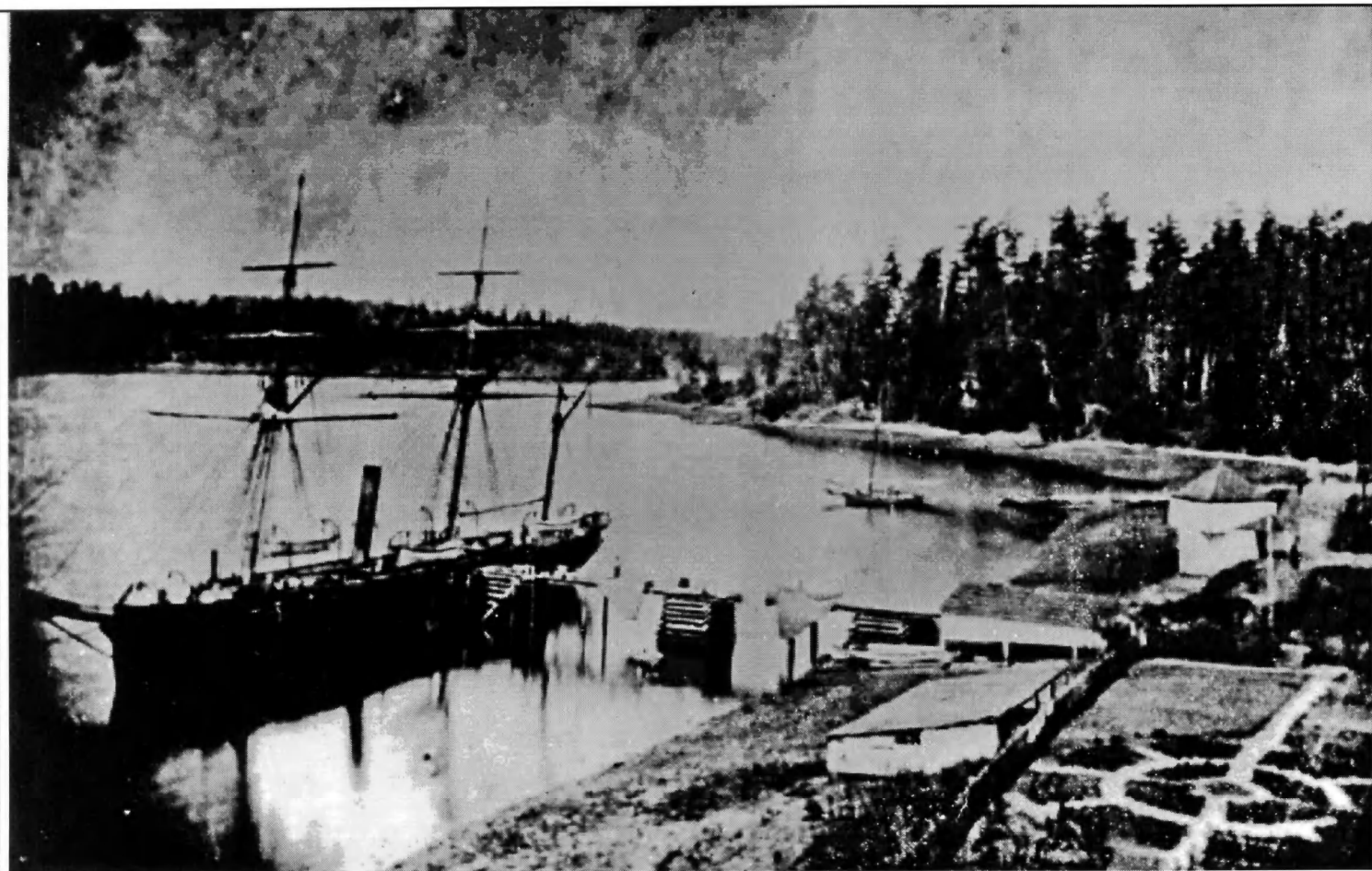


San Juan Island

National Historical Park
Washington
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Formal Garden planted to recall home



This 1870s view shows the Formal garden in the foreground and the HMS Boxer tied up at the wharf.

The English Formal Garden is one of the more beloved features of San Juan Island National Historical Park, generating enthusiastic comments from visitors from around the world — but especially from the United Kingdom.

Perhaps thinking of their stomachs as well as being practical minded, the British Royal Marine Light Infantry first planted a vegetable garden on the spot shortly after arriving on Garrison Bay in March 1860.

The camp site then was a tangle of vegetation shooting up wildly from an enormous shell midden created over the centuries around an ancient Salish village. The marines leveled the snowy-white mounds of shells to create a parade ground and used one especially fertile spot for the garden.

By 1867, a new commander, Capt. William A. Delacombe, arrived accompanied by his wife and children. With a larger vegetable garden already underway elsewhere in the camp, Delacombe decided to use the original site for a formal garden in the "Gardenesque" style

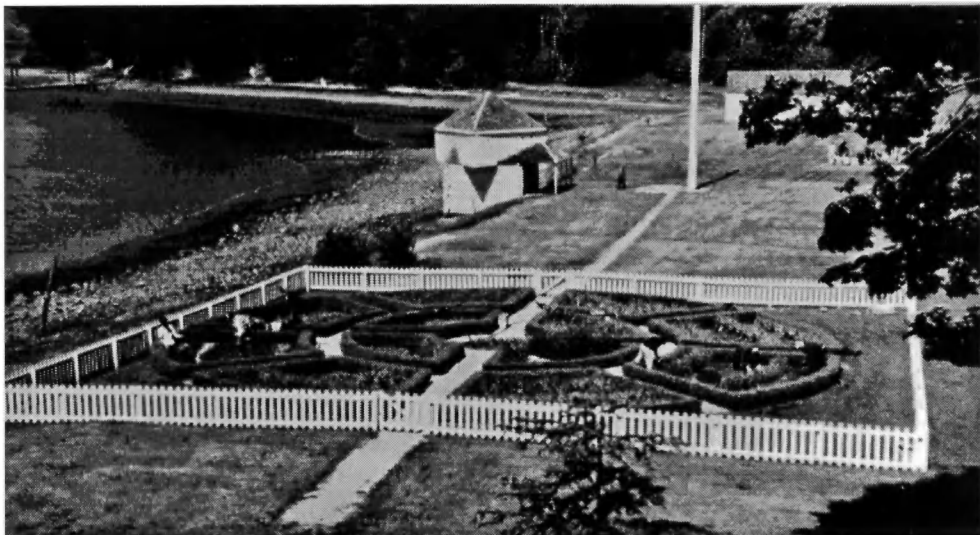
developed in the early 1800s by John Claudius Loudon, an English horticulturist and writer on landscape design. Not only would the garden remind the captain's family of home thousands of miles away, it would provide a clear, yet gentle boundary between enlisted and officer territory.

The garden you see before you today was planted on almost exactly the same spot in 1972 to commemorate the 100th

anniversary of the boundary settlement.

As with Loudon's concept, this garden is a combination of art, logic and science, the geometric design featuring 13 beds of flowers and shrubs in a circular pattern.

Today the garden is maintained by the park's maintenance division with the help of volunteers from the community. Each spring more than 700 annuals are planted among the hedges providing visitors with spectacular views by mid-summer.



Today's garden is a major attraction for visitors to English Camp.