Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Washington
COUNTY:
Walla Walla
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

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Fifteen buildings, erected from 1858 to 1906, remain standing in the Fort Walla Walla Historic District. These structures are typical of the styles of their time; and the alterations which have occurred over the years have retained these original characteristics. Also included in the district is the post cemetery, which is as old as the fort itself.

The typical western military post was arranged in an open plan without extensive stockading. Fort Walla Walla was of this type, and the officer's quarters, the barracks, and the administration buildings were all placed around a central, rectangular parade ground. The various support and maintenance buildings were nondescript structures placed on the perimeters of the fort. The locating of these "outbuildings" was determined by the necessity of placing the structures as close as possible to their supportive functions. Thus, even though these "outbuildings" appeared random in position, there was purpose in their placement.

Quarters #1, an "L" shaped building constructed in 1877, is similar to Quarters #2, #3, #4, and #5. The major portion of this frame structure stands 2 1/2 stories high with a gable roof, while the leg of the "L" extends back in a 1 1/2 story and 1 story sequence which creates a telescoping effect. A veranda enclosed in glass extends across the front, ends, and back of the front portion of the structure. Three dormers are located on the front and are evenly spaced across the facade with each containing a single window. Another dormer, centered and rising from the wall, occurs on the north roof slope of the 1 1/2 story portion of the leg. The building is covered with shiplap siding and contains flat plain window openings.

Quarters #2, #3, #4, and #5 were identical "U" shaped structures erected in 1858. Consisting of adobe brick, the front portion of each was originally 1 1/2 stories high with a gabled roof. A veranda extended along the front facade and was supported by four heavy square columns. Single chimneys rose from the roof ridge at approximately the quarter points. The wings of the "U" projected to the back and stood 1 story high with low-pitched gable roofs. A further projection occurred about two-thirds of the way back on each wing, thus creating a telescoping effect. The brick foundation on the front portion was a solid, continuous foundation wall; whereas, the wings consisted of brick piers with wood and brick infill between. Windows were flat, plain openings, and bay windows projected from the front corners of both sides of each building.

Alterations occurring to Quarters #2, #3, and #4 over the years have been similar and often simultaneous. The original adobe walls were eventually covered with bat and board siding, and then later recovered with shiplap which remains today. A back porch and utility room were added to the back portion of the wings sometime between 1917 and 1922. Prior to 1917, the roofs were raised from 1 1/2 stories to 2 1/2 stories, the chimneys extended, and dormers were added front and rear. Three dormers were

SIGNIFICANCE PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	🔀 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known) 1857		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropria	ite)	
Abor iginal	Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi	Other (Specify):
	☐ Industry	losophy	
☐ Agriculture	Invention	Science	
☐ Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art .	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
☐ Communications	Military	☐ Theater	
☐ Conservation	Music	Transportation	
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			

The establishment of military posts at strategic points throughout the western frontier was often responsible for the location and growth of the many towns. In no place was the life of a fort more closely interwoven with that of a community than early Walla Walla. Settlement of the Walla Walla Valley and the town of Walla Walla was advanced a good number of years by the presence of a military garrison.

There were two earlier posts known as Fort Walla Walla. The original Fort Walla Walla was constructed in 1818, by the North West Company near where the Walla Walla River empties into the Columbia River. This post was taken over by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821, and in 1855, was The second Fort Walla Walla was built by the U.S. Army in 1856, in what is now downtown Walla Walla. This post was also later aban-In May, 1857, Company E of the 9th Infantry encamped several miles from the straggling community of shacks and tents which had been built around the second Fort Walla Walla. On the new site, the 9th Infantry constructed the third Fort Walla Walla. On May 23, 1859, this fort was officially declared a military reservation. It consisted of 640 acres in addition to some hay and timber reservations, later relinquished.

Beginning in 1859, the matter of providing escorts for road builder Captain John Mullan sometimes occupied half the garrison. Mullan's road extended from Fort Walla Walla to Fort Benton, Montana, the head of navigation on the Missouri. In the 1860's, Fort Walla Walla and the nearby town was an important communication and transportation link to the gold fields of Idaho and Montana. At this time, in fact, Walla Walla was the first large community in what later became Eastern Washington.

