

III. Fort Barry

A. Establishment

The western portion of Lime Point Military Reservation, informally called the Point Bonita reservation, was destined to become even more important in the the coastal defenses than Fort Baker. Here, on the outermost headlands of the Golden Gate, an array of Endicott-period batteries was constructed between 1901 and 1905:

Battery Mendell, two 12-inch guns on disappearing carriages
(FA-1364)

Battery Alexander, eight 12-inch mortars (FA-1356)

Battery Edwin Guthrie, four 6-inch guns on nondisappearing
carriages (FA-1354)

Battery Samuel Rathbone, four 6-inch guns on nondisappearing
carriages (FA-911)

Battery Patrick O'Rorke, four 3-inch guns on pedestal mounts
(FA-1351)

The Engineer Department prepared plans and estimates for the first two batteries (Mendell and Alexander) in September 1900. Noting that the only way to get men and materials to Point Bonita was over the crude mountain road from Fort Baker, five miles away, the local engineer requested funds for constructing a wharf at Bonita Cove and a single-track tramway up the 250-foot-high cliff. The wharf and tramway were completed by September 1901. The engineers had a special barge built in San Francisco to transport the guns, carriages, and heavy material to Bonita Cove. It was seventy-eight feet long, eighteen feet wide, and had a displacement of 102.5 tons. At first the hoisting apparatus for the tramway was borrowed from the Lighthouse Board; but in 1905 this had to be returned and the army then purchased its own hoisting engine.

As at Fort Baker the engineers required some temporary buildings at Point Bonita: office, cement shed, cook house, two barracks, stable for fifty horses, latrine, carpenter and blacksmith shop, and a house for assistants. The temporary character of these structures may be seen by their total construction estimate of \$6,451. None of them remains standing today.¹

Work on the batteries proceeded rapidly and, in August 1902, Maj. Gen. R. P. Hughes, commanding the Department of California, wrote the Adjutant General saying that the time had come when a company of coast artillery troops should be stationed at Point Bonita. The Chief of Artillery, Brig. Gen. Wallace Randolph, disagreed. He could not recommend the construction of a post at that time because there were too many artillery companies at other places living in tents because of a lack of quarters. He recommended that details from Fort Baker be sent to the point for target practice.

A detachment of one officer and twenty-three enlisted men from Fort Baker arrived at Point Bonita in July 1903, thereby marking the beginning of permanent occupation by the artillery men. Apparently, this detachment first lived in the magazines of Batteries Mendell and Alexander. A \$161 kitchen and messroom were requested for their use. Then, in March 1904, the Secretary

1. NA, RG77, OCE, Gen. Correspondence, 1894-1923, Maj. C. Davis, Sept. 12, 1900 and Sept. 12, 1901, to Chief of Engrs.; RG 92, OQMG, Capt. P.W. Cain, Dept. of Calif., Feb. 23, 1905, to Chief QM; Lewis, History of San Francisco Harbor Defense Installations, p. 174.

of War approved the expenditure of \$2,272 for the construction of temporary accommodations for the detachment.²

Meanwhile, the Quartermaster Department proceeded to plan a permanent post at Point Bonita. The first site selected was above Bonita Cove, northeast of the life saving station. This area soon proved unsatisfactory owing to sliding ground. By the summer of 1904 a new site had been selected--where the post buildings are to be found today. On July 16, the Secretary of War authorized the construction of the necessary buildings for a two-company post. That November the Quartermaster Department forwarded specifications for the new structures to the construction quartermaster at San Francisco. The transmittal letter said that the bulk of the lumber for framing, sheathing, etc. was to be Washington or Oregon pine. That for inside and outside finish was to be redwood. For a few specific purposes, such as sash, sugar pine should be used. The upper floors of the barracks and guardhouse were to be built of maple, because redwood had an unsatisfactory wearing quality. Also, the standard pipe supports for verandas and porches were omitted and masonry piers substituted. Inasmuch as the enlisted men's barracks were to be built on a hillside, standard plan No. 1-409 for hillside construction was sent to San Francisco.³

2. NA, RG92, OQMG, Gen. Correspondence, 1890-1914, Hughes, Aug. 27, 1902, to AG; Randolph, Oct. 18, 1902, to AG; Miller (?), San Francisco, Dec. 26, 1902, to QMG; QMG Humphrey, Mar. 16, 1904, to Chief QM, Dept. of Calif.

3. *Ibid.*, map, Point Bonita, July 1903; Chief QM Patten, San Francisco, telegram, July 21, 1904, to QMG; Dep. QMG G. Ruhlen, Nov. 21 and Dec. 5, 1904, to Constr. QM, San Francisco; RG77, OCE, Gen. Correspondence, 1894-1923, Actg. QMG G.E. Pond, July 16, 1904, to Chief of Engrs.

The War Department announced the establishment of Fort Barry in General Orders No. 194, dated December 27, 1904. The fort was named in honor of Brig. Gen. William Farquhar Barry, a regular army artillery officer who had commanded the 2d Artillery at the time of his death, in 1879. He had distinguished himself during the Civil War, particularly in the capture of Atlanta and in the surrender of Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. As was noted earlier, the boundary between Forts Barry and Baker was established by the true north line running from the tip of Point Diablo.⁴

Despite the fort's establishment and despite the transfer of the completed batteries to the artillery in June 1905, the garrison continued to consist of the small artillery detachment living in its temporary quarters near what would become the departmental rifle range.

