




# WEST OAKLAND & PRESCOTT



DATE OF AERIAL PHOTO: 2002

NORTH 0 600' SCALE

## KEY

-  OAKLAND BAY TRAIL
-  YOU ARE HERE
-  LOCATIONS OF HISTORICAL MARKERS
-  WAYFINDING SIGN
-  AREAS OF INTEREST



Funding assistance provided by:



For more information on the history of Oakland's waterfront, visit the Oakland Main Library History Room and the Oakland Museum of California.

## Oakland Point



Prescott Elementary 1916.

Originally known as Oakland Point, for the westward bulge of the shoreline, this area was later called Prescott after the school. It developed from 1869 in tandem with the trans-continental railroad. The Central Pacific/Southern Pacific yards and shops below Seventh Street were the regions biggest employer and in turn attracted factories, mills, foundries, and canneries. By the turn of the 20th century, the streets of West Oakland were lined with workers' cottages and gracious houses in a variety of Victorian styles.

The area was also one of the most ethnically diverse in Oakland, replete with German, Irish, Italian, Slavic, Scandinavian, and Latino families, as well as the City's most historic African-American community, centered around the Pullman Porters of Prescott.

The 1872 Shorey House, one of the oldest in West Oakland, is located across Eighth Street. William Shorey, an African American sea captain and civic leader, lived here with his family.



Shorey House, photo c. 1912.

## Bertha Port Park

Philip Joseph Port, a longtime resident of West Oakland, gave the land for this park as a memorial to his wife. A native of Vermont who came to Oakland in the 1890s when he was not yet 20, Mr. Port worked for many years as a milkman, making deliveries with horsedrawn wagons and later by truck. He married Bertha Bastian, the daughter of a German-born blacksmith and neighbor, and the couple continued to make their home on Eighth Street.

In the late 1930s, not long after Bertha died, the Oakland Housing Authority began buying property in the neighborhood. Philip loved West Oakland, and protested the bulldozing of its old homes for housing projects like Campbell Village. Yet he also cared for the people who lived there, especially the children. So, he added a provision to his will, donating a quarter acre lot at Eighth and Wood Streets for a public playground.

On the eve of Thanksgiving in 1947, three years after Philip's death, the City's Mayor formally dedicated Bertha Bastian Port Playground. Intended for mothers with preschool children, the grounds had swings, slides, and picnic tables. Decades later, the nonprofit Trust for Public Land secured funding, surveyed residents, and sought the services of a local landscape designer. A community block party in July 2006 celebrated the reopening of Bertha Port Park, a renewed gift to the West Oakland community for the 21st century.