

# The Affected Environment



*Four Clackama Indians*

Painting by Paul Kane

Courtesy of Stark Museum of Art, Orange, Texas



## The Affected Environment

*The purpose of “The Affected Environment” chapter is to provide the reader information necessary to understand the issues, the proposal, and the alternatives when a general management plan and environmental impact statement are being prepared. This chapter describes the cultural, natural, recreational, and scenic resources of the national historic site. In addition, it discusses the socioeconomic conditions, interpretation, visitor use, and existing NHS development and programs.*

### The Cultural Environment

Fort Vancouver NHS is a complex cultural landscape incorporating multiple layers of historic occupation, beginning in 1829 with the establishment of the second Hudson’s Bay Company post, and continuing through successive eras of development under the occupation of the U.S. Army at Vancouver Barracks and the National Park Service. (The first HBC site was established in 1824 to the east of the second site.) At the time of the arrival of the Hudson’s Bay Company, a Chinook Indian village named Ske-chew-twa was located to the southeast at the present-day site of the former World War II era Kaiser shipyards. Limited evidence of prehistoric occupation within the present boundaries of Fort Vancouver NHS has been recorded.

### Physical Development and Historic Significance (1825-1860)

The initial Hudson’s Bay Company fort site, occupied from 1825-1828, was located about three-quarters of a mile from the river on the edge of a terrace. This location, 60 feet above the low-lying river plain, offered protection from floods and served as a strategic defensive position from the undetermined threat of native Chinook Indians. The earliest and first of three historic cemeteries at Fort Vancouver was established in association with the occupation of the initial Hudson’s Bay Company fort during the 1820s. The first HBC stockade was near the present location of the Washington School for the Deaf at the intersection of Evergreen Boulevard and Grand Avenue. Three graves that were in the first HBC cemetery were encountered in 1935 when a basement was excavated for a new house on East Sixth Street. That location is outside of the present-day park and reserve. Further information on the exact location and extent of the first HBC cemetery is not known.

In 1829, with no significant threat materializing from the Chinook, the initial palisade was abandoned and a new site for the palisade was selected on the river plain known as Jolie Prairie and later as Fort Plain. Driving the move was the decision by HBC Governor George Simpson to make Fort Vancouver the headquarters for the HBC Columbia Department.

The Fort Plain site provided open land with rich soils suitable for cultivated fields and pasture, close to the river for access to fresh water and transportation, but above the flood zone. The dense conifer forest to the west and north provided a ready supply of timber, while the freshwater pond near the shore became the nexus for building and other industrial activities. Six miles to the east, streams provided a power source for the first grist and saw mills in the Pacific Northwest.

Between 1824-1849, Fort Vancouver, as headquarters and principal supply depot for the HBC Columbia Department, was an important center for the Northwest fur trade. In addition, it was the initial adminis-

trative center of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, the agricultural enterprise that linked the Hudson's Bay Company outposts to Alaska, the Sandwich Islands (Hawaiian Islands), and points south through the trade of agricultural commodities produced in the Pacific Northwest. It became the western terminus of the Oregon Trail, a destination and supply depot for weary American immigrants, who were supplied with provisions, such as clothing, household goods, and seeds at the direction of Chief Factor John McLoughlin. Missionaries, scientists, and adventurers, all with interest in the Pacific Northwest, found accommodation at the Fort.

At the height of its development on Fort Plain, 1844-1846, Fort Vancouver included the palisade at its core, with other landscape features radiating out from this center. (See Figure 5, Historic Base Map, Hudson's Bay Company ca. 1844-1846.) Cultivated fields, with prairie or pasture beyond, surrounded the palisade to the south, southeast, east and northeast. Directly north and west of the palisade were extensive gardens and orchards. Further to the west and southwest extended the employee village (Village), also known as Kanaka or Company Village, where numerous small dwellings and outbuildings housed the Company's employees. Other major features north of the palisade included St. James Mission, the second Hudson's Bay Company cemetery, school houses, and to the northeast, a complex of barns. (For location of the cemetery, refer to Figure 4, Cultural Landscape Features.) Following the arrival of Catholic priests in late 1838 and the first burial they documented in 1839, the second HBC cemetery became part of or immediately adjacent to the St. James Mission cemetery. Southwest, clustered around a pond and extending to and along the riverfront, were buildings and dwellings supporting the Fort's various enterprises, including boat sheds, tanning pits, cooper's shop, saw pit and salmon packing sheds.

The burial of a company employee described in a journal by the post physician William Tolmie in May 1833 documents the establishment of the second HBC cemetery in a new location. Archives of the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia then document eight burials at Fort Vancouver during 1837 and another four by September 21, 1838. French speaking Catholic priests arrived in late 1838 from Montreal to establish the St. James Mission near the fort. By January 1839, the first of over 200 burials that are documented in Catholic Church records took place in this burial ground area. The last burial that is documented in Catholic Church records took place in January 1856. Prior to and during the operation of the St. James Mission other burials took place in the second HBC/mission cemetery. Documentation on those burials does not equal the archival record established by the priests. Information is missing or, at best, fragmentary. It appears in sources such as the journals of HBC employees.

The aboveground, manmade features of the Fort have disappeared, leaving behind one of the richest and most significant historical archaeological sites in the Pacific Northwest. While a significant percentage of this resource lies within the authorized boundaries of the Fort, other key features were either destroyed or lie beneath modern twentieth century developments associated with the infrastructure of the railroad and highway system, Vancouver Barracks and Pearson Field, and the Waterfront. Extant or existing subsurface features may include portions of the Village, sections of the waterfront industrial area, St. James Mission, and the second HBC/St. James Mission cemetery.

Fifty years of historical and archaeological research have extensively documented the archaeological features of Fort Vancouver and provided information for the reconstruction of the palisade, which began in 1966. Nine key structures were reconstructed between 1974 and 2001 within the palisade, beginning with the bastion and remaining palisade segment, and continuing, as appropriations became available, with the Bakehouse (1974); Chief Factor's House, Kitchen, and Wash House (1976); Indian Trade Shop and Blacksmith Shop (1981); Fur Store (1994), Carpenter's Shop (1997), and Jail (2001). Smaller scale

structures, including privies, well, flagpole, and belfry have also been reconstructed. All reconstructed structures, including the palisade, are included on the National Park Service's List of Classified Structures and managed as historic structures in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects.

### **Cultural Landscape (1825-1860): A Status of Resources**

The historical landscape of the fort era has been severely compromised by subsequent development. A railroad berm and highway corridors have effectively severed the physical and visual connections between the river and the reconstructed Fort. Pearson Field's paved landing strip hinders public access to the main south entrance of the palisade, and along with the berm and highway, serve as modern-day barriers which sever the historic connection between the Fort and the river. Operations of modern aircraft are inconsistent with the HBC and early U.S. Army historic periods.

To the east of the Fort are the structures associated with Pearson's operations and the Pearson Air Museum, with a light industrial park beyond. North of the Fort are the late nineteenth and early twentieth century structures associated with Vancouver Barracks, as well as the Mission 66 architectural style visitor center, and maintenance, residence, and administrative structures built by the National Park Service. The Interstate Bridge over the Columbia River dominates the skyline to the west, and the twentieth century developments along the waterfront are visible on both sides of the Columbia River. Only in the immediate vicinity of the palisade has there been an effort to reconstruct and interpret the garden, orchards, and pastures that existed during the historic period.

Within the palisade, empty spaces, some marked by asphalt pads, indicate where fort structures have been documented by archaeological investigations. Twenty-six structures have been identified within the palisade; fourteen have been reconstructed. None of the fort buildings outside of the palisade have been reconstructed. The Fort Vancouver palisade site is a component landscape of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve cultural landscape.



*Restored Fort Vancouver garden and fort entrance.*



*Fort Vancouver NHS recreated orchard and wayside panel interpreting the Village.*



*Reconstructed Chief Factor's house within fort palisade.*



*Recent reconstruction of the Jail within the fort palisade.*



*View south of the visitor center looking toward Pearson Air Museum.*



*View southwest of the Village from the Fort showing modern intrusions (railroad, highway, and I-5 Bridge and suspension towers) into the historic scene.*

## **Vancouver Barracks (1849 to Present)**

Vancouver Barracks was established in 1849 to defend settlement of the Oregon Territory. From then until World War I, the post was the U.S. Army's principal administrative center in the Pacific Northwest. As headquarters of the Oregon Department, it served as a central command and supply post for actions associated with the Northwest region Indian wars of the mid-nineteenth century, including the 1877 Nez Perce campaign. The barracks was also the base for a number of significant military exploration and survey expeditions in the Northwest and Alaska in the latter part of the nineteenth century, and later served to police civil strife resulting from the depression of the 1890s. In the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, the post served as a recruitment, mobilization and training facility for the Spanish-American War and other foreign engagements. During World War I, Vancouver Barracks was the principal district for the U.S. Army Signal Corps' Spruce Production Division and the site of the world's largest lumber mill. In 1925, the Army established Pearson Field at the post, initiating a sustained role in aviation history. In the 1930s, the post became the district headquarters for the Ninth Corps of the Civilian Conservation Corps and played an important role in the enrollment, training, and supply of the Pacific Northwest's network of CCC camps. During World War II, the post served as a port of embarkation for the Pacific Theater. (See Figure 6, Historic Base Map, Vancouver Barracks ca. 1936.)

In 1849 U.S. Army troops arrived at Fort Vancouver and for the next 11 years shared the grounds in an uneasy coexistence with the Hudson's Bay Company. Initially, the Army camped in tents on the high ground behind the HBC Fort, constructing several log buildings to serve the company's needs. Officers and provisions were also housed in structures rented from the HBC both within the employees' village and the palisade.

In 1850, under an agreement with the HBC, the Army leased an eight-acre field north of the palisade. Twenty-six buildings were constructed on this site, their placement outlining the first parade ground. Additional buildings were constructed in the employees' village west of the palisade. On October 31, 1850, the army formally proclaimed the establishment of a military reservation of about four square miles that included the HBC palisade, land, and improvements, "subject only to the lawful claims of the Hudson's Bay Company" as guaranteed by the 1846 treaty. Two years later, in 1853, Congress reduced the reserve to 640 acres.

In 1860, the HBC closed down its operations at Fort Vancouver and departed for Victoria. The army burned and leveled the remaining palisade and buildings on lower Fort Plain, opening the area south of East Fifth Street for military uses. A quartermaster's depot was established on the site of the old employee village at the western edge of the reserve. The open fields were used at times as a polo field for the officers and, in the second decade of the twentieth century, for early aviation experiments by local aviators.

Burial markers, monuments and fences that once identified the second HBC/St. James Mission cemetery have disappeared and the above ground indicators have been replaced by various buildings, structures, and landscape features in the period since the 1860s. Historical maps and written descriptions of this cemetery nevertheless document its relative location and approximate extent for the period from the 1830s to the 1860s. The area is on land currently managed by the U.S. Army and within the authorized boundary of the NHS, as well as being within the Reserve. Human remains and coffin parts were encountered in this cemetery area during the excavation for one Army building in 1885 and during work on a water pipe in the basement of another in 1982.

Thomas Janhson was identified in the Catholic Church Records as the first American soldier in the U.S. Army to be buried in the second HBC/St. James Mission cemetery on August 18, 1850. A daughter of an American serviceman was buried in 1854 and by 1855 four members of U.S. Army 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry were also buried in the same cemetery. At the same time, relationships between the HBC and the U.S. Army became increasingly strained. An HBC Fort Vancouver physician wrote between 1853 and 1858 that soldiers had removed some of the HBC/mission cemetery fences and grave markers for use as heating fuel. At that time, the authorities also put up a new fence that incorporated part of the old cemetery into the parade ground.

As surface evidence of the second HBC/mission cemetery was being obliterated in the mid to late 1850s, a third Fort Vancouver cemetery was established by the U.S. Army. The HBC left in 1860, and by 1866 Brevet Brigadier General James F. Rusling suggested relocating the remaining marked graves from the old cemetery to the new post cemetery. This new cemetery was located west of Officers' Row. It is outside of the park and within the western periphery of the Reserve. In 1866 it had some 20 graves and ultimately consisted of about four acres. Part of the land became the future site of the Interstate 5 corridor that now separates Fort Vancouver NHS from the city of Vancouver. When the interstate highway was under construction in the 1950s the fragmentary skeletal remains of about 10 individuals were encountered in an area that may have been part of the first military cemetery. Some of these human remains and other graves may have been relocated from the second HBC/St. James Mission to this first formal U.S. Military Cemetery at Fort Vancouver if Rusling's recommendations had been acted upon.

With expansion of Officers' Row to the west in 1883, the military contracted with a civilian to remove and relocate graves to a new military cemetery north of Fourth Plain Boulevard where it is still located. A portion of the new military cemetery, located outside of the park and reserve, was set aside for the remains of civilians, including those relocated from the first military cemetery used between 1855 and the early 1880s. Although above ground evidence of these two cemeteries no longer exists, graves may still be in place in both formerly active burial ground areas.

During World War I, the northern edge of lower Fort Plain contained a large industrial facility—the spruce cut-up plant—supporting the Spruce Production Division. In the mid-1920s, after the cut-up plant was removed, the Army developed a military airfield dedicated in 1925 as Pearson Field. Adjacent to the airfield, the site contained temporary buildings and tent camps associated with the post's CCC program and, later, World War II operations as a primary Pacific Theater embarkation camp.

North of East Fifth Street, development of the complex of administrative, barracks, officers' housing, and support structures accelerated. The early log structures were replaced in the 1880s by more elaborate officers' housing, which drew on the era's popular Italianate, Queen Anne, and Victorian styles, and extended along the north side of the expanded Parade Ground. Officers' Row was formally listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and was adaptively rehabilitated by the City of Vancouver, which took title to the buildings through a federal surplus property transfer in 1986. These are presently leased to private businesses and other tenants.

The complex of structures west and south of the Parade Ground, including the barracks along the south edge of the Parade Ground, the gymnasium and the hospital, was primarily constructed during the first decade of the twentieth century. This construction followed standard Quartermaster plans and reflected the simplified Colonial Revival style common to military areas of the period. Subsequently, during both World War I and II, additional administrative and support structures—many intended to be temporary—were constructed north of East Fifth Street, following the general form of the earlier structures, but

stripped bare of ornamentation. West of McLoughlin Boulevard (now Fort Vancouver Way), brick bungalows, also following standard Quartermaster plans, were constructed in the 1930s.

After World War II, the Army reduced its presence at Vancouver Barracks and surplused certain properties to the city, NPS, and other agencies. New modern infill structures were built in the southwest and northwest corners that compromised the integrity of the historic approaches to the Barracks. The construction of Interstate 5 cut-off alternative access routes to downtown Vancouver, effectively isolating the southwest corner of the reserve. Military reserve acreage involving land north of Evergreen Boulevard was transferred to the City of Vancouver as the foundation for Central Park. In 1961, the designated boundaries of Fort Vancouver NHS were overlaid on the Barracks, extending from McLoughlin Boulevard to the west, south of East Fifth Street to State Route 14, east to East Reserve Street, and north to Evergreen Boulevard, incorporating the old Parade Ground. A NPS Mission 66 visitor center and administrative, housing, and maintenance complex was built on the eastern edge of the Parade Ground across from Officers' Row and overlooking Fort Plain to the south.

Today, although the boundaries and surrounding scenery have changed significantly, the central core of the original Vancouver Barracks remains. The regular Army has formally departed and has recently transferred management of Vancouver Barracks to the U.S. Army Reserve. In 1986, the Vancouver Barracks Historic District was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Sixty-three of the historic buildings located within the district contribute to its eligibility. Features still intact include the historic clustering of functions; many of the original circulation features, including internal roads and sidewalks; and remnant plantings, as well as the interpreted historic landscape features of Officers' Row. Non-contributing features include the NPS Mission 66 complex, the reconstructed bandstand, and the modern structures in the northwest and southwest corners of the complex. South of East Fifth Street, separated from the core historic district, historic Pearson Field represents another historic remnant of Vancouver Barracks.

## **Vancouver Barracks/Pearson Field**

Prior to World War I, the open fields of Vancouver Barracks provided a venue for a number of early aviation experiments and demonstration flights. Notable events included the 1905 dirigible flights between Portland and the Barracks grounds by Lincoln Beachey, and the flights of early aviators such as Silas Christofferson and Charles Walsh beginning in 1910. During the war, the site of the present airfield was covered with the large industrial facilities associated with the Spruce Production Division, which supplied the production of military aircraft. In 1923, following the removal of the World War I era Spruce Production Division structures, an air-training field for the 321<sup>st</sup> Observation Squadron of the Ninety-Sixth Division of the Organized Reserves was established on the Fort Plain east of the palisade site. For 18 years Pearson Field operated as an intermediate field within the larger framework of Air Corps bases. In addition to Army operations, mail service and fire fighting support teams also operated from the field for brief periods.

Between 1923 and 1941, the airfield figured in several important events in aviation history. In 1924, four Douglas World Cruiser airplanes stopped at the Vancouver field on their way to Seattle, the starting point for the first around-the-world flight, sponsored by the Army. In 1929, a twin-engine ANT-4, *Land of the Soviets*, touring the United States on a goodwill trip unexpectedly landed at Pearson Field when the plane developed mechanical problems. In 1937, pilot Valery Chkalov and his crew completed the first transpolar flight at Pearson Field. They were welcomed to the barracks by Brigadier General George C. Marshall. Their feat is commemorated today by a monument adjacent to the Pearson Air Museum.

Infrastructure associated with the airfield during the historic inter-war period included an airplane hangar and several buildings salvaged from the defunct Spruce Mill operations to serve for weapons storage, offices, and a pilots' lounge. A grass airstrip extended westward across the palisade site. To the east, on the other side of East Reserve Street, the City of Vancouver developed an early municipal airstrip to serve civilian needs.

Following World War II, when the War Department surplused the area below East Fifth Street, the City of Vancouver received the Pearson Field acreage and quickly combined the municipal and army fields into one larger municipal field. In 1972, the National Park Service purchased from the city the acreage west of East Reserve Street, including the structures associated with the historic airfield, granting the city a 30-year use and occupancy for the airfield. The airstrip was relocated and the aviation easement restrictions removed, allowing for subsequent reconstruction of the remainder of the palisade and other structures.

The Pearson Field group of three structures within a seven-acre cluster was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. In 1996, Congress extended general aviation use by the City of Vancouver for the portion of Pearson Field on NPS land until 2022. Subsequent to 2022, use of the airfield will be transitioned to aircraft meeting the historic definition as stated in the Memorandum of Agreement between the NPS and the City of Vancouver dated November 4, 1994. In that agreement, "historic aircraft" is defined as "aircraft based on a design from: (1) World War II era or earlier, (2) which are 50 years or older, or (3) which is determined by a qualified aviation advisory group selected by the Vancouver Partnership to be of historical significance." Airfield operations are subject to FAA approval.

With NPS approval and technical assistance, the city and the Pearson Field Historical Society developed the new Pearson Air Museum, adaptively reusing the three historic buildings including the remaining hangar and joining it to a newly constructed hangar housing the primary museum exhibit and educational facilities. In 2000, adaptive rehabilitation began on the former pilots' lounge and a weapons storage building to support additional administrative, curatorial, and museum needs. Also, in 2000, the city began the removal of outdated hangar structures from NPS property, with removal of all hangar facilities between the museum and the palisade to be completed by the end of 2002. The old metal museum building and a metal building to the south of the former museum will also be removed at this time.

