

Modern Movement-Art Moderne/Art Deco

c. 1920-1940

This style is a variation on the International Style that was developed among the European avant-garde in the early twentieth century, and spread to the United States in the period between World War I and World War II. Art Deco was not widely accepted as a residential style due to its stark, streamlined appearance, but it was commonly used as a commercial style. The plain surfaces of the boxy masses trimmed with multiple vertical recesses, ziggurat-like setbacks, stripped-down classical elements, and shiny, corrugated white metals were considered to be evocative of the speed and mechanization of the industrial boom in the 1910s and 1920s, also referred to as the “Machine Age”. While most California examples were executed in stucco as a reference to the style’s Mediterranean origins, the Sausalito examples adopt a more sensible and climate-tolerant light masonry exterior.

Character-defining features:

- Simplified cornice
- Boxy masses
- Symmetrical facade
- Vertical windows and recesses
- Light brick exterior

Character-defining features:



This building combines details of Art Deco with some Neoclassical motifs.

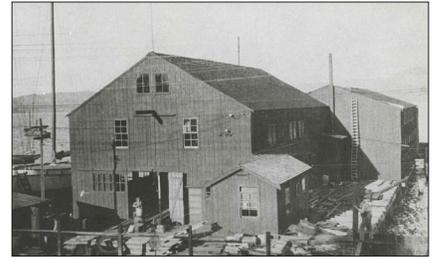
Marine Industrial Warehouse

c. 1942-1945

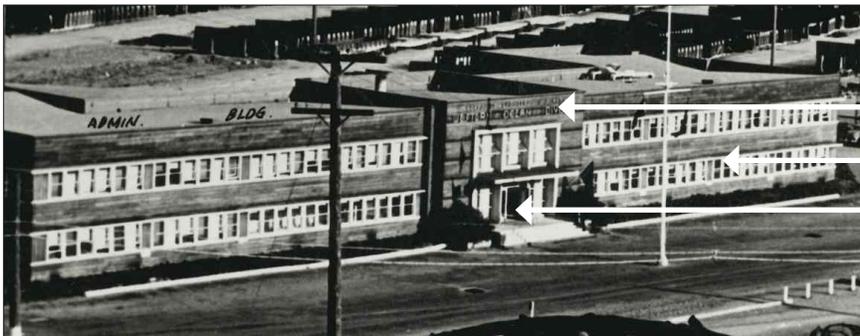
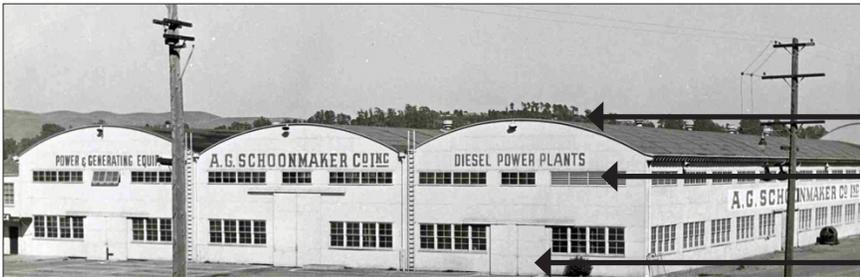
Beginning in 1942, major shipbuilding yards were constructed for the production of Liberty ships for the World War II effort. Sausalito, as well as Richmond across the San Francisco Bay, was one of the Northern California sites for this construction. These buildings served many heavy industrial purposes and were constructed in a remarkably short time frame. They were intended to have a projected five-year life span. Several of the more open-ended buildings have not survived, but there remain many that can be identified by their original footprints and some of the following building characteristics:

Character-defining features:

- Concrete slabs or timber construction on wood pile foundations
- Steel and/or timber frames
- Metal, redwood, or plywood siding
- Horizontal window banding
- Large rectangular forms with flat, gable or barrel roofs
- Man-door
- Central loading door
- Primary entrance with canopy.



These buildings have several features that are characteristic of the Marine Industrial Warehouse style. Key features include barrel and gable roof, simple volumes, loading doors (top) and horizontal window bands (bottom).



Character-defining features:

Ganged rectangular forms with barrel roofs

Horizontal window banding

Central loading door

Symmetrical composition

Horizontal window banding

Primary entrance with canopy

Barrel roof with exposed rafters

Central loading door

Man-door with canopy



Early image of a Vernacular Commercial style building

Vernacular Commercial

Sometimes referred to as “other” or “folk”, the vernacular commercial style focuses on being functional. These buildings are constructed of simple designs, some of which remained common for decades. Many of these designs were based on popular styles of the time, but the vernacular structures were much simpler in form, detail and function. Elements from other styles will appear on the vernacular type but in simple arrangements.

While Sausalito’s neighborhoods include vernacular buildings of several types, the most prevalent is the Gable Front. The Gable Front Vernacular, usually two-stories, has a front-facing gable roof with a modest storefront. These often occur as a cornerstore in a residential neighborhood.

Character-defining features:

- Gabled or hipped roof over the main block
- Modest storefront
- Visually distinct first and second-floor fenestration patterns
- Modest detailing

Character-defining features:

- Gable front with overhanging eaves
- Wood-lap siding, upper facade
- Vertical, double-hung, upper facade
- Cantilevered deck/canopy
- Smooth finish, lower facade
- Modified storefront retains typical form



Vernacular Commercial style