B. Post Structures and Post History, 1905-1922

In January 1905, the Quartermaster Department invited bid proposals for the construction of twenty-one buildings at Fort Barry. All were to be frame buildings except the oil house, which was to be built of corrugated iron. The proposed structures were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Standard Plan No.</u>	<u>Today's Structure No., where known</u>
1 single set, field officer's quarters (CO)	145 F	FA-936

4. NA, Cartographic Archives Division, RG77, Fortifications File, DR. 189, Cal. 3-1, War Dept., General Orders No. 32, Mar. 30, 1908; Fort Barry, Fort Record Book, Presidio Museum, Presidio of San Francisco.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Standard Plan No</u>	<u>Today's Structure No., where known</u>
1 double set, captains' quarters	142 Rev.	FA-937
2 double sets, lieutenants' quarters	120 E	FA-934 & 939
2 double sets, noncommissioned officers' quarters	82 E	FA-955 & 956
1 single set, hospital steward's quarters	87 E	FA-942
1 hospital, twelve beds	SGO Plan	FA-941
2 barracks	147	FA-944 & 945
1 guardhouse	30 E	gone
1 administration building	122 D	FA-940
1 quartermaster & subsistence storehouse	91 F	FA-960
1 ordnance storehouse	137 A	FA-961
1 stable	54 G	gone
1 wagon shed	60 H	gone
1 bakery	49 L	FA-962
1 coal shed	67 B	gone
1 oil house	92 B	gone
1 fire apparatus house	98 D	gone
1 quartermaster shop	59 F	gone

The date that the contracts were awarded has not been determined.
The winners were:

James Campbell, San Francisco--construction proper
R. Dalziel, Oakland--plumbing and heating
H. S. Tittle, San Francisco--electric wiring.⁵

Most of the structures were completed in the spring of 1907. They remained empty for the time being; the artillery detachment continued to occupy its temporary shelters. As early as March 1909, a landslide, caused by heavy rains, shoved the new ordnance storehouse (No. FA-961) from its foundation a distance of four feet. This same storm tore off half the roof of the coal shed and damaged the slate roof of one of the barracks. Other repairs soon became necessary. As early as the fall of 1907 the porches of the officers' quarters had settled so badly that they had to be jacked up and underpinned. Electricity was brought into the fort at the end of the year, being an extension of the new electrical distribution system at Fort Baker.⁶

The construction quartermaster notified General Funston in January 1908 that the quarters were finally ready for occupancy. On February 12, Capt. Sam F. Bottoms with forty-eight enlisted men of the 161st Company, CAC, arrived at Fort Barry from Fort Baker to take up permanent occupancy. The first post return for Fort Barry recorded the event: "Fort Barry was garrisoned by troops Feb. 12th 1908 per GO 35 Hdqrs. Dept. of Calif. c.s. This post is located at Point Bonita, Cal., a distance of 7 miles from

5. NA, RG92, OQMG, Gen. Correspondence, 1890-1914, item no. 185219, unidentified newspaper clipping; and "General Instructions to Bidders," Jan. 14, 1905.

6. Fort Barry, Fort Record Book, Presidio Museum; NA, RG92, OQMG, Gen. Correspondence, 1890-1914, Capt. B.F. Cheatham, Mar. 29 and July 20, 1907, to QMG; Dep. QMG, Nov. 21, 1907, to QMG; QMG Aleshire, Dec. 16, 1907, to AG.

Saucelito, Cal., at which place the post office and ferry stations are located. The telephone station is located at this station. The telegraph station is located at Fort Baker, Cal., a distance of 5 miles."⁷

The engineers turned over their gasoline engine and pump to the post for use in the new water system. Barely had the troops settled down when the pump went out of commission and so many leaks developed in the system that not even one reservoir could be kept full. By the summer of 1908, the quartermaster had begun the construction of a dike at the east end of Rodeo Lagoon to separate the fresh water of Rodeo Creek from the brackish water of the lagoon. At first this dike did not stretch completely across the lagoon because the northern shore was private property. Instead, it bent east and touched shore so as to include the mouth of the creek. This was the beginning of today's Rodeo Lake. By the end of 1908 a pumphouse, having a capacity of 50,000 gallons per day, stood on the edge of the lagoon. This water, however, was restricted to flushing and irrigation purposes. Drinking water was supplied by three wells about two and one-half miles up Rodeo Valley; pumps forced the water into a 200,000-gallon reservoir on the hill behind the officer's quarters.

In 1910 the Secretary of War approved the construction of a 100,000-gallon concrete reservoir on the slope above the barracks. This reservoir supplemented a smaller one nearby for

7. NA, M617, Roll 80, Fort Barry, Post Returns, Feb. 1908; The San Francisco Call, Jan. 28, 1908. There was a post return for January also, when the post was occupied by one man, QM Sgt. William Bromstedt. The artillery detachment continued to live at the rifle range and continued to submit its own post returns, as will be discussed later on under Departmental Rifle Range.

storing the flushing-irrigation water from the reservoir. The water system was now working so well that the Army agreed to supply the Bonita Point Light Station with its domestic supply (160,000 gallons per year at 15¢ per 1,000 gallons). As has already been noted in this study, a six-inch water main was run through the Baker-Barry Tunnel when it was completed in 1918. This main brought in a commercial supply of water from Sausalito.⁸

The engineers also turned over their wharf and tramway to the post quartermaster. This officer was quite dissatisfied with the condition of the wharf. It was in a poor state of repair, and when the winds came out of the southeast the government steamer could not dock. He recommended the construction of a 500-foot breakwater that would cost \$60,000. However, he received only \$10,000, with which he had the wharf reconstructed and extended, thus making landings somewhat safer. Like all wharves, it needed repairs over the years, including new cluster piles, fender piles, and green spring piles. On one occasion the post quartermaster toyed with the idea of cutting a road down the cliff side to the wharf (there already was a path), but the Quartermaster General disapproved firmly.⁹

