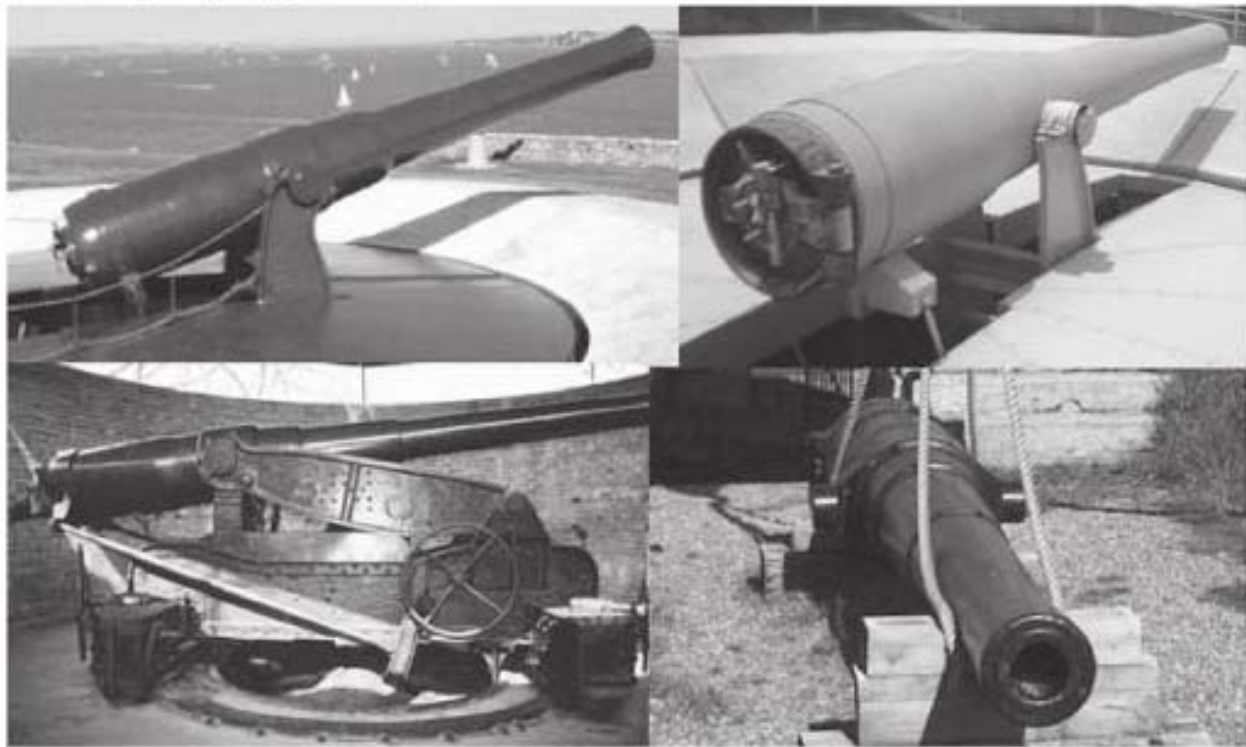


## Fort Rodd Hill

Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site is a 19<sup>th</sup>-century Coast Artillery fort on the Colwood, British Columbia side of Esquimalt Harbour, (Greater Victoria/Victoria BC Metropolitan Area). The site is adjacent to Fisgard Lighthouse National Historic Site, the first lighthouse on the West Coast of Canada. In 1878, when a crisis in British-Russian affairs in the Balkans made war appear imminent, the first Coast Artillery batteries were positioned to protect Victoria and Esquimalt harbours. These coast defences stayed in existence for nearly 80 years until they were outmoded by new technology. In 1956, they were declared obsolete and the guns removed.

The type and calibre of the guns at Fort Rodd Hill evolved over time. Between February 1894 and October 1897, two separate forts were constructed: one at **Macaulay Point** (site of earlier earthwork batteries), and an entirely new location at Rodd Hill, a bluff of rock overlooking the western side of the narrow entrance to Esquimalt harbour. Both forts would each mount three 6-inch disappearing guns (Mk VI barrels on a Mk IV mounting). Because of limitations of space in Rodd Hill, two of these guns were mounted with a common magazine in the "Lower Battery," while the third required a separate battery (along with an underground magazine, loopholed wall, water supply, guardhouse, etc.) on another, higher hill some 200 metres away, named, logically, "Upper Battery."



\* Photo. BL 6-inch disappearing Gun, clockwise: 1. (Ingolfson, *Wikipedia* Photo), 2. (BrokenSphere, *Wikipedia* Photo), 3. Fort Rodd Hill, (Trevor Adams Photo), 4. BL 6-inch Gun on disappearing carriage, (Ahoerstemeier, *Wikipedia* Photo)