

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name FORT WARD HISTORIC DISTRICT EXPANSION

other names/site number U.S. NAVAL RADIO COMMUNICATIONS STATION, FOR WARD

2. Location

street & number FORT WARD

 not for publication

city or town Bainbridge Island

 vicinity

state Washington

code WA

county Kitsap

code 035

zip code 98110

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary Thompson DEPUTY SHPO

2-28-96

Signature of certifying official

Date

Mary Thompson, State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register.

 See continuation sheet

 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet

 determined not eligible for the National Register.

 removed from the National Register.

 other, (explain:)

Edson R Beall

4.12.96

Entered in the
National Register

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Property Name FORT WARD HISTORIC DISTRICT EXPANSION

County and State KITSAP COUNTY, WA

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<u>x</u> private	<u> </u> building(s)		
<u> </u> public-local	<u>x</u> district	<u>20</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<u>x</u> public-State	<u> </u> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u> public-Federal	<u> </u> structure	<u> </u>	<u>2</u> structures
	<u> </u> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>20</u>	<u>5</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a
multiple property listing.)

N/A

No. of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register:

13

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DEFENSE, naval facilities, radio communications

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC, single and multiple residential
RECREATION, state park
AGRICULTURE, aquaculture, fish farms

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No style
Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation WOOD, post & pier
walls WOOD
CONCRETE
roof ASPHALT/COMPOSITION
other WOOD SHINGLES (roof)

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Property Name FORT WARD HISTORIC DISTRICT EXPANSIONCounty and State KITSAP COUNTY, WAPage 3**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DEFENSE

COMMUNICATIONS

Period of Significance

1938-1945

Significant Dates

1938

1941

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

U. S. NAVY

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Property Name FORT WARD HISTORIC DISTRICT EXPANSIONCounty and State KITSAP COUNTY, WAPage 4**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing
(36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other
- Specify repository:
Bainbridge Island Historical Museum
and Fort Ward Neighborhood Assoc.

10. Geographical DataAcreage of property approx. 240 acres

UTM References

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☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

Boundaries are based upon the full extent of the original legal boundaries of the U.S. Naval Radio Communications Station acquired by the U.S. Navy.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title _____

organization _____ date _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mary Victoria Dombrowski & Eileen Safford, President and Secretary

street & number Fort Ward Neighborhood Association telephone (206) 842-8728

city or town Bainbridge Island state WA zip code 98110

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Name of Property Fort Ward Historic District Expansion

County and State Kitsap County, WA

FORT WARD HISTORIC DISTRICT EXPANSION

Designations conform to a 1951 map

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES LISTED PREVIOUSLY

Building A	1912 Quarters, Officers in Charge
Building B	1910 Two-family Officer's Quarters
Building C	1910 Four-family Officer's Quarters
Building 5	1912 General Storehouse
Building 6	Public Works Maintenance Shops
Building 9	1912 Storehouse
Building 11	1910 Radio Receiving Building and Activity Training
Building 13	1912 Naval Exchange and Post Office
Building 14	1912 Firehouse
Building 15	1911 Twelve-car garage
Buildings 18, 19, 20, 21	1910 Two-family CPO Quarters
Building 27	1910 Power House/Bakery
Building 73	1903 Radio Station, Battery Francis Nash
Structures 138, 139	1903 Old Gun Foundations

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES DATING FROM THE 1939 NAVY ADDITION TO BE ADDED TO THE EXISTING DISTRICT NOMINATION:

Building E	1941 Two-family Officer's Quarters on Fort Ward Hill Road
Building 7	1941 Maids Quarters
Building 16	1942 Enlisted Personnel Barracks and Dispensary
Building 35	1942 Boathouse & Pier
Buildings 25 & 45	Married Enlisted Men's Quarters Acquired in 1941 from private sector and moved to present location

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Name of Property Fort Ward Historic District Expansion

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Buildings 24, 44 & D	Married enlisted men's quarters acquired in 1941 from private sector
Buildings 46, 47, 48, 49, 50 & 51	1941 Two-family duplexes, married enlisted men's quarters
Building 60	1942 Apartment Quarters
Building 65	1945 Barracks & Mess Hall
Building 88	1942 Family housing four-car garage
Building 104,105	1945 Four-apartment married enlisted men's quarters

Additional contributing features not previously noted

Flight of stairs with railing	Sidewalks
Concrete Antenna Tie-Downs	Woven wire security fence
Fire Hydrants	Clotheslines T-Poles
Tennis Courts	Substation
Navy Submarine Net Anchors	Remnant of Navy Boat Pier

NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Building 23	Married enlisted men's quarters acquired from private sector (remodeled)
Building 39	1941 Radio Receiving & Control Building (remodeled)
Structure 55	1942 Sump Pump
Structure 56	1942 Incinerator (deteriorated)
Building 81	1944 Laundry Building (remodeled)

Resources not surviving from Naval Station

All buildings on beach west of Pier Building #35, including:

Officer's Club	Swimming Pool
Warehouse	Recreation Hall

Two H-shaped barracks east of Pier Building #35 and west of incinerator #56

Two WAVE apartments in southeast corner of Parade Field Block

Two-wing additions to Building #11 1910 Radio Receiving Building, Activity Training

Two complexes used for radio school behind Building #13 Naval Exchange

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FORT WARD NAVY ADDITIONS
Kitsap County, WA

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

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The expanded Fort Ward Historic District encompasses the surviving significant structures of the Fort Ward Coast Artillery Station, registered as of 1976, plus the additions to the fort made by the U.S. Navy for the WWII period and the Korean War. With a few exceptions, conditions and appearance of previously registered buildings within Fort Ward have remained stable or have improved, including buildings which had fallen into disrepair or been vacant at the time of the 1976 application.

