

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIESSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**PHO 688380**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 20 1978
DATE ENTERED	FEB 7 1979

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Six-Inch Rifled Gun No. 9, Model of 1905, on Disappearing Carriage, No. 2, Model of 1903  
AND/OR COMMON  
Six-Inch Disappearing Rifle; Six-Inch Disappearing Gun

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
At Battery Chamberlin, near Lincoln Boulevard at Baker Beach  
CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
San Francisco  
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE  
California 06 San Francisco 075

**2 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (*If applicable*)  
National Park Service, Western Regional Office  
STREET & NUMBER  
450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
San Francisco California

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Headquarters, Golden Gate National Recreation Area  
STREET & NUMBER  
Building 201, MacArthur Boulevard and Pope Road, Fort Mason  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
San Francisco California

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
None  
DATE  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE <u>1977</u>

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

The six inch seacoast defense gun which is the subject of this nomination consists of two major elements--the gun tube and the disappearing carriage on which the tube is mounted.

The gun tube is a long steel tube with a rifled (spiral grooved) bore, the latter six inches in diameter. It is cylindrical and graduated downward in exterior diameter in four segments, progressively smaller from breech toward muzzle, the thicker sections providing greater strength progressively nearer the breech where the propellant is fired. The gun is painted a dark olive green. It weighs 20,845 pounds. The breechblock for the gun is missing, and the gun cannot be fired without its replacement, but, although necessary to the functioning of the gun as a weapon, the breechblock is a very small, visually insignificant part of the overall object and its lack does not significantly affect the visual appearance or integrity of the weapon.

The gun is marked on the breech: "6 IN No. 9 Ord. Dept. U.S.A. Mod. of 1905 / WT. 20845 lbs. / Watervliet Arsenal 1908". It is marked similarly (although not identically) on the muzzle.

The gun tube is mounted on a carriage of the so-called "disappearing" type that was designed to hoist the gun tube over a concrete battery parapet for firing, and using the energy of the recoil from firing, to lower it or cause it to "disappear" backwards and downwards behind the rampart, ending up in the lowered loading position, protected behind concrete from direct enemy fire.

The carriage is a complex piece of machinery difficult to describe, and reference should be made to the photographs accompanying this nomination to obtain an understanding of its appearance. It has two heavy steel arms which connect at the trunnions with the gun tube in the second section forward from the breech. The steel arms are also connected below to 41,000 lb. counterweights made largely of lead which, when the gun has been loaded, serve to raise it to the firing position. The gun also has heavy pistons to facilitate smooth movement from one position to another, grease cups to insure lubrication of its moving parts, a pair of platforms for members of the gun crew, with the one for the gun pointer at the left, and other complex features such as wheels and gears for aiming. Exclusive of the counterweights, the carriage weighs about 36,500 lbs. Except for exposed steel in such features as the pistons, and brass control features, the carriage also is painted a dark olive green, as specified in a 1909 Army Ordnance Department manual.

The emplacement in which the gun is located is not the subject of this nomination, but will be described briefly to convey its current environment. It is an "Endicott"-type gun emplacement designed for this type of weapon, essentially a concrete-lined pit located about a hundred yards from the Pacific Ocean and facing west at Baker Beach in Fort Winfield Scott, San Francisco, California. The emplacement was designed to be largely invisible from a ship at sea at a time when air power and aerial reconnaissance had not yet affected the design of coastal defenses. The sand from the beach was graded in a gentle slope up to the very top of the concrete emplacement, its upper slopes planted with "iceplant", an introduced but common kind of flora along the

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This six inch gun and its disappearing carriage is categorized as an "object" because it was not constructed as an integral part of a seacoast battery but was separately manufactured for emplacement interchangeably in a battery emplacement of the suitable type wherever it was needed. It is not readily movable in the sense that a railroad locomotive, a ship, or a gold dredge is movable, so that it may in part also fit the National Register criteria for classification as a structure. Aside from its National Register classification, however, in accordance with National Park Service management policies, activity standards and administrative directives, it will be treated administratively by the National Park Service as a structure, with entry in the computerized List of Classified Structures with recommendation for preservation.

