

Outside of the Palisade Walls . . .

Field Crops 18

The Puget Sound Agricultural Company grew wheat, oats and barley to sell to domestic and international customers. They also grew mangel wurzel, a type of beet which was fed to livestock, and field peas eaten by both people and animals. Field crops also included turnips, pumpkins, and Indian corn. Produce grown at the Fort today is based on the mid-19th century history of Fort Nisqually. We use heirloom seeds that date back to that period.

Orchard 19

Fort Nisqually's original orchard was planted east of the Fort; descendants of those trees can still be seen in DuPont today. Although the exact species are unknown, the orchard consisted of apple, pear and plum trees.

Meadow 20

The Nisqually tribe hunted and gathered food from the Nisqually prairie. The same area was used by the Puget Sound Agricultural Company to graze livestock and grow some field crops. Today, the meadow is used for the same purposes.

Barn (Coming Soon) 21

Several barns and agricultural buildings were constructed around Fort Nisqually, outside the palisade walls. Similar to other structures within the Fort, this structure was built using the post-in-sill method. The barn was a place of work. Woodwork or "country carpentry" would have been done here. Farm implements would have been stored here. Also, the barn sheltered activities such as the threshing of wheat. The barn did not often house animals, but animals might come inside for different reasons.

Walking in the Footsteps

FORT NISQUALLY
LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM
METRO PARKS TACOMA

Self-Guided Tour



Fort Nisqually, the first globally connected settlement on the Puget Sound, was established in 1833 by the Hudson's Bay Company as a fur trading outpost. The decline of the fur trade meant that Fort Nisqually's focus shifted to commercial agricultural enterprises with the establishment of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company (PSAC) in 1839. Based at Fort Nisqually, the PSAC raised cattle, sheep, and horses along with crops such as wheat, barley, oats, and peas across the 160,000 acres claimed by the company.



The sales shop, front palisade, or wall, and bastion, at right, are essentially complete in this photograph from September 1, 1934. The work underway in the foreground is the squaring and shaping of additional pickets for the remaining three sides of the palisade that surrounded the reconstructed historic site. Fort Nisqually's original site was 15 miles south, near DuPont.

By 1855, the date the museum portrays, this British establishment was surrounded by American territory and faced increasing pressure from settlers who wanted the farmable land for their own use. The Hudson's Bay Company sold its holdings to the United States government, withdrawing from Washington Territory in 1869, and Fort Nisqually became the homestead of the last manager, Edward Huggins.



Fort Nisqually was originally located in what is now DuPont, WA. The Fort you see today was reconstructed in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Civic-minded citizens preserved and donated two of the original structures, the Factor's House and Granary, to the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma. The museum gives residents and visitors a chance to experience what life was like on Puget Sound in 1855.



FORT NISQUALLY
LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM
METRO PARKS TACOMA

Located in Point Defiance Park • 5400 N. Pearl St., #11
Tacoma WA, 98407 • (253) 404-3970
FortNisqually.org
Facebook.com/FortNisqually • Twitter.com/FortNisqually
Instagram.com/FortNisquallyMuseum

Fort Nisqually Living History Museum's Mission:
Engaging a diverse regional audience with Puget Sound's first globally connected settlement through historic preservation, experiential learning, and interpretation.



Factor's House 1

Construction began in 1854 for Scottish-born physician William Fraser Tolmie and his growing family. Completed in 1855, this house was built in the new "Yankee Style" with milled lumber instead of the standard post-in-sill, heavy-timber style used elsewhere in the Fort. Dr. Tolmie, his wife Jane, and their children lived in this house from 1855 until 1859. The house was subsequently occupied by Edward Huggins, his wife Letitia (Jane's sister) and their children. This house is one of two original Fort Nisqually structures and is listed as a National Historic Landmark. It was restored in 2003.

- **Dining Room:** Dr. Tolmie and his family would have dined and entertained guests in this room. It also was often used as Dr. Tolmie's business office. The large table offered a place to easily spread out maps or documents.
- **Parlor:** The Parlor was another room where the family would entertain guests or themselves. Reading, music, parlor games and domestic crafts would have occupied this space daily.
- **Master Bedroom:** Dr. Tolmie, his wife Jane and their youngest children would have slept here. In 1855, bedrooms would have been private and off limits to guests.
- **Children's Bedroom:** Dr. Tolmie and Jane had six boys: Alexander John Tolmie (1851-1903); William Fraser Tolmie Jr. (1852-1926); John Work Tolmie (1854-1926); James Work Tolmie (1855-1917); Henry Work Tolmie (1857-1939); and Roderick Finlayson Tolmie (1858-1934).