A 30-year building moratorium has to date effectively prevented significant intrusion into the district. Only Building 12 of the original application, the barracks near the parade grounds, has been lost. Private efforts at restoration within the expanded district are presently to be bolstered by designation of the district as a historical district planning area by the City of Bainbridge Island under their Comprehensive Plan.

Fort Ward is located on Bean Point at the southern extremity of Bainbridge Island, a large land mass some eight miles west of Seattle. The district incorporates elements of Sections 9, 10, 11, 14, and 15 of Township 24 North, Range 2 East of the Willamette Meridian. The buildings and structures at Fort Ward are united by design and use, though of necessity for their use as radio facilities are scattered over the extent of the fort. The 240-acre parcel added to the north in 1941 is a half-mile square piece carved out of preexisting farmland and strategically chosen to serve its intended purpose as antenna fields for a top-secret radio activities station.

The 240-acre addition of 1941 served the US Naval Radio Activities in two major ways. The Navy first communicated with its North Pacific fleet through facilities established first at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, then at the Keyport Naval Torpedo Station, and finally at Fort Ward on Bainbridge Island. Building #39, the Radio Receiving and Control Building, was the operational center of the Navy's North Pacific Fleet communication system. The Radio Receiving Building, School House, Power House, antenna system and clear-cut open space for reception of high frequency (short-wave) signals formed the active components of the naval radio station. These components span the length and breadth of the 240-acre parcel and spill over into the original Fort Ward Coast Artillery Station.

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Building #39 was built by the Navy in 1941. The Radio Receiving and Control Building was built almost entirely of concrete. The craftsmanship of the concrete finish work is still evident today. Shotgun blasts from vandals in recent years did very little damage to the exterior, a testament to the quality of the work. With its flat roof and straight sides, the overall appearance of this building is rather boxlike. The front entrance contrasts this shape with graceful curves in the stairs, porch and walls. Sculpted bands were molded into the concrete to encircle the building, separating the first and second floors and accenting the large windows. Building #39 in 1994 is undergoing conversion to a single-family residence. Changes which have rendered it a noncontributing resource include the removal of all original steel-frame windows and replacement with full-frame fixed panes, exterior stuccoing, a non-military paint scheme of the sculpted bands, and the addition of a glass-block entry wall.

Secondly, the 1941 parcel supported housing facilities which are closely spaced along a two-block section of Fort Ward Hill Road. The buildings in this section of the fort are basically of two types: vernacular structures built prior to circa 1925 and confiscated by the Navy, and buildings erected by the Navy around 1941. The earlier buildings (#D, #23, #24, #25, #44 and #45) are small farmhouses and single-family residences built from lumber from the nearby Port Blakely Mill, the largest sawmill in the world at the time. A floor joist in Building #23 bears the signature of Henry Seaborn, a mill-store shopkeeper. Buildings #25 and #45 were moved after Navy confiscation, to form a straight line along Fort Ward Hill Road. Relocation of the farmhouses to the more conveniently grouped site allowed the Navy to provide shared utility services, including a shared pipe-and-tank system for heating oil. Of the confiscated farmhouses, only Building #23 has been extensively remodeled and added to, thus rendering it a noncontributing resource.

Except for the Sunny Hill Dairy Farmhouse, the older, single-family residences were all one or one-and-a-half-stories and less than 1000 square feet with pier-post foundations. The construction was 2x4 frame construction with shiplap interior walls. The exterior walls were shiplap covered with clear Douglas Fir drop siding. Originally, the roofs were sawn cedar shingles but only Building #25 retains its cedar roof, the rest having been replaced with asphalt three-tab roofing. The Sunny Hill Dairy Farm, Building #E.

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was homesteaded by Jons and Johanna Peterson circa 1883. A portion of the original house burned down circa 1915. The current wood frame house was finished in 1919, a few months after Jons' death.

To complete its housing along Fort Ward Hill Road, the Navy in 1941 built six one-story duplexes as housing for married enlisted men. Buildings #46, #49, and #51 have not been re-sided. The six duplexes were identical, with two living units, each with two bedrooms, a living room, bathroom and kitchen. Buildings #46, #47, #49 and #51 retain this floor plan. The other two duplexes have been remodeled on the interior into single residences, but have kept the overall dimensions on the outside. Four 4- and 5-car flat-roofed, wood-frame garages were built along the alley behind Fort Ward Hill Road, of which Building #88 is the only survivor.

