National Park Service

Cultural Landscape Inventory

2024

Fort Vancouver

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

September 5, 2024

Theresa Langford
US National Park Service

In future correspondence please refer to:
Project Tracking Code: 2024-06-04263
Property: Fort Vancouver National Historic Site - Cultural Landscape Inventory Report Update
Re:

Dear Theresa Langford:

Thank you for contacting the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) regarding the above referenced Cultural Landscape Inventory and updated determinations of eligibility. This action has been reviewed on behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) under provisions of Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). Our review is based upon the National Park Service Cultural Landscape Inventory 2024: Fort Vancouver, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site dated August 8, 2024, and the accompanying Historic Property Inventories.

We concur with the results of the Cultural Landscape Inventory and determinations of eligibility within the eligible Fort Vancouver Historic District. Please see the attached table for individual resource/feature concurrence.

Should additional information become available, our assessment may be revised. Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Maddie Levesque, M.A
Architectural Historian
(360) 819-7203
Maddie.Levesque@dahp.wa.gov

Feature Name	Feature Contribution	HPI Number
HBC Fort	Noncontributing	N/A
Fort Vancouver Village	Noncontributing	N/A
Orchard and Garden	Noncontributing	N/A
Chief Factor's House Plant Beds	Noncontributing	N/A
Demonstration Garden	Noncontributing	N/A
Field Areas	Noncontributing	N/A
Invasive Species	Noncontributing	N/A
Miscellaneous Non- native/Ornamental Vegetation	Noncontributing	N/A
Mission 66 Fruit Trees	Noncontributing	N/A
Native Vegetation	Noncontributing	N/A
Orchard	Noncontributing	N/A
Land Bridge Trail	Noncontributing	N/A
Lower Mill Road	Noncontributing	N/A
Main Fort Entrance Walkway	Noncontributing	N/A
Paths Within the Fort	Noncontributing	N/A
Parking Lot	Noncontributing	N/A
Pearson Field Runway	Noncontributing	N/A
Pedestrian Walkways	Noncontributing	N/A
Well	Contributing	734284
Bastion	Noncontributing	734296
Bakehouse	Noncontributing	734300
Belfry	Noncontributing	734304
Blacksmith Shop	Noncontributing	734305

Carpenter Shop	Noncontributing	734306
Chief Factor's House	Noncontributing	734307
Contact Station	Noncontributing	734308
Counting House	Noncontributing	734309
Demonstration Garden Storage	Noncontributing	734310
Flagstaff	Noncontributing	734312
Fur Store	Noncontributing	734313
HBC Fence System	Noncontributing	734314
Fort Vancouver Village Entrance Gate	Noncontributing	734316
Jail	Noncontributing	734317
Kitchen	Noncontributing	734318
Stockade	Noncontributing	734319
Stockade Privies	Noncontributing	734320
Trade Shop and Dispensary	Noncontributing	734321
Village House #1 (Engage House)	Noncontributing	734322
Village House #2	Noncontributing	734323
Wash House	Noncontributing	734324
Bike Rack	Noncontributing	N/A
Entrance Sign	Noncontributing	N/A
Chief Factor's House Garden Fence	Noncontributing	N/A
Interpretive Panels	Noncontributing	N/A
Rain Barrels	Noncontributing	N/A
Replica Red River Cart	Noncontributing	N/A
Red Wheelbarrows	Noncontributing	N/A
Cannons	Noncontributing	N/A
Wheelchair Lift	Noncontributing	N/A

Wooden Benches	Noncontributing	N/A
Fort Vancouver Village Sites (Kanaka Village)	Contributing	N/A
Stockade Archeological Sites	Contributing	N/A

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Introduction

Cultural Landscapes in the Cultural Resources Inventory System

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. The set of CRIS records for cultural landscapes is referred to as CRIS-CL. CRIS-CL records conform to a standardized data structure known as the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI).

The legislative, regulatory and policy directions for conducting and maintaining the CRIS are as follows: Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, NPS Management Policies (2006), Director's Order 28 (Cultural Resources) and Director's Order 28a (Archeology).

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI)
The CLI is the data structure within CRIS used to document and evaluate all potentially significant landscapes in which NPS has or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Each CRIS-CL record is certified complete when the landscape is determined to meet one of the following:

Landscape individually meets the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation; or,
Landscape is a contributing element of a property that is eligible for the National Register; or,
Landscape does not meet the National Register criteria, but is Noncontributing because law, policy or decisions reached through the park planning process.

Cultural landscapes are varied in type and include historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes, and historic ethnographic landscapes; however, a cultural landscape also may fit within more than one type. Those cultural landscapes eligible for the National Register have significance in the nation's history on a national, state, or local level, as well as integrity.

The legislative, regulatory and policy directions for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are as follows:

The *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)),* which states that "Each Federal agency shall establish…a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places…of properties…"

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a), which states that "…Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA…No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior…"

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(c), which states that "each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying…historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Councill and the Secretary…"

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998, which provides under Standard 2 the guidance that follows: "An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A) and Sec. 112."

*Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories, which states that "*The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories…about cultural resources in units of the national park system…Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,…and historic sites…"

Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28, which states that "As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources."

General Information

Cultural Landscape Inventory Name	Fort Vancouver
Cultural Landscape Inventory Number	400177
Park Alpha Code	FOVA
Park Org Code	9430
Property Level	Landscape

Landscape Description

Fort Vancouver is located within Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS). Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is part of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve (VNHR), which encompasses lands owned and managed by the NPS and the City of Vancouver. In 2007, the VNHR Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. As part of the VNHR Historic District nomination, Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) resources were listed under criterion A for their association with the company's occupation and activities in the area and under criterion D for archeological resources dating to the HBC era. The HBC resources span across property owned by multiple government agencies; however, the core of the Fort Vancouver development (the stockade and village) is located on NPS property. Since the 1960s, the NPS has been incrementally reconstructing the buildings, structures, and landscape features associated with the HBC era of development. In the 2007 VNHR Historic District nomination, the reconstructed buildings and structures were found ineligible for the National Register due to their status as reconstructions and their age of less than 50 years old. However, the NPS manages the fort reconstruction as a cultural resource in accordance with its 2003 General Management Plan (GMP) and is therefore documented as a cultural landscape in the CLI database.

The reconstruction of Fort Vancouver began in 1966, and although ineligible for the National Register, it is managed as a cultural resource to reflect the Hudson's Bay Company era of occupation. It is located within the larger VNHR Historic District which encompasses several eras of human development from 2500 BP to 1966, but most relevant to this CLI, it was determined eligible under criteria A and D, for its association with the HBC's first trading post in the Northwest that influenced expanded settlement of the region. The period of significance for the

HBC, as established by the 2007 National Register Nomination, is 1824-1860, beginning when the HBC established its first settlement in the area in 1824 and ending in 1860 when they left the area, and it was assumed by the US Army.

The Fort Vancouver cultural landscape reflects the Hudson's Bay Company development at its peak in 1845. Following the HBC's departure in 1860, the fort was partially razed by the US Army and the remainder was destroyed by a fire in 1866. Between 1860 and NPS ownership in 1948, the area was used for the US Army's World War I Spruce Mill operation, a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp, the Pearson Field runway, and other US Army developments. Since 1947, numerous archeological investigations have uncovered data from the HBC era that has informed the reconstruction of the fort and village. Enough of the Fort Vancouver buildings, structures, circulation routes, agricultural fields and orchard plantings have been reconstructed to effectively convey the historic location, association, feeling, workmanship, materials, and design of an HBC-era fort. The setting has undergone many changes with the development of the Burlington Northern Railroad berm, Highway 14, and Interstate 5, which have created physical and visual barriers between the Fort, the Columbia River, and downtown Vancouver. US military buildings, NPS buildings, circulation, and Pearson Field have had tremendous effect on the setting as well. These landscape characteristics help to convey the HBC era of development: natural systems and features, archeological sites, spatial organization, buildings and structures, circulation, vegetation, and small-scale features.

Landscape Hierarchy Description

Fort Vancouver is a landscape with no component landscapes and one of four cultural landscapes within Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. The other three cultural landscapes are the Mission 66 Park Developed Area, East Barracks/Parade Ground, and McLoughlin House. Fort Vancouver reflects the HBC-era of development through a modern reconstruction of the stockade and associated grounds which has been carefully built over the past 60 years based on documentary evidence and archeological investigation led by NPS. The result is a collection of buildings and structures, an orchard and demonstration garden, circulation systems, and archeological sites that reflect the 1800s period of the HBC occupation within the larger historic site.

Landscape Type

Historic Site

Site Plan

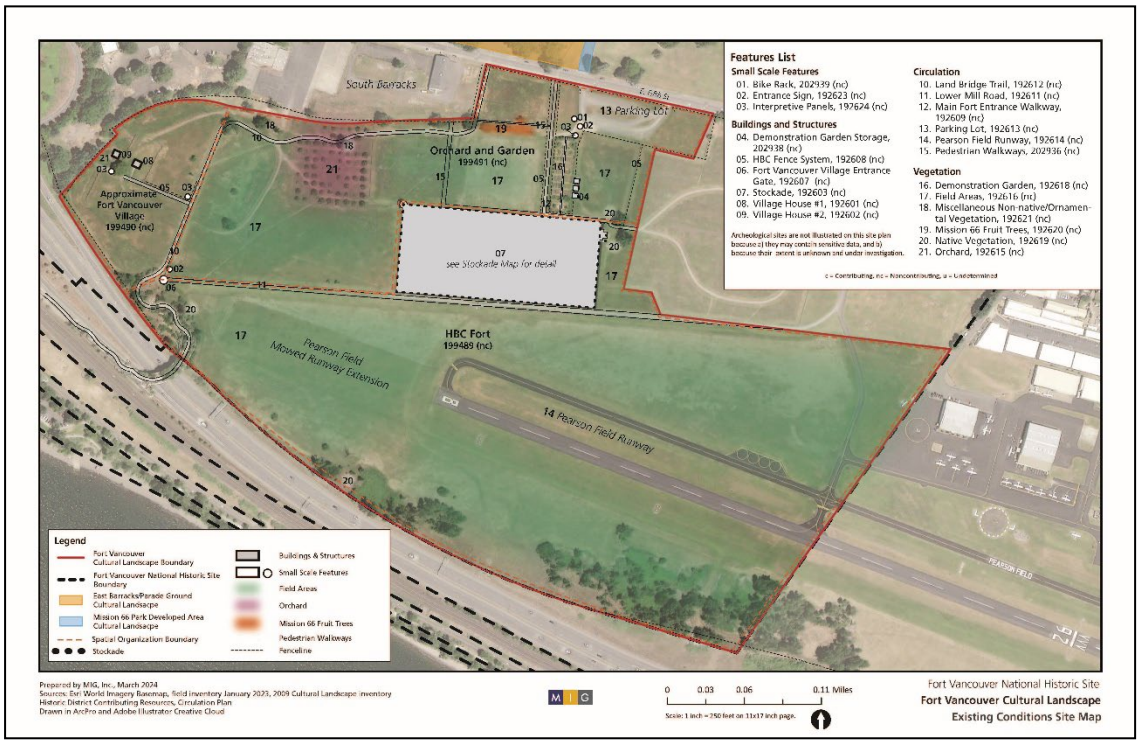

Figure 1. Site Plan - Fort Vancouver Cultural Landscape and surrounding context, including land bridge and Pearson Field. (MIG 2024)

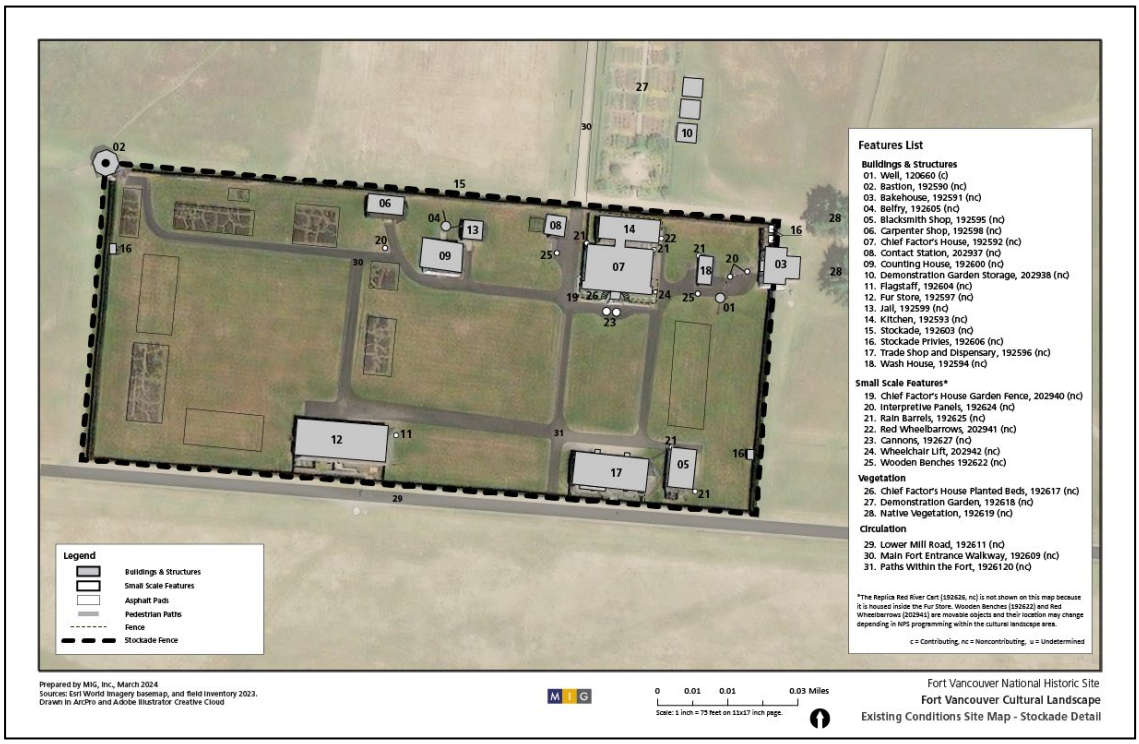

Figure 2. Detail of Fort Vancouver Stockade, also known as the HBC Fort, within the Fort Vancouver Cultural landscape site plan. (MIG 2024)

Other Names

Name	Type
Fort Vancouver	Both Current and Historic
Hudson's Bay Company Fort	Both Current and Historic
Fort Vancouver National Historic Site	Current

Concurrence Information

Park Superintendent Concurrence

Yes

Park Superintendent Concurrence Date

09/23/2009

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative

The Fort Vancouver CLI was originally completed in 2009 by Erica Owens and Cortney Cain of the National Park Service's Pacific West Regional Office and certified by the Superintendent in September of that year. It was updated in 2024 by MIG (Laurie Matthews, Eleanor Cox, and Emma-Quin Smith.)

Revisions

Revised By

Laurie Matthews, Eleanor Cox, Emma-Quin Smith

Type of Revision

Addition/Deletion of Landscape Characteristic or Contributing Feature

Change in Condition

Other

Revision Concurrence Date

09/05/2024

Revision Concurrence

State Historic Preservation Officer

Revision Explanatory Narrative

Revisions made in the 2024 CLI update included verification of existing conditions in the field, incorporating changes to the existing conditions into the analysis and evaluation section of this CLI, conducting additional limited research to support landscape feature analysis, and updating the condition assessment impacts. Updated site plans were created to reflect the existing conditions and contributing features.

Geographic Information

Area (Acres)

88.00 acres

Boundary Description

The boundary begins at the northwestern corner of the overflow parking lot for the fort reconstruction and East 5th Street. It follows the fence line around the overflow parking lot, turns south, following a fence line along the western edge of the Spruce Mill Trail field. The boundary makes a small jog east and then south, following a fence line, until it meets the historic alignment of Lower Mill Road. The boundary then turns northeast, following the northern edge of the Lower Mill Road alignment until it reaches the eastern park boundary. The boundary then turns southwest, along the park boundary, until it reaches Highway 14. It turns west and parallels the northern edge of Highway 14, until it meets the western park boundary. From here, the boundary follows the current NPS ownership boundary, curving north and east and turning north again until it meets East 5th Street. The boundary then follows the southern edge of East 5th Street to its point of origin.

The boundary is drawn to incorporate those portions of the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site that are owned by the NPS and are actively managed to reconstruct the HBC-era of development. The NPS-owned portion of the Pearson Field is also included within the boundary. An agreement exists between NPS and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to maintain the agricultural feel of the fort's setting by minimizing the mowing around the runway, keeping the grass long much of the year. The longer grasses help to disguise the runway from a distance and blend the field into the other fields surrounding the fort.

Latitude/Longitude

Geometry	Latitude	Longitude	GeoDatum	Elevation (Meters)	Position Source	Position Accuracy
Area	45.6244865489034	-122.659878260664	1983 NAD		GPS-Differentially Corrected	Not Avail

Area	45.6239915059916	-122.659881254256	1983 NAD		GPS-Differentially Corrected	Not Avail
Area	45.6239940996247	-122.660753535519	1983 NAD		GPS-Differentially Corrected	Not Avail
Area	45.6225719759823	-122.660762112806	1983 NAD		GPS-Differentially Corrected	Not Avail
Area	45.622615264353	-122.660184610548	1983 NAD		GPS-Differentially Corrected	Not Avail
Area	45.6224164837255	-122.65992926072	1983 NAD		GPS-Differentially Corrected	Not Avail
Area	45.6226921386686	-122.655797107127	1983 NAD		GPS-Differentially Corrected	Not Avail
Area	45.6191609960339	-122.657871000636	1983 NAD		GPS-Differentially Corrected	Not Avail
Area	45.6199438452351	-122.663856435629	1983 NAD		GPS-Differentially Corrected	Not Avail
Area	45.6222175425821	-122.668807087254	1983 NAD		GPS-Differentially Corrected	Not Avail
Area	45.6233309593147	-122.667876933644	1983 NAD		GPS-Differentially Corrected	Not Avail
Area	45.6236216622921	-122.665707317013	1983 NAD		GPS-Differentially Corrected	Not Avail
Area	45.6239114168511	-122.663229814555	1983 NAD		GPS-Differentially Corrected	Not Avail

Area	45.6244694654222	-122.663226473187	1983 NAD		GPS-Differentially Corrected	Not Avail

Regional Landscape Contexts and Narratives

Physiographic

Fort Vancouver is located within the physiographic zone of the Portland/Vancouver Basin, the northern most section of the Willamette Valley lowlands, a narrow area between the Klamath Mountains to the south, the Coast Range to the west, and the Cascade Mountains to the east and north. This landscape is associated with mixed coniferous/deciduous forests and interspersed with large clearings of prairie terraces. Fort Vancouver National Historic Site occupies a series of broad, relatively flat river terraces above the north bank of the Columbia River—within an area that formerly contained native prairie.

Cultural

Fort Vancouver was initially established in 1824 by Hudson's Bay Company to support Great Britain's interests in expanding trade opportunities in North America. It also supported the expansion of settlement by people emigrating to this region from eastern North America and Europe. Following the cessation of Hudson's Bay Company's presence in 1860, the US Army took over ownership and development of the site, which supported many different uses through multiple war efforts. Following the establishment of the National Historic Site, efforts to reconstruct began in the 1960s and continue to this day. The reconstructed fort reflects what is known about the site at the time of its zenith in 1845. It provides numerous interpretive and educational opportunities for visitors to the park.

Political

Fort Vancouver is located within Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, located in Vancouver, Washington which is in Clark County. Fort Vancouver National Historic Site encompasses a complex and multi-layered history of the Pacific Northwest. It includes landscapes developed by the Hudson's Bay Company, the US Army, and the NPS. Fort Vancouver is owned by the NPS.

Regional Landscape Context

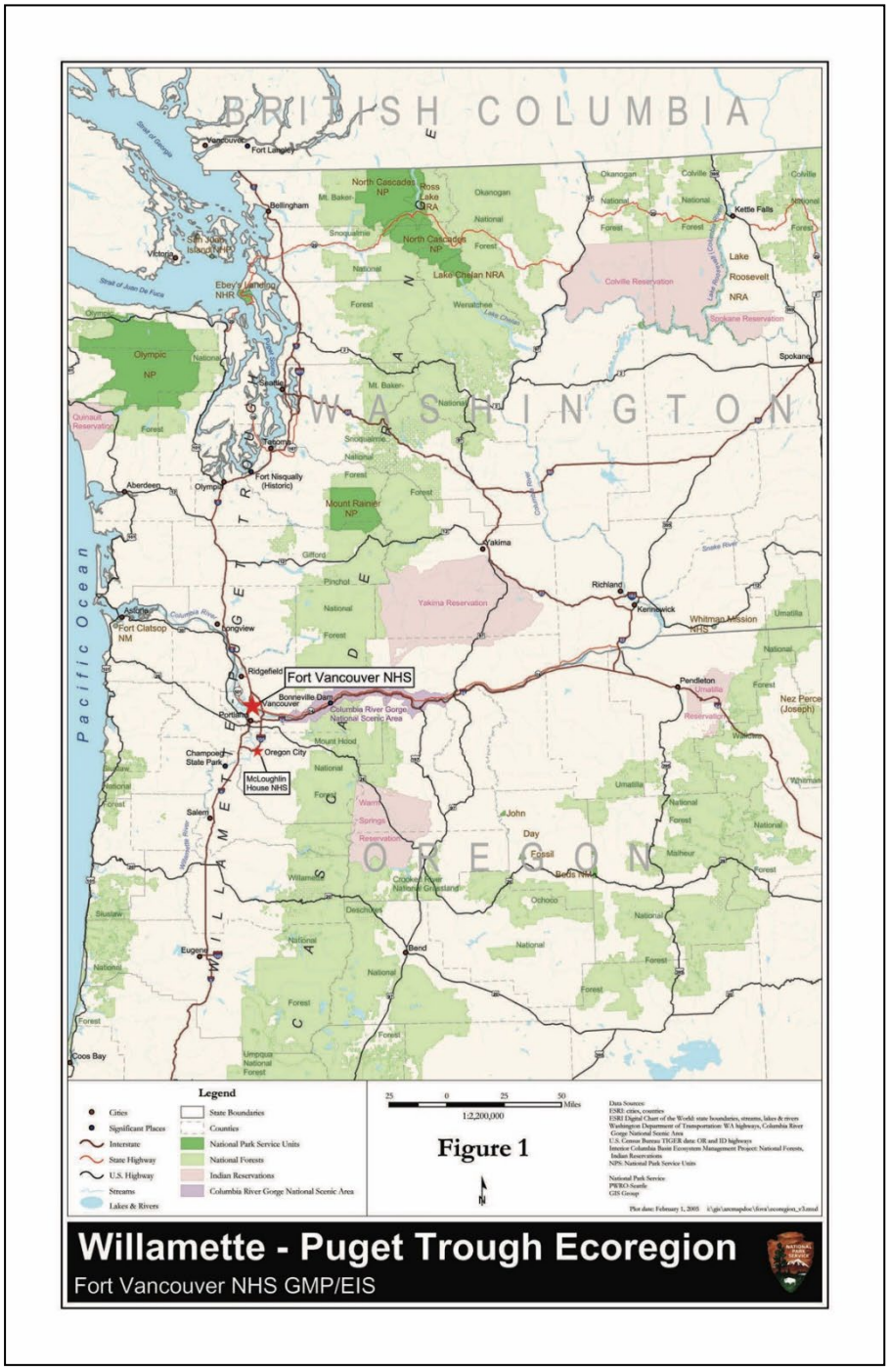

Figure 3. Map of the Willamette – Puget Trough Ecoregion showing the location of Fort Vancouver NHS within that region, including its location within the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area, and its relationship to the Coast Range, Cascades Range, and Columbia River watershed. (General Management Plan 2003)

Location Map Graphic Information

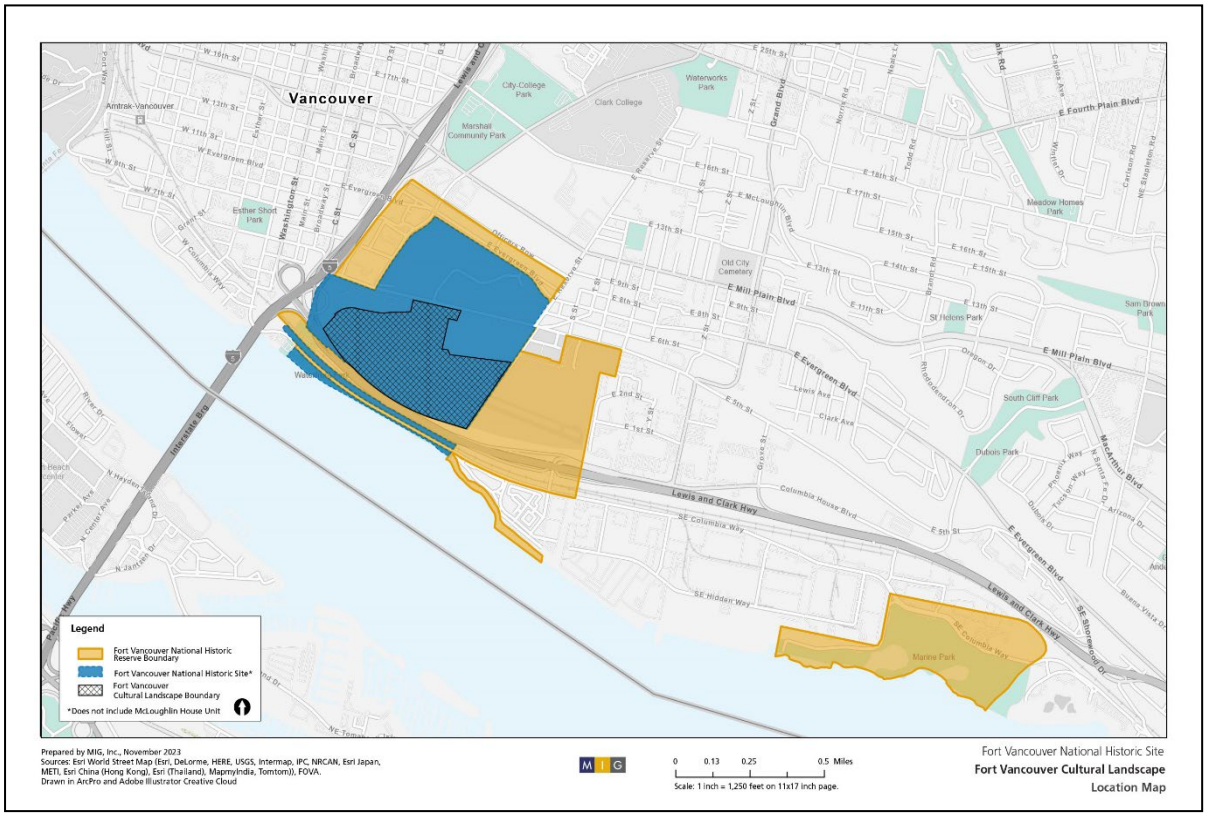

Figure 4. The Fort Vancouver cultural landscape is in the southern portion of the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and is denoted by the crosshatched area on the map. The blue area is the National Historic Site, and the yellow area is the Fort Vancouver Historic Reserve. (MIG 2023)

State and County

State

Washington

County

Clark

Management Information

Management Category

Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date

08/01/2009

Management Category Explanatory Narrative

Fort Vancouver meets the following criteria: the preservation of the landscape is specifically legislated, and the landscape is related to the park's legislated significance. Fort Vancouver National Historic Site was established on June 19, 1948. The Department of the Interior report on its legislation stated that the lands so dedicated should fulfill "two essential requirements – the preservation of the historic stockade …and the preservation of the historic parade ground of the later United States Army Post"[1] The 2003 General Management Plan established management zones within Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. Fort Vancouver is located within the "historic zone," which recommends cultural landscapes be restored.[2]

Management Agreements

Management Agreement	Other Management Agreement	Management Agreement Expiration Date	Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative
Lease		04/01/2011-03/31/2051	The City of Vancouver has a 40-year lease for the NPS-owned portion of Pearson Field that will expire in 2051

Legal Interests

Legal Interest Type	Fee Simple Reservation Expiration Date	Other Organization/Agency	Legal Interest Narrative
Fee Simple			

[1] General Management Plan 2003
[2] General Management Plan 2003

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?

