Title: San Francisco Department of City Planning Records

Date (inclusive): 1922-2003

Identifier/Call Number: SFH 465

Creator: San Francisco (Calif.). Planning Department

Creator: San Francisco (Calif.). Department of City Planning

Physical Description: 6.6 Cubic Feet (7 boxes)

Language of Material: English

Contributing Institution: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library

100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 557-4567
info@sfpl.org

Abstract: Contains reports, plans and proposals, and property surveys shaping the physical development of San Francisco in the 20th century. Also includes photographic prints and negatives documenting neighborhoods, streets, and traffic scenes.

Collection is stored on site.

Language of Material: Collection materials are in English.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is available for use during San Francisco History Center hours, with photographs available during Photo Desk hours.

Photographs cannot be photocopied. Gloves are required when handling photographs.

Publication Rights

All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the City Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], San Francisco Department of City Planning Records (SFH 465), San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

Provenance

Transferred to the San Francisco City Archives from the San Francisco Department of City Planning in separate accessions. Photographs and negatives were transferred from the Planning Department to the San Francisco Public Library in the 1980s, with a second transfer in 2013.

Related Materials

Researchers are encouraged to see also the San Francisco Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering Records (SFH 458), for files on a city-wide mapping project and related construction of a wood model of the city, created by the federal Work Projects Administration.

See also the History Center's subject files and the library catalog.


Processing Information


Conservation Note

During processing, the collection was re-housed in acid-free folders and boxes.

Materials Transferred

Some reports were transferred to the library's book collection. Photographs have been transferred to the San Francisco Historical Photograph Collection.

Administrative History

Long known as the San Francisco Department of City Planning, the agency more recently became known as the San Francisco Planning Department. It plays a central role in guiding the city's growth and development, including enforcing the Planning Code. The Planning Commission maintains the city's General Plan and advises the department on long-range goals, policies and programs, on issues related to land use, transportation, and current planning.
Early city planning was based on a rectilinear block plan laid out and modified by surveyors Capt. Jean Jacques Vioget (in 1839), Jasper O'Farrell (in 1847), and William Eddy (in 1849). In 1904, architect Daniel Burnham laid out a plan that was completed just before the earthquake and fire of 1906, but the plan was ignored in the city's rebuilding. Later, some of Burnham's ideas were implemented, including the Great Highway, Yacht Harbor, Aquatic Park, Civic Center, John McLaren Park, and Telegraph Hill Park. Development westward also ensued. Mayor James Rolph appointed the first City Planning Commission members on Dec. 28, 1917. The commission became a city agency in 1929, charged with responsibility under the Charter to make, accept, and maintain a Master Plan for the physical development of the city. The agency was known as the San Francisco Department of City Planning.

**Scope and Contents**

Contains reports, plans and proposals, property surveys, block drawings, and photographic images shaping and documenting the physical development of San Francisco in the 20th century. Block drawings were prepared in 1938 and 1939 for construction of a 3-dimensional model of the city. Subjects include height limits, urban design, lot sizes, rezoning, street connections, and redevelopment.

Photographs consist of prints, negatives, and color slides of neighborhoods, streets, and traffic scenes. Photo subjects include construction of the Work Projects Administration (WPA) Sectional Model of San Francisco and the Market Street transit thoroughfare.

**Arrangement**

Organized into three series: 1. Subject Files; 2. Block Profiles; and 3. Photographs and Negatives. Subject Files are arranged alphabetically. Block Profiles are arranged numerically by map number. Photographs are arranged chronologically, and by project.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

San Francisco (Calif.). Planning Department -- Archives
San Francisco (Calif.). Department of City Planning -- Archives
City planning -- California -- San Francisco.
Land use -- California -- San Francisco.
Cities and towns -- California -- San Francisco -- Growth
San Francisco (Calif.). -- Relief models
Photographic prints -- 20th century.
Transparencies
Slides--Color—1940-1950
Slides -- Color --1970-1980

