El Castillo de San Joaquin de Monterey

The Spanish Presidio of Monterey near Lake El Estero lacked a strategically placed battery of cannons to protect the bay from enemy ships. In 1792, work began on a battery with 11 cannons, as noted in Commandant Arrillaga's report of the following year (Dietz 1987:21 citing Horne 1970:12;14). Initially constructed of wooden logs called *fascines*, the fort consisted of an esplanade, *casa mata* [powder magazine] and wooden barracks for artillerymen on the rise commanding the bay (Bancroft I 1886:682; Dietz 1987:25). This was referred to as a "barbette" battery as the cannons were atop the walls, not mounted between masonry merlons in embrasures and it was shaped like a goatee (barbette means small beard in French). The site was selected by Bodega y Quadra, commandant of the naval department of San Blas who contributed tools, materials, and four12-pound cannons to the project (Williams 1993:77). Early accounts refer to it as "bateria o Castillo de San Joaquin de Monterey (battery or castle of San Joaquin at Monterey)" (Williams 1993:78 citing Arrillaga 1801 and Gomez 1818).

Note: There are indications in the historical record that more buildings and features were erected on this site, such as a Spanish era powder magazine and the unidentified features shown on the 1847, 1849, and 1852 maps. There were ditches dug for moatlike defensive features of the early batteries and the American redoubt (Reese 1968:16; Horne 1970:34,36). There may be more yet to learn about this site. The existence of the first Spanish fortification at this site was completely unknown until Dietz's excavations in 1985. Prior to that time the original Spanish fortification researchers thought that El Castillo was located and excavated in 1967. Today we are working with the assumption that Pritchard's excavations unearthed a later Mexican era battery that was used up to the American conquest of California. Archival information indicates that a road ran through the site from south to north directly west and above the two early batteries connecting with Spanish period fortifications at Point Pinos.

El Castillo de San Carlos, 1796

In 1796 and again in 1797, Engineer Extraordinary Alberto de Cordoba of the Spanish Royal Corps of Engineers was assigned to improve the fortification at Monterey called El Castillo de San Carlos (Williams 1877 BL; Halleck, March

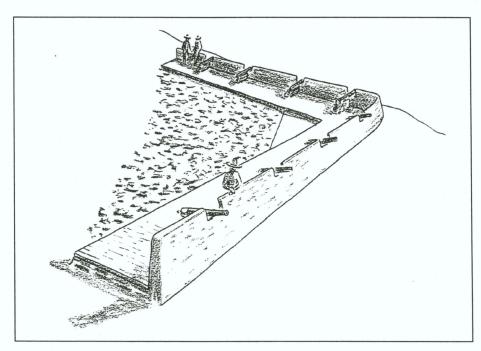
1, 1849 in California and New Mexico 150:131; Dietz 1987:22; Williams 1876:9-10). Cordoba reported ten mounted cannon of small caliber: seven 7-pounders, one 6-pounder, and two 3-pounders (Dietz 1987:25). The caliber stated in pounds apparently refers to the weight of the cannon balls. The physical layout of the lower, earlier, semicircular battery excavated in 1985 resembled that of El Castillo de San Joaquin, at the Spanish Presidio of San Francisco prior to its redesign by Cordoba. His original plan for El Castillo de San Carlos has not survived.



Spanish cannon at Presidio of San Francisco. Edna E. Kimbro photograph

Modifications Made Prior to Bouchard's Raid

In 1815, Englishman Peter Corney visited Monterey and gathered intelligence about its fortifications. He observed ten brass 12-pounders at the fort on the hill and a shore battery at the landing place of 2 long 9 pounders with 30 soldiers. In 1817, in preparation for the attack of Argentine privateer Bouchard and his men (including Corney), a forewarned Spanish Governor Sola directed the repair of the battery with masonry (Bancroft 1886 II:380).



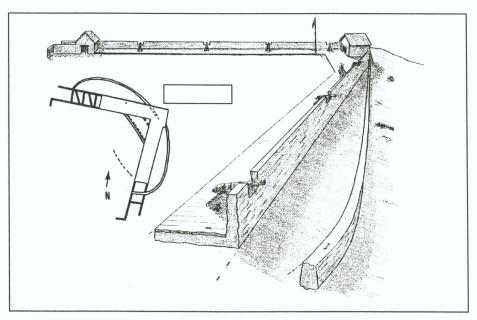
Pritchard's (1968) conjectural reconstruction of the 1818 battery.

