

PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, MAIN POST,
POST EXCHANGE
(Building 204)
204 Young Street
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
San Francisco
San Francisco County
California

HABS CA-2834

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1111 Jackson St
Oakland, CA 94607

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Presidio of San Francisco, Main Post, Post Exchange (Building 204)

HABS No. CA-2834

Location: 204 Young Street
West of Building 201 and south of Building the 603 (Crissy Field Center), at the south side of the paved area in the vicinity of Young Street, just north of the coastal bluff line
Presidio of San Francisco, Golden Gate National Recreation Area
San Francisco
San Francisco County
California 94129

USGS San Francisco North Quadrangle; Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 10/547968/4184084

Present Owner
And Occupant: Presidio Trust (owner and occupant)

Significance: Building 204 is a contributor to the Presidio of San Francisco National Historic Landmark District. The Army constructed the utilitarian building in 1896 as part of the development of the Lower Main Post's Quartermaster Reach area. The building appears to have served originally as a storehouse for the Post Exchange, which provided for Army personnel to purchase goods not issued by the federal government. The building was moved from Halleck Street approximately 100' west to its current location during the construction of Doyle Drive in the mid-1930s. The building subsequently housed a cabinet shop, typewriter shop, launderette, classrooms, administrative offices, and a thrift store. Apart from removal of the building's original monitors at an unknown date, the exterior of Building 204 continues to exhibit its character-defining features. Building 204 is one of two wood-frame utilitarian buildings remaining from the late nineteenth century in the vicinity of Halleck Street.

Part 1. Historical Information

A. Physical History:

1. **Date of erection:** 1896
2. **Architect:** Unknown
3. **Original and subsequent owners, occupants, uses:**
 - a. **Owners:** United States Army, 1896 to 1994; National Park Service, 1994 to 1998; Presidio Trust, 1998 to present.

b. Occupants and Uses:

(Known occupants and uses with date estimates based on limited available evidence).

1896–ca. 1935: Quartermaster Stable.

1935–ca. 1945: Post Exchange: HNCA Storeroom, Cabinet Shop, Typewriter Shop

1950s: US Air Force Civil Air Patrol Administrative Offices; Naval Laundry

1960s: US Air Force Signal Projectionist School, Corps of Engineers and Civilian
Defense Offices

1970s–1980s: Army Community Service Housing and Transportation Division

1990s: Presidio Thrift Store

ca. 2000: Shared Place of Restoration Ecology (SPORE) Offices (second floor); Storage
(first floor)

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: U.S. Army Quartermaster

5. Original plans and construction: Not Available

6. Alterations and additions: The building’s original interior layout is not indicated in available historical documentation. Historic maps and photographs show that the Building 204, which was originally constructed in 1896, underwent relocation and major alteration in the mid 1930s. Building 204 was originally an L-shaped stable, with its lengthier wing extending south and its shorter wing extending east. During the construction of Doyle Drive, workers removed the building’s northeasterly wing, moved the lengthier southerly wing to the south, and shifted the building’s position from a north-south orientation to an east-west orientation.¹

By 1940, Building 204’s interior had been partitioned by non-structural walls forming three spaces on each floor: large open spaces roughly comprising the easterly halves of each floor, and two major spaces comprising roughly the westerly halves of each floor. Smaller rooms within the three major spaces of the first floor included a typewriter shop and storeroom at the southeast corner and a stairway and office at the first floor’s northeast corner. A storeroom was situated in the easterly space of the building’s western half.² At subsequent dates unspecified in the available record, the building’s two original monitor roof units were removed and a shed-roofed frame addition was built at the center of the north side.³ Evidence indicates that the building originally had a concrete floor, portions of which may have been

¹ Photograph of the Lower Post, 1923, *Defender of the Gate* Photos & Illustrations, Golden Gate NRA Archives, GOGA 2991.351; District Engineer Officer, Presidio of San Francisco, Cal., Map of the Presidio of San Francisco, January 1909, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 311, Folder 1; Quartermaster General, Map of the Presidio of San Francisco, California, in Two Sheets, December, 1921, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 311, Folder 2; Engineer Office Headquarters, Ninth Corps Area, Map of the Presidio of San Francisco, California, 1928, on file at the Presidio Archaeology Library; Strauss Engineering Corporation, Golden Gate Bridge at San Francisco, Cal., for the Golden Gate Bridge & Highway District (GGB&HD), Presidio Road—Location of Structures and Obstructions, Sheet F-2, September 23, 1933, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 227, Folder 1; Golden Gate Bridge & Highway District (GGB&HD), Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the GGB&HD, June 26, 1935, Book 3: 445, Historical Records of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, & Transportation District.