Yes – Adjacent lands do contribute.

Narrative

Resources associated with the HBC-era of development at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site are located outside the boundaries of the Fort Vancouver cultural landscape. They include archeological sites for the St. James Mission and the HBC cemetery, and the site of the Old Apple Tree where a ca 1827 seedling grew within the Fort Vancouver village and survived the occupation of the site by the US Army and the construction of and expansion of Interstate 5. The old apple tree was cloned and used to propagate the orchard reconstruction within the Fort Vancouver cultural landscape. The strategic siting of the Fort on the north bank of the Columbia River also contributes to the cultural landscape.

Uses Information

Functions and Uses

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic Use	Current Use	Primary Use
Agriculture/Subsistence	Agricultural Field	Agricultural Field	Yes	No	No
Commerce/Trade	Commerce/Trade-Other	Commerce/Trade-Other	Yes	No	Yes
Defense	Fortification	Fortification-Other	Yes	No	No
Domestic (Residential)	Village Site	Village Site	Yes	No	No
Recreation/Culture	Museum (Exhibition Hall)	Exhibit	No	Yes	Yes

Public Access

Public Access

Other Restrictions

Public Access Narrative

The reconstructed fort is open to visitors during business hours, but the surrounding agricultural landscape is open at all hours of the day throughout the year.

Associated Ethnographic Groups

Ethnographic Study Status

Yes – Restricted Information

Ethnographic Narrative

The landscape of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is associated with over three dozen Tribes and indigenous groups. The park's consulting parties are listed below in alphabetical order.[3]

Ethnographic Groups

Ethnographic Group	Type
Burns Paiute Tribe	Both Current and Historic
Cayuga Nation	Both Current and Historic
The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation	Both Current and Historic
Coeur D'Alene Tribe of the Coeur D'Alene Reservation	Both Current and Historic
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	Both Current and Historic
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians	Both Current and Historic
Coquille Indian Tribe	Both Current and Historic
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	Both Current and Historic
Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Both Current and Historic
Chippewa-Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy's Reservation (MT)	Both Current and Historic
Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde	Both Current and Historic
Office of Hawaiian Affairs	Both Current and Historic
Ka Aha Lahui O 'Olekona Hawaiian Civic Club of Oregon and Southwest Washington (KALO HCC)	Both Current and Historic
Kalispel Indian Community of the Kalispel Reservation	Both Current and Historic

[3] List provided by Fort Vancouver National Historic Site in 2023.

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe	Both Current and Historic
Nez Perce Tribe	Both Current and Historic
Nisqually Indian Tribe	Both Current and Historic
Fort Bidwell Indian Community of the Fort Bidwell Reservation of California	Both Current and Historic
Pit River Tribe	Both Current and Historic
Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation	Both Current and Historic
Oneida Indian Nation	Both Current and Historic
Onondaga Nation	Both Current and Historic
Quinault Indian Nation	Both Current and Historic
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	Both Current and Historic
Seneca Nation of Indians	Both Current and Historic
Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe of the Shoalwater Bay Indian Reservation	Both Current and Historic
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation	Both Current and Historic
Confederated Tribes of Siletz	Both Current and Historic
Skokomish Tribal Nation	Both Current and Historic
Spokane Tribe of Indians	Both Current and Historic
Tonawanda Band of Seneca Indians	Both Current and Historic
The Tulalip Tribes of Washington	Both Current and Historic
Tuscarora Nation	Both Current and Historic
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Both Current and Historic
The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	Both Current and Historic

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Both Current and Historic

National Register Information

Documentation Status

Keeper – Documented

Documentation Narrative Description

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site was listed in the National Register in 1966 for its archeological resources associated with Hudson's Bay Company occupation of the site. Since the 1960s, Fort Vancouver has been incrementally reconstructed per Congressional legislation, using the best scientific and professional procedures available, following the guidelines established by the park's earlier master plans from 1969, 1975, and 1978 and the 2003 General Management Plan. In 2007, a National Register nomination was prepared for the Vancouver National Historic Reserve Historic District that included and adequately described the reconstruction. All buildings and structures associated with the reconstruction are non-contributors to the district because they are reconstructed and were less than 50 years old at the time of evaluation, except for one contributing historic well located within the stockade. The NPS manages the reconstructions as cultural resources in accordance with the park's General Management Plan (2003).

Concurrence Eligibility

Status

Ineligible – Noncontributing

Date

01/05/2007

Narrative

In 2007, the resources associated with the Fort Vancouver reconstruction were determined as non-contributors to the Vancouver National Historic District, except for one contributing historic well. This CLI is consistent with the findings of the 2007 nomination.

National Register Significance Level

National

National Register Significance -- Contributing/Individual

Contributing

National Register Classification

District

Statement of Significance

BACKGROUND

Fort Vancouver is a cultural landscape within Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS). The National Historic Site was administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1966 for its association with the Hudson's Bay Company. Fort Vancouver and the National Historic Site are part of a larger reserve called the Vancouver National Historic Reserve (VNHR), which encompasses lands owned and managed by multiple government agencies. In 2007, the VNHR Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its association with pre-historic Native American, Hudson's Bay Company (HBC), US Army, and National Park Service occupation and developments, and archeological resources. The period of significance for the VNHR is broad, spanning from 2500 BCE to 1966 CE. As part of the VNHR nomination, the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site's HBC resources are listed under criterion A for their association with the company's occupation and activities in the area and under criterion D for archeological resources dating to the HBC era. The Fort Vancouver reconstruction (1966 to present) was found ineligible for listing in the National Register due to its status as a reconstruction and its age of less than 50 years old. However, the park manages it as a cultural resource in accordance with its 2003 General Management Plan.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fort Vancouver cultural landscape is managed to reflect the Hudson's Bay Company era of occupation of the area. The VNHR historic district was determined eligible under criteria A and D, for its association with the Hudson's Bay Company's primary and administrative trading post in the Northwest that influenced the settlement of the region. The period of significance for the HBC, as established by the 2007 National Register Nomination, is 1824-1860, beginning when the Hudson's Bay Company established its first settlement in the area in 1824 and ending in 1860 because of the occupation of the site by the US Army. Archeological investigations regarding the site began in the 1940s and reconstruction efforts began in in the 1966.

CRITERION A

The character of the HBC Fort Vancouver is significant under Criterion A for its association with the HBC establishment of agriculture, commerce, education, exploration/settlement, industry, and politics/government in the Pacific Northwest, as summarized in the 2007 VNHR Historic District National Register Nomination:

Established on the north bank of the Columbia River in the winter of 1824-25 (and moved to its final location in 1829), Fort Vancouver played a significant role in Great Britain's attempt to establish or maintain control of the resources of the Pacific Northwest in the early 1800s. Fort Vancouver became the chief administrative headquarters and the principal supply depot of the Columbia Department of the HBC and within a decade was the hub of all the HBC activities west of the Rocky Mountains, including international trade. In the 1830s, Fort Vancouver became the initial destination of missionaries and American settlers, all of whom received material assistance from the HBC in the form of agricultural tools, seed, and livestock. The post was the first area in the Northwest to develop many elements typical of European settlements, such as large-scale agriculture (including the first wheat grown in the region), a formal garden, large-scale orchards, mills, and the region's first school.

The settlement of the area by the HBC began in late 1824 and was moved to the current Fort reconstruction site in 1829. The 1829 development resulted in a variety of improvements associated with trading, farming, timber harvesting, salmon fishing, shipbuilding, blacksmithing, and coopering operations designed to make the Fort self-sustaining and expand the economic base of the parent company. Facilities developed to support the trading establishment, primarily the stockade and the Fort buildings, were concentrated on the lower open terrace above the north bank of the Columbia River. At the height of the HBC development in 1846, agricultural fields, buildings, and structures surrounded the stockade and extended to the east, north, and west.

During this period of development, the HBC and the US Army shared occupancy of the site. Although each entity confined its activities to specific areas, there was some overlap in use, with the US Army leasing buildings from the HBC in the Fort Vancouver Village (or employee village) and within the stockade (for example, the Fur Store was leased in 1849). In 1860, the HBC abandoned their Fort, leaving the US Army to take possession of the entire site.

CRITERION D

The historic site is nationally significant under Criterion D for archeological sites that have revealed significant historic information and potential to yield further information regarding the HBC activities, as summarized in the 2007 VNHR Historic District National Register Nomination:

Since initial archeological investigations in 1947, archeological sites have yielded, and continue to yield, important information about the events, processes, design and construction methods, settlement patterns and lifestyles of the HBC in general, both within the stockade and at adjacent areas such as the Fort Vancouver Village, St. James Mission, school houses, barns, cemetery, orchard, roads, and agricultural fields. Several known archeological sites are associated with the HBC era, with the potential to find more.

It is fair to state that many of the HBC archeological deposits within the historic district boundaries represent the premier historical archeological deposits in the Pacific Northwest. Altogether, the combined years of archeological research at Fort Vancouver and its associated sites has resulted in the creation of the world's largest 1800s HBC archeological collection, with over one million HBC-era catalogued artifacts. This collection is housed on site at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, where it is utilized and accessed by archeologists and researchers as a regional database and type collection of circa 1829-1860 Euro-American material culture. Specific artifact types, such as glass beads, sherds of Spode/Copeland & Garrett transfer-printed whiteware ceramics, and English hand wrought rosette head nails, have been utilized by regional and national researchers as chronological markers at sites from California to Alaska, and from Hawai'i to Montana. This collection has also been utilized in developing archeological analysis techniques used nationwide such as the dating of window glass sherds through mean thickness data. The intact nature of archeological deposits within the Fort, the Fort Vancouver Village, and its associated locations, combined with natural and cultural sediment deposits make these sites ideal training grounds for future archeological students.

The HBC archeological deposits within the historic district boundary have research potential for answering several specific research questions. A large part of the story that these artifacts tell is

their association with the first industrial revolution in England, and what these artifacts can tell us about the transition between hand-made and industrially manufactured goods. In association with this is the fact that the HBC was a royal chartered company and played a part in the expansion and dominion of the British. These artifacts also speak to those associations. Tied up with the British and its Victorian ideals, Fort Vancouver and its associated village, the Fort Vancouver Village, are a perfect place to test research questions concerning the interplay between gender, ethnicity, socio-economic ability, and social class. It is fair to compare Fort Vancouver as a gated community, with the residents within the stockade wall termed and treated as "Gentlemen" of the company, while those who lived in the Fort Vancouver Village were classified as "servants" of the Company. These historical realizations are only now being archeologically tested, with artifact assemblages from spatially segregated households inside and outside of the Fort. With a large database of historical records indicating earning potential being tied to gender, place of birth, and social class in general, that is tied to specific households and earning potential, it is possible to use the archeological data between Fort Vancouver and the Fort Vancouver Village in ways that few other 1800s locations can provide. Finally, the HBC archeological deposits at Fort Vancouver and the Fort Vancouver Village has tremendous potential to explore a variety of behaviors, such as consumer choice, household demographics, economic ability, social organization, and reactions to global politics.

FORT RECONSTRUCTION: MANAGED AS A CULTURAL RESOURCE

Since the 1960s, Fort Vancouver has been incrementally reconstructed, using the best scientific and professional procedures available at the time, and following the guidelines established by the park's master plans from 1969, 1975, and 1978 and the more recent 2003 GMP. Careful attention was paid to location, size, massing, and materials during the reconstruction efforts. The archeological sites, reconstructions, and setting convey the HBC's historic development related to agriculture, architecture, commerce, education, exploration/settlement, government/politics, and industry. The Fort Vancouver reconstruction consists of the stockade, 11 buildings, flagstaff, belfry, restored well, the employee village entrance gate, Lower Mill Road to the employee village, two employee houses, an orchard, and demonstration garden.

The buildings and other features associated that were reconstructed were found ineligible for listing in the National Register because they were built after the period of significance. The

reconstruction was also less than 50 years old at the time of evaluation. It is therefore considered non-contributing to the VNHR historic district. Although the Fort Vancouver reconstruction itself was found ineligible for the National Register, the park manages it as a cultural resource as documented in the park's General Management Plan (2003).

In the earliest NPS planning for the site, Fort Vancouver was considered primarily as an archeological site and reconstruction was not a preferred treatment. The focus was on further archeological investigations and planned for a museum to be perched on the bluff above the Fort that would utilize artifacts recovered from the site to interpret the HBC era. The local community, however, continued to lobby for reconstruction, initially by supporting the re-designation of the monument as a National Historic Site. Such a designation, it was believed, would encourage NPS to interpret and develop the area under the authorities of the Historic Sites Act of 1935.

The National Park Service's Management Policies 2001 reaffirm a long-standing position on the practice of reconstruction within National Park Service sites. The policies (Reconstruction of Obliterated Landscapes 5.3.5.2.4) state:

> *"No matter how well conceived or executed, reconstructions are contemporary interpretations of the past, rather than authentic survivals from it. The National Park Service will not reconstruct an obliterated cultural landscape unless:*
> *- There is no alternative that would accomplish the park's interpretive mission;*
> *- Sufficient data exist to enable its accurate reconstruction, based on the duplication of historic features substantiated by documentary or physical evidence, rather than on conjectural designs or features from other landscapes;*
> *- Reconstruction will occur in the original location;*
> *- The disturbance or loss of significant archaeological resources is minimized and mitigated by data recovery; and*
> *- Reconstruction is approved by the Director."*
> (National Park Service 2001, 56, quoted in the GMP)

Ultimately, congressional action determined that the reconstruction of the stockade and key structures would proceed. In 1965, with the approval of NPS Director Hartzog, Washington state

Congresswoman Julia Butler Hansen arranged for an appropriation of $83,000 to reconstruct a portion of the stockade. In subsequent years, through the continued efforts of Congresswoman Hansen, Congress funded an extensive program of archeological research and reconstruction. NPS plans reversed their initial course and cautiously endorsed reconstruction based on sound research and archeological investigations and a clear identification of any resultant structures as "replicas." The 1969 Master Plan prepared by the park outlined reconstruction of the stockade and key structures to support "living history" interpretation (a keen interest of Director Hartzog), fields, pasture, and the "original surrounding forest environment."

All future reconstruction at Fort Vancouver will continue to adhere strictly to the historical and archeological research requirements of NPS Management Policies 2001, as cited above. The park will continue to work with qualified professionals, as well as build its own professional capabilities, to support these requirements. Guidelines will be developed to identify, justify, and prioritize future reconstructions, based on research, educational, and interpretive goals.

National Register Significance Criteria

Criterion A: Event

Criterion D: Information Potential

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes)

Start Year/Era and End Year/Era	Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet
CE 1824 - CE 1860	Developing the American Economy	The Fur Trade	Hudson's Bay Company and The Northwest Coast Fur Trade
CE 1824 - CE 1860	Peopling Places	Westward Expansion of the Colonies and the United States, 1763-1898	The Fur Trade
CE 1824 - CE 1860	Shaping the Political Landscape	Other Shaping the Political Landscape	Other Shaping the Political Landscape

National Register Areas of Significance

Category	Subcategory (only for Archeology and Ethnic Heritage)	Narrative
Agriculture		
Archeology*	Historic-Non-Aboriginal	
Commerce		
Education		
Exploration/Settlement		
Industry		

National Historic Landmark

Status

No

World Heritage Site

Status

No

National Natural Landmark

Status

No

NRIS Information (with Other Certifications)

NRIS Name

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

NRIS ID

66000370

Other Name

Vancouver National Historic Reserve

Primary Certification Date

01/15/2007

State Register Documentation

Identification Number

CL058

Name

Vancouver National Historic Reserve Historic District

Listed Date

06/24/2004

Narrative

Fort Vancouver is a cultural landscape located within the boundaries of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve Historic District.

Chronology & Physical History

Chronology

Start Year	Start Era	End Year	End Era	Major Event	Major Event Description
1824	CE	1825	CE	Settled	The first HBC fort was built one mile east of the current Fort reconstruction, outside of the current park boundary.
1829	CE	1829	CE	Built	The second, and final, HBC Fort was constructed at the current fort reconstruction site.
1829	CE	1829	CE	Built	Circa 1829, the HBC flagstaff was constructed.
1829	CE	1846	CE	Cultivated	Farm production grew steadily at Fort Vancouver from 120 cultivated acres in 1829 to 1,420 acres in 1846.
1830	CE	1839	CE	Built	Circa 1830s, the Fort Vancouver Village entrance road (or Lower Mill Road) from the main (southern) entrance of the fort stockade to the waterfront and the cultivated fields was constructed.
1830	CE	1839	CE	Built	A gate at the western end of the Lower Mill Road, near the Fort Vancouver Village, was constructed, circa 1830s.
1832	CE	1832	CE	Established	The HBC school was established.
1834	CE	1834	CE	Planted	Although the HBC planted their first apple trees at Fort Vancouver as early as 1826 or 1827, direct historical evidence of a formal orchard is not recorded until circa 1834.
1835	CE	1835	CE	Built	The HBC belfry was constructed, circa 1835.
1836	CE	1841	CE	Built	The HBC blacksmith shop was constructed.
1836	CE	1841	CE	Built	The HBC trade shop was constructed.
1837	CE	1838	CE	Built	The HBC kitchen was constructed.

1837	CE	1838	CE	Built	The HBC Chief Factor`s house was constructed.
1839	CE	1839	CE	Ranched/Grazed	Over eight hundred head of cattle were grazed in Fort Vancouver pastures.
1840	CE	1840	CE	Built	The HBC wash house was constructed, circa 1840.
1841	CE	1841	CE	Built	The HBC fur store was constructed.
1841	CE	1844	CE	Built	The HBC jail was constructed.
1843	CE	1843	CE	Settled	By this time, over 1,000 American settlers had established themselves in the Willamette Valley and the economic base began to shift from Fort Vancouver to the valley settlements.
1843	CE	1843	CE	Established	The settlers of Willamette Valley voted to form a provisional government.
1844	CE	1844	CE	Built	The HBC bake house was constructed.
1844	CE	1845	CE	Built	The HBC carpenter shop was constructed.
1844	CE	1860	CE	Settled	Kanaka William, an influential religious leader, settled in the Fort Vancouver village.
1845	CE	1845	CE	Planted	The HBC orchard was planted.
1845	CE	1846	CE	Built	St. James Catholic Mission was built beyond the confines of the stockade (and outside today's park boundaries).
1845	CE	1845	CE	Built	The HBC bastion was constructed, circa 1845.
1845	CE	1845	CE	Built	The HBC well was constructed, circa 1845, the only remaining built feature that exists today from the HBC era.
1845	CE	1845	CE	Developed	The height of the HBC development had been reached at the Fort.
1846	CE	1846	CE	Established	The Treaty of Oregon was signed, which established the boundary between Great Britain`s territory and the US at the 49th parallel.

1846	CE	1846	CE	Established	By this year, a system of wagon roads had been developed that emanated from the Fort to connect to the Columbia River, the Fort Vancouver village, and agricultural fields.
1846	CE	1846	CE	Ranched/Grazed	1,915 cattle were present within Fort Vancouver`s boundaries.
1849	CE	1849	CE	Established	The US Army occupied a portion of the lands claimed by the HBC, where they established Camp Vancouver.
1849	CE	1849	CE	Moved	The HBC moved its main depot from Fort Vancouver to Fort Victoria in British Columbia.
1849	CE	1849	CE	Established	The US Army established the Vancouver Barracks to defend settlement of the Oregon Territory.
1860	CE	1860	CE	Abandoned	The HBC abandoned Fort Vancouver, leaving the US Army to take possession of the entire site.
1860	CE	1860	CE	Demolished	The US Army removed all but a few houses in the Fort Vancouver village and most of the HBC structures near the river.
1866	CE	1866	CE	Destroyed	Remaining structures and stockade walls of Fort Vancouver burn to the ground in a mysterious fire.
1879	CE	1879	CE	Established	Fort Vancouver was officially renamed Vancouver Barracks by the US Army.
1908	CE	1908	CE	Built	The Spokane, Portland, and Seattle Railway berm (now Burlington Northern Railroad) was constructed to the south of the Fort along the Columbia River, creating a physical and visual barrier between the Fort and river.
1917	CE	1918	CE	Built	The US Army constructed and operated the Spruce Mill to supply lumber for airplanes during World War I. A large portion of the fields previously occupied by the HBC were developed into a mill. A railroad spur from the main railway into the site was constructed to transport materials.

1923	CE	1941	CE	Built	Pearson Field was developed by the US Army Air Service in the general area of the Fort. In 1925, the US Army removed Spruce Mill buildings to make room for a new runway at Pearson Field. The airfield was then transferred to the City of Vancouver.
1936	CE	1936	CE	Built	By 1936, approximately 16 buildings were constructed in the general proximity of the Fort Vancouver Village for the headquarters of the Ninth Corps of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Most buildings were removed by 1966.
1941	CE	1945	CE	Built	In the early 1940s, Highway 14 was constructed paralleling the north side of the railroad berm, creating another barrier between the Fort and the Columbia River.
1947	CE	1947	CE	Excavated	Initial archeological investigations began at the HBC site.
1948	CE	1948	CE	Established	An Act of Congress authorized Fort Vancouver National Monument.
1950	CE	1959	CE	Removed	The US Army removed the Spruce Mill railroad spur built in 1918.
1952	CE	1954	CE	Built	In the 1950s, I-5 was expanded along the western boundary of the current day Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, bisecting roads that historically connected to downtown Vancouver, such as East Fifth Street.
1961	CE	1962	CE	Planted	An interpretive orchard was planted by the NPS under the Mission 66 initiative, but was not sited in its historic location.
1961	CE	1961	CE	Established	The Fort was redesignated as a National Historic Site.
1966	CE	1973	CE	Reconstructed	The HBC stockade was reconstructed.
1966	CE	1966	CE	Removed	By this year, most of the CCC-era buildings were removed. Only a few remain extant within the park.

1972	CE	1972	CE	Altered	The western portion of Pearson Field was purchased by the NPS from the City of Vancouver. The runway was modified to allow the HBC reconstructions. The city has a 40-year lease (ending in 2051) for the NPS-owned portion of the field.
1972	CE	1972	CE	Reconstructed	The HBC bastion was reconstructed.
1974	CE	1974	CE	Reconstructed	The HBC bake house was reconstructed.
1976	CE	1976	CE	Reconstructed	The HBC Chief Factor's house, kitchen, and wash house were reconstructed.
1976	CE	1976	CE	Built	An NPS contact station was constructed inside the fort entrance.
1980	CE	1989	CE	Altered	In the 1980s, Highway 14 was realigned to accommodate a new clover leaf on-ramp to I-5.
1981	CE	1981	CE	Reconstructed	The HBC blacksmith shop and trade shop were reconstructed.
1992	CE	1994	CE	Reconstructed	The HBC fur store was reconstructed.
1994	CE	1994	CE	Reconstructed	The HBC belfry was reconstructed.
1995	CE	1995	CE	Reconstructed	The HBC flagstaff was reconstructed.
1997	CE	1997	CE	Reconstructed	The HBC carpenter shop was reconstructed.
2001	CE	2001	CE	Reconstructed	The Lower Mill Road between the Fort Vancouver village and southern fort entrance was demarcated with fence lines and entrance gate constructed at the western end of the road's alignment.
2001	CE	2001	CE	Reconstructed	The HBC well sweep was reconstructed. The underground stone lining of the well is the only original structure remaining within the HBC stockade.
2001	CE	2001	CE	Reconstructed	The HBC jail was reconstructed.
2003	CE	2003	CE	Reconstructed	The HBC counting house/new office was reconstructed.