## **Additional Reconstruction**

### **Sale Shop and New Store**

The National Park Service recently made the decision to reconstruct the 1845 Sale Shop and New Store, subject to availability of funds. Historically the Sale Shop and New Store were large warehouses connected by a second-story walkway at the west end of the fort complex. These buildings will be the first to be constructed on the western end of the courtyard and will balance the historic scene within the interior of the Fort.

The interior of the reconstructed Sale Shop and New Store could be used for classroom and lecture space, museum exhibits, an expanded NHS research library (currently housed in the Indian Trade Shop), or an expanded state-of-the-art curation facility to manage related HBC collections and U.S. Army archaeological collections. Its location within the Fort will allow easy access to the site's premier archaeological collection of 1.5 million artifacts now housed in the Fur Store.

### **Historical Significance**

The Sale Shop was distinct from the Indian Trade Shop at Fort Vancouver. The Sale Shop was a retail mercantile outlet where European manufactured goods and some “country-made” items and “country” produce were sold or traded to the fort’s officers, lower class HBC employees and their families, missionaries, settlers, and other visitors. As the fur trade declined and large numbers of American emigrants settled the Oregon Country in the 1840s, the importance of the Sale Shop grew. The shop’s operation provided a large percentage of the HBC’s profits at the Fort and for the Columbia Department. The building contained a small retail room probably fitted with a wicket type window and counter where customers purchased goods. The Sale Shop’s vast inventory of goods would not have been on display for customers.

The New Store was used as a general storehouse for the storage of provisions, dry goods, and hardware for the HBC’s entire Columbia Department. Goods from Great Britain came in huge bales, barrels, and boxes. Another portion of the inventory came in smaller bales, boxes, and kegs that were sent out from Fort Vancouver to the HBC’s interior posts in the Columbia Department after re-packing. The Sale Shop and the New Store were connected by a second floor walkway to facilitate the transfer of goods from one building to the other.

### **Research and Education Center**

The need and idea for a research and education center has been discussed at the NHS for several years. As one of its recommendations in 1998, the *Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Museum Management Plan* stated the need for the NHS to decide if it will function solely as a repository for HBC related collections or as a research center for the early developmental history of the area. In 2000 shortly after initiation of the general management planning process, park management decided that in addition to its critical function as a repository, the park could also fill the role of a research and education center. The research and education center will need to include space for expanded collections from other sites in the Pacific Northwest. Though its function is currently being housed in the Fur Store, alternatives in this GMP discuss various locations for the research and education center.

The mission of the research and education center at the NHS is to foster the analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of information relating to archaeology and historic architecture. The foundations of the research center are the site’s archaeological collections, the archaeological resources remaining *in situ*, and the existing historic architecture of the Reserve areas. These cultural resources form an unparalleled opportunity for researchers, students, and members of the public to study within the fields of archaeology, curation and collections management, museum studies, preservation and conservation, and historic architecture. Possible research topics will include, but are not limited to, fur trade sites, U.S. Army forts and related sites, logging camps and mill sites, and Civilian Conservation Corps camps. The mission of the research and education center will be accomplished through the following: ongoing archaeological excavations and field school, analysis of existing collections and data, expansion of archival materials, development of web-based educational tools, the fostering and publication of research papers, lectures and demonstrations on associated topics, programs that highlight the cultural resources professions, and intensive public research.

### **Counting House**

A second building that will be reconstructed in 2003 is the Counting House (also known as the 1845 New Office). The Counting House will interpret the life of Captain Thomas Baillie who initially resided in the building from 1845-1847, as well as describe the role of the Counting House in the operation of

Fort Vancouver. Two of the rooms, the bedroom and front room, will be historically furnished. The third room will house modern, hands-on interpretive exhibits, designed to teach young visitors how we learn about the past through archaeology and historical research.

### ***Historical Significance***

The Old Office was one of the oldest structures in the Fort dating from 1829, so construction of a new Counting House began in 1845. Because living space inside the Fort was at a premium, clerks often had to room in their office when visitors filled Bachelors' Hall. Due to the overcrowding, on its completion the Counting House was given to Captain Thomas Baillie of *HMS Modeste* as his shore quarters. The Counting House became a lively place, the scene of frequent balls, plays, and parties hosted by Baillie. After he left in 1847, the contents of the Old Office were transformed and the building became the Counting House.

### **Archaeology**

The whole of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is an archaeological site. Fort Vancouver is recognized as the most important historical archaeological site in the Pacific Northwest. Any ground disturbance is likely to affect buried resources; therefore all planning and construction projects should first consider effects upon the park's archaeology.

Since its establishment as a monument in 1948, NPS professionals and scholars alike have accepted that the *in situ* archaeological resources, including foundations, artifacts and features, were one of the two most important park resources. The historic documentation of the Hudson's Bay Company in the northwest has continually been strengthened and enhanced by the analysis of the data and artifacts resulting from excavations at Fort Vancouver. As a result of the archaeological investigations, the interpretive theme at the park is as much a celebration of the archaeological resources of the Fort as it is of the story of the Hudson's Bay Company.

A year before the establishment of the national monument in 1947, the first exploratory archaeological excavations were begun by NPS archaeologist Dr. Louis Caywood. The purpose was to provide spatial and artifact data to guide and assist in the reconstruction of the palisade of Fort Vancouver and its interior structures. Caywood excavated from 1947 through 1952, and delineated the palisade outline and the size and locations of several of the structures.

In 1966, contract archaeologists John Combes and Edward Larrabee conducted separate excavations of the north wall and northeast corner of the palisade prior to reconstruction of these features. Intensive excavations throughout the interior of the palisade area occurred from 1970 through 1974 conducted by NPS archaeologist Jake Hoffman and assisted by Lester Ross. These excavations produced twelve volumes of data to be used for reconstruction purposes, and a very large accumulation of artifacts and depositional data that has been used to interpret the material culture of the people who lived and worked at Fort Vancouver. In 1974, a partial excavation of the Sale Shop was conducted by the Oregon Archaeological Society (OAS) under the supervision of Harvey Steele and Lester Ross. In 1984 through 1988, the OAS partially excavated both the Counting House (New Office)(1845) and the Jail (1843-1845) with Charles Hibbs as principal investigator.

During this period there also occurred excavations conducted outside of the immediate palisade area. In 1961, NPS regional archaeologist Paul Schumacher conducted testing at the HBC barn complex. And

beginning in 1968, a series of excavations were conducted in and around the Village, located west of the palisade. The first, begun in 1968, by Susan Kardas and Edward Larrabee, was a research effort to determine the location of the eastern boundary of the Village. The data and artifacts resulting from these and following investigations provide important data on the life and culture and the acculturation of this ethnically diverse community. Subsequent excavations at the Village site were prompted by the renovation of the interchange of State Route 14 and Interstate 5. To mitigate the effects on the Village site by the construction activities, archaeologists David and Jennifer Chance conducted excavations in 1974 and 1975. Several of the important features found and investigated were a village dwelling area, a boat building area and separate black smithy, and the historic pond used as a refuse dump for both the HBC and the U.S. Army. University of Idaho archaeologist Caroline Carley conducted a third season of excavations at the site in 1977. The objectives were to increase the information available about the palisaded hospital and the HBC boat building area, to determine the eastern boundary of the complex, and to augment the stratigraphic and artifact collections from the pond. In 1980 to 1981, Bryn Thomas and Charles Hibbs, Jr. of Eastern Washington University (EWU) concluded the archaeology for the right-of-way of the State Route 14 expansion by investigating U.S. Army properties with sites east of Interstate 5 and west of the NPS property line. These test excavations discovered the remnants of the 1850-1851 quartermaster's depot stable, clerks' quarters, an HBC depot corral, and five village dwelling areas.

In 1985, Thomas was asked to excavate the proposed utility corridor that was to follow a route outside the northeast palisade, opposite the Bakehouse, south to the southeast corner, and then west to the area just south of the Fur Store foundation remnants. The excavations revealed several exciting features, including the remains of the Cooperage just north of the southeast palisade, features and artifacts identified as associated with the Southeastern Bastion, and a pre-1841 servant's quarters and shop.

The utility corridor was dug to service the proposed reconstructed Fur Store. In 1991, EWU conducted data-recovery excavations on the remaining footings and features within the Fur Store foundation. The most notable recovery was that of the footing for the Fur Press which was used to compress furs into bales for shipment to England. The completion of these excavations and the findings from the recovered artifacts and features allowed for the reconstruction of the Fur Store to interpret the historic storage of furs at the Fort and for its use as the Fort Vancouver NHS archaeology and curation facility.

In the summer of 1994, in anticipation of the reconstruction of the Carpenter Shop, the park hosted an archaeological field school. Dr. David Brauner of Oregon State University (OSU) conducted a six-week investigation of the east half of the Carpenter Shop. Due to the extensive intrusions to the site area since about 1860, Brauner found little recognizable evidence of the Carpenter Shop in his excavations. In 1996, Thomas at EWU finished the excavations of the west side of the Carpenter Shop, again finding no clear architectural evidence for the presence of the Carpenter Shop. However, the presence of carpentry related tools and the historical documentation of the structure provided the park with the data needed to reconstruct the Carpenter Shop.

In the fall of 1999, Dr. Douglas Wilson of Archaeology Consulting was contracted to finish excavating the area associated with the Counting House. These excavations, together with those by Caywood in 1952, and Hibbs in 1986 through 1988, have provided definitive evidence of the location and dimensions of the Counting House. This, together with the evidence provided by the recovered artifacts from these excavations, will likely result in the reconstruction of the Counting House sometime in 2003. In the summer of 2000, Wilson (this time employed as NPS Reserve archaeologist) assisted by park archaeologist Robert Cromwell, completed the excavations of the Jail. These excavations concentrated on the north and west portions of the Jail, and definitive evidence for its location and dimensions were lo-

cated in the form of wooden sill footings still *in situ*. The combined data from the 1984 to 1985 and 2000 excavations allowed reconstruction of the Jail during the fall of 2000.

### **Hudson's Bay Company Cemetery**

The U.S. Army and the NPS sponsored a joint project to study the second Hudson's Bay Company cemetery, which is within the authorized boundary of the NHS. One element of that project employed historical maps and drawings of the cemetery to estimate its boundaries (Garnett, 2001). Geophysical remote sensing surveys (magnetometer and ground-penetrating radar) were conducted in the area of the cemetery in September of 2000 (Conyers, 2000; McDonald, 2000). A second set of surveys funded by the NPS was conducted in 2002 and 2003, with a magnetic survey conducted on September 27, 2002 (McDonald, 2002), and a ground-penetrating radar survey conducted on June 27, 2003 (Conyers and Amanti, 2003). This archaeological remote sensing work has identified some subsurface anomalies associated with possible grave sites and many anomalies associated with later U.S. Army disturbance of the site including trenches and pipelines. The cartographic analysis has helped define the probable extent of the cemetery. These studies have provided a means to better manage and protect the historic cemetery.

As a result of over 50 years of archaeological investigations at Fort Vancouver NHS, a total of close to 2 million artifacts have been retrieved and scores of scholarly reports have been produced and archived. The collection, which includes artifacts from other northwest HBC sites, such as Fort Nez Perce, Fort Colville and the HBC Belle Vue Farm on San Juan Island, represents the largest recovered Hudson's Bay Company fur trade era artifact collection in the world. This historical array offers an incredibly rich resource for future research and interpretation of the many cultures that helped shape the modern northwest community. The park staff recognizes the importance of the collection not only to academic and historical scholars, but also to the lay community especially children in kindergarten through high school. Staff members of the research and education center are devising creative ways to offer increasing access to the collections by devising web access to digitized archaeological and historical reports, as well as maps, and will provide digitized photos of thousands of diagnostic artifacts.

### **Status of Archaeology Surveys**

As of September 31, 2001, approximately 50% of the 209 acres within the NHS were adequately surveyed. Those portions of the NHS that have not been surveyed to date for subsurface archaeological resources will be surveyed, including areas within the authorized boundary transferred to NPS. The NHS staff will use geophysical and other types of remote sensing and subsurface shovel probes and shovel tests to determine the presence and extent of subsurface cultural deposits. This will help to determine their integrity and whether they likely contribute to the significance of Fort Vancouver.

To comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, survey work will focus on areas slated for park development and reconstruction, and then proceed to other park areas. Survey work will be integrated with the park's existing Geographic Information System. Additional archival research will be conducted to identify and preliminarily assess any intact and potentially contributing archaeological resources that are discovered. Interested and consulting parties, including the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and appropriate Native American Tribes will be consulted and notified about the proposed undertakings.

Survey work for areas of the Reserve outside of the NHS will be conducted in a similar fashion and on a similar priority schedule. Archaeological testing and evaluation will be conducted as needed to deter-

mine the significance of historical archaeological remains that could be impacted by a project. Wherever possible, reconstruction, trail and road development, and other planned projects, will seek to avoid archaeological resources that are intact and contribute to the significance of the NHS. If it is not possible to avoid significant archaeological deposits for a proposed undertaking, a data recovery or other mitigation plan will be developed and implemented. Artifacts collected during survey, testing, and evaluation work will be cataloged to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and curated at the Fort Vancouver NHS curation facility.

## **Collections**

The on-going archaeological investigations at Fort Vancouver NHS have produced one of the largest and most significant collections of Hudson's Bay Company and U.S. Army-related artifacts in the world, totaling close to 2 million items. In addition, the NHS serves as a repository for archaeological material recovered from U.S. Army sites within the Reserve. The park's study/diagnostic collections consist of nearly 200,000 metal, ceramic, glass, bone, and brick artifacts. In addition, extensive collections from other HBC sites in the Pacific Northwest—Belle Vue Farm (San Juan Island National Historical Park), Fort Colville (Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area), and Fort Nez Perce (Whitman Mission National Historic Site)—have been transferred to the Fort Vancouver NHS facility. At present, the cataloging backlog estimated for these collections is about 635,000.

The NHS collection includes over 4,000 historic objects, most of which are used as furnishings in the interpretive spaces of reconstructed buildings. The NHS also maintains archival collections, which include maps, photographs, and other documents that relate to the Hudson's Bay Company, Fort Vancouver, and the U.S. Army. The collection also contains the papers of John Hussey, an NPS Historian who conducted seminal historical research on Fort Vancouver. In addition, archaeological field records from over 50 years of excavations are housed here.

The preservation, management, and interpretation of this collection continue to be one of the most important cultural resource issues for the NHS. Representing the original fabric of Fort Vancouver and providing insight into the lives of its occupants, it is an internationally significant resource. An extensive curatorial processing area, offices, and exhibit spaces occupy the first floor of the Fur Store building. A glass wall between the interpretive corridor and the work area allows visitors to view the curatorial space and work in progress. On the second floor, collections are stored in a state-of-the-art facility.

### **Hudson's Bay Company Archival and Material Cultural Collections**

Following is a list of repositories and institutions containing Hudson's Bay Company archival and material cultural collections:

- American Antiquarian Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Bancroft Library, Berkeley, California
- Fort Nisqually Historic Site, Tacoma, Washington
- Glenbow-Alberta Institute, Calgary, Alberta
- Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Huntington Library, Pasadena, California
- Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- McLoughlin House National Historic Site (now McLoughlin House Unit), Oregon City, Oregon

- National Archives of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario
- National Collections, Ottawa, Ontario
- Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon
- Parks Canada, Department of Canadian Heritage, Regional Collections, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Provincial Archives of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Public Record Office, London, England
- Royal Engineers Library, Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent, England
- Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario
- Royal Provincial Archives of British Columbia, Victoria, British Columbia
- U.S. National Archives, Washington, D.C.
- University of Washington Library, Seattle, Washington
- Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma, Washington
- Washington State Library, Olympia, Washington

### **Technology Options for Collection Availability**

Currently, the Fort Vancouver NHS archaeological collection is available to the public through a variety of integrated, technological means. An “online collection” project uses several different features to make artifacts accessible to researchers and interested persons.

The Automated National Catalog System (ANCS+) used for recording artifact data has a function that allows a digital image to be attached to an electronic catalog record. Staff and volunteers at Fort Vancouver NHS have been producing several digital images for each object in the archaeological study collection, a grouping of approximately 200,000 artifacts. These are designed to show multiple views of an object, and a detail of any diagnostic traits. This entire process of digitizing the artifacts and importing the images into the cataloging software can be shown on a monitor in the interpretive corridor of the Fur Store. Visitors to the site can view the artifact image and catalog data as a Museum Technician or volunteer works on the project. During other times, the monitor shows a slide show of images so visitors can be introduced to items from the archaeological collection.

These data, the ANCS+ catalog records and related digital images, are used as the basis for the online collection. Re:discovery Software, in conjunction with the National Park Service Museum Management Program (MMP), has developed templates so that the data can easily be accessible through the World Wide Web. A visitor to this Web Catalog can browse the catalog records, view images, and compose searches and queries to sort or filter data according to their personal research needs.

In addition to the Web Catalog, which is hosted on a server managed by the NPS Museum Management Program, the Fort Vancouver website includes archaeological and curatorial features designed to increase the availability of the collection. Articles on current excavations are tied to artifact descriptions and images, highlighting the most recent additions to the collection. An online Research Guide introduces visitors to the collection and guides them to representative artifacts and archival references. Additional features illustrate conservation projects, and describe how the site cares for its collection.

Utilizing technology to increase the availability of the collection is an integral component of the transition to a research and education center. In addition to continuing the online collection project, several technology options will improve the availability of the Fort Vancouver NHS collection and other ar-

archaeological collections the park holds that are associated with Hudson's Bay Company material culture. One project could integrate the ANCS+ catalog records with GIS data, visually tying individual artifacts to the units and strata from which they were excavated. This would allow researchers more flexibility when looking at stratigraphic variety, distribution patterns, and other types of spatial analyses. Various software programs could make this visual representation accessible through the Web, and visitors to the website, or to a park kiosk, could interact with map layers (historical features, archaeological excavations, existing conditions) and corresponding artifacts from the collection. This would in essence place an artifact in time and space, giving visitors a historical context for an item from the collection.

Additionally, the World Wide Web could be more intensely utilized to promote the availability of the collection through virtual exhibits; interactive educational features based on cultural resources, and online versions of archival documents like archaeological reports and photos. Overall, a research center will require online services that address collection availability for both visitors to the park and those who come via the website, and are capable of meeting the needs of researchers as well as visitors who desire an introductory or engaging view of the collection.

## **Historical Human Populations at Fort Vancouver**

As the preceding portions of this section suggest, the complex cultural landscape and historic occupation of Fort Vancouver NHS was highly diversified socially and culturally. With the establishment of the first Hudson's Bay Company post in 1824, the region became integrated into the international political economy that the Company represented through its role in the British fur trade and other mercantile activities (Mackie 1997). At that time, many different native people already lived adjacent to the west coast of Canada and the United States, along the tributaries of the Cascade Mountain Range, and east of the mountains on the Plateau of the Interior. Near the site of the Hudson's Bay Company post, local natives, some of whom were known as Chinook Indians, had villages and interacted extensively with native people from elsewhere.