Kitchen 2

Originally constructed in 1851, the kitchen was located close to Dr. Tolmie's house for efficient service. It contained a large cooking stove and had a lean-to, believed to have been used by the blacksmith and as a bakery. The kitchen served meals to the family, its guests and Fort laborers.

Wash House 3

This structure was for the laundry of the Fort laborers and was originally built in 1854.

Root Cellar 4

A potato cellar was constructed in 1854 to store root vegetables. Refrigeration did not exist, so cellars were a way to provide cool storage and preserve food longer.

Smoke House 5

In January 1851, the laborers began "making ready smoke house." For several years following, references, such as "hanging salted tongues in smoke house" were noted in the Journal of Occurrences. The original location is not known, but the value of the contents may have tempted theft and loss by man or beast if built outside the Fort's walls.

Poultry House 8

Records indicate that the first poultry house survived until 1853, when it was rebuilt. Chickens, ducks and geese were kept. Today, Fort Nisqually acts as a conservatory for heritage breeds. The round-log construction of this poultry house differs from other Fort structures inhabited by people.

Laborers' Dwelling 9

The Laborers' Dwelling actually represents two different interiors, a home for bachelor laborers and a laboring family's house.

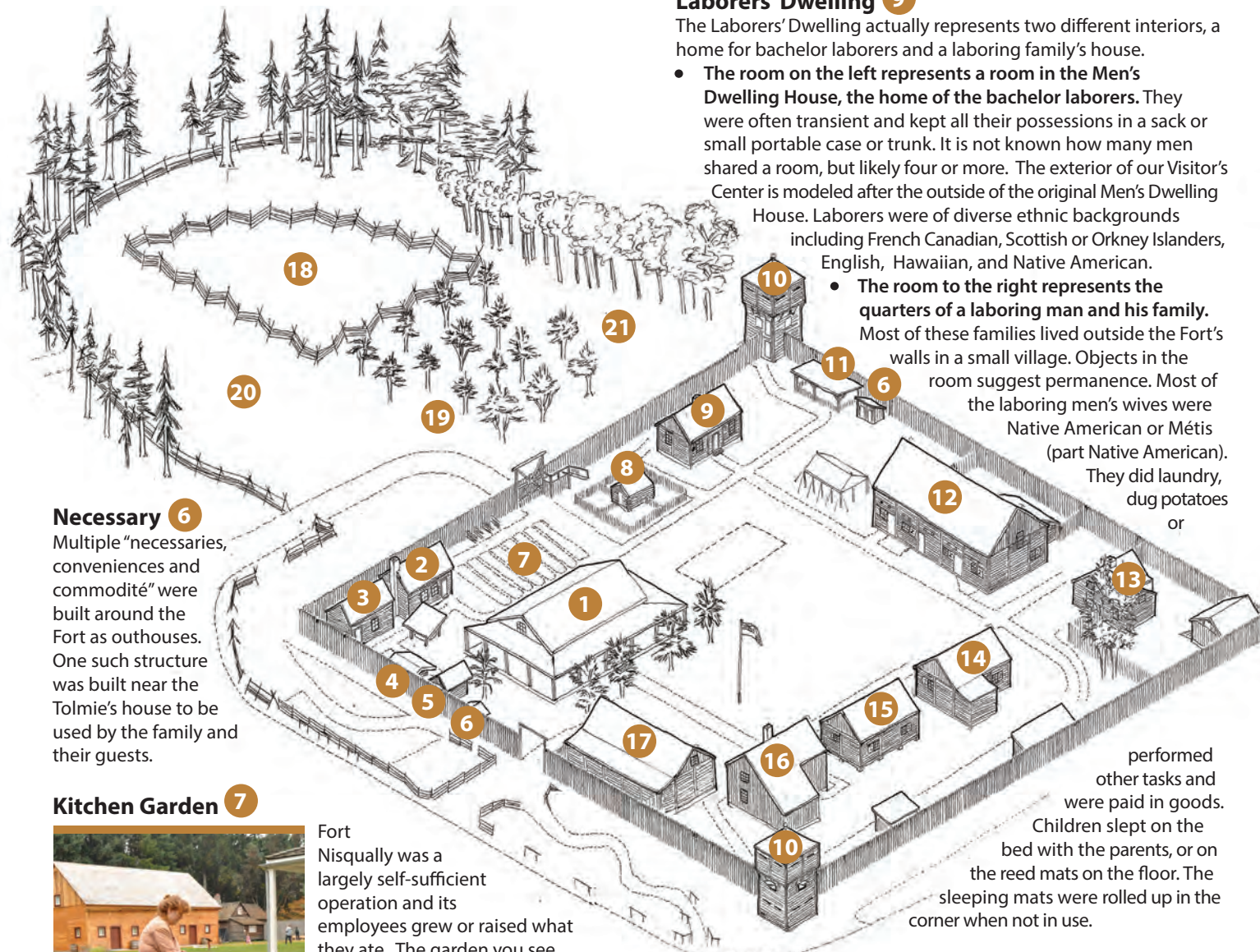
- **The room on the left represents a room in the Men's Dwelling House, the home of the bachelor laborers.** They were often transient and kept all their possessions in a sack or small portable case or trunk. It is not known how many men shared a room, but likely four or more. The exterior of our Visitor Center is modeled after the outside of the original Men's Dwelling House. Laborers were of diverse ethnic backgrounds including French Canadian, Scottish or Orkney Islanders, English, Hawaiian, and Native American.

