

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM
COUNTY: CLATSOP

HIST. NAME: Fort Astoria Memorial
COMMON NAME: Fort Astoria
ADDRESS: Exchange and Fifteenth

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1956
ORIGINAL USE: memorial
PRESENT USE: memorial

CITY: Astoria, 97103
OWNER: City of Astoria

ARCHITECT: John E. Wicks
BUILDER:
THEME: culture & architecture
STYLE: early american military
(reconstructed)

T/R/S: T8N/R9W/S8

MAP NO.: 80908 CD TAX LOT: 15200
ADDITION: Shively's Astoria
BLOCK: 118 LOT: S 1/2 LT 1, 2

BLDG STRUC DIST xSITE OBJ
QUAD: Astoria

PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: rectangular
FOUNDATION MATERIAL: concrete
ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: wood shake
WALL CONSTRUCTION: log
PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE:
EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: wood log
DECORATIVE FEATURES: painted landscape mural on wall behind
OTHER: none

NO. OF STORIES:
BASEMENT:
STRUCTURAL FRAME: log

CLASSIFICATION: historic reconstruction
STRUCTURAL STATUS: xGOOD FAIR POOR MOVED (DATE)
HISTORICAL INTEGRITY: intact
EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: none

NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: large cedar tree NE corner
ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: granite Ranald MacDonald Memorial added to site
in 1988
KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES: original site of Fort Astoria

SETTING: NW corner, 15th & Exchange; memorials within small park

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Astoria began when John Jacob Astor's ship the Tonquin, dropped anchor on April 14, 1811, and crewmen started the construction of Fort Astoria on what was then the bank of the Columbia River. Log footings of the original building were unearthed in 1931 during excavation for a hospital. The park area and replica of one of the fort's bastions were developed in 1956. Today the site is maintained by the city of Astoria as a park and features a reconstructed blockhouse and explanatory historical sign. The blockhouse, constructed in 1956, is of Wolmanized fir with cedar shake roof; the two rows of pickets extending to the concrete wall are also of Wolmanized fir posts. The backdrop, depicting other buildings comprising the original Fort Astoria, is painted on a concrete wall which forms the north boundary of the historic site lot. A large wooden slab outlines the floor plan of the original Fort Astoria and later Fort George. Ranald MacDonald, first man to teach English in Japan and the son of Hudson Bay fur trader Archibald MacDonald and Princess Raven, daughter of Chief Concomly, was born on this site and

on May 21, 1988, a bilingually inscribed marble monument was dedicated to the memory and achievements of this remarkable man. This property was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, February 17, 1984.

SOURCES: Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; Journal of the Friends of MacDonalld, Fall, 1989; Walking Tour of Astoria, Vera Gault; National Register of Historic Places, February 17, 1984.

NEGATIVE NO: R4 N4

RECORDED BY: NCLC
DATE: 12/13/89
6/19/90

SHPO INVENTORY NO.: 57

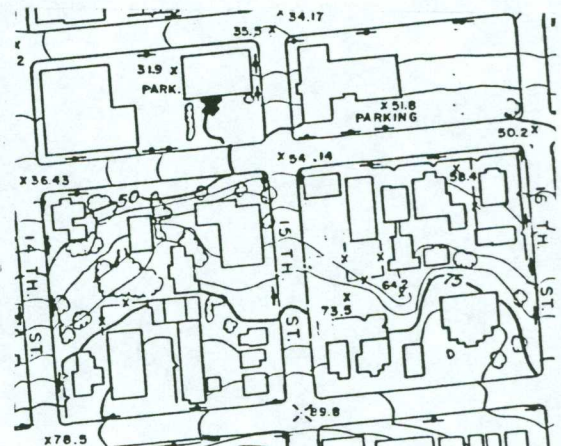
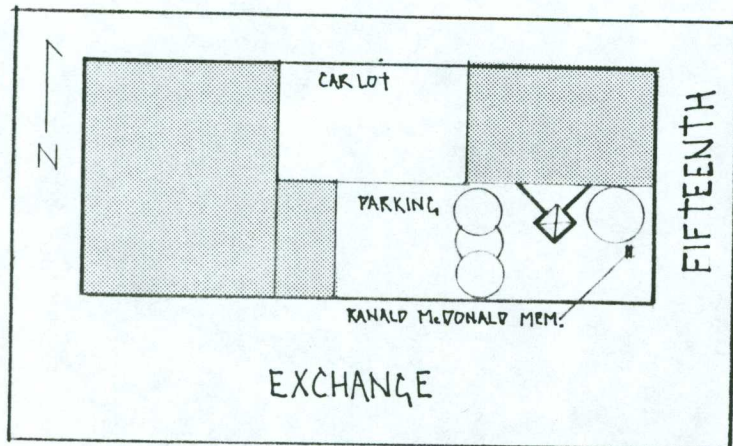
OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM
COUNTY: CLATSOP

