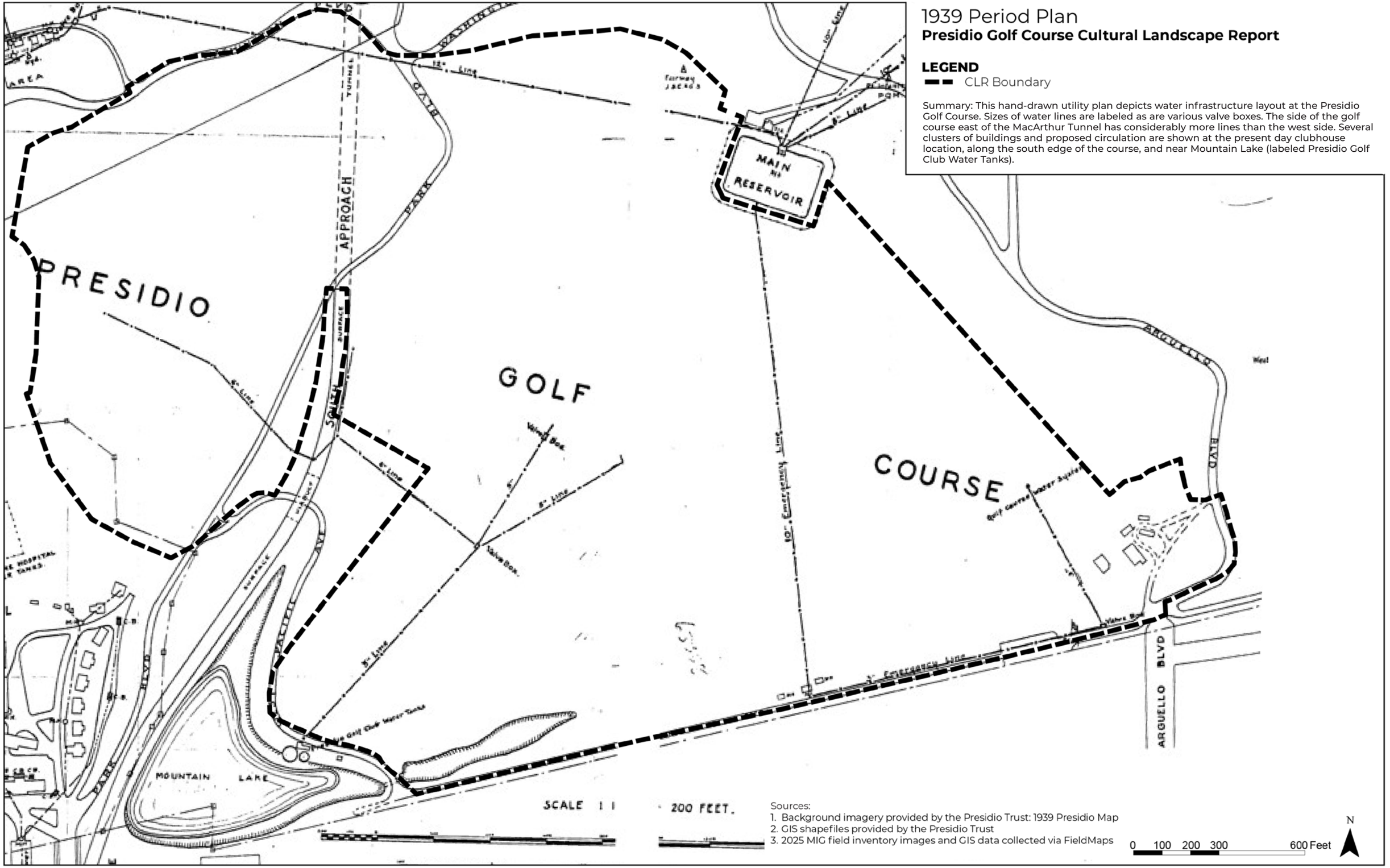
1939 Period Plan

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND

CLR Boundary

Summary: This hand-drawn utility plan depicts water infrastructure layout at the Presidio Golf Course. Sizes of water lines are labeled as are various valve boxes. The side of the golf course east of the MacArthur Tunnel has considerably more lines than the west side. Several clusters of buildings and proposed circulation are shown at the present day clubhouse location, along the south edge of the course, and near Mountain Lake (labeled Presidio Golf Club Water Tanks).



Sources:
1. Background imagery provided by the Presidio Trust: 1939 Presidio Map
2. GIS shapefiles provided by the Presidio Trust
3. 2025 MIG field inventory images and GIS data collected via FieldMaps

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World War II (1941-1945)

A flurry of construction during this period reflected the emergency expansion of military activities associated with World War II. Similar to buildings constructed rapidly during World War I, these buildings were of a light and standardized "temporary"-type wood-frame construction with low gable roofs, wood siding, and spare architectural detailing. Buildings of this type were constructed throughout the Post but only a few remain in the Main Post and Fort Scott.

In addition to the construction of new buildings, wartime needs necessitated the renovation and expansion of the Presidio's coastal defenses. A new mine casemate (No. 1601), additional fire control stations (non-extant), and additional batteries and an emplacement at Fort Point (mostly non-extant), along with other emplacements at Baker Beach and the golf course (non-extant), were provided to protect the immediate Bay Area.[89] At least one additional gun emplacement was built within the golf course site during WWII to expand coastal defenses. The emplacement was located near the Main Reservoir, just upslope of the 350 foot elevation line, east of the tunnel. The emplacement was removed post-war.

89 Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark, 1993, Section 7, 60.

Consistent with the expansion of defense systems across the Presidio, the recreational use of the golf course dwindled. While, during the required annual inspection of the reserve in 1941 the Inspector General noted that the golf course was a well-maintained, excellent 18-hole course enjoyed by civilians and officers alike, membership of PGC decreased following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. Some members were called into service while others were impacted by shortages of gas and rubber that diminished golf as a priority. The golf course would not resume its recreational activities until the close of the war.

Post-War Development (1946-1973, 1956)

The mid-century era of development at the Presidio following World War II was characterized by spurts of intense construction and deconstruction of utilitarian buildings and housing for families stationed at the post. The golf course retained its general layout and character during this period, although the general level of post-war investment and modernization filtered into game play, infrastructure and road improvements, and operations. For a list of modifications, see Table 4: Physical Alterations to the Presidio Golf Course After World War II. Several storage buildings and a pump house were constructed within or adjacent to the



Figure 3.33 – 1946 photograph looking east from the golf course. Mountain Lake is potentially to the right. (Presidio Trust, AAC-0995)



Figure 3.34 – 1946 "Getting some December sunshine on No. 13 on the post. (GOGA Park Archives, GOGA 35289)

golf course during or directly after the Korean War but none remain extant.

Perhaps the largest change to occur at the golf course related to its management. By 1955 the course was once again in need of a new watering system. The PGC inquired about welfare funds from General Young for this project, but no funding was available for non-Army-controlled operations. As the PGC were unable to continue to care for the course without funding assistance from the U.S. Military, they agreed that the Army should take over the operation of the golf course. While the USGC members would retain all the privileges of the clubhouse and the PGC would continue to contribute to the management of the course, the primary management and operation responsibilities shifted to the U.S. Army. For the first time in its history, the Presidio Golf Course became a military-operated course.

Shortly after USGC took over operations, a cylindrical water tank (No. 323) was built just to the east of Mountain Lake in 1958. The water tank and pump facility was part of the Presidio-wide water system and may have been used as part of the irrigation system for the Presidio Golf Course.[90] The USGC managed the Presidio Golf Course from 1956 until the closure of the military reservation in 1994. The management of the golf course was transferred to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) at this time.[91]

THE BEGINNING OF THE COLD WAR (1946-1949)

Following the conclusion of World War II, development at the Presidio reflected both the functional needs of the U.S. Army and the vision of the planners of that time. The post-World War II period was primarily characterized by the construction of family housing, community service development, and infill. Immediately after the war, the coastal defenses were decommissioned and the batteries dismantled, including the gun emplacement within the golf course. Temporary World War II buildings were removed over time.[92]

90 The Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark Update, 2008, 9.

91 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 250.

92 The Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark Update, 2008, 5.

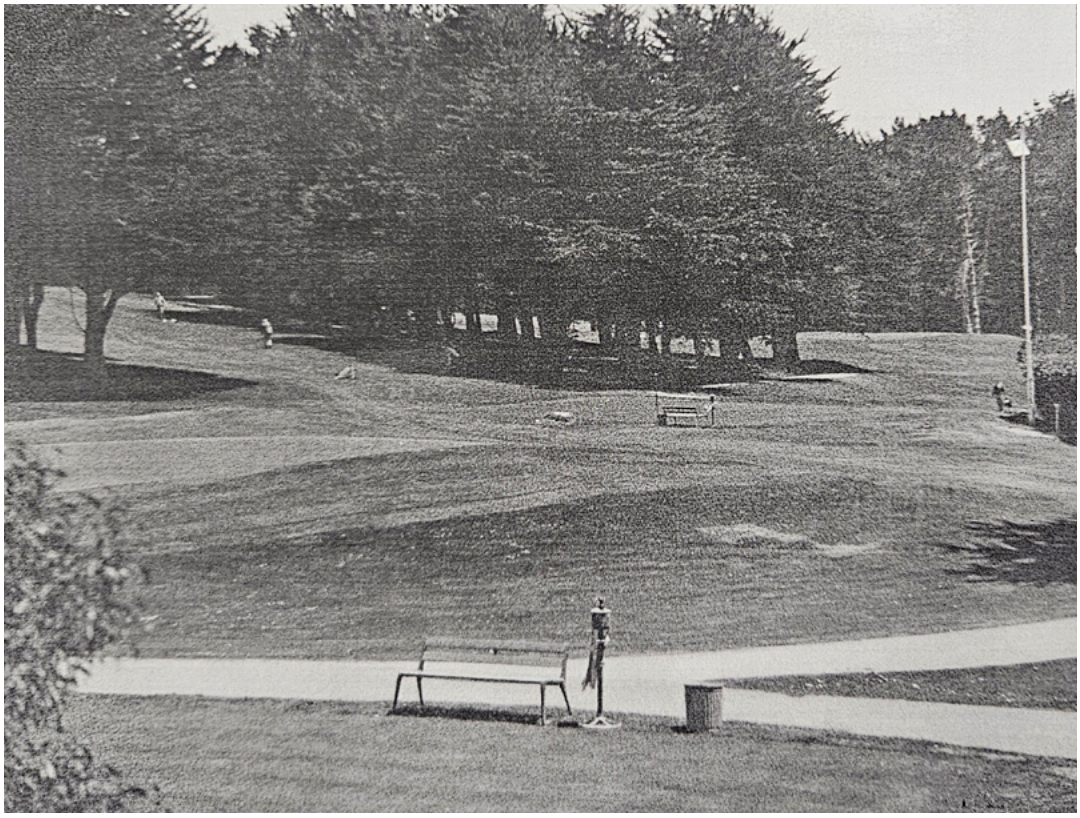


Figure 3.35 – Undated photograph of an unidentified teeing area, bench, and ball wash station. (GOGA Park Archives, GOGA 3530T.1875)

THE KOREAN WAR (1950-1953)

The period defined by the Korean War was characterized by continued housing development. Plans called for site designs with an eye to the contour of the land, the desire to retain open space, and the restriction of high rise development.

Perhaps in tandem with the continuous development of the Presidio during this time, an intensive topographic survey of the reserve was conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through the early 1950s and approved by 1954. This set of topographic survey maps included the area of the Presidio Golf Course and depicted the layout of the 18-hole course, areas of dense vegetation, streets, rock walls, and various buildings. By the completion of the survey, the golf course included a range of infrastructure such as roads, gutters, culverts, headwalls, and catch basins; expanded recreational use such as a practice tee and a basketball court; and various buildings and structures that supported the irrigation system, golf course operations, and other military uses.

THE VIETNAM WAR (1959-1973)

The Vietnam War period saw the largest amount of construction at the Presidio of San Francisco during the post-World War II era. Not only were more utilitarian buildings placed throughout the reservation, but additional noncommissioned officers' housing was also constructed in the South Post, West Cantonment, and Crissy Field areas in three phases from 1966 to 1970.[93]

Though perhaps not as significant in scale of construction as the South Post and the Marine Hospital areas within the reserve, the Presidio Golf Course and its immediate adjacent areas also underwent alterations, improvements, and development during the Vietnam War Period. Through the span of these fourteen years, various secondary buildings were constructed or rehabilitated. Various holes across the golf course were also reorganized and remodeled to enhance the recreational experience and to support a newly installed driving range. Finally, this period of the golf course saw a transition in the mode of circulation. As motorized golf carts, first introduced in the mid-1950s, became increasingly popularized, the Presidio Golf Course also adopted this amenity for members' use. A series of cart paths were constructed through this period, asphalt-paved and seven to eight feet wide; by 1973, a system of cart paths largely consistent with the extant layout was established.

It was also during this time that the present-day Presidio Golf Clubhouse area was developed by the Army to support its management and operation of the golf course. While historic aerial photographs and maps show unidentified buildings and structures in this area in varying numbers and layout since approximately 1907, likely serving as auxiliary structures for the Army and the golf course, its uses have only been identified in the 1950s. As developed during this period, this area included a golf shop (300), a temporary caddie house (sometimes referred to as the golf clubhouse, 309), an administration building (347), and storage and maintenance facilities (302, 303).[94] The identification of this area as an Army development of administrative, maintenance, and visitor facilities in the late-1950s and early-1960s aligns with the broader context of the formal transfer of golf course control and management from the PGC to the U.S. Army and reflects the Army's efforts to establish its own core of operation.

93 The Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark Update, 2008, 12.

94 While many of these buildings are reported as being constructed during this period in Thompson's Defender of the Gate, they are visible as extant buildings in the 1954 survey of the Presidio. However, this survey depicts this area in overlapping footprints and duplicate numbers which suggests that the area may have been planned for redevelopment or rehabilitation.

Presidio Golf Course CLR
Table 4: Physical Alterations to the Presidio Golf Course After World War II

DATE	EVENT
1948	A drought caused a severe water shortage and a "quick $10,000" was needed to sink a new well. Dues were raised for both PGC and USGC. [95]
1948-1954	Building T-318 was removed from the vicinity of the pump house (315) along the southern border of the golf course. Available maps of the area suggest that this building was built between 1939 and 1943. Though the purpose of this building is unidentified, it was likely associated with the operation of the pump house. [96]
1954	Rock wall around the parking lot (south wall) is labeled in the 1954 map. The 1954 map also identifies a rock wall and a headwall just north of the park trail underpass (technically outside the CLR boundary). Additional rock walls/headwalls are identified between the 13 tee and the 12th green; northeast (downslope) of 13 green; and west of the present-day No. 2 tee. The brick gutter along West Pacific Avenue is identified; a concrete arch culvert and associated headwall is located at the edge of the eastern arm of Mountain Lake. A catch basin is located to the east of the maintenance road, between Tees 7 and 4 (present-day 13 and 16). The present-day location of the Presidio Clubhouse includes various buildings (T-302, 303, 300, 347, 305, 309), a basketball court, and a rock wall around (or near) the southwestern edge of the court. A flagpole is located to the east of the south wall parking lot. A brick shelter (317) and practice tee are located to the west of the parking lot. Additional structures along the south boundary include T-316, 314, and 315, though T-316 and T314 have been crossed out, suggesting plans for removal. Structures associated with the golf course water tanks include T318, 322, 324, 328, and 349. A tool house is located near the present-day No.11 hole; a small structure, unidentified (T-465), is depicted near the present-day pump house. The extant pedestrian concrete underpass is described as having a 12" high concrete wing wall on the east end. No mention of the rock wing walls at the west end. [97]
1954-1961	A practice putting green was established by 1961, along the southern edge of the course, immediately west of the Arguello Gate. [98]
1956-1973	Electric carts appeared for the first time and cart paths were built. By 1973, cart paths that are largely consistent with the extant layout are visible in aerials. Some segments of paths are visible in earlier aerials. [99]
1956-1959	The Presidio Golf Course's non-potable water plant is established by Mountain Lake, encompassing the water tanks and associated structures. [100]
1956	The Golf Shop (300) was built at the golf course, in the southeast corner in area of the present-day Presidio Army clubhouse. [101] The shop was demolished and rebuilt in 1999.
1959	A water pump house (348) was built next to Mountain Lake. [102]
1959	The Golf Shelter (317) was constructed at the golf course. [103]

95 Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio*, 19.

96 Presidio Map, 1939, Office of the Post Quarter Master, Presidio of San Francisco, U.S. Army; Presidio Map, 1943, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Presidio Map, 1948, Post Engineer Office, Presidio of San Francisco, U.S. Army; Jones Pafford & White, "Presidio of San Francisco Topographic Survey," Sheet 3, 1954, U.S. Army.

97 1954 Topographic Survey, sheets 1, 3, 4, and 7.

98 1954 Topographic Survey; Presidio Map, 1961, Post Engineer, Presidio of San Francisco, U.S. Army.

99 Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio,* 46; 1973 Aerial Photograph, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1973.04.22.PSF.

100 Map of the Presidio, 1969, U.S. Army.

101 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 515.

102 The Presidio of San Francisco, National Historic Landmark Update, 2008, 12.

103 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 515.

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
Table 4: Physical Alterations to the Presidio Golf Course After World War II (continued)

DATE	EVENT
1960	Hole 10 was moved from what is now the driving range to the left, creating an interesting dog-leg par 4. Hole 10 had been a deep ravine with a virtual forest of tall trees. Fairway was leveled after tree removal and a tremendous amount of dirt-fill trucked.[104]
1960	The Administration Building (347) was built in the southeast corner of the golf course.[105]
1961	Storage Shed (302) was constructed in the southeast corner of the golf course.[106]
1961-1969	Two buildings, T-316 and T-314, were removed from the vicinity of the pump house (T-315) by 1969. Located at the end of Fifth Avenue along West Pacific Avenue, these buildings have appeared alongside the pump house in maps from 1935, at the time labeled Buildings 362 and 361, respectively. However, Building T314, labeled "2 Story Frame" in the 1954 survey, appears to have served as civilian quarters since at least 1932, at the time assigned building number 96. Quarter Master reports identify the building as Non-Commissioned Officers Quarters and suggest that it was built in 1873; while this claim cannot be substantiated, historic maps of the area depict an unidentified building in this location since at least 1900. As local commanders were known to have allowed various civilian homes to be built within the Presidio during the early decades of the reserve, this building may have had its beginnings as a private home.[107]
1962	USGC changed its name to the Presidio Army Golf Club.[108]
1964-1966	Asphalt-paved walks, ranging between 7.5 feet and 8.0 feet wide, were constructed across the golf course, some 8,282 LF.[109]
1964	By 1964, almost every green except the ninth (present-day 10) had been rebuilt at least once, bunkering brought up to date as necessary, holes lengthened by longer tees or alternates, but basic course is described as "little different" from that of the original 1920s layout.[110]
1964	The Army discovered that the golf course had never been added to the Presidio's list of real property: on June 20, 1964, it was recorded under Item 71, "Golf Course, 18 holes, 149.6 acres, built 1905 (sic)," "Found on Post."[111]
1966	A driving range and the fairway for the 10th Hole (including the 10th tee) were constructed. A sprinkler system was installed, and a parking lot was constructed. The location of the parking lot is not specified.[112]
1969	Maintenance/Storage (303) was constructed in the southeast corner of the golf course.[113]
1960-1990s	Course Superintendent Buckley has been involved in remodeling 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, elevating the green on 13, remodeling 17, changing 10, reversing 9 and 18, extending 11 and 16, revising 1, among others. (Numbers based on 1990s layout)[114]
1972	The driving range is labeled for the first time in a course layout map (not labeled in 1969). Aerials show the area beginning to take shape of a driving range in 1969.[115]

104 Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio*, 41-42

105 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 516.

106 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 532.

107 Presidio Map 1932, 1961, 1969; "Plan Showing Building Numbers," 1935, Office of the Post Quarter Master, Presidio of San Francisco, U.S. Army; 1954 Topographic Survey, Sheet 3; C. Winstanley, Draughtsman, "Map of the Military Reservation of the Presidio of San Francisco, California," 1900, U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps; Correspondence with John Bertland, Presidio Trust, September 23, 2025.

108 Thompson, Defender of the Gate, 250.

109 Work Order Form, June 30, 1964, "Presidio Golf Course Vol. II, 1958-1969," GOGA Park Archives, GOGA 35338 B65 F9.

110 Levison, *A Short History*, 7.

111 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 250.

112 Work Order Form, June 30, 1964, "Presidio Golf Course Vol. II, 1958-1969," GOGA Park Archives, GOGA 35338 B65 F9.

113 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 532

114 Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio*, 42; *Levison, A Short History*, 7.

115 Presidio Map, 1972, U.S. Army; Aerial Photograph, October 29, 1969, AV-933-04-31. Presidio Trust.

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1946 Period Plan

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND

CLR Boundary

Summary: This aerial photograph shows maturing allées of Monterey cypress trees beginning to define the edges of the holes. Younger trees planted as part of WPA-era tree planting programs appear near present-day driving range, Holes 10 and 11. The layout of present-day Holes 15 and 16 have changed since the construction of the MacArthur Tunnel in 1938; a significant portion of tree canopy was removed to build present-day Green 16.

Sources:
1. Background imagery provided by the Presidio Trust: 1946 USGS-24 Presidio-wide
2. GIS shapefiles provided by the Presidio Trust
3. 2025 MIG field inventory images and GIS data collected via FieldMaps

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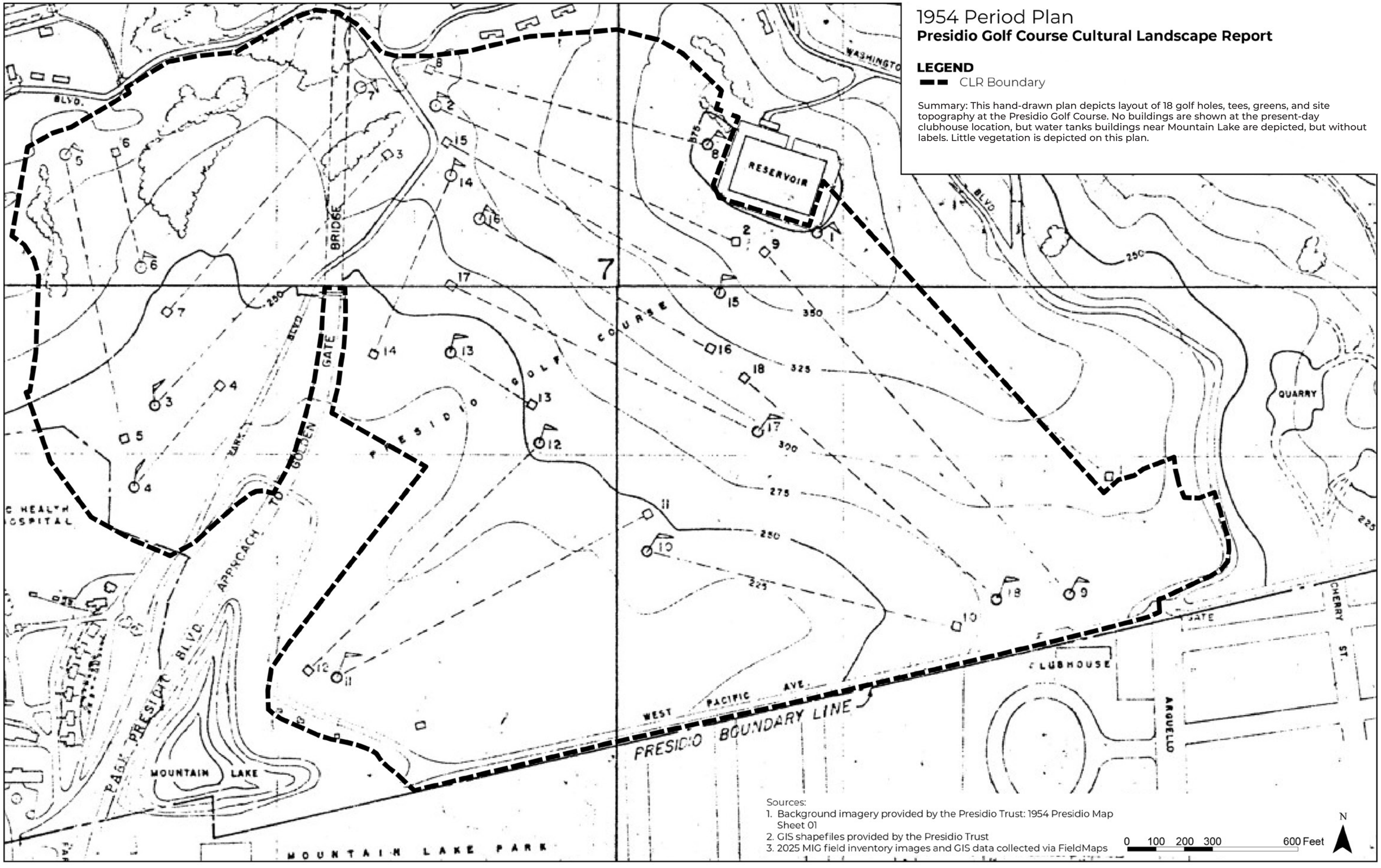
1954 Period Plan

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND

CLR Boundary

Summary: This hand-drawn plan depicts layout of 18 golf holes, tees, greens, and site topography at the Presidio Golf Course. No buildings are shown at the present-day clubhouse location, but water tanks buildings near Mountain Lake are depicted, but without labels. Little vegetation is depicted on this plan.