The London-based trading company operated in a vast geographical area throughout northern North America and at outposts in Hawaii and California. It is not surprising therefore, that the indigenous diversity of the region surrounding the new HBC post was a foundation upon which people from many ethnic and national origins found fertile ground. As a result, the diversity and intermixture of the historical occupants of the post between 1824 and 1860 increased dramatically. Principals of the HBC were English and Scottish. They at first brought metis (persons of mixed non-Indian and Indian ancestry from Canada), French Canadians, and Native Americans from the northeast such as Iroquois and the Cree, and the Carrier and others from the northwest. To meet increasing needs for labor, "Kanakas" were brought from the Sandwich or Hawaiian Islands to Fort Vancouver and other posts. At Fort Vancouver, Hawaiians and natives from across North America resided at a post oriented community that came to be known as Kanaka Village.

During the early days of the HBC post, Chief Factors and officers led services for others that belonged to the Church of England. Employees such as the French Canadian carpenter, David Dompierre, held services for Catholics. For two years in 1830s, the Company provided a chaplain who was an Anglican priest. By 1838, the HBC promoted and supported the two Catholic priests from Montreal who arrived under the auspices of the church in Canada. The priests held services at existing structures within the post and began to maintain records on all baptisms, marriages, and burials at this post and at several other missions located from one to several days travel away.

The new cemetery that was used for Catholics and others between 1839 and 1856 was a short distance north of the HBC palisade. When the first Catholic Church was built in 1848 it was located between the palisades of the HBC post on the south and the cemetery in a wooded area to the north. The records of baptisms, marriages, and deaths that were maintained by the priests of the St. James Mission document the ethnic and national diversity of those that worked, lived, and died in the vicinity of the post. The priests named individuals in the records and documented the “nations” (including Hawaiians referred to as Kanakas and Metis of Canada) that they and their parents belonged to. A few of the nations, as the priests referred to them, no longer exist as named groups. However, many of the tribal names were clearly ancestors of one or another constituent group in over a dozen contemporary federally recognized American Indian tribes in the Pacific Northwest, at least one unrecognized tribe, and several Canadian First Nations. The records also document extensive intermarriage among near and distant tribes, and between tribal members and other ethnic groups and nationalities. Indeed, numerous examples of intermarriages between various Indians, Hawaiians, Europeans, and Canadians exist in the records (Warner and Munnick 1972).

Transcriptions and publications of the names and biographical data from the Catholic Church Records by Warner and Munnick (1992) show that the more than 200 individuals who were buried in the St. James Mission Cemetery were diverse in many ways. There were men and women. Some were infants, others were aged; some were natives, others were non-natives; some were originally from the local area and others were from distant places such as Hawaii, the British Isles, Europe, elsewhere in the United States and eastern Canada. Likewise, they represented vastly different occupations and social classes. Among the natives, there were individuals identified as slaves and others who were chiefs.

Chief Tamakwen (also known as Thomas Tamakun) of the Cascades Indians died at the age of about 35 years in early 1848. In December of that year, a “High Chief of the Chinook Tribe of the Lower Columbia” named Chief Cassino (also known as Francois Kinsnos, Kinsneau and Casenoe) died at about 50 years of age. Whether or not their remains were ever removed from the cemetery is unknown. Members of contemporary tribes who the NPS has consulted continue to be concerned about the remains of those chiefs and other people who were buried in the cemetery.

Insufficient documentation about whether or not burials were removed from the St. James Mission/HBC Cemetery is exemplified by a comment on the body of Chief Factor John McLoughlin’s son. The corpse of John McLoughlin II was buried at Fort Vancouver in October 1843, about a year and five months after his death at Fort Stikine: “His body was brought to Fort Vancouver for burial in the Old Cemetery, since removed, but his name is honored on a plaque, along with those of Pambrun and Kittson, near the new Cemetery farther up the slope” (Warner and Munnick 1972: A-55).

Throughout the 1850s, the ethnic and national diversity characteristic of the HBC period at Fort Vancouver coexisted with the establishment of the Columbia Barracks by the U.S. Army beginning in 1852, and as the HBC continued its trading operations. At the same time, Columbia City, as the City of Vancouver was then called, became the leading center of commerce in Washington Territory. By 1860, however, the HBC moved out of Fort Vancouver. At the regional level, the decade of the 1850s was one of transition to social, political, and economic integration of the Pacific Northwest into the nation-state of the United States of America. The transition coincided with the establishment of treaties between the U.S. Government and the indigenous native people, the cession of certain lands by tribes and the “reservation” of other lands for their contemporary and future occupancy and use. Ultimately, tribal reservations were not established and maintained in the immediate vicinity of Fort Vancouver.

The local scene came to be dominated by the U.S. military base and the development of nearby Columbia City. The site of the former HBC post developed a social and cultural character that was more typical of other places in the American west that had a combination of military forts and centers of commerce. Ethnic and cultural diversity then became less evident at Fort Vancouver as a reflection of U.S. continental expansion and the implementation of the reservation system for American Indians in the Pacific Northwest. The numerous officers and enlisted men at Fort Vancouver Barracks reflected the ethnic and cultural makeup of American society at large. Exceptions included the incarceration of 33 members of the Red Heart Band of Nez Perce Indians for about seven months in 1877 and 1878 (Sinclair 1998).

The historical changes that took place at Fort Vancouver during the last 150 years displaced the tremendously diverse populations who were present during the time of Hudson's Bay Company operation. For the most part, changes in the cultural landscape (including the destruction, deterioration, and displacement of buildings and other material features) at Fort Vancouver have erased specific cultural and natural resources that were culturally important to resident populations in the past. Contemporary people may have interests and concerns about interments that may still be located at the site of the historical cemetery referred to above. However, it is not likely that any contemporary group of people (ethnic group, tribe, or nation) have knowledge about cultural resources from the HBC period that would continue to have special cultural significance to them. A discussion of potentially park-associated contemporary human populations appears in the "Socioeconomic" section of this document.

## **Sites Associated or Affiliated with HBC Activities in North America**

### **Fort Nisqually Historic Site**

Established in 1833 by Chief Trader Archibald McDonald at the south end of Puget Sound, Fort Nisqually served as a fur trading post. In the late 1830s, it became the headquarters for a subsidiary of the Hudson's Bay Company, the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, which had been formed to provide agricultural products for the HBC for export to Hawaii, Alaska, and California. This was one of the forts that Chief Factor John McLoughlin of Fort Vancouver was responsible for overseeing. Fort Nisqually closed in 1869. In the 1930s, the two surviving original buildings were moved to Point Defiance Park on land owned by the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma. Additional buildings were restored, reconstructed and furnished to the period of the 1850s. The Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma administers Fort Nisqually Historic Site.

### **San Juan Island National Historical Park**

The site commemorates the 1859 "pig" incident in which an American settler, Lyman Cutler, shot a pig belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company, operating at Belle Vue Farm on San Juan Island. The incident nearly precipitated a war between Great Britain and the United States. Military forces from both nations were stationed on San Juan Island from 1859-1874. The controversy over the pig incident and the boundary between the United States and Canada was eventually resolved peacefully by international arbitration under the auspices of the Emperor of Germany. In 1872, the emperor ruled in favor of the U.S., establishing the boundary line through the Haro Strait. The National Park Service administers San Juan Island National Historical Park.

### **Fort Victoria**

Founded as Fort Victoria in 1843 on the southern tip of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, it was the headquarters of the Hudson's Bay Company's western department after 1849. No historic structures

from the HBC period have survived. The modern city of Victoria encompasses the original site of Fort Victoria.

### **Champoeg State Park**

Champoeg State Park is located on the east side of the Willamette River approximately 15 miles southwest of Portland, Oregon. On May 2, 1843, a vote taken here between American settlers and former employees of the Hudson's Bay Company established the first provisional American government of the Pacific Coast. This action may have been one of the factors leading to Oregon becoming an U.S. Territory in 1848. The Oregon State Parks Department administers this site.

The following six sites are administered by Parks Canada, Department of Canadian Heritage:

### **The Fur Trade at Lachine National Historic Site**

Located to the west of the Island of Montreal, Lachine National Historic Site interprets the fur industry in the Montreal region of Canada in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. A stone warehouse was built under the direction of Alex Gordon, former clerk of the Northwest Company, in 1803 to store trade goods and furs. In 1833, the warehouse was taken over by the Hudson's Bay Company. Lachine, historically, occupied a strategic position on the fur route as a departure and arrival point for trading expeditions. It also served as an important center for storing the Montreal merchant's furs and trade goods.

### **Fort Langley National Historic Site**

Fort Langley was established in 1827 by Hudson's Bay Company's Chief Factor James McMillan on the south side of the Fraser River in present British Columbia. The fort provided dairy products and large quantities of salmon for use by the HBC and for export.

### **Lower Fort Garry National Historic Site**

Established by Governor George Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1830, Lower Fort Garry served as a retail, agricultural, and industrial center to supply outlying fur posts. It also served as a transshipment point for goods being shipped from York Factory on Hudson Bay.

### **Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site**

Established by the Northwest Company in 1799 on the North Saskatchewan River as a fur trade post, the Rocky Mountain House was taken over by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821. The post was closed briefly in 1822 and reopened in 1825. Rocky Mountain House was permanently abandoned by the HBC in 1861.

### **Fort St. James National Historic Site**

Fort St. James National Historic Site was founded by Simon Fraser on Stuart Lake in 1806 as a Northwest Company post. It was taken over by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821 and became the administrative headquarters for the New Caledonia fur district. From this post, the annual fur brigades to the Pacific Coast departed and returned, and supplies for the district were distributed from Fort St. James.

### **York Factory National Historic Site**

Established by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1682 between the mouths of the Hayes and Nelson rivers, York Factory was the depot and headquarters of the HBC's Northern Department of Rupert's Land. All

official correspondence, requisitions for trade goods and supplies, records of the Company's business activities for the previous outfit (business year) for Fort Vancouver, and all the posts in the Columbia Department were forwarded yearly to York Factory by way of the York Factory Express. There the records were sent by ship to London. York Factory was closed in 1957.

## **Sites Associated or Affiliated with Early U.S. Army at Vancouver Barracks**

### **Fort Bellingham**

Fort Bellingham, built 1856 is located in Bellingham, Washington. Originally a blockhouse, it later served as an U.S. Army post. The only remaining building is the home of Captain George Pickett who is best known for his involvement at the Battle of Gettysburg.

### **Fort Borst**

Fort Borst was strategically located on the military road between Fort Vancouver and Fort Steilacoom. Originally built in 1856, the residual blockhouse is now located at Fort Borst Park in Centralia, Washington.

### **Fort Cascades**

Completed in 1855, Fort Cascades was built to guard the portage road around the Cascades Mountains near present Bonneville Dam in Washington State. A walking tour is available of the old fort site located on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land.

### **Fort Canby**

Established as Fort Cape Disappointment, Fort Canby was renamed in 1875. Along with Ft. Stevens, Fort Canby was built to guard the Columbia River during the Civil War. Visitors can view the original battery gun emplacements and visit the adjacent museum, emphasizing the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery expedition. This site is near Ilwaco, Washington.

### **Fort Columbia**

Fort Columbia (1896-1904) was established in 1899 during the turn of the century to compliment protection of the Columbia River at Fort Stevens and Fort Canby. It is now a Washington State park and includes original buildings, gun emplacements, and a museum.

### **Fort Lewis**

Fort Lewis was established in 1917 as Camp Lewis and today is the largest active U.S. Army post in the Pacific Northwest near Tacoma, Washington. It includes the Fort Lewis Museum at the post.

### **Fort Lugenbeel, Fort Gilliam, Upper Cascades Townsite, and Fort Rains**

These sites now exist only as archaeological sites on present U.S. Army Corp of Engineer land located west of Stevenson, Washington near the Bridge of the Gods. Fort Rains was built in 1856.

### **Fort Simcoe**

Several original buildings, including the Commanding Officer's house, still exist at this 1856 fort site. It is now a Washington State park and has an interpretative center open part of the year.

### **Fort Spokane**

Established in 1882, Fort Spokane served as the training ground for U.S. troops during the Spanish-American War, among other activities in Washington. Remaining there are several original buildings, including the Indian School dating from 1899-1929.

### **Fort Vancouver (Vancouver Barracks)**

Fort Vancouver served as the former department headquarters for the Columbia Department and is presently home to U.S. Army Reserve units. It is the oldest active military post in the Pacific Northwest, begun in 1849 and is now part of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve in Vancouver, Washington.

### **Fort Walla Walla**

Fort Walla Walla built in 1856-57 was a principal U.S. Army post east of Cascades Mountains. Several original buildings, parade ground, and the cemetery remain. A museum is open in the summertime after mid-April.

### **San Juan Island National Historical Park**

Located on San Juan Island near the border of British Columbia, it is the NPS site of American and British camps during the boundary dispute between 1859 and 1872. British Camp has four historic buildings and a small garden that have been restored. At American Camp, two historic buildings survive along with the remains of an earthwork gun emplacement. There is a visitor center at American Camp and an orientation center in Friday Harbor, Washington.

### **Fort Dalles**

Built in 1850, Fort Dalles was the principal U.S. Army post for the area above Great Falls in the Columbia River. One original building, a former surgeon's quarters which houses a museum, remains in Oregon.

### **Fort Hoskins**

Fort Hoskins was established in 1856 to protect the Grand Ronde and Siletz Indian Reservations from encroachment. It is open to the public as a county park in Benton County, north of Philomath, Oregon.

### **Fort Klamath**

Built in 1863, Fort Klamath was a principle U.S. Army post during the Modoc War (1872-1873). The site houses the graves of four Modoc Indians executed in 1873 and the original guardhouse now used as a museum.

### **Fort Stevens**

Fort Stevens was one of two forts built in 1853-54 to guard the mouth of the Columbia River and was occupied by U.S. Army unit 1947. It is now an Oregon State Park and includes original gun emplacements and a museum.

### **Fort Umpqua**

Fort Umpqua was a U.S. Army Post established in 1856. Today Fort Umpqua is an archaeological site located across the Umpqua River from Winchester Bay, Oregon.

### **Fort Yamhill**

Fort Yamhill consisted of a Blockhouse built in 1855 which was expanded to a U.S. Army post in 1856. A young Philip Sheridan spent much of his early career here before the Civil War. The blockhouse was converted to a city park in Dayton City southwest of Portland, Oregon.

### **Camp Withecomb**

Located near Estacada, Oregon, Camp Withecomb is the site of the Oregon Military Museum.

### **Fort Sherman**

Fort Sherman was originally Camp Coeur d'Alene located east of Spokane, Washington, near Coeur d'Alene City Park.

## **The Natural Environment**

### **Environmental Context and Setting**

In 1824, George Simpson, governor of the Hudson's Bay Company's Northern Department, ordered the establishment of a new fur-trading post on the north side of the Columbia River. This post was named Fort Vancouver. During its existence between 1824-1860, Fort Vancouver was one of the most important settlements west of the Rocky Mountains.

Historically, the natural landscape of Columbia River's north shore was a mosaic of plains, coniferous forests, streams and lakes, with the Cascade Mountains visible in the distance. The Fort, the heart of the Hudson's Bay Company operations, was located on a low-lying river plain called Fort Plain that was six miles upriver from the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette rivers. Today, the park contains approximately 209 acres (in the authorized boundary of the NHS) and includes resources that relate to both the Hudson's Bay Company and the U.S. Army's Vancouver Barracks.

### **Air Resources**

No baseline inventory or monitoring regarding air quality is being conducted by Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. However, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources does monitor air quality in Clark County. The park is located within the Portland, Oregon metropolitan airshed. Ambient air pollutant concentrations for the park are within national and state air quality standards.

The Southwest Air Pollution Control Authority indicates the Vancouver area was redesignated from a non-attainment area to a maintenance area for ozone and carbon monoxide, meaning the area has met the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and has plans in place to maintain the standard. High carbon monoxide levels typically occur in winter. High ozone levels occur during hot, dry periods with little or no wind. There have been no carbon monoxide violations in the Vancouver area since 1991. The old one-hour ozone standard had not been violated since 1992 until an ozone episode in 1998. The new eight-hour standard has not been violated; however, conditions could occur that may exceed the ozone standard in the future. The Southwest Air Pollution Control Authority issues nonmandatory "clean air action days" to help reduce ozone levels on such occasions.

This attainment status has been in existence since 1991. The park is located beneath the flight paths of Portland International Airport and adjacent Pearson Field. The park is also adjacent to major highways and rail lines subjecting park resources to potential air pollutants.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has set health-based standards for seven air pollutants: carbon monoxide, ozone, fine particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>), sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, lead, and hydrocarbons. When ambient concentrations of these pollutants exceed the standards, health problems can result. The park is within a designated attainment area (specifically, concentrations below standards) for all criteria pollutants. This designation is based on representative ambient air quality monitoring from nearby monitoring stations. Air quality monitoring stations near the park are located at the following places: Mountain View High School – ozone; Hazel Dell and Fourth Plain and East Reserve – air quality and carbon monoxide; and Moose Lodge, Fourth Plain – particulate matter.

### **Climate**

The City of Vancouver and Clark County have mild wet winters and warm dry summers with an average rainfall of 41.3 inches, snowfall of 6.5 inches, and a growing season of 218 days. Approximately 80% to 85% of the precipitation occurs in the months from October to May. Fog is common during the spring and fall months. Average monthly temperatures are shown in the following chart.

**Average Monthly Temperatures**

<b>Month</b>	<b>High Temperatures</b>	<b>Low Temperatures</b>	<b>Precipitation</b>
March	54.9°	36.4°	3.5"
June	71.8°	49.2°	1.5"
September	72.9°	47.1°	3.8"
December	45.2°	32.5°	7.6"

Seasons are distinct, yet temperatures are not severe. Summer temperatures of 80 and 90 degrees are common while winter frequently finds nights below 30 degrees Fahrenheit.

Prevailing winds during the summer are from the northwest averaging eight to nine miles per hour. Prevailing winter winds are from the southeast, with an average velocity of eight miles per hour. However, high winds do occur, and during the fall, winds from the southwest can exceed 60 miles per hour on occasion. The highest recorded wind was on October 12, 1962, at 106 miles per hour.

## **Geologic Resources**

### **Topography**

Fort Vancouver NHS is located in the Willamette-Puget Trough, a geographic basin formed by the Cascade and Coast ranges. The topography of Fort Vancouver NHS has been formed by floodplain deposits from the Columbia River to form low-lying bottomlands and a series of alluvial plains and terraces. The area within the park slopes gently from the north boundary down to the river, with elevations from 102 feet mean sea level at the north, to 24 feet mean sea level at the river. The site of Fort Vancouver lies on the first narrow floodplain of the Columbia River. The slope quickly rises to the second floodplain, known as Mill Plain. From here looking southward, the visitor can view the historic area as well as the far side of the Columbia River.

## Geology

Clark County, Washington, exhibits traces of its geologic history including repeated inundation by fluctuating seas during glacial epochs, sedimentary processes of the Columbia River, volcanic activity, and periodic earthquakes. There is no evidence to suggest that these events have ended. Rivers are still eroding and transporting material to create new land areas. Land is still changing by slumping and downwarping. The weathering of rocks is continuing to create soil. Landslides, earthquakes, and volcanic events can occur at any time.

