



Razing the Bar: Tracing the Evolution of LGBTQ Enclaves in San Francisco

Presented by the Gays and Lesbians in Planning Division of the American Planning Association
August 26, 2016

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San Francisco's Castro District (Source: Shayne Watson)



Stonewall National Monument in New York (Source: NPS)

LGBTQ Heritage Preservation Initiatives in the United States

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Heritage Initiatives Home

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Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Heritage Initiative

For more information and updates, please visit [Telling All Americans' Stories](#)

[LGBTQ Amédos: A Theme Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History](#) is available online.

Find additional [publications](#) about America's diverse histories.

President Obama designated a new national monument at the historic site of the Stonewall Uprising in New York City to honor the broad LGBT equality movement. The new Stonewall National Monument will protect the area where, on June 28, 1969, a community's uprising in response to a police raid sparked the modern LGBT civil rights movement in the United States.

Kentucky LGBT Heritage Initiative looking for stories and artifacts before 1980

By [SARA HAVENS](#) | January 26, 2016 2:17 pm

The [Kentucky LGBT Heritage Initiative](#) would like to collect your stories and see your artifacts of LGBT life in Kentucky before 1980. It's hosting a "History Harvest Reception" on Sunday, Jan. 31, at U of L's Ekstrom Library and encouraging anyone who was a part of that time period to come share their stories and help identify historic places relevant to our state's LGBT heritage.

KY LGBT Heritage Initiative

DHR Virginia Department of Historic Resources

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Home > Historic Registers OR Survey & Planning > New Dominion Virginia Initiative > LGBTQ Heritage in Virginia

LGBTQ Heritage in Virginia

In May of 2014, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced a new theme study as part of the National Park Service Heritage Initiative to identify places and events associated with the story of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) Americans for inclusion in the parks and programs of the agency.

The goals of the LGBTQ heritage initiative include:

- Engaging scholars, preservationists and community members to identify, research, and tell the stories of LGBTQ associated properties;
- Encouraging national parks, national heritage areas, and other affiliated areas to interpret LGBTQ stories associated with them;
- Identifying, documenting, and nominating LGBTQ-associated sites as National Historic Landmarks;
- Increasing the number of listings of LGBTQ-associated properties in the National Register of Historic Places.

As part of this national effort, DHR's New Dominion Virginia initiative is developing an LGBTQ theme study in both historic context and a preservation roadmap for future site nominations to the Virginia Landmarks Register of Historic Places. Both the state and national registers, which are vital to Virginia's preservation program, rely on individuals and communities to identify, research, and nominate historic places.

NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project

Making an invisible history visible.

In New York City, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals and communities have profoundly influenced and contributed to the history and culture of the city and the entire country, yet the specific places associated with this history remain largely unknown.

The New York City LGBT Historic Sites Project is, for the first time, comprehensively documenting

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LGBTQ HISTORIC PLACES IN L.A.

Curating the City: LGBTQ Historic Places in L.A.

Greater Los Angeles has long been at the forefront of creating and shaping a collective, yet diverse LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning and/or queer) identity. For decades, the region and its residents have played an important role in bringing LGBTQ experiences into the public consciousness.

Curating the City: LGBTQ

Explore LGBTQ Los Angeles Saving LGBTQ Historic Places History of LGBTQ Los Angeles Learn More

The City of **SAN DIEGO** Planning Department

SAN DIEGO LGBTQ HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

WHAT: The City of San Diego Planning Department will be hosting two public workshops to present the first public draft of the [San Diego Citywide Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer \(LGBTQ\) Historic Context Statement](#) and gather public input on the important historical themes and properties identified so far. Topics to be covered will include:

- What is a Context Statement and How Will it be Used?
- Historical Overview and Important Themes Identified.
- Properties Identified and Information Needed.

WHO: Everyone interested in the identification and preservation of San Diego's LGBTQ history and heritage. We need your input!

Various national, state, and local LGBTQ heritage preservation initiatives currently underway.

LGBTQ Historic Context Statement for San Francisco

CITYWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT FOR LGBTQ HISTORY IN SAN FRANCISCO

Donna J. Graves & Shayne E. Watson



Prepared for the City & County of San Francisco
October 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER 2. LGBTQ HISTORY	4
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND – CALIFORNIA AND SAN FRANCISCO	5
EARLY INFLUENCES ON LGBTQ IDENTITIES AND COMMUNITIES (19 TH CENTURY TO 1950S)	13
EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF LGBTQ COMMUNITIES (EARLY 20 TH CENTURY TO 1960S)	52
POLICING AND HARASSMENT (1933 TO 1960S)	105
HOMOPHILE MOVEMENTS (1950S TO 1960S)	132
EVOLUTION OF LGBTQ ENCLAVES AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW NEIGHBORHOODS (1960S TO 1980S)	157
GAY LIBERATION, PRIDE, AND POLITICS (1960S TO 1990S)	180
BUILDING LGBTQ COMMUNITIES (1960S TO 1990S)	238
LGBTQ MEDICINE (1940S TO 1970S)	286
SAN FRANCISCO AND THE AIDS EPIDEMIC (1981 TO 1990S)	292
CHAPTER 3. METHODOLOGY	316
CHAPTER 4. HOW-TO-GUIDE FOR PRESERVING LGBTQ HISTORIC PROPERTIES IN SAN FRANCISCO	320
CHAPTER 5. EVALUATION FRAMEWORK	328
CHAPTER 6. RECOMMENDATIONS	352
CHAPTER 7. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	366
CHAPTER 8. BIBLIOGRAPHY	372

LGBTQ Historic Context Statement for San Francisco

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propertymap.sfplanning.org

San Francisco Property Information Map

Public Access to Useful Property Information & Resources at the Click of a Mouse

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Ferry Building

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Step 2: Review Property Information
Click tabs below to view property or parcel information

Property | Zoning | Preservation | Planning Apps | **Building Permits** | Other Permits | Complaints | Appeals | **BBNs**

HISTORIC RESOURCE EVALUATION RESPONSES:

None

HISTORIC SURVEYS:

Parcel:	0144011
Survey Name:	North Beach
Evaluation Date:	1/1/1984
Survey Rating:	3
Rating Description:	Appears eligible for National Register (NR) or California Register (CR) through Survey Evaluation

HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENTS:

This property had been identified for its association with LGBTQ history. Refer to the [LGBTQ Historic Context Statement](#) for more information.