8. FARC, San Bruno, RG77, OCE, SF Dist., Letterbook No. 5, Jan. 10-Mar. 5, 1908, Maj. C.H. McKinstry, Feb. 14, 1908, to CO, Ft. Barry; NA, RG92, OQMG, Gen. Correspondence, 1890-1914, Funston, Mar. 13, 1908, to AG; Lt. C. Schudt, July 22, 1908, to QMG; Maj. G. Williamson, Dec. 30, 1908, to QMG; Lt. Col. J. Riddle, 12th Lighthouse Dist., May 5, 1910, to CO, Ft. Barry; NA, RG77, OCE, General Correspondence, 1894-1923, McKinstry, Apr. 13, 1909, to Chief of Engrs.

9. NA, RG92, OQMG, Gen. Correspondence, 1890-1914, Lt. Col. J. Biddle, May 17, 1909, to AG, Dept. of Calif.; Articles of Agreement, Feb. 26, 1913, for repairs to wharf; Aleshire, Sept. 23, 1911, to Chief of Staff.

From the military correspondence of these years miscellaneous references to the structures at Fort Barry have been culled. In 1909, for example, two dormer windows were added to the quartermaster storehouse (structure No. FA-960). That same year a second, temporary stable was constructed. The first stable had room for only fifteen animals, whereas the post had twenty mules and six horses. A flagstaff was not acquired until December 1909. It was an iron staff, seventy-five feet tall, and was mounted on a concrete foundation. It was located within the semicircle of quarters, in the area that was considered to be the parade ground. The rooms of the hospital (structure No. FA-941) were calcimined in 1910. At the same time the woodwork was varnished and the outside of the building painted. Because a number of Alcatraz's military prisoners was working at Fort Barry, a steel-bar cell, eighteen by ten feet, was constructed in the attic of the hospital as a detention room for any of these prisoners taken ill.

A major problem at Fort Barry was the lack of sufficient quarters for the staff sergeants assigned to the post, nearly all of whom were married. The sergeant first class, Hospital Corps, lived in quarters No. FA-942, which had been built for him. The two duplexes, nos. FA-955 and 956, were occupied by the sergeant major, the quartermaster sergeant, the commissary sergeant, and the ordnance sergeant. Having no quarters at all were the Coast Artillery Corps engineer, the electrical sergeant, and a second quartermaster sergeant who was assigned to the departmental rifle range. Two of these lived in San Francisco and commuted to work by steamer. This was a satisfactory arrangement on those days the steamer could dock at the Barry wharf. But on stormy days, these men had to take the ferry to Sausalito then make a two-hour hike to the post. The electrical sergeant was forced to live in quarters at Fort Baker and make the daily hike.

In addition a number of civilian employees had to be housed. The blacksmith built a rude house for himself. The plumber lived in an old shack that belonged to the engineers. And the civilian engineer made over another old engineer building as his residence. The corral boss and the nine civilian teamsters found bunks in the stables and at "improvised" quarters at the rifle range. Despite repeated requests for additional quarters, the Quartermaster General remained firm in his denials.¹⁰

The department quartermaster, in his periodic inspections, noted both changes and improvements required at the post. In 1909 he wrote that the boundary fence was in disrepair; neighboring cattle were devouring plantings made by the post quartermaster. Ground had been broken for a post exchange and work had already begun on a gymnasium (structure no. FA-946). He recommended the addition of bars to the basement windows of the barracks in order to protect company property stored therein. He also recommended the construction of a small concrete root cellar at the rear of each barracks. The quartermaster in 1911 carefully listed the transportation available at the post:

- 5 dump carts, used in police fatigue work
- 1 road cart, for carrying mail
- 5 army wagons, for repairing roads and for duty at rifle range
- 1 four-horse truck, for hauling fuel and heavy artillery stores
- 1 sprinkling wagon, for sprinkling roads and rifle range
- 3 buckboards, for transporting officers and troops on official business

10. Ibid., Lt. C. Schudt, Feb. 19, 1909, to QMG; Capt. B.F. Cheatham, Mar. 5, 1908, to QM, Ft. Barry; General Instructions to Bidders, Ft. Barry, Oct. 5, 1908; Maj. J.A. Shipton, CO, Ft. Barry, Apr. 20, 1911, to AG.

1 dougherty (?)	"	"	"	"	"
2 mountain wagons	"	"	"	"	"
1 three-seat spring wagon	"	"	"	"	"
1 wagonette	"	"	"	"	"
1 express delivery wagon, for marketing purposes					

At that time one of the buckboards was broken down. That was not surprising. The post commander complained loudly about the condition of the road to Fort Baker. He described it as being exceedingly dangerous. It wound up to an elevation of 650 feet (a slight exaggeration), then down again. It was too narrow in certain parts for teams to pass. There was no fence or other protection to keep a team from falling over--at points the slope was seventy-five percent and a wagon could fall 400 feet. Whole outfits had gone over the side on several occasions. To be certain, the road was essential. It was the communication with the outside when boats were unable to dock at the Point Bonita wharf. Also, marketing for the post was done at Sausalito.

A few weeks after writing the above, the company commander had cause to write a postscript. Three additional accidents had occurred on the road, involving a grocery delivery wagon, a work team, and a buckboard respectively. The buckboard had had four occupants: the driver, the post surgeon, the post adjutant, and none other than the post commander himself. All had suffered severe shock and contusions. This time he mentioned that from twelve to fifteen children traveled the road daily to attend school in Sausalito. Of course, they traveled at "great peril." The best solution, he said, would be a tunnel under the hill. But that idea's time had not yet come. The War Department approved the expenditure of \$1,500 for materials to build a board fence at the more dangerous places.