An open six-million gallon concrete reservoir, #59, was excavated and poured in 1942 and an underground 250,000 gallon reservoir was built which is still in use today. A series of wells supplied water to the reservoir, which water was then gravity fed into the fort. Pressure remained low but usable. Efforts were made to find supplementary water during World War II, several deep wells being drilled unsuccessfully. Extra water was then piped to the fort from Creosote until circa 1947, when the line was destroyed at Rockaway Beach. Water for the 1500 people at Fort Ward was then barged from Manchester and piped ashore to tanks near the base of the pier, Building #35. The underground storage system also supplies fire hydrants throughout the fort which remain in use. Just to the north of this reservoir, a concrete VHF Radio Building, #137, and a steel-frame antenna were constructed to supplement radio capacity in 1949.

Additions to the original Coast Artillery Station by the US Navy were many, the majority of which were built as temporary structures and have been demolished. Those that remain include Building #7, a maid's quarters adjacent to and in the style of the brick Administration Building; Building #60, a multi-family wood-frame building for housing enlisted personnel and currently used as apartments (Park View Apartments); Building #65, a flat-roofed, wood-frame, double-H floor plan waterfront barracks and mess hall (Driftwood Apartments); and Buildings #102 and #101, two small wood-frame buildings

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FORT WARD NAVY ADDITIONS
Kitsap County, WA

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

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located on the water and used as State Park ranger offices and residence. Losses of registered buildings from the Fort Ward Artillery Station are confined to Building #12 which was dismantled over three decades.

Intrusions into the 240-acre parcel have been limited by a building moratorium placed by the county health department. All buildings within fort boundaries are serviced by shared utilities, including a sewer system which functions, with 68 hookups, at full capacity. The type of soil which is located throughout the fort drains poorly. Thus, until very recent developments in mound septic systems occurred, new construction was prevented within the fort. Intrusions have thus been limited. Intrusions into the proposed district are confined to two homes and a garage on Sound View Drive, and a barn and home in the vicinity of Building E. Intrusions into the previously registered district are limited to one home at the intersection of Fort Ward Hill Road and Belfair Avenue, five homes south and east of Building 12, three homes on the beach north of Pier 35, and two homes east and south of Building 13.

CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

Flight of Stairs with Railings: In 1942, the stairs and railings between South Beach Drive and Fort Ward Hill Road were built to connect the barracks on the beach with activities of the upper military base.

Sidewalks: The 7333 square yards of concrete sidewalks were built in 1942 at a cost of \$20,000 to facilitate pedestrian use throughout the Fort.

Concrete Antenna Tie-Downs: The Fort Ward area was found to be uniquely suited to receive radio waves, and therefore an antenna system was started in 1942. Concrete blocks fitted with large eye-bolts were used as tie-downs for the system and are found throughout the upper fort.

Woven-wire Security Fence: After the northern section of Fort Ward was acquired before World War II, 1939, 18,700 feet of woven-wire security fence was erected around

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

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the perimeter of the base at a cost of \$52,185. This fence isolated residents east of the fort on South Beach and necessitated the building of Toe Jam Hill Road in 1940.

Fire Hydrants: An adequate supply of water has always been a problem for Fort Ward. In 1942, new fire hydrants to supplement those circa 1910 were installed throughout the Fort and hooked up to the water system.

Clothesline T-poles: Metal clothesline t-poles were installed in the yards of the enlisted men's duplexes along Sound View Drive and at Building E when these residences were readied for occupation in 1942.

Substation: A power substation was built on Fort Ward Hill Road, just south of the Guard Station.

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FORT WARD NAVY ADDITIONS
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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SECTION 8, PAGE 3

Disarmed as a Harbor Defense of Puget Sound in the 1920s, Fort Ward is unique among Puget Sound coastal installations in having been converted to use as a part of the North Pacific Communications system of World War II. There were no active units stationed at Fort Ward after 1925, only a caretaker detachment. For a time there was talk about using the place as a home for disabled soldiers or for homeless men from Seattle and Tacoma. The post was given over to week-long summer camps for underprivileged children in 1935, a pattern that the sponsoring American Legion and the state's Department of Public Welfare hoped to continue. But for the most part, the buildings and empty batteries lingered unused for 20 years.

During the time of the Army occupation of Fort Ward, especially during the caretaker period, relations were cordial, almost easygoing. Neighborhood and military-base children interacted freely, the neighborhood children following woodland trails back and forth between the Fort Ward area and the neighboring Toe Jam Hill Road community, to take advantage of the more sophisticated offerings of base life (bowling alley, movie theater, commissary snack offerings) as compared with their simpler farm lives.

A 1932 aerial photograph from the Smithsonian Museum gives testimony to the seemingly idyllic farming community living side-by-side with its military neighbor. Cultivated fields, scattered stands of trees, simple farm houses and outbuildings on five-acre parcels comprise the landscape north of the army fort.