During the 1818 attack, Jose Jesus Vallejo commanded an additional battery of three 18- pounders at *El Mentidero* (the gossiping place) east of the Custom House on the beach 600 yards from the presidio (Alvarado 1876 I:170). Bouchard captured the hilltop battery of six 8-pounders, but Spanish officers Vallejo and Estrada first spiked the cannons rendering them useless, and also blew up the powder magazine (Bancroft 1886 II:230). Before leaving Monterey, Bouchard's men sacked and fired the Presidio buildings. Only two cannons apparently survived the attack (Bancroft II 1886:234).

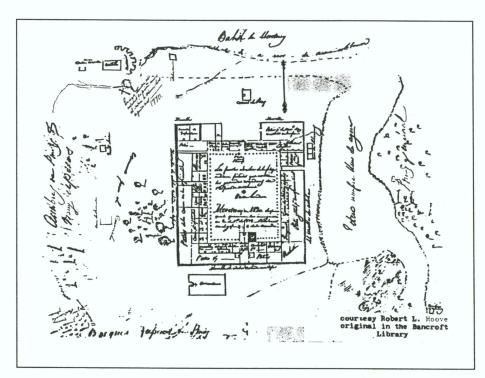
Note: a monument on Presidio hill placed by Argentina on February 18, 1981 commemorates Bouchard's taking of Monterey.

Additional Repairs, Modifications and New Construction of Mexican Battery Repairs in the wake of the Bouchard raid continued into 1821 with several masons at work directed by Vallejo and Estrada (Miller 1994:165). The tileroofed adobe barrack building excavated by Pritchard replaced the wooden

one destroyed by Bouchard. The design of the bastion-shaped upper battery excavated by archaeologists in 1967 indicates that this fortification was made more elaborate than its semi-circular predecessor with two sentry boxes, traverses, and flaring breast works or counterguard below the parapet. The precise location of the replacement powder magazine has not yet been discovered. Mexican general Mariano G. Vallejo commissioned a sketch plan of the Castillo as he recalled its appearance in 1820 with a *casa mata* (powder magazine or case mate), *castillo* (fortified building), and *Bateria*, or battery.



Pritchard's (1968) conjectural reconstruction of the Mexican Battery 1837-1846. The little building at the apex of the V is a sentry box. The wood decking or platform is referred to as the espladana. Outer flaring walls are counterguards. Inner walls are parapets with embrasures for the cannon. The diagonal foundations shown on the plan view are probably evidence of traverses that prevent enfilade enemy fire from mowing down defending artillerymen. The adobe barrack is not depicted. Pritchard shows another small building where the foundations indicate traverses, possibly in response to Vallejo's depiction of a powder magazine in this location. Written evidence indicates that the powder magazine was part of the barrack in 1842.



Vallejo's sketch plan prepared for artist Edward Vischer in later years. Bancroft Library collection, from Williams 1986. Fortifications at El Castillo are depicted in the upper left hand corner with the Serra Landing site cross and tree.

Mexican Independence, 1821

Mexico became independent of Spain in 1821 and the Mexican flag was raised above Monterey's hill top fortification on September 22, 1822. In 1830, there were twenty cannon in the battery (Bancroft 1886 III:611). Seven years later, English visitor Edward Belcher observed the "adobe or mud-brick battery remained and had been newly bedaubed during the late ebullition of independence." His description of a three-sided breastwork open in the rear about 3 ft. tall with seven guns seems to describe the first battery better than its successor (Bancroft 1886 III:668). Archaeological investigations indicate that the second battery underwent successive renovations and survived in ruins until the 1890s.



1880s photograph showing ruins of the Mexican era barrack at right. Pat Hathaway collection.

In July, 1837 an unsuccessful revolt against Governor Alvarado at Monterey "installed Don Francisco Figueroa as captain commander and set him up in a house within the fort" (that is, the adobe barrack). Antonio Maria Osio described a bloodless confrontation "about one hundred yards from the battery, which due to a lack of experience or laziness had no parapet (Osio 1996:185; Bancroft 1886 III:523-526). In that same year, Able du Petit-Thouars (1956:10), a French visitor, reported observing but eight cannon in an earthwork, with no exterior defenses or a ditch.

Geology and location continued to affect the construction and modification of this site. As early as 1776, Pedro Font observed that the stream at the landing place had recently been dammed to provide fresh water (Bolton 1933:309). In the 1820s, the stream running through the ravine at the landing place was used to provide water for sea-going vessels in the Mexican era (DuHaut-Cilly 1929:155). In the later 1840s a dam was built with a twenty-thousand gallon capacity cistern and a wooden flume was constructed to convey water aboard

ships at anchorage (California and New Mexico 1850:171; Maddox and Hutton drawings; Deed Feb. 7, 1849 in Old Alcalde's Book, Colton Hall Museum; Garner 1970:179).

