

## HFC BRAILLE PUBLICATION GUIDE • AUGUST 2016

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The Publications Office at Harpers Ferry Center for Media Services (HFC) provides braille transcriptions for new Unigridd brochures developed since 2010. (Unigridds are the official park brochures given to visitors.) Upon delivery of a new park brochure, HFC provides parks with 30 braille booklets within about six months. Visitors who use braille should be given a copy to take with them.

If changes are made when the Unigridd brochure is reprinted by HFC, parks should consider updating the braille version too. If it is important to make changes to the print version, it is important to ensure access to the same information for visitors who read braille. Parks are also encouraged to transcribe other park-produced publications. These guidelines will help with the process.

The guidelines include the basics of braille transcription, editing hints, format suggestions, cost guidance, sources for transcription and embossing services, and a sample cover, transcription-ready manuscript, and a sample page of interline transcription (shows braille cells).

Use these guidelines to produce a quality product that meets braille transcription standards, NPS Graphic Identity standards, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and NPS Director's Order 42: Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in National Park Service Programs and Services (November 2000).

If you have questions, contact us:

Betsy Ehrlich  
Designer, Publications Office, HFC  
304-535-6200  
Betsy\_Ehrlich@nps.gov

Michele Hartley  
HFC Media Accessibility Coordinator  
304-535-6083  
Michele\_Hartley@nps.gov

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## ABOUT BRAILLE AND TRANSCRIPTION

Harpers Ferry Center follows the standards of the Braille Authority of North America (BANA), [www.brailleauthority.org](http://www.brailleauthority.org). Among the publications they offer, you can download a pdf of The Rules of Unified English Braille, American Edition ([www.brailleauthority.org](http://www.brailleauthority.org)). Page one offers this information:

Braille is a tactile method of reading and writing for people who are blind, developed by Louis Braille (1809–1852), a blind Frenchman. The braille system uses six raised dots in a systematic arrangement with two columns of three dots, known as a braille cell. By convention, the dots in the left column are numbered 1, 2 and 3 from top to bottom and the dots in the right column are numbered 4, 5 and 6 from top to bottom... The six dots of the braille cell are configured in 64 possible combinations (including the space which has no dots present). The 63 braille characters with dots are grouped in a table of seven lines.

### Terminology

- **Braille Ready File (BRF):** A digital file format used to produce an embossed braille document or convert braille to audio text. Post the BRF file on your park website. People with braille embossers can download the file and print their own embossed braille booklet, or use it on a refreshable braille display. Also, use the file to order more copies of the embossed braille edition. Without special software, you will not be able to open a brf file.
- **Brailleing:** Using braille to produce printed works in a system readable by people with visual impairments.
- **Cell:** quadrangular letter with positions for six dots numbered 1, 2, 3, downward on the left, and 4, 5, 6, downward on the right. The active dots are raised.
- **Complex transcription:** This type of transcription requires skill to accurately describe or recreate information presented in charts, tables, timelines, or other similarly complex information. Transcription houses can provide this service. You might find it more economical to first edit the information into a list, columns, or paragraphs.
- **Contracted and uncontracted braille transcription:** Contracted braille (formerly known as Grade 2) has cells for letter combinations like “the,” “and,” and “ing,” and uses these contractions alone or as part of a word’s cell structure. Uncontracted braille does not use letter combinations. HFC uses contracted braille for English and uncontracted braille for Foreign languages.
- **Embosser:** Creates raised dots on a page to form braille characters. Whereas printers add ink to paper to make visible letters, an embosser creates tactile dots.
- **Interline:** An Adobe pdf showing the English content and the braille cells, line for line. An interline saves you time and money when reprinting or making minor changes because you can mark up this file instead of paying for a completely new transcription. You must request an interline in the scope of work.

