

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 31 1980
DATE ENTERED	MAY 23 1980

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Fort Miley Military Reservation; (Point Lobos Military Reservation)

AND/OR COMMON

Fort Miley; East Fort Miley, West Fort Miley

**2 LOCATION**

(A part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area)

STREET & NUMBER 410 PA1 (On Point Lobos bordered by Clement Street and Lincoln Park  
Not applicable between 40th to 48th Avenues) NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

San Francisco

CODE

075

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service - Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue - Box 36063

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE

California 94102

**3 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

San Francisco City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

Polk, McAllister, and Grove Streets and Van Ness Avenue

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Seacoast Fortifications, San Francisco Harbor,  
Historic Resources Study, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, USNPS

DATE

n.d. (1979)

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service, Western Regional Office

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California 94102

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fort Miley Military Reservation on Point Lobos, one of the outer headlands on the southern side of the Golden Gate (entrance to San Francisco Bay and Harbor), was acquired by the U.S. Army by condemnation from the City and County of San Francisco in 1893. The army planned to use this new acquisition as the location of gun and mortar batteries for the defense of San Francisco Bay. These emplacements would be of the new fortifications system of harbor defense during what historians now call the "Endicott Period" (1890-1905), when coastal defenses were modernized around the nation. The reservation contained 54 1/20 acres and was located on top of the headland at an elevation of approximately 350 feet.

#### The Military Reservation

Historically the rectangular Fort Miley reservation consisted of three more-or-less distinct complexes of structures. The western third of the post consisted of four rifled battery structures (of which three survive intact and essentially unaltered, except for the addition of some non-historic railings), a searchlight power plant, some fire control ("base end" or range finding) stations, and remains of a few earthworks believed to date from the invasion scare occasioned by the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. The eastern quarter of the post consisted of a four-pit mortar battery, which survives intact today except for the removal of the guns and the addition of a stable and horse paddock which fill two of the mortar bays, and an added concrete manure storage shed, as well as a parcourse-jogging trail over the top of the earthwork with parcourse exercise structures scattered along its length. Between the two complexes of gun emplacements was the area which historically housed the Fort Miley garrison structures, mostly wood-frame buildings typical of garrison barracks, storehouses, officers' quarters, and the like. These were all demolished by 1934, for construction during that year of a large, modern Veterans Administration hospital occupied the site of the garrison, the VA having been given a permit for use of this army land. Consequently this central part of Fort Miley no longer possesses integrity and is excluded from the nomination. (It is also excluded because it is under the administration of the Veterans Administration, and not subject to NPS nomination. The original 1934 hospital building may have architectural significance in relation to its Art Deco styling, and it is the reported intention of the Veterans Administration eventually to nominate it to the National Register for its architectural significance. But the history of the VA Hospital is entirely different from the history of Fort Miley as a military post and part of the seacoast defenses of San Francisco, and not relevant to this current nomination.)

#### Battery James Chester

The approved battery construction project for Fort Miley called for a battery of two 12-inch rifles on "disappearing" carriages and a battery of sixteen 12-inch mortars. Construction of the gun battery was in progress by the autumn of 1899, and excavation of the mortar pits had begun by January 1900. The rifled gun battery (FI-2), located in the western portion of the reservation, was completed in 1901. In 1903, a third 12-inch gun, mounted on a (non-disappearing) barbette carriage, was added to the battery (FI-1). The complete work was named Battery James Chester in 1904. The first two guns had their platforms side by side; these platforms stood over the magazines and other service rooms which were buried deeply underground. The third emplacement stood

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED	MAY 23 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

a little apart from the first two and had its own magazines and service rooms under its own platform, which was at a lower elevation than the other two and to the south. The parapets of all three were composed of great thicknesses of concrete and earth. From the front they were completely concealed behind earthworks protected by a ground cover, but from the rear the batteries were two to three story structures built of reinforced concrete with steel doors, window bars, and other such features. The edges of the platform below the parapet, and the stairways, historically were protected by railings of metal pipe with ball joints; some portions of the original railings survive, but where sections had rusted out or been removed, it has been filled in with pipe of about the correct size but with the wrong kind of joints, support spacing, and attachment to the concrete structure. Additionally, around the top of the parapet where its appearance would have pinpointed the location of the guns to an enemy and interfered with their firing, a non-historic modern pipe railing has been added for safety reasons.

Designed and built before the advent of air power, these batteries were unprotected from aerial bombardment or, except by camouflage of their front earthworks, from high trajectory mortar fire. But their design and their front earthworks provided protection against low trajectory naval gunfire, for these batteries were conceived for the purpose of engaging in gun duels with, and sinking, enemy warships approaching to attack San Francisco Bay. Since their abandonment, trees and brush have grown up in front of the batteries which would have interfered with their fields of fire at the time they were armed and in service. Earthen embankments to the rear of the batteries also constitute part of their earthworks. Collectively, the three guns here covered the three channels of approach to San Francisco Bay--South, Main, and North (or Bonita).

Battery Chester continued to be armed and to play a role in San Francisco's defenses until the middle of World War II. Late in 1942, the 12-inch gun on the barrette carriage (southernmost of the three) was declared obsolete and ordered salvaged. By the summer of 1943, the war in the Pacific having turned in favor of the Allies, the two 12-inch rifles on the "disappearing" carriages were no longer needed. All three guns had been dismounted and removed by December 1943. Except for removal of the guns and some salvageable electrical equipment on the interior, and except for minor intrusions such as a non-historic safety railing in one place and improper restoration of other railings, and such additions as two portable toilet structures and a moveable picnic table, these battery structures are in good condition today and possess great integrity.

