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WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION'S PART IN
DEVELOPING HISTORICAL SITES

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The history of the State of Washington is filled with episodes of keen interest, a wealth of drama, and wide variety in the story of this great State of ours. It dates back to the early exploring Spaniards that ranged our Coast, charting and landing to take possession of the territory, in formal ceremony in the name of the King of Spain, as early as 1542. In 1778 Captain James Cook ventured in these parts searching for the Northwest Passage. Then followed the Fur Traders who came by sea, men like Robert Gray whose exploration of the mouth of the Columbia River was the foundation of the United States claim of this region. George Vancouver, the British Naval Captain and great geographer, surveyed our inland waters meticulously in 1792. In 1805-6 the Lewis and Clark expedition followed the course of the Snake and Columbia Rivers and led the overland movement. They, in turn, were followed by the great Fur Companies; the Astorians, the Northwest Fur Company, the Hudson Bay Company; Americans, Scots, and French Canadians establishing forts and trading posts in the remote wilds of an undeveloped country. After the Fur Traders came the Missionaries; the emigrants and settlers in a swelling stream; the Indian wars; the Territory of Washington and, finally, -- Statehood.

It is a rich, fine, colorful history, this history of ours, a history that is well worth remembering and preserving. Throughout the State these historical sites are indelibly linked together.

One of the most important periods in the history of the State in acquisition and preservation of historical sites has been the years of 1949 and 1950.

Following the recommendations as set forth in the Washington Planning Council survey that was completed and published in 1941 and also at the insistence of Mr. Aubrey L. White, civic leader and beloved citizen of the City of Spokane, \$50,000 was placed in the 1949 biennial budget of the State Parks and Recreation Commission as a starter in a long-range historical preservation program.

After the Legislature endorsed and earmarked these funds the Commission appointed fifteen members of the State's most eminent Historians, Anthropologists and Archaeologists to serve as a Board of Research experts to recommend the expenditure of these funds. The Advisory Board members are:

Prof. E. T. Becher, Chr.	Historian, John Rogers High School, Spokane
Dr. Keith Murray, Vice Chr.	Historian, Western Washington College of Education, Bellingham
Mrs. Florence D. Reed, Secretary	Director, Eastern Washington Historical Society, Spokane
Mrs. Mary W. Avery	Historian, Washington State College, Pullman

Prof. C. Frank Brockman	Author and Naturalist, College of Forestry, University of Washington, Seattle
Prof. George F. Beck	Geologist and Historian, Central Washington College of Education, Ellensburg
Judge William C. Brown	Historian, Okanogan, Washington
The Rev. Father Wm. Bischoff, S.J.	Historian, Gonzaga University, Spokane
Dr. Robert Comegys	Historian, Whitman College, Walla Walla
Prof. Albert Culverwell	Historian, Whitworth College, Spokane
Mr. Chapin D. Foster	Director, Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma
Dr. Erna Gunther	Anthropologist and Author, University of Washington, Seattle
^{Herman Deutsch} Mr. Allan H. Smith	Anthropologist, Washington State College, Pullman
Mr. Walter J. Purdin	Representing Pioneers Society, Yakima
Mr. George Umbaugh	Representing Pioneers Society, Kelso

After the basic policy had been evolved by this Advisory Board, study to determine priority of sites was undertaken by them. Eight meetings of this Advisory Board have been held in various parts of the State. During these two years of study, countless days of research have been made and this research has guided the State Park and Recreation Commission in the expenditure of this \$50,000.

The number of projects that have come up for consideration has been staggering but after their merit was weighed and discussed a group of the most important sites have been selected and passed upon by both the Advisory Board and the State Parks and Recreation Commission.

SITES ON WHICH DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE

No. 1 OLD MAN HOUSE - Kitsap County near Agate Pass Bridge.