An inspector general stepped into the transportation situation in the fall of 1911. He inspected the quartermaster tug Cartwright that made two or three scheduled trips to Fort Barry daily. He found her to be too small, too frail, and too unseaworthy. If a better boat were not available, he suggested that an "automotive stage run" for passengers be made available between Barry and Baker. Apparently, he had not taken a buckboard over the road. The post commander quickly put him straight on the infeasibility of an auto stage. As for the Cartwright, he said the tug was an invitation to disaster: "I refuse to use the boat & do not allow my family to use it."

Probably because of the condition of the road, the idea blossomed in 1913 of establishing a school for the children at the post. Correspondence on this matter finally reached the Judge Advocate General, who ruled that provision was made by statute for only two classes of schools at army posts: for officers, and for enlisted men. However, he saw nothing wrong with using a public building for school purposes, providing the parents equipped and maintained it at their own expense. This opinion resulted in the Treasury Department transferring a surplus boat house at Rodeo Beach to the War Department. The school board at Sausalito agreed to send a teacher to Fort Barry. And the parents paid the bills.¹¹

11. Ibid., Col G. Ruhlen, June 20, 1909, to QMG; Chief QM R. R. Stevens, Dept. of Calif., June 28, 1909, to AG, Dept. of Calif.; Col. F. Von Schrader, Feb. 13, 1911, report of inspection; J.A. Shipton, CO, Ft. Barry, Apr. 27, 1911, to AG, Dept. of Calif.; Maj. G. Blakely, IG, Extracts from Inspection of Ft. Barry, Nov. 6-22, 1911; H.G. Sharpe, Actg. Chief, QM Corps, July 9, 1913, to U.S. Dep. William Kent. At the time of the transportation crisis, Ft. Barry had a full complement of troops--2 companies, the 66th and the 161st.

C. Departmental Rifle Range

Each of the several posts in the Bay Area had long had some sort of small arms range for target practice. Even Alcatraz had developed one by placing the targets on one rocky point and the men firing over the water from another point. Fort Mason's range was on the beach west of Point San Jose. In early 1904, Gen. Arthur MacArthur appointed a Board of Officers to investigate and report on the idea of establishing a single large target range in an area between Point Bonita and Fort Baker.

The Board reported favorably in February but recommended the purchase of an additional 2,500 acres of land north of the reservation boundary to include that part of the watershed of Rodeo Creek that did not already belong to the United States. Not only would this allow for the establishment of one or more small arms ranges, it would permit a range for light artillery practice. MacArthur became enthusiastic about the report and asked the War Department to secure an appropriation of \$125,000 with which to purchase the land. The Secretary of War was less enthusiastic and refused to send the request along to the Congress. Nonetheless, the Departmental Rifle Range would be built.¹²

It will be recalled that Fort Barry's first detachment of artillery (one officer and twenty-three men) arrived at the fort in July 1902. Their assignment was the maintenance of the new coastal guns that were being mounted at the time. By late 1904, a second detachment had arrived at the fort. General MacArthur had found a way to construct a range after all. This detachment

12. Ibid., "Memorandum re land," n.d., ca. 1904-09. Twice more, in 1906 and 1909, the Secretary of War refused to acquire the additional land.

formed the nucleus of an intermittent camp that supported both the military units arriving at Fort Barry to practice on the new range and the military prisoners who came from Alcatraz Island to build the range. The camp site was located in a small vale lying east of the post, where the balloon hangar and the riding stables now stand. By 1910, the temporary frame structures consisted of a barn, an office, a storehouse, a cook house, a post exchange, an officer's quarters, and six mess kitchens. The troops lived in tents while at the range.

Captain Arthur Johnson, 13th Infantry, made out the first post return for "Departmental Rifle Range" at the end of November 1904. His company and some others from the 13th had carried out target practice at makeshift facilities during the first twelve days of November. Then, on November 13, fifty military prisoners arrived from Alcatraz, via Fort Baker, to begin construction on a permanent range. Their first task was to construct a barbed wire stockade for themselves and to erect ten conical wall tents within it. Until this was completed, on November 17, the prisoners had to return to the Rock each evening. Seventy-five prisoners occupied the stockade that evening and, the next morning, began construction of the range and a stable for the "public animals." The number of prisoners increased to 108 on November 25. By the end of the month it was found that the ordinary ration was insufficient for the laboring prisoners; Alcatraz forwarded additional quantities of pork, beans, cornmeal, and oatmeal.

The target range itself was located in a large valley still farther east, a valley that ran in a northwest-southeast direction. The ideal range had a length of one thousand yards, with firing points at every 100 yards. The terrain at Fort Baker was such that only 600 yards of fairly level ground was available in the

valley--one of the reasons the Board had recommended additional land. To have extended it even 100 yards farther to the northwest would have caused it to enter the privately-owned land north of Fort Barry, across Rodeo Creek. Consequently, the range as constructed had a length of 600 yards with firing points at 200, 300, 500, and 600 yards. At the end of 1904, Captain Johnson reported that the target pit at the southeast end of the range had been excavated and a concrete floor laid in it. Also, good progress had been made on a cut on the hillside on the northeast side that extended onto the range.

