

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