



**City and County of San Francisco**  
Public Works · Project Delivery · Subdivision Mapping and Surveys  
Office of the City and County Surveyor  
49 South Van Ness, Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor · San Francisco, CA 94103  
[Monument.Preservation@sfdpw.org](mailto:Monument.Preservation@sfdpw.org)



## **CCSF Monument Preservation Guidelines**

<b>Table of Contents:</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. Monument Preservation Regulations	2
2. Monument Preservation Requirements Regarding Public Works Permits	3
3. Record Map Resources to Locate Land Survey Monuments	4
4. Guide Record Map Resource for Locating Land Survey Monuments	5
5. CCSF Monument Preservation Standard Referencing Fee: \$4578.00	6
6. CCSF Monument Preservation Initial Extended Referencing Fee: \$10,000.00	8
7. Property Line Review for Monuments	9
8. Typical Survey Monumentation within City and County of San Francisco	11
9. Figure 1 (Typical Monuments with well casings)	12
10. Figure 2 (Typical Surface Monuments)	13
11. Figure 4 (Typical Corner Record)	16

## **1. Monument Preservation Regulations**

A Survey Monument is a physical marker that locates property boundaries. Some examples of Survey Monuments are listed below.

- A Chiseled Cut(s) in a sidewalk or curb.
- A Nail and Brass Tag or Lead Plug & Brass Tack.
- Iron Pipe any diameter driven into the ground.
- Rebar with Cap.
- a Scribed Stone or Post placed in or on the ground, sometimes with a rock around it.
- 1" x 1", 2" x 2", 1' X 1', Wood Markers.
- etc.

Survey monuments are essential to establishing and maintaining horizontal and vertical survey control for subdivisions, tracts, boundaries, roads, streets or highways and as a result are protected under California state law under Penal Code §605, Streets and Highways Code §732, 732.5, 1492.5, 1810.5, as well as Business and Professions Code §8725, 8771 and 8773.3.

All Excavation Projects are to follow SF Public Works Order 187592:

*Prior to the construction, reconstruction, maintenance, resurfacing of public rights-of-way or any excavation work within twenty (20) feet of an existing survey monument, a Corner Record or Record of Survey shall be filed with the County Surveyor.*

Excavation permits are to follow Section 4.3 Survey Monuments PW Order 187005, permittees obligations, February 6, 2018.

This is to allow for optimal means of positional verification or replacement in the event that the monument is either potentially disturbed or removed by the construction.

Referencing can be conducted by a licensed Land Surveyor or Public Works Monument Preservation.

## **2. Monument Preservation Requirements Regarding Public Works Permits**

All permits for trenching, excavation, sidewalk replacement or curb replacement may have Land Survey Monuments, (herein referred to as “monuments”) that are directly within the scope or boundary limits of the design and/or construction improvement plans.

All monuments that are located within 20 feet of the design and/or construction improvement plans are required to have Standard Referencing where pre- and post-construction Corner Records shall be filed with the County Surveyor for the City and County of San Francisco (see Figure 4 typical corner Record).

The permittee is required to send construction plans to [monument.preservation@sfdpw.org](mailto:monument.preservation@sfdpw.org).

The permittee is required to conduct a records search to locate monuments that are within 20 feet of the construction improvement plans.

The permittee is required to conduct field site review to locate monuments that are within 20 feet of the construction improvement plans. (See section, “Typical Survey Monumentation within City and County of San Francisco” and Figures 1, 2 and 3).

When the permittee has finalized the monument count for all monuments that are within 20 feet of the construction plans the permittee must complete the “Monument Referencing” form and receive a notice to proceed from [monument.preservation@sfdpw.org](mailto:monument.preservation@sfdpw.org) before construction can begin.

When CCSF Monument Preservation is being requested to perform the Monument Referencing please complete a Monument Referencing application and submit payment by check, payable to “SF Public Works”, address Office of the City and County Surveyor, 49 South Van Ness, Avenue, 9th Floor · San Francisco, CA 94103. An application can be requested via email at [monument.preservation@sfdpw.org](mailto:monument.preservation@sfdpw.org).

Link to Application:

[https://sfpublicworks.org/sites/default/files/10.2.30\\_Mon\\_Application\\_FY25-26.pdf](https://sfpublicworks.org/sites/default/files/10.2.30_Mon_Application_FY25-26.pdf)

Monument Referencing can be conducted by a Professional Private licensed Land Surveyor or CCSF Monument Preservation.