Continuation Sheet

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California coast. Thus when the gun was in its lowered, loading position, it would be out of sight from a warship at sea behind what appeared to be a natural sand dune covered with native growth. From behind, the concrete gun pits and the ammunition bunkers and other features were entirely visible. There was no overhead protection against either aerial bombardment or high trajectory weapons fire such as from mortars, but the concrete pits did provide protection against low trajectory fire from rifled guns such as were most common on warships of the era.

The battery emplacement is surrounded by an old Army cyclone fence which is a part of the historic battery structure, and which provides protection for the gun against vandalism when National Park Service staff personnel are not present to interpret the gun to visitors.

National Park Service maintenance and interpretive crews have performed frequent maintenance on the gun and carriage to control rust and maintain the mechanism in a working condition. Army manuals of the period provide data on methods of maintaining the weapon. On special occasions, personnel in replica uniforms of the 1908 period have carried out "dry-run" drills on loading and servicing the weapon.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PERIOD				
<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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT U.S. Army Watervliet Arsenal,

Gun: 1908; Carriage: 1903

Troy, New York

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This six inch breechloading rifle on disappearing carriage is one of only two such guns which survived the scrapping of such coastal defense ordnance following World War II, and of the two, is the only one whose recoiling mechanism is in operable condition so that it can be moved between the firing and loading positions. The gun is, furthermore, two years older than its sole surviving sister. This weapon is therefore of national level of significance as a historically significant military object under Criteria C in that it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, of a period, and of a method of construction, of "Endicott"-period seacoast defense ordnance, representative of the "golden age" of coast artillery dating from the last decade of the 19th Century and the early decades of the 20th Century. It is a rare, surviving example of once-common weaponry.

## Historical Background

Weapons of this size and type were essentially a development of the 1880's, resulting from three innovations: (1) new methods of casting, forging and tooling steel on the part of American industry; (2) successful adaptation of breechloading mechanisms to large cannon; and (3) development of a whole new family of explosives which burned at controlled rates, many of them more slowly than black gunpowder, paradoxically providing greater propulsion for shells in gun bores.

This new type of ordnance was widely adopted by a special board on coastal defense appointed by President Grover Cleveland in 1885 and headed by Secretary of War William Endicott. With due allowance for improvement and modification, it was basically this type of armament which guarded America's coastlines and harbors as late as World War II and after, until rendered obsolete by air power and nuclear weapons, when such ordnance was replaced by Nike missile batteries during the late 1940's and 1950's.

## History of Gun No. 9, Carriage No. 2

The gun and carriage which are the subject of this nomination were manufactured in the middle of what might be termed the "golden age" of coast artillery, at a time when they were still the latest word in such ordnance. Gun No. 9 was manufactured at the Watervliet Arsenal at Troy, New York in 1908, and was of the Model of 1905, which possessed modifications from the earlier Model of 1903 and the still earlier Model of 1898. The carriage was No. 2, Model of 1903. Disappearing carriages originated in Europe during the 19th Century, however, Buffington-Crozier disappearing carriages used by the U. S. Army represented a variation employing counterweights developed by the two officers for whom they were named, rather than the troublesome hydropneumatic systems employed in Europe.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Emanuel Raymond Lewis, Seacoast Fortifications of the United States. (Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1970). See pp. 75-144, especially pp. 75-81, 89, 93-95, 98-103, 110-111, 115-116, 118-119, 124-125, 129-134.
- Erwin Thompson, "Historic Resource Study: Seacoast Fortifications of San Francisco Harbor, Golden Gate National Recreation Area." Draft ms., National Park Service, Denver Service Center, 1978, pp. See especially pp. 193, 410.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .1802112