Old Man House, on a lovely Kitsap County beach from which the lights of Seattle may be viewed in the evening, is believed to have been the largest Indian dwelling on Puget Sound. This building is said by some to have been 900 feet long and to have typified the nature of the original Indian culture in this region. Since its construction many years ago, there has been much conjecture as to its size and actual location. It was the traditional residence of Chief Sealth (for whom Seattle was named). Its unequalled history makes it an ideal site for the display of early Indian culture of this region. The State Parks and Recreation Commission purchased three waterfront lots which include a portion of the original house site. It secured additional footage of waterfront by obtaining title to an adjoining country road right-of-way. It authorized

preliminary Archaeological excavation for determination of the exact location, extent and character of the old Indian dwelling as well as the search for artifacts. This work was done under the supervision of the Department of Anthropology of the University of Washington. The plan for future development is an interpretive exhibit explaining the significance of Old Man House and related subjects to the public. Parking space, trail to house site, and an interpretive marker are all now included in this development.

No. 2 FORT COLUMBIA - Pacific County near mouth of Columbia River.

This was one of three military establishments built during the Spanish American War, and 240 acres of virgin forests with numerous buildings, gun emplacements, and similar facilities were turned over to the State Parks and Recreation Commission by the Federal government for an Historical State Park. Since it was no longer used for military purposes no cost was involved in the acquisition. Its location on the Columbia River is across from Astoria, Oregon, approximately 100 miles west of Vancouver. Fort Vancouver was the site of the Hudson Bay headquarters in the western part of the State, and was known as the "capital" of the Northwest for many years. Fort Columbia was the site of an old Indian village where Lewis and Clark stayed for a time. It was also on this bluff where Chief Comcomly lived for many years and his crew of red men guided the fur traders over the treacherous bar of the Columbia River. In setting up the plan that was recommended to the State Parks and Recreation Commission by the National Park Service when it was given to the State as an Historical site it is necessary for the Commission to make an interpretive museum out of one of the Fort buildings. The Daughters of the American Revolution are embarking upon a program of refurnishing the Commanding Officer's home reminiscent of early days. This, also, will be open to the public as a museum building. The Fort itself will be preserved by the State Parks and Recreation Commission for posterity. An imposing marker will be placed on the highway at the entrance of the Fort.

No. 3 INDIAN PAINTED ROCK - Yakima County on Highway 410 near Yakima.

These pictographs are the oldest markings found in the State of Washington. Their meaning is obscure. They are typical of similar paintings found in numerous places in eastern Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and British Columbia. In addition to their inherent interest as work of former

inhabitants of this area they are very accessible to the highway. Upon the recommendation of the Advisory Board, Archaeological excavation was made by the Anthropology Department of the University of Washington. They removed accumulated earth from the cliff's face, upon which these paintings are found, in the process of which additional figures were discovered. The paintings were then sprayed with a preservative to prevent fading. A trail was constructed from the highway to the cliff, and directional signs on the highway, as well as an explanatory sign at the paintings, is the program for development.

No. 4 INDIAN PAINTED ROCK - Little Spokane River above the confluence with the Spokane River.

A gift of a parcel of land surrounding these ancient pictographs was made by Professor and Mrs. Henry M. Hart. Upon recommendation of the Advisory Board a protective grill was placed in front of these ancient and beautiful paintings. A parking area was provided on the highway and a trail from the highway to the rocks was built. The trail itself was fenced from the adjoining field, and a descriptive sign placed in the immediate vicinity.

No. 5 FORT OKANOGAN - At the confluence of the Okanogan and Columbia Rivers, near Brewster, Washington.

Here, on land owned by the Washington Historical Society, are found the sites of two early fur trading posts. One on the left bank of the Okanogan River was built in 1811 by Astor's Pacific Fur Company, an American fur company, and is said to be the first site where the American flag was flown in what is now the State of Washington. When Astor's partner found it necessary to sell Astoria to the British in 1813 this post was included in the deal, and hence the site was taken over by the Northwest Company and operated by it until 1816 when a newer establishment was developed about one mile distant. This newer post changed its name to the Hudson Bay Company shortly after 1821 when the two Companies combined and the Hudson Bay Company operated it until 1860. Nothing of the original Fort or Stockade remains although there is some evidence of habitation at the original American post in the way of cellar and ramps raided from the boat landings at the water's edge. The Commission is at present in the process of making an accurate survey of the areas and placing flagpoles and other explanatory markers designed to explain the significance of both of these historical trading posts.

