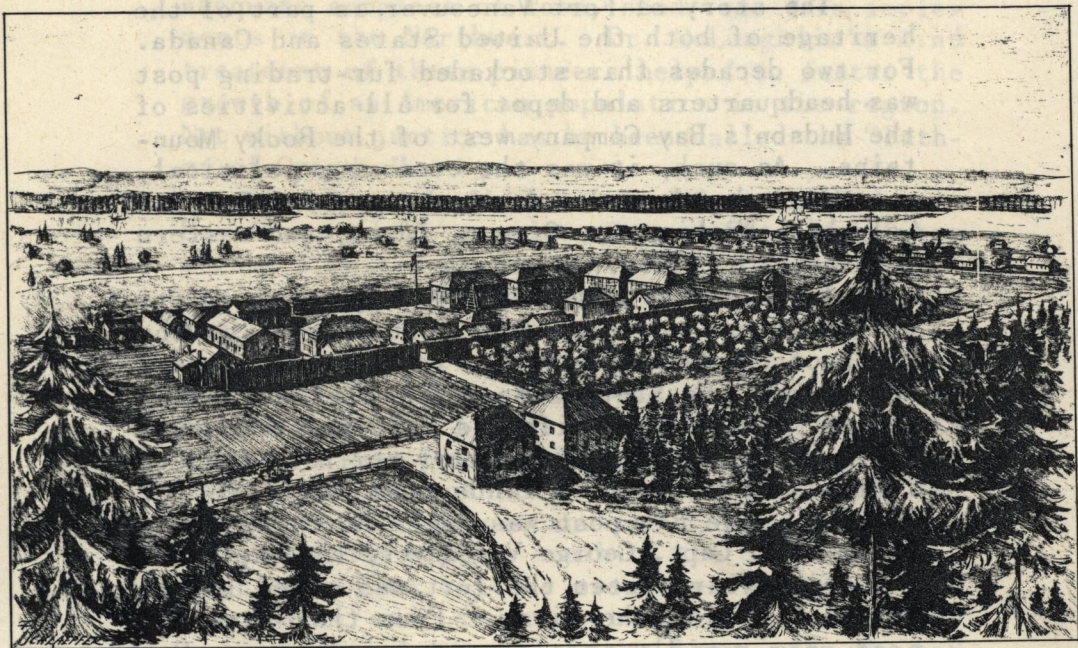


# FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL MONUMENT WASHINGTON



*Fort Vancouver, 1845 (An artist's conception)*

The National Park System, of which Fort Vancouver National Monument is a unit, is dedicated to the conservation of America's scenic, scientific, and historic heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.





## FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL MONUMENT

The story of Fort Vancouver is part of the heritage of both the United States and Canada. For two decades this stockaded fur-trading post was headquarters and depot for all activities of the Hudson's Bay Company west of the Rocky Mountains. As such, it was the economic, political, social, and cultural hub of the present British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and western Montana.

In 1824, the Hudson's Bay Company moved its western depot upstream from Fort George, at the mouth of the Columbia River, to a new site where now stands the State School for the Deaf, Vancouver, Wash. The shift was made to strengthen British claims to the territory north of the Columbia and to be near lands more suitable for farming. The new post was named Fort Vancouver in honor of Capt. George Vancouver, the explorer.

Five years later the fort was moved 1 mile west and nearer the river. From that time the post grew rapidly in size and importance. Between 1824 and 1846 it was commanded by Chief Factor John McLoughlin. Of towering height and impressive appearance, he was known to the Indians as the "White-headed Eagle." Under his energetic leadership, the Hudson's Bay Company won a virtual monopoly of the fur trade in the Oregon Country; and the firm's Columbia Department was expanded until it stretched from the Rockies to the Pacific, from Russian Alaska to Mexican California, with outposts within Mexican California

and in Hawaii. The huge farms and busy shops and mills at Fort Vancouver marked the beginning of large-scale agriculture and industry in the Pacific Northwest.

As American missionaries and settlers began to flow in ever-increasing numbers into the Oregon Country, British-owned Fort Vancouver was of necessity their immediate goal. Here were the only adequate supplies of food, seed, and farm implements in the Northwest. Dr. McLoughlin's kind treatment of these pioneers helped to foster the growth of an American population in the region. Not without justice has he been called the "Father of Oregon."

When Dr. McLoughlin retired from the Hudson's Bay Company, he moved to Oregon City and later became a United States citizen. His house there still stands. It was made a national historic site in 1941.

The treaty of 1846 between the United States and Great Britain established the 49th parallel as the southern boundary of Canada all the way to the Pacific Ocean. Fort Vancouver thus found itself in American territory. Thereafter the influence of the post and the Hudson's Bay Company declined rapidly south of the Canadian line. Settlers began to take over the land near Fort Vancouver; and, to protect itself, the Company welcomed the establishment here of a United States Army camp in 1849.

A short time later a military reservation was created around the old fur-trading post. The last factor of Fort Vancouver handed over the keys to the Army quartermaster in 1860. Six years later it was reported that all traces of the old stockade had disappeared.

The Army post at Fort Vancouver continues active to this date. Known variously as Camp Vancouver, Columbia Barracks, Fort Vancouver and



Vancouver Barracks, it long served as military headquarters and supply point for the Pacific Northwest. Though now much reduced in size, it commemorates the role of the United States Army in the settlement and development of the American frontier.

### THE MONUMENT

Fort Vancouver National Monument is located within the city limits of Vancouver, Wash. It was authorized by an act of Congress in 1948. Since that time the National Park Service has completed excavations necessary to determine the exact location of the stockade walls and the numerous structures within. At present, plans are being made for displaying and interpreting the site and its history.

The monument is open to the public all year. A limited collection of interesting artifacts removed from the ground during excavations is on display in a temporary museum; and visitors can see outlined on the fort site the actual locations of the stockade and principal structures.

### ADMINISTRATION

Fort Vancouver National Monument is administered by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Vancouver, Wash., is in immediate charge of the monument.

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Douglas McKay, Secretary  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Conrad L. Wirth, Director