- **Interpoint:** A braille document embossed on both sides of a leaf. Interpoint works well if the final booklet is more than 16 pages, and thus eight or more leaves. Specify single page embossing if the final booklet is less than 16 pages (less than 8 leaves) because a booklet this small is easily damaged. You must request interpoint or single space embossing in the scope of work (see page 15).
- **Leaf/leaves:** Sheet of paper bound in a book; each side is one page.
- **Simple transcription:** This type of transcription is mostly word for word with little additional text. A Unigridd braille booklet is a simple transcription. You can also use simple transcription for other types of written material and audio files.
- **Transcriber:** Braille transcribers work with text files, audio files, and printed documents to determine how to accurately present the information in braille. Transcribers are certified by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

## PREPARE FOR A TRANSCRIPTION

### Prepare the text file for the transcriber

The objective of a braille transcription is to present the same information to a braille reader that other visitors get from the printed Unigridd brochure. However, before sending the project to the braille contractor, we edit visual references and adjust order and flow to improve the braille reading experience.

#### Edit visual references

Find and edit visual references in the text and captions, and add identifying information for photographs and illustrations. It can be helpful to read the brochure's text file without looking at the printed brochure.

Braille readers need to know what kind of image you are referencing. Refer to a photograph as "picture" or "pictured," refer to a drawing or painting as "illustration" or "illustrated," refer to a map as "map."

#### Examples of visual references that need editing:

- Text connects information to an illustration or map:  
 . . . monument moved to where it is now.  
 Edit for braille by providing the location information:  
 . . . monument moved to the traffic circle as you approach the visitor center.
- Text refers to images:  
 In this part of the park are brown/grizzly bears (shown above), moose, caribou (photo at right), sea lions, seals, . . .  
 Edit for braille by replacing directions to photographs with "picture, pictured, illustration, or illustrated" carefully located in the sentence next to the subject of the image:  
 In this part of the park are brown/grizzly bears (pictured), moose, caribou (pictured), sea lions, seals, . . .
- Caption assumes reader can see the image:  
 Patriotic envelopes like these were issued after the battles.  
 Edit for braille by identifying the type of image and describing the detail:  
 Picture: Patriotic envelopes with printed flags and cannon were issued after the battles.

#### Examples of visual references that may require additional text:

- Add identifying text for images not captioned.
- Always identify the type of image at the start of the caption: "Picture" or "Illustration," etc.  
 Picture: Delaware River and Arrow Island  
 Illustration: Interior of a hogan
- Text that relies on an image for understanding may need additional language:  
 Picture: Running Aniakchak River rapids. [original caption]  
 Picture: People running Aniakchak River rapids in a rubber raft.
- Map or diagram contains information important to the story that is not in the main text:  
 Edit for braille by identifying the map or diagram and then adding a caption or note:  
 Diagram: April 7, 1862 Union movements and Confederate retreat.  
 If available, insert text from map. (See also "Maps and Diagrams" below.)

- Sidebar or other secondary material is identified by a visual treatment like an inset, color background, outline, or different font.  
Edit for braille by identifying the secondary material:  
    Sidebar: [Follow with the title and text copy]  
    Box inside map: [Follow with the title and text copy]
- Chronology: Add at the beginning “A chronology follows.”
- Numbered tour guide: Add at the beginning “Numbered tour stops follow.”
- List: Add the text “List Follows”

### **Edit text flow**

Chronology and content are more important than visual hierarchy in terms of order and flow. For example, a caption may be inserted into the flow of the narrative text, which may require some editing to eliminate redundancy.

### **Alert the reader to visitor information**

Visitor information about safety, regulations, and programs is generally at the end of the printed brochure. To make it easier for a visitor to go directly to this information, HFC inserts a sentence at the start of the transcription giving the booklet’s page number where this information will be:

To plan your visit to [the site] begin on page 00.

HFC instructs the transcription house about identifying this section. See the sample transcription-ready manuscript.

### **Position captions**

Place captions within or among text sections most relevant to the image.

### **Adjust visitor information hierarchy**

In the “Planning Your Visit” section, flow of information may need to be made more logical for a braille reader. For example, the accessibility statement should be in a logical place for the braille reader regardless of how it is placed in original text. In many cases, it is moved up in the hierarchy. This is the recommended flow:

- Visitor Center(s) - general planning
- Accessibility
- Activities [introduction]
- Safety
- Activities [specific]
- Services/Accommodations
- Directions
- More Information

### **Emergencies**

To emphasize importance, NPS style is to set this information flush left.