**Series 1 Subject Files 1922-2003**

Physical Description: 2.6 Cubic Feet(3 boxes)

Scope and Contents

Includes reports, plans and proposals, and property surveys. Subjects include height limits, urban design, lot sizes, rezoning, street connections, and redevelopment. Of note are Mayor Roger Lapham’s memos and reports on postwar municipal construction and assessments; these are indexed. Model Cities documents include an outline of the development program to handle blight, in both Spanish and English.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by subject title.

box 1, folder 1-3

**Inner Mission North Survey 2003**

Scope and Contents

Documentation of a few hundred buildings with evaluations both individually and as historic districts. As a single body of work, it was adopted by the Planning Commission.

box 1, folder 4

box 1, folder 5

**Architectural Survey 1976-1977**

**Chinatown 701 Planning Project, Interim Status Report to the City Planning Commission 1971**
box 2, folder 1  City Plan San Francisco Proposal and Photographs [1965?]
box 1, folder 6  "City Planning in San Francisco," Stanford Community Development Study 1972
box 1, folder 7  Community Renewal Program (CRP)/Citizens Advisory Committee Correspondence and Minutes March-April, 1965
box 1, folder 8  CRP, San Francisco Community Renewal Program, Organization and Administration Study, Supplement Number 2 1964
box 2, volume 2  Comprehensive Plan of the City & County of San Francisco 1966-1974?
box 1, folder 9-12  Context Statement and Architectural/Historical Survey of Unreinforced Masonry Building (UMB) Construction in San Francisco from 1850 to 1940 1990
box 1, folder 13  Discovering the Design Rules for Compatibility with Existing Neighborhoods (Preliminary)
box 1, folder 14  Downtown Open Spaces Tour 1994
box 1, folder 15  Downtown Plan Monitoring Report 1994
box 1, folder 16  Downtown Plan Review Reports: 150 California Street, 524 Howard Street, 101 Second Street, 222 Second Street 1989
box 1, folder 17  Downtown Zoning Study Proposals 1967
box 1, folder 18  Draft EIR for the Proposed Amendments to the Text of the City Planning Code and to the Zoning Map... 1977
box 1, folder 19  Embarcadero-Lower Market Redevelopment Area E-1 1958
box 1, folder 20  Feasibility Study for a Proposed Recreation/Entertainment Complex in Yerba Buena Center 1978
box 1, folder 21  Form, Design and a More Attractive City Environment
box 1, folder 22  4th Biennial HUD Awards for Design Excellence 1970
box 1, folder 23  Height Limits in Northeastern San Francisco 1963
box 1, folder 24  Here Today Resolution 1979
box 1, folder 26  Highrise Office Growth in Downtown San Francisco 1985
box 1, folder 27  I-280 Concept Program/City Staff Recommendation 1985
box 1, folder 28,  Lapham, Mayor Roger: Citizens Postwar Planning Committee Reports, 1945
box 3, folder 1-3  Downtown Zoning Study Proposals 1967
box 3, folder 4  Lapham, Mayor Roger: Lot Size Ordinance Change 1945-1946
box 3, folder 5  Local Coastal Program, Private Lands including Housing Element... 1980
box 3, folder 6  Local Coastal Program, Public Lands 1980
box 3, folder 7  Management Information and Control System Reports, Yerba Buena Center Exhibition Hall 1977
box 3, folder 8  Master Plan of the City and County of San Francisco [1966?]
box 2, folder 3  Amendment: Neighborhood Center Facilities 1976-1977
box 2, folder 4  Amendment: Northeastern Waterfront 1977
box 2, folder 5  Amendment: Transportation Noise 1974
box 2, folder 6  Amendment: Urban Design Element 1971-1972
box 3, folder 9  Land Use Plan 1945
box 3, folder 10  Postwar Improvements Handbook July 1944
box 3, folder 11  Redevelopment of Blighted Areas 1945
box 3, folder 12  Shoreline Development, Preliminary Report 1943
box 3, folder 13  Model Cities Program Documents 1968-[1971]
box 3, folder 14  Neighborhood Commercial Rezoning Study Documents 1984
box 3, folder 15  New City: San Francisco Redeveloped 1947
box 3, folder 16  The Next Step in Urban Redevelopment, a Report to the Board of Supervisors on the Selection of the First Redevelopment Area 1947
box 3, folder 17  Plan for Chinatown 1985
box 2, folder 7  Plan for the Development of the San Francisco-San Mateo Peninsula 1922
box 3,  Planning Area Study 1955-1958
folder 18-19  Planning Code 1987
box 3, folder 20  Preservation of Landmarks in San Francisco 1966
box 3, folder 21  Progress in City Planning Report 1948
Series 1 Subject Files 1922-2003