2003	CE	2003	CE	Reconstructed	A second orchard was planted in a historically accurate location with historically appropriate apple tree species.
2004	CE	2009	CE	Removed	Apple trees from the Mission 66 era orchard were removed due to disease, leaving only a few pear and cherry trees.
2007	CE	2007	CE	Reconstructed	The Fort Vancouver Village House #1 was reconstructed.
2007	CE	2007	CE	Built	The land bridge over Highway 14 and access trail through the Fort Vancouver Village was completed.
2007	CE	2009	CE	Altered	Walkways and paths throughout the fort stockade and garden were surfaced with decomposed granite.
2009	CE	2009	CE	Reconstructed	The Fort Vancouver Village House #2 was reconstructed.

Physical History

The following section provides information on the physical development and evolution of the site, organized by time periods. It is excerpted from the 2007 National Register Nomination for the Vancouver National Historic Reserve Historic District.

PREHISTORIC/CONTACT NATIVE AMERICAN ERA, 500 CE-1824 BCE

Indigenous peoples lived and interacted with the Columbia River landscape in and around the current Fort Vancouver National Historic Site for thousands of generations prior to the establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company post in 1824. Based on archeological, ethnohistorical, ethnobotanical, and the oral traditions of many of the region's Indigenous people, the lower Columbia River area supported a diverse and thriving pre-contact population. Prior to the onslaught of introduced diseases, Indigenous populations in the area were some of the highest in the Pacific Northwest with permanent village sites located at numerous key locations from the mouth of the Columbia all the way into the lower Columbia River Gorge area.

The traditional lifeways of the region's Indigenous peoples were intrinsically linked to the Columbia and its major tributaries. The area supported an abundance of seasonally reliable resources that were utilized by Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. The rivers provided fish, eel, and other important aquatic resources. The adjoining riparian and upland environments provided other necessary food and fiber resources. The spiritual, cultural, and economic lifeways developed and maintained by the original inhabitants of the area were reflective of this diversity and abundance of resources.

The Columbia and its tributaries uniquely positioned the lower Columbia River people as arbiters of a vast pre-contact trade network with goods moving between the Pacific Coast on the west all the way to the Rocky Mountains on the east. Likewise, similar trade networks bringing valuable resources and goods from the north and south contributed to the importance of the area. These pre-contact trade systems relied heavily on the river corridors as transportation networks for the movement and exchange of goods.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY FORT VANCOUVER ERA, 1824-1860

Establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Vancouver

The published journal of Captain James Cook's voyages to the Pacific Northwest sparked a European and American race to the Pacific coast of North America to exploit the vast fur riches and the developing Chinese market for these furs. Among the earliest of these new adventurers were a former lieutenant in the British Navy, John Meares, and an English trader named William Douglas. Under the flags of England and Portugal, Meares and Douglas established a post at Nootka, Alaska in 1788, which was later challenged by Spanish naval forces. Later that year, Americans Robert Gray and John Kendrick, financed by a Boston syndicate interested in the fur trade, arrived in Northwest waters. In 1792, Gray passed through the entrance to a great river, which he named for his vessel, the Columbia. During this same year, George Vancouver discovered and explored Puget Sound in what is now Washington State. Following Lewis and Clark's 1804-1806 overland expedition to the Pacific, American John Jacob Astor organized the Pacific Fur Company. In 1811, this firm established a fur trading post near the mouth of the Columbia River, Fort Astoria, later followed by other posts in the region. The Pacific Fur Company operated in competition with a Canadian firm, the North West Company, a powerful fur trading firm based in Montreal.

Thus began a long contest of ownership for the Oregon Country, bounded by the Spanish territories to the south, the Rocky Mountains to the east, the Pacific Ocean to the west, and extending indefinitely to the north. The United States rested its claim on the voyages and discoveries of Robert Gray. Great Britain's interests were based on rights ceded by Spain after the Nootka controversy, on the expeditions of Vancouver and Meares, and on a 1793 overland trip made to the coast of British Columbia from Montreal by Alexander Mackenzie of the North West Company. In principle, both countries accepted the idea of partition yet disagreed over the location of the southern boundary, leaving in doubt the future ownership of the lands between the Columbia River and what is now the Canadian border.

On the east side of the Rockies during this period, the North West Company was engaged in a battle with its powerful rival, the Hudson's Bay Company. The latter firm had been established by a charter granted in 1670 by Great Britain's King Charles II to his cousin Prince Rupert and Rupert's associates. The contract included instructions to work for the discovery of the Northwest Passage and to find trade in furs and other commodities. It also conveyed ownership and a trade monopoly of a vast territory drained by the waters running into Hudson Bay in North America. In

March of 1821, the HBC and the North West Company merged. The charter and name of the HBC were retained, as was the organization of its London headquarters, which directed operations through a Governor and Committee. Under the union, North America was divided into two districts: the Northern Department of Rupert's Land, covering all country north of the boundary with the United States and west of the west shore of Hudson's Bay to the Pacific Ocean, including New Caledonia (now British Columbia); and the Southern Department of Rupert's Land, covering the territory east of the Northern Department's boundaries, including Lake Huron and Lake Superior. Each was to be managed by a governor appointed from London, and two councils, comprised of the HBC partners, field agents, and chief factors, who were generally responsible for districts within each department and who managed the posts or fur brigades.

George Simpson, a Scot in service with the HBC in North America, was appointed Governor of the Northern Department. In 1826, he was also appointed head of the Southern Department and, from that time on, effectively administered all the HBC's activities in North America. Governor Simpson's first visit to the Columbia River resulted in significant and far-reaching changes in the operations of the HBC's westernmost region. Most notably, he expanded the HBC operations into the Snake River Country, and south towards California, before a settlement of the boundary issue should close the rich fur-bearing region to the British; his intent was to strip the regions of their fur resources to discourage American business there. In addition, Simpson instituted rigorous economies, including a reduced reliance on imported foods, and was determined to develop an agricultural program that would not only supply the needs of the posts, but that would also become a profitable branch of the export trade.

In the fall of 1824, soon after his arrival at the mouth of the Columbia River in what is now Astoria, Oregon, Simpson ordered the abandonment of Fort George, an HBC post on the southern banks of the Columbia River, and the construction of Fort Vancouver on the north side of the Columbia. Land north of the river was in territory that was still possible for the British to hold and to which supplies for interior posts could be delivered directly from the sea, rather than overland. Fort Vancouver would provide a means of retaining land north of the Columbia River under British dominion. In the summer of 1824, Great Britain and the United States suspended boundary negotiations, which, while leaving the ultimate settlement of the dispute in doubt,

resulted in the HBC determination to exploit the trade potential in the Pacific Northwest and to reinforce Great Britain's claim to the territory in dispute, the area between the 49th parallel and the lower Columbia River.

Fort Vancouver was soon to become the HBC's administrative headquarters west of the Rocky Mountains and assured Great Britain's preeminence in the region for the next twenty years. From the post, a great network of fur trading posts in the Pacific Northwest Region was established, largely successful in beating back American competition for furs and trade. Ironically, it was also Fort Vancouver, under the aegis of its long-time administrator, Chief Factor John McLoughlin, that offered aid and assistance to an ever-increasing influx of American immigrants who would eventually overrun the region and lead to the establishment of the US-Canadian boundary at the 49th parallel.

Main Depot of the Columbia Department

Immediately after Simpson's return to Fort George, a party was dispatched to start construction of Fort Vancouver. A stockade was built about a mile from the riverbank on the bluff overlooking the river plain. On March 18, 1825, Simpson recorded in his journal: "The Fort is Well picketed covering a space of about 3/4ths of an acre and the buildings already completed are a Dwelling House, two good Stores an Indian Hall and temporary quarters for the people" Merk 1931, 124). It appears that the quarters for employees consisted of tents and structures made of other non-permanent materials: Botanist David Douglas, who arrived at the new post on a collecting trip for the Horticultural Society of London in April of 1825, was housed in a tent and, later, a bark hut near the river. Fur trapper Jedediah Smith, who arrived at the post at the end of 1828, noted the Fort had "...a fine garden, some small apple trees and vines" (Rich 1947, 68-69).

On March 19, 1825, everyone at the new post gathered at sunrise to watch a flag raising ceremony at which Simpson proclaimed the name of the new post, Fort Vancouver. After the dedication Simpson departed for the east, leaving Chief Factor John McLoughlin in charge of the new establishment.

Between 1824 and 1827, the boundary issue still hung over the new post, as did Simpson's plans to establish a new depot at the Fraser River that would combine the entire New Caledonia and

Columbia departments into one administrative unit. The new depot was to be built at the mouth of the Fraser River (located in today's British Columbia), a river that Simpson mistakenly believed would supply easy access to both districts and to the coast. McLoughlin therefore limited the development of Fort Vancouver—"I erected only such Buildings at this place as are immediately required" (Rich 1941, 32), he told London in a September 1826 letter--apparently anticipating a settlement in which the Columbia would become the boundary, and fur trading to the south would become impossible, making Fort Vancouver's location at the south edge of the British territory operationally inefficient. However, in August of 1827 the joint occupation of the disputed territory was indefinitely extended, and it became clear Fort Vancouver could continue to act as a locus from which fur brigades could be sent south, as well as north and east.

Moreover, during a fall 1828 trip to Fort Vancouver, George Simpson descended the Fraser River and determined the journey dangerous and untenable. Plans to establish the Columbia Department's main depot at its mouth were scrapped and Fort Vancouver became the permanent supply depot for all the department's posts in Columbia and New Caledonia. The location of the original stockade, at least a mile from the Columbia River, was not practical for the increasing amounts of goods and material which would have to be moved in and out of the depot enroute to and from other posts, England, and (as the envisioned agricultural and industrial production plans materialized) Hawai'i, California, and Russian outposts in Alaska. Hauling water to the stockade, with an increased complement of employees stationed there to perform depot duties, would be inefficient. Moreover, the high, naturally defensible site designed to repel Native American attacks had proven unnecessary. Thus, in the winter of 1828-29, or possibly in the early spring of 1829, construction began on a new stockade on the plain lying along the river, about four hundred yards from its bank.

The plain on which the new stockade was situated came to be called Fort Plain. It was the functional and approximate geographic center of Fort Vancouver's lands, which, at its greatest extent, fronted the Columbia River for about twenty-five miles, and stretched northward from it for distances varying from four to fifteen miles. All principal roads led to and from the 1828-29 stockade, connecting it to the post's other agricultural centers, referred to as farms, to the north, east and west; to its mills six miles to the east; to its employee and riverfront activities, west and south of the stockade; and to overland routes connecting the post with the outside world.

Legend maintains the state's first grist mill was built and operated at Fort Vancouver in the early years of its establishment. In 1828-1829, a horse and oxen powered grist mill was located just north of the new stockade; a water-powered grist mill was later built six miles east of the post.

The following paragraphs regarding the Fort Vancouver Village is modified from Wilson, Douglas C., Robert Cromwell, and Theresa E. Langford's *Excavation and Laboratory Procedures Manual*, 2001:

> To the southwest, over 800' from the Fort Vancouver stockade complex, the Fort Vancouver Village (or HBC Village) was located. The term "Kanaka" was used to designate employees of Native Hawaiian ancestry; however it is known that the Fort Vancouver Village was home to people of various Native American ancestries, French-Canadians, Scottish, English, Americans, and possibly Portuguese. The Fort Vancouver Village was perhaps the most diverse and cosmopolitan settlement on the entire Pacific Coast in the early 1800s and was the largest Euro-American settlement between Spanish California and Russian Alaska until circa 1845. Population numbers in the Fort Vancouver Village during the 1829-1845 period are sketchy at best, but it has been estimated that between 1827-1860 the Fort employed 1,090 people (Kardas 1971, 169). It is likely that many of these employees had additional family members, and that most represented in this number lived in the Fort Vancouver Village. It has been variously estimated that the Fort Vancouver Village contained between twenty and sixty residential structures, and it has been recorded that these may have been arranged in ethnic neighborhoods. In one of these houses lived a Hawaiian man known as Kanaka William who was an influential religious leader of the Fort Vancouver Village between 1844 and 1860.
>
> Along the riverfront to the south of the Fort Vancouver Village was an industrial center for the HBC, containing a Salmon Store (a warehouse for salting and shipping salmon), a wharf, a piggery, cooper's shop, boat houses, blacksmith, and a stockaded hospital area. Much of this activity was centered on the bank of a pond that had an outlet into the Columbia River. During this period, McLoughlin, under instructions from Simpson and the HBC's London headquarters, established the HBC's coastal trade, which continued to be directed from Fort Vancouver until the Columbia Department headquarters was moved to Victoria, BC, in 1849.

In 1827, a thirty-ton sloop, the Broughton, was built on the river about 1/4 mile from the stockade. In 1828, a sixty-ton craft, the Vancouver, was launched. In the 1830s and 1840s the marine department of the depot continued to grow. By 1836, the HBC had seven vessels employed on the coast. A wharf or landing jetty was erected to move the shipments of furs and goods in and out of the depot. In 1827, McLoughlin shipped barrels of salted salmon from Fort Vancouver to California, initiating the region's commercial salmon business.

During the years after 1829, the posts maintained by the HBC through Fort Vancouver included Fort George (reoccupied in 1829), Chinook or Pillar Rock, Cape Disappointment, Fort Umpqua, Fort Nez Perces, Fort Boise, Fort Hall, Fort Okanagan, Fort Colville, Kootenai Post, Flathead Post, Coweeman, and later, Champoeg in the Willamette River valley. Under the HBC's later subsidiary, the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, two additional posts were supervised from Fort Vancouver: Cowlitz Farm and Fort Nisqually. McLoughlin established trading relationships with regional native tribes. Important figures in the relationship between the local Chinookan tribes included Chief Casino and Chief Comcomly who were competing rivals for the HBC's favor.

For many years Fort Vancouver served as the collection point for furs from these posts, and as the distribution center for supplies and trade goods from London, agricultural produce and equipment from Fort Vancouver, and items manufactured at Fort Vancouver. In addition, McLoughlin, as head of the Columbia Department at Fort Vancouver, presided over the establishment and operations of a general trading post in San Francisco between 1841 and 1845, and had jurisdiction over an agency established in the Hawaiian Islands in 1833.

Large-Scale Farming

When the post reached its maximum development in the 1840s, the HBC farm consisted of three great open spaces in the forest lands along the Columbia River: Fort Plain, Lower Plain and Mill Plain, and several smaller plains north and east of the post, jointly referred to as the Back Plains. The HBC also had a sawmill, grist mill, and associated structures, located six miles east of the stockade.

The farms at Fort Vancouver were generally worked by Company employees not assigned to other tasks. However, during planting and harvesting season, all available hands were employed. In addition to Hawaiians, French-Canadians, Orkney men, others from the British Isles, and local Native Americans were hired to work in the fields. After the 1840s, the Company came to increasingly rely upon Indigenous peoples for labor. Farm laborers were usually supervised by a clerk appointed to Fort Vancouver by the HBC. Periodically, the HBC employed farm specialists, such as shepherds, or dairymen from England.

Farm production grew steadily at Fort Vancouver from 120 cultivated acres in 1829 to 1,420 acres in 1846. Livestock production also rose significantly, although the latter years are hard to assess, since many cattle and sheep at the post were transferred to the farms at Fort Nisqually and Cowlitz. Visitors were almost unanimously impressed with the scale and scope of the farm operations. By 1837, Simpson reported:

> *The fur trade is the principal branch of business at present in the country situated between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. On the banks of the Columbia River, however, where the soil and climate are favorable to cultivation, we are directing our attention to agriculture on a large scale, and there is every prospect that we shall soon be able to establish important branches of export trade from thence in the articles of wood, tallow, hides, tobacco, and grain of various kinds […]*
>
> *The possession of that country to Great Britain may become an object of very great importance, and we are strengthening that claim to it (independent of the claims of prior discovery and occupation for the purpose of Native American trade) by forming a nucleus of a colony through the establishment of farms, and the settlement of some of our retiring officers and servants as agriculturists. (British and American Joint Commission Vol. XIII, 36)*

By far the most important cash-barter crop at Fort Vancouver was wheat. Great quantities of it were raised, particularly after the establishment of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, and the development of an export trade to the Russian settlers in Alaska. Much of the wheat was ground into flour in the Fort's gristmill. Towards the mid-1840s, wheat was shipped into the Fort's mill from the Willamette Valley by bateau and barges, and flour shipped out to the

Russians in Alaska. Great quantities of peas were raised for provisions for the Department's posts. Barley, oats, and buckwheat were also important crops, and for some years, Indian corn. Potatoes were another mainstay, and although production figures are often missing for this crop, it is almost certain it was raised throughout this historic period. Acreage was planted in turnips, upon which sheep, and possibly pigs, were over-wintered.

Initially the livestock operation at Fort Vancouver was intended to provide meat for the HBC's own posts and coastal vessels in the Columbia Department, in the form of salted beef and pork and, presumably, dairy products. Later, salted pork, butter, and wool became major export items. Plans to export hides and tallow apparently never materialized to any great degree. By 1839, there were over eight hundred head of cattle grazing in Fort Vancouver pastures and, according to one source, by 1846 there were 1,915 cattle at Fort Vancouver. In addition to the Fort's breeding program, several cattle drives from California had brought the HBC an increase in stock. Because horses were required in great numbers as transportation, sometimes for food (in the early years), for the fur trade, and for large-scale farm work, it was apparently decided to breed them at the post, rather than rely on trading for them with the Native Americans, primarily the Nez Perce.

Raising hogs was an early and important agricultural activity at the post, particularly for use in supplying the interior posts with foodstuffs in the form of salted pork and, later, to fulfill a contract with the Russian American Company. Because pigs were fast breeding, McLoughlin was able to report in 1829 that he would salt more than 40 barrels of pork that year. Simpson's original goal was to produce enough pigs to produce 10,000 pounds of cured pork each year. In l845, British Lieutenants Warren and Vavasour reported there were over 1,500 pigs at Fort Vancouver. By 1844, the HBC had imported some Berkshire hogs to improve the herd.

In 1839, the HBC established a subsidiary company, the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, to handle a contract the Company had made with the Russian American Company in Alaska. In exchange for trading rights and a lease to establish posts on the Alaskan coast, the HBC agreed to provide the Russians with an annual rent of otter skins and with 8,400 bushels of wheat, wheat flour, barley, peas, salted beef, butter, and manufactured items. Neither Fort Vancouver nor Fort Langley, the only other departmental post producing foodstuffs in any quantity, could meet the contract. The Puget's Sound Agricultural Company was incorporated to develop additional farms

within the Department and to develop an international market for produce from the Pacific Northwest. Fort Nisqually and Cowlitz Farm were transferred to the new firm, as were most of the livestock and farm implements in the Department.

McLoughlin was appointed to head this enterprise, in addition to his continuing duties as administrative head of all the HBC posts west of the Rocky Mountains. While in theory and in law the two companies were separate, in practice the operations of the two were mixed. Farming continued on a large scale at Fort Vancouver, which served as a way station for livestock heading north to the Puget's Sound Company farms, and which was further developed in order to meet the Russian contract.

Sheep eventually became the most important livestock at Fort Vancouver, providing large quantities of wool for export to London. In the 1840s, the number of sheep owned by the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company rose from 2,342 reported in 1841, to 10,578, reported in 1846. This included sheep at Fort Nisqually, Cowlitz Farm and Fort Vancouver. Between 1842 and 1847 over 60,000 pounds of wool and over 2,000 sheepskins were shipped to London. At Fort Vancouver, a serious effort was made to improve the native stock, imported primarily from California, crossbreeding with sheep from England, including Merinos, Saxonies, and Leicesters.

Agricultural activities of the HBC resulted in large open fields and cultivated orchards surrounding the Fort. Fields on the river terrace to the north of the Fort were eventually developed by the US Army and later the National Park Service and no longer reflect their historic agricultural use. Fields directly adjacent to the Fort have historically been used for the US Army's Spruce Mill, CCC headquarters, and Pearson Field. However, with the removal of much of these developments the areas around the Fort are now uncultivated grass fields that help to convey the historic setting of the Fort. In addition, a portion of the historic orchard to the northwest of the Fort has been reconstructed.

Religion/St. James Mission

The HBC required that all residents of the posts in the Northern Department attend religious services on Sunday. At Fort Vancouver, two services were held in the dining hall of the Manager's Residence, or Big House; an Anglican service conducted in English by James Douglas

or a clerk and a Catholic mass read in French by McLoughlin. The first official Catholic mass in "lower" Oregon was held in 1838 by French Catholic priests François Norbert Blanchet and Modeste Demers, dispatched after negotiations with the HBC by the Bishop of Juliopolis near the Red River in Canada. The priests were given a building within the stockade to use as a church and resided at the fort when not administering to the missions and other Columbia Department posts. They performed baptisms, weddings, and funerals for the HBC employees and laborers, and later, US Army servicemen. Circa 1844, the HBC offered Father Blanchet a tract of land north of the stockade and in 1845-46 a new church was built beyond the confines of the stockade, establishing St. James Mission.

Education/Schoolhouses

The HBC school was established in 1832 and was attended by students from throughout the Columbia District, who boarded at Fort Vancouver. For some years the education was apparently free of charge, but by the mid-1830s, some students, at least, were required to work on the farm to help defray their expenses. Late in 1843 or early in 1844, Chief Factor James Douglas (who later became the first governor of British Columbia), in consultation with Simpson, began to plan for a school that would be supported by subscription. Douglas directed the construction of two new school buildings north of the stockade, but these structures were still unfinished when the US Army arrived at the post in 1849.

Medicine and Botany

Fort Vancouver served both as the destination and home base for foreign naturalists, many of whom became internationally recognized scientists, with reputations based in part on their research from Fort Vancouver. To all, Chief Factor McLoughlin extended assistance and aid. Botanist David Douglas's first visit in 1825-27 was followed by a second in 1829-30. Douglas was accompanied on his first trip by physician and scientist Dr. John Scouler. Douglas's association with the Pacific Northwest is noted in the common name of *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, the Douglas fir, and the native spirea, *Spiraea douglasii*, amongst many other plants. Botanist Thomas Nuttall, who traveled with the Nathanial Wyeth Expedition in 1834-35 to Fort Vancouver, was recognized as the discoverer of many new genera and species of plants. His association with the Pacific Northwest is memorialized by the name given to the native flowering

dogwood, *Cornus nuttallii*. With Nuttall was John Townsend, a Philadelphia ornithologist, who later acted as a temporary physician at Fort Vancouver.

William Brackenridge, at the post in 1841 with the US Exploring Expedition, collected botanical data that were later published. In fact, many members of the US Exploring Expedition were guests of the HBC at Fort Vancouver and at other posts. Some of the specimens from the collections of the expedition's naturalists and anthropologists, and the elaborate drawings, many of which were published in following years, were made at and near Fort Vancouver. The collections led to the establishment of the first federally supported museum, in the National Gallery of the Patent Office. Later, they were lodged at the Smithsonian Institution. John C. Fremont's overland exploring expedition from the United States, arriving at Fort Vancouver in November of 1843, included a collection of plants later described in a Smithsonian Institution publication. The Royal Horticultural Society of London maintained close ties with Fort Vancouver via the HBC's London office, and many native plants and trees from the Fort Vancouver region found their way into the Society's gardens at Chiswick. It is worth nothing that these botanists and horticulturalists depended heavily on knowledge gathered and provided by indigenous people, who did not garner the same international credit or reputations for their contributions.

Dr. Forbes Barclay, a Scotsman, was one of the earliest medical people in the Oregon Country and was involved in the highest levels in medicine, government, and education. Appointed surgeon to the HBC in 1839, he ministered to the HBC employees, missionaries, including Narcissa Whitman, and American settlers. He later moved to Oregon City in 1850, where he served as mayor, schools superintendent, the first coroner of Oregon, and physician. His home is preserved as part of the McLoughlin House unit within the National Historic Site.

Fort Vancouver's Influence on Settlement

By the late 1820s, the HBC employees and free trappers began to settle in the 150-mile-long Willamette Valley, south of the Columbia River. The first establishments were in the vicinity of Champoeg, where it was relatively easy to ford the Willamette River. One of the earliest to settle there was Etienne Lucier, a trader who in 1828 approached Chief Factor John McLoughlin, asking for his assistance in establishing a farm. Thus Fort Vancouver, under the aegis of

McLoughlin, became involved in the development of farming in the Willamette Valley, through the provision of seed, livestock, and agricultural implements to freemen and retired employees. From this nuclear settlement, fostered and encouraged by McLoughlin, the Oregon Territory developed.