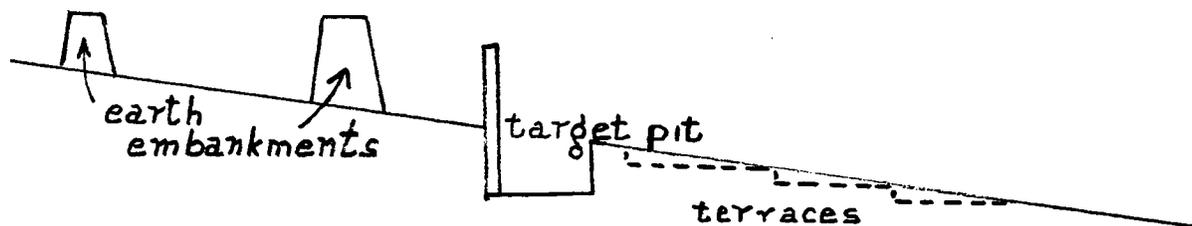
Heavy rains in January and February 1905 slowed progress measurably. Life at the camp was enlivened when two prisoners were caught excavating an escape tunnel from under the floor of the bath tent. The original Baker-Barry road had approached Fort Barry down the valley now occupied by the range. A new road segment passing in the rear of the range and keeping along Rodeo Creek was under construction by May.¹³

The range was sufficiently completed by May 1905 for no less than thirteen companies to camp there and engage in target practice. The last fifty-five military prisoners returned to Alcatraz in June. They came back to Fort Barry in the fall of 1905 for additional but unspecified work on the range, remaining for several months. From then until the post returns were ceased in June 1909, a steady stream of units arrived at the range to engage in target practice. At all times a small detachment remained at the camp providing what might be called an administrative overhead.

13. NA, Microcopy 617, Roll 945, Post Returns, Point Bonita and Departmental Rifle Range, November 1904-May 1905.

The U.S. Marine Corps was a welcomed guest at the rifle range both in 1909 and 1910. The Secretary of the Navy requested the use of the facilities again in 1911. However, unsettled conditions on the Mexican border called the Marines away from their West Coast garrisons, as were many army units. It is not known if the marines conducted target practice at Fort Barry in future years.¹⁴

An unusual problem concerning target practice came to light in 1911 when it was discovered that spent bullets were falling on Battery Kirby on the north shore of the Golden Gate, making the service of the 12-inch guns untenable. The commanding officer of Fort Barry, Maj. J. A. Shifton, found the cause, and the cure. The first 100 yards in front of the targets had a slope of seven percent. Bullets hitting this slope ricocheted off in the direction of Kirby. Shifton recommended providing three terraces or steps on this slope to prevent the rocochets. Also two earthen embankments should be built behind the targets to catch any stray bullets.¹⁵



14. NA, RG92, OQMG, Gen. Correspondence, 1890-1914, Col. J.E. Mahoney, Hdqrs., U.S. Marine Corps, Mar. 6, 1911, to Asst. Sect. of Navy.

15. NA, M617, Roll 945, Post Returns, Dept. Rifle Range, May 1905-June 1909; NA, RG92, OQMG, Gen. Correspondence, 1890-1914, Capt. E.W. Clark, OQMG, Apr. 11, 1911, to Chief QM, Dept. of Calif.

The Departmental Rifle Range remained in use until the Army's final departure from Fort Barry. The pistol range was moved from the northeast side to the southwest side of the range (and greatly reduced in size). Although Fort Barry was in a caretaking status after 1921, the range continued to be a busy place year in and year out.

D. Fortifications, 1905-1946

The engineers turned over Fort Barry's Endicott-period batteries to the artillery troops in 1905. The next forty years and more would bring many changes, improvements, and additions to the harbor defenses located in the Point Bonita area. Because of their location, Barry's guns and mortars had a seaward range much greater than those at Fort Baker; consequently their fortunes did not decline as quickly as did those of the batteries oriented toward inner harbor defense. The history of these fortifications has been presented in a separate study, but it is summarized herein to provide an inventory of the historic structures at Fort Barry.

Battery Mendell. FA-1364. Two 12-inch guns on disappearing carriages. It was the first gun battery to be constructed at Point Bonita. Its guns were salvaged in 1943.

Battery Alexander. FA-1356. Eight (later, four) 12-inch mortars in two pits. It was the only mortar battery located north of the Golden Gate. Its armament was dismantled and salvaged in 1943. Thereafter, its magazines stored mine explosives.

Batteries Edwin Guthrie and Hamilton A. Smith. FA-1354. Originally one battery (Guthrie) having four 6-inch guns. Because of its mission to cover the submarine mine fields it was one of the last batteries to be disarmed after World War II.

Batteries Samuel Rathbone and James F. McIndoe. FA-911. Originally one battery (Rathbone) having four 6-inch guns. Because of its mission to cover the submarine mine fields it too was one of the last batteries to be disarmed after World War II, in the late 1940s.

Battery Patrick O'Rorke. FA-1351. Four 3-inch guns. Its mission included covering the mine fields and the beach at Rodeo Cove. The battery was salvaged in April 1946.

Battery Wallace. FA-999. Two 12-inch guns. Constructed during World War I. It had the longest range of all the batteries at Fort Barry. In 1943 the guns were casemated. It was considered obsolete by 1948.

Battery Construction No. 129. FA-773, Designed for two 16-inch guns. Construction began on the casemated emplacements in 1942, but was suspended in 1943, when nearly 100 percent complete. The gun tubes arrived, but not their carriages. The battery was never armed.

Air Defense Missile Site, San Francisco 88L. FA-963, 966, 967, 969, 971, and 975. This Nike missile launch site is not properly a part of the seacoast defenses. But it is a significant element in the post-World War II defense system of San Francisco.

Mining Casemate. FA-1365. Constructed in 1908. It was the first casemate designed and located for mining the waters outside the Golden Gate. It was made bombproof in 1918. It remained an important element in mine defense until after World War II, during which it controlled Mines I in North Channel.