### **Delete credit lines**

You do not need to include credits for images because the images are not being reproduced. However, if an artist is identified in the caption, keep that in the transcription.

**Simplify text styles**

The braille reader cannot see font styles such as italics, bold face, and all caps that often indicate emphasis or hierarchy in the text. In braille, emphasis does not serve the purpose of drawing the reader's attention. For the most part, it represents clutter so we simplify by using emphasis sparingly. Transcribers will use line spaces and indents to create order and hierarchy. Limit headers to four levels (see Transcription-ready Manuscript).

**Bold Lead-in titles**

For paragraphs starting with bold introductory text followed by an en space, add a colon. For example, if original text is:

**By Road** The main park entrance....

Change it to **By Road:** The main park entrance....

These will then show up in braille with first line indent, rest flush left

**Avoid these styles**

- Italics except for ship names, publication titles, and direct quotations.
- Bold. Change to roman or consider all caps. braille transcription has no symbol to indicate bold so the transcription house will indicate italics. This adds information the reader doesn't need.
- Double styles such as bold italic.
- All caps.

**Prepare lists with indents**

Titles of lists should be flush left. Indent list contents to the third cell position, alerting braille readers that the text is part of a list. If a list spans several transcription pages, you do not need to add "continued" at the end of each page or repeat the list title at the start of each page. The indent is enough for the braille reader to follow.

**Bulleted lists** (such as often appear in the safety or regulations section)

Keep the bullets, but begin all bullets on the left margin, adding a bullet to the first item if it doesn't already have one. The transcriber will add a character that represents a bullet and indent lines after the first line of each entry.

**Edit Complex Timelines**

Combine timelines that are presented separately (for example, national events in one timeline, and local events in another). In this example, one of the two categories (national or local) are indented, and a note is added at the beginning alerting the braille reader what the indent means. In some cases, a two-column timeline may be necessary, but is a second choice. A note to the transcriber may also be helpful to alert them to the style preference and intention.

**Edit tables and charts**

Instead of creating a chart or table in braille, edit to a list, paragraph, or columns. To create a tactile chart or table discuss in advance with the transcription house because it is considered a complex transcription and is not included in the standard scope of work.

Keep in mind:

- Not all transcription houses can recreate a chart or table.
- A chart or table is recreated using raised lines with sufficient spacing to place the braille cells in the correct spaces. Each chart or table requires at least one page, which increases booklet size and may give the information more importance than necessary—or may require spreading the information across pages, which increases reading difficulty.

- If a chart or table includes symbols or pictographs, provide a symbol key on the preceding page.

### **Convert maps and diagrams** (tactile graphics)

Before creating a map or diagram as a tactile graphic, discuss it in advance with the transcription house. Tactile graphics are considered a complex transcription and may not be available from all transcription houses. The majority of HFC's braille booklets are simple transcriptions and do not contain tactile graphics, maps, or diagrams.

## **DESIGN THE PUBLICATION**

### **Cover Page**

HFC's format for the cover has the park name in braille and other information printed in ink so anyone can identify the publication. See sample on page 16.

The information below corresponds to the sample and template.

- Format: 8.5 x 11" with black comb binding, which allows the booklet to lay flat.
- Cover layout uses NPS Graphic Identity standards, including font sizes and styles.
- Most information is ink-printed in black
- Front cover:
  - Top heading:
    - Between the black bars show the park name, location, NPS and USDOl spelled out, and the NPS arrowhead.
    - Below the second bar indicate the original publication being transcribed: "A 2016 braille transcription of the Unigrd brochure CODE 2016 [imprint number] edition."
  - Center: Park name is repeated in embossed braille
  - Bottom material:
    - Between the black bars show the publisher (your park name and address), and the type of braille publication: "This edition is a Unified English Braille transcription."

