

**Angel Island State Park  
GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT  
for  
ANGEL ISLAND IMMIGRATION STATION**



**PRELIMINARY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW  
December 2005**

*California Department of Parks and Recreation*



## Declaration of Purpose

*“The purpose of Angel Island State Park is to provide for all people opportunities to enjoy forever the great scenic and natural values for this largest island in San Francisco Bay, replete with historic installations and associations, located in the midst of the San Francisco metropolitan area yet uniquely isolated by the waters of the Bay from the rush of modern transportation and pressures of modern civilization.*

*The function of the Division of Beaches and Parks at Angel Island State Park is: to preserve and protect the natural and historic values of Angel Island; to provide appropriate interpretive services and facilities; to defend the geographical isolation of the island, in order to preserve the unique experience for visitors which is dependent on such isolation; to provide appropriate recreational opportunities for visitors; and to provide such facilities for public service, consistent with the purpose of the park, as may be necessary for the full enjoyment of the park by the people.”*

The above Declaration of Purpose was approved by the (then) State Park Commission on May 16, 1963, and adopted by the (then) Chief of the Division of Beaches and Parks on the same day. This declaration remains in effect on this date, December 2005.

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### General Planning Information

If you would like information about the general planning process used by California State Parks, or have questions about specific general plans, please contact:

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Governor*

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## ANGEL ISLAND IMMIGRATION STATION GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT

### INTRODUCTION

The existing General Development Plan for Angel Island State Park (adopted May 5, 1978, and published in 1979) includes language that may restrict public use of historic buildings at the former Angel Island Immigration Station. This Amendment focuses on the historic significance of the Immigration Station and its remaining buildings, with emphasis on the Hospital Building. This Amendment clarifies the Department's intent for consideration of public access, rehabilitation, and appropriate adaptive uses of these historic buildings.

The Angel Island Immigration Station was listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1997. Many of the original buildings are still standing, including the Hospital Building, constructed in 1910.



*This image illustrates the view looking east over the cottages and Administration Building towards the Hospital. The west or principal elevation of the Hospital is the most imposing with a tripartite arrangement of narrower flanking pavilions alongside a central, more prominent core.*

*The photograph was published in the San Francisco Call Bulletin dated June 28, 1939, but dates to within the first years of the Immigration Station.*

## HISTORIC PERIOD

**The Primary Period of Significance is 1910 – 1940**, which represents the period when the U.S. Immigration Station on Angel Island was the main point of entry for thousands of immigrants. In its role as “Guardian of the Western Gate,” the Immigration Service enforced policies intended to regulate and exclude Pacific Rim immigrants from entering the country. Many were detained on the island for weeks or months in barracks, waiting for a decision on their status.

Rehabilitation and construction work at the Angel Island Immigration Station will personalize and humanize the complicated intersections of race, immigration, and our American identity – allowing us to explore contemporary issues of origins, diversity, culture, and class conflict with historical perspective.

**The Secondary Period of Significance is 1941 – 1946**, which represents the period when the site and buildings were transferred to the U.S. Army, which quickly adapted the site to temporarily detain prisoners of war and to house enlisted soldiers. During this period, the hospital was occupied as a barracks.

## HOSPITAL BUILDING

### History and Significance

The Hospital Building construction began in 1908, and the building officially opened in January 1910 as an integral part of the original Immigration Station. It served as the hospital for the station until 1940. From 1941 to 1946, it was occupied as a barracks.

The period of significance for the Hospital Building extends from 1910 to 1946.

### Existing Conditions

The Hospital Building is a two-story, wood-framed structure on a concrete foundation. It consists of four symmetrically placed wings extended from a central structure. The central core features two bay windows placed above a continuous one-story porch that contains the building's primary entrances. This building has experienced only minor alterations over time and retains most of its original features. As such, it is an excellent extant example of early twentieth-century hospital design and construction.

Although the building was partially repaired and mothballed in 1981, it is currently in poor condition because there has been significant and accelerating water intrusion. Areas of the building are in need of immediate shoring to prevent failure due to wood rot. The interior finishes of the building are in poor condition, although the interior rooms and overall features are still extant. The gross area of the building is approximately 10,630 sq. ft. (*first floor: 4,000 sq. ft. and second floor: 6,630 sq. ft.*).

### Proposed Treatment and Use

The Hospital will be rehabilitated and considered for adaptive use as a museum, interpretive center, library, assembly area, and for research and administrative functions.