Ray Grady, who enlisted from Missouri and had been stationed at the Fort during World War I, set up a large chicken farm, Building #D, just outside the fort at its northern boundary. After fire destroyed his farm, he reenlisted at the fort to receive the more secure employment it could offer him and was assigned work caring for two base mules and the captain's riding pony. He also ran errands on army business, making trips several times daily to Port Blakely for mail and to transport military and civilian children to the neighborhood school.

Beyond the farm community to the north lay the timber lands of the Port Blakely Mill Company and Blakely Harbor. Although the mill had closed in 1925, piles of timber.

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FORT WARD 1939 NAVY ADDITION
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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SECTION 8, PAGE 4

a tavern, school, general store, community hall, and the island's sole car-ferry dock remained from what was the world's largest mill of its time.

In 1938 the army transferred both pieces of Fort Ward, on either side of Rich Passage, to the navy. The navy acquired the old Fort Ward reservation pursuant to a letter from the Secretary of War to the Secretary of the Navy dated January 13, 1938. When the Navy acquired the reservation in 1938, it was first used as a rest and recreation facility and radio school. Some of the younger sailors, many homesick for their Midwest farms, wandered up to visit and pitch in with chores at the nearby Peterson Dairy Farm. Milk for the fort was supplied by Petersons.

On September 3, 1939, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany. In the still-neutral United States, the Army and Navy each set up a series of top-secret radio monitoring stations, to intercept the government radio messages of "sensitive" nations. The abandoned government property at Fort Ward was available and tests proved it to be an outstanding location for radio reception, perfect for eavesdropping on the Far East. The Navy probably started refurbishing existing buildings fairly soon afterwards, as fast as funds were made available.

Naval Radio Station Bainbridge soon became a listening post for the Pacific, particularly to Japan's navy and diplomatic radio message traffic. Since the United States was neutral in 1939, it was easy for foreign governments to communicate with their agents in this country. Wiretapping, though technically possible, was illegal. The services elected instead to monitor radio transmissions, a method that could not be detected.

This period, with the stress of the coming national involvement in World War II, marked a transition in relations between the military presence at Fort Ward and its closest neighbors.

A marked change in military-civilian relations occurred in the spring of 1941. Farmers and homesteaders in the 240-acre, half-mile-square area directly to the north of the fort were told that their real property was wanted by the Navy. Given a scant 30 days to dispose of livestock and to move out with only personal possessions, residents were offered compensation significantly less than the actual value of their land. The Petersons at the Sunny Hill Dairy with 120 acres, immigrants from Sweden, were the largest landowners in the 240-acre parcel. Other homesteaders and farmers, some with Scandinavian names like Thompson, Hanson and Iverson, were also quickly displaced.

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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One can glean from the records some idea of the suffering these events occasioned. Old "Nosey Henry" Peterson, who farmed a five-acre parcel here, disappeared about the time everyone was moving out. A year or so later his remains were found in the dense woods west of Fort Ward Hill Road. He is believed to have committed suicide. Living directly north of the Peterson dairy, in one of several cottages built by Jons Peterson for mill workers, were Charlie and Annie Dahlstrom, Annie being a Bella Coola Indian. Charlie died soon after the Navy purchase. Annie's access to the common road was cut off by the woven-wire fence later erected by the navy. In his history of Fort Ward, Ivan Lee states that she ended her days at Western State Hospital at Steilacoom.

William Peterson went to battle for his Sunny Hill Dairy in Federal Court in Seattle, but was told by the judge that no good citizen would take advantage of the Navy's need. Furthermore, should the government later put up the property for sale, Peterson would receive no special consideration. A new home was found in West Seattle and William went to work in the shipyards. The Navy torched the barn and outbuildings and exploded the dam. Alerted by a friend, the Petersons stood on the beach at West Seattle and watched the smoke rise from the fire.

Other major alterations soon followed in the landscape. A firebreak was cleared along the north and east boundaries of the Naval Radio Station and a woven-wire security fence installed. The William Peterson farmhouse (Building #E) was remodeled to become a two-family officer's quarters. Two other farmhouses, Buildings 25 and 45, were relocated from their five-acre parcels to a row along the northern block of Fort Ward Hill Road to be used as Married Enlisted Men's Quarters. The Ray Grady home, Building #D, already situated on Fort Ward Hill Road immediately behind the Commander's quarters, was left in its place to be similarly used, as were Buildings #23, #24, and #44. Six two-family duplexes, Buildings #46 through #51, were constructed in the intervening spaces to complete the row.

To the east of the housing lay the functional components of the Naval Radio Station. Building 39, the Radio Receiving and Control Building, contained the ears and brain of the radio station. Several radio receiving antennas and direction-finders were installed in the newly-acquired property, on the old parade ground, on the flat below the

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FORT WARD NAVY ADDITIONS
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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE SECTION 8 PAGE 6

open reservoir, and on the beach. The Navy's main Pacific transmitter was located elsewhere, at the Battle Point facility, six miles to the north on Bainbridge Island.

All of the intelligence that was transmitted from Battle Point was generated at the Receiving and Control Building at the Naval Radio Station. The transmitter was controlled and operated through a special telephone line, later replaced by a very-high-frequency radio link. A primary task at the station was copying the Japanese Morse code. The transmissions could be in either plain text or in cryptographic code.