### **Use the front cover template**

The template is for National Park Service publications. You will need:

- Adobe CS4 or newer, including Acrobat Pro.
- The latest NPS official fonts ([www.nps.gov/hfc/services/identity/](http://www.nps.gov/hfc/services/identity/)), which are available only to employees of the National Park Service.
- Download the template from the HFC website at [www.nps.gov/hfc/accessibility/brailleGuide.cfm](http://www.nps.gov/hfc/accessibility/brailleGuide.cfm)

## Second Page Title Information

Regardless of how the titles are presented in the black band (a-format is generally different from b-format) use the following style for the braille second page:

Full Park Name [set on one line if possible, no line break]  
State Name

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Published by National Park Service  
Harpers Ferry Center, Publications  
PO Box 50, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

Visitor Information Brochure  
CODE year-[GPO imprint number]

This edition is a Unified English Braille transcription.

## CONTRACT FOR A BRAILLE TRANSCRIPTION

Parks are not required to go through the Government Printing Office (GPO) for braille services. If you do, you may be able to use a term contract that HFC has established through GPO for braille Transcription and Duplication Services. Your contracting officer should be able to arrange this or may recommend working with GPO on a spot bid for transcription and duplication services. The information in this section applies whether you go through GPO or not.

### Scope of Work

#### Tasks to include

- Create a Unified English Braille transcription from the government-supplied digital file and/or manuscript defined as straightforward textural matter.
- Ink-print cover from supplied pdf file adding braille embossed park title.
- Proofread transcription.
- Deliver one “prior-to-production” interline pdf for review and approval before embossing the production copies.
- Bind with black comb on left vertical edge.
- Deliver one advance production braille booklet for approval to ship.
- Ship the bulk order to the park. The contractor can use the US Postal Service’s “free matter for the blind” service if no package tracking is required.
- Upon completion return government-furnished materials and the final BRF (Braille Ready File, needed for reprints and for posting on your park website) of the work suitable for embossing additional copies and one final interline pdf (needed to mark changes for reprints). The digital deliverables must be an exact representation of the final embossed product.

### Production Specifications

- Quantity: HFC recommends a minimum of 32 copies (30 copies for public use, plus two copies for your files).
- Trim Size: 8.5 x 11".
- Number of Pages: 1 ink-printed cover, with embossed title; 1 blank back cover; 1 transcribed title page leaf plus and estimated number of interpoint embossed pages.
- Single page or interpoint embossing.
- Government-furnished material: digital manuscript, a pdf file for the cover, and for reference only—one copy of printed brochure. It is also helpful to send a printout of digital manuscript and ink-printed cover file.
- Paper Stock: Most transcription houses have a house stock that meets these requirements: 90 or 100 lb. white book or index, 25.5 x 30.5", equal to JCP K10. Avoid recycled content. (Recycled stock has strength issues and impurities that may cause the cell structure to be weak or incomplete when embossed.)

### Develop an Independent Government Estimate (IGE)

Estimate the number of pages of the finished product. If you are starting with a single-spaced manuscript, multiply the number of manuscript pages x 3.5. Add front cover, back cover, and title page.

Example:

8-page manuscript x 3.5 = 28 + two covers + 1 title page = **31 pages**

Add a couple more pages if the manuscript has lists or chronologies.

Costs include transcription, "prior-to-production" interline PDF, embossing, printing, binding, packaging, and shipping. If you go through GPO, add the 8% surcharge and \$7.50 processing fee. Booklets mailed using the USPS "free matter for the blind" service are shipped at no cost. If tracking is required, the contractor will have to ship using another method. Any other shipping costs (e.g. delivering proofs, returning materials) should be paid by the transcription house.

### Review and Approve

#### Contract submittals

Once you have sent your files to the transcription house, you can expect the following:

- One "prior-to-production" interline PDF to review and approve for production.
- An "advance" copy to review and approve prior to shipment.
- Braille booklets.
- Government-furnished materials and the final digital BRF and interline pdf files.

