
APPENDIX F

HISTORIC RESOURCES EVALUATION

This page intentionally left blank



CARLSBAD
FRESNO
IRVINE
LOS ANGELES
PALM SPRINGS
POINT RICHMOND
RIVERSIDE
ROSEVILLE
SAN LUIS OBISPO

April 4, 2019
via email

David Schnee, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP, Principal
Group 4 Architecture, Research, + Planning, Inc.
211 Linden Avenue
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Subject: Historical Resource Evaluation of the War Memorial Community Center and San Bruno Park Pool Facility, San Bruno, San Mateo County, California (LSA Project #GRP1803)

Dear Mr. Schnee:

LSA prepared a Historical Resource Evaluation (HRE) of two built environment properties, the War Memorial Community Center building (Community Center) and the San Bruno Park Pool Facility (Pool Facility), located at 251 City Park Way in San Bruno, San Mateo County, California.

The evaluated properties consist of a two-story concrete- and wood-framed auditorium built in two stages between 1946 and 1958; and a detached pool facility consisting of an L-shaped in-ground pool and single-story changing room building. Both properties are centrally located within San Bruno City Park, a 29.265-acre parcel (Assessor Parcel Number [APN] 020-320-030) adjacent to, and southeast of, Crystal Springs Road (Appendix A: Figures 1, 2, and 3).

LSA prepared this HRE to assess the status of the Community Center and the Pool Facility to determine if they qualify as historical resources under California Public Resources Code (PRC) §21084.1. The HRE documents background archival and online research, as well as a field review by an architectural historian to document existing conditions. The methods, analysis, and conclusions of the HRE are presented in the sections that follow. Please see Appendix B for the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 (DPR 523) Series forms for full individual California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) eligibility evaluations of the Community Center and the Pool Facility.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Records Search

LSA conducted a records search for the 29.265-acre study area on January 4, 2019, at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System in Rohnert Park. The NWIC, an affiliate of the State of California Office of Historic Preservation, is the official State repository of cultural resource records and reports for San Mateo County.

As part of the records search, LSA also reviewed the following local and State inventories for built environment cultural resources in and adjacent to the study area:

- *Historic Sites Master List for San Mateo County* (San Mateo County 1980);

- *California Inventory of Historic Resources* (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1976);
- *Five Views: An Ethnic Historic Site Survey for California* (California Office of Historic Preservation 1988);
- *California Points of Historical Interest* (California Office of Historic Preservation 1992);
- *California Historical Landmarks* (California Office of Historic Preservation 1996); and
- *Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File: San Mateo County* (California Office of Historic Preservation April 5, 2012). The directory includes the listings of the NRHP, National Historic Landmarks, CRHR, California Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest.

Results. The records search did not identify any previously conducted built environment cultural resource studies within or adjacent to the study area, and neither the Community Center or the Pool Facility were previously identified as cultural resources.

Map Review

LSA reviewed the following maps for historical information about the study area and its vicinity: the *San Mateo, Calif.*, 15-minute topographic quadrangle (U.S. Geological Survey 1896, 1899, 1915, and 1939); the *Montara Mountain, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (U.S. Geological Survey 1949, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1993, and 1997); and the *Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps for San Bruno, California* (Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Ltd., 1949).

Results. The *San Mateo, Calif.*, 15-minute quadrangle depicts the study area as undeveloped land in a sparsely developed area along a rail line bordering a salt marsh (USGS 1896, 1899, 1915, and 1939). The 1949 *Montara Mountain, Calif.*, 7.5-minute quadrangle depicts the City Park in the study area, with an intermittent creek crossing from east to west. No other buildings in the study area are shown. The 1956 *Montara Mountain, Calif.*, 7.5-minute quadrangle depicts the Community Center in the study area. The 1968 *Montara Mountain, Calif.*, 7.5-minute quadrangle depicts the Community Center and the Park Pool facility in the study area. The buildings are depicted on the 1980, 1993, and 1997 *Montara Mountain, Calif.*, 7.5-minute quadrangles. The 1993 and 1997 quadrangles depicts areas north, east, and south of the study area in a shaded gray color, indicating a high density of development (USGS 1947, 1950, 1956, 1968, 1973, 1980, 1993, and 1995).

The 1949 Sanborn map shows only the eastern half of San Bruno Park. No buildings, structures, or objects are depicted. El Crystal Elementary School is south of the study area. The consists of one rectangular single-story administration building and four separate single-story classrooms of reinforced concrete arranged on a north-south axis connected by a covered walkway. A detached single-story rectangular building, presumably a gymnasium, is shown southeast of and behind the classrooms. South and east of the school is the Lomita Park neighborhood, which consists of rectangular parcels of varying sizes containing single-family homes with a universal street setback and detached garages. The residential area east of and adjacent to the study area is platted on a street grid with tree-named streets (Linden, Poplar, Elm, Acacia, and Cypress). The residential area south of and adjacent to the study area is platted with a mix of grid and curvilinear streets named after Spanish explorers (Anza, Balboa, Cabrillo, De Soto, and Portola) (Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Ltd., 1949, Vol. 1, Sheet 6). Later editions of the Sanborn maps were not available for review.

Archival Research

LSA architectural historian Michael Hibma, M.A., conducted archival research for the study area on March 19, 2019, in the History Collection at the San Bruno Public Library; at the City of San Bruno Community Development Department; and at the San Mateo County History Museum. Mr. Hibma examined building plans, construction bid documentation, newspaper clippings, and local historical publications to identify date(s) of construction and the uses of buildings in the study area, as well as alterations to the buildings over time.

San Bruno Community Development Department Records

Results. On February 12, 2019, LSA contacted Mr. Michael Smith, Senior Planner with the San Bruno Community Development Department, to obtain information regarding the history of the Community Center and Pool Facility. Specific types of information requested included (1) architectural drawings or plans; (2) records or work orders to repair or alter the Community Center or Pool Facility; (3) inspection records; and (4) photographs.

On March 7, 2019, Mr. Smith notified LSA that some of the information requested was located, and on March 19, 2019, LSA reviewed a copy of plans and drawings for a proposed Community Center renovation project in 1989, a construction bid submittal prepared in 1959 to build the Pool Facility, and various invoices for fencing repair in 2012-2013 at the Community Development Department. No other records were provided.

Scanned newspaper articles accessed via San Bruno Library's Digital Reel microfilm conversion program yielded limited information about the Community Center and Pool Facility, presented in Tables 1 and 2, below.

Table 1: Building Information – War Memorial Community Center

Date	Description
January 17, 1981	Article in <i>San Bruno Herald</i> describing a contract for over \$31,000 in repairs to the Community Center as a result of vandalism. Information obtained via San Bruno Library Digital Reel records.
December 26, 1989	<i>San Bruno Recreation Center – Phase 1 Improvements</i> . Group 4/Architecture, Research, and Planning Inc. Proposed work consisted of a partial interior remodel of the Community Center, including the offices, meeting rooms, teen center, and tots room, to accommodate new office space for San Bruno Parks and Recreation Department staff. The project also partially demolished the south-facing façade to install three sensor-operated sliding main entrance doors, as well as replacement ground-level fenestration. No other alterations were depicted.

Sources: City of San Bruno Community Development Department and the Local History Collection – San Bruno Public Library, San Bruno.

Table 2: Building Information – San Bruno Park Pool

Date	Description
February 12, 1959	Plans and Specifications for Swimming Pool and Bath House. Submitted by San Francisco-based civil engineer August E. Waegemann, this bid document included plans and specifications for a swimming pool and bath house in San Bruno Park. The plans called for building a single-story bath house of reinforced concrete and steel, and excavating two in-ground concrete swimming pools surrounded by a concrete pool deck. The main pool is “L-shaped” and is between three and ten feet deep. The second pool is a square, one-foot-deep toddler pool. The project also included necessary filtration, heating, cleaning, and chlorination equipment; lighting; and perimeter chain link fencing.
October 15, 2012	Invoice from San Leandro-based J&R Fence, Inc. to remove 45 feet of old pool fencing and install 85 feet of new post and frame work reusing 40 feet of existing fence fabric. Work included an optional task to add an additional 22 feet of chain link fencing.
February 6, 2013	Invoice from San Leandro-based J&R Fence Inc. to remove 67 feet of existing fencing and reuse as much material as able. Install new fencing preplans and convert a 4-foot-wide single gate into an 8-foot-wide double gate.

Source: City of San Bruno Community Development Department.

Local History Collection – San Bruno City Public Library

Results. Archival information reviewed included a scrap book that contained newspaper clippings and memoranda related to San Bruno Community Center, Inc., which was the entity responsible for overseeing fund raising and project development, collected between 1946 and 1951. The scrap book indicated that the Community Center was built as part of the Living Memorial Movement, which began in the United States in the years following World War I, and documented the extensive efforts to raise funds to build the Community Center through notices related to fund raising efforts, including door-to-door collection drives, carnivals, parades, enchilada dinners, bingo games, dances, fashion shows, and kangaroo courts.

The local history collection also contained typewritten meeting minutes of the San Bruno Community Center for meetings held on May 5, 1945 (Victory in Europe Day), May 29, 1945, and September 14, 1945. These minutes outlined the rationale and proposed approach for raising funds for the construction of a Living Memorial in San Bruno.

Information regarding the Pool Facility was contained in various local newspaper articles about swimming classes, changes in access fees, and hours of operation. No information regarding alterations to the Pool Facility were identified.

San Mateo County History Museum

Results. Archival Information reviewed included various local history publications, newspaper articles, and a *Historical Resource Inventory for the San Bruno Redevelopment Project* prepared in August 2001 by Pacific Grove-based architectural historian Kent Seavey. An additional source included the San Bruno County Index, a topical collection of historical materials collected by local

historian Darold E. Fredricks. The information provided general information on the history of San Mateo County, the city of San Bruno, San Bruno City Park, and the Community Center.

Please see Appendix B for DPR 523 Series forms that contain a synthesis of the information obtained about the Community Center and the Pool Facility.

FIELD REVIEW

LSA architectural historian Michael Hibma, M.A., conducted a field review of the Community Center and the Pool Facility on March 19, 2019. The purpose of the review was to characterize their architectural styles, identify their respective character-defining features, and assess the building's condition with respect to potential alterations not documented via official records. The field review was recorded with field notes and photographs.

Results

The Community Center is an imposing representative example of International/Modern architecture. The Community Center is in good condition. The Pool Facility bath house in the study area is a modest example of International/Modern architecture. The Pool Facility is in good condition. The character-defining features of both are presented below.

Character-Defining Features: Community Center

For a cultural resource to be eligible for national, state and/or local designation, the essential physical features (or character-defining features) that enable the property to convey its historic character must be present, along with sufficient integrity to convey that historical significance. Character-defining features can be expressed in terms of form, massing, proportion, historical development, plan, aesthetic design, architectural style(s), or materiality.

The character-defining features of the Community Center are:

- Two-story rectangular mass.
- Imposing barrel groin vaulted roof.
- Symmetrical two-story façade.
- Second floor semi-circular windows with wood sash fenestration.
- Flying buttresses on north and south façades.
- Upper floor entrance on west-facing façade.
- Five vertical ribs on east-facing façade.
- Six attached vertical metal supports on north and south façades.

- Intact second floor basketball court covered by a barrel groin vault ceiling supported by bowed wood trusses.
- Intact original fixtures (bathroom fixtures, drinking fountains, roof mounted heaters on second floor).
- Flag pole.
- Park-like setting.

Non-character defining features:

- Three modern replacement sliding main entrances.
- Replacement fenestration along the ground floor of the south-facing façade.
- Asphalt-paved parking lot east of and adjacent to the building.

Character-Defining Features: San Bruno Park Pool Facility

- Low, narrow, single-story rectangular mass.
- Symmetrical street-facing façade.
- Recessed central section.
- Walls of stacked cinder block construction and covered by a flat roof with boxed, overhanging roof eaves.

Non-character defining features:

- Replacement pool pumping, filtration, and maintenance equipment.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Please see Appendix B for DPR 523 Series forms containing the historical and architectural context of the Community Center and the Pool Facility.

CONCLUSION

Background research and a field review identified two built environment cultural resources more than 50 years old in the study area: the two-story Community Center and the Pool Facility. Based on the results of this HRE, LSA concludes that the Community Center building is eligible for inclusion in the CRHR at the local level of significance under Criteria 1 (events) and 3 (architecture). The period of significance for the resource is 1946-1958, the span in which it was constructed. The Community Center is associated with the Living Memorial Movement, a nationwide campaign that began after World War I and changed how Americans memorialized military sacrifice in light of the industrial scale of war. The Community Center is also associated with the development of institutional

facilities in post-war San Bruno, and it represents the culmination of a decade-long to raise funds for its construction without relying on conventional methods, such as tax financing. This grassroots method was based on a shared belief that returning veterans should not bear the burden of paying for a war memorial, via taxes or otherwise. Relying on direct contributions required much impassioned dedication by many volunteer groups.

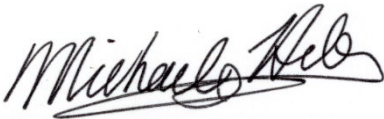
The Community Center is a representative example of International/Modern architecture, featuring an imposing barrel groin vaulted roof. A review of other community centers in the Bay Area and California found that the Community Center's roof design is a notable example of an uncommon roof design for this facility type. The person responsible for designing the building was William Henry Rowe, an accomplished local architect who designed the San Bruno City Hall, Main Library, and Central Fire Station, and is regarded as important in the architectural profession. Based on these significant associations and architectural qualities, which serve as the basis for its CRHR eligibility, the War Memorial Community Center qualifies as a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA (PRC §21084.1).

LSA concludes that the Pool Facility is not eligible for inclusion under any of the CRHR significance criteria. Although Pool Facility possesses elements of International/Modern architecture, background research and field survey concluded that it is not an important example of this common architectural style. Background research found that the Pool Facility was designed by San Francisco-based engineer August E. Waegemann, an individual whose achievements are not regarded as singularly important by the engineering community. Background research did not identify association between the Pool Facility and individuals important in our past. Based on a lack of historical significance, which is the basis for its ineligibility for inclusion in the CRHR, the San Bruno Park Pool does not qualify as a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA (PRC §21084.1).

If you have any questions about this HRE, please contact me by phone at (510) 236-3810, or by email at <michael.hibma@lsa.net>.

Sincerely,

LSA Associates, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Hibma", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Hibma, M.A., DPH
Associate/Architectural Historian

Attachments: Appendix A: Maps

Appendix B: DPR 523 Series Forms for War Memorial Community Center and the
San Bruno Park Pool

REFERENCES CONSULTED¹

American Society of Civil Engineers

- 1977 *Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks of San Francisco and Northern California*. American Society of Civil Engineers, San Francisco Section. Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Francisco, California.

Beck, Warren, and Ynez D. Haase

- 1974 *Historical Atlas of California*. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

Brunskill, R.W.

- 1970 *Illustrated Handbook of Vernacular Architecture*. Universe Books, New York.

California Department of Parks and Recreation

- 1976 *California Inventory of Historic Resources*. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, California.

California Office of Historic Preservation

- 1988 *Five Views: An Ethnic Historic Sites Survey for California*. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, California.
- 1992 *California Points of Historical Interest*. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, California.
- 1996 *California Historical Landmarks*. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, California.
- 2012 *Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File – San Mateo County*, April 5, 2012. California Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, California.
- 2018 *California Historical Landmarks: San Mateo*. Electronic document, http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21520, accessed various.

City of San Bruno

- 2019 *History*. Electronic document, <https://www.sanbruno.ca.gov/community/history.htm>, accessed various.

Cloud, Roy W.

- 1928 *History of San Mateo County, California. Volume I*. S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago, Ill.

Coy, Owen C.

- 1973 *California County Boundaries: A Study of the Division of the State into Counties and the Subsequent Changes in their Boundaries*. Valley Publishers, Fresno, California.

¹ For a full set of references consulted, please see the DPR523 Series forms in Appendix B of this report.

Gudde, Erwin G.

- 1998 *California Place Names: The Origin and Etymology of Current Geographical Names*. Fourth edition. Revised and enlarged by William Bright. University of California Press, Berkeley.