UTM REFERENCES

A	1	0	5	4	5	6	5	5	4	1	8	2	8	5	0
ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING							
C															

B															
ZONE	EASTING							NORTHING							
D															

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

As an object, this property has no boundary description, but for the purposes of this nomination form, the boundary is defined as a circle 100 feet in diameter whose center is in the center of the pivot on which the disappearing carriage of this gun turns or traverses, in the southernmost (left flank) emplacement of the four gun emplacements in Battery Chamberlin at Baker Beach, west of Lincoln Boulevard, Fort Winfield Scott (Presidio of San Francisco) California. This gun may be moved from this particular location without impairing its significance.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gordon S. Chappell, Regional Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Western Region

DATE

May 5, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

TELEPHONE

(415) 556-4165

CITY OR TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California (94102)

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

OCT 12 1978

### STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Know M. Ellon  
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  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *J. R. Holloman*

TITLE *Actg. Ass't. Dir., Cultural Resources*

DATE *10/31/78*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE *2/7/79*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST: *William Holloman*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
DATE *12/2/79*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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This particular weapon was originally emplaced in Battery Schofield at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, where it was used to train generations of cadets, who fired it out over the Hudson River a couple of times a year. The cadets also practiced disassembling parts of the gun and taking them back to classrooms to prepare mechanical drawings of its fittings. All of the parts of the gun, including nuts and bolts, were numbered to facilitate reassembly. When guns of this type became obsolete and were thoroughly scrapped nationwide, the two guns at Battery Schofield, because of their unlikely inland location and different history of use, escaped scrapping.

Preservation for Exhibit

Subsequently planners for a proposed National Armed Forces Museum, presumably to be a part of the Smithsonian Institution, located and "earmarked" these and other pieces of historic ordnance for future exhibit use. The guns were disassembled at West Point and stored by the Smithsonian Institution at Silver Hill, Maryland. When subsequently growing distaste for things military, resulting from the war in Vietnam, among other factors, scuttled plans for the proposed National Armed Forces Museum, the National Park Service sought acquisition of the two guns, planning originally to emplace them at Fort Moultrie, South Carolina. When it developed that the disappearing carriages would not fit the type of emplacements at Fort Moultrie, the guns became available for use elsewhere, and Gun No. 9/Carriage No. 2, the better of the two, was obtained for exhibit in Golden Gate National Recreation Area, moved there in 1976, and after cleaning and painting by the U. S. Army at the Presidio of San Francisco, installed by the Corps of Engineers in the southernmost (left flank) emplacement at Battery Chamberlin in February 1977. (The sister gun was emplaced at Fort Pickens, Sea Island, Georgia, in Gulf Islands National Seashore.)

Battery Chamberlin

This gun and its carriage is regarded as having significance as an object independent of this particular location. Historically, such guns were occasionally moved from one battery to another as the types of armament or the types of carriages in particular batteries were changed from time to time. Therefore, movement of this gun and carriage to another such battery would not affect its significance. At present, however, it is emplaced in Battery Chamberlin at Baker Beach in Fort Winfield Scott, often regarded as part of the Presidio of San Francisco, California, in Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Battery Chamberlin was built in 1904 to mount four of this type of gun; therefore, this gun is in a historically appropriate environment and the proper type of historic scene.

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Battery Chamberlin originally mounted Model 1903 six inch rifled guns Nos. 26, 27, 28, and 52, manufactured by Watertown Arsenal at Watertown, Massachusetts, on carriages of the disappearing type, Model 1903, numbers 27, 28, 29 and 30, manufactured by Wellman, Seaver, Morgan Company. The battery was named on December 27, 1904 in honor of Captain Lowell A. Chamberlin, First Artillery, a distinguished veteran of the Civil War who had died in 1899. The guns were dismounted in 1917, probably for shipment to the Atlantic Coast or possibly even to France for use during World War I. In 1920, two of the emplacements were modified to receive six inch guns on the non-disappearing or "barbette" carriages. The gun which is the subject of this nomination has been installed in one of the two unaltered original emplacements. The two guns on barbette carriages were removed in 1948 and scrapped. Battery Chamberlin itself is not the subject of or included in this nomination; its emplacements will be part of a separate nomination of the Presidio of San Francisco, California, now in process of preparation.