#### Review the transcription

The transcription house is responsible for proofreading the entire document, but you need to ensure key elements are transcribed properly—see list below. You can ask someone who is experienced in braille to provide this service or you can check the items yourself. It's relatively easy if you know what to look for and use the charts in the BANA guide mentioned on page 5.

- Title  
usually centered
- Visitor information section  
find the page number provided on page one,  
find the page where the information should be
- Headers  
usually separated from body text by line space above and below  
usually centered

- Lists  
header should be flush left  
items indented to third cell
- Page numbers  
on the right-hand pages only, in the upper right  
look for the cell that means “page number”  
then check the number

### **Review the invoice**

- GPO surcharges: If ordered through a spot bid, GPO adds 8% and a \$7.50 processing fee to the contractor’s cost. That is the amount that you should approve for payment.
- GPO extra copies: Review your invoice carefully to ensure GPO does not charge you for the extra copies it provides to the Library of Congress and depository libraries. If you notice these costs on your bill, contact GPO.
- Transcription house: If you order directly from them, they will bill only for their services and product.

## **POST THE TRANSCRIPTION TO THE WEB**

Post the BRF file on your park website. People with braille embossers can download the file and print their own embossed braille booklet, or use it on a refreshable braille display.

## **ORDER REPRINTS AND MAKE MINOR CHANGES**

For reprints without changes, send the BRF file to the contractor. For reprints with minor changes, send the BRF file and the interline pdf marked with the changes (including revision date).

### **Transcription And Embossing Services**

There are a handful of braille transcription houses in the country. The Library of Congress uses the first four listed here. HFC’s current contract is with GH.IIc.

American Printing House for the Blind  
Louisville, Kentucky  
(502) 895-2405  
[www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org)

Associated Services for the Blind  
Philadelphia, PA  
215-627-0600  
[www.asb.org](http://www.asb.org)

Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
Cincinnati, OH  
513-728-6259  
[www.clovernook.org](http://www.clovernook.org)

National Braille Press  
Boston, MA  
888-965-8965  
[www.nbp.org](http://www.nbp.org)

GH.IIc  
Lafayette, Indiana  
(765) 775-3776  
<http://www.gh-accessibility.com>

## SAMPLES

### Scope Of Work

The Contractor shall create a Unified English Braille transcription from the digital manuscript defined as straightforward textural matter, however some of the text is in the Nez Perce language. The transcription shall follow the BANA Provisional Guidance for Transcribing Foreign Language Material in UEB. The contractor shall include an Interline PDF for review and approval before embossing the production copies. The contractor shall deliver three (3) Advance braille booklets for approval before shipping the remainder, meeting the following requirements and terms of the 880-S *Braille Transcription and Duplication Services* contract.

TITLE	Big Hole	
QUANTITY	256 production copies (see delivery destinations)	
PAGES	1 ink-printed cover with embossed title, 1 blank back cover, 1 embossed first leaf plus an <u>estimated</u> 16 interpoint leaves per booklet (19 pages total)	
SCHEDULE	Furnished material available by 7/15/2016 Interline PDF delivered by 8/8/2016 After approval of the Interline, Advance copies delivered by 9/19/2016 After approval of the Advance, ship balance not later than 10/6/2016	
MATERIALS	Government furnished material: CD with Digital manuscript, and a pdf for the ink-printed cover. For reference: one copy of printed brochure, printout of digital manuscript, and printout of ink-printed cover I.	
	Upon completion, contractor shall return a BRF digital file of the work suitable for embossing additional copies in later years and the Interline pdf file. These digital deliverables must be an exact representation of the final embossed product.	
PROOFS	One (1) Interline PDF file shall be delivered to: first_last@nps.gov	
DELIVERY DESTINATIONS		
Ship <b>1</b> advance copy to:	Your National Park 123 Street Name Town, State 12345 Attn: First Lastname, Phone: 123-456-7891	Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) Document Warehouse 8660 Cherry Lane Laurel, MD 20707-4986 Marked: Depository Copies Item No. 0806-A-23
Ship <b>30</b> copies to:	Your National Park 123 Street Name Town, State 12345 Attn: First Lastname, Phone: 123-456-7891	Ship (do not mail) <b>15</b> copies to: Library of Congress US / Anglo Division U.S. Government Documents Section 101 Independence Ave., SE Washington, DC 20540-4274 Marked: Depository File Copies
Ship <b>00</b> copies to:	U.S. Government Printing Office	