The North Pacific Communications received communications from Navy ships and installations in the North Pacific through antennas at Naval Radio Station Fort Ward. Probably the seven rhombic and four dipole antennas were pointed in different directions so that the best reception could be selected. A VHF radio system linked the Navy installations of Puget Sound. The received messages and intercepted enemy transmissions were typed on a teleprinter, then transmitted via VHF to headquarters, 13th Naval District, and from there to Naval Intelligence headquarters in Washington, D.C. through Navy teleprinter lines.

Before World War II, the demand for Japanese-code-trained operators also escalated. A radio operators school housed in the Radio Receiving Building was phased out and replaced by the Japanese-telegraph-code school. The trained operators, all men at this point, were needed by the Fleet. The demand for Stateside operators was soon to be met by the women of the Navy or WAVES. The old Army quartermaster and commissary storehouse, Building 16, already converted to an enlisted men's barracks, became the first WAVES dormitory. Later, two 3-storey WAVES apartments were built west of Park View Drive at the southeast corner of the Parade Field block.

New barracks for the men were also needed. Several enlisted men's barracks were built down on the beach. A barracks and mess hall, Building #65, was put up and in 1947 was converted to apartments. Building #60, also enlisted men's barracks, was erected in 1942. These are the only two large-scale wood-frame buildings remaining at the fort from the Navy's tenure. A 6,000,000-gallon reservoir, #59, was dug and constructed in concrete in 1942, to serve the water needs of the expanded Naval Radio Station. A water line supplied with water from Creosote until 1947.

The end of World War II eliminated the need to copy Japanese Navy and diplomatic communications. However, the changes in the political situation and the

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advent of the Korean war required renewed Far-East eavesdropping. Radio operators to copy the Cyrillic (Russian) telegraph code became critical. After the end of World War II, District Headquarters was moved from Seattle's Exchange Building to Pier 91, on the Seattle waterfront. In order for the Naval Radio Station VHF antennas to "see" the new location, the steel tower, #137, was built near the water reservoir to get the antennas high enough in the air. This was one of the first heavy-duty applications for VHF and the experience that was gained was useful later to commercial broadcasting.

In the years after World War II further research into applications for radio technology occurred at Fort Ward. The earlier use of radio waves for communications led into research into radio direction-finding and the utilization of radio waves for navigation. In 1952, under the direction of the US Air Force and the Royal Canadian Air Force, Project Engineer, George F. James, along with eight Field Engineers, came to Fort Ward and installed a RADUX receiving station on the pier at Fort Ward. The system collected data round the clock using 40 KHz radio waves and phase modulation, in an attempt to overcome difficulties with the earlier LORAN system which operated at 140 KHz. The discoveries made led to the development of the LORAN C Navigation System. This excellent navigation system was commissioned in the late 1970s and early 1980s and has been operated by the United States Coast Guard.

In the later 1950s, the 513 AAA Battalion headquarters staff was stationed at Fort Ward, coexisting for a short time with the navy. The AAA Battalion was engaged in the barracks assembling Nike-Ajax missiles for the Nike missile launch installation near Winslow at today's Strawberry Hill Park.

During this period, domestic and family life continued in a more relaxed fashion at Fort Ward. During and after World War II, Battery Francis Nash saw use as an outdoor amphitheater used for, among other public offerings, church services. Mrs. Authur Arguello, wife of a Fort Ward enlisted man, published a nationally-syndicated cartoon, "Bobby Sox", under the pen name "Marty Links." If Marty Links' cartoons are any measure, life within fort Ward was not unlike life outside the fort. Warren Nadeau, son of Commander Nadeau, was raised at the fort and recalls that Marty Links drew upon fort kids for her cartoons: "I think she patterned the cartoon after my sister, Jean (the late Jean Ness). I can recognize other fort kids in her cartoons, too. We used to have a book of her work."

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In July of 1958 the last military tenants left the Fort Ward Reservation. Some of the Navy's wooden barracks along the beach had already been demolished. The General Services Administration put the property up for auction, having divided it into eight parcels. Some of the buildings that remained unsold were vandalized to varying degrees. In September of 1976, the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 nominated the two areas of Fort Ward for inclusion in the National Register. The majority of the Navy additions now meet the age criteria for inclusion in the register.

The City of Bainbridge Island is currently working to create unique design guidelines for Fort Ward under its Comprehensive Plan which will set it part from other areas on the island. This is occurring specifically because it has a National Historic Register designation. This application seeks to extend the boundary of the National Historic Register district to include areas of Fort Ward at its largest extent, the extent which it achieved at the time of World War II. The security fence marking the World War II boundary exists to date. The threats to the continued existence of Fort Ward, as outlined in the 1975 application, those of neglect and conscious destruction, continue to some extent today, though individual property owners have devoted large amounts of time and private funds to preservation of their properties. Today the fort faces a perhaps more serious threat. Construction of a replacement (though four times larger) sewer system for the fort will place development pressures on Fort Ward. Both the Fort Ward Neighborhood Association and the Bainbridge Island Historical Society are working to educate the public and to secure preservation of significant buildings and open areas. Creation of an enlarged registered district will bolster those efforts.