Searchlight Shelter. No structure number. Located below the lighthouse at Point Bonita, and constructed circa 1913. It is on property administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. In addition to its dramatic location, it is the better preserved of the two such shelters surviving north of the Golden Gate.

Searchlight Shelter. FA-1357. Located near Bird Island.

Four Fire Control Stations. FA-1375, 1376, 1377, and 1378. Located adjacent to the radar tower on U.S. Coast Guard property. Constructed between 1917 and 1921, these stations underwent several changes in assignments. In the post-war planning, three of them were assigned as GB-2 Battalion; Barry Group, and M¹, Mines I.

Signal Tower. World War II. Located near U.S. Coast Guard radar tower. Two stories. Reinforced concrete.

Double Fire Control Station. FA-1379. Located below and in front of the lighthouse and searchlight shelter on Point Bonita on property presently administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. Down to 1943 they served as B¹S¹, Battery Mendell; and BC²B⁴S⁴, Battery Alexander.

Two Fire Control Stations. FA-1362 and 1363. World War II-type stations; these are located immediately north of Battery Mendell. They served as M⁴, Mines II; and B²S², Chamberlin.

Two Fire Control Stations. FA-985 and 989. Located on Rodeo Hill, these two stations were the BC and the B¹S¹ for Battery Wallace.

Antiaircraft Battery No. 2. FA-1380. Located on Rodeo Hill. Two concrete gun plugs were constructed in 1920, and the guns mounted soon thereafter. A third gun was added in 1940. The battery was salvaged in 1946. Associated with the battery are two concrete, cut-and-fill structures, Nos. FA-991 and 993, which were a magazine and a combination storeroom and power plant room.

Balloon Hangar. FA-905. Constructed in 1921. It is the only survivor of three such hangars built at San Francisco.

Automatic Weapon Emplacements. FA-1381. Four circular earthen emplacements located north of Battery Mendell. Believed to date from World War II and possibly designed for .50 caliber machine guns.

E. Fort Barry, 1922-1941

Although without a permanent garrison from 1921 to 1939, Fort Barry was far from being a lonely forgotten place. Companies arrived on schedule to fire at the Departmental Rifle Range. Coast Artillery units from other posts trained periodically at the coastal guns. A caretaking detachment, usually from Fort Baker, performed routine maintenance. In 1935 a Civilian Conservation Corps camp was established on its eastern boundary. And between 1936 and 1941, several projects were undertaken at the post under the program of the Work Projects Administration.

Nevertheless, the permanent post buildings remained uninhabited. But they were not entirely neglected. In 1929, for example, eighteen of them received fresh coats of paint at a cost of \$3,459. The quartermaster did not help the cause of history much when he said that the color scheme would be the same as the existing one, and that all iron work, tin roofs, and metal gutters

would be painted with Prince's metallic paint to match the old color.¹⁶

A WPA project in 1936 resulted in all the permanent buildings again being painted on the exteriors. At the same time extensive plumbing repairs were made in the two barracks: flush valves in toilets, new lavatories, new wash trays, new kitchen sinks, and repair of showers. The latrines, kitchens, and mess halls received two coats of fresh paint. Two years later the interior plaster of all the officers' quarters was repaired and painted. The hospital was painted inside and out, as was the interior of the post headquarters building. A separate 1938 project called for similar work on other structures. It also provided for the clearing off of the parade ground area, and the grading, ditching, and rocking of three miles of road.¹⁷

The arrival of troops and the reactivation of the post in 1939 resulted in an increase in construction activity and building maintenance. In 1940 two temporary sheds (T145 and T147) were constructed for motor vehicles, as was a temporary guardhouse and dispatcher's office (T144). In the emergency construction of 1941, a regimental chapel was constructed at Fort Barry, although it was

16. WNRC, RG77, Completion Reports, Forts Baker & Barry, Capt. C.W. Haney, Completion Report on Repairs to & Exterior Painting of Ft. Barry Buildings, Feb. 21, 1929. By 1940, two companies of the 65th Coast Artillery were living temporarily in the CCC barracks. At that time there was an abortive attempt to have the camp named Camp Spurr, after Col. John P. Spurr who commanded the Harbor Defenses of San Francisco from 1922 to 1925.

17. Ibid., Capt. G.H. Dietz, QM, Completion Report on WPA Project No. 513-2-5 and WPA Project O.P. 365-03-2-24, both 1938; Capt. S.W. Hulse, QM, Completion Report on WPA Project 13-186, 1936.

considered to be a chapel erected for Fort Cronkhite across the lagoon. A post theater was also erected in 1941. A fire partially destroyed the theater early in 1942; it was promptly repaired at a cost of \$28,500.¹⁸

A rapid build-up of Coast Artillery units at Fort Barry in 1941 symbolized the approach of America's entry into the war. All structures, permanent and temporary, at the fort and at the new Cronkhite cantonment were utilized to capacity. Personnel took station at the guns, mortars, fire control stations, searchlights, mine casemates, and the antiaircraft guns. Fort Barry was as ready as it would ever be as a key element in the Harbor Defenses of San Francisco.