No. 6 JACKSON HOUSE - Lewis County on Highway 99.

This is one of the most historical buildings standing in the State of Washington; it was built in 1845 by John R. Jackson. As it stands today it is a portion of the original structure that was the first home constructed north of the Columbia River. In it were entertained many notables of the early days and the original meeting concerning the formation of Washington territory was held there. The Advisory Board recommendation has included funds to rehabilitate the existing building, erasing vandalism of the past years, and making the interior presentable so the public may be invited to enter this early day cabin home.

Future needs given consideration by the Board is the reconstruction of additional rooms as it appeared in its heyday as a momento of early pioneer homes of western Washington.

No. 7 SAINT PAUL'S MISSION - Stevens County near Colville on the shores of Roosevelt Lake, overlooking the site of Kettle Falls, now inundated.

This was the second Jesuit Mission erected in the area now included in the State of Washington and was used until 1869. However, the original structure was rebuilt in 1938 and is an exact replica of the original building including the use of wooden pegs; neither nails nor iron were used in the original construction. Because of its inimitable location from the standpoint of scenery, to say nothing of its historical significance, it has long been the envy of public spirited citizens of northeastern Washington and its acquisition by the State Parks and Recreation Commission by recommendation of the Advisory Board in cooperation with the Catholic diocese was a prize piece of good fortune. On the grounds of the Mission now stands a monument which formerly stood at the site of Fort Colville, one of the early fur trading posts. The Fort site is now under the waters of Roosevelt Lake below the Mission. The Kettle Falls region had been one of the main sources of food for the Indians for ages. They gathered there for salmon runs, hence this historical site is a happy combination of an ancient Indian campground, a fur trading post, and an early Mission. The Advisory Board's recommendation will be further carried out by placing windows and doors in this now boarded-up structure and preserving it for posterity. A highway marker will be placed near the church giving the interpretive history of this Mission.

- No. 8 STEPTOE BATTLEFIELD - Near the Spokane-Pullman Highway, adjoining the city limits of the town of Rosalia.

It was here that the Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, and Palouse Indians engaged the American troops under the command of Captain E. J. Steptoe in 1858 and forced them to flee in secret at night with the remnants of the force. This dramatic defeat prompted the United State Army to send Colonel George Wright with a larger and better equipped force, which in turn resulted in complete subjection of the tribes involved. Because of the prominent Butte some thirty miles to the south which was later called Steptoe Butte a great deal of confusion has developed in the minds of the public, leading many to think that the battle occurred on Steptoe Butte. The Daughters of the American Revolution erected one of the finest monuments commemorating this battlefield many years ago. This property, consisting of several acres, has been deeded to the State Parks and Recreation Commission by the D.A.R., and the road leading to the site has been resurfaced, the grounds adjacent to the monument will be seeded, adequate parking areas provided and highway markers sufficiently explanatory will be erected at both entrances of the town of Rosalia.

- No. 9 OLD SPOKANE HOUSE - Spokane County at the confluence of the Spokane and Little Spokane Rivers.

This was the site of the first British and American business establishment in Washington or Oregon. The British Northwest Company built a Post there in 1810 and two years later Astor's Pacific Fur Company built a rival establishment nearby. As in the case of Fort Okanogan, the American Post was turned over to the British Northwest Company as part of the deal included in the Astoria sale. The Northwest Company operated this until its merger with the Hudson Bay Company at which time the latter abandoned the fort and the post was moved to Kettle Falls some ninety miles to the north in 1825. Its Stockade and buildings disappeared and the exact location of the two Stockades has long been a matter of conjecture. This site was also an Indian campground long before the coming of the white man. Only a portion of this historical site is in the Riverside State Park area. On the portion owned by the State there is an Indian barn built of logs and wooden pegs, perhaps the oldest building standing in eastern Washington. This year the State Parks and Recreation Commission, on the recommendation of the Advisory Board, authorized to finance archaeological excavation