### **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE 1979 GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The 1979 General Development Plan (GDP) did not fully recognize this building's historic significance and its interpretive importance in restoring the Angel Island Immigration Station. Due to the poor condition of the Hospital building, the 1979 plan called for preservation treatment and indicated that it would remain closed to public use. The plan also refers to other buildings that remain from the significant interpretive period. All are considered having interpretive importance to the primary and secondary interpretive periods and potential for future adaptive uses (see proposed revisions to the 1979 GDP on the following page).



*This image illustrates the view looking east towards the Hospital. Although the trees and shrubs are quite well established the current perception and views of the building starkly contrast with this view.*

*Photograph held in the Department of Photographic Archives, State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation. Photo is dated circa 1930.*

The following revisions are hereby incorporated in the 1979 General Development Plan (adopted 5/5/78) for Angel Island State Park:

### **1979 General Development Plan**

#### **Page 59: North Garrison Area, Interpretation:**

**DELETE:** One of the prime buildings of interpretive significance is the immigration station barracks (bldg. 317), scheduled for complete restoration. On completion, it will be used as a house museum. The other structure of prime value is bldg. 313, the horse barn/linen storage building. With exterior restoration and an adaptive interior treatment, it could have adaptive use potential.

Two buildings of secondary interpretive significance in the area (bldg. 233, the kitchen /mess hall, and bldg. 314 the heating plant) are in critical condition, and will be preserved. Both will remain closed to public use. Building 233 is considered for future use as a visitor center, providing visitor orientation and interpretive facilities. The central heating plant (bldg. 314) is considered for future interpretive programs and restoration

The three buildings of tertiary interpretive significance, barracks (bldg's. 241 and 242) and the hospital (bldg. 316) will receive preservation treatment, and will remain closed to public use.

#### **INSERT:**

##### **Primary Period of Significance:**

The Detention Barracks (bldg 317), constructed in 1910, is the most significant structure remaining at the Immigration Station, containing not just the physical representation of the detention process, but also the story of the immigration experience told through the poetry carved on its walls. The period of significance of the Detention Barracks is from 1910 to 1946 and includes both the Immigration Station era and the World War II military period. The Detention Barracks will be preserved as a historic house museum. The entire building will be used for interpretation.

The Hospital (bldg. 316), the Power House (heating plant, bldg. 314), and the Mule Barn (horse barn/linen storage bldg.313) also belong to the primary period of significance. The Hospital will be rehabilitated and considered for use as a house museum, interpretive center, library, assembly area, and for research and administrative functions. The role that the Hospital Building played in the immigrant experience, the rarity of having an intact hospital of this age, and the fact that some detainee writings survive on the walls of the Hospital all make it rise to a high level of importance.

The Power House (central heating plant, bldg. 314) served as the steam plant for the facility. This building retains most of its original features and is considered for rehabilitation and potential use as a visitor contact station, visitor services, orientation, and interpretation.

The Mule Barn will be used for orientation and interpretation, for visitors approaching from the Perimeter Road.

**Secondary Period of Significance:**

The P.O.W. Kitchen/Mess Hall (bldg. 233) was built by the Army in 1941 to accommodate prisoners of war who were processed on the island. It will be rehabilitated and considered for a mixture of uses including an assembly area, visitor services, and food service.

The North and South Barracks (bldg's. 241 and 242) were built in 1942 to house soldiers. They will be rehabilitated for dormitory-style overnight stays, mainly for groups such as schools.

The Pump House served as a utility outbuilding and then a storehouse. It will be preserved for interpretive purposes.

Cottages: No longer standing, 12 cottages originally housed Immigration Station employees. Their footprints will be used to interpret the experiences of staff at the site.

Guard Tower: There were several towers; the base and lower portions of one tower remain. It will be preserved for interpretation.