In the 1830s and 1840s, the farm and store at Fort Vancouver also provided necessary supplies, livestock, and equipment to American missionaries, who were later instrumental in publicizing the attractions of the rich Willamette Valley to land-hungry and restless Americans, and who had a significant role in establishing the Oregon Country as a territory of the United States. Up until 1842-43, Fort Vancouver served as the principal supply for food, clothing, and farming equipment for Americans arriving overland. In 1833, John Ball wrote to his friend back east, "He [John McLoughlin] has liberally engaged to lend me a plough, an axe, oxen, cow &c" (Ball 1834, no pagination). Reports of such aid, printed in newspapers in the states, furthered interest in migration. Jason Lee, of the Methodist Mission, began to lecture on the advantages of the Oregon Country when he visited the east coast in the late 1830s, and his speeches and the 1838 published journal of his travels contributed to the spread of Oregon fever. By 1841, there were sixty-five Americans in the Willamette Valley to whom McLoughlin had loaned seed, livestock, and agricultural implements. By 1843, over 1,000 American settlers had established themselves in the valley and the economic base had begun to shift from Fort Vancouver to the valley settlements. However, for most of this period, it was McLoughlin at Fort Vancouver who aided the Americans. His reasons have often been described as humanitarian as, without aid, the settlers would almost certainly have starved. But assistance was also forthcoming to avoid confrontations and probable looting. In 1843, the settlers in the Willamette Valley voted to form a provisional government, which McLoughlin felt obliged to join and pay taxes to, to protect the HBC's interests.

In 1837, US Navy purser William Slacum assisted Willamette Valley settlers in driving a herd of cattle from California to the valley, a move that began to wean the settlers from the assistance of Fort Vancouver. Until 1842-43, however, when settlers in the valley began to establish their own stores, the HBC retained its monopoly on imported clothing, seed and manufactured items. Also in the early 1840s, some Americans began to establish their own flour mills, cutting into the milling operations at the post, although the HBC remained the biggest purchaser of wheat in the

Valley for a few more years, scrambling to fulfill its sales commitments to the Russian American Company in Alaska.

In 1845, a census in the Oregon Territory showed 2,109 Euro-Americans, most of them settlers who had arrived since 1842. By 1852, thousands of immigrants had traversed the Oregon Trail, settling throughout the territory; in that year alone close to 13,000 people arrived in Oregon Territory. This influx of Americans would eventually tilt the balance in the claims of the United States to the disputed territory. McLoughlin recognized that fact, yet hoped that by steering settlers to the Willamette Valley, the British might yet retain their hold on the lands north of the Columbia River.

Many immigrants began to view the HBC lands as subject to the Donation Land Claim Law, particularly after news of the 1846 treaty arrived. Throughout the disputed territory, the HBC fought a losing battle to eject squatters from their lands. In the mid-1840s, to protect the HBC lands, fourteen employees laid claims of 640 acres each, the maximum allowed under the Organic Act on July 5 of 1843 under the law of the Oregon provisional government. Although subsequent litigation stalled claim jumpers for several years, the effort was largely for naught. By 1860, most HBC employees had either sold or abandoned their claims.

In 1848, Henry Williamson and others platted a town site on his claim west of the stockade at Fort Vancouver, naming it Vancouver City. By 1850, the Federal census listed 95 houses in the newly established Vancouver County, of which Vancouver City was the county seat. In the ensuing decade, town development included two schools, a ferry service, saloons, boarding houses, a courthouse, a livery stable, dance hall and theater, and other buildings. In 1857, the town was incorporated, and in 1859, it was a serious, although unsuccessful, contender for the Washington Territorial capital. With an increase in the number of American ships entering Oregon, the development of reliable money, the increase in merchants and manufacturers, and concomitant number of available goods in the territory, the HBC's monopoly was effectively broken.

In 1846, Chief Factor McLoughlin was forcibly retired from his duties with the HBC, and administration of the post was lodged in a board of management, which for several years included

Chief Factors Peter Skene Ogden and James Douglas. In 1849, three years after the signing of the Treaty of Oregon, which established the boundary between Great Britain's territory and the United States at the 49th parallel, the HBC moved its main depot to Fort Victoria in British Columbia. Despite this shift, the financial center of the HBC's operations west of the Rockies remained at Fort Vancouver. Its stores and mills were still operating at that time, shipping goods and materials south to supply the influx of miners responding to the discovery of gold at Sutter's Fort, and making some sales to the US Army, which arrived at the site in the spring of 1849.

The HBC and the US Army were to exist amicably, side-by-side at Fort Vancouver for a few years. The HBC saw the US Army as a means to enforce their "possessory rights" to land and improvements guaranteed by the 1846 treaty. Gradually, however, the military began to expand beyond the sites it had occupied near the stockade. By 1856, when soldiers tore down part of a fence enclosing the HBC's graveyard, the US Army had generally ceased to ask permission from the HBC before engaging on building projects. Finally, in 1860, the US Army razed all but a few houses in the employee Fort Vancouver Village and most of the HBC's structures at the river.

As a result of the US Army's actions, in May of 1860, A.G. Dallas, president of the Council of the HBC in North America, wrote a bitter letter to the commander of the post, Major General William S. Harney, protesting the US Army's lack of regard for the rights of the HBC. Dallas notified Harney that the HBC would be vacating Fort Vancouver "...as soon as necessary arrangements can be made" (Dallas 1860, no pagination). Soon after, all remaining stores and equipment were packed on board a vessel and shipped to Victoria, and the HBC abandoned the post. On May 1, 1860, Charles William Wilson, a royal engineer with the North American Boundary Commission survey team, arrived at Fort Vancouver. He wrote:

"... the Fort is now surrounded by the Garrison of American troops under General Harney of San Juan renown; alas the poor old Fort once the great depot of all the western fur trade is now sadly shorn of its glories, General Harney having taken forcible possession of nearly all the ground round & almost confined the H.B.C. people to the Fort itself; the H.B. Company are going to give up their post here as most of their business is now transacted in Victoria & in consequence of General Harney's disregard of the treaty of 46 which secured them their rights; it is most annoying to them to see all the fields & land they have reclaimed from the wilderness & savage

gradually taken away from them; we have at present the use of the buildings which are nearly empty now, what a place it must have been in the olden time!" ("Journal of Service Lieutenant Charles William Wilson" 1858-60, 89-90)

US ARMY VANCOUVER BARRACKS ERA, 1849-1946

Vancouver Barracks, first called Camp Vancouver, was the principal military establishment in the Pacific Northwest until World War I. Vancouver Barracks served as training grounds for military leaders of the Civil War, the Boxer Rebellion, the Philippine campaign, the Mexican War, the Indian Wars, and World Wars I and II.

During its early years, the Barracks' role was to protect American settlers and to support United States occupation of the Oregon Territory. With the increasing numbers of land-hungry immigrants from the United States, Native American tribes in the west began to take action to protect their lands. Settlers in the Oregon Country had formed a provisional government in the years between 1837 and 1843.

In 1848, Congress passed a bill establishing the territory of Oregon, sparked in part by the news of the killing of Whitman, his wife, and twelve others at his mission by Cayuse warriors in 1847 partly in response to their belief that Dr. Whitman was responsible for the deaths of some of their fellow friends and family. In 1849, US Army troops were sent to the North Pacific Coast where they established "Camp Vancouver." During the summer of 1849, the command camped in tents on the high ground behind the HBC Fort, and, under the direction of Assistant Quartermaster of the Pacific Division Captain Rufus Ingalls, began construction of log buildings to shelter them during the following winter. Troops, locals, and Native Americans were engaged in the construction. In September of 1849, the garrison size was increased when six companies of Mounted Riflemen, A, D, G, H, I, and K, arrived at the post. Company F arrived in June of 1850 and Company B of the Mounted Riflemen arrived in November.

In May of 1850, Ingalls entered into an agreement with Chief Factor Peter Skene Ogden on behalf of the US government and the HBC for the use of an eight-acre field 1/4 mile north of the stockade. On this leased site, citizen carpenters constructed twenty-six buildings, including log structures for officers and two, two-story log barracks buildings. Additional buildings were

constructed in the vicinity of the Fort Vancouver Village and near the Columbia River, to serve as the Quartermaster's Depot. On October 31, 1850, the US Army formally proclaimed the establishment of a military reservation of about four-square miles. This claim included the HBC stockade and the land and improvements about two miles to the east and west of it. The announcement stated the reservation was "subject only to the lawful claims of the HBC," as guaranteed by the Treaty of 1846 (P.S. Ogden May 28, 1850, no pagination). That year the post was given the official title of "Columbia Barracks." The extent of the military reservation immediately raised political and policy questions, prompting Washington D.C. to reconsider its size. In October of 1853, the Secretary of War was obliged by an act of Congress to reduce the reserve to 640 acres, subject to the claims by the HBC as guaranteed by the 1846 treaty.

Beginning in 1856, the amicable relationship between the HBC and the US Army began to deteriorate. The HBC doctor, Henry Atkinson Tuzo, later said:

> *... the military authorities commenced and continued to call in question the rights of the Co .... Some of their buildings outside the Fort were taken possession of by persons in the employ of the various military departments. Several were burnt or otherwise destroyed while in the occupation of these persons; the Company's corrals were made use of at first, and finally altogether removed by the quarter master's department. The landing jetty on the river was removed, and a large warehouse and wharf erected by the Govt on its site. The fences, and some of the head boards in the co's [sic]graveyard, were removed by some of the soldiers of the garrison at various times, and ... used as fuel at their quarters... (British and American Joint Commission Vol. II, 180)*

The HBC's protests went largely unheeded. By the spring of 1860 the US Army had leveled almost all the HBC buildings and structures outside the stockade. In May, the HBC removed the last of their goods from the post, leaving the remnants of the fort under the supervision of the US Army, and left for their Victoria, British Columbia headquarters. In 1865, Vancouver Barracks was established as the US Department of the Columbia's headquarters; this year also marked the end of the American Civil War and the return of regular US Army troops to Fort Vancouver. As Army operations expanded within the reserve area, they razed many of the structures within the stockade and left others to slowly degrade until a fire destroyed all remaining vestiges of the fort

in 1866. By 1869, maps of the Vancouver Barracks showed no trace of the structures that had comprised the HBC's stockade. After the fire, the US Army used the site of the HBC stockade and gardens as pasture for grazing. During the following decades most of the Army's expansion efforts focused on the waterfront and areas north of E. 5th Street (i.e. the wharf, administrative buildings, the barracks and parade ground, Officers Row). Further construction occurred around the south barracks cluster. The largest change to the site where the HBC fort had been located occurred between 1906 and 1908, when the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway line was constructed through the area used by the US Army for pasture. In 1908, a spur line was constructed to access the post. The spur line extended in a broad curve from the mainline, past the east edge of the Quartermaster's depot, to terminate south of East 5th Street. A new series of storage buildings, some for coal and some for wood, were established adjacent to the spur line; by 1915, both the line and the storage buildings had been enclosed with a wire fence.

World War I/Spruce Mill

During World War I, the site where Fort Vancouver once stood became the location of the Spruce Mill operations. Vancouver Barracks was the principal site of a unique and often overlooked outgrowth of World War I: the Spruce Production Division of the US Army Signal Corps, a somewhat forced partnership between Pacific Northwest lumber investment companies and the military. The Spruce Mill helped the war cause by producing badly needed lumber for airplanes and facilitated the expansion of the Pacific Northwest lumber industry.

After war broke out in Europe in 1914, the Allied Forces found themselves woefully short of airplanes. It was generally agreed that Sitka spruce, strong, light, and resilient and found primarily in isolated stands in the states of Oregon and Washington, was the best material for building the planes. Lumber mills in Washington and Oregon began to cut and mill spruce to fulfill Allied demands. In May and July of 1917, after America had entered the war, Congress passed a series of bills appropriating $694 million for aeronautical activity, including aircraft production. Production in the Pacific Northwest mills soon proved insufficient to meet this accelerated demand. The US Army authorized a recommendation that soldiers be used to speed production.

In November of 1917, the United States announced the formation of the Spruce Production Division, part of the US Army Signal Corps, at Vancouver Barracks with headquarters in Portland, Oregon. Vancouver Barracks was to serve as a training center for soldiers enroute to the forests of the Pacific Northwest, and infantry regiments stationed at the post were removed to make room for the thousands of "spruce" soldiers the Army planned to employ. Vancouver Barracks military operations were subordinated to the demands of the Spruce Production Division. Over 18,000 soldiers were employed in the Pacific Northwest, several thousand of whom were located at Vancouver Barracks, operating the milling operations and providing support services. The rest were either working in logging camps or employed in building logging railroads.

Early in 1918, the Barracks became the site of the Cut-up Plant, the principal mill of the Division, which was built and operated by spruce soldiers. Disque later said, "There was not a commercial mill on the coast that was equipped to saw straight-grained spruce in the quantity demanded, and remain in business" (Disque circa 1919, 46). By late December, construction of the Cut-up Plant was underway on fifty acres of land on and to the east of the site of the historic HBC stockade. Local mills supplied construction materials, and machinery was hastily shipped in at great expense from all over the country. Milling began on February 7, 1918, 45 days after initiation of construction. In addition to the Cut-up Plant, the Spruce Division erected a battery of drying kilns and drying sheds. Later, thousands of tents and support facilities for soldiers working at the plant were erected around the mill area. In addition, a cantonment, housing a regiment of the Spruce Division, was built just north of Officers' Row. Spur lines from the Spokane, Portland, and Seattle Railway (S.P. & S.) railroad were built for transport of supplies to and from the mill.

The plant operated for less than a year, terminated by the armistice in November 1918. The Army later claimed that during the ten months of operation, 143 million board feet of spruce were shipped from Northwest forests. The mill-associated buildings stood until 1925 when three or four were moved to the east to provide facilities for the reserve army air corps. The remaining mill buildings were razed. Spur lines from the S.P. & S. railroad were removed in the 1950s. Although none of the buildings associated with the Spruce Mill remain at their original location, three were moved to the adjacent Pearson Field in 1925, and remain there today.

Post-World War I Activities/Civilian Conservation Corps

During the Great Depression, the site of Fort Vancouver was used as a camp for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). As a district headquarters for the Ninth Corps of the CCC, Vancouver Barracks played an important role in the enrollment, training, and supply of the Pacific Northwest's network of CCC camps. Barracks officials supervised between twenty-eight and 32 CCC camps in both Oregon and Washington. CCC crews that were administered by Vancouver Barracks focused on forest-fire control and construction of recreation, transportation, and structural improvements in the region's national forests. Forests within the Vancouver Barracks' district, as in those of the rest of the Pacific Northwest, received long-term benefits from CCC activities, including reforestation, forest-stand improvement, and tree disease and pest control.

As a headquarters and dispersing agency, CCC infrastructure at Vancouver Barracks expanded rapidly. By 1936, sixteen buildings had been constructed to house CCC activities, including three barracks housing 100 men each, a recreation hall, and a large portable administrative building. The bulk of the CCC structures were located near the west end of the former Spruce Mill site, below what is now East 5th Street. Two CCC buildings were erected north of East 5th Street; one, the "Contagious Hospital," was razed when Interstate 5 was built; the second, an office building, still stands.

CCC crews were involved in innumerable improvement projects on public lands. They played a key role in fire protection of public forests through the construction of fire roads, trails, and telephone lines, in addition to physically fighting fires. They helped to beautify national and state parks and to improve recreational opportunities through the construction of rustic-style buildings, campsites, roads, trails, and bridges. They also built dams for erosion control. The CCC headquarters and most of the related buildings and structures were removed by the US Army in the 1940s.

FORT VANCOUVER RECONSTRUCTION, 1946-PRESENT

Since the late 1940s, excavations within Fort Vancouver site have helped to inform a partial reconstruction of the Fort. The proposal to reconstruct Fort Vancouver was initially supported by local organizations, but the NPS resisted the idea. They felt that such a reconstruction was not

appropriate for a national park site. Early interpretive proposals suggested a simple outline of the old stockade in a two-foot-wide strip of white aggregate and marking the buildings with concrete footings with their interiors planted with grass. However, public pressure persisted and by 1966, Congressional monies were appropriated for reconstruction of Fort Vancouver through Congresswoman Julia Butler Hansen's continued support of the park. In the end, the adopted reconstruction plan modeled, as closely as possible, the historic character of the original Fort buildings. Reconstruction of the Fort began in 1966, based on work by NPS archeologists, historians, and historical architects. In addition to the knowledge revealed by archeological excavations within the Fort site, the park also acquired a large reference collection of items relevant to the historic era such as maps, lithographs, journals, and letters. These historic resources, used in conjunction with archeological evidence, ensure the most accurate reconstructions possible. Construction of the stockade began in July 1966 and was completed in 1973. Eleven buildings have since been reconstructed. These buildings include: the bastion (built in 1972), the bake house (built in 1974), the Chief Factor's house (built in 1976), the kitchen (built in 1976), the wash house (built in 1976), the blacksmith shop (built in 1981), the trade shop (built in 1981), the fur store (built in 1992-94), the carpenter shop (built 1997), the jail (built in 2000), and the counting house/new office (built in 2003).

Though the restoration plan encouraged historical research that would contribute to accurate restoration and reconstruction, these principles were applied strongly to the Fort and its buildings, but not to the landscape. Completed as part of the Mission 66 funding park improvements, the subsequent NPS-led reconstruction of the orchard in 1962 was not a true reconstruction as it was not accurately located, nor did it contain fruit varieties appropriate to the historic period. Furthermore, the trees were not spaced or shaped to reflect historic conditions.

In 2003, NPS oversaw an orchard reconstruction project that accurately restored one acre of the historic five-acre HBC apple orchard. The "Orchard Reconstruction Recommendations" for the HBC orchard includes recommendations for the orchard location, spacing of trees, genetic stock, tree form, tree acquisition, tree planting, orchard maintenance, cost estimates, and Mission 66 orchard removal. Attention was paid to every known detail of the historic orchard and orchard practices of the time. Location of the orchard, the varieties of apples grown, and spacing of trees were based on information gathered from historic maps, lithographs, journal entries, letters, and

archeological excavations (summarized in Taylor 1992), and from studying comparable orchards that have survived at other HBC Forts. Since 2003, the apple trees from the Mission 66 era orchard were removed, leaving only a few pear and cherry trees.

In 2007, efforts to reconstruct portions of Fort Vancouver Village commenced. In that year, the Fort Vancouver Village House #1 was reconstructed. In addition, as part of the construction of the land bridge over Highway 14, an access trail to the bridge through the Fort Vancouver Village was completed. The portion of the trail through the village was aligned to follow the alignment of historic wagon roads. The Fort Vancouver Village House #2 was reconstructed in 2009.

Today, the archeological site and numerous artifacts collected through previous excavations are considered the most significant HBC-related resources within the Historic District. The Fort reconstructions (including buildings, structures, and an orchard), along with the Fort's setting within an open field, work together to convey the historic scene from the period of significance.

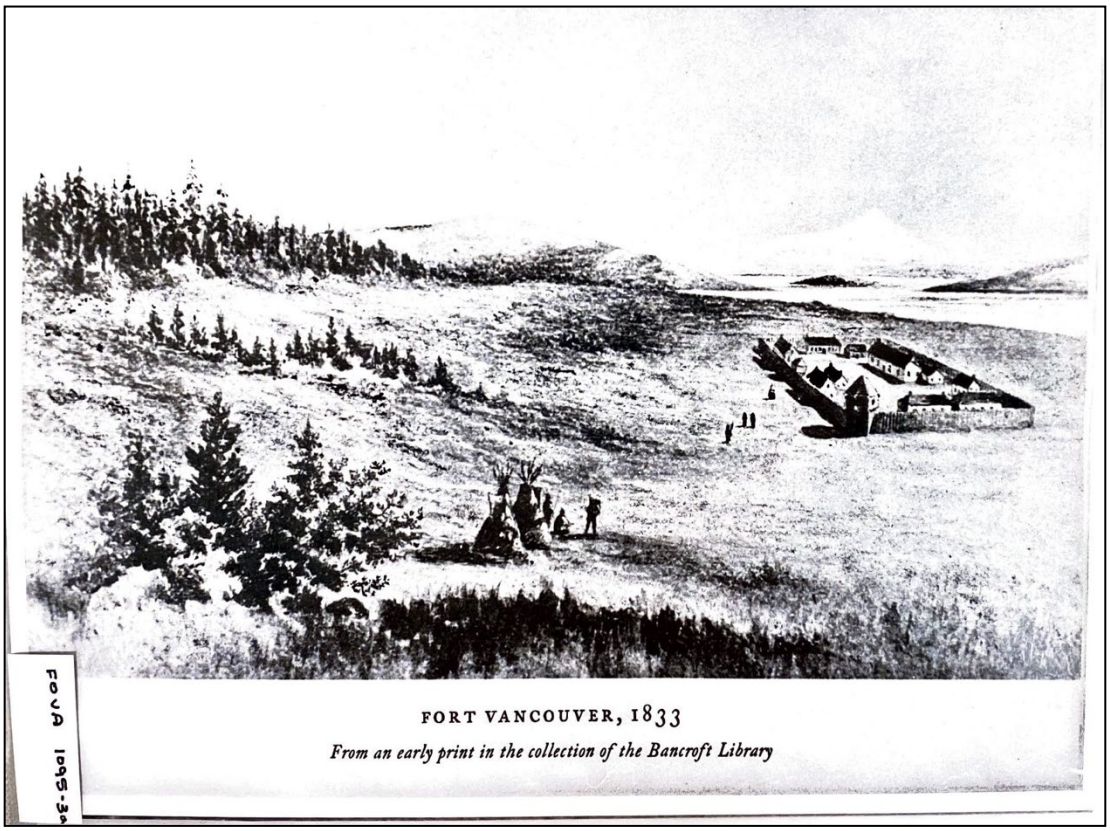

Figure 5. circa 1833 sketch of the Fort's stockade and surrounding topography, relationship to the Columbia River and the view towards Mt. Hood. (University of California, Bancroft Library: BANC PIC 1905.13476-.13480--PICLOCAL)

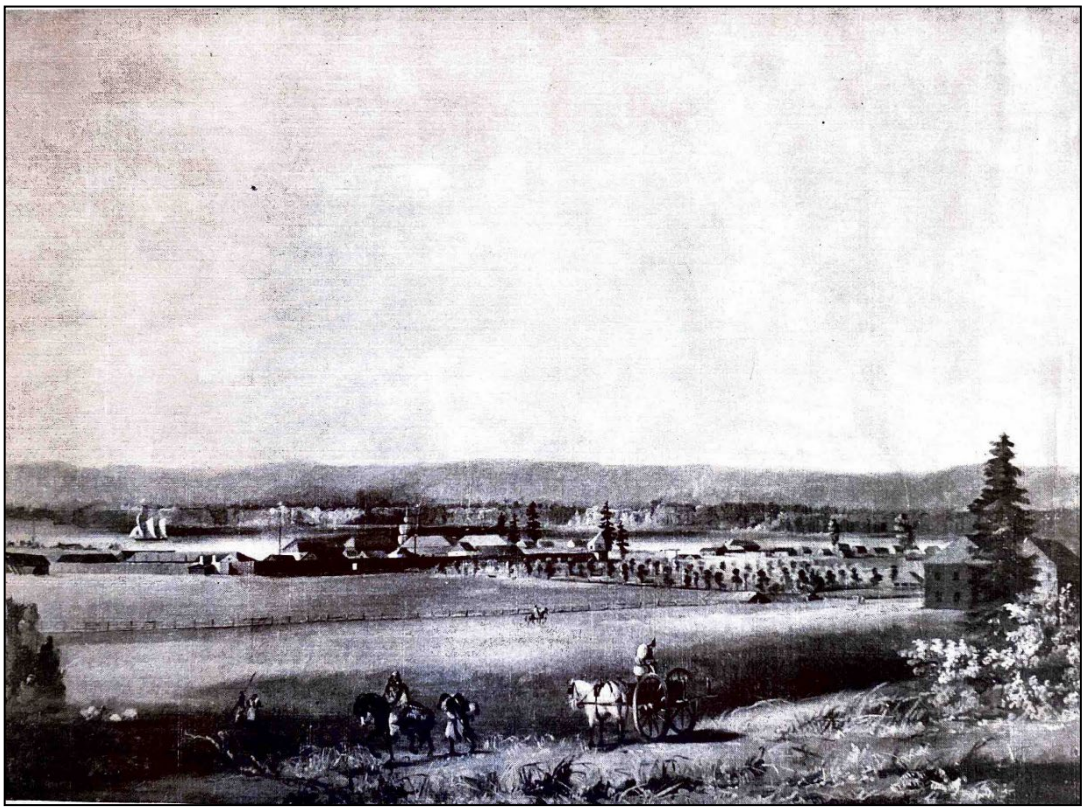

Figure 6. Painting of Fort Vancouver from the Coe Collection at the Yale University Library. The name of the artist is unknown. (Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Archives, Inv no. 3082, FOVA #1084a. Copyright owned by Beinecke Library at Yale University; copy held in the Fort Vancouver archives.)

