

Battery Chester

One of several batteries at Fort Miley, Battery Chester was built in 1901 and housed two 12-inch rifles. A third 12-inch gun was added on the south flank of the first two in 1903. The three gun emplacements were named Battery James Chester in 1904 to honor Major James Chester of the 3rd US Artillery, a Civil War veteran who had died the year before.

During WWI many coastal defense gun tubes were modified and then sent overseas to help the war effort in Europe. In 1918 the gun tubes in emplacements #1 and #2 were removed and shipped to New York for modifications. The war ended before they could be deployed. The gun tubes at Battery Chester were replaced by tubes from Battery Spencer at Fort Baker and Battery Lancaster at Fort Winfield Scott.

The guns at Fort Miley and Battery Chester were obsolete by 1937 and decommissioned. However they were briefly reactivated prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Battery Chester played an important role in coastal defense until the guns were eventually scrapped in 1943. The battery foundations remain intact and are used for a more peaceful function as a picnic area in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Top: Gun emplacement foundation of Battery Chester and picnic area, 2012; *Bottom:* Foundations and doors of Battery Chester, 2012.