By 1865, all but a few of the regular Army troops were withdrawn, and in 1867, the fort was placed under the supervision of a Quartermaster's Agent. In 1873, the fort was garrisoned once again; and for the next thirty-seven years, the fort was occupied by many different units including: the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 9th and 14th Cavalry; the 2nd, 19th, 21st, and 24th Infantry; and the 10th and 30th Artillery.

Fort Walla Walla was originally built in response to the Yakima Indian War of the late 1850's, which involved such Columbia Plateau tribes as the Spokanes, Couer d'Alenes, Palouses, and Yakimas. Later, troops from Fort Walla Walla were involved in the Modoc, Nez Perce and Bannock Wars, plus just about every other Indian dispute in the Northwest. The fort

Date

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Washington	
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Walla Walla	a
FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ
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(Number all entries)

#4 - Owner of Property
Fort Walla Walla Historic District

Approximately 107 acres:
United States Veteran's Administration

77 Wainwright Drive
Walla Walla, Washington - Code 53

Approximately 65 acres:

General Services Administration 15th & "C" Southwest Auburn, Washington - Code 53

6.35 acres (cemetery):
 City of Walla Walla
 3rd and Rose Street
 Walla Walla, Washington - Code 53



Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 2

Approximately 107 acres:
United States Veteran's Administration
77 Wainwright Drive

Walla Walla, Washington - Code 53

Approximately 65 acres:

General Services Administration 15th & "C" Southwest Auburn, Washington - Code 53

6.35 acres (cemetery):
 City of Walla Walla
 3rd and Rose Street
 Walla Walla, Washington - Code 53

3.4 acres (45-WW-33) - archaeological site City of Walla Walla 3rd and Rose Street Walla Walla, Washington - Code 53



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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

#7 - Description (1)
Fort Walla Walla Historic District

placed on the front with the center dormer containing two windows and the others having just one window. The rear dormers were centered over the wing roof ridges and contained single windows. About 1920-21, the verandas were enclosed with glass, and the veranda on Quarters #2 was extended along the entire east wall. Additional columns were added, increasing the number to six on the front verandas. Small, triangular windows, centered high on the gables on both ends of the building, were also added.

Additional bay windows were added to Quarters #2 and #4. Quarters #2 had two placed on the west side - one on the back corner of the main portion of the building and one next to it on the forward portion of the wing. Quarters #4 received bay windows in much the same location, except that they were placed on the east side instead.

Quarters #5 also belongs to the 1858 series, but the alterations have been somewhat different. Unlike in Quarters #2, #3, and #4, the original 1 1/2 story roofline was maintained. The back porch and utility room addition did occur, however; and it was done in the same telescoping effect as evident in Quarters #2, #3, and #4. An additional feature of Quarters #5, however, are the rectangular extensions to the side of the main portion of the building. These extensions were constructed in much the same fashion as the wings, but have flat roofs, centered double windows in front, and single windows in back. On the back slope of the main roof, a pair of double-windowed dormers were added to counterbalance an original smaller dormer. Two double-windowed dormers were also added to the front of the building.

Erected in 1888, Quarters #48 and #49 are very similar and have the characteristics of the Second Empire Style. These irregular, frame buildings are two-storied and have full mansard roofs. The main portion of each is basically square, and a veranda projects from the front and continues around the west side forming an "L". On this west side, the veranda adjoins a 1-story, rectangular extension that runs partially back. Also on the west side of the main portion of the buildings and approximately threefourths of the way back, there is a slight set back which continues to a semi-enclosed back porch. At about the same corresponding location on the opposite side of each building there is another setback which is much larger. A bay window projects from this, the east side, just prior to the point that the large setback occurs. The first story is capped by a plain frieze and cornice from which the mansard roofs rise. Full-height dormer windows are appropriately positioned and generally set above the first story windows. A chimney rises from the center of each roof. The roof has been altered to protect the geometric shingles laid down in a chevron

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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#71+ Description (2)

Fort Walla Walla Historic District

pattern on the side of the roof. This was done by constructing a projecting, boxed eave to cup the roof and dormer windows. The back porches have been extended; and both the back porches and verandas have been enclosed.