Sources:
1. Background imagery provided by the Presidio Trust: 1954 Presidio Map Sheet 01
2. GIS shapefiles provided by the Presidio Trust
3. 2025 MIG field inventory images and GIS data collected via FieldMaps

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1956 Period Plan
Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND

CLR Boundary

Summary: This aerial photograph from 1956 depicts site conditions at the end of the period of significance, with characteristic allées of Monterey cypress clearly defining the edges of the holes. Younger trees planted as part of WPA-era tree planting programs are maturing, near present-day driving range and Holes 10 and 11. Holes with bunkers surrounding the greens are seen at present-day Holes 4 and 15. The driving range is not yet constructed.

Sources:
1. Background imagery provided by the Presidio Trust: 1956 gs-vlx_1-126
2. GIS shapefiles provided by the Presidio Trust
3. 2025 MIG field inventory images and GIS data collected via FieldMaps

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Decline of U.S. Military Presence in San Francisco (1973-1994)

This period marks the initial decline of the U.S. Army at the Presidio and in San Francisco. At the same time, an era of land conservation was gaining prominence on the west coast of the United States in response to increasing environmental concerns and federal regulation.

In 1972, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area was established in the Bay Area, including preservation of open space in the Marin Headlands to the north of the Presidio and along the pacific coast on the San Francisco Peninsula to the south. This set the stage for the eventual departure of the Army from the Presidio reservation and the arrival of the National Park Service as future steward of the designed landscape. The law creating the new park said that the Presidio would become part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area if the Army ever left.

Few changes occurred at the Presidio Golf Course during the period, except for the slow removal and eventual replacement of Military-constructed buildings (see Table 3 for details). Most had been built as temporary solutions to begin with. Other activities on the course were limited to minimal changes to bunkers to enhance maintenance efficiency. The golf course remained a recreational landscape in function, and continued to serve both public residents of the City and Military personnel.



Figure 3.36 – C. 1991 view looking north-northwest towards present-day Hole 18 fairway. (GOGA Park Archives, GOGA 35360)

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
Table 5: Physical Alterations to the Presidio Golf Course During the Decline of Military Presence in San Francisco

DATE	EVENT
1973-1980	Between 1973 and 1980, the 7 individual bunkers/traps that surrounded the famous Presidio "Island" was converted into a full-circle bunker that made the hole more challenging and saved manicuring the 7-8 grassy entrances to the putting surface.[116]
Pre-1983	Structures 306 and 467 at the golf course were removed. Construction date or location are unidentified.[117]
1983	The temporary Caddie House or Golf Clubhouse (T-309) was removed/demolished by the Army.[118]
1989	The Department of Defense announced that it would close many military bases across the country, including the Presidio.[119]
1991	The Army planned to construct a proper clubhouse in the southeast corner of the golf course with non-appropriated funds.[120]

116 1973 Aerial Photograph; 1980 Aerial Photograph, aerial_1980-06-00, Presidio Trust Legacy Files; Rosenbaum, *Golf at the Presidio*, 46-47.

117 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 250.

118 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 250.

119 Rosenbaum, "Introduction" in *Golf at the Presidio*, no page number.

120 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 521.

The Presidio Trust (1994-Present)

Following the 1989 announcement by the Department of Defense that the U.S. Military would depart the Presidio of San Francisco and decommission the site as a military base, a debate ignited about how to convert the Presidio into a national park site. Concerns over cost and management arose, and some voices advocated selling the land instead of preserving it. Congress responded by creating a new management model for a public park that resulted in the formation of a new federal agency, the Presidio Trust. The agency was tasked with managing the park in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), and was required to fund its own operations rather than relying on the federal budget. This assuaged concerns over federal spending and opened up opportunities to rehabilitate and lease the existing miliary facilities. The arrangement was formalized in 1996 with the passing of The Presidio Trust Act.

Amidst this shift in management structure, both the Army and the Presidio Golf Club strove to retain, or in the PGC's case, attain, control of the golf course. The Army feared that under the control of the civilian club retired military members would be prohibited to play on the course while the PGC became increasingly wary of the already overcrowded conditions under the Presidio Army Golf Club. Following much discourse, the agreement between the Defense and Interior departments in 1993 called for the Sixth U.S. Army headquarters to remain at the Presidio for a period of time and to retain control of the golf course. However, the Sixth U.S. Army was announced to be disbanded on or before September 30, 1995 and would thereby relinquish control of the golf course.[121]

121 Thompson, Defender of the Gate, 251-252.

The Presidio Golf Course was subsequently transferred along with the rest of the former military reservation into the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. During the initial years following the departure of the Sixth U.S. Army, the Presidio Golf Course was placed under the management of the NPS. Beginning on September 1, 1995, the NPS entered into a ten-year concession contract with the Arnold Palmer Golf Management Company (APGM) to operate the PGC as a public golf course, a departure from the past decades as a members-only facility, and perform necessary improvements.[122] Upon the formation of the Presidio Trust in 1998, jurisdiction over the former military reservation was transferred to the Presidio Trust. In this transfer of management, the APGM concession contract was also transferred to the Trust.

Through the post-Army period of the Presidio, the managers, under new mandate to enhance the open space and recreational opportunities within the public park, made several changes to the golf course (for details, see Table 6: Physical Alterations to the Presidio Golf Course Made By the NPS and the Presidio Trust). These included the construction of a new and expanded clubhouse, the introduction of new amenities, and the installation of a formal driving range and putting green to bring the golf course up to modern standards for recreational play. The Presidio Trust, as the lead agency, also continues to expend efforts to protect, preserve, and restore habitat, wetlands, and other natural resources, as well as to maintain and improve Presidio's infrastructure.

122 Steven Rubenstein, "Arnold Palmer's Firm to Run Presidio Golf Course/Park Service Opens Tee Times to Public," SF Gate, July 20, 1995, https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/arnold-palmer-s-firm-to-run-presidio-course-3028284.php.

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
Table 6: Physical Alterations to the Presidio Golf Course Made By the NPS and the Presidio Trust

DATE	EVENT
1993	NPS announced its plans for the Presidio: the golf course is to be open to the public.[123]
1993-2002	The NPS determined that the small cluster of temporary structures in the southeast corner of the golf course were non-historic: Shop (300), STorage Shed/Quonset Hut (302), Maintenance/Storage (303), and Administration Building (347). By 2002, these were removed.[124]
1993	Agreement between the Defense and the Interior Departments called for the Sixth U.S. Army Headquarters to remain at the Presidio for a period of time and to retain control of the golf course.[125]
1994	The Sixth U.S. Army was announced to be disestablished on or before September 30, 1995. The Presidio was incorporated into the NPS as part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.[126]
1995	The NPS entered into a ten-year concessioner contract with the Arnold Palmer Golf Management Company (APGM).[127]
1995-2000	General Store and other shed/maintenance buildings near the intersection of Park Trail and Washington Boulevard (north end of course) were built.[128]
1996-1997	APGM altered several greens to USGA standards (#1, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 17).[129]
1996	The Presidio Trust Act was passed with bipartisan support and a new federal agency was formed.
1998	Management of the Presidio of San Francisco was transferred to the Presidio Trust from the NPS, including the contract with APGM.[130]
1999	The Presidio Golf Clubhouse was built in the southeast corner of the golf course.[131]
c.1996-1999	The formal driving range was developed.[132]
Late 2000s	Presidio Golf Course was rehabilitated across an approximately 8-year process, aiming for the 1938-1940 character of the course. Rehabilitation adopted Simpson›s style of design, with sagebrush, rugged character, and natural bunkers. Overall view of life and management techniques from the time of Golden Age were incorporated into the rehabilitation design. The number of bunkers was reduced to 42 from over 60 in this effort.[133]
2013-2014	Wetland, or the “east arm” of Mountain Lake was restored by the Presidio Trust.[134]
2014	A stone-lined channel, perpendicular to the brick-lined gutter along Mountain Lake Trail/West Pacific Avenue, was installed by the Presidio Trust.[135]
2019	Hole #17 was modified.[136]
c.2023	Approximately 100 trees were lost in a course of few years through heavy storms.[137]

123 Rosenbaum, “Introduction” in *Golf at the Presidio,* no page number.

124 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 250.

125 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 252.

126 Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, 252.

127 Rubenstein, “Arnold Palmer’s Firm to Run Presidio golf Course.”

128 1995 Aerial Photograph, SFDPW of San Francisco County; Presidio of San Francisco 2000 Digital Orthophotos, Presidio Trust.

129 Workshop #1, Brian Nettz, November 17, 2025.

130 Arnold Palmer Golf Management Company, Presidio Golf Course Inetgrated Pest Management Program, San Francisco: Presidio Trust, 2002, 2.

131 Data provided by Presidio Trust, general time frame 1995-2002 based on aerial photographs.

132 Workshop #1, Brian Nettz, November 17, 2025.

133 Workshop #1, Steve Duffy, November 17, 2025.

134 Data provided by Presidio Trust.

135 Data provided by Presidio Trust.

136 Workshop #1, Brian Nettz, November 17, 2025.

137 Workshop #1, Abbas Qabazard, November 17, 2025.

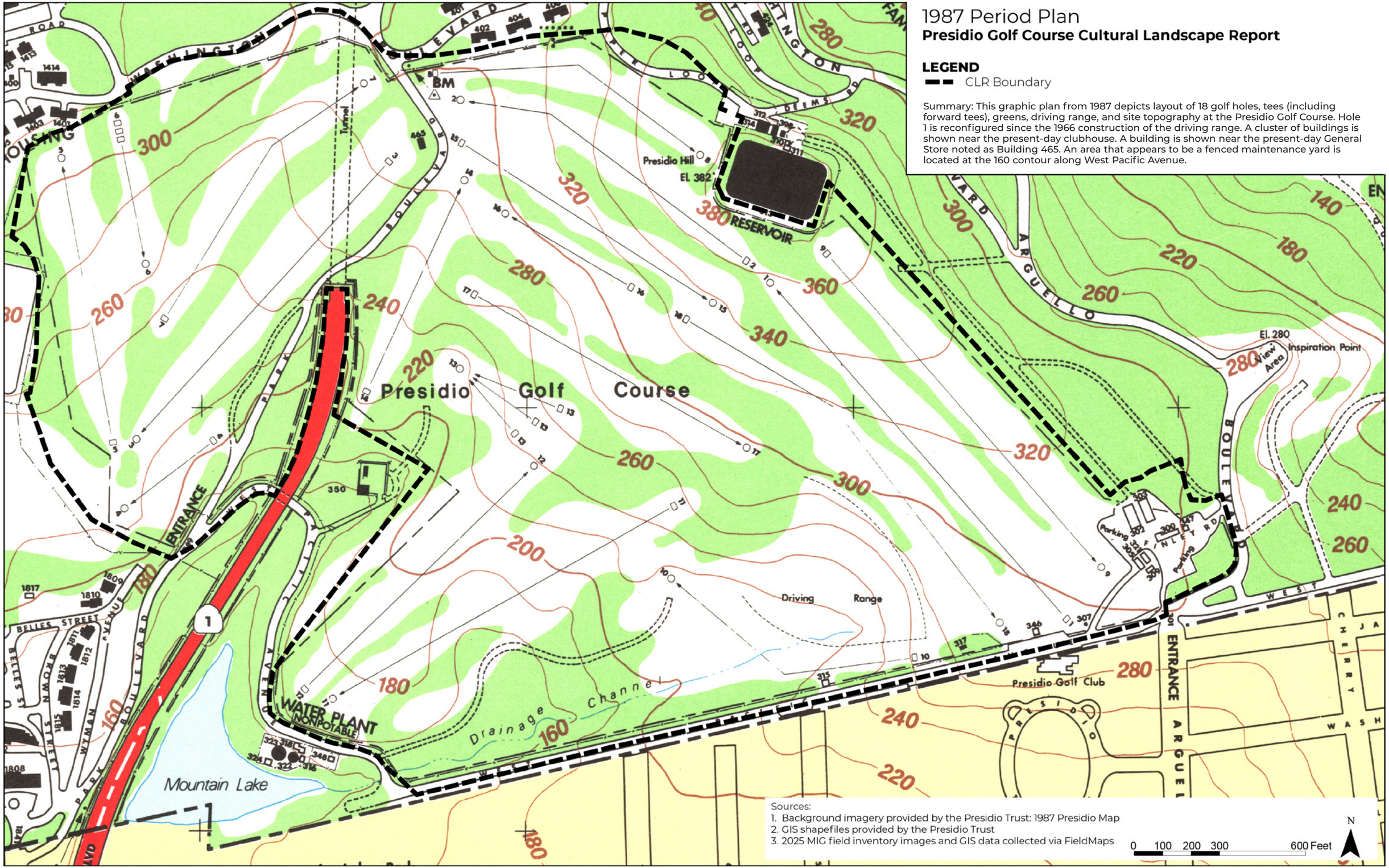
1987 Period Plan

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND

CLR Boundary

Summary: This graphic plan from 1987 depicts layout of 18 golf holes, tees (including forward tees), greens, driving range, and site topography at the Presidio Golf Course. Hole 1 is reconfigured since the 1966 construction of the driving range. A cluster of buildings is shown near the present-day clubhouse. A building is shown near the present-day General Store noted as Building 465. An area that appears to be a fenced maintenance yard is located at the 160 contour along West Pacific Avenue.



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1993 Period Plan

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND

CLR Boundary

Summary: This aerial photograph from 1993 depicts site conditions with very mature allées of Monterey cypress clearly defining the edges of the holes. Small gaps in the allées are visible. Trees planted as part of WPA-era tree planting programs are dense forests. The driving range, built in 1966, is clearly carved in the landscape. Paved circulation paths define the movement of golf carts across the course. Army era buildings are located at the present-day clubhouse. The Pohutukawa hedge that frames the driving range is well-established.

Sources:
1. Background imagery provided by the Presidio Trust: 1993 Mosaic
2. GIS shapefiles provided by the Presidio Trust
3. 2025 MIG field inventory images and GIS data collected via FieldMaps

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2005 Period Plan

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND

CLR Boundary

Summary: This color aerial photograph from 2005 shows changes along the Monterey cypress allées, especially on the west side between present-day Holes 12 and 16, where the trees have been dramatically thinned. Small gaps in the allées are visible on the east side of the course. Sand bunkers at present-day 4th Green have been removed. There appears to be less areas of non-irrigated turf since the period of significance. The new clubhouse and parking lot is visible in the southeast corner.



Sources:
1. Background imagery provided by Google Earth
2. GIS shapefiles provided by the Presidio Trust
3. 2025 MIG field inventory images and GIS data collected via FieldMaps

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2025 Aerial
Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
LEGEND
CLR Boundary
Operator Boundary
Sources:
1. GIS shapefiles provided by the Presidio Trust
2. Background imagery (2025) provided by ESRI ArcGIS Online
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MIG 2025

4

ANALYSIS & EVALUATION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS



MIG 2025

CHAPTER 4. ANALYSIS & EVALUATION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

Introduction

This chapter identifies cultural landscape characteristics and features that contribute to the historic character of the Presidio Golf Course to ensure a more complete basis of understanding of the extant landscape's historic character, which is needed for the preservation treatment and management of the cultural landscape. The NHL identifies the golf course as a contributing landscape within the Presidio but does not provide the level of information needed to make informed decisions that balance the retention of the landscape's historic character with contemporary management and design.

The following section analyzes extant landscape characteristics and features within the CLR boundary for the Presidio Golf Course, and identifies which contribute or do not contribute to the landscape's historic significance. Extant features are evaluated according to the National Register of Historic Places criteria and methodology outlined in A *Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process and Techniques*. Contributing characteristics and features constitute the elements within the Presidio Golf Course cultural landscape that should be protected and preserved as part of the historic designed landscape.

Approach

Extant landscape characteristics and features are evaluated by comparing their existing conditions, field verified in 2025, with what is documented or otherwise understood about their historic condition during the period of significance (1895-1956). Features that convey the landscape's significance under the areas of landscape architecture and recreation contextualize and reflect the character of the historic property.

Thirteen landscape characteristics are established by the National Park Service. A characteristic comprises a grouping or category of features that help us understand the multiple layers of a cultural landscape, from its underlying natural systems or archaeology all the way up to small-scale features like ball-washing stations. Field survey confirmed that nine landscape characteristics are present at Presidio Golf Course today: Natural Systems and Features, Topography, Land Use, Spatial Organization, Vegetation, Views and Vistas, Buildings and Structures, Circulation, and Small-scale Features. In cases where a landscape feature could be categorized under more than one landscape characteristic, it was included with the characteristic that provided the best way of understanding its relationship to the overall cultural landscape.

The chapter begins with a summary table of landscape characteristics and features (Table 7), an Existing Conditions Plan that illustrates the features within the project boundary, and then dives into each characteristic with narrative descriptions of associated features and photographs. The Existing Conditions Plan provides information about small-scale features at the golf course where they are larger, individual, or repeating features. Non-contributing, contemporary small-scale features such as ball wash stations, tee markers, benches, receptacles, etc., are not highlighted on the Existing Conditions Plans due to space constraints and the fact that these items are regularly replaced.

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
Table 7: Summary of Contributing and Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics and Features

This table provides a summary of all documented and evaluated characteristics and features within the Presidio Golf Course. Features that assist in conveying the historic designed landscape's significance (see Chapter 2, Evaluation of Significance and Integrity) are labeled as **Contributing**. Features that have been added since the end of the period of significance or otherwise impact the historic integrity of the cultural landscape are labeled as **Non-Contributing**.

	Landscape Characteristics and Features	**Contributing Status**
	Natural Systems and Features	
1	Geology	Contributing
2	Mountain Lake	Contributing
3	Wetland	Contributing
4	Native Vegetation	Contributing
	Topography (Contributing)	
	Land Use	
1	Recreation - Golf	Contributing
	Spatial Organization	
1	Clubhouse Area	Contributing
2	Putting and Chipping Green Area	Contributing
3	Driving Range	Non-Contributing
4	Maintenance Area	Non-Contributing
5	Hole 1	Non-contributing
6	Hole 2	Contributing
7	Hole 3	Contributing
8	Hole 4	Contributing
9	Hole 5	Contributing
10	Hole 6	Contributing
11	Hole 7	Contributing
12	Hole 8	Contributing
13	Hole 9	Contributing
14	Hole 10	Contributing

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
Table 7: Summary of Contributing and Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics and Features (continued)

	Landscape Characteristics and Features	**Contributing Status**
15	Hole 11	Contributing
16	Hole 12	Contributing
17	Hole 13	Contributing
18	Hole 14	Contributing
19	Hole 15	Contributing
20	Hole 16	Contributing
21	Hole 17	Contributing
22	Hole 18	Contributing
	Vegetation	
1	Historic Forest	Contributing
2	Monterey Cypress Allées	Contributing
3	Mixed Tree Canopy	Contributing
4	Turf	Contributing
5	Bunch Grasses	Non-contributing
	Views and Vistas	
1	Expansive Views Into GGNRA and Adjacent Neighborhoods	Contributing
2	Controlled Vistas from Tee to Green	Contributing

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
Table 7: Summary of Contributing and Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics and Features (continued)

	Landscape Characteristics and Features	Contributing Status
	Buildings and Structures	
1	Pump House along Hole 1 fairway (Building 315)	Contributing
2	Stone Face Wall (at 4th Tee)	Contributing
3	Stone Wall (at 9th Green)	Contributing
4	Pedestrian Underpass (at 16th Green and 17th Tee)	Contributing
5	Stone Wing Walls (at pedestrian underpass at 16th Green)	Contributing
6	Stone Wall and Pillars (north of Arguello Gates)	Contributing
7	Clubhouse	Non-Contributing
8	Clubhouse Retaining Wall (at patio)	Non-Contributing
9	Garden Shed (at main Parking Lot)	Non-Contributing
10	Outdoor Pergola and Bar (at Clubhouse)	Non-Contributing
11	Driving Range Shed (Building 317)	Non-Contributing
12	Driving Range Net System	Non-Contributing
13	Awning (at Driving Range)	Non-Contributing
14	Retaining Wall (at Driving Range Teaching Area)	Non-Contributing
15	Wood Steps (at 4th Tee)	Non-Contributing
16	Gravel-filled Wood Steps (at 6th Tee)	Non-Contributing
17	General Store (Building 353)	Non-Contributing
18	Pump House (Building 354)	Non-Contributing
19	Maintenance Building (Building 352)	Non-Contributing
20	Patio and Retaining Wall (at Building 352)	Non-Contributing
21	Concrete Stairs (at Building 352)	Non-Contributing
22	Maintenance Garage (Building 351)	Non-Contributing
23	Material Bays along Maintenance Road/Park Trail	Non-Contributing
24	Vent	Non-Contributing
25	Stone Wall at Event Lawn	Non-Contributing

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
Table 7: Summary of Contributing and Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics and Features (continued)

	Landscape Characteristics and Features	Contributing Status
	Circulation	
1	Parking Row (across from Concordia Club)	Contributing
2	Maintenance Road/Park Trail	Contributing
3	Mountain Lake Trail	Contributing
4	Parking Lot (at Clubhouse)	Non-Contributing
5	Sidewalks and Paved Pathways (at Clubhouse)	Non-Contributing
6	Permeable Paver Parking Area (near Driving Range Shed (Building 317)	Non-Contributing
7	Maintenance Paths, gravel	Non-Contributing
8	Cart Paths, asphalt	Non-Contributing
9	Concrete Curbing (along Cart Paths)	Non-Contributing
10	Steel Plates (along Maintenance Road driveway aprons)	Non-Contributing
11	Trench Drain (along Maintenance Road/Park Trail)	Non-Contributing
12	Cobble Edging (along Cart Paths)	Non-Contributing
13	Pave Path (to Clubhouse Parking Lot)	Non-Contributing
	Small-scale Features	
1	Brick gutter (along Mountain Lake Trail)	Contributing
2	Cobble gutter (along Mountain Lake Trail)	Contributing
3	Presidio Golf Course Sign (along Finley Road)	Non-Contributing
4	Tee Markers	Non-Contributing
5	Family Tees (on Cart Path at Hole 15)	Non-Contributing
6	Storage Container (at Driving Range Teaching Area)	Non-Contributing
7	Driving Range Partitions	Non-Contributing
8	Storage Containers and Material Bays (along Maintenance Road)	Non-Contributing
9	Trash Bins and Pallets (at Parking Lot / along Maintenance Road/Park Trail)	Non-Contributing
10	Parking Payment Kiosks	Non-Contributing
11	Accessible Parking Signage	Non-Contributing

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
Table 7: Summary of Contributing and Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics and Features (continued)

	Landscape Characteristics and Features	Contributing Status
12	Wheel Stops, concrete	Non-Contributing
13	Wheel Stops, logs	Non-Contributing
14	Lighting (on parking lot poles)	Non-Contributing
	Bicycle Parking	Non-Contributing
16	Monterey Cypress Log Barriers (at General Store picnic area)	Non-Contributing
17	Dining Tables and Chairs (at Clubhouse patios and lawn areas)	Non-Contributing
18	Bag Stand (at Clubhouse)	Non-Contributing
19	Foot Brushes (at Clubhouse)	Non-Contributing
	Ball Wash Stations	Non-Contributing
21	Benches, various types	Non-Contributing
22	Trash Receptacles, various types	Non-Contributing
23	Bollards, various types	Non-Contributing
24	Concierge Stands, various types	Non-Contributing
	Signs, various types	Non-Contributing
26	Metal Picnic Tables	Non-Contributing
27	Barbecue and Lawn Chairs (at Building 352)	Non-Contributing
28	Fence, cyclone (at Historic Forest/Reservoir at Hole 17)	Non-contributing
29	Fence, cyclone (at Mountain Lake Trail)	Non-Contributing
	Fence, good neighbor style (at Mountain Lake Trail and cart parking)	Non-Contributing
31	Fence, post and wire (at 18th Green and Putting and Chipping Green)	Non-Contributing
32	Fence, post and wire (short 18") (at 10th Green)	Non-Contributing
33	Fence, plank fence (at event lawn)	Non-Contributing
34	Fence, picket	Non-Contributing
	Wood Lattice Screen (at Building 354)	Non-Contributing
36	Fueling Station (between Buildings 351-352)	Non-Contributing
37	Backflow Prevention Infrastructure (at 17th Tee and Clubhouse)	Non-Contributing

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
Table 7: Summary of Contributing and Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics and Features (continued)

	Landscape Characteristics and Features	**Contributing Status**
38	Fire Hydrants (throughout site)	Non-Contributing
39	Above-ground Utility Cabinets	Non-Contributing
40	Metal Drain Grate, various types	Non-Contributing
41	Flagpoles (2) (at Clubhouse entrance)	Non-Contributing
42	Clock (on post at Driving Range)	Non-Contributing
43	Stone-lined Channel (perpendicular to brick gutter along Mountain Lake Trail)	Non-Contributing
44	Landscape Boulders (at Putting Green and 9th Green)	Non-Contributing
45	Brick Gutter (along Maintenance Road/Park Trail)	Non-Contributing
46	Cobble Gutter (at 11th Green, across Maintenance Road)	Non-Contributing
47	Moulded Concrete Gutter (along Maintenance Road/Park Trail)	Non-Contributing

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2026 Existing Conditions Plan
Landscape Features

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report

See Table 7 for contributing/non-contributing status of landscape features listed below. This plan does not identify all non-contributing small-scale features.