**Finding Aid to the San Francisco Department of City Planning Records SFH 465**

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<th>Box Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>3, 24</td>
<td>Redevelopment Report: Planning and Rebuilding of Area &quot;E&quot; 1956</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, 25</td>
<td>Report on Street Connections and Developments Recommended for the Central District 1936</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, 26</td>
<td>Report on Yerba Buena Convention and Exhibit Center 1978</td>
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<td>3, 28</td>
<td>Residence: Residential Hotel Unit Conversion and Demolition Ordinance Report 1988</td>
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<td>2, 8</td>
<td>San Francisco Enterprise Zone, [Draft] Environmental Impact Report 1991</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, 29</td>
<td>South Bayshore Issues Report, Executive Summary 1987</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, 30</td>
<td>South of Market, UC Berkeley City Planning Course Report 1966</td>
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<tr>
<td>3, 31</td>
<td>Summary of Market Analysis, Redevelopment Area &quot;E&quot; 1956</td>
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<td>3, 32</td>
<td>Tentative Plan for the Redevelopment of Western Addition Project Area Number One 1952</td>
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<td>3, 33</td>
<td>Three Alternative Proposed Policy Plans Preliminary to a Revised Transportation Plan for San Francisco 1968</td>
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<td>3, 34</td>
<td>Transbay Area Plan, Background Date Report 1995</td>
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<td>3, 35</td>
<td>Transbay Area Plan, Land Use Issues &amp; Opportunities 1996</td>
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<td>3, 36-38</td>
<td>Unreinforced Masonry Buildings (UMBs) 1983-1996</td>
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<td>3, 39</td>
<td>South Bayshore Issues Report, Executive Summary 1987</td>
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<td>Transbay Area Plan, Land Use Issues &amp; Opportunities 1996</td>
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<td>3, 41</td>
<td>Urban Design Plan Adoption [1971?]</td>
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<td>Urban Design Plan Adoption [1971?]</td>
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<td>3, 45</td>
<td>The Use of Land in San Francisco 1964</td>
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**Series 2 Block Profiles 1938-1940**

- **Physical Description:** 2 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)
- **Related Materials:** See also the San Francisco Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering Records (SFH 458), for some files on the city-wide mapping project and related construction of a wood model of the city.
- **Scope and Contents:** Contains original block drawings prepared for construction of a 3-dimensional wood model of the city. In 1938, the City Planning Commission sponsored this work. The relief map, called the WPA Sectional Model, was built by federal Work Projects Administration workers. The block drawings sometimes include the draftsman's name. A map, "Key to the WPA Sectional Model," is included.

Large areas of the Sunset District, Diamond Heights, and Twin Peaks were not developed until after 1946, thus, no block profiles exist for them. The collection is missing profiles for Downtown (blocks 234-355), South of Market (blocks 3701-3758), and Civic Center (blocks 768-791, and possibly others.

Generally, only one block appears on a sheet. The scale of the maps, as well as the model, is 1 inch = 100 feet, both horizontally and vertically. The drawings include building footprints, or outlines of buildings at ground level, and block-long street elevations at appropriate grade. The official grade elevation is stated in feet at corners, or where mid-block changes occur. Street addresses, lot sizes, and building uses are not given. The profiles can be used to determine a building's footprint and relative height in stories can be determined.