FEB 7 1979 NOV 20 1978

(Six-Inch Rifled Gun No. 9)

SIX INCH "DISAPPEARING" RIFLE

SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY

BAKER BEACH

GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTO

BY GORDON CHAPPELL

APRIL 1978

PHOTO 1 OF 5



FEB 7 1979

NOV 20 1978

(5.8-Inch Rifled Gun No. 9)

Six-inch "DISAPPEARING" RIFLE

SAN FRANCISCO County  
BAKER BEACH

GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

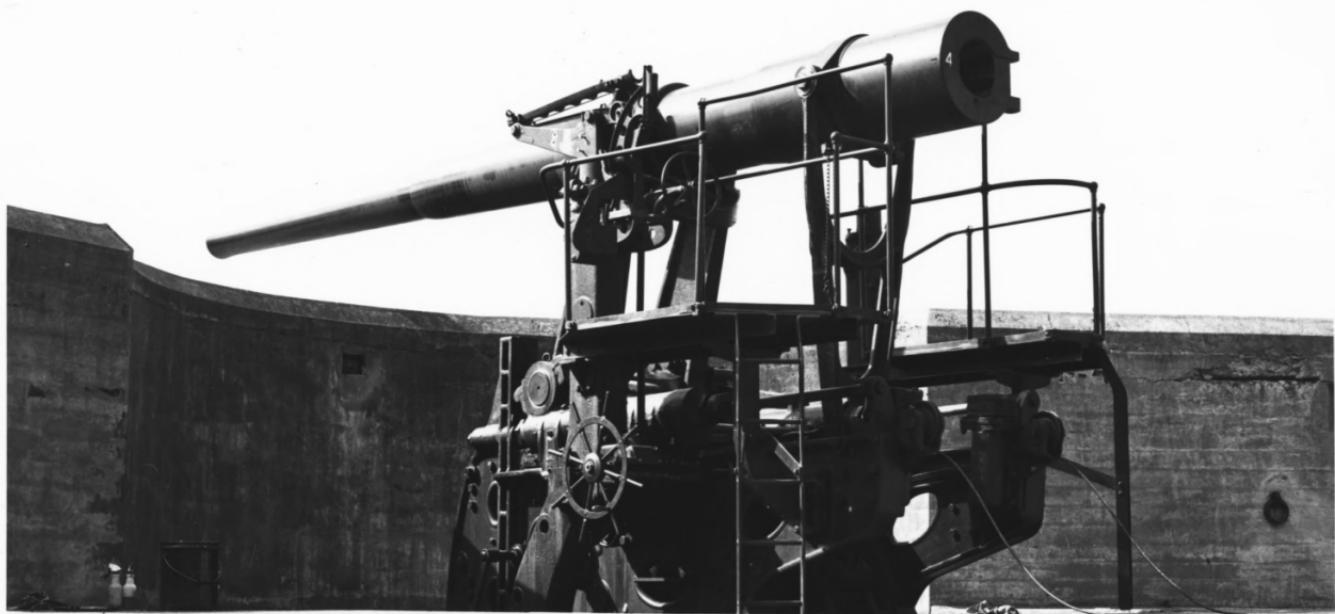
VIEW FROM NORTHEAST

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTO

BY GORDON CHAPPELL

APRIL 1978

PHOTO 2 OF 5



FEB 7 1979 NOV 20 1978

(Six-Inch Rifled Gun No. 9)