LEGEND

- CLR Boundary
- Operator Boundary

Spatial Organization

- Rough
- Tees and Fairways
- Greens
- Bunkers/Sand Traps
- Progression of Play
- #T, #G Hole Number of Tee/Green

Natural Systems and Features

- Wetland
- Lake

Vegetation

- Mixed Tree Canopy
- Monterey Cypress Canopy
- Historic Forest (eucalyptus pine, cypress, acacia, and redwood species)

Circulation

- Cart Path
- Presidio Trails
- Roads

Buildings and Structures

- Building/Structures
- Stone Wall
- Driving Range Net System
- Steps, various types

Small-scale Features

- Fences, Various Types
- Stone Lined Channel
- Gutter, Brick
- Gutter, Cobble
- Gutter, Molded Concrete

Views and Vistas

1. Concordia Club
2. Twin Peaks
3. 4th Green
4. Along Hole 7
5. Along Hole 8

Building Key

#300 Clubhouse
#315 Pump House
#317 Driving Range Shed
#351 Maintenance Garage
#352 Maintenance Building
#353 General Store
#354 Pump House

Sources:
1. GIS shapefiles provided by the Presidio Trust
2. Background imagery (2025) provided by ESRI ArcGIS Online
3. 2025 MIG field inventory images and GIS data collected via FieldMaps

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Natural Systems and Features

Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape, and can include geology, geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and native vegetation.

These include the natural elements within the cultural landscape that were not built by humans but have existed in one form or another since time immemorial. This does not mean that the features identified below have not been shaped through human use; rather it is important to recognize how the presence of these elements influenced the cultural events described in Chapter 3 (site history) and resulted in the landscape in its present form. The elements described under Natural Systems and Features help contextualize how the landscape was used and therefore physically altered over time.

The southern edge of the military reservation that is known as the Presidio was located on the upper terraces of a coastal prairie overlooking the pacific ocean when Spanish colonists arrived and established a military fort. The prairie was composed of native grasses and forbs, and included a stand of oak woodland. This natural condition remained largely undeveloped as the original fortification was sited near the entrance to the San Francisco Bay. But in the late 1800s, now under control of the U.S. Army, the Presidio decided that the relatively even and open terrain would make an ideal location for a nine hole golf course. Although the vegetation has been modified by the federal government (U.S. Army and later the WPA) to accommodate new uses, pockets of **Native Vegetation (Contributing)** may be extant in the wetland and in some of the historic forests that form the edges of the golf course.

The **Geology (Contributing)** at the golf course is categorized by the United States Department of Agriculture as type 121: Orthents, composed primarily of cut and fill. The terrain has been modified over time (see Topography for further discussion). In practice, two types of soil are present within the golf course and guide management decisions regarding development: the side east of the Maintenance Road is comprised of heavier clay soils, while the course to the west of the Maintenance Road has sandy dune soils.[138] This has impacted the approach to planting and the health of the historic vegetation in different ways.

Although outside the CLR boundary, **Mountain Lake (Contributing)** provided a local landmark to early settlers and is one of few natural lakes in the City of San Francisco. Though reduced in size as a result of major infrastructure projects such as the MacArthur Tunnel and the golf course installation, the Presidio Trust has restored the **Wetland (Contributing)** in the "east arm" between 2013 and 2014. Together they act as a natural drainage basin for the natural springs and rainfall that occur on the slopes that comprise the surrounding landscape. The wetland remains undeveloped today and continues to collect water during storm events.

Coyotes are known to create dens in the historic forests along the edge of the course and in the central copse of trees that were planted by the WPA in the 1930s. Hawks and other winged species are also prominent in the Monterey cypress allées. Herons and various amphibians and reptiles have been observed near Mountain Lake Park. And variety of insects and arachnids live in the golf course.[139]

138 Localized understanding of soil types was discussed at the November 2025 CLR workshop with Presidio Trust Staff.

139 As of April 2026, observations on iNaturalist confirm that the above listed fauna are common in the Presidio Golf Course.



Figure 4.1 – Natural Systems and Features: Mountain Lake with the golf course in the distance (Contributing) (Roving Vails)



Figure 4.2 – Natural Systems and Features: Wetland (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.3 – Natural Systems and Features: An raptor perched on the driving range net system. (Contributing) (MIG 2025)

Topography

Topography is understood as the three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface, characterized by features (such as slope and articulation) and orientation (such as elevation and solar aspect).

A characteristic feature of the Presidio Golf Course is its dramatic terrain. The course takes advantage of the natural hilly topography of the Presidio's landscape. Few holes are level, most have severe grade changes, and many holes feature uphill shots to greens where the steep topography blocks visibility of the green at the top. The high point of the course is at 17th Green (near the main Reservoir), and the low point is near the 3rd Tee (near Mountain Lake). Although the golden age golf course was designed to take advantage of the natural slope, the surface has been modified further by the golf course operators over the years to create the screens and visibility necessary in a competitive golf course.

The elevation of the designed landscape supports the historic views and vistas that reinforce the historic associations with the adjacent neighborhoods and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Topography (Contributing) characterizes the Presidio Golf Course through its overall orientation towards Mountain Lake, the moderate articulations that form depressions and mounds, and its elevation above the surrounding landscape.

2026 Existing Conditions Plan - Topography

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND

- CLR Boundary
- Operator Boundary

Topography

- 2-foot contours

Natural Systems and Features

- Wetland
- Lake

Vegetation

- Tree Canopy

Circulation

- Cart Path
- Presidio Trails
- Roads

Buildings and Structures

- Building/Structure

Building Key

#300 Clubhouse
#315 Pump House
#317 Driving Range Shed
#351 Maintenance Garage
#352 Maintenance Building
#353 General Store
#354 Pump House

Pedestrian underpass (at 16G & 17T)
Vent
#353
#354 Pump House
#352
#351
MacArthur Tunnel (Caltrans)
Maintenance Road
Reservoir
PRESIDIO GOLF COURSE
Driving Range
Pedestrian/ maintenance tunnel
Wetland
Mountain Lake
Mountain Lake Park
#300
Entrance
Parking
Putting & chipping greens
#317
Parking
Concordia Club
#315
Washington Blvd
Arguello Blvd
Lincoln Blvd
Presidio Ter
Jackson St
Washington St
Clay St
Wyman Ave
Brown St
Cherry St
5th Ave
6th Ave
7th Ave
State Highway 1

Sources:
1. GIS shapefiles provided by the Presidio Trust
2. Background imagery provided by ESRI ArcGIS Online
3. 2025 MIG field inventory images and GIS data collected via FieldMaps

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Land Use

Land uses are the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize the landscape as a result of human interaction.

Land use may be the most influential landscape characteristic at the Presidio Golf Course. Since its establishment in 1895 as a 9-hole golf course, the cultural landscape has been shaped around golf as a recreational sport. Other land uses, including a refugee camp following the 1906 earthquake and fire and training grounds for the U.S. Military during the early twentieth century, have occurred on site, taking advantage of its large open space and proximity to both the Main Post and the City of San Francisco. Yet **Golf (Contributing)** has remained the primary and consistent land use at the property since the course was established, and continues to define activities and design at the site today.

It is noteworthy that the golf course was established on pubic lands as a public golf course and continues to allow public access to this day.



Figure 4.4 – Land Use: Golf Recreation - Players at the 10th Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)

ICONIC HOLES AT THE PRESIDIO GOLF COURSE

WHAT MAKES A HOLE ICONIC?

Given their particular location, unique design, topographical attributes, and strong historic integrity, some holes at the Presidio Golf Course may be considered iconic.

Iconic holes encapsulate the overall Fowler & Simpson design and make this course historically significant.

The CLR considers the following holes as possessing such qualities:

Hole 2 - 2nd Green is at the low point of the course

Hole 4 - Extremely short hole with an "island" green design with extreme topography

Hole 9 - Halfway point for 18-hole games, final hole for 9-hole games, citywide views

Hole 15 - Views over surrounding holes in the foreground and Sutro Hill in background

Hole 17 - 17th Green is at high point of the course

Hole 18 - Final hole for 18-hole games, citywide views

Spatial Organization

Spatial organization is understood as the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces.

The spatial organization at the Presidio Golf Course is represented in the layout of the 18 holes and their relationship to periphery play amenities, such as the Clubhouse, the Putting Green, the Driving Range, the Pedestrian Trails around Mountain Lake, and the Maintenance Area. Although outside the CLR boundary and not discussed further in this section, the Main Reservoir also constitutes a distinct space with its own character and function.

The majority of the holes at the Presidio Golf Course reflect the historic layout as put forward in the designs by Fowler & Simpson in 1920. Although they have been shifted slightly since the end of the period of significance, they continue to reflect the intentional spatial organization associated with the historic designed landscape today (see Iconic Holes sidebar). The order of play has also been reversed at some holes and the course has been renumbered on at least one occasion (see Table 8). However, these changes are considered immaterial within the larger spatial organization of the site, and are better perceived as a reflection of the evolving game. Because these changes can be characterized as minimal in scale and scope, implemented to maintain competitive course and in line with the principles that guided the golden age of golf design, **Holes 2-18 (Contributing)** retain historic integrity and contribute to the historic designed landscape. **Hole 1 (Non-contributing)**, formerly called Hole 10, is the only hole that has been modified beyond its ability to convey its historic intention. The hole was moved from its original location further south (closer to Mountain Lake Trail) and was altered in scale and alignment to accommodate the construction of the adjacent driving range. This re-alignment has resulted in increased interactions with the adjacent trail, and the hole no longer functions seamlessly with the rest of the course.

The spatial organization of the **Clubhouse Area** and the **Putting and Chipping Green Area (Contributing)** are also characteristic of the historic designed landscape. These areas have supported the operational uses by the Army since as early as 1907, and, in tandem with the PGC Clubhouse immediately outside the Arguello Gate, this southeast corner of the designed landscape has supported visitor amenities and administrative and maintenance facilities since the early decades of the golf course. Though the individual components of this development are post-date the period of significance, the area maintains its physical spatial relationship to the larger historic designed landscape as the primary point of visitor contact and entry.

A **Maintenance Area (Non-contributing)** lines the public Maintenance Road/Park Trail atop the MacArthur Tunnel. While the Maintenance Road/Park Trail that bisects the golf course follows the alignment of former Park Boulevard, a historic north-south circulation passage whose earliest iteration dates as far back as 1859, the maintenance function had not established along this road until the mid-1990s. While historic maps show that a small building of unidentified use (#465) and a tool shed had been constructed near the north junction of this road between 1948 and 1954, the concentration of maintenance functions and the golf course's physical relationship to its maintenance core as it exists today had not established until after the Presidio Trust assumed management of the Presidio (as evidenced by the 1995 and 2000 aerial photographs). Building 465 was likely replaced by one of the present-day maintenance area buildings during this period; the tool house was removed at an unspecified date.

A **Driving Range (Non-contributing)** was first introduced to the Presidio Golf Course in 1960, but was redesigned and expanded significantly under the National Park Service management c. 1996-1999. Introduced after the period of significance, and resulting to an impact in the design of Hole 1, the driving range is not considered a contributing feature within the golf course. Its current location, form, and scale do not reflect the golden age of golf course design that defines the landscape architecture of the property, and its construction interrupted the historic spatial organization. However, its function is compatible with the recreational use of the landscape.

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
Table 8: Summary of Changes to Hole Numbering By Year and Direction of Play
Cells shaded in green are undetermined (U) based on a lack of documented historical information.

2025	1993	1987	1980	1973	1965	1956	1954	1946	1936
Hole Number									
1	1	10	10	10*	10	10	10	10	10
2	2	11	11	11*	11	11	11	11	11
3	3	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
4	4	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
5	5	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
6	6	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
7	7	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
8	8	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
9	9	18	18	18*	18	18	18	18	18
10	10	1	U	U	U	9	9	9	9
11	11	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
12	12	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
13	13	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
14	14	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
15	15	6	6	6	6	6	6	6***	6
16	16	7	7	7	7	7	7	7****	7
17	17	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
18	18	9	** U	U	U	1	1	1	1

*Hole 1 dog leg added between 1965-1973 with construction of driving range resulting in changes to 2nd Tee and 9th Green.

**Between 1973 and 1980, the direction of this hole changed; green moved to the Clubhouse where it had earlier been the tee area.

***Between 1938-1946, the hole changed location and orientation. Now parallel and in opposite direction to Hole 5 (similar to today).

****Between 1938-1946, due to construction of the MacArthur Tunnel, length and orientation of hole changed to reflect layout of today's Hole 16.



Figure 4.5 – Spatial Organization: Clubhouse Area (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.6 – Spatial Organization: Clubhouse Area (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.7 – Spatial Organization: Putting and Chipping Green Area (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.8 – Spatial Organization: Driving Range (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.9 – Spatial Organization: Maintenance Area (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.10 – Spatial Organization: Maintenance Area (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)

HOLE 1



Figure 4.11 – Spatial Organization: 1st Tee (1st Green is not visible from tees) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.12 – Spatial Organization: Hole 1 Fairway (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.13 – Spatial Organization: 1st Green (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)

HOLE 2



Figure 4.14 – Spatial Organization: 2nd Tee (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.15 – Spatial Organization: Hole 2 Fairway (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.16 – Spatial Organization: 2nd Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.17 – Spatial Organization: Hole 2 Bunkers (Contributing) (MIG 2025)

HOLE 3



Figure 4.18 – Spatial Organization: 3rd Tee (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.19 – Spatial Organization: Hole 3 Fairway (Contributing) (MIG 2025) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.20 – Spatial Organization: 3rd Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.21 – Spatial Organization: Hole 3 Bunkers (Contributing) (MIG 2025)

HOLE 4



Figure 4.22 – Spatial Organization: 4th Tee (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.23 – Spatial Organization: Hole 4 Fairway (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.24 – Spatial Organization: 4th Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.25 – Spatial Organization: Hole 4 Bunkers (Contributing) (MIG 2025)

HOLE 5



Figure 4.26 – Spatial Organization: 5th Tee (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.27 – Spatial Organization: Hole 5 Fairway (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.28 – Spatial Organization: 5th Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)

HOLE 6



Figure 4.29 – Spatial Organization: 6th Tee (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.30 – Spatial Organization: Hole 6 Fairway (Contributing)



Figure 4.31 – Spatial Organization: 6th Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.32 – Spatial Organization: Hole 6 Bunkers (Contributing) (MIG 2025) (MIG 2025)

HOLE 7



Figure 4.33 – Spatial Organization: 7th Tee (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.34 – Spatial Organization: Hole 7 Fairway (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.35 – Spatial Organization: 7th Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.36 – Spatial Organization: Hole 7 Bunkers (Contributing) (MIG 2025)

HOLE 8



Figure 4.37 – Spatial Organization: 8th Tee (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.38 – Spatial Organization: Hole 8 Fairway (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.39 – Spatial Organization: 8th Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.40 – Spatial Organization: Hole 8 Bunkers (Contributing) (MIG 2025)

HOLE 9



Figure 4.41 – Spatial Organization: 9th Tee (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.42 – Spatial Organization: Hole 9 Fairway (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.43 – Spatial Organization: 9th Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.44 – Spatial Organization: Hole 9 Bunkers (Contributing) (MIG 2025)

HOLE 10



Figure 4.45 – Spatial Organization: 10th Tee (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.46 – Spatial Organization: Hole 10 Fairway (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.47 – Spatial Organization: 10th Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)

HOLE 11



Figure 4.48 – 11th Tee (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.49 – Spatial Organization: Hole 11 Fairway (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.50 – Spatial Organization: Spatial Organization: 11th Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.51 – Spatial Organization: Hole 11 Bunkers (Contributing) (MIG 2025)

HOLE 12



Figure 4.52 – Spatial Organization: 12th Tee (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.53 – Spatial Organization: Hole 12 Fairway (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.54 – Spatial Organization: 12th Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.55 – Spatial Organization: Hole 12 Bunkers (Contributing) (MIG 2025)

HOLE 13



Figure 4.56 – Spatial Organization: 13th Tee (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.57 – Spatial Organization: Hole 13 Fairway (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.58 – Spatial Organization: 13th Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.59 – Spatial Organization: Hole 13 Bunkers (Contributing) (MIG 2025)

HOLE 14



Figure 4.60 – Spatial Organization: 14th Tee (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.61 – Spatial Organization: Hole 14 Fairway (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.62 – Spatial Organization: 14th Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.63 – Spatial Organization: Hole 14 Bunkers (Contributing) (MIG 2025)

HOLE 15



Figure 4.64 – Spatial Organization: 15th Tee (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.65 – Spatial Organization: Hole 15 Fairway (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.66 – Spatial Organization: 15th Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.67 – Spatial Organization: Hole 15 Bunkers (Contributing) (MIG 2025)

HOLE 16



Figure 4.68 – Spatial Organization: 16th Tee (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.69 – Spatial Organization: Hole 16 Fairway (Contributing) (MIG 2025



Figure 4.70 – Spatial Organization: 16th Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.71 – Spatial Organization: Hole 16 Bunkers (Contributing) (MIG 2025)

HOLE 17



Figure 4.72 – Spatial Organization: 17th Tee (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.73 – Spatial Organization: Hole 17 Fairway (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.74 – Spatial Organization: 17th Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.75 – Spatial Organization: Hole 17 Bunkers (Contributing) (MIG 2025)

HOLE 18



Figure 4.76 – Spatial Organization: 18th Tee (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.77 – Spatial Organization: Hole 18 Fairway (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.78 – Spatial Organization: 18th Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.79 – Spatial Organization: Hole 18 Bunkers (Contributing) (MIG 2025)

Vegetation

Vegetation, as defined by the National Park Service, may include deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcover, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether native or introduced in the landscape. In this CLR, native vegetation is described under National Systems and Features, and this section is reserved for introduced plant communities, including: the Historic Forest, Monterey cypress allées, mixed tree canopy, turf, and bunch grasses.

The **Historic Forest (Contributing)** represents a Presidio-wide planting program that was initiated in the 1880s under the direction of the U.S. Army. The goal was to afforest the previously open prairies and bluffs within the Military Reservation in order for the landscape to appear even more vast than it already did, an overwhelmingly successful effort which resulted in today's park-like feel at the Presidio.

The Historic Forest, primarily established under Jones' and Hall's plans from 1883 through 1906, is characterized as densely planted stands of even-aged trees set in a regular pattern with intentional spacing. The composition of each stand is monocultural, or comprises blocks or rows of different species planted side by side. A distinct row often outlines the edge of a stand. The Historic Forest displays a limited plant palette of predominantly evergreen trees including, eucalyptus, Monterey cypress, and Monterey pine, and to a lesser degree acacia and redwoods. The Historic Forest is identified in the Presidio Trust Vegetation Management Plan, the Historic Forest Character Study, and is managed as a cultural resource. Field verification determined that the underbrush around the edges of the golf course is currently composed of English ivy, blackberry brambles, and other invasive species.

The Historic Forest directly borders the Presidio Golf Course in three locations, creating an edge condition that ties the golf course into the broader Presidio of San Francisco National Historic Landmark District (parent landscape). These edges are located: along the Maintenance Road and the southern border of Hole 13 (composed historically of Monterey cypress, Historic Forest Character Study Stand #12); along the southern edge of the course, within the wetland and south of Hole 1 (composed historically of eucalyptus, Historic Forest Character Study Stand #12); and most prominently, along the northeast border of the course, spanning the full length of Hole 18 between the Main Reservoir and the Clubhouse area (composed historically of eucalyptus, Historic Forest Character Study #10-B). This edge along the northeast border forms a strong and uninterrupted boundary that is noticeable in historic photos dating back to the turn of the century. The Historic Forest at the other two edges are in fair condition, having been impacted by storm events or construction projects, with some modifications to the historic species composition. The Historic Forest is also present just outside of the north boundary of the Presidio Golf Course, but is separated from the property by Washington Boulevard.

Implementation of the Fowler & Simpson golf course expansion and design in 1920 included the use of linear **Monterey Cypress Allées (Contributing)** to separate fairways and guide movement throughout the course. This design element was common during the golden age of golf course architecture, and the selection of Monterey cypress to create the allées was especially popular in California. The iconic tree profiles are utilized at Pebble Beach Golf Links in Carmel and at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego, two of the most storied golf courses in the U.S. Their presence highlights the windswept character of the coastal properties.

The Monterey cypress allées at Presidio Golf Course remain intact but are exhibiting poor to fair condition in some areas. The original trees are nearing 100 years in age, and have shown mixed levels of adaptation to the local landscape. Irrigation levels and cycles of intense moisture versus drought are common issues, with turf maintenance often taking precedence over tree care when it comes to watering schedules. Tree age and failure have led to the shortening of and gaps in the historic allées.

During the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) established a tree nursery at Crissy Field in the Presidio of San

Francisco to supply trees for the continued afforestation of the landscape. Fifteen-thousand of the nursery saplings were planted at the golf course with the support of the Post Commander. This effort resulted in the presence of stands of trees containing **Mixed Tree Canopy (Contributing)** at the geographic center of the Presidio Golf Course. Historic aerials from the 1940s illustrate the planted rows and eventual maturation of these stands. Today they provide screening between the Driving Range and adjacent holes, and an informal maintenance staging area between Holes 10 and 11. It is likely they were also planted to provide a buffer or screen to the golf course from the Highway 1 approach to the Golden Gate Bridge when it was constructed in 1939. This may be assumed based on photographic evidence of young trees along the edge of the construction site and due to the project's connection with the WPA. These stands are distinct from those historic stands established between 1886 and 1906 in that they are not monocultural in composition or comprise uniform blocks of different species as characteristic of the Historic Forest. However, they contribute to the Presidio-wide forested character that provides the setting and feeling for the golf course.

The fourth vegetation community at the Presidio Golf Course is comprised of **Turf (Contributing)**. This includes mowed turf in the fairways and rough (the majority is a perennial rye grass and annual bluegrass, *Poa annua*) and greens (nematode-resistant bentgrass). There has been effort to eliminate kikuyu grass, *Cenchrus clandestinus*. Turf was not characteristic of the original 9-hole golf course at the Presidio, which was composed largely of coastal prairie, but was introduced as part of the 1920 expansion as a symbol of the refinement and elegance that the golden age of golf course architecture sought to bring to the game. Yet even after it was introduced turf was used minimally at the Presidio Golf Course as it required irrigation to maintain, and while the Presidio is graced with a natural water source, Lobo Creek, anything exceeding the natural capacity of the source needed to be (and continues to be) purchased from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. Sourcing water from Hetch Hetchy (San Francisco's water source) posed constant financial, infrastructural, and logistical frustrations to both the U.S. Army and the private golf operators.

The use of turf expanded after the period of significance, along with improvements to the irrigation and watering systems. When the Presidio Golf Course made changes to the course during the late aughts, one goal was to reduce high-maintenance turf coverage and recapture an earlier, more rustic appearance at some of the holes. This resulted in the replacement of mowed turf at teeing areas, out of play rough areas, and bunkers with climate adapted and native **Bunch Grasses (Non-contributing)** that provided visual texture. Once established, these bunch grasses can be maintained with twice annual mowing and periodic weeding.



Figure 4.80 – Extent of Historic Forest (Contributing) within or adjacent to the Presidio Golf Course, shaded in green. (Presidio Trust)



Figure 4.81 – Vegetation: Historic Forest (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.82 – Vegetation: Historic Forest (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.83 – Vegetation: Monterey Cypress Allées (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.84 – Vegetation: Mixed Tree Canopy near Holes 15 and 16 (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.85 – Mixed Tree Canopy between Hole 1 and the wetland (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.86 – Vegetation: Turf at 7th Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.87 – Vegetation: Bunch Grasses near 7th Tee (Contributing) (MIG 2025)

Views and Vistas

Views and Vistas include the prospects afforded by a range of vision in the landscape, conferred by the composition of other landscapes characteristics and associated features. Views are the expansive and/or panoramic prospects of a broad range of vision which may be naturally occurring or deliberately contrived. Vistas are the controlled prospects of a discrete, linear range of vision, which is deliberately contrived.

The Presidio Golf Course includes both views and vistas. Their locations are keyed on the Existing Condition Plan. The **Views (Contributing)** comprise the expansive prospects of the City of San Francisco, including two views that are evident from particularly high or open locations on the course and are documented in historic photographs. These include:

- View south towards the Concordia Club and Congregation Emanu-El overlooking the 9th Green (View 1)
- View toward Twin Peaks from the 14th Green (View 2)

Both viewsheds provide contextual hints of the topography, location, and history of the site that distinguish the landscape architecture of the Presidio Golf Course from other golf courses in California. These historic views place the golf course squarely within its urban context and illustrate significant relationships to adjacent properties.

The controlled **Vistas (Contributing)** along the fairways formed by a combination of manipulated topography and the Monterey cypress allées also contribute to the historic designed landscape. Some holes are designed to be able to see the green from its respective tee, but Fowler & Simpson also designed holes where this was not the case to make play more challenging. Examples of vistas include:

- View of 4th Green from 4th Tee, a short hole with extremely steep topography (View 3)
- Along Hole 7, this is a downhill vista (View 4)
- Along Hole 8, this is an uphill vista (View 5)

These vistas are in fair condition due to widening gaps in the historic allées of Monterey cypress that were design reinforce the focus of the designed vista. See Existing Conditions Plan (in this chapter) and Preservation Treatment Plan (in Chapter 5) for view locations.



Figure 4.88 – Views and Vistas: Expansive Views Into GGNRA and Adjacent Neighborhoods. View South Toward the Concordia Club at 9th Green/10th Tee (Contributing) (Aces Golf Magazine)



Figure 4.89 – Views and Vistas: Expansive Views Into GGNRA and Adjacent Neighborhoods. View toward ridge/Twin Peaks from 14th Green (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.90 – Views and Vistas: Controlled Vistas from Tee to Green. Vista Along Hole 3 (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.91 – Views and Vistas: Controlled Vistas from Tee to Green. Vista Along Hole 7 (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.92 – Views and Vistas: Controlled Vistas from Tee to Green. Vista Along Hole 8 (MIG 2025)

Buildings and Structures

The elements primarily built for sheltering any form of human activity are buildings; and the functional elements constructed for other purposes than sheltering human activity are structures.