² Building 204 Record (including 1940 plan), Presidio Building Books, Golden Gate NRA Archives, GOGA 32421, Box 2.

³ Presidio Physical History Report and Building Inventory, Building 204, September 15, 1992:1.

covered with brick at one time.⁴ Sections of the first-story floor were raised several times after World War II (discussed below), but may have been raised earlier. Deteriorated floor sections currently observable at the center of the building's lower level reveal three layers of flooring, including a middle layer of joist-supported tongue-and-groove floor, and a more recent top layer of linoleum.

The building appears to have received major interior alterations during the early to mid-1950s. A portion of the bottom floor appears to have been fitted in approximately 1950 to accommodate a launderette. Over the next several years, major portions of the building's interior appear to have been partitioned by additional walls to create a series of new office spaces. The easterly portion of the second floor was partitioned with new walls on the north and south sides of the building's original two rows of 5½" x 5½" structural wood columns, which rise from the foundation to the original second-floor roof and run the length of the building. This partitioning of the easterly second floor created two rooms on the north side of the building as well as a single large room and two bathrooms on the south side. It appears that the westerly half of the first floor was also partitioned to form new rooms, including a conference room near the building's center, and several offices and bathrooms along the south, west, and north sides at the building's west end. It appears that at this time portions of the floor were raised and surfaced with linoleum, and that the entire western half of the first floor was fitted with a new ceiling and fluorescent lighting.⁵

Building 204 received new interior modifications during the early 1970s. New rooms constructed on each floor fitted the building to provide office space for several Army Community Service departments. A row of offices and bathrooms were built along the easterly two thirds of the building's south side. The west end of the first floor remained an open space serving as a conference room. Along the north side, two smaller but still sizeable spaces provided a main service area and waiting room comprising much of the central portion of the first floor. Portions of the floor not previously raised were raised at this time and covered with asbestos flooring and rubber base. The bathrooms were floored with ceramic tile. A suspended ceiling with integral lighting was also installed. At the west end of the building, a new exterior stairway was built to provide access to a new waiting room at the west end of the second floor. A hallway led east from the second floor waiting room to a sizeable interview room along the north side and an office and bathrooms along the south side. At the center of the building, partitioning created two new offices and an open file area along the north side, as well as two large rooms along the south side. While the previously constructed offices appear to have remained along the south side of the second floor's east end, several walls nearer the north side appear to have been rearranged to create two new open areas. This major revamping of Building 204's interior included removal of several of the building's structural columns, construction of subflooring at the west end of the second floor, replacement of some windows, removal of space heaters, and installation of two warm-air furnaces and ceiling ductwork on each floor. The extant window molding throughout the

⁴ Presidio Physical History Report and Building Inventory, Building 204, September 15, 1992:1.

⁵ Proposed Launderette, Building 204, October 4, 1950, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 24, Folder 3; Alterations to Building 204, Office Space for Civil Air Patrol, U.S.A.F., September 15, 1953, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 24, Folder 3; Proposed Additions to Buildings 200 & 204, with New Parking Areas, 1955, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 24, Folder 1.

building was likely installed either at this time or during the 1950s interior alterations.⁶

There is little documentation of subsequent modifications. At an unknown date after the early 1970s interior alterations, the first-floor conference room was relocated to the far westerly second-floor space that formerly served as a waiting room, and a second open space was created where the westerly second-floor bathrooms and interview room had been located. Eventually, a carpeted hallway extended through the center of the second floor between structural columns. This hallway was flanked on each side by offices and bathrooms eventually totaling nine rooms along the north side and seven rooms along the middle of the south side. By the 1990s, possibly to accommodate the building's conversion to a thrift store, various walls and portions of ceiling at the east end of the first floor appear to have been removed, while bathrooms, a counter, lockers, and several offices were constructed in the former conference room area at the west end of the first floor. The exterior stairway at the west end of the building was replaced in 1998.⁷