A portion of the relief map, "The San Francisco Model," was exhibited at the Golden Gate International Exposition in 1939 and 1940. The map/model was presented to the City on April 16, 1940. The model currently resides at the University of California, Berkeley.

- **Transferred Material:** A letter from the City Planning Commission secretary to Mayor Angelo J. Rossi was transferred from the San Francisco History Center's Ephemera Collection. It details the planned presentation of the wood model to the City (on April 16, 1940).

**Arrangement:** The drawings are organized numerically by Assessor's block map number.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Inventory of Block Profiles no date</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Key to WPA Sectional Model Circa 1939</td>
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<td>box</td>
<td>Blocks 1-3212</td>
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<td>box</td>
<td>Blocks 3250-7231</td>
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<td>box</td>
<td>Presentation of Wood Model 1940</td>
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<td>box 6-7</td>
<td>Series 3 Photographs and Negatives 1939-1995</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Physical Description:** 2 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)

**The collection is stored onsite.**

**Conditions Governing Access**

The collection is available for use during Photo Desk hours. Photos can be photographed but cannot be photocopied.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Photographs and negatives were transferred from the Planning Department to the San Francisco Public Library in the 1980s, with a second transfer in 2013.

**Scope and Contents**


**Arrangement**

The collection is arranged loosely chronologically and by project.

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**box 7, folder 1**  
**San Francisco Work Projects Administration (W.P.A.)’s San Francisco Scale Model construction and dedication, negatives 4/7/1938 - 4/16/1940**

**Physical Description:** 52 Film negatives

**Scope and Contents**

Documents the construction of the San Francisco Scale Model by Federal Works Agency Work Projects Administration sponsored by City Planning Commission. Includes documentation of the dedication at City Hall in the Registrar of Voter's Office on April 16, 1940. Clyde E. Healy, Ralph G. Wadsworth and Mrs. Albert W. Stokes were at the dedication.

**box 6, folder 65**  
**San Francisco WPA’s San Francisco Scale Model construction and dedication, photographs 1938-1940**

**Physical Description:** 3 Photographic Prints

**box 7, folder 56**  
**Maps included in "A Report to the City Planning Commission on a Transportation Plan for San Francisco" by De Leuw, Cather and Company, slides 1948**

**box 6, folder 1**  
**Community 3: Marina, Cow Hollow, Pacific Heights, photographs 1960**

**box 7, folder 2**  
**Community 3: Marina, Cow Hollow, Pacific Heights, negatives 1960**

**box 6, folder 2**  
**Community 4: North Beach, Russian Hill, Nob Hill, Chinatown, photographs 1960-1970**

**box 7, folder 3-4**  
**Community 4: North Beach, Russian Hill, Nob Hill, Chinatown, Fisherman’s Wharf, negatives 1946-1960s**

**box 6, folder 3**  
**Community 5: Western Addition, Alta Plaza, Lafayette Park, Geary, Hayes Valley, Lone Mountain, photographs 1960s**

**box 7, folder 5**  
**Community 5: Western Addition, Alta Plaza, Lafayette Park, Geary, Hayes Valley, Lone Mountain, negatives 1960s**

**box 6, folder 4**  
**Community 6: Buena Vista, Haight, Duboce, Twin Peaks, photographs 1950s**

**box 7, folder 6**  
**Community 6: Buena Vista, Haight, Duboce, Twin Peaks, negatives 1960s**
Series 3 Photographs and Negatives 1939-1995