Buildings and structures at the Presidio Golf Course include traditional building typologies, such as the Clubhouse and the General Store, as well as structures like retaining walls. Most of the buildings and structures on the property are non-contributing because they were constructed after the end of the period of significance. However, a few may have been installed as part of the WPA-era improvements to the Presidio during the period of significance and therefore complement the recreational use of the property.

A cluster of non-contributing buildings and structures were constructed by APGM in contract with the NPS and later the Presidio Trust during the late 1990s. These include:

- The Clubhouse and associated structures such as the Clubhouse Retaining Wall and the Clubhouse Pergola.
- The Driving Range and its associated structures, such as the Awning and the Net System.
- The stone wall at the Event Lawn.

While there was a rock wall associated with the basketball court that preceded this event lawn, the 1954 survey shows that it was installed on the southwestern edge of the court, not in its present location wrapping around the north corner of the lawn. Visual analysis of the wall also confirms modern construction.

These buildings and associated structures are representative of their eras of development in design, exhibiting a departure from the golden age of golf course architecture for which the Presidio Golf Course is historically significant. However, they are generally compatible with and support the historic and ongoing recreational land use at the site.

Other non-contributing structures include:

- The MacArthur Tunnel Vent at Hole 16.
- The General Store (also known as the Snack Shack).
- The stairways that are built into the slopes at Holes 4 and 6.
- The maintenance buildings and associated stairways in the Maintenance Area.

These features all appear to have been built well after the end of the period of significance and are more aligned in terms of character and materials with the U.S. Military architectural styles that are present in other areas of the Presidio of San Francisco than they are with the historic designed landscape at the Presidio Golf Course.

Contributing buildings and structures at the Presidio Golf Course include the following elements:

- **Pump House (Building 315) (Contributing)**, located along the south edge of the golf course within the area comprising the Historic Forest south of Hole 1, is a single-story building that was constructed by the U.S. Army before or during the 1930s. It is characterized by a cross-gabled roof and horizontal wood cladding, with minimal fenestration. The building is utilitarian in design, and historically served as a pump house associated with a nearby underground emergency water line that connected to the Main Reservoir. Although the building does not appear to be directly associated with the golf course, it is considered contributing due to its early construction and continued retention during the period of significance. It may have also contributed to irrigation or water distribution systems that fed into the golf course.

- **Stone Face Wall at Hole 4 (Contributing)** was likely constructed during the WPA-era of development at the Presidio. It appears to act as a retaining wall for the Hole 4 tees. Although the wall is in poor condition due to biological growth, it is faced in rustic stone and characteristic of the WPA-era of design that was intended to enhance the park-like feel and recreational use of the Presidio Golf Course.
- **Stone Wall at Hole 9 (Contributing)** appears to date from the 1920 Fowler & Simpson design for the Presidio Golf Course. The wall is formed of rusticated bricks with a solid stone cap that results in a seat wall. It lines the north edge of a parking area that is associated with the former clubhouse for the Presidio Golf Club located just outside of the CLR boundary on the other side of the Mountain Lake Trail (now a private club by the name Concordia Club). The stone wall used to be accompanied by a security kiosk (non-extant) and was punctuated by decorative finials at regular intervals (also non-extant), exhibiting the intentional refinement that accompanied the golden age of golf course design. The wall in its current condition exhibits cracking and deterioration in some locations. A wall composed of similar materials used to front the Concordia Club but was constructed before the parking area was built (it is visible in a photo from 1901) and removed at an unknown date.
- **Pedestrian Underpass (Contributing)**, located between the 16th green and 17th tee, is a low-clearance, concrete pedestrian tunnel oriented east-west under the Maintenance Road/Park Trail near the Washington Boulevard junction. While the exact date of construction is unknown, the Presidio Trust estimates that the structure was built c. 1930. Visible in the 1954 survey of the Presidio, it is possible that structure was constructed by the U.S. Army in association with the expansion of the defense system in the Presidio. Though this feature may not have been constructed in direct association with the development of the golf course, the potential war-era Army resource has been incorporated into the designed landscape and contributes to the Presidio Golf Course's character as a public golf course on a military reserve.
- **Stone Wing Walls (Contributing)**, located at the western end of the pedestrian underpass, are low-course, erosion control features that are largely overgrown with vegetation and rustic in character. While the exact date of construction for these walls is unknown, they are estimated to have been built in the 1930s by the U.S. Army or the CCC. The wing walls are therefore contributing to the historic golf course landscape.
- A **Stone Wall and Pillars (Contributing)** located immediately inside the Arguello entrance, by the pedestrian entrance to the Clubhouse Parking Lot, was constructed c. 1895. Analysis of aerial photographs and survey maps from the twentieth century and visual comparison with the forecourt at the Lombard Gates within the Presidio suggests that this feature have been reconfigured since its original construction. However, they were built contemporaneously with the golf course as a part of the same Presidio-wide era of improvements in the late nineteenth century and continue to mark the formal entrance to the golf course.



Figure 4.93 – Buildings and Structures: Pump House along Hole 1 fairway (Building 315) (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.94 – Buildings and Structures: Stone Face Wall (at Hole 4 tee) (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.95 – Buildings and Structures: Stone Wall (at 9th Green) (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.96 – Buildings and Structures: Pedestrian Underpass (at 16th Green and 17th Tee) (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.97 – Buildings and Structures: Stone Wing Walls (at pedestrian underpass at 16th Green and 17th Tee) (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.98 – Buildings and Structures: Stone Wing Walls (at Pedestrian Underpass at 16th Green and 17th Tee) (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.99 – Buildings and Structures: Stone Wall and Pillars (north of Arguello Gates) (Contributing) (Google Street View)



Figure 4.100 – Buildings and Structures: Clubhouse (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.101 – Buildings and Structures: Clubhouse Retaining Wall (at patio) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.102 – Buildings and Structures: Garden Shed (at main parking lot) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.103 – Buildings and Structures: Outdoor Pergola and Bar (at Clubhouse) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.104 – Buildings and Structures: Driving Range Shed (Building 317) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.105 – Buildings and Structures: Driving Range Net System (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.106 – Buildings and Structures: Driving Range Net System (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.107 – Buildings and Structures: Driving Range Awning (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)

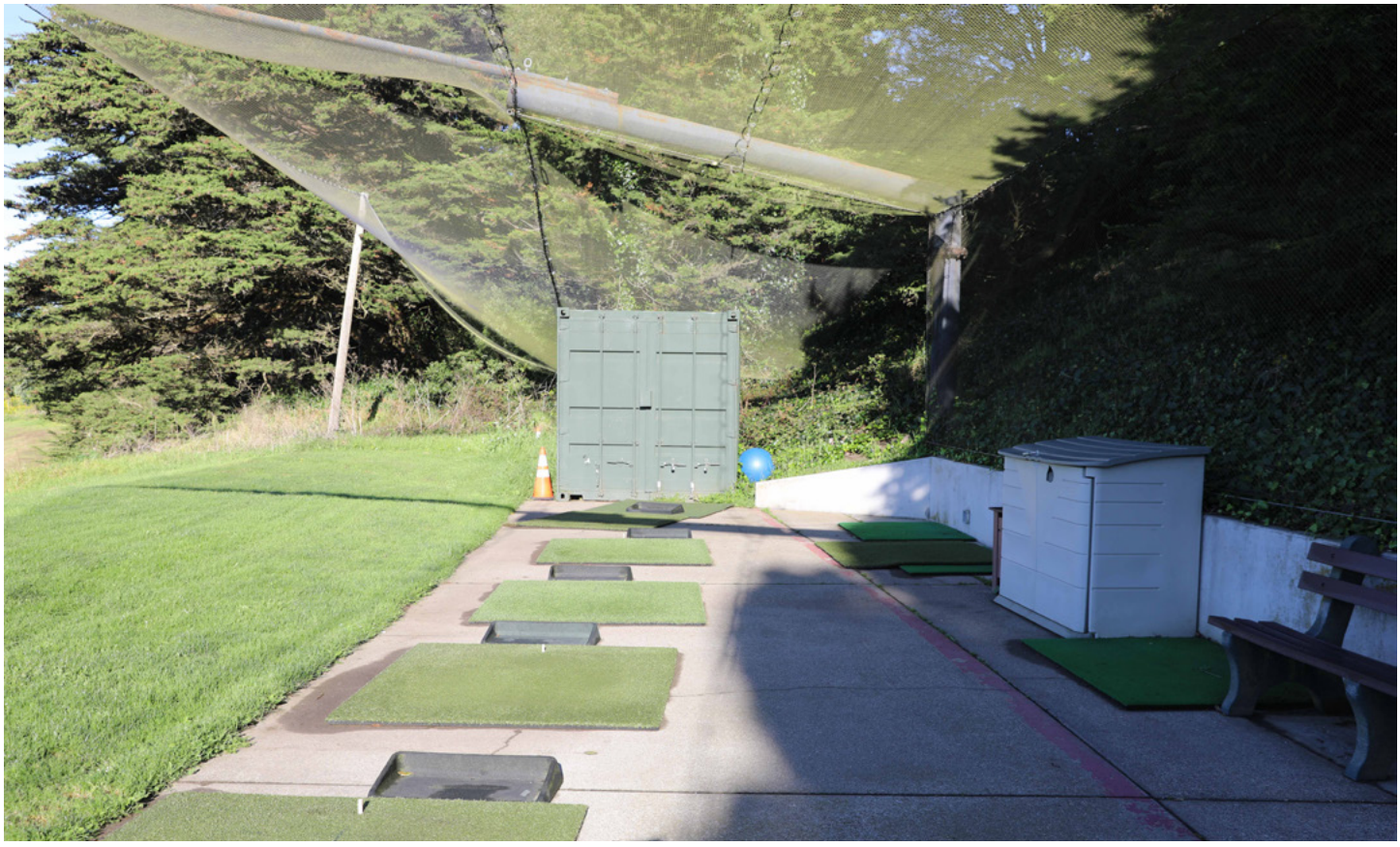


Figure 4.108 – Buildings and Structures: Retaining Wall (at Driving Range Teaching Area) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.109 – Buildings and Structures: Wood Steps (at Hole 4 tee) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.110 – Buildings and Structures: Gravel-filled Wood Steps (at Hole 6 tee) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.111 – Buildings and Structures: General Store (Building 353) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.112 – Buildings and Structures: Pump House (Building 354) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.113 – Buildings and Structures: Maintenance Building (Building 352) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.114 – Buildings and Structures: Patio and Retaining Wall (at Building 352) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.115 – Buildings and Structures: Concrete Stairs (at Building 352) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.116 – Buildings and Structures: Maintenance Garage (Building 351) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.117 – Buildings and Structures: Material Bays along Maintenance Road/Park Trail (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.118 – Buildings and Structures: MacArthur Tunnel Vent (at 16th Green) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.119 – Buildings and Structures: Event Lawn Stone Wall (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)

Circulation

Circulation includes the spaces, features, and applied material finishes which constitute systems of movement in a landscape.

Only three elements of the existing circulation systems at the Presidio Golf Course date to the period of significance:

- The **Parking Row (Contributing)** has retained a continuous association with the golf course since the 1920 Fowler & Simpson expansion-era and the popularization of personal vehicles in the following decade. It has served as a parking area for golfers since it was built and provided a tangible connection between the course and the Concordia Club located across the street.
- The **Maintenance Road/Park Trail (Contributing)** that bisects the golf course follows the alignment of the former Park Boulevard, a road that provided access to the north end of the Presidio prior to the construction of the Highway 1 approach and the MacArthur Tunnel. One of the earliest paths in the Presidio, an iteration of Park Boulevard is identifiable in maps dating back to 1859 ("Entrance to San Francisco Bay, Survey of the Coast of the United States," 1859). Despite variations in alignment through the decades, the former Park Boulevard, present-day Maintenance Road/Park Trail, continues to traverse the Presidio in a northerly course from Mountain Lake to the northern shores of the peninsula. The road was discontinued as a public road at an unconfirmed date but is still utilized by Maintenance staff at the Presidio Trust and the Presidio Golf Course as well as by members of public for running, hiking, and dog-walking. While the width and surfacing of the Maintenance Road has likely undergone changes since the period of significance, the circulation feature retains its historically associated swale and its character as a paved road since its first paving c. 1939. The overall alignment and location of the thru road further make it contributing to the landscape. Its presence at the center of the golf course has necessitated its integration into the design and influenced the spatial organization of the course layout. The road has, almost by default, become the location for the General Store and for back-of-house services including a mechanic's shop and sod storage. The majority of the road/trail is screened from the golf course through the placement of Mixed Tree Canopy and Historic Forest.
- **Mountain Lake Trail/West Pacific Avenue (Contributing)**, is an asphalt-paved pedestrian road that leads westward from the parking row to Mountain Lake. Though its use has shifted from automobile to pedestrian post-period of significance, the circulation passage has defined the southern boundary of the Presidio since c. 1890 and of the golf course upon its establishment in 1895. The southern half of the roadbed has been lined with woodchips to establish a dog run. The current asphalt paving is not the original surface material but the date of paving is unknown.

A short, paved path leads from West Pacific Avenue, just inside the Arguello Gate, into the Clubhouse parking lot in the southeast corner of the golf course. Maps from the late-1930s through the 1940s show that this path was a part of a historic circulation system that provided access to the group of Army buildings in the present-day Presidio Clubhouse area. It appears that this path was one of two access points to the buildings. However, the extant path does not serve a critical function to the historic designed landscape of the golf course; the overall historic circulation system to which the path once belonged has been completely reconfigured with the development of the Presidio Clubhouse and associated landscape features. As such, this path is non-contributing to the Presidio Golf Course landscape.

The remaining circulation elements were established in the 1960s and modified through president day. The primary circulation system comprises the paved cart paths and associated curbing that golfers use to navigate the course, starting at the Clubhouse and circulating through each hole along the edges of the

fairway. Electric golf carts did not emerge until the 1950s and weren't popularized until the 1960s. The system of carts paths in place today at the Presidio Golf Course began to take shape in the early 1970s. Before this time, golfers most likely walked the course, typically via the most direct route from the tee box to the green via the center of the fairway. Associated with these cart paths are segments of cobble edging. While these cobble edgings were installed either concurrently with the construction of the cart paths or later and therefore post-date the period of significance, other areas within the Presidio Reserve show similar stone curbing or edging which suggest that these conditions were typical Army treatment of their landscapes. Though similar in styles, research and analysis did not reveal any evidence of significance of the cobble edgings to the golf course. These masonry features are therefore non-contributing to the Presidio Golf Course landscape.

Other non-contributing circulation elements that were built after the end of the period of significance include the parking lot and paved walkways at the Clubhouse, and maintenance paths that are surfaced in gravel.



Figure 4.120 – Circulation: Parking Row (across from Concordia Club) (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.121 – Circulation: Maintenance Road/Park Trail (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.122 – Circulation: Mountain Lake Trail (Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.123 – Circulation: Parking Lot (at Clubhouse) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.124 – Circulation: Sidewalks and Paved Pathways (at Clubhouse) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.125 – Circulation: Permeable Paver Parking Area (near Driving Range Shed (Building 317) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.126 – Circulation: Maintenance Paths, gravel (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.127 – Circulation: Cart Paths, asphalt (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.128 – Circulation: Concrete Curbing (along Cart Paths) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.129 – Circulation: Concrete Curbing (along Cart Paths) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.130 – Circulation: Trench Drain (along Maintenance Road/Park Trail) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.131 – Circulation: Steel Plates (along Maintenance Road driveway aprons) (Non-Contributing). This photo also shows Moulded Concrete Gutters, covered under Small-scale Features. (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.132 – Circulation: Cobble Edging (along Cart Paths) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.133 – Circulation: Cobble Edging (along Cart Paths) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)

Small-scale Features

Small-scale features comprise the elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape.

The Presidio Golf Course contains numerous small-scale features that facilitate modern golf play. These include tee markers, ball-washing stations, signage, picnic tables, and trash cans, among others. Although these types of features serve a functional need within the recreational landscape, their design has evolved over the past century and they no longer derive their character from the golden age of golf course architecture, nor are they distinctive to the Presidio Golf Course. Instead, the range of small-scale features currently sited within the golf course are typical of most twenty-first century public golf courses. For these reasons, a majority of the small-scale features present in the course today are considered non-contributing to the historic designed landscape.

There are two contributing small-scale features at the Presidio Golf Course. A **Brick Gutter (Contributing)** that runs along the northern edge of Mountain Lake Trail (former West Pacific Boulevard) is identified in the 1954 survey and dates to the period of significance. While it may not have been developed in direct association with the golf course, it has delineated the southern boundary since its establishment, and has contributed to the operation and infrastructure of the course. A small length of **Cobble Gutter (Contributing)** is part of the same alignment as the brick gutter that extends along the northern edge of Mountain Lake Trail. As the gutter is identified as dating to the period of significance and for its historic contribution to the golf course landscape, this cobble segment, is likewise determined contributing. However, it is unconfirmed whether or not the surface materials are original. See Existing Conditions Plan for gutter locations.

Non-contributing small-scale features include the **clock** hanging on a short post at the driving range, the two flagpoles at the Clubhouse entrance, and the landscaping boulders near the putting green. The clock, though a unique feature in the Presidio Golf Course, was likely installed as a part of the APGM improvements in the mid 1990s or in association with the construction of the modern driving range in the late 1990s. Similarly, the two flagpoles at the Clubhouse entrance were likely constructed in association with the Clubhouse in 1999. The landscape boulders in the Putting and Chipping Green and at Hole 9 are believed to have been installed by the Presidio Trust c. 2000 in association with its construction.

Several other utilitarian small-scale features were installed at unknown dates but lack architectural distinction. The brick and moulded concrete gutters along the Maintenance Road/Park Trail follow the alignment of a historic swale at that location, but, the surface materials were installed post-period of significance. A flat, cobble gutter at the 11th Green, across the Maintenance Road, is thought to have been patched with available materials after the carts paths were built. Finally, the stone-lined channel that runs perpendicular to the brick gutter along Mountain Lake Trail was installed by the Presidio Trust around 2010 for water runoff management.



















Figure 4.134 – Collection of photographs of small-scale features.

1. Brick gutter (along Mountain Lake Trail) (Contributing) (MIG 2025)
2. Cobble gutter (along Mountain Lake Trail) (Contributing) (MIG 2025)
3. Presidio Golf Course Sign (along Finely Road, installed 2024) (MIG 2025)
4. Tee Marker (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
5. Family Tees (on Cart Path at Hole 15) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
6. Storage Container (at Driving Range Teaching Area) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
7. Driving Range Partitions (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
8. Storage Containers and Material Bays (along Maintenance Road) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
9. Trash Bins and Pallets (at main Parking Lot) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.135 – Collection of photographs of small-scale features.

1. Accessible Parking Signage (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
2. Wheel Stops, concrete (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
3. Wheel Stops, logs (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
4. Lighting (at parking lot poles) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
5. Bicycle Parking (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
6. Monterey Cypress Log Barriers (at General Store picnic area) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
7. Dining Tables and Chairs (at Clubhouse patios and lawn area) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
8. Bag Stand (at Clubhouse) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
9. Foot Brushes (at Clubhouse) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.136 – Collection of photographs of small-scale features.

1. Ball Wash Stations (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
2. Benches, various types (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
3. Trash Receptacles, various types (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
4. Bollards, various types (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
5. Concierge Stands, various types (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
6. Signs, various types (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
7. Signs, various types (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
8. Signs, various types (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
9. Signs, various types (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.137 – Collection of photographs of small-scale features.

1. Metal Picnic Tables (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
2. Barbeque and Lawn Chairs (at Building 352) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
3. Fence, cyclone (at Historic Forest/Main Reservoir at Hole 17) (PC) (MIG 2025)
4. Fence, cyclone (at Historic Forest/Main Reservoir at Hole 17) (PC) (MIG 2025)
5. Fence, cyclone (at Historic Forest/Main Reservoir at Hole 17) (PC) (MIG 2025)
6. Fence, cyclone (at Mountain Lake Trail) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
7. Fence, good neighbor (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
8. Fence, good neighbor (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
9. Fence, post and wire (at 18th Green and Putting Green) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



















Figure 4.138 – Collection of photographs of small-scale features.

1. Fence, post and wire (at 18th Green and Putting Green) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
2. Fence, post and wire (short, 18") at 10th Green (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
3. Fence, plank fence (at event lawn) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
4. Fence, picket (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
5. Wood Lattice Screen (at Building 354) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
6. Fueling Station (between Buildings 351-352) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
7. Fire Hydrants (throughout site) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
8. Above-ground Utility Cabinets (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
9. Metal Drain Grate, various types (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)





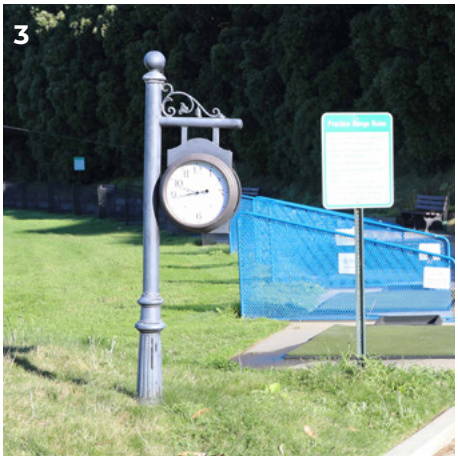














Figure 4.139 – Collection of photographs of small-scale features.

1. Trash Bins (along Maintenance Road/Park Trail) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
2. Parking Payment Kiosks (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
3. Clock (on post at Driving Range) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
4. Flagpoles (2) (at Clubhouse entrance) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
5. Stone-lined Channel (perpendicular to brick gutter along Mountain Lake Trail) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
6. Landscape Boulders (at Putting Green) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
7. Landscape Boulders (at 9th Green) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
8. Metal Drain Grate, various types (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
9. Cobble gutter (at 11th Green, across Maintenance Road) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



Figure 4.140 – Collection of photographs of small-scale features.

1. Brick Gutter (along Maintenance Road/Park Trail) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)
2. Moulded Concrete Gutter (along Maintenance Road/Park Trail) (Non-Contributing) (MIG 2025)



MIG 2025

5

PRESERVATION TREATMENT



MIG 2025

CHAPTER 5. PRESERVATION TREATMENT

Introduction

Chapter 5 contains four sections:

1. **Introduction** outlines the purpose and goals of the CLR's treatment recommendations, and how to use the information contained within this chapter to guide treatment and management of the cultural landscape.
2. **Treatment Framework** identifies the established guidance for decision-making and management of the golf course, including management and guiding documents, and an outline of the anticipated compliance process when interventions or changes are proposed.
3. **Treatment Approach** identifies the overarching and supporting treatment approach that contextualizes the treatment recommendations and defines its relationship to established cultural landscape preservation practice.
4. **Treatment Guidelines and Recommendations** provide more detailed guidance and best practices for how to treat and manage extant cultural and historic characteristics and features.

PURPOSE AND GOALS

This chapter is intended to provide different layers of guidance for future treatment and management decisions at the Presidio Golf Course. The recommendations build upon already established Presidio Trust goals and objectives, and an assumption that the first step in maintaining the cultural landscape is the preservation of contributing features. The layered guidance in this report starts with an overarching approach and vision before dialing into detailed management and design recommendations.

This is a guiding document, intended to support the consultation and compliance process[140], while allowing for future discussion about exactly how recommendations are implemented. For example, the Treatment Approach provides a foundation for making decisions about issues which are not evident today but may be raised in the future. The approach is rooted in established cultural landscape practice with a focus on creating an environment that fosters and encourages revealing layers of history in this landscape and how to treat and manage them in the future.

Treatment Recommendations go beyond the universal principles of cultural landscape preservation and conservation practices to focus on the cultural qualities and features that are reflected in and contribute to the Presidio Golf Course. The recommendations ensure that the cultural landscape retains coherence with its historic form and associations, and that it functions according to those associations now and into the future. Existing facilities should be managed, and new facilities should be designed in a way that establishes compatibility and continuity with elements of the past, with a respectful consistency between old and new. The goal is that the resulting environment will be a setting where this site's significance is legible for those experiencing this place.

HOW TO USE THIS CHAPTER

The following treatment approach and recommendations serve as a guide for decision-making that affects the character, management, and design of the Presidio Golf Course landscape to create contextually and environmentally appropriate interventions. They are built upon a foundation of understanding that the contributing characteristics and features outlined in Chapter 4: Analysis and Evaluation of Landscape Characteristics and Features will be protected in place and stabilized

140 See Treatment Framework section for more details about the compliance process. The CLR is part of the early compliance process, and the recommendations are intended to meet compliance standards and streamline future review when implemented.

as needed. Any exceptions are noted in specific recommendations relating to that characteristic or feature.

It is critical to understand that these recommendations help clarify, but do not replace the environmental review and compliance processes. The recommendations are provided to ensure that future projects or initiatives consider the cultural landscape and provide guidance on implementing compatible design and *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Cultural Landscapes (SOI Standards)*. As such, implementation of this CLR will contribute to the fulfillment of the Presidio Trust's overall General Management Plan (GMP) goals.

These guidelines are not meant to anticipate every future decision or be a substitute for collaborative planning and design work with the Presidio Trust, golf course operator, professional consultants and other partners. Ideally, they are utilized by multi-disciplinary partners to become part of a project review process that ensures compatibility of design and appropriate management solutions for the property as they are proposed.