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SECTION 9

1. Anderson, Elmer, (resident on Toejam Hill Road adjacent to Fort Ward from 1914), September 24 and November 15, 1994.
2. Elfendahl, Gerald, Curator Bainbridge Island Historical Museum, Interviews 1992-94.
3. Fort Ward Photo Collection 1941-1960, Bainbridge Island Historical Museum
4. Hansen, David M., "Fortress without Guns," Columbia Magazine, Fall 1994, p. 9-15.
5. Hansen, David M., National Historic Register application for Fort Ward, 1976.
6. Kitsap County Assessor's Records for individual properties in Fort Ward.
7. Lee, Ivan W., Jr., *The Story of The Little Fort at Bean Point*, privately published, 1993.
8. Price, Andrew, Jr., *Port Blakely, the Community Captain Renton Built*, Port Blakely Books, 1989
9. Smithsonian Museum, 1932 aerial photograph.
10. U.S. Navy, "Map of Navy Communication Station, Bainbridge Island (Ft. Ward) Wash. Showing Conditions of June 30, 1951."
11. U.S. Navy, "Property Proposed to be Declared Excess Comprising the U.S. Naval Radio Station, Bainbridge Island, Kitsap County, Port Blakely, Washington."

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Name of Property Fort Ward Historic District Expansion

County and State Kitsap County, WA

UTM References:

- 1) 10 / 535870 / 5270540
- 2) 10 / 536420 / 5270540
- 3) 10 / 536420 / 5270160
- 4) 10 / 536120 / 5270160
- 5) 10 / 536120 / 5269650
- 6) 10 / 535870 / 5369880

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The district is bound by the UTM coordinates and by: South Beach Drive on the south, the shores of the Puget Sound on the west, by Fort Ward State Park and by Port Blakely Mill Company property on the north, where it is delineated by a woven-wire fence, and by the north-south midline of Section 11, Township 24 North, Range 2 East on the east.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundary has been determined partly by the original Naval property holdings, and by the contiguous extant resources and features of the Navy occupation.

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ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Black and White Photographs

Name of photographer: Mary Victoria Dombrowski

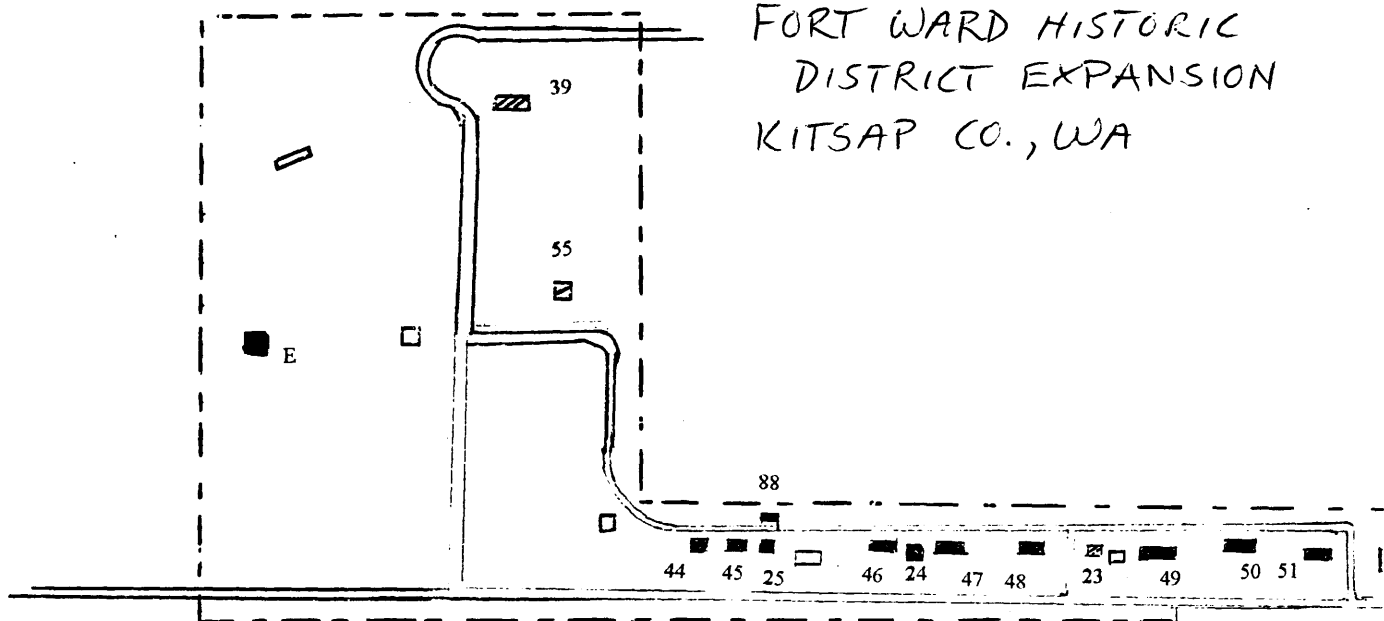
Date of Photographs: January 12, 1996

Location of original negatives: Fort Ward Neighborhood Association., 2412 Sound
View Drive NE, Bainbridge Island