for the purpose of the possible determination of the site of the fur trading post. Experts of the National Park Service were employed and it is significant of their expert training within the course of one month's time they had completely uncovered one of the large original Stockades, presumably Old Spokane House. The 148-year old Stockade uncovered showed a building of 132 feet by 123; many important artifacts were taken from the area and are now housed in the eastern Washington Historical Society museum building in Spokane. In the long-range plan to develop this site there will be the re-routing of the road, a large descriptive sign, additional Archaeological excavations, interpretive museum, and a hope of the acquisition of additional necessary land.

- No. 10 GOLDENDALE BLOCKHOUSE - Kittitas Highway No. 97, near Goldendale. This Blockhouse originally built in 1856 on the trail from Fort Dallas (Oregon Territory) to Fort Simcoe (Washington Territory), has been moved several times as its various sites were needed for other purposes. At the recommendation of the Advisory Board the State Parks and Recreation Commission in cooperation with civic leaders of Goldendale dismantled the structure and removed the logs to what will be its permanent home at the entrance of Brooks' Memorial State Park on Satus Pass some fifteen miles north of Goldendale. The building will be rebuilt in its original state and an explanatory sign erected pointing to the significance of the building.

- No. 11 GINKGO STATE PARK - Highway No. 10 near Vantage on the Columbia River. Owing to the prehistoric nature of this largest petrified forest in the world, the Advisory Board has taken keen interest in the development and preservation of this area that includes some 300 species of petrified wood, 23 of which are prehistoric. On the recommendation of the Advisory Board a wing on the present museum overlooking the Columbia River on the bluff will be started the early part of this year. Money has been appropriated for excavating logs and bringing them down into the area where they are easily accessible to the public. It is also the recommendation that additional specimens be polished, and interpretive display of the original area placed in the new wing by the Archaeologists and Geologists of our State Universities and Colleges. A large explanatory sign has also been ordered for the entrance to this park.

No. 12 COLONEL WILLIAM HENSON WALLACE'S GRAVE - Pierce County in Steilacoom Cemetery.

Colonel Wallace was the first Commander of Fort Steilacoom, first American military establishment in western Washington; the third Territorial Governor of Washington; and the first Governor of the State of Idaho. It was recommended by the Advisory Board that a proper marking be placed at Colonel Wallace's grave and on the highway entrance to the cemetery.

No. 13 GRAVE OF RANALD MACDONALD - On the Kettle River near the town of Toreda, north of Republic.

In this picturesque small country cemetery lies buried one of Washington's most romantic citizens, the only son of Archibald MacDonald, Hudson Bay furrier, who married Miss Spokane, beautiful daughter of Chief Comcomly, the famous Chief of the Chinooks. At an early age he was sent east to be educated, and as a young man he ran away to sea and became embroiled in an unbelievable venture including a planned shipwreck on the shores of Japan before Japan was opened to the white man and it was compulsory to put white intruders to death. He stayed there for seven years and became the first teacher of English to the Japanese and endeared himself to the people there. History reveals that because of his work Admiral Perry's expedition into Japan was successful. In later years he returned to Fort Colville where his father had been a chief factor and played such an important part in the early history of fur traders. The State Parks and Recreation Commission, on the recommendation of the Advisory Board, will place a small appropriate marker at the grave of this distinguished personage as soon as the local communities come into possession of the unmarked grave where he is now buried.

No. 14 MARKERS

The marking of the above sites, as well as several additional areas that are not mentioned, will be done by the State Parks and Recreation Commission furnishing the money for these markers, and the State Highway Marker Commission installing the markers. The list of number one historical sites in the State is large and it is hoped that future appropriations by the Legislature will continue this important work.

Ruth E. Peeler, Vice Chairman
State Parks and Recreation Commission
Chairman, Historical Sub-Committee