It is the permittee’s responsibility to notify [monument.preservation@sfdpw.org](mailto:monument.preservation@sfdpw.org) as to whom will perform Monument Referencing.

If Monument Referencing is performed by a Professional Licensed Land Surveyor, please send the surveyor’s information to [monument.preservation@sfdpw.org](mailto:monument.preservation@sfdpw.org).

It is recommended that the permittee double check with their Licensed Land Surveyor that the pre-and post-construction Corner Records are submitted to [Subdivision.Mapping@sfdpw.org](mailto:Subdivision.Mapping@sfdpw.org).

The permittee is required to notify [monument.preservation@sfdpw.org](mailto:monument.preservation@sfdpw.org) when construction has been completed.

### **3. Record Map Resources to Locate Land Survey Monuments**

Below are links that will provide essential research tools to locate monuments.

Link one below, is our “Monumental” website. “Monumental” is a monument index data base of known monuments and uses a five-digit index number, (MID), to identify monuments. It is the starting point to locate property boundary and geodetic monuments within the City and County of San Francisco. All “Monumental” monument locations shown are approximate. Positions shown should be verified in the field to determine if the monument is within the scope, boundary limits, of construction project.

*“Monumental” is an index of known monuments and is constantly being updated. It does not contain all monuments within the City and County of San Francisco.*

Link One: <https://bsm.sfdpw.org/subdivision/monumental/Viewer.aspx>

The below two links (two and three) are to be used to locate additional property boundary and geodetic monuments within the City and County of San Francisco.

Link two below is used to locate the Assessors block number.

Link Two: <https://bsm.sfdpw.org/mapviewer/>

Link three below is used to access the main page for Subdivision and Mapping resources including recorded maps, assessors block diagrams, etc. Please use the website’s resources to review additional property boundary monuments that have been recovered or set. The Assessors block number is used in link 3 to locate recorded maps. The record maps are to be reviewed to locate additional property boundary monuments that have been set.

Link Three: <https://bsm.sfdpw.org/subdivision/default.aspx>

#### **4. Guide Record Map Resource for Locating Land Survey Monuments**

Check “Monumental” for known monuments at your address and/or construction improvement plans, [SF Public Works Mon-U-Mental \(sfdpw.org\)](https://www.sfdpw.org/monumental).

Look up Block Number using [Map Viewer \(sfdpw.org\)](https://www.sfdpw.org/mapviewer)

Under “Map Layers” “Zones” turn on the “Key Map Grid” by checking the box on the left.

Go to your address location and determine your “Block” and “Key Map Grid” number.

“Key Map Grid” number is a three-digit number located approximately in the center of the zoomed view.

Use “Block” number, “Key Map Grid” number and [Department of Public Works \(sfdpw.org\)](https://www.sfdpw.org/department) to download Record Map information associated to the project site:

Create a directory or folder on your computer where the name is your four-digit block number.

Download: Assessor Block map.

Record Maps

Historical Block Diagrams

Corner Records

Dedicated, Grade and Monument Maps (under Key Map Grid Number)

Review the downloaded documents for all potential monuments near your construction improvement plans. Tabulate these potential monuments and locations in a spread sheet or word document.

Add any monuments located using the “Monumental” website.

Next, review the downloaded documents with respect to your construction improvement plans to determine if any monuments are within 20 feet. You may find the Assessor Block map useful to tabulate the spatial position of the monuments.

Conduct a field site review to locate any additional monumentation that is not of record or to finalize the monument count.

\*If the project has already reached out to a professional licensed land surveyor, please have the licensed land surveyor submit a pdf letter of acknowledgement to [monument.preservation@sfdpw.org](mailto:monument.preservation@sfdpw.org) regarding the status of survey monuments within 20.0ft of the project limits.

## **5. CCSF Monument Preservation Standard Referencing Fee: \$4578.00**

CCSF Monument Preservation referencing fee as of July 2025 is \$4578.00 per monument and covers the field and office-related costs for the standard monument referencing process. The fee is adjusted each fiscal year to reflect changes in the relevant Consumer Price Index.

The standard monument referencing process includes the application processing, records research review, pre- and post-construction field referencing and Corner Record Processing.

Before requesting monument referencing, the permittee can conduct record research and field site review to determine the number of monuments within the scope of the construction improvements.

An application needs to be submitted to CCSF by email to [Monument.Preservation@sfdpw.org](mailto:Monument.Preservation@sfdpw.org).

