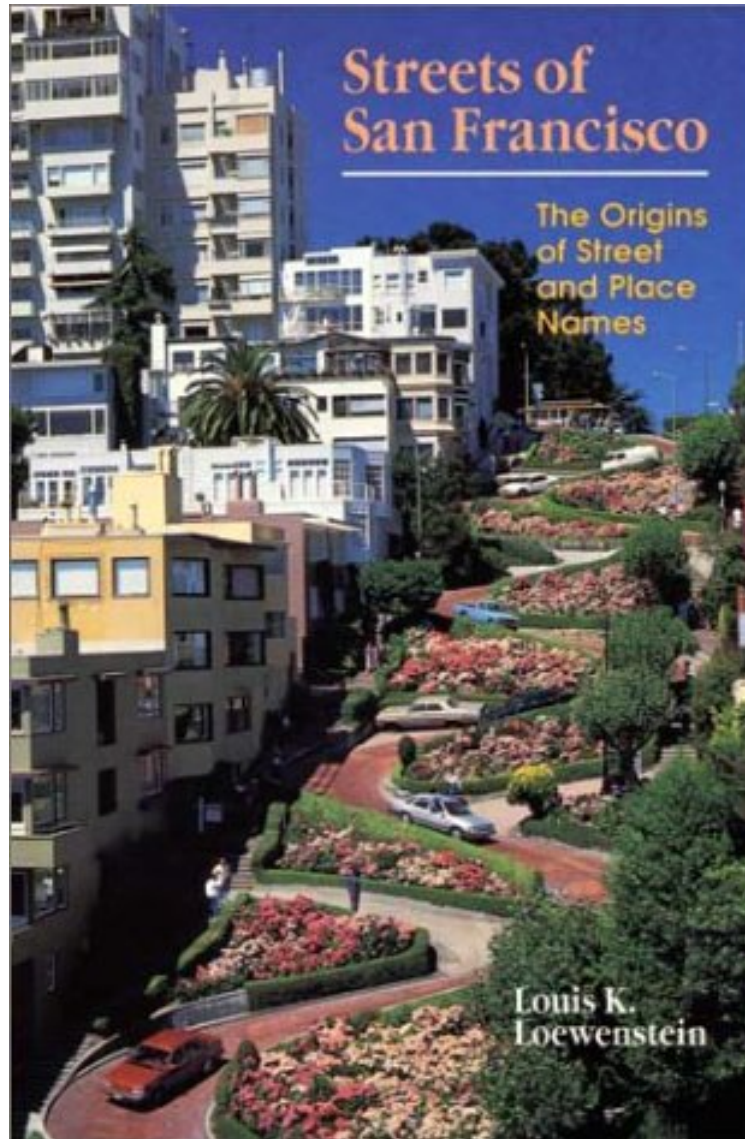


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Streets of San Francisco: The Origins of Street and Place Names

Louis Loewenstein

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Louis Loewenstein : Streets of San Francisco: The Origins of Street and Place Names before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Streets of San Francisco: The Origins of Street and Place Names:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Fascinating, Detailed Look at San Francisco
By Michael J Helquist
Louis K. Loewenstein has written a definitive, fascinating, and historically informative look at San Francisco from an unusual perspective the story of its streets, specifically how they got their names. This volume might initially

appeal only to the city's residents and they will enjoy it immensely but anyone interested in learning more about this favorite destination will find these stories engaging. It's like an insider's view of the city's past, sometimes adjusted to the present. More than 1200 street names are researched and presented here. Some are prosaic, of course, but others yield intriguing facts about the city and who has lived in it. Loewenstein has a background in urban studies, and his expertise enlivens his mini-histories even more. This will be a prized volume for anyone interested in local history. Michael Helquist, author, *MARIE EQUI: Radical Politics and Outlaw Passions* 12 of 15 people found the following review helpful. *The Quickest Introduction To San Francisco History*. By Mimereader2 One of the reasons I like this book is that the author mentions me on his acknowledgments page; a generous trade off for some quick research on Mormon history. But the reason you may like to get a copy of *Streets of San Francisco* is that it will enable you to look up the story behind many of our street sign names. This kind of information won't get you to your destination any quicker the first time, but it might the second time you come around, because establishing reference points is the best way to remember anything. This book is put together like a dictionary and provides about six sentences on each street. Nowadays few of us, especially tourists, really have a chance to read history books on the run, but you can get a basic idea of what San Francisco's past is all about by just quickly looking up the names you encounter. What you figure out will transfer over to other things very quickly. If I was going to try improve this book, I would do so by listing people who should have gotten a street named after them, people whose names adorn other places, such as Moscone Center being named for the assassinated mayor, or Hallidie Plaza being named for the developer of our world famous street car system. Yes, that would probably mean changing the title to *Streets and Public Names of San Francisco*, but that works for me. And perhaps fewer people would confuse the book's present title with the old *Streets of San Francisco* television show, as I have seen happen a few times. Another limitation is that this book does not have enough names, so the more serious historians among us simply use this in conjunction with other books on local historical sites; such as the unsurpassed and encyclopedic *San Francisco Almanac* by Gladys Hansen. Anyway, nearly every book store in San Francisco does sell *Streets of San Francisco*, and some like to display its especially nice cover right next to the check-out counter.

From its origins as the Spanish village of Yerba Buena ("good herb") to its present status as the cultural and commercial center of the West, San Francisco's heritage is reflected in its historic street names. Here's your key to unlocking the secrets of "Baghdad by the Bay's" colorful past.

"An endless source of education and illumination" -- Herb Caen, *San Francisco Chronicle* The origins of street and place names are surveyed in a title which includes plenty of background history on San Francisco's streets and their evolution. An excellent, fun title for any who hold an affection for and special familiarity with San Francisco's streets. -- Midwest Book