APPENDIX A

Pacific Rod and Gun Club, San Francisco, CA

Cultural Landscape Evaluation Report

Pacific Rod and Gun Club
San Francisco, CA

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Submitted
to
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May 2014

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APPENDIX

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report to provide an evaluation of the Pacific Rod and Gun Club (PRGC) site under federal, state, and local criteria for its potential significance as a cultural landscape. Cultural landscapes are defined as geographic areas shaped by human activity; they can result from a conscious design or plan, or evolve as a byproduct or result of people's activities; and they may be associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibit other cultural or aesthetic values (NPS, 1996:4). Of the four general types of cultural landscapes (historic sites, designed landscapes, vernacular landscapes, and ethnographic landscapes), the PRGC can best be described as a vernacular landscape—that is, one that has evolved through use by the people whose activities or occupancy shaped it and one in which function plays a significant role (NPS, 1996:4-5).

This report includes the following sections:

- A description of the field, research, and evaluation methodology.
- A summary of the regulatory framework.
- Historic contexts within which to evaluate the significance of the PRGC site including the development of recreation around Lake Merced, the role of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the development of recreation in San Francisco, the history of skeet and trap shooting in San Francisco, and the recreational shooting activities at the PRGC within the context of sport hunting and its association with the early 20th century wildlife conservation movement.
- A history of the PRGC and the evolution of the site in relationship to this history.
- A description and analysis of the existing conditions of the cultural landscape features at the PRGC site.
- An evaluation of the significance and integrity of the PRGC as a cultural landscape under the federal, state, and local criteria.
- A bibliography of references used to prepare this memo.
- An appendix with historical images, a map showing the location of key features (Figure 1), a map showing the location of existing conditions photographs (Figure 2), and photographs of the existing conditions.

II. METHODS

A. Personnel

This Cultural Landscape Evaluation Report was prepared by Denise Bradley. Ms. Bradley (Master of Landscape Architecture, Louisiana State University) has 20 years of experience as a landscape historian in California and meets the Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Professional Qualifications for Historical Landscape Architecture

and History. ESA Architectural Historian Brad Brewster provided written descriptions of the buildings and an assessment of their integrity.

B. Field Methods

Denise Bradley conducted an intensive survey of the cultural landscape at the PRGC on September 19, 2013. Field notes and photographs were taken to aid in the preparation of the description and the evaluation of the site. An additional site visit was conducted with ESA Architectural Historian Brad Brewster on October 2, 2013 to meet with Patrick Gilligan (PRGC President) to obtain information about the names and functions of the site features within the context of skeet and trap shooting.

C. Research Methods

The focus of the research for this Cultural Landscape Evaluation Report was a review of primary and secondary sources for information that would aid in the evaluation of the potential significance and integrity of the PRGC as a cultural landscape.

Repositories that were consulted included the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) collections (Archives, Photographs Archives, and Record Management), the San Francisco Public Library, the University of California, Berkeley's Earth Sciences Map Room, the Pacific Aerial Surveys collection, the National Skeet Shooting Association-National Sporting Clays Association (NSSA-NCSA) Museum archives, the PRGC collection of historical photographs, memorabilia, scrap books, newspaper clippings, club histories, etc., and a variety of online repositories.

Key references that were consulted for the historic context on the development of recreation around Lake Merced included the *Lake Merced Watershed Report* (SFPUC, 2011); SFPUC annual reports from the 1930s, a report on WPA accomplishments in San Francisco (Healy, 1939), a publication, *I Am OMI*, on the surrounding neighborhoods prepared by the Western Neighborhoods Project (LaBounty, 2003), and the historic context on Lake Merced in the *San Francisco Groundwater Supply Project, City and County of San Francisco, Final Historic Resources Evaluation Report* (ESA, 2011).

Key references that were consulted on the role of the WPA in the development of recreation in San Francisco during the Depression included two summary reports on WPA accomplishments in the city (Mooser, 1938; Healy, 1939), SFPUC annual reports from the era, *San Francisco Parks and Playgrounds, 1839 to 1990: The History of A Public Good in One North American City* (Delehanty, 1993), *The Public Landscape of the New Deal* (Cutler, 1985), and the article "How the WPA Transformed San Francisco" from *Landscape Architecture Magazine* (Martensen, 1979).

Key references that were consulted on the history of skeet and trap shooting included information from the PRGC collection including histories prepared by two of its past presidents (Springer, 1949; Alkalay, n.d.), several target shooting instructional books that provided background information on the development of the sports (Nichols, 1939 [1947 edition]; Croft, 1990; Migdalski, 1997; Sapp, 2009, and information on the websites of national and state organizations and Bay Area target shooting clubs and facilities (listed

in the bibliography). Phone interviews were conducted with the director of the NSSA (Mayes, 2014) on the development of the sport nationally and with a board member of the California Skeet Shooting Association (CSSA) on the development of the sport in California and in the Bay Area (Burke, 2014). Information on the histories of other Bay Area target shooting organizations that appeared to have the potential to have facilities as old as those at the PRGC was gathered through personal communication with the clubs or club members (Boyle, 2014; Burke, 2014; Frenkel, 2014; Gobbell, 2014; Marazzani, 2014; Sargentini, 2014; Stockton Rod and Gun Club, 2014), site visits (to the Martinez and Richmond clubs), a review of information on the organizations' websites, and a review aerial photographs (on Google Earth and in the Pacific Aerial Surveys collection) to help to determine how long the clubs had been at their current sites and how these facilities had changed over time. Information on the nonextant Fort Mason Rod and Gun Club, which was located at Fort Funston, was gathered through personal communication (Martini, 2014; Williford, 2014) and a review of aerial photographs in the Pacific Aerial Surveys collection.

Key references for the development of the historic context that sets the recreational shooting activities at the PRGC within the context of sport hunting and its association with the wildlife conservation movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries included *America Learns to Play: A History of Popular Recreation, 1607-1940 (*Dulles, 1965), *Hunting and the American Imagination* (Herman, 2001), *American Sportsmen and the Origins of Conservation* (Rieger, 2001), "Hunting Democracy" in *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* (Herman, 2005), *Mortal Stakes: Hunters and Hunting in Contemporary America* (Dizard, 2003), a history of game regulations on the California Department of Fish and Game website (DFG, 1999), and several early twentieth century accounts of conservation as it relates to hunting (Grinnell et al., 1918; Burnham, 1928; McAllister, 1930).

Key references on the history of the PRGC and the evolution of the site included written recollections and histories from members (Springer, 1949; Alkalay, n.d.; Kahn, 1987) and other information from the club's archive (including historical photographs, memorabilia, typewritten manuscripts, newspaper clippings, and past issues of the club's newsletter, the *Pacific Breeze)*, aerial photographs (Cartwright Aerial Surveys, 1965; GoogleEarth, 1938 and 2000-2013; Pacific Aerial Surveys, 1935-2001), and personal communication (Gilligan, 2013; Boyle, 2014).[1] Information on the three PRGC members who are in the CSSA Hall of Fame was obtained through personal communication (Boyle, 2014). Information on the 1939 National Skeet Championship at the PRGC was gathered from the club histories cited above, a review of San Francisco newspapers, and information in articles in *Skeet Shooting News*, the official publication of the NSSA, and the book *Trap and Skeet Shooting* by Jimmy Robinson, who was considered the preeminent sportswriter on trap and skeet shooting during that era.

[1] Denise Bradley contacted PRGC President Patrick Gilligan to ask his assistance in arranging an oral interview with long-time member Ray Brooks, Jr. on the history of the club (Gilligan, 2014); however, at the time of the submission of this report, no additional information had been received on if and when that interview could be arranged.

A full list of the references is provided in the bibliography.

D. Evaluation Methodology

The PRGC was evaluated under the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), for its potential historical significance as a cultural landscape. Additionally, the NRHP Criteria guide the evaluation of significance for San Francisco's list of locally designated City Landmarks and Historic Districts which are designated under San Francisco Planning Code Article 10 (SFPD, 2013:6).

The California Office of Historic Preservation's *Technical Assistance Series #6: California Register and National Register: A Comparison (for purposes of determining eligibility for the California Register)* and *Technical Assistance Series #7: How to Nominate a Resource to the California Register of Historical Resources (Revised 2001)* were consulted in relation to the CRHR criteria. The CRHR does not provide specific guidance for describing cultural landscapes. However, the CRHR was consciously designed on the model of the NRHP (the two programs are extremely similar, although there areas in which these programs differ), and guidance provided in NRHP and National Park Service (NPS) publications were consulted in preparing the evaluation for the PRGC. *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* provided general guidance on the NRHP, and *National Register Bulletin 30: How to Evaluate and Document Rural Historic Landscapes* provided additional guidance on the evaluation of cultural landscape features. *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques* was consulted on the procedures related to research and documentation for cultural landscapes; and *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* was consulted related to definitions of cultural landscapes and cultural landscape features.

As described in NRHP bulletins and NPS publications on cultural landscapes, both the processes that helped to form the landscape and its individual components are critical to the understanding of a cultural landscape. The key processes to the formation of a cultural landscape include land uses and activities, patterns of spatial organization, responses to the natural environment, and cultural traditions. The individual components of a cultural landscape include groupings of features within a larger landscape, circulation-related features, the various types of boundary demarcations, vegetation features, buildings and structures, archaeological resources, and small-scale elements (NPS, 1999: 3-6). The description and evaluation of the PRGC site incorporates these cultural landscape characteristics and features.

III. REGULATORY CONTEXT

The evaluations of the built environment features within the Project footprint were conducted in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Provided below are the federal, state, and local regulatory context for the evaluation of historic resources, including cultural landscapes.

A. Federal Regulations

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, administers the NRHP, which sets forth evaluation criteria described in 36 CFR Part 60.4. The following criteria are designed to guide the states, federal agencies, and the Secretary of the Interior in evaluating potential entries for the NRHP. The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that:

A. Are associated with events that have made significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

B. Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master or that possess high artistic values or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The question of integrity is another factor that must be addressed when determining the eligibility of a resource for listing in the NRHP. The Secretary of the Interior describes integrity as "the ability of a property to convey its significance." A property must retain certain intact physical features in order to convey its significance under one or more of the NRHP criteria. Integrity is judged on seven aspects; location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

If a particular resource meets one or more of these criteria and retains sufficient integrity to convey its historical significance, it is considered as an eligible "historic property" for listing in the NRHP. Additionally, unless exceptionally significant, a property must be at least 50 years old to be eligible for listing.

B. State Regulations

The State of California implements the NHPA of 1966, as amended, through its statewide comprehensive cultural resource surveys and preservation programs. The California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), as an office of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), implements the policies of the NHPA on a statewide level. The OHP also maintains the California Historical Resources Inventory. The SHPO is an appointed official who implements historic preservation programs within the state's jurisdictions.

California Register of Historical Resources

The CRHR is "an authoritative listing and guide to be used by state and local agencies, private groups, and citizens in identifying the existing historical resources of the state and

to indicate which resources deserve to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change" (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 5024.1[a]). The criteria for eligibility to the CRHR are based on NRHP criteria (PRC Section 5024.1[b]). Certain resources are determined by the statute to be automatically included in the CRHR, including California properties formally determined eligible for or listed in the NRHP.

To be eligible for the CRHR a historical resource must be significant at the local, state, and/or federal level under one or more of the following criteria:

1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;

2. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;

3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or

4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (PRC Section 5024.1[c]).

For a resource to be eligible for the CRHR, it must also retain enough integrity to be recognizable as a historical resource and to convey its significance. A resource that does not retain sufficient integrity to meet the NRHP criteria may still be eligible for listing in the CRHR.

California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA, as codified in PRC Sections 21000 et seq., is the principal statute governing the environmental review of projects in the state involving discretionary actions by public agencies. CEQA requires lead agencies to determine if a proposed project would have a significant effect on important historical resources, including archaeological resources. CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5 [a] and [b] define a historical resource as: (1) a resource in the CRHR; (2) a resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k) or identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements of PRC Section 5024.1(g); or (3) any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record.

C. Local Regulations of the San Francisco Planning Department

San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission and Planning Code Articles 10 and 11

Article 10 of the San Francisco Planning Code describes procedures regarding the preservation of sites and areas of special character or special historic, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value, such as officially designated city landmarks and buildings included within locally designated historic districts. Article 11 of the Planning Code designated six downtown conservation districts.

Created in 2008, the Historic Preservation Commission is a seven-member body that makes recommendations directly to the Board of Supervisors, bypassing the Planning Commission, on the designation of landmark buildings, historic districts, and significant buildings. The Historic Preservation Commission replaces and retains most of the responsibilities of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board (Landmarks Board). The Landmarks Board was a nine-member body, appointed by the mayor, which served as an advisory board to the Planning Commission and the Planning Department. The Landmarks Board was established in 1967 with the adoption of Article 10 of the Planning Code. The work of the Landmarks Board, the Planning Department, and the Planning Commission has resulted in an increase of public awareness about the need to protect the City and County of San Francisco's (CCSF's) architectural, historical, and cultural heritage.

The Historic Preservation Commission makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on building permit applications that involve construction, alteration, or demolition of landmark sites and resources located within historic districts. The Historic Preservation Commission may also review and comment on projects affecting historical resources that are subject to environmental review under the CEQA. The Historic Preservation Commission also approves Certificates of Appropriateness for Landmarks and properties within Article 10 Historic Districts.

IV. HISTORIC CONTEXTS

Historic contexts regarding (1) the development of recreation in San Francisco and at Lake Merced, (2) the role of the WPA in the development of recreation in San Francisco and at the PRGC site, (3) the recreational shooting activities at the PRGC within the context of sport hunting and its association with the wildlife conservation movement of the early 20th century, and (4) the history of trap and skeet in San Francisco and the Bay Area are provided below to provide a basis for evaluating the significance of the PRGC site as a cultural landscape.

A. Development of Recreation around Lake Merced

The first European contact with Lake Merced came during the Spanish expedition led by Don Fernando Rivera and Father Francisco Palou who came to the area in 1774 searching for sites to establish a mission as part of Spain's expansion into Alta California. They are believed to have camped just north of where present-day Lake Merced Boulevard

intersects with the San Francisco-San Mateo County line. On his return in 1775, Father Palou named the lake *Laguna de Nuestra Senora de la Merced* or The Lake of Our Lady of Mercy; the name was subsequently shortened in local usage to Lake Merced. From 1776 to 1835, the land around the lake was part of the Mission San Francisco de Asis (Mission Dolores) holdings and was used for grazing the mission's livestock herd (SFPUC, 2011:99; ESA, 2011:38).

The control of the lands in San Francisco transferred to Mexico in 1821 following the founding of the Republic of Mexico, and in 1834, the government began the process of secularizing the California missions and granting large tracts of land to individuals. In 1835, Jose Antonio Galindo was granted 2,200 acres of land that included Lake Merced. Two years later Galindo sold the land to Don Francisco de Haro for 100 cattle and $25.00 in goods. De Haro, who was the first mayor of San Francisco, built a house at the southern end of the lake and lived here part-time until he died in 1849 (SFPUC, 2011:99; ESA, 2011:38). During this same period, settlers squatted around the northern end of the lake and developed farms (to improve the land as part of their claims under the Homestead Act). Their presence altered the land use around Lake Merced from livestock grazing to cropland; the farmers raised grains for hay, potatoes, onions, and miscellaneous vegetables. "The agricultural production continued, primarily to the north of Lake Merced, until approximately 1920 when development eclipsed the farmland as the predominant land use" (SFPUC, 2011:99).

During the latter half of the 19th century, San Franciscans considered Lake Merced as rural and remote. They would venture out on the weekends to go to the beach via Ocean House Road (today's Ocean Avenue), and it was a popular area to pick wildflowers or to go hunting. The relative isolation of the area also made it a favorite spot for a variety of other recreation including roadhouses (the Ingleside Inn, the Ocean House, the Oceanside House, the Trocadero Inn, and the Lake House, located on the north shore of Lake Merced), a number of boxing camps, shooting ranges, bars located along Ocean House Road, and racetracks (the Ocean Course Racetrack, located just north of Sloat Boulevard, and the Ingleside Racetrack, located east of Junipera Serra Boulevard) (LaBounty, 2003:4-6; SFPUC, 2011:100). Of these facilities, only the Trocadero Inn, located in the Sigmund Stern Recreational Grove, remains extant.

The Spring Valley Water Company (SVWC), incorporated in 1858, formed a monopoly over the city's water supply, and in 1868, the company bought the water rights to Lake Merced, one of the few sources of freshwater in the city, for $150,000. In 1877, the company began purchasing the land within the watershed around the lake. By the turn of the 20th century, the SVWC owned the area from the San Francisco-San Mateo County line to Sloat Boulevard and from Junipera Serra Boulevard to the ocean (approximately 2,000 acres). Following the devastating 1906 Earthquake and Fire, San Franciscans voted in 1908 to approve the construction of the Hetch Hetchy dam in the Sierra Nevada to gain public control of its water supply. Subsequently the company began to sell off its holdings around Lake Merced which opened the door for a new era of recreational land uses around the lake (ESA, 2011:38-39; SFPUC, 2011:30 and 100).

Three golf courses opened in the surrounding area between 1915 and 1925—the San Francisco Club southeast of the lake in 1915, the Olympic Club which purchased the financially troubled Lakeside Golf Course, west of lake, in 1918, and Harding Park situated between the North and South lakes in 1925. The PRGC leased the land for their new club site on the lake's western shoreline in 1934, only four years after the city had purchased the lake from SVWC in 1930. Around in 1931, the PRGC was involved with early efforts to stock the lake with black bass and later hosted the first "Carp Derby" on the lake in 1940. In 1938-1939, the SFPUC awarded a fishing concession to Tom Cusick who leased about 50 rows boats and constructed a boat house and clubhouse; the current boathouse was built in 1958 (SFPUC, 1934: 7; SFPUC, 1939:23; Healy, 1939:43; Springer, 1949:Parts Three and Six; SFPUC, 2013: 30-31).

The WPA constructed a boulevard around the lake in the late 1930s which greatly improved access to the lake and the various recreational opportunities there. John Muir Boulevard, as it was named, not only improved access to the lake but also provided "a landscaped boulevard of rare value for recreation and scenic beauty skirting the shores of Lake Merced" (Healy, 1939:43). This project altered the topography of the land within the road's alignment and next to the lake, and added equestrian paths, retaining walls (constructed of various materials including rock, rubble, and logs), rock gutters, rock steps and coping, sewer, sloping, and landscaping around the lake's perimeter (Healy, 1939:43).

Today, the lake is used for a variety of land and water based recreational pursuits including golfing at the three courses, recreational target shooting (at the PRGC), trail-based recreation, picnicking, camping at Camp Ida Smith (operated by the Girl Scouts), competitive boating (sculling and dragon boating), leisure boating, wind-surfing, and fishing (ESA, 2011:38-39; SFPUC, 2011:20-33 and 100-101).

B. Role of the WPA in Recreation Development in San Francisco

The site preparation work undertaken by the WPA at the PRGC as part of the preparations for the 1939 National Skeet Championships (discussed in more detail below) was one of many improvements to San Francisco's park and recreational facilities that were made possible by this federally-funded, Depression era, works program. The WPA was established on May 6, 1935 by Executive Order 7034, at the beginning of Franklin Roosevelt's "Second New Deal" (as his second term came to be known). An independent agency funded directly by Congress, the WPA assumed the dominant role in the federal government's work relief activities after its establishment. Through a central administration in Washington, D.C., and supported by various regional offices, state administrations, and district offices, the agency financed up to 80 percent of the cost of projects using local materials and local labor, thereby adding money to the local economy and providing extended employment to unskilled and skilled laborers (Cutler, 1985:7). As was the case in other cities, a major component of WPA work in San Francisco was directed at improving parks and recreational facilities, and "park and playground construction consumed more of their time than any other avocation with the single exception of road building" (Martensen, 1979:75).