B. Historical Context:

The Army Quartermaster erected the utilitarian wood-frame building in 1896 at a cost of \$17,300. Records of the early history of Building 204 are scarce. The building's construction was part of an incremental expansion of facilities in the Halleck Street area of the Lower Main Post around the turn of the century. This development reflected the significant growth of the larger Presidio reservation during this period, a process driven largely by construction of new coastal defense fortifications and the addition of personnel to staff these facilities. The number of enlisted men assigned to the Presidio, for example, increased from 448 in 1888 to 881 in 1897.⁸

Although extant military records identify Building 204 as a storehouse for the Post Exchange system, historic maps and photos predating those records indicate that the building originally functioned as a stable for the Army Quartermaster. The building is present in a 1923 historic photograph of the Halleck Street area viewed from the west. Historic maps produced in 1909, 1921, 1928, and 1933 identify Building 204 as a "Quartermaster Stable" or "Stable." The building appears to have originally been constructed on an L-shaped plan, and is certain to have had an L-shaped plan between 1909 and 1933. At this time the lengthier wing of Building 204 was oriented north-south (the building is currently oriented east-west).⁹

⁶ George Matsumoto and Associates, Building 204 First Floor, Family Housing, A.C.S. Complex, June 23, 1972, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 24, Folder 3; George Matsumoto and Associates, Building 204, Second Floor, Transportation Division, A.C.S. Complex, June 23, 1972.

⁷ Army Directorate of Engineering, Building 204, Replace Fire Escape [plan], March 21, 1998, Golden Gate NRA Park Archives, Drawer 24, Folder 3; Army Directorate of Engineering, Building 204, Second Floor, Modification to Sixth Army Headquarter Building [no date], Golden Gate NRA Park Archives, Drawer 24, Folder 3.

⁸ Paul Alley, Leo R. Barker, Gordon Chappel, Cary Feierabend, John P. Langellier, David Quitevis, and Sally A. Dean, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Presidio of San Francisco National Historic Landmark District, October 1993, 7-41, 7-75, 7-168; Erwin N. Thompson, *Defender of the Gate, the Presidio of San Francisco: A History from 1846 to 1995, Vol. I* (San Francisco: Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California, National Park Service, 1997), 285, 297.

⁹ Photograph of the Lower Post, 1923, *Defender of the Gate* Photos & Illustrations, Golden Gate NRA Archives. GOGA 2991.351; District Engineer Officer, Presidio of San Francisco, Cal., Map of the Presidio of San Francisco, January 1909, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 311, Folder 1; Quartermaster General, Map of the Presidio of

Building 204 was originally associated with a forage storehouse located immediately east (Building 201) and several smaller stables, a corral, and a veterinary hospital, all situated west of Halleck Street and south of Mason Street.¹⁰

The construction of the Golden Gate Bridge and its main San Francisco approach road, Doyle Drive, had a major impact on Building 204 and other military facilities in the vicinity of Halleck Street and the Lower Post. In 1935, to help make way for Doyle Drive, Building 204 was moved from its original location along with Building 201. The Golden Gate Bridge & Highway District (GGB&HD) undertook the relocation of these buildings as part of the military replacement program required by the War Department in exchange for right-of-way to build Doyle Drive across the northern Presidio. The GGB&HD awarded this relocation work to contractors Barrett & Hilp in June 1935. In addition to shifting Building 201 approximately 30'-40' south of its original location along Halleck Street, Barrett & Hilp crews relocated the lengthier wing of Building 204, moving it south and shifting it from its original north-south orientation to an east-west orientation. The original shorter, northeasterly wing of Building 204 appears to have been relocated elsewhere or demolished as part of the relocation effort.¹¹

It appears that after its alteration and relocation in 1935, Building 204 served as a storehouse for the Post Exchange, which the U.S. Army established at the Presidio in 1895 to provide retail outlets for goods not directly issued to Army personnel by the federal government. The Post Exchange was part of the Army commissary system first developed in the early nineteenth century, when the Army began constructing storehouses from which military officers were permitted to purchase goods at cost. During the late 1860s, the commissary system expanded to provide enlisted personnel and their families with the opportunity to purchase goods at cost. Exchange stores became a regular feature of life on Army posts. Other military branches developed commissary systems during the early twentieth century, all of which were combined with the Army's commissary organization when the Defense Commissary Agency was formed in 1990.¹²

San Francisco, California, in Two Sheets, December, 1921, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 311, Folder 2; Engineer Office Headquarters, Ninth Corps Area, Map of the Presidio of San Francisco, California, 1928, on file at the Presidio Archaeology Library; Strauss Engineering Corporation, Golden Gate Bridge at San Francisco, Cal., for the Golden Gate Bridge & Highway District (GGB&HD), Presidio Road—Location of Structures and Obstructions, Sheet F-2, September 23, 1933, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 227, Folder 1.