These recommendations will serve as a tool to tie the character of the cultural landscape into a more holistic planning process. These recommendations are aids to decision-making, and provide some flexibility to accommodate changing times, circumstances, trends, and technologies around the golf recreation. Recommendations are general enough to provide directions on issues that are not specifically addressed.

Treatment Framework

The treatment framework for the CLR complements the overarching mission of the Presidio Trust to ensure the rehabilitation of the Presidio's historic buildings and landscapes, the restoration of its natural resources, and the preservation of its distinct character. The framework likewise supports the ability of a golf course operator to run a sustainable course. Additionally, treatment recommendations respect guidance provided in other documents and adopted practices, including:

MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTS

- *Presidio Trust Management Plan: Land Use Policies for Area B of the Presidio of San Francisco (PTMP)* (2002)
- *National Historic Landmark (update) for the Presidio of San Francisco* (1993)
- *Presidio of San Francisco Vegetation Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (VMP/EA)* (2001)
- *Historic Forest Character Study* (2009)
- *Presidio of San Francisco Forest Management Plan* (1990-2010)

GUIDING DOCUMENTS

- *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes (SOI Standards)* (1996)
- Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline (1998)
- Director's Order #77: Natural Resource Management Guideline (1998)
- NPS Management Policies related to Recreational Use, Cultural Resource Management, Vegetation Management, Water Resource Management, and Management of Animals (2006)
- *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques* (1998)

MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

Integrated Pest Management Procedures

In 2026, the Presidio Trust completed the *Integrated Pest Management Procedures for the Presidio Golf Course (IPM Procedures)*[141], which establishes ecosystem-based strategies that focus on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant turf grass varieties at the Presidio Golf Course. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the environment.

As it relates to the CLR, the *IPM Procedures* provides updated technical guidance on sustainable maintenance that serves to preserve the health, appearance, and function of vegetation features of the golf course landscape.

COMPLIANCE PROCESS

National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act

Before approving a proposed action, the Presidio Trust shall consider the proposed action and make a formal determination as to whether or not the undertaking would affect cultural resources. Two federal laws guide the Presidio Trust during the process. These are the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966. NEPA requires all federal agencies to: (1) to prepare in–depth studies of the impacts of and alternatives to proposed "major federal actions"; (2) use the information contained in such studies in deciding whether to proceed with the actions; and (3) diligently attempt to involve the interested and affected public before any decision affecting the environment is made. These provisions of NEPA commit

141 Presidio Trust, Integrated Pest Management Procedures, Presidio Golf Course (San Francisco: Presidio Trust, March 2026).

the Presidio Trust to make informed decisions that perpetuate the conservation and protection of Presidio resources unimpaired for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

The Section 106 review process is an integral component of the NHPA (54 U.S.C. 306108) and requires all federal agencies to consider the effects of the proposed action on cultural resources that are listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places prior to an undertaking. All proposed actions must be carried out in a manner consistent with the *SOI Standards*. For the purposes of the Presidio Trust's compliance process, the golf course is to be recognized as a component landscape of the Presidio of San Francisco National Historic Landmark. Further investigations may be required before implementation of a proposed action prompting NEPA and NHPA compliance.

Treatment Approach

The *SOI Standards* consists of four sets of treatment standards (or approaches): Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration, and Reconstruction. The purpose of the standards is to promote responsible preservation practices, and to provide guidance to historic property managers prior to initiating a project.

Selecting an appropriate treatment approach requires consideration of site-specific factors, such as the historic property's level of significance, historical integrity, existing conditions, uses (historic and proposed), and the economic and technical feasibility of a project. The standards are defined as follows, and are accompanied by implementation guidelines:[142]

Preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials, and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. The limited and sensitive upgrading of systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project. However, new facilities are generally not within the scope of this treatment. The Standards for Preservation require retention of the greatest amount of historic fabric along with the property's historic organization and form.

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values. The Rehabilitation Standards acknowledge the need to alter or add to a historic landscape to meet continuing or new uses while retaining the landscape's historic character.

Restoration is defined as the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and a reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project. The Restoration Standards allow for the depiction of a landscape at a particular time in its history by preserving materials, features, finishes, and spaces from its period of significance and removing those from other periods.

Reconstruction is defined as the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location. The Reconstruction Standards establish a limited framework for recreating a vanished or non-surviving landscape feature with new materials, primarily for interpretive purposes.

Due to the degree of change since, during, and after the period of significance, including the early Fowler & Simpson expansion, the construction of the MacArthur Tunnel, and the transition in operating managers during the mid-century, the selected treatment approach for the Presidio Golf Course is **Rehabilitation**. This approach acknowledges the complexity of a site with a broad period of significance (in this case, 1895-1956) and allows for sensitive modifications to adapt to modern use. The associated rehabilitation standards are listed below and provide the overarching guidelines for project planning and design.

142 National Park Service. *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/secretary-standards-treatment-historic-properties.htm.

STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATION

The Rehabilitation approach incorporates ten standards that form the baseline for all the other recommendations in this CLR. The standards for rehabilitation are as follows:

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
4. Changes to a property that has acquired historic significance in its own right shall be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of distinctive features, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

Rehabilitation accounts for the degree of physical change since the original nine-hole golf course was laid out, and the fact that golf courses are continually evolving to account for changes in sports technology, player expectations, contemporary management practices, and maintenance trends that prioritize sustainability and natural resource protection. It allows for continued compatible change, but provides a framework to ensure that the historic character of the golf course is still reflected in the landscape.

Rehabilitation is appropriate for golf courses where many of the original small-scale and vegetation features are no longer present, but the overall layout and progression of play reflect historic conditions. Typically, golf courses undergoing rehabilitation strive to maintain or interpret original design intentions in major site elements such as bunkers, greens, and mounds, while also improving soils, turf, drainage, irrigation, cart paths, and teeing ground options. Changes can be made to reduce maintenance efforts and streamline staff resources, but these decisions should consider the historic design intent that is part of what makes the Presidio Golf Course distinctive and inviting.

MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

The CLR and other recent studies of the Presidio Golf Course have identified constraints and opportunities to be addressed by this treatment chapter.

Management priorities include:

Historic Preservation

- Identification, preservation, rehabilitation, and highlighting historic features that date to the golf course's period of significance (1895-1956).
- Preservation treatment that is guided by the core design principles of Fowler & Simpson outlined in Chapter 3: Site History

Vegetation and Tree Management

- Improved biodiversity in tree species and incorporation of native shrubs, forbs, and bunch grasses in appropriate, out-of-play areas to improve the overall health and resiliency of golf course vegetation.
- Adequate solar access for areas to remain as turf to improve health; use of turf seed varieties that can tolerate shade.
- Supporting habitat compatible with native flora and local fauna.

Water and Conservation

- Water conservation through reduction of irrigated turf.
- Irrigation system replacement and reduce overall water demand by targeting it to strategic areas where water is needed for tee boxes, fairways, reduced roughs, and greens.
- A need for water storage areas that are compatible with the historic character.

Historically Compatible Range and Facility Enhancements

- Identify opportunity areas with diminished historic integrity where a limited range of compatible, new uses could potentially be deployed to expand the golf experience or facilitate golf course related operations.
- Improved course versatility and accessibility. A future Self-evaluation and Transition Plan for the golf course would help to identify barriers to accessibility for people with disabilities, and prioritize enhancements within the compatible framework outlined in the CLR.
- Safety mitigation for errant balls to surrounding holes and public areas.

Future Planning and Design

- Delineation and respect of areas that are the responsibility and purview of the golf course operator and the Presidio Trust.
- Need for a physical master plan process for the golf course that considers and incorporates all recommendations from the CLR.
- Future design work to rehabilitate the golf course should be completed by qualified golf course architects with experience at historic courses and in consultation with cultural landscape specialists. These professionals can provide optimal and sensitive design of holes and the surrounding landscape within the historic framework.
- Target opportunity areas to accommodate compatible changes to the Presidio Golf Course cultural landscape.

WHAT ARE LIMITED OPPORTUNITY AREAS AND CONSTRAINT AREAS?

At the Presidio Golf Course, there is more flexibility to introduce a range of compatible, new uses in areas where there has been change since the end of the period of significance and therefore exhibit **diminished historic integrity.** These areas are referenced as **Limited Opportunity Areas** on the Preservation Opportunities and Constraints Plan.

Areas of the course that have retained their historic character from the period of significance have **strong historic integrity** and are less able to accommodate contemporary changes without impacting the historic landscape. These areas are referenced as **Constraint Areas** on the Preservation Opportunities and Constraints Plan.

Treatment Recommendations

Treatment recommendations and guidelines are organized by landscape characteristic to reflect organization used in the previous chapter. Each recommendation is given a unique number preceded with the following abbreviations:

- NSF-#: Natural Systems and Features
- TOPO-#: Topography
- SO-#: Spatial Organization
- LU-#: Land Use
- VEG-#: Vegetation
- CIRC-#: Circulation
- BS-#: Buildings and Structures
- VIEWS-#: Views and Vistas
- SSF-#: Small-scale Features

Graphic plans were developed to convey understanding of management areas, preservation opportunities and constraints, and treatments described in the CLR.

The 2026 Management Areas Plan depicts approximate management zones, illustrating the areas where the Presidio Trust and Operator hold responsibility for implementation of specific recommendations outlined in this CLR.

The 2026 Preservation Opportunities and Constraints Plan is a visual summary of areas where it may be possible to accommodate a range of limited, compatible changes to the Presidio Golf Course cultural landscape. These areas have diminished historic integrity having undergone more change over the life of the golf course. Constrained areas with strong historic integrity are also depicted and are not priority locations to accommodate contemporary changes.

The 2026 Preservation Treatment Plan is a visual summary of location-specific treatment recommendations for the Presidio Golf Course cultural landscape. Labels with recommendation numbers are keyed to Table 9: Treatment Matrix. Not all treatment recommendations from the CLR are illustrated on this plan due to their small-scale or universal application across the golf course.

2026 Management Areas Plan

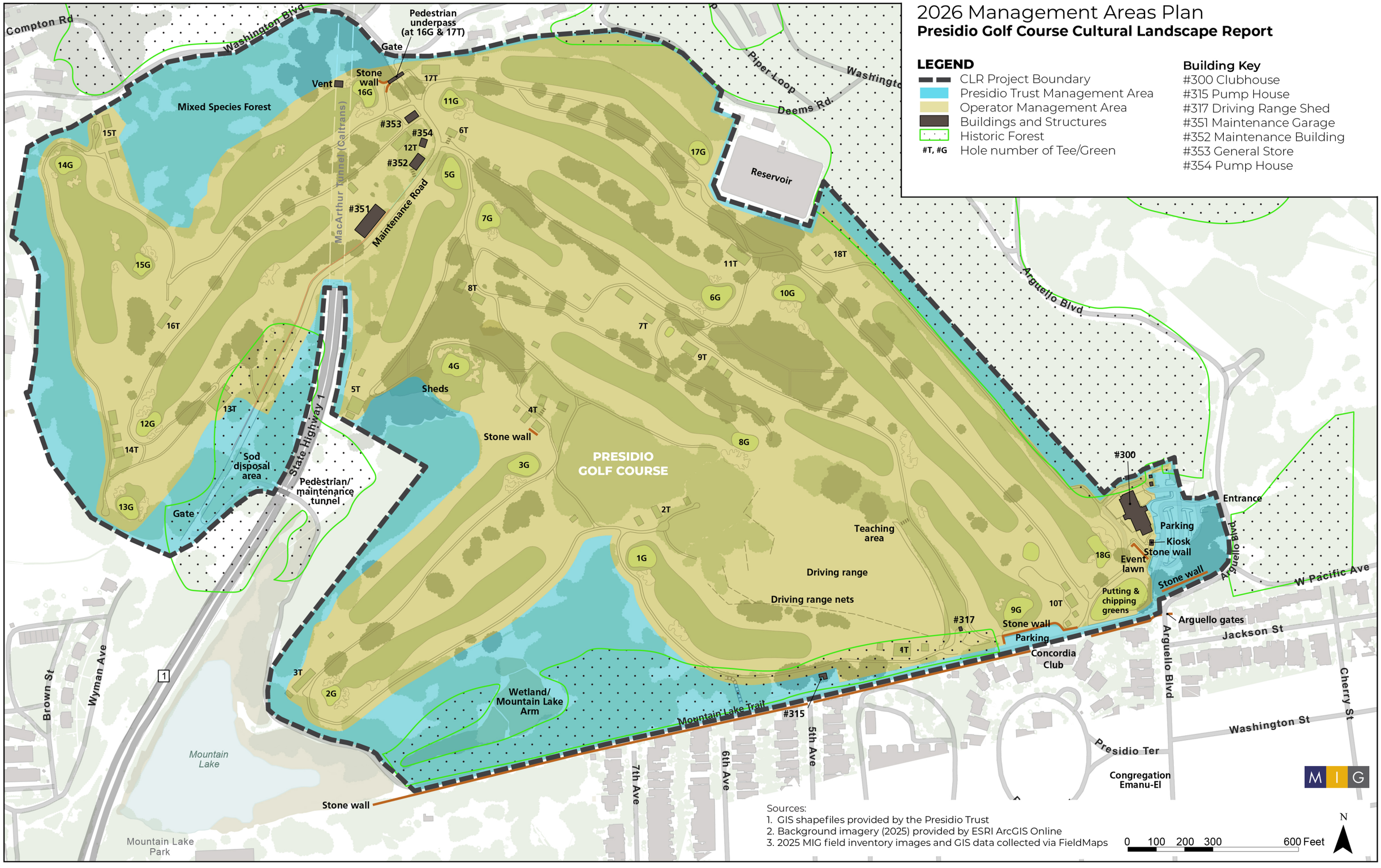
Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND

- CLR Project Boundary
- Presidio Trust Management Area
- Operator Management Area
- Buildings and Structures
- Historic Forest
- #T, #G — Hole number of Tee/Green

Building Key

#300 Clubhouse
#315 Pump House
#317 Driving Range Shed
#351 Maintenance Garage
#352 Maintenance Building
#353 General Store
#354 Pump House



Sources:
1. GIS shapefiles provided by the Presidio Trust
2. Background imagery (2025) provided by ESRI ArcGIS Online
3. 2025 MIG field inventory images and GIS data collected via FieldMaps

0 100 200 300 600 Feet

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2026 Preservation Opportunities and Constraints Plan

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND

- Presidio Trust Management Area & CLR Project Boundary
- Operator Management Area
- Limited Opportunity Area
- Non-contributing Building
- WPA Tree Plantings
- Monterey Cypress Gap
- Minimal Forward Tees
- #T, #G — Hole Number of Tee/Green
- Rehabilitation Potential of Green, Fairway, and/or Bunker
- Constraint Area
- Contributing Building or Structure
- Existing Monterey Cypress
- Historic Forest
- Historic Stone Walls

Building Key
#300 Clubhouse
#315 Pump House
#317 Driving Range Shed
#351 Maintenance Garage
#352 Maintenance Building
#353 General Store
#354 Pump House

The 2026 Preservation Opportunities and Constraints Plan is a visual summary of areas where it may be possible to accommodate a range of limited, compatible changes to the Presidio Golf Course cultural landscape. These areas have diminished historic integrity having undergone more change over the life of the golf course. Constrained areas with strong historic integrity are also depicted and are not priority locations to accommodate contemporary changes.

Sources:
1. GIS shapefiles provided by the Presidio Trust
2. Background imagery (2025) provided by ESRI ArcGIS Online
3. Background imagery provided by the Presidio Trust: 1956 gs-vlx_1-126
4. 2025 MIG field inventory images and GIS data collected via FieldMaps

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Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
Table 9: Treatment Matrix

This table provides a summary of recommended CLR treatments for the Presidio Golf Course. Each treatment has an individual key number that can be matched to narrative text in this chapter. The table also identifies the primary party responsible for implementation, which generally reflects the land assignments for the Presidio Trust and the golf course operator (see Management Areas Plan). The 2026 Preservation Treatment Plan is a visual summary of location-specific treatment recommendations listed below. Some recommendations are not illustrated on the plan due to their small-scale or universal application across the golf course.

Treatment #	Treatment Summary	Primary Responsibility	Located on Treatment Plan?
Natural Systems and Features			
NSF-1	Use soil and drainage characteristics to guide choices for appropriate new or replacement plant material, circulation changes, and construction interventions.	Presidio Trust & Operator	No
NSF-2	Protect areas of the golf course with known sensitive flora and fauna.	Presidio Trust & Operator	No
NSF-2a	Coordinate revegetation and golf course improvements to avoid, screen, and protect denning areas of local fauna.	Presidio Trust	No
NSF-2b	Discourage pedestrian and maintenance interactions with wildlife.	Presidio Trust & Operator	No
NSF-2c	Protect and enhance wetland ecosystem of Mountain Lake's arms.	Presidio Trust	**Yes**
NSF-3	Commission a botanical survey for the golf course.	Presidio Trust	No
Topography			
TOPO-1	Maintain scale, aesthetics, and complexity of designed topography of holes	Operator	No
TOPO-2	Use topographical design to screen new additions, improve play, or enhance safety in opportunity areas.	Presidio Trust & Operator	No
Spatial Organization			
SO-1	Maintain areas already designated for play, maintenance, circulation, gathering, and compatible recreation.	Presidio Trust & Operator	No
SO-2	Maintain the general arrangement and progression of 18 holes reflecting the Fowler & Simpson design.	Presidio Trust & Operator	No
SO-3	Preserve and enhance the design characteristics and context of iconic holes.	Operator	**Yes**
SO-4	Physical changes to spatial organization along the course should be reserved for opportunity areas.	Presidio Trust & Operator	**Yes**
SO-5	Engage with a qualified golf course architect to identify and confirm locations where the character of historic bunkers can be rehabilitated.	Operator	**Yes**
SO-6	Select teeing grounds can accommodate a wider range of skill levels and different user groups by adding forward tees at Holes 1, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 17.	Operator	**Yes**
SO-7	Recognize the management boundary and associated responsibilities and assignments.	Presidio Trust & Operator	No

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
Table 9: Treatment Matrix (continued)

Treatment #	Treatment Summary	Primary Responsibility	Located on Treatment Plan?
Land Use			
LU-1	Maintain the property as an 18-hole golf course providing recreational opportunities to the public.	Presidio Trust & Operator	No
LU-2	New additions or alterations are allowable but should support the historic and primary land use of golf.	Presidio Trust & Operator	No
LU-3	Relocate, consolidate, and/or screen maintenance, equipment, and storage areas that are visible from the golf course or General Store area where players and visitors congregate.	Operator	**Yes**
Vegetation			
Tree Preservation and Succession Planning			
VEG-1	Presidio Forestry to manage and evaluate the historic Monterey cypress allées on a case-by-case basis.	Presidio Trust	No
VEG-2	Preserve historic allées of Monterey cypress installed in the 1920s and 1930s to articulate edges of fairways and to maintain the setting/character of the golf course.	Presidio Trust & Operator	**Yes**
VEG-3	Improve disease, pest, and climate resilience of the Monterey cypress allées with additions of compatible species in appropriate locations with the primary goal for the allées to read as a single species.	Presidio Trust & Operator	No
VEG-4	Tree preservation within the golf course landscape shall be guided by the dual objectives of historic character and public safety.	Presidio Trust	No
VEG-5	Preserve and protect areas of the Presidio's historic forest within the golf course, comprised of blue gum eucalyptus, Monterey pine, black locust, and Monterey cypress.	Presidio Trust	No
VEG-6	Resurvey the historic forest to better understand its present boundaries in relationship to the golf course.	Presidio Trust	**Yes**
VEG-7	Manage the historic forest areas at the golf course perimeter on a case-by-case basis.	Presidio Trust	No
VEG-8	Several high-visibility historic forest stands near the golf course that are identified in the *Vegetation Management Plan and EA* require focused management to maintain them as contributing features.	Presidio Trust	**Yes**
VEG-9	Manage understory density and accumulated surface material within the historic forest to maintain stand health, reduce fuel continuity, and support long-term resilience.	Presidio Trust	No
VEG-10	Maintain the stand of Monterey cypress between Mountain Lake Trail and the 1st Tee and along the driving range netting to address safety concerns and screen non-contributing features.	Operator	**Yes**
VEG-11	When trees are removed, consider reuse of the material onsite, ideally as wood mulch, if it is free of disease.	Presidio Trust & Operator	No

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
Table 9: Treatment Matrix (continued)

Treatment #	Treatment Summary	Primary Responsibility	Located on Treatment Plan?
VEG-12	Contributing trees not planted as part of the Fowler & Simpson design (including WPA-era trees) have more flexibility to accommodate change in terms of adjustments in density, footprint, species, etcetera, as needed to implement other recommendations.	Presidio Trust & Operator	**Yes**
VEG-13	Select trees may be retained and modified to function as habitat snags where appropriate and consistent with public safety and historic landscape objectives outlined in this CLR. In addition to snag retention and creation, incorporation of large downed wood within forest sections may be used to enhance structural diversity and ecological function.	Presidio Trust	No
VEG-14	Remove non-contributing or invasive species that degrade the historic character or spatial qualities of the golf course.	Presidio Trust & Operator	No
Turf Maintenance, Reduction Measures, and Conversion to Native Rough Areas			
VEG-15	Continue efforts to control the nematode issue present on the Presidio Golf Course greens since it impacts the historic character and playability of the greens.	Operator	No
VEG-16	Remove irrigated turf in low-volume play areas between tees and replace with lower-water demand native or climate-adapted bunch grasses.	Operator	No
VEG-17	Remove irrigated turf in areas beyond the tees which adds visual interest and offers additional challenges to players.	Operator	No
VEG-18	Replace turf with low-water demand, easy-to-grow, and resilient grass species that perform well on California courses.	Operator	No
VEG-19	Incorporate low-growing native or other climate-adapted non-invasive grass and plant species in out of play and steeply sloped areas	Presidio Trust & Operator	No
VEG-20	Add forbs and native wildflower overseeding with both annual and perennial species to support pollinators and promote biodiversity in turf reduction areas	Operator	No
VEG-21	At turf reduction areas, plan and provide regular maintenance in years following planting.	Operator	No
Irrigation System Replacement and Drainage Plan			
VEG-22	Consider working around the existing irrigation layout (until it is fully replaced) to guide turf removal decisions and avoid costly layout changes.	Operator	No
VEG-23	Design and construct a new irrigation system to meet functional, resource conservation, sustainability, and preservation goals.	Operator	No
Circulation			
CIRC-1	Maintain a continuous, efficient circulation system to serve players of all levels and abilities and provide maintenance functions for the golf course.	Operator	No
CIRC-2	Maintain and construct asphalt cart paths to be 7 1/2 feet wide minimum and 8 feet wide maximum.	Operator	No

Treatment #	Treatment Summary	Primary Responsibility	Located on Treatment Plan?
CIRC-3	Incorporate mountable concrete curb edging with gutters as part of any cart path replacement project to provide accessible means to tees, fairways, and greens.	Operator	No
CIRC-4	When cart paths are replaced, remove and discontinue use of block cobbles.	Operator	No
CIRC-5	Provide access improvements to tees from along cart paths.	Operator	No
Buildings and Structures			
BS-1	Complete historic structures documentation to assess the current condition of the historic buildings and structures.	Presidio Trust	No
BS-2:	Maintain the historic character of contributing buildings and structures while allowing for improvements and compatible changes of use.	Presidio Trust & Operator	**Yes**
BS-3	Rehabilitate stone masonry walls dating to the period of significance.	Presidio Trust	**Yes**
BS-4	Align rehabilitation, expansion, or upgrades to existing non-contributing buildings and structures with the *PTMP* and also consider the character of the historic landscape.	Presidio Trust & Operator	No
BS-5	Sensitively site and design new buildings and structures to be in harmony with the historic golf course landscape at the end of the period of significance while meeting contemporary accessibility standards.	Presidio Trust & Operator	No
Views and Vistas			
VIEW-1	Consult historical photographs included in this CLR to understand open quality of key views to strategically identify vegetation that can be added, modified, or removed to restore or enhance historic viewshed.	Presidio Trust & Operator	No
VIEW-2	Manage internal views with tree limbing, perimeter brush reduction/clearing, stump removal, as-needed regrading at tees, and sensitive siting and design of new features that may impact viewsheds.	Presidio Trust & Operator	**Yes**
VIEW-3	Manage outward views that reinforce spatial contextual relationships of the golf course to other locations in the San Francisco.	Presidio Trust & Operator	**Yes**
Small-scale Features			
SSF-1	Use a consistent site furnishing style across all categories of features on the golf course.	Operator	No
SSF-2	Reduce the palette of fence types and standardize their designs and materials to reduce their visibility/contrast along the course.	Operator	No
SSF-3	Stabilize the fence along the reservoir.	Presidio Trust	**Yes**
SSF-4	Phase removal of non-contributing gutter features along the Maintenance Road and replace with an integrated system that meets contemporary needs.	Presidio Trust	**Yes**

2026 Preservation Treatment Plan

Presidio Golf Course
Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND

- Presidio Trust Management Area/CLR Project Boundary
- Operator Management Area
- #T, #G Hole Number of Tee/Green

Spatial Organization

- **SO-3:** Preserve and enhance character of iconic holes
- **SO-4:** Major physical modifications to spatial organization at limited opportunity areas
- **SO-5:** Rehabilitate historic character of bunkers
- **SO-6:** Expand select teeing grounds

Vegetation

- **VEG-2:** Replant Monterey cypress allées
- **VEG-6:** Resurvey the historic forest boundary in relationship to the golf course
- **VEG-12:** WPA Tree Plantings

Buildings & Structures

- **BS-2:** Maintain the historic character of contributing buildings and structures while allowing for improvements and compatible changes of use
- **BS-3:** Rehabilitate historic stone walls
- **BS-4:** Align expansion and upgrades of non-contributing buildings and structures with the Presidio Trust Management Plan

Views and Vistas

- **VIEW-2:** Manage internal views
- **VIEW-3:** Manage outward views

Views and Vistas
1. Concordia Club
2. Twin Peaks
3. 4th Green
4. Along Hole 7
5. Along Hole 8

SO-5 Rehabilitate historic character of bunkers at 15th Green

LU-3 Relocate, consolidate, and/or screen maintenance, equipment, and storage areas

SO-5 Rehabilitate historic character of bunkers at 4th Green

VEG-2 Manage internal views

SSF-3 Stabilize the fence along the reservoir

SO-5 Rehabilitate historic character of bunkers at 8th Green

VEG-12 Footprint of WPA era tree plantings have flexibility to accommodate change to implement other recommendations

CIRC-1 Connect gap in cart paths

SSF-4 Replace non-contributing gutters with an integrated, compatible system

SO-4 Hole 1 has flexibility to change in future

NSF-2C Protect and enhance the wetland ecosystem

VEG-10 Maintain stand of Monterey cypress along Mountain Lake Trail and the 1st Tee

VEG-8 Manage high-visibility forest stands identified in the VMP & EA

Building Key
#300 Clubhouse
#315 Pump House
#317 Driving Range Shed
#351 Maintenance Garage
#352 Maintenance Building
#353 General Store
#354 Pump House

The 2026 Preservation Treatment Plan is a visual summary of location-specific treatment recommendations for the Presidio Golf Course cultural landscape. Not all treatment recommendations from the CLR are illustrated here due to their small-scale or universal application across the golf course.