Parcel:	0144011
Address:	440 Broadway
Building Type:	Mona's 440 Club
Notes:	Opened in 1939, it remained the only lesbian club in SF until after WWII. "Where girls will be boys".
Further Info:	See page 65 of the LGBTQ Historic Context Statement

LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY:

None

ARCHITECTURE:

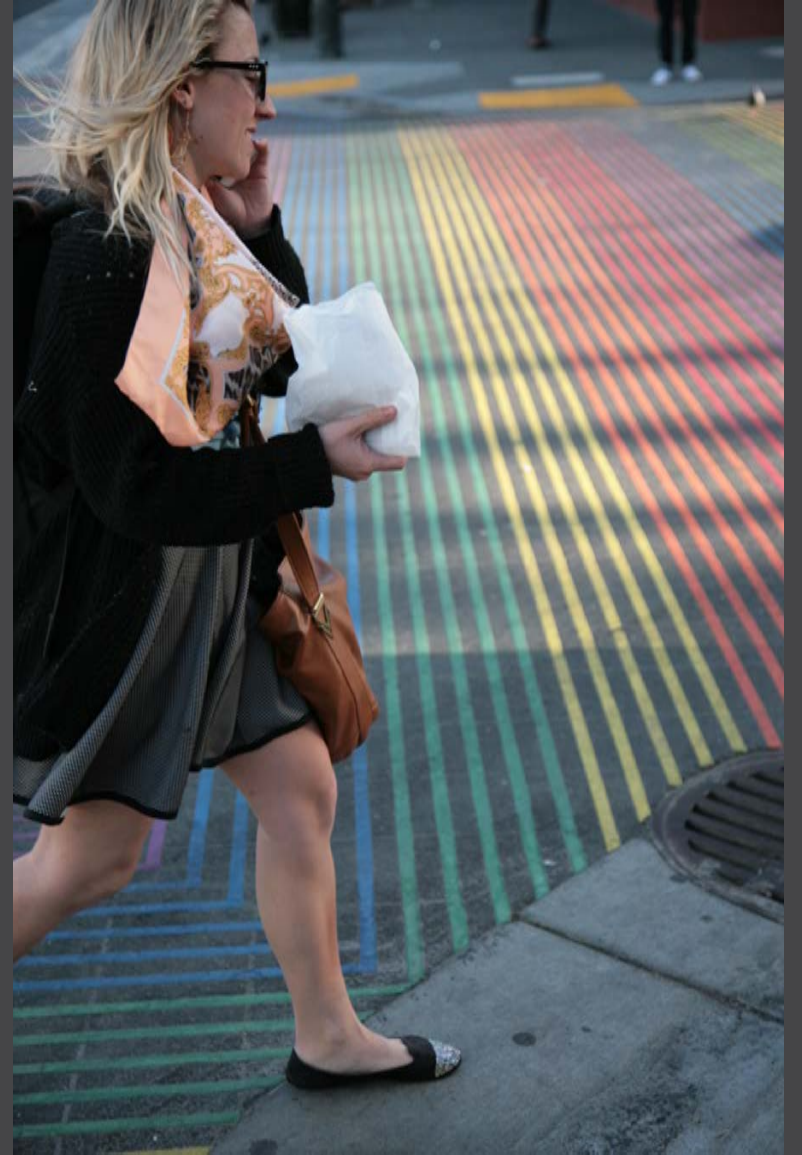
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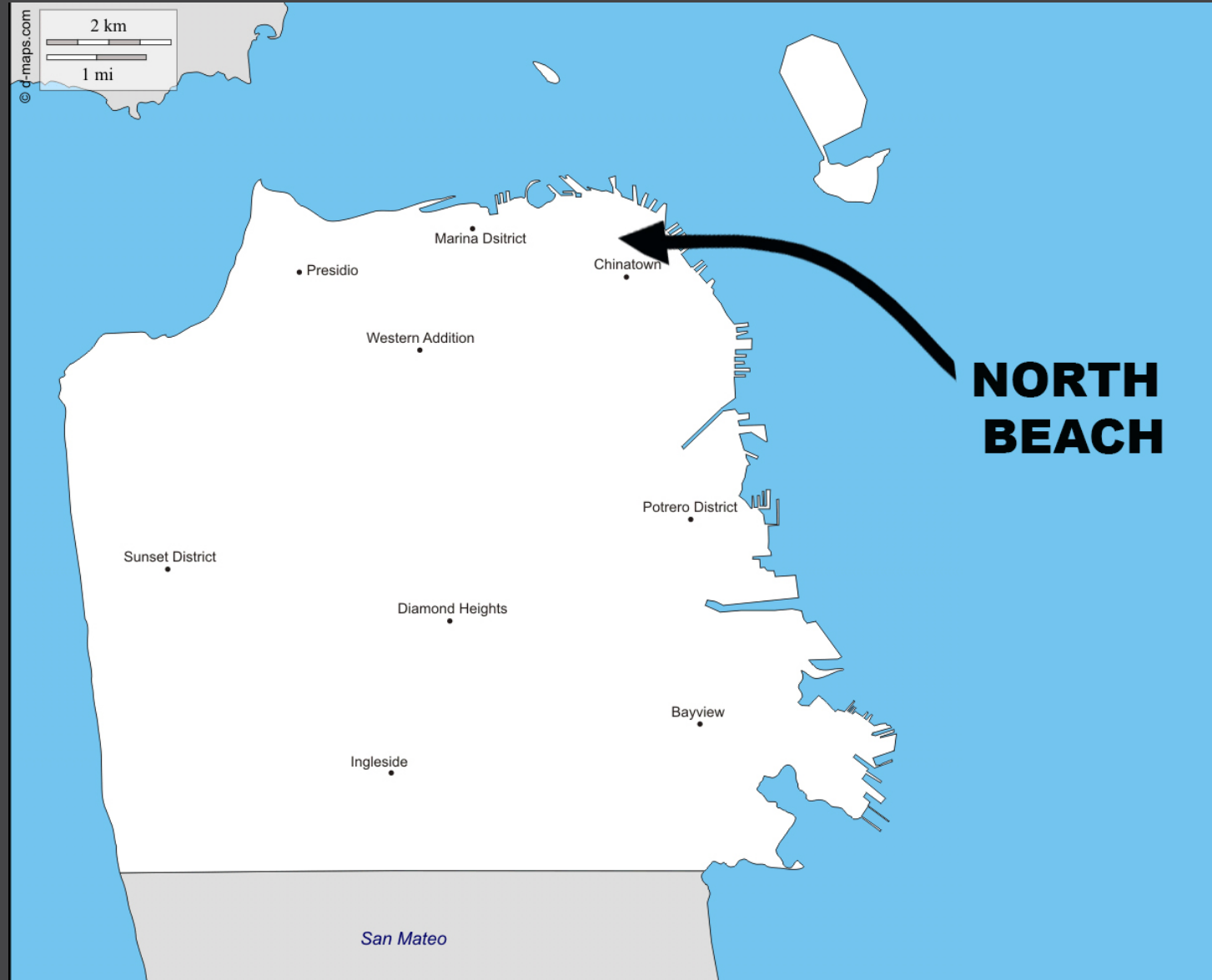