Single Quarters #52 and #53 were constructed in 1888 and are similar in appearance. These buildings have wood exeteriors, shingle roofs, and remain on their original locations. The buildings have not been occupied for seven years and are currently boarded up. These residences are the only historic structures included in approximately sixty-five acres of hospital property that was excessed to GSA in 1965.

Structures #31, #41, #63, and #65 are all utility and maintenance buildings. These nondescript structures are characterized by: frame construction; shiplap siding; simple, severe facades; flat plain window openings at regular intervals; and low, flat profiles.

Building #31, erected in 1859, originally served as the quartermaster stables and blacksmith shop, and is currently being used for storage. A saltbox structure, it has a roof pitch change on the long or back side of the building. This roof pitch change is milder on the lower portion of the roof. A suspended, rolling door serves as entrance on one end, and is flanked by windows on either side. The opposite end of the structure has been extended at some later date. Other openings occur indiscriminately, but there are indications that siding has covered over many of the original openings. The back side of the building has vertical bat and board siding and another suspended, rolling door occurs on the right back corner.

Building #41, constructed in 1893, originally served as the granary and is now used for storage. A long, rectangular building capped by a hip roof, the structure's length is broken by the repetition of: four, evenly-spaced cupolas rising from the center roof ridge; evenly-spaced and closely-set windows; and a series of heavy piers on which the building rests. These elements create a well-proportioned, horizontal structure with a strong appearance. Doors and loading platforms are located on both sides and both ends.

Building #63, the ordnance storehouse, now serves as a plumbing and electrical shop. Built in 1904, it is a long, narrow, rectangular structure with a simple gable roof. On one side, an original center door has been covered with siding so that only the outline now exists. A door and loading platform are located at one end.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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#7 - Description (3)
Fort Walla Walla Historic District

Building #65, constructed in 1906, originally served as the oilhouse and is now the carpenter and print shop. Now a "U" shaped building, the wings appear to have been added at a later date. A suspended, rolling door occurs on the front and is offset to the right of center. Two smaller doors are also located on the front at about the quarter points. Other doors and openings on the wings appear indiscriminately.

Buildings #68 and #69 were originally Infantry barracks, but now serve as hospital wards. Built in 1906, these 2-story brick structures are identical "U" shaped buildings with gable roofs and 2-story front verandas. The center portion of the front is inset and thus forms short extensions of the wings on the front facade. The veranda projects from the entire length of the front facade and follows the building inset. The veranda is supported by regularly-spaced, simple Doric columns. Access to the veranda was on both sides of the inset up straight steps. The stories of the veranda are separated by a plain, boxed cornice. The front gables of the wings have small Palladian windows centered on the front and plain, boxed cornices with returns. Windows are plain openings spaced regularly around the building with slightly-curved lintels.

Alterations have caused some variation between the two structures. Building #69, for instance, has a gable projection on the back side of the center portion. It is offset to the right of center and is treated like the previously-mentioned gables, except only a small window appears instead of a Palladian window. Building #68, on the other hand, has a 2-story veranda occurring on the back side of the center portion.

Alterations occurring to both buildings have included the replacement of the veranda railings with panels and glassing in the top portions above the railing. This was done about 1920. The original roof has also been replaced by composition shingles, and chimneys have been removed. The present front entrance has been offset to the right side of the veranda inset.

The post cemetery is located to the southwest of the fort, and the first soldier was interred there in 1859. Unused for about the last seventy years, there are one hundred eleven (111) graves in the military sections and thirty-two (32) in the nonmilitary portion. The latter includes Indians, unknowns, and civilians as well as wives, sons, and daughters of soldiers. There are also commemorative stones; for instance, there is a memorial for thirty-three soldiers killed at White Bird Canyon on June 17, 1877, and another with the names of the ten enlisted men killed in the

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#7 - Description (4)
Fort Walla Walla Historic District

Cottonwood Creek fight of July 3, 1877. The soldiers killed in these two battles with the Nez Perce Indians were originally buried at Fort Lapwai, Idaho, but were removed in 1890 and reinterred at Fort Walla Walla.

After the turn-of-the-century, the army rearranged forty-six graves to give the cemetery a more orderly military appearance and to separate the officers, enlisted men, and civilians into separate sections.

