



NCRI Report

McLoughlin and Barclay Houses: Historic Structures Report In Progress

by Theresa Langford, NPS Curator

One of the primary planning documents for the National Park Service is a Historic Structures Report (HSR), which not only documents the architectural history of a structure but also recommends treatment options for rehabilitating or restoring it. Specialists from Leavengood Architects and Krafft & Krafft are completing an HSR for the McLoughlin and Barclay Houses this year.

There are several crucial steps in this process, including documenting the houses' current state, describing their historic contexts, formulating chronologies of construction and use, and recommending future steps. The architects and historic preservation specialists guide us in reconciling visitor access and interpretive uses of the homes with preserving original fabric from their earliest eras.

The McLoughlin House was the first national historic site in the American West, designated in 1941. Together with the adjacent Barclay House, it became a unit of Fort Vancouver in 2003. The inhabitants of the houses played pivotal roles in the region's history, and its transition from British domination to American territory.

The research for the HSR



Photograph courtesy of Greg Shine

The recently painted McLoughlin House; the original front of the house faces the Willamette River.

has been detective work in many places: local museums and archives, online databases, and university projects. Last April, the team went deep within the houses themselves. More recent finishes were removed from test locations in order to examine original wall boards, and ascertain whether original wallpaper fragments or paint residue remained.

In the McLoughlin House, an original painted dado section (a decorative feature on the lower part of a wall) was revealed in the dining room, as well as fragments of a historic fleur-de-lys style wallpaper above the painted area. A

greenish paint was found at two locations, rooms that may have once been a "butler's area" from which food was served into the dining room. In addition, small remnants of original wallpaper and paint were found in the stairwell. No evidence of chair rail, wainscot, or picture rail was found.

In the Barclay House, a framed area on the gift shop wall had long given visitors a look at one of the original wall finishes; that had been covered with brightly-colored papers pulled out of Chinese tea shipping chests.

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Historical Fragment

The following are excerpts from an account of the murder of Chief Factor John McLoughlin's son, John McLoughlin Jr., at Fort Stikine (now Wrangell, Alaska).

Pierre Kanaquasse's Narrative of the murder of the late Mr. John McLoughlin [Jr.] [taken by] James Douglas on board Schooner Cadboro 21 June 1842 Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Provincial Archives of Manitoba

Peter was informed by Antoine that Mr. John on leaving the room where the men were drinking, went up stairs to his own apartment & he heard him say to his wife "I am going to die tonight" & he & his wife both began to cry. Mr. John soon rallied & observed "never mind if I die. I must fall like a man". He then told Antoine to load his rifle & pistol & ordered him also to arm himself with his own gun. He and Antoine then went out.

Mr. John, after Peter had passed him, said to Antoine make haste & come with the lamp & proceeded with a firm step to Urbain's house as Peter who continued watching by the door saw. After he saw them go to Urbain's house, he proceeded towards his own room & heard Antoine call out "fire, fire", the report of several shots, probably five, immediately followed & he heard Antoine exclaiming "Stop, stop, stop, he is dead now." Antoine afterwards related to Peter that on reaching Urbain's house Mr. John ordered him to go round by one corner while he went round by the other directing Antoine to shoot any of the Canadians he might meet. Mr. John then proceeded in a stooping position looking very intently before him when a shot was fired from the corner of the house towards which he was going which caused his death, the ball having entered at the upper part of the breastbone a little below the gullet & came out a little below the shoulders, having broken the spine in its passage. Peter was also told by one of the Kanaccas [Hawaiians] that as soon as Mr. John fell, Urbain sprung forward from the corner of the house within a few paces of the body & put his foot savagely on his neck, as if to complete the act, should the ball have failed in causing death...

Peter then approached to body and with one hand under the neck raised the head & trunk when a deep expiration followed which was the last sign of animation.

Under the Microscope: Linda Larimer

Linda Larimer is a volunteer in our costume department, working with Eileen Trestain to create the clothing that staff and volunteers wear for living history interpretation. Linda has extensive theater costuming experience. She was a teacher's aid in the costuming program at American River Junior College for nine years, creating clothing for a wide variety of productions. She then moved to the Sierra Nevada foothills (near Coloma), where she helped costume high school productions.