Hoover, Mildred Brooke, Hero Eugene Rensch, Ethel Rensch, and William N. Abeloe

- 1990 *Historic Spots in California*. Fourth edition, revised by Douglas E. Kyle. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California.

Hyding, Alan

- 1982 *From Frontier to Suburb: The Story of the San Mateo Peninsula*. Star Publishing Company, Belmont, California.

Jackson, John Brinckerhoff

- 1984 *Discovering the Vernacular Landscape*. Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut.

McAlester, Virginia

- 2013 *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

Moore & DePue

- 1878 *The Illustrated History of San Mateo County, California*. Moore & DePue, Publishers. Reprinted 1974, Gilbert Richards Publications, Woodside, California.

National Park Service (NPS)

- 1986 *Guidelines for Completing National Register of Historic Places Forms*. Bulletin 16. U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.
- 1991 *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. National Register Bulletin 15. U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.
- 1997 *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*. U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.
- 1999 *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes*. U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.
- 2001 *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation Planning*. Electronic document, http://www.cr.nps.gov/local-law/arch_stnds_1.htm, accessed various.
- 2018 *List of National Historic Landmarks by State – California*. National Historic Landmarks Program. U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. Electronic document, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/list-of-nhls-by-state.htm#onthisPage-4>, accessed various.

ParcelQuest

- 2019 Assessor's Parcel Information: San Bruno City Park (APN 020-320-030). Electronic document, <http://www.parcelquest.com/>, accessed various.

Postel, Mitchell P.

2007 *San Mateo County, A Sesquicentennial History*. Star Publishing Co., Inc. Belmont, California.

San Mateo Times

1954 Photo and caption. *San Mateo Times* 23 December 1954, page 3. Electronic document newspapers.com, accessed January 17, 2019.

Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Ltd.

1949 *San Bruno, San Mateo County, California*. Vol. 1, Sheet #6. Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, Pelham, New York.

1949 *Depiction and Utilization of the Sanborn Map*. Sanborn Map Company, Executive Offices, New York, New York.

Self, Robert O.

2003 *American Babylon: Race and the Struggle for Postwar Oakland*. Princeton Paperbacks, Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.

Storper, Michael, Thomas Kemeny, Naji P. Makaren, and Taner Osman

2015 *The Rise and Fall of Urban Economies: Lessons from San Francisco and Los Angeles*. Stanford Business Books, Stanford University Press, Stanford, California.

U.S. Geological Survey

1896 *San Mateo, Calif.*, 15-minute topographic quadrangle. U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.

1899 *San Mateo, Calif.*, 15-minute topographic quadrangle. U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.

1915 *San Mateo, Calif.*, 15-minute topographic quadrangle. U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.

1939 *San Mateo, Calif.*, 15-minute topographic quadrangle. U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.

1949 *Montara Mountain, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.

1956 *Montara Mountain, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.

1968 *Montara Mountain, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.

1980 *Montara Mountain, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.

1993 *Montara Mountain, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.

1997 *Montara Mountain, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C.

Weaver, John Downing

1967 *Warren: The Man, The Court, The Era*. Little, Brown Publishers, Boston, Massachusetts.

Woodbridge, Sally B., John M. Woodbridge and Chuck Byrne

1992 *San Francisco Architecture: The Illustrated Guide to Over 1,000 of the Best Buildings, Parks, and Public Artworks in the Bay Area*. Chronicle Books, San Francisco, California.

2005 *San Francisco Architecture: An Illustrated Guide to the Outstanding Buildings, Public Artworks, and Parks in the Bay Area of California*. Ten Speed Press, Toronto, Canada.

Works Progress Administration

1939 *California: A Guide to the Golden State*. American Guide Series. Federal Writers' Project. Hastings House Publishers, New York.

APPENDIX A: MAPS

Figure 1: Regional location and Study Area

Figure 2: Study Area

Figure 3: Architectural Resources

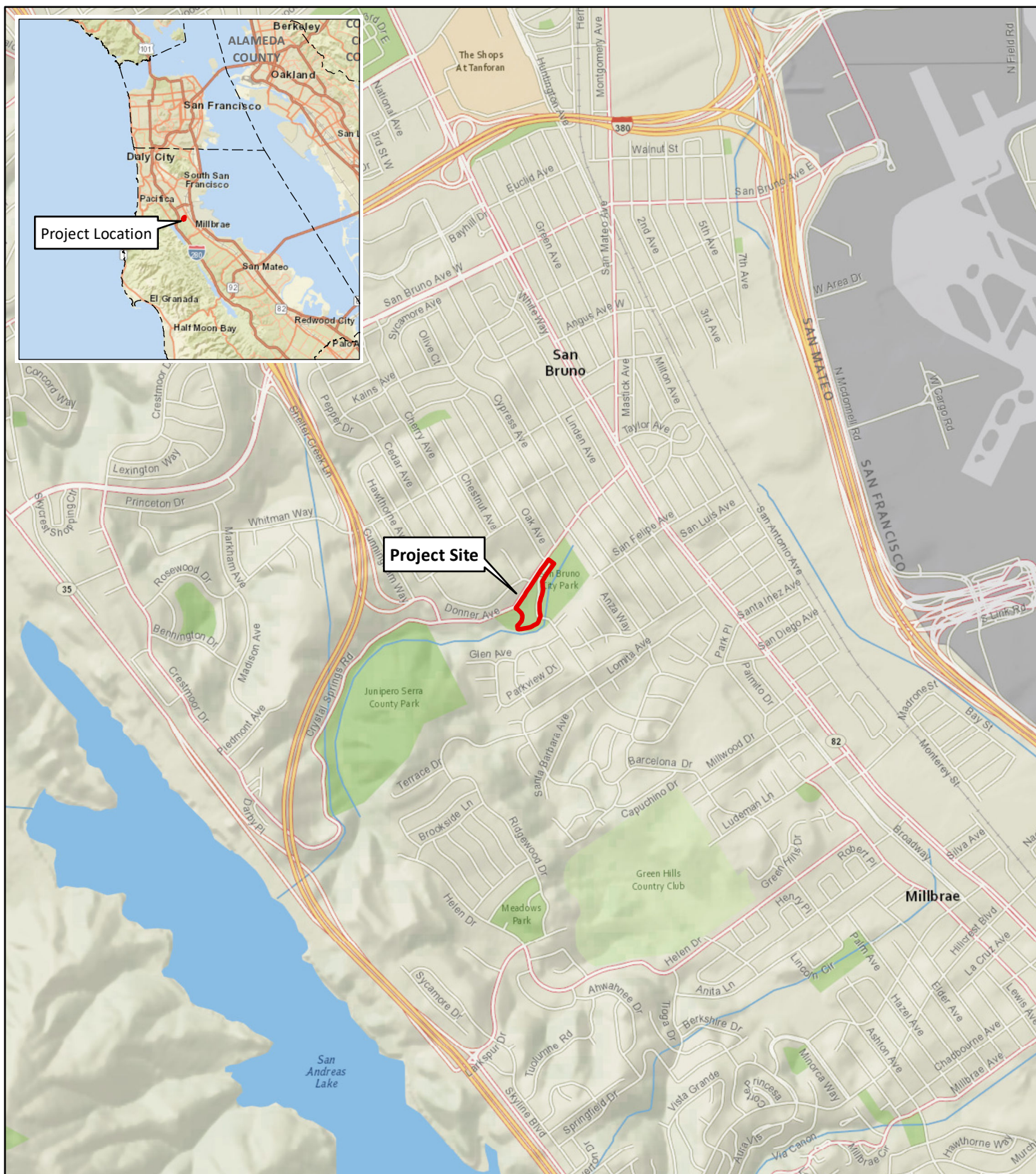
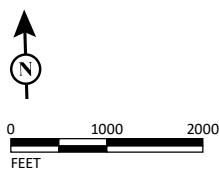


FIGURE 1

LSA



SOURCE: National Geographic (c) 2018; Esri World Street Map (c) 2018.

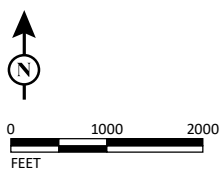
\\ptr11\images\GRP1803\GIS\Maps\Cultural\Figure 1_Regional Location and Study Area.mxd (3/26/2019)

*Historical Resource Evaluation of the
Veterans Memorial Recreation Center
and San Bruno Swimming Pool
San Bruno, San Mateo County, California*
Regional Location and Study Area



LSA

FIGURE 2



SOURCE: USGS 7.5-minute Topo Quads – Mondara Mountain, Calif. (1980) and San Francisco South, Calif. (1980).

I:\GRP1803\GIS\Maps\Cultural\Figure 2_Study Area.mxd (3/25/2019)

*Historical Resource Evaluation of the
Veterans Memorial Recreation Center
and San Bruno Swimming Pool
San Bruno, San Mateo County, California
Project Site*

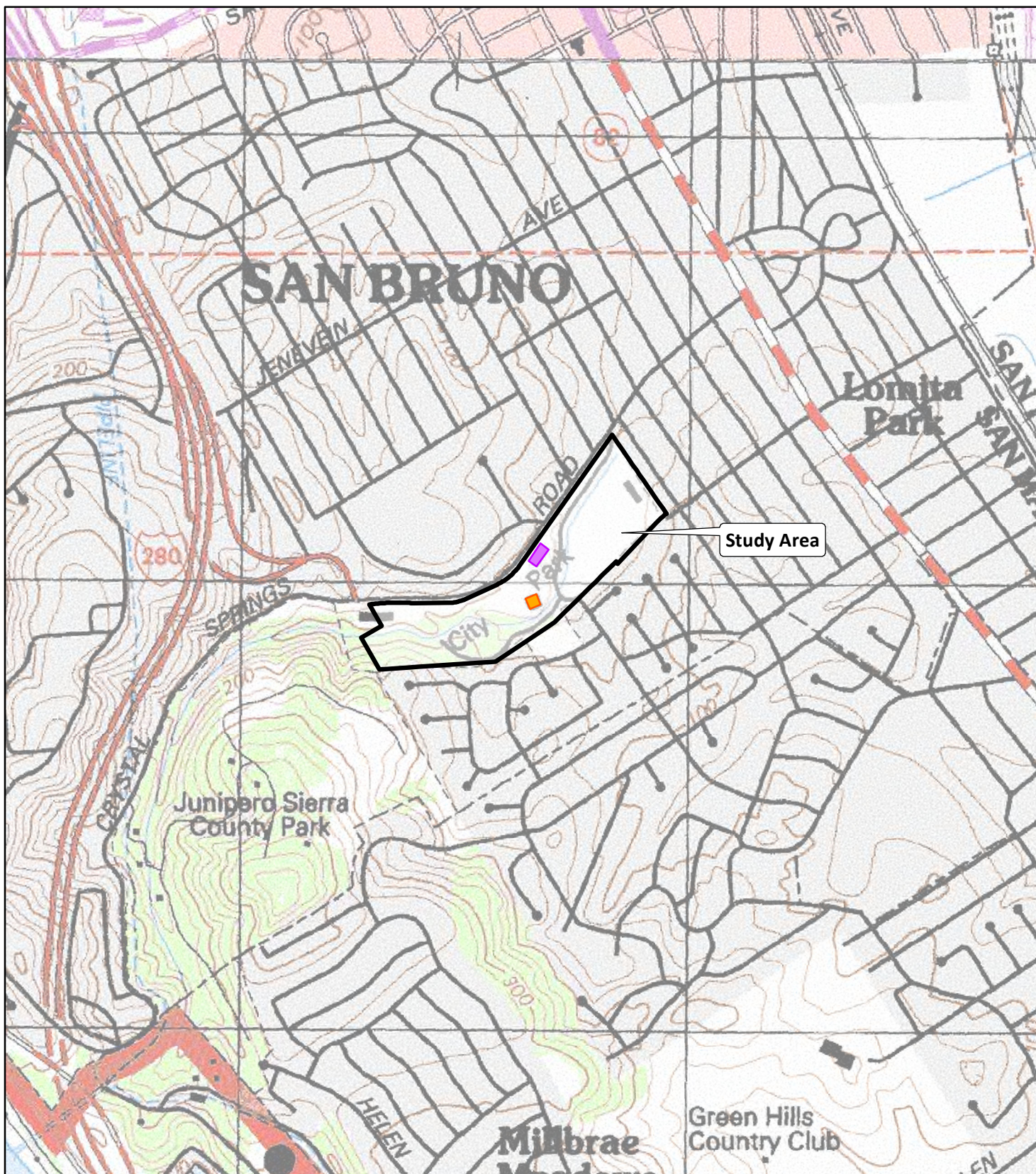




FIGURE 3

LSA

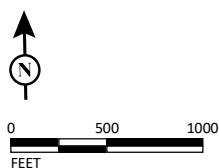
LEGEND

 Study Area

Architectural Resources

 San Bruno Park Pool

 War Memorial Community Center



SOURCE: USGS 7.5-minute Topo Quads – Mondara Mountain, Calif. (1980) and San Francisco South, Calif. (1980).

I:\GRP1803\GIS\Maps\Cultural\HRE\Figure 3_Architectural Resources.mxd (4/4/2019)

*Historical Resource Evaluation of the
Veterans Memorial Recreation Center
and San Bruno Park Pool
San Bruno, San Mateo County, California
Architectural Resources*

APPENDIX B: DPR SERIES 523 FORMS

War Memorial Community Center

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial
NRHP Status Code: 3CS

Other Listings
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page 1 of 34

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

P1. Other Identifier: *San Bruno War Memorial Recreation Center; San Bruno Veterans Memorial Recreation Center*

P2. Location: Not for Publication: Unrestricted: ☒

a. County: San Mateo

b. USGS 7.5' Quad: *Montara Mountain, Calif.* Date: 1997; T4S/R5W; *Rancho Buri Buri*; Mount Diablo B.M.

c. Address: 251 City Park Way City San Bruno Zip 94066

d. UTM: 10S 551562mN/4163261mE

e. Other Locational Data: APN 020-320-030

P3a. Description: This resource is an approximately 15,000-square-foot two-story auditorium and sports recreation facility with a ground floor of constructed of reinforced concrete and an upper floor of wood-frame construction. The building rests on a concrete slab foundation. The building was constructed in two phases between 1946 and 1958. The building is located along the northern boundary of San Bruno City Park, a 29.265-acre parcel located near the southern limits of the city of San Bruno. The building is an unusual example of International/Modern institutional architecture. The building massing is composed of a rectangular base covered by a prominent barrel groin arch vault roof sheathed in an undetermined type of roofing. This center section is flanked on the east and west by shorter wings covered with extending flat roofs. Prominent vertical accent elements on the north and south façades are evenly placed to convey the impression of buttresses. The north- and south-facing façades each contain an imposing semi-circular, wood-framed, multi-sashed window that completely fills the second story barrel-shaped roof gable. Fenestration on the shorter east- and west-facing façades contains similar, albeit smaller wood-framed semi-circular windows set in barrel-shaped roof gable. Fenestration in the east-facing barrel-shaped gable appears painted over. The west-facing façade contains a smaller version of the semi-circular shaped window. The east and west-facing façades also contain two sets of three tall vertical windows flanking the central barrel roof. The main entrance comprises a pair of automatic double slider doors near the center of the east-facing façade. Apparent alterations include the aforementioned main entrance and the ground floor interior spaces near the main entrance. This building is in good condition and is currently used as a recreation/exercise/sports center with conference spaces, classrooms, art studio, and a community room.

P3b. Resource Attributes: HP12. Civic Auditorium; HP13. Community center/social hall

P4. Resources Present: ☒ Building

P5a. Photograph:



P5b. Description of Photo:
War Memorial Recreation Center.
South façade, view northwest. LSA
photo 3/19/19.

P6. Date Constructed/Age and
Source: Historic built 1946-1958;
See B.12 References.

P7. Owner and Address:
City of San Bruno
567 El Camino Real
San Bruno, CA 94066-4247

P8. Recorded by:
Michael Hibma, M.A., DPH
LSA
157 Park Place
Point Richmond, California 94801

P9. Date recorded: 3/25/19

P10. Survey Type: Intensive

P11. Report Citation: Hibma, Michael, 2019. *Historical Resource Evaluation of the War Memorial Community Center and San Bruno Park Pool, San Bruno, San Mateo County, California*. LSA Associates, Inc., Point Richmond, California.