PROPERTY: Fort Astoria
ADDRESS: Exchange & Fifteenth
TAX I.D.: 51488

T/R/S: T8N/R9W/S8
MAP NO.: 80908 CD
QUAD.: Astoria



NEGATIVE NO.: R4 N4



TOPOG. DATE: 1967

GRAPHIC & PHOTO SOURCES: N.C.L.C.; CITY OF ASTORIA, ENGINEERING DEPT.
S.H.P.O. INVENTORY NO.:

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, 97310



County Clatsop

Theme 9-F, 3

Name
(Common) Fort Astoria Landmark

(Historic) _____

Address n.w. corner
15th & Exchange Streets

Astoria, Ore.

Present Owner _____

(Address) _____

Original Use _____

Date of Construction 1962

historical significance:

Physical

At the northwest corner of 15th and Exchange streets in Astoria, Oregon, is a lot with grass and pine trees. Located on this property are four historical markers. The Fort Astoria landmark is a bronze plaque mounted on the corner of a two story, replica of a log bastion. It reads:

"Fort Astoria has been designated a Registered National Historic Landmark under the provisions of the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935. This site possesses exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States. U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service 1962."

Continue back if necessary

Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date 11 May 1976 Sources Consulted:

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

Bell, Burnby M. "Fort Astoria National Historic Landmark," Oregon Historic Landmarks: Oregon Coast. Portland, Ore.: Oregon Society, D.A.R., 1966, pp. 12-13, photo.

Please enclose map Township 9 S Range 9 W Section 8

*see 7b
replat see ← 97*

2. County Clatsop
 Town Astoria, Oregon

1. Site Structure is historically significant
 to: Town County State Nation

Site Structure has historical associations
 with the following themes:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Aboriginal man | Transportation/Com-
munication |
| Maritime exploration | |
| Overland exploration | Military/Indian Affairs |
| <u>Fur trade</u> | Government |
| Missionary frontier | Arts and Sciences |
| Oregon Trail migration | Religion/Philosophy |
| Mining frontier | Social/Humanitarian
movements |
| Cattlemen's empire | Ethnic immigration |
| Agriculture | Travel/Recreation |
| <u>Commerce/Industry</u> | Conservation |
| <u>Development town/city</u> | |
| Other _____ | |

Name
 (Common) Fort Astoria
 (Historic) Fort Astoria, Fort George
 Original Use Fur trade post
 Present Use _____
 Present Owner _____
 Date 1811 Style log stockade
 Source of Date _____
 Architect _____
 Builder _____

3. CONDITION: Good Fair Poor Re-sited Altered Restored
 (Site) Open Overgrown Developed Obliterated by various conditions

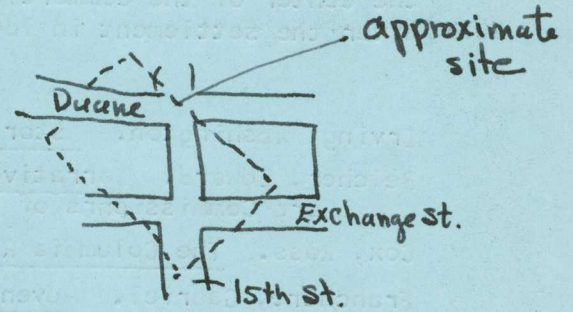
NEIGHBORING LAND USE: Commercial Industrial Residential Blighted Undeveloped