Linda and her husband moved to Vancouver when her daughter was pregnant with twins. It wasn't until some friends were visiting that she came to Fort Vancouver.

While they were on a tour with John Salisbury (one of our intrepid park guides), she asked if there were any volunteer opportunities. Of course, when she told John she had worked for nine years in costuming, he brought her immediately to Tessa (in the middle of the tour), where she was recruited for our costuming program. She has been a dedicated member of the costume department for three and a half years, and loves it!



Photograph courtesy of Heidi Pierson

NCRI Director's Letter

As I write this, Bob Cromwell and Greg Shine's report on the archaeology and history of the U.S. Army's Arsenal and Munitions Depot at Fort Vancouver (within Fort Vancouver National Historic Site) is being finalized. Likewise, the final draft of the archaeology report on the Chinook Middle Village at Lewis and Clark's Station Camp (a unit of Lewis and Clark National Historical Park) has been submitted to the Washington Department of Transportation and the Washington State Historical Society.

These two studies nicely reflect the two bookends of research at the NCRI: the fur trade and the U.S. Army. These two historical subject areas encompass two of what Kent Lightfoot has called "pulses" of colonialism in the West – that associated with the British and American corporate entities that extracted furs and other resources from the Northwest, and that associated with the agricultural, commercial, and political development and protection of the American "Oregon territory." Related to both these themes is the impact on and treatment of American Indian peoples. Together, these areas of research encompass the powerful forces of culture contact and political, economic, and social change that transformed the Pacific Northwest from what it was at the time of contact to one of global integration and modern technology.

As we think about the history of extractive enterprises (like the fur trade, logging, and mining), the introduction and expansion of consumerism, and the growth of population and development of urbanism in the modern Pacific Northwest, the archaeological and historical studies of the NCRI can provide important interpretive links to how we got to where we are. The study of this very short period of history in the Pacific Northwest (barely over 200 years from the initiation of European and American contact) can illuminate how humans responded to changing natural and cultural environments and even explore the implications of leadership and policies on the populace. The study of unique public institutions like the Arsenal, or culture contact sites like the Middle Village at Station Camp, provide important pieces of data to further the exploration of this unique environment and the National Parks of the Pacific Northwest.

Doug Wilson

McLoughlin House

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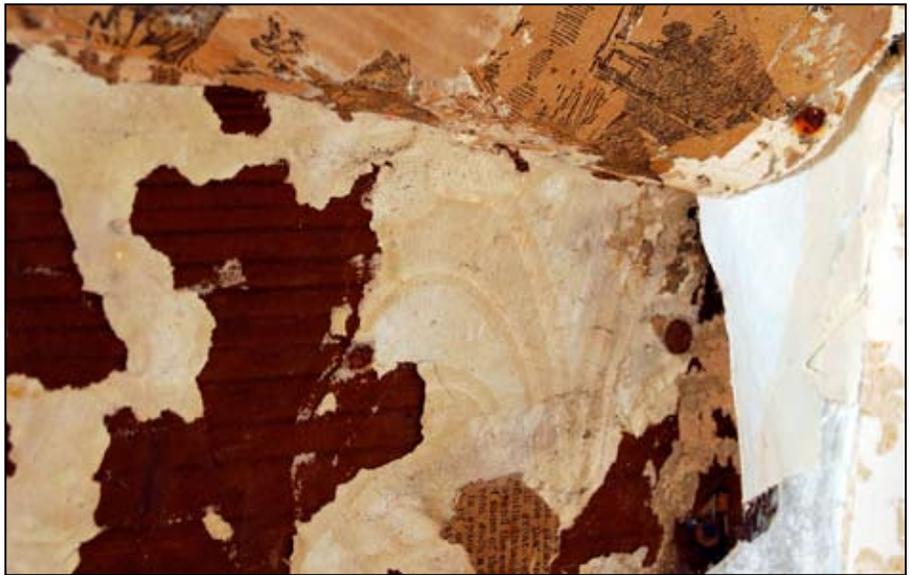


Though records documenting the 1930s renovation of the McLoughlin House claim that the walls were stripped bare, small fragments of older wallpaper remain near the baseboards in the stairwell.