Battery LaRhett Livingston; Battery Anton Springer

The mortar battery, located in the eastern portion of the fort, was completed in August 1901 and was named in 1904 Battery LaRhett Livingston. It consisted of four large pits, each pit containing four 12-inch mortars, surrounded on three sides of each pit by concrete service rooms, with the service rooms and front covered by massive earthworks protected from erosion by a planted ground cover. Beneath the heavy earthen traverses, reinforced concrete rooms filled the spaces between the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 31 1980
DATE ENTERED	MAY 23 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

3

mortar pits, all accessible only from the back of the traverses between the pits, and from service doors opening into the pits near the back of the pits on either side. Inside the service rooms, there was a narrow gauge rail tramway built into the concrete floor, laid out in the form of a "T" with a turntable at the intersection of the arms. One of the original rail tram carts from one of these tramways between the mortar pits has survived (and is temporarily stored in another battery). The interior of this Battery also contains some of the original electrical fixtures, some disconnected and some still in use for lighting. Communication in the Battery was by an elaborate system of speaking tubes, which are still in place. Originally at their outlets these speaking tubes had little mouthpieces with a spring-actuated cap to keep them closed when not in use, and featured little brass plates above each tube mouthpiece labeling the office to which they connected, such as "Commanding Officer." Only one set of four mouthpieces and labeling plates remains, between Pits No. A and B of Battery LaRhett Livingston, others having been vandalized.

In 1906 Battery Livingston was divided administratively, without effect on its physical structure, into two batteries, Pits A and B (the north half) retaining the name Livingston (FI-329), and Pits C and D being named Battery Anton Springer (FI-330). Between 1918 and 1920, two mortars were removed from each of the four pits because it had been found nationwide that such pits were too small for the simultaneous loading of four mortars. The roll-up metal doors to some of the entrances to the interiors were added in 1917. The Battery earthwork wraps around the north end and then runs down the entire length of the back of the battery, leaving an interior roadway which runs the length of the battery behind the pits and traverses. On the back side of this roadway, built into the rear earthwork, are four reinforced concrete firing or plotting booths, wherein operators fired the mortars electrically. There is also a concrete structure built into the rear earthwork which is believed to have been a latrine.

Batteries Livingston and Springer were considered obsolete in 1943 and orders were issued for the mortars to be salvaged. The battery structures are in good condition today, but the exterior has been altered by construction of a metal prefabricated Park Police stable in Pit C and a horse paddock in Pit B, and by construction of a concrete manure bin in the rear earthwork which entailed demolishing a small concrete wing retaining wall at one of the four firing booths. A parcourse-jogging trail with a number of upright exercise structures along it has been constructed along the top of the front and back earthworks, around the north end, and diagonally up the front exterior and rear interior faces of the earthwork.

Battery Loren H. Call

Battery Loren H. Call, mounting two 5-inch rapid-fire guns, was constructed southeast of the barbette emplacement of Battery Chester in 1915. This quite simple work and its guns stood guard through World War I, but the guns were dismantled in 1921. There is no visible trace of Battery Call today, its site having been thoroughly disturbed in later years, and it is located outside the boundary of this district on Veterans Administration land. ✓

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 31 1980

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

Coast Defense Searchlight Power Plant

In 1913 a concrete power plant (FI-3) was constructed at Fort Miley for a coastal searchlight defense project. This building is located to the rear and on the right flank of Battery Chester. Because of its location it is commonly thought to have been Battery Chester's power plant; this latter, however, was located beneath the gun platforms, adjacent to the magazines. The searchlight powerhouse today is in a good state of preservation. (Nothing remains of the two coastal searchlights, Nos. 5 and 6 in the 1937 defense project, that were located at Fort Miley, but northwest of Battery Chester's Emplacement No. 1 about 100 feet lies the sandbag foundation for what was believed to have been a searchlight emplacement.)

Battery (Construction Number) 243.

A fourth battery, Construction No. 243 (FI-4), for two 6-inch guns, was authorized for Fort Miley in 1941. Construction got underway in 1943, and the battery was considered complete, except for mounting of the guns, in mid-1944. The carriages themselves were mounted and the steel shields that protected the two emplacements were in place. The 6-inch guns were not mounted until April, 1948, well after World War II. (At that time 6-inch guns continued to have a role in covering the minefields.) The guns were dismantled finally about 1950. Today the two emplacements, simple circles of concrete, are still to be found, behind and above Battery Chester. One of them was modified to serve as a decorative platform for a flagstaff. The reinforced concrete magazine complex, covered with an earthwork, stands between the emplacements and is in good condition. This structure was used by the U.S. Navy after it accepted responsibility for mine defense. Much of the paint on this structure is still a navy "battleship gray." The interior mine control command center still has some of its original features.