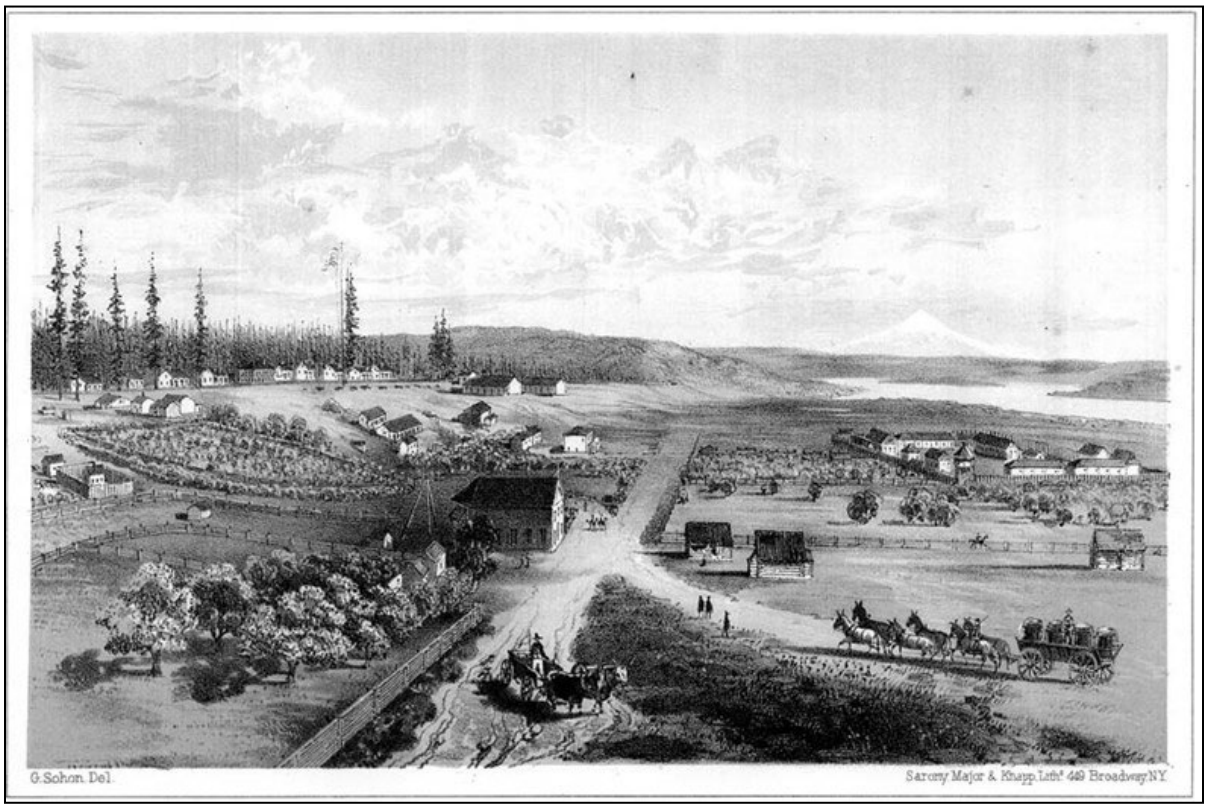

Figure 7. Lithograph of Fort Vancouver in 1854 by Gustav Sohon. The HBC developments are predominantly located to the right and in the foreground of the image, while US Army developments can be seen in the upper left, on the upper terrace. (Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Archives, Inv no. 3090, FOVA #1091. Copyright owned by the NPS; original document held in the Fort Vancouver archives.)

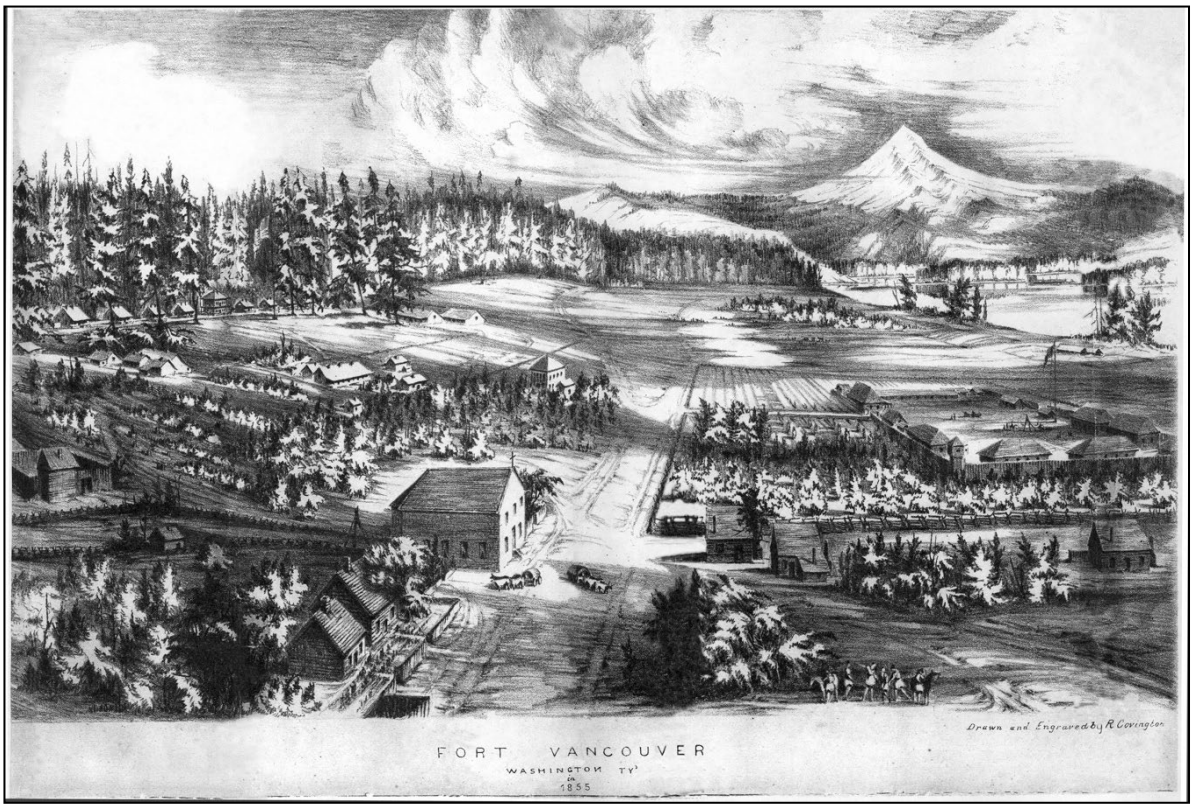

Figure 8. Similar lithograph of Fort Vancouver in 1855 by R. Covington which when compared to the 1854 lithograph can highlight elements of artistic license. (Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Archives, Inv no. 3092, FOVA #1092. Copyright unknown; copy held in the Fort Vancouver archives, but permissions for reproduction cannot be granted.)

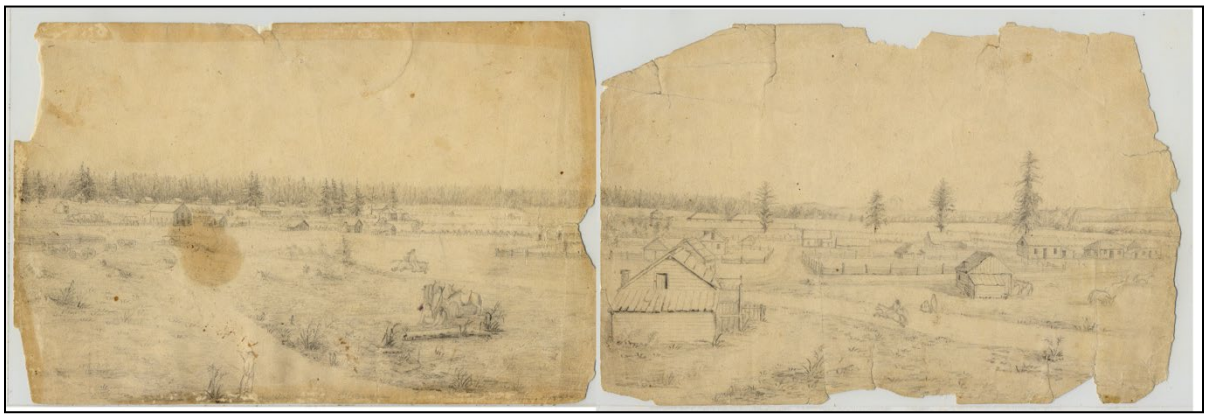

Figure 9. Ca. 1850s pencil sketches of the Fort Vancouver Village by artist Roberts. (Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Archives, Inv no. 3086 & 3087, FOVA #10220, 10221. Copyright owned by the NPS; original document held in the Fort Vancouver archives.)

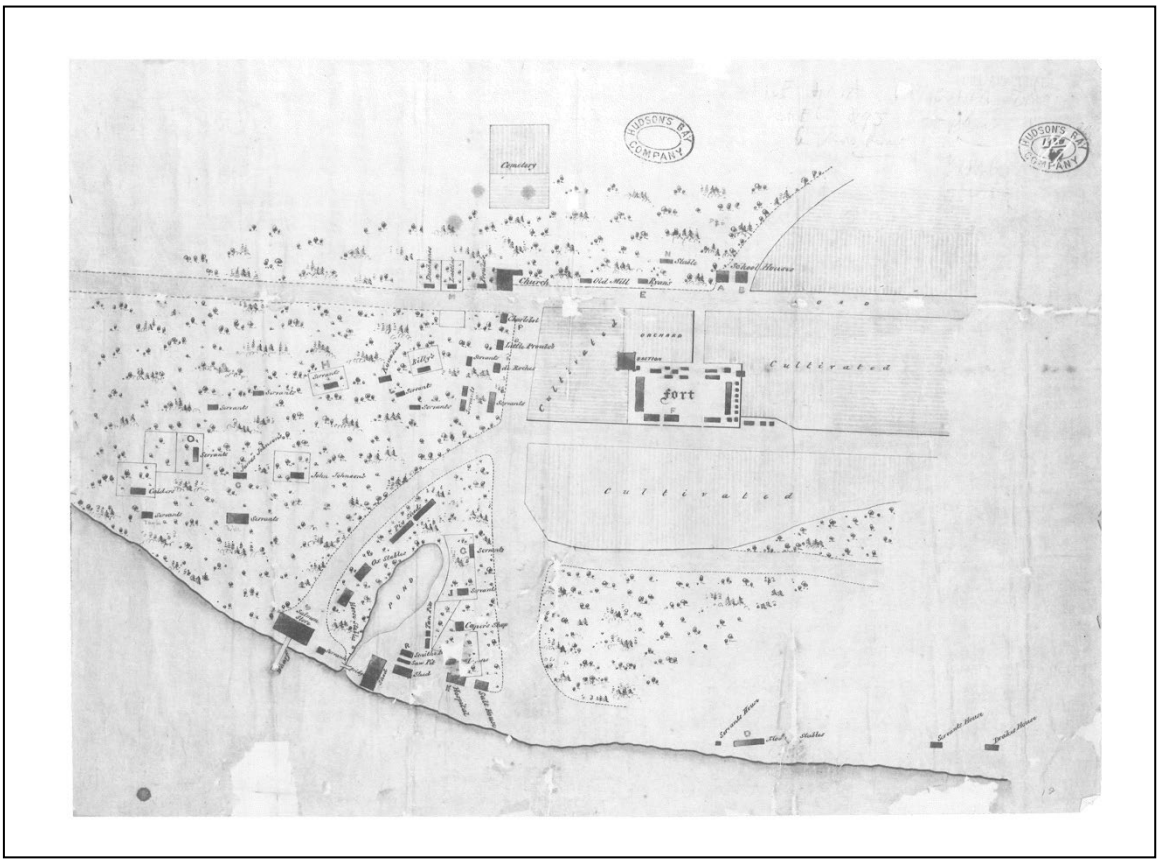

Figure 10. 1846 original map by R. Covington showing the spatial organization and locations of major features in the HBC Fort and Village including characterizations of the woodlands surrounding the developed areas. (Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Archives, Drawer 19: Vancouver Barracks Historic Maps, 1846-1895. Copyright owned by Washington State Historical Society; copy held in the Fort Vancouver archives)

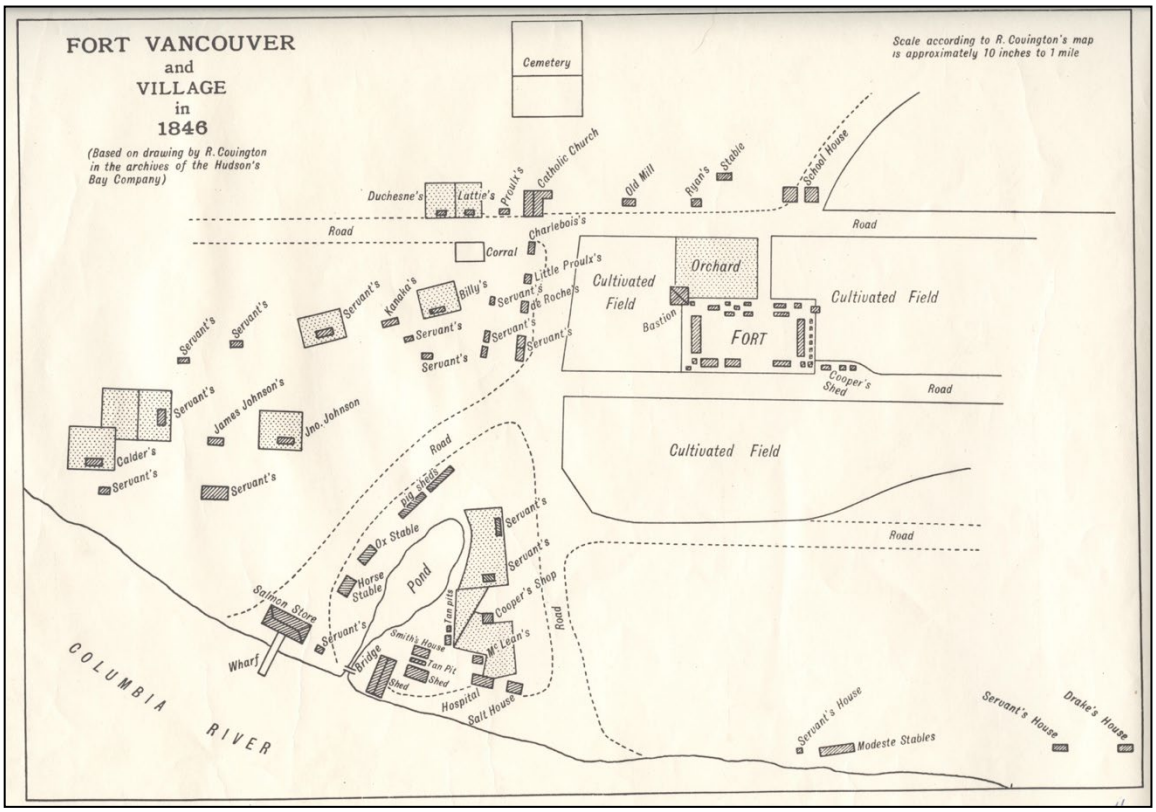

Figure 11. 1846 Diagrammatic and labeled copy of Covington's map of the Fort and Village. (Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Archives, Drawer 19: Vancouver Barracks Historic Maps, 1846-1895. Copyright owned by the NPS; original document held in the Fort Vancouver archives.)

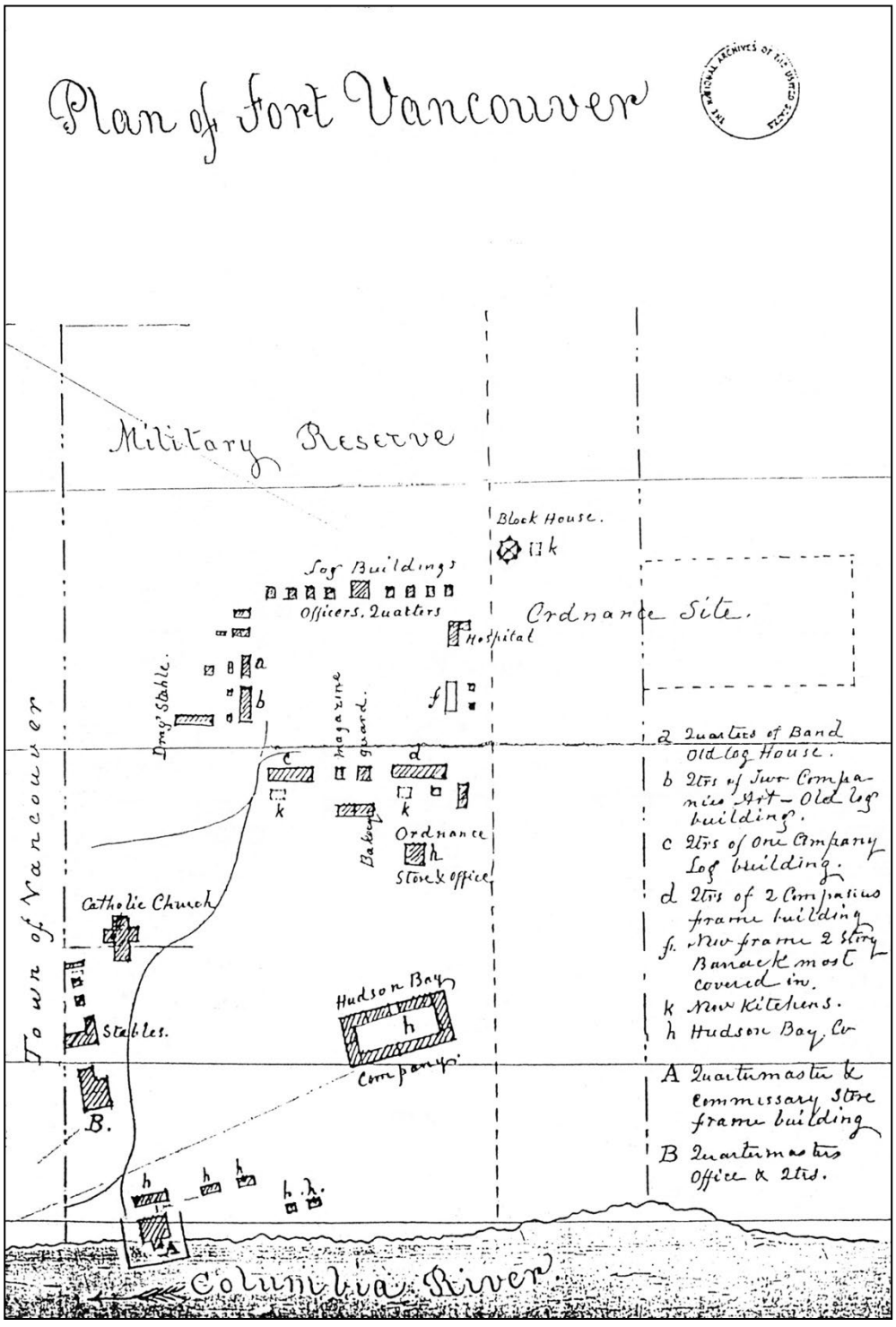

Figure 12. 1858 map of the HBC Fort and Village in relationship to the US Army development to the north. (National Archives; Records of the War Department; Office of the Adjutant General; Misc. File No. 282; Copyright owned by Record of the Inspector General Joseph K.F. Mansfield; copy held in the Fort Vancouver archives)

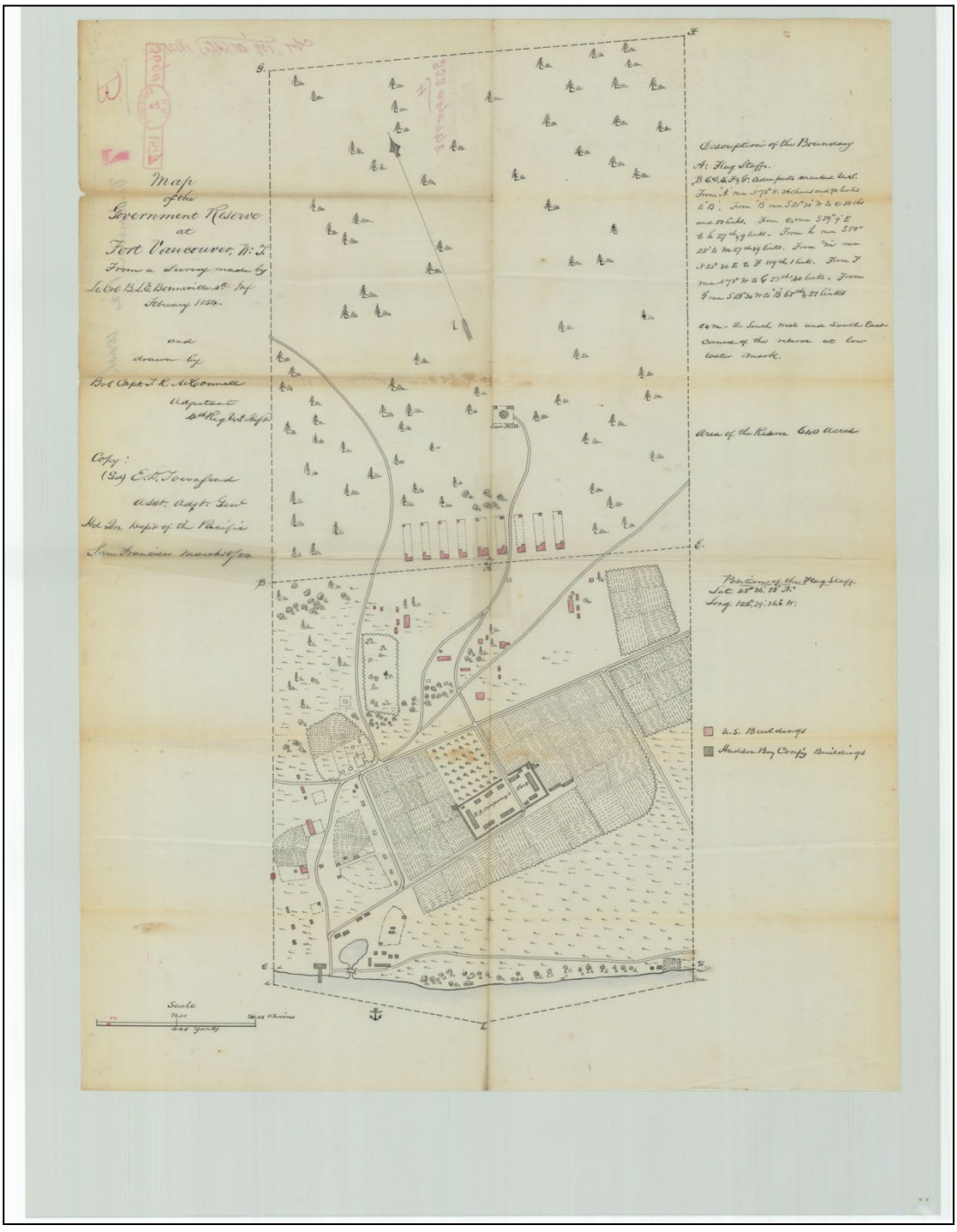

Figure 13. 1854 map of the HBC Fort and Village in relationship to the US Army development to the north and greater detail regarding the extent of agricultural production. (Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Archives, Drawer 19: Vancouver Barracks Historic Maps, 1846-1895. Copyright held by National Archives; Records of the General Land Office; Box 100, Abandoned Military Reservations; Fort Vancouver, WA; copy held in the Fort Vancouver archives)

Figure 14. 1850 survey of the area surrounding the HBC Fort and Village completed by the US Army, highlighting some of the regional circulation routes that connected to the Fort, Village, and US Army post. (Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Archives, Drawer 19: Vancouver Barracks Historic Maps, 1846-1895. Copyright held by National Archives; Records of the General Land Office; Box 100, Abandoned Military Reservations; Fort Vancouver, WA; copy held in the Fort Vancouver archives)

Figure 15. circa 1860 photo of the interior of Fort Vancouver (Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Archives, Inv no. [null], FOVA #1431a (copy); originals held at National Archives, National Archives of Canada, and Royal Engineers Library at Brompton Barracks, UK)

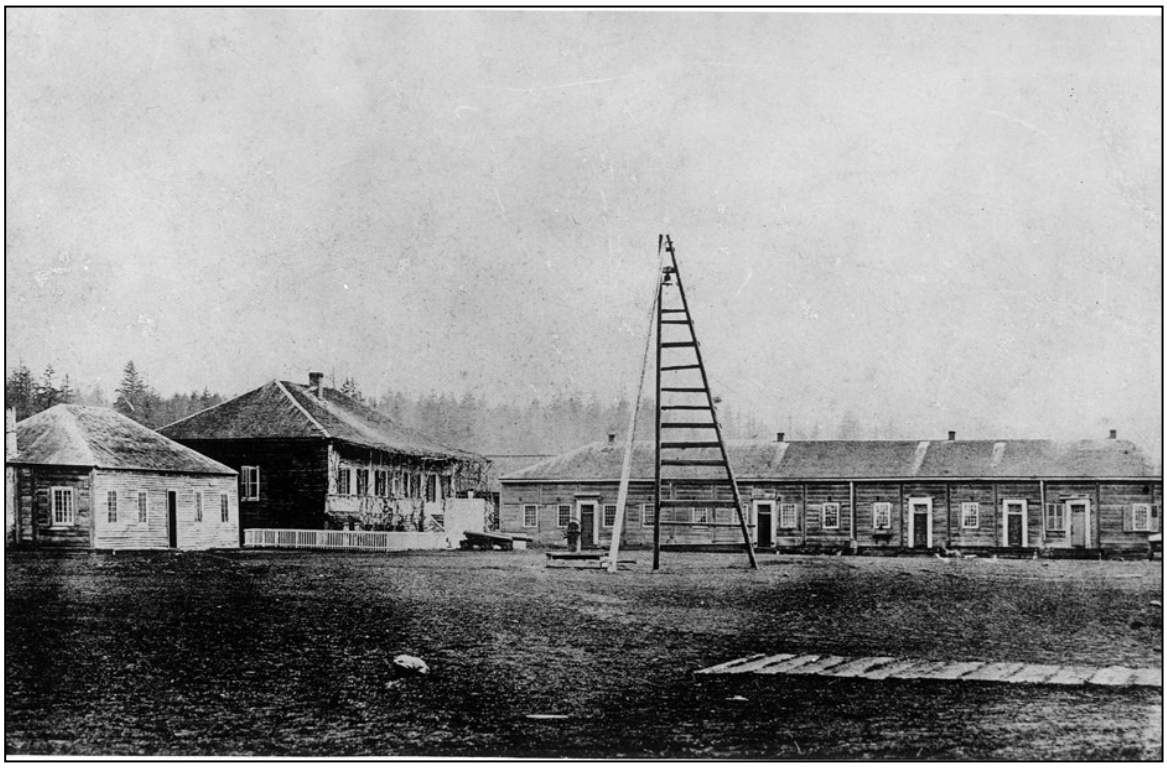

Figure 16. circa 1860 photo of the interior of Fort Vancouver (Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Archives, Inv no. [null], FOVA #1431b(copy); originals held at National Archives, National Archives of Canada, and Royal Engineers Library at Brompton Barracks, UK)

Figure 17. circa 1860s photo of the orchard and US Army presence to the north (Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Archives, Inv no.917, FOVA #633; Copyright owned by the NPS; original document held in the Fort Vancouver archives)

Analysis & Evaluation

Analysis and Evaluation Summary

This section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features. It also includes an evaluation of whether the landscape characteristic or feature contributes to the property's historic character, is noncontributing, or undetermined.