Fort Vancouver NHS is situated on alluvial deposits which underlie the southwestern third of Clark County and form the plains and terraces of the park. These alluvial deposits are further categorized into three general types:

- Alluvial fan and associated deposits—These deposits have accumulated along streams and tributaries to the Columbia River. They consist of fine-grained sand and gravel. In the bottomlands these deposits are an important source of groundwater.
- Terrace deposits—These deposits are distinctive because they are re-worked portions of the Troutdale Formation and contain very coarse gravels in a sandy matrix.
- Recent alluvium deposits—These deposits are confined to the floodplains of the present streams and creeks. They consist primarily of silt, sand, and gravel.

## Soils

The floodplain and the rising ground behind it consist of a fairly uniform gravelly loam 12 inches or more in depth over alluvial gravel. Surface runoff is quickly absorbed by these soils.

The major soil associations in the Vancouver urban area and the park are the Sauvie-Puyallup and the Lauren-Sifton-Wind River associations. Sauvie-Puyallup soils are found in the bottomlands while the Lauren-Sifton-Wind soils are found in the terraces.

Sauvie-Puyallup soils are poorly to excessively drained, moderate textures, nearly level to gently sloping alluvial soils of the floodplains of the Columbia River. Lauren-Sifton-Wind soils are excessively drained, gravelly, moderately textured, and nearly level to excessively sloping soils of alluvial deposits on the terrace along the Columbia River.

## Water Resources

### Surface Water Quality

While the park has not conducted a baseline inventory of monitoring regarding surface water quality within the park, the north shore of the Columbia River forms approximately 3,600 feet of the southern boundary of the park. Water quality information for the Columbia River and its tributaries within the general vicinity of the park have been collected by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Washington Department of Ecology and are summarized in a report entitled *Baseline water quality data inventory and analysis: Fort Vancouver National Historic Site* (NPS Water Quality Division 2000). The north shore of the Columbia River forms the south boundary of the park, approximately 3,600 feet in length, at the mean high waterline. No other surface watercourses exist within the park.

Increased water temperatures, high levels of dissolved nitrogen, alga growth, and high bacteriological counts, have degraded the water quality of the Columbia River. These pollutants are primarily the result of natural processes, but can also be attributed to discharges by industrial, agricultural, and recreational activities.

The 1978 *Clark County Water Quality Management Plan* characterized the quality of water resources within Clark County as impacted in various degrees by nonpoint source pollution. As documented through a routine monitoring program, none of the waters tested at that time met the state's water quality standards. The overall state of water quality among Clark County's surface water resource today is uncertain due to the absence of a countywide monitoring program.

### **Ground Water Quality**

The park obtains irrigation water using a well from a local aquifer. This aquifer lies within the alluvial deposits along the Columbia River lowlands and is recharged primarily by infiltration from the Columbia River. Water rights have been secured for this purpose. No monitoring is currently being conducted (except for monitoring conducted relating to the Safe Water Drinking Act) as to the water quality of this aquifer.

The management of water quality in Clark County is broad based with several agencies responsible for different aspects of the problem. The Southwest Washington Health District is responsible for water quality as it relates to septic tanks and water wells. Septic tanks can affect surface water and groundwater. There are no septic tanks within the NHS.

### **Wetlands**

Executive Order 1990, Protection of Wetlands, directs federal agencies to avoid to the extent possible adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands and to avoid direct or indirect support of new construction in wetlands wherever possible. The National Wetland Inventory identifies riparian wetlands associated with the park's 3,600 feet of shoreline along the Columbia River.

### **Floodplains**

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, and the guidelines for implementing the Executive Order developed by the Water Resources Council published in the *Federal Register* in 1978, direct environmental analysis for proposed actions and alternatives located in floodplains to identify potential impacts associated with occupation and modification of floodplains. Although a portion of the park and Pearson Field is identified as a floodzone, existing zoning regulations are adequate to manage development. The waterfront area of the park is in the 100-year floodplain, but existing uses are compatible with the floodzone. (See Figure 7, Floodplain.)

Elevations within the park boundary extend from 102 feet at the northern boundary of the park along Evergreen Boulevard to 24 feet along the Columbia River. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the 100-year floodplain level is 28 feet mean sea level while the 500-year floodplain level is 32 feet mean sea level. The average mean sea level elevation of the palisade area is 30 feet. The 100-year floodplain is the area that has a 1% chance of being flooded each year. Other on-site developments, dikes, and dams on the Columbia River have substantially altered the existing floodplain.

## **Vegetation**

Vegetation is a critical component of the Fort Vancouver landscape because of the prominent role agricultural and subsistence activities played in the Fort's success and influence in the Pacific Northwest. The cultivated fields, garden, orchard, and livestock pastures were all significant landscape features during the historic period of the Hudson's Bay Company occupation of the site.

Today there are no known vegetative remnants or features introduced by the Hudson's Bay Company, within the park boundary. An interpretive orchard, planted in 1962, exists on the site of the historic garden and consists of approximately 70 fruit trees. There is also an interpretive period garden located northeast of the palisade on the site of what was historically a cultivated field. The field area within the palisade is currently maintained as turf.

The only documented vegetation existing from the Hudson's Bay Company period includes two Douglas fir trees at the east end of the Parade Ground, and the apple tree in the city's Old Apple Tree Park. Two large Oregon oak trees on the Parade Ground may date from the 1850s, and a pear tree located north of East Fifth Street appears to be an old variety, although its location does not correspond to the known development of the Hudson's Bay Company.

To date, while no other vegetation dating from the historic period exists in the park today, the landscape character of some areas surrounding the palisade is still indicative of the vegetation associated with the historic period. For example, during the Hudson's Bay Company period, the undeveloped area north of Upper Mill Road consisted of Oregon oaks and Douglas fir trees scattered across a natural prairie. Today, Douglas fir and Oregon oak trees scattered across the manicured lawn of the parade ground retain the general character of the historic period. Several of the trees on the Parade Ground date from early in Vancouver Barracks's history (1861-1947). Clumps of Oregon oaks that are spread across the Vancouver Barracks portion of the park (many of which are within the park's legislated boundary) were also common in this area during the HBC and Vancouver Barracks periods as part of the oak savannah transition zone between the conifer forest and the plain.

Preliminary research indicates other trees in the Vancouver Barracks portions of the park may have historic integrity, for example, the large deciduous trees, including oaks, located along the southwest side of the park in the Reserve (see photo below). These trees were planted in 1883 along both sides of



McLoughlin Boulevard (now known as Fort Vancouver Way), a Vancouver Barracks depot road leading from East Fifth Street to the riverfront, which dated from the early 1850s. Significant vegetation located outside the park boundaries includes the maple trees on both sides of Evergreen Boulevard that were planted in front of Officer's Row in the 1880s. These trees create a strong visual edge to the north side of the parade ground and the park's northern boundary.

The vegetation along the river historically consisted of native riparian trees and shrubs. Today, the majority of the Fort Vancouver Waterfront consists of native riparian vegetation, masses of black cottonwoods, willows, and alders. The open fields north of State Route 14 are similar to the open-space character of the pasture and fields of the Hudson's Bay Company period. However, the overall visual character of the area lacks historic detail and diversity, due to the lack of crops and the associated grids and patterns created by fields and rows of crops.

The structures and features associated with Pearson Field represent a later historic development associated with the history of the U.S. Army at Vancouver Barracks. They are situated where open fields were cultivated and fenced for pasture during the Hudson's Bay Company. Later, these open fields were used for ordinance practice, polo matches, and early aviation pioneers. The park's 1975 Master Plan and the 1972 Cultural Landscape Report envisioned a full restoration of the fields and pastures to the appearance of the Hudson's Bay Company era following the expiration of the city's "use and occupancy" rights. The extension of the city's "use and occupancy," the determination that Pearson Field is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and the creation of the Pearson Air Museum precludes the implementation of this proposed restoration. However, the removal of outdated hangar structures from the field between the Pearson Air Museum and the Fort Stockade provides an opportunity for interpretation of both the agricultural fields and the open grass airfield representing the two eras.

## **Wildlife**

In 1993, Fort Vancouver NHS conducted its first park-wide inventory of wildlife species which included mammals, birds, and fish. Invertebrates, reptiles, and amphibians were not inventoried; however, this inventory was not completed. A baseline plant and animal inventory has yet to be conducted to document species occurrence and record scientific names.

The NHS is surrounded by commercial, industrial, residential, and aviation developments. The widespread expansion of the activities that the Hudson's Bay Company started nearly 180 years ago has left little room for native wildlife, but some species persist in this highly altered environment. Some of this wildlife can create potential impacts to flight activities, both on the ground (such as deer and coyotes), and in the air (birds). The NPS staff will work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services on these issues.

The park's inventory lists species either observed or known to inhabit the Vancouver area for which there is habitat within the park. These species include 18 species of mammals, 82 species of birds, and 28 species of fish. According to a national inventory by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the geographic area surrounding the national historic site has suitable habitat for two species of reptiles, and one amphibian.

Given the urbanized nature of the habitat of the park, terrestrial habitat for wildlife is somewhat limited. The trees, meadows, orchard, garden, and waterfront areas each provide limited habitat for wildlife generally passing through the area of the park.

## **Mammals**

Common mammal species using the park include possum, raccoon, skunk, coyote, Western gray squirrel, beaver, deer mouse, mole, and brush rabbit. Fox may be found within the area. No large mammals have been identified within the park. (According to park staff there have been deer sightings, but none within the last few years.)

## **Birds**

Tall grasses, blackberries, shrubs, and occasional groves of trees characterize the area west of the palisade, along the north side of State Route 14, and the Fort Vancouver Waterfront. These areas contain the greatest diversity of wildlife including birds. Resident and migratory birds that have been observed in the area include waterfowl, gallinaceous birds, pigeons, woodpeckers, hummingbirds, raptors, and passerines. Among the raptors are red-tailed hawk, Cooper's hawk, and American kestrel. The passerines that use the area include swallows, sparrows, finches, jays, chickadees, robins, blackbirds, wrens, starlings, crows, and ravens. Recently this area has been mowed to control noxious weeds.

Common waterbirds and shorebirds that use the area include blue heron, mallard, common merganser, western grebe, pied-billed grebe, double-crested cormorant, and killdeer. Common gallinaceous birds in the area include mourning dove and rock dove. The northern flicker, ring-billed gull, and herring gull also use the area.

## **Reptiles and Amphibians**

A systematic inventory of reptiles and amphibians in the park has not been conducted. Common reptiles and amphibians in the area include western toad, Pacific tree frog, racer, common garter snake, western terrestrial garter snake, and northwestern garter snake.

## **Invertebrates**

Invertebrates are common throughout the park, but data on populations is limited due to lack of studies.

## **Fisheries**

The southern park boundary stretches approximately 3,600 feet along the Columbia River. The Columbia River supports a varied fish community in the waters adjacent to and along the NHS. Fish species may be seen from the bluff above the river, as carcasses along the waterfront, or the catch of people fishing. Some of the species observed have been sockeye salmon, chum salmon, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, walleye, channel catfish, European carp, black crappie, and largemouth bass.

## **Threatened, Endangered, Rare Species, and Species of Concern**

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Section 7) as amended requires an examination of impacts of projects on all federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or critical habitat. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Washington State Natural Heritage Inventory disclosed no threatened or endangered species within the park, though the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and the bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) may occur in the vicinity of the park. A proposed species, stocks of sea-run coastal cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki clarki*) may occur in the vicinity of the park.

The National Marine Fisheries Service's website identified certain stocks of the following anadromous salmon species migrating through the Columbia River adjacent to the park as species of concern. They

are chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) listed as threatened, coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) listed as a candidate species, chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) listed as threatened, steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) listed as threatened, sea-run cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki clarki*) proposed threatened. In addition, the sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), native to the upper Salmon River in Idaho, are listed as endangered on the Snake River and must migrate through the Columbia River to reach its spawning areas.

For listed mammals, the NMFS website shows the Stellar sealion (*Eumetopias jubatus*) as threatened.

The following are species of concern that have been documented in Clark County. These species or their habitat could be located on or near the NHS: Cascade frog (*Rana cascadae*), Larch Mountain salamander (*Plethodon larselli*), Long-eared myotis (*Myotis evotis*), Long-legged myotis (*Myotis volans*), Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Northwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata marmorata*), Olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), Pacific lamprey (*Lampetra tridentata*), Pacific Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii*), Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), River lamprey (*Lampetra ayresi*), Slender-billed, white breasted nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis aculeata*), Tailed frog (*Ascaphus truei*), Van Dyke's salamander (*Plethodon vandykei*), Western toad (*Bufo boreas*).

The American peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) is a likely visitor to the area. Two candidate mollusks, the California floater *Anodonta californiensis*) and the Columbia River pebble snail (*Fluminicola [=Lithoglyphus] columbiana*), may also occur along the shoreline of the park boundary. The USFWS does not list any critical habitat.

No threatened or endangered plant species are known to occur within the park boundary. The Washington Natural Heritage Program currently has no records for rare plants or high quality ecosystems in the vicinity of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. However, the Washington Natural Heritage Program does have a record of tall bugbane (*Cimicifuga elata*), a state threatened plant and a federal species of concern, occurring about 1.5 miles from the park.

## Interpretation

Interpretation at the site has continued to evolve over the past 15 years since the completion of the park's Interpretive Prospectus and as more buildings are reconstructed. In addition, new information about the lives of all people associated with the Fort has also influenced interpretation. With the inclusion of Fort Vancouver NHS as part of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, opportunities exist for telling the nationally significant stories of the NHS and the Reserve.

In addition to the primary interpretive themes developed for the NHS during the course of the GMP process, a companion effort was undertaken by the Reserve Partners to develop a comprehensive Interpretive Plan for the entire Reserve. The NHS staff facilitated this process since the NPS serves as the lead in interpretation, education, and cultural resources. All of the NHS's primary themes fit well within some of the broader interpretive themes of the Reserve. These interpretive themes are currently under development and will be shared with the public by the Reserve Partners during the summer of 2002. The four primary themes for the Reserve are Crossroads and Environment, Exploration and Discovery, Settlement and Development, and Work and Community.

## Primary Interpretive Themes

Interpretation of the site has primarily been classified from the NPS publication, *National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings*, to the theme of Westward Expansion and the Extension of the National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830-1898, The Fur Trade. Breaking these out into site specific themes provides for the following:

- Crossroads – The Fort Vancouver area lies at the junction of the Columbia River and the Cascade Mountain Range. The area is rich in natural resources that provided abundant sustenance for American Indians and immigrants. The river served as a primary route of exploration, travel, and trade, and the fertile land has supported major agricultural production.
- Fur Trade and Commerce – Fort Vancouver’s diverse and extensive mercantile operations and advantageous location on the Columbia River enabled it to be the center for North west fur trade and international commerce.
- A Mix of Cultures – Fort Vancouver was a “melting-pot” of diverse human cultures of many American Indian, Hawaiian, American, and European peoples. This mix of cultures, and how people lived and worked together, is an important story in the life of the fort and in the development of the region.
- Settlement – Fort Vancouver was the commercial, agricultural, and social center of the Pacific Northwest. The resources in the area supported further settlement. Fort Vancouver also served as the first terminus of the Oregon Trail and provided large amounts of provisions and supplies to thousands of American settlers. Though the British Hudson’s Bay Company dominated the area for decades, international events provided for the territory to be peacefully annexed by the United States.
- Military – Vancouver Barracks was the first U.S. Army Post in the Pacific Northwest and served as the headquarters for the vast Department of the Columbia. Vancouver Barracks was a center for United States military operations in the region for the last half of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century. Associated with this theme is Pearson Field and the history of early civil and military aviation in the Pacific Northwest.
- Archaeological Research and Resources – Through research, archaeological resources at Fort Vancouver NHS enable us to learn about the past and tell an accurate story about Fort Vancouver.
- National Park Service Preservation and Education – The National Park Service is responsible for preserving the nation’s outstanding natural and cultural areas and for providing engaging educational programs for all people.

## Secondary Themes

Secondary themes that may be interpreted by the park include the CCC development in the Village and the Spruce Mill. In addition to the park themes, interpretive staff at the NHS are responsible for interpreting the themes for the Reserve articulated in the Reserve’s cooperative management plan and the long range interpretive plan.

Interpretive efforts (both personal and non-personal) should relate to one or more of the interpretive themes that have been established based upon the purpose, significance, and mission goals of Fort Vancouver NHS. Each theme should be addressed by some part of the overall interpretive program.

### ***Spruce Mill Trail***

This trail, which is under development, links the Headquarters Building (a former Spruce Mill building) at Pearson Air Museum with the northeast corner of the reconstructed stockade. The World War I Spruce Mill overlays these two sites. The mill was highly significant in the development of Northwest lumbering, labor relations, aviation history, and in the support of the war effort during World War I. The development of the trail can greatly assist in bringing this large scale and archaeologically important resource to light. Some of the concrete foundations and other archaeological remnants of the Mill, recently identified during removal of modern hangers in 2000 and 2002, could be interpreted to give the visitor a sense of the industrial archaeological site that rests just below the ground surface.

The trail between the Fort and Pearson sites fits well with National Park Service plans to both reconstruct the 1845 landscape and interpret the important archaeological resources of the Spruce Mill. It is also within the mission of Pearson Air Museum to interpret the dawn of aviation and the significance of the Spruce Mill as a cut-up plant to supply Spruce for early aircraft.

## **Visitor Experience Goals**

The intent of NPS management in offering interpretive programs and services at Fort Vancouver NHS is to provide an opportunity for visitors to experience the site's special history. In this regard:

- Visitors will be able to obtain interpretive information in a variety of ways and to the level of complexity and detail they desire.
- Visitors will be able to visualize life at the Fort and in its surroundings, as it would have been in 1845.
- Visitors will be able to experience a vestige of the sights and sounds of the Fort.
- Visitors will be able to understand the scale and scope of fort operations in the middle nineteenth century.
- Visitors will be able to understand the value of cultural resource preservation as exhibited at Fort Vancouver NHS.
- Visitors will be able to understand the value of the diverse cultures of people involved with the Fort.
- Visitors will understand the central role played by the Hudson's Bay Company and the Columbia River in the development of this area and the region.
- Visitors will experience the seamless story of "One Place Across Time" theme within the Vancouver National Historic Reserve.
- Visitors will experience the pioneering aviation milestones that are associated with Pearson Field and the golden age of flight in the Pacific Northwest.
- Visitors will understand the significance of this site in Pacific Northwest history.
- Visitors will be able to experience the life of the early soldier at the Vancouver Barracks.
- Visitors will be able to understand the role the U.S. Army played in the development of the Pacific Northwest.

## **Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Visitor Center**

### **Visitor Center Lobby**

The visitor center is currently open to the public every day except Thanksgiving, December 24, December 25, December 31, and January 1. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. March through October, and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. November through February (with some variation during the Fourth of July and Candlelight Tour events).

Visitors enter the visitor center from the parking area. Inside the lobby (approximately 25 feet by 35 feet) staff and volunteers provide important information to visitors from an information desk. The Northwest Interpretive Association (NWIA), a cooperating association with NPS, operates a sales area. Available for purchase are a wide variety of national historic site related books, as well as a wide variety of goods related to the fur trade and Fort Vancouver, such as blankets, tin cups, beads, and Spodeware. Historic Reserve items are also sold through this outlet. Staff and volunteers conduct sales of NWIA items. The park brochure and other park handouts, such as event schedules and bookmarks, are available to the public. The *Fort Vancouver Handbook*, a NPS publication was reprinted in 2001 and is available for purchase.