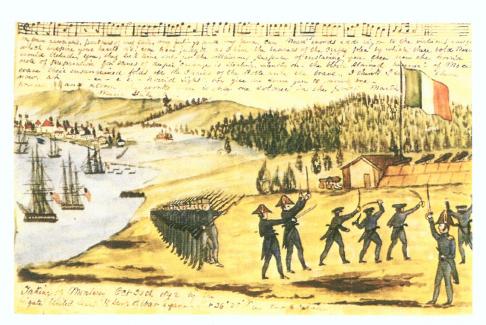


Ruins of the Castillo circa 1885. William Pritchard collection, California History, Summer 1984 issue.

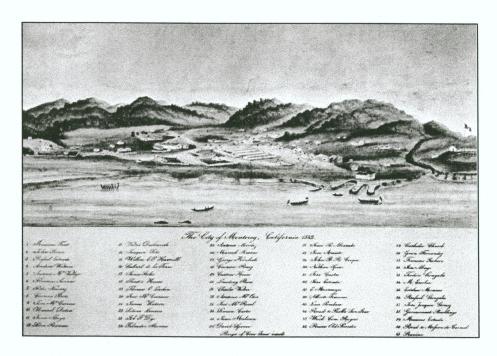
Jones' War: Landing at Monterey, 1842

Foreign observers in 1841-1842 were not impressed by the condition of the Mexican fortifications at Monterey. French visitor Duflot de Mofras reported but three bronze guns at the battery with a 4 ft. high earth embankment (Bancroft 1886 IV:652; Mofras I 1937:325). Sir George Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Company saw but five soldiers in the garrison in a windowless mud guardhouse and eight to ten rusty cannons (Bancroft 1886 IV:651). (The description of the windowless guardhouse answers that of a sentry box fortification with only slit openings, probably located at the apex of the V-shaped battery). This was the second or Mexican era battery that replaced the earlier fortification located lower on the hill.

On October 19, 1842, American forces under Commodore Thomas ap Catesby Jones, under the mistaken notion that the United States and Mexico were at war, landed and cut down the Mexican flagstaff over the Mexican battery (Bancroft 1886 IV:310). Archaeologists in 1967 discovered remnants of the broken flagpole near the apex of the bastion of this fortification. There was no resistance as the Mexican artillery officer reported but eleven cannon, mostly useless and without ammunition (Bancroft 1886 IV:307). American Dr. Richard Maxwell's diary reported nine long brass guns on the summit of the hill...commanding the whole ravine. "Every gun had a name—Jesus, San Pedro, San Pablo, and other saints." (Maxwell in Reese 1968:15-16). Midshipman Alonzo Jackson with the land force reported fourteen long brass and iron guns (Jackson 1953:14). He also described the powder magazine as being large enough to be converted into quarters for the officers and mentioned transferring the powder into the sentry box outside the battery (Jackson 1953:15).



Gunner William Meyers of the USN depicted the invasion and the appearance of the Mexican battery. Watercolor, Bancroft Library collection.



Larkin's lithograph of Monterey in 1842 showing the small building south of the Mexican barrack and battery on Fort Hill. The building may be the predecessor of the Custom House. (Illustration from Van Nostrand).

Two days later, upon learning of his error from American Consul Thomas O. Larkin, Jones offered apologies and later sailed away to make his peace with Governor Micheltorena in southern California. American sailor William Thomes at Monterey in 1843 remarked that "Americans were not remarkably popular in California, simply because a few months before we arrived in port, one of our nation ships had run into Monterey, and compelled the town to surrender, on the supposition that war had been declared between Mexico and the United States..."

Thomes observed that "the fort was armed with four long, brass 9-pounders, the handsomest guns I ever saw, all covered with scroll-work and figures. One was appropriately named the Apostle Paul, another was called, St. John, a third St. Jose and the fourth bore the name of a lady, the sacred Santa Barbara...mounted on ruined and decayed carriages..." (Thomes 1884:79).



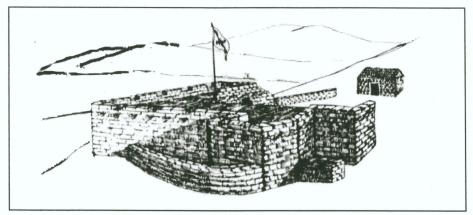
San Pedro from the Senores de la Real Audencia de Lima at Presidio of San Francisco. The cannon of El Castillo were similar in appearance and origins. Edna E. Kimbro photograph.

