

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS *Revised*

1. STATE Washington	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. XX - Architecture, XV - The Fur Trade
3. NAME(S) OF SITE The Granary and Factor's House, Fort Nisqually	4. APPROX. ACREAGE 640 acres
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) Pierce County in Point Defiance Park, entrance at 45th and Pearl Sts., Tacoma.	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) City of Tacoma	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

Statement of Significance

The Fort Nisqually Granary, built in 1843, is the only surviving original example in the United States of the Hudson's Bay Company's "posts-in-the-sill" or Canadian method of log construction,--a type of log construction that was widely used by the fur traders, missionaries, and settlers of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington prior to 1846. The granary is also the oldest extant structure in Washington.
The major Pacific Northwest fur trading forts built, or rebuilt, on the posts-in-the-sill method of log construction include the following examples:

- (Continued)
1. Fort Astoria (later Fort George) (1811-1850).
 2. Spokane House, Washington (1811-1826).
 3. Fort Okanogan, Washington (1811-1860).
 4. Old Fort Walla Walla (Nez Percé), Washington (1818-1855).
 5. Fort Vancouver, Washington (1824-1860).
 6. Old Fort Colville, Washington (1826-1871).
 7. Old Fort Umpqua, Oregon (1832-1851).
 8. Fort Nisqually, Washington (1833-1869).
 9. Old Fort Boise, Idaho (1834-1856).
 10. Fort Hall, Idaho (1834-1856).
 11. Fort Stikine, Alaska (1840-1867).
 12. Fort Yukon, Alaska (1847-1869).

The only two surviving structures of all these former Hudson's Bay Company posts are the Granary and Factor's House of Fort Nisqually. In 1839-42, adobe, as well as logs, was also used in rebuilding Old Fort Walla Walla, Fort Okanogan, Fort Hall, and Old Fort Boise.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)	Old Fort Nisqually Lives Again (Booklet written by Della Gould Emmons, for the Fort Nisqually Restoration Council, Tacoma, n.d.); The New Washington (American Guide Series) (Portland, 1950) 155, 275-76; Marius Barbeau "The House that Mac Built, The Beaver, outfit 276 (December, 1945), 10-13); Alfred L. Gehri; "Fort Nisqually Lives Again," in the Beaver outfit 265, No. 2 (September, 1934), 54.
9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, IABS, etc.)	

See page 4.

10. PHOTOGRAPHS #1335, 1333 ATTACHED YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION Restored & Reconstructed	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Park and Museum	13. DATE OF VISIT Aug. 31, 1959
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) Charles W. Snell	15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE Feb. 16, 1967	

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

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SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

STATE Washington	NAME(S) OF SITE The Granary and Factor's House, Fort Nisqually
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7. Continued.

History

The most important establishment in the Pacific Northwest prior to 1846 was the trading post.² These fortified posts or "forts" were all built on a similar basic plan. A tall stockade comprised of upright logs enclosed a square or rectangular area. At the diagonally opposite corners of the wall were usually situated two two-story log blockhouses, which provided a flanking fire along the stockade in case of attack. Within the palisade were situated the commanding officer's house, barracks and dwellings for the trappers and their families, workshops, trading houses, and warehouses--all constructed of logs.

Fort Nisqually was built on this typical plan by Archibald McDonald for the Hudson Bay Company in 1833. Located at Dupont, 15 miles south of the future site of Tacoma, Fort Nisqually was the first permanent white settlement on Puget Sound and it was also a communication and supply center for the Hudson's Bay Company's northern posts on the coast of the British Company. In addition, in 1840, Fort Nisqually became the headquarters of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, a subsidiary corporation of the Hudson's Bay Company. As a result of these increasing functions, Fort Nisqually was rebuilt and enlarged between 1843 and 1845. Fort Nisqually and its farms were occupied by the Hudson's Bay Company until 1869, when the final terms of the settlement compensating the company for giving up its possessory rights in the former Oregon Country was signed by the American and British Governments.

²The first fur trading post in the Pacific Northwest was established at Fort Astoria, Oregon, in 1811-12. Built by Americans, this company was forced by war condition to sell Fort Astoria and its other posts to a rival British fur firm in 1813. In 1821 rival British fur companies merged with the Hudson's Bay Company, and from 1821 to 1846, with a complete monopoly of the fur trade, the Hudson's Bay Company was the dominant force in the Pacific Northwest.

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7. Continued.

Only two original buildings of the fort, the Granary and Factor's House were standing in 1934, when these structures were removed from the original site and re-erected and restored in Point Defiance Park at Tacoma. The rest of the fort, including the stockade, two blockhouses, and 8 other buildings, were reconstructed around the two original structures at the new site.

Condition

A. Granary, 1843.

The granary, measuring 20 by 31 feet, is a one-story building built in the post-in-the-sill manner. In this method of construction a sill of heavy timbers was laid down for the base of the proposed log structure. The ends of these timbers were usually fastened together at the corners by interlocking joints. The sill sometimes rested directly on the ground but more often, and as was the case with the present granary, was elevated by wooden blocks or piles. At the corners and at convenient intervals along the sill, usually at every 6 to 10 feet, heavy upright posts were planted by means of mortises. These uprights were grooved, and into their grooves were slid the tenoned ends of horizontally-lying logs or timbers which filled the empty spaces between the uprights and formed the wall.

In the granary the heavy fir logs were adzed to timbers 10 by 14 inches square with tenons on the ends. The tenons were mortised into the grooves in the heavy upright corner posts and pinned with oak dowels. Oak pegs three feet long were also driven down through holes bored in the horizontal timbers, thus making a very strong construction. The building's gabled roof is covered by hand-split cedar shakes. Batten boards comprise the siding under the eaves at the ends and the six windows have solid batten board shutters. The round arch entrance has solid double batten doors. Inside the structure are five grain bins which are arranged around the sides of the building.

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STATE California	NAME(S) OF SITE The Granary and Factor's House, Fort Nisqually
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B. Factor's House, 1845.

Erected in 1845 this frame, clapboard sided structure with attic, measures 66 by 38 feet. The 5-room house is divided by a central hall with a stairway leading to the attic. The two rooms to the left of the hall each have an individual fireplace which are set back-to-back in the center. To the right are three rooms and two of these have back-to-back fireplaces. A broad veranda extends around the front and both ends of the house. The long rectangular windows, which are arranged in pairs, are single hung and each window contains 8 panes of glass. The roof is comprised of cedar shakes. This is the oldest extant frame house in Washington.

Both the Granary and the Factor's Houses have been restored. In excellent condition, they are open to visitors.

9. Reports and Studies:

Jesse S. Douglass, "Historic Sites Survey Report: Fort Nisqually, Washington" (N.P.S. Typescript, Aug. 1935) 6 pp; Historic American Bldg Survey: Corner Boston (1 sheet & 1 photo, 1936-37); Factor's House (7 sheets and 3 photos, 1936-37; Factor's House (7 sheets and 3 photos, 1936-37) Granary (2 sheets and 2 photos, 1936). WASH-37.