Finding Aid to the San Francisco Department of City Planning Records SFH 465

box 6, folder 5

Community 7: Mission, Eureka Valley, Dolores, Upper Noe, Noe Valley, Diamond Heights, photographs 1960s

box 7, folder 7

Community 7: Mission, Eureka Valley, Dolores, Upper Noe, Noe Valley, Diamond Heights, negatives 1960s

box 6, folder 6-7

Community 8: Potrero Hill, Bernal Hill, Potrero-Precita, photographs 1950s

box 7, folder 8-9

Community 8: Potrero Hill, Bernal Hill, Potrero-Precita, negatives 1950s

box 6, folder 8-10

Community 9: Bayshore, McLaren Park, Portola, Silver Terrace, Hunters Point, Bayview Park, Visitacion Valley, Sunnydale, photographs 1960s

box 7, folder 10-11

Community 10: Outer Mission, Cayuga, Excelsior, Crocker Amazon, Alemany, photographs 1941-1966

box 6, folder 12

Community 10: Outer Mission, Cayuga, Excelsior, Crocker Amazon, Alemany, negatives 1960s

box 6, folder 12-14

Community 11: West of Twin Peaks, Forest Hill, West Portal, Mt. Davidson, Sunnyside, Monterey, Ocean View, Junipero Serra, Merced Heights, Park Merced, Lakeshore, Sunset, photographs 1950s

box 7, folder 13-14

Community 11: West of Twin Peaks, Forest Hill, West Portal, Mt. Davidson, Sunnyside, Monterey, Ocean View, Junipero Serra, Merced Heights, Park Merced, Lakeshore, Sunset, negatives 1940s-1960s

box 6, folder 15-18

Community W: North Embarcadero, Downtown, Civic Center, photographs 1940s-1960s

box 7, folder 15-17

Community W: North Embarcadero, Downtown, Civic Center, negatives 1950s-1970

box 6, folder 61

Community X: South of Market, Rincon Hill, Division, photographs 1960s

box 7, folder 18

Community X: South of Market, Rincon Hill, Division, negatives 1960s

box 6, folder 19-20

Redevelopment: Golden Gateway-Embarcadero, South of Market, Western Addition, Diamond Heights, photographs 1950s-1967

box 7, folder 19

Redevelopment: Golden Gateway-Embarcadero, South of Market, Western Addition, Diamond Heights, negatives 1950s-1960s

box 6, folder 21

Parks and Recreation Centers, photographs 1950s-1960s

box 7, folder 20-21

Parks and Recreation Centers, negatives 1950s-1960s

box 6, folder 22

Fort Funston, photographs 1950s-1960s

box 7, folder 22

Fort Funston, negatives 1950s-1960s

box 6, folder 23

Presidio, photographs 1950s-1960s

box 7, folder 23

Presidio, negatives 1950s-1960s

box 6, folder 24

Fleishhacker Zoo c. 1961

box 7, folder 24

Schools, photographs 1955-1962

box 6, folder 25

Schools, negatives 1962-1963

box 6, folder 26-27

Parking lots, photographs 1950s-1963

box 7, folder 27-28

Parking lots, negatives 1950s-1960s

box 6, folder 29-31

Trafficways and freeways, photographs 1946-1960s

box 7, folder 28-29

Trafficways and freeways, negatives 1946-1964

box 6, folder 30

San Francisco Planning exhibits, photographs 1950s-1960s

box 7, folder 31

San Francisco Planning exhibits, negatives 1950s-1960s

box 6, folder 32-33

Westlake, San Mateo County, photographs 1961

box 7, folder 34

Westlake, San Mateo County, negatives 1961

box 6, folder 35

Department of Public Works copy prints, photographs 1926-1942

box 6, folder 36

Aerials, photographs 1940s-1960s

box 6, folder 37

Fisherman's Wharf, photographs 1970s

box 6, folder 38

South End, photographs 1970s

box 6, folder 39

Waterfront, photographs 1970s

box 6, folder 40

San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau publicity photos, photographs 1970s
Includes architectural survey photo logs recorded by photographers for the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. Logs include address of each building and the survey has 57 rolls of negatives. The architectural survey was used to prepare A Context Statement and Architectural / Historical Survey of Unreinforced Masonry Building (UMB) Construction in San Francisco from 1850 to 1940 (1990).