Mexican governor Micheltorena's initial response to Jones' actions was to dig a ditch above El Castillo and strengthen the redoubts, possibly building a new fortification higher up the hill (Horne 1970:34,36). Soon Governor Micheltorena, upset about the Jones affair, the annexation of Texas by the United States, and dissention in Southern California, decided to defend northern California from San Juan Bautista (Bancroft 1886 IV:406, 662). Sometime around 1844-1845, cannons and munitions were moved to San Juan Bautista, the home of then Lt. Col. Jose Castro (Bancroft 1886 IV:603, 652, 662).

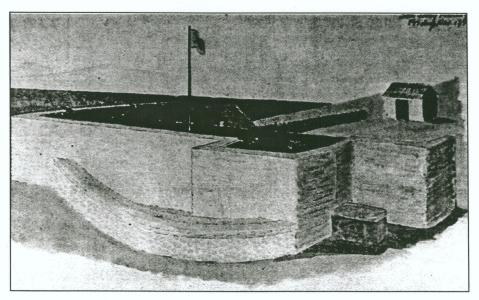
Manifest Destiny and Fort Mervine, 1846

The United States declared war on Mexico May 13, 1846, beginning the Mexican War. July seventh, Commodore Sloat, USN, aboard the Savannah at Monterey, ordered Commander Mervine USN to raise the American flag over

the Custom House July 7, 1846 (Bancroft 1886 V:231). The Mexican fortifications, termed Jones' Fort by the Americans, played no role in the capture; important cannons and munitions remained in San Juan Bautista.



Artist's reconstruction of the Mexican Adobe Battery based upon Pritchard's excavation. From Presidio of Monterey brochure, Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library collection. Sentry box seen in Meyers' watercolor and described by visitors is not depicted at the apex of the bastion, but Pritchard did not excavate the apex. There is some reason to think that this drawing is more accurate than Pritchard's in some respects despite omission of the sentry box.



Another artist's reconstruction of the Mexican Battery excavated by Pritchard. Appeared in the San Jose Mercury (Johnson 1970). The foreshortening appears to be exaggerated making the rather sizeable barrack appear tiny.

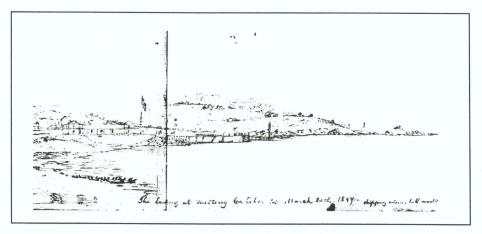
"On the hill in a position commanding both town and harbor were built by Cecil [carpenter of the Savannah] a blockhouse and battery, where 3-42 #ers were mounted...surrounded by a ditch first called Fort Stockton, then Mervine" (Bancroft 1886 V:290). John Spencer described the construction of Fort Mervine: "We cut the logs for it right out of the timber back there...We dug a trench twelve feet wide and six feet deep all round the square. The dirt made a fort on the inside. Then we put up a fence made of logs driven into the earth. The blockhouse was at the far end..."(Del Monte Weekly, July 6, 1910, pp.7-14, quoted in Jackson Research Projects and Far Western Anthropological Research Group 1985:7-8).

Fort Mervine is acknowledged as the most significant site embodying the U.S. takeover of California. Journalist Benjamin Cummings Truman acknowledged these values as early as 1867. There is reason to believe that the United States has continued to own the Presidio of Monterey partly because of the symbolic importance of this site in commemorating the acts of military possession that embodied the extension of the United States from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

In October 1846, Lt. Maddox of the USN and 30 men went to San Juan Bautista where they spiked the iron cannons of the Mexican army and brought the finer brass pieces back to Fort Mervine (Bancroft 1886 V:294). Navy Lieutenant McLane noted that on July 18, 1846 he was with the party that "found a number of brass and iron guns, 4 and 12 pounds, 600 lbs of powder and 10,000 shot" (Monaghan 1971:84). Around1844 there had been five large guns at Mission San Juan Bautista; two were named Jesus and Solvarro. The cannons dated to 1673, 1675, 1769, and were made in Lima and Manila (Wood 1849:265).