WPA park-related projects in the San Francisco included work at Balboa, Bay View, Buena Vista, Golden Gate, Harding, Inspiration Point, McLaren, Mount Davidson, Sharps, Stern Grove, and Telegraph Hill parks. Major projects included the construction of Aquatic Park, the Marina seawall, Park Presidio through Golden Gate Park, and exhibits for the Zoological Gardens (Mooser, 1938). Recreation-related projects aimed to fulfill the slogan "Making Play & Sports Available to All Citizens" that accompanied photographs in *San Francisco Improved*, a summary report of WPA projects in San Francisco between 1935 and 1939 (Healy, 1939:n.p.) and resulted in new recreation centers, clubhouses (including the Model Yacht Clubhouse and Anglers' Lodge in Golden Gate Park and the clubhouses at the Lincoln Park and Harding golf courses), 16 new playgrounds, the refurbishing of 15 existing playgrounds, and the addition of restrooms (convenience stations) and basketball and tennis courts to playgrounds throughout the city. In total, over $15 million in WPA funding was spent on park and recreation projects from 1935 through 1939 (Mooser, 1938; Healy, 1939:35-38; Martensen, 1979:75; Delehanty, 1992:383; NPS, 2004).

The work undertaken by the WPA at the PRGC to prepare the site for the National Championships (in skeet) held there on August 8-12, 1939 was one of a variety of sports-related projects funded by the WPA. (Healy stated, in *San Francisco Improved,* that "[t]his project shows the variety of sports that are encouraged to promote the health and enjoyment of the people" [Healy, 1939:65]). The high visibility of the National Championships and the fact that it would take place in the summer of 1939 during the Golden Gate International Exposition (GGIE) may have been contributing factors to the funding for this project. Mindful of the thousands of people that would visit San Francisco and the publicity that would accompany the GGIE, William Mooser Jr. (San Francisco WPA Branch Manager) noted his progress report that "San Francisco, desirous of living up to its reputation of the 'city that knows how' is, therefore, planning projects and civic improvements with that deadline date [of the GGIE] constantly in mind" (Mooser, 1938:8).

Although, the National Championships were a high profile event for the city, the work done by the WPA at the site was crucial to the club's ability to host the national event. In his club history, long-time club member and past club president Joe Springer wrote: "The grading of the fields and the parking area were the big problems. This, we had the assurance from the city, would be done, and it was, but with many headaches, as it was a W.P.A. job and couldn't be rushed. The eight fields were erected, but the shooters began arriving before the last shovel full of dirt was finished on the parking area" (Springer, 1949:Part Five). According to the short summary in a 1939 report prepared by Clyde E. Healy (the city's coordinator for WPA projects), the WPA project "cleared the site and prepared it for skeet shooting" (Healy, 1939:65). The summary table in Healy's report showed that the federal government funded the labor ($1,404), and the city paid for the materials ($775).

C. Sport Shooting and its Association with the Wildlife Conservation Movement of the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries

The loss of habitat and the decline of game species became highly visible during the last half of the 19th century and occurred within the context of a national preoccupation with the loss of the natural resources. In California, the period during and immediately following the Gold Rush brought about rapid development that resulted in readily visible changes to many of the state's natural resources. Hydraulic mining which clogged streams and rivers with great amounts of sediment, clear cutting of forests to provide for the increased demand for lumber and for firewood as a result of the massive immigration after the discovery of gold in 1849, and the reclamation of marshlands all visibly altered wildlife habitats. Game birds that once had been widely distributed throughout the state came to be "crowded into the few ponds and marshes that were not reclaimed" (Grinnell et al., 1918:10). Other practices, including the sale of game on the open market, the use of the automatic shotgun, dumping of waste oil into estuaries, and the destruction of upland game birds habitat due to grazing also contributed to this loss (Grinnell et al., 1918:9-16).

During the latter decades of the 19th century and early years of the 20th century, hunting increasingly came to be confined—not just in California but throughout the country—to a system of large private game preserves. Several examples, cited in Justin Herman's article "Hunting Democracy," included the control by private clubs of the marshlands of the Columbia and Williamette rivers in Washington and Oregon and "virtually all duck hunting grounds in the vicinities of Denver and Los Angeles" (Herman, 2005:26). M. Hall McAllister, in a 1930 article for the *California Fish and Game* journal, stated that the organization of duck clubs in northern California began when the "Southern Pacific Railroad built across the Suisun marsh in 1878-79" and "brought this wonderful sanctum of ducks and geese within a few hours of San Francisco and Oakland" (Hall, 1930:283); the entire 5,000 acre marsh was owned by The Chamberlain Estate and was leased to two market hunters (Hall, 1930:283). "In San Francisco three hunting clubs owned or leased a combined 116,000 acre of game preserves in 1904" (Herman, 2005:26). The membership in each of these early clubs was limited to a few wealthy individuals. For example the early clubs, organized in the 1880s and 1890s, mentioned in McAllister's article had only three to ten members (Hall, 1930:284). The costs associated with this type of club—the transportation by railroad or private boat to the club sites,[2] the upkeep of a clubhouse where the members stayed, the salary of a game keeper who managed the land and who patrolled the grounds to keep non-members out, and the maintenance of habitats (constructing levees, baiting the ponds, etc.)—were born by the affluent members (Grinnell et al., 1918:24). The rapid growth of sportsmen's clubs and associations during the latter decades of the 19th century was founded not only on camaraderie and a love of hunting (and fishing) but also upon a desire to provide a way to preserve and manage wildlife and their habitat which were increasingly viewed as endangered. National publications, such as the *American Sportsman*, *Field and Stream*, and *Forest and Stream*,

[2] McAllister noted that the Cordelia Shooting Club, organized with ten members in 1880, included a "contract with the well-known Captain Charles Chittenden to hire his yacht, the yawl *Lolita*, which afterward was superseded by the yacht *White Wings*, and later by a large and commodious house ark" (Hall, 1930:284).

were established in the early 1870s and gave these sportsmen a means of communicating with each other and helped to foster a group identity. These publications also helped to promote a defined code of conduct and attitude around hunting ethics and habitat protection (Reiger, 2001:3).

This first era of wildlife conservation, described by John Reiger in his book *American Sportsmen and the Origins of Conservation* (2001) as being from the 1880s through about 1900, was driven by the private efforts of American sport hunters, who were generally from the elite or upper classes. These individuals sought to facilitate conservation of disappearing habitat and game through the management of private reserves and led efforts to change game laws (Herman, 2001:237-238). Their activities and their influence on public opinion laid the ground work for a shift during the early 20th century to the responsibility of managing wildlife habitat and game species being undertaken by the public sector. The years of the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909) resulted in the expansion of federal programs for resource. Justin Herman, in his writings on the social and political meanings of hunting, presented Theodore Roosevelt and "his fellow Progressives" as not only regulating business and breaking up trusts but also campaigning for game laws and public preserves and thereby democratizing sport hunting during the early 20th century (Herman, 2005:29, 30). "In creating bag limits, game seasons, and game wardens, conservationists abolished pot hunting [individuals who hunted for personal subsistence] and market hunting [individuals who sold game for profit]. By the early 20th century, all hunters, with rare exceptions, were sport hunters" (Herman, 2001:271).

In California, the state began to enact some form of fish and game regulations during the Gold Rush. The state passed its first law—which regulated the right to take and plant oysters—in 1851. Then a year later, the legislature enacted a law that protected elk, antelope, deer, quail, mallard, and wood ducks for six months of each year; however this regulation applied to only 12 counties and its enforcement was left to local authorities and was not uniformly applied (DFG, 1999). It was not until 1870, that the Board of Fish Commissioners (the forerunner of the State's Fish and Game Commission) was established, with a board of three commissioners, to oversee the state's efforts around the restoration and preservation of fish in California waters (DFG, 1999). From the 1890s through about 1900, hunting became more tightly managed and regulated.[3] After the turn of the century, the administration of fish and game laws was strengthened and expanded, and although not implemented until 1909, an amendment to the state constitution from 1901 provided the means to divide the state in fish and game districts to further the state-wide approach to resource management (Grinnell et al., 1918:55; DFG, 1999).[4] By the

[3] During this period regulations were enacted that protected the nests and eggs of game bird, restricted gun size, prohibited night hunting and the sale of game, established bag limits, created the requirement for hunting licenses, etc. Regulations were also enacted to protect individual species (Grinnell et al., 1918:55-61; DFG, 1999).

[4] John Reiger, in his book *American Sportsmen and the Origins of Conservation*, noted that early conservation efforts focused on three areas—wildlife, forests or timberland, and state and national parks (Reiger 2001:3-4). In California, there were parallel movements, that accompanied the establishment of wildlife conservation, to establish state parks and to protect scenic areas, to deal with the loss of timberlands (the widespread planting of eucalyptus trees are a part of this context), and to preserve historic sites.

late 1910s, the creation of the "public game refuge" had begun to address the "problem of the private [owned by one person] and club game preserve, best illustrated at the present time by the familiar 'duck club.' For a long time the duck preserve has been an object of contention among sportsmen, the outsider maintaining that the preserve curtail his liberties by usurping all the available shooting grounds and hence the birds . . ." (Grinnell et al., 1918:23).

Sport hunting enjoyed widespread popularity throughout the country up through World War II. The same outdoor magazines, which in the late 19th century had been aimed at the affluent class, began to "appeal to ever-wider readerships" (Herman 2005:30), and the price of participating in the sport came within the reach of most Americans. "In 1920 rifles and shotguns were produced at half their pre-World War I cost" (Herman 2001: 271.). The number of hunting licenses sold in America doubled between 1910 and 1920. Inexpensive cars, which "made it possible for men of modest means to seek out distant hunting grounds," shorter work weeks, more holidays, and paid vacations (all of which were part of evolving labor practices in the first four decades of the 20th century) all contributed to the widespread popularity of sports hunting. "By 1945, fully one-quarter of American men were sports hunters" (Herman 2001:271).

Trap and skeet shooting clubs developed within the context of this larger conservation movement. Although trap shooting predates the conservation movement, its 19th century evolution from hunting practice into a formal game and the early history of America's trapshooting clubs occurred within the context of the first era of conservation (summarized above). In the early 1900s, trap shooting's popularity was widespread, and Daniel Justin Herman, in his book *Hunting and the American Imagination*, stated that there were 200,000 people participating in some form of formal organization of the sport through 3,000 clubs in 1914 (Herman 2001:227). Skeet which was created in the 1920s has a more direct tie to the second phase of the conservation movement when the responsibility of managing habitat, and thereby providing places and opportunities to hunt, was taken into the public realm. Skeet had spread by the late 1920s to the Bay Area; the Bay Sportsmen's Club (at Fort Funston in San Francisco) and the PRGC (initially on the Napa River) were both formed in the late 1920s and included skeet as one of their activities. Statistics on the sport are hard to obtain, but in 1939, the president of the NSSA an estimated 100,000 people were shooting competitively on fields located at 2,000 gun clubs and 300 golf clubs (Powell, 8-6-1939:4H); this number did not include the number of individuals who used sport more casually for recreation or to hone shooting skills for hunting season.

The hunting clubs that formed in the 1920s and 1930s tended to identify themselves with the wildlife conservation movement and used the term "sportsmen" to describe themselves; this term had direct links to the conservation movement, although it has now become more generic in its meaning (Herman 2005:30). Joe Springer's history of the PRGC, written in 1949, stated that this club "was born as a conservation organization" (Springer, 1949:Part One). The Marin Rod and Gun Club, organized in 1926 and still in existence, stated that the "club was formed for the purpose of conservation, preservation and propagation of fish and game" (MRGC). In addition to their association with the conservation movement, these early 20th century gun clubs illustrate the democratization

of hunting that occurred during that period. While clubs continued to exist that maintained private land for hunting, the clubs that formed during the 1920s and 1930s had small land holdings where they may have had a club house (but no onsite game keeper) and possibly a boat launch or a trap or skeet field. Some of the clubs initially had no facilities. For example, the Richmond Rod and Gun Club formed in 1932 did not build any facilities at its site until 1952 (Frenkel, 2014). The Walnut Creek Sportsman's Club formed in 1939 had a clubhouse, in town, but it owned no land until it combined with three other clubs (the Concord Sportsmen's Club, the Bay Point Rod and Gun Club, and Diablo Rod and Gun Club) to form the United Sportsmen, Inc. in 1960 and purchased 75 acres (Gobbell, 2011; Gobbell, 2014). All these clubs utilized public lands and reserves, a product of the 20th century conservation movement, for their hunting activities (Gobbell, 2014; Burke, 2014). Furthermore, most of the clubs formed during this period did not have the exclusiveness of membership, like their predecessors. These clubs, which included members who were working and middle class (Alkalay, n.d.; Gobbell, 2011), had lower operating costs, a greater number of members, and more modestly priced dues when compared to the exclusive and wealthy membership of the private preserves of the late 19th century.

Just as the rise in popularity of sports hunting reflected aspects of American culture in early 20th century, so did its decline after World War II (Herman, 2001:274). The war interrupted sports hunting as well as trap and skeet activities due to the rationing of ammunition and the scarcity of shotgun shells and clay targets. Herman stated, in the article "Hunting and Democracy," that sports hunting probably peaked in the 1940s and 1950s (Herman, 2005: 30). Jan Dizard, in his book *Mortal Danger: Hunters and Hunting in Contemporary America*, noted that the sale of hunting licenses peaked in the late 1950s, and that although the popularity of most outdoor activities continued to be "robust" in the decades after World War II, "participation in hunting stagnated in the 1970s and, by the 1980s, began a slow but steady decline" (Dizard, 2003:42). Herman cited cited several factors that contributed to what he termed the "depopularization of hunting" that occurred after the post-war period; these included the camera (although initially carried by hunters to record kills soon became an alternative to the gun), the popular movie culture of "Walt Disney and his progeny" who projected "anthropomorphic images of animals to millions," the rise in the popularity of team sports (that were "far more representative of today's corporate culture than hunting with its emphasis on self-reliance"), and the rise of other outdoor sports (such as rock climbing, kayaking, skiing, and hiking) which "have replaced hunting as ways for middle class and elite Americans to test their mettle against the forces of nature" (Herman, 2001:272- 273).

D. Development of Trap and Skeet Shooting in San Francisco

Target Shooting Matches

Target shooting matches in America—the forerunners of trap and skeet competitions—developed within the context of the country's colonial era hunting culture. Foster Rhea Dulles pointed out, in his book *The History of Recreation: America Learns to Play* (1965), that after the development of stable communities hunting and fishing came to be

enjoyed as sport not just as a means to survive (Dulles 1965:24, 55). This almost universal popularity of hunting throughout the country in the late 18th and early 19th centuries (Herman 2001:54) and the premium that colonial Americans placed on marksmanship contributed to the development of organized target shooting matches. Dulles pointed out that “pride in marksmanship made shooting matches of all kinds even more popular [in the frontier] than they been in the colonies” and that these matches “followed the frontier westward, bequeathing to the more settled communities in the East rifle clubs and trapshooting” (Dulles 1965:71). Set rules for procedures that were “carefully agreed upon” and which included the selection of an “impartial board of judges” developed, and the custom of shooting at a live mark was replaced with shooting at a target (Dulles 1965:71-72; Herman 2001:54-55).

Trap and sheet shooting, the two types of shotgun games located at PRGC, developed within this tradition of target shooting. The sports are similar in that both involve shooting flying clay targets with shotguns. However they developed at different times, and the shooting fields related to each sport have different physical layouts. American Trap uses one machine (the trap) to propel the targets which are all thrown in an outgoing direction; the trap oscillates back and forth throwing out the targets at angles that are unknown to the shooter until they emerge from the house. Skeet uses two machines located at the left (high house) and right (low house) of a semicircle; the machinery in these two houses throws the target in fixed patterns at different angles that are meant to replicate real birds in flight. Both activities started as a way for individuals to practice skills related to hunting and then evolved into sports with codified rules that are practiced for both recreation and competition. Versions of both trap and skeet are included as shooting sports in the Olympic summer games (Migdalski, 1997:13-15; Claytargetsonline.com, 2013). Brief histories of both sports are described below; a description of their associated physical layout requirements is provided in section VI. Description.

Trap

Trap is the oldest of the shotgun games and was established in England by the mid-18th century (ATA, 2013).The sport was first practiced in the United States early in the 19th century and was popular by mid-century in a number of areas, notably in Cincinnati, Ohio and the New York City area (ClayTargetsOnline, 2013). Trap was intended to replicate the experience and utilize the skills of shooting birds in the field, and according to a history of the sport in the *Gun Digest Book of Trap & Skeet Shooting*, "[e]arly trap shooters used live pigeons for targets. Birds were held in a box or “trap” until the shooter 'called for the bird.' An assistant would then pull a string to open the trap’s lid " (Sapp, 2009:17). The use of live birds for sport peaked in the American by mid-century. States began to pass legislation that outlawed competitions using live birds, and there was a growing move to develop methods of putting non-live targets into flight. In 1866, Charles Portlock of Boston improved a "sling devise", in use in England, that launched glass balls. Around 1880, George Ligowsky of Cincinnati developed a flat, disc-shaped clay target. Although, these clay targets were hard and difficult to break, they were preferable to the glass ball targets. In 1881, Ligowsky introduced an improved trap machine for launching his clay targets. An Englishman named McClaskey (none of the references

provided his first name) refined the composition of target to include river silt and pitch which became the standard used. (This type of target is also used in skeet.) With the reliability of standard targets and reliable trap machines, interest in the sport accelerated in the 1890s. By this time, the standard arrangement of the game, where a squad of five shooters rotated through five stations while shooting at one trap, had become the standard format. The first national trap championship in the United States took place in New Orleans in 1885. Then in 1890, the Interstate Trapshooting Association was formed to govern the sport; its name was changed in 1919 to the American Trapshooting Association and in 1923 to the Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA). In 1924, a permanent home was built for the association in Vandalia, Ohio, and the annual Grand American Tournament was held there each year until 2005 when it was moved to Sparta, Illinois to the World Shooting & Recreational Complex (Migdalski, 1997: 4-6; Sapp, 2009: 17; ATA, 2013).

The date when trap shooting first arrived in northern California is not clear. However it seems likely that the sport was present in the late 19th century. The Martinez Gun Club has been in existence since 1883, and in San Francisco, there were "shooting ranges" located along Ocean House Road (today's Ocean Avenue) in the 19th century (LaBounty, 2003:4). The California State Shoot was first held in 1912. The PRGC had a single trap at their original Cuttings Wharf property on the Napa River by 1929. After the club moved to the Lake Merced site in 1934, a trap field is visible in a number of historical photographs in the PRGC collection taken between 1934 and 1937 (before the original fields were abandoned after they were flooded when the lake rose) and on an aerial taken in 1938 (after the fields were moved to higher ground) (see Historic Images 4 and 7). The PRGC was generally known as a skeet shooting group in the 1930s and 1940s. Then in the 1950s, the club added new regulation trap fields and began to regularly host competitive trap shooting events including those associated with the ATA and the Pacific International Trapshooting Association (PITA), an association of clubs in the western United States and west coast providences of Canada that was founded in 1931 (PITA, 2013). This interest in trap occurred after the active trap shooting members from the Fort Mason Rod and Gun Club, with a field and a clubhouse at Fort Funston, joined the PRGC after their clubhouse burned in 1948 (its foundations remain at Fort Funston). The PRGC then became, and continues to be, the only facility in the city to offer trap shooting. Beginning in the late 1940s and continuing through the mid-1960s, the club expanded its trap facilities and built three trap fields, added the machinery to shoot trap to all six skeet fields, and added the "Trap House," a building originally used for registration purposes (Alkalay, n.d.:D; GoogleEarth, 1938; CDSG, 2013; CGSTA, 2013; Martinez Rod and Gun Club, 2013; Martini, 2013; PRGC, 2013; Williford, 2014).

