

PH0352110

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 10 1976

DATE ENTERED MAR 8 1977

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

☒ Farallones, Farallone Islands, Los Farallones

AND/OR COMMON

South Farallons, Farallon Islands, Southeast Farallon

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Approximately 28 miles west
of San Francisco

CITY/TOWN

San Francisco

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth

STATE

California

VICINITY OF

CODE
06

COUNTY

San Francisco

CODE

075

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☒ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES RESTRICTED
☐ YES UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☒ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☒ GOVERNMENT ☒ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ MILITARY (USCG) ☐ OTHER

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (if applicable)

Farallon National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 3737

CITY/TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. U. S. Coast Guard

STREET & NUMBER

630 Sansome Street

CITY/TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None Known

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY/TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Farallons are precipitous islets composed of volcanic rock. Several rocks are included in the Southeast Farallon group, the total area being about 120 acres. The main island is approximately 70 acres in size and has the only major horizontal area on any of the islands. Two miles northwest is Middle Farallon, a single rock which is frequently awash and serves primarily as a resting place for cormorants and sea lions in calmer weather. The North Farallons consist of two clusters of bare, precipitous islets and rocks, extending over about one mile of ocean. Noonday Rock is the westernmost rock and is almost completely submerged and is awash most of the time.

Vegetation is sparse with only one form, an annual succulent herb known as Farallon weed, providing low ground cover over part of the Southeast Farallon.

Marine wildlife is abundant on these islands. Up to 250,000 sea birds use the islands for nesting or resting. The most numerous avian species are ashy storm petrel, Brandt's and pelagic cormorants, western gull, common murre, and Cassin's auklet.

Marine mammals breeding and pupping on Southeast Farallon include Steller and California sea lions, harbor seals, and northern elephant seals.

The original condition of the Farallons at the time of discovery by Cabrillo was similar to the current appearance described above. The major physical alterations on Southeast Farallon since 1539 include the following:

1. Lighthouse constructed on top of Southeast Farallon and the path leading to this structure.
2. Two houses near the base of the lighthouse path, water tanks, rain apron, generator house, carpentry shed, helicopter pad, paint shed, radio antenna.
3. A boat landing and associated equipment at the east end.
4. Path between east landing and north cove.
5. Two Monterey pines planted near the residences and introduced grasses, miner's lettuce, and other plants near the south landing.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1539, 1579, 19th and 20th Century dates shown below BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Farallons have a longer recorded history than the mainland of San Francisco and have been particularly important for their abundant supply of wildlife.

In 1539 Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo first landed on the islands and named them "Los Farallones," Spanish for cliffs or small pointed islets. Sir Francis Drake arrived in the Golden Hinde in 1579 to take on fresh sea lion and bird meat for his starving crew. He renamed the site, "Islands of Saint James," but this name never replaced the original Spanish name. In 1602 when Spaniard Viscaino arrived he applied the name, "Los Frayles," meaning the Friars because of unusual rock formations.

Later the abundant Guadalupe fur seals, sea otters, and sea lions provided the initial attraction for commercial use of the Farallons. As early as 1807 New England seamen began taking fur seals for their pelts, and by 1812 more than 73,000 had been taken. Subsequently, the Russians stripped most of the remaining wealth of marine mammals for pelts, followed finally by the Mexicans, who finished off the few animals that had previously escaped.

Although the Russians had taken up to 500,000 birds annually to provide dried meat for the Aleut hunters and feathers and down to Russia, the major exploitation of the tremendous sea bird populations occurred with the eggers in the mid-19th Century. To supply the booming City of San Francisco during the Gold Rush, eggs of murre and other sea birds were gathered from probably all the major islands. One egg company alone collected three to four million eggs between 1850 and 1856. Bloody battles among egg collectors were frequent and continued for 40 years until the United States government outlawed the taking of eggs from the islands. Finally, in 1909 the Farallons were designated as a national wildlife refuge with the exception of Southeast Farallon which was included later.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Barlow, C. 1897. The Story of the Farallones. H. R. Taylor, Alameda, CA.
Doughty, R. W. 1971. San Francisco's Nineteenth Century Egg Basket: The Farallones. Geographical Review, 61:554-72.
Ferry, Philip. 1952. The Battle of the Eggs. Natural History, April, 1952, pp. 176-182.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 211 acres

UTM REFERENCES No USGS map exists for this area.

