

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 23 1982
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
BATTERY JOHN BARLOW AND SAXTON

AND/OR COMMON
BATTERY BARLOW SAXTON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Former Upper Reservation, Fort MacArthur

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
San Pedro

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
32d

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
California

CODE
05

COUNTY
Los Angeles

CODE
037

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: storage

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
City of Los Angeles (Los Angeles City Board of Education)

STREET & NUMBER
450 North Grand Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Los Angeles

___ VICINITY OF

California

STATE

90012

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Hall of Records, Los Angeles County

STREET & NUMBER
320 West Temple Street

CITY, TOWN
Los Angeles

STATE
California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
none

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR
 DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

1. Battery Barlow Saxton is a coast artillery (harbor defense) position designed to protect and support the operation of eight Model 1912, 12-inch long-tube mortars mounted on Model 1896 carriages. This fortification, along with two, two-gun 14-inch disappearing rifle positions (one of which, Battery Osgood Farley, was added to the National Register in 1974) were established as the primary coast defense artillery positions to defend the Los Angeles Harbor complex. The emplacement is located on the former Upper Reservation of Fort MacArthur on the Palos Verdes Peninsula with the trunnion elevation of the mortars being 243.5 feet above mean low water.
2. The construction is of poured Portland cement, reinforced, and in some instances covered with earth fill. Five gallery entrances provide access to the underground magazines and provided overhead shelter for the gun crews as they would move shells and powder bags to the mortars. The underground magazines provided protection for the storage of projectiles and powder charges. A narrow communications tunnel extends across the rear of the magazine area at the furthest point underground. Handling of the heavy shells (700 pounds) in the magazines was facilitated by overhead rails and chainfalls by which they were moved to the galleries to be loaded onto carts for transportation to the weapons.
3. Exterior, behind the gun positions, are the two "plotting and survey" rooms where signals from the distant base end stations were converted to gunlaying data and displayed on a series of manually operated digital display wheels which still exist.
4. Entrance to the battery is gained through a serpentine tunnel designed to dissipate the effects of an enemy shell blast at either end of the tunnel.
5. Only minor modifications were made after the guns were scrapped and World War II ended. They consisted of the construction of classrooms in the former shell storage areas with hung ceilings and floor platforms and the closing off of the entrances to the galleries with concrete block. These portals, now reduced to doorway size, were formerly larger openings secured with iron bar gates. These gates remain on site and the position could be restored to original with ease. The 1914-era latrines, resplendant with iron filigree basin stands and early plumbing remain operational and are connected to sanitary sewer lines. The battery is equipped with electrical lights having connection to commercial power. The standby or emergency generator plants are inoperative. Inside the magazine is a 1912-era electrical distribution panel of solid marble with arrays of massive gauges, rheostats and switches. The battery is well adapted to the surrounding terrain and the earthworks are covered with native vegetation such as ice plant.
6. Construction of the battery commenced on April 1, 1915 and was completed on June 27, 1919 at a cost of \$290,300.00. The eight Model 1912 mortars, serial number 30 through 37, manufactured at Watervliet Arsenal, were mounted by December 29, 1916. The mortars and mounts were laborously hauled uphill from the railhead by means of mule team and house-moving trailer conveyance. The battery, originally two batteries, was named after Brigadier General Rufus Saxton, United States Army, who died February 23, 1908 and Brigadier General John W. Barlow, United States Army, who died on February 27, 1914.
7. Reproductions of the Report of Completed Works, Corps of Engineers, United States Army regarding Battery Barlow-Saxton obtained from Record Group 77, National Archives, are provided as an attachment to this application.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1915-1945

BUILDER/ARCHITECT U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. Battery Barlow Saxton, the subject for nomination as an historic place, is a harbor defense artillery emplacement representative of a defense system in existence during the period 1915-1945.
2. Battery Barlow Saxton is a typical but yet unique example of fortifications designed for the purpose of harbor defense. As the perceived threat to United States shores developed, boards were appointed to recommend coastal defense plans. In 1885, President Grover Cleveland assembled a special board headed by his first Secretary of War, William C. Endicott, to review the entire coast defense situation and to submit recommendations for a program based upon the newly developing weapons. As a result of this board, numerous coastal defense fortifications were constructed on all of our coasts. In 1905, President T. Roosevelt convened a group similar to the Endicott Board, this one headed by Secretary of War William Howard Taft. Its function was to review the earlier board's program and bring it up to date, for in the twenty-year interval a number of developments had taken place that required incorporation into the harbor defense system. Some were purely technical; but during this period the United States had also secured several new territories, certain of which clearly required fortification. The major technical changes brought about by the Taft Board's recommendations were not so much in armament or fortification structures as in accessory harbor defense equipment. While it proposed few if any entirely new kinds of equipment, the Board's report did have the effect of accelerating the installations of many features which had been projected by the Endicott Board, but which had been neither fully developed until around 1900 nor yet installed except in limited numbers. Among these were batteries of searchlights for the nighttime illumination of harbor entrances, general electrification of all aspects of harbor defense (including such things as communications and powered ammunition handling), and, most important, a modern system of aiming for major-caliber guns and mortars.
3. As a result of fiscal constraints, the only Taft Board coast artillery positions actually constructed in the Continental United States were built at Fort MacArthur, California to protect the rapidly developing Los Angeles Harbor in San Pedro. The primary coast artillery positions that emerged at Fort MacArthur were a pair of two-gun, 14-inch disappearing rifle batteries (Battery Merriam-Leary and Battery Osgood-Farley) and the eight-gun mortar battery named Battery Barlow Saxton, the subject of this nomination. Thus, Battery Barlow-Saxton is the only example of Taft Board fortifications extant in the Continental United States that was designed to support seacoast mortars.
4. As opposed to the flat-trajectory, direct-fire 14-inch disappearing rifles, Battery Barlow Saxton's mortars were designed to place their 700-pound shells high into the air and then plunging down at a steep angle to penetrate the then thinly armored decks of the naval vessels of that era. Proficient gun crews could maintain a rate of fire of one round per minute. With the mortars firing alternately, patterns of four shells could be placed on the target each 30 seconds. (Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Smithsonian Institute - Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: Introductory History by Mr. Emanuel Lewis. (Wash, D.C.: Smithsonian Press; 1970).
 Report of Completed Works - Seacoast Fortifications (Gun and Mortar Batteries), Coast Defenses of Los Angeles, CA, Fort MacArthur, Battery Saxton and John Barlow, Corrected to June 27, 1919. Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Record Group 77, National Archives.