SITE ENDANGERED BY _____ ACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC: Yes No
 On what basis _____

4. DESCRIPTION

Frame: Wood Iron Steel
 Wall cover: Rough-hewn timber
 Lap/Tongue-in-groove siding
 Brick/Stone masonry Concrete Glass
 Stories: Basement 1 2 3 Attic
 Roof: Gable Gambrel Hipped Mansard
 Dormers Cupola Tower Spire Dome
 Other _____
 Chimneys: 1 2 3 4 Stone Brick
 Interior trim:
 Paneling: Milled Carved
 Wainscot Baseboard Chair-rail
 Interior Walls: Boards Brick Plaster
 Ornament: Molded plaster Wood-carved
 Decorative painting _____
 Original: Fixtures Hardware Furniture
 Stairs: Central stair-hall Straight flight
 Geometric Dog-legged Double-return
 Enclosed Wood Iron
 Openings: Regular Irregular
 Attachments: Simple Porch Double Piazza
 One/Two-story portico Veranda(s)
 Side/Center ell Wing(s) Shed
 Outbuildings: Wood shed Bath/Cook house
 Smoke house Carriage house Barn
 Other _____
 Landscaping: Formal Forecourt Informal
 Date executed _____ By _____

5. LOCATION DIAGRAM (Refer to known points)



Road or Highway _____
 Street and No. 15th and Exchange
 Township 9 S Range 9 W Section 8
 Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham
 For OCCDC and State Parks Division
 Date 1 August 1974
 Photo: Attached
 Available _____

see 57 report see #57

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (Comment on original condition, alterations, and notable features)

Fort Astoria was built in 1811 by the Astor Expeditions by land and by sea. The post was purchased in 1813 and rebuilt by the Northwest Company. In October, 1818, it consisted of: two blockhouses (15' square), two galleries on either end of the stockade (151' by 7'), a lookout house (7' square), a dwelling house and hospital (15' by 16'), a grain store (17' by 16'), the residence of the chief merchant (56' by 26'), a baker's shop (15' by 7'), a well, a court yard, (30' by 35'), a gentlemen's dwelling house (23' by 18'), a mens' mess room (70' by 25'), a blocksmith shop (8' by 25'), an unfinished house for the resident merchant and gentlemen (60' by 30'), a kitchen (19' by 21'), a powder magazine (cont.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Elaborate on the historical theme circled on front of form)

This site was the headquarters of John Jacob Astor's (1763-1848) Pacific Fur Company, an American firm that intended to have permanent headquarters in the Pacific Northwest and to trade with China and the orient. Established by Astor employees in 1811 (coming by land and by sea), the post became the site of first permanent white occupancy in the region. In 1813 the men sold to the North West Company; the then raging War of 1812 would have delivered the post as a military prize to the British in any event. The Treaty of Ghent technically restored the American claims at Astoria in 1814 and contributed to the Joint Occupancy agreements between Britain and the U.S. in 1818 and 1827. In 1821, with the merger of the North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company, the post, then known as Fort George, became headquarters for the H.B.C. in the Pacific Northwest. It lost that position in 1825 with the construction of Fort Vancouver. Nearby the post was the first white cemetery in the region; it held the grave of D. McTavish and later of Alexander Henry. The first burial occurred in 1814. The site became the center of the commercial district of Astoria which grew up at the location after the settlement in 1843 of John M. Shively.

SOURCES CONSULTED (Existing surveys, publications, records)

- Irving, Washington. Astoria (many editions)
- Belcher, Edward. Narrative of a Voyage Around the World...1836-42 (London: Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty, 1843).
- Cox, Ross. The Columbia River (many editions). Also: Narrative of a Voyage
- Franchere, Gabriel. Adventure at Astoria (many editions) to the NW Coast of America.
- Ross, Alexander. Adventures of the First Settlers on the Oregon or Columbia River (London, 1849).
- Carey, Charles H. History of Oregon, vol. 1, see pp. 238-51, "Astoria Becomes Fort George."
- Bell, Burnby M. "Fort Astoria National Historic Landmark," pp. 1213, Oregon Historic Landmarks: Oregon Coast (Portland, Ore.: Daughters of the American Revolution, 1966).