Attachments: ☒ Location Map ☒ Continuation Sheets ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record

DPR 523A (1/95)

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Primary #
HRI#

Page 2 of 34

NRHP Status Code: 3CS

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

- B1. Historic Name:** *San Bruno War Memorial Recreation Center; San Bruno Veterans Memorial Recreation Center*
- B2. Common Name:** San Bruno Veterans Memorial Recreation Center
- B3. Original Use:** Recreation facility and community space
- B4. Present Use:** Same
- B5. Architectural Style:** International/Modern
- B6. Construction History:** According to a December 23, 1954, article in the *San Mateo Times*, historical USGS topographic quadrangles, and official government records, the War Memorial Community Center was built from 1946-1958. The earlier portion was described as “a long, grey concrete structure which has been boarded up for nearly 10 years.” The *Times* article goes on to state that architect William Henry Rowe’s design for the second story will be of wood including the “inverted butterfly” [sic] roof and will house and an all-purpose athletic court-auditorium.” In 1980, minor repairs were undertaken in response to vandalism. In 1989, the City of San Bruno commissioned South San Francisco-based Group 4/Architecture, Research, and Planning, Inc. to carry out a “Phase 1 Improvements” project to remodeling the ground floor offices, meeting rooms, teen center, and tots room to accommodate new office space for San Bruno Parks and Recreation Department staff. The project also partially demolished the south-facing façade to install three sensor-operated sliding main entrance doors and replacement ground level fenestration. No other alterations were proposed. When completed the ground floor continued to provide space for meetings, a tots room, and a teen center.
- B7. Moved?** No
- B8. Related Features:** None
- B9. a. Architect:** William Henry Rowe
b. Builder: Unknown
- B10. Significance: Theme:** Community development, recreation, architecture, commemoration **Area:** San Bruno, San Mateo County
- Period of Significance:** 1946-1958 **Property Type:** Civic/Institutional **Applicable Criteria:** CRHR 1, 3

This institutional civic building is on a 29.265-acre parcel (San Bruno City Park) southwest of downtown San Bruno. Research indicates that the War Memorial Community Center is associated with the institutional development, provision of recreational facilities, and architecture of mid-20th century San Bruno. Please see the continuation sheets for the property’s historic context and an overview of land use history and property-specific development.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: None

B12. References:

Abeloe, William N, et al. *Historic Spots of California*. Third Edition. 1966. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California.

American Commission for Living War Memorials. 1944. *Memorials That Live: A Brochure of Suggestions Concerning the Use of Recreational Facilities as War Memorials*. The American Commission for Living War Memorials, Columbus, Ohio. Electronic document, <http://www.idaillinois.org/cdm/ref/collection/isl3/id/15165>, accessed March 22, 2019.

See Continuation Sheets.

B13. Remarks: None

B14. Evaluator:

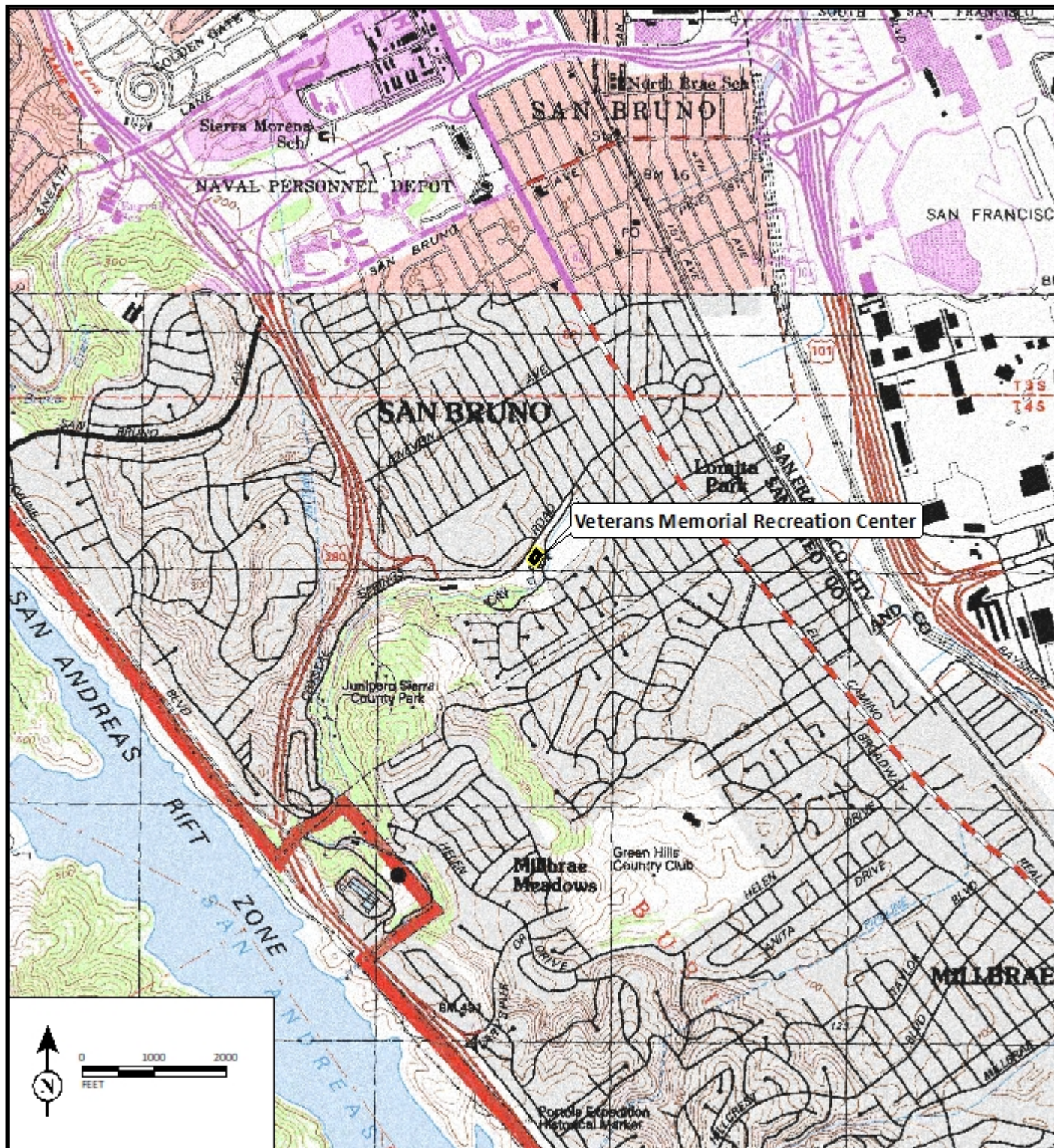
Michael Hibma, M.A., DPH
LSA
157 Park Place
Point Richmond, California 94801

Date of Evaluation: 3/25/19



(This space reserved for official comments.)

Map Name: USGS 7.5-min San Francisco South and Montara Mountain. Scale: 1:24,000 Dates of Maps: 1980, 1997



D6. Significance (continued)

Historic Context - San Mateo County

Precontact Period. Before European settlement, the San Francisco Bay was home to numerous tribal groups. These groups included the Ohlone, who inhabited the area what would become San Bruno. These semi-nomadic people were hunter-gatherers who depended on coastal plant and animal species for food and other resources. Spanish records indicate that by the mid-18th century, 10 to 12 indigenous tribelets with an estimated total population between 1,000 to 2,400 lived within San Mateo County (Postel 2007:72).

Spanish Exploration. Intensive Hispanic exploration and settlement of the Bay Area began with the first recorded visit from November 6 to 11, 1769, by a Spanish expedition led by Lieutenant Gaspar de Portolá. The expedition accidentally discovered San Francisco Bay from atop Sweeny Ridge, approximately 2.4 miles west of San Bruno City Park (Postel 2007:189). On October 9, 1776, the Franciscan Order founded Mission San Francisco de Asís, or Mission Dolores, approximately 10.5 miles north of San Bruno City Park. The Mission claimed the surrounding area and forced the Ohlone out of their communities and into the new mission-controlled colony, which quickly resulted in the decimation of the native population. The priests located at missions along the peninsula capitalized on the expansive pastureland to raise cattle and horses for the Spanish government. By 1810, the missions grazed more than 10,000 cattle (Postel 2007:72, 77-78).

Early Settlement. After Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821, the Mexican government disbanded the mission system in 1834 and liquidated the mission holdings into huge land grant ranchos. Due to the remoteness of Alta California, the native English-speaking Hispanic people, known as Californios, soon found themselves ignored by Mexico City. As more Anglo-Americans from eastern states came to California, sympathies to join the United States grew. The Mexican-American War, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and the discovery of gold on the American River in January of 1848 set in motion the Californios' loss of California (Laffey 1992:5).

During secularization, Mexican governors granted large tracts of former mission lands to political allies, as well as to veterans in recognition of their military service. The War Memorial Community Center building is located within Rancho Buri Buri, originally established in 1796 by Spanish Governor Diego de Borcia for use by San Mission Dolores and Presidio of San Francisco soldiers. In 1835, Mexican Governor José Castro granted the 15,000-acre rancho to José Antonio Sánchez, a junior officer at Presidio San Francisco (Fredricks 2003:7, 10; Hynding 1982:30-31; Postel 2007:79). Rancho Buri Buri, a modification of Urebure, the name of an Ohlone tribelet inhabiting the area around San Bruno Creek and the southern tip of San Bruno Mountain, includes the south slope of San Bruno Mountain and what would become the modern communities of South San Francisco, San Bruno, Millbrae, and a portion of Burlingame.

Gold Rush and Statehood. The discovery of gold in Coloma in 1849 resulted in exponential population growth in California that soon overwhelmed existing law enforcement. Many Californio families subdivided and sold off portions of their lands to pay litigation fees and as real estate speculation. The abundance of redwood trees along the San Mateo Peninsula represented a valuable resource that was regulated by the government during the Spanish colonial period, which limited logging and levied a 10 percent tax on lumber exports. During the Mexican colonial period, these restrictions eased, and many newly arrived American and European settlers quickly expanded redwood logging. In response to peninsula residents seeking to separate from the political corruption and lack of official attention from officials in San Francisco, the Legislature passed an act in 1856 to create the county of San Mateo – named after San Mateo Creek in what would become the city of San Mateo – by appropriating the southern 90 percent of San Francisco County. Subsequent annexations of land in northern Santa Cruz County in 1868 (which included the communities of San Gregorio and Pescadero), as well as refinements with the San Francisco County border in 1901, enlarged San Mateo County to its present size (Coy 1923:236, 238-241; Postel 2007:19-21; Hynding 1982:141-142).

Later Development. Although San Mateo County adjoins densely populated San Francisco County, it remained sparsely settled until the early 20th century. Following the construction of the San Francisco-San Jose Railroad in the 1860s, developers purchased large tracts of land near the rail corridor, spurring settlement and private development throughout San Mateo County (Hynding 1982:63). This would change rapidly following the Earthquake and Fire of 1906. The aftermath of the disaster transformed regional land use patterns, destroying over 521 city blocks (nearly five square miles) of San Francisco and displacing thousands of refugees who fled the ruined city to points north and east across the Bay, and to the south; within a week, 60,000 survivors fled. In the years following the reconstruction and recovery, 10,000 refugees chose to remain in San Mateo County, doubling its population (Hynding 1982:78). During the Great Depression, San Mateo County's industries provided a diverse economic base to lessen economic hardship; by 1934, only three percent of residents received aid (Works Progress Administration 1939; Hynding 1982:87). At the onset of World War II, defense workers moved to San Mateo County, creating another population boom, and defense housing quickly expanded many communities' suburban footprints (Hynding 1982:138).

D6. Significance (continued)

Post War to Present Day. Following World War II, many defense industry workers, returning veterans, and migrants from the eastern United States wanted to remain and enjoy the state's warm climate and plentiful jobs. By 1970, the state's population doubled to nearly 20 million, which spurred a 20-year-long construction boom. The majority of the new residents were mostly young families (Self 2003:257), which led to a pace of demographic change that transformed California. Governor Earl Warren characterized the influx of residents as adding "a whole new city of ten thousand people every Monday morning" (Weaver 1967:147). In San Mateo County, the growth of the aircraft industry and passenger air service at San Francisco International Airport spurred the growth of maintenance yards, shops, industrial parks, hotels, and restaurants. The popularity of the automobile and suburban development also fostered a boom in countywide transportation-related infrastructure (Hynding 1982:299-305); between 1946 and 1986, the Bayshore Freeway (U.S. 101), the J. Arthur Younger Freeway (State Route 92), the Portola Freeway (State Route 380), and State Route 280 were built and/or expanded. The San Mateo Bridge was built in 1967, and the Dumbarton Bridge opened in 1971 to carry State Route 84 over San Francisco Bay; the bridge was later enlarged in 1984 (Hynding 1982:256-261; Postel 2007:135-137).

San Mateo County's association with technological innovation in what was to become known as Silicon Valley began in 1948, when three scientists at New Jersey-based Bell Laboratories developed the transistor, the first semiconductor. One of the Bell scientists, William Shockley, relocated to Palo Alto in 1955 to be near his ailing mother in Menlo Park. He opened Shockley Transistors and soon assembled a talented staff via students from the University of California, Berkeley, and Stanford University. However, many found his abrasive managerial style discouraging and soon left Shockley Transistors, taking their knowledge with them. Many remained in the San Francisco Bay Area and formed their own company, Fairchild Semiconductors in 1957, using venture capital from New York bankers (Postel 2007:136; Storper 2015:81-83). This proved a precursor of a pattern of job hopping and venture capital-based firms that shaped Silicon Valley during the following 60 years.

City of San Bruno. As previously noted, until the Gold Rush period, the land that would become the city of San Bruno was open grazing land that was part of Rancho Buri Buri, granted to Jose Antonio Sánchez. After Sánchez' death in 1843, his heirs decided to forgo cattle ranching and sold the rancho off piecemeal to investors and land speculators. Lying between San Francisco and San José, development in the area was slow, confined along the El Camino Real. The arrival of the San Francisco and San José Railroad opened up the area to more uses, and a fledgling community grew around transportation services. Weekend visitors arrived to enjoy trap shooting, camping, and horse racing; the latter was featured at a prominent race track named after José Antonio Sánchez' son, Toribio Tanforan (Fredricks 2003:7; City of San Bruno n.d.).

By 1890, three roadhouses, the 14-Mile House (also known as Uncle Tom's Cabin), San Bruno House, and Jenevein's Junction House were constructed along El Camino Real (Fredricks 2003:7; Moore & DePue 1878:52). Darius Ogden Mills, founder of the Bank of California, purchased thousands of acres of Rancho Buri Buri and operated a large estate and dairy farm. Other families also purchased Buri Buri lands, building homes and operating farms that supplied San Francisco with dairy products, meat, and horses. However, this settlement pattern was dispersed, and a nucleus of a city had yet to develop (City of San Bruno n.d.). Of the thousands San Franciscans who fled the city after the earthquake and fire, a small number moved onto the rural landscape and soon formed the core of what would become San Bruno, ushering in a period of sustained residential development that continues to this day (Fredricks 2003:8). Development was slow in the decades following the disaster, but by 1914, a community of 1,400 residents elected to incorporate their community as a city, San Bruno.

The city of San Bruno remained relatively rural until the 1940s, when massive change arrived with the start of World War II. Two watershed events stand out. The first event was the use of the Tanforan Race Track as an assembly point for Japanese Americans, many of them U.S. citizens, for processing and transport to internment camps in the interior for the duration of the war. West of the race track, the Army built the Western Region Advance Personnel Depot, where thousands of military personnel passed through on their way to the Pacific front. As was also the case in hundreds of communities in California, many returning veterans elected to remain in the state after the war.

The second transformative event in San Bruno was the development of the former estate and farm of banker and philanthropist Darius Ogden Mills as housing for military support personnel and returning veterans. Named the Mills Park Addition, this development triggered a 20-year boom in residential growth in San Bruno. By 1965, San Bruno's population grew to over 35,000, a six-fold increase since 1940, and the city's size tripled from 2 to 6 square miles. The eventual lack of buildable land finally quieted the boom, and modern San Bruno became "known as an airport city" (City of San Bruno n.d.; Fredricks 2003:127). San Francisco International Airport, built on the former site of Mills Field, grew from a small regional airport in the late 1920s to one of the world's busiest (City of San Bruno n.d.; Fredricks 2003:30).