Fire Control Stations

By the end of World War II, seven reinforced concrete fire control stations had been built in or near Fort Miley. Only three of these remain today, all in the western portion of the fort. (Three, for example, were demolished to enable construction of Battery 243). One of the three survivors, FI-350, is located near and in front of gun emplacement No. 1 of Battery Chester. It served as a range finding station for Battery Wallace, located north of the Golden Gate in Fort Barry. It is in good condition and accessible. The other two are located down a steep slope in front of gun emplacement No. 2 of Battery Chester. They are nearly inaccessible and completely hidden by a thick growth of bushes and trees. The more northerly station (FI-351) served the 16-inch guns of Battery Townsley, located in Fort Cronkhite north of the Golden Gate. The more southerly station (FI-352) was a fire control station for the 16-inch guns of Battery Davis, several miles to the south in Fort Funston.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 31 1980

DATE ENTERED

MAY 23 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 5

Anti-Aircraft Gun Emplacements

The concrete plugs for two 3-inch anti-aircraft guns were constructed at Fort Miley between 1920 and 1925. These were located on the high ground in front of Pit A, mortar Battery Livingston. Apparently, the guns of this battery were never mounted. When World War II came, an anti-aircraft battery was set up in nearby Lincoln Park. There are no visible traces of either battery today.

Field Fortifications

Southwest of Battery Construction No. 243 are remains of earthworks reinforced by sandbags of concrete whose history is unknown, but they may possibly be some of the emergency earthworks thrown up in December 1941 in response to the invasion scare created by the Japanese attack on Hawaii.

Post of Fort Miley

While the military reservation at Fort Miley was established in 1893 and the original Endicott-type gun emplacements were built in 1899 and 1900, the coast artillery garrison consisting of buildings to house and supply the men who manned the batteries was not constructed until after the first batteries were completed. Located in the central portion of the reserve between the gun and mortar batteries, Fort Miley was officially garrisoned on July 10, 1902. Smaller than its contemporaries, Forts Baker and Barry on the north side of the Golden Gate, it consisted of the typical collection of wood frame buildings for a coast artillery garrison--barracks, stately two-story officers' quarters, hospital, storehouses, etc. It remained garrisoned until 1922, when it was placed in a caretaking status. All but one of the garrison buildings were demolished by mid-1934. In May 1941 the post of Fort Miley was reactivated and remained active through World War II, but without its original complex of buildings. World War II temporary structures were built at that time, but have since been removed.

In 1934, the Veterans Administration obtained a permit from the army to use the land on which the buildings complex of Fort Miley stood for construction of a hospital, and it was probably at this time the buildings were demolished. A large modern hospital was then built on the land, and with its later additions, parking lots, and landscaping, occupies the site of the old post. Consequently nothing remains of the post buildings, with one exception that is discussed below. Because of the hospital's existence, the remaining historic structures of Fort Miley are now divided into two separate parcels, informally known as East Fort Miley (Batteries Livingston and Springer) and West Fort Miley (Batteries Chester and Construction No. 243.)

Ordnance Storehouse

Only one non-fortification structure remains at Fort Miley that is judged to possess historical significance. It is a gable-roofed frame ordnance storehouse

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED	MAY 23

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 6

that survives in the southeast portion of the original reservation, now East Fort Miley, in front of Battery Springer. It measures 30 by 75 feet and is in good condition. Built in 1902 at a cost of \$3,520, it is the last surviving building of the Post of Fort Miley. It stood originally at the northeast corner of the old Fort Miley Parade Ground, and has been moved a short distance to the southeast, where it apparently served its original function for an additional number of years. The date of the move is unknown but probably occurred during the 1930s.

List of Historic Structures by Present Building Numbers

West Fort Miley

Battery Chester - FI-1, FI-2  
Battery (Const. No.) 243 - FI-4  
Searchlight Powerhouse - FI-3  
Fire Control Station - FI-350  
Fire Control Station - FI-351  
Fire Control Station - FI-352  
Unidentified Earthworks

East Fort Miley

Battery Livingston - FI-329  
Battery Springer - FI-330  
Ordnance Storehouse - FI-304

The structures of batteries listed above include all surrounding earthworks.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 31 1980

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 7

The General Management Plan for Golden Gate National Recreation Area proposes for Fort Miley:

- East Fort Miley - an adaptive use zone with field offices to serve rangers, maintenance operations, provide U.S. Park Police facilities and fire-fighting and search-and-rescue equipment, and continuation of existing uses. A small picnic area with associated play equipment is to be added.
- West Fort Miley - minor improvements in existing picnic facilities, development of a small campfire circle to accommodate community day camp activities and occasional overnight use by groups.
- The Lands End area, outside the boundary and west of Fort Miley, is proposed as a natural appearance subzone, basically a continuation of its current status. Lands End is separated from West Fort Miley by a paved road and a significantly lower elevation.
- Lincoln Park, adjacent to but outside Fort Miley on the north and east, is proposed as a special use zone with continuation of existing golf and fine arts (Palace of the Legion of Honor) uses.

Located west of Fort Miley, and considerably downhill from Battery Chester in the Lands End area is a historic octagonal commercial maritime lookout building, which is the subject of separate nomination. When that structure is vacated by present occupants, it is proposed for adaptive use to house exhibits pertaining to San Francisco Maritime History.



# 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 type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" 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      1892 - 1950      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      United States Army

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The battery emplacements, fire control stations and searchlight facilities of East and West Fort Miley are historically of national significance because they were part of the defense of the strategic harbor of San Francisco, long regarded by army engineers and strategists as the most important harbor on the West Coast of the United States. The commencement of fortification of this headland (Point Lobos) in 1899 marked the final phase of what is known as the Endicott system of seacoast defense, when it was realized that the guns and mortars should be placed as far toward the sea as possible and that the inner harbor defense represented by the early Endicott-type batteries was of less importance. The guns of Fort Miley, together with those of Fort Barry on the northern side of the Golden Gate (the strait leading into San Francisco Bay), became the important "outer line of defense" at the turn of the century. The massive concrete and earth batteries, Chester and Livingston, represented the latest in design and engineering of the Endicott works as of 1900. Later installations at Fort Miley, such as a coastal searchlight powerhouse and fire control stations for other and later batteries mark further advances in the theory, practice and technology of coastal defense. Fort Miley's continuing importance in the harbor defenses of San Francisco is illustrated by the construction there of a 6-inch gun battery during World War II and the subsequent arming of this battery as late as 1948--the last of the coastal guns to be mounted in the San Francisco Bay Area. Combined with the fortifications and batteries and their ancillary facilities of the Presidio of San Francisco, Fort Mason, Fort Winfield Scott, Fort Funston, Fort Baker, Fort Barry, Fort Cronkhite and Fort McDowell, the seacoast fortifications at Fort Miley are of National significance in the military history of seacoast defense in the United States.

