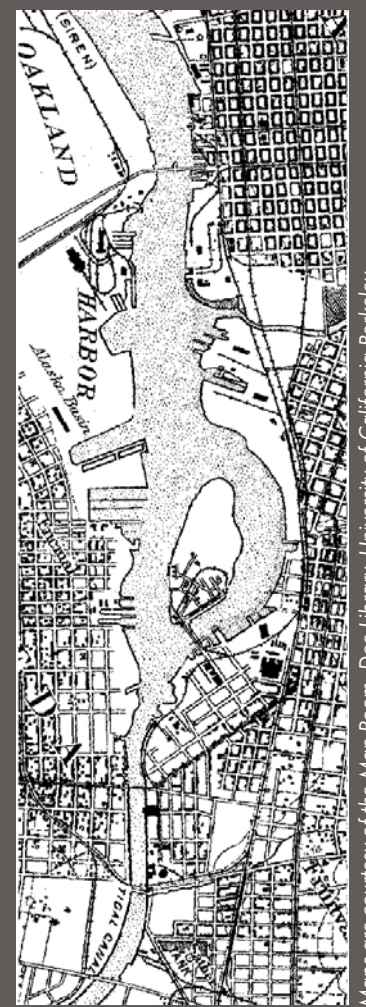
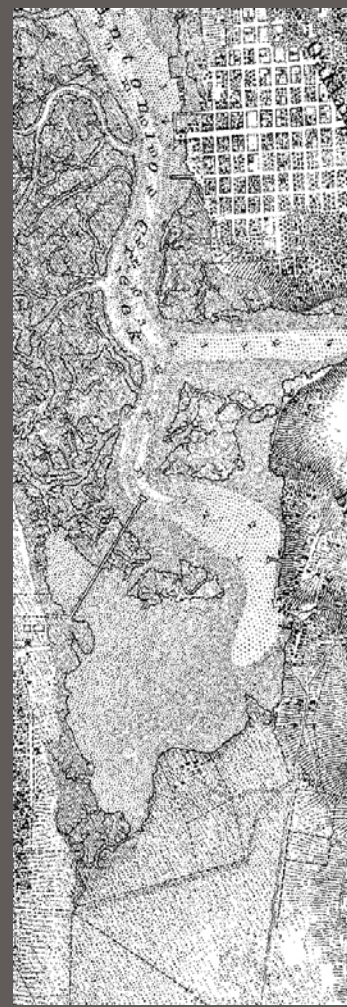


# BROOKLYN BASIN

## The Changing Waterfront

Comprising about a mile of shoreline, this crescent-shaped cove was the site of the East Bay's earliest maritime activity. By the 1830s, cattle hides and tallow were being shipped from a nearby landing. During the Gold Rush of the late 1840s and early 1850s, redwood from the hills was exported. By 1870s, the area formed part of the town of Brooklyn, now East Oakland.

The broad expanse of water extending out from the cove was originally the widest section of the Oakland Estuary. It soon acquired the name Brooklyn Basin. Once a shallow-water area adjoined by marshland, the basin has been deepened by dredging projects since the 1870s. Shipping channels border the Oakland and Alameda shores.



Maps are courtesy of the Map Room, Doe Library, University of California Berkeley

1857 Map of Estuary 1926 Map of Estuary

The maps above show how the landscape has changed. On the left-hand map (1857), the marsh-fringed basin has an irregular shoreline with few buildings. The second map (1926), with its urban grid of streets, shows the effect of a half-century of harbor work--a shoreline modified for industrial use, a canal separating Alameda and Oakland, and an island in Brooklyn Basin.




## Coast Guard Island

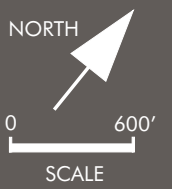


Government Island, about 1920

Originally known as Government Island, Coast Guard Island is just across the water from this site. Covering about 70 acres, the island was created in 1915-17 by depositing dredged materials behind levees. The site of a World War I shipyard, it has served as a Coast Guard base since World War II. Evidence of sunken wooden ships has been found in the mud around the island--remnants of the time when these protected waters served as a winter moorage for sailing vessels and a "graveyard" for square-riggers. The aerial view shows the island around 1920, with sailing ships clustered at its tip.

### KEY

-  BIKE ROUTE
-  YOU ARE HERE
-  LOCATIONS OF SIGNS



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

DATE OF AERIAL PHOTO: 6/1998