¹⁰ Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, Vol. I, 285, 444.

¹¹ Golden Gate Bridge & Highway District (GGB&HD), Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the GGB&HD, June 26, 1935, Book 3: 445, Historical Records of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, & Transportation District; Strauss Engineering Corporation, Golden Gate Bridge at San Francisco, Cal., for the Golden Gate Bridge & Highway District (GGB&HD), Presidio Road—Location of Structures and Obstructions, Sheet F-2, September 23, 1933, Golden Gate National Recreation Area Park Archives and Records Center (hereafter referred to as Golden Gate NRA Archives), Drawer 227, Folder 1; Strauss & Paine, Inc., Golden Gate Bridge at San Francisco, Cal., for the GGB&HD, Lyon Street Connection, Plan and Profiles, Sheet F-127, April 25, 1936, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 356, Folder 2; Photograph of the Lower Post, Defender of the Gate Photos & Illustrations, Golden Gate NRA Archives, GOGA 2991.351.

¹² Defense Commissary Agency, "History of U.S. Military Commissaries," <http://www.commissaries.com/history.cfm>. Accessed April 29, 2011; Garavaglia Architecture, Inc., Draft Historic Structure Report for Building 201, 10.

The earliest set of plans available at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Park Archives and Records Center (Golden Gate NRA Archives) dates to 1940 and lists the building as “Storeroom HNCA Shop.” At this time the first floor of the building included a typewriter shop room and storeroom at the building’s southeast corner, and an office at the northeast corner. Most of the eastern half of the first floor consisted of an open area that included an elevator providing for movement of freight between floors, which was located at the center of building’s south side. The west halves of both floors consisted of two square areas separated by dividing walls and stairs. The easterly portion of the lower floor’s west side included a carpenter shop, a coal stove, and a small office. The easterly portion of the upper floor’s west half included a store room and a meat drum. The 1940 plans do not specifically identify features within the spaces comprising the westerly quarter of the building’s two floors. A note in the Presidio Building Book indicates that the Post Engineer’s cabinet shop was housed in Building 204 in 1946.¹³

Records indicating the subsequent uses to which the Army put building 204 consist mainly of plans for proposed alterations. In 1950 plans were produced to convert a portion of the building (likely a substantial portion of the lower floor’s easterly half) to a Naval Laundry equipped with 20 streamliner Laundromats and two automatic gas-powered Hamilton clothes Dryers. It is not certain that these plans were implemented.¹⁴ It appears that during the mid-1950s, the west half of both floors and roughly the easterly third of the upper floor were partitioned off to provide office space. The spacing of offices appears to have been shaped by the building’s original two rows of 5½” x 5½” structural wood columns, which rise from the foundation to the original second-floor roof and run the length of the building. The east half of the building’s second floor appears to have served as office space for the U.S. Air Force Civil Air Patrol during the mid-1950s. By the early 1960s, the building housed the U.S. Air Force Signal Corps Projectionist School.¹⁵

Much of the present-day spatial organization of the Building 204 interior is a product of alterations undertaken in the early 1970s and after. During the early 1970s, the building’s interior was rearranged with new partitioning to provide differently organized office spaces for the Army Community Service (ACS), with the ACS Family Housing offices occupying the first floor and the ACS Transportation Division occupying the second floor.¹⁶ Building 204 housed the Presidio Thrift Shop during the 1990s, and possibly part of the latter 1980s.¹⁷

¹³ Building 204 Record (including 1940 plan), Presidio Building Books, Golden Gate NRA Archives, GOGA 32421, Box 2.

¹⁴ Proposed Launderette, Building 204, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 24, Folder 3.

¹⁵ Proposed Launderette, Building 204 [plans], October 4, 1950, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 24, Folder 3; Alterations to Building 204, Office Space for Civil Air Patrol, U.S.A.F., September 15, 1953, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 24, Folder 3; Proposed Additions to Buildings 200 & 204, with New Parking Areas, 1955, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 24, Folder 1; Custodial Service, P.S.F.C, Plan of Building 204, U.S. Air Force Signal Projectionist School, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 24, Folder 1.