The Fort Vancouver cultural landscape is a reconstruction of the Hudson's Bay Company northwest post reflecting the development at its peak in 1845. Following the HBC's departure in 1860, the fort was razed to make way for US Army use. Prior to NPS ownership, the area historically referred to as Fort Plain, was used for the Spruce Mill operation, a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp, the Pearson Field runway, and other US Army developments. Since 1947, numerous archeological investigations have uncovered data that has informed the reconstruction of the fort and village. The following landscape characteristics of the reconstruction help to convey the HBC era of development: natural systems and features, archeological sites, spatial organization, buildings and structures, circulation, vegetation, and small-scale features.

The abundant availability of natural resources and the strategic location on the north bank of the Columbia River made the Fort Vancouver area an optimal location for a successful fur-trading and agricultural enterprise. The most influential natural features associated with the site included: the strategic position on the Columbia River, providing fresh water, transportation and power; a mild, maritime climate characterized by temperate conditions in the winter months and dry seasonal summers; good soils for farming; expansive grasslands for livestock grazing; timber for building material; and a relatively open landscape defined by river terraces and prairies in the midst of a thick forest providing building materials and fuel. While subsequent development by the HBC and the US Army resulted in the loss of the prairie communities and surrounding forest, some aspects of natural systems and features remain. Today, the Columbia River continues to define the southern boundary of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and the flat river terraces and associated topography still reflect some of the natural landscape that historically attracted the HBC to the area.

The archeological features and artifacts recovered during excavations have been used to reconstruct various aspects of the built environment of Fort Vancouver, as well as to interpret the daily habits, working conditions, and social institutions of the HBC officers, employees, and their families. Early investigations focused on the stockade and its associated buildings to provide information for the NPS reconstruction efforts. Other known archeological resources include the Fort Vancouver village, barn complex, schoolhouses, the HBC garden, waterfront complex, St. James Mission, and cemetery. Despite the extensive excavations at Fort Vancouver, only the archeological sites associated with the stockade and Fort Vancouver Village are included within the cultural landscape boundary.

The fort served as the hub of the HBC's business activities. As the Columbia River was the main transportation route to and from the area, the (second and final) fort stockade was constructed in a location close to the waterfront with views of the river and easy access (approximately 1000 feet from the current riverbank), but out of the flood plain. Within the stockade was a concentration of buildings including the Chief Factor's house, kitchen, wash house, bake house, blacksmith shop, trade shop, fur store, carpenter shop, church, priest's house, jail, office, powder magazine, several storage structures, and bachelor's quarters. Development also occurred outside of the stockade. A system of wagon roads extended from the central fort stockade to the outlying agricultural fields, pastures, forests, the waterfront, and the village (or Fort Vancouver Village). The reconstruction helps park visitors understand the extent of development by the HBC and to reestablish the development patterns within the landscape.

All buildings and structures, except for an original stone well lining within the stockade and the non-contributing contact station, are reconstructions. The contemporary reconstruction of the fort stockade and several interior structures, coupled with reconstruction of the two village buildings and wagon roads, help convey the construction style of the HBC era which were principally built in the Canadian style with post-on-sill construction. The current Fort Vancouver reconstruction consists of the stockade, 11 buildings, three privies, a flagstaff, belfry, restored well, the Fort Vancouver Village entrance gate, two Fort Vancouver Village houses, and an extensive split rail fence system.

Principal access to and from the site during this period was from the Columbia River, which was the nexus of activity, and the primary regional transportation route for trading and supply ships, as well as local travel. By 1846, a system of wagon roads had been developed that emanated from the river and the fort connecting to the Fort Vancouver Village and agricultural fields. This road system would influence the circulation patterns of the other development periods to follow and are reflected in the roads system today. In addition, some of the roads that were lost have been reconstructed as part of the interpretive efforts of the park, including the path that follows the south edge of the stockade, Lower Mill Road, and portions of the Fort Vancouver Village wagon road system.

The vegetation within the Fort Vancouver cultural landscape is a combination of compatible reconstructions of an apple orchard, plant beds in front of the Chief Factor's house, and an demonstration flower/vegetable garden, as well as fenced field areas containing grass and other native vegetation. Combined these features help to convey the agricultural setting of the fort. Incompatible vegetation includes those plantings that date to other historic eras, such as a chokecherry hedge and irises near Fort Vancouver Village that may date to the CCC era.

The fort reconstruction includes several small-scale features that are for either utilitarian or interpretive purposes and have been carefully designed or chosen to complement the historic character of the reconstruction. Features include wooden benches, an entrance sign, interpretive panels. Reconstructed small-scale features include rain barrels, a wooden cart, and three cannons. These features are predominantly located in or near the stockade and are compatible with the historic character of the landscape.

Integrity

The features within the Fort Vancouver cultural landscape, apart from the original stone well lining within the stockade, are reconstructions built using the best scientific and professional procedures available at the time, and following the guidelines established by the park's earlier master plans and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. Reconstruction began in 1966 and continues to be a work in progress. The locations and materials of the buildings, structures, and small-scale features have been informed by archeological excavations. The locations and plant selection of the orchard was also based on documentary evidence and archeological excavation. The grassy fields and demonstration garden were sited based on information relating to the HBC

era of agricultural activity. The reconstruction recreates a portion of the spatial relationships that defined the character of the fort, both in terms of the buildings and structures within the stockade and the outlying vegetation and circulation features. The careful siting of the built features also conveys the fort's spatial relationship to the natural features, such as the Columbia River and the terraced topography, that helped to establish this site as the primary location for HBC's west coast operations.

Enough of Fort Vancouver's features have been reconstructed to effectively convey the historic association, feeling, workmanship, materials, and design of an HBC-era fort. The open fields that have been maintained within the historic site's boundaries do not contain wheat or other historic agricultural crops but are compatible in terms of visual texture with the historic agricultural land use associated with the Fort's development. The setting has undergone the most change with the development of the Burlington Northern Railroad berm, Highway 14, and Interstate 5 which have created physical and visual barriers between the fort, the Columbia River, and downtown Vancouver.

Natural Systems and Features

Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape, and can include geology, geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and native vegetation. Natural systems and features either contribute directly to the landscape or helped shape and define other contributing resources.

The abundant availability of natural resources and its location on the north bank of the Columbia River made the Fort Vancouver area an optimal location for a successful fur-trading and agricultural enterprise. The most influential natural features associated with the site included: the strategic position on the Columbia River, providing fresh water, transportation, and power; a mild, maritime climate characterized by temperate conditions in the winter months and dry seasonal summers; good soils for farming; expansive grasslands for livestock grazing; timber for building material and fuel in the surrounding forests; and a relatively open landscape defined by river terraces and prairies in the midst of the thick forest.

Native American land practices, which included controlled burning, set the stage for subsequent Euro-American use of Fort Plain, helping to create the distinct forest/prairie mosaic. During the HBC era, the broad Fort Vancouver area included an assortment of plains or grasslands, coniferous forests, riparian forests, Oregon oak savannahs and water bodies including streams and lakes. The plains and forests offered an abundant blend of resources that were suitable for both trade and subsistence activities (CLR, 1992, 42). The prairies or plains were flat areas of land that were characterized by grass, moss, lichens, and other low herbaceous plants rather than dense tree cover found in the forest. Indigenous burning practices and the dense vegetation cover helped maintain the prairie's integrity and made it virtually impenetrable to other plants. An oak savannah transition zone often occurred between forest and plain where the topography shifted from level to sloping land. Here the landscape took on a park-like or open woodland character, where prairies were interspersed with widely spaced native Oregon oak and/or Douglas-fir trees (CLR, 1992, 42-43).

The natural systems and features that shaped the area played an important role in the initial selection and development of the location by the HBC. When George Simpson ordered the abandonment of Fort George on the south bank of the Columbia River near the modern-day city

of Astoria, Oregon in 1824, the new fort was located with the goal of strengthening British claims on the north side of the river. Simpson also wanted the HBC to be "…independent of foreign aid in regard to Subsistence." The search for a suitable fort site—land lacking steep banks or low, flood-prone areas—led HBC to a prairie site in present day Vancouver, Washington, which was later named Fort Plain by the Hudson's Bay Company (CLR, 1992, 41).

The first stockade (operated between 1825 and 1828) was located at Fort Plain approximately three quarters of a mile from the river on the edge of a terrace (approximately one mile northeast of the final fort location). Situated sixty feet above the low-lying river plain, this location offered protection from floods and served as a strategic defensive position. The coniferous forests surrounding the plains provided a ready supply of timber for fuel and building materials, while the streams provided a power source for both a grist mill and a sawmill (known as Mill Plain) six miles to the east (CLR, 1992, 42). After only a few years, the first stockade was abandoned and a new site for the fort was selected in 1829. The decision to make the fort the principal Hudson's Bay Company establishment in the Pacific Northwest precipitated rebuilding the stockade at a new site closer to the Columbia River (CLR, 1992, 7-8). The new fort site was located above the flood zone and possessed many of the same qualities as the first site but was closer to the river's edge, providing easy access to fresh water and transportation routes approximately six miles upriver from the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. This area would eventually become the administrative and geographical center of Fort Vancouver (CLR, 1992, 23-24).

At its height in the 1840s, Fort Vancouver consisted of thousands of acres of forests and plains that extended miles along the Columbia River. Development extended across three large prairies called Fort Plain, Lower Plain and Mill Plain, and five smaller prairies to the northeast called the Back Plains (First Plain, Second Plain, Third Plain, Fourth Plain, Fifth Plain and Camas Plain) (CLR, 1992, 42). As the HBC continued to develop the fort, native vegetation was replaced by introduced species. By the mid-1840s, the immediate area around the fort had been largely manipulated; although some forest edge and prairie, consisting of individual specimens and clumps of Douglas fir and Oregon oak trees remained around the perimeter. As development continued during the HBC era and later during the US Army's occupation, the remaining forests and prairies were cleared to make way for fields, buildings, and roads, leaving few of the native plant communities intact (CLR, 1992, 61-62).

While subsequent development by the HBC and the US Army resulted in the loss of the prairie communities and surrounding forest, some aspects of natural systems and features remain extant. Although physical barriers have been constructed that interrupt the visual connection between the reconstruction and the Columbia River, it continues to define the southern boundary of the broader Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. And the associated topography comprised of flat river terraces still reflects the general form of the landscape that historically attracted settlers to the area. However, the natural setting has undergone too significant a change due to the development of the Burlington Northern Railroad berm, Highway 14, and Interstate 5 to be considered a contributing feature within the Fort Vancouver cultural landscape.

Figure 18. Former prairie area south of Lower Mill Road, looking north to the stockade (MIG January 2023)

Spatial Organization

Spatial organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces.

The HBC strategically sited Fort Vancouver on Fort Plain, a large open meadow surrounded by dense coniferous forests on the northern bank of the Columbia River. The Columbia River was the main transportation route to and from the area, so the (second and final) fort was constructed in a location close to the waterfront with views of the river and easy access to the water but, but out of the flood plain (approximately 1,000 feet from the current riverbank).

The Fort served as the hub of the HBC's business activities. Within the stockade was a concentration of buildings, including the Chief Factor's house, kitchen, wash house, bakehouse, blacksmith shop, trade shop, fur store, carpenter shop, church, priest's house, jail, office, powder magazine, several storage structures, and the bachelor's quarters. By 1845, the area encompassed by the stockade was at its greatest extent, the perimeter having been expanded several times to incorporate successive additions to the fort's facilities. Generally, the buildings were clustered into two courtyards, with storehouses lining the north, west and south sides of the courtyard, with a bastion constructed in the northwest corner of the stockade in 1845. The east courtyard contained the residences and associated structures (CLR, 1992, 83).

In addition to construction within the stockade, development at Fort Vancouver also occurred outside of the enclosure. A system of wagon roads extended from the central fort to the outlying fields and forests, the waterfront, and the Fort Vancouver village. A wharf was built on the river southwest of the fort stockade and wagon roads connecting the wharf to the stockade were established. The village was developed west of the stockade that extended from the riverbank to just north of the Upper Mill Road (called East Fifth Street today) and included buildings and facilities that supported both the daily lives of the employees and business activities of the HBC. Known as the Fort Vancouver Village (or HBC Village), this development was generally inhabited by the lower ranks of the HBC employees and their families. During its peak, the village housed between 300 and 600 people. The village was the largest multicultural settlement in the Pacific Northwest and included French-Canadian, Scottish, Irish, Hawaiian, and Iroquois

people as well as people from over 30 different regional Native American groups. Some of the buildings and structures documented in the village and along the waterfront included residences, a hospital, mills, boat sheds, a coopers shop, and a salmon house.

Between the village and the fort stockade, immediately adjacent to the northwest sides of the stockade, the HBC planted an orchard and garden while agricultural fields were cultivated around the other sides of the stockade wall. The agricultural fields and pastures extended further east, northeast, and southeast from the immediate surroundings of the stockade into the outlying river terraces. Barns and other farm structures were constructed adjacent to the fields northeast of the fort stockade. The fields and pastures closest to the fort stockade were defined by wooden split rail fences.

After the HBC left the area and their development was removed by the US Army, very little remained to convey the historic spatial organization of the HBC development. Starting in 1966, the National Park Service built an accurate reconstruction to help park visitors understand the extent of development by the HBC and to reestablish the development patterns within the landscape. The park reconstructed the fort stockade and several buildings within, as well as two residences in the village and a road that connects the two areas. Fences were constructed to delineate the organization of the agricultural fields immediately around the stockade and a historically accurate orchard was planted to further convey the agricultural setting of the fort. The reconstructions are based on archeological surveys and historical research that utilized journals, letters, maps, and sketches in their analyses. The result has been a highly accurate reconstruction of portions of the HBC development that helps convey the historic spatial organization of the HBC landscape, with some contemporary elements such as a visitor parking lot, the demonstration garden, and walkways.

Despite NPS reconstruction efforts, some changes to the landscape since 1860 (when the HBC officially departed from the property and the US Army took over management of the landscape) have significantly impacted the ability of the NPS to fully represent the spatial organization of the site in the reconstruction. The greatest impact has been the construction of the railroad berm (built in 1908) and Highway 14 (constructed in the 1940s), which severed the visual and physical relationship between the fort and the Columbia River. With views of the river blocked, it is

difficult for visitors to comprehend the relationship between the river and the fort. To help reestablish the symbolic and physical connection between the river and the fort, a land bridge was constructed over Highway 14 in 2007.

Another impact to the spatial organization is the Pearson Field runway, located directly south and southeast of the fort. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety regulations have required that the NPS limit use of the historic road alignment (Lower Mill Road) along the southern edge of the stockade that connects to the village, an important link between the two areas. The FAA has worked with the NPS to maintain an agricultural feel to the field through specific mowing practices that help convey the historic agricultural use.

Despite these challenges, through careful research and construction methods, the park has recreated portions of the HBC development that help to accurately portray aspects of the historic spatial organization of the site.

Feature Name	Feature Contribution	CRIS CL Feature ID	CRIS-HS Resource Name	CRIS-HS Resource ID	CRIS-AR Resource ID	FMSS Record Number
HBC Fort	Noncontributing	199489	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fort Vancouver Village	Noncontributing	199490	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Orchard and Garden	Noncontributing	199491	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Figure 19. Aerial image of the HBC Fort, including the reconstructed bastion at the northwest corning. (Noncontributing, 199489) (Google Earth, June 2019)

Figure 20. Pedestrian path to the Fort Vancouver Village, looking west along the Lower Mill Road alignment. Two reconstructed buildings and a split rail fence are visible in the background. (Noncontributing, 199490) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 21. The Demonstration Garden, looking south towards the stockade. (Noncontributing, 199491) (MIG January 2023)

Vegetation

Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape.

The vegetation within the Fort Vancouver cultural landscape is a combination of reconstructions (apple orchard, fenced fields, planted beds in front of the Chief Factor's House, and demonstration garden), remnants of an inaccurate Mission 66 orchard reconstruction effort, and native vegetation.

Chief Factor's House Planted Beds (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192617)
Two planted beds in front of the Chief Factor's House, one on either side of the central staircase, include flowering plants and shrubs representative of the HBC era. The plant bed is approximately four feet deep and enclosed by a white fence. Plants include a mix of flowering annuals and perennials, such as roses.[4] Grape vines are supported by on the house's front porch columns to additional provide shade.

Demonstration Garden (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192618)
The demonstration garden was first planted ca 1974 to the northeast of the main entrance of the fort stockade. It was reconfigured in the 1980s although it remained at the same location. The current garden measures approximately 300 feet by 75 feet with the long axis oriented north-south. It is maintained by a group of NPS volunteers. The garden's location and size are non-historic, but it is near the original location of the historic garden, planted with historically appropriate plant species, and helps to convey the general agricultural character of the site during the HBC era.

The traditional English-style inspired garden has geometric plant beds arranged symmetrically along a central walkway. Most of the flowers and vegetables grown in the garden represent species that would have been available to the HBC. Examples of plants grown within the garden include: borage *(Borago officinalis*), California poppy (*Eschscholizia californica*), cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*), pinks (*Dianthus plumarus*), flowering tobacco (*Nicotiana alata*), foxglove

[4] The site visit for this CLI update was conducted in January when the flowering plants were dormant.

(*Digitalis purpurea*), hollyhock (*Alcea rosea*), lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*), love-in-a-mist (*Nigella damascene*), rose campion (*Lychnis coronaria cartyophyllaceae*), caraway (*Carum carvi*), currants *(Grossulariaceae spp*.), hops (*Cannabaceae lupulus*), lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis laliatae*), moon and stars watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus*), rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), and scarlet runner bean (*Phaseolus vulgari coccineus*).

Field Areas (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192616)

Several fields around the fort have been delineated by fences that typically would have enclosed cultivated fields during the HBC era. The park limits mowing of the fields to a couple times a year allowing the existing vegetation within the fields (predominantly non-native grasses and low-growing perennials) to grow to approximately 3 feet in height. Although the fields are not planted with crops or maintained as agricultural fields, the taller vegetation and fences help to convey an agricultural setting. The open fields are located on all sides of the fort.

Invasive Species (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 202935)

Several invasive species are found throughout the HBC landscape. Fields are mowed on a regular basis to control spread. Invasive species listed in the 2009 report titled "Vertebrate and Vascular Plant Inventories for Fort Vancouver National Historic Site: NP Species Certified Lists" include: cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), common velvetgrass (*Holcus lanatus*), common St. John's-wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), Kentucky fescue (*Lolium arundinaceum*), reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), and black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) is another problematic species in the park but is not listed in the report as an invasive species. *Note: Invasive vegetation is not mapped on the associated site plans; see Natural Resources map data on file with NPS.*

Miscellaneous Non-native/Ornamental Vegetation (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192621)

Shrubs and several trees are located throughout the HBC development area that date to post-HBC eras and uses of the land and are not associated with HBC era activities. A chokecherry hedge and groupings of iris, west of the interpretive orchard, is located near the sites of CCC-era buildings that no longer exist. These shrubs may be remnants from the CCC era but have not been confirmed. During the HBC era this location would have been either an orchard or cultivated

field. A sequoia tree is located within the interpretive orchard and several locust trees line the fence north of the interpretive orchard (south of the CCC-constructed US Army buildings). The origins of these trees, although unknown, post-date the HBC era and would not have existed within the orchard historically. A single locust tree is located near the reconstructed residences in the village. The origin of this tree is also unknown, but it is not associated with the HBC era. In addition, a mowed lawn has been maintained within the fort stockade since its construction in 1960s. *Note: Partially mapped in associated site plans; see Natural Resources map data on file with NPS for further information.*

Mission 66 Fruit Trees (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192620)

During the Mission 66 era of the park, an orchard was established northwest of the main entrance to the fort reconstruction. The location, tree spacing, and tree species were not an accurate representation of the HBC era orchard. The location was chosen to provide a screen between the fort and the US Army buildings to the north. Several types of fruits trees were planted including apples, cherries, and pears. The apple trees became diseased and were removed between 2003 and 2009. Approximately six cherry and pear trees remain from the Mission 66 orchard, and they have lost their grid pattern so no longer convey the appearance of an orchard.

Native Vegetation (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192619)

Several native plants have become naturalized since the park began reconstructing the HBC landscape in 1966. A few clusters of cottonwoods are located between the Pearson Field runway and Highway 14. Small patches of camas have also been noted between the fort reconstruction and Highway 14, though they likely predate the reconstruction of the fort. And two Douglas firs have grown near the northeastern corner of the fort, at the trailhead for the Spruce Trail. More recently, with the construction of the land bridge over Highway 14, native vegetation was planted around the base of the structure. It is unknown the exact distribution of native species during the HBC era, but the existence of these species is appropriate to the era and were likely present in the uncultivated areas of the HBC landscape. *Note: Partially mapped in associated site plans; see Natural Resources map data on file with NPS for further information.*

Orchard (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192615)

In 2003, an orchard reconstruction project was completed that accurately restored one acre of the historic five-acre HBC apple orchard. Attention was paid to every known detail of the original orchard and to orchard practices of the time. The reconstruction was implemented near the northwest corner of the stockade where historic maps and drawings show the apple orchard was located. To reflect an important defining characteristic of mid-1800s orchards, the reconstruction was majority planted with trees mainly grown from seed, as they would have been during the period of significance. Specifically, the seedlings were grown from English cider varieties that would have been available in the 1840s. Six trees were grafted with cuttings from the Old Apple Tree, the oldest apple tree in Washington, which was located on adjacent lands but was felled during a storm in 2019. The tree is thought to have been associated with the HBC village, and though damaged, appears to have survived the storm and is resprouting from its roots. The young orchard trees were carefully shaped (with tall trunks and no lower branches) and were planted on a 30-foot grid system, which are all details that reflect 1840s apple orchard practices.

Feature Name	Feature Contribution	CRIS CL Feature ID	CRIS-HS Resource Name	CRIS-HS Resource ID	CRIS-AR Resource ID	FMSS Record Number
Chief Factor's House Plant Beds	Noncontributing	192617	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Demonstration Garden	Noncontributing	192618	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Field Areas	Noncontributing	192616	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Invasive Species	Noncontributing	202935	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Miscellaneous Non-native/Ornamental Vegetation	Noncontributing	192621	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mission 66 Fruit Trees	Noncontributing	192620	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Native Vegetation	Noncontributing	192619	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Orchard	Noncontributing	192615	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Figure 22. Chief Factor's House Planted Beds (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192617) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 23. Demonstration Garden, looking east from the central path. The stockade is to the right of the image. (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192618) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 24. Fields areas, looking northwest from near the entrance to the Fort Vancouver Village. (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192616) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 25. Invasive Species (Himalayan blackberry) in the HBC Village area. (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 202935) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 26. Miscellaneous Ornamental Vegetation (Douglas firs trees at the northeast corner of the stockade) (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192621) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 27. Extant row of Mission 66 Fruit Trees (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192620) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 28. Native vegetation along the southern boundary of the landscape. (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192619) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 29. The reconstructed Orchard, looking southeast towards the stockade. (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192615) (MIG 2021)

Circulation

Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape, including both vehicular and pedestrian modes of movement.

Development of roads, paths, and water routes was largely driven by the fort's function as a fur-trading, manufacturing/industrial, and agricultural post. Principal access to and from the site was from the Columbia River, which was the nexus of activity, and the primary regional transportation route for trading and supply ships, as well as local travel. The HBC trading ships, London-based supply ships, and civilian and military trading ships traveled upriver from the Pacific Ocean. Various river craft transported passengers and goods down river from The Dalles, Oregon, while barges and boats brought passengers and goods from the Willamette River to the Columbia to the HBC's wharf.

By 1846, a system of wagon roads had been developed that emanated from the river and the fort, connecting to Fort Vancouver Village and agricultural fields. Roads closest to the fort tended to be straighter, paralleling the stockade walls of the fort, while outlying roads followed the natural features of the land and were more curvilinear. Ultimately, this road system would influence the subsequent development of circulation patterns which are reflected in the road system today. In addition, some of the roads that were lost have been reconstructed as wide paths or walkways as part of the park's interpretive efforts. Most have been surfaced with decomposed granite, which gives a historically compatible look and feel that matches the color of the native soil.