## Braille Booklet Cover

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# Big Hole

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Big Hole National Battlefield  
Montana

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A 2016 braille transcription of the Unigrd brochure BIHO 2015 393-466/30660 edition

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This edition is a Unified English Braille  
transcription.

Published by National Park Service  
Harpers Ferry Center, Publications  
PO Box 50, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

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## **Transcription-Ready Manuscript**

**Specifications are in red.**

**For Ink-printed Cover: Use layout provided as a PDF-X3 file**

**Transcribe and emboss on the ink-printed cover, below the second horizontal rule the following title:**

### **San Francisco Maritime**

**Transcribe and Emboss these 10 lines on the second leaf of the booklet**

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park  
California

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Published by National Park Service  
Harpers Ferry Center, Publications  
PO Box 50, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

Visitor Information Brochure  
SAFR 2014-383-644/30325

This edition is a Unified English Braille transcription.

Beginning on the 3<sup>rd</sup> leaf of booklet, transcribe and interpoint emboss from this point forward.

Words shown in purple are editorial changes made for clarification, logical flow, and graphic references. Drawings and paintings are identified as illustration or illustrated. Photographs and scans are identified as picture or pictured. Treat purple words as regular text; the color is not relevant to the transcription.

To plan your visit to San Francisco Maritime begin on page 00.

Transcriber, please add the braille page number here that begins where your transcription text begins PLANNING YOUR VISIT. This text begins on page 5 of this manuscript. Thanks.

At San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park you will experience the sights, sounds, and textures of the city's seafaring past. You will get to know what life was like for the people who made their living at sea. From the wooden decks of *Balclutha*, a square-rigger that rounded Cape Horn 17 times, duck into the cramped cabins where sailors sheltered during months at sea. In the hold of the coastal schooner *C.A. Thayer* walk along the curving sides where freshly cleaned fish, layered with salt, were stacked to the ceiling.

Along Hyde Street Pier, park staff and volunteers mend lines, varnish brightwork, and tend puffing steam engines. Rangers lead a variety of programs, even high aloft in *Balclutha's* rigging. The Age of Sail environmental living program bunks school children overnight on historic vessels. At the small-boat shop craftspeople shape and bend on steam-softened planks to repair historic boats and build replicas.

In the visitor center, exhibits and hands-on activities tell you about the Gold Rush, shipwrecks, communications at sea, and more. An interactive exhibit shows New York–San Francisco ocean routes. The spectacular lens from the Farallon lighthouse introduces the West Coast navigation story. The Aquatic Park Bathhouse building, designed in Streamline Moderne style, has Federal Arts Project murals from the 1930s. African American artist Sargent Johnson carved the stone facade.

If you're interested in pursuing maritime history in detail, Landmark Building E houses collections of artifacts, documents, vessel plans, photographs, motion picture film, books, periodicals, and oral histories.

**Pictures:** full-rigged ship *Balclutha* at Hyde Street Pier; the Aquatic Park Lagoon viewed from the park's Municipal Pier; historic vessels – *Eureka*, *Balclutha*, *Eppleton Hall*, and *C.A. Thayer* – moored at Hyde Street Pier; park ranger with visitors onboard the *Balclutha*; historic engine plate; restored figurehead from the ship Centennial.

## Header 1 San Francisco and the Sea

While native peoples paddled the bay in reed canoes, European explorers charted the coastline. In 1776 the Spanish settled at the site of present-day San Francisco. Soon afterward ships came in search of seal and sea otter furs. In the 1820s whalers arrived, and Boston merchant ships began trading for California cowhides.