*Recorded by: Michael Hibma

*Date: March 25, 2019 ☒ Continuation

D6. Significance (continued)

The Living Memorial Movement. Before the end of World War I, a debate over the nature and purpose of memorializing the war began in the United States (Bevil 2014:297; San Bruno Community Center Inc., 1945b:5). One group promoted traditional means of memorializing what war represents, as well as its proper place in the public memory. The sensibilities of this group defined proper commemoration as involving funerary art, such as statues, obelisks, triumphal arches, and bronze plaques engraved with the names of war dead. Another group, however, rejected this tradition as nothing more than “dead monuments” that celebrated individual generals, nationalistic symbols, and important public figures rather than the everyday soldiers who fought and died. These opponents of the commemorative status quo argued that the nature and practice of war had changed with the advent of modern weaponry such as poison gas, machine guns, and submarines, which inflicted mass casualties on an industrial scale. These technological advances quickly made 19th century Napoleonic-era tactics obsolete, leaving armies stalled in miles of trenches – further increasing sickness, injuries, and death. The degree to which war changed could no longer be meaningfully and inclusively memorialized through appeals to the gallantry of battle.

Historian Andrew Shanken stated that “The traditional memorial, which arose largely from the nineteenth century before the train and the automobile, fit uneasily into the modern planned city.” In the end, these monuments were considered by some to be visual clutter that hampered development. An increasing number of Americans “began to recognize that bravery and sacrifice were not matters of rank” (Bevil 2014:297), and instead joined veterans groups to argue for a “new form of memorial” to match the impersonal nature of war, celebrate the sacrifices of everyday soldiers, and meet broader civic needs (Shanken 2002:132-137). Advocates for a new way to commemorate wars promoted the concept of “living memorials,” a name that made other forms of commemoration “dead memorials” by default. Living memorials would be dynamic and create spaces for a multitude of uses for the populace, such as everyday socializing, exercise programs, education and art classes, and organized sporting events. These facilities would also be civic venues to be used as polling places, forums for public meetings, and communal gathering spots to celebrate public holidays. Critics argued that living memorials prevented society from paying the proper respect for war dead by merging spaces formally dedicated to their memory with non-commemoration oriented activities, suggesting that they could not be simultaneously sacred and secular. However, such arguments were put forward by a diminishing minority. “The resulting culture of memorialization, one that, broadly speaking, continues today, resembles a delta in which the demands of many groups and commemorative practices compete uneasily” (Shanken 2002:144).

By 1930, communities nationwide embraced the living memorial concept by constructing “buildings, auditoriums, libraries, schools, playgrounds, parks [...] planting trees, [and] constructing highways or parkways or, like San Diego, building convention centers” (Bevil 2014:297). During the Great Depression, this investment got a boost by New Deal era programs such as the Works Progress Administration, Civilian Conservation Corps, and others. During WWII, servicemen were polled on what kind of memorial they would like built for them, and a Service Men’s Weekly outreach found that 3,500 respondents stated “No more stone cannons. No more stone statues. No more granite pillars. And no more parks with flowers.” Instead, servicemen wanted “a community center, a real one [. . .] which will answer all the needs” of their hometowns” (Bevil 2014:299). Taking seriously this forthright feedback from soon-returning veterans, many communities began organizing, making plans, and raising funds to build multi-use public spaces and facilities. By 1944, “over 1,444 communities throughout America are building projects of this kind” (San Bruno Community Center, Inc. 1945b:7). To help communities make the most of their efforts, national organizations such as the National Recreation Association and the American Commission for Living War Memorials formed to provide guidance and assistance. As many Americans were still grappling with the lingering effects of the Great Depression and buying war bonds, raising money was the most challenging and time-consuming aspect of the effort, and the pace of fundraising dictated the pace of construction. Many projects that began near war’s end or just after were not dedicated until the early-to-mid 1950s, such as the Veterans Memorial Building in Redwood City which took “twelve years before sufficient funds had accumulated to build” (Painter 2010:11). Similarly, it took eight years to site, plan, raise money, and build the San Diego Veterans War Memorial Building (Devil 2014:294, 305), and the Memorial Civic Center in Richmond, designed by San Francisco-based architects Timothy and Milton Pflueger, “was completed in 1949 and dedicated the following year as a monument to WWII sacrifices” (Graves 2004:39).

San Bruno Community Center, Inc. During the January 1945 meeting of the Progress Club of San Bruno, Mayor Edward McGuire broached the idea of building “a Living Memorial [. . .] to be erected at the entrance to the City Park” (San Bruno Community Center, Inc. 1945a:1). The idea of what form the Living Memorial would take ranged from a monument with names inscribed, to a building “to supply meeting places for youngsters as well as adults of the community.” The organization and funding of the project was not intended to be in the hands of a small group of people, but rather the vision was to make it “a community project and everyone in the community should participate” (ibid.). The San Bruno Community Center, Incorporated (SBCC), was formed to organize the effort and guide the project.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

Page 7 of 34

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

Recorded by: Michael Hibma

Date: March 25, 2019 ☒ Continuation

B10. Significance Evaluation (continued)

During a May 8, 1945 meeting, the SBCC engaged James Needles, a member of the State Advisory Committee on Living Memorials, to give a speech. In his speech, Needles argued that San Bruno's living memorial would accomplish several pressing needs at once, including making youngsters more physically fit – so to make them better potential draftees; hosting organized recreation programs to instill a sense of fair play and determination to win; and preventing juvenile delinquency by giving young men and women something to do (San Bruno Community Center, Inc. 1945a:5-7). Needles also noted that the State Commissions on Living Memorials induced over 50 communities (such as San José, Oakland, Turlock, Gustine, Vallejo, Petaluma, and Long Beach) to build living memorials such as swimming pools, stadiums, and community centers (ibid: 7). The community center in San Bruno would be sited on "6 acres of land in the City Park." The building would be "a real building, a two-story building, and it is going to be wide enough and land enough to play basketball, to hold community dances, etc." The City, for its part, would provide a swimming pool "adjacent to the building."

The initial design of the building was prepared by Menlo Park resident Al Bilund (San Bruno Community Center, Inc. 1945a:10-11). Background research did not identify Mr. Bilund as an architect or a design professional (American Institute of Architects 1956, 1962, 1970, Pacific Coast Architecture Database 2019). The SBCC decided early on to fund the project strictly through donations, as organization officials felt it unjust to tax returning veterans to help pay for the project (San Bruno Community Center, Inc. 1945b:6). The SBCC outlined five objectives for the memorial building, presented verbatim, as follows: (1) The memorial shall be a fitting memorial for the World War II dead; (2) it will provide an inspiration to youth; (3) it will be well built, easy to administer, and economical to maintain; (4) very careful thought shall be given to its future care and maintenance; and (5) it shall be centrally located in the community to serve the present as well as the future needs of the community (San Bruno Community Center, Inc. 1945b:5).

Fundraising began June 10, 1945. Over the next 10 years, the SBCC utilized many different means to raise funds, including direct donations, carnivals, enchilada dinners, private parties, dinner and bingo games, costume parties, kangaroo courts to raise money via mock fines, a "Community Center Fiesta," and fashion shows (San Bruno Community Center, Inc. n.d.). According to a December 23, 1954, San Mateo Times article, the Community Center was built in two phases. The first phase began in 1945 but was halted and remained incomplete; it remained a "long, grey concrete structure which has been boarded up for nearly 10 years" and became "the butt of jokes" (San Mateo Times 1954:3). By 1954, the San Bruno City Council retained architect William Henry Rowe to complete the building at a cost of \$150,000. The article noted that the "second story will be of wood, including the "inverted butterfly" roof and will house an all-purpose athletic court-auditorium" (Ibid). The War Memorial Community Center formally opened on June 1, 1956, but was not fully completed and furnished until January 1958 (San Bruno Herald 1956). The Community Center contained a basketball court, a senior center, a teen center, a ceramics room, recreation offices, a kitchen, weight room and sauna, storage areas, and a tots center. On September 20, 1980, vandals broke into the building and caused over \$31,000 in damage to carpets, electrical wiring, office equipment, and the second floor hardwood basketball court (San Bruno Herald 1980, 1981).

In 1989, the City of San Bruno commissioned South San Francisco-based Group 4/Architecture, Research, and Planning, Inc., to carry out a "Phase 1 Improvements" project, consisting of a partial interior remodel of the Community Center. The project involved remodeling the offices, meeting rooms, teen center, and tots room to accommodate new office space for San Bruno Parks and Recreation Department staff. The project also partially demolished the south-facing façade to install three sensor-operated sliding main entrance doors and replacement ground level fenestration. No other alterations were depicted (Group 4 1989). Background research did not indicate that Phase 2 plans were prepared. On June 3, 2006, the City of San Bruno celebrated the building's 50-year anniversary. A bronze plaque, affixed on the building's south façade near the main entrance, commemorated the building's anniversary and rededicated it "In honor of the men and women who have served to secure and protect our freedom, the citizens of the City of San Bruno demonstrate their gratitude by renaming this facility in memory of all veterans past and present."

Architectural Context

Architecture in the project site follows trends established elsewhere in early 20th century San Bruno, San Mateo County, and California. Based on a review of the visual appearance of the Community Center and the San Bruno Park Pool, the most applicable architectural style and design type is the International/Modern style, a style common to institutional buildings nationwide from 1935 to the present (McAlester 2013:617).

International/Modern. The International/Modern style has its roots in the rise of industrial manufacturing during the late-19th century. During this period of intense American industrial and commercial growth, a new form of building was needed to house workers in the increasingly dense downtown commercial core areas. Expanding horizontally was not a viable or affordable option, so the obvious solution was to expand vertically. Two practical innovations made this possible: steel-framed superstructure and elevators (Kunstler 1993:65). The origins of the steel superstructure and elevators are found in the Comstock Lode mining operations of the 1870s.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

Page 8 of 34

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

Recorded by: Michael Hibma

Date: March 25, 2019 ☒ Continuation

B10. Significance (continued)

Mining technical journals of the period depicted a representative mine supported by the “Deidesheimer Square,” a heavy-timber cube developed by German mining engineer Philip Deidesheimer. His square allowed miners to create underground cavities of any size and link them together roughly forming a honeycomb of structural support. This structural system allowed miners to exploit deep veins of ore. All that was needed to transform the downtown landscape was to replicate the Deidesheimer Square above ground in metal, creating a virtual atmospheric mine shaft. Along with Deidesheimer’s boxed frame, other underground innovations, such as forced-air ventilators, elevators, and electrical and proto-telephone systems connected miners with the surface (Brechtin 2006:67-70). These support and communications systems were readily adapted to above ground uses. For architects, the boxed steel frame used in buildings no longer made the use of heavy timbers, stone, or brick necessary. Several architects, such as Louis Sullivan, seized on this new method and mocked the continued use of stone and/or wood by architects as obsolete (Kunstler 1993:65).

During the early decades of the 20th century, architects gradually embraced a minimally decorated façade and began to remove historically-sourced symbols and motifs from their commercial buildings. The embrace of the machine age favored a sleeker, more refined appearance. While some architects created eclectic interpretations of traditional design and forms, other architects disregarded such influences as archaic. The World War I experience further disillusioned many architects and artists who regarded traditional forms as representations of “a failed social and political structure” (Wiseman 2000:149). Seeking to forget the trauma of the war years, Americans found diversion in raucous jazz, speakeasies, sports heroes, and an unparalleled period of Wall Street-driven prosperity of the 1920s. In architecture, this was symbolized in the Art Deco, with zigzags, sunbursts, rich colors, and materials set in dramatic angles. Following the stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression of the 1930s, designers stripped away Art Deco’s rich materials and jazzy ornamentation to emphasize a sense of smooth motion conveyed by clean lines. Known as “Streamlining,” this design concept reflected the hope held by many that science and technology would rejuvenate the economy. This was reflected by applying a streamlined, aerodynamic approach to machines such as automobiles, train locomotives, and ships for increased speed and efficiency (Gelernter 1999:248-250). When applied to architecture, this design aesthetic was known as Streamline Moderne. Finding a broader and wider exposure in commercial and industrial applications, this new image replaced Art Deco as the signature modern design. Although shorn of most decorative elements, the subdued Moderne architecture of the 1930s set the stage for the rapid adoption and expansion of International/Modern architecture following World War II (Longstreth 2000:126-127; Gelernter 1999:226-227, 250-251).

The streamlining design movement of the 1930s helped establish the modern American aesthetic, one which abandoned historical reference. The 1930s set the stage for the International/Modern-styled design of European architects Mies van der Rohe and Le Corbusier, who, along with other architects, applied the basic principles of the Deidesheimer Square and Sullivan’s method to create buildings that required no load bearing exterior walls. Bricks and stone were replaced with sheets of glass or metal. This found widespread favor as reflective of post-war American society and spread to all major cities and outlying areas (Gelernter 1999:262-263). International/Modern-styled buildings were economical to build, as their simple design without elaborate ornamentation was easily replicated, a quality that appealed to businesses (Wiseman 2000:149). The general character-defining features of this style are: square or rectangular footprint; flat roof; subdued color schemes; minimal amount of façade ornamentation to draw attention of passersby to the inside; simple cubic “extruded rectangle” massing; windows running in broken horizontal or vertical rows forming a grid; façade angles at 90 degrees; and building materials utilizing steel, formed concrete, chrome, or plated surfaces (Gelernter 1999:248-249; McAlester 2013:616-627).

Reinforced Concrete. The spread of reinforced concrete construction in the United States was generally in response to the needs for improved resistance to fire and earthquake damage. As a building medium, reinforced concrete was relatively simple to work with and required minimal skilled labor (in comparison to professional masons). Roughly beginning in 1890, the spread of reinforced concrete structural systems, “including walls, columns, slabs and beams,” along with steel-frame buildings, was at the forefront of American construction by 1910 (Friedman 2010:131). According to architectural historian Betsy Hunter Bradley, the spreading popularity of using reinforced concrete was due to (1) the refinement of Portland cement through a process of grinding and heating to make a material that would be uniform in composition and strength; and (2) the use of steel reinforcing bars, pioneered by San Francisco-based engineer Ernest Leslie Ransome. By 1900, Ransome’s method of steel reinforcement allowed concrete structural systems to adopt a more skeletal form, which allowed for more windows providing more interior lighting (Bradley 1999:156-157).

William Henry Rowe. San Francisco-based architect William Henry Rowe designed the Community Center. According to information from the American Institute of Architects (AIA), William Rowe was born in 1894 in Monterey County and completed architecture training at the Beaux-Arts Institute of Design in New York. When he was designing the Community Center, William Rowe operated his own firm out of an office at 1638 O’Farrell Street in San Francisco and lived at 3029 Mason Lane in San Mateo. He later moved to 1545 Foribunda in Burlingame (AIA 1956:475, 1970:784).

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

Page 9 of 34

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

Recorded by: Michael Hibma

Date: March 25, 2019 ☒ Continuation

B10. Significance (continued)

Following his time in New York, Rowe returned to California and joined the San Francisco Architectural Club (SFAC) to further his education and training. Formed in 1901 and located at 126 Post Street, SFAC was one of the earliest accredited vocational programs to prepare aspiring architects for state licensing examinations. Coursework included seminars and lectures from practicing architects trained at schools such as the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. To augment classwork, SFAC members visited construction sites and terra cotta and brick factories. SFAC held design contests where students competed for prizes and professional recognition. For Rowe, the SFAC and its Beaux Arts influences provided a core Classical aesthetic which he would draw from and adapt to International/Modern-styled designs. From 1913 to 1915, Rowe was a drafter and administrative aide at the architecture firm of William H. Weeks. From 1915 to 1918, and periodically through 1923, Rowe was resident architect for the Spreckels Company, while also a drafter for San Francisco-based firm of Weeks and Day, which was a partnership between Charles Peter Weeks and William Payton Day Weeks. When World War I broke out, Rowe enlisted in the Army and served from 1917-1918 (AIA 1956:475, 1962:602). After returning from serving in World War I, Rowe returned to San Francisco and began a 40-year career designing commercial, educational, and penal buildings, concentrating on public facilities (AIA 1962:602). Some of this other works included civic buildings in South San Francisco and Paso Robles (1946-1949, 1956); an elementary school in Moss Landing (1952); a firehouse in Monterey County, and four elementary schools in the Alisal School District in Salinas (1953).