A

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
------	---------	----------

B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
------	---------	----------

C

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
------	---------	----------

D

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
------	---------	----------

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Latitude and Longitude Coordinates Defining

A Rectangle Locating the Property

Corner

Latitude

Degrees

Minutes

Seconds

Longitude

Degrees

Minutes

Seconds

NW

37°

48'

0"

123°

10'

30"

NE

37°

48'

0"

122°

59'

30"

SE

37°

41'

30"

122°

59'

30"

SW

37°

41'

30"

123°

10'

30"

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Elisabeth Cummings, Assistant Refuge Manager
Cathy T. Osugi, Wildlife Biologist

ORGANIZATION

San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

STREET & NUMBER

3849 Peralta Boulevard, Suite D

CITY OR TOWN

Fremont

November 3, 1975

DATE

TELEPHONE

(415) 792-0222

STATE

California

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ☒

NO ☐

NONE ☐

1-5-76

Robert Rhodes

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ☒ National ☐ State ☐ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE

6-8-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF

Chief of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DATE

3/8/77

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3/3/77

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ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

These alterations are relatively inconspicuous with respect to the total appearance of the island and do not appreciably affect the aura of wilderness or isolation or the abundance of wildlife.

Other than the physical alterations described above, some changes in wildlife species and their relative and absolute abundance have occurred. Fur seals and sea otters were decimated by hunters in the 1800's. The sea otter is no longer present and the fur seal has only been observed rarely.

European hares were introduced by an English sea captain between 1850 and 1874, but are no longer present.

Bird populations have fluctuated both absolutely (such as the declines during the "egging" period) and relatively (for example, western gulls are now more numerous in relation to common murre than they were prior to egging). Most wildlife species have returned to approximately their original stability, however, and are again subject only to natural influences on population dynamics.

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

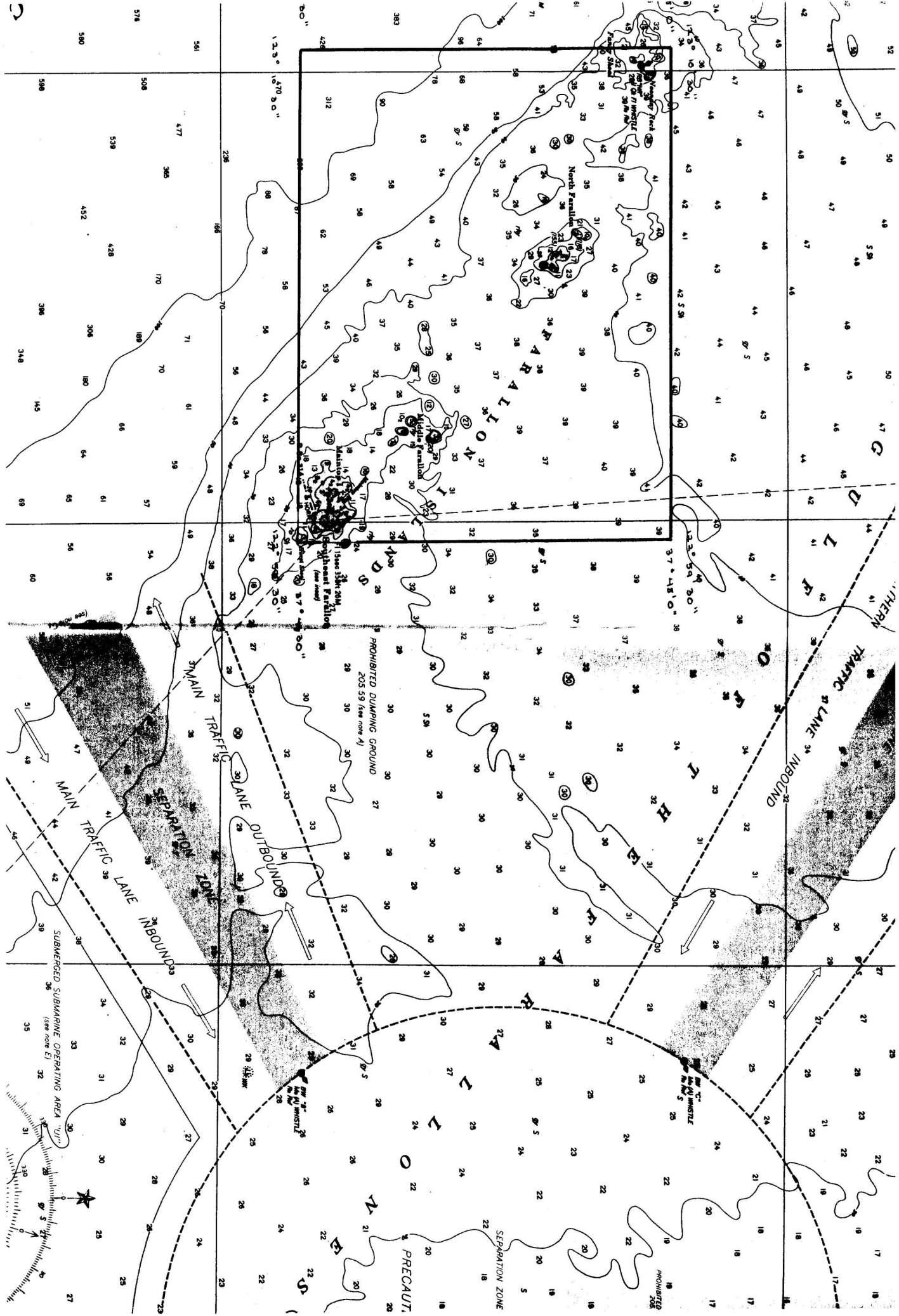
In 1855 the government completed construction of a lighthouse despite the efforts of the eggers who felt it would interfere with their business. The light was not officially operative until January 1, 1856, because of mechanical difficulties.