¹⁶ George Matsumoto and Associates, Building 204 First Floor, Family Housing, A.C.S. Complex, June 23, 1972, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 24, Folder 3; George Matsumoto and Associates, Building 204, Second Floor, Transportation Division, A.C.S. Complex, June 23, 1972.

¹⁷ Thompson, *Defender of the Gate*, Vol. 1, 297; Alley et al, Presidio NHL Update, 1991, 7-75.

By the year 2000, the building's second floor provided office space for SPORE, while the first floor was used as storage space, the building's original function.¹⁸

Part 2. Architectural Information

A. General Statement:

- 1. Architectural character:** Building 204 is a utilitarian, two-story, wood-frame building with lapped wood siding, also known as clapboard. It measures 33' x 184' in plan. The building rests on a concrete slab foundation and has a side-facing gable-end roof surfaced with red asphalt shingles. Building 204 features pent roofs at the east and west sides, as well as an engaged dormer gable positioned above the approximate center of the building's lengthier north side. The building's pent roofs, the engaged dormer gable, and the open eaves repeat various decorative curves and S shapes on the rafter tails and bargeboards.
- 2. Condition of fabric:** Fair to Poor (scheduled to be demolished late summer, 2011).

B. Description of Exterior:

- 1. Overall dimensions:** Building 204 measures 33' x 184'. A shed addition measuring 6' x 8' extends from the northerly façade slightly east of the building's center.
- 2. Foundations:** Concrete slab.
- 3. Walls:** Perimeter walls are framed with 2" x 4" boards. The exterior walls are surfaced with clapboard siding over diagonal sheathing. The interior perimeter walls are surfaced with an inner layer of beaded-board tongue and groove set horizontally (now visible in some places, likely the original wall surface), and an outer layer of drywall, a later alteration. Interior room walls are wood framed with drywall, also a later alteration.
- 4. Structural system, framing:** Building 204's structural system is comprised of posts and beams supporting a central truss. Four rows of structural 6" x 6" posts (one incorporated into each longitudinal perimeter wall, and two partially exposed post aisles through the interiors of both floors) support transverse 4" x 8" truss beams and 2" x 8" joists girding the second floor. An additional layer of joists (2" x 6") set perpendicularly and below the second-floor joists (not part of the building's original construction) is visible through holes in the ceiling. This newer reinforcement includes metal braces and lends both load-bearing capacity and lateral strength between layers. Original diagonal 2" x 6" braces connecting beams and perimeter posts are visible in some places on both floors. The building's truss system consists of an X-beam arrangement formed by sets of diagonally set 2" x 6" boards connected to interior posts.
- 5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads:** A concrete terrace is situated at the small shed addition near the center of the building's north side. This concrete feature is

¹⁸ Page & Turnbull, HABS 2-5 Progress Submittal, December 15, 2000, Building 204, Presidio Trust Library.

bordered on the north by two brick planters separated by concrete steps. A concrete ramp leads to the terrace and the shed from the west. Slightly west of the shed addition, a modest wood balcony with deteriorating railing extends from the foot of a second-floor freight entry. A ladder fixed to the exterior north-side wall rises from the first floor to the second-floor freight-entry balcony. Access to the second floor at the west side is provided by a stairway comprised of steel baluster and railing, with concrete treads and landings, including a half-splice landing. The stairway is supported by steel posts with X bracing.