The Post of Fort Miley, historically significant because of its role as a coast artillery garrison in the San Francisco defenses from 1902 through World War II, is no more. But the one surviving building, a storehouse from the early days of the fort's history, is of local historical significance with respect to the history of this military reservation.

Historical Background

The land encompassing Point Lobos was first set aside for military purposes by an Executive Order issued by President Millard Fillmore in 1850, but one year later Fillmore signed another Executive Order that excluded Point Lobos from the military reservations in the San Francisco area. The land then came under the jurisdiction of the City and County of San Francisco and, eventually, the Golden Gate Cemetery was established there.

Beginning in 1890, the United States undertook a complete modernization and reconstruction program directed towards its coastal defenses. This phase of coast defense

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Erwin N. Thompson, Seacoast Fortifications, San Francisco Harbor; Historic Resource Study, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California. Denver: National Park Service, 1979.

"Records of the Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army." Record Group 77, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 27.5

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,0	544020	4181780	B	1,0	544020	4181440
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,0	543270	4181440	D	1,0	543270	4181780
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

West: Fort Miley.

Commencing at the intersection of the east edge of 48th Avenue and the north edge of Clement Street, the boundary runs northerly (N.3°23'W.) along the east edge of 48th Avenue for a distance of 812 feet, then clipping the corner of what otherwise would be a rectangle, it runs north/northeasterly (N.24°25'E.) for 89.5 feet, then easterly (N.86°37'E) for a distance of 572 feet, then in a southerly direction

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Erwin N. Thompson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Denver Service Center

DATE

January 12, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

755 Parfet Street

TELEPHONE

(303) 234-6103

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80225

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

1-29-80

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*K. M. Ellison*

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*J. R. Hollander*

TITLE

Cultural Resources

DATE FEB 13 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Sally G. Odell*

DATE 5/23/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 5/9/80

ATTEST:

KEEPEE OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

history is known to historians as the "Endicott Period." The plans evolved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for San Francisco Bay called for a new complex of fortifications on both sides of the Golden Gate and on the islands in the harbor. These plans eventually included Point Lobos and its strategic location as one of the outer headlands of San Francisco Bay.

The military reservation of 54 1/20 acres was acquired from the City and County of San Francisco by friendly condemnation procedures in January 1893--the local government was prohibited by law from voluntarily selling property in its possession. At that time, the area selected by the army for military purposes contained no burials from its former use as part of the Golden Gate Cemetery--all had been reinterred elsewhere.

As part of the overall project for the defense of San Francisco Bay, the construction of fortifications at Fort Miley began in 1899. Toward the west end of the reservation, Battery Chester, two (and later, three) 12-inch rifled guns, was completed in 1902-03. These weapons covered all three of the channels of approach to the Golden Gate--South, Main, and North (or Bonita). By 1937, the army had decided that 12-inch batteries such as Chester should be abandoned when the harbor defenses could again be modernized with a new generation of developments. But the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into the Second World War before the new modernization project was completed and Battery Chester's guns continued to play an important role in coast defense until 1943. The Allied victories in the Pacific that year reduced the danger of an enemy attack on San Francisco to such an extent that the army ordered Battery Chester's guns be salvaged. The concrete battery emplacement today, with its simple but impressive architectural lines, its massiveness, and its unique aspect of having gun platforms designed for both "disappearing" (2) and barbette (1) carriages, contributes to the historical significance of the area. (Generally similar 12-inch gun batteries are also to be found at Forts Winfield Scott, Baker, and Barry, in the San Francisco defenses.)

Toward the east end of the Fort Miley military reservation, construction began on a 12-inch mortar battery in 1899. Designed for sixteen 12-inch rifled mortars, the battery was completed in 1901. It was designated Battery LaRhett Livingston in 1904; later, the mortars were divided into two batteries, the south half of them being named Battery Anton Springer. The mortars were designed for all-round, 360 degree fields of fire, and covered the sea, the shores, and the land against attack. Like Battery Chester's rifled guns, the mortar batteries stood guard through World War I and on into the 1930s. They, too, were to be abandoned when the 1937 modernization project was completed. But the Pearl Harbor attack caused Batteries Livingston and Springer to be retained in the harbor defenses until 1943, when they were finally declared obsolete and the mortars were salvaged. Livingston and Springer are historically significant because of their contribution to the defenses of San Francisco Bay from 1901 to 1943. Their architecture, too, is impressive for its simplicity and functional lines, and the massiveness of its earthworks. (Generally similar 12-inch mortar batteries are to be found at Forts Winfield Scott and Barry.) Due to their location Batteries Livingston and Springer do not at present readily lend themselves

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

to interpretive uses. They are presently accommodating such adaptive uses as a park maintenance facility and a park police office and stable.