The fog signal, which was designed by Major Hartman Bache of the U. S. Engineers, consisted of a brick chimney placed over a natural ocean blow hole. The air moving through the hole provided the power. However, the signal was silent when the fog would hang over the quiet waters. A storm in 1879 destroyed the chimney and it was first replaced by a steam fog signal and then by a diaphone.

The light consisted of a lantern 12 feet high and 8 feet in diameter. Each of its 8 sides had concentric prisms around its center. The lens revolved around the lamp once every 8 minutes.

Coast Guard personnel were removed from the island with the automation of the lighthouse in 1972. Now the 500,000 candlepower light and fog signal are operated by remote control.

A minimum of two biologists live on the island to protect and study the wildlife. With protection against exploitation, the Farallons once again contain the largest sea bird rookery south of Alaska and the marine mammals, with the exception of the fur seal and sea otter, are all now re-established. Today these unique islands and their abundant wildlife populations are in nearly the same primitive condition as they were prior to the ravages they experienced in the 19th Century.





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1 NAME

HISTORIC

Farallones, Farallone Islands, Los Farallones

AND/OR COMMON

South Farallons, Farallon Islands, Southeast Farallon

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

____ VICINITY OF

San
COUNTY Francisco STATE CA

Approximately 28 miles west of San Francisco

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

U. S. Coast Guard

DATE OF PHOTO 1968

NEGATIVE FILED AT

12th Coast Guard District, San Francisco, CA

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 1

The Southeast Farallons, looking west, northwest, with extensive
U. S. Coast Guard navigational aid installations centered on level
portion of main island.



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____ VICINITY OF

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COUNTY Francisco STATE CA

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3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Richard D. Bauer