6. **Chimneys:** Two capped steel chimneys, painted red, rise from the ridge of the roof at roughly a third of the distance in from each ridge terminus. Small galvanized iron flues extend above the eaves at multiple locations along the north and south sides of the building and at several locations on the inner roof. The vents at the eaves are connected to pipes attached to and crossing through the exterior walls.
7. **Openings:**
 - a. **Doorways and doors:** A variety of historic and modern doors are observable throughout the building. The building's west and north sides (just east of the shed addition at the north side) feature historic sliding warehouse doors. These are wood-framed and diagonally paneled with two stiles and three locks. The warehouse door at the north side measures 11' x 10'-6", and incorporates a small 4'-3" x 1'-7" pedestrian doorway built into the lower stile. A single-acting pedestrian-access door is located south of the westerly warehouse door. A single-light, commercial-grade pedestrian-access door is located at the first floor on the far eastern end of the north side. Additional single-acting doors providing first-floor access are situated slightly west of the single-light door at the eastern end of the north side, and at the west end of the north side. The west side of the shed addition features a commercial-grade, single-light pedestrian-access door. An outwardly swinging and double-acting commercial-grade door is located west of the shed addition. A commercial-grade single-light door is also located at the center of the south side. These various single-acting and double-acting doors are comprised of veneered composite. The second floor has two sets of double-acting commercial-grade doors, one providing access from the stairway at the west side, and one at the second-floor freight entry associated with the balcony west of the shed addition at the north side. These second-floor doors are also comprised of veneered composite.
 - b. **Windows and shutters:** The building has a variety of historic and modern replacement windows. These are fitted in plain wood casings. Most of the windows on the first floor are fixed four- and six-light units. The first floor also includes several fixed two-light windows, as well as two-over-two, four-over-four, and six-over-six double-hung sash windows, and several horizontally set two-over-two, double-hung sash units. The first floor windows are exteriorly covered by expanded metal security covers, or either vertically or horizontally set security-bar units. Second-floor windows include one-over-one, two-over-two, four-over-four, and six-over-six double-hung sash units. The second floor of the west side has fixed six-light windows. Several fixed two- and four-light windows are located on the second floor at the east end of the south side. The second floor windows on the east side include the building's only instance of inwardly swinging two-light casement windows.

8. Roof:

- a. **Shape, covering:** Building 204 has a gable roof that takes shape over 2" x 6" rafters braced laterally by an X-beam truss arrangement atop the building's post-and-beam structural system. The roof is clad with red asphalt shingles.
- b. **Cornice, eaves:** The building has open eaves with simple fascia. Tailpieces support the roof overhang at the gabled ends of the building. Exposed rafter tails along the building's north and south sides feature decorative S-curve tail cuts that extend below the plane of the fascia.
- c. **Dormers, cupolas, towers:** On the building's east and west, pent roofs that historically sheltered hoist beams (the hoist beam at the east side has been removed) extend from the second floor. These pent roofs feature hipped roofs with red asphalt shingles, and are cantilevered over decorative S-shaped brackets. The eave-fascia line along the north side is interrupted by an engaged dormer gable with exposed purlin ends and bargeboards shaped with decorative scrolls at their ends. The engaged gable shelters a hoist crane that extends from above the balcony and double doors at this location.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. **First floor:** Moving west to east, the western quarter of the first floor consists of a suite with an open space along the north side. This space is surrounded on the south and west by smaller offices and a bathroom. A doorway leads from this westerly space to the larger open space comprising most of the building's easterly first-floor interior. Most of the walls that once formed offices within this area of the first floor have been demolished. There is a small office situated in the northwestern corner of this area and two bathrooms and several storage spaces along the south side at the west end of this large space.
 - b. **Second floor:** The western third of the second floor is comprised of two spaces divided by a wall running between the north and south sides. The larger westerly space served as a conference room for several decades, and the less sizeable easterly space served as a waiting room for part of the building's life. A doorway leads from this easterly space to a centrally running corridor flanked by seven offices along the north side and four offices and two easterly bathrooms along the south side. The corridor opens into an open area at the building's southeast corner.
2. **Stairways:** An interior stairwell and single-flight stairway with a single easterly handrail is located at the east end of the building. The stairway rises to the second floor from the single-acting single-light commercial pedestrian door on the north side at the east end of the building.
 3. **Flooring:** Observable flooring consists of a variety of types reflecting alterations undertaken over the course of the building's life. Most of the lower floor is surfaced with linoleum. Layers of subsurface flooring are visible underneath the top and most recently installed layer of flooring. These include a middle layer of tongue-and-groove flooring

over 2" x 8" joists, and the remains of a lower layer of warehouse-grade wood flooring. On the second floor, the waiting room east of the westerly conference room is floored with linoleum. Commercial carpet covers the remainder of the second floor. The stairway at the east end of the building is also carpeted.