In 1905 the so-called Taft Board was formed to consider improvements for the batteries constructed during the Endicott Period. Among these improvements were projects for the electrification of the coastal batteries, improved fire control facilities and techniques, and a coast defense searchlight project. Evidence of these improvements from the "Taft Period" of coast defense is to be found today at Fort Miley in the form of an electrical powerhouse for the two coastal searchlights that were installed at the fort, although the searchlights themselves are gone. Also, as an outgrowth of the fire control system, three fire control stations, as they were developed on the eve of World War II, are to be found today at Fort Miley. All four structures are located in the vicinity of Battery Chester in the west portion of the reservation. They are historically significant because they are representative of the continued improvements of harbor defense down through World War II. (Two of the fire control stations do not lend themselves to interpretation due to their inaccessibility and being hidden by vegetation.)

Battery (Construction Number) 243 at Fort Miley, designed for two 6-inch rapid-fire guns protected by steel shields rather than the traditional concrete-and-earth parapets, was completed in 1944. This type of coastal gun was considered to be of value at that late date because of its function to cover the submarine minefields outside the Golden Gate, making mine-sweeping by an enemy difficult if not impossible. Indeed, its guns were not mounted until 1948, after most other types of coastal guns had been scrapped. This battery is historically significant because it represents one of the last phases of the traditional concept of coastal defense. It is not duplicated by any other similarly constructed 6-inch batteries anywhere within Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Fort Miley itself was named in honor of Lt. Col. John D. Miley, U.S. Volunteers, an artillery officer who died at Manila in the Philippine Islands in 1899. The first of the post structures at Fort Miley were completed in 1902, and the post was officially occupied for the first time on July 10. It was a typical coast artillery post of that period, generally similar to but smaller than the new coast artillery post at Fort Baker. Had its structures survived, they would undoubtedly possess historical significance today for their military architecture and for their role in San Francisco harbor defense. All but one of these structures were razed to permit construction of the Veterans Administration hospital in the central portion of Fort Miley in 1934.

The only remaining building that was part of the post of Fort Miley is the ordnance storehouse, originally Building No. 4 (now FI-304). It was constructed in 1902 at a cost of \$3,520 at the northeast edge of the Parade Ground. At an unknown date, but probably some time between 1934 and 1942, it was moved a short distance to its present location by the army for continued use for military purposes, perhaps continuing as an ordnance storehouse for Batteries Livingston and Springer which stood just to the east of it. Thus although it is not on its original site, this building is considered to possess historical significance because it is the only survivor of the post buildings and because its being moved to a new site was a part

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

4

of its continuing role in military history and because in its new site it probably continued to serve its original function, at least for a few years. It is presently adaptively used by the National Park Service as a ranger office.

Today's large, modern Veterans Administration hospital and its ground effectively divide the portions of Fort Miley which retain historical integrity into two parcels. Unofficially but accurately, these have come to be called East Fort Miley and West Fort Miley. Each portion contains historically significant structures from the defense history of San Francisco Bay. While there is not now a physical relationship between the two, their history is devoted to one and the same theme--the coastal defenses of San Francisco Bay. Their boundaries are the original boundaries of the Fort Miley military reservation, less the area transferred to the Veterans Administration and occupied by the hospital and its grounds.

ITEM NUMBER

10

PAGE

2

(S.3°23'E) for a distance of 960 feet to the north edge of Clement Street, then westerly (S.86°37'W.) along the north edge of Clement Street 660 feet to the point of beginning. The north, south and west boundaries of this portion of the historic district correspond to those portions of the original reservation boundaries.

East Fort Miley

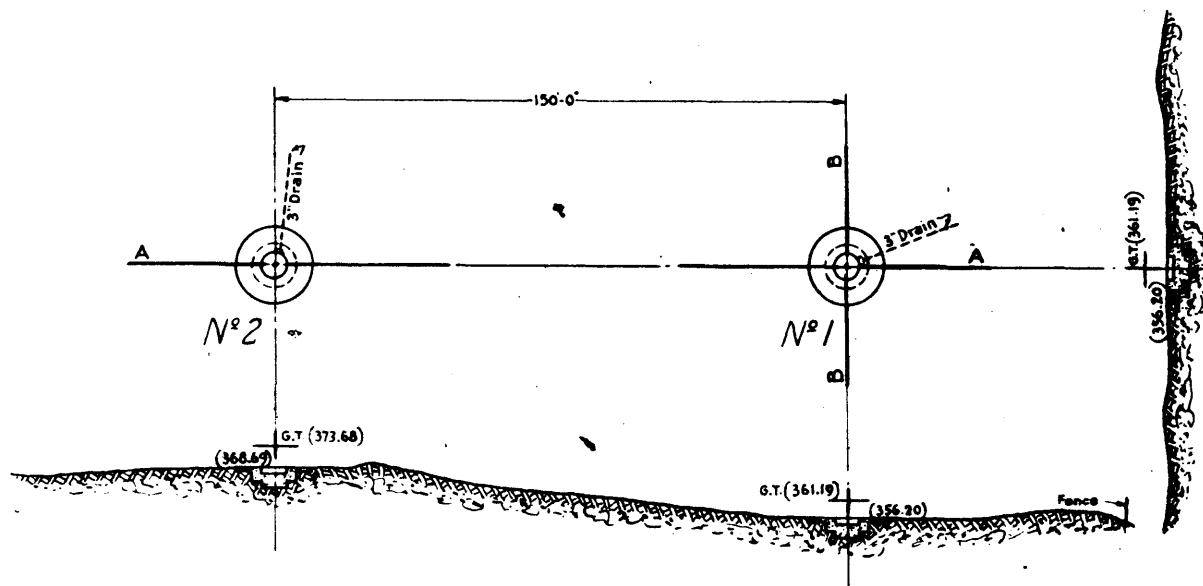
Commencing at the intersection of the east edge of 42nd Avenue and the north edge of Clement Street, the boundary runs northerly (N.3°23'W.) along the east edge of 42nd Avenue for a distance of 980 feet, then in an easterly direction (N.86°37'E.) for a distance of 550 feet, then in a southerly direction (S.3°23'E.) for 980 feet, then westerly (S.86°37'E.) for 550 feet along the north line of Clement Street to the point of beginning. The north, south and east boundaries of this portion of the historic district correspond to those portions of the original reservation boundaries.