The recent investigations revealed patterns of nail holes that suggest many of the rooms had a picture rail installed, plus two of the test areas show significant fragments of original wallpapers adhered directly to wooden wall planks.

The work on these reports continues, as the team finishes their analysis and writes a cohesive draft. A subsidiary paint analysis project, which will supply the park with color matches for residues recently uncovered, will happen this summer.

The preservation and restoration of a historic home is a long and expensive project, one that depends on many specialists. Each report in the series planned for that unit – the Historic Structures Report, the Historic Furnishings Plan, and the Cultural Landscape Plan – helps build our body of knowledge about the past, and allows park management to make informed decisions when moving into the future.



(Above) The test area in the dining room revealed numerous layers of wall finishes, including a fleur-de-lys patterned wallpaper that may date to the McLoughlin family period.



(Left) An investigation of original walls now covered by a closet revealed this green paint. It was originally applied to the interior side of an exterior house wall, perhaps in a "servants area" off the dining room.

Photographs courtesy of Fort Vancouver NHS

NCRI Projects Well-Represented at 62nd Annual Northwest Anthropological Conference

by Elaine Dorset, PSU Graduate Student and NPS Archaeological Technician

An NCRI symposium was held at this year's Northwest Anthropological Conference (NWAC), held in Newport, Oregon. The symposium provided university students and professional archaeologists with a venue to present and discuss their NCRI-sponsored research. The symposium was co-chaired by Elaine Dorset, Portland State University (PSU) graduate student and archaeologist at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site (FOVA), and Beth Horton, Washington State University doctoral candidate, also an archaeologist at FOVA. Nine researchers participated in the symposium, which was launched with a brief statement of the NCRI's mission and goals by Director Doug Wilson. A brief summary of the papers presented follows:

- Eric Gleason and Jackie Cheung, National Park Service (NPS) archaeologists, have been conducting

pedestrian surveys since 2007 at Lava Beds National Monument, relocating a number of previously recorded sites in order to assess their current condition. Their research has also provided insight into the issues faced when attempting to bring 70 years of archaeology up to today's standards.

- Dr. Robert Cromwell, NPS archaeologist, presented a comparative typological analysis of some of the earliest European and Chinese ceramic wares imported into the Pacific Northwest. This analysis compared the archaeological ceramic assemblages from the Station Camp/Middle Village (ca. 1792-1820) site at the mouth of the Columbia River, with those from the North West Company's Fort Okanogan (ca. 1811-1821), and the North West Company's Fort Spokane (ca. 1810-1821).

- Isotopic and elemental analyses of lead related to firearms from the Station Camp/Middle Village site, conducted by Dr. Doug Wilson, NPS archaeologist, combined with analyses of similar artifacts from the Cathlapotle and Meier sites in the Portland Basin, suggests that lead found at the Chinookan sites and Fort Vancouver derive from English sources. The elemental analyses also discriminates early fur trade lead from Fort Vancouver lead.

- Michelle Lynch, PSU student, explored the issues of identifying archaeological household locations by utilizing architectural data from a 1993 archaeological survey of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) Fort Vancouver Village (ca. 1829-1860) site. By utilizing GIS technology and recent advances in architectural artifact analysis, this paper analyzes the initial attempts at defining archaeological households and refines the probable location(s) of these households.

- The ceramic assemblage from the House 1 site in Fort Vancouver's Village was analyzed by Dana Holschuh, PSU student, comparing assemblages from other household sites in the village, and also to assemblages from within the fort in order to gain insight into the

differences in consumer behavior and the implications of these behaviors as related to class, ethnicity and gender on the two sides of the stockade.