In 1849, after the discovery of gold in the Sierra Nevada foot-hills, the world rushed in. That year over 750 ships arrived in San Francisco. Some fortune-seekers came on sleek, American-built clipper ships, but most sailed in on just about anything that could float. They often abandoned their vessels in the shallows. (Remains of such vessels lie today beneath the city's financial

district.) “It is a city of ships, piers, and tides,” wrote Chilean journalist Benjamin Vicuña MacKenna in 1852. “Large ships with railings a good distance from the beach served as residences, stores, and restaurants . . . .”

The Gold Rush brought merchants, laborers, and craftspeople from around the world. By the 1870s California’s burgeoning grain trade lured big European sailing ships like *Balclutha*. Fleets of schooners like *C.A. Thayer* arrived with Douglas fir from Puget Sound. Flat-bottomed scow schooners like *Alma* sailed up the Delta into California’s Central Valley. They delivered plows and seed, sewing machines and cloth, coal and oil. And they returned stacked with jute bags of hard white wheat, well suited for long-distance shipping. On San Francisco’s docks the bags were hand-loaded into the holds of sailing ships bound for Europe.

After the grain trade diminished and railroads reached the lumber mills and valleys, many sailing vessels were abandoned or scrapped. The lucky ones were refitted for other careers. *Balclutha* and *C.A. Thayer* went on to supply Alaska fisheries in the late 1800s and early 1900s. American intercoastal steamer traffic exploded after the Panama Canal opened in 1914. West Coast shipyards opened to meet the demands of World Wars I and II.

For a time, a dazzling array of vessels crowded the San Francisco waterfront: great sailing ships, coastal passenger steamers, military craft, and local working boats. One by one, these ships became obsolete but nonetheless treasured for their beauty and for the stories they told. In 1988 Congress established San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park to protect and preserve America’s maritime past.

### Header 1 Historic Vessels of Hyde Street Pier

Hyde Street Pier was built in 1922 for automobile ferries between San Francisco and Sausalito. The ferry route was part of US 101 until the Golden Gate Bridge opened in 1937.

Today the pier and a number of the historic vessels moored here are open to visitors—giving a taste of the sailor’s life. Five vessels—*Alma*, *Balclutha*, *Eureka*, *Hercules*, and *C.A. Thayer*—are designated National Historic Landmarks. The pier also has a variety of maritime structures and exhibits. Welcome aboard!

### Header 2 *Alma* (pictured)

The last San Francisco Bay scow schooner still afloat, *Alma* is the park’s sailing ambassador, welcomed by port cities around the bay. This 59 foot scow schooner was built in San Francisco in 1891. Flat-bottomed scows like this carried bulk cargoes—hay, grain, and fertilizer—between Delta farm communities and San Francisco.

### Header 2 *Balclutha* (pictured)

Walk up this ship’s gangway and back into the 1800s. This 256 foot square-rigger was built in Glasgow, Scotland in 1886 to haul California wheat to Europe. Crew lived on board for months at a time during the treacherous voyage around Cape Horn. Compare the sailors’ bunks in the forecandle to the Captain’s quarters aft. Like the rest of the park’s fleet, *Balclutha* survived because it kept working after other vessels of its class were scuttled.

### Header 2 *C.A. Thayer* (pictured)

This three-masted schooner is representative of hundreds that sailed the Pacific Coast. The 156 foot *C.A. Thayer* was built in Fairhaven, CA in 1895. In Puget Sound ports eight-man crews

piled the deck high with Douglas fir, the raw material for California's cities in the early 1900s. *Thayer* later carried small boats and fishing crews to Alaska for salmon and cod.

### Header 2 *Eppleton Hall* (pictured)

This sturdy little (100.5 foot) steel tugboat from England crossed the Atlantic under its own power in 1969. Built in 1914 in South Shields, England, "*Eppie*" recalls the earliest days of steam navigation on the bay.

### Header 2 *Eureka* (pictured)

*Eureka* (originally called *Ukiah*) was built in 1890 in Tiburon, CA to ferry trains across the bay. This 299.5 foot side-wheel ferry was refitted in 1922 to serve passengers and automobiles. Don't miss the classic autos and trucks displayed on the lower deck.