Skeet

Skeet was invented in 1926 by Charles Davies of Andover, Massachusetts who was interested in devising a trap system that would more closely resemble the flight pattern of real birds (than was provided by trapshooting). With the assistance of his son Henry and Henry's friend William Foster, he experimented with various plans before coming up with a field laid out in a circle (with a 25 yard radius) with 12 shooting stations designated around its circumference—similar to the positions of each hour on a clock

face—with a trap located at station 12 which propelled targets toward station 6. Participants moved around the circle firing two shots from each station. In 1923, they reduced the radius of the circle to 20 yards, changed the layout of the field to a semi-circle which took less room, and added a second trap (the high house), opposite the first one (the low house), that propelled the target from a higher location. Foster who was the editor for the *National Sportsman* and *Hunting and Fishing* magazines formulated a set of rules to govern this new shooting game. He then published these in the February 1926 issues of the two magazines along with the announcement of a national contest to name the new game. Mrs. Gertrude Hulbutt of Dayton, Montana won the $100 prize with her entry of "skeet" which was an old Scandinavian word meaning "shoot." According to Tom Migdalski's history of the sport, in *The Complete Book of Shotgunning Games*, the national publicity given to the new shooting game by Foster in his magazines, its ability to simulate wild bird shooting without the limitations of closed hunting seasons, and the social aspects of clubs and clubhouses that accompanied skeet, all contributed to the rapid spread of the sport throughout the country. The National Skeet Shooting Association was formed soon afterwards and its first National Championship was held in 1935 in Cleveland, Ohio. The national championship rotated annually around the county, with the 1939 championship held at the PRGC in San Francisco. This championship event was not held during World War II, and skeet shooting (and other target shooting games) was drastically curtailed for the duration of the war due to the limited availability of ammunition and targets. Migdalski commented in his history that skeet actually received a boost during the war: "The military recognized the value of skeet in training personnel to hit moving targets. Consequently, thousands of men were introduced to the shotgun and the game of skeet" (Migdalski, 1997:18), and after the war continued to shoot skeet. The National Skeet Shooting Association was reorganized and incorporated in 1946, and the National Championship was reinstated at Indianapolis in 1946. Now known as the World Championship, it is held annually in San Antonio, Texas at the association's National Shooting Complex (Croft, 1990:99-100; Migdalski, 1997:15-19; Sapp, 2009:59; NSSA-NSCA, 2013; Burke, 2014).

More details about the history of the arrival of skeet to northern California are available than is the case with trapshooting. In the late 1920s, Jules Cuenin, the Rod and Gun editor at the *San Francisco Examiner*, approached local sportsman Lloyd Kahn about finding a place to build a skeet field for this "new sport" which at that point "had reached no further West than Chicago" (Kahn, 1987). They were able to persuade the Army to give them permission to "build a field in a barren area of Fort Funston" (Kahn, 1987). This field became the first in San Francisco and was associated with the Bay Sportsmen's Club, "the pioneer Northern California Skeet Shoot Club" (Alkalay, n.d.:A). Around 1930 or 1931, this group merged with the PRGC, who had built a skeet field at their Cuttings Wharf site in 1929; the combined groups used the PRGC name. Soon after this merger, they were able to persuade the Army to let them move the field to a site "on the highway" which made access easier, and the earlier field was abandoned (Kahn, 1987). The growing popularity of skeet and the demands on its Fort Funston field were such that the PRGC began to look for a new site where they could expand. They found a suitable site just east of the Fort Funston field on the western shore of Lake Merced on land owned by the SFPUC where they constructed two new fields. In 1938, the club

constructed four new fields at a higher elevation on the Lake Merced site, after the 1934 fields were flooded, which became, and continue to be, the only skeet fields in San Francisco. Beginning in the late 1940s and continuing through the mid-1960s, the club in conjunction with the expansion of its trap facilities added two new skeet fields to the site. This expansion coincided with the increased interest in skeet that occurred when returning veterans, who had been introduced to skeet as part of World War II training practices, took up the sport (Burke, 2014).

Local Clubs from the Pre-World War II Era

Local sportsmen's and hunting clubs formed in the Bay Area during the 1920s and 1930s within the context of the increased popularity of sport hunting and the increased access to public game preserves that were fostered by the wildlife conservation movement during the early 20th century. These organizations tended to identify themselves with the wildlife conservation movement. As noted in the preceding context on this movement, these early 20th century clubs all utilized public lands and reserves, included members who were working and middle class, and had greater numbers of members and more modestly priced dues when compared to the exclusive and wealthy membership of the private preserves of the late 19th century. Skeet and trap shooting were often part of their club activities since these provided members with a way to improve skills and a framework for a shared social experience within this context. Although it is difficult to obtain a list of clubs that formed during this era, based on information in newspaper articles (that listed the locals of clubs) and the recollections of individuals, most communities had a sportsmen's club. Additionally, many Bay Area military installations also had skeet or trap facilities. Not all clubs had target shooting facilities, and those that did tended to have only one or two fields. The presence of four skeet fields (and often one trap field and a duck tower), a clubhouse, a caretaker's house, and a rifle range building gave the PRGC one of the more extensive pre-World War II facilities. These facilities and the enthusiasm of their active membership provided the club with the means to host larger events (both for competitive and for recreational shooters). Many smaller clubs disappeared during the post-World War II era.[5] They often only leased their land and lost these leases as development surrounded them, those that continued to survive moved or consolidated with other clubs, and most of what are considered to be "older" clubs today actually date from the 1950s (Burke, 2014; Boyle, 2014; San Francisco Chronicle, 1939; Cuenin, 1939).

The PRGC appears to have the oldest skeet and trap facility in the Bay Area and retains its original pre-World War II grounds configuration, skeet field structures, and club buildings. Other clubs that remain in operation from this pre-World War II era do not have skeet or trap facilities (for example, the Marin Rod and Gun Club [established 1926]) and the Stockton Rod and Gun Club [established 1937]), have moved to newer facilities and are no longer located at their original sites (for example, the Martinez Gun Club [established 1883] moved to its current site in 1961), or developed their facilities

[5] For example, clubs from this era that are no longer in existence included ones in Novato, Palo Alto, Petaluma, Redwood City, Sonoma, and Tracy (Cuenin, 1939; Burke, 2014; Boyle, 2014; Marazzani, 2014).

after those at the PRGC. In this latter group, the Richmond Rod and Gun Club, which formed in 1932, did not buy its property and begin development on its facilities until 1952 (Frenkel, 2014; Sargentini, 2014). In 1960, four smaller clubs (Bay Point, Diablo Rod, Walnut Creek, and Concord) which did not have shooting ranges, joined together in 1960 to form the United Sportsmen Inc. and purchase a 75-acre site (Gobbell 2011 and 2014). The Stockton Skeet and Trap Club, which holds major tournaments and is considered one of the premier sites to shoot competitively, was not formed until the mid-1950s (Burke, 2014; Boyle, 2014).

V. HISTORY OF PRGC AND SITE EVOLUTION

Following the discussion of PRGC's establishment and early development, this section provides the history of PRGC organized by the club's periods of development at Lake Merced. The period 1934-1941 encompasses PRGC's move to Lake Merced and the development of the property when the arrangement of the features within the site was established and when its major buildings and four of its skeet fields were constructed. During this 1934-1941 period, the club spearheaded the establishment of sports fishing at Lake Merced and helped to establish skeet shooting in the Bay Area. Its facilities provided a regular venue for the range of social experiences and activities associated with sportsmen's clubs during this pre-World War II era. This initial period of development ended in 1941 when the United States entered World War II. From 1942-1945, most of the club's regular activities were curtailed due to the war; this was a general wartime experience for sportsmen's clubs throughout the country and was not unique to the PRGC. After the end of World War II, the various club and shooting activities returned to the PRGC property, and the club began an extended period of growth and expansion between 1946 and the early 1960s that resulted in the addition of new skeet and trap fields, the addition of one new building (the Trap House), and the expansion of another (the Shell House). The period from the mid-1960s through the early 2000s included minor alterations to the property but resulted in no major additions of buildings or field facilities.

A. Establishment of the Club

The PRGC was established in early 1928 with an initial membership limited to 50 by a group of San Francisco sportsmen and was incorporated on June 6, 1929. Based on the information in the club's "Early History", prepared by its first president Joe Springer for publication in the club's newsletter in 1949, the club was formed as a conservation organization with membership initially focused on sports fishing. In additional to recreational fishing, club members participated in regional and national sports fishing events. In competitive surf casting in the early 1930s, member Primo Livenais held the record for an individual cast and the club's team broke the world record for a team score. The club was actively involved in "in the campaign to take striped bass off the commercial market," and was also instrumental in testing and planting sport fish in Lake Merced in the 1930s. An article in the *San Francisco Chronicle* described the first opening day on Lake Merced for sport fishing, on July 1, 1939, as a culmination of seven years of efforts "fathered" by Joe Springer, the president of the club from 1928 through 1932 (Springer, 1949: Parts One and Three; Alkalay, n.d.:A; Powell, 7-3-1939:3H).

Initially, the club leased land at Cuttings Wharf on the Napa River where they built a clubhouse that provided accommodations for members to spend the weekend while they hunted or fished and a site for social gatherings. The clubhouse included a bunkroom that would sleep about 20, a large dining room that was able to accommodate about 50 people, a kitchen, and shower and toilet facilities. The official opening of this new clubhouse was a "grand three day affair" over the weekend of February 22-23, 1929. The club's first president Joe Springer described the festivities as "staring off with a big dinner Saturday night, followed by boat races on Sunday, fishing for prizes, trap shooting (we had a single trap) and many other activities" (Springer, 1949:Part One). The club expanded its shooting activities in 1930 by adding a single skeet field at the Cuttings Wharf site. Although skeet was only four years old as an organized sport at that time, it was rapidly growing in popularity, and new fields, like this one, were popping up throughout the country (Springer, 1949: Part One; Migdalski, 1997:15).

B. The Move to San Francisco and Pre-World War II Development of Lake Merced Site

The club's involvement with skeet increased and its geographical focus began to shift to San Francisco around 1930-1931 when the Bay Sportsmen's Club, the "pioneer Northern California Skeet Shoot Club," merged with the PRGC (Alkalay, n.d.:A). Because the PRGC was the larger of the two organizations and had a meeting room, the combined groups decided to use the PRGC name (Kahn, 1987). This association added a new contingency of skeet shooting enthusiasts to the club—three of whom would later serve as president for the PRGC (Alkalay, n.d.:A]—and the PRGC took over the Bay Sportsmen's Club single skeet field at Fort Funston. Springer described this facility as "a rather crude affair" with no storage facilities so that it was necessary to cart the targets, ammunition, and batteries to and from the field each shooting day. Soon after the merger, the club was able to persuade the Army to let them move the field to a site "on the highway" [Skyline Boulevard] which made access easier (Kahn, 1987) (see Historic Image 1). The club became increasingly involved in skeet after it acquired this field at Fort Funston. Its five-member team went to Nevada City in May 1931 for the Northern California Skeet Championship Shoot and to Los Angeles in July to compete for the state team championship.[6] Also during 1931, the PRGC hosted a "charity shoot" in December "for the benefit of the San Francisco News Neediest Families Fund" (Springer, 1949:

[6] Two of the members of this 1931 team—Jules Cuenin and Don Westwater—are members of the CSSA's Hall of Fame. Cuenin, a sportswriter for the *San Francisco Examiner* and one of the club's original members, was inducted into the Hall of Fame based primarily on his efforts to promote skeet during its early years through his sports writing. However, he also ranked among the country's elite shooters during the 1930s and was a Second Team All-American in 1930, 1932, 1933, and 1934. During that era, members of the All American teams were selected by Jimmy Robinson, editor of *Sports Afield* who was considered the preeminent sportswriter on the game during this era, based on their wins in shooting competitions in comparison with other shooters from all over the country (Burke, 2014). Westwater was inducted into the Hall of Fame based on his shooting abilities. His prime years of competition were interrupted by World War II, but he continued to shoot competitively into the 1950s and was ranked as a Second Team All American in 1955 when he was in competing against much younger individuals (Burke, 2014).

Part Three), which was the first in an ongoing club tradition of hosting shooting events to raise money for local organizations (Springer, 1949:Parts One, Two, and Three).

The club's membership limit was doubled in 1931 to 100, and by 1933, the growing popularity of skeet and the demands on its Fort Funston field were such that members began to look for a new site where they could expand. They found a suitable site just east of the Fort Funston field on the western shore of Lake Merced on land owned by the SFPUC. This site provided some fairly level terrain immediately next to the shoreline. The level terrain helped to minimize the amount of grading that was required to build level skeet fields for the club's shooting enthusiasts, as well as providing easier lake-side access for their fishing contingency. San Francisco Mayor Angelo Rossi helped to smooth the way for a lease, after some initial local opposition raised by golfers and horseback riders to the development of the facility at this site, and the club entered into its initial lease agreement with the SFPUC in 1934 (Springer, 1949:Part Three). The SFPUC's annual report for fiscal year 1933-34 cited the lease with the PRGC as one of two steps taken by the commission "toward improvement of the recreational facilities of the people of San Francisco" during that fiscal year (SFPUC 1934:7).[7] The report noted that "with the arrival of Hetch Hetchy water, the water produced by Lake Merced will be required only in an emergency" so the commission "leased an area in the neighboring tract to the Pacific Road and Gun Club for use as a skeet shooting field. The club was also permitted to plant black bass in the lake, it being expected that fishing will be later enjoyed there by our people" (SFPUC 1934:7).[8]

The club's members built two skeet fields and an entrance road, which provided access to the site from the east, and dedicated the new facility on June 9 and 10, 1934 (see Historic Images 2 and 3). The construction of these facilities began the PRGC's initial period of development at Lake Merced that continued until the United States entered World War II in 1941. In recognition of his assistance in securing the site, Mayor Rossi fired the first shot at the dedication ceremony; however "a [club] member behind the high house actually fired the shot that broke the target" (Springer 1949: Part Three). Other features which are visible on aerial and historical photographs from this era included a trap field located to the west of the eastern skeet field, a large unpaved parking area, and a small wooden building (the "Lunch Room"), a stone barbeque, and picnic tables in the southeastern corner (see Historic Image 4). An internal unpaved road linked the two skeet fields. A large stand of trees, made up of mostly eucalyptus trees, that pre-dated the club's use of the site stretched across the site and provided a boundary along the south side. Club members planted a row of evergreen trees to delineate the boundary at the southeastern corner. The PRGC continued to prosper and voted in November 1936 to double its membership to 200. A new clubhouse was opened on July 25, 1937, and at that time, the club "gave up the clubhouse on the Napa River" (Springer, 1949: Part 4) and became exclusively identified with its Lake Merced site (see Historic Image 5). A

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[7] The other step that the report noted was the leasing of a portion of the Amazon reservoir site for the development of a new playground for the southern section of the city (SFPUC, 1934:7).

[8] According to Springer's history the stocking continued on a regular basis: "Many shipments of bass were planted in the lake from time to time under the supervision of the black bass committee of this club so that the public might enjoy a little fishing" (Springer, 1949:Part Four).

caretaker's house was also added around this same time, although an exact date of construction has not been established. Then in late 1937, the lake rose several feet and flooded out the fields (see Historic Image 6). The club was forced to relocate its facilities to higher ground about 50 feet to the west. The club cut down most of the large stand of eucalyptus trees in order to clear the site for the new fields, although a small band of the trees were left standing in the vicinity of the clubhouse. By April 10, 1938, they had constructed four new skeet fields, which continue to exist today as Fields 4, 5, 6, and 7. By the time these new fields were built, the alignment for John Muir Boulevard was in place and provided easy access to the site. The original entrance road was abandoned, and a new entrance (with a rustic wooden gateway and sign) was established at John Muir Boulevard across from the new fields (the location of the present-day entrance). A fence (originally rustic in appearance to match that of the new gateway and sign) was added that delineate the boundary between the skeet field site and the road (see Historic Images 7 to 9). An indoor Rifle Range building was added in March 1939 just east of Field 7; the club's first rifle team had been formed in 1934 (Pacific Aerial Surveys, 1935; Google Earth, 1938; Springer, 1949: Part Four; PRGC, 2013).

C. Events Held at the Club in the 1930s

After the opening of the new facilities at the Lake Merced site in 1934, the club began to host regional and state skeet championships. During the 1930s, when travel was more limited than it is today, these regional and state events provided local shooters the opportunity compete and helped to promote the game (Burke, 2014). A list of competitive tournaments hosted by the club in the 1930s and up through the country's entry into World War II include the Northern California Skeet Championships (1934, 1939, and 1942), the Western Open Championships (1934, 1935, 1937, and 1941), and the California State Championships (1934, 1935, 1936, and 1938) (Springer, 1949:Parts Three to Six). The club hosted hunter safety classes and continued its practice of holding benefit shoots to raise money for various causes including the Shriners, the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO),[9] and Ducks Unlimited. L. N. Alkalay, club president in 1940, considered the club's efforts to raise funds for the establishment of a Ducks Unlimited Project in Canada known as Lake San Francisco to be its "greatest conservation project." Alkalay claimed that this led to "many other sportsmen's groups throughout the United States sponsoring similar projects in their names" using this "procedural format established originally by the Pacific Rod and Gun Club (Alkalay, n.d.:C). The club

[9] A write up in the *San Francisco Call* for the fifth annual CYO Charity Shoot, held on April 27, 1941, provides a sense of these types of events held at the club during this era. The event was expected to include "hundreds of scattergunners" and participants with a range of experiences ("experts, strictly game hunters and rank novices"). There was an educational component ("Not only will the fine points of the skeet game be explained to novices by class A or professional shooters but the experts will actually accompany newcomers during their rounds of shooting to assist in every way possible and make them at home with a gun on a skeet field") and a "clergy shoot" ("One of the most interesting events of the day will undoubtedly be a skeet contest for members of the clergy"). Trophies were donated by local businessmen (the Beale brothers of the Mission Automobile Parts and Marine Supplies Company) and lunch was provided for sale (as part of the fundraising) by club members—a barbeque steak (for 75 cents) or for the person who was not a "heavy luncher" there were "sandwiches, coffee, and whatnot" (Dearing, 1941).

hosted events that celebrated regional events and history. In 1937, they held the Golden Gate Bridge Fiesta Skeet and Trap shoot to celebrate the opening of the bridge. The 1939 National Championship (described below) was one of the sporting events held during the GGIE.

D. 1939 National Skeet Championships

The PRGC's prominence within the skeet world of the 1930s was firmly established when it was awarded the fifth National Skeet Championships to be held at the club on August 8-12, 1939. Previous championships had been held in Cleveland (1935), St. Louis (1936), Detroit (1937), and Tulsa (1938). The decision to hold the event in San Francisco increased the cost of travel for many participants, but was important because it was the first time that the national championships were held in a west coast location, which indicates how the game had spread in the decade and a half after its invention (Skeet Shooting News, 1939: 1). *Skeet Shooting News*, the official publication of the NSSA, emphasized that the championships provided the participants and attendees, from all parts of the country, Hawaii, and some foreign counties, a chance to complete, meet each other, and to leave with "a fuller understanding and appreciation of skeet as a country-wide sport rather than something unique to their own particular locality" (Skeet Shooting News, 1938:7). The San Francisco event, which became the "biggest shooting event ever held to date in the west" (Springer, 1949:Part Five) helped to reinforce the popularity of the sport in Northern California (Burke, 2014).

