

HUNTERS POINT SHIPYARD

THE US NAVY TAKES OVER



As World War II escalated, the Navy took ownership of the Union Iron Works from Bethlehem Steel in 1939, naming it the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard. Shortly thereafter, San Francisco's Department of Health burned down the six remaining Chinese shrimping camps, citing unsanitary conditions, and the War Powers Act of 1941 authorized the acquisition of land for military or naval purposes. Within weeks, the US Navy condemned and purchased over 535 acres.



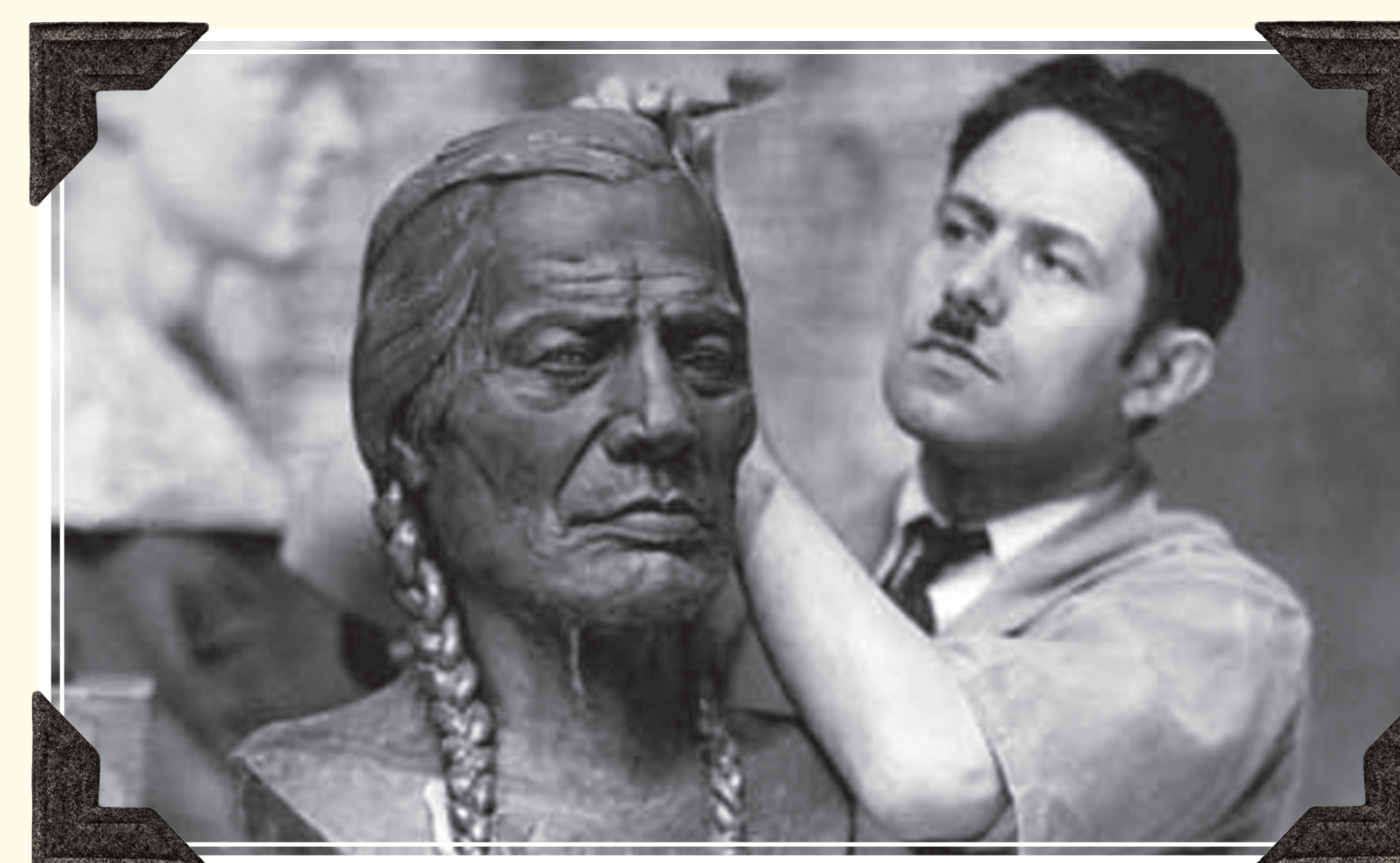
Courtesy of National Archives, photo no. 22-FA-145.

Initially, 86 homes and 23 businesses were displaced by the US Navy's actions, and many more were displaced before the end of the war. By 1945, the Shipyard had grown to 979 acres of filled and unfilled tidal lands, six dry docks ranging from 420' to 1,092' in length, two hundred buildings, five miles of berthing space, and 17 miles of railroad tracks. The acquisition of Hunters Point by the US Navy was the most significant event in the history of the district.

1938: The Shipyard area houses its first artist. Painter and sculptor Adrien Voisin purchased the old Albion Brewing Company castle and converted it into a private residence and studio. The building, now a private residence, still stands at 881 Innes Street.



USS President Hayes (APA-20), circa 1945. Courtesy of National Archives (19-N-81339)



Courtesy of Vintage Roadside

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