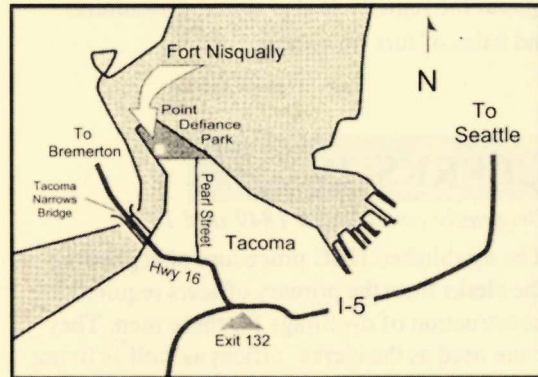


Directions

From I-5: Take the Bremerton/Highway 16 exit and proceed west to the 6th Avenue/ Point Defiance exit. Follow signs north on Pearl street to Point Defiance Park. Follow signs on Five-Mile Drive within the park to Fort Nisqually Living History Museum.



For information on:

- * Special Events
 - Brigade Encampment
 - Candlelight Tour
 - Queen Victoria's Birthday
- * Admission
- * Group Tours
- * Museum Store

Hours of Operation

Open daily June, July, August
Closed Monday and Tuesday - Sept - May
Admission charged when buildings are open.
Please call for admission prices.

(253) 591-5339

Fort Nisqually Living History Museum

5400 North Pearl Street #11

Tacoma, WA 98407

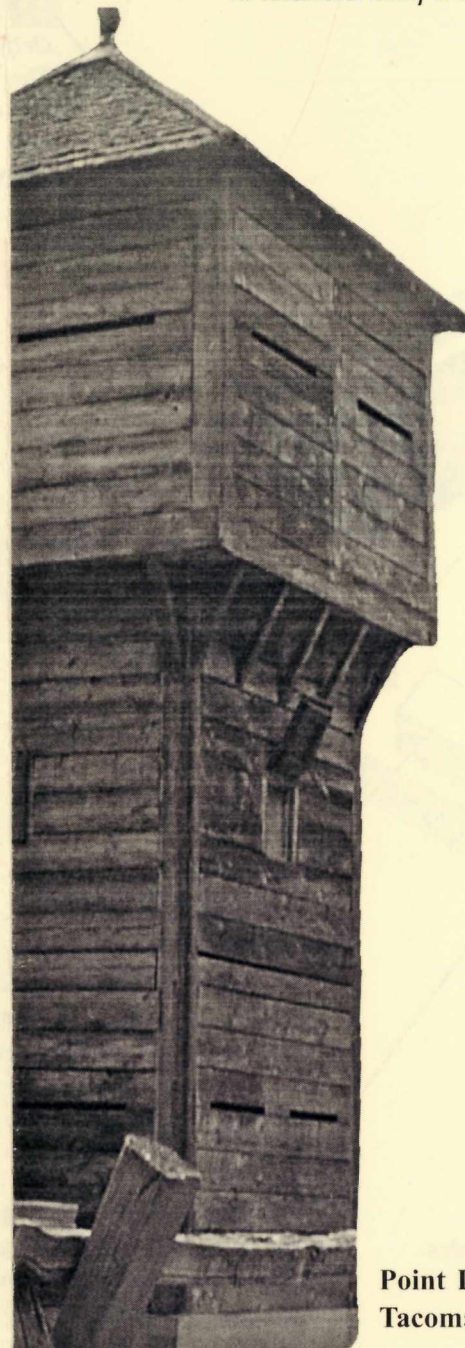
www.fortnisqually.org

fortnisqually@tacomaparks.com

FORT NISQUALLY

LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM

An educational facility of Metro Parks Tacoma



Point Defiance Park
Tacoma, Washington

FORT NISQUALLY

A Brief History

In the spring of 1832, during a routine trip between Fort Langley and Fort Vancouver, Chief Trader Archibald McDonald of the London-based Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) paused for a few days on the Nisqually River. Under orders to find a suitable location for the establishment of a post in the lower Puget Sound region, McDonald supervised the construction of a storehouse and left several servants in charge with a couple of kegs of potatoes, garden seeds and blankets for trade.

The following spring McDonald oversaw the construction of a large walled wooden fortification a short distance inland on the grassy plateau east of the original landing site. For the next six years, Fort Nisqually was an outpost of the fur trade that drove the HBC across the North American continent in pursuit of beaver pelts. The main suppliers of the furs were local native tribes who took a fancy to the wool blankets, guns and other manufactured goods offered by the HBC.

The decline of the fur trade in the late 1830s and the high cost of supplying the distant HBC operations spurred the Company to look for new sources of revenue. Fort Nisqually became the headquarters of a subsidiary called the Puget Sound Agricultural