Link to Application:

[https://sfpublishworks.org/sites/default/files/10.2.30\\_Mon\\_Application\\_FY25-26.pdf](https://sfpublishworks.org/sites/default/files/10.2.30_Mon_Application_FY25-26.pdf)

The application will then be reviewed through the internal review process. Upon finalization of the application, a request for payment will be issued by email.

Submit payment via check, payable to "SF Public Works", address Office of the City and County Surveyor, 49 South Van Ness, Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor · San Francisco, CA 94103.

If the applicant wants to pay electronically, please indicate this in the email to Monument Preservation.

Conditions that may require a Monument Referencing Application submittal:

Where a single project is issued a permit for construction improvements, a single application is required.

Where a single project is issued with multiple permits during the course of construction improvements, a single application is required.

Where individual multiple projects exist and each project is issued a permit, separate applications are required, one for each project.

Where monuments are found to be within 20 ft of the design plans or construction improvement plans.

CCSF accounting must clear and process payment before any Monument Referencing can occur.

\*Please note that paying electronically will have an additional charge.

Payment accounting takes at least two weeks. It is advised that the monument preservation process begin well in advance of the two weeks prior to construction timeline.

Monument Preservation will notify the applicant when the pre-construction referencing is complete.

Should the monument referencing and the construction schedules coincide or overlap, please provide construction scheduling priority areas to allow strategic coordinated monument referencing to support the construction timelines.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to inform Monument Preservation when construction is complete so that the post-construction stage of the referencing may be performed.

**6. CCSF Monument Preservation Initial Extended Referencing Fee: \$10,000.00**

Where construction has proceeded without a standard pre-construction monument referencing, a comprehensive field survey and office analysis is required to determine if the construction activity caused any potential movement of the monument or to reestablish the monument position in the event that the monument was destroyed.

To perform this extended referencing, additional fees shall be assessed and are estimated to be \$10,000 or more.

If any monuments are covered, disturbed, destroyed or removed any costs incurred to re-establish the monument will be in addition to the initial application fee and may vary due to time and methods required.

If a monument is removed, the monument well and monument cap shall be delivered to the County Surveyor's Office.

Please direct any concerns or inquiries regarding survey monument referencing or any other monument related issues to: [Monument.Preservation@sfdpw.org](mailto:Monument.Preservation@sfdpw.org).



## **7. Property Line Review for Monuments**

When seeking confirmation as to whether a physical object on the ground is a monument or whether monuments exist at the corners of a particular property or along the property line two photographs can be taken and sent to [Monument.Preservation.@sfdpw.org](mailto:Monument.Preservation.@sfdpw.org). The photographs are most easily taken with a smart phone or other digital camera. Take the photographs with a high-resolution setting. Be sure to review the photographs to assure they are clean and clear of defects and there is no blurring.

See Next Page for Example.

When seeking confirmation as to whether a physical object on the ground is a monument take two photographs where photograph one is 1 to 2 feet above the object. Photograph two is a perspective taken 10 to 15 feet away from the object and having the object in the image. Send pictures and location to [Monument.Preservation.@sfdpw.org](mailto:Monument.Preservation.@sfdpw.org) for review.

When seeking confirmation as to whether a monument or monuments exist at the corners of a particular property or along the property lines, two sets of two photographs can be taken. Each set of two photographs is to be taken at the approximate corners of the property, where two buildings join. If there is a gap between buildings use the fence line as the approximate division line between two properties. Photograph one should be taken 1 to 2 feet above the curb. Photograph two should be taken as a perspective, looking 5 to 10 feet away from the curb and towards the curb face, where photograph one was taken, and looking to the back of walk and building corners or the gap between the buildings along the fence line. See example photographs below in Figure 3. Note: one should also review from the curb to back of walk for any additional potential monuments. Send pictures and location to [Monument.Preservation.@sfdpw.org](mailto:Monument.Preservation.@sfdpw.org) for review.

**Think “safety” when taking photograph orientation two because this shot usually is taken within an actively traveled street.**

## Example

### Photographic Review Request

Photograph One, Looking at Top of Curb



Photograph Two, looking along Property Line, Curb to Building



## **8. Typical Survey Monumentation within City and County of San Francisco**

Some monuments are located beneath the ground surface and surrounded by well casings as depicted in Figure 1 below.

Many monuments are located on the ground surface as depicted in Figure 2 below.

When a well casing and lid needs to be reset due to construction it shall be centered with respect to the monument as depicted in Figure 1 (without disturbing the position of the monument).