- 4. Wall and ceiling finish:** Both floors of the building have drop drywall ceilings. Walls are wood framed with painted drywall. At several locations within the large open space comprising most of the first-floor interior, wall holes and drywall deterioration reveal an earlier beaded-board tongue-and-groove wall surface with diagonal sheathing boards. Rubber roll-out baseboard marks the base of interior walls throughout the second floor and in the suite at the west end of the first floor.
- 5. Openings:**
 - a. Doorways and doors:** Interior doors have wood casing and jambs throughout the building. Most of the extant interior doors are single-acting units hung on hinges and comprised of composite with veneer surfacing. Double doors open out from a closet at the northeast corner of the second-floor conference room. Access between the second-floor conference room and the former waiting room to the east is facilitated by westerly swinging double doors.
 - b. Windows:** Windows in the large easterly first-floor space have simple trim boards. Some appear to be later replacements, added after drywall was placed on the walls. Others are broader and may be from the historic period. The suite at the west end of the first floor includes several light wells where the drop ceiling is lower than the windows. On the second floor, interior window surrounds are also trimmed with simple boards. Many of these are narrow or beveled, and thereby reflect latter-twentieth-century millwork.
- 6. Decorative features and trim:** The interior of this utilitarian building has minimal decorative features. On both of the building's levels, some of the interior posts are decoratively boxed with wood or drywall, alterations that post-date the building's original construction. These decorative post alterations may date to as early as the early 1950s, when portions of the building were first converted to office space.
- 7. Hardware:** Building 204 hardware is utilitarian.
- 8. Mechanical equipment:**
 - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation:** The building has a hot-air furnace room on the second floor with ductwork through the drop ceiling. There are five ceiling-mounted forced-air heaters distributed throughout the first floor.
 - b. Lighting:** Both floors are lighted by fluorescent tubes. Plastic panels cover tubes engaged in the drop ceiling on the first floor. The second floor ceiling lighting consists of fluorescent tubes encased in plastic troffers.
 - c. Plumbing:** Multiple bathrooms and a sink installed in one of the second floor offices (likely a former break room for office workers) are plumbed for use.

- d. **Elevator Hoist:** Currently secured to the second floor, an early freight elevator with wood and steel mechanical components opens onto the second-floor hallway. The elevator no longer has any door. A stout cylindrical hoisting spool is pinned horizontally to the truss girders. Pulleys and gears that transferred power from an engine (now missing) turned the hoist that gathered heavy gauge hemp rope around it, raising the elevator and its contents. The system is in a remarkable state of preservation.

D. Site:

1. **Historic landscape design:** Since the building was moved to its current location during the construction of Doyle Drive and the Golden Gate Bridge, it has been surrounded by asphalt pavement to its east, north, and west. A grass covered slope rises to the north of the building. The slope is supported by a concrete retaining wall (likely constructed in the mid 1930s) near the west end of the building. Brick planters and a concrete terrace and ramp were constructed along the building's north side sometime after the late 1930s.

Part 3. Sources of Information

- A. **Architectural Drawings:** The earliest drawn plans yielded by research for this HABS report date to 1940. See the plan included in the Building 204 entry of: U.S. Army, Presidio Building Books, Golden Gate National Recreation Area Park Archives and Records Center, San Francisco, CA (hereafter referred to as Golden Gate NRA Archives), GOGA 32421, Box 2. Additional drawn plans which appear to have been implemented and were thus consulted for this HABS Report include (listed in date order here):

Proposed Launderette, Building 204, October 4, 1950, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 24, Folder 3; Alterations to Building 204, Office Space for Civil Air Patrol, U.S.A.F., September 15, 1953, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 24, Folder 1.

Alterations to Building 204, Office Space for Civil Air Patrol, U.S.A.F., September 15, 1953, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 24, Folder.

Proposed Additions to Buildings 200 & 204, with New Parking Areas, 1955, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Drawer 24, Folder 1.

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B. Early Views: The earliest photographs of the building yielded by the research for this HABS report are birds-eye aerial photos dated 1926 and 1928: Photograph of the Lower Post (View West), 1928, from National Archives, *Defender of the Gate Photos & Illustrations*, Golden Gate NRA Archives, GOGA 2991.351; Crissy Field from Air (View East), 1926, Golden Gate NRA Archives, Fort Point Photo Collection, GOGA 35339.677.

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Part 4. Project Information

This Historic American Buildings Survey and five others occasioned by the Doyle Drive Replacement Project follow the dictates of the Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Highway Administration, the California Department of Transportation, the San Francisco County Transportation Authority, the Presidio Trust, the National Park Service, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department.

The Cultural Resources Studies team was jointly led by Meg Scantlebury, Senior Environmental Planner (Caltrans District 4) and Dana McGowan, Principal, Cultural Resources (ICF International).

The contract work for the project was performed by ICF International, 620 Folsom, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94107.

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