The Castro, San Francisco, CA

San Francisco's Castro neighborhood is known as the oldest LGBTQ enclave in the country. It began to take shape at the end of World War II when United States detention policies had displaced thousands of Japanese Americans, families were flocking to live in suburban developments, and San Francisco's urban neighborhoods were particularly affordable. The LGBTQ

"Finding our Place: Queer Heritage in the United States," National Park Service publication, April 2016

LGBTQ History in North Beach



LGBTQ History in North Beach



Pacific Avenue in the Barbary Coast, 1913
(Source: San Francisco Public Library)

LGBTQ History in North Beach



Montgomery Street, San Francisco's Bohemian artery
(Source: UC Berkeley Bancroft Library)

LGBTQ History in North Beach

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Dancer at the Dragon nightclub on Pacific Avenue, 1934
(Source: San Francisco Public Library)



Nightclubs on Pacific Avenue, 1956
(Source: San Francisco Public Library)

LGBTQ History in North Beach

Sexualized and racialized tourism was “a primary factor in the emergence of San Francisco’s publicly visible queer communities.... [It] showcased difference and, in doing so, generated a permissive quality of same-sex and cross-race sexual display. As sexualized entertainments became part of San Francisco’s allure, tourist industry dollars cast a thin veneer of protection around the city’s queer entertainments.”

- Nan Alamilla Boyd, *Wide Open Town: A History of Queer San Francisco to 1965* (2003)

LGBTQ History in North Beach



Broadway, 1930, Finocchio's building on the corner at right
(Source: San Francisco Public Library)

LGBTQ History in North Beach

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Female-impersonating performers at Finocchio's, 1958
(Source: San Francisco Public Library)



Tourists at Finocchio's, 1942
(Source: San Francisco Public Library)

LGBTQ History in North Beach

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Black Cat Café on Montgomery Street, c. 1960s
(Source: GLBT Historical Society)



Jose Sarria performing at the Black Cat Café, 1950s
(Source: GLBT Historical Society)

LGBTQ History in North Beach



Broadway, North Beach's entertainment strip, 1944
(Source: San Francisco Public Library)

LGBTQ History in North Beach

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Performers at Mona's 440 Club at 440 Broadway, 1940s
(Source: GLBT Historical Society)

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Advertisement in San Francisco Life — December 1942

Mona's 440 Club advertisement, 1942
(Source: GLBT Historical Society)



Newspaper articles about male-impersonating performers in San Francisco, 1910s
(Source: California Digital Newspaper Collection)

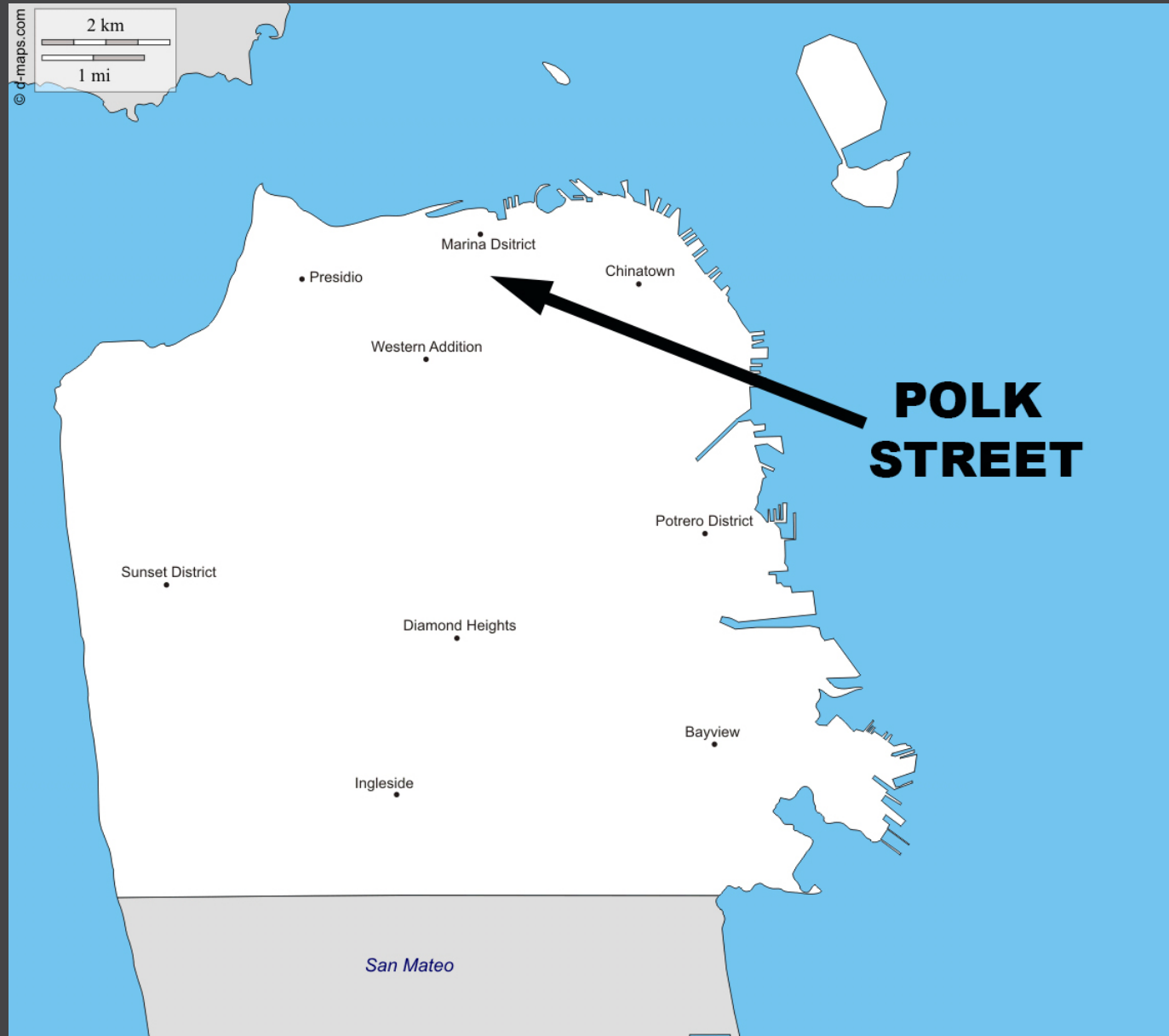


LGBTQ History in the Tenderloin



Turk Street, 1942
(Source: San Francisco Public Library)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street