East 5th Street (historically called Upper Mill Road) defines the northern boundary of the HBC landscape. It is not included in the CLI boundary because the road is more reflective of the US Army era than the HBC-era wagon road. The alignment of East 5th Street was established during the HBC period, but the roadbed itself has been heavily modified.

Land Bridge Trail (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192612, CRIS HS ID 1170768)

In 2007, a trail was constructed to provide visitor access through the village area to the land bridge over Highway 14. The portion of the trail that passes through the village area follows the alignment of the main historic north-south route through the village. An east-west spur trail branches off the main trail, following a historic path that provided access to the HBC employee

residences. The remainder of the trail includes a segment that begins at East Fifth Street west of the US Army Building 410 (historic CCC office), heads south, and then S-curves west through the orchard reconstruction toward the village. This segment does not follow historic road alignments.

Historically, the roads through the village were wagon roads, approximately 12-15 feet wide and probably compacted soil or surfaced with gravel. Design and construction of the modern trails was done in a manner to make them compatible with the historic character of the village. The trail is 12 feet wide, raised 2-3 feet from the surface to not disturb archeological resources underneath, and surfaced with decomposed granite.

Lower Mill Road (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192611, CRIS HS ID 1170767)
The road south of the fort, "Lower Mill Road," was a main connector between the fort and the waterfront to the west and agricultural fields to the east. The historic alignment of the road is currently demarcated by fence lines that historically would have been used to enclose the surrounding agricultural fields. The road is approximately 20-feet wide. The west end of the trail is an unpaved, grassy corridor; sections close to the stockade are paved in gravel. The road historically joined with East Fifth Street (or Upper Mill Road) as it continued eastward, but today the road is truncated by a road associated with Pearson Field. Since the road is located within the Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) of Pearson Field, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety regulations discourage visitor use of this road.

Main Fort Entrance Walkway (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192609, CRIS HS ID 367182)
The northern entrance to the fort was historically accessed by a wagon road that was aligned north-south between East Fifth Street and the entrance to the fort stockade. It measured approximately 12-15 feet wide and was probably surfaced with compacted soil or gravel. Today, a 12-foot-wide walkway follows the same alignment extending from East Fifth Street to the northern gate of the stockade. A spur trail branches westward to connect to the main visitor parking lot outside of the cultural landscape boundary. This walkway provides the main access between the parking lot and the fort. The walkway was designed and constructed to be compatible with the historic character of the fort. The trail is 12 feet wide, raised 1-2 feet from the surface to

avoid disturbance of archeological resources underneath, and surfaced with decomposed granite, which gives a historically compatible look and feel that matches the color of the native soil.

Parking Lot (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192613, CRIS HS ID 1170769)

The parking lot within the cultural landscape boundary was constructed in the early 1990s. It is a roughly rectangular-shaped, open area, approximately 300 feet long and 150 feet wide. It is accessed from East 5th Street and has one entrance at the western end and one exit at the eastern end to encourage one-way traffic through the lot. It is divided into two parking areas by a narrow median down the center line. The parking lot is surfaced with gravel and its edges are defined by lawn. The parking lot provides angle-in parking for cars and trucks that is delineated by wood bumpers and parallel parking for buses and RVs along the northern edge of the median. This parking lot is not based on historic precedence, nor does it reflect the historic character of the HBC era. It was originally constructed as a temporary solution for visitor parking and is now being phased out.

Paths within the Fort (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192610, CRIS HS ID 1170766)

Several paved paths within the fort stockade provide access to reconstructed buildings. Like the other walkways throughout the HBC area, these walkways were designed and constructed to be compatible with the historic character of the fort. The paths are 10 feet wide and are slightly raised from the surface to avoid disturbing archeological resources underneath. The trails are surfaced with decomposed granite, which gives a historically compatible look and feel that matches the color of the native soil. While the surface material is compatible, not all the alignments are historically accurate. The walkways show signs of deterioration due to poor drainage and exposure to elements. There are signs of water pooling where they connect to building entrances and at major junctions in the paths.

Pearson Field Runway (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192614, CRIS HS ID 1170770)

The Pearson Field runway is located south of the fort and extends eastward beyond NPS-owned property. It is paved with asphalt and measures 60 feet wide and 3,200 feet long with a little less than half its length on NPS property. The field has been used as a landing strip since the early 1900s but has undergone several modifications over the years. A runway extension off the western end of the runway is kept mowed, per FAA regulations.

Pedestrian Walkways (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 202936)

Several paths throughout the cultural landscape provide access to different areas of the landscape. Added walkways are primarily decomposed granite or gravel material or asphalt paving. They bisect areas that were historically planted with fields or orchards. New paved pathways were added to the garden and orchard area when the new parking lot was built in the South Barracks area ca. early 2020s, just outside of the cultural landscape boundary. Earlier walkways were constructed to connect the main fort entrance walkway to the Spruce Trail to the east and the fields to the west. Another walkway was constructed to connect the parking lot to the main entrance walkway and Land Bridge Trail.

Feature Name	Feature Contribution	CRIS CL Feature ID	CRIS-HS Resource Name	CRIS-HS Resource ID	CRIS-AR Resource ID	FMSS Record Number
Land Bridge Trail	Noncontributing	192612	HBCo. Land Bridge Trail	1170768	n/a	n/a
Lower Mill Road	Noncontributing	192611	HBCo. Lower Mill Road	1170767	n/a	n/a
Main Fort Entrance Walkway	Noncontributing	192609	HBCo. Village Entrance Road and Fence Line	367182	n/a	n/a
Parking Lot	Noncontributing	192613	HBCo. Parking Lot	1170769	n/a	n/a
Paths Within the Fort	Noncontributing	192610	HBCo. Fort Paths	1170766	n/a	n/a
Pearson Field Runway	Noncontributing	192614	Pearson Field Runway	1170770	n/a	n/a
Pedestrian Walkways	Noncontributing	202936	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Figure 30. The southern end of the Land Bridge Trail, looking north from the land bridge. (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192612, CRIS HS ID 1170768) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 31. Lower Mill Road looking east toward the fort from the village. (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192611, CRIS HS ID 1170767) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 32. Main fort entrance and walkway, looking north towards E. 5th Street from the north gate of the stockade. (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192609, CRIS HS ID 367182) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 33. Parking Lot, looking east. (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192613, CRIS HS ID 1170769) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 34. Paths within the Fort Stockade (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192610, CRIS HS ID 1170766) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 35. View of Pearson Field Runway looking southeast. (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192614, CRIS HS ID 1170770) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 36. Pedestrian walkway from parking lot, south towards Stockade. (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 202936) (MIG January 2023)

Buildings and Structures

Buildings are elements constructed primarily for sheltering any form of human activity in a landscape, while structures are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activity.

Most of the buildings and structures associated with the Hudson's Bay Company were removed in the early 1860s when the US Army assumed full control of the site. The rest were removed by subsequent Army activities and a fire in 1866 that destroyed the fort. Since 1966, the National Park Service has been actively reconstructing historic HBC buildings and structures, focusing on the company's height of development in 1845. All buildings and structures, except for the original stone well lining within the stockade, are reconstructions built using the best scientific and professional procedures available at the time, and following the guidelines established by the park's earlier master plans. The contemporary reconstruction of the fort stockade and several interior structures, coupled with reconstruction of the two village buildings and wagon roads, help convey the construction style of the HBC era.

The current fort reconstruction consists of the stockade, 11 buildings, three privies, a flagstaff, belfry, restored well, the Fort Vancouver Village entrance gate, and an extensive split rail fence system outside of the stockade. A few of the buildings have non-historic uses, such as public restrooms in the wash house and curatorial facilities in the fur store. However, the historic appearance was conveyed with only minor changes to their exteriors to accommodate these modern functions. Plans for these buildings went through the compliance process to assure all undertakings were compliant with the Secretary of the Interior Standards. The reconstructions are not currently considered eligible for listing in the National Register but are compatible with the historic landscape.[5]

The buildings associated with the HBC development were principally built in the Canadian style with post-on-sill construction. This type of construction was used throughout Canada during this period and was common in the fur-trade industry. Employing post-on-sill construction techniques, the frames of the buildings were made by mortising vertical, squared-timber posts

[5] The reconstructed buildings were last evaluated for listing in the National Register before they had reached 50 years of age.

into timber sills. The walls were fashioned by placing infill timbers with tenons at each end horizontally between the vertical posts. The horizontal wall timbers had tenons at each end that slid into a notch in the vertical posts. Initially the roofs were clad with one-foot-wide, by one-inch-thick sawed boards until approximately 1845 or 1846 when most of these boards were replaced by shakes or shingles. Early in the stockade's history, the roofs appeared to have been simple gable roof; however, by 1846 eight of the principal buildings had hip roofs (CLR, 1992, 83).

Non-contributing and incompatible buildings and structures include the contact station located inside the main entrance to the stockade and the interpretive garden shed built in the 1980s for equipment storage. These non-compatible features are not accurate reconstructions of known historic features.

Well (Contributing, CRIS CL ID 121660, CRIS HS ID 005179)

Constructed circa 1845, the well is the only original structure remaining within the HBC stockade. It was historically used for domestic water supply. The well has its original rubble stone masonry lining. The shaft opening was returned to grade and covered with wood boards like the covering over other fort wells that can be seen in historic photographs. The well was excavated in 1955 and rehabilitated in 1974. The new well sweep and well cap were reconstructed in 2001 based upon information found in historic photographs.

Bastion (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192590, CRIS HS ID 000401)

The bastion, a three-story structure with an octagonal hip roof, is located on the northwest corner of the stockade. The first two stories are square; the third is octagonal with each side of the octagon containing a gun port. The gun ports are covered with Plexiglas. The exterior walls are constructed of chinked, horizontal, infill timbers placed between vertical posts. The roof is pyramidal with wood shingles and a beaver weathervane at the peak. A wide entrance door with a wood plank door, a heavy metal lock, and a wood pull is located at the east elevation. The original bastion was constructed circa 1845 and was reconstructed in 1972.

Bakehouse (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192591, CRIS HS ID 000402)

This building straddles the line of the east stockade wall near its northeast corner. It is a one and one-half story, rectangular, post-on-sill building with a gable roof and lean-to over back ovens. The exterior walls are constructed of chinked, horizontal, infill timbers placed between vertical posts that have been painted white. The gable roof is covered with wood shingles and features two large interior brick chimneys at its east elevation. Primary fenestration is 9/9 double hung windows. The front wood plank door is topped with a transom. The windows and door have flat, simple surrounds. The bakehouse was originally constructed in 1844 and was reconstructed in 1974.

Belfry (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192605, CRIS HS ID 239249)

The bell tower is located adjacent to the east elevation of the carpentry shop. It is a wooden post with a bell at the top and wooden rungs up the side. The belfry was used to maintain the daily work schedule, rung at the beginning of the day, at mealtimes, at the end of the day and in times of emergency or celebration. The present brass bell was acquired by the park from the Elderhorst Foundry in Pennsylvania. The original belfry was constructed around 1835 and was reconstructed ca 1974.

Blacksmith Shop (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192595, CRIS HS ID 030081)

The blacksmith shop is in the southeast corner of the compound. This is a rectangular, one-story, post-on-sill building. The exterior walls are constructed of chinked, horizontal, infill timbers placed between vertical posts at the first story and board and batten wood siding above on the gable ends. The gable roof is covered with boards, has exposed rafters, and has two brick forges and chimneys. Primary fenestration is 6/6 double-hung wood windows. The west elevation has paired wood plank doors and a single wood plank door. A single wood plank door is also located at the east elevation. The blacksmith shop was originally built circa 1836-1841 and was reconstructed in 1981.

Carpenter Shop (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192598, CRIS HS ID 235695)

The carpenter shop is located adjacent to the north wall of the stockade, west of the gate. It is a rectangular, one story, post-on-sill building with a gable roof covered with boards. The exterior walls are constructed of chinked, horizontal, infill timbers placed between vertical posts. Primary

fenestration is 12-light casement windows at the south and west elevations with single exterior shutters. 9-light casement windows are in the end gables. In the east and south elevations are wood plank doors. The carpenter shop was originally constructed circa 1844-1845 and was reconstructed in 1997.

Chief Factor's House (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192592, CRIS HS ID 000407)
This building is located to the east of the north entrance inside the stockade. This rectangular, one-and-a-half-story house is of post-on-sill construction. The exterior walls are covered with lapped board siding painted white. The hip roof is covered with wood shingles and has a single interior brick chimney. The most prominent architectural detail is the veranda that extends along the front (south) elevation. Two sets of curved wooden stairs access the veranda, which has a plain, wooden baluster railing. Sixteen simple square posts support the shed roof. These posts also support hop vines planted to shade the veranda in the summer. Primary fenestration is paired 10-light casement windows with exterior shutters. A red painted wood door is located on the south elevation. The Chief Factor's house was originally constructed around 1837-1838 and was reconstructed in 1976.

Contact Station (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 202937, CRIS HS ID 1172162)
Located just inside the stockade, west of the Chief Factor's house, the contact station is the first point of contact for visitors to the stockade. It is a rectangular, one-story building with a gable roof covered with wooden shingles. The exterior walls are clad in wood siding. The contact station was added to the Fort in the 1980s and is therefore a noncontributing structure.

Counting House (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192600, CRIS HS ID 366423)
The counting house, located south of the jail and carpenter shop, is a rectangular, one and a half story, post-on-sill building with a hip roof. The exterior walls are constructed of chinked, horizontal, infill timbers placed between vertical posts and covered with lapped board siding painted white. The roof has wood shingles and exposed rafters. Primary fenestration consists of multi-paned double-hung windows: four windows on the south elevation, three on the east and west elevations, and two on the north elevation. Wood paneled doors are located on the north and the south elevations. The counting house was originally built in 1845 and was reconstructed in 2003.

Demonstration Garden Storage (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 202938, CRIS HS ID 1172163)

Located next to the demonstration garden north of the fort, the garden shed is used to store tools and other equipment needed for maintenance of the demonstration garden. The shed was constructed in the 1980s and is not a reconstruction based on historical evidence or archeological investigation like the other buildings and structures within Fort Vancouver. Next to the shed are two rectangular plan enclosures built for storing compost and green waste.

Flagstaff (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192604, CRIS HS ID 239129)

In 1974, a flagpole was erected in an incorrect location, west of the Chief Factor's House. A new, peeled log flagpole was erected adjacent to the east elevation of the fur store and the old flagpole was removed. The proximity of the fort to Pearson Field required the park to reduce the pole's height to meet Federal Aviation Association (FAA) regulations. As a result, the wooden pole extends approximately 35 feet above grade, while the original HBC flagstaff was approximately 103 feet tall. The flagstaff was originally built circa 1829 and was reconstructed in 1995.

Fur Store (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192597, CRIS HS ID 030205)

The fur store is located adjacent to the south wall of the stockade. It is the largest reconstructed building within the fort stockade and represents one of four similar general warehouses constructed at Fort Vancouver. It is a two-story building, of post-on-sill construction, with a hip roof covered with wood shingles. Three paired wooden segmental headed plank doors are located at the north elevation. The fur store was originally built in 1841 and was reconstructed in 1994.

HBC Fence System (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192608, CRIS HS ID 367182)

During the HBC era fences were installed throughout the fort area to protect cultivated crops and define pastureland. A system of 4-foot high split cedar post-and-rail style fences have been reconstructed around open fields surrounding the stockade. Fence lines are also located along a historic wagon road alignment that runs behind (south of) the fort reconstruction, along the Land Bridge Trail, which follows the historic alignment of the main village road, around the demonstration garden, along East Fifth Street, and near the parking lot. The Fort Vancouver Village fence system was originally built between 1824 and 1860. Reconstruction of the fence system began in 1966 and is ongoing at the time of this evaluation (2023).

Fort Vancouver Village Entrance Gate (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192607, CRIS HS ID 366979)

Outside the stockade, at the Fort Vancouver Village site, a gate has been reconstructed at the junction with Lower Mill Road, the main road to the fort stockade from the waterfront. The gate is constructed of two vertical peeled logs topped with a third horizontal cross bar spanning the two vertical posts. The gate measures 18 feet tall with an opening 24 feet wide. The horizontal cross bar is 36 feet long. The entrance gate was originally built in the 1830s and was reconstructed in 2001.

Jail (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192599, CRIS HS ID 235698)

The jail, located near the north wall of the stockade, is a rectangular, one story, post-on-sill building with a gable roof. The exterior walls are constructed of chinked, horizontal, infill timbers placed between vertical posts. The roof has wood shingles and exposed rafters. Instead of windows, the jail has two approximately 12-inch x12-inch square openings on each of the east and west elevations that act as vents. The wood plank door at the south elevation has a small, barred opening for a vent or viewing portal, approximately 9-inch x 9-inch. The jail was originally built between 1841 and 1844, it was reconstructed in 2001.

Kitchen (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192593, CRIS HS ID 000408)

This building is behind the Chief Factor's house (north elevation). It is connected to the main house via a short, enclosed passageway, which is not based on historic evidence. The kitchen is a one and one-half story, rectangular, post-on-sill building with a gable roof, central, brick chimney, and covered porch over the east door. The exterior walls are constructed of chinked, horizontal, infill timbers placed between vertical posts at the first story. The timber gable infill framing is covered with board and batten siding. The roof has two layers of wood boards. At the east elevation is an open porch with a shed-roof supported by slender wood posts. Primary fenestration is 8/8 double-hung windows. The door at the east elevation is wood plank. The kitchen was originally constructed in 1837-1838 and was reconstructed in 1976.

Stockade (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192603, CRIS HS ID 000400)

The construction method of the stockade incorporates the use of ten to thirteen-inch diameter posts (referred to as 'king posts') set into the ground. Cross members or "girths" are mortised into the king posts; one about two feet above the ground surface and another placed about four feet below the top of the pickets. The pickets (peeled logs measuring between five and ten inches in diameter) are affixed to the outside of the cross members. The tops of the posts along the northern wall of the stockade are round, pointed tops that are not historically accurate. The rest of the wall posts have beveled tops, with the flat surface of the bevel slanting toward the interior of the stockade. The stockade has 3 entry gates that are the full height of the stockade fence with smaller pedestrian doors at the bottom. These gates are located: on the north side of the stockade, between the Chief Factor's House and the contact station; on the south side of the stockade, west of the trade shop; and on the south side of the stockade west of the fur shop. The original stockade was fully constructed prior to 1845 and was reconstructed between 1966 and 1973.

Stockade Privies (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192606, CRIS HS ID 1170765)

Four reconstructed privies are located within the walls of the stockade. Two privies are located near the bakehouse, the third structure is situated on the eastern stockade wall near the blacksmith shop, and the fourth is on the western wall of the stockade, south of the bastion. Their siting was determined by the archeological evidence. The small rectangular privy reconstructions are covered with board and batten siding and have a shed roof clad with wood shingles. The front-facing elevation has two wood plank doors with a small ventilation opening located above each door. The privies were originally built circa 1830s and were reconstructed in the 1980s.

Trade Shop and Dispensary (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192596, CRIS HS ID 030082)

This building is located adjacent to the blacksmith shop in the southeast corner of the compound. Built of post-on-sill construction, it has a simple rectangular plan and one and one-half stories. The exterior walls are constructed of chinked, horizontal, infill timbers placed between vertical posts at the 1st story and board and batten wood siding above on the gable ends. The gable roof is covered with shingles and has exposed rafters. The building has 6/6 double-hung windows and 8-light transoms over the doors. One wood plank door is located on the west elevation and a paneled door is located on the east elevation. The trade shop and dispensary was originally constructed around 1836-1841 and was reconstructed in 1981.

Village House #1 (Engage House) (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192601, CRIS HS ID 957725)

Constructed to evoke the style and scale of a typical employee residence that existed during the HBC-era, house #1 provides a glimpse of 1800s living conditions in the village. Located west of the stockade, house #1 is a square, one story, post-on-sill building with a gable roof. The exterior walls are constructed of chinked, horizontal, infill timbers placed between vertical posts. The roof is clad in roof shakes with exposed rafters. Primary fenestration includes 2, 12-light casement windows on the southern elevation and a single 12-light casement window on the eastern elevation. A wood plank door is also located on southern elevation. Village house #1 was originally built circa the 1830s and was reconstruction by the University of Oregon Field School between 2006 and 2007.

Village House #2 (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192602, CRIS HS ID 957734)

Of a similar style and scale to house #1, the building is located west of the stockade, approximately 100 feet east of house #1. House #2 is a rectangular, one and one-half story, post-on-sill building with a gable roof. The exterior walls are constructed of chinked, horizontal, infill timbers placed between vertical posts and board and batten wood siding above on the gable ends. The roof is clad with wood shingles and has exposed rafters. Fenestration includes 2 12-light casement windows on the southern elevation, 3 12-light casement windows on the western elevation (one is located at the gable end), while the eastern elevation has 2 12-light casement windows. A wood plank door is located on the southern elevation of the building. The house has a working fireplace and chimney and supports park interpretive programs. Village house #2 was originally built circa the 1840s and was reconstructed in 2009.

Wash House (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192594, CRIS HS ID 000403)

The wash house is located between the east elevation of the Chief Factor's House and the west elevation of the bake house. It is a one-story, rectangular, post-on-sill construction. The exterior walls are constructed of chinked, horizontal, infill timbers placed between vertical posts at the first story and board and batten wood siding above on the gable ends. The board-covered roof has exposed rafters and a false brick chimney. Primary fenestration is 9-light fixed windows on the north, east, and south elevations. Three wood plank doors are located at the west elevation. The

exterior design was carefully modified from its historic appearance to accommodate the modern public restrooms within the building. The Wash House was originally built circa 1840 and was reconstructed in 1976.

