



Fort Okanogan Historical Museum

Dedication

Saturday, August 27, 1960



State of Washington

Albert D. Rosellini, Governor

State Parks and Recreation Commission

John R. Vanderzicht, Director

COMMISSIONERS

Clair V. Greeley, Chairman

Lyman J. Bunting

Joe W. Hamel

John M. McClelland, Jr.

Mrs. Constance T. Staatz

Dr. Frank F. Warren

Joseph S. Whiting

Fort Okanogan

David Stuart of the Pacific Fur Company established the Fort Okanogan fur-trading post in 1811, the first American settlement in what is now the State of Washington. It was located on the east bank of the Okanogan River, one-half mile above its confluence with the Columbia River.

In 1813, the Canadian North West Company purchased the Pacific Fur Company, and subsequently enlarged the original Astor establishment. The North West Company operated the post until the firm merged with the British Hudson's Bay Company in 1821. The name "Fort Okanogan" was retained.

Excerpts from the Hudson's Bay Company archives indicate that during the 1830's the company built a new post on the north bank of the Columbia River, not far from the first. At the new site, a hard gravel bar and easy access to the water made a natural location for the wagon and swimming ferries established on the river.

In 1846, the Oregon Treaty placed the International Boundary at the 49th parallel, and thereafter the Hudson's Bay Company was operating in American territory. Fur trade was also declining. The last fur brigade came over the trail in 1846, but it continued to be used by scouts, miners, Indians, and cattlemen, who made Fort Okanogan a stopping point.

The Hudson's Bay Company abandoned its Fort Okanogan headquarters in 1860 and moved the last supplies to Canada. In 1863, the United States entered into a treaty whereby the company relinquished all holdings south of the International Boundary, the United States agreeing to pay full value as determined by an international commission.

Dedication Program

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2 P.M.

Master of Ceremonies

Clair V. Greeley
Chairman, State Parks and Recreation Commission

The Star-Spangled Banner
God Save the Queen

Omak High School Band

Invocation

Father George H. Morbeck

Introduction of Guests

Frank Emert, Omak
Chairman, Fort Okanogan Historical Committee
Senator Wilbur G. Hallauer, Oroville
State of Washington

The Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Okanogan

R. H. Chesshire
The Hudson's Bay Company, Winnipeg, Canada

British and American Relations

Geoffrey Jackson
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Seattle

Dedicatory Address

Albert D. Rosellini
Governor of the State of Washington

Presentation of Flags to the Hudson's Bay Company

John R. Vanderzicht
Director, State Parks and Recreation Commission

Opening of the Fort Okanogan Historical Museum

Marie Gorr
Governor Albert D. Rosellini

The Fort Okanogan Historical Museum

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission acquired land at the Fort Okanogan site in 1951. The first archeological work began in 1952, with the Commission cooperating with the National Park Service. Further work was done in 1957, the Commission and the University of Washington cooperating. Interpretive work by the Commission was begun shortly thereafter, climaxed in 1960 by completion, on the 49-acre tract, of the Fort Okanogan Historical Museum. The museum tells the story of the fur trade, the region, and the Columbia and Okanogan rivers on which the trading posts were located.

Architects: Durham, Anderson and Freed

General Contractors: Hansen and Hermans

Landscape Architect: Dwayne Nelson

Interpretive Planning and Displays

Albert C. Culverwell, Historian, State Parks and Recreation Commission

Ernest R. Norling

Mrs. Frances Bringloe

Mrs. Arlie G. Ostling

James Quigley

Grant Ericson

Carol Orr

