



FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON 98661

Visitor Center

NPS Number **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AREA**

Title: FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC
SITE

Loc. CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON
VANCOUVER
(# 1)



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AREA

Model of Fort looking S.W

NPS Number _____

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Loc. CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON
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Restored gate in north wall

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FORT VANCOUVER

CONSTRUCTION ON THE FIRST SITE OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY'S FORT VANCOUVER WAS STARTED IN 1824 AT A LOCATION ABOUT ONE MILE EAST OF THIS PLACE. THE POST WAS DEDICATED AND NAMED FORT VANCOUVER ON MARCH 19, 1825, BY GEORGE SIMPSON (LATER SIR GEORGE SIMPSON), GOVERNOR OF THE NORTHERN DEPARTMENT AND WESTERN TERRITORIES.

IN 1829, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY'S COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT MANAGER, CHIEF FACTOR JOHN McLOUGHLIN, THE FORT WAS MOVED TO THIS LOCATION. FROM THAT DATE IT WAS IMPROVED AND ENLARGED UNTIL IT REACHED THIS SIZE IN 1846. WITHIN ITS STOCKADE WERE 27 MAJOR STRUCTURES.

FROM 1824 TO 1849 FORT VANCOUVER WAS THE CAPITOL OF THE EXTENSIVE COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT CONSISTING OF THE PRESENT DAY STATES OF WASHINGTON, OREGON, IDAHO, WESTERN MONTANA, AND THE CANADIAN PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. DURING THIS PERIOD AGRICULTURE AND LUMBERING WERE DEVELOPED FOR THE FIRST TIME ON A LARGE SCALE IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST. IN ADDITION, FOREIGN TRADE WAS DEVELOPED WITH LATIN AMERICA, RUSSIAN ALASKA, AND THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

FORT VANCOUVER SERVED AS A PRINCIPAL SUPPLY DEPOT FOR AMERICAN SETTLERS IN OREGON DURING THE 1840'S. IT WAS ABANDONED BY THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY IN 1860.

THE FORT BECAME A PART OF THE U.S. MILITARY RESERVE KNOWN AS VANCOUVER BARRACKS. IN 1866 THE REMAINING STRUCTURES WERE DESTROYED BY FIRE OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN. RECONSTRUCTION WAS STARTED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN 1966.

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One of the aluminum signs

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