Sources:
1. GIS shapefiles provided by the Presidio Trust
2. Background imagery (2025) provided by ESRI ArcGIS Online
3. Background imagery provided by the Presidio Trust: 1956 gs-vlx_1-126
4. 2025 MIG field inventory images and GIS data collected via FieldMaps

0 100 200 300 600 Feet

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Natural Systems and Features

Natural systems and features include processes and materials in nature that have influenced historical modification or use of the land. This can include human response to geomorphology, geology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and native vegetation. At the Presidio Golf Course, natural systems and features include native flora and fauna present on the course and native vegetation surrounding wetlands near Mountain Lake.

NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

NSF-1: Use soil composition and drainage characteristics to inform decision-making for:

- Selection of appropriate native tree and plant species that can thrive in the local conditions.
- Rehabilitation of existing built features, siting of new construction interventions, and circulation changes.

NSF-2: Protect areas of the golf course with known sensitive flora and fauna species. For example:

- NSF-2a: Coordinate revegetation efforts and other golf course improvements to avoid, screen, and protect known denning areas of local fauna.
- NSF-2b: Discourage pedestrian and maintenance interactions with wildlife.
- NSF-2c: Protect and enhance the wetland ecosystem of Mountain Lake's arms, which filter and store golf course stormwater. The area can benefit from monitoring, removal of invasive species, habitat monitoring, and erosion control measures.

NSF-3: Commission a botanical survey to identify and monitor both native and naturalized vegetation species to guide future vegetation management decisions.

TREATMENT | Natural Systems and Features





2



3

Figure 5.1 – TREATMENT | Natural Systems and Features

1 Common local fauna include coyotes, owls, hawks, and small rodents. (Heidi H.)

2 Arms of Mountain Lake near Holes 1 and 2 that are part of the larger Mountain Lake wetland system. (MIG 2025)

3 Botanical field survey. (Ecology Partners)

Topography

Topography is the three dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features, orientation, and elevation. Historic features that illustrate how humans have shaped the ground plane might include earthworks, drainage ditches, knolls, and terraces. This also includes cultural or traditional adaptations of land use in response to natural topography. At the Presidio Golf Course, topography is defined by manipulated grades and contours between the tee and green of any particular hole, including detail grading of the bunkers. Design of topography at the Presidio Golf Course must be undertaken by a qualified golf architect with historic preservation experience.

TOPOGRAPHY TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

TOPO-1: Maintain scale, aesthetics, and complexity of designed topography of holes to preserve the unique player experience of dramatic shifts of topographical conditions from hole to hole. The dramatic terrain must remain as a primary challenge to players, with many uphill holes and obstructed visibility to some greens and surrounding bunkers. This unique aspect of play at the Presidio Golf Course is critical to preserve.

- Do not simplify or reduce topographical complexity of holes unless they provide life, health, or safety concerns.
- Restore topographical design of the greens to their character during the historic period. Greens were significantly altered between 1995-2005 when they were expanded and undulating contouring added at their perimeters. Consult *The Architectural Side of Golf* (1929) for narrative description of ideal putting green design (see Chapter 4: Putting Greens). For example:
  - » Greens should use an informal shape, such as a pear. Avoid round or square greens.
  - » Each green should be distinct from others on the course and take into account that the size and shape largely depend on the length of the shot leading up to it.
  - » Greens should be designed so that golfers can read the green and determine a likely putting line with reasonable confidence. The shaping of the green and its contour modulations should not be so extreme that players cannot reasonably judge the path or speed of a putt.
  - » Greens should provide an extent of flat ground to accommodate the need for hole relocations. Flat areas around holes need to extend a minimum one yard on every side. This will ensure that holes will never need to be cut on a slope.
- If available, consult original drawings to restore greens to their historic shape, size, and grades, while maintaining good drainage. If original drawings are not available, rehabilitate greens to reflect the character intended by the course architects.[143]

TOPO-2: In opportunity areas, refine topographical design to improve play and enhance safety.

- An area to consider is the regrading of the driving range slope and establishing an arc for the range tees so that play is aimed at the center alignment (i.e. so balls are directed to a central target).

143 Original Fowler & Simpson drawings for the Presidio Golf Course were not located for this CLR effort. Drawings and narrative in the *The Architectural Side of Golf* (1929) illuminate Tom Simpson's understanding of golf which are applied to the Presidio Golf Course.

Spatial Organization

Spatial organization is the historical, three dimensional arrangements of physical forms and visual associations. This might include how other landscape characteristics - like circulation systems, views and vistas, areas of land use, and clusters of structures - define spaces within the landscape. At the Presidio Golf Course, the combination of designed elements of the golf course (tees, fairway, greens, bunkers) provide a repeated progression that establishes the landscape's primary spatial organization. New features need to be added sensitively to preserve this balance of spatial organization.

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

SO-1: Maintain areas designated for play, maintenance, player circulation, gathering, and compatible recreation (bike riding and walking along Mountain Lake Trail and the maintenance road/park trail).

SO-2: Maintain the general arrangement and progression of 18 holes reflecting the 1921 Fowler & Simpson design.

SO-3: Preserve and enhance the design characteristics and context of iconic holes within the overall golf course landscape, such as 2nd Green (course low point), Hole 4 (island hole), Hole 9 (halfway point for 18 hole games, final hole for 9 hole games, citywide views), Hole 15 (views over surrounding holes and Sutro Hill), (17th Green (course high point), and Hole 18 (final hole for 18 hole games, citywide views). These holes have strong historic integrity and best reflect the course's historic character.

SO-4: Physical changes to spatial organization along the course should be reserved for opportunity areas with lower integrity; high integrity areas are to be preserved to the extent feasible (see Opportunities & Constraints Plan).

- Holes 1, 2, 9, and 18 have undergone more change than others since the end of the period of significance, so they may be more appropriate for future interventions. Refer to Table 8: Summary of Changes to Hole Numbering By Year and Direction of Play in Chapter 4.
- Contributing features and design principles from the historic Fowler & Simpson design should be included in any future redesign of Holes 1, 2, 9, and 18.

SO-5: Engage with a qualified golf course architect to identify and confirm locations where the character of historic bunkers can be rehabilitated. For example, the 4th and 15th Greens were historically surrounded by bunkers. Today bunkers are in different locations with different geometries. A rehabilitation approach would consider how the current greens may better reflect the historic intention of the design while also accommodating modern play, i.e. interpret the "island" concept in the spacing and location of the bunkers. Another example is Hole 8, where bunkers on the north side of the green have been removed since the end of the period of significance. The next time improvements are planned for these holes, the bunkers could be reconfigured to recapture their historic character.

Refer to the Period Plans in Chapter 2, the Preservation Opportunities and Constraints Plan, Preservation Treatment Plan, and consult aerial photography between 1938 and 1956 to understand the historic extent of bunkers. Also refer to Figure 5.10 for repeat photography of the 15th Green.

SO-6: Select teeing grounds can accommodate a wider range of skill levels and different user groups by adding forward tees at Holes 1, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 17. Potential for forward tees are based on available space, topographical, and accessibility constraints. Refer to Table 10: Additional Forward Tee Potential.

- New tees should would ideally reflect the scale of tees used during the period of significance. The size of teeing grounds has expanded over the years, potentially to accommodate a larger number of rounds, expand playability, and facilitate maintenance.
- When considering adding forward tees, do so first within existing generously long tee boxes to avoid construction of wholly new teeing grounds (Holes 11, 13, and 17). Adding new teeing grounds requires regrading, irrigation, and additional maintenance efforts that may be unsustainable and impact the historic character.

SO-7: Recognize the management boundary that determines which areas of the golf course are the responsibility of the operator to maintain and implement Presidio Trust-approved capital improvements (see Management Areas Plan). Areas outside of the operator boundary are the sole responsibility of the Presidio Trust. The Presidio Trust will continue to lead compliance efforts since the golf course is a contributor to the National Historic Landmark and they will retain ultimate oversight for all resources within the operator lease boundary.

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
Table 10: Additional Forward Tee Potential

Hole Number	# Tees	Summary
1	3	Yes
2	4	No, forward tee already provided
3	3	No, forward tee already provided
4	5	No
5	3	No, forward tee already provided
6	3	No, forward tee already provided
7	3	No, forward tee already provided
8	3	No, forward tee already provided
9	5	No, forward tee already provided
10	5	No, forward tee already provided
11	2	Yes
12	3	No, forward tee already provided
13	2	Yes
14	3	Yes
15	3	No - too steep and space constrained
16	3	Yes
17	2	Yes
18	3	No, forward tee already provided

Land Use

Land use covers activities in the landscape that have formed, modified, shaped, or organized the landscape as a result of human interaction. Examples of land use features include fields, pastures, orchards, open range, terraces, commons, cemeteries, playing fields, parks, mining areas, quarries, and logging areas. At the Presidio Golf Course, land use refers to the historic, recreational use of land for the game of golf.

LAND USE TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

LU-1: Maintain the property as an 18-hole golf course providing recreational, social, and employment opportunities.

LU-2: New additions or alterations may be appropriate within the context of modernization of the overall golf course if they support and sustain the historic and primary land use. Opportunity areas where historic integrity has already been impacted were identified during the CLR process as locations to consider first for major modifications or new construction (see related recommendation SO-4 and Preservation Opportunities and Constraints Plan).

Potential additions which could be considered for limited opportunity areas:[144]

- A Presidio Trust-operated tree and plant nursery
- A reconfigured driving range facility
- A water storage area
- A short course — these include 9-hole layouts, executive courses, and par-3 designs in smaller footprints. Short courses allow players to hone their short game skills to master accuracy, distance control, chipping, and putting.[145]
- Clubhouse renovations

Hospitality uses such as motels, hotels, or resorts are not in keeping with the historic land use of the Presidio Golf Course and are not considered appropriate additions or alterations within the opportunity areas.

LU-3: Relocate, consolidate, and/or screen maintenance, equipment, and storage areas that are visible from the golf course or General Store area where players and visitors congregate (Holes 5, 7, 11, and 12). Areas to address include:

- Blade storage area near the 5th Green
- Materials storage bays and shipping containers along the Maintenance Road
- Sod disposal area along the Maintenance Road

144 A 2024 golf facility assessment by the National Golf Foundation provided detailed information for compatible improvements at limited opportunity areas at the Presidio Golf Course.

145 H. N. Wethered and Tom Simpson address the concept of an Approach and Putting (9-hole) Course' in the *Architectural Side of Golf* (1929), which they thought should be designed to be 'supremely difficult' despite its size, which could be as small as 1.5 acres. See pages 42-43 and Plate xv.

Vegetation

Vegetation reflects patterns of human-influenced plans, both native and introduced. It includes functional or ornamental trees and shrubs, including orchards, groves, woodlots, pastures, gardens, allées, forests, and grasslands. At Presidio Golf Course, historic vegetation includes designed allées of Monterey cypress trees (first visible in a 1938 aerial and plan drawing of the course), the Presidio historic forest (comprised of mainly blue gum eucalyptus), mowed tee areas and greens, fairways, roughs. Vegetation has been modified over time to include turf replacement areas, foundation plantings, specimen trees, clubhouse and parking lot landscaping, and other interstitial planted spaces.

Vegetation Treatment Recommendations

Recommendations in this Cultural Landscape Report are consistent with findings and recommendations in both the *Historic Forest Character Study* (2009) and the *Vegetation Management Plan and EA* (2001). The Vegetation treatment section covers three thematic areas:

1. Tree Preservation and Succession Planning
    - » Monterey Cypress Allées
    - » Historic Forest
    - » Other Areas of the Golf Course
2. Turf Maintenance, Reduction Measures, and Conversion to Native Rough Areas
3. Irrigation System Replacement and Drainage Improvements

Tree Preservation and Succession Planning

Monterey Cypress Allées

Trees are one of the iconic features of the Presidio Golf Course. The largest specimens within the course are over 100 years old. Planted in the 1920s and 1930s initially as small, scrubby cypress shrubs in a wide-open landscape of rolling hills, the trees today tower over the course as historic markers and create cooler, shaded corridor-like conditions between the fairways. That being said, mature trees can create functional constraints on course maintenance, restoration efforts, and circulation.

The lifespan for Monterey cypress varies widely, ranging between 100 to 300 years. Those growing in wild, coastal conditions having the longest lifespans. Trees in urban conditions, such as the golf course, are on the lower end of that range and many of course's Monterey cypress trees are approaching the end of their expected lifespans. Robust and proactive planning for their future is important to retain the experience of traversing through a tree-lined fairway that episodically opens at the tees and greens.

VEG-1: Presidio Forestry to manage and evaluate the historic Monterey cypress allées on a case-by-case basis. Any consideration of diversification to address long-term resiliency, pest pressures, or disease vulnerability will follow site-specific inspection, assessment of stand condition, review of available resource data, and alignment with *Vegetation Management Plan and EA* objectives for the Historic Forest Management Zone.

VEG-2: Preserve historic allées of Monterey cypress installed in the 1920s and 1930s to articulate edges of fairways and to maintain the setting/character of the golf course.

The allées should reflect the designed linear and spatial massing as reflected in its maturity at the end of the period of significance. Use the 1956 Period Plan to inform extent of historic massing.

- Adopt spacing standards that enhance the historic character of the Monterey cypress allées, as illustrated in Figure 5.3. Historically, trees were planted quite close together (10 to 15 foot spacing) but as the allées have matured, many have died leaving gaps that detract from the original design intent. Spacing for new trees within a mature allée, however, must provide adequate growing space and solar exposure needed for juvenile trees to survive and establish with structural strength. The CLR identifies that 25 foot minimum to 35 foot maximum spacing will maintain the character of the historic allées.
- Replant/back plant gaps in allées as shown on the Preservation Treatment Plan, which proposes tree planting locations to reflect conditions on the course as of 1956. Currently, some remaining trees at the ends of the allées in prominent locations appear as specimen trees rather than part of a linear system (Hole 18, 9th Green).
- Preemptive back planting can occur prior to a mature tree being removed to allow a juvenile tree to establish and be larger once the adjacent tree is removed. Back planting requires adequate solar exposure and access to water for the juvenile tree.

VEG-3: Improve disease, pest, and climate resilience of the Monterey cypress allées with additions of compatible species in appropriate locations while keeping the overall goal for the allées to continue to read as a single species. Any introduction of alternative tree species will be evaluated for compatibility in structure, habit, texture, and long-term performance in the coastal conditions of the Presidio. Final determinations regarding suitability and implementation will remain under the direction of Presidio Forestry.

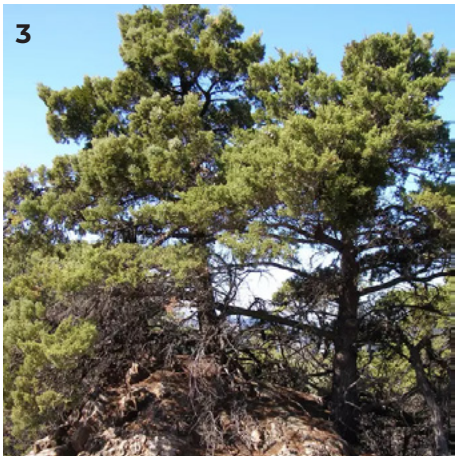
- Limited areas of the allées with lower visibility and/or prominence along the course may be most appropriate for diversification with non-Monterey cypress species, such as the ends of an allée, where changes are visually less impactful to the historic character of these features.
- Where appropriate, Presidio Forestry may consider strategic species diversification to reduce stand-level risk associated with uniform plantings. However, no predefined species list will govern replacement decisions. Species selection, if diversification is warranted, will be determined based on compatibility with the historic spatial organization, canopy character (refer to Figure 5.4), and visual scale of the allées, as well as site conditions such as soil, wind exposure, irrigation constraints, and maintenance requirements.
- With regard to alternative species, the most challenging characteristic to match is the mature height; Monterey cypresses at the Presidio Golf Course typically span 80 to 100 feet in height.
- As of 2026, the following species listed in the *Vegetation Management Plan and EA* may be considered. However, this list is subject to change per evolving site conditions and must be confirmed prior to any action. Refer to Presidio Trust staff for the most current list:
  - Gowen cypress, *Cupressus goveniano*
  - Sargent cypress, *Cupressus sargentii*
  - Santa Cruz cypress, *Hesperocyparis abramsiana*
  - McNab cypress, *Hesperocyparis macnabiana*
  - Torrey pine, *Pinus torreyana*[146]
  - Deodar cedar, *Cedrus deodara*[147]

146 Torrey pine does not grow natively in the Bay Area but can as they adapt well to conditions of coastal fog, drought, and sandy soils.

147 Deodar cedar is generally considered a strong choice for California landscapes, including golf courses, due to their drought tolerance once established, adaptability to various soil types, and ability to withstand heat and humidity. They are frequently used in California for their large, stately, and evergreen appearance.











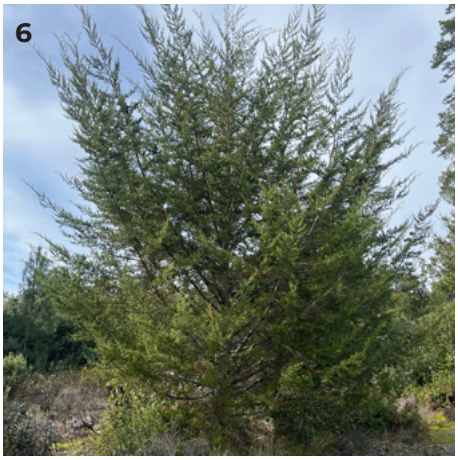




Figure 5.2 – TREATMENT | Vegetation | Tree biodiversity along historic allées | The following species can be considered to provide a greater range of species diversity within the many allées of Monterey cypress trees that line many of the course's holes.

1 View of historic Monterey cypress allees looking north along Hole 10. (MIG 2025)

2 Gowen cypress. (California Academy of Sciences, Beatrice F. Howitt)

3 Sargent cypress. (Anlace)

4 McNab cypress. (Jennifer Nobles)

5 Torrey pine. (San Diego Zoo Global)

6 Santa Cruz cypress. (iNaturalist, (c) James Bailey – some rights reserved (CC BY-NC))

7 Deodar cedar. (Wikimedia Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported license, Jorge Cortell)

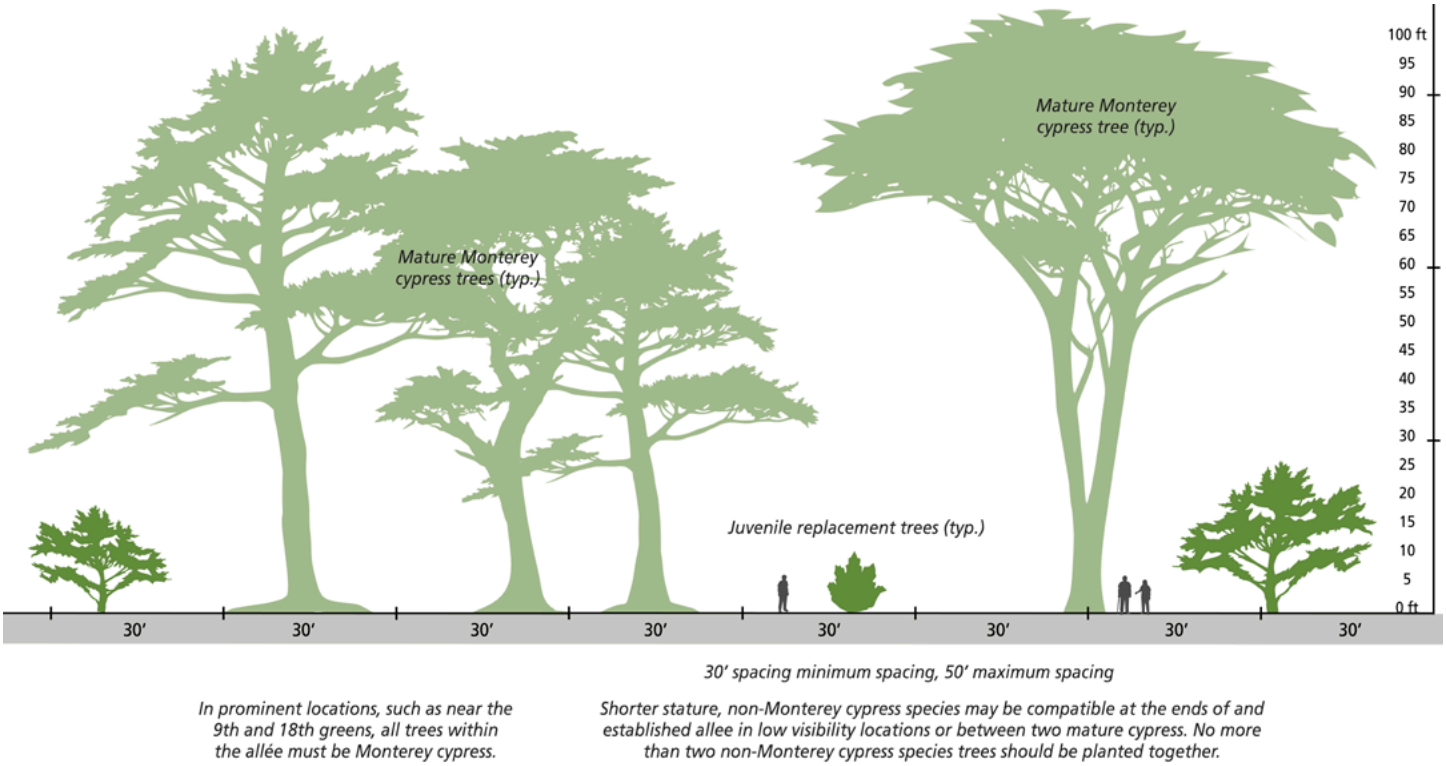


Figure 5.3 – TREATMENT | Vegetation | Tree spacing standards along the historic allées. This is one potential outcome of the recommendations for the allees that can support the historic visual quality. Spacing has been expanded to give trees adequate growing conditions. (MIG 2025)

TREE SPECIES GUIDANCE

THE UNIQUE QUALITIES OF MONTEREY CYPRESS

The unique combination of qualities particular to Monterey cypress (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*) includes:

- Large-stature and vase-shaped form*
- Mature trees have upright trunks that are unbranched until quite tall*
- Fast-growing when juveniles and long-lived (up to 100+ years in urban conditions)
- Light grey, furrowed, textured bark
- Coniferous with dark green scaly foliage*
- Salt and wind tolerance
- Dense canopy provides habitat value to birds and mammals

While all of the listed qualities are important, those marked with asterisks (*) are prioritized for the Presidio Golf Course and should be considered when selecting non-Monterey cypress replacements within the allée areas.


Monterey cypress along Hole 10 (MIG 2025)

Figure 5.4 – TREATMENT | Vegetation | Unique qualities of Monterey cypress should guide compatible species selection for the historic allées. (MIG 2025)

VEG-4: Tree preservation within the golf course landscape shall be guided by the dual objectives of historic character and public safety. Outlined in this CLR and in the *Historic Forest Character Study*, historic spatial character and historic vegetation character establish a basis for decision-making, as does ensuring life safety, structural stability, and long-term forest health. All tree assessments, disease monitoring, maintenance, and removal decisions shall be conducted by Presidio Forestry in accordance with ANSI A300 standards, ISA TRAQ risk assessment protocols, and the Trust's *Vegetation Management Plan and EA*. Preservation goals do not supersede risk mitigation requirements where structural failure potential presents a hazard to public safety, infrastructure, or golf course operations.

