

2011 GOVERNOR'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

Presidio Public Health Service Hospital District



The fully restored Public Health Service Hospital at the Presidio.

The Public Health Service Hospital District in San Francisco's Presidio started as a Marine Corps hospital built by the US Treasury to care for sailors. It was moved to the southern edge of the Presidio in 1895 and in 1912 became part of the Public Health Service, caring for immigrants, Native Americans, and patients suffering from infectious diseases.

A 36-acre Colonial-revival campus replaced the original buildings in 1932. Designed by Treasury Architect James Wetmore, it included a 6-story hospital, nurses' quarters, surgeons' homes, labs, a power plant, and a community center. Abruptly closed in 1981, the site was reincorporated into the Presidio, but sat vacant, deteriorating and vandalized for 25 years.

In 1994 the Presidio became part of the National Park System, and in 1996 Congress established the Presidio Trust to preserve the Presidio's interior 1,100 acres. The Trust's mandate includes reuse of the Presidio's 6 million square feet of buildings to generate revenue to sustain the park. Revitalizing the district took creativity, perseverance, community support, and substantial public and private investment. The result is a sustainable mixed-use community with 172 housing units, office space, a pre-school, a printing press, trails, and 25 acres of open and native habitat.

The project to restore the Public Health Service Hospital District is a model for sustainable historic preservation. The two largest buildings have been certified LEED gold, the new building LEED platinum. The district will be one of the first in the nation to be certified LEED ND. Green measures include mechanical systems using natural ventilation, shuttle, car-share, and paid parking; on-site storm water treatment and management; and extensive habitat restoration. The project conforms to the Secretary of the Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation.

Learn more about the history of the Presidio and visiting the historic site:

<https://www.nps.gov/prsf/learn/index.htm>