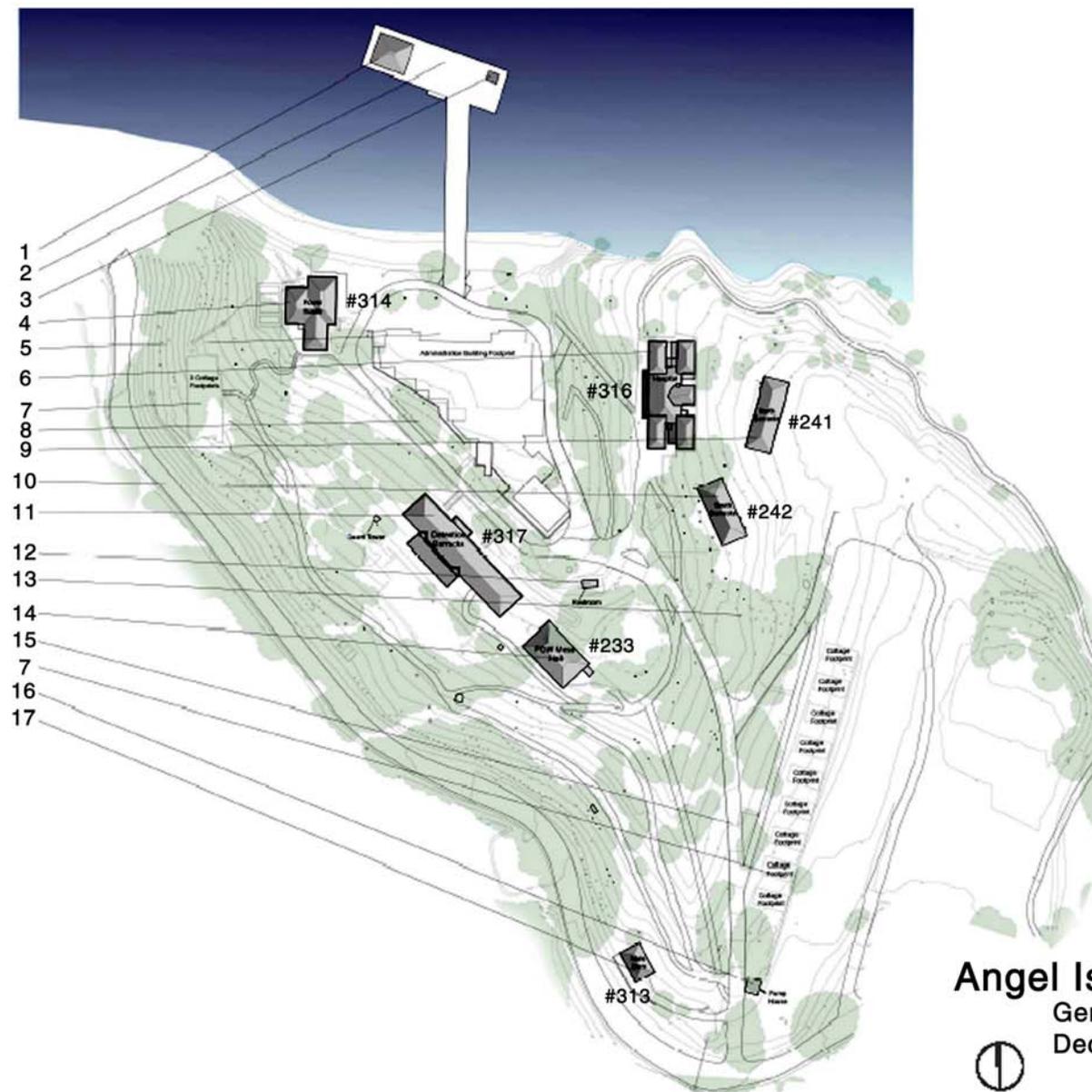
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# Illustrative Plan

## Key

1. Reconstruct Baggage Shed
2. Construct New Wharf
3. Relocate Fog bell and stand
4. Rehabilitate Power House: interpretation, visitor services, and orientation
5. Reveal Administration Building Footprint
6. Rehabilitate Hospital: interpretive, assembly, administrative, visitor services
7. Reveal Cottage foundations
8. Reestablish fog lamp garden
9. Rehabilitate North Barracks: overnight stay
10. Rehabilitate South Barracks: overnight stay
11. Preserve Detention Barracks: interpretation
12. Construct New Restroom
13. Preserve Eucalyptus Grove
14. Rehabilitate POW Mess Hall: assembly, visitor services
15. Maintain North Garrison Barracks Road
16. Preserve Pump House: interpretation
17. Rehabilitate Mule Barn: interpretation & orientation

**Angel Island Immigration Station**  
 General Development Plan Amendment  
 December 2005



## **Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration**

An Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Angel Island State Park Hospital Building Rehabilitation Project at Angel Island State Park, Marin County, California. This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code (PRC) §21000 *et seq.*, and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) §15000 *et seq.*

To obtain copies of this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, requests should be submitted to:

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