Historic Forest

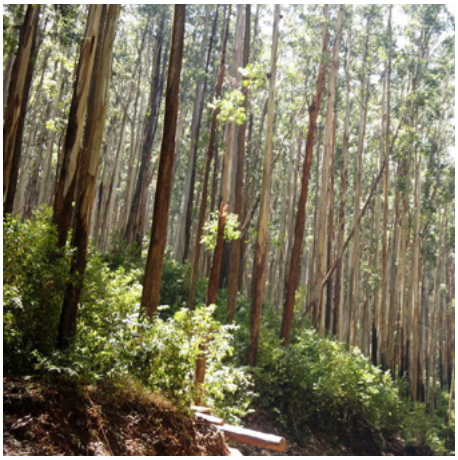
Trees along the eastern and southern perimeter of the golf course within the boundaries of the Presidio Historic Forest provide visual enclosure and wind protection. The Historic Forest's significance, integrity, and rehabilitation recommendations are outlined in the 2009 Historic Forest Character Study. The below recommendations serve to supplement that understanding as it relates to areas of the Historic Forest within the golf course.

VEG-5: Preserve and protect areas of the Presidio's historic forest within the golf course, comprised of blue gum eucalyptus, Monterey pine, black locust, and Monterey cypress. Address overcrowding conditions and overgrown understory to improve the health of the forest.

VEG-6: Resurvey the Presidio's historic forest to better understand its present boundaries in relationship to the golf course. Since it was last assessed, there have been losses from storms, die-off, intentional removal, and other events. There is an overlap of the earlier historic forest and the golf course near Hole 1.

VEG-7: Forest management decisions within the historic forest areas at the golf course perimeter will be determined by Presidio Forestry on a case-by-case basis. Species selection and stand diversification strategies will follow on-site inspection, review of available resource data, evaluation of site conditions (including soils, wind exposure, hydrology, and adjacent land use), and consideration of historic character objectives outlined in this CLR and the *Vegetation Management Plan and EA*. While increasing species diversity may be appropriate in certain areas to improve long-term resiliency and reduce vulnerability associated with monoculture stands, no fixed species list will govern replacement decisions. Instead, Presidio Forestry will evaluate each location individually, selecting species that are compatible with historic forest character where required, and appropriate to ecological function and performance expectations at that specific site.

- In areas where historic forest character is to be retained, species will be chosen to maintain overall canopy form, windbreak function, and landscape scale consistent with management zone objectives. Considerations may include height, spread, growth habit, structure, color, texture, wind tolerance, drought tolerance, and long-term maintenance requirements. When appropriate, replacement species may include historically planted taxa or other species demonstrated to perform successfully under similar coastal conditions. However, final determination of suitability will remain with Presidio Forestry staff following technical review. No species inclusion in this CLR or planning documents shall be interpreted as a directive for use. All planting decisions will be subject to professional forestry judgment, consistency with the *Vegetation Management Plan and EA*, and alignment with resource management and historic preservation requirements.









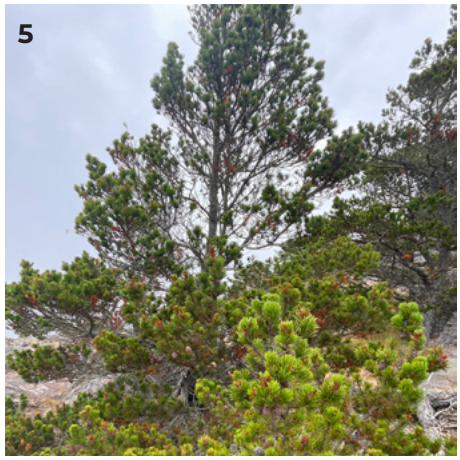










Figure 5.5 – TREATMENT | Vegetation | Tree biodiversity in the historic forest | The following species can be considered to provide a greater range of species diversity within the Presidio historic forest that overlays on the golf course.

1 Flooded gum forest. (Panoramio, Jaseem Hamza)

2 Willow-leafed peppermint gum. (Flickr Creative Commons, Josh S. Jackson)

3 Catalina ironwood. (PlantMaster, Dave Ryden)

4 Coulter pine. (iNaturalist, (c) A. Moore – some rights reserved (CC BY-NC))

5 Shore pine. (iNaturalist, (c) Andrew Jacobs – some rights reserved (CC BY-NC))

6 Narrowleaf red ironbark. (iNaturalist, (c) Chris Jonkers – some rights reserved (CC BY-NC))

7 Red iron bark. (iNaturalist, (c) Dean Nicolle – some rights reserved (CC BY-NC))

8 Bishop pine. (iNaturalist, (c) Chris Cameron – some rights reserved (CC BY-NC))

9 Black sallee. (iNaturalist, (c) Chris Jonkers – some rights reserved (CC-BY-NC))

- As of 2026, the following species listed in the *Vegetation Management Plan and EA* may be considered for use in the Historic Forest.[148] However, this list is subject to change per evolving site conditions and must be confirmed with the Presidio Trust prior to any action. Refer to Presidio Trust staff for the most current list.
  - » Flooded gum, *Eucalyptus grandis*
  - » Willow leafed peppermint gum, *Eucalyptus nicholii*
  - » Silver dollar gum, *Eucalyptus polyanthemos*
  - » Tanbark oak, *Notholithocarpus densiflorus*
  - » Catalina ironwood, *Lyonothamnus floribundus*
  - » Coulter pine, *Pinus coulteri*
  - » Shore pine, *Pinus contorta*
  - » Bishop pine, *Pinus muricata*
  - » Afghan pine, *Pinus eldarica*
  - » Torrey pine, *Pinus torreyana*
  - » Coast live oak, *Quercus agrifolia*
  - » Other species of eucalyptus that perform well in windbreaks elsewhere in California that are not listed in the *Vegetation Management Plan and EA*, include:
    - Narrowleaf red ironbark, *Eucalyptus crebra*
    - Black box, *Eucalyptus largiflorens*
    - Gray ironbark, E*ucalyptus paniculata*
    - Red iron bark, *Eucalyptus sideroxylon*
    - Black sallee, *Eucalyptus stellulata*

VEG-8: Several high-visibility historic forest stands near the golf course that are identified in the Vegetation Management Plan and EA require focused management to maintain them as contributing features. At the golf course, this includes the Monterey cypress stand located between Arguello Boulevard and the golf course. These stands are recognized for their spatial organization, canopy form, and visual prominence.

- Management of these areas will be determined by Presidio Forestry following site inspection, evaluation of tree health, assessment of structural conditions, and consideration of historic landscape objectives. While preservation of overall canopy character, spacing rhythm, and windbreak function remains an important priority, management strategies will not rely on automatic non-replacement or blanket replanting thresholds.
- As individual trees decline or are removed due to health or safety concerns, Presidio Forestry will evaluate replacement or diversification options on a case-by-case basis. Although Monterey cypress are appropriate replacement in some locations to maintain historic character outlined in this CLR, long-term resiliency considerations - including vulnerability to pests, disease, and climate stress - may warrant selective diversification within or adjacent to these stands.

148 For a complete list of options, refer to the 2001 Vegetation Management Plan, Table 2: Tree Species Potentially Suitable to Supplement Current Forest Species.

- Even within designated key historic stands, diversification strategies may be implemented where appropriate to reduce risks associated with monocultures while preserving the defining spatial organization and visual scale of the allée or windbreak. Decisions regarding clearing, replanting, species selection, and stand restructuring will be guided by the *Vegetation Management Plan and EA*, current site conditions, and professional forestry judgment, rather than fixed percentage loss thresholds. The intent is to balance preservation of historic forest character with long-term ecological resilience and public safety, ensuring that these prominent stands remain both visually cohesive and structurally sustainable over time.

VEG-9: Manage understory density and accumulated surface material within the historic forest to maintain stand health, reduce fuel continuity, and support long-term resilience. Treatments should be consistent with Presidio Forestry standards and applicable fire management guidelines, such as the forthcoming *Presidio Trust Wildland Fire Management Plan* (anticipated in 2027).

Other Areas of the Golf Course

VEG-10: Maintain the stand of Monterey cypress between Mountain Lake Trail and the 1st Tee; add trees along the driving range netting to address safety concerns between the course and public areas and to screen the non-contributing driving range. The stand of cypress along Mountain Lake Trail is historic and it protects adjacent properties from errant balls. As trees die or are removed from this area, replant with Monterey cypress to reflect their extent as shown in the 1956 Period Plan. Additional tree planting along the south side of the driving range net will reduce visibility of the driving range from the course, which was not present during the period of significance. The existing trees along this screen are not historic but should be planted to be compatible with other linear allées in the course.

See related recommendations VEG-2 and VEG-6.

VEG-11: When trees are removed, consider reuse of the material on-site, ideally as wood mulch, if it is free of disease.

- Remove felled logs around the General Store. Currently, these trees are used as rustic barriers and seating around the General Store which doesn't reflect the historic character of the golf course.
- In the clubhouse parking lot, remove cut logs that function as oversized wheel stops for cars at the edge of the Monterey cypress plantings (between Arguello and the parking lot). Parking spaces where these logs are situated should be regraded and repaved as needed and replaced with standard wheel stops to match others in the contemporary parking lot.

VEG-12: Contributing trees not planted as part of the Fowler & Simpson design have more flexibility to accommodate change in terms of adjustments in density, footprint, and species, as needed to implement other recommendations. These include the Works Progress Administration (WPA) cluster at the center of golf course.

HABITAT SNAGS

WHAT ARE HABITAT SNAGS?

The term snag refers to a dead tree that is left upright to decompose naturally instead of cutting it down and removing it. Snags provide protected places for wildlife to live (birds, bats, squirrels, raccoons, pollinating insects), act as a food source, provide hiding places, and generate new soil through the process of decomposition by mosses, lichens, and fungi.

As the snag decomposes, limbs and other pieces of it will to fall to the ground; these logs become nurse logs for new tree seedlings.

Approaches to forestry management that leave some deadwood in forests as snags and logs to decay can provide critical habitat for local wildlife and improve ecosystem function.

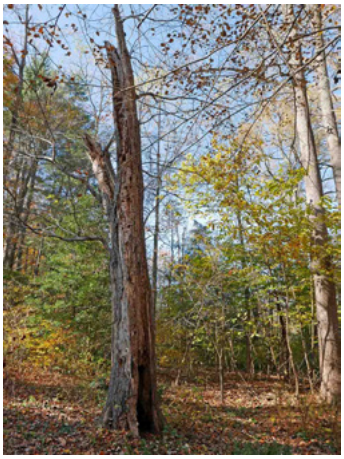


Figure 5.6 – TREATMENT | Vegetation | Tree snag in an open woodland. ((c) Mary Free, Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia)

VEG-13: Select trees may be retained and modified to function as habitat snags where appropriate and consistent with public safety and historic landscape objectives outlined in this CLR. Snags provide important ecological benefits, including perching and nesting opportunities for raptors and other birds, as well as habitat for cavity-nesting species, insects, and fungi that contribute to nutrient cycling and forest health. When created intentionally, retained trunks may be reduced in height as site conditions warrant, generally within a range that balances habitat value and safety considerations, as determined by Presidio Forestry following on-site evaluation. Snags are not appropriate within the Monterey cypress allées, but are appropriate for inclusion in larger groves of trees, such as those between the driving range and Holes 4 and 8. Other possible locations are south of Hole 2, east of Hole 13, and west of Hole 14.

In addition to snag retention and creation, incorporation of large downed wood within forest sections may be used to enhance structural diversity and ecological function.

- Strategically placed coarse, woody debris can provide habitat complexity, support soil development, retain moisture, moderate microclimate conditions, and contribute to long-term forest resilience. It is likely downed wood was not used historically in this way along the course, but it can be incorporated in lower-visibility locations. The size, placement, and quantity of retained wood will be determined on a case-by-case basis, taking into account sight lines, visual prominence from in-play areas, site use, safety, fire management considerations, and alignment with Vegetation Management Plan and EA objectives.
- All snag creation and woody debris retention decisions will be made by Presidio Forestry following site inspection and resource review to ensure that habitat enhancement is balanced with visitor safety, historic character considerations, and overall forest management goals.

VEG-14: Remove non-contributing or invasive species that degrade the historic character or spatial qualities of the golf course or historic forest, encroach on stands of historic trees or fairways, or diminish historic views. Species of concern include English and Cape ivy, Himalayan blackberry, ice plant, Bermuda grass, etc.

- Where invasive vegetation has been removed, consider introducing native species if that area was vegetated during historic period. To address fire risk in areas identified by fire management, select species with higher moisture content within the plants themselves.

Turf Maintenance, Reduction Measures, and Conversion to Native Rough Areas

Earlier eras of the Presidio Golf Course had less irrigated turf reflecting the aesthetics of a rustic links style course with open hillsides and sweeping views. Since the period of significance, as a visual analysis illustrates (see 1956 Extent of Irrigated Turf Plan), turf development and irrigation expanded, and managed turf areas grew. Relative to other types of groundcover, turf is relatively easy and cheap to deploy and maintain. However, complimentary values and goals to reduce water use, introduce more resilient plant species, and reveal the course's history are compatible with a rehabilitation treatment approach - including strategic turf reduction. Reductions should be made so the amount of irrigated turf better reflects what was present in 1956 (at the end of the period of significance). Reductions should likewise be done responsibly so they do not negatively affect the pace of play or enjoyment. Species suggestions as of 2026 are included here, however, all design decisions will defer to the latest list of compatible species developed by Presidio Trust vegetation staff. Turf reduction areas are based on an analysis of historic turf areas and are illustrated in the Potential Turf Reduction & Native Species Consideration Areas Plan.

The following guidelines for turf maintenance, reductions, and conversions include:

VEG-15: Continue efforts to control nematodes present on the Presidio Golf Course greens since they impact the historic character and playability of the greens. Nematodes are plant parasites that thrive in sandy putting greens where there is plenty of pore space for water, oxygen, and nematode mobility. They cause discoloration of the grass, stunted roots, and overall turf stress. Infested turf areas can become thin, weedy, necrotic and may ultimately see widespread turf loss. Consider the following:

- Identify and track the species of nematodes impacting areas of the course so the correct control strategy can be selected.
- Plant nematode resistant turf grass cultivars where there is known damage or infestation.
- Finesse irrigation program at greens to suppress nematode spread.
- Properly fertilize greens to stimulate turf root systems.
- If chemical treatments are necessary, rotate products to avoid developing a resistance.[149]

VEG-16: Remove irrigated turf in areas separating tee boxes and replace with lower-water demand native or climate-adapted, non-invasive bunch grasses. Areas between the forward most tee and fairway should be evaluated carefully before removing turf grass because players using these tees need to be able to reach the fairway easily to keep the game pace flowing. These areas may remain as turf or use species of bunch grasses that mature with less density and height that allow playing out of them. See Table 11: Tee Area Turf Reduction/ Replacement Potential and Potential Turf Reduction & Native Species Consideration Areas Plan.

VEG-17: Remove irrigated turf in areas beyond the tees which adds visual interest and offers additional challenges to players. These include out of play areas or low-volume play areas in the outskirts of the course along the fairway, within rough areas, and on the opposite side of a cart path from the hole. Density of turf replacement plantings should have a relationship to the likelihood of a player needing to find their ball to play out at that location. Planning, design, and execution of this larger turf reduction project should be done in consultation with a golf course architect and site managers to ensure the selected areas do not complicate play or create unintentional maintenance burdens.

149 https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/course-care/green-section-record/61/issue-06/best-management-practices-for-controlling-turfgrass-nematodes.html

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
Table 11: Tee Area Turf Reduction/Replacement Potential

Hole Number	# Tees	Summary
1	3	No - Bunch grasses already incorporated. Assess for replacement if current species not performing to support play.
2	4	Yes
3	3	Yes
4	5	Yes
5	3	Yes - some exist at footbridge crossing but not between tees.
6	3	No - Bunch grasses already incorporated. Needs weeding. Assess for replacement if current species not performing to support play.
7	3	Yes - some exist along the slope, but potential to add more between tees.
8	3	Yes - some exist at far tee perimeters, but more could be added.
9	5	Yes - some exist along the slope, but potential to add more between tees or reduce width of tees along trees.
10	5	Yes - some exist at far tee perimeters, but more could be added.
11	2	Yes - some exist at far tee perimeters, but more could be added or primary tee narrowed.
12	3	Yes - some exist at far tee perimeters, but more could be added.
13	2	Yes, small areas exist, but are sporadic. Add more between tees and narrowing of tees at slope.
14	3	No, most areas between tees along slopes are replanted with bunch grasses. There are small areas where it can be enhanced. Assess for replacement if current species not performing to support play.
15	3	No, most areas between tees along slopes are replanted with bunch grasses. There are small areas where it can be enhanced. Assess for replacement if current species not performing to support play.
16	3	Yes, along slopes on both sides of tee and between tees.
17	2	Yes
18	3	No, most areas between tees along slopes are replanted with bunch grasses. There are small areas where it can be enhanced. Assess for replacement if current species not performing to support play.

- The 1956 Extent of Irrigated Turf Plan provides a visual assessment of areas that were irrigated during the historic period using the 1956 aerial as a basis for the analysis. Footprints of those irrigated areas from 1956 were overlaid on a 2025 aerial image to identify the historic extent of irrigated turf as it compares to what is irrigated today. Places where irrigated turf has expanded since 1956 are areas that should be considered first for turf reductions, as seen in the Potential Turf Reduction & Native Species Consideration Areas Plan.

VEG-18: Replace turf with low-water demand, easy-to-grow, and resilient grass species that perform well on courses in the north coast of Californian and San Francisco Bay. Engage with a native and climate-adapted grass specialist with experience working at golf courses who knows how to establish large areas to direct the turf reduction strategy from the ground. Select species for their growth characteristics to best address the needs of the turf replacement area (for example, bunch grasses versus rhizomatous grasses).

The mature densities[150] of these grasses is also a factor to consider for areas that receive occasional play as it will be easier for players to locate golf balls in lower density grasses. As of 2026, consider the following species which have been used at other California courses (natives include an asterisk):

- Thingrass, *Agrostis pallens**
- Grama grasses, *Bouteloua spp.**
- California brome, *Bromus carinatus*
- California oatgrass, *Danthonia californica**
- Tufted hairgrass, *Deschampsia cespitosa**
- Big galleta, *Hilaria rigida**
- Junegrass, *Koeleria macrantha**
- Muhly grasses or deer grasses, *Muhlenbergia spp.**
- Bluestems, *Schizachyrium spp.*
- Dropseed grass species such as Alkali sacaton, *Sporobolus airoides**; giant sacaton, *Sporobolus wrightii**; and California cordgrass, *Sporobolus foliosus**
  - Do not use smutgrass, *Sporobolus indicus,* or rat-tail grass, *Sporobolus africanus* (both invasive in California)
- California wheatgrass, *Pascopyrum smithii**
- Fine fescues, *Festuca ovina*, *Festuca rubra**, *Festuca brevipila*
- Sixweeks fescue, *Festuca octoflora (a.k.a. Vulpia octoflora)**
- Meadow barley, *Hordeum brachyantherum**
- Purple needlegrass, *Stipa pulchra**

150 Established plant density (plants per area) was lowest for deer grass, sideoats grama, junegrass, and sheep fescue.. Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, "Low-Maintenance Grasses to Replace Turfgrass," GCM Online, accessed May 5, 2026, https://gcmonline.com/course/environment/news/low-maintenance-grasses



Figure 5.7 – TREATMENT | Vegetation | Turf replacement species | The following species can be considered to reduce turf and water use along golf course holes.

1 California oatgrass. (iNaturalist, (c) Wayne Rolle, some rights reserved (CC-BY-NC))

2 Blue grama grass. (Sooner Plan Farm/Ball Seed)

3 Sixweeks fescue grasses. (iNaturalist, (c) Steve Matson, some rights reserved (CC-BY-NC))

4 No mowed fine fescue grasses. (Penn State Extension, Peter Landschoot)

5 Sheep fescue 'Marco Polo'. (Penn State Extension, Peter Landschoot)

6 Wildflower overseeding can add biodiversity and color to naturalized grass stands. Work with Presidio Natural Resources to identify appropriate, locally-sourced native wildflowers. (Penn State Extension, Peter Landschoot)

7 California brome. ((c) Howard F. Schwartz, Colorado State University, some rights reserved (CC-BY-NC))

8 Larger swath of naturalized areas at perimeter of fairways and rough. (USGA, Brian Whitlark)

VEG-19: Incorporate low-growing native or other climate-adapted non-invasive plant and grass species in out-of-play and steeply sloped areas along the course where site conditions (exposure, water availability, potential foot traffic) can best support their establishment. In climates like the San Francisco Bay area, grasses such as thingrass (*Agrostis pallens*), sixweeks fescue (*Vulpia octoflora*), Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), meadow barley (*Hordeum brachyantherum*), and purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*) have been recognized in research supported by USGA for their performance. For best results, use a blend of native grasses.[151]

VEG-20: Add forbs and native wildflower overseeding with both annual and perennial species to support pollinators and promote biodiversity in turf reduction areas and steep banks. Wildflower seeding is best suited for primary rough and out of play areas with good solar exposure. Species to consider include non-invasive asters, milkweeds, daisy, yarrow, and coneflower.

VEG-21: At turf reduction areas, plan and provide regular maintenance in years following planting. Establishment maintenance includes irrigation, regular weed removal, replanting to fill areas slow to establish, fertilization, and twice-yearly mowing. The period of time to fully establish will vary depending on the growing conditions, but it typically takes three to five years to achieve the desired look.[152] Over time, these up-front investments pay off, and the turf replacement areas will become less resource-dependent.

151 United States Golf Association, "Selecting and Establishing Native Grasses for Out-of-Play Areas," *Green Section Record*, accessed August 17, 2026, https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/course-care/green-section-record/59/issue-20/selecting-and-establishing-native-grasses-for-out-of-play-areas.html.

152 United States Golf Association, "Selecting and Establishing Native Grasses for Out-of-Play Areas," Green Section Record 59, no. 20, accessed May 5, 2026, https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/course-care/green-section-record/59/issue-20/selecting-and-establishing-native-grasses-for-out-of-play-areas.html
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Irrigation System Replacement and Drainage Plan

The golf course irrigation system has not been replaced or significantly updated since 1995. A future replacement should reduce overall water demand by targeting it to strategic areas where water is needed for tee boxes, fairways, reduced roughs, and greens. Design of the new system will need to be undertaken in coordination with other vegetation and planting recommendations outlined in this CLR.

VEG-22: Consider working around the existing irrigation layout (until it is fully replaced) to guide turf removal decisions and avoid costly layout changes. Modify sprinkler heads or sprinkler distance to achieve a smaller irrigated zone that works with your reduced turf area.

VEG-23: Design and construct a new irrigation system to meet functional, resource conservation, sustainability, and preservation goals. The new irrigation system shall be automated, efficient, distribute water uniformly, conserve and protect water resources, discourage nematode infestations, minimize staff operation labor, meet state and local code and Presidio Trust requirements, and better reflect the course's historic character. Address the following:

- Irrigation control system must be upgraded or replaced in tandem with course improvements (such as turf reduction) to streamline efforts and reduce conflicts.
- Phase construction to minimize disruption to the course and to enhance the ability to test and refine the system before fully implemented.
- Salvage only fully operable components of the existing irrigation system that can work seamlessly as part of the new system.
- Consider removing irrigation from hard to maintain tees and treat these areas more like a links course. Use a design pilot program and historic interpretation to introduce the idea to players.
- New system needs to be fully maintainable and repairable by the golf course operator following the warranty period.
- Follow a preventative maintenance checklist for the irrigation system.

1956 Extent of Irrigated Turf Plan

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND

- CLR Boundary
- Operator Boundary
- 1956 Extent of Irrigated Turf (estimate based on aerial analysis)

Sources:
1. Background imagery provided by the USGS: 1956 gs-vlx_1-126
2. GIS shapefiles provided by the Presidio Trust

N

0 100 200 300 600 Feet

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2026 Potential Turf Reduction & Native Species Consideration Areas Plan

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report

LEGEND

- CLR Boundary
- Operator Boundary

Golf Course Layout

- Cart Paths
- 2-foot Contours
- Rough
- Tees and Fairways
- Greens
- Bunkers/Sand Traps

Vegetation

- 1956 Extent of Irrigated Turf (estimate based on aerial analysis)
- Turf Reduction Consideration Areas (See VEG-16 through VEG-19)
- Native Species Consideration Areas (out of play, steep slopes)(See VEG-20)
- Historic Forest



Sources:
1. GIS shapefiles provided by the Presidio Trust
2. Background imagery (2025) provided by ESRI ArcGIS Online
3. 2025 MIG field inventory images and GIS data collected via FieldMaps

0 100 200 300 600 Feet

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Circulation

Circulation includes historical systems for movement, including the spaces, features, and material finishes. Circulation features are paths, roads, streams, canals, highways, railways, and waterways. At the Presidio Golf Course, circulation largely comprises non-contributing elements such as golf cart paths, parking lots, pedestrian circulation around the clubhouse, and the Mountain Lake Trail. Some components, such as pedestrian paths along Hole 18 and the Maintenance Road/park trail between Washington Boulevard to Mountain Lake Park appear to date to the period of significance.

CIRCULATION TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

CIRC-1: Maintain a continuous, efficient circulation system to serve players of all levels and abilities and provide maintenance functions for the golf course.

- Maintain a one-way circulation system.
- Limit new paths (both for players and maintenance).
- Remove redundant cart paths and consolidate any overlapping maintenance routes.
- Avoid abrupt cart path dead ends around tees and greens which will concentrate traffic and increase damage to adjacent turf. Consider adding cart path connections to link unconnected segments, such as around the 8th Green.

CIRC-2: Maintain and construct asphalt cart paths to be 7 1/2 feet wide minimum and 8 feet wide maximum. Cart path widths were originally constructed in 1964 using these dimensions. Given the paths are not a contributing feature to the course, there is flexibility to address site specific situations where paths need to be wider for maneuvering.