REPORT OF COMPLETED WORKS ~ SEACOAST FORTIFICATIONS  
(BATTERY PLAN)

HARBOR DEFENCES OF SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.  
FORT MILEY  
ANTI AIR-CRAFT BATTERY  
No OF GUNS 0 : CALIBER MODEL

CORRECTED TO AUG. 1, 1929

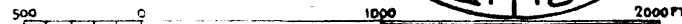
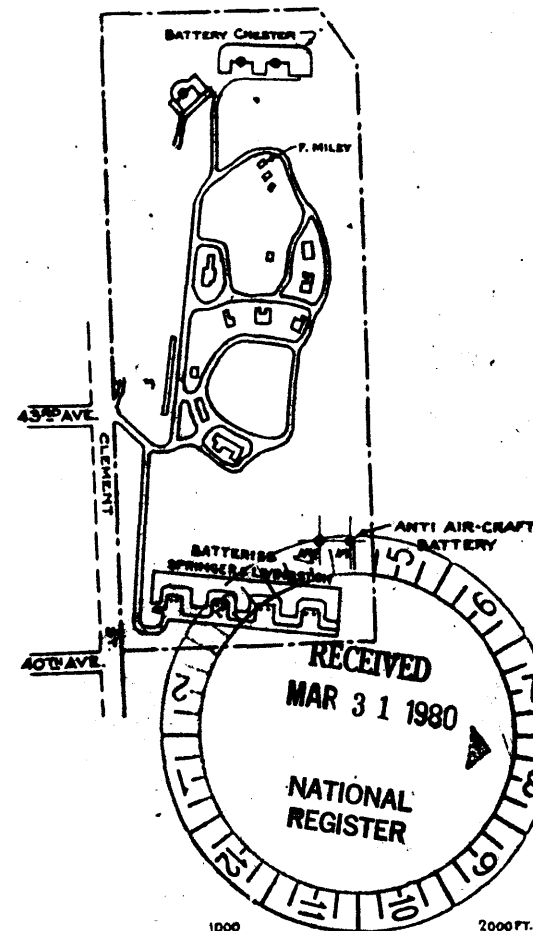
FORM-7