Survey Monuments should not be reset or relocated by the contractor unless under the direct supervision of a licensed land surveyor or CCSF Monument Preservation

Other monuments may exist, including those set by local, state and federal agencies: e.g., CCSF (HPN & HPND), CCSF VD-2013, CCSF Boundary Reference monuments, Cal-Trans, BART, USGS, NGS, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy and private surveyors for subdivisions, et al. These monuments must also be preserved when and where they are located.

There are monuments that are “Not of Record.” “Not of Record” means the monument does not appear on any maps or documentation that have been made public by recordation with the City and County of San Francisco.

An onsite field review is required to determine if such non-record monuments exist. These non-record monuments are “old” original subdivision marks that typically do not appear on any record maps.

Within the City and County of San Francisco not of record monuments typically are “L”, “T” and “+” cuts and lead plugs with brass tacks. These are typically located in curbs and can reside anywhere along property lines extending from street curb to the back of sidewalk.

Many of the survey monuments in existence are not in the online CCSF database “Monumental” or on more traditional City monument maps. Some of these monuments may not be visible or found without additional research by a licensed land surveyor or Monument Preservation. This does not relieve the permittee or applicant of responsibility for preservation of all survey monuments. When using “Monumental” or “Map viewer”, be aware that any City survey monuments shown are for informational purposes only – positions *and* descriptions of monuments shown are approximate. Per state law, this application does not grant permission to remove, disturb, destroy, or cover any monuments. If any monuments are covered, disturbed, destroyed, or removed, any costs incurred will be in addition to the initial application fee and may vary due to time and methods required. Please refer to Monument Referencing Guidelines for more information.



Figure 1

Some Typical Monuments with Well Casings



Figure 2

Some Typical Surface Monuments





## Some Typical Surface Monuments Continued ~

"L" Cut	"T" Cut
	
"L" Cut in Yellow Curb Painting	"+" Cut Curb and "+" Cuts Armored Curb
	



## Some Typical Surface Monuments Continued ~





<p>Lead Plug with Brass Tack</p> 	<p>Nail and Brass Tag in Lead Plug</p> 
<p>Brass Tag and Rivet</p> 	<p>Washer and Mag Nail</p> 

Figure 4



# Typical Corner Record Page 1

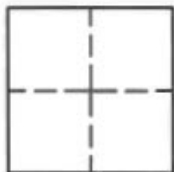
## CORNER RECORD

Document Number 22275

City of SAN FRANCISCO

County of SAN FRANCISCO, California

Brief Legal Description NORTHEASTERLY LINE OF ASSESSOR BLOCK 4282A, LOT 4 NORTHERLY OF FONTINELLA TER



### CORNER TYPE

Government Corner ☐ Control ☒  
 Meander ☐ Property ☐  
 Rancho ☐ Other ☐  
 Date of Survey AUGUST 05, 2015

### COORDINATES (Optional)

N. \_\_\_\_\_  
 E. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone \_\_\_\_\_ NAD27 ☐ NAD83 ☐  
 NAD83 Epoch \_\_\_\_\_  
 Elev. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vert. Datum: NGVD29 ☐ NAVD88 ☐  
 Meas. Units: Metric ☐ Imperial ☐

Corner— Left as found ☒ Found and tagged ☐ Established ☐ Reestablished ☐ Rebuilt ☐

Identification and type of corner found: Evidence used to identify or procedure used to establish or reestablish the corner:  
SET REFERENCE POINTS FOR CITY SURVEY MONUMENT 22275. POINTS SET AS SHOWN ON  
PAGE 2 OF 2. PRE-CONSTRUCTION

A description of the physical condition of the monument as found and as set or reset:  
FOUND 8" DIAMETER WELL MONUMENT IN STREET CONCRETE BLOCK WITH BRASS DISK AND  
PUNCHED IN THE MIDDLE STAMPED LS 3936. MONUMENT NAME 22275.

### SURVEYOR'S STATEMENT

This Corner Record was prepared by me or under my direction in conformance with  
 the Land Surveyor's Act on AUGUST 31, 2016  
 Signed Neil D. King P.L.S. or R.C.E. No. 8098



### COUNTY SURVEYOR'S STATEMENT

This Corner Record was received 9/10/2017  
 and examined and filed 10/4/2017  
 Signed [Signature] P.L.S. or R.C.E. No. 6914  
 Title CITY AND COUNTY SURVEYOR



County Surveyor's Comment REFERENCE POINTS SET BY CITY SURVEY CREWS UNDER THE  
DIRECTION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY SURVEYOR.

RM/AK