(Continued)

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 9 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME San Pedro Quad, Los Angeles Co., Cal. QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>11</u>	<u>380030</u>	<u>3731250</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting from the southwest corner of Gaffey Street and Barlow Saxton Road (32d Street and moving along the southern edge of Barlow Saxton Road to a point intersecting with a roughly east-west line immediately behind Bldg 852. This line moving west to a point (Cont)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<u>n/a</u>			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Grace Hoxworth, President

24 November 1979

ORGANIZATION

San Pedro Bay Historical Society

TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1568, San Pedro, California 90733

STATE

CITY OR TOWN

(See continuation sheet)

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

K. McEllon

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 2-26-82

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST
Bruce Mac Angel
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Patrick Andrews
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 5/9/82

DATE 4/28/82

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Coast Artillerymen used optical instruments housed in base end stations located on the Palos Verdes Peninsula to track the target vessel. This data was fed into the two plotting and survey rooms where plotters depicted this data on plotting boards. New information came into the "PSR" room at twenty-second intervals. The track of the target was obtained and then ballistic data was added such as wind speed, rotation of the earth, estimated speed of the target vessel, tide variables, temperature, etc. As a result of all this, the plotter established the "set forward point" where the shells and the enemy vessel would, hopefully, come together. This information was depicted to the mortar crews on rotating range wheels located on the top of each plotting and survey room.

5. Background:

a. Troubles in the Far East and heightening tensions in Europe caused the War Department planners in 1908 to project plans for a strong harbor defensive installation at Fort MacArthur. As a result of these planners activities, action was taken in 1910 to acquire the land, known as the Fort MacArthur Upper Reservation, as gunsites for large coastal defense guns.

b. The first regular Army unit assigned to man the batteries at Fort MacArthur was the 4th Company, 38th Artillery. They were transferred from Fort Scott, California, arriving March 23, 1917. Originally, the 38th Company of Artillery, part of the Army of The Potomac during the Civil War, was designated as the 3d Antiaircraft Company prior to its departure for France in November, 1917.

c. United States involvement in World War I accelerated the building program at the Fort, and during the winter and spring of 1917-1918 many temporary buildings were constructed on the Upper Reservation. Many of these "temporary" buildings still exist. These buildings and tents housed the training center which furnished the major portion of the 5,000 men Fort MacArthur trained and started on their way to France prior to the Armistice.

d. During an inspection trip in April, 1924, Brigadier General Henry D. Todd, Commander, Ninth Coast Artillery, stated that the big guns at Fort MacArthur were too few and too short of range to carry out their mission of harbor defense. Emphasis shifted from the heavy coastal defense gun theory to that of anti-aircraft and anti-submarine warfare defense. Although the heavy artillery pieces remained an important part of the defense system, three companies of the 63d Coast Artillery (AA) were assigned to Fort MacArthur from Fort Scott, California, in March, 1930. The Coastal Defense Artillery at Fort MacArthur saw limited action during World War II. During the early months of 1942, numerous sightings of submarines were reported off Southern California. The freighter Absoroka was torpedoed off Point Fermin and beached at Cabrillo Beach. The first Japanese "rice paper balloon bomb" was detected off the coast of San Pedro on November 4, 1944. Although none of Battery Barlow Saxton's mortars ever went into action to engage an enemy naval vessel, the deterrent they provided was a powerful force in our defense.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUATION SHEET

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War Department - Annual Reports of the Secretary of War (Washington, D.C. Government Printing Office, 1823-1941).

Diary, Harbor Defenses of Los Angeles, 1941

Draft History of Fort MacArthur, likely prepared in 1973.

Various news items or references from local newspaper during the period 1898-1979.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

halfway between the west edge of Bldg 852 and halfway between the east edge of Bldg 860 and then extending to the fence of the former Upper Reservation of Fort MacArthur. The boundary line then extends roughly eastward along this fenceline until the fenceline turns roughly southward northeast of Bldg 870 and then south to the start point.

The eastern extension of the property from Battery Barlow-Saxon includes that portion of Barlow-Saxon Road that served historically as the major access for supplies and materiel for the battery. This extension will also served as an access point for the community, should the battery be developed as an historic interpretive center.

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FORM PREPARED BY
CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 2

This nomination was prepared by the San Pedro Bay Historical Society, Grace Hoxworth, President. The technical work was accomplished by Major David Gustafson who functions as the Military History Chairman for the Society. Questions concerning this nomination should be directed to:

Major D. A. Gustafson
40th Infantry Division (M)
Building 3
Los Alamitos AFRC
Los Alamitos, California 90720

Note: Computation of the Universal Transverse Mercator Grid System references were compiled by the Los Angeles District, United States Army Corps of Engineers.

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