In addition to the information desk, the lobby also contains a large painting (5 feet by 8 feet) in a case that illustrates how the Fort and immediate surroundings would have looked in 1845. It is accompanied by a visitor activated taped message of approximately two minutes. While viewing the painting, visitors are able to look out the window of the visitor center down to the Fort site some 300 yards away. The lobby also contains a temporary exhibit on “Whose Fur Am I?” a tactile exhibit aimed at children to illustrate the difference among animal furs.

### **Visitor Center Exhibits and Video**

The visitor center exhibit room (approximately 35 feet by 35 feet) contains displays of fur trade items, fort building cutouts, a diorama, models, a variety of flat panel displays, and other items. These exhibits describe a variety of related stories, from the role of the first steamship in the Pacific Northwest to the technique of trapping beaver. An audio component of fort voices, in several languages of the Fort, plays continually in the background. These exhibits were installed in 1975 and have received repair, and updating. The exhibits are well executed but do not adequately tell the primary stories of the national historic site.

The Portland, Oregon public television station, as part of a series on Northwest forts, produced the park video in 1986. It is 12 minutes long and outdated. Upon request, it is shown to visitors on a large screen (26-inch screen) television. Originally produced on videotape, it was converted to laser disc in 1997. The auditorium seats 40 people.

## **Interpretation at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site**

### **Interpretation North of East Fifth Street**

This area contains the park’s picnic shelter, visitor center, and maintenance and administrative areas on approximately 40 acres of maintained turf area with interspersed trees. About 12 acres of this is the historic Parade Ground and reconstructed bandstand. The only interpretive wayside in this area is at the historic anchor, adjacent to the visitor center parking lot. It is an outdated routed aluminum sign. It is currently to be replaced as part of a wayside project that will also provide for a wayside on the Parade Ground.

Upon leaving the visitor center, visitors can drive the park road, or walk the 300 yards to the Fort. Some visitors choose to walk across the turf, while others walk the shoulder of the narrow park road.

### **Interpretation South of East Fifth Street**

The Fort is reached by parking at a temporary gravel parking lot on the south side of East Fifth Street. From the parking lot, it is a 75-yard walk to the north gate of the Fort. During fee season (May through September) fees are collected at the contact station inside the north gate. Leaving the Fort's parking lot, visitors have the option of walking through the one acre recreated formal English garden or taking a parallel path along the historic north road. On the north road is a wayside on the Village, where fort workers, including a large number of Hawaiians (called Kanakas) lived. Nearby there are two additional waysides—one located near the entrance to the garden interpreting the Fort Vancouver farm, the other on the north road interpreting the HBC's "workers of many nations."

The garden has some plant identification signs and interpretation is occasionally provided during the summer months but seldom provided during the winter months. To the west of the garden is the orchard, covering approximately three acres. To the east of the garden are fields, one of which the park has recently revegetated due to removal of four T-hangars located on federal property. Two existing waysides, recently placed near the entrance of the Fort, tell the story of agriculture and agricultural workers at the Fort.

### **Fort Palisade and Structures**

The 1845 era fort palisade and 14 structures inside the Fort have been reconstructed since 1966. There is a non-historic structure (contact station) located inside the palisade where visitor fees are collected and orientation occurs. A wide variety of personal and non-personal interpretive elements are located within the palisade.

### **Waterfront**

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is responsible for managing approximately nine acres on the Columbia River. Currently the City of Vancouver, under a cooperative agreement with NPS, maintains this property as a city park with green spaces and parking facilities. Fort Vancouver NHS staff occasionally provide roving interpretation here and at times have presented evening interpretive programs. Five wayside exhibits interpreting the Fort Vancouver Waterfront were installed in January 2001. Some of these interpret the Oregon Trail. A sixth wayside to complete the waterfront story was installed in the fall of 2001.

## **Other Programs**

### **School Programs**

The national historic site is very popular with local and regional schools. Some 600 groups containing approximately 24,000 students visit the Fort throughout the year, with highest concentrations in the spring. Both HBC and early Army stories are told through this program which also incorporates findings from archaeological research. A teacher's guide was produced in 1996 and over 400 copies were distributed free of charge to local schools, but it is currently out of print. Tours for school groups are adapted to meet the educational needs of the groups. When requested NPS staff will provide a staff member or volunteer to do off-site visits to schools or other educational groups as staffing allows.

### **Junior Ranger Program**

This program is called the Northwest Explorers Program. The park offers a booklet of activities for children to perform. If completed, the children earn a Junior Ranger badge while at the Fort. This is part of a cooperative effort with three other related sites: McLoughlin House Unit of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site (formerly the McLoughlin House National Historic Site), Champoeg State Historical Park (Oregon State Parks), and Fort Nisqually Historic Site (Washington State Parks). The program also includes opportunities for children to explore U.S. Army history and other Reserve stories.

### **Archaeology Field School**

Portland State University, Washington State University - Vancouver, and the National Park Service conduct a field school for college students at the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site in the summer. Students are given a “hands-on” opportunity to learn about archaeology specific to HBC Native American occupation, and the U.S. military presence in the Pacific Northwest. During this time, the public can visit the excavation areas and speak with participants. In addition, an archaeology lecture series accompanying the field school is open to the public featuring local and national experts in the fields of history and archaeology.

### **Public Archaeology Program**

In addition to the field school and public lectures, the NHS staff conducts archaeology walking tours, tours of the reconstructed fort buildings, and tours of the archaeological collection. Interactive “kids digs” are offered to children to introduce them to the subject of archaeology.

### **Web Site**

Fort Vancouver NHS has recently upgraded its web site to contain a wide variety of information on history, activities, and schedules of programs for the NHS, and Reserve. It also displays basic park administrative documents. It is now possible to print out group reservation forms on the website. It is envisioned that the web site will continue to expand and improve.

### **Volunteers in Parks Program**

The site has approximately 200 active volunteers who donate in excess of 20,000 hours of service each year, primarily in interpretation of both the NHS and the Reserve. Volunteers are involved in all aspects of interpretive services from the garden and blacksmith shop to fort tours and off-site presentations and special events.

### **General O.O. Howard House and Vancouver National Historic Reserve**

Formerly, an NPS interpretive staff of five to six people (4.3 full time equivalents) supervised by Fort Vancouver NHS staff, worked at the General O.O. Howard House visitor center to provide visitor information and interpretive services to the NHS and the Reserve. Reserve funding cutbacks eliminated this function in 2003. Up until this change, the site served as the Reserve visitor center. The General O.O. Howard House visitor center operated on the same schedule as the Fort Vancouver NHS visitor center. Walks and talks were offered daily with several annual and recurring special events and presentations. Interpretive staff also regularly participated in the conceptualization, planning, and implementation of partner interpretive events and activities, serving as consultants, co-hosts, and presenters. Fort Vancouver NHS and the General O.O. Howard House staff also served on a variety of committees involved in a wide range of Vancouver National Historic Reserve functions, from marketing to providing sponsor support. It is anticipated that the demand for additional activities and NPS involvement in Re-

serve planning and programs will continue to increase, even while future funding for these activities remains uncertain.

### **Workshops and Seminars**

The park's staff hosts and conducts a variety of workshops, seminars, and training sessions. These are usually associated with special anniversaries of the Fort's establishment or other commemorations, such as Archaeology Month.

### **Library**

A park research library is maintained and available for use by staff, volunteers, and the public. Check-out of materials is limited to staff and volunteers. Information is available at the library regarding the NHS, U.S. Army, and Reserve.

### **Regional Theme-related Sites**

#### **McLoughlin House Unit**

Formerly the McLoughlin House National Historic Site, this unit is located in Oregon City, Oregon and includes the McLoughlin and Barclay houses. In 1941, under a cooperative agreement worked out with the Secretary of the Interior, the property became a national historic site (0.63 acres) in nonfederal ownership administered by the McLoughlin Memorial Association (Association). The houses are situated on a Charter Park owned by the City of Oregon City. The neighborhood surrounding the houses is a local historic district and part of McLoughlin's original plat.

There is a strong historical connection between the McLoughlin and Barclay Houses and Fort Vancouver NHS. John McLoughlin was the Chief Factor of Fort Vancouver from 1824-1846. During his tenure there, the Fort grew to become the political, economic, and social center of the entire region. Through his leadership, the first agricultural enterprise, grist and lumber mills, and trade industries were developed in the Pacific Northwest. His greatest legacy was his contribution to the settlement of the Oregon Country. He earned the title "Father of Oregon" for his humanitarian role in providing assistance to American immigrants arriving at the end of the Oregon Trail. When McLoughlin left the Hudson's Bay Company in 1846, he retired to the house he had built in Oregon City, and as a new American citizen cemented his significant place in national history. Here he lived with his wife Marguerite and other family members until his death in 1857.

Forbes Barclay was Fort Vancouver's physician under John McLoughlin. Like McLoughlin, he retired from the HBC and moved to Oregon City. Barclay served as the city's mayor, and was an important community figure for the rest of his life. Though their wives are not as prominently featured in the historical record, Marguerite McLoughlin and Maria Barclay were remarkable women who influenced and supported their husbands. Both came from families of mixed European and American Indian ethnicity. They characterize the complex position of women in the fur trade culture and the transition to active members of a settled American community.

In 1909, the Association saved the house from demolition and moved it from its original location below the falls to its present location on a bluff overlooking the Willamette River. It has been restored to its approximate appearance during McLoughlin's occupancy and contains a number of original McLoughlin furnishings.



McLoughlin House Unit of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site (formerly the McLoughlin House National Historic Site) in Oregon City, Oregon.



Location map of McLoughlin House Unit.

As a former affiliated unit of the National Park System, this agreement required the Secretary of the Interior to regulate the way that the Association maintained the historical character of the McLoughlin House and to provide planning and technical advisory assistance. This has included an annual site inspection by the NPS and consultation with staff at the site. In 1966, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site officially assumed responsibilities for providing technical assistance to the McLoughlin House under a cooperative agreement with the Secretary of the Interior.

On July 29, 2003 (prior to the time of publication of this GMP) President Bush signed into law H.R. 733, which authorized the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the McLoughlin House in Oregon City, Oregon for inclusion in Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. This legislation changed the name of the site from “McLoughlin House National Historic Site” to “McLoughlin House”. It also changed the status of the site from an affiliated unit of the National Park Service, not managed by the NPS, to a unit of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, managed by the staff at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. Ownership of the McLoughlin House, the Barclay House, and other associated real property, improvements, and personal property changes from the McLoughlin Memorial Association to the NPS. As part of the park, NPS staff are expected to provide the needed funds and expertise to protect the site.

### **Tamastlikt Cultural Institute**

The Tamastlikt Cultural Institute is located four miles east of Pendleton, Oregon on the Umatilla Indian Reservation. This facility opened in 1998 and presents the visitor with an opportunity to share and participate in the dramatic chronicle of the meetings of two vastly different cultures. It is the only Indian-owned interpretive facility on the Oregon National Historic Trail and the only one that tells the story from the indigenous or native point of view. The institute provides a brief overview of the Oregon Trail but concentrates on the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla tribes and their traditional culture.

### **Oregon Historic Trails Program**

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site shares interpretive themes with the Oregon Historic Trails Program recognized by the state of Oregon. This program is coordinated by the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council (formerly the Oregon Trail Coordinating Council), whose objective is to “establish Oregon as the nation’s leader in developing historic trails for their educational, recreational, and economic values. The Oregon Historic Trails Program, when fully implemented, will help preserve and leverage existing heritage resources while promoting rural economic development and growth through heritage tourism” (Executive Order No. EO-98-16, Office of the Governor, State of Oregon).

### **National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center**

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is located in Baker City, Oregon. It was among the first centers to open on the Oregon Trail. The center interprets the experience of pioneer families who traveled the 2,000-mile Oregon Trail. There are several displays of realistic dioramas and historical exhibits. Visitors can also visit nearby wagon ruts still visible from the pioneers’ wagons. In addition to this center, there are two others along the Oregon Trail in Oregon: Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, and the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Wasco County Historical Museum in the Dalles.

### **End of the Trail Interpretive Center**

Oregon City, Oregon marked the end of the Oregon Trail for those traveling to the fertile farmland in the Willamette Valley. This center interprets stories through living history of the decisions and preparations that were made for the trip out West and the ensuing adventures. The building is comprised of three 50-foot high covered wagons.

## Visitor Use

### Visitor Use Patterns

The NPS Cooperative Park Studies Unit in Corvallis, Oregon conducted the most recent visitor survey in 1986 entitled, *1986 Fort Vancouver Visitor Study*. It was conducted during a three-day weekend in August 1986 and showed that 25% of the visitors were 12 years old or younger, 20% were between 30 and 39 years old, and 13% were 60 years old or older. In addition, 46% were males and 54% were women. Over 50% were employed, approximately 20% were homemakers, 4% were students, 9% were retired, 2% were unemployed and 14% were in an “other” category.

Trends showed most visitors to be in a family group, well educated, and predominately from the Vancouver-Portland metropolitan area. Most were first time visitors who stayed an average length of approximately two hours. An updated visitor survey is needed to see how visitation has changed at the national historic site and how visitation has been affected by development of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve. Since this survey, the population of the Portland metropolitan area has changed and according to data, has seen an increase in the amount of international residents and others with limited English speaking ability (Langford, 2000: pp.24-26).

According to the NPS Socioeconomic Services Division in Denver, in 2000 the visitation to the national historic site was 376,688 with approximately 70,000 visitors entering the Fort. Overall visitation for the last ten years has shown a slow steady increase of approximately 3% to 5% per year. Inside the Fort, visitation has been steady at approximately 65,000 to 70,000 per year. This trend is expected to continue. Overall visitation figures do not take into account use of the grounds after evening closure of the park, general recreational use, or use of the NPS waterfront property. It is believed that “after hour” and use along the Fort Vancouver Waterfront would increase overall visitation numbers by 25% to 40%. A table showing visitation for the last ten years follows:

**Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Yearly Visitation 1991 - 2000**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Visitation</b>	<b>Fort Visitation</b>
<b>1991</b>	245,417	80,707
<b>1992</b>	291,458	73,695
<b>1993*</b>	306,568	85,148
<b>1994</b>	318,366	65,694
<b>1995</b>	310,309	64,389
<b>1996</b>	352,769	66,127
<b>1997</b>	360,637	60,437
<b>1998</b>	365,326	68,077
<b>1999</b>	377,650	68,854

\* Visitor counting methods were changed in 1993

Broken down monthly, July has the highest visitation due to the Fourth of July Celebration. The month with the second highest visitation is August with May and June close behind. The lowest visitation occurs in the months of January and December.

## **Carrying Capacity**

Carrying capacity is defined as the type and level of visitor use that can be accommodated while sustaining the desired resource and social conditions that compliment the purposes of the NHS and its management objectives. Both physical constraints and the more subjective perceptions of what constitutes a quality visitor experience affect it.

Physical limitations at the NHS are defined as the following: maximum seating capacity of the auditorium (present capacity at 40 visitors), total number of parking spaces (present total parking capacity at 144 spaces), total number of picnic tables (7 picnic tables) in the picnic area, and by the size of the public restrooms. Due to the urban setting of the NHS, visitors can access additional parking lots within the Reserve on Evergreen Boulevard (Officers' Row), south Barracks, and at Pearson Air Museum. Visitors can also walk the relatively short distances from Vancouver downtown district or arrive by public transportation. During special events at the NHS, such as the Candlelight Tour and the Fourth of July, visitation can meet and exceed carrying capacity of the park. However, during regular visitation periods, the NHS is at or below the maximum carrying capacity.

The visitor center lobby and museum exhibit room also have a finite space, but the number of people that these rooms can hold is governed more by what visitors and the NHS staff regard as crowding, and by the possibility of damage to the exhibits that could occur from excessive numbers of people. Even though a reservation system is used, the visitor center can become crowded during spring mid-week mornings for school groups. During this time, non-school groups often do not get adequate service. The visitor center and auditorium can accommodate approximately 75-100 school children or visitors.

No visitor use management plan currently exists at the NHS. A visitor use management plan needs to be prepared to define the desired resource and social conditions within the visitor center during the school group visitation season of April and May and set the level of acceptable use that will maintain those conditions. With the paved walks that lead from the visitor center, resource damage and excessive concentrations of visitors outside the visitor center does not seem to be a problem.

## **Park Special Uses**

The national historic site's large attractive open grassy areas are inviting to a variety of community groups hoping to conduct private and public events. As the park's visibility in the region has grown, the demand for events has grown. In fiscal year (October through September) 1996, 17 events were permitted, in 1997 there were 23, in 1998 there were 25, in 1999 there were 19, and in 2000 there were 25. Along with the increase in overall numbers of events, many of these have become larger and more complex events, necessitating significant staff time for review, planning, monitoring, and administration. This trend is expected to increase as groups attend or hear about events conducted at the site and as the public's knowledge of the Reserve grows.

## **Recreation Fee Demonstration Program**

The National Park Service is participating in a program called the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program (Public Law 104-134 and amended by Public Law 104-208). The program allows parks to retain generated income from fees through 2004 and to use them for their own park operation and maintenance until 2006. This is a pilot program that may become permanent in the future. The NHS is cur-

rently participating in this program. Proceeds have been used for digitizing images of park objects in the archaeology study program.

## Socioeconomic Factors

### Location and Access

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is located within the city limits of Vancouver, in southwestern Washington on the north shore of the Columbia River. It is immediately north of the city of Portland, Oregon, and 106 river miles from the Pacific Ocean. Major road approach routes are Interstate 5 from the north and south, and Interstate 84 from the east. Visitors may also arrive at the park using Pearson Field. Seattle is 165 miles north, Olympia is 100 miles north, Portland is 8 miles south, Eugene is 110 miles south, Pendleton, Oregon is 215 miles east, and Astoria, Oregon is 105 miles west.

The site is in the Third Congressional District in Washington State and in the 49<sup>th</sup> State Legislative District. Fort Vancouver NHS is situated in Clark County.

### Regional Setting

Historically, the natural landscape was a mixture of plains, coniferous forests, streams, and lakes, with the Cascade Mountains visible in the distance. The fort palisade, the heart of the Hudson's Bay Company operations, was located on a low lying river plain called Fort Plain, approximately six miles upriver from the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette rivers. The abundant natural resources and strategic position on the Columbia River made possible the site's political and economic importance beginning with the British HBC and continuing with the U.S. Army's occupation and American settlement of the Pacific Northwest. Today, the national historic site contains approximately 209 acres and includes resources that relate to both the HBC occupation and the U.S. Army's Vancouver Barracks.

The City of Vancouver is part of the greater Portland/Vancouver Metropolitan area. The adjacent urban areas of Vancouver and Portland are on opposite shores of the Columbia River. The Willamette River at the foot of the Willamette Valley bisects Portland. The area is bordered on the east by the Cascade Mountains and on the west by coastal mountains.

### Land Use and Ownership Patterns

All lands within the boundary of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site were park-zoned by the NPS as "historic" in the 1978 *Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Master Plan* and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Two subzones are identified on the existing Land Management and Use map for present nonhistoric uses. One is a development subzone in the northeast corner of the NHS where the visitor center, residence, administration, and maintenance facilities are accommodated.