Description of views indicating direction of camera: (See Map #5 attached)

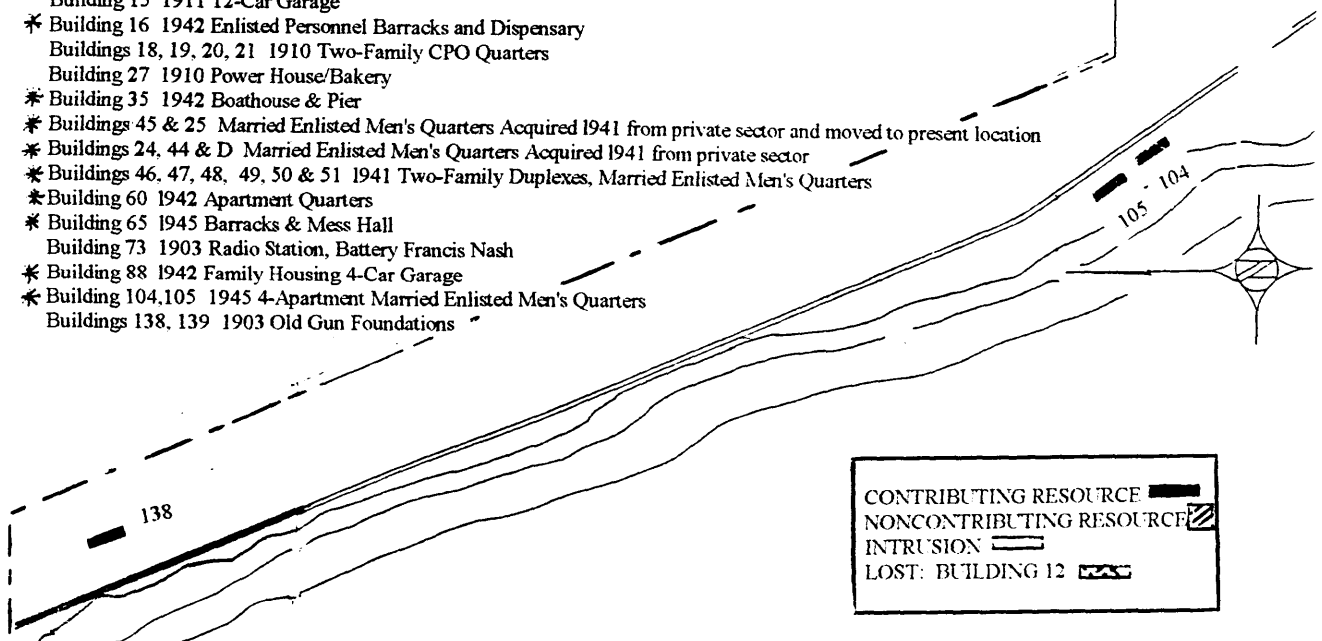
<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Building and View direction</u>
2	Building 39 View to northeast
3	Building 39, Entry on west wall
4	Building E, View to north from Kitsap Avenue
5	Building E, View to east
6	Building E, Entry on east wall of extension and north wall
7	Building E, Entry on east wall
9	Building 51, View to east across Fort Ward Hill Road
10	Building 51, View to northwest
11	Building 49, View to northwest
12	Building 49, View to northeast
14	Building 7, View to northwest
15	Building 7, Window detail of south entry
16	Building 7, Detail of north entry
17	Building 60, View to north from Park View Drive
18	Building 60, View to north from Park View Drive (continued)
19	Building 60, View to northwest
20	Building 65, View to northwest
21	Building 65, View to east
23	Building 25, Entry detail on west wall





FORT WARD HISTORIC DISTRICT EXPANSION KITSAP CO., WA



LIST OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES 1939 Navy Addition *