- **The room to the right represents the quarters of a laboring man and his family.** Most of these families lived outside the Fort's walls in a small village. Objects in the room suggest permanence. Most of the laboring men's wives were Native American or Métis (part Native American). They did laundry, dug potatoes or

performed other tasks and were paid in goods. Children slept on the bed with the parents, or on the reed mats on the floor. The sleeping mats were rolled up in the corner when not in use.

Bastions 10

Standard HBC forts included a walled perimeter and bastions at the corners for security. They were also used for storing ammunition and wall guns. Although available for defense, these guns were primarily used to signal approaching ships. At other times, this structure alternated between a detention cell for unruly people or an extra apartment for laborers.



Necessary 6

Multiple "necessaries, conveniences and commodité" were built around the Fort as outhouses. One such structure was built near the Tolmie's house to be used by the family and their guests.

Kitchen Garden 7



Fort Nisqually was a largely self-sufficient operation and its employees grew or raised what they ate. The garden you see today is much smaller than what would have existed in 1855, but does provide a glimpse into what was seasonally grown. Only heirloom varieties with a documented connection to Fort Nisqually are grown today.

Cart Shed 11

This structure represents a shed built to store one of the Fort carts and later Dr. Tolmie's buggy. The original probably was built of rough-hewn logs

Large Store 12

The large store was built in 1844. It warehoused supplies imported from Britain and the Puget Sound Agricultural Company's outstations and held goods destined for other HBC forts in the region. PSAC products consisted of salted beef, salmon, potatoes and wheat. Much of this was bound for Russian Alaska. Wool and a few furs were stored here before shipment to London markets.

Clerk's House 13

This small cabin replaced an older version of quarters for the clerk. In 1855, this was the home and office of clerk Edward Huggins. It was noted that the new Clerk's House was a "superior building" and was built in the "Yankee Style" with milled lumber. STAFF ONLY

Store House 2 14

Built in 1846, this building was used primarily as a storehouse or warehouse where goods were kept. By the 1860s, it became a workshop. Today, we operate the Blacksmith Shop and Carpenters' Workshop here.

Granary 15

As the headquarters of the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, the Fort's primary business was agriculture. This Granary was built in 1850 and is one of the Fort's two original structures. It was used to store grain and produce. After the grain was thrashed and winnowed in the barn, it was hauled by wagon to the Granary. Besides wheat, oats and barley, it stored peas. Many years later, the Young Men's Business Club of Tacoma saved the building from demolition and moved it to Point Defiance in 1933. The Granary was listed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1970.



Sale Shop 16

The sale shop was completed in 1849. Originally used as a third warehouse, it became a sale shop in 1852, and contained "every imaginable commodity likely to be needed." Goods were imported from Britain and elsewhere in the United States. It was both a showroom and a salesroom. In 1855, more American settlers were moving to the Washington Territory; after arrival, they purchased whatever goods they needed.

Men's Dwelling House 17

This structure was built in 1846 and served as the residence for all of the bachelor laborers at the Fort. The exterior of our Visitor Center is modeled after the outside of the original Men's Dwelling House.