A second subzone is a special use subzone for permits and leases which are in effect with the City of Vancouver for an airfield, and a right-of-way for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad for a track line. These special land uses occur in the southern portion of the NHS immediately adjacent to the reconstructed Fort. The NPS has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Vancouver, which allows the city to use the Fort Vancouver waterfront property until the year 2007. In return, the city has agreed to maintain the property.

Fort Vancouver is situated in an urban setting within the boundaries of Vancouver's Central Park. A growing and vibrant downtown, Vancouver is situated west of the NHS across Interstate 5 right-of-way. The national historic site is immediately bordered on the south by the Columbia River, on the west by the U.S. Army's Vancouver Barracks, on the north by the City of Vancouver's Officers' Row and on the east by the city's Pearson Field and private residences. The NHS is bisected east to west on its southern end by a city street right of way, a double track railroad berm, and State Route 14. The City of Vancouver also maintains a right of way for East Fifth Street, which bisects east to west, the northern two-thirds of the site.

Fort Vancouver NHS is located within the recently established 366-acre Vancouver National Historic Reserve. The Reserve is a mixture of management and ownership between the federal government and the City of Vancouver. The Reserve includes the following: Fort Vancouver NHS (owned by the federal government and managed by the National Park Service); Vancouver Barracks (owned by the federal government and managed by the U.S. Army); Officers' Row (owned and managed by the City of Vancouver); Pearson Field (portions owned by the federal government and the City of Vancouver); and the Water Resources Education Center, a marine park and portions of the Columbia River waterfront (owned by the City of Vancouver). (For ownership information, refer to Figure 2, Ownership.)

### **Pedestrian Overpass**

Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is planning to construct a pedestrian overpass, or "land bridge," above State Route 14 in mitigation for the construction of the Interstate 5/State Route 14 interchange improvements. The proposal is to construct a wide elevated walkway above State Route 14 connecting the City of Vancouver's Old Apple Tree Park with the Village area at the NHS. The proposed structure is envisioned to be a circular ramp 100 feet in diameter on NHS property that will elevate the 10-foot-wide pedestrian/bicycle crossing about 17 feet above State Route 14. Another ramp on the south side will be constructed at Old Apple Tree Park. Construction will include grading, draining, surfacing, paving, and landscaping.

At the time of publication of this GMP, implementation of the pedestrian overpass has evolved into the development of a "land bridge" concept. This will include providing non-motorized public access, interpretation, and art.

Fort Vancouver NHS was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in October 1966. Old Apple Tree Park was determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register in March 1981. In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, testing was undertaken to conduct excavations in the project area.

### **Contemporary Tribal Communities**

In spite of the centuries long occupation of the Vancouver, Washington and metropolitan Portland, Oregon areas by American Indians prior to the arrival of Euro-Americans in the early nineteenth century, the closest tribal reservation communities are about 50 miles away from Fort Vancouver. Such tribal communities are located in both the states of Washington and Oregon in the form of reservations that are occupied by members of federally recognized tribes. In Washington, these reservation communities include Shoalwater Bay to northwest of Fort Vancouver, Chehalis to the north and Yakama to the northeast. In Oregon, these reservations include Warm Springs to the southeast and the Grand Ronde and Siletz reservations to the southwest. A number of more distant contemporary reservations also have in-

dividual members and even constituent groups whose ancestors undoubtedly had connections with the Hudson’s Bay Company at Fort Vancouver in the mid-nineteenth century.

In addition to the tribal reservations of federally recognized tribes that are noted above, other tribal communities in the vicinity of Fort Vancouver include members of the Chinook Indian Tribe/Chinook Nation whose acknowledgment as a federally recognized tribe in early 2001 is currently under review by the present federal administration. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe is a contemporary Indian tribe that does not have reservation land because they have only recently been recognized. Their judicially established area of traditional occupancy, on the other hand, is a relatively large area surrounding the Cowlitz River. It is approximately 50 miles north of Fort Vancouver and extends from the Columbia River on the west to the area between Mount Rainier and Mt. St. Helens on the east. The Chinook Nation is another tribe that is essentially landless today. They are a contemporary group of Chinook who are primarily associated with a traditionally occupied area near the mouth of the Columbia River and are not recognized. Although the Chinook do not have reservation lands, they represent a contemporary tribal community that lives among non-Indians in the area surrounding Fort Vancouver. Likewise, in this ethnically diverse area of Washington and Oregon there are dispersed Native American groups that may constitute American Indian or Native Hawaiian communities who have interests in and with enduring historical connections to Fort Vancouver.

## Population Trends

Until the recent recession, Clark County was one of the most rapidly developing of Washington’s 39 counties, accounting for 5.1% of the state’s population in 1993. Last year widespread layoffs occurred in manufacturing and high-tech industries in Clark County. Thus, unemployment has risen faster here than any other urban county in Washington State. According to the Labor Department, Washington State now has the highest unemployment in the nation (Bernton 2001: p.A1).

The southwest portion of the county contains the largest share of the population. Clark County is one of five counties included in the Portland Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical area and represents 16.4% of the metropolitan total in 1992 (Clark County 1997: pp.7-2). (Note that the statistical figures represented in this section were available up to the year 2000 and do not represent the latest economic downturn that began in Clark County in late 2000.)

Population Statistics

Year	Washington State	Clark County	Vancouver
1980	4,132,353	192,227	42,834
1990	4,866,693	238,053	46,380
2000	5,803,400	345,000	137,500

From 1980 to 1990, Vancouver’s population increased approximately 9% and Clark County’s population grew by 24%. By comparison, the state’s population during this same period rose approximately 2%. However, rapid growth occurred from 1990 to 2000 when Vancouver’s population increased approximately 196%. (Part of this growth was in 1997, when Vancouver gained an estimated 55,000 new residents through the largest annexation in state history.) During this same period Clark County’s population increased 45%, 10,839 additional people as a result of net migration. Washington State’s population increased approximately 19%, 553,827 a result of net migration and 382,910 from natural increase (Washington State Office of Financial Management 2000: Internet, no page number).

The City of Vancouver offers a mix of specialty retail and business services that support the financial and professional center of the community. Downtown Vancouver's largest employers include publishing, telecommunications, hospitality, public services, and finance. Large manufacturing firms are also located near the downtown core, which is entering into a period of major redevelopment. Vancouver is currently undergoing growth in both commercial and residential development, with major employers in such fields as health care, the high-technology industry, paper manufacturing, retail, professional and service businesses, and regional and corporate headquarters (Vancouver Chamber of Commerce 2001).

Clark County is one of the faster growing counties in the greater Portland metropolitan market and has seen a population increase of over 33% since 1990. Clark County's economy has remained stable because of its economic diversity, which may help it through the country's latest downturn. Such internationally known firms as Hewlett-Packard, Kyocera Industrial Ceramics, Fort James, Sharp Micro-Electronics, WaferTech, and Farmers Insurance lead the economy. The county's work force is educated and noted for its strong work ethic. More than 90% of adults in the county have completed high school or gone on to higher education; 56% have attended college, graduated or pursued advanced degrees (Vancouver Chamber of Commerce 2001).

The projected high 2012 county population based on the Washington State Office of Financial Management allocation is 416,071. It is also projected that consistent with national trends, the percentage of elderly persons will increase to 17.5% of the total population by 2013. Approximately 90% of county population growth over the next 20 years is expected to occur in designated urban growth areas (Clark County 1997: pp.2-3).

#### Demographics

Washington State	Total	White/Caucasian	Black/African American	Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut	Asian and Pacific Islander	Hispanic Origin
1990	4,866,692	4,411,407	152,572	87,259	215,454	214,570
1999	5,757,400	5,107,571	198,670	109,509	341,650	356,464

Washington State	Total	White/Caucasian	Black/African American	Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut	Asian and Pacific Islander	Hispanic Origin
1990	238,053	226,940	3,022	2,368	5,723	5,872
1999	337,000	314,457	5,476	3,543	13,525	11,942

Clark County's minority populations increased from 4.8% in 1980 to 5.4% in 1990. In the City of Vancouver's urban area, minorities increased from 5.5% in 1980 to 7.0% in 1990. Asians were the largest minority group, followed by Hispanic, Black, American Indian, and others. Hispanic populations accounted for the greatest gain, doubling within this ten-year period (City of Vancouver and Clark County, Volume I: p.62). In recent years, there has been an influx of immigrants from Eastern Europe and Russia into Clark County and while not racial minorities, they are a distinct ethnic community (Clark County 1997: pp.4-5).

**Medium Household Income (in dollars)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Annual Increase</b>	<b>Clark County</b>	<b>Annual Increase</b>
<b>1989</b>	31,183		31,800	
<b>1990</b>	31,798	2.0%	32,498	2.2%
<b>1991</b>	33,686	5.9%	34,324	5.6%
<b>1992</b>	34,980	3.8%	34,909	1.7%
<b>1993</b>	36,344	3.9%	36,846	5.5%
<b>1994</b>	37,166	2.3%	38,694	5.0%
<b>1995</b>	38,089	2.5%	39,794	2.8%
<b>1996</b>	39,899	4.8%	42,365	6.5%
<b>1997</b>	41,999	5.3%	44,326	4.6%
<b>1998</b>	44,134	5.1%	45,448	2.5%
	Per Annum	3.9%	Per Annum	4.0%

Medium income is defined as the mid-point of all the reported incomes. The county median household income is close to the statewide medium (Clark County 1997: pp.5-6).

The City of Vancouver is characterized by a diverse economy having several large employers producing a wide variety of products and services. The state's median household income increased approximately 41% from the period 1989 to 1998. Clark County's income for the same period increased approximately 43%.

### **Economically Disadvantaged Demographics**

No survey or interview data exist for the percentage of NHS visitors whose income is below the poverty line.

### **Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Agreements and Legislative Mandates**

The following agreements are existing legal agreements and legislative mandates that influence both planning and operations at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site:

- Statutory Warranty Deed dated April 4, 1972 to April 3, 2002. The deed is a land purchase by the NPS with rights to the City of Vancouver to conduct aviation activities on approximately 75 acres.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Vancouver and the NPS signed March 10, 1982. This MOU allows for development and maintenance of NPS waterfront property by the City of Vancouver for the utilization of the area as a public park. This agreement is for a 25-year period and expires on March 9, 2007.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Vancouver and the NPS, signed November 4, 1994. It states that both parties endorse the findings of the final *Vancouver National Historic Reserve Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment*.

- Amendment to the 1978 *Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Master Plan* signed September 5, 1995. This action adopted the *Site Plan and Environmental Assessment for the M.J. Murdock Aviation Center* that approved the construction and rehabilitation of structures and landscapes at Pearson Field on NPS property.
- Cooperative Agreement between the City of Vancouver and the NPS, signed in December 1995. This agreement allows for city activities (such as Pearson Air Museum) to be conducted on approximately seven acres of NPS land. This 30-year agreement expires in December 2025 and serves as an amendment to the 1978 *Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Master Plan*.
- Interior Appropriations Bill rider for Fiscal Year 1996 signed in March 1996. The rider states that the National Park Service "...shall permit general aviation on its portion of Pearson Airfield in Vancouver, Washington until the year 2022, during which time a plan and method for transitioning from general aviation aircraft to historic aircraft shall be completed; such transition to be accomplished by that date..."
- Establishing legislation for Vancouver National Historic Reserve, signed November 11, 1996. The legislation called for a cooperative management plan to be prepared for the Reserve and provided for funding authorization.

## **Land Use Documents, Related Plans, and Programs**

### **Clark County Documents**

#### ***Clark County 20-Year Comprehensive Growth Management Plan***

This plan, revised in December 1997, was developed to manage the county's growth in ways that would result in a better quality of life by protecting and conserving natural, financial, and human resources. The plan has three major components: an introduction, the community framework plan, and a 20-year comprehensive growth management plan.

The Comprehensive Growth Management Plan is divided up into the following 11 elements (eight required by law and three others that the county found important to the future success of growth management in the county): Land Use, Transportation, Rural and Natural Resources, Housing, Capital Facilities and Utilities, Economic Development, Parks and Open Space, Historic Preservation, Community Design, Annexation, and Procedures for Planning. County-wide policies are presented for each.

#### ***Clark County Trails and Bikeway System Plan***

The 1992 plan is a comprehensive plan for a non-motorized trail and bikeway system within Clark County. It focuses on providing trails and bikeways for non-motorized travel by pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians and providing a system that links major points of interest throughout the county to meet recreation, fitness, and commuting needs.

The Columbia River Waterfront Trail crosses Fort Vancouver NHS at the Columbia River. This right-of-way trail is part of the City of Vancouver's Columbia River Renaissance Project—a 12 mile trail stretching along the waterfront between Frenchman's Bar to Interstate 205 interchange—with linkages to other city destinations. Designed for both pedestrians and bicyclists, the objectives for the trail are:

- To promote and facilitate the highest possible level of public participation in the development, operation and maintenance of a continuous pedestrian bicycle trail along the Columbia River corridor, with the results to be:

- 1) Strong public support for a natural, greenspace corridor contiguous to the Columbia River and its affiliated lowlands;
- 2) Increased awareness and use of alternative forms of transportation; and
- 3) Increased public demand for, and willingness to support new trails and bikeways throughout the county (Clark County 1992: pp.18-19).

The Vancouver Lake Corridor is part of a regional system of trails that stretch between State Route 501 north to Ridgefield. The southern portion of this trail will connect to the Columbia River Renaissance Project trail system. The goal is to develop a north-south trail and bikeway system connecting south of Vancouver Lake to Ridgefield. Its objectives are:

- Coordinate with the City of Vancouver Renaissance Project and Mill Plain Extension projects to develop trail and bikeway connections from the City of Vancouver Columbia River Waterfront to the Vancouver Lake Corridor.
- Prepare a detailed plan for trails and bikeways for the Vancouver Lake Corridor. Continue acquisition of missing rights-of-way links.
- Develop initial trails to link Salmon Creek, Burnt Bridge Creek, Vancouver Lake Park, the proposed Frenchman's Bar Regional Park and the City of Vancouver Renaissance Project (Clark County 1992: p.23).

A description of Fort Vancouver NHS is mentioned on page 34 of the report as a point of interest along the trail.

#### ***Clark County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan***

This plan was produced in 1994 as the "parks" element of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. It is the county's blueprint for acquiring, developing, and maintaining parks, trails, recreation facilities and open space. It is also used to guide the provision of recreation services and programs throughout the country. A general description of Fort Vancouver NHS is given under the heading of "Other Agency Facilities" (Clark County 1994: p.20).

#### **City of Vancouver Documents**

##### ***City of Vancouver Central Park Plan (A Park for Vancouver: A Concept Plan)***

This plan was prepared for the City of Vancouver by Management and Planning Services (The NBBJ Group) in February 1979. The area consists of 640 acres of open space and public use areas adjacent to downtown Vancouver. Once part of a four-mile military reservation, it was reduced to one square mile, or 640 acres, by an order from the U.S. Secretary of War in 1853. It is defined by Interstate 5 on the west, Fourth Plain Boulevard on the north, the Columbia River on the south and East Reserve Street on the east. The entire Fort Vancouver NHS is within the Central Park Plan boundary. Through recent legislation, this plan has essentially been replaced by the 1999 *Vancouver National Historic Reserve Cooperative Management Plan* for that portion of Central Park located within the Reserve.

Thirteen federal, state, and local agencies own land within the site along with a few private entities. The City of Vancouver has responsibility for the major street and infrastructure systems. Because of this ownership pattern, one of the goals of the plan was to provide coordinated and comprehensive development. The plan is directed to promote the cultural, historical, and recreational assets of the area, while providing an employment and public service base to the community. One aspect of the plan is to implement the city and county foot trail and bikeway system for Central Park.

Recommended actions throughout the document that will affect the national historic site included the following:

- Designation of Fort Vancouver as a National Historic Park with expanded scope to include aviation, military history and the performing arts.
- Revision of Fort Vancouver’s master plan to include more facilities on the Columbia River—historic Salmon Store, wharf, small pond, and boat house.
- Increase priority of NPS to commit funds to complete park improvements, such as the Fort, Village, Fort Vancouver Waterfront, orchard, and fields.
- Construction of a pedestrian overpass to be included as part of the reconstruction of the Interstate 5 interchange by Washington State Department of Transportation.
- Construction of a landscaped greenbelt along the riverfront on NPS property.
- Realignment of Columbia Way (with the railroad realignment) to allow for a widened greenbelt area.
- Removal of the Pearson Field hangars from NPS leased land and the exchange of control of land below East Fifth Street from the U.S. Army to the National Park Service for development of the Village.
- Restoration of the bandstand on the Parade Grounds.
- Preservation of buildings for an Air Museum.

In addition to the development of the master plan, development guidelines were also developed for the area. An advisory commission was established to review and approve any proposed area development with the understanding that not all agencies, by law, have to conform to local zoning and building codes and will not have to comply with local design review procedures.

### ***City of Vancouver Comprehensive Plan: Visions for the Vancouver Urban Area***

In 1990, the state of Washington adopted the Growth Management Act. The act directed counties and cities over a certain size to prepare comprehensive plans to guide growth for the next twenty years. Vancouver’s Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1994 and contains four volumes: the Resource Document, the Growth Management Plan, the Technical Supplement, and the Implementation Program. The Resource Document contains the background information upon which the plan was based. The Resource Document indicates that Fort Vancouver NHS is part of the Central Park downtown character district (see *City of Vancouver Central Park Plan*). Fort Vancouver is mentioned several times both in the “History” and “Historic Property” sections.

### ***City of Vancouver Zoning***

The City of Vancouver provides land use regulations through Chapter 20, the City’s zoning code. The zoning code is intended to protect the public’s health, safety, and welfare and to encourage the most appropriate use of the land. The zoning code and map indicate that Fort Vancouver NHS is in the Vancouver Central Park District. All development in this district must comply with the Vancouver Central Park Design Guidelines. Though the City of Vancouver, through its zoning powers, does not have jurisdiction over federally owned lands, Fort Vancouver NHS management has endorsed the Central Park Plan.

### ***City of Vancouver Columbia River Renaissance Vision and Planning Process Documents***

The *Columbia River Renaissance Vision* was prepared in January 1993 followed by the *Columbia River*

*Renaissance Planning Process Document* in May 1993. Both provide a comprehensive, coordinated, and long-range strategy for development of the urban waterfront along the Columbia River. The planning documents are efforts by the City of Vancouver to address past incompatible landuses, detrimental environmental impacts, and diminishing public access. The three goals of the vision are:

- Develop an attractive, vital, and safe urban waterfront
- Facilitate contiguous public access and enjoyment of the Columbia River
- Preserve, promote, and interpret the historical and environmental importance of the Columbia River Basin (City of Vancouver 1993: p.1)

The Columbia River Renaissance encompasses five key elements that should be considered together to balance the overall strategy of the Columbia River Renaissance vision. These are exceptional urban design, protection and interpretation of historic resources, economic development, environmental stewardship, and recreational opportunities (City of Vancouver 1993: p.1).