- Elaine Dorset, PSU graduate student, has been researching Dr. McLoughlin's formal garden at Fort Vancouver, related to its representation of social identity, as an imperialistic device, and its significant role in research on the adaptability of plants from around the globe. Excavations in 2005 and 2006 found little evidence of the garden, however pollen studies have provided both new evidence and support for historical documents on the uses of this 19th century landscape.

- Beth Horton, WSU doctoral candidate, related results of recent excavations at Vancouver Barracks, the administrative headquarters for the U.S. Army in the Pacific Northwest, during the period of the Indian Wars and the Civil War. Middens associated with the Commissioned Officers and Enlisted Soldiers provide an opportunity to better understand the lives of male residents of military communities within this region.

- Recent field school excavations at Fort Vancouver located middens associated with the U.S. Army barracks and laundress' quarters dating to the mid- to late-19th century. Stephanie Simmons and Katie Wynia, PSU graduate students, discussed how these groups used various products packaged in glass, including food, drink, and medicinal substances, focusing on gender-based consumer behaviors associated with vessel glass spatial patterns.

- Leslie O'Rourke, NPS archaeologist, discussed the late-19th century Rudolph Rosler homestead, located within the American Camp Unit of San Juan Island National Historical Park. Ground-disturbing activities in September 2008 uncovered artifacts associated with an outbuilding that was located northwest of the house. Test excavations conducted in October 2008 are helping to piece together the history of the Rosler homestead.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The Fort Vancouver National Site is a partnership of the National Park Service, the City of Vancouver, the State of Washington, and the U.S. Army. It includes Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, Vancouver Barracks and Officers Row, Pearson Field and Air Museum, portions of the Columbia River waterfront, the Water Resources Education Center, and the McLoughlin House unit in Oregon City, Oregon.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Trees are Cultural Resources, Too!

by Bob Cromwell, NPS Archaeologist

As one strolls around the Fort Vancouver National Site (FVNS), formerly the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, it is easy to see that some of the appeal and popularity of this amazing place revolves around the green expanses and large trees that dot the landscape. Trees, of course, are natural resources, but here at the VNHR, they are also managed as cultural resources, as invaluable, living links to our distant and recent past. Many of the centenarian trees along Officers' Row, on the historic Parade Ground, the Great Meadow area, and within the Vancouver Barracks, were specifically planted by the U.S. Army in the 19th century, while others are the natural offspring of trees that were likely propagated due to the intentional fire management of the landscape by Chinookan Indians—and witnessed the rise and fall of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) at Fort Vancouver.

The very nature of the historical settlement of this place, first by the HBC, then by the U.S. Army, was likely due to the open, prairie-like setting, with groves of oak trees. This was apparently a rare landscape on the north banks of the Columbia River, and several early explorers took note of this fact, including North West Company clerk Alexander Henry, who in 1814 recorded this in his journal about the current location of the FVNS:

"February 6, Point Vancouver. The Land adjoining the river is low and must be overflowed at high water; it is a meadow extending about 3 miles in length and at the widest part about 3/4 mile in breadth to the foot of a beautiful range of high Prairie ground rising about 30 feet. On the top of this Hill is a most delightful situation



Photograph courtesy of Bob Cromwell

A grove of Garryanna oaks in the Vancouver Barracks near the location of the historic HBC cemetery.

for a Fort on a Prairie of about 2 Miles long, and 2 miles broad, good Soil and excellent Pine in abundance in the rear . . . The fire seems to have passed through the lower Prairie last Fall, and the green grass is already sprouted up about four inches in height" (Coues 1965: 830).

Much like the Willamette Valley to the south, it appears that the local Chinookan Indians intentionally burned this area to sustain a prairie setting, to encourage a more diverse environmental setting to attract wildlife and the flourishing of bulb plants for harvest. Unlike conifers such as Douglas Fir trees, the Garryanna White Oak tree is fire resistant, and flourishes in fire frequented grass prairies. The many large Garryanna Oaks that are still present within the FVNS are the remnant markers of this ancient, culturally managed landscape.