SIX-INCH "DISAPPEARING" RIFLE

SAN FRANCISCO County

BAKER BEACH

GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTO  
BY GORDON CHAPPELL  
APRIL 1978

PHOTO 3 OF 5



FEB 7 1979 NOV 20 1978

(5, x - Inch Rifled Gun No. 9)

SIX INCH "DISAPPEARING" RIFLE

SAN FRANCISCO County

BAKER BEACH

GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

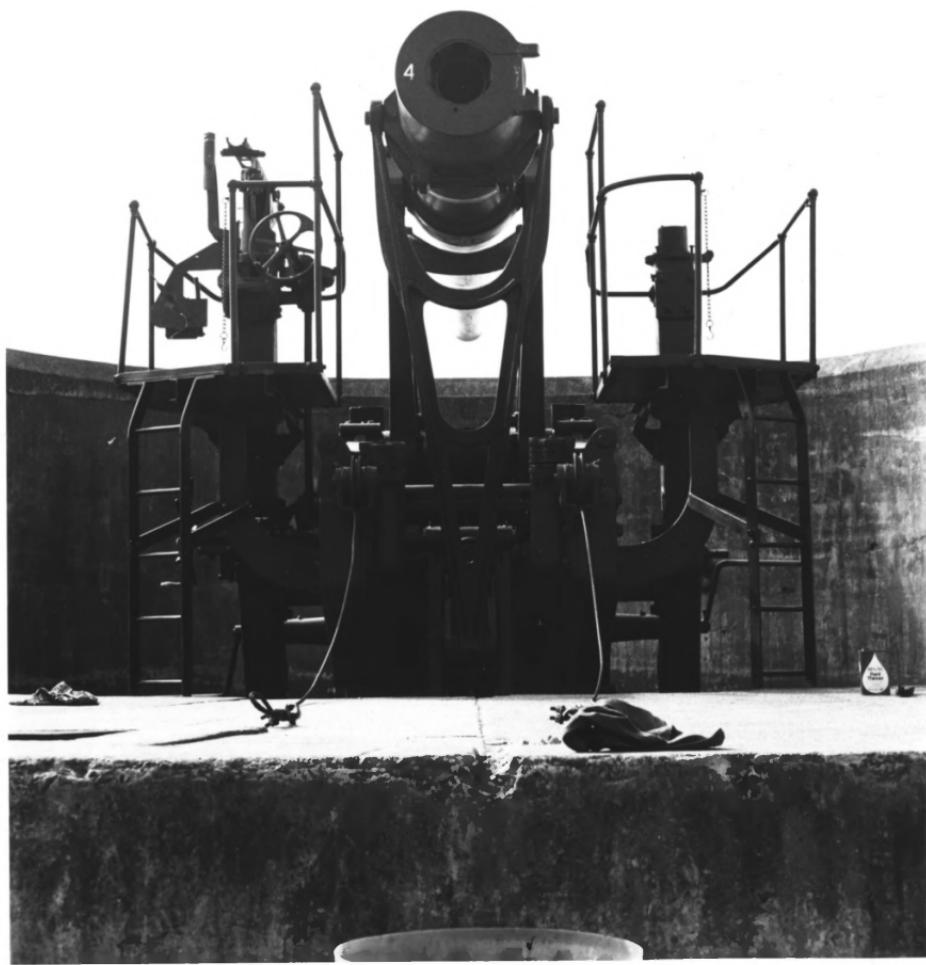
MUZZLE

VIEW FROM WEST

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTO  
BY GORDON CHAPPELL

APRIL 1978

PHOTO 4 OF 5



(Six-Inch Rifled Gun No. 9)

SIX-INCH "DISAPPEARING" RIFLE  
SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY

BAKER BEACH

GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION  
AREA

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

BREACH

VIEW FROM EAST

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTO  
BY GORDON CHAPEL

PHOTO 5 OF 5

FEB 7 1979

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NOV 20 1978