According to Springer's account of the event in his history, the club worked for three years to secure the event from the National Skeet Shooting Association. L. N. Alkalay, vice chairman of the club's executive committee for the event, traveled throughout the country to skeet clubs to promote the National Championships in San Francisco (Burke, 2014).[10] The club received local assistance from the San Francisco Tourist and Convention Bureau who helped pay for club member Hugh Richardson's "trip to Tulsa to complete arrangements and to gain a favorable vote from the National Association" (Springer, 1949: Part Five). The championships coincided with the GGIE, the World's Fair held at Treasure Island in the summer of 1939, which celebrated the opening of the Golden Gate and Bay bridges. According to L. N. Alkalay's club history, the National Skeet Championships was considered one of the "gala and official" events associated with the exposition (Alkalay, n.d.:B).[11]

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[10] Alkalay is one of three PRGC members, along with Jules Cuenin and Don Westwater, who are members of the CSSA Hall of Fame. Alkalay was vice chairman of the club's executive committee for the National Championship and was president of the club in 1940. He became president of the Northern California Skeet Shooting Association (NCSSA) and editor of its publication "The Skeeter in 1942 and again in 1948. He is credited with being instrumental the reorganization of the NCSSA in 1947 which contributed to the renewed interest in skeet after World War II. He also served on the board of directors for the reorganized national organization (NSSA) following the war (Burke, 2014).

[11] Two other sporting events held in conjunction with the GGIE included the International Lawn Bowling Tournament held September 4-16, 1939 on greens in San Francisco, Oakland, and Berkeley and the national surf casting championship, which was won by the PRGC team (Cuenin, 8-4-1939: 26; San Francisco Chronicle, 9-5-1939:3-H; Springer, 1949:Part Five)

The city assigned part of its WPA funding to assist the club in preparing the site for the tournament (refer to the historic context on the WPA for more information on the role of the WPA in Depression-era recreation construction). The area to the south of the four fields was still sloped and covered in brush at this point. The WPA work force cleared this site and graded it for the large parking lot that was needed for the national championships events. They also graded the field area (Healy, 1939: 65; Springer, 1949: Part Five). In addition to the four fields, laid out in 1938, which were already in place, four temporary fields were added for the event. Having eight fields and a parking area were two of the commitments the club had to make to the NSSA in order to host the event (Skeet Shooting News, 1938; Cuenin, 1939:21; Springer, 1949:Part Five). No description was provided in any of the sources reviewed for this report as to where these fields were located. However, Historic Image 10, shows two fields located northwest of Field 4 in the area occupied by present-day Fields 1 to 3. Given the geography of the site, the two other fields were likely added to the open area at the southern end of the site, today occupied by Fields 8 and 9. No evidence of these fields remained on the site in 1948 when Historic Image 12 was taken.

The success of the event enhanced the PRGC's reputation within the skeet world. Almost 200 shooters participated from 27 different states (Skeet Shooting News, 1939:1). A report on the event in *Skeet Shooting News* stated that this had been the "most nearly perfect shoot, considering all aspects in the history of the national competition." The account credited the location, equipment, and management of the tournament as factors contributing to its success. The article stated that the "[e]quipment and layout at the Pacific Rod and Gun Club was the finest ever placed at the disposal of the national championship competitors. The many permanent buildings of the club added greatly to the comfort of the shooters and those responsible for managing and cashiering the meet" (*Skeet Shooting News*, 1939:2). Jimmy Robinson, trapshooting and skeet editor for the national sports magazine *Sports Afield* was publicity director for the event. Newsreel companies, photographers, and the local newspapers, which gave front sports page coverage to the event, provided what was declared to be the "best press coverage it had ever enjoyed" (*Skeet Shooting News*, 1939:2). The closing banquet at the Fairmont Hotel was attended by 350 "shooters, friend, and officials" where awards and trophies were presented by Mayor Angelo Rossi and NSSA president Henry Ahlin. It was the first of the national championships "to be concluded entirely 'in the black' as a complete financial success" (Alkalay, n.d.:B).

After the event, the club's fourth building was added in late 1939 or early 1940 just west of Fields 4 and 5. This building, known as the Shell House, was constructed from lumber recycled from the wooden platforms that had been erected during the championships by the "Ammunition Companies to display their wares and entertain their friends . . ." (Springer, 1949:Part Five) (see Historic Image 10).

E. World War II

As was the case throughout the country, the shortage of shells and targets during World War II limited shooting activities at the club. Following the United States' entry into World War II in December 1941, activities changed at the PRGC. Initially the club

planned to continue in a "conservative way" to hold shoots on the grounds and to "entertain visitors who can provide their own ammunition, an ample stock of targets still being on hand (PRGC Digital Archive: Newspaper clipping ca. 1941-42). By the end of 1942, wartime rationing altered the activities further. An article in the *San Francisco Examiner* announced that "due to dim-outs and gas rationing the club is compelled to temporarily seek a more central location for its meetings" and so they moved the meetings to the band room at the Islam [Shrine] Temple at 650 Geary Street (Betten, 1942:17). Shooting was limited to every other Sunday and competitive events were suspended, except for the 1942 California Skeet Championships that occurred before shooting was largely curtailed due to the limited availability of shells and targets (Springer, 1949:Part Six). Instead of the regular club shooting activities, the site was used in a number of other ways for the duration of the war from 1942-1945, several of which aided or supported the war effort. During 1942, the PRGC provided shotguns, targets and ammunition, and shooting instruction to train thousands of military recruits at the club (Alkalay, n.d.:C)—"shooting seven days a week and eight hours a day" (Springer, 1949:Part Six). Additionally, in conjunction with a local Islam Temple, barbeques for 500 servicemen were held at the site in October 1942 and 1943, and in 1943 a vaudeville show was held for the Coast Guard at the clubhouse.[12] As a way to fill the void left by the lack of shooting opportunities, the "Rough Grouch Horseshoe Club" was formed, several horseshoe pits were installed on the grounds, and weekly games were held until the regular shooting schedule could be resumed following the war (Springer, 1949:Part Seven). Springer's history does not provide any information on the location of the horseshoe pits, and no evidence of these features remains today.

F. The Post World War II Development of the Site

After the end of World War II, shooting activities returned to the PRGC site, and the club began an extended period of growth and expansion that occurred between 1946 and the early 1960s. The club voted in 1948 to increase membership to 225, and in 1949, they had reached this level and had a "sizeable waiting list" for membership (Springer, 1949:Part Seven). Club membership during this period included a cross section of the city's population from "day laborers to high placed financiers" (Alkalay, n.d.:2).[13] On June 12, 1949, the club celebrated its 15th anniversary at the Lake Merced site and opened the new lunch room that had recently been added to the west end of the Shell House (Springer, 1949:Part Eight). Then during the late 1940s, 1950s, and early 1960s, the PRGC constructed additional fields to meet the demand for shooting facilities.

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[12] The club purchased skeet traps for the Fourth Air Force for the entire Pacific Coast. They also shipped a "large quantity" of fishing tackle overseas to servicemen in conjunction with the San Francisco League of Service Men (Springer, 1949:Parts Six and Seven), and San Francisco became the "largest center for collecting tackle and equipment and putting it in shape for the leisure and emergency use of fighting forces overseas" (San Francisco News, 7-24-1943: 7).

[13] Based on a review of the club newsletter, *The Pacific Breeze*, the club was open to the public, but members were charged a discounted field use rate. However, when the club was first opened to public for routine use, or if this was always the case, was not found.

This expansion was driven by several factors, some of which were related to broader trends in American society and others which were more specific to skeet and to the PRGC. Jan Dizard, in his book *Mortal Stakes: Hunters and Hunting in Contemporary America*, noted that the popularity of many outdoor activities increased after the war. The extended period of prosperity that followed the war brought increased wages, a measure of job security for much of the nation's workforce, and paid vacations for more people which meant that "Americans in rapidly expanding numbers had both the money and the leisure time to pursue hobbies of all sorts; visits to state and national parks soared, the ranks of bird-watchers grew, and . . . fishing and hunting grew in popularity, with hunting, as judged by the license sales, peaking in the late 1950s" (Dizard, 2003: 42). Some of the growth at the PRGC was tied to this broad interest in outdoor recreation that occurred within the context of the post-war prosperity. Additionally, the expansion of the club's skeet facilities occurred within the context of an increased interest the game that was the result of returning veterans, who had been introduced to skeet as part of World War II training practices, taking up the sport (Migdalski, 1997:18; Burke, 2014). Some of the club's expansion can also be attributed to gaining new members who were active trap shooters when members of the Fort Mason Rod and Gun Club joined the PRGC when their clubhouse at Fort Funston burned in 1948 (Alkalay, n.d.:D; Martini, 2013; Williford, 2014).

Although the club had a trap field on site in the 1930s (see Historic Images 4 and 7), until the influx of the trap shooters from the Fort Mason club in the late 1940s, the PRGC had been primarily a skeet shooting group.[14] With the addition and interest of these new members, the club expanded its trap facilities and began to host "regular registered trap shooting programs" (Alkalay, n.d.:D).[15] Springer writing in 1949, in his club history, stated the new trap field layout (constructed between 1949 and the early 1950s) would "when finished make ours one of the best" (Springer, 1949:Part Eight). An informal trap field complex is visible at the far west end of the site on a 1948 aerial photograph. By 1950, one of the improved trap fields (Field 3) was complete, and the parking lot (which had previously ended in the vicinity of the Shell House) had been extended westward to its current location. By 1955, two more trap field (Fields 1 and 2) were in place. The Trap House, originally used as for trap registration, was added just west of the new trap field complex between 1960 and 1961 (PRGC, Information attached to past presidents' photographs [Hanley/1960 and Del Nevo/1961] in Clubhouse; Pacific Aerial Surveys, 1948, 1950, 1955, and 1958; Cartwright Aerial Surveys, 1965).[16] The Trap House was the

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[14] Alkalay is stating the focus of the club's competitive activities centered around skeet, not that there were no trap facilities on site prior to 1948. Interviews with members of other clubs, conducted during the research of this report, confirmed that it is typical for clubs to generally be recognized for one sport or hold competitions for one sport even when they have facilities for others.

[15] Tom Migdalski explained, in his history of the two activities in *The Complete Book of Shotgunning Games*, that "serious trap and skeet shooter generally stay with one game . . . The problem of becoming competent in both events is the time factor. To be a good shot requires practice. Field and personal time, as well as financial wherewithal, often make it necessary that a serious shooter choose to concentrate on one game" (Migdalski, 1997:14).

[16] The Trap House was originally referred to as "Hanley Hall" in honor of club president Harold Hanley "in appreciation of his personal efforts and generosity toward its construction during his term" (PRGC, Information attached to past presidents photographs [Hanley/1960] in Clubhouse).

last major building constructed to support PRGC operational or social activities. See Historic Images 12 to 16 for an overview of these site developments.

The club also expanded its skeet facilities during the 1950s, and in 1953, two new skeet fields (Fields 8 and 9) were added to the east end of the site. These new trap and skeet fields utilized concrete instead of dirt or boardwalk which had previously been used for the path system within each field. The wooden boardwalks for the semi-circular skeet station layout in the four 1938 skeet fields (Fields 4 to 7) were also replaced with concrete around this same time. In 1957, concrete pavement stamped with trap yardage markers was added to the interiors of Fields 4 and 5 allowing them to be used for both skeet and trap; this same type of pavement was added to Fields 6 and 7 between 1965 and 1969. In 1958, Dr. L. N. Alkalay built a steel-frame duck tower in an unspecified location; the structure added west of Field 6 between 1958 and 1965 (that continues to exist today) may be this feature. This was not the first duck tower on the site; an earlier one appears in a late 1930s photograph in the area north of the present-day Rifle Range building (see Historic Image 5) (PRGC, Information attached to past presidents' photographs [Alkalay/1940; Connelly/1953; Appleton/1957] in Clubhouse; Pacific Aerial Surveys, 1948, 1950, 1955, 1958, and 1969; Cartwright Aerial Surveys, 1965). See Historic Images 12 to 17 for an overview of these site developments.

From the mid-1960s through the early 2000s, PRGC went through modest changes to its buildings and grounds. Around 1965, a modern restroom building added to the northwestern edge of the parking lot. Recent additions to the site include a three-bay garage constructed near the entrance around 2000 (GoogleEarth), new shooting stands and equipment sheds to Field 6 to allow it to be used for the Five-Stand game (GoogleEarth, 2004 and 2005). Beginning in the late 1980s or early 1990s, the planting strip located along the western edge of the Fields 4 to 7 was no longer maintained. This area was originally planted with grass and later with ornamental shrubs (see Historical Image 11 for a view from the 1960s) as a way to create a transitional area between the fields and the parking lot. There were gaps in the planting strip at each field that provided a clearly defined entrance into each field. At some point after this area stopped being maintained, a chain-link fence was installed along the edge of the field and sidewalk (that also runs the length of these fields) (Pacific Aerial Surveys, 1948, 1950, 1955, 1958, 1969, 1979, 1985, and 1995). In 2011, the machinery on Field 7 was recalibrated to shoot Olympic/International skeet to provide a convenient practice field for Ali Chiang, a club member and a member of the U.S. Women's National Team member who is vying for the alternate position on the 2016 U.S. Olympic skeet team. However, the use of this field for that version of skeet required no changes to the physical features of Field 7 (Gentry, 2012:58; Gilligan, 2013).

G. Post World War II Events and Site Usage

The club also resumed hosting competitive tournaments after World War II including the Western Open Championship (1946 and 1949) and the California State Championship (1946 and 1947) (Springer, 1949:Parts Seven and Eight) and continued its practice (begun in 1931) of hosting regular "fun shoots" and annual "benefit shoots" for a number of local organizations including the Shiners, Ducks Unlimited, and the Catholic Youth

Organization Benefit. These events involved community members with a wide range of skills (not just the competitive shooters who attended the championship events) and were often large affairs; for example the Ducks Unlimited shoot in 1946, which had drawn almost 400 entries in 1937, involved over 600 shooters. In 1948, the Portola Festival Skeet and Trap Shoots—complete with costumed riders on horseback and others dressed as "Don Gaspar, his aids, the queen and her ladies in waiting"—celebrating the city's Spanish era roots was held at the site (Springer, 1949:Part Seven). Also, as illustrated by the list of activities provided by Springer at the end of his club history, the site was actively used by a range of local organizations including the Boy and Cub Scouts, other sportsmen's clubs, Legion posts, Shrine organizations, and city departments for barbecues, picnics, meetings, and other functions. In the post-World War II years, the club remained a well-known skeet shooting destination. Life-long member and All-American skeet shooter Ray Brooks Jr. described the late 1940s and the 1950s as the "glory years" at the PRGC when the site was a destination for guest celebrities, many in the entertainment industry, who came to shoot skeet (Brooks, 2013). Throughout the remaining decades of the 20th century, the club's trap and skeet fields and its rifle range continued to be actively used by members as well as the general public (Boyle, 2014). A review of the club's newsletter, the *Pacific Breeze,* during the 1960s through the early 1990s showed that regularly scheduled shooting events in addition to the normal hours of operation, hunting safety classes, the use of the site by youth organizations, and social events were typical activities.

Beginning in 1993, the use of lead shot was discontinued at the club (today only non-toxic shot is allowed) (SFPUC 2011:27-28), and although this change did not alter the physical layout of the site, it did result in the loss of approximately 150 of the club's 450 members (in 1995) (San Francisco Examiner, 1995: A-26). Many of these members left for a variety of reasons related to this change. The steel shot was believed to be damaging to the shotguns that some of the members owned. Steel and bismuth shot were more expensive than the lead. Additionally, practicing with steel shot, which is both harder and lighter than lead shot and so behaves differently, is not practical for individuals who shoot competitively (Boyle, 2014). The change to non-toxic shot has meant that the club no longer hosts competitive regional or state championship events since these are held with lead shot (Gilligan, 2013). Membership rebounded after this initial decline, and today the club has approximately 400 members (PRGC, 2013).[17]

The club's involvement in fishing at Lake Merced declined as the quality of the lake's water declined and restocking of the fish became more irregular (Gilligan, 2013). Additionally, access to the lake became more limited following the closure of Lake Merced boathouse which ceased renting boats, and as the condition of its boat launch areas and fishing piers declined (SFPUC, 2011:23; LMYFP, 2013). The club has recently

[17] The Richmond Rod and Gun Club, whose trap and skeet fields are located adjacent to San Francisco Bay, experienced a similar pattern when they, too, stopped using lead shot. They lost about 75 percent of their membership and then slowly added new members. Today the club has about 3,000 members, but the majority of its events are related to rifles and pistols rather than shotguns (Frenkel, 2014; Sargentini, 2014).

partnered with the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club and others on a youth fishing program at the lake (Gilligan, 2013).

VI. DESCRIPTION

A. Location, Land Use, and Spatial Organization

The PRGC is located on the narrow strip of land approximately 10 acres in size that is situated between the shoreline of the South Lake of Lake Merced and John Muir Drive, just east of the intersection with Skyline Boulevard.

The primary land use at the PRGC site is outdoor target shooting. Features associated with this land use include its three trap fields, the six skeet fields, a large parking lot, and buildings that support its operational and social functions including the Clubhouse, the Caretaker's House, the Shell House, the Trap House, the Barbeque Shed, a garage, and metal storage containers. The site also contains a Rifle Range building which provides indoor shooting range, and a public restroom building. With the exception of the barbeque shed, the restrooms, the metal storage containers, and three-car garage that are support buildings and structures not directly associated with shooting activities, all of the field facilities and buildings at PRGC were built between 1937 and 1961.

This arrangement of features—the site's spatial organization—has been shaped by the needs of this primary land use and by the long and narrow shape of the site situated between the lake and a public road. The shape of the site, the need to set the shooting activities back from the road, and the need to provide a safety zone for the falling targets (a shotfall zone)[18] resulted in the linear arrangement of the skeet and trap fields along the edge of the site next to the lake. The large parking lot and an internal road occupy the middle portion of the site and, in addition to their utilitarian circulation functions, provide the needed spatial setback for the shooting activities from John Muir Drive. The locations available for buildings and larger structures (including a metal storage shed, the Clubhouse, the Caretaker's House, a garage, and a public restroom) are limited by these functional needs to the edge of the site next to John Muir Drive, along the edges of the parking lot (the Shell House, Trap House, and restrooms), and on small area between Field 7 and Field 8 (the Rifle Range building and the Barbeque Shed).

B. Topographic Modifications and Boundaries

The PRGC site is relatively flat but slopes slightly down from its south side next to John Muir Drive toward the lake and from the entrance down toward the east end of the property. (Cardinal directions are used in describing the site; south refers to the area next to John Muir Drive, north is used to describe the shoreline, east and west are used respectively to describe the two ends of site.). The shoreline drops off steeply at the north end and northwest portion of the site, but, according to the characterization of the site in the *Lake Merced Watershed Report*, the remaining shoreline interface is "generally much more gradual than is typical for shoreline conditions around the lake" (SFPUC, 2011:14).

[18] The portion of the shotfall area that extends out into Lake Merced is outside of the lease area for the PRGC and outside of the boundary of the PRGC cultural landscape.

The topographic modifications to the site are related to its use and function as an outdoor target shooting range and club. These include the large level terrace for the parking lot and trap and skeet range (Fields 1 to 7) which occupies the majority of the area on the western portion of the site, the smaller terrace where Fields 8 and 9 are located on the east end of the site, and a bank that extends along the south side of the site that provides the transition between the elevation along John Muir Drive and the lower elevation of the site. Minor topographic modifications include the leveling of the area that accommodates the footprint of Clubhouse and Caretakers House which are located immediately to the north of the south-side bank. Refer to Photos 3, 31, 22, 29, and 35 for representative images of these topographic features.

The shoreline defines the site's geographic or physical boundary on its northwest corner and its north side. Chain-link fences define the boundary at the site's southwest corner, along the top of the bank along the south side (next to John Muir Drive), and at its east end. The fence at this location is overgrown with vegetation.[19]

C. Circulation Features

The entrance to the PRGC is from John Muir Drive, located approximately two-thirds down the site's south side, and is framed by a metal pole gateway from which hangs a large sign. The club's logo is on the right side of the sign and the left side reads "Pacific Clay Targets / Trap, Skeet, and Sporting Clays / A Public Recreation Facility." A chain-link gate secures the entrance under the gateway. Refer to Photo 1 for a representative view of this sign.