The study area comprises 12 miles of waterfront from Vancouver Lake and Frenchman's Bar to the Interstate 205 interchange. It includes residential, commercial, industrial, sea port and conservation lands, and major surface transportation routes. The waterfront section, managed by Fort Vancouver NHS and leased to the city, is within the boundaries of this plan. The map (separate poster) included with the plan provides the following information and proposals for Fort Vancouver NHS and Waterfront Park. It is mentioned as a public/private partnership among the city, WSDOT, and NPS:

Fort Vancouver National Historical Site [sic] interprets the Hudson's Bay Company and subsequent trading on the Columbia River. Waterfront Park is part of the Washington's front door, visible from the Interstate Bridge, and provides a riverside experience close to downtown. Columbia Promenade connects Vancouver Landing, the fishing pier, and the Captain Vancouver Monument with Old Apple Tree Park and Columbia Shores. Includes beach access ramps for the disabled. Planned pedestrian overpass of SDR 14 connecting Fort Vancouver with Old Apple Tree and Waterfront Parks, Waterfront trolley. Remove, lower or open views through railroad berm and provide additional pedestrian and bicycle crossings over railroad and SR 14 (see poster).

#### ***Vancouver Downtown Transportation System Plan, Historic Reserve Area Analysis***

This report published in November 1999 summarizes the transportation analysis of the Vancouver Historic Reserve Area, conducted as part of the *Downtown Vancouver Transportation System Plan*. The study area is defined by Interstate 5 on the west, Mill Plain Boulevard on the north, State Route 14 on the south and Reserve Street on the east. It focuses on traffic operations and parking capacity, future street, bicycle and pedestrian system improvement needs.

The city has zoned all land within the study area as "Vancouver City Park," though a number of current non-park uses occur. C-TRAN provides daily and weekend bus transit with connections both to downtown and greater Vancouver area on Evergreen Boulevard and Columbia Way surrounding the NHS. State Route 14 is designated a commuter route. In addition, the Marshall Center shuttle bus operates for free along Reserve Street and Evergreen Boulevard.

Part of the plan includes provision for inter-neighborhood linkages with emphasis on non-motorized travel. To enhance this, the plan recommends additional bicycle lanes, vehicle and bicycle shared lanes,

and multi-use paths for bikes and pedestrians. Immediately adjacent to the NHS, projects would include a reconstruction for Fort Vancouver Way (south of Evergreen Boulevard) to safely accommodate vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. In addition, bike lanes would be added to Evergreen Boulevard. A multi-use path is planned along East Fifth Street, through the NHS and over a proposed overpass linking Old Apple Tree Park (as part of the Discovery Historic Loop Trail) to the existing multi-use path along the waterfront (Columbia River Trail). The Discovery Trail is an urban trail system formed in 1968 to link recreation and historic sites in the city and county.

### ***Vancouver Greenspaces Program***

Vancouver Greenspaces is part of the Metropolitan Greenspaces, a cooperative regional system of natural areas, open space, urban forests, trails, and greenways for wildlife and people. It is coordinated by the Portland region's Metropolitan Service District (METRO). The program involves four counties, Clark, Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas within the Vancouver-Portland region. The Columbia River and protected areas such as Burnt Bridge Creek, Blandford Drive Canyon, and Vancouver Lake serve as critical links to the character of the Greenspaces natural resources protection plan. The program seeks active ways to involve local citizens in forever protecting natural areas, including parks, recreational trails, greenways, open spaces, and other natural areas, preserving wildlife habitat and creating greenway corridors for plants, wildlife, and people. Local citizens are encouraged to create backyard wildlife sanctuaries to create linkages to these larger conservation areas.

### **Related National Park Service Plans**

#### ***Vancouver National Historic Reserve Cooperative Management Plan***

The Reserve was established as a result of a study by the congressionally chartered Vancouver Historical Study Commission. The commission's April 1993 report recommended the establishment of the Reserve to preserve, protect, enhance, enjoy, and use significant historic, cultural, natural, and recreational resources in this area.

The establishing legislation directed that a management plan be prepared for the Reserve. In November 1999, the NPS produced the final *Vancouver National Historic Reserve Cooperative Management Plan* in cooperation with the City of Vancouver, the U.S. Army, and the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. These four public agencies, referred to as the Reserve Partners, are responsible for the coordinated preservation and management of the historic reserve for the public's benefit. The plan's recommendations include an active public/private partnership in administering the shared assets of the Reserve with support from the Vancouver National Historic Reserve Trust, a private nonprofit organization. The 366-acre Reserve encompasses Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, Vancouver Barracks, Officers' Row, Pearson Field, the Water Resources Education Center, a marine park, and portions of the Columbia River waterfront.

The three broad goals presented in the CMP can be summarized as follows:

- Preservation of historic structures, physical assets, and cultural landscapes.
- Education and interpretation of the significance and history of the area for public benefit.
- Public use of and accessibility of the Historic Reserve (National Park Service 1999: p.iii).

The overlapping goals will be reached through public/private partnerships and by seeking economic balance and sustainability between public and private funding sources for all new endeavors. Public use

and enjoyment will be encouraged and supported by an active interpretive and educational program, based on research and on the preservation of the areas historic structures and landscapes.

The final cooperative management plan states that a general management plan has begun for Fort Vancouver NHS. It goes on to state that the GMP will be consistent with the Reserve CMP and will address the following specific issues raised during the Reserve planning process:

- Continued reconstruction of Fort Vancouver consistent with NPS policy and interpretive objectives
- Options for the visitor center
- Relocation of parking for the Fort to a less obtrusive area
- Expansion of interpretive activities at the Village
- Expanding and partially restoring the orchard, garden, and other cultural landscape features (National Park Service 1999: p.27)

As mentioned in the CMP, the National Park Service will serve as the lead agency in interpretation for the Reserve. As part of this responsibility, the NPS staff will coordinate and train interpreters and volunteers. In addition, the NPS will develop and coordinate an ongoing evaluation of the Reserve's interpretive program.

Among its many provisions, the cooperative management plan called for each Reserve partner with land management responsibility to manage its land within the cooperative framework of the approved version of the plan and existing policies and regulations. The Reserve partnership and legislation was established fully respecting the authorities and jurisdiction of each of the partners. The plan also specified that Fort Vancouver National Historic Site would continue to be managed by the NPS consistent with its mission and with its laws, policies, and regulations. (As a federal agency, the U.S. Army would also need to manage its properties under many of the same laws and regulations.) Therefore, the NPS maintains its responsibilities for the management and implementation of the national historic site. The superintendent at Fort Vancouver NHS serves as the National Park Service's representative as one of the Historic Reserve partners.

### ***Cultural Landscape Report: Fort Vancouver National Historic Site***

This report contains two volumes documenting the cultural landscape of the national historic site. Volumes I and II were written in 1992 by Terri Taylor of the NPS Columbia Cascades Support Office, and Patricia C. Erigero, Project Historian.

This report serves as a technical document to supplement future planning processes. The intent of the project was to identify and evaluate all significant cultural landscape resources and provide management recommendations for the preservation and enhancement of the 1845 historic scene at Fort Vancouver. The study investigated and documented a range of treatments for reestablishing key landscape components and features that contribute to interpreting a full spectrum of HBC operations and activities. Fort Vancouver NHS staff propose a reassessment of this plan during the GMP process.

The final design recommendations and cultural landscape plan for the cultural landscape report were based on enhancing resources related to the Hudson's Bay Company story. The NPS staff worked within the assumption that the airfield would be vacated as provided for under the 1972 "use and occupancy" agreement. As noted earlier, in 1996 Congress extended the city's use of the airfield until 2022, after

which a transition to use by historic aircraft only will occur. Thus the design recommendations of the 1992 report will need to be re-evaluated to provide for the on-going airfield operations during the life of this plan, as well as the need to accommodate the interpretation of both the Hudson's Bay Company and the historic Pearson Field. For example, the removal of the T-hangars from the field between the Pearson Air Museum provides an opportunity for the visitor to experience a sense of the open fields that characterized both the HBC and the early Pearson Field eras.

#### ***Whitman Mission National Historic Site General Management Plan***

The NPS recently completed a new general management plan for Whitman Mission NHS in May 2000. An act established the site to be a public national memorial to Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, who established an Indian mission and school to minister to the Cayuse Indians until their deaths in 1847.

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and Whitman Mission National Historic Site share the same period in history. Many travelers stopping at Whitman Mission were on their way to Fort Vancouver to pick up supplies and ultimately to settle in Oregon's Willamette Valley. The Whitmans and Spaldings spent their first winter in the Northwest at Fort Vancouver. Several park themes are shared as well, such as the expansion of the nation's boundaries to the Pacific Ocean and agricultural developments located at the northwest corner of the country.

Establishment of the 1968 National Trail System Act gave added significance to the site. In 1978, the Oregon National Historic Trail was established and Whitman Mission was recognized as a historic site along the Oregon Trail.

#### ***Nez Perce National Historical Park and Big Hole National Battlefield General Management Plan***

The NPS completed an updated general management plan for Nez Perce National Historical Park in September 1997. The park was created to facilitate protection and provide interpretation of sites in the Nez Perce Country of Idaho that have exceptional value in commemorating the national history. This includes sites relating to early Nez Perce culture, the Lewis and Clark expedition, the fur trade, missionaries, gold mining, logging, the Nez Perce War of 1877, and others that depict the role of the Nez Perce country in the westward expansion of the nation.

Of a total 38 sites that comprise the park, two sites are specifically associated with the missionary period—Lapwai Mission, where the first Spalding mission was located, and Spalding where Henry Spalding had his second mission. (The Spalding Unit is 11 miles east of Lewiston, Idaho.) Both Dr. Marcus Whitman and Henry Spalding arrived together in the Northwest at Fort Vancouver to begin their missionary work among the Indians. Their missions were approximately 100 miles apart or two to three days by horseback.

#### ***Comprehensive Management and Use Plan Update, Oregon and Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trails***

This August 1999 plan serves as an update to the 1981 *Comprehensive Management and Use Plan for Oregon Trail* prepared by the NPS. Fort Vancouver is mentioned as a destination on the Oregon Trail on page 36:

The overland portion of the trail ended at The Dalles until 1846, when the Barlow Road was opened. Before that time, the emigrants built rafts to travel down the Columbia River

to Fort Vancouver, and then up the Willamette River to Oregon City. After 1846 most emigrants preferred to head south from The Dalles to Tygh Valley and then west across the southern shoulder of Mount Hood on the Barlow Road. They then crossed the Cascade Range at Barlow Pass and descended into Oregon City.

The management plan identified high-potential sites and segments as required by the National Trails System Act. Fort Vancouver is identified as a high-potential site. According to the National Trails System Act, high-potential historic sites are defined as the following:

Those historic sites related to the route, or sites in close proximity thereto, which provide opportunity to interpret the historic significance of the trail during the period of its major use. Criteria for consideration as high potential sites include historic significance, presence of visible historic remnants, scenic quality, and relative freedom from intrusion (National Park Service 1999: p.4).

In Appendix H, the description for Fort Vancouver as a high-potential site is stated as follows:

Founded by the Hudson's Bay Company in the winter of 1824-25 as a fur trading post and supply depot, Fort Vancouver was the most important settlement in the Pacific Northwest for more than 20 years. Dr. John McLoughlin, Chief Factor of the post until 1845, greatly assisted the exhausted, penniless emigrants who arrived at his doorstep. He helped them with transportation, lodging, subsistence, and even extended credit for supplies obtained at the post until they could raise their first crops. When John Boardman arrived on November 3, 1843, he was "well received by Doct. McLaughlin, who charged nothing for the use of his boat sent up for us, nor for the provisions, but not satisfied with that sent us plenty of salmon and potatoes furnished us house room, and wood free of charge, and was very anxious that all should get through safe." The First Regiment of Mounted Riflemen arrived at Fort Vancouver on October 4, 1849, after their long march overland from Fort Leavenworth and established the first U.S. Army base in the Pacific Northwest. Today, Fort Vancouver is operated as a National Historic Site and includes a replica of the original Hudson's Bay Company post (National Park Service 1999: p.312).

The Oregon City Complex, including the McLoughlin House, is a high-potential site on the Oregon National Historic Trail per the 1999 *Comprehensive Management and Use Plan Update, Oregon and Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trails*. (National Park Service 1999: p.312).

### ***Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area General Management Plan***

The final general management plan for Lake Roosevelt National Recreational Area (NRA) was produced by the NPS in September 1999. The legislative purpose of the NRA is to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation for the public; to preserve the integrity of natural, cultural, and scenic resources; and to provide opportunities to enhance public appreciation and understanding about the area's significant resources.

American and British fur traders built posts at Fort Spokane (1810), Fort Okanogan (1811), and Fort Colville (1825). When the Grand Coulee Dam was constructed, the valley floor was inundated and most historic sites were destroyed. However, these sites are interpreted as part of the overall interpretive program at the NRA.

### ***San Juan Island National Historical Park General Management Plan***

The last general management plan for San Juan Island National Historical Park was completed in 1979. A new GMP is in progress in cooperation with the NPS Columbia Cascades Support Office. The purpose of San Juan Island NHP is to interpret and preserve the sites of American and English camps and to commemorate the historic events that occurred from 1853 to 1871 in connection with the final settlement of the Oregon Territory boundary dispute.

From 1853-1859 there were various disputes on San Juan involving the HBC and its British citizens. The Hudson's Bay Company farmsite "Belle Vue" was located south of American Camp and was a successful sheep and livestock farm employing about 20 people. A tense situation climaxed in 1859 when an American settler on the island killed a hog belonging to a HBC officer because it was rooting in his garden. This resulted in the "Pig War," a stand off between British and United States forces, but ended peacefully with eventual arbitration placing the San Juan Archipelago within the boundary of the United States.

### ***Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Comprehensive Plan for Management and Use***

The National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, Public Law 95-625, amended the National Trails System Act to include the new category of national historic trails and designated the Lewis and Clark Trail as one of four national historic trails. National historic trails are considered units of the National Park System and have as their purpose the identification and protection of historic routes and their remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment. The comprehensive plan, produced in January 1982, recommends the development of opportunities for retracing nearly all portions of the historic expedition route, either as a water trail, a land trail, or a motor route. The entire Columbia River is a water trail of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and runs adjacent to Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

Fort Vancouver is mentioned as a national site along the Columbia River on page 76 of the document:

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is located in the city of Vancouver, Washington, near the Columbia River waterfront at mile 107 (Map 43), National Park Service. Although the establishment of this Fort postdates the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the site has an indirect relationship to the Expedition and has the potential to provide some Lewis and Clark interpretation. Just as one purpose of the Expedition was to strengthen U.S. claims to at least a part of the Oregon country, the establishment of Fort Vancouver in 1824-25 by the Hudson's Bay Company was designed to strengthen Britain's claim. In addition, Lewis and Clark's reports had a significant influence on the expansion of the fur trade to the Northwest, an area of commerce which the Hudson's Bay Company very successfully exploited. These relationships to Lewis and Clark should be developed at Fort Vancouver.

Though Lewis and Clark are not currently interpreted at the NHS, park staff have begun discussions on potential projects with the local representatives of the Lewis and Clark National Committee.

## **Recreational Resources**

Clark County and surrounding areas offer a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities to residents and visitors. The county presents a variety of environments from the Columbia River to the forests of the Cascade Mountains. There is a notable mix of urban walking and biking trails located throughout

the Vancouver area, including the City of Vancouver's Discovery Historic Loop Trail. Federal, state, county, and city areas provide a wide variety of recreational choices.

## **Types of Recreational Use**

### **Forests and Wildlife Refuges**

Gifford Pinchot National Forest is located to the northeast of Vancouver. Visitors can reach the national forest from Vancouver in approximately one hour. Recreation opportunities available include camping, hiking, cross-country skiing, and hunting. Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, located approximately 20 miles to the northwest of Vancouver, provides visitors with boating opportunities on the Columbia River, as well as hunting for waterfowl and bird watching.

### **State Parks**

Battle Ground Lake State Park and Paradise Point State Park both offer camping, fishing, hiking and picnicking. Both are located in Clark County approximately 45 minutes from the NHS.

### **Boating and Fishing**

There are several access points for boating on the Columbia River from Vancouver's Marine Park and Frenchman's Bar Park to private marina and boat launch areas. There is canoeing at Vancouver Lake Park and Lacamas Lake Park. The Lewis River that serves as the county's northern boundary is also popular with both motorized and human powered boaters. Each of these water bodies offers a variety of fishing opportunities.

Planning is underway by the Lower Columbia River Water Trail Committee to develop a Lower Columbia River Water Trail. One of the trail sites is located at Canoe Landing Beach on the Fort Vancouver Waterfront. The park staff plans to work with trail groups to develop this site.

### **Golf, Tennis, and Other Sports**

There are many golf courses and driving ranges, both public and private, in the county. Both public and private tennis courts and clubs are available. The Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department maintains a large number of public parks which offer a wide variety of organized group and individual sports, as well as playgrounds and ball-fields for public use.

### **Aviation**

Pearson Field is located in Vancouver, Washington on the Columbia River, approximately four miles north and west of Portland International Airport. The land on which the airport is located is adjacent to Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and is owned in part by the City of Vancouver and the National Park Service. General aviation is a recreational use within the authorized boundaries of the park.

Pearson Air Museum, adjacent to the airfield, is also within the authorized boundaries of the national historic site. Under an agreement between the NPS and the City of Vancouver, the Air Museum is operated and maintained by the City of Vancouver and interprets the history of aviation.

## **Local Historical Sites**

Besides Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, other county historic sites include Pomeroy Living History Farm, Clark County Historical Museum, Cedar Creek Gristmill, Covington House and the Parkersville Site as evidence of the rich historical interpretation of the area. Also notable is the Cathlapotle Archaeological Site, which is the location of a large and significant Indian village, at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

## **Scenic Resources**

The NHS is located on the historic core development area of the Hudson's Bay Company operations. Early visitors and HBC employees often commented on the natural beauty of the country noting the lush, dense forests, carpets of wild flowers, extensive prairies, views of the Columbia River, and snow-capped Mount Hood in the distance. Once a beautiful natural setting of forest and plain, the area is now an urban one rich in historic and scenic resources.

There are three primary visitor destinations presently within the park—the visitor center area, the Fort, and the Fort Vancouver Waterfront.

### **Visitor Center to Fort Vancouver**

The visitor center provides an important orientation for the visitor on the role of the HBC in the Northwest. The primary vehicular entry to the visitor center is near the northeast corner of the site along Evergreen Boulevard. The visitor center is designed in the Mission 66 architectural style and is sited on a gentle rise above the Fort Plain.

The original intent of the design was to capture the commanding view of the Fort and Columbia River behind it, and to separate modern development from the historic setting. The visitor center is surrounded by manicured lawn with widely spaced native and non-native deciduous and coniferous trees planted in 1962. The visual affect is a “park-like” open space setting. To the northeast of the visitor center is a parking lot, maintenance and administrative area. Immediately to the southeast is a covered picnic shelter and playground area.

To the north of the visitor center across Evergreen Boulevard are the Victorian houses of Officers' Row, historically part of Vancouver Barracks. Though not part of the park (it is part of the Reserve), it forms the northern edge of the NHS. Maple trees, planted in the 1880s, line the street creating a strong visual edge north of the park.

Visitors approach the Fort from the visitor center by traveling southwest along a paved road (the historic road to Back Plains) or by randomly walking across the lawn down the hill to the Fort. Traveling along this road, the visitors pass east of the Parade Ground, a broad open expanse of lawn, and by the reconstructed bandstand. Several of the trees in this area date to the early HBC era.