District-Site Boundaries _____

Approximate acreage of site _____

Location of current property title(s) _____

_____ County Assessor's Map No. _____ attached.

Fort Astoria, Fort George, Astoria, Ore., Clatsop County.

Physical Description: (cont.)

(15' by 15'), Indian Store (22' by 26'), Baling Store (38' by 26'), Equipment Store (20' by 26'), Provision Store (42' by 26'), daily ration store (20' by 26'), receiving store (18' by 26'), waste ground, poultry yard, front entrance, back entrance, piles of fir 12' by 6" diameter, a flag staff, a coopers shed, and an enclosure in which the natives from the Hawaiian Islands resided.

A map of the ground plan of the post in October, 1818, as sketched by Lt. T. Saumaros, is reprinted on the plates following p. 54 in Miller's Clatsop County.

Sir Edward Belcher of the British naval vessel Sulphur observed the post on 31 July 1839 and noted:

"A small house for Mr. Birnie (the Hudson's Bay Company representative in charge), two or three sheds for the Canadians, about six or eight in number, and a pine stick with a red ensign" [were what remained of the fort].

[He continued]: "One would rather take it for the commencement of a village than any fort. The outline is pleasing, but no field for the painter, there being no contrast of tints and too stiff an outline." (Carey, History of Oregon, pp. 415-16).

Duflot de Mofras, the French investigator of the Oregon Country in 1841, noted that the post burned in 1818 and that at the time of his visit the only vestige of the site was a "bald spot." Astoria consisted in 1841 of a cabin and a shed.

Alexander Ross, an Astoria employee of 1810-12, noted the condition of the fort in his book The Columbia River, pp. 110-11:

"The buildings consisted of apartments for the proprietors or clerks, with a capacious dining hall for both, extensive warehouses for its trading goods and furs, a provision store and trading shop, smith's forge, carpenter's workshop, etc., the whole surrounded by stockade forming a square and reaching about fifteen feet from the ground. A gallery around the stockades in which loopholes were placed was sufficiently large for musketry. Two strong bastions built of logs commanded the four sides of the square. Each bastion had two stories in which a number of chosen men slept each night. A six pounder was placed in the lower story and they were both well provided with small arms. (Quoted in Carey, History of Oregon, vol. 1, p. 241.)

Fort Astoria, Fort George, Astoria, Clatsop County, Ore.

Sources Consulted (cont.):

"Astor and His Colony," Oregonian, (11 March 1911).

"Dedication Due at Fort Astoria," Oregonian (3 Sept. 1948).

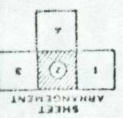
"Finding of Abandoned Well Seen as Link to 1811 Fort," Oregonian (13 Feb. 1950).

"Fort Astoria Site Urged," Oregonian ;(25 June 1961).

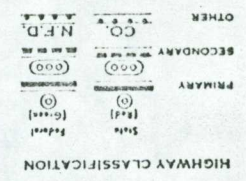
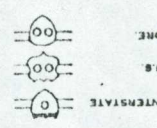
Hart, Herbert M. "Fort Astoria," Pioneer Forts of the West (Seattle, Wash.: Superior Publishers,).

"Astoria Picked As Site; Fort Trade History Recognized," Oregon Journal (4 Nov. 1961).