SECTION A-A



SECTION B-B

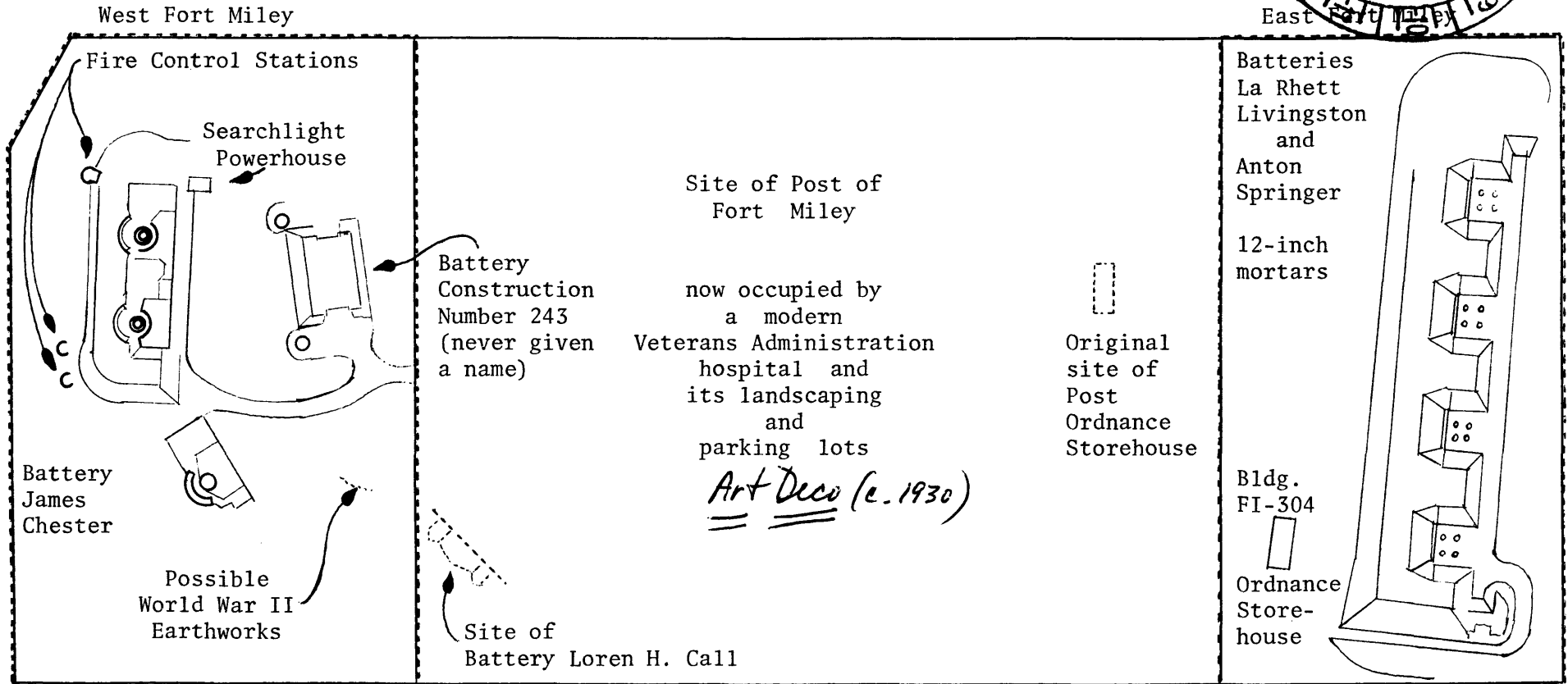


FORT MILEY MILITARY RESERVATION - City and County of San Francisco - California

(Originally known as the Point Lobos Military Reservation)



Lincoln Park

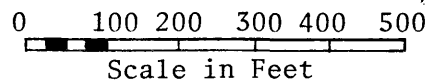


Clement Street

48th Avenue

Site plan by  
Gordon Chappell

National Register boundaries



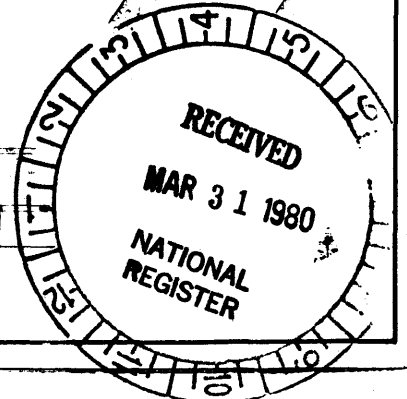
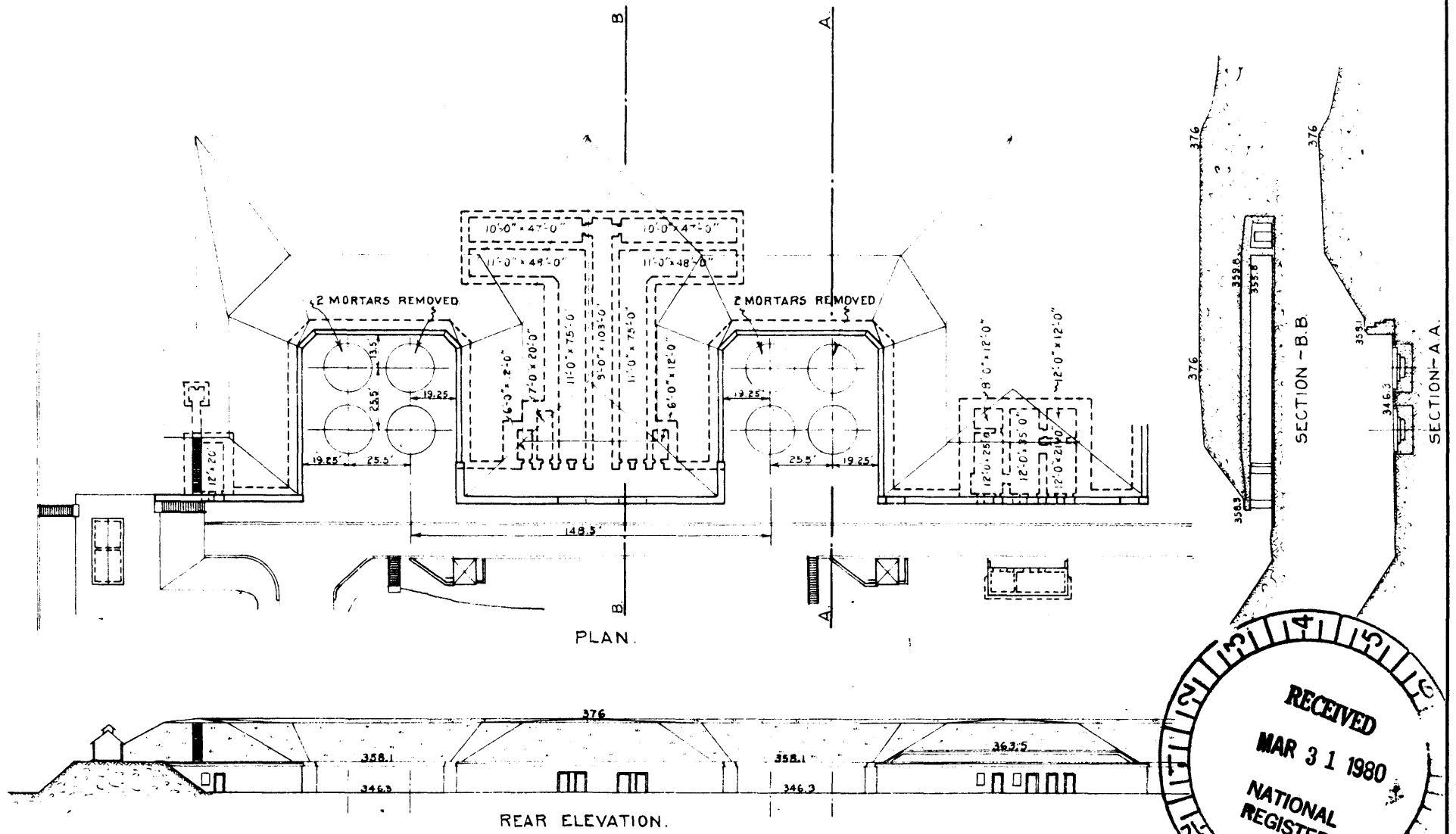
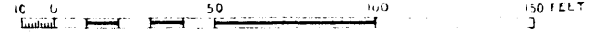
40th Avenue