Feature Name	Feature Contribution	CRIS CL Feature ID	CRIS-HS Resource Name	CRIS-HS Resource ID	CRIS-AR Resource ID	FMSS Record Number
Well	Contributing	121660	HBCo. Well #2	005179	n/a	n/a
Bastion	Noncontributing	192590	HBCo. Fort Bastion	000401	n/a	n/a
Bakehouse	Noncontributing	192591	HBCo. Fort Bake House	000402	n/a	n/a
Belfry	Noncontributing	192605	HBCo. Fort Belfry	239249	n/a	n/a
Blacksmith Shop	Noncontributing	192595	HBCo. Blacksmith Shop	30081	n/a	n/a
Carpenter Shop	Noncontributing	192598	HBCo. Fort Carpenter Shop	235695	n/a	n/a
Chief Factor's House	Noncontributing	192592	HBCo. Fort Chief Factor's House	000407	n/a	n/a
Contact Station	Noncontributing	202937	Contact Station	1172162	n/a	n/a
Counting House	Noncontributing	192600	HBCo. Fort Counting House	366423	n/a	n/a
Demonstration Garden Storage	Noncontributing	202938	Demonstration Garden Storage	1172163	n/a	n/a
Flagstaff	Noncontributing	192604	HBCo. Fort Flagstaff	239129	n/a	n/a
Fur Store	Noncontributing	192597	HBCo. Fur Warehouse	30205	n/a	n/a

HBC Fence System	Noncontributing	192608	Fort Vancouver Village Entrance Road and Fence Line	367182	n/a	n/a
Fort Vancouver Village Entrance Gate	Noncontributing	192607	HBCo. Village Entrance Gate	366979	n/a	n/a
Jail	Noncontributing	192599	HBCo. Fort Jail	235698	n/a	n/a
Kitchen	Noncontributing	192593	HBCo. Kitchen	000408	n/a	n/a
Stockade	Noncontributing	192603	HBCo. Fort Stockade	000400	n/a	n/a
Stockade Privies	Noncontributing	192606	HBCo. Fort Stockade Privies (4)	1170765	n/a	n/a
Trade Shop and Dispensary	Noncontributing	192596	HBCo. Trade Shop	30082	n/a	n/a
Village House #1 (Engage House)	Noncontributing	192601	Fort Vancouver HBCo. Employee Village House No. 1	957725	n/a	n/a
Village House #2	Noncontributing	192602	Fort Vancouver HBCo. Employee Village House No. 2	957734	n/a	n/a
Wash House	Noncontributing	192594	HBCo. Fort Wash House	000403	n/a	n/a

Figure 37. Well (Contributing, CRIS CL ID 121660, CRIS HS ID 005179) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 38. Bastion (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192590, CRIS HS ID 000401) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 39. Bakehouse (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192591, CRIS HS ID 000402) (MIG January 2023)

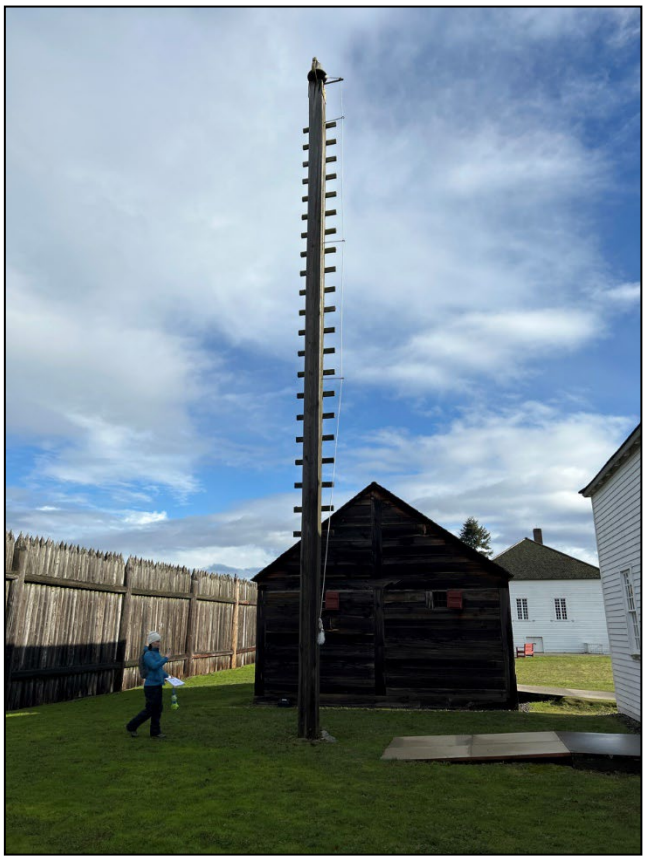

Figure 40. Belfry (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192605, CRIS HS ID 239249) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 41. Blacksmith Shop (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192595, CRIS HS ID 030081) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 42. Carpenter Shop (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192598, CRIS HS ID 235695) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 43. Chief Factor's House (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192592, CRIS HS ID 000407) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 44. Contact Station (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 202937, CRIS HS ID 1172162) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 45. Counting house (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192600, CRIS HS ID 366423) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 46. Demonstration Garden Storage shed with compost enclosures to the left. (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 202938, CRIS HS ID 1172163) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 47. Flagstaff (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192604, CRIS HS ID 239129) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 48. Fur Store (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192597, CRIS HS ID 030205) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 49. Fence System, looking southwest towards the stockade. (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192608, CRIS HS ID 367182) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 50. Fort Vancouver Village Entrance Gate, looking east towards the stockade. (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192607, CRIS HS ID 366979) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 51. Jail (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192599, CRIS HS ID 235698) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 52. Kitchen (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192593, CRIS HS ID 000408) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 53. Stockade wall looking west along the north boundary wall. (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192603, CRIS HS ID 000400) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 54. North stockade entry gate opening into the stockade (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192603, CRIS HS ID 000400) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 55. Stockade privies (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192606, CRIS HS ID 1170765) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 56. Trade Shop and Dispensary (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192596, CRIS HS ID 030082) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 57. Village House #1 (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192601, CRIS HS ID 957725) (MIG January 2023)

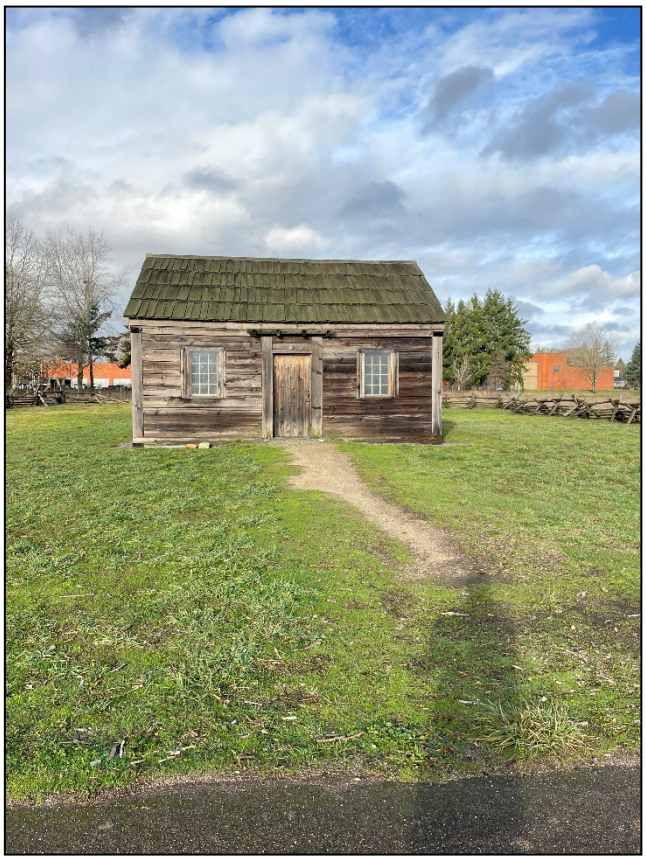

Figure 58. Village House #2 (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192602, CRIS HS ID 957734) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 59. Wash House (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192594, CRIS HS ID 000403) (MIG January 2023)

Small-Scale Features

Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape.

The fort includes several small-scale features that have been carefully designed or chosen to complement the historic character of the reconstruction. These features include rain barrels around the Chief Factor's house, a replica Red River Cart that has been moved indoors and is no longer visible to the public, two cannons in front of the Chief Factor's house, and one portable demonstration cannon that is currently located offsite.[6] The rain barrels and the cannons in front of the Chief Factor's house are reconstructions based on historic evidence. The cannons in front of the Chief Factor's House were historically 18-pounder cannons that were not functional during the HBC era but were placed to impress visitors to the fort. These features are predominantly located in or near the stockade and are compatible with the historic character of the landscape. Other small-scale features, such as the wood benches, a bike rack, and interpretive signs are clearly contemporary interventions that facilitate visitor enjoyment of the site. The entrance sign, located near the parking lot, was built in 2001 following the same Mission 66-era design used for the sign at the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site's visitor center. Overall, the features at Fort Vancouver are non-contributing, although the items that reconstructed are managed as cultural resources along with the other reconstructed features within the landscape.

Bike Rack (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 202939)

A metal bike rack is located near the parking lot at the northern terminus of the fort entry walkway.

Entrance Sign (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192623)

The NPS sign located at the northern terminus of the fort entry walkway resembles a miniature version of a stockade wall with pointed timbers about four feet tall set on a concrete base. A wooden plaque with the park's name and an NPS logo is attached to the front of the sign.

[6] The replica red river cart and portable demonstration canon are catalogued within the park's museum collection and no longer located within the cultural landscape. They are not described further in this report.

Chief Factor's House Garden Fence (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 202940)

A wooden fence surrounds the garden beds in front of the Chief Factor's house. The fence is approximately 2 feet tall with slats that are about 3 inches wide spaced about 3 inches apart. The fence is painted white. A similar fence is shown in a historic photograph of the Chief Factor's house ca. 1860.

Interpretive Panels (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 1922624)

Free-standing, metal framed interpretive panels are located throughout the Fort Vancouver cultural landscape. They describe the historical context for nearby reconstructed features. There are panels in several locations: near the entrance to Fort Vancouver Village, at the demonstration garden, in front of the bakehouse, and in front of the carpenter's shop. Some interpretive panels show signs of degradation due to exposure to the elements.

Rain Barrels (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192625)

There are two rain barrels placed at gutter downspouts at the northwestern and northeastern corners of the Chief Factor's house. There are also two barrels at the carpenter's shop; one at the northwest corner and one at the southeast corner. The barrels are wood with metal rings around the body of the barrel. Gutter downspouts are directed into the barrels to collect rainwater runoff from the roofs of the building. These features were added during the reconstruction of the buildings and were designed and sited based on historic evidence.

Red Wheelbarrows (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 202941)

Several portable wood wheelbarrows, painted red, are located inside the stockade. They are typically located near reconstructed buildings and appear to be used as interpretive tools for domestic tasks during living history demonstrations.

Cannons (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192627)

Two replica cannons are located south of the Chief Factor's house within the fort stockade. They are cataloged museum items despite being replicas. The replica cannons are mounted on wooden bases and oriented with the open face south. They include a stack of replica cannon balls on the ground in front of each cannon. They were reconstructed based on historical evidence and were

sited in front of the Chief Factor's house during the HBC era to intimidate visitors. The wooden bases on which the cannons are mounted show signs of deterioration due to the elements.

Wheelchair Lift (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 202942)

A wheelchair lift is located on the east side of the front porch on the Chief Factor's house that goes from ground level up to the porch. This lift enables visitors who are unable to use stairs to access the front porch of the house and enter. The wheelchair lift is unsheltered and shows signs of deterioration due to elements.

Wooden Benches (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192622)

Wooden benches are located throughout this landscape. There is one south of the contact station inside the stockade and one on the north end of the demonstration garden. The bench shows signs of deterioration due to elements.

Feature Name	Feature Contribution	CRIS CL Feature ID	CRIS-HS Resource Name	CRIS-HS Resource ID	CRIS-AR Resource ID	FMSS Record Number
Bike Rack	Noncontributing	202939	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Entrance Sign	Noncontributing	192623	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Chief Factor's House Garden Fence	Noncontributing	202940	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Interpretive Panels	Noncontributing	192624	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rain Barrels	Noncontributing	192625	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Red Wheelbarrows	Noncontributing	202941	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cannons	Noncontributing	192627	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wheelchair Lift	Noncontributing	202942	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wooden Benches	Noncontributing	192622	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Figure 60. Bike rack (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 202939) (NPS, 2024)

Figure 61. Entrance Sign (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192623) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 62. Chief factor's house garden bed fence (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 202940) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 63. Interpretive Panel (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192624) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 64. Reconstructed Rain Barrels around the Chief Factor's house (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192625) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 65. Red wheelbarrows in front of the carpenter's shop (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 202941) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 66. Two Cannons in front of the Chief Factor's house (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192627) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 67. Wheelchair lift to chief factor's house porch (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 202942) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 68. Wooden Benches (Noncontributing, CRIS CL ID 192622) (MIG January 2023)

Archeological Sites

Archeological sites are the locations of ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts in the landscape and are evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features. Only sites identified in approved National Register documentation are identified in this report in order to protect sensitive information.

The following information regarding archeological investigations is taken from "An Archeological Overview of Fort Vancouver, Vancouver Barracks, House of Providence, and the World War II shipyard, Clark County, Washington" by Bryn Thomas (1992) and the "Excavation and Laboratory Procedures Manual," by Douglas C. Wilson, Robert Cromwell, and Theresa E. Langford (2001). Supplemental information for this update was provided by Theresa E. Langford, Cultural Resources Program Manager at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

The archeological features and artifacts recovered during prior excavations have been used to reconstruct various aspects of the built environment of Fort Vancouver, as well as to interpret the daily habits, working conditions, and social institutions of the HBC officers and employees. Early efforts focused on the stockade and its associated buildings, mainly to provide information for the NPS reconstruction of these features.

More recent investigations have uncovered further information about areas outside the stockade. Known archeological sites include the Fort Vancouver Village (also known as the HBC Village) and barn complex, and several HBC-associated sites that are outside of the Fort Vancouver cultural landscape boundary, such as schoolhouses, the waterfront complex, St. James Mission, and the HBC cemetery. The archeological sites associated with the stockade and Fort Vancouver Village are described below.

In general, the level of preservation and integrity of all the previously investigated sites has remained remarkably intact. Although later US Army development had intrusive impacts on specific locations, it can be stated that upwards of 75 percent of the HBC deposits have been culturally undisturbed since 1866. In fact, US Army development of the Spruce Mill between ca. 1917 and 1921 aided in the preservation of much of the Fort Vancouver stockade area through the large deposits of sterile fill sand placed to construct the mill.

Fort Vancouver Village Sites (Kanaka Village Site) (Contributing, CRIS CL ID 121650)
The Fort Vancouver Village (estimated to have contained between 40 and 60 dwellings and associated outbuildings occupied by Native Hawaiians, Native Americans, and other HBC employees) was located west of the stockade. The exact population of the village is unknown, as women and children were not included in the HBC-written records, but estimations in the archeological records indicate upwards of 600 people lived in the village during peak seasons. The population was comprised primarily of the HBC employees and fluctuated based on time of year. The name Kanaka Village is commonly used by archeologists and draws from early HBC-era written references to Kanaka Town that indicates an earlier seasonal village on the site. Once the HBC settled at the fort, the village was incorporated into the HBC-developed complex.

In the late 1960s, extensive excavations at the Fort Vancouver Village found evidence of 4 structures (completely excavating one of them), a well, a fire-cracked rock feature, 2 horse burials, a pig burial, and a dog burial (Kardas and Larrabee 1968 and 1969). In the 1970s, archeological investigations were conducted as part of the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 compliance work prior to the construction of the Interstate 5 interchange. This study identified houses, a stockade hospital, the US Army Quartermaster's Depot, and a garbage-filled pond. Between 1980 and 1981, some of the most extensive excavations were performed at Fort Vancouver Village, north of what is now Old Apple Tree Park (Thomas and Hibbs 1984). Structural remains were found that guided the reconstruction of two village residences in the 2000s (see buildings and structures) including some of their distinctive features such as a rock-lined hearth (Wilson et al. 2001). A rehabilitated road and the reconstructed residences mark the site of the Fort Vancouver Village site today, but archeological evidence provides evidence for a far more expansive development. *Note: The full extent of the village site is unknown and is not included on associated site plans.*

Stockade Archeological Sites (Contributing, CRIS CL ID 121564)
Archeological investigations in the area began in the late 1940s. The earliest work was conducted by NPS archeologists to establish the character of the archeological remains associated with the HBC occupation. From 1947 through the 1970s, most of the NPS-sponsored investigations focused on the area within the stockade boundary. The stockade bastion and walls were defined through archeological testing, as were the sites of several buildings within the stockade.

Archeological materials recovered from the area within and adjacent to the stockade included glass, stone, ceramic, leather, and metal items, attributable to a variety of functional categories including architectural, household, personal and industrial items. Features such as post-holes, wooden foundation footer planks, thousands of wooden stockade bases, fire pits, privies, and parts of stone foundations have also been recorded. The excavations within the stockade form the basis of the world's largest HBC early-1800s archeology collection (Ross 1976), as well as guided the precise location of the fort's reconstructed features, including the structures built within the stockade, associated roads, and agricultural operations outside the stockade. (Caywood 1954; Hoffman and Ross 1972a, 1972b, 1973a, 1973b, 1973c, 1974a, 1974b, 1974c, 1975; Ross and Carley 1976; Ross, Thomas, Hibbs and Carley 1975). *Note: The full extent of the archeological site, including roads and agricultural operations, is unknown and is not included on associated site plans.*

Approximately 10 asphalt pads are located within the stockade that were laid by NPS to delineate areas where archeological evidence suggests the HBC buildings or structures were once sited. The pad primarily clustered around the perimeter of the west end of the stockade.

Feature Name	Feature Contribution	CRIS CL Feature ID	CRIS-HS Resource Name	CRIS-HS Resource ID	CRIS-AR Resource ID	FMSS Record Number
Fort Vancouver Village Sites (Kanaka Village)	Contributing	121650	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Stockade Archeological Sites	Contributing	121564	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Figure 69. A view of the reconstructed residences within the Fort Vancouver Village (HBC Village) Archeological Sites (Contributing, CRIS CL ID 121650) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 70. A view of multiple reconstructed and contemporary features located within the Fort Vancouver Stockade archeological sites. (Contributing, CRIS CL ID 121564) (MIG January 2023)

Figure 71. An asphalt pad (representing the approximate location of former buildings) located southeast of the bastion within the stockade archeological site. (Contributing, CRIS CL ID 121564) (MIG January 2023)

Condition Assessment

Condition

Good

Condition Date

01/12/2023

Narrative

Fort Vancouver continues to be well maintained and remains in good condition.

Impacts

Type	Impact Type – Other	Internal Source	External Source	Narrative	Date Identified
Impending Development		No	Yes	The Interstate Bridge Replacement (IBR) project is an ongoing planning effort to replace the existing I-5 bridge over the Columbia River, extend light rail service into Vancouver, rebuild interchanges, widen pedestrian and bicycle paths, and accommodate electronic tolling. Still in the planning phase, the preferred alternative calls for the construction of multiple elements within the I-5 corridor that would be visible from Fort Vancouver or infringe on NPS-owned land.	01/12/2023

Adjacent lands		No	Yes	Washington State Highway 14 is directly south of the CLI area and creates significant noise pollution. Additionally, trash/litter blows onto the property south of the Pearson airstrip.	01/12/2023
Exposure to Elements		No	Yes	The effects of storm damage were observed in some trees and shrubs, likely from high wind, snow, and ice storm events. Though most were addressed through maintenance, it is clear that there have been impacts to these resources by the increasing intensity of weather events. Additionally, some of the small-scale features, both reconstructed and compatible, are showing signs of rust or degradation due to consistent exposure to the elements.	1/12/23

Improper Drainage		Yes	No	Small areas of paved surfaces in front of building entrances within the stockade are not draining well and as a result the surface will deteriorate faster and structural elements of the buildings (like ramps, etc.) may degrade faster.	1/12/23

Treatment

Approved Treatments

Type

Restoration

Reconstruction

Document

General Management Plan

Narrative

The 2003 General Management Plan (GMP) established Management Zones within the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. The Fort is located within the "historic zone," which recommends that cultural landscapes within the zone be restored. Specific treatment recommendations for Fort Vancouver include reconstruction of fourteen buildings within the fort stockade. Some reconstructions have been completed, such as the counting house (also referred to as 1845 New Office). Further projects proposed in the GMP include the reconstruction of the sale shop and new store (two buildings connected by a walkway), powder magazine, Owyhee church, priest's house, iron store, wheat store, and store (sometimes referred to as receiving warehouse or provision store).

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Supplemental Information

Supplemental Information Title	Supplemental Information Narrative
Site Plan	

Features List

Small Scale Features

01. Bike Rack, 202939 (nc)
02. Entrance Sign, 192623 (nc)
03. Interpretive Panels, 192624 (nc)

Buildings and Structures

04. Demonstration Garden Storage, 202938 (nc)
05. HBC Fence System, 192608 (nc)
06. Fort Vancouver Village Entrance Gate, 192607 (nc)
07. Stockade, 192603 (nc)
08. Village House #1, 192601 (nc)
09. Village House #2, 192602 (nc)

Archeological sites are not illustrated on this site plan because a) they may contain sensitive data, and b) because their extent is unknown and under investigation.

Circulation

10. Land Bridge Trail, 192612 (nc)
11. Lower Mill Road, 192611 (nc)
12. Main Fort Entrance Walkway, 192609 (nc)
13. Parking Lot, 192613 (nc)
14. Pearson Field Runway, 192614 (nc)
15. Pedestrian Walkways, 202936 (nc)

Vegetation

16. Demonstration Garden, 192618 (nc)
17. Field Areas, 192616 (nc)
18. Miscellaneous Non-native/Ornamental Vegetation, 192621 (nc)
19. Mission 66 Fruit Trees, 192620 (nc)
20. Native Vegetation, 192619 (nc)
21. Orchard, 192615 (nc)

c = Contributing, nc = Noncontributing, u = Undetermined

South Barracks

E. Fifth St.

13 Parking Lot

Orchard and Garden
199491 (nc)

Approximate Fort Vancouver Village
199490 (nc)

07
see Stockade Map for detail

HBC Fort
199489 (nc)

Pearson Field
Mowed Runway Extension

14 Pearson Field Runway

PEARSON FIELD

Legend

- Fort Vancouver Cultural Landscape Boundary
- Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Boundary
- East Barracks/Parade Ground Cultural Landsacpe
- Mission 66 Park Developed Area Cultural Landsacpe
- Spatial Organization Boundary
- Stockade
- Buildings & Structures
- Small Scale Features
- Field Areas
- Orchard
- Mission 66 Fruit Trees
- Pedestrian Walkways
- Fenceline

Prepared by MIG, Inc., March 2024
Sources: Esri World Imagery Basemap, field inventory January 2023, 2009 Cultural Landscape inventory
Historic District Contributing Resources, Circulation Plan
Drawn in ArcPro and Adobe Illustrator Creative Cloud

MIG

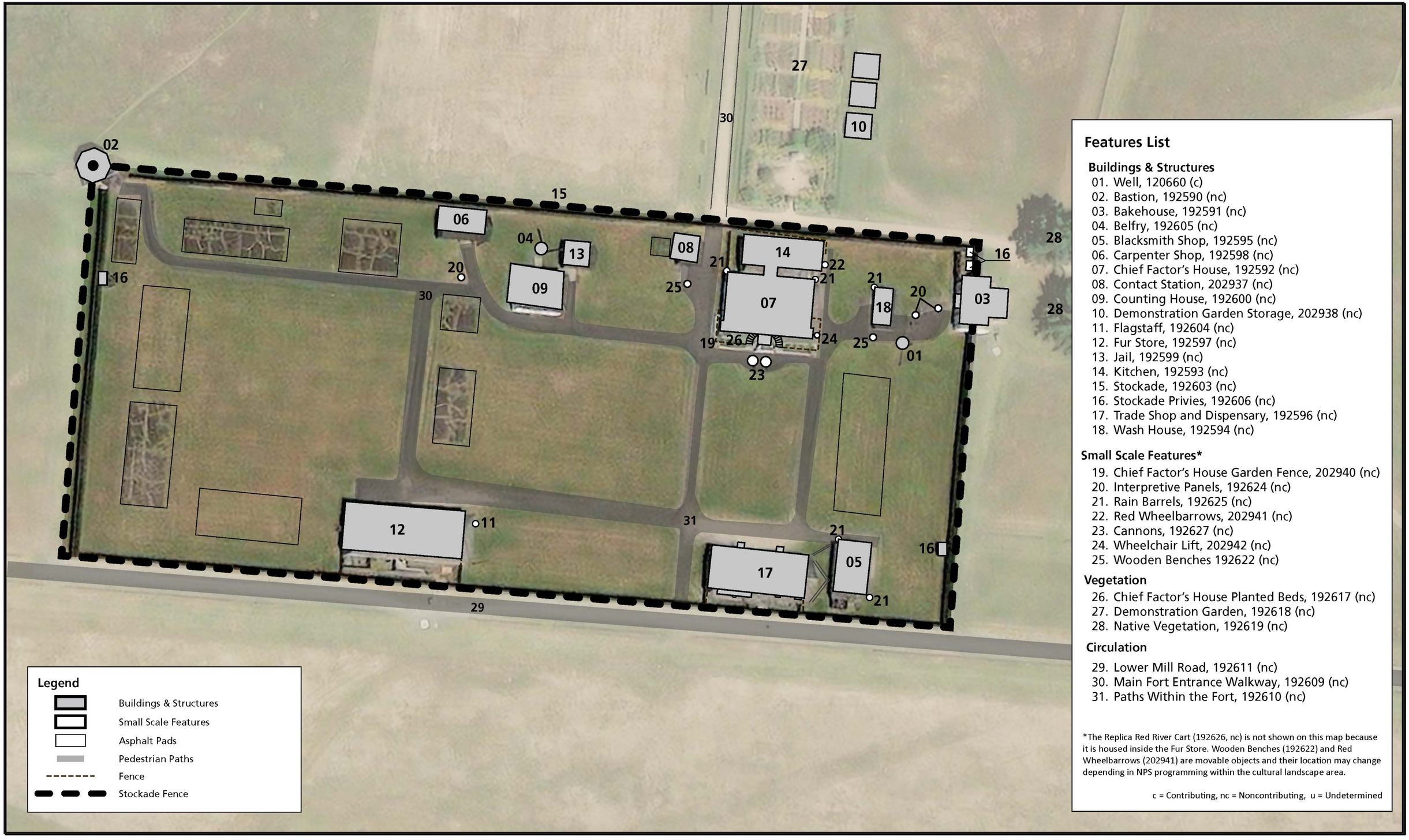
0 0.03 0.06 0.11 Miles

Scale: 1 inch = 250 feet on 11x17 inch page.

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

Fort Vancouver Cultural Landscape

Existing Conditions Site Map



Features List

Buildings & Structures

01. Well, 120660 (c)
02. Bastion, 192590 (nc)
03. Bakehouse, 192591 (nc)
04. Belfry, 192605 (nc)
05. Blacksmith Shop, 192595 (nc)
06. Carpenter Shop, 192598 (nc)
07. Chief Factor's House, 192592 (nc)
08. Contact Station, 202937 (nc)
09. Counting House, 192600 (nc)
10. Demonstration Garden Storage, 202938 (nc)
11. Flagstaff, 192604 (nc)
12. Fur Store, 192597 (nc)
13. Jail, 192599 (nc)
14. Kitchen, 192593 (nc)
15. Stockade, 192603 (nc)
16. Stockade Privies, 192606 (nc)
17. Trade Shop and Dispensary, 192596 (nc)
18. Wash House, 192594 (nc)

Small Scale Features*

19. Chief Factor's House Garden Fence, 202940 (nc)
20. Interpretive Panels, 192624 (nc)
21. Rain Barrels, 192625 (nc)
22. Red Wheelbarrows, 202941 (nc)
23. Cannons, 192627 (nc)
24. Wheelchair Lift, 202942 (nc)
25. Wooden Benches 192622 (nc)

Vegetation

26. Chief Factor's House Planted Beds, 192617 (nc)
27. Demonstration Garden, 192618 (nc)
28. Native Vegetation, 192619 (nc)

Circulation

29. Lower Mill Road, 192611 (nc)
30. Main Fort Entrance Walkway, 192609 (nc)
31. Paths Within the Fort, 192610 (nc)

*The Replica Red River Cart (192626, nc) is not shown on this map because it is housed inside the Fur Store. Wooden Benches (192622) and Red Wheelbarrows (202941) are movable objects and their location may change depending in NPS programming within the cultural landscape area.

c = Contributing, nc = Noncontributing, u = Undetermined

Prepared by MIG, Inc., June 2024
Sources: Esri World Imagery basemap, and field inventory 2023.
Drawn in ArcPro and Adobe Illustrator Creative Cloud

M I G

0 0.01 0.01 0.03 Miles

Scale: 1 inch = 75 feet on 11x17 inch page.

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

Fort Vancouver Cultural Landscape

Existing Conditions Site Map - Stockade Detail