A large parking lot extends from the entrance toward the western end of the site and occupies the broad expanse between John Muir Boulevard and the field complex. It covers approximately two acres and provides the primary parking area for the site. The portion of the lot east of the Shell House is paved with asphalt and the portion behind (south) and west of this building is gravel. Refer to Photos 2 and 3 for representative images of the parking lot.

A concrete sidewalk runs along the north edge of the parking lot for the length of the 1938 skeet field complex (Fields 4 to 7). At its west end by Field 4, the sidewalk curves and intersects with an asphalt path located along the west side of the trap field complex (Fields 1 to 3). The portion of concrete walk from the Shell House westward is wider than the portion east of the Shell House. Refer to Photo 10 for a representative view of this sidewalk.

An internal road extends from the entrance toward the site's east end; its east end is roughly aligned with station 4 of Field 9. This road provides both pedestrian and vehicular access to the caretaker's house, clubhouse, Fields 8 and 9, storage containers, and trash dumpster. Refer to Photo 35 for a representative image of this road.

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[19] The portion of the shotfall area (the safety zone for the falling targets) that extends out into Lake Merced is outside of the lease area for the PRGC and outside of the boundary of the PRGC cultural landscape

D. Buildings and Structures

Buildings on the Western End of the Site (Shell House, Trap House, and Restroom Building)

Two club buildings—the Shell House (ca. 1939 and expanded in 1949) and the Trap Building (ca. 1960) —that house functions related to the operation of the PRGC facility are located within the parking lot on the western end of the site. Additionally, there is a small ancillary structure, a public restroom (ca. 1965), located approximately three-quarters of the way down the southern edge of the parking lot.

The Shell House is located on the northern edge of the parking lot across from Fields 4 and 5 with the front of the building facing north toward the skeet fields. This building contains an office, a storage area and concessions bar, and a lunch room. It is where club members check in and purchase shells and targets. The building is a wood-frame, single story structure with a rectangular footprint and low pitch gable roof. The exterior of the building is covered with textured stucco, and the roof extends over a raised porch on the northern façade. The porch is accessed via a series of concrete steps and leads to a pair of sliding glass doors framed by a pair of large picture windows. The eastern façade includes a double hung window patched with plywood, a metal door accessed by concrete steps and topped with an overhang and metal sign reading "Field House," and a wood frame, fixed pane picture window. The building has an addition on the western side, with a wooden ramp leading up to a solid wood door and large, wood frame, fixed picture window on the western façade and a large horizontal sliding glass window on the northern facade. The roof of the 1949 addition is slightly higher than the main structure, but echoes the gentle pitch of the roof, as well as its textured stucco cladding. The addition also has a shed style kitchen addition on the western end of its southern façade, with paneled wooden doors and fixed pane windows on the east and west ends. Refer to Photos 5 and 6 for views of the Shell House.

The ca. 1960 Trap House is located along the northern edge of the parking lot across from the trap field complex (Fields 1 to 3). The building's front faces north toward the trap field complex. Today, the building is primarily used as a classroom for hunter safety classes conducted by the PRGC (Gilligan, 2013). It is a wood-frame, single story structure with a rectangular footprint and side gable roof. The building sits on a concrete foundation that is higher on the northern façade in order to compensate for the ground slope leading towards Lake Merced. The exterior of the building is covered with plywood sheets and board and batten wooden siding under the gables. A full length recessed porch is located along the northern façade, and exposed eaves are present along the porch overhang. The porch fenestration includes metal double doors flanked by two metal frame casement windows. A secondary entrance is located on the eastern façade, along with two metal frame casement windows. Additional casement windows are located on the western and southern facades. Refer to Photos 8 and 9 for views of the Trap House.

The public restroom building is a small, rectangular-plan, wood-frame structure with a hip roof clad in asphalt shingles, wood siding, and a door at either end for the men's and women's restrooms. Refer to Photos 3 and 4 for images of this structure.

Buildings and Structures on the Eastern End of the Site (Caretaker's House, Clubhouse, Rifle Range Building, Barbeque Shed, Garage, and Metal Storage Containers)

Three club buildings—the Caretaker's House (ca. 1937), the Clubhouse (1937), and the Rifle Range Building (1939)—that house functions related to the operations of the PRGC facility and several small ancillary structures are located on the eastern end of the site.

The Caretaker's House is located in the narrow strip of land between the site's internal road and the bank of trees along the south side of the property, next to John Muir Drive. Although long used as the residence of the onsite caretaker, this building is currently unoccupied. It is a wood-frame, single story structure with a rectangular footprint and gable roof. It has Composite shingles cover the roof, and there are exposed eaves on the south façade. The exterior walls of the Caretaker's House are clad with horizontal wooden siding. Gable ends have fish scale shingles on the east side and vertical wood siding on the west side. The original wood frame, double hung windows are present on the south north, and west facades. An enclosed primary entrance is located on the west side, and a secondary entrance is located on the eastern façade, accessed by wooden stairs, on a shed style addition. Refer to Photos 33 and 36 for images of the Caretaker's House.

The Clubhouse, which has been used continuously for club meetings and social events since its construction in 1937, is located just east of the Caretaker's House. It is a wood-frame, raised single story structure with a rectangular footprint and cross gable roof. Composite shingles cover the roof, and there are exposed eaves on the north façade above the porch overhang. The exterior walls are covered with horizontal wood siding. A covered wooden wheelchair ramp leading up to an enclosed porch is situated on the north façade, and wooden beams on concrete blocks support the ramp and porch. The northern fenestration includes a wood door with an inset textured glass window; adjacent to a large fixed picture window; a smaller, jalousie window; and two casement windows with textured glass. On the eastern façade is a projecting porch with wood railings, fixed modern vinyl windows, and a small, wood framed addition on the south façade clad in T-111 siding. The addition appears to be used for storage, has no windows or exterior doors, and is covered by thin, vertical wooden siding. A smaller, secondary entrance is located on the western façade, and three small, shed style additions are located on the southwest corner of the building. The area under the raised building also appears to be used for storage, and is accessed via two flush wood doors on either side of the cinderblock fireplace/chimney on the eastern end of the northern façade. Refer to Photos 33 and 36 for images of the Clubhouse.

The Rifle Range building is located across from the entrance to the property in line with the row of skeet fields, with Fields 4 to 7 to the west and Fields 8 and 9 to the east. It has been used continuously since 1939 for indoor rifle range target practice. It is a wood-frame, raised single story structure with a rectangular footprint and gable roof with composite shingles. The exterior walls are covered with horizontal wood siding, similar to the nearby Clubhouse and Caretaker's House. There are exposed eaves on the northern-most building segment, and a string of wood frame, double hung, four-pane

windows are located on the north, south, and west façades. The ground-level primary entrance is located on the southern façade, and the northern end is raised above the downward slope towards Lake Merced. The entrance fenestration includes a flush wooden door, paired fixed windows below the gable, and a wood frame, double hung, four-pane window. There are secondary entrances on both the eastern and western façade. There is a full length ground level addition on the northern façade with a shed style roof, exposed eaves, a flush wooden door, and a pair of picture windows. Refer to Photo 31 for an image of the Rifle Range building.

There are a number of small ancillary structures located on the eastern end of the site. The Barbeque Shed, a small, one-room structure with a shed roof and exterior plywood walls, is located immediately east of the Rifle Range building and within a stand of eucalyptus trees; it appears to have been constructed ca. 1970. A modern, three-bay garage is located near the entrance to the site, and three, modern, metal storage containers are located southeast of the Clubhouse. Refer to Photos 32, 34, and 35 for images of the garage, Barbeque Shed, and storage containers, respectively.

Trap Fields[20]

The trap field complex (Fields 1, 2, and 3) at the northwest corner of the site consists of three fields each of which is laid out in a formation that is standard to the American version of trap. They were constructed between 1950 and 1955. Each field includes a square trap house which is partially buried in the ground at the north end of the field. This structure contains the machinery (the trap) that oscillates and launches the targets. Refer to Photos 23 to 30 for images of the trap field complex and its features, described below.

There are five shooting positions, spaced three yards apart, arranged in a slightly curved line located 16 yards behind (south) of the trap house, on a concrete path. Concrete lanes run perpendicular back (south) from each station on the front curved path. Metal tags embedded in these concrete lanes provide yardage markers that measure the distance in yards from the trap house (from 17 to 27 yards). These yardage markers provide the "handicap" locations for the system used to allow individuals of varying skill ranges to compete against each other in competitive matches. For example, a more skilled individual shoots from one of the higher yardage markers, and a less skilled individual shoots from one of the lower yardage markers. Two additional curved concrete paths, parallel to and south of the front one, complete the path system in each trap field.

Other features that are common to each trap field are the scorer's stand, which consists of a metal frame with plywood over the top and on one side creating a box or enclosure for the scorer to sit, and a small box mounted on a post that houses the token boxes and wiring used to activate the trap.

[20] Several secondary sources provided information on the standard arrangement and construction of the trap fields (Migdalski, 1997: 7; Sapp, 2009, 17-18); additionally, club president Patrick Gilligan provided information on the names and functions of features within the field complex (Gilligan, 2013).

Skeet Fields[21]

To the west of the Rifle Range building are the four skeet fields that were built by PRGC in 1938 after the two original fields (1934) were flooded; these fields are numbered from west to east as Fields 4, 5, 6, and 7. Two additional skeet fields (Fields 8 and 9), which were built in 1953, are located to the east of the Rifle Range building. Each of these six fields is laid out in a formation that is standard to the American version of skeet, and the general description that is common to each field is provided below with any individual differences noted. Refer to Photos 17 to 22 and Photos 37 to 41 for images of the skeet field complex and its features, described below.

Concrete Semi-Circular Station Path: Each skeet field includes a concrete path in the form of a semi-circle that links the eight shooting stations. Shooting stations 1 to 7 are spaced equidistantly around the semi-circle; station 1 is located immediately in front of the high house (described in the next paragraph) on the left side of the semi-circle, with the following stations (2 to 7) located 26 feet-8 inches to the right of the previous one, ending with station 7 that is immediately in front of the low house (described in the next paragraph) on the right side of the field. Station 8 is located at the center of the straight baseline path midway between the high and low houses. Stations 2 to 6 are located on a concrete pad attached to the inner portion of the semi-circle. A yellow square is painted on the concrete to define the stations positions; however on Fields 8 and 9, the outline of the square has also been routed into the concrete. Refer to Photos 38 and 39 for representative images of the semi-circular path and station layout.

High and Low Houses: The two structures that house the machinery that launches the targets are known as the high house and the low house due to the comparative height of the launch from each. High houses launch the target 10 feet above the ground with a slightly upward angle. Low houses launch the target three feet above the ground with a more acute upward angle. The high and low houses are located at opposite ends of the field; the high house on the left side of the field directly behind station 1 and the low house on the right side directly behind station 7. These wood frame tower structures are square in plan with a flat roof, and are painted green with white trim. Each house has a small opening through which the target is launched; on the east side for the high house and on the west side on the low house. A door that provides access to the interior of the house allows loading and maintenance on the trap machinery; each high house has wooden steps that provide access to this entrance door. With the exception of the houses on Field 4 (which are entirely clad in wood siding), the exteriors of each house is clad in a combination of wood siding at the top and smooth stucco siding on the bottom. Due to the limited space at the east end of the site, Fields 8 and 9 share a combination high-low house. This structure has an opening for the low launch on its west side for Field 8, and one for the high launch on its east side for Field 9. Refer to Photos 12, 13, 37, 38, and 40 for images of the high and low houses.

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[21] Several secondary sources provided information on the standard arrangement and construction of the skeet fields (Nichols, 1939/1947:12; 15; Sapp, 2009:59-60 and 79); additionally, club president Patrick Gilligan provided information on the names and functions of features within the field complex (Gilligan, 2013).

Target Crossing or Center Point Post: Located at each skeet field is a short post positioned 10 feet north of the station 8 which denotes the target crossing point; the trap machinery from both the high house and low house are calibrated to send the target in a path directly over this post. Refer to Photo 17 for an image of one of the target crossing posts.

Equipment Shed/Control House: Located at skeet fields 4-7 are equipment sheds or control houses. These small structures are square in plan with a pyramid-shaped roof; a door on the back (south side) provides access to the interior; and a window on the front (north side) provides a view of the field; a token box (used to activate the trap) has been added to one side of each structure. Fields 8 and 9 (built about 15 years after Fields 4 to 7) lack control houses; here the token box is simply mounted on a short post. These current structures either replaced or are modifications of the original control sheds that appear in historical photographs from 1938-38(see Historic Images 8 and 10). Although the exact date this change occurred is not known (they are shown in Historic Image 11 taken in the 1960s), they are located in the same location and have the same function within the context of the operation of the skeet fields as the earlier structures. The original structures were taller (similar in height to the High House and with a shed roof) so that the trap puller who was seated in the upper portion of the structure could "see out over the heads of the shooter, to keep score on dead and lost targets" (Nichols, 1939/1947: 12). Refer to Photo 14 for a typical image of one of the equipment sheds/control houses.

Safety Fences: Wooden safety fences are located between the fields and along the west end of Field 4. The east end of Field 7, the west end of Field 8, and the east end of Field 9 each lack fences. Safety fences are typical features where skeet fields are laid out in a row ("down the line") as is the case at PRGC. In addition to physically and visually separating the fields, the design features of the fences were intended—in an era before shooters wore ear protection—to dampen some of the sound between fields. The fences have boards attached to opposite sides of wood posts; the position of the boards on one side alternates or is staggered with the ones on the other side. According a skeet instruction book first published in 1939, when protective fences were first added to skeet fields "they were simply made in the form of flat board fences. The reverberating sound between two such board fences was most annoying . . . However some smart acoustics engineer solved this problem a year or so ago by making this protective fence of 'baffle' type. That is, the boards are nailed on both sides of the 2 x 4 frame – and the boards are staggered in their placement. The board on one side covering the space left open on the other side" (Nichols 1947: 15). Refer to Photos 11 and 40 for representative images of the safety fences.

Duck Tower: A ca. 1958 duck tower, consisting of a trap machine atop a metal-frame support structure, is located behind station 4 on Field 6. The 4-sided tower is approximately 40 feet tall and about 10 feet square at the base. A storage shed that provides access to the base of the trap machinery (for loading the targets) is located within the footprint of the base of the tower structure. Refer to Photos 10 and 18 for images of the duck tower.

Modifications for Trap Shooting: A portion of the interiors of Fields 4 to 7 are paved with concrete to provide lanes and yardage markers for trap shooting; the yardage markers are stamped into the concrete. This concrete paving and the trap houses located north of each field, similar in appearance and construction to those located at Fields 1 to 3, were added between the mid 1950s to the late 1960s as a way to expand the trap shooting facilities. Currently, Fields 4 to 7 are currently only used for skeet (Gilligan, 2013); however the trap machinery remains inside each trap house. Refer to Photos 15 and 16 for images of this modification to the interior of the skeet fields.

Modifications for Five Stand Game: Field 6 has been modified slightly to accommodate the 'Five Stand' game. Five wood-frame shooting stands are aligned in a row across the west end of the field. Two equipment sheds (square plan, with shed roof, painted green), which are used to store the additional trap machinery needed for the Five-Stand game, have been added to the field; one is behind (northwest) stations 2 and 3 and the other is behind (southwest) stations 5 and 6. A third equipment shed is located in the sloped area next to the lake, approximately 100 feet north of station 8. Based on a review of aerial photographs on GoogleEarth, these features were added within the past ten years. Refer to Photo 18 for an overview image of Field 6 that shows the location of the five-stand frames and one of the equipment sheds and to Photo 19 for the equipment shed located north of the field.

Modifications for Olympic/International Skeet: Two landing posts used to calibrate the target machinery for Field 7, which adapted for Olympic/International skeet in 2011 (Gentry Magazine, 2012:58), are located in the slope area north of the Rifle Range building. The Olympic or International version of skeet is shot on the same field as the American version but the order and speed of the targets are different. Refer to Photos 20 for an image of one of the two landing posts.

Small Scale Features

There are a number of small scale features related to the trap and skeet shooting activities located throughout the PRGC site; these include a fire hose located on the east end of the site (Photo 42); a pattern board used to practice shooting at a paper target located east of Field 9 (Photo 43); shotgun racks constructed of wood and painted green located next to benches, to the high houses on the skeet fields, and at the Shell House and Trap House (Photo 44); benches with wood slats and concrete, metal, or plastic bases located west of each field where individuals waiting to shoot and spectators sit (Photo 45); and signage providing directional and safety information (Photo 46).

The asphalt paved area between Shell House and the skeet fields 4-7 contains picnic tables, a flagpole, and a water fountain. The flagpole is a metal pole with a concrete base that was erected in 1953 to honor the club's first president Joe Springer. A dedication plaque is attached to the flagpole's base.[22] The metal water fountain near the entrance to

[22] The plaque reads: "Dedicated to Joseph Springer / Pacific Rod and Gun Club / President 1928-1932 / One of the Founders of Our Club / A Real American / True Friend of Sportsmen / Champion of Conservation / April 5, 1953."

Fields 4 and 5 is in the same location as a porcelain fountain dedicated in 1942 to honor member Bud French who died around 1939 (Springer, 1949: Part 5); it is not known when the current metal fountain was installed. Additionally, a large wooden sign commemorating the Merced Rancho is located just west of the Shell House's south end.[23] Refer to Photos 5, 6, and 7 for images of these small-scale features adjacent to the Shell House.

Each of the seven skeet fields (Fields 4 to 9) is dedicated to a member, and a small monument with a dedication plaque is located just north of station 8 on each field (Photos 46 and 47).

Vegetation Features

The areas around the fields and within the non-paved areas within each field are grass. The sloped area north of Fields 1 to 7 located between the edge of the field and the shoreline vegetation communities is dominated by ice plant. Refer to Photos 17, 18, and 21 for representative images of these vegetation features.

A planting strip with grass runs along the western edge of the 1938 skeet fields (Fields 4 to 7); from the 1940s until around the 1970s, this area was planted with ornamental shrubs as a way to create a decorative transitional area between the fields and the parking lot. See Historical Image 11 for a view from the 1960s. Refer to Photo 10 for an image of the planting strip as it looks today.

Trees on the site include some that were located on there in 1934 when the club arrived and some that were planted in relationship to the club's use of the site. A small group of trees (six eucalyptus and one Monterey cypress) in the area between the Rifle Range building and Field 8 and several large eucalyptus trees along the southern edge of the site in the vicinity of the Caretakers House and Clubhouse are what remains of a larger stand of trees that predate the club's usage of the site (see Historic Images 2 and 3). A short row of four Monterey pine trees east of the Clubhouse are the remains of a longer row that was planted in the mid-1930s to define edge of the site next to John Muir Drive (see Historic Images 3, 5, and 7). Two Monterey cypress were planted by the club to frame the entrance to the Rifle Range Building. Today, the tree on the west side of the entrance door remains in place, but the one on its east side has been cut and only a stump. Refer to Photos 31, 34, 35 for images of these trees.

Vegetation around the perimeter of the site includes shoreline vegetation (various species classified in the *SFPUC Watershed report* as wetland, willow riparian scrub, native and non-native scrub, and herbaceous [SFPUC, 2011: 85]), various native and non-native species scrub at its east end, ice plant that has been invaded with a variety of native and non-native scrub plants along the bank that stretches along the southern edge of the site

[23] The sign reads: "On September 23, 1835 Don Jose Jesus Castro Governor of California granted the Merced Ranch of 2200 acres to Jose Galindo. This was the first grant of land in San Francisco. On May 12, 1837 Galindo sold it to Francisco de Haro and Francisco Guerro for 100 cows and $25."

(next to John Muir Drive). Refer to Photos 3 and 22 for representative images of this vegetation.

VII. EVALUATION

A. Summary of Federal, State, and Local Significance

The following provides an evaluation of the significance of the PRGC site as a cultural landscape based on NRHP and CRHR Criteria A/1-D/4. Additionally, the NRHP Criteria guide the evaluation of significance for San Francisco's list of locally designated City Landmarks and Historic Districts which are designated under San Francisco Planning Code Article 10 (San Francisco Planning Department, 2013:6). A discussion of integrity is also provided below.