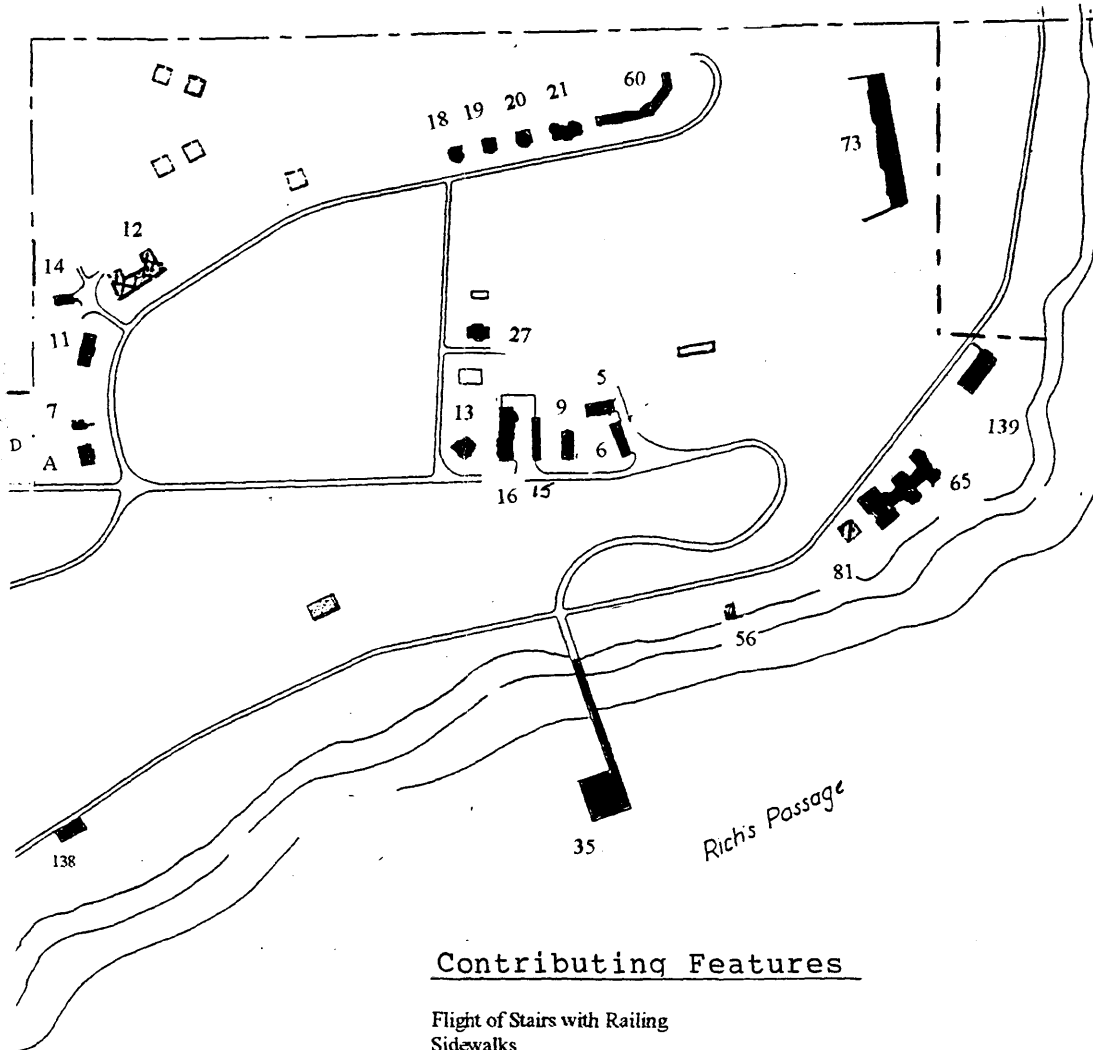
- Building A 1912 Quarters, Officer in Charge
- Building B 1910 Two-Family Officer's Quarters
- Building C 1910 Four-Family Officer's Quarters
- * Building E 1941 2-Family Officer's Quarters on Fort Ward Hill Road
- Building 5 1912 General Storehouse
- Building 6 Public Works Maintenance Shops
- * Building 7 1941 Maids Quarters
- Building 9 1912 Storehouse
- Building 11 1910 Radio Receiving Building and Activity Training
- Building 13 1912 Naval Exchange and Post Office
- Building 14 1912 Firehouse
- Building 15 1911 12-Car Garage
- * Building 16 1942 Enlisted Personnel Barracks and Dispensary
- Buildings 18, 19, 20, 21 1910 Two-Family CPO Quarters
- Building 27 1910 Power House/Bakery
- * Building 35 1942 Boathouse & Pier
- * Buildings 45 & 25 Married Enlisted Men's Quarters Acquired 1941 from private sector and moved to present location
- * Buildings 24, 44 & D Married Enlisted Men's Quarters Acquired 1941 from private sector
- * Buildings 46, 47, 48, 49, 50 & 51 1941 Two-Family Duplexes, Married Enlisted Men's Quarters
- * Building 60 1942 Apartment Quarters
- * Building 65 1945 Barracks & Mess Hall
- Building 73 1903 Radio Station, Battery Francis Nash
- * Building 88 1942 Family Housing 4-Car Garage
- * Building 104, 105 1945 4-Apartment Married Enlisted Men's Quarters
- Buildings 138, 139 1903 Old Gun Foundations



CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE 
 NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCE 
 INTRUSION 
 LOST: BUILDING 12 

FORT WARD HISTORIC DISTRICT EXPANSION KITSAP CO., WA

FORT WARD 1939 NAVY ADDITION



Contributing Features

Flight of Stairs with Railing
Sidewalks
Concrete Antenna Tie-Downs
Woven-Wire Security Fence
Fire Hydrants
Clotheslines T-poles
Tennis Courts
Substation

NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES:

Building 23 Married Enlisted Men's Quarters Acquired 1941 from private sector
Building 39 1941 Radio Receiving & Control Building
Building 55 1942 Pump Sump
Building 56 1942 Incinerator
Building 81 1944 Laundry Building

RESOURCE LOST SINCE PREVIOUS NOMINATION

Building 12 Enlisted Personnel Barracks and Mess Hall