LGBTQ History on Polk Street

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Party in "Polk Gulch" for the Golden Gate Bridge Fiesta, 1937
(Source: San Francisco Public Library)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street



Opening of Weinstein Co. at 1620 Polk Street, 1941
(Credit: San Francisco Public Library)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street



The Detour on McAllister Street, c. 1965
(Source: GLBT Historical Society)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street

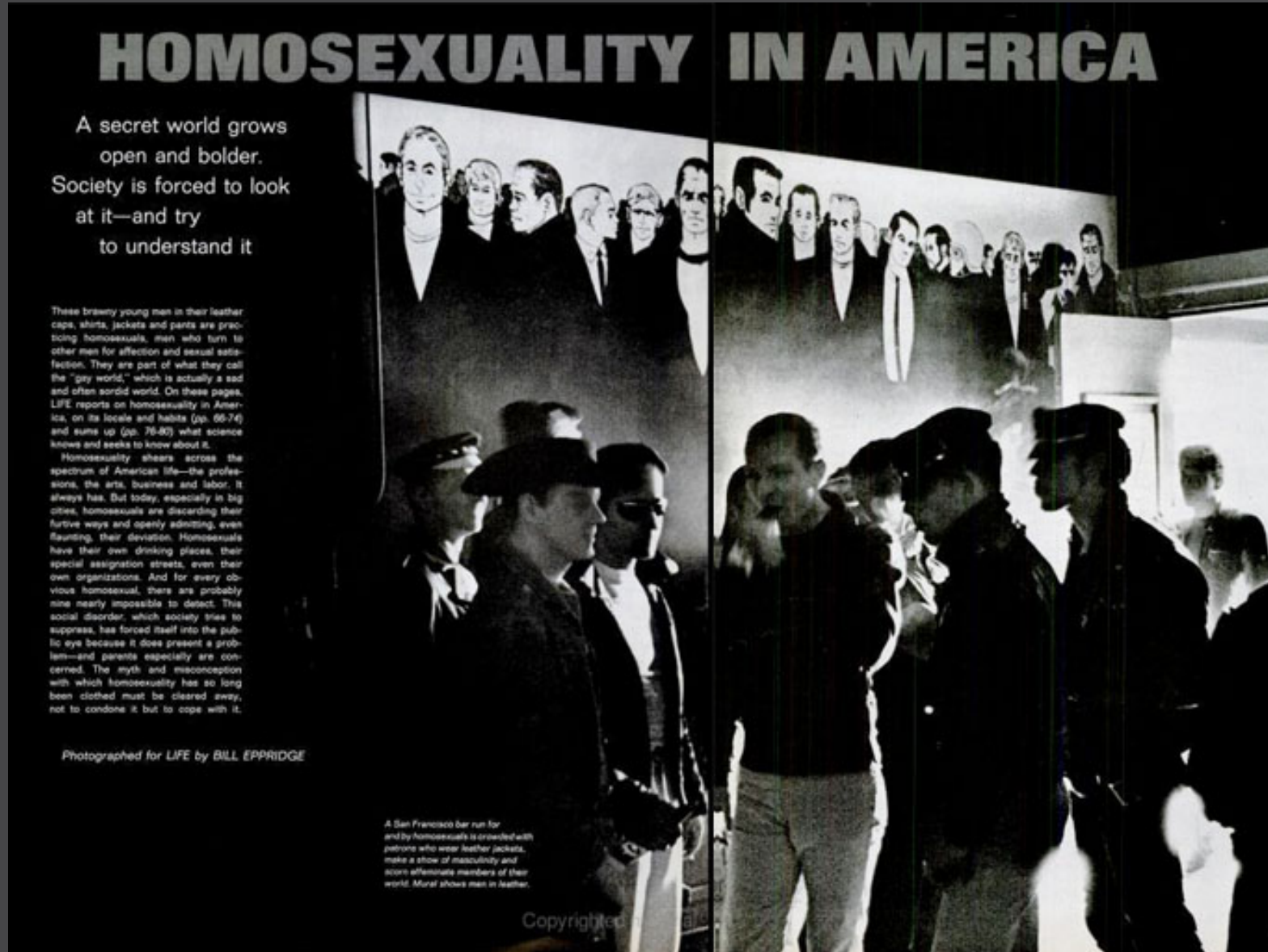
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Demolition at McAllister and Laguna Streets, 1971
(Source: San Francisco Public Library)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street

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Tool Box, 1964
(Credit: Life Magazine)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street

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Demolition of Tool Box | 1971
(Credit: GLBT Historical Society)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street