The U.S. Navy controlled Monterey, building and occupying Fort Mervine (named after a Naval officer) until the arrival of Army Companies C and K,

First Dragoons, under General Kearny January 31, 1847 (Harlow 1982:247). Company F, Third Artillery arrived by sea in January of 1847 and the Morman Battalion came. The regiment of New York Volunteers arrived in March of 1847. The Army changed the name of the fortification from Fort Mervine to the Monterey Redoubt (JRP and FWARG 1985:8).



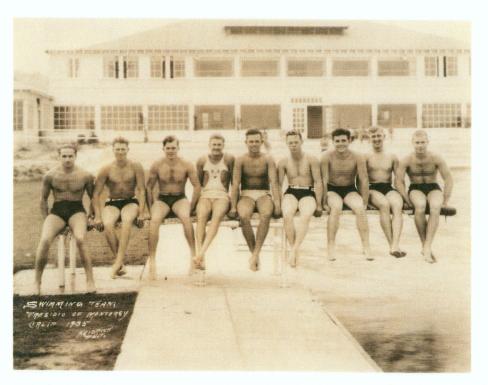
Navy Physician Guillou's sketch of the landing and the lower Presidio of March 20, 1847. Note the barrack building near the battery and another building south of it and below Fort Mervine. The American flag is shown flying over the Custom House.

Engineer Halleck explained his fortification plans to General Kearney: "the object proposed to be accomplished by works here is simply to cover the Anchorage and landing near the town. This may be effected by a strong battery, and with heavy ordnance, near the site of the old Spanish fort, and the bastioned work [Monterey Redoubt] which has been commenced on the high ground in rear...(Halleck to Kearney, May 1, 1847, RG393, M210, Roll 5, quoted in JRP and FWARG 1985:11).

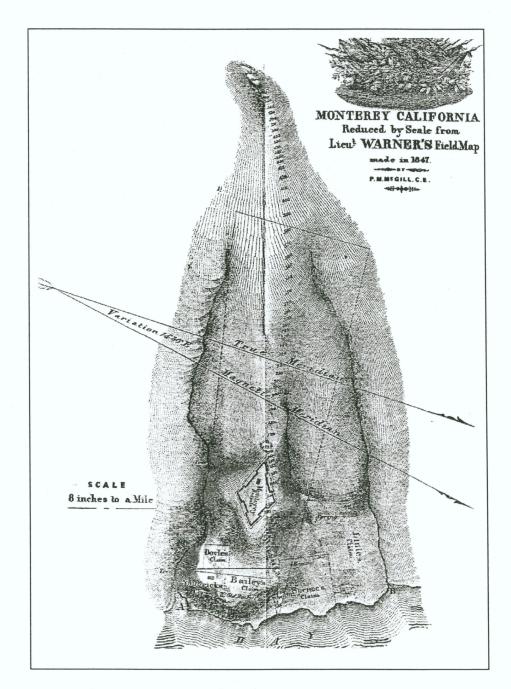
By September 1847, Company F, Third Artillery under Halleck had completed the earthwork redoubt in the shape of a bastion extant today (Bancroft 1886 V:290). Twenty 24-pounder cannon were mounted along with 4-8 in. mortars mounted on wood platforms with shot and shells piled inside the "V" of the earthwork. Paymaster's clerk Hutton's drawing depicts but 10 cannon in 1851.

Captain Maddox' sketch shows the rest of the cannons deployed at *El Mentidero* near the Custom House in 1847. Across the gorge, two log two-story buildings, one 100 x 17 ft. for Company F, and another of six rooms for the officers were built under the supervision of Lt. E. C. Ord (Sherman 1945:20). At the rear of the redoubt, a 75 x 25' stone building with a shingle roof held ordnance (Mason to Jones, 18 Sep 1847 in *California and New Mexico* 1850:320).

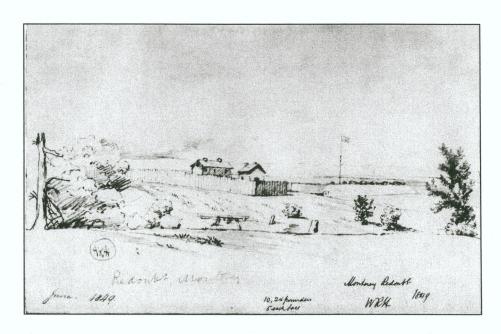
Construction of a swimming pool and recreation complex in the 1930s at Fort Mervine/Monterey Redoubt probably removed most of the archaeological remains of the above-described buildings; however, archaeological testing might result in locating some of them for interpretive purposes should the park be expanded westward in the future (JRP and FWARG 1985:1).



Swim Team, Presidio of Monterey 1935.