Rowe's work in designing San Bruno's institutional buildings is significant for his role in creating the city's present civic landscape. William Henry Rowe is credited with designing San Bruno's "modernistic City Hall" in 1953 and also designing San Bruno's Library Building located next to the City Hall the following year (Architect and Engineer 1949:42; 1953:24; 1954:33). He is also credited with designing San Bruno's Central Fire Station at 555 El Camino Real/State Route 82. The 6,600 square-foot Central Fire Station has a capacity for 10 on-duty firemen, six vehicle bays, and a training tower. The station cost \$125,000 to build and "will nearly complete the land-use plan for the San Bruno Civic Center" (San Mateo Times 1958:1). Rowe's professional portfolio and contributions to the architectural community are well regarded by the profession; he joined AIA in 1947, and within four years was Director of AIA's Northern California Chapter and Chairman of AIA's Architectural Practice Commission (AIA 1956:475; 1962:602). Rowe also served as General Chairman of the California Council of Architects in 1950 (Architect and Engineer 1950:26).

Significance Evaluation.

The following section presents an evaluation of the eligibility of the War Memorial Community Center (Community Center) building or inclusion in the California Register. The period of significance for the Community Center is 1946-1958, which represents the period when it was under construction.

Criterion 1: Is it associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage?

The Community Center is associated with the national Living Memorial Movement, a nationwide campaign with origins after World War I that changed how Americans memorialized military sacrifice in light of the industrial scale of war. Intended as active, multi-use public spaces, Living Memorials marked a significant change from the traditional modes of commemoration and marking events in public memory. The Community Center is one of many in California that commemorate WWII. It was not California's first living memorial, nor is it the last associated with that movement. However, it was created, funded, and built when many others in California and nationwide were under construction. The Community Center is the culmination of a decade-long effort by San Bruno residents to raise funds for its construction without relying on conventional methods, such as taxes or bond financing. This method was adopted at the outset and based on a shared belief that returning veterans should not bear any of the burden of paying for a war memorial, via taxes or otherwise. Relying on direct contributions required much impassioned dedication by many volunteer groups. The Community Center is also associated with the larger pattern of institutional growth, public recreation, and community development of San Bruno in the mid-20th century. During the time of the Community Center's construction, other important civic buildings in San Bruno, such as the City Hall, the Main Library, and the Central Fire Station, were built.

Since its dedication, the Community Center continues to serve the community as a venue for events, classes, meetings, civic events, and organized sports; it is also used by local organizations for meetings, fund raising, and social events. In 2006, the City of San Bruno celebrated the building's 50-year anniversary and reaffirmed the building's original purpose as a multi-use community facility dedicated to veterans. Nearly 65 years later, it continues to serve both veteran, non-veteran groups, and the general public. For these reasons, the Community Center appears significant under Criterion 1 at the local level of significance.

Criterion 2: Is it associated with the lives of persons important in our past?

Background research did not identify an association with any specific persons important in our past. Background research did not find an association with the life of an important local athlete or coach. For these reasons, the Community Center does not appear significant under Criterion 2.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinominal

Page 10 of 34

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

Recorded by: Michael Hibma

Date: March 25, 2019 ☒ Continuation

B10. Significance Evaluation (continued)

Criterion 3: Does it embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of an important creative individual, or possess high artistic values?

The Community Center building possesses some of the general architectural characteristics of International/Modern, an architectural style well represented in the existing building stock of the city of San Bruno and San Mateo County, California, and nationwide. It is a building type inexpensive to build, and this property was designed to provide a functional multi-use building to contain many different uses. Designed by architect William Henry Rowe, the building's imposing barrel groin vaulted roof is its signature design feature. A review of other community centers in the Bay Area and California found the Community Center's roof shape uncommon for community centers.

As discussed previously, William Henry Rowe was a prolific architect known for his work designing the institutional buildings in San Bruno. His skill as an architect and as an important creative individual, as shown in the design of San Bruno's City Hall and Main Library, paved the way for the City to commission him to design the Community Center, which displayed the range of his skill in applying Modern design to create a multi-purpose space that adhered to the original vision of a two-story building with an upper floor gymnasium. Rowe's professional portfolio and contributions to the architectural community are well regarded by the architectural profession, having served as AIA's Northern California Chapter Director, Chairman of AIA's Architectural Practice Commission, and General Chairman of the California Council of Architects. The Community Center appears significant as an intact and important example of World War II-era institutional International/Modern architecture in San Bruno, and as an example of how this style was applied by William Henry Rowe, an architect known for other civic institutional International/Modern designs in San Bruno and elsewhere. For these reasons, the War Memorial Community Center appears significant under Criterion 3.

Criterion 4: Has it yielded, or may it be likely to yield, information important to history?

This criterion is typically used to evaluate the potential for archaeological deposits to contain information important in understanding past lifeways of modern San Bruno's early historic-period and pre-European contact inhabitants. Its application to architecture is less common in eligibility assessments due to the prevalence of popular publications that thoroughly document the form, materials, and design of a given building type. Information about the International/Modern architecture style and construction methods, as represented by the Community Center, can be obtained from other widely available sources on this and other common architectural styles. The building is unlikely to yield information important to the history of San Bruno, San Mateo County, or California. For these reasons, the War Memorial Community Center does not appear significant under Criterion 4.

Integrity

In addition to being significant under one or more criteria, a resource must retain enough of its historic character and appearance to be recognizable as an historical resource and retain integrity, which is defined as the ability of a resource to convey the reasons for its significance (CCR Title 14 Section 4852(c)). There are seven aspects of integrity used to measure a property's ability to convey its significance: *location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association* (National Park Service 1997:45). Historical resources eligible for listing in the California Register must meet one of the criteria of significance described above and retain enough of their historic character or appearance to be recognizable as historical resources and to convey the reasons for their significance. "To retain historic integrity a property will always possess several, and usually most, of the aspects" (National Park Service 1997a:44; California Office of Historic Preservation 2011:22).

Integrity Assessment. The section below discusses the Community Center with respect to all seven aspects of integrity.

The Community Center has not been moved and retains integrity of *location*.

The Community Center retains integrity of *feeling* and *setting*. San Bruno City Park began its function as a multi-use public area before the War Memorial Community Building began construction. It has continued in this capacity to today. The areas to the north, east, and south are developed with churches, the El Crystal Elementary School, and single-family residential areas. The building's setting has been altered by a parking lot constructed to the east of the building, but this change has not diminished the experience of viewing the building from the east, south, or west. Since the building opened, the trees and landscaping have changed, and growth of trees near the building have partially blocked certain views of the main façade over time.

The Community Center retains integrity of *workmanship, design, and materials*. Although a portion of the building's main, south-facing façade and a portion of the building's ground floor interior spaces were partially demolished and remodeled in 1989, it has largely retained its original external appearance, massing, and ornamentation. The secondary story basketball court and with groin vault ceiling remain intact, as does the large semicircular windows on the north and south façades. Field survey indicates that the Community Center retains nearly all its original bathroom fixtures, drinking fountains, basketball backboard retracting mechanisms, accordion bleacher seats, roof mounted heaters, doors, fenestration, and flooring. Minor alterations to the interior have taken place to address vandalism from a 1980 break in.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

Page 11 of 34

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

Recorded by: Michael Hibma

Date: March 25, 2019 ☒ Continuation

B10. Significance Evaluation (continued)

Integrity Assessment (Continued)

The Community Center retains integrity of *association*. The building remains a multi-functional community space for recreation, education, socializing, physical fitness, and organized recreation dedicated to the memory of the community's war dead. During a 50-year anniversary ceremony in 2006, City officials re-dedicated the community center "In honor of the men and women who have served to secure and protect our freedom, the citizens of the City of San Bruno demonstrate their gratitude by renaming this facility in memory of all veterans past and present." It remains a visual and functional link to San Bruno's post-war past.

Results

The period of significance of the Community Center is 1946-1958, which represents the building's two-phased construction. It retains the important aspects of its original International/Modern architectural design, reinforced concrete construction, and rectangular massing, and is covered with a dramatic barrel groin vault roof with bowed roof shape, a roof type uncommon to Living Memorial facilities. The building was designed to provide a multi-use facility for the community dedicated to the San Bruno's war dead.

Field survey indicates that the Community Center retains integrity of location, feeling, setting, workmanship, design, materials, and association. Based on the discussion above, the War Memorial Community Center retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance under CRHR criteria; therefore, it appears individually eligible for inclusion in the CRHR. It is not a contributing element to a known or potential historic district.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

Page 12 of 34

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

Recorded by: Michael Hibma

Date: March 25, 2019

☒ Continuation

B12. References (continued)

American Commission for Living War Memorials

- 1944 *Memorials That Live: A Brochure of Suggestions Concerning the Use of Recreational Facilities as War Memorials*. The American Commission for Living War Memorials, Columbus, Ohio. Electronic document, <http://www.idaillinois.org/cdm/ref/collection/isl3/id/15165>, accessed March 22, 2019.

American Institute of Architects

- 1955 *American Architects Directory (First Edition)* – William Henry Rowe. Electronic document, <http://public.aia.org>, accessed March 28, 2019.
- 1962 *American Architects Directory (Second Edition)* – William Henry Rowe. Electronic document, <http://public.aia.org>, accessed March 28, 2019.
- 1970 *American Architects Directory (Third Edition)* – William Henry Rowe. Electronic document, <http://public.aia.org>, accessed March 28, 2019.

Architect & Engineer

- 1949 Construction and Contracts Awarded – Salinas. *Architect and Engineer*. Vol. 173, No. 3 (December 1949:42). Electronic document, <https://archive.org>, accessed April 1, 2019.
- 1950 California Council of Architects – Annual Convention Report. *Architect and Engineer*. Vol 180, No. 1 (October 1950:26). Electronic document, <https://archive.org>, accessed April 1, 2019.
- 1953 Modernistic City Hall. *Architect and Engineer*. Vol. 194, No. 2 (August 1953:24). Electronic document, <https://archive.org>, accessed April 1, 2019.
- 1954 With the Engineers – Library Building. *Architect and Engineer*. Vol. 199, No. 2, (November 1954:33). Electronic document, <https://archive.org>, accessed April 1, 2019.

Bevin, Alexander D.

- 2014 Lest We Forget: The San Diego Veterans War Memorial Building. *The Journal of San Diego History*. Vol. 60, No. 4, Fall 2014. Pgs. 293-312. Electronic document, <http://www.sandiegohistory.org/sites/default/files/journal/v60-4/v60-4bevil.pdf>, accessed March 22, 2019.

Bradley, Betsy Hunter

- 1999 *The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States*. Oxford University Press, New York.

Brechin, Gray

- 2006 *Imperial San Francisco: Urban Power, Earthly Ruin*. University of California Press, Berkeley.

City of San Bruno

- N.d. *History*. Electronic document, <https://www.sanbruno.ca.gov/community/history.htm>, accessed various.

Coy, Owen C.

- 1973 *California County Boundaries: A Study of the Division of the State into Counties and the Subsequent Changes in their Boundaries*. Valley Publishers, Fresno, California.

Fredricks, Darold

- 2003 *Images of America – San Bruno*. Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, South Carolina.

Friedman, Donald

- 2010 *Historical Building Construction: Design, Materials & Technology*. Second Edition. W.W. Norton & Company, New York.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

Page 13 of 34

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

Recorded by: Michael Hibma

Date: March 25, 2019 ☒ Continuation

B12. References (Continued)

Gelernter, Mark

- 1999 *A History of American Architecture: Buildings in their Cultural and Technological Context*. University Press of New England, Hanover and London, United Kingdom.

Graves, Donna

- 2004 *Mapping Richmond's World War II Home Front: A Historical Report Prepared For National Park Service Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park*. Electronic document, <http://www.tombutt.com/pdf/mapping%20richmond%20final.pdf>, accessed various.

Group 4/Architecture, Research, and Planning Inc.

- 1989 San Bruno Recreation Center – Phase 1 Improvements. Plans on file at San Bruno City Hall, San Bruno, California.

Hyding, Alan

- 1982 *From Frontier to Suburb: The Story of the San Mateo Peninsula*. Star Publishing Company, Belmont, California.

Kunstler, James Howard

- 1993 *The Geography of Nowhere: the Rise and Decline of America's Man-Made Landscape*. Touchstone Books – Simon & Schuster, Publishers, New York.

Longstreth, Richard

- 2000 *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture*. Updated Edition. AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek, California.

McAlester, Virginia

- 2013 *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, New York.

Moore & DePue

- 1878 *The Illustrated History of San Mateo County*. Moore & DePue, Publishers. Reprinted 1974 by Gilbert Richards Publications, Woodside, California.

Painter, Diana J.

- 2010 *Historic Resource Report: Veterans Memorial Building, Redwood City, California*. Painter Preservation & Planning, Petaluma, California. Electronic document, <http://www.redwoodcity.org/home/showdocument?id=5481>, accessed March 22, 2019.

Postel, Mitchell P.

- 2007 *San Mateo County, A Sesquicentennial History*. Star Publishing Company Belmont, California.

San Bruno Community Center, Inc.

- N.d. San Bruno Community Center, Incorporated. Scrap Book, 1946-1951. On file at San Bruno Public Library, San Bruno.
1945a Meeting Minutes: Report on Public Meeting Held on May 8th, 1945. On file at San Bruno Public Library, San Bruno.
1945b Meeting Minutes: Report on Public Meeting Held on May 29th, 1945. On file at San Bruno Public Library, San Bruno.
1945c Meeting Minutes: Mass Meeting September 14, 1945. On file at San Bruno Public Library, San Bruno.

San Bruno Herald

- 1956 "Community Center Opens Friday Night." *San Bruno Herald*, 31 May 1956. On file at San Bruno Public Library, San Bruno.
1980 "Vandalism case: 4 youths nabbed." *San Bruno Herald*, 1 October 1980. On file at San Bruno Public Library, San Bruno.
1981 "Rec center repair pact let." *San Bruno Herald*, 17 January 1981. On file at San Bruno Public Library, San Bruno.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

Page 14 of 34

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

Recorded by: Michael Hibma

Date: March 25, 2019 ☒ Continuation

B12. References (Continued)

San Francisco Examiner

- 1994 Obituaries – Waegemann, August E. *San Francisco Examiner*. 10 June 1994. Electronic document, newspapers.com, accessed March 28, 2019.

San Mateo Times

- 1954 Photo and caption. *San Mateo Times* 23 December 1954, page 3. Electronic document newspapers.com, accessed January 17, 2019.
- 1958 “New San Bruno Fire Station Nearly Ready.” *San Mateo Times*, 28 November 1958. Electronic document, <https://newspaperarchive.com>, accessed March 28, 2019.

Self, Robert O.

- 2003 *American Babylon: Race and the Struggle for Postwar Oakland*. Princeton Paperbacks, Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.

Shanken, Andrew M.

- 2002 Planning Memory: Living Memorials in the United States During World War II. *The Art Bulletin* Vol. 84, No. 1. March 2002. Pgs. 130-147. Electronic document, <https://www.jstor.org>, accessed March 22, 2019.

Storper, Michael, Thomas Kemeny, Naji P. Makaren, and Taner Osman

- 2015 *The Rise and Fall of Urban Economies: Lessons from San Francisco and Los Angeles*. Stanford Business Books, Stanford University Press, Stanford, California.

Weaver, John Downing

- 1967 *Warren: The Man, The Court, The Era*. Little, Brown Publishers, Boston, Massachusetts.

Wilson, Mark A.

- 1987 *A Living Legacy: Historic Architecture of the East Bay*. Lexikos Press, San Francisco.

Wiseman, Carter

- 2000 *Twentieth-Century American Architecture: The Buildings and Their Makers*. W.W. Norton, New York.