Interestingly, the largest grove

of these Garryanna Oaks is within the Vancouver Barracks along Fort Vancouver Way, a location that is associated with the Hudson's Bay Company cemetery. In May 1833, HBC physician, William Tolmie, described the funeral of an employee at this cemetery:

"The coffin, unpainted, slung on pieces of canvas & thus borne by four men, passing through a pretty grove of young oaks & other trees, we arrived at burial ground which is situated about a gunshot to N. of fort, in a fertile upland meadow greatly beautified by wild flowers & trees in flower..." (Erigeron 1992: 119).

This grove of oaks can likely be linked directly to the oaks that Tolmie observed in 1833, and continues as the silent marker of the HBC cemetery.

As a final example, the many trees that line Evergreen Boulevard along Officers' Row consists mostly of Big Leaf Maples, with

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Announcements

We are pleased to announce a series of cultural resources events during the summer at Fort Vancouver and the McLoughlin House:

Kids Digs

Children ages 8-12 are introduced to archaeology by participating in a "mock dig", mapping their artifact finds, and recording data. As they excavate and screen with the help of park staff and volunteers, participants will discuss how we learn from archaeology, and why we should preserve these pieces of our past. Each two-hour session is limited to 20 children, on a first-come, first-served basis. It is possible to sign up as soon as the venue is open. Entrance fees to visit the fort apply. Program is free.

Saturday, July 25

(11:00 a.m.):

Kids Dig at Fort Vancouver

Saturday, August 8

(11:00 a.m.):

Kids Dig at the McLoughlin House in Oregon City

Saturday, August 22

(11:00 a.m.):

Kids Dig at Fort Vancouver

Saturday, September 26

(11:00 a.m.):

Kids Dig at Fort Vancouver

Washington and Oregon Archaeology Month Events

Archaeological Walking Tour of the Fort & Village:

Saturday, September 19

(11:00 a.m.)

Museum Collections Open House:

Saturday, September 19

(1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.)

The **Fort Vancouver NHS website** has some new features. Greg Shine is producing a monthly podcast on the behind-the-scenes workings of the fort: <http://www.nps.gov/fova/photosmultimedia/multimedia.htm> You can also access historical and archaeological studies on our research pages, such as the recent Arsenal study: <http://www.nps.gov/fova/historyculture/research.htm>

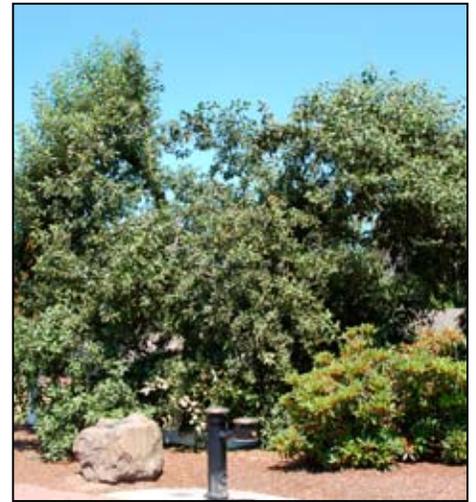
Heritage Trees

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a few Garryanna Oak trees. Early photographs of Officers' Row, taken in the ca. 1860-1875 period, show relatively few trees on the south front of the officers' houses, with many large Douglas Fir trees behind them. In 1879, the Army's Department of the Columbia Headquarters was moved back to the Vancouver Barracks from Portland, Oregon, which had the result of an appropriation of \$56,000 for the construction and repair of officers' quarters (Erigero 1992: 295). Several new officers' structures were constructed in the 1880s, and following with Victorian conventions of the age, the Big Leaf Maple trees that we see today were planted along Evergreen Boulevard at that time.

Most of these large trees throughout the FVNS are managed and preserved as contributing elements of the varied cultural landscapes that are present. Trees, as with any living being, have finite life spans, and many of these "heritage trees," have unfortunately succumbed to the ravages of time in the past five years. Specifically, the grand stand of Garryanna Oaks (which tree rings indicate was planted ca. 1844), just to the west of the Parade Ground bandstand, and several of the large Big Leaf Maples on Officers' Row have either died, fallen, or have been removed due to their hazardous nature, since 2005.