REPORT OF COMPLETED WORKS - SEACOAST FORTIFICATIONS  
(BATTERY PLAN)

COAST DEFENSES OF SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.  
FORT MILEY  
BATTERY ANTON SPRINGER  
NO. OF MORTARS 4: CALIBER 12" : 8 MORTAR CARRIAGES

CORRECTED TO DEC. 1919.

FORM-7





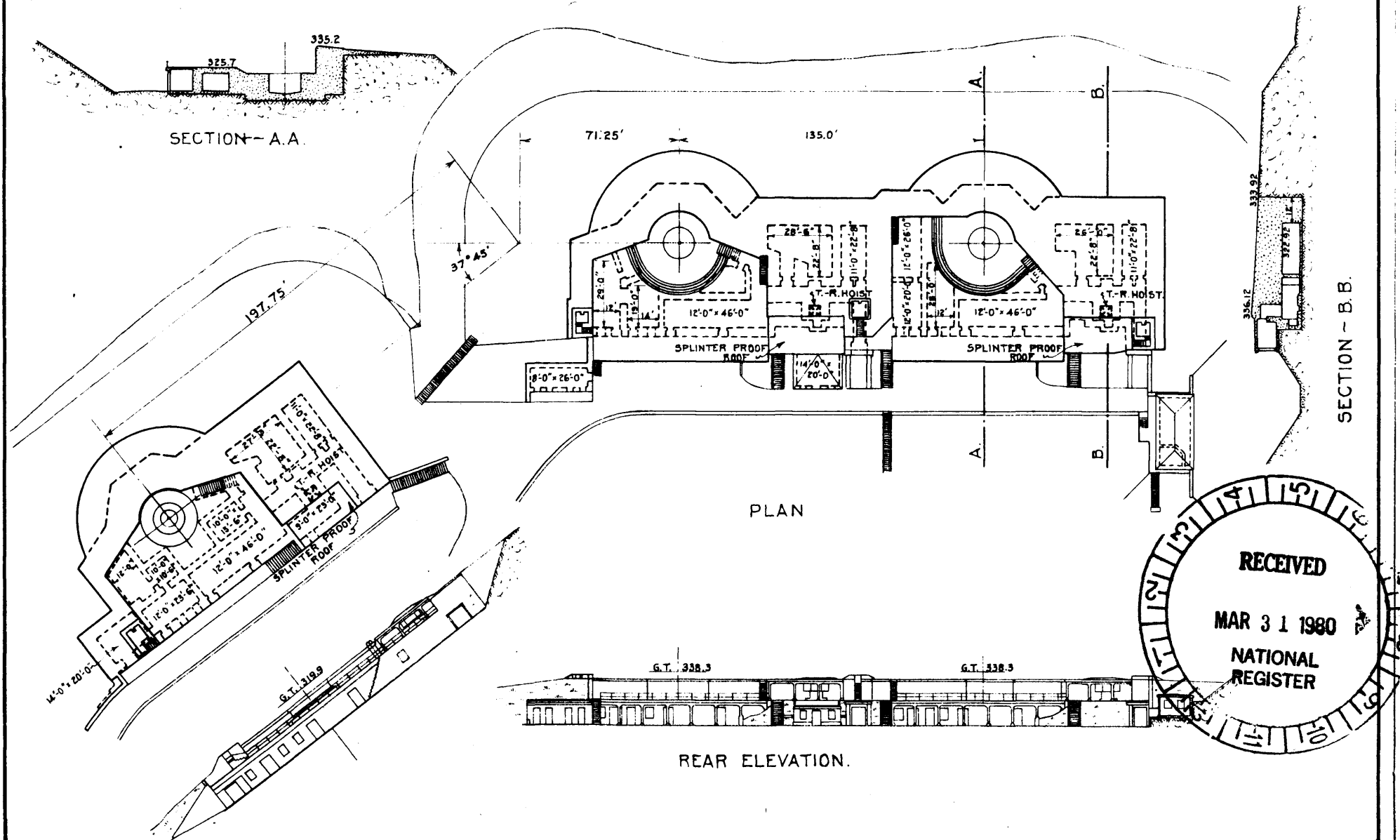
REPORT OF COMPLETED WORKS - SEACOAST FORTIFICATIONS  
(BATTERY PLAN)

COAST DEFENSES OF SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.  
FORT MILEY, CAL.  
BATTERY JAMES CHESTER  
NO. OF GUNS 3: CALIBER 12"  
2 DISAPPEARING CARRIAGES  
1 NONDISAPPEARING CARRIAGE

CORRECTED TO DEC. 1919.

FORM-7

10 0 50 100 150 FEET.



REPORT OF COMPLETED WORKS ~ SEACOAST FORTIFICATIONS  
(BATTERY PLAN)

COAST DEFENSES OF SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.  
FORT MILEY  
BATTERY LOREN D. CALL  
NO. OF GUNS 2 : CALIBER 5<sup>IN.</sup> : BARBETTE CARRIAGES

CORRECTED TO DEC. 1919.

FORM-7