Engineer Halleck surveyed Fort Hill and Lt. Warner produced a contour map showing the outline of the Monterey Redoubt in 1847 together with the remains of the Mexican barracks, powder magazine or casemate, and "the old Mexican Fort." Note the notation "bones" indicating that archaeological remains were visible on the surface. Map, UCSC Map Room.



W. R. Hutton, (civil engineer and surveyor employed as Army paymaster's clerk), drew the Monterey Redoubt from several angles between 1847 and 1851. It was diamond-shaped, and constructed of wooden palisades with only the forward bastion of earthworks in this view from the south of June, 1849. Hutton notes that there were twenty, 24- pounders, 5 mounted on each face. Huntington Library collection.



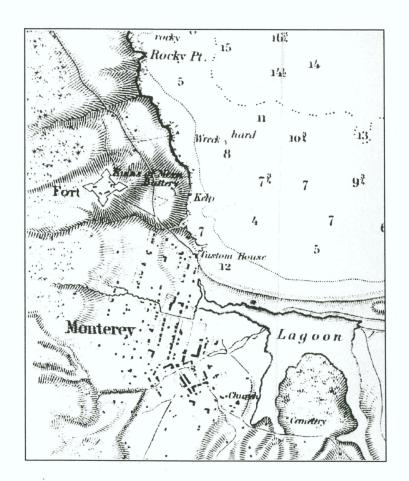
Captain Maddox'sketch shows cannon mounted east of Custom House near El Mentidero and the water flume at Serra Landing site, 1847. California Historical Society collection.

Military Role in the Constitutional Convention of California, 1849

On April 12, 1849, Brig. General Bennett Riley brought his brigade to Monterey and assumed command and the role of governor. Henry Halleck served as his Secretary of State. Riley was responsible for proposing the convention to form a state or territory of California. Elections were held immediately and the convention convened September 1, 1849 in Colton Hall. As a consequence of General Riley's timely and appropriate military initiative, California entered the Union in 1850.



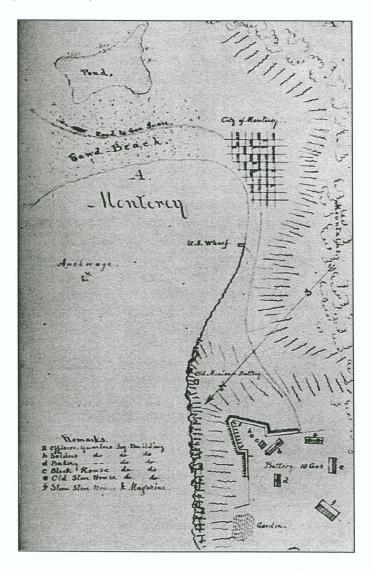
Watercolor by Lieutenant Alfred Sully showing the Monterey Redoubt and the barrack of El Castillo on July 17, 1849. Bancroft Library collection. Note the women at El Mentidero, the gossiping place in the foreground where Vallejo assaulted Bouchard's vessel the Santa Rosa.



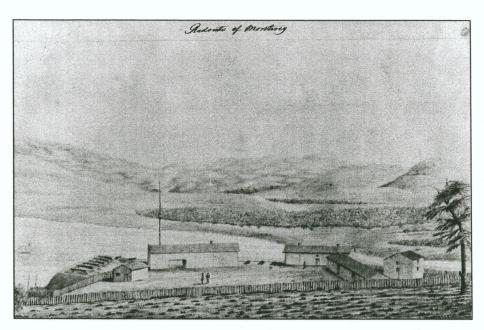
Blow up of portion of Lieutenant James Alden's U.S.C.G.S. 1852 map of Monterey Harbor showing the road through the Lower Presidio, the V-shaped ruins of the Mexican Battery and the Fort or Monterey Redoubt. Roop and Flynn (1976:Map 9).

The 1852 Alden map shows seven structures within the confines of the Monterey Redoubt, features of some of which might remain archaeologically. The post was renamed Monterey Ordnance Depot from 1852-1856. Ten of the original twenty 24-pounders were reportedly removed to San Francisco or Benicia arsenal (JRP and FWARG 1985:11; Horne 1970:39; Handbook of Monterey 1875:76). In 1853 and 1854, Colonel Mansfield inspected U.S. military posts in the west. At Monterey in 1854 he reported a military storekeeper keeping watch over arms, ammunition, and some heavy guns. He recommended that the latter be transferred to Benicia arsenal and the land

preserved (Frazer 1963:121). In 1855, E. D. Townsend reported the situation as unchanged from the year before (Edwards 1970:99).