These management decisions are not taken lightly, and the removal of each of these trees has been reviewed for its effect on the historic significance of the FVNS. In addition, each of these trees has been replaced (in the same location as the original tree) by a sapling of the same species, within six months of the removal of the larger tree. The City of Vancouver, working with the National Park Service, just planted 25 new trees along Officers' Row, either in locations of former trees that had been previously removed, or in locations near to heritage trees that appear to be within their last years of life.



The Pacific Northwest's oldest apple tree.

These efforts will ensure that there is a continual presence of specific, historic tree species that help to represent the cultural landscapes that are present throughout the FVNS.

In addition, perhaps the most venerable tree present within the FVNS has a park of its very own. Old Apple Tree Park, a city park located within the southwestern corner of the FVNS, close to the Columbia River, commemorates the Pacific Northwest's oldest apple tree. Early 20th century arborists took a boring of the main trunk, and determined that the tree was planted in the mid-1820s. The tree is likely the only surviving tree planted by a Hudson's Bay Company employee, and may have been planted by a resident of the HBC Village. On Monday, June 29, 2009, City of Vancouver and NPS staff noted that two of the three main stems of the tree suffered damage and had partially separated from the main trunk of the tree, likely due to strong and gusty winds that had occurred over that weekend. Currently, the City of Vancouver has organized a Research Committee, composed of City officials, NPS staff, professional arborists, and interested parties, to determine the best course of action to manage and save the damaged tree.

Material Culture Notes: Belle Vue Sheep Farm—Artifacts from a Hudson’s Bay Company Outpost on San Juan Island

by Theresa Langford, NPS Curator



Photographs Courtesy of John Edwards



(Top left) This block of carved argillite, an unfinished project, may predate the Hudson’s Bay Company presence on San Juan Island. Argillite was mined from the Queen Charlotte Islands in British Columbia and traded throughout the Pacific Northwest. (Top right) British ceramics are a hallmark of fur trade sites; this Rural Scenes pattern (1850-1900s) soup plate was made in England by the Spode (Copeland and Garrett) Company and traveled about 17,000 miles by sailing ship to come to this farm. (Bottom) This wagon brake is one of many well-preserved metal wagon parts found at Belle Vue Farm.

By the mid-1840s, James Douglas had left Fort Vancouver to become the Chief Factor of Fort Victoria on Vancouver Island, the new headquarters for the Columbia Department of the Hudson’s Bay Company (HBC). In 1846, the “Oregon Question”, the conflicting land claims of the United States and Great Britain, was settled by establishing the boundary at the 49th parallel. However, the language of the treaty was open to differing interpretations, at least concerning the straits around

the San Juan Islands. Douglas, politically acute, realized that establishing an agricultural enterprise on San Juan Island would help to solidify his country’s claim to the area.

Political though his motivation may have been, the climate and soil of the island were ideal for grazing and farming. The HBC had diversified into such enterprises elsewhere earlier, including at Fort Vancouver and near Fort Nisqually. In 1853, Douglas landed on San Juan Island with

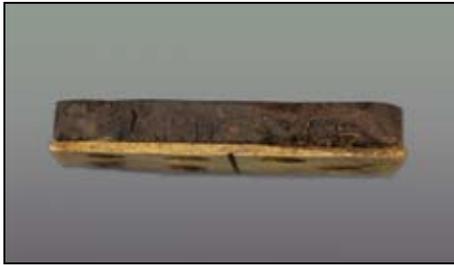
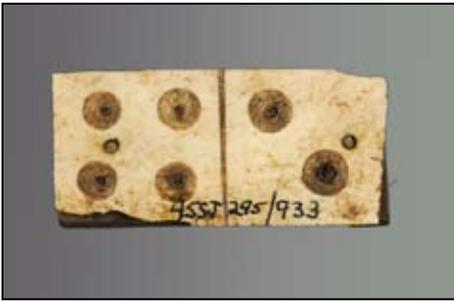
several employees, almost 1,400 head of sheep, small numbers of other animals such as boars, and seeds. He left Charles Griffin in charge of the post named Belle Vue Sheep Farm, an enterprise that eventually grew to include a headquarters, four sheep stations with 4,500 animals, and 80 acres under cultivation.

