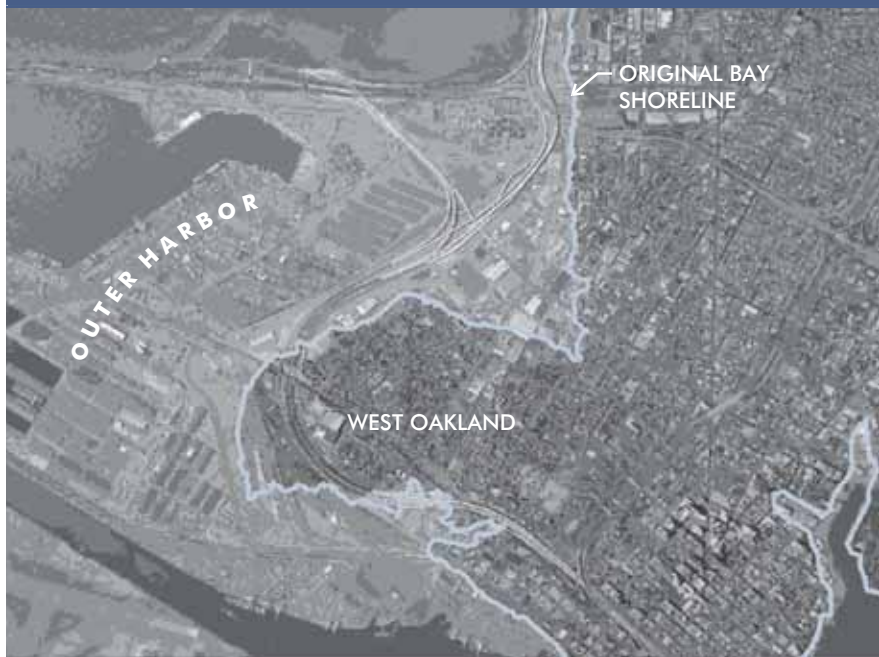


CHANGE & INDUSTRY



Filling in the Bay

Oakland's marshy western shore originally met the bay several blocks west of here, near present-day I-880. The old Southern Pacific station at 16th and Wood Streets marks the site.



Southern Pacific's 16th Street Station.

The filling of tidelands in this vicinity, formerly known as the Key Route Basin, was begun around 1910 by the City of Oakland and carried on after 1925 by the Port of Oakland.

The Key Route Basin covered about 600 acres between the Key Route Pier and the Southern Pacific Long Wharf. The city-owned tidelands (around 300 acres) were transformed into an entirely new maritime industrial district called Oakland Outer Harbor, with a shoreline nearly a mile offshore from the original. The remaining tideland acres were not completely filled until World War II, when the U.S. Army acquired the property for development as the Oakland Army Base.







Waterfront Industries

In the 1870s, the Central Pacific, later to become the Southern Pacific, completed construction of a rail line heading north along Oakland's western shoreline, from the transcontinental terminus at the Long Wharf (7th Street) along San Pablo Bay to Carquinez Strait. Wharves and warehouses handled tons of wheat brought by boat from Central Valley farms.

The railroad stimulated development in Oakland and Emeryville; rail spurs branched out to serve new industries like iron foundries, cement plants, and pipe factories.

By the 1930s, Oakland Outer Harbor was also heavily industrialized. Businesses included Albers Milling Co., a leading exporter and distributor of grain, feed, and flour, along with an oil distribution center run by Richfield and Texaco. The Port of Oakland's Outer Harbor Terminal, reached by a trestle off the end of 14th Street, was adjoined by the warehouses of Rosenberg Bros. & Co. and Libby, McNeil & Libby, the world's largest shippers, respectively, of dried fruits and canned foods. The Outer Harbor has since been redeveloped as a containerized shipping center.

KEY

-  OAKLAND BAY TRAIL
-  YOU ARE HERE
-  LOCATIONS OF HISTORICAL MARKERS
-  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.



The Port of Oakland's Outer Harbor Terminal as it appeared in the mid-1930s.