The road turns south along the eastern edge of the historic U.S. Army buildings within the east Vancouver Barracks area. These historic structures consist of 19 buildings within the authorized boundary of the NHS. The U.S. Army continues to manage these properties which were built by the Army in the early 1900s.

## **Fort Vancouver and Environs**

The road continues south and crosses East Fifth Street which is the historic alignment of Upper Mill Road. This is a visually critical intersection because it is the point of transition to the historic scene.

At this elevation, the river is no longer visible due to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad berm, which bisects the NHS south of the Fort. The Columbia River Interstate 5 Bridge suspension towers are still visible to the southwest.

At this intersection, the view immediately to the south is toward the Fort, the primary HBC resource, and the recreated orchard and garden. To the west and southwest of the palisade is an open field (part of the historic Village), a NPS maintenance area, and remainder of a Civilian Conservation Corps road developed at Vancouver Barracks in the mid-1930s. Beyond that, but still within the foreground view, is the south barracks located at the western edge of the orchard. The close proximity of the more modern buildings visually impacts the historic HBC setting.

To the east and southeast is Pearson Field, a general aviation airport, which is operated by the City of Vancouver. (The western portion of the airfield is located on federal property. The City of Vancouver owns the eastern portion of the airfield.) In 2002, four remaining T-hangars and an old, metal, aviation museum building were removed. This action enabled the visitor's view in the foreground to be restored to an open landscape compatible with the Hudson's Bay Company era. Pearson Air Museum (part of the Reserve) is visible in the distance. On clear days, Mount Hood is visible to the east in the sky above Pearson Air Museum.

A temporary parking lot is located immediately off East Fifth Street north of the Fort. Though convenient to visitors and employees, it has a visual impact on the historic scene as the visitor must pass directly by it to arrive at the north gate of the Fort.

Once inside the fort palisade, the visitor is drawn back to 1845. Since the south gates of the Fort are kept closed, the visitor is unable to see the visual impacts of the Pearson runway, State Route 14, or the railroad berm that prevents visual access to the Fort Vancouver Waterfront. The only visual intrusions of the twenty-first century seen from within the Fort are the Columbia River Interstate 5 Bridge suspension towers, and aircraft approaching or taking off from Pearson Field or Portland International Airport and buildings in downtown Vancouver.

## **Fort Vancouver Waterfront**

Currently, visitors access the Fort Vancouver Waterfront using Columbia Way from downtown Vancouver. Getting there involves driving to the area and parking in one of the waterfront parking lots. Also, the visitor can access the Waterfront from the Fort by walking or cycling south along East Reserve Street. A pedestrian overpass or "land bridge" is proposed across State Route 14 and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe right-of-way connecting the Village area of the NHS to Old Apple Tree Park.

Cottonwoods, willows, and alders dominate the Waterfront along a rather steep bank. Canoe Landing Beach is the only access point to the water along Columbia Way between downtown Vancouver and the Columbia Shores development to the east. Though no interpretive structures exist, the Waterfront is a critical visual and historic link to the establishment and operations of the Fort. The river was the avenue

of commerce at the time of Hudson's Bay Company operations at Fort Vancouver and today presents excellent opportunities for interpretation of the important relationship between the river and the Fort.

## Existing Park Development and Programs

The total acreage of Fort Vancouver NHS within the authorized Fort Vancouver National Historic Site boundary is approximately 209 acres. The NPS managed area contains approximately 165 acres. The remaining acreage includes land managed by the U.S. Army, City of Vancouver, and the State of Washington.

### Roads and Parking

The park has approximately seven-tenths mile of paved surfaces including roads and five parking lots. The visitor center and administration parking lot can hold a total of 43 cars (including two that are accessible for persons with disabilities), 3 buses, and 3 recreation vehicles. Sidewalks follow and connect the south edge of the parking lot with the visitor center, administration building, and the maintenance shop. Plans for additional ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) site access are currently being implemented by park staff to include two new curb cuts, new signage, and one additional van accessible parking space.

The temporary gravel-surface parking lot at the Fort can hold a total of 34 cars (including two spaces for persons with disabilities) and 4 buses. The lot is gated.

The three parking lots at the Fort Vancouver Waterfront have a total of 64 delineated parking spaces plus three allocated space for persons with disabilities (one space for each lot). The west parking lot has 27 spaces, the middle parking lot has 24 parking spaces, and the east parking lot has 16 parking spaces.

There are 214 signs for safety and interpretation purposes located throughout the national historic site on roads, trails, and at boundaries.

### Boundaries

The following roads partially establish the boundary through and around the national historic site. Evergreen Boulevard borders the park on the north and is approximately four-tenths of a mile; Fort Vancouver Way borders the park on the west and is one-tenth of a mile; East Fifth Street borders the park on the south and is four-tenths of a mile; and East Reserve Street borders the park on the east and is two-tenths of a mile long. All of these roads are used for public access to the national historic site. Two of these roads are gated—Evergreen Boulevard and East Fifth Street—and lead to the visitor center parking lot and to the fort parking lot respectively, bisecting the national historic site.

Private residential areas border the national historic site on the east. The Vancouver National Historic Reserve borders the park on the north, south, and west. The waterfront property of Fort Vancouver NHS is bordered by the Columbia River to the south and by Columbia Way to the north. The City of Vancouver manages and maintains all boundary roads, sidewalks, paths, and landscaped areas along the park borders.

The majority of the second HBC cemetery is located within the east barracks in the authorized boundary of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. The western edge of the cemetery is located just west of Fort Vancouver Way in the Vancouver National Historic Reserve.

## **Trails**

There are approximately 0.2 miles of concrete paths and 0.6 miles of decomposed granite trails within the NHS. An unpaved administrative road leads from East Fifth Street to a maintenance storage area in the Village in the southwest corner of the NHS. There are approximately 0.7 miles of concrete sidewalk along Columbia Way that borders the Fort Vancouver Waterfront area and 0.34 miles of concrete/asphalt sidewalk within the national historic site waterfront parcel.

## **Buildings and Facilities**

The park has sixteen major structures managed by the National Park Service. At the administrative area of the national historic site there are four buildings: the visitor center, administration building, employee residence, and maintenance shop. There are 14 structures at the Fort including: the fort palisade, the Bastion, Chief Factor's House, Kitchen, Bakehouse, Blacksmith Shop, Indian Trade Shop, Fur Store, Wash House, Jail, Carpenter Shop, Belfry, Flagpole, and Wellsweep. (For building relationships within the Fort, refer to Figure 3, Fort Structures.)

A determination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places will be conducted for the four NPS Mission 66 architectural style structures located at the park. This includes the visitor center, administrative building, employee residence, and maintenance shop. If determined eligible for the National Register, the general management plan will address appropriate preservation or mitigation strategies for these structures including, but not limited to, adaptive reuse options which further the purposes of either Fort Vancouver National Historic Site or the Vancouver National Historic Reserve.

### **Visitor Center**

The visitor center is a 4,903 square foot building constructed in 1961 in the NPS Mission 66 architectural style. Approximately 3,513 square feet on the first floor is used for public space which includes the lobby with sales area, museum, a multi-purpose auditorium, interpretive displays, and outside ADA accessible public restrooms. The remaining area contains staff space for offices, kitchen, staff restroom, and utility areas.

### **Administrative Headquarters Building**

Also built in 1961 in the Mission 66 style, the 1,800 square foot administration building contains a reception area/office, a meeting room, two offices, kitchen/office supply storage area, and a unisex ADA accessible bathroom. It is presently used as the park headquarters building. The attached garage is used for maintenance/administration storage.

### **Employee Residence**

The 1,800 square foot seasonal employee residence has three bedrooms, one and a half baths with a kitchen, utility room, and attached garage. It is designed in the Mission 66 architectural style and constructed in 1961. It is presently used for maintenance storage.

### **Maintenance Shop**

The original part of the maintenance shop was designed in the Mission 66 style and constructed in 1961, but has since been added onto. The 2,700 square foot maintenance shop contains three garages, a break room with a unisex bathroom, and an office.

### **The Fort Palisade**

The 4,522 linear feet of reconstructed palisade (fort wall) surrounds the following ten reconstructed historic structures.

#### ***Bastion***

The attached bastion (projecting part of the palisade) located in the northwest corner of the palisade was reconstructed in 1972 and is 1,272 square feet. It has a ground floor and two additional floors accessible by a stairway.

#### ***Chief Factor's House***

The Chief Factor's House was reconstructed in 1976 and is 6,825 square feet. The first floor contains furnished historic spaces that interpret the Chief Factor's residence and mess hall functions.

#### ***Kitchen***

Located north of the Chief Factor's House, the Kitchen is 2,896 square feet and was reconstructed in 1976. The Kitchen is on the ground floor of a one and a half story reconstructed building and is connected to the Chief Factor's House by a breezeway. The kitchen contains a pantry, larder, laundry room with a servant's bedroom, and cooking area with a fireplace and oven. The upstairs was remodeled in the summer of 2000 and contains the period clothing storage room, staff changing rooms, clothing checkout office, and additional storage.

#### ***Bakehouse***

The Bakehouse, reconstructed in 1974, is 2,375 square feet and is located at the northeast corner of the palisade. It has one room containing two brick ovens and a loft.

#### ***Blacksmith Shop***

The Blacksmith Shop is 1,226 square feet and located in southeast corner of palisade. Reconstructed in 1981, it has a single room which houses four forges and accompanying blacksmith tools.

#### ***Indian Trade Shop***

The Indian Trade Shop is 5,600 square feet and is located west of the Blacksmith Shop. Reconstructed in 1981, the front of the building contains historic furnished spaces interpreting Indian trade, medical and hospital functions at Fort Vancouver, and the quarters of Dr. Forbes Barclay and his family. The rear and second floor of the building contain the interpretive staff meeting areas, offices, the NHS library, and storage.

#### ***Fur Store/Curation Facilities and Collection Storage Building***

The Fur Store/Curation Facilities and Collection Storage Building is located in the south central interior of the palisade. The building was reconstructed in two phases. The second phase was completed in 1994. It is 8,000 square feet and contains the Baling Room where the 1845 fur processing and storage at



*Mission 66 architectural style administrative headquarters (in foreground) and employee residence.*



*Mission 66 architectural style maintenance building.*

Fort Vancouver is interpreted, the archaeological interpretive corridor where the public can view on-going archaeological cataloging, curation rooms, offices, and collection storage facilities on the second floor.

### ***Wash House***

The 468 square foot Wash House was reconstructed in 1976 and is used for public restrooms and for utility/storage space. The Wash House is fully ADA compliant.

### ***Carpenter Shop***

The Carpenter Shop, reconstructed in 1997, is located in the north central interior of the palisade. It is 628 square feet and has one room which is used to interpret historic carpentry at Fort Vancouver.

### ***Jail***

The reconstruction for the 450 square foot Jail was completed in January 2001. This structure interprets the HBC threatment of minor criminal offenses.

### ***Bandstand***

The reconstructed bandstand (1,000 square feet) is located on the Parade Ground northeast of the visitor center across from the Grant House on Officers' Row. This structure assists the park in interpreting the early military post and specifically the Main Parade Ground. It was the focal point for community gatherings hosted by the Army.

All of the fort buildings underwent a retrofit in accordance with ADA guidelines. Current additions to ADA accessibility at the park are pending due to ADA agency assessment in the summer of 2000. These will include installation of additional ramps, alternative forms of interpretive signs and programs, and automatic door openers at the visitor center.

## **Other Site Structures**

Additional structures are found within the national historic site. In the fort area, a tool shed with four compost bins is located 80 feet north of the palisade in the historic garden. Inside the Fort there is a non-functioning, grated, historic well, which is the only surviving structure from the HBC period of occupation, between the Bakehouse and the Kitchen. A 45-foot tall belfry, reconstructed in 1993, rises to the west of the newly constructed Jail. Public washrooms (a 487 square foot building) are located between the Kitchen and Bakehouse. Built in 1976, the washrooms are ADA accessible and house one men's and one women's washroom with a utility room in the center.

Located just within the Fort at the north gate is the non-historic contact station (628 square feet). Built in 1976, its one room serves as a visitor orientation center containing plat panel exhibits and an indoor meeting area as well as an area from which to collect fees. Opposite the north gate and located behind the Indian Trade Shop is one hazardous materials storage (HAZMAT) shed for the Blacksmith Shop and another to the west of the Maintenance Shop.

Within the administrative area southeast of the visitor center are a well house (48 square feet) and a seven-table picnic shelter (1,988 square feet and ADA accessible). To the south of the picnic shelter ex-

ists a small playground. This playground was rebuilt in 1990 to replace a playground originally located north of East Fifth Street.

The maintenance area includes a vehicle and equipment fueling station including above-ground tanks, and the park's recycling center. A HAZMAT shed is located west of the Maintenance shop.

### **Site Vegetation**

The visitor center and administrative buildings were landscaped in 1962 with native and non-native deciduous and coniferous trees and shrubs. Species include Mugo pines, Douglas firs, maples, oaks, and a variety of ornamental shrubs. Thirty-year old rhododendrons surround the administrative building and employee residence.

The vegetation in the area surrounding the visitor center and administrative area consists of a multi-species lawn that is green-mulched and chemical-free. Clusters of non-native hydrangea, holly, locust, and camellia, as well as native coniferous trees, are located within the lawn. A trimmed arbor vitae hedge has been added to partially block public view of the administrative and maintenance areas.

Tree species located around the northern border of the site include red maples, sugar maples, sequoias, blue spruces, Douglas firs, cherries, pines, and horse chestnuts. Southwest of the visitor center is a combination of trees planted in 1962. Trees in this area include American hollies, Lawson cypress, western red cedars, Oregon oaks, Douglas firs, sequoias, and Pacific dogwoods. The Parade Ground is an open area of multi-species lawn. A few large native Oregon oak and Douglas fir trees are found here as well. Several of these trees have been dated to the early Vancouver Barracks and the Hudson's Bay Company era.

Maple and English walnut trees line both sides of Evergreen Boulevard. These were planted in front of Officers' Row in the 1880s and create a strong visual edge to the north side of the Parade Ground. A large number of Oregon oaks exist in Vancouver Barracks north of East Fifth Street. Clumps and small groves of Oregon oaks were common in the area during the HBC and Vancouver Barracks eras. A row of Douglas fir trees in front of the barracks was likely planted in the 1930s.

On the north side of the Fort, vegetation consists of an interpretive period garden and an interpretive orchard planted in 1962 on the site of the original HBC garden. The 1962 Completion Report of construction projects at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site lists thirteen species of fruit trees planted in the interpretive orchard. In 1992, when the Cultural Landscape Report was prepared, there were 71 fruit trees remaining in the orchard, many in decline. In addition, the trees reflect a twentieth century orchard and not a nineteenth century orchard. The existing trees are reaching life expectancy and the area will eventually be restored to the historic garden of 1845.

The field area east of the historic north gate road has recently been seeded with red clover and is currently under rehabilitation after removal of four airport T-hangars. The remaining four T-hangars adjacent to this field were demolished in 2002. It is intended that this field will eventually be restored to historic agricultural use.

Interpreters, volunteers, and maintenance staff maintain the existing historic garden. Its decomposed granite paths are ADA accessible as well as aesthetically pleasing. The garden is planted with a variety

of heirloom vegetables and herbs which include pumpkins, Indian corn, melons, mints, chives, leeks, beets, carrots, potatoes, onions, beans, lettuce, tomatoes, cardoon, hops, apples, poppies, hollyhock, roses, pennyroyal, fennel, chrysanthemums, dahlias, iris, lilac, lilies, strawberries, clover, horseradish, lavender, rosemary, thyme, and nasturtiums.

The Village area west of the fort palisade consists of unmowed grasses, weeds, vetches, and a few daffodils, with large masses of blackberries and scotch broom. Some fruit trees have been discovered, as well as two wild heirloom climbing rose bushes. The trees and shrubs appear to be remnants of the plantings associated with the Civilian Conservation Corps development at Vancouver Barracks in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Recently the site of the historic orchard is being cleared of the non-native species of Himalayan blackberry, Scotch broom, European holly, and native poison oak. Currently the park is under agreement with the City of Vancouver to leave the native long grasses west of the palisade unmowed to provide historic groundcover.

The NPS property on the Columbia River has been landscaped by the city of and includes lawn and planting beds with ornamental trees and shrubs. The remaining undeveloped waterfront consists of natural riparian vegetation including masses of black cottonwoods, willows, and alders.

## **Pearson Air Museum**

Pearson Air Museum is operated and maintained by the City of Vancouver. Currently the city has contracted for operation of the museum with the Pearson Field Historical Society. The site consists of approximately seven acres of federally owned land within the authorized boundaries of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. Three historic structures exist on the site: the U.S. Army Hangar (commonly referred to as the white hangar) (circa 1925), the U.S. Army (World War I) Squadron Building (circa 1918), and the U.S. Army Weapons Storage Building (circa 1904). All are recorded on the Washington State Register of Historic Places. Restored according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, they are eligible for listing on the National Register.

The museum consists of a 26,398 square foot building (restored historic hangar and a reconstructed hangar building), with approximately one acre of paved surfaces and five acres of landscaping. The parking lot has 49 parking spaces. Ingress to the site is off East Fifth Street and egress is off East Reserve Street. To reflect the Golden Era of Aviation (1920s and 1930s), a grass field will replace a portion of the airfield tarmac. A memorandum of agreement signed on November 1994 between the City of Vancouver and the NPS allowed for the development of the museum. A cooperative agreement signed in December 1995 specifically states the operational and responsibility details between the city and NPS.

## **Pearson Field**

The City of Vancouver publicly operates Pearson Field on approximately 134 acres. The Airfield has one paved runway and conducts general aviation service. The City of Vancouver owns approximately 62 acres of the eastern portion of the site. The remaining 72 acres, the western portion were sold by the City of Vancouver to the NPS in 1972. The facilities on NPS land include a runway, a parallel taxiway, the historic aviation museum buildings (Pearson Air Museum), and a Russian monument.

Pilots that fly into Pearson Field have the opportunity to visit the Fort and the Pearson Air Museum. In addition, the park's website has included information regarding the option of flying into the Reserve to visit the park.

A Statutory Warranty Deed, dated April 4, 1972 to April 3, 2002, allows the city to conduct aviation activities on the NPS portion of the site. An Interior Appropriations Bill rider for Fiscal Year 1996 signed in March 1996 stated that the National Park Service would continue to permit general aviation on its portion of Pearson Field in Vancouver until the year 2022.

Public Law 101-523, 1997-1996 Interior Appropriations states in Section 334:

The National Park Service, in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement between the United States National Park Service and the City of Vancouver dated November 4, 1994, shall permit general aviation on its portion of Pearson Field in Vancouver, Washington until the year 2022, during which time a plan and method for transitioning from general aviation aircraft to historic shall be completed; such transition to be accomplished by that date. This action shall not be construed to limit the authority of the Federal Aviation Administration over air traffic control or aviation activities at Pearson Field or limit operations and air-space of Portland International Airport.

## **Utility Systems**

Electricity to the park is provided by Clark County Public Utilities. The GTE/Qwest and General Service Administration provide telephone service. The City of Vancouver provides the domestic water supply and sewer service. Two fire hydrants are located near the administration, maintenance, and seasonal residence area and another two fire hydrants are located near the visitor center and picnic shelter area. Three fire hydrants are located around the palisade walls at the fort site.

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