

Finding Aid to the Baybrick Inn Records
(#1994-23)

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: Baybrick Inn Records

Collection Number: #1994-23

Physical Description: 1.85 linear feet (1 carton, 1 manuscript box, 2 half-manuscript boxes, 1 oversized folder)

Creator: Hewitt, Lauren

Date (inclusive): 1982-1987

Language of Material: English

Abstract: The collection contains records from the Baybrick Inn (also known as the Bay Brick Inn, Clementina's, or Clementina's Baybrick Inn), a popular South of Market guest house, bar and club primarily for women that was open from 1982-1987. There are administrative records, including correspondence; publicity materials, including event calendars and press releases; demo tapes and information from the entertainers -- primarily musicians and comedians-- who performed at Bay Brick; and photographs.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], [Baybrick Inn Records (#1994-23)], The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights:

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Acquisition Information:

The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Lauren Hewitt in August 1995.

Processing Information:

Initially processed by GLBT Historical Society staff/volunteers in 1997; finding aid revised by Marjorie Bryer, March 2011; finding aid revised by Ash Waltz, August 2025. This collection was formerly titled as the Lauren Hewitt papers.

Funding for processing this collection was provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). A complete detailed list of correspondence, bar operations and procedures, press releases, advertisements and flyers, and calendars is available upon request as a PDF file. A list of correspondence is included at the end of this guide. (Carton 1 contains a hard copy of this listing.)

This finding aid uses terminology for LGBTQ people that was in current use at the time of its creation. Descriptive language for queer identities evolves quickly and some of these terms may now be dated or even offensive. Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist with questions or comments.

Biographical/Organizational History Note:

The Baybrick Inn (also known as the Bay Brick Inn, Clementina's, or Clementina's Baybrick Inn) was opened in the summer of 1982 at 1190 Folsom St. in San Francisco's South of Market neighborhood. The business was co-owned by Lauren Hewitt, Rick Carver and Mark Cornils, with Hewitt also acting as General Manager. The space operated variously as a bar, nightclub, hotel, and/or restaurant at different points in its five years of business. The Baybrick Inn marketed itself as an "upscale" alternative for the "distinctive woman," with evidence from the collection suggesting the establishment succeeded in attracting a largely middle-class, professional clientele. While services and entertainment predominately centered women and lesbians, the establishment did not have separatist policies/politics and periodically offered "Boys at the Brick" nights and mixed-gender events.

Regular entertainment offerings included comedy and musical cabarets, DJ dance parties, stand-up comedy, live rock and jazz, burlesque and strip shows put on by Blush Productions, and artist gallery shows. Lea Delaria, Marga Gomez, Linda Tillery, Gwen Avery, Femprov, Lady Bianca, Debbie Saunders, Mimi Fox, Pat Wilder, Page Hodel, and Karen Ripley were among the

many women and/or lesbian performers who were booked regularly at the Baybrick Inn. The Baybrick Inn also cemented itself as a supporter of the broader community, acting as a hub for the local music scene, regularly hosting benefit events, and providing support for the first Folsom Street Fair.

While bar and nightclub services were consistently sustained, hotel operations ended in the fall of 1984 and the Baybrick Inn Tavern, the on-site restaurant, closed circa 1985 (the exact date is unknown to the archivist as of August 2025). The Baybrick Inn fully ceased operations in October 1987. In a *San Francisco Sentinel* article reporting on the bar's closing, Hewitt attributed the cessation of operations to a changing landscape for lesbian bars in the city.

Scope and Content:

This collection consists of materials related to the business operations and entertainment offerings of the Baybrick Inn. The collection has been arranged into five series: Administrative; Publicity; Entertainers; Photographs; and Audiotapes. Materials include: manuals and procedural documents related to bar operations; inventory lists and stock sheets; an employee handbook; awards; correspondence from patrons and collaborators; photocopies of articles and advertisements from newspapers and magazines; marketing/promotional mock-ups and ephemera; event flyers, posters, calendars and press releases; audio cassette demo tapes and information about entertainers (primarily musicians and comedians) who performed at Bay Brick; performer headshots and publicity photos; and polaroids of bar staff and patrons.

Indexing Terms:

LGBTQ

Lesbians

Nightlife

Business

Music

Folsom Street (San Francisco, Calif.)

Related Collections

Additional ephemera and photographs can be found in the Baybrick Inn folders of the San Francisco LGBT Business Ephemera Collection, GLBT Historical Society.

Container Listing

Carton 1:

Audiotapes—Demo Tapes. Includes a handwritten inventory

Publicity:

Folder 1: Monthly Event Calendars, July 1985-September 1987

Box 1:

Administrative:

- Folder 1: Bar Operations and Procedures
- Folder 2: General Correspondence 1982-1987
- Folder 3: Employee Manual
- Folder 4: Development and Planning of Bay Brick Inn

Publicity:

- Folder 5: Newspaper and Magazine Articles
- Folder 6: Events Flyers
- Folder 7: Photocopies of Advertisements
- Folder 8: Advertisements
- Folder 9: Promotional Materials
- Folder 10: *Pink Section* Ads
- Folder 11: Newspaper and Magazine Reviews
- Folder 12: Original Drawings
- Folder 13: Press Releases
- Folder 14: Awards
- Folder 15: Other Calendars

Box 2:

Entertainers:

- Folders 1-4: Entertainers A-Z—these are mostly bios and press releases, but there are a few materials that feature the entertainers at the Bay Brick Inn
- Folder 5: Miscellaneous scrapbook pages, includes correspondence, flyers, Cable Car Award, photo, 1982-1986

Box 3:

Photographs: most are head shots from performers but there are some Polaroids that were taken at the bar.

- Folder 1: General
- Folder 2: Polaroids
- Folders 3-6: Entertainers, A-Z (head shots)

Oversize Folder 1:

Publicity:

- Bay Brick Inn calendars and cabaret flyers, circa 1984-1985
- Drawings, 1987, undated (a couple of the building, autographed one of Femprov)

Flyers and posters for performances, music, plays, circa 1984-1985, undated—includes comedy with Tom Ammiano and Margo Gomez; music (cabaret, jazz, rock), including Elements of Style and Permanent Wave; mixed dance parties and boys' nights;
Certificate of Honor from SF Board of Supervisors, 1984