Mansfield's 1854 sketch of Monterey Redoubt identifying each of the buildings.

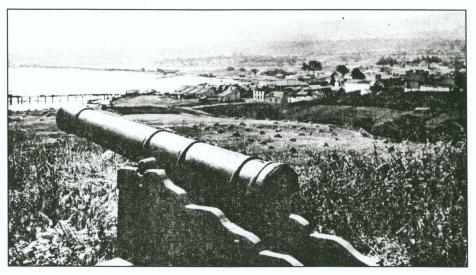


Henry Miller's 1856 sketch of Monterey Redoubt from the west or the rear. The buildings from left to right are the bakery, barracks, officer's quarters, old storehouse and stone ordnance building. The cannons had still not been removed.

From 1856 to 1865, the post was abandoned (JRP and FWARG 1985:12). Reactivated briefly in 1865, it was renamed Monterey Barracks. It was subsequently entrusted to the custodianship of Francis and/or Martin Doud, father and son residents of the neighboring Doud house on Van Buren Street (Adams 1977:4; Horne 1970:40). The Army again abandoned the post from 1867 to 1902 (JRP and FWARG 1985:12). In 1867 journalist Benjamin C. Truman trekked the El Camino Real and remarked about the site of El Castillo:

The ruins of the old fort from whose battlements Commodore Sloat removed the Mexican Flag,...will soon be gone, but the elevation which it stood upon will always remain, and shore and sea and sky and close-encompassed woods and hills will forever furnish the everlasting material for reconstructing those pictures of the vanished past, which, in truth, require but little suggestion for their erection on the mental retina (Weber 1978:69).

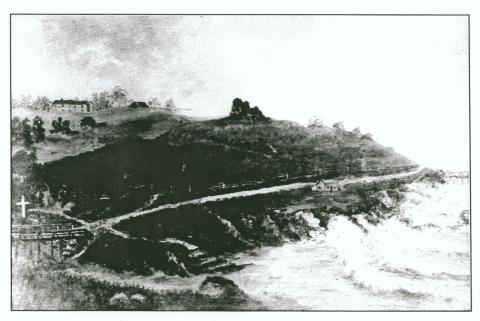
The next year, the fortification was described as a circular enclosure with one old iron cannon, a new flagstaff, and four buildings (one perhaps adobe) occupied by a Mr. Richards (Sentinel, May 27, 1868, quoted in JRP and FWARG 1985:13). In 1874 the San Francisco Alta California reported: "Old adobe walls of the quarters of soldiers...are crumbling down" and "Only a few token fragments of the former "outer wall" remain, the bastions are gone." (San Francisco Alta California, July 9, 1874). Four years later the San Francisco Chronicle mentioned the "Old Mexican fort, roofless, and side walls partly broken down. It is about 20 x 30 feet, with walls four feet thick at base and two at the top, built of large sunburnt bricks or blocks made of the black surface soil on which it stands...a little further on and higher up are seen the remains of the American barracks..." (San Francisco Chronicle, July 14, 1878). Historic photographs indicate that hay or grain was harvested on the hill and that the buildings were left to gradually decay. None were left standing at the turn of the century (JRP and FWARG 1985:41). Some of the old iron cannons were utilized to protect the corners of buildings at street corners such as the one at the intersection of Jefferson and Main or Calle Principale streets in Monterey, and as hitching posts.



View from Fort Mervine of Lower Presidio showing haystacks circa 1900. Monterey Public Library collection.



Barrack and Blockhouse at turn of the century with haystacks. Pat Hathaway collection.



Early painting of the Presidio and harbor dated circa 1880. Note on rear of the photograph: "Fort Mervine and blockhouse to left. In the center area—near adobe ruins was a huge mass of shell, etc. where the children played." The high center pile was actually ruins of a adobe in childhood of Millie Burks. T. J. Barkle (owner of the painting). The ruins appear to be those of the barracks building. Millie Burks lived in the Customs House as a child. Monterey Public Library collection.

Memorials

In the quiescent era between the Civil War and the re-activation of the military post after the turn of the twentieth century came a period in which monuments were constructed on the military reservation. The first was the granite stature of Junipero Serra commissioned by Jane Stanford of John Combs of San Francisco and installed in 1891 upon the most prominent site of the Lower Presidio some distance from the landing site. Jane Stanford herself requested form U.S. Secretary of War Reofield Proctor the site "where now are the ruins of the fort." The next monument was the memorial of the Sloat Landing begun in 1896 and completed in 1910. It was positioned near Fort Mervine, far from the Custom House where the landing took place. The Sloat monument was designed by Bakewell and Brown, architects of San Francisco, with the medallion sculpture by Cummings and Putnam. It was constructed by W.W. Blanchard and Son (JRP DPR523 1985).