On January 15, 1958, the federal government transferred 6.35 acres, which included the cemetery, to the City of Walla Walla with the stipulation that future use be compatible with the property's historic background. The city cleared the cemetery of overgrown weeds and brush, and has since maintained the grounds as part of a public park.

Today, the parade ground still remains, and most of the fort's historic buildings are located on the perimeter of the parade ground. Much of the surrounding area has also been left as natural fields and open areas.

The district includes two separate parcels of land: (1) the 172.3 acres included within the "Revised Reservation Boundary," and (2) the 6.35 acres of the cemetery (see maps). The area within the "Revised Reservation Boundary" is divided three ways:

- 1. GSA controls 59.5 acres on the southwest and southeast sides of the fort. This land was excessed to GSA in 1965 and includes two historic structures (Single Quarters #52 and #53). Plans are currently being proposed to transfer this land from GSA to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation which in turn will transfer the property to the City of Walla Walla for park purposes.
- 2. The core of the historic district (88.59 acres) is controlled by the Veterans Administration.
- 3. The Walla Walla General Hospital, under the governorship of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, has requested transfer of 24.21 acres in the northeast corner of the fort on which to build a new hospital. The Veterans Administration controls approximately 19 acres of this land and GSA about 6 acres. The Veterans Administration has expressed a willingness to relinquish this property. In compliance with Executive Order #11593, section 106 procedures have been completed and the terms of the agreement between the Veterans Administration, the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Walla Walla General Hospital will be incorporated

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#7 - Description (5)
Fort Walla Walla Historic District

into the notice of intention to relinquish. The transfer of land should be completed in the spring of 1974.

The City of Walla Walla has also expressed interest in acquiring a 60' wide strip of land along the northern boundary of the "Revised Reservation Boundary" for use as a road.



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The Fort Walla Walla archaeological site (45-WW-33) consists of the dump area for Fort Walla Walla (1859-1910). By planimetric measure the site encompasses 146,000 square feet or approximately 3.4 acres. The site lies immediately west of the Veteran's Administration Hospital and extends in a westerly direction to the border of the right-of-way for Myra Road. The site occupies the steep slope of a terrace from which the trash was dumped and an extensive swale below the terrace.

In the past the site area was graded with a bulldozer and in 1961 the Walla Walla City Park Department had dug a north-south trench in the site area. Excavation was begun under the direction of Larry Hussey by the Walla Walla Community College in the spring quarter of 1975. A grid pattern of 25, five-foot squares was laid out near the south end of the trench dug by the Park Department. The grid placed the excavation at the southern limit of the dump site and at the top of the hill over which the fort refuse had originally been dumped.

This location, Site A, was abandoned when only one test pit yielded artifacts to a level of 12 inches. Another grid of eight, five-by-five squares, numbered Tl through T8, 20 meters to the west of Site A, was established running north-south from the top of the hill to the bottom of the swale. Although only Tl through T3, T7 and T8 were excavated during the college quarter, the concentration of artifactual material in the five squares was heavy. A total of some 550 artifacts were removed from the squares. The major portion of the dump area remains to be excavated. In the interim, the City of Walla Walla has plans to place an over-burden of sterile fill over the site area to protect the archaeological site from relic collectors.

The rectangle encompassing the two elements of the original nomination (Fort Walla Walla proper and cemetery) also includes the area of the archaeological site. This inclusive figure should now be regarded as the actual boundary of the historic district.

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#8 - Significance (1)
Fort Walla Walla Historic District

cemetery, dating from 1859, contains many fatalities from the Indian wars period, including soldiers killed at White Bird Canyon and Cottonwood Creek-both Nez Perce fights.

General Jonathan M Wainwright, of Bataan and Corregidor fame, was born at the fort in 1883, and General Mathew Ridgway, later Army Chief of Staff and Supreme commander of NATO, lived on the fort as a youth when his father was stationed there as a cavalry officer.

In 1910, Cavalry troops stationed at the fort were ordered to Yellowstone Park, and ownership of Fort Walla Walla was transferred to the Interior Department. During World War I, the 146th and 147th Field Artillery, comprised of men from Idaho, Washington, and Montana, trained here in preparation for overseas duty. In 1921, the entire reservation was transferred to the Bureau of Public Health and eventually developed into a Verneran's Administration Hospital.