### Header 2 *Hercules* (pictured)

Imagine a slow trip down the coast, towing a huge log raft and fishing off the stern for your dinner. This 139 foot steam-powered tug boat was built in Camden, NJ in 1907. A workhorse, *Hercules* towed big ships out to sea, pushed railroad car barges across the bay, and towed huge lock structures to build the Panama Canal.

### Header 2 *Small Craft*

The park's boat shop restores these often unheralded, everyday craft used for work and pleasure on the bay: feluccas, Montereys, and yachts.

**Pictures:** Small craft moored on the east side of Hyde Street Pier; Salmon crew on board *Star of Alaska*, ca. 1920s.

**Illustration:** steamship brochure, 1880s.

## Header 1 Library and Collections

Artifacts, scrapbooks, sailors' crafts, and shipboard machinery—all tell stories about the men and women who created and used them. Read a sailor's personal journal. Listen to sea chanteys (songs), or an oral history describing a 1906 voyage on the park's lumber schooner *C.A. Thayer*.

If you are interested in maritime history, the park's museum collection and Maritime Library (pictured) are the nation's premier resource for understanding the maritime heritage of the Pacific Coast.

The park's extensive collection of artifacts, books, oral histories, photographs, vessel plans, documents, and other archival materials is located in Building E at Fort Mason Center and is available to the public. The library is open by appointment 1 pm to 4 pm Monday through Friday, and on the third Saturday of each month. Call 415-561-7030 to schedule an appointment. More on the park's collection and library can be found at [www.nps.gov/safr/historyculture/collections.htm](http://www.nps.gov/safr/historyculture/collections.htm).

## Header 1 Planning Your Visit

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park is served by public transit: call 415-673-MUNI (6864) or visit [www.sfmuni.com](http://www.sfmuni.com). Paid parking is nearby. The park is open daily, year-round. The visitor center, pier, and museum are closed Thanksgiving, December 25, and January 1.

Map: San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.

## Header 2 Visitor Center

Located in a historic brick warehouse, home of the Argonaut Hotel, the visitor center offers orientation information to help you plan your visit. The visitor center's exhibits (pictured) and artifacts tell stories of seafarers on the West Coast. Visitor center exhibits include this Farallon lighthouse lens and scrimshawed whale's tooth (both pictured). "The Waterfront" exhibit takes you back in time along old San Francisco's working waterfront. Park rangers lead programs for visitors of all ages. Open 9:30 am to 5 pm daily; check for seasonal hours. No admission fee. 415-447-5000.

Picture: park ranger with school children aboard *Balclutha*.

## Header 2 Accessibility

We strive to make our facilities, programs, and services accessible to all. For information, check at the visitor center, ask a ranger, call, or check our website.

## Header 2 Hyde Street Pier

The pier has historic steam and sailing vessels as well as other maritime exhibits and interpretive demonstrations. Admission fee to board vessels; no fee for pier.

## Header 2 Maritime Museum in the Aquatic Park Bathhouse Building

The museum has changing exhibits on West Coast maritime history. The bathhouse was built in 1939 as a joint project of the City of San Francisco and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Spectacular WPA murals cover the lobby walls. Open 10 am to 4 pm daily. There is no admission fee. 415-561-7100.

## Header 2 Aquatic Park Historic District (pictured)

Stroll through the gardens, along the waterfront, or out on Municipal Pier. Visit the Powell and Hyde Cable Car Turnaround. Enjoy one of the city's few urban beaches. Spot boats and birds in the bay—and even swimmers in the cove. The historic district includes walkways, gardens, a cable car turnaround, and the Streamline Moderne-style bathhouse building which was completed in 1939.

## Header 2 Firearms

For firearms regulations, please check the park website or ask at the visitor center.

## Header 2 More Information

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park  
Fort Mason Center, Building E  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
415-447-5000  
[www.nps.gov/safr](http://www.nps.gov/safr)

## Interline Page