Re-activation

From 1902 onward, the Presidio served as the base for many infantry, cavalry, and artillery units (JRP and FWARG 1985:48). Its use as a base has been intensive and resulted in many changes to the structures and landscape features. When the Presidio was reactivated in 1902, "The new facility reflected the ideas of a reform movement within the military" (JRP and FWARG 1985:14). The mission of the Presidio changed from the 18th and 19th century defensive posture: "the Presidio was not a coastal fortification capable of defending Monterey Bay from attack by sea nor was it strategically placed to repel a land invasion"(JRP and FWARG:14). The revitalized facility reflected the philosophy of Secretary of War Elihu Root. It emphasized instruction and training, and continues to do today. The Presidio of Monterey is considered an exemplar of the Root reform period and its significance as a historic district relates to the fact that it is "a well-preserved example of the type of post produced during this period" (JRP and FWARG 1985:15).

The location on the Pacific made it a reasonable location for troops returning from duty in the Philippine Insurrection, the 15th infantry (JRP and FWARG 1985:17). Among the troops assigned to the post initially were the 9th Cavalry, a black regiment, who had distinguished themselves in the Philippines. They arrived in November, 1902, and were quartered near Chinatown, then located where Hopkins Marine Station and the Monterey Boat Works are today (JRP and FWARG 1985:19). The 9th Cavalry left in 1904, replaced by the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry (Horne 1970:44; JRP and FWARG 1985:48).

The initial infantry cantonment was constructed in the upper Presidio area. The second phase of construction for the cavalry was begun above and west of the infantry buildings. Additional land to the west (105 acres) was purchased for the purpose with the help of the local community in 1903 (JRP and FWARG 1985:24). In 1904, the post, previously called the Monterey Military Reservation (1902) and then Ord Barracks (1903) was renamed the Presidio of Monterey to honor its distinguished history (JRP and FWARG 1985:41).

In 1906, the Presidio was again expanded with the purchase of an additional 153 acres of land in the vicinity of the rifle range to the west (JRP and FWARG 1985:44). "Between 1902 and 1911 the Presidio of Monterey was transformed from an abandoned military reservation into a modern military post" (JRP and FWARG 1985:47).

Lower Presidio Development

In 1914, the entire presidio was dedicated to cavalry necessitating construction of additional stables. Stables were constructed in 1922 on the lower Presidio, replacing those originally constructed above the cavalry barracks and officer's quarters. Artillery gun sheds (buildings 105 in 1922 and 120 in 1921) and a blacksmith shop (1923) were also constructed during the twenties on the lower Presidio (JRP and FWARG 1985:48, 53. 62) as well as

other support facilities. More cavalry stables were erected higher up on the northwest side of the Lower Presidio in the 1930s that are no longer extant.

The Great Depression and the Onset of World War II

The Presidio benefited from the federal work programs of the Great Depression, primarily the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Multiple landscape improvements were installed, including stone masonry walls. Many structures were built during this time, especially on the upper Presidio. Primarily during this period, the streets of the Presidio received their modern names. In response to World War II military needs, multiple structures were erected on the lower as well as the upper Presidio. Many deteriorated and have been removed in recent years following official determination that they lacked integrity and did not contribute to the National Register Historic District. Some structures from the earlier period such as stables, an artillery gun shed and the blacksmith shop were adapted from their earlier function to serve new functions during World War II. Generally, the landscape setting of the lower Presidio is consistent with the period 1902-1911 with a few non-contributing intrusive structures.

While not all of the buildings of the early Presidio remain, fundamentally the facility as a whole, reflects the development between 1902-1911 sufficiently to warrant National Register of Historic Places historic district status. The period of significance has been defined as 1902-1940 for specific architectural elements of the overall amended Presidio of Monterey district. In May 1940, the Presidio ceased to be used as it had been since its reactivation in 1902 (Corbett and Minor 1992:12). 1940 also marks the transformation of the Presidio into the Third Army Corps temporary headquarters under the command of General Joseph Warren Stillwell and the beginning of its role in the build up to World War II (Jackson and Hildebrandt 1985:63). The post World War II era of the Presidio was distinguished by its re-opening in 1949-1951 as the Defense Language Institute, a mission that continues to the present (Corbett and Minor 1992:12).