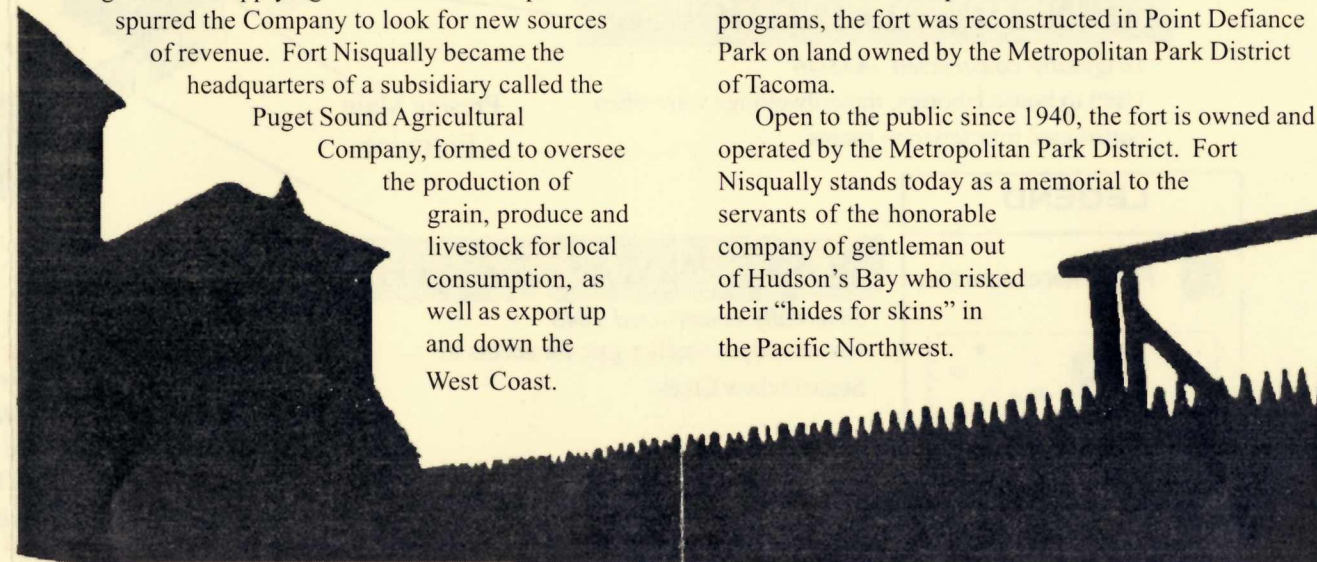
Company, formed to oversee the production of grain, produce and livestock for local consumption, as well as export up and down the West Coast.

To take advantage of more open land and fresh water, Fort Nisqually was moved inland a mile from its original site in the early 1840s. The fort standing today in Point Defiance Park is a reproduction of this second site.

A treaty between the United States and Great Britain, signed in 1846, extended a border along the 49th parallel to the Pacific Ocean and left the HBC operating on foreign soil and contending with the influx of American settlers. By the late 1860s marginal profits no longer compensated for the mounting harassment from American revenue agents, tax collectors and settlers. In 1869, Fort Nisqually was closed. The United States paid the Hudson's Bay Company \$650,000 for all its American properties.

In the following years, the land on which Fort Nisqually stood changed hands several times. Only the Factor's House and the Granary avoided the disrepair and decay that befell the rest of the structures. In the early 1930s, the Dupont Company, then owners of the property on which Fort Nisqually stood, donated the remaining buildings to civic-minded citizens. With the help of New Deal federal work relief programs, the fort was reconstructed in Point Defiance Park on land owned by the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma.

Open to the public since 1940, the fort is owned and operated by the Metropolitan Park District. Fort Nisqually stands today as a memorial to the servants of the honorable company of gentleman out of Hudson's Bay who risked their "hides for skins" in the Pacific Northwest.



FORT NISQUALLY ca. 1855

KITCHEN

Originally constructed 1851

Located in close proximity to Dr Tolmie's house for efficient service, the kitchen likely contained a large cooking stove with a lean-to addition to accommodate the blacksmith shop and a bakery. Meals were prepared for many laborers who lived inside the fort, which made cooking a full time job for more than one cook.

TYEE HOUSE

Originally constructed 1843/1844

Dr. Tolmie's original residence and the gentlemen's dining hall until construction of the Factor's House in 1854; the Tyee House was torn down shortly thereafter.

LABORERS' DWELLING

Used to house laborers, these dwellings were often partitioned into separate rooms.

STORE HOUSE #1

Originally constructed 1844

The "large store" warehoused supplies and trade goods imported from Britain before distribution to other HBC forts throughout the region. It also stored agricultural products and bales of furs for export.

FACTOR/OFFICER'S DWELLING HOUSE

Originally constructed 1854

This original building was built for Dr. Tolmie after he persuaded the Company to build a larger house to replace the Tyee House by exchanging some of the fort's cattle for locally milled dimensional lumber. His house was built in the new "Yankee Style" instead of the standard post-in-sill, heavy-timber style used in the majority of Fort Nisqually's other structures.

CLERKS' HOUSE

Originally constructed 1849 and 1853

The established HBC procedure of separating the clerks from the primary officers required the construction of dwellings for these men. They were used as the clerks' offices as well as living quarters for important visitors.

STOREHOUSE #2

Originally constructed 1846

Much like the larger storehouse #1, this building was historically used for the storage of goods; the current exhibit is a working blacksmith shop which demonstrates how tools and hardware were fabricated for company use and trade.

MEN'S DWELLING HOUSE

Originally constructed 1845/46

Used to house laborers, these dwellings were often partitioned into separate rooms.

Present Main Entrance

GRANARY

Originally constructed 1851

An original HBC building and one of the oldest standing building in the state of Washington, the Granary was erected as a storage facility for the large annual harvests of the fort's produce and grain.

SALES SHOP

Originally constructed 1848

This building has a large trading room also referred to as the "Indian Shop" because it contained a wide range of commodities attractive to the Native Americans. The early American settlers also found the shop a valuable place to purchase basic needs.

BASTIONS/PALISADES

Originally constructed 1848

The primary purpose of the bastions and palisades was for defense of the fort, bastions also served occasionally as jails and living quarters.

POSTERN/WATER GATE

Originally constructed 1848

Historically, a smaller gate for access to Sequelitchew Creek.

LEGEND

Future Reconstruction