F. World War II

The army historian of the Western Defense Command wrote that on the bombing of Pearl Harbor, all the Harbor Defense stations and installations at San Francisco were manned by twelve noon on December 7, 1941. On that date, six batteries of the 6th Coast Artillery (Harbor Defense) were stationed at the fort:

Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, assigned to the G-2 Station

Battery H	"	" Rathbone-McIndoe, 6" guns
Battery I	"	" Smith-Guthrie, 6" guns

18. Ibid., Maj. A.N. Caldwell, QM, Completion Report, Apr. 4, 1941; Capt. J.H. Veal, QM, Completion Reports on Temporary Housing, Forts Baker, Barry, & Cronkhite, Oct. 22 and Dec. 17, 1941; Veal, Completion Report on Repairing Theater and Constructing a Dressing and Toilet Addition, July 1, 1942. All the temporary buildings at Fort Barry were painted gray with cream color trim.

Battery K	"	" Wallace, 12" guns
Battery L	"	" Mendell, 12" guns
Battery M	"	" anti-aircraft searchlights

In April 1942 six additional batteries arrived at the fort:

Battery G, 6th CA (HD), assigned to the 3" anti-aircraft guns
 Battery C, 130th CA Bn. (AA), also " " " " "
 Headquarters Battery, 266th CA Bn. (HD)
 Batteries A, B, and C, 266th CA Bn. (HD), all three assigned to the
 6" guns.

Also by April, Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 6th CA had taken station at Fort Barry.

In addition to the coast artillery, a battalion of infantry troops (possibly from the 7th Infantry Division) was rushed to Fort Barry immediately after Pearl Harbor. This battalion hastily prepared the area, particularly Rodeo Beach and other beaches to the north, against an enemy landing. The infantrymen laid barbed wire entanglements, dug slit trenches, and cleared fields of fire for automatic weapons.

Such modernization programs as installing fire control and surveillance radar, casemating Battery Wallace (FA-999, constructed during World War I), gas proofing plotting rooms, and building 16-inch Battery Construction No. 129 (FA-773), were rushed toward completion during 1942 and 1943. By 1943, however, the War in the Pacific was turning in the favor of the Allies. This success began to have an effect at Fort Barry as the garrison gradually decreased. Finally, in October 1944, a major reorganization of the

Harbor Defenses of San Francisco occurred which reduced the coast artillery to three batteries at the post.

Headquarters Battery, 2d Bn., 6th CA, which had arrived from Fort Cronkhite on January 24, 1944, was redesignated the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 172d CA Bn. (HD) and assigned to GATE CP. Batteries H and I, 6th CA (HD), which had been at Barry since before Pearl Harbor, were redesignated Batteries A and B, 172d CA Bn. (HD), respectively. Battery A was assigned to the 6-inch guns of Rathbone and McIndoe; while B manned the 6-inch gun of Smith and Rathbone. These assignments were another reflection upon the continuing importance of the 6-inch batteries in covering the submarine mine fields.

Another reorganization occurred after the war, on September 15, 1945, when Battery B, Harbor Defenses of San Francisco, was assigned to Rathbone and McIndoe, and Battery C, HD of SF, took charge of Smith and Guthrie. Finally, on August 1, 1946, these units were replaced by the 55th and 515th Coast Artillery Batteries.

These two units had a brief existence at Fort Barry; both were inactivated on November 25 that fall.¹⁹

G. Postwar Fort Barry

In 1943 Batteries Mendell (12-inch guns) and Alexander (12-inch mortars) had their armament removed and scrapped.

19. FARC, San Bruno, RG77, OCE, SF Dist., Main Office, Fortifications Files, 1884-1944, Capt. L.E. Mullally, CE, Aug. 24, 1943, to CG, Western Defense Command & Fourth Army; Western Defense Command, "Historical Record, Northern California Sector, Western Defense Command," pp. 19-21, and Appendix 4; Lewis, History of San Francisco Harbor Defense Installations, Appendix IV, pp. 4-5.

Battery Wallace and its long-range 12-inch guns were placed on the inactive list in 1944, only a year after modernization of the battery had been completed. In 1946, the 3-inch guns of Antiaircraft Battery No. 2 were salvaged, as were the 3-inch guns of Battery O'Rorke. That fall the last of the Coast Artillery troops left Fort Barry. The four 6-inch rapid fire batteries continued to be functional because of their mission to give protective cover for minefields. When submarine mining was transferred to the U.S. Navy in 1949, Fort Barry ceased to have any role in harbor defense.

For a time after World War II, 40-mm guns and .50-caliber machine guns were authorized for Fort Barry. The 40-mm guns, nine in number, were stored in the balloon hangar and at Battery Construction No. 129. The machine guns apparently were stored elsewhere. All or most of the 40-mm guns were removed from Fort Barry in the summer of 1946.²⁰

In the 1950s, Fort Barry became the location of an Air Defense Missile (Nike) Site, San Francisco 88L. Nearby was the administrative area, San Francisco 88, for the missile battery. When the Army abandoned the missile site, including two disarmed missiles, the National Park Service took over its administration as an important historic resource concerning the defenses of San Francisco Bay. The Army retained temporary control of the barracks, etc., at the administrative area. These latter, however, are not considered to possess historical significance. Another missile installation at Fort Barry was the control area for a Nike battery across the lagoon at Fort Cronkite. This control area, with

20. Fort Barry, Fort Record Book, The Presidio Museum.

its radar installations, was situated on top of Battery Construction No. 129, near the Fort Baker boundary. Little remains of this control center today.

Between Rodeo Lake and the Departmental Rifle Range, the post-World War II "Smith Housing Area" was retained by the Army for a period following the establishment of Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The housing consisted of about fifteen major structures, most of them apartment houses. The assigned structure numbers ran from 903 to 926. The Army has since abandoned these quarters. Not being a part of the original Fort Barry complex, these quarters are judged to possess no historical significance.

Farther to the east, on both sides of the Barry-Baker boundary is the second army post-World War II, modern residential area known as the Capehart housing. Army personnel still occupy these quarters, their assigned numbers ranging from 801 to 870. Like the Smith housing, they are judged to possess no historical significance.