DATE OF PHOTO April 3, 1968

NEGATIVE FILED AT

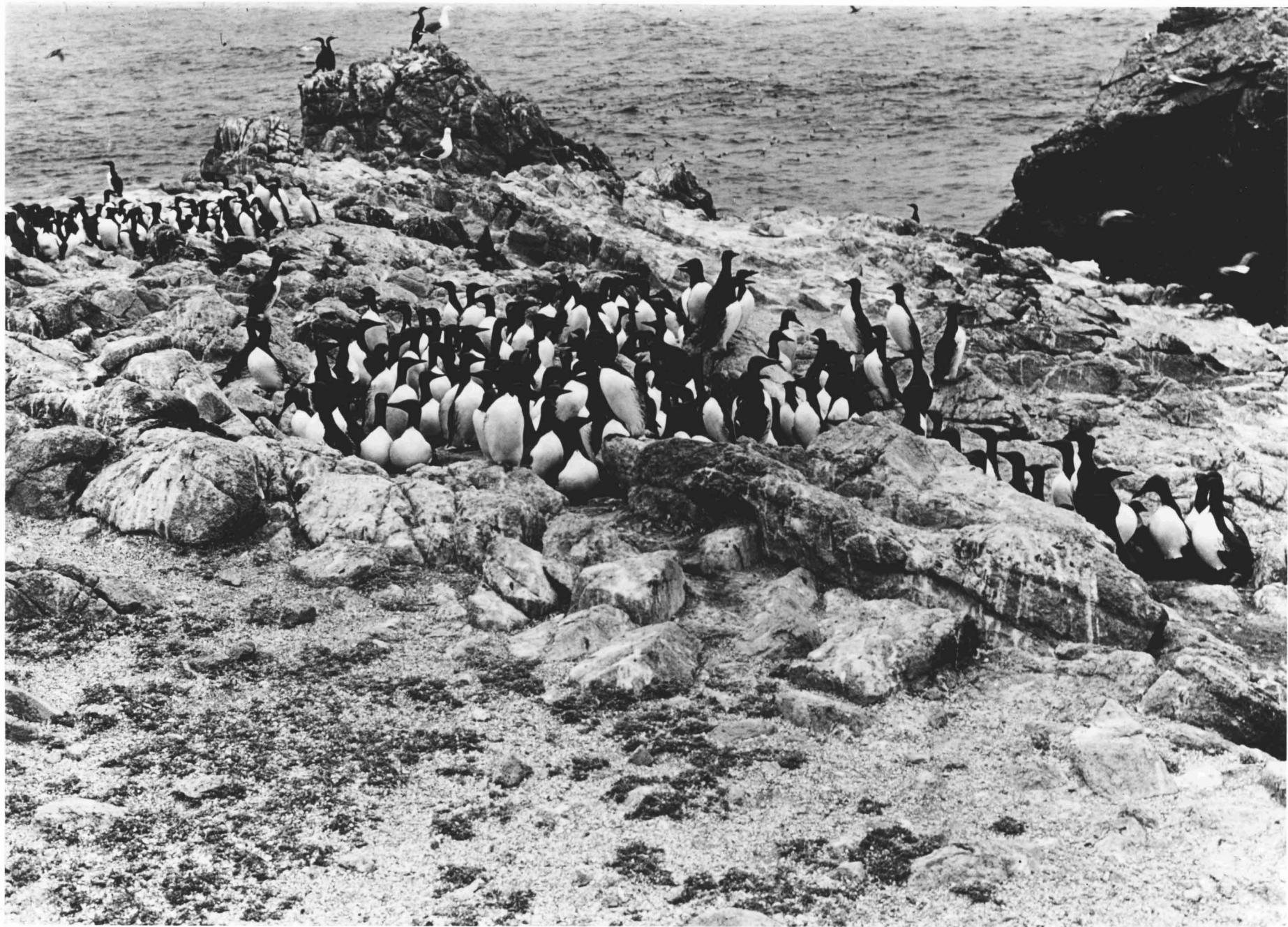
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 4

Steller sea lions hauled out on Southeast Farallon. In the early 1800's sea lions were hunted for their pelts.



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San
COUNTY Francisco STATE CA

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3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Eugene Kridler

DATE OF PHOTO June 1960

NEGATIVE FILED AT

San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 3

Common murre colony on Southeast Farallon. Murre eggs were a favorite of the egg collectors in the 1850's.



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2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

____ VICINITY OF

San

COUNTY Francisco STATE CA

Approximately 28 miles west of San Francisco

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Richard D. Bauer

DATE OF PHOTO April 13, 1968

NEGATIVE FILED AT

San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 2

U. S. Coast Guard and Point Reyes Bird Observatory residences on
Southeast Farallon with lighthouse and trail system in background.
Birds in foreground are western gulls.