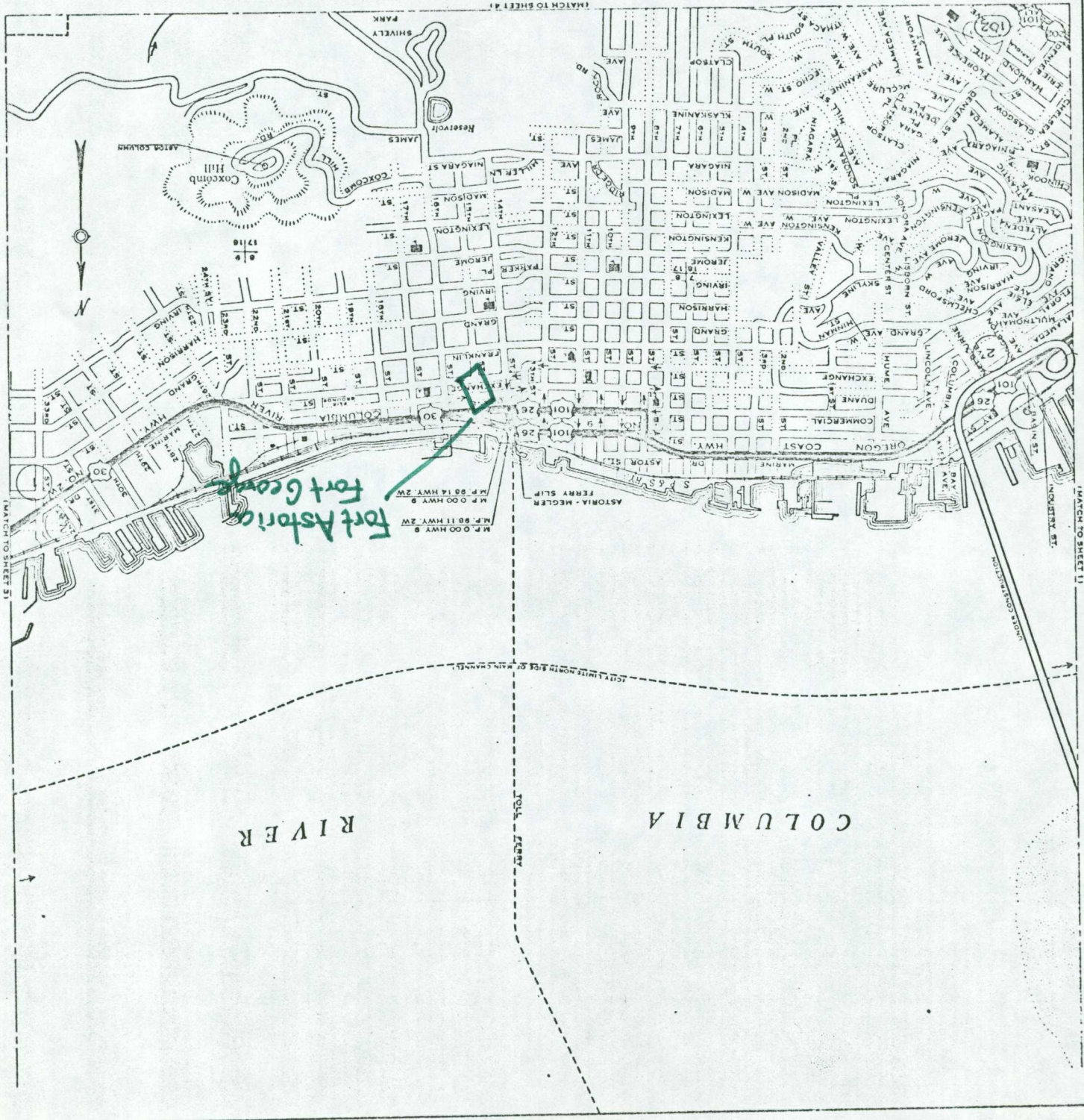
Revised February 1966
 Scale in feet
 Population 10,500
 BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS
 IN COOPERATION WITH THE
 OREGON STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
 CLATSOP COUNTY, OREGON



- LEGEND**
- Public Bldg.
 - Post Office
 - School
 - Court House
 - City Hall
 - R. R. Depot
 - Library
 - Armsory
 - Street open for travel
 - Street dedicated but not open
 - City Limits



ASTORIA



COLUMBIA RIVER

COLUMBIA

601

MATCH TO SHEET 51

MATCH TO SHEET 11

LEFT LINE NORTH SIDE OF MAIN CHANNEL

TOUL FERRY

M.P. 00 HWY 8
 M.P. 00 HWY 9
 M.P. 00 HWY 26
 M.P. 00 HWY 26

Fort Astoria
 Fort George