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The Fort Walla Walla District has been recognized for its historic significance and the artifacts already recovered from the Fort Walla Walla archaeological site (45-WW-33) have proved that the site is an important adjunct to the history of that district.

The artifacts are dated by the period of military occupancy of Fort Walla Walla (1859-1910) and coincide with the change-over from percussion martial muskets, rifles, carbines and hand guns to the modern metallic cartridge. The cartridges, bullets and cartridge casings found reflect a fair sampling of the developments in breech loading martial arms with reloadable cartridge casings as were in use by the U. S. Cavalry. An interesting social comment can be made relative to the recovery of cartridges such as the .38-55 which were made for Ballard, Winchester and Marlin rifles prior to 1891 but which rifles were never an official issue of the U. S. Army. These rifles may have been privately purchased by the men in the field because of a repeating carbines greater effective firepower or for use by the officers and men in the recreational pursuit of game.

Lithic and vitreous artifacts included slate, no doubt used for roofing, mortar, "Brown" and "Stourbridge" fire brick and a soft light red brick which was locally produced. Other vitreous products which fell into six main classes represented material used in plumbing, building, as cooking utensils, tableware, bottles and miscellaneous ware. The tableware proved to be considerably varied. There has not yet been sufficient time to identify all the patterns and trademarks; however, the ware is representative of such countries as Sweden, England, Germany, China and Japan. An analysis of bottle finds also remains to be done. The following list of artifacts were accepted by Mr. Joy Laughlin, Museum Director of the Walla Walla Historical Society to be displayed at their local museum:

- 1. Emblem from a Lazard Army Range
- 2. Cavalry insignia 1st Cavalry, Co. F
- 3. Cavalry insignia 1st Cavalry, Co. G
- 4. Bone and wood domino
- 5. Bottle, large, Lithium Water, Buffalo
- 6. Four horseshoes
- 7. Bottle, Von Thron, Walla Walla Bottling Co., 1900-1910
- 8. Ink bottle, Bixby
- 9. Bottle, medicine, small
- 10. Pair of military collar buttons
- 11. Two insignias, 'U. S.'
- 12. Four large military buttons, later style
- 13. Button, small, military, old style
- 14. Button, small, military, new style
- 15. One telephone token

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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- Bottle, small, 'Pain Killer' Bottle, large, 'Varona' 16.
- 17.
- One large metal ring, about 6" 18.
- One green lock, 'Good Luck' 19.
- 20. One small bell with U. S. flag
- 21. One glass telegraph insulator
- Six whole bottles; ale, wine, or whisky 22.
- 23. Metal attachment to rope around Cavalry hat

Although Fort Walla Walla was occupied by the military from 1859 through 1910 availabe data prior to 1873 is sparse. During this period, as previously mentioned, the Yakima Indian War, the building of the Mullan Road from Walla Walla to Fort Benton, Montana and the traffic to and from the gold fields of Idaho and Montana played an important part in the history of the local area. The Fort Walla Walla dump site may well help to fill in this 15 year period and bridge this gap in the history of the Fort Walla Walla Historic District.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME		·	
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC		NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Fort Walla Walla Historic District	Veteran's Ad Hospital	dministration	APR 1 6 1974
2. LOCATION		1010	
STATE	COUNTY	(9)	Nown
Washington	Walla Walla	DESCRIPTION	Walla Walla
STREET AND NUMBER		RECENT	
77 Wainwright Drive		MAR 6 1974	
3. MAP REFERENCE		NATION	R /- 1
source Sam Maxson, Director	DATE	NATIONAL REGISTE	SCAL/E
Park & Recreation Dept.			1
City of Walla Walla	1973	STITE	1" - 300'
REQUIREMENTS: BRODERTY BOUNDABLES IN	WIEDE DEGUIRED AL	ID NOBTH ABBOW	

Cemetery is shown as part of 6.35 acre grant to the City of Walla Walla from the General Services Administration (1958). Use of this 6+ acres must be compatible with the property's historical background. Historical district is shaded red.