From its inception, American customs officials and tax collectors inundated the British farm.

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Material Culture Notes: Belle Vue Sheep Farm

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Games of all sorts were a popular pastime at frontier outposts, among them cards, dice, and dominoes, as with the ivory and wood piece shown here.



This "President" pipe depicts Franklin Pierce, who became president in 1852. He is often considered one of the worst presidents in history due to his sympathies toward slavery and support of the Ostend Manifesto.



Photographs courtesy of John Edwards

Though originally made of clay or stone, glass marbles began in Germany in the mid-1840s; by the 1890s they were being manufactured in the United States. However, it was several decades later that swirls and "cats' eyes" were invented by injecting colored glass into the sphere. This artifact likely reflects families living in the area, just a short while before it became a unit of the national park system.



The Spode (Copeland and Garrett) Company had a near monopoly supplying tableware to Hudson's Bay Company sites. This green transfer print decorated teacup, in the Field Sports pattern (1846-1900s), reflects the ceramics' adoption as a status symbol among fur trade employees, but also the spread of tea drinking as a social practice.



This small porcelain statue is holding a cross and standing next to a lamb. Without the head it is difficult to determine who it represents, but it is undoubtedly a Christian object.

Material Culture Notes: Belle Vue Sheep Farm

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Straight razors were replaced by “safety” razors, so called because the surface of the skin was exposed only to the edge of the blade. In 1901, Gillette invented the first such razor with disposable blades. This razor dates to the early 20th century and the homesteading era of this part of San Juan Island.



This brass scale epaulet once decorated the shoulder of a U.S. Army soldier, stationed on the island at American Camp during the tensions of the Pig War.



This glass bottle, of a dark olive color often known as “black” glass, once held a hard liquor such as rum or brandy. Liquor was part of the rations for employees, given on special occasions.



Photographs courtesy of John Edwards

This plate is the Bedford pattern (1847-1867), a design made by the Spode (Copeland and Garrett) Company beginning around 1855. Given the relatively late date, it was likely sent to Belle Vue Sheep Farm from Fort Victoria rather than Fort Vancouver. Dishes of this pattern have also been found at Fort Colville, another post that lasted into the late 19th century.

Americans settled on land claims recognized by their own government, but considered invalid by Great Britain. General Pickett of the U.S. Army established American Camp adjacent to the HBC holdings, sustaining a military presence on the island in parallel to the Royal Marines at British Camp. The “corporate colonials” of the Hudson’s Bay Company at Belle Vue Sheep Farm were in the middle of a tense situation that erupted, in 1859, into the infamous Pig War.

The British era on San Juan Island ended quietly after the treaty dispute was settled through arbitration. Griffin left and the land was leased to another HBC employee until he eventually purchased it outright. Today, the area is a

part of San Juan Island National Historical Park, and the material culture of Belle Vue Sheep Farm is preserved in the museum collection at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

The artifacts, recovered during archaeological excavations, are tangible links to this intriguing chapter in Northwest history. The global trading power of the HBC is evident in the diversity of goods, which were imported from all over the world. Locally made articles, produced by HBC blacksmiths and other tradesmen, are also present. Though fur trade era items dominate the collection, the homesteading history of the site in later years is also represented in the breadth of materials.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site
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 Fort Vancouver National Site

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The Northwest Cultural Resources Institute is a cooperative partnership based at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, dedicated to fostering cultural resources research, education, and stewardship in the Pacific Northwest. The NCRI brings together National Park Service staff, university professors, and subject matter experts to facilitate research and training, provide expertise, and support other innovative educational endeavors using national parks as laboratories.

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MYSTERY ARTIFACT

This mystery artifact is made of cast brass, and was unearthed during excavations inside the fort during the 1948 field season. It measures 5.75 inches in length.

The mystery artifact in the last issue was the grinding plate from a hand-cranked coffee grinder.



Photograph courtesy of John Edwards