Woodbridge, Sally B., John M. Woodbridge and Chuck Byrne

- 1992 *San Francisco Architecture: The Illustrated Guide to over 1,000 of the Best Buildings, Parks, and Public Artworks in the Bay Area*. Chronicle Books, San Francisco, California.
- 2005 *San Francisco Architecture: An Illustrated Guide to the Outstanding Buildings, Public Artworks, and Parks, in the Bay Area of California*. Ten Speed Press, Berkeley, California.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

Page 15 of 34

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

Recorded by: Michael Hibma

Date: March 25, 2019 ☒ Continuation

P5a. Photograph (continued)



War Memorial Community Center. South façade. View west. 3/19/19.



War Memorial Community Center. South façade. View west. 3/19/19.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

Page 16 of 34

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

Recorded by: Michael Hibma

Date: March 25, 2019 ☒ Continuation

P5a. Photograph (continued)



War Memorial Community Center. South and east façades. View northwest. 3/19/19.



War Memorial Community Center. East façade. View northwest. 3/19/19.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

Page 17 of 34

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

Recorded by: Michael Hibma

Date: March 25, 2019 ☒ Continuation

P5a. Photograph (continued)



War Memorial Community Center. East façade. View west. 3/19/19.



War Memorial Community Center. North façade. View west. 3/19/19.

P5a. Photograph (continued)



War Memorial Community Center. North façade. View east. 3/19/19.



War Memorial Community Center. North and west façades. View southeast. 3/19/19.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

Page 19 of 34

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

Recorded by: Michael Hibma

Date: March 25, 2019 ☒ Continuation

P5a. Photograph (continued)



War Memorial Community Center. North and west façades. View east. 3/19/19.



War Memorial Community Center. North and west façades. View south. 3/19/19.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

Page 20 of 34

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

Recorded by: Michael Hibma

Date: March 25, 2019 ☒ Continuation

P5a. Photograph (continued)



War Memorial Community Center. West façade. View east. 3/19/19.



War Memorial Community Center. West façade. View east. 3/19/19.

P5a. Photograph (continued)



War Memorial Community Center. South façade, flying buttress. View east. 3/19/19.



War Memorial Community Center. Entrance area and courtyard. View west. 3/19/19.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

Page 22 of 34

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

Recorded by: Michael Hibma

Date: March 25, 2019 ☒ Continuation

P5a. Photograph (continued)



War Memorial Community Center. Second floor basketball court. View east. 3/19/19.



War Memorial Community Center. Second floor basketball court. View west. 3/19/19.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

Page 23 of 34

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

Recorded by: Michael Hibma

Date: March 25, 2019 ☒ Continuation

P5a. Photograph (continued)



War Memorial Community Center. Second floor basketball court. Groin vault roof. View northeast. 3/19/19.



War Memorial Community Center. Second floor basketball court. Groin vault roof. View northeast. 3/19/19.

P5a. Photograph (continued)



War Memorial Community Center. Second floor basketball court. Groin vault roof. View east. 3/19/19.



War Memorial Community Center. Second floor basketball court. Groin vault roof. View west. 3/19/19.

P5a. Photograph (continued)



War Memorial Community Center. Second floor basketball court. Groin vault roof. View south. 3/19/19.



War Memorial Community Center. Second floor basketball court. Groin vault roof beam support detail. View west. 3/19/19.

P5a. Photograph (continued)



War Memorial Community Center. Men's restroom. View south. 3/19/19.



War Memorial Community Center. Men's restroom. View north. 3/19/19.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

Page 27 of 34

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

Recorded by: Michael Hibma

Date: March 25, 2019 ☒ Continuation

P5a. Photograph (continued)



War Memorial Community Center. Roof mounted heater (one of four). 3/19/19.



War Memorial Community Center. Drinking fountain (typical). 3/19/19.

P5a. Photograph (continued)



War Memorial Community Center. Second floor, ladies restroom. View north. 3/19/19.



War Memorial Community Center. Second floor, ladies restroom. View north. 3/19/19.

P5a. Photograph (continued)



War Memorial Community Center. Second floor. South-facing façade, window detail. View south. 3/19/19.



War Memorial Community Center. South-facing façade, window detail. View southeast. 3/19/19.

P5a. Photograph (continued)



War Memorial Community Center. Second floor basketball court. Center court lettering. 3/19/19.



War Memorial Community Center. Barrel groin vault roof. View south. 3/19/19.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

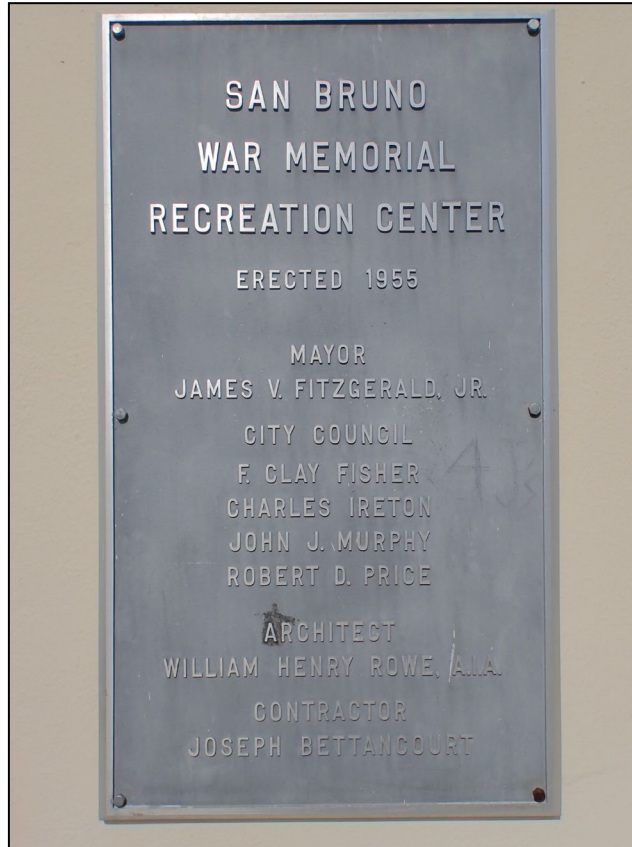
Page 31 of 34

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

Recorded by: Michael Hibma

Date: March 25, 2019 ☒ Continuation

P5a. Photograph (continued)

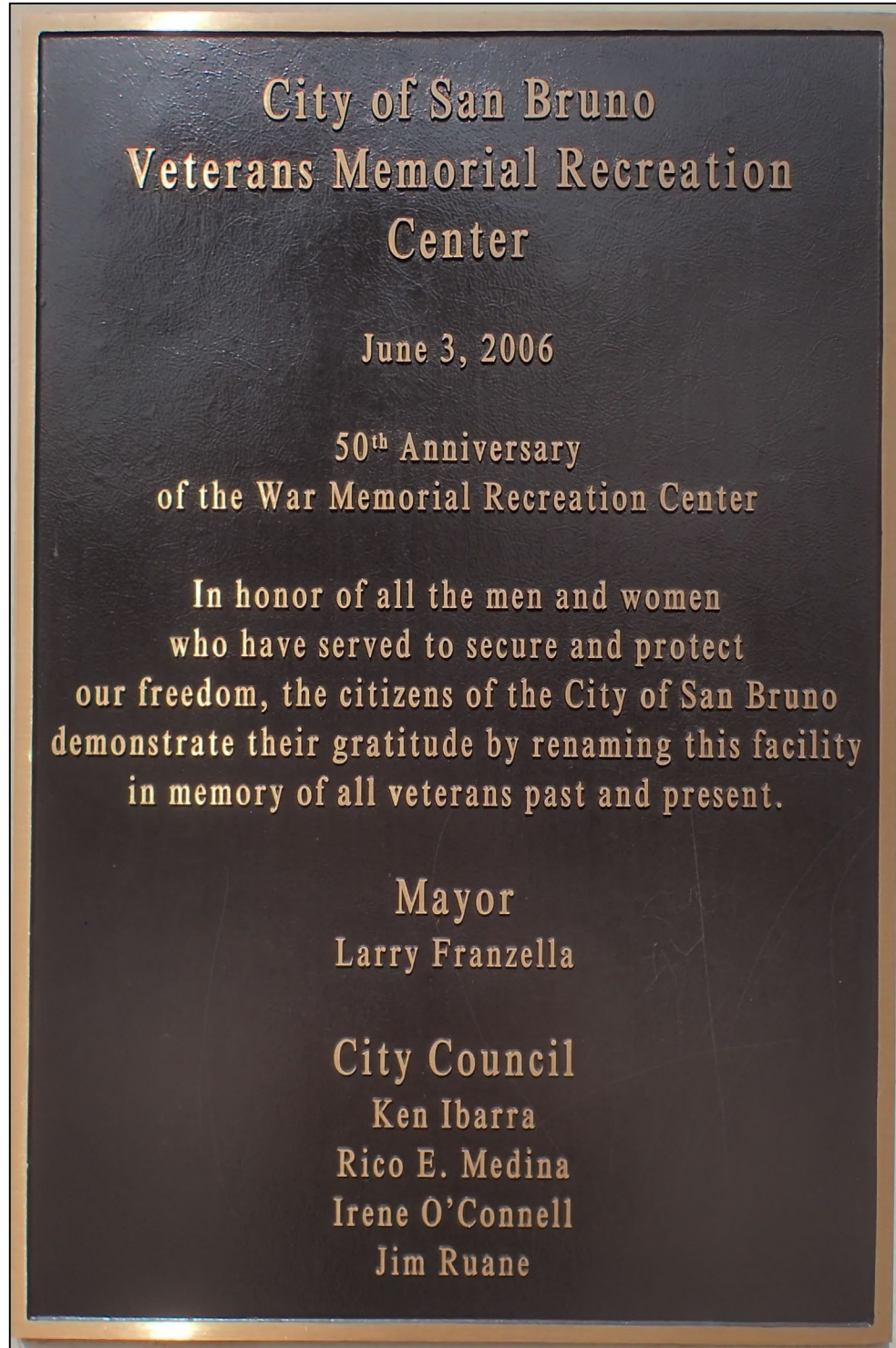


War Memorial Community Center. Commemorative plaque installed 1955. South façade, view north. 3/19/19.



War Memorial Community Center. Commemorative plaque installed January 1958. South façade, view north. 3/19/19.

P5a. Photograph (continued)



War Memorial Community Center. Fifty-year anniversary commemorative plaque. South façade. View north. 3/19/19.

P5a. Photograph (continued)



War Memorial Community Center. Initial design drawing, circa 1946.
Sketch on file, Local History Collection, San Bruno Library.



War Memorial Community Center. Initial design model. Posey Parade, May 1947.
Photograph on file Local History Collection, San Bruno Library.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial

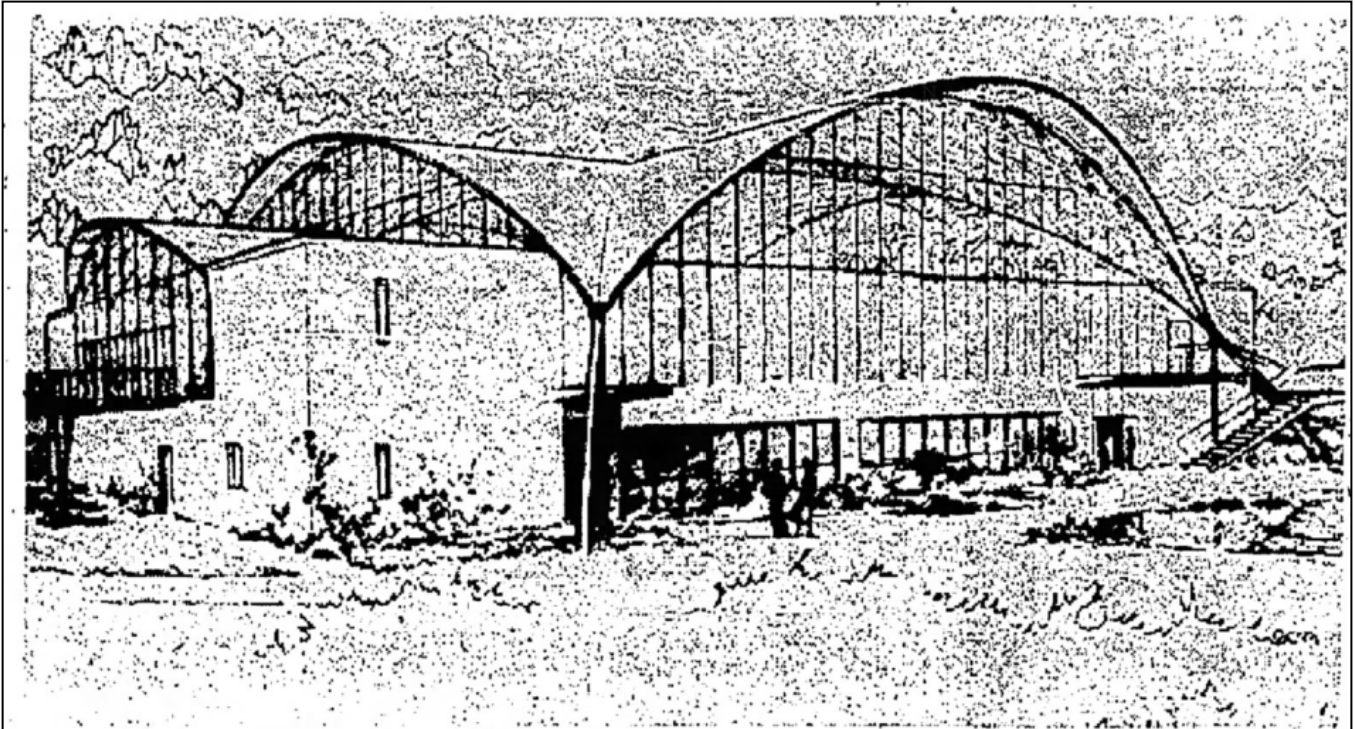
Page 34 of 34

Resource Name: War Memorial Community Center

Recorded by: Michael Hibma

Date: March 25, 2019 ☒ Continuation

P5a. Photograph (continued)



San Bruno's War Memorial Recreation center, which for many years has been the butt of jokes as it lay uncompleted in the city park, is finally going to be completed. Architect William Henry Rowe was given the go-ahead signal by the city council last night to prepare final plans on the second floor of the building, pictured above, to

be let to bid next March. Estimated cost is \$150,000. The present building, located just off Crystal Springs avenue, is a long, grey concrete structure which has been boarded up for nearly 10 years. The second story will be of wood, including the "inverted butterfly" roof, and will house an all-purpose athletic court-auditorium.

War Memorial Community Center. Revised design drawing by William Henry Rowe.
The Times, December 23, 1954. Page 3.

San Bruno Park Pool

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial
NRHP Status Code: 6Z

Other Listings
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page 1 of 15

Resource Name: San Bruno Park Pool

- P1. Other Identifier: None
P2. Location: Not for Publication: Unrestricted: ☒
a. County: San Mateo
b. USGS 7.5' Quad: *Montara Mountain, Calif.* Date: 1997; T4S/R5W; *Rancho Buri Buri*; Mount Diablo B.M.
c. Address: 201 City Park Way City San Bruno Zip 94066
d. UTM: 10S 551560mN/4163160mE
e. Other Locational Data: APN 020-320-030

P3a. Description: This resource is the San Bruno Park Pool, a municipal pool facility covering approximately 14,500 square feet. Built in 1959, the pool facility building is located near the center of San Bruno City Park, a 29.265-acre parcel located near the southern limits of the city of San Bruno. The pool facility consists of two reinforced-concrete in-ground pools; a single story, 3,000-square-foot bath house of reinforced-concrete construction; and water filtration, chlorination, and heating equipment, surrounded by a chain link fence. The main pool is "L-shaped" and is between three and ten feet deep. The second pool is a square, one-foot-deep toddler pool. The bath house building is a typical example of International/Modern institutional architecture. The symmetrical façade consists of a set of double-leaf aluminum framed glass doors topped with a fixed-paned transom window. The entrance is flanked by partial-height blue-colored aluminum panels topped with fixed-paned transom windows. The entrance area is framed within two projecting walls of stacked cinder block and is covered with a flat roof with projecting eaves, covered in tar and gravel roofing. No other fenestration is on the main, eastern street facing façade. The building rests on a concrete slab foundation. The north and south-facing façades are walls of stacked cinder block. Apparent alterations appear minimal. The bath house and pools are in good condition.