NRHP/CRHR Criterion A/1

The PRGC site is associated with broad patterns of history related to recreation, including associations with the development of recreation in San Francisco and at Lake Merced, with the expansion of recreation in San Francisco by the WPA during the Depression, and with the development of sportsmen's clubs and skeet within the context of the early 20th century wildlife conservation movement. Each of these is described below.

Association with Recreation around Lake Merced

The development of the PRGC site is part of a broad pattern of history associated with the development of recreation in San Francisco. More specifically, the PRGC site is associated with the pattern of expansion of recreation around Lake Merced that occurred during the 1910s-1930s after the SVWC began selling its land within the lake's watershed and after the SFPUC purchased the lake in 1930. Three golf courses (San Francisco Club in 1915, the Olympic Club in 1918, and Harding Park in 1925) were developed adjacent to the lake during this period. The PRGC was granted a lease by the SFPUC for outdoor target shooting activities in 1934 and constructed two skeet fields at its present-day site on the shore of lake in that year. The SFPUC also expanded fishing and boating activities associated with the lake during this period. The initiating stocking of the lake with sports fish (black bass) occurred in the early 1930s, and the first boat concession was granted in 1938. However, the PRGC site does not appear to possess individual significance under NRHP/CRHR Criterion A/1 for this association. It was one of several recreational facilities that developed on and around the lake during this period. Additionally, there is nothing inherent in its physical features that necessarily expresses or illustrates this association. In summary, the PRGC site does not appear to be individually significant under NRHP/CRHR Criterion A/1 for its association with the expansion of recreation around Lake Merced that occurred during the 1910s-1930s.

Association with Expansion of Recreation in San Francisco by WPA

The development of the PRGC site is part of the broad pattern of history associated with the expansion of San Francisco's recreational facilities during the Depression through the funding and work provided by the WPA. Between 1935 and 1939, over $15 million in

WPA funding was spent on park and recreation projects in the city. This work resulted in the construction of a wide range of facilities including clubhouses, recreation centers, public restroom facilities, and playgrounds and expanded the types of recreational opportunities that were available in the city. The WPA was responsible for clearing the part of the site and grading the parking lot and skeet field area around Fields 4 to 7 at the PRGC in 1939 in preparation for the National Skeet Championships that were held at there in August of that year. However, PRGC site does not appear to possess individual significance under NRHP/CRHR Criterion A/1 for its association with the WPA or the expansion of San Francisco's recreational facilities during the Depression. It was one of many recreational facilities in San Francisco constructed at least in part with WPA funding and labor. Additionally the work done at the PRGC site in 1939 by the WPA involved clearing the site of brush and other vegetation and grading, and there is nothing inherent in the site's physical features that necessarily expresses or illustrates its association with the WPA. In summary, the PRGC site does not appear to possess individual significance under NRHP/CRHR Criterion A/1 for its association with the WPA and the expansion of San Francisco's recreational facilities during the Depression through the funding and work provided by the this agency.

Association with the Development of Sportsmen's Clubs and Skeet within the Context of the Early 20th Century Wildlife Conservation Movement

The PRGC appears eligible for listing on the NRHP and CRHR at the local level of significance under Criterion A/1 for its association with the broad pattern of history related to the increased popularity of sport hunting and with the interrelated development of skeet—during the period it evolved from a type of shooting practice into a competitive sport—that occurred during the decades preceding World War II within the context of the early 20th century wildlife conservation movement. The PRGC is important as an example of the type of sportsmen's gun club that formed in the 1920s and 1930s within the context of the democratization of hunting, illustrating the social experience connected with the conservation movement. Additionally, the PRGC is important as the oldest extant skeet facility in the Bay Area and as the only sportsmen's club in the Bay Area to retain its original pre-World War II grounds configuration, skeet field structures, and club buildings. Other clubs that remain in operation from this pre-World War II era do not have skeet fields or have moved to newer facilities and are no longer located at their pre-World War II sites. The period of significance for the PRGC's significance under Criterion A/1 appears to begin in 1934 when the club moved to the Lake Merced site and to end in 1941 with the United States' entry into World War II, which ended the club's initial period of development. Although the activities of the club remained unchanged after World War II, its post-war expansion period (1946-early 1960s) was more directly linked with other contexts, including the broad interest in outdoor recreation that occurred within the context of the nation's post-World War II prosperity and an increased interest in skeet that was a by-product of World War II training practices, than to the early 20th century conservation movement.

Wildlife conservation during the 1880s through about 1900 was driven by the private efforts of American sport hunters, who were generally from the elite or upper classes. These individuals sought to facilitate the conservation of disappearing habitat and game

through the management of private reserves and led efforts to change game laws. Their activities and their influence on public opinion laid the ground work for a shift during the early 20th century to the responsibility of wildlife habitat and game species management being undertaken by the public sector. Theodore Roosevelt and his fellow Progressives are credited with campaigning for game laws and public preserves and thereby democratizing sports hunting during the early 20th century.

Sport hunting's popularity, which rose during the pre-World War II era, was facilitated by the increased access to public game reserves and the public protection of game species that resulted from this early 20th century movement. Broader changes in society, including the inclusion of sport hunting within popular culture, improved transportation provided by inexpensive cars, and more leisure time (as a result of evolving labor practices), also contributed to the widespread popularity of sports hunting during this period. World War II interrupted sports hunting due to the rationing of ammunition, and its popularity, built upon the pre-war establishment period, probably peaked in the 1940s and 1950s (Herman, 2005: 30) due to changes in societal attitudes and the rise of other recreational activities and outdoor sports after the war.

The formation of clubs like the PRGC provided a framework for a shared social experience within the context of sports hunting and its relationship to the wildlife conservation movement. Clubs like the PRGC which formed in the 1920s and 1930s tended to identify themselves with the wildlife conservation movement and used the term "sportsmen" to describe themselves. The clubs, whose members were sports hunters, supported wildlife conservation efforts. The PRGC established in 1928 by a group of San Francisco sportsmen was "born as a conservation organization" (Springer, 1949: Part One). During this pre-World War II era the club was instrumental in the passage of the 1931 state legislation to take striped bass off the commercial market and it led efforts to test and plant sport fish in Lake Merced in the 1930s which culminated with the first opening day on Lake Merced for sport fishing on July 1, 1939. The club also raised funds, through an annual shooting event, for the establishment of a Ducks Unlimited Project in Canada known as Lake San Francisco. Former club president L. N. Alkalay who led the Ducks Unlimited efforts claimed that this led to "many other sportsmen's groups throughout the United States sponsoring similar projects in their names" using this "procedural format established originally by the Pacific Rod and Gun Club (Alkalay, n.d.:C).

These clubs also expressed the democratization of hunting that occurred during the pre-World War II era. They utilized public lands and reserves, they included members who were working and middle class, and they had greater numbers of members and more modestly priced dues when compared to the exclusive and wealthy membership of the private preserves of the late 19th century. Many like the PRGC had skeet and trap facilities which provided members and the public a way to improve their sport hunting skills or to engage with this popular activity. Skeet, with which the PRGC most strongly identified prior to World War II, was developed in the 1920s by Massachusetts-based sports hunters, within the context of the increased popularity of sport hunting and its increased accessibility to a broad range of the population. Skeet occurs on a specific field arrangement that can be laid out within a relatively small land area and at a relatively low

cost. As such, skeet provided a readily accessible means for hunters in urban and semi-urban locations to improve their shooting skills.

During this pre-World War II era, the PRGC was at the forefront of the development of skeet in the Bay Area, demonstrated by the lists of activities described the history presented in this report. Its prominence within the skeet shooting context is further demonstrated by the 1939 National Skeet Championships which were held at the club on August 8-12, 1939. This was an annual, nationwide event that brought together hundreds of the best sport shooters in the country and was considered the premier skeet shooting event. The 1939 National Championships at the PRGC are important because this was the first time this event was held on the west coast and indicates how the widely spread the game had become in the decade and a half after its invention. The location of the championships at the PRGC also reflected the club's level of participation within the skeet shooting establishment and the quality of its facilities during this era.

NRHP/CRHR Criterion B/2

The research conducted for this Cultural Landscape Evaluation Report did not reveal any associations with important individuals who made specific contributions to history, and the PRGC does not appear to possess individual significance under NRHP/CRHR Criterion B/2 (Persons) for its associations with important persons.[24]

NRHP/CRHR Criterion C/3

The PRGC site does not appear to possess individual significance under NRHP/CRHR Criterion C/3 for associations related to design or construction. The five skeet fields and three trap fields each individually meet the standard design or construction regulations for their respective sports and retain their essential individual features or components. However; each field is an individual common example of a skeet or trap field that lacks significance related to design or construction. Collectively, the target shooting range at the PRGC represents a vernacular example of the arrangement of skeet and trap fields

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[24] A letter from attorney David P. Cincotta (Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP) to Vince Courtney (President, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission), dated March 24, 2014, stated that "[n]otable as part of the history of PRGC is the only Olympian in the United States history who has medaled in five consecutive Olympics—the Trap and Skeet Shooter, Kim Rhode" (p. 2). However, the PR&GC does not appear to have significance in association with Kim Rhode under NRHP/CRHR Criterion B/2.

Rhode does not appear to have a direct connection to the PRGC; nor does the club appear to best represent her contributions to the sports of trap and skeet. Rhode lives in El Monte, California in southern California and trains there seven days a week (Harris et al., 2012; Pilon, 2012; ADI, 2014). According to the guidance in *National Register Bulletin 15,* significance under Criterion B requires that a property be owned or used by the person of significance and that it best represent this person's historic contributions (NPS, 2002:15).

Additionally, it is not possible at this time to fully assess Rhode's significance to trap and skeet since she is still actively competing in trap and skeet (ADI, 2014). Rhode (born in 1979) has stated that she plans to compete in the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in 2016 and beyond (Pilon, 2012; Harris et al., 2012). Properties associated with living persons are usually not eligible for inclusion. The guidance in *National Register Bulletin 15* directs that sufficient time must have elapsed to assess both the person's field of endeavor and his/her contribution to that field. Additionally, the person's active participation in the endeavor must be finished for this historic perspective to emerge (NPS, 2002:16).

adapted to the geographic limits of this site (a strip of land situated between the Lake Merced and a public road), does not appear to have been designed or built by a master designer, and lacks significance related to design or construction. The buildings on the site (the Clubhouse, the Caretaker's House, the Rifle Range building, the Shell House, and the Trap House) remain in their original locations and are important for the operational and social functions of the clubs; however they are all are common examples of vernacular buildings and lack significance related to design or construction.

NRHP/CRHR Criterion D/4

NRHP/CRHR Criterion D/4 commonly applies to properties that contain or are likely to contain information bearing on an important archaeological research question. The identification of archaeological resources was outside of the scope of this report. However, based on the information that was gathered during this report, it appears unlikely that the PRGC has the potential to yield archaeological information important in prehistory or history and so does not appear to be individually significant under NRHP/CRHR Criterion D/4.

B. Integrity

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance. The evaluation of integrity is grounded in an understanding of a property's physical features and how they relate to its significance. Integrity is composed of seven components or aspects—location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association (NPS, 2002:44).

The PRGC cultural landscape appears to exhibit all seven aspects of integrity in relationship to its individual significance under NRHP/CRHR Criterion A/1 in association the development of sportsmen's clubs and skeet within the context of the early 20th century wildlife conservation movement. The arrangement of the site, the four 1938 skeet fields, and the buildings of the PRGC from the 1934-1941 era are still extant and are used as they were originally intended. Since 1941, the changes that have occurred have been within locations that had previously been used for skeet and trap activities during the 1934-1941 era, did not alter the facilities from that era, and were compatible with the continued use of the site as a sportsmen's club and outdoor target shooting range. These changes included the expansion of the skeet and trap fields (Fields 1, 2, 3, 8, and 9), the addition of a duck tower, the addition of a building related to the trap operations (the Trap House), the replacement of minor equipment related to these activities, and the addition of small utilitarian or support structures (the Barbeque Shed, the public restroom, a garage, and storage containers). There have been minor alterations to some of the original buildings (the Clubhouse, the Caretaker's House, the Rifle Range building, and the Shell House) from the 1934-1941 era, such as changes to the windows and doors, as well as some accessibility improvements. A discussion of the PRGC cultural landscape in relationship to the individual aspects of integrity is provided below.

Location

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. Often the relationship between the property and its location is

important in understanding why the property was created or why something happened (NPS, 2002:44).

The PRGC has been located on a narrow strip of land (approximately 10 acres in size) that is situated between the shoreline of the South Lake of Lake Merced and John Muir Drive, just east of the intersection with Skyline Boulevard, since 1934 and retains its integrity of location.

Design

In a vernacular landscape, the evaluation of integrity is closely tied to land use and how the form, plan, and spatial organization of a property are affected by the conscious and unconscious decisions over time about where areas of land use, roadways, buildings and structures, and vegetation are located (NPS, 2002:44; NPS, 1999:22).

The design (or the arrangement of the site features) of the PRGC cultural landscape evolved over the course the period of significance (1934-1941) in relationship to the primary land use as an outdoor target shooting range and within the constraints of the long and narrow shape of the site, which is situated between the lake and a public road. The shape of the site, the need to set the shooting activities back from the road, and the need to provide a safety zone for the falling targets (a shotfall zone)[25] resulted in the linear arrangement of the skeet and trap fields along the edge of the site next to the lake. This land next to the lake was graded to create a level terrace for the fields. The Rifle Range Building, which housed an indoor shooting range, was also located in this band of land along the lakeside edge of the site. The broad, gently sloped interior portion of the site was used for internal circulation (a parking lot and an internal road) and also provided the needed separation between John Muir Drive and the shooting activities along the lake. Buildings related to the operations and social functions of the club were relegated to the edge of the site adjacent to John Muir Drive (the Clubhouse and the Caretaker's House) or the southern edge of the fields (the Shell House).

The primary features from the period of significance (1934-1941) that contribute to the design of the PRCG cultural landscape and that remain in place include Fields 4 to 7 (constructed in 1938), the topographic modifications that created the broad terrace for the construction of these fields, the Clubhouse (1937), the Caretaker's House (ca. 1937), the Rifle Range building (1939), and the Shell House (ca. 1939).

There have been a number of changes in materials, additions of new structures, or additions or replacement of small scale features to the field area since the end of the period of significance.

- The material for the path system on the four 1938 fields (Fields 4 to 7) was changed from dirt or wooden boards to concrete in the 1950s and 1960s.

[25] The portion of the shotfall area that extends out into Lake Merced is outside of the lease area for the PRGC and outside of the boundary of the PRGC cultural landscape

- Concrete, stamped with trap yardage markers, was added to the interiors of Fields 4 to 7 during the 1950s and 1960s. A trap house was added north of station 8 in each of these fields during the same period. These modifications allowed the fields to be used for trap shooting.
- The original control houses located behind station 4 on Fields 4 to 7 were modified or replaced (ca. 1940s-1960s) with the current structures which serve the same function as the original ones.
- The High and Low houses on Field 4 have been reclad or reconstructed in vertically-oriented wood siding.
- A duck tower was added behind station 4 on Field 6 around 1958; the club had a duck tower during the period of significance but at a different location on the site.
- Three new trap fields (Fields 1 to 3) were added to the western end of the field area between 1948 and 1955. Two new skeet fields (Fields 8 and 9) were added to the eastern end of the field area in 1953. Both additions occurred in areas where earlier but now nonexistent trap or skeet fields were present during the period of significance; temporary skeet fields were located in both of these locations during the 1939 National Championships, and a trap field was located in the vicinity of Field 8 in the 1930s-1940s.
- The Trap House, originally used to register trap shooters, was added at the new trap field complex around 1960.
- Small-scale features were added that (1) likely replaced similar features (i.e., (benches, shotgun racks, center point posts, and rifle pattern board), (2) related to new target shooting activities (i.e., five-stand equipment on Field 6, additional control structures for five-stand game on Field 6, and target posts related to Olympic Skeet), or (3) are tangentially related to site activities (i.e. token boxes, signage, the fire hose, memorial markers, etc.).

As noted above these changes are compatible with the historic use of the site as an outdoor target shooting range. Additionally, the four 1938 fields (Fields 4 to 7) retain their character-defining features (a level terrace with a linear arrangement of fields, the semi-circular path system for the skeet field, the high and low houses, and the safety fences).

Changes to the club buildings after the end of the period of significance include the following:

- Visible, exterior alterations to the Club House include replacement vinyl frame picture windows on the south and east elevations, the addition of a wood frame wheelchair ramp and shed roof overhang on the east elevation, a cinderblock fireplace/chimney on the east elevation, and a small, wood-frame addition at the southwest corner clad in T-111 siding. Despite these changes, the building retains a moderate-to-high level of integrity.

- The only visible, exterior alterations to the Caretaker's Cottage is a small, wood-frame, shed-roofed addition on the south elevation. This addition appears to have provided a secondary entrance/exit to the building, as well as an expanded bathroom. This addition was clad in horizontal wood siding and has a roof pitch similar in design to the rest of the cottage. Despite this change, the building retains a high level of integrity.
- The only visible, exterior alterations to the Rifle Range building is a small, wood frame, shed-roofed addition clad in plywood siding on the west elevation. This addition appears to be a storage shed. Despite this change, the building retains a high level of integrity.
- A lunch room was added to the west end of the Shell House in 1949. This compatible addition has a low-pitch gable roof with exposed eaves and textured stucco cladding similar in design to the original Shell House. Other visible, exterior alterations to the Shell House include a replacement aluminum frame sliding glass door, a newer wood frame deck and railing with a shed roof overhang on the west elevation. A small, plywood-clad shed addition on the east elevation serves as a storage closet.

Secondary features that were present on site during the period of significance but that do not contribute to the design or function of the site as an outdoor target shooting range or to its function as a sportsmen's club include (1) the parking lot on the western end of the site, (2) the internal road on the eastern end of the site, (3) the small stand of trees (six eucalyptus and one Monterey cypress) in the area between the Rifle Range building and Field 8 (the remains of a larger stand of trees that predate the club's usage of the site trees), (4) several large eucalyptus trees along the southern edge of the site in the vicinity of the Caretaker's House and Clubhouse (the remains of a larger stand of trees that predate the club's usage of the site trees), (5) four Monterey pine trees (the remains of a longer row that was planted in the mid-1930s to define edge of the site next to John Muir Drive), and (6) a large Monterey cypress tree located on the west side of the primary entrance to the Rifle Range building. In the case of the trees listed above, their presence reflects the common usage of these species (eucalyptus, Monterey cypress, and Monterey pine) in San Francisco during the first half of the 20th century rather than a specific relationship to the functioning of the site as an outdoor shooting range.

Secondary features that have been added since the end of the period of significance include (1) the current sign (unknown date), (2) the restroom building (ca. 1965), (3) the barbeque shed (ca. 1970), (4) the three-bay garage (ca. 2000), and (5) the metal storage containers (date unknown).

In summary, the PRGC appears to retain its integrity of design; it retains its four 1938 fields (Fields 4 to 7); each of these fields retains its character-defining features (a level terrace with a semi-circular path system, high and low houses, and safety fences); it retains the club buildings from the period of significance (the Club House, the Caretaker's House, the Rifle Range building, and the Shell House); the alterations, as

described above, are generally compatible with use of the site as an outdoor target shooting range.

Materials and Workmanship

Materials are the physical elements that were combined during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. The choice and combination of materials reveal the preferences of those who created the property and indicate the availability of particular types of materials and technologies. Workmanship is strongly linked to materials and provides evidence of the technology or aesthetic principles of a historic period, and reveals individual, local, regional, or national applications of both technological practices and aesthetic principles (NPS, 2002:45).

