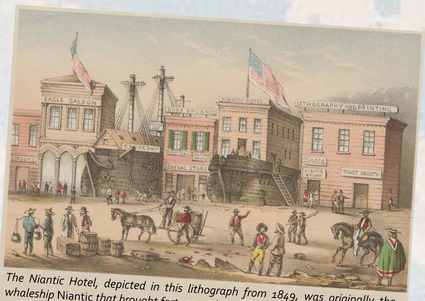
THE WATERFRONT AND THE RISE OF INDUSTRY

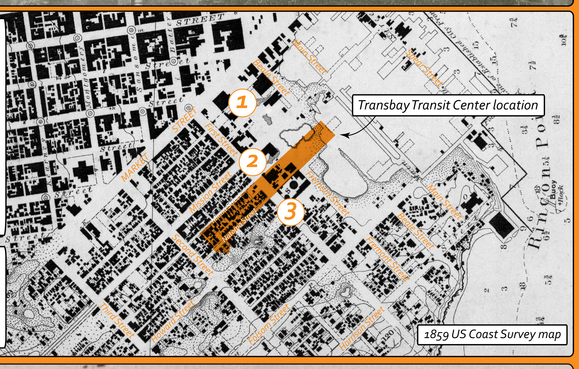


The Niantic Hotel, depicted in this lithograph from 1849, was originally the whaleship Niantic that brought fortune seekers to San Francisco during the Gold Rush. After arriving, the ship's crew quickly deserted for the mines and the ship was sold, run aground, and converted into a hotel near the intersection of Clay and Montgomery. It was a well known city landmark for several years.

1853 Panorama of Yerba Buena Cove

In 1849, a large portion of today's South of Market neighborhood was within Yerba Buena Cove, part of San Francisco Bay. During the next decade, the cove was filled and much of the land was reclaimed. The 1853 photograph (above) and the 1859 map (right) depict the cove at this time.

The new Transbay Transit Center is being built on the western edge of this once busy Gold Rush port.



1859 US Coast Survey map

1

TATUM & BOWEN

34 AND 36 FREMONT STREET, SAN FRANCISCO — 91 AND 93 FRONT STREET, PORTLAND, OR.

MANUFACTURERS OF

MINING AND SAWMILL MACHINERY

ENGINES, ETC.

DEALERS IN

Engines, Boilers, Wood and Iron-working Machinery.
Steam Pumps, Hoisting Engines
MILL AND MINE SUPPLIES

SOLE AGENTS

Albany Lubricating Compound, Cylinder and Lubricating Oils
Shultz Patent Fulled Leather Belting and Lace Leather.
Hoe Chisel-Tooth Saws, Gardner Governors
ECONOMIC BOILERS, ETC.

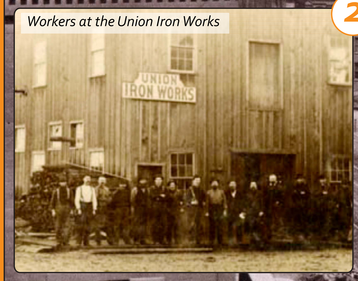
1887: Advertisement from the circular of Malter, Lind, and Rogers

2

1880: Union Iron Works, at the southeast corner of First and Mission

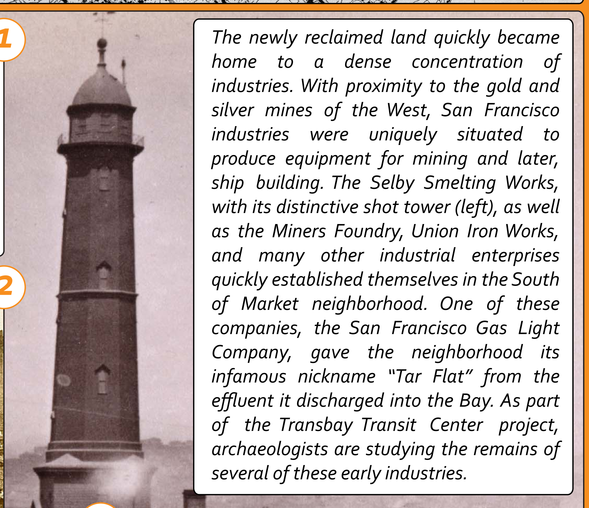
The newly reclaimed land quickly became home to a dense concentration of industries. With proximity to the gold and silver mines of the West, San Francisco industries were uniquely situated to produce equipment for mining and later, ship building. The Selby Smelting Works, with its distinctive shot tower (left), as well as the Miners Foundry, Union Iron Works, and many other industrial enterprises quickly established themselves in the South of Market neighborhood. One of these companies, the San Francisco Gas Light Company, gave the neighborhood its infamous nickname "Tar Flat" from the effluent it discharged into the Bay. As part of the Transbay Transit Center project, archaeologists are studying the remains of several of these early industries.

2



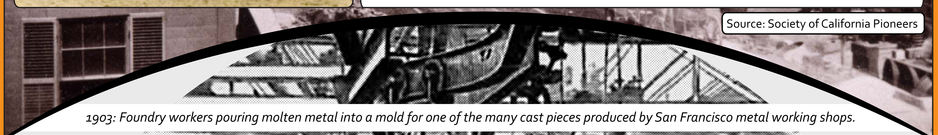
Workers at the Union Iron Works

3

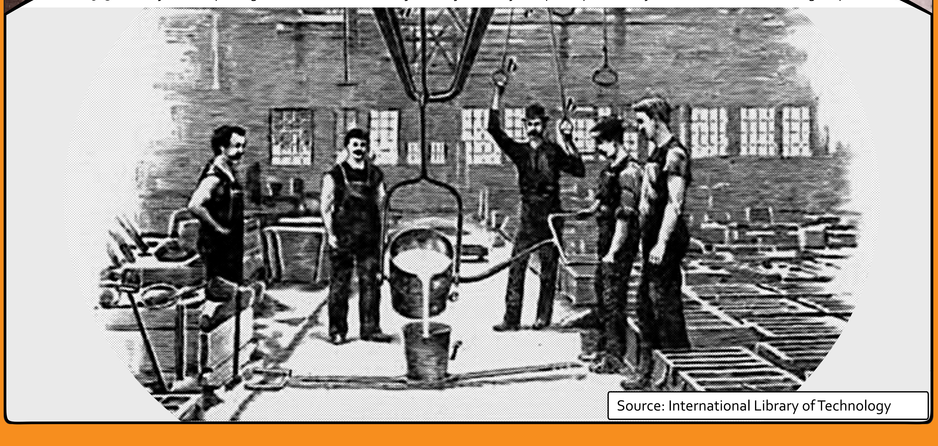


1867: The Miners Foundry and Selby shot tower located at First and Howard streets. Lead shot was made here by heating lead until molten, then dropping it through a copper sieve high up in the tower. As the liquid lead fell, surface tension formed it into spherical balls. The partially cooled balls were caught at the floor of the tower in a water-filled basin. They were then sorted by size and those that were "out of round" were remelted.

Source: Society of California Pioneers



1903: Foundry workers pouring molten metal into a mold for one of the many cast pieces produced by San Francisco metal working shops.



Source: International Library of Technology