- P3b. Resource Attributes: HP4. Ancillary building, HP39. Other
P4. Resources Present: ☒ Building ☒ Other (in ground pools)
P5a. Photograph



P5b. Description of Photo:
San Bruno Park Pool. Bath house entrance. East façade, view to the west. 3/19/19.

P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source:
Historic built 1959. Plaque affixed near bath house building entrance.

P7. Owner and Address:
City of San Bruno
567 El Camino Real
San Bruno, CA 94066-4247

P8. Recorded by:
Michael Hibma, M.A., DPH
LSA
157 Park Place
Point Richmond, California 94801

P9. Date recorded: March 25, 2018

P10. Survey Type: Intensive

P11. Report Citation: Hibma, Michael, 2019. *Historical Resource Evaluation of the War Memorial Community Center and San Bruno Park Pool, San Bruno, San Mateo County, California.* LSA Associates, Inc., Point Richmond, California.

Attachments: ☒ Location Map ☒ Continuation Sheets ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Primary #
HRI#
Trinomial

Page 2 of 15

NRHP Status Code: 6Z

Resource Name: San Bruno Park Pool

- B1. **Historic Name:** *San Bruno Park Pool*
B2. **Common Name:** Same
B3. **Original Use:** Recreation facility
B4. **Present Use:** Same
B5. **Architectural Style:** International/Modern

B6. Construction History: According to historical USGS topographic quadrangles, construction bid document submitted February 12, 1959, by San Francisco-based engineer August E. Waegemann titled: "Plans and Specifications for Swimming Pool and Bath House", and a steel plaque affixed to the main, east-facing façade, this facility was built in 1959. The construction plans called for a swimming pool and bath house in San Bruno Park. The plans called for building a single-story bath house of reinforced concrete and steel, and excavation of two in-ground concrete swimming pools surrounded by a concrete pool deck. The main pool is "L-shaped" and is between three and ten feet deep. The second pool is a square, one-foot-deep toddler pool. The facility also includes filtration, heating, cleaning, and chlorination equipment; lighting; a set of bleachers; and perimeter chain link fencing. Subsequent documented repairs included replacement of fencing in 2012-2013 by San Leandro-based J&R Fence, Inc. Based on its current appearance and architectural design elements, it appears that this building has sustained few alterations.

- B7. **Moved?** No
B8. **Related Features:** None
B9. **a. Architect:** Augustus E. Waegemann
b. Builder: Undetermined
B10. **Significance: Theme:** Recreation, architecture

Area: San Bruno, San Mateo County

Period of Significance: N/A

Property Type: Civic/Institutional

Applicable Criteria: N/A

This pool facility is on a 29.265-acre parcel that contains the entirety of San Bruno City Park, southwest of downtown San Bruno. Research indicates that the San Bruno Park Pool is associated with the recreational development of mid-20th century San Bruno, as well as International/Modern architecture. Please see the continuation sheets for the property's historic context and an overview of land use history and property-specific development.

- B11. **Additional Resource Attributes:** None

B12. References:

Abeloe, William N., et. al. *Historic Spots of California*. Third Edition. 1966. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California.

Bradley, Betsy Hunter. 1999. *The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States*. Oxford University Press, New York.

Brechin, Gray. 2006. *Imperial San Francisco: Urban Power, Earthly Ruin*. University of California Press, Berkeley.

City of San Bruno. N.d. *History*. Electronic document, <https://www.sanbruno.ca.gov/community/history.htm>, accessed various.

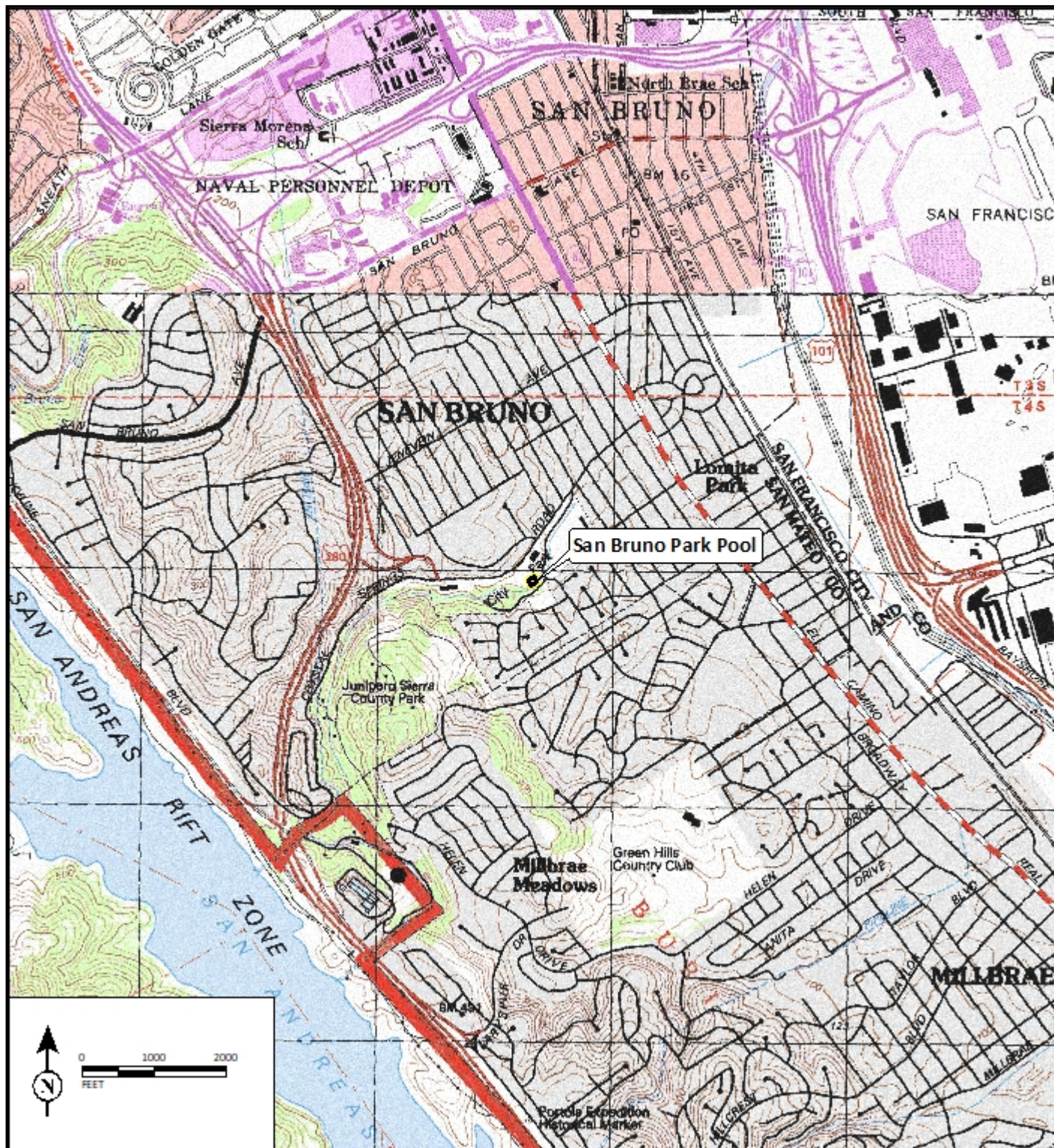
See Continuation Sheets.

- B13. **Remarks:** None
B14. **Evaluator:**
Michael Hibma, M.A., DPH
LSA Associates, Inc.
157 Park Place
Point Richmond, California 94801
Date of Evaluation: 3/25/2019



(This space reserved for official comments.)

Map Name: USGS 7.5-min *San Francisco South and Montara Mountain*. Scale: 1:24,000 Dates of Maps: 1980, 1997



B10. Significance (continued)

Historic Context - San Mateo County

Precontact Period. Before European settlement, the San Francisco Bay was home to numerous tribal groups. These groups included the Ohlone, who inhabited the area what would become San Bruno. These semi-nomadic people were hunter-gatherers who depended on coastal plant and animal species for food and other resources. Spanish records indicate that by the mid-18th century, 10 to 12 indigenous tribelets with an estimated total population between 1,000 to 2,400 lived within San Mateo County (Postel 2007:72).

Spanish Exploration. Intensive Hispanic exploration and settlement of the Bay Area began with the first recorded visit from November 6 to 11, 1769, by a Spanish expedition led by Lieutenant Gaspar de Portolá. The expedition accidentally discovered San Francisco Bay from atop Sweeny Ridge, approximately 2.4 miles west of San Bruno City Park (Postel 2007:189). On October 9, 1776, the Franciscan Order founded Mission San Francisco de Asís, or Mission Dolores, approximately 10.5 miles north of San Bruno City Park. The Mission claimed the surrounding area and forced the Ohlone out of their communities and into the new mission-controlled colony, which quickly resulted in the decimation of the native population. The priests located at missions along the peninsula capitalized on the expansive pastureland to raise cattle and horses for the Spanish government. By 1810, the missions grazed more than 10,000 cattle (Postel 2007:72, 77-78).

Early Settlement. After Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821, the Mexican government disbanded the mission system in 1834 and liquidated the mission holdings into huge land grant ranchos. Due to the remoteness of Alta California, the native English-speaking Hispanic people, known as Californios, soon found themselves ignored by Mexico City. As more Anglo-Americans from eastern states came to California, sympathies to join the United States grew. The Mexican-American War, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and the discovery of gold on the American River in January of 1848 set in motion the Californios' loss of California (Laffey 1992:5).

During secularization, Mexican governors granted large tracts of former mission lands to political allies, as well as to veterans in recognition of their military service. The War Memorial Community Center building is located within Rancho Buri Buri, originally established in 1796 by Spanish Governor Diego de Borcia for use by San Mission Dolores and Presidio of San Francisco soldiers. In 1835, Mexican Governor José Castro granted the 15,000-acre rancho to José Antonio Sánchez, a junior officer at Presidio San Francisco (Fredricks 2003:7, 10; Hynding 1982:30-31; Postel 2007:79). Rancho Buri Buri, a modification of Urebure, the name of an Ohlone tribelet inhabiting the area around San Bruno Creek and the southern tip of San Bruno Mountain, includes the south slope of San Bruno Mountain and what would become the modern communities of South San Francisco, San Bruno, Millbrae, and a portion of Burlingame.

Gold Rush and Statehood. The discovery of gold in Coloma in 1849 resulted in exponential population growth in California that soon overwhelmed existing law enforcement. Many Californio families subdivided and sold off portions of their lands to pay litigation fees and as real estate speculation. The abundance of redwood trees along the San Mateo Peninsula represented a valuable resource that was regulated by the government during the Spanish colonial period, which limited logging and levied a 10 percent tax on lumber exports. During the Mexican colonial period, these restrictions eased, and many newly arrived American and European settlers quickly expanded redwood logging. In response to peninsula residents seeking to separate from the political corruption and lack of official attention from officials in San Francisco, the Legislature passed an act in 1856 to create the county of San Mateo – named after San Mateo Creek in what would become the city of San Mateo – by appropriating the southern 90 percent of San Francisco County. Subsequent annexations of land in northern Santa Cruz County in 1868 (which included the communities of San Gregorio and Pescadero), as well as refinements with the San Francisco County border in 1901, enlarged San Mateo County to its present size (Coy 1923:236, 238-241; Postel 2007:19-21; Hynding 1982:141-142).

Later Development. Although San Mateo County adjoins densely populated San Francisco County, it remained sparsely settled until the early 20th century. Following the construction of the San Francisco-San Jose Railroad in the 1860s, developers purchased large tracts of land near the rail corridor, spurring settlement and private development throughout San Mateo County (Hynding 1982:63). This would change rapidly following the Earthquake and Fire of 1906. The aftermath of the disaster transformed regional land use patterns, destroying over 521 city blocks (nearly five square miles) of San Francisco and displacing thousands of refugees who fled the ruined city to points north and east across the Bay, and to the south; within a week, 60,000 survivors fled. In the years following the reconstruction and recovery, 10,000 refugees chose to remain in San Mateo County, doubling its population (Hynding 1982:78). During the Great Depression, San Mateo County's industries provided a diverse economic base to lessen economic hardship; by 1934, only three percent of residents received aid (Works Progress Administration 1939; Hynding 1982:87). At the onset of World War II, defense workers moved to San Mateo County, creating another population boom, and defense housing quickly expanded many communities' suburban footprints (Hynding 1982:138).

B10. Significance (continued)

Post War to Present Day. Following World War II, many defense industry workers, returning veterans, and migrants from the eastern United States wanted to remain and enjoy the state's warm climate and plentiful jobs. By 1970, the state's population doubled to nearly 20 million, which spurred a 20-year-long construction boom. The majority of the new residents were mostly young families (Self 2003:257), which led to a pace of demographic change that transformed California. Governor Earl Warren characterized the influx of residents as adding "a whole new city of ten thousand people every Monday morning" (Weaver 1967:147). In San Mateo County, the growth of the aircraft industry and passenger air service at San Francisco International Airport spurred the growth of maintenance yards, shops, industrial parks, hotels, and restaurants. The popularity of the automobile and suburban development also fostered a boom in countywide transportation-related infrastructure (Hynding 1982:299-305); between 1946 and 1986, the Bayshore Freeway (U.S. 101), the J. Arthur Younger Freeway (State Route 92), the Portola Freeway (State Route 380), and State Route 280 were built and/or expanded. The San Mateo Bridge was built in 1967, and the Dumbarton Bridge opened in 1971 to carry State Route 84 over San Francisco Bay; the bridge was later enlarged in 1984 (Hynding 1982:256-261; Postel 2007:135-137).

San Mateo County's association with technological innovation in what was to become known as Silicon Valley began in 1948, when three scientists at New Jersey-based Bell Laboratories developed the transistor, the first semiconductor. One of the Bell scientists, William Shockley, relocated to Palo Alto in 1955 to be near his ailing mother in Menlo Park. He opened Shockley Transistors and soon assembled a talented staff via students from the University of California, Berkeley, and Stanford University. However, many found his abrasive managerial style discouraging and soon left Shockley Transistors, taking their knowledge with them. Many remained in the San Francisco Bay Area and formed their own company, Fairchild Semiconductors in 1957, using venture capital from New York bankers (Postel 2007:136; Storper 2015:81-83). This proved a precursor of a pattern of job hopping and venture capital-based firms that shaped Silicon Valley during the following 60 years.

City of San Bruno. As previously noted, until the Gold Rush period, the land that would become the city of San Bruno was open grazing land that was part of Rancho Buri Buri, granted to Jose Antonio Sánchez. After Sánchez' death in 1843, his heirs decided to forgo cattle ranching and sold the rancho off piecemeal to investors and land speculators. Lying between San Francisco and San José, development in the area was slow, confined along the El Camino Real. The arrival of the San Francisco and San José Railroad opened up the area to more uses, and a fledgling community grew around transportation services. Weekend visitors arrived to enjoy trap shooting, camping, and horse racing; the latter was featured at a prominent race track named after José Antonio Sánchez' son, Toribio Tanforan (Fredricks 2003:7; City of San Bruno n.d.).

By 1890, three roadhouses, the 14-Mile House (also known as Uncle Tom's Cabin), San Bruno House, and Jenevein's Junction House were constructed along El Camino Real (Fredricks 2003:7; Moore & DePue 1878:52). Darius Ogden Mills, founder of the Bank of California, purchased thousands of acres of Rancho Buri Buri and operated a large estate and dairy farm. Other families also purchased Buri Buri lands, building homes and operating farms that supplied San Francisco with dairy products, meat, and horses. However, this settlement pattern was dispersed, and a nucleus of a city had yet to develop (City of San Bruno n.d.). Of the thousands San Franciscans who fled the city after the earthquake and fire, a small number moved onto the rural landscape and soon formed the core of what would become San Bruno, ushering in a period of sustained residential development that continues to this day (Fredricks 2003:8). Development was slow in the decades following the disaster, but by 1914, a community of 1,400 residents elected to incorporate their community as a city, San Bruno.