Wood and its associated workmanship were characteristic of the PRGC cultural landscape during its period of significance. Wood was used for the framing and siding materials for the club buildings (the Clubhouse, the Caretaker's House, the Rifle Range building, and the Shell House). Wood boards and posts were used for some of the character-defining features of Fields 4 to 7 (the safety fences, the high and low houses, the steps associated with the high houses, the original equipment sheds [no longer extant], and the boarding for the semi-circular path system [no longer extant]). The original rustic fencing, next to John Muir Drive, and the original rustic entrance sign [both non-extant) were constructed from tree limbs and trunks. The predominance of wood in the club buildings and in the components of the skeet fields provides a strong visual link and contributes to the feelings associated with the club's pre-World War II origins. Additionally, wood was used for features that were added after World War II. Some of this post-war construction utilized wood materials and workmanship that was similar to that used in the pre-war era (for example, the trap houses on Fields 1-7, the high and low houses and safety fences for Fields 8 and 9, and various small-scale features such as shotgun racks and benches). However, in some cases the post-war construction used plywood or prefabricated wood siding that differs in appearance and workmanship from the pre-World War II features (for example, the plywood siding used on the replacement control/equipment sheds on Fields 4 to 7, the plywood siding used on the Trap House, the prefabricated siding used in remodeling of the high and low houses on Field 4, and the plywood in various small-scale features such as the portable trap scorer's stands, equipment boxes, and signage).

The current duck tower dates from around 1958 has a tall metal frame support structure. Another duck tower, with a similar metal support structure, was present on the site during the period of significance, so the materials and workmanship associated with this structure appear to be compatible with the appearance of the site during the period of significance.

Non-contributing materials and their related workmanship (i.e., ones have been added after the end of the period of significance) include the following:

- Concrete in the semi-circular path system and the interiors of the 1938 fields (Fields 4 to 7), in the path systems for the trap and skeet fields added after the end

of the period of significance (Fields 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9), and in the sidewalk between the parking lot and Fields 4 to 7;

- Metal found in the chain-link fencing, in the entrance sign, in the some of the benches, trash cans, etc., in the portable trap scorer's stands, equipment boxes, and stands at the three trap fields (the metal in the yardage markers on the trap field is a very minor addition), and in the replacement aluminum frame sliding glass door for the Shell House;
- Asphalt paving in the parking lot and along the internal road; and
- Plastic used in some of the benches and in the replacement vinyl frame picture windows in the Club House.

The vegetation materials on the site or around its perimeter do not contribute to its design as an outdoor target shooting range and are considered to be non-contributing materials. The large trees (described under the integrity of design) that were present during the period of significance are examples of species (eucalyptus, Monterey cypress, and Monterey pine) that were commonly planted in San Francisco during the first half of the 20th century; their presence at the PRGC site reflects this common usage rather than a specific relationship to the functioning of the site as an outdoor shooting range. Similarly, the grass located on or next to the fields does not contribute directly to the design of the site as an outdoor shooting range; its use was probably both practical (to keep sandy soil in place) and ornamental; however, it is not a requirement for a skeet or trap field.

In summary, although there have been losses to the materials/workmanship from the period of significance and the addition of new ones, the PRGC cultural landscape still retains its integrity of materials and workmanship through the predominant presence of wood in the character-defining features of the fields and club buildings.

Setting and Feeling

Setting is the physical environment of a historic property and refers to the character of the place or location in which the property played its historical role. Setting involves how, not just where, the property is situated and its relationship to surrounding features and open space. Guidance in National Register Bulletin 15 directs that setting should be examined both within the exact boundaries of the property and between the property and its surroundings (NPS, 2002:45). Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. It results from the presence of physical features that, taken together, convey the PRGC cultural landscape's historic character (NPS, 2002:45).

During the period of significance (1934-1941) the setting for PRGC cultural landscape and the feelings associated it were of an outdoor target shooting range set within a largely undeveloped portion of the city along the shoreline of Lake Merced to the north and undeveloped property with a large stand of trees to the south. Today, the internal setting and feelings associated with the outdoor target shooting range remain. The lake-side setting and feeling associated with this setting remain unaltered, including the shooting

activities set back from John Muir Drive by the open area that serves as the property's parking lot. The continued presence of wood materials for key components in the skeet fields and in the club buildings provides a strong visual link and contributes to the feelings and setting associated with the club's pre-World War II origins.

The addition of the multi-story Lakeside Apartments on the south side of the property represents an intrusion into the setting around the PRGC site and lessens the feelings of being in an undeveloped part of the city. However, given that the primary views for people using the fields are directed toward the lake (which remains unaltered), the PRGC cultural landscape continues to retain its integrity of setting and feeling.

Association

Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. A property retains association if it is the place where the event or activity occurred and is sufficiently intact to convey that relationship to an observer. Like feeling, association requires the presence of physical features that convey a property's historic character (NPS, 2002:45).

The PRGC cultural landscape was associated with skeet and trap shooting activities during its period of significance (1934-1941). Today, it retains the key physical features that were present during its period of significance, listed above under Design, and continues to be strongly identified and associated with these activities and with the PRGC. In summary, the PRGC cultural landscape retains its integrity of association.

C. Evaluation Summary

The PRGC appears eligible for listing on the NRHP and CRHR at the local level of significance under Criterion A/1 for its association with the broad pattern of history related to the increased popularity of sport hunting and with the interrelated development of skeet—during the period it evolved from a type of shooting practice into a competitive sport—that occurred during the decades preceding World War II within the context of the early 20th century wildlife conservation movement. The PRGC is important as an example of the type of sportsmen's gun club that formed in the 1920s and 1930s within the context of the democratization of hunting, illustrating the social experience connected with the conservation movement. Additionally, the PRGC is important as the oldest extant skeet facility in the Bay Area and as the only sportsmen's club in the Bay Area to retain its original pre-World War II grounds configuration, skeet field structures, and club buildings. Other clubs that remain in operation from this pre-World War II era do not have skeet fields or have moved to newer facilities and are no longer located at their pre-World War II sites. The period of significance for the PRGC's significance under Criterion A/1 appears to begin in 1934 when the club moved to the Lake Merced site and to end in 1941 with the United States' entry into World War II, which ended the club's initial period of development. Although the activities of the club remained unchanged after World War II, its post-war expansion period (1946-early 1960s) was more directly linked with other contexts, including the broad interest in outdoor recreation that occurred within the context of the nation's post-World War II prosperity and an increased

interest in skeet that was a by-product of World War II training practices, than to the early 20th century conservation movement.

The arrangement of the site, the four skeet fields, and the buildings of the PRGC from the 1934-1941 era are still extant and are used as they were originally intended. Since 1941, the changes that have occurred to the occurred within locations that had previously been used for skeet and trap activities during the 1934-1941 era, did not alter the facilities from that era, and were compatible with the continued use of the site as a sportsmen's club and outdoor target shooting range. These changes included the expansion of the skeet and trap fields (Fields 1, 2, 3, 8, and 9), the addition of a duck tower, the addition of a building related to the trap operations (the Trap House), the replacement of minor equipment related to these activities, and the addition of small utilitarian or support structures (the Barbeque Shed, the public restroom, a garage, and storage containers). There have been minor alterations to some of the original buildings (the Clubhouse, the Caretaker's House, the Rifle Range building, and the Shell House) from the 1934-1941 era, such as changes to the windows and doors, as well as some accessibility improvements.

D. Contributing and Non-Contributing Features

The features that were added to the PRGC property during its period of significance (1934-1941) and which relate to its significance under NRHP/CRHR Criterion A/1, for its association with the broad pattern of history related to the increased popularity of sport hunting and the development of skeet within the context of the early 20th century wildlife conservation movement, were identified as contributing features to the PRGC cultural landscape.

Those features that (1) may have been present during the period of significance but were not associated with the pre-World War II design or function of the site as an outdoor target shooting range/sportsmen's club (for example, vegetation) or (2) were added to the property after the end of its period of significance in 1941 (although in some cases these are compatible with its pre-World War II design or function as an outdoor target shooting range/sportsmen's club) were identified as non-contributing features.

Contributing Features

The contributing features for the PRGC cultural landscape related to its significance under NRHP/CRHR Criterion A/1 for the period between 1934 and 1941 include the following:

- Fields 4 to 7 (1938) and their character-defining features:
    - a level terrace,
    - the linear arrangement of the fields,
    - the semi-circular path system of the skeet field (the form and dimensions, not the concrete materials),

- the high houses (wood frame tower structure, square in plan with a flat roof, clad in a combination of wood siding at the top and smooth stucco siding on the bottom, door that provides access to the interior to allow loading and maintenance on the trap machinery, wood steps that provide access to this entrance door, and a window on the east side that provides an opening through which the targets are launched),[26]

- the low houses (wood frame tower structure, square in plan with a flat roof, clad in a combination of wood siding at the top and smooth stucco siding on the bottom, door that provides access to the interior to allow loading and maintenance on the trap machinery, and a window on the west side that provides an opening through which the targets are launched),[27] and

- the safety fences(wood boards attached to opposite sides of the wood posts so that the position of the boards on one side alternates or is staggered with the ones on the other side);

- The buildings that house the operational and social functions of the club:

  - The Clubhouse (1937) and its character-defining features (wood-framed, raised single story structure with a rectangular footprint and cross gable roof, exposed eaves, and horizontal wood siding),

  - The Caretaker's House (ca. 1937) and its character-defining features (wood-framed, single story structure with a rectangular footprint and gable roof, exposed eaves, horizontal wooden siding, gable ends with fish scale shingles [east side] and thin vertical wooden siding [west side], and original wood frame, double hung windows on the south, north, and west facades, and fixed wood shutters and entry shed on north facade),

  - The Rifle Range building (1939) and its character-defining features (wood-framed, raised single story structure with a rectangular footprint and gable roof, exposed eaves, horizontal wood siding, wood frame, double hung, four-pane windows on the north, south, and west facades); and

  - The Shell House (ca. 1939, expanded in 1949) and its character-defining features (wood-frame, single story structure with a rectangular footprint and low pitch gable roof with exposed eaves, textured stucco cladding, raised porch, and a large, wood frame, fixed pane picture window on the western façade).

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[26] The high house on Field 4 has been remodeled since the end of the period of significance and is entirely clad in wood siding.

[27] The low house on Field 4 has been remodeled since the end of the period of significance and is entirely clad in wood siding

Non-Contributing Features

Non-contributing features include the following:

- Fields 1 to 3, their associated features, and the Trap House;
- Alterations to Fields 4 to 7 including the equipment shed behind station 4, the concrete paving, the target crossing point post positioned 10 feet north of station 8, and the trap houses (aligned with station 8) in the sloped area next to the lake;
- Modifications on Field 6 for the five-stand game (the five stand racks, equipment shed behind stations 2 and 3, the equipment shed behind stations 5 and 6, the equipment shed in the sloped area next to the lake);
- Duck Tower;
- Fields 8 and 9, used for skeet, and their associated features;
- The two landing posts used to calibrate the Olympic Skeet target machinery for Field 7 on the sloped area north of the field and the Rifle Range building; and
- The internal automobile circulations features (parking lot on the western end of the site and the internal road on the eastern end of the site) and concrete sidewalk between Fields 4 to 7 and the parking lot;
- Small structures including the Barbeque Shed, the public restroom, the three-bay garage, and the storage containers;
- Vegetation features; and
- Small scale features including the entrance sign, the flag pole and water fountain between the Shell House and the fields, site furnishings (benches, trash cans, picnic tables, lights, etc.), shotgun racks, token boxes, center point posts, trap portable scorer's stands, memorial field markers, the rifle pattern board, the fire hose, chain-link fencing, and the interpretive sign commemorating Rancho Merced (located adjacent to the Shell House).

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APPENDIX

Historical Images 1-17

Figure 1: Location of Cultural Landscape Features

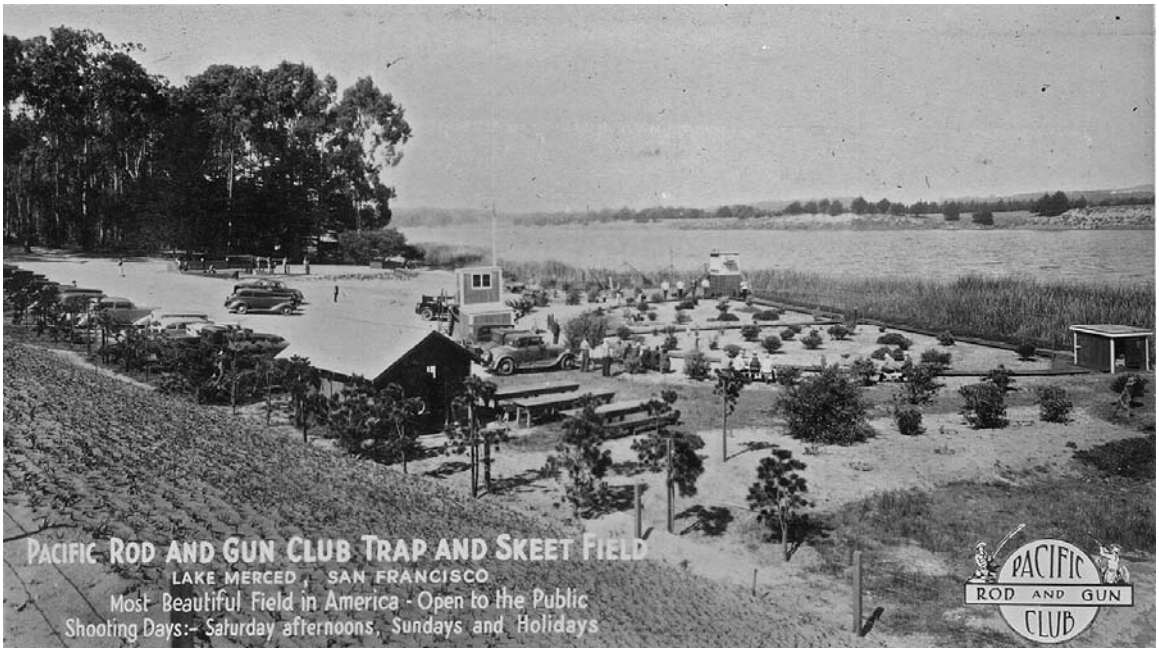
Figure 2: Location of Photographs

Photos 1-47

Historic Image 1. Undated photograph (ca. 1931-1934) of the skeet field located at Fort Funston that the PR&GC took over when it joined with the Bay Sportmen's Club in 1931.
Source: PR&GC Collection.

Historic Image 2. Aerial view of two original fields (ca. 1934). Note original entrance road prior to grading for John Muir Drive. Source: PR&GC Collection.

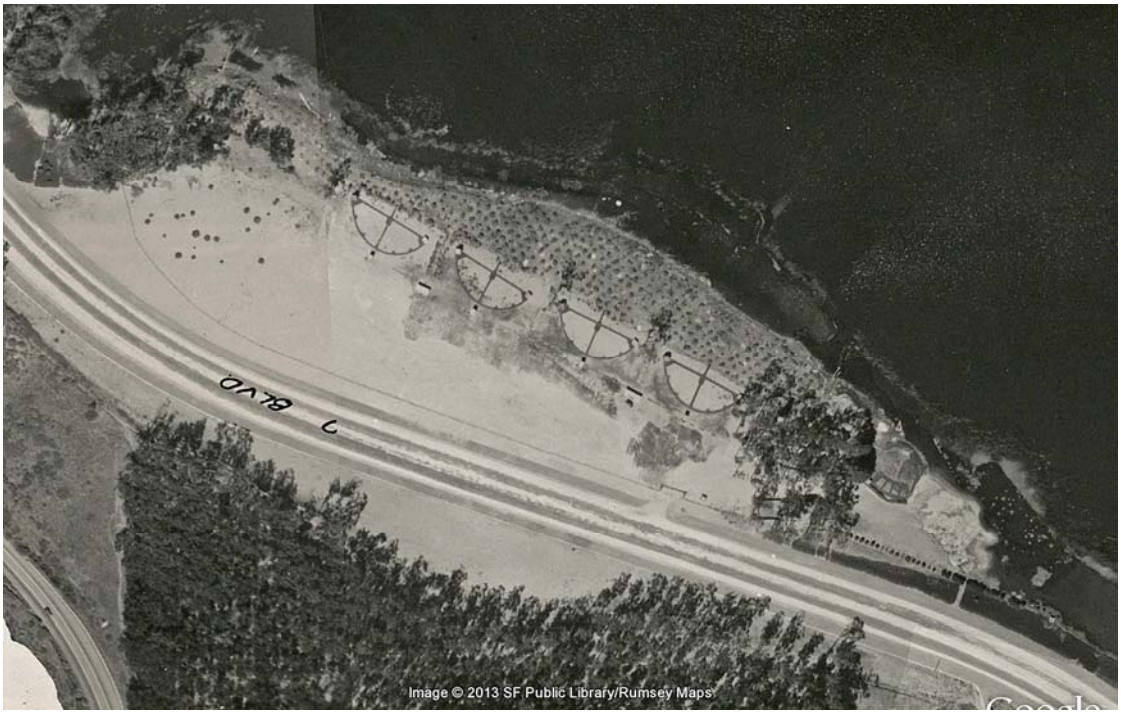
Historic Image 3. Aerial view in 1935 of the two original fields. Source: Pacific Aerial Surveys.



Historic Image 4. Eastern of the two original skeet fields (ca. 1934-1937). Note the presence of an early trap field behind (northwest) of the skeet field, the "Lunch Room" building and picnic facilities in the southeastern corner of the site, and the row of pine trees planted along the western edges of the site. Source: PR&GC Collection.

Historic Image 5. Eastern portion of site in the late 1930s after Clubhouse was added. Note the row of pine trees along western edge of property and an early duck tower visible through the stand of trees (see arrow). Source: PR&GC Collection.

Historic Image 6. View in 1937 showing one of original fields flooded after the lake rose. Source: PR&GC Collection.

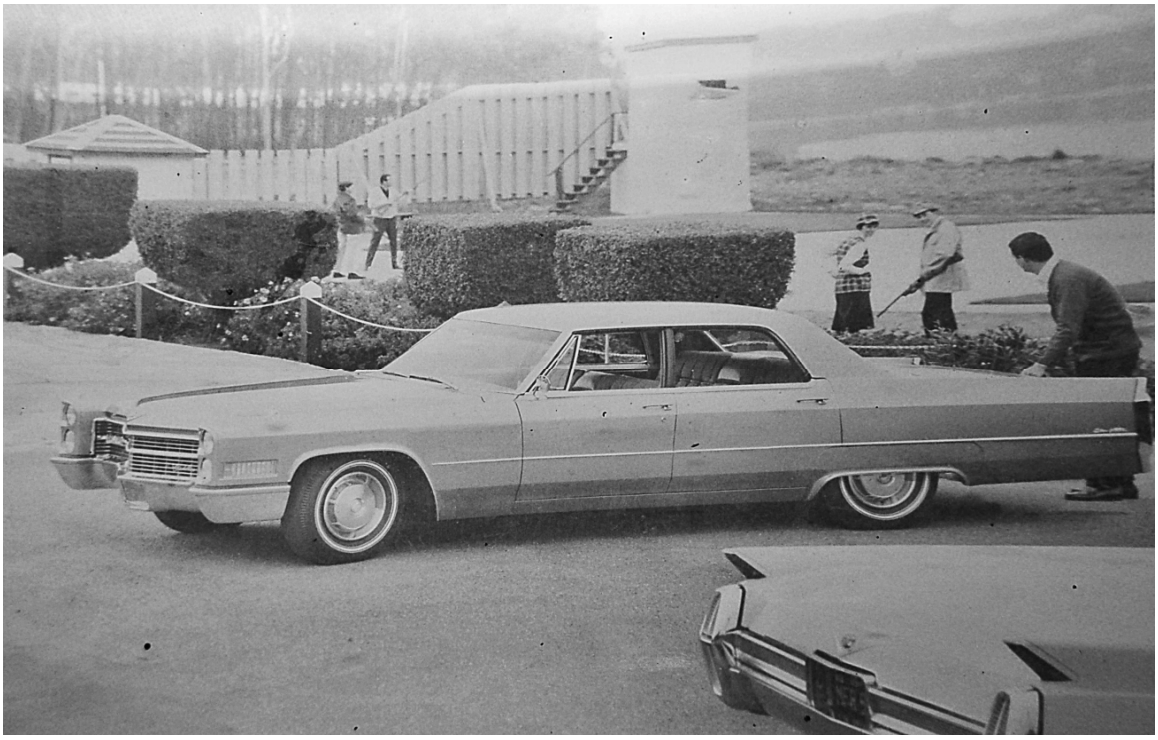


Historic Image 7. Aerial view in 1938 after western end of site cleared and the addition of new skeet fields (Fields 4 to 7) built by club members following abandonment of two original fields in 1937. Also note the presence of a trap field in the vicinity of present day Field 8. Source: GoogleEarth.