Rejected by the

'Straight' World, Homosexuals Build a Society of Their Own

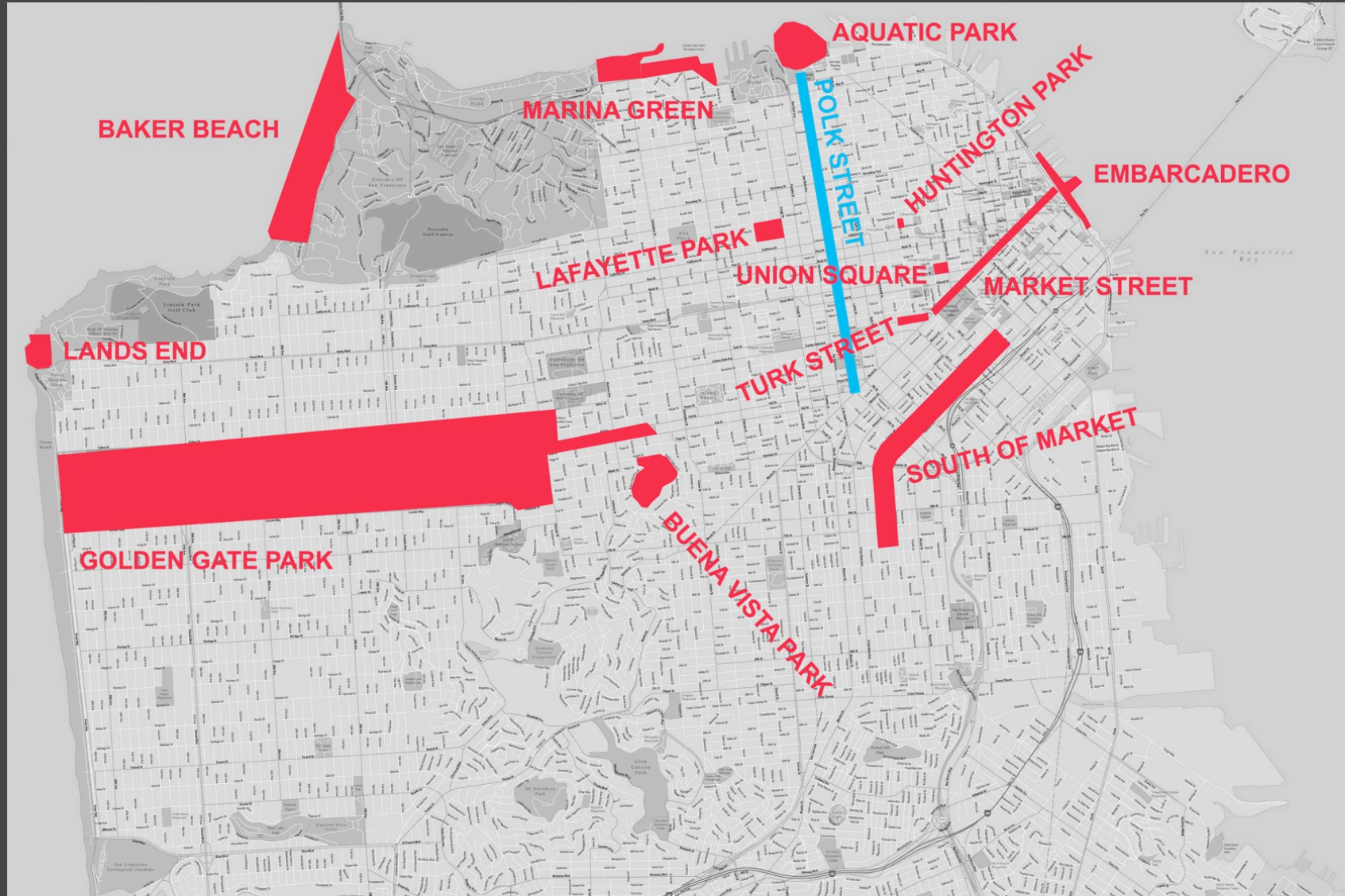


Jumpin' Frog, 2111 Polk Street, 1964
(Credit: Life Magazine)



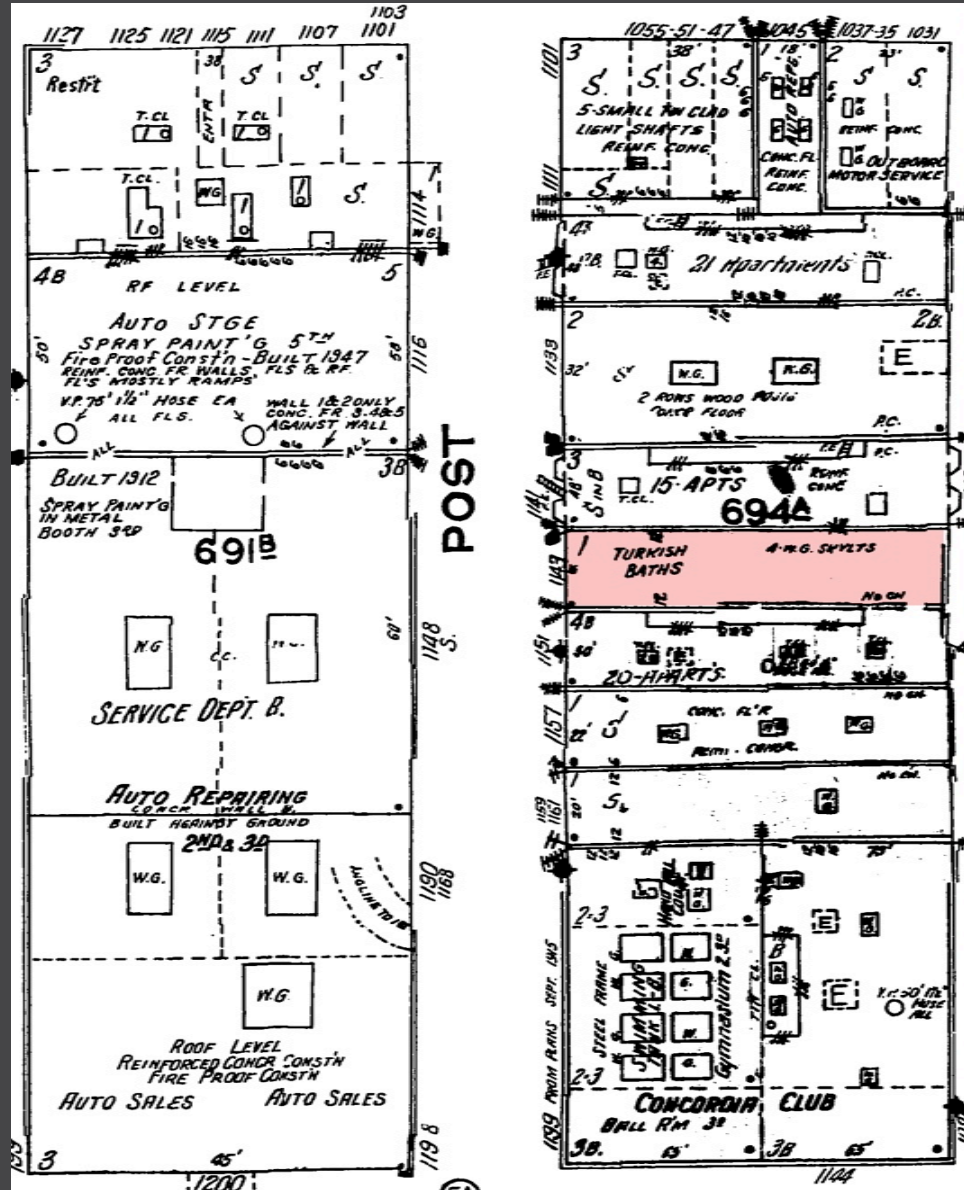
2111 Polk Street, 2014
(Credit: Google)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street