The city of San Bruno remained relatively rural until the 1940s, when massive change arrived with the start of World War II. Two watershed events stand out. The first event was the use of the Tanforan Race Track as an assembly point for Japanese Americans, many of them U.S. citizens, for processing and transport to internment camps in the interior for the duration of the war. West of the race track, the Army built the Western Region Advance Personnel Depot, where thousands of military personnel passed through on their way to the Pacific front. As was also the case in hundreds of communities in California, many returning veterans elected to remain in the state after the war.

The second transformative event in San Bruno was the development of the former estate and farm of banker and philanthropist Darius Ogden Mills as housing for military support personnel and returning veterans. Named the Mills Park Addition, this development triggered a 20-year boom in residential growth in San Bruno, which intensified the population boom. By 1965, San Bruno's population grew to over 35,000, a six-fold increase since 1940, and the city's size tripled from 2 to 6 square miles. The eventual lack of buildable land finally quieted the boom, and modern San Bruno became "known as an airport city" (City of San Bruno n.d.; Fredricks 2003:127). San Francisco International Airport, built on the former site of Mills Field, grew from a small regional airport in the late 1920s to one of the world's busiest (City of San Bruno n.d.; Fredricks 2003:30)

B10. Significance (continued)

San Bruno Park Pool. In 1959, San Francisco-based civil engineer August E. Waegemann submitted plans and specifications to build a swimming pool and bath house in San Bruno Park approximately 200 feet southwest of the Community Center. The plans called for building a single-story bath house of reinforced concrete and steel, and excavating two in-ground concrete swimming pools surrounded by a concrete pool deck. The main pool is “L-shaped” and is between three and ten feet deep. The second pool is a square-shaped, one-foot deep toddler pool. The project also included necessary filtration, heating, cleaning, and chlorination equipment; lighting; and perimeter chain link fencing. As described above, the original plans for the War Memorial Community Center mentioned that the City would provide a swimming pool “adjacent to the building” (San Bruno Community Center, Inc. 1945a:10-11). However, further mentions of ongoing construction of a pool facility were not found in the background materials reviewed for the Veterans Memorial Community Center. According to records on file with the City of San Bruno, the chain link fence surrounding the pool area was replaced with new privacy chain-link fencing in 2013 by San Leandro-based J&R Fence Company. No other maintenance or construction records were available for review.

Architectural Context

Architecture in the project site follows trends established elsewhere in early-20th century San Bruno, San Mateo County, and California. Based on a review of the visual appearance of the Community Center and the San Bruno Park Pool, the most applicable architectural style and design type is the International/Modern style, a common style for institutional buildings nationwide from 1935 to the present (McAlester 2013:617).

International/Modern. The International/Modern style has its roots in the rise of industrial manufacturing during the late-19th century. During this period of intense American industrial and commercial growth, a new form of building was needed to house workers in the increasingly dense downtown commercial core areas. Expanding horizontally was not a viable or affordable option, so the obvious solution was to expand vertically. Two practical innovations made this possible: steel-framed superstructure and elevators (Kunstler 1993:65). The origins of the steel superstructure and elevators are found in the Comstock Lode mining operations of the 1870s. Mining technical journals of the period depicted a representative mine supported by the “Deidesheimer Square,” a heavy-timber cube developed by German mining engineer Philip Deidesheimer. His square allowed miners to create underground cavities of any size and link them together roughly forming a honeycomb of structural support. This structural system allowed miners to exploit deep veins of ore. All that was needed to transform the downtown landscape was to replicate the Deidesheimer Square above ground in metal, creating a virtual atmospheric mine shaft. Along with Deidesheimer’s boxed frame, other underground innovations, such as forced-air ventilators, elevators, and electrical and proto-telephone systems connected miners with the surface (Brechtin 2006:67-70). These support and communications systems were readily adapted to above ground uses. For architects, the boxed steel frame used in buildings no longer made the use of heavy timbers, stone, or brick necessary. Several architects, such as Louis Sullivan, seized on this new method and mocked the continued use of stone and/or wood by architects as obsolete (Kunstler 1993:65).

During the early decades of the 20th century, architects gradually embraced a minimally decorated façade and began to remove historically-sourced symbols and motifs from their commercial buildings. The embrace of the machine age favored a sleeker, more refined appearance. While some architects created eclectic interpretations of traditional design and forms, other architects disregarded such influences as archaic. The World War I experience further disillusioned many architects and artists who regarded traditional forms as representations of “a failed social and political structure” (Wiseman 2000:149). Seeking to forget the trauma of the war years, Americans found diversion in raucous jazz, speakeasies, sports heroes, and an unparalleled period of Wall Street-driven prosperity of the 1920s. In architecture, this was symbolized in the Art Deco, with zigzags, sunbursts, rich colors, and materials set in dramatic angles. Following the stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression of the 1930s, designers stripped away Art Deco’s rich materials and jazzy ornamentation to emphasize a sense of smooth motion conveyed by clean lines. Known as “Streamlining,” this design concept reflected the hope held by many that science and technology would rejuvenate the economy. This was reflected by applying a streamlined, aerodynamic approach to machines such as automobiles, train locomotives, and ships for increased speed and efficiency (Gelernter 1999:248-250). When applied to architecture, this design aesthetic was known as Streamline Moderne. Finding a broader and wider exposure in commercial and industrial applications, this new image replaced Art Deco as the signature modern design. Although shorn of most decorative elements, the subdued Moderne architecture of the 1930s set the stage for the rapid adoption and expansion of International/Modern architecture following World War II (Longstreth 2000:126-127; Gelernter 1999:226-227, 250-251). The streamlining design movement of the 1930s helped establish the modern American aesthetic, one which abandoned historical reference. The 1930s set the stage for the International/Modern-styled design of European architects Mies van der Rohe and Le Corbusier, who, along with other architects, applied the basic principles of the Deidesheimer Square and Sullivan’s method to create buildings that required no load bearing exterior walls. Bricks and stone were replaced with sheets of glass or metal. This found widespread favor as reflective of post-war American society and spread to all major cities and outlying areas (Gelernter 1999:262-263).

B10. Significance (continued)

International/Modern-styled buildings were economical to build, as their simple design without elaborate ornamentation was easily replicated, a quality that appealed to businesses (Wiseman 2000:149). The general character-defining features of this style are: square or rectangular footprint; flat roof; subdued color schemes; minimal amount of façade ornamentation to draw attention of passersby to the inside; simple cubic "extruded rectangle" massing; windows running in broken horizontal or vertical rows forming a grid; façade angles at 90 degrees; and building materials utilizing steel, formed concrete, chrome, or plated surfaces (Gelernter 1999:248-249; McAlester 2013:616-627).

Reinforced Concrete

The spread of reinforced concrete construction in the United States was generally in response to the needs for improved resistance to fire and earthquake damage. As a building medium, reinforced concrete was relatively simple to work with and required minimal skilled labor (in comparison to professional masons). Roughly beginning in 1890, the spread of reinforced concrete structural systems, "including walls, columns, slabs and beams," along with steel-frame buildings, was at the forefront of American construction by 1910 (Friedman 2010:131).

According to architectural historian Betsy Hunter Bradley, the spreading popularity of using reinforced concrete was due to (1) the refinement of Portland cement through a process of grinding and heating to make a material that would be uniform in composition and strength; and (2) the use of steel reinforcing bars, pioneered by San Francisco-based engineer Ernest Leslie Ransome. By 1900, Ransome's method of steel reinforcement allowed concrete structural systems to adopt a more skeletal form, which allowed for more windows providing more interior lighting (Bradley 1999:156-157).

August E. Waegemann

August E Waegemann was born July 18, 1919, in San Francisco and graduated from University of California, Berkley, with a degree in civil engineering. According to an obituary in the San Francisco Examiner, Waegemann "engineered numerous building projects in SF including numerous apartments, pools, and warehouses. He is credited with introducing the lift-slab building process in San Francisco" (San Francisco Examiner 1994:26). In 1956, Mr. Waegemann published the California Civil Engineer and Engineer in Training Examinations, to assist those looking to complete their state licensing exams. Around the time he designed the San Bruno Park Pool, Waegemann operated out of an office at 210 Post Street in San Francisco.

Eligibility Evaluation

The following section presents an evaluation to assess the eligibility of the San Bruno Park Pool facility for inclusion in the California Register, thereby qualifying it as a historical resource for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act. The period of significance for the Pool Facility is 1959, which represents the period when it was under construction.

Criterion 1: Is it associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage?

Research indicates that the San Bruno Park Pool is associated with the larger pattern of institutional growth, public recreation, and community development of San Bruno in the mid-20th century. The San Bruno Park Pool is one of several institutional properties built in San Bruno during this period. Unlike other multi-purpose institutional buildings, such as the War Memorial Community Center, the San Bruno Park Pool was built to provide a single use – water-based recreation. Although built at the same time as the Community Center, the San Bruno Park Pool is not associated with the Living Memorial movement. It was a separate recreational facility wholly funded by the City of San Bruno. No evidence was identified to elevate the building in associative stature. It does not possess specific, important associations within the historic context to distinguish it from other buildings with a similar construction history and use. For these reasons, the San Bruno Park Pool does not appear significant under Criterion 1.

Criterion 2: Is it associated with the lives of persons important in our past?

Background research did not identify an association with any persons important in our past. Background research did not find an association with the San Bruno Park Pool and the life of an important local athlete or coach. For these reasons, the San Bruno Park Pool does not appear significant under Criterion 2.

B10. Significance (continued)

Criterion 3: Does it embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of an important creative individual, or possess high artistic values?

The San Bruno Park Pool possesses some of the general architectural characteristics of International/Modern, an architectural style well represented in the existing building stock of the City of San Bruno and San Mateo County, California, and nationwide. It is a building type inexpensive to build and designed to provide a functional, multi-use building to contain many difference uses.

Background research identified the original designer as San Francisco-based civil engineer August E. Waegemann. As discussed previously, Waegemann was a prolific civil engineer who designed, or help design numerous building projects in San Francisco. Examples include various apartments, pools, and warehouses. He is credited with introducing the lift-slab building process in San Francisco. However, that process was not utilized to build the San Bruno Park Pool bathhouse. Waegemann's professional portfolio and contributions to the engineering community are regarded by the engineering profession. In 1956, Waegemann published a book to assist those looking to complete their state licensing exams. It was not determined if Waegemann's text was regarded for its udefulness in preparing for licensing examinations.

A review of popular architectural guides of the Bay Area and a database of West Coast architect biographies did not indicate that the San Bruno Park Pool is notable for its architectural or design qualities or as an important example of Waegemann's work as an engineer (Cerny 2007; Schwarzer2007; Woodbridge, Woodbridge and Byrne 1992, 2005). Background research and field survey indicates that the San Bruno Park Pool does not appear significant in the context of Modern/International architectural style. It is a relatively simple facility designed to meet a public need for a recreational swimming facility. It is not a rare example of this type of civic resource in the context of post-World War II institutional development in San Bruno, California, or the United States. ugust Waegemann was an engineer better known for his association with designing apartments, pools, and warehouses and the lift-slab building process. For these reasons, the San Bruno Park Pool does not appear significant under Criterion 3.

Criterion 4: Has it yielded, or may it be likely to yield, information important to history?

This criterion is typically used to evaluate the potential for archaeological deposit to contain information important in understanding past lifeways of modern San Bruno's early historic-period and pre-European contact inhabitants. Its application to architecture is less common in eligibility assessments due to the prevalence of popular publications that often thoroughly document the form, materials, and design of a given building type. Information about the Modern architecture style and construction methods, as represented by the San Bruno Park Pool, can be obtained from other widely available sources on this and other common architectural styles. The building is unlikely to yield information important to the history of San Bruno, San Mateo County, or California. For these reasons, the San Bruno Park Pool does not appear significant under Criterion 4.

Integrity

In addition to being significant under one or more criteria, a resource must retain enough of its historic character and appearance to be recognizable as an historical resource and retain integrity, which is defined as the ability of a resource to convey the reasons for its significance (CCR Title 14 Section 4852(c)). There are seven aspects of integrity used to measure a property's ability to convey its significance: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association (National Park Service 1997:45). Historical resources eligible for listing in the California Register must meet one of the criteria of significance described above and retain enough of their historic character or appearance to be recognizable as historical resources and to convey the reasons for their significance. "To retain historic integrity a property will always possess several, and usually most, of the aspects" (National Park Service 1997a:44; California Office of Historic Preservation 2011:22).

The San Bruno Park Pool does not appear eligible either individually or collectively for inclusion in the California Register; therefore, its integrity was not assessed.

B12. References (continued)

Coy, Owen C.

- 1973 *California County Boundaries: A Study of the Division of the State into Counties and the Subsequent Changes in their Boundaries*. Valley Publishers, Fresno, California.

Fredricks, Darold

- 2003 *Images of America – San Bruno*. Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, South Carolina.

Friedman, Donald

- 2010 *Historical Building Construction: Design, Materials & Technology*. Second Edition. W.W. Norton & Company, New York.

Gelernter, Mark

- 1999 *A History of American Architecture: Buildings in their Cultural and Technological Context*. University Press of New England, Hanover and London, United Kingdom.

Graves, Donna

- 2004 *Mapping Richmond's World War II Home Front: A Historical Report Prepared For National Park Service Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park*. Electronic document, <http://www.tombutt.com/pdf/mapping%20richmond%20final.pdf>, accessed various.

Hyding, Alan

- 1982 *From Frontier to Suburb: The Story of the San Mateo Peninsula*. Star Publishing Company, Belmont, California.

Kunstler, James Howard

- 1993 *The Geography of Nowhere: the Rise and Decline of America's Man-Made Landscape*. Touchstone Books – Simon & Schuster, Publishers, New York.

Longstreth, Richard

- 2000 *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture*. Updated Edition. AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek, California.

McAlester, Virginia

- 2013 *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, New York.

Moore & DePue

- 1878 *The Illustrated History of San Mateo County*. Moore & DePue, Publishers. Reprinted 1974 by Gilbert Richards Publications, Woodside, California.

Postel, Mitchell P.

- 2007 *San Mateo County, A Sesquicentennial History*. Star Publishing Company Belmont, California.

Self, Robert O.

- 2003 *American Babylon: Race and the Struggle for Postwar Oakland*. Princeton Paperbacks, Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.

Storper, Michael, Thomas Kemeny, Naji P. Makaren, and Taner Osman

- 2015 *The Rise and Fall of Urban Economies: Lessons from San Francisco and Los Angeles*. Stanford Business Books, Stanford University Press, Stanford, California.

Weaver, John Downing

- 1967 *Warren: The Man, The Court, The Era*. Little, Brown Publishers, Boston, Massachusetts.

B12. References (continued)

Wilson, Mark A.

1987 A Living Legacy: Historic Architecture of the East Bay. Lexikos Press, San Francisco.

Wiseman, Carter

2000 *Twentieth-Century American Architecture: The Buildings and Their Makers*. W.W. Norton, New York.

Woodbridge, Sally B., John M. Woodbridge and Chuck Byrne

1992 *San Francisco Architecture: The Illustrated Guide to over 1,000 of the Best Buildings, Parks, and Public Artworks in the Bay Area*. Chronicle Books, San Francisco, California.

2005 *San Francisco Architecture: An Illustrated Guide to the Outstanding Buildings, Public Artworks, and Parks, in the Bay Area of California*. Ten Speed Press, Berkeley, California.

P5a. Photograph (continued)



San Bruno Park Pool. East façade. View west. 3/19/19.



San Bruno Park Pool. East façade, main entrance. View west. 3/19/19.

P5a. Photograph (continued)



San Bruno Park Pool. Dedication plaque. East façade. View west. 3/19/19.



San Bruno Park Pool. South façade, view north. 3/19/19.

P5a. Photograph (continued)



San Bruno Park Pool. West façade and main pool. View northeast. 3/19/19.



San Bruno Park Pool. East façade, main entrance. View west. 3/19/19.

P5a. Photograph (continued)



San Bruno Park Pool. Bath house, west façade. View east. 3/19/19.



San Bruno Park Pool. Main pool. View west. 3/19/19.

P5a. Photograph (continued)



San Bruno Park Pool. Bath house, north façade. View south 3/19/19.



San Bruno Park Pool. East façade, main entrance. View southwest. 3/19/19.