



THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION & APPRECIATION OF
SAN FRANCISCO'S 1906 EARTHQUAKE REFUGEE SHACKS

The Shack Society was founded by Jane Cryan on January 1, 1983 and disbanded in the Fall of 1999.
This material was developed by Jane Cryan and is based on fact from her primary research.
Please visit the San Francisco History Center at the Main Library for more information about the Shacks.

THE 1906 SAN FRANCISCO REFUGEE SHACK/SUMMARY OF HISTORIC DATA

REFERRED TO AS	refugee houses earthquake cottages wooden shanties camp cottages earthquake memorials	unsightly wooden shacks relief houses refugee cabins little dovecôtes
DESIGNED BY	A joint effort of S.F. Park Superintendent John McLaren; the Department of Lands & Buildings of the S.F. Relief Corporation; and, by the U.S. Army under the direction of Maj. Gen. Adolphus Washington Greely.	
BUILT BY	San Francisco Union Carpenters. Type A Shacks were built by L. Swenson - only 500 of this size were constructed; Type B Shacks were built by the Home Building & Construction Company and George L. Leonard and T.P. Frost (known as the L-F Company); Type C Shacks were built by William Mackie and a Mr. Grant. Additional labor to construct Types B & C Shacks was provided by employees of the Department of Lands & Buildings of the S.F. Relief Corporation. The Refugee Shacks should not be confused with barracks built in Golden Gate Park by the U.S. Army.	
DIMENSIONS	Type A -- 10'x14'(15'+/-) Type C -- 15'x25' & 16'x18'	Type B -- 14'x18' Type D -- barracks
TOTAL BUILT	5,610	This figure does not include the Type D barracks.
COST PER SHACK	Type A/\$100	Type B/\$135 Type C/\$150 Type D/\$741
TOTAL HOUSED	15,288	At peak, the Shacks were occupied by 16,448 people.

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COLOR PAINTED	Parkbench Green -- exterior only.	
MATERIALS USED	Redwood walls, Fir floors, Cedar shingled roofs.	
FEATURES	Steeply pitched, puptent-like roof, no studding, corner posts only, no insulation, no interior finish.	
TOTAL COST TO BUILD	Shacks: \$870,479.82 Barracks: \$ 14,079.00 Grand Total: <u>\$884,558.82</u>	Funds administered by the Finance Committee of the Relief & Red Cross Committees and by the U.S. Army from Congressional Grants.
AMENITIES	Wood/coal stoves if refugee purchased and installed patent chimney in Shack. Gas stoves sold at cost to refugees by Relief Corporation. Coal or gas lamps available at additional cost to refugee. No toilets/kitchens. Central facilities in each camp.	
COST TO INHABITANTS	\$2 per month per Shack (called an "installment" not a rental payment) Total installments collected and refunded to refugees: \$117,521.50 Total installments collected and not claimed: \$ 8,148.50	
ORDER OF TENANCY	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Those in permanent camps.2. Those in tents and makeshift buildings.3. Those in cellars and with friends.4. Those San Franciscans forced to live outside the city.	
FIRST BUILT	20 Shacks, Hamilton Square Camp, September 17, 1906	
COST TO MOVE	\$12-15 per Shack. Associated Charities covered cost in hardship cases. Some refugees took Shacks apart and hauled them from camp on their backs. Ground rent or purchase payments on private lot averaged \$3-15 per month.	
SHACKS MOVED	5,343	267 were burned, condemned, or cut for kindling in camps.
CONFUSED WITH SHACKS	Bonus Plan Cottages -- 885 built Grant & Loan Buildings -- 1572 built	
MISC. DATA	Delay in building shacks encountered due to more pressing needs. Further, hope existed that Government might give large deposits to local banks thus enabling permanent buildings to be erected on easy terms. Two planning mills were erected in San Francisco for construction of the Shacks with lumber secured outside San Francisco.	

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Official Refugee Camps, circa 1906-1908, San Francisco, California

Shack Camps Noted With ^
Barracks Camps Noted With **
No Notation Indicates Tent Camps

1		Presidio (General Hospital)
2		Presidio (Tennessee Hollow)
3		Presidio (Ft. Winfield Scott)
4		Presidio (Golf Links)
5		Golden Gate Park (Children's Playground)
6	**	Golden Gate Park (Speedway)
7		Golden Gate Park (Park Lodge-Big Rec)
8		Harbor View
9	^	Lobos Square
10	^	Potrero (aka Union Iron Works, aka Mariposa)
11		Camp Bothin, Marin County, California
12		Camp Ingleside (originally assigned number)
13	^	Franklin Square
14	^	Camp Lake
15		Fort Mason (aka Black Point Camp)
16	^	Jefferson Square
17		Lafayette Square
18		Mission Park (before Shacks)
19		Duboce Park
20	^	Hamilton Square
21	^	Washington Square
22		Alamo Square
23	^	Precita Park (aka Bernal Park)
24	^	Columbia Square
25	^	Camp Richmond
26		Camp Ingleside (lastly assigned camp number)
27		No Camp This Number
28	**	South Park
29	^	Mission Park (after Shacks)
30	^	Portsmouth Square
31		Garfield Square