The United States Coast Guard continues to occupy its land on Point Bonita. Several artillery fire control stations and a seacoast searchlight shelter are located on Coast Guard property. Although these structures are not on land administered by the National Park Service, they are judged to possess a local level of historic significance and are listed in a following section as such.²¹

21. This study does not consider the lighthouse or other Coast Guard structures at Point Bonita. My associate, Historian Anna C. Toogood, has discussed them in her study on Golden Gate NRA.

Fort Barry today is an integral and an important part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The many surviving elements of the seacoast and missile defenses of San Francisco Bay combine to demonstrate the evolution of harbor defense during the twentieth century. The original post buildings illustrate an early twentieth century coast artillery fort. Here the artillerymen manned the outer line of defense of a great harbor through two world wars. While the guns of Fort Barry never fired in anger, they would surely have been missed in December 1941 had they not existed.

H. List of Historic Structures, Fort Barry

Fort Barry has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. However, the nomination form, while including the entire military reservation as a historic district, listed only nine structures by name: Battery Hill (i.e., Battery Construction No. 129), Battery Rathbone-McIndoe, Battery Wallace, Battery Alexander, Battery Mendell, Nike Administration Site 88, Nike Launcher site 88 (L), Battery Smith-Guthrie, and Battery O'Rorke. As already indicated in this study, Fort Barry contains a number of additional structures that are worthy of consideration for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. A listing of all the historic structures follows:

Harbor Defense and Missile Structures

Battery Mendell. Structure No. FA-1364. Two 12-inch gun emplacements designed for disappearing carriages.

Battery Alexander. Structure No. FA-1356. Eight 12-inch mortars in two pits. It includes two firing booths that have army Nos. FA-1353 and 1355.

Batteries Edwin Guthrie and Hamilton A. Smith.

Structure No. FA-1354. Originally one battery (Guthrie) having four 6-inch guns.

Batteries Samuel Rathbone and James F. McIndoe.

Structure No. FA-911. Originally one battery (Rathbone) having four 6-inch guns.

Battery Patrick O'Rorke. FA-1351. Four 3-inch guns.

Battery Wallace. FA-999. Two long-range 12-inch guns. Casemated.

Battery Construction No. 129. FA-773. Two 16-inch gun emplacements. Casemated. Guns not mounted.

Air Defense Missile Site, San Francisco 88L. Nike missile launch site. FA-963, 966, 967, 969, 971, and 976.

Mining Casemate. FA-1365.

Searchlight Shelter, Point Bonita. No structure number, U.S. Coast Guard property.

Searchlight Shelter, near Bird Island. FA-1357.

Four Fire Control Stations. Near radar tower, U.S. Coast Guard property. FA-1375, 1376, 1377, and 1378.

Double Fire Control Station. Below lighthouse on Point Bonita. FA-1379. On U.S. Coast Guard property.

Two Fire Control Stations. North of Battery Mendell.
FA-1362 and 1363.

Two Fire Control Stations. On Rodeo Hill. Both for
Battery Wallace. FA-985 and 989.

Antiaircraft Battery No. 2. Three 3-inch antiaircraft
guns. Ruins only. FA-1380.

Magazine and Storeroom. For AA Battery No 2. FA-991
and 993.

Balloon Hangar. FA-905.

Automatic Weapon Emplacements. North of Battery
Mendell. FA-1381.

Garrison Structures

Officers' Quarters. FA-934.

Commanding Officer's Quarters. FA-936.

Officers' Quarters. FA-937.

Officers' Quarters. FA-939.

Post Headquarters. FA-940.

Post Hospital. FA-941.

Hospital Steward's Quarters. FA-942.

Barracks. FA-944.

Barracks. FA-945.

Gymnasium and Post Exchange. FA-952.

Noncommissioned Officers' Quarters. FA-955.

Noncommissioned Officers' Quarters. FA-955.

Quartermaster and Subsistence Storehouse. FA-960.

Ordnance Storehouse. FA-961.

Bakery. FA-962.

Departmental Rifle Range. FA-830.

Departmental Pistol Range. FA-831.²²

I. Conclusions and Recommendations

Fort Barry, on the outer line of defense, was a most important seacoast artillery post through two world wars. Today, it has a concentration of batteries that encompass an impressive array of types of weapons, ranging from 3-inch guns to 16-inch guns and including mortars and Nike missiles. Further, from Fort

22. In 1976 a List of Classified Structures was prepared for Golden Gate NRA. The Fort Barry Chapel, No. FA-948, was recommended for that list. Now, with additional historical research accomplished, it is recommended that this structure be dropped from the list in that it possesses neither historical nor architectural significance.

Barry one can see a panorama of other coastal defense sites of the Bay Area--ancient Fort Point, the Presidio, Fort Miley, etc.

Recommend that Fort Barry be the location for a major interpretation of the history of seacoast defense and that this interpretation be carried out through the batteries themselves and the viewpoints. Also recommend an interpretation of the garrison life of the Coast Artillery through the medium of the original post structures.

Association, 1969), pp. 56-59; Lawrence Kinnaird, "History of the Golden Gate and its Headlands," MS, typescript, 1967, p. 216; Erwin G. Gudde, California Place Names, The Origin and Etymology of Current Geographical Names (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1962), pp. 33 and 55; National Archives, Cartographic Archives Division, Record Group 77, Fortifications File, Drawer 189, Cal. 3-1, "Military Lands, California, Fort Baker." Hereinafter, National Archives is cited as NA, and Record Group, as RG.

