My thesis is about re-establishing the 16th street depot as the center of a new cultural district in West Oakland. Through this district I hope to commemorate the contributions of African-Americans within West Oakland’s industrial past and create three cultural extensions that highlight the histories of the Pullman Porters, create a zone for community-based commercial development, and reconnect the depot to other cultural landmarks already utilized by West Oakland residents.
The watch Signal Tower which sits on Parcel Three near the 16th Street Depot is aligned with 17th Street in West Oakland and provides panoramic views of Downtown Oakland and San Francisco. The images below outline the building's potential as a small commemorative museum for the Pullman Porters who worked at the Depot until it was decommissioned in 1991. This work continues the design proposals of my thesis project for the 16th Street Train Depot in West Oakland. The small 1600 sq. ft tower is designated as a landmark, but is not incorporated into any current redevelopment plans.