Areas known for gay cruising and hustling, 1940s to 1980s

LGBTQ History on Polk Street

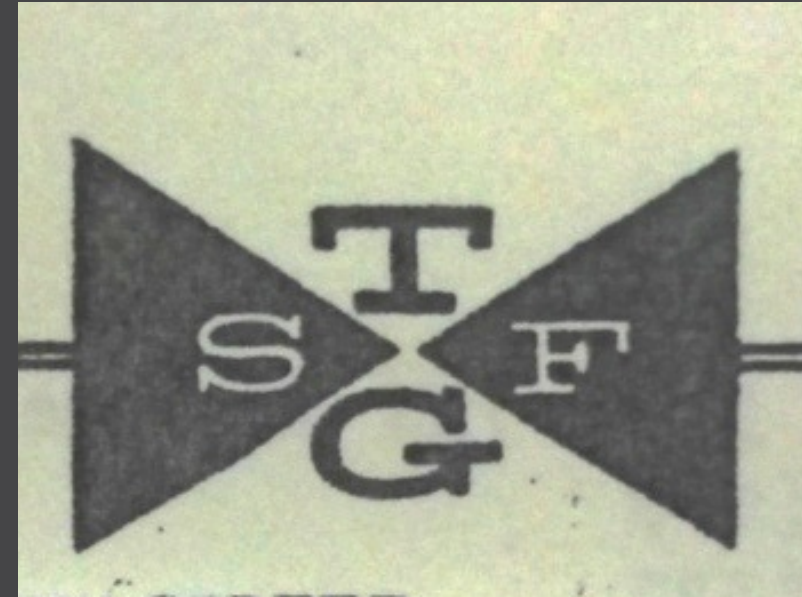


Jack's Turkish Baths

1143 Post @ Polk

(Credit: Google and Sanborn Fire Insurance Company)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street



Tavern Guild Logo

(Credit: GLBT Historical Society)

The Suzy-Q Club, 1741 Polk (now Tootsie Toes)

(Source: Shayne Watson)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street



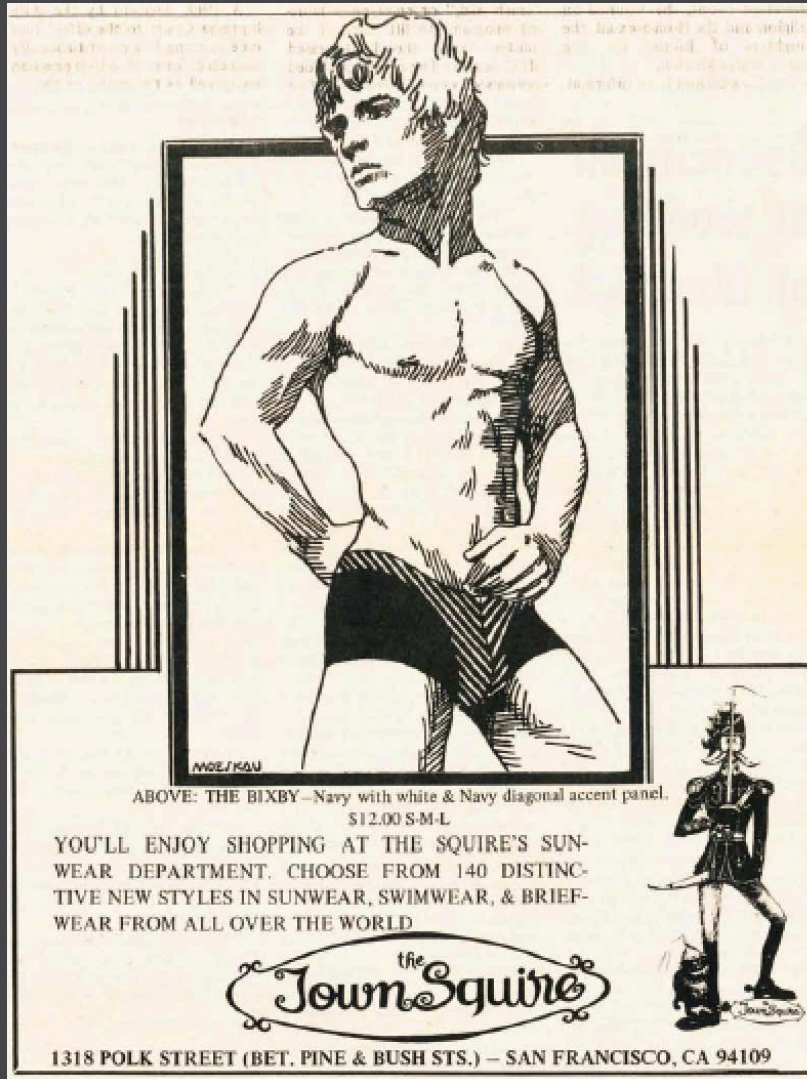
Gramophone Records, 1538 Polk Street

(Credit: Google)

Dean Stamatopoulos, store owner

(Credit: Bay Area Reporter)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street



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The Town Squire, 1318 Polk Street

(Credit: Shayne Watson)

Advertisement c. 1970s

(Credit: OutHistory.org)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street



1968 News Report on Polk Street as Headquarters of "Far Out" Fashion

(Credit: San Francisco Bay Area Television Archive, SFSU)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street

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APA



California Hall | 625 Polk
(Credit: Shayne Watson)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street

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Police Harassment at California Hall, January 1, 1965

(Credit: GLBT Historical Society)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street

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Press Conference after California Hall Incident | January 2, 1965
(Credit: GLBT Historical Society)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street

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Halloween at California Hall I 1970s
(Credit: GLBT Historical Society)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street

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First Gay Pride Marches Were on Polk Street | 1970s
(Credit: GLBT Historical Society)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street

