

Some interesting information about Fontana East and West and surrounding neighborhood.

Limiting building heights on the waterfront of San Francisco to protect views and the skyline, including historic landmarks such as Coit Tower, has long been an animated civic discussion, especially in the 1960's with the approval for construction of twin 17-story curved modern high rises at 1000 and 1050 North Point on the site of the former southern warehouse of the old Fontana spaghetti factory, just north of Ghirardelli Square. With the combined resources of many Russian Hill residents, none other than then attorney Casper Weinberger helped wage the fight to implement a 40 foot height limitation around this north waterfront area. Although the battle was lost the argument became a city wide issue which continues even today following the success of the June 2014 SF Proposition B ballot initiative which won with a 58% approval rate. It has since been challenged and settled in early 2018 between the City and the State Lands Commission.

The northern waterfront is home to iconic attractions such as the Ft. Mason, Ghirardeilli Square, Aquatic Park Historic District, the Maritime Museum, the Hyde Street Pier and Fisherman's Wharf .



Site of the old Fontana spaghetti factory warehouse, now Fontana East and West Co-op Buildings

Fort Mason was an Army post for more than 100 years, serving as the main port for the Pacific in World War II. Now it is enjoyed as a National Historic Landmark with over 49 buildings spread over 1,200 acres.



View of Golden Gate Bridge and the Marin Headlands from a hill at Fort Mason

The **San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park** includes the Maritime Museum with its fleet of historic vessels and Aquatic Park which includes a grassy park, a man made lagoon and the Hyde Street cable car turnaround.



Maritime Museum Building

From the Gold Rush until today **Fisherman's Wharf** has been the home of San Francisco's fleet of fishing boats. In the early days many Italian immigrant fishermen were successful in creating a wholesale fish market near the piers.



Fisherman's Wharf circa 1891

The **Hyde Street Pier** is a historic [ferry pier](#) much used prior to the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge. It was the main auto ferry terminal that connected the city with the north and east bay.