- Maintain a smooth, evenly graded, well-draining, and pothole-free cart path experience. Patch cracks, fill potholes, and address erosion issues annually to ensure visual consistency, even wear, and hazard-free cart path environment.
- Grade cart paths so water does not pool on or alongside paths or path curbing.

CIRC-3: Incorporate mountable concrete curb edging with gutters as part of any cart path replacement project to provide accessible means to tees, fairways, and greens. Existing cart path curbs are damaged, non-contributing, and there is a desire to improve course accessibility to teeing areas, fairways, and greens. With a sloped face, mountable curbs with an integrated gutter pan allow for ease of access, improved drainage, and eliminate the need for separate aprons or breaks in the curbing that typical upright curbs require. Other benefits of mountable concrete curbs include:.

- Provides a fuller range of access points for maintenance to mow areas.
- Improved fairway and cart path drainage with integrated gutter.
- Less likely to be damaged or cracked by collisions with carts and equipment, so the overall maintenance is lower.
- More uniform appearance along course, less visually prominent that vertical curbing.

CIRC-4: When cart paths are replaced, remove and discontinue use of block cobbles that were installed over the years for path edge protection to address path drainage, rutting, and erosion problems. Instead, slightly widen the path, use a thickened edge below the path grade for reinforcement, and/or incorporate concrete gutters with rolled curb face to address stormwater.

CIRC-5: Provide access improvements to tees from along cart paths. See Table 12: Tee Access Improvement Potential. Accessibility improvements from cart paths are compatible with historic conditions because recommendations seek to remove damaged and non-contributing curbing and restoring optimal drainage function important to preserving the course experience.

TREATMENT | Circulation | Cart Paths

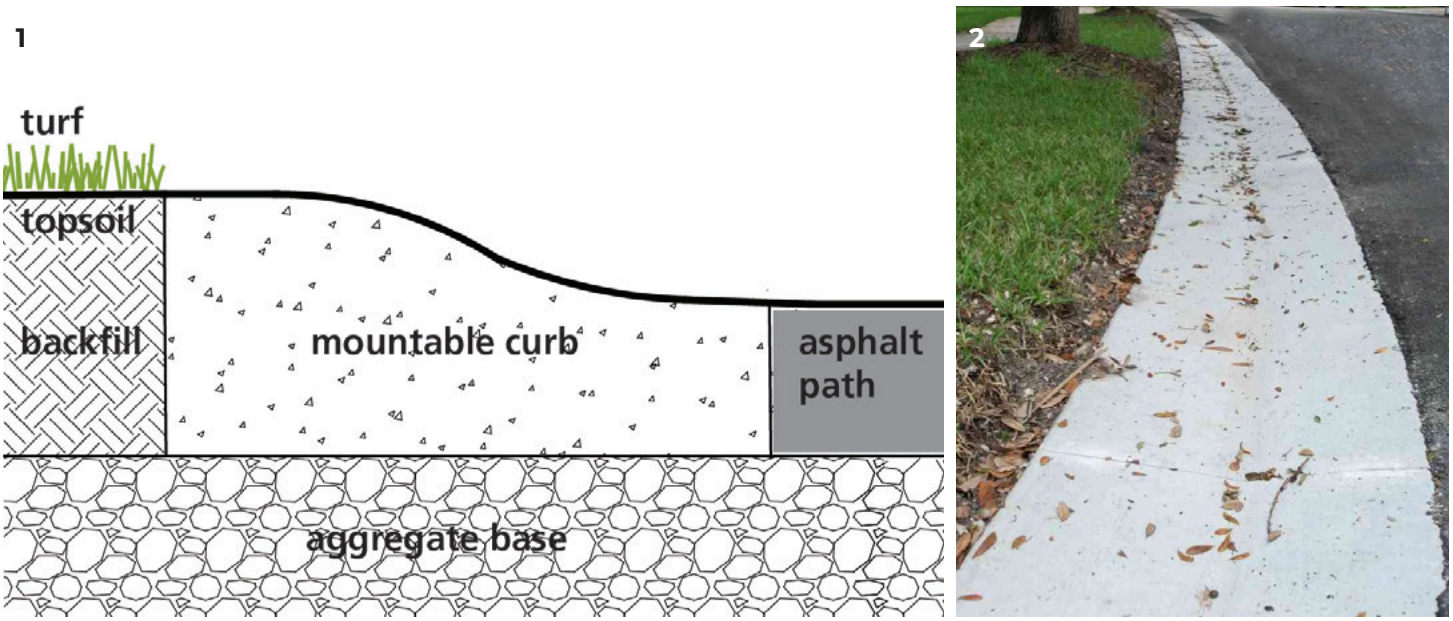


Figure 5.8 – TREATMENT | Circulation | Cart path accessibility

1 Section of a rolled or mountable curb. MIG.

2 Rolled or mountable concrete curb with gutter pan adjacent to turf and asphalt cart path. 3-D Paving.

Presidio Golf Course Cultural Landscape Report
Table 12: Tee Access Improvement Potential

Hole Number	# Tees (2025)	Summary
1	3	Yes - Curb along sloping asphalt cart path
2	4	Yes - Broken curb along sloping asphalt cart path
3	3	No - Level access from curbless asphalt path
4	5	Yes - Broken curb along sloping asphalt path; stairs without handrail for upper 2 tees
5	3	Yes - Curb along level asphalt cart path or past footbridge
6	3	Yes - Stairs without railing to primary tee; other tees have 4" broken curbs, which is difficult to pass
7	3	No - Level access from curbless asphalt path
8	3	Yes - Curb along slightly sloping asphalt cart path; also south cart path dead ends
9	5	Yes - Broken curb along level asphalt path
10	5	No - Level access from curbless asphalt path
11	2	No - Level access from curbless asphalt path
12	3	No - Level access from curbless asphalt path
13	2	Yes - Level access from curbless asphalt path but drainage and pooling at path edge
14	3	No - Sloped access from curbless asphalt path but appears as though carts could access green
15	3	No - Sloped access from curbless asphalt path
16	3	No - Sloped access from curbless asphalt path but appears as though carts could access green
17	2	No - Level access from curbless asphalt path
18	3	No - Level access from curbless asphalt path

Buildings and Structures

Buildings are the elements of a landscape primarily built for sheltering any form of human activities, and structures are the functional elements constructed for other purposes. Engineering systems are also structures. These features include houses, barns, bridges, windmills, gazebos, silos, dams, power lines, culverts, retaining walls, dikes, and foundations. At the Presidio Golf Course, contributing buildings and structures include historic stone walls, a pedestrian underpass, and Building 315. Non-contributing buildings and structures were added after the period of significance include the clubhouse, trellis bar, maintenance buildings, and some retaining walls.

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

BS-1: Complete historic structures documentation to assess the current condition of the contributing buildings and structures. These include:

- Building 315
- North pedestrian underpass (connecting 16th Green and 17th Tee)
- Stone walls located:
  - Along Arguello Boulevard near Arguello Gates
  - Along event lawn fence at golf cart park area
  - East of the 16th Green at north pedestrian underpass
  - South of the 9th Green along parking bay
  - South of 4th Tee along slope
  - Along Mountain Lake Trail (this long wall is off site, but treatment for it should be similar and coordinated)

BS-2: Maintain the historic character of contributing buildings and structures while allowing for improvements and compatible changes of use in alignment with the *PTMP*.

- Improve safety and function of north pedestrian underpass, removing vegetation at the underpass openings, potentially adding lighting, and improving drainage so there is no standing water.

BS-3: Rehabilitate stone masonry walls dating to the period of significance. Walls should be cleared of vegetation and eroded soil, be provided needed repairs (or complete rebuilding), and receive periodic maintenance to improve their retaining function, structural integrity, and appearance on the course.

- When repaired or rebuilt, historic stone masonry walls will use similar methods and materials per their original construction, reusing existing stone at every opportunity. New stone and mortar must match existing stones in type, composition, dimensions, and color.
- Consult historic drawings if available to plan and sensitively execute repairs.
- If additional structural elements are needed to retain function and appearance of historic stone walls, those new elements should be hidden from view.
- Non-contributing stone walls should removed if not needed. If existing non-contributing walls or new walls are needed, then they should be compatible but distinct.

BS-4: Rehabilitation, expansion, or upgrades of existing non-contributing buildings and structures must be in alignment with the PTMP. Proposed projects must be in scale with what was present during the historic period to maintain the landscape's historic setting and context. Visual impact of any building alteration must be mitigated with compatible screening.

BS-5: Sensitively site and design new buildings and structures to be in harmony with the historic golf course landscape at the end of the period of significance, 1956. Projects must align with the *PMTP*, be compatible with the historic character of extant contributing buildings and structures, but also be distinct to meet the *SOI Standards*.

» First, consider sites where historic buildings previously existed, or have been removed, for new buildings. Next, consider opportunity areas of the course with lower integrity (See Preservation Opportunities and Constraints Plan).

- Opportunity areas can support compatible buildings, structures, or uses that support recreational golf such as improved driving range facilities, refreshment kiosk, Presidio tree nursery, or a water storage facility.
- The driving range area is an opportunity area where the current net system and poles could be upgraded, simplified, and streamlined to have less visual impact on the adjacent holes and more effective in capturing balls, thus improving safety along Hole 1 and the adjacent neighborhood.
- If buildings, structures, and related spaces for golf course maintenance are added in the future, space planning must account for the need to keep maintenance equipment, mowing blades, and attachments secure and screened from the course during operating hours. Mowing blades, attachments, and related equipment are currently left out in the open along the park trail at Hole 5. The items create visual clutter and safety conflicts for players and pedestrians.

» New buildings, structures, and associated gathering areas should meet or exceed accessibility and sustainability standards, while meeting the *SOI Standards* for compatibility with contributing buildings and structures.



Figure 5.9 – TREATMENT | Buildings and Structures | Driving range net systems should have minimal impact on adjacent holes as possible using consistent materials, pole heights, pole spacing, and finish colors. (Taylor Fence)

Views and Vistas

Views are the expansive or panoramic prospects of a broad range of vision which may be naturally occurring or deliberate. Vistas are the controlled prospect of a discrete, linear range of vision. Views and vistas can be defined by the composition of other landscape characteristics, such as a lookout structure or a view framed by vegetation. At the Presidio Golf Course, contributing views and vistas are largely comprised by interior, linear viewsheds from teeing areas toward their respective greens. There are also select outward views from the golf course to distant ridges and iconic buildings, such as the Concordia Club and the domed Congregation Emanu-El overlooking the 9th Green. The following recommendations support preservation of key views and vistas.

VIEWS AND VISTAS TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

VIEW-1: Consult historical photographs included in this CLR to understand open quality of key views to strategically identify vegetation that can be added, modified, or removed to restore or enhance a viewshed. Remove encroaching vegetation unless it frames a desired view or vista; replant vegetation that's been lost which once framed a view. Tees, bunkers, and greens can also be rehabilitated to restore a historic view (for an example, see Figure 5.9). All contributing views are located on the Existing Conditions and Opportunities & Constraints Plans.

VIEW-2: Manage internal views with tree limbing, perimeter brush reduction/clearing, stump removal, as-needed regrading at tees, and sensitive siting and design of new features that may impact viewsheds. Locations include:

- View of 4th Green from 4th Tee (View 3)
- Along Hole 7 (downward slope view of hole) (View 4)
- Along Hole 8 (uphill slope view of hole) (View 5)

VIEW-3: Manage outward views that reinforce spatial contextual relationships of the golf course to other locations in the San Francisco. Locations include:

- View of the Concordia Club and Congregation Emanu-El overlooking the 9th Green (View 1).
- View to Twin Peaks from 14th Green/15th Tee (View 2).
- View to Alcatraz from the Clubhouse entrance off of Arguello Boulevard. This view was noted during the CLR field work. Although not documented historically, it provides context to the location of the golf course with respect to the San Francisco Bay and wider Presidio of San Francisco landscape.
- Clear non-contributing vegetation to optimally frame other outward views.



Figure 5.10 – TREATMENT | Views and Vistas | Repeat photography can guide your approach to reestablishing iconic and historic viewsheds from the golf course.

1 1936 photograph of a teeing area looking toward bunkers, green, and neighborhood below Twin Peaks. Photo courtesy of Forrest Richardson.

2 2025 photograph from the 15th Tee looking towards bunkers, green, and neighborhood below Twin Peaks. Bunkers at this hole have been reduced or removed, cart paths added, and surrounding trees have matured (which were intended to screen that portion of the view). Any future vegetation planting or removal in this vicinity should consider impacts to this viewshed. MIG 2025.

Small-scale Features

Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. Types of small-scale features may include benches, fences, monuments, road markers, flagpoles, signs, foot bridges, curbstones, trail ruts, culverts, and foundations. At the Presidio Golf Course, small-scale features are present that address the functional needs of the game but very few contribute to the historic landscape. They include fences, site furnishings (such as picnic tables), storage containers, gutters (cobble, brick, moulded concrete), driving range partitions, and landscape boulders. While some of the contemporary small-scale features in place today may not have existed during the historic period, in a designed landscape such as the Presidio Golf Course all would have exhibited a consistent character, palette of materials, and scale.

SMALL-SCALE FEATURES RECOMMENDATIONS

SSF-1: Use a consistent site furnishing style across all categories of features on the golf course. These include items such as benches, ball washers, trash receptacles, shoe brushes, drinking fountains, bottle fill stations, concierge stands, bag rests, and tee marker stones and posts that reflect the golden age of golf in their design. While these features are not permanent, they do have lifespans of 5-10 years and are a consistent presence across the course and congregation areas and are important details that impact the Presidio Golf Course experience.

- Design and contrast of all furnishings should be minimal and blend into the context of the golf course landscape.
- Selection of bench and trash/recycling receptacle style will generally guide the choices for other site furnishings given they are the most common along the golf course.
- Select one bench frame color (black or green) and match the slat color or use unfinished, natural wood which will patina to grey. Benches to be metal frame with wood or metal slats in a common park style, between 6 and 8 feet long. Reference historical photographs that date to the period of significance for scale and style reference. The design and character of ball wash stations should match.
- Provide benches, ball wash stations, and trash receptacles at consistent intervals along the course.
- Use wildlife proof trash receptacles to reduce habituation of wildlife.
- All site furnishings must meet accessibility standards. Furnishing to be installed so they provide required clear ground space with slope maximums in each direction. Customize furnishings with manufacturers or fabricators as needed to meet accessibility standards.

SSF-2: Reduce the palette of fence types and standardize their designs and materials to reduce their visibility/contrast along the course. Currently, at least seven variations of fences or barriers exist to prevent movement, establish a boundary, provide screening, or prevent trampling of vegetation.

- Fences styles used at the golf course should be similar to those used throughout the Presidio and be compatible in scale and materials to those used during the golf course's period of significance.
- Fence styles that are not compatible and should be removed include all good-neighbor style fences with lattice tops and other residential style wood plank fences. These are located in the vicinity of the Clubhouse, golf cart parking area, and opposite the cart path near the 1st Tee.

- Replace the fence panels at the Clubhouse event lawn with screening shrubs. The fencing in current use is residential in scale and style and is not compatible. This area did not have fencing historically and it fragments the spatial organization of the arrival point/Clubhouse to the putting/chipping area.

SSF-3: Stabilize the fence along the reservoir. This fence is thought to have been installed in the 1960s and shows signs of failure or toppling in some areas due to vines and ivy growing in a mat over it. Remove all vegetation within three feet of the fence on both sides, stabilize posts that are not plumb, and repair panel damage. The fence functions as a security fence for the reservoir and needs rehabilitation so that function remains reliable. If stabilization of this fence is not an adequate solution, replace the fence outright with a compatible design in keeping with the end of the period of significance.

SSF-4: Phase the removal of brick and moulded concrete gutters along the Maintenance Road and cobble-reinforced cart paths. The gutters along the Maintenance Road and the cobblestone reinforced path edges found along sections of the cart paths were installed at unknown dates, possibly by the U.S. Army, and do not contribute to the historic designed landscape. If the removal of these small-scale features is required due to maintenance needs or to install circulation improvements, it would result in minimal impact to the Presidio Golf Course cultural landscape. They may be replaced with low-profile and contextual materials that are compatible with the historic design and use of the golf course. See related recommendations under Circulation.

- The brick and moulded concrete gutter sections along the maintenance road and the steel plates placed at the maintenance building driveways to facilitate vehicular access appear to have been installed without consideration of the surrounding landscape. New design solutions should consider design continuity along the full road alignment, drainage patterns, and access requirements.
- Where damaged, the gutter should be temporarily repaired so it can continue to carry water along the maintenance road until full replacement or removal is feasible. A replacement gutter system should utilize materials that match the surfacing of other paved paths and trails in the Presidio. Concrete or asphalt are acceptable.

TREATMENT | Small-scale Features | Benches



Figure 5.11 – TREATMENT | Small-scale Features | Compatible Site Furnishings

1 Green painted wood slat bench with galvanized steel frame. This bench needs armrests and stable surface to be accessible. (Pilot Rock)

2 Golf course bench and ball wash station that dates to the period of significance. 1946 “Getting some December sunshine on No. 13 on the post. (GOGA Park Archives, GOGA 35289)

3 Natural wood slat bench with galvanized steel frame. This bench needs armrests and stable surface to be accessible. (Pilot Rock)

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APPENDIX A

GLOSSARY OF GOLF COURSE & CULTURAL LANDSCAPE TERMS

APPENDIX A. GLOSSARY OF GOLF COURSE & CULTURAL LANDSCAPE TERMS

GLOSSARY OF GOLF COURSE TERMS

Course and Hole Design

Blind Shot: A shot played without direct visibility of the landing area; may reflect historic design philosophy.

Dogleg: A directional change in a hole's alignment, often responding to topography or vegetation.

Front Nine / Back Nine: The first and last sets of nine holes on an 18-hole course.

Hole: A complete unit of play from tee to green.

Links Course: Coastal course built on sandy soil with natural contours and few trees.

Parkland Course: Inland course characterized by trees, lush grass, and defined fairways.

Par: The expected number of strokes to complete a hole.

Routing: The sequence and arrangement of holes across the landscape.

Teeing Area

Back Tees / Championship Tees: The farthest tees from the hole, typically used by advanced players.

Forward Tees: Tees positioned closer to the hole, often for beginners or shorter hitters.

Tee Box (Teeing Ground): The designated starting area for each hole where the first stroke is played.

Tee Markers: Movable markers that define the boundaries of the teeing area.

Fairway & General Play Areas

Apron (Fringe): The closely mown grass surrounding the green, slightly longer than putting surface.

Fairway: The closely mown area between the tee and the green, intended as the primary landing zone.

Rough (Managed or Naturalized): Areas of taller grass or vegetation adjacent to fairways; may represent historic maintenance regimes or later ecological adaptations.

(Primary) Rough: Slightly longer grass bordering the fairway, offering moderate difficulty.

(Secondary) Rough: Taller, denser grass further from the fairway, making shots more challenging.

Putting Greens

Cup (Hole): The 4.25-inch diameter hole where the flagstick is placed.

False Front: A sloped area at the front of a green that repels balls back toward the fairway.

Flagstick (Pin): A removable pole marking the hole's location.

Green (Putting Green): The smooth, finely cut grass area containing the hole.

Slope: The incline or tilt affecting ball movement.

Hazards & Penalty Areas

Bunker (Sand Trap): A depression filled with sand, designed to challenge shots.

Fairway Bunker: Located along the fairway, typically to catch tee shots.

Greenside Bunker: Positioned near the green to guard approaches.

Maintenance Terms

Aeration: The process of perforating soil to improve air and water movement.

Boneyard: Typically an open, outdoor area where maintenance tools, equipment, supplies, and related materials are stored.

Grain: The direction grass grows, influencing ball roll.

Greenskeeping: The maintenance and care of the course.

Mow Height: The length at which grass is cut, varying by area.

Topdressing: Applying sand or soil to maintain smoothness and turf health.

GLOSSARY OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPE TERMS

Analysis and Evaluation

The study of a cultural landscape in terms of its individual landscape characteristics and associated features, and the determination of the landscape's integrity and significance based on a comparison of its physical history and existing conditions.

Constraints

Within cultural landscapes constraints or constraint areas commonly refer to places or features that have historic integrity or strong historic integrity and can therefore accommodate a lesser degree of change, or the changes need to more closely follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Properties with Guidelines for Cultural Landscapes. See the definition of Constraints for more information.

Cultural Landscape

A cultural landscape is defined as a geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife therein) associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources refers to districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects generally older than 50 years and considered to be important to a culture, subculture, or community for scientific, traditional, religious, or other reasons. They include prehistoric resources, historic-era resources, cultural landscapes, and "tribal cultural resources". It is important to note than sometimes this term is used solely to describe archeological and/or ethnographic resources, but that is not how it is used in this document.

Ethnographic Landscape

An ethnographic landscape is a landscape containing a variety of natural and cultural resources that associated people define as heritage resources.

Historic Character

The sum of all visual aspects, features, materials, and spaces associated with a cultural landscape's history and significance.

Historic Designed Landscape

A historic designed landscape is one that is significant as a design or work of art that was consciously planned and laid out either by a master gardener, landscape architect, architect, or horticulturist to a design principle, or by an owner or other amateur according to a recognized style or tradition. Historic designed landscapes can have an association with a significant person, trend, or movement in landscape gardening or architecture, or a significant relationship to the theory or practice of landscape architecture.

Historic District (often shortened to District)

A historic district is a geographically definable area, urban or rural, possessing a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, landscapes, structures, or objects, united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical developments.

Historic Integrity (often shortened to Integrity)

Integrity is the authenticity of a cultural landscape's historic identity evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during its historic or prehistoric period. The extent to which a cultural landscape retains its historic appearance. An evaluation of historic integrity references the entire cultural landscape as either having integrity or not having integrity. However, often times qualifiers like 'high/strong' or 'low/diminished' are used to provide more detailed descriptions of landscape characteristics or features.

Historic Period (see Period of Significance)

Historic Property (sometimes shortened to Property)

A historic property is the umbrella term for one of the five types of resources that can be listed in the National Register of Historic Places: historic buildings, districts, sites, structures, and objects. Cultural landscapes are typically recognized as districts or sites.

Historic Site

A historic site the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archaeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure.

Historic Vernacular Landscape

A historic vernacular landscape is a landscape whose use, construction, or physical layout reflects endemic traditions, customs, beliefs, or values; in which the expression of cultural values, social behavior, and individual actions over time is manifested in physical features and materials and their interrelationships, including patters of spatial organization, land use, circulation, vegetation, structures, and objects; in which the physical, biological, and cultural features reflect the customs and everyday lives of people.

Landscape Characteristics

Landscape characteristics include tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape from the historic period(s); these aspects individually and collectively give a landscape its historic character and aid in the understanding of its cultural importance. Landscape characteristics range from large-scale patterns and relationships to site details and materials. The characteristics are categories under which individual associated features can be grouped. For example, the landscape characteristic, vegetation, may include such features as a specimen tree, hedgerow, woodlot, and perennial bed.

Landscape Features (also referred to as Character-Defining Features)

Landscape features are prominent or distinctive elements of a cultural landscape. In a cultural landscape, individual features are grouped under broader categories of landscape characteristics. For example, such features as ravines, valleys, wetlands, and cliffs are grouped under the landscape characteristic, "natural systems and features."

National Register of Historic Places

The official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

Opportunities

Within cultural landscapes, opportunities (or opportunity areas) commonly refer to places or features that have no historic integrity or diminished historic integrity and can therefore accommodate a higher degree of change. See the definition of Constraints for more information.

Period of Significance

The period of significance, also referred to as the historic period, is the length of time when a property was associated with important events, activities, or person(s), or attained the characteristics that qualify it for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Preservation

Preservation is the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.

Preservation Maintenance

Preservation maintenance is the action taken to mitigate wear and deterioration of a cultural landscape without altering its historic character by protecting its condition, repairing when its condition warrants with the least degree of intervention including limited replacement in kind, replacing an entire feature in kind when the level of deterioration or damage of materials precludes repair, and stabilizing to protect damaged materials or features from additional damage.

Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation is the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features that convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

Restoration

Restoration is the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project.

Reconstruction

Reconstruction is the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.

Resilience

Amount of change or disturbance that can be absorbed by a system (e.g., an organism, population, community, or ecosystem) before the system is redefined by a different set of processes or structures (i.e., the ecosystem recovers from the change or disturbance without a major phase shift).

Sensitivity

Degree to which a system is affected, either adversely or beneficially, by climate-related stimuli.

Significance (also referred to as Historical Significance)

Significance is the meaning or value ascribed to a structure, landscape, object, or site based on the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation. It normally stems from a combination of association and integrity. There may also be references to 'Areas of Significance' which describes the type or category of significance that has been established for this property through the National Register of Historic Places guidelines.

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)

An official within each state appointed by the governor to administer the state historic preservation program and carry out certain responsibilities relating to federal undertakings within the state.

Statement of Significance

An explanation of how a cultural landscape, or part of a cultural landscape, meets the National Register criteria, drawing on facts about the history and the historic trends—local, state, national— that the property reflects.

Preservation Treatment (often shortened to Treatment)

Treatment is the preservation strategy and actions for the long-term care and management of a cultural landscape including preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction.

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)

An official within the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of a federally recognized Tribe that directs a program to manage Tribal historic properties. The THPO assumes some or all of the functions of a SHPO on Tribal lands.

Vulnerability

Degree to which a landscape is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes.

Vulnerability Assessment

Key tool for carrying out adaptation planning, and informing the development and implementation of climate-smart resource management practices.

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