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600	Polk	Embassy Lounge	current	0	
2201	Polk	Royal Oak Saloon	1977	19	
2223	Polk	Nob Hill Club	Bar. Also known as Keno's Nob Hill. Owned by Keno Clark, who also owned Keno's and Le Boeuf. Bob Ross r	1950	1959
1203	Polk	New Bell Saloon	Bar. Restaurant. Entertainment. Very popular. T.C. Jones, noted female impersonator, performed here. "T	1951	1986
1723	Polk	Pink Cloud	Bar. May not have been gay during all of its thirteen years. Became the Early Bird and the Cinch.	1952	1965
1741	Polk	Su-Z-Q Club	Bar. Second location. Owner, Richard Oderio. The first meetings of what was to become the San Francisco T	1960	1962
2111	Polk	Jumping Frog	Bar. Very popular. Showed movies on Monday nights; was the first bar to do so. Sponsored the first Beaux A	1961	1964
1318	Polk	Town Squire	Men's Clothing that advertised in gay publications in the 60s. In its last years it went by the name "Squire"	1962	1983
1423	Polk	Web	Bar.	1962	1969
2360	Polk	Cloud 7	Bar. Dancing. "Large, popular, cruisy." - Carl Driver, 1971. "Cloud Seven is a nice, popular dance bar. It has be	1962	1982
1234	Polk	Golden Knight	Men's Clothes	1965	1966
2060	Polk	Casual Man	Clothing	1965	197
2155	Polk	Two-Til-Two	Bar. Became the Yacht Club, the Emperor Norton's Folly, then back to the Yacht Club.	1965	1969
1101	Polk	Record House		1966	
2223	Polk	T.A.	Bar. Go-go boys.	1966	1967
1548	Polk	Polk Along	Bar. Some leather. Also known as the Polk-A-Long. Became the Maple Leaf, the Hot House, the Havoc Hous	1967	1972
1312	Polk	House of Harmony	Bar. Piano. David Kelsey performed. At times very popular. "Pleasant, attractive bar, tends to have regulat	1968	1978
1548	Polk	Maple Leaf	Former location of the Polk Along. Became the Hot House, the Havoc House, the N Touch, the Renegade, and	1968	1972
1118	Polk	Le Salon Books	Erotica	1969	0
1121	Polk	P.S.	Popular restaurant and bar, with occasional live entertainment. It was the "largest gay restaurant in the city, v	1969	1986
1718	Polk	Neal's Kitchen	Restaurant. 24 hours. Advertised in Vector as "The Gayest Little Restaurant on Polk Street." "Bop in...right in	1969	1970
1723	Polk	Early Bird	Bar. Dancing. Restaurant. German cuisine. "The massive effort necessary to squeeze your way into this cru	1969	1977
2111	Polk	Blue Swan	Bar.	1969	
2155	Polk	Yacht Club	Bar.	1969	1989
2340	Polk	Call Board	Restaurant. Gay and lesbian clientele. Owner, Al Wilkinson.	1969	1978
1090	Polk	Mister Lucky's	Bar. Also known as the Lucky Spot. Became the Polk Gulch Saloon.	1970	1971
1203	Polk	Via Vai	Bar. Former location of the New Bell Saloon. Became the New Bell Saloon again.	1970	1972
1695	Polk	Smoke House	Bar. Restaurant. Became the Q.T.	1970	1971
1090	Polk	Polk Gulch Saloon	Bar. "Former Mr. Lucky's, recently remodeled and seems to be doing better." - Carl Driver, 1971. "Cruising ar	1971	1986
1695	Polk	On the Q.T.	Bar. Piano entertainment. Sometimes hustlers. Former location of the Smoke House. Moved in 1979, and r	1971	1979
2111	Polk	Gaylord's Cine Bar	Theater. Gay male erotic films. Former location of the Jumping Frog. Became the Laurel Theater.	1971	
2348	Polk	Butcher Shop	Restaurant. Clientele mixed, but predominantly gay. "Small theoretically straight restaurant with superb foo	1971	1981
1548	Polk	Hot House	Bar. Entertainment. Gary Schneider at the organ. Former location of the Polk Along. Became the Havoc Ho	1972	
1754	Polk	Glendon's	Restaurant	1972	
2111	Polk	Laurel Theater	Theater. Gay male erotica. Sex on premises? "Laurel Theatre is where you head if you want to see gay movi	1972	1981
1548	Polk	Havoc House	Bar. Former location of the Polk-Along, the Maple Leaf, and the Hot House. Became the N Touch, then Rene	1973	1974
1750	Polk	Gordon's Saloon	Bar.	1973	1978
1436	Polk	Buzzy's	Bar. Disco. Dancing. "The most popular gay bar on the street. Mostly young and groovy guys. All types come	1974	1986
1548	Polk	N Touch	Bar. Disco. Dancing. Very popular. Many Asians. Operated by Bill Bentley. Held Grand Opening on Novemb	1974	2008
2360	Polk	Sha-Boom	Bar. Name of Cloud 7 for a few weeks. Vector, March 1974;	1974	
1723	Polk	Cinch	Bar. Western motif. Disco, but no dancing. Billiard tables. Former location of the Pink Cloud and the Early Bir	1975	2001
	Polk	Haven	Restaurant. "Hip." Mixed clientele, many gays.	1975	1977
1738	Polk	Leather Forever	Leather goods.	1976	0
622	Polk	Wooden Horse	Bar.	1977	1989
1166	Polk	Mocambo	Nightclub. Cabaret. Mixed clientele, but always many gays. "Big time entertainers in plush surroundings. Fd	1977	1979
1351	Polk	Levels	Bar. Became Kimo's. Formerly a straight bar called The Elbow Room.	1977	
1356	Polk	Miz Brown's	Restaurant	1977	
1601	Polk	Bob's (rest)	1977	1977	
1750	Polk	White Swallow	Bar. Former location of Shapes. "Beautiful, mellow atmosphere... the lighting is fabulous...interior is superb...	1977	1985
	Polk at Califo	Raven	Restaurant	1977	
749	Polk	Sunshine Saloon	Bar. Became the Stallion.	1978	
1131	Polk	Giraffe	Bar. "A friendly and attractive bar with lots of electronic and pinball machines to keep you occupied." - Advo	1978	2001
1351	Polk	Kimo's	Bar. Dancing and entertainment upstairs. Pool table. Owned by Kimo.	1978	2001
1544	Polk	Shirley Hotel	Hotel	1978	0
	Polk at Ellis	Gladstone Hotel	Hotel	1978	
749	Polk	Stallion	Bar. Former location of the Sunshine Saloon.	1979	1988
1038	Polk	Locker Room Book Store	Bookstore. Gay male erotica. Movie booths. 24 hours. Sex on premises.	1979	1986
1207	Polk	Ben Hur Books	Bookstore. Gay male erotica. Sex on premises.	1979	1990
1233	Polk	Youngmen's Hotel	Hotel	1979	
1312	Polk	Q.T. II	Bar. Entertainment. Some hustlers. Originally called On the Q.T. at a different location.	1979	0
1760	Polk	Shandygaff Vegetarian Restaurant	Restaurant	1979	
1315	Polk	Leland Hotel	Hotel	1970s	0
1406	Polk	Palms	Restaurant	1970s	
1538	Polk	Gramophone	Records	1970s	1982
1133	Polk	Hard On Leather	Leather Goods	1982	
1217	Polk	Headlines	Gifts	1982	
1401	Polk	Sukker's Liquors		1982	
1423	Polk	Bottom Half	Clothes	1982	
1623	Polk	Wendel's Leather	1982-1995	1982	1995
1160	Polk	Masque	Piano entertainment. Became Hunks and Reflections.	1983	1985
2155	Polk	Emperor Norton's Folly	Bar. Restaurant. Former location of the Two-Til-Two, then the Yacht Club. Quickly returned to the name the	1983	
1548	Polk	Renegade	Bar. Dancing. Disco. Male strip shows. "The Renegade Dance Bar has a disco dance floor plus a bank of vid	1984	1985
1160	Polk	Hunks	Bar. Former location of Le Masque. Became Reflections.	1985	1986
1160	Polk	Reflections	Bar	1989	2001
1237	Polk	Carlene's	Restaurant	1989	
1303	Polk	Polk Rendezvous	Bar	1989	1997

75+ Businesses catering to LGBT community opened on Polk Street (1950s to 1980s)
(Credit: GLBT Historical Society)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street

