

## Point Battery

<b>Commenced</b>	1847	<b>Armament</b>	
<b>Completed</b>	1850	<b>1884</b>	2 x 7-inch RBL 2 x 80pr RML 3 x 6pdr QF
<b>Cost</b>	£	<b>1898</b>	2 x 64pr RML* 1 x 9-inch RML* 2 x 7-inch RBL* 2 x 80pr RML* 3 x 12pdr QF 2 x 6pdr QF
<b>Map Reference</b>	SU629993	<b>1904</b>	5 x 12pdr QF 2 x Maxim MG
<b>Position</b>	Entrance of Portsmouth Harbour	<b>1916</b>	3 x 12pdr QF
<b>Type</b>	Casemated Sea Battery	<b>1922</b>	5 x 12pdr QF
<b>Ditch</b>	None	<b>WW2</b>	1 x Twin 6pdr QF
<b>Guns</b>	24		* indicates guns for drill purposes only
<b>Barrack Accom.</b>	1 officer and 55 NCOs & men	<b>Caponiers</b>	None
<b>Present use</b>	Open site & Public Toilets	<b>Counterscarp galleries</b>	None
<b>History</b>	Harbour mouth defences since 15th century	<b>Haxo casemates</b>	None
<b>Disposal</b>	1958	<b>Moncrieff Pits</b>	None
<b>Condition</b>	Partially demolished		
<b>Access</b>	All year round		
<b>Sources</b>	Fortifications in Old Portsmouth - A.Corney. A Military Heritage - B.H.Patterson.		

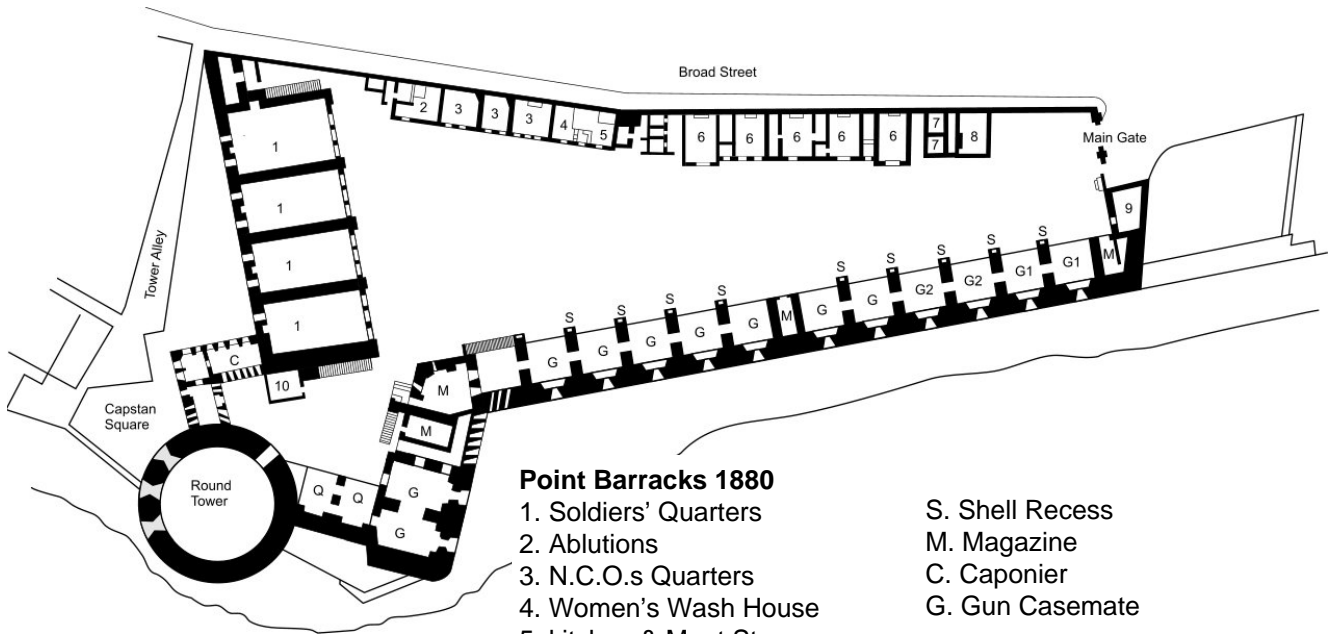
### History and Description

The origins of a permanent fortification on this site date back to the early part of the fifteenth century, when a tower was erected on the site together with a similar tower on the Gosport shore to guard a chain boom which was strung between them across the harbour mouth. Successive monarchs updated the Defences at this point to what became known as the Round Tower. During the 1680s a larger permanent fortification known as Eighteen-gun Battery was erected as part of the last phase of the de Gomme defensive works of Portsmouth. This larger fortification took the L shaped trace which is still largely visible today, a large twelve casemate stone battery along Point beach, parallel to the sea, with a short flanking four casemate gallery linking it, via another two casemates to the Round Tower. The Casemates were limestone faced and brick vaulted.

In 1847 the de Gomme battery was modified together with the demolishing of nearby houses to build Point Battery. The gun Casemates were deepened to accommodate 68pdr guns and an extra storey of four stone Casemates was added to the flanking gallery to accommodate five 32-pdr S.B guns on traversing platforms. To the rear of the eighteen-gun battery, the demolished houses made way for a narrow parade ground with soldiers barrack accommodation (in four Casemates with two en-barbette gun emplacements on the roof) at the northern end together with an L shaped flanking musketry gallery linking it to the Round Tower. Officers quarters and administration buildings were built along the high brick gorge wall which ran adjacent to Broad street. During the 1880's and early 1890's the battery was armed with an assortment of RBL's and RML's, mainly for drill purposes and two 6pr. Q.F. guns. The battery was again updated in the late 1890s to accommodate three 12pr. QF guns on the roof of the eighteen gun battery, a 12pr. Q.F. on the Round Tower, and another 12pr QF on nearby King James's Battery. Also, the upper Casemates of the flanking gallery were fitted with hammock hooks, in order to provide extra accommodation., and two Defence Electric Lights, together with another located next to Tower house (to the north of the battery), were installed to illuminate the harbour entrance. In the 1930-40s the battery was again upgraded with the building of a twin-6pdr Q.F gun emplacement and also the associated directing tower and ammunition facilities. This last upgrade of the Defences was again to provide 'last ditch' Defences to the harbour mouth, should a fast attack craft try to gain entrance of the harbour.

After the disposal of the Battery, in 1962-3 Portsmouth City council demolished the gorge wall and associated buildings, removed the rear walls and ammunition recesses of the main gun Casemates and cut in half the soldiers accommodation Casemates leaving an open site; they also removed any reference to the later QF gun positions and modified the Victorian magazine into public toilets! The extent of what the Casemates used to look like is now marked out with cobble stones. Point Battery is now used as an extension of the Southsea sea front promenade as well as a public viewing point to watch shipping entering and leaving harbour.

# Point Battery



**Point Barracks 1880**

- 1. Soldiers' Quarters
- 2. Ablutions
- 3. N.C.O.s Quarters
- 4. Women's Wash House
- 5. kitchen & Meat Store
- 6. Officers' Quarters
- 7. Cells
- 8. Guard Room
- 9. Store
- 10. Master Gunner's Store

- S. Shell Recess
- M. Magazine
- C. Caponier
- G. Gun Casemate

**1898 armament**

- G1 7inch RBL 82cwt (Practice)
- G2 80pr Converted (Practice)
- Q 6pr QF