Historic Image 8. Western end of site after the addition of the new skeet fields (Fields 4 to 7) built by club members following flooding and abandonment of original fields in 1937. Photo likely dates from 1938 or 1939 prior to site work done by WPA in 1939 (to prepare the site for the National Skeet Championships held there on 8-12 August 1939) and before the addition of the Rifle Range Building. Also note the presence of a duck tower (see arrow). Source: PR&GC Collection.

Historic Image 9. Entrance sign to site (ca. late 1930s). Source: PR&GC Collection.

Historic Image 10. Overview of western portion of site and skeet fields (fields 4 to 7) after parking lot graded and sidewalk and planting strip added to western edge of field complex. Photo taken during a major tournament, probably the 1939 National Skeet Championship.
Source: PR&GC Collections.



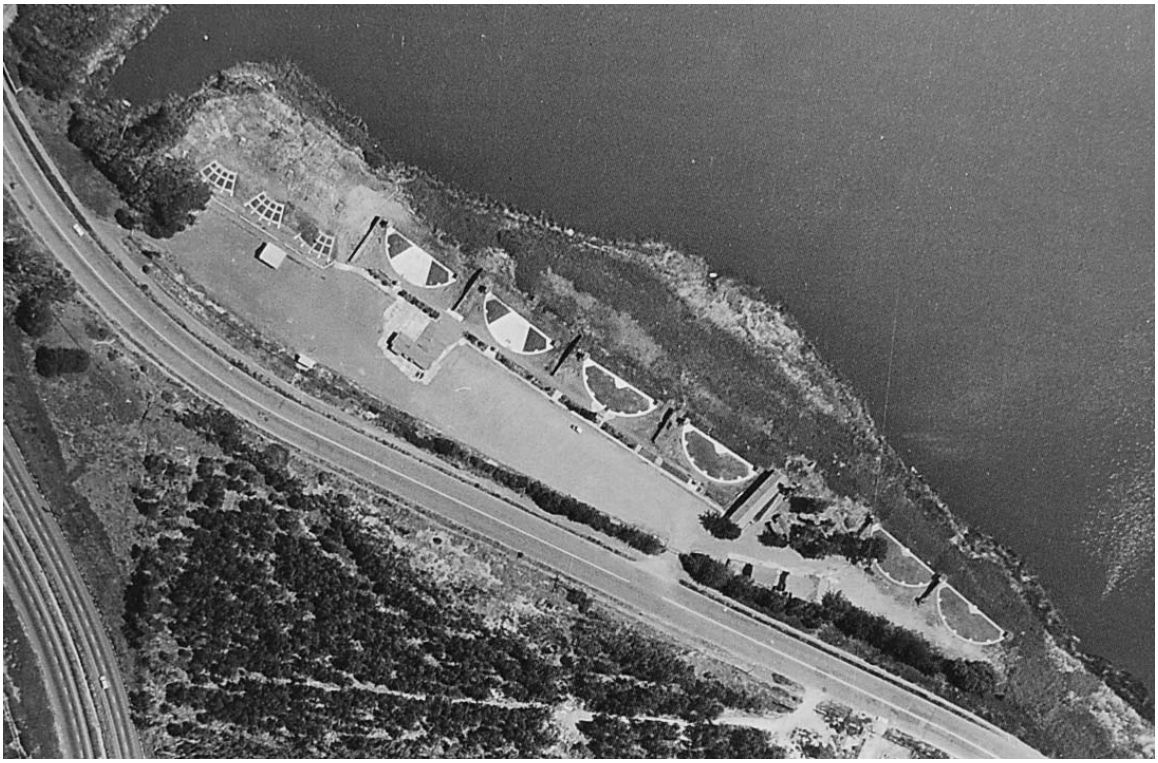
Historic Image 11. Skeet fields ca. 1960s. Source: PR&GC Collection.

Historic Image 12. Aerial view in 1948. Changes since 1938 aerial (Historic Image 7) include addition of Rifle Range and Shell house. Source: Pacific Aerial Surveys.

Historic Image 13. Aerial view in 1950. Changes since 1948 aerial (Historic Image 12) include grading and expansion of parking lot to western edge of site and addition of first trap field (Field 3). Source: Pacific Aerial Surveys.

Historic Image 14. Aerial view in 1955. Changes since 1950 aerial (Historic Image 13) include completion of trap field complex (Fields 1 to 3), addition of concrete skeet station path around Fields 4 to 7 on western end of site, and construction of skeet fields (Fields 8 and 9) at eastern end of site. Source: Pacific Aerial Surveys.

Historic Image 15. Aerial view in 1958. Changes since 1955 aerial (Historic Image 14) include addition of concrete trap yardage marker pavement to the interior of Fields 4 and 5 that allowed these fields to be used for both skeet and trap. Source: Pacific Aerial Surveys.



Historic Image 16. Aerial view in 1965. Changes since 1958 aerial (Historic Image 15) include addition Trap House and Restroom. Source: Cartwright Aerial Surveys Image, UC Berkeley Earth Sciences Map Room Collection.

Historic Image 17. Aerial view in 1969. Changes since 1965 aerial (Historic Image 16) include addition of concrete trap yardage marker pavement to the interior of Fields 6 and 7. Source: Pacific Aerial Surveys.

Figure 1: Location of Cultural Landscape Features (Source of Base Map: GoogleEarth)

Figure 2: Location of Photoraphs (Source of Base Map: GoogleEarth)

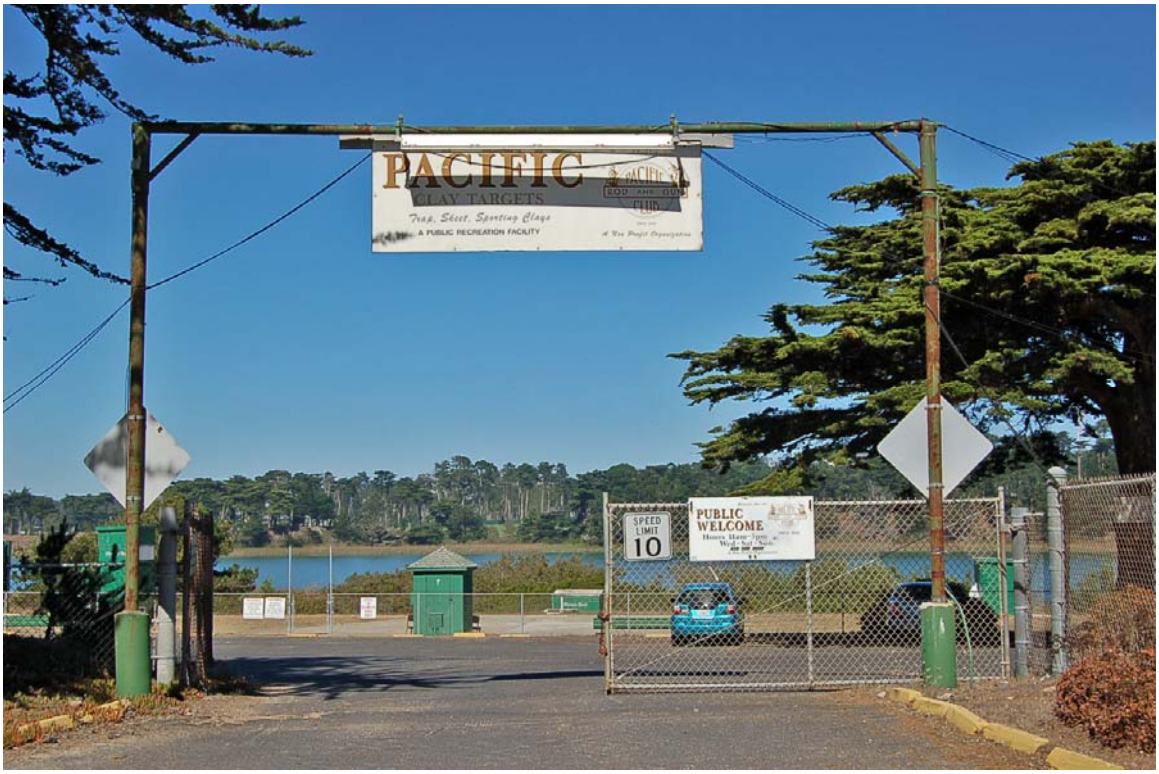


Photo 1. Entrance to Pacific Rod and Gun Club (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 2. Parking lot; view toward skeet fields (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 3. Parking lot showing the bank that extends along edge of lot; view toward John Muir Drive (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 4. Restroom Building (ca. 1958-1965); view to SE (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 5. Shell House (ca. 1939-1948) and sign commemorating Merced Rancho (to left); view to N (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 6. Shell House, Springer memorial flag pole, picnic tables; view to S (D. Bradley, September 2013).

(a)


(b)


(c)

Photo 7. (a) Memorial plaque at the base of Springer memorial flag pole; (b) water fountain in front of Shell House; (c) picnic tables (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 8. Trap House; view to N toward trap fields (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 9. Trap House; view to S with trap fields in foreground (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 10. Overview of skeet field complex; also showing sidewalk and remains of planting strip that run along the outer edge of field complex; view to NW (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 11. Fence that separates Fields 6 and 7 (typical example of feature also found on Fields 4 to 7); view to NE (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 12. High House on Field 7 (typical example of feature found on Fields 4 to 7); view to N (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 13. Low House on Field 7 (typical example of feature found on Fields 4 to 7 and 9); view to NE (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 14. Skeet equipment shed on Field 7 (typical example of feature found on Fields 4 to 7); view to S (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 15. Paved area in the interior of skeet field that provides trap yardage markers (typical example of feature found on Fields 4 to 7 that allowed field to be used for trap as well as skeet) (D. Bradley, September 2013).

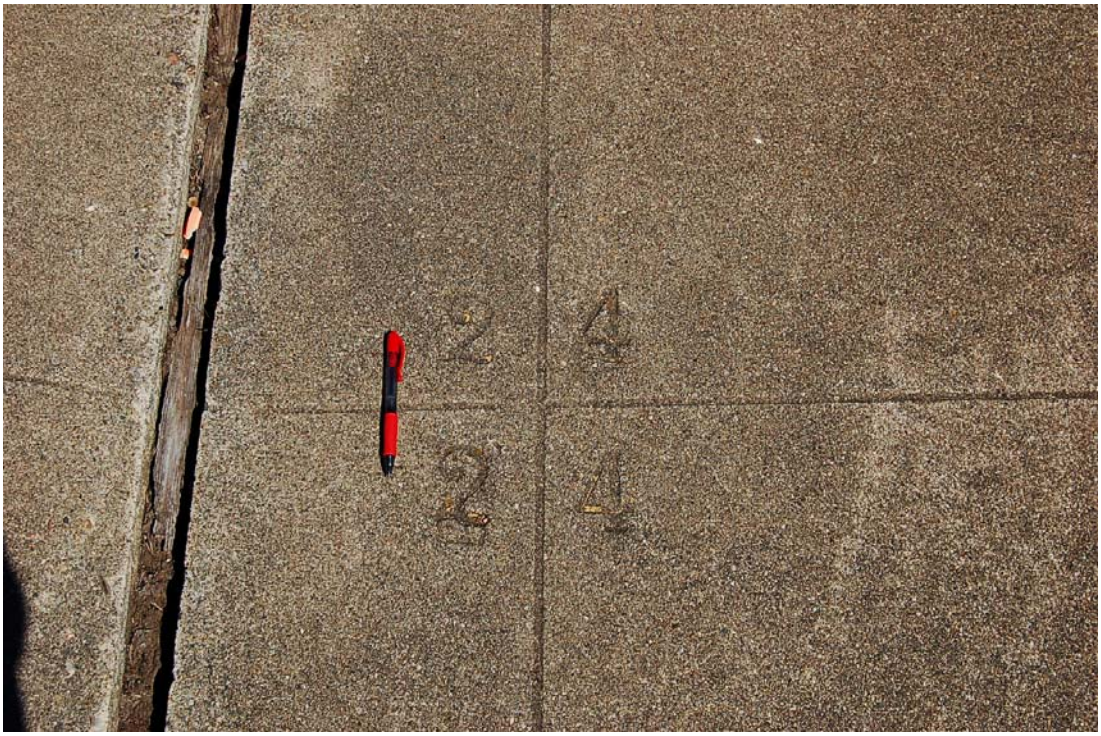


Photo 16. Detail of stamped distances for trap yardage markers found on the interior paved areas in Fields 4 to 7 (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 17. Center point pole (used to calibrate skeet machinery) on Field 7 (typical example of feature found on Fields 4 to 7, 8, and 9). Note memorial plaque (foreground) (typical example of feature found on Fields 4 to 7, 8, and 9). Trap house (painted with "Olympic Skeet) behind center point pole is no longer used now that Field 7 is dedicated solely to skeet (typical example of feature found north of Fields 4 to 7) (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 18. Duck Tower, Five Stand frames, and a Fire Stand equipment shed on Field 6; view to W (D. Bradley, September 2013)

Photo 19. Shed (for equipment used in Five Stand game) in outfield area north of Field 6; view to NE (D. Bradley, September 2013)

Photo 20. One of two landing posts (used to calibrate Olymic Skeet machinery for Field 7) located in the outfield area NE of Field 7 (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 21. Overview of skeet field complex and outfield area sloping down to Lake Merced; view to W (Fields 7, 6, 5, and 4) (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 22. Skeet field complex showing topographic modifications (level fields and slope toward lake) and vegetation along shoreline; view to SE (Fields 4 to 7) (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 23. Overview of trap field complex; view to NW (Fields 3, 2, and 1) (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 24. Detail of paved lane layout in trap field with embedded metal tag yardage markers (typical to Fields 1, 2, and 3) (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 25. Detail of embedded metal tag yardage markers shown on the paved lane in Photo 24 (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 26. Trap scorer's stand (typical to Fields 1, 2, and 3); view to W (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 27. Equipment box in trap field complex (typical to Fields 1, 2, and 3) (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 28. Station stands located at north end of trap field (typical to Fields 1, 2, and 3); view to NW (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 29. Overview of north end of trap field complex showing topographic modifications (level fields and slope toward lake) and inset trap houses; view to W (Fields 3, 2, and 1) (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 30. Trap house located at the north end of Field 3 (typical to Fields 1, 2, and 3); view to W (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 31. Rifle Range building; entrance flanked on west side by a Monterey cypress (stump of corresponding tree remains on east side of entrance); view to NE (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 32. Garage; view to SE (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 33. Club House (left) and Caretakers house (right); view to S (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 34. Stand of eucalyptus, BBQ shed, storage shed, and Rifle Range building: view to NW (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 35. Overview of east end of site; Fields 8 and 9 (left) and storage container (right); view to SE (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 36. Storage container; note trunks of remaining section of row of Monterey pine trees; view to W (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 37. Overview of Field 8; view to E (toward Field 9) (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 38. Overview of Field 9 showing typical layout of skeet field; view to E (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 39. Detail of incised station layout on concrete path (typical to Fields 8 and 9) (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 40. Fence dividing Fields 8 and 9 and combination High/Low House; view to NW (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 41. Token box typical to Fields 8 and 9 (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 42. Fire hose (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 43. Pattern board located at east end of site; view to NE (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 44. Typical examples of shotgun racks found throughout the site (D. Bradley, September 2013).

Photo 45. Typical examples of the various types of benches associated with skeet and trap fields (D. Bradley, September 2013).

(a)

(b)

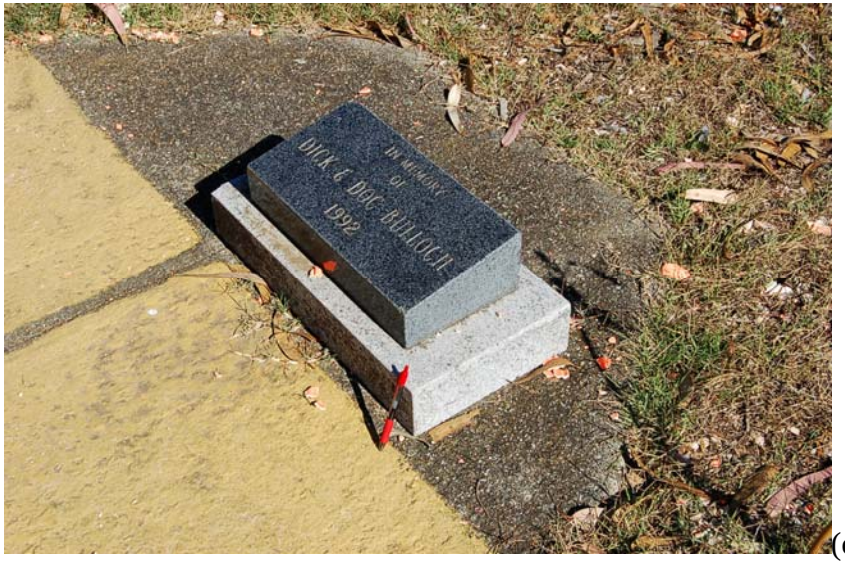
(c)


(d)

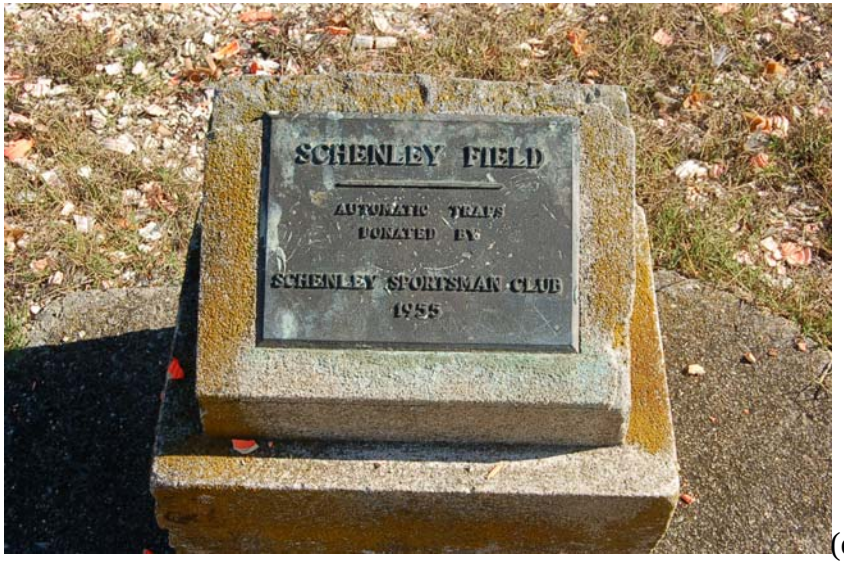
Photo 46. (a) Typical example of signage; (b) Typical example of signage; (c) Herve memorial marker (n.d.) on Field 4; (d) Westwater memorial marker (n.d.) on Field 5 (D. Bradley, September 2013).

(a)

(b)



(c)



(d)

Photo 47. (a) Lotz memorial marker (1977) on Field 6; (b) Shappel memorial marker (n.d.) on Field 7; (c) Bulloch memorial marker (1992) on Field 8; (d) Schenley memorial marker (1955) on Field 9 (D. Bradley, September 2013).