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Gay Cruising and Hustling on Polk Street, 1970s

(Credit: Crawford Barton, GLBT Historical Society)

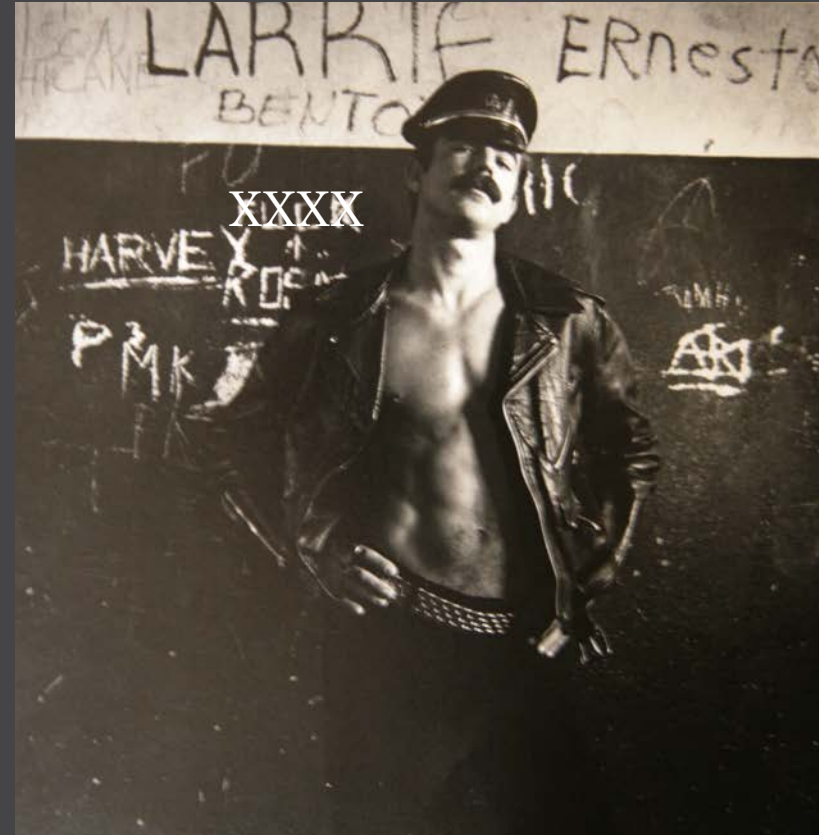
LGBTQ History on Polk Street

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The Cinch
(Credit: Shayne Watson)

LGBTQ History on Polk Street



South of Market leather scenes, c. 1970s

(Credit: GLBT Historical Society)

LGBTQ History in Mission-Valencia

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5. BABYLON BURNING
6. THE BLUE MUSE
7. CALA AIR TRAVEL
8. CENDILLON RESTAURANT
9. COMMUNITY THRIFT STORE
10. GARBO'S
11. SAMI GRAY, M.F.C.C.
12. KENPO KARATE SCHOOL
13. LA RAZA GRAPHICS
14. DR. SHERYL MANN, Chiropractor

15. MISSION CAMERA SHOP
16. MODERN TIMES BOOKSTORE
17. OLD WIVES TALES
18. OSENTO
19. PERRY'S ART SUPPLIES
20. LISA RATTÉ Counselor, for Women
21. SUE SAPERSTEIN, M.F.C.C.
22. S.E. AUTO WORKS
23. S.F. AIDS FOUNDATION
24. VALENCIA CYCLERY
25. WOMEN'S AIKIDO SCHOOL
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22 fillmore
33 ashbury
35 eureka

twain peaks

23rd st
22nd st
21st st
20th st
19th st
18th st

good vibrations
women's building
gifu #1
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THE WOMAN'S GUIDE TO VALENCIA STREET

AMELIA'S 1427 VALENCIA women's bar & disco 552-7788 4-2 mon-sun	FEMINIST LAW OFFICES 1181 VALENCIA jill lipgitt & judy boer attorneys candi owens legal worker 647-0836	GOOD VIBRATIONS 349 TWENTY SECOND ST women's vibrator store 282-2202 noon-6 tue-sat	OSENTO 1656 VALENCIA women's bath house 282-6333 11am-11pm
ARTEMIS SOCIETY 1599 VALENCIA women's cafe 821-0232 mon-sat 11am-11pm sun-brunch 11am-3pm reopen sun-6-11pm	GARBO'S 1415 VALENCIA women's hair salon 621-3600 mon-sat 10am-6pm evenings by appt	OLD WIVES TALES 1009 VALENCIA women's bookstore noon-7 mon fri 10am-6 sat thurs noon-9	WOMEN'S BUILDING 14-15 18th st 863-5255

Maps of women's businesses in Mission-Valencia, c. 1980s

(Credit: San Francisco Public Library)

Presenters and Sources

Shayne Watson | shayne.e.watson@gmail.com

Shayne is an architectural historian with 13 years of experience in the field of historic preservation. Her architectural documentation projects include historic structure reports, historic context statements, National Register nominations, determinations of eligibility, and historic landscape reports. Her preservation planning experience includes citywide historic resource surveys, cultural resources master plans, and compliance projects driven by CEQA and NHPA regulations.

Ms. Watson specializes in LGBTQ heritage preservation. From 2013 to 2016, she served as co-author and co-director (with Donna Graves) for the Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco—the most comprehensive research yet conducted on LGBTQ historic sites in an American city. In 2014, she was one of 16 scholars invited to participate in the National Park Service’s LGBTQ Heritage Initiative Roundtable in Washington, DC. As part of that initiative, Ms. Watson co-authored (with Graves) the San Francisco chapter of the National Park Service’s LGBTQ Theme Study—the first LGBTQ history project in the world to be commissioned by a federal government.

Cade Hobbick | cadehobbick@gmail.com

Cade is a planner at the engineering and planning firm, STV Incorporated, in New York. Cade has over 20 years of technical and project management experience for federal, state (New York and California), and New York City environmental reviews. As an “environmental planner” in the private sector, Cade routinely works with multi-disciplinary teams of engineers, scientists, architects, and cultural historians. Cade has led the environmental review of various coastal resiliency, urban redevelopment, and rail projects throughout the Northeast and California. He has also worked in the public sector as a community planner, responsible for comprehensive plan development and implementation and strategic economic development planning.

Cade has a graduate degree in urban planning and undergraduate degrees in architecture and environmental studies from the University of Kansas, Lawrence. He is a former Chair of the Gays and Lesbians in Planning Division.

Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in SF
sf-planning.org/lgbt-historic-context-statement

National Park Service LGBTQ Heritage Initiative
www.nps.gov/history/heritageinitiatives/LGBThistory/